

# Subdivision okayed

By DAVID WYMAN

## 'About face' say residents

A planning permit to allow subdivision of 0.8 hectares of land adjacent to Andersons Creek Cemetery into seven allotments will be issued to the owners by Manningham City Council despite strong opposition by Warrandyte residents.

The land is bounded by Yarra Street, Cemetery Road and Brackenbury Street and its development is subject to controls on tree removal, house locations, drainage and driveways.

Council received 15 objections to the original plans and rejected the initial application for a permit "in its current form".

Council's senior planner told the applicants then that council was concerned about the development because of "property lot layout and density, vegetation cover, topography of the land, the position of the drainage gully, the design standard of the road and the pattern of surrounding development".

Some objectors to the subdivision

have now accused the council of an "about face" on environmental issues—loss of trees, depreciation of residential amenity, increased traffic and loss of wildlife habitat.

Terry Kain, who lived nearby in Yarra Street, said council appeared to bypass environmental and amenity issues in its subsequent handling of the application.

But the applicants, who have been residents of Warrandyte for 28 years, appear to have worked diligently to address some of the concerns of the objectors and council. In their latest submission to council, they state that:

- Over 80 per cent of native vegetation will be retained on site;
- Spot widening of Cemetery Road would only be necessary rather than widening its entire length;
- Specific building envelopes would control the situation of houses;
- Driveways would be located between trees.

The land is heavily populated with red and yellow box, manna gums, narrow leaf peppermints and native cherry trees.

Council staff's report to councillors for the December 7 meeting stated: "No native vegetation may be removed from the land without the further consent of the responsible authority, other than the minimum to comply with the construction requirements of the responsible authority."

Trees to be retained have been specified and are to be banded with identifying tape before any site works commence.

Local councillor Patricia Young opposed the seven-lot subdivision. She moved a motion at the council meeting on December 7 to refuse the seven-lot subdivision and to "ask the developers to come back with a further subdivision showing a maximum of five lots. The motion was not supported by other councillors".

"Council obviously has to stick to its guidelines and lot size rulings. It can control loss of vegetation and size of houses by applying building envelopes, setbacks, etc to lessen the visual effect," Cr Young told the *Diary*. "But I agreed with the residents that fewer lots would be better."

"Personally, I think it would be lovely to leave the area as it is—a perfect example of a quiet country lane with a peaceful dell."

The subdivision, in Warrandyte's Environmental Residential Zone, will have a floodway through its centre to cater for the "1-in-100 years' storm". The floodway will discharge into a stormwater retarding basin in the north-west corner of the Yarra Street boundary of the site.

Cemetery Road's bitumen surface will be widened to 5.5m for a minimum of 30m from Yarra Street. Existing cleared areas on the road shoulders will be widened to allow for cars pass-

ing. Four blocks will have access from Cemetery Road and three from Brackenbury Street.

Nearby resident Peter Curry—a candidate in the forthcoming council elections—speaking on behalf of the Warrandyte Awareness Group, has asked other neighbours of the subdivision to keep a vigilant watch on the development, "ensuring that all of council's conditions are adhered to".

"Any suspected transgressions—any unnecessary tree felling or whatever—should be immediately reported to Manningham council," he said.

The developers were advised on January 16 that a planning permit could be issued as the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal had received no appeals against the "notice of decision to grant a permit".

The Warrandyte Awareness Group has strongly opposed the subdivision. They have been especially concerned about its contribution to the loss of tree cover on the western base of Fourth Hill.

● See picture, story Page 7



## Our town greets the new century

Warrandyte exploded into the new century—and, as some would have it, the new millennium—with a great grand party in the Mechanics Institute hall and a fireworks display on the bridge.

A special feature of the evening was the awarding of commemorative medals—designed by *Diary* artist Jock Macneish—to everyone at the hall party. Entertainment was provided by ex-Paradiddle star Mark Leehy, who sang Warrandyte's own song, Home Among The Gum Trees.

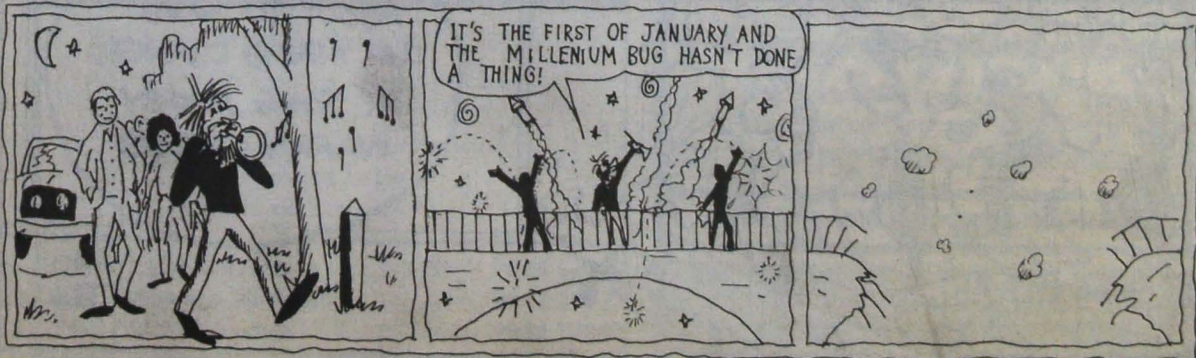
Our photo shows the Pied Piper of Warrandyte, local musician Barry McKimm, leading the multitude down to the bridge for the spectacular finale.

● More Austin Polley pictures on Page 11.



## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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# WARRANDYTE DIARY

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### OUR NEWSPAPER

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

### A SPECIAL PLACE

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

# Was this one a fire call or a demolition derby?



Word spread through this town like wildfire (if you'll pardon the inappropriate choice of word). Someone had battered and badly bent the Warrandyte fire station door — and furthermore, it was an inside job! Indeed it was. Caught red-handed (or at least red-faced) was Warrandyte Fire Brigade community support facilitator Jeff Adair, of Webb Street. Please explain, Jeff. "Right. Okay. We were answering a fire call from North Warrandyte on one of those very hot days we've been having. There were two of us in the fire truck and a third bloke was kitting up. I took off, anticipating the door opening. Unfortunately, I was a bit premature and I drove into and through it — although an independent witness swears it was opening as I did it." Jeff's copped a helluva lot of ribbing from his colleagues, who were nice enough to send us a picture of the disaster scene along with a suggested caption, "We've been Jeffed!" But he points out, in his defence, that he's not the first to have driven through that door. "Rob Kilkenny, our captain, has done it," he said, "and so has Bernie Ebzery, our third lieutenant." Bernie. Now there's an interesting name for a fireman. Needless to say, the North Warrandyte fire was well and truly out by the time the rather worse-for-wear WFB truck arrived.

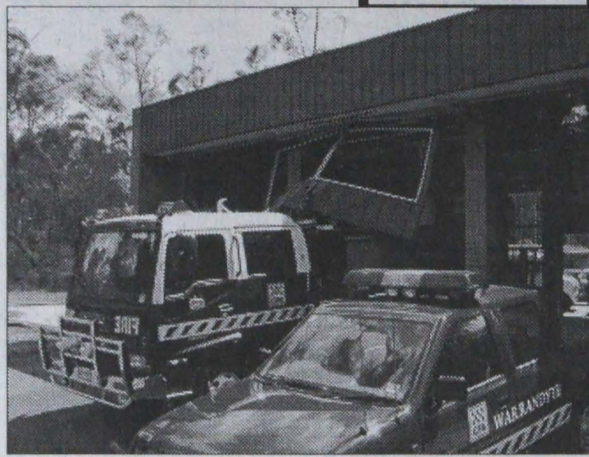


Terry and Pam Booth, of Drysdale Road, motored into New South Wales for their Christmas-New Year holiday — and motored a touch too quickly. At a dot on the Hume Highway between Gundagai and Yass, Terry was picked up and fined for speeding. The place is called Bookham. Yeah, Bookham by name and book 'em by nature.



The most serious injury so far in Warrandyte footy club's pre-season — badly torn ankle ligaments — has been suffered by non-playing president Jeff Evans. Jeff had an "accident on the dance floor" at the head-wetting of Tyler Bell, new-born daughter of Bloods defender Willy and wife Michelle at the Warranwood home of Willy's dad Ian and stepmum Vicki. And if that wasn't bad enough, the sight of the prostrate president detonated a "stacks on" which left him in considerable

## IN RED & WHITE



Who needs a key to the door when Jeff Adair's at the wheel?

pain at the bottom of a heap of bodies, the closest of which belonged to a rather large young lady. A physiotherapist is nursing Jeff back to health — which is just as well because he says wife Barbara is giving him "no sympathy at all".



We'd made John "Tiger" Laing famous in this column long before we realised he was the bloke we stood next to on the terraces at the local footy every other winter Saturday afternoon. But fame has now come the way of Tiger — so nicknamed for his fanatical devotion to Richmond Football Club — from a different quarter. He's going to be one of the umpteen Australians to carry the Olympic torch on its way to Sydney. And he's not even a member of the Lindsay Fox family! No, he won't actually be lighting the flame at Stadium Australia, he'll be toting the torch for a kilometre at Rossbrook, near Warranwood. And you'd better not shout anything derogatory about his beloved Tigers as he passes because he'll likely dong you with it.



Denise Farran has taken a year off from teaching at Warrandyte Primary School and one of her first moves on leave has been to book a flight



to Sydney for herself and long-time partner and local living legend Gus McLaren to watch next month's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. We find it difficult to imagine Gus in fishnet stockings and suspenders.



And moving right along with the sexually-explicit side of this column, Jo Laurence was working at the Potters Cottage gallery on the hottest day of the year this month when she noticed a woman in a slinky black car pull in to the parking area beside a white panel van. Bloke in workman's clobber got out of the van and into the car — and there he stayed for an hour and a half, doing his bit for the "Populate Australia" cause. And why would this couple choose the confines of a car for their dalliance over the spacious convenience of a panel van? Air conditioning, you fool!

tive soul. He came up with the solution of strapping the bin to the rear bumper bar of his Bladerunner van with a bit of hayband and towing it to the pick-up point. His mind was on other things the other week, though, and he was five kilometres up Switchback Road (whose name speaks for itself) at a rate of knots when a couple of empty beer cans sailed past as he took a bend. Only then did he realise the wheely bin was still in tow. Remarkably, it had stayed on its wheels throughout its ordeal. Jeff stopped, patted the bin affectionately on the lid, put it in the van and drove it home.



Jack Barr, our very favourite Irishman, well remembers when the poker machines left the Grand Hotel. "It was March 17 — St Patrick's Day — two years ago," said Jack, who's not at all averse to the punt. "I wore a green shirt and a black armband." By eerie coincidence, the pokies return to the pub — to be known henceforth as Club Warrandyte — this March 17. Jack said he'll be wearing the green shirt, but the black armband will be staying at home.



If our outspoken friend Alan "Coatsy" Koetsveld didn't want you to know about him soiling his overalls dashing home to South Warrandyte from Bayswater with an attack of gastro, how come he couldn't wait to tell us? The likeable, larrikin chippie has been the butt (whoops) of all jokes among his drinking mates, someone suggesting he might have made it home unsoiled had he taken the ring road.



Inspired by the heat-wave, Cathy Willis, the Diary's native flora guru, has come up with a ripper idea for your place — a water garden. "Create your own oasis in the garden," she suggests. "The Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend has a range of pond and dam plants suitable for bog gardens and ponds, including water millfoil (*Myriophyllum crispatum*) and eel grass (*Vallisneria spiralis*)." For a very modest donation to the very worthy park cause, all these can be yours. Give Cathy a call on 0418 142297.

**Smokey Joe**

## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



Jack.

# Trouble on the borders

## So you thought you lived in North Warrandyte...

BY FIA CLENDINEN

Warrandyte residents living in certain areas north of the river have been stunned and dismayed to discover their address has been changed.

A bureaucratic decision means that designated parts of North Warrandyte now fall either within Research or Kangaroo Ground.

Residents are advised to check the map below to see if their properties have been affected.

David Hogg, who has lived in Warrandyte for 17 years, is one resident whose address has been moved to Research. He told the *Diary* the change would, "cause an enormous problem. I've just had all our stationery printed. I mean, we should have at least a year's warning of this".

But he said the main reason he felt concerned was because

of the emotional attachment he felt for Warrandyte.

"Most of all I object to it on the basis that we are absolutely part of the Warrandyte community. That's my overriding reason for feeling upset."

Mr Hogg said he was also outraged at the complete lack of community consultation. "I think my real anger is vented at the fact that they are changing my address and nobody bothered to consult me. At no point did I know anything about it."

