

# Council to run centre

By CLIFF GREEN

Manningham council has taken over the running of the Warrandyte Community Centre, replacing the previous community-based management group.

Following the revelation that all members of the management group would need to ensure that the centre became self-funding within 12 months, only one nomination was received.

At their meeting on September 26, council resolved to appoint a working party of councillors and council officers to run the centre and the current management group became "inoperative as of 30 September 2000".

Manningham mayor, Cr Lionel Allemand, told the *Diary* that "as the WCCMG requires five members to form a quorum, council had no option but to act quickly to ensure the continuity of the centre".

tre will continue to provide services to the local community without disruption".

All current tenants of the centre, with the exception of the *Warrandyte Diary* and the Warrandyte Model Railway Club, have been informed that "current occupancy arrangements continue until 31 March". Believing our omission to be an oversight the *Diary* instigated enquiries. Our information is that our exclusion was intentional.

The September 26 council resolution (moved on this occasion by Cr Eisenbise) states that the working party, including councillors Patricia Young, Lionel Allemand and Bob Beynon "undertake an investigation of the management plan to maintain the operations" of the centre. It also requests "a further report to council by the end of October 2000 outlining the interim management plan and options for future management of the centre," and requires officers to "obtain an independent valuation for rentals applicable for the spaces fronting Yarra Street".

Ground floor spaces on Yarra Street are occupied by Information Warrandyte, the *Diary* and the Lions Op Shop. First floor frontages contain Warrandyte Neighbourhood House and the Youth Centre.

Cr Allemand thanked the members of the outgoing management committee for their hard work over recent years.

As previously reported, a plan to force the centre to become self-funding was revealed in May last year when council appointed consultants to report on "future operations for the centre to become financially independent". The consultants reported that income and costs at the centre were comparable with those of other public halls in the municipality and recommended that the existing management structure be maintained.

● The *Diary* would appreciate readers' comments on this issue.



COUNCIL TRIES TO "FLOAT" THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

A resolution, moved by Cr Patricia Young and passed at a previous council meeting, requires any future management "to maximise the centre's earnings from rental of prime spaces at market rates".

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

Cr Allemand said that "with the interim management arrangements and the assistance of the current manager, community groups located in the cen-



Nic George made a rattling good job of his role as Tinman in Warrandyte High School's production of *Wiz*. (Picture by Greg Ruthven)

## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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**DIARY**

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**OUR NEWSPAPER**

The Warrandyte Diary was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its 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.

# So now you know, Jenny, bald ain't that bad at all



Jenny Chapman was born in Warrandyte 44 years ago with a full head of hair, so she had no way of ever knowing how she'd look bald. Now she knows. And despite her innate modesty, she looks pretty good. Jen, of Taroona Avenue, has always been a damn good sport — one of the best women cricketers this village has produced — and when her mates at the local RSL Club suggested she might like to be the next victim of the now-traditional head-shaving there for the Crop a Cop appeal for the cancer kids, she said OK. Not that she's a cop, but she'd cop it. Conditions would apply, however. No way was she going to put herself at the mercy of organisers Geoff Feltham and Harry Southall, who've wielded the scissors, clippers and razor in the past and would make Sweeney Todd the mad barber look like Lillian Frank. No, she would be shorn by her regular hairdresser and good pal Rachel Pascoe (daughter of Warrandyte Cricket Club stalwarts Steve and Anne), who happily donated her services. A cropping date of Saturday, September 23, was set.

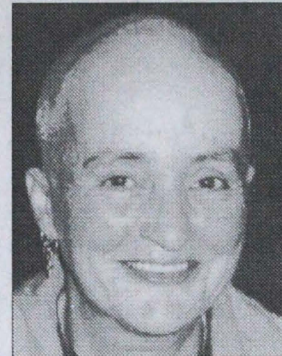


Asked immediately before the event was she scared, Jen said, "Shit, yes — who wouldn't be?" But a few minutes later she was sipping a beer and complimenting the magnificently-dreadlocked Rachel on a very fine job. The chaps were singing Jen's praises, too, for a sacrifice which raised \$1100 for one of our very worthiest of causes. She particularly thanks Geoff, Harry, our old sparring partner Alan "Coatsy" Koetsveld and the local pub for their generous contributions.



The foibles which bedevil the everyday life of living Page 2 legend Neil Dusting appear to have rubbed off on his wife, the lovely Pauline. As secretary (past) of Warrandyte Tennis Club, Pauline used to come down pretty hard on members who neglected to lock the courts when they were last to leave. She wasn't annoyed in the slightest, then, when a couple of players actually jumped the gun and locked up as they left the other afternoon, leaving her and daughter Amy having a bit of a hit-up. That'd be okay. Pauline would unlock and lock up again on the way

## IN RED & WHITE



Hair today, gone tomorrow. The cropping of Jenny Chapman.

out, wouldn't she? Not really, because she'd left her key at home, hadn't she? Thoughts of scaling the perilously-high court fence to freedom must have been galloping through her mind, but deliverance eventually came in the form of WTC member Lee Dehmel, who was walking with his kids on the adjoining oval and heard her cries for help.



Members won't be reading the above story in Odd Ball, the tennis club newsletter which Pauline edits and freely censors. And there's no way we're going to identify our source except to say it's someone close to her. Very, very close. So close, in fact, that she married him.



Two fatal attacks on koalas in Warrandyte backyards during the past month have prompted an appeal from local park ranger David Farrar. If you're a dog owner and find a koala in your backyard, he says, keep the dog on a lead well away from it, take the dog for a walk at dusk or keep it in the house, especially around dusk. Why? Because most times koalas will move on and it's best to let them do it in their own time. David also points out that koalas are no pushovers when it comes to defending themselves in a dog fight and are certainly capable of inflicting wounds. And if you want to

know more about the furry critters, David will happily oblige on 9844 2659.



They're a resourceful lot, the tourists who descend upon us each weekend, and the earthworks in Mitchell Avenue to accommodate those long-threatened new shops certainly didn't go unnoticed. Visitors have been spotted in the diggings with their rugs and hampers picnicking while scanning the walls with metal detectors! The excavations sure look like open cuts and maybe we're about to have another gold rush on our hands. Oh gawd!



"Controversy is only in the minds of a few mischievous souls," writes Warrandyte Cricket Club past president Steve Pascoe, gently chiding us for the tone of our world exclusive two issues ago that women were not even considered for the club's team of the last half-century to be unveiled next month. "My concern is that, albeit comments may be tongue in cheek, the process of selecting the Top 12 should not be trivialised." Right. Do go on, Steve. "Comments in the Diary were not factually correct in all points raised, but the overriding point is that the Top 12 will be selected from those who have represented Warrandyte Cricket Club in the club First XI. There are no restrictions in the terms of gender. Notwithstand-

ing there have been some fantastically talented women cricketers who have represented the club in Victorian Women's Cricket Association fixtures, and in some instances in lower levels of RDCA, none progressed to the club First XI. Many exemplary cricketers have represented Warrandyte Cricket Club who, on ability alone, would walk into such a team. However, the terms of reference set include both performance and minimum service, which precludes consideration to their selection. The announcement of the Top 12 will be made at a function on November 25, where the club hopes to reunite as many past/present players as possible. The announcement will likely generate further controversy as the opinions of those present differ from those of the selection panel — all current life members. Watch this space!" Thanks for that, Steve, and there's more about the Top 12 on Page 19.



For a while there we didn't look like have a new edition of the Warrandyte Business Directory, put together for the past 10-or-so years as a cricket club fund-raiser by Jenny Chapman (who seems to be regularly sneaking into this column lately). Jenny sent out notices as usual to advertisers seeking their copy and their cheques to be sent to her home address, but time went by and nothing happened. Intrigued, she made several phone calls and the trail led her to the local post office, where 37 letters addressed to her home were languishing in a box recently opened by the cricket club, a box Jenny had no idea existed. The communication breakdown is now mended and the business directory's future is assured.

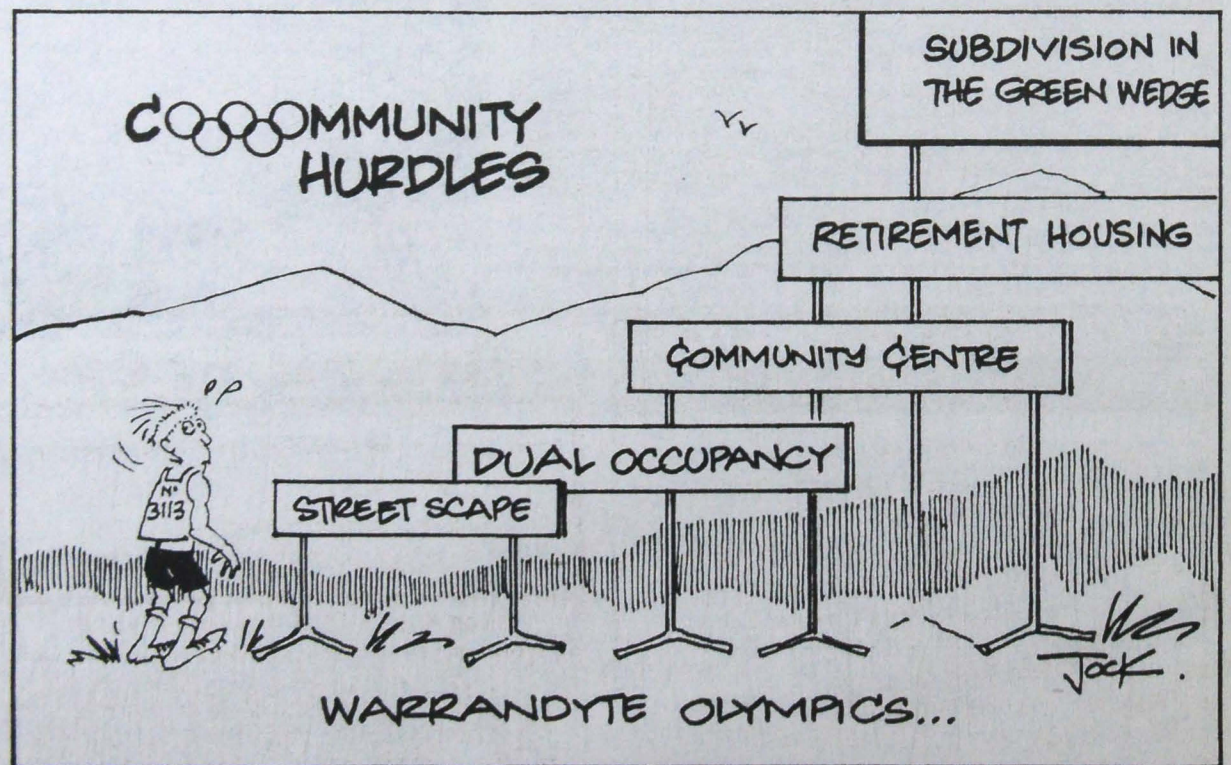


Who said you don't get nothin' for nothin' in these trying economic times? Just get yourselves down to the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend and you can pick up some beaut native plants for nix. The Friends are having a nursery clean-out and are giving away plants — including wattles, eucalypts and native grasses — to good homes. Give Cathy Willis a call on 0418 142297.

Smokey Joe

## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



# Houses cause concern

By RACHEL BAKER

Big, inappropriate, boxy houses are destroying the character of Warrandyte, according to some residents.

Some new houses have sparked concern that Manningham Council's planning policy does not cater for the special needs of Warrandyte.

The council released a new planning scheme in June this year, which it claims will give "special treatment" to Warrandyte, protecting its character, streetscapes, views and vegetation.

Many houses were approved before the new scheme was introduced, and have already been built.

Some of these houses are in pockets, such as the St Muir estate; others are sole projects, such as a current development on Pound Road, which was approved in March this year.

A resident of Pound Road, who did not want to be named, believes the "huge two-storey place" which is fully rendered and has terra cotta roof tiles, is inappropriate for the street. "It doesn't fit in with any of the other houses, it's just wrong for its place," he said.

He believes council should not have allowed the house to go ahead.

"The only person at fault here is council," he said. "I really believe the builder is not at fault; he's just built a house that followed the guidelines," he said.

Manningham council concedes that some "inappropriate developments" have been built.

"What we're seeing is Templestowe-style houses being built in Warrandyte. All the blocks of land in the Templestowe area have gone, so people who want to build that sort of house are coming to Warrandyte," Paul Molan, director of environmental amenity at Manningham, told the *Diary*.

Warrandyte houses have a tradition of being smaller, more modest, and more considerate of their environment," Mr Molan said. "These newer houses can look quite stark, especially until vegetation is planted; there is an initial shock value."

Mr Molan hopes the new planning scheme, which was introduced in June this year, will give council greater con-

trol over the type of houses that are built. "We hope there will be greater respect for indigenous vegetation and we will look closer at impact of housing on views and streetscapes."

The new scheme is not "prescriptive"—it doesn't make specific demands on proposed houses—rather, it states objectives for certain areas, which council hopes will lead to appropriate development.

"The days of prescriptive schemes have gone. They were seen to be too restrictive, to hamper innovation," Mr Molan said.

The new objective-based scheme sees parts of Warrandyte placed into categories: Design and Development Overlay (for the Warrandyte Township), the Significant Landscape Overlay and the Yarra Valley Backdrop (both of which cover the Campbell Court/ Pound Road area).

The Significant Landscape Overlay aims to consider the effect of building height, bulk, colour and general appearance, plus the effect on significant views.

The Yarra Valley Backdrop area aims to prevent "inappropriate siting or appearance" of buildings.

In these two zones, permits are not required for all new buildings.

For the Yarra Valley Backdrop, a permit is only required if the proposed building has any of the following:

- a wall more than eight metres high;
- roof pitch greater than 45 degrees and a wall higher than eight metres;
- height greater than 12 metres.

In the Significant Landscape Overlay, a permit is only required if any of the following are true:

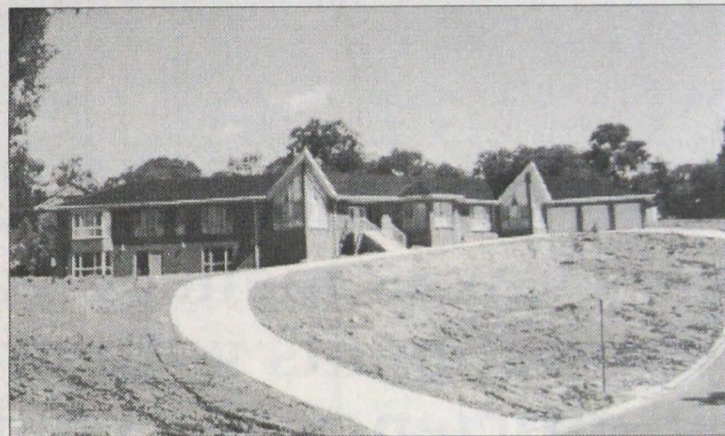
- the building is higher than eight metres;
- it is closer than five metres to boundaries, or 10 metres for road boundaries;
- external colours are "reflective" and don't "blend with the natural colours of the surrounding environment".

