

GOLDFIELDS PLAZA



WARRANDYTE
DIARY

WARRANDYTE HARDWARE

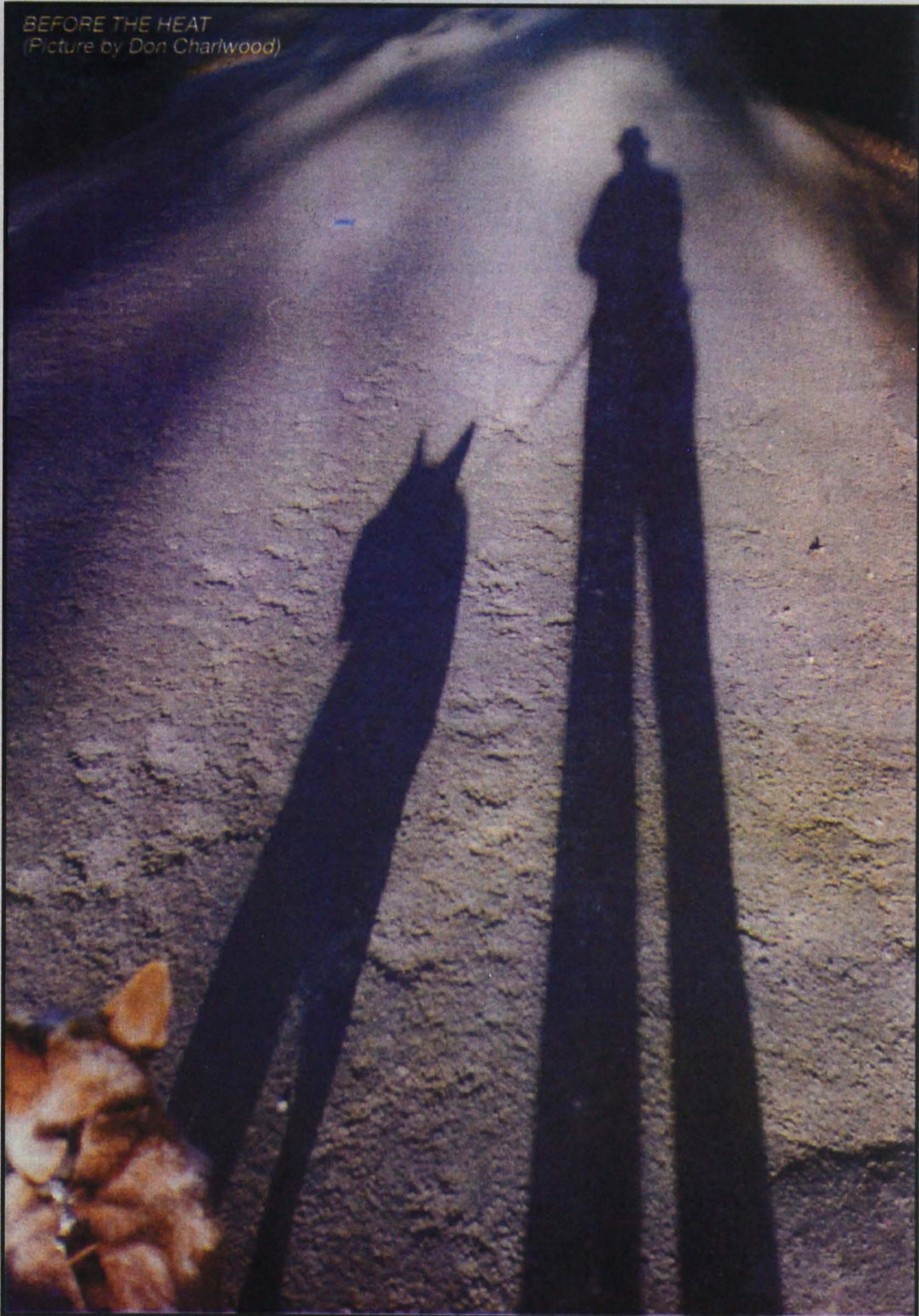
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D-day for centre



Warrandyte awaits council's decision

By **CLIFF GREEN**

The day is fast approaching when Manningham council will announce their decision on the future management of the Warrandyte Community Centre.

According to Cr Patricia Young, "no decisions will be made until late February".

Following the removal of community control of the centre, council called for "expressions of interest" from "not-for-profit" organisations to run the centre. These closed on January 10.

Three groups responded—Manningham Recreation Association Inc, YMCA and the Warrandyte Community Centre Support Group, the organisation formed out of a well-attended public protest meeting, held in Warrandyte in November. This meeting resolved to oppose council's plans for commercialisation, believing that "the community centre is for the community and needs to be run by the community".

Cr Young believes Warrandyte has nothing to fear. She told the *Diary*: "Whoever takes over the management of the centre, council will always make sure that the community groups at present using the centre, and any in the future who are interested, will be given total priority over everyone else."

The support group finds this position difficult to reconcile with the council resolution in August, moved by Cr Young, requiring any future management "to maximise the centre's earnings from rental of prime spaces at market rates".

"It's been a difficult time," Jock Macneish, chairman of the support group, told the *Diary*. "I believe the people of Warrandyte look to their councillors for their support in creating a vibrant facility for community use. It appeared, however, that council planned to lease parts of the centre for commercial operations. The decision as to who manages the centre seems certain to determine whether we see shops replacing community groups. If the support group's management offer is selected, this will not happen."

Manningham mayor and Mullum Mullum ward councillor, Lionel Allemand, maintains council "has never considered commercialisation of the centre".

"It is a priority for council that the centre becomes financially independent under the current management proposal," he said. "While council expects to cover costs from the users



Cr Young: "nothing to fear"



Cr Allemand: "fair deal for all"

and tenants, it has committed to support and maintain local community services and will continue to provide funding and accommodation to local community groups.

"Manningham council is not seeking to disadvantage any of the community groups utilising the centre, council is about a fair deal for all residents and community groups."

In a previous statement, Cr Young wrote, "I am sure everyone agrees that it (the community centre) could be a far more interesting place with some retail in the front—perhaps a coffee shop—something that tourists might be interested in."

In her most recent statement, Cr Young expressed council's concern "that the centre is well run and that the new management endeavours to ensure that WCC becomes a focal point of Warrandyte for community use, and becomes a more interesting and vibrant place for residents and others to visit".

Representatives from the support group met with councillors Allemand and Young in late December. The group was urged to submit their expression of interest in managing the centre on behalf of the community. "Cr Allemand was particularly encouraging," Mr Macneish said. "He agreed to modify the requirement for incorporation, so that the support group submission could be considered."

The group has had their submission acknowledged and will be meeting with councillors Allemand, Young and Beynon and senior council officers within the next few days. It is anticipated that the final decision on the management of the centre will be made at the council meeting on Tuesday, February 27.

"The \$3.5million Warrandyte Community Centre is an asset of the entire Manningham community," Cr Allemand said. "In dealing with all community facilities, council must maintain a wider perspective and take a less parochial view, for the benefit of the whole community."

● Further reports: Pages 6, 7.

CYRIL

By **PAUL WILLIAMS**



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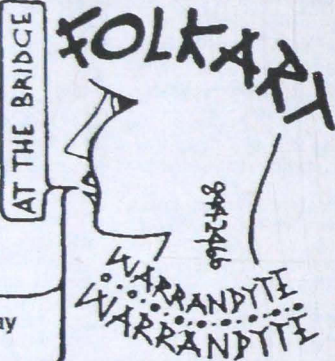
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OUR NEWSPAPER

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

A SPECIAL PLACE

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

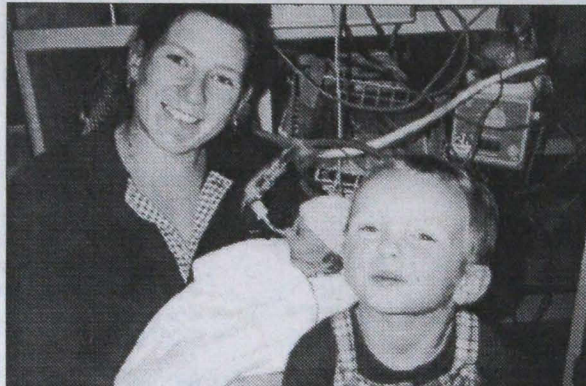
Twins say 'It's time' so Dad stands and delivers



Liam Appleby is a little bloke with a mind of his own — and his twin sister Kylie's not far behind him. Just an hour, in fact. The grandkids of Tony and Sue Appleby, of Brackenbury Street, and John and Julie Ryan, of Cemetery Road, weren't due in this world for six weeks, but on January 11 took matters into their own tiny hands. Kellie Appleby's contractions began as hubby Peter arrived home at Bentleigh from work (he manages the Albion Hotel at Dandenong) and an ambulance was summoned. Peter had attended the birth two-and-a-half years earlier of their first-born son Josh, so he knew something about what was going to happen and he delivered Liam in the bedroom while an ambulance officer talked him through the procedure on the phone. Liam arrived at 6.55 pm, 25 minutes after the contractions had begun. A second ambulance carrying a midwife turned up and whisked the Applebys off to Monash Medical Centre, where Kylie arrived in more orthodox fashion at 7.55. Liam weighed in at five pounds one ounce and his sister at four pounds three ounces in the old language and are doing just fine.



For two months, Neil "Bozo" Dusting's legion of adoring fans had been on the phone demanding a spot on this page for their hero when the *Diary* resumed publication for 2001. That's how much they were missing him. Okay, Neil took his mate Geoff Feltham fishing on Western Port Bay the other day and stopped at a service station at Hastings on the way to fuel up the boat. Captain Dusting was standing there absent-mindedly beside the pump, the nozzle of the hose in what he thought was the neck of the tank but was, in fact, a rod holder! Many litres of liquid gold were running through the holder into the bottom of the ship and out the bungholes in the stern. "If the bungs had been in he'd have filled the boat," says Geoff. "The price of fuel the way it is, it could've cost him a couple of thousand bucks." After mopping-up operations, the fishing trip proceeded. Neil chose a spot he guaranteed would produce a vast haul of whiting, but when the wind turned a bit nasty our intrepid anglers agreed it was time to head for shore. No such



Kellie Appleby (nee Ryan) with baby Kylie and son Josh

luck. The anchor refused to budge and when they managed to retrieve it three-quarters of a back-breaking hour later, they found they'd hooked a heavy steel cable which for some reason runs from the mainland to French Island. And that was the only thing they caught all day.



You'll read elsewhere in this issue that Cliff Green, the *Diary's* founding father, has been honoured for his service to the community — and Smokey reckons it's several or years overdue. Your columnist's association with Cliff goes back 25 or more years to the fledgling days of the *Diary* when he was invited along one night to see how the robust little rag was put together, with maybe a view to lending a hand in the future. Cliff greeted us at the door of his A-frame office at the bottom of the garden with the news that he'd already written Page 1. "The bloody council's bulldozed the Victory gold mine in Whipstick Gully," he said. "Didn't tell a soul, just went ahead and bulldozed part of our history. Reckoned it was a hazard for tourists and kids. But how high-handed can you get?" So out the *Diary* thundered a few days later berating the then Doncaster-Templestowe Council — which responded very promptly with a barrage of its own. "The Mines Department bulldozed the Vic-



IN RED & WHITE



tory," it said, "without even consulting us. We are very annoyed with the Mines Department and very annoyed with the *Diary* for getting it all wrong and falsely accusing us." Oh dear. Smokey wondered how Cliff was going to get out of this one. Not a problem. Cliff sat down and wrote Page 1 of the next issue: "Doncaster-Templestowe Council has joined the *Diary* in a scathing attack on the Mines Department for bulldozing the Victory goldmine." Two front pages for the price of one. Council appeased and honour and integrity restored. Brilliant! We figured this was precisely the kind of editor we could get along with. Of course, at the time we didn't envisage a life sentence.



Somebody hasn't been playing the game at all at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre. The complex was burgled twice within the space of a week last month, the first raid (in the early hours of January 15) netting \$25 from the drink machine but the second much more productive, the loot including the local basketball club's brand new computer along with a fax/printer and modem. The villains (particularly the first gang, if more than one was involved) also did a helluva lot of damage. They managed to break down most of the internal doors and the over-

all repair and replacement bill will amount to anything up to \$15,000, which is not covered by insurance. It means that the basketball club, as major tenant, will be footing most of that bill. Needless to say, security at the centre will be substantially upgraded and if anyone out there is thinking of having a third go at the place, forget it because there's bugger all left worth pinching.



Mark Bensch, of Brackenbury Street, doesn't think he'll go camping again at Cape Patterson with his good mate and neighbour Grant "Socks" Egan. Too stressful, he reckons. Mark was sitting outside the camp in the caravan park there sipping a cleansing ale when a youth enlightened proceedings by proceeding to belt up a considerably smaller kid. "Hey, pick on someone your own size, you feral!" roared Mark, to which another youth replied, "It's okay, it's his cousin." But the "feral" bit had made quite an impact. Three-quarters of an hour later, 30 kids of all ages and sizes were belting each other up and chanting, "Feral, feral!" — a chant they kept up for the next two days whenever Mark appeared. He was pretty happy to get back to Warrandyte — but not for long because the story had preceded him (thanks to Socks) and when he walked into the local pub, the entire bar broke into a chorus. Yeah, you guessed it ... "Feral, feral!"

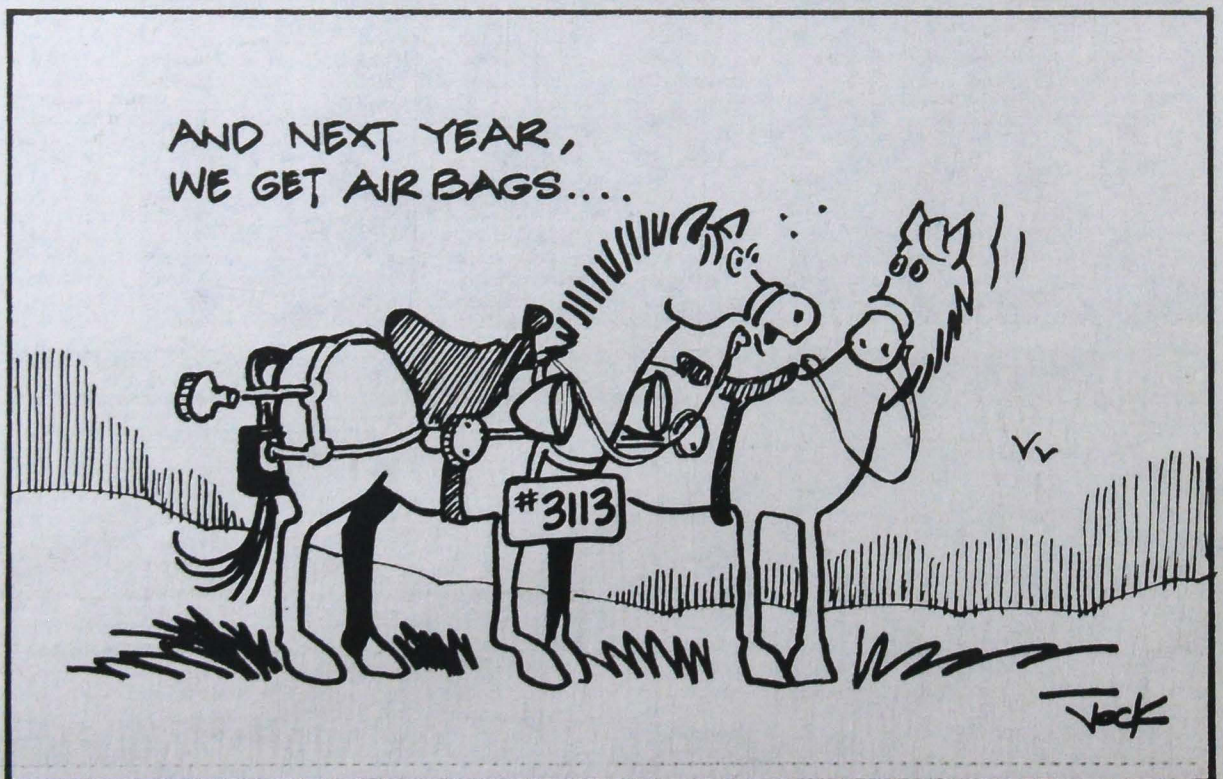


A game vaguely resembling cricket will be played at the recreation reserve on Sunday, February 25, and we urge you to be there because it's for the worthiest of causes. The local pub is taking on the cops, with all proceeds going to Bluey Day for the cancer kids. Sponsors are being rounded up, there'll be a gold coin admission and a barbecue and refreshments will be available. Local police chief Sergeant Keith Walker is right now recruiting a law-enforcement eleven, Geoff Feltham has appointed himself non-playing coach of the Club Warrandyte team and a fun afternoon (starting at one) is guaranteed. If you'd like to be involved, give Geoff a call on 9844 2955 or 0417 548152.

Smokey Joe

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



'Take that horse's number, officer!'

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

Horses in Manningham might need to be registered—just like cats and dogs—if a recommendation contained in a new draft strategy is implemented.

The draft council strategy, drawn up after wide community consultation, will be available for public comment this month.

Previous council strategies for horses focussed on defining the roadside and off-road riding network and upgrading pony club facilities within the municipality, but in the current draft there is a strong push for environmental management, rider education and coordination with bushland regeneration groups.

A horse registration system would only be considered following consultation with local government and other key stakeholders. Manningham's project management unit also believes the state government should introduce legislation requiring all riders to wear helmets. The present law requires all

riders under 18 years on a highway to wear approved helmets.

A Sport and Recreation Victoria report rates horse riding as the second most expensive activity behind motor sports. In comparison with the Melbourne division, Manningham has the highest proportion of households with annual incomes over \$60,000, according to the draft strategy. There are about 1500 horses agisted in Manningham generating about \$2.8 million annually within the city, but this income, shared among farriers, vets, feed suppliers, owners of agistment properties, riding schools and clubs, is not considered a substantial industry within the municipality. According to the draft strategy, this is significant as a major supplementary income for agistment property owners.

