

Bus shelter victory

By CLIFF GREEN

The community has received an early Christmas present with the decision by Manningham council to modify its approach to bus shelters in Warrandyte.

Council has agreed not to install any more advertising bus shelters in Warrandyte and to negotiate with Adshel for the provision of at least three shelters without advertising in Warrandyte township. However, advertising shelters already installed may remain.

Council officers recommended to council that they should negotiate with Adshel for 10 non-advertising shelters in the Warrandyte area. Councillors amended this to three non-advertising shelters in the township.

Council's decision follows a long and sustained campaign against bus shelter advertising by North Warrandyte resident, Kerrie Boyle.

An initial petition, signed by 150 residents, was sent to council in February. "This caused council to defer the bus shelter roll-out program, pending further community consultation," Ms Boyle said.

The initial Adshel-council proposal

specified 12 advertising shelters between Whipstick Gully and the high school.

Following the receipt of 1014 additional signatures to a petition protesting against advertising, council resolved in July to commission a survey testing public opinion, both within Warrandyte and beyond.

The report of the survey, conducted by Sweeney Research, states: "Overall, the vast majority of residents (80 percent) agree that bus shelters without advertising on them would be far more acceptable than bus shelters with advertising on them."

Manningham council unanimously resolved last month that:

- council continue with the Adshel bus shelter installation program for the Warrandyte area of the municipality (provided that) illumination or advertising panels not be used in the further fabrication and installation of bus shelters in the Warrandyte area;

- council officers be authorised to negotiate with Adshel to extend the current arrangements to achieve at least three non-advertising shelters in the Warrandyte township.

The motion was moved by Cr Patricia Young and seconded by Cr Lionel Allemand.

"This is an acknowledgement by council that Warrandyte is unique and deserves to be treated differently to other 'Identikit' suburbs," Kerrie Boyle said. "People come to Warrandyte to get away from relentless advertising.

"They come over the hill and below is this lovely green vista of tree-clad valleys; an eye-opening experience that extends for miles. Then suddenly there they are: large, illuminated advertising panels. The sense of calm and tranquil serenity is immediately shattered."

According to the Sweeney survey, 98 percent of Manningham residents, "don't care either way about bus shelter advertising," Ms Boyle said.

"But clearly, most Warrandyte residents find it offensive. Adshel had agreed to provide one-third of their shelters in Manningham without advertising. Why shouldn't these be concentrated in the non-urban areas, like Warrandyte, Wonga Park and Park Orchards?"

In addition to the points outlined above, council also resolved that "the existing advertising bus shelters be retained under the terms of the Adshel contract".

Kerrie Boyle believes "that council officers may negotiate with Adshel for the removal of the advertising panels"

on the shelter at the corner of Everard Drive and Yarra Street.

"I have been told that this may not be possible with the shelter opposite the Pound Road corner," Ms Boyle said. "However, I believe the Warrandyte community will seek the removal of all bus shelter advertising."

When Cr Lionel Allemand, then Manningham mayor, announced the Adshel proposal in March 2000, he said: "Some (shelters) will carry advertising and others, in more sensitive areas, will not." With the appearance of the first shelters a year later, Warrandyte residents discovered their area was not considered "sensitive" enough.

"Manningham councillors seemed quite surprised at the level of opposition within the township to advertising and signage," Kerrie Boyle said.

Kerrie Boyle thanked everyone who "contributed in the battle to retain Warrandyte's charm and character. Without the support of those who signed the petition we would not have been able to make such an impact on council."

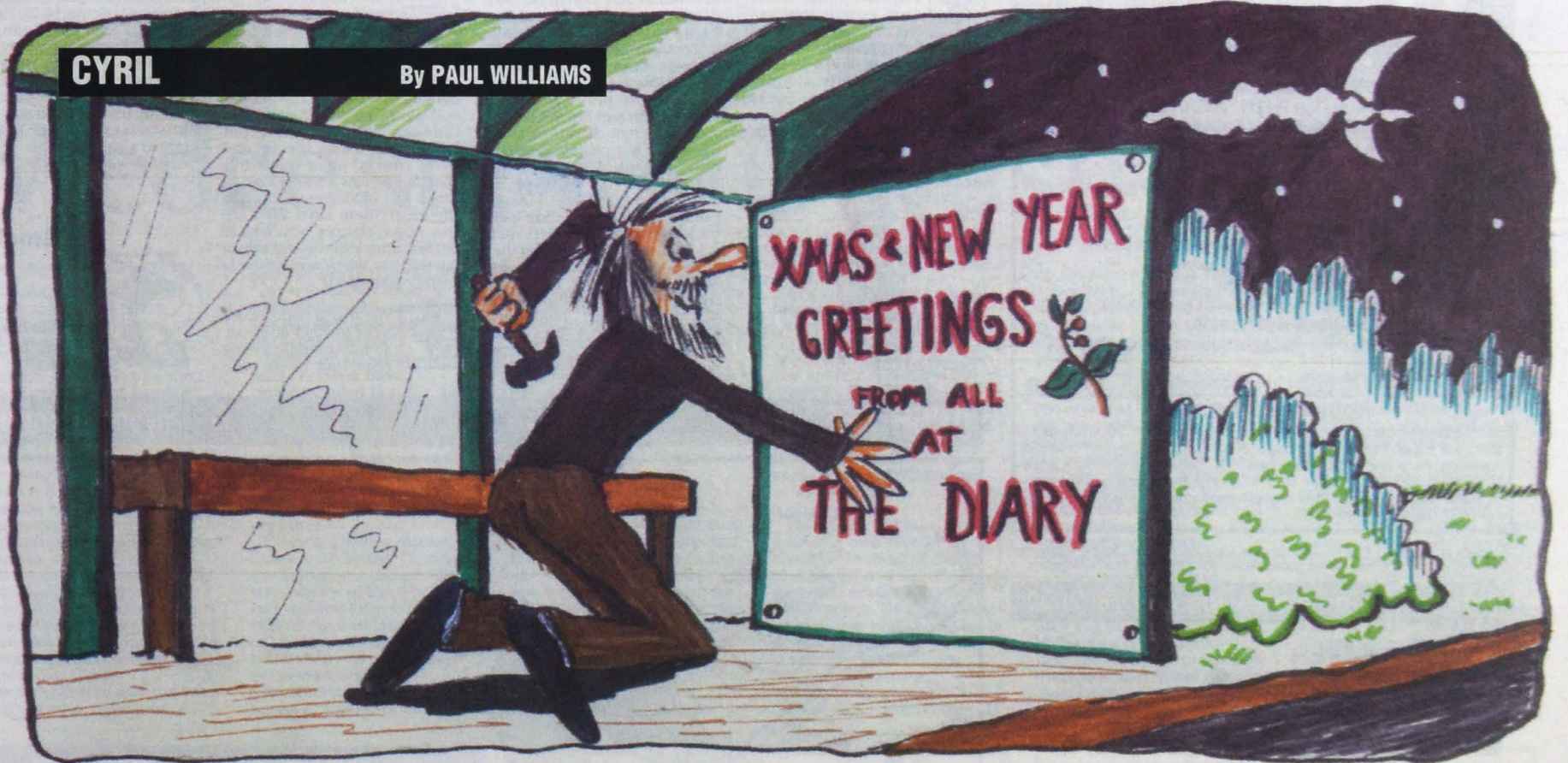
Ms Boyle claims that this whole situation need never have developed. "Proper consultation with our community when the Adshel proposal



was first mooted could have avoided it all," she said. "We could have had all our shelters free of advertising, with the advertising ones placed in the built-up areas."

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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EDITORS: Cliff Green and Lee Tindale
PUBLISHER: Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd, (A.C.N. 006 886 826) as trustee for the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.
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INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy/
PRODUCTION: Rachel Schroeder, 9725 6699.
PRINTING: Streamline Press Pty Ltd, 155 Johnston Street, Fitzroy, 9417 2766.
Published on or about the second Tuesday of each month (except January).

ADVERTISING RATES
\$5.00 a column centimetre (casual), \$4.75 (permanent). \$500 full page. \$330 half page. \$180 quarter page. \$60 front page "ears". Preferred positions: page one 100%, page two 30%, page three and back page 20%, other nominated pages 10%. Mini-ads: \$4.20 for four lines, then \$1 each additional line. Mini-ads pre-paid unless by prior arrangement. All rates plus 10% GST.

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February copy closes January 18, 2002


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, Waranwood, 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.

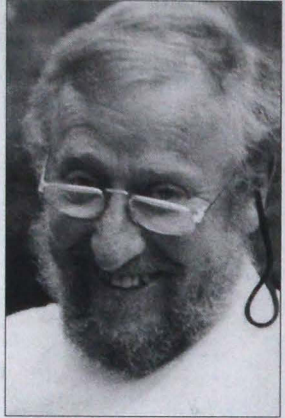
Bearded certainly, woolly maybe, but elderly never!

 Local vet Derek Fairley answered a call the other day to put down a kangaroo badly injured by a car near the bridge in Jumping Creek Road. Several minutes after he'd left his surgery, police answered a call from an alarmed citizen reporting a "woolly, bearded, elderly man walking along Jumping Creek Road with a gun". Now Derek might be somewhat woolly and he's certainly bearded — but we hotly dispute the "elderly" bit. He's a mere and ever-sprightly 55! Anyhow, to avoid future embarrassing situations he's getting himself a brightly-coloured vest with the word "VET" emblazoned back and front.

 There was no truth at all in the rumour sweeping town that Jack Barr, everyone's favourite Irishman, had won a fortune on the punt and fled to a tax haven in the Bahamas. No, he'd merely spent a couple of weeks at Heathcote with son Robert. On his return, though, he was quick to good-naturedly serve it up to the staff at the local pub, comparing the bar service there with that of his favourite Heathcote watering hole. "Up there," he said, "you walk in the door and there's an ice-cold glass of beer waiting for you before you reach the bar!" Which prompted Dave Parker, who was standing next to him at the time, to ask: "And tell me, Jack, do they tell you at this Heathcote pub when you've got your shirt on inside-out?"

 We'd long regarded Page 2 frequent flyer and faded football hero Grant "Socks" Egan as being among the most placid of fellows — but we have now discovered his Achilles heel: parking tickets. Socks took his brand new Pajero on its maiden voyage to the Big Smoke the other day, parked it in one of those awkward median bays in Lonsdale Street and returned to find a ticket on his windscreen. Quite uncharacteristically, he spat the dummy, got into the Pajero, hooked the wheel too hard on his way out and bent the parking meter quite badly — although not nearly as badly as he bent his big boy's toy! Who does Socks Egan think he is? Cool Hand Luke?

IN RED & WHITE




Derek Fairley: armed but by no means dangerous.




Kevin Close: now it's bye bye Blues.


(Pictures by Jan Tindale)


 Socks' sister Suzie followed him into town in her car that day, parked nearby and also copped a ticket. But unlike her brother, Suzie doesn't toss tantrums and she left her parking meter upright and her vehicle unbent.

 Carlton's Wayne Brittain has just become hot favourite to be the first AFL coach sacked in 2002. Brittain, who comes across as a very nice bloke, has signed his own death warrant by employing Page 2 informant Kevin Close as a "forward scout" (aka "spy") for next season. Closey has for years now been snooping on rival league clubs for other league clubs and has left behind a near-perfect record of fallen mentors. Only current Brisbane coach Leigh Matthews has managed to survive a connection with "Kiss of Death" Closey. Those who didn't are his long-time mate Robert Walls (at Richmond), John Northey (Brisbane) and Tim Watson and Malcolm Blight (St Kilda). So why would Brittain want to hire this grim reaper? "Beats me," said Closey. "I told him about my track record but he wanted me to work for Carlton despite


it." We hope Wayne Brittain is as lucky as he is brave.


 An event which deserved a blaze of publicity but went absolutely unannounced was the 60th birthday late last month of Teevee Tommy Kerkhof. Didn't tell a soul. Why? Well, his mates' opinions are divided. Was it vanity — or his aversion to shouting a beer? Whatever, a belated "Happy birthday" from us, old-timer.

 You know how super-markets have an express lane check-out for a limited number of items. Well, while Smokey was cooling his heels at the get-out end over at The Pines as Her Indoors agonised at great length over which special was more special than the other specials, he saw a shifty-looking bloke put NINE items through the EIGHT-item lane! Why are the cops always elsewhere persecuting elderly and infirm jay-walkers when real crime is being committed?

 We bid a sad adieu here to Rachel Baker, an outstanding young reporting talent who

began her career on the *Diary* as a schoolgirl at Warrandyte High. We always said Rachel, an RMIT journalism graduate, would go far and she already has — to Nhill, which is just about as far as you can go without finding yourself in South Australia. A no-nonsense young lady unafraid to ask the hard questions, she has left us to work on the Nhill Free Press. And if we were asked to predict her immediate future in a few words, we'd say she'll khill 'em at Nhill!

 If you've walked, say, Fourth Hill lately you'll have found yourself in a wonderland of yellow daisies, predominantly the Button Everlasting (*Helichrysum scopioides*). "It's an herbaceous perennial with velvety leaves and large, bright yellow flowers on the tips of its branchlets," enthuses Cathy Willis, our resident native flora authority. "It flowers from spring into summer and is a beautiful addition to a rocky, dry bank or anywhere open and sunny in the garden." All you need to know now is that this little beauty is available from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend. Give Cathy a call on 0418 142297.

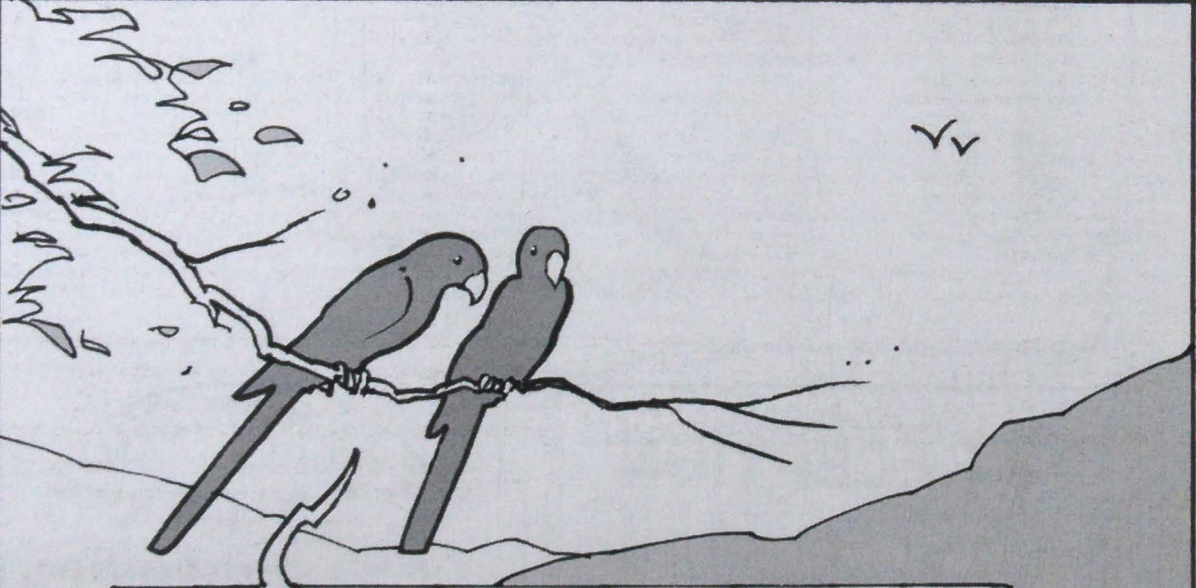
 So that's it for 2001 from your resident raver, who's off to aestivate (the rest of you can look it up in your Funk and Wagnall) on the Bellarine Peninsula, preparing for the resumption of hostilities in February. Thanks heaps to all of you who contributed to this column this past year and thanks particularly to "Bozo" Dusting, "Socks" Egan and "Coatsy" Koetsveld for being so consistently newsworthy and to their mates for so consistently and gleefully dobbing them in. And may your Christmases and New Years be memorable in the nicest possible way. Bye now.

Smokey Joe



OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



YES, WARRANDYTE IS LOOKING A LOT GREENER...SINCE THE LAST ELECTION...

JFK

Local cemetery fears

Trust seeks ground for additional plots

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

Residents of Tindals Road and the surrounding area are determined to fight a possible addition to Andersons Creek cemetery in their environs, calling for the cemetery trust "to call it quits" when the existing burial ground is full.

Richard English, who lives in Tindals Road, says local householders violently oppose any new cemetery, and over 300 people have signed a recent petition against it.

