

MP's urgent call

By DAVID WYMAN and CLIFF GREEN

Local MP Phil Honeywood has called on Warrandyte residents to "stop being complacent" about local planning issues.

He cited the recent example of a broad acre property in Webb Street, Warrandyte, that was permitted by Manningham City Council to convert a business structure into a second separate house "against every planning rule in the book".

"In the past, Warrandyte residents would have been lobbying their local councillors against voting for this change to the planning scheme, signing petitions and appealing to the planning appeals tribunal (VCAT) against the council's appalling reversal," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*.

"However, in this case and an increasing number of others in the Warrandyte area, all we got was a stony silence from the local community."

Last month the *Diary* reported that representations were being made to

the Electoral Boundaries Commission to have parts of the Warrandyte state electorate moved into the seats of Doncaster and Bulleen. Local conservationists see this as posing a potential threat to the integrity of the Green Wedge.

The Park Orchards community argued the case against this move before the electoral commission, but there was no response from Warrandyte.

Also causing concern is the recent application to Manningham council for an amendment to the planning scheme to permit a subdivision in the Green Wedge from the Park Orchards Progress Association Inc. (See Page 3).

Phil Honeywood is concerned that a "comfort zone" has crept into the thinking of local residents. "Either that or they have got so used to allowing the older generation of Warrandyte activists to fight the planning battles for them that the younger generation here think that it will work out alright

anyway," he said.

"All residents need to realise that democracy is not an easy system of government. Increasingly, to have your opinion count on key issues affecting your local community, you have to do more than just turn up at polling booths come election time and cast your vote.

"In between elections, particularly for local government, there will now be any number of decisions made by elected councillors that can seriously impact upon the local environment and character of an area for generations to come. Once a precedent is allowed to 'go through to the keeper', such as the Webb Street multiple dwelling decision, then it can have an incredible domino effect on future planning decisions," Mr Honeywood said.

"Manningham City Council has long been dominated by a majority of built-up urban area councillors and if they

don't hear a rumbling or even a whimper from residents of the Green Wedge and the dual occupancy-free zones east of Mullum Mullum Creek, then they will feel relaxed about throwing their support behind a subdivision or multiple dwelling application that would just be a normal, rubber-stamp occurrence in Bulleen or Doncaster."

So concerned is the local MP that he has called on the Warrandyte community to establish a "Warrandyte Community Association".

"This could be based on the very successful Park Orchards Ratepayers Association. Because the Park Orchards group has an elected executive committee and regular meetings, they are always consulted by Manningham councillors and senior officers before decisions are made affecting the residents of that community."

In a current major issue facing the Park Orchards community, the proposed Vodaphone tower, the

ratepayers association called a public meeting. It was attended by almost 300 people in a place with a population much smaller than Warrandyte.

"In the case of Warrandyte, there is no such group or organisation that, in an ongoing way, keeps the council on its toes," Mr Honeywood said.

He said that in recent times he had taken heart from the Warrandyte Awareness Group (WAG) and their strong stand on specific issues, such as the Harris Gully Road roundabout and the proposed mobile phone tower at the wildflower reserve.

"More recently still, we had tremendous local participation in the campaign by the Warrandyte Community Centre group. Perhaps we need to persuade motivated local residents involved in these two groups to take the next step and formalise their community activism and leadership.

"Otherwise, too many important decisions affecting our unique community will be allowed to 'fall between the cracks' simply through lack of interest."

● The *Diary* invites readers' comments on this issue.

'...and in the morning we will remember them...'

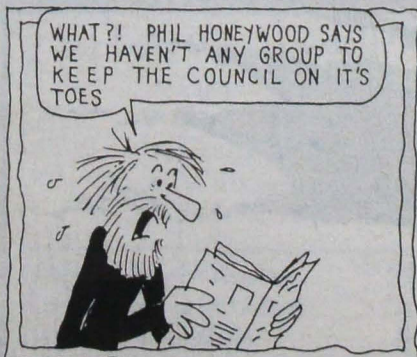
Warrandyte's ranks are thinning (right), but the Anzac Day spirit is just as strong.

● More SANDY BURGOYNE pictures on Page 7



CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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DIARY

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POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.
EDITORIAL: Chief of staff Jan Tindale, 9844 3719.
ADVERTISING & ACCOUNTS: Rae Danks, 9844 3819 or 0414 745 212.
CIRCULATION: Peter Norman, 9844 3268.
FAX: Editorial and Advertising, 9844 4168.
DIARY OFFICE: 168-178 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 9844 0555
INTERNET EDITOR: Sandy Burgoyne, 9844 2680
EMAIL ADDRESS: thediary@vicnet.net.au
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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 24km from Melbourne. The site of the first official gold discovery in Victoria—in 1851—it soon established its character as a small, self-sustaining community set in a beautiful river valley. Around 1900 the miners, orchardists and tradespeople were joined by a number of young painters who were founding the Australian nationalist arts tradition. Although now a commuter suburb of Melbourne, the natural beauty, community spirit and sense of independence of Warrandyte has been largely retained. This newspaper is the voice and true expression of that spirit.

So here comes the bride and she's high as a kite!

It's safe to say that the marriage on April 7 of Paul Macneish and Tiffany Sulmann (35 and 29 respectively) got off to a flying start. Paul is the son of multi-talented *Diary* original Jock and the lovely Di, of Hawkes Road — and with that we hand over to Jock to tell the story: "Although they live in Terang, Paul and Tiffany arranged to get married in Bright, at a landing field on the edge of town. When the guests assembled at the appropriate spot, Paul and Tiffany took off in paragliders from the ridge high above the valley and flew down to the landing field to take their vows. Just to add to the sense of the occasion, both bride and groom were in full wedding gear — suit, waistcoat and bow tie for Paul and full bridal train for Tiffany. Tiffany flew in a tandem glider with a pilot, who insisted she at least wear sensible shoes, which added an engagingly discordant note to her ensemble. The paragliding was all done as a surprise to the guests, some of whom seemed concerned about issues of airworthiness. But the groom's brother Eddy piped the couple down safely to earth. When the saying and signing was over, the bridal party took a horse and coach to the singing and signing at a restaurant in town. There were around 50 guests and, as master of ceremonies, I was required to keep the speeches to less than five minutes per speaker. Which I did, except for mine, which went on until they threw food at me."



Tiffany's sensible shoes added an engagingly discordant note to her ensemble.

It was for the Cricket Club to have had two Junior teams win premierships," it said. "What a great disappointment it was not to know who they were. Two good photos of "proud" "victorious" "happy" NAMELESS faces. They are important to our community both as a team and individually. Please don't make the same mistake again." Nasty, eh? Nasty enough to evoke a rare display of spleen from the mild-mannered Lee. "Ask this smartarse if he or she would like to donate his or her time to the betterment of the *Diary*, as I've been doing for nigh on 30 bloody years!" he roared. "The photos were kindly supplied by Warrandyte Cricket Club but they were uncaptioned and I'm buggedger if I was going to spend the best part of a day running around town trying to identify them.

It really was quite a week for the Macneishes. Two days before the wedding, Jock and Di were presented with their first grandchild when Penelope Anne, daughter of Eddy and Tracey, arrived at Box Hill Hospital. And just to keep it thoroughly local, Penelope was delivered by midwife Harriet Morton, Sister Harriet Morton, who grew up in KG Road, North Warrandyte.

Diary sports editor Lee Tindale copped an e-mail the other day chiding him for lack of attention to detail in the previous edition. "What a great effort

IN RED & WHITE



Maybe this e-mail person would like to join our voluntary staff as caption writer." And who is this e-mail person? Dunno. No identification. Just another nameless face.

The football deeds of Grant "Socks" Egan are legendary, if you believe what he tells you (and we do because the bloke's about six-foot-five in the old speak and your columnist is a devout, card-carrying coward). Socks, of Ringwood Road, was a superstar full-forward with South Croydon in the old EDFL, kicking a bagful of centuries, and even tried out with Essendon. He was also a high jumper who could leap tall buildings in a single bound, but that's another story. At 36, he still kicks a footy in the veterans competition and turned out for his beloved South Croydon on April 7 in the first leg of an EFL season-opening triple-header at Kilsyth. And didn't he run hot! Socks had five big ones on the board by the time his so-called mates Mark Bensch (his next door neighbour) and Chris Sherriff arrived after half-time and started to razz him, as so-called mates will. But our hero responded to the heckling by leading out, grabbing the ball, charging through two soft tackles, ignoring a teammate in the square and booting a goal which would have made Kevin "Hungry" Bartlett green with envy. The razzing then started to take its toll and Socks' next two kicks, after easy chest marks right in front, sailed out on the full. Razzed almost to a frazzle now, Socks summoned one last heroic effort, dashed out from goal, dropped a chest mark that any Warrandyte Under-9 would have eaten, recovered, handballed (as a very last resort) to a teammate, received a return pass and put through his seventh. Then, very late in the game, he grassed another chesty and, to the thunderous applause of Mark and Chris, was dragged. Socks Egan may still be a pretty good footballer in geriatric games, but we think his consistency needs a little work.

When Melbourne publican Louis John Michel and his mate William Habberlin confirmed Victoria's first gold discovery at Anderson's Creek 150 years ago, do you reckon they jumped up and down and shouted "Eureka!" like prospectors do in the movies? No. According to the best information available, it was pretty low key. Habberlin was panning a bit of dirt, saw a bit of colour and said: "Your worship, here's the clickerty." And what the organisers of next month's big Warrandyte gold celebrations would like to know is the derivation of the word "clickerty". Newie on us. Rhyming slang, perhaps? Anyhow, if you can enlighten us, drop Smokey a line and we'll reveal it to the world in the next issue. Sorry, no prizes on offer.

Warrandyte Football Club lost a great past player, clubman and mate on April 11 with the death of Ken Beruldson. Ken, 56, was an uncompromising full-back for the Bloods in the 1970s, was named in that position last year in the club's team of that decade and as an emergency in the All Stars of 1950-99. He was the only defender to win the best and fairest award. Ken died of mesothelioma, an asbestos-related illness, and knew months before his death that his days were numbered. The footy club observed a minute's silence in his memory before the home game against the Waverley Blues on April 24. Smokey knew Ken pretty well and can assure you that blokes like him don't come along all that often.

A tasty offering from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend this month is the Cinnamon Wattle (*Acacia leprosa*). Cathy Willis, our native flora whiz, describes it as a "very fast growing large shrub with fine aromatic foliage and lemon yellow ball flowers in spring". "It needs a well-drained position and forms an attractive weeping habit with age," she says. Give Cathy a call on 0418 142297 and it can be yours.

Smokey Joe

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



Old mines destroyed

Green Wedge subdivision

By CLIFF GREEN

The Park Orchards Progress Association Inc has submitted an application to Manningham council to amend the planning scheme to permit the closer subdivision of 37 broad acre allotments in the Green Wedge into 103 building blocks.

The president of the progress association, Mr Daryl Cox of Rainbow Valley Road, has been involved in the promotion of subdivision in the Green Wedge for a number of years.

The area affected by the plan is bounded by the proposed extension to Reynolds Road and Stintons Road to the north, Pambara Court to the west, Rainbow Valley Road to the south and North Valley Road and part of Alva Avenue to the east.

The area is part of the existing Environmental Rural Zone in the Manningham Planning Scheme with a minimum lot size of eight hectares (20 acres). The proposed blocks range in size from 3500 square metres (less than one acre) up to 34,000 square metres (eight acres).

The application notes that "members of the Parks Orchards Progress Association own a total of 74 per cent of the subject land". Thus it would appear that the owners of 26 per cent of the land are not parties to the proposition.

The application notes that the land is degraded through "canopy die back, noxious weeds, feral animals, vermin and soil erosion and compaction".

It states that "a major issue is the lack of reticulated sewerage in the general area (including the adjacent urban area of Park Orchards) which has resulted in untreated effluent being discharged into the nearby waterways and creating significant pollution.

"The advice (from Yarra Valley Water) indicates that the provision of reticulated sewerage and water to each lot is within reasonable financial levels."

The application argues that "the subject land forms one of several precincts, which comprise the 'Green Wedge' which extends further north into Warrandyte. However, it is noted that the land itself represents the southern portion of the 'Green Wedge' which is sandwiched between the urban areas of Park Orchards to the east and Doncaster East to the west.

"Conventional residential development exists immediately adjacent to the edges of the subject land to the west, south and north with the proposed Reynolds Road extension to the north. Much of the land to the east, west and south is of a similar topography and is developed with residential development at a density of less than 0.4 hectares (one acre)."

Commenting on the application, Mr David Mayor, vice-president of the Park Orchards Ratepayers Association, says that "if this application goes through then it will be the thin edge of the Green Wedge".

"How can there be a wedge without a thin end for someone to attack?" he said. "The Green Wedge must start and stop somewhere.

"Governments of both persuasions and councils of all colours have laid down the lines to protect the Green Wedge from further incursions."

"The price of living in this area is eternal vigilance," Mr Mayor said. "There should never be a prize for lack of land care."

● The application will go before a council meeting on Tuesday, May 29.

By RACHEL BAKER

With the 150th anniversary of the finding of gold at Anderson's Creek to be celebrated on June 30, the *Diary* has discovered that many of our precious mining sites have been destroyed.

One of Warrandyte's most significant mines, the Great Southern, has been covered by a new house.

A local historian is accusing Manningham council of failing to give the heritage-listed mines adequate protection. A new heritage overlay, introduced by council, came too late for some mines and offers no protection for many others, the amateur historian claims.

"This is a classic example of how easily our cultural heritage is being slowly eroded," Peter Hanson, of the Warrandyte Historical Society, told the *Diary*.

During the construction of a house, located at the top of Hodson Road, the Great Southern mine was filled in with spoil from the mullock heap.

