

Residents protest

Council takeover of community centre generates backlash

By CLIFF GREEN

A wave of concern is sweeping the town as Manningham council sets in motion plans for the commercialisation of Warrandyte Community Centre.

A public meeting has been called for Wednesday, November 22 and a petition is circulating. The *Diary* has received many telephone calls and a record number of letters on this issue. "This level of protest is exactly as predicted by consultants called in by council to report on the financial future of the centre," said Jock Macneish, president of the management group, made "inoperative" by council on September 30.

When the consultants reported a year ago, they posed the possibility of the centre being managed by "estate agents, community groups, caterers, etc.," and warned council that "it is probable that there would be a significant backlash over this option as it would be seen as reducing the community focus of the centre by introducing 'commercial' interests."

Cr Patricia Young told the *Diary* at the time: "The consultants' report was very positive regarding the management of the centre. (They) suggested a number of ways to generate more funds to help the centre become self-supporting. Some are not viable at the present time."

"What has happened between the delivery of this report and council's current actions, one year later?" Mr Macneish said. "Why are the 'ways to generate more funds' suddenly 'viable'? It's quite simple, a cynic might think. There's been a council election and the two ward councillors have been returned for a further three years."

On October 31, council resolved to further advance the removal of the centre from community management. They agreed "in principle to consider calling tenders from not-for-profit organisations to manage the Warrandyte Community Centre".

The valuation of "prime spaces" in the centre is currently underway.

From past experience, "not-for-profit" groups could include the YMCA—who manage Aquarena—and the Manningham Recreation Association Inc, who manage Domeney Recreation Centre in Park Orchards, and have been described by a former Doncaster councillor as "a council quango, made up of Doncaster busi-

ness men". "It is unlikely that any such group would be answerable to the Warrandyte community," Mr Macneish said.

In their agenda paper, council officers state that "this option has been implemented with the management of Domeney Recreation Centre and proven to be successful". They dismiss the option to establish a new community-based committee of management. They say that with "difficulties experienced in maintaining a community-based independent committee of management, this option is not recommended".

"What difficulties?" Mr Macneish said. "The outgoing committee was able to hand over to council accumulated funds in excess of \$25,000, earmarked for future maintenance and renovation. This all came from rentals and hiring fees. Council's sole financial contribution to the centre has been less than \$18,000 a year, used to pay a part-time manager. It's been a community centre on the cheap for the past nine years."

"Council appears to believe that the community centre should cost them nothing. Whose money is it? The council officers or the ratepayers? 'User pays' is the call. The community are the users and they've paid—through their rates."

The agenda paper comments: "Four of the seven permanent tenants of the centre are mainly dependent on council funding and the ability to increase the centre's income is limited."

The public meeting on November 22 is being organised by local resident Gina Bevan Jones, who believes it appears that the centre "is being taken out of the community. To me, this is the last straw. This is the culmination of many other things that are happening around Warrandyte."

"We're getting more tarmac than we want; we're getting more signs of do's and don'ts; more shops than we want. They are constantly falling empty because the community can't support more inappropriate businesses. Large swathes are being cut into the bush for large, inappropriate housing."

"Residents' opinions are being bulldozed," Ms Bevan Jones said. "It is important that residents express their views—on all these issues—at the public meeting."

● CARTOON—Page 2; LETTERS—Pages 4,6; HISTORY—Page 5.



Good old days: Mark Johnstone, Lauren Pinolo and Josh Paris are in the mood for Warrandyte Primary School's 125th Anniversary. (Picture by Mandy Dunn)

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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Glorious uncertainty of Terry Booth's golf game



Terry Booth, of Drysdale Road, is now the very proud custodian of Rosanna Golf Club's Captain's Trophy, one of the major events on that club's calendar. But how he acquired it reads like something out of a golfer's worst nightmare. It had everything ... the yips, the chokes, worm-burners, chronic nerves and knocking knees. The Captain's Trophy is played over five weekends - two rounds of stroke play from which the top eight emerge to start three rounds of knockout match play. Terry, 58, and a golfer for 10 or 12 years, didn't expect to make it past the stroke play rounds, was therefore nice and relaxed and played very well to enter the business end of proceedings. Then the nerves took over. For the first three holes of the first match play round, his ball didn't leave the ground once and he looked a million-to-one chance. He turned two down, but improved sharply on the run home to win the match on the 17th. Round 2 was a similar story, starting with a series of grubbers. He turned three down, was still that way with just four holes to play, but "did an Houdini" and won it on the 19th. He started the third and final round like a Tiger Woods possessed - yes, he was actually hitting the ball into the air - and was five up with five holes to go and looking a million dollars. Then he left half a centimetre short what should have been a match-winning putt on the 14th, the jitters gripped him and he fell in on the 17th. "I was over the moon and still am," he told us. "It was something I never expected to win and it's certainly the highlight of my career." Of course, a few celebratory drinks were called for. "Tell Smokey what condition you arrived home in that night," suggested wife Pam. "Better not," said Terry, but we think we understand.



We've never played golf with Denise Farran - and we're never going to because in her hands a club is a lethal weapon. Denise, of South Warrandyte, was spending the weekend with girlfriends at a Point Leo beach house and was persuaded to pick up a golf club for the very first time and have a swing in the spacious back yard. She chose a wood (or, as she later described it, "the big one with the knobby end"), took an almighty swing and had an air

IN RED & WHITE



You must have been a beautiful baby! Rae Danks at 12 months (left) and (right) unashamedly 60.

shot, the head flying off the shaft at a thousand miles an hour and embedding itself in the fence. The other reason we're never going to play golf with Denise is that after that little misadventure she's sworn off the game for life.



We are fallible, you know, down here in the engineer room of Australia's most robust, God-fearing, voluntary community newspaper and we fess up to our frailties. So why should we even attempt to cover up the shredding of 60 potentially-explosive documents? Invitations to the *Diary's* end-of-year bash at Ming's Restaurant were about to be sent out, beckoning (in a large type face) all those who'd contributed to putting the rag together to partake in the celebration of our "Adventureous 30th Year". Then one of us questioned the spelling of "adventureous" and the culprit is currently being punished by writing 10,000 times on a squeaky blackboard that the latter "e" is superfluous. Sixty revised and grammatically-immaculate invitations have now been posted.



David "Bunter" McLean got six numbers in Tattsлото the other week - but don't go begging to him for a hand-out because he's already spent the prize many times

over. Yes, Bunter's quick pick came up with four fair-dinkum numbers and both supps and he hoped the pay-out might cover the estimated \$500 it was going to cost to repair wife Debbie's car. Not quite. Not nearly. Bunter's numbers were very popular that particular week and his total collect was \$22.70. He has now abandoned a life-long ambition to become a professional punter and decided to stick with plumbing instead.



And a fabulously happy birthday to our vivacious advertising/accounts manager Rae Danks, who quite unashamedly brought up the big six-O on November 3. Rae, back on deck after badly breaking her ankle back in August, was taken to lunch on the day by some mates, who presented her with a book called Ageing Disgracefully. Very aptly titled, too, if the opening tip is any indication: "Don't sleep with a guy just because he looks like he stepped out of a Calvin Klein ad. On the other hand, if you have nothing pressing to do..." Rae took over the Mechanics Institute Hall for her birthday party on November 4 and the function will be long remembered.



We're tickled pink to have three generations of a family currently writing for the *Diary*. In descending order of age they

are Ruby "Popsy" Bone, her son-in-law Glen Jameson and Glen's daughter Maydeena. Popsy is the author of our fascinating historical series "Pioneering Days", which continues in this issue. Park ranger Glen, a regular and long-time contributor in matters of local history and nature, was nice enough to do the actual typing as Popsy dictated her memoirs (thereby exploding the myth that sons-in-law and mums-in-law never get along) and Maydeena has now joined our team as a nature writer. With teamwork like that, we think the future of this paper is in excellent hands.



Vignette of life, as witnessed outside *Diary* office: Schoolboy on stationary bus across Yarra Street pokes head out window and shouts to pretty young thing walking past community centre: "Hey, Tina!" Girl stops, boy shouts: "I love you!" Then he spits quite copiously out window, but we forgive him because even if he is a trifle uncouth, it warms our heart to know that he has love in his.



You people have responded so well to our monthly offer in this column of native plants from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery that the Friends have been obliged to rationalise their operation. The nursery at Pound Bend will henceforth be open from 10am to noon on Thursdays and between 3-4pm on the first Sunday of each month. So get yourselves down there and pick up some gems for a very modest donation. You can still call Cathy Willis (0418 142297) to arrange a pick-up. Cathy, incidentally, tells us that the cream of the crop at the moment includes the Yellow Pea (*Goodia lotifolia*) and tussock grasses (*Poa lab*). Happy planting!

Smokey Joe



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OUR NEWSPAPER

The *Warrandyte Diary* was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its not-for-profit, non-commercial status and its independent voice. The *Diary* carries a strong editorial bias towards the people, environment and character of the place it serves. Its monthly circulation is 3700 copies and it is available in Warrandyte, North Warrandyte, South Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Wonga Park, Warranwood, North Ringwood, Kangaroo Ground and Research.

A SPECIAL PLACE

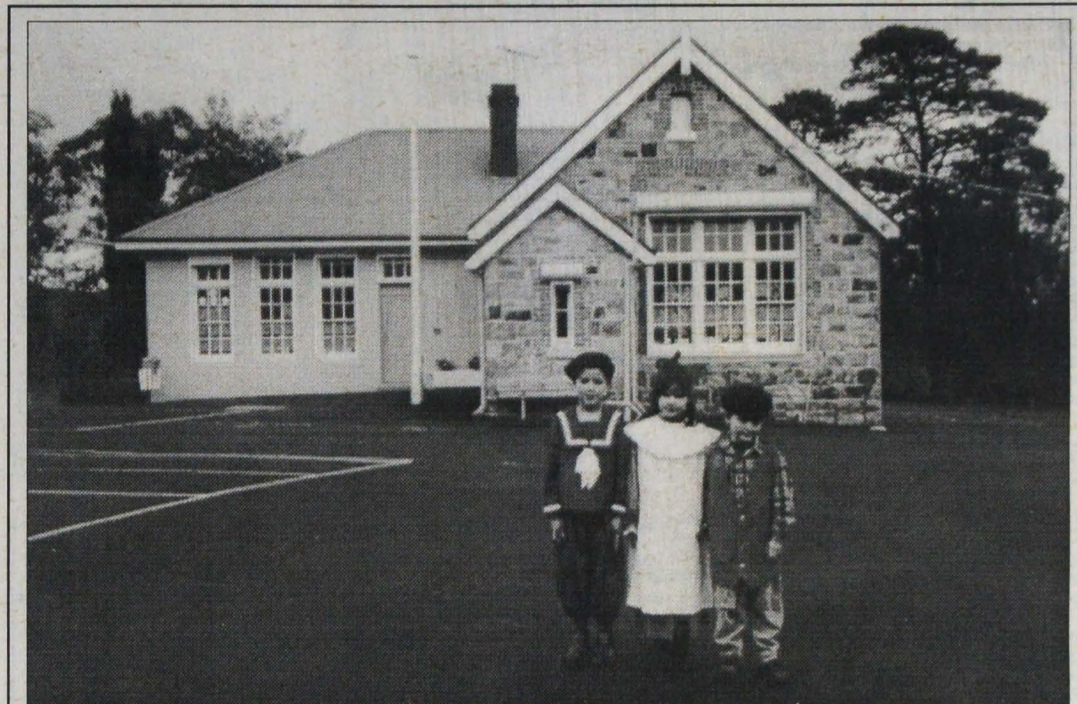
Warrandyte (approximate population 8000) is situated on the Yarra River, some 35km from Melbourne. The site of the first official gold discovery in Victoria—in 1851—it soon established its character as a small, self-sustaining community set in a beautiful river valley. Around 1900 the miners, orchardists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

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



RACV backs ring road



Happy 125th birthday!

Warrandyte Primary School is busy preparing for their reunion and fair planned for Saturday, November 18 and designed to mark the 125th anniversary of the old stone building.

"Many past students, parents and teachers have contacted us and there is much enthusiasm for the reunion," school spokesperson Judy Finger told the *Diary*.

"To ease congestion, and avoid trying to recall someone who was at the school at a completely different period, times have been allocated for people from different school years to meet."

"Get togethers" will take place in the stone building at the following times:

- 9am-11am—1970-1980 classes;
- 11am-12pm—1955-1970 classes;
- 12pm-1pm 1940—1955 classes;
- 1pm-2pm—Pre-1940 classes.

"The birthday cake will be cut at 2pm," Ms Finger said. "This will be

followed by the greatest ever Warrandyte Bush Band when all the past members (from 1980 on) are invited to join the current band.

The school is building its historic photo collection. "The 1940 to 1970 era is not well represented in the collection," Ms Finger said. "So, if you have some old school photos, of any vintage, drop them into the school (or bring them along to the reunion). They will be scanned onto the computer and returned after copying."

Talk of the reunion has prompted many memories of school life at Warrandyte primary.

Audrey Dreschler (nee Walsh, from the Warrandyte Bakery) recalls the Second World War slit trenches and air raid drill, drinking hot cocoa heated over the open fire and swimming competitions in the Yarra behind the old post office.

Effie Haynes, whose great grandfather James Sloan built the stone build-

ing, remembers walking to school from her home near where Warrandyte High is now located. "Sometimes we were lucky enough to get a ride in a fruit truck or a horse drawn wagon," she said.

There are stories of the annual school picnic to Mordialloc beach—travelling in local orchardists' trucks, while others have mentioned the harder times when no electricity or gas meant ice-cold toes in winter trying to be warmed by the open fire.

"Perhaps you have similar or very different memories of Warrandyte Primary School," Ms Finger said. "Perhaps you helped plant the pine plantation, or were you in the original bush band? No matter how ordinary your school days seem—together with contributions from a wide range of other people—we hope to produce a really interesting collection of memories of Warrandyte Primary School."

By FIA CLENDINEN

The controversial ring road was once again in the news last month when the RACV released a report that recommended completing the "missing link" between Greensborough and Ringwood.

The ring road is one of 14 major projects the RACV wants to see the state government commit itself to over the next 10 years, with a projected total cost of more than three billion dollars.

"In the context of the RACV's overall vision, we would see the completion of the ring road as being of major state significance, even federal significance," said RACV spokesperson Ken Ogden.

The RACV has said there needs to be public debate before a route for the north-east section of the ring road can be decided upon but some sources claim that both the RACV and the state government already favour a link through Heidelberg.

Nillumbik mayor, Margaret Jennings, a long-time opponent of the ring road through the Green Wedge, told the *Diary* that there was "significant momentum for a link".

She said the push for a completed ring road was coming from not only the RACV but also from some councils, industry and the state government. She said the state government's support for the Scoresby Freeway showed that they were "persuaded a link was essential".

She also said that as mayor her responsibility was to "look at the least deleterious alternative for the Nillumbik environment".

For this reason she would advocate a link through Heidelberg, which could also be a more attractive proposition to the state government because, as she pointed out, "it will be much cheaper".

Banyule council has so far refused to take a position on the ring road. Mayor Dale Peters said, "Here in Banyule, we aren't in favour or against the ring road coming through Banyule".

Cr Peters said the council would make up its mind only after considering all the evidence and has called on the state government to undertake a long-term transport study.

"We want a strategy in place so that we know the starting point and the end point and how to do it all."

Cr Peters said there was a perception that the Nillumbik community was "politically strong" and would fiercely resist the ring road coming through their

area. Banyule residents, on the other hand, were perceived as less likely to put up a fight, and therefore the Heidelberg route could be seen by some as a less controversial alternative.

But Cr Peters warned that this was untrue. He pointed out Nillumbik council was comparatively smaller and said if Banyule decided to mobilise against the ring road it would be a force to be reckoned with.

"If they think that Banyule doesn't have the same political will as Nillumbik, they have got another think coming," he said.

Many Nillumbik residents believe that if the ring road were to be built through Heidelberg it would mean a reduction in the number of cars using local roads.

But Cr Jennings warned that this was a false expectation.

"I know such a link will not lessen traffic through the Green Wedge, as many people think," she said.

She also stated that contrary to popular belief the ring road would not benefit ordinary commuters.

"The last thing the ring road is about is getting people to work. It is for heavy transport that should be using rail, and it is about development."

Cr Jennings was critical of the state government's solutions for solving Melbourne's transport problems. She said this government seemed to believe that building links between freeways was the answer, but she described this approach as both one sided and short-sighted.

