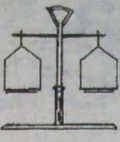


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No. 327, December 2000

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# Locals defend centre

By RACHEL BAKER

Responding to the threat of commercialisation of the Warrandyte Community Centre, local residents, at a public meeting held last month, resolved to resist this move and to establish a plan of action.

The meeting was called by concerned residents in response to Manningham council's October resolution to remove community control of the centre, secure valuations of the Yarra Street frontages to ascertain their potential for commercial rental, and call for interest from "not-for-profit" organisations to manage the centre.

Council's ultimate aim, as expressed in an earlier resolution, is "to maximise the centre's earnings from rental of prime spaces at market rates" and to make the centre "self-funding".

The meeting decided to form a working party to oppose council's plans. They resolved that the centre should be run for the community by a community-based committee, and that council should be requested to defer future action as the community is preparing a plan for the future operation of the centre.

The meeting, convened by Gina Bevan-Jones and chaired by Jock Macneish, chairman of the former management committee, was attended by more than 150 local people. It was addressed by *Diary* co-editor Cliff Green and Tony Summers, treasurer of the former committee, then open discussion was invited. Views were diverse.

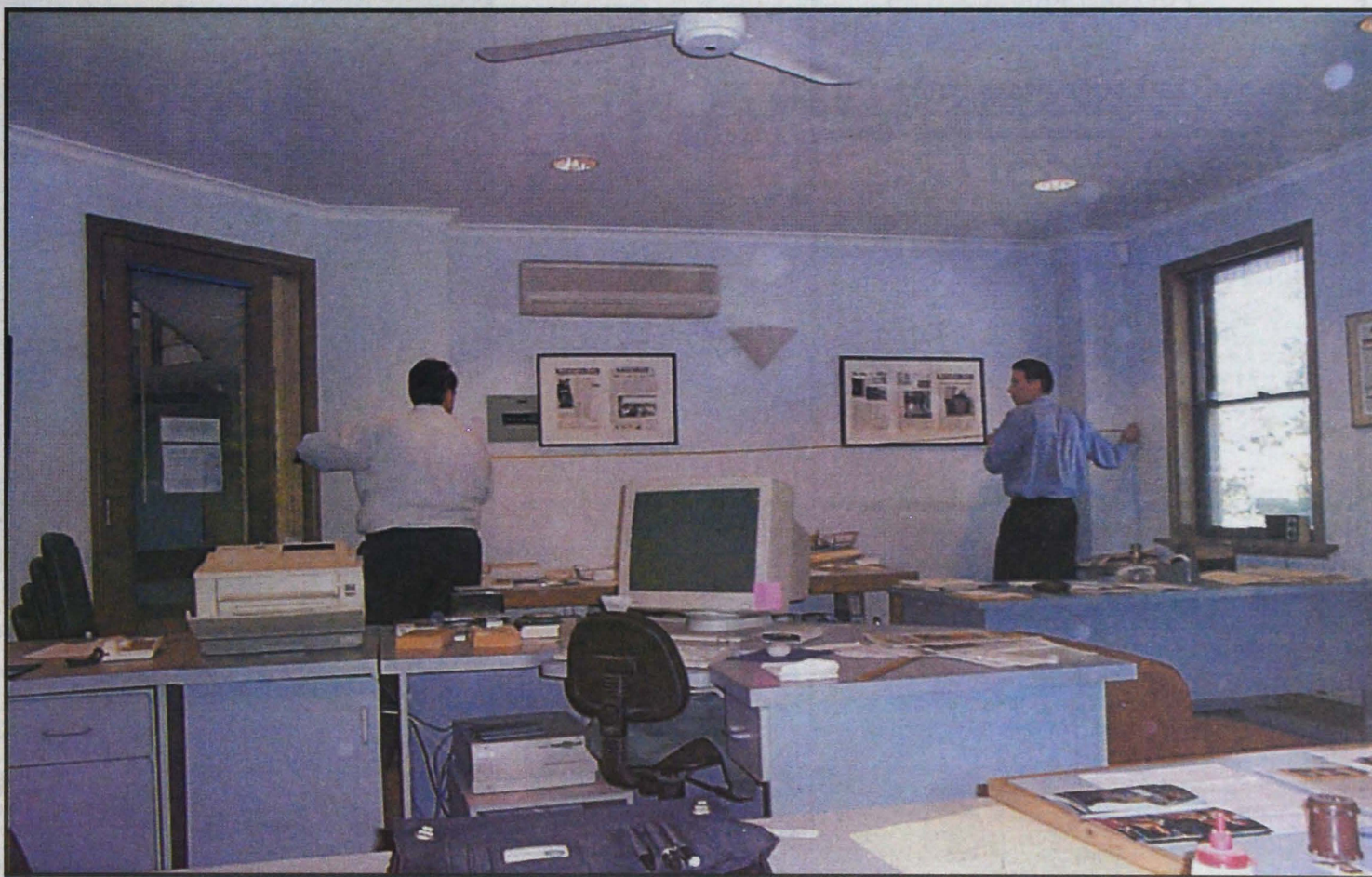
Val Polley, former Doncaster and Templestowe councillor, was the first to suggest that a working group be established, to act on the meeting's suggestions. "So council knows we mean business," she said.

Audrey Dreschler, longtime former resident, asked the meeting what action was needed: "Should we write? Picket? I'm willing to do anything!"

James Bonthorne told the meeting his views were different. "I don't believe protest gets you anywhere," he said. "We should do something positive." Mr Bonthorne believed the community should address the matter on its own terms, and not on the points raised by council, otherwise locals would be "putting power in council's hands". He suggested that any working group should not be made up of "the usual faces".

This was echoed by Steven Watts, who observed the low attendance of young people at the meeting. "Young people are the future; we should get them involved," he said.

## What are these men doing in our office?



Getting our measure: Manningham council valuers in the Diary office, Monday, November 13, 2000.

Cliff Green claimed that protest was a vital part of the community's opposition to commercialisation.

Cr Young's letter of apology (both councillors apologised for their absence, but there was no council representative present), was "symptomatic that something is going on" because it "avoids the issues," Tony Summers said. "I don't normally subscribe to conspiracy theories, but..."

Local resident Phil Clarke echoed these concerns. "These letters (from Mayor Allemand and Cr Young) do not appear to be the whole truth," he said. "There must be an agenda and I do

subscribe to the conspiracy theory." Finally, the following resolutions were passed:

- This Warrandyte community meeting strongly believes that the community centre is for the community and needs to be run by the community.

- This Warrandyte community meeting moves that Manningham City Council be advised that the Warrandyte community is preparing a plan for the community centre and requests deferment of any council actions.

- That the Warrandyte Community Centre be run by a committee of management comprising representatives

from the Warrandyte community.

- That this public meeting of the Warrandyte community proposes the formation of a working party to further the above proposals for the community. The working party to consist of: Jock Macneish, Gina Bevan-Jones, John Penwill, Rob McDowell, Pamela Dry, Darren Bowers, Val Polley (with power to co-opt).

The working party met late last month. They resolved to impress upon council that the importance of community should "be preserved and its definition reiterated"; that the centre should remain "for use by the commu-

nity in perpetuity"; that council accepts that "it is primarily appointed to serve the needs of the community and that any future management team of the centre is accountable to the community".

The party adopted the working title "The Warrandyte Community Centre Support Group", and decided that membership of the group should be open to the community, "with a \$2 membership subscription". (See coupon, Page 4.)

● CARTOON-P2; LATE NEWS-P3; LETTERS-P4; STATEMENTS-P5.

### CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS




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**DIARY**

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**Copy closes last Friday of each month**

**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.

# Youthful ingenuity of a would-be hitch-hiker

In the early hours of Sunday, November 5, a North Warrandyte youth broke into the local pharmacy at West End — and it's a fair assumption he wasn't looking for a toothbrush or a packet of aspirin. Unsuccessful in his quest, apparently weary and facing a long walk home, he then set fire to the cross outside the Uniting Church across the road ... in the hope that the North Warrandyte CFA would attend and he'd be able to get a ride home on the fire truck! Ah, the ingenuity of youth. Not to mention its laziness. Or lawlessness.

**CRIME FILE (Part 2):** It's pretty dumb, you'd agree, to leave your calling card at the scene of a crime and local glazier Terry Ryan is anything but stupid. Terry, who trades as Warrandyte Glass, was understandably curious when he got a phone call from Doncaster CIB the other day inviting him to drop in for a chat, but, being a law-abiding, clean-living, God-fearing young fellow, he cheerfully obliged. Ushered into an interview room there, he was confronted by a damning piece of evidence of guilt — a trademark Warrandyte Glass hat which had been found at the scene of a burglary. It looked like an open-and-shut case until Terry blew it out of the water by explaining that he'd lost the hat — one of only two in existence — in the car park or on the course when he'd played golf with his dad John at the Yarra Valley Country Club two days earlier. Back to the drawing board, Sherlock!

**CRIME FILE (Part 3):** As you'll read on Page 3, Senior Constable Kim Dixon tells us that about 7.30pm on Thursday, November 23, a stolen vehicle caught fire in the car park in Gold Memorial Road. The key witnesses here could be a couple seen walking a dalmatian dog thereabouts at the time. A dalmatian, eh? Couldn't have been too hard to spot.

Denise Farran, who is no stranger to this page, has a three-legged dog named Bella, quite a personality pooch and quite an identity around her patch in South Warrandyte. But she's by no means unique. Someone found a very similar

## IN RED & WHITE



Warrandyte Tennis Club's Christmas dinner was run this year as a pyjama party and Terry Booth, of Drysdale Road, was a runaway winner. He wore his mother-in-law's nightie, complete with a very fetching slumber cap, socks and sandals! That's the belle of the ball (or should that be bull of the ball?) above flanked by wife Pam and Ian Moore.

three-legged dog on the loose in South Warrandyte, wrongly assumed it to be Bella and delivered it to Denise's place. So Denise now had a matching set of two three-legged dogs and we suggested she strap them together and enter them as a unit in the greyhound races. After all, six legs have to be better than four, don't they? Denise didn't think much of that idea and besides, the owner of Bella's impersonator was located pretty promptly and a fond reunion followed.

Stop the phone calls and the panicking. Neil "Bozo" Dusting, your resident Page 2 folk hero, is alive, well and still living in North Warrandyte. Why then did our accident-prone cult figure not rate a mention in the November issue? Was he lying low? Had he joined a monastery? Had he enlisted in the foreign legion? When we put all the questions to him he smiled benignly and said: "None of those — I'm merely a changed man. I'm like a new wine these

days — a cleanskin!" It's quotable quotes like that which make Bozo's quotes so quotable.

Perennial Page 2 favourite Alan "Coatsy" Koetsveld has a new lady friend and a new nickname. They met as Coatsy was sipping one of his customary lemon squashes with a dash of bitters at the local inn after a hard day's toil and she immediately dubbed him "Tubby Bear", which we think is ever so cute and ever so appropriate. But that's not really the main thrust of our latest chubby chippy chapter. No, the big news is that he was bitten on the arm by a white-tailed spider the other day when he was pulling out wiring from under floor boards with his electrician mate Greg Dawson. Amazingly, Coatsy's quite okay — but the spider died instantly. Rumour has it that when the nasty little bugger (the spider, we mean) got a look at who it had bitten, it suicided!

Cathy Willis, our native flora guru, reminds us that summer is not a good time for planting unless you have a pond or a permanently boggy spot. If you do, the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend has a range of aquatic plants including *Ranunculus inundatus* (river buttercup), which has finely-divided leaves and bright yellow flowers. Cathy says summer is the time to plan for autumn planting, when the nursery will have heaps of trees, shrubs and garden plants which can be yours for a very modest donation. "We're open right through summer at the usual times (10am to noon on Thursdays, 3-4pm on the first Sunday of each month), so come on down and get some advice on what to plant when it cools down," she says.

Well, that's us for the first stanza of the new millennium and for the next couple of months, Smokey resumes his chosen career as a beach bum on the Bellarine Peninsula. Particular thanks to those of you who dlobbered in a buddy, spouse or whoever during 2000 and may the joys of you all throughout 2001 be many and GST free.

**Smokey Joe**

## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH

**BEYOND MANNINGHAM'S CORPORATISATION MODEL...**

# Council's plan revealed

## LATE NEWS

By **CLIFF GREEN**

A draft tender document for the Warrandyte Community Centre, which came to hand as the *Diary* went to press, "gives the lie to councillors' claims that council is not hell-bent on commercialising the centre," Jock Macneish, chairman of the former management committee said.

The draft document states that "market rentals are to be considered for those who occupy three street-level front spaces". It also gives no indication that council will continue to provide \$17,000 a year for a part-time manager, and requires \$5000 to be returned to council annually "to assist with refurbishment".

"The manager's salary will have

to be found somewhere," Mr Macneish said. "So it appears council intends extracting a total of \$22,000 annually from the Warrandyte community."

In her statement to the recent public meeting (see Page 5) Cr Patricia Young said, "I don't understand the community's concern, as nothing will change regarding the community groups."

"Obviously, due to the wonderful support Lions give to the community of Warrandyte, their increase would not be too much more than they are paying now," she said. "The *Diary* will also be looked after, and if they feel they cannot pay a small increase, the council will do their best to find them alternative space, either in the centre or somewhere else."

"Information Warrandyte will obviously be kept in the centre, but

perhaps may be moved inside the building with new signs outside, advising where their new room is."

Mr Macneish believes the draft tender document, calling for "expressions of interest" clearly sets out a mechanism for excluding community groups from the Yarra Street frontage.

"They just won't be able to afford to pay rent that goes anywhere near generating the \$22,000 annual payment required by council," he said. "Accommodation in the centre is strictly limited. Move these organisations off the front and there won't be room for anyone else; quite apart from their obvious need for streetfront exposure."

The draft document requires any prospective "tenderers" to supply "a strategic plan (operational) and a business plan".

"Demanding that a not-for-profit

organisation prepare a business plan for a community centre is straight out of Alice In Wonderland," Mr Macneish said. "A community centre should be working out how best to serve their community, not how to make money to return to council."

The document also proposes the establishment of "a community model which may include the development of a committee consisting of tenant groups and local residents and its role and relationship to the management body".

"In other words, they are trying to dress up this proposed management structure as a community operation," Mr Macneish said. "I suspect that they see this so-called 'community committee' as an advisory body, subservient to the management body and with no real power to make decisions on behalf of the

community. They'll be fronting for the community, with the management group between them and the council."

In his letter to residents (see Page 5) Cr Lionel Allemand said, "the steps being taken by council in regard to the Warrandyte Community Centre are in the best interest of the people of Warrandyte."

"How can a proposal which requires the centre to return \$22,000 to council and isolates the community from the power to make real decisions about their centre, be considered in our 'best interests'?"

"The Warrandyte Community Centre Support Group is examining the draft document and will report back to the community," Mr Macneish said.

The mayor's office has contacted the group and requested an urgent meeting.

## Sewer scheme a 'pipe dream'

By **RACHEL BAKER**

Calls for a sewerage plant in the Green Wedge are being used as a diversion from the risks of subdivision, according to the Park Orchards Ratepayers Association.

"They are two separate issues: sewerage and subdivision," David Mayor, vice-president of the association, told the *Diary*. "This offer of a sewerage plant for the whole of Park Orchards and Donvale is 'a pipe dream'," Mr Mayor said.

Proponents of a sewerage development, the recently formed Park Orchards Progress Association, have claimed that a small section of the Green Wedge should be sacrificed to subdivision so that a sewerage plant can be installed in order to "free" the unsewered areas from "contamination and degradation".

Warrandyte MP Phil Honeywood has previously described the sewerage proposal as just another effort to obtain "subdivision by stealth".

"The so-called Park Orchards Progress Association is just the Park Orchards Landowners Association rebadged," Mr Mayor said. He claims that if sewerage is a viable option, it will proceed of its own accord, without instigation by landowners.

"But one reason the Park Orchards area was zoned into broader acreages was the difficulties that would be faced with the installation of sewerage," he said. "The nature of Park Orchards terrain, particularly the steep gradients, have prohibited sewerage developments in the past," he said.

If sewerage was to go ahead, it would require either significant excavation or numerous pumping stations, to allow effluent flow.

"Infinite pumping stations would be a very expensive exercise, and the excavations could damage the environment and gardens," Mr Mayor said.

"A sewerage development would not justify subdivision," he said.

## Police appeal for witnesses



Any witnesses? This allegedly stolen car caught fire in the car park on Gold Memorial Road around 7.30pm on Thursday, November 23. Would the man and woman seen walking their dalmatian dog in the area at the time, or any other witnesses to the fire, please contact Senior Constable Kim Dixon at the Warrandyte police station, phone 9844 3231. (Digital picture by Jock Macneish.)

• **LETTERS—Page 4**

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# Penwill answers back

As my name was mentioned in the letter written by Cr Pat Young and read to the public meeting held on 22/11/2000, and as a member of the former Warrandyte Community Centre committee of management, I wish to make the following points.

● I am firmly of the view that council has for some time pursued a course of action, the aim of which was to ensure the former committee became redundant. This conclusion is based on minutes of council meetings and the failure of council representatives on the committee—Crs Allemand and Young—to attend the annual general meeting of the committee in August.

● My position on the former committee was as a represen-

tative of Lions, it was in that capacity I re-nominated for election to the committee. If I had been asked as an individual to nominate I would have refused to do so as I believe the rules of the committee and documentation relating to the occupancy of the centre by the committee unduly favoured the council.

● The Lions Club understood the need for an increased rental. It is the amount of the increase which was, and remains, a concern to Lions. Despite the statement by Cr Young that rental increases will be small, I am unable to reconcile that statement with the motion moved by Cr Young and adopted by council on July 28 that "the need to minimise resource requirements for the

## DEAR DIARY



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", and that valuers have recently inspected the centre.

● That the \$5000 council was seeking was in effect a license fee that was based on recommendations from consultants. Under no circumstances was I prepared to agree to a voluntary committee being required to pay a license fee to operate

the community centre, and in the performance of their duties be subject to performance standards.

● The Lions Club is firmly of the view the community centre is for the use and enjoyment of the community of Warrandyte and should be managed by the representatives of the community.

● With the demise of the former committee there is a wonderful opportunity for those interested in the management of the community centre remaining in community hands to develop a group that will be able to convince council they are able to do so on terms that are fair to both the community and council.

John Penwill  
Wonga Park

# Positive meeting brings future hope

How very gratifying, in today's age of "me first", it was to see so many members of our community at the recent public meeting called to discuss Manningham council's proposal to commercialise Warrandyte's community centre.

How reassuring also to hear from many young speakers who stood up to speak so strongly about the value they place upon the special spirit of Warrandyte epitomised by its centre.