The boundary realignment will have serious practical consequences for residents, as well as emotional ones. Questions have been raised over the continuation of postal delivery service to addresses now within Kangaroo Ground. Currently no mail with a Kangaroo Ground address is delivered, instead local residents have to drive to the Kangaroo Ground post office to collect their letters.

The North Warrandyte fire station will now be in Research,

causing confusion in the community. The change in addresses will also have some impact on real estate values, as confirmed by Glenn Martin, from Spencer Martin and Company, real estate agents.

"Warrandyte is a far better address than most places in Research. It is more sought after and of higher value," Mr Martin said.

Professor John Parker, the Registrar of Geographic Names with the Department of Natural Resources, the government agency responsible for the boundary realignment, defended the process. He explained it was part of an Australia-wide project to define boundaries around every locality in the country.

"As Victoria and Australia grew, we had never actually gazetted the boundaries around places. Boundaries hadn't been fixed," Professor Parker said this meant residents couldn't categorically say



North Warrandyte's fire station. Except it's now in Research. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

where they lived, and the resulting confusion caused all sorts of problems.

"The key thing we want out of this is everybody using the same address. So I live here and it doesn't matter whether I'm calling the fire truck, the ambulance, having something delivered, or talking to the estate agent or the local government as far as rates are concerned. Everybody is using the same thing. And if we can move towards that, we all reap the benefits of it."

But Professor Parker said it was "a shame" that North Warrandyte residents were given no warning of the alteration to their address.

He said his department wanted people to feel happy with the boundary realignments and responsibility for community consultation had been given to the 78 local governments within Victoria. Each

council was supposed to go through a process of advertising where the boundaries might be, as well as seeking comments and objections. "Some municipalities have been better than others I would have to say," Professor Parker said.

But Nillumbik council vigorously defended its role in the boundary realignment. The council maintained that community consultation was not part of its charter, but rather the responsibility of the registrar.

In a prepared statement, Catherine Dale, Nillumbik's chief executive officer, said "the process of review (of the shire's suburb boundaries), including the community consultation process, was conducted by the Registrar of Geographic Names. Council's role was merely to serve as a referral authority".

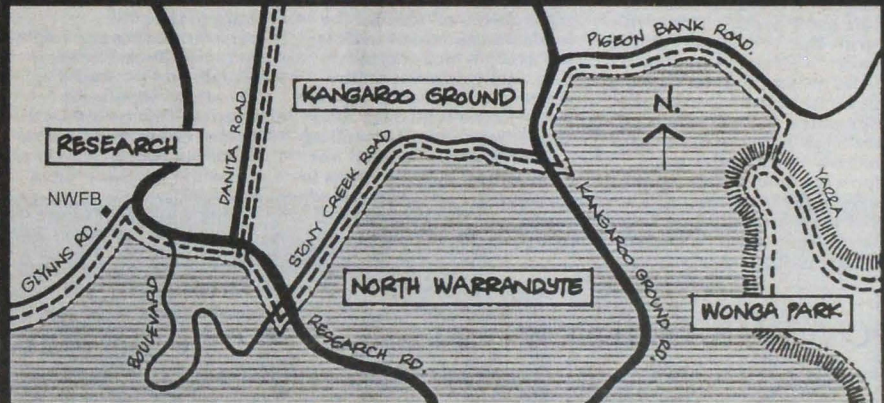
Ms Dale and Professor Parker

did agree on one point, that under the new legislation a process exists where residents who are not happy with their new address can apply for it to be altered again.

Professor Parker's advice was that, "people who feel the boundaries aren't in the right spot should put together a proposal to local government, where they set out their reasons why they are unhappy and why they should be changed. And local government has been delegated with the responsibility for suburb naming and the suburb boundary processes. So in this case, the local community could make an application and ask the council to change the boundary."

Ms Dale added, "If there is strong community sentiment for a review of the boundaries, council will advocate this to the Registrar of Geographic Names."

### HAVE YOU BEEN 'RE-SETTLED'?



NOTE: This map incorporates the *Diary's* best information. Check with Nillumbik council—9433 3111

## Manningham elections will test community attitudes

It's election time in Manningham once more, the second since democracy was restored in the municipality.

Nominations for council elections open on Thursday, February 10, and close at 4pm on Tuesday, February 15. Candidates nominate by lodging a completed nomination form, together with a \$100 nomination fee, with the returning officer, David Cook, at the council offices, Manningham Civic Centre, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

"Two councillors are to be elected for each of four wards for a three-year term on the Manningham City Council", Mr Cook said.

Prospective candidates are urged to telephone the returning officer on 9840 6786 from Monday, February 7 for any enquiries. Prior to February 7, candidates' enquiries should be made to Stephen Telford on 9287 7462.

The March elections will be held entirely by post. Ballot packs will be

posted to all eligible voters from February 29. Completed ballot papers must be received by the returning officer by 6pm on Friday, March 17, 2000.

If anyone has changed address since November 29, 1999, or will be away at the time of the election, they should write to the Returning Officer, Locked Bag 1111, Doncaster, 3108 by 4pm on Tuesday, 15 February, giving the address for redirection of their packs.

"It is most important that all voters in the City of Manningham vote at these important three-yearly elections", Mr Cook said.

The March 2000 Manningham council elections are being conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

At the time of going to press, only three prospective candidates had indicated their intention of standing for election in Mullum Mullum ward in the coming council elections. These are Patricia Young, a current sitting councillor, Pamela Dry of Timbertop Ridge

and Peter Curry of Blair Street. The second sitting councillor, Lionel Allemand, has not responded to our enquiries.

Local residents anticipate that the election campaign in the Mullum Mullum ward will be mainly fought on environmental issues.

These could include:

- continuing protection of the Green Wedge
- the maintenance of Warrandyte township's unique ban on dual occupancy
- a sensitive approach to street-scapes and roadmaking in the Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park townships.

The *Diary* intends surveying all candidates standing in the Mullum Mullum ward, putting to them a series of questions on important local issues. Candidates' responses to this survey will be published in the next issue, due out on Tuesday, March 7.

## High school scores top results in VCE exams

Warrandyte High School believes it enjoyed its best ever VCE results this year.

"The school had a 100 percent retention rate and a 100 percent pass rate of those students eligible to complete their VCE," a school spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"Eleven of the 73 students gained ENTER scores above 90 and a further 20 students achieved ENTER scores in the 80s. School dux, Cameron Grant, achieved a score of 98.5, including a perfect study score of 50 in maths methods."

Cameron plans to study engineering at Monash University.

"Cameron's maths/science classmates—Robert Atvars, Elysa Whelan, Andrew Pickard and Craig Dick—also achieved outstanding results," the spokesperson said.

"The group's results were particularly pleasing as many of them

made significant contributions to the school's extra curricula activities. For example, Natasha Simpson and Drew Hanna played the lead roles in the school's production of *Sweeney Todd* while Amanda Stoyan's overall leadership was recognised by her winning the prestigious BOS VCE Achiever award for October."

Another VCE student—Jess Howard—has won a scholarship to study at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan, scheduled to open in April 2000.

"Ritsumeikan University aims to bring together on a single campus young people from a variety of countries, in particular from the Asia-Pacific region, so that they can learn and grow together," the spokesperson said.

Jess will study Japanese and either media or business.

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## Thanks from Sandra

After nine years at the Warrandyte and District Preschool, Taroona Avenue, I was overwhelmed by all the feelings of gratitude, and would like to thank all those who took the time and effort into farewelling me. In particular I would like to thank my past students and parents from Warrandyte, Andersons Creek and St Anne's schools for their caring comments on the special video they prepared for me.

I would sincerely like to thank the "Pink Ladies" for their cameo performance (they know who they are) of "Sandy"—I'm still waiting to see the "unedited" version! I know the time and energy taken to produce my "farewell video" and functions. I really appreciate your efforts and thank all those involved.

A special thanks to my colleagues for your support over the nine years. What a team!

Although I have retired from teaching, I will still continue being part of the Warrandyte community and perhaps now I'll have time to appreciate it. You can't play golf every day! Thank you, Warrandyte.

Sandra Twomey

## Request for carols

My whole family enjoyed "Paul Colman by Candlelight" this year at Stiggants Reserve.

Next year can we return to having "Carols by Candlelight"?

Michael Bethune  
Aton Street

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

## Family news wanted

I am writing to you in the hope that you may be able to help me. This request may seem odd to you but it is a personal matter in which I hope you will be able to help. I am researching my family tree and I am trying to obtain some information regarding a man named Mr Frits Pieter Swart. He may have changed his first name to Frederik. I know that the last known address is in Warrandyte.

Due to the age of this man, he might be deceased and I was hoping you may be able to help me with this, since I am sure obituaries may be published within your local paper.

Any help with this will be helpful.

R.George  
by e-mail

● Anyone out there with any information can reply to R.George on this e-mail address: rwzgeo@telus.net

## Thanks from the Humphreys

Craig's fatal car accident on December 23 has left Nonna and two-and-a-half year-old Stefan—not yet old enough to understand the misery of the moment.

Nonna and the Humphreys family thank all for their sympathy and condolences.

Don and Lyn Humphreys  
Kangaroo Ground Road

Letters to the Diary on local topics are most welcome. Real names are preferred. Pen names can only be used if actual names and addresses are included, even if not for publication.

## DEAR DIARY



## We're awash with signs

Open letter to the Mayor of Manningham

Dear Sir

As a resident of just under 25 years at Warrandyte, I am writing to you to express my concern at the inordinate number of signposts that swarm everywhere along the main street. This is a phenomenon I have been aware of for some time, and the recent article in the local paper has prompted me to write to you, as I see that others have the same concerns. I would like to add my voice in support.

I have just returned from a walk along the river bank. As on every occasion since it was erected, my walk has been spoiled by the huge freeway-size sign that confronts me when I roll down the slope into the carpark beside the bridge. It says "Roadway subject to flooding—indicators mark depth". This is the straw that breaks the camel's back! In all the years I have lived at Warrandyte, I have never seen this carpark under water. In fact, only once or twice have I seen the path metres below under water for a few hours. This would have to be one of the silliest and most intrusive and absolutely unnecessary signs I

As a Warrandyte resident of almost 12 years, I have tried in vain to assign some reason and logic to the proliferation of signs within our village. Perhaps it is so we can enter The Best Wrecked Village contest, a new millennium rival to the popular Tidy Town competition.

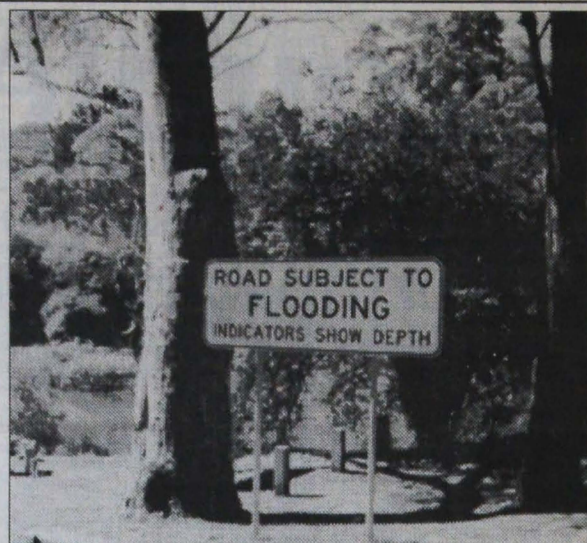
Or is the bewildering array of do's and don't signage at the Goldfields end of town a practical run for some new board game, probably named Toytown? You would have to throw a lot of sixes to make your way unhindered through town without incurring the many obstacles current signage warns of, particularly those horses on the footpath!

Maybe there is a perception that Warrandytians are bereft of common sense, can't think for themselves or are unable to apply a level of intelligence and logic to any given traffic or hazardous situation. How are we to know? No-one thinks to ask us.

I also wonder whether there is the possibility that these signs have been erected to encourage Warrandyte residents to take their overseas visitors to a more natural bushland setting—Warburton comes to mind—thereby making more room for weekend tourists? Again, how would we know? Perhaps someone out there can advise us.

There is, however, one vital descriptor which appears to be missing. The one that indicates A Natural Environment. Where is it? Or perhaps it's just that I can't see the bush for the signs.

All Signed Off  
(name and address supplied)



have ever seen anywhere.

Is there a bureaucratic troll somewhere in a dark windowless room plotting his next sign for Warrandyte, saying to himself, "What other sign can I think of to plonk around Warrandyte so that it will look even more ugly?"

Signs seem to appear almost by the week. Rarely a month goes by that there isn't a new "absolutely necessary" sign appearing in Warrandyte. We must be the most sign-posted town in Victoria. Soon we will have more signs than trees along the main road.

