

Green Wedge win

It's a clear message to developers

By DAVID WYMAN

Manningham council has moved to prohibit further subdivision in the Green Wedge.

They adopted a consultant team report that "there is no realistic or proven basis to substantiate that further subdivision would result in better land management outcomes" in the area.

The consultants' recommendations come via a council-appointed non-urban zone review committee, established in August 2001.

Council, at its meeting on

June 25, adopted the consultants' report with seven of the eight councillors voting to adopt the recommendations and only Cr Beynon voting against them.

The consultants, Research Planning Design Group, said that council should "restate its commitment to the retention of the current non-urban areas of the municipality and agree that the enhancement of the environmental values of the areas is the principal aim of all planning and management".

Council's acceptance of the consultants' recommendations means that it agrees that "further subdivision of the

non-urban areas is not appropriate and therefore there will be no change to the existing controls over subdivision of the land".

Council will also have to delete the consideration of "innovative proposals" for subdivision in the Green Wedge in the municipal strategic statement, an inclusion that has worried many environmentalists.

The consultants further recommended:

- A rate increase on properties in the Green Wedge which provides for the vast majority of that increase to be returned to landowners on the

basis of participation in environmental programs of demonstrable proof of environmental enhancement on the properties.

- An increase in the council resources spent on the Green Wedge area through a series of programs that build on the existing programs.

- A structured research and land use planning study directed towards a comprehensive plan for the whole area. The plan would be aimed at achieving demonstrable and substantial environmental improvements.

Prior to preparing their report, the consultants con-

ducted a wide-ranging survey of Manningham residents, including people who lived in the suburban areas, the townships and the Green Wedge itself.

The survey found "a very small minority view that would see urbanisation of some or much of the area"; "overwhelming respect and support for retaining the environmental values of this unique area"; and "the view that this area is special, that its environment, its setting and landscape is a special area is not realistically in dispute".

● GREENING THE WEDGE: Pages 4 and 5

Manningham council's stand on the Green Wedge "has sent a clear message to those who have been pushing for development," local MP Phil Honeywood told the *Diary*.

"Councillors went into the meeting with a report calling on them to stop future subdivision in the Green Wedge and value it as a unique asset of the city," Mr Honeywood said. They also had a recommendation from their own community working-party that favoured strengthened support for the Green Wedge.

"As council had previously been split down the middle on further development in the Green Wedge, it was astounding to witness seven of our eight councillors vote in favour of the expert consultants' report.

"Again, while some cynics thought that this sudden rush to support the Green Wedge might have something to do with council elections due in March, it has sent a clear message to those who have been pushing for development."

Mr Honeywood said that the local community could not have sustained an ongoing feud with exactly half the councillors supporting the Green Wedge and the other half supporting development.

