

# Ring road 'closed'

## Labor government abandons plan for 'missing link'

By FIA CLENDINEN

The battle to save the Green Wedge from a six-lane freeway has been won, following a decision by the state government to scrap the ring road from Greensborough to Ringwood.

The minister for transport, Peter Batchelor, said the solution to transport and freight movements through the outer suburbs was not a freeway through some of Melbourne's most environmentally sensitive areas.

"The Green Wedge should not be tampered with by pushing through freeways," Mr Batchelor said. "It would cause environmental havoc. The Bracks government will not do that."

This is not the first time a state government has rejected plans to build a ring road through the Green Wedge. Over 20 years ago, following massive local opposition, the Liberal government of Rupert Hamer announced it was abandoning a controversial proposal to build a freeway from Diamond Creek to Ringwood.

In 1978 Mr Hamer said his cabinet believed such a freeway would have "a major impact on the area" and had "little community support".

Residents believed the battle was won for good but in 1994 VicRoads released a new report, Linking Melbourne, which stated that an "outstanding issue" was the "need for a link between Greensborough and Ringwood".

Further reports, such as the Kennett government's policy document Transporting Melbourne and the VicRoads commissioned report The Economic and Urban Impact of a Metropolitan Ring Road, confirmed fears that the ring road was back on the agenda.

Once again the community mobilised and the Anti Ring Road Organisation (ARRO), which led opposition to the original proposal two decades ago, was reformed.

In 1998 Nillumbik council declared its opposition to the ring road. All councillors unanimously supported a resolution which stated that a "new arterial ring road" through the shire and the "ribbon commercial development it would encourage" was "in total contradiction with protection of the Green Wedge".

MP for Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood, has also steadily resisted the push for the ring road. In 1995 he stated at a public meeting, "if that road ever comes through Warrandyte there will be a huge fight from me".

Mr Honeywood told the *Diary* he welcomed the recent announcement by the Bracks government that it will not proceed with the ring road.

"Over the past 12 years I have consistently opposed any proposal for a major road that would threaten Warrandyte and Park Orchards' environmental character and lifestyle," he said.

But MP for Eltham, Wayne Phillips said the previous government had never intended to put a ring road through Warrandyte and Eltham and he accused the Bracks government of being deliberately misleading.

"We have no plans to build it. I have said that many times," Mr Phillips said. "It was us that scrubbed (the ring road) in the first place, being a Liberal government. And the reason we scrubbed it was basically because of the cost, because of the topography, because of the environmental considerations and because of the political ramifications. Now none of those four things have changed."

He challenged the transport minister and Andre Haermeyer, the member for Yan Yean, to be "fair dinkum" and sell off the disused road reservation between Diamond Creek and Ryans Roads.

Such a move would "for once and for all provide certainty to residents that no ring road will be built between Greensborough and Ringwood," Mr Phillips said.

ARRO spokesperson Geoff Speedy said he was very pleased the Liberal Party and the ALP had publicly abandoned plans to build the ring road through this area.

"It's great to see our politicians from both major parties agreeing on something which will preserve the environmental values of the Green Wedge," he said.

Mr Speedy also said that he hoped bipartisan rejection of the ring road would lead to VicRoads dropping the project.

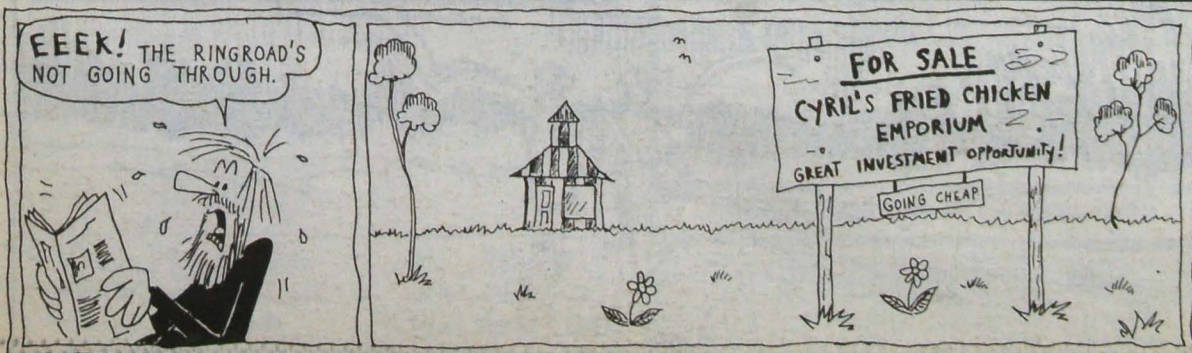
**The green army (pictured right) has invaded Warrandyte and surrounding bushland.**

● Full story and more Jan Tindale pics on Page 7



**CYRIL**

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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# Football sensation: Our Nod sent up and sent off



Mild controversy follows Warrandyte footy club livewire Robert "Noddy" Ireland in this column like a faithful hound, but we think he graduated to the big league at the home game against Doncaster on May 27. We believe him to be the only boundary umpire in Eastern Football League history to be red-carded out of a game. Noddy, who's been just about everything for the Bloods — player, junior coach, secretary, life member and extremely vocal barracker — was running the boundary for the Under-18s because, well, somebody had to and he put up his hand as he always has. A couple of the Doncaster lads took him on verbally during the first half, one asking how many years had elapsed since he turned 50, another making disparaging remarks about his sylphlike figure. The banter, for want of a better word, continued into the third quarter, during which Noddy decided enough was enough and said to one of his protagonists: "Look, kid, I'm going to dong you after the game!" Unfortunately, the central umpire heard it and sent him off. Pity the ump hadn't heard the preamble or he might have dismissed the brats from the field, confiscated their teddy bears and sent them to bed without any supper.

## IN RED & WHITE



David Farrar and a stuffed Powerful Owl fledgling.

of Australia's owls — the males stand up to 65 centimetres — is among us because Her Indoors, a card-carrying Greenie, led us screaming through a swollen creek in Arctic weather late last month to spot him. Spot him we did — and ain't the Powerful Owl an awesome fowl!



Periodically, a press release falls into one's hands so steamy and seamy that an immediate cold shower is called for. Such an item arrived by fax the other day from Manningham City Council, announcing "bon naturel" — paintings in oil and acrylic by Rebecca Kellie" on show at the Manningham Gallery, behind the municipal offices, from June 20 to July 2. bon naturel? What's that? "An exhibition that explores different approaches to the female form," the handout says. "Half, quarter and three-quarter views of torsos, backs, buttocks and breasts are at times rendered in a very flat graphic style and at others in a very painterly manner, all saturated with vibrant and energetic colour." All RIGHT!



There are fewer than 500 pairs of this species left in Victoria, a legacy of land clearing. Our park rangers knew of two pairs in Warrandyte and believed a third might be hanging out and maybe even nesting in the broad area of Whipstick Gully. They were right. Dad's perched up there at this very moment in a tall eucalypt keeping watch over Mum — his mate for life — who's sitting on eggs (probably two) in a very old, long-time-dead hollow tree nearby. We'll be no more specific about the location because the rangers, who have suspended all mechanical work in the vicinity until nesting's over, have sworn us to secrecy. The last thing they or the birds themselves need is hordes of gawking folk turning this habitat into a circus. Besides, nesting males are very dodgy and have been known to attack humans quite ferociously, doing a lot of damage with their beaks



The endangered Powerful Owl is alive, well and breeding in Warrandyte. But don't go messing with him, you hear, because he bites and scratches big-time. We know the biggest

and huge talons. The Powerfules prey largely on possums and are not at all averse to the odd koala. David Farrar, coordinator of fauna and fire at Warrandyte State Park, advises you to take plenty of care if you're bushwalking in Whipstick Gully by day. And don't even entertain the idea of doing it by night because a big pair of bright yellow eyes will be watching you.



Bessie the cow is champing at the bit to drop somebody right into the money — but she'll have to wait. The Moo Poo for Cash raffle, a joint fundraising effort by Warrandyte Junior Football Club and the proposed Skateboard Park, was to have been decided on May 20 but has been put back to 1pm on Saturday, July 15, to ensure a sellout. Good thing it didn't go ahead as planned because the weather was absolutely vile. As previously reported, Bessie will make you \$2500 richer if she drops her first pat on the patch of ground you've "bought" for a \$10 ticket on the lower oval at the recreation reserve. Tickets are still available from such local outlets as Warrandyte Hardware, Warran Glen Nursery, The Clay Pot Gallery, The Chaff Shed and Liberty Garage. Or give Tony Morello, Bryan Handson or Tom Fitzpatrick a bell on 9844 2618, 9844 3047 and 9844 3833 respectively.



Local couple Steve Walker and Janet Foote sold up their place in David Road and drove out of town in their Hilux twin-cab ute on May 22 bound for Godknoswhere. But wherever they're going, they'll be back. Steve and Janet, partners of 15 years, decided they wanted to see Australia and the best way to do it was without an itinerary at all. Find a spot they liked — whether it be on the coast or deep in the desert — put up their tent and prop for as long as they liked. Their only certain destinations are first-up calls to Warrnambool, Maryborough, Jeparit, Shepparton and Albury

to see old friends and rellies, and Wagga, to say hello again to their former Warrandyte neighbours Carole and Peter Rushbrook. They'll meet up at some stage at Maroochydore with Janet's elder daughter Catherine, 31, who's writing a running travelogue for the *Diary* as she motorcycles around the continent. Catherine will tag along with the "oldies" for part of the way. Steve and Janet, who started up Yarra Hiring in this town, will work along the way wherever they can find it. They may be away a year, maybe two. But their travels will eventually and inevitably lead them back to Warrandyte. Simply because it's home.



Irish Les the car salesman has become all property-conscious since possums drove him from his little pad behind the bank in Yarra Street and followed him to his rented country estate in KG Road. Loves it there and is now resigned to co-existing with the ringies and brushies. Now he wants to step up a notch and keep the growth down in his paddock by getting a goat. If anyone out there has one to spare, give Irish a call on 9844 3567 after five on a week night. With his luck, though, we envisage the possums eating his blackberries and the goat tap-dancing in his ceiling at night.



If your garden didn't float down the hill when the drought broke with such a bang, now's a good time to be planting bits of it out with winter-growing tussock grasses, says Cathy Willis, our resident native flora guru. The Warrandyte Friends of the State Park nursery at Pound Bend has a couple of beauties available (for a very modest donation) right now — the Velvet variety (*Poa morrissi*) and the Common Tussock (*Poa labillardieri*). Cathy says that when planted in groups in a rocky area they have a "wonderful fountain effect". She also warns that rabbits love'em, but don't let that deter you. Give her a call on 0418 142297.



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### OUR NEWSPAPER

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

### A SPECIAL PLACE

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

## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH





# Town threat averted

## Council could stop second houses in Green Wedge: MP

By CLIFF GREEN

The threat that residential allotments as small as 600 square metres would be permitted in Warrandyte township appears to have been averted.

Also, it has been alleged that Manningham council has the power to stop second houses being built on Green Wedge allotments, but has not used it.

Residents have been assured that, despite the Bracks government imposing changes to zone classification in Warrandyte township—under the new, soon to be released Manningham planning scheme—the ban on dual occupancy and unit development, and the minimum lot size of 1000 square metres will be retained.

Under the draft plan, submitted by Manningham to the minister for planning, John Thwaites, council applied for a Low Density Residential Zone for the township, believing this would keep current restrictions on units and multiple dwellings in place. However, the state government's planning department indicated it preferred a Residential One Zone for the township.

"This proposal set alarm bells ringing, both with council and myself," Warrandyte MP Phil Honeywood told the *Diary*. "Residential One Zone, in normal circumstances, would allow for both multiple dwellings and minimum allotment sizes of only 600 square metres."

However, Mr Honeywood has been assured by senior officers in the minister's department that the status quo will be maintained.

"These assurances follow on from personal approaches made by me to John Thwaites, a speech I made in parliament (see Page 5), questions being asked of the minister by the all-party Public Accounts Committee and a meeting I had with the minister's senior adviser and the department's regional planning officer," Mr Honeywood said.

"Protracted negotiations gleaned from the department that Manningham's proposal for a Low Density Residential Zone was flawed, as it can only be applied to minimum one acre (4000 square metre lot size) areas."

Mr Honeywood raised with Minister Thwaites the importance of retaining Warrandyte's unique bushland character and historic village setting. At a subsequent meeting it was agreed, through the regional planning office, that while the Residential One Zone would be imposed, it would contain a strict design and development overlay, "which will have the effect

of maintaining all current development (rules) and minimum allotment sizes".

In another, closely allied planning issue, the *Diary* revealed last month that Manningham's new draft planning scheme could permit the building of a second house—albeit without subdivision—on allotments in the Green Wedge. Local conservationists expressed the fear that this could lead to increased pressure for subdivision in the Wedge, as owners sought to separate the houses for future sale.

The *Diary* was led to believe that this "second house" provision was an inevitable consequence of government policy and could not be removed. Mr Honeywood now believes this is not so.

"In my meetings with Minister Thwaites and the planning department it has emerged that council could have ensured that a 'no-multiple dwelling' proposal could be introduced



Phil Honeywood

into the Warrandyte-Park Orchards Green Wedge," he said. "Using the simple device of inserting a policy into council's municipal strategic statement would have ensured that only one dwelling would be permitted on all Green Wedge allotments."

"The insertion of a policy into Manningham's draft scheme, now with the minister, will fix this loophole once and for all."

Mr Honeywood has written to Manningham council and called on all councillors to support his stand. "I am concerned that several councillors have ambivalent views on the Green Wedge and are willing to turn a blind eye to development through the back door, by supporting the multiple dwelling allowance under the proposed Environmental Rural Zone in the

Wedge" Mr Honeywood said. Although not directly responding to the charge that a simple policy statement would have avoided the possibility of multiple dwellings in the Green Wedge, Manningham mayor, Cr Lionel Allemand, has refuted "these claims made by Mr Honeywood. (Council) has always sought to protect the Green Wedge".

"The state government changed the VPP to take away the right to excise a small lot from properties in the Environmental Rural Zone as a result of council submissions," Cr Allemand said. "Council has adopted the Environmental Rural Zone because there are no other options available to it. This was made abundantly clear to Mr Honeywood during a representation to the minister by this council, to which he was privy."