We have huge freeway-size signs dotted all around the modest roundabout indicating every which-way direction, multiple great yellow signs with arrows on a gentle curve in the road, sign after sign every few metres telling us that young girls must not ride horses, multiple signs indicating the whereabouts of the police, three signs (as if one would not be adequate)

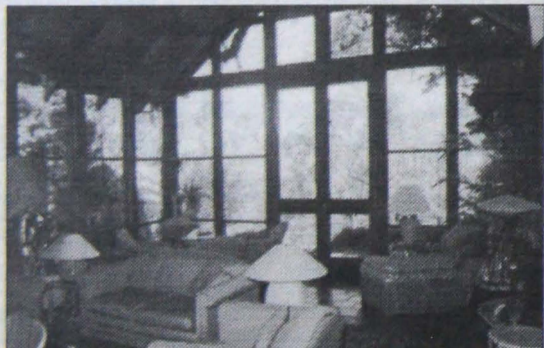
telling us that the newly asphalted and regimented (beautified?) river bank carpark entrance has "No exit".

Signs every few metres telling us where we can or can't park (where nobody parks anyway). Even signs with pictures by the river bank placed just where the beautiful natural view is most interrupted. This is the tip of the iceberg, it just goes on and on.

Busloads of people come out to Warrandyte to walk by the river and see our little town because it is picturesque and "unspoilt". Well that is fast becoming a thing of the past.

The first thing you might do to rectify matters is to take down that stupid "flooding" sign in the carpark. This would be a long overdue start to a rational approach. Who is responsible for these signs anyway?

Rosalie Loo  
Glynns Road



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## Sign city



# Can't see the trees for the words

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

You'd be forgiven for feeling you're in the middle of a giant board game when you reach Warrandyte—turn left here for the gallery, roundabout ahead, "River Yarra" (just in case you didn't know or had lost your guidebook), turn right for another gallery. Or was that the Op Shop? And yes, we know there should be no horse riding on the footpaths of Yarra Street. Who'd risk it anyway, with all those drivers mesmerised by the proliferation of signage through the township?

There are—give or take the odd garage sale and weekend property auctions—256 signs on Yarra Street between the 60km sign at the Warrandyte child care centre and the 60km sign west of Goldfields. It's a distance of about 2.5 kilometres, which means there's an advertising or road sign every nine metres.

John James, of the Warrandyte Business Association, wishes local laws on signage were more enforced and he agrees there are too many signs, especially of the sandwich board or A-frame type. The association is looking at standardising signage with the help of a local graphic designer.

"Part of the association's charter is to be environmentally sensitive in Warrandyte," he said. "Funds have

been allocated to make signs more attractive—better and more meaningful—as part of the enhancement scheme. It's particularly important that visitors to the township be able to find their way around."

This could mean a proposal to place directory signs at main car parks to encourage drivers not to pass through the town.

Peter Curry, of the Warrandyte Awareness Group, helped draft a neighbourhood character policy presented to Manningham council late last year. It included pictures of streetscapes showing a sandwich board attached to a council signpost—which may have prompted the council to investigate signage.

He can't see the necessity for the proliferation of signs but he was pleased the huge freeway-style sign at the new roundabout near West End was replaced with something smaller. "It's about getting the balance right," he said.

But Mr Curry was critical of changes to other signs. "The wooden 'Warrandyte' signs that were replaced with Doncaster-type metal signs were all generally in good condition. It seems senseless. The wooden ones were far more complimentary." Director of environmental amenities at

Manningham council, Mr Paul Molan, said residents should be able to see an improvement in signage—especially the number of sandwich boards—following investigations into the problem.

"Local laws officers are working through the township bringing people up-to-date on signs," he said. "Most other advertising signs require planning consent and signs that haven't got permits will be investigated and taken down if illegal. The Warrandyte community has expressed its concerns and it's up to them to put forward suggestions for improvements." Manningham's signage policy requires that the same sort of signs are used throughout the city.

Warrandyte is not suburban Doncaster. Despite the urban creep, Warrandyte retains its bushiness, its close community, its position on the edge of a major city bounding the country. If there's been a signage budget surplus, would it be better spent employing someone to remove the signs? Otherwise, presuming there'll be advertising signs from the new businesses going in at the old butcher's shop and another seven opposite the wood-fired bakery, Warrandyte will look even more like a Monopoly board.

### Signs to watch out for

- "Road Subject to Flooding" (under bridge). According to the Warrandyte Historical Society, there's been no significant flooding there since 1934.
- "Warrandyte Artists' Trail" (riverbank). They're big and fill the frame of your camera. Great for landscape painters too.
- "Yarra River" (at bridge). Give people credit.
- The brown metal "Discover Warrandyte" signs at Five Ways and near the high school. Only a fleeting motorist's glance at the directory—but at least the phallic symbols have gone.
- "No Standing" and other signs in the new car park at the bridge. There are at least 21 signs in this car park.
- All the No Horses signs.

### These get the 'thumbs up'

- The wooden "Warrandyte" sign near Beasley's Nursery (there used to be a similar wooden one at the reserve).
- "Significant Roadside Vegetation". Discreet.
- "Help for Wildlife" (giving telephone contacts).

NB. Watch out for café signs around Goldfields. They multiply like blackberries.



Pictures by Jan Tindale

## Wonga Park students score extra bus run

Wonga Park secondary school students have been provided with an additional bus service.

Minister for Transport, Peter Batchelor, told the *Diary* that the Bracks Government had responded to an important community need with the introduction of the new weekday service.

Mr Batchelor said that the

new bus service would help up to 50 students living in Wonga Park get to and from Warrandyte High School and Norwood Secondary College.

"The new morning and afternoon services commenced on Thursday, January 27 in time for the start of the 2000 school year," he said. "They provide a welcome relief for students and their parents who up to now have had no direct access to public transport and have had to rely on cars to get to and from school."

Croydon Bus Service operates the new morning service along Brushy Park, Jumping Creek and Yarra roads to Norwood Secondary College and then along Yarra, Homestead and Jumping Creek

roads to Warrandyte High School, travelling express along Warrandyte Road with a reverse route offered in the afternoon.

"The introduction of the new bus services meets the Bracks Government's commitment to respond to community needs and improve the level of public transport in Melbourne's growing outer suburbs."

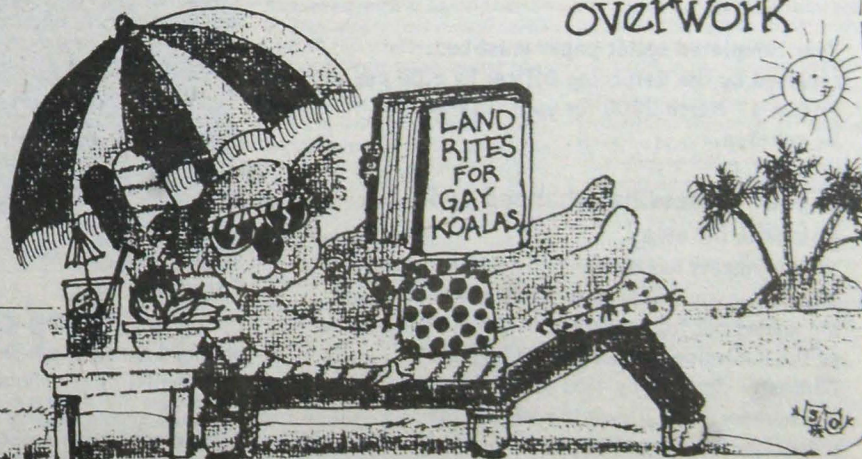
Mr Batchelor thanked the parents of Warrandyte and Norwood secondary school students, who had raised the need for the service, for their help in establishing the new bus route.

For more information on the new Wonga Park bus service, contact Croydon Bus Service on 9735 3400.

SO — !

By SYD & ONA

Corey researching his Ph.D. on environ-MENTAL hazards of overwork



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# Honours for our neighbours

Four Warrandyte people who have made outstanding contributions to the community were honoured with local electorate Australia Day awards last month.

Announcing the awards, Kevin Andrews, the local federal member, said the recipients "had all worked to make the Manningham region a better place in which to live".

"The purpose of these awards is to recognise the valuable contribution many people make to the local community," Mr Andrews said. "I am delighted that so many individuals and organizations nominated people for the awards."

Each person honoured received a special certificate at a ceremony in the Great Hall, The Centre Ivanhoe, on Australia Day, late last month.

Warrandyte recipients included:



**SERGEANT KEITH WALKER**, officer in charge of the Warrandyte police, has been a long-standing member of the Warrandyte Youth Services committee of management. He is currently a member of the sub-committee of Manningham Youth and Family Services. He has been involved in numerous initiatives, including the successful lobbying for a skate-board facility in Warrandyte. He established the police and community consultative committee for Warrandyte and Park Orchards which has initiated projects, including a drug and alcohol program and the popu-

lar community garden. The Blue Light Disco provides a safe, healthy activity for local youth and the substantial funds raised are directed to community activities and local families in need. In addition to this, he is a member of Community Fireguard, the Warrandyte Community Centre committee and the Stadium Management Group.



**BRIAN BAYLY**, a family doctor in Warrandyte for 24 years, has made an outstanding contribution to volunteer work in the community through his work for the Warrandyte Citizens Advice Bureau. He was president of the committee of management for four years from 1989 until 1983. He has also held the position of public officer of Information Warrandyte, formerly known as Warrandyte Citizens Advice Bureau, since 1994. He is a past member of Doncaster Rotary.



**JO LAURENCE** has worked for the past 25 years on behalf of the Warrandyte Historical Society. She was a founder member and the society's secretary for many years, and whilst raising a family of four children as well as working, spent more than eight years fund-raising to restore the burned out historic post office in Warrandyte, now the home of the histori-



**GLENN MARTIN**, has been school council president at Warrandyte High School since 1991. He was a member of the school council from 1981 until 1984 and played a key role in the planning and construction of the permanent school buildings in 1987. As president, he has supported the school administration in its work, encouraging such new initiatives as the expansion of the computer program, the development of a school master plan and the use of effective consultative processes. He has always led from behind, participating in working bees and innumerable committee meetings. He is an executive member of the Association of School Councils of Victoria. Glenn Martin, a long-standing member of the Warrandyte Advisory Committee, has been involved, with his fellow committee members, lobbying councils on a wide range of planning and environmental issues within the Warrandyte community.

## Your Council your vote

### Manningham City Council elections March 2000

Elections for the Manningham City Council will be held in March 2000. The City of Manningham is divided into four wards, with two Councillors to be elected for each ward.

#### Voting by post

The elections will be held entirely by post. If you are on the voter's roll for the City of Manningham, a ballot pack of voting material will be posted to you from Tuesday, 29 February 2000.

Your completed ballot paper must be received by the Returning Officer by 6.00 pm on Friday, 17 March 2000 for your vote to be counted.

#### If your address has changed or if you will be away

If your address has changed since 29 November 1999, or if you will be away when the ballot packs are mailed out from 29 February 2000, please write to the Returning Officer, Locked Bag 1111, Doncaster Vic 3108 by 4.00 pm on Tuesday, 15 February 2000, giving the address for redirection of your ballot pack.

#### If you wish to stand for Council

If you want to be a candidate for Council, you must lodge a nomination form (together with a \$100 nomination fee) with the Returning Officer, Manningham Civic Centre, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, between Thursday, 10 February and 4.00 pm on Tuesday, 15 February 2000.

The Returning Officer will hold an information session for people who intend to be candidates.

When: Monday, 7 February 2000 at 7.30pm  
Where: Function Room,

Manningham Civic Centre,  
699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

Nomination forms and other information will be available at the information session or can be obtained from Monday, 7 February from the Returning Officer.

#### Enquiries

Information regarding the elections can be obtained during business hours (9.00 am to 5.00 pm) by telephoning (03) 9840 6786.

David Cook  
Returning Officer

For further information please telephone (03) 9840 6786 or:

- عربي 9209 0100 Arabic • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek
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- Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish
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These elections are being conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of the Manningham City Council.

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Sporting Clubs that did not use Manningham City Council Grounds and/or Pavillions in the 1999 Winter Season, are invited to lodge applications for use of Council Reserves for the 2000 Winter Season.

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Applications received after the above date will not be considered.



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# Club Warrandyte 'a goer'!

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Poker machines will return to Warrandyte next month with final approval set to be given for Club Warrandyte's much-awaited opening. The 27 Tabaret machines will form the cornerstone of the new club, a joint venture between the Grand Hotel and Warrandyte Football Club.

The project has been hampered by delays since the *Diary* first reported on the club's plan in June 1998. Warrandyte Football Club president Jeff Evans said the likely opening date is mid-March.

"We've got the licences, now we've just got to put them all together," he said.