The Sport and Recreation report also identifies that females participate less than males in sporting activities and less again through organised sports club structures. Pony clubs are excep-

tional in that membership comprises almost entirely young females. Three-quarters of Manningham residents are under 18 or over 35 and as younger and older age groups are generally more involved in horse riding, demographics of the area suggest a significant horse riding target audience.

Specifically relating to clubs, the strategy recommends the possibility of riding clubs amalgamating where membership numbers have fallen and Wyena Pony Club in South Warrandyte has called for a master plan for their grounds at Husseys Lane to determine the best use and development of the area for cross country events.

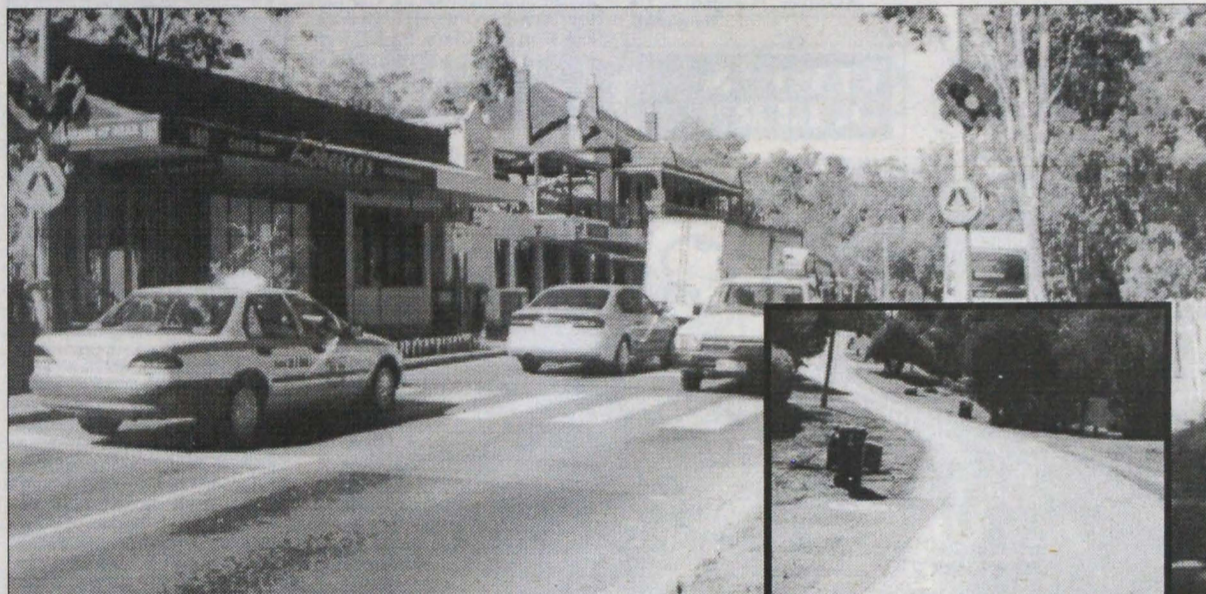
Manningham's open space strategy identifies several Melbourne Water pipe tracks as providing good opportunities to extend linear trail networks for riders and to improve linkages between areas of public open space. Consultation is also planned with local riders to explore options for a route from Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road to

Westerfolds Park. Roadside management policy recommends discouragement of horses in sensitive vegetation areas, suggesting alternative routes should be investigated. According to Parks Victoria, Jumping Creek Road provides the only viable access route between Wonga Park and Warrandyte, all other areas being environmentally sensitive, steep or unsuitable for horses. Despite recent major road works, only parts of this road are usable by riders.

The poor condition of many agistment properties is also a concern to Manningham council, which may lead to a pasture management accreditation program promoting and rewarding properties that are run in a sustainable manner, using such tools as a managed demonstration paddock and the hosting of workshops or open days. The study reports many horse keepers are new to land management and often have many demands on their time, which may lead to land degrada-

tion, weed infestation and loss of aesthetics. Environmental issues include horses browsing on native vegetation, disturbing wildlife, dispersing weeds, compacting and eroding soil, widening tracks and contaminating water through manure deposited along waterways. The draft strategy recommends riders work with "friends of" groups in a voluntary capacity to protect and enhance the quality of significant remnant vegetation areas.

The horse riding strategy included consultation with representatives from horse riding clubs, council officers, Parks Victoria, other state government agencies and neighbouring municipalities. This process demonstrated considerable value in councils developing a regional horse liaison council to focus on particular issues such as horse trail networks, rider education, environmental management, agistment, tourism and safety. A regional approach to grant applications may also be well received.



Watch that speedo: In Yarra Street (above) the speed limit is still 60km/h, but Everard Drive (right) and other residential streets in Warrandyte have been pegged back to 50km/h. (Pictures by Jan Tindale)

No golden cash for Warrandyte

By RACHEL BAKER

Despite Andersons Creek's official recognition as the place where payable gold was first found in Victoria, Warrandyte appears to have missed out on government funding provided to mark the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold.

Gold is a big part of Warrandyte's history. The hills are dotted with old mine shafts. A favourite swimming spot, Pound Bend, was created by a miner seeking riches. And the old milk bar at the West End was called "Golden Gate".

Yet Warrandyte has been excluded from a round of gold celebration funding granted by the state government.

Seventeen gold-related events—to celebrate the state's 150th anniversary of gold discovery—were announced last month by tourism minister, John Pandazopoulos, but Warrandyte was not included.

A Warrandyte committee was established last year to organise celebrations for the anniversary. The Gold Discovery Re-enactment Committee, led by Rotary member Ron Kay, applied for a grant of around \$35,000 to hold a day replicating the initial discovery of gold, including a drama display, tent city, and evening barn dance.

The committee was "extremely disappointed" it missed out, Mr Kay, who is also a past-president of Rotary, said.

The committee had "other options" for finance and their planned events would still go ahead, member Gina Bevan-Jones, said.

The committee expects to receive manpower assistance from local groups including Parks Victoria, Warrandyte Business Association and the Warrandyte Historical Society.

"The plans won't have to be scaled down," Mr Kay said. The first round of funding, whose recipients were decided by the Country Victorian Tourism Council, is for anniversary events. The state government contributed almost \$190,000 to

the scheme, which is to be matched by local communities.

The 17 successful events include a re-enactment walk from Robe, South Australia, to Bendigo, an Historical Town festival in Beechworth, and a "History of Clunes" musical play and ball in Clunes.

"There is a focus on rural areas," spokeswoman for the state government told the *Diary*. "The grants focus on the goldfields themselves, which are located in rural Victoria," she said.

As Warrandyte is often considered Victoria's home of gold, its exclusion from funding is unfair, according to state Liberal MP, Phil Honeywood.

"The steering committee administering the fund has been under the joint chairmanship of three Labor MPs, and over 90 percent of the events to be funded are located in Labor electorates," Mr Honeywood said.

Mr Kay, of the Gold Discovery Re-enactment Committee, noted that Warrandyte was the first town to officially register gold discovery, but that the first discovery was made in Clunes on the previous day.

"Warrandyte got to Melbourne first, because we were only one day's travel away," Mr Kay said.

The second round of funding is for celebratory infrastructure and will be announced in mid-February.

The Warrandyte Historical Society has applied for two grants under the infrastructure scheme: to upgrade and open to the public the old slab hut in Castle Road, North Warrandyte, and to upgrade the society's museum.

"We hope to install signage in the slab hut and open it to the public during the Warrandyte Festival," Andy Bevan-Jones, president of the historical society, said. "We plan to upgrade the museum's gold room—with more displays, new photographs and demonstrations and new sound systems."

Slow down in town

By RACHEL BAKER

The new speed limit on minor streets has created some confusion for drivers, Warrandyte police sergeant Keith Walker said.

The speed limit on residential streets was reduced from 60km/h to 50km/h across Victoria from Monday, January 22.

"It's still a bit confusing," Sgt Walker said.

Drivers' confusion seems to surround "collector" roads—marked orange in the Melway street directory. Collector roads funnel traffic from local roads to bigger roads, and may or may not be residential. Harris Gully Road and Tindals Road are collector roads.

Some collector roads have been reduced to 50km/h, others remain at 60km/h or 70km/h, and others have not yet been decided. In many cases, the speed limit is not

marked with signs.

VicRoads sets all speed limits, but has sought advice from local councils for the collector roads, because councils have better knowledge of local traffic conditions.

A spokesperson for Manningham council said their advice has been based on road conditions, traffic volume and connections to arterial roads.

Most collector roads are now 50km/h, even if new speed limit signs have not been erected.

Exceptions include Homestead Road in Wonga Park (from Yarra Road to Brushy Park Road), which has remained at 60 km/h, and Holloway Road, also in Wonga Park, which has been kept at 60 km/h.

The future limit for Brysons Road (Warranwood and Wonga Park) has not yet

been decided; in the meantime it will retain its old limit of 70km/h.

The state government has advised drivers to assume a limit of 50km/h on all collector roads until new signs are erected.

All residential streets—marked brown in the Melway—have been reduced, but not all will be marked with signs because 50km/h is the new default speed.

Arterial Roads, marked black in the Melway—such as Warrandyte Road, Kangaroo Ground Road and Research Road—will remain at their current, signposted speed.

Sgt Walker said some drivers, in their confusion, are travelling at 50km on main arterials.

"It is a bit of a hazard; other drivers may become impatient," he said.

There will be no amnesty for the introduction of the

new limits, but police have been told to "use their discretion for minor breaches", Sgt Walker said. "Once drivers get used to the new system, it will be much better."

"It will be beneficial to all the streets affected in Warrandyte, especially streets like Everard Drive, where cars have been known to drive too quickly on that narrow street."

Sgt Walker said he would like to see a 50km/h speed limit throughout Warrandyte's central area, from Tills Drive to Melbourne Hill Road. He believes the number of pedestrians and parked cars and the amount of business and recreational activity around the streets make for challenging driving.

"That would be wonderful," Sgt Walker said, "but VicRoads has decided that it's not appropriate."

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Big trouble with dogs

I'm writing to suggest that the Warrandyte River Reserve off-lead dog walking area be changed to an on-lead area. This goes for all off-lead areas.

I do this with much regret, as there's little I enjoy more than seeing my dog and others running free of the constraints of the lead.

However, on December 8, 2000, my fox terrier was attacked by a runaway rottweiler whose walkers obviously had no control over it.

After my dog and I had passed the rottweiler, it came running towards my dog. Fortunately, I was able to jump on the rottweiler, knock the wind out of it and keep it from biting my dog's neck as it was attempting to do. This was only achieved via much wrestling, even pushing and kneeling.

Finally I extricated my dog from underneath the rottweiler. She ran away and I only found her—terrified—because another man on the track told me where she had gone. I put her in the car.

I demanded the walkers of the dog's details and have since contacted the Manningham council and reported the incident.

At this stage, I might add, I received no help from the dogs' walkers during all this and no apology after the attack.

I'd like to make two points, finally.

Point 1: I think the authorities should ban these areas as it's a classic case of the few spoiling for the majority, and if they don't, another dog or even a child may be killed or maimed.

Point 2: If you own a dog with



a potentially unstable temperament, have it trained by an expert. They are around; I know one myself; or get a dog you can control. Always remember you must have these dogs trained to the point where you can recall them under any circumstances.

This time, thank God, my little companion survived; however, I sustained serious injuries.

Again I ask dog owners to be responsible and for the authorities to act. I believe it's rarely the dog that's at fault, but the owner.

Please act, before it's too late.
Ken Gammon
by e-mail

Best place

I have been many times on holiday to Australia and my favourite place is Warrandyte (well, after the Southgate centre). It is such an unusual place to find in this day and age and is for me what Australia is all about.

Among my reasons for favouring Warrandyte are two of the loveliest people I know but with whom I have lost touch. Could you please ask your readers to help me find Kirsty James of Potters Cottage and Debbie Saunders of baking fame.

I am no longer in the highly paid position I once was and can no longer visit as many times as I'd like, but I can get a vicarious buzz on the net.

Congratulations on a very professional website and I hope you get many more hits or impressions.

Anna MacDonald
Andover, Hampshire, UK
by e-mail.

Write on

Writers in country Australia are a special breed of people, as we have found from the many responses to a writing competition we held last year.

We had many entries for our Riesling And Roses competition from around Australia, but more importantly we made many friends. Writers who were keen to learn more about the craft of writing and who wanted to get in touch with other folk with similar interests.

Although we are only a small writers' group based in country South Australia we have formed an Outreach Writers Group offering information, support and advice to others like ourselves. We are publishing a regular newsletter—the first due in February this year.

Through your pages, we would like to reach writers in rural areas who may be interested in joining this group. They may send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: The Valley Writers Outreach Group, P.O. Box 206, Clare, SA 5453 or email: tuchwood@rbe.net.au for a membership form and further information.

Nan Berrett
secretary
Valley Writers Inc
by e-mail

Special calendar

A pictorial calendar, suitable for any year, has been published to mark the "six season" annual cycle of the local indigenous people.

Our four-season annual cycle—summer, autumn, winter, spring—arrived with the first white settlers from Europe and often bears little relevance to the natural rhythm of an Australian year.

The Aboriginal people used a sequence of six seasons. We call them high summer, late summer, early winter, deep winter, early spring and true spring. They are also known as the Middle Yarra Timelines.

The Timelines Calendar explores the seasonal patterns and beauty of our flora and fauna and the many wonderful parks and reserves in the region.

Local naturalist Glen Jameson captures the essence of the six seasons beautifully with his timeless narrative and the calendar features artwork by Jock Macneish and superb photography by Neil McKinnon, Pat and Mike Coupar, Marion King, Glen Jameson and Helen Moss. The original text and illustrations were published in the *Diary* in 1997/98.

The Timelines Calendar is a joint initiative of Manningham and Nillumbik councils. It is not specific to one year, so can be used in successive years.

Copies of the calendar are available from the customer service desk at Manningham City Council (\$5.50 including GST) or by calling Melissa King or Kay Toussaint on 9840 9333. (Additional \$6.95 for postage and handling).

Fond memories of Lenny

One morning during the holidays my 14 year-old niece found Lenny, her 18 month old pet blue tongue lizard, dead in his tank. He'd been a gentle, low-maintenance pet which she'd saved up for over several months and bought from a responsible breeder. He loved to go for regular strolls on the grass, hide up her jumper to get warm, lie on his hot rock and bask under his lamp. He also loved to eat freshly caught snails from the garden. What a wonderfully useful pet.

But it was this taste for snails that killed him. The snail he ate the night before he died must have come in from a neighbour's garden where snail bait had been used. The bait he had ingested was enough to kill Lenny.

This incident was a terrible reminder for our family. We have lost two loved labradors to snail bait poisoning. This is not the place to go into the details of how this occurred—suffice to say on both occasions it was the direct result of the flimsy packaging used for this deadly stuff.

When our second dog died I made many enquiries as to how a poison, which is capable of killing a 30kg dog, can be so readily available in large quantities in a simple cardboard box. No childproof containers seem to be used. My questions were unsatisfactorily answered.

My concern then, and now, is that one day a child will be attracted to the bright blue or green pellets with tragic results. Why does such a powerful poi-

son have to be used in our gardens at all? Knowing the small quantity that can kill a dog, the huge boxes on display in every supermarket and nursery must be capable of killing millions of snails and slugs. And now we know that this poison is probably killing untold numbers of lizards, ducks and any other wildlife which is attracted to snails.

Gardeners, please reconsider your use of snail bait. There are many less dangerous remedies and maybe if you're lucky enough to have a couple of resident blue tongue lizards, either wild or as pets, they'll help you dispose of the snails and they'll enjoy their meals in safety.

Doreen Burge
Diane Court

CLYDE & OCKER

"They'll be wanting to register lizards next, Ock!"

Thanks

A sincere thank you to the caring Warrandyte community for your generosity of precious time in preparing a meal roster for the Walker family during this difficult year, and all the ongoing support in many kindly deeds and thoughts.

As many are not known personally to us, thank you one and all and belated seasons greetings also.

Kate Walker, John Shaw and families.

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We all know the benefits but sometimes putting recycling into our daily life can be a real chore. That's why a lot of councils provide recycling bins — they want to encourage us to take an active part in using our resources more wisely. Plus councils are able to lower the cost of garbage collection to local residents through money raised from the resale of recyclable material.

It's easier to sort out our household rubbish into reusable material and just plain garbage, when we have two separate bins. Once sorted, our domestic refuse is whisked away in the early hours of the morning each week. All we have to do is get the bins out onto the street. That's where local resident and inventor, Neil Qualtrough, recognised a problem. Most rubbish and recycling bins have been designed to be technology-friendly, not people-friendly. While they are equipped with wheels and a strong handle, the bins are

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bulky and difficult to move when full of refuse.

"I began hearing a few horror stories," Neil explains, "elderly people and children injuring themselves, people using strange and potentially dangerous methods to get the bins out onto the road and back to their home again. Some hate handling the cobwebs that gather around the handle or lid because spiders might be lurking there, while others are uncomfortable about handling the bins for hygiene reasons. A lot of people are simply tired of having to go up and down the driveway twice in order to put both bins in place. I started to think there had to be a better way of getting this dreary, yet necessary chore done."

As an advocate for recycling, Neil could see the sense in mak-

ing it easier for people to move their bins around the property. If they could manage it better, they might be more enthusiastic about using recyclable packaging and returning it for reuse. He took on the challenge and came up with the Aussie Bin Bar. This efficient, easy-to-use appliance enables residents to hook up one or two bins and move them easily to the curbside. The Bin Bar comes in two designs. One hand-held version making walking the bins a whole lot easier, another with a tow-bar fitting, which can be hooked up to the back of the car so that one or both bins can be easily moved along long or steep driveways. The bar is 100% Australian made from cost effective materials, making it an affordable family item. It's a lightweight, durable tool with

no moving parts. The bar connects and disconnects from the bins easily and quickly and can be stored in the car boot or shed.

The response from local residents who have put the Bin Bar into practice has been very positive. "They are delighted by the convenience of use as well as avoiding back strain or other injuries," remarks Neil. "Most importantly, they don't mind taking a more responsible attitude towards their waste management because it's no longer a difficult task to perform."