How rewarding it must have been for the older members present to know their best efforts to preserve that

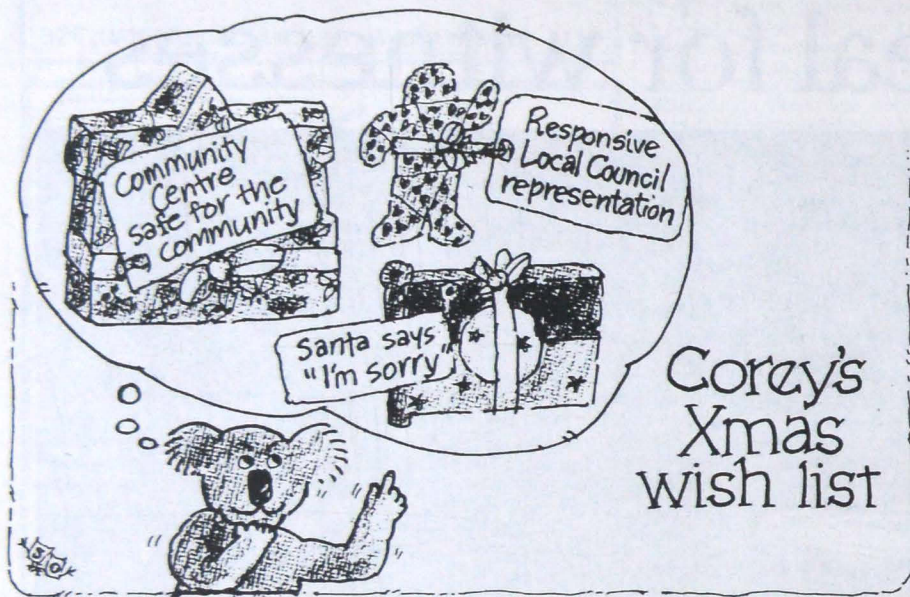
special spirit is treasured and held dearly by those intending to follow in their footsteps.

Our meeting was positive, and though serious, was also fun to be a part of. It truly was an occasion of hearts beating as one in a community that will not be divided. Warrandyte truly is a special place, made so by the people within it. My thanks go to all those who attended the meeting and those who have shown your support via the petitions circulating around town.

Gina Bevan-Jones  
Dolleen Road

## SO —!

By SYD & ONA



Corey's  
Xmas  
wish list

## Just what we need: lots more shops

Well all I can say is thank goodness Warrandyte is getting more shops! Right next to the Mechanics Institute! Splendid! There is a shortage of shops in town so it's just great to see more land being cleared to fit 'em in. Fantastic!

I don't know who makes these final decisions but I would sure love to pat them on the back and congratulate them. Don't forget to put a sign up letting us all know where they are and of course when they were established.

There's some land below the car park opposite the Grand Pokies Hotel, there you'll find some old tree that's been there for about, I don't know, 150 years and some other crap around it, land I think, I say uproot the old bastard, poison what's left around it and whack

in a parking complex! Bob's your uncle!

Opposite that, build a ramp that crosses the river, put up a Maca's and that way after the tourists have had a hard day of trekking Warrandyte's man-made footpaths and pretty signs they can relax with a McShake.

The possibilities are endless. Use your imagination people of Warrandyte and think Suburban! Hey if you can't beat 'em, join 'em. NOT!!!

PS. I would like to add that I am saddened to have read that our Community Centre could be privatised and our *Diary* out on the streets. What can I do to offer my support?

N. Van't Foort  
Drysdale Road

## Campaign memories

Congratulations on an interesting website. I was idly surfing and came across it. It brought back a few memories.

"Manningham council sets in motion plans for the commercialisation of Warrandyte Community Centre." Bloody typical, can't leave something which is working alone. The ideology-driven "user pays" or "everything must pay its way" is ridiculous. The majority of the community is happy to subsidise something which is useful, even if they don't personally benefit. Why not ask them?

We had similar problems with the proposed closure of the Fitzroy Pool a few years ago. These councils never work out the real benefits of anything.

Good luck with it all. Hooroo,

Anne Bullen  
by e-mail

## Centre: but did they ask Nillumbik?

History is a wonderful thing if what you read is correct—and this is. Your article on Page 5 of the November *Diary*, quoting former councillor Ken McKenzie in 1988, was written before dollars took over feelings for others, which now appears to be what our councillors and our council staff are doing: following the banks in their quest for huge profits.

No doubt the ratepayers of Nillumbik, or their representa-

tives, were consulted about the proposed management change to our centre? After all, they contributed to the purchase of the property. Perhaps they were treated like bank small shareholders and depositors.

It's not too late to backpedal. But that takes courage. Seasons greetings.

Trevor Parker  
Tindals Road

## Libs back our centre

At a general meeting held on November 8, 2000 a resolution was passed: "That this meeting opposes the Manningham council's moves to change the management practices' moods of the Warrandyte Community Centre by renting out the spaces at such high charges that genuine community groups cannot afford to pay."

David Moss, President  
Liberal Party of Australia  
Warrandyte Branch

**CLYDE & OCKER**

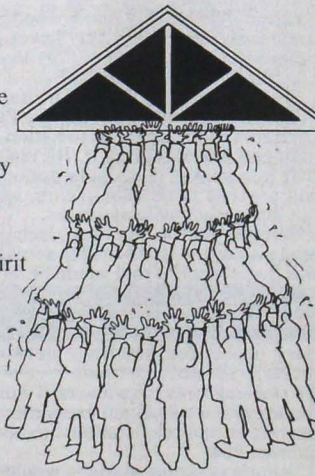
"Thought it was our centre, Ock. Shows how wrong you can be!"

## WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY CENTRE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

The Warrandyte Community Centre is under threat of being commercialised and run as a user-pays business proposition.

So if you :-

1. Care about the Warrandyte Community Centre.
2. Want to see a centre run by the people, for the people.
3. Want to maintain and nurture the community spirit of Warrandyte.
4. Want to help to create a fresh long term vision for our community.
5. Want to protect the centre from commercialisation.



Please give your support by becoming a member of the Warrandyte Community Centre Support Group with a \$2 membership subscription. Drop your completed application form and fee into the box at the Warrandyte Post Office, IGA Supermarket, Historical Society Museum, the Lions Club Op Shop or Information Warrandyte.

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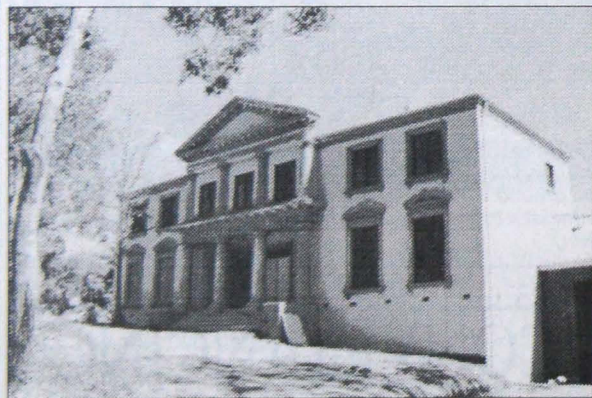
What would you like to see the WCC provide for you and your family? .....

.....

.....

.....

## Welcome to a right royal residence



When you're a little paranoid it's easy to believe that those North Warrandytians have always looked down on us lowly "South of the Border" Warrandytians, but all that's about to change!

The Windsors are about to come to Warrandyte! I did (I think!) but see her (as I was) passing by (Buckingham Palace Junior in Pound Road whilst on my "constitutional") and yet I love her till I die!

God save the Queen!  
(God save Warrandyte from Wallywood!)

Humble McSpedden  
Everard Drive

## Sewer plus subdivision Green Wedge guises

I've read with interest about some people suggesting sewerage in the Green Wedge, and cutting some of the area up for subdivision.

As a landowner in a Green Wedge area, I know that sewerage would not be economical, and subdivision would be the thin edge of the wedge for the development of the whole area, with the resulting loss of rural character forever.

Also, many people moving into the area seem determined

to turn our area into suburbia, with concrete drives, wooden fences, exotic plants, etc., and they don't seem to appreciate the character of the area.

An independent panel said to leave the Green Wedge as it is, and just before that, 1300 people signed a petition saying the same.

When will those wanting subdivision finally get the message?

John Hanson  
Webb Street

Mr Daryl Cox and Mr Trevor Parker write frequent letters to the *Diary* espousing (albeit under various guises) the partial destruction of the Green Wedge. No doubt they think that like a drop of water on a stone they will slowly wear the issue away. They will not succeed.

Many long-time residents of Warrandyte and Park Orchards have fought tooth and nail to keep this beautiful area in its rural/bush state and we are not

about to be hoodwinked into it being jeopardised now under any guise, be it a sewerage system or cluster housing.

Mr Phil Honeywood is right to add to his protest. He was elected on his promise of protection of the Green Wedge, and it is heartening to note that he has not lost his resolve.

Catherine Watts  
Melbourne Hill Road

(Correspondence on this matter is now closed.)

Pictures by Sandy Burgoyne

# THEY HAD THEIR SAY...

## Locals speak out at community centre protest meeting



Colin Bentley



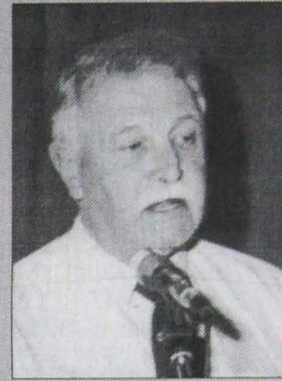
Val Polley



Audrey Dreschler



Margory Lapworth



John Penwill



Patricia Abbott

# Statements by councillors

Cr PATRICIA YOUNG was unable to attend the public meeting as she was overseas. She forwarded the following statement to Gina Bevan-Jones, organiser of the meeting.



Cr LIONEL ALLEMAND was also absent. Council distributed this statement to Warrandyte residents.



When the centre was built in 1991 council paid over \$2million for the site and building. The first committee, headed by Alan King, worked with the council to come up with a management agreement which stated that after the first three years the centre would return to council \$35,000 towards major maintenance of the building, as well as paying the everyday expenses of the centre. Up to 1997 the WCC had not been able to return anything to council for major maintenance or refurbishment and had only managed to cover everyday expenses, with council paying for the part-time manager at \$17,000 per annum.

All the other permanent community groups in the centre received funding from council to help them with yearly expenses. New lease agreements should have been signed with the tenants every three years, but this had never happened.

Negotiations with council and the WCC management committee have been ongoing since 1997 to see if there was some way that money could be generated to be able to return a small amount to council for maintenance and repairs, which all other management groups in council buildings have to do. Most of them have to return anything from \$20,000 to \$35,000 per annum. Unfortunately, due to the design, location and size of the kitchens, the building does not lend itself to many high-paying functions. The committee and manager Norm, and before him, Meredith, have tried their hardest to attract businesses, private people and groups to use the centre to generate more income, but this has not increased since 1991.

When the building was first built, it was envisaged that the three rooms on the ground floor fronting the main street could be used for outside rental and the rest of the building would be put aside for

Warrandyte community needs. Over the time, the Lions Club have taken over the largest area, with the *Diary* and Information Warrandyte using the rest.

The only recommendation that has been through council is that, due to the lack of income being generated—which is not anyone's fault—the level of retail rental would be looked at for the three spaces fronting Yarra Street only, and once the amounts have been ascertained, council will look at how much can be charged for these spaces.

John Penwill of the Lions Club has been part of these negotiations, as he was a representative on the management committee and understood the need for a slight increase in their rental. Obviously, due to the wonderful support Lions give to the community of Warrandyte, their increase would not be too much more than they are paying now. The *Diary* will also be looked at, and if they feel they cannot pay a small increase, the council will do their best to find them alternative space, either in the centre or somewhere else. Information Warrandyte will obviously be kept in the centre, but perhaps may be moved inside the building with new signs outside, advising where their new room is.

I don't understand the community's concern, as nothing will change regarding the community groups. Council is still committed to funding them the same as always, and is only looking for ways to make the centre more interesting and appealing, and also generate some income to return to council.

The recommendation that went to the management committee back in 1999 was that an agreement be made to return \$5000 only to council per annum (which works out at about an extra \$32 per week for the three front sites) by generating more income from the front shops, and that council ratify nominations

to the committee.

Council also agreed to continue paying for the manager, that the management committee continue running the centre and paying daily expenses, and that council look into the need for refurbishments to the value of \$200,000. This would include upgrading the kitchens to make the centre more attractive.

Every weekend now, the only thing open is the Op Shop, the *Diary* is never open and has the blinds drawn, and Information Warrandyte is only open for a short time. It was more interesting when the tourist person was in Information Warrandyte; at least that brought more people to the centre.

I am sure everyone agrees that it could be a far more interesting place with some retail in the front—perhaps a coffee shop—something that tourists might be interested in looking at, or whatever.

Following the rules of a management committee, every three years the committee has to be re-elected and advertisements are placed in the local papers asking for nominations from the community. As always, it is hard to get anyone to give their time to a committee and this time only John Penwill from Lions re-nominated. John will be asked to be one of the group when the new committee is formed, but no one else seemed interested. Jock Macneish has been president for many years and has done a terrific job and I was sad to see that he did not re-nominate.

I hope this puts your mind at rest. Council had no alternative but to appoint an interim group until someone is found to take responsibility for the running of the centre. According to regulations, five people from the community are needed.

CR PATRICIA YOUNG  
Mullum Mullum Ward  
(This statement has been edited for length and style.)

I am writing to you to clarify statements made by the *Warrandyte Diary*, in their November edition, relating to the Warrandyte Community Centre.

I want to make it very clear from the outset, that contrary to the misrepresentations in the *Warrandyte Diary*, the Warrandyte Community Centre is not under threat. Indeed the actions being pursued by council will deliver increased benefits to the Warrandyte community.

Due to the foresight of the former Doncaster and Templestowe council, the ongoing commitment of Manningham council and local residents, the Warrandyte Community Centre has developed into an outstanding asset, housing community groups that deliver vital services to the local community and visitors to the area.

Council's aim has always been to provide a first class facility and strong management structure to ensure the centre is fairly and efficiently utilised and properly maintained for the maximum benefit of the local community.

A building of this importance and value (currently \$3.5million) deserves to be protected so that it can continue to serve the Warrandyte community. Sadly, of recent years, the centre has fallen below minimum maintenance standards and a recent inspection of the building indicates that around \$70,000 is required to bring maintenance up to scratch.

The original agreement between council and the Warrandyte Community Centre Management Group (WCCMG) dates back to May, 1991 and outlined the responsibility of the group to operate and manage the centre and raise funds for the centre's operation, maintenance and management.

One of the early conditions of the agreement with council was that the centre become financially independent by the end of 1995, however this has never occurred. Instead council funding has continued and the agreement with council has been extended a number of times.

In 1999, council undertook a review of all council facilities to ensure they deliver better outcomes to the community.

The review of the Warrandyte Community Centre supported the continuation of community management. Council extended the term of the current members of the committee until September 30, 2000 and widely advertised for nominations from the community and permanent user groups.

Unfortunately only one nomination was received and in accordance with the agreement and corporation law, the WCCMG ceased to exist. Council therefore had no option but to act to ensure the continuity of services provided by the centre.

A working party was established and interim management arrangements were put into place. With the assistance of the current manager and community groups, the centre continues to provide services to the local community without disruption.

A public meeting has been called to discuss the future of the community centre. Despite council having a major interest in the centre's future, at no time was council approached as to the availability of the Mullum Mullum Ward councillors. Unfortunately, we will both be unable to attend as Cr Pat Young is currently overseas and I have committed myself to two prior engagements that evening.

Council is committed to the Warrandyte Community Centre and has agreed in principle to invite tenders from not-for-profit organisations interested in managing the centre. This is similar to the management approach taken by council for the very successful upgrade of the \$1.6million Dorney Recreation Centre in Park Orchards.

We will continue to provide funding and accommodation to local community groups and will pursue all available options to maintain and enhance the centre to provide increased benefit to the Warrandyte people for decades to come.

Please be assured that the steps being taken by the council in regard to the Warrandyte Community Centre are in the best interest of the people of Warrandyte.

LIONEL D. ALLEMAND  
Mayor



## 'Access to a community centre which we can call our own'

I apologise that because Parliament is sitting this evening I cannot join you. However, I would like to make the following statement in support:

A true community centre makes a statement in itself about the character of the community it serves. As soon as you approach our Warrandyte centre you gain a sense that this is a village that is proud of its history and especially proud of its community life.

What greets the eye is a hub of activity—whether it be the Lions Club opportunity shop, the *Warrandyte Diary* office or Information Warrandyte. This is a community that says right up in your face that "we have a heart and we care for one another".

Yet if we change our centre so that the street frontage is full of touristville boutiques and the like, then you send a completely different message about the nature of our community.

We are very different from the rest of the municipality that purports to represent us. We are also all too well used to our ratepayers' dollars being spent on aquarenas and art galleries that are far too inaccessible for the majority of Warrandyte residents to get value for money from.

Instead, all that we expect is that we will have access to a community centre that is not only user friendly but which we can call our own. Not much of an ask when you

think about it.

Warrandyte is a true community because people care about one another—volunteers donate their expertise and time for any number of activities. We probably have more community groups per head of population than anywhere else. This is all the more reason to send a clear message to Manningham—hands off our centre.

PHIL HONEYWOOD MP

# Fond memories of great times at Warrandyte school

Greetings from Pamela Dorkin (formerly Keen)—residing in Pretoria, South Africa since 1950—to Warrandyte Primary School.

On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Warrandyte Primary School, many happy memories come to mind of the years I was there as a scholar in the 1930s.

Our very capable teachers imparted knowledge and instruction that sustained my brother Jim Keen and me in later years.

Apart from the tuition received, I remember in particular the Mordialloc school picnics and my mother preparing

large quantities of egg sandwiches and ham sandwiches for these occasions. There was the fun of the bus trip to the sea and the squeals of delight when the ocean was sighted for the first time.

Other special memories include: basketball matches away, played against Doncaster and Templestowe schools; rounders on the field next to the school front gates; the fife and drum band—I played the fife, instructed by Mr Middleborough, the band master.

I remember the flag raising and oath of allegiance ceremony every Monday morning, led by the headmaster with



## DEAR DIARY

scholars assembled in front of flag, hands over heart, swearing allegiance to God, King and Country, singing the National Anthem, God Save The King; the bonfire each year in May at the back of the school to commemorate the anniversary of a royal birthday.

My father, Manuel Keen, donated annually on break-up day for approximately 14 years, book prizes to scholars for various achievements, giving away

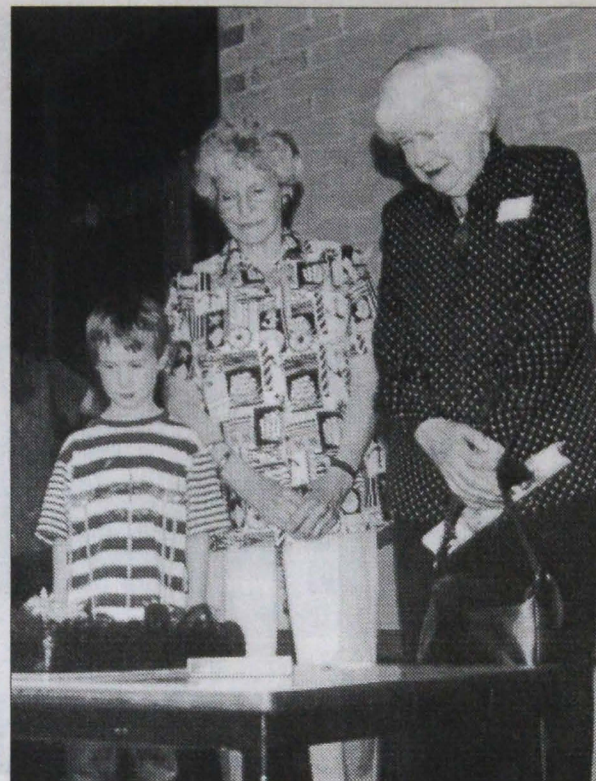
as many as 24 books at a time. It was said that the "Keen prizes caused keen competition". During this time he served on the school committee and was the school treasurer for a number of years.

