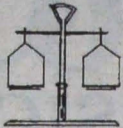


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WARRANDYTE
DIARY

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No. 324, September 2000

PRICELESS 30th year For the community, by the community Advertising: 9844 3819 Editorial: 9844 3719 Fax: 9844 4168

New threat to centre



Warrandyte gold: bushland, roadsides and riverbanks celebrate spring in glorious wattle blossom. (Picture by Don Charlwood)

Council calling for 'self-funding' management

By **CLIFF GREEN**

Manningham council is seeking "expressions of interest" from persons wishing to nominate for the management committee of the Warrandyte Community Centre.

It would appear that a condition for nomination will be accepting responsibility for the centre becoming financially independent from council within 12 months.

"This requirement to pledge to be self-funding within a year will make it impossible for me to re-nominate for the management committee," Jock Macneish, current chairman, told the *Diary*.

Council is seeking nominations from serving members of the committee, "interested Warrandyte residents or employees of an organisation operating in Warrandyte and users of the centre to become members of the Warrandyte Community Management Group from October 1, 2000".

A council minute, moved by Cr Pat Young, requires a future management committee "to maximise the centre's earnings from rental of prime spaces at market rates".

"We've always believed that the council has a commitment to provide accommodation for community services in Warrandyte," Mr Macneish said.

"Cr Pat Young has done—and continues to do—many good things for the community of Warrandyte. But she has made a misjudgement over the community centre. Her resolution to push for commercial use of the centre is in direct conflict with council's determination to provide accommodation for community-based services within the centre".

"The motion is telling a future management committee what it has to do, when to do it, where to do it and how much it's all supposed to cost. The council appears not to want a committee of management, but rather a committee 'for doing what it's told'."

The *Diary* believes that the only way the centre can become "self-funding" is by evicting those community groups with ground floor offices on Yarra Street—Information Warrandyte and the *Diary*—and replacing them with commercial enterprises; in a town with a growing list of empty shops! They would also, almost certainly, have to increase the cost of hiring public spaces at the centre to community groups.

"The community centre was built for the community," Mr Macneish said. "It

was designed to serve the community. It is ludicrous that council should now be forcing a future management committee to open it up for commercial use. Quite apart from invaluable community groups being forced out, a new committee would have no option but to increase hiring rates for the public spaces—both to community groups and for local private functions.

"The story of what happened to the beautiful, mudbrick Nillumbik Community Centre should serve as a salutary warning. Here, council turned the entire building over to private management—a catering company—and now community groups cannot afford the hiring rates; even if they could get bookings! The process at Warrandyte appears to be a little less obvious, but the end result would almost certainly be the same."

A plan to force the centre to become self-funding first became evident in May last year, when council appointed consultants to review operations at the centre. Their brief included "financial operations and future opportunities for the centre to become financially independent".

The consultants reported back in September, stating that income and costs at the centre were comparable with those of other public halls in the municipality. They recommended that the existing management structure be retained.

"But by requiring all future management committee members to pledge themselves to self-funding on nomination, council is attempting to create a commercial management operation—run by the community!" Mr Macneish said.

"Council is following a well-worn path leading to potential commercialisation. They called in consultants, then allowed the dust of community concern to settle for 12 months. Now they intend to shift the centre from its prime community focus through manipulation of the membership of the committee."

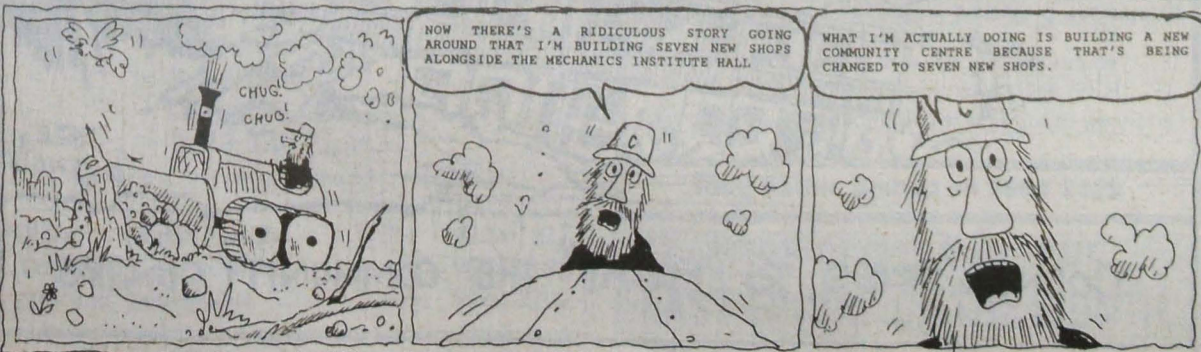
The consultants' report into the centre, made public last September, warned council that "it is probable that there would be a significant community backlash over this option as it would be seen as reducing the community focus of the centre by introducing 'commercial' interests".

"I am dismayed but not disheartened," Mr Macneish said. "Shops in Warrandyte come and go; as do councillors. But this community—and the groups that serve it—are much more permanent."

● **CARTOON—Page 2**

CYRIL

By **PAUL WILLIAMS**



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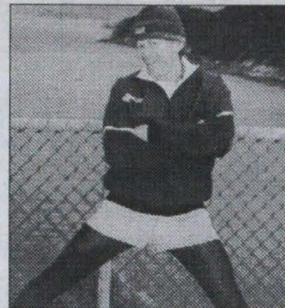
321 JUMPING CREEK ROAD, WARRANDYTE 3113

When theatrical people say "Break a leg", they mean "Good luck" or "Get out there on stage and knock 'em dead!" Or words to that effect. But *Diary* advertising/accounts manager Rae Danks managed to break hers (her right ankle, actually) in three places on closing night of *Habeas Corpus*, the smash-hit comedy she produced for the local drama group for a six-night season at the Mechanics Institute Hall last month. It was so cold when she got back to her South Warrandyte pad about 2am on Sunday, August 13, after the mandatory closing night party, Rae swears she heard brass monkeys calling for thermal underwear. And she had no way of seeing the black ice on the steep steps leading down to her door. She took a terrible tumble, snapping a tibia and the fibula twice and for the next several weeks will be conducting *Diary* business from a wheelchair. The day after her accident, Cliff Green, our founding father, phoned Rae and suggested her next production be *Habeas Corpus On Ice*. Then chief-of-staff Jan Tindale sent flowers to Maroonah Hospital from the *Diary* crew with an accompanying card urging her to "put her best foot forward and hop to it". We're a sick little lot down here in the engine room of Australia's gutsiest voluntary local newspaper.

IN RED & WHITE

Rae Danks ... a world on wheels for the next several weeks.



Andrew Nixon ... an example rather than a fashion statement.

despite popular belief, not even of the owl persuasion.

While still in the state park, head ranger Andrew Nixon caused quite a sensation among his colleagues by turning up for a bushwalk at Wilsons Promontory in a very fetching pair of dark blue tights. What was he, then, a rugged outdoorsy type or a ballet dancer? His mates send him up something shocking in this month's park newsletter, reporting that "little children who accompanied their parents on the junket ran screaming to their mothers as Andrew paraded shamelessly in front of the bemused group". The reality is that Andrew was setting an excellent example. He was wearing the very correct winter bushwalking gear — thermal tights under shorts.

SEPTEMBER
Clothes for Spring. Rugs from Ethiopia.

AT THE BRIDGE FOLKART

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It's never been easy to separate TV Tommy Kerkhof from a quid, but he owes Page 2 celebrity Neil "Bozo" Dusting five bucks and we reckon he should pay up. Sure, it was a sting, but done so beautifully it deserves reward. A strong team of eight who spent the weekend of August 12-13 at Neil's Paynesville holiday retreat included three rabid Essendon supporters — Tommy, Terry Booth and Ross Thomas, who spent the Saturday afternoon glued to the telly in the caravan watching the delayed telecast of the Bombers-North Melbourne qualifying final. Neil was going to cook a roast that night and drove into town to rescue the spuds, which were being held hostage at the Paynesville pub by Kevin Close and other members of the crew. On the way home he switched on the car radio just in time to hear Essendon full-forward Matthew Lloyd kick his 100th goal of the season and 3500 spectators invade the ground to celebrate the occa-

sion. And so the sting was conceived.

Back at camp, where the action on tele was an hour behind the real thing, Neil went about his culinary chores and nonchalantly asked Tommy did he reckon Lloyd would reach his century in this finals series. Oh yeah, said Tom. Well, do you reckon he'll do it in this game? Naah, said Tom. Well, I'm prepared to bet \$5 he will, said Neil. Done! A couple of Lloyd goals later, Neil sweetened the wager by saying he was prepared to bet another \$5 that if Lloyd did reach the ton that afternoon, 3500 spectators would invade the ground to celebrate the occasion. It was at this point that TV Tommy realised he had been taken to the cleaners. Still hasn't paid up, but we're sure that's merely an oversight. We think it a bit rough, though, that Neil's going around town whispering that Tommy's new nickname is "Wild Duck". Never settles.

tions if she were returned. The Tart is the mannequin who sat outside the store and she'd become a bit of a landmark, particularly popular with passing truckies, who liked to honk their air horns at her, and tourists, who liked to be photographed with her. She came here from Richmond — "Went from a groupie to a greenie," says Sandy — and is worth in the vicinity of \$1500. She's insured, but that's not the point. She has feelings, you know, and is probably homesick. So do the right thing, you thieving bastard!

Ge, have we started something or what! Our revelation three issues back that the powerful owl — by far the biggest and fiercest of the owl family — was alive and well and living and breeding in Warrandyte has produced more reported sightings than UFOs at full moon. There are still, as far as the Warrandyte State Park rangers know, only three confirmed pairs living in the area (although the most recently discovered couple are believed to have bred up Whipstick Gully way), but people reckon they're seeing them all over the place. Ranger Glen Jameson answered a call to Laughing Waters Road in Eltham the other day from a woman who swore she had a pair of powerfuls sitting in a tree in her backyard. Not quite. What she had was a pair of shy, retiring tawny frogmouths, who are dwarfs by comparison and,

Being a trifle old-fashioned and set in his ways, local identity Gus McLaren pooh-poohed the new-fangled frequent flyer points concept, but was talked into it by long-time partner Denise Farran. And he's glad he succumbed because Gus and Denise are just back from a very economical three-week flying trip which took them to Sydney, Perth, Broome, Kunanurra, Darwin, Alice Springs and Adelaide. While in Perth Gus made a sentimental journey to Fremantle, where (as he puts it) "I spent a little over a year during the war defending democracy in its numerous pubs". Gus visited only a couple of those pubs this time. "My appetite for heroics seems to have waned," he said

Looking for something beaut to fill in the gaps between plants in your garden? Then look no further than the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend. There (for a very modest donation) you can acquire Pennyworts (of the *Hydrocotyle* species) and Bottle Daisies (*Lagenifera stipitata*), both great ground covers, spreading prolifically given dappled shade and a little moisture. Give Cathy Willis a call on 0418 142297.

Smokey Joe



WARRANDYTE DIARY

EDITORS: Cliff Green and Lee Tindale
PUBLISHER: Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd. (A.C.N. 006 886 826) as trustee for the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.
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ADVERTISING & ACCOUNTS: Rae Danks, 9844 3819 or 0414 745 212.
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INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy/
PRODUCTION: Rachel Schroeder, 9725 6699.
PRINTING: Streamline Press Pty Ltd, 155 Johnston Street, Fitzroy, 9417 2766.
Published on or about the second Tuesday of each month (except January).

