

**The razor's edge: Sweeney Todd (Drew Hanna) and Mrs Lovett (Natasha Simpson) plot their grisly plan to provide free meat for Mrs Lovett's pie shop in Warrandyte High School's latest musical production. Review and more pics: Page 12. (Picture by Greg Ruthven)**

# Fires: 'safe house' plan

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte CFA are considering a new strategy of neighbourhood "safe houses" to reduce the dangers of last-minute evacuation during a bushfire.

This follows a realisation that many locals are hesitant to accept the idea that they should leave their homes early on days of high fire risk. The *Diary* understands this is the first time such a proposal has been promoted.

CFA community facilitator Jeff Adair believes many people find leaving their homes early in the morning of every high-risk day difficult or inconvenient.

"They may work at home or have family responsibilities, such as small children or pets. The effort of leaving the house all day, when it is hot and windy, may be too difficult," he said.

Is there such a place as a "safe house" during a bushfire?

Jeff Adair believes that careful preparation and suitable equipment, along with a clear understanding of what to expect and how to behave contribute significantly to making homes safer.

"I emphasise the word 'safer'. All homes, regardless of their type or structure, are vulnerable to fire. However, the level of vulnerability can be greatly reduced.

"Understandably, many people fear the unknown. They are reluctant to leave their homes to the vagaries of weather and fire conditions. They are hesitant about relinquishing their own responsibility and depending upon neighbours and the fire brigade to be able to defend an 'abandoned' house."

The concept of "safe houses" during a bushfire is somewhat controversial. Previously, the CFA has emphasised two alternatives: stay and defend or leave early.

"Staying in the area, leaving your house to go to a safer property nearby, should be considered a viable third alternative," Jeff Adair said.

The steps leading to this alternative need to be developed on several fronts.

"Community Fireguard groups are well equipped to identify 'safer' houses in their area and to develop neighbourhood fire plans, working out how people whose houses are more at risk can find sanctuary nearby."

But less formal processes can be used to reach the same outcome.

"Neighbours can talk across the fence to neighbours, well in advance, offering potential shelter and protection to those who are not as well prepared because of age, disability or family situation. They may be simply overwhelmed by possible danger or by the enormity of the task.

"People with better prepared properties may need to take a hard look at their neighbours, evaluate their true situation, then discuss with them a viable alternative to late, panic-driven flight. They could offer their own house as a 'safe haven'.

"Shyness, reluctance to see their own house as unsafe, fear of intruding upon others and 'over-staying their welcome' could all contribute to people's caution in approaching their better-prepared neighbours.

"This places the onus squarely on those in safer circumstances to initiate dialogue."

How safe is your home or your neighbour's property? What criteria should be applied when determining whether a house is safe?

"Identifying a safer home is not a hit-or-miss affair," Jeff Adair said. "There are clear guidelines which can be applied regardless of the house type or location of the property. Local fire brigades are well qualified to evaluate properties to determine their suitability as 'fire-safer' homes."

● The Warrandyte CFA community facilitator can be contacted—for property evaluations and Fireguard information—on 9844 3375 or 0419 877 574, week days and evenings.

## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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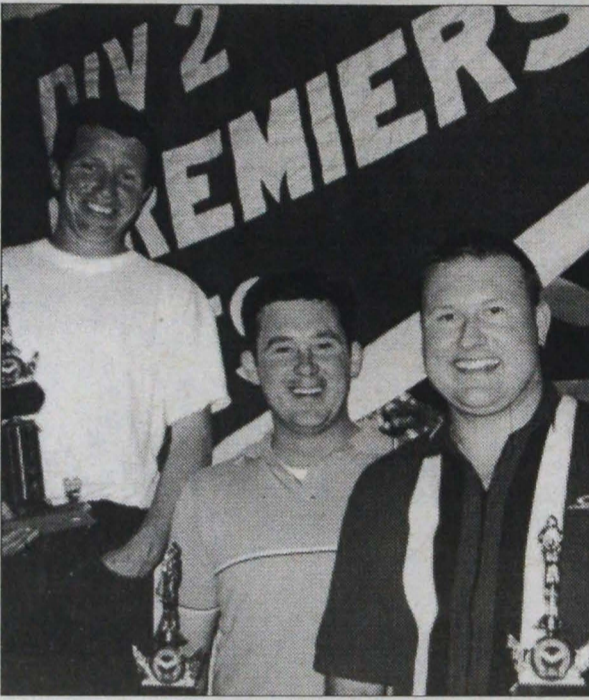
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# Danny's best and fairest and most honest as well



Danny Weatherley is a clean-cut young local bloke who tries his heart out every winter Saturday for Warrandyte footy club's reserves and deserves every ounce of recognition he gets. To "clean cut" add "honest"—but just how honest we maybe didn't fully appreciate until the Bloods' 1999 vote count upstairs at the Grand Hotel on October 3. Danny figured in a triple dead-heat with Adam Borwick and James Logan last year for the reserves best and fairest award and got across the line this time by just one vote from Terry Ryan. Presented with his trophy, he made a nice speech and modestly accepted the plaudits of the crowd. Then a few minutes later we noticed him in a huddle with club president Jeff Evans, secretary Noddy Ireland and his coach, Chris Barnes. An announcement followed: Danny had pointed out that on studying the votes he'd found he'd been given one for a game he hadn't even played! Oh dear. The count result was duly amended to make it a Weatherley-Ryan tie and his coach paid tribute to Danny's character. Nice going, young fella, and may you complete a hat-trick of B&Fs—shared or otherwise—in 2000.



Danny Weatherley is flanked by Terry Ryan (left) and Ashley Grybas after the Reserves vote count. That was before a slight discrepancy was discovered.



Noddy, who'd input the votes, took full responsibility for the hiccup. Come to think of it, he didn't really. Amid good-natured expressions of derision he blamed his wheezing old computer. Hang about! Late news flash. At moment of writing the footy club had just arrived at Surfers on their end-of-premiership-season trip and Noddy was already wearing a black eye. Still, anyone can walk into door, can't they?



Gus McLaren gets almost as much exposure in this column as our old favourite Neil Dusting, who is either lying low or has bought off Smokey's informants. Gus and long-time partner Denise Farran are just back from a camp-in-the-van trip to Griffith and on departure morning in a caravan park there our hero came back from the showers complaining that he couldn't find his hairbrush. An exhaustive search of the van and its contents ensued. No hairbrush. Tetchy Gus. Then, as he climbed into the van and sat

down for the first time in more than an hour, he sat on something prickly. His hairbrush. In his pocket.



Ah, Smokey, you've done it again! Made someone famous, we mean. We told last time how, much to the disgust of hubby David (aka Bunter), Debbie McLean, of The Boulevard, North Warrandyte, arrived home a couple of years ago with a cute little Maltese terrier cross named Chloe, who very quickly won over the lord of the manor and has slept beside his pillow ever since. Well, when Debbie fronted at the polling booth on state election day last month, gave her name and address and the woman manning the electoral roll said: "Oh, you're the dog lady!" See, someone reads this column!



The gloves are off in the war on Warrandyte's wascally wabbits. Parks Victoria, our two councils and the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment have got together to educate us in rabbit extermination. So if you're one of the many victims of our current plague, get yourself along to Stiggants Reserve at 10am on Saturday, October 30, and learn all about ripping and harbour destruction, fumigation, baiting, rabbit-proof fencing, weed control and a whole lot more. Let's put Bugs Bunny and his buddies back where they belong, which is in a casserole.



Our old mate Alan "Coatsy" Koetsveld made some veiled threat of violence unless we gave his car-racing

buddy Darryl Spears a mention here—and who are we to take on such a fearsome physical specimen? Anyhow, Darryl, 38, a long-time Warrandyte boy now living at Croydon, did very nicely, thank you very much, at the Aascar weekend at Bathurst early this month. Inspired, no doubt, by the vocal support of Coatsy and Alan "Scruffy" Edhouse, he drove his Commodore into eighth place out of 23 overall and was third in his class. Onyer, Darryl. So there, we've done it, Coatsy. Now go away.



And Lee Tindale, our sporting editor, says no thanks at all to the people who addressed a brochure to the *Diary* office to Ms L. Tindale. To which advertising/accounts manager Rae Danks couldn't resist appending: "And very pretty she is too!"



It's a very big welcome aboard to our new cricket writer, Adam White. Adam will be reporting Warrandyte's fortunes from the very heart of the action—he's a talented all-rounder with the Bushrangers' first eleven. He's also a reporter with Radio Sport 927 and he joins us this issue on Page 19.



And something special available (for the usual modest donation) this month from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend is the leek lily (*Bulbine semibarbata*), a rare plant discovered in the park only a few years ago. It's a bright yellow spike of flowers out of a tuft of green leaves and definitely something with which to impress your visitors from the inner suburbs. Also ready for planting now (among a lot of other good native stuff) are a couple of beaut wattles—the gold dust (*Acacia acinacea*) and the hop (*Acacia stricta*). Give Cathy Willis a call on 0418 142297.

Smokey Joe



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# WARRANDYTE DIARY

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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.

## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



# Vandals strike at community

By CLINTON GRYBAS

School holiday boredom is believed to have been responsible for a series of vandal attacks on Warrandyte Community Centre and Andersons Creek Primary School late last month.

While the community centre was hardest hit, the damage bill at the primary school topped \$2000.

Few areas of the centre were spared. Inside the foyer the fire hose was used to create a mini-flood, damaging carpets in several offices. The web point computer kiosk was stolen and attempts were made to set fire to a noticeboard in various after-dark attacks.

In the grounds outside the centre, downpipes, lights and bins were destroyed, the underground sprinkler system was uprooted, graffiti was sprayed on walls, clothes left for the opportunity shop were strewn over trees, while furniture was smashed.

Empty alcohol cans and syringes were found in the garden nearby.

Centre manager Norm Tillack said he is frustrated by the attacks. "It's annoying, damn annoying. We are suffering a spate of damage at the moment. The attempted fire is the main concern. The kids are going to leave their mark and we are going to be left without a centre."

The continued occupation of space on the first floor of the centre by Warrandyte Youth Services could be in doubt following the extensive damage and recent complaints about



"Parents have to look at their kids and ask them what they are getting up to..."

— Sgt Keith Walker

poor behaviour.

"There is a bit of feeling between some of the residents of the centre and the youth services, but we are trying to cool that down. The management there are trying to make the kids responsible for what happens in the centre," Mr Tillack said. "It's a delicate situation at the moment."

Sergeant Keith Walker of Warrandyte police said it would be disappointing if the young people were forced out of the centre.

"I would hate to see that because it's only a very small minority of those that attend youth services that are creating the problems," he said. "But we're not certain it is kids, or perhaps it's not those using the youth centre."

He said there are enough entertainment options for local young people without them having to resort to being "destructive" to have fun. "They can get their parents, friends or public transport to take them to venues within the municipality. The community centre, with the youth club, has access to the bus provided by Manningham Youth and Family Services to take them to venues outside the area, so there are a lot of people trying to work for the kids."

Sergeant Walker, a member of youth services sub-committee and Manningham Youth and Family Services, repeated his plea for parents to take a closer interest in children's activities.

"The parents have to look at their kids and ask them what they are getting up to and get

involved with them. I would like to see the parents come down to the youth centre and help out as volunteers or look at what facilities are being offered the kids.

"I'm bitterly disappointed the kids are being destructive and damaging community resources."

Several groups at the centre have installed their own security alarm systems and have had valuable equipment engraved.

Mr Tillack said a new security plan, perhaps including security cameras, is being considered. "I've got a plan for the security of the place, which I will put to the committee," he said. But cost is a major problem. "Something has got to give. We can't afford to repair everything that is damaged."

Glens Riches manages the opportunity shop at the centre. She says she is regularly forced into clean-up duties. "Every weekend I come here thinking, what's going to happen today."

At Andersons Creek Primary School a \$1500 sunshade covering a long jump pit was destroyed, while clothing hooks valued at more than \$500 were also damaged during the holidays.

Sergeant Walker said Warrandyte people "take a great interest in what's going on in the community. That would be why this damage is so poorly viewed, because we do take pride in our community."

"If parents become aware that their kids are involved in this kind of damage, I would like to know about it. I don't think it's right for members of the community to pay for damage caused by their kids."



Hopefully, they'll soon have a ramp of their own.

## Skatepark for Rec Reserve?

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Warrandyte Reserve could be home to a skateboard facility if the local community can contribute half the estimated \$65,000 it will cost to build.

Manningham mayor Lionel Allemand has written to local community groups inviting them to attend a meeting on October 14 to discuss funding for the proposed facility.

"It is necessary for council to meet with the Warrandyte community to discuss the process so far and to determine what is required to keep the project progressing," Cr Allemand wrote. "One issue to be explored is the capacity for the Warrandyte community to raise matching funds."

At council's June 29 meeting it was noted that should a local site become available "Warrandyte Lions and Rotary clubs and the Warrandyte community are prepared to work with council to raise

matching funds needed to have a small facility built in Warrandyte six months after the site becomes available."

A review of several potential local sites, including the old dairy in Yarra Street, has led to the recommendation that Warrandyte Reserve is the best option. The cost has been put at approximately \$65,000. This means \$32,500 has to be found locally for the project to be given the green light.

"We're over the moon that something is actually happening," police sergeant Keith Walker said. "It's through a lot of hard effort by the sub-committee that is working on this. Obviously the local councillors have put in a great effort to get it to this stage. The project has stagnated for a number of years."

The meeting, on Thursday, October 14, will be held at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Centre from 5.30pm.

# Two more restaurants in town

By RACHEL BAKER

Local residents could find themselves sipping more café lattes and nibbling more focaccias, with two more eating places on the way.

An Italian-style restaurant, Pizza In Piazza, has been approved for the Golden Gate building on Melbourne Hill Road and a café has been proposed for the old butcher shop on Yarra Street in the village.

The proposal for the butcher shop, which is now trading as Riveresque curtains and blinds, requires extensions at the rear of the heritage-listed building, including a second storey, housing four office spaces and a 40-seat café. The curtain shop will remain.

Businesses in the area objected to the Golden Gate development, claiming parking was inadequate, challenging Manningham council's decision to

approve the permit. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) upheld the approval on October 1. The developer is now free to operate a 100-seat restaurant in the building.

The application for a café at the old butcher shop has been advertised and council has received objections from Warrandyte Awareness Group (WAG), Warrandyte Historical Society, businesses in the area and residents.

Most covered the heritage value of the 100-year old building, as well as concerns about parking. WAG's submission included concerns about signage and street lighting. Mr Fritz Uhl, owner of the property, believes his alterations—which would include landscaping the outside eating area and exterior lights—would improve the building.

WAG also expressed concerns over the abundance of tourist-based eating

venues in Warrandyte. There are two along the village strip, as well as the hotel. But Mr Uhl believes his café will have distinctive appeal because it will have an outdoor eating area.

Manningham council has asked its heritage consultant, architect Richard Peterson, to decide if the proposal threatens the value of the building.

Mr Peterson explained that the main heritage concerns were making sure the extension was visibly separate from the old shop and did not overwhelm the old shop, and that the shingle roof (which is currently covered with iron) was protected. He believes the proposal does not threaten the heritage value of the shop, which is regarded as a significant part of Warrandyte's history.

The first section of the shop was transported to Warrandyte from Kangaroo Ground around 1901, with the

second half built later. The Sloan family ran a butchery on the site for around 80 years.

"This building is very important for Warrandyte and for the whole of Manningham," Mr Peterson said. "But to make the shop viable, it has to be extended."

The proposal includes six carparking spaces, accessed by the service road off Webb Street.

Mr Uhl said he wants to preserve the historic value of the building. The addition will be reached by way of a side path on the eastern side of the building.

Mrs Janelle Wareham, who operates the curtain shop in the building, said the café should be good for her business. "It should attract more local people and visitors," she said.

The original application from Pizza In Piazza was for a 150-seat restaurant,

but there were concerns that the five car spaces in front of the building would be inadequate. VCAT found that other parking in the area would supplement this and be sufficient for a 100-seat restaurant.

Objectors to Pizza In Piazza claimed traffic in Colin Avenue was already congested during evenings, that it would increase when the new sports stadium was operating and that the intersection on Colin Avenue, of the new roadway being constructed through Goldfields Plaza, could prove dangerous. The VCAT dismissed all these claims.

With regard to the butcher shop café, Manningham council will consider all objections and the heritage consultant's report and decide whether to issue a permit. The applicant or objectors can appeal this decision at the VCAT.

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**Some locals are  
bushfire-ready**

I was shocked at the article headlined "Locals Ill-Prepared for Fire Emergency" (9/99) because it showed only one side of the picture. Perhaps it could more accurately be titled "SOME Locals Ill-Prepared".

Recently we've moved from North Warrandyte where we had a very active Community Fire Guard group with a knowledgeable and supportive CFG facilitator—Nan Oates. We had so many households "fired up" about how much we learned and how much better prepared we were to stay and fight fire safely, that we eventually had to create three CFG groups from our one.

**DEAR DIARY**

Your article has stimulated me to join a CFG group on this side of the river and also to request that the *Diary* print some success stories which illustrate how CFG has trained people to defend their homes safely. This will, I hope, encourage more locals to take up Jeff Adair's offer and call him or the CFG (9735 0511) to join a CFG group.

Joy Dahl  
Pound Road



Wonnie Branch

**Wonnie's  
wonderful  
birthday**

More than 90 cards and a mountain of flowers arrived for long-time Warrandyte resident Florence "Wonnie" Branch as she celebrated her 90th birthday last month.