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Fire brigades on standby

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

Firefighters in the Warrandyte area have been on standby to go anywhere in the state during the total fire ban days of summer.

Wonga Park CFA captain Jim McKee said some of the brigade's members helped put out a 14,000 hectare grass and crop fire at Stawell. The fire was also attended by volunteers from Warrandyte and South Warrandyte. "We've been pretty lucky in the Wonga Park area," Mr McKee said. "There's been abundant growth and the grass is almost fully cured. But it doesn't have to be a deadly hot day to start a fire." He cautioned residents about using heat combustion engines in long grass areas following a fire caused by a tractor hitting a rock.

Andrew Blashki, CFA captain at South Warrandyte, said three crews and one appliance went to the Stawell fire and others to a grass and scrub fire in Greenvale. Locally, three firefighting appliances had gone to a fire in a front

garden and nature strip after power lines clashed in a dead tree.

"We were even getting rain spots on the way to the call," Mr Blashki said. "But even with the high humidity we've had the area is still very dry. We're fortunate not to have had any lightning strikes, but the risk is still there at places like Fourth Hill."

Warrandyte CFA captain Rob Kilkenny said the outlook for the remainder of summer was very dry despite big downpours and he urged people to keep their gutters and downpipes clear, although

"fire prevention may be a pain in the neck".

"A couple of days after a tropical downpour and we're back to the same high-risk situation," he said. "Fire doesn't need strong wind in Warrandyte where there's a lot of steep terrain. It can easily run up a steep hill without any wind."

Mr Kilkenny warned people about being too complacent as the hottest period of February is still to come. He recommended extra tank water plus a fire pump connected to roof sprinklers.

North Warrandyte CFA captain Paul Buck said January's rain and humidity may have given the brigade a break but there was still a lot of grass and the fire potential was still reasonably serious.

"However, there's an awareness out there," Mr Buck told the *Diary*. "Residents were very quick to enquire about the recent smoke sightings (from the fires on King Island). People are now sniffing the air and searching the horizon."

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Raising the roof



A new hat for the hall: Warrandyte Arts Association have been raising money to replace the roof on the Mechanics Institute Hall for years. Recently, Manningham council topped up their fund with a generous grant. Diary photographer Jan Tindale caught these men at work, putting the finishing touches to the new roof, late last month.

High school's top kids

Warrandyte High School claims to have achieved one of the state's best VCE results.

Of the 85 students who attempted Year 12, all gained their VCE. Eleven gained scores above 90, with 26 achieving scores above 80.

Dux of the school, Kylie Pearce, achieved 97.7.

"As well as excellent aca-

demie results, most of Warrandyte High School's high achievers took leadership roles within the school," assistant principal Jenny Devitt told the *Diary*.

"They held down part-time jobs and made significant contributions to school and community activities.

"Some of their extra-curricu-

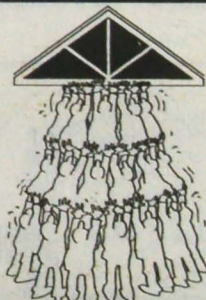
lar activities included school captain, music captain, house captain, Youth of the Year finalists, leading roles in school productions and writing for the school magazine and the *Warrandyte Diary*," she said. "Nic George, Tinman in our production of *Wiz*, earned a perfect score—50 out of 50—for Studio Arts."

SO —!

By SYD & ONA



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Our community reclaims

Edited version of a discussion paper prepared by the Warrandyte Community Centre Support Group

THE Warrandyte community and the Manningham City Council are currently at odds over the future use and management of the Warrandyte Community Centre. This state of affairs has arisen over a number of months, culminating in council taking over the centre management in October 2000.

This paper does not intend to carry on a war of words or compete with accusations of misinformation, but is intended as a brief insight, from a community perspective, as to why the community has reacted the way it has in recent weeks. From a community perspective the situation is as follows:

The Mayor attributes the centre to the foresight of the former Doncaster and Templestowe council in the late 1980s (letter 15/11/2000).

Council built the centre in response to fervent community action and pressure, it did not build it because it thought Warrandyte should have a community centre. Indeed there were a number of attempts to build a combined commercial and community centre before common-sense prevailed and the centre was built in its current form.

The council is quite properly proud of this award-winning building and the role it plays within the community. There are numerous references to capital costs and value (currently \$3.5million).

Council put in financial capital that continues to increase over time, but the community has contributed social capital in large amounts which it believes is undervalued by council and whose worth is never acknowledged. This social capital may not, in the end, be returned to the community.

Council commissioned a 1999 review of the centre by consultants as part of a wider review of council facilities to deliver better outcomes for the community (Mayor's letter to residents 15/11/2000).

The consultants canvassed the users of the centre but did not engage in a broad-based community consultation process.

The consultants' report was very positive about community centre management, but raised concerns about a community backlash should it be perceived that the community focus of the centre would be re-

duced by the introduction of commercial interests.

The community perspective is that the community centre is for the community and such a backlash to council's current moves is being experienced.

A July 25, 2000 council motion resolved that "the need to minimise resource requirements for the maintenance, management and operation of the centre by maximising the centre's earnings from rental of prime spaces at market rates, while continuing to meet accommodation requirements of the community-based service by providing low cost accommodation".

This has caused great anxiety amongst centre tenants and within the community as it appeared both contradictory and threatening.

There are several references within council documents to "market rentals" and "coffee shops" (Cr Patricia Young's letter 7/11/2000).

This caused concern, particularly to the three ground floor, streetfront tenants, as they feel directly affected by this. Two of these tenants do not receive council grants and are perceived to be under threat. The Lion's Op Shop puts large amounts of money back into the community, not just in Warrandyte. The *Diary* is the community newspaper and has been valued and supported for 30 years.

Council has said it had no option but to put an interim management body in place to manage the centre as the committee of management did not re-nominate (Mayor's letter to residents 15/11/2000).

The management committee's perception was that council placed new and onerous requirements on them and therefore they were unable to re-nominate. The rules of re-nomination were that the community centre should be self-funding within 12 months, which was seen as a contractual obligation that committee members were unable to accept.

Council valuers carried out a valuation of community spaces in the centre.

The question asked was why was this necessary, given that council should have all this information on hand. This caused great anxiety amongst tenants and raised fears within the community of commercial rates being applied.

On October 31, 2000, council agreed in principle to consider calling tenders from non-profit organisations to manage the Warrandyte Community Centre. It recommended that a community based, independent committee of management be not considered because of difficulties experienced.

Community reaction to this has been severe, as it has been interpreted to mean that the manage-

ment of the centre will move out of community hands. There is a fear that the situation may mirror the experience of Eltham Community Centre where it is said local community groups can no longer afford to use it, or Domeney Reserve, where user groups have been stretched to raise extra funds to meet increased rental costs.

The Mayor's letter of November 15 places great stress on the fact that the centre was to become financially independent (there has never been a clear definition of this).

The perception within the community is that the centre has raised funds for its operation, management and maintenance. It has undertaken maintenance and upgraded and renewed where required. Monies marked for maintenance were set aside. The community understands that council has funded the manager's salary over the past few years and this has been viewed as a small contribution, given the size and complexity of the centre.

The Mayor's letter makes reference to the centre falling below minimum maintenance standards and that \$70,000 is required to bring maintenance up to scratch.

The community's reactions range from "show us where the problems are" to "where is council's contribution to major maintenance, seeing it is their \$3.5m building?"

Other council information circulating in the community (Cr Patricia Young's letter, 7/11/2000, reference to a coffee shop) appears to indicate that commercial interests have been considered, even while the Mayor's letter appears to refute this.

The outcome of this contradictory information has been one of anger and confusion within the community.

As a result of the above there has been a groundswell of opposition to council's actions and a public meeting was held in November to consider the issue.

Public meeting

A well-attended public meeting was held to discuss the future use and management of the centre on November 22, 2000. Speakers at the meeting touched on the history of the centre, its role in the community life of Warrandyte, provided accolades (and some criticisms) for past management and raised a number of questions about the future of the centre and council's intentions.

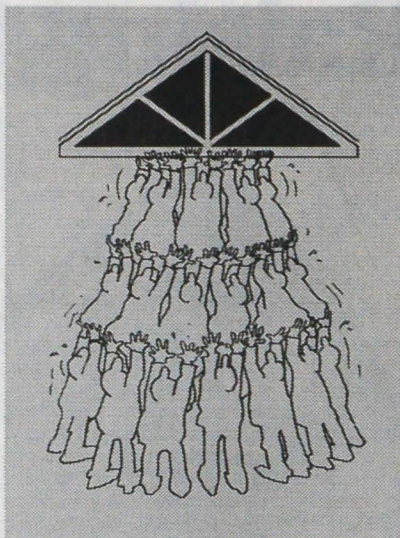
The meeting decided to form a working party to oppose council's plans. They resolved that the centre should be run for the community by a community-based committee

and that council should be requested to defer future action as the community is preparing a plan for the future operation of the centre.

Working group

The group has adopted the working title of the Warrandyte Community Centre Support Group and has met to formulate the new proposals contained in this discussion paper for the future management of the centre in line with the motions passed at the community meeting.

The working group has taken the positive view that this is an oppor-



tunity to review and reassess the centre's community role and management. The original deed was set to run to 2001 when a review was to occur and this falls in line with that time frame. The group has taken an innovative approach, canvassing community suggestions and support and seeking broad community participation through the establishment of a support group for the centre. It sees opportunities for a new-style approach and for establishing a new relationship with council.

Community history

The Warrandyte Community Centre has had strong grass roots support from its inception. It has enjoyed amazingly strong community support, from the original community-based proposals to successive management committees and enormous volunteer input, from design committees to garden planting. It has sustained community development over the past 10 years by providing a central focus for community activities. It is a centrally based, attractive and highly visible location, supplying a strong base for a number of

community groups.

The building was originally planned and designed to bring a number of scattered community organisations together under the one roof. At the time it was agreed that this would, over time, save council time and money. To build meant that the old Getson site was closed and the youth coffee shop relocated. The community agreed to the demolition of the Whitehouse and the transfer of the Citizens' Advice Bureau and other groups from other locations to ensure the viability of the new centre. Groups seeking long-term, attractive and affordable premises were encouraged to relocate to the new centre.

The number of volunteer hours, professional and dedicated, that have been given to the centre has been phenomenal.

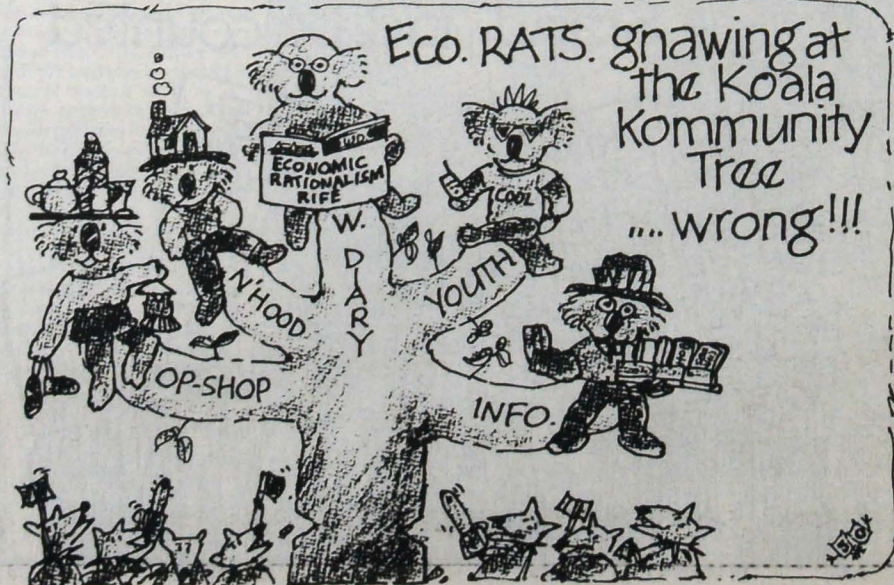
From the original sub-committee of WAC, who worked on content and design, the implementation committee, the hours of work from individual councillors, to the many volunteers who currently staff and run the various organisations, there has been a willingness to contribute to something of value to the community. The *Diary* takes 2000 skilled hours to produce an issue, the Op Shop employs over 30 volunteer hours every week.

There is no way a council could pay for the hours and the quality of service given by these volunteers. This has been a symbiotic relationship between council and the community. On the one hand, council has provided a building and some support, and on the other, the community has offered services, social investment and community development. At the end of the day, though council always has the physical bricks and mortar as a result of its investment, the community stands to lose its investment, made over time, if the centre ceases to be a true "community" centre.

There has always been a philosophical underpinning to the development of the centre, and that is that it came into existence to serve the community. Previous attempts to bring in commercial offices or shopfronts have always been rejected on the grounds that these run counter to this philosophy. Speakers at the public meeting constantly referred to the underlying philosophy of the centre that, it was suggested, automatically rejects any proposals for any form of commercial activities.

Philosophy

The Warrandyte Community Centre exists to serve the community and its community groups. It reflects in-



its heart

terests within the community, provides a meeting place and "home" to a number of community groups. It clusters groups and volunteers in a pleasant environment and provides a focus within the township on "community" and community services.

There is no requirement for commercialisation given the range of existing shops and businesses located elsewhere in the town. (For instance, there are 14 places where food and drinks are served.) If businesses infiltrate the centre it will cease to be a community centre and take on another role.

A vision for the centre was clearly articulated at the public meeting by most of the speakers and confirmed in the first motion passed.

Proposal

It is proposed that a new support group—the Warrandyte Community Centre Support Group—be established, with wide support from the community. This is proposed to provide a comprehensive support base and to reassure council that it has the necessary expertise and depth to continue to provide ongoing, strong and effective management of the centre. The WSCCG has the advantage of drawing on past expertise of community members involved with the running of the centre, and new players who can bring fresh and innovative ideas.

- WCCSG will operate the centre on behalf of council under a deed of arrangement.

- WCCSG will appoint a board of management to run the centre, comprising nine members, drawn from its members and tenant groups, to ensure true community representation.

- WCCSG will take responsibility for all facets of centre management, with grants from council on major maintenance requirement.

If there is agreement in principle to the establishment of such a committee, then council and the WSCCG working party could establish council requirements as to future use and management of the centre and a deed of arrangement drawn up to ensure these are delivered.

A number of issues requiring resolution have already been identified and could form part of ongoing negotiations to draw up a practical and viable deed of arrangement. They could include:

- tenure of management group
- review of tenancies, rental spaces and grounds
- methodology for allocation of new rental space
- social benefit analysis
- \$70,000 identified by council to bring maintenance "up to scratch"
- yearly level of contributions by

council to a major maintenance fund

- contribution by Nillumbik Shire Council
- "global" insurance policies.

Council's "vision"

The draft "Expressions of Interest" for the management of the centre does not make provision for the continued grant from council that covers the cost of the manager's salary. It requires the preparation of what the council calls a "Business Plan", and as one of the "operating principles" it demands that "market rentals be considered for those who occupy the three streetfront spaces".

In addition, the establishment of a "committee of tenant groups and local residents", separate from the management body, appears to be an attempt to isolate the management of the centre from community accountability. This appears to be a "corporate" model for managing the centre as some sort of "community business". These requirements are very much at odds with the vision expressed by the community.

Our future vision

Our bigger vision for the centre goes well beyond who is managing it and financial matters. We conceive a centre that facilitates community development, providing for the community at large with opportunities and reasons for the community to come together. One that enables, facilitates and provides for emerging and embryonic groups within the community and undertakes mentoring and mediation.

We envisage a financially robust, dependable and resourceful management group, building on past successes, encouraging innovation and drawing support from the community.

Way forward

The introduction by Manningham council of state government's "Best Value Principles" has encouraged the working group to anticipate that council will be willing to listen to the Warrandyte community on this matter and act on their concerns. To quote, "understanding the issues the community is concerned about, the service it requires and the standard of that service is paramount".

The Warrandyte community takes great pride in its willingness to listen and act on community concerns. If council is to "walk the talk" of its many statements on community and listening to concerns, then the working group is confident that it will work through this issue with representatives of the Warrandyte community in order to reach a conclusion satisfactory to all.

Support group's bid for centre management

By CLIFF GREEN

The support group formed to oppose commercialisation of the Warrandyte Community Centre believes it can manage the facility "in a vibrant, robust and cost-effective manner".

The Warrandyte Community Centre Support Group (WCCSG) has submitted an "expression of interest" to Manningham council for the management of the centre.

The group describes itself as a not-for-profit incorporated community body formed as a result of the public meeting in November. Its first stated objective is "to ensure the Warrandyte Community Centre is available to the community of Warrandyte and is managed by representatives of the community".

In its expression of interest document, WCCSG has "taken an innovative approach, canvassing community suggestions and support and seeking broad community participation through the establishment of a support group for the centre. It sees opportunities for a new style approach and establishing a new relationship with council".

The group believes it "can offer a breadth of management and associated skills. A strong management team, with proven community support and strength in community consultation, provides the essential expertise required for managing the complex. In addition WCCSG has very specific knowledge and understanding of the centre, resulting from a range of previous community involvement and practical work experience".

WCCSG proposes a number of measures to increase the use and financial viability of the centre. These include:

- Attract more permanent tenants, including tenants who can provide

community services and afford closer to commercial rentals. Examples could be a community health service and a State Park information centre.

- Analyse present casual users, build on their requirements and then promote the centre through such focused opportunities as bridal fairs, for example.

- Analyse past users, identify positive attributes and determine improvements in the centre's facilities and provisions.

- Canvass local groups on their current and future needs, define requirements and opportunities.

- Identify a range of service providers—caterers, entertainers, musicians and so on within a range of packaged prices—thus offering a complete function service.

- Develop, in conjunction with local groups, a program of community events to "showcase" the centre.

- Increase use of the foyer, forecourt and courtyard.

