

Subdivision fears

By DAVID WYMAN
 A proposal to subdivide vacant land bounded by Yarra Street, Cemetery Road and Brackenbury Street into seven lots has so far attracted 13 objections to Manningham council

Insensitive over-development in a remnant bush area: WAG

The land is in the town's Environmental Residential Zone, where the minimum lot size is 1000 square metres or about a quarter of an acre.
 There is one house on the land at present, and many mature eucalypts—manna, candlebark and red box—a large number of which would have to be cleared to make way for houses, driveways, and drainage and sewerage construction.
 The objectors, nearly all neighbouring residents, fear that a gross change in their environment will take place if seven homes are built on the land. In their submissions to council they have expressed concerns about traffic in and out of Cemetery Road, loss of natural amenity, further urbanisation of Warrandyte, and the type and size of houses which may be

built.
 Applicants for the subdivision, who live in Warrandyte, have supplied council with a plan which specifies that a large number of eucalypts be retained on each lot, which range in size from the minimum of 1000 square metres to 1375 square metres.
 Nearby Yarra Street resident, Terry Kain, says in his objection that he has spoken to 12 neighbouring residents and none want or believe it appropriate that seven dwellings be approved for concentration on the land.
 "Development to the extent proposed will result in the demise of almost all trees when seven buildings, seven driveways and drainage for seven properties are accounted for," he said.
 "To create a further concentration of

minimum size blocks in that prominent area, which is both on the way to the township and on the way to the cemetery, would change and devalue the semi-rural bush character of not only the specific area but to a tangible degree the whole town.
 "I have anecdotal evidence from a preponderance of the residents that I have spoken to that they would feel the impact negatively in their own different ways, citing some sense of loss."
 Terry Kain said that exiting Cemetery Road north into Yarra Street was currently "quite a dangerous exercise. Further traffic loads would be unwelcome and add to the present risks."
 Leading as it does to Andersons Creek Cemetery, Cemetery Road carries

much more traffic than most of Warrandyte's residential streets. As this is one of the few cemeteries in the eastern suburbs still with plots available, funeral processions traverse the street constantly.
 "It would amount to a small personal tragedy to have seven small block homes (which could even be two-storey) built opposite," Terry Kain said, "and to realise the destruction of what is to me an indispensable aspect of Warrandyte's appeal—the bush feeling, the bird life and the trees."
 Warrandyte Awareness Group's Peter Curry said in his submission to council that seven lots within "this heavily treed site represents an insensitive over-development that would neither enhance nor contribute to the area's remnant bush character".

"We believe a better balance between the commercial needs of the developer, existing rural amenity and respect for the environment can be achieved if careful subdivision into fewer, larger lots was approved," he said.
 Another submission, from a North Warrandyte resident, suggested the subdivision be restricted to three lots and supplied a plan of his suggestion. Terry Kain said he would have less objection to the subdivision if it were in two lots, "providing all possible trees were saved under strict control and buildings were limited to single storey".
 Nearly all the under-storey of bush and weeds on the Cemetery Road property has already been cleared, leaving a small forest of manna, candlebark and red box gums, plus a few pine and willow trees.
 The *Diary* understands that the decision on the subdivision will be made by Manningham council's planning staff, unless an objector requests that the decision be made at a full meeting of council. The decision, either way, could be made within a month.



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 season of
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 magic*

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 To walk in the bracing chill of a Warrandyte winter is to enjoy a special experience in this special place. (Picture by Don Charlwood)

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EDITORIAL: Chief of staff Jan Tindale, 9844 3719.

ADVERTISING & ACCOUNTS: Rae Danks, 9844 3819.

CIRCULATION: Peter Norman, 9844 3268.

FAX: Editorial and Advertising, 9844 4168.

DIARY OFFICE: 168-178 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 9844 0555

INTERNET EDITOR: Sandy Burgoyne, 9844 2680

EMAIL ADDRESS: thediary@vicnet.net.au

INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandyte/

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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.

Why the corpse arrived a little cold and smelly

The dog the woman took into local vet Derek Fairley wasn't looking at all well, which was understandable because he was dead. Very. "I'm sorry if he smells a little," she said. "He's been dead in his kennel for two days." Derek asked the obvious question: what had taken her so long? "Well," the woman replied, "our daughter was taking ballet exams and we didn't want to upset her." We trust Mum and Dad hadn't taken the poor fella for the occasional drag around the block to maintain the subterfuge.

At the risk of all this reading like a morbid episode of Harry's Practice, let us tell you about Sheba, the much-loved dog of Diary advertising/accounts person Rae Danks. Sheba, a 14-year-old heeler cross and a cancer victim, was put down late last month. She was always very fond of her tucker and Rae made sure she arrived at the gates of Doggy Heaven with a well-satisfied tummy. The condemned pooch's last evening meal was a roast chicken dinner followed by Tim Tams and breakfast next day was porridge followed by Tim Tams. Sheba sure was inordinately fond of Tim Tams. Her very last lunch was steak-and-mushroom pies for two from The Bakery. Rae's great mates Denise Farran and Gus McLaren assisted with the burial.

Life may never be the same for mature-aged North Warrandyte character Lenny Woods. Not since they've taken Humphrey B. Bear off the telly. Lenny really loved Humphrey. Identified with him and wouldn't miss him for quids. You didn't dare speak in the Woods household when the big furry fella was doing his thing from 9-9.30 Monday through Friday. Then suddenly some sadist in the Channel 9 programming department decided Humphrey had run his race. His demise was all too much for Lenny to bear (if you'll pardon the pathetic pun) and so mortified was he that ever-loving wife Judy had to take him away up north for a rest cure. What we all must do now is give Lenny a reason to live again. We must bombard Nine with mail appealing to its better nature. Bring Humphrey back, we beseech you. And if that doesn't work we

IN RED & WHITE



Harry and Jenny Southall. Would you accept a bribe from this man?



Humphrey B. Bear. We must get him back for Lenny.

must try another tack. Fight fire with fire. Tell 'em that if old Humph isn't resurrected quick smart we'll all stop watching The Footy Show or something and send ratings through the floor. Do it now! Do it for Lenny!

Simon and Sarah Dwyer, of KG Road, and Harry and Jenny Southall, of West End Road, took one of those mystery flights last month—and the mystery is how they managed to make it back home. The flight took them to Sydney for the day and they really lived it up—lunch at Doyle's legendary seafood restaurant on the harbour and it's fair to say that some liquor was involved. Ha! It really

does fly when you're having fun, doesn't it, and by the time the last drinks of the day were downed, the frolicsome foursome were in grave danger of missing the return flight. But Harry is a very resourceful fellow and he bribed the airport mini-bus driver to ignore stops along the way and run express. Cost him \$5 and a six-pack.

You know you're a candidate for senior citizenship when you get excited about an upcoming "Back to the '70s" night at the local footy club—and realise most of the people who'll be there weren't even born then! Back to the '40s or '50s might be more our speed. Still, we're going along to teach these whipper-snappers a thing or two about rock 'n' roll (or maybe that should be the Charleston) and what they missed by arriving in the world so late. A great night beckons on July 31. Finger food and all you can drink between eight and late for \$30 pre-sold or \$40 on the night. Give James Logan a call on 0411 223 418.

Terry Sloan is a lifelong and vocal Warrandyte football supporter, a real student of the game not at all averse to airing his wisdom. Unfortunately, his knowledge of geography does not quite match his footy expertise. Terry turned up at Kilsyth on

July 3 to watch the Bloods, paid his \$4 at the gate and started scratching his head. Neither of those two teams out there playing the last quarter of the Reserves game looked anything at all like Warrandyte. Not a red-and-white jumper to be seen. So he asked the bloke next to him who said Terry was watching Montrose play Blackburn. Oh. His new-found friend also said that Kilsyth now played down the road a bit at Pinks Reserve and had done so since mid-1998. The old Kilsyth ground was being used by Montrose while their own was being done up. The gatekeeper kindly refunded Terry's money and our hero duly arrived. In his wake were Ian Hook and a few other Bloods fans who'd taken Terry's directions and also found themselves in unfamiliar territory. They all wished later they'd stayed home because Warrandyte put in a shocker (see Page 15).

Gee, we're really floating in cyberspace here at the Diary now. We've thrown our hat in for the Australian Internet Awards, in the Most Popular Australian Web Site category (for a site mounted by or aimed at a community). So make us famous, eh? Call up the Diary web page (our Internet address is on Page 2) and give us your vote. Bring a little joy into our stress-filled lives!

We promised last time to keep you regularly informed on what native plants are currently available (for a small donation) from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend—and our world's our bond. Mid-winter is not the best of times to start such a service, but chocolate lilies, weeping grass, blackwoods and prickly Moses—among other beaut things—will be available for spring planting. Cathy Willis (0418 142297) will happily take your orders.

Smokey Joe



OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



Council 'examining' skate park proposal

Small Warrandyte facility an option

By CLINTON GRYBAS

A skate park for Warrandyte's youth moved a step closer to reality on June 29 when Manningham council voted in favour of setting aside \$10,000 to further examine the idea.

Council will investigate the construction of a skate park at three principal venues within the municipal boundaries—the Pines shopping centre, the municipal offices on Doncaster Road and at Warrandyte Reserve.

While these will be considered for a major facility, council also made provision for a more expedient resolution in Warrandyte, recognising the urgency of the local situation.

They have left the way open for a smaller facility to be built in Warrandyte.

The recommendation noted that if one of the Warrandyte sites is suitable and available, "Warrandyte Lions and Rotary clubs and the Warrandyte community are prepared to work with council to raise matching funds needed to have a small facility built in Warrandyte six months after the site becomes available".

As well as Warrandyte Reserve, the site of the old dairy in Yarra Street—alongside the river—has been suggested as a future location.

The council motion was moved by Cr Patricia Young and seconded by Cr Bob Beynon.

Warrandyte's young people have been the most active in the municipality in campaigning for a skate park. Two petitions lobbying for a park were received by council. One was from the

youth of Warrandyte while another was received from community representatives and parents of youth in Warrandyte.

This prompted a municipal-wide survey of all secondary school students. There were 354 responses to the 1000 surveys with 76 percent saying they would use a skate park.

Warrandyte skaters Piers Brown and Blake Tobin, both 14, were two who signed the petition. They said they would be disappointed if their initiative resulted in a skate park being built outside Warrandyte.

"We were the ones who first brought up the idea," Piers Brown told the *Diary*. "It is a smaller area here with not as much to do. And the percentage of kids who skate in Warrandyte is far greater than those at Doncaster, who already have enough areas in which to skate."

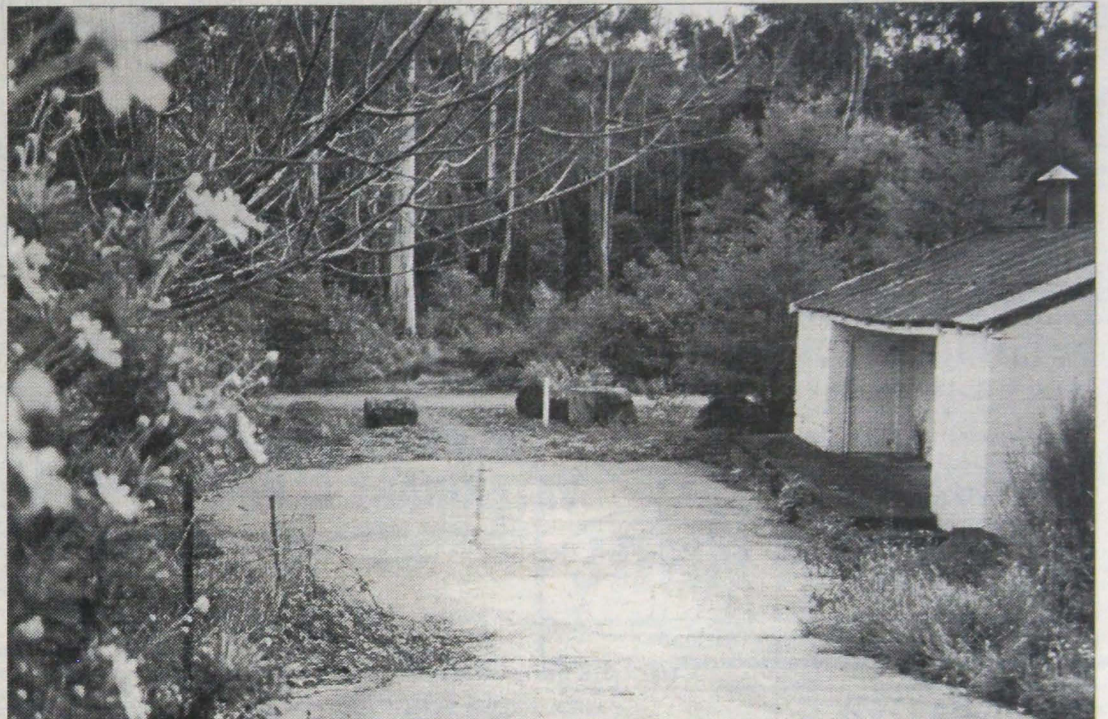
While a fully equipped skate park—costing \$80,000 to \$100,000—was their desired result, the pair said they would not mind if they had to settle for a smaller facility.