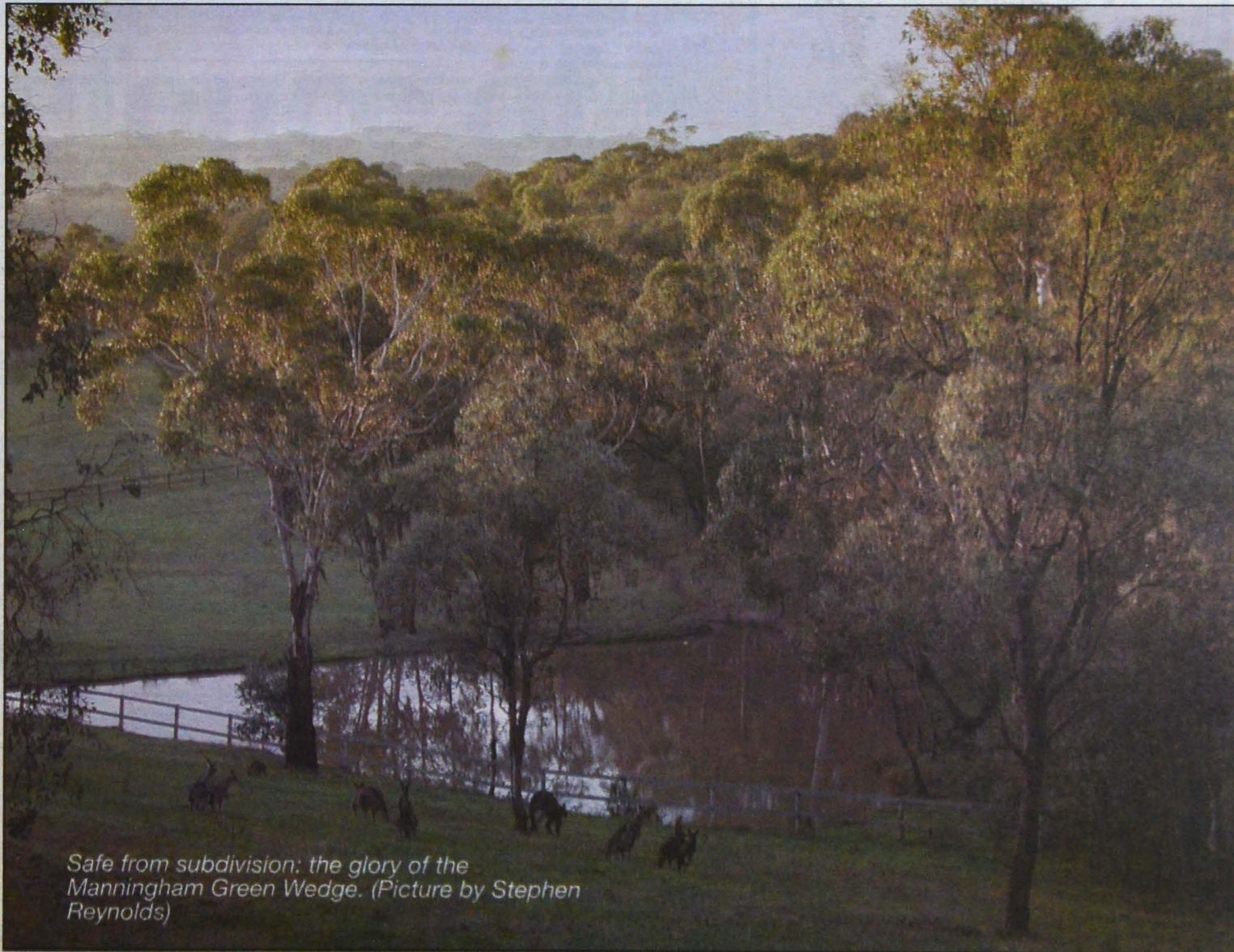
"We should now be able to get on with the job of supporting broad-acre landowners to enhance the natural environment for future generations," he said.

Mr Steve Graham, president of the Park Orchards Ratepayers Association, praised council for again upholding the values of the Green Wedge.

Mr David Mayor, PORA vice-president, said he "was pleased that council is now going to look at ways of encouraging and assisting those who choose to own large allotments to better take care of their asset in terms of control of erosion, rabbits and weed infestations.

"Such excuses are often used by those intent on land speculation and subdivision," Mr Mayor said.

"Is it not better to sell the whole of the land to someone who can take better care of it—thus upholding the notion of successive custodianship—rather than allowing the land to degrade and then push for subdivision?"



Safe from subdivision: the glory of the Manningham Green Wedge. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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

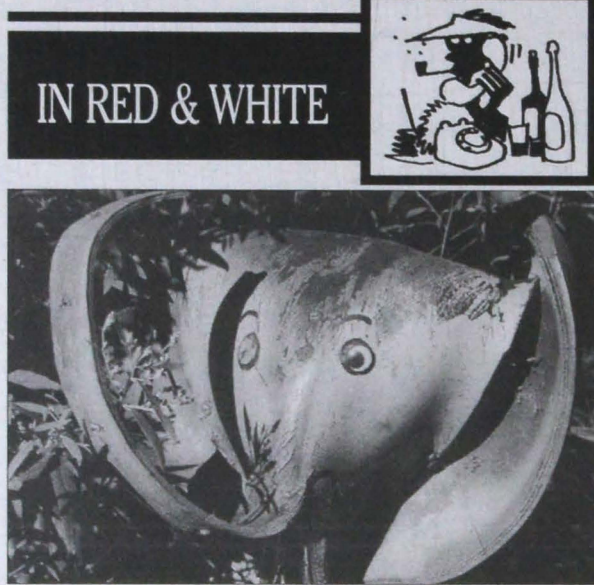
A SPECIAL PLACE
Warrandyte (approximate population 8000) is situated on the Yarra River, some 24km from Melbourne. The site of the first official gold discovery in Victoria—in 1851—it soon established its character as a small, self-sustaining community set in a beautiful river valley. Around 1900 the miners, orchardists and tradespeople were joined by a number of young painters who were founding the Australian nationalist arts tradition. Although now a commuter suburb of Melbourne, the natural beauty, community spirit and sense of independence of Warrandyte has been largely retained. This newspaper is the voice and true expression of that spirit.

Bet Ronaldo's mum never dumped his soccer gear!

