

Signs to go: council

By CLIFF GREEN

Manningham is removing more than 20 council-controlled signs from the main road through Warrandyte.

This follows continuous lobbying by Kerrie Boyle of North Warrandyte.

Council has also banned the prominent neon sign on the Coach House restaurant in Yarra Street, again on the initiative of Ms Boyle.

Council has told Ms Boyle that "a total of over 20 signs within the Warrandyte township have been identified as able to be removed without compromising the amenity of local residents, traders and visitors. Arrangements will be made for this work to occur within the next six weeks".

Coach House on the Yarra have been requested to remove their neon sign, the first in Warrandyte, following a number of objections from local residents. The sign was erected without the consent of council. The owners have been informed that "if the signage is not removed within 14 days, the matter will be referred to our enforcement officer".

Kerrie Boyle has been campaigning against "excessive and inappropriate" signage in Warrandyte for several months.

"I can't believe the power of the letter," Ms Boyle told the *Diary*. "I've found council officers quite sympathetic when problems are brought to their attention, firstly by phone, then in a follow-up letter. We've all been grizzling about the way Yarra Street has changed. Most of this is due to excess signage. In our overseas travels, John and I noticed—especially in France—how good the villages looked because they weren't covered in signs.

"We are blessed, living in this beautiful place. But it's being spoilt by an endless parade of signs—some identifying the Yarra River, for goodness sake! Melbourne Water agreed to pull those down months ago."

Most recently—and controversially—Kerrie Boyle has been at the forefront of the campaign to eradicate illuminated advertising from the new Adshel bus shelters.

"I've been somewhat misrepresented on this one," Ms Boyle said. "I'm not against the new shelters—I think they're very good. It's the advertising that I object to. Signs everywhere—along the roads, even along the footpaths. Then they put these brightly-lit advertising hoardings on the new bus shelters. For me, it was the last straw. So I organised a petition, left it

around for people to sign—without pressure—and was delighted with the result.

"When the shelters first appeared we submitted 150 signatures to council." Based on this, council placed an embargo on further advertising and pledged to undertake community consultation. Earlier this month, Sweeney Research conducted a phone survey of residents living both sides of the river.

Council officers had earlier pointed out that an "option exists for council to fund" shelters without advertising "as part of a future capital works program".

Ms Boyle has since submitted "close to another 1000 signatures, collected in nine days".

"People in Warrandyte are obviously deeply concerned about the volume of signage," she said. "Some councillors seem bedazzled by the lure of the mighty dollar. Somewhere along the line someone in authority has to stand up and say this is not appropriate. Is every public amenity to be paid for through advertising? Will we see advertisements on kindergartens, public toilets and senior citizens centres?"

"I believe councillors have the power to retain or destroy our rural ambience and should be strong enough to say no.

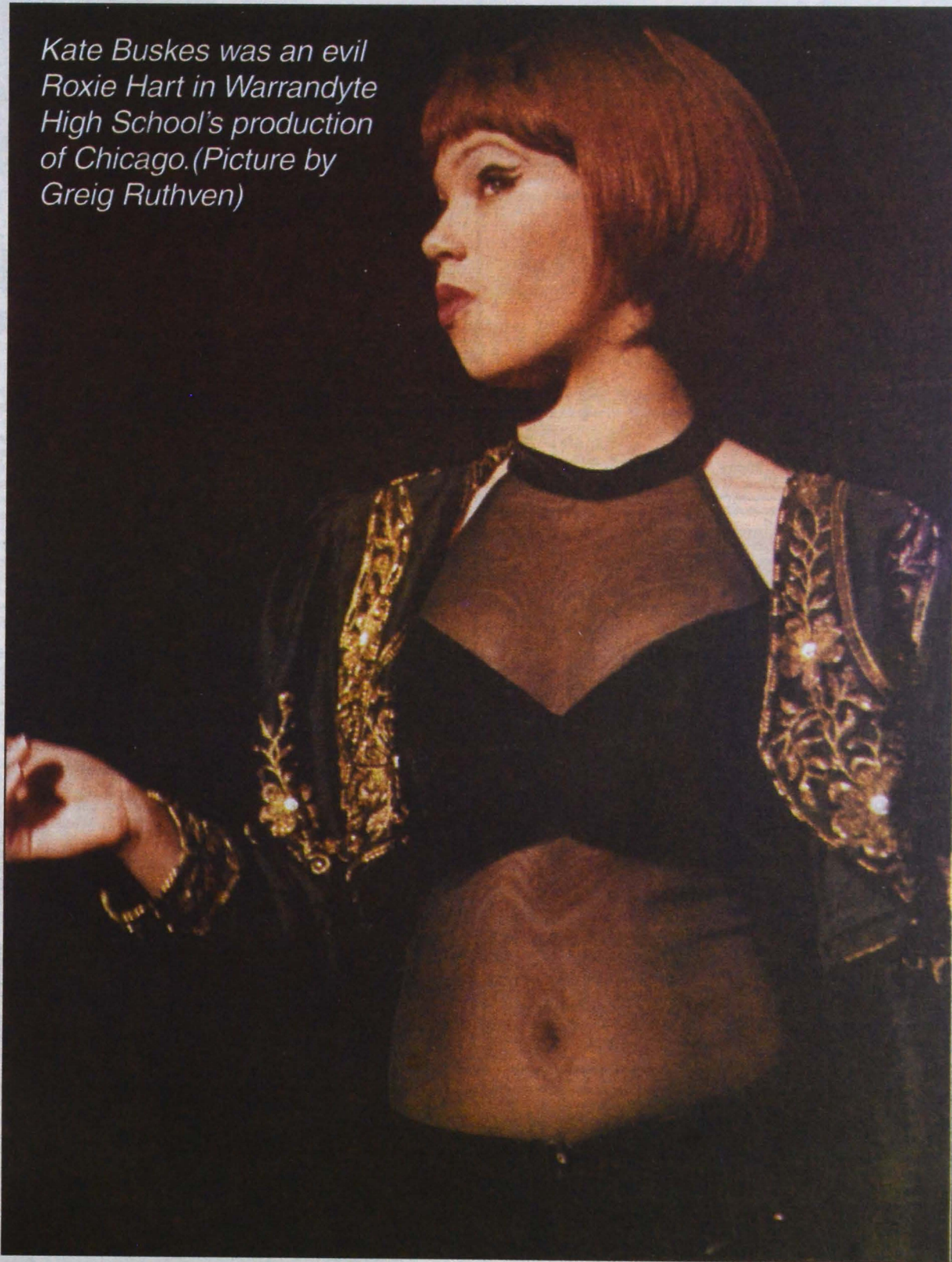
"I've also copped some flak because I live in North Warrandyte. Warrandyte township might be in Manningham, but it's still our village. Like everyone else in Warrandyte, we care for this place. The geographical accident that sees the river as a boundary has no place in everyday life in Warrandyte. We're all Warrandytians, and we're all determined to save our place from despoilment."

Kerrie Boyle is heartened to see that many of the Yarra Street traders are reducing ugly signage to create "an old style ambience, in keeping with the village atmosphere".

"George's Yarra View milk bar is a good example. He has plans to replace all his signage with one old-style sign."

Ms Boyle is eagerly awaiting the formation of the proposed Warrandyte Community Association. "We need a group like this to co-ordinate these campaigns, act as a clearing house for community issues and bring the force of numbers to bear when dealing with officialdom." But she also emphasises the importance of individuals "taking action when the need arises—it's called the power of one. If you're concerned about something, write to the councils, both sides of the river."

Kate Buskes was an evil Roxie Hart in Warrandyte High School's production of Chicago. (Picture by Greig Ruthven)



• LETTERS: Pages 6 & 7

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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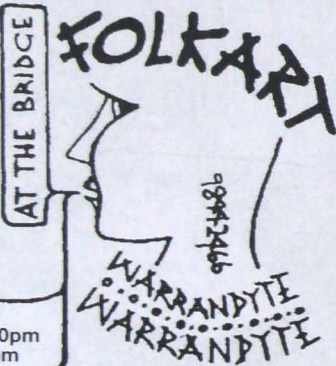
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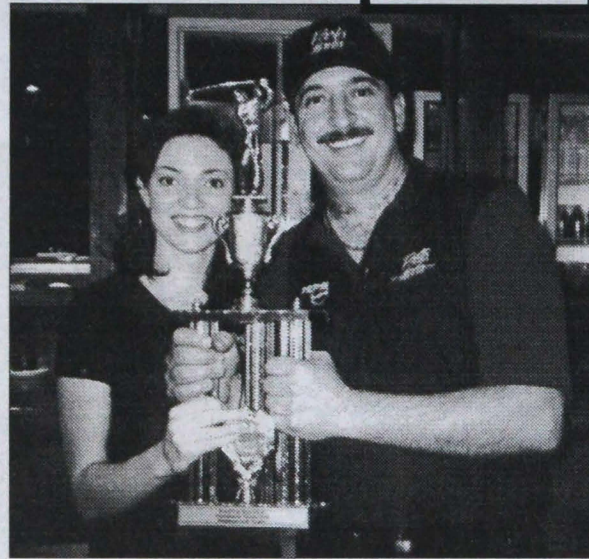
When TV Tommy wins, everyone's a big winner

A deathless hush descended, as they used to say in the penny dreadfuls, as Tommy Kerkhof walked into the RSL Club on September 6 to collect first prize in the footy tipping comp. Was he going to break a lifetime tradition by shouting a beer, or not? The suspense was awesome. It sent shivers cartwheeling up and down the spine. Grown men who'd never perspired before broke out in a muck sweat. There was a bit of the Clint Eastwood narrow-eyed gunslinger look about TV Tom as he coolly opened the long envelope, plucked \$50 from it, slapped it on the bar and said through gritted teeth: "My buy!" Whereupon his old mate Greg Lawrence reached for the phone and dialled Rent-A-Crowd to make doubly sure the money was well and truly spent.

We try our darndest to give Page 2 superstar Neil "Bozo" Dusting a rest every now and again (and, indeed, he has offered us a paltry bribe to do so), but a God-fearing columnist must keep faith with his adoring public when his phone runs so hot. We told last time how Neil was fishing in the Mitchell River out of Bairnsdale a little while ago when it dawned on him that he was due to play competition tennis in Warrandyte in 30 minutes. And how without him his team won their first match of the season. Well, Bozo was still feeling a little sheepish about that weeks later and figured he could get back into the good books by organising a nice end-of-season barbecue on August 18 at the local tennis club. Which he did — but failed to turn up. And where was he when the sausages and chops were sizzling? Fishing in the Mitchell River out of Bairnsdale!

But wait. There's more! Feeling more sheepish by now than a merino ram, Neil figured he could redeem lost prestige at the tennis club by organising a Sunday morning working bee on August 26 in preparation for this month's Goldtown Open. Which he did and (more's the pity) actually managed to turn up. He was setting a fine example for a while, busier than a one-legged man in a bum-kicking contest, and even popped the party pies in the clubhouse

IN RED & WHITE



Pasta Mania's Amanda Watkins presents Mustafa Adalier with his trophy. And why shouldn't she — he bought it!

The tennis club blokes who regularly patronise (should that be terrorise?) Pasta Mania couldn't get the covers off their golf clubs (golf being the second of their many specialist sports) fast enough when mine host Mustafa Adalier challenged them to a teams match at Yarrambat on August 27. "Easy kill," they chuckled among themselves. But they had reckoned without Mustafa's extraordinary recruiting skills. What he came up with — apart from a very nice perpetual trophy — was a team of husky young blokes who drove so long and approached and putted with such precision that had Tiger Woods watched them he might have reconsidered and taken up beach volleyball instead. "They were sensational," said Kevin Close after he'd recovered from the flogging. "They were younger, bigger, stronger, fitter and much better — but we beat the pants off them at the 19th hole!"

oven for morning tea. And that's when the rotten luck which bedevils him kicked in. Neil, who had the only key to the clubhouse, managed to lock it inside, which meant someone had to dash home for another before the party pies burned to a crisp. Certainly, nobody complained that they weren't hot enough.

Lawrie Sloan is in his 51st year as a servant of Warrandyte Football Club (which must make him terribly old), a love affair which began as a boundary umpire and blossomed as a player, committeeman, co-

founder of the junior club here, longest-serving senior president and, these days, umpires' escort. Amazing, then, that in half a century he has never won a club raffle — and he must have been in thousands of them. "Not a Mintie wrapper!" he told us at the Bloods' last home game of the 2001 season on August 11. But he's doing a lot better financially out of his other football allegiance, to EFL Second Division club Ringwood, which is within staggering distance, so to speak, of his home. Lawrie's a member of Ringwood's 200 Club, 200 members who put in \$250 apiece at the start of the season to be in

regular \$1000 draws — and he's won three of them this season! It hasn't all been profit, though. On the eve of his latest collect he'd tipped \$500 into his beloved Warrandyte's coffers.

Apart from protecting the men in white from potential assassins, Sloanie's duties as umpires' escort entail taking them out a drink at quarter and three-quarter time. After a lifetime in footy, it takes a lot to surprise Lawrie, but one of the goal umpires in the August 11 game against South Croydon managed to stop him in his tracks at the first change by saying: "I don't drink cordial — could I have a cup of coffee, please?" "Why, certainly," said Lawrie, "would that be caffe latte, cappuccino, espresso, flat white, short black? And would you like it served on the terrace with perhaps a slice of cheese-cake?" No he didn't. He told him coffee was off the menu — but he was quite cordial about it.

This page would look positively naked without a mention of the warm and lovable Alan "Coatsy" Koetsveld, who excelled himself again the other day by losing a load of chipboard from the packrack of his panel van at the roundabout at Oban Road, North Ringwood. "Didn't realise I had so many friends," he said. "While I was picking the stuff up, everyone who drove past tooted me!" Coatsy, of course, responded to the attention with his now-famous "Warrandyte wave", the one-finger salute he claims to have invented and accuses Clyde, Clint Eastwood's orang-outang in "Every Which Way But Loose", of pinching.

Spring is in the air — and it'll soon be on the ground as well. The Snow Daisy (*Olearia lirata*) will be blooming along our river walks in November and you can make it your own in your own garden by dropping in to the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend. The shrub is adorned with clusters of white flowers, occurs naturally on sheltered slopes and moist, shady areas and adapts well to most garden situations. Sold? Give Cathy Willis a call on 0418 142297.

Smokey Joe

WARRANDYTE DIARY

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OUR NEWSPAPER

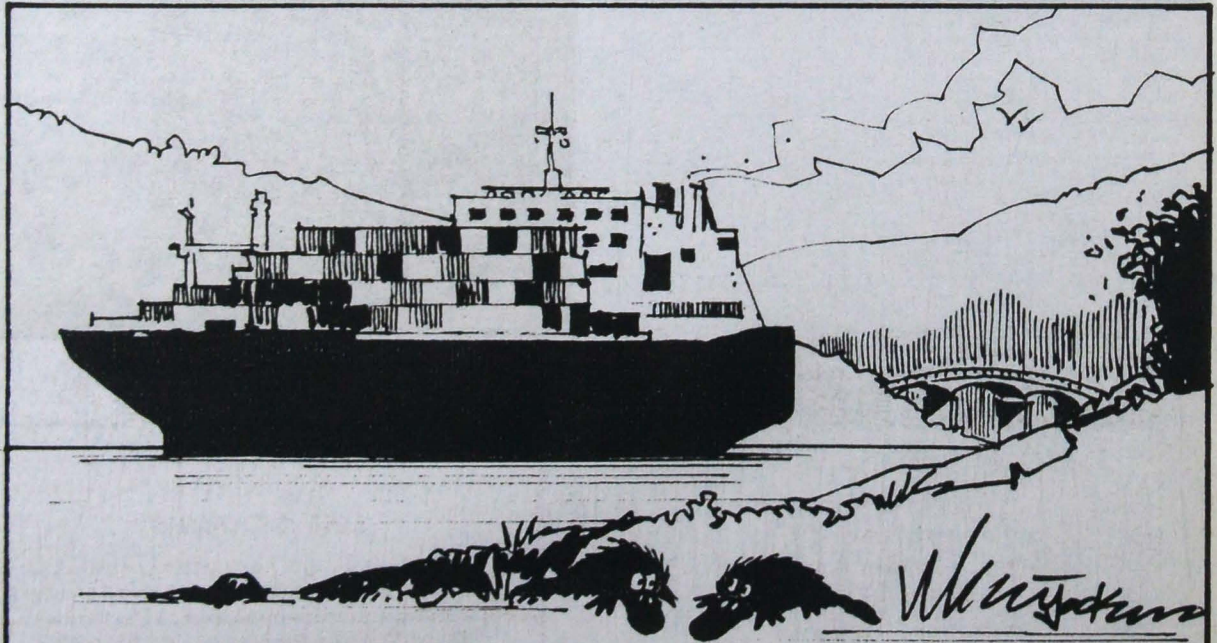
The Warrandyte Diary was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its not-for-profit, 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.

OVER THE HILLS

By **JOCK MACNEISH**



I DON'T THINK WE COULD POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND....
IT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH HUMANITY.

FIRE SEASON 2001-2002

The first days of spring have sprung. Can the summer fire season be far behind?

Brigade plans big fire thrust

By CLIFF GREEN

The Country Fire Authority is planning an extensive fire education program for the 2001-02 summer.

"We will deliver large numbers of street corner demonstrations, public meetings and re-activate the Community Fireguard groups," Jeff Adair, Yarra Area community education coordinator, told the *Diary*.

"We have had fantastic interest and support in previous years and with many new people having moved to Warrandyte we would like to ensure that these recent arrivals receive vital information regarding bushfire safety.

Thief generates anger

North Warrandyte Fire Brigade has promised to "ask no questions" if their \$4000 generator stolen from a Blue Light Disco on August 31 is returned.

The silent-running generator was taken while brigade captain Paul Buck and fireman Rohan Thornton were assisting with the running of the disco at South Warrandyte Hall.

"It has left us without an essential piece of equipment and all we can do is hope the thief has a conscience and decides to return it," a brigade spokesman said.

The generator's recovery can be arranged by phoning the brigade's information line 9844 0847.

"Every Warrandyte summer there is a risk of fire. This year will be no different. We may have water restrictions imposed upon us if we do not receive adequate spring rain and this may result in a higher level of risk, as the bush has been dry because of lack of rain over the past three or four years."

The CFA is aiming to deliver information that will allow residents to develop fire safety plans suitable to their situation.

"Every person and every family differ in their level of need," Mr Adair said.

"We intend to provide realistic information on what to expect in a wildfire and what families can do to increase the safety of themselves, their animals and their properties.

"The very least we expect is for families to discuss their situation among themselves, plan what they intend to do prior to the summer, and prepare for a fire emergency. From my experience, many people leave it until the night before a bad fire day. This could be too late."

CFA does not want to continually "cry wolf" predicting "another bad summer", but Mr Adair believes that for those who live in a fire-prone district—such as Warrandyte—preparation and planning are essential ingredients to safe living in this area.

"By cleaning up now and maintaining properties in a fire-safe condition, time will be saved as we approach the fire season," he said. Recent spring rains will have increased growth in the grasslands.

"The possibility of an early or very dry summer should not be underestimated. We hope we are wrong, but climatic indicators suggest we may be faced with this reality."



Numbers game at our CFA

Warrandyte Fire Brigade officers are still uncertain as to when the station will receive fulltime staff.

"It's been two and a half years since the decision was made to introduce staff and yet we are no closer to knowing when they will arrive," Captain Robert Kilkenny told the *Diary*. "Modifications to the value of \$400,000 have been made to the Warrandyte station, but these may not be

adequate, depending upon the final number of staff allocated to the station."

Warrandyte was initially advised that two fulltime staff would be appointed.