"One of the key objectives of council's municipal strategic statement, which forms part of the planning scheme, is to protect and enhance the existing character, landscape quality, and other natural environmental values of the non-urban area in a sustainable manner."

"Mr Honeywood—and others—may be well advised, that in relation to the Warrandyte township, is to not open 'Pandora's Box'," Cr Allemand said.



Food for thought: the old fruit shop will soon see duty as our new virtual library.

## Virtual library at Goldfields

By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte's virtual library is set to zap itself to a new location.

There are plans to move the library from the community centre to Goldfields Plaza, in the former fruit shop. Whitehorse Manningham Library Corporation hopes the move will generate more use of the library.

The library's popularity in its first year "hasn't been as good as we had hoped," Teresa Wight, information technology and information services manager of the library corporation, told the *Diary*.

The new location, which is currently going through Manningham council's planning permit application process,

will be bigger. It will hold "browsing collections" of books and council information.

The shop will be painted and fitted-out for use as a library.

"Goldfields has more people going through it, so we hope more people will use the library," Ms Wight said.

The library's low usage was due to its low-traffic location as well as the unpopularity of the actual concept, according to Ms Wight. "It was probably a bit of both," she said. "I think a lot of people didn't know about it."

The library corporation plans to do more to publicise the virtual library. The trial period has been extended by another 12 months.

## New café happening

The café project at the old butcher shop in Yarra Street is still happening.

Last year the *Diary* announced plans by the owner of the building—the front of which is occupied by Riveresque Curtains—to extend to the rear and to add another level to accommodate office space and a restaurant.

The building's owner, Fritz Uhl, said he was in the process of drawing up plans. "It prob-

ably won't be ready before Christmas," he said. "We have to finish the plans, find a builder, then start building." Mr Uhl said he will lease the restaurant space.

Manningham council advertised the permit application in October last year and received six objections. Council decided to issue the permit in March, and, following no appeals, the plans were endorsed at the beginning of May.



Georgia, Matthew, Daniel and Ashley of Andersons Creek Primary School know their way around cyberspace.

## Creek kids win big prize

By RACHEL BAKER

Anderson's Creek Primary School has won a coveted second prize in a prestigious international website competition.

The school entered the CyberFair Global Internet Learning Contest in the natural and manmade landmarks section. Students from all levels participated. The grade sixes went to Canberra for their research.

"Grade sixes were studying government, and the Canberra trip was their school camp; we integrated the competition into the school's learning program," Elaine Robertson, Grade 3 and 4 teacher, told the *Di-*

*ary*. Ms Robertson suggested the school should enter the contest. More than 500 schools from 24 countries competed.

Anderson's Creek 120-page site won them a digital package that included a printer, scanner, digital camera and software.

"It was good for the kids, it helped them get an historical perspective," Andersons Creek principal Des McKenzie said.

"It's interesting to see the people who come to visit the site. Often people from around the world are more interested than those from our own country."

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# Ros gives thanks and seeks gossip from Singapore

I have just been perusing the pages of the April issue of the *Warrandyte Diary* over the internet and I just wanted to let you know that I thought it was the best issue I have read in the time I've been isolated here in Singapore. I felt that the absolute gems were Marilyn Moore's column and Cliff Green's article about the Boyds.

Of course any news of Warrandyte Primary School is a treat for my children, especially when they see their friends' names in print. I was pleased to see also that Bill Mitchell had a brilliant debut at the Follies (though anyone who has seen him in action at the Warrandyte Primary School trivia nights would not be surprised). Yeah Bill! The ultimate treat though was the Warrandyte Junior Football Club promotion of Moo Poo for Cash. Fantastic! How can we get hold of a square of turf? Are they handling overseas enquiries? Thank you so much for a great issue. Keep up the good work.

Ros Chandler by email

P.S. Any gossip filtering through from North Warrandyte about the joint 40th birthday for Jenny McDonnell and Brian Robertson? Always the party people (was Brian dressed as Frankenfurter again?). I am sure something should filter through to you.

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

# Jess sends a postcard from Japan

My name is Jess Howard and I am a former student of Warrandyte High and resident of North Warrandyte. The reason I say former is because this year I am living and studying in Japan. To be more specific I am currently in a town called Beppu, which is located on one of the most northern islands of Japan, Kyushu. Here I am studying Japanese as well as various other subjects focusing on the Asia Pacific region at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University. This is a unique university, not only due to the fact that the campus is brand new, but also as it is an international university in every sense of the word. This is due to the fact that only half the students and staff come from Japan, while the other half come from over 50 countries



Our Jess on campus at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University.

around the world. Furthermore most of these international students, including myself, are living in a special dormitory on campus, called AP House, which was designed so that all the various nations and their cultures could live and learn together under one roof. At the moment there are students in AP House who come from Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, Bulgaria, Canada, China, England, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paulo, Phillipines, Romania, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Zimbabwe and Japan. So as you can probably guess, life each day is always an adventure when you are constantly surrounded by that many cultures, religions, etc.

Ritsumeikan APU officially opened on April 3rd 2000, with an opening ceremony that attracted the attention of national media here in Japan. This was followed by a party, which was the first opportunity for the international and Japanese students to mingle, while for entertainment some students performed traditional songs and dances. And I'm sorry to say that the Aussie students did not actually put on a performance, as all we could think of was teaching everyone, "Aussie, Aussie, Oi, Oi, Oi!" However we all arrived decked out with flags, clip-on koalas, and anything else that we could find that screamed Australia. Since I have been here so very much has happened, it's hard to believe that I have been here just over a month. But in truth,

living in these conditions does seem to accelerate time and the number of events that would normally occur in a week are usually over before I have lunch. It is strange to live and study in a country that has so very few similarities to our own; like the fact that the men on the Walk/Don't Walk signs wear hats, and absolutely everyone here knows their blood type, while asking others about it is as common as "What is your star sign?" It really is the little things like this that make an experience such as this so very special. But it is also fabulous to learn that some things are universal, like missing that one place that will always be home.

Jess Howard by email

## CLYDE & OCKER



"No internet for me, Ock. Heavy breathing's bad enough, without viruses coming through the phone!"



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## THE 'EDUCATION' OF PHIL HONEYWOOD

## Resisting the advance of the white-shoe brigade

I WON the seat of Warrandyte from the Labor government of the time, and since then I have been educated by my electorate to understand that one model does not fit all when it comes to the planning needs of individual communities throughout the state. That approach has been the philosophy that has guided me in my last 12 years as member for the wonderful electorate of Warrandyte.

The new government is intent on putting its stamp on the planning laws and regulations that affect the needs and aspirations of individual communities across Victoria.

The Warrandyte electorate is unusual in that it has a state park that stretches along the Yarra River. It also has a buffer zone, called a Green Wedge. I am proud that it was a Liberal government under the premiership of Sir Rupert Hamer that established that buffer zone, where the subdivision or excision of housing allotments of less than 20 acres is not allowed. The members of the Warrandyte community enjoy a wonderful lifestyle, and parents with young children who in many cases could afford to live in the so-called more salubrious inner suburbs choose to relocate their families to Warrandyte.

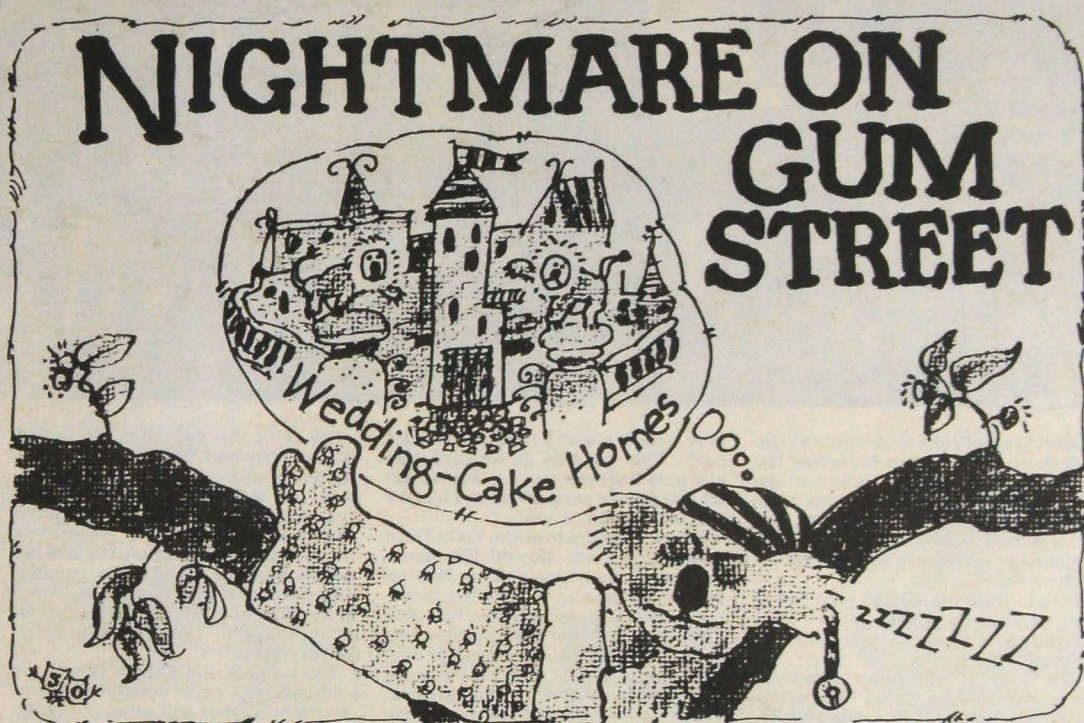
The house will be aware of certain other locations in which all the trees have been demolished so wedding-cake homes can be erected—but only to show how wealthy the owners are. Rather than having the mandatory tennis court because it increases the value of the property—even though nobody in the family actually plays tennis—Warrandyte residents camouflage their homes, tending to hide them in bushland settings.

That is not to say that over the years I have not received a few challenges from certain members of the white-shoe brigade who want to march over the hillsides to ensure the Templestowe effect is imposed and translated onto the good citizens of Warrandyte—and we will not talk about having rampant lions at the gates!

Apart from the buffer zone of 20-acre allotments that cannot be subdivided, Warrandyte is the only township in Victoria that does not permit the dual occupancy of its urban residential allotments. I fought

SO —!

By SYD &amp; ONA



Edited extracts from a speech by PHIL HONEYWOOD in the Legislative Assembly of the Victorian parliament on May 10.

for that, which helped me win the only seat the Liberal Party won from the Cain government at the 1988 election. The provision to prevent dual occupancy in Warrandyte was eventually enshrined in regulations.

The attempt to have one model fit all, to have streamlined procedures and to be predictable on planning matters does not necessarily mean the square peg will fit the round hole, whichever government is in power.

On the one hand, in my community the former minister for planning, Rob Maclellan, was amenable to ensuring that the Warrandyte township was protected from dual occupancy, and I commended him for

that initiative. On the other hand, I believe one of the new proposals that fitted into the non-urban zone is now appropriate for my Green Wedge community. That loophole permits more than one dwelling to be erected on a block of less than 20 acres. Some allotments in the area comprise only 5 or 10 acres due to historical anomalies; nonetheless, my community can see the danger in allowing more than one home to be constructed on a non-urban rural allotment.

Although it could be nice for a member of the older generation to have his or her children build another home on the property so the family could support each other and

enjoy almost commune-like living, what happens if a family feud occurs down the track? What happens if there is a fall-out and due to financial stringencies pressure is applied to the local council to allow the property to be subdivided on compassionate grounds?

I have never believed planning should be subject to individual circumstances. Planning should be an intergenerational thing. We are only the custodians of the land for the next generation. We should not be subject to the whims of others just because somebody may have a health problem. The tendency to allow changes to planning laws on so-called compassionate grounds is creeping into the system. That is not a legitimate reason to change land uses.

As I said, my community has been protected by governments from both sides of politics. I have had discussions with the Minister for Plan-

ning to try to ensure that the special character of Warrandyte is enshrined in legislation for all time so that future generations will be able to enjoy its wonderful environment. It is an historic village, being the site of the first gold discovery in Victoria. It still has its old gold mine shafts.

Warrandyte, which is located in a valley that has only one road in and one road out, is prone to bushfires. The community has had to contend with a number of safety issues. The area has steep allotments with poor soil quality, which often means that the installation of sewerage presents major challenges. For all those reasons, we need to ensure our planning laws are flexible enough to accommodate the needs and aspirations of communities such as mine.

I now call formally on the minister to ensure that the proposed Manningham planning scheme, which I understand is currently before him and which he has not yet signed because he wants to give it appropriate consideration, will not permit people to build more than one home on a non-urban allotment. I hope we can come back to the single-dwelling planning laws to ensure comprehensible planning for the future. Ample precedent exists for special consideration for communities such as those in my electorate. I hope the needs of communities in my electorate and the electorates of other honourable members who have spoken on their behalf this evening will be taken into account.

It is important in communities like mine to resist homes being painted purple or yellow, colours that may be suitable for inner city suburbs but are not suitable for Warrandyte, where the streetscape should have a character appropriate to its heritage environment. Warrandyte does not need homes that look like pink palaces or yellow perils. It is appropriate in certain communities, while avoiding over-intrusion into people's lifestyles and their right to enjoy the freedom of property ownership, to apply regulations and restrictions on the colour and design of homes.

The same applies to building envelopes, tree coverage and the like, according to the heritage value of the area.

## Centre closes at Wonga Park

The Wongaroo Child Care Centre at Wonga Park has closed, due to lack of enrolments.

According to Manningham mayor, Cr Lionel Allemand, Wonga Park "voted with its feet".

However, Manningham council has assured residents that the facility on Old Yarra Road will not be lost to the community.

A special general meeting was held last August to determine the future of the centre. A large number of community members were present and voted to increase their support to the centre in order for it to remain open.