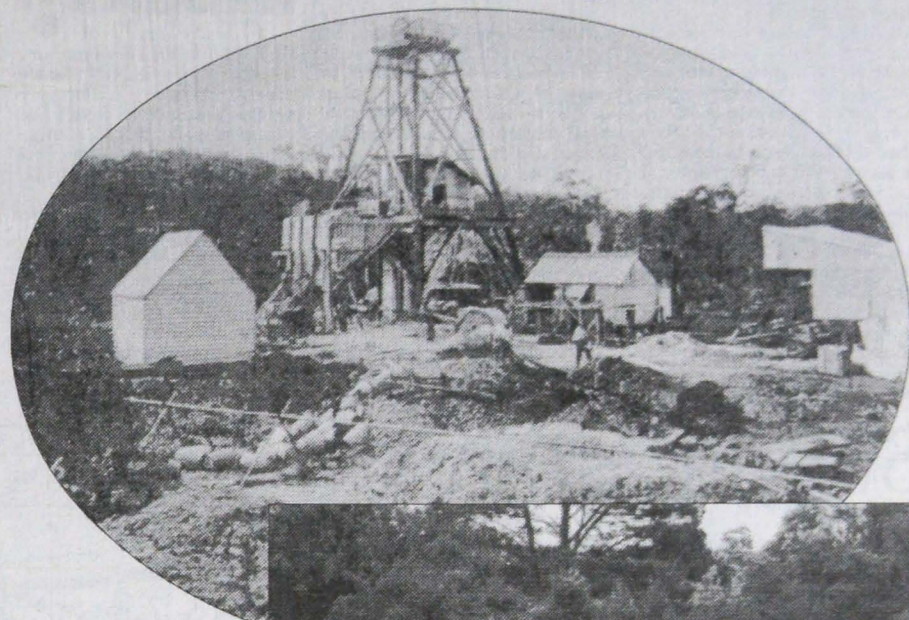
Manningham council has defended the timing of their heritage overlay, which came into effect in June last year, claiming that it took a long time to develop.

"Only recently has this council been able to explore these issues—even more recently have we had the legislative power to do anything, so we're making up a lot of ground now," Roger Collins, Manningham's acting director of environmental amenity, said.

"There may have been some losses (in the interim), which is unfortunate," Mr Collins said.

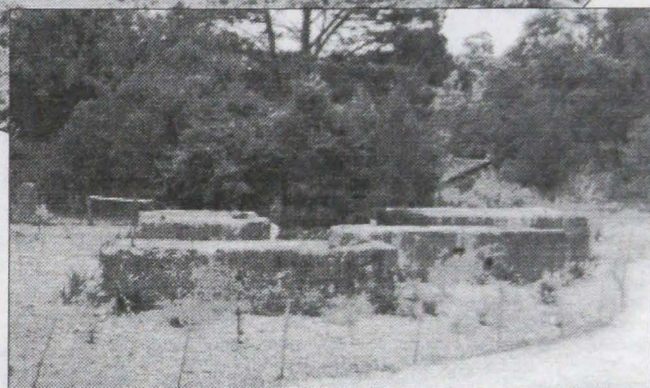
The mines covered by the overlay are Sailor's Reef in Gold Memorial Drive and Pigtail mine on Pigtail Road. The Great Southern in Hodson Road is also protected but, as a house has been built on top of the mine, protection now seems redundant.

According to the work of Peter Hanson, who has been researching Warrandyte's mines for around 10 years, this leaves out several significant mines—the Caledonia, Black Swan and Grant—all located at the end of Tills Drive.



Above: The Caledonian mine in its heyday, 1906.

Right: Remnants of Caledonian mine foundations, as they appear today.



Manningham council conceded that there may be flaws in their policy. "There is an amendment in progress," Paul Molan, director of environmental amenity, said. "It's possible that the amendment covers these mines."

Peter Hanson believes Manningham council does not have sufficient knowledge of Warrandyte's mines. "There still needs to be a proper study," he said.

All significant archaeological sites, including mine shafts, are protected under Victoria's Heritage Act.

Jeremy Smith, an archaeologist with Heritage Victoria, described Warrandyte's gold mines as very significant. "Every goldfield is different.

Warrandyte is an early one, it's the closest to Melbourne, it's unique," Mr Smith said. "It's possible that, if damaged, some parts could be irreplaceable."

In Manningham's new heritage overlay areas, a permit is required before a landowner can:

- subdivide
- demolish, construct or alter a building
- display a sign.

The scheme does not aim to prohibit development, Mr Collins said. "It will provide a framework for balanced decisions. It's about weighing up the issues."

Heritage Victoria archaeologist, Jeremy Smith, said his organisation does have the le-

gal power to protect significant sites. "Under the terms of the Heritage Act it's an offence to damage a heritage site. If there's been negligence, we do have an enforcement team," Mr Smith said.

But they are reluctant use the law.

"Our concern is more with the management and recording of these sites, rather than legal action," he said. The archaeologist claimed that the attitudes of communities towards history is changing.

"Now people value these things and want them to be protected," he said.

● **Litany of lost memories: Page 5**

Phone tower guidelines rejected

By RACHEL BAKER

A Park Orchards community group has put phone tower guidelines on Manningham council's agenda.

The Park Orchards Ratepayers Association last month proposed to council a set of guidelines for the location of towers. This was triggered by intense interest by mobile phone carriers in the Park Orchards area, including Vodafone's proposal for a 40-metre high tower on private land in South Valley Road.

However, council amended the guidelines, so they were no longer acceptable to the association.

"We ended up with something completely different so we submitted that it be rejected," Bill Fox, of PORA, said.

Manningham council has deferred a decision on the proposed guidelines.

"We got our way but there are still no guidelines," Mr Fox said.

Manningham council plans to hold a public meeting in June to discuss the issue of mobile phone towers, then formulate a set of guidelines.

"We will invite industry members, the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, and members of the public," Paul Molan, Manningham's director of environmental amenity, told the *Diary*.

"People can ask questions and offer their opinions, then make contributions after the meeting," Mr Molan said.

The Park Orchards Ratepayers Association's proposed guidelines were based on those of Sutherland Shire Council, in New South Wales, which broke new ground by installing a set of guidelines on phone towers.

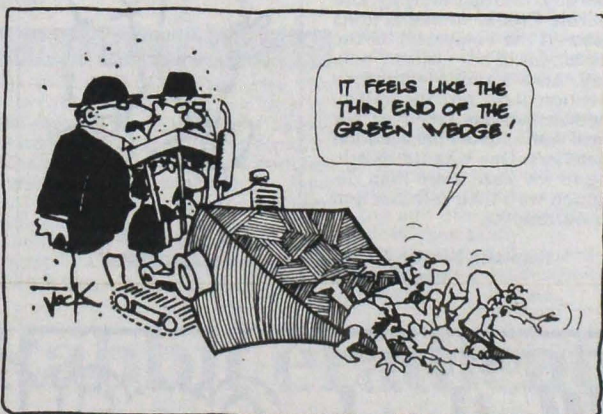
The proposed guidelines stated that a tower should be 300 metres away from a residence, school, childcare centre, or aged

care centre, unless the electro-magnetic radiation level is less than 0.2 uW/cm². (A person undertaking normal activities, such as sitting in front of a computer, would experience levels around 0.2 uW/cm².) A tower within a natural environment, such as a state or national park, must consider protection of the wildlife, soil, water, appearance and access of the area.

PORA sought advice from Sutherland shire's environmental scientist, Dr Garry Smith, who visited Melbourne and spoke to Manningham councillors on March 21 this year.

"We arranged the visit so council would be better informed," Mr Fox said.

PORA is disappointed that, despite their impassioned lobbying, their hopes have not been publicly supported by ward councillors. "The least we could have is our councillors pushing for what we want," Mr Fox said.



Is it on again? This cartoon first appeared in the *Diary* in March, 1989.

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Remembering pioneer painters

I read with great interest the article on women painters, written by Fia Clendinnen in the March 2001 edition of the *Warrandyte Diary*.

Over the years the importance of the early women painters has long been ignored, and much praise therefore to the painters group for their efforts to help remedy this situation.

I would like to add to the story by recounting some details of the early development of the painting group, in the interest of history, and as a tribute to the dedication of the early painters, and to those members who have died in recent years.

In the early 1950s there was a proposal to start a painting group as a part of the establishment of the Warrandyte Arts Association. The proposal was

supported by many locals, and a start was made by having a well-attended sketching day.

The interest of many of those attending faded, mainly because they were beginners, and wanted instruction. Funds were not available to support payment of a suitable instructor and to rent studio premises. A core remained of some established artists, and others with previous attendance at art classes, who wished to carry on as a group.

I was one of the latter. I was fortunate in that as a schoolgirl I had private tuition from Clara Southern. Later, on various occasions I attended drawing and painting classes.

Reg and Phyl Preston (now both deceased) offered use of their studio in Kangaroo

DEAR DIARY



Ground Road, as a venue for a weekly evening meeting for the small group. We called ourselves the Tuesday Night Painters as most of us had daytime jobs or other commitments, and could not attend daytime meetings.

This arrangement continued for more than a decade. During this time we started holding an annual exhibition, involving hard work and the overcoming of many obstacles.

Soon afterwards, the holding of the annual exhibition was joined by the inclusion of the WAA pottery and craft groups.

This event has continued until the present time. The members of the painting group enjoyed and benefited over the years from the Tuesday night meetings.

We were all grateful to the Prestons, and were saddened when other commitments forced them to end the arrangement. A period of the doldrums occurred. A WAA painting group was reformed as described in the *Diary* article, and this has continued and flourished. I enjoyed being a member of this group until eyesight and old-age problems made it impossible to continue.

Audrey Cahn
Murrumbateman, NSW
(formerly of Osborne Road,
Warrandyte North)

Special place spoilt

Like Kerry and John Boyle (*April Diary*), I also love Warrandyte.

I, too, am unhappy to see blue neon signs, bright pub adverts and glowing bus stops. However, I believe excess signage is only one of many factors threatening Warrandyte's unique character. Perhaps we should be more worried about massive concrete roundabouts, rapid loss of vegetation, bitumen car parks and strips of new shops, rather than sandwich boards. Visual pollution is much more than unnecessary signs and advertising, although these are a problem.

Surely we don't want Warrandyte to become another Carmel-By-The-Sea, with its "busloads of tourists". Instead we should be nurturing pride

and love for our town, within those who already live there, so they will want to look after it. Maybe we could start by giving Warrandyte kids a bigger hand with their skate park, so they have something to do other than hang out in front of IGA?

Warrandyte is a special place, and it is very important that its residents oppose developments which they believe threaten the heritage of the village and values of the community. Having said that, I honestly believe that a new café, which aims to imitate Warrandyte's natural environment through its décor, cannot be labelled "visual pollution". Maybe I've just got bad taste?

Jennifer Willis
Morilla Place

Service station gas plan fears

Cast your minds back to February 1998 when a major victory was won for Warrandyte residents. A proposal to build a large service station development on Yarra Street was abandoned. Hoorah! Well, my complaint is not as grand but still warrants a fight, I feel. The Shell service station on the corner of Husseys Lane and Ringwood-Warrandyte Road has proposed to council to install a 42kl underground LPG vessel on the site. We received notification on Friday giving only two weeks to raise objections, that is by May 11. In brief, we've objected for the following reasons:

- This facility will result in—
- An increase in combustible, explosive material in close proximity to residential homes;
- An increase in traffic, mainly taxis (Shell is responding to the demands of taxis, I've been told). This will not benefit tourism in any way. Tourists do not come to Warrandyte in taxis. Tourists come to Warrandyte to get away from the hustle and bustle of suburbia where taxis and hordes of traffic prevail. This proposal is contrary to tourist values and is purely and simply a means of

boosting and expanding Shell's commercial enterprise and detracts totally from any consideration for the unique character of this part of the Green Wedge;

- Added traffic which will create greater hazards on an already busy and dangerous intersection;

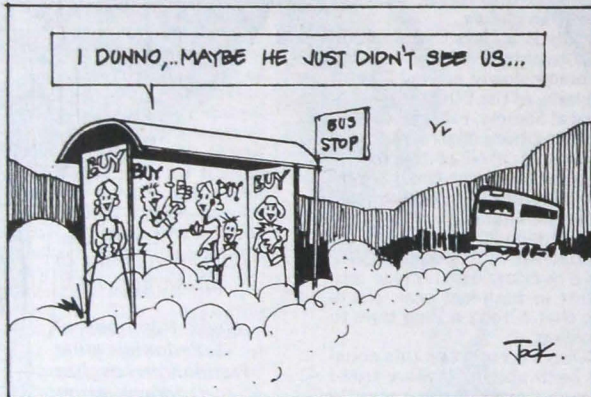
- An inevitable increase in littering afforded by more traffic. We are forever cleaning up rubbish along our bordering fence line with Shell and out on the nature strip and inside our property as the wind blows it everywhere. It's despicable;

- The inevitable corresponding signage that will accompany the gas facility which will add more visual pollution to Warrandyte's ever diminishing greenery.

Will Manningham council ever respect and acknowledge the wishes of its ratepayers and appreciate and respect the importance of saving and preserving our precious and tenuous environment?

Please join us in objecting. Ring or fax Kay or Artur on 9844 2551.

Kay Byrnes
South Warrandyte



'Porno' bus shelter causes concern

As a resident of Warrandyte for over 10 years now it saddens me to see the commercialisation of Warrandyte with regard to the bus shelters.

I object not only to the ugly two metre signs but also the type of advertising being used.

What do you tell a seven

year-old who asks "What is Joystick Envy?" as placed on one such bus shelter at the end of our street. Let's get rid of the type of ads from Warrandyte and try to return it to the unspoilt place it was to bring up our kids.

Alison Clancy
Keen Avenue

Kids' honesty impresses

We hear so much about the bad side of the youth of today that we were inspired to write to you with the following story.

On Tuesday, April 9 we took visitors from UK (second day in Australia) on a walk around Warrandyte. On arriving home Jon announced that he was unable to locate his wallet. After a fruitless search of the house, whilst we all attempted to stay calm it was decided that we should phone the places we had stopped at during the walk: post office, milk bar, Stonehouse, etc., but to no avail. The loss was then reported by telephone to the local Warrandyte Police Station.

We then became increasingly uncertain as to the last sighting of the wallet and wondered if it had possibly been stolen in the city the previous day. At this point in time, further telephone calls were made to UK to cancel credit cards, etc.

Suddenly the phone rang—it was the Warrandyte Police Station to say three young teenagers had handed in a wallet after finding it on the roadside off Mullens Road (the route taken during our walk). You can well imagine the scene of jubilation and relief as the wallet was claimed at the local Warrandyte Police Station. All the contents, including a substantial amount of money, were intact.

So a very big thank you for the honesty of our three young Warrandyte residents, Ryan Murphy, Kiernan Murphy and Marnie Crook, whose actions ensured the enjoyment of the remainder of our visitors' holiday. Also a complementary mention of the prompt and immediate actions taken by our local Warrandyte Police Station members. Our visitors returning to UK were more than delighted with their introduction to Warrandyte.

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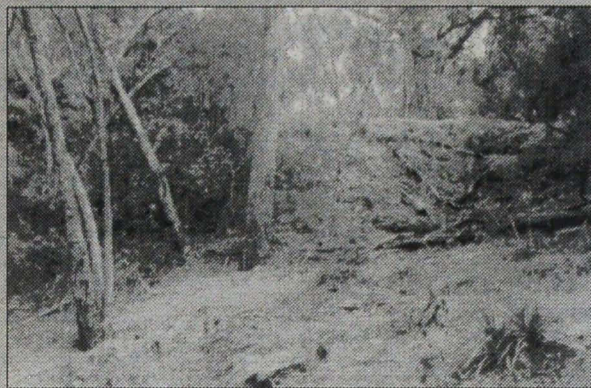
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RELIQS AND REMNANTS OF HISTORY



The Great Southern mine was filled in with its own mullock heap.