"We would be happy with anything," Blake Tobin said. "At the moment we're going to the city or Prahran, which takes more than an hour by bus. There is nowhere for us to skate around here."

Both agreed that the preferred location for a skate park is the old dairy site on Yarra Street.

The frustration for local skaters has amplified in recent months with local primary schools, Goldfields Plaza and the community centre all banning them.

Sergeant Keith Walker of Warrandyte



Old dairy site: possible location for a local skate park. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

police has been supporting the push for the building of a skate park in Warrandyte. He told the *Diary* in April that the lack of transport and other entertainment options in Warrandyte meant a local park was essential.

"There is a definite need for a skateboard facility to be built in Warrandyte," he said. "I believe the most suitable site for a skateboard facility is the one next to the old dairy. It takes the kids away from the main shopping centre and gives them their own space."

The dairy site and Warrandyte Reserve are the two most likely options for the park, ahead of suggestions including the community centre car park and behind the new car park opposite the community centre (alongside the Yarra River).

Council will assess potential sites on demographics, proximity to public transport, proximity to residents and business, visibility and profile and access to amenities and environmental impacts. Skate parks require a minimum distance of 100 metres from any

neighbouring residences.

The council report noted that while some councils had found a perception of "anti-social behaviour" associated with skate parks, the reality was that "facilities that are well planned have little trouble".

Council have agreed to apply for funding through the Department of Sport and Recreation, inform the lead signatories of both petitions of their resolutions and will ask youth representatives to address them following agreement on a preferred site.

Claire up for top honour



Warrandyte High School teacher Claire Bloom (pictured) has been shortlisted for the Herald Sun Teacher of the Year Awards. Claire has been recognised for her outstanding achievements in the area of learning technologies and for her commitment to teaching.

"Claire has shown immense dedication to the school and its students," a school spokesperson said. "People in the community will have had contact with Claire, as a student, a parent—or as 'the duck' at the Warrandyte festival!"

"Apart from her everyday work as learning technologies co-ordinator, it was Claire's work on the AT&T Virtual Classroom project which singled her out as a contender for this award," the spokesperson said.

Claire and a group of students spent many months working on the international project, involving two partner schools in the United States and Canada.

"They worked via e-mail and web conferencing—as if they were in same classroom—to produce a web site of over 150 pages on the Y2K problem," the spokesperson said.

Road reserve for tower

By RACHEL BAKER

Optus and Manningham council have discussed the construction of a mobile phone base station in Warrandyte and earmarked the unsealed roadway next to the Tindals Wildflower Reserve—necessitating roadworks—as the location for the tower.

Optus called a meeting on June 9 to discuss the options for the tower, which was attended by council representatives and Friends of the Tindals Road Wildflower Reserve—but not by The No Tower Action Group or Warrandyte Awareness Group, which have now gathered 1200 signatures opposing the tower.

According to a spokesperson,

Optus maintains that it is "very concerned about how the community feels, and will work closely with residents".

At the meeting, council rejected two of Optus' three proposed locations for the tower because they were environmentally "unacceptable", Mr Paul Molan, director of environmental amenity at Manningham council told the *Diary*.

The first proposed site was in the bank next to Warrandyte Road, the second was between the roadway and Warrandyte Road, and the third was on the roadway itself, and "council environment officers said the first two options were unacceptable because they would disturb orchids and plants in

the area," Mr Molan said.

If the station was built on the roadway, Optus would have to address the risk of traffic running into it. This could be overcome with handrails and other barriers, but council was concerned that this "wouldn't fit in with the natural environment of the area".

Council officers suggested that by narrowing the roadway, building traffic islands and placing rocks and plants in the area, traffic would be slowed, while also "making sure the area remains rural in nature".

The No Tower Action Group is concerned that Optus has still not considered having no tower at all, which "it seems most of the community wants."

Sarah Blackwell, spokesperson for the group, said.

According to an Optus spokesperson, the company has appointed a road traffic planner, who has been endorsed by council, to work on the plans for the tower, and will continue to negotiate with council to find an "amicable solution" and hopefully lodge the planning application within six weeks.

"We would like to have lodged the application by now, but it has taken longer," the spokesperson said.

Council will not consider the proposal until it is formally lodged, when it will notify the public and invite objections.

● LETTER: Page 4

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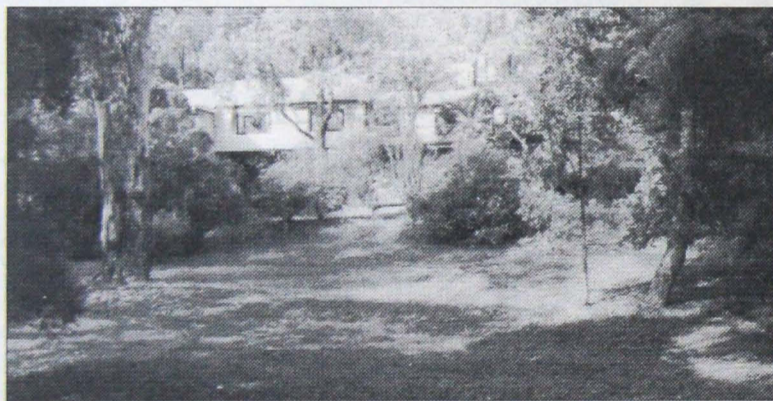
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Tower 'non-conforms'

Optus/Vodafone have not yet lodged their application for a permit for a mobile phone tower to council.

This delay in proceedings has enabled us to research many issues that were not originally raised in the consultative process.

For instance, the preferred site adjacent to the wildflower reserve is zoned Public Conservation and Resource Zone, the purpose of which is "to protect and conserve the natural environment and natural processes for their historic scientific, landscape, habitat or cultural values".

A mobile phone tower is clearly a non-conforming activity and approval of such a permit would be a disastrous precedent threatening the unique character of Warrandyte.

Also, advancements in cellular phone technology enable receivers to be mounted on existing light poles. These microcell units reduce the vi-

DEAR DIARY



sual impact of facilities and are currently available and in use in other parts of Melbourne. We have received advice they would be appropriate to alleviate black spot problems in hilly terrain.

The mobile phone carriers did not discuss these as an option, obviously because they are more expensive.

Other factors from the Manningham Planning Scheme which are relevant in concluding the inappropriateness of the proposed site is that the land is:

- subject to an environmental significance overlay and the use and development of the land should be compatible with the long-term protection and enhancement of the area of botanical significance;

- gateways should reflect the character of the neighbourhood, promoting a positive image and a sense of arrival;

- telecommunications facilities should not be obtrusive in the landscape.

It is also a requirement of the Manningham Planning Scheme that the council be provided with three alternative sites. Since the carriers indicated that two of the four sites offered were not technically feasible, perhaps they should go back to the drawing board and have another consultative process that includes a full and frank discussion of all the relevant matters.

If you are concerned with the issues raised here, drop a line to your local councillor. What is the point of having planning schemes if they can be ignored by big corporations with small change to spend?

**Sarah Blackwell
Poppy's Court**

In defence of our centre

If the role of the local newspaper is to reflect the concerns of the community, the role of councillors to represent that community and the role of the community centre management committee to manage the centre for the community, then what can possibly be the hidden agenda alluded to in the letter from Manningham ward councillors? (See June Diary).

This is a true community facility which would never have come about without strong action and support from within Warrandyte.

However some decisions and actions of previous councils have left lingering suspicions and doubts in the community which flare every so often (usually at times of review!). On these occasions, scepticism is voiced about council's vision for the future

direction of the centre and whether it accords with that of the locals.

However any debate, surely, is healthy and not to be viewed with suspicion. Provided there is a clear, transparent and inclusive process of decision-making there should be no confusion or controversy.

Hopefully on this occasion the issues have now been aired, debated and resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

It is to be hoped, too, that the outcomes of the review will soon be made public to reassure the wider community about council's intentions so the centre can continue in its role of providing a wide range of services to the Warrandyte community.

**Val Polley
Hutchinson Avenue**

Back to the bush: an indigenous revival

I was attracted to Pat Coupar's last article. I live on the banks of Andersons Creek in Warrandyte and I am re-establishing indigenous vegetation.

Recently I wrote to Maroonah council concerning the way in which weeds are pushing out the extensive native flora (and ultimately fauna) in the adjoining council-controlled reserve. So far (they promised more) I have received their "Pest Plants" handout which aptly describes a number of weeds infesting their (our) reserve!

This is an issue I am angry about.

I would like to get in touch with others interested in combatting weeds along our waterways through community action/pressure on authorities etc.

**Richard Morris
by email**

Language grants



Local schools are to receive substantial grants to assist them in foreign language and asian studies teaching.

Last month, MP Phil Honeywood (above) announced that almost \$16,000 would flow to six schools in the electorate in funding grants for Language Other Than English (LOTE) and Studies of Asia.

Mr Honeywood praised the schools for their commitment to language studies. "No doubt these grants," he said, "will be of great benefit to

schools whose students have already shown commendable enthusiasm for broadening their knowledge and cultural horizons through the study of other languages and lands".

Warrandyte High School will receive \$1400 for LOTE resource.

These grants are provided to assist schools establish resource collections, by enabling the purchase of classroom and teaching materials for students and teachers.

LOTE project grants are provided to support initiatives of direct benefit to students' learning of languages, including establishing sister school relationships and primary/secondary language transition projects.

"The proportion of primary students learning a language has risen from 26 percent in 1992 to 87 percent last year. The proportion of secondary students learning a language has risen from 35 percent in 1992 to 54.6 percent last year," Mr Honeywood said.



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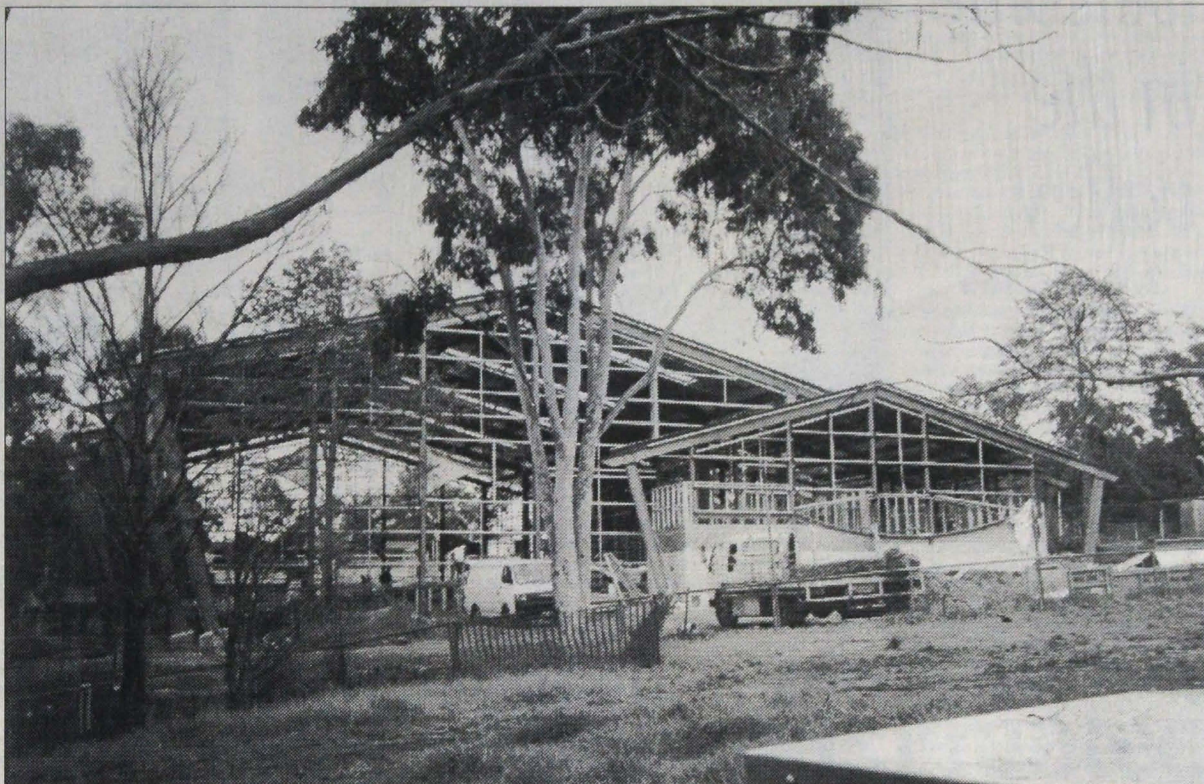
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Stadium on target



The roof's on! Despite rain delays Warrandyte Basketball Club's new stadium is on schedule. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Warrandyte's new basketball stadium is on target for an opening date of September 24, one week later than expected due to heavy rain at a critical stage of its building.