"These numbers have not yet been confirmed," Captain Kilkenny said. "There is the possibility that up to four will be required by other parties. If this is so, there is every likelihood further modifications to the fire station will be required."

The CFA has appointed Kate Murphy (pictured above) as the administrative support officer at Warrandyte and South Warrandyte.

"Kate brings 12 years of volunteer service at Warrandyte to this job," Captain Kilkenny said. "Her role is to support the brigade in the day-to-day tasks that are required to maintain the efficiency of the station."

At present, Warrandyte fire station is manned entirely by

volunteer firefighters. "They donate their time at all hours of the day and night and the delay in finalising fulltime staff numbers is placing additional pressure on these volunteers," Captain Kilkenny said.

"Warrandyte is very receptive to receiving fulltime staff. The decision has been made by the CFA and the government and we would like to see that happen—sooner than later."

Hot tips for a fire-free summer

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



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SHIRE OF NILLUMBIK

The Green Wedge war is not only being waged south of the border. The battles have also raged across the river.

RACHEL BAKER reports.

Committed to the Wedge

THE present mayor of Nillumbik, Sigmund Jorgensen, has expressed firm commitment to the Green

Wedge. He has said he wants to "harden" the council's policy on developments and wants "no new subdivisions—other than what's allowable under current zoning".

But former mayor of Nillumbik and 20-year-long councillor at Eltham shire, Robert Marshall, believes the situation is "precarious".

"All of the nine councillors campaigned supporting the Green Wedge, but since the elections, four of the nine councillors have voted in support of applications to subdivide," he said.

There have been pushes to expand the townships of Hurstbridge and Wattle Glen, subdivide land into five-acre and one-acre blocks, and extend the suburban sprawl.

Mayor Jorgensen believes some level of disagreement is healthy.

"There's always conflict in any group," he said.

At the same time, Cr Jorgensen said the beliefs of the councillors are not at opposite ends of the spectrum.



Former mayor Robert Marshall: 'situation precarious'

He believes some development must be allowed to take place.

"My aim is to create planning certainty," he said.

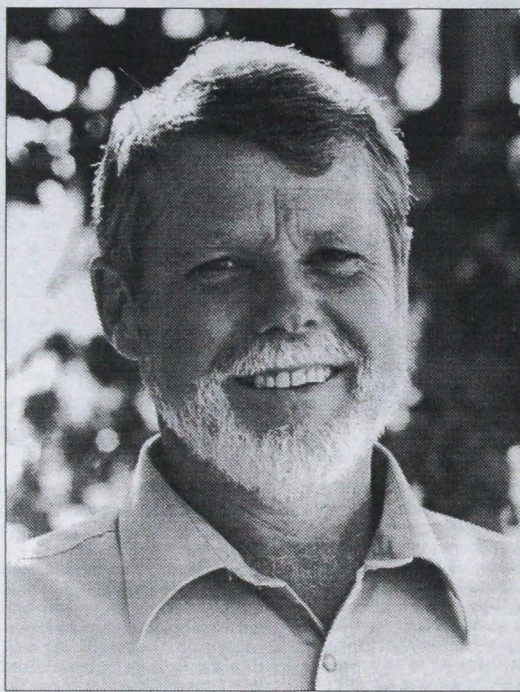
"Certainty for developers and certainty for conservationists—so

before someone buys land, they know what they're going to be able to do with it," he said.

"There's always got to be some change; (you can't) lock things up too tightly, there's got to be some

economic sanity," Cr Jorgensen told the *Diary*.

"The whole of Nillumbik council is green; but the majority are dark green, some are pale green, others are beige, one is puce



Sugarloaf Ward councillor Neil Roberts: 'patronising baloney'

(brownish-purple colour)," he said.

"The pale-greens think 'a bit of subdivision won't hurt the Green Wedge'," he said.

These comments have outraged Sugarloaf Ward councillor, Neil Roberts.

"That's just the sort of patronising baloney that the mayor goes on with," Cr Roberts said.

Cr Roberts maintains the Green Wedge is safe under the current council.

"The Green Wedge is very strongly supported by Nillumbik; there is complete unanimity on the part of the council," he said.

But there are different definitions of the word "support".

Those councillors who ardently protect the Green Wedge—Bill Penrose, Marg Jennings, Penny Mullinar, Di Bullen and Sigmund Jorgensen—advocate no subdivision at all. While others—Neil Roberts, Phillip Hughes, Tony Raunic and Alec Rosovick—believe restricted subdivision within the Green Wedge would not pose a threat.

Cr Jorgensen has concerns about the latter group of councillors.

"The danger is that if you let it start, it starts creeping, I don't want to say cancer, but it becomes invasive," he said.

Polling day is D-day

In March next year, Nillumbik will go to the polls and, once again, the debate on development in the Green Wedge will ignite passions on both sides.

According to former Nillumbik mayor and councillor, Robert Marshall, the possibility of subdivision has "reared its ugly head again".

Based on past voting trends, the current council of nine members is split with a 5:4 majority in favour of protecting the Green Wedge. Mr Marshall said he thinks this precarious balance could be upset if one pro-development

candidate wins at the election.

"Fighting in Nillumbik has become very nasty again. People go to council meetings to create mayhem, yelling out," Mr Marshall said.

However, Sugarloaf Ward councillor, Neil Roberts, denied there are tensions within Nillumbik.

"(The people of) Nillumbik have already made their view clear, they support the Green Wedge; I don't think anybody who doesn't support the concept will be elected," Cr Roberts said.

Permanent protection

The Green Wedge Protection Group and the mayor of Nillumbik are continuing to lobby the state government to enshrine the Green Wedge in statute, despite little acknowledgement from ministers.

The Department of Infrastructure is currently undertaking a review of Melbourne's Metropolitan Strategy, which aims to "create a bold vision for retaining and enhancing Melbourne's livability over the next 20 years".

Through a series of public seminars, the DOI is gathering the views of local government, business and industry on how Melbourne should be developed.

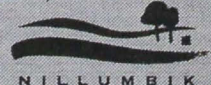
Robert Marshall, former Nillumbik mayor and member of the Green Wedge Protection Group, told the *Diary* the Green Wedge needs to be made permanent. The wedge concept replaced the "Green Belt" concept, a ring of bushland around suburbia that was temporary—it kept shifting outwards as suburbia crept out. The Green Wedge, on the other hand, is a long section of bushland that extends outwards, from near the CBD to Yarra Glen.

"We have to get it out of people's heads that the

Green Wedge is temporary," Mr Marshall said.

He said the Green Wedge Protection Group has written letters to the planning minister, John Thwaites, the environment minister, Sheryl Garbutt, and the local MP for Yan Yean (which covers Nillumbik), Andre Haermeyer, but to no avail.

Nillumbik mayor, Cr Jorgensen, said state legislation would create "another hurdle for developers and another layer of protection".



A spokesperson for Minister Thwaites said it would be inappropriate to comment while the metropolitan review is in progress. But preliminary research has shown the community thinks the "green wedges" need to be protected from urban encroachment and maintained for their environmental value.

The government has also found "the 'green wedges' have many uses, only some of which relate to environment and conservation, for example, waste treatment and disposal, airports". They have also stated that limiting Melbourne's outward growth would "protect smaller communities around Melbourne

from being absorbed and losing their separate identities".

Another finding is that low density areas on the fringe (of 10 lots per hectare) are "too low to create viable communities with desired levels of urban services". The government has ruled out stopping urban sprawl completely, as it will create a decline in housing affordability, job losses in the land development industry and leapfrogging of development to adjoining communities.

Nillumbik councillor for the Sugarloaf Ward, Neil Roberts, dismissed lobbying the state government as "scaremongering".

"It's just political monkey business," Cr Roberts said.

"Development in the Green Wedge is not up to political will of council, because it's a planning scheme issue, and the planning scheme has to be adopted by formal processes," he said.

"We can't change the planning scheme willy nilly—that's a misrepresentation of the facts," Cr Roberts said.

The *Diary* also contacted the offices of the minister for environment, Sheryl Garbutt, and the MP for Yan Yean, Andre Haermeyer, but both were unavailable for comment.

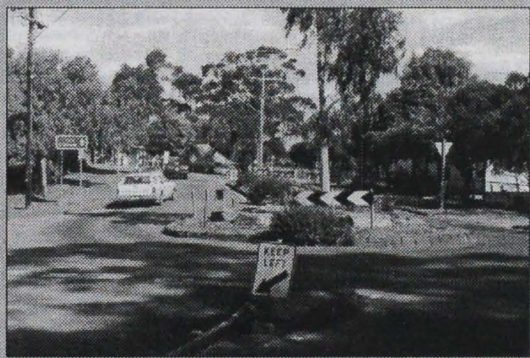
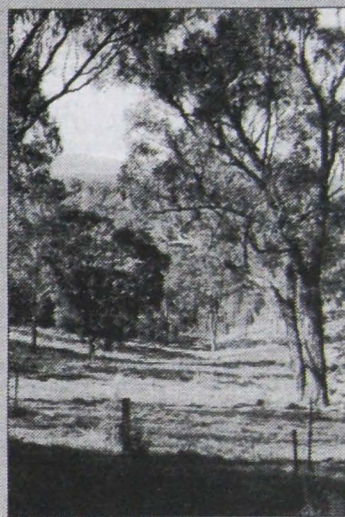
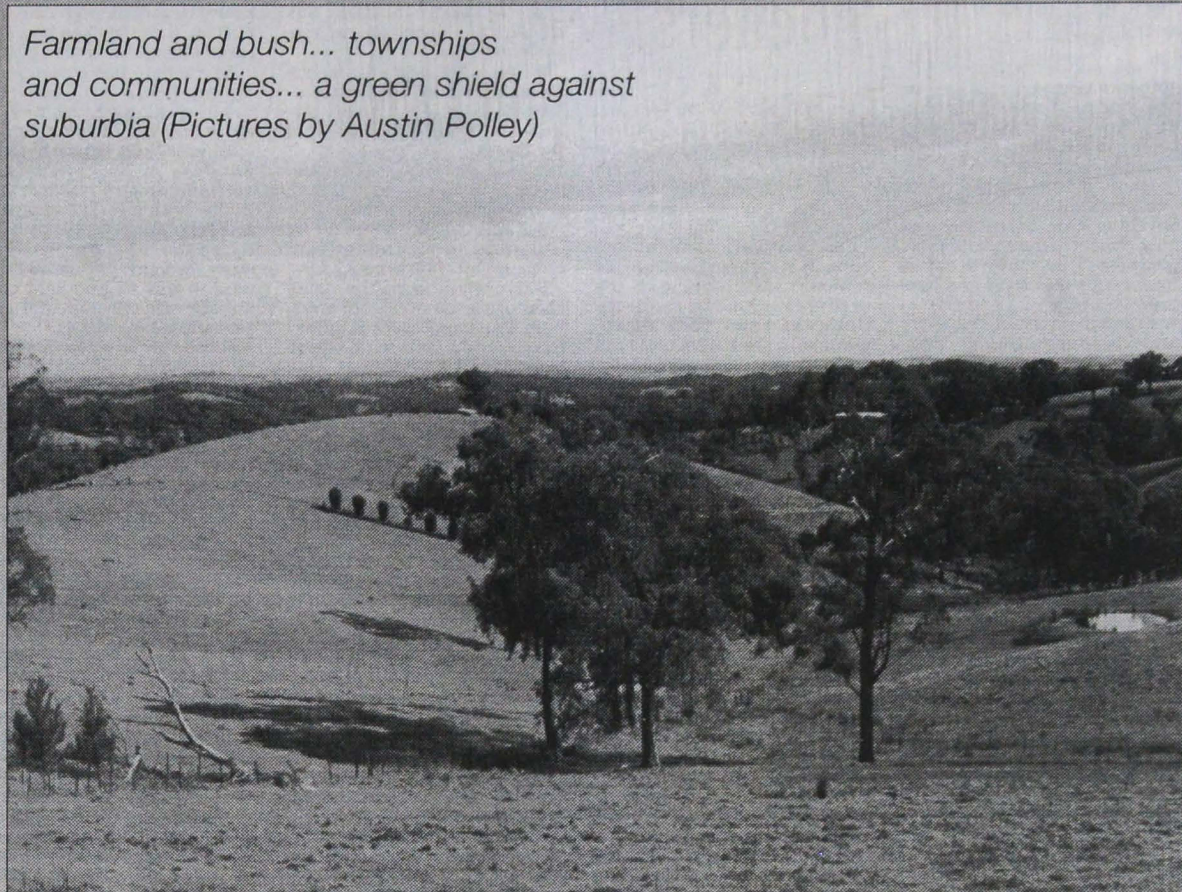
COREY'S CLAN

By SYD & ONA



GREEN WEDGE COUNTRY

Farmland and bush... townships and communities... a green shield against suburbia (Pictures by Austin Polley)



Fighting the 30-year war

Campaigning for the survival of the non-urban zones

THE Green Wedge—the idea that a section of Melbourne's suburbia should be kept green and large block sizes maintained—is approaching its 30th birthday celebrations. The Diary recalls some key moments in the north of the Yarra Green Wedge's rocky past.

1971
The concept of the Green Wedge is first floated by the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works.

1978
The Green Wedge concept is passed by the state government.

1977
Robert Marshall is elected president of the then Eltham Shire council. During his reign (until 1979), says Mr Marshall, "all subdivision applications were rejected".

December 1994
The Kennett government's council amalgamations begin. All 210 councils in Victoria are disbanded and reformed into 78 new councils. Government-appointed commissioners take control of each municipality. Each new council, under its commissioners, begins preparing a new planning scheme. The new Nillumbik shire, covering North Warrandyte, Eltham,

Diamond Valley, Whittlesea and Healesville, is based almost exactly on the Green Wedge (except for those parts south of the Yarra, in Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park). The stated purpose of Nillumbik is to be a "conservation shire with the Green Wedge as its strategic focus".

March 1997
Municipal elections are held and the five-member Nillumbik council is installed. The new council finalises its planning scheme. Nillumbik council is accused of being unstable and ineffective. Then-mayor, Robert Marshall, says each of the five councillors held unerring views on development. "Three supported the Green Wedge two supported subdivi-

sion," he says. "Things (decisions) could be passed, but there were always the same people voting the same way," he says.

Council meetings were hampered by disagreement and argument between councillors and members of the public.

"There was a lot of ugly behaviour," Mr Marshall says. Concerns arose about the functioning of management with Nillumbik.

"Things were bad; there were major problems with senior (management) staff; non-communication, stonewalling of councillors," he says.

December 1998
Then premier, Jeff Kennett, announced that Nillumbik was unworkable. The council, and some members of senior management, were dismissed. Once again, state government-appointed administrators take control of the council.

March 1999
A new council election is held. This time, nine members are elected, with five-four majority opposed to development in the Green Wedge. Failed candidate, Robert Marshall, says the results of the elections "showed to the community and the Kennett government that this area supports the Green Wedge".

October 2001
The Green Wedge Protection Group will celebrate 30 years of the Green Wedge.

Green Wedge celebration
● A public invitation is being extended for the Green Wedge Celebration Dance, from 7.30pm on Saturday, October 6 at the Kangaroo Ground Emergency Centre. For details phone 9718 2779.



A thousand loonies in Warrandyte?

I find it very sad that when a petition is started to object to something that will be a benefit to the majority of residents in Warrandyte, that a small group of the same objectors can be so selfish and sheeplike that they follow without understanding or questioning the reason for an action being taken.

I refer to the petition objecting to the six posters at present in the newly designed bus shelters being installed in Manningham (Warrandyte is part of Manningham). Up to now this minority group have complained that Manningham council does not include them in looking after their suburb, when Manningham does they still complain.

The bus shelters have been designed to complement the environment, sweeping design, green in colour with glass to be able to look through to the bush, you can see how lovely they look with K.Boyle sitting in one. Obviously they cost a lot more than the ugly brown cement and wood ones we have had to put up with for the past 30 years, which do not complement the landscape. Adshel have offered to erect and maintain these shelters for the next 10 years at no cost to the ratepayers of Manningham, with the trade-off of generic advertising of banks, mobile phones, movies etc., to cover the \$1million cost. These shelters provide a safe haven for our children and elderly to wait for a bus, lighting to discourage

DEAR DIARY

unsavoury characters lurking in the dark around where children wait. Room for wheelchairs to shelter alongside normal seating, helping the bus driver to see people waiting on the bus stops in the dark early morning and late afternoon.

Sadly, due to the petition tabled by Cr Young at council last Tuesday, the rest of the shelters for Warrandyte have been put on hold, the old ones will probably be removed due to their condition and unless the bus commuters support council in their endeavour to provide better facilities for the Warrandyte people, nothing will be put in their place and our children and elderly will be further deprived of a safe, dry and environmentally sensitive shelter because of the loony fringe who sign petitions. The signatures are being assessed by council as three-quarters of the people who signed never travel by bus, don't live in Manningham (Mullum Mullum Ward) a lot were from Nillumbik across the bridge including K.Boyle and do not have young children or are not old age pensioners who were enjoying the new shelters. When will the minority fringe keep out of other people's business, and when will the majority stand up and be counted.

If you support the new bus shelters please write, fax or email council with your support. Don't leave our kids and elderly out in the dark and cold because of a few advertising posters, and the loony fringe of objectors to everything and anything new, Warrandyte is now a place where people like to live, not a Beechworth cut off from major highways and having to rely on tourists, Warrandyte is a mix of history and modern living now, whether we like it or not.

J. Peal
Mullum Mullum Ward resident



A choice: adverts or shelters?

I am writing to you regarding the recent installation of bus shelters in Warrandyte. I am pleased to see that bus users are at last being provided for, and that they will have safe, warm places to wait for the bus.

I congratulate Manningham council for their part in this scheme, and thinking of the needs of Warrandyte residents. However I am very disappointed to see the incursion of yet more obtrusive advertising. Warrandyte is a very special place. I moved here 27 years ago, attracted by the rurality of Warrandyte and its natural beauty.

Such aesthetic qualities are the antithesis of neon signs and illuminated billboards.

I understand that only two thirds of bus shelters have advertising, but would rather forego the revenue and have no advertising in Warrandyte. Can't those areas that are immune to advertising, or maybe even find it useful and attractive, have all the advertising.

It was presented to me recently that I must choose: no bus shelters or illuminated, comfortable bus shelters with advertising.

I think this sort of Solomon's choice is very unfair to the people of Warrandyte. Surely there are other ways of getting win-win outcomes.

Jan Davies
Bradleys Lane

Bus advertising shelters shock

I am shocked at the proposal to place advertisements in bus shelters. Following are my reasons and comment

- Out of keeping with the rural ambience of Warrandyte.
- Would detract dramatically from the tourist attraction of the district.

- As an obligate user of public transport, I should find such advertisement offensive.

- Public facilities should be provided independently of commercial enterprise.

Warrandyte is in the same class of tourist site as St Petersburg, Paris and London, cities I have visited, and with whose languages I am familiar. One does not find illuminated advertisements around the Hermitage, the Louvre or the National Gallery, so why so obtrusively on the streets of Warrandyte. At first sight, this comparison may seem eccentric, but Australia is one of the unique continents on the planet, and has a well-deserved international reputation as a holiday venue. Those who proposed this idea clearly are

blind to the value of an opportunity to escape from commercialism. It would even be a matter of killing the golden goose.

Warrandyte has a number of unique features. It has remnants of its early history. Its name is a relic of its original inhabitants, and it has both reminders of its gold mining settlement and its arts and crafts heritage. The region is also a potential buffer zone between the urban artificial gardens and the natural wilderness. It has an excellent community of environmental conservation movements.

These special features should be treasured and nurtured by the council, not obscured by garish development. Even the local retail trade appears to be being placed in peril by inappropriate over extension. It should be obvious that Warrandyte is a world away from Doncaster, and should be kept that way.