All that remains of the Caledonia mine in Tills Drive.



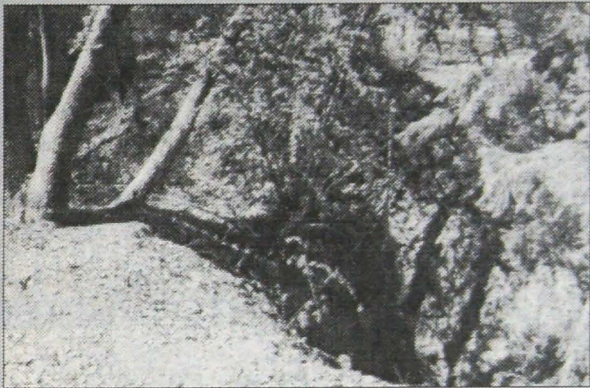
The Black Swan mine has also been filled in.



Only the mullock heap of the Grant mine, which ran beneath the river, remains.



This small hole is the only remaining trace of the once extensive North Caledonia mine.



The exposed shaft of the Pigtail mine is protected by Manningham's heritage overlay.

Pictures by PETER HANSON

Litany of lost memories

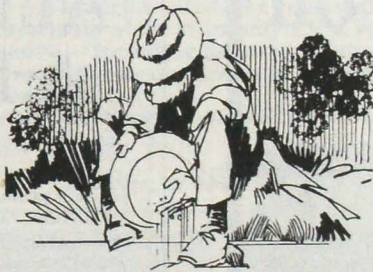
By RACHEL BAKER

These are some of Warrandyte's most significant—and vulnerable—mines. All are located on private property. Many have been damaged throughout last century, but most offer some record of their active mining days. There are numerous other mines around Warrandyte, mostly in the State Park areas, which, because of their location, are less prone to harm.

Great Southern

This mine is an example of what can go wrong. It used to be one of Warrandyte's most significant mines, but a house has been built on top of it. Manningham council's new heritage overlay only came into effect in June last year, and the building permit was granted before then. The mine originally consisted of a poppet head, related buildings and mullock heap.

"During the 1950s and 60s, the state government capped (covered with a concrete sheet) a lot of mines to reduce the risk of people falling down them," Peter Hanson, of the Warrandyte Historical Society, said. During the construction of this house, located at the top of Hodson Road, the Great Southern mine's cap was removed and the mine cavity was filled with the mullock heap. Peter believes that, as caps preserve mines' contents, there could have been a lot of old material down the mine. "No doubt, there would have been things of archival significance. Miners could have thrown equipment, rubbish onto the mullock heap or into the mine; the historical society could have retrieved it and put it in the museum," he said. The only evidence the historical society now has of the mine is a photograph. "We have one remaining photo of this claim that depicts a poppet head on top and other related buildings," Peter Hansen said. "A significant site, one of only a handful left, has been destroyed for future generations," he said.



Caledonia

This once large mine is located at the end of Tills Drive. It was active between 1903 and 1914 and was about 620 feet deep. According to Peter Hanson, water kept seeping into the mine, so it was closed down. The Caledonia was once linked up with a tunnel system to the Black Swan and the Grant mines. It is not listed on Manningham council's heritage overlay.

Black Swan

Part of the network of mines at the end

of Tills Drive, the Black Swan has now also been filled in. "Water kept seeping in and it would have been too expensive to install a pumping system, so it's been closed down," Peter Hanson, who has been researching Warrandyte's mines for about 10 years, said. It is not included in council's heritage overlay and only small remnants of the mullock heap remain.

Grant

Located at the end of Tills Drive, the Grant was part of the once-extensive mining network. Like the Caledonia and the Black Swan, this mine was plagued with water seepage problems, and is now filled in. The original mullock heap, one of Warrandyte's largest, remains.

North Caledonia

All that's left of the North Caledonia is a small hole. "It's been filled in with rubbish now, but a mullock heap remains," Peter Hanson said. It is located in Osborne Road, North Warrandyte.

Pigtail

This mine's shaft is exposed. "It's probably one of the deepest remaining exposed shafts," Peter Hanson said. Located on Pigtail Road, this mine is protected by Manningham council's heritage overlay, so it should be safe from subdivision and building harm.

Mining terms

Mullock heap: As mines were dug out, the fill was piled into a heap, called a mullock heap. These heaps often acted as rubbish dumps, collecting old bottles, pipes and plates, which can represent valuable archival material. **Poppethead:** A frame built over the top of a mineshaft to help the miners gain access to the shaft's contents. Smaller versions featured a windlass, allowing a bucket to be wound up from below. Larger ones carried steam-driven winding gear for the same purpose. This type of structure is often used as a symbol for Warrandyte, and a mock poppethead has been built in the courtyard at Goldfields Plaza.

Rabbit eradication to protect environment

Manningham's rabbits are still on the run, thanks to local residents and the council. "Say the word 'rabbits' and most of us will picture a warm, fluffy, cuddly creature," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*. "But the harsh reality is the destruction of the local environment with headless wildflowers, eroded paddocks and devastated vegetable patches." Rabbits are a menace and it takes perseverance and teamwork to bring their numbers under control. But that's exactly what almost 3000 households encompassing Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park, have done. "Now, three years on, the Middle Yarra has the largest community-driven rabbit control program in Australia," the

spokesperson said. The program is a collaboration between community, Manningham council, Parks Victoria and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and is aimed at eradicating rabbits, while educating people about how to better care for the environment. This last summer there were 29 rabbit action groups, spread across Manningham, Nillumbik and Banyule, covering nearly 40 square kilometres. "Council has been impressed by the community's enthusiasm and commitment to the program," the spokesperson said. "Participants were guided by the old adage 'many hands make light work', working closely with neighbours to ensure the program's success."

Today, some Manningham properties have been declared rabbit free. Sue Turner (Park Orchards), Dawn Ind (Park Orchards), Ian and Robin Kilpatrick (Wonga Park) and Pamela Dry (Warrandyte) have proven you can eradicate rabbits. The biggest challenge for many of the participating residents is to keep numbers down. "Despite the decline in rabbit numbers, Manningham council is keen to remind people that the fight is not over," the spokesperson said. "Follow-up is crucial. We can expect rabbit numbers to increase again next summer if we don't keep on their tails." For further information on rabbit or fox control, contact Manningham council on 9840 9333.

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Green Corps kids: back in our neck of the woods

By FIA CLENDINNEN

Here they come, in their sleek white van. They pull up, somewhere in Warrandyte, and move out through the bush with long-legged, purposeful strides. They wear brown pants, bottle green tops and awe-inspiring work boots. It's too late, we've been peacefully invaded. There are only 10 of them but they are young and fearsomely energetic and we might as well give up now.

These are the Green Corps and they've arrived in Warrandyte.

Green Corps is a youth initiative of the Commonwealth government. For 26 weeks young people between the ages of 17 and 20 sign up with a particular project for hands-on conservation activities, training and community service.

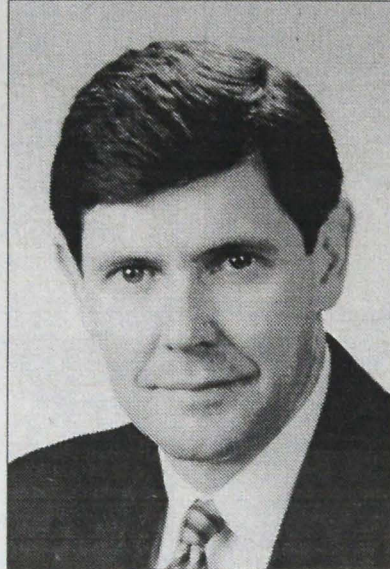
While our Green Corps is here in Warrandyte they will plant 30,000 indigenous tube stocks, using the sweat of their brow, as well as some gardening tools. They will also spend time weeding, surveying fauna, and visiting schools and various Friends groups. They will attend TAFE for formal classes.

Every day they will be supervised by Mark Gardner, someone who, as well being locally born and bred, has walked over most square inches of these hills.

The *Diary* bravely spoke to two of the young people involved. Sure enough, their energy and enthusiasm was terrifying but they were also perfectly charming.

Josie Lee is 19. She used to live in the city but fell in love with Warrandyte and somehow managed to persuade her mother to move here.

She has just finished Year 12 at Eltham High School and was accepted into the Conservation Ecology course at Deakin



Kevin Andrews: "My view is that the environment is important".

University. But Josie decided to take a year off to get some work experience. So far she is enjoying her time with Green Corps. "I'm developing a lot of skills, such as plant identification," she said, "as well as getting a lot of information about practices and career options".

Sean Whittle is 20 and from Eltham. He originally trained as a gym instructor but soon got bored with that. "I got sick of hanging around gyms," he said. Like Josie, Sean identifies his time with the Green Corps as a way of seeing

whether this kind of work is to his taste. If all goes well he'll go on to university to study horticulture.

Kevin Andrews, federal member for Menzies, was at the official launch of the Green Corps Yarra River Biolink Revegetation Project, to give the program its full and cumbersome title.

In his welcoming speech, Mr Andrews said he thought these sorts of projects were particularly valuable because they brought two very important issues together: the environment and training for young people.

Mr Andrews faces an election sometime later this year. He sits on a five per cent margin, which some might think was comfortable enough. But Mr Andrews said he will approach the coming election cautiously, taking nothing for granted. "Elections are funny things," he said. "They take on a life of their own."

Many people in Warrandyte are passionate about the environment. Sometimes those same people feel that although the environment was at the centre of much community debate a few years ago, lately, disappointingly, the environment has been sidelined by both major political parties.

But Mr Andrews takes a more positive position.

"My view is that the environment is important," he said. "There's been a huge change in people's thinking compared to a generation ago."

As examples of this, he cited Green Corps, which has been in existence for over five years, and recycling, something unheard of not long ago and yet now taken for granted.

"The environment can't be ignored as an issue by either political party and that's the lesson that's been learned," Mr Andrews said.

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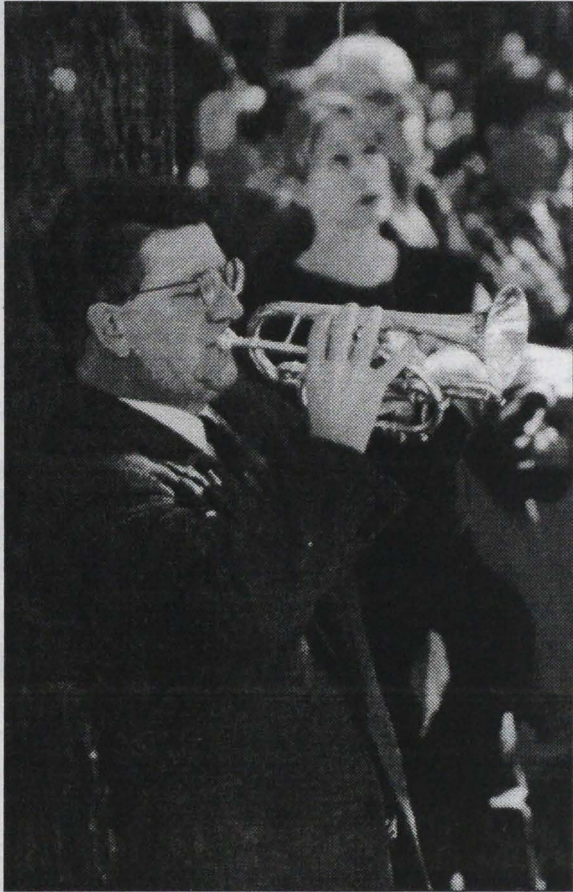
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Marching in memory

Anzac Day might be approaching a century in tradition, but it was the kids' awareness of the occasion that made last month's Warrandyte march and service something special.

Kids (scouts and guides) marched proudly with the veterans.

Kids chose to lay sprays of rosemary — the symbol of remembrance — at the memorial in the RSL grounds.

And for the first time, Warrandyte High School laid a wreath there.

"It was a marvellous day," said Warrandyte RSL Sub-Branch president Ennio Torresan.

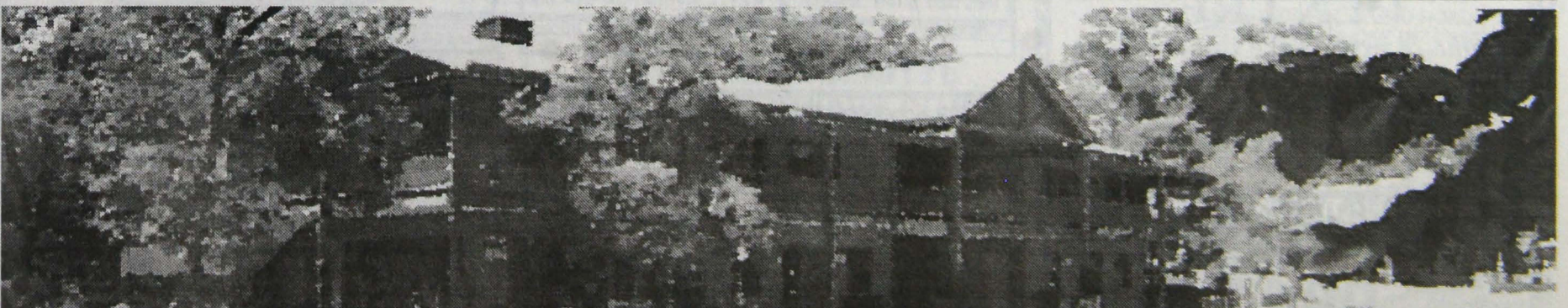
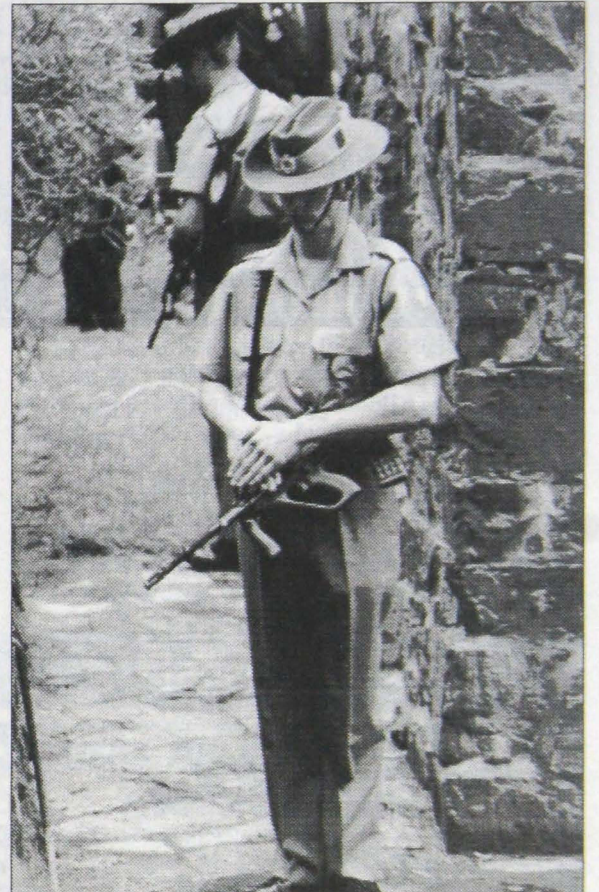
"The weather was kind to us, the crowd was the biggest we've had for several years and the kids were just terrific.