Mr Molan conceded that if a proposed building in the Yarra Valley Backdrop or the Significant Landscape Overlay conforms to the above criteria, it would not need a permit and its features could not be scrutinised by the council or residents.

While acknowledging that these two



Warrandyte wonderland: this house (above) is being built on Pound Road and this one (right) graces Alexander Road.



zones are highly sensitive, Mr Molan said the new scheme did not demand a permit for all new buildings because council did not want to create a "more onerous" system for developers.

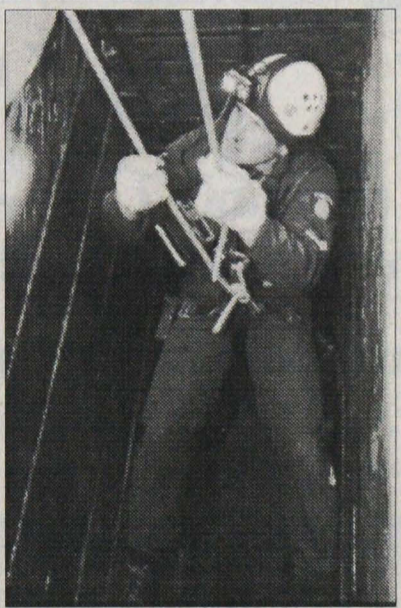
He said that if residents are concerned about a house that is built, they should contact council.

"We would look at their concerns and the scheme may be altered," Mr Molan said. He stressed the importance of residents voicing their opinions about their neighbourhood. "If only two or three people make a complaint, council is less likely to respond," he said.

## Police search mines

The eerie atmosphere surrounding Warrandyte State Park's myriad mine shafts was heightened last month with the police search for the body of Elisabeth Membrey. The 22 year-old went missing from her Ringwood home six years ago and the search for her body recommenced in August, following a tip-off through Crimestoppers. Detective Inspector Brian Rix said the painstaking search of the 44 mineshafts was "quite an artform" and required special safety considerations. The search of the State Park by about a dozen police officers followed the dredging of Ringwood Lake two weeks before, which failed to reveal any clues.

RACHEL BAKER



Police scour State Park mineshaft. (Picture by Trevor Pinder, courtesy Herald & Weekly Times Ltd)

## Bushland protected

By DAVID WYMAN

A second Green Wedge property in the Manningham council area has had a conservation covenant placed on it to protect its native bush forever.

The property, owned by Bev and John Hanson, is at 104 Webb Street, Warrandyte, and covers 4.25ha.

It joins the 120ha property formerly owned by motoring identity, the late Bib Stillwell, at Stane Brae, Wonga Park, as two Manningham properties permanently protected from clearing and other damaging activities.

The conservation covenants have been placed on the properties by the Trust for Nature, a Victorian statutory authority which is the only organisation with legislated power to protect significant native habitat in the state.

Manningham council has commended the initiatives of landowners, like the Hansons, who have entered into an agreement with the trust.

Bev and John Hanson purchased

their property in 1969 because, as John says, "Bev fell in love with the wildflowers here".

"We thought a conservation covenant would be very appropriate for our property," John Hanson told the *Diary*. "The real Australia is being nibbled away all the time and the Trust for Nature offered us the chance to preserve our bush."

"With the help of Manningham council, we've been eliminating weeds, particularly introduced grasses, and the three rabbit poisoning programs have been successful—so that all the wildflowers and orchids have started to come back."

"In the covenant, we've said we want no hooved animals on the property, and that fallen wood and branches stay on the ground because it's often natural habitat for wildlife," John Hanson said.

"Some people say our bush is rubbish but we hope that urban attitude is changing."

Manningham council has offered a one-off grant of \$35 per hectare to landowners who achieve a conservation covenant for their land. Further incentives to enhance bushland are available through council's Local Environment Assistance Fund.

Manningham mayor, Cr Lionel Allemand, sees the conservation covenants as "win-win" situations because landholders get a financial reward for committing to the conservation of privately owned bush.

"Conservation covenants are an important step in conserving biodiversity, because they promote permanent protection of bushland," he said. "I encourage all residents in areas of high conservation value to become involved in this exciting program."

● The Hanson's property will be open to the public, as part of the Trust for Nature's Bush Month October, on Saturday, October 14 at 2.30pm. Admission will cost \$4.

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# Development will aid a decaying Green Wedge

Your headline in the August issue stated "MP defends Wedge". It should have stated, "MP defends decaying Wedge" because with Mr Honeywood's "don't touch" policy, decay is happening to the Wedge.

It is decaying and degrading, just as our gutters and streams are being contaminated and polluted through a septic tank system that should have been replaced by the sewer years ago. If in doubt check with the Environmental Protection Authority. Also ask authorities about the E.Coli counts in the gutters. We have one count at



60,000 units when 200 is the limit.

And what about the cost of maintaining the Green Wedge. The thriving rabbits are costing ratepayers \$124,000 per annum and the LEAF scheme is \$64,000. It is one thing to have a Green Wedge. It is another thing to have it looked after without cost to the urban ratepayers of the municipality.

Phil Honeywood has the obsession landowners who are only motivated by making money. He says "Beware of property owners and certain councillors bearing environmental gifts". As nothing lasts forever, environmental care and attention are needed in the Wedge. Would it not be more accurate then to say, beware of MPs and certain councillors who defend unhealthy and costly living conditions.

Daryl Cox, President  
Park Orchards Progress Association

# Sewerage proposal identified as subdividers' Trojan Horse

I wish to respond to the letter by Trevor Parker of Tindals Road published in last month's Diary.

It is truly appalling to observe the latest tactics by the pro-urban development lobbyists in our area. They obviously think that some local residents will be gullible enough to believe that this proposal to sewer parts of the Green Wedge is purely an environmental management issue.

Nowhere do these broad-acre property owners admit that their sewerage scheme is just a Trojan Horse to justify subdivision. Do they honestly believe that we will be conned into thinking that "out of the good-



Phil Honeywood

ness of their hearts" they are prepared to spend over a million dollars to provide a special sewerage plant that will only service a handful of properties? I, for one, would rather put up

with the vagaries of a septic tank if the price we have to pay for a few effluent pipes is the loss of our entire tree canopy and bushland character to subdivision.

Fortunately, for the long-term preservation of the Warrandyte and Park Orchards Green Wedge, enough of us are able to see snake oil salesmen for what they really are.

Phil Honeywood  
MP for Warrandyte

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.

CLYDE & OCKER



"They're trying to flush our Green Wedge down the toilet, Ock!"

# Quest for character

I read with interest L.Hobson's letter "Are We Losing Our Character?". Unfortunately there are some people who are moving into the area and consider the natural Warrandyte plants to be rubbish.

As a result they usually plant exotic plants, often in straight rows and equal distance apart. This is changing greatly the character of Warrandyte.

However I have also found many people moving in who value what we have and often get rid of the introduced

plants and plant indigenous. Also, Manningham council, Friends of the State Park and other groups are doing a great job along the riverbank and in other places in trying to restore the real Warrandyte.

I recently heard a statement that the real Australia is constantly being nibbled away. Come on Warrandytians, let's do our bit to preserve the unique character of Warrandyte.

John Hanson  
Webb Street

# No takers on Wedge?

I was disappointed but not surprised that there was no response to my letter, published in your Diary last August, from a member of the vocal but small supporters of the "I'm all right, Jack, b— you" club.

All that is being asked is that a very small portion of the Green Wedge be released so as sewerage could be available to Park Orchards/Donvale areas.

Perhaps the members of "the club" agree but lack the intestinal fortitude to write in agreeing to the release of this small area.

Trevor Parker  
Tindals Road

# Family memories

Today I was given a copy of the Diary for September 2000. In the article about pioneering days by Glen Jameson there was some information about a Vernon Thomas which I was delighted to find as I have been trying to trace information about this family of Thomas for my own family history research.

I am wondering if there have been other articles in the series, or if you are planning to run more articles? If so, can you let me know how I can obtain copies of the papers as I would be interested to read them.

My phone number is 9497 1929, or I can be contacted by e-mail at [DandK.MILLS@bigpond.com](mailto:DandK.MILLS@bigpond.com)

Karen Mills  
by email

# Thanks for help

We would like to publicly acknowledge and give thanks to the bravery and clear thinking actions of Travis Southall and Bret and Nijole Pengelly in helping our son when he crashed badly off his mountain bike on the fire road in the Warrandyte State Park.

Another young man known as "Mark" also lent his assistance and we would like to thank him also. Thomas is now well on the way to a full recovery thanks to your help and to the two ambulance crews from Lilydale and Ringwood and the doctors and nurses of Knox Private Hospital.

John and Carole Egan  
by email

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# Our man at the Olympics

Diary reporter CLINTON GRYBAS, in his other life as an ABC sports commentator, had a box seat at the Games.

Hands up those who thought Sydney was somehow going to make a mess of the Games. For a city synonymous with airport congestion, traffic chaos and poorly attended sporting fixtures, surely this was someone's idea of a cruel joke—a disaster waiting to happen for the world's sporting showcase.

But a funny thing happened for two magical weeks last month. They got it right. Sydney, take a bow.

In a performance which had the world's media drooling, Sydney will be remembered for its gold medal hosting as the city turned on a show to remember. Sure, there were a couple of moments when ABC television's *The Games* comedy program appeared more documentary than satire, like when the gymnastics vault was found to be five centimetres lower than it should have been, or when "local" bus drivers were so hopelessly lost that foreign journalists were forced to navigate.

But those were rare blips on the radar. And speaking of radar, the weather—one element beyond SOCOG's control—also rose to the occasion, bathing everyone in warm sunshine for all but a couple of days.

At least it was on the precious few moments I enjoyed outside. For much of the time I was tucked away inside the dark confines of one of ABC radio's "off the tube" booths at the International Broadcast Centre near the main stadium.

With a myriad of venues spread across the city and beyond, it was physically and financially impossible to have broadcast positions at every venue. Therefore some commentators were required to call the action off television with the venue's sound effects to deliver the feel of being there.

My sports to broadcast were water polo and basketball. While we had a spot at the basketball, unfortunately water polo's home for all but the finals—the Ryde Aquatic Centre—was away from the main park. That meant many hours in a small booth watching the TV feed of countless water polo

games.

And it was a lot of water polo. Names like Gorchkov, Kovalenko and Trbjovich began to roll off my tongue as easily as Silvagni or Liberatore as I pondered the merits of Kazakhstan's depressingly slow offence against a powerful Hungarian line-up.

But the darkened hours behind the glass were more than made up for by being present for the finals at the main aquatic centre, especially when the Australian team claimed their first ever women's Olympic water polo gold medal. They quickly became the darlings of the village after Yvette Higgins fired in a goal on the final siren to steal victory against the United States.

My excitement in calling the gold medal win for our national radio audience was in marked contrast to the stunned silence of the NBC counterparts sitting alongside. Their Games were clearly ruined.

Our coverage drew widespread praise and was virtually trouble-free. But there were some moments. Having returned to our studio from the women's gold medal game, I was preparing morning previews in a nearby booth when I was ushered in for a chat with host David Morrow to fill 10 minutes leading up to midnight. This was a surprise, given that our nightly wrap was usually so well scripted that little time remained for unscheduled discussion.

David and I learned why we had the time to ourselves when we left after midnight to find a dozen firemen in our foyer. A small fire had short-circuited an electrical system, including all tape machines, necessitating the evacuation of everyone but David and I.

While the water polo gold medal win was my broadcasting highlight, there were many other great experiences to be sampled over the two weeks. It began each morning and ended each evening the same way: gazing from our balcony, across Olympic Park, to see the flame Cathy Freeman lit shining brightly.

My media pass was like Charlie Bucket's golden ticket in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. It enabled entry to any stadium for all events except the ceremonies and included free transport on the city's surprisingly efficient rail and bus service.

Free time was spent watching Ian Thorpe win gold in the pool; urging on Jai Taurima in an enthralling long jump



Clinton Grybas with Russell Mark, silver medal winning shooter (double trap).

final; watching in disbelief as the Cameroon soccer team claimed their country's first gold; cheering on the Hockeyroos; relaxing on the grass bank in the outfield watching our baseballers crash; sitting next to a Lawrie Lawrence-inspired cheer squad at the basketball; or just wandering.

Wherever you went the crowds were there, packing venues to capacity. Even handball games between nonde-

script nations attracted attendance figures that Sydney rugby league clubs would swoon about. Everywhere was enthusiastic involvement and a rare display of national loyalty.

Away from Olympic Park, the city turned on one big rolling party with everyone exhilarated by the Olympic experience. City parks became concert venues, while malls became outdoor nightclubs, at times so big the city

council shut some down because they were too popular.

The Monday after the flame had been plucked away by the fighter plane was spent reminiscing. What was four years in the making had passed so swiftly.

But we haven't had quite enough yet. The Paralympics begin on October 18 and ABC-TV have the broadcast rights. It should be fun—again.

# Anastasia stood on her head!

The family of FIA CLENDINNEN will long treasure their own moment of Olympic Games glory.

The Nigerian team, reigning Olympic champions, pranced onto the pitch, long-legged and elegant in their pixie green uniforms. Up on the balcony stands the Nigerian cheer squad went wild, waving flags,

banging drums and screaming their delight.

Then the Chilean team made their entrance.

There were around 44,000 people at the MCG that night and it quickly became clear that 95 per cent of them wanted Chile to win. This was the men's quarter final in soccer, one of the very few Olympic events to take place in Melbourne, Nigeria versus Chile.

And it seemed as if every Chil-

ean expatriate in Melbourne was there. In case there could be any doubt as to which team they supported, many of the spectators wore shirts that matched the Chilean players, waved flags or had painted their faces the national colours of red, blue and white.

I went to the game with my son Gilchrist, especially to watch two members of our family performing on the hallowed turf.

As a fanatical follower of Aussie Rules, the MCG is almost Gilchrist's spiritual home and he was initially horrified to see the way its hallowed turf had been modified, in terms of goal posts and new lines, to host an Olympic soccer game.

But other changes he approved of. Our seats, for instance, were in the members stands, normally closed off to the great unwashed, and when a Mexican wave went round four times even the spectators sitting in the MCC participated. Apparently this never happens during an AFL game.

The Chilean team roundly defeated the Nigerians, 4-1, in an upset result. The Chilean supporters cheered every goal at full lung capacity and the near misses had them groaning and putting their heads in their hands, with typical Latin melodrama.

This was Melbourne at its multicultural best. As part of the pre-match warm-up we were treated to entertainment from all round the world. There were dancers from Chile, the Philippines and Brazil. The African Drumming Ensemble were there. The Filhos de Bahia Capoeira School made a lap of the ground, sparring and cartwheeling to the accompaniment of the berimbau, one of the world's oldest instruments. Amongst the capoeira performers were two Warrandyte locals, my husband and daughter, Stephen and Anastasia Clendinnen.

Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art that combines self defence techniques along with acrobat-



Anastasia Clendinnen demonstrates capoeira.

ics, dance and song. The origins of capoeira are mysterious: it was brought to Brazil by African slaves who wanted to practise a way of keeping fit and ready for combat. But anything looking too obviously aggressive would have aroused the suspicions of their masters so the Africans disguised what they were doing by singing along and making it look like a dance.

Anastasia has been practising capoeira for around four years, but it is not the only sport she enjoys.

She also plays volleyball and her team, the Eltham High School Under 15s last month won first place at the Victorian Schools' Cup. Last year her

team, as the Under 14s, also came first, so they remain undefeated champions.

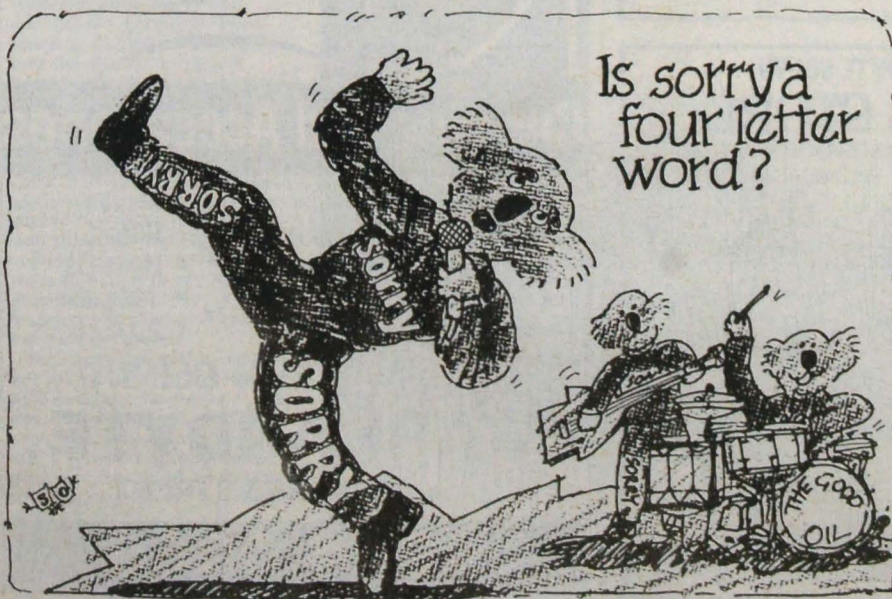
Recently Anastasia's net work has improved, as her coach, Greg Thomas, noted with approval. She thinks this might be due to her capoeira training because it's a martial art that involves a lot of jumping.

"The net doesn't seem so high any more," she said. "And when I jump to block the ball I feel as if I'm hanging in the air."

In November her team will be competing at the National Schools Volleyball Cup where last year they won silver. The whole country has been affected with Olympic fever. This year, can Anastasia win a gold medal?

SO —!

By SYD & ONA



# Roundabout sculpture

A sculpture entitled River Peel, by Catriona Macleod and Michael Bellero was installed at the Fitzsimons Lane roundabout in Templestowe earlier this month. It marks the northern entrance to Manningham city.

River Peel is the second in a series of three "gateway sculptures" commissioned to welcome visitors to Manningham.

"The gateway sculptures are designed to reinforce Manning-

ham as a place of creativity and innovation and also strengthen the link between the city's cultural heritage and the environment," a council spokesperson said.

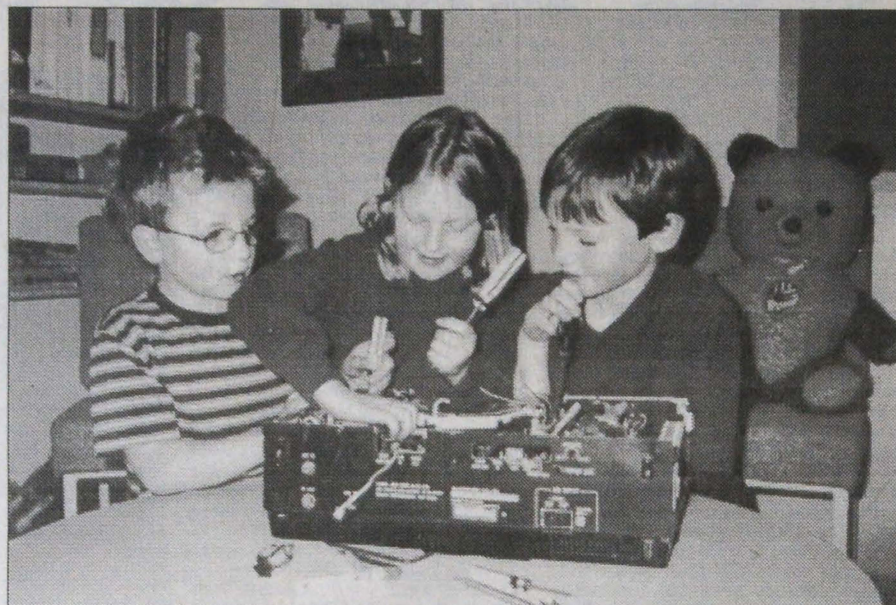
River Peel is made of plate steel and "draws on both the nearby Yarra River and the apple orcharding history of the Doncaster-Templestowe area for its inspiration.

"The flowing form symbolises the river twisting and turning as

it travels through the municipality and the peel of an apple in its flowing and sinuous form. From a distance the sculpture will appear as one large and continuous form. It appears to move as the viewer drives around it and, at times, frames the view."

This follows the installation of Sentinel, by Warrandyte sculptor Inge King, at the Doncaster Road exit to the Eastern Freeway.

# Puzzle for tyro inventors



Members of the WPS inventors club investigate electronic technology.

Warrandyte Primary School's inventors club aims to encourage "imagination, illusion, humour, and fantasy combined with basic scientific principles," according to principal Mandy Dunn.

"We entice students to invent, to play with ideas, to dream, to take gadgets apart, to build their own contraptions, and to have fun.

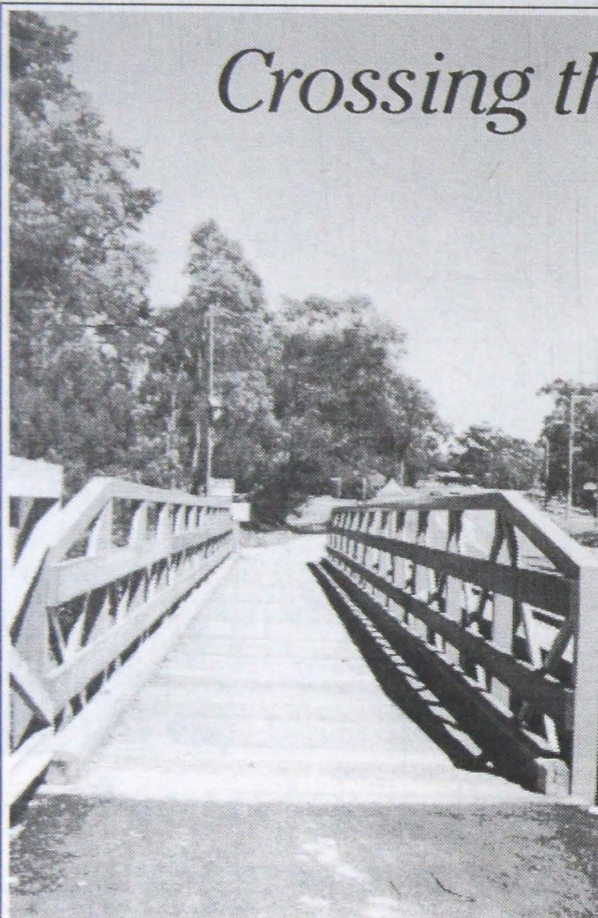
"We have investigated the evolution of such everyday objects as toothbrushes, shopping

trolleys and more.

"We examine environmental issues including the impact of repairing rather than replacing items and the modern day notion of non-repairable appliances.

"In the historical context, we have looked at how people in the past used a natural object, such as a rock or stick, as functional implements and looked at the evolution into modern day pieces."

## Crossing the creek



Walkers, cyclists and horse riders will appreciate this new footbridge at Mullum Mullum Creek. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

The completion of the Manna Gum footbridge which crosses the Mullum Mullum Creek on Ringwood-Warrandyte Road in East Doncaster has been welcomed by local pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists.

The \$80,000 footbridge was funded by Manningham council and a grant from Sport and Recreation Victoria. "It is the result of many years of work by the community, council and local interest groups," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

The footbridge was officially opened earlier this month.

"The crossing is significant because it is an important access point for residents on both sides of the Mullum Mullum Creek and visitors using the Mullum Mullum Linear Trail," the spokesperson said. "For many years there had been a range of safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders."

The road bridge, built in the 1950s, was constructed without a pedestrian shoulder, forcing pedestrian traffic out onto the road while crossing.

"With traffic flow along Ringwood-Warrandyte Road increasing over the years, there were real fears that horse riders or pedestrians would be killed or injured if a footbridge was not constructed."

# 'Tanks' for water advice

Manningham council is asking local residents to consider catching and storing water for garden use.

"With continuing dry conditions and summer rapidly approaching, water restrictions are likely, so it makes good sense to install your own rainwater tank," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

Before centralised water supply systems, rainwater tanks were a common sight in suburban gardens, supplying water for garden and outdoor use.

Mayor Cr Lionel Allemand said that as water becomes scarce, we are seeing renewed interest in the collection of rainwater at home.

"Water is the basis of life and it is up to us all to do our bit to properly manage this most precious of our resources.

"I have had a rainwater tank on my property for many years and it is a wonderful way to take the pressure off our dwindling water supply.

"In the long term it also saves you a few dollars as well."

Council suggests residents invest in a rainwater tank this spring and save on garden watering.

Yarra Valley Water's range of polyethylene tanks will be on display in the main foyer at Manningham council offices during Water Week (October 16-22).

Details of their free installation service will be available.

● For more information about Water Week please call Pam Papigiotti on 9840 9333.



### HERITAGE RESTORATION FUND

Council has allocated \$10,000 to the Heritage Restoration Fund in the 2000-2001 financial year. The Heritage Restoration Fund recognises the value of assisting property owners to maintain buildings, places and sites of significance to the cultural heritage of the municipality. There will be one Heritage Restoration funding round in 2000/2001.

**Applications for funding close on 31 October, 2000. Works must be able to be undertaken and moneys claimed by 30 June, 2001.**

Generally, all owners of properties listed in the heritage provisions of the Manningham Planning Scheme are eligible to apply for funds. Other heritage properties may also be eligible to apply.

Application forms and Policy and Guidelines are available from the Economic and Environmental Planning Division. Enquiries may be directed to Sonia Rappell, Strategic Planner, on 9840 9434 or Pam Papigiotti on 9840 9362.



### HISTORY OF MANNINGHAM Oral Histories

As we prepare to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold and the Centenary of Federation, Council has appointed consultants, HistorySmiths Pty Ltd, to prepare a history of Manningham.

HistorySmiths will conduct oral history interviews with people who have an interesting story to tell about living in Manningham. You can help to bring the History of Manningham to life by sharing your experiences with us.

**Please contact Fiona Walters at HistorySmiths, telephone 9663 9889, fax 9663 9890 or email: fi@historysmiths.com.au**

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## Corps kids graduate

Earlier this month the environmental trainees from the Warrandyte Green Corps Project graduated. Since April this year the budding environmental workers have been carrying out vital conservation work in bushland in the Warrandyte and Eltham areas. This has included tree planting, weed removal, constructing rabbit-proof fences and building walking trails.

Green Corps supervisor David Robinson told the *Diary* that "during the program the Green Corps team has planted more than 10,000 native trees, constructed a kilometre of walking trails (using 70 tonnes of gravel), cleared 55,000 square metres of native bushland of invasive environmental weeds; protected 8,350 square metres of sensitive native vegetation with rabbit-proof fences and laid 120 square metres of mulch.

"All done by hand with picks, shovels, wheelbarrows, rakes and a lot of sweat and hard work!

"In addition to the practical conservation work, trainees have also completed over 250 hours of environmental training. The team members are now making preparations for their futures, with some choosing to enrol in further tertiary education, whilst others are pursuing careers in the conservation and environment fields."

To participate in a six month Green Corps project, trainees must be aged between 17 and 20 and hold Australian citizenship. Participants do not have to be unemployed and Green Corps has nothing to do with Work for the Dole or Mutual Obligation.

For more information about Green Corps call 96896 5554 or visit [www.atcv.com.au](http://www.atcv.com.au).

Green Corps team at work in Warrandyte. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

## Dogs a danger up north

Nillumbik council is taking action against attacking dogs.

In light of a recent dog attack on an alpaca in Menzies Road, Kangaroo Ground, council, in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, is implementing a pilot program to reduce the number of dog attacks in public places.

Council will be advising residents in the surrounding properties of Menzies Road, by way of a letter-box drop, of their obligations to responsible dog ownership. The program will take place in St Andrews and Eltham and is due to run until March next year.

Municipal laws officer Phil Lovelace said that in 1999, 95 dog attacks shire-wide were reported to council.

"Statistics indicate that over 80 per cent of dog attacks in public places occurred because the animals were not adequately confined to the property. Poor fencing, deliberate release into the street, unfenced front yards or just accidental escapes are causes for dogs roaming unattended," Mr Lovelace said.

During July and August, council officers collected and analysed data on dog attacks within the shire. An education program highlighting responsible pet ownership and ways in which to prevent dog attacks in public places will be launched during November and December.

This program will include the distribution of brochures and coverage in the local media. "Dog obedience clubs, puppy socialisation classes and dog-walking businesses may also be called on to further the cause," Mr Lovelace said.

## Plans to protect roadside bush

Manningham council is planning a municipal wide assessment of roadside vegetation.

"Land clearing for agriculture and development has meant an enormous loss of habitat for native wildlife, so roadsides with remnant vegetation provide vital refuge and sources of food," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"Remnant native vegetation on roadsides is often the best or only remaining habitat for threatened birds, animals, insects and reptiles."

In Victoria, there is approximately 160,000 km of roadsides totalling about half a million hectares, containing about 25 per cent of all plant species listed as rare or endangered.

"In some instances vegetation on roadsides is the only ex-

ample of a plant community or species growing beyond the fences of state forests and national parks, where the vast majority of our remnant native vegetation occurs," the spokesperson said.

Manningham mayor Lionel Allemand believes we need to consider the contribution roadsides make to preserving our priceless biodiversity. "We need to acknowledge the importance of appropriate roadside management in the effort to protect our ecosystems and species," he said.

"Partial roadside vegetation mapping was undertaken in 1991 in sections of the Green Wedge, but we urgently need the roadsides mapped across the entire municipality. This is an important step for the pro-

tection of remnant vegetation along our roadsides.

"Roadsides provide for a variety of uses and local governments are becoming increasingly involved in helping local communities find management solutions to what are often competing demands," Cr Allemand said.

"The key to roadside conservation and management is the development of management plans with strategies, action plans, assessment and implementation details," the spokesperson said.

By the end of the year, nearly 90 per cent of the state will be covered by a roadside management strategy, "significantly helping to protect our precious biodiversity and natural heritage".