The group has included a three-year financial projection in their submission. It allows for all administration costs, insurances, garden and minor building maintenance and services, and includes an annual \$5000 return to Manningham council, to be set against future major maintenance. It predicts annual surplus funds of \$1550 in 2001, \$2050 in 2002 and \$2200 in 2003. It anticipates a financial contribution from Nillumbik council of \$2000 in 2001, rising to \$3000 in 2003, but requires no money from Manningham council, apart from allocations necessary to meet major maintenance.

WCCSG proposes the waiving, for the first year, of any management fee due to the group "to offset rises in rents for community tenants". Rentals from tenants are predicted at \$20,000

(2001), \$24,000 (2002) and \$26,000 (2003).

The submission proposes the creation of a liaison group "to provide a forum for the permanent tenants of the centre, repeating casual users and members of the local community". With more than 150 local subscribers to date, the group believes it has a substantial membership base for such community involvement.

WCCSG office bearers, all elected at the November public meeting, are: Jock Macneish (president), Gina Bevan-Jones (secretary), John Penwill (public officer), Darren Bowers (treasurer), Pamela Dry (vice-president) and Rob McDowell and Val Polley (working group members).

The submission states that several members have been "part of past successful Warrandyte Community Centre management committees". The office bearers include an architect, a solicitor, an accountant with marketing qualifications, a research scientist, a professional secretary, environmental business and planning consultants and a former mayor of Doncaster-Templestowe council.

Members include "mature and experienced business professionals with a wide and complementary range of experience—strategic, legal, financial management skills—with major strengths in community implementation, including management of other community organisations".

As well as the expression of interest from the Warrandyte community group, the *Diary* believes submissions have been received from the Manningham Recreation Association and YMCA. It is anticipated that council officers will report to the council meeting later this month, "evaluating expressions of interest received".

Nillumbik pledges support

By FIA CLENDINNE

Nillumbik council has come out strongly in support of local residents over the issue of the Warrandyte Community Centre.

In December, North Warrandyte resident Richard Schurmann addressed Nillumbik councillors about the centre.

He pointed out that although Warrandyte is divided by council boundaries the community itself is not troubled by such technical arrangements and many residents who live on the north side of the river make use of the community centre for local activities.

He also reminded councillors that the previous Eltham council had contributed \$150,000 towards the construction of the community centre.

Mr Schurmann called on Nillumbik council to establish dialogue with Manningham councillors in order to put forward the point of view of North Warrandyte residents.

"Please be involved in this," Mr Schurmann told the Nillumbik councillors. "This centre is special to your ratepayers."

Di Bullen, Nillumbik councillor for

Mt Pleasant Ward, immediately moved a motion in support of Mr Schurmann's appeal.

Cr Bullen was a resident of Warrandyte for more than 20 years and as a member of the Warrandyte Environment League (WEL) was part of the struggle to save the site from a supermarket development with rooftop parking.

"WEL bitterly fought for that site to be purchased by council, and then for it to be a community centre," Cr Bullen told the *Diary*. "So I don't think it's fair on the community to start running it as a profitable asset."

Cr Bullen was supported unanimously by all the other councillors. They resolved that Nillumbik council support the continuation of the centre as a not-for-profit facility, and that Nillumbik enter into discussions with Manningham council over its management.

Cr Neil Roberts, representing Sugarloaf Ward (which includes North Warrandyte), has been nominated to liaise with Manningham council over the issue.

He agreed with Cr Bullen that to use the community centre as a way of collecting revenue was at odds

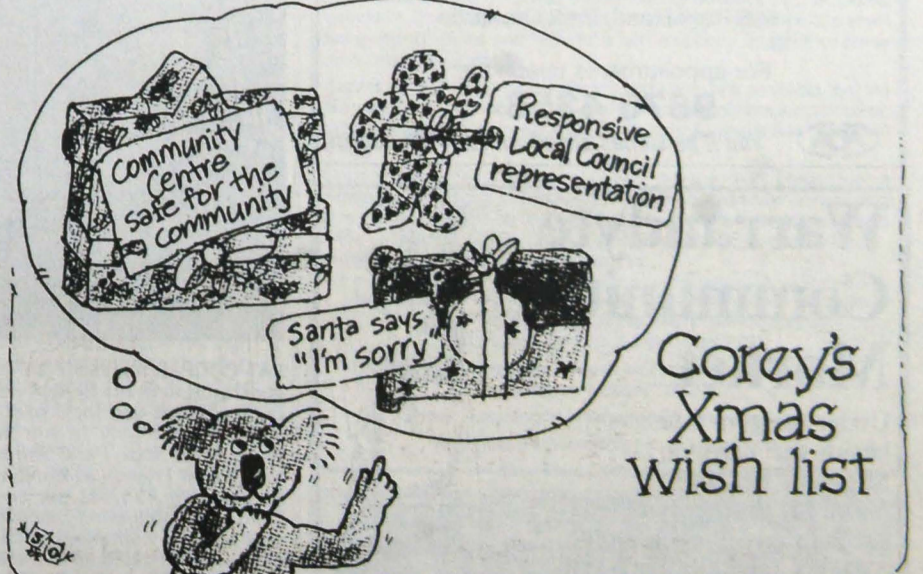
with its original philosophy. "There are two ways of raising more money out of the place," he said.

"One is to raise the rent of the community users and the other is to bring in the commercial users. Both have an impact on the local community and are completely contradictory to the role of the centre. It wasn't ever built for that purpose. Quite the contrary. It was built to provide the services it currently does provide."

Cr Roberts said that Nillumbik was keen to take part in discussions with Manningham and earlier this month a letter was sent from Nillumbik formally requesting a meeting between the two municipalities.

"We can't step over the boundary and start telling them how to run their business," he said. "What we can do is say we would definitely like to be involved in this because our community is impacted by whatever decisions they might come up with."

"And we feel we have a stake, because of the predecessor council having made a capital contribution to it."



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**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.

A RECORD number of people who have made outstanding contributions to various aspects of local life received Menzies Community Australia Day Awards from federal MP Kevin Andrews.

The awards were presented in The Great Hall, Ivanhoe Centre, on January 26.

"The purpose of these awards is to recognise the valuable contribution that many people make to their local community," Mr Andrews said.

Warrandyte residents honoured included:

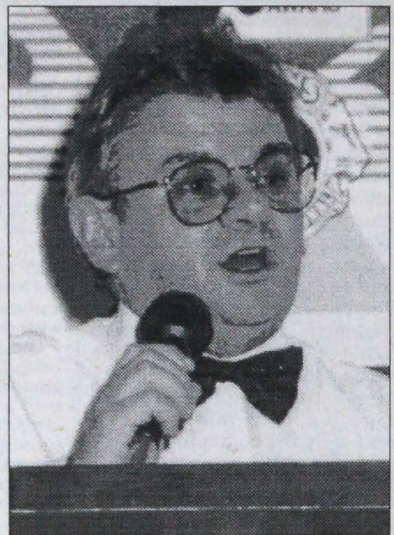


MARJORIE BEECHAM was a founding member of the Templestowe Kindergarten committee in the 1950s and worked to develop a preschool for local children. Later, she became inaugural treasurer and then president of the Templestowe Girl Guides group. During this time, an A-frame hall was built for the guides in Fitzsimmons Lane. It was decorated with a beautiful mosaic created by Marjorie and Virginia Linton Smith. Since 1958, hundreds have benefited from Marjorie's pottery classes for the Warrandyte Arts Association. She spearheaded huge fundraising efforts to build a studio at Potter's Cottage. When forced to relocate in 1980, Marjorie and a group of friends put in all the effort required at the new site—the old fire station in Mitchell Avenue—which included installing a staircase, over 10 exhausting days. Marjorie has served on the central committee of the Warrandyte Arts Association for more than 40 years. She was a founding member of Probus and supported her late husband's involvement in Rotary. Marjorie's vision and drive have realised dreams and so benefited a wide cross section of the local community from kindergarten age to retirees.

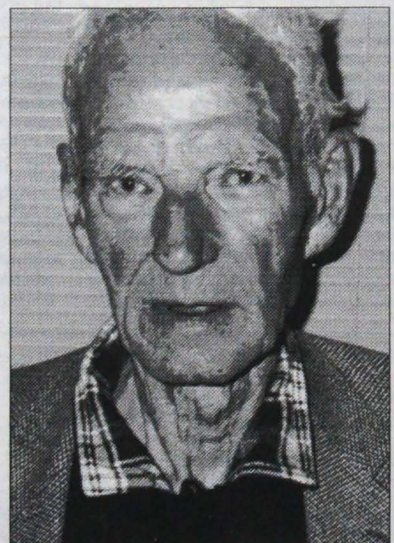


PAT COUPAR has made an outstanding contribution in the field of environmental awareness and local park conservation, particularly in her work with Warrandyte State Park. She has been a member of Friends of Warrandyte State Park for over 13 years. She co-edited the landmark publication Discover Warrandyte and has continued to contribute a natural history column to the *Warrandyte Diary*. In 2000 she finally published the

limited edition Flora Of Warrandyte. Together with State Park ranger David Van Bockel, she found, notated and photographed all of Warrandyte's indigenous flora, including some regionally significant species. This two volume work involved thousands of photographs, much categorising and represents around 10 years of Pat's spare time. This labour of love has resulted in an invaluable community reference of the local flora.

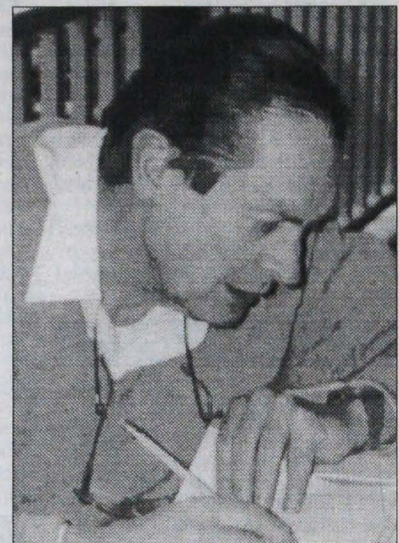


CLIFF GREEN has worked hard for the community of Warrandyte for more than 30 years. Upon his arrival, he joined the Warrandyte Primary School committee and soon afterwards became involved with the local youth club, adopting the role of their publicity officer. Finding it difficult to obtain publicity for this group, he decided to start a local community newspaper, the *Warrandyte Diary*, which is now in its 31st year. Many of its trainee journalists have, encouraged and guided by Cliff and co-editor Lee Tindale, gone on to become respected journalists in their fields. Cliff was a founding member of the Warrandyte Environment League in which he was active for many years. In his role as president of the Warrandyte Historical Society, he fought long and hard for the preservation of an historic miner's slab hut, discovered concealed within another building being demolished. The success of his efforts were due to his careful and patient negotiating skills. He was a founder of the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award. Through the *Warrandyte Diary* he continues to give a voice to the many aspects of life in the community of Warrandyte.



BASIL HOLLAND (posthumous award) Dorothea Holland received an award made posthumously to her late husband, BASIL HOLLAND who was a volunteer at Information Warrandyte (formerly Warrandyte Citizens' Advice Bureau) from 1987. His carpentry skills resulted in many of the fittings in the bureau's office. For many years he assisted with the delivery of food parcels through the Warrandyte Housing and Support Service. He also regularly assisted with managing—and fitting out—the book exchange of the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House. In his own time, he gave emotional and social support to people with physical and social disabili-

ties. He drove people to hospital and performed practical tasks as required. A former merchant seaman, he donated his own paintings of sailing ships for fundraising and display at the Warrandyte Community Centre. Basil was a fine example of a large-hearted and caring citizen who will be missed by all who knew him.



MURRAY HOUGHTON has made an outstanding contribution in the area of research into Victorian aborigines, particularly the local Wurundjeri tribe, and the history of gold mining in Victoria. He is a valued member of the Warrandyte Historical Society and his expertise in these fields is highly respected and sought after throughout Victoria. Having spent his childhood and early adult life in Warrandyte, his phenomenal memory of these times in the area is much relied upon by those seeking information about their families in this period. Despite poor health, Murray is always willing to host school groups, members of the public and any other interested parties wishing to visit the society's museum. His kindness, helpfulness and depth of historical knowledge often overwhelms those seeking information. He is considered to be one of the most vital members of the Warrandyte Historical Society and his involvement over the past 10 years has much to do with its continuing success.

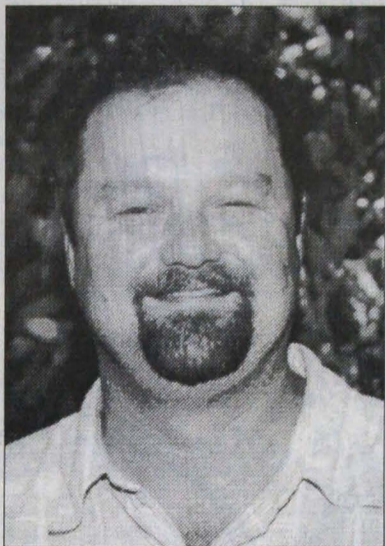


BETTY OKE has been a leading member of the Friends of Warrandyte State Park for 10 years. For much of this time, Betty and her partner Neal have organised and staffed the local "Friends" group information stall at the Warrandyte Market. Betty encouraged and rostered members to man the stall in conditions that were often less than attractive in winter. Betty helped stall visitors with their enquiries and inspired other committee members by her example to suggest productive change. Last year, she reluctantly handed over these duties to another member. For many years, Betty took her turn as a voluntary weekend attendant at the Warrandyte Historical Society's museum at the old post office. Despite imperfect health, she continues to help the community at the Warrandyte festival and most market days, helping with the Friends of Warrandyte State Park stall.

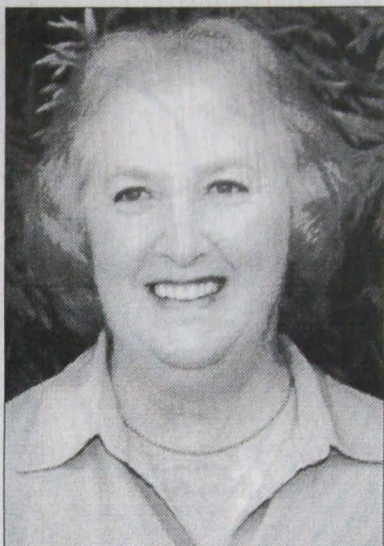
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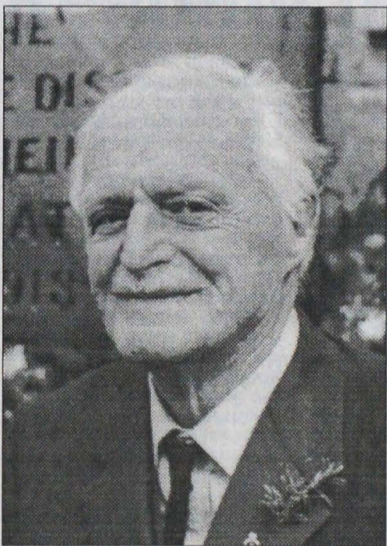
MARGARET PULFORD of Warrandyte has worked at St Anne's Primary School, Park Orchards, for 16 years. In that time she has had a huge impact on the lives of children in the Park Orchards and Warrandyte area. Her classroom has always been a stimulating, welcoming and happy environment. She has worked conscientiously to provide a variety of activities to suit children's needs and interests. As a staff member, she assumed many positions of leadership and always gave her full commitment to them. She retired from teaching last year and has since begun voluntary work. She has been honoured for her years of dedication in the field of education.



ROHAN THORNTON has been highly commended by all the groups with whom he works. He is described as a great worker for the Warrandyte community. He has been a volunteer with the Country Fire Authority for the past 10 years and has been very active with the community fireguard groups. Every Tuesday night and Sunday morning he trains at the fire station. He helps train younger members, participates in burn-offs and, of course, attends fires. He helps too with fund-raising and is always to be seen at the Festival stall and Warrandyte Carols by Candlelight. Rohan also brings considerable expertise from his job, as a lighting director at Channel 9, to the work he does for local groups. He has helped the Warrandyte/Park Orchards Blue Light committee to organise dance parties for local youth on several occasions. He provided the lighting for the Tarooma Avenue Kindergarten Christmas play at no charge and volunteered his services for the Warrandyte Festival's sound and light show on the Yarra. Once a month, he does car park duty at the Warrandyte Market, helping stall holders find their allotted spots.



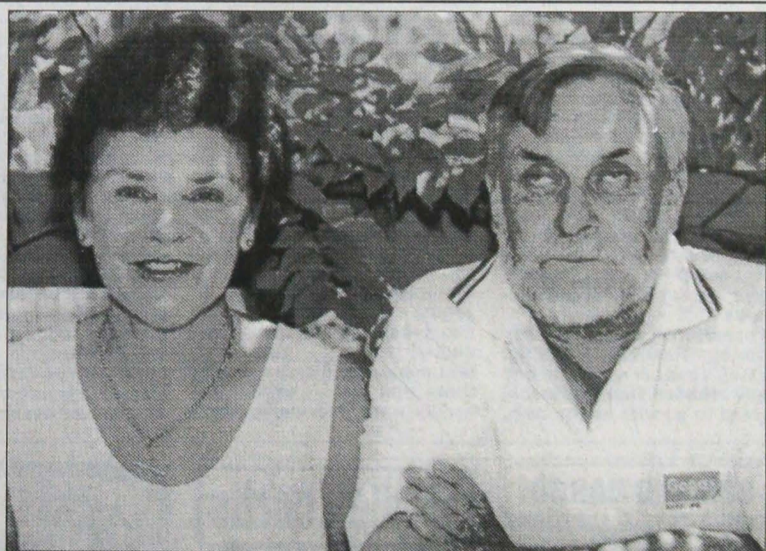
JOYCE WILKS has been doing voluntary work of one sort or another around Warrandyte for the past 19 years. She began in 1982 at the Warrandyte Primary School canteen, then at the high school canteen, where she was also on the canteen committee. Whilst her sons were at the 1st Warrandyte Scout group she gave her time as a member of their management committee. Joyce became a volunteer at Information Warrandyte (formerly the Warrandyte Citizens Advice Bureau) in 1988 and is still one of their team of volunteers. She has been statistics officer of 12 years, on the management committee since 1989 and is currently secretary, a position which she has held several times over the years. She was a member of the Warrandyte Community Centre management committee between 1994 and 1997. In 1998 she became a volunteer with the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House and is currently secretary of their committee of management. Joyce volunteered her time to help at the local primary school during 1998 and 2000, where she mostly worked in the library.