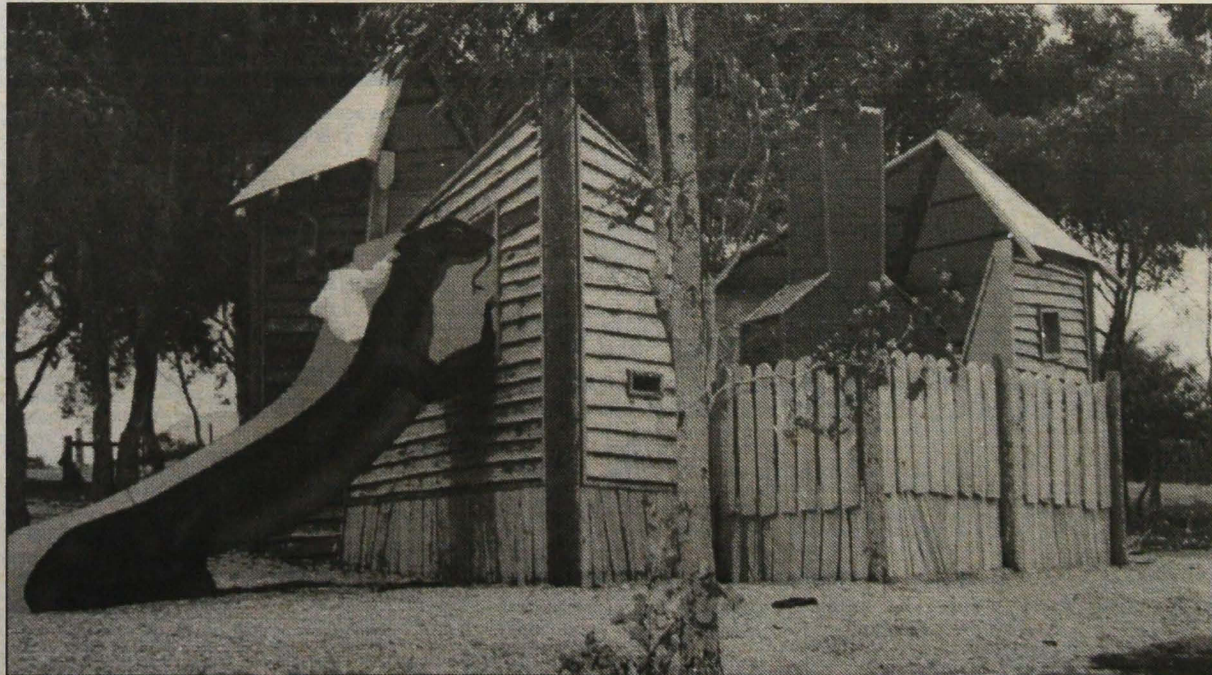
Unfortunately, this commitment did not transfer into confirmed enrolments of children in 2000 and the child care centre has been left with no option but to close.

Cr Lionel Allemand told the *Diary* that the loss of the child care centre is unfortunate for the Wonga Park community.

"It is sad to see the child care centre close but the community have voted with their feet," he said. "At the meeting last year, there was great enthusiasm for retaining the service but that support has waned. Obviously the local community cannot generate the demand necessary to keep the centre viable."

Cr Allemand said the building is council-owned and is a wonderful community asset that will not be lost.

"As part of the infrastructure asset refurbishment strategy, council is investigating the future use of all facilities. The Wonga Park facility will be given the highest priority," he said.



Their childcare centre has closed, but Wonga Park kids have still got the Gooligulch adventure playground.



# Striding out together, through bleak and bitter weather

Words and picture by FIA CLENDINNEN

It was a day not fit for man nor beast. The temperature was less than seven degrees and dark, threatening clouds filled the sky. Yet around 500 people assembled at Alistair Knox Park in Eltham on the last Sunday in May. They faced the rain and the wind, sharp as scissors, to attend Striding for Reconciliation, an event staged by Nillumbik Shire Council.

"We claim to be a caring community and we are, as this event shows," Nillumbik councillor Sigmund Jorgensen told the crowd. He said the fact that so many local residents were willing to leave their cosy living rooms to show their support for reconciliation made him feel, "proud to be Australian and proud to be among people who care".

The day marked the culmination of a 10-year process of reconciliation, celebrated in different ways by communities all over the country. In Sydney, at what was probably the biggest march in the history of Australia, a crowd of over 150,000 walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge to commemorate Corroboree 2000. Nillumbik mayor Margaret Jennings was among them.



After symbolically sharing out single leaves from eucalyptus branches, the Eltham procession marched down Main Street. The gathering was originally planned for Wingrove Park, but after some frantic last-minute reorganising, everyone was led to the Eltham Hotel.

People were grateful to step out of the weather into the comfort of a heated room where they could listen to speakers.

Jim Wandin, Wurundjeri headman and elder, said he hadn't believed so many people would attend Striding for Reconciliation. "All the little kids are

here, too. It's wonderful," Mr Wandin said. "This can only go forward, this can only help our people. When I see all you people supporting us I feel we will be a nation of one."

Wayne Atkinson from the Yorta Yorta people also spoke. He said that events such as these were a clear indication reconciliation was a "people's movement that was getting stronger and stronger". He said the "journey has begun" and now indigenous and non-indigenous people could go forward together to achieve the "ultimate goal of justice, equality and self-determination for indigenous people".

Following the speeches the crowd was entertained by indigenous performers. Before picking up his instrument one of the musicians announced that when he read "all the negative things in the paper" he sometimes doubted how much support he and his people had out in the wider community. But he said the size of the crowd at the Nillumbik Striding for Reconciliation made him "proud to be an indigenous Australian".

The room at the Eltham Hotel was comfortable. People bought chips and drinks at the bar and relaxed as they listened to the music. Kutcha Edwards

sang a selection from his forthcoming CD Cooina. One song—a ballad about his personal experiences as one of the Stolen Generation—came straight from the heart. But there was healing in the music and Kutcha encouraged everyone to sing along with him.

The reconciliation process is not easy. There have been setbacks along the way and painful truths have been uncovered, causing distress to both indigenous and non-indigenous Australians. But goodwill and community spirit can be powerful forces. It was an unseasonably cold day but many people went home feeling warm inside.



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## Park Orchards folk rampant over freeway plans

Park Orchards residents are growing increasingly alarmed at the prospect of heavy traffic being funneled through their township and residential areas if on-off ramps, as part of the Eastern Freeway extension, are constructed onto Park Road.

The Park Orchards Ratepayers Association has for many years been leading a campaign to oppose traffic ramps at Park Road, believing such a measure would only encourage commuter traffic from Lilydale, Mooroolbark, Croydon and Ringwood areas to use Park Road as a short-cut onto, or off, the freeway.

According to Warrandyte MP, Phil Honeywood, Manningham council, in its recent submission to VicRoads on the Eastern Freeway extension, has provided "in principle support for on and off ramps to be constructed at the intersection of Park Road and the freeway".

"Park Orchards is a quiet suburb," Mr Honeywood said, "which, over a period of time, has built its shopping village, primary school, kindergarten and neighbourhood house, all abutting Park Road.

"This road was never intended to be a major arterial road. In fact, it was constructed as a service road for Park Orchards families, hence its many twists and turns. It is totally inappropriate for large volumes of traffic to be encouraged to use it as a through road, into and out of the city.

"The Bracks government is currently considering four options for the route of the Eastern Freeway extension from Springvale Road to Ringwood. Only one of the options indicates no ramps at the Park Road intersection."

At a meeting of the Park Orchards Ratepayers Association earlier this year, 160 residents voted unanimously to support the option that provided for no ramps at Park Road.

"I am appalled that Manningham council chose to ignore the views of Park Orchards residents in formulating council's submission to VicRoads," Mr Honeywood said.

"Unity on such a major issue for our local community provides political strength. If the Bracks government decides to proceed with the ramps on Park Road, they can now cite the local council's own submission as testimony to community support for the ramps."

Mr Honeywood believes Park Orchards residents "have been sold-out by certain councillors on this issue. The interests of a very small vocal group in Donvale, who want easier access to the freeway, via the ramps, have obviously taken precedence over the strong views of virtually all Park Orchards residents."

# Green force moves in

Words by JENNY BROWN  
Pictures by JAN TINDALE

They're going to be fighting in the gullies, on the embankments and along the creeks and river beds.

Their enemy is insidious: weeds, choking, climbing garden escape plants, erosion and land degradation.

They are young and strong but are armed only with mattocks, spades, garden gloves and enthusiasm. Yet, in the battle to restore Warrandyte's environment they surely represent the arrival of the cavalry.

They are the Green Corps and they have come to town.

Over the next six months, 10 members of this unique environmental land army should make some big changes to our local landscape for they are scheduled to work on restoring about 30 degraded sites along the Yarra River, and along the Watsons Creek-Kinglake Wildlife Corridor which has been designated by Nillumbik shire as one of its key environmental projects.

The recruits are aged between 17 and 20 and are more correctly "trainees" who have volunteered for selection to the Green Corps.

This federally funded initiative provides a paying wage and short-term practical education and training in environmental management for young people who might otherwise be unemployed.

In return, the corps kids provide the much-needed manpower for major environmental problems, which can be on public or private land.

In the corps's philosophy there is no discrimination about whose side of the fence the weeds are growing because, as they see it, "the environment is everywhere".

Among the 10 who have been assigned to Warrandyte to work in partnership with local Landcare groups, with the State Park and with the Nillumbik shire, are several locals: Liz Coonan, who attended Warrandyte's Steiner School and Michael Burrows from Warrandyte South.

Michael says that he's been applying to join the corps for two years since he left Warrandyte High. When he was finally accepted and found out the first

assignment was in his own backyard, he said, "I was pretty happy".

The group supervisor, David Robinson, a former teacher and sports manager, who has been working with the corps around Australia for four years, transferred from Perth, specifically to work on the Warrandyte program.

He has great hopes that his charges will, by the end of their tenure, not only have a TAFE certificate in land conservation and restoration, but be inspired enough to take their careers in the environment further.

At the recent launch of the project, which was attended by Fran Bailey, federal MP for McEwen, Robinson explained that in the six years that the Green Corps has been operating around Australia, some 70 per cent of trainees have gone on to higher land management

studies, or have gained permanent employment in the sector.

"By the end of 2002," he said, about 10,000 young people will have taken part in one of the 1000 projects that have been or will be tackled by Green Corps. A whole stack of people doing something right."

Osborne Peninsula Landcare coordinator Margaret Burke, one of the project partners, acknowledged at the launch that the work to be done would offer no cushy ride for the faint-hearted.

"There will be times when they will be working at revolting tasks in very difficult terrain.

"But they will be making a huge difference.

"Amazing changes will take place and I'm very sure that these young people will become very close to all our hearts."



## Slow road to Templestowe

By RACHEL BAKER

Speedy Warrandyteans will have to curb their impatience, following a reduction in the speed limit along Warrandyte Road.

The stretch from Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte, to Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe, was reduced from 80 to 70kmh in early May. Manningham council applied to VicRoads for the change last February.

"VicRoads considered the reduction in the speed limit appropriate, due to the accident record along the route," spokesperson Helen Preston, told the *Diary*.

Initially the change was going to apply to the area between Taroona Avenue and Templestowe Drive, but VicRoads received requests that the limit be reduced all the way to Fitzsimons Lane.

A Manningham council spokesperson said that "Warrandyte Road exhibits poor vertical and horizontal geography and has a higher than average accident history."

"Federal Blackspot funding has recently been allocated to address two sections of Warrandyte Road where accident history is at its worst—the

stretch between Andersons Creek Road and Blackburn Road and the Andersons Creek Road intersection," the spokesperson said.

Warrandyte High School ad-joins Warrandyte Road, generating "significant pedestrian and local vehicle traffic during peak periods".

"The speed signage was also inconsistent," the spokesperson said. Vehicles travelling in a westerly direction between Taroona Avenue and Mahoneys Court faced 70kmh signs, whilst those travelling east in the same section faced 80kmh signs.

"Accordingly, it was consid-

ered that the lowering of the speed limit on this section of Warrandyte Road was warranted."

Warrandyte police support the change.

"If it's going to assist in the reduction of accidents then I think it's a wonderful idea," Sgt Keith Walker said.

## Permits needed for TV dishes

Residents installing satellite dishes are warned that a council planning permit may be required.

Manningham council planning controls require residents to obtain a planning permit for the erection and installation of satellite dishes that exceed 1.2 metres in diameter.

"Some companies installing satellite dishes are not properly informing residents of the need to apply for a planning permit," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*. "The result of such an oversight can be very costly to residents."

Objections to the installation, and the refusal by council to grant a retrospective permit, could require the satellite dish to be removed from the property or relocated at significant cost to the resident.

Residents contemplating purchasing a satellite dish are urged to contact Manningham's statutory planning unit on 9840 9333, before proceeding with installation.

## Paintings cross all boundaries

A painting by Warrandyte High School student Melinda Eldrige, *How A Caterpillar Works*, was chosen by Moji High School, Japan, as the finest painting in their international exhibition.

Moji is situated on the northern tip of Kyushu, the southern island of Japan, and has many connections with Melbourne. The Moji railway station is sister station to Flinders Street.

Warrandyte High School and Moji High School select paintings from years 10 and 11 for an "art exchange". The program has been running yearly since Moji's

senior English teacher, Hideki Hirai, was at Warrandyte in 1998. Melinda's painting, which featured in a TV news broadcast in Japan, is now on permanent display in Moji High School.

"Following the Warrandyte school's Japanese tour earlier this year, LOTE coordinator, Ann Adams, continued on to visit Moji High School," a spokesperson said. "She met the staff and students and presented a prize to Hiroyuki Shimada, whose painting, *Jenai*, is now on display at Warrandyte High School."

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"I always drive slowly, Ock. Me brakes don't work!"





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# Margory finds them a home

By **KARA WILLIAMS**

Set up in 1996, the Warrandyte Housing and Support Service is an agency that helps to find rental property for low-income families with children. Run by a committee of eight volunteers, the service's main aim is to ensure that "children are safe and properly cared for".

The Warrandyte Housing Service currently manages 42 transitional houses, whose occupants are permitted to stay for a period of 13 weeks. With houses widely located, from Hawthorn and Healesville to Monash, the housing service helps a wide range of families.

"We mainly provide houses for sole parents, and sometimes families," volunteer helper Margory Lapworth (pictured) said. "We do not house people without children."

But can anyone apply for a house? The Warrandyte Housing and Support Service concentrates on helping low-income families. Those who are on a pension, or earn less than \$25,000 a year. "There are no other criteria," Mrs Lapworth said. "We are non-judgemental, and no matter what the problems are, that won't deter us from helping them."