Bruce McQuade B.Sc.
Osborne Road

Signs litter Yarra Street

The main street in Warrandyte is being littered with signs. Now the council has added to the growing ugly disorder by installing large illuminated signs on the bus shelters. What kind of Warrandyte do we want? Obviously the City of Manningham doesn't know. They are adding to the slow decay of Warrandyte's main street. People all over Melbourne visit Warrandyte because of its environment and charm. They understand the value of our environment. But our city obviously doesn't understand the sensitive nature of Warrandyte and they will never manage our environment properly while they neglect to consult with our community. Having a policy of one "size suits all" for all of Manningham is just plain lazy. Get real Manningham, the environmental skills for managing environments like Warrandyte have been around for three decades.

Bob Winters
Brackenbury Street

Plastic spoilers

I have lived in and loved this beautiful place called Warrandyte for years. But over recent times I have noticed something which angers me and I feel is becoming a threat to our fragile environment. It would seem that some department, in their wisdom, has devised a plan to plant natives along our road verges, in parks and along the riverbank—regeneration of vegetation. A commendable activity, you might say.

Hundreds of plants surrounded by stakes and little green plastic bags to protect and help them to grow. Lots of time and effort has been put in by dedicated people to instigate these plantings. But this is where the plan seems to have stumbled.

It is now quite a few years since the plantings and we have regenerated areas with

shrub grasses and trees very well established and still surrounded by "stakes and plastic bags".

It seems that the plan didn't include the removal and reuse of all this plastic. Instead it has been left to surround and choke mature vegetation (Taroona Avenue, near small oval) or be pulled off and left to fall or be blown into the river. All the grasses in the car park in front of the Post Office are desperate to be released from their plastic prison but it seems that was not part of the original plan. Who is responsible? Does anyone know? Am I overreacting or do others agree with my observations? Let's protect our beautiful Warrandyte but not wrapped in plastic.

Lynne Cappellani
First Street

Public funds through ads

As a long-time Warrandyte resident (25 years), I feel compelled to write my first letter to the *Diary* about the latest blot on our landscape—illuminated bus shelter advertising. I'm all for bus shelters, particularly the splendid new ones, and I'm not against appropriate advertising but those carrying illuminated advertising are totally out of character with Warrandyte's semi-rural environment. Until recently Manningham City Council quite properly enforced a strict code controlling outdoor signage but this appears to have become the victim of a deal for easy income. Can we expect that in future only services and amenities that attract a sponsor will be supported by council? Why not install similar illuminated signs at intervals between our new illuminated bus shelters and double the revenue to support libraries, baby health centres, and road maintenance?

Manningham council can be rightly proud of many recent achievements in infrastructure development and service provision all, of which it felt were worthy of its financial support. When the big bucks of sponsors are on offer and our principles are at risk of compromise, there is a fine line between financial acumen and the P word: P-r-o-s-t-i-t-u-t-i-o-n.

The Manningham motto is: *Manningham: balance of city and country.* Let's maintain the balance and keep bus shelter advertising in commercial areas where it was originally intended to be!

Bruce Davidson
Betton Crescent



Bus advertising: no shelter from controversy.

FIND US IN CYBERSPACE

Diary website: www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy/
Email: thediary@vicnet.net.au

Living with the adverts

I think the proposed new bus shelters represent a great step forward for public transport users in Warrandyte, a long-suffering bunch. They are attractive, robust and illuminated at night and I understand they will be kept clean by Adshel.

All of this will be achieved at minimal expense to ratepayers. I can live with the advertising if it helps improve the lot of those in the community who depend on the only form of public transport in Warrandyte and I don't see that the bus shelters will destroy Warrandyte's identity.

Warwick Armstrong
Brett Street

Ad deferment applauded

Manningham council is to be applauded for deferring the introduction of advertising bus shelters through Warrandyte, to undertake more consultation with residents. I am not anti bus shelter and have long felt one is needed opposite the community centre. However, the introduction of 12 advertising shelters, whilst good economics for council, will not be in sympathy with our rustic streetscape.

Ironically, a furniture ad captured my thoughts on the subject, "Everything is costed. Nothing is valued".

Margie Williamson
Kangaroo Ground Road

Green Wedge concerns

Congratulations on your ongoing cover of the Green Wedge debate in Manningham. A similar situation is occurring in Nillumbik, specifically in this case, VicRoads' proposal for re-development of the Watsons Creek end of the Eltham-Yarra Glen Road.

A number of concerned community representatives, opposed to the concept of bulldozing hundreds of trees, some 200 to 300 years old, as part of a grand plan to make that road wider, straighter and faster, have marked many of the trees

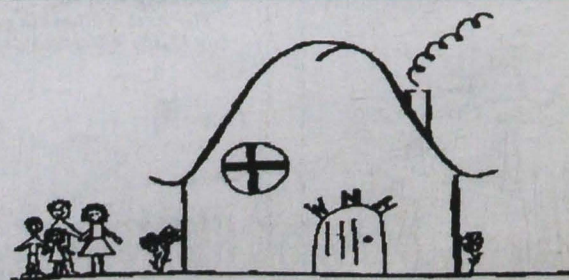
to be affected with ribbons in order that the magnitude of natural damage might be more easily recognised. Those representatives, combined under the acronym SOSR (Save Our Scenic Road) have organised a public meeting on Thursday, August 16. You may be interested in maintaining the Green Wedge under attack theme by following our campaign. For further information, I can be contacted on 0403-049-806.

Warwick Leeson
by email

Meet your neighbours at Warrandyte Neighbourhood House

Warrandyte Community Centre, 168 Yarra Street

All enquiries: Phone 9844 1839



DEAR DIARY



Liquor, noise controversy alerts neighbours

I would like to thank the Warrandyte Community Centre Supporters Group for organising last week's meeting about the issuing of a liquor licence to shops 1 and 2 at 188-202 Yarra Street.

It was clear that the owners and intended operators are genuine in their intent to establish an honest business. We were informed that they plan to join two shops together and use it as a licensed café/bistro to cater for 50-60 people, live entertainment and outside consumption of alcohol until one o'clock in the morning, most days of the week.

What concerns many of the local residents is that this is a change of use from the original planning permit, issued in 1991 for six shops. This new use has implications that need to be considered, one of them being parking. Current statutory regulations would require 49 car spaces, which is 30 more than exist.

The consequence of increased parking demand of this new use will be most noticed on the weekends and during the warmer months when we have significantly more people around. This increase in volume will affect traffic and pedestrian safety around the intersection of Yarra Street and Mitchell Avenue.

Until a detailed traffic assessment is made, including parking, amenity of pedestrians and other road users, residents and general safety concerns cannot be realised.

I would like to encourage people to support a forum where issues that might affect Warrandyte permanently can be discussed and possibly acted upon.

David Wierzbowski
Warrandyte resident

Pining for buses

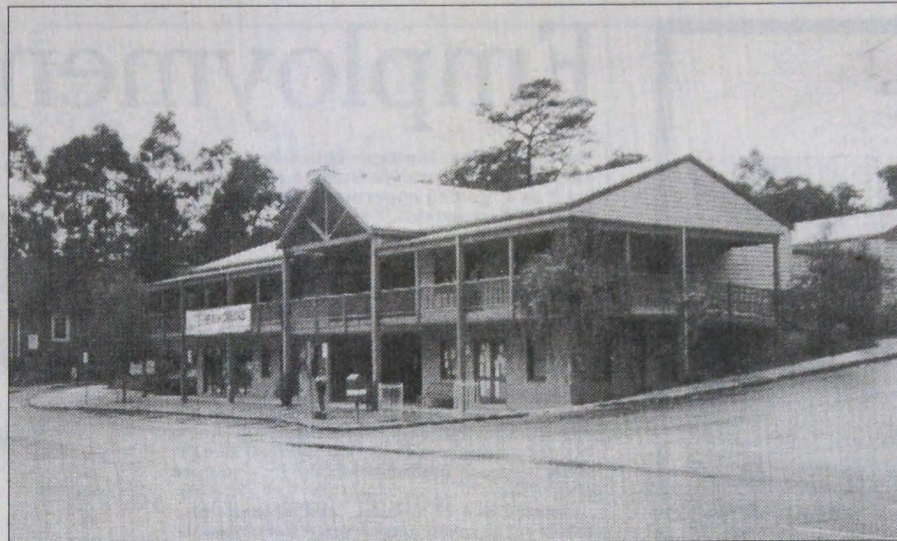
I would like to add to Betty Oke's comments regarding the cutback of the Warrandyte-to-City bus service.

I have frequently used this service but am concerned that passengers are obliged to wait at the Pines for a 304 National bus which may take half an hour to arrive. There is nowhere to sit and no shelter from rain or sun. The unpredictability of the connecting bus makes it unwise to shop as such.

It is most likely that people will not continue using this service as it is too inconvenient and unreliable.

I am most disappointed at this backward step.

Elsa Ardern
Pound Road



Community action secured the centre. Locals are looking for a permanent pressure group.

Local association call

When a meeting was held last November to raise concerns about perceived threats to the Warrandyte Community Centre, the hall was packed with concerned residents. The community centre has been just one of a number of issues faced by Warrandyte. Others such as advertising in bus shelters, telephone towers, Green Wedge threats, possible freeway linkage and more signage are issues which arise quickly and often end up with a specialised group being formed to fight it, such as happened with the community centre. At the community centre reporting meeting, a call was made for a broadly based community wide association to be formed to respond to such issues, on a both sides of the river, coordinated basis.

Warrandyte needs such a resident based group, firstly to replace many other groups (WAC, WEL, WAG) now defunct, who once

kept a watching brief on matters affecting the township and secondly to deal with issues as they arise, providing a strong voice on matters affecting Warrandyte. Park Orchards, Wonga Park, and Donvale all have residents' associations. For the first time Warrandyte itself appears to lack a representative group.

The Warrandyte Community Centre Supporters' Group was charged with exploring the formation of such a broadly based organisation. Support and enthusiasm from the community is sought to turn the proposal into reality. Looking back to that hall packed with people, angry at decisions they felt no part of and enthusiastic for change, is it fair to assume many would be prepared to help form and support a Warrandyte community association? If so, will they come forward.

Val Polley
Hutchinson Avenue

We need to get together

After attending the reporting and information evening in Warrandyte earlier this month, called by the Community Centre Supporters Group, I wish to convey heartfelt congratulations to the group members. They have put in many hours of hard work and careful thought to the continuation of our community centre, now back in the hands of the people.

The main thrust of the meeting was a proposal to examine the possibility of forming a Warrandyte Community Association, which I believe is long overdue. Such an association would take up big and small issues—call a public meeting when necessary, giving advice and support to smaller groups, circulating petitions, organising demonstrations. Such matters

as the new bus timetable, speed limits on certain roads, the dumping of soil in South Warrandyte, and so on.

Warrandyte has a long history of solid community involvement, and has numerous outstanding successes, not the least being the banning of dual occupancy and protection of the Green Wedge.

The public meeting called to save our community centre, initiated by one or two people, did achieve its purpose. Let us follow this up with true Warrandyte spirit, to ensure the continuation of our lovely area, and give full support to the formation of the Warrandyte Community Association.

Betty Oke
Second Street

Self-help

The Diary is to be congratulated on taking up the cudgels for a better deal for Warrandyte by supporting the formation of a community based association to confront the issues that are impacting upon our amenity.

Advertising on bus shelters, phone towers, "mansion" houses, subdivisions, additional shops, inadequate public transport and ever increasing traffic, etc., are some of the issues that confront us daily, and we are at present ill-prepared to deal with them.

The proposed community organisation is a must if we are to stop Warrandyte from becoming just another bit of suburbia.

Neal Tessier
by email

Good work

We lived in Warrandyte for 30 years. We moved to Portland Vic 12 years ago and we are still homesick each time we read this wonderful paper, reading what our mates and buddies Noddy, Wacky and the crew of Bay 13 are up to. Keep up the good work.

Glenn and Deb Magann
(Brown) by email

Letters to the Diary on local topics are welcome. Real names preferred. Pen names only if actual names and addresses are included.

SUPPORT LOCAL TRADERS

Banners thanks to WBA

The Warrandyte Business Association coordinated the Warrandyte Gold banner project for the Gold 2001 celebrations.

Warrandyte Primary School and Andersons Creek Primary School students enthusiastically depicted their thoughts on Warrandyte and the gold discovery on the canvas banners. They did an outstanding job as everyone who drove down the main street would have seen.

The banners were hung in the main street and added to the festive atmosphere surrounding the June 30 celebrations.

The banners have now been taken down after being much admired by the artists, residents and visitors to our area. The schools have recently had

the banners returned to them where they are going to be proudly displayed for the rest of this year and then stored and brought out each year at an appropriate time when gold is being discussed as part of the curriculum.

Our thanks go to all the students and teachers who put in many hours creating these masterpieces and we look forward to seeing them displayed in the schools and on other occasions around Warrandyte.

They have become an important part of Warrandyte's history.

Meredith Thornton
Secretary, Warrandyte Business Association

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Employment gold

The Warrandyte Business Association is conducting the Warrandyte Gold Project, describing it as a "golden opportunity for employment in Warrandyte".

The project was launched last month by federal MP Kevin Andrews.

"The launch was very successful," WBA secretary Meredith Thornton told the *Diary*.

"More than 70 people attended, with 21 senior students from Warrandyte High School." Guest speaker Peter Kenyon spoke on small town revitalisation.

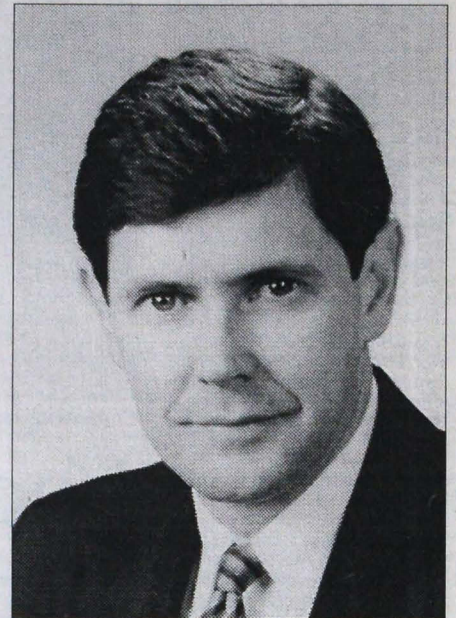
"The project is based in Warrandyte," Ms Thornton said. "It focuses on creating opportunities for local employment and on benchmarking excellent customer service skills for small businesses in the local shopping village."

Planned as a 12 months, "skills-based customer service and employment development project", it hopes to build on:

- a business retention and expansion program;
- the success of the Yarra Valley host pilot scheme in the Shire of Yarra Ranges;
- the findings of the information project conducted by the WBA in Warrandyte in 1999 with Jobs East;
- the value of the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold in Warrandyte.

"The project will reinforce the concept of best practice in customer service," Ms Thornton said. "It will underscore the flow-on business growth and employment that will be created. All local businesses are encouraged to become involved in the training program."

"The project is linking in with students from Warrandyte High School and training them in customer service to assist in their part and



Kevin Andrews MP: launched a 'golden opportunity for employment in Warrandyte'.

full-time local employment opportunities." The project is funded by the commonwealth government under its Regional Assistance Program.

Funds for equipment

Volunteer groups have the opportunity to apply for special \$5000 federal grants to help pay for equipment.

Local MP Kevin Andrews has just announced that an extra \$5 million has been provided by the federal government for this purpose.

"Organisations can now apply for a one-off International Year of Volunteers Small Equipment Grant of up to \$5000 to buy equipment specifically to help volunteers in their voluntary work," Mr Andrews said. "This extra funding is in recognition of the outstanding work done by volunteers around Australia

and is part of the very successful International Year of Volunteers 2001 (IYV) Small Grants Program.

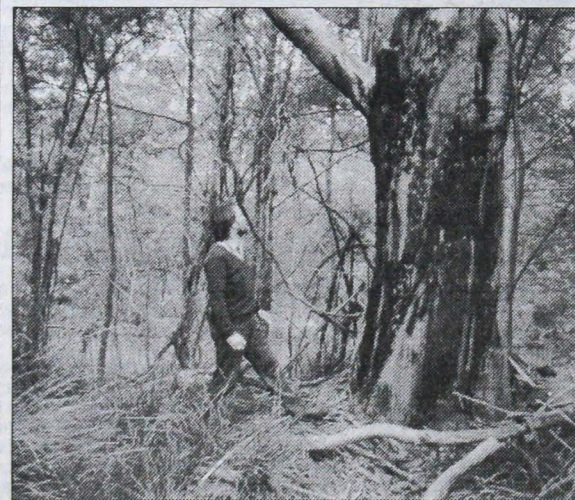
"Already several community organisations in the Manningham region have benefited from the \$5.4 million IYV 2001 Small Grants Program. However, the funding to date has rightly had a focus on celebrating the Year.

"This additional \$5 million will help support volunteers in a practical sense. From the feedback I have received in the previous rounds, it became very clear that many organisations would also appreciate equipment to make their volunteers'

work easier, safer and more enjoyable."

"The Australian people really appreciate the important role volunteers play in our society and this is a token of our appreciation in this special year," Mr Andrews said. "The volunteers and the organisations behind them deserve all the support and recognition we can give them."

● Application packages for the IYV Small Equipment Grants can be obtained from the website: www.iyv2001.gov.au, or by phoning 1300 653 227. Applications close on Monday, September 24, 2001.



Mullum festival

The 2001 Mullum Mullum festival opens at 1pm on Sunday, October 7 with music, refreshments and guided walks through the Mullum Mullum Creek valley.

On Saturday, October 13 at 9.30am, 2pm and 8pm there will be more expert guided walks along the valley.

On Sunday, October 14 guided walks will be followed by an outdoor music concert in the Larnoo Drive Wetlands, Doncaster East commencing 1.30pm.



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Terms of reference disappoint locals

By RACHEL BAKER

The release of the terms of reference for Manningham council's Green Wedge "review committee" has coincided with concern amongst community groups.

"The committee is being directed to look at the issue of subdivision," David Mayor, vice-president of the Park Orchards Ratepayers' Association, said.

Council formed the committee to "examine the issues" surrounding "development and enhancement" of the Green Wedge, after the Park Orchards Progress Association lodged an application to divide 37 lots in the Park Orchards part of the Green Wedge into 103 housing blocks.

Mr Mayor said the review is unnecessary.

"Now the state government is conducting a review of metropolitan planning—at same time as Manningham is doing their review," he said.

The mayor of Nillumbik, Sigmund Jorgensen, also expressed concern about the review.

"It's deplorable, very sad," Mayor Jorgensen said.

"It usually means they want to subdivide," he said.



Is council truly representing us?

By RACHEL BAKER

Residents of Warrandyte and Donvale are under-represented on environmental issues, the Park Orchards Ratepayers Association has said.

David Mayor, vice-president of PORA, which has been advocating on behalf of Park Orchards residents for the past 34 years, said the association has been hit with an influx of complaints from residents in surrounding suburbs.

"The common thread is that local councillors and the majority of council as a whole is

not listening to the aspirations of the communities in the semi-rural, low density and Green Wedge areas," he told the *Diary*.

Mr Mayor said Manningham council is focussed on the higher-density suburbs within the city—such as Doncaster and Templestowe—and is failing to treat the non-urban areas with the sensitivity they require.

Two examples of this neglect, he said, are the decision to develop a new review committee about the Green Wedge and plans for exit ramps from the Eastern Freeway at Park Road, in Park Orchards.

MP organising petition against freeway ramps

By RACHEL BAKER

Warrandyte's state MP has released a petition against Park Road exit ramps for the Eastern Freeway, claiming that the petition should give extra weighting to Park Road residents.

Phil Honeywood has told community groups he will take the petition and present it to the premier, Steve Bracks.

