

DIARY

No. 336, October 2001

9844 2622



PRICELESS

31st year

For the community, by the community

Advertising: 9844 3819

Editorial: 9844 3719

Fax: 9844 4168

Call to community



What a difference a year makes! Council painters at work early this month, part of the promised major refurbishment of the community centre. RIGHT: Council valuers measuring the Diary office 12 months ago, with a view to commercial occupation.

By CLIFF GREEN

The Warrandyte Community Centre Supporters Group is calling a public meeting to establish a Warrandyte Community Association on Wednesday, November 21.

The meeting, to be chaired by well-known resident Glenn Martin, will be held at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall, commencing at 8pm.

This is virtually 12 months since an historic public meeting, held on November 22, 2000, resolved to resist Manningham council's efforts to allow the community centre to be used for commercial purposes and decided to establish a support group.

"When council's plans for the centre were first revealed, the local community was ill-equipped to act," Mr Jock Macneish, president of the support group told the *Diary*.

"We had no ongoing group capable of taking up the issue with our councillors and pressing for a result. We had to form a new group to run the campaign.

"The ultimately successful campaign to support the centre revealed the need for a permanent community group, dedicated to the survival of Warrandyte as a community. For a decade or more we have not had such a group. Each time a crisis hits the town we've had to form a new group. The community usually wins the day—but then the group dissolves."

Warrandyte's sister communities in Manningham's Mullum Mullum Ward—Park Orchards, Wonga Park and Donvale—all have community associations of one sort or another. When these groups call for unified

action—in defence of the Green Wedge, for example—we are unable to respond.

In our case, with Warrandyte shared between two municipalities—Nillumbik and Manningham—the need for such a residents' group is even greater. Warrandyte has been without such an organisation for too long.

"For people who want to take an active role in the community of Warrandyte—however small that role may be—this will be the group where you can be most effective," Mr Macneish said. "This will be more than just a protest group. Members of this group will be the first to become aware of the major issues. They will be able to influence the policies that will affect their community."

The Community Centre Supporters Group was founded for a specific purpose. It successfully tendered for the management of the centre and is now busy putting this into practice. The proposed community association will have a broader membership base and a wider field of activity.

"We should be aiming for a mass membership," Mr Macneish said.

"Everyone who lives in Warrandyte should be a member. Then the association will carry real weight with councils both sides of the river, with members of parliament and with governments.

"There will be people in the community who may not wish to be as heavily involved as others. They will all be most welcome as members.

"But the style and structure of the association will be decided by the public meeting. We want everyone to come along and help us put this exciting concept together."



CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS

WHAT? YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK WE WERE MEASURING UP THE COMMUNITY CENTRE TO TURN IT INTO SHOPS, DID YOU?



WE WERE JUST FIGURING OUT HOW MUCH PAINT WAS NEEDED FOR THE RENOVATION.



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Turn around before you put your foot in it, Socks



If, as they say, timing is everything in comedy, we don't think Page 2 headline grabber Grant "Socks" Egan should give up his day job to hit the giggle circuit. His sense of timing is lousy. We were in the local pub the other afternoon about to order our first cleansing ale of the day (pony shandy, of course) and just happened to be standing behind the big fella as he whinged to his mates about the terrible pain he was in. "I was baby-sitting my daughter Ruby last night and I put my back out changing her nappy!" he said, producing howls of derisive laughter from all quarters. And why not? Putting your back out by changing a nappy must be roughly akin to breaking your neck by blowing your nose. Realising somewhat belatedly that he had taken another step into the bizarre, Socks followed up with: "Thank God that #!@!!% Smokey Joe wasn't here to hear that!" "Look behind you," said one of his mates. "Hi Socks," we said.

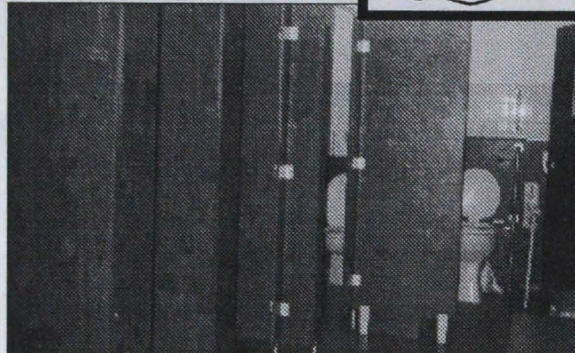


We might as well do a proper job on Socks while we're about it by telling you how he came by his nickname. Grant was so nervous when he left home on his pushbike many, many moons ago for his first training run with his now-beloved South Croydon Football Club that he forgot some pretty essential footy footwear and arrived in white runners and pink socks. Amid a lot of guffawing from his new clubmates, a fiery debate erupted as to the precise shade of his hosiery. "They're salmon!" said Grant. "They're pink!" said the hardened, grizzled South Croydon veterans. "Salmon!" "Pink!" and so it went on — and a nickname and a legend were born. We're now going to let Socks off the hook by assuring him that The Collins Dictionary and Thesaurus allows "salmon" as a form of "pink". So get back to South Croydon, mate, and bore it right up 'em retrospectively.



The misfortune that dogs Page 2 celebrity Neil (Bozo) Dusting defies belief and if you read about it anywhere else but here or in the Bible you might tend to be sceptical. But it happens. Oh yes, it happens. Just as the Dustings (Neil, the lovely Pauline and their three gorgeous daughters) were about to

IN RED & WHITE



We are indebted to Rae Danks for this sensational photograph taken during her trip to the UK. What it is, folks, is the toilets deep within the bowels, so to speak, of London's Kensington Palace. We'd like to make gags linking these thrones to the royal wee, but we have to be honest and admit that these are the palace's public toilets, for use by tourists like Rae. But we reckon it's still pretty exciting if you happen to be a royalist.

fly on holiday to the theme parks of the Gold Coast, Ansett went belly-up and Bozo lost an irretrievable \$1400 on the tickets he'd booked. Unable to get a flight, they drove — and as Neil was having a ball going "Whoopee!" riding the rides that even Evel Knievel might have balked at, the Tuesday night Warrandyte Tennis Club competition folk were standing around wondering who was going to give them balls, turn on the floodlights and open the clubrooms and the bar et cetera. You see, Neil is in charge of the Tuesday night comp and it hadn't occurred to him to tell someone that he'd be a couple of thousand kilometres away at the time. That's a hat-trick of non-appearances by Bozo, bearing in mind two recent fishing trips to East Gippsland that took preference over urgent business at the tennis club. Anyhow, by the time they sorted things out at the courts, this particular Tuesday night comp had become the early Wednesday morning comp and a few people nodded off at their desks that day.



Diary advertising/accounts manager Rae Danks is just home from a month in the UK



"England is absolutely beautiful," wrote Rae on a postcard to Smokey. "Had dinner last night at a great pub, The Trout, built in the 1600s. They drink HUGE pots of beer here — you'd love it!" Wonder why she said that. "Had a good strog for six pounds 50 at the Prince Edward pub in London," Rae went on. "Wine expensive at three pounds a glass. At least we won't be getting pissed at those prices!"



And a random observations from Rae's travel diary: "The Millennium Tower looks like a large dead beetle with its legs in the air."



Local plumber John Ryan has a rather novel way of organising his working week.

He writes his job appointments on Post It notes and sticks 'em on the windscreen of his four-wheel drive. It's his trademark — and because he's a busy man, it amounts to a lot of Post It notes. We noticed the other day that he'd switched from the neutral white to blue and we had to ask the question. Was this a sexist statement? You know, blue for boys? "No," said John, "the blue ones are cheaper."



John's just back from Bribie Island where he caught up with Warrandyte footy club stalwart Alan Vitiritti, who now runs a boat hire business up there. Alan's got two four-wheel drives — one which won't go into 4WD and one that won't come out of it. Makes launching boats off the beach very interesting.



Neo, a six-month-old border collie described as "excessively friendly", went missing here on October 5 and his owners are missing him something awful. There's a \$100 reward for his return and the phone number is 9844 4874 or 0402 082684.



Guess who turned 60 last month (September 9, to be precise)? Vic "Shipwreck" Grybas, the ill-fated sailor of Melbourne Hill. Vic's passion for sailing and penchant for capsizing et cetera have been mentioned here more often than he cares to recall and we hate to be the bearers of more bad news: the Seniors Card for which he is now qualified carries no discounts on the cost of sea rescues.

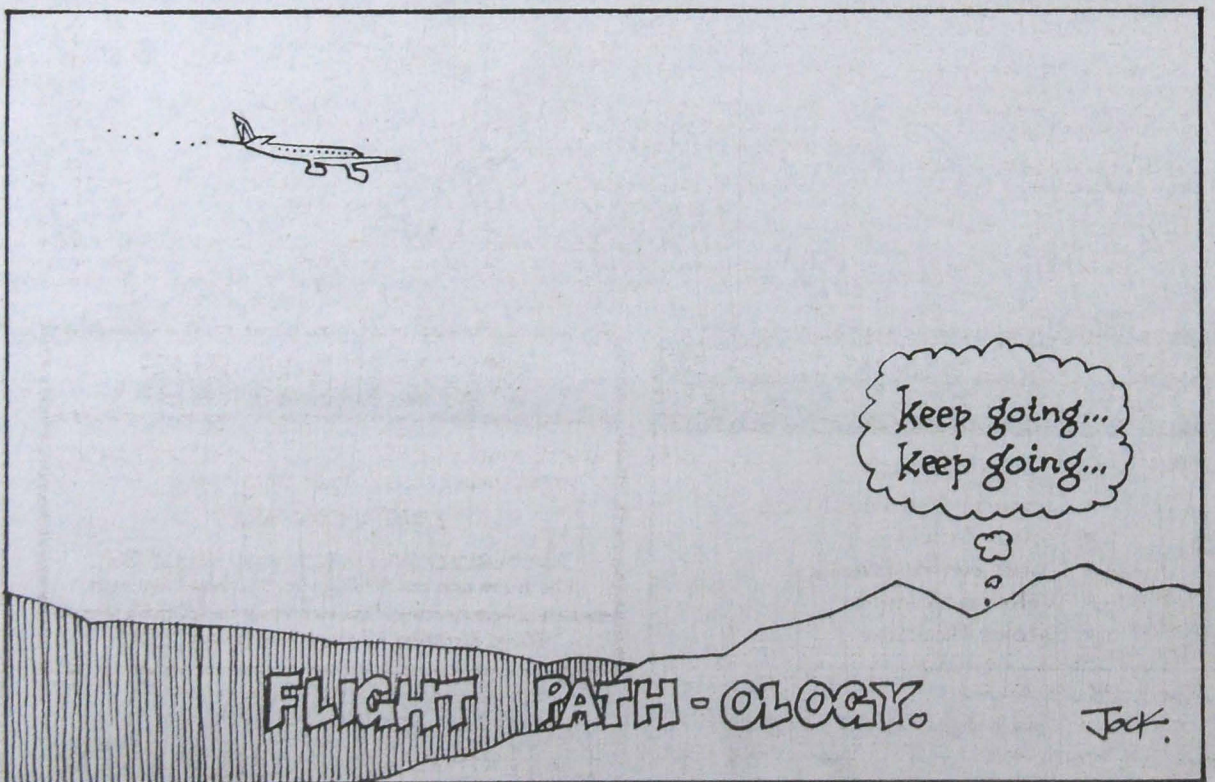


What's two to three metres high, pretty rare in Warrandyte and a veritable magnet for butterflies? Give in? Okay. *Pomaderris elliptica* and *Pomaderris prunifolia*, or the Smooth and Plum Leaf Pomaderris respectively. They're hardy shrubs, their attraction for butterflies will give you a moving picture show in your garden and they're available right now from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend. Give Cathy Willis a call on 0418 142297.

Smokey Joe

By **JOCK MACNEISH**

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Copy closes last Friday of each month

OUR NEWSPAPER

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

A SPECIAL PLACE

Warrandyte (approximate population 8000) is situated on the Yarra River, some 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.

State threat to Wedge

By RACHEL BAKER

A state government report concerning the future of greater Melbourne suggests plans could be afoot to subdivide the Green Wedge, Warrandyte's state MP has warned.

"Challenge Melbourne: Issues in Metropolitan Planning for the 21st Century", the result of the government's Metropolitan Strategy seminars, says urban sprawl will be a major challenge in Melbourne's future.

It asks: "If the outward growth of the city is to be slowed should we consider using some of the non-parkland in the green wedges for housing and other activities?"

Liberal MP Phil Honeywood said this report leaves the Green Wedge "up for grabs".

Mr Honeywood claimed the government is keen to promote residential development because the current housing boom is supporting Victoria's economy.

"As the manufacturing industry slows down, and factory after factory closes, the government is relying on the housing industry," he said.

"The government may see the Green Wedge as an impediment to having new housing estates built," he said.

Mr Honeywood told the *Diary* the planning minister, John Thwaites, who is also the health minister, could be suffering under a heavy workload.

"I worry he's being snowed by bureaucrats," Mr Honeywood said.

Such bureaucrats, Mr Honeywood said, would support the belief that outward development is more costly for the government than development within the green wedges, because it necessitates new infrastructure, such as freeways, gas pipelines and public transport.

Mr Honeywood maintains that the Kennett government offered greater protection for the Green Wedge.

"Kennett dismissed Nillumbik council but in terms of the Warrandyte Green Wedge, Jeff Kennett was unequivocal," he said.

"The difference is Bracks and Thwaites have given more power to local councils, whereas we used to rule the roost on macroplanning issues. We used to be able to say Green Wedge stays put. Thwaites has left it up in the air," he said.

The government's report agrees the



Bushland in the Green Wedge: marked for development? (Picture by Jan Tindale)

"If the outward growth of the city is to be slowed should we consider using some of the non-parkland in the green wedges for housing and other activities?"

onus has been left to local councils.

"Substantial confusion and conflicting views exist about the long-term use of the green wedges. If current trends continue, non-urban land in fringe areas will continue to be dealt with differently in each council area and may see the expansion of inappropriate uses that conflict with or degrade the environment."

"The government is very aware of the importance of green spaces, especially on Melbourne's perimeter," a spokeswoman said. "The Green Wedge is one of the big issues. The Metropolitan Strategy will become a blueprint for the future development of Melbourne. The consultation process is still going on. Another draft is due early next year and the report will be released for-

mally next year. This report ('Challenge Melbourne') is part of the process."

Locals became concerned about the future of the Warrandyte-Park Orchards Green Wedge when a group of landowners applied to subdivide 37 broad acre allotments into 103 building blocks.

Council has appointed a review committee to examine all aspects of development in the Green Wedge. Marie Wallin, a member of this committee, recently resigned. Council has replaced her with Mark Tansley, well-known town planner, local conservationist and a member of the Warrandyte Advisory Committee.

Will plan allow closer housing?

By DAVID WYMAN

A draft Manningham Residential Strategy, prepared by council staff, recommends a study to identify potential sites for "a range of accommodation options for residents in the non-urban areas, including the future housing needs of older residents".

The council statement says the ageing of the non-urban community and "the accompanying claims of difficulties of maintaining larger properties is a key housing issue". It says the issue has increased in significance "in the context of numerous studies that have indicated the desirability of providing alternative housing in close proximity to people wishing to move from larger properties to maintain social and cultural networks".

Of particular concern to readers of the report, who have contacted the *Diary*, is that the study to identify potential sites "for a range of accommodation options" should specifically consider "sites in, or in close proximity to, the townships of Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park".

Local MP Phil Honeywood believes council has "opened a very large can of worms" with its draft residential strategy. "We should all be committed to finding options that encourage older person housing in Warrandyte and Park Orchards. However, this desirable goal should not become the justification for comprehensive medium density subdivision in our community," he said.

Mr Honeywood said that the council needed to realise that unless there were designated retirement villages, "it is virtually impossible to require private land developments to be for certain age groups only".

"If council also choose to exercise their planning powers to allow some landowners to develop units and not others then they leave themselves open to planning appeal tribunal intervention.

"The tribunal will often determine that if a council has exercised a discretion in favour of subdivision for one group of landowners over another then it has been discriminatory. This could lead to a domino situation as other abutting landowners attempt to cash-in their one acre of half acre allotments for unit development as well," he said.