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

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OUR NEWSPAPER

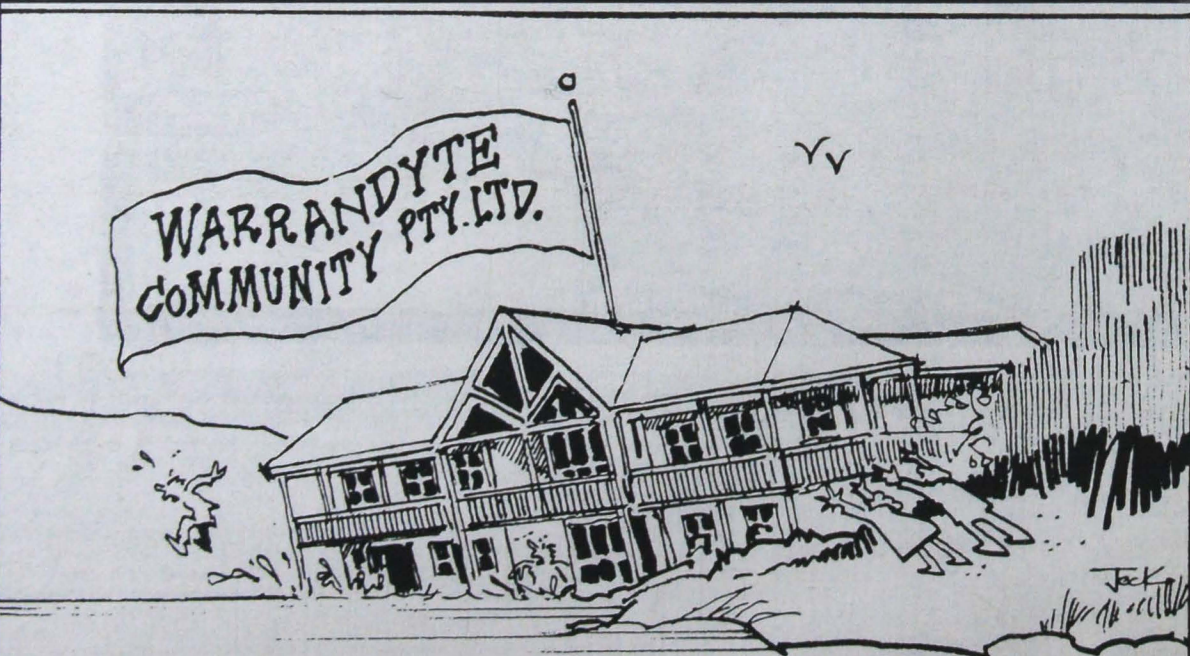
The *Warrandyte Diary* was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its not-for-profit, 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



COUNCIL TRIES TO "FLOAT" THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Council supports Wedge

By DAVID WYMAN

The new Manningham Planning Scheme contains a strong and clear commitment by the council to continue to protect the Green Wedge.

The scheme promises to safeguard the non-urban areas "from pressure for further subdivision or more intensive urban development".

The scheme's Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS), an important blueprint for the future of all of the City of Manningham, says: "Manningham is committed to protecting and enhancing the existing character, landscape quality and other natural environmental values of the non-urban areas in an equitable and sustainable manner".

"Issues affecting this area include management of private land, the interface between the urban and non-urban areas, and sites of environmental significance," the MSS says.

"The sustainable management of non-urban areas is one of the largest challenges facing the city. Manningham's response will ensure that land use, development and land management practices protect and enhance soil, water and air quality, native flora and fauna, and the char-

acter of the non-urban area."

The MSS recognises about 3090 hectares of land east of Mullum Mullum Creek as the non-urban area which includes Park Orchards, Warrandyte and Wonga Park. It acknowledges that the area provides a semi-rural lifestyle choice with significant landscape and environmental values.

The statement says the remnant indigenous vegetation, of "varying significance", contributes to the "bush character".

"Flora, fauna and ecological processes contribute to the sense of place with numerous properties identified as sites of botanical or zoological significance, including rare and endangered species which provide important habitat," the statement says.

"Conservation and management of environmental assets are necessary so that the total quality of life we enjoy now and in the future can be increased."

The Municipal Strategic Statement notes the diverse topography of the areas of landscape or environmental significance. It says the "prominent ridgelines and deep gullies of the Warrandyte and Park Orchards area have the most environmental constraints and "offer an alternative lifestyle choice for people who are

seeking a more spacious and attractive environmental setting".

In other sections of the statement, council is committed to ensure that the "environmental significance, visual and landscape character of the environmental residential areas, including the Warrandyte township" are maintained and enhanced.

Among its strategies is to prohibit the use of land for more than one dwelling in Warrandyte.

The Manningham Planning Scheme has been warmly welcomed by Green Wedge conservation and residential groups.

Peter Curry, of the Warrandyte Awareness Group, speaking on behalf of several local organisations, said: "Conservation groups are well aware of the positive cultural change which has occurred following the gazetting of the Manningham new format planning scheme. There is now a strong strategy for better outcomes in conservation issues, especially in the Green Wedge and significant botanical and biological areas.

"There will always be pressure put on council and councillors for further subdivision in the Green Wedge and other non-urban areas, but we expect them to stand by the vision of our new format planning scheme."

Second house veto?

In a proposed amendment to its planning scheme, Manningham council may make it very difficult for Green Wedge landowners to have more than one dwelling on their land.

Apart from the ban on subdivision or separate title, council's proposed policies on environmental and land capability would make granting of a permit for a second house almost impossible.

In a letter sent to all Green Wedge property owners, council has advised that an amendment to the planning scheme has been prepared that will:

"Restrict the use and development of land for more than one dwelling. Maintain the distinction between urban and non-urban areas. Ensure that dwelling(s) are designed and located to be site responsive, with regard for land capability assessment, landscape treatment that reflects the intrinsic character, and that the distinctive features of the non-urban area are protected and enhanced."

Mr Steve Graham, president of the

Park Orchards Ratepayers Association, has welcomed the proposed amendment.

He told the *Diary*: "We were concerned that perhaps an oversight in the drafting of the recently adopted Manningham Planning Scheme had left the door open to would-be subdividers and multi-dwelling developers to restart their attack on the Green Wedge. The currently proposed amendment closes that door and sends a clear message—subdividers and developers need not apply."

However, Mr Graham believes that strong vigilance by local residents is still needed, "particularly as formulation of planning and policy amendments is largely in the hands of council, subject to ministerial sign-off".

"At the present time we fear that not all councillors are firmly committed to preservation of the Green Wedge," Mr Graham said.

The amendment has been publicly exhibited and a number of objections have been lodged.

Cash on offer for landcare projects

A total of \$120,000 is on offer by Manningham council for community environmental programs during 2000/2001.

"These new programs are designed to encourage residents who live near creeks or rivers, adjacent to nature reserves or in recognised conservation areas, to protect their local environment and build on the outstanding success of existing strategies such as the Local Environment Fund (LEAF)," a council spokesperson said.

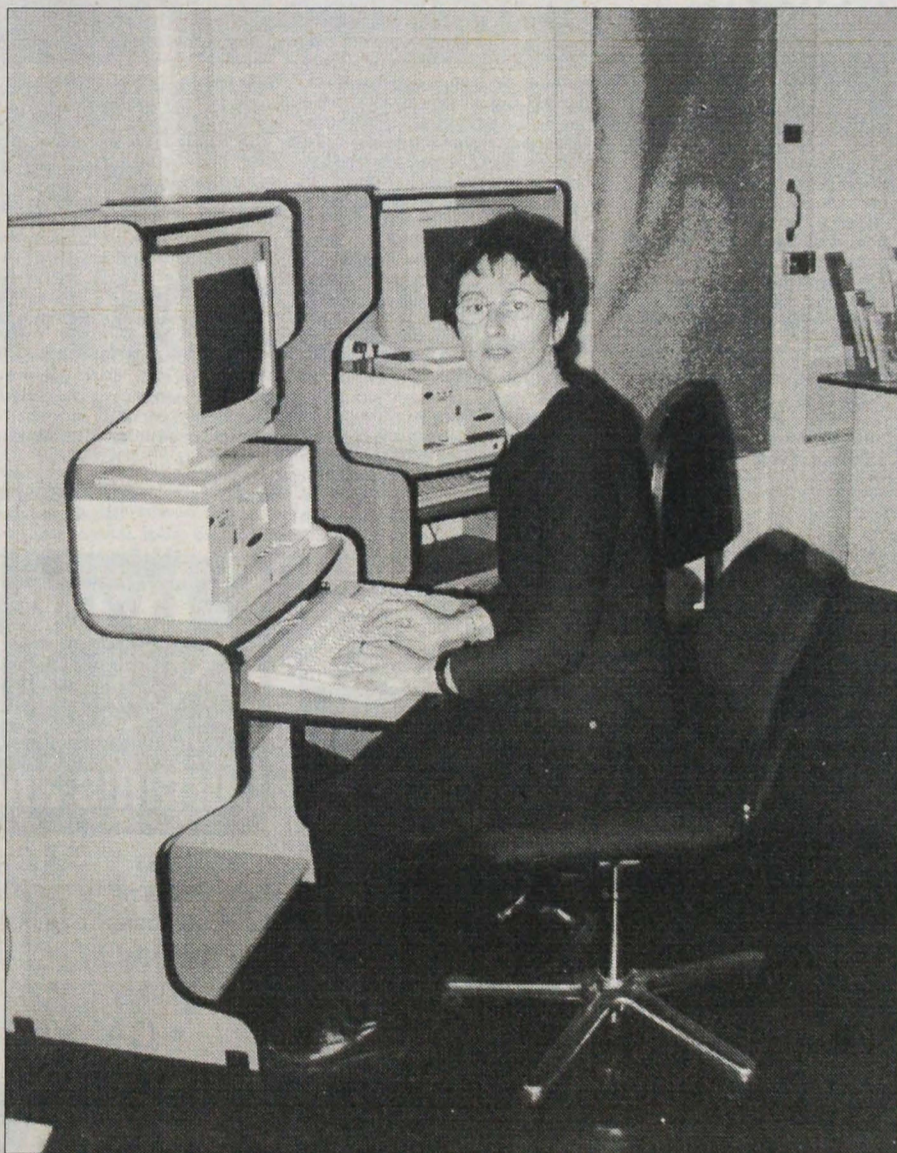
Opportunity for funding assistance exists through the expanded LEAF program, Urban Stream Frontage Assistance and Park Care programs for private land adjoining significant natural areas.

Cr Bill Larking said these initiatives recognise the importance of sustainable land management in all parts of the municipality.

"Grants are available on a dollar-for-dollar basis for environmental works such as weed, rabbit and fox control, indigenous planting and erosion control."

Residents in priority areas will receive an application form and guidelines in the mail.

For further information, guidelines or applications please contact Samantha Bradley, environmental planner, Manningham economic and environmental planning unit, 9840 9333.



Librarian Marika Szendroe tests a computer at Warrandyte's new e-library. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Our relocated e-library takes off—virtually

By RACHEL BAKER

The people of Warrandyte are embracing new technology, with the relocated e-library reporting increased traffic.

The virtual library facility, which was launched in March last year as part of the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation, moved last month from the community centre to Goldfields shopping centre.

"We've had more people in over the first week in the new location than we did for many, many months at the old location," Teresa Wight, information technology and information services manager of the library corporation, said. The new location also has more space.

The e-library's busiest times are just after school, when as many as 30 students enter between 3.30 and 4pm, Denise Owen, a service desk officer at the library, told the *Diary*. There are also many adults making inquiries about what the library offers, she said.

The e-library has seven computers, which people can use for searching the internet, email, chatrooms, and financial transactions. Customers are charged \$2.20 for half an hour of email, chatting and financial transactions; searching the net is free.

Demand for the computers is so high that advance bookings have been introduced. Customers can book one day in advance in person, or by telephone, Ms Owen said.

"There's an influx of kids as soon as school finishes," she said. "They all crowd around a computer, there's one sitting down and they're all having input. To make it fairer, we have bookings."

The library, which is operated by staff from the Pines branch, is also a pick-up and drop-off point for library books. Customers can have a book sent in from another branch, which usually takes about two days. There are two Warrandyte drop boxes, one at the community centre and one outside the supermarket at Goldfields.

"It was important to keep the one at the community centre for all the people who live on that side of Warrandyte," Ms Owen said. "They're popular, they're always chock-full of books."

There are plans to run activities at the e-library, such as internet training, storytime for young children, and school holiday activities.

The relocation of the library is positive for Warrandyte, John James, president of the Warrandyte Business Association, told the *Diary*. "It's a great facility for locals, and if the new location encourages people to use the shops while they're at the library, then that's very positive," Mr James said.

● The Warrandyte e-library is open 2.15-5.15pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9-12noon on Friday, and 10am-2pm on Saturday.

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Phil faces flak

Your front page heading "MP Defends Wedge" (August issue) should read "MP Defends His Job". Let's face it, he has been our representative in state parliament for 12 years, resides in Park Orchards and is still not interested in assisting over 1000 (closer to 2000) homes to allow sewerage connections—what is going on?

I find it incredible to understand how Phil Honeywood did not know there were so many unsewered homes or if he did, has not made an endeavour to rectify the position—perhaps he did, without success.

We now apparently have an innovative plan before council which could provide sewerage to most of Park Orchards and Donvale and what do we read in our local paper by our state representative—derogatory and vindictive statements. It is very sad that he is so "blinkered" and unable to see the benefits to all residents of our lovely city from here to Bulleen.