"Unfortunately this government has not looked at alternatives which will sustain Melbourne's industry far beyond the next 20 years. We need a huge injection into rail for freight and public transport. The cost of fuel will only increase."

The state government late last month notified Nillumbik council that there was no longer a requirement for the reservation for the ring road.

As reported in the *Diary* over the last few months, the council sought to remove the ring road reservation between Diamond Creek and Ryans Roads from its new planning scheme. The Minister for Planning, John Thwaites, initially insisted the reservation remain, but recently wrote to council asking for its advice on having it removed.

Cr Jennings has welcomed this development. She said the council would go through the process for getting rid of the reservation and she did not expect any councillors to object.

"I believe all councillors will support its removal."

Freeway extension concern

By RACHEL BAKER

The "tunnel option" eastern freeway extension to Ringwood could have an adverse effect on local traffic, a Park Orchards community group has warned.

The tunnel extension, announced in early October, has been supported for its environmental friendliness, but the Park Orchards Ratepayers' Association is concerned about the impact on traffic through their area.

The freeway extension will run from Springvale Road to

Ringwood, including a 1.5km tunnel running outside the existing freeway reserve.

Because the end of the freeway meets traffic lights on Ringwood Street, Warrandyte Road and Maroondah Highway, there will be a "gridlock" effect, with traffic backed up along the freeway, David Mayor, vice-president of the association, said.

If the freeway has an exit at Park Road in Park Orchards—which has not yet been confirmed by the state government, Mr Mayor be-

lieves an excessive amount of traffic will run through Park Orchards.

Traffic will be backed up in Ringwood, so drivers will exit at Park Road. "It will become a de facto end of the freeway," he said.

Mr Mayor believes that to avoid gridlock problems the end of the freeway should be linked to Maroondah Highway, Canterbury Road, Boronia Road and Burwood Highway.

"This would disperse the traffic," he said.

Park Road is a small street designed to serve the local community, and should not be linked to the freeway because it could not sustain heavy use. "It's a goat track. Steep grades, right angle turns. Local drivers would have trouble entering Park Road from residential driveways and small side streets."

"The abundance of kindergartens, schools and sporting facilities also mean the road is not suitable as a major thoroughfare," Mr Mayor said. Phil Honeywood, MP for

Warrandyte, shares Mr Mayor's concerns. He said the previous Liberal government had allocated funds to extend the freeway to Maroondah Highway.

Mr Honeywood is also opposed to an exit ramp at Park Road.

"I fought strongly to have no on-off ramps at Park Road," he said.

The *Diary* tried to contact the State Minister for Transport, Peter Batchelor, but he was unavailable for comment.



Phil Honeywood: opposes ramp

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Community centre: town anger

I have been moved by anger to write this letter on hearing of the demise of the Warrandyte Community Centre and two of its longest standing residents, the *Warrandyte Diary* and the Warrandyte Model Railway Club.

Apparently this has come about due to Manningham City Council's reasoning that community centres should be self funding and profitable.

Are community centres supposed to be profitable? And if so, should it be at the expense of services provided to the community? Historically, community centres are places where everything happens, especially in a small town like ours, a place for gathering and supplying of information about the area, services etc, not for profit. Since the opening of the centre in 1992, these services have been provided freely to not only the community but to the many tourists who arrive at weekends and holidays.

Such services as: local information, courses, library, child-care, youth services, entertainment such as the

DEAR DIARY

model railway, and the *Warrandyte Diary*. All services are either totally run by volunteers, some with a little help from council funding. Warrandyte has historically provided the community with these services using volunteers at an unknown saving to Manningham council.

Council are reviewing the use of the community centre and I understand are looking at commercialisation. Has council carried out a survey with reference to the number of empty shops in Warrandyte and yet they still give permits to build another block of shops? Businesses would obviously prefer a "shop front" aspect, not a community centre.

I am putting pen to paper to show my support for the *Warrandyte Di-*

ary which has been an institution for the residents and friends of the community for many years, providing information that can never be found in other local newspapers for this area. The *Diary* keeps us very aware of issues affecting Warrandyte and happenings in the area and has never been known to back down, shirk or steer clear of highly charged issues.

The *Diary* is a free newspaper with funding for production being raised solely by advertising and produced by volunteers. We take the newspaper for granted, never really thinking of how it arrived on our doorsteps, yet I have never known a month missed.

It is now time for us to show our appreciation for this service and "stand up and be counted". Inform Manningham council that we want the *Diary* and we want the community centre to retain its current use.

Marjorie Lapworth, Co-ordinator
W'dyte Housing & Support Services

Alert!

A scourge is sitting over Warrandyte
And travelling through our town
It started on our riverbank
Signs went up and trees came down.

It headed along our streetscape
As it lay its tarmac down
And landed on our centre
Our vital community crown.

Our beloved *Warrandyte Diary*
Is also under threat
As it faces an eviction
But it hasn't finished yet.

Our centre's attacked with fury
And its management stood down
It's attempting to eat our heart out
But it doesn't know OUR town.

Though faced with might and fury
Our community will not mutate
It's there for ALL the people
And won't adopt a fee-pay state.

So we all must stand together
To isolate this deadly curse
Our community's under challenge
And it doesn't get much worse.

Our community is being tested
We must confine its deadly spread
To protect the things we value
And declare this scourge stone dead.

Community is about the people
A social group of any size
With a common shared inheritance
And whose rights can't be denied.

Anon (name and address supplied)

Shock waves throughout

The headline and article on the front page of the October issue of the *Diary*, "Council to run centre," has sent shock waves throughout Warrandyte.

There are two factors in the article which I feel strongly about and which require explanations from Manningham council.

Firstly, what motivated council to exclude the *Warrandyte Diary* and the Warrandyte Model Railway Club from current occupancy arrangements to continue until 31 March? Both these organisations play important roles within the Warrandyte community. Both are run by dedicated volunteers. Both encourage participation by local people. The people of Warrandyte regard the *Diary* as their own "great little paper," it is "priceless," and is run, as its heading tells us, "for the community by the community". Both organisations will face enormous problems if forced to find new premises at all, let alone immediately.

The people of Warrandyte are great fighters and will not sit back and see these organisations threatened.

My second query deals with the fact that in May last year council appointed consultants (at a cost of \$20,000) to report on "future operations of the centre to become financially independent". To quote the *Diary*, "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". Council ignored the consultants' finding. Why?

Shame on you, Councillors Young and Allemand! You are hell bent on committing our centre to tenants who will ultimately turn it into a profit-mo-

tivated edifice. This defies the very name "community centre".

The wrath of the Warrandyte people will be on your heads.

I intend sending this letter to council.

Betty Oke
Second Street

Questions asked

With reference to the front page article, "Council to run centre" in the October 2000 *Diary*, could someone please explain:

Q: Why is our community centre not being managed by our community, for our community?

Q: Why does council, though seeking and presumably paying for independent advice in relation to the effective management of our community centre, promptly ignore that advice?

Q: How many members of the Warrandyte community, especially those who have fought and worked hard for over 10 long years to establish our community centre, been consulted about the proposed changes in its management?

Q: Why is our community newspaper being excluded from any development or changes in its management?

Confounded and
Concerned Ratepayer (Name and address supplied)

Locals up in arms

Back in the old days there was a caryard called Getsons on the land between Mitchell Avenue and Webb Street on Yarra Street. The owner of the land wanted to sell it to a supermarket chain. The locals were up in arms. Why should one of our prime sites in the cultural centre of Warrandyte become a supermarket? It should be kept for the community, they said.

And so it was. After lots of good old lobbying, Doncaster

council and Eltham shire did something very special, visionary even: they provided funds for the purchase of the land, for later development as a community centre.

Eventually a beautiful community centre was erected, and people had meetings there, they had weddings there with bagpipes, train enthusiasts met there, young people hung out there, kids went to the toy library and people found out about bus timetables at the Citizens' Advice Bureau. It was truly a centre for our community.

Now it is no longer managed by the community, and it has to "make a profit". Some things like public hospitals, roads, drug addiction services and the opera do not make a profit, but they are a measure of the richness, altruism and sophistication of society, and should be supported from taxpayers' and rates revenue.

I think the community centre is one of these.

Jan Davies
Bradleys Lane

A lovely building

We are utterly disgusted with the Manningham council's decision to turn our community centre into a shopping mall. It was many, many years of paying rates before the people of Warrandyte got a decent community centre and we think it is a lovely building in keeping with the streetscape.

Why now is council taking it off us for shops when their paid consultants said it cost no more to run than other community centres in the city?

To put the *Diary* out on the street smells very much of politics—maybe no one should be able to criticise the council.

They spent a huge amount of money on the white elephant at the other end of town to ben-

efit a few basketballers, do they have to make a profit from this building? The *Diary* and the Model Railway Club benefit many more Warrandyte residents, but we are being victimized. What are our councillors doing?

Shirley and Ted Rotherham
Tills Drive

Penalising Diary

I wish to protest against the commercialisation of the Warrandyte Community Centre and subsequent penalising of the *Warrandyte Diary*.

Although I live in a neighbouring shire, I have been working in Warrandyte as a volunteer for over 15 years, attracted by the community spirit which motivates all the different groups—we all give many hours of work and effort towards their aims.

The *Warrandyte Diary* is one of them. This community would never be the same if it was taxed out of existence.

After all, the community centre was paid for out of ratepayers' funds for the people of Warrandyte and not for material gain. Don't spoil it.

Claire Watson
Kangaroo Ground

Of grave concern

Plans announced by the Manningham council to ensure that the Warrandyte Community Centre be self funding within 12 months, in spite of a report by council-appointed consultants that costs and income were compatible with other public halls in the municipality, and that the existing management structure be maintained, is of grave concern.

Self funding—a euphemism for commercialisation—means in effect that the new management would run the centre at a profit to cover their management costs including salaries and expenses. To achieve these aims all leases would be at commercial rates to enterprises that can operate at a profit. This then effectively excludes all community based organisations for whom the centre was established.

The question then arises as to what kind of businesses would take up leases in competition with existing businesses and compete with the influx of the six new premises currently under construction on the newly opened quarry site next to the Mechanics Hall.

Some that come to mind would be: McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Taco Bills, Pizza Hut or other multinational eateries, or, if the council is not too squeamish, the entire building could be leased to Tatts, or Crown Casino. Will this revive the proposal to open a private school in the building thereby evicting the child care facility or has the council other plans?

Any alterations to the existing management of the centre would require additional car

parking and road works, effectively turning Warrandyte into just another urban shopping strip.

Mullum Mullum Ward councillors have some explaining to do and should call a public meeting to answer the concerns of the people of Warrandyte.

Neal Tessier
by e-mail

Supported purchase

As two members of the Warrandyte community who supported the purchase of the land for the Warrandyte Community Centre and worked in both the old and the new buildings, we wish to protest at the resolution by Manningham council to maximise the centre's earnings from the rental of prime space at market rates.

It is of great concern that the resolution was moved by Mullum Mullum Ward councillor Patricia Young. The movement towards the building of the Warrandyte Community Centre was championed by Warrandyte Ward councillors Denford, Polley and Joy, supported by expert advice and community consultation.

There has been no evidence of recent community consultation in coming to the resolution moved by Cr Young and passed by Manningham council.

The Community Education Officer and the Warrandyte Community Workshop Cooperative Limited, based in the old buildings on the community centre site, recognised through the many enquiries received that there was a real need for a community centre.

In the newly built centre, this work has been carried on by Youth Services, Neighbourhood House with Occasional Child Care and Information Warrandyte working closely with the *Warrandyte Diary* and the Warrandyte Model Railway Club whose residency in the community centre now appears threatened.

This is our community centre, obtained by many hours of hard work, dedication and sacrifice by Warrandyte people working voluntarily over many years to keep our village the special place that it has always been.

The September 2000 report of the Community Care Review by Professor Jan Carter of Deakin University recommends that "future community care policies be based on concepts of community building, partnership, quality, and fair and adequate funding".

We urge all members of the Warrandyte community to support this principle of community care at every level of government. Come to the public meeting at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall on Wednesday 22 November at 8pm.

Jean Chapman JP
Louise Joy, former
Warrandyte Ward councillor,
City of Doncaster and
Templestowe

CLYDE & OCKER



"Will you be patronising the businesses in the centre, Ock?"

Getting rid of problem

Correct me if I am wrong, but do I read something sinister in the article, front page of your *Warrandyte Diary*, October 2000? Is the council discriminating against our local paper by intentionally excluding them from "current occupancy arrangements" continuing "until March 31"? Was it because the *Diary* could—as it should—continue occupying their area, or was it to get rid of a problem?

All papers worth their salt upset various people at times—you have me. But what the hell? I keep on pushing on, knowing full well that the penny will drop and housing for the elderly of Warrandyte and sewerage to some 2000 homes in Park Orchards and Donvale areas will come, hopefully in the very near future and this part of our city will be on a par with our neighbouring wards.

What a great paper you have, full of interesting articles—controversy, snippets, nature, history, sport, humour—to name a few. Keep up the good work and extend your horizon beyond the township.

Why can't the Warrandyte Community Centre be treated on a similar basis as our sporting venues? After all, it services the community all year round and provides benefits to many more. Would this be too much to ask? I daresay the value of the land and buildings would be a drop in the ocean compared to the large tracts of land used for some sporting activities, and certainly not used as frequently.

Best of luck.

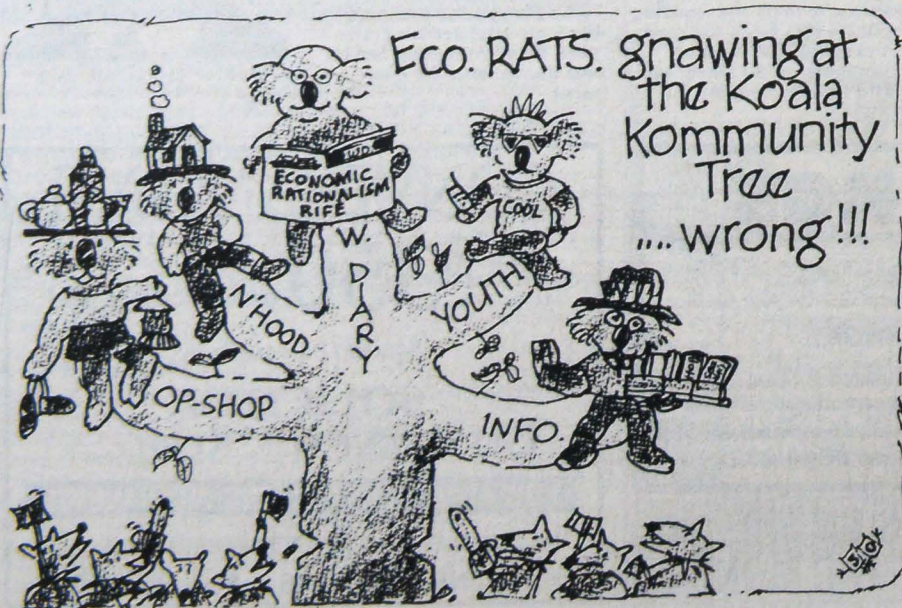
Trevor Parker
Tindals Road

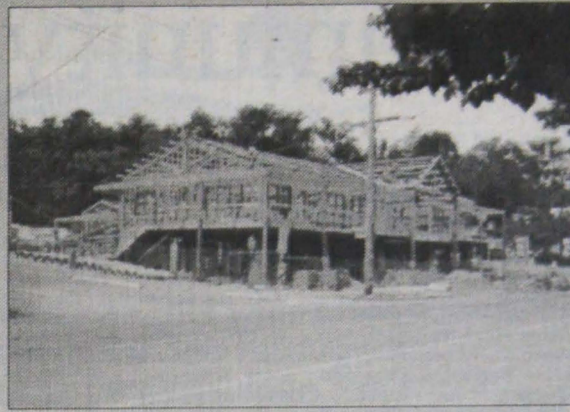
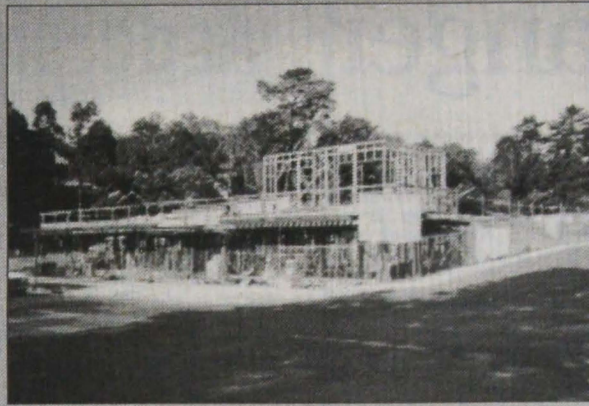


More letters on
Page 6

SO —!