"When all of these factors are taken into consideration, the Draft Manningham Residential Strategy could result in dual occupancy and unit development by stealth, all under the camouflage language of providing options for older persons."

Phil Honeywood has suggested that all concerned local residents should make individual submissions on the draft strategy direct to Manningham council before the exhibition period expires at the end of October, 2001.

MP pulled from firing line?

By RACHEL BAKER

The imminent departure of state MP Andre Haermeyer from the Green Wedge seat of Yan Yean, north of the Yarra, indicates his lack of dedication to his electorate, local politicians have claimed.

Mr Haermeyer, who is also the minister for police and community services, will stand for pre-selection in a safer Labor seat in Melbourne's west.

A spokesman for the minister said his heavy portfolio load meant he could not devote the necessary time and energy to his marginal electorate.

This covers Christmas Hills, Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge, Plenty, Yarrambat, Yarra Glen, Craigieburn, Yan Yean, Cottles Bridge and parts of Epping, Greenvale, Greensborough and St Andrews.

Former Nillumbik mayor and local councillor for 20 years, Robert Marshall, said Mr Haermeyer has neglected his electorate.

"I'm very disappointed Andre hasn't had the courage to represent this area in terms of its importance for greater Melbourne—by offering permanent protection for the Green Wedge," Mr Marshall said.

Warrandyte's Liberal MP, Phil Honeywood, rejected Mr Haermeyer's reason for leaving Yan Yean.

"A true local MP should stick with their community through good times and bad," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*.

"Clearly Mr Haermeyer is more interested in hanging onto his ministerial position than representing the people who put him into parliament in the first place," he said.

Mr Haermeyer's spokesman said

the minister was proud of his achievements in the seat, which, he said, include taking the Greensborough to Ringwood freeway off the agenda (which would have passed through Warrandyte), establishing a 24-hour police station at Diamond Creek, saving the Eltham police station, upgrading local schools, enhancing roads and securing new equipment for the Country Fire Authority.

But Robert Marshall believes this isn't enough.

"He's certainly done many things, but there's a lot more that could and should have been done," Mr Marshall said.

"We're always told a lot of things are going to happen when they're campaigning, but when they're elected we don't see them brought to fruition," he told the *Diary*.

Mr Haermeyer's spokesman main-

tained the minister, who lives in Craigieburn, has been loyal to his seat.

"The area has always had a voice in cabinet and will continue to have a voice," he said.

"The election is some years off, and he'll continue to represent Yan Yean," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said Mr Haermeyer did not ask to leave Yan Yean, but was invited to express interest in a different seat.

"He's going to stand as a candidate for pre-selection, but it's by no means in the bag," he said.

Liberal MP, Phil Honeywood, said he expected an ALP member from a local council within Yan Yean would be a likely successor.

Robert Marshall said he "looks forward to having a member who will properly represent Green Wedge issues in state parliament".

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Gospel truth

DEAR DIARY

When I was a kid we called the Club Store "The Gospel Hall". I think it's a lovely old building, one of the very few buildings with any character left in Warrandyte. And the gracious old manna gum and its siblings in the grounds are a special sight.

Fond memories of Sunday night church sing-alongs and perhaps not such fond memories of Sunday School and then, in later years, play groups have made great use of the space.

I find it very disappointing to see the roof and spouting being so neglected, overflowing with leaves and other windfall.

It surprises me that the residents or owner haven't been asked by the CFA during last

summer to do something about cleaning up the roof and spouting. Perhaps those with the power are hoping the roof and spouting will just rot away and another old building in Warrandyte will be pulled down, uncared for.

The building is an icon in Warrandyte and one that should be preserved.

What about it, Club Store? Give the old building a treat.

Heather Jameson
Everard Drive

CLYDE & OCKER



"I'll learn 'em this election, Ock. I'm voting informally!"

Like shelters, hate advertising

As a long term public transport user and living in the idyllic environment of Warrandyte, I was asked what I thought of the new advertising bus shelters.

I have to admit that standing under cover while waiting for transport, often late arriving, sometimes not at all, has its advantages. However, when my eyes are bombarded with lit-up commercialism, I just want to scream and search for a lonely bus stop looking for company.

Warrandyte doesn't need these messages disturbing our quiet main street, and as one who always uses the bus stops, I don't like them. I support Kerry Boyle et al in their fight to have these shelters removed, and call on council to listen to their grievances.

Dougie Esson
Warrandyte Road

We love this village

Congratulations, Kerrie Boyle. At last we have someone who feels that Warrandyte is still a lovely village, and must not become just another suburb of Melbourne.

Of course the Manningham councillors are to be congratulated for promising to remove a great number of unsightly signs, etc.

Mr Kennett may have wanted areas renamed, but via the river bridge, North Warrandyte is still Warrandyte.

Jim Harris
Pound Bend Road

A phantom in the town?

Will the real J. Peel please stand up?

After reading J. Peel's damning letter attacking our community, I thought, who is this J. Peel?

- There is no first name for identification.

- There is no clue of gender.
- There is no street address.
- There is no J. Peel in the telephone directory.

My only conclusion is that J. Peel does not exist—so will the real J. Peel please stand up?

Colin Davis
Osborne Road

In memory

Adam, Sarah and I have been totally overwhelmed by the support and the sense of care demonstrated by our local community at this sad time of Trish's sudden and tragic death.

We are truly grateful for the opportunity provided through the *Diary* to celebrate her life. We thank you.

Adam, Sarah and Neil
Qualtrough
Osborne Road

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

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

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ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Are you interested in Nillumbik's environment?
Do you have something to contribute?

Nillumbik Shire Council wishes to establish an Environment Advisory Committee. The aims of the Committee will be to provide advice on key environmental issues within the Shire.

There are up to seven (7) positions on the committee for community representatives. Nominations are invited for these positions and will close on Friday 26 October 2001.

Terms of reference and nomination forms, including selection criteria, are available from the Council offices in Civic Drive, Greensborough, or can be mailed out upon request, by contacting Claire Harris on 9433 3210.

For further information please contact Damian Closs, Council's Environmental Planning Coordinator, on 9433 3216.

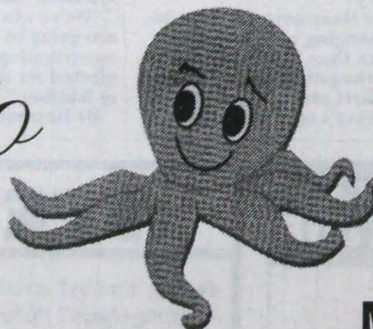
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In election mode: two hopefuls pitch their lines

Greens support our Wedge

Barry Watson, Greens candidate in the forthcoming federal election, has pledged his support for locals campaigning against development in the Warrandyte-Park Orchards Green Wedge.

"I am aware that the Green Wedge zoning is being challenged by some landowners," Mr Watson told the *Diary*.

"This action is threatening to subdivide the larger land properties creating opportunities for developers and the negative impact of infrastructure services. I would promote public meetings and involve environmental groups such as Environment Victoria and pressure Manningham councillors to preserve the unique environment that is the Green Wedge. I would like to see a more transparent process in Manningham council's selection of community representation on the recently formed Green Wedge Review Committee."

Barry Watson was a community-elected representative for two years



on the recently disbanded Eastern Freeway Community Liaison Group. His main interests during that time were dealing with air quality and noise policy issues, and he continues to work with the EPA and VicRoads in researching and studying health and environmental impacts on the community.

"Nationally, the Greens will be focusing our campaign on health and education, global warming, general sustainability, refugees, globalisation and fair trade and the preservation of

our forests", Mr Watson said.

"I am interested in planning issues such as medium density developments like the proposed Doncaster Hill Strategy and transport issues. Whilst the concept for the Doncaster Hill Project is positive, development of the area will put extra pressure on existing public transport services, recently criticised in a City of Manningham report.

"With the increased density of housing for the elderly and the ageing of our population, a city rail link with Manningham is an essential part of an integrated transport system", he said. He is categorically opposed to a ring road freeway being built through the Green Wedge or Banyule Flats."

Barry Watson has worked in the building industry all his life, beginning as an apprentice carpenter. He is now employed as a building estimator. He is married with two young adult children.

● Barry Watson can be phoned on 9848 5478.

ALP meets the locals

Olga Vasilopoulos, ALP candidate for Menzies in the approaching federal election, visited Warrandyte last month.

"I held a mobile street meeting in the Goldfields shopping centre and I was inundated with residents keen to talk about local issues," she told the *Diary*. "These included bank closures, the rabbit problem, the approaching bushfire season and phone towers.

"Other issues raised included the GST, the Business Activity Statement, superannuation, health care and development issues in Warrandyte. Of particular concern to residents is the crippling effect of the GST on self-funded retirees."

Born in Melbourne to Greek immigrant parents in 1968, Olga grew up in the inner city area where she was educated to secondary level.

For the last 15 years Olga has lived in the Menzies electorate. She holds an Associate Diploma of Busi-

ness in Public Relations from Holmesglen Institute of TAFE, a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in media studies and politics from Swinburne University, and a Post-graduate Diploma of Arts in Communications from Monash University.

Currently completing a Masters degree in Communications at Monash University, Olga is now employed as a Greek language interpreter and research assistant.

Olga has been an active member of the Manningham community for some time. At present she is serving as a member of the board of Doncare, a local community care and counselling centre. She is also a member of the Manningham Community Health Centre.

● For further information please call Faye Dapiran on 9891 6873.

Season hots up

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte fire brigade officers are concerned that many local residents will act independently in the event of fire in the area.

"Fire can often occur very suddenly and spread very rapidly," Jeff Adair, CFA's Yarra Area community education coordinator, told the *Diary*. "People will respond in a variety of ways, depending upon the circumstance and their level of preparation."

A common reaction is for people to attempt to leave the area immediately. "This is the least safe option," Mr Adair said. There are many unknowns; such as—

- where the fire is located;
- the direction it is travelling;
- whether or not the road will be open; and
- the degree of visibility, due to smoke.

CFA research indicates that many people "fight and flee". "They choose to stay and defend their property, fight the fire for as long as possible and then leave because they are frightened, ill-prepared, under-

equipped or overwhelmed," Mr Adair said.

"These people are extremely vulnerable, because they are potentially exposing themselves to high level of radiant heat, the possibility of being caught on the road with little or no protection from the fire. Late evacuation or panic-driven decisions are the most dangerous."

Many residents who may be outside the area when fire strikes will attempt to return to rescue pets and possessions.

"They are as equally vulnerable because they may not have any preparation in place to actively defend themselves or their properties," Mr Adair said.

"In this confused situation, decisions are often hastily made and may force people to take inappropriate action which increases their risk."

Jeff Adair believes that these dangerous situations can be avoided. "Learning about fire behaviour, how to protect vulnerable areas, and what not to do in a fire emergency, can develop confidence and a sense of self-reliance. People who are

prepared and equipped, supported with a well-developed plan have a higher likelihood of survival."

The CFA is targeting the "unprepared" this summer. "Many residents have received this message and acted on it," Mr Adair said.

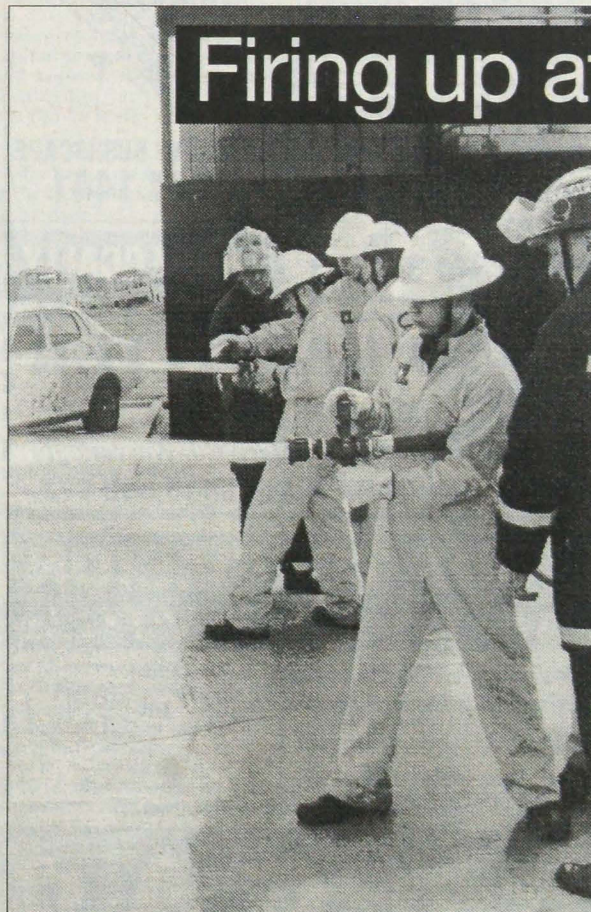
"They are well prepared and work with their family and their neighbours to create a fire-safe environment. But there are many others who may be new to the area, or have failed to act on previous warnings and advice."

Warrandyte brigades are planning a series of street corner meetings, public information sessions and further activities for Community Fireguard groups to help with facts that enable allow residents to make informed decisions.

"These meetings will commence in November and continue until the end of the year," Mr Adair said.

● Further CFA fire emergency information is obtainable from Jeff Adair on 9735 0511 or Kate Murphy on 9844 3375.

Firing up at school



Ever ready: Warrandyte High School CFA youth crew in training.

Our high school CFA youth crew completed their second training camp last month.

The crew spent two days at the south-east training ground in Carrum Downs, practising their firefighting skills. Activities undertaken included search and rescue, simulated grass fire attacks, and a car fire rescue and suppression.

The students are now only one term away from completing their two year program, which will hopefully lead to some of them joining the CFA to offer their skills to the community.

The CFA Youth Crew program is an initiative of the CFA and the Victorian Youth Development Program.

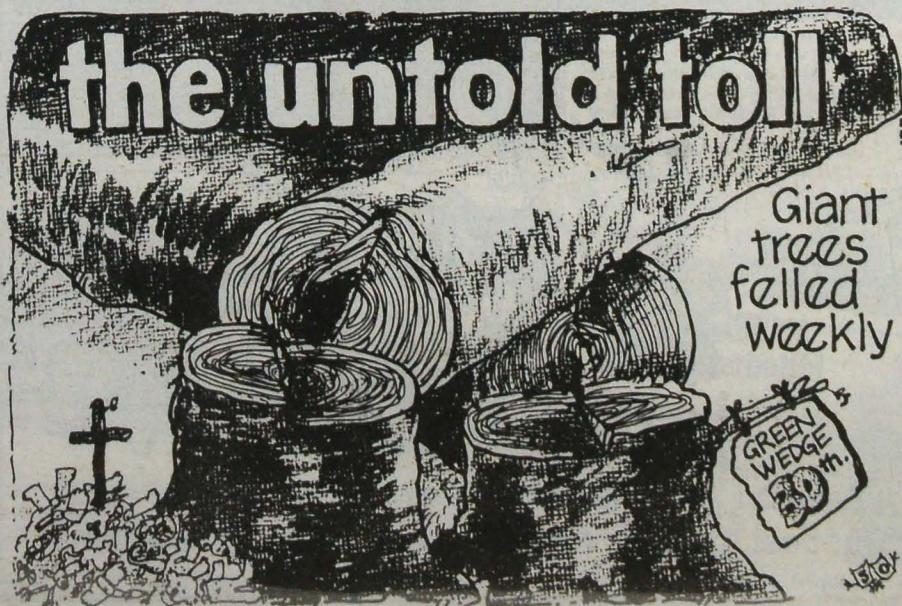
"The current crew is the first in—hopefully—a long line to undertake the program at Warrandyte High School," a school spokesperson told the *Diary*. Many Year 8 students have already applied to be part of next year's crew.

"Many thanks to the volunteers from Warrandyte and Diamond Creek CFA brigades who gave their time to help with the camp," spokesperson said.

The CFA youth crew from St Helena Secondary College also took part in the camp. "Watch out for the new breed of CFA volunteers emerging from Warrandyte High School at the end of next term!"

COREY'S CLAN

By SYD & ONA



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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May a thousand flowers bloom...



Wicked weeds or wonderful wildflowers? Keeping our bushland free of noxious plants allows beautiful native plants (above) to flourish and flower. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

With National Weedbuster Week running from October 7 to 14, local residents are being urged to protect the environment and help in the war against weeds.