More than 20 days of wet weather have been recorded at the Andersons Creek Primary School site, much of it during the pouring of foundations.

"We have had a lot of rain at the wrong time when the foundations were being poured which held things up," school principal Des McKenzie told the *Diary*.

"It forced a shift in priorities for two to three weeks. But it is not all that bad and nothing should really stop it now."

The roof of the stadium was put on last month, the venue now providing an impressive backdrop to the Goldfields Plaza.

The design of the stadium was always one of its strong selling points. The parties concerned were eager to ensure the venue did not have the "tin shed" look of most stadiums. Mr McKenzie says the exciting plans

are coming to fruition.

"We have taken a lot of pride in it right from the start. We hope it will be a venue which will still look good in 10 years time."

The new stadium will provide a major boost not just for the primary school but also Warrandyte Basketball Club, which will be the prime user outside school hours.

"Essentially it is a school facility by day and a basketball facility at night," Mr McKenzie said. "But if there are other users who want to take up the surplus capacity we would certainly support that."

Stadium usage will be negotiated by a management committee formed by representatives from the school, the basketball club and Manningham council.

The basketball club has been pursuing more court space for the better part of this decade, having outgrown the stadium at Warrandyte High School which opened in 1987. The campaign gathered momentum when Warrandyte MP Phil Honeywood set up a working party, following lobbying by

parents during the 1996 election campaign.

Now the \$900,000 stadium is nearing completion and basketball club president Karen Pearce says the venue will not only provide increased time for training and games, but enable the club to become more creative.

"The word is already out that we intend to run a primary schools competition for schools in the local area," she said. "This will help introduce new youngsters to the game and provide our current players with the opportunity of playing twice a week."

She said the new stadium had become a major talking point within club circles. "There is no question that a lot of the kids are very excited about moving in there." She said the new venue will help alleviate current court constraints imposed by record numbers of junior players joining recently.

The club hopes to have a well-equipped office and property shop at the new stadium.

Locals fire up down south

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

Fire behaviour and fuel management around the home are two topics to be discussed at the first meeting of the Johansons Road Community Fireguard group on Sunday, July 11.

Residents of Johansons Road, Haslams Track, Sulva Road and Anzac Road in South Warrandyte decided to form the group last month with the aid of CFA community support facilitator, Sophie Cunliffe.

Community Fireguard is a neighbourhood-based program designed to reduce the loss of lives and homes in bushfires, providing local groups with information enabling residents to develop their own survival techniques.

The focus of the groups is personal survival in a bushfire, which is more effective if planned together with neighbours. Groups offer more safety to people at greater risk, such as the elderly, young and disabled and can work on common problems together.

The fireguard program helps develop early warning systems and can help residents choose a "safe house" in the event of fire. Two hundred groups already operate in the



Sophie Cunliffe: organised new Fireguard group.

Yarra region of the CFA. There are now more than 50 groups in the Warrandyte area.

The CFA is also calling for community input into a fire protection plan for the East Port Phillip fire district. The plan especially covers public land and wildfire preparedness strategy. A meeting for Warrandyte and surrounding areas will be held at 8pm on Thursday, July 15 at the Emergency Operations Centre, Ness Road, Kangaroo Ground.

• Further information about Fireguard can be obtained from Jeff Adair at Warrandyte CFA, phone 9844 3375.

Preventing home fires burning

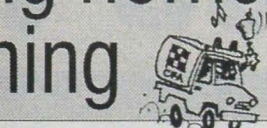
By SOPHIE CUNLIFFE

Making sure that it is easy for you to safely evacuate your home in an emergency is as important as ensuring that burglars can't get in. This is the message from local CFA fire brigades at Wonga Park, Warrandyte and South Warrandyte this winter.

"All the best security measures can actually make your house more difficult to escape", explained South Warrandyte fire brigade captain, Andrew Blashki. "However, a good escape plan, which takes into account the needs of all family members, could save your life. Of course, working smoke alarms increase the chance of escaping a fire in the home."

Warrandyte fire brigade captain Rob Kilkenny emphasised that "deadlocks, window locks and security grilles should all be considered when designing your plan. Make sure that keys are very accessible even if fire and smoke have made it difficult to see or move around. Establish at least two exits from every room, and make sure that every family member knows the plan."

"Select a landmark outside your home where the family can assemble after they evacuate," Jim McKee, captain of Wonga Park fire brigade, said. "Letterboxes, light posts and neighbours' houses are all good places to gather, as long as they are agreed to beforehand."



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Warm welcome in the valley

By **KARA WILLIAMS**

The recently renovated cottage beside the Gospel Chapel carpark has been given a new role. It is now Warrandyte's Visitor Information Centre.

Melbourne's Valley Of The Arts Tourism Association has been busy planning, seeking funding and preparing for what they hope will extend tourism within our region.

The Valley of the Arts covers more than just Warrandyte, regional tourism co-ordinator Jenny Grinlington said. It includes Manningham, Maroon-dah, Whittlesea, Banyule, Darebin and Nillumbik.

"The centre promotes the Yarra River and its tributaries," Jenny Grinlington said, "from Melbourne right through to Wonga Park, identifying the arts heritage as the main tourism focus."

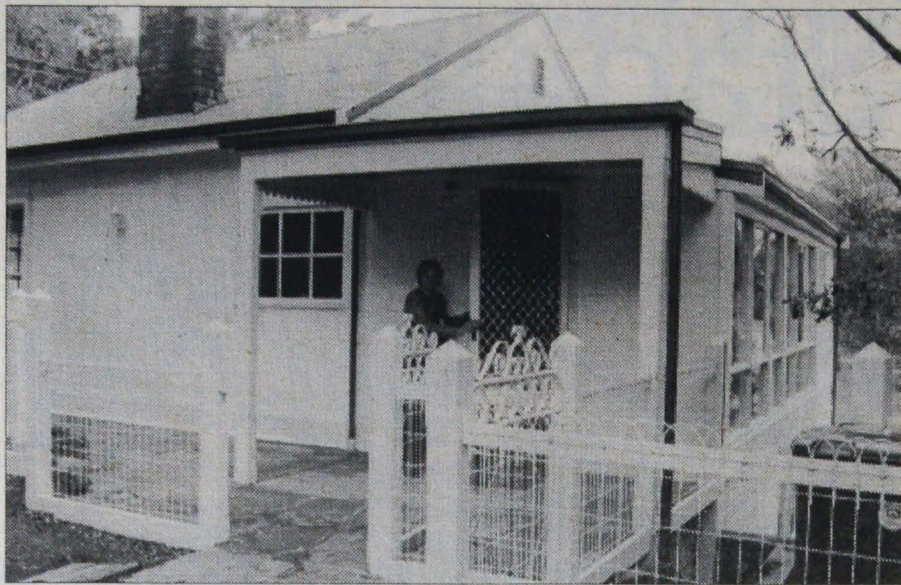
The concept includes the recently completed Heidelberg School Artists Trail.

"We are servicing visitors who are attracted to the arts," Jenny Grinlington said.

"We want to give them a further reason to stay in the area, and, of course, spend more."

Parks Victoria have set up a room within the centre to promote parks close to Warrandyte. It is hoped Parks Victoria will install a "touch screen facility", connecting visitors to parks across the state.

The association hopes to be



Our new Visitor Information Centre. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

"accredited" through the Country Victoria Tourism Council by Christmas, allowing them to be allied to visitor information centres throughout Victoria. Situated as it is near a bus stop, the centre hopes to encourage backpackers to come and enjoy the river and the State Park.

The centre is open seven days a week, from 10am to 4.30pm. It is staffed by volunteers who are taking courses and familiarisation tours. Although bookings for accommodation and tours are not yet available, they are proposed for the future.

"There's huge potential here,"

Jenny Grinlington said. "We see it as more than just a place to hand out brochures and information. We'd also like it to be a centre for people to promote their art."

New volunteers are always welcome. For further information, call 9844 0380.

Defeating those winter blues

The Visitors Information Centre in Yarra Street is hosting a novel exhibition during the coming months. Entitled the Winter Blues Experience, it is designed to celebrate the work of artists and craftspeople in the Valley of the Arts region.

"Every object or picture will be in the winter colours of blue and white," co-ordinator Jenny Grinlington told the *Diary*.

"For centuries, the enforced confinement of the winter months has provided the right conditions for artistic creativity to flourish. Today, in our often demanding and rushed lives, time to be creative doesn't come easily. Hence, we celebrate the craftspeople and artists who carry on this creative tradition."

The exhibition highlights the talents of the artists and craftspeople of the Valley of the Arts region, north-east of Melbourne. "The exhibitors are talented people who have a passion

for their creativity, yet rarely have an opportunity to display their work," Jenny Grinlington said. "They work in their homes, garages or studios, tucked away in the suburbs, often without the encouragement, finance or support to showcase their talents."

"The centre, with its light, airy rooms, highly polished floors and lots of unused wall space seemed ideal for exhibition purposes. This is the first of many monthly exhibitions planned for the centre."

The next will be devoted to woodwork and photography.

A number of Warrandyte businesses are "joining in the spirit of the Winter Blues Experience," Jenny Grinlington said. "Blue 'cockies' will be found in many unusual locations in participating shops. With shops playing blues music, blueberry muffins and coffee should prove a great way to finish your visit to our exhibition."



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Boundary trouble

By FIA CLENDINNEN

Local environment groups have expressed concern that Warrandyte State Park is under threat from badly maintained adjoining properties.

Some private landowners, whose properties are on the boundaries of the park, are clearing native vegetation, allowing their cats and dogs to roam free and neglecting to control weeds and rabbits, all of which creates considerable problems for the park.

"The bottom line is that you can't manage the park without managing the surrounding land," one Warrandyte resident warned.

"Private land owners have got to be responsible. The laws state that they've got to act on noxious weeds, they've got to act on rabbits. But ultimately the laws are unworkable and unmanageable. They're not enforced."

The park's boundary is more than 75km long. Around 90 percent of this boundary is with privately owned land. The park's linear and fragmented state means it is particularly vulnerable to what experts call "edge effect".

"There's a lot of boundary, so there's a lot of pressure," the resident said. "Without improved management (of neighbouring properties), Warrandyte State Park will ultimately fall down. It will succumb to pest animals and plants."



He said that people "needed an awful lot of help" in managing their land and blamed the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) for failing to provide adequate assistance.

"DNRE don't have enough people on the ground to do the work. They should be out there organising and encouraging land care groups and organising the community. From what I've seen, there is a lot of goodwill out there, but it's got to be sustained with funding and personnel."

State MP for Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood, said the government is well aware rabbits are a critical issue in the Warrandyte area. He told the *Diary*: "In regards to the rabbit problem, significant measures are being undertaken through what we call the Rabbit Buster Program. The program is all about a partnership arrangement between government and private land owners."

Mr Honeywood said that last year DNRE allocated \$5000 for a community facilitator to coordinate rabbit control in Warrandyte.

He confirmed that money will also be provided this year. (See story this page.)

"The number one priority for this year is that further funding will be made available. I've had that from the minister's office," he said.

While the Rabbit Busters Program has been welcomed by many in the community, it has also been criticised as insufficient. It has been estimated that only 10 percent of properties adjoining the park have participated in a Rabbit Busters Program. "It's a drop in the ocean," Flora Anderson, spokesperson for the Wonga Park Environment Group, said.

Another concern raised by local environment groups is the government's trend of increasingly relying on volunteers. "The government is quite keen to hand out grant money to volunteers, but only if volunteers are prepared to do the labour," Cathy Willis, Friends of Warrandyte State Park secretary, said. "And that isn't fair. It is really putting too much of a load on volunteers."