By SYD & ONA





FLASHBACK: How our community centre grew

It didn't just happen

This story first appeared in a supplement we published in July 1991 to mark the opening of the community centre. It was headed—ironically—“Councils and town worked together to build a success story”.

We can thank the kids of Warrandyte for our new community centre. It happened at the end of March 1988 when Doncaster council decided to close the youth coffee shop on the old Getsons site because it was structurally unsafe.

The youngsters joined other Warrandyte folk lobbying council, prompting councillors to “consider options for the Getsons site” the land on which our beautiful centre now stands.

The story begins in 1980, when the land bounded by Yarra Street, Webb Street and Mitchell Avenue came on the market. It was intended for commercial development, but the Warrandyte community had other ideas.

One suggestion was to build a supermarket with a rooftop carpark. Describing it as “the real heart of Warrandyte” the Warrandyte Environment League moved at a public meeting that Doncaster council should acquire the land “for development as a village

centre, serving the whole community”.

The word was out that locals would oppose all attempts at commercial development and the land was twice passed in. Warrandyte Ward councillor John Scott supported the move, Eltham council said they'd help

of the temporary centre, on Guy Fawkes night 1981, was the most spectacular public function Warrandyte has seen.

State government had decreed that this would be the last time fireworks would be available and WAC, with Lions and Apex, planned a

It was May 1987 before WAC and the *Diary* joined forces and began campaigning in earnest. Although council's 10-year moratorium would soon expire, finance was still the problem. Perhaps community fundraising should be considered.

Martin Kyne headed up the project for WAC and people began discussing how the centre should look. It took architect and WAC member Kevin Parker to create a concept inspired by the old Warrandyte Hotel, formerly on the present site of the Mechanics' Hall.

Then came council's decision to close the youth coffee shop.

The community took up the challenge, lobbied hard and extracted a promise to “consider options” for the site. Among them was a suggestion that the entire Getson land should be commercially developed, with “an alternative site for a community centre”.

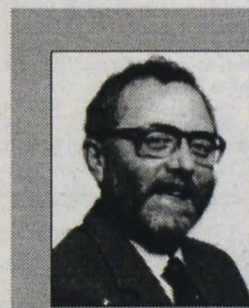
It didn't quite come to that, but some councillors were serious about financing the project with a big commercial component on the site. Cr Ken McKenzie revealed these fears in the *Diary*.

“I am staggered and bewildered to hear talk around council of six, eight or even 12 retail outlets proposed for this site,” he said, “This land was purchased for a community centre and it is imperative that the entire site be used solely for the benefit of the community.”

By the end of 1988 council had agreed to build the centre, but with one third of the floorspace, at the rear, for commercial offices and possibly a restaurant. But no-one was interested in the commercial space so it was decided to proceed with the community complex.

Meanwhile the WAC group—which included Alan King and Glenn Martin—had been consulting with the community. The joint working party, chaired by Cr Vern Dernford and including WAC, the City of Doncaster and Templestowe and the Shire of Eltham worked with the architects on the difficult, delicate and exciting task of bringing it all to fruition.

Everyone agrees that the best space in the centre has been reserved for Warrandyte Youth Services—the kids. And so it should be. They were the catalyst that finally made it all happen.



“This land was purchased for a community centre and it is imperative that the entire site be used solely for the benefit of the community.”

Cr Ken McKenzie, 1988

build the centre and Doncaster council purchased the site for the bargain price of \$200,000.

The Warrandyte Advisory Committee set up a sub-committee to work on the project under their chairman, local architect Peter Harkin. Council had pointed out that it could be 10 years before finance was available for a new centre.

Meanwhile the existing buildings on the land were made available to local groups. The official opening

grand celebration. As it turned out the local fire brigades gave the greatest assistance.

An errant catherine wheel broke loose and skittered into a bin of fireworks. The whole lot went up and a good time was had by all. We doubt if the official opening of the new centre this Saturday will be half as exciting.

Two years later WAC invited residents and groups to submit “suggestions and expressions of interest”. They received one reply.



STIRRING THE POSSUM



Aimed straight at the heart of Warrandyte

ON July 25, Manningham council passed a resolution concerning the future of the Warrandyte Community Centre. It stated “the need to minimise resource requirements for the maintenance, management and operation of the centre by maximising the centre's earnings from rental of prime spaces at market rates, while continuing to meet accommodation requirements of the community based services by providing low cost accommodation”.

This clause is delightfully self-contradictory. All the so-called “prime spaces” are situated on the Yarra Street frontage, fully occupied by community services: Information Warrandyte, *Warrandyte Diary*, Lions Op Shop (ground floor); Warrandyte Community House, Warrandyte Youth Services (first floor).

Where are these groups to go if they are evicted from the “prime spaces”? Apart from the foyer and other public areas, the remainder of space in the centre is extremely limited, and is already occupied by community groups.

Of the groups occupying the frontage, all but the *Diary* and the Op Shop are council-funded. Does council intend increasing funding to these groups so they can pay commercial rates? Out of one pocket and into another? Any rent increase levied against the Lions Op Shop would mean that much less for community projects.

Which brings us to the *Diary*. With the exception of subsidised rent at the centre, we have never received government assistance—state or local. Nor have we sought it, believing our editorial independence should not be jeopardised through the chancy business of government funding. All our revenue comes from advertising. This covers the newspaper's printing costs and other expenses, but we could never afford to rent an office at commercial rates.

Are we a true community service? For 30 years the journalists, artists and photographers who produce the *Diary* have donated their time and professional skills, valued at countless thousands of dollars, making possible one of the best community newspapers in the country.

We serve the entire community. From sports clubs to schools, environmental groups to arts association, we publish their news, applaud their triumphs and take up their causes. We have stood, as the voice of the community, against any perceived threat to this special place, its environment and its residents. We record the history of our town and report the daily life of its people. We do so without fear or favour.

We serve as a willing—and voluntary—mouthpiece for our municipal councils. As the most effective organ of communication in the town, Manningham council uses our columns when it wants something known in Warrandyte. We welcome this collaboration. But we deeply resent the current situation, where we find ourselves facing the possibility of eviction from the office from which, for the past nine years, we have published our newspaper for the benefit of the entire community. An office situated in the building for which we so strenuously fought.

But fear of eviction will not silence our voice or modify our stand. The commercialisation of its community centre is an abomination this community—and its newspaper—will continue to resist.

CLIFF GREEN



COUNCIL TRIES TO “FLOAT” THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Community anger

On behalf of the many volunteers and visitors to Information Warrandyte I am writing to oppose the recent resolution by Manningham council aimed at commercialisation of prime spaces in the Warrandyte Community Centre.

The Warrandyte Citizens' Advice Bureau, which was subsequently renamed Information Warrandyte, was relocated from the old post office to the Warrandyte Community Centre by a council resolution. The Warrandyte Historical Society was thus given its own home and the bureau became the gateway to the community centre.

Operating under the state-wide principles of trained volunteers giving free confidential information, the bureau continues to be the initial meeting place for new residents and an ongoing resource for school children, visitors and families. The bureau has links with legal, mediation, counselling, social welfare and housing services.

Between July and October each year the Australian Taxation Office directs clients to the TaxHelp volunteers at Information Warrandyte.

Staffed entirely by volunteers, the bureau offers an extremely cost-effective service. Without the financial support from Manningham City Council for basic running costs we would be unable to operate.

Having streetfront premises in the community centre has greatly enhanced our service. We could not afford to pay market rental price. The production of the new residents kit from a special council grant was an added bonus. It is essential that local government continues to recognise the value of supporting community services.

Particular mention should be made of the *Warrandyte Diary*, which has been the flagship of the community centre and a strong support to community groups. Each month in-

dividual programs are given a boost and individual volunteers, who are the lifeblood of the community, are given space.

In our society there are too few places where people can feel accepted for the people they are rather than for their cash in hand. It is the availability of the community volunteer focus which makes the difference in the quality of living for Warrandyte residents.

We invite Warrandyte residents to come to a meeting at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute on Wednesday, 22 November at 8pm to voice their concerns about the commercialisation of the Warrandyte Community Centre.

Patricia Abbott
Coordinator, Information Warrandyte

Opening gambit

I note with concern that the council is requiring the centre to be made self-supporting.

This is often the opening gambit by government at all levels leading to ultimate closure of the facility concerned. Authorities don't like to be seen wielding the axe so they impose conditions that are impossible to meet. In 12 months time they can say that the incumbents can't manage well enough to continue and the doors are closed. The fault is therefore seen to lie with the user.

One could speculate why the

Warrandyte centre should be singled out for such treatment which flies in the face of the council's own consultant's report. (Clearly, they haven't been watching the television show "Yes, Minister". When a review panel is set up by an authority to conduct an investigation the result is known beforehand, not after!)

My own guess is that the value of the building and of the site has risen significantly since the 1991 opening and this trend will continue as the new shops are constructed nearby.

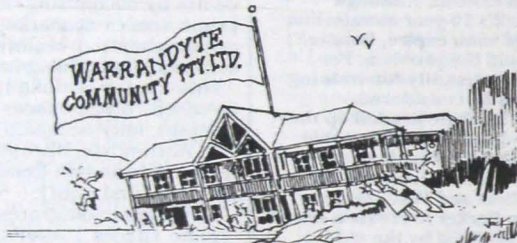
In short, the council perceives an under-utilised building (in their eyes) in excellent condition, plumb in the middle of a prime retail area.

However, the issue of current economic value is, in this instance, irrelevant. The facility was fought for and built for the community and should remain for use by the community as it sees fit (including space for this newspaper).

Councillors should be aware of the fate of a seemingly impregnable and strongly led government, which was recently voted out of office by the people that it was supposed to represent. To use "pollyspeak", members had "lost touch" with their constituents.

Councillors, for their own political survival, should be mindful of the power of frustrated voters.

Peter Pass
Yarra Street



COUNCIL TRIES TO "FLOAT" THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Aspersions cast

Phil Honeywood's response to Trevor Parker's letter published in your September issue casts aspersions upon public spirited landowners seeking to free the unsewered areas of Park Orchards and Donvale from contamination and degradation.

According to Honeywood the landowners "are prepared to spend a million dollars to provide a special sewerage plan that will service only a handful of properties". That statement is a deliberate misrepresentation of the sewer proposal and an irresponsible underestimation for an MP. The number of unsewered homes in Park Orchards and Donvale approximates 2000 to 2500.

In similar vein Honeywood also claims "...the loss of our entire tree canopy and bushland character to subdivision". Again this is a preposterous distortion of the reality of the sewer proposal, but one which appeals to extreme

"greens" whose vote Honeywood obviously prefers.

To call the conscientious and public purpose-serving landowners "snake oil salesmen" is typical of a politician who cannot contend with an issue beyond his competence.

Disparaging the individuals concerned indicates Honeywood has no argument to combat the case against contamination and degradation.

If Honeywood would like to, I am prepared to debate our sewer proposal with him in public any time.

In the meantime Honeywood would serve his constituents better if he refrained from derogatory and unworthy comments about landowners who are trying to rectify a land management problem which has been created and perpetuated by self-serving politicians and councillors.

Daryl Cox
President, Park Orchards Progress Association

come from politicians who are well-versed in the big con, and at the same time act as a Neville Chamberlain and not a Winston Churchill.

Trevor Parker
Tindals Road

Politician's style

Dear, oh dear!

I would have thought our Phil Honeywood, as opposition spokesman for education, would be able to read. Not so, or if he can, he is unable to remember what he has just read.

My letter of September 2000 in your *Diary* clearly stated that 1000 (closer to 2000) homes would benefit from the sewerage proposal. His reply obviously is of a politician's style. Don't face the facts; endeavour to mislead the public with red herrings, distorted facts and drivel.

Your readers would be shocked, as are many of the wealth-providers, to realise that such a large area of Park Orchards and Donvale is unsewered. And may I reiterate that only a very small part of the Green Wedge would be required to allow this to happen.

"Trojan horse", "snake oil salesmen"; these statements

Archive website

Just dropping you a line to let you know about a photo archive website you might like to consider mentioning in the *Diary* for your readers to look up, as it has (apart from millions of other Australian photos) quite a lot of interesting historical stuff on Warrandyte.

I suppose the history buffs already know about this one, but in any case there's lots of pics of the Yarra, Pound Bend, houses in the area (no doubt of interest to the present owners!) as well as early 1900s pictures of Yarra Street and so on.

If you think it's worth a mention, the URL is pictureaustralia.org. Use search

DEAR DIARY



Sean Magee
Valias Street

Missing friends

Could we please ask for your help in finding out what has happened to a friend of ours who lived in your town at 511 Warrandyte Road, South Warrandyte? Her name is Alice Urnston and we have not heard from her for a couple of years. She would write to us once or twice a year but always sent a card and a gift at Christmas. We have continued to send a card and gift to her each year but have had no response.

If you are unable to help could you please mail an address of someone who can.

Our postal address in the UK is: 4 Penmark Close, Callands, Warrington, Cheshire WA5 5TG. Hoping that you can help us.

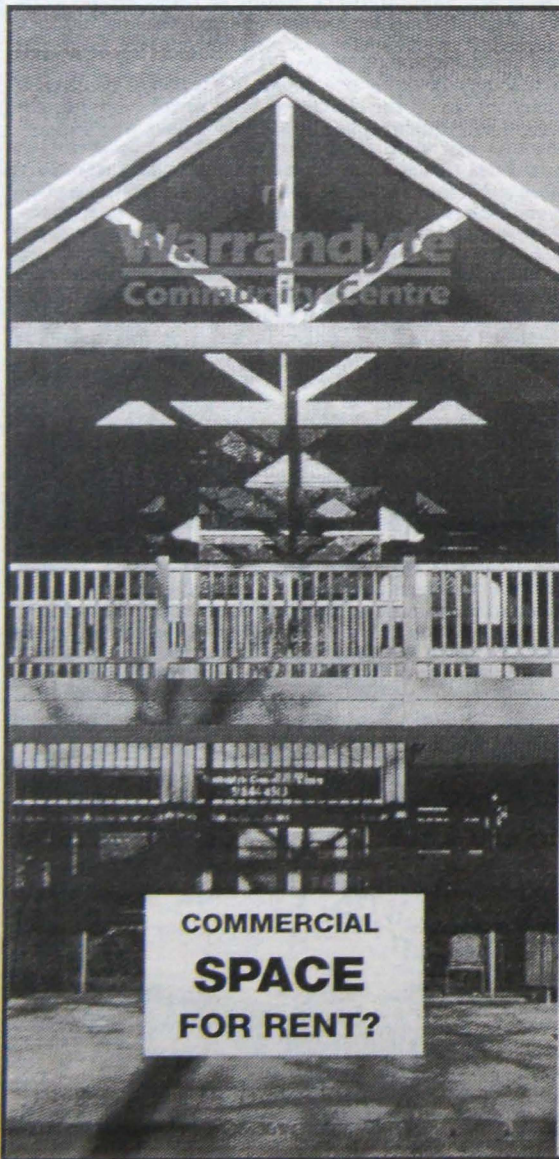
Alan Wright and June Whitehead
by e-mail

Thank you, Don

How lucky we are to have Don Charlwood as a resident in Warrandyte. Not only do we have the benefit of reading articles he writes especially for us in the *Diary* but now he shares photographically with us his vision splendid of our beautiful township. I have long been a fan of everything he writes, and was moved to tears by the piece for the *Diary* about packing up and leaving his former home of so many happy family years, and also his reflections for Anzac Day.

The two last *Diary* front pages however, show us his excellent eye and his deep appreciation of this his new home, and suggest to me that Warrandyte has begun to heal the pain of transition.

Many thanks, Don.
Jan O'Neill
by e-mail



PUBLIC MEETING

TO PROTEST AGAINST THE COMMERCIALISATION OF WARRANDYTE'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

MECHANICS INSTITUTE HALL
WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 8pm
KEEP THE COMMUNITY IN OUR COMMUNITY CENTRE!

For information contact Gina Bevan Jones, phone 9844 3662

WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL



2001: GOLDEN ODYSSEY

A theme has been set for the Warrandyte Festival, due to take place on the weekend of March 24 and 25 next year.

Marking the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold in Warrandyte, the festival committee is developing 2001: Golden Odyssey as the theme.