"It's time to think how you can help in the fight against weeds," a Manningham council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"Many common garden plants have become serious environmental weeds, choking our native plants and the places where native animals live. Some of these plants are still commonly available from nurseries, so please choose carefully."

"Why not grow plants that are indigenous to the area?" the spokesperson said.


"Local native plants can be adapted to fit almost any garden style and offer a wonderful palette of colours, textures, shapes, flowers and foliage."

Residents are asked to:

- Undertake a program to eradicate or control weeds on your property. Encourage your neighbours to do the same.
- Remember the environment has no boundaries.
- Compost garden clippings and waste. Never dump it in or adjacent to bushland areas.
- Don't remove rocks or local plants from bushland areas and try and stick to designated paths. Disturbed sites are easy targets for weed invasion.
- Join a local friends or park care group and help to regenerate our precious bushland areas.

Call Manningham council on 9840 9333 to obtain a free copy of their Weed Identification Guide.

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We'll all celebrate BushMonth!



Champions of the bush: Bev and John Hanson in the restored native forest that surrounds their beautiful garden. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Bev and John Hanson's property in Webb Street—one of Warrandyte's special gardens—will be open to the public during BushMonth, on Sunday, October 14.

"October is BushMonth and Trust for Nature is celebrating the wonder of Victoria's beautiful natural areas with a selection of some of the best private properties you could ever wish to see," a trust spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"Trust for Nature is a non-profit organisation which strives to ensure that all significant natural areas in private ownership in Victoria are conserved," the spokesperson said.

Hundreds of landholders are protecting

native bush forever by covenanting their land with Trust for Nature.

"Each property is permanently protected for the high value of its native habitat and diversity of flora and fauna, offering visitors a unique opportunity to see the land as it appeared prior to white settlement," the spokesperson said.

"From threatened grassy woodlands and volcanic basalt plains in the south-west of Victoria, to properties in Victoria's goldfields and tall forests around metropolitan Melbourne and Gippsland, visitors can choose from 25 open properties throughout the month."

Local residents are invited to take a

guided tour of the Hanson property—at 104 Webb Street, Warrandyte—on Sunday, October 14.

"This is one of the Trust for Nature's best covenant properties," the spokesperson said.

The Hanson property boasts a large area of beautiful natural bush, brimming with wildflowers and impressive landscaped gardens, also featured in Australia's Open Garden Scheme. Nature walks commence at 2.30pm.

• For further information on open properties or a copy of the brochure please contact Trust for Nature on 9670 9933.

Many splendid gardens

Manningham council has published a booklet featuring 100 native plants growing in the municipality.

"This area boasts some of the most beautiful countryside, open space and parklands in Victoria," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*. "The variety of colours in the flowers, foliage and bark of our local native plants is truly diverse."

"From the subdued grey-greens of the eucalypts to the vibrant orange-yellow flowers of our peas, from the striking blue pincushions to the mottled pink trunks of candlebarks—the colour combinations and garden design possibilities are endless."

Residents of Warrandyte and avid gardeners across Manningham can now discover the beauty of our local plants with *Native Splendour*, a free gardening guide to the indigenous plants of our area.

The booklet features 100 lo-

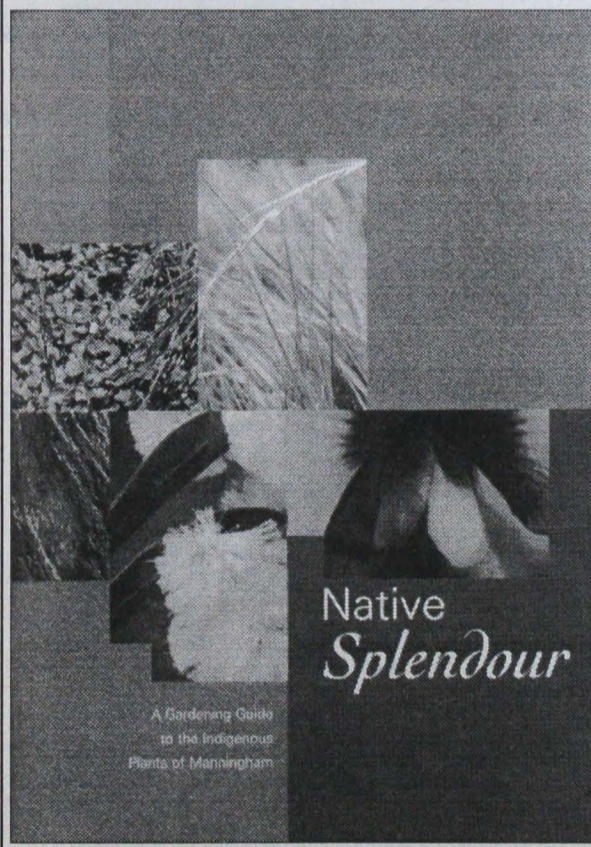
cal native plants superbly depicted, with practical advice on planting and cultivation.

"In the pages of *Native Splendour* you'll also find information on weeds, a list of nurseries stocking indigenous plants, notes on garden design and a reference list for further reading and information," the spokesperson said.

Local native plants can be adapted to fit almost any garden style—cottage, woodland, formal or contemporary planting schemes.

"There are indigenous plants to suit every location, from shade loving species through to arid and moisture loving plants, with a palette including trees, shrubs, climbers, grasses, and spreading plants."

• For copies of *Native Splendour* contact Manningham City Council on 9840 9333.



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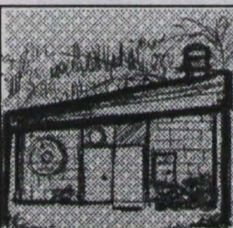
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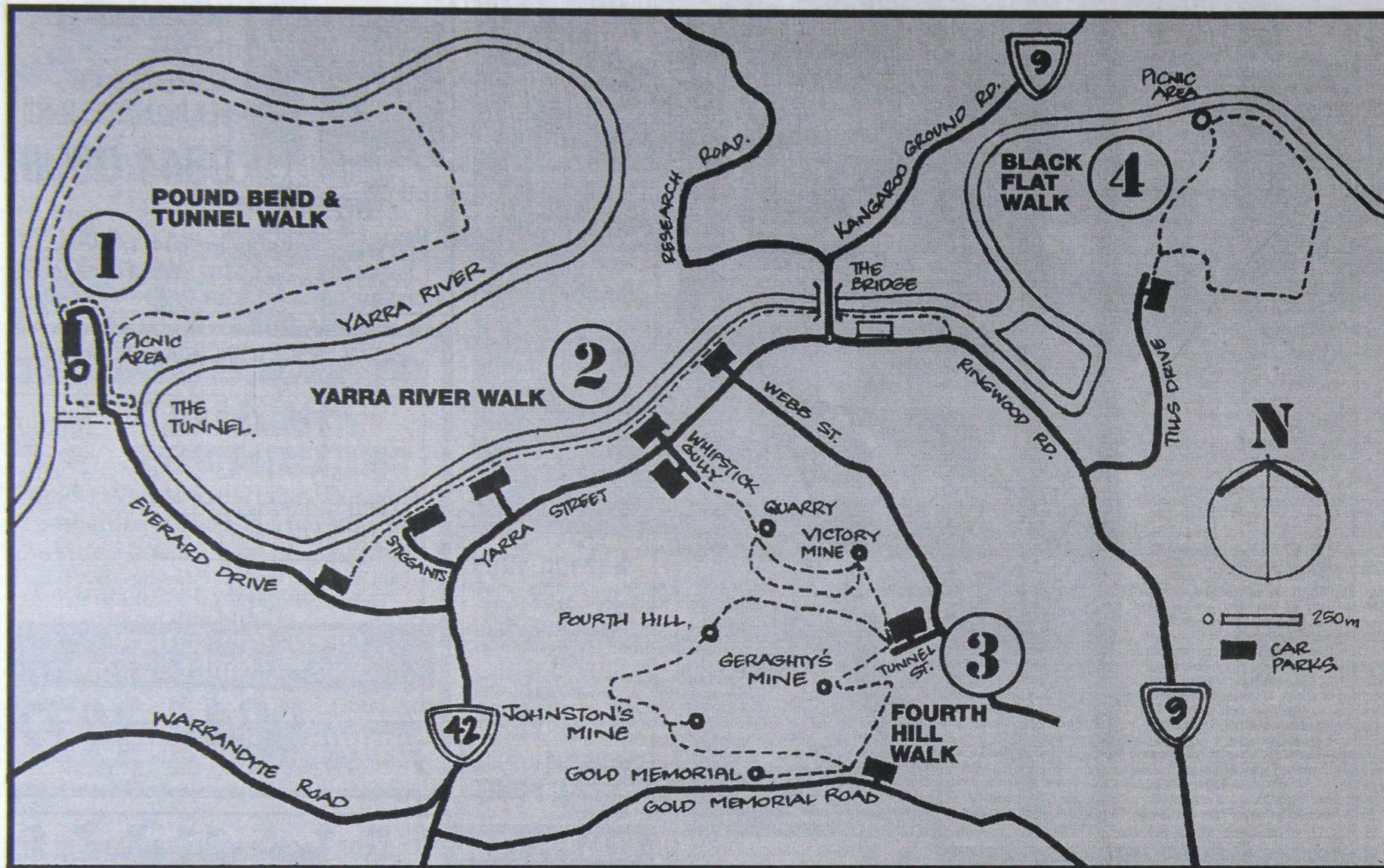
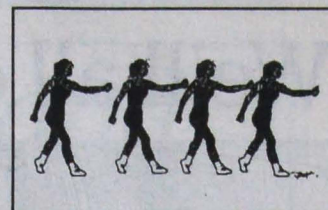
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4

Walks around Warrandyte



1 Pound Bend Walk

Drive to the end of Everard Drive to find Pound Bend, which is situated in a large, narrow-necked loop of the Yarra River. In the early years the land was used as a pound for cattle, hence its present name. With luck you may spot a koala high in one of the smooth-barked manna gums. The picnic area attracts many birds, including colorful parrots, honeyeaters, kookaburras and noisy miners.

A short walk from the picnic area will lead to the unique Pound Bend Tunnel. This amazing venture was carried out by David Mitchell, father of singer Dame Nellie Melba, in 1870. The tunnel, six metres wide and almost five metres high was dug through 145 metres of solid rock at the neck of the loop. A dam was built across the river and the water was diverted through the tunnel, leaving exposed a five kilometre stretch of river bed, which was dredged for gold. While no remains of the dam can be seen today, the tunnel, in which lives a colony of bats, looks as if it was carved through only yesterday.

A walking track along the Yarra River, to the north of Pound Reserve, crosses various gullies by wooden bridges and ends at a large open area. The track continues to the south-east past the plaque dedicated to the site of the first youth hostel in Victoria, then joins the entry road to the park office, and turning south continues to Pound Bend Road. For alternative walk along the ridge top, return to the tunnel site above the Pound Bend Reserve car park.

2 Yarra River Walk

Halfway along Everard Drive begins a wide track which follows the river and is shared by walkers, joggers, cyclists and horse riders. Dogs on leashes are welcome in this reserve. A wooden bridge crosses Andersons Creek just above where it joins the Yarra. (Andersons Creek was the original name for Warrandyte). At Stiggants Reserve, site of the monthly Warrandyte Community Market, there is a children's playground, a small amphitheatre, picnic tables, electric barbecues, public toilets and two picnic shelters. A small wetlands area has been created by Doncaster council and the Friends of Warrandyte State Park. Each autumn, the two-day Warrandyte Festival attracts thousands of visitors. Above the path, adjacent to Warrandyte village itself, are additional public toilets, the historic Gospel Chapel and the old Warrandyte post office, faithfully restored and home to the Warrandyte Historical Society's museum.

This walk terminates at the Warrandyte bridge. Immediately downstream is the site of the old wooden bridge, built in 1865 from yellow box timbers felled in the Stony Creek area.

The old bridge was the focal point in Warrandyte for New Year celebrations, when the locals would meet to sing Auld Lang Syne to the accompaniment of bagpipes and fireworks—and sometimes exploding gelnignite! The existing steel and concrete bridge was built in 1955. A smaller picnic area, with barbecues provided, is located at the public tennis courts, downstream from the bridge. A third set of public toilets has been provided adjacent to the bridge.

3 Fourth Hill Walk

Four kilometres long, this walk takes about one-and-a-half hours. It starts from the carpark near the gold memorial cairn at Andersons Creek in Gold Memorial Road. Ford the creek, turn to the left and walk up the steep track. On your left is a mine shaft surrounded by a wooden railing. This whole area is covered with mullock heaps and other relics of the gold mining days.

About 30 metres horizontally left across the hill, on a small track, is a corrugated iron hut of a type common around Warrandyte in years past. This hillside is covered in a sea of white heath in the late winter months. Continue past the hut, and another shaft, on the steep track that climbs uphill. At a T-junction, turn right for 20 metres to reach Johnston's Mine.

Backtrack to the T-junction and continue around the hill past some mossy boulders to a vehicle track, running from Betton Crescent to the top of Fourth Hill. Turn right and follow the track straight up onto the large, open area at the top of Fourth Hill. Nearby is a grate covering an air shaft down into the Fourth Hill Tunnel.

Walk straight ahead from point of entry to a walking track which leads downhill and to the right. Continue in the same direction, past the Y-intersection, towards the park gate. Turn left at the gate along the vehicle track, following the fenceline. This track undulates down into Whipstick Gully. The shorter Bruce Bence Walk commences just behind the Information Centre to the south-west, meanders through old diggings and mullock heaps. This narrow track is only 620 metres long but quite steep. It ends on a vehicle track overlooking the Victory Mine site, which had five levels going up inside the hill. This mine is safe to explore up to 20 metres in, where a steel gate prevents further access for safety reasons. A torch should be carried.

Backtrack to the Tunnel Street gate and continue on, veering to the right, and follow it downhill to the Fourth Hill Tunnel, which runs 100 metres into the hill.

This was the first large-scale mining operation in the area, started by Patrick Geraghty, Warrandyte's first innkeeper. Geraghty did not strike the reef he was seeking, but two other miners continuing his work in the 1880s were more successful. This mine is safe to explore with a torch. Emerging from the tunnel, turn right and follow the track downhill along Wild Cat Gully to Andersons Creek, where the walk commenced.

4 Black Flat Walk

The entrance to Black Flat Reserve, Warrandyte State Park, is situated partway along Tills Drive, which leaves the Ringwood Road close by the Stonehouse craft shop. There are carparks and a picnic area at the reserve.

This is a fully-developed "nature walk", the route is marked by signs and arrows and will take about an hour to cover. Black Flat is covered by open forest, dominated by eucalypts—mostly red box—and is one of the most scenically attractive areas of Warrandyte. Each season brings its own special surprises.

One is constantly reminded of the part this area played during the goldmining era. In 1904, Warrandyte's largest mine—the Caledonian—commenced operations here. One of the boilers that provided steam power for these extensive workings can be seen on the left, not far from the entrance to the reserve.

Also to be seen is a circular depression in the ground, marking the remains of a puddling machine, powered by horses walking in a circle and used to crush quartz from which gold was extracted.

Reminders of the agricultural history of the area include a grand old red box tree used as a fence post by the Mullens family, who homesteaded the area from the 1870s to 1914. Evidence of some of the orchards planted by the Mullens can also be observed, as well as a breacher dam wall. Partway along the nature trail is a sign indicating the track to Jumping Creek Reserve, not shown on the above map. Spectacular views of the meandering river are a feature of this longer walk. Wombats have burrowed into the soft soil beside the narrow track, creating a maze of holes and tunnels.

A grassy area by the river, near the start of the track, marks the site of one of the old orchards. Close by is a pleasant swimming spot and a delightful picnic area under the shade of a huge manna gum.



Skatepark is 'totally mad'

By MEAGHAN O'CONNOR

Kids came from far and wide to celebrate the official launch of Warrandyte's very own skatepark, earlier this month.