"I thank everyone who came along to observe this very special day."

● The sub-branch reminds the community that affiliate membership of the Warrandyte RSL is available to any relative — including an in-law relationship — of any person, alive or dead, who was eligible for ordinary membership.

Secretary Neil Pearson (9876 3747) welcomes membership inquiries.

Pictures by SANDY BURGOYNE



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A garden in a police paddock

Once upon a time, law and order in Warrandyte was enforced by mounted police. Which is why there has always been a horse paddock between the police station and the river. These days the paddock is a community garden where local residents grow lots of vegetables and even a few flowers. David Watson (pictured above) and Cath Bullard (right) are garden stalwarts, but Sergeant Keith Walker is in charge—of course. Competition is keen, but locals are welcome to add their names to a waiting list for a plot. Just call Keith on 9844 3231.



Pictures by AUSTIN POLLEY

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In response to Nillumbik Shire Council's commitment to improving community relations, the next meeting of Council will be held in North Warrandyte.

This initiative is designed to raise awareness of the role of Council and to increase community participation in the democratic process.

The North Warrandyte meeting will be held at the North Warrandyte Community Hall, 184 Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte.

Details of the meeting are:
Tuesday 15 May 2001
Informal Community Discussion — 7.15pm
Ordinary Meeting of Council — 7.45pm


Catherine Dale *Chief Executive Officer*

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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!
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Principal says goodbye

By CHRIS WHITE

The end of the current semester marks the retirement of Michael Blake as principal of Warrandyte High School following 10 years of sterling service. This has been a period of significant educational change and policy direction in secondary education. Michael will be remembered as a great believer in state education as well as consistently providing support to all those who have worked with him at the school.

In an era that has seen greater public accountability from schools and a subsequent increase in community participation in their running, Michael's first priority was always the welfare and wellbeing of his school, staff and students.

He began his teaching career at Reservoir High School in 1968. Following promotion to senior teacher at Melton Secondary College (1974-1978), he returned to Reservoir until 1986. He then taught at Balwyn High School until 1998 and was then promoted to principal at Watsonia High School (later Greensborough Secondary College). He was subsequently appointed principal at Warrandyte High School in 1991.

As a teacher specialising in English and history Michael excelled. At the same time, he built a reputation as a musical and dramatic producer and director—a role which naturally followed a lifelong passion for theatre. He quickly appreciated the relevance of this work as an educational resource for secondary students. Such was his enthusiasm and hands-on approach that Reservoir High School gained the ben-



School captains, Tighe Patching (left) and Tara Quinlivan with Michael Blake.

efit of successive annual stage productions of the highest standard, culminating in the formation of Catchment Players, an amateur group of ex-students which remains one of the strongest and most successful theatre groups in Victoria.

This enthusiasm for theatre saw his ongoing involvement in the last 10 stage productions at Warrandyte. They were the lucky recipients of his wide technical and artistic knowledge as stage manager and lighting designer.

His wider educational involvement has witnessed spectacular growth in all sections of the school. He has successfully embraced the creed of excellence in every aspect of school life and overseen a huge increase in facilities, the enthusiastic promotion of information technology, the school charter and master plan and the expansion of every faculty in the school's curriculum. He has been an executive mem-

ber of the Victorian Principals' Association and on subsequent sub-committees dealing with professional development, technology restructure, instrumental music, schools of the future, principal accreditation and many more.

Michael Blake's unqualified belief in Warrandyte High School, consistently supported by his active involvement in the school's development, makes him a very hard act to follow. The Warrandyte school community will miss him greatly and we all thank him for his efforts.

We wish him all the best in his retirement and know his change of direction will see a continued active pursuit of his wide repertoire of interests.

● If you are interested in attending a farewell for Michael, a function will be held on Friday, June 1. For tickets and information please contact Nora on 9844 2749. A charge of \$25 will cover finger food and a gift.

Caring for our island in the stream



Friends of the Island is a group involved in the eradication of weeds and planting and regeneration of indigenous plants on a special piece of Warrandyte State Park. The island is situated on the Yarra near the Stone House on Warrandyte-Ringwood Road.

The group has been recently awarded a grant of \$1500 by Manningham council to first eradicate weeds and then establish native plantings on the bank facing the island. Another grant from Melbourne Water for \$200 will help pay for newsletter costs.

"A logo is in the process of being developed," a group

spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"A rare kangaroo fern, once found on the island, is to be used as a symbol. With the help of the Warrandyte State Park nursery it is hoped that the fern will become re-established on the island."

The Friends of the Island have hands-on meetings on the second Sunday of each month from 1.30pm and they are always looking for new members.

"The next meeting will be Sunday, May 13 and there will be an autumn planting," the spokesperson said.

● Phone the secretary, Gay Harris on 9844 1448, if you'd like more information.

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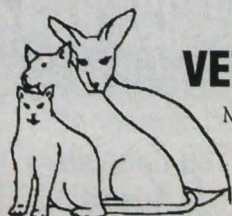
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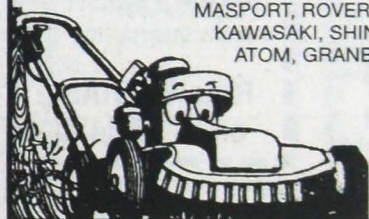
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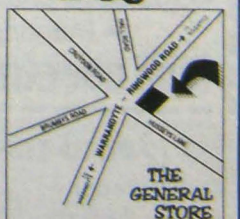
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Hot-wired for a holiday highlight in old Hanoi

I'M not the first person in the world to realise that travel broadens your perspective on life. Now, I don't just mean that the great eye-opener about travel is the fact that you come to realise that all those rivers and towns you were forced to write about in social studies lessons or geography actually do exist. Nor am I discussing the fact that some of the most breathtaking scenes in the travel brochures are taken on the only sunny day the town has experienced since the last ice age.



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"...part of the universal urge that drives us to make do, to tinker and adapt to suit our needs and our pockets."

True, all of your kodak moments do leave you gobsmacked, but what I mean by "broadening your perspective" is that travelling exposes you to the fact that we are an amazingly inventive species. That, without question, the most endearing aspect of homo sapiens is homo's sapiens. Take, for example, electricity. Any night flight into any reasonably large city boggles my brain. I'm enchanted by both the beauty of all those twinkling lights but also by the fact that someone or a group of someones decided that it was possible to produce enough electricity to service all those people and then set about designing a way of getting the power to them. From the air, it's simple. The houses and factories are tiny and the distances are short, so the problem is almost manageable. However, when you leave

the plane, you realise that your mile-high appreciation of the problem is like your assessment of the weight of your luggage, grossly underestimated! As long as you promise not to tell a housing inspector, I'll share a story that will place what I'm talking about into perspective. And if there is a housing inspector reading this, don't run for your "condemned" stamp—remember, everything I write is just sheer fabrication. I had a wiring problem. Not a shocking one, but a really an-

noying, peevish one that made life more difficult than it needed to be. The light switch for the reading light above my bed was just out of arm's reach and when I had finished reading and was about to drift off in the arms of Morpheus, I would stretch out my arm—but instead of the light switch, my fingertips met wooden panelling. My groans of despair usually woke Herself, so naturally something had to be done. It would have been a slight on my ingenuity and resourcefulness to call an electrician for something so simple as a light switch transmigration, so I set about cutting a hole for the switch within an arm's reach of my pillow. Suffice it to say that I hadn't banked on the timber frame that resolutely blocked the simple shifting of the wiring. It was not an insignificant bill that I had to pay, not only for the electrician, but also for a plasterer to fix the hole I made when I thumped the wall in exasperation after shorting the wires and ruining an hour's typing. Herself had just completed on the computer. But I don't regret a moment of that effort. What I did is part of a universal urge that drives us to make do, to tinker and adapt to suit our needs and our pockets. And it's travel that reminds us of this. I have recently returned from a trip to Vietnam and it was there that I came face to face with real ingenuity. A trip along

the roads of the old quarter of Hanoi is on one hand an electrical engineer's nightmare or on the other, a DIYer's dream. My attempt to move a light switch, by comparison, was truly pathetic. There, human resourcefulness has led to street wiring that resembles a Jackson Pollock painting. A power cable that passed over someone's balcony became a convenient clothes line. Solid brick walls merely tease the owners to greater feats of imagination. I balk at loading too much on my car trailer. I concern myself about whether there will be too much strain on the motor or whatever it is that gets strained by pulling too much weight. Again, I was blown away by the Vietnamese ability to overcome difficulties; their mastery of invention. The motor bike of the 150 to 200cc persuasion is the usual means of transport where I went. Normally, I would expect to see it being ridden by one person. Again, the indomitable spirit that has led to the recovery of the country shows itself in the bikes that are used. A family of four manages a cross-town trip effortlessly. The best I saw was a man transporting a lounge suite on his bike. A two-seater couch and two seats amazingly balanced on top of his motor cycle. That's why I love travel. It puts things in perspective.

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'Grub's up!' in nature's deceptive kingdom

WHEN you are small and succulent—as caterpillars are—you are constantly at risk of becoming the next meal for a hungry bird or reptile. You cannot run, you cannot fly, you cannot burrow. Instead you must rely on other strategies to avoid being eaten.

Many caterpillars opt for camouflage, disguising themselves as a twig or leaf and resting motionless amongst the foliage during the day. Others do the complete opposite. That is, they are brightly coloured and active by day—a blatant invitation to be eaten. But they are not. Innate knowledge or experience has taught birds that colours such as yellow, orange and red, especially when striped in combination with black, mean "warning poisonous animal". But nature can be devious sometimes. For other species of caterpillars have adopted the same warning coloration and yet are completely harmless, they too are left alone. Such is the art of mimicry.

Stinging bristles and irritating hairs are more common defense mechanisms, made even more effective when combined with another ploy—safety in numbers. This technique has been refined by the processionaries. When on the move, these hairy caterpillars travel in single file, head to tail, giving the appearance of a fearfully long, furry individual.

The prize for ingenuity goes to the casemoths—named for obvious reasons. This caterpillar lives the hermit life inside a silken bag. The bag—which is

NATURE

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

really a tube that can be opened and closed at both ends—is strengthened and decorated with fragments of twigs, leaves, grass stems or lichen. The style of case and its décor is characteristic of a particular genus or species.

When feeding or moving around, the head and upper part of the body, bearing the three pairs of spindly, grippy legs, emerge from the top opening of the case. Droppings are passed out through the smaller bottom opening.

The caterpillar spends its whole life inside its mobile home. From time to time, to accommodate its growing body, it must enlarge the case by adding more silk and incorporating more decorative material. Pupation takes place within the case.

The largest and most familiar species is Saunders casemoth, which can grow to a length of 15 centimetres. The female moth of this species is wingless and remains inside her case after emergence. It is the responsibility of the long-bodied, slender-winged male to seek out the female, by detecting her scent with his fine-tuned, feathery antennae. Mating is a tricky business with the male extending his abdomen through the hole to fertilise the housebound female.

After hatching, the young caterpillars escape the case by



abseiling down through the lower opening on ropes of silk. They are blown by the wind in the same way young spiderlings disperse. At some stage the silken strands catch on vegetation where the little caterpillars construct their own cases.

Saunders casemoth caterpillars feed on a variety of ornamental and native trees and shrubs; consequently they are commonly found in gardens, often by children who want to keep them. And it's easy enough to set the caterpillars up on their foodplant in a jar. But be warned, these caterpillars have a habit of taking their portable home walkabout at

night and you are likely to wake up to discover the cases attached to walls, window frames and curtains.

Casemoths spend an inordinate time going through their life cycle, with periods of weeks, and even months, when they cease feeding. Length of pupation is unknown since it takes place inside the case. Most children have lost interest by the time the moth is due to emerge. It takes the patience of an adult to see it through and even then only a very few are lucky enough to witness the emergence of the moth. Alas, I am not one. My knowledge of these events is only second-hand.

Shoes for a brand-new lifestyle

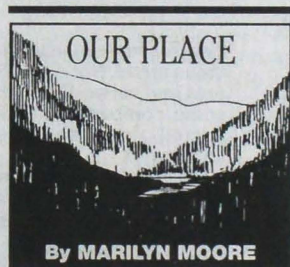
A GENERATION ago, runners were brandless, rubber-toed white canvas, and came with a bottle of horrid smelling white liquid cleaner and a little yellow spongy applicator. Like Bramac raincoats, nearly every kid in the school had the same sort.

If you played tennis, you wore Dunlop Volleys because there wasn't anything else. To be sure, they were also made of rubber and canvas, but it was good rubber and good canvas. They wouldn't have had green and yellow stripes on them otherwise.

Looking back, I can see that a big turning point in my life came when I had money (at least \$10) and became an experienced traveller (caught the train to the city) and discovered that you could get Dunlop Volleys that were more expensive and had blue stripes.

Now, would I be the sort of person who said, "I've always worn basic Volleys and never had a problem" or would I become the sort of person who just had to find out why the blue-striped model was better?

The latter, unfortunately. And that turning point has been the bane of my life ever since. How



By **MARILYN MOORE**

was I to know the world would turn into such a hi-tech jungle?

Of course, it goes without saying that shoes need to fit comfortably, but do you need breathable membranes and moisture-licking linings? Is it worth the extra cost of getting DryTex waterproofing or Nitelite reflective stripes? Should I buy the brand that uses advanced technology to address my children's particular biomechanical requirements, or the ones that come with a full care instruction manual? Low-cut, mid-cut or high-cut? How heavy is too heavy? Alternatively, how light is too expensive?

