

Spare those trees!

By DAVID WYMAN
Major concerns about the illegal removal of native trees on private and council land and inappropriate housing designs have been expressed to Manningham council by a group of residents

The residents, representing local environment groups covering Wonga Park and Warrandyte, told Paul Molan, manager, Manningham environmental amenity and Gary Bateman, council urban designer, that they were "greatly concerned about the impact on our local identity of incremental tree removal".

Community representatives included Flora Anderson of Wonga Park, Bev Hanson and Mark Tansley from the Warrandyte Advisory Committee, Leonie Ulbrich from the Warrandyte Awareness League,

—and spare us 'monster' houses and still more signs

and John Hanson. "Significant trees are being lost without permission and without consideration for visual impact, neighbours, wildlife and impact on soil erosion," spokesperson Leonie Ulbrich said.

"It is a major concern that residents are removing significant trees from private properties and nature strips. This is a well-publicised national environmental issue. We are also concerned that there is no incentive for residents to plant native indigenous shrubs or trees.

"Council will be publicising the regulations for tree removal and will increase monitoring of this practice. Council encourages residents to report any

suspected unauthorised tree removal."

Leonie Ulbrich said that large and unsightly buildings were unfortunately becoming a major element of the Warrandyte identity.

"Warrandyte has always been seen as a rural area and some new houses are largely out of place. It appears that little consideration is given to the overall amenity of some areas.

"High, solid fencing should not be permitted as it greatly detracts from the amenable character of our area. Alterations and additions to existing buildings should be within accepted guidelines."

Leonie Ulbrich said the residents' group felt that roads, footpaths and car parks should

be designed and constructed to match the rural identity of the area.

"Over-engineered roads and concrete gutters should be avoided. Roads should be narrow, winding and informal, and unsealed where possible. All efforts should go into retaining and protecting existing tree canopy alongside roads.

"Another issue raised with council staff was the effects of impermeable road surfaces, which cause concentrated runoff and some flooding."

The residents' group told the two council representatives that there was an over-supply of steel Manningham council signs in the area. Many small reserves had been unnecessarily signed and steel signs had

recently replaced some good quality timber signs in areas such as Warrandyte Reserve.

"Council was asked to stop removing the unique timber signs and replacing them with standard steel signs. We are concerned that Warrandyte is now dotted with the same signs as found in Templestowe, Donvale and Doncaster.

"The proliferation of signs, particularly in Yarra Street, needs to be addressed. The number of signs should be reduced and monitored.

"Council is aware of this problem and agreed with the concern. They are also concerned with the number of sandwich board signs in the Warrandyte area and will be addressing this issue directly with businesses concerned," Leonie Ulbrich reported.

"Warrandyte public spaces should be furnished with native vegetation. These spaces include nature strips, car parks and reserves. Exotic plants

CLYDE & OCKER



"Council's putting up a heap of new signs, Ock. Reading, 'Stop Visual Pollution!'"

should not be used. An example of this concern is the planting of plane trees along Campbell Court."

Corey's be-leaf system:
Stop & smell the gum leaves



Xmas & New Year greetings from all at The Diary

CYRIL By PAUL WILLIAMS



YARRA VALLEY PET SUPPLIES

Farm Fresh Pet Meat
THIS MONTH'S SPECIALS

25kg of PET MINCE ... \$20.00
25kg whole or diced BEEF ... \$30.00

FREE DELIVERY

Phone 9739 1441 or 018 333 346

Conspiring to be home for the 29th Christmas

POTTERS & COTTAGE
Established 1958
RESTAURANT
Open every day for Lunch with our Christmas 2 or 3 course Lunch Special (Mon to Sat) or à la carté. Open for Dinner most nights. Fixed price or à la carté Thur-Sat features the "Jazz Spectrum Trio".
SEASONAL LUNCH SPECIAL
A delicious choice menu, including a glass of selected wine for only \$19.95 2-course or \$25.50 3-course (available Mon-Sat)
Function & group enquiries welcome. Ph 9844 2270
GALLERY
A diverse range of Australian made items including ceramics, functional pottery, woodcraft, glassware, paintings and more. Open daily from 10am to 5pm. For details phone 9844 3078.
POTTERY SCHOOL
New classes & tutors in hand building, sculpting, throwing, glazing, raku & kids classes. Phone Ola on 9844 2333 (Tue-Fri)
321 JUMPING CREEK ROAD, WARRANDYTE 3113

Not long at all ago, Pamela Wren, of Yarra Street, was wistfully bemoaning that this would be the first Christmas in 29 years she'd not spent with daughter Kim. In other words, ever. No, Kim would be spending it somewhere on the road with boyfriend Mark Radford, 29, on their anti-clockwise round-Australia 4WD odyssey that had started on Father's Day (early February, for the benefit of you ingrates who neglect your dear daddies). A couple of weeks ago, Pam's phone rang at 6.30am. It was Kim, checking in from glorious Esperance, on the south coast of WA. "Hi, Mum, it's a beautiful night here (3.30am, in fact) and Mark and I are fishing from a cute little jetty just outside of town." A very sleepy Pam said something like how nice, good fishing, do you realise what time it is, lovely to hear from you and I'm going back to sleep. Which she did — until the phone went again half an hour later. Kim again. "Mum, we've just caught this big fish!" Really, and what kind of fish? "We don't know, but it's really big!" At that point, the doorbell rang and Pam couldn't believe how difficult it was to catch a little shut-eye of a Saturday morning. Was this some kind of conspiracy?

Yes, and a darned good one as well. When Pam answered the door, there was Kim — mobile phone in hand — and Mark, both grinning broadly. They'd caught a Pamela fish! Esperance indeed. Pam clearly remembers her first words: "You little buggers!" A joyous reunion, to be sure, and the unbroken sequence of 28 Christmases now becomes 29. But don't go away because there's more joy to come. A week or two before the hoax was perpetrated, the travellers had laid the groundwork for it by phoning from Esperance to say they loved the place so much they were propping there a while and had even landed jobs at a caravan park. And a few weeks before that, Mark, who'd known Kim since schooldays, had surreptitiously phoned Pam from Perth seeking her consent to propose to her daughter. Pam said how lovely, sweet and old-fashioned and Mark asked could he take that as a yes. He could. Kim said yes as well, a few minutes later against the backdrop of Perth's Botanic Gardens.

IN RED & WHITE



Mark Radford and Kim Wren somewhere other than Esperance during their round-Australia travels.

When Susie Aumann was browsing recently at the Green Hand Op Shop in Webb Street she came across a lot of old books her mum Michelle had dropped in there a few days earlier. But what was this? One of them had her name on it. Oh my God, it was her childhood diary, a never-to-be-released dossier on puppy loves and other special secrets! Susie, 22, learned later Michelle had picked up the diary quite by accident and it was never meant to find its way to the Op Shop. But it sold anyway — Susie bought it back for \$2.

Ian Hook knew he was gone when he saw Easyrider, our man on the buses, sitting there smirking. Hookles got aboard the 7.56 out of town the other day and asked for "city, concession" and as he produced his concession card, the driver asked: "Is that a 60 and Over?" How embarrassing is that when everyone knows Ian is 52 going on 25? Similarly mortified was Terry Booth when he checked into hospital for routine tests and the receptionist, as she took his particulars, asked for his pension card. Everyone knows that Terry is a robust 57 and that premature hair loss is irrefutable evidence of exceptional virility. Still, the story got a lot of laughs when em-cee Kevin Close told it at the local tennis club's Christmas dinner.



Lenny Woods, of North Warrandyte, travels the length, length and length of this country pursuing his passion for fishing. Ironic, then, that he should catch this 50-pound Murray cod at the backdoor of his holiday house at Bonnie Doon. So who's a happy hooker?

It was just after morning tea at Johnny Inch's place in Warranwood when Alan "Coatsy" Koetsveld's mobile phone went missing. Very mysterious. It had been there in the breast pocket of his trademark builder's overalls just a

little while ago and now it was nowhere to be found. "Tell you what," said Simon Dwyer, his partner on this job, "I'll call your number on my mobile and we'll trace the beep." Brilliant, and the trail led to a spot beneath a mass of floorboards Coatsy and Simon had just laid and nailed down so securely that Fort Knox might have been jealous. Coatsy doesn't lack a bit of ingenuity either and he dissembled a bit of brickwork at ground level and tried to hook the phone out with a length of wire. But it was as dark as the inside of a black cow in there and finding a needle in a haystack would have been child's play by comparison. Inevitably, the newly-laid flooring was ripped up, phone retrieved and the job done all over again. Coatsy's been in the building game a long, long time and doesn't really need the practice.

And a happy, well-publicised birthday to Andrea Gleeson, who celebrated her 40th on November 30. The occasion was announced on a rough-hewn poster on one side of the bridge, with a somewhat back-handed tribute — "What an old bag, 40 today" — on the other. Never mind, Andrea. We don't know you, but we bet you don't look a day over 39.

You could do a lot worse during these Christmas holidays than pop into the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend and pick up some stuff to keep this town native. Available (for a very modest donation) right now are a variety of wattles and native grasses and red box, that eucalypt with the round grey leaves that gives Warrandyte its character and is just the thing for dry, stony soil. Give Cathy Willis a bell on 0418 142297 and she'll fix it.

Hey, was that 1999 and the 20th Century that just flashed by? By golly, it was! Which is the signal for Smokey to say bye for now and implore you to make a new millennium resolution to dob in your mates — indeed, your own families — when hostilities resume in February and make your columnist a happy man. In the meantime, have a beauty!

Smokey Joe

DECEMBER
Peace & Joy to All!
232 YARRA ST. WARRANDYTE Ph. 03-9442466
Monday-Sunday 10.30-5.30

AT THE BRIDGE FOLK ART
WARRANDYTE WARRANDYTE

WARRANDYTE DIARY

EDITORS: Cliff Green and Lee Tindale
PUBLISHER: Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd, (A.C.N. 006 886 826) as trustee for the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.
EDITORIAL: Chief of staff Jan Tindale, 9844 3719.
ADVERTISING & ACCOUNTS: Rae Danks, 9844 3819 or 0414 745 212.
CIRCULATION: Peter Norman, 9844 3268.
FAX: Editorial and Advertising, 9844 4168.
DIARY OFFICE: 168 -178 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 9844 0555
INTERNET EDITOR: Sandy Burgoyne, 9844 2680
EMAIL ADDRESS: thediary@vicnet.net.au
INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy/
PRODUCTION: Rachel Schroeder, 9725 6699.
PRINTING: Streamline Press Pty Ltd, 155 Johnston Street, Fitzroy, 9417 2766.
Published on or about the second Tuesday of each month (except January).

ADVERTISING RATES
\$4.50 a column centimetre (casual), \$4.25 (permanent), \$500 full page, \$300 half page, \$165 quarter page, \$50 front page "ears". Preferred positions: page one 100%, page two 30%, page three and back page 20%, other nominated pages 10%. Mini-ads: \$3.50 for four lines, then \$1 each additional line. Mini-ads pre-paid unless by prior arrangement.

Copy closes last Friday of each month

OUR NEWSPAPER

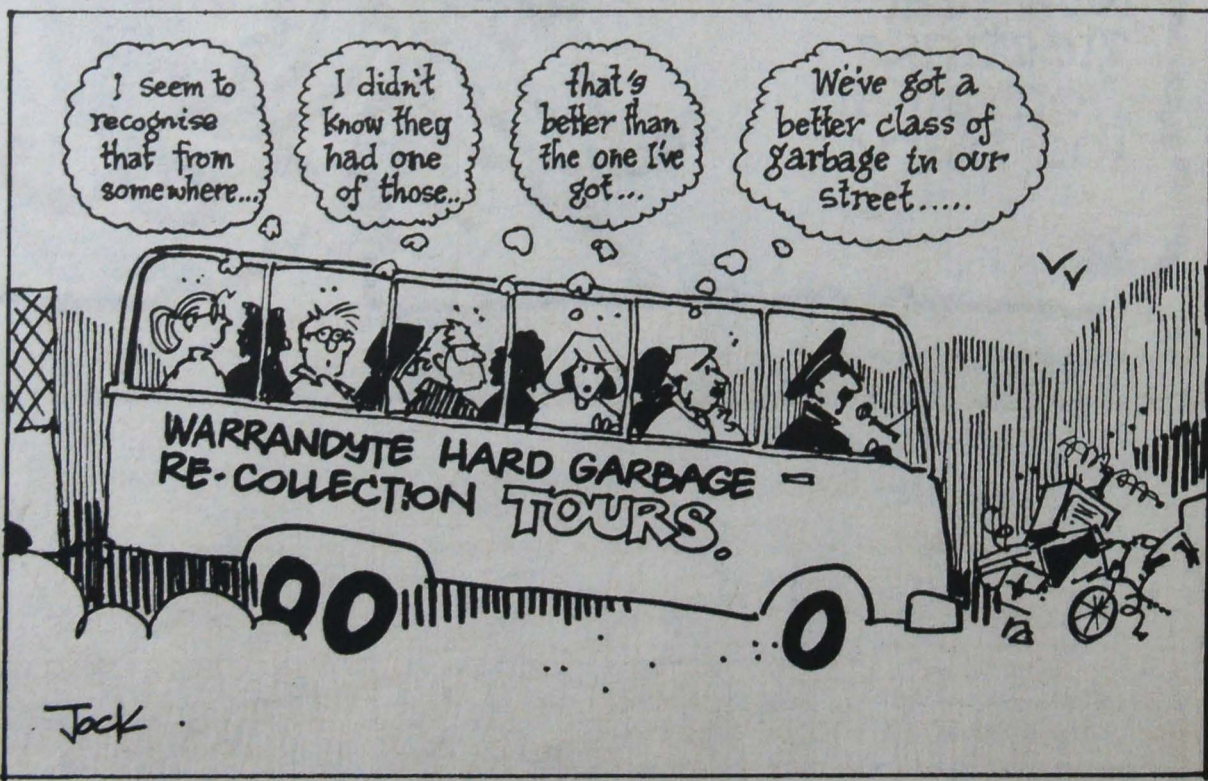
The Warrandyte Diary was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its non-profit, non-commercial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

A SPECIAL PLACE

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

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



Private Melanie seeks your urgent help



Mercy mission: Melanie Bellinger at work in PNG.

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Australia's troops need your help. It seems our peace-keepers in East Timor are suffering through the lack of a good wash and a belly full of food.

Melanie Bellinger, from the famous Warrandyte Bellinger clan who did everything from captain the CFA to running the dairy, is an army medic stationed two kilometres from the front line in East Timor.

She's issued an urgent plea through her aunt, Val Barrow, for supplies to be sent urgently.

"We got an SOS from her—please send us some food. It can be anything. Munchies, lollies, chips. There is no food and no water there," Val Barrow told the *Diary*. "They are really doing it hard. They can't wash their clothes or have a wash."

The good news, reports Val, is that items sent to the troops are free of postage costs.

"Because of the war effort it is free to send the parcels," she said. "All people have to do is get a box, fill it with anything they think the troops

would like because it gets shared among them all and then take it to the post office. From there it goes to Sydney where the army takes it the rest of the way."

