

Wedge vote delayed

By CLIFF GREEN

Consideration by Manningham council of a proposed subdivision in the Green Wedge has been deferred.

A group of landowners, known as the Park Orchards Progress Association, sought to amend the Manningham Planning Scheme. They hoped council would permit the subdivision of 37 broad acre allotments in the Green Wedge into 103 building blocks.

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

Manningham council, at their meeting on May 29, decided to defer consideration of the application for four months.

Council officers recommended against the proposal. Their report states that "the Association has previously submitted a number of requests to amend the planning scheme. Council has not supported the requests based on a number of important reasons."

GREEN WEDGE WATCH



The current request is contrary to:

- Amendment L76 (Review of Non-Urban Zones in Warrandyte/Park Orchards);

- the report of the Panel and Advisory Committee (January 1999) to the Manningham New Format Planning scheme;

- the Manningham Planning Scheme including the Municipal Strategic Statement; and

- the State Planning Policy Framework."

A week of intense lobbying followed the release of the council officers' recommendation. Landowners argued that public opinion should once more be tested on this issue.

Pro-Green Wedge groups and individuals believed the issue had been debated through several councils and numerous committees, objection hearings, reports and ministerial decisions; all of which had found against closer

subdivision in the Green Wedge.

One key element in the landowners' argument was that subdivision would provide a trigger for the provision of sewerage in Park Orchards.

The council officers' report states that "the feasibility advice received by Yarra Valley Water ... did not confirm that sewerage would be connected to the subject area or to the remainder of Park Orchards. The proposed construction of a sewerage system would create an additional impact to the environmental values within the subject area and generally within the non-urban area."

Green Wedge supporters arrived at the council meeting anticipating that the officers' recommendation would be supported and the move for exhibition of the subdivision proposal would be lost on a clear majority vote.

However, when the item came up for debate, Cr Beynon moved and Cr Allemand seconded (pro tem) a procedural motion requesting the matter be deferred for four months. This was passed on the casting vote of the mayor, with Crs Beynon, Allemand, Larkin and Eisenbise voting for deferment, and Crs Young, Goonan, Gough and Bruce voting against it.

Local MP Phil Honeywood was "ap-

palled" by what he termed the "lack of consistency" displayed on the night. "To have one of Warrandyte and Park Orchards' own ward councillors seconding a motion to defer a decision on this critical matter was incomprehensible," he said. "I would have thought that the councillor in question would have gained a better appreciation by now of the anti-development views of the majority of local residents."

Mr Honeywood expressed his gratitude to Crs Gough, Young, Bruce and Goonan for "having the courage of their convictions".

David Mayor, vice-president of the Park Orchards Ratepayers Association, said that "while the ink was still drying on the State Planning Policy, the Manningham Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and the Green Wedge provisions of the Manningham Planning Scheme—all prohibiting closer subdivision—some councillors were contemplating exhibiting a non-conforming proposal to permit subdivision down the tip of the Green Wedge".

Mr Mayor said that "any action taken by council to exhibit the proposal or set up another committee to look at ways and means of subdividing the Green Wedge is clearly beyond the council's MSS and outside its legal con-

straints."

Glenn Martin, secretary of the Warrandyte Advisory Committee, told the *Diary* his group is vigorously opposed to the subdivision. "We urge Warrandyte and Park Orchards ratepayers to show council that we want to retain the Green Wedge, and we do not want any subdivisions in that area," he said.

Mullum Mullum Ward councillor, Patricia Young, said she was disappointed the matter had been deferred. "To contemplate amending the planning scheme is a very serious matter. I would not be prepared to support a proposal like this, if it means smaller lot sizes in the Green Wedge and destruction of bush."

"If a road was cut through from Stintons Road to Park Road (as the plan shows) what a rat run that would be," she said.

LATE NEWS

A motion to rescind the decision to defer the subdivision issue will be put to a council meeting on June 26. If this move is successful, the officers' recommendation that the subdivision proposal be rejected will then be put to the vote.



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.

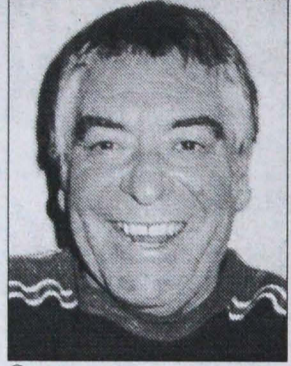
A SPECIAL PLACE
 Warrandyte (approximate population 8000) is situated on the Yarra River, some 24km from Melbourne. The site of the first official gold discovery in Victoria—in 1851—it soon established its character as a small, self-sustaining community set in a beautiful river valley. Around 1900 the 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.

And chocolate mousse for your dessert, Coatsy?

Being an earlier riser, breakfast for Alan (Coatsy) Koetsveld on a typical working day is a scratch, a lookaround, a slice of toast and a cuppa. It was no different on the morning of Monday, May 21 — the slice of bread went into the toaster, popped up, was buttered, consumed and washed down. And off Coatsy went to face another day as a builder/carpenter, involuntary stand-up comedian and one of this town's most recognisable faces. Being respectful of age, son Anthony always gives Dad first crack at breakfast — and he's mighty glad now about that because when he was about to drop his own slice of bread in shortly after, to go with the egg he was frying, he noticed the toaster had grown a tail. Yes, a mouse had taken up residence in it overnight and Coatsy had obliviously toasted it along with his brekky. There is a school of thought here that the mouse would have been electrocuted when the toaster went on and we hope that's right because not even a pesky varmint deserves a death like that. Anyhow, Anthony freaked out, ran outside, threw the toaster and (for some reason) the frying pan as well to the proverbial — and threw up. The episode has given birth to all sorts of new nicknames for Coatsy — "Rodent Breath" among them — and all toasting in the South Warrandyte household is now done under the grill.

It's terribly confusing when the footy fixtures in a comp like ours throw up two away games in a row (or two home games, for that matter). Hell, it's always been one away, next one at home in the EFL — and it certainly disorientated diehard Warrandyte supporter and Bay 13 character John "Wacky" Waters, who couldn't handle the departure from tradition which saw the Bloods cop consecutive road games against Mooroolbark and Templestowe on May 12 and 19. Living right up to his nickname, Wacky got on the mobile to Joan Atkinson well into the first quarter of the seniors game against Tempy and said: "Hey, I'm here in Bay 13 with a slab and I've lit the barbie — but there's not another bloody soul here. What the hell's going on? "What's going on," said Joan, "is that

IN RED & WHITE



Coatsy.



A mouse.

today's game is here at Templestowe and we're two goals in front." Whacky eventually made it to Tempy but probably wished he'd stayed put by the fire in Bay 13 because after leading all day his beloved Bloods were overrun in the last quarter and went down by three goals.

We do hope Wacky studies the fixtures for the rest of the season because Warrandyte have two sets of consecutive home games coming up — against Norwood and Doncaster East on June 16 and 23 the return jousts with Mooroolbark and Templestowe on July 21 and 28 — and we don't want him wandering about lonesome and confused in enemy territory while the home fires are burning in Bay 13.

We begged last time an explanation of "clickerty", the word one William Habberlin used to partner Louis John Michel when he panned the first specks of gold at Anderson's Creek 150 years ago on June 30, giving rise to Victoria's first payable discovery and big celebrations on that date this month. And, by George, we think we've got it, thanks to David Reid, of Houghton Road. Take the microphone, John: "Although probably before the time of the truly prodigious champagne drinking in Victoria,

I wonder whether, in view of the expedition leader's French name, 'clickerty' could derive from the Veuve Cliquot's produce — that is, the good stuff (you beauty bottler!). Then again, research by a colleague into the Australian Macquarie Dictionary came up with 'cliquant', meaning 'glittering, as tinsel etc.' What do you think?" We think both theories have much merit, John, especially the latter.

The couple shall be nameless, but it's fair to say that some liquor had been involved by the time they left a "welcome home from China" party at Jack Stringer's place in KG Road on foot the other Saturday night. (Actually, the timing of the party was fairly ordinary because Jack arrived back two days later from his month-long trip, but that's not the point.) Somewhere in Aton Street on the way home, she fell flat on her back into a roadside ditch and he, gallantly trying to rescue her, fell face-down on top of her. We report this purely to assure anyone who happened to be driving along Aton Street at the time that the couple were not trying to make a baby.

To say that Diary advertising/accounts manager Rae Danks is a good sport is to understate the generosity of her nature. Rae came across a

beaut crop of mushrooms in her travels a couple of weeks ago and, being a caring, sharing person, offered to cut Smokey and Her Indoors in on her find. Now your columnist has been very suspicious of fungi since copping a nice old dose of food poisoning from those yellow stainer mongrels several years ago, so he suggested she ate hers that night and phone us in the morning with the all-clear if still alive, in which case we'd be game enough to smother a couple of eye fillets with ours. She was, and she did. And so did we.

The annual golfing pilgrimage to the Rich River Country Club at Moama by a bunch of local likely lads generally produces some scandalous copy for this page, but the latest (unless they have taken a vow of silence) appears to have been an atrocity-free affair. Laurie Warr won the Rough End Of The Pineapple Award by complaining about the absence of a urinal in one of the toilets at the plush resort. It was pointed out that he had used the ladies.

Here's your chance to mightily impress those inner-suburban weekend visitors with your intimate knowledge of local native flora. "Oh that, that gorgeous creeper," you can say as you usher them through your garden, "is Mountain Clematis, commonly known as Old Man's Beard, or, strictly speaking (and in italics), *Clematis aristata*." Follow that up by telling them it grows well in shady spots if it gets enough summer moisture, point to its broad ovate leaves with silvery markings and deliver the coup de grace by saying that its large, starry white flowers become feathery fruits on female plants. Boy, will they look up to you! "We've just got to have some," they will say. "How do we lay our hands on it?" Easy. Just give Cathy Willis, from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park, a call on 0418142297 and for a very modest donation it can be yours from the friends' nursery at Pound Bend.



Smokey Joe

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



"YOUR WORSHIP, SHOULD WE BE DIGGINS IN THE GREEN WEDGE?"

Jack

Reaching across the divide

BY FIA CLENDINNEN

For the fourth year in a row Nillumbik council, working in conjunction with the Nillumbik Reconciliation Group, hosted a reconciliation march, and several hundred people gathered in Alistair Knox Park in Eltham late last month.

Last year it rained on the day, and after some frantic last minute reorganizing, marchers were led to the comfort of the Eltham Hotel.

But this year the weather was kind and Jim Wandin, Wurundjeri Head Man, especially thanked the churches of Eltham, who combined to hold a service with Wurundjeri Elders earlier that morning. According to Mr Wandin the congregation prayed for good weather for the Reconciliation March.

So this year, under blue skies, the march finished at Wingrove Park, as usual.

According to historians, Wingrove Park was the main aboriginal meeting place in the shire and it has a special feeling. The manna gums are huge and proudly ancient. Parrots fly

between their branches, too high up to be seen, but screaming loudly. It's a meditative place, somewhere to sit on the grass and chat with friends, being entertained by local musicians, while kids run freely, accompanied by their dogs. Perhaps this is how the indigenous people used the site before the white invasion.

Mr Wandin said he was proud to welcome local residents to Wurundjeri land. "I come from the oldest living culture in the world," he said. "I stand tall on the land that was my father's."

Keith Hamilton, Victorian minister for Aboriginal affairs, also addressed the crowd. He said that those who lived in the shire of Nillumbik should feel "very, very proud" of the leadership shown by councillors, the churches and the local reconciliation group.

Referring to the controversial issue of whether or not there should be an apology to the stolen generation, Mr Hamilton said he had "no trouble as a minister in the Bracks government saying sorry". He said there were many issues to be



Nillumbik rallied for reconciliation. (Picture by Fia Clendinnen)

sorry for.

"We should be sorry for the destruction of one of the oldest cultures in the world. We ought to be very sorry that so many indigenous people have lost pride in themselves."

But he said there was "joy" in the way certain communities were starting to build bridges.

Mr Hamilton said he was "determined" that reconciliation would succeed. "Like all walks, it starts with one small step. We have a long way to go."

Nillumbik mayor Sigmund Jorgensen told the crowd that the council was currently exploring the idea of a treaty between the Wurundjeri people and Nillumbik council.

He said the council was consulting with Professor Cheryl Saunders, a constitutional expert from Melbourne University, and Marcia Langdon, an indigenous academic.