"A small group of dedicated festival organisers is already hard at work developing a program," secretary Paul Gleeson told the *Diary*. "They will ensure that the standard that we have come to expect will continue into the future."

"Next year's festival will include all the old favourites. The official opening will again occur with the colourful street parade

with local floats and street theatre. Other old favourites will include the 'full-on' billy cart derby (come on Dads and Mums, start preparing your kids' flash machine for next year's showing), the kids' market, the duck race, concerts from at least two stages and much, much more."

Proposed new events will include a sulo bin race; epicure; food, wine and a waiter's race; and the popular pie throwing that was introduced last year.

"All you lovers of squashed food and stale cream should start preparing a team for the big event next year," Mr Gleeson said.

Paul Gleeson can be contacted on 9844 2394.

Trusting them with our bushland

Regeneration work is underway at Warrandyte State Park. The Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers is seeking volunteers to assist in the propagation of 10,000 plants, collection of tree guards, weed control and a koala survey.

The program commenced on Monday, November 6.

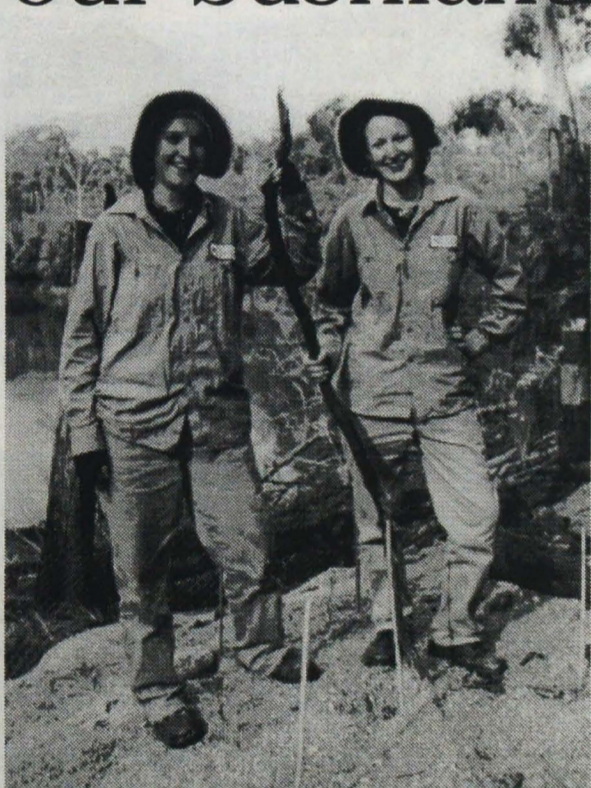
"This project is part of the Yarra Biolink Revegetation Program," a trust spokesperson told the *Diary*. "The project is being held from Monday through to Friday for two weeks and can be attended on all or any of these days."

The Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers is Australia's largest practical conservation group, aiming to assist with the preservation and enhancement of Australia's environment by involving the community in practical conservation projects.

"ATCV welcomes everyone who shares our love of the outdoors and our commitment to preserving Australia's unique environment," the spokesperson said. "To volunteer you must be 15 to 70 and willing to be part of a team and enjoy Australia's great outdoors."

Projects undertaken include revegetation, erosion and salinity control, seed collection, construction and maintenance of walking tracks, endangered flora and fauna surveys and heritage restoration.

"This year, ATCV has completed over 240 important conservation projects in both regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne," the spokesperson said. "With the aim of completing over a 100 more before the end of the year, we are seeking enthusiastic volunteers for our upcoming projects."



Bush adventure: these Trust for Conservation volunteers are ready for work in Warrandyte. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

"Students, the unemployed, retired people and travellers are just a few of the volunteers who assist ATCV. The benefits that can be gained range from working with our international

volunteers, gaining practical experience and helping conserve the Australian environment."

To obtain more information, or to book into a project, call Monica Kincade on 9585 5554.

Learning about their lives

A number of storytelling and writing workshops are well underway in the City of Manningham. As a result of a Perpetual Trustees Grant and a council community festivals and events grant, Doncare have been running these workshops at older people's retirement villages, nursing homes and residential services venues.

The latest workshop began recently at Warrandyte Community Centre. In partnership with Doncare and as part of the project, a theatrical performance by the Warrandyte Theatre Company will be held this month.

The actors will bring the older people's written stories to life, as well as improvising oral stories from members of the audience. Jock Macneish and Sue Dyring are co-conducting, and the theatre company members have been honing their improvisation skills.

"Come and see how everyday moments in people's lives become theatre," Sue Dyring said. Performing Lives will be held at the Baptist Church, Templestowe Orchards Retirement Village, Anderson Creek Road, East Doncaster on Saturday, November 11 at 2pm. Cost is \$2.



NILLUMBIK

Hard Waste Disposal 2000

Nillumbik Council will this year offer a limited hard waste service through its Works Depot at 290 Yan Yean Rd, Plenty.

Council will open the Yan Yean Road Depot in Plenty for six weekends starting in late October, and on Melbourne Cup Day. The Depot will receive car boot and trailer loads of hardwaste from residents, and the same hard waste guidelines will apply as in previous years (see below for details).

Council has engaged a service provider who will receive and sort the hard waste material and recycle it. We expect over 90 per cent of material to be recycled using this system, with significant environmental benefits.

Residents unable to access this service will be offered a limited pick-up service.

Hours of operation are 8am to 4pm

Saturday and Sunday
Saturday and Sunday
Tuesday
Day)
Saturday and Sunday
Saturday and Sunday
Saturday and Sunday
Saturday and Sunday

October 28th and 29th
November 4th and 5th
November 7th (Melbourne Cup Day)

November 11th and 12th
November 18th and 19th
November 25th and 26th
December 2nd and 3rd

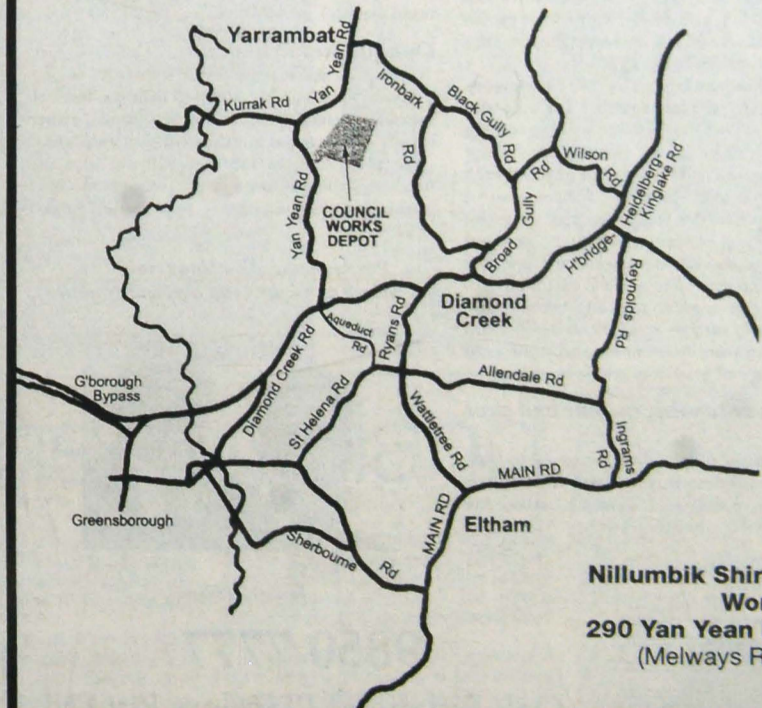
Items will not be accepted outside these times and dates

Hard Rubbish includes:

- ✓ Old tools & lawnmowers
- ✓ Stoves, washing machines, dryers, televisions
- ✓ Refrigerators, freezers (Doors removed)
- ✓ Timber (up to 1.5 metres long)
- ✓ Household appliances and furniture
- ✓ Electrical Appliances
- ✓ Chinaware and window glass (must be heavily wrapped)
- ✓ General unwanted items must be boxed or bagged
- ✓ All waste metal, including tins and scrap iron
- ✓ Car parts not exceeding 1.5 metres in length or 50kg in weight
- ✓ Mattresses
- ✓ Car batteries
- ✓ Up to 5 litres of containerised oil
- ✓ Bricks and pavers

Hard Rubbish must not include:

- ✗ Waste from industrial or commercial operators and building sites
- ✗ Rubbish from the erection, renovation, or demolition of buildings
- ✗ Liquid wastes eg: paints, solvents, chemicals
- ✗ Recyclables which can be placed out for the kerbside collection eg: paper, cardboard, plastic and glass
- ✗ Greenwaste that can be placed out for the kerbside collection
- ✗ No car or truck tyres
- ✗ Items longer than 1.5 metres
- ✗ Pesticides
- ✗ Asbestos
- ✗ Tree stumps
- ✗ Items heavier than 50kg
- ✗ Rubble
- ✗ Household domestic refuse
- ✗ Vines, blackberries and noxious weeds



Nillumbik Shire Council
Works Depot
290 Yan Yean Rd Plenty
(Melways Ref: 11/D1)

Please call Council on 9433 3234 or 9436 1266 for further information on Hard Waste disposal.

Catherine Dale

Chief Executive Officer

Local lads head for music scene

By RACHEL BAKER

"It's not duf-duf. It's sort of like techno. It's called drum and bass. It's hi energy, fast-paced..."

This is the music of two Warrandyte artists. Ben Fair and Erin McKim have been recruited by Sony Music for a new music website and recently performed in a promotional concert in Singapore.

Their music was selected in August for PlanetMG.com, a website catering for the Asian market, where music can be sampled and purchased. PlanetMG is a division company of Sony Asia-Pacific.

In September Ben and Erin performed—as the final and headline act—in a concert called "Dance Down Under" at Zouk nightclub in Singapore.

Ben and Erin's music was discovered when another PlanetMG artist and RMIT student, known as Skoolroose, heard Erin's work at RMIT. Erin is studying creative media at RMIT.

She sent a demo tape to Paul Tan, regional manager of business development at PlanetMG.

"I spent the night listening to their demos and found they've got potential in their music," Mr Tan said.

The pair, known collectively as DBX Crue, but listed on the website under Erin's alias of Livewire, plan to produce more music for PlanetMG. "We'll keep making more music and experimenting with different styles," Erin said.

"If they work consistently and explore new grounds of production and put out only quality music, PlanetMG would put more money and effort into promoting them,"

Paul Tan said.

The Singapore experience showed the pair all the perks of success.

"We were treated like rock stars," Ben said.

"We had banquets, they took us out to shops and bought us clothes," he said.

Erin said the performance at Zouk was "the best feeling". "It's something I want to get to do again," he said.

Erin and Ben were mixing cover tracks in with their own, as well as Ben's vocals. "No-one knew us, they'd never heard our music, but they were loving it," Ben said.

Mr Tan described their performance as "electrifying". "They closed the Dance Down Under event with the crowd cheering for more."

For Ben and Erin, who began their music careers in rock cover band Angel Dust, the move to electronic music may seem surprising.

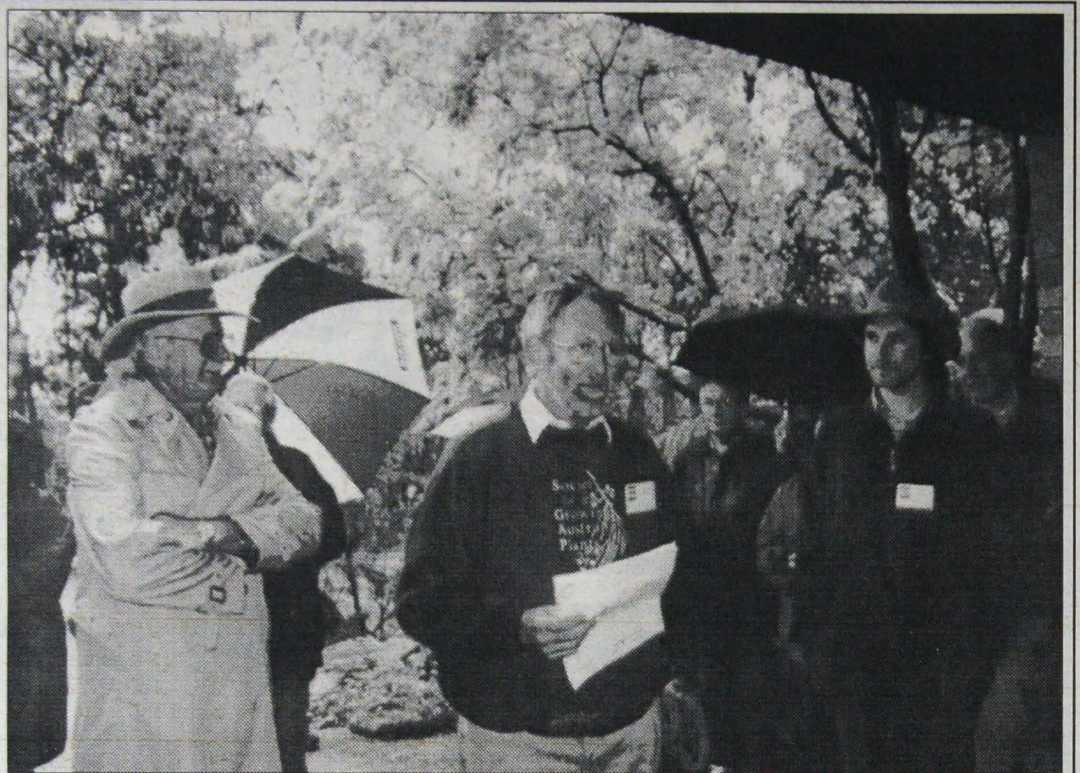
Ben said he used to dismiss techno and dance music. "But that's just part of being a teenager—you dislike anything you don't know."

Erin and Ben started to hear electronic music because their friends were listening to it. On a trip to South America, where Latin American styles are popular, Erin developed an interest in dance music.

"I came back and my friends were into dance and techno as well," he said.

Ben thinks all music is heading in the electronic direction. "Rock has just plateaued," he said.

● DBX Crue's next performance is at Capsule nightclub, 536 Swanston St, Carlton, on Saturday November 11.



John Hanson welcomes visitors to the launch of Manningham's subsidy scheme for conservation properties, flanked by mayor Lionel Allemand (left) and Paul Foreman of the Trust for Nature.

It's a covenant with nature

More than 80 people braved the rain to gather at Bev and John Hanson's property in Webb Street to mark the launch last month of Manningham council's new subsidy scheme for Green Wedge properties registered for perpetual conservation by the Victorian Trust for Nature.

The Hanson property is the second in Manningham to be protected under the trust's covenant scheme, the

other being the Bib Stillwell estate at Stane Brae in Wonga Park.

Mayor Lionel Allemand described the council's subsidy as a "win-win" situation, with the environment, the landowners and the community benefiting.

The covenant prohibits subdivision of the land forever.

The Hansons have also stipulated that hoofed animals will never be allowed on the land and that fallen

wood and branches stay on the ground, because they provide habitats for many birds and animals.

Manningham council is offering a one-off grant of \$35 per hectare to landowners who achieve a conservation covenant for their land. Further incentives to preserve bushland are available through council's Local Environment Assistance Fund (LEAP).