His last words, "Beware of property owners and certain councillors bearing environmental gifts". Heaven forbid that we should have councillors cast in the same mould as some politicians.

Perhaps a chance to redeem his image is now possible.

Trevor Parker
Tindals Road

MEMO: 'NOT BIASED'

The *Diary* has received a second letter from 'Not Biased' regarding full-time firefighters at Warrandyte CFA. As there is no name and address identifying this correspondent, we are unable to publish the letter.

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



Men at work: excavations for the driveway to the carpark behind the seven new shops in Yarra Street. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Fond memories of happy village childhood days

I have just finished reading your paper's very interesting article, "Halcyon Days by the River". It took me back to my early childhood spent in Brackenberry Street, Warrandyte, with my family. My father was a radio writer and mixed in with the art group in Warrandyte at the time. I am talking 1950s, so it was a very colourful and impressive time in my life—full of beautiful, natural bush, and a tapestry of interesting people and their lives, which intertwined around the years I spent living around the area.

I have a couple of pen and ink sketches which an artist by the name of Harry Hudson did of my father (Ru Pullan). I would be happy to send you down a copy of

DEAR DIARY

these if you would like them for your history record.

Harry Hudson was a good friend of Dad's, and he also gave art lessons to my sister. I remember him as being very colourful and quite strict about the lessons he gave.

Anyway, I enjoy your paper. My friend sometimes posts a copy to me, and now I have found you on the net so I look forward to visiting your site in the future.

Tina Williams
by email

The biggest granny flat ever built?

I wish to acquaint you with a proposed development in Warrandyte which is effectively a dual occupancy development. I must say it came as a surprise as I thought dual occupancy was no longer an issue in Warrandyte, but it appears that it is still permitted in Nillumbik.

The planning permit application deems the development a "dependant living unit" (granny flat) but the plans indicate a three-bedroom house, with none of the attributes normally found in a dependant living unit—large amenity areas and wide access. It is an area having no sewerage and will be located close to a very sensitive part of the State Park.

The proposed development totally conflicts with the Green Wedge concept, which is the amenity that attracts us to Warrandyte and which we are

Are we losing our character?

What is going on? I am concerned that Warrandyte is losing its character.

I have witnessed a great number of trees removed or severely "butchered" in recent months. These are not all at single sites, but the net effect is that there has been a depletion of vegetation which is becoming more and more noticeable. Only two years ago, it was with difficulty that I would be able to see houses on the ridge on the northern side of the river from my home near Scotchman's Hill. Now I see a great number of houses rising from an ever-depleting strip of bushland. Large areas of land have been scoured to provide building space for the nouveau riche and their over-sized

houses.

And now we have a development of shops in the village on a site that could hardly have been less suitable. The traffic problems that seem likely as a result of the carpark (for these unwanted and unneeded shops) which will be accessible from Mitchell Avenue are frightening. The Mitchell Avenue/Yarra Street intersection is on a dangerous blind curve, and is currently designated a "No Right Turn" intersection. What plans are in place to enable shoppers to return towards the bridge from this intersection?

Wake up Warrandyte. You have everything to lose.

L. Hobson
by email

CLYDE & OCKER



"Still plenty of characters in Warrandyte, Ock. Just ask Smokey!"

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.

Bruce Gangell
Bradleys Lane



WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP NOMINATIONS

Nominations are sought from interested Warrandyte residents/members or employees of an organisation operating in Warrandyte (as community representatives) and users of the Warrandyte Community Centre (as user representatives) to be appointed by Council as members of the Community Centre Management Group.

The Centre provides accommodation and facilities for a range of groups. In addition, other community groups, businesses and individuals can hire the Centre to conduct activities and hold functions.

The Warrandyte Community Centre Management Group comprises of four user representatives, three community representatives, and one representative each from the Shire of Nillumbik and Manningham City Council. The Management Group is responsible for the management and operation of the Centre.

For further information and nomination forms, please contact Rachel Diamond on 9840 9315.

Completed nomination forms must be received by 11 September 2000 and should be sent to: Diane Haskings, Manager, Social and Community Services, Manningham City Council, PO Box 1, Doncaster 3108.



DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR COMMUNITY GUIDE?

Nillumbik Council's 2000 Community Guide includes a comprehensive listing of Council services and community contacts. The Guide was distributed during mid-August by a local distribution company and through rural post offices.

If your household did not receive a copy, please telephone Council on 9433 3111 and we will post a copy to you that day.

Catherine Dale
Chief Executive Officer

THE WARRANDYTE SOUTH GENERAL STORE

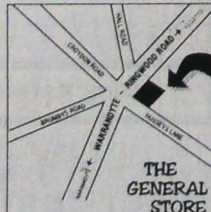
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All past members of the Warrandyte Primary School Bush Band are invited to return to perform with the current band at the old time fair and reunion to be held on November 18. "Bring along your instruments and take part in the biggest ever bush band", a school spokesperson said. The bush band has been a feature of Warrandyte's music program since 1983. Local identity Kevin O'Mara, Warrandyte

music teacher back then, kicked the program off. "It's still going strong 17 years later and continues to be a valued part of the performing arts program for grade 5 and 6 students." As well as the biggest ever bush band performance, the band will launch the new Warrandyte Primary School song. Rob Fairburn and Kevin O'Mara (pictured) are currently writing this, along with a student team of collaborators.

CSFs not fire crew

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

Warrandyte Fire Brigade officers are concerned that new CFA rules of employment could be discriminating against CFA employees who wish to offer their services as volunteer firefighters.

A new enterprise bargaining agreement between the state government, the CFA and the United Firefighters Union, formalised wages and conditions for career firefighters—two of whom are expected in Warrandyte this summer—and changed the roles and working hours of community support facilitators (CSFs). These may become non-firefighting support officers and community educators.

Local CFA captain Rob Kilkenny says the agreement is "discrimination" by the CFA as an employer for not allowing paid staff who are CFA volunteers to respond to fire calls during working hours. He says the CFA claims to be an equal opportunity employer.

"The CFA is asking employers to let their people go (and respond to fire calls) but since the agreement, is not using its own fully-trained, able-bodied people. Why should employers pay and let their own staff respond to calls when the CFA has its own people who can't attend? Why should everyone else drop tools?"

He feels it's important that CSFs attend fires occasionally, to see first-hand the effects of fire on people, the bush and the wider environment.

Himself a CFA volunteer for 18 years, Mr Kilkenny says that "if there's a facilitator at a brigade, who is also a CFA captain at another brigade, they can't respond".

"One day someone will be killed when a fire truck can't get out the door (because of a limited numbers of firefighters) while a supporting officer is sitting inside. Who will wear the responsibility—the union, the government or the CFA?"

Mr Kilkenny feels the agree-

ment is too rigid and it would be better if the support officer does a percentage of the calls or attends fires if the numbers on the truck are insufficient.

Issues surrounding fire station extensions and the appointment of two career firefighters at Warrandyte are causing further unease amongst CFA volunteers, who don't know the newcomers' ranks, when they might be appointed and when and if station extensions will occur. Roles of educators and support officers are uncertain.

Mr Kilkenny says the community runs Warrandyte brigade; what they tackle and with flexible facilitator hours to suit. But when the agreement is in force in mid-September working hours for support officers and community educators will be fairly rigid.

"It's going to become a station run by CFA headquarters and the local community could lose its control and input. What do headquarters know about local

environmental issues and the community's reaction to these issues? Our community support facilitator could work from six in the morning until midnight and on Saturdays, if needed."

He says the community education program has been "butchered". In the past month there have been about 30 fire awareness classes in the Warrandyte community, but under the agreement a regional person will fulfil this role, a person shared with 30 other brigades. It's not a position the Warrandyte captain likes.

"We're going into the fire season a long way back from previous years," he said. Warrandyte community support facilitator Jeff Adair is on secondment to CFA Dandenong regional office as a manager for community safety. He will return to Warrandyte in a different capacity in about a month. His community education role is being fulfilled by Ken Waxall.

Freeway: ring road fear

BY FIA CLENDINNEN

The state government's back flip on the Scoresby freeway coupled with its refusal to allow Nillumbik council to remove the road reservation has yet again raised concerns in the community about the controversial ring road.

Some residents feel these two recent separate developments are related and reveal the government's unstated intention to build the "missing link" through the Green Wedge.

As reported in last month's *Diary* the state government decided to maintain the overlay for the ring road reservation between Ryans and Diamond Creek roads, in direct opposition to the wishes of Nillumbik council.

The council had removed the overlay from its new planning scheme in order to allow the owner of the land (VicRoads) to sell or subdivide the land as they wished.

Further fears have been awakened by the state government's policy reversal on the Scoresby freeway.

Shortly after gaining office in October last year the new Bracks government announced it would axe the Scoresby freeway.

The ALP said it would instead embark on a public transport strategy to ease growing local north/south traffic congestion.

The decision to scrap the \$1 billion, six lane link between Ringwood and Frankston was welcomed by conservation groups from Melbourne's south-east such as the Knox Environment Society (KES), as well as by the Anti Ring Road Organisation (ARRO).

However early last month the Labor government made the surprising announcement that it was seeking federal funding for the Scoresby freeway.

Some sections of the community are concerned that if the Scoresby freeway is built traffic levels will increase to unmanageable levels at each end of the incomplete ring road. In such a situation the government could say its only choice, despite local opposition, was to force the missing link through the Green Wedge.

These conspiracy theories continue to be dismissed out of hand by the government.

Andre Haermeyer, ALP member for Yan Yean said, "the Bracks government will not,

and has no intention of extending the ring road from the Diamond Valley area to the eastern suburbs".

He also said, "this government is committed to developing an integrated transport system for Melbourne and Victoria that includes strong support for public transport".

But a spokesperson for ARRO dismissed Mr Haermeyer's statement as of little value. "In light of the state government's complete about-face on the Scoresby freeway I'm afraid that this reassurance is worthless," the spokesperson said.

"The fact that the government can so quickly change its mind on the Scoresby freeway means that a threat of a ring road through Warrandyte and Eltham is grave."

Mr Haermeyer's written statement was in response to a meeting entitled "Death Knell of the Green Wedge?", held in Hurstbridge last month. This meeting, attended by around 70 people, brought together representatives from different groups opposed to freeways across Melbourne including ARRO, KES, the Green Wedge Protection Group and Friends of Merri Creek.

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SO —! By SYD & ONA

No let-up as hot Corey runs riot for the 5 ringed circus



Help with history

A team of historians has been commissioned to document the history of Manningham and the council is encouraging residents to contribute.

"The 70,000 word, fully referenced and illustrated book will be a comprehensive municipal history, written in the context of both Victorian and Australian history," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

The history will look at the pre-European contact times, pastoral settlement, the discovery of gold, planned settlements, orcharding, women as designers and builders, the im-

impact of migrant settlers, artists and architects.

"Significantly, this project will address the lack of history studies conducted in the recent past," the spokesperson said, "and will focus on the city's development, policies, changes and movements in the latter part of the 20th century."

"It will be thematic, rather than a chronological history and will be a valuable publication in the process of understanding the development and identity of Manningham today."

Publication will coincide with the centenary of federation and

the 150th anniversary of the first discovery of gold in Victoria at Warrandyte and is expected to be completed in the second half of 2001.

Residents are being encouraged to assist by sharing their experiences.

"HistorySmiths' will conduct oral history interviews with people who have an interesting story to tell about living in Manningham."

Enquiries to Sonia Rappell, Manningham's economic and environmental planning unit, on 9840 9333 or sonia.rappell@manningham.vic.gov.au.