"We've fought for the Green Wedge for 25 years, having moved here to enjoy the Warrandyte atmosphere," he said. "Why put a cemetery in a beautiful area? It's an outstanding vista as you drive along the top of the ridge. Why pollute the place with dead people?"

"We can't keep destroying what we have or there'll be nothing left for our children." Andersons Creek cemetery is facing a "full house" within two to three years, according to cemetery trust chairman John Chapman. About 5000 people are buried at Andersons Creek and 655 bodies cremated, and 600 burial plots costing between \$2817 and \$3266 are unsold.

"Two years ago, the fact the cemetery was close to full and that we would not be able to provide burial plots for locals in the future disappointed many Warrandyte residents, who suggested we acquire more land," Mr Chapman said. According to a cemeteries consultant, the trust's choices were to buy one or more new areas of land for future cemetery use or to do nothing and cease accepting new burials once Andersons Creek cemetery was full.

The trust is investigating all possibilities. "No decision has been taken on any site or option," Mr

Chapman said. "No offer has been made, no soil testing has been carried out and no assessment of topography has been made."

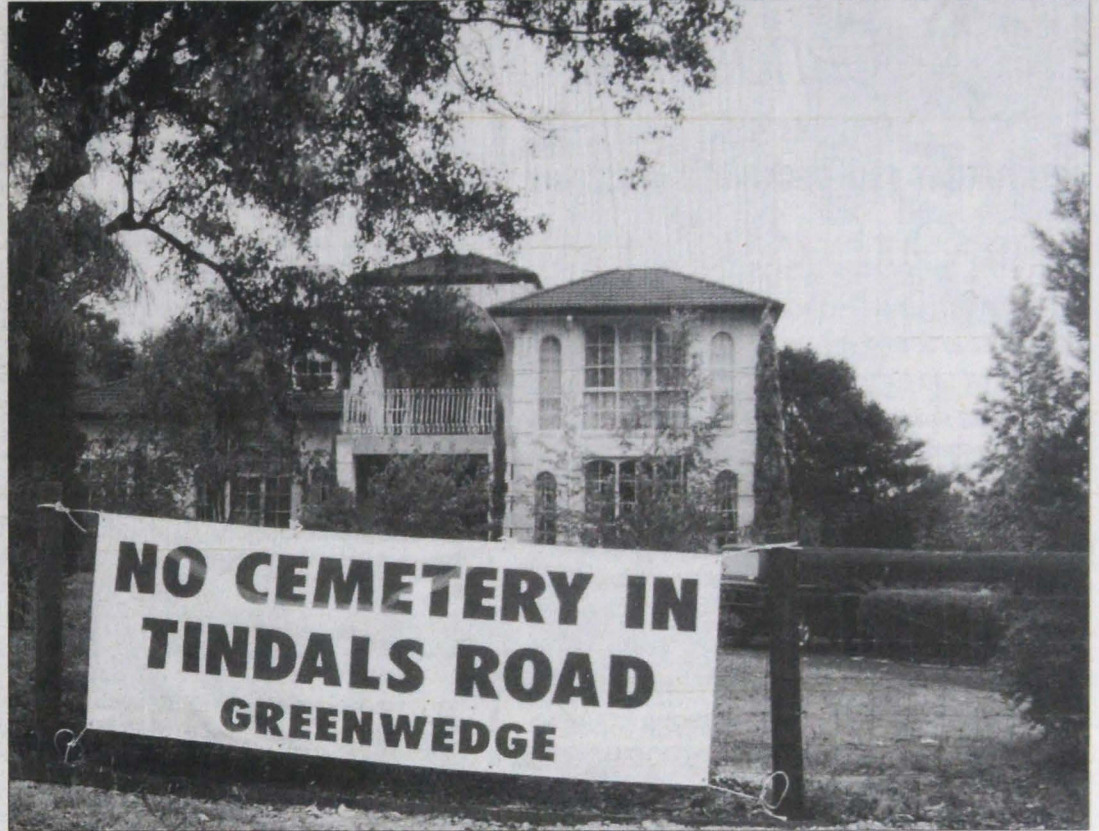
Discussions were held with Manningham council and the Department of Human Services and the trust was informed ministerial approval was given for the purchase of land for cemetery purposes in the Warrandyte region.

Mr Chapman said the trust is now looking at three possible sites, two in Tindals Road and one in Brackenbury Street. Any land that was affordable by and suitable for the trust would have to be rezoned then advertised and landowners and interested people informed of the trust's intent.

The petition put together by Mr English notes "death is a natural part of life but so is the joy of living". He believes a new cemetery will disrupt wildlife and nature, increase traffic, noise and air pollution, possibly contaminate waterways and soil, affect farmland and devalue property and the attraction of Warrandyte.

"Putting a new cemetery into the Green Wedge will destroy the land around it. The bush will go and it'll affect people living in the bottom of the valleys," he said. "Some older people are totally distressed at the prospect of a cemetery going in next to them. Yes, they're superstitious, but when you've moved into an area for its beauty and they dump this on you it's just not right."

Mr English is concerned over the lack of community consultation over the issue. "Manningham City Council treats Warrandyte like second-class citizens," he said. "Warrandyte needs a strategy saying 'in 50 years' time this is the plan'. The community must control what's going on. Why develop



They're protesting in Tindals Road. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

bushland so close to Melbourne?"

Mr English said the next step in the protest against a new cemetery would be to contact local councillors, the health department, the environment minister and the cemetery trust. Two large signs proclaiming "No cemetery in Tindals Road" are already in situ.

Local MP Phil Honeywood added his concerns over plans for expansion, saying Warrandyte should not be allowed to become the "dead-centre" for Melbourne.

"Warrandyte is the closest open cemetery to the Melbourne CBD and 85 percent of burials in our local cemetery are of people from elsewhere in Melbourne. This leaves only 15 percent of burials classified as genuine local residents. We could reach the situation that every time the trustees purchase a new parcel of land it will quickly become occupied by more burials from all over Melbourne.

"There is no law that permits cemetery trustees to discriminate in

favour of burials just for local residents."

Although praising the Andersons Creek cemetery trust in their desire to ensure local residents will be buried in a fitting location within the local area, Mr Honeywood would prefer to see no expansion of the cemetery.

"Local residents could be buried at the Kangaroo Ground cemetery. Or we'll get a name for being the place for all Melbourne burials."

● LETTER: Page 4

Wedge survey is 'push polling'

By DAVID WYMAN

Manningham council has been accused of "push polling" with its Green Wedge survey.

The survey, part of a current review of planning and development issues in the non-urban areas has been severely criticised by local residents.

The council appointed a committee to oversee the review but also appointed outside consultants to undertake a survey of non-urban residents and a limited sample of urban residents. The review process is being nominally managed by a committee which includes councillors and some pro- and anti-subdivision Manningham residents.

A Green Wedge conservation supporter, who did not wish to be named,

told the *Diary* that the latest "survey was yet another indication that councillors are not strong supporters of the Green Wedge".

"Here we go again—after other reviews have recommended that the non-urban areas be conserved.

"The problem is the councillors have only urban experience. They are easily coned by landholders and their claims of hardship and expense in managing acreages."

Council's media release of October 30 stated: "Council has initiated a comprehensive review of the whole (non-urban) area following a formal request from a group of landowners seeking the subdivision of part of the non-urban areas".

But council's statement of terms of reference and key

aims of the review doesn't mention subdivision but says one of the aims of the survey is "to provide council with a broad understanding of the social, economic and environmental values of the non-urban areas".

The vice-president of the Park Orchards Ratepayers' Association, David Mayor, called the survey "a push poll generated by non-experts in conducting surveys".

"I'm critical of the fact that it's taken months to appoint the consultant, and then the survey is pushed through a few weeks before Christmas with inadequate time for the proper consideration of the form of the survey," he said.

"We have an application from a number of landowners in the Park Orchards area seeking to

exhibit a change to the planning scheme to enable them to subdivide their Green Wedge holdings.

"A decision on the application is deferred for two months. I pointed out to council's CEO that the council appeared to be acting outside its authority in this matter. The state planning law sets down the no-go areas and subdividing non-urban land below 20 acres is a no-go area."

Mr Mayor said that council's own Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) also prohibited subdivision under 20 acres in the non-urban zones. He added that council was not scheduled to review its MSS for another couple of years.

"Council has also unanimously approved C2 (on the same night that it set

up the Green Wedge review committee). This restricts development in the Green Wedge and C2 has also been signed off by the minister for planning, Mr Thwaites."

In September the minister unequivocally stated: "The government is committed to the protection of the green wedges. It is expected that the Metropolitan Strategy will give detailed attention to the protection and management of Melbourne's non-urban and environmental assets, including the green wedges."

"Now we've got these consultants and a lot of pushy questions. Why do they say there are 'problems' in the non-urban areas—that's pushing the point that there are problems," Mr Mayor said.

"There may be issues but

it's yet to be determined whether the issues are real problems in the Green Wedge.

"The arguments about hardship and land degradation are smokescreens for land cut-up—and if they (the landholders) allow their land to fall into a degraded state they should not be rewarded."

Mr Mayor was severely critical of some Manningham councillors. "Just about everything they touch, they make a wrong call," he said. "They're all over the place in planning decisions, calling for freeway ramps in Park Orchards, and setting up yet another review on the Green Wedge when the government has said it is already committed to its protection. I don't understand what drives some of the councillors."

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Barking dogs nuisance

As residents of Warrandyte for more than 15 years, we obviously moved here for peace and quiet as well as the environment.

Over the past years things have changed as land is being sub-divided and more people are moving into the area...but what people?

Once you could sit out the back and just listen to the birds and the peace and quiet, but now everyone has a dog; not a quiet dog but one that barks continually even though you can see people are home. We live in a valley and the sound carries.

The barking dogs keep up all night sometimes, like a recent one that barked until 1.30am.

Next door to us they have a dog that barks on and off from 9.30 till sometimes 3am, which we have complained about, what have they done? Gone and bought another dog, which barks along with the original one.

DEAR DIARY

Are the neighbours all deaf or just have selective hearing and are luckily able to blank out the barking which goes on?

We are very peaceful people who just want to go to bed and sleep, not to be woken each hour with this horrible barking. We do have a small dog, but we make sure it's not out annoying everybody and tell it off when it barks. Everyone's complaining about dogs being unleashed. What about the barking dogs?

We just wish people would be more considerate when they choose to get a dog. The dog didn't come to them, so please exercise a bit more control over them and stop annoying the whole neighbourhood.

The Gilberts by email

CLYDE & OCKER



"It's not the barking dogs that annoy me, Ock. It's the blokes shouting at 'em all night!"

Thanks from Joshua



To the Warrandyte Community: Thank you for your support after my car accident on September 11.

My family and I were overwhelmed by the way the community lent their support by cooking meals, leaving phone messages and sending cards.

I am happy to say I am now home and busy with re-hab and putting on some weight!

I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Joshua Smith
Banning Road

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

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

Cemetery worries neighbour

My attention has been drawn to the fact that an extension of the Warrandyte cemetery is in the "planning stage".

It appears to me if the trustees of the cemetery are unable to extend to adjoining land they should accept the fact that they have tried and as Bruce and the Spider try, try again, endeavouring to extend alongside.

Cemeteries at Templestowe, Eltham and Kangaroo Ground no doubt are or soon will be filled to capacity and if Warrandyte cemetery is about to follow suit it may well be that the trustees should be exploring an area between Warrandyte and Lilydale—dare I say Wonga Park?

Trevor Parker
Tindals Road

Tim's triumph

Tim Ferguson of Research Road was one of the three CSIRO scientists and technicians to receive the CSIRO gold medal for their outstanding work on block cave fracturing. Tim (pictured) flew to Adelaide this month to receive the award.

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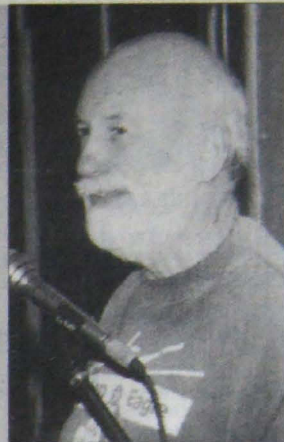
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Let the people speak: Warrandyte folk form their own association.

Pictures by SANDY BURGOYNE

Community group seeks your support

30 years ago...

The Warrandyte Environment League, with a brief to watch carefully over the future development of the area, was formed at a packed public meeting in the Mechanics' Hall last month.

Called as a protest by a group of citizens dismayed at recent "development" trends which they interpret as leading to the possible destruction of Warrandyte as we now know it, the meeting listened to several speakers on conservation, asked many questions and took part in lively discussion.

Particular reference was made to the havoc being caused by the current subdivision in Harris Gully Road. One speaker described this development as the "front line in the battle to save Warrandyte".

"The bulldozers are out there digging the trenches at this very moment," he said.

Chairman for the night, Mr Keith Wilson, handled a difficult job with tact and skill and was largely responsible for the meeting being so successful.

The meeting then went on to elect a foundation committee of 15 to the Environment League.

—Warrandyte Diary, September 1971

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte now has a community association, dedicated to protecting the environment and promoting all aspects of community life in Warrandyte.

The association has elected interim office bearers, is developing a constitution and is preparing for incorporation.

An overflow public meeting at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall last month resolved "to form the Warrandyte Community Association".

The meeting was sponsored by the Warrandyte Community Centre Supporters Group. Jock Macneish, president of the group, told the gathering that his involvement "is due to a passion to promote community life in Warrandyte, particularly following the controversy over the community centre."

"During this process it was seen as desirable to have a broad-based group to look at strategic issues affecting Warrandyte," he said.

Chaired by local resident Glenn Martin, the meeting decided that only residents of Warrandyte, North Warrandyte and South Warrandyte would be eligible for membership of the new association.

Nominations for the first committee were then called, and 15 persons were declared elected. They are: Kristen Bartram, Kerrie Boyle, Rebecca Burgess, Michael Canty, Anthony Dale, Dick Davies, Bruce Davidson, David Ellis, Ron Garrett, Howard Geldard, Glen Jameson, Simon Kearney, Liane Macquire, Ain Utt and David Wierzbowski.

This committee met a few days later and appointed the following interim office-bearers:

- President—Dick Davies
- Vice Presidents—Kristen Bartram, Rebecca Burgess
- Secretary and Public Officer—Simon Kearney
- Treasurer—Anthony Dale
- Membership Secretary—Kerrie Boyle

Interim president Dick Davies told the *Diary* that the first priority for the committee must be to develop a proper constitution. "Then we'll call a meeting of members and intending members, get it all democratically approved, then we'll apply for legal incorporation. Policy matters affecting the organisation will be reviewed at annual general meetings."

"Although a major concern will be environmental matters, the assoc-

iation will also be focussing on a wide range of other strategic concerns, including those affecting the elderly and young people, and sporting and cultural issues," Mr Davies said.

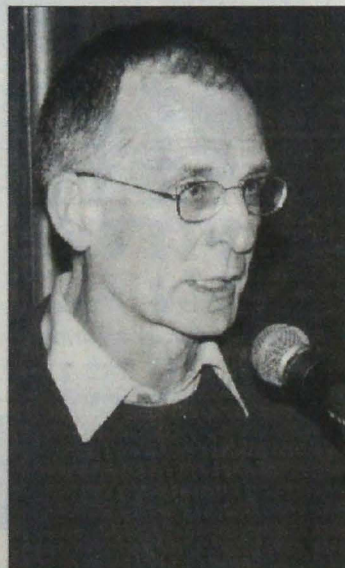
Warrandyte MP Phil Honeywood has welcomed the formation of the association.

"This is a long overdue initiative and I am delighted that local residents have seen the need for one united representative body for our precious community," he said.

"Now when we have a complex planning issue that threatens the Green Wedge or Warrandyte township, I will be able to consult with an organisation that as the local MP I know will have real clout in its dealings with Manningham council and other levels of government."

"While I don't anticipate that the Warrandyte Community Association and I will necessarily agree on every single matter in the future, at least there will be a bona fide body to consult with and communicate with," Mr Honeywood said.

● The Warrandyte Community Association can be contacted through Dick Davies (general enquiries) on 9844 4686 and Kerrie Boyle (membership) on 9844 3120.



Dick Davies, interim president of the new association.

Green vote grows

By RACHEL BAKER

Voters in Warrandyte stood out as strong Greens Party supporters within their electorates during last month's federal election.

In the seat of Menzies, the Warrandyte polling booth recorded a 12.8 percent primary vote for the Lower House Greens candidate, Barry Watson. This compares to the seat's average of 5.2 percent. The least supportive booth, Doncaster West, recorded 2.7 percent.