May I congratulate Warrandyte Primary School and all office-bearers on achieving this milestone.

Long may the school continue to serve the community and to grow and prosper in the years ahead.

With fondest regards and memories.

Pamela Dorkin (formerly Keen) by e-mail



Happy birthday, school! Warrandyte's youngest and oldest pupils cut the cake in celebration. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

## A friend found

We would like to thank you for printing our e-mail about Alice Urmston in the *Warrandyte Diary*. We have had a letter from Alice's cousin's daughter-in-law to explain that Alice is still living at the same address but unfortunately she suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

We also received a letter from Alice herself after she read the article in the *Diary*. We have now informed the rest of our family.

Thank you very much for putting our minds at ease.

Alan Wright and June Whitehead by e-mail

## Audrey's special day

Elva Bull (formerly Strudwick) went to bed in Vermont on Friday evening thinking that the 125th anniversary of our beloved stone schoolhouse could not possibly equal the centenary celebrations.

But within an hour of her arrival on Saturday, November 18, Elva was proclaiming our most recent gathering as providing better opportunities for meeting and mingling with our mates.

Residents who have settled in Warrandyte since the late 1960s would probably have been surprised to see the "golden oldies" greeting each other with kisses and hugs. But we are

privileged to belong to a unique Warrandyte generation—those children who grew up in the tough days of the Depression of the 1930s, World War 2 and the post-war shortages. Those who had worldly goods graciously shared with those who had less. During the war years the total enrolment from bubs to merit grade (prep to year 8) averaged 90, so we became one big family.

The bonds of friendship appear as strong now as when forged over half a century ago. Flora (formerly McPherson) and Zeilah (formerly Stringer), both in their late 80s, helped the youngest student cut the

birthday cake.

All who attended the reunion pay tribute to Judy Finger and her helpers for organising this wonderful get-together. We thank the principal, staff, present students and their parents for their welcome.

On the following Monday morning, in the museum in our old post office, I met with Judy. She agreed with my suggestion that another school reunion should be held five years hence.

We all look forward to that occasion!

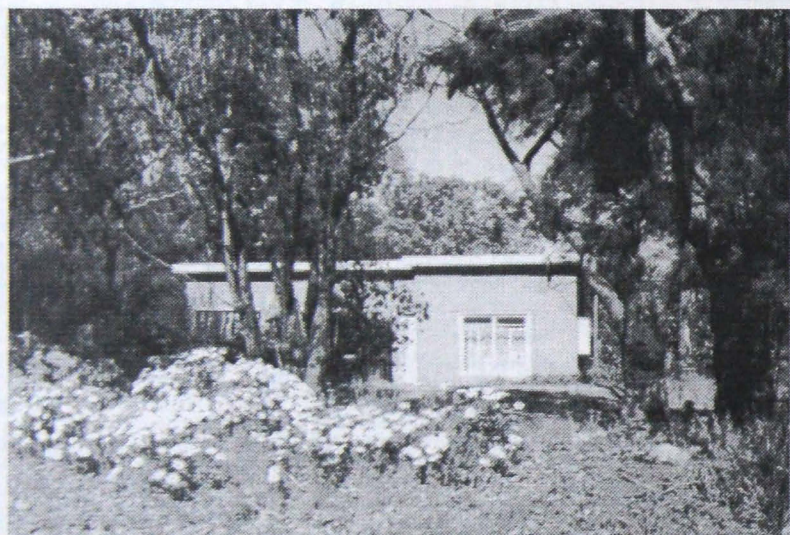
Audrey Dreschler (formerly Walsh) Sedgwick

## Thank you, everyone

I am writing to thank everyone who helped to make the Warrandyte Primary School's reunion such a huge success. The *Warrandyte Diary*, the historical society's newsletter and word of mouth all helped to spread the word resulting in a great turnout. Many people also lent old photos for us to copy and the school now has a large col-

lection, which we plan to continue to build on. If anyone has any photos relevant to the school that we did not have on display, we'd love to get a copy. I can be contacted through the school. Thank you to everyone involved.

Judy Finger Brackenbury Street



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### CITIZEN AND YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS - 2001

Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards are presented annually to local citizens who have made outstanding contributions to the community. The awards are provided by the National Australia Day Council (N.A.D.C.) and are administered by local government authorities throughout Australia on behalf of the N.A.D.C.

Accordingly, Manningham City Council invites nominations for its Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards for 2001.

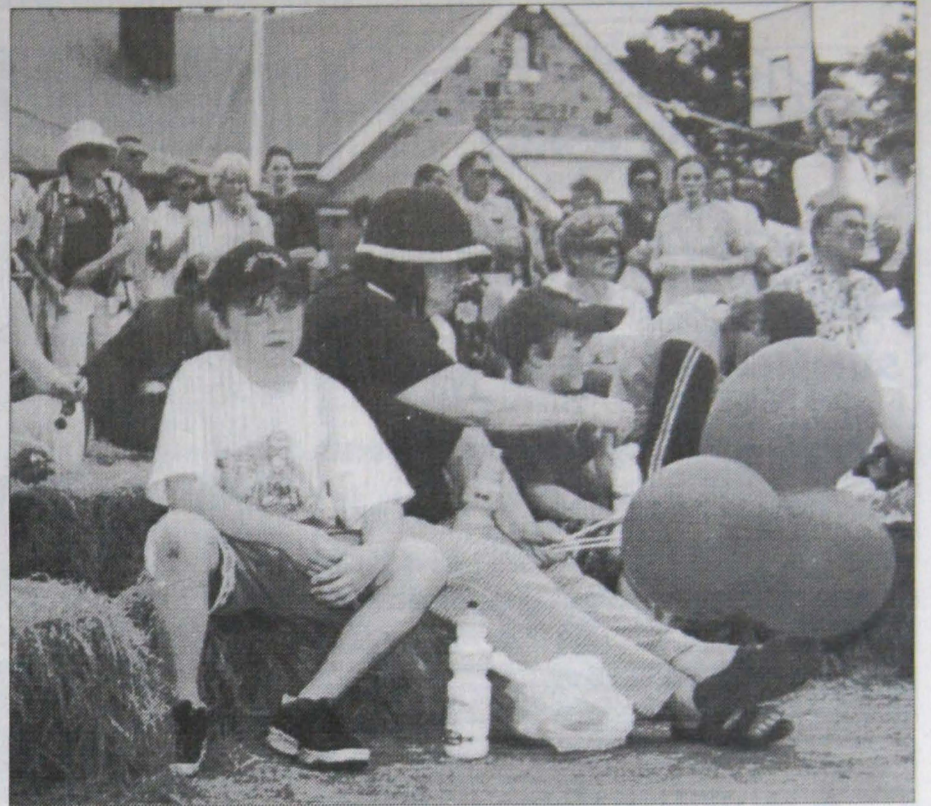
The awards are broadly based and made on the basis of merit. Any field of endeavour/performance may be recognised by the awards. This includes contributions in such fields as community service, environment, sports, arts, education, etc.

The persons nominated should have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the Manningham community over a number of years. The awards are to be presented at the Council meeting on 30 January, 2001.

To be eligible for Citizen or Young Citizen of the Year, nominees must be Australian citizens; however, they need not reside within the City of Manningham. Additionally, the Citizen of the Year must be 27 years or older and the Young Citizen of the Year must be under 27 years of age as of 26 January, 2001.

Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting the Corporate Support Unit on 9840 9210, from the Customer Service Desk at the Municipal Offices and from the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation branches with the City. Nominations will be received up until 29 December, 2000 and should be directed to: Administration Officer, Corporate Support Unit, Manningham City Council, PO Box 1, Doncaster 3108.

**BOB SEIFFERT**  
Chief Executive



## Happy birthday, dear school!

By MANDY DUNN

Crowds gathered in the beautiful sunny weather on Saturday, November 18 for the Old Time Fair and 125th Anniversary Celebration of the stone building at Warrandyte Primary School. Good old-fashioned fun and music filled the air. Stalls of all kinds offered a variety of goods.

Children enjoyed pony rides and the giant slide. Families and friends gathered in the café savouring milkshakes, Devonshire tea and cakes.

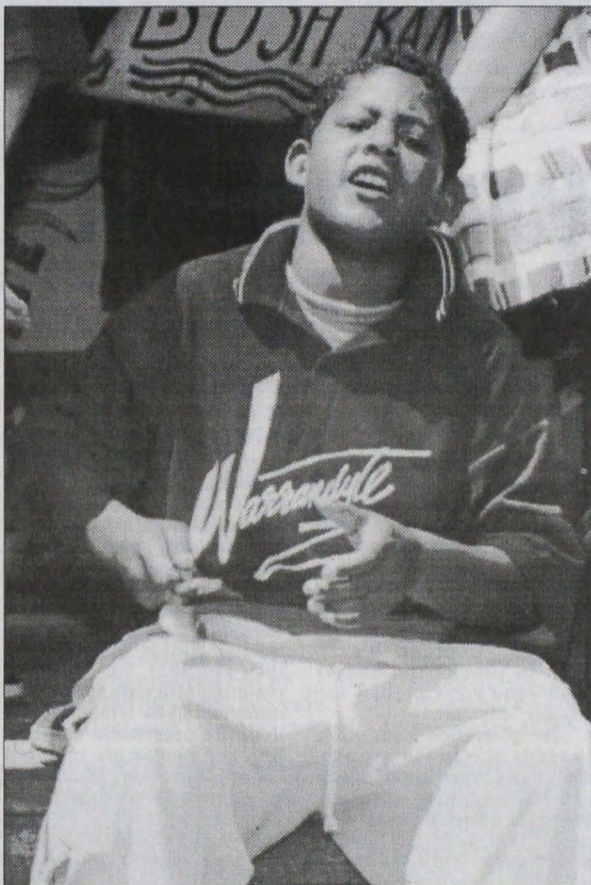
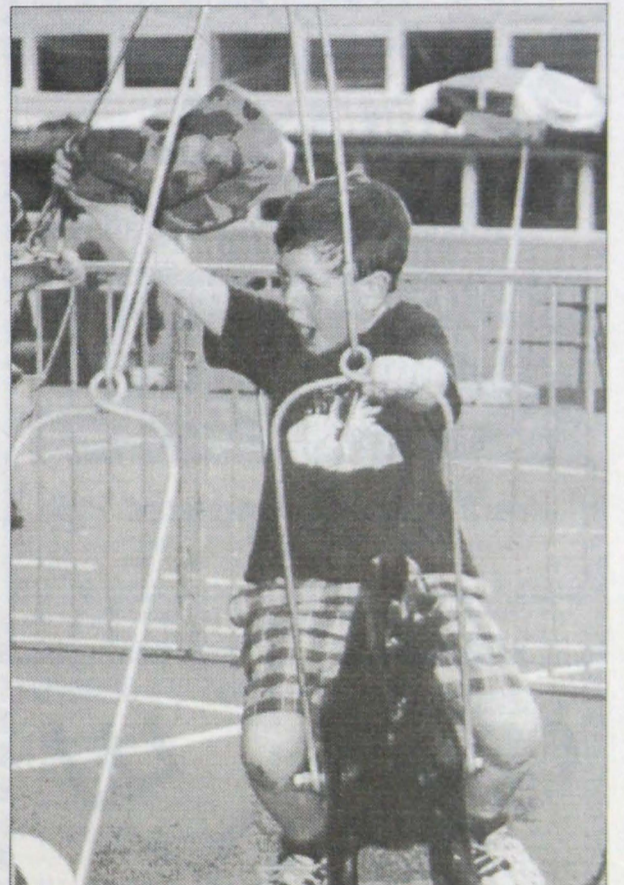
The overwhelming feature of the day was the sense of community and the warmth of the Warrandyte family. The reunion provided an opportunity for ex-students and teachers to meet again, share memories and catch up with what has been happening in their lives.

During the day, large and small groups of ex-students were reminiscing, reflecting, talking, poring over photos and taking new ones.

Warrandyte Primary School is clearly a special place to many people. More than 240 ex-students registered during the day and were given a copy of "Golden Memories" that included recollections of former students, collated to celebrate the reunion.

Entertainment during the day included the Grade 2 choir, the Grade 6 rock band and the launch of our new Warrandyte Primary School song. The oldest and youngest students cut the birthday cake, followed by a performance by the biggest bush band ever, who performed some old favourites.

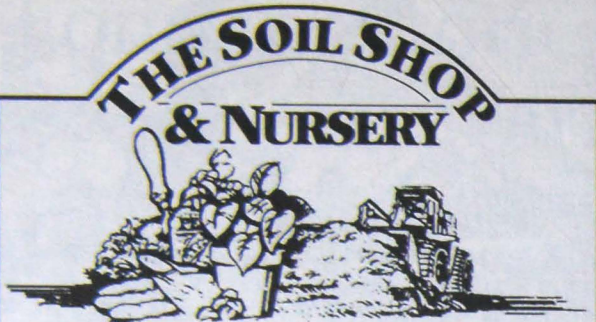
Thanks must go to the children, parents, teachers and Warrandyte Primary School community members for their contributions, making the day such a success. As well as raising funds for the school, there was an outstanding sense of community and an event that was enjoyed by all who came along.



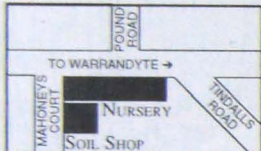
Pictures by SANDY BURGOYNE



# FIRE SEASON 2000-2001



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Standing by: Warrandyte CFA ready for summer action. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

# Fireproof your property now: brigade captains

By PRUDENCE  
TRUBY KING

Captains of the four CFA brigades in the Warrandyte area are appealing for residents to start preparing their properties now for the summer fire season.

According to Warrandyte captain Rob Kilkenny, any summer has the potential for a large fire and residents should continually tidy up their properties.

"It's not long before the ground cover has dried out and the situation catches people unaware," Mr Kilkenny said. "So don't wait — cut the grass, tidy around the house and move the woodpile. Keep the place clean during the summer. And cleaning the gutters for fire prevention also makes sense for summer downpours."

Mr Kilkenny recommends families have a fire survival plan, both at home and in the community. "What if there's a fire during school hours? Who's going to pick up the kids and how do they get there?" he asks. He says parents should check with schools for their fire plan as most schools would keep students during a fire.

The South Warrandyte CFA is especially concerned with spring growth in the area, brigade captain Andrew Blashki rating it as "absolutely incredible", especially in Park Orchards' One Hundred Acres.

"For the last four years there's been concern at the drought but now we're not so worried about the dry but the rain. When it stops raining and the growth stops the fire potential will be much greater," he said. Mr Blashki says there will be the usual slashing in South Warrandyte and Park Orchards plus extra

work to reduce the fire risk; councils are trimming grass and power companies are pruning branches from around power lines.

The CFA says fire restrictions will probably not occur before Christmas and residents should keep watch for signs and notices.

Mr Blashki says the demographics in South Warrandyte have changed, with people more prepared to give a cheque to the local brigade than their time. "Demands on people's time are greater. It's not a five day week but seven now and people are very reluctant to volunteer their services," he said. The brigade is running a recruitment program this summer, looking for operational volunteers as well

cause of The Common and the road's geographical aspect) and Hillcrest Road are all high risk and landowners should be slashing paddocks and reducing fuel."

Jim McKee, captain at Wonga Park, says it just takes one or two hot days for high fire danger to occur. "It's difficult to predict the danger level—you can't predict the season," he said.

"The difference from other years is the grass growth. Residents have to do their own housekeeping and cleaning up. If a fire starts in your property it needs to be contained there and the reverse if it happens to someone else's. It's part and parcel of living in the area.

"Don't underestimate—fire

Anyone with spare time is welcome to help at the fire station. "CFA volunteers are needed for both firefighting and support," said Mr Buck. "Most calls are for car accidents and small fires around the home but we are also seeking help for day to day administration and community support, fundraising, planning and data entry. Volunteers can be trained to deliver fire prevention information and people are required especially during the day. One firefighter is a 55 year-old woman.

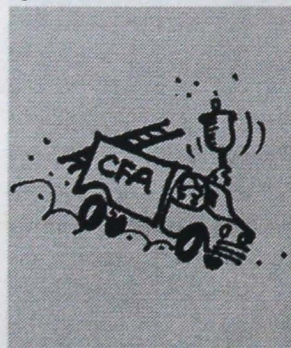
"CFA volunteers can help at any level whether one-off or on-going."

The brigade has a new \$75,000 firefighting unit funded by the North Warrandyte community, which now needs fitting out.

The CFA offers information packages and residents are welcome to visit their brigade to discuss their properties or CFA workers will come on site to work out the best fire prevention method.

The advice from all brigades is to remove ground litter and all vegetation under 6mm in diameter, using the council's green waste service if necessary. Ensure gutters are clean and no firewood adjoins the side of the house. Any flammable material where sparks or embers can gather is a further ignition point so ensure there are no spots where embers can lodge and start a house fire. Residents adjoining reserves and parks should be extra mindful when cleaning up their properties. Do the preparation, remove rubbish and inform neighbours of plans to be away before leaving for holidays.

As Jim McKee says, "fire happens when you least expect it".



"Fire doesn't choose what or who it burns. It takes what it can."

as people to manage training, volunteer resources, equipment and the fire station. The South Warrandyte captain said there are three or four fireguard groups which all need more work.

"South Warrandyte is a bit unlike Warrandyte proper. It's more open grazing land without the abundance of residents so it's harder to get volunteers but an easier fire risk to manage.

"Minter Court (off Knees Road), Johansons Road (be-

doesn't choose what or who it burns. It takes what it can."

The number of new residents moving into North Warrandyte is concerning the local brigade. The captain, Paul Buck, said probably 70 to 80 percent of house buyers are from outside the area and the majority of these people come from places that are not prone to bushfire. He suggests new residents contact one of the 26 fireguard groups in North Warrandyte or contact the local brigade.

# ALL FIRE CALLS: 000



# FIRE SEASON 2000-2001

## Hot tips for a fire-free summer

- Review your plan in the event of a total fire ban day. Are your children clear on what to do to protect themselves?
- If your children are at school during a local fire, they are safe and will remain under the care of school staff until the incident has passed.
- Remove door mats and place them inside or in the middle of the driveway on days of total fire ban or days of high fire danger.
- Consider how you might help assist others with special needs on days of high risk—the elderly, single parents, families with spouses at work.
- Move pets and other animals to safer locations on days of high fire risk.
- Remove winter debris from beneath your decking.
- Block your chimney over summer to reduce the entry of blowflies and embers.
- Fill gaps in timber work and wall spaces with metal flywire.
- If you cannot burn or remove fine fuels, store them well away from your home and cover them so they cannot be windblown.
- Store woollen blankets and water in your car over the summer period.
- Obtain plastic buckets, 44 gallon drums, wine barrels, drinking troughs for storage of water in the event of a water shortage.
- Purchase mops and super-soaker water pistols for the hard-to-get-to places.
- Cover your skylights with wire meshing or protective guards.



## This Santa's sleigh has sirens

South Warrandyte Fire Brigade continues a tradition of taking Santa to the streets on Christmas Eve. For nearly 25 years, this volunteer fire brigade has ferried Santa on a fire truck through the local area each year. As he passes, he offers packets of Twisties to children.

The event, which is always held on the Sunday before Christmas, has become an institution. Families who have moved away return to the area especially to see Santa. Local children know that when Santa arrives on the fire truck, Christmas is nearly here.