Ms Willis said she felt her concerns were not restricted to volunteers in the Warrandyte area. "You hear it a lot, all over the place. I've heard this from other groups, through the friends network, that people are starting to get really pissed off with it. We wanted to volunteer our services, but we're not going to do the whole job for you." She feels it's not appropriate. "That's what rangers are trained to do."

Reserve lands risk being 'orphaned'

By FIA CLENDINNEN

Warrandyte State Park is not large compared to other parks, but it does include narrow creek and river frontages and some parts are completely separate, factors which contribute to its unusually long boundary of more than 75km.

Around 90 percent of the properties abutting Warrandyte State Park are private land holdings. The remaining land is under the control of several different bodies, including Nillumbik and Manningham councils, Melbourne Water and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

In several areas it is not clear which government body should be taking a management role. Some in the community claim this has serious consequences. They allege the relevant bodies are refusing to take on their rightful responsibilities, and as a result, the land in question suffers serious neglect.

An example of this is an area adjoining Warrandyte State Park in Gold Memorial Road. One Warrandyte resident is convinced this land is the responsibility of DNRE and described its condition to the *Diary* as "abysmally managed".

Phyl Honeywood, state MP for Warrandyte, disagrees. "The issue there is really a local council one," he said. "Gold Memorial Road is a local government road and so it's con-

trolled by the local municipality. The DNRE has said the land abutting that road is the responsibility of Manningham."

But Mr Honeywood conceded confusion over land management was a problem in some parts of Warrandyte and he suggested a "hands-on" solution.

"I'm happy to convene a meeting of DNRE, local council and Parks Victoria people to see if we can work out the demarcation issues," he said. "I'm more than happy to chair a working party group. We'll need detailed maps to show who has got responsibility for what."

Cathy Willis from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park welcomed Mr Honeywood's suggestion, describing it as "excellent". However, she did express some reservations: "Is it then going to be followed up with funding to whoever is appropriate? If, for instance, (the land in question) is all given to Parks Victoria, are we going to get another ranger or some more staff? I've got a bit cynical about these things in the end. It's all very well to convene a meeting and sort out who it belongs to, but will that translate into action?"

• The meeting referred to above, convened by Phil Honeywood, and including DNRE, Manningham council and Parks Victoria, was in progress as the *Diary* went to press.

Funds granted

By CLIFF GREEN

LATE NEWS

A successful lobbying effort by local MP Phil Honeywood has resulted in additional finance during this coming year for Warrandyte State Park. This was learned during an investigation by the *Diary* into funding and staffing at the park.

"The annual Warrandyte maintenance grant, to cover weed control and pest animals (other than rabbits) has been increased from \$96,000 last year to \$131,000 for the coming 12 months," Mr Honeywood said. "This maintenance work is carried out by contractors employed by Parks Victoria."

With regard to staffing, Mr Honeywood explained that the contracted maintenance program ensures that the six full-time rangers, based at Pound Bend, are "not distracted from their primary duties" in managing the park.

"The Warrandyte rangers are now also able to gain additional support from the 12 rangers employed at Westerfolds Park." In 1996 the then Minister for Conservation, Mark Birrell, announced that two new areas—Mt Lofty (then owned by Melbourne Water) and Scotchmans Hill—would be added to Warrandyte State Park.

Mt Lofty had become drastically degraded through excessive grazing and Scotchmans Hill was seriously affected by pest plants and unauthorised motor traffic.

Mr Honeywood gained a special funding commitment from

the government to ensure revegetation of both the new reserves.

"An amount of \$350,000 has been allocated over a three-year period to achieve this end," Mr Honeywood said. "Some of these funds have already gone towards weed control work and fencing."

"Following recent negotiations with abutting landowners, access through Scotchman's Hill reserve has now been restricted to assist revegetation."

Additional funding has been provided for the Rabbit Buster program and other rabbit control work.

"In a unique partnership approach," Mr Honeywood said, "Parks Victoria will provide \$40,000 to pay for a rabbit control facilitator, working on government-owned land, and provide assistance to Manningham council in the locally managed Rabbit Busters program."

This program involves private landowners gaining advice and support for such initiatives as pindone poisoning.

"Manningham council provides funding support that will approximately match the \$40,000 government contribution to the local area for the coming year," Mr Honeywood said.

"Unfortunately, the release of calicivirus has not been successful in the local region because of our high rainfall patterns."

SO —!

By SYD & ONA

Dual occupancy query...
"are gumleaves G.S.T. exempt?"



ALP choice



David Orr, a sales manager from Warranwood (pictured), has been pre-selected ALP candidate for the state seat of Warrandyte, presently held by Liberal MP Phil Honeywood.

"I firmly believe in a fair and just society that meets the needs of all citizens, particularly youth and senior citizens," Mr Orr said. "This philosophy is reflected in my Medical Alert business, which serves elderly and disabled members of the community."

David Orr has been an active member of the Labor Party for 25 years, including service as an executive member and a campaign manager during several elections.

He lives in Warranwood "in the heart of the electorate" and claims he is keen to preserve the existing environment. He lists bushwalking, music and the arts among his interests.

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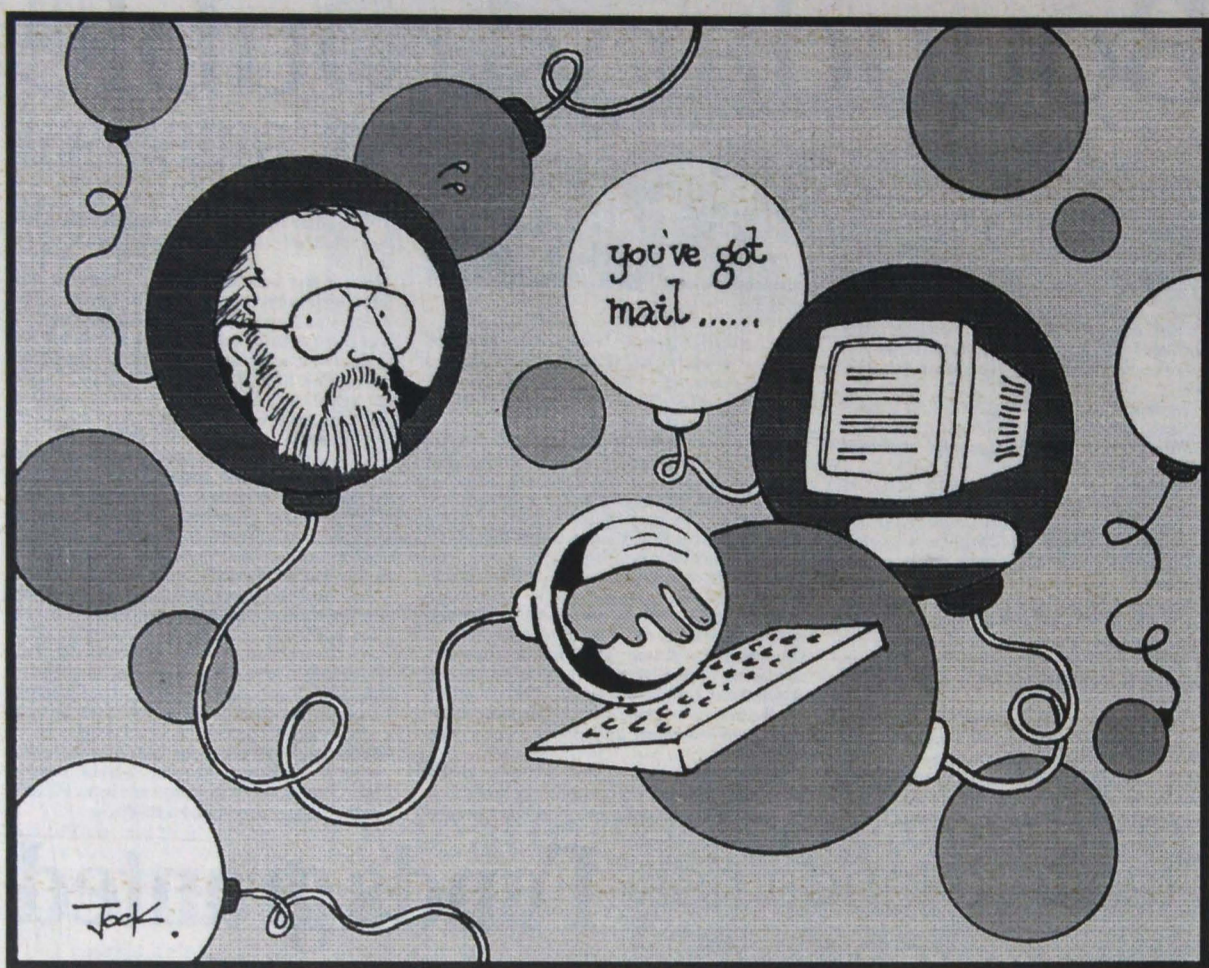
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Wandering alone through the depths of cyberspace

“DON'T panic. You've just been caught in a 'pop-lock'.” At least I think that's what the voice on the other end of the line told me. It could have been "pot luck" or "pop's truck" for all I cared. The reality was that I was distressed and beginning to get very angry.

It all started when I was trying to retrieve my e-mail. Normally, this is a very simple operation. Dial up, key in a Boy's Own Annual password, wait for all the fake espresso sound effects, hit "Inmail" and hey presto, after a minute or two, up come all the pieces of communication you wouldn't bother sending or receiving if snail mail were the only option. Well, that's what usually happens. But this was not a normal occasion.

All the squawky sound effects were there, as was the little message telling me that we were about to become the proud owners of seven new messages. The little blue arrow started emptying into the old-fashioned in-tray. And I waited. And waited.

I waited, transfixed by the perserverance of the team of monks I like to believe live in the computer. It humanises the whole procedure for me to imagine that somewhere inside the computer are serried rows



KIBBLLED

"You don't even have to leave the house and hang around some street corner. The deal comes to you."

of tonsured monks, all with quills in hand, frantically transcribing messages brought to them by carrier pigeons or, if I must be very '90s, by lycra-clad couriers riding mountain bikes.

On this occasion the monks must have been complaining that they were developing severe cases of RSI. The little blue arrow kept emptying endlessly. For such tiny people, those 20 minutes must have seemed like a lifetime.

It appears that I was not the only one with concerns that

decide you want some of it. And you don't even have to leave the house and hang around some street corner. The deal comes to you.

So I picked up the receiver and had that familiar "rush" when I heard the reassuring whooshing noise. Big Daddy was there. I have just been panicking. I had been too impatient.

I went back to to Send And Receive and tried again. At the back of my brain there was a Gregorian chant of "It's better to give than to receive", but I managed to brush it aside in my desperation to log-on to the good life. There were seven messages waiting and I was hanging out for them. There is magic in that number, and I was about to join the gods.

The first blue rectangle appeared. The arrow kept emptying. And emptying. But no more rectangles showed. This was turning out to be a very bad trip. Not only couldn't I get my messages, but I couldn't close down. Panic was setting in. I began to sweat and my heart was thumping. In desperation I turned off the computer and slumped in my chair. What to do? Best forget it, give it up, go back to snail mail. And then I saw the telephone number.

"Hello. This is Steve here. Your provider."
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Big Daddy Provider promises all the mysteries of the world, just by "logging on". He advertises fun, excitement and a way to escape the drudgeries of mundane domesticity. All it requires is a taste. Surely it can't do you any harm. You've seen the euphoria on the faces of those who have already "connected" with the Web. You've heard them discussing what goes on in cyberspace, and you

I decided it was time for me to regain some control over my obsession. Perhaps there was a simple, procedural problem I had missed. I lifted the hand-piece from the telephone cradle to determine whether or not I had nurtured the correct relationship with my "provider".

Now, I have trouble even writing the word "provider". It has a worryingly close sound to "dealer". And the association doesn't end there. An addict has an unequal relationship with the dealer. He has and the addict must have. The same obtains with your internet provider.

Big Daddy Provider promises all the mysteries of the world, just by "logging on". He advertises fun, excitement and a way to escape the drudgeries of mundane domesticity. All it requires is a taste. Surely it can't do you any harm. You've seen the euphoria on the faces of those who have already "connected" with the Web. You've heard them discussing what goes on in cyberspace, and you

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A Lions Club of Warrandyte project

Reclaimed bush garden a sanctuary from stress

ONE of the advantages of living on a steep block is the view, either to the distant horizon or the nearby tree-tops. The disadvantage is the difficulty of establishing a garden.

Our house had been built into the side of a hill. A rocky hill. The previous owners, who bought the land more than 10 years before they built on it, had done their best at bringing a suburban-style landscape to this slither of Warrandyte bush. Volcanic basalt boulders nestled uncomfortably next to local sedimentary sandstones and the Western Australian grevilleas, hakeas and bluebell creeper somehow lacked the subtlety of the indigenous shrubs with which they mingled.