The office receives \$11,000 a year from the Department of Justice for emergency relief. Along with donations from the Warrandyte Market Committee, Rotary and a various community businesses, the service spends over \$15,000 a year. Money goes towards housing assistance and accommodation in caravan parks and the occasional hotel room for people

without a home.

"We pay people's bills if they're in dire straits," Mrs Lapworth said, "and in certain cases help out with school fees." While the service maintains many of the houses, others are refurbished with donations from the community, including furniture and other "pre-loved" items.

The housing service is also responsible for the food bank, located at the Warrandyte IGA Supermarket, supplying food parcels for low-income families. Food is also supplied on a weekly basis from the Anderson's Creek church.

"The Warrandyte Lions club has just come on the scene to assist us with food," Margory said. "It's a great relief, because it has been so sparse." As well as weekly food parcels, the service organises hampers and toys for children at Christmas time. Last year, with the assistance of the community and the "Well-wishers Club", who donated presents valued at \$2000, the Warrandyte Housing and Support Service supplied more than 200 children with toys.

The support group not only runs an advocacy service for people who are staying in their houses, but also assists anyone who needs guidance.

"We deal with drug addicts, alcoholics and anyone who needs someone to listen," Mrs Lapworth said. "To be a volunteer, you must be able to deal with anything!"

Anyone interested in helping with this much-needed volunteer work can phone Margory on 9844 4495.

# Local couple earn \$85,000 per annum tax free

*Financial Planning Strategy  
No. 42*

When Peter and Kathleen moved to Warrandyte 12 years ago, their long term plan in retirement was to sell their publishing business and pursue their passion of travel in Italy and France.

Last year they sold their business for \$400,000 and their rental property which they purchased in 1992 or \$140,000 was sold for \$295,000. With the right advice they managed not to pay any capital gains tax.

The proceeds together with their superannuation benefits provide an annual income of \$85,000 tax free. Peter and Kathleen now spend three months a year overseas.

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# 2001: an odyssey

By RACHEL BAKER

**P**RINCE said we would be partying like it was 1999, but for Warrandyte, the big year will be 2001, as we celebrate the centenary of federation and the sesquicentenary of gold discovery in Warrandyte.

"Both of these events were very important in shaping Warrandyte and Australia as a whole," Gina Bevan Jones, secretary of the Warrandyte Historical Society, said. The 100 year anniversary of federation and the 150 year anniversary of gold (sesqui means one and a half) will be commemorated in several ways.

One idea, Connexus, will be an archway built over Warrandyte Bridge. It will be a collage of panels from local artists and groups, who will choose a theme and decorate their piece. It will be assembled for two months in early 2001, then dismantled.

Another proposal is a series of message posts, which will be placed at Warrandyte's various entry points. They will represent historical elements of Warrandyte and Australia and will be painted by young people.

Edward Car, artistic co-ordinator of the project, told the *Diary* that elderly citizens, the historical society and the Aboriginal group, Coolum Nation, will recall the history, "and young Warrandyteans—from schools and groups—will select the parts they find significant, then decorate the posts accordingly".

There will be about 70 posts, placed in clusters in locations like the northern side of the bridge, and the Jumping Creek Road, Tindals Road, and Harris Gully Road intersections.

"They will herald the fact that you are going into a community," Mr Car said.

A third idea is a sound and light show. In the tradition of such shows in Warrandyte, the show will be performed over the river. This one will revolve around the theme "from chaos to the cosmos".

According to Glen Jameson, production

manager for the light and sound show, "there are a lot of negative elements to federation, like the White Australia policy."

To be produced by Hugh McSpeddon, the show will reflect various phases of our history: the prehistoric featureless landscape, Aboriginal occupation, gold discovery, European pioneering, and today, "a community searching for a sustainable lifestyle that respects the land and its values," Glen said.

The show will include 100 images (symbolising 100 years of federation) of significant events and scenes, and 100 images of people and groups in Warrandyte's history. There will be written messages and music from local artists. The event would be recorded on video, then used as a resource by schools and libraries, and perhaps be available in the video shop.

Glen and Hugh have applied for a \$20,000 government grant.

"The show will be like previous ones, but should be far bigger, if we get the funding," Glen said.

Our Nation On Parade will take place in the Melbourne CBD next year, and the festival committee hopes to enter. The parade will include community groups from around Victoria; it will recapture the celebration of federation in 1901 and reflect Australian history since 1901.

All of these events are dependent on government funding. The festival committee, elderly citizens, the youth centre, and the light show team have applied to the Federation Grants Scheme.

The historical society will hold its own commemorations. They plan to renovate the existing gold display in the museum, show films about gold discovery and federation, and run gold tours through the town. "There are lots of things in the pipeline but nothing's certain at this stage," Gina Bevan Jones said.

The schools are developing their own programs.

Warrandyte High School will run special

writing and history programs for students. They will add federation and gold discovery sections to their websites, and may develop a new website to commemorate the anniversaries.

Anderson's Creek Primary School will take an historical focus for the year. The school's principal, Des McKenzie, thinks Australia does not pay enough heed to its past. He said his school would be making an effort to put history back on its agenda.

Warrandyte Primary School, and the other schools, will be involved in Connexus and the message posts. "The message posts stem from an old tradition of marking boundaries in England and early colonial Australia, and in Aboriginal times," Edward Car said.

"The posts will bring a characteristically indigenous practice to Warrandyte—a place with a strong Aboriginal heritage. About 30cm wide and one to two metres high, the posts will last at least 40 years and will "establish a visual representation of the boundaries of Warrandyte's identity".

"It's a community exercise that develops the identity of Warrandyte; if you have a strong community, issues like dual occupancy, ring roads, and further encroachment of suburban values can be hedged against," he said.

Connexus, will "offer a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the centenary of federation as it has affected our local community," a festival committee spokesperson said. The committee acknowledged that the archway could be "somewhat of an intrusion" into Warrandyte's bush environment, but said it was a deliberate one that was designed to "attract attention and communicate its message of 'togetherness'".

Comprising more than 200 panels, "the symbolism of each will be connected—each panel will have an exit and entry point, and joining them up will be a golden thread", Jock McNeish, assistant to the project, said.

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Applications close 30 June 2000 and the winner will be announced in March 2001, during the Warrandyte Festival.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from Information Warrandyte in the community centre or by writing to:

Warrandyte Youth Arts Award  
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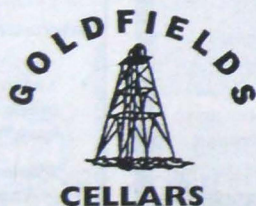
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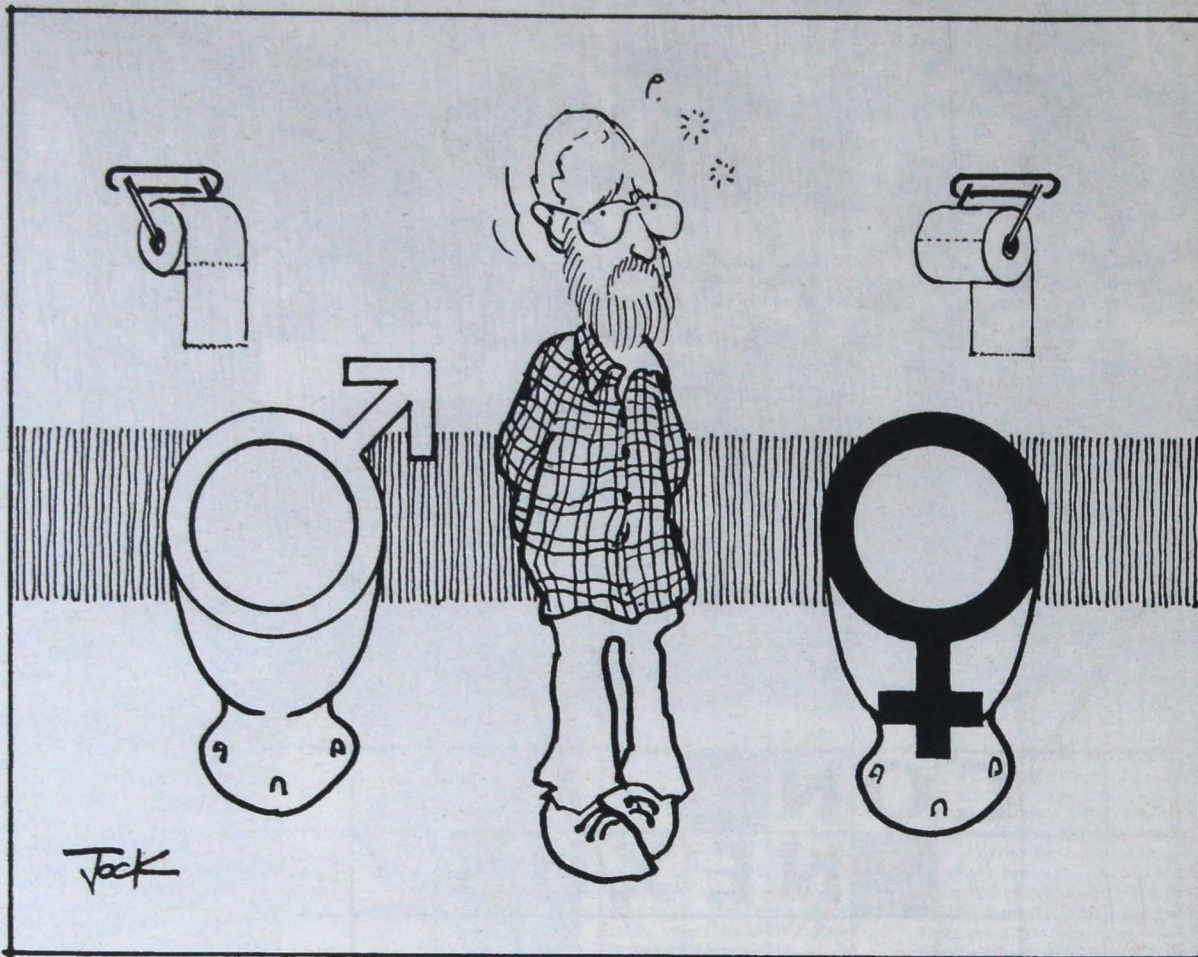


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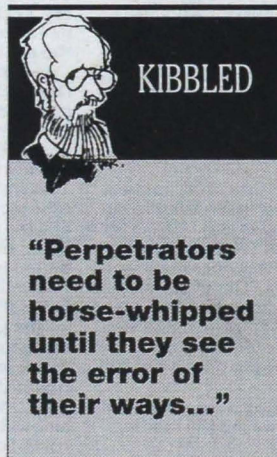


# Lavatory humour, or the terrors of toilet training

**G**IVEN the catalogue of things that can go wrong with relationships, it seems a miracle that Herself and I have managed to stay together as long as we have. And I'm not talking about the universal niggles, such as different religions or widely divergent educational and life experiences that can make existing together problematic. I'm talking about the really significant problems that can mean the difference between an harmonious or an angst-ridden cohabitation.

Take, for instance, toilet rolls. Now the issue can be as minor as colour. In earlier times Herself and I had animated discussions about the need for colour coordination. In my ignorance I laboured under the misconception that, given the end result of the product, the colour of the toilet paper was irrelevant.

Also, for years, I agonised about why women need to go the toilet in pairs. I'd considered safety, the need to swap recipes and the chance to agree upon the next discussion agenda before the next toilet visit. What I failed to understand was that the dual reconnaissance was to do with interior decorating. Now that the reason is known it makes understandable all those times that two women have been seen leaving a toilet with eyes raised and with fingers lightly pressed over their respective noses. Such agony could not continue



**"Perpetrators need to be horse-whipped until they see the error of their ways..."**

unresolved.

Hence the infiltration of interior decorators onto the boards of toilet paper manufacturers. After that, the introduction of designer toilet rolls was a laid down misery. And I decided that that battle wasn't worth fighting any more because there are other more significant battles that must be won—still in the toilet.

If a marriage is to founder on things toilet, then there are two stumbling posts. One is to do with the orientation of toilet seats and the other with whether the toilet roll unravels forwards or backwards.

I have long been aware that the battle about leaving the toilet seat up or down is as old as

the length of time we've had porcelain in the littlest room. This has been an honourable battle, with the rules of engagement fully understood by both genders.

For one party, the argument runs that the "down" position is both discreet and natural, and the "up" position is only for temporary use by an itinerant male who has been graciously granted access to her toilet. To leave the seat up, is as bad as neglecting to send a thank you letter after receiving birthday presents. Basically, there is no discussion. Perpetrators need to be horsewhipped until they see the error of their ways. Or "go" outside with the rest of the animals.

The counter-attack usually runs along the lines that leaving the seat up is an act of consideration and common sense. To raise the seat requires more effort than lowering, as lowering is made easier because of gravity. In addition, it is more logical to leave it up, because, to leave it down assumes that the next user will want to sit. If we were to make such rash assumptions about the rest of our life, there would be no end to the troubles we would get ourselves into. We might wash dishes after using them or even pick up our clothes from the bedroom floor.

The second stumbling block along the matrimonial path involves the toilet roll. Nowadays, with few men having tailor-made suits, the question about

whether one dresses to the left or right is irrelevant. However, we still have toilet rolls and there is a logic about the way they should be replaced in the toilet roll holder. In our family, there is a certain, unnamed person, who doesn't know the correct way to install a toilet roll.

If the roll is placed with the roll facing the wall there are problems. The first is the difficulty of grasping the paper. As the sheets hang down the wall, it is difficult to grab them easily. Added to this is the fact that fingers and nails are forced to scrape the paintwork in a desperate effort to get some paper and leave, so that the person thumping and pleading at the door can have access. In the desperation of the time, the second problem occurs.

As one hurries to pull down sufficient leaves, then tear them off, invariably the tear occurs where the roll touches the wall. This, of course, is completely out of sight for the next seated patron. However, if the roll is installed with the leaves facing into the room, all problems are solved. The commencement of the roll is obvious and both the pulling and tearing of the desired length are executed with ease and dignity, thanks to calm, rational, male logic.