"Residents in other parts of Manningham may support ramps at Park Road, because they will benefit from them, but residents on Park Road will suffer the consequences, so their views should be given more weighting," Mr Honeywood said.

The petition will call on the Bracks government to cancel plans for the ramps, as residents are concerned the narrow, winding road will be unable to sustain high traffic.

The Park Orchards Ratepayers Association supports the petition.

"It enables the people to identify themselves and express their view directly rather than be ignored," vice-president, David Mayor, said.

Mr Mayor said some residents in the west Donvale area think ramps will reduce the number of cars that exit the



Phil Honeywood: 'residents on Park Road will suffer the consequences'.

freeway at Springvale Road then cross Mitcham Road and feed through McGowans, Larne Avenue and White Lodge Court.

"But if ramps are installed, traffic with a destination in that area will merely exit at Park Road and flow back through White Lodge Court, Larne Avenue and McGowans Road, as they will not be interrupted by any traffic lights," Mr Mayor said.

Chemicals collected to help environment

Residents in Manningham have safer homes after 883 people dropped off more than 36 tonnes of hazardous household chemicals at EcoRecycle Victoria's free household chemicals collection day last month.

"This is six more tonnes of chemicals than on the previous collection day last year," collection coordinator George Hatzimihalis told the *Diary*.

"Garages, basements, cupboards, sheds, bathrooms and kitchens were cleaned out, and unused chemicals were brought to the depot for safe disposal."

The chemical collection depot received items such as paints, oils, pesticides, household cleaning products, car batteries, acids, alkalines and spirits.

"The response from the community to the collection day was very positive," Mr Hatzimihalis said.

"The service has ensured that dangerous materials being stored in local homes have been sorted, treated, recycled or disposed appropriately."

After collection, the materials were immediately sorted according to their chemical properties. If a container was considered to be unsafe, it was repackaged for safe handling.

Chemicals are treated differently according to their type. For example:

- some of the collected chemicals can be used for energy recovery—waste solvents can be burnt in industrial burners;

- other chemicals can be recycled and used for other applications—motor oil can be reformulated for lower grade uses;

- when paint tins are collected, the metal is recycled, while the paint is separated so that solvents can be reused;

- other materials will be treated to render them non-hazardous—once treated, these materials can be safely discharged into the sewer system.

According to EcoRecycle Victoria CEO, Ian Coles, residents of Manningham are doing themselves, their council and the environment a great service by participating in the chemical collection days. "Safely disposing of these products protects our homes and prevents the chemicals from being dumped into our environment," he said.

"Careless disposal of unwanted chemicals can cause pollution of waterways, land and stormwater drains. Relatively small amounts of some chemicals can also be harmful to humans and animals, and if certain chemicals are mixed together they may pose a potential fire hazard," Mr Coles said.

EcoRecycle Victoria has been holding monthly chemical collection days at various sites around Victoria since 1996. The amount of material gathered has more than doubled since the service began.

Residents can call 1800 35 32 33 (tollfree) for more information on safe hazardous chemical disposal.



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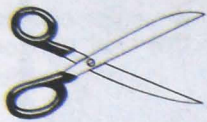
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We can count on them



Pre-schoolers Georgia and Kieren, pictured with early years numeracy co-ordinator, Debbie Rainbow, will benefit from Warrandyte Primary School's introduction of the early years numeracy program in 2002.

Warrandyte Primary School is claiming to be one of the first schools in Victoria to introduce "an exciting new initiative in numeracy teaching to the curriculum". Prep teacher, Debbie Rainbow, who is coordinator of the program, is preparing for the implementation of the early years numeracy program in 2001.

"The program is based upon the recognition that all children can succeed in mathematics given time and support," a school spokesperson told the *Diary*. "At the beginning of the year, each child in Prep will have a special early numeracy interview, and will be asked to perform a number of different counting and measuring tasks. This will provide an indication of the child's mathematical development.

"This assessment will then be followed up, with the addition of a daily, one-hour numeracy block in the classroom program," the spokesperson said.

Utilising full force against a foxy foe

Parks Victoria is planning another year of fox control activity in Warrandyte State Park, Warrandyte and One Tree Hill Reserve, Christmas Hills.

"This work will build upon previous successful control programs to protect native wildlife, particularly Powerful Owls and Brush-tailed Phascogales and to ensure the long-term reduction of pest animals," a Parks Victoria spokesperson told the *Diary*.

Baiting and trapping for fox control within the Warrandyte State Park and One Tree Hill Reserve will commence in September and continue until October 2001.

"Foxes are a significant threat to native fauna, especially Powerful Owl, which are due to fledge shortly," said Lachlan Davis, ranger at Warrandyte State Park.

Extermination is targeted exclusively at foxes. A range of safeguards has been incorporated into the program to ensure that native wildlife is not adversely affected.

By working closely with neighbours,

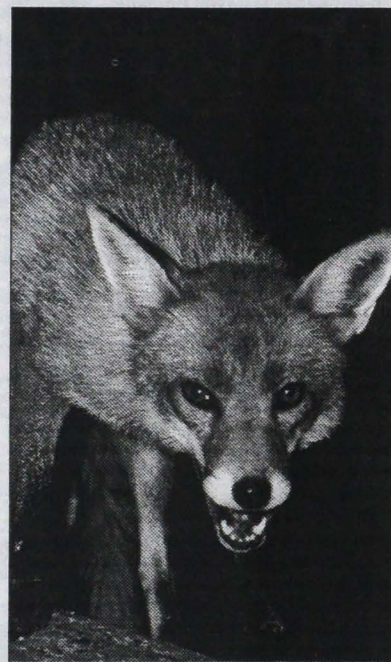
Parks Victoria is able to make an impact on the population of foxes in Warrandyte State Park by using an integrated pest animal control strategy.

"Spotlight counts over recent years indicated that the ongoing control program is achieving significant results in reducing fox numbers," Mr Davis said.

"This coincides with a subsequent rise in the sightings of Powerful Owls and small mammals including the rare Brush-tailed Phascogale within the Warrandyte State Park and One Tree Hill Reserve," he said.

"Clear warning signs will be displayed in areas where poisoning is being carried out," the Parks Victoria spokesperson said. "The poison used in the fox baits is dangerous to domestic pets. Dog owners are warned to ensure their pets do not enter the National Park, which does not allow domestic pets at any time."

For information contact Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit their website at <http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au>



**COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING DAYS
WARRANDYTE RIVER RESERVE**

Sunday 16th September 2001
10.00am - 1.00pm

Council, Friends of the Island, Greening Australia, Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria are holding a Community Tree Planting Day at Warrandyte River Reserve, Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte (Melway Reference 23:H11). The planting is part of the Spring Planting Festival.

Meet near the Stonehouse end of the river reserve.

ALAN MORTON RESERVE

Saturday 22nd September 2001
10.00am - 1.00pm

The Friends of Alan Morton Reserve and Council are holding a Community Tree Planting Day at Alan Morton Reserve, Park Road, Park Orchards (Melway Reference 35:C12). The planting is part of the continued bush regeneration works within Alan Morton Reserve. The planting is part of the Spring Planting Festival.

Meet at the entrance to the reserve opposite Enfield Avenue.

For both days, please wear sturdy shoes, bring a mattock, gloves are optional (don't forget sunscreen if appropriate!). A barbeque lunch will be provided at both days.

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

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

Email: manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au
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WRITERS

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The purpose of the evening is to establish regular public readings, explore options for writing groups and discuss any other matters of interest to local writers. Bookings are essential.

Ring **Tim Galbally** on 0417 300 310

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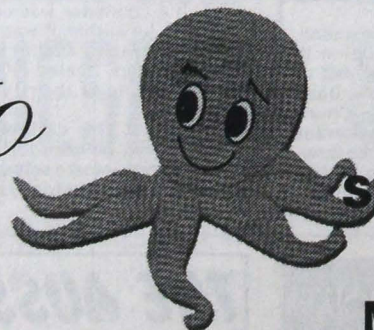
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Doing good for good is good to do

A number of people who have made outstanding contributions to their local communities were honoured with the International Year of Volunteers Award earlier this month.

Announcing the awards, federal MP Kevin Andrews said he was delighted the community could recognise the contribution volunteers have made in strengthening our society.

"The coincidence of the Centenary of Federation and the International Year to the Volunteers is fortunate, because this anniversary is so very much about the contributions of ordinary Australians over the past century," Mr Andrews said.

The awards ceremony was held in the new Manningham Function Centre on Monday, September 3.

The following Warrandyte volunteers were honoured:



IRENE "JEAN" CHAPMAN
(Warrandyte Neighbourhood House)

Jean is the original founder and life member of the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House and a founding director of the Warrandyte Workshop Cooperative. Through her 27 years of dedication, Jean has overseen employment projects, educational networks, a drop-in centre and child care facilities and other local enterprises. Her impact upon Warrandyte's character is truly praiseworthy.



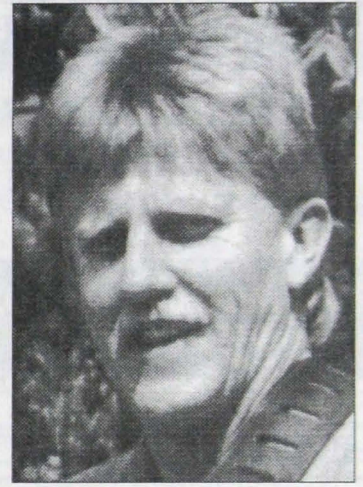
LOUISE JOY
(Information Warrandyte)

Currently the chairperson and a life member of Information Warrandyte, Louise has applied her professionalism and generous nature to the Warrandyte community since the 1960s. Whether through pre-school groups, residential associations, local government, community workshops, youth and employment services or an information bureau, Louise's contributions are evident throughout Warrandyte.



MARGORY LAPWORTH
(Warrandyte Housing and Support Services)

As volunteer manager of WHSS, Margory oversees the provision of crisis housing and support to persons in crisis by supplying emergency funds, food, shelter and counselling as required. Margory is also a Justice of the Peace, secretary of the Warrandyte Market Committee and the Warrandyte/Park Orchards/Wonga Park Police Consultative Committee.



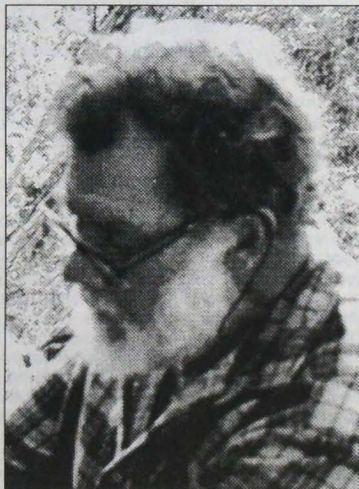
KEVIN O'MARA
(Warrandyte Primary School)

Kevin established the Warrandyte Primary School bush band in 1983. Since then he has volunteered his expertise and time to ensure the continued participation of Grade 5 and 6 pupils—a program highly valued by the school and the wider community.



LEN PHILLIPS
(South Warrandyte Fire Brigade)

Len has been a CFA member since 1969 and was brigade secretary between 1971 and 1975. He has been brigade president since 1989. Len has organised many charity appeals, served on several local government committees and has been involved in numerous operational responses to motor vehicle accidents and major fires throughout Victoria.



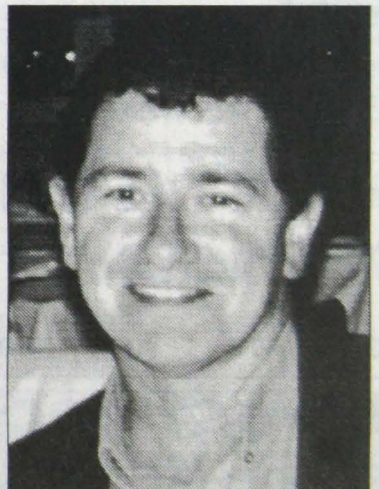
EDWARD "TED" ROTHERHAM
(Warrandyte Historical Society)

A founding member of the quarter-of-a-century old Warrandyte Historical Society and president for many years, Ted has spearheaded the restoration of the town's old post office and gold mines. In preserving the town's gold rush heritage, Ted has hosted hundreds of visitors and school groups.



MEREDITH THORNTON
(Manningham YMCA)

Meredith was an inaugural Manningham YMCA board member and has been president for the past three years. Pivotal in making local YMCA services a community-focused organisation, she initiated the youth and community services division. Meredith has also played leadership roles in the Warrandyte Community Centre, the Warrandyte Business Association and the Warrandyte Community Playground Project.



KEN VIRTUE
(Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association)

As vice-president from 1989 and president since 1995, Ken's active leadership and voluntary hours for the Mechanics Institute and Arts Association has overseen ongoing maintenance and installations. He has contributed to the provision of attractive facilities for regular user groups at the hall, as well as for the wider Warrandyte community. Ken also plays an important role in the Warrandyte Theatre Company, one of WMI&AA's most active groups, as both group president and as an actor.

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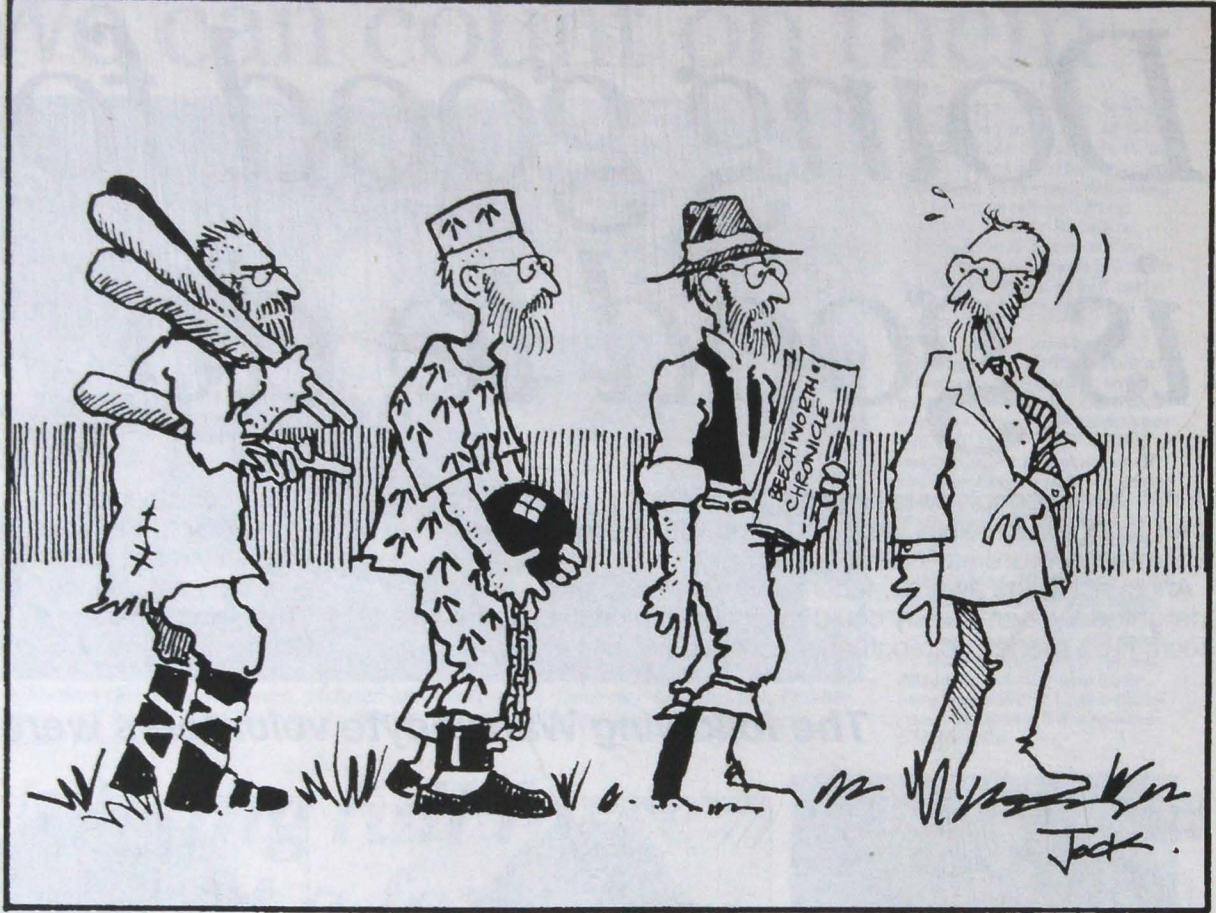
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Wandering the world, seeking a safe haven

IT was Herself who made me stop and think. Well, that's not so strange in itself. She often floors me with her insights. Like the time, out of the blue, she asked me whether I'd ever thought what the earth would look like if we scraped off the top metre. At the time she probably said "yard" but, in deference to the young out there, I've translated. Now, it probably comes as a shock to you, but I have to admit that an earth minus the covering of one hundred centimetres is not something that had been occupying the frontal lobes of my brain. However, once I heard what had prompted her comment, it made sense.

"Just think," she said, "of all the pipes, cables and complicated foundations there are. In order to really understand a society, you have to look to its foundations. The exterior is all very nice, but by just looking at the surface, you may miss the really important things. Without the power, water and sewerage, we would be in dire straits as a community."

Obediently I thought, and what came to mind was fascinating. It was a cross between images from Spielberg's new film, *Artificial Intelligence* and aspects of Hiroshima and WWI trench warfare.

All of which made me think more deeply when I read in the papers about the refugee situation off our northern coastline. Evidently, the planets must



KIBBLER

"...a petty thief who had been transported to the penal colony of Tasmania in 1828..."

now be in alignment because I have recently received an avalanche of information about my ancestry. For decades, not a scintilla of evidence that I even have a past has crossed my path. Apart from the fact that I have the usual assortment of almost anonymous relatives. The sort of helpful information that extends to the fact that we never talk about Uncle X and that a certain niece is "no better than she ought to be!"

I know that on my dad's side, he was one of a brood of 10 brothers and sisters who grew up in Beechworth, but that's as far back as I had managed to trace. But why Beechworth? My

memories of childhood holidays there have been coloured by images of the two local institutions: the jail and the asylum. With this in mind, did I really want to pursue the past? I pushed the quest into the too-hard or the too-worrying basket.

It was from left field, therefore, that two pieces of genealogy arrived, rekindling my interest in the past and making me begin to think like Herself.

One was from a terrier of a relative who had traced her own and, consequently, one side of my family tree to a petty thief who had been transported to the penal colony of Tasmania in 1828. Somehow, he had a daughter who married my great great grandfather in Beechworth.

Now this is fairly standard. Lots of us WASPs have similar origins. How else did Australia's European population begin? No, it wasn't the fact that I had a forebear "con" who had come from England, but that my namesake, Kibell, did—from Bedfordshire. Which is why the second piece of communication is so relevant.

Recently, Boy Wonder was reading through his emails when he came upon a letter addressed to him from America. It appears that we have relatives beavering away over there as well as here.

The correspondence was from a doctor who had been tracing his family name. He had discovered that all Kibells, in-

cluding those with all spelling permutations, are related and that our ancestors were Jews who came from Poland.

In the 14th century, as a result of persecution and pogroms, they had been forced to leave Poland. Now, if you have to leave fast, you collect a few possessions, shove them in a basket and set off for safety. But where do you go? Certainly not east, given the grim history for Jews in that direction. It appears that for my rels, they headed due west.

It's not hard to imagine that when you are threatened with imminent death, you take the quickest and straightest route to safety. Which is why, when you draw a straight line from Poland to the west, you end up, as a refugee, in Bedfordshire.

I had thought all of the above was interesting in an academically, genealogical way until we were talking about the "dilemma" of the boatload of Afghan refugees. Herself asked the innocent question about where I would be if countries didn't accept refugees. It brought me up with a start.


"Things were different then! It's more complicated now. Anyway, we need people with skills, not welfare recipients. What qualifications do they have?"