Bemused patrons of the Grand Hotel were treated to a grandstand view of drama in outer suburbia the other day and probably deserve some sort of explanation. Local lady (who begs to remain anonymous to mask her embarrassment) was rushing youngest son to a landmark soccer match and was flabbergasted to find his new shirt, shorts and boots missing from the boot of the car. After all, she'd seen him toss them in there just a little while ago — that's right, in a bag very similar to the ones containing post-use-by-date clothing she'd just dumped in the recycling bin across the road from the pub. The bin had recently been emptied and young son simply refused to be pitched in there head-first to retrieve his gear. So Mum nipped home for reinforcements — in the shape of eldest son, notable for the length of his limbs. The rest, as they say, is history. And young Rowan Dawson arrived at his big game in time, ran on immaculately kitted out and kicked his first-ever goal.

The rather undistinguished tennis career of Tony "Apples" Appleby would appear to be over. Apples, of Brackenbury Street, hadn't picked up a racquet in yonks and doesn't even own one. But, trouper that he is, he rallied to the cause when his mate Vic Grybas' team were a bloke short for the Tuesday night comp at the local tennis club. His first service (with a borrowed bat) ferreted its way under the net and, over-correcting a tad or two, he put his second over the fence on to the footy ground. He spent a good part of his three sets on his back, his footwork leaving a little to be desired in pursuit of the hard ball, and he phoned Vic next day to say he'd just been to the doc for a cortisone injection — for tennis elbow! When last seen, Apples was still having a bit of trouble lifting a frothy pot without grimacing.

The little old lady wanted to withdraw more from her CBA account at the local post office than the rules permitted and faced a return bus trip to North Ringwood to the nearest bank branch. But postmaster Don Jinnette



Having exposed his every foible in this column for the past several years, we didn't really expect a birthday present last month from accident magnet Alan "Coatsey" Koetsveld. But his generosity and forgiving nature know no bounds. Up he bobbed on the day with a rubber elephant crafted from a tyre. "Gee, that must have cost you a pretty penny!" we said in mock delight. "Nah," he replied, "I'm doing some renovations at Horrie and Alison Aldenhoven's place and they were going to toss it in the skip." Still, it's the thought that counts. To remind us forever who gave us this gift we have named the jumbo Dumbo.

wouldn't hear of that. No, Don's father Len would drive her over. Len also helped her with the paperwork at the bank and returned her to Warrandyte. Who said Australia Post doesn't deliver?

If you think Warrandyte's senior footballers have played like sheilas too often this season, come along to the local ground on Saturday, July 20, and see real sheilas in action! Pub Power, the girls from Club Warrandyte, are taking on their footy club counterparts under lights after the seniors game against Mooroolbark — and you're warned to fully expect the unexpected. This is a fundraiser for the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre and Kids With Cancer — so rest assured you'll be supporting two infinitely worthy causes. Full details in the ad on Page 18.

And looking ahead to summer (in case you blinked and missed the last one), they're lining

up a cast of luminaries for the third annual cricket match between Club Warrandyte and the local cops. Chief Police Commissioner Christine Nixon, who paid us a visit in May, has promised to be there (in a non-playing capacity) and celebrity local actress Debra Lawrence will be defending her player-of-the-match title, along with actor husband Denis Coard. Debra is hoping to get Blue Heelers anchorman John Wood along (we suppose he'd be playing for the law) and other big-name recruits are on the shopping list. The two previous matches each raised \$1000 for Kids With Cancer. Watch this space for updates.

Please say a big, deep southern "Hi ya'all" to Patricia Phillips, the latest identified addition to the Diary's overseas readership. Patricia tells us by e-mail: "I have been reading your newspaper for over a year now via the Internet. I live in Alabama in the USA and your community sounds much like

the one I live in here hundreds of miles away. I would love to see more pictures of your town if possible. Thanks so much." And thanks so much to you, Patricia — and a belated welcome aboard.

In the course of a rare theological discussion between a couple of inveterate old sinners, Geoff Feltham stunned your columnist into contemplative silence with the following philosophical pearl: "Going to church on Sunday will no more turn you into a Christian than standing in a garage will turn you into a motor car." On reflection, we reckon Geoff must have coined that one after spending a Sunday in his garage praying to be transported into a Rolls-Royce.

Thanks to a media release which has just crossed our desk, we now know what we'd always yearned to know about bladder weakness. Were you aware, for example, that Victorians need to "go" at times different from their interstate counterparts? That 35 per cent most need a wee when they find themselves near running water? That laughing and giggling are most likely to have us wetting our pants? The release promotes a product called TENA pants Discreet. It carries the heading "BLADDER WEAKNESS NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD" — and, having never regarded the complaint as a visual thing, we're going to have to take their word for it.

