

DIARY

No. 313, September 1999

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PRICELESS 29th year For the community, by the community Advertising: 9844 3819 Editorial: 9844 3719 Fax: 9844 4168



Rain late last month brought the river brimming to its banks. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

Mighty Bloods home by point

Warrandyte dug their way out of an early grave to win the Eastern Football League Third Division premiership by one point at Mitcham on Sunday, September 5.

Largely written off when trailing Knox by 19 points in a low-scoring, rain-affected grand final, the Bloods hit the front 19 minutes into a marathon last quarter.

They set up an eight-point lead and defended desperately as Knox pegged them back.

The last term lasted 35 minutes as first one side then the other defended a lead by hugging the boundary. Final score was 8.5 (53) to 7.10 (52). Warrandyte have

already reappointed coach Lex Munro to lead them into Division 2 next year.

● Full report, pix: Page 10.



Bloods skipper John O'Brien embraces the hard-won premier's cup. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Report on centre

By CLIFF GREEN

Consultants reviewing the Warrandyte Community Centre have warned Manningham council that "there would be a significant community backlash" if commercial interests were introduced.

The consultants—The Resolutions Group Pty Ltd—reported that income and costs at the centre are comparable with those of other public halls in the municipality. They recommended that the existing management structure be retained.

"The consultants' report was very positive regarding the management of the centre," Cr Patricia Young told the *Diary*. "(They) suggested a number of ways to generate more funds to help the centre become self-supporting. Some are not viable at the present time."

Prominent among these was a recommendation that Warrandyte Youth Services should be relocated to an "alternative, free-standing venue".

"This option would reduce the tensions which exist at times between the young people and other users of the centre, and may also enhance the range of programs offered by Youth Services to include, for example, music and drumming programs which are not currently offered as they may interfere with other users," the report

Consultants warn of community backlash

stated. The main thrust of this proposal, however, is to free up "shop front" premises for "rental at more commercial rates", with the *Warrandyte Diary* office shifting into the Youth Services area on the first floor.

The report suggests that if this space was rented to a "compatible but private tenant", such as a "paramedical or massage centre", an additional \$6000 would be returned to the centre each year.

"The management committee wants Youth Services to stay in the centre," management group president Jock Macneish said. "They have a right to remain an integral part of the community. We don't see Youth Services as an isolated community activity. It would cost council a great



Cr Patricia Young: "The consultants' report was very positive".

deal more to build or rent an alternative youth centre."

The community centre currently pays council a nominal "licence fee". However, the management group covers the cost of all maintenance from rentals and hirers' fees.

One option in the report is for "council to take over responsibility for planned cyclical maintenance" of the centre. "Under this option, council would still be required to set aside funds" for a part-time centre paying council a licence fee of \$5000 a year.

Jock Macneish believes this would solve the maintenance problem and ensure the long-term financial viability of the centre. "I'll be pushing very

hard for this approach to be adopted when the management committee considers the report in detail," he said.

According to the report, not all council community facilities pay licence fees. Elsewhere in the municipality, neighbourhood houses, youth services and five public halls are provided rent-free by council, and do not pay licence fees. In general, licence fees are only levied against sporting facilities.

The report also recommends: "Renovation of the kitchen as it does not meet current health regulations. This will improve the attractiveness of the hall and enable it to be more competitive in the commercial market."

"Development of a programmed maintenance plan for the next five years, consistent with other council facilities, to enable larger maintenance activities to be scheduled and planned. "Review of existing rents and fees actually charged to regular hirers."

The report also suggests "council explores the feasibility of installing toilet facilities" adjacent to the main

hall. "This would improve the commercial competitiveness of the centre in the reception and conference market" and remove the need for the whole centre to be open when the hall is in use.

"As the plaque in the foyer reads, council purchased the land in 1980 for public purposes," Jock Macneish said. "The centre works extremely well as a community building. In 1992 it won the Charles Joseph Latrobe Award in the category of 'Residential Environment'. It was never intended to operate commercially. I am prepared to work to ensure that what it offers the community is not compromised by commercial interests."

Posing the possibility of the centre being managed by "estate agents, community groups, caterers, etc.," the report warns council that "it is probable that there would be a significant community backlash over this option as it would be seen as reducing the community focus of the centre by introducing 'commercial' interests."

Council has recommended that the management group report back, "outlining future management options for consideration prior to the expiration of the current service agreement". Council requested that these options "take into account the recent 'user pays' approach applied to such facilities as Schramms Pavilion, Zerbes Pavilion, highball stadiums and Melaleuca Lodge".

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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WARRANDYTE DIARY

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POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.
EDITORIAL: Chief of staff Jan Tindale, 9844 3719.
ADVERTISING & ACCOUNTS: Rae Danks, 9844 3819 or 0414 745 212.
CIRCULATION: Peter Norman, 9844 3268.
FAX: Editorial and Advertising, 9844 4168.
DIARY OFFICE: 168-178 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 9844 0555
INTERNET EDITOR: Sandy Burgoyne, 9844 2680
EMAIL ADDRESS: thediary@vicnet.net.au
INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy/
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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.

Lady cop cropped (with some help from the law)

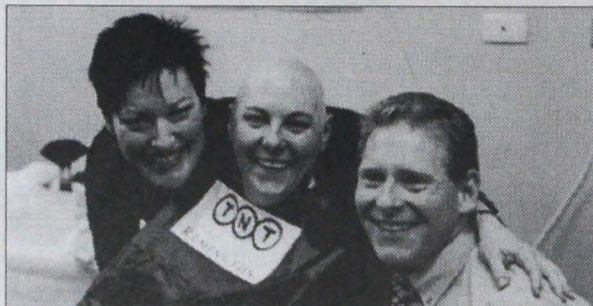
We take our hat off to Senior Constable Kim Bridger (nee Dixon), which is something we didn't think she'd be doing for a while. Kim, our very own lady fuzz, has just had an extreme haircut—a \$10,000 shave, actually—and we thought she'd be adopting a low profile and keeping her copper's cap on until nature rethatched her. Not so. She's a darned good sport who's going about her constabulary duties without a hint of embarrassment and right proud of the \$10,000 her hair loss has put into the coffers of the ongoing Crop A Cop appeal for the cancer kids. You might remember that Kim was on hand at the Warrandyte RSL Club last September when the amazing Alan "Coatsy" Koetsveld was shorn for that very cause. Coatsy's mate Geoff Feltham, who'd organised that one, said they were already looking for the next victim, so how about you volunteering, Kim? "Oh yeah," she said, "that'll be the day. That'd cost you \$10,000!" It was a ballpark figure that Geoff picked up and ran with. And Kim went home wondering what the hell she'd got herself into.

Ten grand was a pretty tall order, but the RSL Club got the show on the road by bottling and selling a very fine port. Another head-shaving raised more than \$400, the local footy club weighed in by making it a gold coin donation in lieu of an admission fee for the season's opener under lights in April and collection points were set up around town. Still, the appeal was substantially short of the mark as the August deadline approached. Salvation came in the form of a phone call to Geoff from Doncaster Police Station. "We really want to see Kim get a haircut," the mystery caller said, "and we'll top up what you've raised from our social club funds." It so happens that Detective Chris Bridger, Kim's husband of just a few months, is stationed at Doncaster, but it wouldn't have been him, would it? Anyhow, Kim was comprehensively clipped by Fox FM personality Tracey Bertram as part of Bluey Day '99 Headshave at the Royal Children's Hospital on August 21—and Chris threw his own head of hair in for good measure. A cheque for \$10,000 was presented to Kim on behalf of

IN RED & WHITE



The cropping of Kim—before during and after radio personality Tracey Bertram took to her with clippers, scissors and razor. That's Tracey below with the "victim" and her hubby Chris Bridger, who's about to go under the blade himself.



the cancer kids at the RSL Club on August 27. Now, any volunteers for a shave next year, please?

Glenyse Riches, tireless overseer of the Lions Club Op Shop, hadn't been feeling too brilliant and asked hubby Ian to pop along to the local chemist for some echinacea tablets, a herbal pick-me-up. Imagine the pharmacist's surprise when Ian asked for euthanasia pills!

A logging operation of major proportions is taking place in North Warrandyte's pristine Koorngong. Alan Cornell, aided and abetted by his neighbour and good mate Ken Virtue, has taken advantage of a general Parks Victoria grant to fell a mess of environmentally-unfriendly pine trees on his property and he's flogging the timber to a bloke at Croydon. Trouble is the stuff has to be carted from the bottom of a cru-

elly steep hill for pick-up, but Alan and Ken are resourceful fellows and they've overcome that by marrying a wheelbarrow to Ken's car with one of the world's longest tow ropes. There's another minor problem. The Croydon bloke is deaf, so every time a load is ready they have to send him a fax. Ken reckons they've shifted about a ton (in the old language) of timber so far and there's only about 39 to go.

It was hate at first sight when Debbie McLean arrived home at The Boulevard, North Warrandyte, two years ago with a little white furball named Chloe. Hubby David (you probably know him as Bunter) wouldn't have a bar of this cute Maltese terrier cross and treated her with total ignore. But now we know that beneath that hard-bitten plumber's exterior beats the heart of a pussycat because Chloe has long since become a one-per-

son dog and that person is Bunter McLean. Even sleeps beside his pillow every night. We don't know how Bunter kept his secret for two years but we make no excuses at all for exposing it.

Diary advertising/accounts manager Rae Danks was feeling somewhat miffed because her good mate Sue Davies, of Bradleys Lane, hadn't sent her a postcard from Britain, where she was visiting relatives. Then, a couple of days before Sue was due home, a card arrived from Wales, re-addressed from Riverview Motors at 44 Yarra Street. Rae phoned Riverview's John Smart and asked if any others had arrived there recently and John said oh yeah, a few, I gave them back to the postie and Sue's having a good time. We've no idea where Sue got 44 Yarra Street because Rae's at 334.

Your columnist is recently returned from a spot of R&R in East Gippsland, where his eyes were drawn to a notice in a shop window in the main street of Orbost. "Keeping Orbost dry," it said, which struck us as peculiar because this is a timber town and we'd always regarded it as a bit of a hairy-chested place where the temperance movement might struggle for a foothold. Then we read on and discovered it was all about a "bladder awareness information session" at the senior citizens' club next afternoon. They have a quaint way of putting things in the bush.

And available (for a very modest donation) from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park's Pound Bend nursery right now are a range of wattles just right for planting. They include the cinnamon wattle (*Acacia leprosa*), the spreading wattle (*Acacia genistifolia*) and the blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*). By phoning the Friends' Cathy Willis on 0418 142297 you can also pick up some beaut and prolific ground covers including the ivy-leaf violet (*Viola hederacea*) and the hairy pennywort (*Hydrocotyle hirta*). The hairy pennywort? How's that for a conversation piece?

Smokey Joe

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH





Many magnificent eucalypts would have been lost if the Cemetery Road subdivision had been approved.
(Picture by Jan Tindale)

Subdivision rejected

By DAVID WYMAN

An application to subdivide vacant land in Cemetery Road into seven lots has been rejected by Manningham council but the owners are negotiating a satisfactory outcome with council officers.

The application "in its current form" was rejected by council's senior planner because of "property lot layout and density, vegetation cover, topography of the land, the position of the drainage gully, the design standard of the road and the pattern of surrounding development".

The land, in a natural depression off Yarra Street, is covered with mature manna, candlebark and red box gum trees and acts as a stormwater storage basin during heavy rainfalls.

Council received many objections to the seven-lot

proposal from local residents who feared a major, unwanted change in their environment if seven houses of unknown height and size were built on the land.

Environment specialists on council's staff are concerned about a loss of trees and one has suggested an amalgamation of lots to create four blocks instead of seven.

Another council officer, in internal memorandum to planning staff, recommends that Cemetery Road be constructed to a width of at least 5.5 metres. The road is about 3.5 metres wide now. Road widening would also cause a substantial loss of mature gum trees.

The Warrandyte owners of the land are meeting with council planning staff seeking a satisfactory subdivision outcome.

Ring road pressure

Dandenong council's push for road 'selfish'

By FIA CLENDINEN

A new push for the ring road, led by the City of Greater Dandenong, has been labelled "selfish" by the Anti Ring Road Organisation (ARRO).

Greater Dandenong's recently released Municipal Transport Strategy states "council will continue to urge the state government to construct... the Scoresby Freeway including the northern extension across the Yarra River."

Mayor of Greater Dandenong, Naim Melhem, told the *Diary* the completed ring road would be of immense benefit to his municipality.

"We have 45 percent of the industrial state in Dandenong," Cr Melhem said. "The more we make the city and the port and the airport close to Dandenong by suitable road infrastructure, the better it would be for our area."

He said the ring road would also be good for other councils, including the Mornington Peninsula, Frankston, Bay Side and Casey.

"I see it in a way as benefiting all. Because they can also be linked to the other parts of the state in an easier way. Part of what we are doing is try-

ing to lobby everyone to agree to this project."

But Cr Melhem conceded that the ring road would not necessarily be welcomed by the Warrandyte community for "environmental" reasons. "If residents want to oppose it or lobby against it, I have no hard feelings."

ARRO spokesperson Jeremy Loftus-Hills reacted angrily to Cr Melhem's statements.