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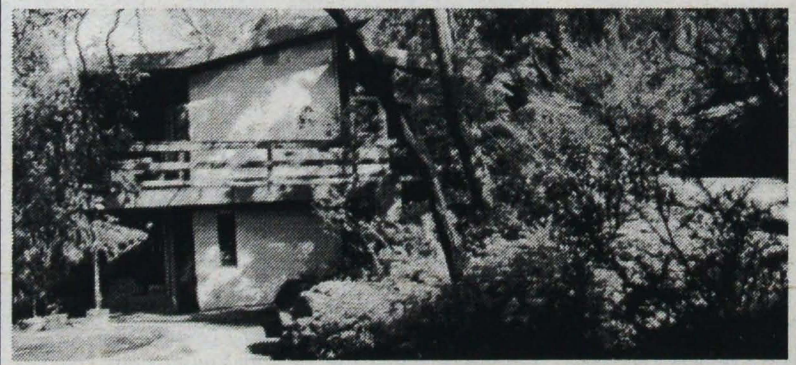
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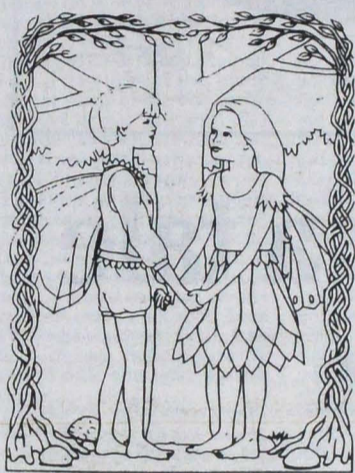
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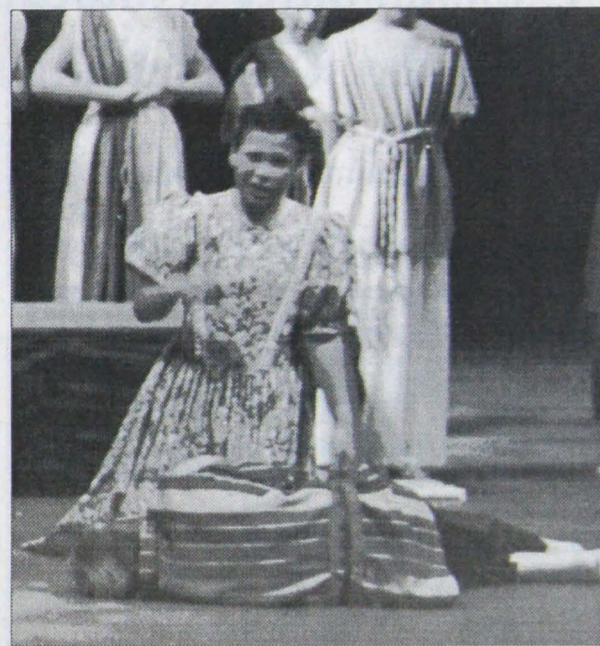
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It was a dream of a show

Children from grades 5 and 6 at Warrandyte Primary School charmed audiences with a repeat season of the musical *A Kidsummer Night's Dream* at Karralyka Theatre, Ringwood, last month. The show was written by Paradiddle stalwarts David Billings, Rob Fairbairn, Mark Leehy, Kevin O'Mara and Lynne Bartlett, and was produced by Gail Parke.



They're a power in the bushland

By MAYDEENA JAMESON

In the black of the night, in dead and hollowed trees in the southern parts of Australia, glow the piercing yellow eyes of powerful owls. Their unmistakable call, WOO-HOO, long and deep, echoes throughout the tree tops. It is a brown owl with chevron shaped white or faun flecks, curved beak, sharp claws and large wingspan.

The powerful owl, *Ninox Strenua* is the largest, strongest and most intriguing of all the owls. The problem is, though, too many people find them interesting. The powerful owl, although being very strong, is one of

the most shy and wary owls around. They have been known to abandon nests at the slightest human interference. (This means that if you are lucky enough to sight a nest, don't disturb it.)

Every breeding season, May to June, a pair of owls will lay only two eggs and these eggs take 38 days to incubate.

This means that their numbers are not very high, in fact they are on the endangered species list and are on the road to extinction.

Once powerful owls have found a nest they become very territorial and a pair of owls take up a minimum of

two miles squared. A monitoring program has been going on over the past few years which involves tagging the young owlets before they leave the nest.

They mainly feed on tree dwelling native animals; for example: ring tail possums, gliders, kookaburras and magpies. This means that a very important factor to their survival is the number of possums available in the areas they like to live in.

There is a healthy population of powerful owls living in Warrandyte at the moment (three pairs) because of the excellent habitat conditions and the amount of available food.

It is one of the reasons why keeping the large dead trees is so important. Not only are they a home for the powerful owls but they are also a home for most of their preferred food species.

To keep the future of the powerful owls bright there are a few things that the community can do. One of the main things is to plant indigenous trees and plants in backyards. This will help keep all the food sources and habitats for both the owls and their food needs in Warrandyte.

This will hopefully encourage powerful owls to stay in the community in the future.



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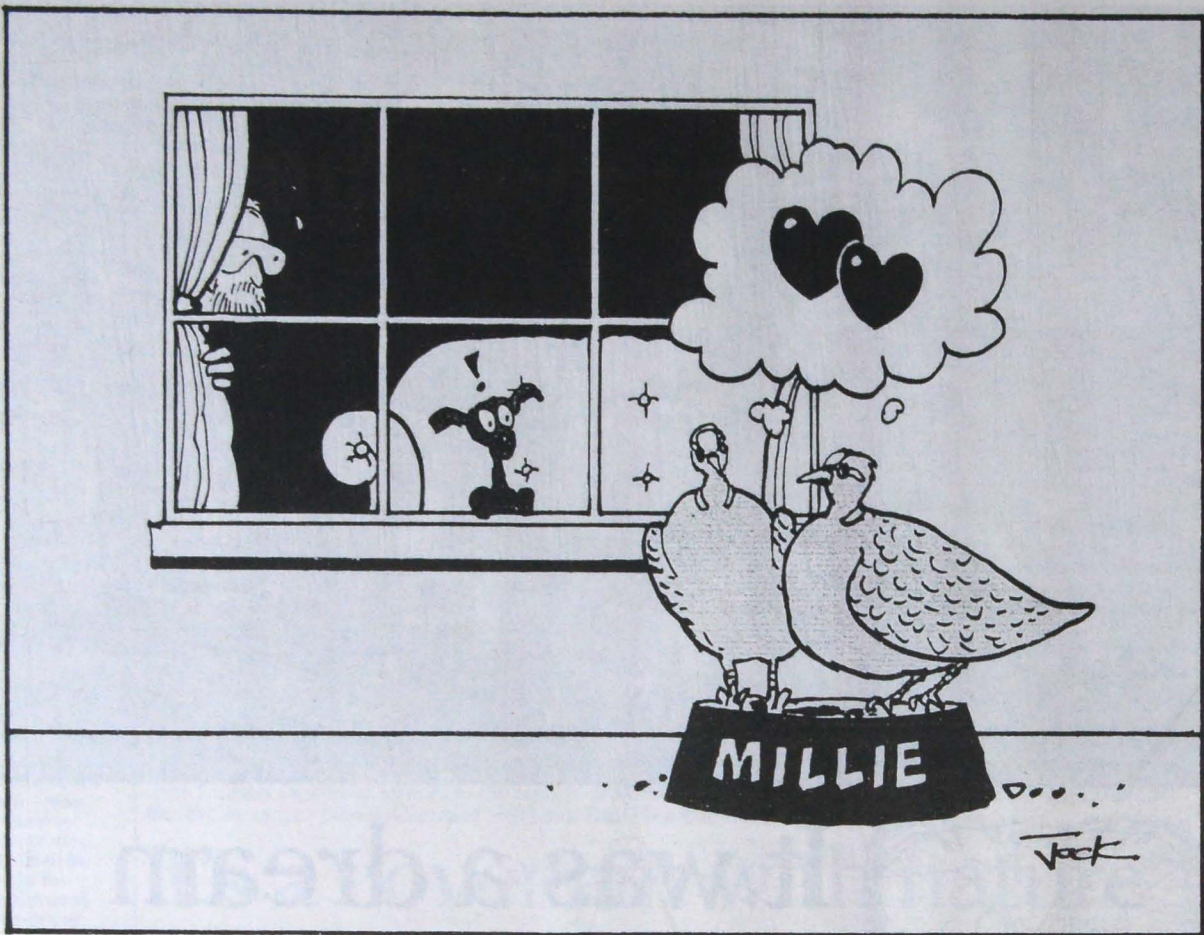
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Back deck drama: a tale of springtime love

WELL, the grass is sort of rizzing in my backyard, and the birdies are certainly visiting all the flowers, bushes and trees in our garden. The wattlebirds are drinking deep from the callistemons but they're also prepared to do a bit of slumming around the jasmine, the azaleas and the rhododendrons.

I almost hate to admit to having a multicultural garden, but my suburban childhood, plus the fact that we've always had more natives die on us than the exotics, predisposes both Herself and me to continue our revisionist tendencies. We don't adjoin a state park, or even a spare block, so I feel better about the unlikelihood of our echiums and lavateras doing a triffids and heading off to populate or perish amongst the nearby bush.

I've been pleased to see eastern spinebills and other insect and nectar eating birds enjoying the fruits of our labours. We have deliberately planted for three things: colour, perfume and bird attraction. However, to be brutally frank, we also have New Australian visitors who are a bit less refined, the brash, raucous Indian mynahs as well as sparrows; the Arthur Dalys of the bird world. We also have some sitting tenants.

Our sitting tenants are two loving rock doves who choose to play chicken with our dog. Now Millie is not an Irish wolf-



KIBBLED

"Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdies is!"

hound. In fact, she's not even a labrador, nor a spaniel. The word pinscher conjures up pictures of the Second World War with concentration camps being guarded by salivating short haired, black and tan pinschers. That also is not Millie.

What she is, is a miniature pinscher and stands about the same height as a one year-old cat. She weighed two kilos at six months and now, fully grown, weighs four. So, as you can imagine, rock doves to her are what black swans are to a great dane.

The game goes like this. We feed Millie on the deck outside the living room. Between the food bowl and the couch on which Millie reclines is a glass-pannelled door and a cat flap. Millie decides that the food is possibly worth eating later

when she's sized up how much she can scrounge from Herself when she's preparing our meal.

In the meantime, Romeo and Juliet drop onto the deck from their vantage points on the guttering. They then proceed to wobble across the deck towards the food bowl. You can almost imagine their conversation.

"She's there again. Do we dare try?"

"I'll make it to the dish for you this time."

"Oh, Romeo! You'd risk all for me?"

"No more than any real love bird would do."

"No, Romeo. If we're going to do this, we're going to do it together."

They get to within 15 centimetres of the bowl when the cat flap clatters open and Millie thunders out growling and barking like the Hound of the Baskervilles. Romeo and Juliet effect vertical take-offs amidst squawking, ruffled feathers and frantically beating wings.

Millie steps on her ABS, then stands guard over the food bowl until the couch beckons. Meanwhile, the two love birds head-nod their way along the guttering to their Drop Spot. The cycle repeats itself until the bowl is emptied and the rock doves are permitted to scavenge together for any tidbits that may have been overlooked by Cerberus. Such is love amongst the birds.

And it also seems to be spring

when the ridiculous new human "bird" shows appear on TV. I'm talking about the shows that follow the mating rituals of groups of 20-something girls. These shows put a whole new spin on the old Channel 2 documentaries about the courting customs of African or Amazonian tribes. We watched as the comely gels put on their finery to attract the attention of the young, virile warriors.

We followed their progress through ritual dancing, eating, bargaining and the eventual consummation. The entire procedure was carefully watched and applauded by all the interested stakeholders: parents, relatives and friends. We were told in sonorous tones that we were privileged in being permitted to share with the couple the magic of love and the cementing of family relationships. And we were!

However, the current series of "girls on the make" programs takes this voyeuristic anthropology a step further. They seem hell bent on proving, not that we have rich, culturally understood and worthwhile courting traditions, vigorously upheld by our young women, but that if you manipulate the situations satisfactorily, girls can be as vulgar, crass and embarrassing as a group of men at a lap dancing establishment.

If these are the "new birds" and this is courting, give me my Romeo and Juliet any day!

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Dark and sturdy sentinels fall to human advance

THEY stand like dark sentinels of the forest: tall, strong and invincible. Even their name—ironbark—gives an impression of fortitude. But strength has been their downfall in the most literal of all senses. For over a century these noble trees have been slaughtered for their durable timber, most ending their days in ignominy as railway sleepers, fence posts and firewood.

Forests of ironbark and box trees once dominated the gentle slopes in a broad band across central Victoria, north of the Divide. Not any more. Today 75 per cent of forests, which once inspired Banjo Patterson to write one his most famous ballads, have been cleared for farming.

My passion for ironbarks began the moment I first set eyes on them, flashing past the car window on a drive to Bendigo. I thought then that the blackened trunks were the result of a bushfire. Later, when seen up close, I discovered the black was not black at all, but an intermix of brown and grey, and that the furrows between the ridges sparkled with orange resin like seams of gold.

I spent a weekend in one of the remaining ironbark forest fragments south of Rushworth. It was the second day of spring. There was a winter crispness in the air. Pillowy cumulus clouds scudded across a cobalt blue sky. It was windy up there, one kilometre high, but down on the ground only the faint hint of breeze.

I come to this place every year, although I have never been so early in the season before, never seen the golden



NATURE

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

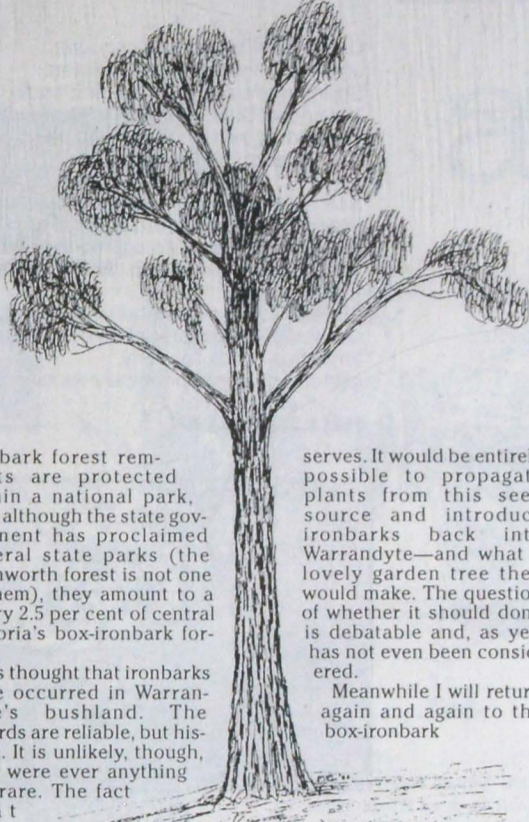
wattles in full yellow-balled bloom or the ironbarks festooned with flowers. In some ways it is a harsh environment, an aged and weather-scarred landscape exposed to the excesses of temperature and drought.

The forest had me in its grip. The ironbarks are soul-stirring trees. Though most of the old ones are gone, every now and then I came upon a big specimen, not so much in height, but in girth, with fissures so deep and wide that my whole arm fitted snugly between the ridges.

The trunks, that magnificent bark, is home to a menagerie of little creatures, judging from the evidence left behind: a fine network of spiders' silk spun across a crevice; the empty pupal case of a cup moth, looking remarkably like a hollow gum nut nestled between the fibrous strands; and a larger, barrel-shaped cocoon left vacant by an emerging emperor gum moth. It was engrossing stuff. Simple pleasures—mingling with the ironbarks—a panacea for peace. If only. If only.

The box-ironbark forest association is unique to Australia—unique to the world. If only its value, other than as a source of timber and honey production, could be recognised by the federal government. If only they could see the need for conservation of this declining community of plants.

None of Victoria's major



ironbark forest remnants are protected within a national park, and, although the state government has proclaimed several state parks (the Rushworth forest is not one of them), they amount to a paltry 2.5 per cent of central Victoria's box-ironbark forests.

It is thought that ironbarks once occurred in Warrandyte's bushland. The records are reliable, but historic. It is unlikely, though, they were ever anything but rare. The fact that ironbarks have been planted in the past as street trees make locating any original specimens a difficult task.

Ironbarks do, however, grow across the river in Kangaroo Ground at the Bend of Islands, and in several bushland re-

serves. It would be entirely possible to propagate plants from this seed source and introduce ironbarks back into Warrandyte—and what a lovely garden tree they would make. The question of whether it should be done is debatable and, as yet, has not even been considered.

Meanwhile I will return again and again to the box-ironbark

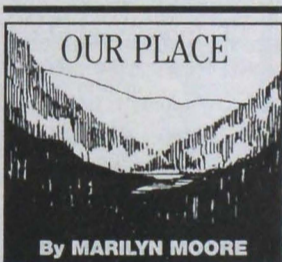
forests of central Victoria that I know so well. Maybe one day the government will come to its senses and afford these forests the protection they deserve. Let's hope, for the sake of this extraordinary vegetation community, that it will not be too late.

The key to surfing foreign parts

AHHH, the bliss of coming back to Australia and facing a good old Aussie-style computer keyboard. Everything in its appointed place, no nasty surprises in the region of the shift key or the comma, and every member of the Qwerty family obediently awaiting the touch of the appointed human finger.

Our previous visit to Europe, more than 10 years ago, must have been just before the computer age took hold. This time we set off with what we thought was a pretty solid background in driving on the other side (even worse, being a passenger on the other side), the vagaries and intrigue of very hi-tech and very low-tech plumbing, the almost impossible combination of travelling light and travelling with kids, autobahns, traffic jams and black bread with salami for breakfast. None of this experience prepared us in the slightest for the continental keyboard.