The house was only two years old when we bought it and the garden, therefore, was relatively new. In fact many of the plants still bore their flashy plastic name tags. Considerable money had been spent at one of the local commercial nurseries and I must admit to a few twinges of guilt as I removed the offending individuals. But the plants had not done well in the inhospitable, stony ground and would soon be replaced with wattles, bush-peas and correas born and bred in Warrandyte's tough conditions.

Directly out the back was a broad strip of grass. This became the fernery, herb garden and vegie patch—recently superseded by the wetland. The lawn mower was sold without ever having been used since the

NATURE
By PAT COUPAR
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

move.

A few of the usual weedy trees; namely cotoneaster, cootamundra wattle and radiata pine, had found their way onto the block. These were either cut down or ringbarked.

The major weed on the lower, more shaded section of the slope was angled onion. For six months of the year it remains in hiding. Reduced to plump white bulbs, the plant is dormant until late autumn. Then, in typical lily fashion—for that is what onions are—leaves appear. They are flat, often channelled and always odorous. These are followed by white bell-shaped flowers, similar to the English snowdrop, a familiar sight I suspect to most Warrandytians around July and August. In cross section, the flowering stem is triangular, and this, together with the pungent leaves, gives the plant its common name.

Although angled onion spreads rapidly by division of bulbs, it also produces seeds which are attractive to ants. It is not actually the seed that the ants are after, but a sugary attachment called an aril that some plants, including wattles, use as a ploy to get the insects to distribute their seed and establish new colonies.

The method we used to eradi-



cate the angled onion pest was to offer a little monetary bribe to the children. Over two week-ends the four of us, on hands and knees with a cardboard box each, dug up the plants—bulbs and all. It proved a highly successful investment as the next year only minimal follow-up was required.

Work continued on the block. Narrow bush paths were created, zig-zagging down the hill with steps of local stone. With the weeds gone, the bush was given room to regenerate naturally. Grasses, lilies and sedges came back of their own accord.

In 1992 the block was granted Land for Wildlife status. Then,

in 1994, we were persuaded to enter the inaugural—and to date the only—green gardening competition run by the City of Doncaster and Templestowe. To our humble delight we won both categories for a regular sized allotment—the best “steeply sloping garden” and “indigenous planting, native animals and birds”.

A garden is what you make of it. Whether it be native or exotic, formal or informal, cottage, rock, herb or vegie. Irrespective of shape or size, a garden can be a powerful antidote to the stresses of life and the atrocities of the world. Mine certainly is.

Warrandyte vs Clunes: who won?

LAST week in Clunes I found myself clutching a handful of brochures advertising the delights of the district, and emblazoned across every one was the claim that Clunes was the site of Victoria's first gold discovery.

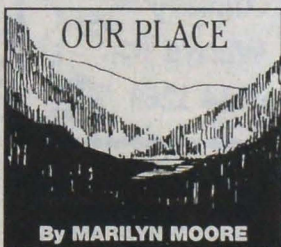
Now as any loyal Warrandytian will tell you, this cannot possibly be true. Our own fair stream yielded the colony's first golden glint. The discovery is well-documented and a monument marks the site on Anderson's Creek.

Each town remains adamant. Clunes boasts “first registered gold strike”, “first payable gold”, “first gold town”. Warrandyte claims “first official discovery of gold” and “first registered goldfield”.

Surely by now somebody would have checked this out! And indeed they have. In 1970, James Flett, after scouring a multitude of mining records, transcripts of proceedings of various rewards committees, letters, documents and publications of the day, published the detailed History of Gold Discovery in Victoria.

But don't hold your breath for a simple answer. There isn't one.

For a start, a steady trickle of gold was being obtained, reportedly from the “Plenty



Ranges” (including the present districts of St Andrews and Warrandyte), and being sold in Melbourne from 1841 onwards. In 1842 Captain Lonsdale sent a number of troopers to seek out the source, but all they found was a deserted campsite, crucible and bellows. Numerous unofficial discoveries were subsequently made in the Buninyong-Clunes area.

Thus in February 1851 when Hargreaves made the discovery near Bathurst which triggered Australia's first gold rush, Victoria had no recognized gold mine. Thousands rushed to NSW, and Melbourne's mayor sought to arrest the exodus by offering on June 9, 1851 a \$200 reward to anyone finding a payable goldfield within 200 miles of the city.

The melee that followed so flummoxed the poor old Gold Discovery Committee that the

reward was never paid. But they did narrow the field down a bit. As if in a Shakespearean comedy, the interwoven tales of four separate parties, perchanced to climax with, in their own separate humble opinions, a golden victory salute on July 5, 1851:

• William Campbell, Hon Member for Loddon, formally announced his gold discovery on Mr Cameron's property at The Clunes in April 1850.

• Dr George Bruhn, who had found gold-bearing quartz near Clunes in April 1851, spread the good news as he explored further afield.

• James Esmond, prospector at Clunes, showed a sample of newly-discovered gold to Mr Clarke, editor of the Geelong Advertiser and Mr Patterson, a gold broker.

• Mr Louis Michel, who had (with others) found gold in Anderson's Creek late in June 1851, showed the location of the discovery to a large party including Dr Richmond of the Gold Discovery Committee.

Although Campbell was recognised as the undisputed official discoverer of gold at Clunes, on July 16, Michel's party exhibited their finds to the committee, clearly establishing their claim as the first official publishers of the discov-

ery of a goldfield. Esmond sold the first yield of Clunes gold to Mr Patterson on August 12, thereby becoming the first official producer of gold in Victoria. The first licences were applied for at Anderson's Creek on August 18, and issued on September 2, 1851, happily coinciding with the Chief Gold Commissioner's official inspection of the Clunes workings, in order to assess whether they were rich enough to warrant the imposition of a licence fee. However discovery of Ballarat's great riches during August-September 1851 meant that both Anderson's Creek and Clunes were rapidly deserted. Their potential was not truly discovered until 1854 and 1857.

Campbell, Michel and Esmond were each paid \$1000 by a Select Parliamentary Rewards Committee set up in 1853, and Bruhn was paid \$500. Thomas Hiscock was also paid \$1000 for a discovery at Buninyong on August 8, 1851 which precipitated the Ballarat rush. Subsequent committees paid another sixty-odd rewards between 1854 and 1879, albeit leaving more than 120 “unofficial” discoveries, including Bendigo, unrewarded.

So there you have it, folks. Warrandyte was the first official goldfield. Sort of.

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A winter leaf:
fragile, transparent,
crumbling; helplessly blown.
Angry at no longer
being in control
of where it is going.

Looking up
at stricken branches,
the leaden sky
oppressively above.

Some leaves still cling
gnarled, and crackling;
refusing to fall
and be aimlessly
tossed.

Now glimpses of joy
in emerging tips of green,
bright and upright,
strong and confident.

Unaware
of the ultimate sacrifice
of those skeletal grey tumblers
below

who know
that they must inevitably make room
to allow themselves
to submit
to that last gust.

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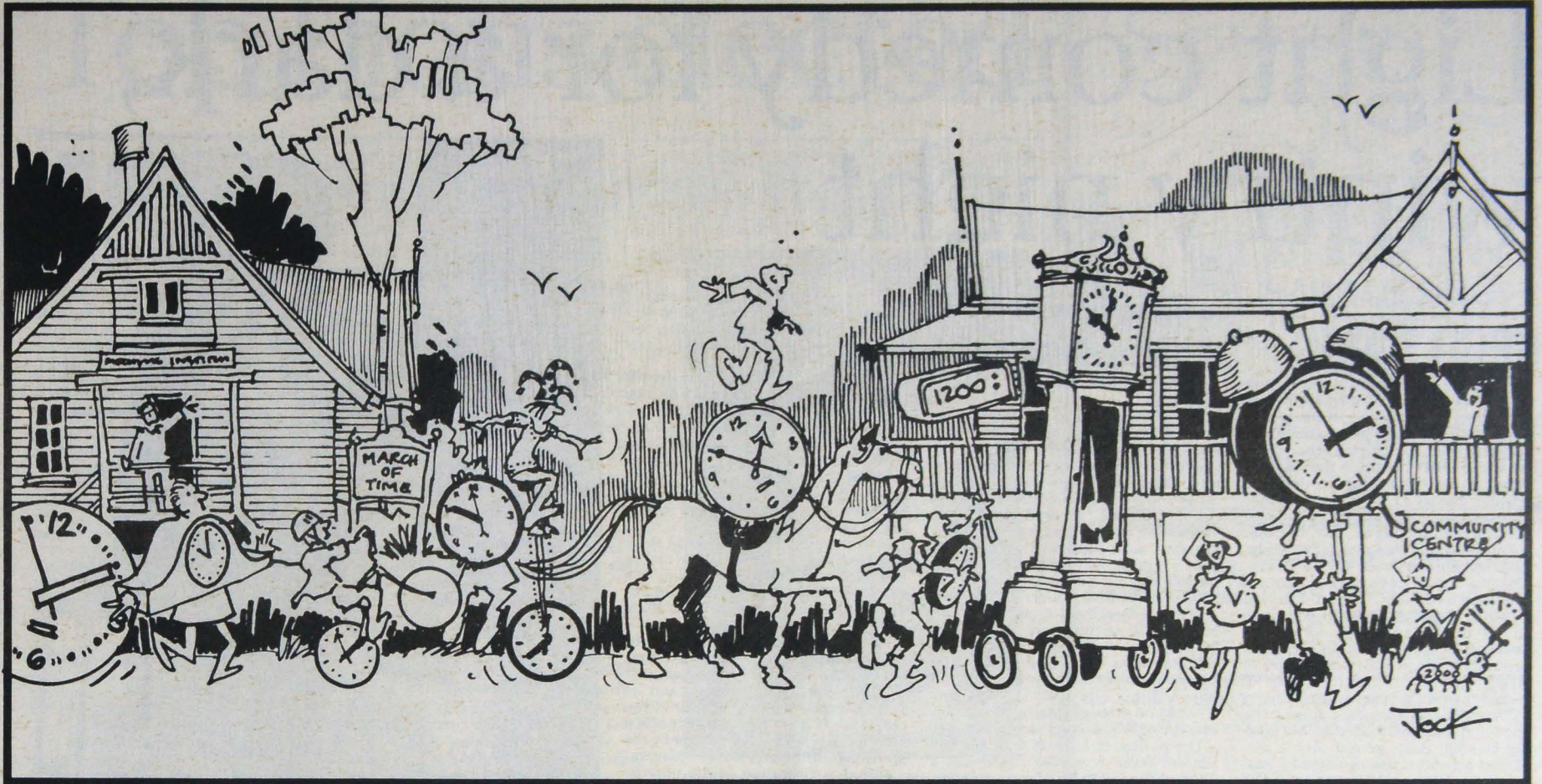


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The clock ticks over

IT'S time the Fat Lady sang", came the crude shout from the back row of the Mechanics Institute, raising a laugh from the expectant crowd, waiting for the start of Follies at the End of the Millennium.

Haunting circus music whirled around like river mist as the audience grew louder by the minute. With time to kill and restless at the closed stage curtains, they entertained themselves. A glance at my timepiece confirmed the show's written starting time was being temporarily challenged.

As time goes by you realize the necessity of a good watch. The spin of the earth is just not good enough to measure time. Once it was simply night and day, the passing of the months (as the monthly moon cycle of 29.5 days was called) or the summer and winter solstice. Now there's too much variation in this natural passage of time for we humans.

Take solar time, the time it takes for the earth to complete a single rotation. It is not consistent through the year. There is as much as 16 minutes difference in the length of days. There are also unexplained time lags, such as irregular variations of up to one millisecond. Worse still, the axis on which the earth spins is not regular, and, is slowing down at the rate of 1/1000 of a second every 100 years. A millisecond every four human generations. Successive centuries are 20 seconds longer.

My watch—an atomic clock—was as accurate as you can get. It knows how to measure a second. How long is a second? It is 1/86,400th of the mean solar day, which is one rotation of the earth. Or, 1/31,556,925.9747 of the solar year in progress at noon on December 31, 1899.

I prefer an atomic clock, measuring a second as 9,192,631,770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the cesium-133 atom. Now that's something to measure your Chernobyls by. Only thing is that the skin on my wrist is beginning to look like crispy lemon chicken.