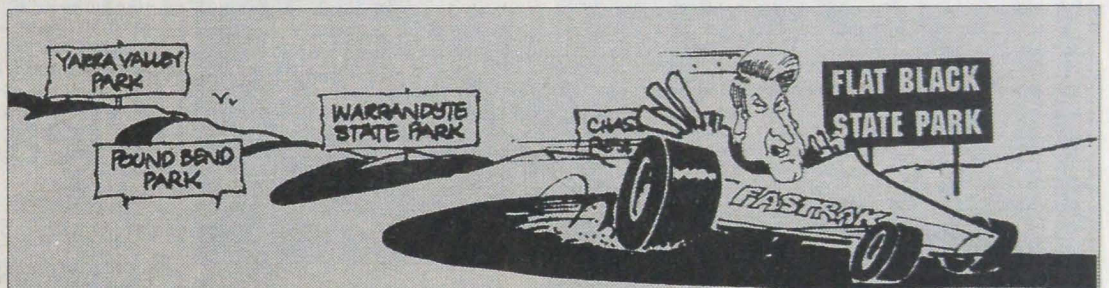
"If Dandenong want to push roads through this area, we should make it clear to them that we don't want to be on the receiving end of what they generate in terms of traffic noise and pollution."

Mr Loftus-Hills also said the mayor's position was disappointingly short-sighted and selfish.

"He is obviously not going to act on anybody's interest but his own. But it's no longer a world where these people in their little pockets can create policy regardless of what's happening regionally, in the state, in the nation and in the world."

"That flies in the face of the whole environmental movement. You've just got to think globally. Especially with transport and pollution."

Greater Dandenong's support for the ring road comes at a time when the



The *Diary* believes that a Vicroads plan for future free-ways through the Green Wedge has been "leaked". It is assumed that details of the proposed ring road link across the Yarra could be included.

Referring to the ring road, local Liberal MP Phil Honeywood told a public meeting in Warrandyte in August 1995 that he "could not

LATE NEWS

unique environment".

The *Diary* further understands that detailed road plans will be revealed at an ARRO public meeting at Monsalvat, Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham at 8pm on Thursday, September 9.

CLIFF GREEN

state government is refusing to release the report of the independent expert panel which assessed the Environment Effects Statement for the proposed Scoresby Freeway.

As reported in the *Diary* last year, 41 community groups made a joint submission to the panel, and among the groups were five from the Warrandyte area: ARRO, Bend of Isles Conservation Association, Friends of Warrandyte State Park, Warrandyte Awareness Group and Wonga Park Residents' Association.

The joint submission argued, as well as other things, that the freeway would generate additional traffic, increase pollution and lead to pressure to complete the "missing link" of the metro-

politan ring road through the Yarra valley Green Wedge.

After conducting a series of open hearings, the panel forwarded its completed report to the minister for planning in April and normally such reports are made available to the public a month later.

The Public Transport Users Association applied for a copy under the Freedom of Information Act in June. But the Department of Infrastructure said releasing the report would not be in the public interest as "it would be likely to engender confusion in the community".

Nillumbik mayor Bill Penrose said the department's response was patronising. The public were being

treated as if they were "dumb", he said.

He also pointed out that the minister's refusal to allow the public to see the report was leading to widespread speculation that it had recommended against building the Scoresby Freeway. If this is so, it would be the first time in Victoria's history that a proposed freeway had failed assessment.

"I would say if the minister doesn't want to release the report it's because he's thinking that it is a fairly important report that cannot be ignored," said Cr Penrose. "But perhaps it's because it's against what his government thinks. Why is he so scared to release it? It's raising the issue in the public's mind even more."

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A tragic tale of pokie problems

It seems that much of the debate about the reappearance of poker machines in Warrandyte has been about their possible impact on people and our community. Let me extend the debate from the theoretical to the real and tell you a true story about a Warrandyte family.

Ten years ago my family moved to Warrandyte, after visiting one Sunday and becoming entranced. We were a very happy family. A loving couple, two kids and a cat.

My partner was the model "husband", shared the housework, doted on the kids, was even the first father to help with reading in the local primary school. He also helped in the canteen and later was on the school council.

Very few faults in fact, just the ordinary Australian ones of "liking a beer" and a bet on the horses every Saturday. He was probably a bit more than a "social gambler—a person who gambles for a predetermined amount of time and with a fixed amount of money and is able to restrict gambling at any time". But it seemed fine, he brought a bottle of wine home when his horse won, and I shouted tea at the pub when it didn't. We did eat at the pub a lot, until they brought in the

poker machines, and then things started to change.

He was out a lot more, he never brought wine home on a Saturday afternoon, and he turned right against eating at the pub. Maybe because we, a double income middle class couple, were suddenly always short of money. But in retrospect it was probably because he preferred to go there alone. He had clearly become a "problem gambler—a person who invests considerable time and energy in gambling or planning to do so, who often bets more than they can afford, but usually can stop or cut down".

I found out the extent of the problem only when he confessed to debts of more than \$25,000, and begged me to bail him out. This was to happen several more times with a lot more heartache, before I realised through the book I have been quoting—Behind The Eight Ball—a guide to families of gamblers (Simon and Schuster US 1992), that he had become a "compulsive gambler—a person who suffers from a chronic and progressive psychological disease that is often unrecognised because of its hidden nature. The urge to gamble and the accompanying compulsivity and mental preoccupation are similar to those

DEAR DIARY



of other addicts.

"As in all addictions, tolerance develops and higher or more frequent bets are required to obtain the same mood state as before. The urge to gamble continues to intensify, making it more difficult to resist. Eventually, gambling interferes with functioning in almost every aspect of life, yet the activity continues. It usually continues until the gambler has lost everything, his family, his job, his self-esteem, and quite often his life."

And this is what happened to our happy family.

Why I have taken this seemingly extraordinary step of publicly airing our tragic experience, is that it is only when more people are aware of how close we all are to this, that things can start to change.

People need to understand that it is not only moral degenerates or compulsive personalities who get sucked in, but people like my partner who was to outsiders just an "ordinary" bloke, but to his family and those who knew

him he was truly an extra-ordinary one.

And both according to his own comments and to the experts from the Productivity Commission, one of the critical factors in the transformation of a problem gambler into a hopeless addict was the increasing accessibility and social acceptability of poker machines.

Not only do they make it easier for a social gambler to become a problem gambler but it also makes it much easier for the problem gambler to become a compulsive gambler. To some extent, if your gambling depended on whether there were horses racing or TABs open, there were at least some controls. In a society where you are constantly exhorted to "be a winner" and there is 24-hour access to the supposed means, there is a constant danger of those huge numbers of problem gamblers, who walk the cliff edge, falling off and becoming compulsive.

How many people do you know who already tread that fine line?

The other issue is what the increasing proliferation of poker machines does to those who have become hooked. Your "hit" is available 24 hours; you are even given free coffee so that you can stay awake enough to

keep pouring the money in, and you're offered breakfast for a dollar because you've probably spent all your (and your family's) food money. And just to make it even easier, there are pokie venue-specific EFTPOS facilities on site which strangely aren't able to give you those interfering balance statements.

It is only communities that can fight this scourge. As so many of last month's writers have so eloquently put it—we can fight by voting with our feet. But I would argue that we should boycott not just the poker machines, but the 'club' itself whose life blood will be from those very machines, and also the community groups who accept the blood money offered for their endorsement. This money is a sop to those who mourn the loss of a community pub and its replacement by a single interest 'club' and should be seen as such.

Remember that every dollar won from a poker machine is a dollar lost by someone else—and indirectly by your whole community. Often it is not just the gambler who loses, but their whole family, contributing to other stories with the same unhappy ending as ours.

Karen Throssell
Research Road



Creek's future dammed

I am 15 and have been living in Warrandyte all my life. In my childhood a favourite past-time for my brothers, friends and myself was to go and play by the creek.

Now residents further up the road have dammed it. They have put great boulders and huge amounts of cement and wood over the flow.

As a result the creek is almost dry. There used to be yabbies that we would catch and put back, but now we are lucky if we catch three where we used to be able to catch 15 with no trouble.

We (the residents of the road) used to put Saturday mornings aside for revegetation of the road, planting kangaroo apples, native grass, and pulling out non-native reeds, etc.

This was headed by a lady many of the readers who are involved with the parks and environment will know—Joy Hildebrand. She has since left and moved to near Port Fairy. For one, I know she would be greatly saddened and frustrated by this act.

I have written a poem to show how I feel and what it was like when it was dammed and the

wildlife went away.

Over these dry rocks a creek once flowed, trickling and gurgling, a source of life for all creatures.

Now there is nothing, just stillness. For it was dammed.

So will anyone who feels about this damming please write in to the *Diary* and show support.

Sigurd Howard
Brogil Road

No room for seniors in our planning rules

If recent articles in the local press reflect community attitudes then it is time some of these attitudes were challenged. Warrandyte apparently wants to reject residents who can no longer maintain a large home in our community.

If they are fortunate and have relatives in the area willing to have a granny-flat attached to their home they can stay, and that dreaded word "dual occupancy" is not mentioned. There are some former citizens reluctantly living in other suburbs in units who drive or are driven back to

Warrandyte regularly to meet with friends in an environment these people helped create. Many others are not so lucky.

Surely a caring community should provide for all its citizens. A total ban on accommodation that would suit these people is very uncaring and selfish. In this International Year For Older Persons is it beyond the ability of our town planners to meet this need?

John Pepper
Third Street

How pokie numbers fall

I have read with interest arguments for and against the return of pokies to the pub. A statement was made that they would benefit the community. As far as I can make out, they would only benefit some sporting clubs at the expense of a whole lot of individual losers.

A report from the Australian Productivity Commission has some interesting facts. Average gamblers were found to lose \$625 per year, whereas problem gamblers were found to lose

nearly \$12,000 per year. At least five people are affected for every problem gambler. One in four reported divorce or separation, one in 10 contemplated suicide and nearly half reported losing time from work or study.

Nearly half a million Australians have significant gambling problems. The commission found that the prevalence of problem gambling is directly related to the degree of accessibility of gambling, particularly gambling machines.

The 27 machines that were in the pub were taken away because the people of Warrandyte generally did not support them. To make them profitable, I fear that a lot more pressure will be placed on people to gamble. I know that help will be offered to problem gamblers, but often they are too proud to admit their problem and help would come too late, after the damage is done.

John Hanson
Webb Street

Please lay off Warrandyte

"Dual occupancy"; "six shops for village"; "club pokies"; signs everywhere! When will it end? When will "they" leave Warrandyte alone?

I pick up a copy of the *Diary* every month to catch up on the local gossip and all I read about is how "they" want to destroy it. Moreover, it has peeved me off enough to write about it.

I have lived in Warrandyte for 29 years, which almost makes me a local, and admittedly, I do not have a great deal to do with community programs. Born in Warrandyte, I have never missed a Warrandyte Festival and rarely miss the monthly market on Saturdays and enjoy a meal at the pub. I am not a member of the footy club, or the Grand Hotel or any other association with Warrandyte. Nevertheless, it is my home.

I am not familiar with many towns or suburbs where the community has so much respect and admiration for its town's heritage and environment as in Warrandyte.

Some developments have blended in with Warrandyte and have been beneficial to the community. Others are an absolute eyesore!

I have seen newcomers wanting to build units on the land and make their fortune, not understanding why the rest of us are against it. They chop trees down because the leaves are making a mess or a branch may fall on their home. One question. Why move here?

Please, lay off Warrandyte.

N. Van't Foort
Drysdale Road

CLYDE & OCKER

"Of course I like Warrandyte, Ock. Otherwise I wouldn't be living in the rotten joint!"

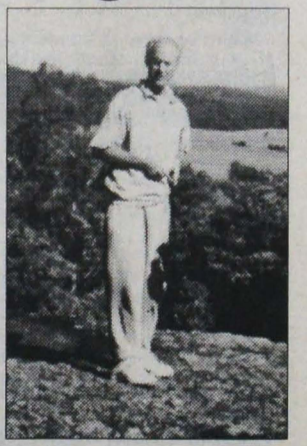
Remembering John

Many original Warrandyte residents will be sad to know that John Barry Williams passed away on Tuesday, August 10, 1999, aged 65 years. Barry was the elder son of Viv and Phyl Williams, both deceased, of Kangaroo Ground Road.

Barry grew up in Warrandyte, and after he and his wife Judy married, moved to nearby Wellesley Road, North Ringwood. Six years ago they moved to Queensland.

Barry is survived by his wife Judy, their three children—Nicholas, David and Kate—their children, and Barry's younger brother Brian.

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Will there be room for all?

By ROBERT WHITE

The future of Anderson's Creek Cemetery remains uncertain with space for burials fast running out.

A cemetery trust spokesman said it was likely that burials in the popular lawn cemetery would have to close within four to five years. "After that we don't know what will happen," the spokesman said.

To help ease the pressure, the cemetery is now developing new areas for the interment of cremated remains. The latest development, a new rock niche wall, is now complete. It has been built of local stone to fit in with the cemetery's bush environment and is located opposite the office building.

Other areas such as a new rose garden and bush walking paths have also been developed and are now in use. In the past six years the cemetery trust has undertaken a beautification program that has included rock ponds, waterfalls and bush gardens.

"At all times we have developed a bush theme in keeping with the environment of Warrandyte, but in a sense, this has worked against us as the cemetery is now one of the most popular in Melbourne," the trust spokesman said.

"People from all over the met-

ropolitan area are now being buried at Andersons Creek because relatives love the surroundings.

"Unfortunately, many long-term residents of Warrandyte, who may have thought that their final resting place would be at the local cemetery, may now be buried at Lilydale or some other cemetery."

The spokesman said the trust was interested in suggestions from local residents on the future of the cemetery.

"About 10 years ago, the size of the cemetery was doubled when part of the State Park—which had originally been designated for cemetery use—was converted for burials," the spokesman said. "The problem is that the first half of the cemetery took almost 120 years to fill, while the second half looks likely to be filled within 15 years."