Popular items sent so far by some local residents include fruit bars and muesli bars—which Melanie says are a favourite with her young patients—cans of lemonade and biscuits. Val Barrow also sends colouring books and textas for Melanie's patients.

"There is nothing left over there. You can't go to a local shop and buy a loaf of bread or a drink. All the villages and shops have been burned down."

Most of the food and essential items flown in go to support the famished locals who have been left with nothing.

"The troops have got their army rations and the army flies in some food for them but it's just the basics."

Melanie, who is now based in Townsville where she lives with parents Geoff and Denise, turns 22 later this month. But it's not the first birthday she will spend away from home.

Her 21st celebrations came while stationed in Papua New Guinea helping locals overcome flood devastation.

She is expected back home in February at the completion of an arduous four month stay. She says despite the desire for a hearty roast spirits remain high.

"Morale is good among the troops," Val Barrow said. "They know they are doing something really good for the people there. They are rapt to be there but they are just doing it hard."

And they could really do with a wash. "Melanie hasn't washed her clothes in three weeks. She said don't bother sending me soap anymore because there is just nowhere to have a wash."

● If you have something to contribute to Melanie's group it can be addressed to the following:

F3809483 Pte M. Bellinger
3CER RAP MALIANA
OP WARDEN
AFPO.F
International Mail Centre
Sydney
NSW 2890

'Green' team's council bid

By CLIFF GREEN

Two locals with strong environmental credentials are standing for Mullum Mullum ward in the Manningham council elections scheduled for next March.

They are Pamela Dry of Timbertop Ridge and Peter Curry of Blair Street. Both are heavily involved in community activities.

Pamela Dry (47) is a member of the Andersons Creek school council, formerly vice-president of the Warrandyte preschool management committee, a member of the Friends of Tindals Wildflower Reserve and a founder of the No Phone Tower Action Group. She is involved with the Green Wedge seminar series, and as "a five-acre landowner", is a keen participant in Manningham council's property management planning course.

Mother of three children, Dr Dry works as a research scientist and educator. She spent her late secondary school and university years in Park Orchards, returning to Warrandyte to establish a family home in 1986.

"I chose to come back and bring up my children in this special environment," she told the *Diary*, "so I believe I have a strong vested interest in working to protect it and enhance it. As a mother, I am committed to working for better local educational, cultural, health and sporting facilities for all ages. Local councils play an important role in all these issues."

Because of her involvement with the wildflower reserve, Dr Dry came to local prominence when Optus announced plans to erect a phone tower, with the reserve their preferred site. She helped found the No Phone Tower Action Group.

Peter Curry (31) is founding president of the Warrandyte Awareness Group (WAG). The group was founded in August, 1998, following the demise of the Warrandyte Environment League. WAG was impressed by the spontaneous—and successful—community reaction to a proposed new service station, 24-hour convenience store and carwash in Yarra Street. "This shows how effective community action can be," Mr Curry said at the time.

WAG has since played an effective "watchdog" role, being involved in virtually every community issue in Warrandyte, including the new roundabout and its attendant tree destruction; the proposed nursing home in Harris Gully Road; a proposal for a subdivision in the Green Wedge in South Warrandyte, promoted by Mullum Mullum ward councillors Patricia Young and Lionel Allemand; a residential subdivision planned for Cemetery Road and the proposed Optus phone tower.

Peter Curry has been WAG's spokesman through all these campaigns. He "grew up in Warrandyte".

A facilities manager with BHP, he has studied environmental management. Married, with one pre-school child, he too "returned to Warrandyte to establish a family". Mr Curry is a member of the Friends of Warrandyte State Park and the Warrandyte High School Alumni Association.

"Inappropriate development—urban and non-urban—is the greatest threat this community faces," Mr Curry told the *Diary*. "I am totally opposed

to all subdivision in the Green Wedge and to closer density development in the townships—including dual occupancy."

Both councillor positions in the ward will fall vacant in March, and Pamela Dry and Peter Curry intend standing "as a team".

"We feel we can better represent the ward as a unified team, working together for the whole community," Dr Dry said.

"We have been encouraged to stand. We have a strong community team, representing groups in Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park, but our aim is to represent everyone.

"Our prime motivation for standing is to enhance and protect the local environment and the character of the area."

When told of her two potential opponents, Mullum Mullum Ward councillor Patricia Young said, "I wish them all the best".

"I will be standing again in March 2000, and I will continue working for the people of Park Orchards, Donvale, Warrandyte and Wonga Park—if the community supports me."

Cr Young believes she has kept the promises she made before her election in 1997.

"I facilitated the completion of the fifth tennis court in Warrandyte, including an upgrading of the cricket practice nets in this work, and I oversaw the building of the sports stadium in Warrandyte," Cr Young said.

"I negotiated with government ministers, putting the community's case for no dual occupancy in Warrandyte township. I have been committed to working with council for a sus-

CLYDE & OCKER



"I'd be standing for council meself, Ock, only The Bill's shifted to Tuesday nights!"

tainable Green Wedge."

Cr Young says she does not support the wholesale cutting up of any part of the Green Wedge, "but can understand the problems of some of the older families, who purchased large parcels of land 40 or 50 years ago, when there was no planning scheme in place, and now find they cannot look after them, and can't afford to stay".

"If I am elected I will continue to work with the community, representing their needs.

"I will do my best to discourage overdevelopment, and make sure that our natural bushland and native animals are preserved wherever possible."

The *Diary* approached ward councillor Lionel Allemand for his comments, but he had not responded in time for them to be included in this report.

Are council's tree rules working?

By DAVID WYMAN

While the mayor of Manningham, Cr Allemand, believes that education may be the best way of stopping native tree destruction, some residents disagree.

One woman who telephoned the *Diary* recently said she called because she could not get any action from Manningham council. "I arrived home after being away for a week and found my neighbour removing native shrubs and trees, as well as some woody weeds," she said.

"I was very concerned because these people have done it before and don't know what is and isn't native. I telephoned council immediately that Sunday and was told by a lady that someone would look into it straight away.

"I am sure that no one did because on the Monday, a lady from council's planning department called and queried whether I had the right municipality.

"I repeated my message and was told that the enforcement officer would telephone me. He didn't so I called council again and was told that the of-

ficer would call me as soon as he got in. He never did," the Green Wedge resident said.

"Immediate enforcement would have stopped these people from destroying their native bush, but instead a large area of native shrubbery has been destroyed."

The *Diary* contacted Manningham council and was told that residents should telephone 9840 9333 at weekends and after hours if they wish to report illegal destruction of native flora.

But Nillumbik shire has no after hours number or service to police illegal tree removal. We asked an officer in the planning section, "Who can we phone at weekends to report bush destruction?" The answer: "No one, really, no. We don't have a contact number at weekends. But in an emergency, someone in local laws can come out and inspect what's going on."

We phoned Nillumbik's local laws section and repeated the question. The answer: "No we can't do anything. Town planning have an enforcement officer but he's not available after business hours."



Fallen giant: was this tree illegally felled?

PETER GARDINER LL.B BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

For Legal Work including:

- Property Conveyancing
- Family Law
- Court Representation
- Wills and Estates
- Sale of Business

Office 1, 2 Colin Avenue Ph: 9844 1111
(Cnr. Melbourne Hill Road) A.H. 9844 1192
West End, Warrandyte Fax: 9844 1792

STOP SUFFERING

Time for a change?

Live your life free of Anxiety? Fear? Depression?
Low Self Esteem? Guilt? Anger? Eating Disorders?

Resolve the original cause and eliminate the problem.
Only three sessions needed.

Ring Kathie Bishop on 9844 2322

**COPY CLOSES ON THE
LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**

CONVEYANCING

\$350 (plus disbursements)

handled personally by

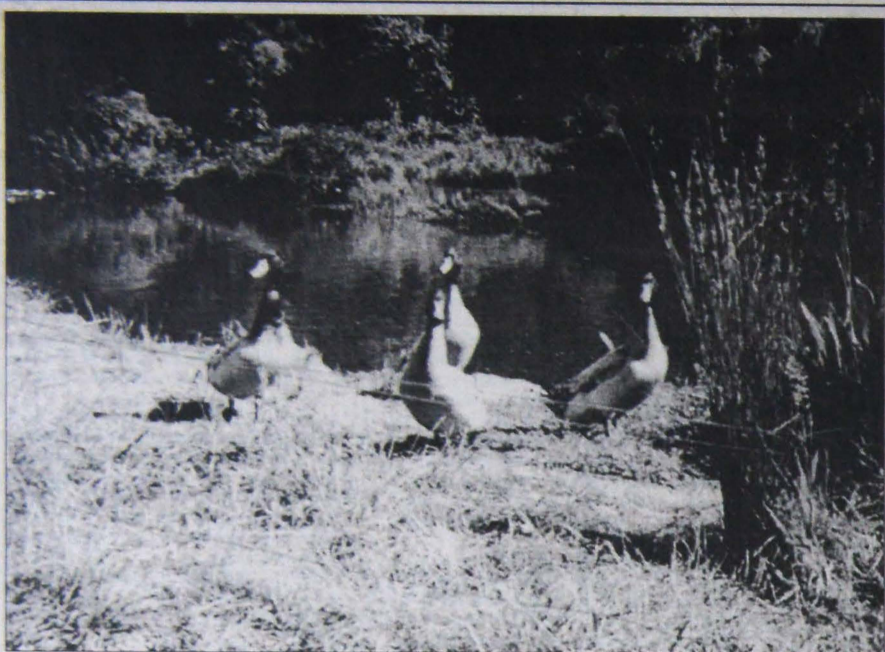
SOLICITOR

GERALDINE M.T. RUSH BA LL.B.

NOW AT 167 YARRA STREET, WARRANDYTE

ALL OTHER LEGAL MATTERS ALSO AT REASONABLE RATES

PHONE 9844 4646 - ALL HOURS



Feral interlopers

Whoops! We're still ducking for cover

It was a lovely photograph and caption (*Diary*, November 1999) and I know it was meant with all goodness of heart, but ... the ducks pictured are mallard crosses and have long been declared to be noxious wildlife.

The reason for this is that mallards, an introduced species, and their hybrids exhibit very strong competitive mating traits whereby they mate with the native species (primarily

Pacific black duck around Warrandyte) and produce sterile or low fertility offspring while preventing the native bird from mating with its own kind. They also out-compete the black ducks for food and suitable nesting habitat thus reducing the viability of the native bird population.

In a way, these pest species of duck are like the prunus trees along the Yarra. They attract favourable comment from those who understand

neither the underlying problems they cause for their own native species nor the importance of preserving the natural environment if we are to retain that which makes Warrandyte such a magic place.

Oh, and by the way: Down with bitumen paths and concrete kerbs, roundabouts, and council signs!

Ken Gurney
by e-mail

Skateboard views

Concerning the article in the November *Diary* about the intended skateboard ramp near the play equipment at Warrandyte Reserve, some people have expressed concerns. I decided to ring Maroondah and Yarra Ranges councils to see how their skateboard ramps were going and if there were any problems.

On the positive side, the skaters generally are a very responsible lot. Often young men in cars come along and act as good role models for the younger skaters who pick up many skills. It is also a place for them to socialise. They often have brooms stored to help clean the ramps. There is virtually no vandalism or drug use. The main problem seems to be litter. Sometimes drinking groups congregate, resulting sometimes in smashed bottles. Graffiti seems to be confined to the site only and one group turned this into a mural. Sometimes plastic wheelybins have

DEAR DIARY



been burnt.

The ramps are unsupervised and open at all times, but as they are not lit, they are used only in daylight hours. Weather determines how many use the ramps but 30 people would be an absolute maximum, for if they are too crowded, people will travel to another one. People often travel big distances. When a ramp is new, non-skaters will be attracted for about eight weeks, but then will drift off.

Steel ramps can be noisy but concrete ramps are not. The police like them as they can get to know the young people. One church has regarded it as an outreach and turns on a weekly sausage sizzle.

John Hanson
Webb Street



Memories of Shelly

Warrandyte Football Club is all the poorer for the recent loss of one of our favourite people, Shelly Turner. Having several health problems of her own didn't deter Shell from being an energetic and tireless worker at the club. You name it, she was involved, and the only way she knew was full-on, with plenty of passion. Her passing leaves a big void.

We will miss her sense of humour, devilish actions and that cheeky grin. In honour of Shelly, the bar at WFC social rooms will now be known as Shelly's Bar in recognition of the service and joy she has given to so many people.

Shelly was the partner of WFC life member and secretary Robert (Noddy) Ireland.

Noddy has asked me to thank, on his and Dylan's behalf, everyone for their kind wishes and support.

Jeff Evans
President

Warrandyte Football Club

Thanks

Colin, Irene, Dylan and family would like to thank everyone for their sincere thoughts and support at the recent loss of Shelly. Special thanks to Assisi House, Warrandyte Football Club and the Grand Hotel.

Colin Turner
Boronia

Trouble with horses

It has come to my notice that yet another horse in the area has had to be destroyed because of colic from unknown causes. I lost my thoroughbred at exactly this time last year after he had spent the night in his normal paddock eating only the spring grass the same as he had for the last five years. Within three and-a-half hours he had to be put down, presumably because his bowel had twisted from the colic.

He was one of at least three other cases of colic in the last six months in 1998. There must be something growing in this

area, particularly recently, that is causing this problem and all horse owners should take note. These incidents were all within a 5km radius of Warrandyte's centre.

On another note, for the second time this year I have had all the rugs off my horse stolen while he was in his paddock on Yarra Street overnight. This time it was only a 10 year-old rug and really not worth reselling. I don't know why this is happening and it is obviously causing a great deal of stress. I only hope the thieves now have enough rugs for their horses and can leave me something to put on mine.

Juniper Greve
Webb Street

Responsibility for election and referendum comment in this issue is accepted by Cliff Green, 23 Webb St, Warrandyte

Seasons Greetings

We end 1999 with a request for MORE PROPERTIES to replace our diminishing stock.

Due to RECENT SALES we are in the embarrassing situation of being unable to satisfy demand for a VARIETY OF PROPERTIES in both Warrandyte and surrounding areas.

If you are contemplating the sale of YOUR HOME, please call us now for an IMMEDIATE, CONFIDENTIAL and OBLIGATION FREE APPRAISAL.



We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and a bountiful New Year!



SPENCER MARTIN & CO. PTY. LTD.

163 YARRA STREET WARRANDYTE 3113

GLENN MARTIN
9844 3535

9844 1511

JOHN SPENCER
9844 2593



Join in another great community celebration at

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 19th December
8pm in Stiggants Reserve

featuring
PAUL COLMAN and LOCAL ARTISTS

- Candle sales
- BYO rug

WET WEATHER VENUE:
Community Church
57 Yarra Street
Warrandyte



Sponsored by the Churches of Warrandyte.
Enquiries: 9844 4148

Catering?