With not a lot flowering in winter, our native flora authority Cathy Willis suggests it's a good time to look at the structure of your garden. "Got a gap to fill?" she asks. "Need a feature in your rockery? Want to define a driveway edge?" Then the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend has just the thing for you: Spiny Headed Mat Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*). It's a robust tussock with glossy, strap-like leaves and a spike of small, yellow, clustered flowers in spring-summer. Adapts well to all but the driest conditions, too, and is an important food plant for the Symmumus Skipper butterfly. You want? Give Cathy a call on 0418 142297.

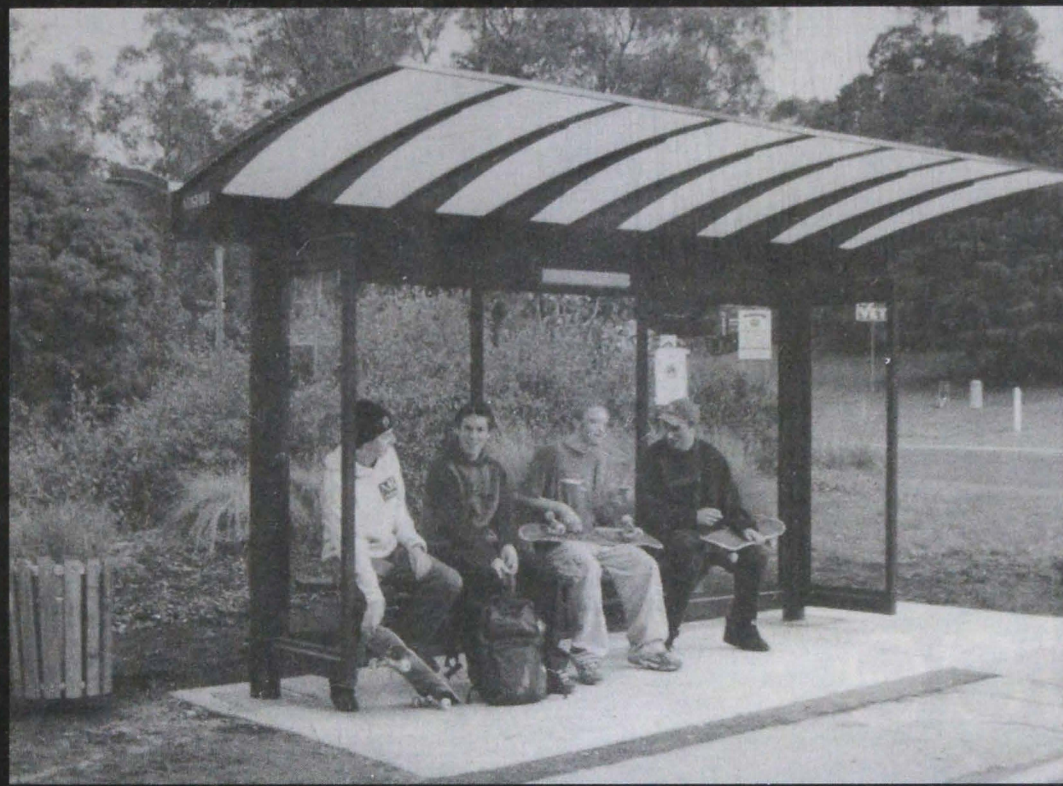
Smokey Joe

OVER THE HILLS

By **JOCK MACNEISH**



Look Kerrie, no advertising!



On a clear day you can see the buses: Warrandyte's brand new bus shelters are without advertising thanks to a protracted community campaign led by Kerrie Boyle. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

In defence of our township

By SAM DAVIES

With the battle against advertising in bus shelters largely won, the heritage sub-committee of the Warrandyte Community Association is turning its attention to Manningham council's review of the Warrandyte heritage guidelines.

The sub-committee is currently liaising with council over the review, and has already had one meeting with officers.

It is the first review of the guidelines since they were initiated in 1993 in consultation with the now defunct Warrandyte Advisory Committee.

The sub-committee will use these meetings to encourage council to take the views of the Warrandyte community into consideration.

The guidelines were formulated to ensure that works and development within the Warrandyte township remained sympathetic to the area, and that the town's character was retained.

The guidelines are particularly important for Yarra Street, which includes such buildings of historical significance as the Mechanics Institute, the Grand Hotel and the former police residence.

Sub-committee member Kerrie Boyle told the *Diary* that the next meeting with council will focus "on brainstorming creative ways to

preserve and enhance the town".

Ms Boyle hopes to secure grants to improve the streetscape in Warrandyte and will draw up a "100 good ideas list" suggesting achievable goals for the next meeting. The wider community is urged to contribute to the discussions, especially "new people to the area".

