

Phone tower: 'No'

By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte Fire Brigade is set to reject an offer by Optus to build a mobile phone tower on the fire station site.

According to Robert Kilkenny, captain of the Warrandyte brigade, Optus contacted the CFA early last month proposing that a tower be built on top of the Warrandyte station's hose-drying tower, behind the station building.

The offers follows delays in the phone company's permit application for a tower on its preferred site, the Tindals Road Wildflower Reserve.

Optus has not had "much co-operation" from Manningham council on the wildflower reserve site, and council has some concerns about traffic, Mr

BELOW: Ducks on duty. Wildlife benefits from our community's continuing battle to protect its environment. (Picture by Mary Green)

Optus to 'explore other options'

Ross Monaghan, Optus community relations manager said.

According to Mr Monaghan, Optus has been developing "creative" ways to get around council's concerns, as well as exploring alternative sites for the tower.

The fire station was one of the alternative sites offered by Optus in February this year, during its "community consultation" period. In May, the *Diary* reported Warrandyte Awareness Group's accusation that Optus's alternative sites were deliberately flawed (near a kindergarten, primary school and state park) to enable the company's preferred site, the wildflower reserve, to be approved.

Last month, CFA headquarters passed on Optus's request to the

Warrandyte brigade, telling them it was a local matter, "but that the decision should not conflict with community attitudes, Mr Kilkenny said.

The brigade feels community opposition to the tower is strong, and the offer will "definitely" be rejected, Mr Kilkenny said. This probable rejection would take place at the monthly meeting this Thursday, November 11, when the brigade's some 48 members will vote on the issue.

The offer included "quite substantial" and ongoing financial rewards from Optus to the CFA headquarters and the Warrandyte brigade. "It's always very tempting when there's money involved," he said. "But we will be going with community sentiment, rather than the hip pocket."

The hose-drying tower is about 18 metres high. When the option was first offered in February, Optus said the extension would bring the tower to a total height 35 metres.

"It would be an awfully big tower," Mr Kilkenny said.

Mr Monaghan said Optus will persevere with the wildflower reserve site, which it feels is the best option for the community.

He said Optus has been working "studiously" on developing this site, and, although he could not reveal the details, said that they may have found a solution for the site.

But if it cannot get approval, Optus may be forced to develop "low impact facilities" on two sites, which would not require council approval. It would be "very disappointing" if Optus was forced to abandon the wildflower reserve site, Mr Monaghan said.

"We acknowledge it's not a perfect site, but we think it's the best solution."

But Warrandyte Awareness Group would prefer several smaller towers, Mr Peter Curry, of WAG, said. He be-

lieves an alternative to the wildflower reserve site is building four or five small towers on top of the electricity pylons on Tindals Road. He said this would have less visual impact than the original site.

"The pylons are already an eyesore, and a small addition would not make much difference," he said. "It would be a win for us, compared to a 30 metre tower in a wildflower reserve."

However, Optus has previously stated that it could not build towers on electricity pylons because such sites would not provide suitable signal coverage.

Mr Curry said he still questions the need for a mobile phone tower anywhere in Warrandyte. "I've spoken to Optus users, and they don't have a problem," he said.

Mr Monaghan claimed Optus customers are demanding coverage where they live and work.

He said Optus has a "good track record" with community consultation, and is still keen to work with Manningham council and the community on the tower.



Tree drop costs developer

Cutting down a tree in Templestowe cost a developer \$8250 earlier this year. Manningham council successfully prosecuted Joenz Building and Design Pty Ltd for the illegal removal of the tree, without council permission, from a property at 19 Forest Court, Templestowe, during construction works for a new residential subdivision.

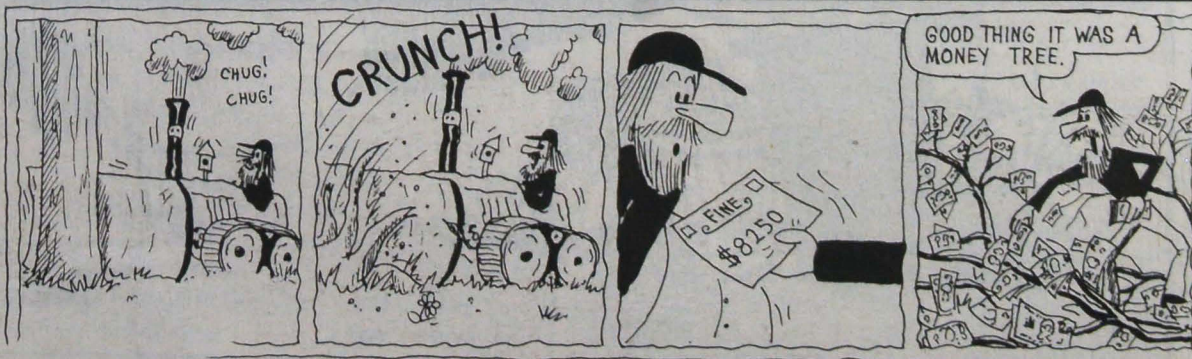
The company received a conviction, was required to contribute \$7500 in council's legal costs and was fined \$750. The court noted that the defendant company knew the subject tree was considered by Manningham City Council to be worthy of preservation and protection.

It noted that while the defendant company apparently gave instructions to the contractor to retain the tree, the developer nevertheless had a responsibility to ensure there was no misunderstanding.

"The outcome of the prosecution highlights the importance of complying with council's town planning regulations and should serve as a warning against the illegal removal of trees in the City of Manningham," a council spokesperson said.

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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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.

Alas, we were barking up the wrong gum tree



For one whole day there we really believed we had an international archaeological scoop of huge magnitude right in our own backyard. Someone, presumably Melbourne Water, cut down a big old gum tree early this month on the bank of Andersons Creek, near Taroona Reserve in Everard Drive, and no one had any quarrel with that because its roots had been undermined and it was likely to drop of its own accord any old time and on anyone. But the fallen trunk certainly attracted the attention of a local woman, a qualified but non-practising archaeologist taking a constitutional walk. She saw what she believed might well be evidence that very ancient original Australians had cut the bark from that tree many, many moons ago—maybe hundreds of years ago—to make a canoe. The woman contacted Warrandyte Historical Society, who contacted *Diary* editor Cliff Green. Boy, did we have a story on our hands! The wheels were set in motion to confirm what would have been a major discovery, something that might have excited even Indiana Jones himself. But alas, two senior archaeologists from Melbourne studied the so-called scar tree at length next day and said sorry, but the canoe shape you see here has been formed by rot or bushfire damage. There goes another great front page. Buzzer.



John Byrne, Warrandyte's celebrated marriage celebrant of Somers Road, took his lovely wife Diana for a holiday in Cairns last month and, mindful of a previous saga when they arrived at the airport with their suitcases still at home, he decided there'd be no such dramas this time. So they arrived nice and early at Tullamarine, checked in their baggage, did a spot of shopping and sat down for a cup of coffee. Diana decided mid-coffee to re-check the time of their flight—only to find it had closed. What they'd thought was boarding time was actually departure time. A dash to the departure gate ensued, the words "Would Mr and Mrs Byrne, passengers to Cairns et cetera, et cetera ..." ringing in their ears from the PA system. Breathless, they boarded the plane and the doors slammed behind them. And as they took their seats, a voice from the back called: "Trust someone

IN RED & WHITE



His fickle friend Alan "Coatsy" Koetsveld reckons this photo of his mate Alan "Scruffy" Edhouse is a collector's item. Taken during an Auscar weekend at Bathurst last month, it is, Coatsy swears, the one and only time Scruff has been known to open his wallet. We think that's pretty damned offensive—and the picture is probably a fake anyway because we don't see moths anywhere.

from Warrandyte to be holding us all up!" Yes, Jackie and Simon Law, of Harris Gully Road, were on the same flight.



Alert the coast guard and man the lifeboats—Vic Grybas, the jinxed sailor of Melbourne Hill, is back on the water! You might recall how earlier this year Vic's catamaran disintegrated in a stiff breeze off Safety Beach, on the Mornington Peninsula, as he took a new-found friend named George for a spin. The local sailing club rescue people were so accustomed to seeing this particular boat belly up that they took no notice and Vic and a very tetchy George spent two hours treading water. Anyhow, Vic's put that unfortunate exploit behind him and now has a brand new second-hand Cat of the same class on which he did a first-rate paint job. Unfortunately, as he hand-lowered the yacht to the ground off its blocks he managed to drop one end and the paint job is now rather second rate. But you've got to admire the pattern he managed to

create on the twin hulls ... by "borrowing" one of wife Sandra's prized lounge room curtains and spray-painting through it! The new catamaran is yet unnamed. Vic's mate Laurie "Whopper" Warr reckons "Final Curtain" would be appropriate but we rather like "Titanic" which is, after all, tried and proven.



We mentioned a while back those "Discover Warrandyte Gold" signs that had sprung up on our borders extolling our heritage and attractions and we mentioned particularly the phallic symbol sticking up in the middle of them. Some people thought it was a mushroom but most thought it was something quite different (giggle, giggle). David Hogg, our festival town crier, solved the mystery by identifying it as an old gold prospector's shovel—an old Irish gold prospector's shovel, he said, which probably explained why it was upside down. It all becomes irrelevant now because the shovel, mushroom or whatever it was has

been removed from the signs. Painted over. The morals police have done us again.



Easyrider, our man on the buses, has long waxed lyrical about the improvements wrought by the National company since it took over the local service from the Met, but he is a fellow not averse to exaggeration and we thought maybe he was overstating the case. We have, though, compelling support testimony from Sue Davies, of North Warrandyte, who can't say enough good things about the National either. Sue had asked her good mate Rae Danks, our advertising/accounts manager, to pick her up off the bus from town the other afternoon and drive her to the servo at South Warrandyte where her own car was in for repairs. Being a very busy lady, Rae promptly forgot (some friend, eh?) and Sue found herself at the terminus at Hogan Avenue with a pretty long uphill walk in the rain ahead. "Lady," the driver said, "we can't have you doing that"—and dropped her off at the servo door. Sue says thanks heaps, whoever you were, and we say a grudging sorry to Easyrider.



And a sign outside the Uniting Church on the corner of Doncaster and Blackburn Roads suggests you "Confuse your enemies. Pray for them."

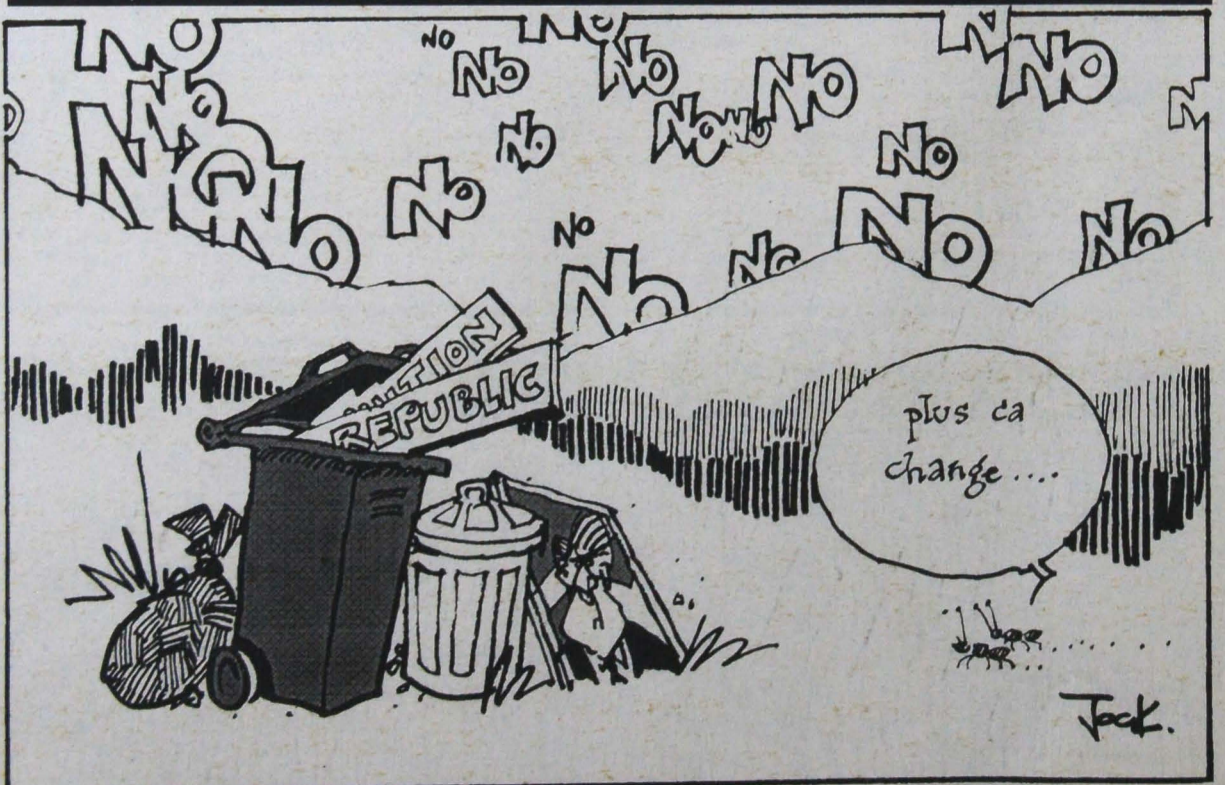


Prickly Moses might, to the uninitiated, sound a most undesirable thing to have growing in your garden, but you'd be surprised. A member of the wattle family, the *Acacia verticillata* is, in fact, desirable in both the practical and aesthetic senses. Pleasing to the eye whether in bloom or not, its prickly foliage provides a haven for small birds to protect them from cats and a deterrent to burglars if you plant under your windows. Not as effective as razor wire, mind you, but a deterrent all the same. We tell you all this because Prickly Moses—and other wattles and native shrubs—are now available (for a modest donation) from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park's nursery at Pound Bend. Give Cathy Willis a call on 0418 142297.

Smokey Joe

OVER THE HILLS

By **JOCK MACNEISH**



Jock.

Fire changes delayed

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

The appointment of two new professional firefighters to work day shifts at Warrandyte fire station is unlikely to occur before the commencement of the fire season.