"We're pretty excited. It's been a long haul, three or so years. It's going to take a couple of years before the community will reap the rewards. There are quite a few initial costs which need to be absorbed in the first couple of years but after that hopefully we can kick goals."

These costs include legal fees of "well over" \$20,000 needed to form the club. The legal red-tape and waiting for applications to be heard was the prime reason for the project's delay.

The club has budgeted for 2000 members and currently boasts close to 500.

"The support has been fantastic," Mr Evans said. "There have been a lot of people who have been sitting on the fence. In the last week or so we signed up quite a few members because the word has got out that we have got the licence and will be opening up for sure."

"A lot of people had doubts that it was actually going to open—not that we ever had any doubts."

While delighted with the initial membership response Mr Evans said the promotional campaign will accelerate.

"We won't be sitting back resting on our laurels. We need to educate people that basically it's going from a pub to a club and you need to be a member

or sign in. They don't need to come in with a member or anything but they need to sign in as a guest if they're not a member.

"From a commercial and financial point of view it's better if we have people as members and there are no restrictions at the entry point." Half the annual \$10 membership fee—which includes a meal voucher—will be distributed to affiliated sporting and community clubs.

Several clubs have refused affiliation and moved to distance themselves from Club Warrandyte. These include Warrandyte's junior football and basketball clubs.

Pastor Peter Keep of Warrandyte Community Church applauded their decision. "It's commendable. They recognise how pervasive and addictive gambling can be and they show that they value things more than the dollar."

But he is disappointed the campaign to keep poker machines out of Warrandyte, which included a heavily signed petition, failed.

"I'd hope that by people speaking up as they have done, and a lot of people have, that people may get the message. But obviously they haven't, or they've got the message but not listened."

"I think it's more than disappointing because the statistics show what the proliferation of gambling does to a community. We have involvement with people who are personally affected by this. Having it right under their nose gives them easy accessibility."

Mr Evans said the club's committee expected to receive some criticism for their plan.

"We knew that there was going to be a bit of flak out there," he said. "That part of the industry has received a bit of flak and rightly so. There are new rules that have been implemented regarding automatic teller machines and clocks in venues and things like this.



Grand Hotel: Club Warrandyte's home at last.

"You can't expect to get everyone to agree with you all the time. My information is that the lobby group didn't slow the application down."

Mr Evans promised the venue—in the same room which housed Tattersalls machines several years ago which were withdrawn through lack of turnover—would display literature

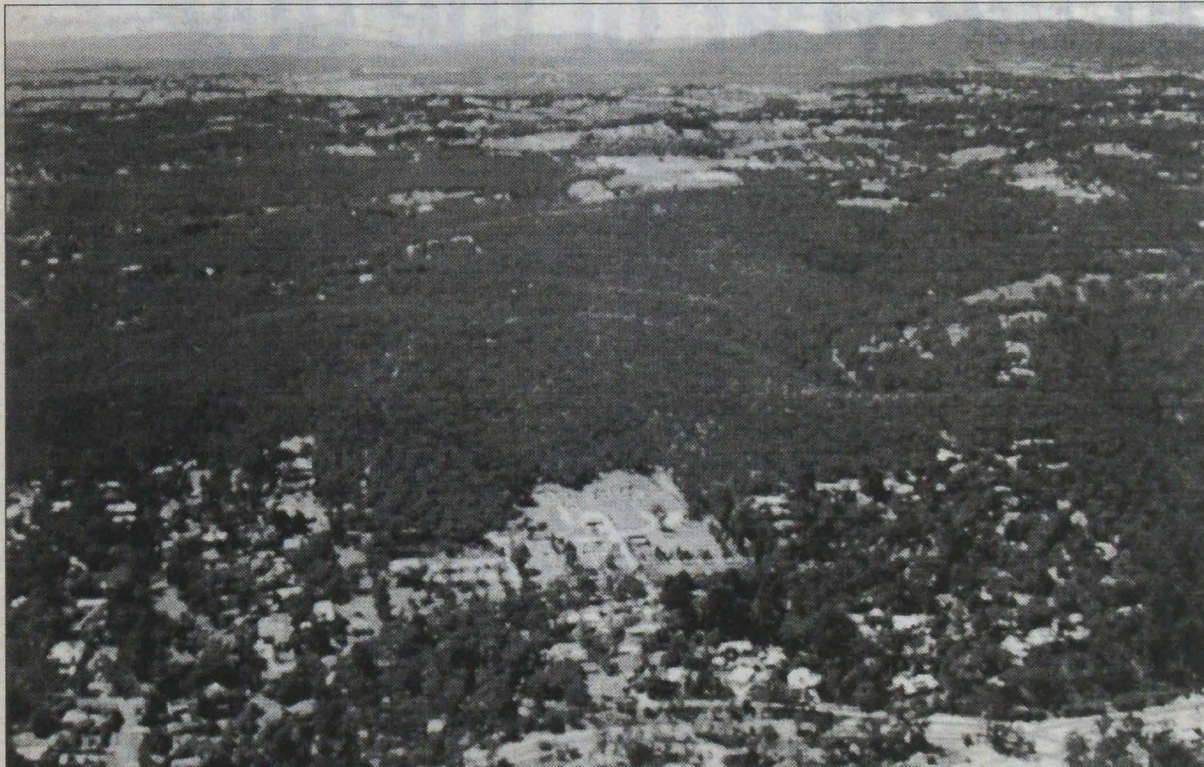
addressing gambling problems and offering details of where to seek help.

He said recent state government law changes, including a cap on the number of pokie venues—which some thought could end Club Warrandyte's chances—failed to deter him.

"I'm an optimist. I probably got a bit greyer. The way most bureaucratic

systems work is once you've got the foot in the door it stays in the door. They're not about to turn things around while you've got something so far down the track.

"We want to bring people to town, tourists, to enjoy the place. The way it will be delivered will fit in with Warrandyte."



## Tree cover is disappearing

By DAVID WYMAN

Warrandyte Awareness Group is concerned at the gradual loss of indigenous trees in the area at the western base of Fourth Hill (see photo above), and believes the seven-lot subdivision in Cemetery Road will enhance that loss.

In a submission to the council WAG's Peter Curry said much of the adjoining area to the subdivision had already been permanently cleared of many trees, particularly in the cemetery and Catholic church grounds.

"The cumulative effect of further tree

removal would adversely affect visual amenity and further diminish shelter and food for local fauna," he said. "Retention of as much indigenous vegetation as possible is also important in order to provide balance to the concentration of pine trees introduced to the area."

Peter Curry said the proposal for seven lots within the heavily treed site "remains an over-development that would neither enhance nor contribute to the area's remnant bush character. Seven lots is too high for any type of se-

rious vegetation retention. We urge that consideration is given to amalgamation of lots for a maximum lot yield of four".

"Cemetery Road's existing streetscape is valued by residents. In a recent Draft Neighbourhood Character Policy submitted by Warrandyte residents to council officers—Paul Molan and Gary Bateman—Cemetery Road was used as an example of preferred streetscape. Street widening, driveways and overtaking areas associated with this proposal would certainly diminish the quality of this much valued streetscape."

## No alcohol rule working

By CLINTON GRYBAS

With many locals away on holidays Warrandyte police reported a quiet Christmas and New Year period with "very little" crime activity in Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park—an area only recently added to the responsibility of Warrandyte police.

Sergeant Keith Walker, honoured with a local Australia Day award last month, said one of the highlights was the alcohol free zone along the Yarra River between Forbes Street and the bridge.

"It's been magnificent, working very, very well. It's been self-policed in that people are obviously reading the signs that were put up and are abiding by them. Police have had to do very little," he told the *Diary*.

"We've spoken to a couple of people and advised them that they shouldn't be drinking. I think people have just been made very aware of the fact, certainly by locals and simply by just seeing the signs. They are aware they're not supposed to be drinking so they don't."

But police are yet to fully win the war against local graffiti artists, although Sergeant Walker says significant progress has been made.

"We've been able to speak to a number of young people in the community about the problem that we are having with the graffiti and what we see simply as damage to public buildings and structures they see as art.

"So we've had to speak to a number of young kids to advise them that it is in fact damage, it's not art and it's not the appropriate place for art."

"But one of the benefits of speaking to the kids is that we are also speaking to the parents who perhaps have either been turning a blind eye to what their kids have been doing or haven't been aware. Now that they are aware of the fact we have seen a reduction in graffiti."

A surge in graffiti and vandal attacks late last year prompted local police to withdraw their support for the proposed skate ramp, which could be built at Warrandyte Reserve this year.

The police have re-instated their backing with Noel Wilson on the skatepark design committee.

Sergeant Walker's involvement with a number of local committees led to his Menzies electorate Australia Day award.

"It was totally unexpected, a great honour to receive it," he said. "I think it's fantastic to be recognised by the local community. I guess I'm just one of the lucky ones that has been recognised because there are many people who live in Warrandyte who could certainly qualify for it."

"I would really like to see in the future people who are in charge of police stations live in those particular areas. That would give them a greater appreciation of the community they serve."

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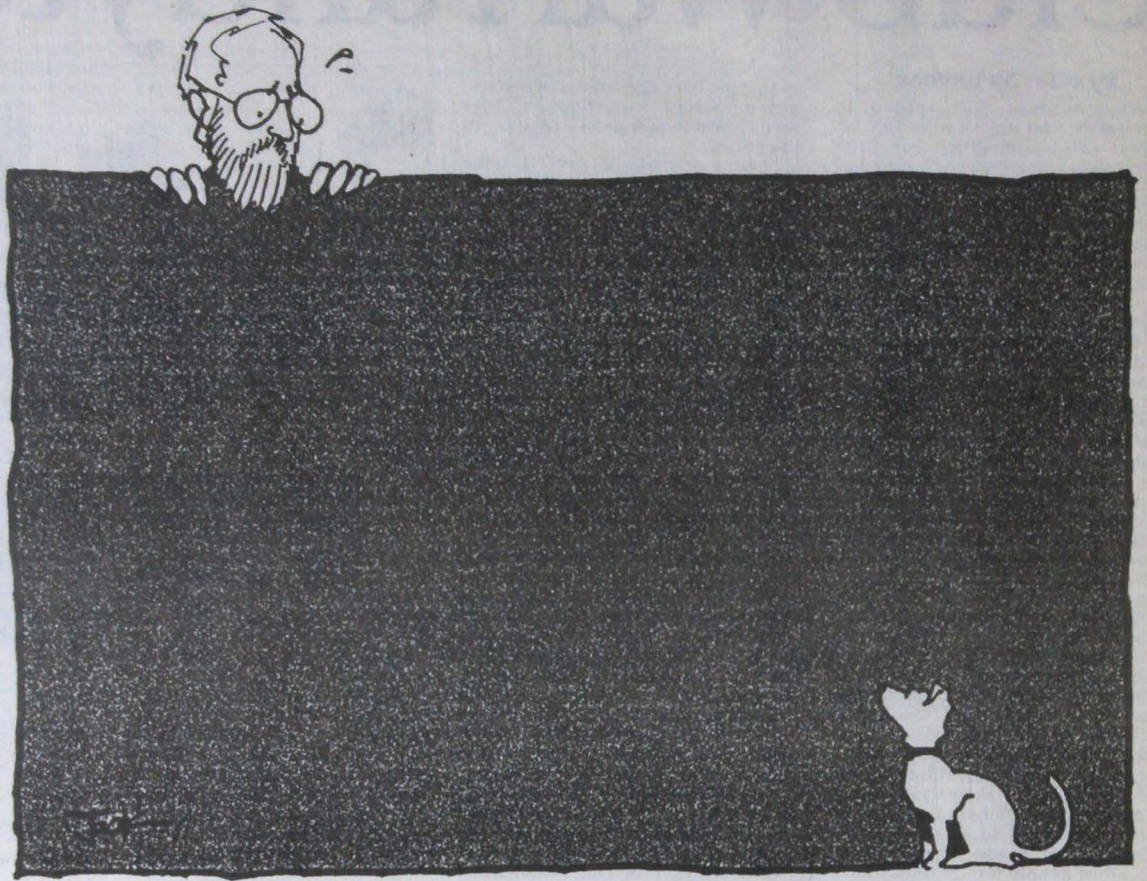
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# A brand new Millennium in the year of the dog

WELL, the Millennium has arrived, albeit a year early. But let's not get churlish about details. We'll leave all those arguments to pedants who believe that you can't call yourself one year-old until you have actually lived the full 365 days. It would be silly of us to assume that 999 years isn't close enough. Well, what are ya? Some kind of spoilsport who wants to spoil a good merchandising opportunity in times of economic hardship?