VIVIAN CAMPBELL RUSH has been a pillar of the Warrandyte community since at least 1954. Following service as an army engineer in the second world war in Darwin and far north Queensland, Viv came to Warrandyte. As a founding member of the West Warrandyte Progress Association, he helped to map all the residences of the area to make a successful submission to the SEC to have electricity connected. At the foundation meeting of the Warrandyte Kindergarten Association he was elected president and subsequently helped to build and later extend the kindergarten. As a member of the Warrandyte Recreation Ground Committee, he designed the first public septic toilet for Warrandyte and this model was later used by the council to construct public toilets in unsewered areas. He was elected president of the Warrandyte sub-branch of the RSL in 1955 and served eight times as president until 1985. He was president of the Warrandyte Advancement Association from 1958 until 1967 and helped to raise funds for many projects, including the swimming pool at Warrandyte State School. Viv served as a Doncaster-Templestowe councillor, representing Warrandyte from 1962 until 1973. He was a justice of the peace until 1992. He has been a trustee for the Warrandyte Quarry Disaster Trust and was a Doncare interviewer until 1996. From 1973 until 1996 he was a member of the Warrandyte Meals on Wheels committee and a driver for Meals on Wheels from 1979 until 1996. He was president of Warrandyte Probuc Club in 1991.

"The Commonwealth of Australia is 100 years old this year. In that 100 years, we have forged our own identity and have emerged as a sovereign and independent country. 2001 will provide all of us with a great opportunity to recognise our achievements as a nation."

KEVIN ANDREWS, MP
Federal Member for Menzies



PETER WATTS was one of the charter members of Warrandyte Lions' Club. He was president in 1978/79 and is now a life member. For much of his time with the club, he has been an office bearer and board member. Despite losing his sight over the past few years, he has held the position of club secretary with the assistance of his wife, **CATHERINE WATTS**, who has, in effect, become his secretary. As an active service club with more than 30 members, the time and effort required to perform the secretary's duties is substantial and the club is indebted to Peter and Cath for all their efforts. In 1995, after discovering that vision impaired people interstate were being given the chance to drive again, Peter proposed what has since become an annual event, the "In the Driver's Seat" program. Run at Sandown Racecourse, using dual-controlled cars supplied by the RACV, around 180 vision impaired people are able to get behind the wheel again. Peter and Cath put a huge effort into staging this event together each year.



MANNINGHAM

SPORTING FACILITIES

2001/2002 Summer & Annual Season

Sporting Clubs that did not use Manningham City Council Grounds and/or Pavilions in the 2000/2001 Summer and Annual Season, are invited to lodge applications for use of Council Reserves for the 2001/2002 Summer and Annual Season.

Application forms may be obtained by contacting the Sports Liaison Officer on 9840 9258 and should be returned no later than Friday 2 March 2001.

Applications received after the above date will not be considered.

INFORMATION SHEET - LOCAL GUIDELINE FOR ACCEPTABILITY OF SITING OF MICROWAVE BASE STATIONS

Council, at its meeting held on 28 November 2000, resolved to prepare an Information Sheet to guide the consideration of applications for low impact telecommunication facilities on its land on a trial basis. The Information Sheet contains local guidelines that will assist Council in determining whether to support low impact facilities on its land.

Telecommunications plays an important role in all aspects of modern life. Mobile phones are part of everyday life. In many cases they are the life-saving link to emergency services. Telecommunications companies are currently rolling out communications infrastructure, including mobile phone networks, to meet the growing needs of communities.

Telecommunications facilities are governed by legislation at the local, State and Federal Government levels. Low impact facilities are installed according to the Telecommunications Code of Practice 1997 (Code of Practice), subsequently low impact telecommunication facilities. The Information Sheet has been developed as a local guide only and is not the responsibility of, nor necessarily endorsed by, the Australian Communications Authority (ACA). The ACA is responsible for regulating telecommunications and radiocommunications and administration of legislative provisions.

Any person wishing to make a submission regarding the Information Sheet; "Local Guideline for Acceptability of Siting of Microwave Base Stations" may do so in writing addressed to the Manager Economic and Environmental Planning, Manningham City Council, PO Box 1, Doncaster 3108.

Submissions must be received by 26 February 2001.

For further information, please contact the Economic and Environmental Planning Unit on 9840 9406.

Manningham City Council Customer Service desk is open between 8am and 5pm at the Municipal Offices at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster 3108.

Enquiries during office hours and after hours should be directed to 9840 9333.

Email: manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au

Internet: www.manningham.vic.gov.au



MANNINGHAM

HISTORY OF MANNINGHAM

Questionnaire

If you live, work or play in the City of Manningham, we need your help. Council has appointed consultants HistorySmiths Pty Ltd to prepare a History of Manningham to coincide with the Centenary of Federation and the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold. This project has been commissioned by Council and is due for completion in 2001.

The book will look at Manningham as it is today and trace the influences that have made it so. To include the stories of as many people as possible in our research, HistorySmiths has prepared a questionnaire for you to fill in. Your experiences will bring the story of Manningham to life. Please tell us what you think, whether you have been in Manningham your whole life or for one year (and everything in between!)

Copies of the questionnaire are available from Pam Papigiotti, Economic and Environmental Planning, on 9840 9362.

DRAFT - HORSE RIDING STRATEGY

Council is placing the draft Horse Riding Strategy out for public comment. The strategy provides a comprehensive update of current horse riding issues and reflects a contemporary analysis of horse riding needs and affairs.

Copies of the draft Horse Riding Strategy are available on the Manningham City Council Website: www.manningham.vic.gov.au or, in hard-copy format, from Eva Louey, Cultural & Leisure Services, 9840 9393.

Council will receive written comment on the draft Horse Riding Strategy up until Friday 16 February, 2001. All correspondence regarding this should be directed to: Cultural & Leisure Services, Manningham City Council, PO Box 1, Doncaster 3108. Email: manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au

Manningham City Council Customer Service desk is open between 8am and 5pm at the Municipal Offices at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster 3108.


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Warrandyte Community Church

57 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Phone 9844 4148

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Café Church — 7pm Sundays (fortnightly)

Playgroups — 4 mornings per week.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL IN AND SEE US ANYTIME OR PHONE 9844 4148.



They didn't do it like that when we were young


THE past is a different country. They do things differently there." I used to think L.P.Hartley was right, but lately, I'm not so sure.

When I was younger, I assumed that Hartley meant that people develop from generation to generation and, therefore, the things that the people of the past did will, by definition, be a mystery to the new generation; that the mistakes they made will not be repeated. This theory proved, conveniently and reassuringly, that the generation gap is a reality. It also explained why, as kids, our parents' actions were totally unfathomable. They were aliens, lower down the evolutionary scale than us.

We kids let out a comforting sigh of relief that we could or would never do the same dumb things that they continually did. It was comforting to find my theory confirmed when I met Herself 36 years ago. She too, had had personal experience of the genetic generation gap.

It was Saturday evening and we sat, bonding in my Mini Minor, after attending the local drive-in. We touched on a number of things, including parental ignorance and embarrassment and these, we agreed, occurred during the simplest situations.

For example, owing to a forthcoming family wedding, Herself's mother needed to buy a gift. Herself had graciously agreed to go with her, to help



KIBBLED

"She dismissed anything that wasn't orange or Arabia ware..."

She had also argued that they needed to go to the city, to Myer, as the strip shopping venues didn't offer a wide enough range of products. In those days, regional shopping complexes were only a glint in the eyes of property developers. Happy to encourage a mother/daughter bonding opportunity, Herself's mother agreed.

Once they reached the department store, they rode the lift to the fourth floor. As a true child of the Age of Aquarius, Herself strode into the array of goods and started examining the merchandise. She picked up goods, examined labels, compared similar products and conducted her own "Choice" assessments. She dismissed anything that wasn't orange or Arabia ware. Meanwhile, her

mother stood, rooted to the floor, about 10 feet from the lift, handbag over her arm, her hat firmly planted on her head and her eyes fixed on the near distance. And there she stayed.

"What on earth are you doing?"

"I'm waiting for some assistance," her mother replied.

"But this is Myer. A department store. You need to look for yourself."

"I don't know exactly what I want, so I require the help of a sales assistant. I'll just wait."

"Mum, if you stay there you'll be noticed!"

"Well, that's exactly what I was hoping will happen. I'm sure that I wouldn't have to wait this long if I went into my local gift shop."

"For heaven's sake! Mum, come here! Everyone's looking at you. That sort of thing doesn't happen any more. That's why all the goods are openly displayed. You do the looking, then you take your selection to the cash register."

"I'm sorry, but I want to be able to talk about the goods with someone who knows about them so if I don't get some service very soon, I'm going to walk out of here and go back to somewhere I know I can get some help."

At this point in her retelling, Herself had become uncustomarily lost for words. She finally managed to blurt out, "... And she didn't move, so I had to physically escort her into the lift, away from everyone. She was so embarrassing! Why

won't she accept that that's the way things are?"

"I'm sorry, but that's just the way it's done."

"I too am sorry, but that isn't a reason. I asked for an explanation about why my provided telephone directory seems to be totally inappropriate and all you can tell me is that 'it's just the way it's done'. I was put through to you because you are the Customer Service division. The fact that you are in Sydney and have no idea about the geography of my area is unfortunate but the decisions about how to carve up the country for the purpose of regional directories must be dictated by some set of criteria. My request was to find out what that is. Is there someone else I can speak with?"

"No sir, this is the department that organises the directories and as I said before, the books are produced that way because that's the decision the department has made." By this time I felt like I was in a real life version of the Nichols and May telephone information sketch.

I did contact the Complaints section and was listened to with courtesy and apparent comprehension. Unfortunately, the person who could help me was unavailable but if I could e-mail all the relevant information to her she would get back to me ASAP. Game, set and match.

I wonder if the windows of the Complaints Division steam up like they did in the Mini?

ROGER KIBELL

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Finding a lonely, tranquil, private patch of paradise

It was serendipity that brought us here. The car's starter motor had been playing up and was getting progressively worse the further away from home we travelled. Too risky, we thought, to attempt to reach our planned camping destination in a remote region of eastern Victoria.

A call to RACV resulted in directions to the nearest licensed garage, which happened to be in a popular holiday destination.

But it was the week before Christmas and the place was uncannily quiet, most of the 600 or so sites in the camping reserve were unoccupied.

For our unscheduled sojourn, we chose a flat, grassy site at the water's edge with its own little jetty. The view across the wide inlet to wavy-topped, darkly-wooded ranges was prize-winning. Waterbirds congregated in the shallows and on the small pontoon-like islands of vegetation that dotted the inlet: oystercatchers, herons, ducks, cormorants and a lone white egret—they were all there, part of the scene of tranquility.

I sat with glass of wine in hand drinking in the view, feeling the stress of the day evaporate in the warm, late afternoon air leaving only a euphoric tiredness. Through binoculars I watched rubbery-necked swans dip their scarlet beaks into the



NATURE

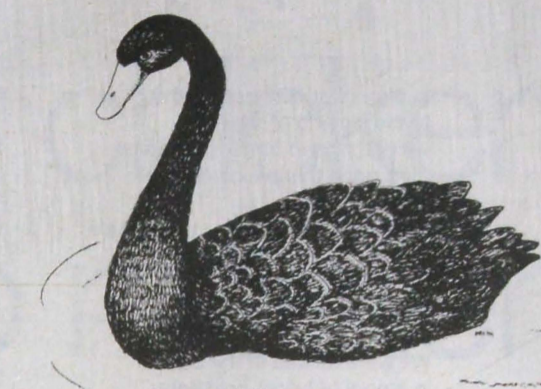
By PAT COUPAR
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

placid water. A couple of hang-gliding pelicans wheeled overhead on their approach to the inlet. Lower and lower. Finally, webbed feet splayed, making an uncontrolled skidding landing on the water.

As dusk approached a bright light appeared in the end-of-day sky—so bright it had to be a planet. It was, almost certainly Venus, glowing round and cream like a mini moon. Soon the lights of the "seachange" township were shining out across the water like a cluster of welcoming beacons.

With the darkness, a couple of prawn fishermen and their wives sprang into action, clamoring down from their small outboard boats anchored in the sheltered inlet. Clad in waders, they prowled the safety of the shallows with hand-held nets and dancing torches, the muffled pounding of waves a constant reminder of the terrible power that lay beyond the outlet.

Wandering down our private campsite jetty, we became aware of a remarkable light show going on below us in the knee-shallow water: luminous flashes of silver, yellow, green



and blue. Stirring the water with my hand sent the lights into an incandescent frenzy, which immediately brought to mind the torchlight spectacle created by the 100,000 strong audience at the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympic Games.

I have since read that this phenomenon—known as bioluminescence—is a common event especially in calm shallow water. Many creatures from microscopic bacteria, one-celled dinoflagellates to jellyfish, worms, shrimps and even fish produce lights. Exactly why they do it is pretty much guess and conjecture. Perhaps it is simply to illuminate their surroundings to find food, or as a warning to distract predators

or even as a sex recognition signal. How they do it is more clearly understood. It seems light production by animals is a chemical process involving a substance called luciferin found in certain cells.

By lunchtime the next day the efficient local mechanic had fixed the starter motor. A pity. It was too soon. Of course we could have stayed on, but the silly season loomed and even as we left, wagon trains of campers were rolling in.

Those who have been there will know this place. Those who have not must make the discovery for themselves. Often the best things happen when they are least expected. Or are come upon by chance. That is serendipity.

Keeping pace with a supermum

A MILLENIUM dawns, and if that's not the time to jot down a few good resolutions then I don't know what is. Predictably, the January issue of every magazine down at the newsagency offers advice on how to get fit, get healthy and get organised, but you can save yourself the money and follow this simple summary:

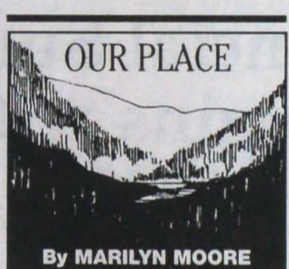
04.00: Kick-start with cold shower, 10 kilometre run, then complete The Age cryptic crossword while powering through 10 sets of abdominal curls, chin-ups, push-ups, adductor-tightening stretches and a few nonchalant overhead quadrilateral extensions. Cleanse digestive tract with filtered rainwater.

05.00: Check e-mail, complete correspondence, pay bills.

05.10: Work on autobiography. Sip filtered rainwater.

06.00: Wash, iron, mend clothing and anything that's broken, vacuum, polish mirrors, windows, kitchen and car, repaint deck, scrub pool and purify water, mow lawn, rejuvenate hanging baskets, cut fresh flowers to brighten up breakfast room.

06.30: Prepare inspirational family breakfast: squeeze celery juice, pick mouth-watering nectarines and bloodplums misty with translucent bloom, hand-mill organic wheatflour and oats, bake fragrant bread and warm porridge, gather



OUR PLACE

By MARILYN MOORE

honey and eggs, milk cow and churn fresh, lightly-salted butter. Prepare lunchboxes and dinner, keeping in mind everybody's daily requirements of protein, carbohydrate, zinc, manganese, niacin, iron, vitamins A-Z, phosphorus, calcium, iodine and copper according to age, gender, exercise level and bodyweight. Eat slowly and thoughtfully in a gentle ambience of gamelin and birdsong.

07.00: Consult personal organiser and other occupants of the house about program for the day. Diarise everything. Prepare shopping list, job list, hit list and wish list. Key words: delete and delegate.

07.15: Shower, cleanse, tone, moisturise, apply UV30+ masks and filters, repair imperfections in nail-polish, apply age-defying makeup, style hair (if you've used the correct shampoo this apparently requires only a headshake). Slip into something expensively well-cut.

07.30: Study overnight fluctuations in stock-market. Consult

financial adviser, review investment strategies.

07.40: Phone around to see what you can do to help others today.

07.50: Rehearse trumpet concerto for afternoon performance.

07.59: Take a moment. Meditate. Breathe slowly. Concentrate.

08.00: Take teenage son for driving lesson. Breathe slowly and definitely concentrate. Listen to AM on car radio to keep abreast of current issues.

09.00: Ditch rainwater; have a good strong cup of Earl Grey instead. Nobody will know. Check answering machine; return all calls immediately.

09.05: Work systematically through job list and hit list. Spare a few moments to rewrite computer software when programming runs amok. Patent rewrite and sell to Microsoft for \$1m. Abstain from alcohol and caffeine-bearing substances. Five minutes' meditation at 1100 hours will guarantee the subsequent solving of several outstanding gritty problems. Sell solutions to highest bidder.

13.00: Relax over lunch with friends. Do a meals-on-wheels run. Play tennis. Treat yourself to a facial.

14.00: Attend an afternoon conference, workshop, or workplace discussion. Feel stimulated, and inspire others with your vivid insights and pithy observations. Chair the final session and encourage others

to partake of the post-meeting refreshments, but don't be tempted yourself. Remember that bottle of filtered rainwater in your executive-capacity hand luggage.

17.00: Quality time with offspring. Perform at soiree. Interview teachers, coaches and tutors; kick-start the evening's homework. Reduce stress: if a pickup in maniac traffic is required, be firm with teenage son about who does the driving. (Whose car is it, anyway?) Together select the choicest offerings from the veggie patch.

18.45: Meditate. Breathe deeply. Recharge batteries. Bake health-slice for tomorrow's munchies.

19.00: Training, stretching, technical analysis, massage and physiotherapy.

19.50: Refreshing swim; relax with glass of freshly squeezed carrot juice.

20.00: Candlelit dinner enhanced by witty conversation and a little Keith Jarrett.

21.00: Polish kitchen, recycle everything, empty compost, laundry and schoolbags, read mail, finish homework, make jam, clean bicycles, restring tennis racquets, feed pets, build bookshelves, review latest bestseller.