The spokesman said the trust was concerned about the future and was fully aware that the possibility of Warrandyte residents having to be buried elsewhere would come as a shock. He said the trust had looked at a number of expansion alternatives but each had problems that were difficult to overcome.

"If anyone has any ideas, we would be only too happy to listen," the spokesman said.



A cemetery trust groundsman working in front of the new niche wall.

Happy new millennium!

Warrandyte is planning a rip-roaring welcome to the new millenium. Schemes are already being hatched in the town for a New Year celebration to beat all New Year celebrations on the night of December 31-January 1.



Following an "open meeting" last month, an ad hoc committee has been formed and is already hard at work preparing for "the best Warrandyte party ever".

"We've booked the Mechanics Institute Hall for the night, and everyone will be welcome," a committee spokesperson told the *Diary*. "BYO grub and grog, watch the floorshow—join in if you're that way inclined—and just have a really good time."

Eddie Macneish will be piping in the New Year on his bagpipes and Barry McKimm is composing a special fanfare.

"We'd like to see the bridge illuminated with fairy lights and who knows what might happen at midnight!" the spokesperson said. "The possibility of Y2K black-outs and general chaos should add to the fun."

Memories of past Warrandyte New Year celebrations come to mind. In an article about the old wooden bridge in the *Diary* for June, 1972, the late Harry Hudson wrote:

"It had become a traditional meeting place, especially on New Year's Eve. To the singing of Auld Lang Syne, the skirl of the bagpipes and the explosion of fireworks there was much hilarious jollity, everyone kissed everyone else—known and unknown.

"Gradually the multitude would melt away into the darkness; some to bed, most to all-night parties. The old bridge was left alone with the moon, another year of life behind it."

If you're keen to join in the preparations, call Rae Danks on 9844 3819.

Further news next month.



MANNINGHAM

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications are invited for funds from the Community Development Grant Program 1999/2000 and Community Festivals and Events Grant Program 1999/2000.

Community Development Grant Program 1999/2000

The purpose of the Community Development Grant Program is to facilitate and support non-profit community organisations in Manningham to develop projects and programs which benefit and meet the needs of the community.

Community Festivals and Events Grant Program 1999/2000

The purpose of the Community Festivals and Events Grant Program is to facilitate and support non-profit community organisations in Manningham, to develop and conduct festivals and events which benefit and meet the needs of the community, and enhance community and cultural development.

Applicants should obtain a copy of the funding guidelines and application forms prior to applying for funds. Guidelines are available in community languages on request.

Applications for both grant programs close at 5.00pm Friday 17 September 1999.

Guidelines and application forms are available from the Customer Service Officer, Cultural and Leisure Services Unit, Manningham City Council Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster by telephoning 9840 9393 or 9840 9238, or at one of the Information Sessions.

SUBMISSION WRITING TRAINING SESSIONS

Council, in conjunction with Doncare, has organised training sessions to assist community groups develop and write applications to increase their opportunities when applying for funding and grants from government agencies.

For further information you can contact the Cultural and Leisure Services Unit at Manningham City Council on 9840 9238 or 9840 9269. Further information on the submission writing training session may also be obtained from Doncare on 9848 4433.



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For bookings and further information on this seminar and others in the series, contact Pam Papigiotsis at Manningham City Council on 9840 9362.



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- Won record high maintenance and computer grants for local state primary and secondary schools over the last three years.
- Gained 255 million dollar State Budget allocation for final stage of Eastern Freeway extension to Ringwood.
- Provided consistent support for local community initiatives including Warrandyte/Park Orchards Community Garden, inclusion of Mt Lofty and Scotchmans Hill into Warrandyte State Park, rabbit pindone baiting campaign and extension of main Yarra Bike Trail from Pettys Orchards to Tikalara Park.

If you require postal votes or policy information for the coming 18th September election, please contact me at my Campaign Office: 120 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood.

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Green Corps at work in Warrandyte.

Jeremy seeks your vote

Jeremy Whitehead believes that the policies of the major political parties are seriously flawed. "I don't think they're looking forward and realising the current situation of the environment and what the future situation will be. And I don't think we can afford to continue doing that much longer," he said.

Jeremy is standing as the Greens candidate for Eltham in the upcoming state election. "We pose a view that is based on the best for our society and the environment. We are one of the few alternatives that will try to change society to a more sustainable way of going about its business."

Jeremy has lived in North Warrandyte for 17 years. He is completing a graduate diploma of economics at Monash University and works as a freelance computer consultant. For the last three years he has campaigned against the logging of native forests in the Otway Ranges and he is also a member of the Army Reserves.

He thinks Warrandyte is a very special place. "It's a wonderful spot that is close to Melbourne but has a unique physical character," he said. He wants to see it preserved from the "threat of greater development".



Jeremy Whitehead

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Cash for conservation

Federal government funding is available for Green Corps projects involving local community groups, municipal councils, Landcare and other environmental bodies.

Mr Kevin Andrews, MP for Menzies, recently announced an extension of the "highly successful" Green Corps program in the 1999-2000 budget. "An additional \$88.8 million in federal funding is being ploughed into Green Corps over the next four years, providing 6,800 places for young Australians aged between 17 and 20 years," he said.

"If you have a good idea for a Green Corps project, put it down on paper and apply. Now is the time to act," Mr Andrews said.

Typical Green Corps projects

include bush regeneration, land, water and wildlife surveys, working with endangered species, native habitat restoration and protection, coastcare or landcare activities, walking track construction, weed control and restoring historical building or cultural plans.

"The great thing about Green Corps is that while a local group puts up the project proposal, day-to-day supervision of the trainees is handled by the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

"Often community groups don't have the time or expertise to do the work required. Bringing in a team of 10 young 'hired-guns' gives them practical experience and training, while the local environment benefits from conservation work that

wouldn't otherwise be done."

Mr Andrews has urged communities not to miss out on a unique opportunity to restore and protect the local environment while also helping to kick-start a young Australian's natural resource management career.

"Green Corps is great because the community, the environment and the young volunteers grow together in learning how to protect, restore and sustainably manage our unique environment," Mr Andrews said.

Guidelines and application forms for Green Corps projects and participants are available from Kevin Andrews' electorate office at 651 Doncaster Road, Doncaster or by telephoning his office on 9848 9900.



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How to make a village green: council contractors hard at work at the West End. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

They're working out west

Construction works for the enhancement of the Warrandyte West End Shopping Centre are underway, with completion anticipated by the end of October.

"The enhancement scheme has been developed to improve the aesthetics of the Warrandyte West End Shopping Centre and create a distinctive identity, increase safety for pedestrians and improve both pedestrian and vehicle linkages, access and traffic circulation," a Manningham council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

The \$568,000 project was first proposed in 1995. It is being funded by council on a dollar-for-dollar basis with centre owners and traders.

"The aim of the enhancement scheme

works is to promote the shopping centre within the local community, to the benefit of traders, owners and the residents" the spokesperson said.

"The works program will be completed in four stages to minimise disruption to the centre and ensure carparking and access is maximised at all times."

The first stage is the upgrade of the so-called "village green" area, including the piping of the open drain, landscaping and paths and Melbourne Hill Road construction, due for completion in early September. This includes associated car parking and intersection works.

Stage 2—the relocation and reconstruction of access to the Goldfields Plaza car park; and Stage 3—alterations to the median in Heidelberg and

Warrandyte roads is scheduled to be completed by mid-September.

Stage 4—the opening of the new car park access, construction of a retaining wall and the construction of the new road linking Colin Avenue with the Goldfields Plaza car park—will commence in mid-September with completion expected by late October.

"During the construction period there will be some extra demands on parking and constraints on access, particularly within the Goldfields Plaza site," the spokesperson said.

"Council will encourage parents to use alternative parking out of the centre when not including shopping as part of their trip, to ease traffic congestion and assist construction works."

Long, long trail a-winding and it'll soon be longer!

The Main Yarra Trail—a walking and riding track along the river—is to be extended from Pettys Orchard in Templestowe to Tikala Park in Warrandyte and a new pedestrian bridge is to be built over Mullum Mullum Creek.

The trail, costing \$100,000, will be funded through the Parks Victoria Grants Program, Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte, announced late last month.

"This new section—Stage 5—of the popular pedestrian and bicycle route will bring the trail

to Warrandyte's doorstep," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*. "Over a number of years Parks Victoria has been adding to this major trail on a stage-by-stage basis. This announcement brings the dream of being able to pedal uninterrupted from the centre of Melbourne to Warrandyte much closer to reality."

The second local grant announced by Phil Honeywood will provide \$40,000 for the construction of a footbridge across the Mullum Mullum Creek on the Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road.

"The new bridge will provide a safer road crossing for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders who currently risk their lives when they cross the existing vehicle-only bridge adjacent to Beasley's nursery and Crystal Brook caravan park," Mr Honeywood said.

The *Diary* believes a construction contract has already been signed with a local engineering company.

"Local riding clubs have been particularly enthusiastic about the new bridge," Mr Honeywood said.

Park Road to be safer—at last

Park Orchards residents have long been concerned about the condition and poor safety record of Park Road. Residents and other road users have argued that a reduction in speed, allied with the reconstruction of sections of road pavement, were the keys to reducing accidents and casualties.

At long last, Manningham council is taking some action, proposing that \$1.73 million should be spent on Park Road to dramatically improve "both the safety of residents and the 6,000 motorists who use this section of road on a daily basis".

A council spokesperson has told the *Diary* that funding has been allocated "to undertake improvements to Park Road over the 1998/99 and 1999/2000 financial years".

Work has now commenced on the first and second stages of the project.

First stage will be the reconstruction of Park Road between Conos Court and Paddys Lane; the channelisation of the Park Road/Alva Avenue intersection and the provision of roundabouts on Park Road at the intersections with Paddys Lane and Granard Avenue.

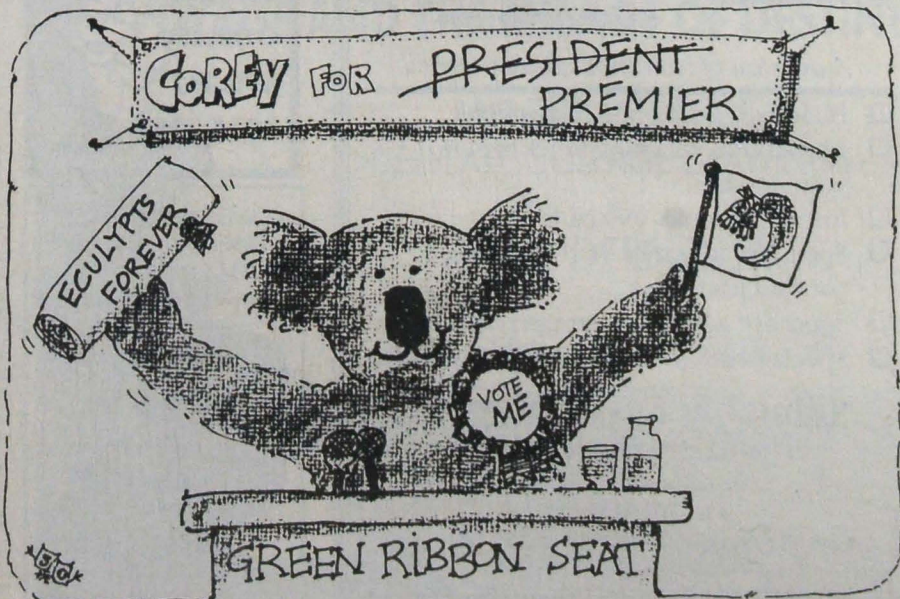
This stage commenced August 20 and will be completed in approximately 12 weeks.

Second stage will be the construction of roundabouts at the intersection of Granard and Aviemore avenues; and of Enfield Avenue and Frogmore Crescent; and the construction of "flat top" speed humps in Enfield, Granard and Aviemore avenues.

According to the spokesperson, "this work began on August 16 and will be completed in approximately six weeks".

SO — !

By SYD & ONA



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No answers from Optus on tower

By RACHEL BAKER

Optus has been criticised for delaying its mobile phone tower application and not keeping locals informed of its progress.

The company has not yet lodged an application but has been meeting with council to discuss "all the options," Mr Ross Monaghan, community relations manager of Optus, said.

While Mr Monaghan would not reveal what options Optus was considering, he said they had been discussing Warrandyte Awareness Group's petition, which now has 1400 signatures, and the Tindals Road wildflower reserve, where they propose to build the tower.

Optus has been "consulting residents and council all along and that's continuing now," Mr Monaghan said.

But WAG says Optus has not contacted them about the tower's progress. "It's always been us trying to contact them," a WAG spokesperson said.

"We suspect they're letting the issue die down a bit, so they'll be able to pass it with fewer objections," the spokesperson said.

Mr Monaghan would neither confirm nor deny this allegation, saying only "people are entitled to their views".

A spokesperson for Manningham council confirmed that Optus had not lodged an application, but said the application would be advertised in the local press when it arrived, to allow objections.

Jumping over the creek

Work on the \$1.1m Jumping Creek Bridge is on schedule. "The pilework and concrete abutments have been completed and the six 20 tonne pre-cast T-shaped concrete beams were installed in early July," a Manningham council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"Work on the bridge is continuing, with steel reinforcement fixing, the casting of the concrete bridge deck and finalisation of concrete works on the elevated footpath."

Also underway are earthworks associated with retaining walls for the road approaches on both the Warrandyte and Wonga Park sides. "Concrete approach slabs to the bridge structure and barrier railing will be completed within weeks," the spokesperson said.

Council anticipates that drainage lines, kerbs, pavement construction, landscaping, road signage, roadworks and road realignment will all be finished in time for the scheduled December completion date.