"We have all chosen Warrandyte as a special place in which to live," Ms Boyle said. "Now is the time to have your say and contribute if you can."

Among the possible ideas Ms Boyle suggested, were for greater revegetation along Yarra Street and the possibility of installing public art by local artists. She said this would create an "entrystate to Warrandyte that defines it as a place like no other".

The meeting with council officers came in the same week as Ms Boyle renewed her correspondence with Manningham council about removal of advertising in bus shelters. In November last year, council decided to retain advertising in only two bus shelters after intense lobbying from the community.

Adshel, who own the bus shelters, have a contract with Manningham that imposes a ratio between bus shelters with and without advertisements.

However, Ms Boyle wants council to "bend the rules" for the benefit of the town and from a community heritage

perspective. This would mean that the two remaining bus shelters with advertising—at the Everard Drive and Pound Bend Road corners—would also "lose their ads".

"Warrandyte is a special little hamlet, and hamlets don't have lit up bus shelters. We are appealing to council's better sense to relocate the ads to other precincts."

Ms Boyle said she had earlier been "led to believe" by Cr Patricia Young that these advertisements could be relocated.

But Cr Young said her hands were tied on the decision. Despite being strongly in favour of Ms Boyle's proposal, Cr Young had been outvoted by other councillors. "I'm only one voice in eight, and I didn't have support of other councillors," she told the *Diary*.

The \$40,000 cost of removing and replacing each offending bus shelter was the primary reason the other councillors failed to support the proposal. Cr Young said, "It's not worth the hassle when the money can be put into other areas, such as aged care".

Despite not securing the total removal of advertising in bus shelters, Cr Young said she had succeeded in keeping the heritage-valued Yarra Street area free of bus shelter advertising.

Making space for Stiggants playground



By CLIFF GREEN

Manningham council is now considering incorporating "a small playspace area" in a new plan for Stiggants Reserve.

This follows a recent revelation that council intended removing the existing 20 year-old adventure playground from the area.

The *Diary* believes that council re-allocated the proposed cost of renovating this playground to the new playground near the Bakery and removed equipment from the reserve as it fell into disrepair. It is believed this money was added to the \$25,000 secured by the Warrandyte Business Association as a Commonwealth Federation grant from the federal government.

However, when council's intention to remove the playground at Stiggants was reported in this newspaper, Warrandyte residents Ken and Linda Aly, owners of Australasian Playgrounds, offered to donate new equipment to the

value of \$20,000 for the reserve.

A council meeting late last month decided that "consideration needs to be given to the inclusion of a small playspace in this area".

The *Diary* understands that Ken and Linda Aly have formalised their generous offer.

Council now intends finalising details of the new Stiggants/Warrandyte River Reserve management plan during the second quarter of the 2002/3 financial year. Community consultation regarding the plan has included a public meeting in February this year and a request for public comments and suggestions. To date, 22 submissions have been received.

Fears have been expressed that trees in the reserve and along the river are being affected by over-use of the site, and consideration could be given to relocating the community market from Stiggants to the Recreation Reserve.

● LETTERS: Page 6



The 20 year-old playground at Stiggants Reserve: Council is "considering" new equipment in proposals for the reserve. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Park Road ramps row 'neutralised': council

Manningham council has decided to adopt a "neutral" position on the siting off on-off ramps on the extended Eastern Freeway at Park Road, believing that the "net benefits of providing ramps are marginal".

Park Orchards community groups have campaigned against these ramps ever since they were first mooted, believing they would funnel unacceptably high levels of traffic through their township. Council originally supported the ramps.

According to Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte, the Park Road ramps vote was a major about-face for Manningham.

"Up until recently, our council's official position, detailed in their submission to VicRoads, was to provide 'in-principle support' for the Park Road ramps," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*. "While council attached a

number of conditions to its support, the implications were clear as to where they stood on this issue. Our local council had also formed part of a delegation of outer-east councils who met with transport minister Mr Peter Bachelor calling on the government to construct the ramps.

"Park Orchards residents were therefore pleasantly surprised when Manningham council voted to change their position from 'in-principle support' for the ramps, to 'neutrality' on whether ramps should be built or not.

"Clearly, the majority of Park Orchards residents would prefer that our local council voted against the ramps and then campaigned accordingly. An official position of neutrality still gives the unfortunate image of having a bet each way," Mr Honeywood said.

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Pictures by
STEPHEN REYNOLDS

Manningham council has made a major policy decision to continue—and further extend—the permanent protection and enhancement of the Green Wedge. Below are edited extracts from their consultants' report and the decisions that flow from it.