22.30: Write bestseller. Write and arrange music for next soiree.

23.30: Quality time with spouse.

24.00: Set at least three alarm clocks. Zzzz...

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Yellow chairs at empty tables

In a room so sad and empty
at the closing of the day
we had hoped for simple repast
for a price that we could pay

We sought refuge from the outside
from a city grim and grey
a city like its people—
the weather, and our stay

We were seated in the centre
in a pool of bright cold light
as they cleaned and mopped around us
encouraging our flight

There were scarcely any diners
save two locals all alone
But there were yellow chairs at empty tables
and in the darkness they shone

When it came the food was fitting
three grey dumplings on a plate
and they swept with increased frenzy
It was getting much too late

And I pondered on these people
on the sorrow they had known
All strangers seemed invaders
And there's none who can atone

And those yellow chairs they struck me
cheery beacons in the night
and I thought of Spielberg's Schindler
of the Jews and of their plight

The power of the image—
a red coat amidst the grey
gave my yellow chairs some meaning
shed some light along the way

For that startling splash of colour
may have cheered us on that night
but what help is it to them
who have to face their plight

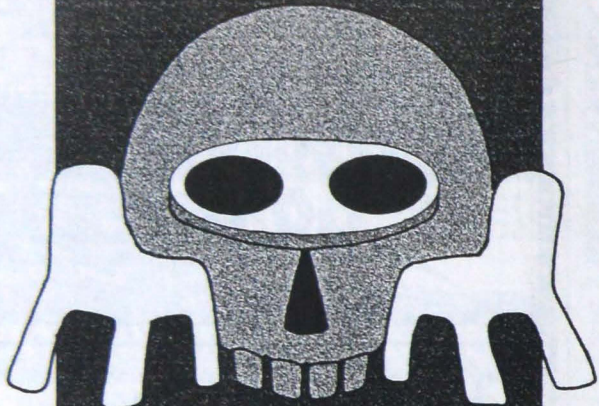
And while we'll be returning
to a land that's in our prayers
so full of golden sunlight
no need for yellow chairs

The sullen ones are staying
to live on in this grey gloom
Forget about the yellow chairs

and remember that cold room

KAREN THROSSELL

Warsaw, July 2000



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All kinder chickens grow into roosters



WORDS BY DON CHARLWOOD • GRAPHICS BY JOCK MACNEISH

HERE is solace in living as octogenarians in a Warrandyte unit. Not only do we no longer slave over a Templestowe acre, we no longer have room for poultry. In Templestowe I built a chook house that might well have been designed by Utzon, this to accommodate our tailend son Jim's hens. He and his mother reached an agreement: he would sell her the eggs, Dad would buy the feed. For peace I accepted this arrangement, but we were to pass through unnerving poultry experiences that I'll relate presently. First, let me go ahead a generation by way of explanation.

Jim had left home, left his parents, even left his profitable chooks. Richard, our first grandchild, had entered our lives. He came innocently to my knee one night after kindergarten and said, "Pa, at kinder I saw little chicks coming outa heggs." As I was keeper still of Jim's hens he thought I would be interested.

On his next visit he said, "Pa, Kristen's Mummy is letting her take home two chicks." I knew my poultry yard was under threat. Sure enough he added, "Mummy says I can have two chicks, too."

I turned to daughter Jan unamusedly. "Where are you going to keep them?" They had little space.

"Oh, they'll only need a little pen and a box in our yard."

"I mean when they've grown into roosters?"

"Why do you suppose they'll grow into roosters?"

"All kindergarten chicks grow into roosters. You had left home when Jim brought his seven chicks home. They all grew into roosters."

In a few months our respectable hens had received the amorous attentions of all of them. Competitive sex reigned from dawn till dusk. Shock finished our egg supply; given their excessive exertion the roosters ate their own weight weekly in feed.

Jan remained unconvinced. I realized too late that I ought to have regaled her with the full story of Jim's chicks; it might have saved Richard's re-enactment.

Jim and I had run the seven roosters down, tied their legs and borne them in boxes to a kind of poultry knacker further up the Yarra valley. For a fee the knacker had undertaken to "process" them, a euphemism that appealed to me immensely.

The young man who took delivery of our boxes was himself of hen-like appearance. Despite my warnings he untied the roosters' legs outside the knackery. Immediately all but one scattered under the building—a decrepit, stinking place if ever there was one. The one exception—a bird Jim called the "Yellow-legged Rooster"—took off at high speed in the opposite direction. It cleared the Eltham road at five feet, zig-zagging into

the bush. We left the young man scrabbling and cursing among the stumps and droppings under the knackery and headed towards Warrandyte after the vanishing rooster.

We caught glimpses of it, half-flying, half-striding beside a disused aqueduct, screaming abuse at us. I was fitter then, not yet a grandfather, though by no means a youthful father either. We settled to a steady pace at the rear of the rooster, dodging through trees, me breathing heavily. The bush enclosed us as we pounded on. All three of us began swaying with fatigue. With sweat trickling into my eyes I began to wonder why the hell Jim and I were making such an effort. Why weren't we leaving the Yellow-legged Rooster to some hungry fox who would tear him limb from limb. Slowly tear him. At this satisfying thought I called to Jim to give up; what did it matter anyhow. The rooster looked set for Wonga Park. Now that the chase was called off, we began appreciating the scents of the bush and a silence broken only by the pounding of our hearts. We walked back slowly, breathing deeply, determined to avoid arriving before the young man had caught the other six escapees.

Near the Eltham road we began peering through the bush. In the distance we saw not one man in action but two men and a girl, all flinging themselves under and around the knackery in a whirl of roosters. There was a kind of wild, balletic beauty to it, accompanied by oaths and sobs and imprecations. We hung back and watched from the shade, awed by the display. When the last rooster had been caught we burst out of the bush, panting heavily, just as the boss threatened the young man with "processing" if it was the last thing he did.

The tumult and the roosters died. We received six pale corpses in plastic bags, labelled, "Ready for the Oven." Those roosters provided us with some memorably lengthy mastication; each of them had muscles like Robert de Castella.

With memories of Jim's seven roosters a generation behind me, it was scarcely to be wondered that, at 70, I was apprehensive about Richard's chicks. His mother had built in a precautionary arrangement: she and Kristen's mum were going to share the hens. Futile to convince either of them there would be no hens.

"Pa," said Richard, "my little chicks, dey follow me!"

They did, too, and when my wife and I chick-sat, they followed us. As I explained to Richard, "They don't know they're chicks; they think we are their mummies and daddies." I had read my Konrad Lorenz.

Richard liked this thought. He saw them as lifelong companions.

They soon needed a larger box. Next came the inevitable day when Jan said, "Dad, do you think Richard's little chooks could go in

the yard with yours?"

"Mine," I said, "are hens. These are going to be roosters."

"You still think so?"

It was of no use debating the matter when I couldn't decently refuse. Besides, Richard needed somewhere to visit his pets; our acre could scarcely be denied him.

When I released the lanky-legged pair into the yard, the sight of our half dozen chooks terrified them. The two were set upon, pursued around the yard, pecked, reviled, chased away from food. They turned to me imploringly. Day after day this miserable existence continued. To reduce their persecution I let all of the chooks out to feed on the grass. The chicks wanted none of it; they only wanted me. As for Richard, he was miles away; their place was at Mornington.

Things were at this stage when my wife and I went overseas for three months and a young couple moved into the house. At the other end of the earth letters reached us from our Warrandyte daughter, a kindergarten teacher, well versed in poultry deceptions.

"Richard's chicks are turning out to be roosters all right. Wayne and Donna let the chooks out for a run, but they haven't been able to get the young ones back. They've been roosting at the back door—making rather a mess, I'm afraid."

The roosters, we learned later, began crowing practice outside the kitchen. Wayne and Donna had had enough. They spent a morning getting the pair back into the yard, where they saw them again set upon. But there was soon an end to it. It was as if overnight the pubescent roosters had read the Karma Sutra on their perch. In the morning they went into action. They pursued the pursuers. In a single hour a nunnery became a harem. The two strutted the females like victorious premiers on a grand final night. Egg production halved. All this we heard overseas.

The day we arrived home Wayne warned us that the pair had become aggressive. Never having been cowed by such farmyard nonentities as roosters I entered the yard that evening with the feed tin, amused by their aggressive crowing. The two flew into attack, beaks and spurs together. I kicked hard—hard, anyway, for a jet-lagged septugenarian. One of the attackers and my gumboot described an arc together. Left on one foot in mud, I was attacked from the rear. Though I scored a direct hit with the feed tin, an aged man on one foot was no match for two roosters. I hopped away with the pair crowing victoriously behind me.

After a sound sleep I phoned the knackery. They no longer processed roosters, they told me; roosters had proved too much for their equipment. They must have had more De Castella specimens, I presumed.

Here was a problem. I had retired as an ex-

ecutioner in 1984. As a young man in the bush I had executed many forms of life, but in 1984 I had beheaded a placid, fatherly, thoroughly decent rooster who had cast me a last look of incredulity and betrayed trust such as Sir Walter Raleigh might have cast on his executioner. It unnerved me and I did a poor job. I became an executioner-emeritus, reluctant to be called out of retirement. But now there was no help for it.

I entered the muddy yard and gave chase. The Hadyn Buntons of my boyhood had nothing on Richard's roosters; they weaved, feinted, dummied. As for me, I was no longer the man who had once run Jim's seven to earth. I could scarcely keep my feet in the mud and failed to lay a hand on either of them. I began seeing newspaper headlines: Pensioner Picked to Pieces in Poultry Pen! I gave up and retreated. The hens, far from seeing me as a defender of their virtues, looked after me with contempt.

I borrowed a rifle, but soon found that when the roosters were in focus, the sights were a blur. A shotgun? Well, this would have put the chooks at risk as well as the roosters. Anyway, either type of firearm might bring down a neighbour—and probably the wrong one. Then a young woman friend said brightly, "Fiona would kill them for you." I didn't know Fiona. "Oh, she's got a real thing about roosters. She gets so mad when they knock her hens about. She's a bit of a feminist you know."

That was enough! Old though I was, I would have no axe-wielding feminist on the place. Besides, her attitude seemed grossly unfair. The hens weren't averse from flaunting themselves provocatively. Had Fiona never done the same?

For weeks I remained blackmailed by the two roosters. So did Kristen's parents: their neighbour's garden lay in ruins. By this time neither Richard nor Kristen was faintly interested in their "chicks".

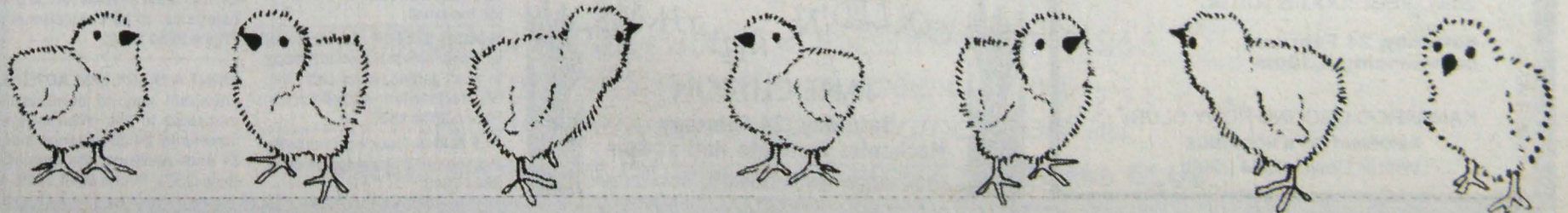
Then for us the problem suddenly ended—and not without moments of glory. One morning when I went to the yard I found it strewn with bloody feathers. A fox had forced in from our remaining bit of bush. The hens were cowering in their Utzon home; one rooster lay headless at their door. The second rooster was further away, alive still, standing with bloodied head on breast, eyes closed. I bore him decently from the battlefield murmuring words of consolation and admiration. At the block I thought some eulogy would be fitting, incorporating:

"And how can man die better

Than facing fearful odds..."

But I had to concentrate too hard to utter the words. As the axe fell I knew that the pair had restored my undermined faith in male virtues. I felt contempt for life's Fionas.

But as I said, there is solace for us living as octogenarians in Warrandyte with no room for kindergarten chicks.



Adventures of a panto dame

By HELLENA ALLAN

A COCKATOO screeches overhead, jolting me from my reverie. Was that a dream or was it real? What is real when you are living your stage role? Why is it, the night after the last performance, you are worrying about arriving on stage at the right time with the right words, and not the night before your first performance?

The cockatoo flying over my roof reminded me of Sam the Cockatoo from the Warrandyte Theatre Company's Christmas pantomime, Princess Gorgeous In Neverland, staged only a few weeks ago but seemingly a lifetime away.

It all began in June last year. On a midwinter evening when most other Warrandyters were huddled around logwood fires, I stood with a group of aspiring actors in the middle of the draughty Mechanics Hall. We were taking part in the Warrandyte Theatre Company's acting workshops.

"Acting takes courage," we were told. "It requires taking risks and going beyond personal boundaries." So what was I doing there?

Sharing an office at the *Warrandyte Diary* with Rae Danks for a few years, her life-long commitment to theatre was bound to rub off sooner or later. Sometimes she comes straight from rehearsals and listening to her takes you right into the world of the stage.

"We have auditions," she says of The Follies, "but everybody gets a part." The Follies is a community production and the aim is to give everybody an opportunity to act.

Acting throws you, without warning, into the unexpected.

"Lie on the floor—closer, closer," the workshop leader commanded.

Hip-rubbing, we bumped up tight into a row like a can of sardines, shoe soles tipped like fishtails. If we didn't know each other before, we certainly did now—every curve, cushion of flesh, and bone. We were like rollmop herring. Turn by turn we had to roll on top of our fellow actors amidst cries of: "You're too bony!" or "Take your time!" to the cuddly ones as each of us bundled past.

The session came to a close with the exercise I called Facing the Mask.

The end wall of mirrors was covered, and a box of masks brought out. We were warned to turn away when putting on and taking off masks. Half of us watched, half of us took part. Mirrors were revealed when actors familiarised themselves with their masks. The rest of us sat cross-legged in a semi-circle, mesmerised as strangely-masked and unfamiliar bodies moved unpredictably in exaggerated stretches around us. They came at us in waves and dispersed and returned again. Soundless, testing, protracted, the aura became eerily haunting. Featured masks were identifiable but chalk-white masks were expressionless and awesome. In our late night trance, the dark and dense mist-swirling river valley seemed a natural transition home.

Weird, wild and wonderful things happen in Warrandyte. Especially in spring. On a Sunday afternoon when people were window shopping or wandering along the riverbank, I was walking towards the Mechanics Hall. Shaking in my boots. Ahead of me one man strode purposefully. He looked Shakespearean with a close-

THEATRE

trimmed beard, a Roman nose, dark hair, and a beret sloping down his head. He carried a script under one arm. Undoubtedly an actor.

A rehearsal was underway. Through the door I could hear a honky-tonk piano being thumped; thudding, jumping feet on the stage, and half-shouting, half-singing voices hoarsing out a tune. They were The Wenches—the first to be on stage for the performance, and the first to be shouted at by everybody else.

First impressions last. At eye level my eyes met a pair of hairy legs poking out of a pink tutu, made ridiculous with thick-soled runners. His hairy arms protruded from the tutu's glittering bodice, and a moustached face was topped with a head of long purple locks.

"It's OK to laugh," Rae smiled.

The producer, she was sitting at a table in front of the stage with Ken the director. Nothing skipped their notice.

Offstage, actors were sitting in groups with coffee and scripts, some passed through the kitchen to the stage in an array of apparel every few minutes. The more the play progressed, the more familiar everything and everyone became.

The kitchen is the changing room but it is also the meeting place to eat, drink, go into hiding. As actors flop into sagging armchairs, they get facefuls of frilly robes and velvet cloaks.

"When are we next on?" I nervously ask.

"Oh, don't worry about that—we'll get yelled at soon enough!"

"Pirates! Wenches! Where ARE you?" Now there's voice projection from the producer's chair.

Sudden scuttling and scampering. "Which scene is it? I've lost my script and forgotten my words! My costume's gone!"

Scramble at the backstage door as actors rush off and on stage. "That was awful. We're going to get howled at!" Slump and slop around the kitchen table and dive into dips or hide faces in kettle steam.

At the end of the rehearsal we are called back on stage, to face the producer and director who tease out the flaws and commend good acting. Meanwhile the backstage manager and his team silently and swiftly move the stage set into the wings until the next rehearsal.

As the rehearsals progress, spring turns into summer. Sunday afternoon rehearsals under lights are stifling in frills and overcoats. During breaks we rush outside.

The Mechanics Hall is like the stage itself, raised above Yarra Street, drawing an audience from passers-by. Straight from stage our minds are still on acting and we think nothing of our acting robes. Says one drag princess to the other, taking up arms, "Do let's go for a walk along the river to mix with the common folk!" We crease up with laughter.

Backstage, the set designer is doing a Rolf Harris act, adding final touches to the backdrop of a forested fairy castle floating in clouds.

On performance nights the Mechanics Hall is glowing a cosy welcome. A table-sized



Matt Moran as Peter Pan and Sue Dyring as Tinkerbell in Warrandyte Theatre Company's panto, Princess Gorgeous In Neverland. (Picture by Di Browning)

Christmas tree flickers in a corner, lit by a miniature fairy figurine lamp.

A remarkably calm aura pervades the kitchen. Actors arrive quietly, nervously nodding to each other, wandering about whispering lines. Front of House arranges coffee trays. She turns her hand to make-up. Disgruntled men do not want rouge or lipstick; the two stepsisters complain the most. Queen of the Wardrobe's comments cut through the air: "If you don't like make-up, you shouldn't take female parts." We all smile.

Producer and director give rah-rah speeches.

We form a circle for warm-ups. "Three minutes to go!" Tension mounts as we hear the expectant audience.

In bolero and bowtie, the musical director makes the first entrance. A key note and the wenches are on with a dance and a song. When they come offstage they smile, "They're a great crowd."