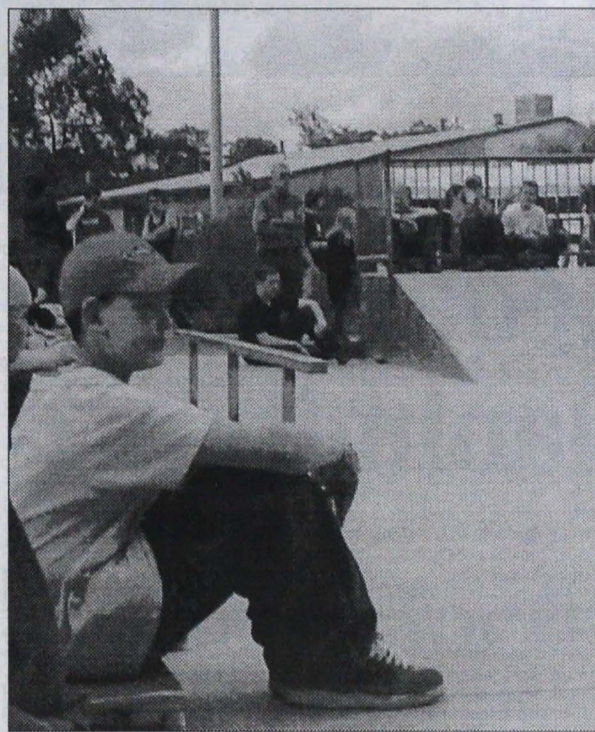
They spent the afternoon skating away to the music of band Local Heroes, watching skating demonstrations and making short work of a sausage sizzle hosted by Warrandyte Uniting Church.

Opening honours were performed by Manningham mayor, Cr Julie Eisenbise and minister for sport, Justin Maddern.

One enthusiastic skater told the *Diary* that the local kids "are rapt". Others said the park is "sick, totally mad, really grouse" and just plain "cool".

The word is out, and the kids no longer have to travel to Camberwell or the City or live life on the edge, dodging cars at the Goldfields Plaza.

IGA supermarket, who supplied food for the opening, will also be celebrating, now that local shoppers have got their carpark back!



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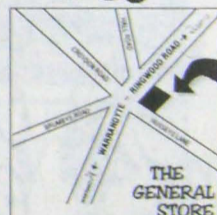
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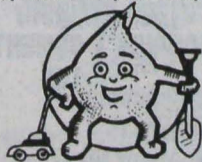


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VALUATION AND RATES NOTICES

Manningham residents should have received their Valuation and Rate Notices for the 2001/2002 rating year, which were issued from 22 August 2001.

If you have not received your 2001/2002 Annual Rate Notice, please contact the Council's revenue section on 9840 9333 to arrange for a copy to be sent out to you. Please note that any changes you may wish to make (such as updating your contact details) will need to be made in writing.

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

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Punctilious pedant in puerile pusillanimity

WHY has it taken me so long to discover the word "impanate"?

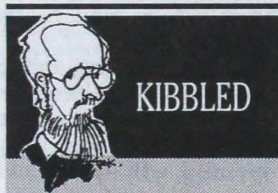
Many are the times that I've wanted to complain about hirsute and insectivorous impanations only to be flummoxed by my appallingly limited vocabulary.

Had I been Shakespeare, reputed to have a staggering 30,000 word vocabulary, then "impanate" may have come as readily as "horripilation" or "gobemouche". However, I am not, but I am grateful that I have found a new word to add to my vocabulary, one that I'll be able to use whenever an unhygienic impanation is at mouth.

Now, my knowing that word is reassuring, but if there is no one within hearing who understands that my objection is that I have an unwanted hair or insect or hedge trimmer embedded in my bread, then knowing the word "impanate" is going to be about as useful as a song bird without a syrinx. Which leads me to some of the musings I've been having about communication.

Believe me, I don't want to get into a heated debate about English correctness but I do want to explore what I see as a gradual and unnecessary reduction in the subtleties we have available to us with the English language. And before Cliff gets inundated by letters complaining about my stupidity in not realising that our language is "living", let me clear the air.

I know that we are not speaking as we would in the 1200s nor



"Get real! Why would there be a word for it? You just make up half the words you use..."

over the years to try and make our communication as precise as possible. And knowing "How to Become a Millionaire" obviously doesn't include understanding the difference between "alternate" and "alternative" because each time a question is asked, the contestant is required to select from the "alternate" possibilities. And who's the most effective role model, him or me? Am I being unreasonable?

As you can readily imagine, my own nearest and dearest have had moments when they have found my language protectiveness difficult to cope with. Particularly Gorgeous Creature and Boy Wonder when they were younger and less in awe of my perspicacity. However, I do delight in mentioning that, as they have aged, they have begun to see the error of their ways. But not before we had The Battle of the Tines!

Meal times were never a Brady Bunch experience in our household. And it wasn't for Herself's lack of trying. She made sure the table was set, that we all had correct cutlery and that we knew to begin from the outside and to work our way in with each course. We were served wholesome, flavoursome food and the meal was planned to be the epitome of a pleasant, cultured dining experience. And then we arrived.

Until his late teens, Boy Wonder would agonise his way through "this spew" whilst, at the same time, sneering at every real or imagined eating indiscretion perpetrated by his

while many of us understand Chaucer if we had him as our taxi driver and had the chance to listen to his Tullamarine Tales. I also realise that our language will evolve by adapting to influences from new technologies and from borrowings resulting from immigration and international communication. But, you can call me a pedantic, puerile dunderhead if you wish but there are some things up with which I am not prepared to put.

Like the difference between "For Rent" and "To Let". The owner "lets" the house for someone else to "rent". It's not rocket science but there is a difference. To argue that it doesn't matter seems to belittle all the efforts we have made

over the years to try and make our communication as precise as possible.

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Until his late teens, Boy Wonder would agonise his way through "this spew" whilst, at the same time, sneering at every real or imagined eating indiscretion perpetrated by his

flawed parents.

Meanwhile, Gorgeous Creature would cast sidelong glances at Boy Wonder and then ask if she could leave the table to watch whatever angst ridden adolescent "soap" was de rigueur at school.

It was in the midst of one of these pleasant mealtimes that I mentioned the word "tine", foolishly assuming that Boy Wonder would like to know that there was a word for it rather than having to say, "My fork's pointy thing is bent".

"It's called a 'tine'."

At this, both Gorgeous Creature and Boy Wonder united in scorn and derision.

"Get real! Why would there be a word for it? You just make up half of the words you use. No one would ever use a word like that. It's dumb!"

Suitably dismissed, I had to wait five years before we heard the word used on television.

Both Gorgeous Creature and Boy Wonder turned to each other and then looked at me and smiled.

"Tine! Remember that time you got bitter and twisted because we refused to believe that it was a real word?"

"Game set and match!" Of course this was said under my breath. What I said aloud was, "Did I really? Well at least you've remembered and that's the main thing." I gave a convincing performance of a self-effacing parent.

What perfidy! Back then, I would have given anything for an impanated machine gun.

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Wild secrets revealed in the comfort of home

IT was sharp, and it caught the edge of my hand—that narrow bit between the base of the little finger and the wrist. I turned quickly to see just what had snagged me with such vehemence.

The perpetrator was a hawthorn tree, in its winter mode. Twiggy branches bereft of leaves, flowers or fruit, but viciously armed with long spines. I looked closely at my hand to see if the thorn was still embedded in my flesh. It wasn't. The severity of the pain, though, seemed out of proportion for a simple thorn-prick injury. The sensation was more like that following a bullant or bee sting. And it wasn't getting any better.

Regardless, I resumed my walk and became engrossed in more important things, like trying to trace the owner of a familiar but frustratingly forgotten bird trill.

A couple of hours later, back home, I re-examined my hand. The site of the hawthorn attack was red, swollen and still sore. It occurred to me, or rather to my pharmacologist husband, that perhaps the hawthorn tree contained something rather nasty—a chemical that had entered my skin through the thorn and set up a local reaction. I endeavoured to find out.

From the bookshelf I pulled out Parson and Cuthbertson's *Noxious Weeds of Australia*. Delving into its 692 pages I read that hawthorn contains the potentially hazardous hydrogen cyanide and cratioegolic acid—a heart poison. Interesting. Although not the causative agent which, my knowledgeable spouse told me, was more likely

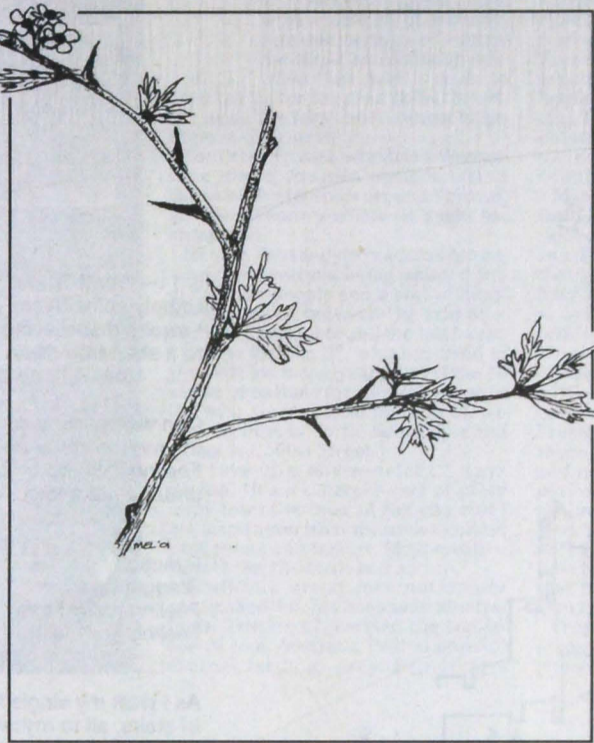
NATURE
By **PAT COUPAR**
Drawn by **MELANIE COUPAR**

to be a histamine substance contained in many plants and, incidentally, in the stings of bullants and bees.

Settling down in a comfortable chair with the heavyweight book on my knees, I became further acquainted with hawthorn. I learnt that the trees originate from Western Europe, grow very slowly and can live up to 100 years. The haw refers to the red berry fruit similar to rosehips—it belongs to the same family, and the thorn of course is obvious. According to English folklore, it was good luck to have hawthorn growing in your garden, but bad luck to bring the flowers indoors because the scent was said to be reminiscent of the smell of death in London during the Great Plague.

To have reference books on hand to dip into, whenever a question arises or the identification of a species of plant or animal is required, is a wonderful asset. Over many years I have built up a mini-library of new and secondhand natural history books.

One book per subject is never enough. There is often a need to cross-reference and different facts may be gleaned from different authors. I have books on insects in general (18), butterflies and moths (17), spiders (5), birds (8), frogs (6), mammals (5) and reptiles (3). Reflecting my bias, books on



plants outnumber anything else.

For me the electronic medium just doesn't appeal. My CD roms on flora, frogs and butterflies are hardly ever in use. Many writers have their quirky ways, and I have mine. I cannot "write" on a computer—pencil and paper are the only way. And it must be a retractable pencil with a 0.7mm lead, and the paper must be lined A4 notepad.

I shut the weed book with a bang. The attempt to track down the details of what had caused my hand to swell so painfully had failed. It didn't matter. For in the process I had discovered much about my woody assailant—both fact and folklore. Returning the book to the shelf, I made a mental note to smell the blossom the next time I came upon a hawthorn tree in flower.

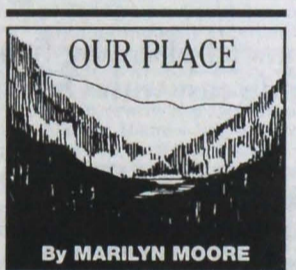
This we do for fun and fitness?

YOU'D think we'd have learned our lesson from past experience. But no...driven by some seasonal need to spring clean the brain via a bit of healthful exercise, we bravely added our names to the list of thousands signing up for Melbourne's "Around the Bay in a Day" bike ride in October. We must have been temporarily deranged!

The promotional brochure was full of encouraging information about training targets, useful equipment, proper diet and the benefits of being fit. On top of that, the amount of money we could raise for the Smith Family was going to help a few more kids to a decent education.

Convincing stuff. Circumnavigating Port Phillip, all 210 kilometres of it, suddenly seemed like something we absolutely had to do.

So there we were, training, early one rain-drenched Sunday morning, pedalling furiously along the windswept bike path that follows the Western Ring Road. "Breathable" yellow rain jackets did little to prevent rivers of sweat trickling down ribs, streaming down backs, creating puddles at the elbows. A driving, sleet-laden headwind stung cheeks, soaked exposed cloth-



ing, numbing fingers and toes. My front wheel flicked up a constant stream of spray onto fogged-up spectacles. The wind was icy, relentless. We froze.

After 50 bleak kilometres, I didn't even know where we were. Ardeer? Sunshine? North Laverton? We might as well have been on Mars.

An indication of our physical and mental state was how inviting that big yellow "M" looked! We generally avoid McDonald's so-called food, but their steaming coffee and hand dryers were bliss. A blast of hot air up each sleeve was sensational. Hopefully the staff weren't too annoyed by muddy footprints! Surreptitiously cleaning the red leatherette seats with a paper towel, we ventured back to the bike path, reinvigorated.

The route headed south along back streets. Huge stacks of

shipping containers, rusted railway tracks, tin-roofed warehouses covering acres of ground, the odd horse paddock with its mantle of scotch thistles and clumps of basalt boulders, a rickety stile...the route zigzagged through parts we'd never seen before. Eventually we came across some timber houses near a swampy, willow-infested creek. The wind gusted fresh, smelling of salt. We had reached the sea.

This place was no more than 70 kilometres from our starting point at the Research roundabout. Nor was it far from Geelong Road, Point Gellibrand, and many other well-known landmarks. But for some reason this desolate coastline suddenly felt far, far from home.

But just around the point, Williamstown's quaint cottages overlook the spot where our beloved brown Yarra flows into Hobson's Bay, and we were back in familiar territory. The rain had well and truly stopped and trendy street cafes were filling fast. On the footpath, waiters precariously balanced plates of steaming egg and bacon and café lattes as they dodged menu boards and busy tables. Bike stands were difficult to find. Had this many people really been cycling through the rain? Or had they

sat snugly indoors, waiting to leap into action the second the last drop fell?

The ride back to Melbourne was picture postcard stuff: black swans, ducks, plovers, terns, cormorants and herons grazed in the shallows as fleets of small yachts ventured out onto choppy waters. Sunshine sparkled off puddles, soggy grass, wet roads and brilliantly illuminated a blue, blue sky. Fishermen, warmly jacketed, clustered along pier rails; gulls hovered or stood hopefully, waiting, backs to the ruffling, unsettling wind.

Patiently we worked our way through the randomly wandering throngs at Southbank, propelled by the prospect of barbecued cobs of succulent sweet corn at the Princes Bridge market.

Next stop Studley Park Boat-house, and a welcome respite with friends. The final ride home along the Yarra and Koonung Creek trails was fragrant with wet eucalyptus. A cacophony of white cockatoos screeched overhead. Tiny blue wrens hopped across our path, with their little tail feathers sticking up in cheeky defiance of our dashing, splashing wheels.