Under police protection, hopefully Warrandyte's ducks will be free from yobbo threats. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

Hopes for grog-free riverbank

By RACHEL BAKER

It's a quiet summer evening. You've finished work for the day, and you take a stroll along the river. You find a spot and sit down, then, as you watch the sun set you take out a cold beer and drink it. Not anymore.

From mid-October, it will be illegal to drink alcohol by the Yarra River between Forbes Street and the Kangaroo Ground Road bridge.

Sergeant Keith Walker, of Warrandyte police, said the bans were prompted by public complaints about drunkenness and unruly behaviour. Warrandyte police, with the Warrandyte Park Orchards Police Community Consultative Committee (PCCC), then made the recommendation, which was approved by Manningham council last month.

The ban aims to stop young people going on "bouts of binge drinking", damaging property, and intimidating other people, Sergeant Keith Walker said.

The ban was precipitated earlier this year when an 18th birthday party on the riverbank on January 30 "got wildly out hand", resulting in a young man allegedly pulling the head off a live duck and "running around making gestures with the

duck's head in his hand".

Sergeant Walker said the ban applies to this particular area because, as the strip cannot be seen from the road, it is difficult to police. Troublesome or dangerous behaviour often goes undetected.

The ban does not intend to stop drinking on its own, but drunk people's damaging behaviour, he said.

Sergeant Walker doesn't believe the area's obscurity will make the ban hard to enforce.

He is confident people will obey the signs, which will go up in October, and also believes people by the river will enforce the ban on each other.

"We can only hope," he said.

He also said the area could be patrolled by council by-laws officers.

Warrandyte police believe the bans will make the area a "more friendly place", and Sergeant Walker denied the bans favour older people at the expense of the young.

"If people are under 18 they shouldn't be drinking anyway," he said.

He said young adults can drink in Warrandyte, but not in that zone.

Manningham council will install signs in the area sometime in October, and the ban will begin then.



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Locals ill-prepared for fire emergency

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte residents are facing their third successive year of below average rainfall, creating serious concerns about the forthcoming fire danger period.

Local brigade officers fear that lessons learned from the 1997 Ferny Creek bushfires have not filtered down to the community.

"Recent rains—at the end of August—may have settled the dust and watered our garden, but should not have lulled people into a false sense of security," CFA community facilitator, Jeff Adair, told the *Diary*.

"Residents should be reviewing their levels of home and property preparation before the conditions of surrounding fuels and forest become flammable."

Warrandyte CFA believes that levels of community awareness over recent years have been "very commendable". "We have witnessed significant improvements in the community's attempts to reduce fuels and develop plans in the event of bushfire," Jeff Adair said.

The coronial findings from the 1997 Dandenong Ranges fire suggest that there are large gaps between awareness and actual levels of preparation. The findings state: "There may be significant problems in the area of community awareness. These problems appear to be about individual awareness of the correct action to take in the event of wildfire".

In relation to the deaths of the three people in Ferny Creek, the coroner found that, "it is likely that the victims took shelter in the garage area, mistakenly believ-

ing it was relatively safe from fire. The three were sheltering in an area where they could not observe the progress of the firefront and any fire development around the house. Thus they were not in the best position in the building to act to save the house and themselves. The fire, which destroyed the house, probably came from ember attack and developed to engulf 29 Seabreeze Avenue after the firefront had passed.

"Clearly the victims had insufficient warning of the rapidly developing wildfire in the area of Mount View and Seabreeze avenues. Their deaths illustrate but some of the difficulties associated with members of the public who do not have adequate experience, understanding and training remaining in a position of high risk in a rapidly developing wildfire. In those circumstances any use of a fire refuge room within a building must be seriously questioned."

Whilst recognising recent efforts by the community to prepare themselves for a possible fire emergency, local CFA officers are concerned about the actual levels of individual preparation and preparedness of those planning to stay and defend their home and property.

Information gathered following the coronial inquest into the 1997 Dandenong Ranges fires indicates that for a resident to successfully defend their home will also depend on early warning; knowledge and understanding of fire behaviour; level of mobility; fitness and health; ability to handle pressure; assistance from other members of the household and surround-

ing factors, including condition of the neighbour's garden.

"Residents who believe that they will be safe by sheltering in their homes without the knowledge, sufficient equipment and water supplies will potentially place themselves and the lives of others at risk," Jeff Adair said.

"For residents who do not have the resources, know-how or have decided they do not want to stay and defend their homes, the other equally viable option is to leave the area early."

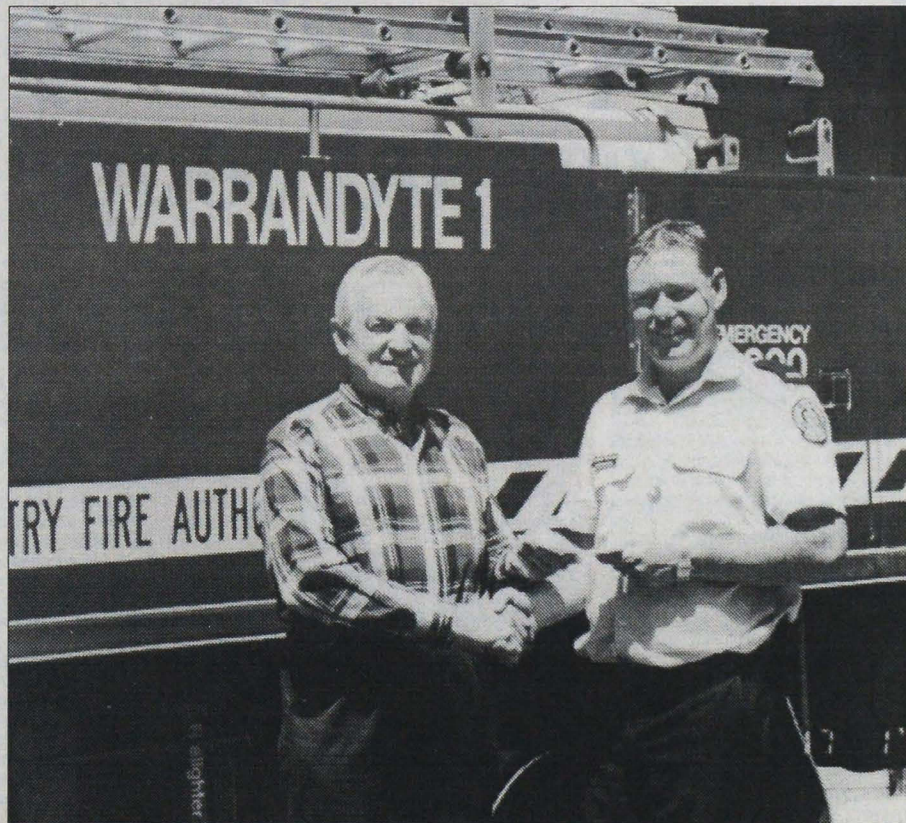
Jeff Adair believes Warrandyte could easily find itself in the same plight as did the Dandenongs in 1997.

"A lack of accurate information and official early warning of a rapidly developing fire may prevent people from implementing their plans. This could lead to people who had decided to leave the area being forced to defend themselves and their homes without the necessary equipment to do so.

"Worse still, they could be caught in their car on the side of the road."

Residents, when considering what they will do this summer, should review their levels of preparation and equipment. "Awareness alone will not save your home," Jeff Adair said.

As in previous years, Warrandyte and North Warrandyte brigades are offering free information and advice on fire emergency and planning, including property evaluations, Community Fireguard, advice on equipment and personal safety. Further information on 9844 3375.



Rotary to the rescue: last February we featured a \$1000 gift from Rotary to Warrandyte CFA.

Rotary 'gong' for top PR contribution

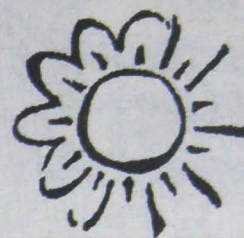
Warrandyte Rotary Club has received a prestigious international award for their public relations work, conducted mainly through the columns of the *Diary*.

"The Rotary International award follows the publication in the *Diary* of information about community activities, donations and projects over the past 12 months", a Rotary spokesperson said.

Current club president, Don Kinnear, said that "the club continues to bring news of Rotary to the local community via the *Diary*. The *Diary* reaches every corner of Warrandyte and it is invaluable to a service club such as Rotary to be able to raise community awareness of its activities through its pages".

Among major news stories linked to Rotary activities this year was the club's donation of \$1000 to Warrandyte CFA for personnel protection equipment following the fatal Linton bushfire, and publicity surrounding the club's youth seminar, held concurrently with a major *Diary* investigation into local drug abuse.

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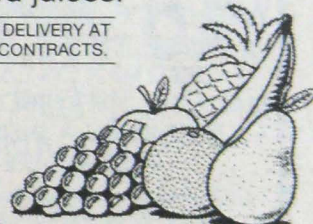
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Prowling paparazzi snap frozen in a capital coup

TODAY I'm a point-and-press type photographer, but I used to have SLR pretensions. Now, I'm happy not to be lumbered with a suitcase full of cameras, snap-on attachments, tripods, flashes and Priscilla-style umbrellas.

I must admit that there was a stage when I bought myself an SLR. Now for those of you who are not experts, an SLR is one of those big chunky cameras with a long barrel bit out the front with lots of unintelligible numbers and squiggles on it. It's usually owned by someone who talks about depth of field, focal length, film speed, parallax and spends most of their time squatting, lying down, squeezing between the side of the house and a red-hot incinerator, all in the name of capturing "the perfect shot".

Some cruise the city looking for examples of deprivation and degradation. Others drift through the hills lusting after cold mist-filled mornings, bark-shedding eucalypts and unusual furry creatures doing cute things midst clouds of spider orchids or native heath.

The cutting-edge wear leathers and ride motorbikes and are the first on the spot to capture the last finger slipping from the edge of the 20-storey building or the split second when the playboy's tongue leaves the princess's ear as they flash past



KIBBLED

"Chants and the odd obscenity filled the air... but no worse than the opening of the doors at a Myer sale."

in a chauffeur-driven ocean cruiser.

For a short time I became one of them. I had the camera bag. The problem was that I was never quick enough to get all the right bits together before the bride and groom developed lockjaw during their pash outside the church. It all took so much time and effort.

So I went back to a compact camera. I say "went back" because the first camera I owned

was a half-frame job. I don't think they make them any more. They were the size of one of today's smaller compacts and used a 35mm film with each frame halved, so for a 25-shot roll of film you could take 50. The prints were smaller but hey, I was into quantity and economy. And it was with this camera that I had my greatest success as a news photographer.

Now don't snigger, but Herself and I were in our early 20s and were on our honeymoon in Canberra. All our friends honeymooned in Queensland or Fiji or some equally exotic destination but lack of money left us cruising the empty streets of our national capital in the high summer of 1967.

As we cruised in my little blue Mini, we chanced upon the only activity that Canberra had to offer. It was during the Vietnam War and antipathy towards our involvement had strengthened. As we passed the side of the old Parliament House we noticed a demonstration in full swing.

It was against the visit of Air Vice Marshall Khi and all the military implications his visit entailed.

Having nothing better to do—don't snigger again—we parked (easily) and wandered over to watch. By international standards it was a pretty tame affair. There were the normal outraged university students com-

peting with the boys in blue. Chants and the odd obscenity filled the air and there was a bit of grappling and shoving, but no worse than the opening of the doors at a Myer sale.

Wanting to go home with something more exciting than shots of Canberra's water reservoir or the motel bathroom, I took out my trusty half-frame and snapped off a few shots of Canberra high-life. If I remember correctly, there were about five snaps in all. Most of them of hatless policemen removing obligatorily scruffy protestors. I doubt that any real violence was done to anyone, but at the time it was high drama.

Five days and a few more shots later, we had the film developed. There was the dam, the motel bathroom, a few of us looking coy by the pool, but no demo prints. I looked at the negatives. A continuous strip but no sign of the missing pics. Wow, ASIO!

I pitied the poor spy. Imagine the excitement in following two penniless honeymooners around a dead city for five days until they dropped off their film at a chemist shop. Or in ASIO putting out an alert to be on the watch for seditious snaps amongst seemingly innocuous happy snaps.

With such an exciting photographic history, it's easy to see why I've gone back to the compact.

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Daybreak divas become divebombing dynamos

ARUSH of air. A whoosh of wings. And another near miss. Although missing was probably the intention. The aim, on most occasions, is not to injure but to deter.

Breeding season is prime-time for divebombing magpies. Protection of the young is paramount, but do these intelligent birds really consider we ground-bound species a serious threat? It is said that magpies remember previous encounters. Perhaps retaliation by human targets in the past has only increased the birds' aggressive tendencies at this time.

For most of the year magpies are only too keen to share our company and our food, boldly begging or surreptitiously stealing anything they can get their beaks to.

These medium-sized black and white birds can best be described as ubiquitous. Their chortle is as uniquely Australian as the kookaburra's chuckle. Both species are commonly found in parks, gardens and rural areas. However, whilst magpies are widely distributed across the whole of Australia, the nation's icon bird—the kookaburra—is restricted to the eastern half of the country, although it has been introduced into Tasmania and the south-west corner of Western Australia.

Life for a magpie is not just an idyll of cheerful carolling and easy pickings. The birds live in a strict hierarchical unit of around 20 individuals. The group is divided into several sub-groups, each with their own defined status, duties and territorial rights. The tuneful warblings that accompany the rising of the sun are, in fact,

NATURE

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

verbal battles in defence of social positions and territory.