Then there's the soles. Reground rubber outsoles sound good (formerly referred to as treads, I seem to remem-

ber, or even just soles)—state-of-the-art engineering has produced an environmentally sustainable yet durable product here. But maybe this other brand's Envirossole midboards would be better. Wait... another brand has a TriSole outsole, which claims to offer better flexibility, traction and durability. We definitely need those. But what about this other whole range of soles filled with strategically placed pockets of gel. Surely I must protect my children's feet from harmful forces that punish their feet daily? And here's yet another brand with an impact-absorbing system "specifically designed for the human foot". I reckon that could turn out to be pretty useful. Whatever will they think of next?

Consulting the experts isn't necessarily all that helpful either: the only brand recommended by Sports Medicine Australia is off the planet pricewise, and everybody knows that elite athletes wear their sponsor's brand for free. So what about the red hot specials? Good brands but useless sizes, predictably. A little hand tugs my sleeve. Can't we just get that brand we liked once before? The one the podiatrist

suggested. Of course we can't; all their models have changed. We're in for the long haul, kiddo. We'll just have to try on every shoe in the shop!

This scenario doesn't stop at sports shoes. After 20 years of faithful service, my old parka recently gave up the ghost, so I bought a new one. Sorry, I mean a new outerwear garment, specifically engineered for wet weather. The fabric, used on every US space mission since 1968, comes from the makers of high technology fabrics for the world's most demanding electronic, industrial and medical applications. One of its component polymers is pure expanded polytetrafluoroethylene which, as we all know, is totally hydrophobic. The garment has been stringently tested in a storm chamber. The noticeably heavy weight in one pocket turned out to be the instruction manual, printed with soy ink on recycled paper containing 20 per cent post-consumer waste. I just had to have it.

Why? It fits. It's a funny thing, but looking back, I never did work out whether those blue-striped Volleys were any better than the old sort.

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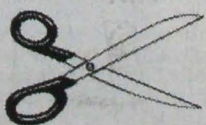
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Please phone Greg Lawrence on 9844 2498 or Jock Macneish on 9844 4164 to obtain an application form.

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The place where the star was thrown

MICK WOIWOOD investigates the origins of Warrandyte's name.

FOR years it has been known that the name Warrandyte derived from the two Wurundjeri words: "warran", "to throw"; and "dyte", "the place thrown at". However, the two parts of the name continue to confront researchers with two questions: who threw what, and where is the place it was thrown to?

The district name Warrandyte first appeared in writing in 1841 when James Dawson took up a station on the south bank of the Yarra which he named Warrandyte. The question is, how did James Dawson come by this name?

Since the words are in the Wurundjeri language, they obviously come from the local clan who, at the time, were continuing to cling to their precious hunting grounds in the district. What then had they endeavoured to convey to James Dawson when he inquired of them their name for the district he was about to intrude upon?

It would seem from the available evidence that it might have been something along the lines of "Warran-dyte—this is the place where the star was thrown!" What then was the star that they spoke of, and how on earth had it come to

be thrown? The solution appears to lie within the Wurundjeri creation story attached to the district.

The place Dawsons had in mind to build their home was beside a small stream alongside what is today Tills Drive, Warrandyte—a locality now with the name Pigtail Gully. (Melway Map ref. 23: J 10). The 7609 acres of the Dawson station extended along the south bank of the Yarra, from the present day township of Warrandyte to Brushy Creek in Wonga Park.

As such, the Wurundjeri had been attempting to convey to James Dawson on that far-off day in 1841 that this was the place where Bunjil threw down the star; Bunjil being the Kulin all-powerful creature of the Dreamtime, who in physical form was the wedge-tailed eagle.

It is all told in the Creation Story of Buk-ker-til-ibul, that is briefly as follows:

After creating the Kulin world and all of its marvellous creatures and trees, Bunjil flew up into the tharing-bik (sky) to become the eagle star, Altair. Gazing down one night on a clan of his people he found them to be behaving counter to his Dreamtime law. Incensed, he decided to punish them. Reaching out, he grasped in his enormous talons a nearby star and hurled it down upon them, destroying the entire clan as it slept.

The place where the star was thrown is today marked by a small gorge through which flows Barnggeong (Brushy) Creek as it enters the Yarra.

He found a goldfield

Louis Michel, the discoverer of the Warrandyte goldfield, was a Melbourne publican. In 1979 his great-granddaughter, EVELYN COOKE, wrote to the Warrandyte Historical Society telling the story of his life.

THE first thing we know of the Michel family is that they were Huguenots, French Protestants, driven out of France by the persecutions of Louis XIV, in the 1480s. They fled to England but it seems that a generation or two later, some of them must have returned to France, as my great-great-grandfather was born in Rouen, approximately 1775. His father was a Rev Louis Michel. My great-great-grandfather, also named Louis, was an only son. He married Elizabeth Watts of Walthamstowe, Essex and they had a family of 16.

Louis John was the youngest, born at Walworth, near London, on July 5, 1824. He left home at the age of 14 and came to Australia. He landed in Sydney and after a short while came to live in Melbourne, arriving on June 5, 1839, aboard the ship Mellish.

He was employed by a Mr Mann, who had a mercer's store in Collins Street, where the entrance to "The Block" is today. At the age of 19 he was married to Miss Alicia Bell, of Killeshandra, County Cavan, Northern Ireland. They were married in the original St James Church, which is now St James Old Cathedral, on October 21, 1844. Louis and Alicia went to live in a cottage on the slope at the corner of Collins and Swanston streets, where the Melbourne Town Hall is now situated.

The Almanac for 1847 shows Louis as a grocer's assistant. He also had a contract for carting stone for the building of the first Princes Bridge. On April 29, 1848 he applied for a licence to convert a building on the south-west corner of Swanston and Lonsdale streets into the Britannia Hotel, but was refused. Consideration was postponed until June 3. He finally obtained a licence for this place on July 1, 1848 and opened on August 1. The building had not previously been a hotel. It is still in business, as the Duke of Wellington, at the corner of Flinders Street and Russell Street, where he also was for many years.

Louis Michel later became lessee of the Rainbow Hotel, which then and long afterwards stood on the north-eastern corner of Little Collins and Swanston streets. About the middle of 1851 he took a prominent part in a move to encourage local residents to search for gold. The drain on the population had become alarming, owing to the departure for Bathurst, near which

Hargreaves had made his famous discovery of the precious metal. Not only did Louis attend the citizens meetings and subscribe to the reward fund, but he also, with some companions including William Habberlin, prospected along the upper courses of the Yarra and its tributaries.

The result was not long coming. Early in July gold was discovered in the bed of Anderson's Creek, Warrandyte. Louis Michel and William Habberlin lost no time in proclaiming the discovery, and some members of the Gold Committee, together with Mr Fenwick, the Crown Lands Commissioner, and Mr Walsh, a jeweller of Swanston Street, set out under guidance for the field. The news had spread and some 40 eager men were there waiting to follow and strike for fortune. The procession left Melbourne, wending its way through Richmond and on through Doncaster to the creek where fine grain gold was obtained on panning out the mud which occupied the bed of the creek.

This was the first payable goldfield in Victoria. The situation of their works being shown publicly on July 5, 1851, and full particulars communicated to the government on July 8. Licences to dig for gold were issued September 1. That was before the issue of licences on any other goldfield, and about 400 persons were at work there when Ballarat was discovered. (The above information is from Sutherland's Victoria And Its Metropolis.)

Louis Michel did not stay long on the Anderson's Creek field, for he was the ninth man at Buninyong and had a claim on Golden Point, Ballarat, and later bottomed a rich hole in Golden Gully, Bendigo. He then rented the Ship Inn at Williamstown, and during those phenomenal years in Victoria, 1852 and 1853, he "made a competency 20 pounds over the bar before breakfast was the rule", and then retired. A depression during the latter 1850s ruined him, as it did many others and he went into business once again.

He took on the proprietorship of the Duke of Wellington Hotel in Flinders Street, from which he retired soon after the death of his wife, Alicia, on August 3, 1875. It was here that his grand-daughter, Alicia Abbott, (my mother) was born on February 20, 1876. A few years after the death of his wife, Louis was appointed valuer and rate collector to the City of Melbourne. He died at his home "Ivanhoe", Lygon Street, North Carlton, on September 14, 1904, and was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery. An obituary to him in the Australasian, October 1, 1904, states: "His assiduous attention to the duties of his office, his fine character, and urbanity of manner, caused him to be held in the highest esteem, by all who knew him". He left a grown-up family of four daughters and two sons.

(From the Newsletter of the Warrandyte Historical Society. Research by Murray Houghton.)



Graphic by
MELANIE COUPAR

'Your worship, here's the clickerty!'

Graphics by
JOCK MACNEISH



The Melbourne Argus published the following account by LOUIS JOHN MICHEL, on December 28, 1895, of his discovery of gold at Andersons Creek

STATEMENTS having appeared in print on various occasions as to who first discovered gold in Victoria, most of which have either been wrong or misleading, I have decided to make public the true story of my discovery, for which I afterwards received the Government reward of 1000 pounds, in order to get the matter finally at rest. Most of the facts I am about to relate can be found in the evidence given on oath before the Parliamentary Royal Commission, or in the columns of The Argus of date contemporary with the event; but as they are scattered and difficult to find, my personal narrative may prove of some little use to future historians of the colony.

The report of Mr Hargreaves's discovery in New South Wales reached Melbourne in February 1851, and caused much excitement and unrest in our small community. Our people were leaving for Sydney by every possible means, even the small lime craft which usually traded to the heads being pressed into service. It became evident that unless we made a similar discovery in Victoria a great portion of the adult population would migrate to the parent colony. People in business began to feel the loss of trade, and several parties were formed to prospect for gold. At the time I held the licence of the Rainbow Hotel in Swanston Street, and like others felt the diminution of business, so I determined to get five others to join me in searching the Upper Yarra Ranges. This was known as "Michel's Party".

Twice we returned to Melbourne without success, although on the last trip we brought in some pieces of quartz and slate, in which,

however, no gold was visible. The party being unwilling to continue the search, we separated, and were not associated together again.

A day or two afterwards I proposed to a friend of mine, William Habberlin, that he and I should continue to prosecute our search, all expenses being borne by me.

Having agreed to my offer, we left the Rainbow together, carrying our tools, provisions for a week, and a tent. This was in the depth of winter, and so that we should not be seen or followed by other prospectors we started in the dark at four o'clock in the morning. We made direct for the ranges by way of the Barkers Road, keeping nearer the river than we had done on previous journeys. After trying the gullies and watercourses for several days, our stock of supplies being about done and there being no chance of purchasing more, we faced to town. Not knowing exactly our position we determined to follow some creek down to the Yarra, and in doing so a peculiar bend under a steep range led me to think that the creek had not always run in its then present course. If gold were to be found this seemed a likely place—our burdens (now considerably lighter) were flung down. Taking the spade and pick I crossed the creek into the bend, Habberlin in the meantime lighting a fire and slinging the billy. I proceeded to remove the surface from about four feet square, and having got into the second "spit" I called to Habberlin to bring the dish, and I gave him strict injunctions to wash the earth carefully away until the very last few grains were left in the dish—this having been the course adopted in Sydney according to the accounts I had read. "Do you see anything, Bill?" said I. After once or twice saying, "No," he suddenly exclaimed, "Your worship, here's the clickerty!" Eagerly examining the residue, we found it to contain ten small grains of gold. We consulted together, and decided to cover up the hole with brushwood, follow the creek down, ascertain its name, and our distance from town.

When we reached the river (the Yarra) it was sundown, so having pitched camp we stretched ourselves on the grass to examine our find at leisure. I had wrapped it in a small

piece of blue paper (which had formerly contained a Seidlitz powder), and while we were looking at it a puff of wind off the river capsize the precious grains among the grass roots, much to our chagrin. However, by carefully washing the turf we recovered six of the grains. We slept little, and during the night heard a cock crow—sure sign of adjacent settlement. At break of day we went in the direction of the sound, and soon came on a hut occupied by a man whose name was Ginger. He told us the place was called Anderson's Creek, named after a former poundkeeper there; the distance from town was 18 miles. From our rough dress and appearance after transversing the ranges for days, he concluded we were runaway sailors, and told us he had made a mistake coming that way for work, and advised us to make for Brighton, where we should be sure to find employment with a market gardener. With the usual hospitality then customary in the bush he gave us some damper and hot coffee; and, wishing us luck, we left.

Having thus ascertained our whereabouts, we made a wide detour, and returned to the hole for more gold. We washed several dishes, and found gold in each. We then picked up our traps, and reached town about eight o'clock the same night.

As soon as we had cleaned ourselves up, we went to Dr Greeves, who lived close by in Little Collins Street, and inquired of him if any news of gold had reached town. On his replying in the negative, I showed him the result of our search. He came with us round to John Hood's (father of the present Mr Justice Hood), the chemist in Collins Street, where he tested it, weighed it, and said it was gold of very high quality. He gave me a certificate to that effect; with the hour and date I had brought it to him, endorsed.

On the Monday following, we went to the government offices, showed that gold and certificate to Mr La Trobe, and inquired whether any other discovery had been made known to the government or any claim sent in. He said nothing of the kind had taken place. I expressed a wish that my discovery should be made pub-

lic, and offered to conduct any party that he might appoint to the spot where I had found the gold. He wrote down the particulars, and on the following Wednesday sent his private secretary to Mr Edward Bell, and Mr Nicholas Fenwick, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, to go with us to the place. Several other persons accompanied us at my invitation, including Mr de Boos, from The Argus office, whose report of the trip and success of everyone of the party in finding gold may be found in The Argus for July, 1851. Numbers of diggers soon appeared on the creek, and I had the pleasure of assisting Mr Fenwick to measure off the first legal claim. Licences to dig were issued on August 1, 1851.

In 1853 the Legislative Council appointed a royal commission to inquire into the particulars of the gold discovery, to invite the attendance of claimants and others, and to take evidence on oath. The report was ordered to be printed on March 10, 1854. I made my claim before the Commission on behalf of myself and Habberlin, and gave all particulars on oath. Habberlin was called, and in the same way testified to the truth of my statement. I may here state that Dr Greeves (to whom I had first taken the gold) was Chairman of the Commission, and the Hon James Graham, who is still living among us, was one of the members. The result of the inquiry was the voting of 5000 pounds to Mr Hargreaves for his discovery in New South Wales, 1000 pounds to the Rev W. B. Clark, of Sydney, in appreciation of his researches into the mineral wealth of the country, and 1000 pounds to Michel and Party, who were adjudged to have clearly established their claim to be the first to discover and make known to the public an available goldfield in Victoria. Permit me to add that it was the immediate publication of my discovery that stemmed the tide of emigration to New South Wales. In a pleasant day's walk anyone in doubt was able to satisfy himself of the truth, and many hundreds did so.

(From the Newsletter of the Warrandyte Historical Society. Research by Murray Houghton.)