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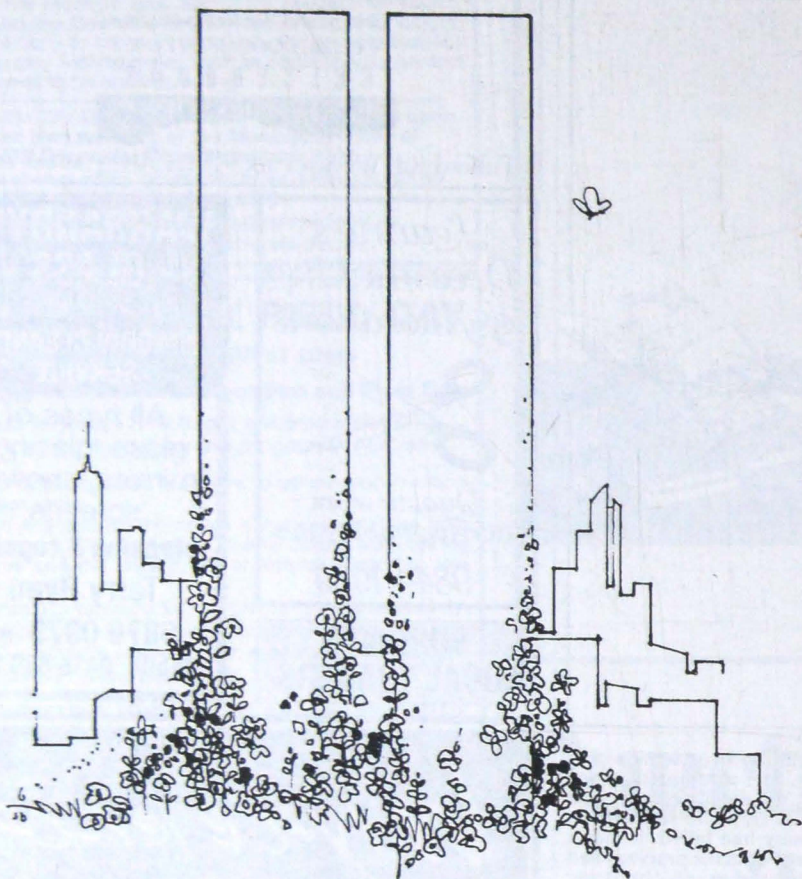
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 the motions of a 'normal' day
 Feeling lucky to be standing
 under a hot shower
 To be standing

Functioning on automatic
 Staggering to work
 Feeling lucky I can
 Feeling grateful that
 it's not in a tower

As I walk my single flight
 of stairs, all to myself
 I think of all those other stairs
 winding down/up
 Stairways to heaven

On my own in my office
 not an insignificant ant
 buzzing with work frenzy
 anonymous thus dispensable
 in a teeming tower

My 'work' today
 was to be pure pleasure
 A walk in the bush
 not trapped inside

We had the kiss of spring
 on our cheeks
 not the autumnal harbinger
 of winter's death

A walk through wildflowers
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 and very fragile

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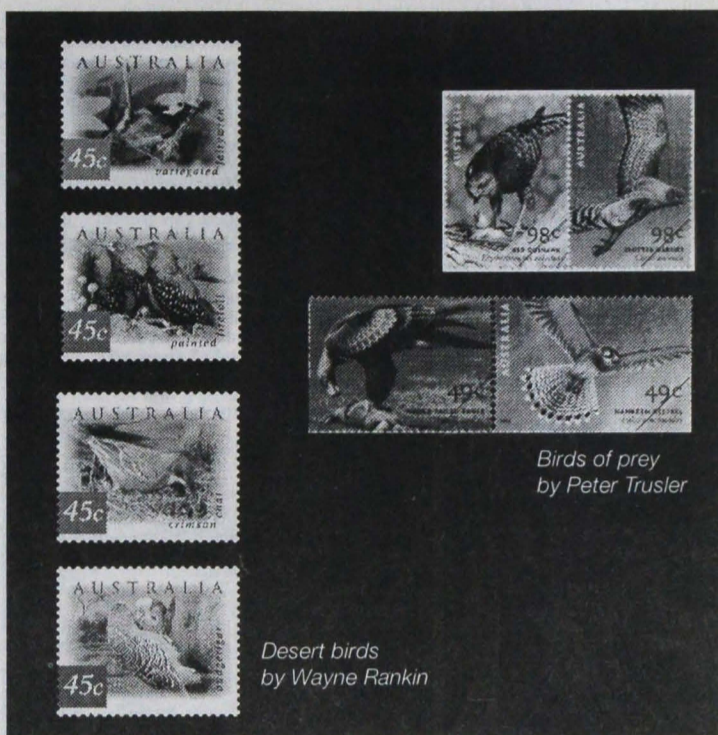
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Designing light-as-air images



By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

TWO Warrandyte artists have work appearing on recently-released stamps of Australia Post puts it down to both having the required skills, the artists agree the local environment helps them in their work.

For Peter Trusler, who has a Warrandyte studio, the area reminds him of the semi-dry foothills around Ballarat, goldfield country where he spent his childhood.

He says Warrandyte is accessible environment, without being isolated; full of creative people and a sort of intermediate point between the arid interior of the continent and the rainforest.

Wayne Rankin, 57, who has lived in the area for many years, has done 10 series of designs for Australia Post in the past six years, all but one on nature. He lives in North Warrandyte and works in Collins Street.

"I love the environment," says Rankin. "It's a different sort of place away from the buzz of the city and I get inspiration from the area—colour, excitement and texture. Most creative people like the bush and nature."

A wildlife artist internationally recognised for his dinosaur illustrations, Trusler, 47, created the last issue of four Australia Post stamps of diurnal birds of prey. Depicting a

wedge-tailed eagle, a nankeen kestrel, a rare red goshawk and a spotted harrier, the series shows each bird's environment, ranging from the arid interior to sub-tropical woodlands. Trusler has illustrated the birds showing characteristic behaviours such as hovering, soaring, preying and nurturing. The commemorative issue celebrates the centenary of Birds Australia, previously the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union.

Marg Towt, design manager at Australia Post, says both artists are very skilled, Rankin as a graphic designer and Trusler as an illustrator. She says that as the stamps are collectible and fully archived, much research is done to get the right ingredients before a brief is given to an artist. It might take 12 months or more before stamps are produced.

"Work must be done to ornithological correctness," Towt said. "Peter Trusler is a natural—his drawings are thorough and anatomically correct and he is renowned as a very accomplished wildlife illustrator. Illustrators are interpreters. Wayne Rankin has been producing composite designs as part of an on-going series for some time now." According to Towt, the fact that both men are from the same region is not relevant.

Trusler's first stamps were a set of dinosaurs in 1993, to encourage child philatelists. Having originally majored

in zoology as part of a science degree at Monash, Trusler mainly illustrates books, but he also paints landscapes and portraits. Pencil portraits, large landscapes, and a series of studies depicting the anatomy of a mid-continental dinosaur cover his studio walls. Describing his style as hyper-realistic, he also works in oils, watercolour and gouache.

"For landscapes I work mainly from life, using field sketches and some photographic material," Peter Trusler said.

"For animals I use details from photos, notes from studying dead animals and I get the colours from specimens. It's very textural. The bird stamps show a cameo of behaviour and interaction in a simplified way. The birds' camouflage was a problem and also the series had to be unified. It was a painstaking jigsaw to put it all together and get the balance.

"I love the intellectual challenge of doing it and keeping the creator's essence intact," he said.

Founder of the Australian Graphic Design Association, Wayne Rankin works in print, multi media and the Internet as well as designing stamps. He has been a judge in the Warrandyte Youth Arts Awards and has work published nationally and internationally. Designer of the *Diary* masthead and our "possum" page furniture, Rankin paints with photos, drawing and airbrushing on computer.

How we learned all about Eve

THE old Mechanics Institute Hall, its wooden interior echoing only moments before with the rowdy chatter and seat-clanking of a capacity audience, waited in hushed darkness for the opening lines of Robert Hewett's play, *Waking Eve*. Everyone jumped as a door slammed, then a frazzled-looking mother dashed on stage to the accompaniment of an excitedly screaming chorus of unseen six-year-olds having a birthday party in the back yard. It was a scenario that everybody immediately identified with. The audience laughed and applauded in appreciation. They were hooked.

The play has only one stage setting—the kitchen and living area of a family home—and its construction requires an eye for detail and tons of work. Well done team! Similarly, the plot is also deceptively simple—after Eve Hooper loses her husband



THEATRE

By MARILYN MOORE

Ben, their good friends, two other married couples, "help out" with a never-ending lineup of prospective partners—and its performance requires both an eye for detail and tons of thought.

The play is as much about aspects of grief as it is about comedy, continuously entertaining but always poignant. The script is tightly written—every word has its purpose—and Hewett has interwoven a rich assortment of themes into the confines of a single production.

Director Brian Laurence sums it up: "...a remarkably well observed script that explores the complexities of 'ordinary' relationships, and finds marvelously warm humour in situa-

tions we all can relate to."

This was an enjoyable production indeed, but it would have been even better had there been a greater knowledge of the complexity of the script. Although the actors' lines are often very funny, the strength of this play is not merely in its comedy. Above all, Hewett's characters are real, three-dimensional people who need to be portrayed in a manner that is sustainably believable. A slapstick approach, complete with diversions such as actors laughing at themselves, suspends belief and thereby diminishes the integrity of the characters.

Hewett's scripts tend to feature a small cast and some exceptionally demanding roles. In *Waking Eve*, Eve Hooper needs to carry the production from start to finish, and in this role Olivia Pianezze let no one down. Her interpretation was wholly warm and sympathetic.

The fabric of credibility woven almost single-handedly by Olivia was systematically cross-threaded by strong performances from Ken Virtue, who had the difficult task of playing not only Eve's husband Ben, but also each of the identically dressed potential suitors. The well-intentioned friends were enthusiastically played by Elizabeth Long, Ian Craig, Joy Flannagan and Bill Mitchell.

The professionalism of a WTC production stems not only from on-stage performances but also from the unobtrusively effective backstage crew, and the lighting and sound operators. Clever costuming added to the humour and character stereotyping in this production, even perhaps overly so.

All in all, *Waking Eve* well and truly justified venturing down to the hall on a dark and wintry Friday night.

Picture by Hannah and Nathan Craig



Teacher, lover, mother, friend

By CAROLYN and ROGER KIBELL

EARLY last month, following a sudden, massive heart attack, one of Warrandyte's favourite people died. A few days later, at Warrandyte High School, over 350 people attended the service to celebrate Trish Qualtrough's life.

The service was conducted by Rev Gwenda Ince, Trish's cousin, at the school where Trish had been one of the founding teachers and to which she had contributed so much since its inception. During the service, her husband Neil, her son Adam and daughter Sarah, her cousin and friend Jill Taig, her brother Cam Hudson, her friend Carolyn Kibell and colleagues John James and Trish Wubbeling, paid tributes in words, in poems, in music and in the symbolic lighting of four candles, each to represent a member of her family.

Many of these people joined her family afterwards at Potters Cottage; to remember her, to mourn her loss and to celebrate her achievements. A second service was held at Billanook College, where Trish had been teaching for two terms. It was here that she collapsed during an evening function. Tributes from Billanook have demonstrated the impact she had made in such a short time.

Patricia Anne Qualtrough was born

on November 8, 1944 to May and Len Hudson. Her early life was spent with her brothers, Ian and Cameron, on the family property, "Moriac", near Moulamein. These early times and a lifetime friendship were also shared with her cousin and best mate, Jill Traig, also of Warrandyte. Trish went to school in Swan Hill and then to Larnook Teachers College in Melbourne where she trained in the domestic sciences. Her first appointment was in Bendigo, where she met and married Neil Qualtrough in January, 1969. Initially they moved to Carnegie, but their family homes have been in Warrandyte, firstly in Kangaroo Ground Road and, since 1978, in Osborne Road. Her dearly loved children, Adam and Sarah, grew up in Warrandyte.

The large number of people who came to remember and to mourn, represented the very many activities with which Trish had been involved. These included colleagues from Larnook and teachers in the food services and textiles areas, teachers and students from Warrandyte High School and Billanook College, students, customers and tutors from her former Warrandyte business, "Needles and Pins", associates in the Warrandyte Business Association,



Warrandyte Patchworkers, her Landcare partners, particularly those in the Osborne Road Peninsula Group and her much loved Warrandyte Four Bookgroup, where she had been a member for 25 years. Trish had served her community in earlier years on the North Warrandyte Kindergarten Com-

mittee and Warrandyte High School Council. Family and community were central to her life and to both she gave unstintingly and tirelessly.

Family and friends came from overseas and interstate to pay tribute to this remarkable woman. Since Trish died, tributes and discussions about her have all highlighted the same characteristics.

Trish's determination, doggedness and persistence to pursue an objective and to complete a task were memorable—often legion. Perhaps she worked too hard to achieve the standards of excellence and perfection for which she constantly strove and was renowned. She used this same determination to overcome adversity, including her many health problems; breast cancer and three hip replacements being the most serious, and it came as a huge shock that this time she did not come through this final, and unexpected, crisis.

Anyone who has eaten one of Trish's meals and has seen her beautiful quilts, her needlework and her garden will attest to Trish's talents. She created beautiful pictures with stitches, with plants and on the plate. These will remain her permanent legacy. Those

colleagues who worked with Trish speak of her efficiency, her attention to detail and her quest for quality. Countless students, both school age and adult, have been encouraged and supported to fulfil their potential and have benefited from her patient and thorough teaching.

Most of all, Trish's family and friends will miss her love, nurturing and support. She always turned conversations away from herself—whether the discussion was about a triumph or a difficulty. It was not just humility. She genuinely was more interested in others than herself. It was no wonder that "Needles and Pins" was a major source of information in Warrandyte during her decade there.

Everyone sat around that table to share their stories with her. Her smile, her sympathetic ear and her sense of humour, together with the cuppa, always ensured that a visitor left feeling encouraged.

Trish was much loved and valued in life and her death will leave a void in our lives. We share the pain and grief of her family and her close friends. We pay tribute to her life, to her personality and to her talents. The Warrandyte community has lost a special person, a tireless worker and a wonderful talent.

Vale Trish. We honour and we love you.
Rest in peace.

Rebuilders of the bushland



Pictures by Austin Polley

By RACHEL BAKER

It's a damp, drizzly morning in early spring. Shielded by raincoats and gloves, a group of dedicated volunteers heads out into the weather and starts digging, planting and nurturing indigenous plants.

The group is Friends of Warrandyte State Park and every week for the past 15 years they have been running the nursery propagation program. The program collects seeds and cuttings from the State Park so they can be grown into plants, which are then planted back into the park or offered to FoWSP members (in return for a donation).

"I enjoy it, it makes me feel I'm doing

something to help the environment and to help Warrandyte," Cathy Willis, who has been a member of FoWSP for 10 years, said.

The program is co-ordinated by Josh Revell, who works part-time as the nursery manager.

"I think it's important because it creates awareness of local indigenous plants in the local community, and it creates an outlet for people who are interested in wildlife," Josh said.

The program propagates eucalypts, wattles, riparian (river and creek-side) shrubs, wildflowers and groundcovers.

"We also have a species enrichment program, where we grow rare and en-

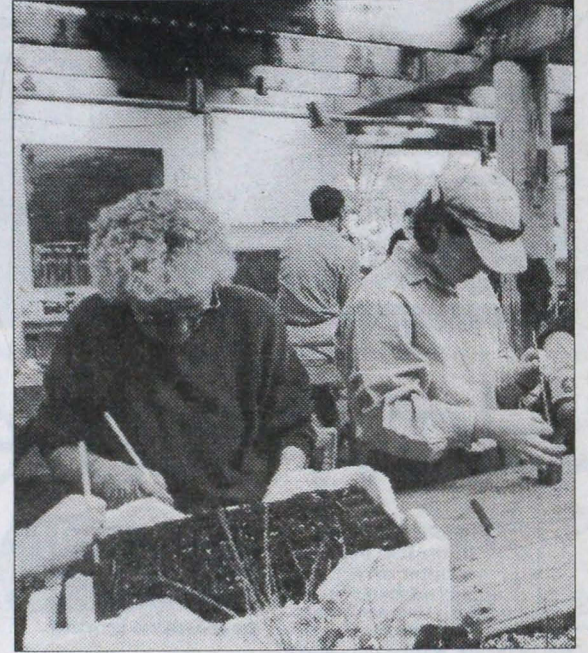
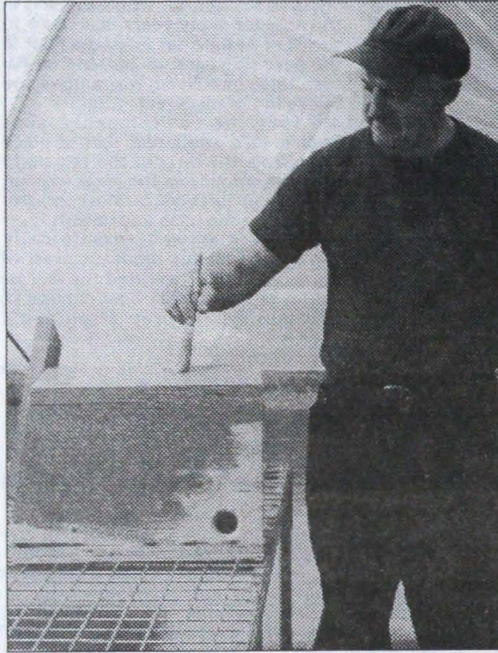
dangered plants that are found in the park," Josh said. One such rare species is the *Acacia Verniciflua*, of which there is only one naturally-occurring plant in the park.