Call the
Culinary Wizard
9844 3269



TIMBER STAINING MUDBRICK & CEMENT

- ★ Rendering
- ★ Repairs
- ★ Colour Matching
- ★ Waterproofing

Ring **MICHAEL**
on 9712 0436

SHOP LOCALLY

VICTORIAN SCREEN DOORS

Quality
Reproduction
Joinery
Doors & Mantelpieces
Inserts and Renovation
Components

Telephone
9719 7484
82 Alma Road
Kangaroo Grd 3097

Home Maintenance & Building Services

- ALL TYPES OF HOME MAINTENANCE
- BALUSTRADING AND HANDRAILS • TIMBER DECKS
- PERGOLAS • CARPORTS • GAZEBOS
- TIMBER SLEEPER WALLS • PROFESSIONAL INTERNAL & EXTERNAL PAINTING SERVICE

Contact Ron Taylor

9844 4285

"When quality workmanship counts for everything"

Early fire rings warning bells

By CLIFF GREEN

A small fire in grassland in North Warrandyte, one hot day early this month, could have flared into a major conflagration, with tragic consequences for the entire community.

"The local brigades were mobilised by Vic Fire, following a 000 emergency call," a North Warrandyte CFA brigade spokesperson told the *Diary*. "Although the fire was small, and contained early, it had the potential to rapidly escalate. If it had spread into The Chase Reserve, the weather conditions were perfect for serious fire behaviour.

"The location of the fire made firefighting difficult, being in a very steep gully with difficult and limited truck access.

"The fire was contained to grassland, relatively close to scrub and forest. Had it not been for a combined rapid response by brigades we could have had a very different outcome."

Jeff Adair, community facilitator at Warrandyte CFA brigade, believes this incident underlines the potential dangers for the present summer fire season.

"This will be our third consecutive summer where we have received below average rainfall. This means forest fuels are tinder-dry and already in a condition to support and sustain bushfires. We are barely one week into summer and already we have had high fire risk days and the outbreak of fire in the area."

The CFA is appealing to residents to take heed of these

HOT TIPS FROM THE FIREFRONT

● Review your plan in the event of a total fire ban day. Are your children clear on what to do to protect themselves?

● If your children are at school during a local fire, they are safe and will remain under the care of school staff until the incident has passed.

● Remove door mats and place them inside or in the middle of the driveway on days of total fire ban or days of high fire danger.

● Consider how you might help assist others with special needs on days of high risk—the elderly, single parents, families with spouses at work.

● Move pets and other animals to safer locations on days of high fire risk.

● Remove winter debris from beneath your decking.

● Block your chimney over summer to reduce the entry of blowflies and embers.

● Fill gaps in timber work and wall spaces with metal flywire.

● If you cannot burn or remove fine fuels, store them well away from your home and cover them so they cannot be windblown.

● Store woollen blankets and water in your car over the summer period.

● Obtain plastic buckets, 44 gallon drums, wine barrels, drinking troughs for storage of water in the event of a water shortage.

● Purchase mops and super-soaker water pistols for the hard-to-get-to places.

● Cover your skylights with wire meshing or protective guards.

early warning signs.

"The level of fire awareness in the community must be higher than it was a year ago. The number of Fireguard groups now existing in Warrandyte is among the highest in the state. Earlier this month we ran our annual fire expo and two days later ABC Radio based their bushfire awareness and phone-in program in Warrandyte."

The level of local fire awareness should be high. But is awareness being translated into action? Is our community well-prepared for a fire emergency? Warrandyte CFA worries that many residents have heard the warnings, but have failed to take positive action.

"A lot of households have only half a plan," Jeff Adair said.

"Their decisions on what to do in a fire emergency are often based on last-minute reactions, without considering the full range of potential dangers and difficulties.

"I hear reports of children at home by themselves, elderly folk who are physically unable to defend their properties but cannot leave early on high fire risk days, people with respiratory problems and others who could be sitting in air-conditioned comfort, unaware of outside conditions. Their chances of being overwhelmed by wild-fire during an emergency are very real.

"Having a detailed plan—covering either stay or leave early—is the first and most important step. If the decision is

to stay and defend, the plan should reflect an understanding of fire behaviour, methods of fire attack on the home and personal safety.

"The formulation of a plan to defend must be immediately followed by active preparation. There must be readily available stores of water placed around the home, plus the equipment necessary to use the water—knapsack sprays, fire pumps, fire beaters and buckets and mops. And, most importantly, protective clothing that offers a shield to radiant heat."

Warrandyte CFA believes that if a resident has decided—for whatever reason—that they don't want to fight a fire in defence of their home, their decision should be to leave early. But they also need a plan.

"By leaving early, residents may need to be committed to the possibility of leaving their homes and travelling out of the district on numerous occasions over the summer. However, they may choose to take shelter in a safer home nearby. This option must be worked out in advance with a clear understanding that the house chosen is safer than their own. Again, this decision must not be left until the last, panic-driven moment.

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

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

Battle of the fire zones

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

A possible review of Metropolitan Fire Brigade boundaries which could affect the Warrandyte area is being finalised and should be going to Manninham council by the end of the year or early into 2000.

However the CFA, which has four fire stations in the area, has not been asked for input. Trevor White, CFA Yarra area manager, understands the report is in its infancy.

"The council has talked about a review but they have not written to the CFA formally," he said.

"Locally and corporately we are not aware of the review and we're waiting

for a letter.

"They've not asked us yet for our view and it would be premature to guess at the outcome of any review.

"Locally, we are currently providing a service to the majority of the council area which I believe is very effective. We are aware of the additional support needed to maintain a satisfactory level of performance, especially during the day (in Warrandyte) and have agreed to provide professional firefighters."

He said Manninham council seems happy with the CFA service and has shown great support for the brigades.

"CFA provides a service at least equal to the MFB's, providing other services apart from firefighting."

These ancillary services include community education, fire prevention, and so on.

"We comply with industry response standards and CFA is certainly no less efficient than the MFB. It's also extremely cost effective because of the volunteers," Mr White said.

He said the CFA is still negotiating with the United Firefighters Union about conditions of employment for two new professional firefighters at Warrandyte station.

Building alterations there and a management plan involving the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and local interest groups are being discussed.



Off their patch? CFA vehicles in an urban setting. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)



ESSENTIALLY
BY EMMA HAIR

EMMA, JO & LEANNE

Wish all their clients
a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year

9844 0898

HOURS:

Mon to Fri: 9am-5.30pm
Thurs Night: until 9pm
Saturday: 8am-2pm

104 YARRA ST
WARRANDYTE
Next to Video Store

PAUL & PHIL'S DISCOUNT MOWING

- Odd Jobs & Gutters
- Yard Maintenance

FOR QUOTATION PHONE

9844 3927

Mobile 0417 12 11 25

WARRANDYTE NEWSAGENCY

Goldfields Plaza, Shop 8, 402-406 Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte
Telephone 9844 3463 • Proprietors: Brian & Bronwen Gamble

TATTSLOTTO MILLENNIUM
\$21 MILLION
MEGADRAW

Friday 31st December 1999

- Photo Processing (27 exp) \$6.75 • Penguin Drycleaning Special: Any 3 garments \$13.95*
- School, Home & Office Stationery
- Tatstlotto Agency • Fresh Cut Flowers
- Quality Australian Made Diaries

MON: 6.30am to 6.30pm, TUES: 6.30am to 7pm
WED: 6.30am to 6.30pm, THU/FRI/SAT: 6.30am to 7pm
SUN: 7.30am to 1pm *conditions apply



NOW OPEN!!

Specialising in
Children's and
Adolescent Literature

Telephone 9844 0233

Shop 9, 250 Yarra Street, Warrandyte 3113

THE GENERAL STORE

486 WARRANDYTE-RINGWOOD ROAD
WARRANDYTE SOUTH. PHONE 9844 3361

Full range of:

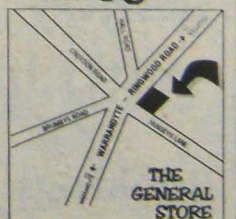
- HORSE & STOCK FEED
- POULTRY, BIRD and PET SUPPLIES

• PEA STRAW

• STRAW BALE

HIRE for
functions

Free delivery local area





**WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS
on Residential Development
in Manningham?**

Manningham provides a diverse range of high quality residential environments coupled with the City's high environmental standards, natural and scenic resources and broad range of leisure opportunities, particularly, recreation, entertainment, culture and art.

The balance between the provision of sustainable housing opportunities and supporting infrastructure will continue to be a focus and challenge for council's residential land-use planning.

Manningham City Council is currently preparing a Residential Development Strategy. The strategy is being prepared to properly plan for the future of residential development. The strategy will ensure that a diversity of housing types is encouraged which is appropriate to the housing needs of existing and future residents.

The need for a Residential Development Strategy has arisen from a range of important factors including:

- a changing population, including an ageing population and a trend towards smaller family structures, leading to changing housing needs;
- the need to protect and enhance Manningham's unique landscape character, neighbourhood character and environmental values;
- increasing pressure for redevelopment and medium density housing which raises issues about how these changes affect the character and amenity of our local neighbourhoods;
- the need to more efficiently use land, physical and community infrastructure, i.e. schools;
- a commitment to moving towards a sustainable future, to ensure that our children and grandchildren inherit a tomorrow that is at least as good as today, and preferably better.

A TELEPHONE SURVEY IS NOW BEING CONDUCTED...

MacroPlan Pty Ltd is currently conducting a random telephone survey of residents in Manningham on behalf of Council. The results of the telephone survey will be used to inform Council on issues relating to strategic planning decisions for future housing needs.

If you are contacted, the telephone survey will also be used to identify your views on:

- existing residential locations;
- current housing characteristics;
- satisfaction with residential locations;
- preferences for housing types; and
- future housing needs

Council values your input, so if contacted please take the time to respond to the telephone survey.

If you have any queries in relation to the development of Manningham's Residential Development Strategy, or questions about the telephone survey please contact Sue Vujcevic, Economic and Environmental Planning Unit, on Telephone: 9840 9406 or Facsimile: 9840 9465 or via Email: sue.vujcevic@manningham.vic.gov.au

**Locked
out...**

By RACHEL BAKER

On sunny afternoons, Helena Adair of Webb Street likes to take Georgina, her 19-month-old daughter, for a walk.

They often go along the river, and stop off at the community centre playground on the way home.

But last month the playground was locked to the public.

A playspace safety audit conducted by the state government found that the playground was "not up to scratch" and should be used exclusively by the Occasional Child Care Centre, Manningham mayor, Cr Lionel Allemand, told the *Diary*.

The playground needs to be upgraded to meet current legal standards.

Cr Allemand could not quote exact figures, but said "substantial money" would be required.

Although council provided the playground for the community centre initially, the maintenance of it is "certainly not" council's responsibility, he said.

It was built as a favour for the centre and was never intended to be a public facility, Cr Allemand said.

He denied that the community centre was designed for public use.

"The *Warrandyte Diary* has its office in the community centre, but I'm sure you wouldn't want people wandering in there," he said.

Despite this, he said the council would consider contributing to the cost of the playground's upgrade.

Mrs Adair disagrees with Mayor Allemand: "It's a public facility and why has it closed?" she asked. Although there are other public playgrounds in Warrandyte, the community centre facility is the only one suitable for toddlers, Mrs Adair said.

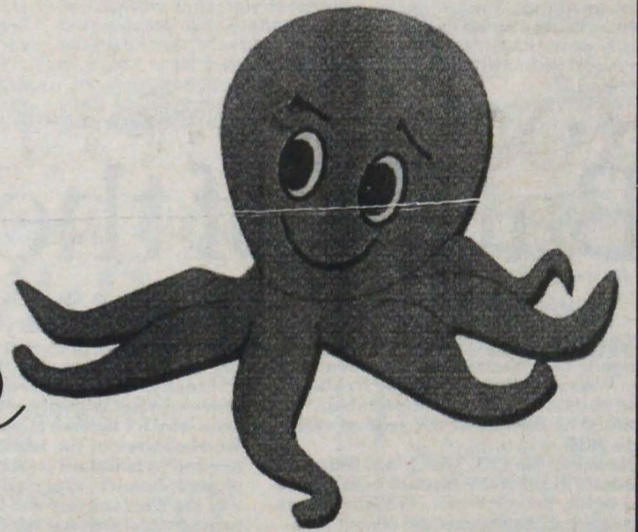
Older children are not deterred by the locked gate, as they are able to climb the fence.

"It's just shutting out the children who should be able to use it," Mrs Adair said.



No admittance: Georgina Adair is locked out of her favourite playground. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Café
Giggetto



ITALIAN CUISINE • WOODFIRE PIZZA RESTAURANT

*Catering for business
lunches, functions and
special occasions*



Enjoy your summer evenings
with live music by Duo Romano

ALFRESCO DINING

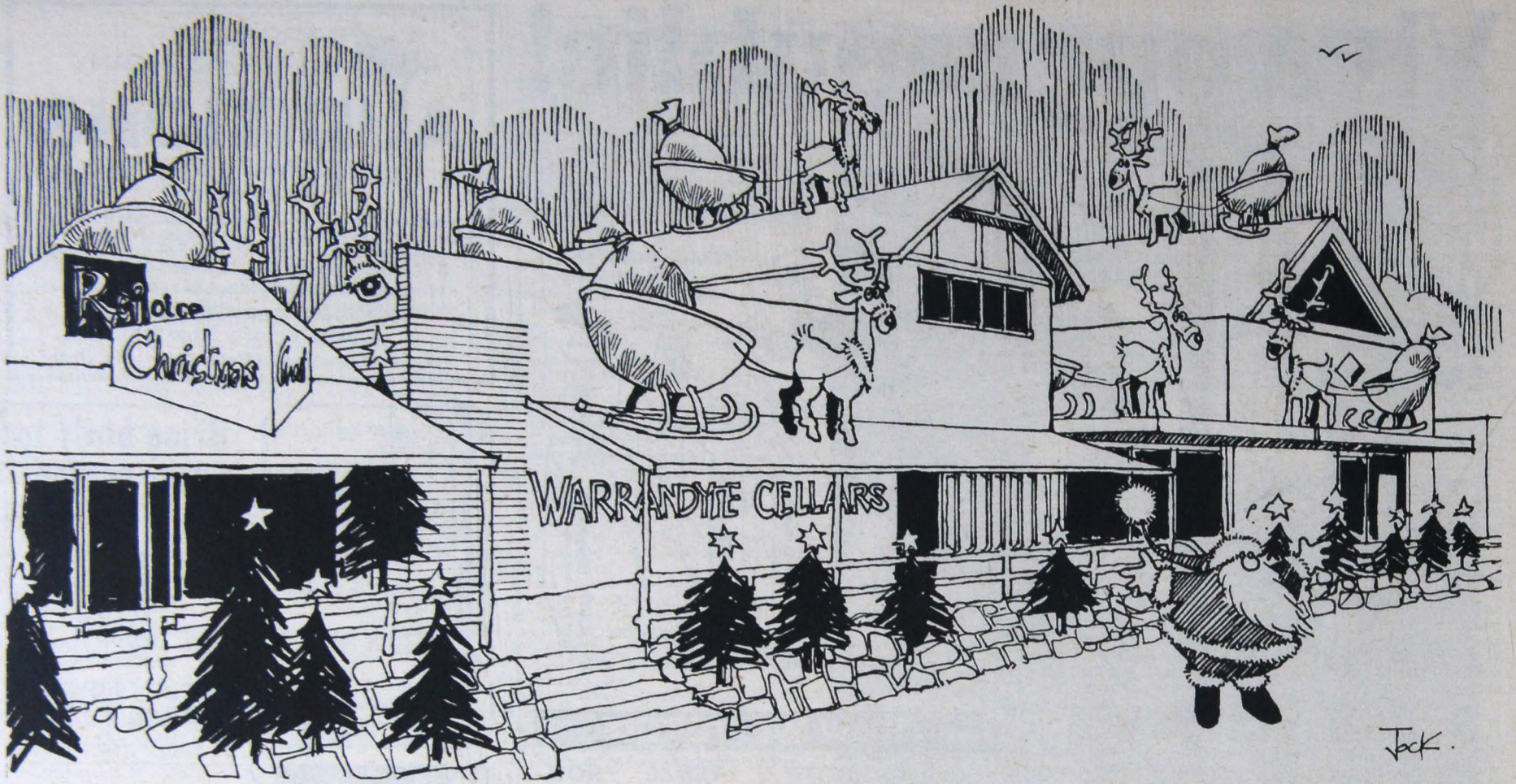
FULLY LICENCED BYO WINE ONLY

AIRCONDITIONED

TAKEAWAY

OPEN 7 DAYS:
LUNCH, AFTERNOON TEA
& DINNER

Bookings: phone or fax 9844 0325 • 104-106 Melbourne Hill Road, Warrandyte



WARRANDYTE CELLARS

Christmas Selections

All the staff at Warrandyte Cellars wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**HUGE SELECTION
OF SMALL VINEYARD WINES**
Expert advice in all areas of wine.