In case you've never been into one, an internet café is a place where, for a smallish fee, you use one of their computers to receive and send your own email. Much cheaper and



By **MARILYN MOORE**

quicker than buying stamps and postcards, and a great way for people to send news and information from home when you have no fixed address.

Our first attempt failed completely, due to an apparent lack of communication between the coin-in-the-slot device and the computer. So did the next. It didn't take long to find out that internet cafes often don't open their doors until late afternoon. This was quite a disappointment in at least one case: it would have been rather swish to have "The Palace, Montreux" as one's address, even if only for a few moments. Maybe this form of communication wasn't going to be as easy as we'd expected.

Then, late one night in Zermatt, we finally bingoed. Dawdling home on foot from a most satisfactory culinary experience, we spotted an inviting timber-panelled wine bar, cheerful geraniums spilling from window boxes outside, and dimly lit and reeking with character (amongst other things) inside. Into one corner were tucked a couple of quaint old wooden phone boxes. Each contained a comfy stool and a little wooden bench sporting a brand new computer, almost the only clue in the place that the human race was about to enter the 21st century.

Four eager pairs of hands vied for first go.

"<<dquer everzone; <<hellow from <<yqrmqt..." Hell's bells, that Franconian wine must have been strong stuff. I didn't think we'd had all that much, but then, the glasses tend to be about four times the size of the ones we're used to at home. Try again. Better still, get one of the younger experts to try again.

"<<dquer everzone; <<hellow from <<yqrmqt..." Definitely the computer. Subtle lighting and a fairly noticeable smoke haze rendered the keyboard

somewhat dim, but further investigation revealed the fact that not only were the z and the y transposed, but also the a and the q. As if that wasn't bad enough at that hour of the day, every other peripheral key including the shift was somewhere not immediately traceable.

It got worse. French keyboards, in an unfathomable display of Gallic ingenuity, seem to have rearranged most of the remaining letters. Only about half a dozen keys live at the same address as their Australian counterparts. How on earth did this unwieldy situation develop?

Wading through these various quagmires was slow and frustrating work, and one coin barely lasted long enough to get an intelligible sentence onto the screen. But it wasn't all bad. The best way to get a stock of spare coins in a wine bar (or in the coffee-and-cake type of internet café for that matter) is fairly obvious, so in the end we had a lot of fun. Everyone at home got their messages, but I suspect that mailing about 20 postcards might not have been such an expensive option after all!

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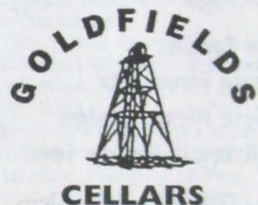
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A spring song

Over a hillside of mudbrick homes,
autumn begins to fall.
Nimbused, gold-leaved clouds glide across the sky.
Golden archway bronze tips forest of sunburnt chambers;
flecks of gold-veined leaves pirouette through the air,
flickering into amber embers—
autumn's ochre pyres.

Weathered windfall apples tumble,
brisk breezes chill playing children's cheeks—
balls and wheels roll on.
Voices echo and crystallise, hanging in the darkening still.
Through living room velvet curtains, lights shine.
Wine marinated casseroles, nutty gravy Sunday roasts,
earthy woodsmoke fires waft and drift ...
heavy oak front doors lumber to a close.

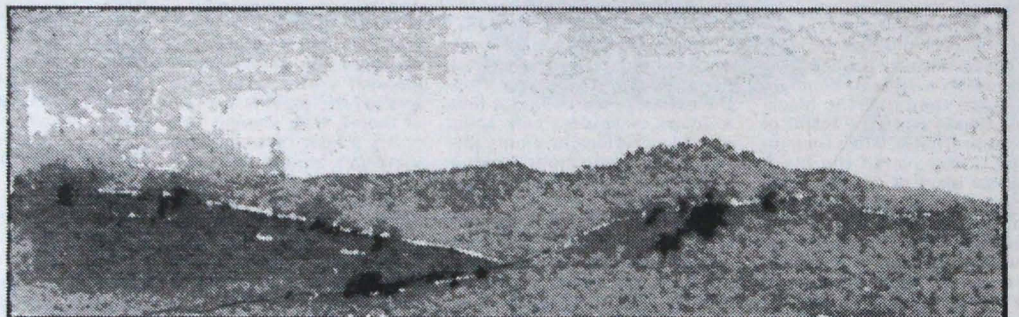
Ribbons of winter mist disperse,
fresh green leaves unfurl, flower buds emerge.
In early spring sunshine reflections,
veiled in windowpane white lace,
young mothers cradle pink-faced newborns,
bound in conical pastel shawls.
Sunrise brings smiles from simple pleasure—
petals begin to unravel in gentle hues of spring;
delicate and translucent, like Chinese watercolours,
clouds of pink plum blossom spray woodland lanes.

Under a full moon a rainshower,
under starlight raindrops glisten.
Spring night air, fresh like first snow, stirring springtime blossom:
like snowflakes, petals in white haloes silently falling,
silvered by slivers of moonlight—
a magical midnight sky.

Soft night rain sprinkling floating blossom,
silvery waterfall teardrops petal cups which sink to the ground ...
colour-washed, faces transparent—
fading beauty succumbs to the earth.

Blades of grass grow tall and strong, wildflowers embrace riverbank sun.
Under spreading branches of summer ripening plums
fingertips touch tenderly,
glistening river hypnotically running on.

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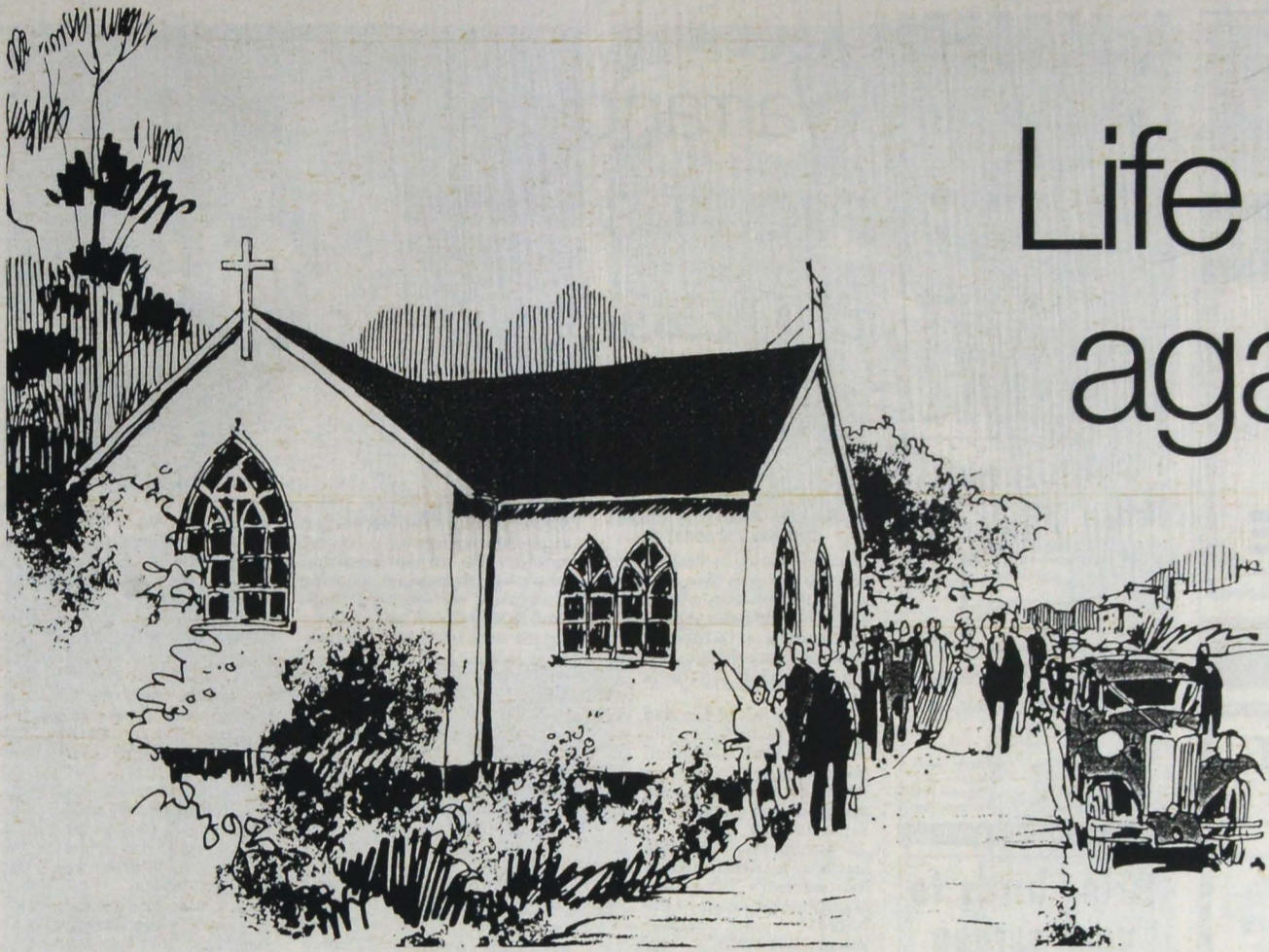
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Life begins again

I WAS back to the old routines of the farm. Every Sunday night we had cold corned beef, lettuce and tomato and mashed potato. "Corn Beef Suzie" Dad used to call me.

When I came back home to the Wagner Farm with my sons to live, I was on a seven pound five shillings a fortnight pension. I gave five pounds to Dad for board. I would go over to Blackburn by bus once a fortnight to collect my pension; that was my day out. Other than that I worked on the farm, picking fruit, doing anything that needed to be done. I didn't get paid for that work.

Then I got a job at Hobb's orchard in King Street, East Doncaster. Mum looked after Colin at the farm, and Greg and Roger were at school. I would ride my bike over to work in the cool store: sorting and packing fruit five days a week, riding back home, helping Mum with the tea when I got home. The pay wasn't a great deal, I was allowed to earn something like 10 pounds on top of my pension.

Mum was crook in bed once when my sister Betty was about 15, and Mary and Jim Robertson and their family dropped in. There wasn't much to eat except bread so Mum suggested Betty make some scones.

Under directions from Mum she made up the scone mixture and put them in the oven as she was told. Half an hour later Betty looked in the oven and the scones were still little white pieces of dough. Mum told her to take them out and turn them around. Another half an hour passed and Mary Robertson is sitting on the bed talking to Mum, and Betty comes in and says the scones still haven't started to cook. Mum asked her if she had put any wood in the fire. "No," says Betty, "you didn't tell me to put any wood in the fire." So the fire was out and the scones uncooked.

So Betty got the fire going and the scones eventually cooked but they turned out to be little hard lumps. Betty served them up on

PIONEERING DAYS

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

plates around the table because we couldn't waste anything in those days. Mary Robertson was trying to chew into them, saying, "Very nice, too, Betty, very nice". You couldn't put a saw through them. Eventually someone ate one of them. That night Dad made Betty serve them up again for tea and when Dad left the table, the boys were throwing them up against the wall trying to crack them open. Betty cried her eyes out.

My brother Joe never left the farm. He married Evelyn Sell from Donvale and he built and they lived in the cottage at the end of Pound Bend Road.

My brother Norman didn't work on the farm once he was old enough to earn money elsewhere. He bought an old motorbike and he used to go grubbing noxious weeds out for a job from the time he left school at 14 until he went into the police cadets when he was 18. He then lived in town in the police barracks and came home in his time off.

Norman married Joyce Allen, then built the white house at the park office gate on Pound Bend Road. When he qualified as a policeman he was posted up to Landsborough, and later to Warburton, then Warragul.

Roy built a house between Norman's and Joe's—three brothers in a row. Walter married Norma Harvey and built his home on the farm near the cool store (now the park office). Walter and Roy were the orchardists; it was their work that established the orchard.

I had given Roy, my brother, Jim Craig's old Essex car and he and Walter would go out dancing on a Saturday night. I'd been back on the farm for around 12 months and Dad said,

"Why don't you go out with the boys instead of being stuck here at home all the time?" It was then that I started going to the Box Hill dances again. The boys would drop me off and I would come home on my own on the bus. I would get off at Pound Road and walk to the farm singing my head off. I never worried about being molested those days. Forty-eight years ago you never gave it a thought, even though it was pitch dark.

At the Box Hill dance this young fellow started coming up to me, asking me to dance. On the second night he sat and started talking to me and I asked him, "What part of Italy do you come from?" He had this accent I couldn't place. "Italian! I'm not Italian," said Tommy Bone. "I'm Scottish!"

Anyway he wasn't too insulted because the next week he was waiting for me out the front of the dance and we entered together. This happened for two months and I thought this fellow's getting a bit keen, so I told Mum about him and thought that I had better tell him I'm a widow with three young children. So at the Saturday night dance, I arranged to meet Tom the next Tuesday—the pension collection day—in the Box Hill Square, during his lunch hour. I told him I had something to tell him. Tom was working at Lloyd's butcher shop and boarding with Mrs Young in Barcelona Street, Box Hill.

We met, and I said to Tom, "Look, I don't want you to get too keen on me—I'm a widow with three little boys".

"I thought there was something strange," said Tom, because he would walk me to the bus stop after the dance and ask, "Can't I take you home?" I would say, "I live in Warrandyte, you can't take me home." So I said to him, "You don't want to get tangled up with me and my three little boys, don't get too keen". But Tommy said, "I don't know. I'm over here from Scotland, all on my own. What about you bring the three boys on the bus to meet me and then

we'll all go down to Mordialloc beach for a trip?"

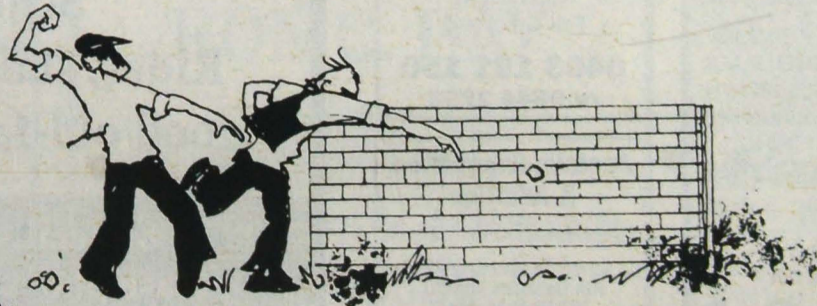
I told the boys that we were going to meet with this young man and asked them to behave themselves. I didn't need to tell them that because they were good kids, but I did. When we got out of the bus in Box Hill, Tom was there sitting on a bus seat waiting. Roger and Greg got off. Colin was only four and as soon as he saw Tom he flew out of the bus towards him and threw his arms around his neck, embracing him like he was his long lost father. I'll never forget it.

We went down on a Ventura bus to Mordialloc. Then we walked down to the beach where Tom gave me some money to buy the boys some sweets and said, "I'll take them for a shot on the shute." I said, "No, Tom, they are too young for guns". I thought he meant a shooting gallery. "No, a shot on the shute," he said pointing to the slide at the playground. After a shot on the shute, Tom hired a rowboat. The boys piled in and Tom began rowing like mad, but we just went out a little way, then returned to shore. It was like one of those horses at the trail rides that would only go a little way out from the stables then return home. Tom was going for his life in circles and getting nowhere.

Tom and I were the first couple to be married in the Gospel Chapel, which had replaced the Presbyterian Church which was burnt down in the 1939 fires. It was 1953 and we moved into our home, 31 Yarra Street, after our honeymoon.

It was a little less dramatic event than my first marriage when Arthur Donald was the taxi driver taking Dad and I to the Presbyterian Church in Blackburn to marry Jim Craig. At Deep Creek, my father told Arthur to pull over and then he said to me, "Listen, you are going to tie a knot that you'll never untie with your teeth. It's not too late to turn back!"

"Drive on driver," I called to Arthur.



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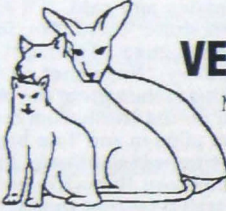
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Warrandyte mourns a lovable larrikin



By LEE TINDALE and CHERILYN SMITH

His trademark greeting brought tears to the eyes of many of the multitude of mates when it was quoted at his funeral service in Warrandyte on October 9: "Here's my hand and here's my heart. I'm Jonny Barr."