Recent university graduate Gavan Copper has lived in Donvale for all of his 24 years. "One of my earliest—and best—

childhood memories is of watching Santa come past in the fire truck. I would wait with my brothers, sisters and all the other kids in the street from about 6 o'clock in the morning."

It is not just the local kids who love Santa though. Volunteer firefighter Lieutenant Nick Read enjoys the day as much as he did as a kid watching the fire truck come past.

"I look forward to working with Santa every year. Whether it is pouring with rain or boiling hot, he never complains. It's a great chance to say thank you to the community—and put in my order from Santa personally."

Captain Andrew Blashki said, "We are aware that Santa is particularly

busy at this time of year, but he always makes room in his schedule to come out on the truck with us. Santa knows how important our community is and helps us thank the residents for their support and to wish them well over the next year."

South Warrandyte Fire Brigade has been conducting Santa's visit through every street within the South Warrandyte Fire Brigade area since 1975.

The visit includes parts of South Warrandyte, Donvale, Park Orchards, Warranwood and North Ringwood.

● Santa took a preliminary trip around town on a North Warrandyte fire truck earlier this month.



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Didn't our VCE kids look good at their valedictory evening? (Picture by Greg Ruthven)

# High school kids chase dreams

**By KARA WILLIAMS**  
Long awaited holidays are here. No more reading, no more essays and no more early morning classes. For Warrandyte High School's Year 12, last month's valedictory evening signalled success. We have made it! This time last year I remember thinking about my final year at secondary school. I

thought about homework and studying, and the endless hours of dedication that I would need to complete VCE. Now, sitting here at my valedictory evening, it doesn't seem possible that it is over. Although for the past year I have put everything "on hold", I now know I have completed something wonderful on my own.

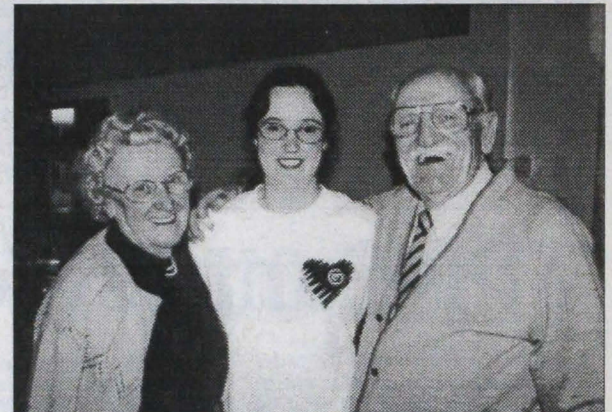
Chris Hughes and Melissa King, previous students at Warrandyte, speak vividly about the choices you must make after leaving high school, and the importance of following your dreams. Year 12 co-ordinator, Mr Peter Morris, and Ms Sally Venables acknowledge students for subject awards and special achievements. Many

students receive awards for their dedication and excellence in aspects of schooling. Scrolls are presented to each student, recognising their completion of VCE for the year 2000. Not only have we finished high school but we have demonstrated that we have the stamina to work towards our dreams.

# Community church heads for China

A group of 20 people affiliated with the Warrandyte Community Church are heading to Chang Sha in China early in January 2001, to work with disabled children in an orphanage. The church has interests with an organisation called International China Concern who run orphanages in China. Church members, Shane and Lyndel Austin have lived and worked at the orphanage for some time now. Recently the group ran a fundraising dinner and auction to raise money to help make the trip possible. "It was great to have the support of local business, including generous contributions from our IGA Supermarket, where some of the team are on staff," a spokesperson said.

"The team going to China is made up of young and older people, both male and female and includes students, carpenters, a dental nurse and a horticulturalist. "Geoff Hall, a widely travelled film maker and an elder of the church, will be the leader of the team." He is planning to make a film while in China. Geoff says, "Many of the people going on this trip are young, and have a genuine desire to help those less fortunate in our world. They are keen to show those orphans something of God's love for them in a practical way". Each of the team is raising money to fund their own expenses. Further information can be obtained from Pastor Peter Keep on 9844 4148.



Hannah Harris from IGA (centre) with long-term church members Ed and Laurel Bentley.

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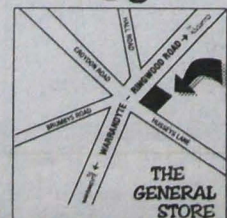
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# Locals call for treaty



Flashback: Nillumbik rallied for reconciliation in May this year.

By FIA CLENDINNEN

A treaty was not something to be "afraid of", but should be seen as being of benefit to both black and white Australians, according to Mick Dodson, well known indigenous activist.

"We simply mustn't allow our political leaders to run scare campaigns against a treaty," he said. "A treaty would protect the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and (therefore) protect the rights of us all."

Dr Dodson also pointed out that Australia was the only country belonging to the former British Commonwealth that did not have a treaty between its "first nation" and the government.

Dr Dodson, a former social justice commissioner with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Commission, was speaking at a standing room only meeting at the Nillumbik Community Centre earlier this month, at the invitation of Nillumbik Mayor, Margaret Jennings.

Dr Dodson said that since the

1960s there had been considerable improvement in the treatment of indigenous people, particularly in the area of civil rights. "As a nation we can be justly proud of this but we can't sit on our hands," he warned. "There's a lot of hard work ahead of us."

He pointed out that while polls show around 78 percent of Australians supported reconciliation, only 53 percent were in favour of the concept of a treaty. "We need to get that number up," he said.

Prime Minister John Howard has dismissed calls for both a treaty and an apology to the stolen generation.

Mr Howard has said that instead he supported "practical reconciliation". But Mr Dodson disagreed with the Prime Minister.

"Mr Howard's so called practical reconciliation, as far as I can see, means practically nothing," said Dr Dodson.

He said that while government policies could help improve socio-economic disad-

vantage suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in areas such as health, education, housing and employment, what was still missing was a "moral dimension".

A treaty was necessary to recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were the first nation of Australia and should therefore enjoy distinctive rights. "Not better or superior or special rights," he said. "I mean different rights."

"Our experience of colonisation distinguishes us from all others in this multicultural nation."

"Perhaps this is the essential difference," said Dr Dodson.

Richard Frankland, who is another indigenous activist, as well as a singer and film maker, was also at the meeting. He showed his award winning film Harry's War, which is based on the true story of a member of his family who signed up as a soldier in the Second World War.

Mr Frankland said that since being a child, racism and dis-

crimination had profoundly affected him.

"I remember as a 10 year-old boy being called horrific names by a woman when she discovered I was aboriginal," he said. But he told the audience he was "too much of a gentleman to repeat those names".

Mr Frankland said that indigenous people needed to take responsibility for their destiny. "Once we control our welfare and our voice we will unleash upon the world something strange and wonderful and new," he said.

Judging by Mr Frankland's film this has already started to happen.

At first Harry's War seems like a simple historical movie. But the story moves quickly and issues such as racism, friendship and loss are treated with the economy and directness of a fable. Like all the best stories, Harry's War goes straight to the heart and most of the audience were blinking back tears by the time the lights were turned back on.

# Buildings proceed without permits

By RACHEL BAKER

Sometimes it seems like buildings and developments are going up everywhere.

Usually, the proper procedures are followed: someone wants to build something; they apply to council for a permit; objections are sought and the application is granted or denied.

But what happens when people just start building? When they don't apply for a permit, and neighbours don't have a chance to object?

This practice of unauthorised development happens "quite a few times a year", Paul Molan, neighbourhood amenity manager of Manningham council, said.

"Apart from patrolling all the streets all the time, there's not a lot council can do to stop it," he said.

Earlier this year, a resident in Leber Street built a barbecue area in their backyard. The development—a concrete floor and a roof of wooden planks—had not been granted a permit.

Six months later, in October, neighbours received a letter from Manningham council saying a permit was being sought and inviting objections.

Steven Watts, who is a next-door neighbour to the property, has objected to the development, but he believes this process of retrospective permit application will be futile.

"What's he (the builder) going to do? There's nothing much we can do now," Steven said.

Sometimes structures built without a permit have to be demolished, accord-


ing to Mr Molan.

The first thing council does is find out if a permit has been granted. Following the deregulation of the permit granting process by the Kennett government, other organisations are allowed to grant permits. The council has to find out if this has happened, Mr Molan said.

The next step is to consider the application and assess the impact on neighbours. "(At the property in Leber Street) work has been stopped," Mr Molan said.

Once the case has been assessed, the barbecue area may have to be demolished.

Mr Molan denied that the system is flawed. "It's something you can't get around," he said. "Sometimes people just start building things."



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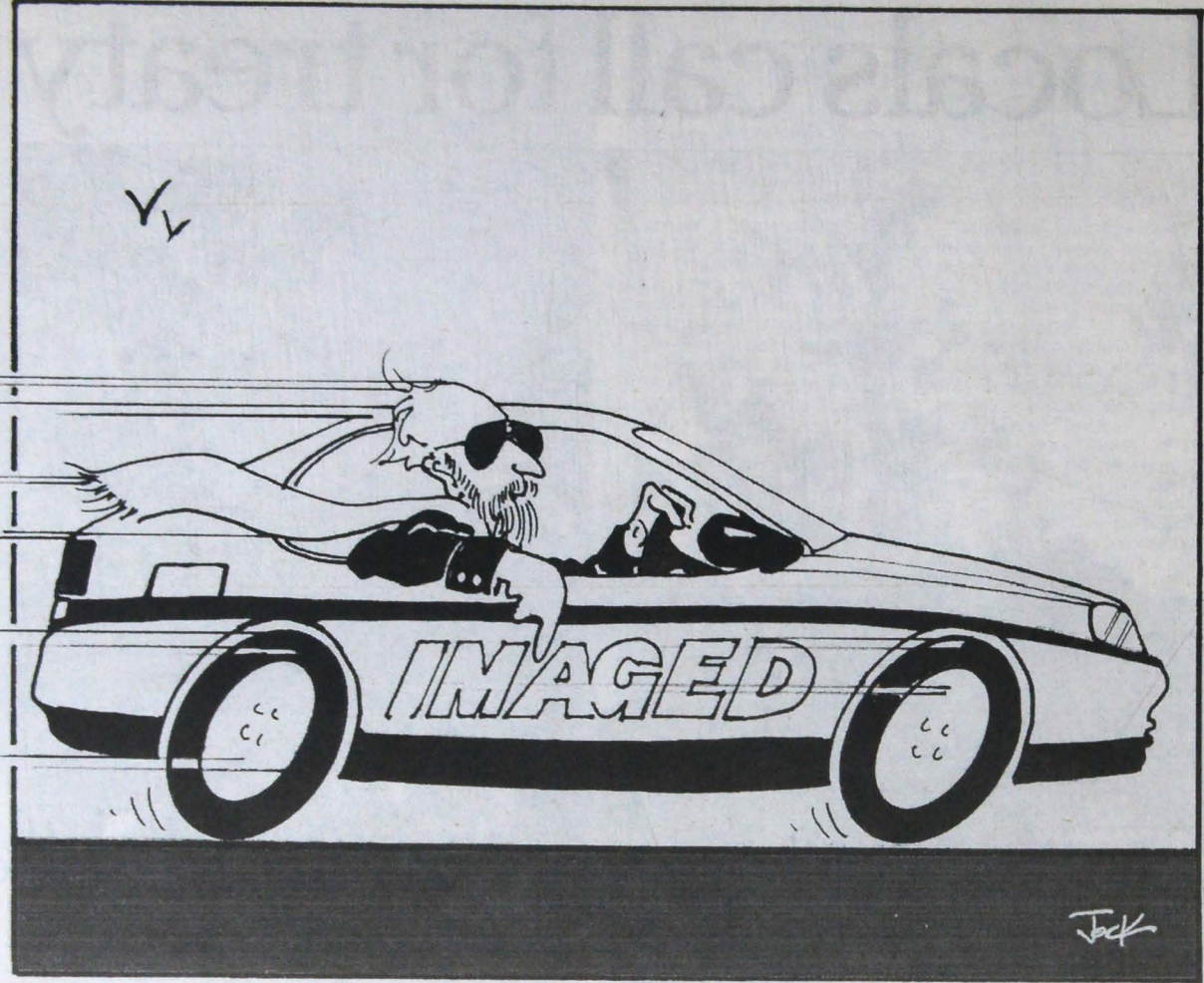
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# Ascending man aspires to find automatic glory

I'm a reconstructed, vital, vibrant and eminently enviable new man.  
 Gone is the brown cardigan-clad academic who drives a boring old banger. The old me has gone. Phoenix-like, I have emerged from the ashes of my past and it's all because I've bought a new car.  
 Now to those of you who remember all the fuss I made about getting rid of ARK, this news will come as something of a shock. For me to change so rapidly from being an old stick-in-the-mud to being an attractive, game-show-guest consumer is like accepting that Herself is capable of taking a lifetime vow of silence, and sticking to it.  
 But change I did. Not because I wanted to, but because I'm a social animal and am prone to the same sort of peer pressure as the next man. I need to be loved; to be mentioned in the same breathless, awed tones when locals are gossiping about our local glitterati. And to do this I had to shed the baggage associated with my old, beloved Sunbird, ARK. I mean, what a PR nightmare. Just imagine all the jokes about Noah and age and my interest in insects and animals. So, when ARK went to God, I decided it was time to join the fast set.  
 Admittedly, I did have a period of transition. I eased myself into the pre-new millennium image by buying a second-



**"You're that grumpy codger who scribbles nonsense once a month in the local rag."**

hand Camry. I didn't want to go cold turkey. It took me a short time to accustom myself to the new image. I shaved my beard and changed my spectacle frames. I was hot to trot, I was a changed man, and I was sure it showed.  
 Others looked amazed when, casually, I asked whether the new machine fitted my new image.  
 "What image?" came the astonished reply.  
 "You know. Everyone has an image and it's usual for them to select the type of car to reflect that. For example, Jock drives a Beemer but he also hoons around on his throbbing bike. So you see, he manages to com-

bine the two sides of his personality; the extremely wealthy, aging but distinguished pillar of the community and the James Dean persona of his dreams, the one who raises dust and mayhem on the streets of Warrandyte."  
 "Yeah, I understand that Jock has an image but you...? You're that old grumpy codger who scribbles nonsense once a month in the local rag. That illustration says it all."  
 It was at this point that I began to have my doubts that the transformation had been as effective as I had hoped. I rushed to the current copy of the *Diary* and turned to Kibbled. And there, in the middle of the article was Jock's image of me. And what I saw I wasn't too sure fitted the new me I wanted for the new century. It may have been accurate when I was into macrame, mung beans and pot-bellied stoves, but it certainly didn't gel with the reconstructed Roger of the year 2000.  
 The image that presented itself bore no resemblance to the one I have in my mind's eye. Jock's representation is of a slightly befuddled, bearded geek. The sort of guy who would drive an old model, untrendy Holden, or at best, a slightly newer, but still unchic Toyota sedan.  
 If the image hadn't altered then I was going to have to take more serious action. I bit the bullet and decided to buy a new

car. But what sort?  
 Old habits die hard. You see, I'm not a very good shopper. Nor am I one of those men who spends hours visiting dealers, test driving cars even if he knows he can't afford them. For these guys it's essential research material so they can drop into dinner party conversation the snippet of information that "I was test driving a Spongo ZXV12 convertible the other day. Not bad on acceleration but I think the interior finish is a bit shoddy. I'm seriously thinking about the Wizzo turbo charged four-wheel drive. Be great for carting equipment for the new olive trees on the farm we've just bought on the Peninsula."  
 With me it's usually a flying visit to one or two dealers, a bit of haggling over price and then a hurried exit. This time, in keeping with the seriousness of the operation, I decided I had better test drive two brands. This I did with appropriate solemnity. After all, this was to decide how Jock would represent me for the new millennium. I threw caution to the wind.  
 Did I want automatic? Yes.  
 Did I want Ming protection? Certainly.  
 Did I want tinted windows? And what else?  
 A hatchback? Why not!  
 Finally, a rebirth. Just call me Seca Ascent man!  
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# One day, one day, when platypus come to play

**T**HE old man and his grandson rose at first light, and in the cool grey stillness of pre-dawn made their way down to the river. Finding a flat dry rock not far from the bridge, they sat down side by side and waited. They had come to watch the platypus play.

The health of the river had been restored. Here, at the shallow rapids—a favourite place for platypus—water rippled over a bed of stones, clear and honey-brown.

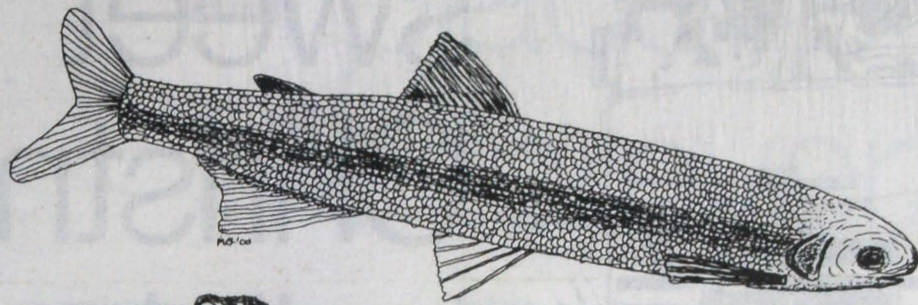
"You know," said the old man laconically, half-mesmerised by the sparkling water, "they used to say that the Yarra flowed upside down."

The boy, who was eight and sharp as a surgeon's knife, asked knowingly, "Because it was so muddy?"

"Yep. Full of shit and full of crap. Silt and carp, I mean." The boy laughed at his grandfather's deliberate slip of the tongue.

"The silt came down from the farmlands upstream," the old man went on to explain. "Every time it rained heavily, top soil washed into the river through ever widening cracks in the land called erosion channels. Then, to make matters worse, the carp came. Carp, you see, feed by sucking mud from the bottom of the river, extracting food items and then expelling the silty residue. This continually stirs up the mud, a bit like the agitator on a washing machine."

"Although the carp were introduced from Europe way back in the 1860s, it wasn't until 1972 that they found their way into the Yarra by way of a farm dam. Most of the native fish disappeared—couldn't survive in the



## NATURE

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

muddy water. Once they got rid of the carp, though, things began to improve and fish like the Australian grayling gradually came back. A magnificent fish, the grayling, sleek and strong—a powerful swimmer in fast-flowing water. I've seen them get to about this size," he said, sinewy hands held about 30 centimetres apart to show the length of an imaginary fish.

"How did they do it, get rid of the carp, I mean?" the boy asked.

"It was a virus. The scientists discovered a virus that only infected European carp. Stopped them producing eggs. No eggs, no babies and so the carp died out."

"Wow!" exclaimed the boy. "But what about all the mud from the farmlands?" He was sure that his grandfather knew everything there was to know about Warrandyte.

The old man had lived in Warrandyte all his life, except

for the times he'd been travelling and there'd been plenty of those. But now, in the gloaming of his life, he was reluctant to journey far from home. He smiled patiently at his young grandson and began to describe the remarkable transformation of the river.

"One of the first things they did was remove the willows to allow the native vegetation to grow back. In the old days people thought that willows stabilised the banks, but they didn't, they just choked the creeks and stuffed up the flow of the river. Not good habitat for small creatures like the crustaceans that the grayling feed on—platypus hated them, couldn't burrow into the dense mat of roots. Progressive councils, land managers and water managers worked together—river management became a big business. The farmers and other land owners got right into a thing called Landcare and started planting trees to control erosion and fencing sections of the river and creeks to keep their stock out. Of course they had to clean up the creeks too, not just the river."