In McEwan, North Warrandyte recorded the second-highest primary vote for their Greens candidate, Jim Romagnesi, with 20.5 percent; this followed the St Andrews booth, which registered 22.5 percent. The average Green vote for McEwan was 5.9 percent and the lowest count came from Merton, to the north of the electorate, near Bonnie Doon, which registered 0.09 percent.

Mr Romagnesi expressed pleasure at the result. "That's fantastic," he said. "It's an indication of the increasing popularity of the Greens, particularly in relation to our stand on humanitarian and environmental issues," he said.

The Menzies candidate, Barry Watson, was also impressed with his performance, claiming the Greens' success was based on local and national issues. "Partly it's because

what's happening with the Green Wedge and the threat of the ring roads and also asylum seekers. I haven't spoken to anyone who thinks the way the government is handling it is appropriate," Mr Watson said.

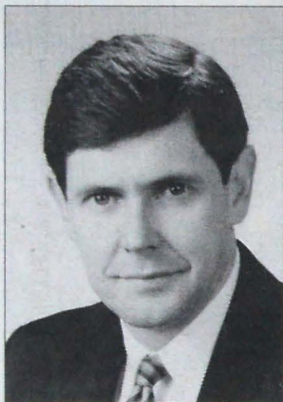
Both candidates expressed the belief that Warrandyte

In McEwan, Research recorded 5.8 percent for the Greens and Kangaroo Ground counted 16.1 percent.

Mr Romagnesi explained that his weaker performance in other booths within the seat could be due to the Greens'



Barry Watson: scored well



Kevin Andrews: won Menzies

residents are generally sympathetic to environmental issues.

In both seats, the Liberal Party candidates (Kevin Andrews in Menzies and Fran Bailey in McEwan) were returned to office.

In surrounding suburbs in Menzies, Park Orchards registered a 9.0 percent vote for the Greens, Warrandyte South 8.7 percent, and Wonga Park 6.6 percent.

lack of resources, which meant only 35 percent of booths in the electorate were manned by Greens staff handing out how-to-vote cards.

Mr Watson told the *Diary* he plans to continue his campaign against development within the Green Wedge, and welcomed interest from local residents and groups who were interested in assisting.

Conflict is 'exaggerated'

By CLIFF GREEN

The Park Orchards Ratepayers Association denies there is a "feud" brewing between Donvale and Park Orchards over the issue of freeway ramps at Park Road.

PORA vice-president, David Mayor, said that of the 1100 plus signatures on a petition presented to state parliament over recent weeks, almost 400 came from Donvale.

"The signatures came from Donvale residents, stretching from Glenvale Road in the east, to McGowans Road in the west, with many others from surrounding areas," Mr Mayor said.

"This is not a petition organised by Park Orchards against Donvale, as has been reported." PORA and the Donvale Community Action Group are opposed to the construction of the ramps, fearing they would feed an endless stream of peak hour traffic through the area.

"We are concerned that there is a great deal of no-fact, emotional nonsense being raised by the pro-ramp lobbyists," Mr Mayor said.

Ramp supporters are claiming that without ramps there will be no emergency exits provided at either end of the proposed tunnel.

"Emergency access is already written into the design at each end of the tunnel, and is via emergency only, crushed rock surfaced access points at both Park Road and Deep Creek Road," Steve Graham, PORA president, told the *Diary*.

"Council traffic surveys give the lie to the hoary old argument that a 'rat run' exists along Larne Avenue/McGowans Road that will be alleviated by Park Road ramps. There is no 'rat run'. If anything, the installation of ramps on Park Road could create a 'reverse rat run' by Donvale residents seeking to avoid the traffic lights at Springvale Road," Mr Graham said.

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By SYD & ONA

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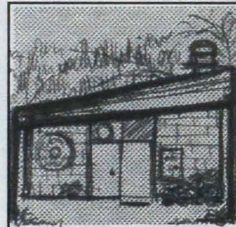
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SUMMER FIRE SEASON — 2001/2002

Weather dulls fire awareness



Jingle bells. Jingle bells. Jingle all the way... Warrandyte and South Warrandyte fire brigades will be driving Santa around on Sunday, December 23. The trucks will start their journey at 10am and will be covering Warrandyte, South Warrandyte, Warranwood, Park Orchards and parts of Donvale. Both brigades would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

CFA predicts it could be a hot summer

By CLIFF GREEN

Perceptions of a low fire-risk summer, due to recent heavy rain and cooler temperatures, could lead to dangerous levels of community complacency.

"Recent rains have been very good for filling tanks and dams and watering gardens," Jeff Adair, CFA community education coordinator, told the *Diary*. "On the other hand it has led to significant growth in grasslands and forests."

"When dry, this material will provide high levels of burnable material."

The CFA has been advised by the weather bureau that there is a 65 percent likelihood of higher than average maximum summer temperatures.

"The hot weather must come—sooner or later. The prolific growth will dry, leading to a high-risk situation," Mr Adair said.

"Given the cooler weather we have noticed a reduction in the level of inquiries for property assessment, Community Fireguard activity and fire planning advice. This is disappointing but understandable due to the cooler weather."

"Our concerns are that some residents may be caught unaware and ill-prepared when real summer weather arrives."

CFA is conducting a series of street corner meetings in an attempt to communicate

information to residents in their immediate neighbourhoods.

"We are also offering free property assessments that will assist individuals and families identify their risk and develop emergency plans to suit their needs in the event of fire," Mr Adair said.

"We know from experience that many people will leave their decision to stay and defend or leave early until the last minute. This leaves little time for preparation and increases the risk of panic-driven behaviour. Under extreme circumstances this could prove to be fatal."

"The service that CFA offers is a simple way of avoiding this scenario. It is based upon individual needs and knowledge of local conditions, including fire behaviour, road closures, traffic management and methods of defending homes, properties and lives."

Local CFA brigades urge residents to use their telephone enquiry lines. They can be contacted as follows:

- Warrandyte—9844 3375
- South Warrandyte (including Park Orchards)—9844 2861
- North Warrandyte—9844 3283.
- Wonga Park—9722 1463
- If these numbers are unavailable, contact the CFA regional office—9735 0511
- ALL fire calls—000.

ALL FIRE CALLS: 000

Hot tips for a fire-free season

- 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 wind-blown.
- 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.



Two years ago 25 Year 9 students from Warrandyte High School began their first session as part of the CFA Youth Crew program. Last month the students completed their final training session with the Warrandyte Fire Brigade.

Lieutenant Murphy of the Warrandyte CFA told the *Diary* that, "as part of the Youth Crew program the students have gained fire fighting skills, an understanding of fire behaviour as well as becoming qualified first-aiders".

The students attended regular training at the Warrandyte fire station and have been on two weekend trips to the CFA training ground at Carrum. Five of the students who

participated in the program are continuing on in this field and are joining as members of the Warrandyte and Eltham fire brigades.

For the past five months the South Warrandyte Fire Brigade has been running an intensive recruit firefighter training course. Recently five of the recruits involved in the course completed their training and have now become operational firefighters.

● Any residents in the Warrandyte area (including North and South Warrandyte) interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter please contact your local brigade or Kate Murphy on 0419 878 637 for further information. A recruit course will begin on January 4, 2002.

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you'll receive a free Planning Kit to take home. Call 1800 240 667 to find out when and where a meeting will be held in your area, or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au



We'll walk in Pi's memory...

Henry (Pi) Beecham is fondly remembered in the area as a longtime president of the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association and all round good bloke. This month the association—and the district—paid homage to Pi with the

opening of a memorial garden and path at the WMI&AA hall. Designed by Marjorie Beecham and Bev Hanson, the project was officially opened by Pi's great grandson, Sebastian McCormack.



DIGITAL PICTURES BY JOCK MACNEISH



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Manningham mayor, Julie Eisenbise, opens the trail.

Long trail a-winding

By MEAGHAN O'CONNOR

Stage 5 of the Mullum Mullum Creek linear trail was launched one Sunday morning earlier this month. The trail was officially opened by Manningham mayor Julie Eisenbise.

"No city has the open spaces and walks like this within walking distance from homes," she told the *Diary*. Its opening marks the completion of an important part in the linking of the existing Mullum Mullum Creek trail and the main Yarra Trail.

The 1.5km walk consists of an asphalt trail and a beautifully constructed cantilevered bridge, suitable for walking, jogging and cycling. The area is home to wallabies, echidnas, birds and more than 60 eastern kangaroos. Mullum Mullum Creek is also a

breeding ground for a large population of platypus, with a number females currently feeding young.

The project cost more than \$250,000 with \$100,000 coming from a Parks Victoria grants program and the remainder from Manningham.

Parks Victoria is currently extending the main Yarra Trail from Petty's Orchard to Tikalara Park and during the next 12 months the council plans to complete the trail link between Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road and Tikalara Park.

Once this link is complete, people will be able to ride their bikes or walk from Tindals Road in Donvale, along the Mullum Mullum Creek, join the Main Yarra Trail and continue all the way to Melbourne.

Night to cherish

The final formal event for Year 12 students at Warrandyte High School was the valedictory dinner, held last month.

Staff, parents and friends joined with students to celebrate their completion of secondary school.

Awards were presented to students who achieved excellence in each subject. School council president, Ms Leis Carson, presented special awards to the following:

- All rounder—Tara Quinlivan
- Artistic—Krystal Lambrou
- Sports awards—Ashley Munro and Maydeena Jameson
- Citizenship—Erica McCutcheon
- The Endeavour Award was donated and presented by Mr Glenn Martin to Jeremy Coates.

The finale of the evening was the presentation of VCE scrolls to all students by the principal, Mr Terry Twomey.



Jackie Ralston and Wes Mountain-Pearson addressed the gathering.

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Time to thank everyone who brought you your favourite Warrandyte paper this year.

News stories were by Rachel Baker, Cliff Green, David Wyman, Fia Clendinnen, Prudence Truby King, Clinton Grybas, Maydeena Jameson, Kara Williams and Meaghan O'Connor. Columnists were Smokey Joe, Roger Kibell, Pat Coupar, Marilyn Moore and Judy Green.

Features were by Glen Jameson, Don Charlwood, Rachel Baker, Hellena Allan and Jenny Brown with poetry by Karen Throssell, Helena Allen and John Jenkins. Sports stories were by Lee Tindale, Clinton Grybas, Damien Arsenis, Tony Oliver, Dennis J. Hoiberg, Maydeena Jameson and Judy Green.

Photographers included Jan Tindale, Sandy Burgoyne, Austin Polley and Greig Ruthven. Artwork by Jock Macneish, Paul Williams, Melanie Coupar, Syd Tunn, Ona Henderson and Wayne Rankin.

Occasional contributors included Barbara Pertzelt, Fiona Walters, Ken Virtue, Sigurd Howard, Adrian Rice, Chris White and Mick Woitwod. The paper was edited and designed by Cliff Green and Lee Tindale and Jan Tindale organised assignments,

carried out research and assisted with community liaison. Rachel Schroeder set the type, designed the ads and handled production, with Mark Schroeder.

Streamline Press printed our paper and John Ingram delivered press material. As internet editor, Sandy Burgoyne sent us out across the world.

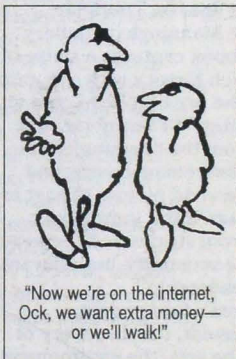
Rae Danks charmed our advertisers and kept our accounts and John Roberts looked after our corporate responsibilities. Don Humphreys

kept out office spic and span and Peter Norman (assisted by Betty Oke and Neal Tessier) took our newspaper out to our many, much appreciated distribution points.

Last, but not least, we remember the folk who make it all financially possible—our advertisers.

And finally, heartfelt thanks to you, our loyal and enthusiastic readers, with a special mention for those who have contributed to our Dear Diary page.

We're taking a break over Christmas and the New Year. Our next issue will appear on Tuesday, January 29, 2002. Editorial and advertising copy will close on Friday, January 18, 2002. In the meantime, have a joyous Christmas and a wonderful New Year.



Mark Johnston
Consultant on Matters of Business and the Environment

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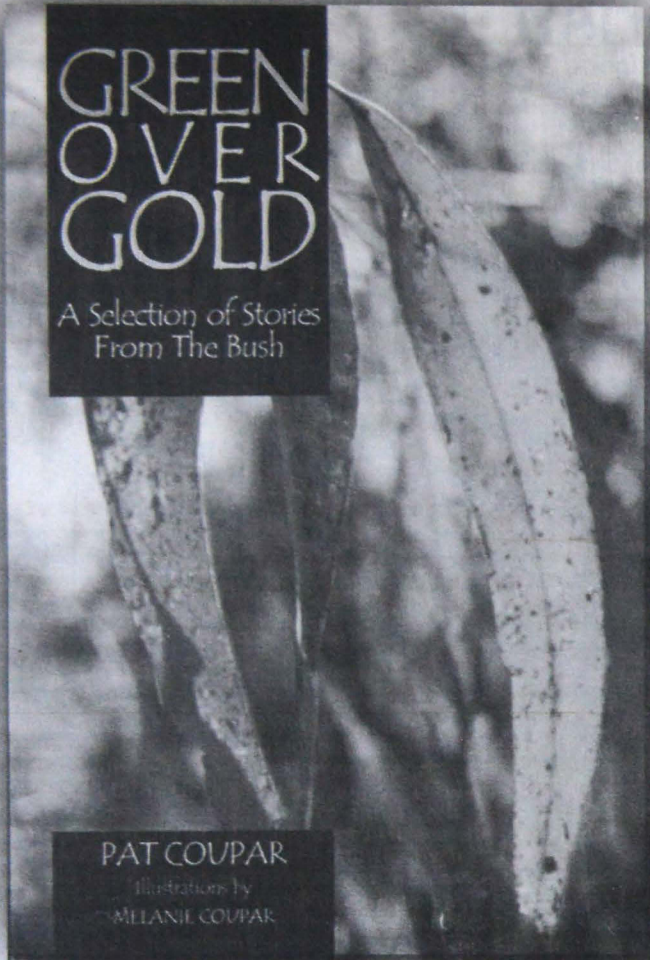
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Red Letter Day: Warrandyte's main street, September 12, 1906. This gathering marked the opening of the Caledonian mine. (From the Warrandyte Historical Society collection)

Story of Manningham's rich and varied past to be published this month

The history of the municipality of Manningham is set to be unveiled, with the release of the new publication "Manningham: from Country to City".

Mayor Cr Julie Eisenbise will launch this historical record at 6pm on Thursday, December 13 at the Manningham Gallery.

"This wonderful book captures a sense of the community's rich history with accounts that stretch from the pre-European contact era to the present day," Cr Eisenbise said.

"Contributions from the community, the photographs, written reminiscences and oral history, paint a vivid picture of past and present Manningham. It is a journey of discovery drawn from stories and themes gathered from the community, but relevant to a much wider readership.

"It looks at the area's first people, immigration, settlement, the discovery of gold, orcharding, the arts, the environment and the community, all key themes in Manningham's story."

The authors ask you "to follow—to read, to look, to listen—back past the development of suburbs to a time when fruit tree blossoms perfumed the air, when wind

whispered through protective pine trees.

"Even further back we invite you to hear, in some parts of the district, the thump of a crusher pounding rock in the hope of releasing gold as it temporarily silences birdsong.

"Further back still, when the only voices heard in this place were those of Wurundjeri ancestors, you are invited to listen. In the place the history of the city begins."

Cr Eisenbise commended historians, Barbara Pertzell and Fiona Walters and the steering committee (which included volunteers Judith Leaney and Eric Collyer—Doncaster and Templestowe Historical Society, Murray Houghton—Warrandyte Historical Society and historian Dr Farley Kelly) who devoted their time and expertise to the project.

Selected excerpts from the book are currently being serialised in the *Diary*.

● "Manningham: from Country to City" is published by Arcadia, Melbourne. Copies of the book are available for \$49.95 (postage and handling additional \$9.95) from council's Economic and Environmental Planning Unit, 9840 9362.

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House

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After School Drawing: Mondays, 4-5.30pm

Basic Photography: Mondays, 7.30-9.30pm

Belly Dancing: Wednesdays, 1.15-2.45pm & 7.30-9pm

Creative Writing: Fridays, 9.30am-12.30pm

Friday Lunch Group: Fridays, 12-2pm

(first meeting 22 Feb)

Fruit Wine Making: Saturday 2-4pm (date T.B.A.)

Intro to Pottery & Ceramics:

Mondays, 7-8pm, 8.15-9.15pm; Thursdays 7-8pm

Japanese Calligraphy & Haiku: Sundays, date T.B.A.