So, as you can see, after 33 years, I've finally discovered that marital harmony is all about ins and outs and ups and downs.

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# Feathered friends sharing a lonely Londoner's life

**I**n a pair of shabby slippers, bagging at the sides, she shuffles across the floor to the tall sash window. From the pocket of her faded pink chenille dressing gown she retrieves a handful of stale bread crusts. Crumbling them in her fingertips, she pushes the morsels through the opening at the base of the window onto the narrow ledge, filthy with years of bird droppings and London grime.

Within minutes the birds arrive, cooing gently. They peck eagerly at her paltry offerings. She stands and watches, longing to slide her hand under the sash window and stroke the pigeons' smooth, smoky-grey plumage. But she knows that if she does, the birds will only fly away. Instead, she pulls her dressing gown closer and, wrapped in her own arms, hugs herself for comfort.

The eyes of the sick woman soften with tenderness. She is aloof. Withdrawn, almost. Reluctant to join in with the other patients' conversation and laughter. They, and the nurses, find her difficult to communicate with. But she talks to the birds. In soothing, musical tones that mimic their cooing, she talks to the pigeons.

I can picture her still, sometimes—at the window, with the birds. But I don't remember her name. It was over 30 years ago. I was a young nurse. Too young to fully comprehend the feelings of a sick woman confined to an antiquated building, in a barren metropolis—cold, ill and alone.

If I could stand beside her now, I would tell her I understand her need to reach out,

## NATURE

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

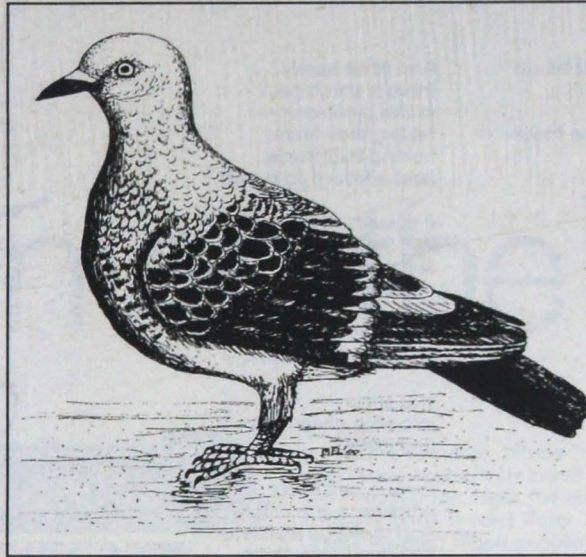
connect and draw strength from nature, to seek solace from another species when her own had let her down so badly.

London does not have a lot of wildlife, but its pigeons are well known. In Trafalgar Square they are as much a tourist attraction as Nelson's Column itself. The ancestor of these street-wise pigeons is the wild rock dove that lived on the craggy coastal cliffs of the British Isles and nested alongside kittiwakes and shags—hence their fondness for window ledges and other pseudo cliffs.

Over the years various strains of the pigeon have been artificially bred for different purposes: racing, homing, message-carrying, eating and obscure physical characteristics. The genetically tampered birds have since inter-bred with wild species, resulting in a huge variation of colour and form.

While these feral city pigeons do occur in Warrandyte, it is the spotted turtle dove which is the more common immigrant. This pretty bird with its distinctive white-spotted, black collar on the back of the neck, was released in Melbourne in the 1860s and is now naturalised in south-eastern Australia. The bulk of its diet is grass seed of which there is an abundant supply in these temperate climes.

Most pigeons are granivorous (seed-eaters) or frugivorous (fruit-eaters). Our native pi-



geons are no exception.

Warrandyte has two native species of pigeon—the common bronzewing and the brush bronzewing. Both are more reclusive than the introduced species, preferring the cover of native forest to the exposure of human habitation. They spend much of their time on the ground, even nesting under branches or in low shrubs and are more often heard than seen. The deep, resonant, monotonous call of the common bronzewing is the daytime equivalent of the nocturnal tawny frogmouth's "oom".

I lived in London for almost six years. Street pigeons were just part of the scene. When you are in your late teens and

early 20s, the search for inner peace and calm acceptance, by whatever means, is not high on the agenda. I was too busy working shifts on the wards and having fun—it was the Swinging 60s after all! Besides, I could always escape to the country on my days off, although my full appreciation of the natural environment had not yet developed.

Those who say wisdom comes with age are not wrong. Perhaps that is why, now, I look back on certain events in my early life and view them with such uncluttered clarity. It is one thing to give care and comfort to a sick patient. To share a kindred spirit is something else; something special.

# Character-building on two wheels

**T**EN o'clock Sunday morning, and there was mutiny on the Charles Grimes Bridge halfway through our planned bike ride; one teenager suddenly spotted Jeff's Shed ("Bracks' Shack" just hasn't got the same ring to it), realised where he was, and without further ado, veered sharply off course towards Southbank. Determinedly hunched shoulders said it all: "Hot chocolate, NOW!" There was no choice but to follow. So much for morning tea in Williamstown.

I could hardly blame him. The temperature hadn't risen above five degrees since we'd started out, and, according to the weather bureau, the gusty headwinds we'd been battling had reached speeds of 80 kph. Then, on the Charles Grimes Bridge, raindrops grew seriously large and frequent. It wasn't really the moment for a family conference.

Unlike walking, where one keeps warm whilst generating a headwind of no more than about 7 kph, energetic cycling in cold weather is particularly bad news for the ears, toes and fingers. It's fascinating to watch exposed skin trying to turn red and blue at the same time.



By **MARILYN MOORE**

This particular route, which we'd discovered the week before under much sunnier skies, is truly one of Melbourne's highlights.

Called the Capital City Trail, it circles the city in a flat 30-kilometre loop incorporating parts of the Yarra Trail, Merri Creek Trail, the old inner circle rail route, Moonee Ponds Creek and Footscray Road to Southbank. You get all the best views of the city, as well as visiting many favourite places.

The route along the Yarra is exciting in any weather. Every Sunday, thousands of people run, ride or wander, chatting along the trail to Southbank, while others row or exercise their dogs. Along the way, barbecues, boat landings, and features like Collingwood

Children's Farm, Dight's Falls and nearby Fairfield Boat-house provide much to look at.

Past Dight's Falls, the trail meanders through Merri Creek's sheer basalt gorge, passes through a well-preserved slice of Victoriana in North Carlton, then climbs the hill at Royal Park to the rear of the zoo. The gibbons' early-morning screeching adds an exotic dimension to the surrounding golf course.

A more unusual ride is the new section of bike path which follows Moonee Ponds Creek under the Western Link. The underbelly of the freeway reflected in the still creek water is a photographer's dream, flecked with the occasional white prowling egret, or the patient grey shadow of a motionless heron. Trains abound, and this is the only place I've ever had a steam train thunder only centimetres above my head. Another great camera angle. (Ah, the things you spot when you haven't got your gun!)

Next stop, Victoria Dock. How could I live so long in Melbourne and never have been there? Home of the Alma Doepfel, the steam tug Wattle, and dozens of other interest-

ing-looking vessels, it's an artist's paradise. On the northernmost arm of the wharf, a comical metal statue stands admiring the view across the water to the Bolte Bridge; the sculpture is untitled, but the big round head and little round sticking-out ears provide a fairly generous clue. Hopefully, proposed developments won't overwhelm this little corner of the river, quietly lapping against weathered wharves.

Lots of Warrandytians stay home on Sundays, to dodge the tourists clogging up the bakery and the car parking spots outside the milk bar. But if any of you feel like checking out someone else's stretch of Yarra, the Capital City Trail is a great place to start.

By the way, the mutineer of Charles Grimes Bridge wins no awards for survival against the odds. That trophy will go to his younger sister, if she ever returns from spending what's been billed as the coldest week for 50 years, sleeping out rough on an icy gale-ravaged school "outdoor experience". Poor baby! Never mind, there'll be a roaring fire, hot bath, sizzling roast and a freshly-made bed ready at the end of it all. Home sweet home.

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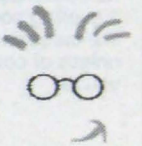
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# Envy and emptiness

Sometimes I envy DINKS\*

All that money  
All that time  
All to yourself

All that money not for  
Gameboys and Barbies  
Nikes, dentists  
and "voluntary  
school contributions"

but for you to spend on  
crystal glasses  
and live-in help  
Italian restaurants  
and expensive  
first-hand furniture

All that money  
All that time  
All to yourself

All that time not for  
canteen duty, band practice  
and endless sports games  
fuming at those cars which trumpet  
their drivers' willing status  
as "mum's taxi"

but for you to find  
fun, adventure  
Travelling south for the winter  
like carefree migratory birds  
unless of course  
you ski

Then it's chalets in Switzerland  
a sojourn in France  
and at home  
there's the "shack" in the moun-  
tains  
or by the sea  
when it all gets too hard

But the down side  
of being a DINK  
is No Kids  
and foregoing  
those pleasures  
without price tags

The constant wonder  
of their creation  
from the time  
you breathed as one  
till the time  
you part as two

And in creating them  
they create you  
They make you magic  
Give you the power  
to sing away monsters—  
kiss away hurts

Money can't bring that love  
So strong it can conquer  
fear and despair  
frustration, exhaustion  
(and many times has to)

And while surely  
there is much pain  
in this symbiosis—  
feeling their fears,  
hurting their hurts  
(and a few of your own)

It is such a love  
that when our DINKS  
are sipping a good vintage  
on some global balcony  
and you're in the kitchen  
and tales of homework  
and best friends lost—

you smile  
into your cheap red  
and think

Envy is one thing  
emptiness is another  
And then you realise  
you don't envy them  
at all

KAREN THROSSELL

\*DINKS: Double Income, No Kids



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Please phone Greg Lawrence on 9844 2498 or Jock Macneish on 9844 4164 for application forms.

Donations may be sent to the Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Fund, PO Box 150, Warrandyte, Vic 3113. Cheques can be made payable to C. Lawrence & L. Mayall Memorial Fund.

## Katherine Byrne

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# Down on the farm

I WORKED damn hard down on the farm, picking peas, lumping cases, grubbing out trees and rocks. Dad would put a big case of lettuce on our shoulders and we would walk straight up that hill to the house from the southern flats over the escarpment, or maybe a sack of peas on our backs. Dad used to call me his "right hand man".

The Lands Department would come out and inspect every now and then, and one year presented Dad with an old draught horse, Prince. My father worked hard. He had a pushbike that he rode into Newmarket to pick up that draught horse, and rode the bike back leading the horse which trotted alongside him. We didn't get a tractor until the 1950s. For over 20 years we slogged at clearing the land with axes, picks, shovels and our own hands. The boys innovatively used a truck jack to wrench tree stumps from the ground.

As the eldest, I was responsible for getting the kids to school, and had to walk them over the Pound Bend hill and along the river track that later became Everard Drive, to the school on the hill.

I'll never forget, when I was about 16, All Quiet On The Western Front was being shown at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall. I asked if we could go and see it, and Dad said we could if we grubbed out that patch of tea-tree by the river. Joe and I grubbed it out, finished it by half-past six at night. We washed up and walked all the way to the hall.

There was a crowd of people waiting to get in. We waited and waited until someone got word through from Aggie Moore's shop that it WAS all quiet on the Western Front because the truck that was to bring all the equipment down to the Institute had broken down. We had to turn around and walk all the way back and give Dad back the money. That was it. We never went out anywhere.

Joe was very clever and had been recommended to go to Dandenong High School when we lived at Noble

## PIONEERING DAYS

By RUBY ('POPSY') BONE  
As told to GLEN JAMESON

Park. Whenever a teacher would ask a question, Joe's hand would always go up. Joe didn't get a Merit Certificate. Instead he went to high school while we were waiting to get the property, but left school to come to Warrandyte. He worked damned hard down at that property from the time he was 12. No wonder he died at 47. Dad used to say hard work never killed anyone, but by gee, I reckon it killed Joe.

Dad was taught by nuns in a German boarding school. When he arrived on board a navy ship in NSW, he deserted ship. He was a stoker on the ship, he had been terribly burnt. He didn't know a word of English, only that the blokes on board had taught him to shake hands and say "Bugger" instead of "Hello". He used to tell us you've got no idea the punches he got. Then he got a job riding horses on a big station—a jackaroo. When he got a few bob together he came down to Melbourne. Mum and Dad met at Mordialloc beach. Dad was brought up hard.

When he married Mum in the registry office in town, he got a job in the mines at Queenstown in Tasmania. In a blast at the mine, he got a lump of bluestone embedded in his nose and he carried that until the day he died. He sent for Mum who arrived, pregnant with me, to find that he was living in a one-room miner's camp. She was heart-broken, because Mum's family had a rather nice house in Noble Park.

Mum's name was Loveday Ellen Bunn. Dad never liked people coming into the house and calling Mum "love". So Dad started calling her Ruby. He rather liked it, so when I was born, it's the name I got. I hated my name so much. When I decided to start a bank account with threepence, the bank manager asked

my name. I replied, "Ruby Thoraworse luck-Wagner". He asked twice and I replied the same. When I got my bank book it read Ruby Thora Ursula Wagner. When people came around, they would call us Big Ruby and Little Ruby. He didn't like that so he nicknamed me Popsy. It's been that ever since.

We always sat around the kitchen table to eat in the same order: Joe, Norman and Walter sat on the stool along the wall. Dad sat at the head of the table. Mum faced the boys next to Dad and I sat next to her, then Betty. Roy was at the other end of the table. Betty wouldn't eat, she'd pretend to eat, put the vegetables in her mouth, then hide them under the chair. She was always thin. She got diptheria when she was a little kid, and whooping cough. It's a wonder she lived to 73.

We were not allowed to talk when we were children sitting around the table. Mum salted everything so you just sat and ate whatever was put in front of you. You didn't say anything. If you did speak, Dad would hit you on the top of the head with the handle of his knife.

The house we lived in down at Pound Bend was a two-roomed weatherboard, single gable house, with verandahs at the front and back. It was typical of the farmhouses that are now cherished as rural cottages.

The two rooms were about two and a half metres square. One was a kitchen and the other my parents' bedroom. My brothers slept on the back verandah and my sisters and I slept on the front verandah. Mum had opened out some chaff bags, sewed them together and Dad had nailed them to the verandah posts. This sectioned off corners of the verandahs was our bedrooms. In cold or frosty weather the roof would drip with condensation so we would put newspaper over our bedding. This kept us warmer, too.