SPARKLING

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Omni N.V. | \$8.99 |
| Banrock Sparkling Shiraz | \$10.99 |
| Grant Burge Brut | \$19.99 |
| Clover Hill Vintage | \$35.00 |

TRADING HOURS

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| Mon-Wed | 9am-8pm |
| Thu-Sat | 9am-9pm |
| Sunday | 11.30am-7pm |

XMAS WEEK

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Mon 20th | 9am-9pm |
| Tue 21st | 9am-9pm |
| Wed 22nd | 9am-9pm |
| Thu 23rd | 9am-9pm |
| Fri 24th | 9am-9pm |
| CLOSED | |
| CHRISTMAS DAY | |
| Sat 26th | 11am-6pm |
| NEW YEARS EVE | |
| Fri 31st | 9am-11pm |

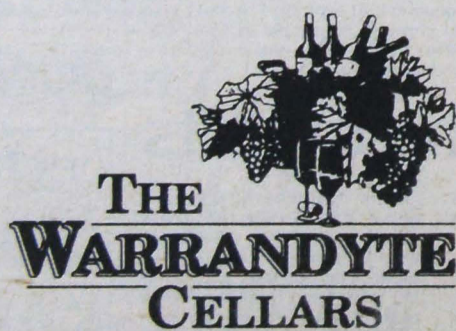
WINES

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Koura Bay Sauv-Blanc..... | \$17.99 |
| Majella Riesling | \$15.99 |
| Salena Estate Cab-Sauv | \$14.99 |
| Mission Hill Shiraz-Cab-Merlot | \$8.99 |

Tastings every Friday and Saturday. Let us help make your Christmas the best one yet with our wine to food matching service and party order service

CHAMPAGNE

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Billecart-Salmon N.V. | \$75.00 |
| Piper Heidsieck N.V. | \$56.00 |
| Nicolas Fenillatte Gift Pack | \$65.00 |
| Nicolas Fenillatte Magnum Pack | \$180.00 |



152 YARRA STREET, WARRANDYTE. PHONE 9844 3282

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS — MOBILE EFTPOS FACILITIES — FREE DELIVERY (metro only)



New principal at Warrandyte



New principal Mandy Dunn gets to know Emma Bence (Grade 1).

Mandy Dunn is the new principal of Warrandyte Primary School. Previously assistant principal at Milgate primary, Mandy takes up her position at the beginning of next year. She told WPS parents she was "thrilled with the news".

Mandy has been acting principal at Warrandyte since the beginning of term three. Brought into the school at short notice, she has impressed parents and staff with her energetic and creative approach to the position.

"We're delighted at the news that Mandy's appointment has been confirmed by the Department of Education," school council president Tony Bullard said. "We're looking forward to working with Mandy and we're confident she will lead the school most capably."

Mandy stresses the importance of the relationship between teacher and student in developing a love of learning among primary-aged children.

"A high quality teaching and learning program will provide the building blocks for children," she said. "But even more powerful is the relationship between child and teacher. Feeling valued and valuing others, enjoying learning and developing intrinsic motivation and a love of learning is to me the significant reality that educators should never lose sight of."

Mandy's experience as a classroom teacher includes time at Eltham, Templestowe Heights, Kingsbury and Ruthven primary schools.

Mandy Dunn replaces Ken Wing Jan, principal at Warrandyte primary for more than a decade. Ken has been on sick leave since mid-1999. He did not seek reappointment as principal beyond the end of 1999.

Honours for local senior volunteers

As part of the celebrations for the International Year of Older Persons, local federal MP Kevin Andrews has presented awards to 19 senior Australians in Manningham, honouring them for their community work. Four of these awards went to members of the Warrandyte community. They are Louise Joy, Bonnie Peake, Colin Bentley and Bent Mansson. Mr Andrews said it was appropriate to recognise the contributions senior citizens make to the community.

The local recipients are:



LOUISE JOY

Louise Joy is a founding member of the Warrandyte CAB, now known as Information Warrandyte, and long-standing chairperson of the Warrandyte Community Cooperative, now the Neighbourhood House, and life member of this group. She has a long history of involvement and commitment to after-school care, youth service and occasional child-care. She works as a counsellor with many welfare groups and on an individual basis.



BONNIE PEAKE

Bonnie's Peake's mettle was early demonstrated when during the Second World War she was asked to take over the bread run by the local baker. It was at this time that Bonnie joined the local auxiliary of the Women's Hospital. For the past 58 years she has worked to raise money for such much-needed equipment for the hospital as beds, incubators and microscopes. She has held every position in the auxiliary, including 18 years a president. At 84, she is still actively working for the hospital.



COLIN BENTLEY

Colin Bentley has been a valued volunteer in Warrandyte for many years. He was volunteer driver for the after-school care programs at St Anne's, South Warrandyte and Andersons Creek primary schools for seven years. As founding member of the Warrandyte Model Railway Club, he has been involved in the construction and maintenance of the model railway, raising money for the club every month. He was a member of the Whitehouse committee and the CAB and is now on the committee of the Warrandyte Community Centre and Neighbourhood House.

BENT MANSSON

Born in Copenhagen, Bent Mansson migrated to Australia with his wife and baby son in 1956. He has enjoyed considerable success as a graphic and commercial design artist designing amongst other

things the first ever "flat pack" for hosiery, which is still used. In 1980 he founded the Bridge Gallery at Warrandyte, allowing fine Australian craftsmen and artists to display their work, notably ceramics and glassware.



Dogwalkers: (l to r) Liz Low, Marion Wren, Kerry Fairley, Doreen Burge—with Phoebe, Bella and Beetle.

Good deal for dogs

By **DOREEN BURGE**

Manningham council's domestic animals strategy came into effect in August after more than two years of input from a steering committee and from periodic community consultation.

The biggest change the strategy has brought to dog owners in the municipality is that dogs must now be on leads at all times except in designated off-lead reserves. All owners of registered dogs in the municipality received, in September, a letter outlining the changes and also a list of on- and off-lead reserves in Manningham.

An important part of the strategy is council's commitment to assist in the establishment of dog walkers groups in several areas across the municipality.

One of these areas is the Warrandyte River/Stiggants Reserve. These have been designated as off-lead reserves following considerable support for this during the community consultation.

As the reserves are heavily used by the community and visitors to Warrandyte, council felt it important to establish a dog walkers group which could hopefully assist in the responsible use of the reserves by all dog owners.

A notice was placed in the *Diary* a few months ago notifying readers of the group, and at the vet clinics and Chaff Shed. Malcolm Scheele, a ranger with Manningham and a member of the domestic animals steering committee, organised those people who responded to the notices to meet for the first time in October. A few of us met again in November.

The regulations which are particularly relevant to the River Reserve and Stiggants Reserve are that owners are responsible for the removal of their dog's faeces; dogs are to be on leads within 15 metres of a playground or barbeque area; and off-lead dogs must be under effective control at all times (easier said than done!).

Council signs should be in place at all reserves within a few weeks advising people of the on- or off-lead status. Council plans to trial a number of different faeces removal methods in different reserves and Warrandyte is high on the list for one of these trials. Meanwhile all dog owners should carry plastic bags or pooper scoopers so they can clean up after their dogs. The faeces issue is one of the major threats to dogs having continued use of the reserves.

Our small meeting of dog owners in November briefly discussed other "etiquette" issues regarding dogs and their owners. We felt it made sense that although the area where the community market is held is designated off-lead, dogs should be on-lead if they are in the vicinity of the market.

If a dog is being walked on-lead, off-lead dogs should be prevented by their owners from approaching the restrained dog unless the owner gives the okay. Off-lead dogs should be restrained from chasing joggers, cyclists and horses, and from approaching people using the reserves unless they are happy to "meet" the dog.

Our small group would welcome more interested members, both from Manningham and Nillumbik. We do not necessarily intend to meet on a regular basis, but will get together when the need arises. Some members may wish to meet up with others and walk their dogs together.

Any interested dog owners, or any other members of the local community who wish to comment or ask questions, can contact me, Doreen Burge, on 9844 2512 or by fax on 9844 0664. I was a community representative on the domestic animals steering committee and I own two black labradors. I am happy to be a contact person for the Warrandyte River Reserve/Stiggants Reserve dog walkers group.



Traditional FOLK ARTS

CLASSES: all levels of Folk & Decorative Art also Calligraphy

SUPPLIES: Paints, Brushes, Books, etc.

PHONE MAREN ON 9844 2036

BEARS BOBCAT HIRE

- BOBCAT ▪ ROCK BREAKER
- TIPPER HIRE
- MINI EXCAVATOR

Call Tony Humphreys 9712 0305 or 0413 753 292

digital COLOR COPYING

COLOR COPYING

from 99¢
(\$1.25 U/10 copies)

BLACK & WHITE

from 5¢
(10¢ U/50 copies)

99¢

The Ink Spot Instant Printing

Factory 2, 34 Coolstore Road, Croydon

Email: inkspot@bigpond.com

9725 6699

Exciting news...

Fuzzy fullife comes to Warrandyte

Fuzzy fullife is a big cuddly pooch and it's his job to make sure all the kids have fun when they visit their fullife Warrandyte store. He's been planning lots to do so kids aren't bored while mum shops.

The big fullife opening launch is now on and the next 2 weeks will be spent on just babies, parents and kids!

Fuzzy has been really busy coming up with activities, giveaways, competitions, prizes and lots of fun for all the kids. Don't worry mum, there's plenty organised for you too and you could win some great prizes for coming along.

Bring the kids in to have their photo taken with Fuzzy for free!

Fuzzy will be in our store on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th December.

See you soon
Warrandyte Pharmacy



TREES LOPPED, FELLED & REMOVED

- ★ stumps cut out
- ★ mulch available
- ★ free quotes
- ★ good work done
- ★ reasonable rates

Phone Jim — 9712 0250 (NORTH WARRANDYTE)

WARRANTYTE
**** GLASS ****
 NOW IN
 SOUTH WARRANTYTE
*All types of glass,
 glazing, mirrors
 and repairs.*
Terry Ryan
 9879 0373 or
 Mobile: 0418 369 294

MR. BULBS
GARDEN MAINTENANCE

 INCLUDING:
 • Slashing • Gutters
 • Fire Prevention Cleanups
Phone PHIL PETERSEN
 9844 0755 041 751 904 0

Wellers
**Christmas
 Party &
 Luncheon**
BOOKINGS NOW OPEN
 BOOK EARLY
WELLERS RESTAURANT
 Pitmans Corner, Kangaroo Ground, phone 9712 0266

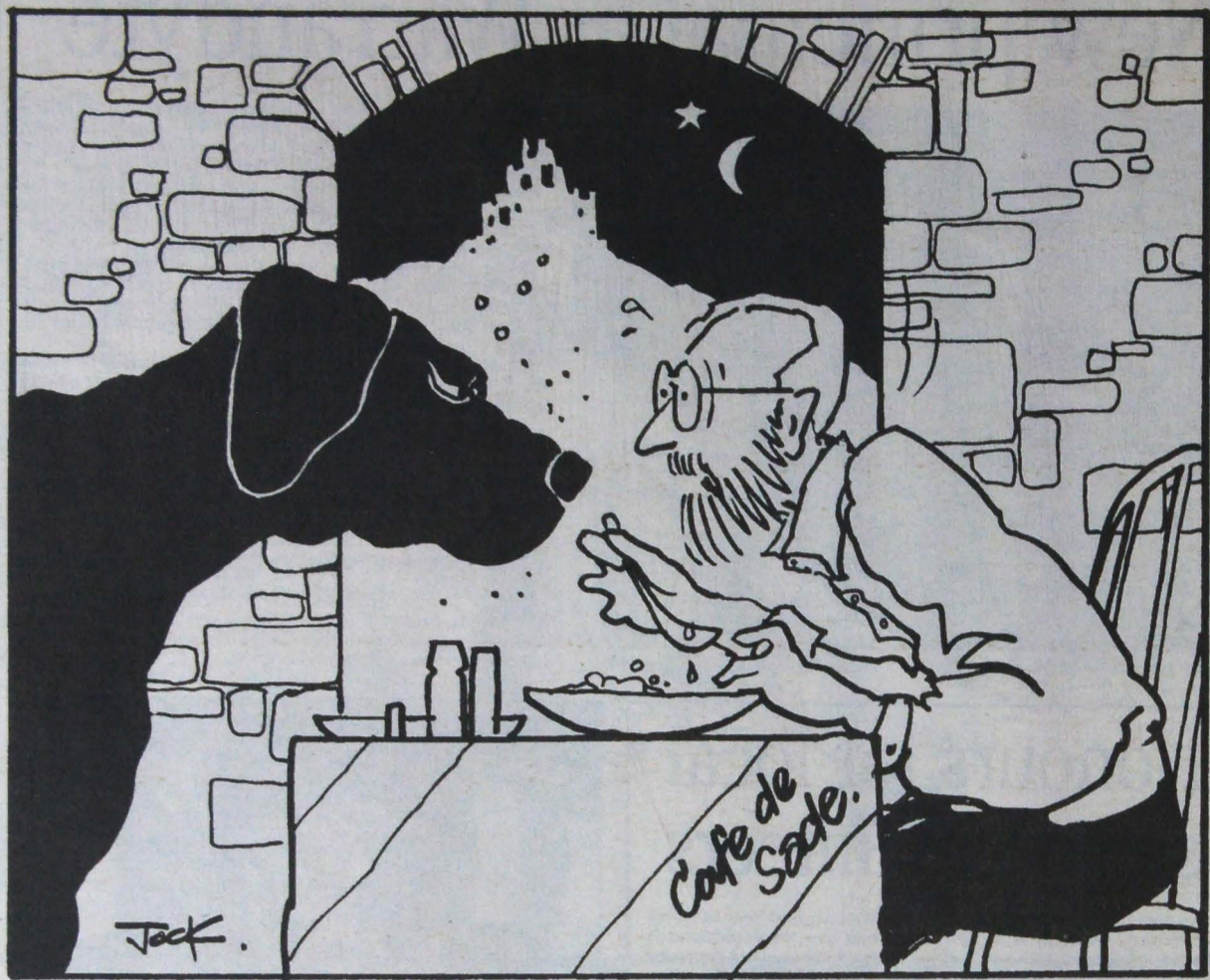


HANDY REMOVALIST
 Need to transport that bed or
 couch—doesn't fit in the boot?
CALL ZIGGY
 Reasonable Rates
 Phone 9844 4023 or 9844 4418