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# Possum housing crisis

By SANDY BURGOYNE

Have you heard? Fallingwater is falling down. Well not exactly, shall we say "seriously gravitorially challenged". Fallingwater? You know it's that Frank Lloyd Wright house—the breath-taking image that has graced the cover of every book on architecture for the past 60 years. The house appears to rise out of a waterfall and hover over a mountain stream.

Now Fallingwater is in trouble. You see gravity, water and their ally rust, were never beaten, merely sulking in the background, but now they are starting to dismantle the building. The high humidity is causing materials to age prematurely. Steel embedded in concrete is rusting, causing cracks and weakening in major components.

Some near neighbours of mine are having similar problems. They don't have the reputation of FLW—many people pass their attractive houses each day, but few notice them. These architects follow the time-honoured tradition of using the building materials available on site. Few are innovators and their abodes look remarkably similar. Yet they share the same enemies—gravity and the natural elements.

I am speaking of the dreys (pronounced drays) built by our ring-tailed possum population. The possums retreat into them at sun-up, via a side entrance, and snooze there all day. These residences are usually built high in a tree, but we once had a fellow living beside our driveway at about shoulder height.

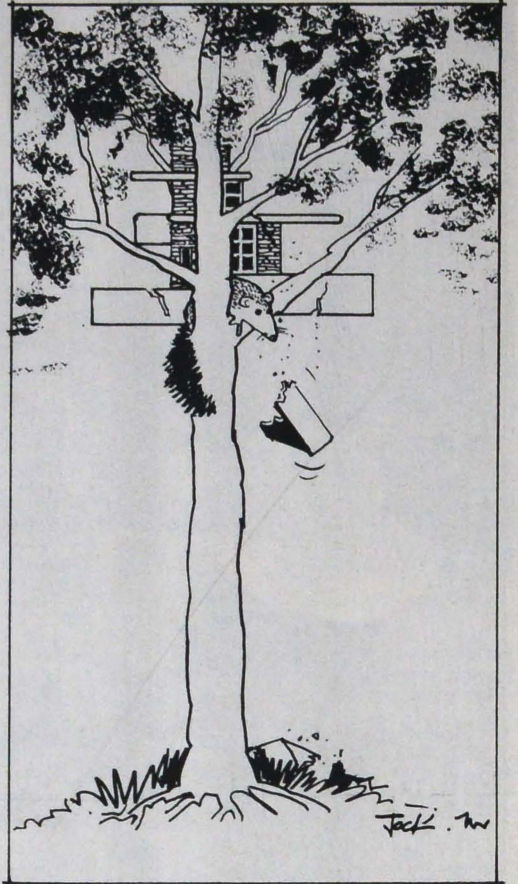
Construction is simple but effective. Freshly bitten green twigs are

wound around a central hollow, layer on layer, until the wall is several centimetres thick. That's one building technique that Mr Wright didn't use in Fallingwater. Once the twigs dry out they maintain the needed shape, much like a basket. Many people mistake the resulting tangled structure for the nest of a large bird. The size of the drey varies from soccer ball for a single occupant to a rambling structure across several branches for a family.

Like FLW, some possums have an eye for new materials—one day I left some off-cuts of nylon netting in the garden and the next morning couldn't find them. That was until I looked up into the honey-myrtle tree to find they had been incorporated into the large drey of a powerful family.

It seems to me that a few ring-tailed possums are gifted architect-builders, but most are not. Like the restoration team working on Fallingwater, life is a never-ending struggle to keep the structure from falling down. Gravity is bad enough, but add to that strong winds and breaking tree limbs and house maintenance becomes a nightmare. At least possums needn't worry about rust.

If all else fails, the possums in our garden demolish the structure and move on to a new tree. All that remains of the old drey is a couple of twigs forlornly balancing on a branch. After a few weeks all traces disappear, as the old building materials become part of the garden. Can you imagine the outcry if the Fallingwater trustees tried the same strategy on Mr Wright's icon of American inventiveness? Also concrete and steel don't compost too readily.



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# Tiny prowlers of the night

By MAYDEENA JAMESON

Have you ever been out walking in the bush late at night and spotted a small creature scampering about in the trees above? Too small to be a possum, yet too bushy a tail to be a rat. You have probably seen the elusive phascogale.

The brush-tailed phascogale is a small rat-size marsupial that can be distinguished by its unmistakable, black, bottle brush-like tail. The phascogale is distributed over Australia but is not well known. It comes out only at night and is very territorial. It is typical to have a small number of phascogales in a really large area of woodland.

The breeding strategy of the phascogales is quite uncommon. The males only breed once then die shortly after. Females usually survive to a second or third breeding season, producing up to six young per litter.

Phascogales like to live in dry forests, and nest in the hollows of either red stringy-bark or ironbark trees. They like the dry forests of Warrandyte. They nest in dead or alive trees, sometimes resting under bark or in tree stumps.

This wonderful creature is on the endangered species list. Its numbers are depleted due to habitat destruction through

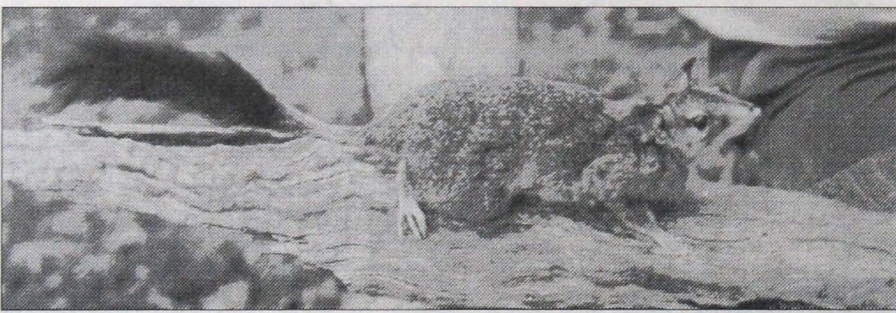
clearing of vegetation, for house building, agriculture or logging. The consequences of the loss of the big trees that phascogales prefer to live in is catastrophic. Another habitat threat to them is fire-wood collecting. People collect dead wood and chop down live trees. These are the habitat places that phascogales live in and collect food from.

Phascogale males need to search out mates and that brings them into our backyards. Therefore in Warrandyte the biggest threats to the phascogale's life are foxes, and cats that are left to wander about at night. They both find

phascogales good eating. There is a way that we as a community can help keep the phascogales in Warrandyte. The first and easiest one is to keep your cat in at night. Cats are incredibly destructive when they are left out at night. Unfortunately, bells are simply not effective.

Part of the Parks Victoria action plan to help increase the number of phascogales is the placement of nest boxes around Warrandyte. There have been around 12 boxes placed up in Warrandyte around Whipstick Gully, Timber Reserve, Fourth Hill and The Common. The nest boxes are an excellent place for the phascogales to have their young. Studies have shown that they have taken to them very well. The nest boxes are specifically designed so that only phascogales and sugar gliders can get in.

Another way you can help protect phascogales is to let Warrandyte State Park know of any sightings. This is important, because then the rangers get a better idea of where the phascogales are living and where nest boxes would be best suited.



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Pictures by GREG RUTHVEN



# It was a Wiz of a show!

**THEATRE**  
By MARILYN MOORE

SCHOOL productions in Warrandyte have a reputation second to none, and *The Wiz*, recently presented by Warrandyte High School, was no exception. Combine the quality of professional theatre with the energy and enthusiasm of youth, and the result is a champagne show, bubbling with vivid images and effervescent sound. In short, a great night out.

A rock musical with a jazzy light-hearted feel, *The Wiz* was adapted from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by W.F. Brown back in 1974. According to the program blurb, it's becoming something of an evergreen on campus and amateur circuits both in the US and locally. It's certainly a show suited to young performers.

The story, well-known to most people over the age of 10, follows Dorothy's adventures with Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion as they seek out the Wiz together, in order to achieve their different ambitions. Encounters with witches good and bad, whacky winged monkeys, cacophonous crows and provocatively prancing poppies create dramatic diversions aplenty.

Finally, guided at intervals by those legendary old yellow bricks, the friends come to realise that the famous Wiz isn't quite the solution to their problems after all.

Every aspect of this production was of a remarkably high calibre. Much of the credit for the brilliant visual aspects goes to Chris and Lynette White, who shared the directing; Chris was also responsible for the functional and decorative sets; Lynette choreographed the dance routines and oversaw costume design; Michael Blake designed the lighting and Alan Green the audio; Kirk Skinner directed the music; not to overlook the superb job done by dozens of musicians, backstage crew, costume and make-up assistants, set builders, publicity workers, photographers and lighting/sound operators.

Even the program deserves a men-

tion (Renee Hoareau and Deborah Bradbury): the design was informative, simple and very effective.

The script provided heaps of variety to work with; so much so, in fact, that both plot and lyrics became rather overshadowed by the vivid character parts. This did not seem to matter at all. The production was colourful and dramatic throughout. For example, it opened with an earthy yet haunting jazz-style soliloquy sung by Dorothy's Aunt Em (Sarah Jones), a mood starkly disrupted by the onslaught of a dark and powerful twister (especially clever lighting, audio, costumes and choreography), then the brightly jolly witch Addaperle (Dee Arsenis) and her talented and colourfully attired troupe of Munchkins burst into the spotlight with the sort of brilliance and fascination normally associated with *Cirque de Soleil* or the masquerade in *Phantom of the Opera*.

Wicked Witch-of-the-West Evillene (cruel dominatrix Kara Williams) and good witch Glinda ("saucy but sugarsweet" Zoe Thomas) were well-crafted interpretations of the respective roles, and provided yet further

dimensions in mood, pace and colour. Mark Spiliotacopoulos proved a most riveting wizard (anything less would have been a disappointment after such a build-up) and his subsequent change of character to a more ordinary sort of bloke was neatly done. Even the smaller roles of Lord High Underling/Uncle Henry (Jason Bowen) and the Gatekeeper (Josh Smith) were very well characterised, indicative of the depth of talented actors within the school as well as the directors' eye for detail.

The main characters each had a notable stage presence, quite an achievement for such (mainly) young actors. The role of Dorothy (Jacqui Moore) was well cast; her singing was delightfully accurate. (Evie Gough alternated in this role—I am sure she was just as sweet and vivacious.)

Lion nearly stole the show. Teacher-cum-experienced-performer Greg Stewart imparted a great deal of character and expression into this big wussy "pussycat with furballs", making him a definite crowd-pleaser and very supportive to the other actors. This being Greg's 13th consecutive

show with the school, few people can probably imagine a show without him!

Megan Fitzgerald as Scarecrow was another highlight. The role was challenging, requiring constant (and simultaneous) attention to voice, accent and movement as well as considerable singing ability. Megan did an expert and entertaining job.

It's difficult with such a talented line-up to single out anybody, but it must be said that Nic George's skillful portrayal of Tinman was truly memorable. Although some of the credit for this character must go to the costume department (that tap!), Nic's rendition of "Slide Some Oil To Me" brought the house down, and justly so. To carry off such a difficult routine with apparent ease and enjoyment would be the envy of many a professional performer.

The huge amount of work which went into staging this musical was clearly evident. That such an ambitious production could be carried off without a single lag in pace or other significant weakness speaks volumes for the commitment, enthusiasm and discipline of everyone involved. Congratulations!



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# A mature nation knows a dunny from a toilet

I'VE always been confused about what to call the excretorium. When I was in my mid-primary years it was easy. We all just announced that we were going to the dunny and no one batted an eyelid.

A few years later and after several reprimands for using such vulgar language in public, I became confused about what was the correct term to use with adults. With my friends, it was still dunny or a graphic description of what we were heading off to do, but with my mother, in particular, I had to beat around the bush.

I thought about some of the possibilities and found them anything but satisfactory. For example, we had a comfort station erected by the local council but I could hardly use that at home. Just imagine.

"And where do you think you're going? Tea's just about to be served."

"I won't be long. I'm just heading off to our comfort station for a quick comfort!"

As befits a proper suburban education, I was informed that I was to use the word toilet. I thought that that was that and that the rest of my life would be plain sailing until I reached my late teens and began to mix with more sophisticated people who assured me that toilet was quite inappropriate and that I should be using the word lavatory.

This was enormously confusing as I had been told in earlier



**"...finds one square of toilet paper about as useless as a sick bag on a bungy jump..."**

years that lavatory was not a very nice word. So, there I was desperate to go but without the word to explain where it was. I resorted to muttering and unannounced disappearances.

In my adulthood, I came to the conclusion that both toilet and lavatory were stupid. Both come from the French and one is to do with make-up and grooming whilst the other is associated with washing oneself. Now call me warped, but when I go to the dunny, grooming is the last thing on my mind and washing is decidedly secondary.

Confusion and embarrassment about bodily functions are obviously not restricted to my

family. The WC, the john, the littlest room, the powder room and the public convenience are just some of the euphemisms we have employed. To avoid facing the issue, authorities rely on us recognising the shape of outhouses and just name the entrances with the words "men" and "women". An even sneakier tactic is to use the biological symbols or graphic representations of the genders.

In Beijing, there was even more uncertainty. Finding a comfort station in Tiananmen Square is difficult enough but once found there are no graphics, biological signs or words to help the uncomfortable tourist. Instead, there is one entrance at which there stands a formidable, white uniformed ex-shot putter who acts like a farmer drafting sheep. With the wave of one arm she directs you to either the left or right. With her other hand, she offers you one square of toilet paper.

No doubt there is some injunction in the Little Red Book about wasting not one's waste paper but I'm one running dog capitalist who finds one square of loo paper about as useless as a sick bag on a bungy jump.

But the glossy term isn't restricted to loos. Saving face is what it's really all about and the recent Olympic Games provided our commentators with endless possibilities. Instead of having no chance to make it through to the next round, our guys were going to have to rely

on the possibility of no one in the next four heats actually reaching the finishing line. In a field of eight, our competitor only had seven to overtake in order to make it a gold for Australia. Our winners were magnificent whilst other winners just touched us out or managed to make it over the line ahead of our hero.

I don't think any one of us was at all concerned about such partisan pride. We all enjoy it and it's part of our sense of identity and an affirmation of ourselves in a time and place. The danger, of course, is when we can't see through the hype and begin to think like this all the time. Which is why the closing ceremony was so right. After all the adulation, exaggeration, rampant nationalism and patriotic fervour, the final night was typically Australian.

The previous 15 days had proved that we are good, bloody good. We can mix it with the big guys but we were reminded of the real Australia; the rotary clothes line, the larrikin, the working class man, the irreverence for straight lines and authority, the accommodation of fringe groups, our adoration of down-to-earth stars and our readiness to say sorry instead of "I feel aggrieved that some measure of inappropriate behaviour has occurred".

Finally, it seems that it is time to call a dunny a dunny.