The senior citizens club was crowded as 100 of her family, friends and neighbours gathered to thank her for her lifelong kindnesses and generosity.

The club's singers and musicians ensured the afternoon was a success while the efforts of Jackie Law and family meant everyone was well catered for.

Wonnie's association with Warrandyte began as a weekend visitor. Enchanted by the town she and her late husband Will built a house on Pigtail Hill soon after the end of the Second World War. They developed a beautiful park-like garden over the years. This was described as a "magical place" by both children and adults.

Illness last year meant Wonnie and her black poodle Pippy had to leave their Warrandyte home and take up accommodation at the Manningham Centre in Doncaster. But last month's celebrations proved that she certainly hasn't been forgotten in this town.

**Football ground  
lights 'confuse'**

In August we read that the lights at the Warrandyte reserve have "been hailed as a great success" and are used each week night for training. This is excellent news for the sportsmen and women of the Warrandyte area.

However, I am not sure that everyone else would agree. The lighting produces considerable light pollution in a district largely free of obtrusive light sources. For those driving down the Research Road in the evening the lights are easily confused with oncoming headlights, and this is at a distance of several kilometres. The sky around the reserve literally glows on training

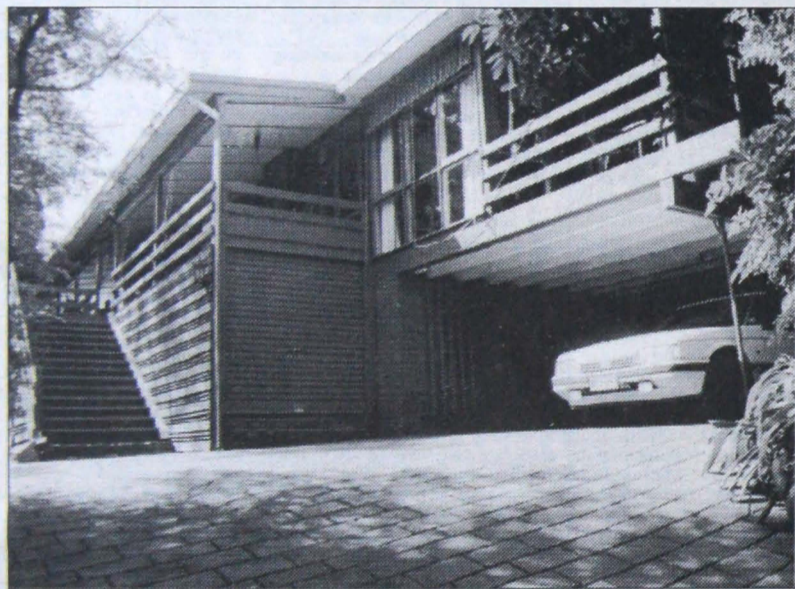
nights. I hate to think what their close neighbours think.

I understand that full cut-off lights would have substantially reduced this light pollution if they had been specified in the first place.

These lights would have only directed light onto the ground where it is needed and not into the sky and not towards their near and distant neighbours.

Maybe the club management could consider modifying the lights with cut-off screens when they are next due for maintenance.

Andrew Yen  
North Warrandyte



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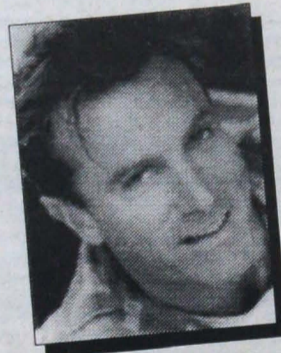
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# Ring road route?

By FIA CLENDINEN

A VicRoads map showing a route for the "missing link" has again ignited debate over the controversial ring road. The map indicates the route for the six-lane ring freeway could go right through the Yarra Valley Green Wedge.

The alleged route follows the Mullum Mullum Creek from Ringwood to Warrandyte, with an interchange at Warrandyte Road near the existing Crystal Brook Caravan Park, before crossing the Yarra River and heading west into Eltham.

Local MP Phil Honeywood, whilst questioning the value of the map, told the *Diary* that he "would not stand by and permit such a scenario to develop".

ARRO spokesperson Geoff Speedy described the map as "very important". He said that VicRoads denied that any planning was being done on the ring road but "the existence of a recently released map shows that they do have plans".

VicRoads originally gave the map to a student at Melbourne University who requested information for his PhD on air pollution. The student, from Thailand, was unaware of the significance of the map and revealed it while presenting a seminar on his thesis. Dr Paul Mees, president of the Public Transport Users' Association (PTUA) as well as lecturer in transport planning at Melbourne University, happened to be in the audience. He said he sat "bolt upright" when the map came up on the projector screen and later obtained a copy for release to the media.

Dr Mees said that for years VicRoads have maintained that no investigations are being carried out into the ring road but the map was proof the opposite was true. He described it as "a smoking gun".

But VicRoads spokeswoman Melissa Dark played down the map's significance.

In a prepared statement Ms



Mullum Mullum Creek bridge crossing Warrandyte Road: is this the spot for a freeway?  
(Picture by Jan Tindale)

Dark said that although the Eastern Ring Road was considered to be a "necessary" future addition, the map was, "a 'what if' scenario, and is just one of the many hundreds that VicRoads produces when planning the future of Melbourne's road network".

Mr Speedy said the map had caused a lot of uncertainty in the community and Vic Roads' response was not good enough.

"If VicRoads are planning to put freeways through people's houses, people are entitled to know what their plans are, even if they are one of many," he said.

Nillumbik mayor, Bill Penrose, said it was clear VicRoads was considering possible options for the ring road. But he also said this was inevitable, given that there had been no decision made to abandon the proposal.

"Oh yes, (VicRoads) have ob-

viously still got (the ring road) on their books. I'd say VicRoads would be wrong to not continue planning it, because they have never been told to stop. As bureaucrats, their job is to provide their masters with all the technical information."

Cr Penrose said it would be a "hell of a fight" to build the ring road through Warrandyte and Eltham because he believed the majority of the community were against it.

But Warrandyte MP Phil Honeywood rejected claims that the ring road was an issue and stressed that local residents had no reason to be concerned. He said the state government had no funds to construct such a road, and in any case there were doubts it was needed.

Mr Honeywood also said he was not surprised that a map showing a proposed route for the ring road "made headlines just prior to the state election". He said he had been involved in four election campaigns and each time the ring road had surfaced in the final week.

"Either the PTUA or some concerned member of the community seems to discover a definitive dotted line on each and every occasion," he said.

He pointed out that should any definite route for the ring road emerge, his position as a cabinet minister meant he was "well placed to serve as a forceful advocate on behalf of the local community".

Mr Honeywood said, "hopefully, after 11 years as the local state MP my credentials on protecting our unique bushland lifestyle would make it clear I would not stand by and permit such a scenario to develop".

With the unexpected result of last month's state election and the uncertainty over which of the major political parties will be forming government, the *Diary* decided it was timely to ask the Labor Party for a policy statement on the ring road.

Four years ago John Brumby, then leader of the opposition, stated: "Labor's opposition to the Eastern Ring Road is unequivocal. The proposal would destroy the unique environment and lifestyle that has attracted people to this area."

Peter Batchelor, shadow minister for transport, said the ALP's position was unchanged. "The ring road is not an issue as far as we are concerned. We haven't got a proposal."

## Subdivision still possible

The applicants for a permit to subdivide land on the corner of Yarra Street and Cemetery Road have continued to make new submissions to Manningham council to satisfy council's concerns about drainage of the site, road construction and traffic, and vegetation.

The applicants originally sought to have a seven-block subdivision of the land approved, but this was not accepted by council because of the layout and density of lots, vegetation, land topography, drainage, the street construction standard of Cemetery Road and the development pattern in the area.

Council's planning staff are examining amended designs of the drainage easement of the land and improvements to Cemetery

Road, as well as other issues. But no new plan of the subdivision has been formally lodged with council.

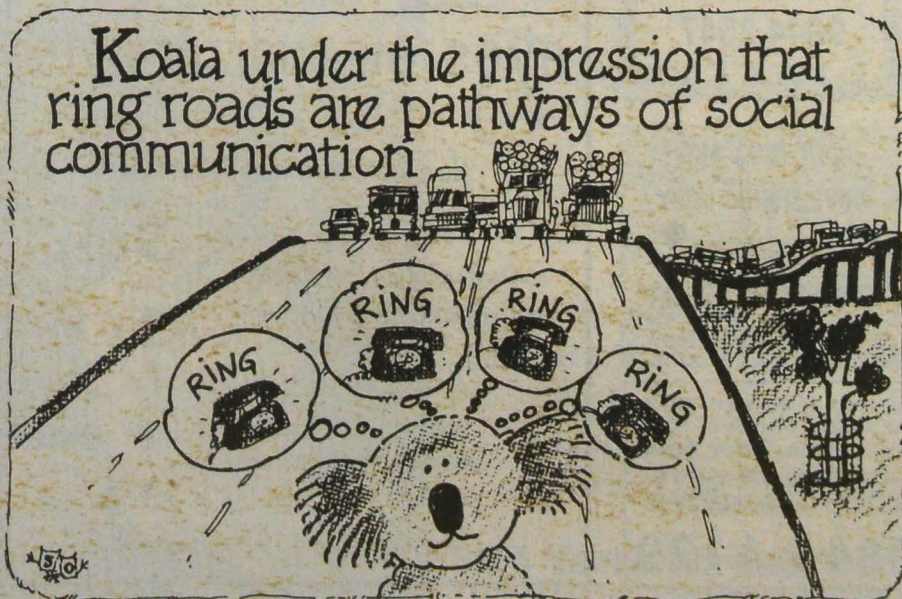
If a new plan is lodged, the objectors to the original proposal will be notified and have the opportunity of making submissions on the amended plans.

A large number of objections to the original plan were received by council from residents in Cemetery Road and Yarra Street, as well as surrounding streets. They are concerned about a major, unwanted change in their residential amenity if seven houses of unknown height and size were built on the land at the expense of the loss of many mature gum trees.

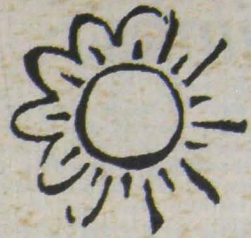
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# Millennium high jinks



Plans are bubbling away for Warrandyte's great slap-up party to mark the beginning of the new millennium. In keeping with traditional, old-time New Year's Eve celebrations in Warrandyte, the event will commence with an informal concert in the Mechanics Institute Hall, then—hopefully—spread out to invade the bridge and other points north, south, east and west.

"We've ordered a thousand silver and purple balloons," an organising committee spokesperson told the *Diary*. (Apparently silver and purple are the official millenium colours; whatever that means.)

"Regretfully, we are going to have to make a small charge of \$10 to cover such costs as the balloons, power (Y2K permitting) and sundry official bribes," the spokesperson said.

"It'll be a bring-your-own grub and grog affair. We'd also like everyone to roll up with their own noise-making gear: whistles, rubbish bin lids, musical instruments, old saucepans, kids. No explosive devices by request.

"Oh, and a torch. Just in case those dire Y2K predictions actually come true.

"Jock Macneish is designing a souvenir badge, medal, brand, tattoo or some other body-marking to commemorate the occasion. The cost of this will be included in the ten bucks."

The organisers have to limit numbers to 150, so everyone would be advised to book early. You can call Rae on 9844 3819 for further information, to book or to offer ideas.

# Canoe car park underway

By RACHEL BAKER

The canoe car park near the Warrandyte Bridge (pictured) is being upgraded this month, with asphalt, new entry and exit points, footpaths and tree planting.

The project, costing Manningham council \$50,000, aims to make the area safer, with less dust and fewer potholes.

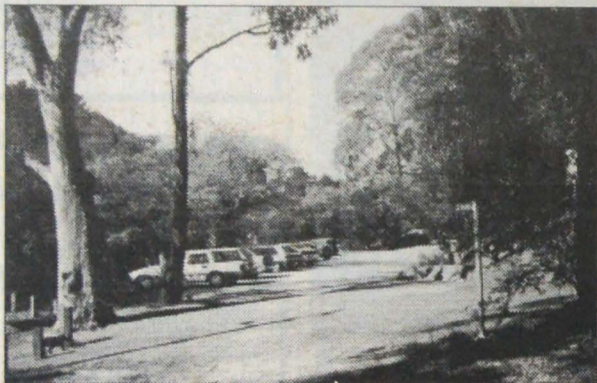
Bev Hanson, a local landscape designer who has been consulted on the upgrade, said the developments should improve the area.

"I just remember what it was like during summer, with dust billowing up like smoke, which would then go into the river and pollute it," she said.

The development, which will include rocks, removing weeds and planting several hundred indigenous plants, and timber kerbing, should fit in with the environment of Warrandyte, Mrs Hanson said.

This is partly because of the council's consultation with the community.

"It's very important that people who understand Warrandyte are consulted for projects like this," she said.



"I suggested they take out the bollards on the embankment and put in rocks and trees, to make it fit in with the environment," she said.

Warrandyte Awareness Group also believes the development should be positive.

"As long as it's tasteful and the planting's done properly, it shouldn't be a problem," Peter Curry, of WAG, said.

He said the upgrade will not increase the size of the car park, which makes it accept-

able, as a proposed eastward extension could be a problem.

Mr Curry said erosion has been a problem in the area, and the development should help reduce it.

The development is part of a 10-year program of works around Warrandyte, which has included the car park upgrades at the bottom of Stiggant Street and opposite the Grand Hotel.

Bev Hanson believes the canoe car park will be similar to the Stiggant Street one.



Contractors are ahead of schedule on the new Jumping Creek Road bridge. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

# New bridge rolls along

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

Jumping Creek Road, linking Warrandyte and Wonga Park, will reopen to traffic on October 27, a month earlier than expected.

The road was closed in May for the replacement of a dangerous narrow bridge and associated works, but the dry winter meant work will be completed well before the December fire season.

To improve safety further, Manningham City Council is considering restricting the route to vehicles under 4.5 tonnes, unless on local business, and the speed limit may be reduced from a mixture of 60km and 70km to 60km overall.

Director of city development for Manningham, John Bennie, said Jumping Creek Road was designed as a local road and

community users will be the first to be advised of its opening.

"A public open day will be held at the bridge on October 24, when local residents can inspect the bridge and its new approaches," he said. "Previously a blackspot, the bridge is now wider, with a footpath and safer road approaches and removing crests further up Jumping Creek Road will also make the road safer.

"Through traffic will still be encouraged to keep to Maroon-dah Highway."

Council feels wildlife will not be very affected by the road's reopening, as there has still been a lot of activity on the road with heavy machinery and construction vehicles. But Mr Bennie indicated there would be a "rationalisation" of roadside signs on Jumping Creek Road, which may include in-

creasing the number of wildlife notices.

A local restaurant owner has told the *Diary* that "business in Wonga Park has been adversely affected" by the bridge closure, "with such a drastic reduction in passing traffic". However, "we have been most impressed with council's support and communication".

Captain of Wonga Park CFA, Jim McKee, said the brigade had not been called to any incident affected by the road closure. "It's been inconvenient for people, but closing the road has meant the job's been finished early. Jumping Creek Road's always been bad (for safety) but they can't realign the whole road."

But Mr McKee is sceptical about a reduced constant speed limit.

"Some people don't follow the signs anyway."

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Red Letter Day: Warrandyte's main street, September 12, 1906. This gathering marked the opening of the Caledonian mine. (From the Warrandyte Historical Society collection)

## Calendar chronicles years

The photograph above is from the Warrandyte Historical Society's 2000 collectors' calendar—Marking The Moments. This is the society's third calendar and is now on sale at the Old Post Office museum, Warrandyte Post Office, and Potters Cottage.

Fifteen rare and historical photographs of Warrandyte from the society's collection are featured in the calendar. They include an unusual photograph of the old wooden bridge beside the present "new" bridge in 1954-55.

Another picture was taken the year it actually snowed in Warrandyte!

"The calendar is one way of presenting the town's past to a wider audience," a society spokesperson told the *Diary*, "as well as raising funds to continue the valuable preservation of local history."

The society believes that with Christmas and the New Year approaching this is an ideal gift for posting to absent Warrandytians, as well as a must-have for locals.

"But be warned," the spokesperson said, "there is only a limited number available. So place your order early by calling Gina Bevan-Jones on 9844 3662 or Jo Laurence on 9844 3694".

## Shops coming as 'soon as possible'

By RACHEL BAKER

New shops on Yarra Street, next to the Mechanics Hall, are on the way. The new owners of the property, which was auctioned on August 18, wish to remain anonymous and declined to comment on their plans for the land.

Mr Glenn Martin, of Spencer Martin real estate, who sold the property, revealed that "they are hoping to start on shops as soon as possible".

The current Manningham council permit includes six shops, a 21-space bitumen car park, a bitumen driveway from Mitchell Avenue, and landscape work.

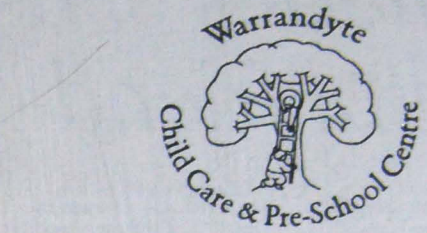
Many locals expressed concerns about the development—questioning environmental damage, traffic, and an oversupply of shop buildings—at the time of the land's sale.

Warrandyte Awareness Group is opposed to the development at this stage, but will hold a meeting to discuss and investigate the issues before it decides on a plan of action, WAG's Peter Curry said.

The sale of the land followed an extension of the permit by the council in March this year.