**ENVIRONMENTAL
 BUILDING
 SURVEYORS**
 A division of Nillumbik Shire Council
 Building Permits and Inspections
 Application checking times to suit
 your needs
 Inspection times available
 Specialist advice in mud-brick
 construction
 Specialist advice on termite protection
 Specialist advice on bush-fire protection
**Nillumbik Environmental
 Building Surveyors**
 Civic Drive, Greensborough
 PH: (03) 9433-3111
 PO Box 476 Greensborough 3088
 FAX: (03) 9432-9559

**Warrandyte
 Community Church**
 57 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Phone 9844 4148
**Join us this Christmas
 for any or all of the following**
 December 12 **10am "Party with a Purpose"**
 (Kids production followed by
 a sausage sizzle)
 December 19 **8pm Community Carols by
 Candlelight** in Stiggants Reserve
 December 24 **7pm Christmas Eve Service**
 December 25 **10am Christmas Day Service**



Enjoying dog's dinner in a village of the damned

IT'S okay. He hasn't been trained to kill yet." This was of little comfort as the great dane-like dog stood eyeballing me in the restaurant, the Cafe de Sade. We were staying in the little hilltop village of Lacoste in Provence.

Early November is a perfect time to visit Provence. There are very few tourists yet the weather is pleasant and the scenery is still beautiful, with all the grapevines turning shades of gold and crimson red and the mists covering the lower valley in early morning.

This particular hilltop village has been spared the effects of Peter Mayle-type exposure. Nearby are the villages of Gordes and Menerbes, the latter being referred to by Mayles in his novel, *A Year In Provence*. When he wrote of it, it was just like "our village", but now the Mayle pilgrimages have changed it into a Provencal Gold Coast. Instead of food shops there are streets full of souvenir shops. Instead of locals the houses have now been renovated and extended and are used by the wealthy gentry on weekends or other "vacances".

Fortunately, the local councils have been quick to realise the inherent possibility of killing the goose that lays the golden eggs and have imposed very strict regulations. For example, when renovating, you cannot alter the size or number of the

KIBBLED

"Alone in the Cafe de Sade; the chateaux brooding over the village, a reminder that danger is possible."

original windows. The roof tiles must be of the same profile and colour as the others—no high tech stainless steel and steel deck!—and the construction must be of stone. This leads to a very pleasing and unified village. But it also brings some problems, cost being a not insignificant issue.

Most hilltop villages began life as fortification against invasion. I still find it hard to imagine the lifestyle that takes it for granted that some other guys will rock up one day and take over your house. Instead of sending in a behavioural psychologist or a good pulpit thumping priest, you build on the most inacces-

sible craggy hilltops. Stones aren't scarce in Provence, in fact the soil is very similar to Warrandyte's, so they just built up from the solid stone foundations. For example, we were staying in an apartment halfway up the village. To reach our apartment, which was in the original town wall, we had to climb a flight of stairs, just to enter our front door. Once inside we had to climb a spiralling staircase to our small "studio" apartment. Above us, via another staircase, was the main house. From our small terrace we could easily pour boiling oil on any invaders.

Obviously, the more money you had, the higher you could build up the hilltop. The views were an added bonus, but protection of property and life was more significant. For this reason, the majority of hilltops are crowned with the village church. After all, who else had the money, property and power!

Our hilltop village was slightly different. Our village was overseen by one of the chateaux of the Marquis de Sade. The old Marquis liked to share himself around so he had a number of large chateaux so he could have a number of experiments on the go at the same time. Nowadays his chateaux have been destroyed, following his fall from favour, but the imposing ruins still brood over the little hilltop village.

At this stage there are only a few references to him in the vil-

lage but I fear what will happen when the village is discovered. Instead of the lavender bags, goats' cheese and boar sausages of the other villages, we'll find whips, spikes, impaling kits and do-it-yourself thumb-screws.

The closest we got to the old Marquis was the cafe. We were the only customers, it being the "off season". As is the custom, the menu is not a la carte. A menu is publicised, at a fixed price, and you select from each course.

I was just starting on the piston soup. I lifted the spoon to my mouth and instead of Herself's limpid blue eyes, there were two brown eyes burrowing into mine.

It wasn't just Jacques's size but his studded collar that reminded me too much of the Marquis. There we were, alone in the Cafe de Sade; the chateaux brooding over the entire village, a constant reminder that danger is possible. The chef, cigarette in mouth, a not uncommon sight, poked his head around the kitchen door, saw the dog, threw his hands into the air, blew a cloud of smoke across the dessert patisseries and gave a Gallic shrug which I took to mean: "He's nervous and hungry. Don't upset him and he'll just go away."

I looked into Jacques's eyes and understood the reason for the name of the cafe.

ROGER KIBELL

Read this first, it explains everything else!
Australian Garden & Driveway Design
 Naturally!
 • Natural Lilydale Toppings Driveways
 • Approximately half the cost — better looking than cold concrete or asphalt
 • Special stabiliser
 • Native and formal garden design
 • Feature rocks and plants — excellent for steep slopes and as a feature
 • Value guaranteed
 • Free before and after presentation
 • Terms and credit cards welcome
Tel: 9736 1115 Hot Line

**PURITY NATURAL
 BEAUTY THERAPIES**
 5 Taroona Ave, Warrandyte
**JANESCE & ROSEHIP OIL
 PRODUCTS**
Treatments include:
 • Relaxation Massage • Facials
 • Pedicures • Body Waxing
DECEMBER OFFER
 FREE GIFT with any facial or massage
 AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT
 Tues, Fri and Sat — Phone
 9844 4881 or 0416 023 642

J.I.G.
 ROOFING PTY LTD
**Metal Roof & Spouting
 NEW & REPAIRS**
Greg Lloyd
 Licensed Roof Plumber
 Lic No: 31401
 Phone: (03) 9844 3619
 Mobile: 0411 267 490
 No Job Too Small

Toothbrush caterpillar's timely transformation

IT was a family affair. Starting with the collection of a caterpillar, a passing interest became a preoccupation that lasted several years.

The caterpillar was found in the garden by the children, brought inside, and housed in an old ice cream container along with the sprig of grevillea on which it had been resting. Overnight the smooth, olive-green, cylindrical-bodied caterpillar changed into a shiny, mahogany brown, torpedo-shaped pupa. And none of us saw how it happened.

A few weeks later, once again unwitnessed, a moth emerged. We discovered it one morning—russet wings outstretched—lying motionless on the bottom of the container. Its resemblance to a dead leaf produced exclamations of wonder from the children who were at that delightful, untroubled age when curiosity is unlimited and rapture unrestrained.

During those calm, transient years—after the full-time physical demands of baby and toddlerhood, before the mentally draining emotional upheaval of adolescence—we reared many caterpillars. Most were either found in the garden or local parks or on family outings to the bush.

We made a special cage for the insects with sides of flywire



NATURE

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

on a square wooden frame and called it a caterpillar. Dozens of caterpillars crept, crawled, looped and shimmied their way over a smorgasbord of plants, kept fresh in narrow-necked jars of water.

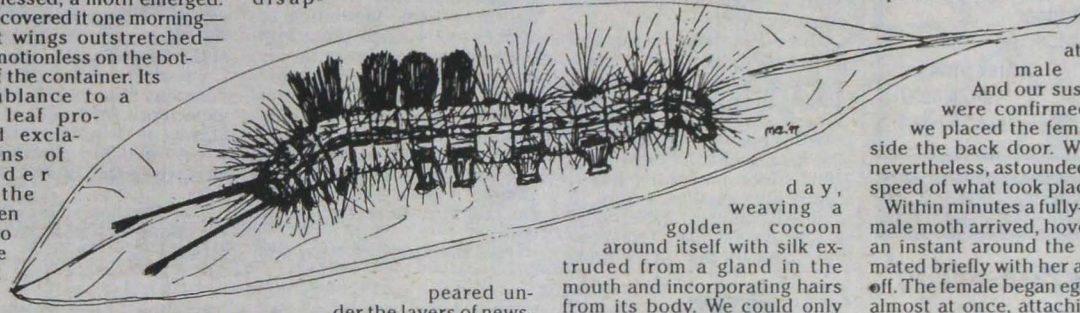
At varying times, they spun cocoons amongst foliage, in the corners of the cage or dis-

favourite, partly because it was so frequently encountered, but also because it was a strikingly attractive-looking caterpillar. Its body was covered with long, silver-grey, silky hairs that terminated, at the head end, in two tufts much like a pair of antennae. On its back were four tussocks of dense white hair giving the caterpillar its toothbrush appearance.

Prior to pupating, Toothbrush stopped eating and began to roam the sides and base of the container endlessly, before settling back on the foliage of its foodplant. We observed the caterpillar pupating one

terior of the cocoon. None of us were prepared for what happened next. The moth that hauled itself out of the pupal case was completely without wings. Not only that, its hairy yellow abdomen was hugely swollen and distended. I don't think any of us could believe that our beautiful toothbrush caterpillar had somehow transformed into this grotesque creature.

"What is it?" the kids asked. At first we too were bemused, but noticing the moths' abdomen pulsating gently, we suspected this was a female pouring out invisible scent signals—pheromones—to



attract a male moth.

And our suspicions were confirmed when we placed the female outside the back door. We were, nevertheless, astounded by the speed of what took place.

Within minutes a fully-winged male moth arrived, hovered for an instant around the female, mated briefly with her and flew off. The female began egg-laying almost at once, attaching dozens of small white eggs to the outside of the vacated cocoon with some invisible adhesive secreted from her body. Half an hour later she was dead, her abdomen bereft of eggs, now shrivelled and deflated.

We watched the whole remarkable sequence of events in awe. This glimpse into the private double life of Toothbrush had been a learning experience for the whole family.

Sunday lunch was a little late that day.

peared under the layers of newspaper that lined the base of the cage. The trouble was, when the moths emerged we didn't know which one had come from which caterpillar, thereby frustrating our efforts at photographing their individual life cycles. So it was back to individual containers for the caterpillars.

The kids invented names for our unusual pets. There was Spike, Sunglasses, Grass Muncher and Toothbrush. Toothbrush was a particular

day, weaving a golden cocoon around itself with silk extruded from a gland in the mouth and incorporating hairs from its body. We could only guess at what was going on behind the walls of the cocoon.

It was Sunday lunchtime, several weeks later, when one of the kids noticed a movement from the hairy cocoon. As one, the family gathered around the container awaiting the rebirth of Toothbrush. The first sign that emergence was imminent was a small split in the cocoon. We waited with tense expectation. Soon a head appeared, followed by a pair of legs which immediately latched on to the ex-

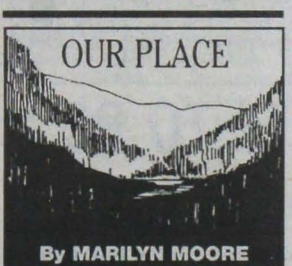
Millennium? Think of a number

ON December 31, as we usher in the final year of the millennium, an enormous hullabaloo will travel around the planet like a giant Mexican wave. It seems strange that such an apparently meaningless and arbitrary point in time could have caught the imagination of nations worldwide. But is it in fact arbitrary and meaningless?

Yes and no. In 1949 when Mao Zedong declared that China would follow the Gregorian calendar, the entire world was in agreement about the date for the very first time. Stephen Jay Gould cites this, the effective establishment of a consistent and useful calendar, as one of humanity's greatest achievements. He was dead right. And it only took a few thousand years of trial and error.

Rearranging the calendar was such a frequent occurrence for the Romans that they must have had a terrible time keeping track of birthdays and other special events.

They started out in 753 BC with a pretty dodgy ten-month lunar calendar concocted by Romulus, and even after 50 years when they'd slotted in the missing two months, there was



OUR PLACE

By **MARILYN MOORE**

still too much drift in relation to the seasons.

Priests, whose job it was to throw in extra days every so often to square things up, occasionally got naughty and adjusted things to lengthen the terms of office of their favourite senators instead.

In any case, the job of trying to intercalate Greek and Roman calendars (whilst maintaining sufficient accuracy to keep the farmers happy as well as avoiding superstitious evils like even numbers) got so confusing that the poor old priests simply forgot things or bungled their calculations.

Julius Caesar fixed all that, partly to compensate for the fact that he'd indulged in a spot of bungling himself. With the promise of smooth sailing when

his new solar calendar of 365 days took effect the following year, 46BC turned out to be the Year The Romans Had To Have: about 80 extra days were needed to balance the books. Jules called it "The Last Year of Confusion".

It wasn't, of course. After centuries of revision and lots of fiddling with leap years, the currently-used Gregorian calendar was finally given the thumbs up, provided that 10 days of 1582 were deleted.

Catholic Europeans obediently made the necessary overnight leap from October 4 to 15, but antagonistic fiefdoms, dukedoms, Protestants, Jews, Moslems, witches, heretics and respected scholars who refused to kowtow to the papacy woke up on October 5, 1582 feeling pretty much as though it was in fact October 5, 1582.

The subsequent glorious debacle, which was to end only in 1949, is described in David Duncan's brilliant book *The Calendar*.

So the world is finally agreed on the date, but what does that date actually signify? Not much. Jesus was probably born about 4BC, the Hebrew calendar's zero hour in 3761BC (supposedly when the earth began) is

decidedly iffy, the Moslem lunar calendar, begun in 622AD, bears little relation to solar reality, and Buddhists seem quite happy to refer to next year simply as the Year of the Dragon. The year 2000 could be seen, however, as a symbol of unprecedented worldwide cooperation. Not a bad excuse for a party!

Memorable celebrations there will certainly be, and for "memorable" read "big". With catering arrangements having to be finalised months before guest lists are known, hostesses are understandably getting a little edgy. They've ordered food for 200 to 300, but they've just heard that this friend and that friend have done the same thing.

Will there be enough guests to go around? Or will all Warrandyte converge on the bridge party? What about going to see the fireworks in the city? What about tackling something really memorable like a midnight ascent of Mt. Feathertop? And will we do it all again when the millennium actually ends next year?