He said that all sorts of groups across Australia were looking at the possibility of a treaty but

that at this stage no one had suggested a format, and Nillumbik could become one of the first councils in Victoria to draw up something concrete.

Mr Jorgensen told the *Diary* there were "poignant" reasons why Nillumbik should show leadership on this issue, as the very first treaty in Victoria, between the elders of the Wurundjeri people and John Batman, was believed to have been signed within Nillumbik shire, on the banks of the Plenty

River, near the current council offices.

Mr Jorgensen said he was well aware that a treaty was a contentious issue and he has received what he described as a "barrage of mail" criticising him for even investigating the idea. But he said he remained undeterred by such a response. He said he knew he had the support of the majority of councillors and in any case he believed drawing up a treaty was the "morally correct" thing to do.

Press Council disallows Cox's appeal

The Australian Press Council has rejected an appeal by Mr Daryl Cox, of the Park Orchards Progress Association, with regard to the council's previous dismissal of a complaint made against the *Warrandyte Diary*.

The association's original complaint stemmed from articles published in the *Diary* between July and December 2000, dealing with the association's proposition, linking a plan for the provision of sewerage in the area with a proposal to subdivide land in the Green Wedge.

Mr Cox appealed against the council's adjudication which stated (in part): "Members of the Park Orchards Progress Association have for some years been trying to persuade the (municipal) council to subdivide some of the area known as Green Wedge. ... This complaint is more about personalities and differences of opinion than of the newspaper contravening any of the Press Council principles."

The appeal was heard at the May meeting of the Press Council. The council stated: "On the recommendation of the Complaints Committee, the appeal was declined and the adjudication, as issued, was retained."

No electorate boundary change for Warrandyte

Draft state electorate boundaries released late last month were cause for celebration amongst Warrandyte and Park Orchards Green Wedge supporters.

Both the name and the current borders of the Warrandyte electorate have been retained.

Local MP Phil Honeywood expressed his delight with the proposed new boundaries. "After more than 12 years you get rather attached to both the name of your electorate and people who make it a special place to represent," he said.

"There were real concerns that the integrity of the electorate's current Mullum Mullum Creek western boundary may have been breached," Mr Honeywood said.

"If this had occurred then the hard-fought for Green Wedge non-urban zone and dual occupancy free zones of Warrandyte and Park Orchards may have found themselves carved up into the urbanised electorates of Bulleen and Doncaster respectively.

"My one disappointment was that the only other area in the Green Wedge zone—Wonga Park—was not brought back into the Warrandyte electorate.



Phil Honeywood: We're still on his patch.

"It just makes common sense, given the similar community of interest and planning concerns that we share with the residents of Wonga Park, to bring us all back together again," he said.

Telephone tower troubles at Colman Reserve

By RACHEL BAKER

Concern about mobile phone towers has been fuelled by the revelation that multiple facilities have been placed on a South Warrandyte tower—without formal announcement to the community.

The tower, in Colman Park, Croydon Road, was originally built in 1996 by Optus, but now Vodafone and Orange have facilities there and two other companies plan to add theirs.

Vodafone, who are hoping to build a tower on South Valley Road, Park Orchards, denied they have a facility in Colman Park.

"No, we're not on that," Germaine Graham, Vodafone's corporate communication manager, said.

"We've got no plans other than South Valley Road," she said.

One.Tel, though, disagreed.

"Vodafone have already got a facility on the pole," Paul Zaal, One.Tel's community relations manager, said. "And we're intending to go ahead."

News that One.Tel has been put in the hands of an administrator after investigations revealed it was insolvent cast doubts over their own plans, but the conflict regarding

Vodafone remains.

The third alleged carrier is Orange. The *Diary* left numerous messages at Orange, formerly Hutchison Telecom, but none were returned.

The phone companies' reasons for a clustering, known as co-location, of facilities at Colman Park may have some merit: they need coverage; federal government legislation requires co-location where possible; and clustering of facilities reduces visual pollution and invasion of natural habitats.

What seems troubling about Colman Park, though, is the surreptitious nature of it. Why do Vodafone and One.Tel have different versions of the situation? And what happened to community consultation?

Then there's the concern about radiation. While there are several reports from scientists offering divergent results on the dangers of electro-magnetic radiation (or EMR), some consumers still feel uneasy. The phone companies maintain that the towers are no more dangerous than sleeping on an electric blanket or working at a computer.

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Contented readers, but not complacent

Your headline—*Diary*, May 2001—"MPs Urgent Call: Stop Being Complacent" prompts me to again write to you.

Is it not probable that the majority of your readers are content, not complacent? They realise that changes must take place and often for the better as witness the Harris Gully roundabout.

What a blessing, and certainly not an eyesore—take us back to the old method? What a joke!

Certainly become involved, but please do not be selfish. After all, it is a good thing to be able to think that "Okay, it's not for me, but then it will benefit many others".

Does our local State Member live in the electorate or is he receiving "appearance money"?

Trevor Parker
Tindals Road

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Council tactics 'stifle debate'

At the council meeting on May 29, our ward representative, Cr Lionel Allemand, supported procedural stalling tactics, sustaining the expectations of a Green Wedge development syndicate and its often rejected subdivision application. This small syndicate of landowners represents less than three per cent of the allotments in Manningham's Green Wedge, but their holdings comprise much of the critical "pointy" end of the Wedge, where it links to the Mullum Mullum Creek Linear Park.

Congratulations to Cr Patricia Young who opposed this deferment. This syndicate's drain on council (that is ratepayers') resources will now continue. A proposed new committee seems designed primarily to whitewash this application

DEAR DIARY

through council. Including a token "community representative" is nothing more than a ploy to give it an aura of community endorsement. The communities of Park Orchards and Warrandyte have consistently endorsed maintaining the integrity of the Green Wedge, not the use of subdivision as a land management tool.

The council meeting tactics stifled debate, so we call on Cr Allemand to explain to his ward constituents why he chose to ignore the recommendation of our professional council officers on this matter.

This ongoing outrageous expenditure of time and money,

Crowd disappoints

A comment on the public forum on domestic violence I attended in Warrandyte late last month; being one of approximately 15 participants.

Police attend over 20,000 cases of domestic violence every year throughout Victoria. It does exist in our community.

The forum (convened by Warrandyte/Park Orchards/Wonga Park Police Consultative Committee) was well organised and the speakers were challeng-

ing, interesting and informative, giving greater insight into the complexities of the issue.

Why was it so poorly attended? Does this reflect that domestic violence remains a "taboo" subject? Hopefully there will be more active interest next time—in a problem affecting all age groups in our community.

Kath Perry
Forbes Street

Responsibility for election and referendum comment in this issue is accepted by Cliff Green, 23 Webb Street, Warrandyte.

Letters to the Diary on local topics are most welcome. Real names are preferred. Pen names can only be used if actual names and addresses are included, even if not for publication.

CLYDE & OCKER



"Council might call the calling off off, Ock!"

patronising a mere one third of one per cent of ratepayers in Mullum Mullum Ward, could have been put to more productive use.

Allan and Pam Stark
Park Orchards

Anzac day thanks

Thank you for the excellent photo montage and report, "Marching in memory", in the May 2001 edition of the *Diary*.

As in previous years this *Diary* feature was greatly appreciated by the Committee and members of the Warrandyte RSL and, I am sure, the Warrandyte community.

It is reassuring that our efforts to promote commemorative and memorial issues within Warrandyte are supported by the *Diary* and acknowledged by its readers.

Neil Pearson, Secretary
Warrandyte RSL

Wedge defence

Manningham councillors were inundated with letters, faxes and e-mails during the recent subdivision crisis. Here are two of them.

Mayor, Manningham Council.

Dear Madam Mayor,

The City of Manningham is indeed fortunate in that some decades ago, the Hamer Liberal government had the foresight to realise the importance of establishing a Green Wedge for the area. This was enthusiastically supported by local residents.

In this age of vastly increasing roads and road vehicles, the need for such areas is imperative to counteract the resultant health hazards. Trees and open space must be protected, not lessened.

Encroachment on the Green Wedge must not be allowed.

I am sure you realise the importance of retaining the Green Wedge in its original concept, and will do all possible to ensure the proposed amendment is defeated.

Betty Oke
by e-mail

Mayor and Councillors of Manningham City Council.

The Yarra, the State Park and the Green Wedge.

These are surely three of Manningham's greatest natural assets, each being of significant local and state-wide importance and deserving of our continued protection. We note with concern the proposal by the Park Orchards Progress Association to permit exhibition for amendments of the planning act to allow subdivision within the Green Wedge. We urge that you vote "No" to this latest proposal for the following reasons:

- Planning studies over the past 30 years have all concluded that the principle of the

Green Wedge should not be tampered with at all. Much community debate has already supported this conclusion;

- The latest plan lacks innovation and has no proper regard for the visual, landscape and environmental qualities or broader community values;

- Placing an amendment on public exhibition may raise misguided hope by submitters and generate genuine concern and frustration by others that it may proceed;

- Even considering the exhibition suggests that such a dangerous precedent has a possibility of being permitted. The subsequent precedent of such an act would cause an inevitable and catastrophic domino effect on the Green Wedge that would eventually flow across council boundaries.

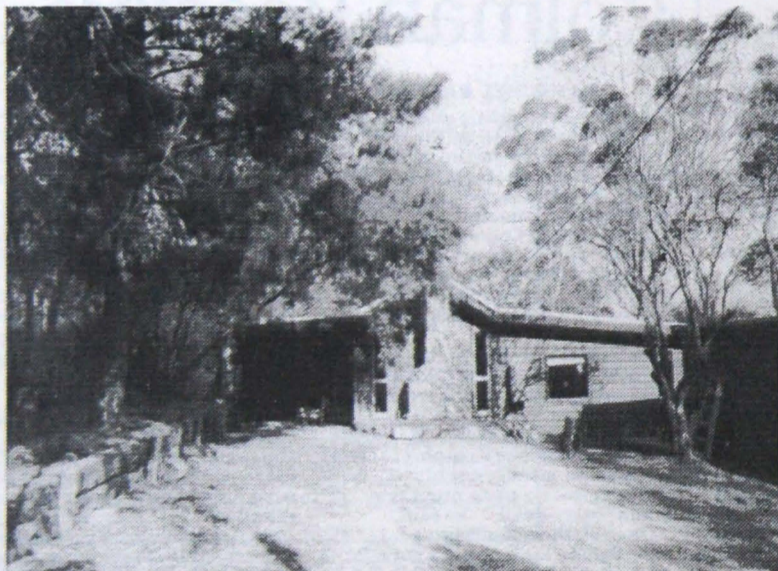
These processes have happened before and it has been established that no one benefits from such proposals except the landowners. Their agenda is their short-term financial gain at the expense of environmental and planning precedents.

We, Peter Curry and Greg Stroot, represent community concerns through the Warrandyte Awareness Group (WAG), and Warrandyte Environmental League (WEL) as well as a new community of younger families that come to these preserved environs.

Please follow the recommendation of the council officers in this regard.

Peter Curry (WAG)
Greg Stroot (WEL)
by e-mail

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Celebrate 150 Years of Warrandyte Gold

Gold fever grips township as big day approaches

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

Our town will be re-living its golden days as Warrandyte celebrates the 150th anniversary of Victoria's first gold discovery—on Saturday, June 30.

In June 1851, after two unsuccessful expeditions, Melbourne publican Louis Michel discovered 10 small grains of gold in Anderson's Creek. Dismayed by the exodus of people from Melbourne to the New South Wales goldfields earlier that year, Michel and other traders had subscribed to a reward fund for the first discovery of the precious metal.

"...it was the immediate publication of my discovery that stemmed the tide of emigration to New South Wales," Michel later recorded. Three years later Michel and his party were awarded 1000 pounds for the first officially discovered gold in Victoria.

Warrandyte Historical Society is bracing itself for many visitors for the anniversary celebrations, according to spokeswoman Gina Bevan-Jones.

"Lots of the Michel family from Shepparton are coming down as well as heaps of other descendants and ex-Warrandytians," she said. "There have been enquiries from all over the state." Former politician Lou Hill and Warrandyte Ward councillor Vern Denford are expected to attend, plus local MP Phil Honeywood.

Warrandyte museum, in the old post office opposite the Grand Hotel, has lots of visuals as part of a new free display of the gold discovery story. Members of the historical society have mounted a huge exhibition of photos and artefacts from the goldmining era, with models of the mines plus an extensive display of Warrandyte art and artists. A horse-drawn wagon will take visitors along the riverbank, passing markers showing where day-to-day activities took place in former times, so that people may then refer to these places in old photos at the museum.