"According to the evidence we have, your relatives began in England as cudgel makers!"

Sometimes, Herself makes me think too much!

ROGER KIBELL

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Pesky invaders who eat us out of house and home

IT was just before Christmas, three years ago, when I made the discovery—completely by accident, as is often the case. I had been about to reach into the cupboard for some clean towels when, distracted, my hand missed the cupboard door and struck the frame. To my horror, my thumb went right through the veneer into an empty space.

Working undercover, a demolition gang of termites had been secretly eating their way through our house, turning solid timber into a crumbling honeycomb of wood pulp. We called the experts. They revealed that the damage was confined to the framework of the cupboard and several metres of skirting board—no major structures involved. It appeared that the wood-eaters had not been there very long, probably only a few months.

Termites are one of the most destructive pests of human habitation. They thrive in damp, dark, earthy conditions. Some make subterranean nests with no visible signs above ground, while other, more advanced species, construct immense mansions with turrets and spires. This they do by chewing soil and mixing it with saliva to produce a substance that sets like cement.

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

In our southern forests these castles of clay are built around the base of eucalypt trees. In northern regions of Australia they stand alone—great domed towers of red earth, baked hard by the blistering tropical sun. A feature of the Northern Territory's Litchfield National Park are its termite mounds. Thin and grey and shaped like tombstones, they dot the flat treeless plains, giving the landscape the appearance of a lonely graveyard. Called magnetic mounds they have nothing to do with magnetism but everything to do with temperature. The mounds are orientated in a north south direction so that the rising and setting sun falls on the widest sides of the wedge to warm the nest, but when the midday sun is overhead only the thinnest area of the mound is exposed to the extreme heat.

Because of their pale bodies and social lifestyle, termites are erroneously called "white ants". However, they belong to a different order of insects entirely and are more closely related to cockroaches. Like

ants, though, termites live in colonies.

Top termite is the queen. There is also a king with whom she mates from time to time. As in all societies, including our own, the workers are the most numerous members of the colony. Blind and sterile, they build and maintain the mansion and tend to the queen. The soldiers are also blind and sterile, but more strongly built than the workers. Their role is to protect the nest. Some have powerful jaws to attack intruders and others pointed snouts, from which they can shoot an unpleasant fluid if threatened.

Lastly there are the winged, fertile males and females called alates. Around dusk on warm humid evenings in late spring or summer they leave the nest in swarms on a nuptial flight. It is the first and only time they take to the air. Most will end up as tucker for other insects—spiders, frogs, lizards, birds or bats. But a few elite alates survive and on landing shed their wings before setting out to form a new colony. Over the years, we have witnessed, with intrepidation, several of these swarms.

As we are all too well aware, termites feed on wood. But cellulose is not easily digested so the termites enlist the help of bacteria

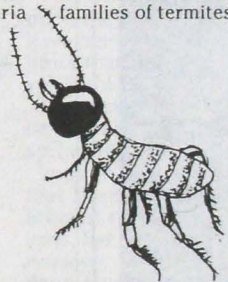
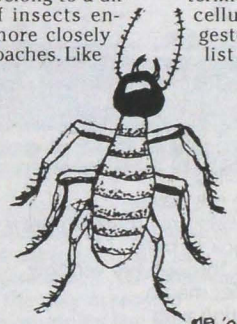
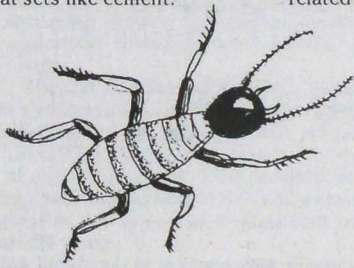
and protozoans present in their gut. These simple, single-celled organisms secrete enzymes to aid in the breakdown of the tough plant cell walls.

Although perceived as pests, not all termites attack house timber. Most species play an important role in the recycling of nutrients and the formation of soil. Still, it only takes one species—*Coptotermes acinaciformis*, the Subterranean Termite—to destroy a home.

Being a heavily timbered area, Warrandyte is a suburb particularly susceptible to termite attack. We were lucky, very lucky that the invasion of our house was discovered early. And it is easy to be wise after the event. Take the time to make regular checks of your property—call in the experts if necessary—for signs of termites, fix leaking pipes and any damp spots and store timber away from the house. Prevention can save thousands of dollars.

• Some interesting termite terminology unearthed (so to speak) while researching this article:

Termitarium—a nest
Termitologist—someone who studies termites
Termiticide—chemical used to treat soil in termite infested area
Termitidae & Termpsidae—families of termites.



Banking and bike rack blues

NOTHING is what it seems any more. A letter from the bank requests directions for re-investing a term deposit, in thick black bold type, "before the maturity date. Otherwise..." well, otherwise, they will reinvest the amount in a way that benefits their pocket rather than yours, to put it plainly.

We are not talking sheep stations here, but when it is the only term deposit you have it is a matter of some significance. An extra half-percent interest is an extra half-percent interest. Definitely worth a phone call. "Welcome to the Big Bank. To access customer account details, press 1. To access our credit payment facility, press 2. To access our account transfer or pay facility, press 3. To access our demonstration service..."

As usual, talking to someone doesn't seem to be an option. I've developed this theory that the quickest way to get where you want is (a) don't press any buttons, and eventually somebody will answer, or (b) keep pressing button 1. It won't be the department you wanted, but it saves a lot of time listen-



By **MARILYN MOORE**

ing to stuff you didn't want to know, and "Brett speaking" or whoever answers will soon put you through to the correct number.

"Please enter your 8-digit customer number."

OK, that will be somewhere on the letter. Let's see... a string of phone numbers, a BSB number, the account number (can't be that, it's only six digits), the converted account number (cripes, 14 digits)... ah, here we go, the Customer Number for Telephone Banking.

"Please enter your three-digit access code."

Do we have one of those? Probably. It's the sort of thing that, for security reasons, never gets written down. After all, anybody can remember three

numbers, can't they?

Reminds me of a rather large hiccup at the start of yesterday's Big Bike Ride. The bunch of fluorescent yellow riders were all ready to sprint off, except that two of them (us, to be precise) couldn't get their bikes off the towbar rack because somebody couldn't open the four-digit heavy-duty combination lock.

"Are you sure that's the right number?"

"Of course I'm sure."

"Then you must be lining them up in the wrong place. Give me a go."

"It's worked every other time."

"I don't know why you even bought this damned lock."

"Well, you put it on there."

The other riders left without us. Cutting the cable was clearly not an option, and going through 10,000 combinations could take hours. The good news was that the weather forecast was wrong and it wasn't actually raining.

Meanwhile, the Bank has tired of waiting for my suggestion for a 3-digit access code.

"If you do not have an access code, or if you cannot remember it, please press 0 now."

This probably means I'll need to run and get a heap of information like my driver's licence and passport numbers, my grandmother's maiden name, my brother-in-law's hat size and the make and model of the family lawnmower.

"You have reached the Big Bank customer service line. All our operators are presently attending to other calls. Your call will be placed in a queue, and one of our operators will assist you as soon as possible."

Ah, the wonders of modern technology. I wonder what's for lunch?

"Your call may be monitored for assessment purposes." Assessment of whom? "If you do not wish your call to be monitored, please inform the customer service operator."

Slow torture by dreaded musak. At least working systematically through the combinations of the bike lock was a chance that the bloody thing might spring open. Which it eventually did. Whew!

And the Bank? We should have known. It transpires that term deposit reinvestments cannot be made by the customer until after the maturity date. Aarrghhhh!

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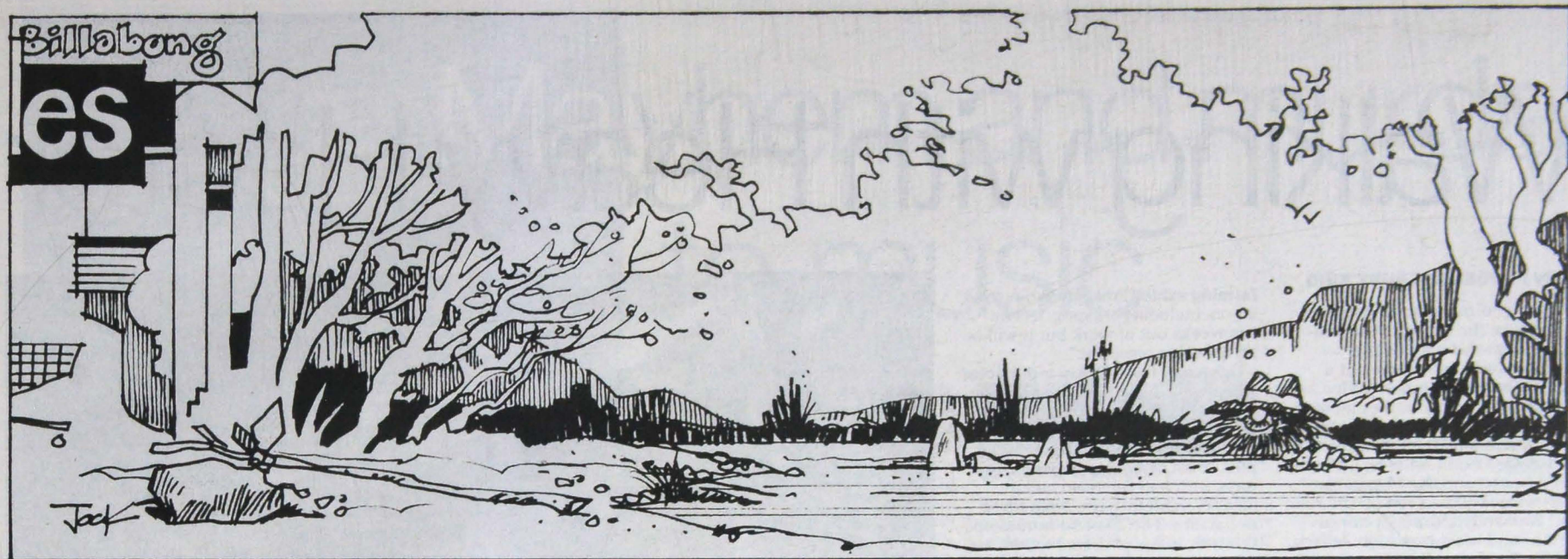
Not an ordinary Monday

It's 6 o'clock
the dawn blackly stirring
with a single uncertain chirp
and so should I
Bare legs uncoiling reluctantly
from warm feather filled cocoon
"No-one should be up
in the dark"
moving from sleepy daze
to efficient automaton—
Porridge and toast and
assembly line lunches
squabbling girls
clamouring cats
"I can't find my socks"
checking homework
finding fares
and socks
feed the chooks
hang the washing
hurry hurry
late for school
hurry hurry
get to work
9 o'clock before you know it

It's 6 o'clock
and I'm not there
I stay snug in my cocoon
Curling the feathers under my chin
Watch the clock
and imagine the chaos
My only movement
to lift the blind
and watch the dawn
then later bring my morning brew
smugly back to bed
and watch through the window
some spider magic
A shimmering web
golden in the glinting sun
See the sun creep
over the quilt
sharp, bright lines
Magpie strutting over dewy grass
"Where are you human—with your toast crumbs?"
Watching/loving every minute
of this emerging day
And when it's 9 o'clock—I know it

KAREN THROSSELL





Jewels in the landscape

IDEAS are sometimes like falling stars dropping in from the mighty universe and where they land, new species take shape.

The last time we saw the Holy Swaggie he was swimming in the billabong at Yerring Gorge. Yerring Gorge billabong is the very last of the Yarra Valley billabongs. The last in a dynasty of regal landscape. An ecological masterpiece that somehow has survived virtually unscathed in the sweep of destruction over the last 200 years.

Yerring billabong is a place that holds the past. Trees are the largest you have ever seen along the Yarra, even the melaleucas are huge. It's all at a scale that is out of the ordinary, just like those awe-struck descriptions by the first explorers walking the land for the first time. Descriptions that have the surreal reality of wild nature informing their view. Yerring kingfishers busy with their daily lives, skimming the top of the water for food, seemingly unaware that you are near. In fact all of nature seems to ignore your presence; it is so powerful it can afford to. It is a welcome relief from our industrialised catacomb.

Billabongs. Precious jewels shining in the landscape, they are a crystallised glow to which all animals and plants are drawn. They are often the last refuges; the last place where survival may be guaranteed when times get tough. They are places that float above the landscape. They are places like Warrandyte; the last refuges; pieces of rare earth, the last places close to the city to see things as they were on the first day.

Floating with his thoughts the Holy Swagman wonders out loud on the chances of surviving this industrialised onslaught on nature.

Will we all go under like the rest of the landscape, never to know the true nature of this country before we vanish like an ecological mirage? Even out in the deserts, things have changed so much that Aboriginals fear the future.

That thin layer of surface tension in water that enables us to float; like the subtle pres-

THE HOLY SWAGGIE: 3

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

sure between believing our world is doomed to destruction and believing that we can make a difference to our survival and the world's regeneration. The difference ideas can make to the play of tension.

Is shopping the final reality? To shop is to be, to buy or not to buy—that is the budget! Did the Holy Swaggie really give up shopping or did he sneak into Coles and buy things on an admirer's credit card?

Just yesterday we had sat atop Mt Lofty and contemplated the views. It seemed that we had come a long way in the past 30 years. Tree clearance, although it continues, has slowed down considerably in Victoria. Whether it keeps pace with tree planting is another thing, but that careless destruction of native vegetation has slowed. We are now beginning to value native vegetation and marvel at its differences, its uniqueness; its influence on our sense of place.

Walking away from the city, up the Yarra Valley towards Mt Lofty, one is struck by the amount of new indigenous vegetation that has been established. This vegetation has enabled a whole range of animals to re-colonise areas where they were locally extinct only a few decades ago. Koalas—Koobor of the Wurundjeri—is now a common sight along the Yarra from Warrandyte to Templestowe. Almost existing in such numbers that it is threatening native vegetation with its local populations; becoming too much for the remnant vegetation that is only just recovering from its own near demise.

The flocks of parrots; the return of the rainbow lorikeets in large numbers, responding to the flowering of planted trees. The sugar gliders, now using nest boxes and spreading out into the edges of suburban gardens where

once they had disappeared. Wetlands that have been restored are now home to wading birds that migrate from the northern hemisphere. Japanese snipe, red-necked stint and cattle egret. Perons tree frogs, among others, have built up numbers so that their early spring, night-time chorus can be deafening.

Look at the improvement in water quality that the revegetation of the riverbanks has brought to the Yarra River. It still has problems, but it's better than it has been for generations. But there is still a great deal to be done, for it is in water quality that our catchment management will be judged. The meek may well inherit the earth, but it's got to be in a condition that makes it worth inheriting.

It's the protection that we have afforded these animals and plants that brings—that's where the future lies. It is the connection through revegetation and caring for the land that is important. It's the connection to the land that promises a deeper understanding of the nature of our country. Community involvement has made a difference. People acting in a volunteer capacity has shifted the debate. The centre of the focus has been changed.

The swamping of this country by people from all different nations. Refugees from different philosophies. The tension between old and young. Between new philosophy and old. Between the realities the day brings in the morning and the wisdom of the passage of time.

The Holy Swaggie; floating with such thoughts; treading water for resolutions. Scared that perhaps the water is already too deep but also buoyed by the knowledge that all land is connected by stories. Warrandyte, Wonga Park, Doncaster and beyond is connected by cultural threads. We must care for all the country.

Look at the Yarra River. It is cleaned by the vegetation in Warrandyte but filthied by the lack of vegetation upstream of Mt Lofty, between Wonga Park and Yarra Glen. Go up in a hot air balloon some time and see how little vegetation protects the Yarra from agricultural

practices that destroyed other countries, other civilizations. All those billabongs stretching for miles along the river, once the Kakadu of the south, now muddy agricultural depressions. No refuges, no protection during the hard times that always come around.

Think globally. Of the great wave of extinctions that is currently overtaking our earth. The earth has undergone many major extinctions in its life of four billion years. The major extinction during the Cambrian period ended the life of more different creatures than has since been produced by this world. Extinction of phyla never again seen on earth; the Jurassic extinction which ended the reign of the dinosaurs. Now the sixth extinction, triggered by the exploitation by humans of the earth resources, is the holocaust that threatens to overwhelm us all. The accelerating rate of extinction over the last thousand years is something that palaeontologists have not been able to decipher from the rocks of other ages. Biologists cannot fathom such a steep descent into extinction for any group of animals and plants than that which is happening now.

Yesterday, on Mt Lofty we also heard the call of the lyrebird from the Yarra Valley below. Something not heard for 25 years or more, floating on the valley winds like good ideas. The return of a bird as a result of fox and weed control, of the community being responsible for the cats and dogs. A reward for all the conservation efforts that have gone on along the Yarra and the land beyond.

The Swaggie carries such thoughts as he floats in the rich teeming mire of a swamp, the biological sweetness of the billabong. Floating on the possibilities of human endeavour in the wetness of a summer rain. Enjoying his time above water, laughing and singing at the top of his voice, asking who will come and waltz the matilda with him?

● The image of the Holy Swaggie was inspired by the Mambo Art of Reg Mombassa. The Sixth Extinction was written by Richard Leakey

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Walking with Heavy Hector

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

If you're not sure where to take the family these holidays this may be the answer: have a look at a giant wool wagon pulled by a team of 14 heavy horses inching its way from central Victoria to NSW. It could be the only time the fully-rigged outfit—the length of a tennis court and the biggest in Australia—will be seen on the road and Warrandyte draught horse Hector and his owner Matt Jeffery will be key figures on the trek.

An 18 year-old registered Clydesdale, Hector is a familiar sight in Warrandyte, pulling a "lorry" around the roads and at Pound Bend and recently starring in the 150 years of gold celebrations.

Matt bought Hector three years ago from Geof Little in Maldon, the man organising the wool wagon drive to Hay where the vehicle will be donated to the new Shearers' Hall of Fame to celebrate the Centenary of Federation. Travelling at about four to five miles per hour, the wagon will cover the 800km from Maldon to Hay in about six weeks, stopping for a rest every three days or so. The horses will graze on farms or behind electric fences along the roadside at night and the drivers and support crew will sleep in swags, tents and a fully self-contained gypsy wagon. Matt, a builder specialising in house restorations, said he only became interested in horses after restoring horse-drawn vehicles.

"I had bugger all involvement with horses before Hector but I'm into historical stuff and this trip is a once in a lifetime chance," he said. "I've now done lots of town driving for Geof in Maldon and at

farming exhibitions, ploughing and so on. Including training, it'll be ten weeks out of work but it will be an absolute pleasure."

Originally from Gippsland, Hector has always been used for harness work. His fitness preparation has included ploughing and pulling a heavy sledge around the paddock, plus 30km of road work every two days with half the team and a smaller vehicle in the build-up to departure. The 20 or so horses on the trek, many of them related, are aged between 10 and 23 and around 16.2 to 17 hands high—that's about 5ft 8in to the top of the back. Hector's iron shoes measure eight inches across.

A group of about 10 central Victorians will help on the journey, according to Matt, with others coming and going. "It's one big team including three or four to harness and drive the horses, two fulltime cooks and an advance party. Everyone will pitch in, setting up electric fences and the campsite, grooming and cooking and driving the support vehicles. It'll take nearly an hour just to harness the team in the morning."

Two drivers guide the horses, one taking the reins of the leaders and the other in charge of the shafters, the two horses bearing the weight of the heavy shafts which are attached to the wagon. Matt says that as a bigger horse, Hector will be a shafter, then join the middle of the team, where he uses less effort, for "rest" days. "Hector's used to the bit, he's got good shoulders and he's pretty fit."