At 39, so full of life and with so much to live for, Jonathon Barr was much too young to die. But die he did, in an horrific road accident at St Andrews on September 30.

Jonny Barr was a lovable larrikin, a tribute to his Irish ancestry. The crowd at his funeral — one of the biggest in recent Warrandyte history — was testimony to the mateship and affection he had generated so naturally in this town and beyond it.

Jonny was born at Ringwood on April 20, 1961, and raised in Blooms Road, North Warrandyte, as a member of a close-knit family much loved by this community.

He was educated at Warrandyte Primary School and Norwood High and served an apprenticeship as a metal moulder. He turned from that trade to bricklaying, working alongside well-known local brickie Rob Green before forming his own team with Warrandyte mates Sean Dealy, Simon Stringer and Andrew (Drac) Ley.

Jonny later bought a block in Kinglake and started building houses there, setting up a new local workforce he called "The A-Team".

"He worked hard and played hard," one close friend recalled. "He was a staunch man."

Jonny's death was the third in a series of tragedies to recently befall the Barr family. His mother Pat died of cancer in June 1996 and cancer also claimed his sister Fiona in September 1998.

He is survived by his father Jack, brothers Robert and Lindsay, wife Karen and son Jakob.

Jack Barr sends the following message to the many, many people who supported the family in its latest grief: "On behalf of Karen, Jakob, Robert and Lindsay, may I thank all those people who attended the funeral after Jonny's tragic accident.

"Also the generous support of the Warrandyte Lions Club, Noel Taplin and staff of the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte Football Club, management and staff of the St Andrews Hotel, the Kinglake Bakery and Take Away, the people who sent cards, phoned or visited our various homes.

"To John Byrne and Jonny's friends for the eulogy and the boys and girls on the motorbikes who escorted the cortege from the church."



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For details on reunion program please phone the school on 9844 3537

Warrandyte Primary School

No. 12
Forbes Street, Warrandyte





Gorgeous panto

This year's pantomime, to be premiered by the Warrandyte Theatre Company late this month, promises to have audiences—young and old—"rolling in the aisles".

Entitled Princess Gorgeous In Neverland, the panto is an all-round local product, with book by Keryn Wood and music and lyrics by Jack Stringer.

"King Elvis and Queen Lizzie have three daughters, the princesses Gorgeous, Drusilla and Brunhilda," a spokesperson told the *Diary*. "The hand of Princess Gorgeous is sought by the oily Baron Gaylord, who is favoured by the King and Queen.

"However, Gorgeous is in love with Peter Pan of Neverland, but her mother refuses to countenance the prospect of her becoming simply 'Mrs Gorgeous Pan'".

As expected, Peter Pan's best friend is Tinkerbell, "a slightly worse-for-wear fairy who is very jealous of Gorgeous".

"Tinkerbell is a regular at the Neverland Tavern, run by Big Bertha and the Wenches. The tavern is a favourite haunt of Captain Hook and his band of pirates," the spokesperson said.

"There is skulduggery afoot when Gaylord does a deal with Hook, but as in all pantos worth their salt, virtue triumphs and a happy ending is enjoyed by all."

This charming and hilarious mish-mash of a fairy tale will be performed at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall on Thursday, November 30 and Friday and Saturday (two performances), December 1 and 2. Bookings through 9844 1744.

Rehearsal pix by GAIL MACRAE



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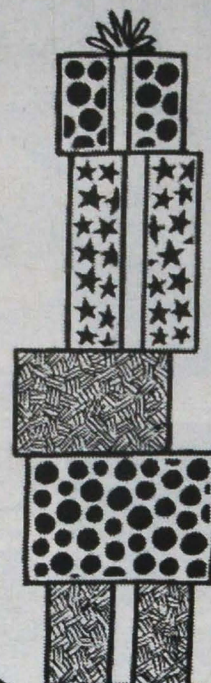
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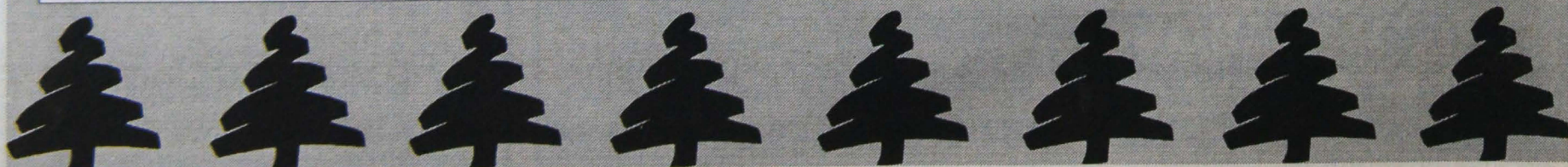
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Christmas sale time

Warrandyte Business Association, supported by Manningham council, have set up "Christmas Sales in November in Warrandyte". A number of local businesses are participating with a variety of discounts and items on special. Brochures have been sent to all Warrandyte households along with a Discover Warrandyte Gold brochure and updated local Shopping Guide. The sale runs from November 20 to December 3, 2000. It's a chance to get some of that Christmas shopping done and support your local businesses at the same time.

Childcare

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House have announced changes to their Occasional Child Care hours. Their new times are Tuesday and Wednesday—9am to 12noon and 1pm to 4pm; Thursday and Friday—9am to 12noon.

Calendar

Warrandyte Historical Society have produced an exciting calendar for the year 2001. The calendar includes a collection of 18 photographs from Warrandyte's fabulous days of gold. There is a limited print run. Cost is \$12 plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

Craft

Craft classes at Warrandyte Neighbourhood House currently include creative memories with Debbie Fitzgerald—making beautiful pictures with favourite photos. Maree Moore demonstrates making a wall hanging of a vase of flowers in the miniature colorwash class. Jennifer teaches glass painting and you can learn to make a 3D bowtie quilted wall hanging or an old Victorian brooch.

Bushfires

A new, completely revised and updated edition of the Complete Australian Bushfire Book by Joan Webster has just been published and is now titled The Complete Bushfire Safety Book. It is available from book stores, or direct from the publishers: Random House Australia, 20 Alfred Street, Milsons Point NSW 2061, phone 02 9954 9966, fax 02 9954 4562. The book is recommended for Community Fireguard groups and Bushfire Blitz.

Bowling

There will be a fun day to raise money for eye research at the Donvale Bowls Club (Melways 34 H7) on Sunday, November 26 commencing at 1pm. No experience is necessary. Wear casual clothes and flat shoes. Entry is \$4 and there will be good prizes on the day. For further information call Leonie Horne on 9844 2685.



Flashback: Warrandyte Theatre members performed *Walk in My Shoes — Hear My Story* in August last year. They'll be back presenting *Performing Lives for Doncare* on Saturday November 11 at 2pm at the Templestowe Baptist Church, Andersons Creek Road.



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.

Performing

Doncare's older people's living stories project and the Warrandyte Theatre Company will present *Performing Lives* at the Templestowe Baptist Church, 107 Andersons Creek Road, East Doncaster on Saturday, November 11. The performance will run from 2pm to 4pm with afternoon tea provided. You will see how everyday moments in people's lives become theatre. Cost is \$2. Bookings can be made with Faith or Alison on 9848 5236.

Cooking

Deborah Saunders will help you make your Christmas more Australian by cooking some inspiring dishes suitable for a hot day. The class will be at the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House in the community centre on Wednesday, December 6 from 7.30 to 9.30pm.

Landcare

The Osborne Peninsula Landcare group have been busy over the last year propagating and

planting indigenous plants in a number of areas on the peninsula. They estimate over 25,000 plants have been produced in their nursery. More than 5000 of these were planted as part of their Olympic Landcare project, the largest plantings being at the Cypress site and the Kangaroo Ground Road riverbank. For further information about the group contact Margaret Burke on 9844 1060.

Dance

The South Warrandyte Social Dance committee will hold its Christmas dance on Saturday, December 9 at the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road, commencing at 8pm. Cost is \$5 including tea and coffee. Tickets for the New Year's Eve dance are going fast. Cost is \$8.50 and bookings can be made with Betty on 9844 3763. There will be an excellent band and lots of prizes and fun.

Grasses

The next Green Wedge seminar to be held at the Currawong Bush Park conference room, Reynolds Road, East Doncaster on Thursday, December 7, will be on "Wild grasses in Manningham". The seminar is free and will be conducted by Graeme Lorimer commencing at 7.30pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Warrandyte State Park will be held on Sunday, November 19 at 5.30pm at the Folly, Warrandyte State Park Depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte.

Festival

Sister event to our own festival, the Eltham Festival—"The heart of the Arts"—is celebrating its 26th year with an array of events held over three days and three sites in Eltham. On Thursday, November 9 from 7.30 to 9pm there will be the "Artistic Revelations" forum at Monsalvat in Hillcrest Avenue. A number of local artists will discuss their lives, work and ambitions. Saturday, November 11 will see a family entertainment day at Ellendale Farm in Gastons Road with a range of exhibitions on waste and energy minimisation and environmental sustainability. On Sunday, November 12, activities will continue at the Alistair Knox Park with lots of entertainment and market stalls.

Dreamtime

An exhibition of Desert Masters "Legends of the Dreamtime" will be on display at the Mia Mia Gallery, Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimmons Lane, Templestowe and Warrell's Country Store, 321 Warrandyte-Ringwood Road, Warrandyte from November 1 to 19. Artists and performers will be at these sites at various times. Enquiries to Colin McKinnon at the Mia Mia Gallery, on 0414 596 324.

Do Care

If you are over 18 and looking for a rewarding volunteer experience Do Care would be interested to hear from you. Training is provided to help people support isolated older people and those with disabilities in the Warrandyte area. Call Do Care on 9762 5211.

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Let's go, Redbacks - and go they did!

By TONY OLIVER

Warrandyte's young basketballers did themselves and their club proud in the finals of the junior championship competition.

Four of the Redbacks' six teams made the finals, three of them advancing into the grand finals and the Under-14 girls coached by Lorraine Parfitt emerging with the ultimate prize.

The Under-14s were first up for Warrandyte on grand final night on October 27 at the Keilor International Basketball Stadium.

As minor premiers, the Redbacks were warm favourites against Coburg, but coach Parfitt was nervously warning her players against complacency.

Coburg had reached the grand final via the preliminary final route with a convincing win over Altona, the team who had pushed Warrandyte to the limit in the second semi-final.

Altona had drawn level with less than 15 seconds to go in that game and only an accurate shot from forward Tahnee Templeton prevented the match going into overtime.

The first half of the grand final lived right up to expectations with neither team able to establish any dominance. First Warrandyte and then Coburg held slight leads, the Redbacks going into the break with a 22-20 advantage with centre Emma Razzi scoring on the last play



SPORT

of the half.

The experience under pressure of the Warrandyte girls began to tell in the second half and slowly, very slowly, they edged ahead. The defence was keeping the taller Coburg players in check, with Andrea Peters and Libby Lavery outstanding.

The pressure abated as the clocked ticked down and when Kaitlynd Bottomley, a late substitution, scored from the free throw line, Warrandyte had wrapped it up 40 points to 32.

In a fitting reward for excellent play at point guard, the Most Valuable Player award went to Louise Yates.

Next on court were the Under 16 girls, also minor premiers, and also playing Coburg. The pundits had predicted a close one. They were right.

Warrandyte grabbed the early advantage and moved to a 6-2 early lead, but Coburg were dangerous on rebound and the Redbacks were not converting well from the charity stripe. Still, they went into the second half with an 11-8 lead, a score line which slightly flattered Coburg.

After a tight opening to the second half, Coburg ground their way to a 20-13 lead. This was the signal for a Redback revival, loudly encouraged by a



Warrandyte's all-conquering Under-14 girls. Back row (from left): Gina Oliver, Libby Lavery, Louise Yates, coach Lorraine Parfitt, Emma Razzi, Tahnee Templeton. Front: Lindell Thomas, Amy Caudry, Kaitlynd Bottomley, Andrea Peters.

large and vocal supporter base for Warrandyte. The chant "Lets go, Redbacks, lets GO!" was filling the stadium and the fightback was on.

Tori Oliver scored from the free throw line and in a passage of sustained defence and sharp attack, the Warrandyte girls made it 20-all with a minute and 40 seconds to go and seemed to have Coburg's measure. Key point guard Kim Singh was fouled off, but Coburg also had two of their most dangerous players on the bench.

However, it was Coburg who responded to the pressure, scoring quickly from fast breaks to open up a four-point lead.

Try as they might, the Redbacks could not come back.

When the final buzzer sounded, Warrandyte's Sam Wilson was in possession, but Coburg had won 27-23.

Consolation for Warrandyte was Sam Smith's MVP award, for 10 points and excellent defence.

Coach Tristan Messerle was full of praise for his charges, paying tribute to their commitment and dedication.

Warrandyte were not done yet, the final game being the Under-16 boys, also coached by Tristan Messerle, and also playing Coburg.

Warrandyte were weakened by injuries to a number of key players, including Jake Templeton, Nick Caudry and Daniel Friggi, and earned the

displeasure of the referees early in the game, amassing seven fouls before the first was called against Coburg.

At half-time, the Redbacks trailed 12-23 and no dramatic second-half renaissance was forthcoming.

Coburg were converting well, and never allowed Warrandyte to get into the game. The encounter was marred by a number of off-ball incidents, but Coburg ran out deserving winners, 69-26.

Martin Clark's Under-14 boys were preliminary finalists, completing a strong finish to their season.

The highlight of their finals campaign was a 47-41 win over Coburg.



The Redbacks Under-16 boys grand finalists: Back row (from left): Che Pianta, Darron Wooster, Gavan Hennessy, Jake Templeton, Nick Caudry, Tristan Messerle (coach), Tim Given. Front: Luke Drake, David Friggi, Scott Cannon.



The Under-16 girls who went so close. Back row (from left): Tori Oliver, Jenna Hardy, Sam Smith, Mikki Greve, Kim Singh, coaches Tristan Messerle and Emma Wood. Front: Sam Wilson, Stef Smith, Kim Armstrong.

Changing of the guard

Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Club's annual general meeting last month saw the departure of five long-serving committee members. Karen Pearce, president for the past two years, resigned, commenting that with her full-time position with Basketball Victoria, she was "all basketballed out" by the time she got home.

In her president's report, she reflected on the major changes that had occurred, including the opening of the new stadium at Andersons Creek.

She also paid tribute to the retiring members of committee. Long-time secretary Lyn Templeton resigned, along with current treasurer Sue Cutler.

The club will miss the experience of these two contributors, but their organisation and approach will ensure that the new holders of the positions will have a flying start.

Also resigning was Jill Treeby, who for a number of years has managed the property shop. Jill retains that position for now, but in an off-committee position.

Junior championship director Luanda Pianta is also stepping aside, but will still be heavily involved in the club, with her three sons all players.

The new committee will be headed by president Damian Arsenis and vice-president Tristan Messerle.

Arsenis has already signalled his intention to focus the strategic direction of the club, with a discussion paper in circulation indicating some challenging and exciting long-term goals.

Kerry Singh takes on the demanding role of secretary and new committee member James Razzi is treasurer.

New committee members Emma Wood (fixtures), Nick Peters (junior championship), Tony Oliver (newsletter), Matt Treeby (boys director) and Debbie Templeton (girls registrar) join existing members Bill Bottomley (stadium), Sue Anderson (referees appointment) and Lorraine Parfitt (tournaments) in what promises to be an exciting time for the club.

Trophies galore!

Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Club's presentation day last month was one of their busiest.

Winning grand finalists and runners-up in the recently-completed Saturday winter competition all received trophies — which was quite a ceremony because no fewer than 20 teams made the grand finals, 10 going all the way.

A highlight of the day was an exhibition match between Hoop Time teams from Andersons Creek and Warrandyte Primary schools. Both teams have been very successful in this competition this year, Warrandyte edging out their neighbours in this particular encounter.

Kim Singh was a very popular winner of the Daryl Valentine Junior Award in recognition of her services as a coach, player and tireless canteen worker.

The Clubperson Award went to Sue Gillett for her work in the property shop and on the door in finals.

The Tom Hay Memorial Award for long service to the club was shared by Sue Cutler and Jill Treeby.

Sue spent many years as girls registrar and was recently treasurer for two years. Jill has supported the property shop with a regular weekly commitment, along with ready assistance at registration days.

Nigel Walsham won the coaches award, worthy recognition of his ability to bring out the best in his players.

Ten-year service awards were made to Jacki Dick, Dee Arsenis, Kylie Bevan, Kim Swain, Phillipa Bottomley and Andy Moore.