Leadlighting: Mondays, 1-3pm

Meditation & Tai Chi: Fridays, 10-11am

Monday River Walk: Mondays, 9.15-11am (first walk 4th Feb)

Strong Women Stay Young Exercise: Fridays, 9-10am

Video Making/Editing: Thursdays, 7-9pm

Warrandyte Poetry: Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30pm

Writer's Group: Days T.B.A.

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Fruitful years

FOR decades in the late 19th and early 20th centuries the orchardists of Manningham largely defined the district's character and purpose.

An orchard belonging to the Aumann family is still in operation in Tindals Road, Warrandyte. Over the past 140 years, five generations of Aumanns have worked in the district's fruit growing industry, but changes imposed subsequent to the spread of suburbia have greatly impinged on their ability to operate effectively. Further out in Wonga Park only one orchard continues to operate—the Couper's orchard on Jamieson Road, which was developed on land once occupied by a member of the pioneering Read family. The Colella orchard, also in Wonga Park, had been worked since 1966 by Ralph Colella and John Buceto. Consisting of about 7000 apple, peach and pear trees, this orchard recently had its final harvest.

Why have they gone?

The disappearance of orchards in the area, combined with the rise of self-service supermarkets in the 1960s, meant that many different varieties of fruit developed by local orchardists for a different era of retailing were in danger of being lost. Peter Adams, a descendant of the Adams orcharding family of Warrandyte, details local efforts to preserve variety:

"Varieties of fruit, which our family listed, have disappeared with the advent of recent varieties that store and present attractively in supermarkets and that can be handled by the consumer. People decided no longer to trust their fruiterer with selecting. They

wanted to choose the fruit and as soon as that happened, we had to have non-bruising fruit, picked greener, often cool-stored for a significant period.

Changing tastes

"The older varieties didn't store well, or didn't keep very long on a shelf or in a supermarket; they were discarded and ripped out of orchards completely and replaced with imported varieties. We realised that in peaches, some of the older varieties were superb eating and should be conserved. We may even see a return for a boutique market. Robin Morrison and I have collected 40 of the Doncaster-Templestowe varieties. Other families have been involved in collecting heritage apples and pears."

Perhaps the most obvious legacy of the orchardists is the vista of pine and cypress trees that stand tall along many of the ridges of Manningham's hilly countryside. Some were planted as wind breaks over a century ago and delineate the former perimeters of fruit-tree blocks. If the pine trees serve as a visual stimulus for remembering the region's orcharding history, then street names contribute aurally. Whenever residents of Manningham give their home address as, for example, Beavis or McGahy Court, Templestowe, or Speers Court or Leber Street, Warrandyte, or Ireland Avenue, Doncaster East or Kent Court, Bulleen, they inadvertently pay homage to pioneer fruit growers.

Park Orchards is the only one of Manningham's suburbs whose name overtly reflects the region's orcharding era. In 1902 Tom Petty,

BYGONE DAYS: 2

By **BARBARA PERTZEL**
and **FIONA WALTERS**

already a successful orchardist in Doncaster-Templestowe, purchased 559 acres in the area which then was simply known as "the Park":

It was a large scheme with 80 orchard blocks on the slopes of the Park. Rows of pine trees were planted and some areas of bush land left as wind breaks. Ten dams were scooped out to supply water for the young fruit trees during the hot summer weather and near the group of houses a bore was sunk and a windmill erected. In the north-east corner a 15 acre paddock was fenced off for the many horses required to work the orchards.

Garden suburb

In 1925 timber merchants Australis Sharp and John Needman Taylor purchased 559 acres at Park Orchards with the idea of developing a country club estate. People who bought residential lots were to become members of the country club, enjoying exclusive access to recreational amenities. The concept was derived from the success of the Ranelagh Country Club Estate (designed by Walter Burley Griffin) at Mount Eliza, which Sharp and Taylor already owned. Saxil Tuxen's design for the subdivision of lots featured curved roads, inspired perhaps by concepts of Walter Burley Griffin,

who had engaged Tuxen to survey the Ranelagh Estate. Sporting facilities and the club house (the Chalet) were built in the late 1920s but the Park Orchards Country Club Estate failed to attract enough buyers.

Military camp

At the outbreak of World War II the Australian Army requisitioned the Park Orchards area for use as a communications post and subsequently bought and repaired the Chalet.

In 1950 only 25 families lived in the area but by the end of that decade the population increased and stimulated the development of Park Orchards. A Progress Association that was active in the 1960s disbanded but residents formed the Park Orchards Ratepayers Association in response to a private road construction scheme introduced in 1966 which planned to fell trees, widen roads and build gutters, kerbs and footpaths. The association's aim was to preserve the "picturesque character of the district" and Park Orchards residents have continued to resist developments that would detract from their pleasant treed surroundings.

At the end of Tacoma Road, Park Orchards, the remains of one of the Petty orchards are still visible. Some fruit trees stand there and the dams, windbreaks and derelict sheds attest to the site's past use.

But further along this track a cluster of streetlight poles rises ominously out of a cleared patch of ground. They watch over a new subdivision of paved roads and crossovers to small blocks of land

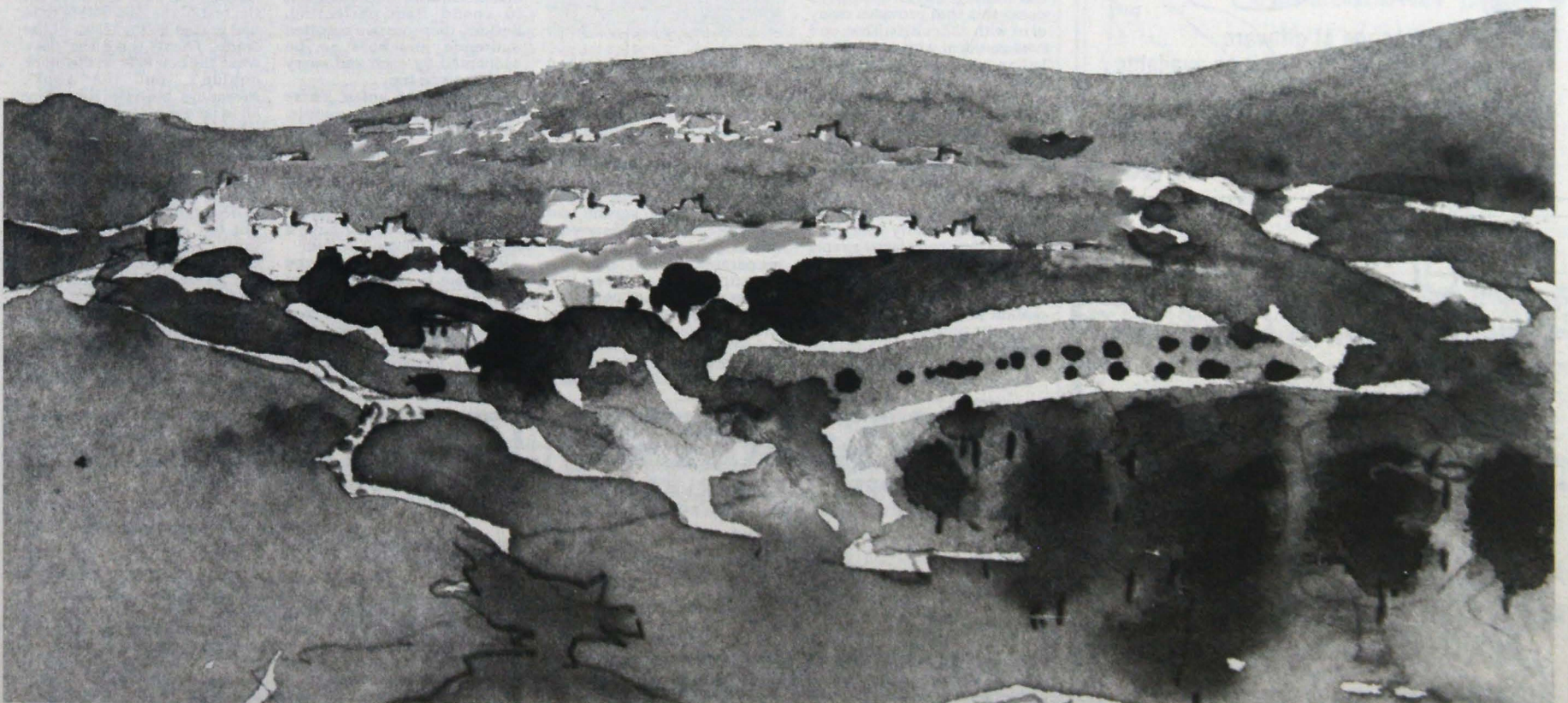
still free of houses, but not for much longer. Many of the changes wrought on a century of orcharding can be seen in a moment in this small corner of Park Orchards.

Suburbia has risen close behind two houses still standing in Warrandyte Road that were the homes of Warrandyte orchardists George and Frank Adams. George's house at 298 Warrandyte Road was built around 1918-19. His brother Frank's house was started soon after in 1919-20. The brothers moved to their new homes upon marrying but both had been farming the land since 1910. Frank's grandson Peter Adams has traced details of his family's early history:

Cleared the land

"My grandfather's father came from Berkshire in England. They settled in Templestowe in the late 1880s. After working for other people in Doncaster and Templestowe, my grandfather and his brother travelled out to Warrandyte around 1910 to clear their block of land and to begin an orchard there. In the early days, the soil was so poor at Warrandyte that it wasn't deep enough to grow fruit trees and my grandfather and his brother started by growing crops such as potatoes, peas and beans and marketing these for income to keep themselves supported while they built up the soil. They brought in manure, straw, and often soil from the nearby Deep Creek and carried off loads and loads of stones."

● *Excerpts pertaining to Warrandyte taken from Manningham from country to city, a history commissioned by Manningham City Council and published by Arcadia (an imprint of Australian Scholarly Publishing Pty Ltd), to be launched this month.*



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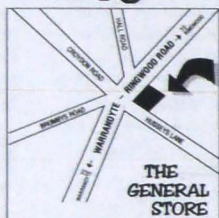
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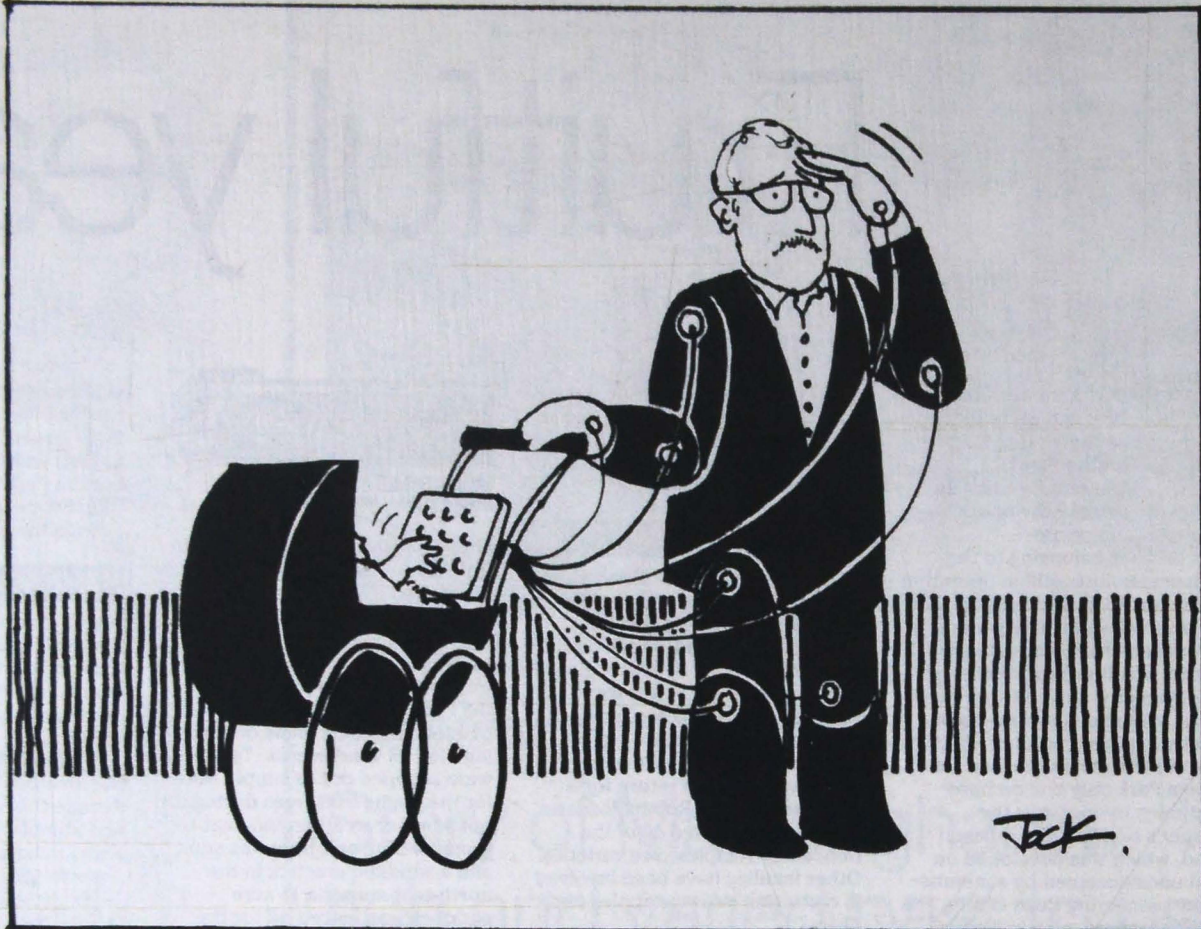
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Manipulation learned with mother's milk

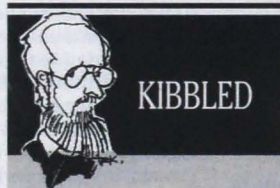
IT'S when you have a baby in your arms for the first time that you begin to question the whole notion of natural instincts.

For some time we have been led to believe that although we may need to be taught how to play bridge or how to make pesto, the normal, eternal aspects of being human happen without even the most rudimentary training manual. According to gossip, Mother Nature has hard-wired us, instinctively, to cope with the most basic of human behaviours and nothing could be more basic than reproduction.

However, it's not the reproducing that taxes our instinctive behaviour. In fact, it's finding ways to stop us doing this that provides many of us with difficulties. That, and how you deal with your abject failure, nine months down the track.

Fortunately, Ma Nature also equips us with the ability to forget. Time is not only a great healer, it is also our protection from going completely bonkers. With the benefit of more than a few years since early parenthood, I had forgotten what it was really like. The mists of time had placed a sepia filter over those days to the stage that all my remembered early years happened in slow motion to the strains of some Romantic classical composer; a sort of Elvira Maddigan parenthood.

Recently, the Vaseline was



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"... we stumble through those early years of parenthood, trying desperately to regain control..."

wiped from the lens when Herself and I went to visit the newest addition to the family. He is the first child of a particular branch of the family. We got to see him when he was two weeks old and it didn't take me long for the memories to come seeping back. He was no more than a nano second into his entire life and already he was asserting his control over his parents.

It appears that there is a deliberate degree of petulance in Mother Nature's Great Plan. Babies are born with intuitive parent manipulation skills, but by the time those same critters become old enough to "have a

go at being a parent", they have lost recollection of those tricks they played when they were heavily into Manipulation 1 through 18. As a result, we stumble through those early years of parenthood, trying desperately to regain control.

I suppose it's only natural really. As a baby, they've spent nine months with nothing much more to do but listen to their parents change from being self reliant and outward looking, to a pair of doting, nursery decorators. Once they effect their escape, in the most dramatic way possible, babies feel confident enough to experiment with something different. Crying, farting, vomiting and mucking around with all the permutations of diarrhoea, are too tempting not to spend time perfecting. Besides, there are two besotted audience members to be enchanted by each and every variation you try.

And it's all so unfair. There they are, two grown people, who, as the result of a romantic Hollywood film or a particularly well-cooked osso buco and a kiwi fruit pavlova, after nine months and 24 hours, give birth to lives irreversibly altered. And it's not as if you have a three-day cooling-off period.

With a car or a house you have time to reconsider that your Rococco style townhouse or the lime green Daimler may have been purchases prompted by the after-effects of a good red or a passionate night at bingo. Sensibly, The Law

acknowledges that sometimes we make mistakes and that it's better for everyone concerned that we don't force adults to commit to hasty decisions. But not so with "becoming parents". With kids, it's a matter of "Oh, I'm sorry. Did I forget to mention the fine print?"

And there's no ombudsman to help you out. The manufacturer has you by the short and curlies. There, in the Delivery Suite or the bean bag or the back of an ageing Datsun 120Y, next to the panting mother sits Mother Nature, with a twinkle in her eye and "Gotcha!" on the tip of her tongue.