Historical society member Peter Hanson will lead a goldmine tour, starting at the museum and ending at the original site of gold discovery at Anderson's Creek, in time for the theatrical re-enactment.

"I'll be giving a brief history of the era and an explanation of goldmining techniques before touring the mines," Peter Hanson said. "We'll visit not only the shafts where people can see quartz seams but also look at remnants of a crushing plant and mullock heaps."

A second tour will cover the same route in reverse, leaving from the re-enactment site.

People interested in these tours should wear walking shoes, carry a torch and bring wet weather gear.

A village camp, including 21 tents

recreating services and products from goldmining days, will cover Stiggants Reserve.

"Tent city will encompass everything that happened during that era," according to Margory Lapworth, who thought of the tent city idea. She said visitors can inspect provisions at the general store, drop in on the courthouse, raise the alarm at the fire station and even enjoy a brew at the licensed saloon bar—all under canvas. There'll be cake shops and tearooms, Aboriginal dancers, Punch and Judy puppet shows for all the family and a visit from a Chinese dragon.

The importance of the horse during the 19th century will be emphasised with an equestrian exhibit on the hillside as well as a visit from the Light Horse Brigade. Steam engine exhibits and sheepdog trials will run throughout the day.

Margory Lapworth said there'll be a blacksmith, a storyteller and a gold assayer as well as old church and school displays and art and quilts. Families will be very welcome, with a street party for children behind the community church at noon and spot prizes for best period costumes.

Most of the stalls are not-for-profit following a \$25,000 grant from Manningham City Council.

History will be recreated at the car park in Gold Memorial Road when Warrandyte Theatre Company players perform, in full costume, how Michel and his companion William Haberlin found gold while panning in the creek and later met a local character named Mr Ginger. The narrative script was written by *Diary* co-editor Lee Tindale. Gold Memorial Road will be closed to normal traffic, but a horse-drawn dray and buses will leave Stiggants Reserve for the free re-enactment. Prominent Warrandyte band Paradiddle will perform before the show and there'll be poetry afterwards.

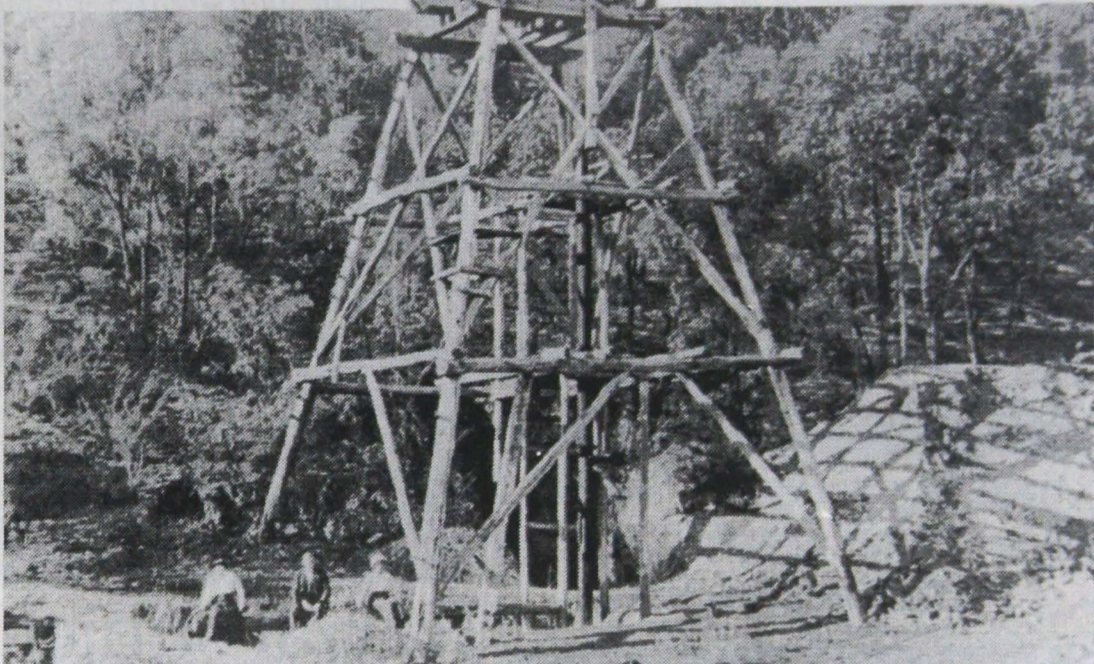
According to Rae Danks, producer of the re-enactment, all those going to the performance should dress up warmly as the area around the creek can be very cold at this time of year.

"It may be very cold," she told the *Diary*.

Warrandyte is already decorated with about 30 canvas banners hanging above the road from West End to the Stonehouse, made by pupils from Andersons Creek and Warrandyte primary schools. The children were invited to create any pictures from olden days and the canvases will go back to the two schools for later exhibition.

Anyone with any energy left after the day's celebrations can round off the anniversary with a bush dance to the music of Paradiddle at the Grand Hotel in the evening.

Touring the mines



Flashback: original Victory poppethead in Whipstick Gully, now replaced by a replica.

By RACHEL BAKER

To celebrate Warrandyte's 150th anniversary of gold discovery, the *Diary* has prepared a rough touring guide to the town's mines.

These shafts and tunnels are located in the State Park, and can be accessed by anyone at any time (with due safety considerations, of course).

Last month, the *Diary* revealed the damage and vulnerability of mines on private land, highlighting the fragility of Warrandyte's physical history.

These sites are not in original condition—one and a half centuries of bushfires, floods and human intervention have slowly eroded much of them. But they do serve as a reminder of the industry and lifestyle that once dominated the town.

Pound Bend

One of Warrandyte's favourite swimming spots, Pound Bend tunnel also carries great historical significance. It was blasted out in 1870 by ambitious goldminers, who hoped to divert water from the riverbed, exposing the earth's riches.

But, claimed amateur historian, Peter Hanson, their plans struck a snag. "There was more mud under the water than they expected," he said. "They abandoned it soon after, and years later the dam was washed away."

Pound Bend is located at the bottom of Pound Road, at the intersection of Everard Drive.

Fourth Hill

One of Warrandyte's extensive goldmining ventures can be relived



today. Fourth Hill tunnel (otherwise known as Geraghty's) is largely intact, and can be walked through and explored today.

The area was developed by William Moore and Patrick Geraghty.

Remaining today is the tunnel itself which, Peter Hanson believes, is one of the most explorer-friendly tunnels in the area; there's also two distinct mullock heaps, two ventilation shafts, and remains of tram tracks, which were made from wattle tree timber and used to transport rock, clay and gold.

The tunnel is stable and quite safe, "as long as you use common sense", Peter said. Fourth Hill can be accessed from Tunnel Street (off Webb Street); veer left at the end of Tunnel Street and walk about 100 metres.

Victory Mine

Just off Yarra Street, Victory Mine was part of the large and lucrative Whipstick Gully region. The area was named after the Whipstick area in Bendigo.

"Miners often travelled throughout Victoria, then returned to Warrandyte," Peter Hanson explained.

Built in 1892, the mine was 67 metres deep, over five levels, and lay amongst a network of other tunnels and shafts. There was also a brick quartz crusher,

poppethead and dam.

So what's left now? The original poppethead is gone, but a replica has been constructed; there's also part of a tunnel, which travels horizontally into Third Hill.

Black's Flat

Mining and rock-crushing took place in this area, within the Black Flat section of the State Park, off Tills Drive. During its functional years, there was a horse-operated puddling machine, which broke up clay and silt, freeing the gold. The puddler was powered by a horse which, attached to the central machine, walked in a circle around the device. Today, it's gone; but, according to Peter Hanson, of the Warrandyte Historical Society, evidence of it remains.

"There's a depression in the ground, showing where the operation took place," Peter said.

Johnson's Tunnel

This L-shaped tunnel in Fourth Hill reveals the intentions of its miners, Johnson and McGee. It runs north, parallel with reefs (or gold and quartz deposits) then turns west.

"They were trying to intersect another reef," Peter Hanson said.

The tunnel was hand-dug and blasted with gelignite, and the by-product—gravel—was used to make roads.

"Visitors can still see holes in the earth where gelignite was inserted," he said.

Johnson's Tunnel can be accessed from the end of Tunnel Street, near Geraghty's Mine.

SO —!

By SYD & ONA



150 gold anniversary: how to be involved

Saturday, June 30

Roll up in goldfields costume to—

TENT CITY: Stiggants Reserve, 11am to 4.30pm.

DISCOVERY RE-ENACTMENT: Gold Memorial Road car park, 2pm. (Gold Memorial Road will be closed to cars.)

BUSH DANCE: Grand Hotel, Yarra Street, 8pm till midnight. (Bookings on 9840 9362.)

HISTORICAL DISPLAYS: Old Post Office Museum, Yarra Street, 10am to 5pm; also Warrandyte Community Centre, Yarra Street.

GOLD MINE TOURS: Departing Old Post Office Museum at 12noon and 3pm. (Stout footwear and a torch recommended.)

KIDS' STREET PARTY: Behind the Community Church, Yarra Street, 12.30 to 1.30pm.

Further information from:



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).



COUNCIL SUBSIDISES FOX BLITZ

Manningham Council will subsidise local residents who actively engage contractors to remove foxes from their properties.

In an initiative designed to reduce fox numbers, Council will pay half of any fox control works conducted on private land, matching dollar for dollar, up to the value of \$200.

The program is part of Council's Financial Incentive Program to protect biodiversity within the municipality, with the main aim being to reduce fox numbers in the whole catchment area.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the fact that with fewer rabbits around, the foxes would be attracted to alternate food supplies and therefore more easily captured.

Manningham Council is encouraging private residents to help control the predator, as foxes hunt livestock, pets and native wildlife.

For more information and/or to request a claim form, residents should call Manningham City Council's Environmental Planning Unit on 9840 9333.

Funding is not retrospective and all money MUST be claimed by 15 June 2001.



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The way it used to be: Warrandyte Primary School pupils and staff mark Federation, assembling in old-style costume.

'Loyal subjects' of years gone by

Chalk, desks in rows, sitting up straight. These elements were part of Warrandyte Primary School's Federation celebrations when the students, dressed appropriately, were looking back to the year 1901.

Students marched to assembly where each student was presented with their Centenary of Federation Medal. On hand to help with the presentation was Jenny Chapman whose grand-

mother attended the school early last century.

The school captains explained the meaning of Federation and read the Australian Affirmation, taken by people becoming Australian citizens. Students, staff and parents slipped back in time to sing God Save The Queen, then the Loyal Oath was repeated, with the boys saluting the flag and the girls placing their right hand over their heart.

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Cast of Merry Widow



THE Warrandyte High School theatre once again proved itself to be a marvellous venue when the Park Players, under the experienced direction of Rosemary Chapple, put on a memorable production of Franz Lehár's "Merry Widow". The theatre's broad stage but intimate setting, marvellous acoustics and a great feeling of being close to the performance was perfect for this operetta.

The Park Players' mix of experienced professional musicians and talented amateurs is a style now being seen more often around suburban Melbourne. This was the fourth work staged by the Park Orchards-based Park Players since the musical theatre group was formed in 1997, and it was their first departure from Gilbert and Sullivan.

Accompanied from the pit by a very adept little orchestra under the direction of recognised soloist and conductor Jenny Caire, the brilliance and humour of the opening ball scene immediately set the tone of the evening. The story is a classic Victorian farce, adapted by Phil Park and Ronald Hanmer and punctuated with some judicious ad-libbing. Set firstly at the Pontevedrian Embassy in Paris then at the home of wealthy widow Madame Glavari, the plot twists and turns amongst various affairs of the Pontevedrian expatriates; the major theme however is an attempt to unite attache Danilo Danilovitch with widow Anna Glavari's millions in order to save the Pontevedrian fatherland from bankruptcy.

The Park Players obviously have a very effective recruiting strategy, because three of the starring roles were filled by outstanding first-time performers with the group. Count Danilovitch was portrayed most engagingly by baritone Gordon Thomas, a regular performer with numerous amateur theatre groups for over 20 years and winner of the Lyrebird Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role (Musical Theatre) in 1994. Gordon has a nice relaxed stage presence

THEATRE

By MARILYN MOORE

and he balanced the slothful womaniser against the man-of-principle in this role quite effectively.