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So here's hooping, kids

Teams from local primary schools have made it through to the grand finals this month of the MacDonaldis Hoop Time Basketball Competition.

Hoop Time is a state-wide competition for primary school boys and girls. The main competition is called All Stars and is open to teams from grades 3-4 (junior) and grade 5-6 (senior) in both metropolitan and country Victoria.

The 5-6 team from Anderson Creek PS, coached by Simon Pryor, progressed through from the round-robin event at Maroondah to the regional finals, along with the 3-4 side, coached by Ian Wood. At the regional finals in Dandenong, the senior side was successful in a day which involved up to five games of basketball.

The second Warrandyte side in the grand finals are Warrandyte PS's 3-4s coached by Joseph O'Mara. They progressed from the round-robin event at Nunawading and through the regionals at Dandenong.

The grand finals will be played at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on November 21 and 23.

Sixteen teams will be playing off in each division, with NBL players looking on.

The Mosquito Fleet has kicked off for another term. This initiative of the Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Club is a series of introduction to basketball clinics for children aged four to eight. The one-hour sessions are conducted by former WNBL player and current Nunawading Spectres ABA star Kathryn Hay, herself a Redbacks graduate.

They aim to introduce basketball to children, teaching them the necessary skills to play the game before they actually play.

Sessions are conducted each Thursday afternoon at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre and bookings are essential. Contact Damian Arsenis for details on 0418 995 663.

Dytes chase leather!

Mooroolbark bats set us daunting assignment

Warrandyte Cricket Club's first eleven face a massive run chase on November 11 in their Chandler Shield match against Mooroolbark.

With former Victorian player Brendan Ricci in sparkling form with 147, the home side amassed 5-334 on the first day, despite being 2-8 after eight overs.

The Warrandyte attack, led by captain-coach Russell Jenzen and Gerald Walshe, was able to contain Mooroolbark early, but a 230-run onslaught after tea left the Bushrangers with a huge assignment. Jason Cloke made an impressive debut with the senior team. Just days after being drafted by AFL club Collingwood, Cloke sent the ball down with great heart and although he did not take a wicket he was one of the better bowlers.

The Dytes desperately need a win after the opening round against Wonga Park was washed out and the second match lost to Templeton.

The club lack depth in the playing ranks at present, but the return of key players Steve Bell and Adam White in coming weeks will bolster a fragile batting line-up.

The first day of the Chandler Shield season was a total wash-out and only 20 overs were bowled on the second day against Wonga Park.

In the second round, a disappointing batting display saw Warrandyte snatch defeat from the jaws of victory at Templeton.

Set a modest 8-176 to win, Warrandyte collapsed to 4-32 before a spirited fifth-wicket partnership between Jenzen and wicketkeeper-batsman

Cricket details

FIRSTS: Warrandyte 138 (Jenzen 40, Mooney 26, Sturesteps 23) lost to Templeton 8-176 (Walshe 6-42) and 1-28. Warrandyte v Mooroolbark 5-334.

SECONDS: Warrandyte 6-163 dec (Holland 69) d Templeton 107 and 7-256. Warrandyte v Mooroolbark 6-258.

THIRDS: Warrandyte 113 d Templeton 89 (Shackleton 6-25). Warrandyte v Mooroolbark 7-288.

FOURTHS: Warrandyte 54 and 86 lost to Templeton 314.

David Mooney turned the game around.

At 4-116, the Bushrangers had clawed their way back into the game, but at that point Mooney was run out in controversial circumstances and Jenzen was also dismissed without addition to the score.

Tony Sturesteps and Walshe began to turn the game around again and at 7-136 it was there to be won. But the last three wickets fell for just two runs and Warrandyte fell 38 runs short of their target.

The highlight of the match was the bowling of the tireless Walshe, who took 6-42 from 25 overs. He bowled with great vigour and penetration and looks set for another great season.

The second eleven started in spectacular fashion, dismissing Templeton for just 109 on the first day and replying with 1-102 at stumps.

Chris Snaidero, returning from injury, took three wickets and Campbell Holland was the star with the bat for Warrandyte with 69. Holland looks destined for a senior berth before the season is over.

The third eleven also had a morale-boosting win over Templeton. Warrandyte managed just 113 on the first day on

a ground covered in long grass. That score seemed little enough — but Craig Shackleton skittled Templeton for just 89, returning the amazing figures of 6-25 from 28 overs.

The fourths, desperately short of players, were beaten outright.

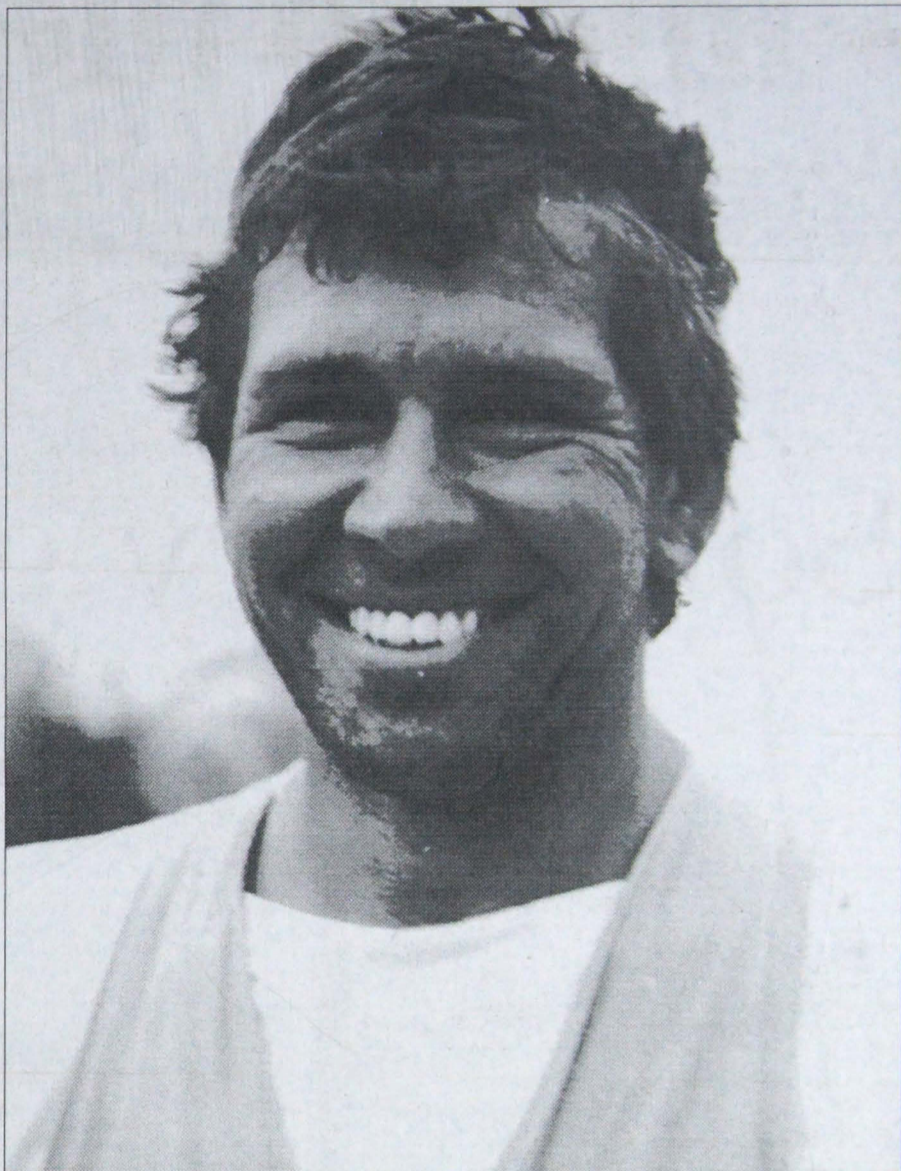
Warrandyte are fielding two veterans teams this season — over 40s and over 50s.

The "juniors" were beaten in their first game at Parkwood despite a fine all-round performance by Steve Pascoe. Pascoe took three wickets and scored 41 retired. Robert White retired on 42.

Any veteran cricketer who would like a game on Sundays should contact Pascoe on 9844 1213.

In the junior ranks, the Under-16s are unbeaten after two rounds. It is a remarkable effort considering the team are largely Under-14 players who missed the opening two rounds in their grade because of wet grounds.

● Seats for the club's Top 12 dinner on November 25 are almost sold out. The night will honour the best 12 players to represent the club in the 50 years from 1950. The remaining tickets are available through Robert White on 9846 7114.



Gerald Walshe: lion-hearted 6-42 in a losing senior performance against Templeton.

Bloods move to hold Clarkson

Dytes resume with a flurry

By TONY OLIVER

The summer season of the Saturday junior basketball competition has started well for Warrandyte.

The number of boys teams has risen dramatically to 29 and with 21 girls teams, the club continue to grow and a good showing is expected.

Some of the younger girls teams are performing strongly. Lorraine Parfitt is guiding sides in the Under-8s, Under-12s and Under-14s, with Emma Wood and Kim Singh at the helm of the top Under-10 unit. All teams are enjoying success.

The Under-12s have had three strong wins, including a narrow victory over top side Eltham side. The Redbacks team have a number of players from Warrandyte's successful junior championship combination blending well with domestic players, including tall centre Kara Hibbert.

The Under-14s have also started strongly, with four wins from four appearances including a most impressive performance against the talented Balwyn side at Balwyn.

In recent encounters, Balwyn had held the advantage over the Redbacks with a combination of strong physical play and skilful attack. This time, the Redbacks were more committed and won going away by 31 points to 19.

On the boys scene, the talented Under-20 coached by Malcolm Anderson have easily won their opening three games, including a 13-point victory over Park Orchards.

The team have welcomed back Andrew Moore, who is adding zing and pep to the offence. This will be needed as their next game is against the strong Eltham side.

Warrandyte's top Under-16 boys side has also started well, winning the initial grading games easily, with Gerry Pearce as coach. Gerry's son Miles is joining the team to add further strength to an outfit which has been moved up a grade in the competition.

Travis Brown has steered an Under-12 side to three wins in their first four games, the highlight a stirring 31-27 success over Bulleen with only five players. Like the Under-20s they face Eltham soon, which will test a team temporarily weakened by player unavailability.

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club are urgently negotiating with their best player to retain his services next season.

On-baller Mack Clarkson, the Bloods' best and fairest for the past two seasons and EFL Third Division champion in 1999, set off alarm bells when he suggested that he might be playing elsewhere in 2001.

Clarkson had told the *Diary* that he was disenchanted with Warrandyte's return to Division 3 after winning only two games in Second Division last season.

Asked if he would be shooting for a hat-trick of club best and fairest awards next year, Clarkson, 26, said: "At this stage, I'm not sure where I'll be playing next season. 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."

But outgoing WFC president Jeff Evans said every effort was being made to keep Clarkson at the club.

"Obviously, you do everything you can to avoid losing such a quality player as Mack, a player who has won your last two best and fairests," Evans said.

"We've had a number of talks with Mack and the talks are ongoing."

Also ongoing are discussions with several prospective recruits to bolster the senior ranks next season.

The Bloods will have their first training run under new coach Scott Hunter at the recreation reserve on Wednesday,

November 29, starting at 6.15pm. They will train on the next three Wednesdays before breaking for Christmas-New Year.

Interestingly, Warrandyte have appointed a former Australian ice hockey representative as reserves coach for next season.

He is Trevor (Harry) Gardner, whose football coaching background includes five consecutive junior premierships with Glen Waverley.

Gardner has played senior football and coached at reserves level.

His most recent affiliation has been with EFL First Division club East Burwood, from whom the Bloods recruited senior coach Hunter.

No date has yet been set for the club's annual general meeting, the timing of which depends on the completion of the audit of accounts. "As soon as that is done, all members will be notified of the meeting date," Evans said.

As previously reported, the club are likely to be administered by a new executive headed by former player/coach/secretary Robert "Noddy" Ireland, with Evans treasurer, former player Andrew "Bucky" Rodgers and local hotelier Noel Taplin vice-presidents and current senior player James Logan secretary.

"There will be vacancies on the general committee and anyone interested is invited to contact Noddy, Bucky or myself," said Evans. The respective phone numbers are 9725 5065, 0411 519671 and 9722 1111.



Junior champs Joel Drew and Katrina Sochacki.

Joel the new kid on the block

Warrandyte Tennis Club have a new junior champion. Fifteen-year-old Joel Drew defeated reigning champ Rod McCutcheon in a tight three-setter to take out the 2000 title.

Both boys play for Warrandyte in the Eastern Region Tennis President's Shield — the highest level of junior tennis in the association.

They teamed up in the boys doubles event but were beaten in three sets by Jarrod and Josh Casey after taking the first 6-1.

Another shield team member, Katrina Sochacki, continued her dominance of the club's girls section by taking that title for the fourth year in a row, not conceding a game against Kirsty Moegerlein.

Katrina also shared the girls doubles title with Tamara Valentino and the mixed doubles crown with Joel Drew.

Trent Valentino and Kirsten Sabo won the respective singles titles in the 13-and-under division.

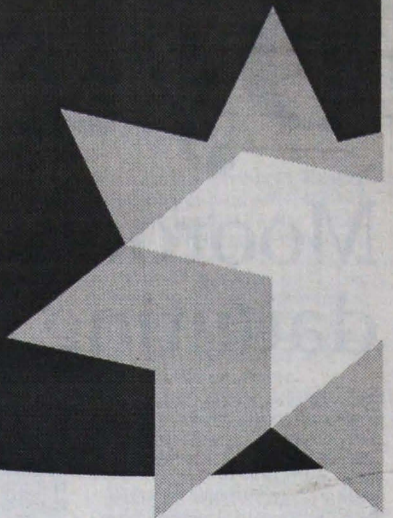
Details:
18 and under: Boys singles: Joel Drew d Rod McCutcheon 6-3, 5-7, 6-3. Boys doubles: Jarrod and Josh Casey d Rod McCutcheon and Joel Drew 1-6, 6-3, 7-6. Girls singles: Katrina Sochacki d Kirsty Moegerlein 6-0, 6-0. Girls doubles: Katrina Sochacki and Tamara Valentino d Emily White and Kirsty Moegerlein 6-2, 6-4. Mixed doubles: Joel Drew and Katrina Sochacki d Rod McCutcheon and Tamara Valentino 6-2, 6-4.

13 and under: Boys singles: Trent Valentino d David Wildsmith 8-0. Boys doubles: Trent and Tristan Valentino d David Trotter and Jonny Drew 8-7. Girls singles: Kirsten Sabo d Jenna Hodgson 8-1. Girls doubles: Emma Razzi and Jenna Hodgson d Tania Gavranic and Cassandra Montgomery 8-2. Mixed doubles: Nick Crosbie and Jenna Hodgson d David Trotter and Tania Gavranic 8-3. Oriander Family Trophy (most improved junior): Nathan Parke.



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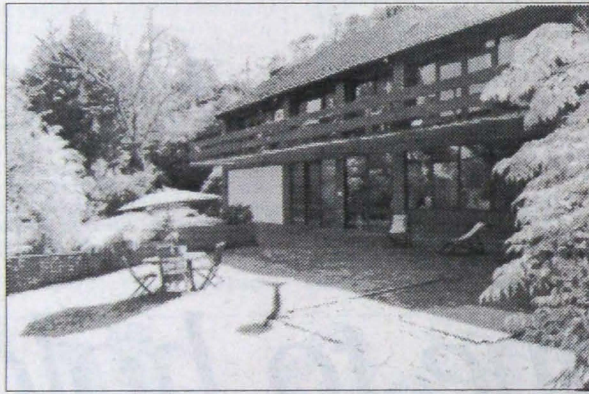
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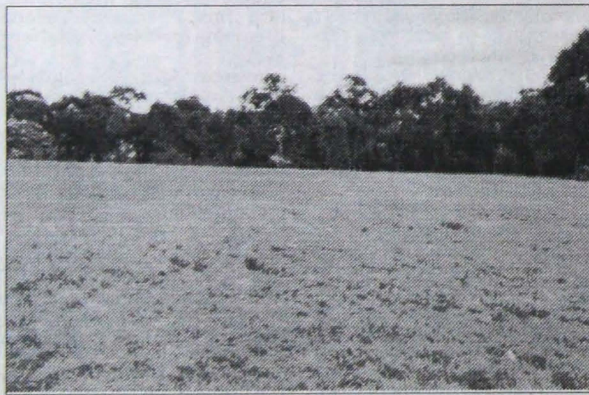
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