Magpies are sedentary birds rarely moving outside their home range of between 10 and 20 hectares. Birds from the various sub-groups band together to safeguard the territory. Despite this show of strength, however, it is rare for more than one female in the group to breed successfully. The degree of which is measured not by eggs laid—usually four or five—but by the number of young that survive to produce young of their own. On average this is only one per group.

Nevertheless magpies are more common now than before European settlement. Land clearance has benefited the birds, whose diet of insects and other invertebrates is obtained on or near the ground in open areas. More than likely it was those early settlers who first named the bird after the similarly-coloured, but unrelated European magpie.

At one time, according to renowned naturalist Crosbie Morrison, there were attempts to change the name of the Antipodean magpie. Apparently, one major Australian zoo tried to promote the name Black-backed Piping Crow. It didn't work. Visitors to the aviary were heard to remark, "There's only an old magpie in there. I suppose the piping crow's dead!"

Maybe it's just as well that suggestion didn't catch on. Although of similar shape and



size to crows and ravens, the magpie is not a corvid. Along with currawongs and butcher birds, it belongs to the cracticidae family, which unlike the world-wide corvids, is confined to Australia and southern New Guinea. Surprisingly, the closest relatives to the magpie family are the woodswallows; small passerines that are thought to have originated in Australia.

Despite its adopted and inaccurate name, the magpie is entrenched in our lives. These pied-plumaged birds are Australian as Ned Kelly and equally as

brazen. Camouflage is not part of their make-up. Unafraid, they strut the streets and parade the parks, gardens and golf courses of cities and suburbs throughout our land, often putting their lives at risk from marauding cats and speeding cars. They bring us music in the mornings.

Magpies have learnt to live in our world, it is only right that we should learn to live in theirs, and if that means putting eyes on the backs of hats, carrying umbrellas when there's no sign of rain or simply avoiding nesting sites during the breeding season, then so be it.

Black isn't a colour, it's a habit

AT university in the 70s, the uniform was jeans and t-shirt. Faded blue jeans, of course, and the t-shirts generally proclaimed association with one of the many campus-based clubs and societies.

My only remaining wearable specimen has survived over 20 years of more or less continuous wear, and I was debating whether to frame its historic ANARE logo after our 13 year-old grew out of it a couple of years ago (baggy t-shirts were all the rage at the time). Fortunately tiny tops are cool again, so the dear old thing is having another lease of life.

But it would look a bit conspicuous around the uni these days. I wandered through the Caf on a recent visit to the university bookroom, and at first I thought I'd inadvertently joined a rally of some kind. But no, all was calm. Yet astonishingly, nearly everybody was wearing black. A couple of independent thinkers had strayed into the realms of brown and grey, but I couldn't see a single other colour. On males or females. How weird. And I thought black was passe.



Not at all. Collins Street doesn't offer much more variety. The correct colour for women working in that area also seems to be black, give or take a splash of white. Last time we visited the crowded Hyatt food hall after work, only one female customer was spotted not wearing black, and even she carried a black coat.

A quick check at the Goldfields Plaza on the way home thankfully revealed no such colourphobia. The good citizens of Warrandyte follow quite a spectrum of fashions, but they retain a healthy quotient of artistic licence when it comes to colour.

Perhaps the most interesting trend to all-black has been at black-tie balls over the last few

years. While men become increasingly bold in their choice of colour at such functions, not a single contrasting bodice or crimson underskirt appears amongst the sophisticated female couture. Black simply rules.

Yet incredible mileage can be got from that most stark and lifeless of colours. Cut is everything. Eye-catching necklines, asymmetric panelling and strategically-placed cutaways vie for attention with pleated organza pants and a resurgence in halter-necks. Designer fabrics abound, and, with no colour to distract the eye, their texture, drape and ability to create a mood is fabulously revealed. Floating about the dance floor, lustrous raven-black satins, georgette sheers, dazzling metallic fibres and ornate beading, deep soft velvets, richly-textured mediaeval jacquards and sensuous silks ripple across a mosaic of golden candlelit parquet.

Yet gorgeous as it is, this shift to basic black is not good news for those of us who are neither trendy nor practising noirophiles. (Word of the week, folks. Sounds much more elegant than 'blackophiles', *n'est ce*

pas?). At a ball two seasons ago, only four women out of more than 200 dared flout the unwritten rule of chic: "Thou shalt dance only in black". How brave we four unsuspecting creatures turned out to be! I wore a romantic Anthea Crawford number draped in layers of ivory georgette, which luckily was camouflaged somewhat by the 200 or so white shirt fronts present. Even so, I managed to feel rather like a bride who'd turned up at a funeral by mistake. But what of the gallant lady who shone brilliantly in electric blue? She whirled and spun around the dance floor like a dazzling beaded Swallowtail. Bravo! I wonder what she wore to the next such function?

It certainly seems strange that for a bit of a saunter around our little town, people can wear nearly anything without attracting a second glance, yet only 20-odd kilometres away, a teensy slip-up colourwise immediately identifies you as hailing from another planet.

Well, I happen to like my planet. And I refuse to join the ranks of noirophiles, if only on principle. Next ball, I shall splash out in burgundy and gold.

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NOTICE
 The next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Tuesday, October 12
 Copy will close on Friday, October 1.

Philip Webb

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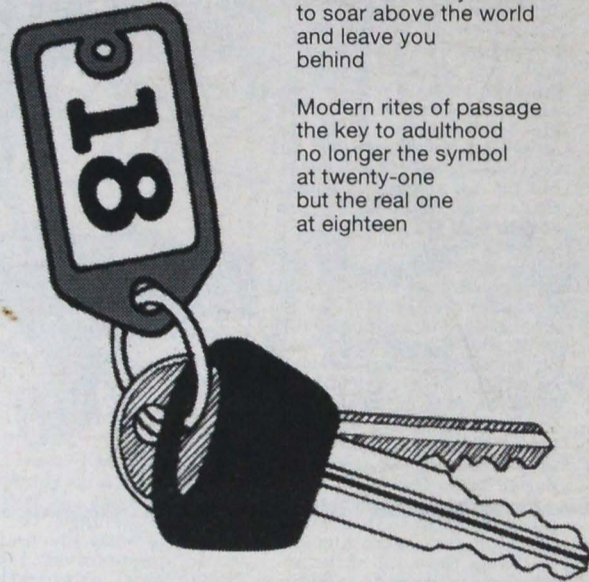
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She's set to go
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The hut that was hidden away

By RACHEL BAKER

THERE was a man living there. He was probably alone, because the hut is so small. He would have fished and caught rabbits and probably panned for gold in the river.

But what was he like? What was his name? What sort of relationship did he have with Mary Morrison, who owned the property for more than 30 years? Why did this woman feel the need to preserve the hut by building another house around it? And what does all of this mean for the history of our town?

The facts are incomplete. But hopefully from next year, people will be able to go inside the century-old hut on Castle Road: see, feel and smell it, and imagine the lives of those who lived there.

The Warrandyte Historical Society has been working for more than 15 years to preserve the hut, which would have been built between the 1850s and 1900, and they are now beginning to see some results for all their work.

They received a \$12,000 grant from Parks Victoria in 1997, jointly with the Eltham Historical Society, to build a fence around the property and replace the old canopy.

When the hut was first discovered, preserved inside the shell of a later house, it was in perfect condition. But, due to a number of factors, including

the previous canopy, which was too small and too high, rain and wind have damaged the hut.

"It's disappointing that it's been allowed to deteriorate, but, thankfully, with the help of Parks Victoria, we've been able to catch it before it reached the point of no return," Mr Andy Bevan-Jones, president of the Warrandyte Historical Society, told the *Diary*.

The next phase is to repair the weather-damaged walls and roof, stabilise the building and protect it against termite attack. This will be possible when the society obtains another grant. Following that, the hut will be opened to the public.

"We thought we could open it on the festival weekend, which would be appropriate, because it's the new millennium," Mr Bevan-Jones said. But he believes it will be "a few years" before the hut is restored to its original condition and can be opened on a regular basis.

"The historical society doesn't have the resources and staff to open the hut every weekend," Mr Bevan-Jones said, "So we will open it a few times throughout the year, when there is an influx of people into the area, or by appointment, or when a particular group is interested and wants to come."

The hut and its saga has been a big story in the local press. In May 1984, the *Warrandyte Diary* reported that

Doncaster and Templestowe and Eltham councils had bought it from the Max Green family, who originally purchased the property, not knowing it held one of Warrandyte's—even one of Victoria's—most historically significant buildings.

The property was purchased for the nation, several weeks after the hut was found, and following incessant lobbying and negotiation by the community and the historical society.

The hut was discovered by accident, when Max Green—a builder—was demolishing the old house in preparation for a new residence. He found one wall didn't match the rest, and discovered the outside house had been built around the old hut. The Greens then contacted the historical society and a committee dedicated to the hut's protection was formed.

Professor Miles Lewis, an internationally-recognised expert on Australian colonial buildings, described the hut as "a rare example of an intact slab cottage on its original site with a roof of bark in pieces of up to 110 centimetres wide and an unusual slab and pub lining". The National Trust immediately classified the building.

At the time of its discovery, Cliff Green, then president of WHS (and no relation to Max Green), said he believed Miss Mary Morrison had enclosed the hut some time between 1918 and 1922.

"A grandniece has told us she stayed there for summer holidays," he said. It appears that Miss Morrison was such an avid conservationist that the children were not even allowed to tread on wildflowers.

"There is no question that she enclosed the slab cottage on purpose, and very carefully at that. She saw it as something very special. That is why it has been preserved so well."

The property's purchase by the councils was a big step towards its preservation, giving locals confidence that the land would be protected and not sold or developed.

It was then given to the National Trust of Victoria, who have been managing the property since.



The old slab cottage under its new canopy.

A new life and a new name

THINGS are going well on the road. I have already stayed in so many great places with many fantastic people who confirm my faith in human nature, just like the kind and friendly people back home in old Warrandyte town.

Travelling north, seeking the warmth. When I reach it I'll slow down a bit. But it's the people I've met on the road who have provided the most interest.

There was a retired farmer and his wife on a caravanning holiday who befriended me, shared a meal and arranged to meet up with me again at Dubbo.

At Cessnock I met a family from the coast, staying at the caravan park for the weekend to run a stall at a "swap-meet". They said their home town was a very pretty place, so when I returned to the seaside, rather than camp at the somewhat too built-up Port Macquarie, I decided to continue to the peninsula and to the town of South West Rocks about 80 km to the north.

The next morning who should turn up but Barry, the father of the family I'd met earlier, who was working next door to the park and saw me arrive. He invited me to stay with his family, and it felt good to know that he must have trusted me to do that.

Then there were the two women running a fruit stall where I bought one avocado for a mid-morning snack. I ate it right there, I was so hungry, and we chatted. I told them my story, and as they waved me goodbye they insisted I take two more avocados as a gift.

I have already experienced lots of heart-warming moments like these. The natural response from so many of those I meet protects me.

And so I ride on. My small Suzuki GN250, although packed with just the bare necessities, is laden both high and wide as it lumbers down the road. I remember a friend's warning that weighted down like this I am only truck fodder.

But what's this? It's very cold and it's slightly wet, and very white. Bits of something are floating downwards inside my helmet visor. In my search for the sun I have met snow! Yes, it's started snowing as I ride into the

OPEN ROAD

By CATHERENE SELBY

little town of Walcha (pronounced Wol-ca) across the hilly country between Tamworth and Port Macquarie. So I decide to leave the tent packed and hang up my leathers in the pub for a while. The locals are so friendly they show me round the tiny place.

Simone, a girl about my age, married with two children, is playing soccer in a neighbouring town the next day and offers to pick me up in her car at 9am the next morning for the game. I squeezed tightly between her two girls as her husband drove us all about 50kms to Armidale. They won! And we celebrated at the pub.

I was about to leave the next day when Simone rang to ask if I wanted to go for a ride with her. She has only been riding for a little while but we could go out to Asley Falls. Sounds good to me.

We had a wonderful day before returning to the pub.

Later that afternoon Warren (Bourkey) had to go in search of his dog so I joined him for the trip. We went all over the district and I got the low-down on each farm, and which families did what and for how long and every local scandal he could muster.

I had met most of them at the pub so it was very interesting. Shed a new light on the most docile-looking characters. Could this be just a bit like home too?

If I don't go tomorrow, I'll be Walcha's newest recruit. All the locals seem like old friends.

I am now Life Member number 146 at the Commercial Hotel and have a bed to stay in next time I come to town. I look forward to revisiting one day.

They all called me "Cat". I quite liked that so I decided to follow through with it. A bit of fun. My name does not matter to me at the moment, I don't think of it as a possession but a label that has very little bearing on what I am doing or who I am right now.

I love this new life.

Catherine at Burragarng



Underwater, but not wet



BENEATH the ocean, every one is good. The colours are bright, the plants are healthy and the girls are pretty. People float around and sing about love and happiness.

Above the ocean, people are cruel and greedy. Their songs are about money and trickery.

Warrandyte Primary School's annual production, *The Little Mermaid*, staged last month at the Karralyka Theatre in Ringwood, showed definite moral divides. But the actors in the play—grades five and six students—know life isn't that simple.

"Some people are bad, but they can change," said Cameron Horvat, who played the evil, scheming King Fozzel.

Kaia Davis, who played the only unkind character under the sea—the Sea Witch—said everybody has a reason for turning out the way they do. "I think it's mostly because of your background. If you're surrounded by bad people, then when you grow up, when

KIDS' STUFF

By RACHEL BAKER

you get to the top of the list, you're like, (arms crossed) 'Well, I'm gonna be tough'," she said.