Traditional pulley-wound brakes are used on the 20-ton laden wagon but a modernised hydraulic system, operated by foot, has also



PICTURE BY AUSTIN POLLEY

been fitted. The horses' extra feed of lucerne hay will make up part of the load.

Matt predicts the working day will start at 4am with the team stopping by mid-afternoon and he expects a police escort in some towns, especially where there are schools. The rest of the day will be spent tending the horses and "perhaps having a few quiet ones".

Built in Sydney in 1925, the wool wagon has undergone nearly 1000 hours of restoration after being

discovered in a rotting shed in Lilydale. Weighing about four tons, it's seven feet high with wheels eight inches wide rimmed with inch-thick iron. Harness consists of traditional pieces that have been accumulated over the years. The wagon used to carry wool and chaff in the Riverina east of Deniliquin, and in the Hay area.

"The whole trek is costing about \$160,000 and I'd like to thank those Warrandyte businesses who've understood the heritage reasons for

the trip and helped us in fundraising," Matt said. The wagon leaves Maldon on Monday, September 17 and is due to arrive in Hay, via Euchuca and Ganmain, on Thursday, October 25. People wanting to track the wagon's progress can use a website, www.users.bigpond.com/megtim.

Matt said the first day will be the most nerve-wracking. "We'll have perhaps 20 horses and they might play up in the excitement. It'll be an awesome sight."

The sad story of Sam Skeels

By KEN VIRTUE

If you were looking for the true "character" of a local dog, then Sam Skeels, the beagle, was a prime example.

Born in 1988, and a gift to Hilary that Christmas, he spent his puppy years being incredibly cute while he gradually worked his way into the hearts of his adoptive human family.

He confounded the earnest folk at dog training school, by steadfastly refusing to sit on command. Rather, he would hover his rear end about an inch off the ground because he knew it was winter and the wet ground might render him a thoroughly chilled butt.

Eventually he was expelled for being "untrainable", but we think it was just his way of proclaiming his blossoming independence.

He tolerated a number of cats in his life, and a few of the more interesting neighbourhood dogs, but his special forte was charming humans. Sure, he had to avoid some, like those ones in the green ranger uniforms, but he was only caught once in his 13 years of life on the dusty back roads of North Warrandyte.

Most other humans he simply visited, and performed his time-honoured impression of a nice friendly dog who happened to be a bit hungry at the time. It was a strategy that always worked. One vet said that beagles were the only dogs that would continue to eat until they fell over. Sam must have had this truism buried deep within his gene pool, for he never refused a feed until the last few days

of his life. He once trotted down the road with a full roast chicken carcass gripped in his jaws. Despite the discomfort, you couldn't wipe the smile off his face. He loved his food, and believed that world speed-eating records had to be broken each time a plate was placed before him.

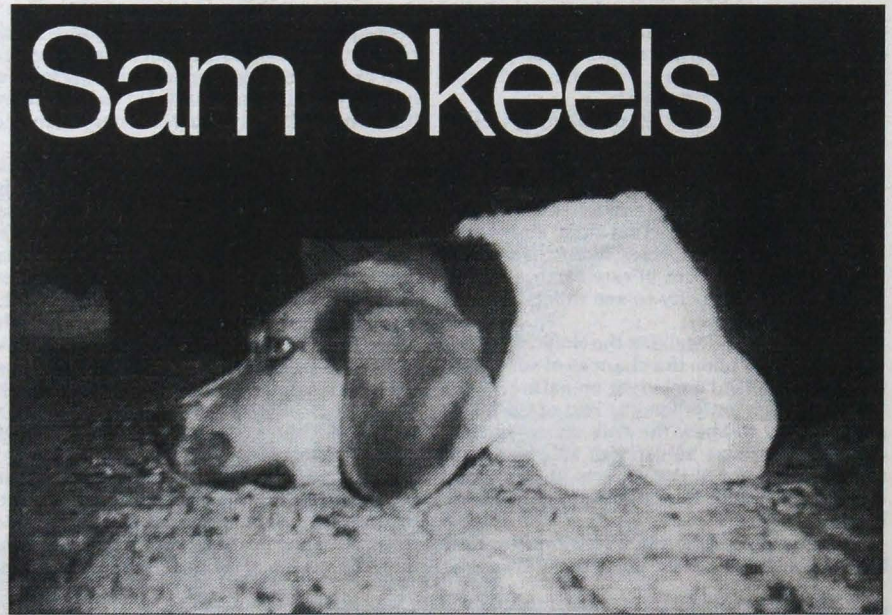
And yes, he just loved visiting humans (and the accompanying produce from their kitchens and pantries). He must have determined that if the consumption of food was to be consistently enjoyed, then he had to keep to a regular schedule. Hence, you could set your watch on Sammy's travels to visit the neighbours.

Lynn and Bill would see him on their morning walk, and every evening at 6pm. The day he fell sick with cancer they rang up to see where he was. Kerry and John were also puzzled when he didn't show that night, for he would always visit their house when he caught scent of a roast dinner.

One family on the hill rang up to say they were leaving town, and how much they would miss Sam's house calls. "Oh dear", we said, "we hope he hasn't been any trouble." "Of course not," they replied, "it's just that we'll miss him sitting in front of our fire and having a piece of chocolate!"

Jan and Alan came down to check on his state of health, and we probably had another six phone calls when the word spread that old Sam was dying. It's amazing that one low-slung hound dog had so much impact on the lives of his human friends.

It is true that he hated fences of all de-



scriptions, and he managed to crawl under, climb over, or barrel through any that were ever set up to impede his lifestyle. Maybe this was a reaction to having been neutered as a canine teenager, for he maintained a lifelong aversion to vet surgeries and cages, and never had any girlfriends that we knew of.

His rabbit chasing exploits were the stuff of legend, yet he managed to hurt himself in some spectacular ways. One such story, "the old stick in the dick trick", has passed into veterinary history. It began with Sam looking particularly uncomfortable one day, and unable to sit down. He was eventually sedated by the vet who removed a long, thin stick of bush from his penis, apparently lodged there whilst he was rushing excitedly through the bush. Brought tears to your eyes, it did.

Not long later he chased Sophie to Gail's house and proceeded to run straight through a plate glass window. Another Saturday afternoon visit to Derek Fairley, another operation, another card in his burgeoning medical file, more convalescence, more dollars. We reckon we've paid for Derek's last couple of cars, but hey, a dog's not just for Christmas!

In his final days, when he really fell ill, he just lay there, even unable to wag his tail. Derek and his staff were wonderful as usual, looked after him like a special friend, and gently suggested we all say our goodbyes. If there is such a place as a doggy heaven, then Sam will be on his rounds of the clouds up there looking for some friendly human spirits like he found on earth. And no, we couldn't face another puppy, no matter how cute, for a while yet...

Mayhem and murder to music



CHICAGO, set largely in the women's block of Cook County Jail, takes a look at America's under classes through a 1930s vaudevillian kaleidoscope of glitz, violence, pathos and, most endearingly, jazz. Written by Fred Ebb and John Kander, a recent production of this popular musical by the Warrandyte High School was directed and choreographed by the evergreen team of Chris White and Lynette White.

The plot is fairly complicated, but suffice it to say that this is not your average school musical. Explicit themes of murder, corruption, violence, adultery and treachery, as well as a challenging musical score, require a mature and accomplished approach.

The script is strong, the characters stark, and strong acting and gutsy voices are needed to convince the audience that they are not just watching a pack of school kids dancing around in black underwear.

Thanks largely to the inspiring performance of Zoe Thomas (as Velma Kelly), the gamble paid off. Zoe's technical ability and vibrant stage presence dazzled from start to finish. Velma, a vaudeville performer in jail for murder, is Zoe's all-time favourite musical character, and both her enjoyment of the role and months of hard work were very evident in this performance.

Another star performer was Kate Buskes as Roxie Hart, a cold-blooded and manipulative little tart also up on a murder charge. Ongo-

THEATRE

By MARILYN MOORE

ing tension between the contrasting personalities of Velma and Roxie underpins much of the storyline, and Kate indeed produced a worthy foil for Zoe's Velma. Velma might have had the lungs, but Roxie sure had the wits.

One of many highlights of the show was the "Cell Block Tango", performed by the murderesses (Zoe Thomas, Emma Collins, Ria Hynes, Emma Wilson, Anika Porto and Carly Richardson). Dramatically stark sets and lighting, fabulous music and strong performances came together particularly well for this number.

An array of vivid and contrasting characters is one of the many strengths of the script. Matron Mama Morton had many aspects to her personality, and with limited opportunity to develop these, Erin O'Mara had to nail the character with every word. She did this creditably, and her duet "Class" with Zoe Thomas was beautifully sung. Simon Jones's rendition of poor Amos Hart was wonderfully pathetic. Teacher Greg Stewart's role as lawyer Billy Flynn was a perfect blend of glitz and sleaze; Tighe Patching as MC rivalled the hypnotically grinning ringmaster of Cirque du Soleil; and Tegan Kocijan as Mary Sunshine—well, Tegan was a real hoot. He didn't need to be defrocked however, to prove his gender. His gait and the

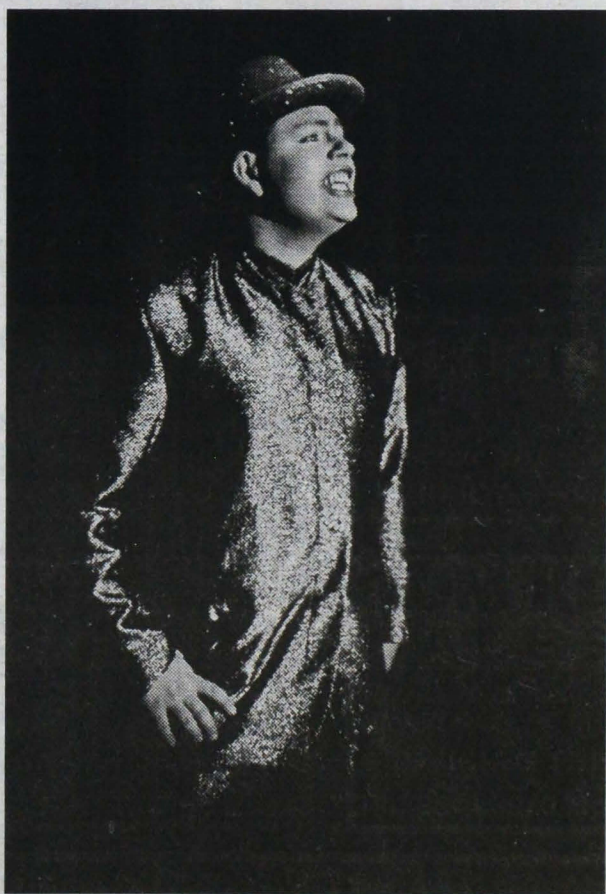
countertenor voice were dead giveaways.

Attention to character detail rendered even the bit parts memorable: David Cottier as the tailor and Harrison, Alasdair Coates as Aaron and the court clerk, Piers Brown as Fred Casely, Jennifer Byrne as Go-to-Hell Kitty, Brent Grimes as Fogarty and the doctor, and Hayden Wall as Harry and the judge. Singers and dancers of the company displayed advanced skills indicative of talent, hard work and attentive direction.

Storyline notwithstanding, Chicago is clearly driven by its music, and the orchestra, a band of accomplished musicians under the direction of Kirk Skinner, had their foot right on the "exhilarator". Well-known numbers such as "All That Jazz", "Razzle Dazzle" and "Hot Honey Rag" still remained fresh, although this was undoubtedly due in part to the youthful exuberance of the cast. But the singers and dancers, excellent though they were, could not have maintained the momentum without this superb backing.

Congratulations, too, to Renee Hoareau and Deborah Bradbury on their impressive and stylish program.

Following successes over the last 18 years with a diverse range of musicals including Pirates of Penzance, West Side Story, Sweeney Todd, Les Mis and The Wiz, Chicago continues the WHS tradition of outstanding productions. What next? Chicago is going to be a very hard act to follow.



PICTURES BY
GREIG RUTHVEN



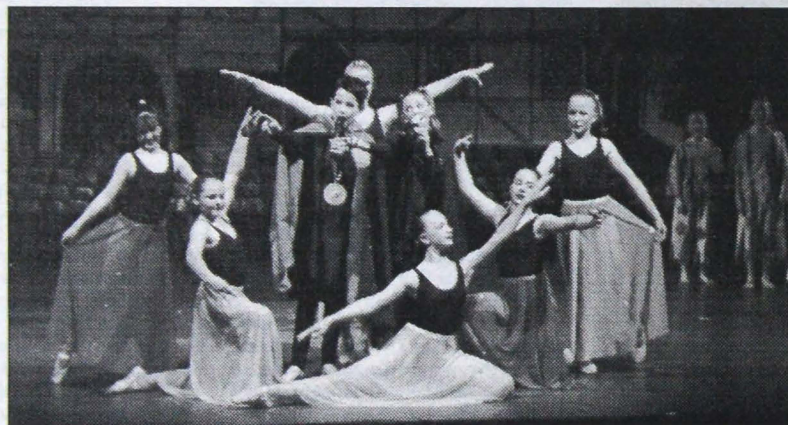
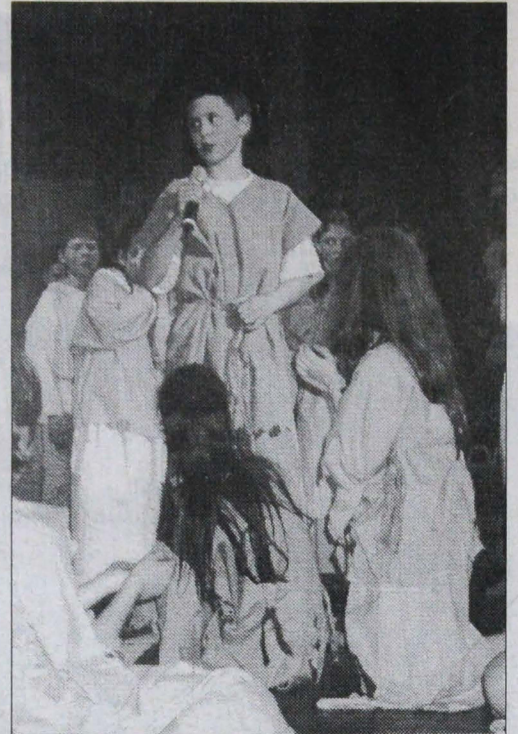
Masquerade

KIDS' STUFF

The peasants are revolting!

Identities were confused and social consciences challenged when Warrandyte Primary School continued their proud tradition of original musicals with Masquerade!, performed earlier this month.

Created by the locally-based Bushfire Press team of writers and musicians, the play is based upon Mark Twain's story, The Prince and the Pauper.



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MANNINGHAM BICYCLE STRATEGY REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Council, as part of its commitment to maintaining best value services for the community, has revised the 1999 Manningham Bicycle Strategy. This document is now in draft form and has been placed on public exhibition. Council will consider submissions received from the community during the public exhibition stage before adopting the revised strategy.

Your participation in the development of this strategic document is welcomed and any comments you may have on the draft Bicycle Strategy would be appreciated to assist Council in its deliberations on the delivery of the designated services.

You may obtain copies of the draft Bicycle Strategy and make submissions by contacting Project Management, Manningham City Council, PO Box 1, Doncaster Vic 3108, manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au, ph 9840 9317 or fax 9840 9351.

Written and oral submissions will be received up to Friday, 21st September 2001.

COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Does the Council reserve near you need some additional planting? Residents are invited to apply for funding from Council to plant trees, shrubs and grasses in their local reserve.

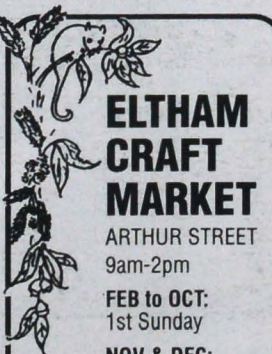
Please contact Kristen Kavanagh, Council's Open Space Planner on 9840 9468 or email kristen.kavanagh@manningham.vic.gov.au for information on the grants program and an application form.

Applications for funding close on Friday, 21 September 2001.

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

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

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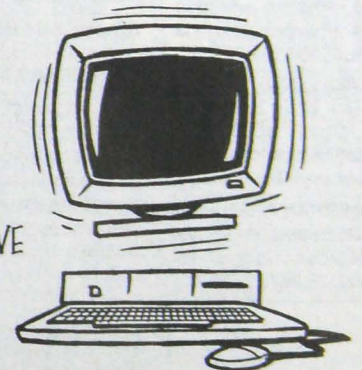
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Parks Victoria advises

Fox Control - Warrandyte State Park and One Tree Hill

Parks Victoria is committed to protecting and enhancing the natural values of parks and reserves across the state. An integral component of this conservation management is the control of introduced species such as foxes.

Parks Victoria is continuing its fox control program in Warrandyte State Park and One Tree Hill Reserve. Foxes are one of the greatest threats to native wildlife especially Powerful Owls, which fledge at this time of the year.

There will be a 1080 poison component to this program, which has proved to be very successful for fox control. The poisoning program is targeted exclusively against foxes and includes safeguards to ensure that native animals are not affected.

The poisoning program will commence in late August 2001 and continue at least until October 2001. Warning signs will be displayed at all designated entry points and a letter will be sent to all residents whose properties adjoin the park/reserve.

For further details, contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963.



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Olds pick new chiefs

At the recent annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club, Mrs Dot Hill was elected president with Mr Colin Bentley secretary. Mrs Jackie Law, who was forced to resign due to ill health was thanked for her great effort over the past two years. Warrandyte senior citizens are seeking new members to join in their many and varied activities. The Probus Club meets at the centre on the second Monday of each month commencing at 10am. The concert party meets on Monday afternoons at 1pm. Indoor bowls are played on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday is set aside as an outing day. On Thursdays there are health appointments, tap dancing, bingo, snooker and darts with a games day on Fridays. Saturday afternoon sees indoor social bowls played, along with afternoon tea. Anyone interested is welcome to drop in for a cuppa, or contact Colin Bentley on 9876 5754 for further information.

Garden

As part of Bush Month Victoria, the Hanson property at 104 Webb Street, Warrandyte will be open for visitors on Sunday, October 14 with a guided nature walk at 2.30pm. The property includes an impressive landscaped garden with a large natural bush area adjoining Warrandyte State Park.

Garden again

The van der Haar family will open their garden on Saturday, October 6 and Sunday, October 7 from 10am to 4pm. The garden is situated at 226 Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte (enter via Orchard Grove). Entry fee is \$6, with all proceeds going to the Anti Cancer Council of Victoria. Highlights of the garden include more than 500 roses, an excellent display of spring annuals, bulbs, hanging baskets and a variety of water features.

Holidays

Young people living in Warrandyte are welcome to join in the holiday program being arranged by Manningham Youth and Family Services. They are running a surfing safari at Phillip Island on Monday, September 24, a visit to the Royal Melbourne Show on Wednesday, September 26 and



Conducted by JUDY GREEN

a skateboard day at The Shed on Friday, September 28. Movies and session at Timezone, including an hour of unlimited games is planned for Monday, October 1, they'll be going horseriding at Uncle Nev's on Wednesday, October 3 and a visit to the Alpine Toboggan Park, with a barbecue lunch, on Friday, October 5. Michelle Hickingbotham has all the details on 9848 2977.

Planting

Parks Victoria, Green Corps and Friends of Warrandyte State Park have organised a community planting day on Sunday, September 23 from 10am to 1pm. This is part of Greening Australia's Spring Planting Festival. Members of the community who wish to participate are invited to meet at the Warrandyte State Park Pound depot, Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte. If you require further information call Hamish Allan on 9844 2659 or Mark Gardner on 0404 828938.