With those few thoughts, I'll leave you to have a very happy Christmas. May all your Y2K bugs be little ones!

THE SOIL SHOP & NURSERY

SUMMER IS TIME TO MULCH

- CUT CHRISTMAS TREES • PEA STRAW \$7.00 bale
- CARPET ROSES \$11.50 ea • SEEDLINGS \$1.95 punnet

LADIES DAY — FRIDAYS — 10% OFF

RON C. DAY
9844 3329—9844 1568
PICK UP & DELIVERY
7 DAYS A WEEK

1 MAHONEY'S COURT, WARRANDYTE
"FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING & GARDENING SUPPLIES"

MOWERS, CHAINSAWS, BLOWERS, BRUSHCUTTERS

SALES, SERVICE, SPARE PARTS AND EXPERT ADVICE

ALL THE LEADING BRANDS INCLUDING MASPORT, ROVER, VICTA, ECHO, KAWASAKI, SHINDAIWA, JONSERED, ATOM, GRANBERG AND MORE!

JACKSON COURT MOWERS PLUS
16 JACKSON COURT EAST DONCASTER
9848 2118

NOW OPEN

Second Chance Furniture

BEDS, BUNKS, DINING, LOUNGES, DESKS, WALL UNITS, COFFEE TABLES, LAMPS, ETC.

Shop 3
90 Melbourne Hill Road
Warrandyte
9844 0488

If we don't have it, we'll find it for you.

Want it typed?
Want it quick?
Want it local?
Want a good price?

Call Rainbow Secretarial Service on **9844 2139**

Fashion for Tall Women

The Long Tall Clothing Company
specializing in clothing designed for tall women

hours
Mon - Thur 9:30 - 3:00 2/98 South Parade
Friday 9:30 - 5:30 Blackburn, 3130
Saturday 9:30 - 1:00 Ph. 9894 8500
and by appointment Fax. 0844 2903

www.LongTallClothing.com.au

CIVIL MARRIAGE CELEBRANT

- * Wedding Ceremonies
- * Namings
- * Renewal of Vows
- * Personalised ceremonies for that special day

JOHN BYRNE
9844 2155
Mobile 0418 995 189

SUB CONTRACT **JT's TREES** PRIVATE
EXPERT TREE SERVICE

- Felling
- Shaping
- Complete Removal
- Experienced Climber
- Fully Insured
- Free Quotes

0413 671 066 JASON 9844 0991
FOR EFFICIENT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

KUMON ENGLISH & MATHS

Self-learning, Individual Programme
2.5 Million Students Worldwide in 40 Countries

FREE ASSESSMENT
School holidays are the best time to catch up!

WARRANDYTE STUDY CENTRE
(COMMUNITY CENTRE)
Contact: Toshie Burke - 9808 1139 or 0417 556 686

YARRA STREET VIDEO

WE WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

106 YARRA ST WARRANDYTE VIC 3113
PHONE 9844 0544
10AM-9PM SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
10AM-10PM FRIDAY TO SATURDAY

SUPPORT LOCAL TRADERS

They followed their star

By HELLENA ALLAN

66 **I**n the quiet of the winter-dark, early morning hours, drifting through a cloud of sleepy gauze, a mother cocoons her newborn baby within her swansdown doona. Outside the lace-curtained window, snowflakes fall softly between scattering, crystallized stars. Like fairy lights, the stars blink and flicker over a pine tree. The mother watches, with her baby cradled in her arm, a crepuscule of light gradually unveil a frosted alpine outline of forested and snow-peaked mountains.

Slowly, cautiously, the bedroom door opens. Three small children gather around their mother and their sleeping baby brother. Their soft, small hands touch the baby's tiny fingers in awe. Together, mother and children wrap the baby in a blanket, carefully lay him in his padded, quilted baby carry basket, and tiptoe out.

All day, footsteps and voices echo up and down the stairway. Neighbours call, neighbours' children come to see, people they hardly know. They bring soft toys for the baby, chocolate for the children, bottles of wine for John, flowers for Marie.

They say, "We're sorry you're leaving," looking down the hallway and along the walls stacked high with packing boxes marked: Shipment to Australia. Removalist men lumber and lurch with boxes down five flights of stairs to the container truck parked in the snow.

At the end of the day, John blows in with a bulging briefcase of preparation paperwork; complete. "It's all over now," he says, and they stand alone in the empty apartment shell. Stars wink from bare windows.

In the freezing night air, John and Marie, with their young children and armfuls of suitcases, walk away from the place they had called home

for six years.

Six years in Switzerland, and they finish their stay on the December 6. December 6 in Switzerland is St Nicholas' Day. On the evening of St Nicholas' Day, St Nicholas brings gifts to children.

"Come and spend your last evening in Switzerland, and join us in the St Nicholas celebrations," their good Swiss friends say.

A rich and seasonally spiced garland of dried nuts and flowers hangs outside their friends' front door. Inside, the sappy smell of burning pine greets them as they all gather round the fire with glasses of mulled wine. Children chase each other around the Christmas tree which glimmers with miniature electric candlelights. On the family dresser, surrounded by Christmas cards and family photos, a hand-sewn cloth nativity scene stands on strewn straw. An advent ring of four candles suspends from the ceiling.

On the fourth floor in an apartment in the old quarter of the medieval town, the lounge room window bulges over a cobbled street that winds its way towards the lake. Suddenly the sky lights up and crackles with fireworks.

"It has begun," the Swiss friends smile. Boom! boom! boom! boom! They see nothing, but the town walls vibrate as if Jack's giant himself has landed and is raging. It is the sound of hundreds of marching feet; the hollow echoes of many cowbells swinging, the narrow streets rebounding.

Spinning, whirling, pirouetting, groups of St Nicholas' attendants dance a dance of patterns and colours under snowflakes and stars, candles flickering inside their filigree mitres, a kaleidoscope of leadlight-like cathedral windows moving towards the shore of the shimmering lake.

St Nicholas walks, resplendent with mitre, golden staff, red robe and long beard.

His following is hundreds of hooded, white-smocked cow herdsman, ropes slung over their

shoulders, waist-swinging cowbells ringing as they walk. They are followed by white-smocked trumpet blasters and local crowds. Running alongside the procession are more farming folk—curling, looping, lashing long whips which crack through the air like gunshot.

At the end of the procession, restaurants open and their warming, yellow lights line the edge of the lake.

St Nicholas and his aides go to their donkey and fill the beast's baskets with small gifts for children, beginning home visits throughout the town.

In their night flight sleep, as they fly over the Alps, John and Marie's children hear St Nicholas' donkey bells fade away into the distance. As they dream, they are transported to a new land.

For several long hours the plane continues its flight across the Australian desert.

Marie recalls what John had said to her immediately before they left their Swiss apartment: "Who knows what can happen from now ..."

This was her responsibility. For this was her dream.

In the palm of her hand she cups a symbol of her childhood, retrieved from the removalist men. Nervously she fingers the rough, ingrained sand of the seashell jewellery box. It was a gift to her from her visiting aunt from Melbourne when she was a small child. It was this gift which captured her childhood imagination and created her adolescent dream. Inside the box is a hand-embroidered handkerchief of the native plants and animals which lived on her aunt's bush block.

Marie fingers the lifetime of letters received from her aunt; letters that inspired her to persevere with her dream.

Under a ceruleous blue sky, green and gold tinsel loops from shop fronts along the main street.

In the real estate agent's office, the receptionist is wearing a red felt Santa Claus hat. She puts the receiver down and calls to the office in general. "Swiss Family Robinson's arrived—who's got the keys!"

A river town road runs parallel with the river. On a mid-December evening it is lined with parked cars. Motionless and sheer, the river passes through a gorge of gum trees. At the end of a hot December day, the sun is sinking behind the trees. A trail of townspeople walk the river path in the light evening breeze.

They drop armfuls of cushions and rugs and settle with friends as the carol music begins. Dusk falls and torches and candles are lit, blinking with the stars.

On the red poinsetta potted stage, set against the backdrop of the river and the bush, primary school children stand. Torches and candles light their young faces, haloed in gold tinsel, robed in flowing white. Toes up, they reveal dusty soles. From his perch overhanging the river, a kookaburra cackles at the Christmas crowd.

Under the stars, a torch-lit procession moves like a line of glow worms along the banks of the river as the townspeople wander home.

Christmas Eve, and Marie is filling her children's stockings. Suddenly she catches a movement along the eaves of the roof. Under the moonlit terrace, entranced, she watches the emergence of a pink nose and dark beady eyes. Scuttle, scuttle, scuttle. The possum is joined by his mate. Both stare intently at her. They leap into the trees and disappear into the bush.

Christmas Day dawns, and the neighbours call. Prawns and champagne under a mid-morning summer sun. Change of course, change of house, glasses tinkle on the decking under the bright sunlight. Beats any dark winter European Christmas Day!



Isla is designing a great future

By RACHEL BAKER

Isla skipped down the steps, through the garden and sat down on a banana lounge. "We have to grab every moment of sunshine we can," she said, "because it's so cold in Britain."

Isla Shaw is back in Warrandyte, after winning the Linbury Prize in London for stage design, following four years of study at the Wimbledon School of Art.

The Linbury Prize selects theatre design students and brings them into professional production companies, where they compete against each other to come up with the best design.

Four companies—dance, opera, contemporary theatre and classical theatre—each selected three students (from an overall pool of over 140) to design the sets, costumes, and props for their upcoming productions.

Isla was chosen by the Royal Lyceum Theatre, in Edinburgh, to work on *Phaedra*, a Greek tragedy

about a woman's lust for her stepson.

Competing against two other students who were designing for the same play, Isla worked solidly for two months.

She would start every day at about 8am and work through until after midnight, drawing, modelling, thinking and calculating.

She had no social life and drank copious amounts of coffee to stay awake, but she said it was worth it when she was announced the winning entrant for her company. (There are three other winners—for the dance, opera and contemporary theatre companies.)

"All my friends wondered what was going on. It's like being in another, isolated little world," Isla said of the design experience.

"Stuck in a theatre, surrounded by actors, all focussed on one production, without a break. But there's also another community that develops in that environ-

ment," she said.

The hectic lifestyle is something all theatre designers have to put up with. The designer has to organise every last detail of the play, as well as trying to please directors and actors, all to a tight deadline.

"You couldn't do this job if you didn't love it," Isla said. She will return to London this month.

In November, Isla's entry for the Linbury Prize was on display in the Royal National Theatre, and, as a main objective of the Linbury is to expose the students to more senior people in the industry, Isla hopes her work will have impressed the right people.

She has already been chosen to design for *Three Dark Tales*, a touring production, and has met with a freelance director and an agent.

There are a lot of productions on in London, and it's the place to be if you want to get work. Isla said she loves the "buzz" of the place. London is exciting and there are

always things happening, but it can be tiring and lonely.

"You can go for days, just being in the city, and not seeing anyone you know," she said.

She loves coming back to Warrandyte.

Many locals may remember Isla as the winner of the 1995 Warrandyte Youth Arts Award: a glowing 19 year-old with long, movie-star tresses. Now she looks more like a pixie.

Isla said the past five years have seen her change dramatically.

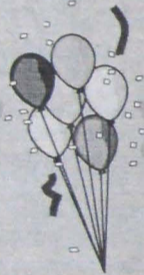
The Wimbledon School has students from all over the world: Asia, Europe, America; and a lot of the students are mature-age, so they have experienced a lot, often in the theatrical world. Isla said she was influenced, both professionally and personally, by the eclectic group of students.

"Just being around so many different people, you're exposed to so many different things," she said.

Party time!

Senior Citizens 37th birthday concert

Pictures by Jan Tindale



Tennis Club masked Xmas dinner

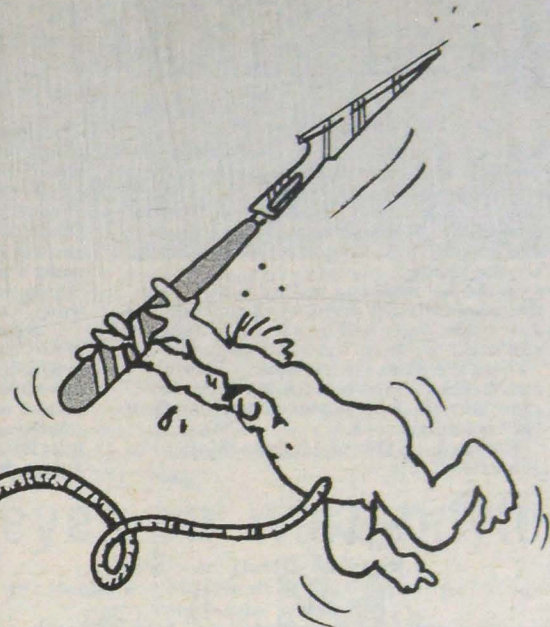
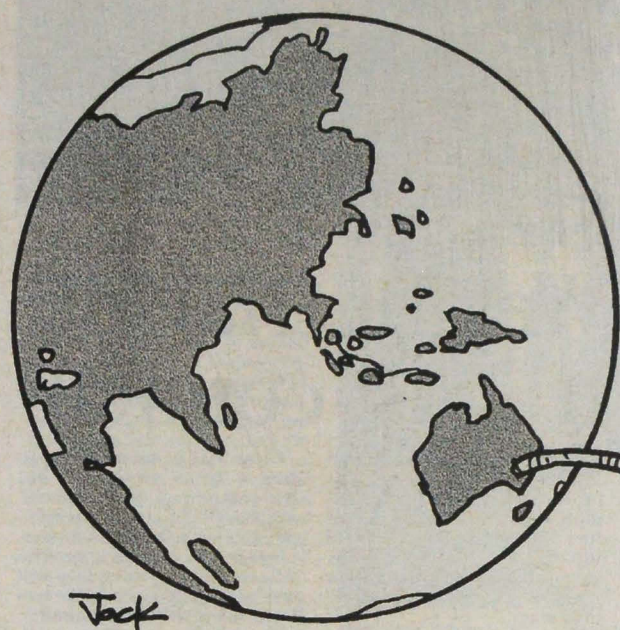
Pictures by Janine Phillips and Michelle Gilling



Warrandyte Diary annual banquet

Pictures by Sandy Burgoyne





Burn, bug, burn

FINGERS of barely tangible thought touched my sleeping mind with the image that I had gone to sleep on a bull ants' nest at the riverbank. Thousands of tiny insects crawled over every inch of skin and I dared not breathe.

Then awakening in half light, half darkness to early dawn sounds of splashing river water washing past, mixed with voices of stragglers from the New Year bridge party. I gulped in breaths of fresh air. Upstream the bridge glowed in many colours, downstream a faint mist swirled from the river surface. The black green water reflected intensities of the diamond, star-flecked, dawn sky.

Looking into the Yarra River waters I could make out an image of a face. Focusing upon the watery reflection, I was astounded to recognize the visage of the Millennium Bug. It was me. It was we.

I was falling to earth. Sometimes you lift the lid on the fiery cauldron burning here on earth, a flashing glimpse into the engine of environmental existence. In this luminous moment of clarity your being shrinks with the radiated heat that living bestows to the soul.