I could feel the time warp and axis variations just sitting in this time-

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.

worn wooden hall. Closing my eyes, I entered time travel, with my thoughts following an imaginary festival procession up Yarra Street. A festival parade of clocks. Clocks carried on banners, ridden clocktrolley clock on horseback, clocktrucks and bicyclocks. All the while, non-stop noon sirens wailing away as time floats past in a flood of humanity, flowing with the village ghosts and ancient spirits.

Time rolling backwards and forwards in the collective mind. Melting in fluid currents of Daliesque clocks; imploding black holes in memories of the old village. The creation of bright new universes in the infotronic monolithic mansions. Expanding populations, over-expanding economies, neither delivering better living, just less time and space to be the individual you need to be.

Shockblinkwaking back to the show—curtains frozen, refusing to open—I scanned the program that featured a cover picture of the main act: Millenium Bug. We were waiting for the Bug to tell us where we may camp this summer or how the future will be. Surely we all own the future as much as the Bug does, as much as timocratic governments do; as much as big business does; as big business does.

A mood of helplessness swept the audience. We were overcome by our short lives. We all seemed so powerless. What had shaken our hold on the future? What was brewing in the cauldron of tomorrow? Brooding on the unknown, I suddenly have an attack of doubt about the right time and date. Maybe the show isn't tonight. The program bears a date, but is it correct? Surely you can't tamper with the calendar?

But the Hebrews dated their calendar from the creation of their world, 3,760 years ago. The first Olympic Games in—735 BC—marked the start of the Greek calendar and the Romans founded Rome in 753 BC.

Muslims believe this year will be 1420 and the Chinese date from dynasties established in 2200 BC, dividing time into 12 animal-based cycles. The ancient Mayan culture had a long count calendar with one cycle running for 144,000 days.

The calendar of the modern Christian era was adopted in 530 AD, and this calendar, which we hold as the axis of a definite, fixed and most ancient date, is full of errors, inexactitude and incongruities. Between the AD and BC, somehow the year 0 was lost; IAD follows immediately after the year 1BC, thereby missing the actual year of Christ's birth. Above all, it is generally assumed that Christ was born four years earlier in BC time. Born before his time as they say in the obituaries.

UNTIL 1752, March 25 was New Years day and I don't want to spoil the party but doesn't the millennium start on January 1, 2001? Cultures view time differently. We express our thoughts in past, present and future. We have a notion that time moves in one linear direction, from past to future. We move through time, whereas Aborigines move through space. They focus on place. One is alive in the moment by being utterly grounded and centred in space. The present moment and eternity are synthesized as place. The energies of a particular place is the highest of gods.

The marking of time by the rolling over of 2000 on the menological odometer of the time machine calls for the wisdom of a relaxed mechanic. Better put the vehicle of civilization in for a free 2000 year check-up. Check the brakes on freedom. Fine-tune the engine of democracy. Repair the dents in the environment. Have a good look at the steering of the economy, which is now pulling to the right; right into the path of oncoming greed.



A lot of people are sitting in that vehicle. It was carrying 1.6 billion in 1900. At the tick of the millennium 2000 clock, there will be 6.1 billion people standing, waiting for a seat. Will the suspension handle it?

DESPITE a noble resistance, Warrandyte has watched as landmarks in the landscape and psyche of the village are torn down. As memories are displaced and the local soul scattered. Development is destroying our sense of time: removing streetscapes and landscapes, changing the face of the remembered past. The White House, the old Golden Gate milk bar, one daggy shop, torn down and replaced with an empty brick monument to wastefulness.

Bushlands obliterated in haste to build monstrous roundabouts and bigger roads. Cramping in buildings so still more humans can be crammed onto this tiny piece of earth. Obliterating collective memories housed in cottages. Straightening deviant stretches of road. Removing manna gums by the creek. Flattening hills and filling secret gullies. As we resist the bulldozing we mourn the loss of our identity.

How much time do we need for a resolution to arise, bobbing up as an idea and finally bursting into actuality? The environmental imagination, a huge wave washing across the globe, spreading like a bushfire through the population, setting souls alight, finally igniting them with passion and devoted energy. It is coming; but oh, so slowly.

Future scenarios estimate that the one million hectares of salt affected land in Victoria may spread to eight million by the year 2050. This will all but destroy our food-producing areas. Victoria's bushland is still being cleared at an alarming rate: some

2,500 hectares a year. The equivalent of five Warrandyte State Parks; every year. Local bushlands continue to be cleared illegally, every day. We can only accept the destruction of the natural world by living in time, for the destruction denies us place.

There have been an estimated 40 billion trees removed from the face of Australia over the past 200 years. Replacing them is a necessity for the biological health of the world as we know it. One billion trees must be planted every year for the next 50 years if we are to defuse the time bomb our recklessness with nature has set ticking.

We need a new vehicle in which to travel. One driven by Kooboor, that will conserve water as it moves across the landscape. A vehicle that does not emit dragon's breath, but is powered by a motor with soil as its fuel. A vehicle that steers away from the pressures of erosive economies.

We need a new type of GST: Go Slow Time. So we can find a new perspective. We must understand the time evolution needs to produce things and to sense the immense scale of ecological time. We need a new dimension of time: Warrandyte time. We need a Get Sowing Trees time to begin to repair the damage our time on this fragile Warrandyte earth—and beyond—has caused. Followed by a Government Showing Truth time and a Good Sharing Time in which we spend our most valuable commodity—time—with our family, our community and our land.

One strange thing about time is that it is not a physical constant. It is relative. The effect of motion and gravity on time is expanded and dilated. If we had two identical atomic clocks and one was taken on an around-the-world journey, upon returning the clock which travelled will have lost time relative to the motionless clock.

Travel and you grow younger? There was always something different about travellers. They seemed to possess another dimension. That feeling exists out there in the Warrandyte bush. Another time, another dimension: growing younger.

Hang on, the curtains are twitching. Is the show about to begin? Or is it over? Or are we being treated to an encore—this one last time?

Light comedy for a dark, wintry night

PETER Shaffer is a playwright who enjoys confounding an audience. His Black Comedy, the latest Warrandyte Theatre Company production, is pure farce, bearing none of the hallmarks—sense of foreboding, of something nasty lurking in the woodshed—that defines black comedy.

Shaffer relies on the audience playing along with the notion that though they can see the onstage action, the actors—due to a blown fuse—cannot see each other. Warrandyte audiences, no strangers to power cuts, became collaborators in this one-act comedy.

Darren Bowers and Linda Keath, playing newly engaged couple Brindsley and Carol, drove the action forward. Their attempts to persuade an art dealer to purchase one of Brindsley's (Darren's) sculptures were constantly thwarted by a parade of larger-than-life characters who hijacked the plot whenever possible.

Darren has an appealing stage presence and was well suited to his leading co-role. Both he and Linda displayed a good sense of comedy, having to maintain split-second timing to sustain the blackout gag. They were fortunate in having the experience of Gail Macrae on lighting.

Linda is a welcome newcomer to the Warrandyte stage. She was particularly adept at moving around the ostensibly blacked-out stage, having to avoid eye contact with the other actors as she negotiated an ever-changing set.

I believe Linda's interpretation of the



By MARION WINTON

character was true to the author's intention, and while much of the play's dialogue was set in the present, the parts of Linda—a Knightsbridge debutante and her father—the Colonel—belonged to the 1920s or 1930s. With expressions like "dreary", "pet" and "boulder", they seemed to have stepped out of a Noel Coward play. This would appear to be a fault of the playwright, not the players.

I suspect Sue Davies drew on memories of a genteel maiden aunt, who had had one tippie too many, for her role as Miss Furnival. There is nothing so unfunny as a stage drunk (with the possible exception of grown men in nappies), but Sue demonstrated how it could be done elegantly, as she quietly drifted away in an alcoholic haze.

The nature of farce is to make the absurd seem credible. There was a general tendency by players to over-act. The funniest moments in theatre occur when actors underplay.

It was good to see Howard Geldard's return to the stage, in the part of the irascible Colonel Melkett. I hope his amusing attempts to seat himself in a rocking chair, in the dark, didn't result in the need for spinal realignment.

The character of Jack Gorringer, played by Jack Stringer, was a great hit

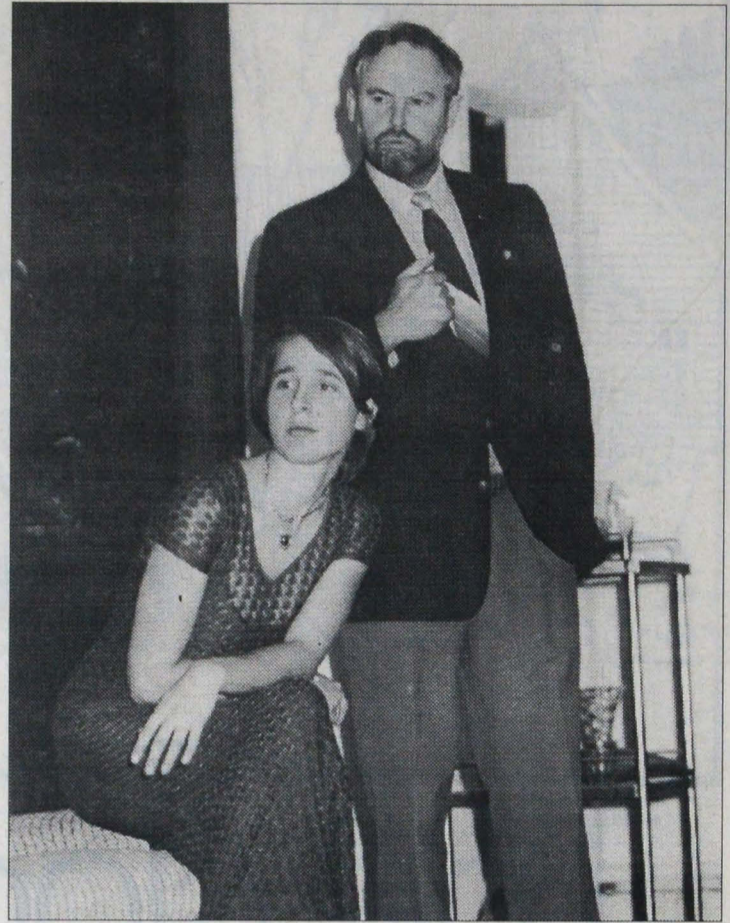
with the audience. Not an easy part to sustain; the precious, somewhat stereotypical aesthete who lusts after the leading man. Jack added his own touches to keep the role alive.

What's this about Anouk Hengeveld turning her back on future roles in favour of a backstage job? All very admirable, but will someone please encourage Warrandyte's answer to Greta Garbo and Ingrid Bergman to continue treading the boards. As Clea, the on-again, off-again girlfriend of the leading man, Anouk's on-stage presence left us all wanting more.

With scarcely time to develop their characterisations, Hans Dulke as the electrician and Sam Marston as the long-awaited art dealer Schuppanzigh, were nonetheless effective in their roles.

The play was an appropriate choice for a cold Melbourne winter's evening. Director Adrian Rice's enthusiasm for this comedy shone through and he fully realised the farcical possibilities of the piece. If at times the pace was a little lacking, it was made up for by the spirited performances of the players.

The short duration of the play allowed time for a curtain-raiser. I'm Herbert, performed by David Howell and Phyl Swindley, was a perfect piece to celebrate elderly citizens' year. David's wavering, romantic reminiscences of people and times past, tempered by his wife's pragmatism, made for a charming, touching little sketch, as they flicked through the sepia-toned snapshots of their fading memories.



Linda Keath as Carol and Howard Geldard as Colonel Melkett. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne).

CATH BELZER

Came to visit, stayed to live



Happy days: Cath Belzer and a companion celebrate a special occasion.

By AUDREY DRESCHLER

FOLLOWING several weeks of illness in the Maroondah Hospital, Cath Belzer of Russell Road, Warrandyte, died on June 5, aged 88 years. She was buried with her husband in the Andersons Creek lawn cemetery the following Wednesday.

Born Anne Catherine Walsh in Castlemaine, she was the youngest of seven children. Cath worked in the Castlemaine Woollen Mills before the family moved to Port Melbourne. She was then employed at the Lincoln Knitting Mills.

She came to visit her eldest brother, Jim Walsh, who took over the bakery in Warrandyte in 1928. She told her sister-in-law, Ida, that she wanted to be called "Cath" and that is the name she will be remembered

by here.

In Warrandyte she met Ronald Belzer, whose mother had been the local postmistress in what is now the historical society's museum.

Ronald was a baker and pastrycook by trade but became a linesman with the SEC. In his blue Harley Davidson motorcycle with side-car he travelled to Bright with Cath and their daughter Una. Ron worked on the Kiewa hydro-electric scheme in freezing weather.