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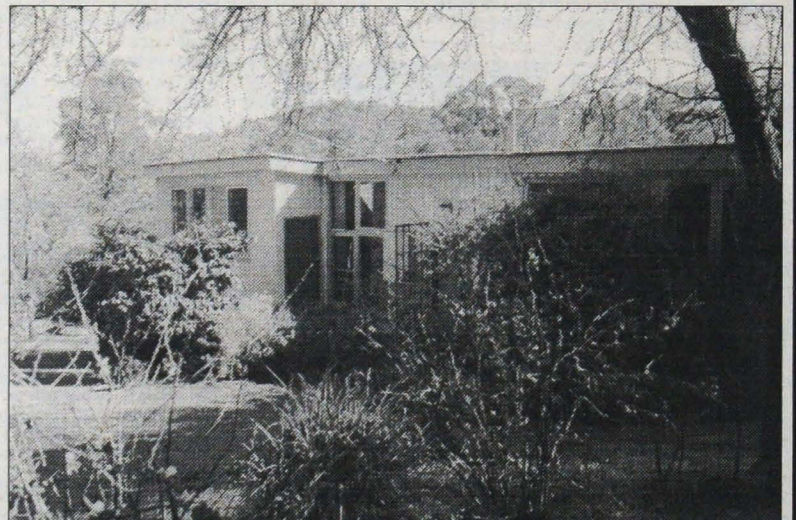


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Skatepark almost ready to roll

By CLINTON GRYBAS

Local skateboarders are hoping to finally have a place to call home early next year with plans recently unveiled for a skatepark at Warrandyte Reserve. Forty skateboarders and their parents were at the senior citizens centre last month to see Manningham council display its long-awaited design for the park.

Cr Patricia Young chaired the public meeting and said the Warrandyte Reserve site was the ideal choice to house the park.

"A number of other locations were considered, such as behind Warrandyte Community Centre, the land at the end of Webb Street adjacent to the new car park and the land near the bakery. None of these fitted the guidelines set down by council for the positioning of a skatepark. Warrandyte Reserve fits all the criteria."

Members of the skatepark's design and fundraising committees were also at the meeting along with representatives from the Uniting Church, Lions Club, senior citizens, local business owners and a professional skateboarder who has been helping with the skatepark's design.

"The only thing that will delay or prevent a skatepark from being built will be if the community thinks it's not a good idea," said Jock Macniesh from the skatepark committee.

"A skatepark is something that many people say is a great idea as long as you don't put it anywhere near my house."

"Obviously the people who are keen on skating and who are keen on the skatepark facility have been doing a lot of work to raise funds and raise awareness and let people know they would like to have one."

Skateboarding has re-emerged as a popular recreational activity for local youth in recent years but it was only late last year that they became serious about obtaining their own area.

"The thing that has made it difficult up until now is the lack



Probable site for our new skatepark, on Warrandyte Reserve, at the corner of Yarra Street and Taroona Avenue. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

of any co-ordinated strategy for providing these sorts of facilities in the town," Mr Macniesh said.

"My goal is to try and help provide facilities which the young folk of Warrandyte would be very happy to have rather than borrowing people's shop fronts and pavements to run their skateboards on."

"It's a long way from Warrandyte to the nearest place that is built for skating and it's a nice idea to use part of the wonderful landscape of Warrandyte to build a skatepark for them."

Mr Macniesh said he was a supporter of the skatepark being located at Warrandyte Reserve so it could enhance the area's sporting facilities and keep a centralised focus for

sporting activity.

Cr Young said a priority has been placed on ensuring the skatepark blends in with the local surrounds.



"There will be a lot of landscaping and planting of shrubs and trees and local stone will be used as was done with the West End Shopping Centre."

"Council is aware of the prominence of this corner as one of the gateways to

Warrandyte Tourist Trail and the design is environmentally friendly."

Fundraising for the skatepark has been growing steadily in recent months with much local support. An account remains open at the Commonwealth Bank for donations while many functions have been held.

Another is planned soon with families having the chance to have their names engraved on paving stones which will be used around the skatepark.

"I am sure some of the kids and their families would love to have their names enshrined in Warrandyte for years to come," said Cr Young. Order forms will be available later in the year.

Cr Young said she hopes the skatepark will be finished in the first half of next year.

Locals are pedalling for pleasure

Cyclists from all over Melbourne are set to explore Manningham, with the release of a new council publication—Manningham City and Country Cycling. The guide contains detailed maps and handy hints which are the perfect guide for recreational cyclists of all levels.

"Pedal power is one of the best ways to see our beautiful city and the new brochure highlights four wonderful rides around the municipality," a council spokesperson said.

● Warrandyte Wanderer—takes the rider through some of Warrandyte's quieter backroads, with some excellent destinations for picnicking or café lunches

and concludes with a pleasant ride along the picturesque Yarra River.

● Nature Lover's Circuit—will particularly appeal to cyclists who enjoy the natural flora of the Mullum Mullum Valley, together with bird-watching, frog-spotting in wetlands and even sighting the occasional koala.

● Down by the River Ride—combines significant offroad trail links along the Yarra River and Eastern Freeway with several onroad connections and is an excellent day outing for the cycling adventurer.

● Templestowe by Treadley—includes a brief introduction to the Main Yarra

Trail in Westerfolds Park, before experiencing the pleasure of Templestowe Village café society.

"The DL size, gate-folded map fits neatly into a pocket or bag and is a must for those thinking of hitting the bike paths in the coming months," the spokesperson said.

City and Country Cycling is available by calling council on 9840 9333 or by dropping into the municipal offices at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster or from local bike shops—Jones Cycles in Templestowe, Top Gear Bicycles in Doncaster East or from libraries and community centres.

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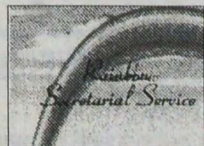


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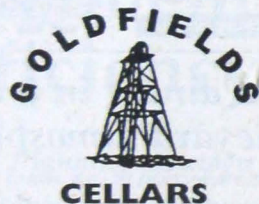
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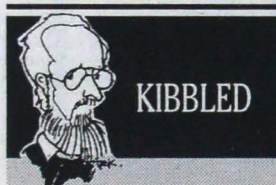
I tried to think about all those picturesque Provencal farmers busily making papier mache picture frames whilst their sons and wives made fire sticks from barbed wire, but I just couldn't reach the same fever pitch as Herself was displaying.

"What's the difference between a farmers' market and any other market?", I lamely asked.

"Are you for real? There's an enormous difference. There are all kinds of markets; a craft market where everything has to be handmade or you can have a car boot market at which anybody can sell anything from their car boot. But a farmers' market is where only produce produced on a farm can be sold. That means you only get vegetables, eggs, meat products and perhaps someone selling fruit, nut or berry trees. There's just no comparison. And we'll be there for the weekly market!"

I went away and contemplated how we might manage to freight home the two metre tall chestnut tree or the litter of piglets.

The reality was reassuringly pleasant. We had driven down from our hilltop village of Lacoste to the river flats that snaked between the fortified



"...might manage to freight home the chestnut tree or the litter of piglets..."

hilltop villages that give Provence its deserved reputation as drop dead gorgeous. Naturally, the highway takes the easiest engineering option so it didn't take us long to flash past kilometres of farmland to arrive at the very ordinary country town, aka "village", at which the market was to be held.

We saw a few stalls selling olde wares and one stall that was selling paté. We parked the car and walked around the modest market. The car trip had taken us 40 minutes and the circuit of our destination had taken us five minutes, tops! It was mid-morning Saturday on a less than tropical winter's day and I must admit that I was feel-

ing that Peter Males had a lot to answer for. I smiled wanly at Herself and suggested that we might as well go. After all, one can only bear so much excitement, even in Provence.

The car heater took longer than normal to clear away the frost from inside the car. I can only assume that the chill in the car was the reason I made an uncharacteristic wrong turn and instead of heading back to Lacoste, I set off at a right angle. I got about 50 metres before I came to a stop behind a yellow tractor. Nothing unusual about a tractor in farming country, but what attracted our attention was the very old, very gnarled and hessian bound olive tree perched precariously in the scoop of the tractor.

Because we had to travel so slowly behind the tractor, we had time to look in the direction of his indicator. And there it was. In the car park of the village supermarket. Herself's Holy Grail, the farmers' market. And what a difference. Suddenly, we had no need for the heater and the chill and fog had evaporated.

Logically, it's hard to understand the appeal of a market. After all, it's just like Shoppingtown but with mud, wind, dodgy pricing, all profit—no refund and poor (or no) refrigeration. But it's the romance that gets you in. When I go to a shopping centre the transaction is impersonal. Between you and the producer of the piece

of meat or the ears of corn are a plethora of middle persons. At a farmers' market, however, there he is, at the back of the ute or farm truck. The guy who planted the seeds, helped at the delivery of the piglet or calf or watched as his grapes were crushed after the last vintage. And there is the product of his sweat and dreams.

Like all the locals, we wandered around, entranced by the community atmosphere and by the products offered for sale. I suppose, to be honest, there was no more variety than you'd get in a good strip shopping centre, however, we felt buoyed by the experience and more than happy with the products we bought.

Last Saturday we went for a drive. We thought we'd drop in on the farmers' market at Yering Station. Wrong Saturday, so we headed off to revisit Gulf Station, only to find that no dogs are allowed so we changed plans and set off for St Andrews market. Like the market in Provence, St Andrews was teeming with life. The decade was questionable, but what was undeniable was the sense of involvement and community.

And there were the fire sticks, the crystals, the handicrafts of Asia, the old farm tools, the pummelling masseur, the ethnic drums. I've just come back from our local Safeway supermarket, dispirited. Not a farmer to be seen and definitely no dreadlocks!

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A black visitor, bringing a sad message from the past

AFTERWARDS, I thought of it simply as the day of the raven. But it was, in fact, one of the most extraordinary encounters with a wild bird that I have ever had.

It began much like any other Sunday, with a slow awakening—a drowsy, drifting in and out of sleep. There was no hurry to greet the incoming day. When I did finally open my eyes I saw him at once, outside the window, standing on the slats of the balcony, as black as jet with a sheen to match. Gazing through the glass, I stared into a pair of startlingly white eyes. His presence acknowledged, the raven flew up to the nearest tree and let forth with a resounding succession of caws, tailing off to a long, drawn out, characteristic, strangled gargle. Characteristic of which species? I had to delve into the bird books to find out.

The bird was an Australian Raven, so similar in looks and—despite its name—size, to the Little Raven that, until the 1960s, the two were considered to be one species. They can only confidently be separated by their calls—the Little Raven's ends abruptly with no gargling.

A few hours later the raven was there again. For some reason I thought of the bird as a "he" although it might equally have been a "she". I was sitting on the balcony with the family, but was not aware of the raven until I began reading aloud an article from the local paper. Immediately the large black bird started his cawing—loud and persistent. I stopped, he stopped, I started again, he started. The verbal battle con-



NATURE

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

tinued, but in the end I gave up, the competition was too much.

The afternoon was pleasantly warm for late winter and so I took a leisurely walk in the State Park, following the Black Flat nature trail down to the river. It was there that I saw the raven once more. I couldn't be sure, of course, but there was something in the way he looked at me. He was unafraid. Never, I told myself, underestimate the intelligence of birds.

For centuries in England, ravens were regarded as a bad omen—a harbinger of death. No doubt due to their sombre plumage and habit of feeding on dead animals which, gruesomely, included the corpses of hanging victims left on the gallows to rot. Once common in Britain, years of persecution drove the birds to the highlands of Scotland and the windswept West Country moors. It was a familiar story, one of ignorance and victimisation.

But the raven is not the only species to suffer at the hands of humanity. Human greed for skins, fur, meat, oil, blubber, ivory tusks, aphrodisiac horns and the like, has seen the slaughter, to near extinction, of some of the most unparalleled, irreplaceable wild animals on this earth. And it is worse, much worse. Some of our most barbaric crimes have been

against our fellow human beings. Greed again, this time for land; racial and religious hatred, leading to terrorism, torture and large scale massacres. I could not carry the burden of guilt for what my species has done to its own and others, but I told this raven, keeping alive the spirit and the memory of his ancestors, I was sorry.

That was the last I saw of him, except in a dream that night. I was walking again through the bush, head down and haunted, deep in dark thoughts of the most destructive species on earth—homo sapiens: "wise man"—what a joke! When I looked up the landscape had changed. The familiar bush had gone, replaced by a bleak, tree-

less moorland, exposed to the ravages of time and weather. At my feet, purple-flowered bundles of springy heather, and, sheltering amongst them from a relentless piercing wind, a huddle of ravens. From the group one bird emerged and flew a few metres in front of me.

In fading light, in a fine drizzle with an Arctic wind in my face, through the heather, through the night, he led and I followed. As is the way with dreams it was gone, suddenly, before reaching a conclusion. But I knew the ending anyway.

When I awoke, I half expected to find the bird standing on the balcony, but he was nowhere to be seen. The day of the raven was over.

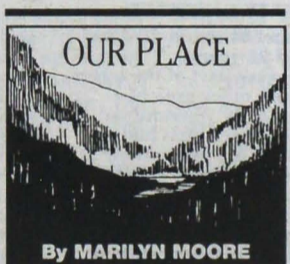


No place like home—in springtime

SPRING is sprung, the grass is rizz, I wonder where the lawnmower is? Under quite a few things by now, I imagine, having gone into hibernation round about last Christmas.