The central character in the play is a little mermaid called Miranda, who catches a glimpse of the "human world"—and a human prince—and strives to get up there. The Sea Witch says she can go, but only if she drinks a magic potion that will take her voice away from her.

"It's fun being bad," said Kaia. "You feel like you possess this thing, and it's really, like, cool," she said.

Diana Robbinson (aka the delicate and demure little mermaid) agrees her character made a big sacrifice. "I don't know if I'd ever do something like that," she said. "It would depend on

who it was, and why I had to do it." It seems the actors weren't just thinking about make-up and costumes and having their own spotlight. "You have to think about what the words mean, so you can remember the lines," Cameron said.

A seamless production, where everyone remembers their lines, is what the director, Fiona Wells, who teaches at the school, works hard to create. "I like to see a professional show," she said. "Basically I'm a perfectionist."

"These kids are prepared to work hard to get where they want to go. And they're good fun," she said.

Fiona has directed the school plays for the past 10 years, but this was her last one before she leaves the school. "So it was a bitter-sweet experience," she said.

She had enjoyed working with the kids, but also everyone else who is involved. "It's a real community effort. It really brings everyone together. It's a nice feeling," she said.



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RALPH MARRIOT MCAULEY

A life worked in stone

By DON CHARLWOOD

RALPH MCAULEY was almost as much part of Warrandyte as the local stone in which he so skilfully worked. He has left his own memorials about the district: dry stone walls, flights of stone steps, slate-covered terraces, some magnificent fireplaces (one may be seen at the Potters Cottage Restaurant) and two notable homes, his parents' and his own. Those with practised eye can readily recognise his work. The harmony he achieved in stone changed little in the 50 years of his working life.

Born in 1918 Ralph was the youngest child of Sam and Eva (nee Belzer) McAuley's six children. On both sides his family went back to the earliest years of Warrandyte, or Andersons Creek as it then was. Sam McAuley's mother was a daughter of William Masterton a Scottish miner, who with a fellow miner, built the original Common School of stone in 1856.

Later on this building was incorporated into the state primary school. Masterton had come here in 1854, at first mining with no more than a hammer and dolly. Eventually a successful miner, he was dubbed "The Patriarch of Andersons Creek". Scotchmans Hill was named after him.

Ralph attended Warrandyte primary school, proud of his great-grandfather's links with it. Always physically strong, he played football for Warrandyte in what a contemporary has called the "kill-or-be-killed era". In 1941 he enlisted in the Army. Posted to the Middle East he there

met his elder brother Bill. Bill urged him to seek transfer to his unit. Ralph declined; in any event he was soon after drafted back to Australia and on to New Guinea. To the family's great sorrow Bill was killed. In the latter stages of the war Ralph served in Queensland.

On discharge he was determined to build a comfortable home in Warrandyte for his ageing parents. Building materials being difficult to obtain, he decided to use stone. It proved a fortunate circumstance, for he took naturally to working in it; this proved the beginning of his career. People so admired his work that he was asked to do a wide range of jobs in this and other localities.

In 1947 he married Patricia Burridge, a Camberwell girl. He built the Trezise Street home in which they were to live for the rest of their lives. There they brought up their three children, Sue (Mrs Dour), Bill and Jamie.

I first met Ralph in 1952. Having admired his work at a Templestowe neighbour's, I asked if he was a costly stonemason to employ. The neighbour, a professional man and an immaculate dresser, was hesitant in his reply. "Well—he's unusual. When I asked what I owed him he said, 'I like that suit you're wearing.' I realised he meant it, so I gave it to him." Pat had something to say about the deal when Ralph returned home!

Unusual, predicable, sometimes perverse, often impulsively generous, that was Ralph. During his third big job at our home—by now he often worked to classical music from his transistor radio—he was watched by our schoolboy son, Jim Charlwood. In a few years Jim asked if he could go to Ralph for work experience from secondary school. This laid the foundation of his

own career, chiefly in stone restoration work on heritage buildings. Always he cherished his bond with Ralph. At his funeral service he gave the eulogy on his mentor's achievements and the beauty of his work.

Pat McAuley pre-deceased Ralph; she died in June 1992. Without his partner of 45 years Ralph was lost and visibly declined. Latterly he gained a measure of companionship in Hurstbridge Probus, especially on their outings.

From my own experience of his work, I know Ralph absurdly undercharged people he considered to be battling to establish themselves. He would say with a roguish, sidelong glance, "I make up for it with the well-heeled." But I doubt that he did; he was too intent upon achieving what he envisaged, which meant slow working. As his friend Tom Bone said when speaking at his funeral, he would eye a newly-placed stone or piece of slate for moments on end, lift it, turn it, replace it, or try another piece altogether, determined to achieve his end.

The family eulogy at Ralph's service was given by his niece, Dianne Ashton. She raised laughter among the packed St Stephen's gathering as she related her uncle's pranks and eccentricities. She told of his habit of picking up large roadside branches for firewood. Sometimes such a branch would extend into the livingroom while the other end burnt in the fire.

Many of us will miss Ralph's big, lumbering frame, his eccentricities, his laugh and his droll yarns. If at times he was nearly as intractable as the stone he worked in, there was gold in him.



Our Isla is winning her way in London town

ISLA SHAW, winner of the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award in 1995, has recently graduated from the Wimbledon College of Art, London, where she studied theatre design. She has been shortlisted from over 145 entrants to go forward to the next stage of the Linbury Prize for Stage Design.

Isla, 23, is one of twelve graduates to have been awarded £500 and the opportunity to work with some of the country's leading professional companies on

designs for inclusion in an exhibition at the Royal National Theatre this November.

Isla, whose family lives in Winding Way, Warrandyte, gained an associate diploma in theatre technology in Australia before going to England to study theatre design.

Theatrical tradition runs deep in her family, dating back to her great, great grandfather, Charles Tait.

Last summer she worked with two other design students on a contemporary production of

Twelfth Night which toured in China and Mongolia.

She is now looking forward to spending the next three months developing ideas for the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company's production of Phaedra by Racine.

Of the 12 shortlisted designers, four will be awarded prize money and Linbury design commissions to realise their production designs during 2000.

The overall winner will receive £1,750 prize money and a £3,000 design commission. Three other winners will receive £1,250 prize money and a £3,000 design commission.

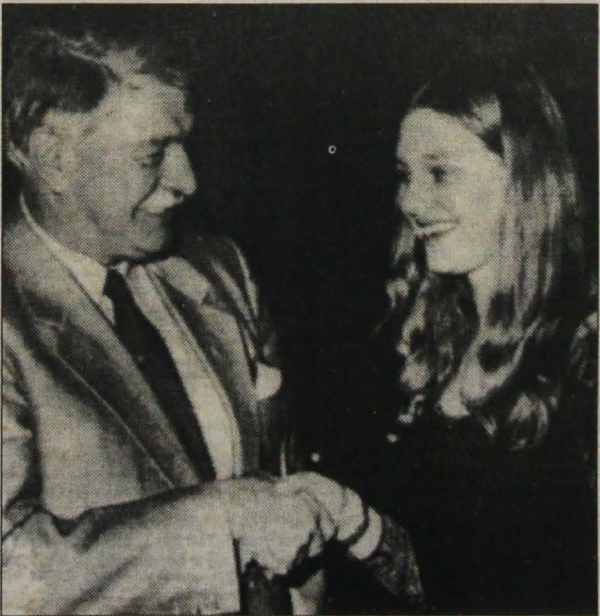
The biennial Linbury Prize for Stage Design offers the UK's most promising stage design graduates a unique opportunity to work with leading performance companies at the beginning of their careers.

Now in its 12th year, the prize is worth over \$47,000 in prize money, design commissions and production sponsorships.

Isla Shaw's work will be seen in the Lyttleton Circle Foyer at the Royal National Theatre, London, from Saturday, November 13 to Saturday December 11.

The winners will be announced at the RNT on Friday, November 12.

Flashback: Warrandyte Lions president, John Penwill congratulates Isla Shaw, winner of the 1995 Youth Arts Award.



The team who presented *Walk In My Shoes—Hear My Story*.

Local theatre folk re-tell tales of special times

WARRANDYTE Theatre Company was recently involved in an innovative program in the Manningham community.

The Doncare Social Support Outreach program, Manningham Connections, which provides interest programs for aged isolated and frail people, formed an older women's writing group.

The women, some of whom had never written before, got together and explored a num-

ber of issues of their choice.

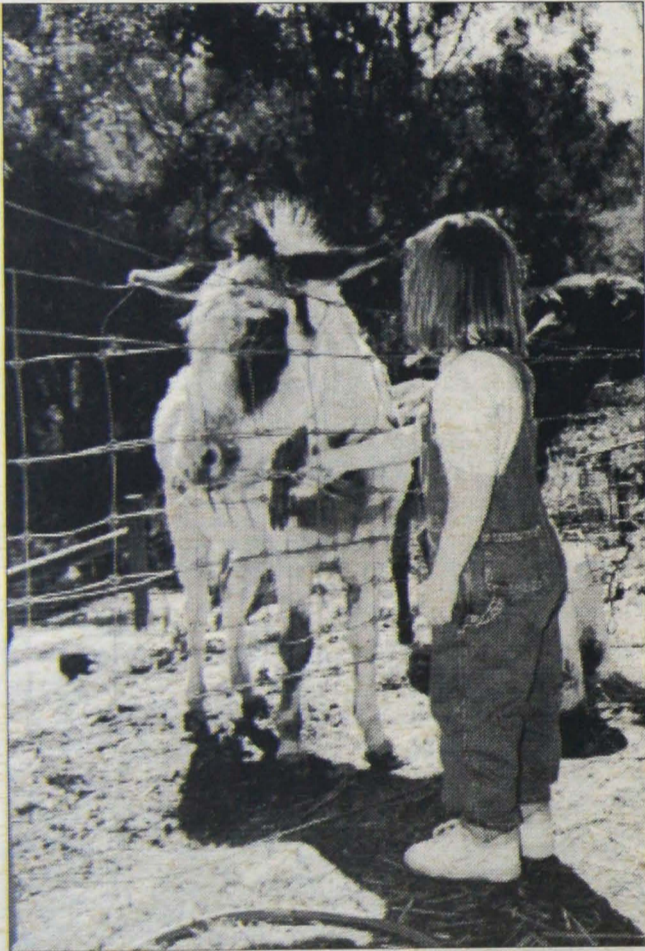
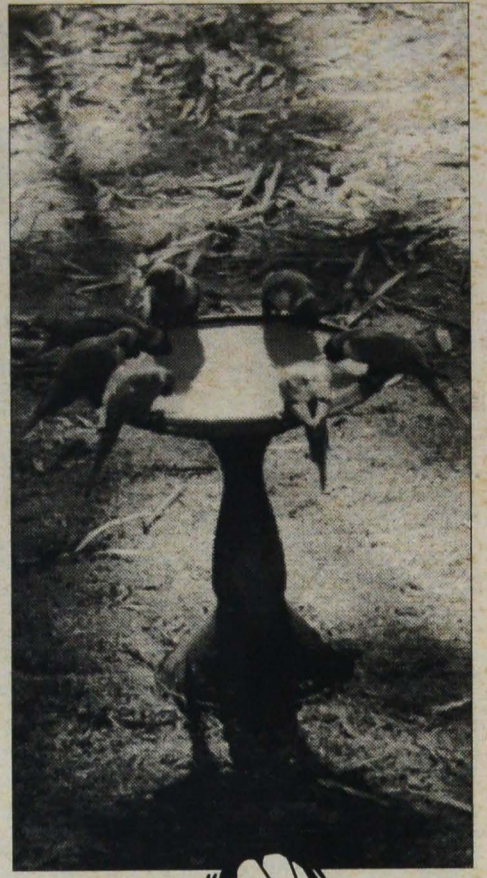
Sue Dyring was invited to run two workshops to develop their work into performance dialogue to be included in the Manningham council's exhibition, *Walk In My Shoes—Hear My Story*, celebrating the International Year of Older Persons.

Four actors from the Warrandyte Theatre Company—Jenny Harkin, Hans Dulke, Caroline Shaw and Sue Davies—with Rae Danks as producer and Jack Stringer as accompanist, offered their services and performed the women's personal

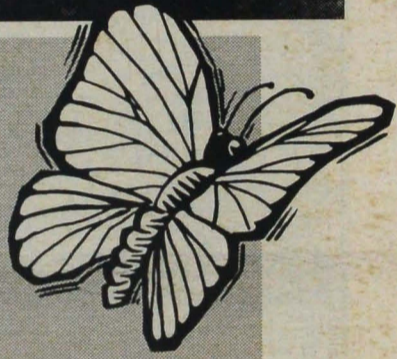
stories.

Doncare asked the group to perform again for their annual general meeting. "They wanted their members to see what we had achieved," a member of the group told the *Diary*. "It was a unique blending of performing art with community service."