When the Northcote City Council failed to turn off the high voltage, Ron lost a leg and some fingers but amazingly survived 6000 volts.

He became Warrandyte's taxi driver. Cath would help Ron strap his artificial leg on when a local woman needed a quick trip to a maternity ward. Few residents had their own cars in those days.

Cath played pennant and social tennis at the courts near the bridge for many years. Ron and Cath supported the Warrandyte football teams for most of their lives, Ron being

made a life member. The couple also enjoyed their days with the Senior Citizens club. Ron died the day after their 60th wedding anniversary.

It is as a devoted family woman and caring neighbour and friend that Cath will be remembered with affection.

After the sudden death, in 1994, of her daughter Kaye Cahill, also of Russell Road, life would have been even more difficult for Cath had she not been able to look forward to regular weekly visits from her daughter Una and son-in-law Paul von der Lippe and her Cahill grandsons, who did her shopping.

Her next-door neighbours and close friends, Edie Houghton, Shirley McCartney and Barbara Mills gave Cath great support.

Una and Paul's four children and Kaye and Ken's three children were devoted to their grandmother. The eight great grandchildren were also saddened by her death.

The family hopes that whoever lives in this early Warrandyte home will cherish it as much as the Belzer family did—for almost 70 years.

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At the recent change-over dinner held by the Lions Club of Warrandyte, David Dobbs was installed as president for the coming year. Outgoing president, Ian Shugg, presented his annual report, listing an impressive number of achievements for the past 12 months. The new secretary is John Fisher and Tom Boal takes over the treasurer's role.

Dogs

Manningham council will soon be introducing their new Domestic Animals Strategy. As part of this strategy, several dog owners groups will be set up, one of these will represent owners who walk their dogs in Stiggants Reserve and along the River Reserve walk. Anyone interested can leave their name and number with the receptionist at Manningham council on 9840 9333. Warrandyte resident Doreen Burge is a community representative on the Domestic Animals Steering Committee.

History

Warrandyte Historical Society's annual general meeting will be held at the museum in the Old Post Office, 111 Yarra Street, on Sunday, July 18 at 2pm. Guest speaker, at 3pm, will be noted archaeologist and historian Gary Presland, author of *Aboriginal Melbourne*. Everyone is welcome.

Interchurch

Local churches are holding a dinner at Alfred's Homestead on Wednesday, August 25. Rowan Forster, 3LO newsreader, will speak on *Christians In The Media*. Tickets, at \$20 a head, are available from John Hanson on 9844 3906 or Heather Ingram on 9844 3490.

Seniors

Warrandyte Senior Citizens are holding their annual general meeting at their clubrooms in Taroona Avenue at 1pm on Thursday, August 5.

Museum

Warrandyte Historical Society is holding a major working bee at their Old Post Office museum in Yarra Street on the weekend of August 21 and 22. The soci-

School boffins win awards

Warrandyte Primary School students scooped the awards pool at the recent EnviroFest schools competition organised last month by Manningham, Banyule and Nillumbik councils and Parks Victoria.

Following the theme of this year's EnviroFest—"power to the people"—15 schools entered the competition. Their task was to research, design and build an energy-efficient device. Warrandyte primary won all three awards in the Manningham region.

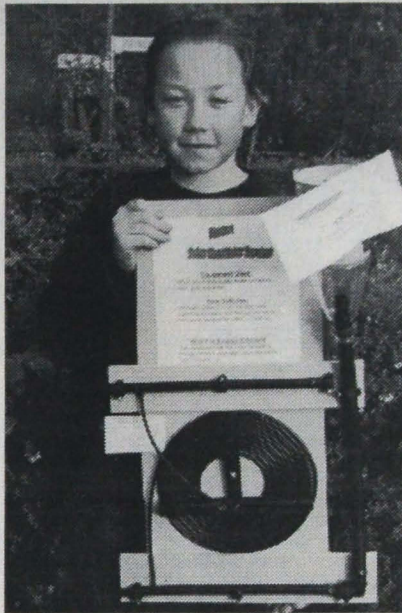
Fifteen children from Warrandyte primary entered the competition. They designed and built models ranging from solar-powered cars and energy-efficient houses to a prototype composting toilet.

Jack Pekel (pictured) a Grade 6 student at Warrandyte, took out first prize with his working model of a solar hot water heater and has won a school visit from Vox Bandicoot, a children's performing arts troupe.

Two highly commended awards went to a model of an energy-efficient house, designed and built by Amelia Fraser McKelvie and Jessica Solty and an energy-efficient torch, designed by Andrew Boyle. This runs on a power-reducing cell, designed to last 10 times longer than a conventional torch.

Judges' criteria for the competition were that the projects should demonstrate innovation and lateral thinking approaches, effectiveness, environmental friendliness and show a level of collaboration through their development.

According to Warrandyte primary's science coordinator, Kaye Jones, "The Envirofest theme worked in well with the Grade 5 and 6 Energy unit. It offered them scope to expand their knowledge in science through research and problem-solving, helping them to understand about energy transfer and alternative uses of energy to



provide practical and environmentally friendly solutions."

Children at the school who show a keen interest in science are also offered the opportunity to be involved in an extension program through regular science and technology workshops, run in conjunction with Carey Grammar and Donvale Christian College.

Kaye Jones recently received a teaching initiative grant from the Victorian Teachers Credit Union to further fund resources for these workshops.

ety hopes that the large task of clearing out the accumulated clutter will be achieved. Refreshments will be provided. Call Gina on 9844 3662 or Alan on 9844 3237 for further information. All help will be appreciated, no matter how brief.

held in the childcare room at the community centre at 7.30pm, Thursday, August 19. There will be a wine tasting prior to the meeting.

Pets

Manningham council is conducting a domestic animal survey as part of its Domestic Animal Strategy. A council officer will door-knock all residential properties within the municipality to promote the benefits of animal registration and identify residents who have an unregistered dog or cat on their premises. Information on animal registration and how to register a pet is available on 9840 9333.

Thanks

Warrandyte High School has asked us to thank, on their behalf, the Lions Club of Warrandyte for their support of information technology at the school. Their funding helped to send school representatives to the Virtual Classroom Award presentation, held recently in Hong Kong.

Tell us

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

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All*Stars outshine the Fighting Irish!

SPORT

By CLINTON GRYPAS

The Gotham City All*Stars produced Warrandyte basketball's biggest upset last month when they won the Greyburn Cup senior grand final.

The All*Stars beat the Fighting Irish 35-27 to win their first premiership, recovering from a "case of the staggers" leading up to the finals.

They lost their last four regular-season games to finish fourth on the ladder — meaning they would have to create history to snare the trophy as no side had ever won from that position.

But their three play-off victories — including a 15-point rout of top team the Hitmen in the preliminary final — saw them silence the critics in the best possible fashion.

It took a big second half to swing the match the All*Stars way. They trailed 13-17 at half time but turned it around after the break courtesy of Daniel Sharpe (17 points) and Stuart Hawthorn (10), who were dangerous on the fast break.

Only Adam Borwick (12) scored more than four points for the Irish, who had assumed favouritism when the Hitmen bowed out. But their young team couldn't keep the scoring going when the pressure was on.

In the Over-30 section the Plastics won a record ninth title when they edged out the River Rats 35-34. The big crowd at Warrandyte High School stadium was left gasping when the Rats stole the ball for the final shot of the game, but their last-ditch effort was astray.

Plastics captain Steve Doyle was superb with 14 points, filling the void left by injured big man Paul Sleeth. Les Earnshaw, the season's leading scorer, added nine.

Chris Sherriff and Horrie Aldenhoven were best for the Rats with eight points each. Another perennial favourite won the women's Grand Hotel Cup. The PP Champs won for the eighth time in 11 seasons, beating the Sneakers 32-19.

The nucleus of the Champs' line-up has remained the same over those 11 seasons and no one has yet conjured up a way to beat them on a consistent basis.

Cathy Lynch led the scoring in the final with 12 points, including a couple of key baskets after the Champs led 15-8 at half



Above: The Gotham City All*Stars and the Greyburn Cup they had to make history to win. Below: The PP Champs have done it again! Left to right: Cathy Lynch, Vanessa Brady, Suzi Edwards, Naomi Appleby, Amanda McLellan and Felicity Holzer.



time. Big-time performer Amanda McLellan added nine points and Suzi Edwards seven, while Maura Yammoueni collected 10 for the Sneakers. Meanwhile, Hitmen's David Thwaites was named the Most Valuable Player at the presen-

tation night on June 23. It was his first MVP win since 1991. Thwaites polled 19 votes to beat Scott Reeves on 16. The Rangers' Aldo Sinni made it back-to-back awards in the Over-30s when he collected 28 votes to beat David Thermorshuizen of Ballistyx with 23.

Amanda McLellan also made it consecutive awards. She polled 25 votes to edge out Allana Walker on 23 and Suzie Reid (22). The new season starts on Wednesday July 14. For entry details contact Steve Doyle on 9434 1385.

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Bloods blown away!

Cellar dwellers put Warrandyte under the finals hammer

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club's 1999 premiership prospects took a sharp turn for the worse on July 3 with an 18-point defeat at the hands of lowly Kilsyth.

The Bloods led for most of the afternoon at the new Kilsyth ground but were swamped in a seven-goal-to-one last quarter.

The shock loss left Warrandyte in third spot, three games adrift of EFL Third Division pacesetter Knox and one behind second-placed South Croydon—who did us a favour by going down to Templestowe—in the race for a top-two berth and the double chance in the finals.

Just as significantly, the Bloods are now feeling pressure from below. They are just one game clear of Templestowe, whom they meet in a blockbuster at home next Saturday (July 10), and two clear of the Southern Cobras and Wantirna South with six home-and-away rounds to go.

Warrandyte coach Lex Munro described the performance against Kilsyth as "terrible".

"To control the game for more than three quarters and get beaten like that is very, very disappointing," Munro said.

"The pressure is coming from behind. We're just one game in front of Templestowe and we have them next so it's a must win for us. We've just got to turn it around."

If Warrandyte had approached the game against Kilsyth—second-last on the ladder with just two wins from 11 outings—as something of a stroll in the park, they were in for a rude shock indeed.

The home side belied their humble status by repeatedly coming back against the odds on favourites when the cause seemed lost and eventually running them into the ground.

The Bloods looked a million dollars when young Glen Carle goaled on the run in the first half-minute, but Kilsyth bounced one through five minutes later and borrowed the ascendancy in general play after Josk Eastaugh was freed in front for a six-point Warrandyte



SPORT

lead.

Already the Bloods were showing worrying signs up forward by picking out defenders rather than teammates in their attacking thrusts and that could have been very damaging had Kilsyth kicked straight when they began to exert influence.

They squandered three shots at goal before bouncing one through an unattended square to hit the front 18 minutes in and ran to an 11-point lead seven minutes later.

Brad Valentine got one back for the Bloods after a great chest mark at 27 minutes and consecutive behinds sent us in to the first change just two points in arrears, 3.3 to 3.5.

David Bien put Warrandyte back in front in the opening minute of the second term, Kilsyth grabbed the lead back five minutes later, but the floodgates appeared to have opened for Warrandyte with goals from Chris Cornell, Bien again, Andrew Brown and Valentine at six, 11, 15 and 17 minutes.

The visitors suddenly found themselves 23 points up and we'd run away with this game from here. Right? Wrong.