Rhonda Yates, playing the role of Anna Glavari, is also a seasoned performer; she has had extensive experience with groups such as the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Victoria and the Eastern Metropolitan Opera, and recently returned from a UK tour as guest soloist with the Victoria Welsh Male Voice Choir. Her voice is sweet yet powerful and infallibly accurate; it was a sheer delight to listen to her interpretation of Lehár's melodic score.

The role of unfortunate lover Camille, Count de Rosillon was played by remarkable tenor Peter Chapple. A former member of the Victorian State Opera and veteran of thousands of concerts nationally, Peter represented Australia in winning the 1997 International Singing Championship, and has just returned from a highly successful year in the UK and Europe where he was selected from over 1100 international tenors auditioning for the role of Old Deuteronomy in a major German production of "Cats". Peter has a wonderful presence on stage, and it would have been worth seeing this show just to hear his entrancing voice.

Tony Gibson in the role of ageing Baron Zeta imparted to the character a happy blend of diplomatic savoir-faire and pompous ineptitude that also created a commendable stage presence. Tony's performance background is in amateur small ensemble popular music rather than musical theatre, but this is his fourth consecutive role with the Park Players and he clearly has singing and acting talents hitherto

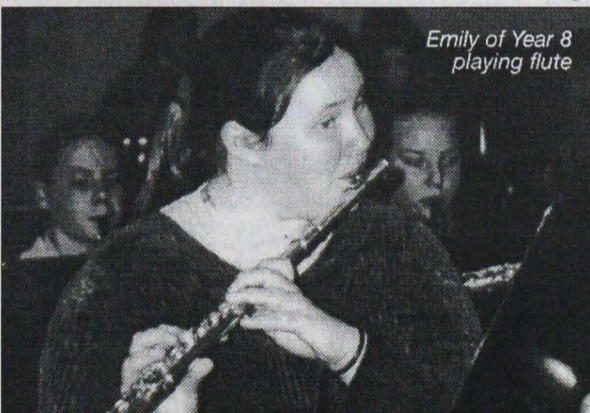
unrealised. The demanding role of the Baron's wife Valencienne was played by Jannine Evans, whose rich singing voice and well-developed dance and choreographic ability added considerably to the depth and momentum of the production.

In fact depth was something this production had quite a lot of: most of the other performers brought years of wide-ranging experience to the show from groups such as the VSO, the Australian Opera, Gilbert and Sullivan Society, the Savoy Opera Company and a host of metropolitan musical theatre productions. Ron Pidcock's depiction of the clown-like Njegus was engaging and memorable; other highlights were Ryan Jacobs as St Brioché and Glyn Seal as Cascada. The main roles were most ably and entertainingly supported by Graham Whiteside (Kromov), Alan Wright (Bogdanovitch), Robyn Pidcock (Sylvia), Cathy Farthing-Barrow (Lolo), Danielle Clark (Dodo), Madeline Hart (Jou-Jou), Verity Fisher (Frou-Frou), Jill Hince (Clo-Clo) and Victoria Zainal (Margot). First time cameo roles for local girls Suzy Parkes (Olga) and Karen Ellis (Praskovia) were also nicely done.

The production team is to be congratulated on a very fine effort. Of particular note were the costumes and set decoration. Some of the ballroom dancing could have done with a little more sparkle and expertise, but flamboyance on the dance floor is difficult to achieve in the confines of a theatre stage. A highlight however was the combined effect of clear diction, effective voice projection and functional acoustics—every word could be clearly understood. All in all it was a great night out, and Warrandyte is fortunate to have a venue that attracts productions of this calibre.

• Enquiries about future productions of Park Players Inc may be directed to Dawn Whiteside on 9879 0886, or Linda McClintock on 9876 3561; the group can be visited online at <http://homepage.mac.com/parkplayers>.

Three days making marvellous music



Emily of Year 8 playing flute

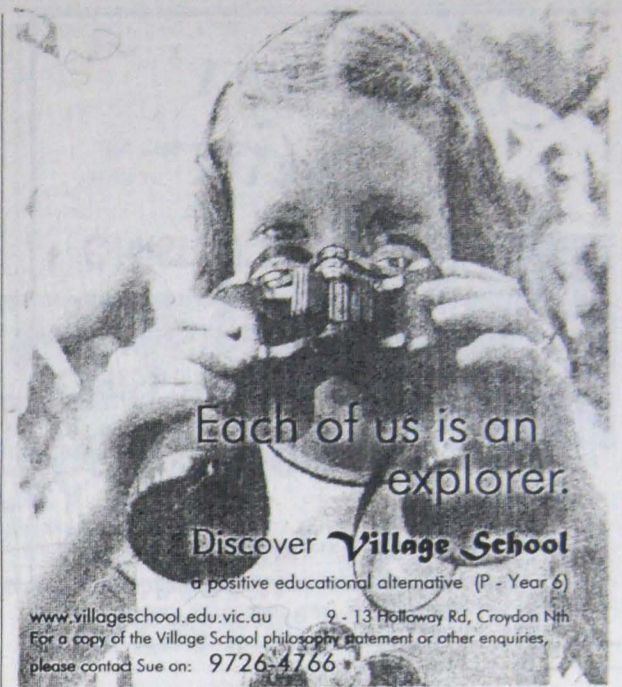
Forget formal schoolwork for three days and nights and just play music. That was the pleasant prospect facing 100 Warrandyte High School students and eight teachers as they climbed into buses at 5pm one evening last month and headed for their annual music camp at Bayswater.

"This short break from the classroom was an ideal time for all music students to enjoy their music," a school spokesperson said. "It might be hard work, but all the practice made the bands sound so good that there was no complaint about the work load."

"When parents arrived at the camp on Friday evening to collect sons and daughters they were treated to the end of camp concert, when the bands could show that all the practice had been worth the effort."

The annual music camp is a highlight for music students at Warrandyte High. "It is a time for enjoying their music as well as improving skills," the spokesperson said.

"Some students now hope to be part of the regional bands which will perform at the Concert Hall in September. Others look forward to the tour at the end of the year when the band travels to a country school and performs with a band from the host school. A wonderful time for young musicians."



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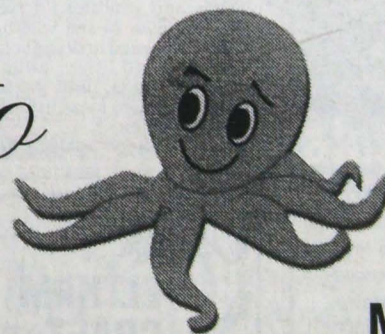
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Submissions for the 2001 Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Fund Award are invited from applicants pursuing interests in the Performing Arts. The Award includes a grant of \$2000, and is available for applicants between the ages of 18 and 25 who live in the Warrandyte, Park Orchards and surrounding areas. Applicants showing particular promise, talent or merit will be assessed for their eligibility on the recommendations of an Expert Panel. Applications close on 30 June 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.

Donations may be sent to The Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 150, Warrandyte, Vic 3113. Cheques can be made payable to C. Lawrence L. Mayall Memorial Fund.

THE first sign that things were not as they should be was when I noticed the small, white cigar-shaped creatures on the kitchen ceiling. They were almost a centimetre long and were no thicker than a ballpoint pen refill. At what I assumed was the front end was a small brown dot. This I reasoned was the eating end.

I got up on a kitchen stool and carefully picked each one from the folds of the cornice. They writhed but were remarkably tough for such small critters.

At the stage, prior to flushing them down the sink, when I had my fingers covered in white, wriggling protrusions, Herself walked into the room.

"My God!! Your fingers are covered in maggots. Where did they come from?"

"I just got them from the ceiling. I saw them there yesterday but didn't think anything of it. I just thought they were grubs. I saw them there again today and decided I'd better do something about them. Anyway, I don't think they're maggots. Don't they live on rotting flesh or on old rotting vegetables?"

The subject was lost in more important decisions about whether I'd brought in the clothes and whether I'd rung the handyman to see whether he was interested in doing some work around the house. Dropped, that is, until the following day when I was ushered into the kitchen.

"They're there again. I just



"That means there must be a whole carcass of them in the roof cavity above the kitchen..."

saw one coming out of the halogen down light. That means there must be a whole carcass of them in the roof cavity above the kitchen. How disgusting! You'll have to get rid of them!"

The interior of The Shoebox is small enough, but the cavity above the kitchen is even smaller. I distinctly remember that from the time I had to insert a chunk of wood between the ceiling joists so I could attach one of those round black metal things on which you hang kitchen implements.

I don't think anyone had been up there since it had been built in the 1940s. The dust was talcum powder fine and as I

shuffled on my back, with my nose pressed against the underside of the tiles, I suddenly sympathised with those poor souls who suffer from claustrophobia.

I managed to get the wood in place by manipulating the chunk along my body and past my neck. I then had to effect a contortionist's move to place the chunk just past the top of my head and before the next joist. That was hard enough, but I shuddered at the thought of how was I now going to reverse the process, with a rotting, smelly, maggot-infested dead bird or possum in my hand.

I tried to minimise my difficulties before clambering into the cavity by conducting a smell test on the kitchen ceiling. I must have looked stupid as I moved my way around the kitchen, standing on a stool with my nose pressed up to the ceiling, sniffing. The embarrassment would have been worth it if I had managed to find the offending carcass, but I couldn't locate an off smell let alone a reeking pong.

There was nothing for it but to conduct an inch by inch exploration of the cavity, on my back, with my hand reconnoitering a few centimetres in front of the top of my head.

I climbed the ladder and entered through the inspection hole with a graceful backward dive. I reached up and grabbed the roof framing and hauled myself in and along. As I low-

ered myself onto the ceiling joists, I imagined my chiropractor's taxi meter spinning violently out of control. I gritted my teeth, closed my eyes and began my macabre exploration.

I decided to head straight for the down light area as that was where Herself had seen the grubs infiltrate the kitchen. Each joist was agonising but I was quietly confident that I would find the source of the maggot infestation.

I had reached the most suffocating section of my journey when I heard Herself and a friend walk into the kitchen.

"There, on the ceiling, maggots, just as I told you!!" Herself intoned.

"No! Don't be silly. Those things aren't maggots. They're just moth larvae. We've had lots of them at our place. Just shove a few moth balls on your cupboards and the fumes will kill them. If they were maggots you would have smelled the dead body a mile off. You know what it's like when a rat dies in the wall or when a possum is trapped and dies in your roof cavity."

"That's what I tried to convince Roger, but you know..."

I considered for a moment that I should simply die there and provide evidence for the maggot theory, but instead I adjusted my body so the protruding joist nail stopped gouging into my left buttock.

ROGER KIBELL



Harassed husband hunts down overhead horrors


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The bug's choice: high on heroin — or eaten alive!

IT is not science fiction. Plants really do eat animals. In fact, Warrandyte has several of these herbaceous carnivores—all of them sundews.

Curiosity about predatory plants took me to a show put on by the Victorian Carnivorous Plant Society. Enthralled, I wandered between rows of spike-jawed flytraps, gluey tentacled sundews and deep, fluid-filled pitchers—plants that were the inspiration for John Wyndham's *Day Of The Triffids*.

I studied the botanical names, as I tend to do at such places. One group of pitcher plants was labelled *Nepenthes*. I recognised the name, but the *nepenthe* I knew was not a plant but a drug—a brown liquid. At the London hospital where I worked in the 1960s, it was given to young rugby players to control severe pain following major knee reconstruction surgery. It was, almost certainly, addictive but used short term, incredibly effective. The mixture was nicknamed "jungle juice"—perhaps a reference to the fact that pitcher plants grow in dense tropical rainforest. But someone got it wrong. *Nepenthe* the drug does not come from *nepenthe* the pitcher plant. It comes from poppies. *Nepenthe* the drug is liquid opium and poppy juice might have been a better name for it.