This despite an announcement in May this year that the full-time firefighters, an additional fire truck and extensions to the station could be in place by the summer.

But this is not a problem for Warrandyte CFA captain Rob Kilkenny.

"It's not a concern that we don't have the two new firefighters by summer—if it were a choice between rushing for the summer fire season or picking the right people I'd prefer to wait," he said. "Traditionally more volunteers are available in summer anyway, because of the holidays."

However, the firefighters' union believes "Warrandyte has outgrown volunteer firefighters".

Which is not quite how Mr Kilkenny sees it.

"Having professional firefighters will be a great asset," he said. I don't know how long it takes, so long as it's done properly and in a workable relationship with the volunteers. We're virtually running a business, organising finances, new equipment and running brigades in schools, for example. This means organising sessions around volunteers' work commitments."

And the approach of summer is not the issue, Mr Kilkenny believes.

"There's been a definite turn-around in our peak season. In summer everyone is more conscious of fire risk and they've improved their burning-off practices," he said. "Winter is the busiest time as houses are getting older and there's more chance of things going wrong. There are also more people in the area. The call rate has been

'Not a problem' says captain; union disagrees

increasing over the past few years."

Mr Kilkenny said he was just happy the new firefighter selection had started. "The brigade is excited by the prospect of having paid staff to help. It'll be good to have the pressure relieved. There are a lot of standards to adhere to, such as service delivery and two new professionals will allow us to involve a whole new regime of training."

"There are lots of demands on CFA volunteers and their families and businesses and if having professional firefighters relieves that pressure we will all benefit."

Mr Kilkenny said the ideal professional firefighter will be someone indoctrinated in the volunteer culture, not necessarily already in a paid fire service. "They must have the ability to communicate and stand back to let others take the kudos for service. Volunteers get pleasure from being thanked as they are the ones who give up their time and effort for the community."

"Permanent firefighters must retain the spirit of the volunteers. They will be involved in creating community fireguard groups and brigades in schools. The CFA sees them as community educators who can also fight fires. It's better to prevent fires than to have to put them out."

Mr Kilkenny said he was assured the community support facilitator will remain. "But if we allow career staff to take over, it won't be Warrandyte's fire brigade. We'll lose the benefits of three brigades as a community organisation." Warrandyte has 48 CFA volunteers.

According to Trevor White, CFA Yarra area manager, the appointment of two professional firefighters is just a question of timing.

"CFA is working through the human resources issues of selection and recruitment at the moment, as well as working with the United Firefighters Union regarding the working conditions of dayworkers," he told the *Diary*.

Mr White said there are about 3000 volunteers working in 58 brigades in the CFA region, covering half a million people in an area of 3300 sq km, from Kinglake to Narre Warren East, and from Eltham to Reefton. There is only one other professional firefighter working with the CFA in the region, at Scoresby.

However, the Victorian branch secretary of the firefighters' union, Mr Peter Marshall, told the *Diary* the appointment of two professional firefighters is just a "smoke-screen" by the CFA to hide their failure to disclose response statistics.

"The CFA's performance data is flawed in regards to response time," he said.

"Most fire-related deaths occur in the early hours of the morning and the concept of allocating professionals only at certain hours is flawed and fraught with danger."

"Household insurance levies fund CFA and insurance is dearer in Warrandyte than in the inner metropolitan area. Warrandyte needs 24-hour professional coverage and the community should demand it."

"Volunteers have experienced tremendous pressures in all ar-

eas and they have limited time. Warrandyte has outgrown volunteer firefighters."

Trevor White said the firefighters' appointment is not expected to be delayed by the progress of building works at Warrandyte fire station. It is understood the Department of Natural Resources and Environment is concerned about extending the existing building towards Andersons Creek.

"We have a licence from the department to occupy the site and it needs their approval to add office space and improve the kitchen and mess room facilities. Although not building extensions, we will still be making alterations with future developments in mind," he said.

The design of the new fire truck for Warrandyte is being evaluated by the CFA. Probably a rapid response type and possibly of a new design that's practical and manoeuvrable, the type should be resolved within a couple of months, according to Trevor White. He said the truck may be adapted



Joining battle: Warrandyte firemen responded quickly to a call to fire on Fourth Hill in February, 1998.



from another vehicle from fire services within Australia or from overseas.

According to Rob Kilkenny anything that is faster to travel in is a benefit to the community.

"We had a new truck delivered eight months ago and there's been a dramatic improvement in response time. It will be even better with a second."

"They're always getting bigger

and bigger, which is all right if you've got a three-lane highway with no hills or corners. But in places like Warrandyte-Heidelberg Road and Stintons Road, bigger is not necessarily best."

Skateboard plan rolling along

By CLINTON GRYPAS

After several years of lobbying, Warrandyte's skateboarding community will finally get a facility early next year—providing they pitch in to help raise some of the funds needed to build it.

Manningham council agreed last month to provide half of the \$65,000 required to build the skatepark at Warrandyte Reserve. But the remaining \$32,500 must come from the Warrandyte community.

Warrandyte Lions' Club president David Dobbs said the council position is a fair one.

"If things like this just appear we often don't care for them very much. But if there is some ownership from the community then the community, particularly the younger people in

this case, will look after it.

"We are quite happy to support the concept but there is one proviso and that is the young people in the community also support it."

"We're not there just to dish out money."

Mr Dobbs said Lions are considering ways of helping out with fundraising.

"I can't say unequivocally it will be dollar for dollar but it will certainly be something along that concept."

But some local youths have already cost the fundraising push a \$1000 head start after Sergeant Keith Walker of Warrandyte police withdrew support for the park.

Sergeant Walker, one of the strongest backers of the skate facility, was furious after another weekend ram-

page by local youths. In this instance a sign on the corner of Forbes and Yarra Streets advertising the Blue Light Disco was destroyed, as was a shade cloth over a sandpit at Andersons Creek Primary School. More graffiti was splashed across local buildings.

"Warrandyte police were going to pledge \$1000 to assist the construction of the skate park. That money was going to come from the Blue Light Disco," Sergeant Walker told the *Diary*.

"However unfortunately those funds won't be able to be pledged because the \$1000 will go towards replacing the sign and assisting in purchasing a shade cloth for the kids' sandpit."

"It's unfortunate that a few young

people have ruined some fantastic chances for other young people."

"At this stage I am of the opinion that we can't go rewarding kids for their bad behaviour. So I certainly will no longer support the issue of the skate facility in Warrandyte. Not until someone can put up their hand and say yes, I'm sorry I did that damage and I am quite prepared to remedy it and pay for it."

He said while it is only a "very, very small handful" of young people doing the damage, the rest will suffer as a result.

"The kids can thank those kids for the support they are no longer going to receive from us until someone is prepared to put their hand up. I am most annoyed."

Some 20 local skateboarders and

one parent was at the meeting last month.

"I was very pleased with the support of the kids. It would have been fantastic to see more than the one parent there to support the skate facility," Sergeant Walker said.

"I'd like to see a lot of parents get up and support their kids. That can be financially or simply finding out what their kids are up to, getting out and being part of a family."

Two working committees were formed after the meeting with one to investigate fundraising and the other to look at the design of the skatepark.

The park will be built at Warrandyte Reserve in the area now occupied by playground equipment. Space will be made for it by moving some of the equipment.

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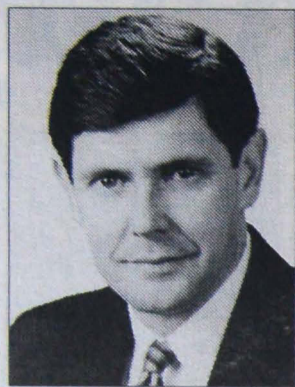
Achievers sought

Local federal MP Kevin Andrews is calling for nominations for the Year 2000 Menzies Community Day Awards.

Mr Andrews said he was delighted last year when more than 700 people joined with him to thank and congratulate the 38 citizens who had made outstanding contributions to the Menzies electorate and who had been recognised with the Menzies Community Australia Day Awards on January 26 this year.

"The purpose of the awards, which I inaugurated in 1995, is to recognise the valued contribution of so many people to our local community," Mr Andrews told the *Diary*. "Each of these people have helped to make our community a better place in which to live."

Mr Andrews said that many people made a major contribution to building local communities. "These awards will recognise their efforts. I have written to more than 400 com-



Kevin Andrews

munity organisations, clubs, churches and other civic groups inviting nominations."

Nomination booklets are available from Kevin Andrews' office at 651 Doncaster Road, or by telephone on 9848 9900. Nominations will close on Friday, December 3 this year.

Brigade checks on risks

South Warrandyte Fire Brigade held the first electrical safety day for the area last month. The brigade hoped to reduce local residents' risk of electrical fire or electrocution by holding the event. "As with all activities that South Warrandyte CFA is involved in, the ultimate goal is creating a safer community," a brigade spokesperson told the *Diary*.

Participants from a number of community groups, retirement homes and service clubs in the area attended. They brought electrical appliances for safety-testing by Eastern Energy.

Captain Andrew Blashki commented, "We are pleased to say that we have positively contributed to the safety of our local community. Many of the appliances tested were found to be faulty. The removal of these from people's homes will go a long way towards decreasing the risk of electrical fire or shock."

Owing to the positive feedback, the brigade intends to hold the event again next year.

Local residents concerned about an appliance should contact an electrician or Sophie Cunliffe at the South Warrandyte CFA on 0407 339 137.

Young boffins top score

Warrandyte Primary School was extremely successful in this year's Science Talent Search, run by the Science Teachers' Association of Victoria. As well as a whole-school award, students received major and minor bursaries and certificates of merit and achievement.

Science Talent Search is an annual event and is open to all primary and secondary students up to Year 12.

Science co-ordinator Kaye Jones and the bursary winners attended the presentation day at Latrobe University last month.

The school won the Hugh McKnight Encouragement Award for this year's efforts. This consisted of a plaque and a ponding kit donated by the Gould League of Victoria. Acting principal Mandy Dunn said this achievement was a credit to all the entrants from the school and to Kaye for her involvement.

Grade Four students Steven Pinolo and Alex McPhee-Browne received a major bursary in the models and inventions section with their water recycling project. Minor bursary winners included Trent Burriss and Andrew Boyle, Trelawney Dewe and Kim Fidler, Emily Chaffee and Ryan Lloyd.



Steven Pinolo (left) and Alex McPhee-Browne demonstrate their water recycler. (Picture by Marilyn Moore)

Cash for elderlies

Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club has received a \$900 state government grant to assist in the purchase of a tape recorder and a video recorder.

Announcing the grant, MP Phil Honeywood told the *Diary* that the grant marked the International Year of Older Persons.

"Funding for these grants was made available through the Victorian government's Community Support Fund. Nearly 1300 community groups shared in the \$1 million small grants pro-

gram," Mr Honeywood said.

"In granting these funds, particular consideration was given to agencies which, due to their size and nature, do not enjoy any regular funding but which do important work for older Victorians by offering opportunities for new skills, friendship and social activity.

"The International Year of the Older Person is a wonderful opportunity to recognise the continuing contribution of older people."

ARTspeak

STUDIO GALLERY



Artist: George Tjaparrangka Title: Tingari Women Date: 1994 Size: 61 x 55cm. Provenance: Painted at Kooltje for Pajumpu Tjira Artists

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ACT GLOBALLY... SHOP LOCALLY

Ring road hits dead end?

By FIA CLENDINEN

Pressure to complete the ring road missing link across the Yarra and through the Green Wedge may have eased, following the new Labor government's decision to abandon plans for the Scoresby freeway.

The Bracks government has acknowledged "growing north-south traffic congestion in the eastern suburbs". But late last month they came up with an alternative package of solutions. Instead of building the \$786 million dollar connection between Ringwood and Greensborough, the ALP proposals include investigating an "outer eastern public transport strategy", upgrading Stud Road, and investigating extending local tram and train routes.

Scrapping the Scoresby freeway proposal has been warmly applauded by Nillumbik mayor Bill Penrose.

"I'm absolutely rapt," Cr Penrose told the *Diary*. He explained that the scrapping of the Scoresby freeway would

"dramatically" reduce the pressure to complete the missing link through the Green Wedge. "I'd say the chances of a ring road through our area are almost impossible," he said.

"The shire's perspective is that we don't want a ring road here, it will spoil the area, and it will spoil it for everyone in Melbourne. So from our shire's view we are very happy about it."

But Cr Penrose said it was still essential the council maintain a watching brief and prepare alternative transport strategies. He said there were traffic problems in the shire and these had to be properly dealt with.

Anti Ring Road Organisation (ARRO) spokesperson Geoff Speedy expressed similar views. He agreed the scrapping of the Scoresby freeway was "wonderful news" and said it was "refreshing that the Labor Party have a community-minded attitude in regard to the Scoresby Freeway".

But Mr Speedy said there was still congestion on local roads and unless this was addressed VicRoads would continue to

lobby whichever government was in power to complete the ring road.

"We still have a risk of the Green Wedge being ruined by freeways," Mr Speedy warned.

In the "short term" the scrapping of the Scoresby freeway will take the pressure off this area, he said, "but there will always be pressure there unless public transport is improved".