The permit was first sought, and rejected by Doncaster and Templestowe council in 1991. It was then taken to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, where it was granted in 1993.

The current permit will expire on January 15, 2001.



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Free delivery local area

# More pokie protests

By CLINTON GRYPBAS

Opposition to the proposed reintroduction of poker machines to Warrandyte is continuing with more than 500 locals signing a petition calling for Warrandyte to remain "pokie free".

This comes as Warrandyte Football Club officials continue to wait for the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority to give the go-ahead for 27 Tabaret machines to be installed at the Grand Hotel as part of the new Club Warrandyte establishment.

Local resident Gabriela Byrne, president of the People Against Pokies organisation, said she has been heartened by the growing list of people who don't want poker machines back in Warrandyte.

"The post office obtained 250 signatures within the

first four days. It is not a real petition as such because I didn't see the application for the planning permit at the hotel in time. I got in too late.

"But when I read the comment in the *Diary* from the president of the football club saying that most people are looking forward to them I thought I can at least prove there are a number of people who aren't," she said.

Under the plan all but the hotel's public bar, bottle shop and TAB would come under the new banner of Club Warrandyte, including the popular bistro.

Mrs Byrne, a "reformed" gambler, is a director and founder of the Free Yourself program which was launched in 1997. The program is based on the strategies she used to free herself from gambling. The People Against Pokies group began

in March this year.

"We raise funds to provide people with education material, so you have an educated choice when you gamble," she said. "I honestly don't think gambling will go away forever but I think there are some ways of doing it responsibly. A lot of people are unaware of the trap that is there."

Warrandyte Football Club president Jeff Evans told the *Diary* that Club Warrandyte was still waiting for approval from the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority.

A spokesman for the authority said they are "presently conducting investigations for the purpose of determining whether to grant a venue operator's licence".

Some of the points for consideration include suitability of the premises

where the machines will be installed, proposed security arrangements and the financial background and "character" of the applicants.

At no stage is community opinion considered in determining applications. Meanwhile, Warrandyte Basketball Club has rejected an offer to become an associate member of Club Warrandyte. President Karen Pearce said the decision was not taken lightly.

"After receiving and taking into account the responses from the junior basketball community, it was decided not to take it up at the present time," she said. "The club may, however, look further into the proposition in the future."

The *Diary* believes many other organisations in the town have affiliated with Club Warrandyte.



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BY EMMA



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# Memories of a special friend

Children at Warrandyte Primary School recently said goodbye to Junko Kanda, their assistant teacher from Tokyo, Japan.

Junko arrived in Warrandyte in April as part of the Japan-Australia Professional Exchange Program. She stayed with several host families and worked with students from Prep to Grade 4.

"Our children were fortunate to learn about the language, culture and lifestyle of the Japanese first hand through Junko," a parent told the *Diary*.

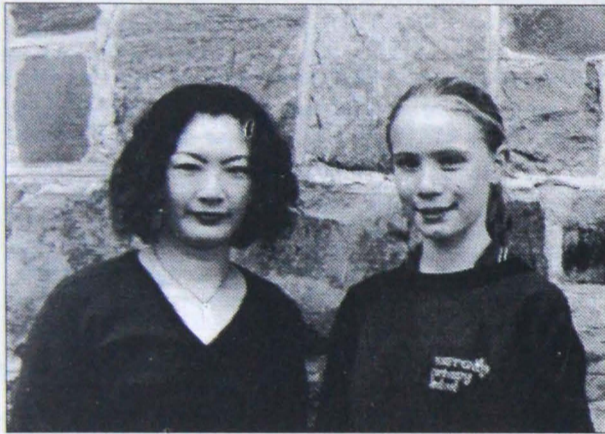
Below: Japanese assistant teacher, Junko Kanda, in a farewell photo with student Melissa Buskes.

"The grades 5 and 6 students also enjoyed the benefits of this new teacher, in addition to their regular Japanese teacher.

"Students especially noticed the refreshing differences in culture between Australia and Japan, so evident in the way Junko would speak and respond to their questions.

"The families fortunate enough to have Junko in their homes enjoyed her company very much and learned much from the experience."

Junko has moved on to Sherbourne Primary School before further travel up north in Australia and her subsequent return to Japan next year.



Ben Clark, Damien McLean, Shaun Johnstone and Andrew Boyle with their winning entry.

Millennium madness helped seven Warrandyte Primary School students display their creative intelligence last month when they received an honours award at the Tournament Of Minds—a national interschool event.

The grade five and six students won the award for their Millennium Meter, a device to celebrate the new millennium.

The seven boys—Andrew Boyle, Damien McLean, Justin Cleaves, Shaun Johnstone, Jack Bullard, Ben Clark and Xan Balding—worked on a maths and engineering question which asked them to design and build a device to "see in" the new millennium. The device needed to contain three com-

ponents that were uniquely Australian and perform for 30 seconds when activated.

The group's project featured an Australian flag being raised on a flagpole, a Vegemite truck's reversing beeps and a Qantas plane's landing lights flashing. On tournament day the model performed flawlessly and impressed the judges.

School spokesperson Fiona Wells said Warrandyte Primary School had two teams working on long-term problems for up to a month. They presented their solutions at Latrobe University with students from hundreds of other schools.

"Tournament Of Minds is a problem-solving event for teams of students where they

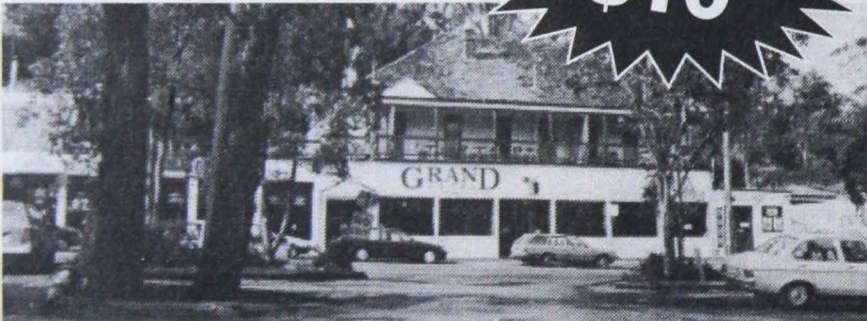
are required to solve demanding, open-ended problems," she said. "It provides an opportunity for students with a passion for learning and problem-solving to demonstrate their skills and talents."

"The teams were also presented with a 'spontaneous problem' on the day. This required rapid interchange of ideas, the ability to think creatively and well developed group co-operation skills."

Andrew Boyle said the students learned a lot from the competition. "If you don't get along in practice then you won't be able to put it together on the day," he said. "We needed to work together as a team and have time limits."

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At its meeting on 10 August 1999, the Council resolved to give notice of its intention to implement a trial imposing 'No Trucks - 4.5T GVM' restrictions for vehicles greater than or equal to 4.5 tonnes for a period of 12 months in Jumping Creek Road between Ringwood-Warrandyte Road and Homestead Road.

The 'No Truck' restriction will not affect the genuine heavy truck use in the area; however, it will ban heavy trucks 'cutting through' the area. Emergency and commercial passenger vehicles are automatically exempt from the restriction.

The trial is being implemented to assess the merit of restricting truck traffic along Jumping Creek Road to address community concerns about the safety of trucks using the road, particularly trucks passing through the area.

Prior to finalising this matter, Council will consider written submissions by 6th October 1999.

If you require any further information, please contact Mr Peter Waite, Project Management, on 9840 9333.

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# Story of a stadium

By CLINTON GRYBAS

**W**HEN the ribbon is cut to declare Warrandyte's new basketball stadium open on Sunday, October 24 it will bring to an end a long and frustrating wait for hundreds of local players and parents.

For the Warrandyte Basketball Club committee it has been the main issue occupying their minds and discussion for the better part of this decade.

The campaign for a new court began in the *Diary* in September 1991 when Barry Withers, then president of the club, described the club's inability to cope with the basketball boom.

The sport's ballooning national popularity, reflected in local participation rates, meant the club had quickly outgrown its single court stadium at Warrandyte High School which opened in 1987. Mr Withers said the club was in crisis, desperately needing another venue.

While the number of players representing the club continued to rise through the 1990s the only movement off the court was a series of plans, proposals and submissions which often said the same thing but failed to deliver any concrete action.

The first glimmer of hope was the Warrandyte Reserve management plan, drafted in late 1992, which suggested a new indoor court be built on the site of present outdoor courts at the reserve.

But in January the following year local residents vetoed the plan, fearing a great increase in traffic and noise, particularly on football match days.

Despite this the council's recreation planning officer, Kristen Allen, said a new stadium was all but guaranteed "sometime in the near future".

The future looked brighter in late 1993 when council released its long-awaited indoor sport and recreation plan. The plan recommended that a second court be added at Warrandyte High School along with meeting and social facilities. The club formed a sub-committee to pur-

sue the idea but met dead-ends at every turn.

Frustrated, they decided to go it alone, putting a submission to council in July 1994 for \$340,000-\$360,000 which they estimated was needed to build the second court at the high school.

Council refused, preferring to investigate an \$8million mega-stadium plan for Rieschiecks Reserve in Doncaster, which would feature eight courts and a 3000 seat show-court. This was later dumped.

By this stage juniors who couldn't be catered for at the high school stadium were being sent elsewhere. Warrandyte teams were playing or training at Park Orchards, Mullauna College in Donvale, Donvale Christian School and in Doncaster and Eltham.

The campaign continued in 1995 and into 1996 with president Bruce Macdonald saying the club had to put past disappointment aside and continue in their efforts.

"The *Warrandyte Diary* has assisted in bringing our case to the attention of the local community and, importantly, Manningham council and Warrandyte MP Phil Honeywood," readers of the club newsletter were told.

The club's plight was recognised with the Warrandyte business plan ranking a new stadium third in priority as part of the community's most urgent needs, behind only river conservation and heritage buildings restoration.

The proposed location for a new court changed in April 1996 when Warrandyte Business Association backed an idea for the stadium to be built at Goldfields Plaza.

"It would provide a shot in the arm for local traders," said WBA president Tony Summers.

"The business association is very much in favour of a more centralised focus for the stadium. We couldn't support a new stadium built at the high school."

The push gained momentum with Phil Honeywood declaring the issue of sporting facilities a priority after being re-elected for a third term at

the 1996 state elections. He would later credit the parents of Warrandyte basketballers for constantly raising the club's dire situation with him during his election campaign.

"All the mums and dads were coming up to me and saying how popular basketball was and that they needed new facilities," he said.

Two months later Andersons Creek Primary School strode in to a meeting between the club, council and Phil Honeywood declaring that they were the ideal site for the stadium.

"We have land we can't use at the moment because of security reasons and we want to see a better use for it," school council representative Jim Pasinis told the meeting. "Our school council is committed to using its resources fully, not for profit-making."

Yet another council report, this time labelled Stadium Needs and Development Priorities Review 1996, delivered an all-too familiar message—Warrandyte needed a new court.

They weren't too fussed where, declaring: "The Warrandyte Basketball Club requires an additional court with any local site being acceptable."

But progress remained slow, council citing staff turnover and the change from commissioners back to councillors as some of the reasons for this.

By late 1996 the Andersons Creek school site had emerged as the leading contender, confirmed early the following year when they joined a working party for the stadium. The working party was co-chaired by Phil Honeywood and councillor Patricia Young.

The realisation that a stadium could finally be built hit home in September 1997 when the *Diary* trumpeted news that Phil Honeywood had been able to obtain a commitment for \$300,000 from state government funds, conditional upon a \$2 for \$1 contribution from Manningham council.

"In addition, the government will contribute the land on which the

new, single court facility will be built at Andersons Creek Primary School," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary* in announcing the breakthrough.

But still council was not quite convinced, waiting on a strategic options study which strongly recommended building the stadium at the school. Their continued tardiness finally forced basketball officials to lash out.

"For six or seven years the club has been trying to get another court and it's fallen on deaf ears," Bruce Macdonald told the *Diary* in November 1997.

"If it hadn't been for Phil Honeywood we wouldn't even have got this far. Why pay a consultant if council doesn't take notice of the recommendations?"

"Manningham's answer has been total and absolute inactivity. The longer this drags out the less likely things are going to happen."

But happen it finally did, council's procrastination ceasing on April 7, 1998. They voted in favour of contributing \$600,000 towards the project, supplementing the \$300,000 previously obtained by Phil Honeywood.

"To say we're absolutely delighted is a big understatement," was Bruce Macdonald's response. "I have said in the past that I will only believe it is true when I see it. But now I have seen the site pegs and this decision convinces me that it is going to happen."

He said the school would use the stadium by day with the club occupying it at night and on weekends, including the development of an after-school primary school competition.

"It will be an absolute boon for local traders—really breathing life back into the Goldfields area," he added.

The stadium's design plans were released in August 1998 to unanimous applause.

"We're very happy with the plans," said school principal Des McKenzie, who was a key member of the working party. "It satisfies our requirements. The environment was an area

of concern for us.

"We felt it was our responsibility to have something that we could still be proud of in five years time. Tin boxes usually give no great cause for excitement but this works well."

While works were expected to begin in late 1998 the project that often seemed unlikely to ever eventuate suffered another delay. But this time for only a couple of months. On Monday, February 8, 1999, the ceremonial first sod was turned.

And while a wet Melbourne winter ensured the opening date was put back another two months there were few who appeared to mind.

After all, what's a couple of months when you have been waiting almost a decade?

## Great, grand opening

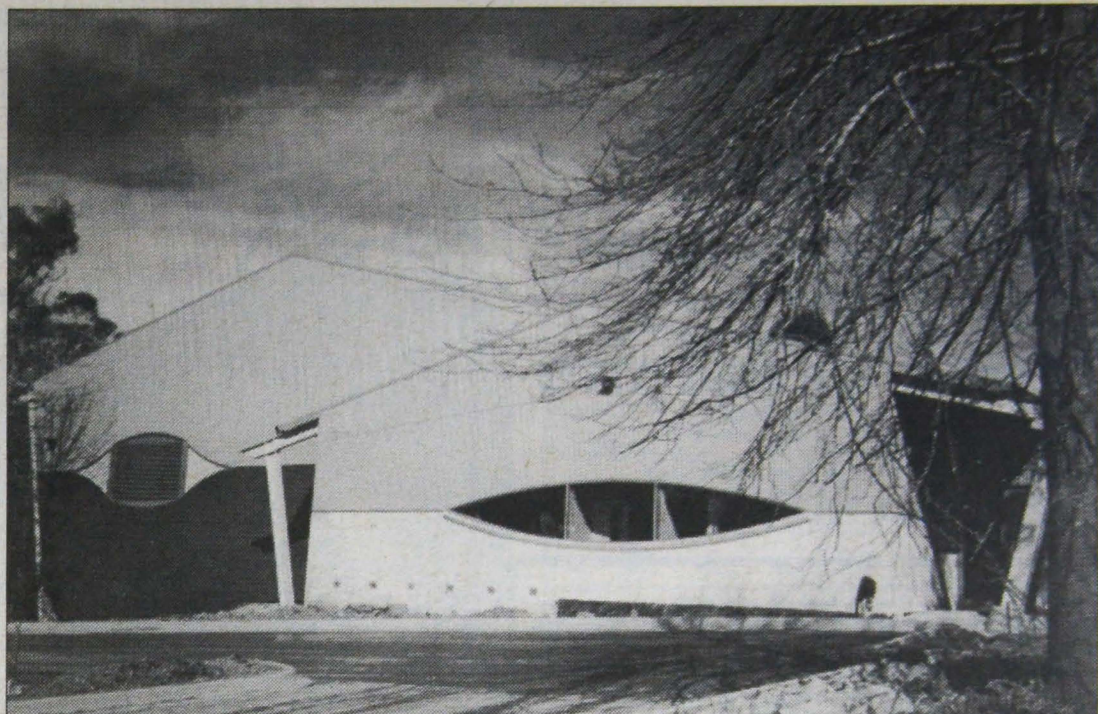
The doors to Warrandyte's new indoor sports stadium will open to the public for the first time this month when Warrandyte Basketball Club holds its presentation day. The twilight event begins at 4pm on Sunday, October 24.

While the stadium at Andersons Creek Primary School will officially be known as the Warrandyte Community Sports Complex the club is running a competition to give it a more appropriate nickname.

The stadium will formally be opened by council and state government representatives in November.

"Our opening will be an action-packed, fun-filled extravaganza with all the children being able to snare their first hoop in a shoot-out competition on the new rings," Redbacks president Karen Pearce said.

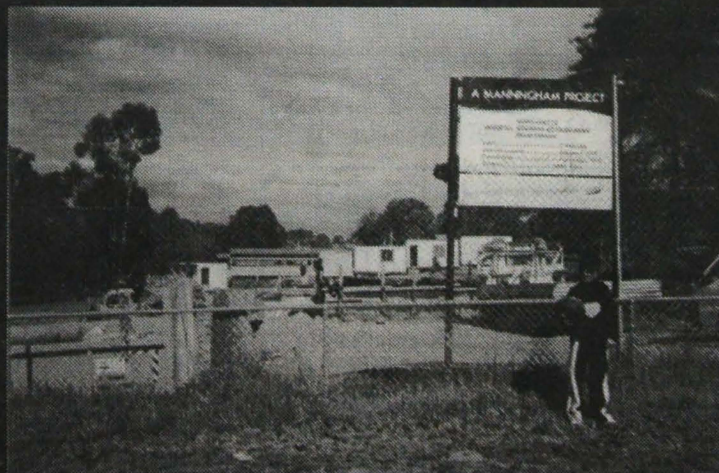
A "Redbacks Legends" team will play the club's current top team while two NBL players will be on hand to join in the celebrations.