Greening the Wedge

'once lost it cannot be recovered'

The consultants consider that the non-urban area clearly represents a unique asset for the whole city and a wider area. They state that many municipalities and communities would look enviously at such an area, and that once lost it cannot be recovered and suggest that the whole city would be the poorer if the area did not exist.

It is the consultants' view that the longer the area is retained as a low density environmental living area with significant environmental assets, the greater the value of the area and the more it will be appreciated.

The Municipal Strategic Statement is clear in its intention for the future retention of the Non Urban Areas and in outlining the objectives for its future management. The only uncertainty is created by the clause of the MSS that provides for the consideration of innovative subdivision proposals. The consultants recommend that this clause be removed.

The consultants find that council and the community is faced with a position where on the one hand there is a

strong, even overwhelming desire and support to see the non-urban area kept as something unique in terms of its environmental value, even though there are differing views as to how to achieve this; on the other hand the present arrangements (planning scheme provisions, environmental management programs, fragmentation in the hands of hundreds of private landowners) are mostly unlikely to achieve any substantive environmental gains and are likely to see a lessening in the very qualities that are so widely treasured.

It is therefore the consultants' recommendations that council needs to embark on a new direction. Not as a series of short term measures but as a conscious well thought out, well resourced endeavour in partnership with the community, relevant agencies and the state government to make the Manningham non-urban area an internationally recognised example of best practice environmental management. A Green Wedge that is highly valued.

'not a poll on future development options'

The study has entailed extensive community consultation, including surveys. The consultants' findings and recommendations reflect this consultative approach.

The consultants recognised that this aspect of the study went beyond the specific study area. Accordingly, the Manningham Non-Urban Areas Review survey involved two separate, but consistent questionnaires sent to landholders in urban and non-urban areas of the municipality.

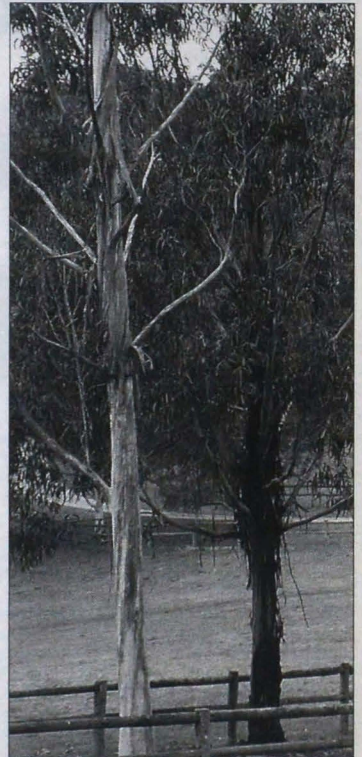
The purpose of the survey was to elicit input from a broad section of the community regarding the values, aspirations and expectations of people in relation to the future management of this area.

The survey was not intended to act as a poll on the future development options, but rather to canvass attitudes to change and to develop an understanding of the characteristics of land use, future land use and opinions with regard to council funding and management

policies.

The survey results reveal some interesting information about the non-urban areas. Amongst many findings, the survey has identified that the "whole" Manningham community placed a high value on the landscapes of the non-urban areas, animal habitat and a higher level of commitment to the preservation of Melbourne's Green Wedge.

When asked if landholders require more assistance to manage non-urban areas, over half the non-urban respondents strongly agreed or agreed. Most people, urban and non-urban, believed that landowners, with assistance from council, should pay for improved management of private land in the non-urban areas of the City of Manningham. The majority of residents would support a council proposal to spend more rate money on the environment in the non-urban area, with only 10 percent who would not support such a proposal.



'the rest of the municipality and the metropolitan area are under enormous threat'

The consultants clearly believe that the very environmental assets and values that are so widely supported and espoused by residents of the non-urban area, the rest of the municipality and the metropolitan area are under enormous threat. The threat arises from four basic sources:

- The cumulative impact of successive development. Within the non-urban area and under the current planning scheme provisions there is the further opportunity for about 130 more houses to be built. This is simply through landowners exercising opportunities that are provided in the planning scheme. Over time it is reasonable to expect that such development will occur.

With those houses will be expectations of other development such as swimming pools/tennis courts/roadway access etc. All of this will place environmental values under further threat and result in the further loss of the area's assets. These assets have been, in many cases, the attraction to live in the area. Further residential development based on septic tanks is a further compounding

impact on the environment and water quality.

- Management of the public land areas is variable and under-resourced in the non-urban areas. There is little prospect, in the short term at least, that the public land areas in the city will receive the level of resource management that they require. At the same time the demands upon them for public access, recreational demand and for uses detrimental to their environmental values are likely to increase significantly.

- The management of the vast majority of the non-urban area is in the hands of hundreds of private landowners.