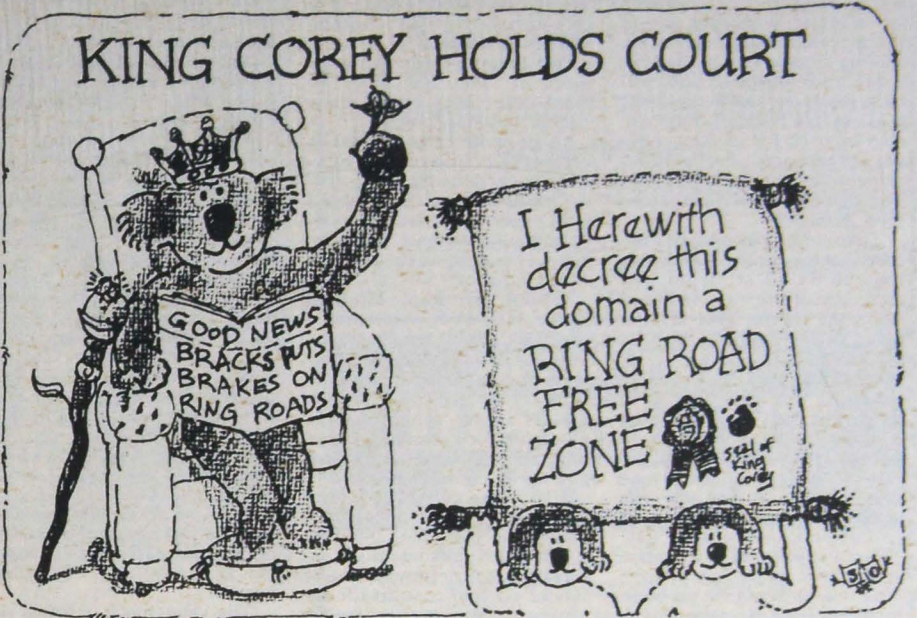
"There are definitely traffic problems around peak hour," Mr Speedy said. "We can solve those problems by a variety of means and building roads isn't one of them. We have plenty of roads, it's just a matter of how they are used."

Mr Speedy stressed that a piecemeal approach would never solve road congestion and that an overall approach was essential to solving Melbourne's transport problems.

"For any traffic problem it's no good looking at any particular part of Melbourne in isolation. Any discussion of the Scoresby freeway must include the Green Wedge. And any public transport improvements need to cover the whole of Melbourne."

SO —!

By SYD & ONA



Natural bushland in Cemetery Road: targeted by subdividers.

Second try for subdivision

By DAVID WYMAN

A proposal to subdivide land in Cemetery Road into seven residential lots has been re-submitted to Manningham council—still with seven lots.

And a petition is being canvassed among local residents opposing the subdivision in its present form.

The land is low-lying, forming a natural watercourse, and is covered with mature eucalypts—manna, candlebark and red box—all indigenous species.

Nearby resident, Terry Kain, said at the time of the subdivision application that development to the extent proposed would result in the demise of almost all the

trees when seven buildings, seven driveways and drainage and sewerage for seven properties were constructed.

In subsequent dealings with the council to make the subdivision more amenable, the applicants, who are Warrandyte residents, appear to have concentrated on trying to satisfy council's concerns on stormwater drainage from the land and improvements to Cemetery Road.

Earlier, council's planning management rejected the original subdivision because of "property lot layout and density, vegetation cover, topography of the land, the position of the drainage gully, the design standard of the road and the

pattern of surrounding development".

The petition now circulating throughout Warrandyte expresses the concern of nearby residents at the "adverse effects that will result from the proposed subdivision to seven lots of the property at 22 Yarra Street".

The petition urges council to

- Oppose the property being subdivided into more than a maximum of four lots;
- Oppose any widening of Cemetery Road;
- Require that driveways associated with the subdivision be sited so as not to interfere with any trees on Cemetery Road and Brackenbury Street.

Traders calling for return of fruit shop

By RACHEL BAKER

The Warrandyte Business Association has called for the empty premises in Goldfields shopping centre—formerly a fruit shop—to be occupied by a new fruit and vegetable retailer.

The premises have been empty since June when the owner closed down the business.

The shop is being advertised for lease by Assisi Real Estate (who have taken over from Ray White Real Estate), and will hopefully be filled shortly by a retail outlet, like a cafe, deli, or fruit shop, Mr Frank D'Assisi, director of Assisi Real Estate, said. "We hope it will be something that's an advantage, and not detrimental to the centre."

"But the space should not be occupied by a cafe or restaurant, because Warrandyte has enough of these. It should continue being a greengrocery," Mr John James, president of WBA, told the *Diary*.

"People can go to the supermarket for fruit and vegies, but that's the only place, so there's little competition," Mr James said. "I'm sure not just the business association, but everyone, all the residents, would love another fruit shop there," he said.

Mr James said the old fruit shop seemed to be very successful, and its closure was unfortunate. He said it was a reminder of how important it is for locals to support local business.

Mr Patrick DiNicola, who was managing the property and previously suggested a government agency might occupy it, has since left Ray White Real Estate. Around the same time, the property owner changed real estate companies.

Mr D'Assisi said there have been several applications, but none have been confirmed.

The owner has to approve who, and what sort of business, takes over the space, he said.

Calling all greengrocers: Warrandyte wants to patronise you



Medals mark millennium



Diary artist Jock Macneish has designed a commemorative medallion to mark the millennium in Warrandyte.

It will be awarded to everyone who attends the great slap-up New Year's Eve party, being organised by the Warrandyte Arts Association.

The celebration will begin in the Mechanics Institute Hall, then—hopefully—spill out to the bridge and all points beyond. The cost has been slightly increased to \$12.50. (They've put up interest rates, haven't they?)

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High school donors to be honoured

Donors to the new sports centre at Warrandyte High School will be honoured by the installation of engraved brick pavers incorporated in a walkway, seating area or wall at the site.

The multi-purpose area will be home to five new synthetic grass tennis courts, which will also be used for physical education classes and soccer, cricket and hockey training. The full complex will cost more than \$200,000.

"Community support will ensure that the centre is available for use by all students and members of the community at the start of the new millennium," spokesperson Barbara Mills told the *Diary*.

"The courts will be available for wider use after school, in vacations and on weekends. Primary schools will also have access to the courts during class times and if there are no classes scheduled on the courts there will be no barrier to daytime community use. "Warrandyte needs more spaces for its young people. This complex will be an enormous boon for recreation in the area. Helping the school reach its goal will leave an ongoing legacy for the community," Ms Mills said.

Details of how supporters can ensure their contribution is permanently recorded are outlined on a flier which is available through the school. A response would be appreciated by the end of November so that construction may commence.

The Warrandyte High School sports centre project is registered with Australian Sports Foundation Ltd (ASF). All donations made to the ASF are eligible for tax deductions. The ASF is listed in the Income Tax

Assessment Act 1997.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Please contact Warrandyte High School on 9844 6119 for details.

This initiative follows the inaugural meeting of the Warrandyte High School Foundation, held last month.

Those invited represented local service clubs, local business, local councils, state government, and current parents with expertise in banking, marketing and law, past students, school council and the school's administration.

School principal, Michael Blake, said in his welcoming remarks: "The school is a valuable community resource. Our future plans include the development of a multi-purpose sports centre, which will be available for community use, enhancements to the theatre and a VCE resource centre."

"The Warrandyte High School Foundation will be a broad-based, informal, charitable non-profit community organisation. Its purpose is to provide expert advice on, and support the securing of community resources for Warrandyte High School, from individuals, corporations, grant programs, foundations and trusts.

Members of the foundation affirmed the value of the school as a community resource and supported the school's efforts to attract philanthropy. Parliamentarian Wendy Smith said, "Businesses are increasingly seeing value in putting something back into the community."

Individual members of the foundation provided advice on the most effective ways to attract philanthropy and to further develop philanthropy in the community.

Flagging the future

By FIA CLENDINEN

Nillumbik council has become the first shire in Australia to fly the reconciliation flag, a move welcomed by community spokespeople.

The reconciliation flag was specially designed by Monash University design lecturer Russell Kennedy.

Mr Kennedy said he was very conscious of being a non-aboriginal designing an aboriginal-inspired flag. "So I made sure that I consulted with the aboriginal community right from the outset," he said.

Indigenous academic Helen Curzon-Siggers researched the flag and took it around Australia to gauge reaction from aboriginal communities. "Fortunately we've had nothing but positive responses, which has been overwhelming," Mr Kennedy said.

Mr Kennedy said he felt a flag was needed as a "visible symbol of reconciliation", as distinct from the Australian aboriginal flag which represents aboriginal people. His flag uses the kangaroo as a "unifying symbol".

"The kangaroo is a totem of many aboriginal tribes. And it represents Australia to non-indigenous Australians as well." Elizabeth Savage Kooroonya, a Nillumbik resident of aboriginal descent told the *Diary* she thought the council's decision to fly the flag was "wonderful".

"I think it's a wonderful thing that Nillumbik can say there are non-confrontational ways we can acknowledge indigenous Australia. I think that in that sense Nillumbik should be congratulated."

Over 150 years ago, on October 11, 1840, police rounded up 400 aborigines and marched them at bayonet point from



Nillumbik residents march for reconciliation.

their camps to the Melbourne stockade. The reconciliation flag will be flown to commemorate this sorrowful event as well as other days of significance to the local Wurundjeri people.

But Ms Savage Kooroonya said that while many historical incidents were painful to remember, there could be no "healing without acknowledgment". She also stressed that reconciliation was not about apportioning blame.

"I really think we should take this concept of guilt right out of reconciliation. To me, reconciliation is about acknowledgment, reparation and inclusiveness. Flying the flag is acknowledgment and a form of reparation because it is a cultural decision to change cultural thinking and awareness."

Llewellyn Pritchard, secretary

of the Nillumbik Reconciliation Group, whose organisation was also "very pleased" council was going to fly the flag, said both indigenous and non-indigenous people stood to gain from the reconciliation process.

"I see reconciliation as just a stepping-stone to something else, it's going to be more about an embracing and converging of the two cultures. I don't think that we have to be reconciling for ever, it's a necessary process to show respect to the people who have been wronged by our culture and our past."

Mr Pritchard pointed out that because the Yarra Valley supported many Wurundjeri people before European settlement it was appropriate that "the council was now leading the way, with community support, in reconciliation".

Nillumbik mayor Bill Penrose said local residents have a very strong sense of community and a deep attachment to the environment. "Let's face it, the Shire of Eltham was ahead in environmental policies many years ago, when it wasn't popular," he said.

He believed that these values had led to the council setting an example in supporting reconciliation.

"What both the aboriginals that are left in the area and the community here share is that we really value Nillumbik for what it is, its beauty, its nature, some of its unspoiled areas. And we're struggling to keep it that way. We're saying to the aboriginals we're working with you; we take your approach (to the environment) that the long term is the way to look at it."

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Donna Stoddart (left) and Alan Noy advising property owner Mandy Bence of South Warrandyte. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Conservation carers

By RACHEL BAKER

Not all Australian plants are pretty. They have to withstand our rugged environment; they have to be tough. Sometimes, they look like weeds. So how does a property owner know what's what? What to protect and what to kill? How can they live on their land but still preserve its natural state?

These sorts of questions were answered for landowners around Warrandyte in last month's Property Management Planning Program.

Manningham council, through its Local Environment Assistance Fund (LEAF), has just completed its fifth year of helping people look after their land. The program, in which more than 800 residents took part this year, has two sections: a course, with seminars and lectures, and planning, where plans are created to promote the natural state of properties.

The program began in 1995. In the beginning, the council employed environmental consultants to make changes to residents' land. They examined properties, decided what to do to protect the indigenous plants and landscape, then implemented the changes. Now, while environmental experts are still involved, landowners are being taught how to look after their land.

"We're shifting the emphasis away from consultants to the landowners," Mr Roger Collins, manager of economic and environmental planning at Manningham council, said.

During October, property owners went along to a series of presentations on various land care issues: how to deal with streams, dams and wetlands, how to access a property, protect historical sites, remove pest plants, repel rabbits and foxes and prepare for and react to fires.

The presentations were given by local environmental experts Glen Jameson and Alan Noy, and Donna Stoddart, a council environmental planner. Other guests were also called upon to give specialised advice.

The planning process also took place in October. A smaller group of property owners volunteered to have their land put under the microscope, and made a commitment to improve its natural environment.

Mr Jameson and Mr Noy made the plans for most of the properties, but the landowners were able to decide who did the work. "They could choose another consultant, or some residents who had knowledge in the area made their own plans," Mr Collins said.

Mr Jameson and Mr Noy are local people who know the Warrandyte environment, so most people were comfortable using them, he said.

The planning process was about determining the assets each block had—natural and artificial—finding out what things were threatening these assets and working out how to resolve these threats.

The properties, which ranged from bush to pasture, each had

an aerial photograph taken and a base plan and contour map drawn, before being examined by a consultant. The consultant would advise on what work should be done. The work could be done by the landowner, or someone employed by the landowner.

The level of examination and work done varied between properties, Mr Collins said, depending on the size and type of the land.

Manningham council's economic and environmental planning section, which runs the course, said it recognises that land is used for many things: people live there, animals graze, and so on.

Their focus was to balance these uses with conserving the natural environment, Ms Stoddart said.

One of the landowners who has taken part in this year's course is Mr Anthony North, who has a 40 acre block on Gold Memorial Drive.

Twenty acres is natural bush and the other half is grazing land. Mr North, who has owned the land for 26 years, said he has always been interested in caring for its natural environment. "But without the knowledge you don't know what's appropriate," he said.

An example was a plant that was growing on Mr North's block. He thought it was a weed, but the environmental consultants told him it was a native plant called kangaroo grass.

"Now I see it completely differently," he said.

Alan and Glen suggested solutions to other problems. Mr North has a saltwater swimming pool and the runoff from it was damaging plants further down the hill. The consultants suggested he place rocks and dried leaves to arrest the flow of water, or build an evaporative pond.

There was also erosion around the driveway. When it rained, the water would rush through the drain beside the drive. As it did so it was removing soil from the side of the hill. Mr Jameson and Mr Noy said putting rocks in the drain would slow down the flow of water and stop the hill eroding.

Mr North has realised, after completing the course, that he can now see trouble spots on his land and identify the native plants. "I love the fact that I know what's going on in my property," he said.

And he believes there are social benefits. "It's also led to a great community spirit around here. You start to know and talk to your neighbours," he said.

Manningham council plans to continue the project in future years. They hope to increase the frequency of the property management courses from every 12 months to every six months, Mr Collins said, "but this depends on funding and resident interest".

Mr North advises other landowners to take part in the program.

"It's a commitment of time but it's extremely rewarding," he said.