Another thing no longer visible to the untrained eye is a favourite hanging-basket, formerly flourishing outside the kitchen window. It's now somewhere up a gum tree (or, more probably, several gum trees), having been plucked from its wire support, beakful by stealthy beakful, over the last month or so. The culprits ought to be hanging their guilty heads in shame. Instead, there they all are, warbling their little hearts out, no doubt extolling the triumphs of their nest-building virtuosity.

But who cares? Ten or 15 dollars to buy a new hanging-basket liner is but a tiny price to pay once a year in exchange for countless hours of morning music. Absolutely gorgeous music, floating across the valley, competing for attention on the deck rail, and being answered from all corners of the bush up the hill. It would be cheap at a hundred times the price. In actual fact, of course,



OUR PLACE

By **MARILYN MOORE**

it's a treasure that money simply cannot buy.

"Just think", I find myself saying to increasingly deaf teenage offspring, "just think. Some children have never heard a butcher bird sing. Or a magpie."

I don't think they really believe me. But then it's notoriously difficult to appreciate the value of things we've grown up with.

Like Warrandyte's school productions. What gems! All that talent, enthusiasm, commitment, expertise and imagination: more stuff that money can't buy.

Then there's the monthly market. People rave about Southbank and St Kilda, but unless you're addicted to concrete and crowds, they're not a patch on our local version.

Last Saturday morning, for example, was simply perfect. By 8.30am the river bank was cosily laid out with herbs and seedlings, healthy organic veges and wonderful-looking home-made jams and preserves, colourful vests and children's clothes, gorgeously earthy pottery, piles of fresh cheeses, honey and cakes and myriad crafts of the highest quality.

Morning sun streamed from a cloudless sky; skillions of tiny droplets from Friday night's rain glittered and sparkled in the trees overhanging the galloping and turbid waters of the Yarra. The number of market-goers steadily grew and the air was filled with the fragrance of wet eucalypt, steaming coffee and fresh cake. High above, carolling magpies and wheeling cockatoos were drowned out by the adamant screeching of two lorikeets who were having a bit of a stand-off with a white cocky about priority usage of a particular perch. A distant zither provided a melodious accompaniment.

How can you explain to your kids that there is no place on earth better than this? You can't. Maybe in a few more years they will have worked it

out for themselves.

I sincerely hope so. The younger man of the house here thinks he might like to become an engineer. And we all know, as evidenced by that concrete-and-green-grass tragedy at the corner of Harris Gully Road that some engineers have no understanding of anything that they can't apply a textbook equation to. Hopefully an engineer born and bred in the bushy end of Warrandyte would have the nose to know that some constants (eg gravity) are more constant than others (ie concrete) and introduce into his calculations a few more appropriate variables.

Last week in The Age, a lengthy feature article about Wesley's new Clunes campus repeatedly alluded to the fact that the kids who attended it were privileged, apparently because their parents drove Rolls Royces and Jaguars. I can't believe people still write such rubbish. How can you be privileged if you have everything but appreciate nothing? Look at Kerry Packer blowing \$35m in an attempt to buy himself a few kicks. I bet he still wasn't happy.

Warrandyte kids are as privileged as any on the planet. If only they could appreciate it!

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As nice as Pi

By KEN VIRTUE

When Henry Croll Beecham passed away on August 17, 2000, Warrandyte lost one of its nicest people.

Known affectionately to most of his friends and family as "Pi", so nicknamed because of a light patch in his hair from his teenage years, he personified the idea of a true village gentleman. Pi always exhibited meticulous good manners and carried with him a deeply felt sense of doing things "the right way".

At the celebration of his life at their family home, Landfall, people were unanimous in their observations of his character—distinguished, kind, wise, community service-oriented, a model husband and father, quietly dignified and fun-loving.

Henry was born in 1928, the second child of Henry Guy and Natalie Jean Beecham. From his teenage years he became an important "carer" in his large family.

He met Marjorie at a dancing class—they were only 15 and 16 years old, and each Friday night they eagerly looked forward to dancing the waltz and foxtrot together. After some months, Pi invited Marjorie to The Pirates Of Penzance at Melbourne Grammar, and shortly afterwards he asked her to their cadet annual ball. So the die was cast for a relationship that was to span another 56 years.

They were married on April 19, 1950, and moved to their own house in Blackburn. Their first child was Sally Anne, then came Amanda Jane, and they moved to a four-acre property at Templestowe. Their third daughter, Creina Louise, was born soon after, and they all became involved in the social life of a semi-rural area.

They made many lifelong friends, helped build the kindergarten, started the local girl guides, the pony club and the lending library. Pi was clearly de-

voted to his daughters—he walked them with their ponies to avoid any traffic danger, and later on drove them all to the bus every day of their school lives.

He served on the committee, and was president of the Templestowe Parents and Citizens, and organised the timber and construction of the Templestowe Girl Guide Hall. This building still exhibits a large mural on its façade, created by Marjorie and erected by Pi and friends. Nothing was ever too much trouble for "his girls", or their families when they grew up.

Pi joined the family firm of H. Beecham and Co., and worked there for 33 years. He loved the timber industry, and quickly became involved in most aspects of it, including being a foundation member of its association. He even organised fund-raising functions for the "Miss Timber Association" which supported the Royal Women's Hospital.

The family later moved onto "250 acres of sheer bliss" at Westerfolds, and then settled at Barrabinda in East Doncaster where Pi built a tennis court and Marjorie had her pottery studio.

When they moved to Warrandyte, Pi joined the Eltham Rotary Club and was very involved in their youth programs. Recently he was awarded Rotary's highest honour, being made a Paul Harris Fellow for his long years of community service.

The family's move to Warrandyte had a particular significance. One Saturday a real estate advertisement in The Age was headed—"In a world of its own—two storey, weatherboard, beautiful garden, river frontage..."

Pi said, "That sounds like Landfall", which was once owned by his father. When this proved to be true, Pi and Marjorie couldn't resist it, and bought it back.

It soon became a hive of activity, full of young people, lots of happiness and laughter. It was dubbed "Landfall Receptions" because it was always the scene of a party or tennis day or open garden visit. In time it was also the venue for the garden weddings of each daughter and the beginning of new generations. Marquees were erected, pottery plates were made, flowers were picked and arranged, drinks were served and lucky guests were treated to the famous Beecham hospitality.

Amanda married Peter Sgourakis and their children are Emma, Yiorgo and Henry. Sally married Philip Taylor and their family includes Emily, Andrew and Guy.

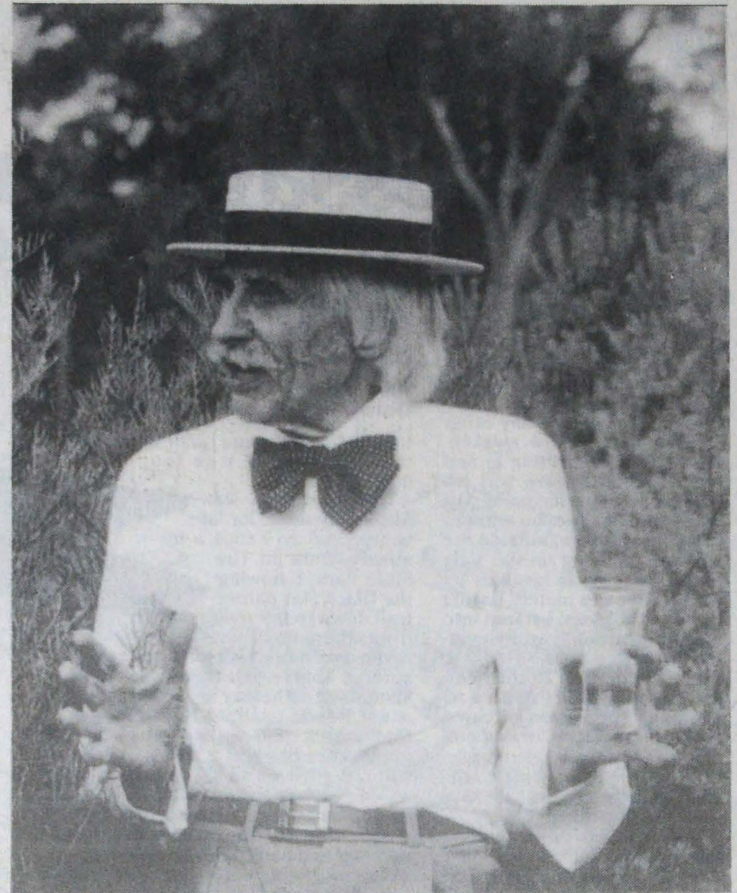
Later, following years "jillarooing" at a 150,000 acre cattle property in NW Queensland, Creina was married to Ewan Mackay. They now have two children together, Sasha and Morgan.

And so the extended family had grown to 16, before Pi and Marjorie's happiness was further blessed with the arrival of their two great grandchildren, Sebastian and Elsie (born to Emily and James).

When the family moved to Warrandyte, Pi and Marjorie became "fundamental" members of the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association. Pi was president and treasurer of their central committee for many years, Marjorie was president of the potters group.

They helped to maintain and re-build the historic hall and the potters studio, and were awarded life membership for their commitment to the arts in our town. Even when Pi was ill, he was there, as usual, helping to set up the annual art show; Marjorie's partner in everything they loved and shared.

He built a wing onto Landfall for his aged father-in-law, Walter Pizzy, and helped to care for him until he died at



89.

In his later life Pi was a financial consultant and helped many elderly clients with matters of finance. He often drove long distances in his distinctive old sports car to help his clients in their times of crisis. Again, he always put others before himself, a quality that was the lifelong signature of the man.

He was remarkably brave during his long and difficult hospital treatment

for the leukaemia that was to finally claim him. Nurses and doctors remarked on what an amazing man he was, but they were only stating what everyone else already knew.

Pi Beecham was an inspiration to young and old alike, an example of warm humanity for all of us to follow. I am sure they were thinking of him when they coined the expression "Nice as Pi".

Rest in peace, dear friend.

Family memories

By SANDY BURGOYNE

Wonga Park resident Greg Rudderham died on August 5, aged 43 years.

Greg and his wife Sharon moved to Wonga Park in 1987. Legend has it that they fell in love with the vacant block of land one dark night as they viewed it by their car's headlights. They decided this was the place to build a dream home and bought the land the very next day, without returning to look at it in daylight.

The Rudderhams welcomed daughter Stephanie in 1990, followed by Mitchell in 1994 and Georgie in 1996. In their turn the youngsters went to the Burch Memorial kindergarten in Wonga Park, with Stephanie and Mitchell later attending Wonga Park primary school. Greg and Sharon served on the committees of the kinder and the school and helped out on working bees. At school fetes Greg was the undisputed barbecue man, where he charred the sausages to perfection.

Like most parents he was part-time taxi driver and activity watcher for the kids' sports. These included cricket, basketball and swimming—most of these being with local clubs. In the middle of this year he watched daughter Stephanie play in the K&MDBA basketball grand final. Greg was thrilled when her team, the Wizz Kids, won the premiership.

Another legend, this time about Greg's courtship of the fair Sharon. His prospective in-laws were a bit dubious about this long-haired lair driving the V-eight being worthy of their daughter. Before he was welcomed into the bosom of the family he was asked a question that rivals the complexity of the Riddle of the Sphinx: "What foxy team do you barrack for?" He pleased Sharon's family no end by replying, "Carlton, of course!"

Cars were an important part of Greg's life and he took great pride in the various Holdens he owned over the years. On leaving school he went to work with Repco where he learned his trade in the brake and clutch field. Greg left Repco some years later and started his own business in Carlton in 1983. He continued to run Clutch and Brake Services until the end of his life.

In June this year he arranged a surprise party for his wife's 40th birthday, but time was already running out for Greg. In the middle of the preparations he was diagnosed with lymphoma, but



Greg Rudderham and family

he insisted that the show would go on. And go on it did with many friends and relatives packing out the Wonga Park hall to celebrate on the appointed night.

The prognosis of Greg's lymphoma was promising and he started a course of aggressive chemotherapy. At the

end of the fourth treatment cycle he had lost all his hair and was easily tired, but his attitude was still buoyant. However, his resistance to infection was greatly reduced and he contracted meningitis. Although he received the best of care, Gregory Phillip Rudderham died a few days later.