It was the revelation at that actual moment, at the start of the new millennium, that I finally realized that, yes, I had been sleeping on a bull ants' nest. I embraced the water in the river like meeting with the elixir of life.

The fall from paradise was like Kooboor falling from the tree; like the flooding waters that wash the dusty yellow Warrandyte clay from our toes.

The Millennium Bug is the way we have taken everything for ourselves. Changed everything before we can evaluate the outcomes. It makes inventors of computers forget to leave room for the extra date numbers, not thinking that their invention would last to—and beyond—the next century. We project our thoughts into tomorrow and fail to plan for their arrival.

There seems to be a constant state of emergency with contingency plans for everything from 2KY, bull ant attack to nuclear fallout. But we are never in control.

In the mud of the river banks were many footprints of a creature. An

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

animal as perfect as all those others created on earth. A creature that has newly evolved during this Ice Age, during the past million years. The last animal to arrive; troubled by the effort required to fit into the ecosystems. The trouble we have caused as we struggle to find our biological niche. Are we a creature half in, half out of the environment, a part of nature or somehow outside it?

The footprints of the creature were everywhere. Some were small, others so monstrously large that my foot could fit inside their sculptured shapes many times.

It was a reminder of the ecological footprint. A concept that measures the carrying capacity of the land and human resource use. It essentially asks how much resource consumption and waste discharge can be sustained indefinitely without progressively impairing the functional integrity and productivity of ecosystems. A method of measuring how much water, space, organic material and food it takes for each human creature to survive in Australia. What size my footprint?

Walking through gloomy glades down the river path, waking to the realities of the new millennium rushing upon me. Waking half in fear and half in hope, I could feel all around me empty ecological niches in the river valley that are still haunted by extinct animals.

The footprints along the riverbanks of Warrandyte are sometimes so many and so heavy that the earth is over-tired and worn. They are places where the willows, plum and other weeds dominate. The weary river banks wear the story of the footprints left by the creature born of the Ice Ages.

On these worn places lie the death of ecology. The rich teeming cultural legacy of a healthy ecosystem laid to waste. Biocide of the biological community has been carried out without most of us seeing or know-

ing. Had we not been blind to the indigenous beauty of this manna gum river forest we would never have allowed destruction to go this far.

Our minds have carried other stories from other cultures. Our hands have carried the seeds from plants from other countries. We have sewn old stories onto new social fabric and sewn weed seed to cover our poor understanding of the environmental nature of the land. We have not listened.

When Aboriginals spoke of "Poor Fella My Country", they spoke with the genetic memory of the rest of the world. An ancient estimation of the low productivity of this land. "Terra Nullis" not only left other humans out of our view, we suffered a mass sociogenic blindness to the intrinsic mercurial nature of the vegetation before our eyes. Its powerful organic changeability. Its power of survival. Its power to heal.

It was a different story along the river walk where we had repaired the damage of erosion and removal of indigenous vegetation. Using our hands and minds in these places we had returned life to the river, there was community and hope. Waves of euphoria washed over me as I passed the river banks in the areas where the native indigenous vegetation had been planted. They are an expression of our reconciliation with the nature of the land, the beginning of a new dreaming. The return of the original garden. To see the bushlands returning conjured a remarkable image.

In amongst the native tussock grasses squirmed and crawled a mass of babies. Children of the Creature from the Ice Epic. Babies laughing, tactile bundles of cupid joy reaching for the nearest thing; other babies, twigs and bushland things. The future creatures that will each need a footprint to walk in.

Passing behind the old post office and the Gospel chapel, I walked the



path through the shadowed lands, searching for my footprint beside the sacred, soothing river. A footprint into which I could perfectly place my foot. Past the big flats by the old dairy, with its avenue of silhouetted manna gums and the river rocks at the start of the houses.

Morning skies lightening bring thriving community gardens, new swamplands and the market flats with their corrugated shelters into focus. The river flats of festivals and markets and sad, ageing manna gum trees. A place where there is a need of renewal before it becomes too tired and worn.

Crossing the bridge over the torn muddy slash that is the mouth of Andersons Creek, where the soil-borne water relentlessly flows into the Yarra. Erosion's watery slaves are still taking away tonnes of its creek soils and sending them to the bay. Hungry drainage patterns still eating away the creek banks. We need new engineering ideas, germinating for the bushlands.

Further along the river the path narrows and I squeeze past the sheer rock walls that the river shears as it flows around the Bradleys Lane peninsula. Up to the rapids created by the two rocky bars that almost cross, two-thirds the width of the river.

It is above these rapids under the sheoaks that she waits. The black woman who waits to help the babies who fall into the river. Waiting to catch the babies caught in the strong current; waiting to rescue them from the swirling rhythms of the river.

Looking to the east and waiting for the dawning of this New Year's Day, half in euphoria over what has been achieved by the community in protecting the bushlands around their homes, half in depression at the magnitude of what is needed to be

done. Most of the weeds that are invading local bushlands are coming from the gardens around our homes. Weeds are raining in upon the bushlands from our gardens, spelling the end of this magic forest.

Climate challenges come from the dragon's breath of all the little machines that feed the cauldron. Every empire needs slaves to feed the cauldron, to keep heat in the engine. We should burn the shells of the dead millennium bugs instead. Shells that are pollution, wastage and over-consumption. Shells that enlarge the footprints.

Climate changes brought on by the simple mechanics of a planet spinning in space with the chaos of the unknown, and the rhythmic mathematical purity of the known.

We are still at war with our environment, still tearing at our umbilical cord to the earth. In the darkness of ecological problems, we wait crouched for the birth of future light. Waiting for the midwife of understanding, whose waits vigil by the stream to deliver us from ourselves. The catcher by the river.

Never forget the skill of these hands. Never forget the things they can make and create. Hands that rub the newborn with ash and charcoal can light the fires of knowledge and environmental imagination that will sweep across the globe like a huge bushfire. An exhilarating flow of information will burn the Ice Age creature's soul and together with the plants and animals will become environmentally thermoluminescent. Through ice, through fire, out of the darkness to bathe in the light of the new millennium.

Fire-painted clouds colour skies as the sunbeams of the new dawn stretch their fingers between the tallest branches of the manna gums. The light of fire upon the skies. The fiery rim of the earth, glowing in the early morning chill; in the bellies of those fortunate enough to live here.

It is the dawn of the first day. Aboriginals believe that each day is the First Day. The first day as it was at the start of the world. The first day, symbolic of the capacity of the world, humanity and the cosmos to perpetually renew itself. On that first day, the present moment and eternity are synthesized as place, my place. Warrandyte.

Standing by for the year 2000 festival

By RACHEL BAKER

If the youth of Warrandyte ever claimed any two days as their own, the festival would have to be those days.

But next year, in the first Warrandyte Festival of the third millennium, the statement will be overt—the slogan is “The Children are the Future”.

On the last weekend in March, as well as the usual billycart derby, rock concerts and waterslide, there will be a few new things to add to the weekend's juvenile theme.

There are plans for a temporary skateboard ramp, a mud bath, and a computer game section, John Boyle, chair of the Festival Committee, said.

“We need the kids to energise things,” John said.

Street theatre will also be back, with local young people performing their fourth year of juggling, fire-throwing and unicycling.

The festival, on March 25 and 26, will also have another new element. Local artists, including Jock Macneish, Walter Magilton, and Cherry Manders, will paint designs on umbrellas, which will then be auctioned, “to shelter us, hopefully, from the sunshine,” John said.

In the music department, it is likely that artists from Colliding Rhythms, a musical program organised by Linda Carroll, who have been performing at the Mechanics Institute, will feature at the festival.

Artists including Blue House and Uncle Bills Band are “all wanting to come along,” John said.



Jock's new festival logo.

Skatepark seeks cashflow

As announced last month, Manningham council has agreed to cover half the cost of a skateboard facility in Warrandyte, estimated at \$65,000, with the balance coming from local sources.

“We are asking parents, friends, skaters and businesses in Warrandyte to help the community raise the \$32,500, Cr Patricia Young told the Diary.

“Two groups have been formed, one to raise funds and the other to consult with council officers on the best design possible, given the restraint of land availability and funds.

“Should any residents wish to donate to this project, an account has been opened at the Commonwealth Bank in Warrandyte where donations can be made (unfortunately not tax deductible).

“There will be a book available at the bank for people to register their names as donors so that a sponsors' board can be made, acknowledging all the people and businesses who have contributed.”

Fund-raising events have already been planned by a group of young people in the town. One will be held in conjunction with the opening of the revamped West End shopping centre and some during the Warrandyte Festival in March.

“If the community can raise \$32,500 quickly, the skate facility can be built while the weather is still good,” Cr Young said.

• Anyone with fundraising ideas can call Rina at Manningham Youth Services on 9848 2977.



Don't pass overturning vehicle. Local roads barely cope with heavy trucks.

Weight trial for trucks: council

Manningham and Maroondah city councils will make a joint submission to obtain formal approval from VicRoads to conduct a 12 month load limit trial on Jumping Creek and Brysons roads for vehicles greater than or equal to 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass.

“If approval is given, Jumping Creek Road, between Warrandyte-Ringwood Road and Yarra Road, and Brysons Road, between Wonga Road and Yarra Road, will both be subject to heavy vehicle restrictions,” a Manningham spokesperson told the Diary.

An initial response to only conduct the trial on Jumping Creek Road caused concerns for Maroondah council because of the likely impact of greater volumes of traffic on Brysons Road. After consultation, both councils gave their support to the inclusion of Brysons Road in the proposed trial.

“The trial is not intended to ban all truck movements but the restriction would specifically target through movements of heavy vehicles,” the spokesperson said. “Truck operators who require local access will still be permitted to use the two local roads without a permit.”

Manningham and Maroondah councils will monitor heavy truck movements on Jumping Creek Road and Brysons Road respectively and the local road network in the area, to determine the impacts of the trial. Police have indicated they will support and enforce the heavy vehicle restrictions.

The joint presentation will be made to VicRoads' Truck Operation Committee on 1 December 1999 with a decision by VicRoads expected by mid-month. If VicRoads' approval is granted, it is expected that the necessary signage would be erected by early January 2000.

Thank you to our local press gang

Once again it's time to thank all those hardworking people—most of them volunteers—who have brought you your favourite newspaper during the last (or is it the penultimate?) year of the second millennium.

News stories were written by David Wyman, Fia Clendinnen, Cliff Green, Rachel Baker, Clinton Grybas, Prudence Truby King and Kara Williams. Regular columnists were Smokey Joe, Pat Coupar, Roger Kibell, Marilyn Moore, Judy Green and Catherine Selby.

Features were written by Glen Jameson, Lorraine Warren, Marion Winton, Don Charwood and Robyn Jeans. We published poetry by Karen

Throssell and Paul Herbert. Sports stories were by Lee Tindale, Rachel Baker, Damien Arsenis, Clinton Grybas, Adam White and Judy Green.

Occasional contributors included Marian and Eric Houghton, Bob Cox, Libby Skeels, Peter Norman, Helen Cox, Sophie Cunliff, Audrey Dreschler, Ruth Rankin, Trelawney Dewé, Kim Rea, Beverley Carlisle, Lorraine Parfitt, Walter Dewé, Anthony Mirabella, Ken Virtue, Helena Allan and Doreen Burge.

Artwork by Jock Macneish, Paul Williams, Melanie Coupar, Wayne Rankin, Ona Henderson and Syd Tunn. Photographs by Sandy Burgoyne, Jan Tindale, Robyn Jeans and Greg

Ruthven.

The paper was edited and designed by Cliff Green and Lee Tindale and Jan Tindale organised assignments, carried out research and assisted with community liaison. Rachel Schroeder set the type, designed the ads and handled production, assisted by Mark Schroeder. Streamline Press printed our paper and John Ingram delivered press material. Sandy Burgoyne continued as internet editor, piloting us through cyberspace.

Rae Danks charmed our advertisers and kept our accounts and John Roberts looked after our corporate responsibilities. Don Humpreys kept our office spic and span and Peter Norman

took our newspaper out to our many, much-appreciated distribution points.

Last, but certainly not least, we remember the people who make it all financially possible—our advertisers.

And, finally, heartfelt thanks to you, our loyal and enthusiastic readers, with a special mention for those who contributed to our Dear Diary page.

We won't be around in January, but come the second week of February and we'll be back (Y2K permitting), bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, bringing you all the local news. In the meantime, here's wishing everyone a joyous Christmas. And stay nice for the new millennium—or the year before the new millennium—or whatever.

CLYDE & OCKER



“Without the Diary, Ock, we wouldn't exist!”

Parker Signs

Menu & Chalk Art
Computer Cut Signs
Banners Vehicles Shops
A-Boards Magnetic Signs

0419 881 262
or 9844 2579

Dieter's Xmas Survival Kit!

30 DAY SUPPLY
comprising:

• fat blocker • energy booster • beer pot buster!

PRODUCTS CAN BE BOUGHT AS A KIT OR SINGLY

9844 2043 or 0412 311 840



LINDELL COURIERS



A fast reliable Courier Service
right at your door

**SAME DAY
PICKUP & DELIVERY**

Warrandyte—to/from just about anywhere
in the greater Melbourne area

0411 417 820

PLUMBER AND GASFITTER

CONCESSIONS TO PENSIONERS

Electric Sewer Cleaner Available - 14 Cemetery Rd, Warrandyte

JOHN RYAN 9844 2552 MOBILE PHONE 0415 332 777

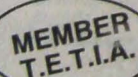
TOM KERKHOF TELEVISION SALES AND SERVICE

Service to all makes of Television, Video Cassettes,
Stereo Systems, Microwaves, Antenna Systems Installed.

SERVICING THE AREA FOR 30 YEARS

Ph: 9844 3970 Mob: 018 175 274

27 Mitchell Ave Warrandyte 3113



A & A CLANCY NCH. ARBOR. (ENG) TREE SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFIED TRADESMEN

• Pruning & Tree Removals • Tree Surgery
• Stump Removal • Mulch Supplies

15 YEARS EXPERIENCE

FULL INSURANCE, FREE QUOTES

9844 1161 — 0412 101 759



WARRANDYTE WELDING

All materials welded.
Your place or mine.

No job too small
RING

NEIL CARTER

9844 2547



MECHANICS INSTITUTE

HALL FOR HIRE

PHONE: 9844 1376

Art under the bridge



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.

Warrandyte Youth Centre has recently received a grant from Manningham council to design and paint a mural in Warrandyte. They have been allocated space beneath Warrandyte bridge. The young people are interested in graffiti/aerosol art and are seeking a volunteer to assist with the design and supervision of the painting. The youth centre is also looking for volunteers to help out at the centre on Friday and Saturday nights. Anyone interested in volunteering time, either with the mural or at the centre, can contact Bronwyn Barton on 9844 2985.

Trees

First Warrandyte/Park Orchards Scouts will be selling real Christmas trees at the Scout Hall in Yarra Street on the weekends of December 11, 12 and 18, 19 between 10am and 1pm. Average price for the trees is \$23.