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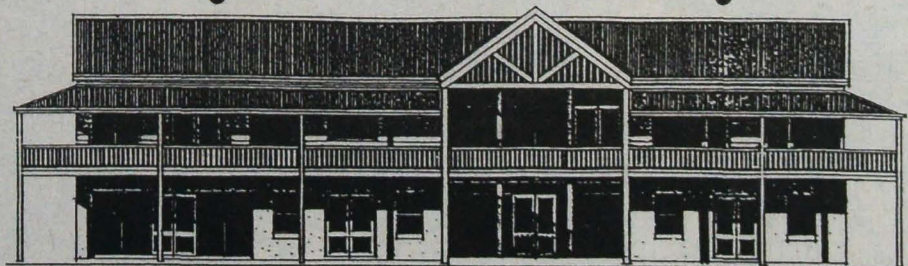


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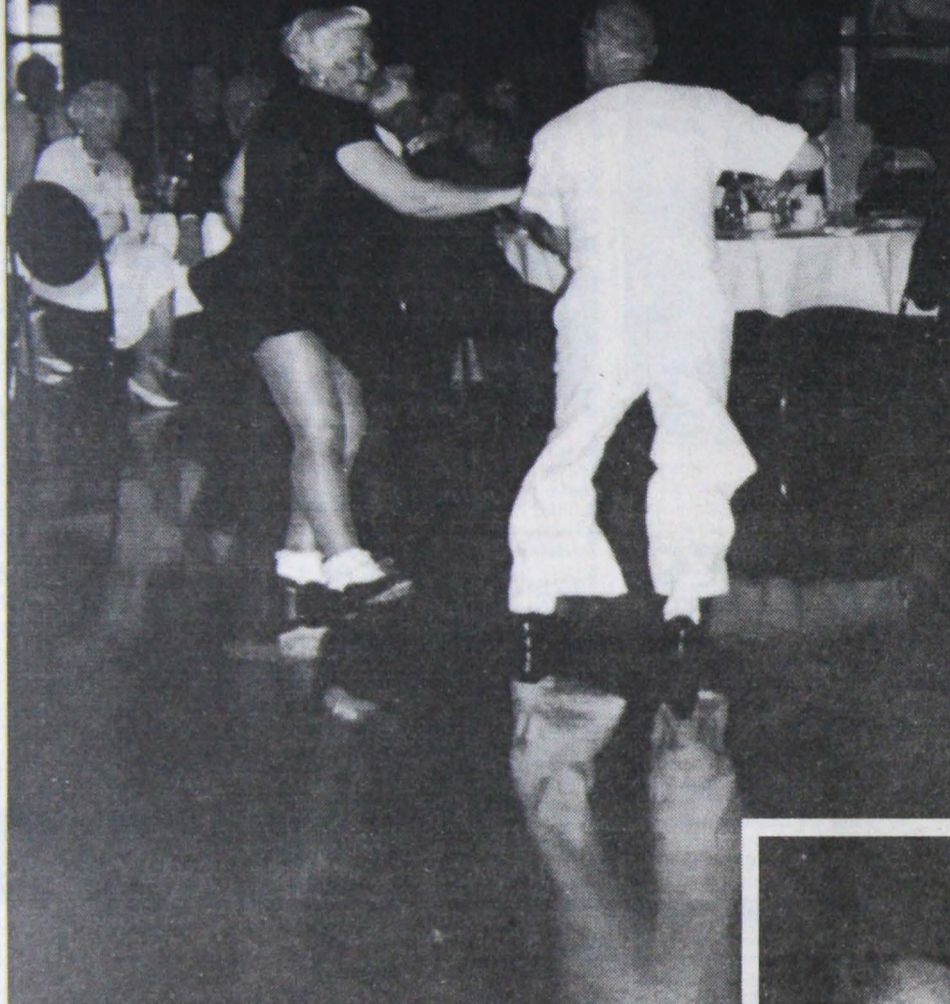


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You're never too old to fling a leg!



By **KEN VIRTUE**

IF you had asked me what I normally do on a Sunday afternoon, the conversation would have quickly got around to gardening.

The last thing I expected to be doing was acting as a dance partner at an old-time tea dance. But there I was, trying to remember "two slow steps, two fast and another slow," as I cruised around the dance floor with women almost twice my age. And yes, hell, I admit it, I'm 50!

Until a few months ago, I didn't even know that 1999 is the International Year of Older Persons.

A few of us from the Warrandyte Theatre Company did some readings of works written by older people from the Manningham shire. This led to an invitation to get involved in a special dance event for about 300, supported by Doncare, Manningham Community Health Service and a number of other local care organisations such as Meals on Wheels (Manningham Food Services).

The invitation from Doncare's Sue Dyring went something like this: "Ken, would you mind picking up a few older people from their homes, bringing them to the cabaret room at the Doncaster Shoppingtown Hotel, helping them to their tables, and perhaps being a partner for a couple of dances? Oh, and by the way, two of the people you will look after have some dementia ..."

I have found that I am always apprehensive about things that are not in my normal sphere of experience, and this was clearly going to be one such episode!

However, little could have prepared me for this humbling Sunday afternoon. There were

dozens of carers there, and that word "carers" has now taken on a new meaning for me. This band of calm, helpful, respectful men and women were just amazing. They enabled a large number of older people to have a very special day out. Some arrived in wheelchairs, many came in with walking frames and canes to help their tired legs along but they were all smiling. They were all just looking forward to their cup of tea and cakes.

They watched demonstrations of ballroom and jive dancing, then many got up on that polished floor and relived special memories of days and nights in their youthful past. One couple that I picked up made us all wipe a tear away. He had some dementia, and loss of mobility due to a stroke. She, his wife of 40 years, stood up with him in the middle of the dance floor and they just quietly rocked from side to side together. She had her head against his shoulder and he had a warm smile on his face as the old-time quartet played on.

I danced with one 86 year-old called Maree who hadn't been to a dance in 15 years. She sang along to the lovely old songs she knew. She was from London and her mother had trained to be a singer at the British Academy. I think I only stood on her toes once.

Later when I drove her home, she said wistfully from the back seat, "Did you know that I went to a dance this afternoon?"

"Oh, yes," I said, sensing that her memory was playing tricks on her.

"Yes," she said, "it was just lovely. I danced with a very young man."

"That must have been nice," I replied.

"Oh, yes," she said, "and he knew that you go 'two slow steps, then two quick and one slow'..."



Pictures by **KARL WALTER**



Glittering occasion: High school students 'came out' at the Warrandyte Lions Club debutantes' ball on Friday, October 22 at the Great Hall of the Ivanhoe Centre. (Picture by Karl Mandl Photography)

Night to remember

IT'S 6.20pm on a Tuesday night and I'm running late for dance practice again. My partner and I rush out the door, knowing we simply won't make it to St Anne's on time. We walk through the door, and 27 dancing couples stare back at us. The hum of a waltz buzzes around my ears as I quickly find my position for the next dance.

It is the last of 10 dancing practices I have had to attend for my debutante ball. Excitement fills the air, as girls discuss their dresses and guys wonder how a white dress can be so enthralling. I curtsy to my partner and look around the room at my friends.

Our dance teacher, Susan Bollard, has put up with weeks of complaining, yet on this final dance practice, everyone concentrates in the hope of soaking in a few last-minute waltzing tips. But will all these weeks of endless sore feet and frustration finally pay off? Surely it won't be worth it!

At 6.30am in the morning I awake excited. Finally the day has arrived. I get my nails done at 10am, followed by a hair appointment at noon and then I rush home to get into my lavish white gown.

My partner arrives, dressed formally in black tie, tails and white gloves, to escort me to the ball. My family drags out the camera and goes a little crazy, snapping away at pictures of me and my partner from every angle. At 4pm on the dot, a gorgeous white stretch limo arrives to take us to The Centre, Ivanhoe.

We arrive promptly at 5pm, ready for professional photos to be taken and a

Warrandyte Lions staged their annual debutantes' ball late last month.

Diary cadet reporter KARA WILLIAMS made her debut.

quick whirl on the dance floor. The hall has been decorated in purple, toned precisely to the vests of our partners. I wander around to admire the other girls' dresses, while the guys sit down and have a bite to eat. But I'm frightened I'll soil my gown, so I stay away from the food.

Time flies, and by 7.15pm our guests have arrived and all our nerves are a-jitter. The first 16 couples have been presented and I wait patiently behind the stage for my name to be called. I worry that I will fall head-first down the stairs, but remind myself that if I elegantly lift the corner of my dress, I will have no chance of tripping.

My name is called, and driven by the butterflies fluttering in my stomach, I step out under the sparkling arch. I look around the hall to where 350 guests sit watching. Flashes of cameras dazzle my eyes, but I quickly focus on my partner who waits at the bottom of the stairs. I step gracefully to meet him, and then the two of us walk slowly towards Mr Kevin Andrews MP and his wife Margaret, to whom we are to be presented. I cling to my partner's hand. I smile hugely, hoping to cover my nerves. When we reach Mr and Mrs Andrews, I

curtsy gracefully, amid the flash of my family's cameras. I receive my scroll and my partner and I head back towards the stage for the dancing to begin.

The music blares through the speakers. I hold my partner, ready for our first dance set. My heart is beating fast and I fear that I will trip on my dress, or somehow make a fool of myself, but the first dance is soon over and we are quickly onto the next. "One step, two step and turn—turn," I say to myself. I smile at the crowd and absorb the sparkling atmosphere.

The dances finish and my partner and I, along with the other 27 couples, sit down to a beautiful meal. Now we have time to relax. I no longer feel as if I am being continually watched. I walk around the hall and chat to my family and friends. It is obvious everyone is having a truly wonderful time. The band—Bliss—perform a selection of romantic tunes, and quickly the dance floor fills for a little hot-shoe shuffle.

Soon 12 strikes and it is time for the Warrandyte Lions Club 1999 Debutante Ball to come to a close. We all take off our extravagant outfits and dress ready to party all night long.

I looked at my beautiful gown. So much preparation had gone into this one night, and now it was coming to an end. We had put so much effort into weeks of dance practice and endless shopping trips to find that perfect dress. I thought back to that last dance practice, when I had wondered if it would be all worth this one night. But now there was no doubt in my mind. Every memory would last forever.



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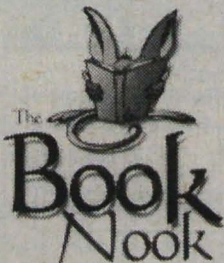


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Travellers' traumas on the streets of Rome

THE Sistine Chapel was opulent, the rooms full of Raphael paintings magnificent, but ultimately it is the people that make a visit truly memorable.

After Singapore with its anti-septic order, Italy is refreshingly chaotic.


It began with our meeting with Silvia at Rome's airport. Clouds of brown curly hair, a long denim dress she'd need a shoe horn to get into. And her mobile phone.

As soon as she had identified us as her "job," she began her diatribe with Umberto. Umberto was supposed to be driving us to our hotel but he hadn't arrived. Actually, Silvia's diatribe was with fate, the hour of the day, the mobile itself and the fact that Umberto had turned off his mobile and was now "incommunicato".

We were very patient and Anglo Saxon for half an hour then tiredness started to bring out my Italian ancestry. Whilst I was insisting that Silvia put us in a cab at the company's expense, Silvia was communicating with the rest of Rome on her mobile, and between time, assuring me that all would be well in a "momento".

Umberto didn't arrive but another man did. He was charming, remarkably calm and a good driver. However, he did believe every woman driver to be hopeless, using intersections for make-up sessions and car journeys as mobile mobile sessions.

"No hands on the wheel," he

 **KIBBLED**
"...we regressed decades in terms of sexism and multiculturalism."

explained whilst gesticulating with both of his own.

He warned us about the gypsies who roam in packs. We were assured that we would be safe as they preferred the Japanese. "More money and more stupid!"

So, by the time we had reached our hotel, we had regressed decades in terms of sexism and multiculturalism.

Actually our driver was wrong. I had just returned from posting a letter and was within 20 metres of my hotel door when two young gypsies approached. One held a tattered magazine in both hands and tried to place it under my chin; between my eyes and her hands and my wallet in my shirt pocket.

In a split second my genetic

meanness sprang into action. One hand clutched at my wallet whilst the other lashed out at the encroaching Romany hands.

"I'm not Japanese and I'm not stupid," I thought as I warded off the attack. My mind raced back to our taxi driver's hand-talking and I started doing the same.

"Chiama la polizia!" I yelled whilst my arms practised being a helicopter.

The locals just walked by. Meanwhile, my sense of violation was awakened and my heart was pounding. The two young girls surlied off as I made a less than graceful escape to the hotel lobby. Inside, I thought, would be safety, understanding and concern.

"I've just had an attempted pickpocketing by gypsies." Blank.

"There are gypsies out there and they are deliberately targeting people to rob." Smile.

"Do the police know they are here?" A raised eyebrow.

"Shouldn't we do something?"

The Roman standing next to me couldn't resist involvement. "It's Rome. It's a way of life!" and burst into laughter. Angelo, behind the counter, is not given to laughter but gave the closest he could muster.

Herself was far more sympathetic. Here I was suffering post-trauma stress and all the locals could do was laugh. Herself soothed my anguish and let me work through the entire crisis.

Five minutes later I went to the window that overlooks the Via del Corso. There below

were the two hardened criminals threading their way across the manic traffic, one holding aloft a gentleman's gold watch. When they reached the other side, they turned and whistled. Another four adolescent girls, one holding a one year-old baby, rushed onto the scene. They all appraised the watch then turned tail and headed off into the Roman crowd.

Angelo's reaction of bored disinterest is hardest to come to terms with. Herself's nightmare is to be given the job of teaching Roman shopkeepers customer relations. Service is confused with servile and a Roman is never that. As a result family feuds are conducted whilst you are attempting to discuss the intricacies of Skinny milk. Change is given by slapping it on the counter whilst the shopkeeper's eyes are firmly set on a mirror or a hologram of imperial Rome that seems to hover perpetually in the middle distance.

Opening hours are the same. We have been conned by economic rationalism that we must work 365 days a year, 7 to 7, but not in Italy. How civilised. Perhaps a 9 or 9.30 start, a siesta between 1 to 4 and close again at 9.

Oh, and don't assume you can see any monument at any time. Nowadays lots of places are shut. Our own village in Tuscany closes Wednesday afternoons.

In Rome, there's a large sign that reads, "Style is an attitude, not a size". I think we could do with a lot more of those signs in Australia.