He designed a good life

By BETTY LAVENDER

Douglas Carmel Shannon died on June 20, aged 92 years.

In 1950 we were part of the migration to the leafy outer area of Melbourne, namely Warrandyte. Doug, Jess and three girls had already settled on the hill in their house named The Kipsy; "the house that Doug built".

He was an interesting and innovative architect with a great liking for split level. He took full advantage of the slope and the views, with several attractive interior features, such as panelling in beautiful woods and a clever use of space.

We used the barter system wherever possible and the Shannons' hot water service was plumbed and installed by my husband. In return Doug designed our next house.

Doug and Jess worked hard for the state school and we all joined them, raising funds for American field scholarship. I depended on Doug, a born show-off, to assist us in raising funds for the kindergarten by joining in our attempts at square dancing.

We waited with bated breath for his next project: wine-making, bread-making, Italian lessons, watercolour; he was never one to allow the grass to grow under his feet.

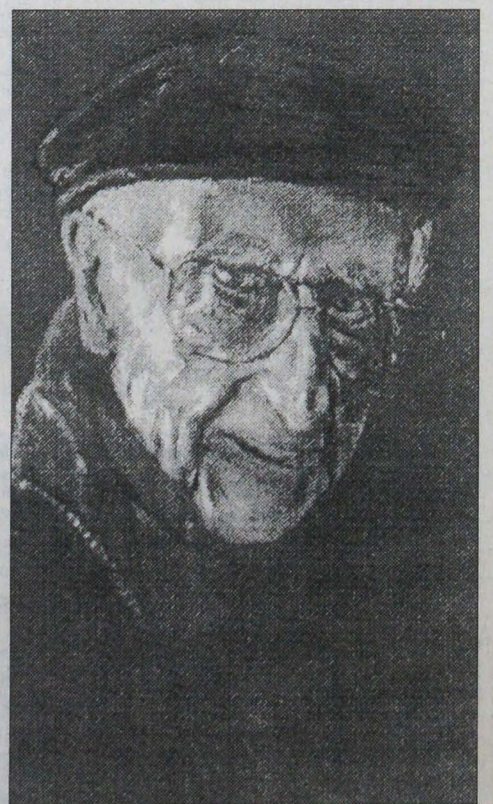
He insisted on marching every Anzac Day, until the last few years. I taped more versions of Lest We Forget for him than I care to remember. Always a perfectionist, he wanted it just right for the retirees at "Roseville", where he settled after Jess died.

We shared many meals together and he took an interest in all things Warrandyte, his three girls and his grandchildren.

His humour was a little offbeat for some but I enjoyed it very much. I will always remember his suggestion to me, that it would be a wise move to book a plot in the cemetery in the area adjoining he and Jess; that way he would not have need to go too far for a talk and a drink.

Doug was blessed with good health through most of his life, a wonderful wife and three great girls.

Farewell, dear friend.





Life in the village

I WORKED on the farm until I was 21, when I told them I was sick of farming and I said to Mum that I was going to get a job. I went down to the village, to Yarra Street, not knowing where to start looking for work.

Jack Moore was the estate agent and ran the grocery store. The older Mr Moore ran the petrol station (now site of the community centre), Agnes Moore had the tearooms and lolly shop (where the *Diary* office and Lions Op Shop is now). They were pretty good people. Charlie Moore would come around to the homes and deliver the grocery orders. I went into Jack Moore and said, "I wish I could get a job", and he replied that Mr and Mrs Naxton at the Riverview Tea Rooms (near where the present day Post Office is now), were looking for someone to do waitressing.

Mr and Mrs Naxton asked me what I could do and I told them "nothing", so they gave me a job helping Mrs Naxton in the kitchen. It was my job to light the stove in the morning and fill the kerosene lamps when it got dark. They had a great big grey stove, a huge, wood fuelled thing it was. All the scones and roasts were cooked in it, grills on top of it. I had been there a week and one morning I got in, shut the stove door and lit the fire. Old man Naxton got up and said, "Did you let the cat out?" I said, "Where from?" "The oven," he replied. "I'll never forget that smell as long as I live. I had cooked the blasted black cat. Anyway the people had to eat scones out of that oven just the same and nobody knew any difference.

Mum always used to do the lamps at our place, so I had to learn to pump the kerosene out of the tins into the lamps, and honestly I would always forget those flaming lamps. It was always nearly dark, you could hardly see what you were doing. I would suddenly remember, run in and get them, take them out the back, and sure enough, old man Naxton would come around and catch me filling up the lamps.

There was a verandah right around the Riverview Tea Rooms. Tables all around that I had to scrub white every day with sand soap. They had pot plants with aspidistras to decorate the nine tables. My job was to lug water up from the river, fill up this tub and stand the aspidistras in the water, drain them and place them on the tables. I got keen to make them look nice whilst they were draining so I stacked the aspidistra all along the fence. Next

PIONEERING DAYS

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

door to the café was a paddock that the Naxtons used for milking the cows. Later after milking, they would take them across the bridge to a paddock to graze. I didn't know cows ate aspidistras but they finished them off whilst Mr Naxton was eating breakfast. Did I get into trouble! We changed over to primulas after that.

I was waitressing and Mrs Naxton was doing the cooking when one day she fell down the front steps and broke both her wrists, so they started teaching me how to cook. I was learning how to cook biscuits and everything when they decided to sell to Mrs McDougall. I'd got sick of it by that time because it was damn hard work—I was doing everything: the waitressing, cooking, the washing up (done in a dish and tray, no dishwashers then).

Mrs Mac was a journalist, she'd never done any café work in her life, I'm blown if I know why they bought it. Sandy McDougall was hopeless at cooking too. I told Mrs Mac that I was going to leave because I was sick of it, but I got to like her. She asked me to stay until she got the hang of it and then suggested I have a holiday, and if I felt like it, to come back. I only stayed down on the farm for the holiday. I soon decided to return to the café.

Airds Hall was where the Commonwealth Bank is now. Mr Fisk ran a dance called The Merrymakers Club from there. Vic Meekin lived in a house that was near the big cypress tree (now in the car park) and used to conduct the Sunday evening community singing. Vic would call out the names of the songs and Gert Robinson played the piano. It used to begin at 8pm and go until 11pm; we used to sing our hearts out. Dad would also play the piano there and I would sing. We used to have a little fox terrier that followed Dad wherever he went. It used to get up on the stage and sit beside the piano, and as soon as I began to sing, the dog would howl along with us. We eventually had to lock it up in the house before we walked up to community singing.

I would get 12 shillings and sixpence a week from Mrs Mac, and for 12 months I would go

into Melbourne once a week for singing lessons at Allans Music Store from Madam Ethel Ashton and piano lessons from her daughter Iris. I wanted to sing like Gladys Moncrief. That took about 10 shillings of my money and the rest of it was fares and a cup of tea at the Robur Tea Rooms.

I loved singing. It was our life. At home Dad would play scales on the piano so that I could practice. Dad learnt to play at the boarding school for eight years at Bonn in Germany. He had to learn the piano being a Wagner—Maximillion Joseph Wagner. All classical music, he knew lots of pieces and taught them to me, such as Schubert's Serenade. Mum's brothers were all musical. Uncle Arthur had the brass band in Yarram, Uncle Bill had a brass band in Warragul, and Uncle Jack played the trumpet. Before they all came to Noble Park, they had the Alpine-Bright Brass Band. Mum played the piano; she could play Swanee River but Dad didn't like that sort of music and wouldn't let her play it. I was always asked to sing at all the soldiers' farewells at the Mechanics Institute. Councillor Williams would ask me to sing at the Athenaeum in Doncaster for the boys going to the war.

Dick Spetts had the butcher shop; Frank Sloan ran the shop while he was overseas at the war. Tommy Jones and his wife ran a tea-house on the corner of Everard Drive—an old brush-walled thing, it looked like a garden shed. Peter Coltman ran the dairy down on the flats near the Gospel Chapel, later run by the Bellengers. Mrs Mac, after milking her cows, would have to carry those two heavy buckets of milk across the bridge and up Research Road and Kangaroo Road to her customers.

There were a lot of shack dwellers in the wilds of the Warrandyte forests. There were people living down on the riverbank in tents, near the bottom of Forbes Street.

Inglenook Café was around near the wine hall (now Folk Art); in fact it was all cafes from the bridge up. Many visitors came to Warrandyte, especially in July and August to see the wattles in bloom. Every weekend there would be cars everywhere. They came on bikes and buses. Withers' Bus Line was based in Doncaster and ran its Parlour Cars from Russell Street in the city to Warrandyte. Their theme song ran, "I'm as free as the breeze, why don't you stop me and try, I will do as I please, open road open

sky". The buses were driven by locals Jacky Ross, Ted Egan, Sam Harris and Roy Tzar.

Directly opposite the police station, Ferdinand Hornidge's parents lived in a beautiful house, and Ferdinand Hornidge had a miniature wax works like Madame Tussaud that he ran for the tourists. The Nankervilles ran the petrol station (where the community centre is now)—later on known as Getsons—after Mr Moore.

Sandy McDougall was a manufacturing chemist who worked in a little shop next to the bridge, where the tennis courts are now. He wore those heavy rimmed glasses as he worked out the back of that shop producing face creams and health oils. I used to stand and watch him crush all the various ingredients and pigments in his mortar and pestle. When he made up all his jars of beauty products and cosmetics, he would pack them into a case and I would deliver them into Melbourne by bus. I'd deliver them to companies like Sigma, and people like Stephanie Deske and Doris Winter. Stephanie had a big beauty saloon in Melbourne, and Doris Winter had restaurants in Spring Street.

Vernon Thomas also made a "cure all"—everybody reckoned that it was river water. He used to have these bottles of "Boreth". He lived in what is now the Wilson McDougall Real Estate office; he wasn't a chemist or anything, just a Warrandyte old-timer.

Mr and Mrs Ramsdale from over the bridge had a family of eight kids. They would drive down with a horse and buggy and park near the bridge and have a matrimonial argument—a shouting and screaming match—every day.

Billy Betton, a local councillor, also used to argue with his wife every morning as he waited for the bus at Tresize Street. He made cigars for 40 years. His brother, Harold Betton, was killed in a water tank during a bush fire up Research Road.

Dick Spetts who owned the butcher shop (Frank Sloan ran the shop while he was overseas at the war) came back from the Second World War and married Phyllis Hutchinson. Johnny Hutchinson married Alma who lived up Pound Road.

It was a wonderful community to live in. Everybody knew everybody else and their business. You were always warmly welcomed into every Warrandyte home. It was like it was one big family's country village.





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Creek kids on stage

By **ASHLEE HUGHES, LOUGHLAN
PRIOR and SHELLY BARRIBALL**

The kids at Anderson's Creek Primary
School have been charming local audiences
with their annual onstage production.

The preps performed Bugs, surviving all
four nights without falling asleep on stage!
There's going to be a picnic. The Lady Bugs
are in charge of proper etiquette, the Army
Ants will handle security, the Fire Flies are
in charge of lighting, and entertainment will
be provided by the Bees. Looks like
everyone's set! But what's this? The Stink
Bug wants to come too. Congratulations to
all the preps.

When we asked prep students, David
Eldridge and Laura Moresi about their fa-
vorite part in the production, they broke
into a song and dance, and said their fa-
vorite song was "I want to be just like
you!" Levi Polkinghorne, the Mean Bug,
said, "I love saying my lines because I'm a
Mean Bug," and Emma Miller, a Ladybird,
said her favorite part was the "Man I feel
like a Woman" dance.

The Grade 1-2 production was Wackadoo
Zoo. They did a wonderfully wacky per-
formance, which included a lot of singing and
dancing: "The strangest thing you ever
knew, was in the town of Wackadoo, and
people came from miles around to hear
what was going on in the zoo."

Not all is what it seems at Wackadoo Zoo,
something strange is happening. The ani-
mals sound different but the professors
won't have it! After practice upon practice,
still nothing has changed. In disgust the
professors go home, and all is left the same
at Wackadoo. But it doesn't really matter
does it? It's OK to be different after all. We
asked Grade 1 students what their favorite
part in the production was.

Maddy Kercher (monkey) said, "I liked
watching the audience, and the costumes,
they were cool." Nicholas Tookey (chorus)
said he liked singing and shaking the ma-
racas.

Tamlyn Mokaraka (monkey) said, "I like
the dancing and my costume." Jordan



Young (chorus) said, "I like singing and
watching the goats wiggle their tails!"

The Grade 3-6 production was Hercules
The Games Of The Gods, a play written by
Peter J. Mitchell.