Opium—from a Greek word meaning juice—is contained in the milky latex that exudes from the incised unripe seed capsules of *Papaver somniferum*, the opium poppy. The major constituent of opium is morphine, with lesser amounts of codeine and other compounds also present. Heroin does not



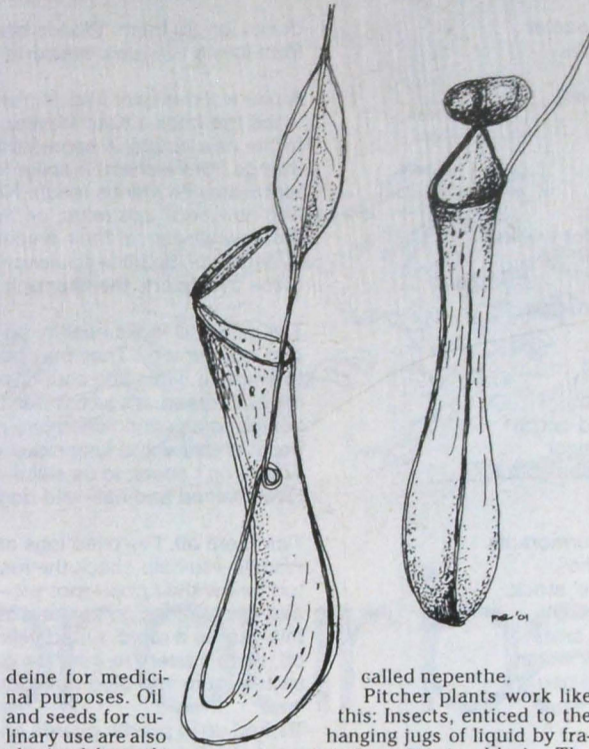
NATURE
By PAT COUPAR
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

come from the plant. It is made artificially by adding acetic acid—in other words vinegar—to morphine. The process is a simple one, the ultimate consequence simply devastating.

While heroin is a relatively new drug, first synthesized in 1874, opium goes back thousands of years. Its physical and psychological effects were known to the Babylonians 4000BC and ancient Egyptians were reputed to use it to pacify their children. In the 17th century a preparation of opium called laudanum was introduced into Britain and its use for a variety of ailments unrestricted until the 20th century.

The opium poppy is thought to have originated in Euro-Asia, the area around Turkey formally known as Asia Minor. Cultivation of the plant, to increase the yield of opium, has resulted in a loss of vigour and the true strain no longer exists in the wild state. The opium poppy occurs in Australia, having been brought into the country during the gold rush era by Chinese workers. It has since spread and is now scattered throughout south-eastern Australia to the extent that it has become a weed of roadsides and disturbed sites. This weedy form is considered a sub-species which does not contain useable opium.

In Tasmania the cultivar poppy is grown commercially, under strict licence, for the extraction of morphine and co-



deine for medicinal purposes. Oil and seeds for culinary use are also obtained from the plant. Yes, the poppy seeds that roll off the top of rolls and bread come from the same poppy as the drug, but do not contain opium; neither will they grow if sown, for they have been treated to make them sterile.

And so to *nepenthe*. What is the connection between the poppy and the pitcher plant? Possibly the answer can be found in Homer's *Odyssey* in which mention is made of a drug that liberates the mind from grief and trouble. It was

called *nepenthe*. Pitcher plants work like this: Insects, enticed to the hanging jugs of liquid by fragrant nectar, tumble in. The walls of the wells are smooth-sided and the insects cannot escape. Originally it was thought that the insects had been drugged by the liquid and it has been suggested that the plants were named *nepenthe* after Homer's drug which was, without doubt, opium. It is a false identity. For it has since been shown that the insect's struggle to be free stimulates secretion of strong digestive juices from the walls of the pitchers. The insects were not drugged at all but were being eaten alive.

It's a lot better than kicking tyres

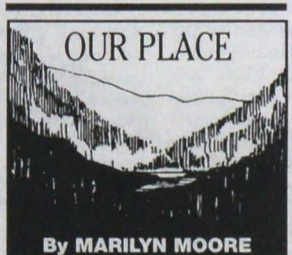
"I HATE that sort of talk," commented one offspring as we thankfully escaped from the car dealership, jumped in our trusty bomb and sped in the general direction of away.

"Like what?"
"Salestalk. Those people don't mean anything they say. They just want to sell you stuff." Bingo, kiddo. Of course they do. It's how they make a living.

"But why do they keep pretending to be interested in us? It's just a formula! Can't they see we're only interested in a car?"

I suppose it is annoying when you're a minimalist in the speech department. My poor babies are too young to remember the days when you could get any sort of assistance in a shop. The gentle art of persuasive flattery is not one that most teenagers would be familiar with.

Not that I like it much either. To avoid getting caught up, we hit the next car yard in a sort of rapid assault. Within seconds of climbing through their fence (well, they shouldn't have put the gate so far away), three of us spread in different direc-



By MARILYN MOORE

tions, quickly checking each vehicle for vital features and ignoring all other temptations. Within five minutes we'd gone through about a dozen likely-looking cars, both offspring happily opening and shutting and switching on and off everything in sight.

Salesmen, quite understandably, counter-attacked from all points of the compass. The first chap to arrive looked moderately optimistic until he'd had a good look at us.

"Can I help you at all?"
"Yep. We want a 4-cylinder 5-speed manual less than two years old..."

"...with a CD-player!" piped up the teenagers in unison.

We couldn't have put it more plainly, I thought, but the sales-

man looked baffled and wandered off, leaving us to our own devices.

Perhaps he thought that some people had strange ways of entertaining themselves; perhaps (more correctly) he judged that his sales pitch would be wasted on us. Maybe he just thought that a windblown-looking mother with kids in tow was a pretty unlikely customer. (He wouldn't be the first to make that mistake.)

Above all, his salespeak probably couldn't cope. The sales technique depends heavily on getting one person under the thumb; there seemed to be no game plan to counteract a moving swarm.

What he'd failed to realise was that we were merely the reconnaissance party—the decoy, in fact. The fourth member of our group had entered the car yard by more conventional means, and was quietly getting on with the serious business of identifying a prospective purchase, completely unhindered.

Pretty soon we were zipping down the freeway, putting the chosen car through its paces and feeling rather pleased with ourselves. As a means of dodging salespeak, packhunting had

worked really well. All we'd needed was a clear idea of the car we wanted, several people to scour the yard at once, some kids to speedily work out what all the knobs and gizmos did, a couple of pairs of long legs to test out the back seats, a driver or two and an economic rationalist. Wow! Buying a car was never so easy.

Famous last words, of course. Choosing a car is one thing; buying it is something else altogether.

Once you're inside that office to talk business, you're right where they want you: under the thumb. And now it's their turn to pack hunt: one person to do the deal, the boss, the girl with a lovely smile who gets drinks all round, the person who has heaps of extra deals on trimmings, and finally the person who tries hard to sell finance and extended warranties. We spilled out the door feeling vaguely done-in.

"I'm sure they're lovely people, really," I explained to our shell-shocked teenager. "They wouldn't be in the job if they didn't enjoy meeting people. And after all, who'd want to buy anything from a grump?"

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Middle Yarra tributary

Its thin blue line snakes between a web of roller-coaster contours, probes a brief and legendary trance of life. Dew climbs ladders as it hits the spider silk and pasture weave. Tributary 12,023 pours, downhill all the way, out of the unfolding map of light. Watch it from my window, through the winter rain, silt weeping yellow under water sheets.

Gully-fed, a drainage line, not even creek, with just one permanent, year-round pool, it scarcely runs for weeks, even in wet years, after spring downpours turn the hills to sponge-cake, and you can pull the cape weed effortlessly, like candles from green icing.

Ink-edged reflections are inverted into liquid silver, stars shatter when green bulls make their dates out on the hop. Ewing's tree-grog is small but loud. Poised on the brink of summer, he stakes his band-width in a nightly pitch for mates—another jumped-up tenor in the aleatory chorus for ratchet, click-toy and pobblebonk.

Dead white bones of trunks stick out from broken circles, each water-widening base. Little cormorants dive, blue cranes wade and dip. No one knows who introduced the roach, and English sporting 'course' stock: a larder for the wading birds—no lazy stirrer like carp or goldfish. A fringe of ragged sleeves and hollow arms poke through, leaves shift random sun-bursts over water. Here, bats compete for living space with bees and parrots, owls with sugar gliders in a brilliant stag.

Old sun-bleached arms multiply in water. Annual insiders have first choice. Swallows skim and lift for dragonflies, wrens seek sanctuary in the rushes. On its day, and in its own sweet way, the watercourse flows through here. Trees stagger onwards, down the valley sides to an unseen river where parrots, those volatile alarmists, screech and weave, just missing trees. Or, wham! You pull your head in suddenly as ducks whoosh past your ears. As they buzz you, you duck low. Twenty pairs of feet thrust forward, skid water, ski to a stop. The ripples widen, like the day does, and everything suddenly shivers and then clears. Distantly, a concrete mixer chugs on the new estate.

You could hear it then, at times, calm summer nights—the river is almost two kilometres from here; from our semi-detached little pool of it. The horses, when they stretch and drink, barely crease the surface of the dam, hardly ruffle water with their breath. Tenemented birds and nesting

ducks ignore them. Worlds blink below. Dew drops fall from lolling tongues, breaking the meniscus of taut light.

A plane slides over Middle Yarra valleys, its shadow leaps the track a Kato leaves, crawling on tank treads to the new estate. A spare bucket lined with teeth swings from a chain. A spike for splitting mudstone terminates its mantis reach. Neighbours have installed 'the new pool' upstream, on their side of the wire. I'm downstream of their dream, which now includes a fantasy of Spanish opulence, plus two blunt pipes, black cyclinders, the filter unit. A motor hums at night.

The gully still looks healthy on their side. I'm amazed, and wonder why. They may be simply ignorant of how to empty it. I imagine council rules, guidelines from the EPA remain unread. It's just water. No big deal. Recently, I crept across and fished two plastic tubs out of the ooze: chlorine and fungicide, for "healthy swimming pools". They won't speak to us since we complained about their 'pets'. Five chained and half-wild dogs, barking stupid at the sky.

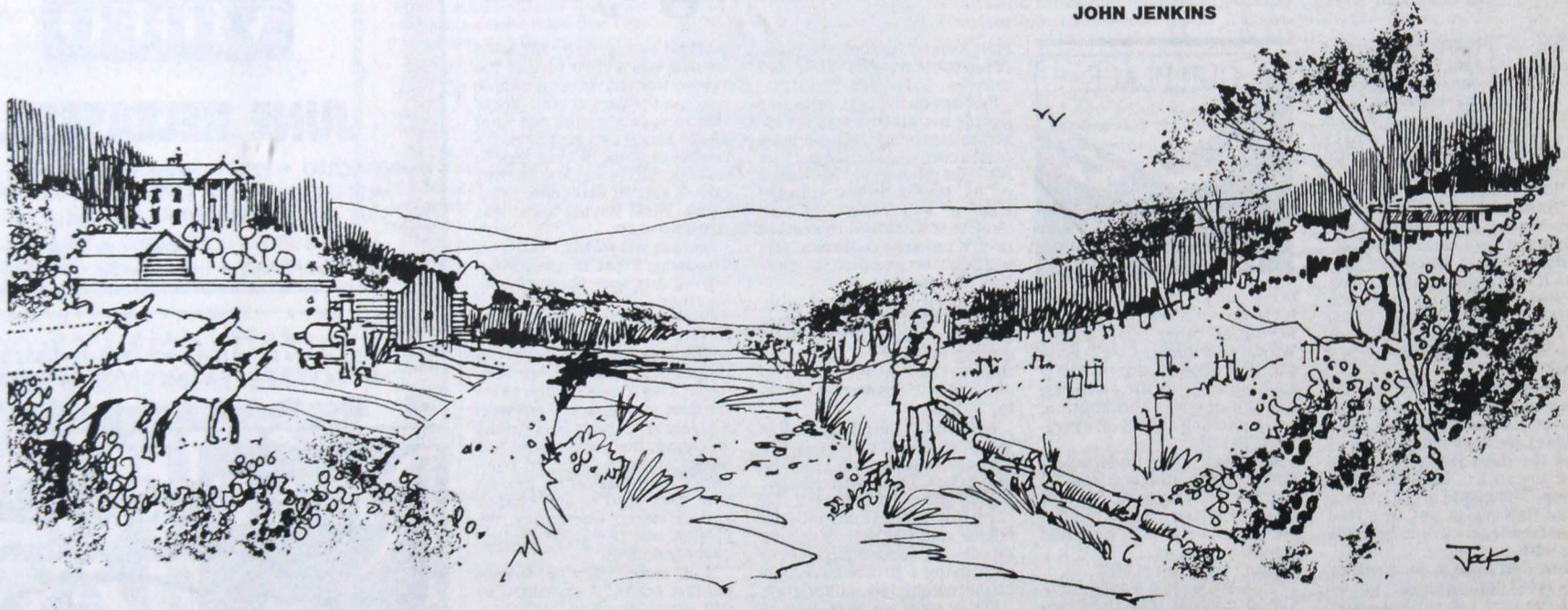
Tick them off. I've piled logs across my side—Fortress Wildlife—to help check the rush. There's no chlorine scald on turf below their pool—not yet—but raw roads and excavations on the new estate have increased flow this year to a rapid, turbid yellow. Since we put the cattle off, there's been 're-gen.' on our side. That's one big plus—swamp gum and blue box toddlers now lean on gully sides.