Also, our Mother Nature is not a feminist. She set up parenting at a time when all the girls stayed at home so the new mother was able to learn from the rest of the gals before time had erased all the tricks of the trade. Them were the days when the new kids on the block couldn't "pull the wool". Nowadays, however, things are all in favour of the babies.

Nowadays, mum and dad live in their converted warehouse or their renovated Edwardian, splendidly isolated from anyone with a memory of how to defeat the newcomer. Having not felt compelled to breed until career and house were established, time has eroded any residual memories of what they will need to combat.

Then dawns the first night home, alone!

"Gotcha!"

ROGER KIBELL

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Our cocky crew's day of fun, food and mayhem

A DAY like any other early summer day in Warrandyte.

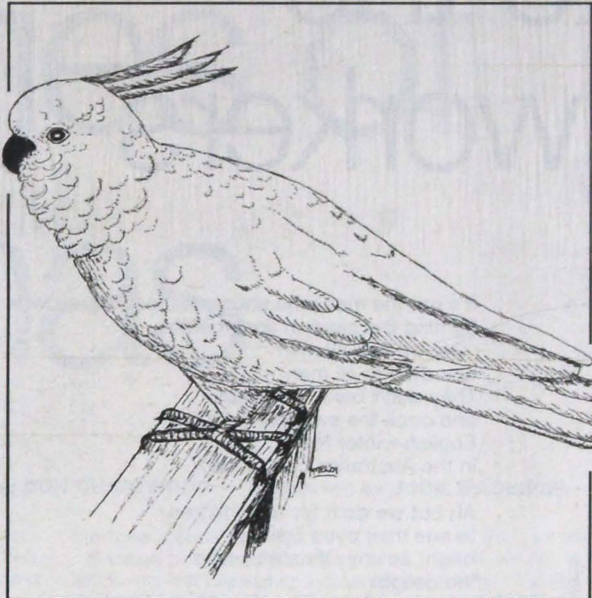
5am: First light. The birds are stirring. Sunrise, though, was still some way off and the big white cockatoos were content to remain in their overnight roost tree a little longer. But as the glimmer of light expanded and advanced from the east, pushing back the night, the stirrings increased. Some wing flaps here and there to exercise stiff muscles, a squawk or two to warm up the voice.

Then the signal—one of the birds lets forth with a series of ear-splitting screeches. The flock erupts, taking to the air in a flurry of feathers and a discord of noise. And it is on with the serious business of finding food.

7.30am: The birds have discovered a broad roadside verge chock-a-bloc with maturing grasses. Since late spring a succession of grasses have been seeding in paddocks, on disturbed ground and in the bush—first the introduced species followed by the natives. The cockatoos take advantage of the feast. With considerable dexterity they grip the rigid grass stems in their reptilian-like toes and draw the seedhead through their beak to strip off the plump morsels. Swaggering over the ground, they systematically work the patch of wild oats and bromus, harvesting the ripe seed.

10am: The flock has dispersed, split up into small groups and pairs. One lone larrikin takes off on his own, visiting a house on a hill with a balcony where the owners regularly leave out sunflower

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



seeds for the cockatoos. But the dish is empty. Someone—or rather some bird—had been there before him. Erecting his sulphur-yellow crest, the cocky screeched his displeasure, as he stalked up and down the balcony rail. There was no response from inside the house. Half-hopping, half-flying he landed on the edge of the western red cedar windowsill and ground his beak ferociously against the wooden frame, biting off pieces of the timber. This apparent act of vandalism serves a useful purpose for the cockatoo, which like all parrots has a beak that continues to grow throughout its life and requires regular chewing to maintain length and condition.

11.15am: Boredom has set in for a breakaway group of the flock. Attracted by hundreds of snowy-white boxes at a plant nursery nestled in the bush in a bend of the river, they fly down for a closer look. With no one to disturb them the birds go on a looting rampage, ripping into the boxes, uprooting seedlings, nipping off tender young shoots and delving into pots to extract roots and tubers. In a short time the ground becomes littered with chunks of polystyrene and plastic pots. When they have finished the carefree ransackers fly off leaving, in their wake, a scene of devastation.

1pm: The birds have

regrouped, sitting out the heat of the day in the leafy foliage of a favourite manna gum.

4pm: A number of the cockatoos have found a sports oval—a flat, well-grassed area dotted with the tell-tale magenta-petalled, star-shaped flowers of *Romulea rosea*—onion grass. However, it is not the flowers that the birds are after, or even the seeds, but the globular, brown-coated, underground corms. With their sharp curved beaks they gouge out the starchy roots turning the smooth, level cricket pitch into a pock-marked unplayable field pitted with excavation holes.

8.30pm: In the last scarlet rays of evening, the cockatoos congregate at a shallow dam for a final drink before taking to the air.

9pm: Under darkening skies the white birds wheel and screech, calling up errant members of the flock for the nightly assemblage. Like over-excited children, the birds are raucous and argumentative, squabbling over prime roosting sites. At last they settle and all is quiet.

Into the silence of the shadowy darkness comes a haunting, two-note hoot. A Boobook Owl is announcing his claim on the night.

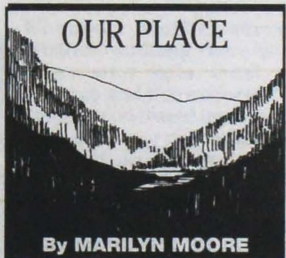
Two young lifesavers live again

THE rising sun floods a watery sky and is blinding in the rear view mirror. Before us, towering stacks of dark nimbus roll rapidly in from the southwest. The Camry skims southward into the wind, making up for lost time. As usual, we've cut the timing of the drive to Anglesea too fine, always forgetting to factor in the works along Geelong Road.

The teenagers on board are unusually wide awake for this hour. They are on their way to one of the scariest exams they've ever done. Getting their Bronze Medallions in surf life-saving a year ago wasn't too hard, because the exam was the finale of a week-long camp. This year will be different—the infamous "requal" is a thorough reappraisal of all their rescue and resuscitation skills, and rumour has it that it's going to be extra tough. The examiner failed three people only yesterday. The boys have had no practice since last summer. That will teach them to forsake the quiet waters of Warrandyte!

First, of course, there is the quick dash home from Research, to collect the all-important entry card and take-home written exam.

"You only had to bring two



By **MARILYN MOORE**

things—how come you couldn't remember those?"

He's heard it all before of course, but it helps me let off steam. "At least you remembered here, and not halfway to Geelong!"

The boys get right down to discussing the looming practical exam.

"What's the correct order of action after a victim is brought ashore—danger, panic, response, breathing...?"

"No, it's panic first, then danger, response, breathing..."

"No, no, it's response, danger, breathing, circulation, then panic only if none of the above!"

"Er... who's panicking?" I had to enquire.

"Nobody, but it was in half the multiple choice answers on the written paper."

"The proper order is danger,

response, airway, breathing and circulation."

"I'm glad to hear it."

"Do you know your CPR?"

"That's easy: one breath and five compressions for two-operator, two breaths and 15 compressions for one-operator..."

And so it went on. Fortunately these boys are unlikely to do a real-life resuscitation alone. There are usually at least 20 lifesavers patrolling Anglesea beach at weekends, and the most senior person on duty would take charge of any incident. In the meantime, the cadets practise, rescue boogie-boarders who stray from patrolled waters, and answer a host of questions from admiring kiddies. Sunday beach carnivals allow them to show off their speed and prowess.

The big worry today is the state of the ocean. Even on calm days, the surf at Anglesea can throw up huge dumpers. Today the weather is filthy and strong wind warnings have been issued for nearby coastal waters.

"I hate swallowing seawater."

"I wish I'd done more pool laps."

"Remember on the camp when we all got dumped by that huge wave?"

"Rose lost her goggles..."

Rescues using boards and the IRB will be bad enough, but the dreaded eight-minute "run-swim-run" looks like being an insurmountable challenge: a 200-metre beach sprint, a 200-metre swim out to sea through huge breakers to a buoy which will probably keep disappearing in the swell, 100-metres parallel to the shore to the next buoy, then body-surf back to shore before finishing with another long sprint. The boys get progressively quieter as we approach our destination.

"Do you reckon we could do the run-swim-run another day?"

"Let's see if we can do it in the bay."

"Wish I'd brought a wetsuit." The ocean at Anglesea was flatter than anybody had ever seen it, a shining grey mirror stirred only faintly by occasional ripples. The beach was knee-deep in pungent seaweed.

I left them at the clubhouse amongst the excited chatter and last-minute rehearsing of a roomful of candidates. Several hours later the boys emerged from the sea tired, cold, re-qualified and happily looking forward to a big feed of fish and chips. Ah, summer!

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An ode to the Thai toy workers

Christmas
It's the third cause of stress for women
next to death of a loved one
and being sacked
Season of empty sparkle
and the buying
of useless things

To cries of Scrooge and spoiler
I answer
with a question
Why do you think
goodwill
is so gender-specific?

Because it's not the men who make the lists
of gifts to buy
the family, friends and unknown aunts
the teachers who annually receive
their useless tokens—soap or socks
which they probably save
to give to someone else
who also doesn't want them

It's not the men who shop with teeming crowds
fighting the blare of tinny carols
"Goodwill to all men
Goodwill to all men..."
They don't bake the cakes
and cook the sweltering turkey
English winter food
in the Australian heat of day

Ah but we do it for the children
to see their eyes light up
bright as any Christmas tree
We delight
in their early morning joy
as they rip the Santa Claus paper
off this year's must have toy

But is it good enough? Or did they want the
other sort—with the blue eyes
or with the detachable hair
The one that everyone else has
the television says so
It's the Christmas anti-climax
the more you have
the more you want

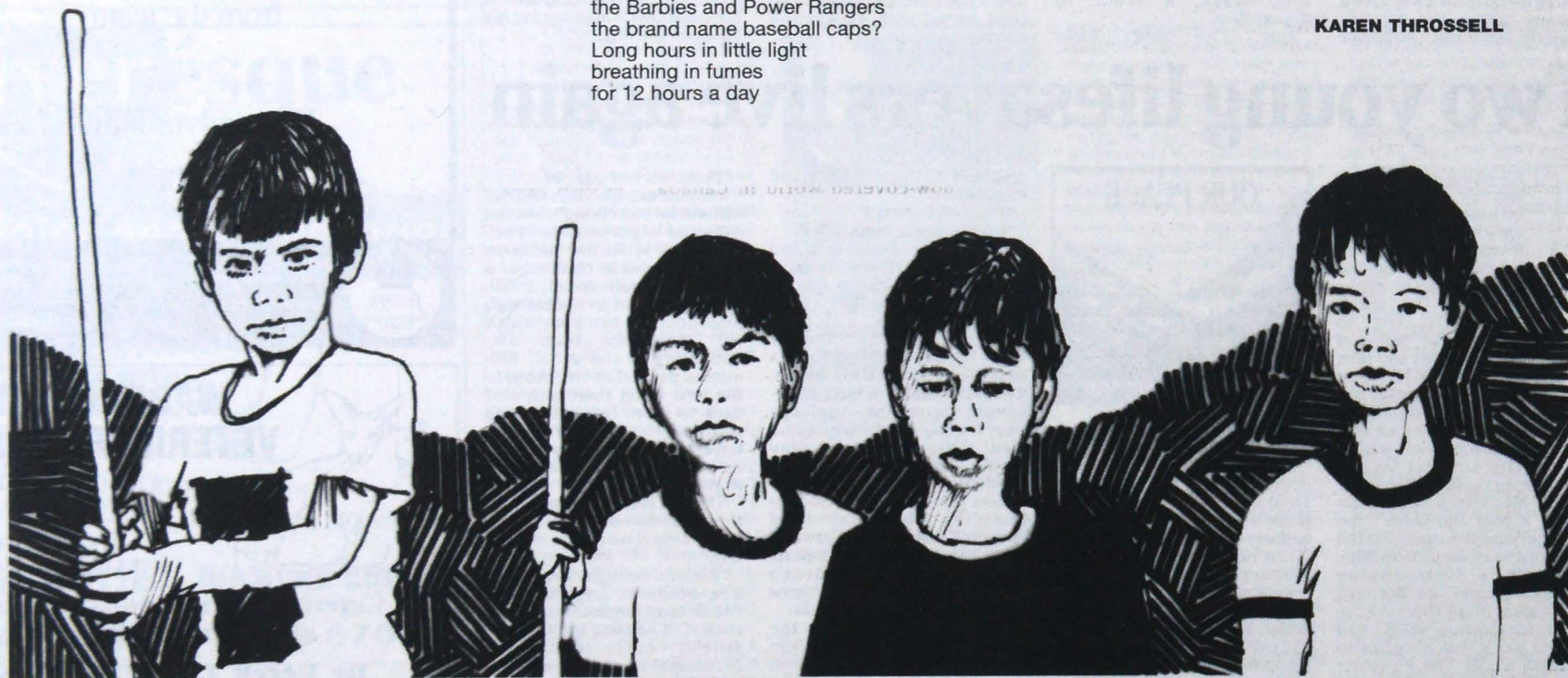
And—this Scrooge continues,
what of the teenage toy workers
in Asian sweatshops making
the Barbies and Power Rangers
the brand name baseball caps?
Long hours in little light
breathing in fumes
for 12 hours a day

Christmas makes it worse
for them
The insatiable wants
of our children
make their lives even harder
But what can we do?
It's like being forced to
finish your dinner
because of the starving millions

And what would Scrooge do?
Send the men out to do the shopping?
But would they
boycott the 80 percent of toys
made in Asia?
Or would the mothers
suffer the long faces
of their spoilt children
on behalf of other women's children?

No
Tis the season to be jolly
forget this
political correctness
Just Keep Feeling
goodwill to all Men
and enjoy
the Spirit
of Christmas

KAREN THROSSELL



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Memories of Christmas

Written by DON CHARLWOOD • Illustrated by JOCK MACNEISH

EVEN now, in this year of international tension and aggression, when we choose to turn refugees away from our shores, Christmas still weaves its spell, drawing us to memories of past Christmases, the more innocent-seeming the further back we go.

Vaguely I recall Christmas 1923. It is our family's first year of living in Frankston, a town of a thousand people. From our beds in the sleepout, with its large, unglazed window, my brother and I can hear the distant sound of waves on the beach, an eternal, reassuring sound. Our younger brother still sleeps in our parents' room. At the foot of our beds hang pillowslips. I am eight; it must be my last year of suspended doubt that Father Christmas exists. I am confident he will find his way to our new roof and come down one of our chimneys bearing—who knows what.

It happens that this is the only year of our lives in which our parents have a little extra to spend on us: they have sold our Hawthorn home for twice as much as they have built at Frankston. So it is that Father Christmas is able to bring me a wind-up model in the likeness of the Hygeia and the Weeroona, those paddle steamers that sail at weekends between Port Melbourne and the bay ports of Mornington, Dromana, Sorrento, even Queens-cliff, which really lies overseas, an unimaginable distance away.

Compared with this ship, the other contents of my pillowslip hardly matter. My brother's contains a magic lantern and slides. As we live on a steep, sandy slope, we are able to hold an inaugural picture show under the house. Our neighbours from across the unmade road come and sit with us among redgum stumps to watch pictures of palms, pyramids and camels, then the anatomies of a whole series of insects, all projected onto one of our mother's sheets, stretched across a chimney cavity. To our elders, two showings of these wonders seem enough. We all file out, adults stooping under our floorboards. The magic lantern outlasts my present. My steamer succumbs to rust in the engine room; before next Christmas her means of propulsion has seized up forever.

That 1923 Christmas was only five years after the Great War. We were blissfully unaware that aged representatives of the victorious nations had wreaked vengeance on Germany. Defeated, humiliated, proud, she was ripe for the Nazism that was to come.

Our Christmases of the next 10 years remain an undifferentiated memory, a happy blur of sun, sand and sea, of the penetrating smell of boiling water poured onto the feathers of the beheaded hen that is to provide our Christmas dinner; of

our mother drawing the hen's innards and sighing ruefully, "Ah, poor soul, she had eggs almost ready to lay." This implies that our father ought to have selected a different hen. But the "poor soul" goes into the oven of the one-fire stove, for which we have been required to chop a plentiful supply of wood. She emerges transformed into a browned, mouth-watering dish—a rare dish, since we can only run to chook a couple of times a year.

At one end of the table our father carves; at the other our mother dishes vegetables from the garden. We must pass plates from one to the other in a civilized manner. No one may start before one of us is prevailed upon to say grace. If it is our little nipper he might say no more than an impish, "Grace, grace, grace", but we assume God will understand him more readily than we can. Of course, we must finish everything on our plates. After all, "There are children starving in India..."