A matinee and two more evening performances and it is all over. My last impression is the lighting director swaying, waving, smiling from her box as we finish the last performance with a song. Next show: The Follies.

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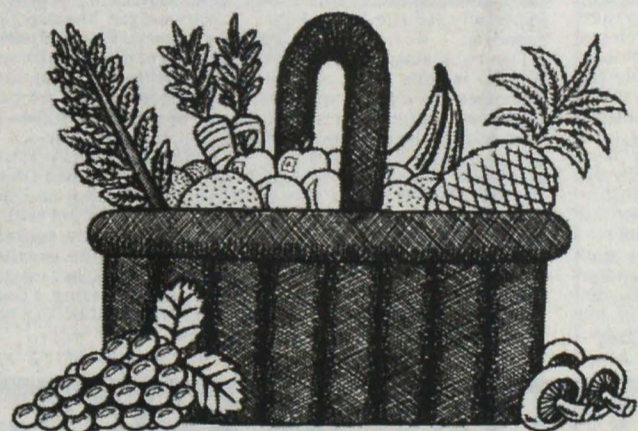


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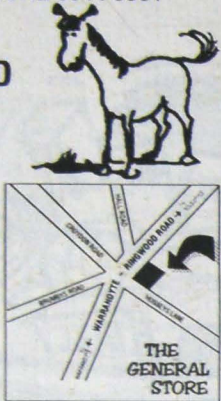
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Living with dogs

Dog attacks in the community are a serious problem and Manningham council has commenced a program to reduce the number of dog attacks in public places, focusing on adequate confinement of dogs on properties.

"Research has shown that the majority—more than 80 percent—of dog attacks in public places occur on the footpath or road bordering the attacking dog's property," a council spokesperson said. "This is due to the dog not being adequately confined."

Legally, the adequate confinement of dogs requires:

- Secure fencing—that a dog cannot jump, climb through or push over—of the property.
- Unless a front gate is securely locked, there should be provision of safe visitor access to the front door. Dogs must not be allowed to remain in an un-

fenced front yard.

- Gates or doors through which dogs have the potential to escape are to be closed at all times, even when dogs are in the presence of their owners.

"Some dog owners may currently be unaware of these legal requirements and many believe that their dog would never be involved in a dog attack incident," the spokesperson said. "It is important for all dog owners to be aware of the potential for friendly dogs to become aggressive when defending their property."

"Most dog owners are shocked to find out that their pet has attacked another person or animal, and even more shocked to discover they are potentially liable for thousands of dollars in court fines and damages. In the more serious cases, destruction orders may also be issued for the attacking dogs."



Creek funding

A stretch of Mullum Mullum Creek is to be further enhanced under a grant received by Manningham council.

The council has been successful in its application for \$12,500 under Amcor's "Corridors of Green" project. The funding is to be allocated towards the further implementation of the Mullum Mullum Creek Linear Park management plan.

The works will be limited to public land associated with Mullum Mullum Creek between Reynolds Road, Donvale and Warrandyte Road, Doncaster East.

According to a spokesperson, council has committed significant resources to the enhancement of the habitat and recreation values of the Mullum Mullum Creek Linear Park since 1992. The new funding will be used to further enhance works already undertaken by Council's bushland management crews and contractors by:

- enhancing the Mullum Mullum Creek wildlife corridor through weed control and further planting of middle storey vegetation;
- maximising recreation opportunities for users of the Mullum Mullum Creek Linear Park while protecting environmental values;
- increasing community understanding and awareness of

the environmental and recreational values of the Linear Park through community planting activities.

Manningham mayor, Cr Lionel Allemand, welcomed the funding announcement. "Mullum Mullum Creek and the linear park are wonderful community assets and their protection and enhancement are a high priority of council," he said.

"Healthy waterways are vital to the long-term sustainability of our environment. It is imperative that selective and environmentally appropriate weed control and eradication (including hand pulling and chemical treatment) is undertaken for the continual improvement of the Mullum Mullum Creek."

Cr Allemand said that projects such as this relied on strong community partnerships that had been developed over the years. "The additional funding will also enable the planting of the middle storey vegetation by council's bushland management crew and through community planting initiatives that will involve the Friends of the Mullum Mullum Creek and the Donvale pony and adult riding clubs.

"Council cannot do the work alone. Community partnerships such as these are vital to continue the restoration of our parks, streams and waterways."

Festival frolics

By **MAYDEENA JAMESON**

Preparations for the 2001 Warrandyte Festival—to be held from March 22 to 25—are gathering pace.

"The festival committee aims to tap a rich vein of diverse local and indigenous talent," a spokesperson told the *Diary*. "Most of the bands for the bottom stage have been booked. They include Unique Creatures, jazz band After Midnight and—especially for the kids—Paul Jamieson."

The rock stage and skateboard ramps are being organised once again and the festival committee want to hear from any local rock bands and DJs who would like to perform, as well as anyone who would like to help organise these events. Call Rick Gordon on 9844 2242 if you're interested.

"The billy cart derby will introduce a lot of new and improved features," the spokesperson said. "With these special new attractions, they claim

they will be challenging the Grand Prix!"

The annual pie throwing competition is on again. "Numbers of teams are limited," the spokesperson said, "so start getting your teams and costumes ready. The only requirement is that all teams must be dressed in costumes—the brighter the better." Pie throwing hopefuls can register their teams with Glen, on 9844 2395.

Warrandyte Theatre Company's famous Festival Follies are also well underway, with scripts being written on local themes. The company had 60 people turn up for their Follies auditions late last month.

The theme of this year's festival is 2001: A Golden Odyssey. "The parade king and queen have been selected with this theme in mind," the spokesperson said. Parade organisers want to hear from everyone who plans entering a float or group in the parade. Call Maedy on 9844 3678.

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A riding spectacular

Anyone who marvelled at the equestrian events at the Sydney Olympics will enjoy a Gala Night at the Kangaroo Ground Horse and Pony Club on Saturday, February 24 commencing at 6.30pm. Events will include spectacular, top-class show-jumping, beautiful "equestrian ballet" and an elegant solo dressage exhibition. Tickets, priced at \$44, include continuous al fresco food, ringside seating, dancing to a live band, door prizes and parking. Call Walter on 9844 2398 for bookings and further information.



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Reunion

A get-together for past students of Warrandyte Primary School who attended pre-1940 will be held on Sunday, March 4 from 11am to 4pm. The venue will be the multi-purpose room at the school. Bring your own lunch; tea and coffee will be provided. For further details phone Fran Streeter on 9884 9262 or Audrey Pollard on 9870 1803.

Carols

Great weather encouraged a large crowd to the annual Carols by Candlelight at Stiggants Reserve in December. The Inter-church Council wishes to thank the community for their support and generous donations. \$535 was passed on to the Christmas Bowl appeal.

Breastscreen

Maroondah Breastscreen is delighted to announce the expansion of its Box Hill breast screen service in the Whitehorse Plaza. A new machine has been recently installed to alleviate the heavy bookings and make appointments more readily available to the women of Whitehorse and Manningham. The centre is open all day, Monday to Friday, as well as Friday evening. Appointments may be made by ringing 13 20 50.



Warrandyte Community Church youth group members enjoy a recent camp.

Youth

Local churches provide a number of activities for the youth of the area. The Anglican Church has Sunday school at 10am on Sundays with CEBS and GFS on Tuesdays at 7pm; ring 9844 3473 for further information. The Catholic Church (9876 1509) has children's liturgy on Sundays at 10.30am at Park Orchards. The Uniting Church (9844 2874) has Sunday school at 10.15am and youth club on alternate Fridays at 8pm. At the Community Church (9844 4148) there is Sunday school at 10am, youth club at 8pm on Fridays, café church on alternate Sundays at 7pm and play groups four mornings a week.

Calendar

Warrandyte Historical Society's 2001 calendar—Gullies Of Gold—is still available. Designed to mark the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold

at Andersons Creek in 1851, the calendar features 18 photographs of Warrandyte's mining days, plus a time line of our gold mining history. Gullies Of Gold is available from the Warrandyte post office, Goldfields newsagency, Potters Cottage, Information Warrandyte and the Warrandyte museum for only \$12. Further enquiries to Jo Laurence on 9844 3694.

Healthline

Womens Health East, a non-profit community based organisation, offers women assistance through their health information line. The service offers health information, advice and referral and is strictly confidential. It is staffed by qualified nurses on Mondays to Fridays from 10am to 2pm. Call 1 800 069 967. Womens Health East also has a library available for public use and can assist with the provision of speakers for groups. It also organises workshops for women.

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Where: Currawong Bush Park

Reduced Cost: \$50 per landowner

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Wed, 21 Feb — Evening 1
Sat 24 & Sun 25 Feb — Property visits, 2 hours
Wed, 28 Feb — Evening 2
Sat 3 & Sun 4 March — Property visits, 2 hours
Wed 7 March — Evening 3
Wed 14 March — Evening 4
Wed 21 March — Evening 5
Sat 31 March — Field Day
Wed 4 April — Evening 6

For further information: give Samantha Bradley, Environmental Planner at Manningham City Council a ring on 9840 9307 or email: samantha.bradley@manningham.vic.gov.au

MANNINGHAM

MANNINGHAM'S ENVIRONMENT SEMINARS ARE BACK!

The 2001 environmental seminar series is about to begin. This year we'll be exploring everything from bushland management to swamp wallabies, orchid propagation and even bird attracting plants. Don't miss our special seminar on "environmental investments".

Thursday, 1 March: "Everything you wanted to know about rabbits" with Tim Bloomfield. **Thursday 5 April:** Explore "New directions in restoration ecology" with Diane Simmons. **Thursday 3 May:** Nigel Ainsworth explores "Insects and fungi for biological control of weeds". **Thursday 7 June:** "Black (swamp) wallabies" with Graeme Coulson. **Thursday 5 July:** "Looking ahead — Manningham's environmental overlays" with Libby Ward. **Thursday 2 August:** "Managing Manningham's bushland" with Jane Pammer. **Thursday 6 September:** "Getting to know weed weaknesses" with Randall Robinson. **Thursday 4 October:** "Bat nesting boxes" with Robert Bender. **Thursday 1 November:** "Orchid Propagation for bushland regeneration" with Rob Cross. **Thursday 6 December:** "Garden plantings for a variety of birds" with Alan Reid.

All seminars start at 7.30pm. Venue: Currawong Bush Park, Conference Room, Reynolds Road, Doncaster East (Melways 34:56)

Wednesday 17 October: "Environmental investments" Financial Advisor Michelle Brisbane will show you how to invest ethically and still get a good return on your dollar!

Where: Manningham City Council Function Room, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

For a full program please contact Daniela Galatoulas on 9840 9362.

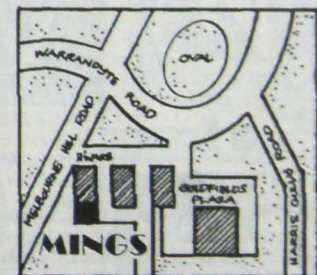
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Warrandyte joins the big league

After pursuing affiliation with Basketball Victoria for many years, Warrandyte Basketball Club is at last to sign on. As a result it will enjoy all the benefits of being an affiliated association with the game's governing body in this state.

The Redbacks committee decided unanimously in December to take the ultimate step, which will enable the club to field teams in the highest level of competition in Victoria.

This had previously been out of reach for talented Redback teams and had seen the departure of many talented juniors to other clubs.

Affiliation means that Warrandyte can for the first time field teams in

the Victorian senior championship (Wednesdays) as well as the Victorian junior championship (Fridays), enabling the more talented "senior" juniors to continue to represent their club.

Other benefits include access to coach and referee training, talent identification camps, the Training Centre Program and funding for association development initiatives.

"Becoming affiliated effectively puts Warrandyte on the basketball map," club president Damian Arsenis told the *Diary*, "and will enable us to continue to grow and expand."

"The committee decided it was time to set a goal or an aim," he said. "It

wanted to ensure that the aim captured the essence of what the club is trying to achieve.

"After much thought and consideration, the following aim was decided upon: *The Warrandyte Basketball Club aims to promote the game of basketball within the local community and provide people of all ages with an opportunity to learn, develop and enjoy the game in a safe and encouraging environment.*"

"Now, with a new direction coupled with the imminent affiliation with Basketball Victoria, the club will be focusing towards promoting junior participation in local primary schools in the hope and expectation that they will join the Redbacks."

Arsenis said junior players would also be encouraged through the new Spider Ball basketball clinics to be run by head coach Tristan Messerle. The Spider Ball program would replace the successful Mosquito Fleet program, a Warrandyte Basketball Club initiative which had been running for a number of years.

"It will be directed at four to 10-year-olds but will be more structured and will focus on different skills from week to week," Arsenis said.

"The Oz Ball program will also be introduced to Warrandyte very soon and will run in addition to Spider Ball."

Arsenis said that after having played for the Redbacks for 14 years, coached

and officiated for 10 years and served on the committee for five years, he believed Warrandyte Basketball Club had great potential to become a far more successful and prosperous organisation.

"With many of the decisions the current committee have made, I am sure the club will benefit significantly," he said.

"I would personally like to see the Redbacks become a bigger and more successful association while continuing to promote the game of basketball within the community."

"In doing so, I feel very confident that it will ensure the long-term viability of the club."

Four that got away

Our kids star in the NBL

By TONY OLIVER

Warrandyte Basketball Club came home empty handed from the big Eltham Dandenong tournament over the Australia Day Weekend. But it did its reputation no harm at all by getting four of its 10 competing teams into the grand finals.

Five girls and five boys teams braved the heat and the new basketball rules for this event, the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Redbacks' results were mixed, with a number of teams finding the going hard when stepping up into higher-grade competition.

Tristan Messerle took the top Under-18 girls into the elite A-grade competition that included strong metropolitan teams from NSW. Despite some close games and being very competitive, the team missed out on the finals round.

The strength of Warrandyte was exemplified by fielding a second Under-18 girls side, coached by Warwick Armstrong. Unfortunately, late injuries weakened the line-up and a number of younger players stepped into the breach.

In the lead-up games, Breanna Thomas earned a MDP award for her efforts against Whittlesea, an encounter in which Warrandyte came back strongly in the second half after being outclassed in the first. The nature of the draw meant that the Redbacks contested the knock-out semi-final against South Adelaide but were well beaten by this strong interstate team.

Lorraine Parfitt had two teams in the competition. Her Under-16 girls found the going hard and just missed out on the semi-finals.

First up was a disappointing 30-22 loss to Camberwell despite being in control for most of the first half, but strong performances from a number of players, including Mikhaila

Australia Day glory eludes Redbacks

Greve and Anna Middleton, over the next games gave encouragement.

The girls' tournament finished on a positive note, with good wins over Diamond Valley (15-12) and Eltham (17-14), the latter providing revenge for Warrandyte's defeat in a junior championship grading game in December.

Parfitt's Under-14 girls fared better and reached the preliminary final. In a classic final against Diamond Valley, Warrandyte surrendered the lead in the last 30 seconds to go down by 12-10.

The Redbacks were in front, albeit narrowly, for most of the game but in the end could not counter Diamond Valley's tall centre and the speed of its smaller guards.

Emma Wood took her Under-12 girls all the way to the finals, accounting for Woodridge 18-17 in the preliminary final and reversing a 10-point defeat by that team in the round robin section. However, in the final test, the girls lost gallantly to Kestrals, coming back from 8-20 at half-time to go down 18-26.

It had been a good all round team performance throughout the tournament, but with some outstanding efforts by Fiona Rennie in the lead-up games.

Similar success was achieved in the boys section. Malcolm Anderson took his Under-12s boys to the grand final, only to go down 36-19 against a fast and skillful Collingwood outfit. Despite starting well, and running to a 6-2 lead, Warrandyte did not play tightly enough and Collingwood's rebounding game was a highlight.

Warrandyte's Josh Blakey was awarded MVP for his efforts in the final.

In their first tournament as a team, Damian Arsenis' Under-11



Redback Tyson Barber scrambles for the ball with a fallen Collingwood opponent as teammate Gavin Yates runs into position. The face far right is that of Warrandyte's Josh Blakey, MVP in the Under-12 final.

Metro 1 Championship boys competed against older and much bigger opposition in the Under-12 Boys B Division 2. It was always meant to be a learning experience for the talented young Redbacks, playing without Troy Ratcliffe, who was recovering from a broken arm.

To their great credit, they finished off the tournament with a fighting win, holding out the fast-finishing Greensborough side.

The Under-14 boys, coached by Travis Brown and Peter Clough just missed out on the semi-finals, having recorded

three wins from six starts. They rued early losses, particularly a first-up defeat with just six players.

John Buff steered the Under-16s into the grand final, but they came up against taller and faster opponents and were outclassed 77-23.

The highlight for this team, however, was a thrilling semi-final win over Eltham at the Templestowe Leisure Centre. Warrandyte was in control for most of the game, but Eltham came back strongly in the last few minutes.

The game was up for grabs

with Warrandyte leading 26-24 with seconds to go, but a technical foul against Eltham was the clincher. The Redbacks converted to take the match 28-24.

Malcolm Anderson's Under-18 boys also contested the grand final. They defeated Darebin 34-30 in a fast, close semi-final to book a place against Eltham in the big one at Eltham Leisure Centre.

The grand final started at a furious pace, but Eltham opened up a 15-13 lead midway through the first half and gradually increased its advantage to win 43-31.

Some little Warrandyte kids with big basketball futures got their first taste on Saturday, February 3, of life at the top.

Warrandyte Basketball Club's Under-10 A WRI team coached by club president Damian Arsenis contested the Super Mini-Series against the Waverley Bulldogs at half-time in the blockbuster Titans-Tigers NBL game at Vodafone Arena.

And they covered themselves in glory, winning 28-10 to progress through to the finals. Tom Fitzpatrick stole the show for Warrandyte by hitting a three-pointer, a rare achievement at this level.

The Mini-Series is played over five minutes at half-time during NBL games in Melbourne throughout the league season. It is a great opportunity for aspiring youngsters to experience from the court the atmosphere of top-level basketball.

A cheer squad of more than 40 parents, brothers, sisters, other relatives and friends were at the arena to support Arsenis' super-talented young charges.