After a few years, Mr Nuttall built on two more rooms so that the girls moved inside, but the boys stayed

out on the verandah until they got married and left the farm. The other new room was a living room.

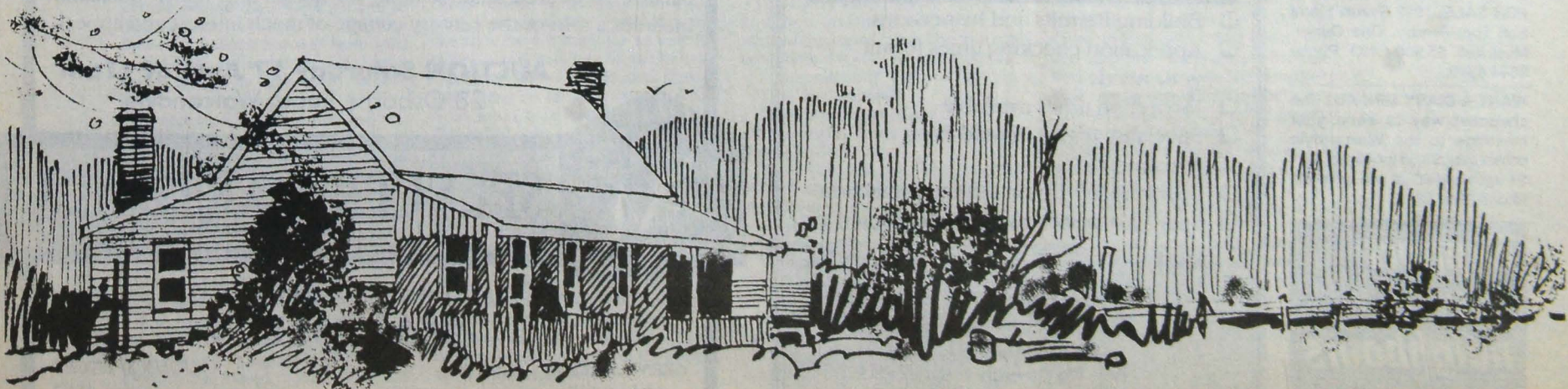
Water was brought up by horse and dray from the river to the house in two 44 gallon drums, which we had to then boil on the wood stove before we could drink it. Kerosene lamps lit the house at night. We had an ice chest to cool food, later replaced by a kerosene fridge and finally in 1956 by an electric fridge when power came down to Pound Bend. There was no hot water laid on. You had to boil the copper for a bath. Every Sunday was bath day. The girls had first use of the bath—much to the disgust of the boys!

I'd been back living in Warrandyte for around a month and one morning I looked out the window and here's this fellow on a pushbike and I said, "My God that's the fellow, Fred Phillips from the Dandenong dance!" Poor devil had ridden all the way from Noble Park to Warrandyte to see me, and I raced up to the big gate and told him, "You can't come in here and see me. My father would kill you. No you can't, you'll have to go". And the poor devil had to turn around and ride back without so much as a drink of water. That was the end of that romance.

There were only two or three other houses there on the Pound Bend: Charlie and Bertha Day and the Draeger family. Mr Weeks lived in a tent and fossicked for gold; before that he was a coach driver. The Youth Hostel was operating and Mum was the warden. It was used every weekend.

When I was about 16, I used to walk up the street to get a few things for Mum, and old Hughie Mullens would come up the street on a horse from a shack up Wonga Park way. He was a bit of a loner. One day he stopped me and said, "You know girl, you've got eyes like my old dog". I went home and complained to Mum and she said it was a compliment. But I didn't take it like that!

● Continued





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**Living a full life**

**A**LLAN Aldous, who was well-known in Warrandyte during the decades following World War II, died in March, aged 88 years.

Born in Perth in 1911, he first worked as a proof-reader on The West Australian newspaper. Anxious to make a career as a writer, he won a competition for one-act plays held by the Perth Repertory Club.

In 1935, he left for England with his bride, Jean Cohn. He wrote radio scripts for the British Broadcasting Commission, his first commissioned novel and various newspaper articles. He joined the Australian army in Britain during the war and was promoted to sergeant. Sent back to Australia, he was posted to the Army Education Unit where he worked, in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, establishing play-reading groups for the Australian troops stationed there.

For the next 30 years, until his retirement, Allan Aldous worked full-time as a freelance writer. His large literary output included 14 children's books, such as the McGowan adventures and Doctor With Wings—which was published in several languages—three murder mysteries and the monograph, Theatre In Australia, commissioned by Cheshire.

While novel writing was his passion, he was a versatile wordsmith and prepared scripts for Radio Australia, including their hour-long 25th birthday documentary.

He created the first Australian son-et-lumiere production, in 1966 in Perth, and a second one at Cook's Cottage under the auspices of the ABC (with music by Robert Hughes), a children's play, four documentary-style stage presentations,



several TV plays for children, countless short stories and articles, dramatic scripts and film scripts.

At one time he was heavily involved with the Council of Adult Education, giving lectures based on trips overseas and through the outback, writing notes for their discussion groups and working briefly with the Travelling Theatre.

He conducted many interviews with well-known personalities here and abroad. He was editorial adviser to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, overseeing early editions of its quarterly magazine, Living City.

He was a marvellous raconteur and had an endless collection of stories, jokes and anecdotes to share. His interests were wide-ranging and he especially loved travel and adventure, possibly awakened by a family trip across the Nullabor in a car convoy in 1930 on the main "highway", which was at that time a pair of wheel ruts.

In the 1940s and 1950s, he made several outback trips in his prized vehicle, a Morris

Major, navigating roads that would be regarded as unapproachable these days without a four-wheel drive.

Allan was a keen art collector, especially of Japanese prints, ceramics and netsukes. He had an eye for a bargain and frequently roamed secondhand shops for hidden treasures. He was a keen watercolourist.

During his years in Warrandyte, Allan Aldous took a major role in the founding of the Warrandyte Arts Association (see Page 15). He lived in Kew during the latter part of his life.

The needs of his adventurous spirit were largely satisfied by travel and writing, but he always felt the most important part of his life was his family, to whom he was passionately devoted. He is survived by his wife, Jean, his children, Ann, Ngaire, Michael and Pamela, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

*(Adapted from a tribute, written by Allan's daughter Ngaire Johansen, first published in The Age.)*



**Last call for  
Youth Arts  
Award**

Applications close at the end of this month for the 2000-01 Warrandyte Youth Arts Award. Sponsored by the Lions Club and organised by the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust, through the *Diary*, the award is worth \$6000.

Run every two years, it aims to assist young artists with outstanding potential pursue their careers. It was established to mark Warrandyte's special place in the history of Australian art.

Selection of a winner follows assessment of each entrant by noted experts and leaders in each particular field.

Past winners have been: Bridget Liddell (jewellery design) 1989, Gabrielle Davidson (ballet dancer) and Andrew Horne (painter) 1991, Peter Davrington (painter) and Katherine Adcock (singer) 1993, Isla Shaw (theatre designer) 1995, Malcolm Laurence (sculptor) 1997 and James Egglestone (singer) 1999.

• Full details of the award, including application procedures, are published on Page 10.

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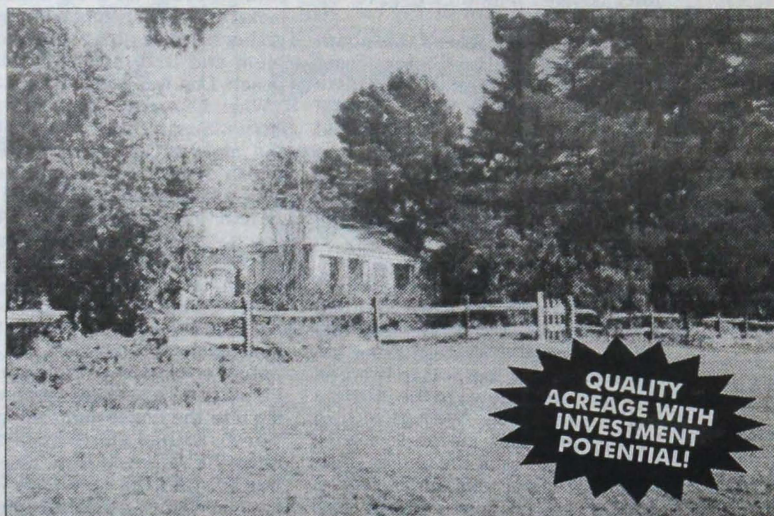
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# Bringing the arts to all

I HAD always dreamed romantically of a place in the country, an idyllic sort of place with a stream at the bottom of the garden, a winding drive to a modest, but not too modest, cottage, and an outlook over a "view" that was at once romantic and wildly dramatic. An impossible dream, of course, but no doubt this dream helped in our decision to build at Warrandyte.

Jean and I had acquired a couple of well-used cycles and one day decided on a picnic outing to Warrandyte, which captured our affections immediately. We eventually found two blocks of land running between a zig and zag of what is now Melbourne Hill Road. We bought the blocks for, as I remember, about 300 pounds for the two and had a house built on the higher block from one of the standard plans prepared for The Age. There was no electricity. We had to buy a kerosene refrigerator and Tilley lanterns, and I built a stand to take two 2000-gallon tanks. We were comfortable there and soon became part of village life. In the 1940s it really was a village, in the full sense of the term.

I think it was Vern Davidson, who tragically died young from cancer, who got the idea of forming an arts association. A meeting was called among interested parties, who included professional artists and potters and at least one writer—but also people whose lives were passed in more sober pursuits. The Warrandyte Arts Association was born with individual cells devoted to such things as drama, film appreciation, music, painting and crafts.

I suggested a Christmas festival which would involve all sections of WAA. The idea was enthusiastically received—and I was left to devise the presentation and write a script.

On the oval at the bottom of the hill there was a rising piece of ground, very suitable for an audience to sit on a summer's night. Facing this area there were two large gum trees, nature-made as a proscenium frame. This, I said, would be the place for a festival—and everyone agreed. Theatrical lighting borrowed from CAE could

## OF DAYS GONE BY

By ALLAN ALDOUS

be concealed behind the trees creating so much light on the performing area that the darkness on each side would be sufficient to cover entrances and exits. The form would consist of carols and dramatic inserts illustrating Christmases past—Luther's Christmas tree; Christmas in the medieval manor, complete with mummers' play; a condensed version of Dickens's Christmas Carol, and so on.

Scenery? No problem. We would back-project it on a screen: Ted Domeyer, who worked with a government film unit, could borrow a high-powered projector. The screen would be opaque plastic. Costumes were home-made and mostly improvised. For instance, Blue Langley, who was to play the Lord of the Manor, wore a convincing headdress which consisted of his small daughter's purple bloomers!

It seemed that the whole village was involved. We rehearsed and planned. The only cost was for the public-address system. The man who worked the thing disdained attending the dress rehearsal; he was a professional who had been doing this sort of thing for years. So we dress-rehearsed without him. Ted's projector provided a problem. By the time he got back far enough to throw a screen-filling image he was the other side of Anderson's Creek. And being so far away he couldn't hear what was happening on the "stage". Again no particular problem—just a matter of getting a torch (which pointed away from the audience) and a simple code for switching on, switching off, "Next slide, please" and so on. Incidentally, the slides were photographed from pictures about 8 x 12 inches painted by members of the art group. The stage lighting, even though it was confined to spots and not floods, tended to wash some of the brightness from the projected images but they were still rather effective.

Publicity did a great job and we were noticed in the press. The big—and only—night approached. I was still flat out on details when I developed a ghastly toothache. I couldn't take time out to do anything about it; I just had to suffer. Fortunately, the concentration tended to take my mind off it.

After a scarcely apprehended dinner we went down to the oval and I checked and re-checked, and checked again. The PA man had his speakers and microphones rigged. He would be controlling all sound from his specially fitted caravan. I anxiously kept checking with him until he began to show signs of decided niggles: he was a pro and knew his business. From a mike in the van I could watch the show and cue the stage manager hovering in the wings of night who, in turn, would make direct contact with the performers.

One of the great risks was the weather. Here the gods smiled on our efforts: the night was clear, still and warm. Would we get an audience? We did. The knoll that constituted the auditorium began filling with parties armed with rugs and cushions. (We had warned of the necessity of "bringing your own.") According to "front of house" our audience was 2000—not at all bad. The hours passed. At last came the moment of truth.

"Stand by ... Lights ... Choir on." The lights faded up on the choir and their opening carol began. But what of the sound? Only the thin wail of women's voices on the night air.

"Is the mike on?" I asked the pro. "Yes," he snapped.

"Well, there's no sound."

A sound of laughter filtered through to the van.

"What the hell are they laughing at?" I muttered, trying to quench rising panic.

"Wait," said the "pro". "It's not switched on."

"Well, that's bugged the bloody thing!" I snapped, angry and disgusted.

The laughter outside suddenly crescendoed.

"Oh sorry, I've got the mikes mixed up," said a sheepish pro.

He had switched my mike to the big loudspeakers outside and the singers' mike to the stage manager! What now? Stop and start again? No, carry on and hope for the best. The mike switch was rectified in seconds and the choir's voices rose audibly on the night air. We were back on an even keel and very soon the show was going as swimmingly. In fact, it was a great success, although I didn't take too kindly to one comment that the best thing about it was my outburst at the beginning.

But other appreciation was not so unkind. My biggest kick was being introduced to a woman who had said she wanted to meet me.

"Two days ago," she began, "I was in a snowy landscape with the temperature way below zero. In Canada. I'm a Canadian. And here I am watching a marvellous Christmas show under a summer sky. This is one of the most memorable things that has ever happened to me."

We had a marvellous party afterwards at the Emerys' place. We were exuding euphoria and letting off a big head of pressure when the toothache hit again. Malcolm Bird, one of our keen actors (and my dentist) noticed it.

"You'd better come along with me," he said. "Jeannie (Tisdall, one of our best local actresses) rang me at the surgery this morning and I thought I'd better be prepared."

He drove me to his home in Research Road and, in the bathroom, extracted the offending tooth with the implements he had brought home from his Collins Street surgery. Then we returned to the party.