Cathy Willis, a volunteer, said that as well as environmental benefits, the members also have something to gain.

"I've learnt about flora and ecology, it's given me a much greater appreciation of the bush and the area I live in," Cathy said.

"I've made a lot of friends—it's helped me get to know a lot of people in the community who I otherwise wouldn't have met; older people, younger people," she said.

They are rebuilders of the bush.



Green army in the field

Twenty-five thousand trees have been planted by a Green Corps team of young people at Pound Bend in Warrandyte State Park.

The revegetation work has been undertaken over the past six months by a team of 11 young people. The plantings were in areas that had been cleared of trees as far back as the 1930s.

Speaking at their graduation ceremony at Pound Bend, federal MP Kevin Andrews congratulated the participants and Parks Victoria for their commitment to the project.

"The Green Corps program is an important contribution to the local environment and an opportunity for young people to gain skills and experience,"

said Kevin Andrews.

Mr Andrews said the Green Corps program was a practical environmental initiative of the Commonwealth government.

Kevin Andrews presented the participants with their TAFE certificates. The Friends of Warrandyte State Park also presented them with a Green Hooded Orchid.

Kevin Andrews said that this program was the latest in a series of Green Corps projects aimed at revegetating the Yarra River environs. He said he would continue to support more Green Corps projects along the Yarra River.

MP Kevin Andrews reviews his troops. (Picture by Jan Tindale)



Chips off the old micro

Local pet owners are being urged have their pets microchipped so their owners can be identified and lost animals returned home.

"Each year tens of thousands of domestic pets across Melbourne go missing," a Manningham council spokesperson told the *Diary*. "Most animals have owners, most are loved, but after straying some don't make it back home."

"The result in many cases is tears, heartache and the sad fact that thousands of pets are needlessly put to sleep

each year.

"The good news is that this can be prevented if your pet is microchipped."

Manningham council is encouraging all owners of domestic animals to have their pets microchipped.

"All pets entering the Manningham Pound, and similar facilities across Victoria, are scanned for microchips," the spokesperson said.

The microchip contains a unique identification number that links your pet to your name and contact details on a Central Animal Records' National Registry.

"Chips are the most permanent means of identifying your animal in case it is lost, stolen or impounded," the spokesperson said. "Import-

tantly, this information is stored for the lifetime of the pet, enabling them to be easily identified and then reunited with their owners."

Manningham is holding a microchipping day, in conjunction with Microchips Australia, for domestic animals on Sunday, October 28, between 9am and 12noon. The cost for each animal microchipped is \$20.

Owners wishing to take advantage of this program should bring their pets to the Manningham Pound, on the corner of Blackburn Road and Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road, East Doncaster (Melways 34 D2).

"Please have your dogs on leads and cats in suitable carry cages or boxes," the spokesperson said.

Vet Steve Smith and nurse Carolyn Haynes microchipping Elka the kelpie. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Dead centre of KG



Conducted by **JUDY GREEN**

On Sunday, October 28 at 7.15 at the Kangaroo Ground Cemetery, Mick Woivod will launch his new book on the history of the cemetery. The book is entitled "Tread Softly, You Tread on Dreams" and is being published in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the cemetery. This will be followed by a moonlight tour of the historic section. The evening will finish with wine and cheese. Cost of the tour is \$5 with all proceeds going to restoration of the historic graves. For further information contact 9712 0311. On the previous Friday, October 26, the new rotunda at the cemetery will be officially opened at 2.30pm.

Concert

The annual concert of the Warrandyte Seniors Citizens Club will be held on Thursday, November 15 at 1pm at their clubrooms in Tarroona Avenue.

Clean up

A working bee to clean up both the garden and the building will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Sunday, November 28 between 10am and 4pm. Please bring appropriate gardening implements and cleaning equipment. Beer and a barbecue will be provided.

Dance

The next dance organised by the South Warrandyte Social Dance Committee will be held in the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road on Saturday, November 10. The December dance will be on Saturday, December 8. Price is \$6 with old time and new vogue dancing to an excellent band. For more information contact 9723 3892. Bookings for the annual New Years Eve dance are now open and can be made by calling Betty on 9844 3763.

Home

Healthy Home Building and Living is the title of an introduc-



A grants program to aid community organisations investigate their local history is now available.

"This program could provide excellent opportunities for community organisations to research the local history of the Warrandyte and Park Orchards townships," MP Phil Honeywood told the *Diary*.

The purpose of the Local History Grants Program is to encourage and foster projects that preserve, record and share the local and community history of Victoria.

"The celebrations in June this year of the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold in Warrandyte is a perfect example of the heritage and history that this area has to offer," Mr Honeywood said.

"It is vital that we research, document and preserve our history so that future generations can learn about the events that have made our local area what it is today," he said.

● Applications for the grants close on November 16, 2001 and further information can be obtained from Mr Honeywood's office at 44 New Street, Ringwood or by phone on 9870 7396.

tory presentation by local people who take a practical approach to alternative ways of making their home in Warrandyte and district. It will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Wednesday, November 14, commencing 8pm. Call Rob McDowell on 9844 0460 for further details.

Festival

"Let's Party!" is the theme for next year's Warrandyte Festival. Celebrating 25 years, the festival will be held over the St Patrick's Day weekend—16 and 17 March. Further information from John Boyle on 9844 3120.

Guitar

For everyone from twangers to maestros, the Warrandyte Guitar Club meets at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Mondays at 8pm, commencing October 15. Call Jock on 9844 4164 for further information.

Tower

The Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower Committee are rais-

ing money for improvements. Both the Eltham and Diamond Valley libraries have donation boxes for gold coins. The committee would appreciate any assistance.

Seminar

The next Green Wedge Seminar to be held at the Currawong Bush Park conference room in Reynolds Road, East Doncaster will be on Thursday, November 1 commencing at 7.30pm. The topic is "Orchid Propagation for Bushland Regeneration". It will be conducted by Rob Cross.

Pets

On Sunday, October 28, Nillumbik shire will be conducting its annual Pet Expo at Nillimbuk Park in Elizabeth Street, Diamond Creek. The show will run from 10am to 4pm. The Expo includes a wide range of displays and demonstrations, including working dogs and Australian Search and Rescue dogs. For any further information call Elke Tapley on 9433 3304.

ARTYFACTS

This column features free entries publicising special exhibitions, performances and other cultural events. Send your details to Judy Green at PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113, or by fax to 9844 4168.

Potters

Potters Cottage Gallery is showcasing the work of more than 20 talented local artists in their exhibition "Spring into Summer". The exhibition, featuring many and varied works for garden and courtyard settings will be officially opened on Saturday, November 3 at 2.30pm by well known sculptor, Deborah Halpern and will remain open until Sunday, November 18. The gallery, at 321 Jumping Creek Road, Warrandyte is open from 10am to 5pm, Tuesdays to Sundays.

Open

Seven working potteries in the Eltham-Warrandyte area are holding an Annual Open Studios event on Saturday, November 3 and Sunday, November 4 from 10am to 5pm each day. Potters will be demonstrating their techniques and all will have pots for sale. For details and a map of locations contact Judith Roberts on 9439 3152

Syd Tunn and Ona Henderson's studio will be open on Nov 10, 11 and 17, 18. See ad page 10.

Paintings

Manningham Gallery will present an exhibition of oil and watercolours by a visiting artist from Beijing, Lu Shun Hui from October 18 to 28. From October 4 to 14 the gallery will show an exhibition of the works of 35 artists from the Towong Shire in north-east Victoria. This exhibition is entitled "High Country Cultural". The gallery, at the Manningham Municipal Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster is open Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 5pm.

Bargains

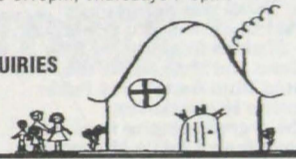
A bargain sale of artworks by members of WMI&AA art groups will be held at the Warrandyte Mechanic Institute Hall between 10am and 4pm on Sunday, November 18.

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House

TERM 4 COURSES

- African Drumming:** Saturdays, 11am-12.15pm. 6 lessons - \$10 per session. Commences November 10.
- After School Drawing:** Mon, Tues or Wed, 4-5.30pm. 8 sessions - \$80
- Appreciating Warrandyte:** Workshops 17 & 31 Oct, 14 & 28 Nov.
- Basic Computer:** Sat, 10.30-11.30am. 2 sessions - \$10 each.
- Belly Dancing:** Wed, 1.15-2.45pm & 7.30-9pm. 8 sessions - \$78
- Creative Writing:** Tuesdays 9.30-12pm. 6 sessions - \$65.
- First Aid Refresher:** Thursdays, 7-10pm. 3 sessions - \$115.
- French Language Class:** Tues, 10-11.30am. 8 sessions - \$80/term.
- Friday Lunch Group:** Fridays, 12-2pm. Comm. 26 October - Free.
- Fruit Wine Making:** Saturdays, 2-4pm. Cost \$70 for 1 session.
- Gift Workshop:** Wednesdays, 9.30-12pm, 14 & 28 November. 2 sessions - cost of materials only.
- Leadlighting for Beginners:** Thursday, 1-3pm. 6 sessions - \$15 per session.
- Monday River Walk:** Mondays, 9.15-11am - Free.
- Naturally Healthy Dog Feeding:** 1 session to be arranged - Free.
- Strong Women Stay Young Exercise:** Fridays, 9-10am. Commences 19 October - \$8 per session.
- Video Making/Editing:** Wed, 7-9pm. 6 sessions - \$72 per term.
- Warrandyte Poetry:** Wed, 7.30-9.30pm. 6 sessions - \$65 per term.
- Yoga:** Mondays, 7-8pm, 8.15-9.15pm; Thursdays 7-8pm. 8 sessions - \$56 per term.

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USED FURNITURE SALES: Bric-a-brac, collectables, pre-loved clothing. Warrandyte. Phone 9844 0488.

TAROT readings at Earth Harmony Shop at Potters Cottage, 321-327 Jumping Creek Road, Warrandyte. Melway 35:J2. Sunday & Thursday afternoon. Phone 9844 5155 for your booking.

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Marcin's our golden boy

By JUDY GREEN

Fourth seed Marcin Losinski overcame plucky youngster Christopher Guccione on September 15 to win Warrandyte Tennis Club's 2001 Goldtown Open.

Losinski, 20, defeated 15-year-old Guccione in straight sets, 6-2, 6-4.

The winner is a member of Donvale Tennis Club's State Grade Pennant team but had been unable to play in the recently-completed pennant season because of an injury which put him off the scene for five months.

He had played on the Satellite circuit in India earlier in the year and the Goldtown Open was only his second tournament since resuming. He will play in the Queensland Satellite this month.

Runner-up Guccione is currently attending the Australian Institute of Sport.

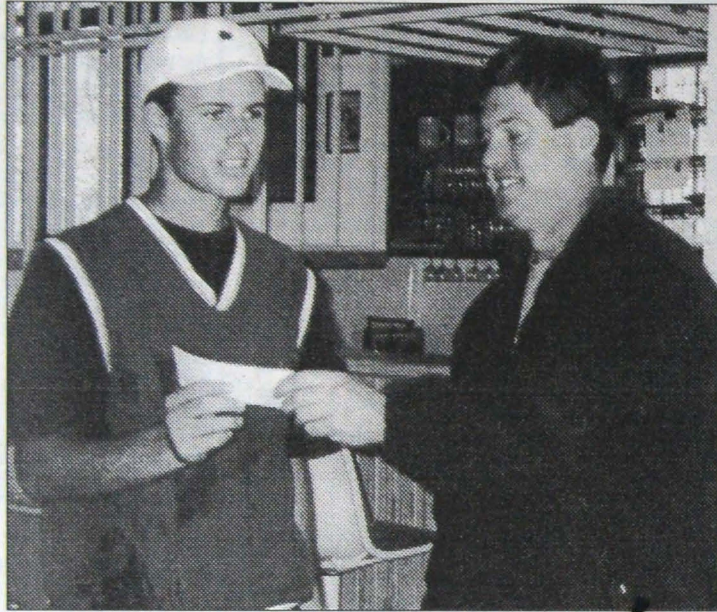
Warrandyte Tennis Club coach Aaron Nolan was defeated by Losinski in a Goldtown semi-final.

The doubles final was won by Guccione and Morgan Wilson, who defeated Dino Dattoli and Pablo Eguiguren in a walkover.

In the A-grade singles final, Kim Keuho defeated Adam McCormack 6-4, 6-4.

The Goldtown is a three-star Tennis Victoria tournament with \$1000 prizemoney to the winner of the Open event.

WTC president Mark Bence said the club was pleased with the increased number of entries in all categories this year and would consider reintroducing a women's event next year. The women's events were discontinued several



Goldtown Open winner Marcin Losinski (left) accepts his winner's cheque from Warrandyte Tennis Club president Mark Bence.

years ago for want of numbers.

The Warrandyte team playing in Section A7 of the Tuesday Midweek Eastern Metropolitan Region Ladies Tennis Association competition were victorious in the finals of the winter season.

The team — Jeanette Cleaves, Barb McBain (who was unable to play in the finals because of injury), Robyn Waite, Sue McGinty and Pam

Hiscock — comfortably defeated Glen Waverley 48 games to 24.

Warrandyte's three Tennis Victoria Pennant teams — Women's Grade 4 and Men's Grades 6 and 10 — all reached the finals in their sections. Men's Grade 10 were successful in the section final but lost the first of the grade finals. Women's Grade 4 and Men's Grade 6 both lost their section finals.

Redbacks miss the baskets — and the final

By DAMIAN ARSENIS

Poor shooting cost the Redbacks Under-11 Metro 1 boys a place in the grand final in the annual Albury basketball tournament last month.

The team coached by Damian Arsenis won two and lost two of their matches but with ordinary accuracy would have made it a clean sweep.

It was a "red-eye special" road trip for the boys as they left for Albury on Friday, September 21, immediately after their 6.40 pm championship game at Doncaster.

Warrandyte's first opponents next day were the Kinglake Spudders and the Redbacks handed the potato farmers a 15-7 lead in a lack-lustre opening before upping the ante.

In a sublime defensive performance, the Redbacks held their opponents scoreless as they painstakingly clawed their way back.

Warrandyte edged ahead in the dying minutes on the back of a Daniel Hughes drive, only to see the Spudders tie it up at 17-all in the last 30 seconds. The last seconds saw the ball in Julian Phillipou's hands in a well deserved trip to the foul line.

Phillipou missed his first attempt at breaking the tie, but a perfect swish with the second saw the Redbacks steal a one-point win and keep their tournament hopes alive.

The Albury Celtics were the Redbacks' next challenge. Warrandyte created far more opportunities than their taller, older opponents but blew too many of them as they strove for what should have been a match-winning lead in the second half.

A frantic last minute saw the Redbacks mount a final challenge after trailing by seven. Phillipou

scored and was fouled inside the last three seconds to cut the deficit to three.

After deliberately missing the first shot in an attempt to secure a quick rebound and have the final shot, Phillipou pulled in the boards and a last-gasp shot rimmed out, handing the Redbacks their first defeat (by a team who went on to the grand final) in a game they should have won.

Next up for Warrandyte were the Leeton Eagles and with the pressure released by their earlier loss, the boys played a smoother game, yet again missed easy shots.

They still managed to open up a 12-point lead early in the second half — but then the wheels fell off.

The Eagles stormed back to grab the lead for the first time in the last three minutes and a very desperate Warrandyte side fell just one point short.

Another loss to a team they should easily have accounted for.

The Redbacks met the Moruya Swans in their fourth and final game and, determined to atone for their previous poor shooting performances, they took it out on the hapless Swans.