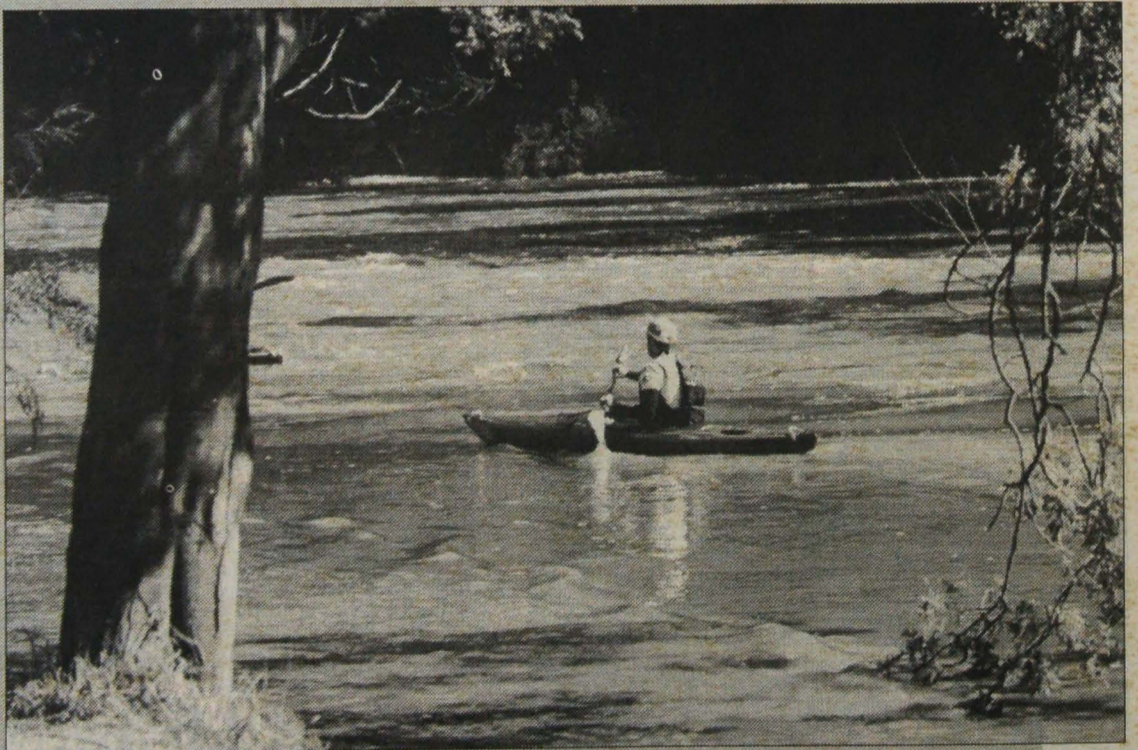
As Ros Loader of Doncare later wrote: "This process had such integrity in itself, and then it met with another creativity with a core of real like-mindedness, but with a different way of being and interpreting."



Spring is sprung!



A stroll with SANDY BURGOYNE through Warrandyte one sunny Sunday afternoon in spring.



Island in the sun

As part of the 1999 Spring Planting Festival there will be a community planting day at "The Island" in Warrandyte (Melway ref. 23 H11) on Sunday, September 12 from 10am to 1pm. This is part of the Greening Australia program and will include a sausage sizzle for all planters. Phone 9457 3024 for further details.



Locals have been restoring "The Island" behind the Stonehouse over the past few years. A community planting day is planned for Sunday, September 12. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Garden

Ben and Judith van der Haar will be holding two open days at their garden at 226 Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte (Albatross Pools) on the weekend of October 2 and 3, between 10am and 4pm. Admission this year will be \$7 and all proceeds will go to the Anti-cancer Council. Since they first opened their garden in 1995 the van der Haar family have raised \$30,000 for various charities.

Pre-school

Yarra Warra Pre-school is holding an open day on Saturday, September 11 from 10am to 1pm. They invite you to visit the pre-school, meet the staff and join in the activities. There are limited places available for 3 and 4 year-olds. On Wednesday, September 29, between 11am and 3pm, there will be a "fun day" at the centre with a jumping castle, clown, dance demonstrations and so on.

Garden again

The Hanson property at 104 Webb Street, Warrandyte will be open to the public twice during the coming weeks. On the weekend of September 18 and 19, between 10am and 4.30pm, the garden will be participating in the Open Garden Scheme. The Hansons have recently placed a covenant on 80 percent of their property with the Trust For Nature. This means that the natural bush will be preserved forever. A tour organised by the trust will be held on Sunday, October 3 at 1pm. All adult admissions are \$4.

Helpers

Warrandyte High School canteen is appealing for assistance. Anyone who would like to give some help to the school community in a happy, friendly environment can call Cheryl Hart on 9844 2749 between 9am and 2pm.

Open

Warrandyte Community Church is holding an open day on Saturday, October 2 from 9am to 1pm. You are invited to visit the new facilities, see various activities in operation and enjoy a free cuppa and sausage sizzle.

Volunteers

Melbourne's Valley of the Arts Tourist Association is seeking community volunteers to pro-



Conducted by **JUDY GREEN**

Drop your news in the letterbox in the front door of our office at the Community Centre, fax it to 9844 4168, or post it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte, 3113, by the last Friday in the month.

vide visitors with assistance and information on local and regional attractions at the Visitor Information Centre, 95 Yarra Street. Please call the centre on 9844 0380 if you would like to help.

Seminar

Faithland Christian Church is holding a seminar, commencing on Sunday, September 12 on the topic "End Times". Anyone interested can contact the church on 9844 4465 (closed Mondays) or Giovanni Tumino-Blizzard on 0412 737 449.

Dance

The next monthly South Warrandyte dance will be held at South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road, on Saturday, September 11. Further information from 9723 3892.

Photographs

Warrandyte Historical Society is seeking photos of some particularly significant local events, such as the opening of the new bridge (1955), the opening or unveiling of the war memorial and the opening of

the replacement Mechanics Institute Hall (1928). Anyone who knows the whereabouts of such pictorial artefacts, please call Jo Laurence on 9844 3694.

Tuan

As part of the Green Wedge Seminar series, Todd Soderquist will discuss the distribution, habitat and breeding habits of the tuan—the brush-tailed phascogale—at the Currawong Bush Park Conference Centre in Reynolds Road, Doncaster East on Thursday, October 7 at 7.30pm.

Market

A regular community market will be held in the grounds of the Allwood Neighbourhood House, 901 Main Road, Hurstbridge on the second Saturday of every month, commencing on September 12. The market will run from 10am to 2pm. For further information call 9718 2717.

Exhibition

Manningham Gallery is running an exhibition of the recent works of painters Fiona Lawrence, Robert McPherson, John Renkin, Janine Staples and Ian Steele. The show runs from September 22 to October 3, with a "floortalk" on Wednesday, September 29 at 1pm. The gallery is located at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, behind the Manningham council offices.

Gardening

A series of free gardening talks being presented by Manningham council includes Pest Repellent Plants with Penny Woodward on Wednesday, September 22 at 7.30pm at Warran Glen Nurseries, 373 Warran-

dyte-Ringwood Road. On Wednesday, October 20 at 7.30pm, Stephen Ray will talk on Compositing And Worm Farms at the Doncaster Playhouse, 679 Doncaster Road.

Strokes

Natural Stroke Week for 1999 runs from September 27 to October 3. It aims to bring an awareness about stroke to the public. For further information on strokes and support groups, call Gillian Simons on 9723 3053 or Jackie Douglas on 9434 3463.

Do Care

Are you looking for a rewarding volunteer experience? Do you have an hour or two a week to spare? To find out how you can support someone in your local community, please call Do Care on 9871 1532.

Diary

Please note that the next issue of the *Warrandyte Diary* will be published on Tuesday, October 12. Copy closes on Friday, October 1.

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 in the second week of the following month.

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

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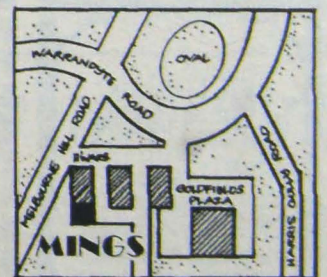
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Redbacks run riot

By **DAMIAN ARSENIS**

Warrandyte go into the Eastern Districts Junior Basketball Association (EDJBA) grand final weekend on Saturday, September 11, brimming with confidence after seeing at least 14 Redback teams battle their way through to the major games.

Leading the charge were the imposing U19 A boys of Malcolm Anderson. Defending their A-grade win of last season, the young men displayed great fight and determination in their win over local rivals Park Orchards to set up a grand final showdown with semi-final nemesis Balwyn.

Gavin Whitmore, Tristan Messerle and Ian Wood maintained the Redbacks' fine finals form by each guiding two teams into the ultimate round.

Whitmore has his U11 AR boys and U17 A2 girls playing for blue pennants. The boys held off a strong Bulleen challenge in the preliminary final

Stadium's grand unveiling

Warrandyte Basketball Club will unveil the new stadium at Andersons Creeks Primary School to the local sporting community on Sunday, October 24, with the Redbacks' Twilight Presentation Day Extravaganza.

Named the Warrandyte Community Sports Complex, it will be the new home of the Redbacks, with the local high school stadium being used for training and senior competitions.

The day's activities will begin at 4pm with the opportunity to take a tour of the new facilities, followed by trophy presentations to all grand finalists and award winners by Warrandyte's famous son Clinton Grybas.

A barbecue will be on offer, along with the traditional Redback shoot-out.

while the girls strolled through their qualifying final against Bulleen to advance straight through.

Messerle's U11 BS boys and U15 A2 girls won their way through the qualifying finals courtesy of fine wins against Eltham and Balwyn. Both look capable of running away with the flags, especially the girls,

who finished their season well clear on top of the ladder.

Leading his U19 B1 girls to a qualifying semi-final win over Eltham was not good enough for Wood, so he coached U9 CS boys through to the grand final as well.

Nigel Walsham's U15 Cs girls clawed their way from fourth position on the ladder to make

it through to the big day.

In there also flying the Redback flag for the real youngsters will be the U9 A3 girls of Leanne Singh, the U9 CC boys of Gary Grant and the U9 D2 girls of Karen Pearce. They all advanced straight through to what for many will be their first grand final.

Lorraine Parfitt didn't want to miss out on the action and directed her U13 B1 girls to what she hopes will be another premiership. Gabby Byrne followed suit, her U13 C1 girls also booking a grand final spot.

Also advancing through were the U17 D2 girls of Simon Van Der Oord. They go in overwhelming favourites after trouncing Doncaster in their qualifying final.

All the signs point to a record premiership haul. With the outcomes of several finals unknown at the time of going to press, the situation could be even rosier.

Kids' season of plenty!

By **LEE TINDALE**

Warrandyte Junior Football Club's Under-11s emulated the performance of their immediate predecessors by bringing home a premiership from the Yarra league finals.

The boys coached by Mark Watson comfortably beat Doncaster 8.4 (52) to 4.2 (26) in the grand final at Balwyn Park last month.

Last year's Under-11s were one of two WJFC premier teams, the Under-17 Colts sharing the ultimate glory with them.

The Colts made the finals again this year after a strong finish to their season and ran third overall.

Warrandyte's other finalists were the Under-14s, who also finished third, and the Under-10s (fourth).

The season also produced some outstanding individual performances from the young Bloods. Luke Naughtin was named vice-captain of the Yarra Junior Football League's Colts team of the year and Ben Piggott the Eastern Ranges Under-14s rookie of the year.

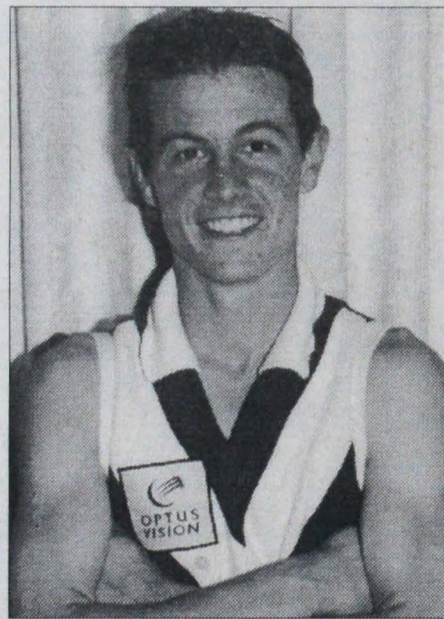
Naughtin and teammate Tim Andrews finished third in the Colts Division 2 best and fairest award.

John Burgoyne was adjudged league best and fairest in one of the three Under-13 divisions and Tyson Fitzgerald added the competition's Under-11s best and fairest trophy to his premiership medallion.

"It has been another excellent season for us," WJFC president Terry Pieper told the *Diary*.

"Four of our eight eligible teams made the finals (the two Under-9 Tackers sides do not play for premiership points) and it was a season of strong improvement in individual and team performances."

The club's presentation day will be held at the clubrooms on Sunday, September 12, starting at 9.30am and the annual general meeting the fol-



Luke Naughtin: doubly honoured.

lowing night, starting at 8pm. The AGM will be looking for special support on sub-committees.

Player registration day for next season will be February 13, also at the clubrooms.

● An historical feature on Warrandyte Junior Football Club which was to have appeared in this issue of the *Diary* has been held over until next month because of space limitations.

Strong Goldtown tipped

By **JUDY GREEN**

Preparations for Warrandyte's Goldtown Open tennis tournament are continuing, with tournament director Ruth Rankin predicting "a strong field".

The tournament, a Tennis Victoria Open Points Circuit Three Star Event, carries a total of \$3000 in prizemoney. The finals will be held at the Warrandyte Tennis Club's courts in Taroona Avenue on Sunday, September 26, and according to Ms Rankin, "a lot of first-class match play is expected".

With the completion of the home-and-away matches for the Eastern Region Tennis winter season, Warrandyte have a record number of junior teams in the finals.

Twelve of the 14 teams fielded by the club have

finished in the top four, with two mixed and two boys teams in number one position in their section. Six teams have gone through to win their semi-finals and will play for the winners' flags on September 11.

Three of the five Saturday afternoon senior teams have also reached the semi-finals.

In the finals of the Tuesday mid-week women's competition, Section A3—Rhonda Brown, Robin Edwards, Shelagh Morton, Ruth Rankin, Melanie Rankin and Sue Thomas—came from fourth position on the ladder to defeat Koonung Park in their grand final.