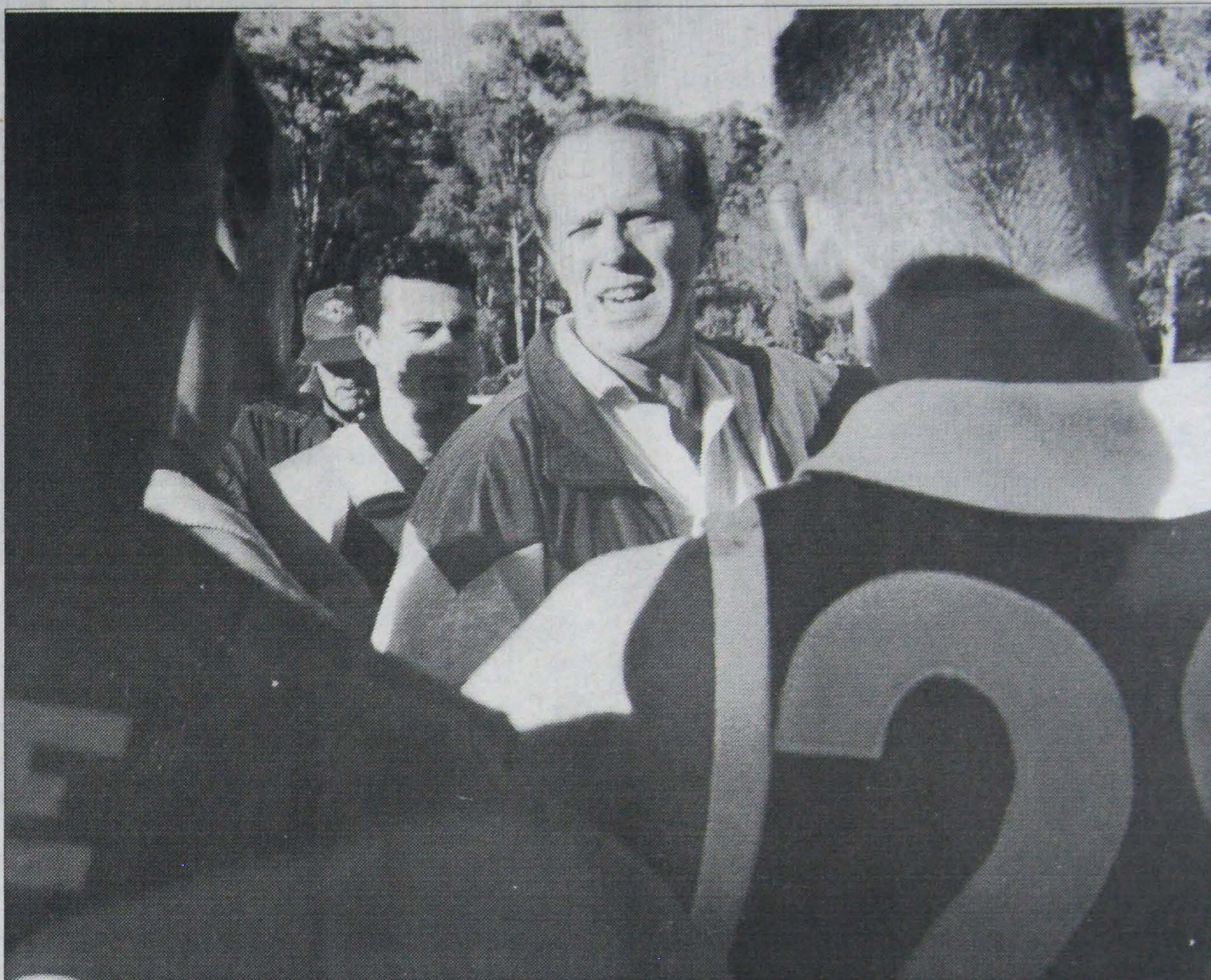
Someone had forgotten to tell Kilsyth they couldn't win and they bounced back with two goals in as many minutes. But when John O'Brien threaded the needle from the boundary close to the interval, the Bloods were 15 points up and there was no way we were going blow it, was there? Yes, there was.

Kilsyth sat Warrandyte on their backsides by kicking the first two goals of the third stanza to cut the deficit to just four points and responding at 12 minutes to a Bien major to trail by six.

We were still falling down badly in attack, the Kilsyth defence turning back forward forays all too easily.

Stewart Rough dribbled one through for the Bloods at 14 minutes, but Kilsyth won a war of attrition by snapping truly eight minutes later.

O'Brien provided the steadier at 25 minutes and when Cornell was tripped and kicked truly



Bloods coach Lex Munro lays down the law to his troops. A 'terrible performance' against Kilsyth.

Eat, drink, listen, enjoy

EFL identity John Harrop will be guest speaker at a Warrandyte Football Club past players' luncheon at the clubrooms before the crucial match against Templestowe next Saturday (July 10). Harrop is a Montrose Football Club legend with plenty of stories to tell. The luncheon starts at noon. It's a very well spent \$20 a head and bookings can be made with Andrew (Bucky) Rodgers (0411 519 671). The club's 1-1000 draw will be made after the game.

from the free the lead had blown out to 21 popints.

Again the locals hit back, but when Valentine answered their latest goal, Warrandyte went into the three-quarter-time huddle 19 points up.

Kilsyth had run their race. Right? Wrong!

Just as they'd done in the previous quarter, they started the last with all guns blazing, goaling at one and four minutes and opening Warrandyte right

up by creating loose men all

over the place.

The Bloods missed two golden opportunities to steady their ship—a poster and a sub-standard Rough shot at goal after marking the kick-out—and when Kilsyth goaled again at nine minutes the floodgates which had threatened to open for Warrandyte in the second term now threatened to burst for the other mob.

There was just a point in it, the visitors defending desperately but not altogether con-

vincingly, and when Kilsyth stuck their nose in front 19 minutes in a distinct sense of fatalism pervaded the Warrandyte faithful.

The red-and-blacks could no wrong and the red-and-whites very little right.

Kilsyth goaled at 20, 22 and 25 minutes, a monotony punctuated by Valentine's fourth at 23. At least we'd managed to trouble the scoreboard attendant.

But wait. There was more. Unfortunately, Kilsyth kicked their seventh for the quarter and the final siren couldn't come quickly enough for those of us facing a long and sombre trip home.

Final score was Kilsyth 18.12 (120), Warrandyte 15.12 (102)

Warrandyte's goalkickers were Valentine 4, Bien 3, O'Brien, Cornell 2, Carle, Brown, Eastaugh and Rough.

Their best were Valentine, Cornell and Aaron Woolley.

The Reserves continued their march towards the finals with a 22-point win, 10.12 (72) to 8.2 (50), and are now just half a game outside the four.

It was their third win on the trot in what has been a remarkable turnaround of fortunes under coach Chris Barnes—swings of 40, 65 and 50 points from their first three games of the season.

Best of the Twos were Matt Chapman, Justin Edwards (a seniors regular who played the early game to catch an interstate flight), Ashley Grybas, David Morse and Danny Weatherley.

The Under-18s, again undermanned, went down 1.9 (15) to 7.5 (47) in the mud at South Croydon and were best served by Andy Moore, Aidan Davey, Craig Dick and Rick Templeton.

Their next game is on Friday (July 9) under lights at home to Heathmont, starting at 7pm.

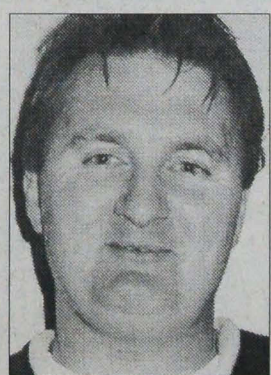
John O'Brien leads from front

Warrandyte captain John O'Brien took his leadership qualities beyond domestic football boundaries into interleague country last month—and was the star of the show.

The much-decorated Blood captained the EFL Third and Fourth Division representative side who played their Southern Football League counterparts on June 12 at Boronia.

Alternating between full-forward and the forward pocket, O'Brien kicked five goals to orchestrate the EFL's 36-point win—14.11 (95) to 9.5 (59).

He had also starred last year when vice-captain



John O'Brien

against Diamond Valley.

This time he played alongside Warrandyte teammate Mack Clarkson and both were selected in the Victorian All Stars side at the end of the Queen's Birthday carnival.

Warrandyte were also represented in the Under-18s curtain-raiser to the EFL First and Second Division showdown with Southern at Bayswater.

For the second year in a row, Liam Mulcahy wore the EFL colours.

EFL puts two promotion spots up for Div 3 grabs

Warrandyte Football Club's prospects of promotion to EFL Second Division next season have suddenly doubled.

The league decided late last month that two teams from Third Division—rather than the premier alone—would go up in 2000.

But there is no guarantee that the Bloods would accept promotion should they qualify for it.

The situation has been brought about by the late transfer this year of First Division club Clayton to the Southern Football League, leaving the EFL top division with an unwieldy nine-team competition.

The issue has now been clouded by the angry intervention of another First Division club, Scoresby, who have expressed disgust at the "manner in which the EFL has gone about the promotion/relegation process for season 2000".

Scoresby have faxed all EFL clubs proposing a delegates meeting to reopen the question.

The league confirmed at a meeting on

June 21 that one First Division club would be relegated and two Second Division clubs promoted next season to level off that competition at 10 teams, eliminating byes.

The relegation/promotion system would flow on, two Third and two Fourth Division clubs being promoted to level off the nine-team Division 4 competition at eight teams.

Scoresby, however, have accused the EFL executive of a shift in policy from a delegates meeting on March 22, claiming that meeting was led to believe there would be no relegation from First Division this season.

Scoresby say every decision they have made has been on the basis of being in First Division for (at least) the next two seasons.

Warrandyte will wait until this development has been resolved before discussing and signalling their intentions for next season should promotion become available.

"There are pros and cons about promotion to Second Division," WFC president Jeff Evans told the *Diary*.

"The pros are the capacity to attract better players and more sponsorships, and the

better quality of football.

"But then, having reached the higher level you must perform at that level. If you don't, if you are being consistently beaten, support drops right away.

"Coach Lex Munro and I believe that the team we have now would do well in Second Division," Evans said.

"Promotion is not compulsory and if the promotion issue arises at the end of the season, we'll be discussing it fully with the players before making a decision."

Evans said tradition was another consideration.

"Traditionally, clubs have earned promotion by winning the premierships and that's probably preferable to moving up a division by running second," he said.

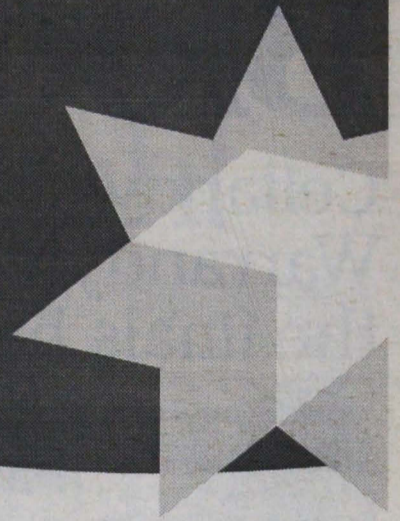
Warrandyte's last two trips to Division 2 have been short-lived. They lasted only four seasons in that competition after winning the 1983 Third Division flag and four again after taking the 1993 premierships.

They won only one game in 1997, their last season in Second Division.



The Professionals

Wilson McDougall



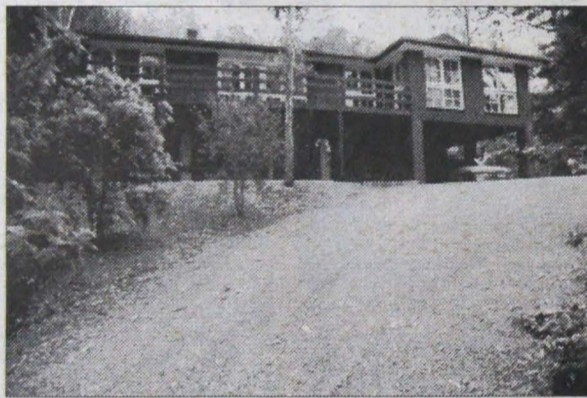
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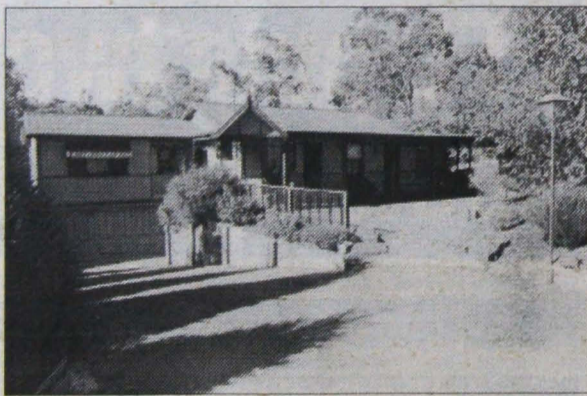
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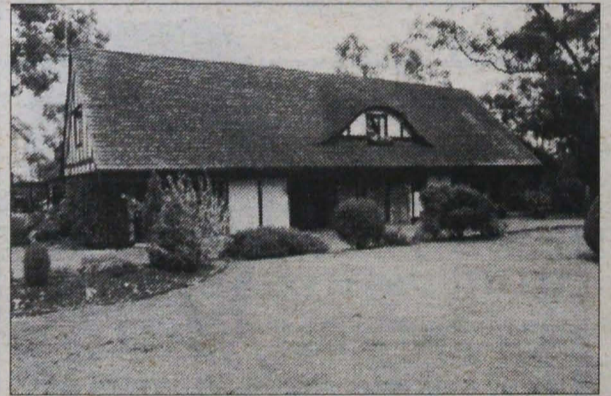
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