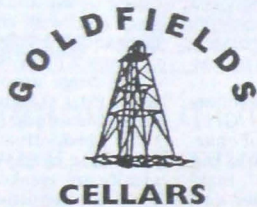
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# The remarkable sex life of the shy, retiring orchid

**H**OODS and helmets, mosquitoes and gnats, donkeys and ducks, birds and beads, leeks, onions, spiders and tongues. The question: what do they have in common? The answer: they are all types of Australian terrestrial orchids. Such a diverse assortment of names reflects the enormous variation in shape, size and colour of orchid flowers—probably more so than any other group of plants.

Life for an orchid is not easy. The trouble with orchids is that they are too specialised for their own good—and too bizarrely beautiful. The intricate structure of their flowers, after which so many of them are named, are designed for specific insects to enter the flower and reach its innermost secret parts to perform the act of pollination. Tiny native bees, wasps, flies and gnats—insignificant to our human eyes—are critical for the long-term survival of orchids. First, however, the insects must be lured to the flowers by fair means or foul. Methods employed by orchids range from a simple reward of nectar to more devious devices.

Tongue orchids, for instance, are pollinated by an ichneumon wasp, hence the floral parts of this orchid are constructed to resemble the female wasp. And that's not all. The flower emits a sex attractant scent that replicates the pheromone produced by the female wasp. The male is deceived by the sight and smell of the tongue orchid. As he attempts to mate with the flower, sticky pollen attaches to his body. When he is fooled into visiting another flower, the pol-

## NATURE

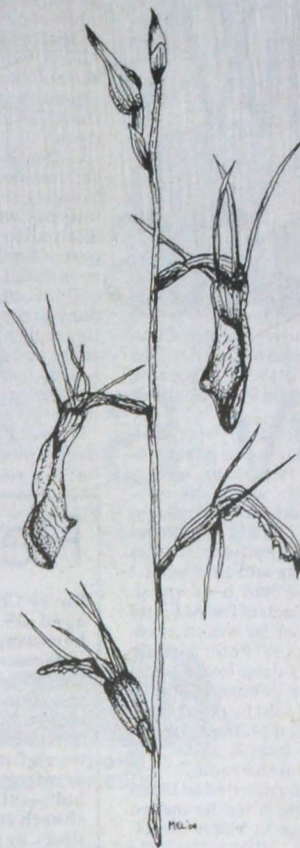
By **PAT COUPAR**  
Drawn by **MELANIE COUPAR**

len is transferred onto its reproductive parts resulting in cross pollination for the orchid.

Following fertilisation the orchid flower shrivels as the ovary beneath swells to form a ribbed capsule. As the seeds ripen, the capsule turns from green to brown, finally splitting along the lines of the ribs to release thousands, sometimes millions, of microscopically minute seeds. The problem is, orchids do not grow well from seed. Being so small, the seeds have little or no food reserves and their thin coating offers poor protection. They cannot survive for long. Despite the extraordinary lengths orchids go to get pollinated, germination rate is extremely low.

To overcome the lack of nutrients, orchid seeds and later their tubers are infiltrated by a fungus living in the soil. The mycorrhizal fungus, as it is known, assists the plant in the uptake of minerals and other nutrients. The dependence on this association varies from species to species. Some, like the beautiful rosy-pink, summer-flowering hyacinth orchid lack the green pigment chlorophyll and must rely on the fungus for nutrition throughout its life.

The trials of life for an orchid do not end there. These plants are finicky and resent disturbance to their habitat, they do not cope well with weed invasion. To compound the situa-



tion, their tubers are invitingly plump and succulent and are easily dug up by eager birds. Slugs and snails top the list of a host of invertebrates that chew the leaves, stems and flowers. And as for rabbits, they can annihilate whole

populations of orchids with their digging claws and chomping incisors.

Then, there are the human poachers. Basically orchid hunters can be divided into two categories: those who know what they are doing and those who don't. The first group target particular, much sought-after species to sell or keep for themselves. The other group, which includes the flower-pickers and those with no knowledge of orchid propagation, dig up or pick whatever takes their fancy. The result is the same—a hole in the ground and another precious orchid population decimated.

With so many ordeals to overcome just to survive, it is not surprising that the future of many orchids is bleak. The plight for some of Warrandyte's orchids is especially dire. Like the white caladenia. In the last 10 years, only three individuals have been found, all in separate locations. Two have not reappeared and the third, which was only discovered four years ago, hangs on by the skin of its fleshy white tuber.

Sometimes orchids must be given a helping hand if they are to be pulled from the brink of extinction and sometimes even this is not enough. Last year with the unlikelihood of its natural pollinator being present, the sole surviving white caladenia was hand-pollinated—a procedure not unlike IVF—and although a capsule swollen with seed eventuated, no babies were produced. This year it is flowering again and the procedure will be repeated. The fate of this beautiful threatened orchid will once more be in our hands.

# Heading up the Hume to euphoria

**N**OW that the last dazzling firework has exploded into the star-studded sky, we are all going to suffer post-Olympic withdrawal symptoms like never before. No more hooping around the countryside with face paint, Aussie flags and green and gold streamers. No more TV to relieve the monotony of supermarket queues. No more walkman-toting elderly ladies leaping around, shouting for joy, in the middle of shopping malls. No more bumping into celebrities at every turn: Lithuanians sightseeing, Aussie cyclists road-training, Brazilians shopping, colourful uniforms out everywhere and chauffeur-driven government limousines clogging the roads. Most reality-gripping of all for Sydneysiders, no more free buses every two minutes with the world's cheeriest and most obliging bus drivers.

Even some of the TV ads have been worth watching. Now there's an admission! No one can complain about spending a few minutes focussing on the celebration of humanity, courage and the irrelevance of the colour gold. In the Homebush pool, Eric the Eel brought the world to a halt as he provided



By **MARILYN MOORE**

living proof of all three.

What if we hadn't made the 900 kilometre trek to the Olympic city? Well, despite an amazing network of strategically located screens, public euphoria seemed a bit thin on the ground down here. If we'd stayed in Warrandyte we might have rated the highlight of the Games as Roy and HG's original commentaries. Who will ever forget the big guy rag-dolling his opponent, in the passivity zone of all places, in the greco-roman wrestling? Or Fatso's world-beating bomb? Words fail me when it comes to synchronised grinning swimming, but The Dream team had no such difficulty.

Now this was all brilliant entertainment, but not your actual Games. Definitely not. The best substitute was probably

the ABC radio commentary, but, outstanding as it was, this wasn't quite the real thing either. Finally, as if dragged northward by an invisible lead, we found ourselves joining the migratory hordes on Route 31. And suddenly there we were, in Stadium Australia. Stationed at a magnificent vantage point above the finish line, we prepared ourselves for an evening of track and field competition featuring, apparently, le quartre-cent metres. Supporting acts included le dix-mille metres, le cinq-mille metres and, last but certainly not least, le pole vault.

What an awesome experience! It was a night to destroy hands and voice boxes: Freeman, Johnson, Mutola, Grigorieva, Gebrselassie, Garcia. The crowd also got behind lesser-known mortals who became heroes on the night: Flosadottir from Iceland, who finished third in the women's pole vault, Szabo from Romania, who gamely held off crowd favourite Sonia O'Sullivan in the women's 500m final, and, most emphatically, Kenyan Paul Tergat, who threw everything humanly possible at Gebrselassie in the final of the men's 10,000m.

If the roar of 112,524 sets of

lungs belting out the Australian anthem, or the thunderous hysteria as Cathy Freeman floated across the line, didn't bring down this amazing stadium on this night, then nothing ever will. And what a colosseum-like stadium it turned out to be, with an atmosphere of theatre and excitement quite unlike the vast open spaces of the MCG.

Next day found us quietly hibernating, ears still ringing, with a pile of whodunits in front of the TV in fogbound Katoomba. The biting chill of the wind froze sunburnt noses even redder. Already the Games seemed like a mirage. Did last night really happen? The TV commentary, interspersed with trailers for forthcoming inanities (spare me!) added to the sense of unreality.

But back at Homebush Bay, it was real all right, and the reality continued with unabated momentum. We know, because we went back to soak up some more euphoria.

And now? Back to a different sort of real life, sitting brain-dead at the computer, staring out the window at a couple of eastern rosellas who are doing over a grevillea for the umpteenth time this morning. I don't suppose the Olympic Games means a jot to them.

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# He was a man of many parts

By **KEPPEL CASSIDY**

Brendan Cassidy, bookseller, actor, academic, charming rogue, and loyal father, died on May 1—aged 60—after a short illness. Brendan moved to Warrandyte in his teens with brother Darien and mum Estelle and lived in the area for the rest of his life, migrating north in 1972 to Kangaroo Ground to start a family.

He was a passionate, restless man, who went through a number of very different career phases in his life and approached each with the same combination of fierce intelligence, witty irreverence and an often idiosyncratic method of getting things done.

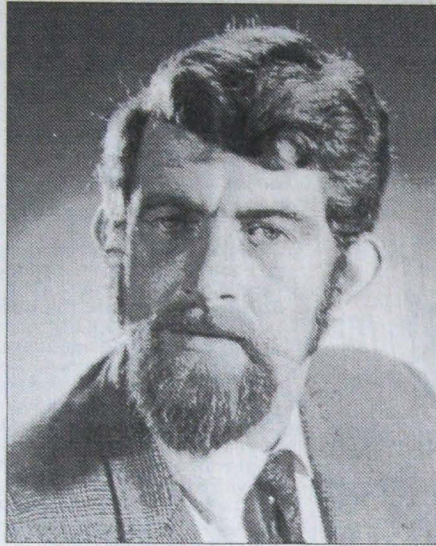
Many Warrandyte folk will remember Brendan in his youth, when he was involved with the local cricket and football teams and the WAA Drama Group, an interest which later led to a short career as a professional actor. They may remember him as witty and charismatic, but with a strong rebellious streak which sometimes led to "run-ins" with the ignorant or officious.

His brother Darien told me of a day when Brendan, tired of the snail-like stream of Sunday driver tourists through Warrandyte, decided to take his revenge. He executed a U-turn in

his enormous old Hudson car on Warrandyte Road, at its narrowest point near Pigtail Hill. Not surprisingly, the turn required a great many stages, and mysteriously, the car seemed to stall after each one. Brendan elected to get out, stroll unhurriedly to the front of the car and crank it, before the process was repeated. The traffic jam stretched back to the bridge, causing the locals great amusement.

Brendan was an unconventional and combative cricketer, who upon returning to the family home after Saturday's game would shout "Got six today!" meaning not wickets but blows to the bodies and heads of unfortunate opposition batsmen.

During this time he worked as a bookseller with Collins, rising to the position of manager of Hill of Content Publishing Company. But although Brendan always loved books (the Cassidy house was lined with bookshelves) he always felt compromised by the commercialism of his job with Collins, and eventually as his interest in acting grew, he decided to tread the boards professionally. He was a talented stage performer with a great facility for mimicry and a strong stage presence and, in 1975, he was invited



to join the Melbourne Theatre Company, where he appeared as Pericles in Shakespeare's play of the same name and the warder in Peter Shaffer's Equus.

A friend from those days, Peter Balding, remembers Brendan as a "romantic and colourful character, with a dashing moustache which he constantly curled. He had a wicked wit and a sense of humour heavily influenced by the Goons and the Pythons. He was very well read, a lefty and an atheist. I understood that he had been president of the local branch of the ALP, and always assumed that he would eventually go into politics." Peter also remembers Brendan's deep love of classical music, and his intense dislike of rock 'n' roll. "When I said he didn't have to listen to it, he complained that he might accidentally hear it as he was changing stations on the radio."

Brendan was briefly married to Diana (nee Briggs) in 1966, when he owned and lived in a house in Valias Street, North Warrandyte.

In 1972, Brendan and his devoted longtime partner Alison (nee Bird) bought a small house on 20 acres in Bellbird Lane near the headwaters of Stony Creek. He had a great love of

building and working with his hands, and over the years the original cottage was transformed into a large, beautiful, rather eccentric house with white cement-rendered walls giving it a distinctly Mediterranean character. Peter recalls Brendan's wall-building technique as unique.

"First he framed up in any old timber rubbish he could find, then clad this with any old rusty corrugated iron he could find. This was rendered with cement plaster embellished with a characteristic Cassidy swirl." He and Alison were determined to become self-sufficient and sweated over a large vegetable garden, an unsuccessful orchard, a chook-house and a goat paddock.

In this house Brendan and Alison settled down and started a family, bringing myself, Meran and Stephen into the world. As a father, Brendan learned to express a kinder, gentler part of himself. He loved us dearly and took great pleasure in our creative endeavours—except when they endangered his precious stereo system! He taught me how to play cricket, chop wood and do Silly Voices, and inspired a deep commitment to social justice and the protection of the rights of the vulnerable and underprivileged.

In 1979 Brendan decided to embark on full-time study at university. Despite having only completed Year 9 at

school, he completed a Bachelor of Arts with Honours majoring in Legal Studies, at La Trobe University. He was soon employed as a tutor and later a lecturer, and completed his PhD in 1986. He was an intelligent and highly regarded writer whose interests included participatory democracy, jury reform and the role of the media in influencing public opinion about the law. He was also a popular lecturer, and in later years, as secretary of the La Trobe branch of the National Tertiary Education Union, campaigned bravely to protect the rights and working conditions of academics threatened by economic rationalism and big-business style management from governments and university administration.

After a long and fruitful partnership, Alison and Brendan separated in 1993, an event which left him shocked and somewhat embittered. However in recent times he found a new partner Carol, with whom he shared a happy and loving relationship until his passing.

After being diagnosed with advanced liver cancer, Brendan died peacefully at home, surrounded by his family and close neighbours and friends Caroline and Tom Boschma. He was a brilliant, imperious man, an unsentimental grumpy old cynic and a kind and unwaveringly loyal father. We will miss him dearly.

## Remembering David

David Clifton died on August 24, aged 38, of a massive cerebral

hemorrhage. In a coma for months, the result was he was legally blind and had other health problems. He recovered and showed great courage in resuming a normal lifestyle.



He was a Camberwell Grammar Old Boy—a very good math student, went on to Swinburne Technical College where he did art and screen printing, played football—full back, with a church team. He was 12 years as timekeeper for the Warrandyte Football Club, Juniors and Under 18's.

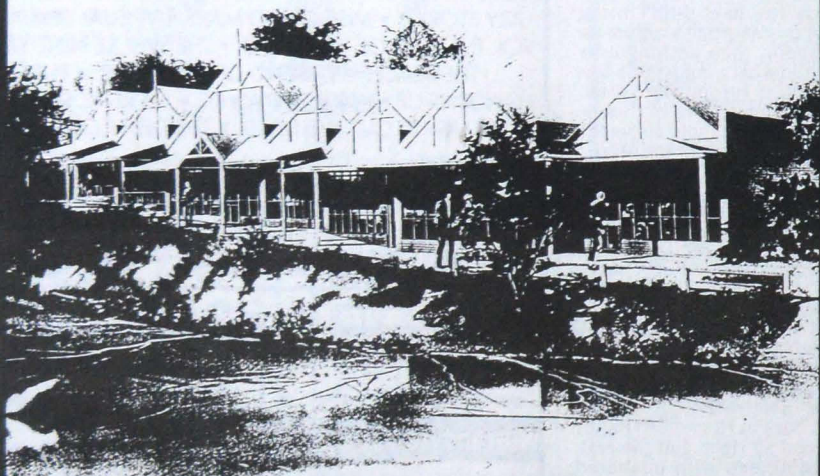
He had a horrific motor bike accident at the age of 21, leaving him

Great thanks are due to the football club, particularly the junior club, for the niche they made for him, having him as timekeeper for many years. He always looked forward to his job.