On a rainy night some time around 399
BC, just before dinner, a stranger enters an
inn a few miles from Thebes in Ancient
Greece. He promises to tell them a fantas-
tic story in return for a meal. This story is
about the Olympus games (not the Olymp-
ic games, but the Olympus Games). These
games are held by the gods. Hades, Zeus
and Poseidon, after defeating the Titans,
divide the world in three where Poseidon
gets the sea, Zeus gets the sky and Hades
gets all the leftover parts of the world and

the fiery underworld. Hades is not very
happy.

In the Olympus Games, Hades tries to get
revenge on Zeus by winning, but it doesn't
work and Hercules saves the day.

We asked some people about the play.
Michelle Hall (Spit The Dummy) said, "I got
a really huge fright when the explosion
went off, I nearly had a heart attack!"
Adriana Guardiani (Aphrodite) said, "I
loved being on stage, the dance I choreo-
graphed was my favorite, I liked doing the
splits". Nicky Lang (Hermes) said, "I loved
being onstage, and after the performance I
was very tired".

We all had fun, and we are looking forward
to the next production.

Green-fingered group is growing

By **KARA WILLIAMS**

When it comes to nature the
North Warrandyte Osborne
Peninsula's Landcare Group is
right at home.

The group, which started in
1992, has received a Bush Care
grant from the federal govern-
ment of \$200,000 over three
years, helping to plant native
plants on many properties
around the Warrandyte area.

"The money is helping to link
up all the pieces of native habi-
tat along the Yarra River and
tributary creeks surrounding
the Warrandyte State Park," co-

ordinator Margaret Burke said.

The group was originally just
residents of Osborne Road.
They set up a nursery to make
resources available for those
places not under the State
Park's protection. The nursery,
which supplies all its flora to
volunteers, collects seeds and
cuttings from species which are
indigenous to Warrandyte.

"When you are trying to revege-
tate it is hard to get indigenous
plants," Margaret told the *Diary*.

Set up to establish rare and
threatened species and gar-
dens, where they will be "main-

tained and treasured", the
group has teamed up with other
land care groups—Kangaroo
Ground Landcare, Hamilton
and Koornong—to maximize
their efficiency.

It is fully supported by the
Warrandyte State Park rangers
and Greening Australia, in ad-
dition to Nilumbik shire, which
recently gave the group an un-
used glass house, which will
help to grow 20,000 plants a
year. Damian Cross, the environ-
mental officer for Nilumbik,
also contributed by helping
with planning issues on private

land within the area.

Together, the groups were in-
volved in the Olympic Land
Care Project. Kangaroo Ground
Landcare helped by donating
2000 plants whilst the other
three groups combined contrib-
uted 3000 plants.

"It's a great project. Everyone
has a wonderful community
spirit and they help each other,"
Mrs Burke said.

• The Osborne Peninsula
Landcare group is holding its
annual general meeting on Sep-
tember 17. For details, call Mar-
garet Burke on 9844 1060.

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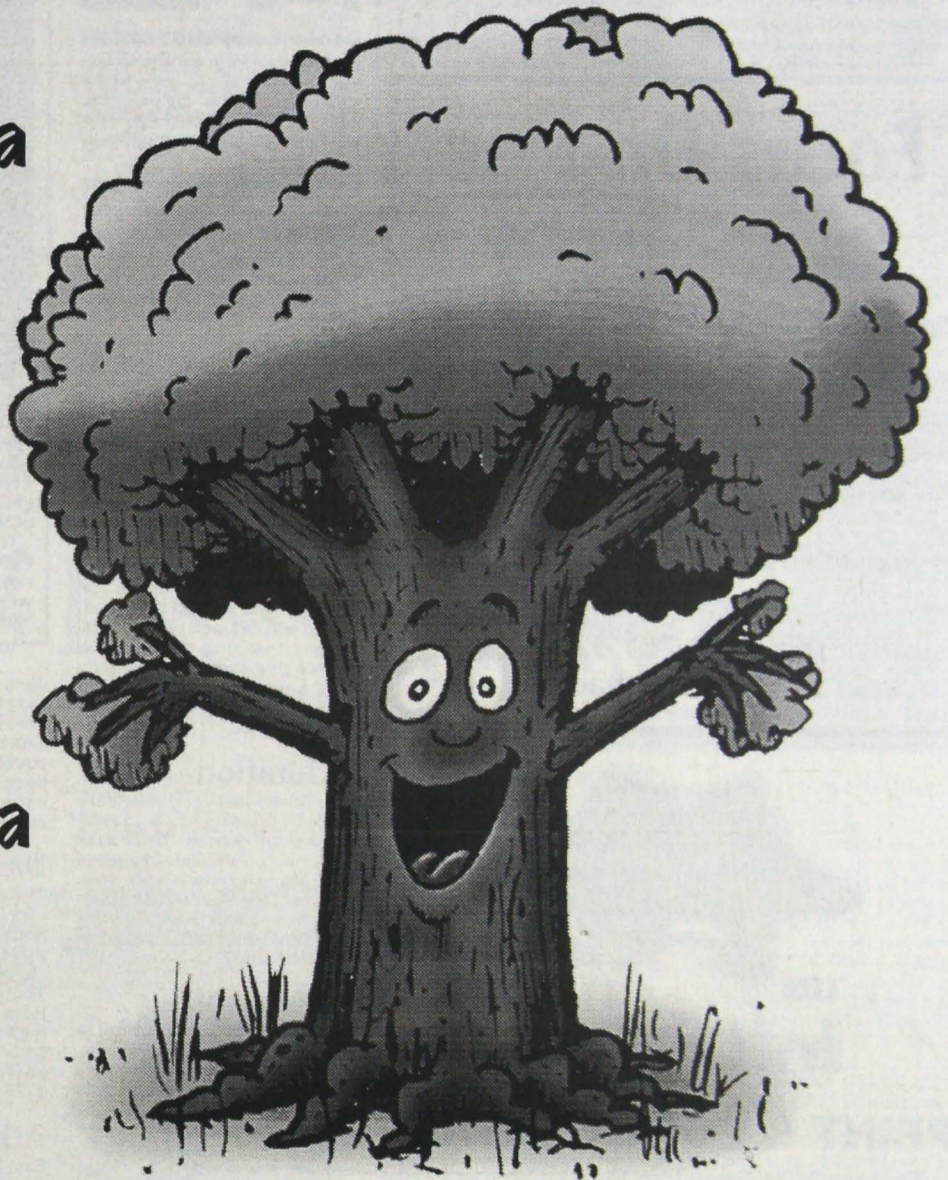
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Help raise the roof

Warrandyte Theatre Company is presenting a Raise The Roof concert at the Mechanics Institute Hall on Saturday, September 16 at 3pm and again at 8pm. The concert, featuring Warrandyte's tried and favourite songs, singers and sketches, is a fundraiser to help repair the hall roof. Tickets are \$15. Contact Joan Rogers at the Bakery Cottage Bookshop on 9844 1744 or phone Gail Macrae on 9844 3475.



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.

Garden

The Hanson garden at 104 Webb Street will be open to the public on the weekend of September 23 and 24 between 10am and 4.30pm as part of the Open Garden Scheme. Designed by Beverley Hanson, assistant to noted landscaper Ellis Stones, this garden is a delight. Entry is \$4.20 for adults.

Gymkhana

Wyena Horse and Pony Club is holding a gymkhana at its grounds in Croydon Road, South Warrandyte on Sunday, October 8. All riders under the age of 21 are invited to attend. There will be open riding rings, a pony club ring, novelty ring, novice ring and a showjumping ring. Enquiries to Lisa Duggan on 9879 0872 or Karen Wooley on 9844 0543.

Exhibition

The Warehouse in Middle Park recently conducted a solo exhibition of works by Peter Daverington showing images of Lake Mungo. Peter is a previous winner of the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award and used his prize money to travel and develop his artistic talent.

Memorabilia

Warrandyte Primary School is still seeking items to put on display at the stone building's 125th birthday celebrations in November. Any items relating to the school's past would be most welcome. Photos can be copied. If you can help please contact the school or Judy Finger on 9844 3150.

Nature

John and Bev Hanson's property at 104 Webb Street will be

Kids' books come alive



The last week in August was Book Week and Warrandyte Primary School children celebrated all week. Activities included poetry, book and book review readings and a "Drop Everything and Read", where primary school children across the state simultaneously picked up books and read for fifteen minutes.

The highlight of the week was a Book Week Parade. The children dressed up in a wide range of book characters. Joining the parade were Pippi Longstocking, Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz, Saucepan Man from the Far-

away Tree and they even had a real dalmation from One Hundred and One Dalmations. One whole grade dressed as various characters out of Harry Potter while other grades acted out books.

Principal Mandy Dunn said, "It was fantastic to see the children bringing their favourite books and characters to life. The parade and other activities reminds us how books remain an important influence in children's lives despite other technologies such as television and the internet."

open to the public on Saturday, October 14 for a 2.30pm tour. This has been arranged by the Trust for Nature with whom a covenant on the property has been arranged to preserve the natural bush forever. Adult admission is \$4.

Dance

The next South Warrandyte social dance, to be held at the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road, will be on Saturday, October 7 commencing at 8pm. This popular monthly event features modern and oldtime dancing to a superb band. Cost is \$5 with tea and coffee provided. For further information contact 9723 3892.

Athletics

East Doncaster Little Athletics Club is welcoming new members to the 2000/2001 season which commences on Saturday, October 7. Competition is open to children from five to 14 years. Contact Gerry or Denise on 9842 9435.

Seminar

The next Green Wedge Seminar to be held at the Currawong Bush Park conference room will be on Thursday, October 5. Diane Simmons, lecturer at Deakin university and captain of the Christmas Hills CFA will speak on the ecological benefits of controlled burning.

Revegetation

As part of Nillumbik Shire Council's community training program there will be a session at Edendale Farm in Gastons Road, Eltham on Sunday, September 24 at 10am to discuss practical revegetation skills. For information contact Jon Miller on 9433 3192.

Zoo

Karen Rotherham, daughter of Ted and Shirley of Tills Drive, who has been working as a zoo keeper at Perth Zoo, has now arrived in England to work on exchange at the Open Range Zoo at Whipsnade.

Labor choice

The Australian Labor Party has endorsed Ms Olga Vasilopoulos, a longtime resident of Bulleen as its candidate for the next federal election. Ms Vasilopoulos defeated Mr David Orr (ALP candidate for the state seat of Warrandyte in the 1999 election) in a preselection ballot.

She is 32 years of age and works as a Greek interpreter and is completing her masters degree in communication at Monash University.

"Ms Vasilopoulos has been appalled by the federal government's decision to cut grants to major Italian, Greek and Turkish welfare agencies," an ALP spokesperson said. "She feels the cuts will adversely affect many first generation Greek, Italian and Turkish residents of Menzies who need cultural and linguistic support."



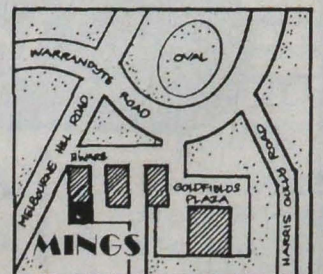
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Noddy for president

Club stalwart seeking Bloods' top job

By LEE TINDALE

Long-serving stalwart Robert "Noddy" Ireland has put up his hand for the Warrandyte Football Club presidency.

Ireland, 47, told the *Diary* he would be a candidate for the top job, which will be vacated by Jeff Evans at the annual general meeting in November.

If the Ireland "ticket" is accepted by the meeting, he would lead an executive comprising Evans, president for the past four years, as treasurer, local hotelier Noel Taplin and former player Andrew "Bucky" Rodgers as vice-presidents and senior player James Logan as secretary.

Recent club history suggests that this executive would be elected unopposed.

Ireland's association with the Bloods dates back to his Under-17 playing days. He played reserves football until he was 28 and was a member of the 1982 premiers team. A knee injury ended his on-field career the following season.

SPORT

A WFC life member, he was coach and/or team manager of the Warrandyte Under-18s for six seasons, club secretary for three and has been intermittently off the committee for only four years since 1974.

Asked what he saw as the Bloods' immediate future following their relegation from EFL Second Division, in which they won only two of 18 senior games last season, Ireland made it plain that his objective would be to see the club back in Division 2 as quickly as possible.

"A lot of people have said to me that we're better off in Third Division," he said, "but I don't agree with that at all."