When our mother serves the Christmas pudding there is rivalry to see who gets most of the sixpences and threepences that are magically concealed in our helpings. In a bizarre way our father outdoes all of us by producing a collar stud, a trouser button and, after much grimacing and a clutching at his mouth, a sizeable nail.

All through washing-up we long to abandon teatowels and get to the beach, but no, an hour must pass before it is safe to swim—unless we want to float face-down, our bodies turning purple from our undigested meal. We have been longing to swim for hours—ever since the morning choral service at St Paul's. As the sopranos led us down from the heights of "royal David's city" to silence, sea sounds drifted in the church door; a babel of youthful voices from swimmers had mocked us.

It is mid-afternoon before we are released. We feel hot sand beneath our feet on our run to the beach; we drop our towels in whatever space there is among the oiled sun-worshippers. In seconds the merciful sea closes over us. Shoals of minnows flee across rippled sand at the bottom of our translucent world, a pale-green world of wavering distances. Down there we go back and back to the earliest lifeforms from which we once sprang.

Ten carefree years pass by the end of which we are an all-boy family of four, not only sons of Australia, but of that Empire "on which the sun never sets", enjoying lives preserved for us by the sacrifices of the Anzacs—and possibly others—in the war to end war. Not safe, alas, from economic depression. At 19 I start a fill-in-job on a country cousin's property. I remain there till Nazism is unleashed and our

innocence ends forever.

It turns out that Christmas 1940 will be my last Christmas in Australia for five years; I am awaiting call-up to the RAAF for aircrew training. The oats crop has been cut; we have not long stooked it under a broiling sun; the first job of the New Year will be to cart it in. Now I am to run down and execute the Christmas turkey, something I shall write about years later:

—out of the stack yard, through the stable, twice round the orchard, the world blurred by sweat, the turkey swaying. I catch it under the woolshed and we collapse together on the accumulated sheep droppings, our hearts pounding. We lie in the acrid shade, the turkey regarding me with well-warranted foreboding.

After Christmas dinner I lie down and read, wondering vaguely where I might be next Christmas. Somewhere outside sheep bleat, a quivering sound in the heat...

In 1941 all is unimaginably different. Two of my younger brothers are in the army; I am in a snow-covered world in Canada, training as a navigator. When I ought to be concentrating on our intensive course I have met the girl I would like to marry. At her parents' door on Christmas Day Max Bryant and I scrape snow from our overshoes. This is our Canadian home; every man of our course has a Canadian home, for hospitality is unbounded. Max, my flying partner, celebrated his 21st birthday in this same home a few weeks ago. He assures me we'll come back here when the war is over then he'll be my best man. At 26 I am less optimistic about our future. Multi-coloured lights from the family Christmas tree spill from windows onto snowdrifts against the house. So it has been all the way along this Edmonton street. A city under snow enchants us. Two vivacious girls open the door of the porch to us. Out of parental sight I steal kisses from Nell, daughter of the house, while Max pecks experimentally at her friend. We unclip snowshoes, unwind scarves, remove gloves, take off greatcoats.

"These Australian coats are much too light for winter!"

They are, too, but loyal to the RAAF, we claim them warm enough.

"Wait till it's 40 below zero! Today's only 20 below."

We pass into the sub-tropical warmth of the house where Nell's parents greet us. Do they guess I would lay claim to their daughter? Is our affection evident to them? We add our presents to those arranged under the tree. We don't mention that we have never seen Christmas trees in Australian homes. Strangely, in a few weeks, letters from our families will tell us that American troops, far from home in Australia, have contrived to make Christmas trees of pine branches and snow of cottonwool. It is a circumstance of

war that Americans are in Australia while we are in North America. Our hopes of going home after training are being firmly extinguished.

We sit to a turkey matching in size the one I ran down a year ago.

"Do you boys care for cranberry sauce?"

Cranberry—? A kind of jam with poultry? We find it more to our taste than the maple syrup provided in our mess to go with breakfast bacon.

So Christmas dinner passes; the long navigation course passes; we are posted to England; letters begin to go back and forth between RAAF Sergeant 408794 and the girl at 10174-115st, Edmonton, each letter numbered as a check against losses, each a continuation of the last.

December 1942. We are on a heavy bomber squadron in Lincolnshire, I am crewed with a pilot from Perth. The rest of our crew are RAF, three of them married. We soon see the beds in our barracks empty and refill, empty, refill—Australians, Canadians, New Zealanders, but mostly an endless tide of RAF men in their early 20s; men who have experienced the blitz, many who have lost family members. The sun rises late, sets early—not that we often see it. Out of doors damp air gnaws faces. Snow falls as Christmas Day approaches muting footfalls, softening the outer angles of our camouflaged mess. No Christmas tree lights from windows, all is blacked out. Inside the mess there is exuberant camaraderie charged by adrenalin and alcohol; Vera Lynn is "dreaming of a white Christmas", her voice nostalgic, longing for peace; the overhead lights are dimmed by swirls of cigarette smoke. If someone with foreknowledge could tell these young men that this smoke is lethal and could kill them in 20 or so years, they would cheer such suggestions of longevity. Their lives will average less than 20 weeks.

On Christmas morning men of various nations go to the recreation hall where the padre is conducting a brief service. There is quiet there, stillness, familiar spoken words about the Child born in a manger, his message: love one another. We need no recitation of creeds, or dividing dogma. The navigation-leader is at the organ. We sing carols, then go out into the snow under a metallic sky and remember what it is we face: Europe in thrall to a tyrant who has the following of his people. He is only a few miles from us, but no army can yet reach him; only we can do that, haemorrhaging though we are. Far off, the young brother of mine who uttered "grace, grace, grace" is in action with the "ragged bloody heroes" of the 39th Battalion at Gona.

Here we are living well. Something of the Christmas spirit remains in the Air Force: it is traditional for officers and NCOs to serve

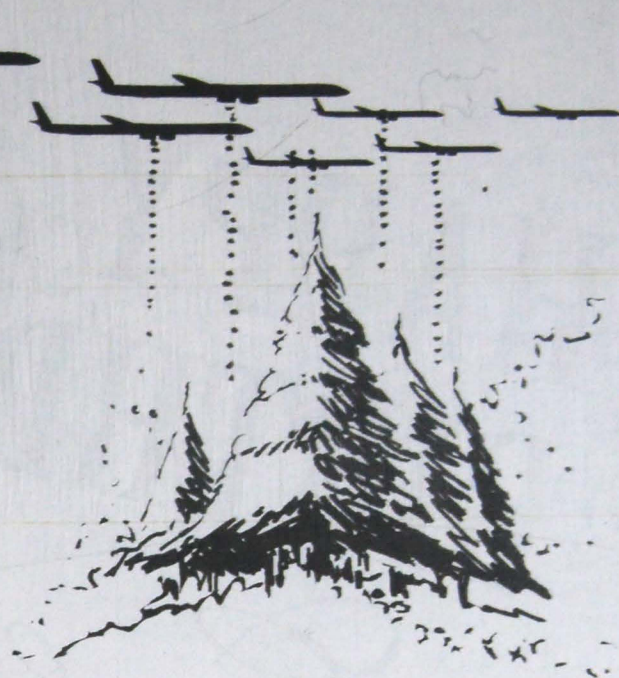
Christmas dinner to "other ranks". Amazingly the cooks have managed to save from our meagre rations. Years later I will remember:

In the huge cavern of the mess we heard cutlery clash with a noise like artillery. We breathed turkey, beer and pudding; we joined in singing the usual songs while rows of airmen swayed in unison; we drank more beer. Soup was spilt, plates broken, unresisting Waafs were kissed with more ardour than Valentino at his best. Like a storm the noise subsided. The airmen and Waafs trailed from the mess leaving us shoulder-deep in washing up.

I will only know two more white Christmases: a last one in England, then, miraculously, 1944 in Canada. Against all odds I have not long married my Edmonton girl. No Max for me as best man, he was killed over a year ago at 22. Nearly all my friends have vanished. We have come for Christmas to Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island, where Nell's brother is GP. From the railway station we walk in frosty air toward the sea, into a picture of narrow water and capes of pointed forests. Over all stands the peak of Mt Arrowsmith, its snows blazing in late sun. We descend into shadows, the roadside trees and grass bearded with hoarfrost. Christmas tree lights patterning the snow against each house.

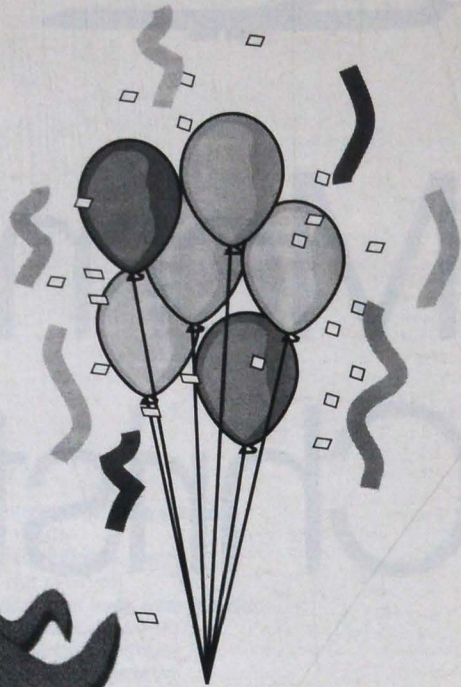
We are going into a long future together. No inkling yet that we will build a house in Australia among orchards at a place called Templestowe, we'll name it Qualicum and for 47 years raise a Christmas tree there. No inkling that after this war no vengeance will be exacted against the German people whom we bombed, that instead, through Marshall Aid, their cities will be rebuilt. Though America's main motive will be to thwart spread of communism, her aid, nevertheless, will turn an enemy into a friend. There seems to be something practical after all about "love your enemies; do good to those who hate you". It works. But then we lose the vision and become enmeshed in strange new wars to protect what we westerners possess—not wars now against powerful military dictatorships that threaten our existence, but politically-fomented wars in Third World countries: Korea, Vietnam, "the Gulf". The old Christmas proclamation, "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men" becomes "Peace on earth to men of good will". To those we reckon not of goodwill our gifts are Cruise missiles and land mines. We build walls of intimidation around all we possess.

Fifty-seven years since our Qualicum Beach Christmas. A wish in old age: may the walls come down from minds in the west and the sharing spirit of Christmas be rekindled.



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Noisy women's business

By JENNY BROWN

IN the Warrandyte neck of the woods where I live, secret women's business is conducted in treed, grassy glades. The women who participate are known as the Women Warriors.

For their regular ceremonies they don special costumes. They have shared rituals and sacred weapons that they wield with terrifying skill. In training out there in the bushy blocks—where seclusion suits suspect activity—this army becomes particularly frenzied in spring.

I learned of these Amazons when I moved in amongst them six years ago. At first I couldn't believe what I was witnessing. Over time, I took the classic path of the cult convert. I was mesmerised: impressed with their ceremonies and must have betrayed that fascination for they began to seek me out for apparently innocent conversational exchanges.

Initially they would share smatterings of rare knowledge and then, as trust was gained, they began to show me how to use their extraordinary implements. A bedazzled acolyte, I joined. I got the uniform, the equipment and imitated their actions. Over the years they have allowed me deeper into their society, these Women Warriors in Gumboots.

Gumboots are the chief insignia of the uniform. The rest is any old casual outfit that has subsided to the bottom of the fashion pit. These women only wear this tattered puttee in the safety of their own territory. They never wear it on the street lest they be recognised as women who participate in the pagan ritual of big gun gardening. In Warrandyte they have reverted to peasant expressions of raw, earthy energy.

Let me describe this feral woman type by introducing you to the practitioners in my immediate forest fringe:

I saw Beth today, blondly-coiffed and mantronly-hipped, manoeuvring the ride-on mower like she was handling a bronco. It took her four hours to tame the spring surge of grass on her hilltop.

Last week I saw Jackie, just retired from her smart-suited city job and physically tiny, whipper snipping 400 metres of sloping nature strip like a high street hairdresser. She then dressed up and went to lunch. She

could start her machine with practised dexterity. Vroom! First time, every time.

I'm still learning this most wondrous of women-friendly tools. My shoulder aches for days following the 200 tugs it takes for me to get my swishing scythe started. I'm the novice but already totally hooked on the power trip that is grass sculpting.

Trixie next door has a serious whipper snipper. Metal blades. Excellent for executing blackberries. She's been at it for 35 years and has created an oasis of seasonal flowering on her huge block. She's also made

Until recently, my other neighbour was Paulina, a dusky Italian who makes strong men weak when she steps out in her frocks. Initially I presumed she'd hire outside help. But one day she asked to borrow my whipper snipper and wondered if I could show her how it worked? Yeah sure. I was unenthused by the idea that she would never be able to handle it.

With the machine finally running, she took her turn. Dainty didn't last long. Within 20 minutes, she was hurling around her garden like a council worker.

An obvious question begs in this scene of women mowing lawns in grass castles. Where are the men? They're around but they know to stay well clear when the women are at the secret business.

My bloke can be inveigled onto the end of a shovel and performs miracles of male muscle that I applaud like crazy because it doesn't happen often.

Jackie's husband gets the paper in the morning and I think I've seen him putting the garbage bins out. I'm not sure though, it was a dark night.

Marie's husband? Yes, I've met him. He drives a van and gets home late.

Trixie's John is a tremendous help in the garden. He ventures out as far as the back verandah to call, "Phone!" He makes a great cup of tea.

John admires his wife's garden building artistry to all and sundry but has no delusions about the worth of his outdoorsy contributions.

He styles himself, "A warrior man in carpet slippers".

While most of this business is conducted solo, at the end of some long sunny days John makes a communal cuppa and the women get together to complete their horticultural haka.

By then they are spattered with mud and grassy spears, smelling faintly of petrol, wearing daggy clothes that couldn't care less, coiffed by the wind and stained under the nails by the soil. For these reasons alone, this activity should remain underground. But there is worse. The real secret.

These women are unreformable junkies of that happy tiredness that comes at the end of a big day in the garden. To them it beats the socks off the physical effects of even the most fashionably sweated gym circuit.



amazing networks of rock walls—by herself. I've actually seen this grandmother mixing concrete by hand. I call her the trail-blazer. She has her own crowbar.

Like the other women, Trixie sees big effort gardening as essentially play. The best weekend is the sunny one with no other commitments than getting out and into it. There is no greater gift than mulch. No nicer recipe than compost. No better condiment than fertilizer. Virgin soil is the virgin olive of the mix.

I once got a tip-truck dump of black soil on my driveway and was no sooner out there in my gummies and gloves than Trix appeared in hers. She'd come out to help me fill wheelbarrows. She'd come out to play.



And the winner is...

Actor Josh Mitchell has won the 2001 Christie Lawrence/Luke Mayall Award for performing arts. Josh was selected from a field of extremely talented applicants, which included actors, singers, musicians and composers. Sue Dyring, pictured here with Josh, helped assess Josh's work for the award. She complimented Josh on his outstanding commitment to his art.

Josh is well known to Warrandyte audiences through his involvement with the Warrandyte Theatre Company. He is studying drama and dance at the School of Contemporary Arts at Deakin University where he is consistently achieving high distinctions for his work. His teachers at the university described his acting as exhibiting intelligence, skill and intuition, combining emotional intensity with intellectual rigour.

Christie and Luke, who died in 1998, were unable to pursue their careers in the performing arts and the hospitality industry. The award seeks to help the careers of other young people in these fields in memory of Christie and Luke.

Kids' art caught on calendar

The theme of Manningham council's 2002 free calendar is "Manningham Through The Eyes of Our Children", chosen to recognise and encourage the creative ability of our younger residents.

"All primary and secondary schools within our municipality were invited to submit artwork, either individually or as a class, illustrating how they see their Manningham," Mayor Julie Eisenbise told the *Diary*

"More than 250 pieces of artwork were submitted. The standard was exceptionally high and the judging panel had great difficulty in making their final selections.

"Congratulations to those who made the final cut. A special mention must go to everyone who participated for their hard work and creativity.

"It has been a wonderful opportunity for all our budding artists," Cr Eisenbise said.

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A good life lived well

By FIA CLENDINNEN

FIONA Moppert was born Fiona Glendinning in Glasgow, Scotland, on October 22, 1939.

Her father Douglas, a naval officer, committed suicide during the Second World War. Her mother Mollie decided to seek her fortune in Australia and when Fiona was nine, she and Mollie and her younger brother Roderick landed in Sydney.

Fiona's early years in Australia were spent around the north shore of Sydney while Mollie tried, not very successfully, to make a living as a manager of various boarding houses.