In the Lilydale and District night tennis finals, Swingers—Elise Berry, Sharon Berry, Rowan Berry and Graycon Milner—were successful, bringing home the pennant in Section 9.

Who'll go to bat for the Dytes?

Warrandyte Cricket Club are appealing for players for the new season, which begins on October 2.

The Bushrangers are determined to improve on a disappointing 1998-99 season in which the Chandler Shield side lost four of their last five games to drop out of finals contention after a promising start.

"We are looking to local people to join and support the club and we urgently need new players—seniors in particular and juniors as well," WFC president David Gee told the *Diary*.

"The key to the new season is to get extra players down to the club."

"We are a local club and we know that some local cricketers play outside this area. We would certainly like to have them playing locally."

Anyone—senior or junior—interested in trying out with the Bushrangers is asked to contact Gee on 9844 3644 or 0412 353 444.

Warrandyte will field four senior teams in 1999-2000, plus a veterans eleven and four junior sides (Under-16, 14, 12 and 10).

The popular Paul Montgomery has been reappointed club coach and to enable him to devote more time to the coaching role, Greg Tregear has been named captain of the senior eleven.

A junior development squad has been formed and has been training on Wednesday nights under the guidance of Montgomery and Tregear.

A past players group is being formed with the assistance of Fred Jungwirth and Gee who would like to hear from any former players or supporters willing to help the club in any way.

The Bushrangers have been training indoors at the Maddocks centre in Blackburn on Sunday mornings and training for seniors and Under-16s has begun on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the local recreation reserve.

Under-14s and Under-12s are training at the reserve at 4pm on Wednesdays.

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FanBloodytastic!

Warrandyte climb out of a grave and into the big league

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte produced one of the great renaissances of modern Eastern Football League history on Sunday, September 5, to grab the Third Division premiership by a solitary point at Mitcham.

Apparently beaten when trailing Knox by 19 points at half-time on a goal-starved, soggy and windy afternoon, the mighty Bloods turned it all around to hit the front in a marathon last quarter and withstand desperate challenges.

Warrandyte Football Club president Jeff Evans probably best summed up that final term when he described it as "gut-wrenching".

It went for 35 minutes—14 of them time-on as first Knox and then Warrandyte defended a lead by seeking the safety of the boundary.

It was a quarter of sheer heroics from both sides. The Bloods started it 10 points down and not a lot happened until it was half over—then Warrandyte snapped the shackles.

Brad Valentine soccered a goal at the 17-minute mark and when Andrew Brown kicked a boomer two minutes later the Bloods were in front for the first time since midway through the first quarter.

When big Josh Eastaugh spun a remarkable Shane Warne-type leg-break through with 23 minutes gone, we were eight points in front and, bearing in mind that Knox had not managed a goal since half-time, the game looked ours.

But what happened in the ensuing 12 minutes is something Warrandyte—and Knox—supporters will be discussing for many years.

But let's leave the best until last.

Rain that had started more than 24 hours earlier had condemned the grand final to a war of attrition. It was never going to be a pretty game of football, but it was physical, frantic and furious.

Had Banjo Paterson been there he might have repeated his famous line about a spectator's leg being broken from merely looking on.

Goals were obviously going to be very hard to come by in the prevailing conditions, but the Bloods made the first impression six minutes in when Trent Ferguson bombed the ball into the goal square for Greg Pearce to take a great mark and split the centre.

SPORT

So far so good, but there was to be very little other joy for us for the rest of the first half.

Warrandyte had considerably more of the ball in the opening stanza but used it poorly, too often picking out opponents with hurried kicks.

Knox opened their account at 15 minutes from a free in the pocket and took the lead two minutes later by running into an undefended square.

Warrandyte were still doing most of the attacking, but the ball was not being delivered quickly enough for the forwards to make an impact.

At the first change it was Knox 2.0, Warrandyte 1.1.

Knox were first off the mark in the second quarter with a goal at six minutes, but Valentine quickly pulled that one back when a penalty after a mark put him right on the goal line.

Ominous signs were developing, though. Knox had taken the initiative. They were teaming better, handling the slippery ball better, playing in front and dominating the free kick count as a result.

The best passage of play in the game so far produced Knox's fourth goal 18 minutes in, the ball rushed downfield by a chain of passes to open up an 11-point lead.

It had become a long time between forward thrusts for Warrandyte and no result when it happened.

Knox made it a 19-point ball game—5.3 to 2.2—by snapping a goal at 27 minutes and at that point a lot of people wrote the Bloods off.

Nineteen points might not have sounded like an unassailable lead, but in the context of the game, and in the conditions, it might well have been a match-winning one.

A lot of soul-searching and talking went on in the Warrandyte dressing room at half-time. Coach Lex Munro told his players they were not out of it yet, that they must back themselves and attack the footy.

He reckoned we needed a three or four-goal third quarter while at the same time restricting Knox to "zip"—a tall order considering we had managed just two goals and conceded five in one half of wet-weather football.

Someone in the Knox room was overheard to say, "Let's break their spirit now!" Fat



Above: How sweet it is! Warrandyte captain John O'Brien and coach Lex Munro make no secret of their joy as they hold the premiership cup aloft. Below: The banner proclaimed it the Year of the Mighty Bloods. It sure was. (Pictures by Jan Tindale)

chance, mate.

The first chink in the Knox armour was exposed two minutes into the third term when Bloods skipper John O'Brien soccered a goal through a crowded square to reduce the deficit to 13 points.

And when Chris Quinlan snapped a beauty four minutes later, this grand final was very much alive again.

Warrandyte players who had struggled in the first half were now starting to have an influence on the game, backing up the great work that the likes of ruckman Kimberly O'Connor, on-baller Mack Clarkson and defenders Stewart Rough and Aaron Woolley had been doing from the outset.

Knox were still having their share of the ball and still looking dangerous, but they managed just five behinds for the quarter to our 2.2 for a 5.8 to 4.4 scoreline at the last change. Just 10 points in it—but could tired legs make up that leeway?

In the huddle before the season's final round of hostilities began, Munro said the Bloods would have to dig deep for the next 25 minutes. Neither he nor anyone else had any way of knowing it was going to be 35 minutes!

The boundary became Knox's focal point as they strove to quell the Warrandyte resurgence, but they managed a behind after nine minutes to sneak 11 points ahead.

Then O'Brien kicked into a packed goal square and Valentine somehow managed to soccer the ball through. A forced behind a minute later and a huge goal from Brown from centre half-forward with the heavy ball put the Bloods in front by two points, 6.5 to 5.9.

Eastaugh's amazing running goal which took an A-grade sideways bounce made that eight points—and now it was Warrandyte's turn to defend like men possessed. The boundary line had never looked more



inviting.

But this was far from over. Knox ran into an open goal after 27 minutes and a behind three minutes on made the difference just one point.

Eastaugh again at 30 minutes, this time a snap from the goal square. Seven points up and surely that siren was going to sound at any moment. No it wasn't.

To their enormous credit, Knox came again with a goal at

31 minutes. Two points in it, then just the one again as a behind sailed perilously close.

"Desperate" is an inadequate word to describe Warrandyte's defence of that lead. It was epitomised with 90 seconds left when defender Christian Renfrey threw himself across the boot of a Knox forward and smothered what would have been the match-winning goal.

Siren. Final score 8.5 (53) to 7.10 (52). Bloody beauty!

Munro reappointed for Division 2 campaign

Coach Lex Munro has been re-appointed to lead Warrandyte into EFL Second Division next season.

The premiership feeling had not fully sunk in when Munro, a former club president who has coached the Bloods for the past two seasons, arrived back at the packed clubrooms after the grand final—but you've never seen a happier man.

"These are just a fantastic bunch of guys," he said of his players as the partying began. "You ask for something special and they put up the hand every time."

He described the turning point of the big game as "when we started playing in front after half-time and going more direct".

Grand final facts file

And he couldn't say enough about the Andrew Brown goal which put Warrandyte in front in the last quarter or the Christian Renfrey smother in the dying seconds which saved the game.

The committee had decided before the grand final that win or lose, Warrandyte would move up to Division 2 next season.

The question had arisen because of a one-off situation which will see two

Third Division clubs promoted.

Club president Jeff Evans had expressed reservations about accepting promotion if Warrandyte ran second. He needn't have worried.

Evans said the club was already talking with a number of high-profile prospective recruits for next season.

Of the one-point win over Knox he said: "That last quarter was gut-wrenching, the longest I've stood through. It was a fantastic effort by our blokes and I thought our backline was superb all day."

Mack Clarkson won the EFL award for best on ground in the grand final, but a lot of people—including coach Munro—would have given it to Kim-

berly O'Connor. "I thought KC was best by a country mile," said Munro. But nobody was going to argue. Certainly not Clarkson (one of the favourites for the competition best and fairest award) or O'Connor. They were far too busy savouring the very special moment of a Bloods premiership. Warrandyte's other very good players were Aaron Woolley, Stewart Rough, Willie Bell, Chris Cornell and John O'Brien. Their goalkickers were Valentine and Eastaugh 2, Pearce, O'Brien, Brown and Quinlan. But everyone who wore the red and white was a hero.

The glorious uncertainty of football. Knox were regarded as unbeatable for the flag after winning their first 10 games

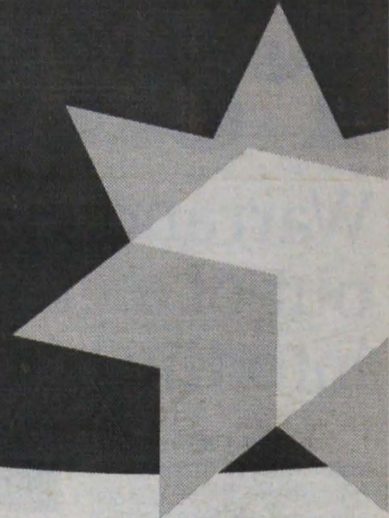
(shades of Donvale, who went undefeated through their Third Division entry season in 1992, beating Warrandyte in the grand final). But they lost four of their last five, including their two finals against the Bloods, who finished above them on top of the home-and-away ladder on percentage, each with four defeats. Warrandyte won their last eight matches.

The Bloods' combined vote count and presentation day will be held upstairs at the Grand Hotel on Sunday, October 3, starting at noon. This will be a joyous occasion and bookings are essential. Call Jeff Evans (9722 1111).



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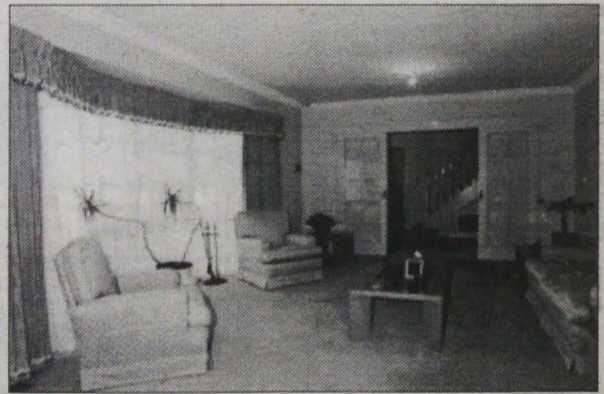
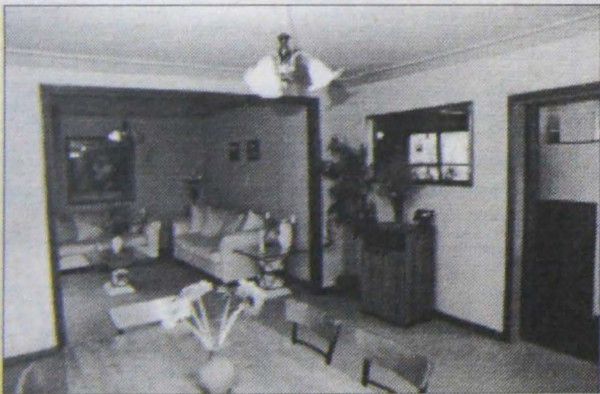
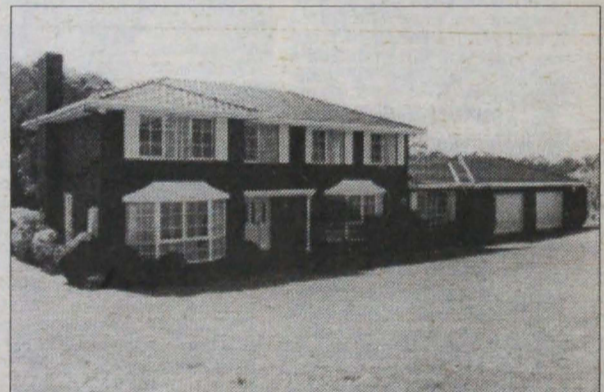
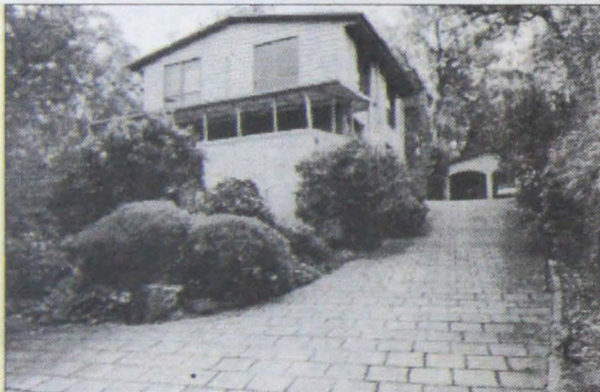
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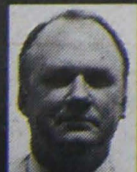
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