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Poisonous plants plot against pedestrians

I CURSED aloud. The pain was sudden, sickeningly sharp and all too familiar. I had been cut and the perpetrator was a plant—a sedge to be more exact. In the process of pulling up a handful of undesirable quaking grass, known also as shell grass after its nodding panicle of shell-shaped flowers, I must have inadvertently grabbed a leaf of carex sedge. I watched the blood ooze from my finger at an alarming rate.

Carex is not the only sedge capable of inflicting such flesh wounds. Gahnia and lepidosperma—saw and sword sedges respectively—will do the same. And the mechanism they use is a row of minute glass-like silica spicules situated along the leaf edge. Grass blades—now there's an appropriate word—can also cut finely, like paper.

Stemming the flow of blood with a tightly bound tissue, I moved on. So far it had not been a good morning. Earlier, while traipsing through dense vegetation at the river's edge, I had brushed against the dark green serrated leaf of a nettle. Almost immediately my forearm turned red. Raised white lumps appeared. This nettle is a native and not the same species that grows wild in damp ditches of the English countryside, however, it does have the same stinging properties. The modified hairs on the surface of leaves are hollow and contain poison, the main constituent of which is histamine. It was histamine that stimulated the sensory nerves in my skin and dilated the blood vessels, causing the pain and redness.

My second unpleasant encounter was with a bundle of



NATURE

By PAT COUPAR
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

blackberries. I became snagged. Extricating myself from the clinging canes resulted in a thorn becoming deeply embedded in my thumb. It would require some painful digging out when I returned home.

The relaxing stroll by the river, intended as an antidote to a stressful week, was turning into a botanical nightmare. The plants were conspiring against me. Or so it seemed. In reality I had run into a number of defenses developed by the plants to stop animals from eating them. Thorns, spines, needles and silica blades are adequate mechanical deterrents, but their most lethal weapon is chemical. Various poisonous compounds of bitter alkaloids, irritant acids, tannins, oils, saponins and glycosides are manufactured and stored by the plant in its leaves, seed pods, berries, bulbs and flowers. A single oleander flower contains enough poison to make a child seriously ill.

Poisonous plants abound in Warrandyte's gardens. The sticky milky sap of the all too popular agapanthus can cause ulceration of the mouth; daffodil bulbs, if eaten, result in gastro-enteritis and convulsions; daphne, primula and philodendron leaves all contain poisonous compounds, as do the pods of wisteria and the kernels of apricots.

Environmental weeds, like ivy, broom, honeysuckle and ragwort, found in bushland around



"...brushed against the dark green serrated leaf of a nettle..."

Warrandyte, are all toxic in one way or another. And some of Warrandyte's indigenous species, although not deadly, should also be treated with caution. Among those under suspicion are the scrambling clematis, ground-hugging pratia, native buttercups and lobelia, while the succulent, paradoxically sweet blue berries of flax-lilies are also regarded as potentially poisonous.

Careful handling and simply being aware will keep most adults safe. Those most at risk are infants and inquisitive children. Yet not all plant toxins are bad. In fact a great many drugs, excluding herbal remedies, are derived from naturally occurring products. Digitalis—the heart drug—is obtained from foxgloves; ephedrine—a common compound of cold and flu tablets—comes from a small, primitive Chinese plant and

morphine—the most effective of all analgesics—is extracted from the opium poppy. Poisoning is often a matter of how much. Get the dose right and a potential poison can be a life-saving medicine, while the reverse is also true.

For the first time that morning I noticed a tingling in my nose and my eyes were starting to itch—the first symptoms of hay fever, an allergic reaction to microscopic pollen grains. Wrapped in thoughts of dangerous mechanical and chemical devices, I had forgotten the misery grasses and other flowering plants can deliver to sufferers at this time of year.

I had been stung, stabbed, cut and now this. The conspiracy of plants was too much. I turned for home.

● Recommended reading: Some Plants Are Poisonous by Sally Wilson (Reed Books).

Sporting chance in the rag trade

BARRISTERS and psychiatrists notoriously roar along the road to wealth way over the speed limit, whilst the rest of us struggle to get the jalopy out of reverse. There must be a more easily achievable occupation which will guarantee a lifetime of chardonnay and comfort. One which readily leaps to mind, if you have teenagers enthusiastic about sport, is the business of manufacturing sports uniforms.

Sport of course is a wonderful thing. Most parents understand this, and at the first sign of little Johnnie aiming bat at ball with any degree of accuracy, off he or she goes to cricket or tennis or whatever.

It's such an exciting time. Young Johnnie revels in the opportunity to work off a bit of excess kinetic energy in a manner guaranteed to attract the applause of devoted parents, who are either (a) basking in the heartwarming belief that Johnnie is a great little chip off the old block, or (b) genuinely amazed and possibly somewhat bewildered by this extraordinary offspring who, at the tender age of six, has achieved a level of competency that they could only dream of.



OUR PLACE

By MARILYN MOORE

Little does Johnnie (or the blameless parents) suspect what is to come. If you conducted a survey of parents of preschool-aged children, the percentage who would visualise their future teenagers spending almost every waking moment in uniform, following strict and rigidly enforced rules, would be fairly close to zero. After all, didn't we, the baby boomers, take most of the initiative in the anti-Vietnam, anti-conscription rallies?

Well, I can promise you, it happens. In the nicest possible way, of course. By the time he or she is about nine, the snowball is already in motion. Young Johnnie plays his/her first real tennis match in a Section 27 team with much older kids and the whole family bursts with

pride.

The snowball stealthily gains momentum. Predictably, Johnnie's best friend plays basketball, and before you know it, young Johnnie is down at their court as well. The basketball coach, having noticed Johnnie's much-sought-after ability to catch the ball more often than he/she drops it, issues an invitation to join the Under 11s. The proud parents, delighted that somebody has spotted their child's talent, eagerly consent. Within 12 months, young Johnnie is the mainstay of the team, attends two coaching sessions per week and regularly fills in for another team at a neighbouring club which plays in a different competition.

Meanwhile, the school house sports reveal the fact that this wonderchild is the second fastest sprinter in the grade. Subsequent success at long jump, shot putt and relay leave his/her heaving little chest covered in beribboned glory. Cameras click, shoulders are hugged and patted, and at the next opportunity, Dad lands Johnnie in seventh heaven at Little Athletics. Not only does this venue provide constant encouragement and a string of medals, but Johnnie's two younger siblings

can enrol as well. This saves a lot of running about on Saturday mornings. Tennis is easily relocatable to a Sunday competition, so everything fits in really well.

Sound familiar? The tally so far is one set of tennis gear, two or three basketball uniforms (singlets, shorts, t-shirts and tracksuits), multiple school uniforms and school sports uniforms, and three Little Athletics outfits (t-shirt, shorts for normal competition, with a tracksuit and different uniform for major events). Not to mention a vast array of tennis shoes, basketball boots, school shoes, runners, spikes and countless opportunities to purchase commemorative clothing.

It gets worse. Our 13 year-old is entering the realm where a whole new uniform is designed for a specific weekend of competition. Four t-shirts, shorts, and tracksuit are compulsory in addition to the actual athletics outfits, and the whole lot is valid for either one, two or three minutes on the track, depending on how many heats you get through in what is basically a one-minute event.

I'm definitely in the wrong business!

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Travelling north on Highway 1

THIS instalment takes me from New South Wales into Queensland, continuing northward along Highway 1.

I stayed nearly a week with my retired, but still very active, great aunt and uncle in Yamba, a pleasant seaside town where I briefly became quite the local celebrity, with an article in their newspaper and lots of social outings.

I camped, first night onward, at Hastings Point, a non-descript yet beautiful stretch of the Tweed coastline. The scenery is all beautiful up this way. Hastings Point juts out into the ocean creating the feeling that I could almost be surfing or sailing out into the Pacific as the waves break each side of me in my salty haven on the rocks.

Spring is just beginning as I head south for the day and at about the 40km point turn inland to enjoy a relaxing breakfast in the lazy, wide-streeted town of Bangalow. It is an unspoilt, down-to-earth place with a lovely village atmosphere, which as a Warrandytian I can relate to with easy familiarity. The smiling locals welcomed a chat as they went about their business in the most laid-back manner. It made me feel good to be here, nestled amongst the hills that reminded me so much of home.

I ride on. My destination is on the far side of Lismore. Easy I thought, but the roads are wandering and poorly marked. It took some guesswork, and to my surprise, I found myself on the correct road (OK, so the scruffy, bare-foot, tracky pant-wearing hitchhikers were better guides than any signposts).

Twisting and turning, progressively narrowing, giving no indication of what lay ahead, I left the heavy, almost spicy smell of harvesting sugar cane behind me and now my nostrils picked up another even more exotic scent, this one acrid-sweet and slightly smoky (source unknown).

On arrival at my destination, offers to personally acquaint myself with it were plentiful. If you have not yet worked out where I am, it is Nimbin, the hippie and feral counter culture capital of Australia. A definite "must not miss" on any travelling itinerary. Real life movie scenes play forth around me as I weave my way through and between the varied characters and "sets". Strangely imaginative costumes and unexpected happenings appear and pass. The locals seem to be great gardeners and bakers, selling their home produce from informal roadside stalls co-



Catherine before the mast. She goes a little further north each month.

OPEN ROAD

By CATHERENE SELBY

opted from park benches and car bonnets.

As the clouds grey, I take myself out of this pretty, mountainous, fairy tale-like place along roads that become increasingly wider and of better condition, emerging back into the reality of conventional civilization, just a little stunned and ready to move on to my next destination.

After about six weeks in N.S.W. I finally cross its northern border, "Aye".

I was sitting, minding my own business on the side of the road just south of the toll at Gateway Bridge, Brisbane, when who should roll up in a convertible jeep, CDs blaring and sunnies wrapped firmly on, but a blast from the Warrandyte past. Previously residing only doors from the Grand Hotel in a mudbrick house opposite the Yarra River, and mostly sighted on summer afternoons on his balcony turning sausages and onions on the barbecue with his friends. For those who have not guessed, I write of

Geoff Williams. Those who remember him will be glad to know he is suffering only a mild case of mid-life crisis, and sharing a happy home with partner Colleen and families (complete with Buddy the staffordshire puppy) and terrorising the northern suburbs of Brisbane, "Aye".

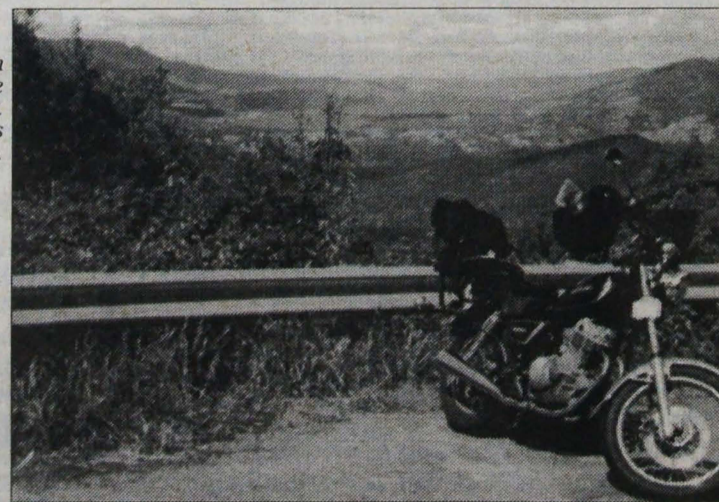
Other familiar faces from Warrandyte I managed to catch up with were Alisha and Erik Bumpers who are kept busy running a seven-day-a-week auto accessory shop in Maroochydore.

Both families are very happy living in the sun, savouring the relaxed lifestyle here and showing no signs of plans to return south, "Aye".

The new season has begun right on cue. The sun is warm, the rain has dried up, and the holiday atmosphere is with me. I am truly over the border into Queensland now, "Aye".

*NOTE: The term "Aye" creeps into all manner of conversation when communicating with the natives, that is Queenslanders. It is always said in a lower tone than the rest of the sentence, in a similar way to an executive saying "stop" as he punctuates letters when dictating to his secretary.

View from Gibraltar Range National Park. Catherine was taking the photo.



66 I WAS born in Warrandyte on October 4, 1913, and have lived here most of my life. I had a younger brother and a sister and we lived near the corner of Harris Gully and Gold Memorial roads. There were two permanent houses and three weekenders there at the time.

"Dad had a poultry farm first. Then he went to World War 1 and when he returned he became a builder.

"I started at Warrandyte Primary School in 1919. Mary Aumann, from the orchard up on Harris Gully Road, took me to school on the first day. The school had one room. I had boots on but a lot of the children had bare feet. There was one teacher for 40 children for all grades. All children up to fourth grade were taught by eighth grade monitors from the eighth. When I left there were three teachers.

"The only way to get to Melbourne was by horse coach to Heidelberg or Ringwood early in the morning, then catch a train to Melbourne. The coach to Heidelberg returned about 10 o'clock with the mail and newspaper. People picked these up from the post office. The township had four shops—two grocers, the butcher and baker—two hotels, the post office and hall. There were two telephones, one at Jack Moore's store and one at the Grand Hotel.

"Water was run off the roof and had to be stored in tanks. When it was frosty the tanks would freeze. The Yarra River flooded over the main road below the post office and the cricket ground. The Recreation Reserve flooded up to the goal posts. There was a water wheel that ran a battery for the mining almost opposite the which was near the present post office. We spent a lot of time fishing and swimming in the river. The main road was metalled, but most of the others were dirt tracks.

"The only two industries were orcharding and cutting fire wood. The orchardists had to spend one day going to the Melbourne market to sell their fruit the next morning, and the rest of the day returning home. The woodcutters spent one day cutting a load of wood, the next delivering to Heidelberg or Balwyn.

66 COUNCILLORS were elected on a policy of roads, roads and roads. The locals formed a progress association and held monthly meetings to urge the council to greater works.

"I left school in sixth grade and went to Caulfield Tech. I lived with my aunty down in Caulfield and delivered papers on the pushbike for five shillings a week. I did a year at the technical school and got my Merit Certificate. Then I was apprenticed to a plumber, but he went broke after six months. So I came home and went to work at Huntis Plumbing in Ringwood. I rode my pushbike to Ringwood and also had to ride to Croydon and Ferntree Gully when they had work over there.