Celebration

The Green Wedge Protection Group are celebrating the 30th year of the Nillumbik Green Wedge with a dance on Saturday, October 6 commencing at 7.30pm. It will be held in the Kangaroo Ground Emergency Operations Centre, Ness Lane. BYO drinks and glasses and a savoury supper plate to share. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available. Cost is \$15 (adult) \$10 (concession). Enquiries and bookings to Cathy Giles on 9718 2779.

Singing

A Choral Extravaganza will be presented on Saturday, September 22 at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall in aid of the Warrandyte Arts Association. Performers will include The Bellbird Singers, 4 in a Bar, Women of Notes, a 50s style rock'n roll band and a variety of soloists. The evening is caba-



Double-header: Warrandyte Museum stalwarts, Ted and Shirley Rotherham (pictured) have both been honoured as part of the International Year of Volunteers, Ted in the Kevin Andrews Manningham awards (see Page ??) and Shirley by the Shire of Nillumbik.

ret style with tickets priced at \$10, \$7 concession. For bookings phone Joan on 9844 1744 or Lise on 9844 2553.

Plots

Julie Cottier is now responsible for the maintenance of the waiting list for plots at the Warrandyte Community Garden. If anyone is interested in putting their name on the list, please call Julie on 9873 2223.

Information

Warrandyte Historical Society are seeking information about James Purcell (wife Sarah, daughter Marian) who was a gold miner in Warrandyte from 1851 to 1854; also Naomi Weiss, who was connected with a youth movement in Warrandyte in the 1950s. If anyone can help, please ring the museum on 9844 4176.

Seminar

The next Green Wedge Seminar to be held at the Currawong Bush Park conference room in Reynolds Road, East Doncaster, on Thursday, October 4 will discuss bat nesting boxes and will be conducted by Robert Bender. Any enquiries or sug-

gestions for topics or speakers for the 2002 seminar series—now in its fifth year—can be directed to Samantha Bradley on 9840 9307.

Theatre

You still have time to catch Warrandyte Theatre Company's presentation of Waking Eve by Robert Hewitt. It commenced on September 6 with final performances on Thursday, September 13, Friday, September 14 and Saturday, September 15 at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall. Tickets are \$15, concession \$10 and family (two adults and a troop of kids) \$40. The play, which contains a lot of humour, is about friendships, relationships and suburban values and is directed by Brian Laurence. For tickets call Joan at the Old Bakery Bookshop on 8944 1744.

Gallery

The current show at the Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, is an exhibition of contemporary Aboriginal art entitled Spirit Country. It will be open until September 23, from 10am to 5pm, Tuesdays to Fridays; 2 to 5pm at the weekend.

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October here we come!

By TONY OLIVER

Round 19 of the junior championship basketball competition saw a number of Warrandyte sides strengthen their claims for the finals in October.

The Under-16 girls coached by Nick Peters rebounded from an unexpected loss to Melbourne — which cost them top spot — to beat eighth-placed Doncaster away.

Warrandyte were strengthened by the early return from injury of key forward Anna Middleton but were still without centre Emma Collins and suffered a late setback with the withdrawal of fast guard Simone Gemmel.

The game opened well for the Redbacks with early goals to Gina Oliver and Louise Yates, who hit a three-pointer, and they ran to a 9-2 lead before the game tightened up late in the first half.

Doncaster clawed their way back and reduced their deficit to 10-8, but a quick burst of scoring from Louise Yates and Tahnee Templeton saw Warrandyte comfortably in front 23-12 at the break.

The second half produced tight, rebound basketball, with Doncaster doing most of the scoring and pulling back to within four points.

Coach Peters was ringing the changes to stem the tide and a strong pass from Tahnee Templeton to Libby Lavery did just that, Warrandyte running out comfortable if not convincing 35-27 winners.

Peters was happy with the win and to see a number of his players starting to run into form coming into the finals. The minor premiership may still depend on the last game of the round on October 5 when the top teams

Many chances for junior basketball glory

Warrandyte and Bulleen clash.

Lorraine Parfitt's Under-14 girls took on fourth-placed Northcote. The final five in this group has virtually been decided but interest revolves around the order, with only Eltham assured of their top placing.

Northcote started well and it was not until the second half that Warrandyte were able to establish a handy six-point break. They maintained that margin to the end and now look reasonably comfortable in second place.

The Under-12 girls of Emma Wood hosted Craigieburn at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre. Warrandyte started slowly and Craigieburn had 12 points on the board before the Redbacks opened their account close to half-time.

Wood was down two of her faster players in Madeline Smith and Sarah Simmons, but Fiona Rennie was having an outstanding game.

The second half was closer, with Warrandyte narrowly outscoring the visitors but going down 20-11. However, they look safe in second place.

A depleted second Under-18 girls side travelled to Frankston, but were no match and went down 45-20. Despite the loss, the Redbacks should hold their place in the final five.

Tristan Messerle's Metro 2 Under-18 girls were reduced to six players against Melton by injuries to Danielle Feldman, Bianca Johnson, Stef Smith and Sam Wilson.

Melton started well and rattled on to 10 points, but Warrandyte settled, fought their way back into

the game and won by seven points.

It kept the Redbacks in line for a finals berth, but the level of injuries is a worry.

In the boys division, Damian Arsenis' Under-11 Metro 1 side beat Sunbury 39-20 in a high-standard away game highlighted by great ball handling.

The Redbacks had racked up 11 points before Sunbury opened their account and they led 25-5 at half-time.

Sunbury turned on a mini revival early in the second half, doubling their score in the first five minutes while holding Warrandyte scoreless, but the Redbacks lifted and the result was never in doubt.

Malcolm Anderson's Under-12 Metro 3 boys travelled to Cranbourne to take on one of the top teams and played well to trail by just a point, 17-16, at the break.

Anderson had only six players to choose from and foul trouble forced him to switch from a tight defensive game. Forward Matthew Peters was fouled off and Cranbourne took advantage of this, overrunning the visitors in the last few minutes to win 33-23.

The loss makes it difficult for Warrandyte to make the semi-finals as they play three teams above them in the last rounds.

The Redbacks' other Metro team, Martin Clark's Under-14 boys, led the Ringwood Hawks for most of the game, but could not sustain the effort and went down by two points. Warrandyte should still hang on to a top five spot and on their day are capable of matching it



Georgina Smith went along to the EDJBA Saturday championship semi-finals as a one-girl cheer squad for her brother Josh in the Warrandyte Under-19s game against Whitehorse. Unfortunately, the Redbacks were beaten 71-21. Georgina will play for Warrandyte in the Under-17 grand final.

with any team in the competition.

In a rare situation, three of Warrandyte's North West boys teams were in action at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre. Sadly, all were beaten.

The Under-16s boys went down 38-29 to Whittlesea, paying the price for a slow start.

Next on court were the second Under-

14s, who were unable to convert court possession against Sunbury on to the scoreboard and were beaten 38-18.

The Under-18 boys appeared to be in with a chance for most of their game against the Diamond Valley Eagles, but the pressure told in the second half and they were defeated 53-36.

Entries roll in for Goldtown Open gold



By JUDY GREEN

Warrandyte Tennis Club's annual Goldtown Open tournament will be finalised on Saturday, September 15, at the courts in Taroona Avenue.

Entries in all events have increased this year, with 33 players vying for the open singles title. Top seed is Shane Scrutton, a Victorian state

grade player from this year's winning MCC team. Warrandyte club coach Aaron Nolan will also be participating in this event.

Three Warrandyte junior teams won their grand finals in the Eastern Region Tennis Saturday morning competition on September 1.

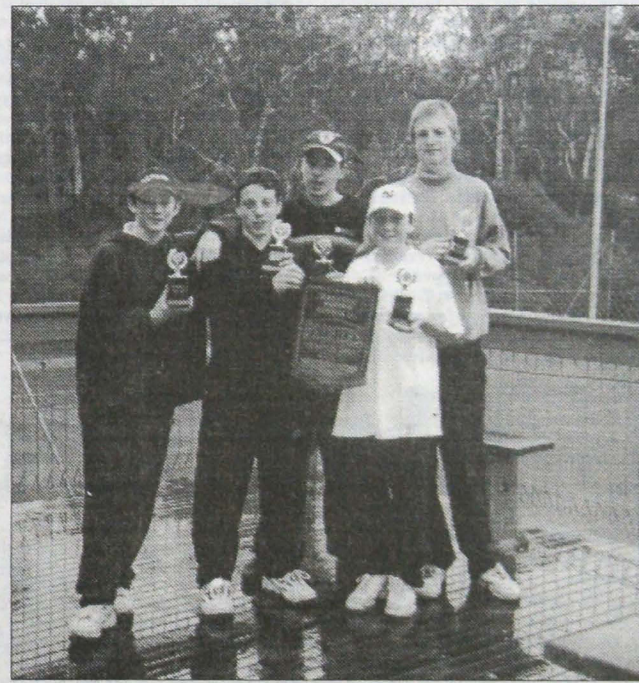
Boys 6 (Jarrod Hodgson, Alex Beltramin,

Smash hits

Two of Warrandyte Tennis Club's three premier teams in the Eastern Region Tennis Saturday morning competition.

Left: Boys 6 (left to right) — Alex Beltramin, Jarrod Hodgson, Nick Atkins, Trumble Dewe, Jonny Drew.

Right: Boys 8 (left to right) — Ben Stanzel, Tristan Boyce, Matt Sazenis, Luke Galley, Nathan Parke.



Trumble Dewe, Jonny Drew, Nick Atkins) defeated Park Orchards seven sets 48 games to one set 25 games.

The Boys 8 team (Ben Stanzel, Luke Galley, Nathan Parke, Matt Sazenis, Tristan Boyce) were victorious over Serpell by five sets 42 games to three sets 34 games and the Boys 10 section saw

Warrandyte (Sam Lavery, Daniel Wiltshire, Robert Hurle, Nick Lawrence, Julian Carter) defeat Templestowe Park in the first six sets of the match, leaving the remaining two sets unplayed.

Boys 12, Boys 23 and Girls 6 all reached the grand finals but had to settle for second.

Net result: a premiership

By MAYDEENA JAMESON

Warrandyte Netball Club put the icing on another successful season by bringing home a premiership from the Doncaster and District Netball Association grand finals on August 11.

The local club had six teams in the preliminary finals, four making it though to the semis and two into the grand finals.

The Legends (Under-15 Section 2) covered themselves in glory by defeating the Donvale Angels 31-28 in the big one.

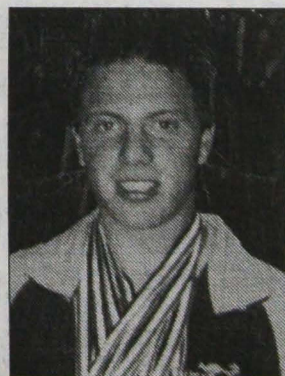
Beaten only twice during the season, the Legends were magnificent in a crowd-pleasing, nail-biting encounter.

There was very little in it at any stage, Warrandyte outscoring the Angels by a goal or drawing to them each quarter.

"The team should be congratulated on an excellent season," said coach Tracey Hoegel. "They played really well and deserved the win."

Amy Green's Open B Eagles also made the grand final and faced the Koonung Energisers, who had beaten them by one goal in the preliminary finals.

This time, however, Koonung were right on target, their goalers missing few shots and their defence impenetrable. Warrandyte tried their hearts out but went down 35-56.



Ryan Epstein

Ryan's medal blitz

Local young athlete Ryan Epstein brought home 12 medals — five gold, four silver and three bronze — from last month's junior international JCC Maccabi Games in the United States.

The games were held in five cities, the Australian track and field contingent participating in Miami and Philadelphia.

Ryan, 15, of Fossickers Way, broke his personal best in Miami with 11.7 seconds in the 100 metres and 23.85 seconds in the 200.

He also competed in the long jump and 4 X 100 and 4 X 400 medley and relays.

Six thousand athletes from Argentina, Mexico, Poland, Great Britain, Canada, Israel, Venezuela, the US and Australia took part in the games.

The opening ceremony in Miami was held at the American Airlines Arena, with the track and field events at the Miami Dade Community Stadium. The venue in Philadelphia was the 150-year-old Haverford College.

Redbacks on a finals fling

By TONY OLIVER

The finals of the Eastern Districts Junior Basketball Association Saturday competition began on September 1 with Warrandyte well represented.

Highlight of the opening round was the gutsy performance of the Redbacks' Under-19 girls, coached by Gavin Whitmore, who took on Bulleen away.

Bulleen set the early pace, opening up a handy lead. Midway through the first half, star point guard Kim Singh was brought into the game, which was the signal for a Warrandyte revival.

The gap closed to two points but a flurry of scoring just before the break allowed Bulleen to turn with a five-point lead.

Shooting guard Rachael Treeby was causing Bulleen problems as was forward Jacqui Dick.

Warrandyte got to the front after the break and were able to maintain the advantage and hold on for a 32-30 win.

The result gave Warrandyte the week's rest, which was welcome because a number of the Redbacks were carrying injuries.

Other girls teams to book passages directly into the grand finals included Anne Coussin's Under-9Bs and Tristan Messerle's Under-11Bs, who held out Doncats 12-11.

Surprise losers were Lorraine Parfitt's Under-9 Girls, who bowed out 32-15 to Eltham, never recovering from a slow start.

Warrandyte took out the minor premiership in the Under-17 A-grade girls division but went down to Eltham 36-21 in the first semi to face Bulleen in a sudden-death preliminary final.

Bulleen jumped early and opened up a 14-point lead, but a late surge by Warrandyte closed the gap to six points at the break.

The Redbacks, coached by Emma Wood, had defeated Bulleen in their two earlier meetings — albeit by narrow margins — and were confident as the second half started.

However, this half was a repeat of the opening stanza with Bulleen coming out the stronger to open a match-winning 20-point break. While the margin was narrowed briefly to eight, Bulleen were always in control and won 61-44.

Two of Wood's other teams are in the grand finals, the Under-9s making it directly and her Under-11s



Malcolm Anderson's Under-11 boys after their second semi-final win over Nunawading Vikings. Back row (Left to right): Ian McLeod, Matthew Peters, Josh Blakey, Tom Fitzpatrick, Peter Whittingham, coach Anderson. Front: Tyson Barber, Gavin Yates, David Wood.

winning through in dramatic fashion via the preliminary final. Down by two points to Nunawading Vikings at the break, the girls got their noses in front right at the end to win 27-25.

Malcolm Anderson's Under-11 A-grade boys stormed into the preliminary final against Bulleen with a 32-22 win over Nunawading.

The taller Bulleen side led 22-7 lead at the break and although Warrandyte improved in the second half, the pressure told and the Redbacks went down 42-23.

Damian Arsenis' highly-fancied Under-9 A-grade boys were surprise losers in the first semi-final against Eltham and met Nunawading at home in a fast, high-standard game.

Nunawading led 18-12 at the break, but the young Redbacks fought back to level at 24-all.

However, the visitors' shots were starting to drop when Warrandyte's were not and they went on to win 44-36.

Other preliminary final winners among the boys were Jake Ratcliffe's Under-9s and Tim

Given's Under-13.

Surprise losers were Nora Elliott's Under-19 boys.

Outclassed 71-21 the previous week by Whitehorse, the boys played Venito Lions and came from behind to lead by five points with five minutes to go.

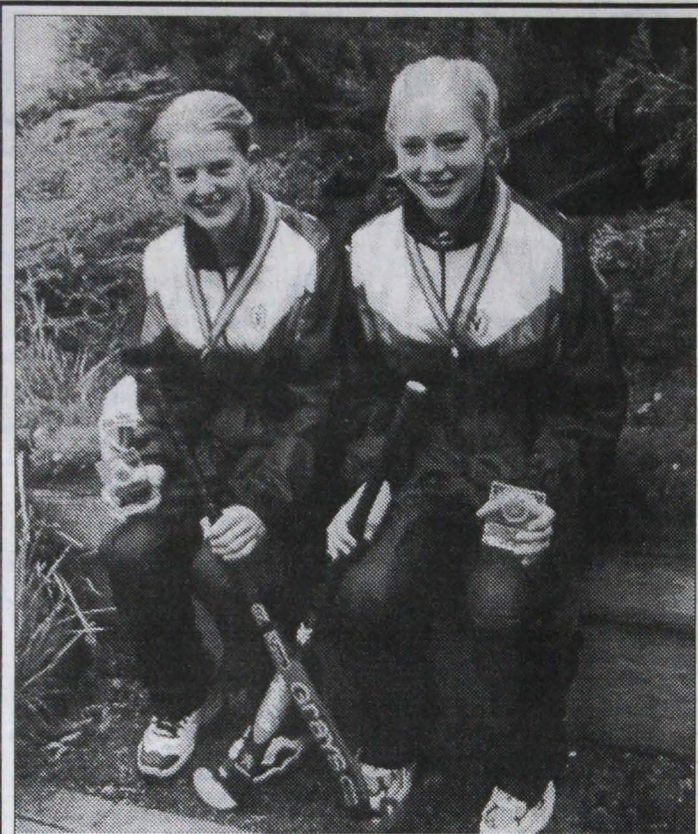
It was all tied up with 40 seconds on the clock and Warrandyte in possession, but a Redbacks shot missed the target and Venito edged ahead from a foul.

This situation was repeated not once but twice in the dying seconds, Venito hanging on to win 35-31.

Other winners to progress to the grand finals were Carole Bissetto's Under-11 A1-grade girls (29-26 over Doncats), Nick Peters' Under-15 girls (32-22 against Eltham) and Warwick Armstrong's Under-17 girls (19-7 over Doncats).

Unluckiest losers were Tahnee Templeton's Under-11 girls, beaten in a second period of overtime against Ivanhoe after finishing at 16-all.

• More basketball Page 21



Warrandyte's national hockey representatives Rachael Lynch (left) and Lauren Brook. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Next, the world!

By LEE TINDALE

Two teenage girls who could easily be mistaken for sisters have further enhanced Warrandyte's proud history of sporting achievements by winning national hockey honours.

Lauren Brook, 16, and Rachael Lynch, 15, were selected in the Australian Under-16 team at the interstate championship in Sydney last month.

The team of 16 was announced at the closing ceremony of the championship, in which Victoria achieved its best-ever result at that level by finishing a close second to Queensland.

Lauren, of Webb Street, and Rachael, of Weroona Way — two of three Eltham College students in the Victorian team — will now be picked up by the Victorian Institute of Sport for the next 12 months.

The girls, who play at both junior and senior level for Greensborough Hockey Club, share the ultimate ambition of playing for Australia at the Olympic Games.

Rachael's mother Anne and Lauren's parents Gillian and Bruce were at the Sydney Olympics hockey venue at Homebush to hear their daughters' names read out as All-Australians.

It was a bit too much for Rachael and Anne. "We hugged each other and cried like babies," said Anne.

Rachael, the only goalie selected, was the baby of the Victorian team.

She first played hockey at Warrandyte Primary School and in Grade 6 made the Victorian primary schools team.

She was scouted by Greensborough and has graduated there — while playing for her school — from Under-13s through Under-15s to seniors.

She described her selection in the Australian team as "totally unexpected".

Lauren, a year above Rachael in Year 10 at hockey-strong Eltham College, also started at the Greensborough club as an Under-13.

She made the Victorian Under-14 team in 1999 and the Under-16 side last year and again this year.

"Playing hockey and training involves six days a week," she said. "Being selected in the Australian team has certainly been the highlight of my career so far."

As members of the VIS program, Lauren and Rachael will train twice a week at top level and under specialist coaches.

U-11s stick to basics, win flag

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

Warrandyte's Under-11s won their Yarra Junior Football League premiership the hard way last month — advancing to the grand final through two preliminary games and holding on to beat a dogged Greythorn by six points in the big one.

"We had some very basic rules all season and for grand final day," coach Steve Blakey said after the triumph. "Play as a team, back yourself, support your mates, respect the opposition, remember that you are representing the club and enjoy yourselves."