Mother's lavender

(For Mothers Day)

I hear panflute music rippling in echoes with mountain breezes
and water lapping across a volcanic lake.
In the distance I can hear my sister calling—
so calm, unnaturally calm, deliberately reassuring:
"She'll be alright... We think she'll be alright,"
from our childhood home which my memory can see.
I look at a cluster of blood-red irises and grimace.
By now They will know. She will know...
And where am I?

A woman is slapping wet washing against wet flagstones
in the late morning lull.
I seal a stamp onto a card
to bring my mother serenity.
At the temple gate,
a mother monkey strains and dashes her chain against a pole,
her eyes in anguish racing her baby's limbs
caught between waves of human hands.

Pinks, violets, purples bleed in the sky,
bursting veins wash into one another like batik sarongs
modestly unwrapped at rivers' roadways.
Women's hips slow-sail with babies riding their sides;
arching backs, baskets of spices drop down from their heads.

A baby wallows in shallows and wet sand,
his brothers and sisters laughing on.
Dark coals and burning flesh—
my son flies kites with a local boy
along a dusky shore.
I watch their kites:
translucent, palpitating, swooning—
membranes carried and dropped by the wind:
Spirits of the Sky.
A mosque from a Moslem village calls;
men's chants—deep, mysterious—echo upwards.
In silhouette, aerodynamic noses
lunge above cobwebbed banana groves.

In a moonlit garden, somewhere chimes can sing—
stirring chords brought by hillside breezes and evening rain.
Under clear night skies, possums' bright eyes stare at glimmering stars.
Spring comes—again, and again.
Golden apricot and peach hues tint passing evening clouds
which meet at eye level from a balcony through trees.
Spring showers sprinkle arching rainbows,
magically highlighting grassy banks in shimmering colours.

Rolling hills and river valley surround,
natural stones side-stepping steep slope enclose.
Fern-trailing, water-trickling soft fall,
lavender blue scented bushes seclude.
A sacred and intimate rockpool with a star-studded reflection:
my mother, my daughter, myself...
In this garden I have unwittingly created a family connection.
I recall: every front border and rockery she planted in That blue;
Mother, this spot is for you.

As autumn days shorten, lavender stems are cut:
my daughter and I gather them and arrange them,
and bring them inside in baskets to dry.
As cool turns to chill and autumn braves winter,
hands roughen and redden—
rubbing each and every grain into china blue bowls.
On dressers and in hallways little children's fingers toss:
throughout our home throughout the year dried lavender rains—
mother's summers and front borders. In memory.

HELLENA ALLAN



Celebrate 150 Years of Warrandyte Gold June 30, 2001

Saturday, June 30, 2001 will mark the anniversary of 150 years since the discovery of gold in Warrandyte. The township will come alive with events and activities to celebrate the significant milestone.



Program of events on Saturday, June 30, 2001

Come along in full dress and soak up the atmosphere of the 1850s, with prizes for the most authentic costumes!

Tent City

Where: Stiggants Reserve, Warrandyte
When: 11am till 4.30pm
Experience life in the gold diggings. Visit the authentic saloon bar, tearooms, church and school and experience the many market stalls. Feed the animals or take a pony ride along the river flats. Sample sumptuous damper and billy tea or pan for gold in the nearby river. Don't miss Paradiddle, Warrandyte's renowned bush band, performing popular tunes from the gold era.

Discovery Re-enactment

Where: Gold Memorial Road car park (Gold Memorial Road will be closed to car access).
When: 2pm for a 2.30pm start
See players from the Warrandyte Theatre Company re-enact the discovery at the very spot Louis Michel struck gold. Hear well-known Australian poet Chris Price, along with authen-

tic Australian music. Descendants of Louis Michel will be there to join in the celebrations. The music and festivities will continue afterwards at Stiggants Reserve, Warrandyte.

Bush Dance

When: 8pm till midnight
Where: Grand Hotel, Yarra Street, Warrandyte
Dance the night away to the tunes of Paradiddle, playing famous songs from the gold era. Dress in full costume. Finger food provided. Drinks at bar prices.
Cost: \$20 per ticket
Bookings essential. Phone Daniela Galatoulas at Manningham City Council on 9840 9362.

Warrandyte Historical Society Museum

Where: The restored historic post office (built 1876), 111 Yarra Street, Warrandyte (Melway Ref 23 E11)
When: 10am till 5pm
See an extensive range of historical photographs and artifacts from the mining days.

Horse and Carriage Rides

Take an authentic horse and cart ride through the historic township of Warrandyte.

Gold Mine Tours

Inspect the mines where riches were won in the years following the first discovery of gold. Tours will leave from the Warrandyte Historical Society Museum (111 Yarra Street, Warrandyte) at 12 noon and 3pm. Stout footwear and a torch recommended.

Historical Displays

Visit the Warrandyte Community Centre (Melways 23 F11) and see memorabilia and craft from the gold era. Presented by Information Warrandyte, Model Railway and the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House.

Kids' Street Party

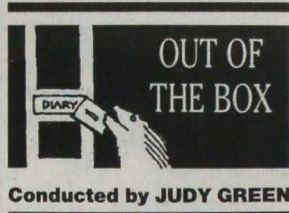
When: 12.30pm till 1.30pm
Where: Behind the Community Church, Yarra Street, Warrandyte (next to Stiggants Reserve Melway Ref 23 D12)
Run by our local schools. Dress the kids in full costume and enjoy the food, fun and music.

While you're visiting Warrandyte take a trip to the Memorial Cairn in Gold Memorial Road, the exact spot where Louis Michel first struck gold. Other sites of interest from the gold era include the poppethead and Victory mine in Whipstick Gully, Geraghty's mine on Fourth Hill and the legendary Pound Bend tunnel.



For further information please contact: Brian Phefley, Parks Victoria (9844 2659); Margory Lapworth, Warrandyte Community Market (9844 4495); Ron Kay, Rotary Club of Warrandyte (9844 2142); Melissa King, Manningham City Council (9840 9326); Gina Bevan-Jones, Warrandyte Historical Society (9844 3662).

Young performers



Conducted by JUDY GREEN

Submissions for the 2001 Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Fund award are invited from applicants pursuing interests in the performing arts. The award includes a grant of \$2000 and is available for applicants between the ages of 18 and 25 who live in Warrandyte, Park Orchards and surrounding areas. Applications close on June 30 and the award will be announced in November 2001. Please phone Greg Lawrence on 9844 2498 or Jock Macneish on 9844 4164 to obtain an application form. Anyone wishing to make a donation may send cheques to The Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Fund, PO Box 150, Warrandyte, Vic, 3113.



Three local singers will star in the Cloc Musical Theatre's coming performance of *West Side Story* to be held at the Alexander Theatre, Monash University Clayton Campus. Warrandyte's Chris Hughes plays the part of Riff, Sally Morrison from Doncaster/Templestowe plays Maria and Matthew Bolzonello from Doncaster East is Diesel. Both Sally and Chris are currently performing in the cabaret group *Night and Day*. Performances will run from May 18 to June 2. Bookings can be made by ringing 9592 2897.

Travel

John Hanson is conducting a one-night session entitled Budget Travel for all Ages on Thursday, May 17 at 7pm at 104 Webb Street, Warrandyte. Cost is \$8. Ring Warrandyte Neighbourhood House on 9844 1839 or John on 9844 3906 to register.

Host

Council Exchanges, a registered non-profit secondary exchange organisation will bring over 100 students from more than 20 countries to attend school full time and live with Australian families in July 2001. The organisation is looking for volunteer host families in the Warrandyte area. Students bring their own spending money, health insurance and some English language skills,

while the host families provide a bed, place to study, meals and general support. Families hosting a student in July and with children between the ages of 15 and 18 are offered the opportunity to apply for a partial scholarship for their child to participate in an overseas exchange. For further information contact Annette Parton or Gwen Gilbert on 1300 135331 or 9598 5111.

BMX

Park Orchards BMX Club invites riders to come along to Stintons Road, Park Orchards for a free tryout. Fully supervised BMX race meetings are held on the first and third Saturdays of every month. There is a full-sized sand track with lots of jumps and bumps. There is no age restriction, you only have to be off training wheels.

Both males and females are welcome. Phone Irene Dawson on 9719 7235 for information on what you need to bring.

School

Warrandyte Primary School will hold an open afternoon/evening on Wednesday, May 9. At 1.30pm there will be a Centenary of Federation Assembly with presentation of centenary medals, followed by visits to classrooms involving a variety of activities from 100 years ago. From 7.15 to 8.30pm there will be performances by the children in the Multi Purpose Room.

Seminar

The next Green Wedge Seminar to be held at the Currawong Bush Park Conference Room in Reynolds Road, Doncaster East will be entitled "Insects and Fungi for Biological Control of Weeds". The seminar is free and commences at 7.30pm. Enquiries to Samantha Bradley on 9840 9307.

Gallery

The next exhibition at Manningham Gallery will feature works by Julie Harmsworth, Gail Lutton and Susan Standley—three different perspectives by three women painters, under the general theme *From Our Travels*. The gallery is at the rear of the municipal offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster. The exhibition runs from April 15 to 27.

Dance

The next South Warrandyte Social Dance to be held in the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road will be on Saturday, May 12. Cost is \$6 including tea and coffee. For information ring 9723 3892.

Open

Open night at the Warrandyte High School will be on Monday, May 21. Information sessions will be held at 6.30 and 8pm and school tours will be held throughout the evening. All grade 4, 5 and 6 students and their parents are invited to attend. For further information contact Jenny Devitt or Peter Morris at the school on 9844 2749.

Prayer

A combined church service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held at the Warrandyte Uniting Church in Taroona Avenue on Sunday, June 3 at 7pm.

Fire dangers on standby

Fire destroyed a house in Ennismore Crescent, Park Orchards last month.

Units from South Warrandyte, Warrandyte, North Warrandyte CFA and MFB stations 22 and 26 attended with some 20 firefighters involved.

It is believed that the fire was started by a television set being left on the "standby" mode. South Warrandyte CFA staff member, Mark Kennedy, commented that "electricity still flows through circuitry on 'stand by'. This dries out the internal components and causes arcing, leading to fire".

The fire destroyed three bedrooms and a bathroom. Severe smoke and heat damage to the remainder of the house resulted in the property being bulldozed and completely rebuilt.

Jeff Adair, CFA community education co-ordinator, believes there are lessons to be learned from this sad event. "It was a very, very hot fire," he said.

"The owners were absent, smoke detectors were fitted and operating, but, unfortunately, due to the construction of the building, the fire had sufficient time to take hold before firefighters could bring it under control."

The house was built mainly of timber, with cedar-lined ceilings and external walls. "This, combined with firewood piled up against the house, contributed to the fire's intensity," Mr Adair said.

"With no-one at home, neighbours alerted CFA, reporting the existence of a backyard

fire. They did the right thing, but because they thought it was only a backyard fire, a tanker was immediately despatched. This proved inadequate, a pumper followed as soon as possible, but the fire had too great a hold."

Mr Adair believes that with many people away from home during working hours, neighbours play a vital role in the safety and security of adjoining properties.

"We appreciate the actions of the neighbours in this instance, but would encourage residents, when seeing smoke, to take the extra minute to confirm the nature of the fire, allowing brigades to make the correct decision regarding equipment needed," he said.

"The onset of winter and the

increased use of electrical appliances, open fires and heaters, should prompt residents to take extra precautions. This may mean having equipment checked by qualified servicemen, preventative items such as fire screens and additional smoke detectors, thus reducing the overall likelihood of fires starting.

"Chimney and flues should be inspected and cleaned and open fires kept to a reasonable size.

"Standby functions on TV receivers and computer monitors are commonplace.

"Overheating can result in disaster. Ideally they should be switched off at the power point. This would have saved the house in Park Orchards," Mr Adair said.



SOS!

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ROOM FOR RENT: for single or couple in large North Warrandyte house. Ensuite and own lounge room. Approx \$80 per week plus bond and expenses. Phone 9844 4679 AH or 0408 334 671.

COUNSELLOR: At times we need assistance to work through particular issues and problems. Martin is an experienced counsellor who can provide guidance and support. (Martin Peake, B.A. Dip.Ed. M.Ed. Dip. Transpersonal Counselling MSNTR) Contact 9510 4264 or 0418 357 691.

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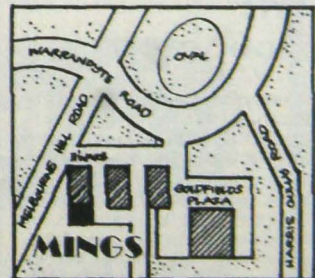
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The good sports

● They are the heartbeat of sport in Warrandyte. They ensure the lines are marked on the oval, the uniforms have been distributed and the pies are hot for the spectators who turn out in droves. They are the unsung heroes yet they don't do it for money. They are the volunteers and sport in Warrandyte wouldn't be the same without them. Manningham Council recently took the positive step of acknowledging the efforts of long-time volunteers at community sporting clubs. Twelve people from Warrandyte were recognised in the municipality-wide awards and CLINTON GRYBAS profiles them here.



Shirley McCartin

It's hard enough trying to calculate the number of hours Shirley McCartin has devoted to the Warrandyte Football Club without attempting to determine how many dirty jumpers she has washed. Her association stretches back 35 years and encompasses most roles needed in the operation of a local football club.

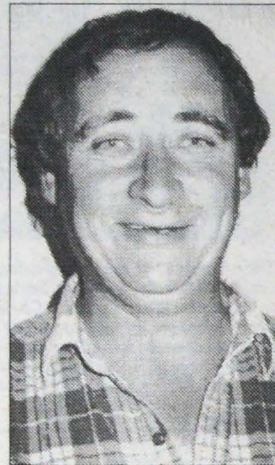
"I was secretary, canteen manager, timekeeper — I even waved the flags for the juniors," she said.

A life member of both the senior and junior clubs she was introduced when the first of her five sons and one daughter played. The boys have been long-time stalwarts while "my daughter played when the women's team played 15 years ago".

Shirley has enjoyed watching the junior club's development after her late husband John and Lawrie Sloan helped establish it.

She says "the people you meet and the fact that you are involved with your kids" is behind her lengthy involvement.

For the last "eight or nine" years she has kept a close watch on every senior game in her role of timekeeper. And although her sons are no longer part of the team she is still there every week. Why? "It's Warrandyte, that's it."



Robert Ireland

One of the endearing features of football clubs is the affectionate way people are referred to by their nicknames. And while the name Robert Ireland may cause some to scratch their head when you say "Noddy" down at Warrandyte Football Club there is no mistaking who you are talking about. The current president of the club, his involvement is as long as it is varied.

"I've been secretary, coached the under-18s for four years, was a player, have been on the fundraising committee and am now president," he said.