"How long ago was all this, Grandpa?" asked the boy, captivated by the story.

"Oh, it was a long, long time ago. I must have been about your age." The old man looked to the sky to help him remember and caught sight of the bridge. A wistful look came over his 80 year-old, time-wrinkled face and for a moment he was lost in the past. "In fact," he said distantly, "I reckon the turning point was around the dawn of the millenium. Yes. What a party Warrandyte had that night. The fireworks. The people. And I was allowed to stay up to see the New Year in. Not just a new century, but a new millennium," he said softly and slowly as if by drawing out each syllable he could somehow prolong the memory of that unforgettable night. A night like no other.

A loud plop ruptured his reverie, hurtling him back into the present. The boy was clutching at his arm and pointing at the whirlpool of ripples below them. "Look, Grandpa, look," he whispered excitedly, "the platypus have come out to play."

# Testing your end-of-year resolve

**D**ON'T you just love that end-of-year process of assimilating, sorting and regurgitating the year's experiences? For some it's writing the annual Christmas letters; for others, exams. To help you get underway, here is a little practice test. Answer all questions. You have exactly 3.7 seconds.

1. You are a teenager slumped over a computer playing *Half-life*, and your mother asks you to sweep the deck. The laws of energy conservation require that (a) you move as slowly as possible; (b) you do not move at all; (c) before picking up a broom, you must consume a quantity of icecream whereby the calories contained in the icecream = the mass of the broom  $\times a^2$ , where  $a$  is the average velocity of the broom in sweeps per second; (d) in order to maintain a balance of power, you move as quickly as possible in a direction away from the deck.

2. The amount of stored energy in a body is proportional to the difference between the energy required to get the body



## OUR PLACE

By **MARILYN MOORE**

through the day and the daily calorie intake. "Stored energy" can be defined as (a) potential energy, when the body is under 20 years of age and the stimulus for energy expenditure does not involve the use of a broom; (b) fat, if the body is over 40 years of age, irrespective of all other parameters; (c)  $E = mc^2$ , where  $E$  is stored energy,  $m$  is the bodyweight of the teenager's mother, and  $c$  is (the probability that she has not had a good gallop around the block lately)  $\times$  (the period in weeks since she last had eight hours of continuous sleep).

3. The most scientific method of removing price stickers from

Christmas presents before you wrap them requires you to (a) pull off the paper sticker, then try to rub off the glue with your index finger; (b) pull off the paper sticker, try to rub off the glue with your index finger, then try to disguise the dirty patch with a delightful little sticker bearing the message "Happy Xmas" or a picture of a flower; (c) pull off the paper sticker, remove the glue with eucalyptus oil, then try to remove the oil stain with a hot iron and an absorbent cloth; (d) skip removing the sticker, the glue, the oil, the effects of the hot iron etc., and just black out the price with a texta. Buy an even bigger and blacker texta; (e) use the formula  $E = mc^2$ , where  $E$  is the energy required to remove the sticker and the glue,  $m$  is inversely proportional to the amount of time you have to accomplish this feat, and  $c$  is inversely proportional to the cost of the item.

4. In a queue of more than 20 individuals (any Myer check-out or phonenumber to the Tax Office), calculate the probability that your needs will be satisfactorily attended to (a) before lunchtime; (b) before Christmas and (c) before you fall off your twig, given that (i) the queue consists of equal numbers of males and females in random order, (ii) the person supposedly dealing with the queue seems to be in Port Hedland, (iii) an unknown but statistically significant number of people in the queue have insurmountable problems, (iv) two of the women and only one of the men are wearing hats, and (v) you've forgotten by now why you were in the queue in the first place.

There are, of course, plenty of answers to this twaddle. The usual solution to Q1 is to sweep the deck yourself, Q2 suggests that a bit more sleep and a good run would make you feel like a 20-year-old, Q3 clearly demonstrates that we all need to work shorter hours for more money, and the following solution to Q4 is not ideal, but it is practical: write yourself a list, then use it for a bookmark in the epic novel which you just happen to carry for such emergencies.

Good luck, and have a great Christmas.

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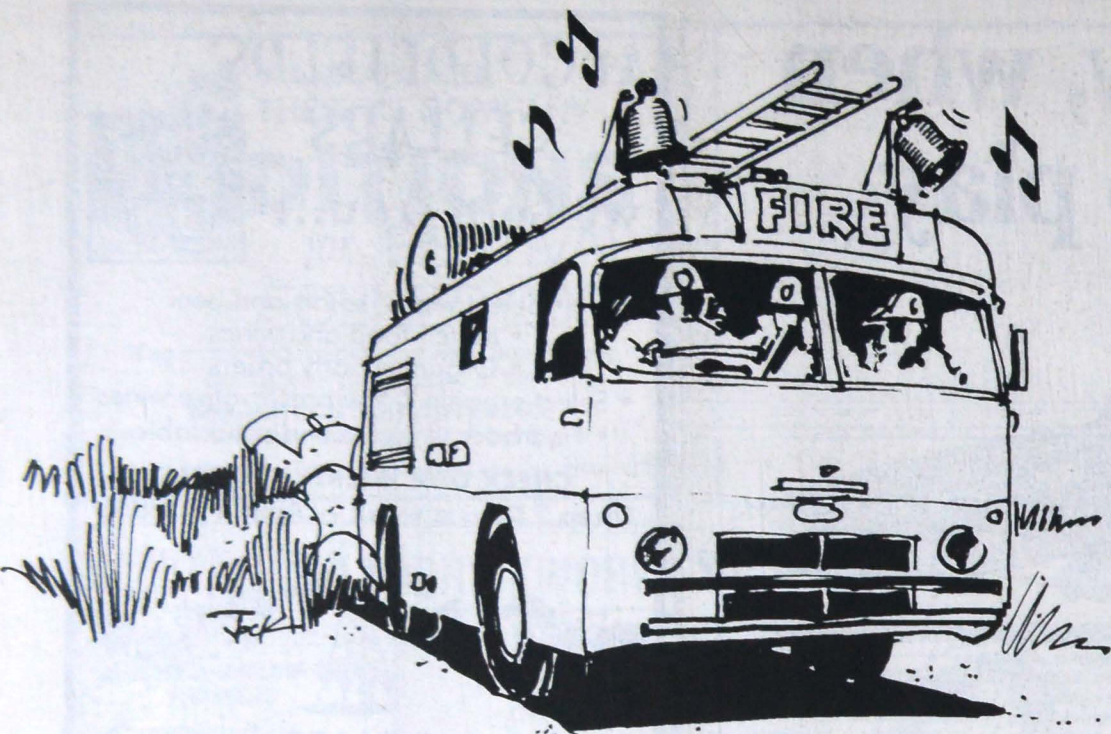
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# Ring out, sweet Christmas bells!

Words by HELENA ALLAN • Drawings by JOCK MACNEISH

**A**RIVER glides through the town in a serpentine bend, heaving in its long sweep, steadying in its slow, deep rhythm.

All is quiet in the river town; it lies in a sleepy hush, stilled by the white glare of the mid-afternoon, mid-December sun. There is only the sound of the constant tick tick tick tick of insects in the contracting heat.

On the streets and down windy lanes, windowblinds are drawn—townspeople have retreated inside. Blowflies bat madly against windowpanes, falling with fatigued fellow pilots into windowsill grooves.

In every home there is the circling, circling, circling air-stirring whir. Sleeping babies perspire under cotton sheets, and family pets pant, stretched out on slate tiles. Shopkeepers listlessly watch wheels roll by outside. Clocks tick loudly in the silence, and from empty shop counters, radios news headlines announce each passing hour.

The sudden striking of school bells cuts through the still air. The sound echoes across the river valley, reverberates through the town's narrow streets, and rings in the community's ears. People stop and listen to the sound of their children, their neighbours' children, their nieces and nephews, and their grandchildren who stream excitedly out of the stone school building on top of the school hill.

Today it is the last day of school before Christmas, it is the last day of school this year. Today the children will not be coming straight home.

The air is filled with the town children's voices. Laughing, joking, jumping, hurtling, red felt Santa hats bobbing, they chase each other over and across the hillside ranges, lining the rims which fade away into the distance.

A flock of cockatoos squawks overhead, a kookaburra's call rises from the riverbank. Awestruck, the children's voices suddenly drop like a stone: the sky surrounds them and the river valley falls before them. All is quiet, all is still. They stop to listen to the bush.

It is the sacred moment when the sun begins to drop and the heat of the day begins to pass... A child nimbly climbs into the fork of a tree rooted to the cliff top which hangs over the valley. He waits and watches. Not even a leaf stirs.

He trumpets his hands around his mouth, and calls: Koo Wee!

The school children wait and listen. The valley echoes like a cave. A moment later, another call comes from another child from the other side of the valley: Koo Wee! It bounces back.

Thrilled, the school children hoot and koo wee all at once. "The kindergarten kids are over there!" This is what they had expected, and hoped for.

The music teacher's hands go up, the school children's hands begin to swing. They are holding hand bells and, one by one, in time and in tune, they play "Silent Night" to the kindergarten children. The kindergarten children call and clap. In turn, they pick up hand bells and ring, "Jingle Bells". The school children cheer and whistle.

The rumble of wheels and the throaty roar of engines on both sides of the valley take all the children by surprise: fire engines are coming towards them and firemen are waving at them, grinning, calling to them to come and climb aboard. Music is loudhailing "Santa Claus Is Coming Tonight". They are being given a very special ride into town. As the fire engines part and dip down past the hills, the sun spreads like red ink across the sky.

Arriving from north and south ends of the town, kindergarten and school children converge; linking hands, they walk in pairs across the bridge over the river, headed and tailed by their teachers. Dusk is falling and the donkey brays from the bakery garden as they trip down the steps to the stable-like door with the tinkly bell.

Inside, the bakery feels warm and fuzzy. The baker, his wife, his sons and daughters, are wearing white aprons with huge pockets, and white floppy hats. The baker and his family welcome the children with warm smiles, and wrap tea towels around their waists. In a room behind the bakery, where all the bread is baked, there are two long benches, dusted with flour, each with two rows of balls of dough. Each child has a place and the bakers show them how to knead. Rows of little white hands punch and roll and soon the benches are lined with sweet bread Santa Claus faces, icing sugar for beards, jam for smiles, raisins for eyes and noses. The children watch wide-eyed as the bakers slide trays of the children's Christmas sweet breads into the oven. As they step out of the bakery, the baker's daughters

hand each child cinnamon doughnuts from baskets.

Licking their fingers and wiping their mouths, a few paces further along, the children are greeted by the bookshop lady who peers at them, smiling, over half moon glasses. Her strings of beads jangle and her cardigan sweeps behind her like a cape as she takes them past cupboards and shelves jammed with books, and into a cosy wooden-panelled room which looks over the river. They settle on mats and cushions as she reads them, "The Night Before Christmas". Her voice is soft and soothing and flows like the river outside.

Behind the lace-curtained door, the bookshop lady handshakes goodbye and gives each child a bookmark.

It is getting dark now, and as the children make their way to the riverpath, they pass the bakery. The baker's family hands them each a bag with their freshly-baked sweet bread as they go on their way.

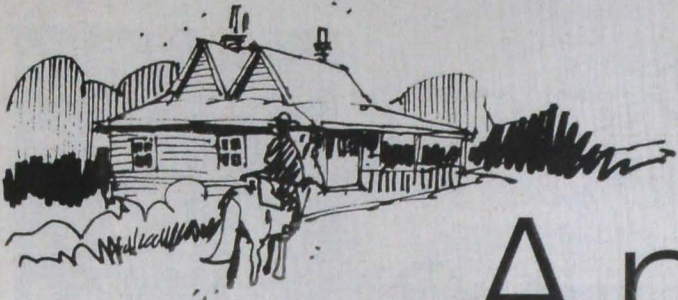
At the end of the footpath, the children, exhausted, fall into the arms of their parents, and settle with rugs and picnic baskets for Carols by Candlelight.

Silhouettes of trees stand around the straw-strewn stage where the high school orchestra is tuning up. A flautist plays the first notes, and the community's chatter lulls into a hush. Under the stars, the flautist's notes are accompanied by the distant tinkling of tiny Christmas bells. As they get closer, the clip-clop of hooves along the riverpath can be heard... The baker's donkey is dressed up for Christmas with a row of bells round his neck, and Santa is walking astride. Children's eyes sparkle. The donkey stands by the stage, and during the carols, Santa Claus gives out bags of lollies to the children.

It is exactly a year ago that John and Marie's children arrived from Switzerland to live in Australia. This is their second Christmas in Warrandyte.

Like all their friends from school, they fall asleep under the stars to the sound of donkey bells and Christmas carols.





# A place to live forever



**I**t was nearly Christmas 1953. Tom and I had been married a week and only just established ourselves in the house on Yarra Street having returned from our honeymoon. We hopped on our bicycles having decided to visit Mum down on the farm as she wasn't feeling well.

Roger had his own bike, and I was dinking Colin. Tom was dinking Greg and at the bottom of Keen Avenue, which was a rough gravel road in those days, Greg accidentally swung his foot into the front wheel of the bike which stopped dead and catapulted both of them head-first onto the road.

The brake handle went through Greg's cheek and ripped his cheek and mouth open. Tom split his head open, across his forehead in an arc over his head. Tom lay there holding his head up with blood pouring down his back. Greg's yelling, "Why can't I see, Mum, why can't I see?" I picked him up and he had blood all over his face. Mr Emery who lived in Second Street, came along in a car and I said, "Quick, quick, get us to a doctor."

He ran us up the street to the Airs building where Dr Sutherland said that she couldn't do anything for them, to get them straight to hospital. Phil Moore was the local taxi driver and he drove us into Melbourne. We tried to get Greg into St Vincent's Hospital but they said no, he's got to go to Prince Henry's Hospital. So we dropped Tom off at St Vincent's—we didn't know how bad he was—and took Greg to Prince Henry's. Then I went back to see how Tom got on.

The nun at St Vincent's asked what sort of accident it was. She couldn't believe that such an accident could happen on a pushbike. They said to me, "You don't realize how near you came to being a widow a second time. If the impact had gone a bit further, it would have killed him." Tom suffered concussion and had 22 stitches right across his head. He spent three weeks in St Vincent's and six weeks in a Caulfield convalescent home. Greg was three weeks in Prince Henry's with his face all stitched. I've got a photo of Father Christmas visiting him there giving him presents. He still has got a scar line above his lip.

We had no money. Ted Lloyd, the butcher who employed Tom in Box Hill, paid him a fortnight's money. I needed to pay the 65 pounds for the three-monthly house payment. I paid that to ensure we still had a home. One day after coming back from visit-

## PIONEERING DAYS

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

ing Tom at St Vincent's, there was an envelope under the door with money and a note which read, "You need this more than we do". It had come from the Gospel Church for when we got married at the Gospel Chapel. Tom had given a donation to the church for the wedding, and they had now returned it. It was very decent of them. I went straight back to work, riding my bike over to King Street, East Doncaster, and packed pears for the export market at Hobbs Orchard.

My daughter Heather was a few months old when Dad died in 1956. He was 66. He had a heart attack after a short illness. Mum was 69 when she followed him in 1960. The farm was left to the boys Joe, Walter and Roy, who had stayed and worked the farm. The rest of us—Norman, Betty, Iona and me were left 100 pounds in the will.

I kept packing pears at Hobbs Orchard until Mr Prince offered me a job at the post office. Mr Prince, who had lost a leg in a motorcycle accident, asked me to help out at the post office. I said, "I couldn't do it, I've never done book work. Ask me to do manual work—gardening, cut your grass, anything like that—I'll come and do it, but I couldn't work in a post office". He said, "Yes you can, I only want you for three weeks while Nellie Langton has her holiday. I'll teach you how to do it". So I said OK. Billie McCulloch was the postie on his horse.

I loved the work. The PMG inspector told me I had to address every customer as Mr, Mrs, or Miss, regardless of whether I knew them or not. On her holidays, Nellie Langton broke her leg and the PMG bloke asked me to stay on. Later he asked me to stay on for good. He said that Mr Prince had one leg and Nellie was at pension age and now had a crook leg and he couldn't have two cripples in the post office!

I worked in the old wooden post office from 1961 to 1969 with Mr Prince. Harry Bale would bring in the mail by motor car and we started early sorting and bagging up the mail, and then we opened at 9am for the customers. Those days we had Child Endowment books, War Service books, pensions to be processed. They had different days set aside for each of those benefits. Every

Wednesday and Saturday morning you had to balance the books and if you were a halfpenny out they treated you like a thief. There were no toilets so you had to hang on. I would ride my Raleigh bike home each day at lunch-time from 12noon till one, and get my vegetables ready for tea.

Bill McCulloch was the last mounted postie in Victoria and he would tie his horse outside the post office and then off he'd go. The PMG inspector would arrive and stand up on the verandah and say, "Where's Mr McCulloch, Mrs Bone?" and I'd reply (we were worded up to say this) "He's gone up the short cut up the back of the hotel to deliver the mail up the top there and then he'll come back down". The inspector would look at me and say, "You're sure he's not at the hotel?" and I'd say, "Well, as far as I know, he's gone up past the hotel to deliver the mail up there". Bill would go up the side of the hotel and I think that the Tresizes would open up the back door and let him in. They found him out in the end, those inspectors woke up to poor old Bill.

Bill used to go to Jack Smiley's place, too, for a session. It was a tumbled down old place opposite the police station. Jack was a beautiful violinist when he was a youngster. Bill was a good natured bloke, lived up there on Cemetery Road. His brother Snowy lived with him for a while. Ray Spendler was another funny character who lived in a tent up Whipstick Gully.

After they sacked old Bill, all the mail delivery went to Ringwood. Laurie Nichols came to work in the post office around then, after Mr Prince retired.

Warrandyte village was just an old-fashioned country town then. There was a used car yard on the corner of Webb Street (where the Community Centre now stands). Moores had it first, followed by Len Retchford, then Nankervilles, then Holyoak Motors, then Getsons Motors, all in the same place. There was a house on the Webb Street corner (on the site of what is now Teddy's Coffee Shop), then Four Square grocers (now Warrandyte Cellars) were next to Airs (recently the Australian Bowl Company, now empty). Across the road there was Vernon Thomas and Jacky Buckworth's house, Simon's drapery store (now Wilson MacDougall), Walsh's Bakery and Taffy Jones's house (now Scandles). Charlie Jones had a market garden where the squash courts are now. Dotty McKay's lolly shop was across from Stiggants Reserve. A lot of

houses along Yarra Street went. They may have burnt down during the bushfires or were flooded out. Vic Meeking's and Nankervilles were located in what is now the village car park. They all went.

They were a great bunch of people those old Warrandyte people, homely country people. I used to ride my bike and I knew everybody, they used to yell hello as I'd go past. There were people like Hilda Mitchell from Albert Road who used to do affordable hairdressing for everybody and lots of volunteer community work. I hardly know anybody now. All the oldies are gone. After the 1960s a lot of things changed.

We moved to the new post office in 1969 after Peter MacDougall built the row of shops, including the post office. I loved the job. I knew everybody in Warrandyte, not just the old-timers. The artists, the tradespeople, those that lived in tents on the river and those who were chauffeured from their mansions to the village. The Warrandyte people were really great. They would come into the post office and tell us all their stories. Share everything with us. It was like the river, a continuous stream of social contact, sharing all these stories. However I do remember one woman from across the river who kept getting the wrong mail delivered to her box and she threatened to throw the post office scales at me if it continued!