"Where have you been?" greeted me when we returned.

"Oh, Malcolm has just relieved me of a tooth," I replied, but I don't think anyone believed me.

We were all so cockahoop about our home-grown show that we then and there decided that the Warrandyte Christmas Festival must become an annual event, growing bigger and bigger year by year. Perhaps some of us saw it becoming a huge international festival.

● Continued



# Warrandyte Community Market

Under the gum trees, beside the Yarra on Stiggants Reserve, Yarra St, Warrandyte 1st Saturday of each month - except January, 9am-1pm.

Come and join in! Hand-crafted gifts of all kinds, toys, art works, pottery, plants, clothing, gift cards, leatherwork, cakes, jams, honey, fruit, produce.

Ample parking. Light refreshments available.

Bring along your family and friends.

Enquiries to 9844 4495, or write to PO Box 158, Warrandyte 3113, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.



# Back to schooldays

Warrandyte Primary School's stone building turns 125 this year, and to commemorate this special occasion the school is holding a reunion and old-time fete on Saturday, November 18. They are hoping to have a display of historic photographs and memorabilia. If anyone is able to lend or donate any items of historic interest—such as photos, books, old uniforms, awards, certificates, workbooks, etc—please contact Judy Finger on 9844 3150. She would love to hear from you, or a message can be left at the school. It would be appreciated if readers could pass this information on to any other past students or staff they may know.

## Information

Warrandyte Historical Society is also seeking information—about the Parish of South Warrandyte and the church they believe was situated in Hall Road, near the South Warrandyte Hall, prior to its destruction by fire. If you can help, please call Gina on 9844 3662.

## Trailer

Friends of Warrandyte State Park have acquired and fitted out a trailer to use as a display and marketing aid for their stall at Warrandyte Market. FOWSP is offering a \$500 commission to artists who would like to decorate the side of the trailer with a conservation theme. The trailer is also available on loan to other groups who might like to have a comprehensive display of conservation and environment brochures at a forthcoming function. Call Geoff Speedy on 9437 0894 for further information.

## Songlines

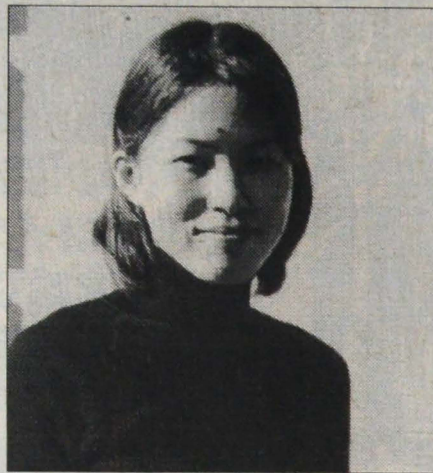
Songlines of Spain is a special concert by the Eltham Concert Band, featuring guitarist Peter Smith and conducted by Warrandyte's Barry McKimm. It will be held at the Barn Gallery, Monsalvat, Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham, at 3pm on Sunday, June 18. As much of the music is unavailable for bands, it has been specially orchestrated and arranged, providing a unique experience. The concert is being supported by Youth Services, Nillumbik shire, with admission set at \$12, concession \$10. Enquiries and bookings to Joanne on 9457 5987.

## Service

A combined church service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held at the Warrandyte Community Church, Yarra Street, on Sunday, June 11, commencing at 7pm.

## Dance

Social dances are held each month at the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road. The next dance is on Saturday, June 10



Orié Sugimoto



Tim Douglas

Warrandyte Primary School has welcomed two new teachers this term.

"Our new assistant principal, Mr Tim Douglas brings a wealth of teaching experience," a school spokesperson told the *Diary*. In addition to his role as assistant principal, he also teaches grade four at WPS.

"His interests and accomplishments include being a busy father of four, a keen jogger, avid reader, guitar player, fine music enthusiast and passionate Tigers supporter!"

Orié Sugimoto will be assisting LOTE (Lan-

guage Other Than English) coordinator Meryl Teather, teaching Japanese at the school.

Orié is from the city of Hamamatsu, southwest of Tokyo. She is participating in the JAPEP program, in which the school has been involved for a number of years.

"The program has been invaluable in providing contact with Japanese nationals who are able to offer first-hand knowledge of Japanese culture and language," the spokesperson said. Orié will live with a number of Warrandyte Primary families during her stay.



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.

with an appropriate Winter theme. The July dance will feature Football, and will be held on Saturday, July 8. An excellent band will be playing. Cost is \$5, with BYO supper; tea and coffee provided. Further details from 9723 3892.

## Acting

Fancy yourself on stage? Warrandyte Theatre Company is running a series of winter workshops in acting skills on Wednesday nights, commencing on June 14. Informal sessions—with experienced teachers—for beginners and more advanced thespians. Enquiries to Sue Davies on 9844 4129. The company's next production will be Habeas Corpus by Alan Bennett, opening on July 27.

## Overseas

Former Warrandyte High School student, Jess Howard, is studying at the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Kyuushu, Japan (see letter, Page 4). The university has

been established to foster international understanding by providing an opportunity for students and lecturers of the Asia Pacific area to work and study together. Representatives from Ritsumeikan are holding an information evening at Warrandyte High School this month. People interested in attending should contact the LOTE coordinator, Ann Adams, at the school on 9844 2749.

## Thanks

The manageress and volunteers at the Lions Op Shop at the Community Centre have asked us to especially thank everyone for their very generous donations at this needy time—with winter upon us.

## Fish

As part of the Green Wedge Seminar Series 2000, fish biologist Bill O'Connor will discuss Macquarie Perch and River Management on Thursday, July 6, at the Currawong Bush Park conference room, Reynolds Road, commencing at 7.30pm. Macquarie Perch, which occur naturally north of the Great Dividing Range, were introduced into the Yarra 100 years ago. The following seminar—on Thursday, August 3—will deal with weed ecology.

## Psychic

A Psychic Fair will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25. There will be \$20 tarot readings, spirit guides, feng shui, aura drawings and healings, plus new-age stalls, and food and cake stalls.

Entry is free and any funds raised go to charity. For brochure, bookings (which are recommended) and further details call Lesley on 9872 4677.

## Paintings

Manningham Gallery will be exhibiting paintings by Andrew Kasapidis from June 5 to 18. An exhibition entitled 'bon naturel' will be held from June 20 to July 2. It will feature paintings in oil and acrylic by Rebecca Kellie, exploring different approaches to the female form. The gallery, which is at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, is open Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 5pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 5pm.

## Caring

Do Care are seeking volunteers to spend a few hours a week to support older folk and people with disabilities in the Warrandyte area. Training is provided. For further information call Do Care on 9871 1532.

## Tell us

The *Diary* is your newspaper and we love to print news of your group's activities. Jot down all the details, including date, time, venue and contact number and drop it through our letter slot at the community centre, fax it to 9844 4168 or by post to PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113. We close copy on the last Friday of each month for publication in the second week of the following month.

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

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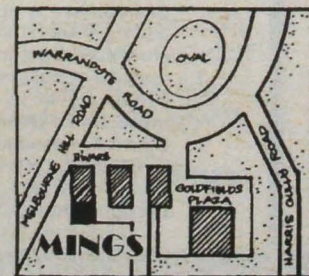
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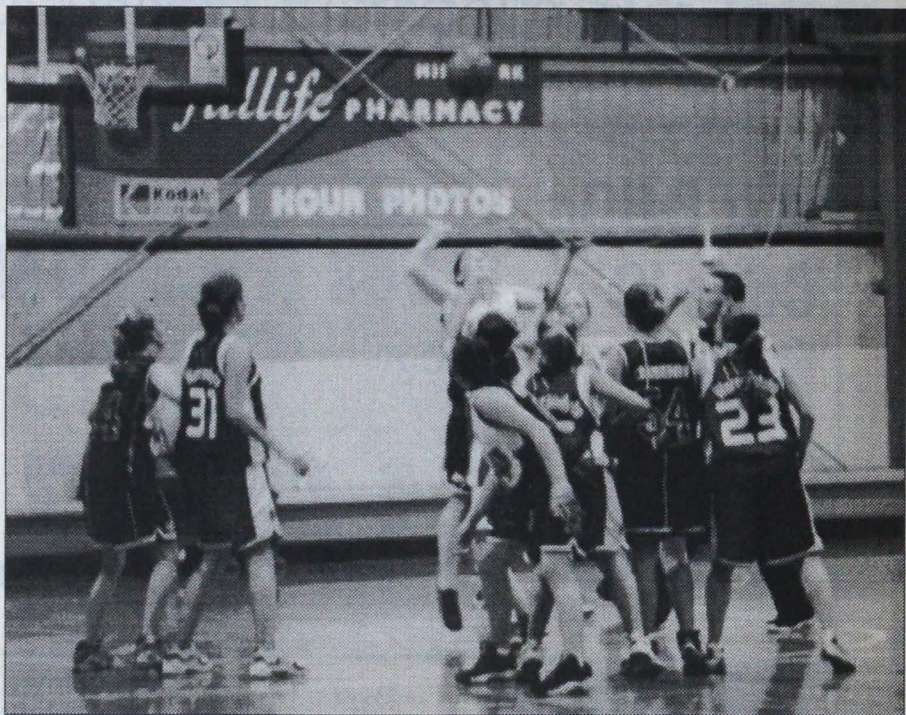
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# Redbacks calling the shots

Right: Tristan Messerle revs up his U16 boys during the game against Broadmeadows. Below right: The U16 girls in action against Craigieburn.



**By TONY OLIVER**  
Success continues for Warrandyte Redback basketball teams in the Friday night junior championships.

## Juniors still firing in championships

SPORT



The U16 boys made a successful trip to Broadmeadows on June 2, recording a solid win against the local team.

Warrandyte flew out of the blocks, Scott Cannon scoring within three seconds of Tim Givens winning the opening tip-off. They consolidated on that start and led early by eight points, but then let Broadmeadows back into the game, the home side scoring well from the three-point area.

A critical time out was called by Redback coach Tristan Messerle early in the second half to demand a higher commitment to defence and it had an immediate effect, Warrandyte taking a more dominant role to run out winners 34-22, a victory set up by the taller players.

Of concern for the side, however, is the relatively low shooting percentage from the field.

The U16s' only loss was a very close encounter with competition leaders Coburg in late May in a game also marked by a disappointing field shooting performance. This issue will need to be addressed if second-placed Warrandyte are to be genuine premiership contenders.

The U16 girls were also on the road, coming up against third-placed Melbourne at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre at Albert Park.

Jenna Hardy was returning from injury and a near full-strength Warrandyte side were locked at 15-all at half-time.

Both teams tightened up their games after the interval, with the Redbacks leading 22-18 going into the last three minutes.

The game opened up at this stage, with Warrandyte forcing vital turnovers. Kim Singh and Sam Smith in particular were able to convert these opportunities and Warrandyte came out of a dour struggle with a 29-18 win.

The girls remain undefeated on top of the ladder. Two recent 50-plus point wins have boosted their percentage and

their next major challenge will be against a well-performing Seymour unit at the end of this month.

Warrandyte's other girls team, the U14s coached by Lorraine Parfitt, had a surprisingly close contest with Hawthorn Magic at Mill Park.

The Redbacks were weakened by the loss before the game of point guard Louise Yates, whose duties were taken over by Gina Oliver.

Warrandyte could not shake off a determined Hawthorn, who surprisingly have won only one of six outings this season. Their point guard caused problems in the first half, but their taller players were being nullified by Libby Lavery and Tahnee Templeton, Amy Caudry and Andrea Peters were also very effective in general play.

Emma Razzi, Warrandyte's main offensive rebounder and key scorer, was fouled off with 10 minutes to go and Hawthorn pulled to within two points with a three-pointer from their guard.

However, the Redbacks' team and individual skills emerged at just the right moment. Gina Oliver executed a three-point play and Warrandyte pulled away to win 25-18. These girls are also undefeated and setting the standard in their competition.

Warrandyte's U11 boys have suffered some close defeats in recent times but approached the game against Blackburn Vikings at Slaters Reserve with confidence. The Vikings are always difficult propositions at home and the half-time score of 13-6 in their favour was a fair indication of the game at that stage.

But in what is becoming characteristic of this unit, the Redbacks started the second half with a new will to win and reduced the deficit to just one point.

Blackburn were stung into a response and opened up a five-point gap — but Warrandyte were not done yet. They came back with great determination to grab an 18-17 lead with 30 seconds to go.

The clock ticked down as first Blackburn then Warrandyte were in possession. A critical turnover on halfway to Blackburn was to be the last throw of the dice.

Warrandyte were defending grimly and in the last seconds Blackburn put up a speculative outside shot.

The buzzer sounded with the ball in flight and Warrandyte's hopes were dashed as it sailed through the ring, giving the game to the Vikings by the barest margin.

Coach Malcolm Anderson was philosophical about his team's recent near-misses and highlighted the value of the learning experience.

The overall skills level has improved significantly since these boys came together at the beginning of the season.

The U14 Metro 3 boys of Gavin Whitmore went down 17-20 to competition leaders Hurstbridge in a game which, on reflection, they should have won. In their next game, at home to a well-regarded Hawthorn combination, they were comfortably in control with a 10-point lead with less than two minutes to go when the Hawthorn guard took over proceedings in an amazing individual performance.

He hit three three-pointers to close the margin to just one and in the final seconds was fouled in the act of shooting.

He converted one of his two free throws to enable Hawthorn to escape with a 29-all draw.

## You're never too old...

Manningham City Council is investigating the development of a sports program to increase recreational opportunities for older residents.

The program would offer older Manningham residents a range of sporting activities to help them stay fit and mobile and give them additional chances to socialise and the opportunity to challenge themselves.

"Health is extremely important to the quality of life of an older adult," a council spokesman said. "Much of the physical decline associated with ageing is due to inactivity rather than to disease or the ageing process."

"The opportunities offered to senior citizens to access recreation is often limited and society's perception of the physical capabilities of older

adults doesn't always meet their potential needs."

Before formalising a "Senior Sports" program, the council will gauge the level of interest in the senior community through a "Come and Try" afternoon.

It is offering its older residents the opportunity to participate in a range of activities, such as badminton, table tennis, newcomb and strength training.