Tucked up in plastic guards and weed mats from recycled pizza trays, an infant army guards the ephemeral lifeline I've planted—lots of sedge, poa, spiky mat rush; really tough and daggy stuff, stuck firmly in the mud; thickening clumps to sieve, return lost oxygen, divide run-off into micro-flows, to slow things down to last year's calm.

It's said some native plants can break down poisons, lap up truly noxious stuff—like formaldehyde—if it doesn't kill them first. In summer, they'll stand dry and thirsty, making 12,023 good habitat—flattened mats of native grass for roos, until the rain revives the silver blur of seed, green and yellow whorls, the microscopic wonder.

Recently, we sent our invitations, had an annual picnic here. Locals say it's more like a soak than ordinary dam. Stays full all year, has always been refreshed with groundwater from deep beneath the Yarra's legend, the bones of these enduring hills.

JOHN JENKINS



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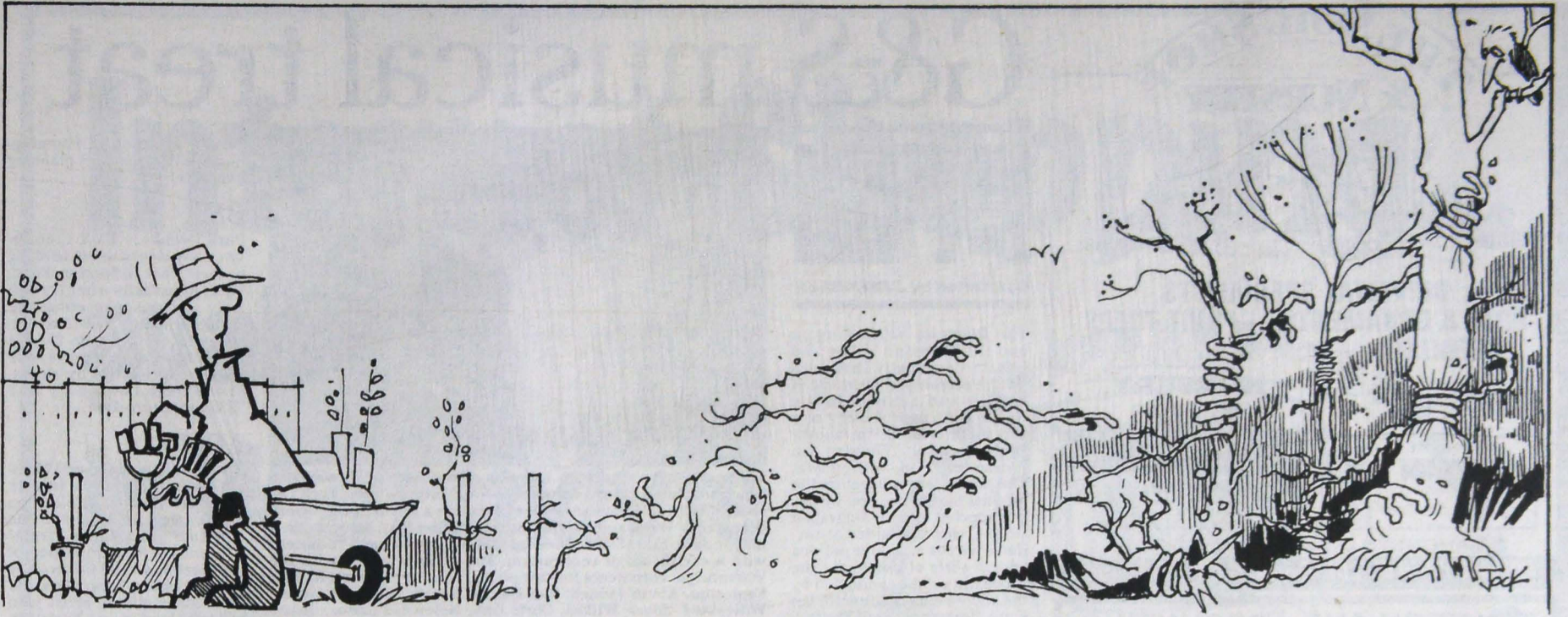
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A yarn for our backyards

ONCE we'd heard that the Holy Swagman was camped down at Bolin Bolin Billabong under the shade of some river red gum trees, we went to meet him.

There he was, boiling the billy for the great Australian tea drinking ceremony. He sang all the praises of that billabong and prayed to the earth for us to come down that reconciliation track with him.

I had met him in Warrandyte many years ago and was struck by the resolve of his life. The swaggie is the closest we Europeans come in this country to creating an indigenous persona. The Holy Swagman gathers his drops of immortality through his material penance. He has renounced the materialism of the industrial society. The land is his holy text. Whatever he cannot carry to the next camp is not important. He must live the life of the land.

This swagman was not created by hard economic times as had happened in the past, he is a swaggie through environmental choice. Not for him the life of consumer accumulation amidst an industrially aggravated landscape. This Holy Swagman carries the river in his palm, the mountains in his mind and the soul of soil in his heart.

As we shared tea prepared in fire-blackened billies, the Holy Swagman spoke of the genesis of his family and of the family's first father, who came to Australia not so long ago.

They were part of human flotsam and jetsam washed out of European cities as the industrial revolution of the 1800s cast away people and tore villages asunder. Not unlike the technologically driven changes today, except there is nowhere to go any more. There is no other country, not that there was then. Here was already owned. They came out here to reclaim their lives with a naïve spirit that now seems unfathomable.

Along with the spielers and illywackers they joined the hunt for gold at Andersons Creek and found little to reward their effort. They chopped and hacked their way across the land like human locusts, defacing and despoiling. When it was over, only hillsides of rooted-up earth were left, replete with erosion and toxic residues left over from gold extraction. They even took up arms in Ballarat against unfair laws and oppressive authority under the stars of the southern cross to defend their right to do this.

THE HOLY SWAGGIE: 1

Words by **GLEN JAMESON**
Graphics by **JOCK MACNEISH**

It was one of the largest human migrations in history. People pouring into virgin bushlands carving up the box forests with great hope and optimism.

"Then, when it came time to settle down into the country," the Holy Swagman said, "we took on a selection. When we first saw it, we thought our selection was paradise—the original garden—and it was, until we razed it. The Squattocracy had taken the best country, having the money behind them, they got the waterholes and creeks, the fertile land. They never realized the impossibility of making a living in such country. It was infertile. It was not arable land. Still we cleared trees and ploughed paddocks, believing rain will follow the plough.

"On our selection we had this huge tree that seemed to hold up the sky. It was so huge we called it the Tree of Man. It was so full of hollows that just about every form of wildlife lived in it. Father reckoned that you could just about see evolution pouring out of that tree day and night. We put up the family home next to it. Then we chopped down every other tree so we had no shade when it was hot and when it rained. We had the bog of geebung all around us. We watched the soils just wash from the selection with the runoff from the rain. So little soil to start with, then lost forever. Most of the selectors had never farmed before and never would again; if they could help it.

"Our eyes could not see the reality of the land. Our ears did not hear the chant of Jimmie Blacksmith, recounting other lives being ruined in the same process. There were no stories to guide us through," the Holy Swagman said.

Their lives were unimaginably hard. As the land was being ruined, so it ruined them. Broken dreams fed on possums and wallaby. Drovers left wives and families to search for paid work. No wonder there were so many volunteers for any war. The squatters' police persecuted any with Irish blood in them, which were many. Those box iron bark forests across cen-

tral Victoria produced so many bushrangers, so many outlaws. Hard times, impossible situations produce hard, reckless people, with nowhere to go but over the top. There was no going back; there wasn't anywhere else to go. Jumbucks filled empty tucker bags. Box forests burnt with anger from injustice. Box forests fuelled letters from Jerilderie.

"Our family farm went from bad to worse, as did most," the Holy Swagman said. "The vagaries of the climate tempted us into a little more farming, a little more clearing—then wipe the slate clean of us. Hanrahan was always right. We were ruined no matter what happened. Then amidst all the desolation, the Tree of Man died.

"When we thought nothing else could go wrong the garden plants, which our mother had nurtured to make the place more homely, ran amok and invaded the bush. Plants we never thought much about were suddenly jumping the front fence and heading bush. Freesias, brooms, agapanthas, plum trees and hawthorns—each year making their way further from the house.

"Do you know that garden plants are a greater threat to the environment than mining? Mining takes up such a small proportion of the land's surface compared to agriculture or housing. Mining companies pay a lot of money to revegetate areas and their activities are regulated. But nobody regulates gardens. All sorts of plants are planted out in our backyards. Nobody checks to see if they are going to go wild. Many of them do. Many go over the fence into the State Park, spreading along the river, changing all in their path.

Pretty soon those plants destroy the habitat of the native animals. Remarkably soon that bushland turns into a weedscape. We seem to be turning everything into an experimental garden. Many of those garden plants are weeds right across the world.

Everywhere soon, the landscape will appear the same. A cultural landscape you could call it. It will all be as homogenized as is our industrial lives from Wyoming to Warrandyte. You can see it all in our industrially designed home gardens.

"My father taught me lots of things. His father taught him. But neither passed on any environmental wisdom to their sons. All those hills and valleys are still cleared. Still losing soils. I look at it now and see all that agricul-

tural land going to wrack and ruin. It's like a cancer spreading across the country. Land degradation, which started then, continues to this very day. Though some reconciliation with the land has started, we have only just begun the trek back and it's a long way back.

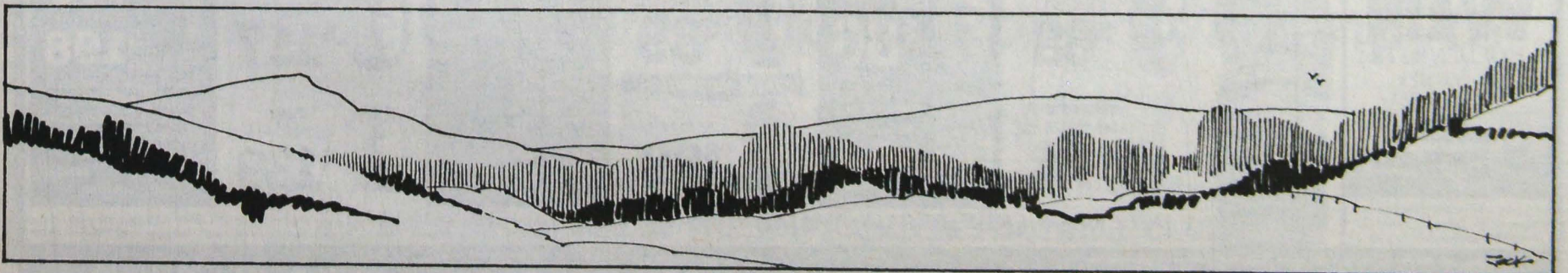
"If we had just left the farms they may have gone back to bush, but our plants remained like unresolved wild thoughts: and so they grow. I wander back to the old selection now and then. Seedlings of those garden plants are still invading the bushlands around those old farms, still destroying the habitat of what's left out there. I do my bit of weeding to try and contain it. Penance for the sins of the father, you could say.

"We must be careful not to continue the invasive process. I see so much destruction in our yards as the last of the old indigenous forests of Warrandyte go under gardens. Gardens full of plants that fashionable nurseries sell. Plants that add nothing to the local ecology. Plants that will convert Warrandyte into another suburban sprawl. Plants that deny the sense of place. I wonder what it will look like when all those old forest trees growing in gardens finally die. It will happen because too few are replacing them now.

"It takes so long for a people to understand the nature of where they live. There is so much going on in our private lives that it is difficult to look up and take the longer view. It takes even longer for those views to be shared by society. But as yet we haven't learned that story, so we can pass it on: a yarn about the yard. Australians love the bush. They love the landscape and there is a real desire to come to terms with the nature of this land; to find our place in this landscape. A great place to start looking for that place is in our own backyards."