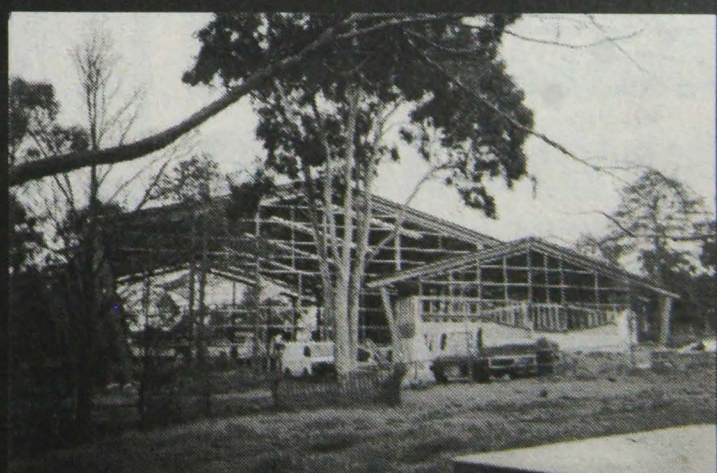
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# From weedy wilderness to marketable magic


I'M more laid-back about my lawn nowadays. A few weeks ago I would have become defensive (but secretly paranoid) about any reference to the green areas outside my home. I would have compared mine with the turf at the MCG or at the Royal Botanic Gardens and found mine decidedly wanting.

Whereas the green areas on the packets of lawn seed resemble billiard tables or the nap on good quality velvet, my efforts look more like microscopic close-ups of stagnant ponds. Instead of smooth swathes, mine has always been more 1960s, a type of flower-power interpretation of the ordered, manicured traditional lawn.

Basically, the problem was that I was always too impatient, or stingy, to go through all the boring preparation; dig up the ground one metre deep, level the whole area with a laser beam, sieve the dirt with a silk stocking, sow the seed at twice the recommended coverage and then devote half of Yan Yean reservoir to the germination and nurturing of the pedigreed beast.

I have always been more inclined to the quick fix, the short cut, the instant effect. As a result, I get a mediocre result in the short term. But in the long run, nature takes over and reasserts the old adage that "if a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well".

In turf talk, this means that I



**KIBBLED**

**Not only did he dismiss weed critics as ill-informed but he raised "weeds" to the height of "real plants".**

have lawn for about two weeks, grass for six months, then weeds for eternity. And this used to worry me. I found it hard to inform mates that I was going to mow the "lawn" over the weekend. I used to wince when Herself subtly implied that the "lawn" needed mowing. Each time I walked out of the back door and gazed proprietorially at our estate, my rising spirits were levelled by the existence of "weeds". Not only were they in the "lawn" but also in the garden beds.

I knew they were weeds because they grew too quickly and healthily, required little or no watering and spread to

cover every available bare patch of unoccupied earth. Real plants require tender loving care to survive. They cost a fortune to buy, they may deign to grow in your carefully prepared soil if you devote both time and water to cosseting them.

Real plants are open to attack by microbes and insects. And it doesn't matter whether they are native or exotic; we've been through both with exactly the same results. The "most real" plants wait until you have breathed a sigh of relief because they've reached adolescence and then, out of spite, cark it.

My life then became an eternal round of replanting, digging out, spraying and worrying about whether Medicare would cover the costs of the mass extermination of good stuff that seemed to be going on in our garden.

Meanwhile, inexorably, the "weeds" were steadily yet unostentatiously taking over the "lawn" and sections of the garden. We appeared to be having our own version of national encroachment. In history lessons we read about the dangers of colonialism. We were told of the fatal invasion of Poland, of East Timor, of most of Africa and indeed, of Australia. Of the overthrow of the inhabitants by stronger and more determined groups. And it was all happening, just outside my back door.

I was racked with anguish. Should I let nature have Her way? After all, isn't it supposed

to be about the survival of the fittest? Should I mount a UN-style operation and send in a peace-keeping force; get Herself and me to pull out the worst of them and let the others creep away once they realise the battle is lost? Or just nuke the lot with Glysophate and start again? You can imagine my dilemma.

So, it was with unspeakable relief that I watched a gardening program on TV. There, on the screen, was the answer. A man who has devoted his life to the study of "weeds". Not only did he dismiss weed critics as ill-informed but he raised the hitherto maligned "weeds" to the height of "real plants". Here, before our very eyes, was a food supply beyond our imagining. The leaves of this could be used in salads whilst the berries of the other could be used for chutney or jam.

Suddenly, my backyard problem became a business opportunity. Why not raze the entire garden and just wait for the production line to happen on its own? Within a very short time, I could become a primary producer. It all was spread before me. The daily picking of succulent leaves, the gathering of delicately flavoured bulbs and the early morning dashes to the Vic Market. Herself could value-add a line in nettle jelly.

You see before you now a happy man, until the invasion of the azaleas and the eriostemon!

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# Finding our place in a panorama of planets

**C**LOSE your eyes. Imagine you are sitting back in a comfortable chair watching television. Now, step outside your body and float like a gas balloon up to the ceiling. Look down, see the room below: the coffee table with its scatter of books and magazines, the sofa, chairs and yourself immersed in the program on the screen.

Slowly and without a sound, the roof opens, allowing you to pass through. Hovering above your house you take in the bird's-eye view of the garden and the row of trees and shrubs that separates your block from the neighbours.

Drift a little higher and there's the river, the bridge and the township nestled at the wooded feet of Fourth Hill. Hear the drone of traffic from cars miniaturised by distance to the size of Matchbox replicas.

Higher, and Warrandyte loses its identity. Suburbs spew from Melbourne's metropolis like rivulets of lava from a volcano, engulfing the land in its path. Much higher now, see the coastline zigging its way west into South Australia and north to New South Wales. Soon Australia is just a splat in a vast shimmering blue ocean. Below, the icy face of Antarctica caps the southern pole. Swirling strands of white cloud encircle the globe.

The sky is black now. You are surrounded by darkness. The earth, with its fuzzy blanket of atmosphere, hangs suspended in space like a giant blue and green basketball. You are emotionally shaken by its breathtaking, heart-piercing beauty.

Moving outwards through the solar system, the planets flash

## NATURE

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

past: Mars an impact-dominated cold, dead world; the gas giants of Jupiter and Saturn with their associated moons; followed by featureless Uranus and the eerie aquamarine orb of Neptune. Finally Pluto, so small it is more like a detached moon than a planet.

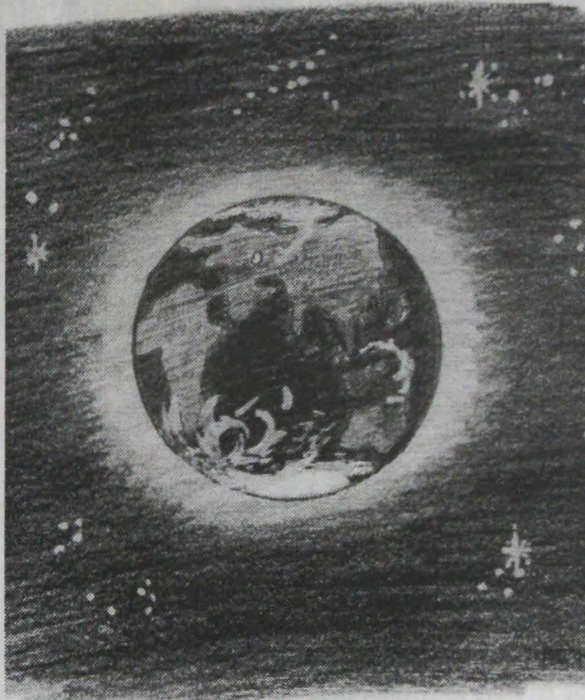
Faster and further you travel, to the edge of the Milky Way's flattened spiral disc. Our sun is now indistinguishable from a hundred billion other glittering stars in the galaxy. You are alone and adrift out in the black void of space where distance is measured not in kilometres but in light years.

The Milky Way diminishes to just another speck; one of 50 billion galaxies. It is beyond comprehension. Beyond imagination even.

There is nothing like a journey into the universe to put our own lives in perspective.

Astronomy has fascinated and frustrated me for as long as I can remember. Due to its inaccessibility, it is not an easy subject to study. Most of the time I don't even try. But a recent series screened on ABC-TV, simply called *The Planets*, had me hooked. It told of the 40-year history of space missions, startling revelations and new discoveries. I was transported, through vivid computer-enhanced images, to seas of methane, clouds of sulphuric acid and rocks of ice.

My most memorable personal star-gazing experience came several years ago when camp-



ing at the Pink Lakes National Park. This north-east corner of Victoria is mallee country—remote and flat, offering an uninterrupted view of the stars.

The night was cold and clear. There was no moon or lights from nearby towns to dim their brilliance. I lay on my back on the grassy ground and took a short-cut trip to the perspective of life. No matter what your belief—be it religious, scientific, spiritual, mystical or otherwise—the answers to some of life's unanswered questions are

up there, written in the stardust on the black velvet canopy of space.

Planet Earth, on which we live, is a gift inherited from all life before us. It is ours for such a very short time. Like a baton in a relay race we pass it on to the generation that follows. But if we keep pillaging from this world the way we do, without giving something back, sooner or later the race will be over. And if that happens, the purpose and perspective of our lives would truly be lost.

# Washing goes around and around

**A**CCORDING to Jane Austen, it is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife. She could equally well have claimed that a family in possession of a good weeks' worth of bushwalking clothes must be in want of a laundry, but dirty linen *sensu stricto* is not a topic renowned for fueling the imagination of noted writers.

Yet how our lives revolve around the laundry! The convenience provided by modern technology and comparative wealth merely allows us to undertake the work more efficiently. There is no substitute for actually doing it, doing it well, and doing it on time. And the timing is largely out of our hands.

For a start, to avoid various nasty surprises in the shower, the morning wash can't go on until everybody has finished in the bathroom. Then, regardless of how anxious you are to get out the door on time, you can't leave home until the cycle has finished. Hanging out the washing is a definite priority when various people need freshly



By **MARILYN MOORE**

laundered uniforms on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, state-of-the-art machines do not always allow you to retrieve your washing at the point when you decide that you can't possibly wait another second. Instead you are condemned to prowl about, fidgeting restlessly throughout a seemingly endless spin cycle, until you hear that magic "click" which denotes that the machine is finally giving you the OK to open the door.

Then, living as we do on the shady side of the hill (it's wonderful in summer), the number of drying hours in a day is greatly reduced. Throughout a thousand more important-seeming distractions during the day, the thought of grabbing

vital items off the line before the damp evening chill settles on them is never far below the surface.

Even on a camping holiday, when it's par for the course to be less-than-immaculately groomed, there comes a time when nothing in the dirty clothes bag looks even remotely touchable, much less wearable, and a trip to the laundry is simply unavoidable.

It's at times like this that our own laundry doesn't seem so bad. These industrial-strength laundromat things take a ton of washing, saturate it thoroughly and twist it into impossible knots, but not much else. Except, as happened last week, they are liable to blow a fuse when a spate of campers uses all the washers and driers at once.

The owner of course blamed us, the campers, for overloading the machines, and using all the equipment on the warmest settings. Had he bothered to look at our washing, I'm sure his instinctive prescription would have coincided with ours, that is, to boil it for a week with a whole box of detergent. But his laundry clearly wasn't designed for genuine feet-on-the-ground-

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# Sweeney was bloody good!



**T**HERE could be no more fitting showcase for the creative talents of director Chris White than Warrandyte High's production of Sweeney Todd.

From his first musical—The Gondoliers—at the Mechanics Institute Hall, to the spirited 1987 production of Oklahoma which opened the new state-of-the-art theatre at the school, Chris has brought to Warrandyte audiences 15 years of magical musical experiences. Through Lerner and Lowe to Bernstein, and now Sondheim, this is probably his last production for the school; the culmination of a musical journey.

Sweeney Todd, the story of a wronged hero turned barber-murderer, is the ultimate theatrical challenge. The music is complex and discordant; operatic, in the style of Benjamin Britten, but seldom melodic. At times the auditorium was filled with a cacophony of noise, as conventional instruments vied with synthesised sounds, including a piercing steam whistle used in Victorian England at times of industrial disaster.

The set was intentionally sparse and drab, the backdrop an enlarged engraving of early Fleet Street, lit with vivid red to heighten the drama: an overwhelming sense of poverty and

impending doom. In this setting Sweeney Todd—alias Benjamin Barker—seeks to avenge the wrongs done to his family by the evil Judge Turpin, including Sweeney's deportation (to Orstralia).

When we meet Sweeney (played by Drew Hanna) he is a broken man, yet Drew, aged 17, managed to imbue the character with an inner fire, matched by his excellent grasp of the music, sung decisively and with great clarity. He made a convincing transition from embittered man to vengeful barber; a far cry from his role as the cool Riff in West Side Story.

What a wonderful part, that of Mrs Lovett, who wholeheartedly joins Sweeney in his vendetta. Having had to make do with small, furry creatures as fillings for her infamous pies—which are "not just revolting, but look like they're moulting"—she welcomes an alternative meat supply as the demon barber tests his knives on unsuspecting clients.

In a lovely piece of theatrical illusion, albeit grisly, a barber's chair was rigged to drop the victims 2.5 metres to the ground where, by means of a small revolving stage, they were next seen, throats slit, issuing from the back of the set into Mrs Lovett's kitchen.

Natasha Simpson, in her first major solo role, was perfectly cast as Mrs

## THEATRE

By MARION WINTER

Lovett; her musical training evident in her excellent timing and execution of the difficult pieces. She brought genuine warmth to the part and the audience was moved and amused by her antics as she led the company in such numbers as God, That's Good!, characteristic of the English music hall.

Natasha and Drew were an effective duo in A Little Priest and By The Sea. Dee Arsenis, Natasha's understudy, worked hard to ensure the high standard of the chorus work, a feature of the show.

As shown in her leading role in West Side Story, Megan Fitzgerald has the ability to lift a production. This year she played the melodramatic role of Judge Turpin's ward, Johanna, adapting her powerful voice—at times reminiscent of a young June Bronhill's—to the demanding Sondheim music, including the wistful Green Finch And Linett Bird.

Jason Bowen was sincere in his portrayal of her suitor, Anthony Hope, and both actors kept the pace moving. Greg Stewart was excellent as the li-

bidinous Judge Turpin, never allowing his portrayal of an evil man who has abused his position to dissolve into that of melodramatic villain. Given the nature of the role this was an extremely controlled performance from a player who has an innate understanding of theatre.

Co-director Lyn White's influence was evident throughout the show, particularly in the staging of the larger production numbers. The crowd scenes were some of the best seen at Warrandyte. Backstage players were a major part of this production, including the stagehands, as they manoeuvred the sets into place with split-second timing and the sound and lighting technicians who did much to give the show its macabre atmosphere. Musical director Kirk Skinner supported players and orchestra in their renditions of the complex score, achieving a fine mix of sound which helped create a thrilling atmosphere.

Nic George made the most of his role as the foppish Beadle Banford, adopting an exaggerated stage walk which guaranteed a laugh on his entrances and exits. I particularly liked his rendition of the tongue-in-cheek Ladies In Their Sensitivities.

Mark Spiliotacopoulos's appearance as the flamboyant showman Pirelli brought a welcome change of pace and

mood. The chorus was particularly strong in its musical support of his miracle elixir, as introduced by the puckish figure of Tom Fitzgerald, alias Tobias Ragg. Tom has great on-stage appeal and combined well with Mrs Lovett in one of the show's few memorable tunes, Not While I'm Around.

Poor Jacqui Moore was forced to give another performance "on all fours"; having successfully crawled around the stage as Anybody's in West Side Story. This time she scored the role of the Beggar Woman, reduced to such lowly circumstances that Sweeney does not recognise her as Lucy, his wife. Jacqui certainly put her stamp on this role, as she emerged rat-like from the shadows, insinuating herself on strangers. Her portrayal added much to the general atmosphere of moral decadence.

Although this excellent musical may have been Chris White's last production for Warrandyte High School, his legacy to the local theatrical scene will endure. As well as nurturing the talents of those hoping to make a professional career in theatre, he has given generations of students the opportunity to perform for the sheer fun of it, generously passing on his knowledge of all facets of the stage. Chris's total dedication to the Warrandyte High productions, and his love of theatre, has been an inspiration to us all.

Pictures by GREG RUTHVEN





**W**HAT is it about spring that does this, that carries us to memories of springs long past? Or is this something that only comes with old age, when most of our springs are behind us? I don't know. I only know that this year, early in September, I encountered spring's lift to the spirits in a matter of two days, then came the mystery of being swept back.

On the first day I was mentally sunk in winter as I crossed Taroona Reserve footbridge under chill skies. Andersons Creek was running high, tossing below with mutterings of long-vanished miners and abandoned shafts while it disgorged mud into mother Yarra. She too was swollen, flecked with foam patterns. Pale rafts of foam were snared in trees roots along her banks.

Then, 48 hours later, starting the same walk, I felt beguiling warmth in the air, a warmth innocent yet of heat and bushfires. It came drifting from the north, its message unmistakable: regeneration was at hand! Prunus blossom spiralled onto the path like so much confetti. For all the lift to my spirits, my pace remained octogenerian. I was easily overtaken by a quartet of mums with pushers. They turned to me with lively good mornings then were gone, their hair swinging fetchingly across their shoulders, their conversation coming to me on the warm air. At their age, where was I? Ah yes, I remember...