I worked there until 1979. I was 60 then and I thought I would give the job to a younger person. Tom and I then went overseas for six months and then returned to Warrandyte to live happily ever after.

I know there are still a few of the fruit trees left from the orchard down in the Pound. Despite getting no care, they still produce fruit with a determination and persistence that carries the spirit of the Wagner family. They are Wagner peaches, a variety developed by my brother Walter to match the conditions found in the Pound Bend. You still can see the rows of soil across the slopes of the Pound marking years of hard work to establish the orchard.

On cold frosty nights, when tin roofs drip and smoking mists roll across the valley, moon beams play upon the frosty grass which takes on the furry texture of peach skin. The whole roll of the Pound hill balloons like a giant peach and I know that I love Warrandyte. I think that I was right when I first saw the Pound Bend. It is the last place on earth for me, for this is where I'll die.





Pictures by DI BROWNING

# A gorgeous panto for Christmas

## THEATRE

By MARILYN MOORE

IMAGES of sublimely dressed yuppies happily sipping champagne, and their angelic six-year-olds joyfully unwrapping megapresents, reach saturation-point even before Cup Day. We get the impression that the run-up to Christmas is one long lazy round of elegant parties.

But for most people nothing could be further from the truth. Exams, end-of-year deadlines, speech nights, Brownie camps, concerts and valedictories, annual functions, balls, presentations, get-togethers and sporting championships (to say nothing of the brush-cutting) turn our precious "spare" time into a veritable treadmill, each step enjoyable but so jam-packed that we don't always appreciate them properly. As for Christmas shopping ... what's

that?

Somehow, in the midst of all the seasonal mayhem, there occurred a small miracle—the Warrandyte Theatre Company managed not only to recruit and rehearse a band of after-hours actors but also to regale the fair citizens of Warrandyte with a truly resplendent pantomime: *Princess Gorgeous in Neverland*, penned especially for the occasion by talented local comedy writer Keryn Wood.

Pianist Jack Stringer, who is making quite a name for himself in WTC productions as a very competent musical director as well as an actor, wrote the music and lyrics. *Neverland* was directed by veteran of many fine shows, Ken Virtue, and produced by that Fairy Godmother of producers, Rae Danks. This pantomime was a huge success: the highly entertained audience cheered, stomped, clapped and shouted with laughter for all they were worth, and everybody had the most wonderful time.

The script was clever and genu-

inely funny. Following the traditional pantomime style of folk or fairy tale themes accompanied by songs, dances and comedy, this original story revolved around the matchmaking efforts of Queen Lizzie and King Elvis on behalf of their daughter, Princess Gorgeous, who meanwhile had fallen in love with Peter Pan of Neverland. The script, cast, music and crew blended together very professionally, giving us a delightful show with plenty of variety, humour, depth and continuity as well as lots of unforgettable images.

Portrayal of the characters was so good that it almost seemed as though the play had been written especially for several of the actors. The dual role of hideously ingratiating courtier and Hook's riveting off-sider Bendemere (David Ranson) was a stand-out favourite, as was the naughty but lovable Tinkerbell (Sue Dyring), gorgeous Baron Gaylord (Ian Craig), richly voiced King Elvis (Joan Quagliana), prim Queen Lizzie (Caroline Shaw) and the troupe of

royal courtiers, wicked Captain Hook (Howard Geldard) and his band of uncouth pirates, the mighty Princesses Drusilla and Brunhilda (whose hairy stature could perhaps best be described as a "good axe-handle width across the shoulders") played by Walter Dewe and Hans Dulke, frowsy Big Bertha (Olivia Pianezze) and her band of buxom wenches at the Neverland Tavern, meek Nurse Nana (Joy Flanagan), colourful Lord Chatswood (Douglass Esson) and last but certainly not least, the delightfully youthful lovers Princess Gorgeous (Mandy Browning) and Peter Pan (Matt Moran).

However the undisputed star of the show was Hook's feathered accomplice, Sam the Cockatoo. Sam's timing was impeccable. Incredibly tolerant of people shouting and leaping around him, he ruled the roost with regal aplomb, screeching all manner of raucous epithets and other vile cockatoo comments at the most appropriate moments, and he knew just when to dance like a dude.

It was magic.

Costumes (Caroline Shaw) were particularly wonderful, splendidly colourful and abundantly stylish, and the tattoos were a work of art. At the children's matinee in particular there was, I believe, row upon row of transfixed gazes and open-mouthed wonder. Jack Stringer's music was a real highlight, enhancing the script with its vigour and variety. Jock Macneish's sets were beautifully simple and apt, and the lighting (Brian Laurence, Gail Macrae and David Frazer) and stage/backstage organisation (Bill Mitchell, Birgitte Bowers, Sue Davies and Liz Hurley) was spot on, supporting the cast very well indeed.

What a blast! It would be difficult to think of a better way to both round off the millenium and celebrate the end of an extremely successful year for the WTC. Hopefully *Princess Gorgeous in Neverland* will be revived many times in the future. But for now, roll on Christmas 2000. We are finally in the mood.







# Invitation to the past

By MURRAY HOUGHTON

**P**ERHAPS it was inevitable that I should once again visit School No. 12, and the invitation to attend and participate in the Golden Memories celebration of the 125th Birthday of the stone building last month provided just that opportunity. I was driven to the school gate and arrived as one who has not lived in the district since 1942.

This was rather a contrast with one's remembrance of arriving at school in the 1930s. During that period almost everyone was required to make the ascent of that forbidding gradient known as Forbes Street on foot. Certainly Anderson Street and Brackenbury Street were unmade. And for me as a five-year-old, who had just trudged for nearly an hour to arrive at school after a two mile walk from a farmlet orchard near to Jumping Creek, it was indeed an ordeal. Later, as a 10 year-old my legs had become strengthened and I learned to make the ascent on a push bike—unassisted and without alighting—by progressively zig-zagging back and forth across the gravel surface. It was not so much an ordeal by then, for a year after the 1939 bushfire we lived much closer to school, in fact in Tresize Street.

On this special occasion, a welcoming group of smiling faces were there to approach us as we entered the gate. To have been recognised by many people I had known in my childhood should not have been surprising, for a generosity of spirit has always been the Warrandyte community's ethos.

A more official greeting awaited us in the vestibule of the stone building, and after being presented with a Golden Memories document, prepared by the indefatigable Judy Finger, it was indeed an honour to add one's name to the list of the many past pupils who had already signified their respective attendances over some eight decades.

From the vestibule we made our way into the crowded classroom on the north side of the stone building, with its glass concertina partition pushed alongside the northern wall. As I recall it during the 1930s and 1940s, this room, with the partition closed off, was two rooms, with ordered rows of desks at which the Grades I to IV pupils were seated. Grades I and II pupils (seated on the east of the partition) wrote their work onto slates, while Grades III and IV students (to the east of the partition) utilised pen and ink on paper, with

the ink wells replenished by the "ink monitor" who was rostered for the week.

But back to the present; what a gathering congregated in this area. People of all ages jammed in everywhere, photographic collections on the northern walls, memorabilia for sale and past students galore. I suspect this classroom, even when the teacher was absent and the students unattended, had never before experienced such an intensity in the hum of conversation.

In the other classroom, on the south side of the building, where in my day the desks of the Grades V to VIII had faced the blackboards on the north wall, the volunteers who were supporting the school's current expenses by selling cakes and other goodies were doing brisk business.

In earlier days also, before the district assumed the proportions of a suburb, the population of Warrandyte was rather dispersed and small children could be very lonely, so for most children it was a social pleasure to regularly attend school. Perhaps we were naïve, but even though we might have got the cuts occasionally, we generally respected our teachers, and I had to be restrained from following them as they proceeded through our yard to the stone edifice atop the hill. For me to meet again and immediately recognise some of the senior girls I knew as a small child—Audrey Miller (Mrs Edwards), Hazel Hussey (Mrs Moseley) and Edna Houghton (Mrs Frith), among numerous former students, was indeed a pleasurable experience. The latter lady had been brought from her home in Sale by her daughter, especially for the occasion.

I'm told that when I was a very small child, during the early 1930s when my parents occupied Sloan's cottage in Yarra Street, before we lived at Jumping Creek, I had a strong desire to join the older children (particularly the senior girls) who would pass by our residence, and I had to be restrained from following them as they proceeded through our yard to the stone edifice atop the hill. For me to meet again and immediately recognise some of the senior girls I knew as a small child—Audrey Miller (Mrs Edwards), Hazel Hussey (Mrs Moseley) and Edna Houghton (Mrs Frith), among numerous former students, was indeed a pleasurable experience. The latter lady had been brought from her home in Sale by her daughter, especially for the occasion.

Also appreciated was the privilege I had of enjoying afternoon tea with Zeila Stringer (Mrs Bullock) who had started her schooling at Warrandyte in 1919, and was a special guest of honour. Earlier in the afternoon, during the official celebrations, the same Mrs Bullock, together with the slightly younger Flora McPherson, both in the capacity as the earliest (and oldest) of the school's students in

attendance, jointly performed the ceremony of cutting the anniversary cake, while ably assisted by the youngest of today's current students. Prior to this event the school's musical ensemble had enthusiastically and competently performed a new anthem written especially for the 125 year occasion.

These activities were conducted on a remarkably different, bituminous and flatly-contoured ground surface to the one on which we lads played our cricket and football, and the girls their netball (then called basketball) before the Second World War; an extremely abrasive course-grained gravel surface with a gradient of at least 15 degrees, and many was the time I came home with severely lacerated knee caps. While most observed the official events from the ample seating provided, others sought the shade afforded by the multi-purpose building. The sun was getting quite hot.

Among many of the former scholars whom I had the opportunity to meet again, or at least to observe, were the ladies I had known as a child as Audrey Walsh (Mrs Dreschler), Judy Nankivell (Mrs Smith), June Warr (Mrs Dickson), Fran Houghton (Mrs Streeter), Beth Miller (whose brother Graeme had regrettably passed away two days earlier), Margaret Speers (Mrs Abbott), Elva Strudwick (Mrs Bull), Jean Chapman (Mrs Jones), Joan Hussey, Lorraine Day and Barbara Todd, and others too numerous to mention. My apologies for the many notable omissions to this list, and for not recalling some of the ladies' married names.

Sitting quietly amongst these could be seen the unmistakable and ever-so-pleasant Joyce Robertson (Mrs Bellingham), so long a stalwart of the Warrandyte Historical Society. Now there's a lady with community spirit if ever there was one; none who experienced the 1939 bushfires will ever forget her valuable contribution as secretary of the local Bush Fire Relief Committee.

Of course many of the chaps were also there in force, but some of these I had difficulty in recognising, perhaps this was occasioned by a change in hair colouring, or a perceptible reduction in head coverage. Probably the most senior and distinguished of these gentlemen was Aubrey Houghton, whose parents were among the soldier settlers at Pound Bend after the First World War. Aubrey, amongst others, especially wished to view again the

honour roll (containing familiar names) which had previously hung above the blackboard in the Grades V to VIII classroom, but which now is located in the multi-purpose room.

Another remarkably fit man of riper years whom I noticed was Frank Sloan, and it was from him my mother purchased many a juicy lamb chop. A few of my old classmates and not-so-near-contemporaries from the 1930s and early 1940s also greeted me. These included a very fit Ron Day (who recently attained his 70th birthday), Alex Hughes, the Stringer brothers—Jack and Bernard (Bud)—Bob Harrison, the Craker brothers—Stan and Fred—Blair Smith and Harry Strudwick.

One of the highlights for the pre-1940s old-timers was the request to assemble for group photographs under the shade of a couple of the few remaining pine trees. The shoot was proposed by Jack Stringer to take place at 3.30pm, but it was closer to four o'clock before all the stragglers were in position to face the barrage of cameras. The trees provided welcome protection from the sun which had shone brightly throughout the activities.

Bob Harrison and I had half-an-hour earlier reminisced about a yearly event known as Arbor Day when "Eveready Bill" (the Hon W.H. Everard, MLA) made his annual pilgrimage throughout his electorate's schools over some two or three decades.

After sitting diligently and silently through the same sermon which "good old Bill" expounded year after year, we students each in turn dutifully planted at least one or more pine trees on each of these occasions. In all we had planted many hundreds; obviously this amounted to an environmental disaster. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that a few of these trees are still there to remind us of this regular event.

As one of the many past scholars who turned up and enjoyed the treat, may I say how much we, the old-timers, appreciated the occasion, and also to say thank you for the excellent manner in which the school's heritage has been recognised, and to acknowledge the excellent organisation and efforts put in by the reunion co-ordinator, Judy Finger, the staff and scholars and many other volunteers, including faithful parents and members of the Warrandyte Historical Society, who each in their own respective ways made the day such a veritable success.



Kelly Wooster, winner of this year's Christie Lawrence-Luke Mayall Memorial Award. The 2000 award went to an outstanding young person working in the hospitality industry.

# Diary of a year

Time to thank all those sterling people—most of them volunteers—who brought you your favourite Warrandyte paper during the past year.

News stories were written by David Wyman, Fia Clendinnen, Rachel Baker, Cliff Green, Prudence Truby King, Clinton Grybas and Kara Williams. Regular columnists were Smokey Joe, Roger Kibell, Pat Coupar, Marilyn Moore, Judy Green and Catherine Selby.

Features were written by Glen Jameson, Ruby Bone, Don Charlwood, Rachel Baker, Sandy Burgoyne and Maydeena Jameson. We published poetry by Karen Throssell and Helena Allen. Sports stories were written by Lee Tindale, Adam White, Clinton Grybas, Damien Arsenis, Tony Oliver, Dennis Hoiberg and Judy Green.

Our pages were illustrated with photographs by Jan Tindale, Sandy Burgoyne, Austin Polley and Don Charlwood and with artwork by Jock Macneish, Paul Williams, Melanie Coupar, Syd Tunn, Ona Henderson and Wayne Rankin.

Occasional contributors included Luanda Pianta, Jo Laurence, Betty Lavender, Sarah Jones, Alistair Davidson, Ken Virtue, Yvonne Reid, Margory Lapworth, Allan Aldous, Jenny Brown, Mandy Dunn, Doreen Burge, Bob Cox, Leonard J. McColl, Leonie

Horne, Dulcie Crouch, Phena Gee, Ashlee Hughes, Loughlan Prior, Shelly-Barriball, Keppel Cassidy, Gail Macrae, Murray Houghton and Greg Ruthven.

The paper was edited and designed by Cliff Green and Lee Tindale and Jan Tindale organised assignments, carried out research and assisted with community liaison. Rachel Schroeder set the type, designed the ads and handled production, assisted by Mark Schroeder. Streamline Press printed our paper and John Ingram delivered press material. As internet editor, Sandy Burgoyne sent us out to readers across the world.

Rae Danks charmed our advertisers and kept our accounts and John Roberts looked after our corporate responsibilities (both piloting us through the shoals of GST). Don Humphreys kept out office spic and span and Peter Norman took our newspaper out to our many, much appreciated distribution points.

Last, but certainly not least, we remember the folk who make it all financially possible—our advertisers.

And finally, heartfelt thanks to you, our loyal and enthusiastic readers, with a special mention for those who have contributed to our Dear Diary page and the hundreds who are standing by us in our current crisis.

## CLYDE & OCKER



"Christmas comes but once a year, Ock, but the Diary goes on forever!"

You won't see us in January, but we'll be back in February, as bright-eyed and bushy-tailed as ever, bringing you all the local news, issues and gossip. We're not sure from which hole in what tree, but we'll be there! In the meantime, have a joyous Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

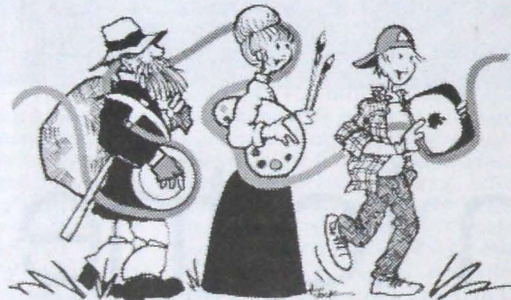
## Festival flags

By MAYDEENA JAMESON

Street banners have been a feature of festival time in Warrandyte for many years, decorating the length of Yarra Street and beyond. This year, the festival committee is hoping to replace many of them with brand-new banners.

"The banners were an idea initiated by Pauline Cross some 18 years ago," Kerry Boyle told the *Diary*. "The old banners were only supposed to last three years, but only now are we getting round to replacing a number of them."

The banners feature most of the community groups in Warrandyte, but as a new innovation there will be a set of eight or ten new banners painted by Warrandyte artists, including Walter Magilton, Gus McLaren, Sandra Harvie and Nic George. It is proposed that these new banners will be displayed around the Harris Gully Road roundabout.



### 2001: GOLDEN ODYSSEY

Artist Walter Magilton has offered to help groups prepare new banners. "I won't paint them," he said, "but I'll be pleased to offer advice and help with their design." Walter can be contacted on 9844 3616.

Warrandyte Festival will be held on the weekend of March 24 and 25 next year. Further information from secretary Paul Gleeson, 9844 2394.

## Loved in her community

By RICK BARCLAY

Pauline Judith Brooke was born in Mentone on 19 March 1932, the day of the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. She was the only child of Alan and Dulcie Balding.

Pauline was educated at Fintona and Methodist Ladies College before doing a graphic arts course at Swinburne. Her first graphic design job was with Holeproof.

Pauline and Norm Brooke married in the late 1950s. They were fortunate in sharing a loving and happy marriage of over 30 years, up to Norm's death in 1994. They were a wonderful team together, supporting and encouraging each other in all they did. Pauline's design, drawing and communication skills complemented Norm's practical abilities.

To their sons, Alan and Ivan, both Pauline and Norm were excellent parents, loving, supportive and caring. Pauline was a loving friend and confidante to her daughters-in-law, Colleen and Debbie and Alan's fiancée, Sandra. She was also a concerned grandmother to James and a Nana figure to Michelle, Jesse and Joel.

Pauline and Norm were extremely family orientated. They thoroughly enjoyed entertaining. They were wonderful hosts with a magnificent setup for garden parties, the more in attendance the better. They had a succession of Christmas breakfasts that will be recalled with affection by many.

Around the time of their marriage, Pauline and Norm established themselves in Park Orchards, backing onto "the 100 acres", moving into the house they designed themselves. In time Pauline was instrumental in helping design many other homes. They established and maintained a lovely garden complete with native plants, fruit trees



and vegetables.

Pauline involved herself heavily in the affairs of Park Orchards, from first arriving through to today. Her mother remarks that she was a doctor and nurse to many people in the neighbourhood. Pauline had very strong views on the type and location of street trees, and her values shone through her actions. Rather than talk

about it, she just did it. She was a perfectionist and was one of the mutual legs of support upon which the Park Orchards community sits. Her delightful graphics decorated many newsletters and posters throughout the district.

Pauline was connected with various groups, including the Park Orchards Tennis Club, of which she was the most recent president. She was active in the Park Orchards Ratepayers Association and for many years was a valued member of the babysitters group and president of the Mothers' Club.

She was in Neighbourhood Watch and participated in the Friends of 100 Acres, and in co-operation with Manningham council, worked with management re-designing the dam. She was also involved in the design and placement of environmental signs in the area and seating for weary walkers.

Her political leanings were well known, being a proud member of the Liberal Party. A day or so ago, her boys found on the dining table a plan of the proposed Eastern Freeway Extension, evidence of her latest concern.