"In 1925 the first motor coach began running to Melbourne which meant people could live in Warrandyte and work in the city. By 1930 bitumen, and electric light reached the town and the telephone system spread all over. Motor cars were improving, land was cheap and more people came to live in the town, so more money was available to spend on roads.

"In the 1930s my brother Ernest, Syd Houghton and I went to Mildura grape picking. We came home with 20 pounds each, which was a lot of money in those days. I went back to pick grapes a second time and stayed there for six years. We camped and trapped rabbits and cooked them. We also sold them for threepence a pair. We'd get 50 pair a night using traps.

"Then we won a fencing job on a property with two miles of frontage to the Darling and 25 miles back. We put a fence all around and then it was subdivided. It took about two years and we did miles and miles of fencing. I was there for two Christmases. The boss invited us home for Christmas dinner. The irrigation blocks in the subdivision were about 20 acres. My partner Charlie and I moved houses from returned soldiers' farms in the Mallee to these fruit blocks.

"I came home in 1939 just after the fires to help my father rebuild. Then World War 2 broke out. I was in the 7th Battalion militia in Mildura part-time for about 12 months and had



Alex and Audrey Edwards (Picture by Robyn Jeans)

Memories of war

Alex Edwards of Yarra Street has lived in Warrandyte most of his 86 years. He told ROBYN JEANS his story.

transferred to the 39th in Hawthorn. Then I joined the 2/7th battalion AIF and went to the war for six years.

"Our battalion trained up at Puckapunyal and were the first to go overseas. I left on April 15, 1940. We went to Egypt and the Libya campaign. When we came back from the desert we went over to Greece. We were there two or three weeks and then moved to the Domokas Pass. On Anzac Day 1942 we were evacuated on a ship which was bombed and sunk. The British destroyer Defender rescued us and dropped us at Crete. We'd lost all our equipment and arms.

"They rearmed us on Crete with loose ammunition. We had to load one bullet at a time. We had no water bottles. The Germans parachuted on us. We counter-attacked. I was a corporal in the assault section of the pioneers. There were only 11 men left in our platoon. We fell back. We were the rear guard and the rest passed through us. The German infantry

didn't bother us but their aircraft followed us all the way. We were to hold our position the next day and the day after.

"About 6 o'clock that night the signal came up there were no more British boats coming in to remove us. So we went down to the beach and we got there just as the last boat was pulling out. The colonel said he was going to surrender the battalion and anybody who wanted could take to the hills. Three of us—Harry Lang, Jacky Lester and I—were sneaking along the beach when we saw this landing barge. We got a rope and pulled it ashore. There was wire around the two propellers. We managed to clear one and by the time we cleared it there were about 150 men on board.

"We set off and there was an island about two miles away with a high cliff with a sort of a cave in it. We put the barge in there. There was water on the island so we got all the water we could. The next day we ran out of petrol. We tried to make sails, but we just drifted

north. For the first eight days we had a cup of water and one biscuit each, then for the next five days there was half a cup of water and a biscuit. It was a crowded, tense time.

"We drifted across to Libya in Africa and landed between the English lines and the German lines. The English looked after us. I had malaria and dysentery and went to hospital. After this I was promoted to sergeant. We went to Syria. They thought the Germans might come down through Syria.

66 T HEN the Japanese came. We were going to go to Malaysia but Malaysia fell and we stopped at Ceylon for about 10 weeks. I remember steaming out of the Ceylon harbour and the band on the English cruiser was playing Run, Rabbit, Run!

"We had 22 days leave and then we went to New Guinea. I was promoted to lieutenant. I was explosives expert in the battalion and I was wounded by a booby trap in Milne Bay and lost the sight of one eye. I came back home, went to hospital then on to engineering school in Sydney for six months.

"In 1944 the battalion was reformed and we went back to New Guinea. We were cleaning up gear the Yanks had left behind. They couldn't take two bulldozers with them so they covered them up. We went and dug them up. There were tanks all over the place. By this time we were attached to the engineers. We built a bridge over the Danmap River. It was 350 spans, and when it was finished a big rain came and it flooded. The river didn't run under the bridge, it ran around the sides!

"It was five days march from the airfield at Aitape down the coast to the Danmap River and up to Maprik. I was instructed to construct a complete line of communication and an airstrip over the Torricelli Mountains near Maprik. Gidgee, a New Guinea native, showed me how to get over the hills. I then had 35 men prepare a jeep track and an airstrip using only normal pioneer platoon equipment. The conditions were really difficult. I had little engineering experience, but we managed with the help of 300 natives. The airstrip meant a 20 minute march to the camp at Maprik instead of the five or six days it took from Aitape airfield.

"After this we went back down to Aitape. We were involved in an outflanking movement. Three fighter planes attacked an airfield. We had 15 mortar bombs. We put a smoke bomb on the airstrip and a plane came in and bombed it. This happened three times.

66 W E moved in and took the position without firing a shot. The next day or the day after, we were going to attack another position and I was on the phone about placing mortar bombs when an Australian colonel broke into the line and said, 'Cease hostilities against Japan', and that was the end of the war.

"I was awarded the MBE for commanding the work in New Guinea. I also received a commemorative medallion and an award from the Greek government for the work we did there during 1940-41. I came back home and was discharged on October 18, 1945, after 1240 days service overseas.

"I started taking building jobs and built three 'spec' houses, telephone exchanges for Ericssons and contracted to build prefabricated sleepouts for the Housing Commission. I worked my business up from there.

"I married Audrey Miller, a local girl, in March 1947. As a small child Audrey lived in Kia Ora, which was demolished by the floods. Scandlers, the candle shop is now on that site. In the 1930s Audrey lived at the Recreation Reserve, in the building later known as the White House, which was renovated by her father. He also built the hall there. We both went to school in Warrandyte, but at different times. We knew of each other, we saw each other around the town. We met again at the 'welcome home' shows at the Recreation Reserve.

"I built our house and workshop on Yarra Street in 1947. We had two sons and a daughter. Our house had a one-fire stove, open fire and ice chest. Jack Keep delivered the ice. I retired in 1972 and I kept a large vegetable garden which people often stopped to admire."

VILLAGE PEOPLE



Creek kids tread the boards



IN one night, you can sing along to the Spice Girls, go on a misadventure in outer space, boogie in a 1960s discoteque and learn a moral lesson about contemporary life.

Children at Anderson's Creek Primary School went on a tour through time and space at their annual production last month. The program, which ran across two weeks, featured four plays from different year levels.

The Preps performed *The Colour Factory*, a story about disillusioned workers in a colour factory learning about each other's value.

Grades 1 and 2 did *Feel Like Rockin*, with Elvis and Abba music.

Grades 3 and 4 took the audience into cyberspace with *Cyberkids*, when a group of children get trapped in a computer.

And grades 5 and 6 completed the

KIDS' STUFF

By RACHEL BAKER

line-up with *Kids In Space*, a futuristic version of an age-old problem: sibling rivalry.

Grades 1 to 4 performed in the first week of the program, and preps, fives and sixes in the second.

The Colour Factory showed all the colours of the rainbow coming out and showing their stuff. From the blue team, there was a blueberry, a bluebird and a Carlton supporter. From the reds, there were apples and a stop sign.

There were also *The Village People* and *The Supremes*, who didn't seem to be playing for any particular team, but succeeded in

bringing out the "oohs and aahs" from the audience.

Tamlyn Mokaraka, a five-year-old Supreme whose sequined dress and hip-swinging gave her the stage presence Madonna would envy, struggled to pinpoint the secret to her success.

Tamlyn, what exactly makes someone a great Supreme?

"Uuum... You have to do what Ms Mason tells you to do," she said.

Ms Brooke Mason, director of *The Colour Factory*, said she had to do little telling. "Every time I mentioned the play or rehearsals they all got so excited," she said.

Ms Andrea Leader, director of *Kids In Space* also said the students enjoyed the preparation. "The children were just so creative," she said. "We had an ideas box in the classroom, and it was just brimming with suggestions," she said.



LEFT: Kids In Space.
FAR LEFT: The Colour Factory.

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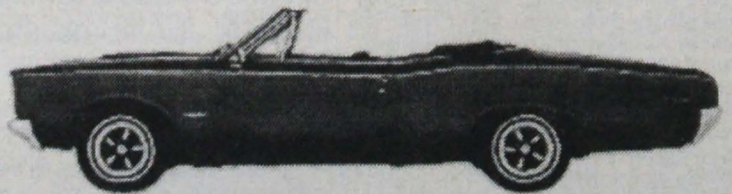
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ROTARY CLUB OF WARRANDYTE



ABOVE: Babe Stewart and her wartime bus. RIGHT: Babe in her later years.



HILMA STEWART

She drove for Warrandyte

BY SONJA WOLF

P EOPLE who lived in the Warrandyte district during World War 2 may remember Hilma (Babe) Stewart who drove the buses for Warrandyte, Ringwood, Wantirna and the army camp at Park Orchards.

Babe died in Yackandandah on October 21, 1999, and after a memorial service in Croydon, her ashes were the first to be placed in the new niche wall at Anderson's Creek Cemetery. The ashes of her late husband, Viggo, who died in 1971, were placed in the adjoining niche.

Hilma was born in Richmond to Elsie and Richard Berger on May 16, 1911, the second of four daughters. Her real name was not much used, as she had many nicknames, until, as a teenager she was called Babe, and that one stuck. In Warrandyte she was Babe or Auntie Babe to everyone.

Her father had taken up a few acres in Park Orchards. The family experienced pioneer life, from living in a covered wagon, building a log cabin covered in wattle-and-daub and struggling to make productive land of the rough stony country. They developed an egg and dressed poultry business.

Babe's father enlisted in World War 1, so Elsie and the children stayed in Richmond for a few years, where Babe started school. As soon as Richard returned they moved back to the bush. Babe attended the Warrandyte school

until the South Warrandyte school could be reached. Both these schools were a long way from Knees Road, Park Orchards and their long walks would have been through native scrub with a few fences to guide them. Their little tracks have since become named roads.

At just 14, Babe took herself off to Melbourne, lied about her age, and got a job. She soon established herself as an expert in the shoe-making industry. For the next 11 years she lived in Melbourne during the week, and in Park Orchards for weekends and holidays.

In the Warrandyte district she enjoyed all the traditional pursuits: horse-riding, country dances, trips on motor bikes and, of course, the Yarra River. When she was 21 she bought herself a good piano and took lessons. She also learned callisthenics and dancing and became known for her spontaneous tap dancing.

In 1936 she and Viggo Stewart married and they took up an orcharding property between South Warrandyte and Wonga Park. Their first child, Sonja, was born in 1938, a year of droughts and a season of heatwaves and fires. The infamous, horrific Black Friday fires in January 1939 wiped out all their trees and all their future plans.

When war was declared, Viggo enlisted and was soon off to Syria. Babe and Sonja moved to Ringwood, and in 1940 Babe became a bus driver. Even though her bus driving lasted barely

three years the experiences were so dramatic, fearful and funny, that they remained her most powerful memories. She is remembered in the district for her great war effort and wonderful spirit.

Viggo had some leave between Syria and New Guinea, and as a result their son Robert was born in October 1944.

After the war they renovated York Cottage in Yarra Street. It was demolished in the 1980s for a shopping centre. The ash tree there was once part of the cottage garden.

The family became involved in almost every aspect of life in Warrandyte: football, cricket, tennis, RSL dances and theatre presentations. They were among the first members of the Warrandyte Arts Association, and Babe became well-known for her parties.

After a long year of illness, Viggo died of cancer in October 1971, and Babe did quite a lot of travelling during the next few years; in Australia and an around-the-world tour.

In 1974 she settled into a relationship with a Scot, George Leslie, who may be remembered as a bus driver on the Doncaster-Box Hill run.

In January 1995 their failing health took them to a hostel near Babe's daughter, Sonja, in Yackandandah. George died on July 4, 1999.

Babe is survived by her family, Sonja and Robert, son-in-law Wally Wolf, ex-daughter-in-law Irene, four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. A life and personality to be remembered.

PHYL DUNN Pioneering potter

BY JO LAURENCE

I T IS with great sadness that we report the death of Phyl Dunn on October 17, 1999. Phyl originally came to Warrandyte after World War II to study painting with Danila Vassilief, but ended up staying to work as a potter with Reg Preston. Reg had been reluctant to take Phyl on as an apprentice, but did so because Danila had said he thought Phyl had great potential as a potter.

Phyl spent 1954-55 in London doing formal training there at the Central School of Arts. She returned to Warrandyte in 1956 to again work with Reg Preston and married him in 1958. That was the year she and Reg, plus Gus McLaren, Arthur Halpern, Charles Wilton and John and Betty Hipwell established Potters Cottage. The National Gallery of Victoria acquired one of Phyl's distinctive earthenware decorated with wax resist bowls from the first exhibition held by Potters Cottage in 1958.

She had a solo exhibition at the Argus Gallery in 1962, then she and Reg started exhibiting in craft association shows and many travelling exhibitions. They worked in earthenware until 1967 then changed to stoneware, which was more durable.



Phyl later also worked in porcelain.

She became one of Australia's leading women potters and those who acquired any of her work will always cherish it. Over the years at Potters Cottage, Phyl worked tirelessly with the co-operative, setting up many exhibitions of work by a multitude of artists. Her main aim was the promotion of hand-made Australian pottery.

Reg and Phyl moved away from Warrandyte to Woolamai in 1982 when the co-operative sold Potters Cottage. At Woolamai they continued to create pottery until Phyl's health declined.

JAMES WRIGHT Wood, wine and paper

By BILL NEWTON

W ELL-KNOWN local artist and identity Jim Wright passed away at the Eastern District Private Nursing Home late last month.

Jim was born on September 11, 1916 at Ballarat. He was raised by his parents James—who was a mines manager—and Margaret. Jim was a brother to Anne, Margaret and Dorothy.

Jim attended the School of Mines in Ballarat and from a young age showed a natural artistic talent. Completing his formal education he came to Melbourne and worked with the department store Foy and Gibson as a graphic artist.