A horsewoman of 13 or 14 burst into my reverie and began dressage circling on the grass. The spirit of spring possessed her horse; he adopted a sideways gait, tossing his head defiantly. She reined him in and addressed him in such a crescendo of scoldings that I feared for the future men of her life.

I reached the six-bar gate where the two geese paraded today like SS generals. A fair, 40-ish man with a labrador passed me in the opposite direction, striding so fast that his dog had no time to construe spring greetings left on tree trunks by fellow dogs.

The path descended slightly to a full view of the river. The rapids there were submerged, but the hidden barrier caused the water to curl back on itself in wavelets. Two ducks shot through on faster water like show-off skiers, then paddled back to do it again. Just ahead was one of those solid slab seats—I have heard them called Louise Joy seats—where aged and weary can rest with a view of the river, under the scrutiny of manna gums across the water. There I decided to sit awhile and let warmth reach my bones, let the past have its way with me.

The changes that shaped my life, I began to see, had all come in spring. Counting them, I found there were seven; they fell pretty much within a decade. The first was in 1934, the rest in the 1940s. So I fell, in semiwakeful state, to musing on them.

It is 1934, one of the worst years of the great depression. This spring I have turned 19. I have hitch-hiked from Frankston to Burnside, Nareen, home of a grazier cousin of my mother. The homestead lies in red gum country that rolls away in immense swells like an arrested ocean. All is spring green; the gravel roads are red. In the valleys swift creeks seek their way to the Glenelg and the sea. The only sounds here are birdsongs and distant bleating of sheep and the occasional bark of a dog. Magpies carol daylong and, when moonlight comes, continue all night, swooping the skies in sheer joy.

I have been offered a job here for the shearing and the harvesting and am in a state of elation—not so much because of the job, but because I am free awhile, free of city life, free of parental constraints, free of job-searching. But I have moments of guilt; I have come from a happy family and I know I have disappointed my parents. They had hoped I would find a city job. They don't know, nor do I, that this move is going to determine the rest of my life.

There is a son of this household who is around my own age. Jim and I soon play first

doubles for Nareen on the tennis courts of Pigeon Ponds, Wando Vale, Chetwynd, Harrow and take it in turns to make speeches of thanks at tables heavy with cream cakes. Afterwards we dance in local halls. Though I don't know it yet, I am going to stay in Nareen nearly eight years.

Spring 1940. I am 25. Often I think how good it would be to marry and establish a home, but it is out of the question. Not only do I lack money, but a year ago war broke out and now the Battle of Britain is being fought.

I have taken initial steps to join the army, but a few weeks ago Jim decided to apply for RAAF aircrew. With the idea of flying together, I do so too. Soon both of us are accepted and pass the stringent medical. We are awaiting call-up.

This will be my last shearing at Burnside. Even if I survive the war I cannot come back here. My parents were right, there can be no future for me here. All the heady scents of spring seem a mockery. As I pick up fleeces, throw them, trim them, I glance out at the serene hills and the changeless redgums. At smoke-oh we sit outside—the boss, the shearers, we rouseabouts, Percy the rabbit, who doubles as a musterer. The air is mild, the talk desultory. Can it be true? Never come back? I begin making notes on people and places and familiar tasks. Though I don't even guess it now, they will become the basis of a long series of tales in the Scottish Blackwood's Magazine. But that is 12 years off.

Thursday, September, 1941; embarkation depot Sydney, 378 trainee pilots and navigators parading before dawn. When daylight comes buses are to take us to the docks to board the Monterey, a luxury liner of neutral America. Rain has not long cleared and, from a valley at the edge of the parade ground, spring scents and bird songs rise from unseen bush. I fancy that each of us breathes deeply and listens intently to absorb Australia. We are bound for Canada, an unknown country, to continue training, I as a navigator. Jim has gone this way before me but we are never to fly together, never even to go to the same command.

By two in the afternoon Australia is sinking slowly over our western horizon. We can still see the faint outline of the Harbour Bridge and,

far beyond it, the Blue Mountains. By 2.30 all has gone. We don't speak of our feelings, but many begin writing letters, others open diaries.

Quebec, Friday, April 10, 1942—northern spring and a situation I had never imagined: a Canadian girl has come all the way east from Edmonton to farewell me. Her mother is Australian, her father one of six Canadian brothers who owned a goldmine in Western Australia at the turn of the century. If I weren't leaving soon for England Nell and I would dare everything and marry, but our prospect of seeing each other again is remote. Of the 25 navigators who trained a year ahead of our course we have learnt that only two remain flying.

All day we tramp companionably in melting snow through ancient French streets, turning our backs on separation. We climb to the Plains of Abraham where Wolfe and Montcalm fought the battle that has divided Canada ever since. Far below us flat islets of ice drift down the St Lawrence estuary, Atlantic bound. There I too must go.

May 12, the same northern spring. We have berthed in the Clyde at Gourock; our contingent of 600 aircrew from all over the Commonwealth has survived Atlantic U-boats. How much feeling we put into singing For Those In Peril On The Sea at church parade on our second day out! The verses were punctuated by depth-charge explosions. Now we board a bustling train that takes us south into the garden that is England. With double daylight-saving, day seems to have no end. Church towers and thatched cottages slip by, thick woods, grazing sheep, multi-shaped fields outlined by hedges or dry-stone walls. Over all is languorous spring. It is almost beyond belief that an enemy is near and in the ascendancy.

Spring, 1943: Six months now since we came to this Lincolnshire bomber station. All the past winter we have flown raids on Germany and Italy—the Rhur Valley, Bremen, Berlin, Milan, Turin. If we can complete 30 of these "operational sorties" we will leave here and rest; "rest" being flying duties supervising new crews. But since we have been here no one has reached 30. We have watched men come and go, come and go. The best of men:

caps aslant, eyes eager. Slowly winter is lifting, the days lengthening. Trees that appeared dead are showing green leaves curled like unborn babies.

March 26: for us operation number 27, target Berlin. We return from the unbelievable. April 3: a North Sea search for one of our crews. "No luck", I write in my logbook. April 3: Essen, "Hottest yet"—our sixth visit to the place. April 4: briefing for operation 29. The last crew briefed for their 29th didn't return from it. The target is Kiel. Again we come back and are aware that all eyes are now on us, everyone hoping for a change in the squadron's dismal fortunes. April 7: Duisberg—it's all over! Our hands are shaken, our backs slapped—as if we had been responsible for this luck! A youngster asks, "What does it feel like? Just tell me that—what does it feel like?" I cable home and cable Nell in Edmonton. Full spring is with us.

Our crew breaks up forever, though for all the years ahead we will keep in touch. My Australian pilot and I are posted to Lichfield where, only eight months ago, we completed our final training. To find myself alive with the countryside bursting into leaf, the woods haunted by cuckoo calls, proves heady beyond belief.

Nature begs us turn our backs on death, to turn again to life. On either side of our aerodrome lie canals, now seldom used. Their towpaths of beaten earth afford room enough for a man and girl to cycle side-by-side, arms around waists or shoulders. Each long spring evening I cycle there with a blond girl of the WAAF. We pass below overhanging trees, duck under hump-backed bridges, singing as we ride. It is a Shakespearian spring! Overhead the feathered cuckold mocks, invisible among leaves. But every day I write still to Canada—and hope.

Spring 1944: California. In a few days we are to fly the Pacific, ferrying B24s to Brisbane, a dozen crews of us. I am in a predicament, but a predicament with possibilities. Weeks ago I slipped a disc in my spine; I can remain seated at the navigator's table a very limited time. There are three spare navigators. I put the situation to our CO. He at once says, "Return by ship. One leaves in a couple of days, the next in a couple of weeks. Which do you prefer?" Here it is then! "The one in a couple of weeks." Pause. "In the meantime, have I permission to go to Edmonton? You see, I have a girl—" He looks amused. "Yes, yes." He adds, "Good luck."

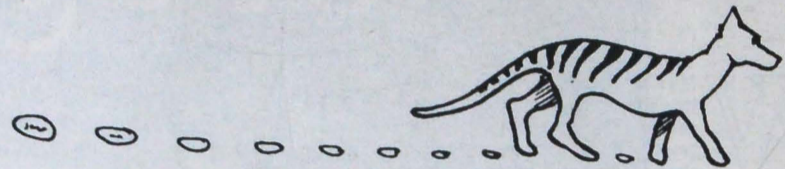
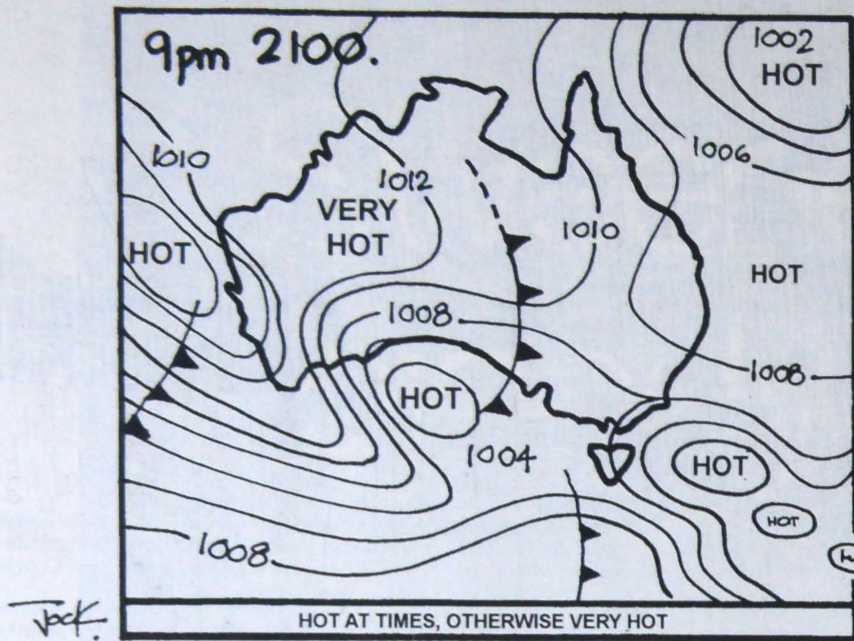
In sharp discomfort I repeat the journey we 378 of the Monterey had travelled nearly three years ago. Two days and I am there. When we meet we know all is as before—though spies later tell me a man left by the back door as I entered the front. How could I ask if this were so? We marry and, a week later, I go to hospital for six months.

The Macquarie dictionary defines spring as "that season between winter and summer". But in February 1945, as I emerge from a winter of hospital and laminectomy, of learning to walk properly again, of separation from the girl I married, we enter a season that must surely be spring, if only of a personal kind. We are on the Pacific together on a Swedish ship, Sydney-bound. That the RAAF should countenance this is beyond all understanding. The North Star is lowering, lowering behind us. My bride weeps a little and is comforted. Ahead on the rim of our world the Southern Cross is lifting from dark seas—her mother's constellation, my constellation, the constellation of all those men who left and will never see it again. And so we come to Sydney.

How long had I been on this Louise Joy seat? Did it matter? Had I lain down, or snored, or done anything else unseemly? Well, in one's old age such eccentricities are overlooked. And here, by this river, spring had assured me of ultimate regeneration when this part of the journey is over. In the meantime I had better keep my appointment with Nell for a cappuccino.

# Seven springs

Story by DON CHARLWOOD • Illustration by JOCK MACNEISH



# The weather show

ONTO the stage of the Mechanics Institute Hall stepped a weedy, middle-aged man in an expensive suit: Melbourne Eddy, the weatherman nicknamed for predicting the smoggy days of dragon's breath. Ever since Rob Jell's penchant for technological illustrations, weather reports had become more elaborate than footy shows in their attention to detail.

"Welcome to the Warrandyte Weather Show", beamed Eddy. "We are all enchanted by weather. Weather contributes to our diversity, our individuality. Life on earth is adapted to seasonal change and the subtle short-term variety of living conditions."

"We live on weather; on the excitement of the energy released as water changes form miraculously. Water is the union of the most abundant element on earth—oxygen, with the most abundant element in the universe—hydrogen. There is no water in space. The universe is dry."

Waving his weather wand, Eddy continued. "Weather is the daily face of climate and ever since the first weather map for Melbourne was published in the Argus in September 1881, we have sought to define and predict this climate. With its year-to-year variability it presents an immense challenge. Maybe we will never be able to overcome the inherent chaos of climatic systems."

Con Vergence was then introduced by Eddy to speak on ice ages—or glaciations—as science calls it. Solar credit squeezes, these are times when the world functions like the perfect Esky.

Due to the nuances in our orbit around the sun, every 300 million years the earth undergoes a period of glaciation. We are in such an event now. Over the last three million years an ice epic as been occurring, with six waves of glaciation. The last peaked 18,000 years ago when one third of the planet was submerged beneath a thick blanket of ice. This caused the most intense drying of the Australian continent ever; desert-forming weather.

There are cycles of 100,000 years associated with these glacial climatic changes. Periods of warm interglacials take up around 10 to 15 percent of these cycles. One such period, the present millennium, is a part of this. The rest of the cycle is encompassed by glacials which are drier and windier, and 18 to 10 degrees cooler than present. Woodlands disappear, grasslands dominate, saltbush-grey shrubs hold back the earth, forests retreat up mountains to safe refuges. People look for the shelter of caves.

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

This is a defining process for this continent. The drying comes through the power of cold, not heat. Australia has dried up due to the effect of the polar climatic engine, which ensures a winter rain and dry summer climate.

Ice ages are important to our own evolution. Some 2.4 million years past, a dramatic increase in the northern polar ice drove our evolution and separation from the Australopithecines, which became extinct 900,000 years ago and the cold climate spread homus erectus into Eurasia.

Periods of glacial climates are a key in defining the evolution of our flora and fauna since the break-up of Gondwana. Glacial stages wipe out complete ecosystems and localised populations.

When conditions improve, surviving individuals return from small sanctuaries to expand across the land. Adaptation to the harsh confines of the environment is the key to survival.

Climate changes put species at risk. Our dramatic changing of landscapes (only five percent of which is national park), has disrupted faunal migration paths and left few places for diversity to thrive. We dominate the earth by using—directly or indirectly—35 to 40 percent of the terrestrial production of biomass and 24 to 35 percent of aquatic production through the current fish catch.

The evidence suggests that climatic fluctuations over the past 100,000 year cycle have been the most extreme.

Aboriginals experienced good times when lakes were full and rivers ran and the hungry dry times when survival depended on skill and acquired wisdom during the appalling conditions of the last glacial period.

Think about the thylacine—the Tasmanian tiger—a beast that had been on earth for over 15 million years. It survived ice ages and glacial meltdowns only to be made extinct in a mere 200 years of European settlement. Our effect upon the earth's creatures can be more devastating than an ice age that lasts millions of years. Extinction rates are presently at 25,000 times the normal rate.

We have never forgotten the ice

ages, they remain stored in our long-term memory. They are probably the reason we talk so much about weather, constantly checking the trends. The Little Ice Age (1550-1800AD), forged our idea of White Christmas; a concept we cling to despite the obvious contradictions of climatic reality here. It is a reminder, not a celebration. Con left the stage and the audience shivered. "Well the Ice Man cometh," prattled Eddy. "But not yet. Here is a view of the globe that you may warm to. Ladies and gentlemen, Mr Barry Mettrek!"

"The 1990s have been the hottest decade in the recorded history of weather," began Barry, already in a nervous sweat. "The long-term fluctuations in Australia show a warming trend between 1870 to 1900, a cooling trend between 1900 and 1950 and then a steady warming trend again from 1950 until now. Warmer and stormier, the human-caused, enhanced greenhouse effect could actually cause a super-interglacial."

We are presently burning enough fossil fuels to delay the onset of an ice age. Global models predict a steep warming trend until 2100, followed by a more gradual warming for 300 to 400 years. "So we won't go out and buy that extra doona quite just yet." Barry bowed and left the stage to a tepid shower of applause.

The night seemed to be getting drier as the chaos theory muddled with millennium bugdays and cyclonically circulating adjectives flew past Eddy who blew us into the next act: Three Bob Each Way Bob, who would stir up a storm on the big weather picture. "Three major climatic phenomenon influencing the Australian climate," he said, "are the ENSO, the Indian Ocean Dipole and the Antarctic Circumpolar Wave."

"El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a development of a band of warm water along the equator across the eastern Pacific Ocean which brings heavy rainfall to the lower half of South America and drought to Australia, Southern Africa, Northern India, Indonesia and S.E. Asia." A hot north wind blew in through the open front doors and the audience wriggled in comfort.

"It has been well studied with El Nino years occurring in 1877, 1888, 1889, 1905, 1923, 1925, 1930, 1940,



1941, 1957, 1958, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1972, 1982, 1994 and 1997. La Nina are the years of above average rainfall, the flooding years, they were 1889, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1916, 1917, 1924, 1938, 1950, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1964, 1971, 1973 and 1975. They are years when Lake Eyre fills and the Yarra floods. The Indian Ocean Dipole and The Antarctic Circumpolar Wave influence evaporation and rainfall." Three Bob Each Way Bob concluded.

"Now I'll introduce Mungo Millibar," Eddy said, "to present a clouded view on the political and social changes brought on by extremes of weather".

Mungo looked straight into the eye of our storms: "It was the El Nino year of the 1888 drought that inspired Henry Lawson to write Beaten Back, he said. "It thundered with the understanding that the climate had finally shattered the pioneer settler's belief that rain followed the plough. Ruins in the sands stand testament to people abandoning the land."