The most famous of her paintings are those she did of the 100 Acres, previously owned by many people. A public mural painted by Pauline can be seen on the grocer's shop wall; a pleasant adornment to the locality.

Her love of animals was amply displayed with the affection she had for her dog, Tiba, and for Pusscat, along with the possums that nested in the box at her back door.

Pauline's tenacity and energy were amazing. She knew that her time was limited and she faced her impending death with courage and dignity. She died peacefully on November 10 at Ringwood Private Hospital.



## Fond memories of a fine man and his horses

By SANDRA WOOSTER and CHRIS WOOSTER

Reg Wooster has been a Warrandyte icon for nearly five decades. In recent years many people would see him getting around the area in one of his old Inter or Dodge trucks full of carrots or pulling along a horse float.

The icon all started back in the mid-1950s when Reg decided to look for greener pastures in a faraway land. So he packed up his family, wife Rita, children Clive (Clarrie), Jean and Chris and headed for the land down under from his birthplace of Wealdstone, UK where he was born in November 1915, the youngest of eight children.

They were hard times to grow up in and he was out earning a living early in life, when his love of horses began. He started by hiring out horses and carts for deliveries; his business built up to as many as 25 horses and carts.

But with the onset of WWII, Reg, like many young lads, was called up to National Service. Even in the army his work with horses continued as Reg was put in charge of the captured German horses and stables. Unfortunately, we wished we had recorded all the stories Reg told us of the war, for they would have filled a book.

Upon arrival into Australia, they settled on Warrandyte as the place to raise the children and for the continuation of his love affair with the horses.

Their first home was a little hut off Jumping Creek Road, before moving to Hodsons Road (the latter house survived the 1962 bushfires), then to Lot 6 opposite the Warran Glen Nursery. He was yearning for some land for his horses so he purchased Reta Park (which was already named). This is where he decided to introduce the British Spotted Pony into Australia, and later on, the Warmbloods.

Two particular horses, Charlemagne and Fector, were his favourites. Charlemagne with jinker and Reg attended many a Warrandyte festival, and also the pre-show parades in Melbourne.

Reta Park became too small for his growing brood, and instead of travelling all over the area to feed all of his horses, scattered in many paddocks from Warrandyte to Panton Hill, he bought a property at Yellingbo, but continued to commute between there and Warrandyte.

Even after two knee replacements over the last few years, Reg was still caring for his horses—and cattle, which he decided to take on as well—and a menagerie of birds, right up until his death.

We are sure he planned to leave us in a hurry as we couldn't imagine Reg sitting around in a nursing home. We will miss him terribly—and all his stories.

# A big win for Walter

Local artist Walter Magilton has been working with a talented young Koori artist from Mildura, Lance Atkinson of the Yorta Yorta tribe. They recently entered a combined effort painting entitled River Dreaming in the Fifth National Indigenous Heritage Art Award in Canberra. Of the 100 entries selected for the exhibition, it was one of about 40 that were chosen to tour various states of Australia over the coming year. The painting also won "Peoples Choice" at the exhibition. The artists hope to have a local exhibition before long, possibly at the Mia Mia gallery in Templestowe.

## Exchange

Thomas Armstrong of Warrandyte has been selected by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange to participate in the program to Sweden, departing in January 2001 for a year. While there, Thomas will experience Swedish culture by living as a member of a Swedish family.

## Invincibles

Club Warrandyte are presenting An Evening With The Invincibles of the 1948 cricket tour of England, featuring Sam Loxton and Neil Harvey. The evening will be held on Friday, February 9, 2001. There will be an auction of past and current memorabilia, including a number of rare pieces. Cost is \$50 which includes a two course meal. Bookings with Tim Jolly or Henrico Koppers on 9844 3202.

## Dance

A small number of tickets are still available for the New Year's Eve South Warrandyte Dance. Ring 9844 3763 to book. The next regular monthly dance will be in the South Warrandyte hall on Saturday, February 10. Contact 9723 3892 for information.

## Auditions

Auditions for the next Festival Follies will be held at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall on Tuesday, January 30 at 8pm. The company will be casting actors, singers, dancers and backstage. Given that next year marks the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold at Warrandyte, the theatre company is planning a strong local theme for Follies 2001. Inquiries to Adrian Rice on 9879 3945 or Gail Macrae on 9844 3475.

## Support

Local residents are being urged to join the Warrandyte Community Centre Support Group. The membership coupon on Page 4 of this issue can be left—along with \$2 per member—at the Warrandyte Post Office, IGA Supermarket, Historical Society Museum, Lions Club Opportunity Shop or Information Warrandyte.



Who says growing old in Warrandyte isn't fun? These fine performers at the Senior Citizens' annual concert last month delighted their audience with farcical frolics and a fine show of leg. (Pictures by Jan Tindale)



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.

## Calendar

Warrandyte Historical Society's 2001 calendar is now available at a number of locations: Warrandyte Post Office, Potters Cottage, Goldfields News-

agency and Information Warrandyte. Cost is \$12 and supplies are limited. Postal orders can be placed by ringing Gina Bevan Jones on 9844 3662. The calendar includes a collection of photographs of Warrandyte's gold mining days.

## Firebook

Former district resident Joan Webster informs us that the new edition of her highly-regarded The Complete Bushfire Safety Book is prescribed reading for locals as the summer season warms up. Priced at \$34.95, it can be obtained from bookshops or direct from the publisher, Random House Australia, phone 02 9954 9966. The book is strongly recommended for Community Fireguard groups and Bushfire Blitz.

## Propagation

Members of Friends of Warrandyte State Park meet every Thursday for propagation and other nursery activities. The nursery is at the park depot in Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte. Propagation takes place from 10am to 12noon. No prior experience is necessary. Contact Mike Coupar on 9903 9567 if you are interested.

## Carols

Community carols will be held at Bowmore Avenue, Park Orchards on Sunday, December 17. A "gourmet" barbecue, commencing at 6.30pm, will precede the carols at 8.15pm. All are welcome. In the event of wet weather, the carols will be held in the basketball hall.

# Warrandyte Community Market

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

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

Ample parking. Light refreshments available.

Bring along your family and friends.

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



## Warrandyte Op Shop at the Community Centre

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## Local Christmas church services

The annual carols by candlelight service will be held at Stiggants Reserve on Sunday, December 16 at 8pm. Candles for sale. BYO rugs. Donations will go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.



★ ANGLICAN (9844 3473): Christmas Eve—8am, 10am, 11.30pm; Christmas Day—8am and 9.30am.

★ UNITING (9844 3476): Christmas Eve—10.15am, 7.30pm, 11.30pm; Christmas Day—9am.

★ CATHOLIC (9876 1509): Christmas Eve—7pm Children's Mass, 9.30pm (Park Orchards), 11.30pm Carols (Warrandyte); Christmas Day—9.30am Mass (Park Orchards).

★ COMMUNITY CHURCH (9844 4148): Christmas Eve—10am, 7pm; Christmas Day—10am

People requiring transport or more information should contact the church of their choice on the phone numbers above.

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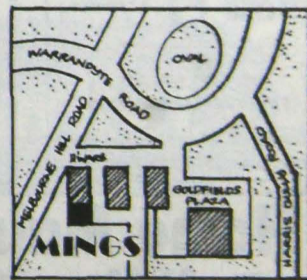
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# Redbacks spring to it

## Seniors' finals flings

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Warrandyte's senior basketball grand finals will be decided at the high school on Wednesday night, December 13, with three teams eager to break premier-ship droughts.

The Fighting Irish will be seeking just their second Greyburn Cup men's title — and their first in seven seasons — when they meet defending champions the Ostrich Farmers.

The Irish knocked out eight-time winners the Hitmen 75-54 in the preliminary final. Adam Borwick (26 points) and Jarrod Dick (19) broke the game open in the second half after just three points separated the teams at the break.

The Farmers earned the right to defend their title courtesy of a 59-43 semi-final win over the Hitmen. Callum Anderson was the star with 21 points and is tipping back-to-back titles.

In the over-30 section, Warrandyte will contest the grand final for the first time in nine seasons when they meet the River Rats. The Rats, on the other hand, are no strangers to grand final pressure — Wednesday's will be their eighth straight.

Warrandyte upset The Spurs 41-34 in the preliminary final, with Steve Doyle and Martin Spiers each potting nine points. The Rats had beaten The Spurs 34-26, with Mark Bensch getting 11.

The women's Grand Hotel Cup decider should be another classic, with the PP Champs meeting the Phantoms.

The Champs have won nine of the 13 titles but will be seriously challenged in their bid for number 10. The Phantom's won this pair's semi-final meeting 48-32 thanks to Jess Caruso's 23 points.

In the preliminary final, the PP Champs tipped out the Sneakers 41-39 thanks to big games from Amanda McLellan (18 points) and Cathy Lynch (16).

By NICK PETERS

The spring phase of the Friday night championship basketball competition has begun, with the Warrandyte Redbacks entering five teams — three boys and two girls.

This phase is the prelude to the main Friday night competition which begins in earnest in February and gives the club and coaches an opportunity to assess likely players for each team.

As part of the lead-up to the main season, the club have been running specialised development training for more than 100 boys and girls which will run through to mid-December. The training is structured and designed to improve the basic skills of players who will be given an opportunity to play Friday night basketball.

Game results to date in the have been mixed.

The Under-18 boys team coached by club president Damian Arsenis has started well, winning all their matches so far, including a 70-11 victory over Kilsyth on December 2.

The Under-12 boys of Malcolm Anderson had a thrilling battle with Eltham in their first game, scoring the winning two points with five seconds on the clock.

Unfortunately, they could not repeat the result against a determined Bulleen team the following week.

In the latest grading round, a double-header, the junior Redbacks opened up with a 15-point win against McKinnon and then faced the powerful Cranbourne. Although losing

49-27, Warrandyte were not disgraced, outscoring Cranbourne 17-14 in the last six minutes.

The Under-14 boys coached by Martin Clark had a convincing win over Bulleen, the final margin in excess of 50 points, and followed up with a narrow victory over Kilsyth. The double-header saw the win easily against Ringwood Hawks and then get home in a thriller against Greenhills Noble Park, 39-36.

The Under-16 girls of Lorraine Parfitt have played four games so far. In the first, they gave Hawthorn a 20-point start before regrouping, applying some offensive and defensive pressure and losing by less than 10.

They atoned with a 34-22 win over Pakenham and in the double-header defeated Diamond Valley 30-13 and lost to Sandringham 28-24 after leading 16-11 at half-time.

The Under-18 girls have also had mixed results, losing to Frankston and Bulleen, then recording a determined win against Pakenham. Despite the loss, the game against Frankston was particularly important, as the opposition were considered a state-level side. Warrandyte led 20-18 at half-time but could not sustain the effort.

In the latest grading game, a strong, physical Altona side exploded out of the blocks and went on to beat the Redbacks 47-25.

The Redbacks hope to have six boys and four girls teams in the 2001 season and most will probably be playing in a higher grade than last year.



And the winners are ... local tennis champs Aaron Nolan and Michelle Gilling.

## Coach shows 'em how

By JUDY GREEN

Warrandyte Tennis Club coach Aaron Nolan won the club's men's singles title last month in the most emphatic fashion.

Nolan, who has been contracted as coach for the next two years, defeated Lee Dehmel in straight sets, conceding only one game.

The women's singles was also a one-sided affair, Michelle Gilling losing only two games on her way to a straight-sets victory over Katrina Sochacki to retain her title.

Gilling then teamed with Janine Phillips to win the women's doubles.

The men's doubles title was won by Dehmel and Jarrod Casey on a walkover from junior players Joel Drew and Rod McCutcheon, who forfeited because of injury.

Details: Men's singles: Aaron Nolan d Lee Dehmel 6-1, 6-0. Women's singles: Michelle Gilling d Katrina Sochacki 6-1, 6-1. Men's doubles: Lee Dehmel/Jarrod Casey d Joel Drew/Rod McCutcheon, walkover. Women's doubles: Michelle Gilling/Janine Phillips d Katrina Sochacki/Tamara Valentino 6-3, 6-1.

Warrandyte brought home a pennant from the finals of the Ferntree Gully and District midweek women's competition, the Section 10 team of Claudette Fahy, Sharon Masson, Kate Baker, Pat Allgood and Angela Dziedzic defeating Seville 48 games to 30 in the grand final.

The Section 1 Warrandyte team were defeated in their grand final.

At the club's Christmas dinner last month, Brian Dunn was named clubperson of the year for his contributions in a number of areas.



Clubperson of the year Brian Dunn.

## Under-20s lead Warrandyte Saturday assault

By TONY OLIVER

The Eastern Districts Junior Basketball Association's Saturday competition is in full swing, with the Warrandyte Redbacks fielding 28 boys and 20 girls teams over the summer months.

Malcolm Anderson's Under-20 boys are setting the local example. They are undefeated after nine rounds and even at this early stage are looking clear favourites for a grand final berth.

Gerry Pearce is guiding the impressive Under-16 boys, who are also looking the

goods in their division. Their recent results have included a 35-32 win over a strong Eltham side.

In the same round, wins were also recorded by the top-level Under-8, Under-10 and Under-12 Redback teams.

On the girls' side, Gavin Whitmore's Under-16s are performing well in a tough grade. In a close match, they went down to Eltham 31-26 but played with distinction.

Lorraine Parfitt has a strong influence on the younger-age teams, with her Un-

der-8, Under-12 and Under-14s all in the top four.

The core of the Under-14 side are the successful grand finalists in the recent north-west conference of the junior championship and the team have been strengthened by the addition of Stef Smith and Rachael Lynch.

Excellent wins against Bulleen-Templestowe and Ivanhoe have been tempered by a surprising loss to Balwyn, given a recent convincing win against that team.

The Redbacks also lost to Doncats 28-16 in a Round 9 game in which they lacked their usual sparkle and speed.

The Under-8s, with most girls still relatively new to the game, are going great guns and playing a brand of basketball belying their tender years and lack of experience. They are second on the ladder, the only losses being to the undefeated Bulleen-Templestowe.

The Under-12s defeated ladder leaders Park Orchards 20-18 in Round 9 and now share the top rung with that side.

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# A year they'd prefer to forget both on and off the football field

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club approach their resurrection campaign in EFL Third Division next year \$18,000 in debt.

Despite a disbursement of \$28,000 from Club Warrandyte, the relegated Bloods recorded a total loss last year — a year they'd prefer to forget both on and off the field — of \$41,871 after an \$11,000 write-down of plant and equipment and a \$12,000 write-off of bad debts.

The annual general meeting on December 6 was told that creditors were owed \$18,000.

Club Warrandyte, which had been seen as a big revenue earner for the football club, traded at a loss of \$106,000 in its first eight months despite buoyant results in the food and liquor areas, returns from the gaming room falling way below expectations.

"Gaming should have achieved a \$346,000 revenue cheque," said outgoing treasurer Norm Carrington. "Instead the figure is \$267,000."

Carrington said the gaming room (which had been expected to be operating months earlier) could not have opened at a worse time.

He pointed out that it had opened in March, just before winter, when "people don't go out very much", and the worst time of the year for performance.

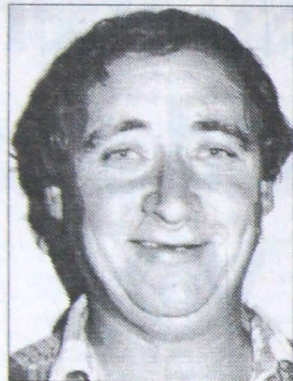
There had been also been adverse publicity for gambling around that time and the anti-gambling lobby had become very active.

"New ideas and promotions such as bus trips have now started to generate (gaming) income," Carrington said.

"The bottom line is that the auditors believe we will trade and trade reasonably well after a few years.

"Within a year or two, Club

# The Bloods in red



New president Robert Ireland.

Warrandyte will become a very good revenue earner for the football club and associated clubs."

Outgoing president and incoming treasurer Jeff Evans told the meeting: "This season has been a very tough one in more ways than one.

"In March we finally obtained our gaming licence and Club Warrandyte was formally up and running. Due to the anti-pokie groups and adverse me-

dia attention regarding gaming, it had a very slow start.

"Some nine months down the track the figures are slowly turning around and I can foresee that that after further consultation with the landlord and management companies, Club Warrandyte will start to show a positive return in the near future."

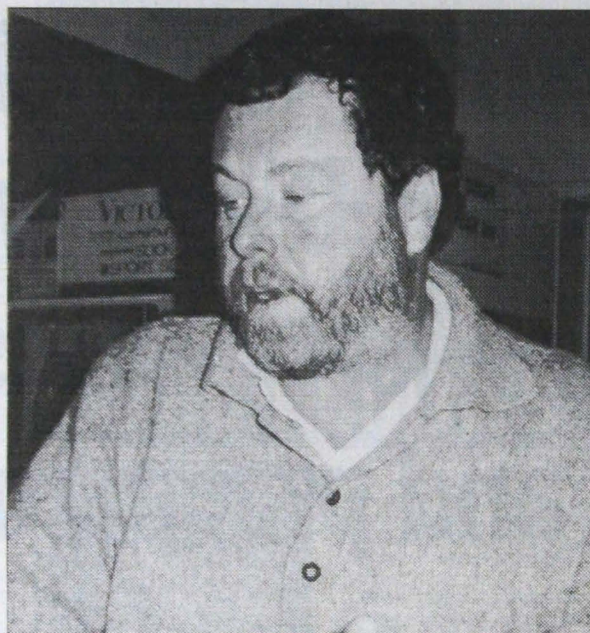
Local hotelier Noel Taplin said that as a director of Club Warrandyte, he was not at all worried. "We've only been up and running for eight months," he said.

Later, as the football club's new vice-president, he told the meeting: "One bad year is not the end of the road. If we stick together we will certainly go up."

"The football club is part of the Warrandyte community, always has been, always will be."

Evans said his football club budget next year would not rely on any Club Warrandyte money. "We can produce a balanced budget that will pay off the creditors," he said.

As expected, the meeting elected former player, junior coach, committeeman and secretary Robert "Noddy" Ireland new president unopposed.



Outgoing president, incoming treasurer Jeff Evans.

The other office-bearers (also unopposed) are Taplin vice-president, Evans treasurer and James Logan secretary. Andrew "Bucky" Rodgers was elected to the committee and sub-committees are likely to be formed.

In his final address as president, Evans appealed for much greater assistance for the committee.

"If the club is going on to big-

ger and better things we need genuine commitment from positive people," he said.

"What we don't need is people bagging committee, players or the club. If you see a problem, help to rectify it. Don't just sit there and keep saying this should happen or that should happen.

"Get off your arses and do something about it!"

## The job ahead of us

Warrandyte Football Club's 2001 season opens away to Doncaster East on April 7.

It will be a start-stop opening, Easter intervening the following weekend and the Bloods' next game at home to the Waverley Blues — promoted from Division 4 — on April 21.