It was in Tasmania in 1956 that Fiona met Karl Felix Moppert (known affectionately to friends and family as Lali), a Swiss-born mathematician who was then lecturing at the university in Hobart. Although Fiona and Lali never married, they lived together as man and wife for the rest of their lives.

Fia, their first daughter, was born in 1958. The same year Lali took up a position at the University of Melbourne and the family moved to Carlton. Helen, their second daughter, was born in 1960 and in 1963, Kylie, their third daughter, was born.

In 1966 Lali started lecturing at

Monash University and the family moved from the inner city of Melbourne to Warrandyte. The Mopperts bought a house on Pigtail Hill, a house that had belonged to the Cassidy family.

The days of moving between rented premises were over and the family quickly became part of the Warrandyte community. The years were interspersed with regular trips to Europe.

In 1979 Lali and Fiona's son Doran was born.

On September 16, 1984 Lali died in the house on Pigtail Hill. After his death, from time to time Fiona thought of going to live somewhere else but when it came to the crunch she always decided she couldn't bear to leave Warrandyte.

She died at home on November 7, 2001.

Fiona was not interested in money or any of the obvious signs of affluence or security or comfort. The cars she drove were mostly old and held together by fencing wire and copious applications of Araldyte. (This is true, by the way, Lali really did fix the car with Araldyte.)



She spent her money on buying works of art, all her life she went to exhibitions and bought paintings by friends and acquaintances. She also loved pottery and furniture and fabrics and little sculptures.

Fiona spent almost nothing on her self. She couldn't care less about clothes and when Helen and Kylie and I went through her things we found that all the jewelry she owned in the world would fit in a tea cup.

What Fiona liked was to give things. She loved giving presents and had a good eye for knowing what was right, for choosing something someone else would enjoy.

And Fiona liked sharing beautiful food. She was a fantastic cook. It sounds like a cliché but in her case it was true, and she took real pleasure in cooking for people.

She lived in the house on Pigtail Hill for 35 years and her personality is stamped all over.

Warrandyte was important to Fiona. Communities were important. My two sisters and my brother may not agree with me but I don't think families were so important to her. I think she thought on a bigger scale than that. People were important and it didn't matter who they were.

People were important, especially if they were in trouble. Dozens and dozens of people have been through Fiona's house because they were lonely, or broken hearted, or ill, or in any sort of crisis.

About a year ago, Helen and her family moved back to this house on Pigtail Hill. Towards the end of Fiona's life there were many things that happened in a way that was uncannily right and I think that this was one of them. It meant that when Fiona got sick and then sicker, she was not alone. She took great pleasure in Helen and Leon and her grand-daughter Arabella. And then Jasper was born, and Fiona took especial pleasure in the new baby.

I'd like to pay tribute to my sisters, Helen and Kylie and to my brother, Doran. I feel we are blessed in the way we are all getting on so well. And I'd also like to pay tribute to Fiona's grandchildren, all six of them: Oki, Anastasia, Lachlan, Gilchrist, Arabella and Jasper.

It was awful watching Fiona deteriorate, day by day, but in the midst of all that they have all supported each other in a way that has been wonderful to see. As well, they did cartwheels round her coffin the day she was cremated, and those cartwheels were wonderful to see, too.

Fiona Moppert is survived by her four children: Fia, Helen, Kylie and Doran; her six grandchildren: Oki, Anastasia, Lachlan, Gilchrist, Arabella and Jasper; and her brother Roderick, who lives in New Zealand.

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Conducted by JUDY GREEN

Drop your news in the letterbox in the front door of our office at the Community Centre, fax it to 9844 4168, or post it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte, 3113, by Friday, January 18 for the February issue.

Warrandyte Primary School is farewellling two of its long serving teachers this year. Renate Harrington has recently resigned and Sue Reynolds who has been on sick leave for an extended period will resign in January. In order to celebrate the teaching careers of Sue and Renate parents, staff and students, both past and present, are invited to write messages in books which are available at the school office. A gift will be purchased and presented at a later date.

Festival

Plans are well under way for the 2002 Warrandyte Festival, to be held on the weekend of March 16 and 17. For enquiries about the parade contact Maedy Colenso on 9844 3678. Craft stall enquiries to Emma Rose Parsons on 9844 1175.

Gardens

Five new gardeners have recently taken over plots at the Warrandyte Community Garden behind the police station. There is currently no waiting list, so if you are interested it's a good time to get your name down. Contact Julie on 9873 2223.

Next issue

The next issue of the *Diary* will be published a week earlier than usual. It will appear on Tuesday, January 29, 2002. Editorial and advertising copy will close on Friday, January 18, 2002.

Family

Descendants of the Charlton family will be meeting at Kangaroo Ground on April 7, 2002. The family are seeking any descendants of the brothers, Robert (born 1826, married Margaret Kirk of Kangaroo Ground), James (born 1819 married Jane Hartshorn of Ballarat diggings and Christmas

Hills) and Samuel (born 1836, married Jane O'Brien of Ballarat.) The brothers, sons of Francis Charlton and Eliz McEwan of county Tyrone, Ireland arrived in Australia aboard the *Sultana* in 1854. Please contact either Ailene on 97351677 or Anne on 9844 3565.

Op Shop

The Warrandyte Lions Club Op shop would like to remind people that goods left outside after hours are likely to be stolen or smashed. The shop is open seven days a week, or pick-ups can be arranged by phoning 9844 4392.

Uniting

Fred Jungwirth has been appointed as a lay ministry worker for the Uniting Church in Corryong. Fred and his wife Bev will be sadly missed by many in Warrandyte. They have carried out an active role in the Warrandyte Uniting Church and were members of Probus Club. Fred has had a long association with the cricket club and Bev has taught religious education in both primary schools.

Information

Information Warrandyte's office will be closed over the Christmas/New Year period from 1pm on Friday, December 14, re-opening at 10am on Monday, January 14, 2002. Information Warrandyte has had a successful year, answering more than 2500 requests for advice and information on a large range of subjects, particularly from people seeking support services.

Dance

Some tickets are still available for the South Warrandyte Social Dance on New Years' Eve at the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road. Please ring Betty on 9844 3763 for bookings. The usual monthly dance will resume in February.

Reunion

Pre-1940 students from Warrandyte Primary School are reminded that their annual reunion will be held on Sunday, March 3 from 11am to 4pm. It will take place in the multi-purpose room at the school.

Memorials

The Royal Historical Society is seeking information from Warrandyte residents about any memorials which may exist



Shannon Clancy prepares for this year's Carols by Candlelight.

Christmas church services



The annual Warrandyte Carols by Candlelight service will be held at Stiggants Reserve on Saturday, December 15 at 8.30pm. Candles will be on sale. BYO rugs. Donations will go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

The theme this year will be "An Outback Christmas". An animal farm will be on site from 8pm.

Christmas Eve—11.30pm; Christmas Day—8am and 9.30am. **Uniting** (9844 3476) Christmas Eve—7pm; Christmas Day—10am. **Catholic** (9876 1509) Christmas Eve—7pm; Children's Mass—9.30pm (Park Orchards) and 11.30pm (Warrandyte); Christmas Day—9.30am Mass (Park Orchards). Anyone requiring transport or more information should contact the church of their choice on the phone numbers above.

Local Christmas church services will be as follows: **Anglican** (9844 3473) in the area. They are aware of the gold memorial cairn on Andersons Creek, the plaque marking the site of the State Battery, the war memorial monument and the memorial windows in the former Gospel Chapel. If any readers know of any others please contact the Warrandyte Historical Society's secretary on 0419 000 020.

Follies

Auditions for the 2002 Warrandyte Follies will be held in late January. Dancers, singers, actors and backstage people are all required. Please ring Ken on 9844 2795 or Alan on 9844 4995 for further information.

ARTYFACTS

Following its success in February this year, the Warrandyte Pottery Expo will be held over the weekend of February 23 and 24, 2002 at the Bakery Paddock near the Warrandyte Bridge. The Expo will highlight a number of Victoria's top potters with a variety of functional and non-functional ceramics for sale. TAFE courses in ceramics will be represented and there will be demonstrations from master potters. There will be coffee, food and jazz to add to the glorious occasion.



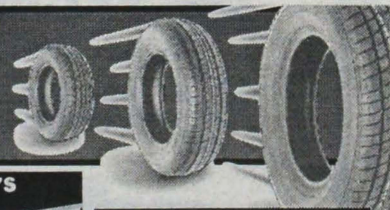
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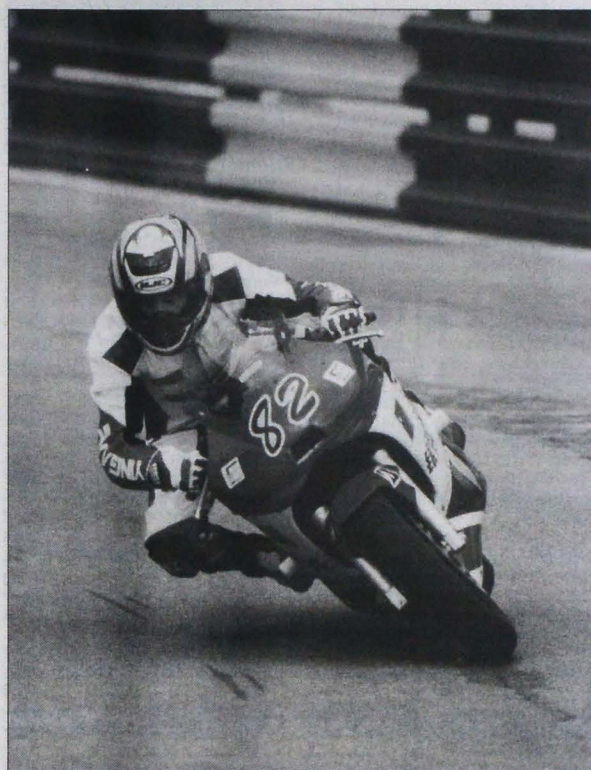


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Cameron's world on wheels

Right: The toast of Macau! Cameron Donald with some very fetching Yingang cheerleaders after his grand prix triumph. Below left: The young man and the machine Cameron sets the pace in Macau.



By LEE TINDALE

Cameron Donald is a young man going places in a hurry — at around 280 kilometres an hour, in fact.

That's the speed Cameron, 22, of KG Road, reaches on his 600cc Supersport motorcycle, a machine which last month took him to his first international success and may well have paved the way for many more to come.

The reigning Victorian Supersport champion, he won the 35th running of the Macau Grand Prix. He did more than just win the street circuit event, he blitzed it, qualifying on pole and leading the field home by a whopping 36 seconds, setting a new lap record in the process.

That success has opened the door for Cameron to race in next year's Pacific Asia championship run in Indonesia, Malaysia, China and Thailand — and his prospects from there would be unlimited.

"My ultimate ambition is to race at world championship level," said Cameron, who learnt to ride as a five-year-old in his great-uncle Ron Day's paddocks at Pound Bend, in the tyre marks of older brother Darren.

"I'm not really there to make



a million dollars," he said, "but to challenge for the world championship — and you can't do that riding in Australia."

Cameron began racing, on dirt bikes at Broadford, at 15 and won the Victorian title in the class in 1993. Four years later he stepped up to road racing, on 250cc production bikes at national level, and two years down the track to 600cc Supersports.

"It's the biggest class in Australia," he said, "and although it doesn't have quite the same recognition as Superbikes, it's less expensive to race and a lot more

competitive."

Cameron's career really took off this year. He won both legs of the Supersport world championship race at Philip Island and was third in that class at the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix meeting there in October.

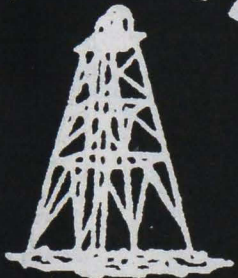
Then, from out of the blue, came an invitation to Macau. Highly-respected Wonga Park mechanic Rod Tingate, who went overseas several years ago with Grant Hodson, another local young motorcycle ace, heard that the Yingang team were looking for a rider for Macau. He contacted Cameron

and the two flew out a week later, stopping on the way for two-and-a-half days' testing at Zhui, mainland China.

After Macau it was a brief stopover at home before New Zealand and a four-hour endurance race at Manfield, on the North Island. Cameron led that event by 14 seconds when he handed over to his teammate at the half-way mark, but their bike then crashed out.

Next year, Cameron hopes to juggle overseas commitments with riding in Australia for his Brown Gouge Race Team.

"They're a great team to be involved with," he said.

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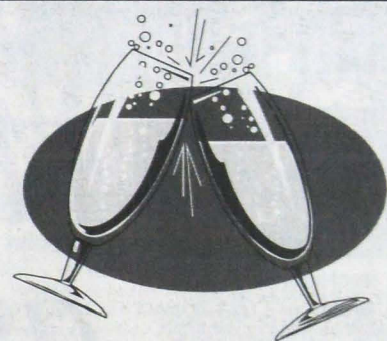
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2002 arrives early for the Redbacks

By TONY OLIVER

Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Club are preparing for a big 2002 junior championship season.

Teams seeking consideration for the Victorian Championship and Metropolitan grades are already playing practice and pre-grading games. From these results, the pools for the official grading phase in February and March will be determined.

Warrandyte have six teams trying out for Metropolitan and, in what could be a first for the club, Damian Arsenis' Under-12 boys are shooting for the Victorian Championship grade, the highest level in the state.

These boys are the core of the Under-11 Metro 1 team from 2001 and are performing well in the practice games, defeating Hawthorn (twice, by 19 points and four points) and losing to Altona by four.

Both those teams are Victorian Championship contenders, but unfortunately for the Redbacks, these results seem to have been ignored and they will struggle to get into this elite competition.

"What more do we have to do?" asked Arsenis. "We have defeated Hawthorn by four points in our last game. They are pooled for Victorian Championship, we have only a slight chance of making it"

Also doing well in the pre-grading phase are Gavin Whitmore's Under-16 boys, who overcame Collingwood on neutral ground at Doncaster.

The Redbacks led by three points at half-time, but Collingwood were more focused after the break, scoring the first four goals to open up a 24-19 advantage.



Little Redback Kathryn Brown is under siege but has eyes only for the hoop as she sprints for home in the Under-10 B-grade game against Eltham. Warrandyte won 12-6.

Warrandyte steadied after that initial flurry and went on to win 43-39.

Whitmore is cautious about the upcoming season. His boys have scored 30-point-plus wins over Bulleen and Camberwell, but the pools have yet to be arranged.

Despite being well beaten on the scoreboard, the Under-14 boys are doing well enough to please coach Ian Wood.

The team lack height, which again was their undoing in their latest game, at home to Frankston. Tom Fitzpatrick top-scored for the Redbacks, but the final score was 45-21 to the visitors.

"It will depend on where the other teams end up," said

Wood. "I am still confident about the boys".

Although not grading for Metropolitan, the Under-18 boys are also participating in the pre-grading phase. The last outing was a thriller away to Broadmeadows.

Warrandyte were defending a two-point lead late in proceedings, but Broadmeadows were able to convert to level at 39-all. With the seconds ticking away, Warrandyte drove to the basket but the shot came off the backboard. Tall centre Tim Given grabbed the rebound but was unable to convert and the Redbacks had to settle for a draw.

Three girls teams are grading for Metropolitan grades, with

the Under-16s, coached this season by Lorraine Parfitt, perhaps the best credentialled.

The Under-16s won the North West Conference grand final in a one-sided display against Craigieburn in October and, while a number of girls have gone up to the Under-18s, the team have been strengthened by the inclusion of Sarah Pattison and Hannah Massingham from Eltham and Jess Soly from the Under-14s.

Their first pre-grading game, at home to Coburg on November 30, saw the scores locked at 13-all at the break, but Warrandyte ran to a 30-19 lead in the second stanza, thanks largely to fast breaks from Louise Yates and strong work

under the basket from Emma Razzi.

Then the tempo changed, the Redbacks failing to do the hard things and Coburg getting back into the game.

With less than 40 seconds to go, Coburg trailed by just two points, but Warrandyte were in control of the ball, Soly was fouled going to the basket and sank one from two to give the Redbacks the game 31-28.

This was a good win for the home side, but their concentration will need to improve.

The following match, the Under-18 girls versus the Camberwell Dragons, was a tale of two halves.

Warrandyte were apparently in full control leading 20-8 at the break, but Camberwell regrouped and pressed relentlessly to run to a 32-27 advantage inside the last minute.

Point guard Kim Singh was fouled going for an outside shot and took full advantage of her free throws to narrow the gap to two points.