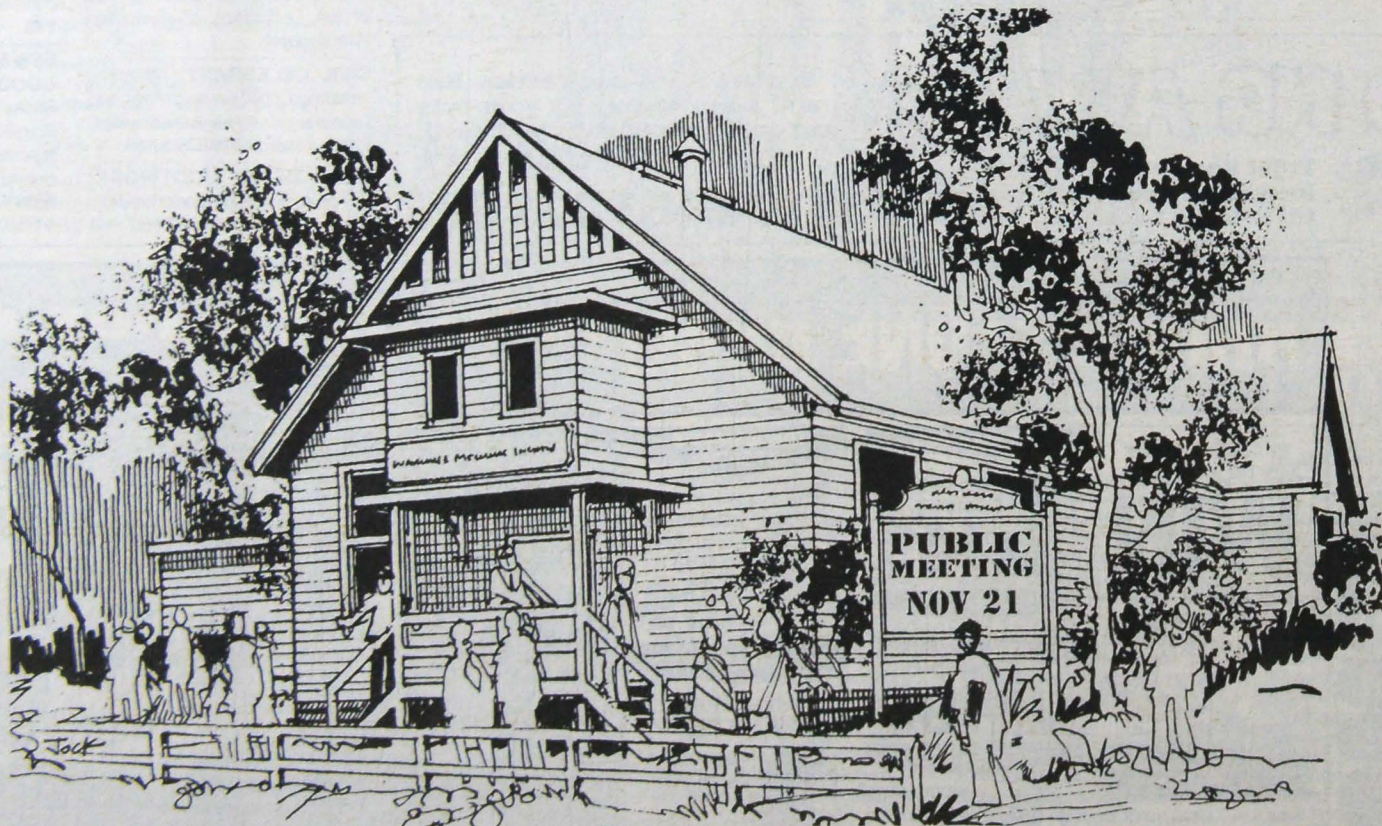
The boys came storming out to score the first six baskets without a miss and continued to find the bottom of the basket on their way to a tournament-best performance and a 52-4 thrashing in a game reduced to just two 16-minute halves because the program was running late.

Despite the disappointment of missing a place in the grand final, it was a valuable learning experience and the boys are already talking revenge next year.

Everyone is urged to come to a

PUBLIC MEETING

to launch the Warrandyte Community Association



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Redbacks' six of the best!

RIGHT: Our Under-11 premier girls with coach Tristan Messerle. Left to right: Amie Brockwell, Ashlee Collins, Chloe Borella, Bethany Whitcher, Nicole Blow, Bonnie Jones. Front: Cassie Wilson.



By TONY OLIVER

Grand final day was quite a day for the Warrandyte Redbacks in the Eastern Districts Junior Basketball Association competition. Six of the 14 local teams involved emerged as premiers.

Warrandyte's top age Under-19 girls team earned their place in the grand final with a two-point win over Bulleen in the first semi-final and faced that side again in the big one at Balwyn High School.

These Redbacks girls are often slow starters and the grand final was no exception, but they were right back in the game at the break, trailing by just a point.

It was a different story in the second half, as the Redbacks came out strongly and established a good lead.

Coach Gavin Whitmore was able to select from a full bench and rotated his players well.

Bulleen came back late in the game, but Warrandyte steadied to win 38-28. Kim Singh, playing up an age group, led the Redbacks' scoring and guard Rachel Treeby collected the Most Determined Player Award.

Another highlight game was the girls Under-15 B-grade decider between Warrandyte and Bulleen at Bulleen, always a tough away venue.

Bulleen had earned the week's break by winning the first semi-final, while Warrandyte came through from third place with a one-point victory over Balwyn and a 10-point result against Eltham.

It was a nervous opening and although Bulleen scored first from the free throw line, Warrandyte were able to settle down to build a comfortable lead coming into the half-time break, thanks largely to strong play by Simone Gemmell.

Bulleen got the better of the foul count to keep them in touch, with the Redbacks leading by 10-7.

The second half started similarly to the first, with Warrandyte doing slightly the better and extending their lead to 13-7 after guard Gina Oliver was fouled. However, the Redbacks were tiring, forward Stephanie Simpson was carrying an injury and a number of players were sitting on three or four fouls.

Bulleen were able to get back in the game and appeared to have the psychological break when they ran to a 23-17 lead.

Although Redbacks centre Jenny Byrne was sitting on four fouls, coach Nick Peters was forced to inject her into the game — and it paid off, with first Byrne and then forward Emma Razzi scoring full points from the free throw line to lock up the scores at 25 all inside the last three minutes.

Guard Gemmell was fouled by Bulleen on a fast break and edged the Redbacks in front. In the following minute, Bulleen's defence opened up at the top of the key and Sarah Bensch took the opportunity to add two points for the Redbacks.

With 67 seconds on the clock, Gemmell extended the lead to four points with a conversion from the free throw line.

Warrandyte played sensible basketball, and even a controversial blocking foul on Oliver was not enough to take the game from them, with a final score of 29-26.

Warrandyte's second Under-17 girls side also played

Bulleen. The Redbacks led 16-12 at half-time and it looked like a premiership was going their way. But the second half was a different story, with Bulleen able to put the points on the board and Warrandyte's shooting deserting them. Bulleen were able to close out the game 24-19.

The MDP award went to Warrandyte's Kathleen Shepherd, who had also won it in the corresponding game last year.

The Under-11 girls of Tristan Messerle started well against the Doncats but could not convert and it was six-all at the break.

In the second half, Warrandyte picked up their defensive intensity to open up a six-point lead, which the Doncats cut back to two.

The Redbacks steadied, however, to make the key baskets. Final score was 18-14 and another premiership to Warrandyte.

Emma Wood had two teams in grand finals. Her Under-9 girls came up against Balwyn and, despite opening the scoring, could not go on with it, and lost

14-4. MDP was Zanetta Hosking.

Wood's second team, in the Under-11 B-grade section, were unable to shut down their Collingwood opponents' tall centre — who scored 22 of her team's 24 points — and went down by seven.

In an A-grade final, Carole Bisetto's Under-11 girls lost 39-20 to a more determined Eltham.

The Under-9 girls B-grade grand final was a real nail-biter. Anne Cousens grabbed the lead for Warrandyte for the first time in the last minute, but the Redbacks could not hold out a very determined Eltham, going down by 16-15. Nicolette Prior was MDP.

In the boys section, Damian Arsenis' Under-11s met Whitehorse away in a replay of the first semi-final.

Whitehorse's home-court advantage was always going to make it hard for the young Redbacks and they trailed by 10 points before they got into the flow.

Warrandyte were 14 points down going into the second half but never dropped their heads.

They contested ever ball, they jumped, they ran and, with three minutes on the clock and in foul trouble, they had clawed their way back to within five points.

But it was not to be and Whitehorse held on to win by that margin.

There was more success for Warrandyte when Adam Robb's Under-11 boys held out a determined Eltham to win 24-21 and Luanda Pianta's Under-9s blitzed Bulleen 25-9.

Warrandyte were assured of at least one premiership when the teams of Kristy Chenall and Jake Ratcliffe met in an Under-9 grand final at home.

This was a low-scoring match with Ratcliffe's team scoring the only basket in the first half.

It was four-all going into the last minute and overtime looked a certainty, but the tie was broken when Ratcliffe's team scored to give them victory by two points.

Tim Given's Under-13 boys played a cliff-hanger against Bulleen, struggling desperately for the lead in the second half but going down 18-16.

Nine in junior finals charge

By TONY OLIVER

Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Club have nine teams in the finals of the junior championship competition. All five girls teams and four boys side had made it though when the home-and-away season ended on October 5.

In a likely grand final preview, Warrandyte's Under-16 girls took on competition leaders Bulleen at Mill Park. The Redbacks were missing key forward Libby Lavery but were otherwise at full strength.

Scoring was tight but Bulleen were doing slightly the better and led 7-2 10 minutes in when Warrandyte coach Nick Peters called a time out to try to get the offence working.

At the resumption, the Redbacks mounted a sustained attack but could not convert and Bulleen were able to counter-attack for an easy lay-up.

Their accuracy from the free throw line saw them take a 14-3 lead into the break.

The second half opened well for the Redbacks, with Simone Gemmell having a purple patch, scoring four baskets from fast rebound play to bring her side back into contention. But fast breaks and lay-ups allowed Bulleen to regain their 11-point half time lead midway through the second stanza.

A long cross-court pass from Emma Razzi to allow Tahnee Templeton to score started a Redback revival. The momentum was now with Warrandyte and point guard Louise Yates



The premier Under-15 B-grade girls with coach Nick Peters. Left to right: Gina Oliver, Emma Razzi, Simone Gemmell, Stephanie Simpson, Sarah Bensch, Jenny Byrne, Andrea Peters.

scored from the free throw line to narrow the gap to four points with just over two minutes to go.

Bulleen had possession, however, and showed their professionalism to run down the clock and record a 25-20 win.

Bulleen finished the home-and-away season with only one loss and two victories over second-placed Warrandyte who meet dangerous Craigieburn in the qualifying semi-final.

In another October 5 match at Mill Park, Warrandyte's second-placed Under-14 girls coached by Lorraine Parfitt took on third-placed Broadmeadows, who held a two-point lead at half-time in a tight game.

The Redbacks had just six players, but all lifted in a good team performance. They finished off the second half better to come away with a 26-22 win.

Top scorers for Warrandyte were Jessica Solty and Amy Caudry, with Andrea Peters also turning in a strong game.

These teams will meet again in a qualifying final on October 12.

Both Under-18 girls teams scored last-up wins, those coached by Nigel Walsham and Warwick Armstrong inspirational at home against Melbourne, whom they will meet again in an elimination semi-final. Warrandyte held a one-point lead at half-time but Melbourne, with only five players, were in front 18-15 at the three-minute mark and seemingly in control.

However, Warrandyte came home much the better with outside shots to Elissia Demitris and Breanna Thomas giving them a 26-20 victory. Thomas and Demitris topscored, each with 10 points.

Damian Arsenis' Under-11 Metro 1 boys assured themselves of a finals place with a gutsy 35-27 win over Kilsyth.

The Redbacks led by four points at the break and put together a purple patch early in the second half to seal the game. Top scorer for Warrandyte was Ryan Holloway, with 12 points.

Also recording a last-up win to guarantee finals action were Norm Dunn's Under-18 boys. Needing to win to stay in fifth place, they faced Darebin at Doncaster and despite having only five players, scored by more than 30 points.

Accompanying them into the finals will be the Under-14 Metro 2 boys of Martin Clark and the Under-16 boys of Gavin Whitmore.

Whitmore's side came up against top-placed Sunshine and had the better of the first half but could not sustain the pace and went down 37-26.

Malcolm Anderson's Under-12 boys will not be taking part in the finals, but had the satisfaction of knocking off third-placed Upper Yarra.

The young Redbacks looked out of the game when they trailed by 10 points with 10 minutes to go, but came home brilliantly for a 36-31 win.

'Superboot' cops the lot

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

Young goalkicker Michael Morello has capped a memorable season by winning Warrandyte Junior Football Club's Colts best and fairest award and being named club captain.

Morello, 15, had already broken the Colts goalkicking record for a season by booting 77, played in the grand final and won selection in the Yarra Junior Football League's Colts Team of the year.

Only a matter of days ago he and teammates Ben Mason and Simon Di Stefano were confirmed as members of the Eastern Ranges squad in the elite TAC Under-18 competition.

"Michael is a brilliant mark and a long, accurate kick," Colts team manager Anthony Mirabella told the *Diary*. "He has what they now call the 'football smarts' — he knows when to go, where to go and what to do when he gets there."

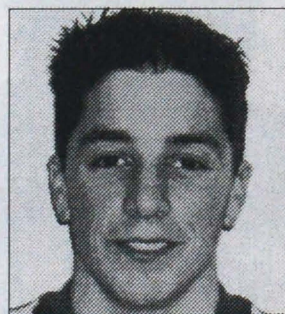
"He has a great deal of potential. He has not yet turned 16 and will be eligible for Colts football against next season."

"Michael is also a very accomplished cricketer."

Of Morello's appointment as club captain, his coach and WJFC president Mathew Matheou said: "Michael has been a role model as a player and person at this club since he joined at Tackers (Under-9) level."

"He is to be congratulated on his appointment."

The junior club's presentation day was held on September 16,



Michael Morello

ber 16, followed by the annual general meeting next day at which the executive committee was returned largely intact.

The exception was the secretaryship, Dennis J. Hoiberg standing down and handing over to Kevin O'Mara.

Matheou remains president and Jim Pasinis treasurer. The management committee is Steve Blakey, Hoiberg, Wayne Moore, Bernie Bowen, Anthony Morello, Brad Curtis, Clem Misfud, Gavin Costin, Veronica Travassaros, Nigel Bridgen, Malcolm Eyre and Terry Pieper.

After the most successful season in the club's history — a season which produced six out of a possible seven finalists, three grand finalists and an Under-11 premiership — all coaching positions for next year have been thrown open.

Anyone interested in being involved in a coaching capacity with a vibrant and ever-growing club is invited to contact president Matheou on 9844 1325.

The club is likely to be further expanded for next season by the addition of second Colts and Under-12 teams.

Junior award winners:

COLTS: Best and fairest: Michael Morello 1; Tom Naughtin 2; Rene Pidgeon and Josh Eyre equal 3. Most consistent: Simon Di Stefano. Most courageous: James Mortenson. Coaches award: Justin Manley. Goalkicking award: Michael Morello.

UNDER-15: Best and fairest: Patrick Rose 1; Jordon Canham 2; John Burgoyne and Paul O'Mara equal 3. Most courageous: Jarrod Boyce. Most determined: William Hosking. Most improved: Andrew Briffa. Coaches award: Daniel John.

UNDER-14: Best and fairest: Stephen Christopher 1; James Singh 2; James Davis 3. Most consistent: Sean Carter. Most determined: Brod Jenkins. Most improved: Ryan Parker. Coaches award: Tom Jamieson.

UNDER-13: Best and fairest: Jack Bullard 1; Dion Mullet-Trealar 2; Luke Ebzery 3. Most determined: Peter Burgoyne. Most courageous Chris Douglas. Coaches award: Alex Beltramin. Encouragement award: Daniel Gully.

UNDER-12: Best and fairest: Tyson Fitzgerald 1; Tom Maddocks 2; Tim Hooke 3. Most determined: Tim Beasley. Most consistent: Braydan Pettigrove. Most improved: Luke Saunders. Coaches award: Pat Nichol.

UNDER-11: Best and fairest: Ayrton Dehmil and Thomas Fitzpatrick equal 1; Michael Whittle and Nathan Gordon equal 2; Rowan Mullet-Trealar and Josh Hale equal 3. Most courageous: Tyson Barber. Most consistent: Ian McLeod. Most improved: Patrick Eddy. Coaches award: Chris Cox.