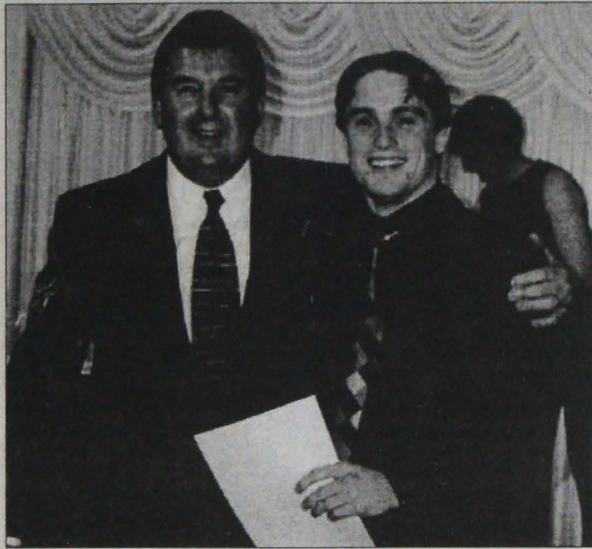
Reunion

To coincide with the 125th year of the school's stone building, Warrandyte Primary School is planning a reunion to be held at the same time as the school fete next year. The school is interested in hearing from anyone who would like to help contact past students and teachers, and from anyone who has old photos to lend or memories to share. Please leave a message at the school—9844 3537—or call Judy Finger on 9844 3150.

Calendar

Warrandyte Historical Society's year 2000 calendar, Marking The Moments, is still available from the museum in Yarra Street during weekends, and from Warrandyte Post Office and Potters Cottage any other day. The limited edition calendar features 16 photographs of Warrandyte events and icons. Mail orders can be made by sending \$12, plus \$3 postage

Top kids at our high school



Top-performing students at Warrandyte High School were honoured at the Year 12 valedictory evening, for Year 12, held late last month.

Special awards went to: All-rounder—Melissa Lynch; Artistic—Drew Hanna (pictured); Citizenship—Amanda Stoyan; Endeavour—Sarah Fulton; Principal's award—Natasha Simpson; Sportspersons—Trinity McLaughlin and James Riley.

Guest speakers—former students Jo Yarwood and Andrew Mills from the class of 1993—entertained and informed their audience with their school recollections and down-to-earth business experiences.

It was announced that Don Harrison (known affectionately as Harro) was retiring after 18 years at the school. The sigh which greeted this announcement captured the esteem in which Don was held by students, parents and teachers.

and handling, to Warrandyte Historical Society, PO Box 67, Warrandyte, 3113.

Astronomy

Friends of Warrandyte State Park are presenting a Wonga Park astronomy night with Astronomical Society member Phil Mahon on Friday, February 11, 2000 from 8.30pm. Phil will be demonstrating an 8-inch Newtonian telescope for viewing such delights as Saturn, Ju-

piter, the Orion nebula and the moon. Call Mike Coupar on 9901 9567 or Lee Speedy on 9437 0894.

Religious

Sue Boyle has resigned as coordinator of religious instruction at Warrandyte Primary School after 14 years service. John Hanson has taken over the coordinator's job at both Warrandyte and Andersons Creek primary schools. Anyone

interested in undertaking this work and teaching religious education at either school, please call John on 9844 3906.

Care

If anyone is interested in providing companionship and support, for an hour or two a week, for a frail aged person or someone with a disability in your local community, and you are over 18, please contact Do Care on 9871 1532.

Local Christmas church services

The annual carols by candlelight service will be held at Stiggants Reserve on Sunday, December 19 at 8pm. BYO candles and rugs. Donations will go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal. Wet weather venue—stadium at Andersons Creek Primary School.



★ ANGLICAN (9844 3473): Christmas Eve—11.30pm; Christmas Day—8am and 9.30am.

★ UNITING (9844 3476): December 19—10.15am all age service; Christmas Eve—7.30pm Carols and 11.30pm Communion; Christmas Day—9am.

★ CATHOLIC (9876 1509): Christmas Eve—7pm Family Mass, 9.30pm (Park Orchards), Midnight Mass (Warrandyte); Christmas Day—9.30am Mass (Park Orchards).

★ COMMUNITY CHURCH (9844 4148): Christmas Eve—7pm Christmas Day—10am

People requiring transport or more information should contact the church of their choice on the phone numbers above.



Prescription lens wearers now have a fantastic alternative to buying prescription sunglasses. With Convertibles, a stylish pair of spectacles converts into fashion sunglasses, in an instant. Convertibles utilise two strong magnets, just above the hinges, to securely hold the other 100% UV resistant lenses in place. And when it's time to take them off, a simple flick of the wrist separates the two, without ever taking your glasses off. Try on a pair from the fashionable range today, at:

eyes on warrandyte

Shop 2B, Goldfields Plaza
402 Heidelberg-Warrandyte Rd, Warrandyte, 3113
Telephone: 9844 4422



Warrandyte Toy Library

Toys, games, puzzles, dress-ups, tapes & more!

Catering from 6 months to 6 years

New members welcome

184-186 Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte

Open: Wed 11.30am-12.30pm
Fri 12noon-1pm
Sat: 10-11am

WAXING, MASSAGE

At your place
At your convenience

Mobile Service

Highly Qualified

Professional Therapist

18 years experience

Phone 9844 1796

Mobile 0417 188 179
for an appointment

Warrandyte Opportunity Shop

at the Community Centre

GLENYSE would like to thank everyone for their donations in 1999.

A happy & safe Christmas to all



A Lion's Club of Warrandyte project

WARRANDYTE UPHOLSTERY

Winner of Top Upholstery Award

Francis J Briffa
11 Everard Drive, Warrandyte

Phone 9844 2416

EARTHEN TILE LAYING

Specialising in ceramics, terracotta, slate, floors and walls

COREY NIGHTINGALL
0413 178 473

GEOFF FELTHAM
0417 548 152

SUPPORT LOCAL TRADERS



GOING AWAY?

Trust Rae and Sue to look after your place till you get back.

9844 3819-9844 4129

Contact 'The Good Faeries' Rae and Sue to care for your pets and gardens and clear your mail. YEAR ROUND SERVICE



Ming's Warrandyte CHINESE RESTAURANT (BYO)

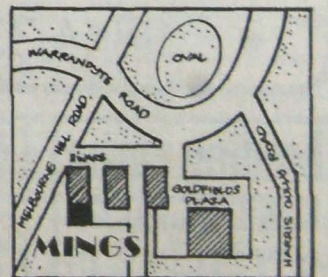
BOOK EARLY FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

10 COURSE MEAL ONLY \$22.90 PER PERSON

MENU — Soup: Chicken Sweet Corn **Entree:** BBQ Roast Pork, Golden Prawn Ball, Mini Mushroom Roll **Main Course:** Ming's Combination Deluxe, Sizzling Mongolian Beef, Crispy Pork with Plum Sauce, Special Fried Rice **Dessert:** Fresh Mango and Ice-cream or Fresh Strawberries and Ice-cream **Coffee or Tea • ALSO menu to suit your Christmas budget**

Shop 6, 92 Melbourne Hill Road, West End Shopping Centre, Warrandyte (opposite Warrandyte Oval) Melway 35:C2

10% DISCOUNT
—DINE-IN ONLY—
UNTIL DECEMBER 20



Trading Hours

Sun-Thu 5-9.30pm
Fri-Sat 5-10.30pm

PHONE

9844 2288

WARRANDYTE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Seasons Greetings

We wish all of our players, parents, sponsors and supporters a very safe, Merry Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

Thank you to all the coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, team managers, time keepers, canteen servers, goal umpires, flag wavers, banner makers, runners and all the other people for supporting the club during another successful year.

Have a great off-season, play plenty of sport, and come back bigger, fitter and stronger for season 2000.

We want to be No 1 in Year 2000

GO BLOODS!!

Management Committee
Warrandyte Junior Football Club

**See you at the
End-of-Millennium
New Year's Eve Party!**



**MECHANICS INSTITUTE HALL
Yarra Street, Warrandyte
Friday, December 31, 8.30pm**

\$12.50 admission includes special commemorative medallion. BYO grub, grog, noisemakers and torches.

● Book early through Rae — 9844 3819.

RON C. DAY

**GARDEN SOILS
BUILDING SANDS**

All quarry products for drives & paths

9844 3329

**bradley curtis
ELECTRICIAN**

▲ Domestic
▲ Commercial
▲ Industrial and Air-conditioning Installation and Maintenance all areas

Phone 9844 2135
Mobile 0418 333 979
NO JOB TOO SMALL
REC no. 6161

Acclaim Renovation & Addition

HIA 522019
Registered Building Practitioner D.B. 04170

HIA Accredited Renovator Member
HIA Tradesline Member
HIA NKBA Member
National Kitchen & Bathroom Assoc.



**PROMPT SERVICE
FREE DESIGN/QUOTATION**

9850 2592 • 0412 331 464
Experience Counts for Everything

A Cloke of many talents



Travis Cloke: an outstanding young sportsman with an impeccable sporting pedigree.

David Cloke is a football legend, a former much-feared Richmond ruckman who now pulls on the cricket boots for Warrandyte. And son Travis, the pride of Warrandyte Primary School, looks like following in Dad's huge sporting footsteps.

Travis, who is about to complete Year 6, has played for Victoria for the past two years in the national primary schools football carnival. The Vics won the championship last year and were runners-up, with Travis vice-captain, this time around.

An all-round sportsman? Is he ever! He has also represented the Victorian Primary Schools Sports Association in cricket and rugby and his achievements have now been recognised at the highest level with two awards:

- The Department of Education School Sports Award (Football). This is for outstanding achievement among students of government schools and in her nomination, WPS sports coordinator Fiona Wells described Travis as an "aggressive player with a lot of natural leadership and sportsmanlike qualities".

- An Eastern Metropolitan Region Sports Award for 1999 for footballing excellence. Two other Warrandyte Primary students were similarly honored—Justin Cleaves in softball and Ellen Bradbury in rugby.

**A helluva fight
on their hands**

**Hitmen,
Irish go
head on**

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Arch rivals the Hitmen and Fighting Irish will meet in the Grand Final of Warrandyte's Greybourn Cup senior basketball competition on Wednesday night (December 8).

It's fitting that the Hitmen contest the decade's final trophy. In this 20th season since play began 10 years ago the Hitmen will be vying for an eighth open section title. Having played off in 14 grand finals they currently boast a 7-7 record when the pressure is on.

Team captain David Thwaites has been around for many of those but knows not to underestimate the younger Irish, whose sole trophy in the cupboard came via a win over the Hitmen five seasons ago.

The Hitmen won the pair's semi-final meeting 45-39 two weeks ago but surprisingly it wasn't Thwaites doing the damage. He was second in the competition in scoring this season averaging 17.4 points per game, but managed just six in the semi-final. Corey Nightingall with 16 and Robert Johnston 13 headlined the team. Adam Borwick led the Irish with 11 but that was 13 down on his league-leading season average. The Irish beat the WFC All-Stars 41-36 to qualify for the final.

In the Over-30 section, the Plastics will be searching for a record 10th title—and the honour of being the first team from either section to win three in a row—when they meet the River Rats.

The Plastics have done it the hard way, coming through the elimination final. They beat Ballistyx 39-26 and then the Rangers 41-33 to win through.



The PP Champs celebrate their latest Grand Hotel Cup triumph. They're shooting for their ninth in 12 years.

The Titans come to town

NBL stars Darryl McDonald and Glen Siegle, of the Victoria Titans, will be in town this month to run a basketball clinic at the new Warrandyte Community Sports Complex.

There will be two sessions on Monday, December 13, for under-14s, the first from 5.30 to 6.15pm, the second from 6.15 to 7.00.

Numbers are limited and places can be booked by phoning Damian Arsenis on 0418 995 663 after 5pm on weekdays.

Be quick because interest in the clinic is high and places are already running out.

Paul Sleeth was their best in the eliminator with nine points and will need at least that in the final.

The River Rats had beaten the Rangers 22-17 a week earlier, Max Summers scoring

seven points and Gerald Walshe six.

In the women's Grand Hotel Cup, perennial stars the PP Champs will be aiming to make it nine titles in 12 seasons when they meet the Sneakers.

The two have become the best of enemies in recent times, playing off for the title the last four seasons. Amanda McLellan and Suzi Edwards are the keys for the Champs, Karina Reid and Maura Yammoueni likewise for the Sneakers.

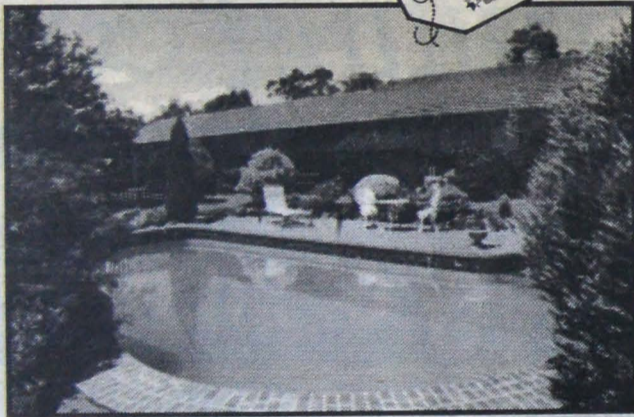
The women's final will be first up from 7pm at the new stadium at Andersons Creek Primary School.



The Professionals

Wilson McDougall

Wishing everyone in the
community of Warrandyte
a very Merry Christmas
and a safe and prosperous
New Year



\$475,000
The Professionals

Contemporary on 2 acres in Wonga Park



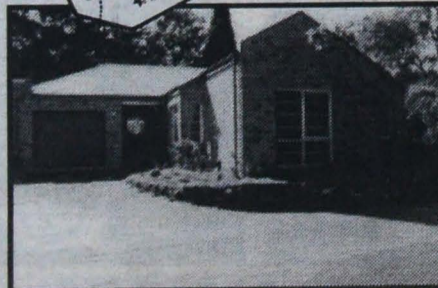
AUCTION
11/12 at 11am
\$300,000+

Homestead with studio on 1.5 acres



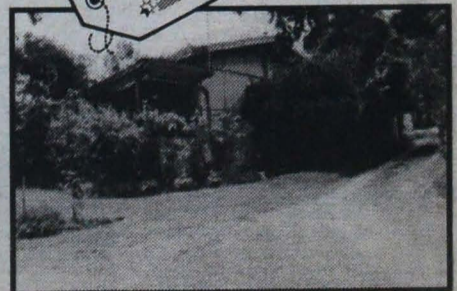
\$299,000
The Professionals

Open Plan Warehouse style



\$217,000
The Professionals

New 3 bedroom unit



\$175,000
The Professionals

3 bedroom cottage on 1/4 acre



Andrew Wilson
Managing Director



Peter McDougall
Sworn Valuer



Russell McInnes
Sales Consultant



Vicki Gardiner
Sales Consultant



Leanne Highmore
Property Manager



Jade Thomas
Receptionist



Georgia McInnes
Weekend Receptionist

9844 3085

183 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

Together we'll make it happen