He started playing juniors at the club in the 1970s and graduated to the reserves until at age 28 a non-football injury took its toll. "I did my knee and had four operations on it. I have two screws in my knee now."

A life member of the club, he was part of the reserves 1982 premiership side in what was a golden period for the team.

He looked on fondly at the 1999 senior premiership team which featured "a half dozen young blokes" he had coached in the Under-18s, a period he described as most rewarding.

But his highlight now takes place every weekend when his son, Nathan, plays in the seniors. Nathan was captain of the Under-18s last year. Oh, by the way, Nathan answers to "Stumpy".

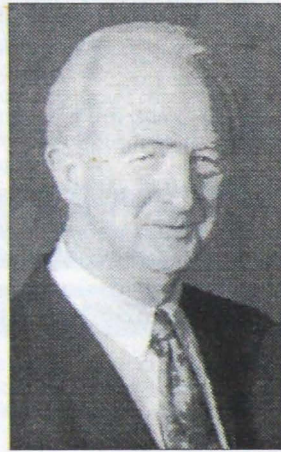
Frank Waites

Sport at the local level is not just about winning and losing. The friendly community spirit that it fosters is what helps lure many people to it. Frank Waites believes much of Warrandyte Tennis Club's success derives from its social atmosphere. And he should know. For 16 years he served on the club's committee, 14 as treasurer and his last two as president.

"I have loved the club," he said from Vermont, where he now lives. "It's pretty unique in my experience. It has a wonderful family aspect to it. It's a sporting club that has a very high social content in its make-up and therefore winning competitions isn't everything."

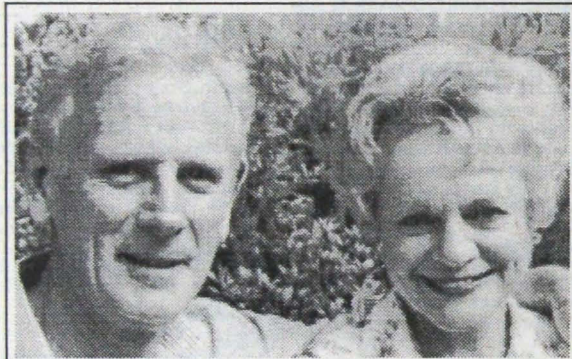
He describes as "very satisfying" the expansion of the club's facilities during his time on the committee. This included court lighting and construction of additional courts.

"The other highlight was the



fact we were able to hold up our membership over a long period of time when others clubs were seeing reductions — that was very pleasing."

He's not surprised by the amount of support the club has. "They are a great bunch of people," he said.



John and Margaret Pepper

A driving force behind Donvale Bowls Club, John and Margaret Pepper have been involved since the club's formation in 1988. "We were foundation members and we have been on various committees ever since," John said.

"I've been club president, my wife has been ladies secretary for several years and I'm currently club secretary." Both are still very active on the green, too, playing all year round.

"Donvale is the only club in this district with a winter artificial bowling green. So we tend to host clubs like Templestowe, Yarra Valley, Doncaster and Mitcham throughout the winter," John said.

The growing club boasts several members from Warrandyte — including the current ladies president.

"We enjoy it very much. It's a small club located in a wonderful setting in the Mullum Mullum Reserve."

Gavin Whitmore

Of the many junior sporting coaches in Warrandyte it's hard to think of one who has developed more icon status than Gavin Whitmore. The coaching guru of Warrandyte Basketball Club continues to leave an indelible mark on the careers of many aspiring hoop stars.

Gavin started as a junior playing for the club in the late 1970s and began coaching in 1984. Since then he has coached eight to 10 teams a year, sometimes more, in the Friday and Saturday competitions. That equates to more than 1000 boys and girls who have been under his tutelage, with no end in sight.

And why does he still do it? "Because there aren't a lot of coaches out there," he said. "I enjoy my coaching. It's good seeing the kids improve — not necessarily winning — but seeing teams improve over time."



Several of his teams have provided great joy for him and the club. His Under-16 girls team five years ago represented Australia and won a tournament in Fiji while two of the young boys teams he coached won significant finals in the statewide championship competition.

Judy Green

If you have ever played organised junior tennis in Warrandyte or been involved with someone who has, there is a very good chance you know Judy Green. For the past 15 years she has been junior convenor for Warrandyte Tennis Club.

"It's just a very rewarding job to do," she told the *Diary*. "You see the kids coming in and they can only just hit the ball. Then they go out the other end good little tennis players."

"It's always changing, as distinct from the adults. You have got new kids coming in all the time and kids going out the other end."

Judy, who still plays herself, had son David playing when she



was co-opted on to the committee 15 years ago. Since David left she has shepherded two grandchildren through the club's ranks among hundreds of other young local players.

Barbara McBain

The friendships enjoyed at Warrandyte Tennis Club is the reason Barbara McBain has stayed involved for so long.

She spent 12 years on various committees and continues her association playing midweek and on Saturdays.

"You don't do these things for recognition," she said of accepting her award. "It's just such a friendly club."

"I started off helping Judy Green with the juniors and when my two kids grew up I went from there on to the mid-week ladies committee and then the main committee."



Kevin O'Mara

The familiar face of Kevin O'Mara has been a regular fixture at local football grounds and basketball courts over the last few years. For the last five years he has been a coach, team manager and grounds manager for Warrandyte Junior Football Club. He loves it so much he urges more people to get involved.

"I would recommend that people standing back get in and get involved with your club," he said.

"It's another way to extend your acquaintance and friendship group. I have met some terrific people by being heavily involved."

He takes great joy in watching from close quarters the de-



velopment of his two sons. "It's great to see your boys really improve and come on in their footy and the improvement in their skill level and the team aspect," he said.

Eric Houghton

The Houghton name has been synonymous with Warrandyte Football Club for nearly a century. It continues today with Eric, 68, coaching juniors on the finer points of the game. And it's a game he knows well. He has covered all spheres of coaching at the club for both senior and junior teams across the last 16 years. It continues a long family legacy with the Bloods.

"My grandfather was a foundation member of the club and played for a while," he recalls. "Dad played and won the best and fairest of the competition in 1929 and 1930 when it was the Croydon and District League. He was also the captain before going on to play in the VFA."

But it wasn't just his father Allan representing the



Houghton name in Warrandyte's senior team. There were four brothers. And on a few magical afternoons all five of them took to the field in the same team. Several went on to impressive careers elsewhere. Eric was a club sponsor before taking up his coaching role in 1985.

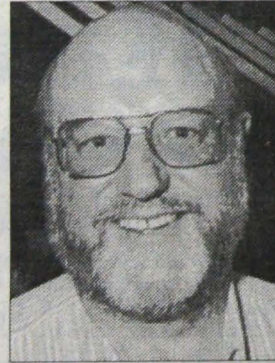
Greg Lawrence

When you think of leading sports administrators around town the name Greg Lawrence quickly springs to mind. For 23 years he has given Warrandyte Tennis Club stellar service and continues today as membership secretary.

"It's a great club with fantastic people," he said. "I started playing with the club in the late 1970s and joined the committee pretty well straight away."

Vice-president for eight years, he assumed the presidency in 1986 and held the position for nine years. During that time the club compiled an impressive list of achievements.

"We built the clubhouse and extended it twice. We had excellent social and fundraising functions. We got night tennis off the ground and developed intra-club night tennis and social



competition," he said.

Greg still plays twice a week and is happy that the current committee has carried on a "great tradition" with the club.

"I enjoyed every minute of the presidency. At the end of it I was very happy to hand it over to people to give them the enjoyment I got out of it."

Dawn Bellinger

Dawn Bellinger hadn't planned on spending her winter Saturdays feeding the footy crowds from the canteen at Warrandyte Recreation Reserve. But for the past 18 years she has become a recognisable face and part of the scenery for a day at the footy.

Her union began in 1983 while taking her turn on the roster one morning for her son's junior team.

She stayed on a little longer one particularly busy afternoon to help the ladies during the early part of the senior game. By the following week she had found a permanent home.

While her son's involvement with the club was brief, Dawn has remained. She is delighted with what has transpired.

"It's just a different atmo-



sphere. It gives me company and the chance to do something other than sit at home doing housework."

She says meeting the different people and now being recognised for her efforts — "something I didn't expect" — are the highlights of her long association.

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PROUD SPONSORS OF THE WARRANDYTE FOOTBALL CLUB

Redbacks' big night

By TONY OLIVER

Four of the Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Club's top teams showcased their talents at home on May 4 in the Friday night championship competition.

At night's end their tally was two wins, a draw and one defeat.

First up at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre were the Under-12 boys side of Malcolm Anderson who, even at this early stage of the season are fancied to be finalists despite starting slowly with a win and a loss in their opening games.

They faced Keilor, who had comprehensively defeated the young Redbacks last year in the spring grading session.

The game opened brightly for Warrandyte, who held a comfortable 13-8 lead close to the half-time break before Keilor scored to close the gap to three points.

It spurred on the visitors, who opened up in the second half with three quick baskets to take a 16-13 lead. The Redbacks responded to the challenge, and the lead seasawed for the remainder of the game. Warrandyte were doing most of the attacking but could not get the ball consistently into the net.

Keilor held a three-point lead in the dying minutes, but Warrandyte came back to equalise and the game ended in a 26-all draw.

"We had more of the play," Anderson said, "but we will need to improve our shooting. That really let us down."

Next on court were Martin Clark's Under-14 boys against Dandenong Rangers. The



The all-conquering Under-14 girls, premiers in the 2000 north west junior championship season, received their special awards at the Redbacks' Presentation Day at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre on April 29. Back row, left to right: Libby Lavery, Louise Yates, Emma Razzi, Tahnee Templeton, Gina Oliver. Front row: Lindel Thomas, Amy Caudry, Andrea Peters, Kaitlynd Bottomley.

Redbacks are performing well in the Metro 2 and quickly scored the opening basket.

The Rangers came back with a point from the free throw line but were always under pressure from the taller Redback players, with Hamish Hoskings and Josh Collins rebounding well and scoring almost at will.

The half time score was 23-6 and Warrandyte cruised to a 49-10 win.

Coach Clark was happy with the win, but this team will also need to work on their shooting percentage. Against a bottom-aged and smaller team, they missed too many easy baskets.

The Under-16 girls of Nick Pe-

ters started slowly against Hawthorn but asserted their dominance to run to a 14-2 lead late in the first half.

Tall forward Jenna Hardy was effective in the jump ball and guard Simone Gemmell was scoring well from fast breaks. The set offence was also starting to work.

Peters was rotating his bench, but the girls allowed Hawthorn to get back into the match at half-time, the visitors scoring late points to trail 18-10 at the break.

The Warrandyte girls tightened their defence and lifted their pace in offence in the second half, keeping Hawthorn

under extreme pressure, and ran out 48-10 winners.

The Redbacks are undefeated in three starts but have yet to be severely tested. Games on the road against Bulleen and Broadmeadows in May and June will tell us a lot more.

Older age boys basketball has a quality and speed all of its own and the clash between the Redbacks and the Doncats was a typical example. It was a fast, attacking game with a high standard of skill in both attack and defence.

The Doncats scored the first two baskets, but the Redbacks came back to stay in touch. A number of Redback passes were going astray, and the Doncats capitalised on these errors to keep up the pressure.

The Redbacks tightened and, led by some inspiring attack by Jake Templeton and strong rebounding and scoring by Tim Given, the home side were back in the game with a 21-17 lead late in the half.

The Doncats came back to level and took a one-point lead into the break.

The late surge from the Doncats carried on in the second half and they extended their lead to 39-28.

A rarely-seen penalty was imposed when a Doncats player interfered with the basket as a Warrandyte player was going for home. Two points were immediately awarded to the Redbacks.

There were signs of a Warrandyte revival when Nick Caudry scored at the 10-minute mark and a three-point play from Jake Templeton narrowed the gap to 41-27 going into the last five minutes.

Attacking basketball was the

order of the night and a brilliant block on Caudry by the Doncats' Kyson Kau resulted in a four-point turnaround when the visitors scored on the rebound play.

The late breaks were going to the Doncats, who extended their lead and won 53-38, a score which did not reflect the closeness of the game.

In away matches, Damian Arsenis' Metro 1 Under-11 boys had a good win against Nunawading Vikings. The Redbacks trailed 14-12 at the break, but capitalised when the Vikings ran into foul trouble and went on to win 27-20.

The Under-18 girls, coached by Tristan Messerle, had a regulation 40-17 win over Sandringham by 40 to 17 despite Allira King, Kelly Pollard and Sam Kennedy carrying injuries into the game.

In a clash of undefeated teams, Warrandyte's Under-14 girls were never in the hunt against Eltham.

Poor passing caused numerous turnovers which robbed the Warrandyte girls of their rhythm and they went down 37-18.

The Under-14 boys, under stand-in coach Kevin OMara, broke through for their first win of the season, accounting for Werribee 36-28.

The second Under-18 girls side, coached by Warwick Armstrong and Nigel Walsham, also registered their first win of the competition phase, a controlled 24-21 victory over against Whittlesea.

Emma Woods' Under-12 girls lost a close match against competition leaders Northcote 36-28 and the Under-16 boys went down by 15 points to Werribee.

Netball girls on target

By MAYDEENA JAMESON

Warrandyte Netball Club have 17 teams in the Doncaster and District Netball Association's winter season and all have got away to excellent starts.

Ten of the teams are in the top four in their sections, indicating another very successful season.

The two Warrandyte Open A sides - the Woodies and the Finches - have provided the highlight of the season so far in a tight and exciting "derby" clash. Scores were all tied up at half-time in a great exhibition of netball, but the Finches were able to pull away in the last two quarters to win by 10 goals.

The competition runs each Saturday from 11am to 4.30pm and caters for all age groups from Under-11s to Open A.

About 30 Warrandyte girls were recently selected in Doncaster and District representative teams for 2001. These teams range from Under-13s to Open, the Open, Under-17 and Under-15 sides playing week nights at the new State Netball Centre in the city.

The representative teams are also entered in seven or eight tournaments throughout the year, three sides making the finals of the Waverley district event at Ashwood College on April 29.

The Under-15 1s and 2s were runners-up in their grand finals and the Under-17 (1) side were eliminated in the preliminary final.

Warrandyte run hot in winter champs

Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Club started off strongly in the winter EDJBA competition, which opened on Saturday, April 28.

Twenty-five boys teams will be wearing the red and white of the Redbacks, with 20 teams contesting the girls grades.

Highlight of the day for Warrandyte was the strong showing of the top Under-19 boys team, who have been strengthened by the return of a number of talented players, including Josh Smith and Aaron Jenkins.

Their game against one of the top Bulleen sides was played at Warrandyte High School and the Redbacks held a comfortable lead at half-time.