"It was the year that inspired the Heidelberg School of artists to paint visions of a burning pastoral Australia. The Golden Summer became the trademark of an El Nino summer. Parched grasses, golden in their death. Polarised light streaming from blue heavens, illuminating everything with a bleached radiance."

These ENSO years are decisive growth years in the socio-economic, politico-historical soul of Australians. They hone down our Euro-centric weather prejudices. Hack away at our accepted climatic cliches. They dry out our national waterhole and hang our drying hide on the fence, scaring off those who think this is good farming country with adequate rainfall for massive populations.

It was time for a beer but Mungo went on. "The 1888 drought provided impetus for the agricultural industry to develop drought resistant varieties of wheat. It sowed the ideas for the Federation debate. The only time we learn is when an El Nino boots the collective behind with a kick like a wall of flames, telling us we must be dreaming of something somewhere else."

Woven into the landscape of poli-

tics, the strangest weather relationships can be found with the Labour/El Nino and Liberal/La Nina complex. Look at the Robert Menzies years. Troubled in 1939-40 years, he smells the wet summer of 1950 coming and promises the earth to get elected. Three more La Nina years during the 1950s, their wet summers growing plenty of feed in the back paddock and he's home on the sheep's back. When the 1950 El Ninos come around, the Labour Party overheats during the cold war and disintegrates through internal division.

Finally the run of El Ninos in the 1960s proves too much for Menzies and he hands the crown on to Harold who finds it too hot, even on long swims. Liberal leadership is passed around until Whitlam is elected in El Nino 1972. Fraser returns on a La Nina. Hawke is voted in on the crest of a huge El Nino year. Keating is saved by the 1994 El Nino. Howard gets in in a wet year and just holds on despite the prevalence of an El Nino background finding him generally short of good weather. The 1990s is the driest decade recorded, both in politics and weather. An exhausted Mungo Millibar staggered from the stage, leaving you to wonder how Collingwood performs during El Ninos.

"Hang on to it," wept Eddy. "Hang on to Warrandyte Gorge. It is a refuge for plants and animals. It is an urban bushland oasis in the midst of a shattered ecology. It has a unique position as a protective gorge on a river corridor, at the intersection of different bio-regions. An area with steep hidden gullies and secret places that provide many diverse and exclusive habitats at the confluence of many land formations, vegetations and animal communities. We must guard and protect its role in the survival of things. A place to wait out the storm."

Feeling distinctly under the weather, I decided not to wait for the New Year's celebration. I would start now, in case the Big Party was a fizzer, as most New Year parties usually are. I leave the Mechanics Institute and stagger to the river, collapsing on the bank. Slowly, the yargling of the Yarra currents put me to sleep and I enter a wowie of a dream.

It was glacially cold. We drove through darkness, speeding into the black night, only to collide with an animal crossing the road. Surveying the damage, we were shockingly surprised to find we had killed a Tasmanian tiger. The thylacine of myths and mystery, dead at our feet. We had probably killed the last one on the planet. Hurriedly we threw the dead animal over the steep road verge towards the river and sped off into tomorrow's night.

# New flag for Lions

The Warrandyte Lions Club plans to produce a new bannerette to greet the new millennium. The bannerette is an A4 size flag which is given to visiting Lions, notable people from the area or on Lions' visits overseas. They are seeking designs from the community. Entries will be displayed at the Grand Hotel and there will be a \$500 prize for the winning design. There is no age limit. If you are interested you can request an application form and guidelines by writing to "Millennium Bannerette", C/- Geoff Martin, Lions Club of Warrandyte, PO Box 18, Warrandyte, 3113. Completed art work and applications must be with the judging committee by November 30, 1999.



## She's Lions' top kid

Warrandyte High School Year 11 student Kylie Pearce (pictured) has won the Lions Club Youth of the Year award. She says she will spend the \$600 prize on a trip to Japan. Kylie's outstanding academic record was a key factor in her win.

Second place went to Drew Hanna, co-star of this year's high school production Sweeney Todd. He won \$400.

Third place was shared by another high school student, Ebony Gilbee, and promising netballer Amy Green. Each received \$200. The organisations which nominated each winner received the same amount.

The award was open to young locals aged between 16 and 18. Candidates had to make written submissions and then appear before an experienced panel which quizzed them on their general knowledge, attitude towards key issues and their future aspirations.

The finalists delivered a five minute speech at a Lions Club dinner. Award convener Geoff Taylor said the judges found shortlisting the candidates difficult as they all boasted excellent credentials.

## Disco

The next Warrandyte Blue Light Dance Party will be held on Friday, October at the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road. The pre-junior (5 to 8) program runs from 5.30 to 7pm, and juniors (9 to 14) between 7.30 and 10.30pm. Cost is \$3 for pre-juniors and \$5 for juniors, with drinks and food items \$1.20 each. Parents, please escort your children to and from the hall. Sergeant Keith Walker has asked us to thank the Warrandyte Market Committee for donating money to purchase bomber jackets, "which makes the police and officials there easy to identify". Further enquiries to Keith at 9844 3231.

## Seniors

Warrandyte Senior Citizens are holding their 37th Birthday Concert at their centre in Taroona Avenue on Thursday, November 11. The concert is free and commences at 1pm. Afternoon tea is provided. For information ring Jacky Law on 9844 3852.

## Volunteers

Do Care are seeking volunteers. If you have an hour or two a week to spare you may be able to support someone in your community. Please call Do Care on 9871 1532 for details.

## VCE

VCE biology students preparing for their Cat 3 may be interested in revision lectures to be held at Box Hill Institute, Building 4 Auditorium, 465 Elgar Road, Box Hill on Sunday, October 24 from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Lectures will be presented by Dr Michael Deland. Tickets will be on sale at the door but pre-booking is advised. Biology teachers may attend free of charge. For application forms and details call 9873 1984, business and after hours. Cost is \$25 per day or \$8 per session.



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.

## Interchange

Interchange Inner East and the Lions Club of Warrandyte are again teaming up. As in the past six years Interchange is sharing the operation of the Lions Opportunity Shop providing volunteers from October 11 to 24. They will also provide donated stock for this period. Interchange Inner East is a non-profit community organization that provides support to families who have a child with a disability across the Manningham, Booroondara, Monash and part of Whitehorse municipalities. Interchange also runs a host program for volunteers to host a child with a disability for a short period each month. Host carers can be single, a couple or a family. Ongoing support and training is provided. For information on the host pro-

gram ring Anne or Jean on 9836 9811.

## Exhibition

A number of local artists are represented in a woodwork and photography exhibition which is being held at Melbourne's Valley of the Arts Visitor Information Centre, 95 Yarra Street, Warrandyte from September 18 to October 17. Hours are from 10am to 4.30pm.

## Gallery

Manningham Gallery are showing a collection of recent paintings by Di and John Kenders entitled In A Country Garden. The exhibition runs from October 4 to 24 at the gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

## Arts

The Warrandyte Arts Association Annual Exhibition will be held in the Mechanics Institute Hall on November 5, 6 and 7.

## Drama

A comedy-farce—Just The Ticket by John Waterhouse—will be performed by the Warrandyte Theatre Company on November 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27.

## Dance

The next South Warrandyte Social Dance will be held at the

South Warrandyte Hall on Saturday, November 13. Cost is \$5. For further information ring 9723 3892. There are a few tickets still left for the New Year's dance. Ring 9844 3763 to book for this special event.

## Seminar

At the November Green Wedge Seminar, Marilyn Grey from La Trobe University will discuss the distribution, habitat and breeding habits of the noisy miner. This will be held at the Currawong Bush Park conference room, Reynolds Road, Doncaster East, commencing at 7.30pm.

## College

The Eltham College Community Association's annual art and craft exhibition and sale will be held at the college on the weekend of October 23 and 24. Heide director Warwick Reeder will open the exhibition at 8pm on Friday, October 22. \$20 entry. Further enquiries to Lorri Hill at Eltham College on 9437 1421.

## Composting

As part of Manningham council's Gardening Greener program, Stephen Ray will discuss composting and worm farms at the Doncaster Playhouse, 679 Doncaster Road, Doncaster on Wednesday, October 20, commencing at 7.30 pm. These talks are free. For further information call 9840 9348.

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Hope to see you there!

For more information contact:  
Parks Victoria: Glen Jameson.  
Phon: 9844 2659

Manningham City Council:  
Donna Stoddart.  
Phone: 9840 9307.

Nillumbik Shire Council:  
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# Rise and rise of the baby Bloods

Warrandyte Football Club (WFC) was formed in 1905 and competed in the Eastern Districts Football League (EDFL). In 1973, Lawrie Sloan became president of the WFC, immediately identifying the need for junior teams.

At that time the club had only an Under-15 team, the Under-17s having been disbanded in 1971 for want of numbers and reinstated for the 1973 season.

In 1974, Lawrie took his idea of forming an Under-13 squad to the late John McCartin senior, who had assisted with the reinstatement of the Under-17s. The Under-13s were registered with the EDFL in 1974 and the following year Jim Voce had a discussion with Lawrie which led to the formation of Under-9 and Under-11 teams (in keeping with the league's practice of running uneven numbers at that time).

Lawrie and his advisers approached the fledgling Doncaster Junior Football League with a view to joining that competition for the 1975 season, but after three hours of deliberation the DJFL said it could not accommodate Warrandyte because the season's fixtures had already been released.

The WJFC was run by a sub-committee of the senior club and Jim Voce was its first chairman. His sub-committee persons were June Voce, Barbara Sloan, Beryl Sturesteps and Hazel Gray—true pioneering women.

In the initial years the senior club fully equipped the juniors with jumpers, socks et cetera and paid all their expenses.

In 1976, the EDFL started a junior competition (EDJFL) and Warrandyte joined it, registering two Under-9 and two Under-11 teams. That year, the first Lightning Premiership was held at Yarra Glen, alongside the Yarra River, which created huge problems when some of the boys went swimming in the freezing water. The Lightning Premiership was never held there again.

By 1979, the WJFC was financially secure enough to survive on its own, buying its own equipment and paying its own accounts.

During the early years, the WJFC teams were coached by Jim Voce, Tom Hay, Bill Luttick, Brian Williams, David Mitchell, Eddie McLean, Geoff Day and John McCartin senior. Much support came from Joe Scicluna, Joe Peters, Cheryl Peters, Terry Sloan, John Rollings, Eddie and Jo Morris and Robyn and Allan Dalli.

Extensive assistance also came from Shirley McCartin, the matriarch of the McCartin footballing dynasty, who was secretary of the club in 1974, ran the canteen for a further 10 to 12 years and is still time-keeper, home and away, for the senior club.

Lawrie Sloan resigned as president of the senior club in 1980 after an eight-year-stint and went on to the EDFL executive. He returned as president in 1992 and served for three further years to complete a record 11 years in the chair.

The hard work of those involved in the early years of the WJFC saw a very strong following, the Under-10 and Under-12 teams each boasting about 60 players. The Under-14s and Under-16s were also very well supported, coach Ian Clarke developing a large group who later joined the senior club.

There were several major developments during 1982 and '83.

After extensive negotiations with EDFL management, Warrandyte withdrew the Under-10s and Under-12s from the

● The development and expansion of Warrandyte Junior Football Club has been one of the success stories of sport in this town in recent years. From humble beginnings, the club fielded 10 teams last season in the Yarra Junior Football league, reaping a premiership and a host of individual honours. "A Brief Archival History" of the WJFC was presented in August to the club's annual dinner dance. Compiled by committee-man ANTHONY MIRABELLA, it is the forerunner to a more detailed history to be unveiled next year. This is an edited version of the original document.



Lawrie Sloan, seen here celebrating the seniors' 1993 premiership over which he presided, was a key figure in developing junior football in Warrandyte. He was made a life member of the WJFC at the club's dinner dance in August.

lightning premiership, citing undue hardship on the youngsters, who were required to play "six 30-minute matches a day, often in atrocious weather conditions".

Warrandyte's action was the catalyst for major reform of future lightning premierships. Instead of participating in the 1982-83 events, the WJFC held very successful family picnic days!

In 1983, the WFC Coaching Committee was created, chaired by then senior coach Kevin McLean and comprising all coaches, the club president and the junior committee chairman. This committee promoted consistency of coaching standards and practices across the whole club and implemented skill testing and certification for the junior players.

Presentation events were held together for the first time.

The most important feature of this period was the much-improved and mutually-beneficial interaction between the junior and senior sections of the club.

It is widely acknowledged that no individual has expended more time and energy for the cause of the WJFC than Greg Alchin, president from 1991-94.

In 1986, players had to pay for their own guernseys and \$5 for team photos. Greg disagreed with this policy and set about raising funds for the club to ensure any financial burden on families and players was eliminated.

When Greg was elected president, the WJFC had a bank balance of \$90. He introduced a policy requiring the club to hold a full year's expenditure in advance and at the beginning of the 1995 season it had a bank balance of more than \$8000.

This was a credit to Greg and his committee and highlighted the importance of shrewd planning and fund-raising.

Greg Alchin was also Warrandyte's long-term EDFL delegate and tribunal delegate and in 1996 became the club's inaugural director on the Doncaster and Districts Junior Football League. He also represented Warrandyte on the

league's important Football Committee.

Greg showed great dedication and commitment during his time with the WJFC and is currently coach of the Warrandyte Under-18s.

In 1995, the club fielded four teams in the EDJFL—Under-10, 12, 14 and 16. The Under-10s boasted a squad of 32 players in 1994 and 28 in '95. The Under-12s had similar numbers.

Unfortunately, because of this resurgence of interest in junior football and the resulting oversupply of numbers, it was very difficult to give each player adequate ground time and a few ripples were forming.

It became increasingly obvious that problems lay ahead. Complaints started with parents expressing concerns that their boys were not getting enough ground time and might even have to play out of their age group in the upcoming season. And so on.

As a result, then president Malcolm Eyre approached the EDJFL with a view of forming single-aged teams. Although most clubs favoured the proposal, it was rejected by the league executive.

Now the WJFC had a crisis; it had an oversupply of players and a mass walkout was imminent. Strong leadership and tough decisions were required—and Malcolm proved to be the right man for the task.

Consulting with former president Greg Alchin about the possibility of joining another league—and with a band of such enthusiastic lieutenants as "Gunna" Morello, Terry Pieper, Huck Bourke, "Nudge" Riddell, Owen Griffiths, Phil Meade and Tony Mirabella—it was decided to again approach the DDJFL with the view of fielding Under-11, Under-13 and possibly Under-15 teams in that competition.

The DDJFL promised whatever assistance it could give to accommodate the club, but Warrandyte was required to become an incorporated body because the DDJFL was strictly a junior competition and senior club control or involvement

was not permissible. Malcolm began tackling a mountain of legal work. When the senior club was advised of WJFC's decision, the initial reaction was not favourable. But when the position was fully explained, the senior club did not stand in its way.

In 1996 the WJFC became incorporated and joined the DDJFL while still fielding teams in the EDJFL. The club ran an Under-11 and an Under-13 side. The Under-11s were comprised of the top age group of the previous year's Under-10s who had been dubbed the "Rampaging Baby Bloods" in honour of their "Mother's Day Massacre" in the 1995 Lightning Premiership in which they won all four games, conceding only 1.1 while kicking a total of 14.28.

Although this super-talented team were undefeated for more than two seasons, they were unable to secure the 1995 Division One flag in the very tough DDJFL competition, going down to arch rivals Beverley Hills.

In 1997, the WJFC fielded eight teams in the DDJFL and an Under-16 side in the EDJFL. This created coordination difficulties and an unnecessarily heavy workload liaising with two separate leagues and it was decided that in season 1998 all ties should be severed with the EDJFL.

All teams except an Under-14 side short of numbers were fielded in the Yarra Junior Football League, formed by the amalgamation in 1997 of the DDJFL and the Hawthorn and Districts Junior Football League.

The 1998 season was magnificent for the WJFC, who now boasted nine teams in the YJFL, an increase of five teams which the EDJFL could not cater for.

Four teams reached the finals that year and two made the grand final.

The Under-11s, under coaching supremo Mathew Matheou, landed the first premiership for Warrandyte, defeating Beverley Hills by 56 points.

The Under-17 Colts were the pride of the WJFC and they also made the grand final. They were a motley crew of footballers, comprised of players of notable skills such as Aiden Davey and Luke Naughtin, centreline dynamo Liam Mulcahy, aerialist Craig Dick, nonchalant full-forward Brad Greer and other brilliant performers such as Sean Irvine and Rick Templeton.

Under the guidance of Greg Alchin and long-time Warrandyte doyen of coaching Eric Houghton, these boys provided an exhibition of grand final football, beating Park Orchards 11.11 (77) to 4.4 (28).

The Colts had won a second premiership for Warrandyte, breaking a 12-year-drought—the last flag having been won by the Under-16s in 1986.

Liam Mulcahy, now a senior player, was best on ground and Eric Houghton lost his voice barking instructions and tactics from the boundary.

Many of the players in that Colts team are now making their marks in senior football in Warrandyte.

The WJFC had started to flex their muscles and Terry Pieper had presided over two flags in his first year at the helm.

The Young Bloods had come of age in the powerful YJFL competition.



# Players find gold!

By WALTER DEWÉ  
and JUDY GREEN

Despite competition for spectators from AFL and NRL football finals, Warrandyte Tennis Club's 14th Goldtown Open Tennis Tournament provided two weekends of spectacular match play.

Top event of the tournament, the Open Singles, was won by Ben Ruzicka who defeated Peter Swanell, 6-3, 7-6. Although Ruzicka was successful in straight sets, the match was a hard-fought contest, culminating in a second set tie-break.