While there is a broadly shared view among those landowners that the environmental assets should be protected and looked after, the capacity, willingness and level of knowledge by the landowners to undertake that obligation varies enormously.

While there are many landowners who have fully grasped the implications and demands of managing their land and supporting its environ-

ment this is not the majority view.

Many owners lack the knowledge of what should be done and are unwilling or unable to obtain that knowledge and apply it. For many, the cost in time and resources is beyond them. Others have lost the enthusiasm or physical capacity they once had. Some are openly antagonistic to the idea that they have any responsibility.

In other cases misguided current land management practices are actually destroying the environment. The reality is that large numbers of residents in the non-urban area are breaking the law. Permit conditions are not complied with and provisions of the planning scheme are not adhered to.

- Council's current programs and incentives to support enhanced private landowner environmental management, while innovative and very effective in what has been achieved, lacks overall penetration and in the assessment of the consultants, is not making sufficient inroads into the overall loss of environmental attributes to reverse the current decline.



'no shortage of purchasers for land in the non-urban areas'

Because of gains through sub-division, land in Manningham generally is expensive.

Farming enterprises generally have tended to experience reduced margins for their produce that, in other regions, have been obviated through yield increases and land purchase for expansion. In Manningham, once yields reach an optimum level, expansion may be difficult, and margins appear to have been supplemented by the development of added-value activities.

In some cases, the value that can be achieved through realising the value of sub-divided land outweighs the return that can be gained from working the land. Of the four orchards that the consultants noted in the region, one has already decided to adjust out of farming to realise land value.

The consultants make the point that the amenity value of the land exceeds the productive value. The consultants also note that there is no shortage of purchasers for land in the non-urban areas.



'three views in complete conflict'

The study has identified through research and by submissions and arguments put to the consultants that there are three views as to how the overall goal of enhanced environmental management could be achieved. Those three views are largely in complete conflict with each other.

Firstly, there are many landowners and persons who live both inside and outside the non-urban areas who argue that there should be no further development, particularly subdivision. Their view is that development lessens the environmental assets. Supporters of this view encourage council's environmental programs and those who live in the non-urban area are often keen participants. Generally, respect for environmental values is very high among such persons.

Secondly, there are those who advocate that well managed further development of the non-urban area will actually enhance the environment. This view is based on two premises. That the current patterns of land subdivision leave many people with areas that they cannot manage (generally too large and haven't the resources to look after) and therefore that smaller parcels of land could be better managed.

The second premise is that because planning controls and the powers to place conditions on permits only really come into force when and if someone is given permission to do something, then, if high standards of environmental management and performance are placed on permits that allow further development then the outcome will be better environmental management.

The third view is focussed largely or solely on individual landowners' needs. This view is that the planning scheme provisions are disadvantaging them; the controls are illogical because they will not allow further subdivision of land. This view is often held by people who espouse environmental values, although often their property is a poor reflection of the environmental qualities of the area. Some persons advocating further development of their own property have come to this view after a long period of residence and they simply want a smaller parcel to look after. In contrast, others are relatively recent purchasers who have realised quickly that the obligations and demands of land in the non-urban area demand much more than they can offer.

The consultants believe that these three views are largely irreconcilable; that there is no "magical" compromise that will enable council to satisfy all these views. Certainly, the idea of looking for a minimum lot size to achieve harmony and deliver on environmental goals is completely naïve.

The consultants have recommended an approach that is consistent with the sustainability objectives of council. In particular, the suggested approach requires a careful consideration of future management options for the non-urban areas and specifically, future land use options.

'further subdivision of the non-urban areas is not appropriate and there will be no change'

COUNCIL RESOLVED TO:

- Restate its commitment to the retention of the current non-urban areas of the municipality and agree that the enhancement of the environmental values of the area is the principal aim of all planning and management;

- Agree that further subdivision of the non-urban areas is not appropriate and therefore there will be no change to the existing controls over the subdivision of land;

- Request that an amendment to the Manningham Planning Scheme be prepared to delete the reference in the Municipal Strategic Statement to the consideration of "innovative proposals" for subdivision in the non-urban areas;

- Refer the preparation of a long term strategic plan for the environmental management of the whole of the non-urban area, to the 2002/2003 corporate plan, that considers:

- an ongoing capital injection by council into the environmental improvement of council's own assets and responsibilities;

- an across the municipality rate levy on all properties to provide for the improved environmental management of the Green Wedge as a major municipal asset;

- a rate increase on properties in the Green Wedge which provides for the vast majority of that increase to be returned to landowners on the basis of participation in environmental programs and demonstrable proof of environmental enhancement on their properties;

- an increase in the council resources spent on the Green Wedge area through a series of programs that build on the existing programs;

- a structured research and land use planning study directed towards a comprehensive plan for the whole area;

- the plan would be aimed at achieving demonstrable and substantial environmental improvements and would include:

- Integration of any future development within an overall environmental enhancement strategic plan for the Green Wedge area;

- Provision of land or funds to add to the public land areas in the Green Wedge;

- Provision of ongoing funds to finance the management of that land;

- Imposition of conditions on any development to ensure that environmental gains are delivered and enforced.