"You don't work your guts out on the committee — putting in more hours than the players themselves — to go



Jeff Evans

down a division."

Outgoing president Evans said he believed Ireland would be an excellent leader.

"I think the executive we propose would be good for the club," he said. "Nod's been here for a long time and he has a lot of ideas which we endorse," he said.

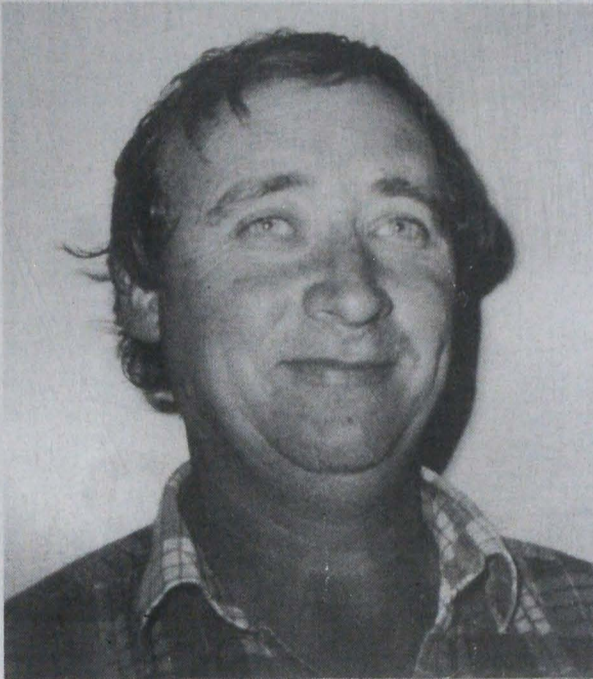
Season 2001 is also likely to



James Logan

see club major sponsor Ian Bell actively involved in the football side of the club. Bell, father of senior player Willie, has expressed interest in playing a hands-on role.

The Bloods will hold their 2000 vote count at Club Warrandyte on Sunday, October 8. Bookings can be made with Evans on 9722 1111.



Robert 'Noddy' Ireland: 'You don't work your guts out to go down a division.'

Dominant Redbacks set a blistering pace

By TONY OLIVER

Three Warrandyte teams are leading their divisions in the North West Conference of the Friday night junior basketball championships. And a fourth are likely finals contenders.

A stunning victory by the Under-16 boys over pace-setting Coburg gave them the lead in their division for the first time this year.

The Redbacks lost narrowly to Coburg earlier in the season but have improved steadily, characterising their game with some unorthodox passing and shooting styles.

They established early dominance in their latest encounter and ran to an 11-point lead which they maintained for most of the game.

A couple of three-pointers to Coburg late in the game lent respectability to their score but Warrandyte ran out worthy 52-46 winners.

Scott Cannon led the Warrandyte onslaught with 18 points, followed by Tim Given (13) and Che Pianta (11).

The result left the Redbacks and Coburg on 16 wins apiece, Warrandyte leading on percentage, and with just three rounds to go before the early-October finals, the minor premierships may be decided by winning margins.

A recent run of good form — including wins over Sunshine and Craigieburn — has seen the Under-14 boys move into the finals group. Their confidence was dented by a narrow loss to

Coburg, poor shooting leaving them with an 18-10 deficit at half-time. The Redbacks fought back strongly but could not go on with it, Coburg steadying for a 43-31 victory.

Warrandyte should retain third spot on the ladder but need a win to hold out fast-finishing Werribee.

The Under-16 girls lost top spot briefly when they went down 30-18 at home to Coburg after trailing 16-8 at the break.

But Coburg held division leadership for just one week, beaten by Sunbury in a minor upset while Warrandyte scored a percentage-building 60-2 win over Banksia.

It set the stage for a key contest this month when the local girls host giant-killing Melbourne in a clash which could well decide the minor premierships.

Lorraine Parfitt's Under-14 girls have played three of the top teams in recent weeks for wins over Coburg (19-15) and Diamond Valley (35-19) and a loss — only their second of the season — to Altona by the narrowest of margins, 21-20.

The defeat threw open the minor premierships, with Warrandyte holding the inside running.

Malcolm Anderson's Under-11 boys recorded a stirring 23-20 win over Metro side Sunbury Jets in a crossover game, followed by a 43-20 loss to the Under-12 Western Port.

Although beaten, the young Redbacks reinforced their po-

tential, with many players still eligible to play Under-11 next season.

Gavin Whitmore's Under-14 Metro boys lost to Coburg 41-25 after some strong recent performances. It has been a disappointing season for these boys, who have been unable to put

consistent games together.

Warrandyte Basketball Club are already planning for next season and hope to field boys and girls teams in Under-11, 12, 14, 16 and 18. Expressions of interest are being taken and Tony Oliver (9844 4287) can be contacted for details.



Madeline Smith wins the rebound for Warrandyte in their Under-9 semi-final. The Redbacks maintained their undefeated record, beating Eltham 33-2 to move directly into the grand final.

Our finals flings

Warrandyte have performed strongly in the semi-finals of the Eastern District Junior Basketball Association winter season. The Under-19 boys of Malcolm Anderson were minor A-grade premiers and defeated Balwyn 36-34 in their semi to earn a week's rest.

In a rare double, Gavin Whitmore's Under-19 girls also finished top of the A-grade ladder, but could not overcome Eltham away and went down 32-30. Whitmore expected his girls to win the preliminary final and turn the tables on Eltham in the grand final at a neutral venue.

Warrandyte's other Under-19 girls side, also minor premiers, suffered a nail-biting 24-21 defeat by Ivanhoe in overtime and

are looking forward to a rematch.

Other girls teams to perform particularly well in the first week of the finals were the Under-15s, 13s and 9s, who all had strong wins over Eltham.

Other winners included the Under-9 side coached by Emma Wood and Kim Singh, Ross Allison's Under-11 girls and Ian Coull's Under-13s.

Frank Gatti coached his Under-9 AR boys to a 35-13 win over Park Orchards, stand-in coach Tristan Messerle was successful with the Under-15s against the Doncats and Gavin Whitmore expects his Under-13s to atone in the grand final for a 24-18 loss to minor premiers Eltham.

Juniors a whisker away!

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

A mere half a metre saw Warrandyte Junior Football Club out of the Yarra league finals on Sunday, August 20.

The valiant Under-12s, who had come from nowhere in their preliminary final, were just that far wide of the mark in a last-gasp shot at goal which would have taken them into their second grand final under coach Mark Watson.

A very weary Hamish Hoskings took the shot in a desperate final minute and missed by the barest margin.

It brought the junior club's season to a close — the Under-13s, Under-14s and Colts having exited the final series the previous week — but despite the lack of a premierships this season, it has been a year of consolidation and confirmation of the future.

There were also some outstanding individual performances. The Yarra Junior Football League named young Blood John Burgoyne best and fairest in the Under-14 competition and Tom Urbano (Under-15s) and James Singh (Under-13s) runners-up in their divisions.

Tyson Fitzgerald, Tom Fitzpatrick and Luke Jones all rated honourable mentions from the league.

The year also saw the early benefits of a three to five-year plan developed after the 1999 season by the WJFC committee under Mathew Matheou.

"We declared that success could be defined as the number of flags won, but more importantly by the extent that the community saw the club as a place where their children could develop as individuals and gain skills as sports people in a supportive, nurturing and positive environment," Matheou said.

The committee put in place a strategy to achieve this by securing sponsorship, attracting the right coaches, releasing a club policy manual and establishing partnerships with simi-

lar bodies in the local area.

"We are starting to see some of the early benefits of this strategy," said Matheou.

"We secured sponsorship from Dunlop Sports to provide all our players with new jumpers, have maintained, under retiring treasurer Joe Hernandez, a rigorous financial management strategy and we conducted a Moo Poo for Cash fundraiser with the Skate Park committee.

"We still have a lot of hard work to do, but we feel we are going in the right direction.

Matheou said a "good number" of AusKick players, under the guidance of John Thurgood, would be joining the junior club next season.

"We appointed Andrew Gordon as our first club captain," he said, "and he was the ideal choice. Andrew has set the standards for those who will succeed him.

"Neil Riddell was appointed only our sixth life member, so he joins an exclusive club."

Matheou said the club would hold discussions in the off-season with Warrandyte Cricket Club and the senior football club with a view to working together to further improve facilities at the recreation reserve. Discussions had already started with Manningham council.

"The reserve is a jewel in Warrandyte's crown," Matheou said.

"When you compare the playing surface of the main oval with most other grounds — even in the middle of winter — the Warrandyte facility rates extremely well.

"It is a good viewing area, allowing people to watch games from an elevated position, and access and parking are good.

"The clubrooms are more than adequate but still could be improved."

The junior club will hold their annual general meeting at the clubrooms on Monday, October 16, starting at 8pm.

Bowl up and try out

Warrandyte lawn bowlers, frustrated by the absence of a local facility, have two excellent greens and a comfortable clubhouse virtually on their doorstep.

Donvale Bowls Club in Reynolds Road, have an energetic new committee who are looking for new bowlers. This is a small, energetic club in an ideal setting and free coaching is available to beginners.

Women's dress requirements

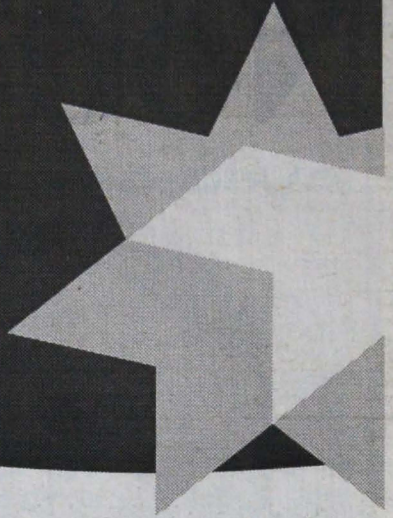
have been modified over the past few years to allow shorts, collotties and slacks suits as well as dresses, skirts and tops. There are navy caps, jackets and slacks as well as white hats.

The men can bowl in cream or white shorts, slacks, caps or hats.

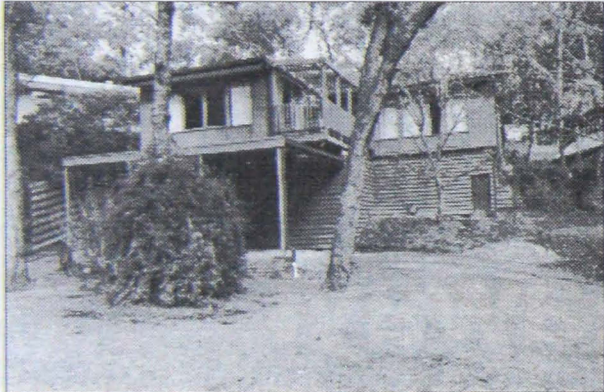
Anyone interested in joining the Donvale club — or merely trying out — is invited to contact Val Spargo (944 3345) or John Pepper (9844 2434).



Wilson McDougall

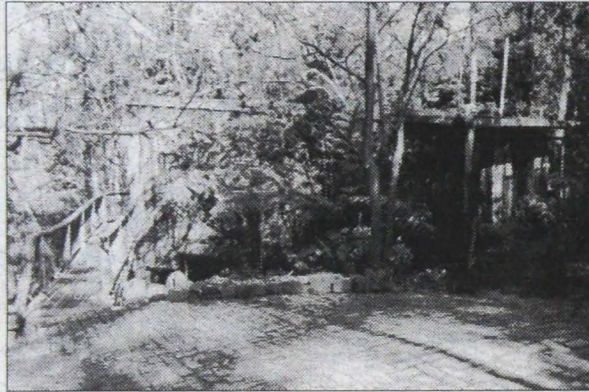


Moving home?



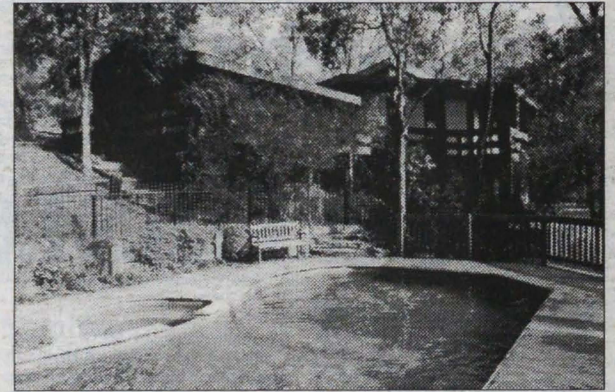
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