"That's what they did and that's why we are the premiers," he said.

Blakey actually underestimated the stamina of his own boys. "When we say how fresh the opposition were we were very worried about the boys' lasting capacity," he said. "However, as they have proved all year, they are made of sterner stuff."

Warrandyte led by 10 points at half-time. They had tackled well, backed up well and committed themselves 100 per cent and carried that form into the third quarter before Greythorn came back hard, throwing everything they could muster at

the young Bloods, who stood firm and refused to wilt under pressure.

Final score was Warrandyte 5.5 (35), Greythorn 4.5 (29).

The final siren set off joyous celebrations among the Warrandyte players, their parents, coaching staff and supporters.

"I'm so happy for these boys, who have shaped so well during the year as individuals and as a team," said Blakey.

"I know it's a cliché, but I can't really identify the better players — we won because we played as a team."

"I'd like to thank everyone involved with the team and urge them to stick with us next year so we can continue the development of these boys."

The premiership players are: Tyson Barber, Josh Blakey, Zac Boyce, Nicholas Branch, Chris Carver, Chris Cox, Aaron Dean, Ayrton Dehmel, Patrick Eddy, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Jordan Gauder, Nathan Gordon, Callum Griffith, Josh Hale, Tom Lavery, Ian McLeod, Luke Miller, David Morello, Rowan Mullet Treloar, John Pinder, Kane Stoffels, Narayan Tobin, Arie Van Bergen, Matthew Versteegen, Peter Whittingham, Michael Whittle, David Wood and Jack

Wright.

Warrandyte's Under-16/17 Colts made the grand final against all odds and were more than gallant in defeat.

They were, in fact, lucky to field a team against traditionally-strong Beverley Hills.

The Colts had been ravaged by flu and eight of their number virtually got out of their sick beds to play.

"The fact that we were able to put a team on the field at all was a credit to their team spirit and individual pride as players," said team manager Anthony Mirabella.

"The boys just couldn't have tried any harder and the effects of the flu started to kick in about midway through the third quarter, when Beverley Hills started to pull away."

Mirabella said the club were very disappointed for the Colts — but there was good news for season 2002.

"Most of these boys will be back next year as Colts and there is no reason to suspect they won't continue on in their development," he said.

"Success breeds success and we have been approached by a number of players to join the squad next year."

"This is a credit to Mathew

Matheou, the coach, and the management committee who are doing innovative things on behalf of the boys," Mirabella said.

The Under-12s fell one win short of what would have been a magical season when they went down by 22 points to Bundoora in their grand final.

"It was a disappointing end to what would have been a great season," said coach Syd Saunders.

"All I can say is the boys had one of those days that we can forget about."

"They were just unlucky. The ball just didn't bounce our way, but they never stopped trying," he said.

"There are many positives for the club, though, as these boys will prove the building blocks for many good teams in the future."

"Players like Tyson Fitzgerald, Tim Hookey, Nick Crosbie, Luke Saunders, Nick Meade and Edward Saunders all had great seasons and hopefully will continue to develop."

"The club can feel really proud of all the boys as they led the competition all year, were top of the ladder and won straight through to the grand final," Saunders said.

Our goalden boy

Full-forward Michael Morello set a new Warrandyte Colts goalkicking record during the junior finals.

Morello broke the long-standing record of 69 for a season in the first week of the finals and finished with 77.

"It was a remarkable effort," said Colts coach and WJFC president Mathew Matheou. "If he had not been seriously affected by the flu in the last two weeks of the finals, who knows what the mark would have been?"

"I predict that Michael's record will stand for a long time."

The WJFC committee plan to honour the achievement in an "appropriate way".

The Yarra Junior Football League have recognised Morello's talents by naming him — along with club captain Piers Brown — in their Colts Team of the Year.

"It is rare that players from the Second Division are selected in the top team and it acknowledges what rare talents Michael and Piers are," said Matheou.

Morello, Brown and teammate Ben Mason have all been selected in the Eastern Ranges development squad and Renee Pidgeon in the Northern Knights squad.

Warrandyte juniors also figured prominently in the league best-and-fairest counts.

Jordan Canham, John Burgoyne, Patrick Rose and Daniel John were right up there among the best in the Under-15s and Stephen Christopher finished second in the Under-14 count, with teammates James Singh and Shaun Carter in the top 10.

Jack Bullard and Paul Burgoyne polled very well in the Under-13s and Tyson Fitzgerald ran third in the Under-12s, closely followed by Tom Maddocks.

Thomas Fitzpatrick, Josh Hale and Patrick Eddy were among the leading vote-getters in the Under-11s.

Dytes take the drop

For the first time in more than 20 years, Warrandyte will not compete in the premier division of the Ringwood District Cricket Association next season.

Warrandyte Cricket Club have voluntarily relegated themselves from the prestigious Chandler Shield competition to the lower Wilkins Shield.

The committee was forced to take this action because of a shortage of senior players.

Under RDCA rules, clubs playing in the Chandler Shield must have four senior teams to play in the four grades of the competition.

"Unfortunately, we could not guarantee the RDCA that we could achieve this," said WCC president Robert White.

"It is a great shame. We have a proud record of being one of only three teams never to be relegated from the Chandler Shield, but a decision had to be made.

"Last year our fourth eleven were forced to forfeit a number of matches and in some games we had fewer than 11 players in the thirds and fourths.

"The RDCA wasn't prepared to let this happen again and we could not see our way clear

to be sure we would have the numbers."

White said committee members had contacted as many club members as possible but could not get a firm commitment to ensure there would be a suitable pool of players.

"It is very disappointing but perhaps it is a sign of the times," he said. "There are so many options for young people, especially in the summer.

"We are also aware that many people are now working at the weekends and it makes it difficult for them to make a commitment over two weeks."

White said he was hopeful the change would be to the long-term benefit of the club.

"In Wilkins Shield we will play 14 games compared with 11 in Chandler Shield," he said.

"There will be seven one-day and seven two-day games in a home-and-away system among the eight clubs. This will provide more cricket and more one-day options for our players"

He said the quality of cricket in Wilkins Shield was strong, with such powerful clubs as North Ringwood and Norwood being unable to return to the top division.

Wonga Park, who finished bottom last year in Chandler Shield and would have been relegated, will now remain in the top grade.

Cricket training moves outdoors

Warrandyte cricket will return to the recreation ground for training on Thursday, September 13. It will be the first outdoor training session following five weeks of indoor practice.

Retirements and the unavailability of many players have provided plenty of opportunities for young cricketers to show their talents in senior ranks.

Club president Robert White said last year's captain-coach Russell Jenzen had joined East Ringwood and while his ability with both bat and ball would be missed, his absence provided chances for such players as Campbell Holland and Matthew Sazen to step up.

"The opportunities are there. It is up to the young players to take them," he said.

White said the club would be



Russell Jenzen

looking to their junior ranks to ensure their future.

"Junior training from Under-12s to Under-16s has been ex-

citing and enthusiastic, with indoor seasons for five weeks," he said. "There are a number of talented youngsters moving from Under-14s to Under-16s and they will be encouraged to have a go in senior teams.

"The future of Warrandyte Cricket Club really relies on the juniors. We have to encourage them to become involved and let them see there is a playing path within the club."

The juniors held a successful registration day on Sunday, September 2. Any junior cricketers interested in joining the club should contact junior coordinator Trevor Taylor on 0412 224329.

Senior registration night will be on Thursday, October 4, after training.

Oh for a key forward!

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club's season ended with a whimper on August 18. An away loss to Norwood was their 11th defeat in the 18-game home-and-away season, sinking them to eighth in the 10-team EFL Third Division competition.

The Bloods finished above only Mooroolbark (who beat them at both meetings during the season) and Kilsyth, who will be relegated to Division 4.

The premiership was won on September 9 by South Croydon, who beat Templestowe by two points at Ringwood. South Croydon also won the Reserves and Under-18 flags and will be replaced in Division 3 next season by Upper Ferntree Gully. Coldstream also come into Third Division as Division 4 premiers.

And where did Warrandyte go wrong in 2001?

"Lack of key forwards was our big undoing," coach Scott Hunter told the *Diary*. "We had good second strings, but we

Countdown for a champ

Warrandyte Football Club's 2001 vote count will be held at Club Warrandyte on Sunday, October 14, starting at 12.30 pm.

Despite the Bloods' disappointing season, the count will be full of interest, with recruits Matt Wood and Matt Blagrove and home-grown young ruckman Craig Dick among those likely to figure prominently.

Tickets, which include a three-course meal, are \$30 and available from Bucky Rodgers (0411 519671) or James Logan (0411 223418).

had to play them in key positions.

"The best 21 we could put on the field were good. We needed a couple of extra players around them.

"I thought our on-ballers — the likes of Matt Blagrove and Matt Wood — were excellent, but as other teams became aware of them they applied a lot of pressure and it caught up with them towards the end of the season."

Hunter said the Bloods were also "a bit small". Ruckman Craig Dick was a notable exception and had an outstanding

season. "But he's only a youngster and he had two opponents to beat in a number of games," he said.

"Our young players did very well, but they need to bulk up over the summer. We need to get a bit of meat on them.

"You can give away height, but you can't give away muscle to an opponent of equal ability. Our kids are pretty light on."

Warrandyte's coaching position for next season has yet to be decided, but Hunter, who succeeded premiers coach Lex Munro, is keen to put in a second term.

"I'm expecting to be there," he said.

WFC president Robert "Noddy" Ireland agreed that the Bloods' downfall this season had been the lack of at least one key forward. "We simply didn't kick enough goals," he said.

But salvation in that department may be at hand. Warrandyte are talking to a prolific goalkicker from First Division and hope to have him in the fold next season.

"It was a frustrating season, particularly the early part of it when we lost games — games that we should have won — by narrow margins," Ireland said.

"We fell away in the second half, partly because of injuries. We did not have the depth in the reserves to adequately replace the injured players and we had no Under-18s to promote to cover injuries.

He said one of the big problems over the past couple of seasons had been failure of players to honour promises to be back next year.

"If we can hold this year's squad together, recruit well and further develop our young talent, we can be very, very competitive next season," he said.

"What we need are some hard, smart, experienced players to get in under the packs and help the younger players out."

Ireland said he was undecided at this stage about standing for a second term as president at the annual general meeting in November.

"I believe we need new blood on the administration side — not wholesale changes but one or two new faces on the executive and on the football operations side of the club," he said.

"We've got to find a football coordinator/manager to ease the workload, especially on game days, on the executive and to work with the coach and the players on registrations, insurance and the like.

"He would oversee team managers and basically be in charge of getting game day going," Ireland said.

Search is on for U-18s

By LEE TINDALE

A concerted campaign has been launched to resurrect Warrandyte Football Club's Under-18 side, which missed the 2001 season for want of numbers.

Lifelong local football supporter and former junior coach and committee member Brian Williams is masterminding the plan in conjunction with Phil Treeby, father of senior player and former Under-18 star Matt.

Both believe Under-18s are essential to the ongoing success of senior football in this town.

"The club — who have given us their blessing — committee and members feel Under-18s are the basis of the seniors, the footballers of the future, the lifeline of the club," Williams said.

Warrandyte Junior Football Club's top age level is Under-16/17 Colts and in the absence of an Under-18 side, Colts graduates have nowhere to go locally to immediately further their playing careers.

"The result is that they may go to other clubs who field Under-18 sides and be lost to Warrandyte football forever," Williams said.

Moves are already being made to find an Under-18s coach for next season and a publicity drive will be set in motion to attract players.

"We intend to take our search for players to all secondary schools in our area," Williams said. "We also plan to advertise on the Internet and we'll be relying heavily on word of mouth to get our Under-18s message across.

"The importance of Under-18s to our football future is exemplified by the number of graduates from that level who are now playing senior football.

"They include Craig Dick, Liam Riley, Aidan Davey, Rick Templeton, Tim Andrews and Matt Treeby, all top players and, hopefully, Warrandyte players for many years to come.

"They all came up through the Under-18s and made an immediate impression at senior level."

Williams and Treeby welcome input into their campaign. Williams can be contacted on 9844 3346 or 0405 268117 and Treeby on 9876 4142.

Warrandyte kids on a high

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

Warrandyte Junior Football Club are basking in the glory of an excellent season. Six their seven possible teams played in the finals series, three made it through to the grand finals, with the Under-11s taking the premiership.

"All this has been a great result for the club," WJFC president Mathew Matheou told the *Diary*. "The reality is that over the last two years, every team within the club have experienced finals success.

"This level of representation in the finals is as high as any other club in the Yarra Junior Football League and it is a credit to the coaches, their support staff and, of course, the players," he said.

The Under-10s lost their preliminary final by just two points, the Under-11s won their premiership and the Under-12s got straight through to the grand final but couldn't pull it off. "The Under-13s had a difficult year, but the Under-14s and 15s both made the finals. The Under-16/17 Colts were unexpected finalists but just didn't have the legs to get over the line."

Matheou said the committee's vision that every player should have grand final experience and, hopefully, a premiership medal was slowly being achieved.

"Three years ago," he said, "we put in place a business plan incorporating a financial and marketing plan and we are starting to see the benefits.

"But we can't rest on our laurels. Our ultimate vision is to provide an environment in which all players can maximise their abilities and play football at the highest possible level.

"We would like Warrandyte players to join at Auskick level, play with the juniors and then play at a level where they are able to realise their full

potential. For this to occur, the club needs to be well administered and a skills development plan that covers all the years from Under-9 to Colts and linkages with clubs where players can achieve their potential must be in place.

"We are happy with the skills development strategy. Now we are seeking linkages with suitable bodies to provide services of sports psychologists, dieticians and other support services," he said.

The highlights of the season were many for Matheou and his committee. "Just to be able to give about 200 boys a game of football every Sunday has been a really satisfying feeling," he said.

"To have the success we have had, and to see the parents involved with their kids ... well, that's just the icing on the cake.

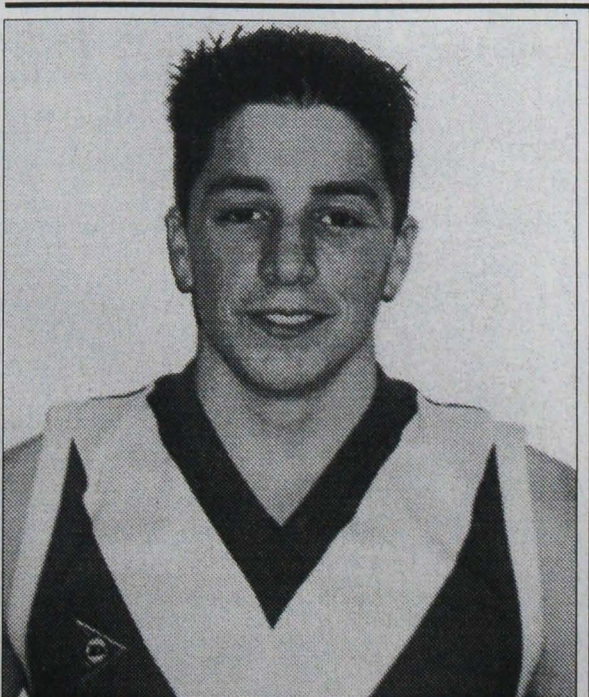
"I can't help but mention the (Under-9) Tacklers. They've been wonderful and have added a new dimension to the club and I'd like to thank all the parents — especially Clem Misfud and Gavin Costin — for their efforts during the season."

Matheou also foreshadowed improvements to the Taroon Avenue clubrooms shared by the junior and senior football clubs and the cricket club.

"At the initiative of Manningham council we recently organised a meeting with the co-tenants of the recreation reserve to come up with an improvement strategy for the clubrooms," he said. "Over the summer months we will see a major upgrade that will continue to make the clubrooms and playing facilities possibly the best in the league.

"We thank the council for its support."

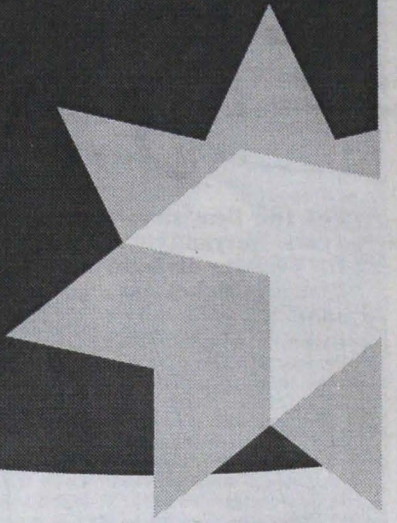
Junior presentation day is on Sunday, September 16, at the clubrooms. The club's annual general meeting is on September 17.



Michael Morello: a record 77 goals for the season.


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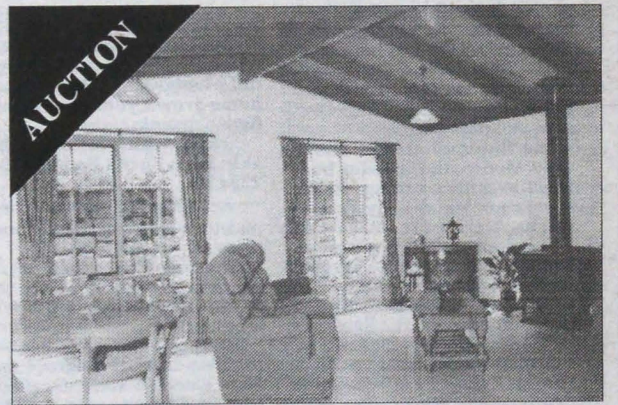
Warrandyte's most active agent... at your service



SATURDAY 8th September at 11am
\$240,000 plus buyers



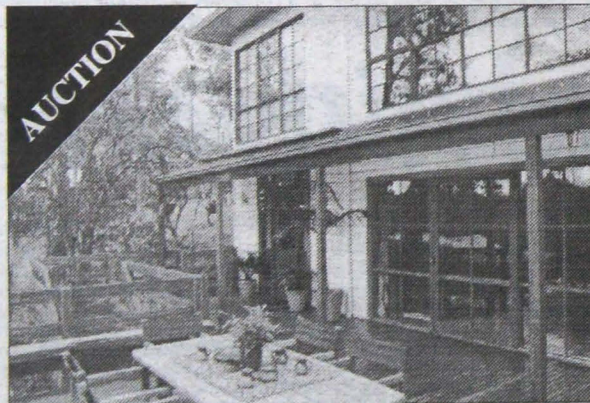
SATURDAY 8th September at 1pm
\$300,000 plus buyers



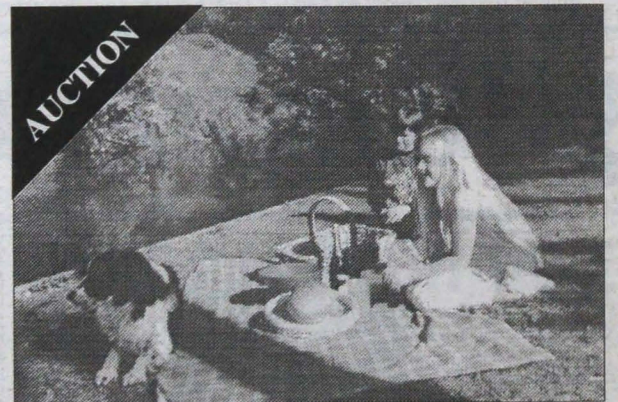
SUNDAY 23rd September at 1pm
\$260,000 plus buyers



PRIVATE SALE
\$359,000



SATURDAY 22nd September at 11am
\$270,000 plus buyers



SATURDAY 22nd September at 11am
\$400,000 plus buyers



Andrew Wilson
Managing Director



Peter McDougall
Sworn Valuer



Russell McInnes
Sales Consultant



Vicki Gardiner
Sales Consultant



Jenny Prowse
Property Manager



Jade Thomas
Receptionist



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