He was a gentle guy who lived his life and loved people and animals.

**ERIC HOUGHTON**

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# Wildfire, war and a wedding

**T**HE 1939 bushfire was all over Warrandyte, everywhere. I rode my bike down Everard Drive but they wouldn't let me pass to go to the Pound. The Youth Hostel was saved and Dad and the boys saved our old place with wet bags and branches but all the sheds were burnt down. There was no orchard in those days. Everything was either black or smoking.

Mr Draegas's house was burnt to the ground. His granddaughter, Lorriane Harris (nee Day) lost everything, including furniture she had worked and saved for, in the house fire. Blair Smith and his family were down at the river sheltering from the fire. Their house burnt down and all Blair owned was the bathers he wore.

Lily Beaston and I ran a dance to raise money for the fire relief. It was a fancy dress at the Mechanics Institute. Lorraine Day borrowed costumes from Her Majesty's Theatre where she worked, and with her friends, went as the Big Bad Wolf and the Three Little Pigs. Lily was dressed up as a chicken, she was feathers all over the place. When all those who had dressed up and paraded around the hall so the judges could judge the best costume, she dropped an egg on the floor, it was the funniest thing. It was a china egg and didn't break, just rolled across the floor. Ida Walsh, the baker's wife, who was dressed as a butcher with a string of sausages around her neck, picked up the egg and announced "Sausages and eggs!"

Sandy MacDougall went away to World War II, along with many of the men of Warrandyte. My brothers didn't go because they were exempt being primary producers. Sandy wore glasses and Mrs Mac and me didn't think he would be accepted. But he was. They were taking everyone those days.

Sandy was captured during the war and he

## PIONEERING DAYS

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

helped the soldiers survive by boiling up the plants that he found, making medicines and tonics. When Sandy came home he made Sandy's Health Oil. People would come swimming in the Yarra River and get terribly sunburnt. Sandy would plaster them all over with his Health Oil and never charge them a penny. Mrs Mac would complain, "Popsy, we will be poor for all our lives". But Sandy would never charge, he would just say, "If it does you any good, come back and buy a bottle of Health Oil". We've still got a bottle of it in the bathroom, and a bottle of his cold tar cream, which was awfully smelly stuff.

Early one day during those early war years, Mrs Mac had got up on the roof from a ladder to clean out all the spoutings. It was very high and she couldn't get down. I was trying to guide her foot down but she just couldn't find the top rung, it kept swaying in the air. She kept getting giddy as her foot explored the space over the side. I managed to get her down.

I had started to go to dances. Jack Moore had taught me to dance at the Mechanics Institute. Dances were held there every Saturday night. Jack would come up and say, "Come on, Miss Wagner, I'll teach you to dance." During the night, I'd go around and tell anyone who knew Dad not to tell him that I was at the dance because he didn't like women putting their arms around a man and going dancing. I'd stay at Mrs Mac's on Saturday night because I had to start work early on Sunday. Every other night I would ride my bike home to

the Pound Bend farm. I've only ever been inside the Grand Hotel once in my life, Dad never wanted to see me in there either.

Lily Renton and I would walk to Mooroolbark or Ringwood just to go to the dances there. Lily knew all the bush tracks and short cuts. It would only take us an hour or so to walk and there would always be someone to give us a lift home. Jim Harris was often there to drive us home.

Dad gave me the ultimatum: either go out with boys to dances, or singing and piano lessons with practice with Dad at home. So I chose to rebel a bit and go out to the dances. That is where I met Jim Craig my future husband, at the local dances. Jim was the saxophonist with the Ken Milne Orchestra, and he also played violin and clarinet. He was quite a musician. They played at all the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Saturday night dances those days—Ken Milne on the piano, Frank Drewer on the drums. They were a beautiful band. They played all the popular tunes of the day. Jim also sang occasionally, I remember him doing "Abba Dabba Honeymoon". Occasionally I would sing a modern waltz with the band over at the Box Hill Town Hall. When they played at Box Hill, Frank Croft would join the band on the double bass.

The Ken Milne Band always played at the Lilac Time balls in the Mechanics Institute. They were wonderful events, once a year. It seemed all of Warrandyte would be there.

We were very busy at the Riverview Tea Rooms so Lil Renton and Rene Lehney would come in and help at the weekends. People poured into Warrandyte on a weekend in charabanc coaches, cars, bikes and buses.

Jim Craig and I got married in 1943 and I moved out of Warrandyte to Blackburn to live with Jim in his father's house which was named Heatherglenn. Our first son, Roger, was born around Victory Day in 1945. Greg was

next in 1947 and Colin followed in 1949.

We often visited Mum, and on one occasion when Roger was just a baby, Jim Craig was driving the old Essex around the bend near where Beasleys Nursery is now, and all of a sudden there was a car wheel tearing along in front of us going down the hill. It was a wheel off our car. Next thing we went down at the front with a bonk on the road. Jim fetched the wheel, wacked it back on and we got to the farm. The Essex was never that fast. Once driving to Edithvale, taking the kids to the beach, a fellow passed us on a push bike.

Jim and I were married for seven and a half years when we discovered he had lung cancer. He got this terrible pain in his back. He was still playing at dances but now they were in town with Frank Drewer and Dave Paterson on the piano. Often Jim would come home the worse for wear through drink and I would ask him why he drank so much when you've got to go to work in the morning. He would say, "If you've got this pain in your back you would drink too, I do it to deaden the pain in my back". In the end he went up to Dr Booth in Box Hill who sent him to a chemist who put him on a heat machine for the pain in his back. But the cancer went from one lung to the other lung. He was so bad that by the time he went to Royal Melbourne Hospital and had been in there for a week, they took me aside to tell me not to let him know that he only had two months to live.

Jim died in 1951. Colin was a week off his second birthday, Greg was three, Roger was five and just starting school. I couldn't stay at Jim's father's house so I moved back to Warrandyte and returned to the Wagner farm at Pound Bend. The boys slept out on the back verandah as my brothers had done. I shared a room with my sister Iona. Jim's will left me 400 pounds that he had been saving for our future home. I thought it was the end of the world.





Warrandyte Tennis Club recently celebrated 25 years at their Taroon Avenue courts. Judy Green was there with her camera.



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# One-man live show

Local actor, Dennis Coard, will present *The Fall Of The Roman Empire* at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute on Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14 at 8pm. The show has been written by Dennis and he will be the sole performer. Dennis has a variety of credits in film, television and stage including nearly six years as a regular on *Home And Away*. He has played in a number of Melbourne Theatre Company productions. Proceeds from the two nights will benefit the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School, Wonga Park Primary School and the Warrandyte High School. Tickets are \$15, \$12 concession or for group bookings of 10 or more. All enquiries to 9844 1875 or 0407 017692.



Former Warrandyte High School star, Sally Morrison (second from right) will take part in the Cloc Musical Theatre's production of "A Little Night Music" at the Alexander Theatre, Monash University, Clayton from October 20 to November 4. For bookings call 9592 2897.

## Market

Warrandyte and District Pre-School are holding a Twilight Market at the kindergarten in Taroona Avenue on Wednesday, October 11 from 7.30 to 10pm. Entry ticket of \$5 will give you a great supper including champagne and a chance to win one of several door prizes including a night for two at the Park Royal. There will be a wide variety of stalls providing a chance to get some Christmas gifts for the whole family. Tickets can be purchased from the kinder or a kinder parent or at the door on the night.

## Concert

Warrandyte Senior Citizens will present their 38th Birthday Concert at their clubrooms in Taroona Avenue on Thursday, November 9 commencing at 1pm.

## Celebrations

A 2001 calendar of events is now being finalised for state publications to celebrate the 150th discovery of gold in Victoria. If your community group or association is planning an event for 2001 which celebrates the discovery of gold in Warrandyte and surrounding districts please contact Andrew Gray, Valley of the Arts Tourism Marketing Board on [vallart@onthe.net.au](mailto:vallart@onthe.net.au) or phone 9844 4961.

## Syd & Ona

*Diary* artists Syd Tunn and Ona Henderson are holding their annual Open Studio on the weekends of November 11, 12 and 18, 19 between 12noon and 5pm at the corner of Henley and Oxley roads, Kangaroo Ground. Call them on 9712 0393 for further information.

## Belly dancing

The ancient art of belly dancing has become a very popular class at the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House. This style of dance has many moods from slow and controlled to fast and exciting. Students are



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.

taught the traditional style as well as the more modern cabaret dancing we are familiar with today. Contact the Neighbourhood House on 9844 1839 for details of both day and evening classes or ring the tutor Anita Zaccogna on 9438 1212.

## Raptors

The next Green Wedge Seminar to be held at the Currawong Bush Park in Reynolds Road, Doncaster East will be on Thursday, November 2 at 7.30 pm. Richard Naisbit of Healesville Sanctuary will give an insight into the birds of prey, their population, distribution and behaviour in urban environments.

## Grasses

On Sunday, November 19 the Nillumbik council training program will run a session on the identification of indigenous and exotic grasses. The session runs from 10am to 12noon at the Panton Hill Living and Learning Centre in Bishops Road.

## Dance

The next social dance at the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road will be on Saturday, October 14 commencing at 8pm. Cost is \$5 including tea and coffee. For information call 9723 3892.

## Sculpture

To celebrate the installation of "Sentinel", a new public sculpture by Inge King, Manningham Gallery is presenting an exhibition of the artist's selected sculptures and maquettes and photographs of public sculpture commissions. The exhibition is at the Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster from September 20 to October 15. Inge King, a long time resident of Warrandyte, has a sculpture in the garden at the rear of the Warrandyte Community Centre.

## Festival

The 5th Mullum Festival will take place during October. It will be a celebration of the ecological and cultural values of the Mullum Creek Valley. Activities will occur in a number of locations along the valley on different days. Sunday, October 15 will cover the Gorge Country at Mitcham and Donvale, Saturday, October 21—Open Valley, Park Orchards and Doncaster East and Sunday, October 22—Meeting Place, Warrandyte and Templestowe. From 2 to 5pm on October 22

there will be a concert at Tikalara Park, entry from Websters Road. Call 0500 802 804 for further information.

## Open studios

A number of potters from the Warrandyte and Eltham area will open their studios to the public on Saturday, November 4 and Sunday, November 5 from 10am to 5pm both days. Potters involved are Chris and Mary-Lou Pittard, Sue McCormick, Judy Roberts, Linda Detoma, Jane Annois and Peter Accadia. Contact Judy Roberts on 9439 3152 for locations of the studios which will be marked by yellow balloons on the appropriate days.

## Exhibition

Local artist, Denise Keele-Bedford will be showing works at the PITSpace Gallery, RMIT, Bundoora from October 4 to 20. The exhibition entitled, "Conceived Gothic", investigates medieval design in Gothic windows where the designs are transferred out of context to a contemporary environment.

## Flowers

The Australian Plants Society, Yarra Yarra Group, are conducting a Native Flower Show as part of the Eltham Festival. It will be in the Senior Citizens Hall, 903 Main Road, Eltham on Saturday, November 11 and Sunday, November 12 from 9am to 5pm.

## VCE

Revision lectures for VCE Biology students will be held on Sunday, October 22 at Box Hill Institute, Building 4 Auditorium, 465 Elgar Road, Box Hill from 9.30am to 3.30pm. The four-session course, conducted by Dr Michael Deland, reviews all Unit 4 work. Pre-booking is advised. Cost is \$25 for the day or \$8 per session with concession for groups of five or more. Biology teachers are admitted free. For application forms or further details call 9873 1984.

## Advertising rates up

The *Diary* has been forced to increase its advertising rates for the first time in more than two years. Rates have been increased by approximately 10 per cent, from this issue.

Our last rate increase was in August 1998. Since then our costs have continued to edge up. The low \$A has caused paper prices to escalate, and along with other creeping printers' costs, these have resulted in higher printing bills.

Computers, computer programs and ancillary equipment become progressively outdated as the years pass. The need to retain industry compat-

ibility forced us into a major re-equipment program several months ago. This cost us well in excess of \$6000, completely draining our financial reserves. GST compliance has substantially increased our management expenses and all our other costs have crept up across the two years.

Revenue from advertising is our financial lifeblood; indeed, it is our only source of income. The future existence of the newspaper depends upon our ability to pay our way.

● The new rates are published on Page 2.



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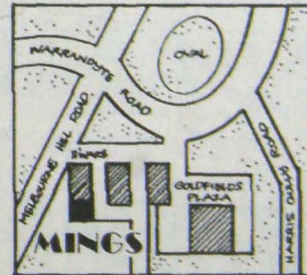
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# Goldtown opens the door

By CLINTON GRYPBAS

Lee Holland is hoping victory in the Warrandyte Tennis Club's Goldtown Open last month will herald the resurrection of his tennis career. The 26 year-old from South Melbourne claimed the title for a second time after beating unseeded youngster Milos Nikolic in the final 6-4, 7-6.

It was his second appearance in Warrandyte. Holland won the 1992 Open as a teenager at his first attempt and had not been back since. He is hoping the success will be the turn-around he so desperately needs to try and win a regular spot on the elite tour.

"The last two years have been pretty tough for me," he told the *Diary*. "I've had glandular fever so I've just been playing off and on. But I'm back now and starting to play again, trying to get my ranking down."

He was aiming to lower his world ranking of "about 460" during a five-week stint in Japan immediately following the Goldtown.

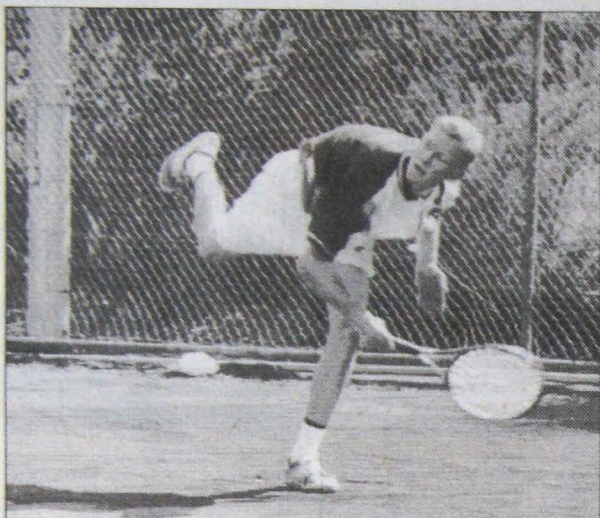
Included in his schedule were three Futures events, a qualifying tournament for the Tokyo Open and a Challenger tournament.

And how does he compare the 2000 Goldtown Open to the one eight years ago?