Signing on for winter

Warrandyte Basketball Club's Registration Day for the winter Saturday season is Saturday, February 10, from 10 am to 5pm.

Age groups are from Under-9 to Under-19 for both boys and girls.

Registration is early so the number of teams in each age group can be determined and attempts made to place each team in the appropriate grade.

For further details, contact Tony Oliver on 9844 4287.

Parents interested in enrolling their children in the Spider Ball program described elsewhere on this page should contact Oliver or Tristan Messerle (9844 2506).

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BRIDGESTONE TYRE CENTRES

Bushrangers blow it!

Warrandyte Cricket Club won, and then lost, their crucial RDCA Chandler Shield match against Montrose on February 3. And in doing so they forfeited a position in the top four with only two rounds remaining.

But the Bushrangers remain fewer than four points out of finals contention and their next opponents, Ferntree Gully, are only a game ahead of them in third place.

The extraordinary events that unfolded at the Warrandyte ground on February 3 provided a perfect example of how quickly a loss of concentration can turn a game of cricket on its head.

Batting first, Warrandyte collapsed to be all out for 118, only Dave Mooney, with 35 runs, providing any true resistance. All looked lost as Montrose raced to 1-47, but by the end of the day's play the visitors, who were bottom of the premiership table, had collapsed to 7-72, with coach

But we're still a chance for finals

SPORT

Russell Jenzen, Chris Snaidero and Gerald Walshe sharing the spoils.

It took 13 overs on the second day for Warrandyte to take first innings points and a lead of 21 runs. But as has been the case for most of the season, the batting again failed to come to grips with the situation and the Dytes were bundled out for just 114, leaving Montrose 135 to make in 35 overs. They achieved the target for the loss of four wickets.

In the wash-up, Montrose took eight points for an outright win while Warrandyte were left with four points. Had they capitalised on the first innings lead, Warrandyte would have held

down fourth spot.

But the almost unprecedented evenness of the competition means that a finals berth remains within the Bushrangers' reach. Their destiny is on their own hands over the next four weeks.

The result against Montrose was the latest chapter in a story of opportunities lost for Warrandyte this season.

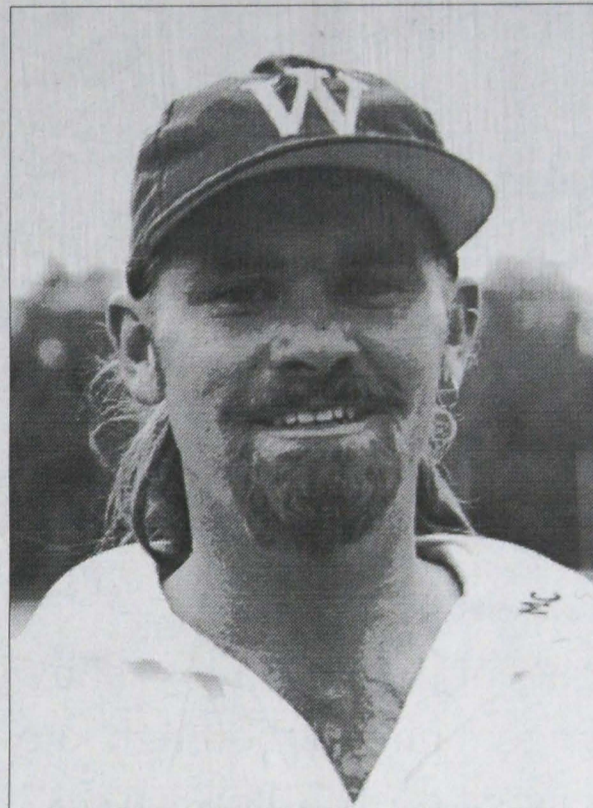
In the previous match against South Ringwood, Warrandyte were 3-140 at tea, chasing 267. With Adam White (who finished with 67) and Jenzen (72) calling the tune, they were in command on a lightning fast outfield.

But White was out shortly after the break and a middle-order batting collapse saw Warrandyte dismissed for 207.

It was an unjust reward for some spectacular fast bowling by Jenzen, who took the first four South Ringwood wickets in his opening spell as they crashed to 4-60. Jenzen finished with 5-100.

Veteran Robert White maintained his good form with the ball, conceding a miserly 27 runs from 17 overs of tight off-spin, but South Ringwood were still able to get away to a sizeable score.

The batting remains Warrandyte's problem. Only Jenzen, Adam White and Steve Bell have been able to post 50-plus scores this season and this had placed continued pressure on the bowlers to defend mod-



David Mooney ... offered the only resistance with the bat against Montrose.

est totals.

"We have the ability, we just have to put it together as a team," Jenzen said after the bitterly-disappointing result against Montrose. "But results in other matches have gone our way and now it is up to the players to band together and fight

for the finals spot that it there for the taking."

The lack of depth in playing talent and numbers is also causing problems for the club. The second eleven have had a spasmatic season, with a number of players getting among the runs but unable to put together a



Russell Jenzen

string of consistent scores to pressure for a first eleven position.

The thirds and fourths have also struggled for numbers, but veterans such as Brian Cleaves and Graham Lawrence have come to the rescue since the Christmas break.

Lawrence and Cleaves were Warrandyte's top scorers in the fourths' match against South Ringwood.

Cricket details

FIRSTS: Warrandyte 9-191 (A. White 43, Jenzen 37) lost to Wantirna South 7-209. Warrandyte 204 (Jenzen 72, A. White 67) lost to South Ringwood 267 (Jenzen 5-100) and 1-44. Warrandyte 118 (Mooney 35) and 114 lost to Montrose 97 (Jenzen 4-43, Walshe 3-49) and 4-139.

SECONDS: Warrandyte 173 (Bell 76, Graf 32) lost to South Ringwood 405 and 6-86. Warrandyte 209 (B. Baker 65, Cloke 36, Brent 30) d Montrose 201 (Graf 3-33, Warr 3-34).

THIRDS: Warrandyte 224 (Goddard 74, Croft 73) lost to South Ringwood 418 (J. Coates 3-68). Warrandyte 7-194 (Chapman 56 n.o., Raby 36, Gamble 42) d Montrose 189 (Raby 3-22, Wellesley 4-50, Lincoln 3-58).

Invincibles come to town

Great cricketing deeds will be relived at An Evening With The Invincibles at Club Warrandyte on Friday, February 9.

Neil Harvey and Sam Loxton, two of Sir Donald Bradman's undefeated Ashes tourists of 1948, will be special guests at the function, to be compared by Sid Barnes junior, son of another Invincibles member.

The evening offers a door prize of a commemorative masterpiece of the Invincibles, measuring 114 by 94 centimetres and valued at \$1650. A second masterpiece will be auctioned, along with other unique cricket memorabilia, and footage of the 1948 tour shown on the big screen.

Tickets, which include a two-course meal, are \$40 and are available at the Club Warrandyte bistro. Inquiries: 9844 1199.

The function starts at 6.30.

Bloods struggle for numbers

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club are struggling for numbers as their return to EFL Third Division on April 7 approaches.

Numbers have been down at pre-season training and the committee has set itself the task of personally contacting every registered player to encourage attendance.

"We've already written to every player on our list, but too many of them have not replied," new Bloods president Robert "Noddy" Ireland told the *Diary*.

The good news is that as this edition went to press, half a dozen prospective recruits — some with senior Diamond Valley league experience — were expected at training to "look the club over".

"It's not good enough to just replace players who have left the club," Ireland said. "If you lose four players from last year you look to gain 10 to strengthen the ranks and go forward."

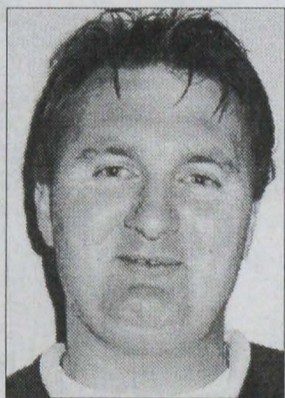
The Bloods have not yet abandoned hope of retaining the services of on-baller Mack Clarkson, their best and fairest for the past two seasons and Third Division competition champion in 1999.

Clarkson has been targeted by Division 1 club East Ringwood. "He badly wants to have a go at First Division and has told me that if he didn't do it now he'd never do it," Ireland said.

"I suggested he play a couple of practice matches with East Ringwood to see how he liked it before making a final decision and he's agreed to do that."

"If he decides to go, we'll wish him all the best. He's given Warrandyte great service."

Premiership captain, 300-gamer and multiple best-and-

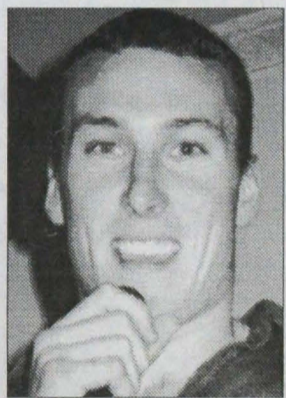


Gone (for now): John O'Brien

fairest winner John O'Brien has left the club to take up a coaching appointment with Second Division club Knox.

Ironically, O'Brien captained the Bloods to their one-point win over Knox in the 1999 Third Division grand final. Ironically, too, Knox replaced Warrandyte this season in Second Division, having won last year's Division 3 premiership.

"John's ultimate ambition is

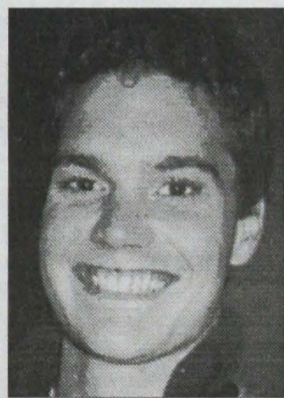


Very doubtful: Mack Clarkson

to return to coach Warrandyte," said Ireland. "He wants to return to the club with coaching experience and he believes it best to get that experience at another club, away from the mates he has played alongside for so long."

"He has been a great player for us and of course we wish him every success in the new direction he has taken."

Defender Rocky Armstrong,



Also doubtful: Rocky Armstrong

fourth in last season's best and fairest voting, is another doubtful starter for 2001. Armstrong has connections in senior amateur football and may return to those ranks, but Warrandyte are still negotiating with him.

Warrandyte will play three practice matches in the lead-up to the season's opener away to East Doncaster. The first (venue and opponents yet to be decided) will be on March 17, the second at home during the Warrandyte Festival and the third the following weekend.

Until Warrandyte Cricket Club vacate the recreation reserve at the end of their season, the Bloods will train there on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights.

"We'd love to see local supporters get along there to watch training and encourage the boys on the track," said Ireland.

"And of course we'd love to hear from any volunteers prepared to lend a hand in any capacity in the running of the club."

Dick inspires Irish uprising

By CLINTON GRYBAS

The Fighting Irish begin this season's senior basketball competition as the team to beat again after upsetting defending champions the Ostrich Farmers 54-44 in December's Greyburn Cup grand final.

Inspired by a big second half from Jarrod Dick, the Irish showed poise down the stretch in outlasting a desperate Farmers.

With the Irish trailing by one at half-time Dick potted all 10 of his points in the second stanza to set up the win. Adam Borwick topped the scoring with 16 while Brad Giampietro added 12. And Giampietro was very relieved after the game.

"Finally we didn't self-destruct in a big game," he said as the Irish ended a six-season premiership drought. "All through the finals we played well as a team."

The River Rats kept their hold on the over-30 crown courtesy of a 34-26 win over Warrandyte. The Rats led by just two at half-time but turned the defensive clamps thereafter.

John Skidmore provided the inside muscle with 10 points while Gerald Walshe added eight. Shane Johnson led Warrandyte with 11.

The Phantoms claimed their first Grand Hotel Cup women's title, beating the PP Champs 32-20. The Champs were searching for an historic 10th cup but were denied by Jess Caruso, who potted 15 points including two late three-pointers to seal the win.

"We've finally done it," said captain Gael Carter. Adam Borwick, Steve Doyle and Jess Caruso were named the Most Valuable Players of the respective competitions. The new season starts on February 14 (men) and February 15 (women). Contact Steve Doyle on 0418 370 389 or Terri Slabon 0417 332 148 for entry details.

Juniors in demand

Warrandyte Junior Football Club are also seeking players — and coaches — for the new season.

The club are advertising on strategically-placed billboards around town for players from Under-9s to Under-17s.

Registration day is at the clubrooms from 10am to 1pm on Sunday, February 11, and any boy who'd like to represent the progressive club in the Yarra Junior Football League is invited to sign up.

The young Bloods are particularly keen to resurrect at least one Under-9 team. The Under-9s went into recess for want of numbers last season. Previously, the club had run two sides at the grassroots level.

Coaches are also required at all levels and anyone interested is asked to contact Anthony Mirabella, from the club's football department, on 9844 2623.

Mirabella also welcomes inquiries from any prospective new players or their parents.

Smashing successes

Two Warrandyte Tennis Club teams were victorious in the finals of the Lilydale and District night competition.

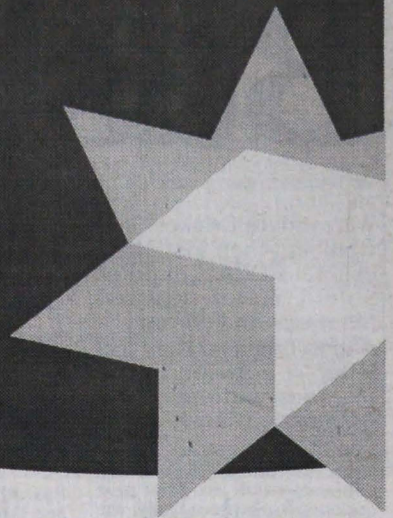
In the Tuesday night men's event, Section 4 Racketeers (Greg Lawrence, Rashi Somu, David Green, Mark Bence, Lee Dehmel and Tim Oriander) easily defeated a Heathmont team.

And in the Wednesday night mixed competition, Section 3 Blue Boys (Michelle Gilling, Lyndal Mackintosh, Paul Lynch, Neil Sproat, Cameron McBain and Mark Hill) easily accounted for a team from Burnt Bridge.



The Professionals

Wilson McDougall

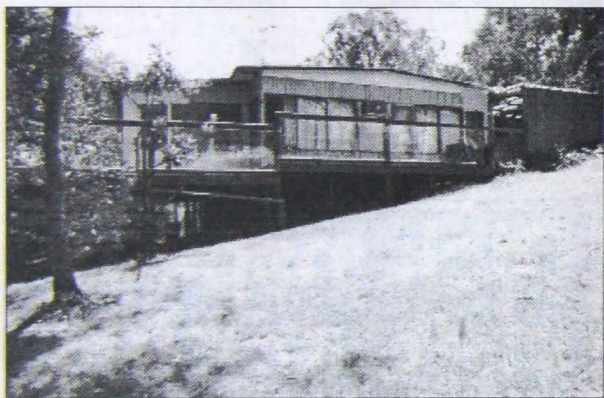


Thinking of selling?

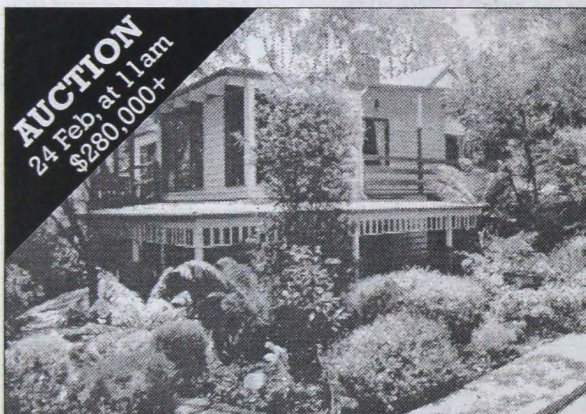
Consider the following:

- does your agent live locally?
- does your agent understand what living in Warrandyte is all about?
- does your agent have a thorough knowledge of the property values in the area?
- does your agent open 7 days a week?
- does your agent have an extensive database of prospective Warrandyte purchasers?

If not... you'll need to talk to us.



11 Albert Rd, Nth Warrandyte
3BR, 1/3 acre, river frontage \$215,000



AUCTION
24 Feb. at 11am
\$280,000+

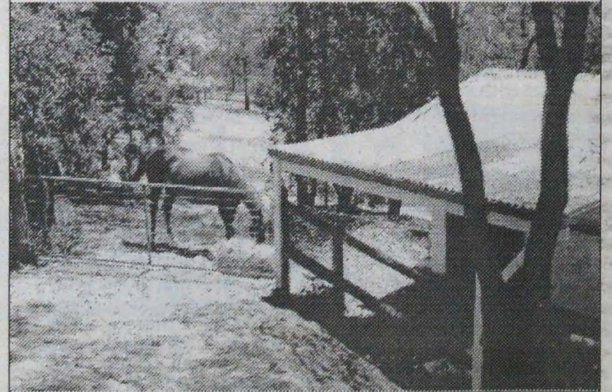
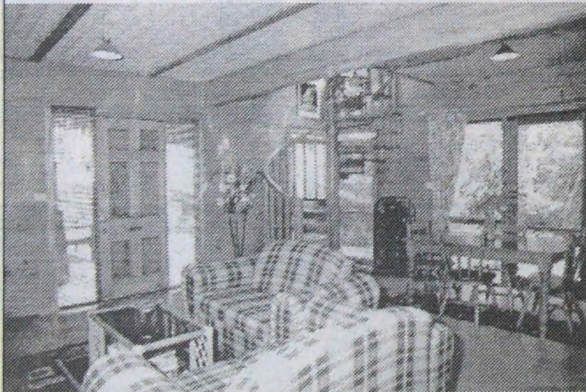
326 Wdyte-Ringwood Road, Warrandyte
4BR, 1/2 acre, fully renovated character residence.



143 Research-Wdyte Rd, Nth Warrandyte
3BR, magnificent gardens, horse paddock,
separate home/office, \$465,000



2 Stony Creek Rd, Nth Warrandyte
2BR character home with 2-room studio \$229,000



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Managing Director



Peter McDougall
Sworn Valuer



Russell McInnes
Sales Consultant



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