Perhaps it'll be like Mr Keating's recession: the occasion we had to have and by June the spin doctors will begin to convince us that although we were right in celebrating at the end of '99, it would now be wise for us to relive that enjoyment at the end of 2000. In effect, a successful Gunpowder Plot.

But it's not that millennium I'm referring to. The Millennium that has arrived is our new dog: Milli for short. And it's not just her name that's short.

Now before I tell you any more, there are a few things we ought to get clear. First, we have both owned dogs in the past. Herself, dogs like Border Collies, and me, lolling bitsers and demented black Cocker Spaniels. Second, our dogs lived outside and were suitably untrained as was fitting for the times in which we lived. Third, we have probably committed every crime bewailed by Dr Wirth every Saturday morning on 3LO. Fourth, we are not yet

**KIBBLED**

**"We had almost moved on to the mini horse in the next enclosure when my attention was caught by a wriggling at ground level."**

doddery and "past it". Fifth, Milli is a Chihuahua crossed with possibly a Jack Russell or some other necessarily short-legged Cassanova.

We set off for the RSPCA with a very definite criteria in mind. Given that our new house is the size of a shoe box, the first criterion was size. No Irish Wolfhound or Great Dane. Instead, something that could come in and go out of the living room without having to execute a three point turnaround. Next, we wanted a female. Part of the reason for having a dog was so we must go for a daily walk. A female, we fondly thought, would not want to stop at ev-

ery vertical structure. We didn't want a puppy and it must have short hair.

We walked into the "For Adoption" enclosure at the RSPCA. We walked past the first cages and there they were: an Alsatian, a large Labrador, a Doberman, an indeterminate large black thing and another one next to it. It appeared that the only available dogs were large. Obviously, very few geriatrics in panel vans cruised the streets at night dumping little fluffy bundles.

Just as we were beginning to despair, we passed what appeared to be an empty cage. We had almost moved on to the mini horse in the next enclosure when my attention was caught by a wriggling movement at ground level.

"Bloody rats. You'd think the RSPCA would manage their kennels better than this!" I thought to myself. My indignation melted when I noticed not one rat but two small dogs.

The notice on the cage door explained that one was a five year-old purebred, but the other, that was now wriggling and poking her paw through the bars, was five and-a-half months old, female and was a crossbreed. Although she was the right size she didn't have the bulges of a pure bred. She was the right gender, had short hair, was over the puppy stage and was dead cute.

Mother Nature has a way of making all young things engaging, so they will be looked after

until they're old enough to look after themselves. After that, She doesn't care how ugly we get. In Milli's case MN had pulled out all the stops.

As we drove home, after having filled out all the adoption papers, paid for her desexing, microchipping and vaccinations, we wondered whether we had done the right thing. Would our friends start knitting grey cardigans for us? Would the cat send Milli packing? Would our children start feeling threatened and begin producing surrogate Chihuahuas?

Fortunately our fears were ill-founded. Milli has now been with us for a month and has lived up to the promise made by those first deliberate wriggles way back in the cage at the RSPCA. And what about our criteria?

Age and short hair are just right. Being female is fine but whatever she's crossed with must be a bloodhound because she stops to sniff more regularly than a male. Size? She certainly doesn't overcrowd the house, nor knock things off coffee tables with her tail. But she does fit through the cat flap and has discovered our bed. If I lock the cat flap then the cat's in strife.

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ROGER KIBELL

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# That irritating bite out of a sleepless night

**T**HROUGH the uncurtained bedroom window a big yellow moon was shining full on my face, like the beam from a spotlight. I looked across at the red illuminated numbers on the clock radio: 3.02am.

Silvery white light bathed the room, casting ghostly shadows on the walls and reducing all colours to shades of grey.

I listened for sounds—there were none: no cars; no dogs; no birds; no rain; no wind. The night was still and silent. The streets were empty. Something had woken me, perhaps it was the moon.

And so I lay there, wide awake with an overactive brain. I tried turning off the thinking machine, but it just kept churning on, mulling over the day, reliving snatches of conversation and making mental notes of things to do.

It was hot. I stuck a leg out from the doona, shifting position so as not to wake a sleeping husband. For a while I watched the creamy, not-quite-full moon. Still sleep would not come. Thoughts skipped through my mind like pebbles across the water, while my husband slept on, oblivious to my insomnia.

I turned my back on the moon and eventually began to drift towards that heightened, exquisite state of awareness—sliding from conscious thought to unconscious slumber. A feeling of euphoric peace. Impossible to capture. Isn't this how we would wish death to come—gently in the night?

From nowhere a high-pitched whine brought me back from the brink.

I felt a faint feather-like flutter against my cheek. The whine became louder as it ap-



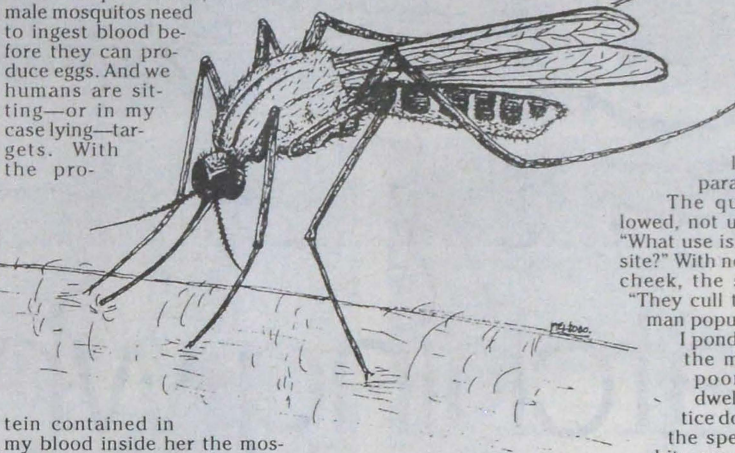
## NATURE

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

proached my left ear. When it stopped I dived for cover.

The mosquito, a female, no doubt, was after my blood. She wanted my blood so that her eggs could develop.

The simple fact is, female mosquitos need to ingest blood before they can produce eggs. And we humans are sitting—or in my case lying—targets. With the pro-



tein contained in my blood inside her the mosquito can go on to lay her eggs in any suitable cache of water.

Two or three days later the eggs will hatch and the larvae—"wrigglers" as we call them—grow rapidly, reaching maturity in less than two weeks. Pupa-tion too is brief, lasting less than three days.

The life span of the adult insect is one to three weeks during which time the cycle begins again. In optimum conditions mosquitos breed like flies which indeed is what they are—a family of small, skinny flies

with long legs and narrow wings.

Male mosquitos feed only on such plant products as nectar and sap. Females feed on nectar too—for energy—but require a blood meal sourced from birds and animals for their eggs to ripen.

So how do they find us? Easily, of course. The cues are chemical. The insects are attracted to our body odours and the carbon dioxide in our ex-

haled breath. As the female mosquito draws near, the slight increase in temperature and humidity from our breath directs her to her target.

Give it a try the next time a mozzie is hovering around you. Breathe out in its direction and it will almost certainly respond to the signals.

Our dislike for the mosquito stems not just from the painful bite the females deliver, with its irritating side effects, but the fact that they are carriers of

such diseases as malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, encephalitis and Ross River fever. I fell victim to the latter more than 15 years ago at a time when the virus was virtually unknown outside northern and central Australia.

As I had not been in those latitudes, the disease remained undiagnosed for many weeks. But I hold no grudges. The mosquito was only doing what every species on this planet strives for—a continuation of their own.

A scientist when asked "What use are mosquitos?" answered "They allow the malaria parasite to live".

The question that followed, not unexpectedly, was "What use is the malaria parasite?" With no hint of tongue in cheek, the scientist replied "They cull the escalating human population".

I pondered the plight of the mosquito with its poor public image, dwelling on the injustice done to the males of the species who neither bite, nor carry disease and of the important role both sexes play in the pollination of many flowering plants.

The next thing I knew the clock radio was playing wake-up music and it was 6.45 am. The sky outside the window was blue.

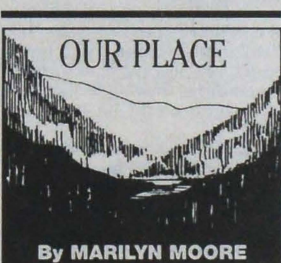
Night had gone. The mozzie had gone too, taking with it—in all probability—a drop of my blood to ensure that her genes will pass on to the next generation of this most beleaguered insect.

# Invaders through the back door

**I** THINK we need a new back door. After steadfastly keeping all and sundry at bay for 22 years, the present one seems to have lost the plot. Maybe the Y2K bugs have got into it.

First there was the Great Invasion of 1999. We arrived home one evening after a little sortie of only a few hours to find our terracotta quarry-tiled floor magically transformed into a black carpet. Cripes, quick! Turn on the lights, open the curtains and rip off the sunglasses, this has got to be an optical illusion. But, no, it was a black carpet all right. A seething army led by Alexander the Great Ant himself, had carried out an extensive resettlement program in our kitchen, family room and laundry. Skillions of the little critters now covered most of the floor. Two large nests, one nearly a metre across and more than a centimetre thick, had been constructed, and hundreds of eggs resettled.

In the kitchen, every surface was thickly coated with battalion upon battalion, and the reconnaissance squads were well on their way up the walls. Nothing was spared: egg-laden nests



By **MARILYN MOORE**

jammed the fruit bowl, the radio, a stack of magazines, the undercarriage of the armchair and even the pages of our address book.

Four hours later, after a prolonged battle during which the kitchen was finally recaptured by its rightful occupiers, it became apparent that the gateway for the still-continuing invasion was in fact our back door. More specifically, under it. Why? On the kitchen sink, it transpired, somebody had deposited an "empty" leatherwood honey bucket with the lid not quite firmly on. Alexander & Co. had somehow got wind of this, and, heeding such famous Ant Proverbs as "he who hesitates is lost" and "waste not,

want not", decided to immediately secure the premises. For an exercise in military-style organisation, I have yet to see better. For a demonstration of the protective value of one's back door against pestilence and plague, it was a dismal failure.

The Great Invasion was quickly followed by the Great Flood. After Warrandyte's famous post-Christmas deluge, the terracotta tiles were again scarcely visible, this time swamped by layers of clay, silt, muddy water, leaves and general debris. Door mats swam for their lives and in the store-room, the poor old vacuum cleaner was almost afloat. And how did this turbid mess gain entry? You guessed it: under that useless lump of wood, the back door.

The Great Flood also water-logged our so-called lawn for the first time in living memory, causing a massive and stately eucalypt to bite the dust (or should that read "bite the water"?). Torn from its soggy moorings, the base of the trunk now points folornly skywards and it looks just like the base of a giant toadstool, with nary

a root to be seen. Scary to think of the hoards of unsuspecting friends and relatives who sat on the lawn in its beneficent shade only days before.

The Great Flood, like all down-pours, preceded a stampede. Following in the footsteps of thousands of their ancestors, countless millipedes streamed across the tiles and up the walls to who-knows-what little rendezvous. Streamed from, predictably, the direction of under the back door. (It's a funny thing about millipedes, but they only seem to travel in one direction. I have yet to meet a millipede coming down the wall or heading back outside of its own accord.)

Then, you will recall, we had January's Lesser Flood. More water under the door. The vacuum cleaner was saved this time (by a pile of washing on the floor) from the ignominy of a complete gutting to dry out its innards.

Finally, how did our crystal clear swimming pool transform itself into chocolate mud while our backs were turned after Christmas? "Nothing to do with the back door" you say, but I don't think I believe you.

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# Watching whales

**M**Y bike rolled to a stop in the small seaside town of Rainbow Beach searching for the perfect camp site. "Out the back for \$5 per night or a bed in the hostel dorm for \$8?" Mick asked. I decided to spoil myself—hang the expense—and chose the bed, looking forward to standing up after waking rather than the wriggle that separates me from my one-person tent on other mornings.

Rainbow is midway point for other destinations high on my list, one being a few days in Hervey Bay to join a dawn whale-watching cruise.

The courtesy bus is ready to pick me up at 4.20am and we set sail on Hombre, an ex-fishing boat. We receive a morning cuppa and lifeboat instructions as we rock and roll our way across savage seas to Platypus Bay. It is the height of whale breeding season and we are not disappointed.

One very active pod, comprising mum, calf and two playful teenagers, stays with us for hours, demonstrating all their dramatic skills. The young mum feels secure enough to swim within inches of Hombre, lifting her little one out of the water to introduce us. This blew our

**OPEN ROAD**  
By CATHERENE SELBY

minds. We were so close we could almost touch them—and they chose to come up to us! We felt very privileged. Wow!

After many hours and a few green moments, a quiet, almost mesmerized 30 or so tourists returned to the marina, our lives changed forever by these gentle but wild mammals of the sea. Content and with a peaceful inner happiness I returned to Rainbow Beach, named after the colourful sand cliffs that stretch between Inskip Point and Noosa Heads. I am enjoying being part of this quaint community. Have I found a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow?