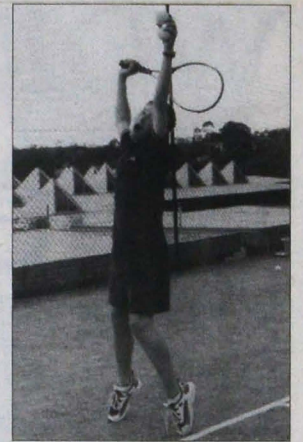
But in a desperate intercept attempt, Jess Kemp fouled and Camberwell scored one from the free throw line to sew up the game 33-30.

No such lapse in concentration occurred in the opening game of the night, when Parfitt's second team, the Under-12 girls, took on the Nunawading Spectres

A scoreline of 28-0 at the break and 58-0 at the end was testament to the pressure Warrandyte applied throughout.

Top-scorers were two of Warrandyte's smallest players — Courtney Petalas with 26 and Cassie Wilson with 12.

School's in for tennis



Serving it up at Warrandyte High.

By MEAGHAN O'CONNOR

Five grass tennis courts were opened last month at Warrandyte High School.

A fund-raised project, the school contributed more than \$170,000 to the courts project, with 20 per cent donated by a local resident.

Students spent opening afternoon rallying on their new sporting complex.

Warrandyte High's past principal Michael Blake attended the opening and was very proud of the completed facility, which was named in his honour. "The land was doing nothing and we thought this would be a great opportunity to utilise the space at the top of the school," he said.

The courts were officially opened by Judy Green, who was Warrandyte Tennis Club's junior coordinator for 15 years. "Not only have two of my children attended Warrandyte High School but now three of my grandchildren are attending," she said.

The new courts are a monument to the commitment, passion and tireless efforts of teachers, parents and a supportive community to give local students the very best opportunity to fully develop their tennis skills.

Special contributors included Blake, Glenn Martin, Tony Faren, Barry Dick, Rob Graham and Peter and Terry Morris.

Warrandyte High School hopes to eventually complement the courts with a clubroom.

Local tennis groups have already expressed interest in using the new facility after hours. Inquiries should be directed to Peter Morris at the school.

Kids share the spoils

Warrandyte Tennis Club's junior team playing in the Diamond Valley Tennis Association's Friday night competition drew with Research in the grand final of the spring season.

The team of Daniel Wiltshire, David Wildsmith, Ben Power, Daniel Power and Tania Gavranic finished on top of the Section 4 ladder and beat Research (second) in a semi-final.

Teams in this competition are of either sex and play singles only.

Warrandyte will enter two teams in the 2002 season.

Cock-a-hoop at the Creek

MICHELE PETALAS

Two Andersons Creek Primary School teams made the finals of the statewide McDonalds Hoop Time competition at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre last month.

It was an outstanding achievement to reach the final 16 — considering that almost 9000 teams enter the event.

Andersons Creek's Grade 3-4 boys coached by Frank Gatti were tied with Holy Family Primary School at the end of normal time in their quarter-final. One minute of overtime was played and Andersons Creek went down by two points.

The Grade 3-4 girls team coached by Jenni O'Brien were also eliminated in the quarter-finals, by eventual competition winners Our Lady Help of Christians (OLHOC).

The Grade 3-4 boys and girls teams from Serpells Primary School in Templestowe advanced to the grand finals.

Coached by Warrandyte's Michelle Smith and Michele Petalas, the girls lost 20-10 to OLHOC, but the boys went all the way, defeating Willmott Park in the big one.

Fluctuating fortunes as summer hots up

By TONY OLIVER

The preliminary phase of the Eastern District Junior Basketball Association's summer season has been completed and the season proper is under way — with mixed results for Warrandyte

The Under-18 girls coached by Emma Wood started out the season with wins over Eltham and Bulleen, but came back to earth with a loss to Balwyn.

That inconsistency has continued, with Eltham atoning at home for their earlier defeat.

The Redbacks went into that game weakened by a number of unavailabilities and were forced to start with two Under-14s, Libby Lavery and Louise Yates. It was a tight match early, with the younger players settling down and starting to contribute.

Midway through the half, extra players from the Under-16 side — including Gina Oliver, Rachel Lynch and Tahnee Templeton — were added and a three-point shot from Oliver right on half-time gave Warrandyte a one-point lead.

The second half was basket for basket, but the taller Eltham side were able to

establish a lead going into the critical last three minutes.

The result was a 35-31 win to Eltham, but the outlook for the Redbacks is promising as players return from other commitments.

Top-scoring for them were Elissia Demitris (8) and Kim Singh (6).

The Under-16 girls had played the previous time slot away against Nunawading, always a difficult venue for visitors.

The home side led 10-0 lead at the break, the Redbacks unable to get their game going under continual pressure. The second half opened well for Warrandyte, with Rebecca Parsons scoring in the opening phase from the tip-off and Anna Middleton converting from the free throw line. However, Nunawading were playing the more determined basketball and answered every challenge, running out 28-14 winners.

These Redbacks face a challenging season, but it must be remembered that this is the elite level of the competition.

Positive results are coming the way of the Under-16 boys coached by Gavin Whitmore.

Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Club

is seeking coaches, assistant coaches and skills coaches for junior championship Friday night basketball for the 2002 season. This is your opportunity to be a significant part of a vibrant, successful and ever-growing local sporting club.

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WANTED

Bell takes heavy toll

By ROBERT WHITE

Two standout individual performances by Steve Bell and Gerald Walshe in the match against Croydon Ranges has given Warrandyte Cricket Club the ideal launching pad for a tilt at the Ringwood District Wilkins Cup premiership.

Bell's 126 was his first century for the senior eleven while paceman Walshe's six-wicket haul has taken him past the 400 mark for the club.

The win over Croydon Ranges was a critical result as it put a stop to some indifferent form that threatened to jeopardise any finals hopes.

In the previous match, an undisciplined batting performance saw Warrandyte collapse to be all out for 101 as they chased a lowly St Andrews total of 110.

Only Campbell Holland, with 43, showed any commitment to take the attack up to St Andrews.

Warrandyte captain Dave Mooney called on his team to take a more positive approach in the home game against Croydon Ranges and they responded with a score of 317, the highest total for many seasons.

The score was based on Bell's total control of a fiery attack that peppered all batsmen with short-pitched bowling.

For many years Bell has shown the potential to be one of Warrandyte's leading cricketers but his batting has been punctuated by brilliant cameo knocks and he has failed to take the next step to build a big innings.

But he reversed that

SPORT

reputation with an innings that was full of responsibility and patience.

Bell, 26, is a product of Warrandyte's junior section and is one of the very few players to score a century at Under-12 level.

Mooney believes that Bell's maiden senior century will provide him with the impetus to take full advantage of his talents.

Mooney was also a key player in Warrandyte's massive total, scoring 77. He constantly rotated the strike to enable Bell to control the run rate.

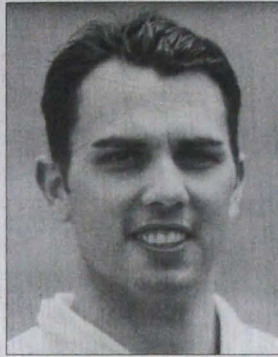
He and Bell were together at tea with the score at 3-103 and in an amazing onslaught Warrandyte scored 214 in the after-tea session, with all players in the middle and lower order contributing to the runs feast.

It was Walshe who then set about cementing his team's position, taking a wicket in his first over.

In typically tireless fashion, he bowled 20 overs to finish with 6-60.

Campbell Holland, who is fast developing into the team's quickest bowler, took two wickets while improving leg spinner Adam Beardall picked up the remaining two.

Holland has the ability to develop into a fine all-rounder and his developing form is important to the future of the club.



Steve Bell: maiden senior century.

He is one of a number of young players, including Beardall, Matthew Chapman, Andrew Jarvis and Tyson Brent, who are now being given the opportunity to stamp themselves as regular senior team members.

The Second XI failed to capitalise on an outstanding performance in the one-day match against St Andrews when they were well beaten by Croydon Ranges.

Brilliant fielding and some accurate bowling by Steve Warr and tempting off-spin from Matthew Sazenis saw St Andrews collapse to be all out for 109.

With Rod Bird holding the top order together, Warrandyte amassed 5-181.

But against Croydon Ranges, the Warrandyte fieldsman found a way to drop 13 catches.

Veteran Brett Kline put together a responsible 71 and

the final score of 206 was competitive. But butterfly-fingered fieldsman made it impossible to keep Croydon in check and they scored 282, Kline and Dean Gidley each taking three wickets.

After two seasons of struggling, the Thirds overwhelmed Croydon Ranges with a score of 6-357 a record by a Warrandyte Third XI.

The previous week Croydon had scored 6-236.

Details

Wilkins Shield: Warrandyte 101 (C. Holland 43) lost to St Andrews 110. Warrandyte 317 (S. Bell 126, Mooney 77) d Croydon Ranges 167 (G. Walshe 6-60, C. Holland 2-43, A. Beardall 2-57).

Seconds: Warrandyte 5-181 (R. Bird 49) d St Andrews 109 (M. Sazenis 3-23). Warrandyte 206 (B. Kline 71) lost to Croydon Ranges 282 (B. Kline 3-25, D. Gidley 3-78).

Thirds: Warrandyte 3-95 (N. Fazzolari 48) lost to Parkwood 4-210. Warrandyte 6-357 (N. Fazzolari 102, D. Gee 77, S. Goddard 57, N. Croft 30 n.o.) d Croydon Ranges 6-236 (P. Brickhill 3-46).

One-day XI: Warrandyte 4-186 (D. Mendoza 53 n.o., R. Dodge 36 n.o., D. Perry 35) d Wonga Park 7-98 (N. Cook 3-13). Warrandyte 123 (D. Perry 51 n.o.) lost to South Ringwood 9-125 (N. Cook 3-26).

400 up for 'The Pup'

For the past 20 summers, Gerald Walshe has been working his heart out each Saturday bowling over after over.

He has been tireless, fearless and totally committed to Warrandyte Cricket Club.

And on December 8 against Croydon Ranges he was at it again — 20 overs for a return of 6-60.

But it was no ordinary Saturday afternoon as Walshe's haul took him past the magical 400 wicket mark in Warrandyte senior cricket.

A product of Warrandyte's juniors, he won a place in the strong senior line-up as a 16-year-old.

A powerful young man with a thick shock of dark hair, he burst into the senior team with the excitement of a new puppy and quickly earned the nickname "Pup", which he still carries today despite his 36 years.

During his time at



Gerald Walshe: six of the best.

Warrandyte, Walshe has captained the senior team and is currently vice-captain.

Last year he was named in WCC's "Top 12", a team selected by life members as the best players at Warrandyte in the 50 years between 1950-2000.

Juniors knocking at fours' door

Warrandyte Cricket Club's junior season passed the halfway mark on December 8, with two teams struggling and two within striking distance of the top four.

The Under-16 (2) side have struggled for numbers but hope to gain players over the next couple of matches.

The Under-14 (2) team are performing well and

are outside the four only on percentage, while the promoted Under-12 (1) boys are finding the going tough against quality opposition but approaching their matches with great enthusiasm.

Warrandyte's Under-12 (3) side — some of whom are still eligible for Under-10s — are also just outside the four.



(Pictures by Jan Tindale)

Big Wynd blows in!

By LEE TINDALE

This is Stuart Wynd, on whose lethal boot might rest Warrandyte Football Club's prospects of a very successful 2002 season in EFL Third Division.

There has been an air of excitement among the football faithful about Wynd's arrival in town from First Division club East Burwood. He is seen as the man who could solve the problem that so dogged the Bloods' 2001 campaign — the lack of a key forward.

Wynd certainly knows how to kick goals. A dual First Division premiership player and three-time interleague representative, he has been East Burwood's leading goalkicker in the elite competition each season since 1966 and topped the competition in 1999 with 89. The previous season he had booted 97 (which might translate into something considerably more in Division 3).

Wynd, 28, 189 centimetres and 93 kilograms, has set himself no specific goals target with Warrandyte next season, but "it would be nice to kick 100".

"I've come down basically to win a flag with Scotty (second-year Warrandyte coach and close friend Scott Hunter)," he said between training routines at the recreation reserve on December 5 at the Bloods' second pre-season hit-out.

"Scott and I went to school together. We went to East Burwood together seven years ago and said we'd play 100-odd games there and leave together."

"He left two years before me, but I'd love to win a flag with

him ... before he breaks down again," he grinned, referring to the serious knee injury Hunter suffered in just his second game with Warrandyte in 2000.

"Scott missed the two premierships in my time at East Burwood — the first because injury had restricted him to the reserves and the second because he'd already come to Warrandyte."

"I'd like to be involved in a Warrandyte premiership with him next season."

More good news for the Bloods has arrived from East Burwood in the shape of Adam Barlow, described by Hunter as a "very good rover".

A likely-looking, well-muscled type, his career has run parallel with Wynd's since their junior football days at the Waverley Hawks.

Barlow, 28, went on to play Under-19s with Richmond and then VFA club Oakleigh before crossing to East Burwood.



Adam Barlow

Under-18s in demand

The search for players to resurrect an Under-18 football team in Warrandyte for the 2002 season will be intensified after the Christmas-New Year break.

WFC stalwarts Brian Williams, Phil Treeby and Lawrie Sloan are leading the campaign to reform the Under-18s — a vital link between junior and senior football — who missed last season for want of numbers.

The team will be coached by experienced mentor Leon Jones, assisted by former seniors captain and three-time club champion John O'Brien, who has returned to the Bloods after a season with Knox in EFL Second Division.

Any interested, eligible player is urged to contact Williams (9844 3346 or 0405 268117), Treeby (9876 4142) or Sloan (8802 0964 or 0408 316197).

Look out, Wantirna!

Warrandyte's 2002 football season will kick off at home to Wantirna South on April 6.

The Bloods' pre-season began on November 28 and the roll-up of 30-plus players to each of the first two sessions delighted club officials. Two more training runs were scheduled before the Christmas-New Year recess.

WFC's annual general meeting will be held at Club Warrandyte on Monday, December 17, starting at 7.30 pm. High on the agenda will be the election of a president to replace Robert "Noddy" Ireland, but it is believed a prospective president and vice-president have already put up their hands.

Warrandyte's 2002 draw:
April 6: v Wantirna South (H)
April 13: v Waverley Blues (A)
April 20: v Norwood (H)
April 27: v Kilsyth (A)

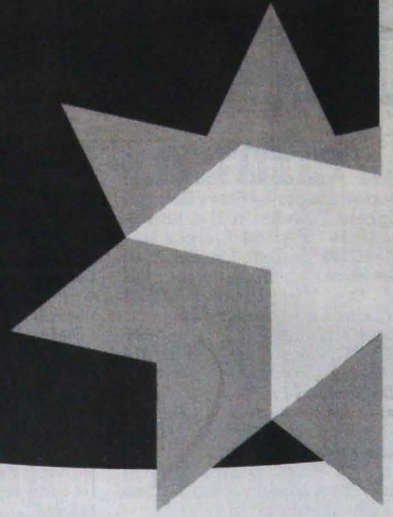
WFC

May 4: v Doncaster East (H)
May 11: v Mooroolbark (A)
May 18: v Templestowe (H)
May 25: v Upper Ferntree Gully (A)
June 1: v Coldstream (H)
June 15: v Wantirna South (A)
June 22: v Waverley Blues (H)
June 29: v Norwood (A)
July 6: v Kilsyth (H)
July 13: v Doncaster East (A)
July 20: v Mooroolbark (H)
July 27: v Templestowe (A)
August 3: v Upper Ferntree Gully (H)
August 10: v Coldstream (A)
First Semi-Final Sunday, August 18;
Second Semi-Final Saturday, August 17;
Preliminary Final Saturday, August 24;
Grand Final Saturday, August 31.



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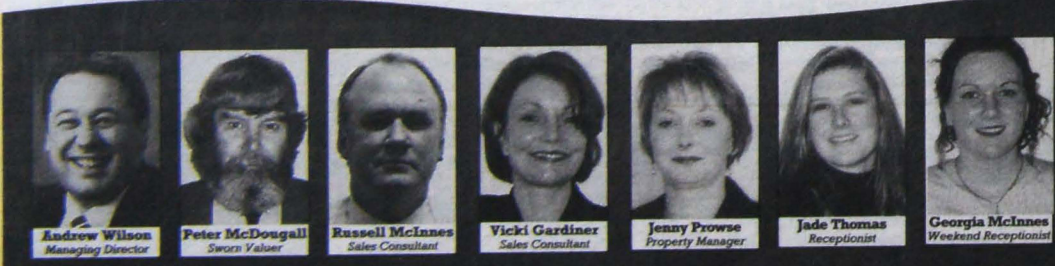
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