Declaration of World War 2 saw Jim enlist in the army and serving on Morotai as a member of the Survey Corp. He abhorred war and rarely spoke of those times again. However he met a number of like-minded people during those years, some of them later settled in Warrandyte and strong friendships were formed.

Jim first met Joyce at Foy and Gibson, their love for each other grew and they married in 1941. So began a fine partnership until Joyce passed away in 1993.

Jim and Joyce established a business partnership as commercial artists, opening an office at 44 Williams Street, Melbourne. One of their larger contracts was with Myer Emporium. Jim did the layouts and

Joyce the fashion drawings that were used in the daily paper advertisements each week.

During those years they moved from West Brunswick, where they were living, to Warrandyte, eventually working from home in that delightful bush setting they both loved so much.

The commercial art world was undergoing many changes. Jim decided to branch out into something different and undertook a course in jewellery-making. His natural ability and desire to produce works that were original soon kept him very busy, along with his commercial art work.

Jim had always enjoyed working with his hands. He applied great skill to whatever he did, hence he had fashioned some fine contemporary art from timber as well as producing magnificent carpentry work in his home. Unfortunately the original home was destroyed in the bushfires of 1962 but with the help of architect and friend Robin Boyd, they rebuilt their home.

Both Jim and Joyce lived a full and balanced life. Jim was very enthusiastic when it came to supporting Essendon football team and loved watching them play on television, although it was one area where Jim and Joyce differed. They both appreciated fine music and jazz, and enjoyed attending concert performances. Both were friendly, sociable people and liked to entertain their friends. Jim had strong views on most subjects and was never reluc-

tant to share his thoughts with others.

Over the years he enjoyed fishing, he played some tennis and was a keen golfer, an activity he shared with Joyce. He was a member of the Healesville Country Club. At one time they, along with other friends in the Warrandyte area, shared in a houseboat at Lake Eildon,



and many good times were enjoyed there.

Jim was a great reader. He chose books on a wide range of subjects, including art and wine. He had developed his own vineyard on his land at Warrandyte and was a connoisseur of fine wines. He had been an enthusiastic member of the Beefsteak and Burgundy Club. He liked to read about gardening and for pure relaxation he'd turn his hand to a good mystery novel.

Jim had a soft spot for most animals, and over the years had always kept dogs. At one time he was involved in the breeding of Labrador retrievers. He also left out food for the wild birds.

With Joyce, Jim had the opportunity of travelling to Japan and New Zealand and travelled extensively within Australia. They travelled to central Australia long before it became a popular tourist destination. They camped along the way, often sleeping under the stars.

Jim Wright was a good man. He won the love of many and the respect of all with his down-to-earth approach to life. He was honest, generous and caring, with a wonderful sense of humour.

He will be remembered for his courage and loyalty throughout life and for the love and commitment he showed for the well-being of his wife and many friends.

Jim had not been in good health since mid-1995 following corrective heart surgery, and moved out of his home in early 1998 into supportive care.



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Warrandyte inspires author

BY WENDY GRAHAM

The gravel path to writer Corinne Fenton's house in Warrandyte leads past two pretty, long-haired Angora goats grazing on the hillside. A row of kookaburras and magpies are perched at intervals along the balcony railing. What an inspiring atmosphere these surrounds must be for a writer.

Corinne greets me warmly; she has an animated, friendly manner. While the coffee is brewing we begin to chat. As a child, Corinne loved to read and her writing career began, she tells me, with poems published in school magazines. Much later she received her diploma of arts (professional writing and editing), when her interest in children's writing first started.

She has had four children's books accepted, three have been published and another is due out early next year. Each is quite different, indicating Corinne's versatility as a writer, as well as her vivid imagination. Her books include Dad And The Mosquito, a picture book for younger children, One Day At A Time, a children's novel about family problems and relationships, Creepy McPhee, a mystery story and Unfinished Parade, a fantasy adventure.

Apart from their variation in theme, a glance through her books shows there is also no set pattern in the perspectives: two are written in the first person (female) and two are in the third person (male). Corinne says that generally the right "voice" for the

characters simply comes with the idea and part of what she calls the melting pot process (the jelling of the story in her mind before the writing begins).

Each book has a different publisher—Wendy Pye (NZ), Macmillan Education, Addison Wesley Longman and Barrie Publishing, respectively. "That's not intentional," Corinne explains. "It's simply due to submitting a manuscript to the publisher whom I know is seeking that particular type of story for that age group, and of course the publishers have different requirements at different times."

Several of Corinne's other works have literary texts and sometimes there's a definite lean towards the surreal. She obviously has the ability to write across several genres. "The style of a piece seems to develop by itself," Corinne says. "That's an aspect of the craft that I love, the way the genre or a particular style of writing evolves. It simply comes together somewhere during the process of mulling over an idea in my head, creating the storyline, writing drafts, developing the plot, and weaving ideas through."

When not writing she entertains regularly with her husband, Grant, and gets involved with their children's schools; she reads, and keeps fit by walking with a local power walking group. She also works part time for the Children's Book Council.

Corinne believes that the best stories are



Corinne Fenton

those written from the heart. "The ones that mean something to me," she says. "It seems to over-ride all the writing rules and study of the writing craft, when you write about something that touches you personally."



Addison

My friend became the mother of a lovely baby daughter; my god, I must be getting on, my mates have all got kids!

They ask me, aren't you yearning? and I tell them, no I'm learning; I'll just sit and watch a while, then I'll have a go myself.

And the daughter of this lady, is a very special baby, and it is to be expected, for my friend is special too.

And I've learned more from the children, in these last few years among them than I've learned from all the world in nearly 30 bloody years.

And what is it they tell me, what great gift do they bring me? Laugh a little when you can and never hold your tears.

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Bags for Christmas

Warrandyte Business Association is asking primary school children to paint "What Christmas in Warrandyte means to me" in blue and gold on white paper bags. These bags will be displayed in the shops and shop owners will then be invited to fill selected bags with Christmas goodies to be donated to various charities. The artwork will be on display on Thursday evenings, December 2 and 9.

Festival

The Wonga Park Primary School is inviting everyone to attend their '99 Fun Festival, to be held at the school in Dudley Road, Wonga Park on Saturday, November 27 from 2 to 9pm. There will be basketball, netball and football competitions and a variety of stalls. Refreshments will be available. Two AFL stars will there to open the school's newly-refurbished oval. The festival program will conclude with a live band and fireworks.

Blessing

St Stephen's Anglican Church, Warrandyte, will be holding a pet blessing service for "all creatures great and small" at 3pm on Sunday, November 28 at their church in Stiggant Street. Enquiries to Rev Gerry Gason on 9844 3473.

Winner

The winner of the Discover Warrandyte Gold This Winter competition was Jillian Swift. Jillian won \$400 to spend in local shops. To enter the competition, organised by the Warrandyte Business Association, residents were invited to shop in two different shops in Warrandyte and have their entry forms stamped accordingly.

Spectacular

The Rotary Club of Warrandyte are organising an inaugural car spectacular at the Wonga Park Cricket Club, Launders Avenue, Wonga Park on Sunday, December 5 from 10am. There will be classic cars, street rods, street machines and performance cars. For further information ring Ross Hughes on 9722 1853 or Graeme Redman on 9722 1252.

Dance

The next South Warrandyte Social Dance will be held at the South Warrandyte Hall on Saturday, November 13, commencing at 8pm. Further information from 9723 3126.

Market

Hurstbridge Community Market operates on the second Sunday of each month, between 10am and 2pm at Allwood House, 901 Main Road, Hurstbridge, Melways 185 K8. Set in beautiful, historic gardens in the heart of Hurstbridge, the



WBA president John James receives a council cheque for \$3000 from Cr Patricia Young towards the production of the new Discover Warrandyte Gold colour brochure.



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.



Brass players performing at Warrandyte High School's music department concert.

Studios

Twenty-six Nillumbik artists are throwing open their studio doors during the weekend of November 20 and 21. This is an opportunity to meet local artists, see how it's done and purchase fabulous work for Christmas: paintings, ceramics, sculpture, jewellery, silk scarves, mixed media and much more. Studio maps and catalogues from the Eltham Library, Nillimbuk shire offices and Volumes Bookshop—or by calling Tina Marie Pizel on 9433 3128.

Gallery

An exhibition of painting, drawing, photography and sculpture by Paul Wakim is showing at the Manningham Gallery until November 14. The gallery is at the rear of the municipal of-

fices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

Music

Warrandyte High School recently held its annual music department concert in the school's theatre. The audience was treated to the musical talents of approximately 100 local students. Performing groups included concert bands, big bands, guitar and flute ensembles and aerobic squads. Prizes were donated by a number of Warrandyte businesses.

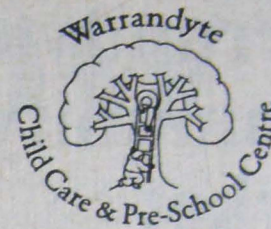
Eltham

The 1999 Eltham Festival will be held on the weekend of November 13 and 14. This will be the

25th festival. The program this year weaves together events incorporating the arts, reconciliation, eco-sustainability and a wide array of musical styles. There will be a Clifton Pugh retrospective exhibition at Montsalvat, a number of displays at Edendale farm, including shearing, a working blacksmith and Aboriginal wood burning.

Concert

The Eltham Festival community day and concert will be held at the Alistair Knox Park on Sunday, November 14 from 10am to 6pm. Following the opening by Joy Murphy Wandin, a wide selection of music and dance items will continue all day.



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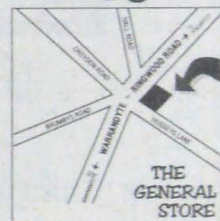
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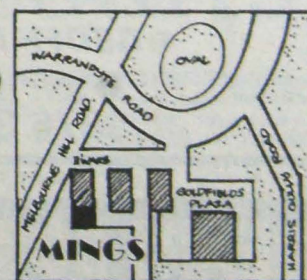
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Stadium action is sweet music

Footy's early arrival

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club will unfurl their 1999 EFL Third Division premiership flag at the opening game of the new season at home on April 1.

The Bloods' 2000 season in Second Division will start earlier than usual, the EFL having brought forward the dates because of the Sydney Olympics.

The season will break for Easter but not, as it has in the past, for the Queen's Birthday weekend in June.

First and Second Division clubs will play 18 home-and-away games, Third and Fourth division 17 matches.

Premiership coach Lex Munro will give his players—who are likely to include some well-credentialed recruits—a training run before Christmas, the pre-season beginning in earnest in mid-January.

Meanwhile, new Warrandyte Junior Football Club president Matthew Matheou has wasted no time rallying his committee to prepare for season 2000.

"We can't rest on our laurels and we need to learn from our successful past to secure our successful future," Matheou told the *Diary*. Already on the planning agenda are:

- A new players' room and an upgrading of the lower oval at the recreation reserve.

- A sponsorship drive for new jumpers for the entire club (about 200 players).

- Consideration of the best approach to coaching the players in football skills from the day they join the club to the day they leave it.

- Developing a financial plan for the next two to three years to ensure the club is on a secure footing.

"Because of the size of the Yarra Junior Football League and the expectations of the community on our club we just have to do things in a better, more planned way," Matheou said.

This year the club have created an executive committee and sub-committee structure to drive its activities.

Anyone interested in participating in these committees or finding out more about the plans and activities of the club is invited to contact Matheou on (03) 982 20515 or secretary Dennis Hoiberg on 04 183 84619.

By DAMIAN ARSENIS

The first sounds of basketball action in the new Warrandyte Community Sports Complex were heard on Sunday, October 24, when the Redbacks moved into the new facility at Andersons Creek Primary School.

The new home of basketball in this town was open at last, ending the local club's long campaign for urgently-needed court space.

To mark the occasion, Warrandyte Basketball Club held a Presentation Day Extravaganza for the 1999 EDJBA winter season grand finalists.

Former Redback player and now ABC sportscaster Clinton Grybas was guest MC and he welcomed Manningham councillor Patricia Young to the historic occasion.

Many of the estimated crowd of 500 were able to snare their first hoops on the new rings in a shoot-out.

The winners were to have gone up against special guests Darryl McDonald (Victoria Titans) and Pero Vasiljevic (Melbourne Tigers), but unfortunately neither turned up.

In their absence, former Redback and current ABA Broadmeadows Broncos star Russell McIntosh presented the awards to players and coaches, along with former great Nick Arnott.

The outstanding work of young Redback player and coach Matt Treeby was recognised with the Darryl Valentine Memorial Award. Malcolm Anderson was presented with the Tom Hay Memorial Trophy for his valuable contributions to the club and long-time leader Ian Wood received the Ross McLellan award for his coaching efforts and achievements.

Tom Oliver was awarded clubperson of the year for his tireless work.

Marking its 30-year history, the Redbacks recognised its life members by announcing the club would erect a board in their honour at the new complex.

Many life members were on hand and Lyn Templetown joined them in recognition of her longevity as a committee member and her extraordinary work ethic within the club.

Capping off what was a huge day for basketball in Warrandyte was an exhibition game between the Redbacks' current best—the U19 A boys of Malcolm Anderson—and a local "Legends" team comprised of former players and coaches who had made contributions to the club.

Anderson's young men held out their bigger (but by no means fitter) seniors, claiming the first-ever win at the Redbacks' new home.

Primary school teeballing kids turn up trumps again



ABOVE: The all-conquering Warrandyte girls. Back (left to right): Sarah Spurgeon, Jessica Solty, Tegan Humble, Courtney Merbis, Candace Jordan, Samantha Dehmel, coach Fiona Wells. Centre: Amy Caudry, Emma Wright, Bronwyn Coull, Kiat Davis. Front: Ellen Bradbury. BELOW: The boys' team. Back (left to right): The coach, James Hukin, Daniel Gregory, Zac Fuller, Justin Cleaves, Brendon Love, Josh Fraser, Cameron Horvat. Front: Xan Balding, Sean Frost, Dylan Matheou, Ian Cameron, Luke Watson, Travis Cloke.

Warrandyte Primary School have won back-to-back VPSSA state teeballing championships in both the open and girls divisions.