I have now ventured to Woodford Folk Festival in the Queensland hinterland and I don't know where to start. Everywhere I turn another story evolves.

There's the real dinky-die swagman wandering by with his swag slung over his back, his weathered hand comfortably swinging a small billy containing his life's essentials (and I

thought I had packed as light as was possible). Grubby jeans are held up by hope alone and threaten to fall to a level beyond imagination. He wears the obligatory wide brimmed hat—minus the corks.

He wanders aimlessly by the many stage tents where bands of all description have been entertaining us all day. He is oblivious to the fact that he is different. Perhaps this is because everyone in the crowd is "different".

I see a passing parade of skin and bright colours, of ferals and "try hard" hippies, as well as the genuine article down from the back blocks for their favourite annual event. Beads and dreadlocks and all manner of costumery pass by. One "try hard" type clumps by in work boots topped by a matching ensemble of flowing Indian cotton which could be designer label.

A screaming tribe of 40 or 50 riotous children run among us all, armed with squeeze water bottles. They shower anyone who asks (and many who don't) with welcome gushes of cooling water.

I am reminded of a similar festival my family and friends camped at in the late 1970s in Victoria, rekindling vivid memo-

ries that had all but faded from my mind. These thoughts are awakened by the smells of wet hessian, stagnant mud and falafel frying. Childhood experiences have prepared me for these adventures.

This renowned festival is well run, with all-day workshops teaching you how to create big stone statues, a didgeridoo carved by your own hand, maybe a still-life drawing, perhaps huge clay busts fired in sawdust mounds in the centre of the paddock.

Stalls sell anything from jewellery to tarot card readings. Or, for the truly adventurous, Moonshine Smoothies. I am tempted.

But just when I am fantasising about being a little nine-year-old girl again, a year 2000 reality check intrudes. I have not brought enough cash. I must swipe the plastic fantastic to cover costs.

Like many Warrandyte children I have been "spoilt"; given an open attitude that has been passed down the generations. How lucky I am to have grown up where the Yarra River runs, with bush and golden gullies to explore with friends. To be surrounded by interesting and "different" people, who gave me every opportunity to be me.

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# Happy new year!

How we sent the old millennium on its way



Pictures by AUSTIN POLLEY

# Annie seeks to capture our spirit



By FIA CLENDINEN

THE beauty of the Yarra River or the sight of the full moon through the gum trees can send Warrandyte artist Annie Keil-Taggart (pictured left) into a kind of ecstatic rapture, propelling her into her studio, where she'll work for hours putting paint to canvas. And Annie is not the only one to be affected by Warrandyte in this way.

It's well known that these hills around us, the local landscapes on both sides of the river, have been a source of inspiration for generations of artists, potters and sculptors.

"Warrandyte has a wildness and a sense of the ethereal muse," Annie told the *Diary*, in an attempt to explain this phenomena.

For over a decade Annie has been fascinated by what she called Warrandyte's "spirit of place" and the way different artists have worked in their own individual styles to capture its "quintessential psyche." It was something she dreamed of making a video about.

Last month Annie's long-held dream was given a boost when she was awarded a development grant of \$1250 by Nillumbik council to produce a

30 minute video documentary. Annie will write the script and Sasha Reid, another Warrandyte resident who is also film maker, will do the filming and editing.

Annie said she believed Warrandyte has historically been "a good home" for a lot of female artists, such as Clara Southern and Jane Sutherland, from the Heidelberg School. But she stressed that the proposed video will not be gender-biased, and nor does she intend to dwell on famous figures from the past.

"The museum has already done that," she explained.

Annie's emphasis will be on what has been happening in Warrandyte in recent times. She said she believed contemporary artists are not promoted enough.

"Almost nothing has been done on what's happened here in the last 30 years. All these people around here who contribute works of art. Where are they? Who are they? They are not known or recognised and that's what I want to document."

Annie is also interested in what she called the "tribal links" between artists. "It's a wonderful lifestyle being an artist but it's also fairly tough and I wouldn't recommend it," she

said. "You do need back-up. Enduring friendships is the basis behind the survival of a lot of artists. People form links like a kind of psychic web to help each other."

The video will include the work of local artists in different areas around Nillumbik such as Kangaroo Ground, Montsalvat and Dunmoochin.

However, the focus will primarily be on Warrandyte. When completed, the video will be launched at a public screening and it will be linked up to Nillumbik's web site. Annie is also hopeful that the video could be accepted by the ABC arts program.

Annie said she is convinced there is a wealth of information out in the community and she is keen to hear from local residents who can contribute old photos, video or super-8 footage, stories or insights.

While she is grateful for the Nillumbik grant she stressed that it is "only a drop in the ocean". The production of such a video can involve many unexpected expenses and no wages have been provided for herself and Sasha. Annie would "really appreciate" hearing from anyone who can assist with financial sponsorship or technical support. You can call Annie on 9844 0657.

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**FESTIVAL 2000**  
"The children are the future"

**Youth art show**

A youth art show will be a feature of the Warrandyte Festival this year. Run by the Warrandyte Youth Centre, the exhibition will showcase work by young people, aged between 13 and 19, from Warrandyte and surrounding areas. The event seeks to provide young people with the opportunity to gain public exposure for their artistic talents," a spokesperson told the *Diary*. "It will also enable the wider community to recognise the positive contribution young people are able to make to the community." Prizes will be awarded in various categories. The show will be held on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 March at St Stephen's Anglican Church, Stiggant Street. Any young people wishing to exhibit their work are asked to ring Aaron or Bron at the Warrandyte Youth Centre on 9844 2985.

**Prepare now for  
billycart derby**

As always, the billycart derby will be a special feature of the Warrandyte Festival. Organiser Robert Cousens warns kids and parents that they must get busy if they want to enter this year. "There is so much to do and so little time to do it," he told the *Diary*. "Carts need to be designed, built, painted or repaired from last year's race." A recent feature is the parents' race. "This may not be for everybody," Robert Cousens said, "but a first prize of a Kinchrome toolkit is there for the taking—if you're game!" This year's first prize for the main event is a full-size soccer game, valued at \$350. Other prizes are offered for the best-designed cart and an enthusiasm award "for the best effort on the day".

- Entrants must be between 8 and 15 years or be a parent of one of the drivers.
- Wheel sizes must not exceed 16".
- Your cart must be home-made (Gokart frames will not be eligible).
- Protective clothing and helmets must be worn.
- Your cart must be numbered (minimum two digits). A \$5 registration fee will apply to all drivers.

Further information on registration from Robert Cousens on 9844 2328.

**Warrandyte Village Festival**  
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# Just hypothetically



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.

A railway line is being built to serve the Yarra Valley growth corridor. It might pass through Warrandyte. This proposition will be "debated" at the Warrandyte Hypothetical, to be held in the Mechanics Hall on Saturday, February 19, commencing at 8pm. Hosted by Jock Macneish, panellists will include Martin Walker, John James, Bev Hanson, Sue Dyring, Ken Virtue, Cliff Green, Tony Summers, Beth Gallagher, Doug Seymour, Keith Walker, Fia Clendinnen and Glenn Martin. Tickets \$20, proceeds to the Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Fund. More information and bookings on 9844 3819.

## Seniors

Warrandyte Senior Citizens are holding a variety night on Friday, February 25 at 7.30pm in their clubrooms in Taroon Avenue. Cost is \$5, BYO food and drink. For bookings ring Dot Hill on 9844 1522.

## Toys

To keep pace with the needs of their young borrowers, Warrandyte Toy Library have extended their opening hours. The library will now be open for an hour-and-a-half on both Wednesdays and Saturdays, but will be closed on Fridays. Hours are now: Wednesday—11am to 12.30pm; Saturday—10 to 11.30am. The library is also conducting a membership drive, hoping to double the number of families enrolled. Membership costs \$30 a year for families with one child, \$40 for families with two children, and \$50 for families with three or more children, plus a \$5 levy needed to buy more toys. The toy library is at 184-186 Research Road, North Warrandyte. Phone queries to Sue Watson on 9844 4034, Jo Thodis on 9844 3459 or Karen Lockhead on 9844 2077.

## Follies

Warrandyte Theatre Group is currently rehearsing a special edition of their famous Festival Follies. Entitled The Complete History Of The World dot com, it will feature new sketches, new songs, new faces—plus all your old favourites. Performance dates are March 23, 24, 25 and 30, 31 and April 1. Group

bookings are being especially encouraged. Call 9844 1265 or 0419 630 942.

## Breakfast

Warrandyte Business Association and Jobs East are hosting a breakfast session with Stan Alves, former VFL champion and St Kilda coach and TV and radio personality. His theme will be Ride The Bumps. The breakfast will be held at Potters Cottage Restaurant at 7am on Wednesday, February 23. To book, phone Trish on 9844 1720.

## Carols

Fine weather encouraged a large crowd to the annual carols by candlelight at Stiggants Reserve in December. The Interchurch Council has asked us to thank the community for their support and generous donations to the Christmas Bowl appeal, for which \$410 was collected.

## Hamper

J.Waldron from Donvale won the Warrandyte Auxiliary of the Royal Women's Hospital hamper competition. The crocheted rug was won by M.Turner of Ringwood.

## Music

The Warrandyte Community Church ran a well-attended Music In The Park evening on Sunday, January 30, with some entertaining musical items provided. The occasion marked the beginning of a new evening service that will run every Sunday in the Community Church at 7pm. The services will be "informal in style and relevant in content". Further enquiries to 9844 4148.

## Badminton

Social badminton is played each Tuesday night in the Warrandyte Uniting Church Hall, opposite the football ground. The games begin at 8pm and the cost is \$2 per player per night. Any age and

standard of play welcome. Ring John Hanson on 9844 3906 for further information.

## Dance

The next South Warrandyte social dance will be held in the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road on Saturday, February 12. Cost is \$5. Please ring 9723 3892 for further information.

## Care

Do Care are looking for volun-

teers to assist in providing companionship and support to frail aged or disabled persons in the community. If you are over 18, with an hour or two to spare, please call Do Care on 9871 1532.

## Exhibition

Gouache paintings and drawings by Barry Claris are being exhibited in the Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, from February 7 to 20.

## Happy anniversary!

The Warrandyte Auxiliary of the Royal Women's Hospital is celebrating its 70th anniversary this month. Dulcie Crouch has told us something of their story.

"Back in February 1930, when the children had returned to school after the Christmas holidays, a group of local ladies met with the idea of doing some charity work.

"Dr Ethel Osborne, one of the ladies present, had connections with the Women's Hospital, as it was then known."

As all the larger public hospitals were then situated around the city area, the Warrandyte group decided to work for it.

Early details about the auxiliary are a little hazy as all the records were lost in the 1939 bushfires, but it is known that the first president was Dr Osborne and E.Till was secretary.

Other members included V.Hawkes, H.Higgins, A.Hussey, J.Jones, B.Schult, D.Till and I.Walsh.

"They met monthly in private homes," Dulcie Crouch continued, "but on occasions at the Mechanics Institute." Mrs Hussey, the last foundation member, passed away in 1987.

The auxiliary now meets in the library at the Senior Ci-

zens Centre. "All members would take jams, pickles, produce and cakes to meetings, these would be sold to raise funds, annual subscriptions were two shillings (20 cents) and afternoon tea cost three-pence (2.5 cents).

"Two main fundraisers were the 'wattle teas' held at meetings on the banks of the river—these were in the form of a mini fete—and the Lilac Time Ball held in October for 27 consecutive years.

Dancers came from as far afield as Coburg. Admission was two shillings and that included a home-made supper. Later cake stalls and Christmas hamper raffles were introduced.

"When Queen Elizabeth visited us in 1954 she changed the name to the Royal Women's Hospital.

"During the 1950s, Mrs Hussey and Mrs Smith were honoured with the first two beds to be endowed in members' names at a cost of \$1000 each. Three more were endowed later. Between 1992 and 1995 we raised \$6000 and purchased three more beds at a cost of \$2000 each, also purchasing much needed equipment.

"Irene Smith joined the auxiliary in 1936 and Bonnie Peake in 1941. Both are still members."



Splash! Warrandyte enjoyed record rainfalls in December-January. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

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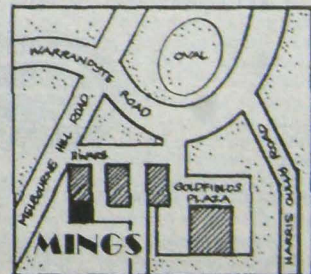
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# New blood in seniors comp

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Warrandyte Basketball Club's senior competitions will tip off on February 16 with several new teams suiting up for 2000.