Warrandyte play consecutive away games (against Mooroolbark and Templestowe) on May 12 and 19 respectively and two sets of back-to-back home games, against Norwood and Doncaster East on June 16 and 23 and Mooroolbark and Templestowe on July 21 and 28. The 2001 fixtures:

- April 7 v Doncaster East (A)
- April 14 Easter, no fixtures.
- April 21 v Waverley Blues (H)
- April 28 v Wantirna South (A)
- May 5 v Mt Evelyn (H)
- May 12 v Mooroolbark (A)
- May 19 v Templestowe (A)
- May 26 v Kilsyth (H)
- June 2 v South Croydon (A)
- June 9 Queen's Birthday Holiday weekend, no fixtures.
- June 16 v Norwood (H)
- June 23 v Doncaster East (H)
- June 30 v Waverley Blues (A)
- July 7 v Wantirna South (H)
- July 14 v Mt Evelyn (A)
- July 21 v Mooroolbark (H)
- July 28 v Templestowe (H)
- August 4 v Kilsyth (A)
- August 11 v South Croydon (H)
- August 18 v Norwood (A)
- August 25 Second Semi-Final;
- August 26 First Semi-Final;
- September 2 Preliminary Final;
- September 9 Grand Final.

# Schoolkids top their class

## Premier season for our high-flying netballers

By MAYDEENA JAMESON

Warrandyte Netball Club's 2000 season ended on the highest note with victory in the Doncaster and district association grand finals.

Ten of Warrandyte's 18 teams — ranging from Under-11s to Open A — made the finals, the Under-15 Section 1 side, the Sparks, going all the way on December 2 and the two Under-11 sides, the Sparrows and the Fantails, finishing on top of the ladder.

The Finches (Warrandyte's Open B team), the Stingers (Under-13 Section 4) and the Ravens (Under-15 Section 3) made it through to the grand finals and were more than gallant in defeat.

Three other Under-13 teams — the Wallabies (Section 4), the Magpies (Section 2) and the Kookaburras (Section 5) and the Open A Woodies were eliminated in the semi-finals but did themselves and their club proud throughout the season.

The local club, now 23 years old, have developed into one of the biggest and strongest in the association, consistently performing well in the Saturday competition and also producing many girls who are now playing for Doncaster and district representative teams.

By TONY OLIVER

The Year 6 Andersons Creek team emerged triumphant from the Victorian Primary Schools Sports Association basketball grand final at Coburg on December 1.

Andersons Creek had gone through the preliminary round robin against five other local schools.

Although undefeated, they played a nail-biting draw with Our Lady of the Pines which necessitated a rematch at home the following week.

Our Lady of the Pines led 20-19 in the dying seconds of a titanic struggle, with Andersons Creek's Josh Collins putting up the final shot. Although it missed, he was fouled and went to the free-throw line.

The first shot went through and the scores were level. The pressure was really on for the second shot, which rebounded off the backboard and into the basket to give the home side a 21-20 win.

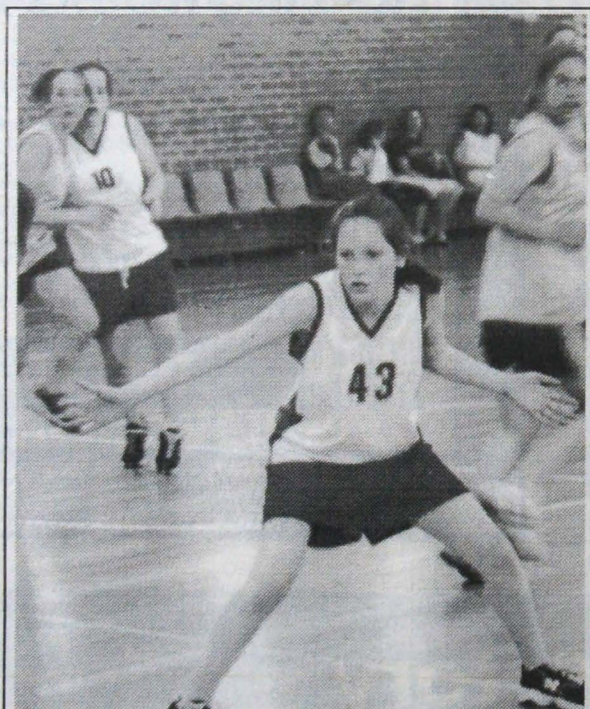
Compared with that game, the next four were relatively easy, including the semi-final against Bacchus Marsh in which Andersons Creek overcame a strong side with a tall centre to win by 12 points.

That put them into the grand final against Mt Martha, a game that went point for point early before late scoring thrusts gave the Warrandyte team an eight-point lead at the break.

A good opening to the second half saw Andersons Creek extend the lead to 11 points before Mt Martha started a fightback. The Creekers steadied, however, and ran out winners by six points.

Coach Tristan Messerle was ecstatic, praising the dedication of all players and noting specifically the all-round team skills.

All players contributed to



## Redback Gina on guard duty

Redback guard Gina Oliver defends in a recent Under-14s game against Ivanhoe at Ivanhoe Primary School. Warrandyte came from behind to score an impressive 22-18 win and cement their place in the top four of the competition.

the scoreboard and Andersons Creek are now recognised as the best at their level in Victoria, having lost just one of 13 games.

Meanwhile, teams from the local primary schools performed outstandingly in the statewide McDonalds Hoop Time basketball competition.

The Andersons Creek Year 5/6 side, and the Warrandyte Primary 3/4 side

both made the final rounds at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on November 23 and 21 respectively.

Coached by Luanda Pianta and Simon Prior, Andersons Creek started the day with a 17-15 win over Craigieburn and were back on court half an hour later to play a 19-all draw with Don Valley after holding the upper hand for most of the match.

Regrouping over lunch, they faced Penleigh Essendon Grammar School and went down 13-16 in another close encounter. This result, however, was good enough to put them into a quarter-final against Mont Albert.

In a high-standard first half, the Andersons Creek boys lifted a notch, but Mont Albert were staying with them and trailed by just a point, 10-11, at half-time.

The lead was maintained until Mont Albert clawed their way to the front in the last 30 seconds following an injury to one of the Creekers' key players.

A mix-up in the control of the clock cost Andersons Creek valuable seconds and they were unable to make up the leeway, going down 19-22.

Although beaten, it was a magnificent effort. Ari Pianta was named MVP for the team.

Warrandyte Primary were coached into the final 16 in the state in the Year 3/4 section by Joseph O'Mara, a Year 6 student who took on the leadership role after being injured playing football.

"It was great to be coaching" he said after steering his team to two win in four games during the day.

The highlight was defeating Horsham West by seven points in one of the preliminary rounds. Horsham West went on to take out the final. Unfortunately, the other results were not enough to get Warrandyte into the business end of the finals, but it was an excellent result in a competition which started with some 200 teams.

Peter Wittington was named MVP for Warrandyte.



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# The Dytes' dynamic dozen

The late Allan Chapman, whose name remains synonymous with cricket in this town, has been paid the ultimate compliment by the club he served for so long and with such distinction.

At a special dinner late last month, Warrandyte Cricket Club named him captain of the top 12 players of the past half-century.

The best 12 first eleven players to have represented the club between 1950-2000 were selected by the 16 surviving life members after considering a short list of 26 who had played a minimum 50 games, scored more than 1000 runs or taken more than 100 wickets in the first eleven or completed more than 100 dismissals as a wicketkeeper.

The life members named former captain-coach John Sharman vice-captain. The other members of the Top 12 are Allan Chapman's son John, Graeme Jacobs, Fred Jungwirth, Bruce Kline, Graeme Lloyd, Steve Pascoe, Greg Tregear, Gerald Walshe, Robert White and Alan Woolcock.

John Salter, who captained Warrandyte's last Chandler Shield team in 1982-83, presented the awards to the chosen players.

Among the dinner guests on November 25 was Jim Harris who at 82 is understood to be one of the oldest surviving former players.

The presentation night also provided former teammates with the opportunity to catch up with each other and relive matches long gone by.

The selection of Allan Chapman as captain of the Top 12 came as no surprise. He first played for

## SPORT

Warrandyte in the late 1930s and retired in the early 1970s.

Chapman opened the bowling and batting for the club and in the 1958-59 premiership season in the Box Hill Reporter Association won both the batting and bowling awards.

He played in five premiership teams and has long been regarded as Warrandyte's premier cricketer.

Chapman died almost 20 years ago but left a great cricketing legacy.

Elder son John was also named in the Top 12 and the other son, Brian, gave the club great service. Both are life members.

Daughters Sue and Jenny (also a life member) both played for the Warrandyte women's eleven, Sue captaining the side and representing Australia in matches against India.

John Sharman captained Warrandyte to their last Chandler Shield grand final and was highly regarded for his batting and leadership skills. He scored 2217 runs for the club at an average of 40.31.

John Chapman first played in the senior team as a 15-year-old and often opened the batting with his father. He also kept wickets and has been president, secretary, treasurer and captain of the club.

Chapman scored 3693 runs and made 190 dismissals. He is currently chairman of selectors and captain of Warrandyte's over-40s veterans team.

Graeme Jacobs was a dour left-handed opening batsman who made 1304 runs at an av-



The best of the best — 11 of Warrandyte Cricket Club's top 12 of the past half-century. Back row (from left): Greg Tregear, Gerald Walshe, Fred Jungwirth, John Chapman, Graeme Jacobs, Bruce Kline, Alan Woolcock. Front: John Sharman, Graeme Lloyd, Steve Pascoe, Robert White.

erage of 37.26. Jacobs was an accomplished all-round sportsman, having played in Melbourne's last VFL/AFL premiership team in 1964.

Fred Jungwirth belonged to Warrandyte's golden era of premierships between 1979 and 1983, when the club won an A-grade and two Chandler Shield titles.

Jungwirth bowled leg spin, taking 115 wickets and making 945 runs. He plays on as a member of the club's over-50s veterans team.

Bruce Kline is regarded as the best wicketkeeper ever to represent Warrandyte. A brother of former Test spinner Lindsay Kline, he was responsible for 134 dismissals, 90 of which

were stumpings.

Graeme Lloyd was considered the most influential player in the Ringwood district competition in the early 1980s and played a major role in two Chandler Shield premierships.

He took 66 wickets in the 1980-81 season and 71 in 1982-83. In all, he took 224 wickets for Warrandyte at the remarkable

average of 11.96.

Steve Pascoe was recruited from Norwood as captain-coach and was a natural leader both on and off the field. He opened the bowling and batted in the middle order, taking 174 wickets and scoring 3041 runs.

Pascoe was also president, secretary and treasurer of the club and is now president of the Ringwood District Cricket Association. He still plays in the clubs over-40s and over-50s veterans teams.

Greg Tregear is a former club captain and highly regarded as a top-order batsman, scoring 3371 runs at an average of 32. He retains a strong interest in the club and is currently treasurer.

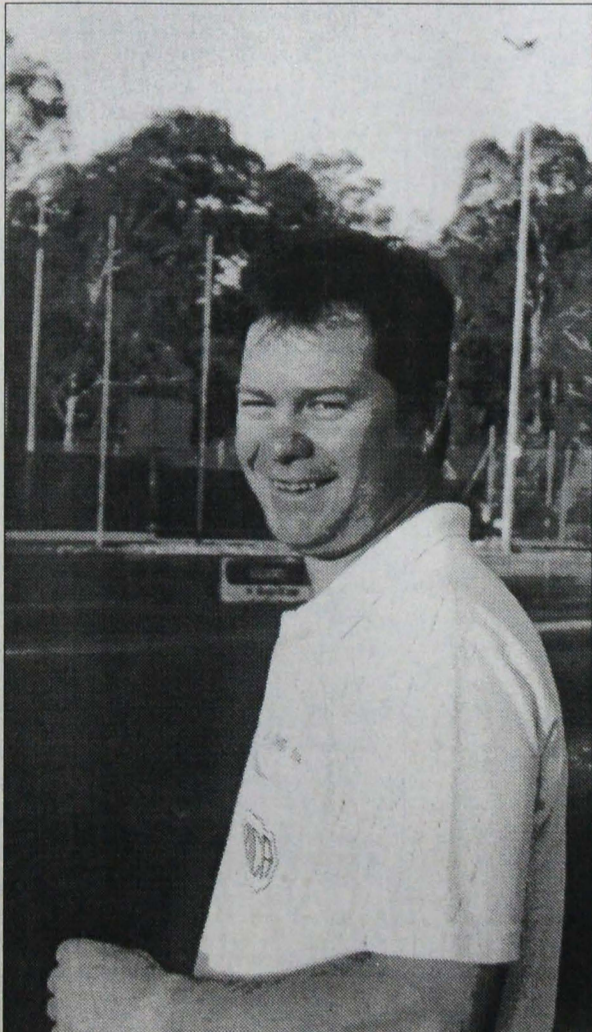
Gerald Walshe was just 16 when he first played in Warrandyte's first eleven and earned the nickname "Pup". A tireless opening bowler, he holds the club's senior eleven wicket-taking record with 353, with an innings best performance of 7-53. He has also scored 1672 runs.

Robert White is a former captain and president of the club. He holds the first eleven record of 11 centuries in a total of 3600 runs. An all-rounder, his best bowling figures are 8-28 including a hat-trick.

He is a member of Warrandyte's over-40s veterans team and also currently plays for the first eleven.

Alan Woolcock was a left-arm orthodox off-spin bowler who took 183 wickets at an average of 13.14. A former captain of the club and a former member of its executive, he still plays in Warrandyte's veterans teams.

# Bushrangers on boil



Warrandyte captain-coach Russell Jenzen, who set up the win over reigning premiers Ainslie Park.

A one-day clash with Croydon North at home on Saturday, December 16, could well shape Warrandyte Cricket Club's Chandler Shield season.

A place in the top four is up for grabs if the Bushrangers can win their last game before the Christmas break.

Warrandyte have become genuine finals contenders after winning their past two games, highlighted by an away victory over reigning premiers Ainslie Park on December 9.

That win was set up by captain-coach Russell Jenzen, who scored a brilliant 122 in the middle order on the first day, combining lusty hitting with effortless stroke play to all parts of the ground.

With Jenzen's century and a controlled 58 from opener Steve Bell before he was tragically run out, Warrandyte set Ainslie Park the task of making 272 on the second day.

The home side looked to be cruising before Robert White and Jenzen combined to take seven of the nine wickets to fall, leaving Ainslie Park five runs short.

White, a Warrandyte veteran, controlled one end, showing his experience in a pressure situation and taking 4-66 from 28 overs of off-spin.

Jenzen added three wickets to his century of the previous week, producing his best form with the ball for the season. With his best yet to come, his influence after Christmas could become an important factor in the team's finals aspirations.

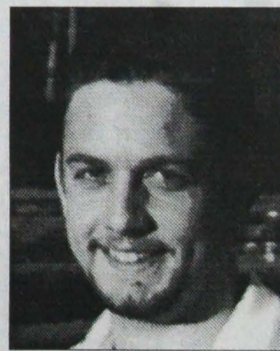
In the previous game, Warrandyte looked to be in all sorts of trouble at home, closing the day at 6-34 chasing Lilydale's modest total of 119. But Adam White, in his first

## Cricket details

**CHANDLER SHIELD:** Warrandyte 123 (A. White 50, Walshe 23) d Lilydale 119 (Beardall 4-26) and 6-192. Warrandyte 271 (Jenzen 122, Bell 58) d Ainslie Park 266 (R. White 4-66, Jenzen 3-67).

**SECONDS:** Warrandyte 103 lost to Lilydale 315 (Gidley 3-37) and 2-123. Warrandyte 163 (Baker 78, Sazenis 34, Snaidero 22) lost to Ainslie Park 312 (Snaidero 6-109) and 6-92 (Snaidero 3-38).

**THIRDS:** Warrandyte 91 (Warr 28, Brown 22) lost to Lilydale 164 (Warr 3-34, Prangley 3-40). Warrandyte 148 (Goddard 39, Logan 25, Croft 20) and 4-85 (Kocijan 42no, Croft 27) lost to Ainslie Park 8-307 (A. Raby 3-75).



Adam Beardall... a fine all-round effort against Lilydale.

game for the season, and Gerald Walshe put together an invaluable 62-run partnership to put the side within reach of victory early on the second day.

The game was far from over, however. The quick dismissals of Walshe for 23 and White for 50 left youngsters Adam Beardall and Jason Cloke to steer the side to victory in an heroic 10th-wicket partnership.

It was an extraordinary all-round effort from Beardall, who had crashed through the Lilydale batting line-up with his leg-breaks, taking four wickets in perhaps his best perfor-

mance in the senior team.

For Cloke, it was an ideal debut at the crease in the first eleven, hitting the winning runs and giving Warrandyte a real chance for finals honours.

Despite a disappointing and rain-affected start, Warrandyte's season now abounds with optimism. With a full-strength line-up at their disposal, the Bushrangers have proved that they cannot only match it with the best in the competition, they can also beat them.

The win over the powerful Ainslie Park side was built around Jenzen's masterful innings. After crashing to 6-134 it appeared that Warrandyte would again be setting a poor total. But Campbell Holland, Walshe and Beardall stayed with their skipper to add an incredible 137 runs for the last three wickets.

Ainslie Park started their run chase in typically aggressive fashion and at 0-62 had made a fine start. But quick wickets to Jenzen and Robert White put a brake on scoring. Two more wickets before the tea break had the game evenly poised with Ainslie Park 4-131.

Wickets proved hard to come by, but with White and Jenzen

bowling tightly, Ainslie Park were left with a five-over dash to make 40 runs.

With one over remaining and nine wickets down, Ainslie Park needed 24 runs. They certainly gave it their best shot, hitting out lustily, but fell five runs shy.

Jenzen was full of praise for his team, saying he was happy not only with the two wins but the way in which they had been achieved.

"The thing that makes me happiest is that in both wins we were in a position where we could have lost, but thanks to a number of blokes in the team we were able to work our way out of trouble," he said.

He added that while individual performances had been invaluable in the back-to-back victories, the team's ability to win in tight situations was most important.

With the next two games against Croydon North and Warrandyte South at home, Warrandyte have the chance to consolidate a position in the four. Both games are one-day fixtures, a style of game that suits the Bushrangers.

A marathon spell of 40 successive overs from Chris Snaidero for a return of 6-109 was the highlight of an otherwise dismal day in the field for the second eleven in the match at home against Ainslie Park.

The visitors scored 312 and Warrandyte quickly crashed to 4-15 before Brendan Baker and under-16 player Mat Sazenis steadied the innings.

Baker made an impressive 78 and is pressing for senior selection.

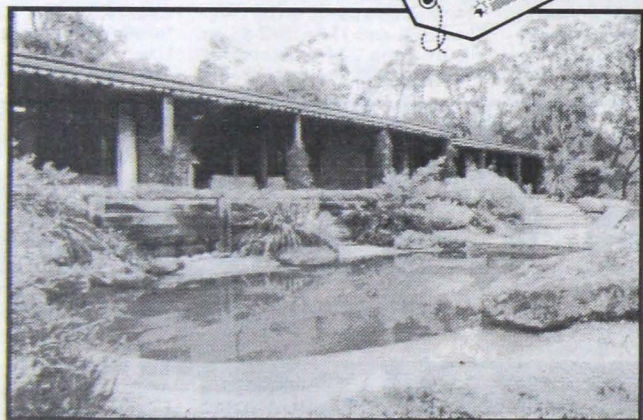
The thirds also spent a long day in the field as Ainslie Park made 8-307 in reply to Warrandyte's 148.



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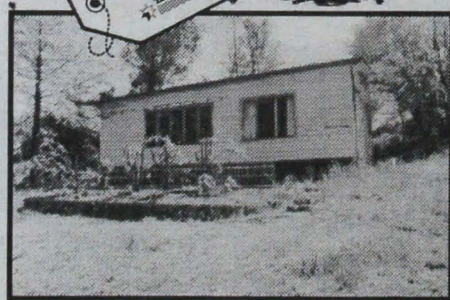
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