The girls, in fact, have been premiers for the past three years (the boys were semi-finalists in 1997)—but it wasn't all plain sailing this time.

The boys squeezed through to win their quarter, semi and grand finals all by one run. "It was a fabulous competition but very nerve-racking," said coach Fiona Wells.

This year, the girls won their grand final against Knox Gardens Primary 19-14. The boys defeated Dandenong Primary 21-20 after scraping home against Le Page 22-21 in their quarter-final and 19-18 against Wembley in the semis.

"A lot of time is spent on skill development and tactical plays and they seem to thrive on training," said their coach.



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SHOP LOCALLY

Brittle bats blow it

By ADAM WHITE

A fragile batting line-up continues to haunt Warrandyte Cricket Club as the senior eleven struggle to post competitive totals against their RDCA Chandler Shield rivals.

In the three rounds of the season so far, the Bushrangers have sandwiched an impressive win on the road against Templeton between heavy losses at home to South Ringwood and Kilsyth.

There has been a similar pattern in all games, with the Warrandyte batsmen failing to get on top, and two problems are evident:

- The lack of form shown by last season's batting award winner Adam White, along with Shane Baker and Jason Graf, continues to worry the team.

- While Cameron Day, Stephen Bell and captain Greg Tregear are making good starts, their inability to convert 30s and 40s into big scores is making it difficult for the team to top 200 in an innings.

The Bushrangers' 9/163 against Templeton in Round 2 was competitive on the big away ground, but the home side were very confident of reaching

SPORT



that target going into the second day.

Bell had again looked threatening before deciding to take a quick single and being run out for 37 and Tregear and Paul Montgomery played pivotal roles in a rescue operation after a batting collapse just before tea.

Montgomery topscored with 38, an innings which was to prove very significant in the end result.

On the second day, Warrandyte produced one of their best performances in the field in recent memory to bundle out Templeton for 91.

Sparked by two quick wickets to White, they ripped through the top order, with pacemen Gerald Walshe and Chris Snaidero important contributors.

The fieldsmen backed up intelligent bowling, Adam Beardall winning man of the match for his work, which included two important catches.

Warrandyte were buoyed by the win and confident of beating last year's finalists Kilsyth in their latest match.

Tregear won the toss and had no hesitation batting first in perfect conditions, but the confidence the Bushrangers had taken into the game quickly dissipated when White and Baker were dismissed within the first three overs to have the home side quickly on the back foot.

Although Warrandyte lost Day for 33, trying to force the pace, David Mooney and Tregear saw it out until tea at 3-85, a respectable effort considering the early trouble. But wickets tumbled after the adjournment, with Mooney, Tregear, Graf and Montgomery falling in quick succession.

Only a spirited 32 by wicketkeeper Matthew Chapman prevented a rout.

Warrandyte were all out for 143 from 74 overs, but after bowling so well in the previous game against Templeton, there was still hope. Unfortunately, that hope was laid to rest by an aggressive Kilsyth opening stand of 86. The visitors cruised to victory, losing only three wickets in the chase.

Montgomery, who took 2-17 and White, who conceded just 14 runs in 11 wicketless overs, were the only bowlers to place any sort of pressure on the batsmen.

Although the Bushrangers' season is

in the balance, Tregear remains positive.

"It's such a fine line between winning and losing in cricket," he said. "I think we are showing encouraging signs in every game, although we have won just the one."

"The win against Templeton proved we are capable of doing very well this year."

Tregear believes it is only a matter of time before Warrandyte's batsmen start to fire and that when they do, the Bushrangers will be capable of mixing it with the best teams in the competition.

"I'm confident we have improved significantly from last season," he said.

"At the moment we are playing very good cricket in patches. We just need to learn how to play better as a team and to string good sessions together, rather than just play well in short periods, particularly in the batting department."

Tony Sturesteps may well have earned a recall to the first eleven, starting with both bat and ball in an otherwise disappointing display from the seconds.

Chasing 319 for victory against Kilsyth, Warrandyte could manage

only 174, with Sturesteps making a classy 74 to go with his three wickets.

Rain washed out the third eleven's chances of their first win of the season. They were in control, Kilsyth struggling at 5/66 in pursuit of 238, when rain stopped play.

The fourths, too, have yet to open their winning account but that is certainly no fault of club president David Gee, who took a total of 9-25 in Templeton's two innings. Not bad for a batsman!

Cricket details

FIRSTS: Warrandyte 9-163 (Montgomery 38, Bell 36, Tregear 20) defeated Templeton 91 (Snaidero 3-28, White 2-19, Walshe 2-30). Warrandyte 143 (Tregear 41, Day 33, Chapman 32) lost to Kilsyth 3-145.

SECONDS: Warrandyte 174 (Sturesteps 74) lost to Kilsyth 318 (Sturesteps 3-76, Pascoe 2-69, Gidley 2-71).

THIRDS: Warrandyte 170 (Kline 39, Goddard 33) lost to Templeton 230 (Barras 3-52, Kline 2-17). Warrandyte 238 (Kline 74, Cloke 59) v Kilsyth 5-66.

FOURTHS: Warrandyte 54 and 198 (Croft 86) lost to Templeton 195 (Gee 4-1) and 7-49 (Gee 5-24). Warrandyte 158 (Gee 42) lost to Kilsyth 216 (Curtis 3-36, Marchi 2-35).

Our Kate on the run to America

It's a Wednesday night and a group of girls from Warrandyte are out having dinner in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. It's all bruschetta, laughter, cafe lattes and gossip. But one of the girls isn't there.

Kate Riley, 15, is training — running around and around the track at Ringwood Athletics Club.

Kate, a Warrandyte High School student, started running in primary school and has been selected to go to America next year with the International Athletics Exchange.

Young runners are spotted at championship-level competitions. Kate was spotted at the State All Schools Championships in October 1998, where she competed in the 100 and 200-metre events. There's a pool of around 30,000 to 40,000 athletes and 10 per cent are chosen.

After impressing the talent scouts in October, Kate's running program

Words by RACHEL BAKER
Picture by JAN TINDALE

was seriously interrupted in January.

On a summer holiday she decided to try waterskiing for the first time.

She tore a gluteal muscle and has been out of training for 10 months.

Now Kate is building her strength again and is shifting her focus to the 400-metre event.

The trip, called West Coast Tour 2000, begins on April 5 and the athletes will visit a high school, go to athletics clubs, see competitions, work with other coaches, meet other athletes and learn about sports health.

They'll all be up early in the morning to train, with more training in the afternoon.

"It'll be hard work, but it'll be fun," Kate said.

There'll also be shopping, Disneyland and Magic Mountain.

At times like this — think-

ing of the trip to America — Kate's motivation is elevated. Sometimes, though, she feels like she can't be bothered training. It can be cold outside, and everyone else goes home after school and gets to do whatever they want.

But once she starts running, she feels good. Her muscles get warm, her heart races, she sees images of Cathy Freeman ... and all she wants to do is run, run, run.

And besides, all her friends understand. "They know that athletics comes first for me," she said.

Kate trains twice a week with her coach, Gayle Anderson, and does four running and weights sessions on her own.

Gayle said although Kate was a novice runner and had just returned from a long injury period, she showed much potential.

"She's got good technique and a lot of determination," she said. "She's getting better and better as she competes, but we don't know how far



Kate Riley limbers up at home for her trip to the United States.

she'll go."

It doesn't take long to see Kate's determination.

She says running can hurt: "You've got to put up with the pain, thinking 'Oh my God, I'm going to die!' But after you win it just feels

great."

Kate was involved with school aerobics but her coach told her she must focus on running.

Her diet is mainly fruit, vegetables, pasta, bread, and lean meat. She avoids

takeaway and doesn't eat much sugary food.

She doesn't mind the sacrifices. And she doesn't mind missing out on the Brunswick Street dinners. Bruschetta is probably full of fat, anyway.



WTC champions Michelle Gilling and Adam White.

Adam and Michelle king and queen of the courts

By JUDY GREEN

Warrandyte Tennis Club's championships were finalised last month, with Adam White and Michelle Gilling taking out the men's and women's titles respectively.

White defeated Neil Sproat in a closely-fought final, losing the first set 6-1 but lifting his game to take the second and third 6-3, 6-4.

In the women's final, Gilling defeated talented 14-year-old junior Tamara Valentino in straight sets, 6-3, 6-1.

The White family featured again in the men's veteran event, Adam's father Rob defeating Ian Rice.

In the junior events, 14-year-old Rod McCutcheon became the new boys' champion, defeating Jarrod Casey in a long and very close match. McCutcheon won the first set in a tie-break, but Casey fought back to win the second 6-2 before losing the decider 6-4.

McCutcheon also partnered Joel Drew to win the boys' doubles trophy.

Katrina Sochacki retained her junior girls' title, defeating Zoe White in straight sets, and partnered Tamara Valentino to take out the girls' doubles.

Rosie Moore achieved triple success in the 13-and-under events.

She defeated Monica Sochacki in the singles, teamed up with her to win the doubles and was also victorious in the mixed doubles.

In the boys' section, 10-year-old Trent Valentino defeated Jarrod Hodgson to win the singles and also won the Oriander Trophy as the most improved junior over the past 12 months.

Details:

SENIORS: Men's singles: Adam White d Neil Sproat 1-6, 6-3, 6-4. Men's doubles: Lee Dehmel-Mark Bence d Rob White-Adam White 4-6, 6-3, 7-6. Mixed doubles: Katrina Sochacki-Aaron Nolan d Tamara Valentino-Neil Sproat 6-0, 6-1. Women's singles: Michelle Gilling d Tamara Valentino 6-3, 6-1. Women's doubles: Michelle

Gilling-Janine Phillips d Katrina Sochacki-Tamara Valentino 6-1, 6-1. Men's veteran singles: Rob White d Ian Rice 6-1, 6-2. B-grade men's singles: James Razzi d Tim Synnot 6-4, 7-6. B-grade mixed doubles: David Green-Judy Green d Mark Bence-Bronwyn Bowden 6-1, 1-6, 6-4.

JUNIORS:

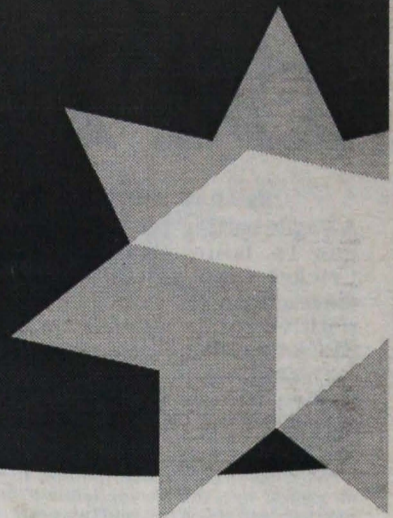
18 AND UNDER: Boys' singles: Rod McCutcheon d Jarrod Casey 7-6, 2-6, 6-4. Boys' doubles: Rod McCutcheon-Joel Drew d Chris Chapman-Aidan Davey 5-7, 6-4, 7-6. Mixed doubles: Jarrod Casey-Zoe White d Chris Chapman-Katrina Sochacki 6-7, 6-3, 6-3. Girls' singles: Katrina Sochacki d Zoe White 6-2, 6-1. Girls' doubles: Katrina Sochacki-Tamara Valentino d Zoe and Emily White 6-0, 6-1.

13 AND UNDER: Boys' singles: Trent Valentino d Jarrod Hodgson 8-4. Boys' doubles: David Trotter-David Wildsmith d Lance Van Scoy-Trent Valentino 8-5. Mixed doubles: Rosie Moore-Ian Fahy d Monica Sochacki-Trent Valentino 8-4. Girls' singles: Rosie Moore d Monica Sochacki 8-2. Girls doubles: Rosie Moore-Monica Sochacki d Jacqui Loftus-Hills and Cassandra Montgomery 8-4.



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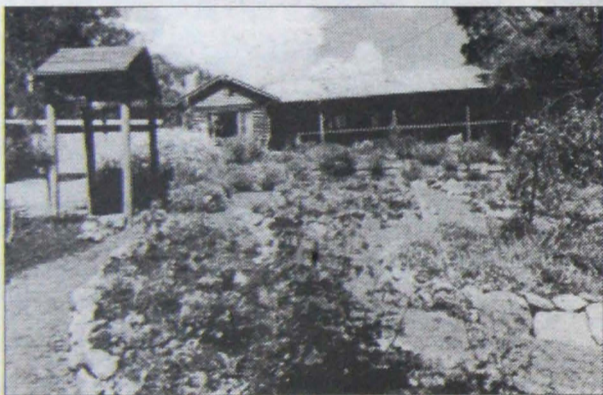
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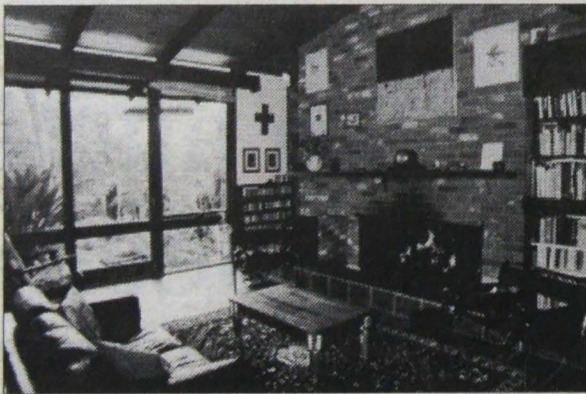
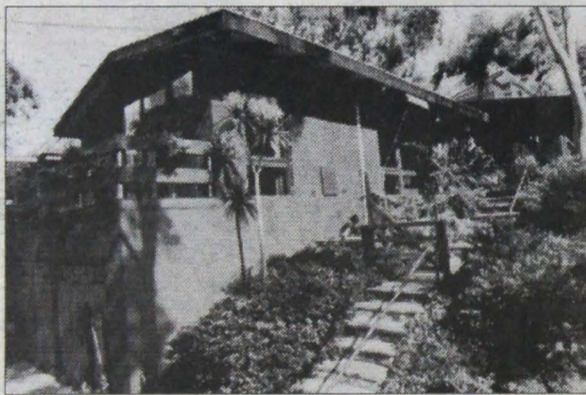
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