The open and over-30 men's Greyburn Cup and women's Grand Hotel Cup will boast new sides as the competition enters its 21st season.

The Hitmen, Plastics and Sneakers start the new decade as defending champions in their respective divisions. They fought off stiff opposition to snare the silverware in December's grand finals at the new stadium at Andersons Creek.

The Hitmen came from behind to beat the Fighting Irish in a low-scoring decider 44-36. They trailed by one at half time, but Corey Nightingall (13 points) helped spark his team into action.

The Irish did a tremendous defensive job in holding the Hitmen's usual on-court leader David Thwaites to just two points, well down on his 17.4 season average.

But while their defence was good the Irish were impotent at the offensive end, only Adam Borwick (13) reaching double figures.

After the Hitmen ran up a handy lead early in the second half the Irish pulled the margin back to keep their hopes alive. But they were scoreless in the last five minutes as the Hitmen celebrated an eighth championship.

History was made in the over-30 section when the Plastics became the first team to win three Greyburn Cup titles in a row. Led by 17 points from Mark Field, they edged out the River Rats 37-30, but not before the Rats closed within two inside the final two minutes.

Mark Bensch was best for the Rats with 12 while Max Summers collected nine.

There was a surprise result in the women's section when the Sneakers denied the PP Champs a fourth consecutive Grand Hotel Cup crown. Leading 13-6 at half-time the Sneakers were up 20-13 with only a few minutes to play.

But the PP Champs, favourites all season, rallied in the crisis, forcing the Sneakers into turnovers as they scored six unanswered points.

Karina Reid gave the Sneakers a 23-21 advantage with nine seconds left but the Champs had the final possession. The ball went to Amanda McLellan (10) but her game-winning three-point try on the siren rimmed out. Anna Judd led the Sneakers' scoring with six.

Meanwhile, David Thwaites celebrated another fine season by being named the Most Valuable Player at the awards dinner on December 15. He polled 32 votes to beat Adam Borwick by three.

Players or teams interested in taking part in the new season can register with Steve Doyle on 9434 1385 or 018 370 389.

Award winners: MVP: Open men: David Thwaites. Over-30 men: Mark Bensch. Women: Karina Reid. Most Improved: Open men: Dion Dalben. Over-30 men: Rob Morris. Women: Suzie Reid.

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**Warrandyte Junior Football Club**



Players Wanted • Registration Day

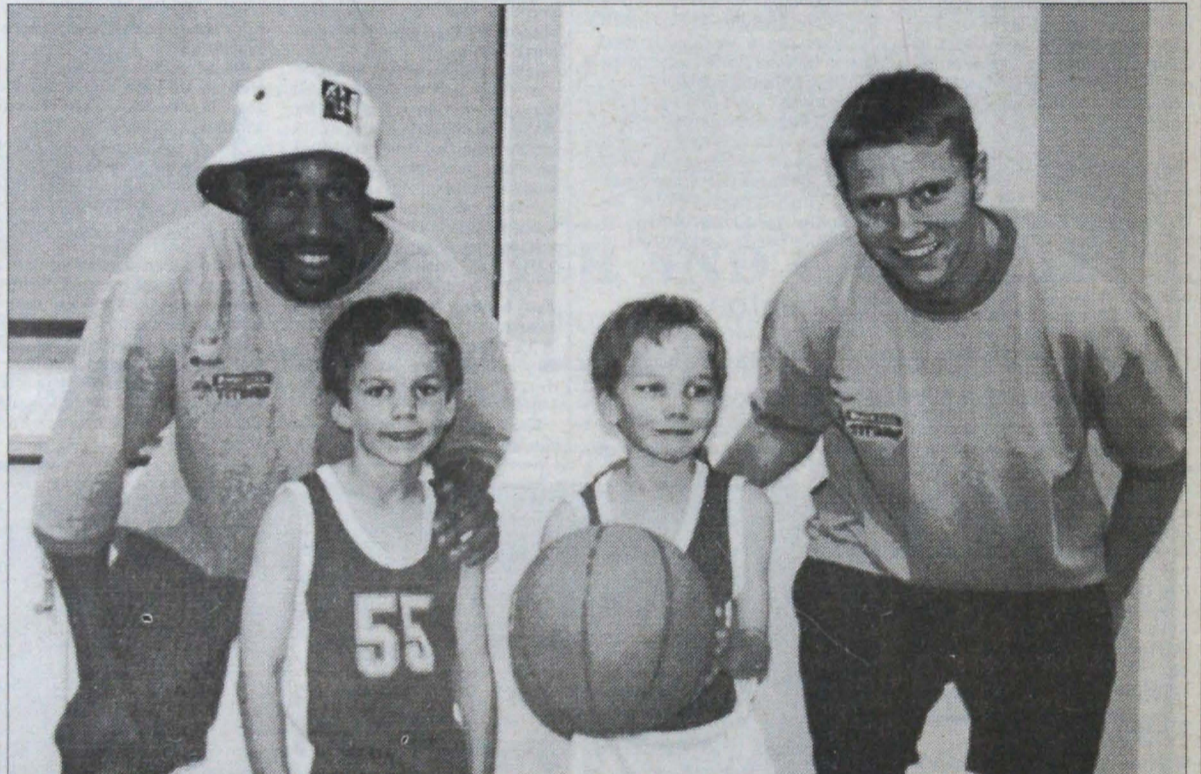
The registration day for all players of the Warrandyte Junior Football Club will be held from 10am-1pm on Sunday, February 13, 2000 at the club rooms, Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte.

All players are asked to renew their membership with a reward being offered for the person who brings the most numbers of new players to the club.

A swap stand will be held to exchange unwanted or grown out of football clothes and equipment. Mouthguards may be purchased and professionally fitted on the day.

Registration fee is \$65 per player. For more information concerning the club and registration day, contact Brad Curtis on 0413 333 979

## The Titans teach us a thing or two



Titan stars Darryl McDonald (left) and Glenn Siegle give two young Redbacks a moment they'll never forget.

By DAMIAN ARSENIS

NBL stars Darryl McDonald and Glenn Siegle of the Victoria Titans paid a visit to the Redbacks' new home court at the Warrandyte Community Sports Complex on December 13.

They had been invited by the local club to conduct two junior clinics — and they made sure everyone had a good time.

About 70 children attended the clinics and McDonald and Siegle captured

their imaginations, the wide-eyed youngsters hanging on their every word.

Running through a variety of drills, they kept the kids busy and helped improve their skills.

McDonald had plenty of advice for them, including: "You have to work hard to be your best, whether it be at home, at school or on the court."

Taking a line from the Titans' sponsors, he said: "As you get older, you may

want to have a little drink. You may have a little, but only in moderation. Always remember, booze less and be your best."

The enthusiastic juniors swamped the visiting stars for autographs on Titans posters, collector cards, T-shirts and books. Some were lucky enough to have their photographs taken with their idols.

It was an experience they will never forget.

## Redbacks maintain magic touch

By LUANDA PIANTA

Warrandyte carried on their fine tradition at the annual Australia Day weekend Eltham-Dandenong Basketball Tournament by walking away with three premierships.

The Redbacks were represented by eight teams, five boys and three girls.

Gavin Whitmore's U14B boys played brilliantly all weekend, surprising themselves — and a lot of other teams — by going through undefeated and easily accounting for Research in the final.

Continuing the winning trend, Malcolm Anderson guided his U20B young men to a comfortable grand final win over Lower Plenty.

They also blitzed the opposition to finish the big weekend with an unblemished record.

Anderson was most impressed by the performance, which he regarded as "only

a warm-up" for the EDJBA summer finals.

It is possibly their last tournament as a team and they are determined to make it a winning one.

Lorraine Parfitt made it a winning treble for the Redbacks when she coached her U14C girls to a stunning victory. The girls recovered exceptionally well from an exhausting four games on the Saturday to win their division in style.

Parfitt is expecting lots from her team this year and couldn't have asked for a better start.

Leanne Singh's U12C girls also had an excellent weekend in what for most was their first tournament. They fell agonisingly short in the final against Camberwell, but it was a great learning experience for them.

The girls are developing into a formidable combination under Singh's tutelage and seem destined to make a name for them-

selves.

Tristan Messerle coached the U16 girls and boys throughout the tournament, unfortunately with little success. Pitted against taller, stronger and more experienced opposition, they still enjoyed the heat of battle and will be all the better for it.

Anderson also coached an U12C boys team, who showed plenty of promise as they took on older and stronger opponents. They will be a team to be reckoned with as they look towards the championship season in U11.

The experience acquired from the tournament should hold the Redbacks in good stead for the resumption of the EDJBA competition and indeed the 2000 championship season.

We can expect the club's outstanding on-court performances to continue.

# Dytes on the brink

By ADAM WHITE

Despite two victories to kick off the new year, Warrandyte Cricket Club still find themselves in a relegation battle after a heavy defeat by Mooroolbark at home on February 5.

The loss now sees the Bushrangers in a crucial contest with Ferntree Gully to guarantee themselves a spot in the Chandler Shield competition next season.

They must beat the Gully or Ainslie Park in the final two rounds to be safe.

After winning the toss and electing to bat against top four side Mooroolbark, Warrandyte looked set to continue their solid form since the Christmas break as Stephen Bell and Brendan Baker put on an opening stand of 62, the best of the summer.

However, the loss of Bell and Cameron Day in quick succession saw the home side in trouble before Adam White and then Greg Tregear, after the fall of Baker for an impressive 42, steadied the ship, seeing the team through to 3/111 at tea.

It should have been the springboard to a big total, but again the Bushrangers col-

## SPORT

lapsed, the middle order failing to show resistance against a consistent yet not powerful Mooroolbark attack on a slow outfield.

Warrandyte's last seven wickets fell for just 54.

Although White had finally found some form, managing the first eleven's highest individual score of the summer with 74, the total of 190 always seemed a little short.

Warrandyte's chances of bowling Mooroolbark out on the second day took a blow with the late withdrawal with a knee injury of prolific wicket-taker Chris Snaidero. A faster outfield also played into the visitors' hands.

Gerald Walshe and Paul Montgomery started well, having Mooroolbark in trouble at 3-19, but the arrival at the crease of former District star Brendan Ricci signalled an onslaught.

Ricci produced a devastating display of stroke play as he belted a club record 228 not out, including 13 sixes. He savaged the wounded Warrandyte attack.

With Mooroolbark 4-119 at tea, the Dytes had given them-

selves a chance, but the visitors' middle order was able to offer support — unlike Warrandyte's the previous week — as they amassed 6-385 by the close of play.

While deeply disappointed by the result, Warrandyte coach Paul Montgomery remained positive, saying the team had simply been outclassed on the day by a very good batsman in Ricci.

"He's a class player and he had a day out," Montgomery said. "I thought that while it was a heavy loss for us when you look at it on paper, we matched it with them for most of the game apart from that bad session after tea today."

Asked about Warrandyte's fight for survival in the top division next year, Montgomery said the team had improved and would stay up in the Chandler Shield.

"Today was the first day of cricket we have lost since Christmas," he said, "so if you stack that up against four days of quality cricket this year, the curve is definitely improving."

Reflecting on the improvement which saw Warrandyte win a one-day fixture against Wantirna South in dramatic fashion before a crushing away victory over Lilydale, Montgomery put it down to more people contributing and more

players believing in their own ability.

He said: "I think it's fair to say that players like Cameron Day and Brendan Baker have shown a steady improvement in the batting department, along with consistent contributions from David Mooney and Stephen Bell, while our bowling has remained consistently good all year, with solid performances from a variety of players."

Warrandyte's lower-grade teams continue to disappoint, yet individual performances have kept things positive.

In the seconds, Jason Graf put the first eleven batsmen on notice against Mooroolbark with an unbeaten 93 and the re-emergence of Shane Baker's leg spin continues to impress.

In the third eleven, Brett Kline's amazing individual season rolls on. Kline posted the club's first century of the season — an unconquered 133 — against Mooroolbark. And John Prangley has pushed for promotion with 5-109 against Mooroolbark and 3-30 against Lilydale.

The fourths' season has gone from bad to worse despite the best efforts of David Gee, who continues to take wickets and make runs, and cameo performances from Steve Warr and Andrew Snaidero, who both scored 50s against Lilydale.



Warrandyte coach Paul Montgomery: 'We'll stay up.'

## Cricket details

**FIRSTS:** Warrandyte 9-128 cc (Mooney 30) d Wantirna South 120 (Tregear 3-7, Snaidero 2-25, White 2-30). Warrandyte 184 (Day 52) d Lilydale 129 (Montgomery 3-13, Snaidero 3-29, Walshe 3-31). Warrandyte 190 (White 74, Baker 44) lost to Mooroolbark 6-385 (Walshe 2-54).