"Now there are a lot more younger guys playing. I just wanted to get a hit-out and get some good hits. The quality wasn't bad; it's quite good."

One of those younger players was his opponent in the final. And Holland was cautious, with Nikolic threatening to spoil his revival plans. Nikolic had already ousted defending champion Ben Ruzicka in the first round and pushed Holland early in the first set before falling 6-4.

Holland led 5-2 in the second and was within sight of victory before Nikolic rallied to force a tie-break. Nikolic led the tie-break 5-3 and a third set was beckoning before Holland reeled off four consecutive points to clinch the \$1000 prize.



Going for gold: Lee Holland (right) defeated Milos Nikolic (above) in the final of the Goldtown Open. (Pictures by Sandy Burgoyne)

## SPORT

Holland's path to success was made more difficult by rain on the second Saturday of the event. This meant he had to play the quarter final, semi final and the final all on Sunday. "It's tiring, it was a long day with two three-setters before the final. But there's nothing they could do about it."

There was a local victory in the doubles when Warrandyte coach Aaron Nolan teamed with Park Orchards resident Shane Scrutton to beat Cameron Simon and Nathan Hude 7-6, 6-4. It marked successive doubles wins for Nolan at the event.

Ivan Stankovski defeated Andrew Swinson to take out the A-grade title.

Club president Mark Bence pronounced the 15th edition of the tournament a success. "We've been quite happy with it, the field was stronger than last year. We're probably down a couple in numbers but the actual strength of the field has been stronger. We're looking to

build on it over the next couple of years. As we get better and better players we should get more and more entries so we're hopeful of increasing the size of the field from here."

The tournament was not a rating event with Tennis Victoria this year but Bence has been given an assurance that it will be included on the official calendar in 2001. On that basis the club hopes to lure bigger name and overseas players arriving for satellite events to use the Goldtown as a lead-up tournament.

But despite the positive outlook there appears little chance of an immediate return of the women's event.

"We'd like to but at the moment the numbers of women playing in tennis tournaments are down," Bence said. "We'd love to have the women back playing but at this stage numbers dictate. It's hard to organise a tournament if you don't have the players."



# Local players hit all the winners



Boys 23 Grand Final winners: Alex McPhee-Browne, Brennan Johnson, Christ Robinson, Adam Waugh (absent Rowan Dawson).

By JUDY GREEN

Warrandyte Tennis Club teams were successful in a number of competition finals held last month.

The club's Grade 8 team, playing in Tennis Victoria's Pennant competition defeated Oakleigh, four rubbers, 10 sets to two rubbers, four sets. The team included Jarrod Casey, Lee Dehmel, Joel Drew, Rod McCutcheon, Alex Thomson and Rob White.

In senior Eastern Region Tennis grand finals played on Saturday afternoons Mixed 3 (Joel Drew, Paul Gilling, Rod McCutcheon, Neil Sproat, Michelle Gilling, Barb McBain, Katrina Sochacki, Tamara Valentino) recorded a comfortable win against Ferntree Gully, 49 games to 23, while Mixed 14 (Brian Dunn, Lex McDonald, Melissa Cooper, Kirsten Peterson, Wendy Synnot) defeated Heatherdale 40 games to 35.

Two junior teams playing Eastern

Region Tennis on Saturday mornings were also successful. Girls 7 (Stacey Freedman, Mikhaila Greve, Tania Gavranic, Laura McPhee-Browne, Cassandra Montgomery, Mei-en Harding) defeated North Ringwood, 42 games to 37. The Boys 23 team of Rowan Dawson, Brennan Johnson, Alex McPhee-Browne, Chris Robinson and Adam Waugh won over Blackburn, 28 games to 18.

The club managed two grand final wins in the Lilydale and District Night Tennis with Maccas Waccas (Gary Veith, Mark Joy, Vic Aston, Steve Aston, James Razzi, Richard Aumann) winning Tuesday night Men's Section 11 and Swingers (Grayson Milner, Rowan Berry, Elise Berry, Sharon Berry) being victorious in Section 8 of the Wednesday night Mixed competition.

Warrandyte's Section A2 team, playing mid-week ladies on Tues-

days, were unlucky to lose their grand final.

They were defeated in a closely fought match by Park Orchards who were on top of the ladder all season.

The team of Rhonda Brown, Robin Edwards, Shelagh Morton, Ruth Rankin, Melanie Rankin and Sue Thomas were assisted by emergency Jeanette Cleaves on the day.

Warrandyte Tennis Club recently celebrated 25 years at the Tarroona Avenue site with a social night in the clubhouse.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation of life membership to Terry Booth. Terry was thanked by club president Mark Bence for his tireless work over the years, with particular emphasis on his role in the building of the clubhouse and its extensions.

The club moved to the site in 1975 and are looking forward to celebrating their centenary in 2007.

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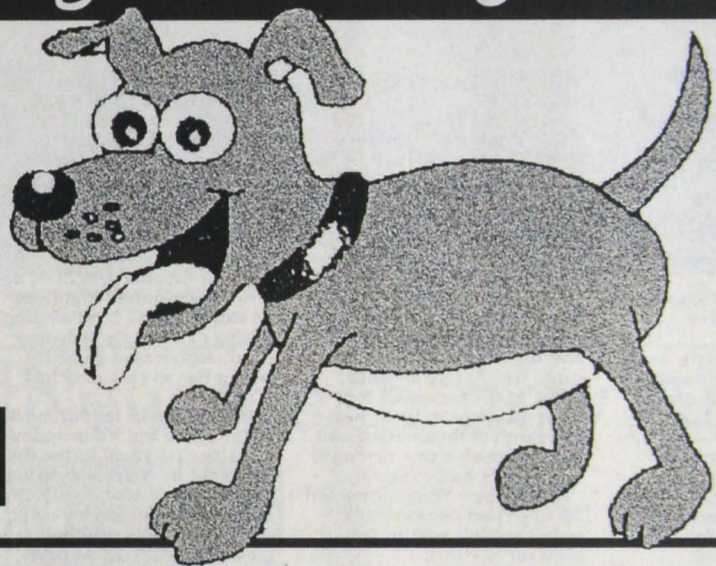
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# Tribute to a teammate and a great mate



Ben McKellar

Ben arrived at Andersons Creek Primary School in 1990 when he was starting Grade 3. He soon formed friendships with many of the boys, who persuaded him to come and play basketball for Warrandyte.

It wasn't long before he had the red and white singlet on and soon became a member of one of our top teams. His pace on the court and good ball-handling skills made him a very handy player, one the opposition had trouble matching up on.

Perhaps his biggest and most identifiable weapon was his left hand. Left-handers often have the ability to confuse opponents and find space and Ben was no exception.

Being the only left-hander in the team, he was a vital compo-

● Warrandyte in general and its sporting community in particular is mourning the death last month of Ben McKellar. An outstanding young sportsman, Ben, who was just 19, represented Warrandyte in both basketball and football. He captained the Under-17 football team to a premiership and was a talented and highly-valued member of Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Club. The following tribute was written by his basketball teammate and good mate Rick Templeton.

nent in our success as a team and he helped us pave the way for many a premiership.

Although he was very competitive, perhaps the main reason he pulled on the singlet season after season was the friendship. Although we all wanted to win, memories of joking around with him on the bench or on the court are still fresh.

When the big games came along and the pressure was on, Ben could still remain calm and his determination to succeed was evident. Even when he was unable to grace the court be-

cause of his illness, the determination shone through. His desire to finish VCE and one day again exhibit his sporting prowess will remain with us forever.

Those of us lucky enough to have known Ben will always remember his sporting ability representing the Warrandyte community on the court or on the field.

He loved playing both basketball and football for Warrandyte. Not only did he love it, he was very good at it. The shelves in his bedroom were lined with trophies, some

individual and some team, and you could feel that every one of them had a pride of place up there.

Ben was a top bloke. That didn't be the greatest description, but it's certainly the one that depicts him best. He was a superb sportsman, gave everything his best and was one of the funniest guys to be around. A good time was always guaranteed if Ben was there.

That is probably why he had so many friends and was loved by so many people.

Although his illness was so

severe, those who visited Ben and kept in touch would never have known. Sometimes it was as though it never existed. He would be his usual joking self, laughing and talking about the footy, giving us all inspiration to cherish every moment we have.

Life is not fair and before you know it someone you love can be gone forever. Our deepest sympathies go out to Rob, Barb and Josh. We will all miss Ben, especially the Under-19 basketball boys who shared many good years and good times playing with him. The Under-19A premiership was won in his honour.

Ben was an inspiration and a reminder to us all to live life to the fullest.

# U-19s do it for a buddy

By TONY OLIVER

Olympic fever must have infected Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Club. The Redbacks had a record number of teams in the finals of the Saturday competition, 20 making the grand finals for 10 premierships.

One outstanding success was that of Malcolm Anderson's Under-19 boys in the highly-competitive A-grade competition.

Although Warrandyte were minor premiers, they had beaten Balwyn, their grand final opponents, by just two points in the semis — and the sobering thought was that Balwyn had inflicted the Redbacks' only defeat of the home-and-away season.

The stage was set for a major confrontation, but

Warrandyte were especially motivated.

Just four days before the grand final, the team were stunned and saddened by the death of one of their teammates, Ben McKellar, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. They were determined to do it for Ben.

The game began at a frantic pace — and it was all Warrandyte. The Redbacks won the opening tip-off and had the first basket of the game within five seconds.

The hectic tempo of the game was maintained, with Warrandyte dominating and Balwyn unable to score until 10 minutes had expired.

At half-time Warrandyte led 36-12 — and the Redback boys couldn't wait to get back on to court.

Balwyn were far more competitive in the second half, but the damage had been done. Warrandyte had the better of the scoring again, 24 to 22, for a final scoreline of 60-34, one of the highest winning scores of the finals series.

The Under-9 boys of Damian Arsenis produced another Warrandyte highlight by downing the Nunawading Vikings 22-18 in a high-standard, high-tempo game between two evenly-matched teams.

The Redbacks led for most of the game but Nunawading equalised at 18-all in the dying seconds. Warrandyte had the chance to seal it with two shots from the charity stripe but missed both and the game went into extra time.

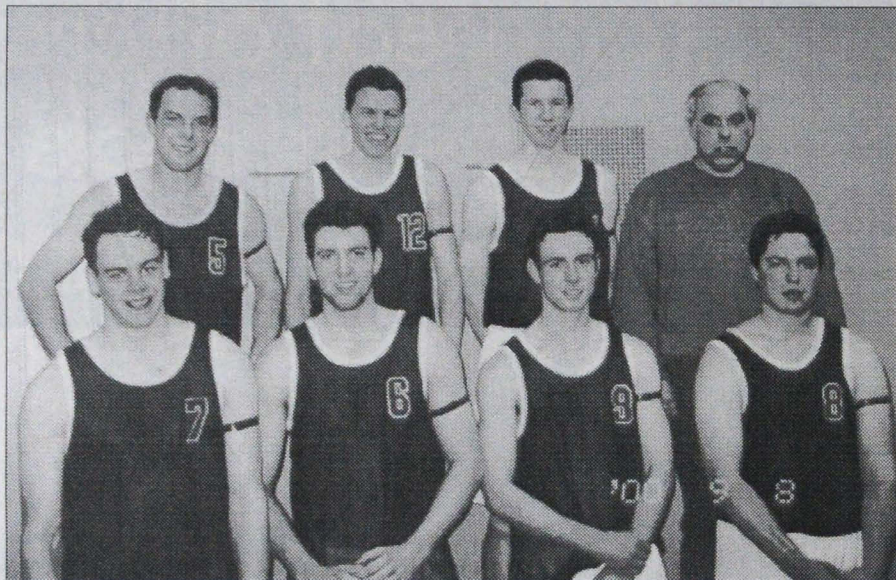
It was desperate and Warrandyte scored twice to clinch the premiership pennant.

Coach Arsenis paid tribute to both sides, saying neither deserved to lose.

Other winners in the boys' section of the competition included Louise Yates' Under-11s, who came from behind to defeat Eltham, and Peter Gagliotti's Under-13s and Under-15s.

The Under-15 victory was a tribute to tactics, the smaller Warrandyte side playing a man-on-man defence and running over Banyule 30-22.

Four of the eight Redbacks



The all-conquering Redbacks Under-19s. Back row (left to right): Callum Anderson, Brian Elliot, Trevor Elliot, coach Malcolm Anderson. Front: Ben Walsham, Craig Dick, Rick Templeton, Simon Arsenis.

girls' teams in the grand finals were successful.

Geoff Hibbert and Ross Allison brought home Under-11 sides, while Jenny O'Brien, assisted by Emma Collins, registered a good win with the top Under-9 Warrandyte team over Eltham.

This Warrandyte team went through the season undefeated, but had been pushed by Eltham in the home-and-away encounters. But the young Redbacks were far from overawed by the big occasion and played pressure basketball to shut out the opposition 21-9.

Hardest loss on grand final day was Tristan Messerle's top Under-15 girls unit. Despite missing some key players, they went into the game warm favourites, having defeated Eltham in a semi-final.

However, Eltham were more motivated in the big one and jumped to a 10-point

lead.

The Redbacks were then playing catch-up basketball but could not get their noses in front. With just a second to go, Warrandyte were in possession and one point down. Kim Singh's shot went in but was ruled to have been released just after the full-time siren. Eltham prevailed 29-28, Warrandyte's only consolation being Rachael Lynch's most determined player award.

Warrandyte's winter season was one of the most successful in the club's history and the new summer season is now under way.

The club now have 29 boys' teams and 20 girls' sides, playing Under-8s to Under-20s, but may still be able to accommodate new players, particularly in the Under-8 girls and Under-10 and Under-12 boys.

Inquiries to Tony Oliver (9844 4287).

## Girls go west for glory

Warrandyte's Under-14 girls came home triumphant from the Great Western Basketball Tournament in the last week of the school holidays.

This inaugural tournament grew out of the Hobsons Bay event based at Altona and has been expanded to include the strong Keilor basketball centre.

Coached by Lorraine Parfitt, the Redbacks representative team started with a 32-18 win over Laverton Wildcats but were outmuscled and outthasled in their second game by ALE Golden Eagles.

A regulation win against Keilor-based St Peters followed, which set up a game against powerful Keilor Village, who won 41-18 but paid tribute to Warrandyte by describing it as their hardest game so far.

The result put the Redbacks into the B-grade final against Laverton Wildcats at Altona, Warrandyte perhaps lucky to be leading by a point at half-time but trailing by four at one stage of the second half.

Parfitt's girls are noted, however, for playing a full 40 minutes of team basketball and they clawed their way back into the game.

Good defence and some fast rebounding saw them regain the lead going into the last few minutes and hang on to win 29-24.

The coach had lost her voice shouting encouragement to her girls during the game and team manager Brenda Razzi, accepting the trophy on her behalf, praised both teams for an exciting and high-standard match.

● Young Redback Mitchell Hawley represented Victoria in the recent interstate primary schools basketball championship in Adelaide.