UNDER-10: Best and fairest: Tristan Valentino 1; Jordan Beltramin 2; Sam Casey and Julian Phillipou equal 3. Most consistent: Andrew Bird. Most determined: Rhys Alderhoven. Most courageous: Ethan Hale-Vaughan. Coaches award: Sam Fischer.

Weather wins again!

It's October, it's cricket season — and it's raining! Such a scenario is typical of the start of Ringwood District Cricket Association seasons and so it came to pass on the first weekend of October 2001.

Another sodden start to cricket

SPORT

Warrandyte, now competing in the RDCA's Wilkins Shield competition, did make a start, but persistent rain late in the afternoon forced their one-day First XI match against South Croydon to be abandoned, with the opening-round points shared.

But while it was a disappointing start to the new season, the fact that about three-quarters of the game was completed and the result was in the balance when rain intervened meant Warrandyte had a solid hit-out against one of last year's finalists.

When umpires called a halt, Warrandyte were 4-46 in reply

to South Croydon's 8-163.

The Dytes went into the match with a reshaped team and welcomed back Michael Day, who returned to the senior line-up after almost 10 years.

Day, a dashing top-order batsman and son of former champion player and Warrandyte Cricket Club life member Geoff, has been living in Sydney and playing senior grade cricket.

He was unbeaten on 15 at the end of play and looked solid and resolute in his game. He will be a valuable asset to what has become a fragile batting line-up.

Day's fielding was also a highlight and one spectacular overhead catch would not have been out of place at the MCG on Grand Final day.

His brother Cameron, a long-time member of the First XI and clearly their best fieldsmen, was not to be outdone and executed a brilliant run out.

South Croydon batted first and found scoring difficult against an attack led by veteran

Gerald Walshe and fiery youngster Jason Cloke.

But it was left to another veteran, Chris Snaidero, to make the first break-through and he finished with 2-22 off eight tight overs.

A damp outfield made fielding difficult and bowlers found it hard to keep a tight line and were often penalised for wide deliveries — a factor that cost 23 runs.

Newly-appointed captain Dave Mooney used six bowlers to complete the 40-over roster, with no bowler permitted more than eight overs.

Campbell Holland showed plenty of fire in his six overs but often found the ball moving too far and tended to provide easy runs down the leg side. But he will be a very handy bowler again this season when he gets his line under control.

Adam Beardall, a young leg-spinner still learning his craft, provided a valuable change in style, while Robert White again tied up an end, conceding just 12 runs from six typically-accurate overs.

The Baker brothers, Brendan and Shane, opened the batting for Warrandyte and immediately found that despite the club being relegated one grade, opposition attacks were not going to be easy to get away.

Michael and Cam Day looked best suited to the run chase, but fading light and rain put an end to the game.

The Second XI were well placed to win their opening match on a sodden South Croydon ground, but their game was also washed out.

Warrandyte have unearthed a

Kids are raring to go

Warrandyte Cricket Club's junior section starts the new season on Saturday, October 13. The club will field an Under-16, Under-14 and two Under-12 sides.

The junior section is possibly the best-prepared it has ever been, with boys taking part in organised indoor practice in late August and early September.

Junior coordinator Trevor Taylor said all players and team managers were looking forward to an exciting season.

"We won premierships in the Under-16 and Under-12 grades last season and we are looking to build on that success," he said.

"The pre-season practice was well attended and the boys are really keen for the season to start."

The juniors will have a new look, with the club introducing new shirts with a special club logo and red collar and red band around the sleeves.

Warrandyte are still keen to encourage young cricketers to join the club at all age levels.

"We see the juniors as being the future of our club and we want to encourage as many as possible to become involved," Taylor said.

He can be contacted on 0412 224329 for further information on the juniors.

Search still on for seniors

Warrandyte Cricket Club are still seeking senior players.

With the season now under way, the club are fielding three senior teams in the RDCA's Wilkins Shield competition as well as a separate side in an association one-day fixture.

Warrandyte were forced to relegate themselves from the top-level Chandler Shield this season because they could not find enough players to fill four senior teams in that competition.

"It was a difficult decision to make," said club president Robert White. "We had been part of Chandler Shield for more than 20 years and to be relegated because you didn't have enough players was a great shame."

"But now the decision has been made we can start anew."

"The Wilkins Shield has eight teams which play each other in a home-and-away fixture with seven two-day and seven one-day games.

"This will provide more cricket and hopefully we can boost our numbers and return to the highest grade of cricket in the district," he said.

"I think from what we have already seen from the first game against South Croydon that the opposition will be strong in Wilkins Shield."

"We have picked up a number of talented recruits already and there must be others in Warrandyte who would like to play cricket."

"We have great facilities and we have a club with a history that goes back almost 150 years."

New players interested in joining the club can contact chairman of selectors John Chapman on 9844 3058.

more-than-handy recruit in Rod Bird, who has joined from St David's in the Box Hill Report competition. A top-order batsman, Bird appeared to be in no trouble scoring 54 after coming to the crease with his team in trouble at 2-13.

He and Tyson Brent, with 36, steered Warrandyte to 4-122 and South Croydon were struggling at 3-23 when the rains came.

The Third XI were in trouble and looked like going down to Boronia when play was abandoned and Warrandyte's one-

day side were on track for a win but had to settle for a draw.

DETAILS

Wilkins Shield: Warrandyte 4-46 drew with South Croydon 8-163 (Snaidero 2-22, Holland 2-38)

Seconds: Warrandyte 4-122 (Bird 54, Brent 36) drew with South Croydon 3-23 (C. Cloke 2-10).

Thirds: Warrandyte 7-78 (Owen 26, Goddard 19) drew with Boronia 1-47.

One-Day Team: Warrandyte 2-15 drew with Boronia 8-63.

The little blokes who've done Warrandyte proud



The all-conquering Warrandyte Junior Football Club's Under-11s, 2001 premiers in the Yarra Junior Football League. Back row (left to right): Tom Fitzpatrick, Ian McLeod, Nicholas Branch, Josh Blakey, Tom Lavery. Second back row: Rowan Mullet-Treloar, Peter Whittingham, Jack Wright, Patrick Eddy, Michael Whittle, Jordan Gauder, Arie Van Bergen, David Morello. Second row: Steve Blakey (coach), Zac Boyce, Matthew Versteegen, Aaron Dean, Chris Carver, Luke Miller, Callum Griffith, Narayan Tobin, Phil Mullet (assistant coach). Front: Kane Stoffels, Tyson Barber, Nathan Gordon, John Pinder, Josh Hale, Chris Cox, David Wood, Ayrton Dehmel.



Under-10 coach Wayne Moore (left) and his assistant Phil Mason congratulate team best and fairest Trisantino Valentino (centre) and Sam Casey (best finals player).



Under-11s premiership coach Steve Blakey (who's had that smile on his face since late August) with dual best and fairest winners Tom Fitzpatrick (left) and Ayrton Demhel.

Bloods land a big one

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club are on the verge of announcing a major recruiting coup.

The Bloods are expected to confirm at the 2001 vote count on October 14 the signing of a prolific goalkicker from EFL First Division for next season.

A dual Division 1 premiership player, he is a close friend of Warrandyte coach Scott Hunter and has averaged 66 goals a season in the elite competition since 1995.

His arrival here would at least partially solve the major problem which bedevilled the Bloods' 2001 Third Division campaign — the lack of key forwards.

Both Hunter and WFC president Robert "Noddy" Ireland cited deficiencies up forward as the main reason for the Bloods' poor showing in 2001, when they won only seven of their 18 matches.

Ireland told the *Diary* he would be standing down as president at the club's annual general meeting next month. He said he would be doing so because he "couldn't get fully motivated as president."

"I feel I'm letting the club down if I'm not fully motivated," he said. "It's fair to say that I haven't been able to become totally motivated since the death of my partner, Shell, two years ago. I still have bad days."

Another factor was the departure of his son "Stumpy". "He's played at Warrandyte for the past couple of years, but he's

going back to Merimbula to live, so I'll no longer have a family connection at the club," Ireland said.

"I'll still be around the place, but I feel I need a break for a while."

"I'd just like to say that everyone has been terrific to me and I'd like to see as many people as possible at the vote count on October 14 so I can thank them for their support."

Ireland has been everything from player to Under-18s coach, secretary, president and life member at Warrandyte. He has missed only four years on the general or social committees since 1976.

The club's committee is expanded to more evenly distribute the workload.

Treasurer (and former president) Jeff Evans and secretary James Logan will be standing again.

Meanwhile, the club will advertise for a coach and players in a campaign to resurrect an Under-18s side, missing last season for want of numbers.

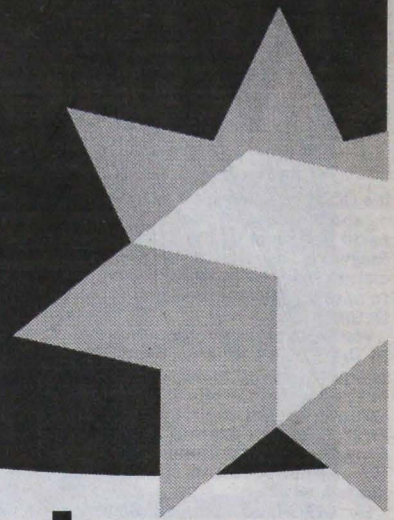
The campaign is being run by Brian Williams and Phil Treeby, who welcome constructive input and can be contacted on 9844 3346 (or 0405 268117) and 9876 4142 respectively.

● The Blood's October 14 vote count will be held at Club Warrandyte, starting at 12.30 pm. Tickets, which include a three-course meal, are \$30 and available from Bucky Rodgers (0411 519671) or club secretary Logan (0411 223418).

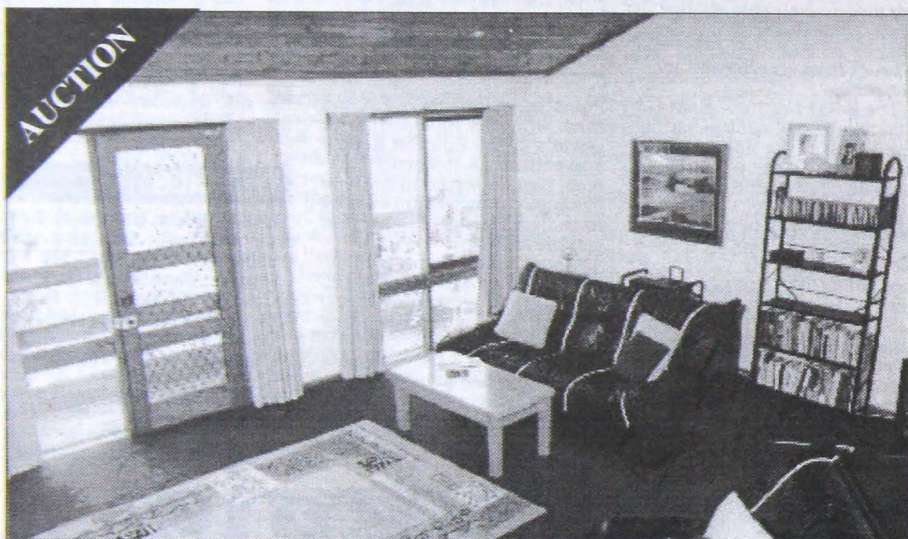


The Professionals

Wilson McDougall

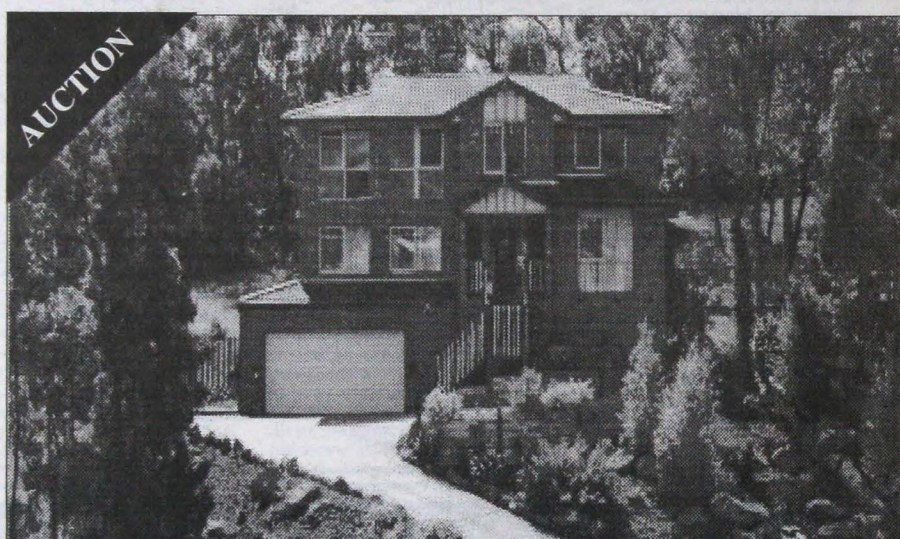


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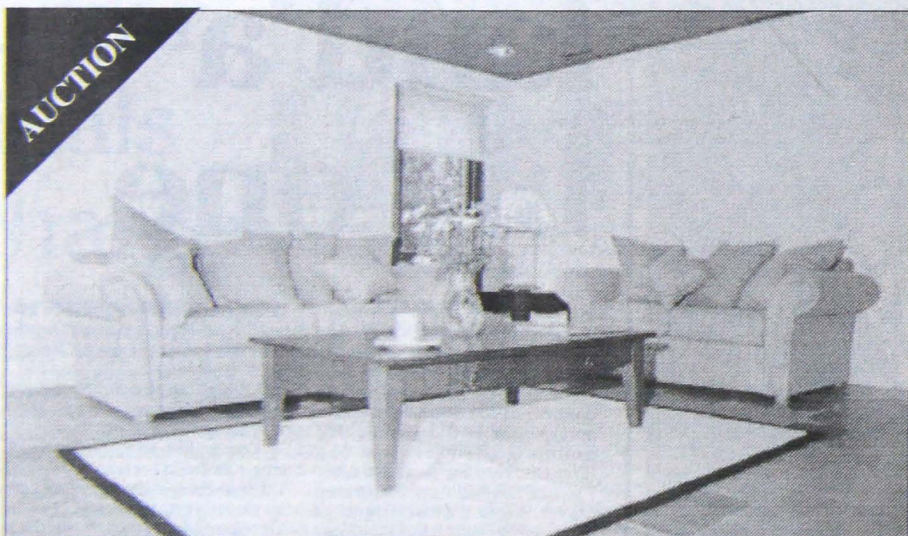
18 Hodson Road — NOVEMBER 11 at 11am

3 bedrooms, open plan contemporary \$240,000 plus buyers



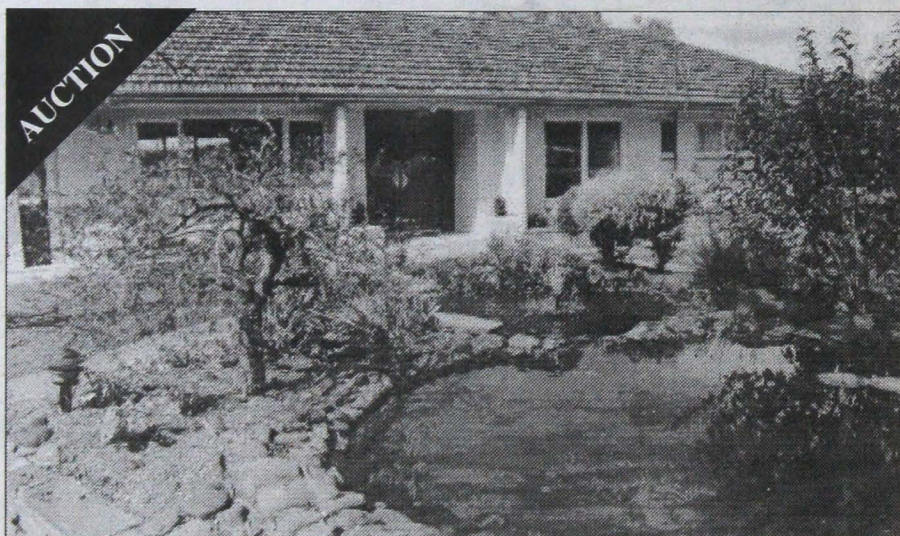
4 Valley Way — NOVEMBER 11 at 2pm

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