What is the story that fathers can tell that contains truth and mystery, that unlocks the secrets of the bush? Perhaps fathers can tell their sons and daughters about the indigenous plants of Warrandyte, about the original garden. A bush secret that protects the box forests of Warrandyte forever."

The smoke curled from the gum boughs and anointed us with its cleansing airs. Jimmie's chant thrummed on the leaves. The Holy Swagman boiled the billy and then sang a little ditty of our polluted broken cities, commending us to mend our gardening ways.



G&S musical treat



Conducted by JUDY GREEN

The Diamond Valley Singers and the Diamond Valley and Eltham Community Orchestra will be presenting the music of Gilbert and Sullivan in the bright and comical story of a wily sorcerer at the Warrandyte High School Theatre in Alexander Road, Warrandyte. The production will feature the original music, but you will be transported into an Australian setting, with the added attraction of circus acts, love potions and all sorts of problems. The orchestra will be conducted by the show's musical director Ian Lowe. Performances of The Sorcerer will take place at 8pm on June 29 and 30, July 4, 5 and 7 and on July 1 at 2pm. Tickets are \$13 and \$18 and bookings can be made by ringing Verna on 9431 1862. All profits to World Vision and Open House.



Who says there's no such thing as a free lunch? Warrandyte Neighbourhood House volunteers—plus others from Park Orchards and Templestowe—were invited to a lunch to mark both Volunteers' Week and Neighbourhood House Day. Manningham mayor Julie Eisenbise turned up and presented each volunteer with a certificate of recognition. Mayor Julie posed with the Warrandyte volunteers for this photo. They are (from left) Pam Eggleston, Kevin Fiddes, Rae Danks, Karen Throssell, Joann Willeford, Joyce Wilkes, Chris Guy, Helen O'Connor, Jenny Chapman, Carmel Turtle and Cr Eisenbise.

July 5, will look at Manningham's environmental planning overlays.

BMX

Park Orchards BMX Club invites any riders to come along to their track in Stintons Road, Park Orchards for a free try-out. Fully supervised meetings are held on the first and third Saturday of each month. No age restrictions and the track is always open for use by riders. Phone Irene Dawson on 9719 7235 for information.

AGM

The 25th Annual General Meeting of the Warrandyte Historical Society will take place on Sunday, July 16 at 2pm at the Museum, 111 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. The formal part of the meeting will be followed by guest speaker, Bruce Jackson, local glass gilding artist who will talk about his art. Entertainment will be provided by raconteur Tom Bone reciting work by Banjo Patterson.

Information

Information Warrandyte has received several requests for details of local play groups and babysitting groups. If anyone belongs to such a group that welcomes new members, the Information Centre would appreciate hearing about it. Please ring 9844 3082 between 10am and 4pm weekdays.

Dance

The next social dance at the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road, South Warrandyte will be on Saturday, June 9 followed by the July dance on Saturday, July 7. An excellent band is provided and dancing is old time with some new vogue. Cost is \$6. Ring 9723 3892 for details.

Care

Volunteers are needed to spend a few hours each week to visit older people or those with disabilities in our local community. Phone 9762 5211 for further information.

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Poets

Poet, teacher and published author, John Jenkins, will conduct six workshops, designed to get you writing poetry, at the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House. Sessions, which are suitable for both beginners and poets seeking fresh inspiration, include active exercises and feedback in a supportive environment. Cost is \$12 per session. Enquiries to the Neighbourhood House on 9844 1839.

Theatre

The next production of the Warrandyte Theatre Company will be the Australian play "Gulls" by Robert Hewett. Performances will be in the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute hall, commencing at 8pm, on June 28, 29, 30 and July 5, 6 and 7. "Gulls" has been described as "intense, confront-

ing, humorous, perceptive and deeply moving". It will be directed by Cheryl Ballantine. For tickets phone 9844 1744.

Guides

An enthusiastic group of girls is looking for an equally enthusiastic woman to join Warrandyte Guiding in a leadership role. Either the Guide or Brownie groups would be delighted to meet you. Girls meet on Thursday evenings in Warrandyte, and all training and a uniform would be provided. If interested, please contact Kerri Fairley on 9722 1570 (AH).

Op Shop

Lions Op Shop manager, Sue, would like to thank the community for the generous donations and the unusual items which have been donated. She asks if goods can be dropped in during the hours of 10.30am and 4.30pm on Monday to Friday or 11am to 5pm at weekends. Some thefts have occurred when items of value have been left outside. Large goods and valuable items can be picked up

by ringing 9844 4392 during the hours above. The shop currently needs woollen coats, blankets, jumpers, gloves and small electrical items such as toasters, frypans, radios, etc.

African

Two African music workshops will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Sunday, June 24. A singing workshop with Ghanaian musician, educator and composer Nii Tettey Tetteh will begin at 10am, with a drumming workshop, also conducted by Tettey, beginning at 12.30pm. These will be followed by a "singing and drumming gig" at 4pm. Further details from Robyn on 9844 5155.

Seminar

The next Green Wedge Seminar to be held at the Currawong Bush Park conference room, Reynolds Road, Doncaster East is entitled "Insects and Fungi for Biological Control of Weeds". It will take place on Thursday, June 7 at 7.30pm. Enquiries to Samantha Bradley on 9840 9307. The following seminar, on

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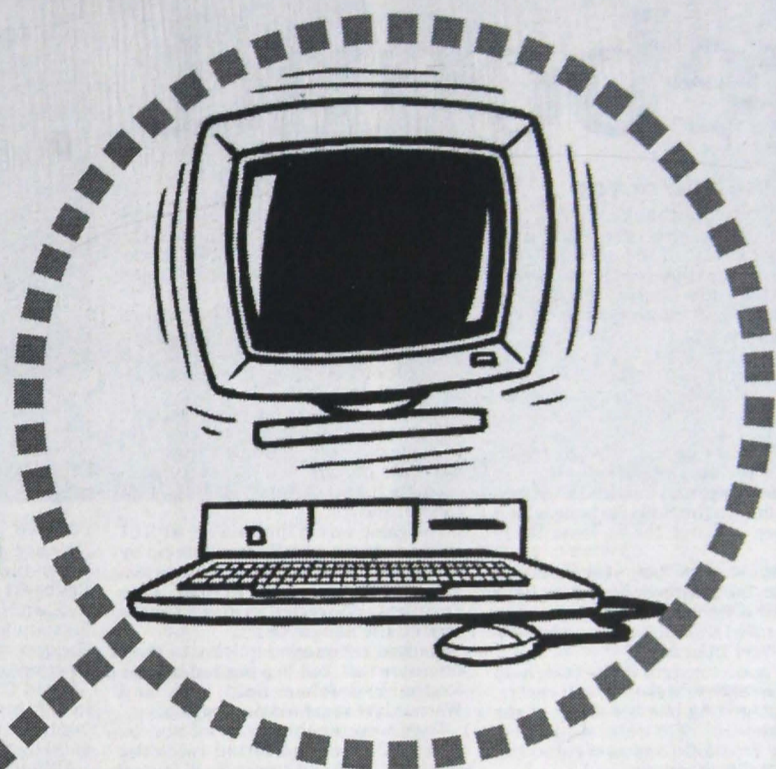
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PROUD SPONSORS OF THE WARRANDYTE FOOTBALL CLUB

Redback girls on rebound

By TONY OLIVER

Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Club's Under-16 girls rebounded from their first defeat of the season to defeat the dangerous Northcote at the Olympic Leisure Centre on June 1 in the Friday night junior championship competition.

Warrandyte had lowered their colours to the undefeated Bulleen at Marcellin College the previous week, being hauled in after a fast start to go down 37-32.

The Redback girls needed to regain their composure and cover for the loss of Jenna Hardy, who suffered a serious knee injury in the Bulleen game which will keep her out for at least three weeks.

Northcote have been inconsistent this year, but their performances have included a fighting draw against the highly-rated Broadmeadows and a 44-27 win over Doncaster.

Their main strength in the match-up with Warrandyte was their tall centre, who was getting her fair share of the rebounds, but tight defence, particularly by Emma Collins prevented her punishing Warrandyte.

The Redbacks' pressure was working well and a number of turnovers produced baskets.

Louise Yates was a stand-out player for Warrandyte, who ran out comfortable 35-21 winners.

However, the draw ahead will be challenging, with Warrandyte's next-up game against the well-performed

Broadmeadows.

What should have been a percentage-builder at home for Warrandyte's Under-18 boys in their East/West 2 conference game against Banksia turned out to be a cliff-hanger.

Banksia were weakened by injuries and unavailability of a number of key players and the Redbacks, coming off a couple of recent heavy losses, led 24-14 at half-time.

But the game was far from over.

A revitalised Banksia come out after the interval and, although they had only five players and no reserves on the bench, the visitors took it right up to Warrandyte.

The game was in the balance with 61 seconds to go, with Warrandyte up by four points. The Redbacks had possession, and game top-scorer Jake Templeton converted an inside shot to stretch the margin to six.

Banksia rebounded quickly to their offensive end, but in a packed key the Redback defence held firm and Warrandyte regained possession.

They were unable to score and although Banksia converted twice the home side held on to win 48-46 to stay in contention for a finals berth.

Warrandyte's top scorers were Templeton (22) and Tim Given (12).

Malcolm Anderson's Under-12 Metro 3 boys started warm favourites against Southern Peninsula at Rosebud West but trailed by two points at the break.

In the second half, Warrandyte managed to hit enough baskets when it



Warrandyte Under-9 Hannah Bensch (No 12) fights for possession on the court to force a jump ball against Park Orchards at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre. She has Eleanor Cousens (42) and Sasha Feldman (6) in support. Park Orchards were too good on the day, winning 14-2.

counted to hold off the opposition. Defence proved the difference between the two teams, with the young Redbacks able to steal the ball and run it down the court for some easy baskets while stopping quick breaks by the opposition. Warrandyte were able to grind out a 26-22 win.

David Gibson, playing off the bench in only his fourth game with the team, contributed well, giving Anderson a solid foundation to build on.

Although sitting just outside the final group, this side have yet to defeat any of the top five teams and face a number of danger games in coming weeks. This includes an away game against Upper Yarra and the boys will certainly know what it feels like to be "on the road".

In what has become a rare event recently, Damian Arsenis' Under-11

Metro boys were on display locally at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre, against Doncaster.

The game started slowly with neither side establishing any dominance and with seven minutes to go in the first half, Doncaster had established 8-4 lead, which they extended to 18-11 at the break.

The second half was much better, with Warrandyte applying a lot more pressure and finding the ring. However, the Redbacks could not bridge the gap, going down by 36-31.

Although they are in the top five, the defeat will dent Warrandyte's chances and they will need to improve to realise the potential shown in the early part of the season.

In other games, Warrandyte's second Under-14 boys side, coached by Gavin Whitmore, lost 49-7 to the visiting

Broadmeadows in a match which did not truly reflect the endeavour and determination of the Redbacks, and the Under-18-2 girls lost their Metro 3 encounter with Melbourne 31-21.

The Under-14 Girls played Werribee in a game the Redbacks would dearly like to have won. The contest at Mill Park was close in the first half with the teams going goal for goal.

Passing let Warrandyte down in the second half and gave Werribee openings which they exploited to win 34-24.

Warrandyte's top Under-18 girls went down 32-30 to fourth-placed Ringwood and Martin Clark's Under-14 boys were defeated 29-23 by top side Nunawading.

On a brighter note, Emma Wood's Under-12 girls easily accounted for Sunbury 30-8.

Saturday shooters in good shape

By TONY OLIVER

The grading phase of the Saturday Eastern District Junior Basketball Association competition is now winding down, with a number of the Warrandyte teams performing well.

The Redbacks' senior boys team, the Under-19s, had won four out of five when this edition of the *Diary* went to press, including a high-scoring win over the Nunawading Vikings at Warrandyte High School at their latest outing.

Warrandyte were never seriously threatened and won 63-50, Simon Arsenis, Brian and Trevor Elliott and Jason Bowen their top scorers.

The Under-19s' only loss so far was to the highly-fancied top Bulleen side.

Also consistently racking up the baskets are Malcolm Anderson's Under-11 boys, who swamped Park

SPORT



Orchards 45-15 under the guidance of Nick Peters, standing in for Anderson in a rare weekend off.