"Come and Try" afternoon will be held at the Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre on the corner of Foote and Anderson Streets on Wednesday, June 7, starting at 12.30.

Residents or senior citizens groups wanting more information should contact Ian Benjamin, Cultural and Leisure Services, on 9840 9333.

# Warrandyte Community Centre



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# Bloods blow it twice

## Black day and a big brawl at The Basin

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte squandered a golden opportunity to dig their way out of the EFL Second Division cellar at The Basin on June 3. Not once, but twice.

The Bloods surrendered a 28-point second-quarter lead, then hit the front again after looking gone in the last quarter — only to see the home side rebound to win by 16 points, 16.13 (109) to 13.15 (93).

The game was marred by an ugly brawl — involving both players and spectators — in The Basin's forward pocket on the final siren.

Warrandyte, who had won only one of eight games since their promotion to Division 2, had regarded their assignment at The Basin, who had won only two, as very achievable.

A win would have lifted them above Upper Ferntree Gully (one win) in the relegation zone at the season's halfway mark.

The turning point in the game may have come when The Basin wrested back the lead in the last term with a goal from a "mark" allowed despite young Blood Glen Carle very clearly touching the ball in transit.

It may have broken our spirit. Even the red-necked and often-offensive Bears supporters on our right were shamed into momentary silence by the umpiring decision.

The race to avoid relegation has now boiled down to a field of two — Warrandyte and Upper Gully, whom we beat away by two points on May 20, holding on in a marathon last quarter very reminiscent of last season's Third Division grand final.

Coach Lex Munro blames our lack of success in the bigger league this season on recurring "five-minute lapses".

"We let them right back into the game in the second half of the second quarter today," he said immediately after the game.

"Then when we got our noses back in front in the last quar-

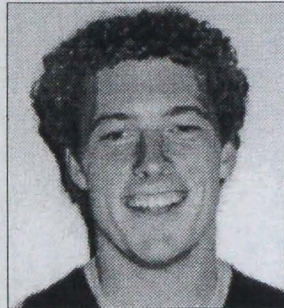


SPORT

ter, our work rate seemed to drop again."

And how would the Bloods be approaching the second half of the season?

"We'll just have to keep on rotating players through the seniors and reserves until we come up with a consistent group," Munro said.



Andrew Brown, three goals and among the best.

Warrandyte Football Club president Jeff Evans said the key to dodging relegation would be "a lot of hard work and a few breaks going our way".

The Bloods started the game at The Basin — not the friendliest of away grounds — assisted by the breeze and with guns blazing.

Rover Aidan Davey, a product of last season's Under-18s, set the ball rolling for us six minutes in with a flash of brilliance, weaving his way through a pack and kicking truly.

Mack Clarkson, last season's club and competition best and fairest, followed up three minutes later with a clever snap and combined with Davey at the 15-minute mark for our third, passing to the youngster, who made no mistake.

At this stage, The Basin had not troubled the scoreboard attendant at all, their forward sorties consistently turned back by an efficient defence

It took the home side 24 minutes to score — a goal from a free right in front — but Clarkson, who was playing a blinder, quickly got that one back with an amazing snap from the forward pocket boundary.

At the first change it was 4.4 to 1.0, our best start of the season.

The Basin began the second term in ominous fashion, goaling at two minutes, but Willie Bell, a defender playing up forward, righted that wrong by helping himself to one three minutes later.

And when Sam McLaughlin split the posts eight minutes in, the Bloods had extended their advantage to 28 points.

Warrandyte supporters were already talking of a big celebration back at the clubrooms that night. They were made to think again.

The Basin goaled from a set shot 10 minutes in and followed up a minute later to cut the deficit back to 15 points.

The unstoppable Clarkson gave us breathing space with a goal at 13 minutes, but Basin majors at 16, 18 and 21 minutes had us looking down the barrel.

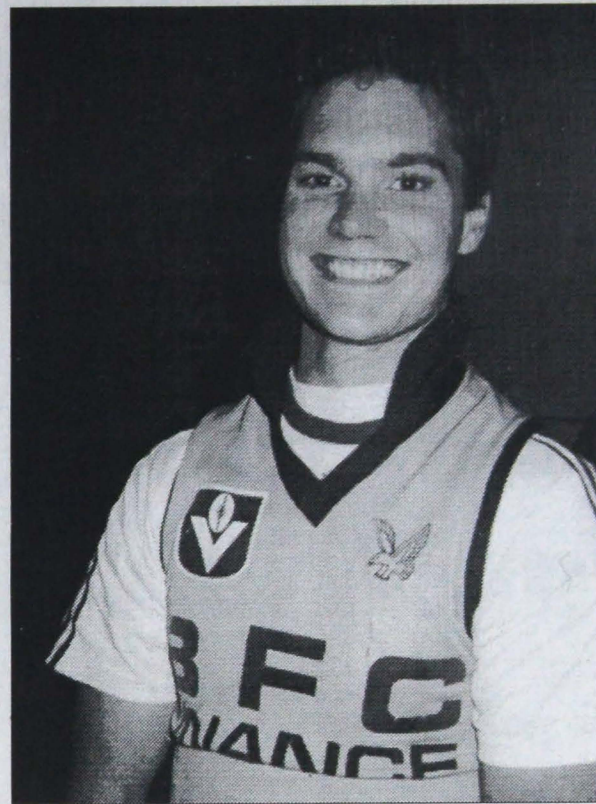
The Basin were winning the aerial duels and our goal supply had suddenly dried up. Not theirs, though.

Our hosts hit the front for the first time with a goal at 29 minutes and another a minute later sent them in at the interval with an 11-point lead, 9.6 (60) to 7.7 (49).

Munro told his players at half-time that the game was still there to be won, but anyone expecting a great Warrandyte third-term resurgence was going to be disappointed.

Not much happened at all until the quarter's halfway mark, when loose defence let The Basin in for a goal. When they dashed the ball downfield from deep in defence to goal again two minutes later, their lead had blown out to 22 points and the Bloods looked any old price.

Davey produced another piece of magic for his third goal — and our first since midway



Rocky Armstrong, one of Warrandyte's best players in a losing performance at The Basin.

through the second quarter — 17 minutes in to set off a minor Warrandyte revival that did not fully register on the scoreboard. Clarkson and Kimberly O'Connor both missed gettable goals before Andrew Brown marked right in front to reduce the leeway at the last change to just nine points again.

Munro asked his players in the three-quarter-time huddle how badly they wanted to win the game. They said very badly, but the first few minutes of the quarter were all The Basin, Warrandyte defending desperately to hold them out.

Persistence paid off for the home side five minutes in when they moved the ball all too easily out of defence to goal, but John O'Brien responded almost immediately for the Bloods.

O'Brien struck again when he conjured a goal at 12 minutes and when Brown marked and goaled two minutes later Warrandyte were back in front by two points. How good was this!

Very good, but very short-

lived.

The Basin regained the lead a minute later from a mark allowed in one of the day's lesser umpiring decisions. Carle, who had obviously touched the ball, remonstrated with the umpire, who had no intention of defying history by changing his decision.

The resultant goal did nothing at all for the Bloods' morale and The Basin took full advantage of that by goaling again at 19, 21, 25 and 26 minutes.

Brown salvaged something out of a lost cause for us by kicking his third goal, and the game's last, close to the siren. The action was far from over, however, as hostilities erupted in The Basin's forward pocket. Sporadic warfare went on for minutes. The umpires, having done their job, wisely walked from the field.

Warrandyte's goalkickers were Brown 3, Clarkson 3, Davey 3, O'Brien 2, Bell and McLaughlin. Their best were Clarkson, Rocky Armstrong, Brown and Davey.

## Darn, says Tahn



Dale McCartin.

You had to feel for young Tahn Reid, dedicated Warrandyte reserves footballer, in the curtain-raiser at The Basin.

Reid had three infinitely gettable shots at goal within the space of a few minutes in the third quarter, any of which might well have put The Basin away.

His total return was two behinds.

The Basin couldn't believe their good fortune but capitalised on it by kicking three late goals to steal the game by two points, 9.7 (61) to 8.11 (59).

The game was notable for the return to action of Bloods stalwart Dale McCartin, a former reserves and senior coach who pulled on the boots again to make up depleted numbers.

McCartin had not played football since early 1997, but was among Warrandyte's best, along with Andy Moore, Guy Taylor and Adam Burbidge.

McCartin said after the game his only worry was to be able to walk next morning.

The Under-18s won their second match of the season, downing The Basin 9.13 (67) to 7.6 (48) after trailing by a point at half-time.

Their best were Nathan Ireland, Tim Andrews and Matt Treeby.

## Local teams switched on

By JUDY GREEN

Warrandyte Tennis Club fielded two successful teams in the Lilydale and District Night Tennis Association finals last month.

In the Tuesday night men's, Warrandyte's Section 3 team Diggers (Ian Moore, Daniel Auld, Greg Tester and Laurie Berlic) defeated North Ringwood.

In the Wednesday night mixed finals, The Group (John McCutcheon, Rod McCutcheon, Andrew Gibson, Val Lynch and Joan Peart) defeated another Warrandyte team, Who Too.

Three other teams—Swingers, Z-pennant and Intoxicated—reached the grand finals but were defeated on the night.

In the Ferntree Gully and District Mid-week Women's competition finals, Section 1 lost to Yarra Glen in a closely fought match. Sections 5 and 8 finished in the four but lost their semi-finals.

At the club's annual general meeting last month all office-bearers were returned unopposed. They are Mark Bence (president), Wendy Synnot (secretary) and Barry Dick (treasurer).

Warrandyte Tennis Club was founded in 1907 at the site of the present Lions Club riverside courts, adjacent to Warrandyte bridge. It moved to four new courts in Taroona Avenue 25 years ago, in 1975.

The club plans to celebrate this silver anniversary with a social function at the clubrooms on Saturday, September 2. All past and present members and friends will be welcome.



Flashback. Warrandyte Tennis Club's current Taroona Avenue home under construction in 1978.

## Decades of our champs

Who's the best footballer to ever pull on a boot for Warrandyte? That question — and a host of others — will be answered at Club Warrandyte on Sunday, June 18.

The occasion is Warrandyte Football Club's "Teams of the Decades" luncheon, at which the best 21 players of each decade of the past 50 years will be named.

From those players an "All Stars Team" will be named.

The teams are being selected by a panel of former players and officials chaired by Brian Tomlinson.

The luncheon starts at noon. It includes a three-course meal and presentations will be made to all selected players in recognition of their achievements.

The cost is \$45 a head and dress is neat casual (no denim).

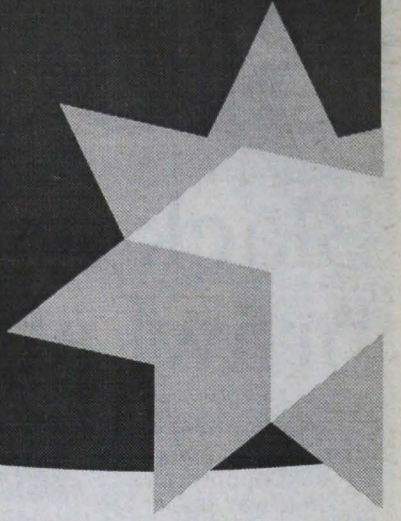
Bookings are essential and can be made through Club Warrandyte (9844 1199), Robert "Noddy" Ireland (0409 725 506), Jeff Evans (9722 1111) or email [wfcinc@bigpond.com](mailto:wfcinc@bigpond.com)





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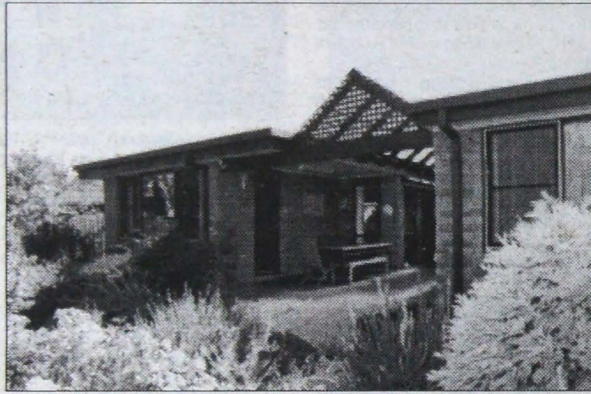
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## Your guide to some of Warrandyte's finest properties



1/4 ACRE, court location **\$135,000**



3 bedroom, open plan **\$215,000**



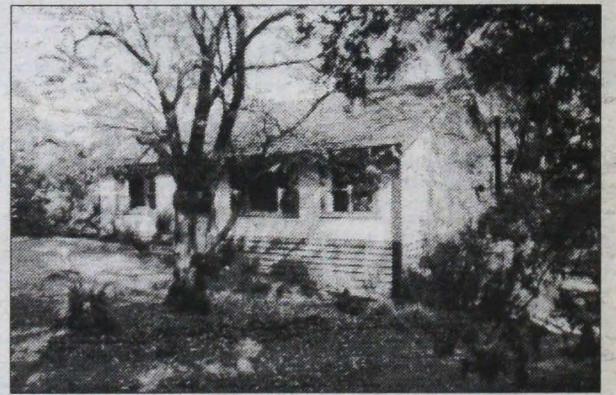
3 bedroom, rumpus **\$249,000**



4 bedroom, open plan **\$249,000**



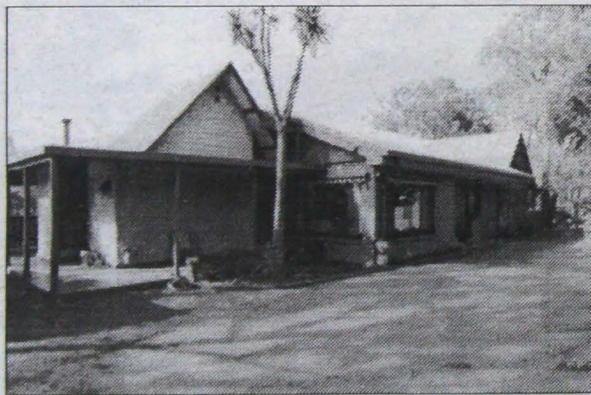
1/2 ACRE with cottage,  
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