Ruzicka began his final stand more assertively than in previous rounds. Swanell seemed to be playing more slowly than the peak he reached during earlier matches. He appeared tired, following hard semi-finals—in both singles and doubles—the previous day.

Ruzicka, 22, plays number two position in the State Grade team for Essendon. Originally from Warrnambool, he has been training hard in Victorian twilight tournaments, where he has experienced some success.

Peter Swanell plays State Grade number two position for Dingley. He is a professional

## Top tennis back at Warrandyte

SPORT

coach.

Of particular local interest was the final of the Open Doubles, won by Warrandyte coach and Grace Park State Grade player Aaron Nolan who partnered another State Grade competitor, Justin Matt. Despite an erratic beginning the match developed into an aggressive volleying game with excellent passing shots. They defeated Chris Brown and Peter Swanell, 6-1, 6-4.

Justin Matt is coach at Kangaroo Ground and Burnt Bridge tennis clubs.

In the men's A Singles, Ivan Stankovski and Wonga Park local Mathew Barr battled it out through a close match. Hard and long rallies extended the first set to over an hour before Barr edged ahead, winning 6-4. Stankovski then went on to

dominate the match, winning the following two sets, 6-4, 6-0.

Thirty-one top Victorian players competed in the Men's Open Singles, with more than 50 competitors in the tournament overall. Eight State Grade players participated in the open singles.

According to tournament director Ruth Rankin, the event "provided a high standard of competitive tennis. It offered a great opportunity for Warrandytians and others to enjoy watching the skills, challenges and emotions of the game at a level not readily available locally."

Reluctantly suspended two years ago due to difficulties in securing sufficient sponsorship, the championship was revitalised by the club as a 3-star Tennis Victoria event, with a prize-winners' purse of \$3000. Major sponsorship was provided by Phillip Webb Real Estate, with a contribution from Warrandyte Cellars.

"Although the numbers were adequate to ensure a strong competition," Ms Rankin said, "plans are already being developed to attract more players next year."

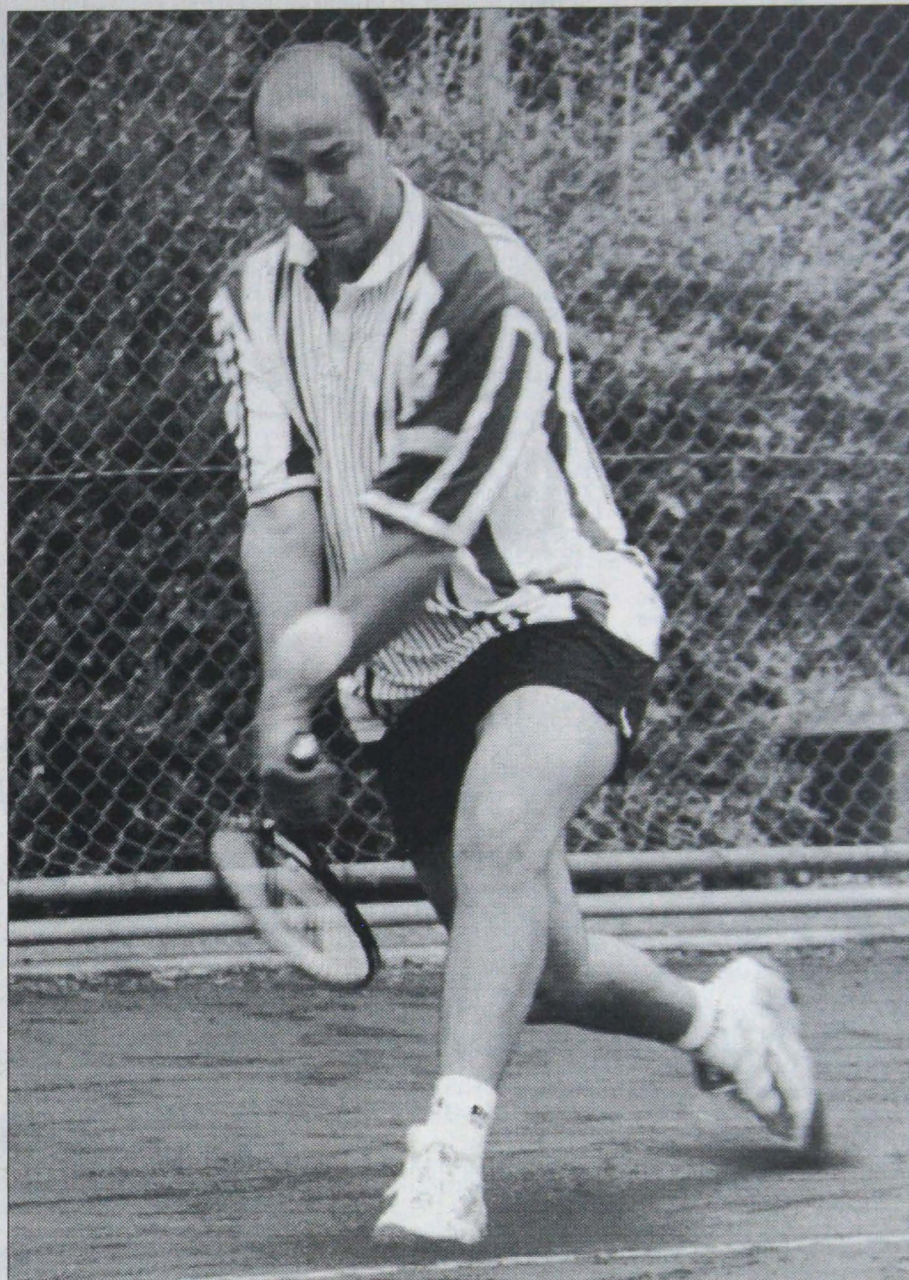
The Goldtown previously included a women's competition. "It would be excellent if women's events could be added next year," Ms Rankin said.

"Some brilliant as well as eventful tennis was evident during the two weekends of the competition," club president Mark Bence said. "The AFL and NRL football finals clashed with the last weekend of the tournament, resulting in lower than anticipated spectator numbers."

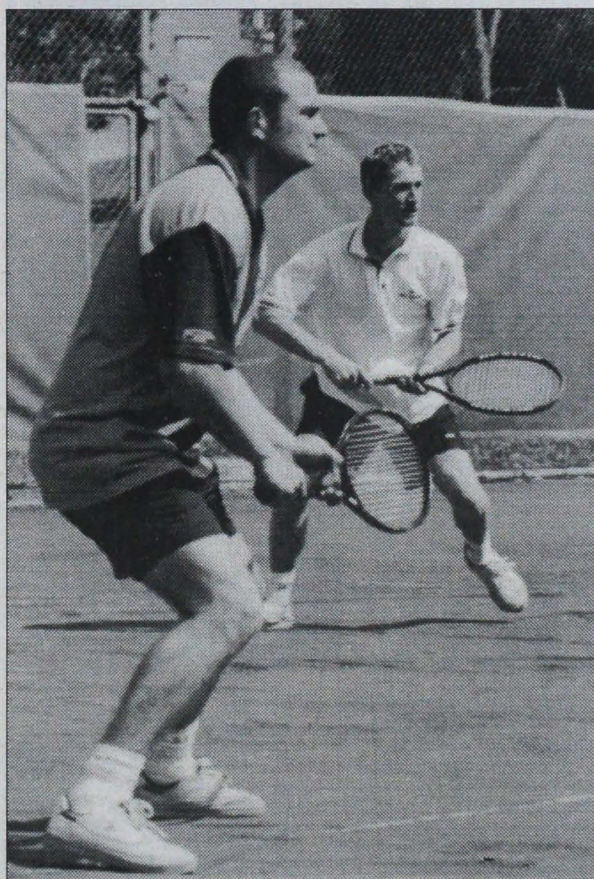
Local tennis enthusiasts are congratulating the Goldtown tournament committee—Paul Gilling, Jeanette Cleaves, Aaron Nolan, Ruth Rankin and Mark Bence—on the success of the event and thanking them for having resurrected an important occasion on Warrandyte's sporting calendar.

Mark Bence hopes to have the date moved forward a few weeks next year, "so players can use it as a warm-up event for major satellite tournaments".

Local interest: Justin Matt (left), Kangaroo Ground coach and Aaron Nolan, coach at Warrandyte, were victorious in the Men's Open Doubles.



The man with the golden arm: Ben Ruzicka took out top honours at the Goldtown tournament winning the Men's Open Singles. (Pictures by Sandy Burgoyne)



## Local kids capture flags

Two Warrandyte Tennis Club junior teams brought home winners' flags following the grand finals of the Eastern Region Tennis winter season.

Mixed 3 (Chris Chapman, Joel Drew, Rod McCutcheon, Katrina Sochaki and Tamara Valentino) defeated Parkwood, five sets to three. Boys 18 (Michael Simpson, Alex Beltramin, Nick Atkins, Michael Anderson and Simon Pickard) defeated Batterham Park in a very tight match that culminated in an extra deciding set.

Mixed 5 and 9 and Boys 8 lost their grand finals to Mooroolbark, North Ringwood and Doncaster respectively, all by very small margins. Mixed 28, who were fourth on the ladder, were well beaten by Donvale.

Warrandyte has entered 15 junior teams in the Eastern Region Tennis competition for the coming summer season.

Fourteen teams will play on Saturdays and one on Sundays.

Courts at South Warrandyte have been hired to cater for the extra numbers.

## Ming's Warrandyte CHINESE RESTAURANT (BYO)

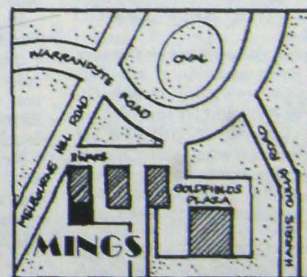
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# Schooled for stardom

Home-grown talent  
Maree Vincent in action  
for the Skagit Valley  
Cardinals

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Maree Vincent has become pretty good at turning dreams into reality. So when the 19-year-old says she is either going to be a professional basketballer or start her own restaurant some time down the track, you'd better believe her.

The Warrandyte basketballer recently finished a 14-week holiday back at her Brackenbury Street home and is now embarking on a second season of hoops with the Skagit Valley Cardinals, a junior college of 2000 students just outside Seattle in the US.

And at this stage, things couldn't be better. "I've had the time of my life, it's been so much fun," she enthused. "I made so many friends in my first year and the basketball is really good."

Mind you, when you're playing as well as she is on a winning team it's hard not to enjoy the competition. Maree averaged an impressive 11 points and five assists per game as point guard for the Cardinals, which boasted a 27-5 record and eventual third place in their conference.

Her efforts in the end-of-season tournament play (or finals as we would call it) netted her a spot on the all-star team. She averaged 26 points in the post-season, including a match-winning pair of free-throws with five seconds left in a sudden-death contest.

The dream of playing basketball in the US became possible after she starred during a tour there with a Nunawading Spectres team in late 1997. A scout from

Seattle Pacific University was at a match watching one of Maree's opponents, but the Warrandyte girl's dazzling form impressed him so much that she was offered a four-year scholarship.

But when she arrived to take up the offer she discovered her school marks just weren't quite high enough.

"I missed out by 0.1 of a grade point to go there, but they were really keen to have me for the year after so they arranged for me to go to Skagit Valley," Maree said. "They said go there for a year because they have an excellent team."

Maree spent the year not

## 'It's a special kind of bond the team had'

only working on her basketball but also her grades, boosting her initial 1.0 score (out of 4.0) to 3.1, easily enough to qualify for a scholarship.

And while Seattle Pacific University again offered the scholarship, she decided to complete her biology degree at Skagit Valley.

"I was having so much fun there that I wanted to stay," Maree said. "Seattle Pacific said if you want a three-year scholarship here it is, but I told them I would rather stay at Skagit to finish my two-year degree."

She now aims to complete this season and then go to college and embark on a four-year business degree, if not at Seattle Pacific then elsewhere.

"I have already been in contact with St Marys College

in California, an NCAA Division One school and one of the best in college basketball," she said.

"Their coach is really interested in me. He sent me a whole package on the school and I was looking through it saying I know these girls from TV and thinking wow. They play Notre Dame, Duke and all of the top schools.

"So I may even have a scholarship before I start the second year at Skagit."

Maree says the on-court goal for this second year is to net her coach another premiership.

"He's been at Skagit 22 years and won six championships. He knows what it's like to win one and he wants the team to feel that.

"He's been absolutely fabulous for me, like a second dad. He took me on and I want to return the favour.

"A few times I got homesick and broke down at training or at class and he would come to my rescue. And the girls in the basketball team would come and say let's go out for dinner and the whole team would go out. It's a special kind of bond the team had and I like that."

It's a bond formed by the large amounts of time the team spends together.

"I didn't even get a second to myself. My spare time is when I sleep. It's really hectic, but if you get into a routine it's OK and you can manage."

So far the teenager who started with the Warrandyte Redbacks when she was just six has managed pretty well. Her parents, Arthur and Jenny, spent time with her in the US last season and will return after Christmas. If Maree's current form is any indication they might be spending a lot more time over there in years to come.



# Rampaging Redbacks!

By DAMIAN ARSENIS

Warrandyte Basketball Club capped off a huge EDJBA grand final weekend with an amazing 10 premierships from 17 appearances. The boys and the girls each came home with five pennants.

There were a number of remarkable wins by the Redbacks, none more so than that of Gavin Whitmore's U11 AR boys.

Playing Balwyn in the big one, they were unable to keep up after a blistering opening to the game and trailed by four at half-time. Balwyn's depth and stifling defence was taking its toll on the Redbacks, who looked down and out when they were six in arrears with two minutes to go.

But in one of the most inspirational displays in the club's grand final history, Robert Gray stepped up to grab the lead for Warrandyte.

The Redbacks held on in the game's frantic dying moments to win by a point, 47-46.

Gray finished with 23 points, 18 of those in the second half.

Playing for the title of best team in the EDJBA, Malcolm Anderson's U19 boys fell just one win short of claiming back-to-back A-grade titles.

A win over Park Orchards in the preliminary final, gave the boys a shot at revenge against

## Last-gasp locals save the day

Warrandyte had four representatives win national titles at the recent U14 boys and girls national club basketball championships at Knox—Myles Pearce playing for Eltham and Casey Hawley, Renee Buck and Gemma Arthurson for Nunawading.

Pearce was the match-winner for Eltham over North Adelaide in a stirring grand final.

Jumped at the start and trailing 15-2, the Wildcats fought back tenaciously and Pearce lived out every player's dream by nailing a clutch three-pointer with just seconds to go to grab the lead and the national crown.

Pearce finished the game with 13 points and an average of 16 over eight games in five days.

Buck had a similar dream experience. Playing alongside Redback clubmates Hawley and

Balwyn, who had beaten them by three points in their semi. Unfortunately, an intense defence blanketed Warrandyte, keeping their sharpshooters at bay.

Callum Anderson did his best to keep the Redbacks in the game, but they went down fighting, 49-21.

Anderson was able to make amends with his U11 CS boys, who defeated Nunawading.

Doing it tough against the taller and physically stronger Vikings, they were down 8-7 at the break, but Anderson

changed tactics, the crowd fired up and the Redbacks ran Nunawading off the floor.

Playing a fast-breaking game, they capitalised on uncontested lay-ups to win 23-15.

Tristan Messerle coached his U15 A2 girls to a nail-biting 30-27 win. The girls had beaten a number of A1 sides during the season, only to be relegated to the A2 finals and Messerle believes they will be a potent force in the years ahead.

The same could be said of his U11 BS2 boys. Playing terrific team basketball, they com-

pleted a meteoric rise, emerging from an early-season slump to be division premiers.

Leanne Singh guided her "babies"—the U9 A3 girls—to a 19-11 win, over Nunawading, the little Redbacks coming out firing after a close first half.

Stephanie Smith was instrumental in creating the winning break and was game MDP.

Natalie Metcalf top-scored with nine points.

Gavin Whitmore made it two premierships for the day by masterminding a nine-point win over Park Orchards with a de-

pleted U17 A2 girls line-up.

With two U15s making up the numbers, Warrandyte called on their grand final experience to eke out an early first-half advantage then stride to a 10-point lead.

Whitmore had just four players left standing on court to finish the game, but they did it in style.

Ian Wood's day began brilliantly when his U9 CS boys stormed home to beat Banyule 20-18 after trailing all game. The Redbacks stormed home, reeling off eight unanswered points in the last four minutes.

Wood's day then took a dive, his entire U19 B1 girls team being fouled out of a rough and at times spiteful game against Eltham.

Wood was furious with some of the refereeing decisions. "Forty-eight fouls in a game—that's all I can say," he said.

Anne Cutler was game MDP in the 31-20 loss.

Lorraine Parfitt guided her U13 B girls to a 10-0 start against Bulleen then saw them weather a late Boomers revival to win 27-19. And Matt Treeby's U13 BM2 boys, leading by nine points at half-time against Banyule—thanks largely to some great work in the paint by MDP Che Pianta—withstood physical pressure to win 35-20.

Treeby praised his team for their hard work and attitude and believes the best is yet to

come. Expect more, too, from

Treeby's U9 CM boys, who fell short at the last hurdle.

After blazing their way into the grand final with a win over Doncaster, the U17 girls of Simon Van Der Oord looked the goods to beat Eltham but went into the game undermanned thanks to bouts of tonsillitis.

Warrandyte struggled to match it with a full-strength Wildcats unit but remarkably were still in touch at the interval. Eltham ran away in second half, however, the Redbacks going down 28-14 and finishing with only four on court.