The Redbacks held a comfortable 13-point lead at the break, frustrated by Park Orchards' tall centre, who was effective in the rebounds but was unable to convert that attribute to points on the scoreboard.

Every Warrandyte player scored as the Redbacks ran away with the game in the second half.

Anderson has this team looking good with a 4-1 record, the only blemish a three-point loss to Ivanhoe.

The Under-13 boys were unlucky to lose to Eltham.

After four easy wins in prelimi-

nary rounds, this team were moved up to B-S Grade but were forced into foul trouble by the small, fleet-footed Eltham side.

Warrandyte finished with only four on the court and Eltham held on to win by a point.

Warrandyte's Under-17 A-grade girls coached by Tristan Messerle have made a strong start, the highlight of an undefeated run a one-point win over the top Bulleen side.

The following week, strengthened by the return of Casey Hawley, they made short work of Eltham, scoring by 22 points in a top all-round performance.

Messerle also coaches the Redbacks' top Under-15 girls side, who were promoted to the elite A-grade after three easy wins in the first cycle of grading.

First up was a creditable loss to Eltham, followed by a game against the equally well-credentialed Bulleen.

Warrandyte were weakened by the loss of Jenna Hardy, who seriously injured a knee injury playing in the junior championship the previous night, but opened well and led for most of the first half.

The game was at Bulleen and the home side held a two-point lead at the break.

They had 10 players at their disposal to Warrandyte's six and the clincher came with two minutes to go, when Bulleen extended their lead to eight with a three-point shot.

Warrandyte were far from disgraced and are looking forward to the rest of the season, having just played the two strongest teams in the group.

In other games, Warrandyte's Under-13 and Under-11 girls suffered heavy defeats, while Lorraine Parfitt's Under-9 girls could not keep pace with Eltham, going down 25-7.

Old guard prevails

Existing office bearers were re-elected at Warrandyte Tennis Club's recent annual general meeting.

President Mark Bence, secretary Wendy Synnot and treasurer Barry Dick were returned unopposed and Michelle Gilling was installed as the new junior convener.

Two of the club's teams were successful in the finals of the summer season in the Lilydale and District Night Tennis Association competition.

In the Tuesday night men's competition, Section 6 team Bogong (Mal Brown, Greg Dwyer, Mark Dwyer, Ross Henderson, Trevor McBain) won in a very tight finish and in the Wednesday night mixed event, Blue Boys scored a comfortable victory in Section 3. The team comprised Cameron McBain, Neil Sproat, Mark Hill, Paul Lynch, Michelle Gilling and Lyndal Mackintosh.

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ACT GLOBALLY... SHOP LOCALLY

Beaten Bloods unbowed

Another close encounter gives Warrandyte the slip

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte's stop-start 2001 football season stalled again on June 2 — but in lofty company.

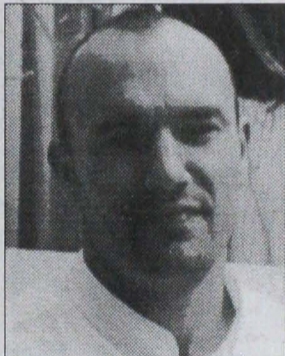
The Bloods went down by just 10 points away to unbeaten EFL Third Division leaders South Croydon. It was by far the closest shave of the season so far for the tearaway Southerners, who had run up a percentage of 263.87 in a seven-match winning streak and opened up a two-game break on the rest of the competition.

Warrandyte were gallant in defeat in a physical and entertaining encounter. They conceded a four-goal start into a stiff breeze, but outscored the red-hot premiers favourites thereafter.

A tardy start to the wind-assisted last term, in which they allowed Croydon to kick the first two goals and blow their lead out to 33 points, cost the Bloods the match and a prized scalp.

It took us 20 minutes into that term to respond — but that response was quite enough to have home fans glancing anxiously at their watches.

Four goals in seven minutes had the Warrandyte faithful roaring their approval and encouragement. Alas, the final siren was nigh.



Scott Hunter: 'We're not far away.'



Final score was South Croydon 12.17 (89), Warrandyte 11.13 (79).

It was the Bloods' fifth defeat in eight games — two of those losses by two points in away matches. Add the South Croydon margin to that and it's three defeats by an aggregate 14 points.

"We are not far away," said Warrandyte coach Scott Hunter after the latest disappointment. "We were lazy in the first quarter and it took us 20 minutes to kick a goal with the wind in the last."

"When we did it was bang, bang, bang — but why couldn't we have done it from the opening bounce (of that quarter)?"

"All we can do is continue to work hard," he said. "Hard work makes your own luck, and it will come."

Warrandyte Football Club president Robert "Noddy" Ireland described the fightback as excellent. "But we should never have let them get that far in front," he said.

South Croydon were quick to show their class. Favoured by a stiff breeze, they had three goals on the board in the first 10 minutes as Warrandyte struggled to get the ball beyond their own half-forward line.

The home side were already looking stronger in the air and were teaming with precision.

The Bloods laboured for 11 minutes for their first score — a behind — and when South Croydon goaled from a sharp angle a minute later, the game looked in danger of becoming a procession.

But the rot stopped there.

Warrandyte tightened their defence and Matt Blagrove, Dale Vitiritti and Guy Taylor came under notice for some desperate football. Our forward thrusts, however, were all too easily repulsed for want of a tall up there to take the big mark.

Still, little further damage was done on the scoreboard and at the first change it was 4.5 to 0.4. "Four goals in this wind is nothing, absolutely nothing," Hunter told his troops. "Keep harassing, go direct and we'll work our way back into the game."

South Croydon had other ideas. They marked and goaled inside a minute, but Aidan Davey pulled that one back — our first — three minutes later with a clever snap.

Disciplined team play set South Croydon up for their sixth at 11 minutes, but dashing responses from Timmy Andrews and Matt Wood at 15 and 17 minutes had the deficit back to 18 points.

The home side snapped a major almost immediately and a great mark produced another with 20 minutes gone. The lead was 30 points, but Warrandyte were far from done.

Blagrove to Chris Cornell at 23 minutes and a great solo effort by Taylor at 26 had them right back in it, 8.7 (55) to 5.7 (37) at the interval.

The Bloods came out full of desire for the ball in the third quarter and were rewarded after four minutes when a magnificent run by Wood found Andrews in the goal square.

When Blagrove snapped a beauty a minute later, it was a



Dean Hunter (left) and Guy Taylor, two of Warrandyte's best against South Croydon.



six-point ball game.

Warrandyte continued to attack into the breeze, which had moderated, and to defend like demons, but South Croydon grabbed breathing space with a fine mark and goal at 11 minutes.

The Bloods were breaking down up forward with misdirected passes and loose defence at the 20-minute mark let

the home side in for their 10th.

At the last change it was 10.13 (73) to 7.10 (52). By no means an impossible task in the conditions — but early goals with last use of the breeze were going to be crucial to Warrandyte's cause.

Unfortunately, the early goals went the other way — two in the first six minutes for a 33-point South Croydon lead.

Surely that was it. Can we go home now? Better not.

Fourteen minutes of fast and furious football followed before the Bloods were able to make a real impression on the scoreboard, courtesy of defender Dean Hunter, who had followed his man upfield, was freed and kicked truly.

Blagrove snapped another five minutes later and Vitiritti to young ruckman Craig Dick, now stationed at full-forward, a minute on had cut the deficit to 16 points.

Dick struck against two minutes later after pulling down a screamer in the square and there were just 10 points in it.

Were we going to pull off the upset of the season? Unfortu-

nately, no.

It was no place for the timid out there as 36 players put their bodies on the line, but time was the enemy and the siren sounded with the Bloods deep in attack.

Warrandyte's goalkickers were Andrews 2, Blagrove 2, Dick 2, Davey, Wood, Cornell, Taylor and Hunter.

Their best were Hunter, Blagrove, Dick, Glen Carle, Liam Riley, Wood, Vitiritti and Kimberly O'Connor.

The Reserves, their manpower sapped by injuries, were also brave in defeat. They matched South Croydon in the first half but succumbed to pressure in the third quarter and were beaten by 44 points, 12.8 (80) to 5.6 (36).

Their best were Rob Ryan, Joel Charles, Sam McLaughlin and Ben Gaylard.

Warrandyte's next game will be at home to Norwood on June 16, EFL club fixtures suspended on the Queen's Birthday Holiday weekend for interleague matches against the Western Region Football League at Clayton.

Dine out with Les Stillman

Former Victorian cricket coach, player and league footballer Les Stillman will be guest speaker at Warrandyte Football Club's past players and officials luncheon on June 23.

The function will be held in the clubrooms before the home game against Doncaster East.

Tickets are \$25 and include a two-course meal, drinks and half-time refreshments.

They are available from Bucky Rodgers (0411 519671), Anthony Giles-Peters (9844 2573) and Brian Tomlinson (9876 2178).

● A football match with a considerable difference will be played on June 16 after the seniors' home game against Norwood.

The football club girls will take on their Club Warrandyte counterparts under lights in what promises to be an eye-opening and no-holds-barred affair.

Both sides have the full numbers and spectators are warned to expect the unexpected.

Juniors have that winning feeling



Michael Douglas works with his Under-13s to plot the downfall of the enemy. The message is obviously getting across because the team are a picture of concentration. And as for No 5, No 11 ain't heavy, he's his teammate!

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

Warrandyte Junior Football Club continue to kick goals — figuratively and literally — at all levels. With the season approaching the halfway mark, virtually all teams figure prominently on the Yarra Junior Football League ladders.

The Under-17 Colts are setting the example for the lower-age sides. The Colts recently suffered their first defeat but share top spot and team manager Anthony Mirabella believes they will give the premiers a "real shake".

"The boys are combining well under coach Mathew Matheou and all of them are doing the club proud," Mirabella said.

At the other end of the age scale, the Under-9 Tackers continue to impress all who watch them play.

"Our Tackers recently played in a round robin tournament and while on-field success wasn't achieved to the extent we would have liked, all the players demonstrated developing skills and a positive attitude to teamwork," WJFC president Matheou told the *Diary*.

"It is a real delight to watch these little people enjoy themselves."

"Our committee were determined to work with Auskick

to give these players the opportunity to further develop their skills and we are absolutely delighted with their progress."

The Under-10s sit just outside the top four on percentage and are confident of playing finals football this season. Coach Wayne Moore continues to work on the principle of WES — "Work Equals Success".

The Under-11s are also just adrift of the four, but share the finals dream. "The team are playing impressive football and are coming together very well," said coach Steve Blakey. "We just need a bit of luck in the coming rounds and we are confident of being there."

"All the players are appreciative of the parental involvement and we will repay them by playing attractive football."

Syd Saunders has his Under-12s sitting comfortably in third spot. "The boys are very, very competitive, giving all reams real difficulty," Saunders said. "Our losing games have been close and we have had some big wins. We just need to be kept playing well as a team."

The Under-13s are hitting their straps after a slow start to the season, their scalps including a top-four side. "We will have to be lucky, but we

have the players and the spirit to finish off the season on a positive note," said co-coach Michael Douglas.

Despite being undermanned in a number of games, the Under-14s are in second spot and have developed a reputation for playing attractive, attacking football.

"The boys really believe in themselves and play on skills and teamwork," said team manager Tony Morello. "They are having the success they deserve."

"This team epitomise the real spirit of the club and we look forward to sharing the success of finals football with the boys."

The Under-15s are struggling a little but are working as hard on the training track as on the field. They are attracting real attention from the Yarra league and several boys are in line for representative selection. John Burgoyne has already been selected for the league side.

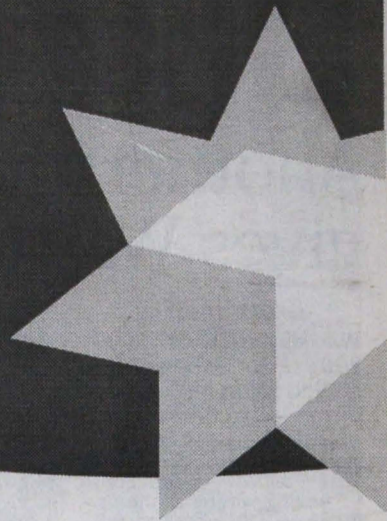
The WJFC annual dinner dance will be held on Saturday, July 14. "This is the club's major fund-raiser and we look forward to seeing all our members, supporters and sponsors at the night," Matheou said.

For further information on the club, contact Matheou on 0418 542434 or Dennis J. Hoiberg on 0418 384619.



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