Midway through the second half, Warrandyte opened up what appeared to be a match-winning lead of 10 points, thanks to some inspired play from the likes of Trevor Elliott. But a succession of three-point outside shots narrowed the gap and Bulleen were level inside the last minute.

The game moved to a tactical phase, with Warrandyte side using up time for a final assault. An inside pass to Evan Williamson was on the mark, and the new recruit calmly put the ball in the ring. A final 15 seconds of defence saw the Redbacks win 34-32.

While happy with the first-up success, Warrandyte will need to improve their stamina and the fade-out in the second half would be worrying new coach Nora Elliott.

The going was tougher for Travis Brown's Under-15 boys against a stronger and more physical Ivanhoe side at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre.

The Redbacks opened with a man-on-man game play but the taller Ivanhoe players were still finding the basket regularly.

Coach Brown changed his strategy, moving the play to a zone defence. It worked and the young Redbacks had reduced the deficit to less than 10 points with five minutes to go.

However, the fast pace of the game

finally told on Warrandyte and Ivanhoe went on to win 57-36 in a high-scoring game where the defences were always under pressure.

Good wins were recorded by Malcolm Anderson's Under-11s, defeating the top Marcellin team 51-16. Similarly, the Under-13 boys, under stand-in coach Ray Van Kuyk, were much too good for Eltham, winning 44-10. Both teams are likely to move up to a higher grade, which will bring out the best in them.

The top Under-9 side of Damian Arsenis went down 44-13 to Bulleen. Arsenis is bringing this young team together, with a number of new players fitting in, and despite the big margin he is adamant that Bulleen will not defeat them again.

Ian Wood's Under-17 boys were walloped 70-13 by Nunawading Vikings and will need to drop a grade to be competitive.

Warrandyte continue to be strongly represented in the girls competition, with all six top age teams in A Grade

or A1. The opening weekend of the season saw three teams win strongly and the other three go down by narrow margins.

In her first coaching game, Stef Smith directed the top Under-17 Redback girls to a comprehensive 52-19 win against Bulleen.

In a spectacular display nearly half Warrandyte's score came from three-pointers, with Kim Singh, Sam Smith, Melinda Walsham and Jessica Kemp each putting away two long shots. The team will be strengthened by the return of Elissia Demitris and are looking forward to a successful season in A1 Grade.

The Under-15 side, playing Eltham in front of a big crowd at the community sports centre, also turned on a blinder. The game opened at a fast pace, with Warrandyte always in control. Most of the Redback players have plenty of experience in the Friday night junior championship competition and their teamwork was outstanding. The final score was 46-10.

Coach Tristan Messerle was understandably happy with the result but knows his girls will be facing a number of strong teams in coming weeks.

Lorraine Parfitt, who always brings out the best in the younger teams, guided the Under-9s to a 34-10 win over Park Orchards. This team have a number of strong players, including Courtney Petalas, but the most pleasing aspect of this game was the full team participation in scoring and defending.

The Under-11 girls went down 19-11 to Eltham in the top A1 grade and Kim Singh's Under-13s were beaten 25-20, also by Eltham.

The only major loss for the top girls sides was the 12-point defeat (32-20) of the depleted Under-19s by Bulleen. The team played for some time with only four on court until the arrival of Casey Hawley, who was filling in at the higher age group.

A number of players have yet to make an appearance for this side and significant improvement is expected.



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Bloods back in town!

Changing of the guard at WCC

Major changes in executive positions were made at Warrandyte Cricket Club's annual general meeting last month.

Robert White was elected president, Brian Cleaves is the new secretary and Ann Pascoe was appointed treasurer.

White, 50, was president of the club more than 25 years ago and was elected to the committee last season. He also returned as a senior player last season and topped the club's Chandler Shield bowling averages.

Cleaves is also a former president, having held that position in the mid-1970s. Like White, he is also a member of the club's veterans team.

Ann Pascoe returns in an official capacity with Warrandyte after a short break from the club's executive.

Last year's president Nick Fazzolari stood down because of pressure of work commitments but will stay with the club in a sponsorship consultancy role.

Last year's secretary Dean Gidley has taken on the role of assistant secretary while former treasurer Greg Tregear is taking a break from cricket.

White said Warrandyte faced a tough season to retain its position in the prestigious Ringwood District Cricket Association's Chandler Shield competition.

"Each year gets harder," he said. "Clubs in the RDCA are continually improving and we really have to build our depth of player numbers and quality to match them."

"We will be working hard to build our club by encouraging people who live in Warrandyte to join their local club and be part of the sporting community of the town."

"There will also be a strong emphasis on encouraging junior players to be involved," he said. "We are not only interested in those who can make it to the first eleven, we want to provide the opportunity for all young people to take part in the game of cricket."

White said a new junior committee had been formed to fully develop the talent available in all under-age groups.

The new committee met for the first time early this month to map out a program for the 2001-02 season.

Apart from his new role as president, White was also made a life member of the club.

He was nominated by another life member, John Chapman, who said White had started his playing career at Warrandyte in 1970-71 and had played more than 20 seasons in the senior and veterans teams in between years at District and Sub-District clubs.

Chapman said White was a former president, committee member, junior team manager and club captain.

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club put their EFL Third Division premiership campaign squarely back on course with a 28-point win over highly-rated Mount Evelyn at home on June 5.

The Bloods, looking down the barrel of a 1-3 record after a pretty shameful capitulation at Wantirna South, were fast and ferocious against a team which had recruited very well.

They started like world-beaters, took a nap midway through the first quarter, surrendered the lead in the second but picked up the gauntlet in the second half to win like a good team.

Final score was 14.14 (98) to 10.10 (70).

Warrandyte had a number of heroes, none more so than burly full-back Stewart Rough, who took mark after mark in the goal square to turn desperate defence into attack in the final term.

Playing coach Scott Hunter, who did a hamstring in the second quarter and will miss three to four weeks, was delighted with the win.

"A fantastic second half," he said. "We said we'd like to be (at least) 3-2 after five and if we win next week (away to Mooroolbark, who have yet to win this season) we will have achieved that."

"The guys have set a standard and we must maintain that standard."

WFC president Robert "Noddy" Ireland pointed to the club's new-found depth of on-field personnel.

"Ten players missed out a reserves game today," Ireland said. "It's unfortunate that they had to miss out, but it does indicate our depth and it is putting pressure on players right across the board to hold their places in the teams."

Warrandyte's whirlwind opening against Mount Evelyn suggested that the game might be as good as over by half-time.

Full-forward Mark Gasparotto marked, played on and snapped a long goal just 90 seconds in and fleet-footed forward pocket Andrew Jacovou left his opponent for dead as he ran in for the Bloods' second after five minutes.

Big win at home squares ledger

SPORT

Jacovou repeated the dose four minutes later and Mount Evelyn were looking shell-shocked.

Warrandyte were moving the ball beautifully and teaming well but squandered a couple of opportunities before a great passage of play at 19 minutes from Glen Carle to Kimberly O'Connor to Matt Treeby brought up their fourth goal.

Mount Evelyn had so far managed just one behind, but Warrandyte appeared to have taken their foot off the pedal and the visitors marked in front at the 25-minute mark to open their major account.

When they scored their second four minutes later, the score was 4.4 (28) to 2.3 (15) and the Bloods had a game on their hands.

Warrandyte's early magic had deserted them and the second quarter degenerated into a bit of a scramble, with Mount Evelyn looking the more dangerous.

The Bloods failed to capitalise on two opportunities to goal, but Mount Evelyn made no mistake 11 minutes in to reduce their deficit to nine points.

Jacovou hit the post from long range at 12 minutes and a minute later Dale Vitiritti to Matt Wood produced our fifth goal. It had been a long time between drinks.

Poor defence let the visitors in for their fourth at 16 minutes, Vitiritti sharked one of us at 18, but converted frees at 20 and 22 minutes had Mount Evelyn breathing down our necks, just three points in arrears.

The enemy were consistently winning the ball out of the centre and hit the front with a goal at 24 minutes to take a one-



Australian netball international Liz Taverner was guest speaker at a Warrandyte Football Club ladies luncheon before the home game against Mount Evelyn, talking frankly of the highs and lows of her career and her ambitions. Here the recently-married Liz (she's the tall one) gets to know the local ladies. Unfortunately, the Melbourne Phoenix star couldn't stay to watch the Bloods win their second game of the season. She had a pressing engagement that night at the State netball centre keeping goal against the Melbourne Kestrels in the final of the Federation Cup, which the Phoenix won 52-48. (Picture by Jan Tindale).

point lead — 7.5 (47) to 6.10 (46) — into the interval.

Captain Chris Cornell set the pattern for Warrandyte's third-quarter revival with a miracle goal four minutes in and Aidan Davey to Gasparotto four minutes later gave us breathing space.

Treeby into an open goal a minute later and a free and penalty to Matt Blagrove two minutes later put the Bloods 25 points in front.

But Mount Evelyn were not done yet and a goal at 12 minutes stopped the rot.

The rest of the quarter was an arm wrestle, both sides missing very gettable goals and the exchanges very physical, until Wood was freed and goaled at 23 minutes to send Warrandyte into the last change 23 points up, 11.13 (79) to 8.8 (56).

Coach Hunter reminded his players of their surrender of a 14-point three-quarter time advantage in a low-scoring game at Wantirna South the previous week.

There was to be none of that this time, though, despite Mount Evelyn drawing first blood in the final stanza with a goal from a free right in front.

It was no place for the faint-hearted out there as both sides gave it their all.

Davey was freed on the boundary and threaded through a very telling goal at 11 minutes, but Mount Evelyn kicked a boomer two minutes later to keep the game very much alive.

Rough was marking everything in the last line of defence as the visitors bombed away and 12 minutes elapsed before

the next goal was kicked — by Gasparotto (his third) after leading well out and leaning on a long one.

The game was safe and Adam Borwick, better known as a defender, made it doubly so by goaling at 25 minutes after accepting a pass from the elusive young Treeby.

Warrandyte's goalkickers were Gasparotto 3, Treeby 3, Jacovou 2, Wood 2, Vitiritti, Cornell, Blagrove and Davey. Their best were Rough, Vitiritti, Treeby, Blagrove and Cornell.

The Reserves also won their second game of the season, swamping Mount Evelyn by 65 points, 18.18 (102) to 4.13 (37).

Their best in a real team performance were Guy Taylor, Mick McCormack, Than Reid and P-Jay Harvey.

Juniors have score on board

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

Warrandyte Junior Football Club have completed the first four rating rounds of the new season, with most teams achieving good early results.

The Colts (Under-17s) and Under-12s are undefeated and Colts team manager Anthony Mirabella is enthusiastic about his boys' long-term prospects.

"Most of these boys are home-grown players," Mirabella said. "They are combining well, training hard and playing good football."

"They showed their real spirit recently with a fighting two-point win over highly-rated Beverley Hills, proving to themselves and the supporters what real talents they are."

"The Colts are benefiting from the leadership of players like Paul Morello, Piers Brown, James Mortensen, Ben Mason and Adrian Eyre. All the boys are playing high-class football and we are looking forward to giving the premiership a real go this year."

The Under-12s are enjoying similar success, amassing 172 points in the rating games while conceding just 63.

"Coach Syd Saunders and Phil Meade have really got the boys playing as a team," said team manager Vin Pettigrove. "The boys are bonding well, supporting each other and learning new skills."

"We would like to think we have a fair chance of the flag this year and encourage all parents to be involved with training and on game day."

The Under-13s are playing in the highest division and are having some trouble adjusting to the pace. "However, we have some good support people and a dedicated coaching staff and we're sure some good wins are just around the corner," said Bernie Ezbery, their team manager.

The coaches, team managers and support staff

are working hard with the Under-11s, 13s and 14s to develop their skills and team play.

The Under-9s (Tackers) continue to impress everyone who sees them. They recently had their first experience of classical football conditions — wet and windy — and loved it!

"The only thing better than seeing the smiles on their muddy and sweaty faces is seeing the broad smiles of pride and joy from their parents," said coach Gavin Costin. "Each time they run on to the ground with their chests out and their legs pumping we feel proud of each and every one of them."

WJFC president Mathew Matheou said there was a "great feeling" within the club. "Teams are winning and those that aren't are being very competitive," he said.

Individual honours are also coming thick and fast. Josh Eyre recently played in Perth for the Northern Knights and acquitted himself very well.

Hayden Wall has made the Northern Knights training squad, Dylan Matheou and James Singh have been chosen to train with the VMFL Under-14 squad for the Smoke Free championships and John Burgoyne and Pat Rose are in the Under-15 squad for those titles. Jordan Canham is in the Under-15 squad and recently played in the Victorian Under-15-16 schoolboys championship.

"I could go on with other boys," said Matheou. "These boys are a source of great pride for the club and a credit to their parents and our coaching staff."

"I say to all parents and supporters, come and join in and enjoy the success."

Anyone interested in joining the club is invited to contact Matheou on 0418 542434 or secretary Dennis J. Hoiberg on 0418 384619.



Warrandyte Junior Football Club are certainly getting value from their Under-9 Tackers. Jake McKee and Zac Brodrick recently played a full game for the Tackers and immediately volunteered to give the undermanned Under-10s a hand. "We drew the line when they wanted to play in the Under-14s as well," said coach Wayne Moore.

Young Tom dives to new heights

Young Tom Robinson took an important step towards realising an Olympic dream when he brought home gold from the Australian Junior Diving Championships in Perth last month.

Tom, 12, of Homewood Rise, won gold in the three-metre board and took bronze in the five-metre platform, both synchronised events.

"He's been diving for three years and he just loves it," said proud mother Brenda. "He gave up football to concentrate on it."

"This was his third national competition and his ambition is to one day dive for Australia at the Commonwealth and Olympic Games."

A Year 7 Marcellin College student and one of three Robinson children, Tom trains eight to 10 hours a week at the Ringwood Aquatic Centre.

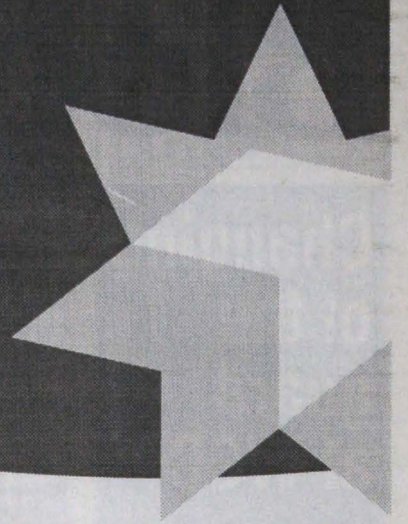
And is he of lean build, as most champion divers tend to be?

"He eats like a horse but he's thin as a rake," said his mother.



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