Nigel Walsham's U15 C1 2 girls exceeded all expectations by coming from fourth position to win the title against Banyule. Warrandyte conceded height and strength to Banyule, but set up a first half-lead and repelled a late rally to win 27-16.

Most of the U9 D2 girls of club president Karen Pearce were playing in their first grand final and despite an outstanding game by MDP Ashlee Collins went down 20-11 to Koonung.

Pearce was happy with her team's performance and expects them to learn a great deal from the experience.

Gary Grant is thinking along the same lines. After a promising start to the game against Eltham, his U9 CC boys were swamped, but fought very bravely to go down 14-2.

Treeby praised his team for their hard work and attitude and believes the best is yet to

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# Dytes' sorry start

By ADAM WHITE

Warrandyte Cricket Club's new Chandler Shield season got off to a disastrous start with a thrashing from South Ringwood at home on October 9.

Set a tough target of 287 for victory, the Bushrangers could manage only 154 despite a strong start by Shane Baker and Stephen Bell, who put on 50 for the first wicket.

Bell was in great touch, the most comfortable of the Warrandyte batsmen in his aggressive yet thoughtful innings. But just when he looked like taking control of the South Croydon attack he picked out cover with a mistimed drive to be back in the pavilion after making 37 of the half-century opening stand.

His dismissal signalled a mini collapse, Warrandyte losing two more wickets in the space of three runs to be struggling at 3/53.

Baker, who was looking solid at the crease, was run out dur-



## SPORT

ing a mix-up with captain Greg Tregear and the skipper himself was caught at mid-off.

Cameron Day, playing his customary attacking style of cricket, looked like lifting the Bushrangers out of trouble, first with Adam White, who made just seven before being brilliantly caught behind, and then with Andrew Jarvis.

With Day in the pilot's seat, Warrandyte reached 4/108 just after tea and were still in with a chance. But another collapse was to follow.

Jarvis was clean bowled for 10 and Day was caught while trying to lift the ball over the infield after making an exciting 38 against the trend of play.

When Paul Montgomery was caught at point for just one, the Bushrangers had slumped to 7/110.

Wicketkeeper Matthew Chapman and pace bowler Gerald Walshe gave the innings some semblance of respectabil-



Cameron Day: top-scored for Warrandyte.

ity with a bright 19 and a hard-hitting 24 respectively, but the target was clearly well beyond Warrandyte's reach and the innings ended on 154.

Rain prevented the visitors batting a second time.

It was always going to be difficult for the home side after

letting South Ringwood make 286 on the first day. Three of their batsmen made scores over 50, something not one Bushranger could manufacture in reply.

Warrandyte's bowlers worked hard but lacked any great penetration on the first day of the season. White bowled his off-spin consistently, finishing with 4/70 off 21 overs, and was well supported by Chris Snaidero, who recovered from a poor start to take three wickets in the second session.

South Ringwood were 6/190 at one stage and then 8/212, but six dropped catches for the afternoon and the Bushrangers' inability to finish off the innings did nothing for the cause.

Captain Greg Tregear lamented his team's missed opportunities, both in the field and with the bat.

"It was a little frustrating," he said after the game. "We were unable to take our chances when the catches came our way during the first day and a few of us, when we batted, were unable to go on with the job after working so hard early.

"That's often the difference between winning and losing."

However, Tregear was quick to praise the performances of some of his younger players as he looked at some of the positives to take into the next game.

"I thought players like Matt Chapman, Andrew Jarvis and also Cam Day really showed some good signs for us," he said. "But they, like everyone else, have to work that little bit harder to turn good performances into victories."

"I really don't think we are far off the mark. We just have to work that little bit harder as a team to be able to match it with the better sides in the competition."

Warrandyte now travel to Templestowe, keen to put the South Ringwood loss behind them with a much-needed victory to lift spirits and keep on pace with the top sides.

News was not bright either from the other three Warrandyte senior teams in the Round 1 action. All suffered heavy losses.

Seven wickets to speedster Peter Raby were not enough to

lift the second eleven to victory. They batted miserably, losing 18 wickets for just 123 in two visits to the crease.

The thirds did little better, being bundled out for 93 in their first innings. Brett Kline was the best of the Warrandyte batsmen, with 44. South Ringwood replied with 182, Kline again starring, this time with the ball, with 3/13.

The fourths also fell way short of matching South Ringwood, who amassed 9/320. In reply, Warrandyte made 73 and 1/108, club president David Gee hitting an unbeaten 49 in the second innings.

## DETAILS

**FIRSTS:** Warrandyte 154 (Day 38, Bell 37, Walshe 24, Chapman 19) lost to South Ringwood 286.

**SECONDS:** Warrandyte 64 and 8/59 lost to South Ringwood 235 (Raby 7/48).

**THIRDS:** Warrandyte 93 (Kline 44) and 6/148 (Brickhill 42 no) lost to South Ringwood 182 (Kline 3/13, Smead 3/52).

**FOURTHS:** Warrandyte 73 and 1/108 (Gee 49 no) lost to South Ringwood 9/320 (Aly 5/69).

# Our Mack Clarkson cops the lot

## Bloods on-baller everyone's best

By LEE TINDALE

On-baller Mack Clarkson put the icing on a magnificent season by taking Warrandyte Football Club's senior best and fairest award at the vote count on October 3.

Clarkson, 25, the EFL's best on ground in the Blood's memorable one-point grand final victory over Knox on September 5, had won the league Third Division best and fairest just two nights before accepting the club honour.

In a remarkable and perhaps unprecedented show of consistency, he polled in each of Warrandyte's 18 home-and-away games. He was a runaway winner, scoring 31 votes to win by eight from star recruit Chris Cornell.

Skipper John O'Brien, lion-hearted ruckman Kimberly O'Connor—a four-time winner—and Greg Pearce tied for third, on 20.

Clarkson polled only two first votes but such was his consistency that he gathered nine second-bests and seven thirds.

"Mack won the league award on Fridau night—but this is the one he really wanted," his coach, Lex Munro, told the vote count luncheon at the Grand Hotel before presenting the club award.

Clarkson agreed. "It's a great honour to get your name up on the wall and become part of the club's history," he said.

"Let's all get there pre-season. It will be a big challenge in Second Division, but we're up to it. We're a very good team."

Second-placed Cornell was the other major individual success story of Warrandyte's great season.

Cornell, who played all his junior football for Warrandyte, was recruited from Diamond

Valley club Hurstbridge after a pre-season clearance wrangle and slotted straight into the senior side with telling effect. Just 22, he will be an invaluable asset for many seasons to come.

The Reserves best and fairest award was shared in unusual circumstances (see In Red & White on Page 2) on 25 votes by Danny Weatherley and Terry Ryan. Ashley Grybas was second with 22 and Jarrod O'Connor third on 21.

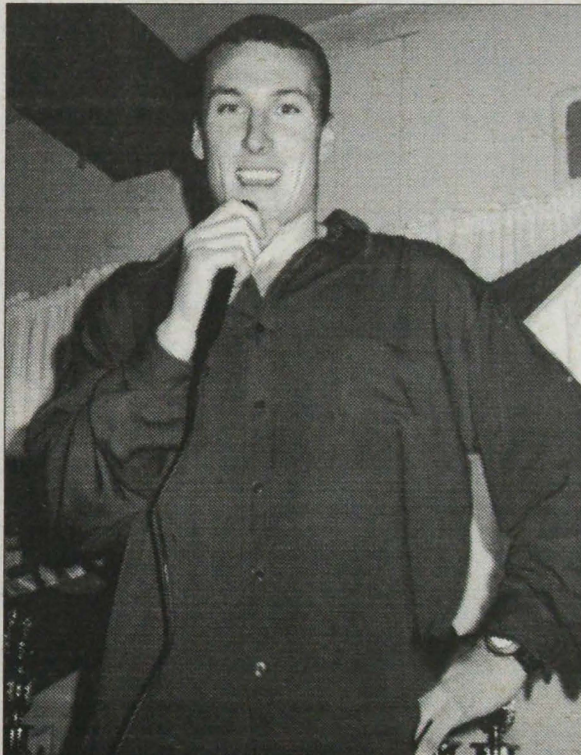
The Under-18s was won by Aidan Davey, who polled 47 votes to beat Rick Templeton (43) and Craig Dick (40). The three placegetters had been outstanding in a team which struggled for numbers and are destined to make names for themselves in senior football.

## AWARD WINNERS

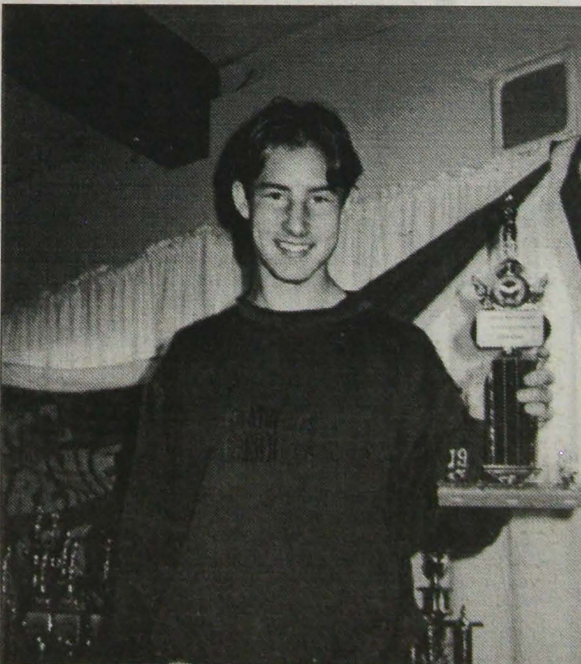
**SENIORS:** Best and fairest: Mack Clarkson 1, Chris Cornell 2, John O'Brien, Kimberly O'Connor, Greg Pearce 3. Coach's award: Dale Vitritt. Most improved: Adam Borwick. Darryl Valentin memorial Shield (most determined): Aaron Woolley. Gary (Madge) Alsop Award (most determined): Kimberly O'Connor. Best first-year player: Glen Carle. Leading goalkicker: Chris Quinlan (67 goals). Tracey (Snowy) Prior Memorial Award (best clubperson): John O'Brien.

**RESERVES:** Best and fairest: Danny Weatherley, Terry Ryan 1; Ashley Grybas 2; Jarrod O'Connor 3. Coach's award: Brendon Baker. Most improved: Matt Chapman. Most consistent: Craig Shackelford. Geoff Darby Memorial Shield (most determined): Robert Ryan.

**UNDER-18s:** John McCartin Memorial Shield (best and fairest): Aidan Davey 1, Rick Templeton 2, Craig Dick 3. Coach's award: Ben McLean. Most improved: Andy Moore. Most determined: Steve Mooney. Most consistent: Richard England. Eddie Haughton Memorial Shield: Rick Templeton.



Above: Mack Clarkson acknowledges his club best and fairest award. What a player! What a season! Below: Under-18s best and fairest Aidan Davey.



## After you, my boy!

Father followed son to centre stage at Warrandyte Junior Football Club's presentation day last month.

Dylan Matheou had already been up to accept his Under-12s best and fairest trophy and made a return trip to collect his award for representing the Yarra Junior Football League in the interleague game against Waverley.

He was followed into the spotlight by dad Mathew, who won the interleague coaching award, having directed that YJFL side to a comprehensive victory.

Matheou senior, the new WJFC president, had also coached Warrandyte's Under-11s to last year's premiership.

The name most mentioned at presentation day was that of Luke Naughtin, a member of last year's Colts premiership side.

Naughtin was runner-up this time to Andrew Gordon as Colts best and fairest, was best finals player, equal third with teammate Tim Andrews in the league best and fairest and vice-captain of the league's Colts Team of the Year.

Since presentation day, three WJFC Under-14s have been selected in the Eastern Ranges development squad.

They are Daniel Mirabella, Ben Piggott and Tommy Urbano. Their selection is further testimony to the strength of junior football in this town.

## TROPHY WINNERS

**COLTS:** Best and fairest: Andrew Gordon 1, Luke Naughtin 2, Scott Vickery 3. Most consistent: James Johnston, Coach's award: Luan Yen. Most determined: Tim Andrews. Most courageous: Piers Brown. Best finals player: Luke Naughtin. Interleague representative: Andrew Gordon. YJFL awards: Luke Naughtin, Tim Andrews (equal third). YJFL Colts Team of Year: Luke Naughtin (v-c).

**UNDER-14s:** Best and fairest: Ben Piggott 1, Tom Urbano 2, Josh Brougham 3. Encouragement award: Josh McKellar. Most consistent: Tom Naughtin. Coach's award: David Mock. Training award: Michael Savoia. Best finals player: Daniel Mirabella.

Interleague representative: Rene Pidgeon (capt). YJFL award: John Burgoyne (B&F). Eastern Ranges Rookie of year: Ben Piggott. Smoke Free Cup representatives: Daniel Mirabella, Ben Piggott, Tom Urbano, Hayden Wall.

**UNDER-13s:** Best and fairest: John Burgoyne 1, Jordan Canham 2, Richard Carroll, Tristan Maddocks equal 3. Most improved: Glen Mullens. Encouragement award: William Hosking. Most consistent: Jarrad Taylor. Most courageous: Dean Heller. Interleague representative: Dean Heller.

**UNDER-12s:** Best and fairest: Dylan Matheou 1, James Davis 2, James Singh. Most improved: Sean Carter. Most consistent: Matty Short. Coach's award: Jared Fitzpatrick. Most determined: Lynden Albiston. Interleague representative: Dylan Matheou. Interleague coach: Mathew Matheou.

**UNDER-11 GREEN:** Best and fairest: Hamish Hosking 1, Alex Beltramin 2, David Wildsmith, Luke Ebzery equal 3. Most improved: Chris Watson. Most consistent: Dion Mullet-Treloar. Coach's award: Tom Robinson. Most courageous: Chris McDougall. Best finals player: David Wildsmith. Interleague representative: Xan Belding.

**UNDER-11 BROWN:** Best and fairest: Robert Petracca 1, Colin Balke 2, Alastair Malcott 3. Most improved: Rick Curtis. Most consistent: Paul Burgoyne. Coach's award: Andrew Bains. Most determined: Ryan Hoiberg.

**UNDER-10 GREEN:** Best and fairest: Tyson Fitzgerald 1, Tom Maddocks 2, Jack Sleeman 3. Most improved: Patrick Nicol. Most consistent: Jeremy Andrews. Coach's award: James Johnson. Most determined: Edward Saunders. Best finals player: Tom Maddocks. YJFL awards: Tyson Fitzgerald B&F.

**UNDER-10 BROWN:** Best and fairest: Nicholas Crosbie 1, Peter Cudmore 2, Nicholas Meade 3. Encouragement award: Brennan Johnson. Most consistent: Justin Hull. Coach's award: Daniel Skurnik. Most courageous: Nicholas Mill. Interleague representative: Peter Cudmore.

**UNDER-9 WARRIORS:** Best and fairest: Reece Turner 1, Clayton Pearce 2, Ian McLeod, Robbie Bowen equal 3. Most consistent: Ayrton Dehmel. Coach's award: Sam Casey. Most determined: Joshua Hale. Most courageous: Tyson Barber.

**UNDER-9 BLOODS:** Best and fairest: Reece Turner 1, Clayton Pearce 2, Ian McLeod, Robbie Bowen equal 3. Most consistent: Ayrton Dehmel. Coach's award: Sam Casey. Most determined: Joshua Hale. Most courageous: Tyson Barber. Best clubman: Bill Christopher.

## Littlies on the run again

Little athletics is on again, with the Maroondah club at Ringwood catering for youngsters from the Warrandyte area.

Meetings are held each Saturday morning from October to March at Proclamation Park for under-7s through to under-15s and all competitors have the

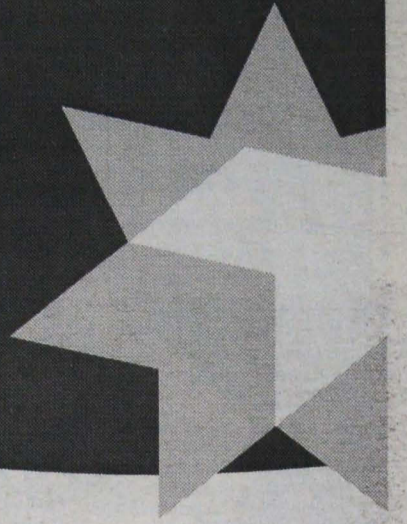
opportunity to win medals for personal bests throughout the season.

Anyone interested in joining the fun is invited to contact Maroondah president Julie Stewart (9783 3844 BH) or team manager Loris McLean (9844 1246).



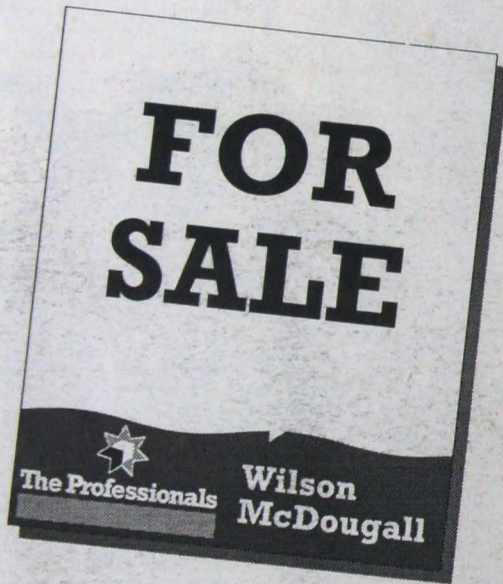
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