Mitchell did his school, his club and his town proud and obviously has a big future in the game.



The premier Under-9 girls with coach Jenny O'Brien (left) and assistant coach Emma Collins. From left: Courtney Pelatas, Bonnie Jones, Ashlee Collins, Ashlee O'Brien, Sara Simmons, Madeline Smith and Chloe Borella.

# Redbacks have Friday night fever

By TONY OLIVER

The Redbacks are enjoying one of their most successful seasons in the Friday night junior championship, with three minor premierships and all teams in the North Western Conference though to the finals.

Tristan Messerle's Under-16 girls finished the home-and-away season with 19 wins and just three losses and a percentage of just over 200. However, the form of this team over recent weeks has been hard to follow.

The high point was an inspirational win at home over Melbourne Tigers. The Tigers were vying for top spot and defeat would have sent Warrandyte tumbling to third.

With Tori Oliver and Sam Wilson injured and Stef Smith still not fully recovered from ankle strain, Warrandyte had only five fully-fit players and Messerle had no choice but to ask Smith to make herself available.

The first half was tight, a late run allowing the Redbacks to lead 12-9 at the break. The second half was amazing.

With their defence impenetrable and the attack scoring almost at will, Warrandyte careered away. The final score of 34-13 stunned even the most one-eyed Redbacks supporters.

Messerle was full of praise for his girls and was looking forward to finishing off the season with a big win over 11th-placed Doncaster in the final game at Mill Park.

Nobody had told Doncaster, however, and they opened the scoring after five four minutes and led 12-11 at half-time.

Warrandyte had a full list to select from, although a number of players were still hampered by injuries. But that does not detract from Doncaster's performance. They were rebounding well and shooting accurately.

But Warrandyte's fast breaks were working well and with Sam Wilson scoring freely, the Redbacks scraped home 27-24.

Warrandyte's other senior team, the Under-16 boys, had a regulation 55-27 win over bottom side Sunshine. Still, it had been regarded as a danger game for

the Redbacks, who had been beaten by Sunshine earlier in the season.

Not this time, though, Scott Cannon racking up 17 points as Warrandyte finished on top of the ladder with 19 wins from 22 outings.

In the under grades, Lorraine Parfitt's Under-14 girls rounded out their season with a 19-11 win over Melton. Although Melton will not make the finals, they have proved a difficult beat, so the Redbacks' performance was creditable.

The girls have finished clear leaders with 20 wins and only two losses and although there are dangerous teams in the finals, Warrandyte are warm favourites for the ultimate prize.

Martin Clark's Under-14 boys ran into the fast-finishing Werribee and were comprehensively beaten 35-8. Werribee were strengthened mid-season by the addition of a number of new players and have carried all before them.

They will finish in fourth place and could well go all the way.

Despite this loss, Warrandyte will finish in third spot and, like a number of

# Will Mack come back?

## Back-to-back champ may not kick on here

By LEE TINDALE

On-baller Mack Clarkson has joined the elite band of multiple Warrandyte Football Club best and fairest winners by taking back-to-back awards.

But he may be playing elsewhere next season.

Clarkson, club and EFL Third Division champion last year, carried off the Bloods' 2000 award at the vote count and presentation day at Club Warrandyte on October 7.

He polled 32 votes to beat wingman Dale Vitiritti by four. Ruckman Kimberly O'Connor, a four-time best and fairest winner, was third, on 23 votes.

Defender Rocky Armstrong, who joined Warrandyte from the metropolitan amateur competition last season, was fourth on 20, a vote ahead of captain and 300-gamer John O'Brien, who has won the award three times.

Unfortunately for Warrandyte, there is doubt about Clarkson, 26, shooting for the hat-trick when the Bloods return to Third Division next season after fleetingly visiting Division 2.

"At this stage, I'm not sure where I'll be playing next season," he told the *Diary* immediately after accepting his award.

"If we'd stayed up in Second Division, sure. But it was a very disappointing season for us and going back to Third ... well, I really don't know."

Clarkson led the count from the outset, polling with deadly consistency under the Bloods' voting system of distributing 18 per game but no more than three to any player. At the halfway mark he led Vitiritti 18-12 and had maintained that advantage with three rounds to be counted. O'Connor had split them briefly, but Clarkson was unbeatable with two rounds to go.

The Reserves best and fairest went right down to the wire, just four votes separating the top six.

Robbie Ryan polled 22 to score by one from dead-heaters Adam Burbidge and Andy Moore. Tahn Reid was just a vote away in third spot, with Chris Springett and Craig Lincoln hot on his heels.

There was to be a double

### SPORT

dose of consolation for Lincoln in the presentations that followed. He picked up two trophies — the coach's award and the club president's trophy.

The Under-18s also turned on a thriller, Matthew Treeby polling 33 votes to win by the narrowest margin from Tim Andrews Nathan Ireland and James Riley, who shared second spot. Ben Reid was third.

It was a particularly commendable performance by rising star Treeby, who also played senior football during the season.

Voting details:

**SENIORS:** Mack Clarkson 32; Dale Vitiritti 28; Kimberly O'Connor 23; Rocky Armstrong 20; John O'Brien 19; Chris Cornell, Dean Hunter 16; Andrew Brown, Warren Ruchland 13; Glen Carle, Willie Bell 12; Brendan Smith, Aidan Davey, Adam Borwick 11; Stewart Rough, David Bein 9; Justin Edwards, Craig Dick 8.

**RESERVES:** Robbie Ryan 22; Adam Burbidge, Andy Moore 21; Tahn Reid 20; Chris Springett 19; Craig Lincoln 18; Jarrod O'Connor 15; Craig Evans 14; Rick Templeton 12; James Logan, Brad Giampietro 10; Aidan Davey 9; Luke McFarlane-Smith, Nick Rybalko, Danny Weatherley, Craig Dick 8; Andrew Sadowy, David Morse 7.

**UNDER-18s:** Matthew Treeby 33; Tim Andrews, Nathan Ireland, James Riley 32; Ben Reid 26; Brian Elliott 22; Nick Barrett 17; Lyan Yen 16; Josh Renfrey, Steven Mooney 15; Tyson Hose 12; Warwick Padgham 11; Aaron Jenkins 10; James Powell 9; Campbell Holland 8; Scott Vickery 7; Aaron Vella 5; Heath Decker 4; Richard Pollard, James Riddell, Ryan Parry, Jason Bowen 3; Matt Research 2; James Johnson, Paul Coppa, Jacob Drobowicki, Nick Staples 1.

**Other award winners:**  
**SENIORS:** Coach's award: Rocky Armstrong. Most improved: Aiden Davey. Darryl Valentine Memorial Shield (most determined): Chris



Dual best and fairest Mack Clarkson is flanked by Dale Vitiritti (left, second) and Kimberly O'Connor after the vote count. Photo: Jan Tindale. Processing: Warrandyte Neighbourhood Chemist.

Cornell. Gary "Madge" Allsop Award (most courageous): Willie Bell. Best first-year player: Craig Dick.

**RESERVES:** Coach's award: Craig Lincoln. Most improved: Robbie Ryan. Most consistent: Adam Burbidge. Geoff Darby Memorial Shield (most determined): Tahn Reid.

**UNDER-18s:** Coach's award: James "Tanka" Powell. Most improved: Tyson Hose. Most determined: Ben Reid. Most consistent: Brian Elliott. Eddie Houghton Memorial Shield: James Riley. John McCartin Memorial Shield: Matt Treeby.

**Club awards:**  
**President's Trophy:** Craig Lincoln. Tracy "Snowy" Prior Best Clubperson Award: Jimmy Yarwood.

## New coach, new culture



Scott Hunter

Former East Burwood EFL Second Division player Scott Hunter will be playing coach of Warrandyte Football Club next season.

Hunter, 29, was appointed last month to oversee the Bloods' fortunes in EFL Third Division. And he is counting on brief occupancy of the lower competition.

"A year ... no longer," he told the *Diary*.

Hunter, a physical education teacher and tough centre half-back, was recruited as playing assistant coach to Lex Munro for the 2000 season but badly injured an ankle in the second game and was sidelined for the rest of the year.

He will be back in action in 2001.

Asked his immediate ambitions for Warrandyte to return them to Division 2, Hunter said: "We need a new club culture to bring us success. And we need an influx of new players to establish that culture."

"We need new excitement around the place."

## Our cricket's Top 12 a real family affair

Three father-son combinations are among the short-listed players for Warrandyte Cricket Club's Top 12 of the last half-century, to be announced next month.

They are the late Les Adams and his son Peter, the late Allan Chapman and his son John and Jeff and Cameron Day.

Peter and John still play with Warrandyte's veterans team and Cameron is a member of the first eleven.

Cameron, Chris Snaidero, Gerald Walshe, Steve Bell, Dave Mooney, Greg Tregear and Tony Sturesteps are the current-day players to be short-listed.

The Top 12 are the best dozen first eleven players to have represented the club between 1950-2000 as selected by a panel of life members.

To be eligible for the short list, a player was required to have played at least 50 games for the club and scored more than 1000 runs or taken more than 100 wickets in the first eleven. Wicketkeepers had to have made a minimum 100 first eleven dismissals.

The short list from which the final 12 will be chosen names

## A sorry, soggy start

The start of Warrandyte Cricket Club's 2000-01 season on October 7 was a washout.

Not a ball was bowled in the senior eleven's scheduled home game against Wonga Park, which was rescheduled as a one-day fixture the following Saturday.

Ironically, a couple of kilometres away at Stinton Reserve, the weather was kind enough to allow part of a day's play in the third eleven's game — although the Bushrangers probably now regret it.

Warrandyte were bowled out for 78 and Wonga Park were 2/90 in reply.

Rain has dogged the opening of several recent cricket seasons. The first two rounds of 1996-97 were abandoned, 1995-96's start was rain-affected and 1994-95's washed out.

the abovementioned players and also includes Wayne Amiguet, Richard Bowen, Mark Davis, Colin Dorning, Graeme Jacobs, Fred Jungwirth, Bruce Kline, Graeme Lloyd, Steve Pascoe, Darren Peters, John Sharman, David Sloan, Robert White and Alan Woolcock.

The Top 12 will be named at a function at the clubrooms on November 25.

This is an important night for the club," said president Nick

Fazzolari. "It is important to recognise the contributions made by players from the past and for current-day players to acknowledge the traditions created by our top players."

Tickets for the night are \$30 a head, which includes a three-course meal.

Seats are limited because of space restrictions.

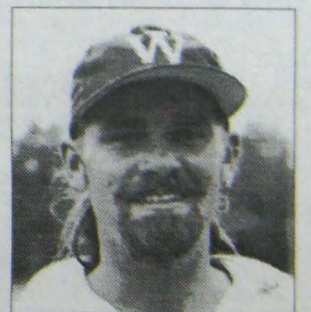
Further details are available from Robert White (9846 5188) or John Chapman (9844 3058).



Cameron Day ... like Dad, on the Top 12 short list.



Steve Pascoe

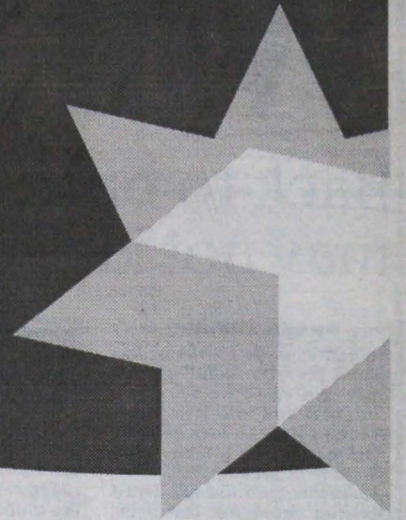


David Mooney



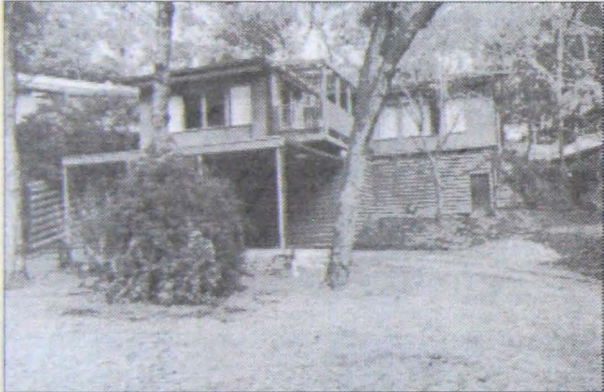
The Professionals

# Wilson McDougall



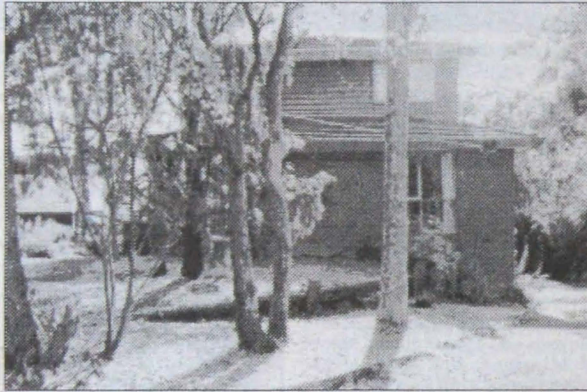
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# Let our experience be your reward



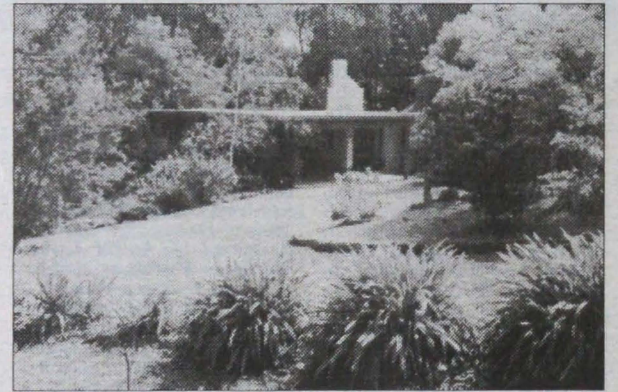
3BR, 1/3 acre

\$269,000



5BR, 1/3 acre

\$305,000



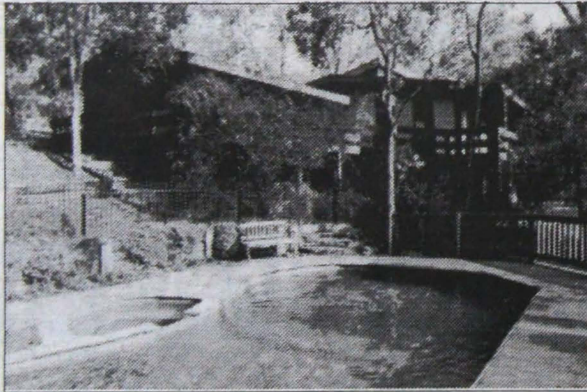
4BR + study on 1 acre

\$349,000



4BR, separate rumpus, 1 acre

\$349,000



4BR mudbrick, IG pool, 1/2 acre

\$355,000



5BR on 5 acres

\$520,000

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*Together we'll make it happen*