**SECONDS:** Warrandyte 139 (Pascoe

39, S. Baker 31) lost to Lilydale 5-258 dec (Baker 4-78). Warrandyte 9-190 (Graf 93 no) lost to Mooroolbark 6-238.

**THIRDS:** Warrandyte 73 and 9-135 (Kline 45, Raby 37) lost to Lilydale 7-223 (Prangley 3-30, Raby 2-61). Warrandyte 256 (Kline 133 no) lost to Mooroolbark 6-283 dec (Prangley 5-109).

## Watch it, Dad!

By LEE TINDALE

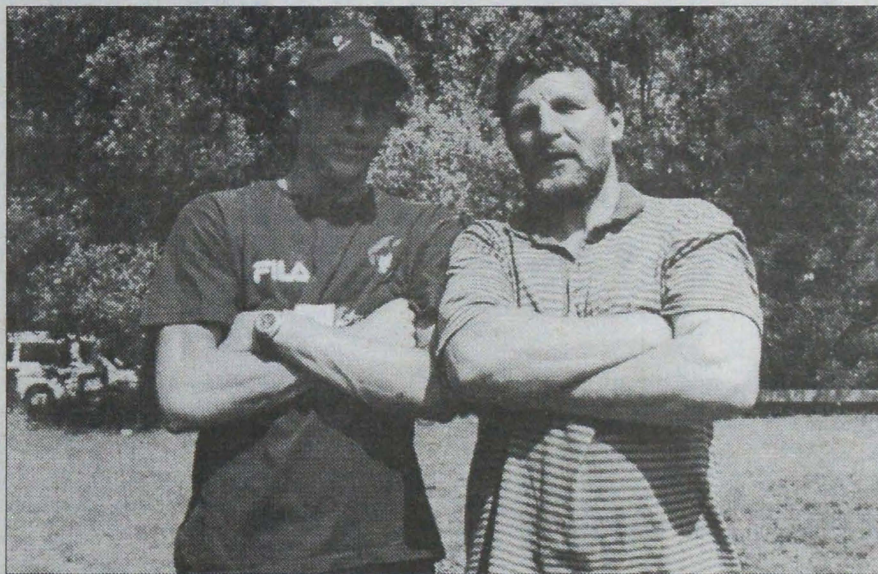
As a footballer, young Michael Clark has two burning ambitions: to play the game at the highest possible level for as long as he possibly can — and to "beat Dennis".

"Dennis" just happens to be his dad, who played 120 senior VFL games for Melbourne and 83 for Sandringham in the then VFA competition.

So Michael, 18, has a way to go — but he has taken the first major step by being picked up by Melbourne in the national draft last November.

The Demons could have taken him under the father-son concession but demonstrated their faith in his enormous potential by selecting him in the open draft. He was No 42 pick nationally.

The likely-looking lad from Lynette Avenue had got wind a few days earlier of Melbourne's interest in him. He admits the draft is not riveting television to the uninformed, but it was re-



Aspiring champ Michael Clark with proud dad Dennis, whom he's 'out to beat'.

quired viewing for him. He sat at home glued to the telly that day in November and was "relieved" when Melbourne called his name.

On the training track a few days later, Michael had his first taste of what top-level football is all about. Hard work. And he's loving it.

"We trained six days a week, 11 sessions," he said. "We had six footy sessions — some of which included running training — a running session on Saturday and four weights sessions."

"We're down to nine or 10 sessions a week now."

"Coach Neale Daniher, his staff and the whole Melbourne Football Club are terrific."

Basketball was Michael Clark's first sporting interest, at about age six. He took to footy in his first year at Warrandyte High School and played Under-14s for Warrandyte Junior Football Club.

That team just happened to be coached by "Dennis", who continued the career-shaping process as a juniors coach at Beverley Hills for the next three years.

"Dad's taught me just about everything I know about football," said Michael, who spent

1998 and '99 playing utility or half-back (and obviously impressing the Demons talent scouts) for Eastern Ranges in the elite Under-18s competition.

"He never forced footy on to me. He just left it up to me." And what does "Dennis" think about this young whipper-snapper who not only wants to follow in Dad's footsteps but show him a thing or two?

"We are very proud of him." The "we" includes Michael's mum Cheryl (same age as dad at 49) and sisters Briony, 23, and Lauren, 20.

## Junior club grabs top coach

Warrandyte Junior Football Club have appointed experienced player and mentor Leon Jones coach of their flagship Colts (Under-17) team for season 2000.

Jones comes highly credentialled. He played more than 160 senior games and has more than 11 years experience coaching at senior and junior level. His achievements include coaching East Ringwood to a junior premiership.

"We try to get the best for all our teams," WJFC president Mathew Matheou told the *Diary*. "We have a particular focus on our Colts as this could be the last year many of these players spend with the club before hopefully continuing their football careers with the senior club."

"In many cases, these boys have been an integral part of our club since they joined

us as Tackers (Under-9s). We wanted to get a football person, someone who has played at senior level and, more importantly, had demonstrated the ability to communicate with boys of this age."

"We were also very keen to get someone who could contribute to the development of the overall skill level in the club," Matheou said.

"We believe we have found such a person in Leon. Given his background and the quality of players on the Colts list, we really believe season 2000 will be a big one for this team and the broader club."

The Colts covered themselves in glory by winning the Yarra Junior Football League premiership in 1998. They ran third last year.

"The WJFC now have in place a stronger

coaching strategy, a fitness campaign, a stronger team focus and tighter club policies and rules," Matheou said.

"All of these things will assist in creating a positive and nurturing environment for our players which we believe will contribute to achieving on-field success."

The junior club's registration day is Sunday, February 13, at the Taroona Avenue clubrooms from 10am to 1pm. As an incentive to further bolster the ranks, a "reward" is being offered to the person who brings along the most new players.

Registration fee is \$65 and further information is available from registrar Brad Curtis (041 8333 979).

Training starts in the week commencing February 20 and the season kicks off on Sunday, April 2.

## It's crunch time for Under-18s

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club will be offering financial incentives this season to put an Under-18s team on the field.

Along with most other EFL clubs, the Bloods have struggled in recent seasons to come up with the numbers at this level and the situation has become a matter of urgency following a "get-tough" stance by the league.

The EFL is threatening heavy fines — up to \$500 — and loss of senior premiership points in the event of Under-18 sides forfeiting games for want of players.

As a sweetener, Warrandyte will be offering players reimbursement for football gear — boots, shorts and socks — and guaranteeing transport, in needy cases, to and from training and games.

The Bloods will also be inviting other clubs to play as many Under-18s games as possible under lights at Warrandyte on Friday/Saturday nights to overcome player dislike of Saturday morning football.

Significantly, Warrandyte were able to field full teams in their several Friday night games last season but were found sadly wanting in Saturday morning matches.

"A lot of clubs have battled for numbers in the Under-18s and we are among them," WFC president Jeff Evans told the *Diary*.

"Part of our problem is that the Under-17s Colts side fielded by the junior football club has cut off one source of player supply."

"We certainly don't begrudge the junior club their Under-17s because they have been very successful, but it's a fact of life that kids who would be graduating from the juniors to our Under-18s in the former normal course of progression are now playing Colts."

Evans said it was compulsory for EFL First and Second Divi-

sion clubs to field Under-18s sides. "It's not compulsory in Third and Fourth Divisions," he said, "but clubs in three and four who elect to have Under-18s are bound by the same rules that apply to Divisions 1 and 2."

"Our first target is to have 20 players registered by the February 28 deadline."

The Under-18s are training from 5pm on Monday and Wednesday nights under new coach Alan Vitoritti at the recreation reserve.

"Anyone who'd like to play for Warrandyte is warmly invited to turn up," Evans said. "Or they can phone me at home on 9722 1111."

Warrandyte's senior ranks have been bolstered for their 2000 Second Division campaign by the signing of a talented metropolitan amateurs player and the return of a classy performer whose career with the Bloods was cut short by injury.

Rocky Armstrong has been recruited from Old Scotch in the powerful amateurs competition and Leigh Brown, who came to Warrandyte in 1995 as an outstanding youngster but badly injured a knee, has moved back into town and is pulling on the boots again.

They join Scott Hunter, who played centre half-back for East Burwood in the EFL First Division finals last season, as important new faces on the Bloods' list.

On the debit side, they have lost valuable players Greg Pearce (retired) and Tony King, who has moved to Perth.

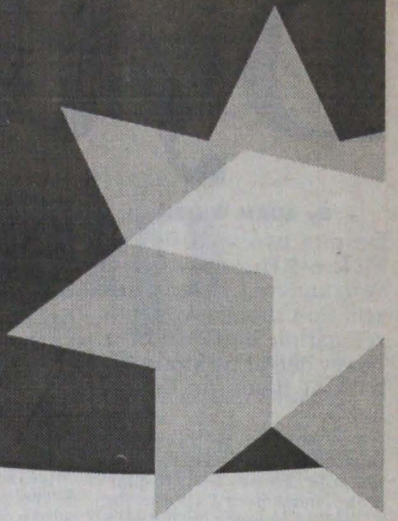
Training is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights but will revert to the traditional Tuesday and Thursday when Warrandyte Cricket Club vacate the recreation reserve at the end of their season.

● WFC will hold a sponsors dinner at Club Warrandyte on Wednesday, March 22. A draw for sponsor naming rights will be held during the function.



The Professionals

# Wilson McDougall



# 'ETYDNARRAW'

## WE KNOW WARRANDYTE BACKWARDS

### Thinking of Selling?

For your best result talk to

### The Professionals



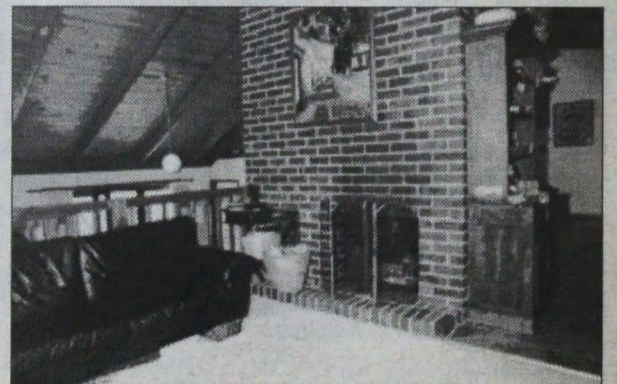
Timber cottage

**AUCTION 4 March**  
**\$100K plus**



3 x 1000 sq m allotments

**AUCTION 4 March**  
**\$100K plus**



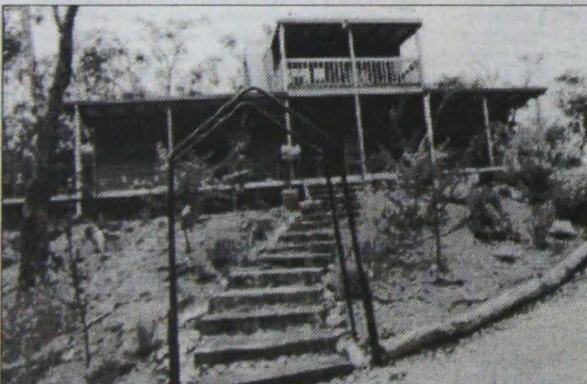
Tri-level contemporary

**AUCTION 26 February**  
**\$200K plus**



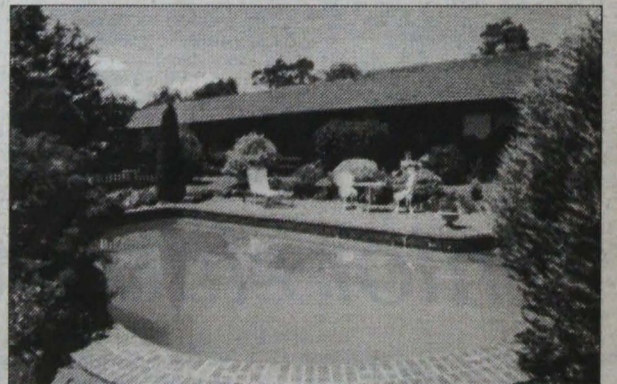
Open plan 4BR, huge living areas

**\$262,000**



Near new timber residence on 17 acres

**\$365,000**



4BR quality home on 2 acres

**\$475,000**



**Andrew Wilson**  
Managing Director



**Peter McDougall**  
Sworn Valuer



**Russell McInnes**  
Sales Consultant



**Vicki Gardiner**  
Sales Consultant



**Leanne Highmore**  
Property Manager



**Jade Thomas**  
Receptionist



**Georgia McLane**  
Weekend Receptionist

## 9844 3085

183 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

*Together we'll make it happen*