'non-urban area is part of a wider area'

Whatever is the future direction, the context for the area is critical. Manningham is not an "island" nor is its non-urban area.

The Manningham non-urban area is part of a wider area—a north east metropolitan Green Wedge which includes extensive areas in other municipalities and that in turn is part of a Green Wedge structure that is incorporated in a long standing metropolitan approach.

For Manningham to depart from that is not, as many people think—particularly those wishing to subdivide their land—something that council can do on a unilateral basis. Such a change of policy has wider implications, needs to be justified at the local and metropolitan level and must address the infrastructure investment plans of a range of authorities.

The consultants make the point that it needs to be recognised that a change to the Manningham Planning Scheme is not in the ultimate hands of the council.

The consultants met landholders who believed that all council had to do was to change the provisions at a council meeting. Others felt that this study could have an outcome of granting subdivision opportunities.

The consultants put the view that the reality is that even if council resolved to amend the planning scheme to allow further subdivision, the sheer weight of opposition to that is likely to overturn such a move.

Further and more significantly, a panel appointed by the Minister for Planning to hear submissions is more likely to be swayed by arguments about the importance of the integrity of the whole area than it is by a series of individual "hardship" cases from residents living on properties valued at considerably more than the average property in residential Melbourne.

As hard as it is for some landholders to accept it—there is politically little prospect of any change to the planning scheme provisions that would provide for new resident development even if council were totally committed to support such a change.

The recommended approach is to work towards establishing the Manningham non-urban area as a benchmark for good practice environmental management.

This is an approach that is consistent with council's existing corporate policies and its established reputation as a leader in environmental management.



Warrandyte Community Market

Under the gum trees,
beside the Yarra on
Stiggants Reserve,
Yarra Street, Warrandyte
First Saturday of each month
— except January, 9am–1pm.



CLYDE & OCKER



"When I was a kid, Ock, we had the best adventure playground in the world. The mines on Fourth Hill!"

DEAR DIARY



We need both. The new playground below The Bakery (left). The old one at Stiggants Reserve.

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Email: thediary@vicnet.net.au

We helped pay for it!

After regarding the May and June *Diary*, I had to make a comment on the playpark at Stiggants Reserve.

Twenty years ago a group of local mothers fought for a place where mothers and young children could meet; a place that belonged to the community. The closest playparks available were at Eltham, Doncaster or Templestowe. If you wanted to use these facilities you had to travel by car. This group of mothers met through local playgroups and kindergardens.

For months we, Elise Berry, Barbara Barry (now in Queensland), Jan O'Dell, Jill McKimm and Colin Riley gained support from families, mothers and children. Public meetings were held, and we gained help and support from Doncaster-Templestowe councillor John

Scott. We collected around 300 signatures for our petition. We had to gain approval from the principals of the primary schools, from Lions, Rotary, Apex, scouts, guides, cubs and brownies, organize a clean-up of the bottle dump, organize tree planting for a buffer zone.

Many fund raising activities were organized such as cake, soup and pate stalls at the monthly market.

A bush dance was held at South Warrandyte Hall. Many people helped for this event. Brian Laurence recorded the event, Don Smith supplied the sound system, Geoff Coles (now at Mallacoota) called the dance, Barry McKimm wrote music and organized musicians, and many women provided the supper.

Everyone worked for free. We were able to meet the council

offer of dollar for dollar and every cent went towards the playpark being built.

This playpark was for the community of Warrandyte, for the mothers, fathers and children to meet. Stiggants is our community park where our markets, festivals and community activities happen.

The new playpark beyond the bakery has its purpose too, but remember it was built by local business to serve business. There is nothing wrong with that, but it isn't the same as our playpark at Stiggants.

It was a long, emotional struggle to get our playpark. It took time and real effort from our local community people, and to let it slip through our fingers would be a shame.

Jill McKimm
Bradleys Lane

Call for two playspaces

I do not want the Stiggants Reserve playground to go because I have played at the playground for about eight years. It would be a shame to see the playground go because lots of families like to take their children down to play there.

Ms Boothby said to play with sticks and dirt but I think that we might poke an eye out with a stick and young children and babies will eat the dirt. There are lots of children in Warrandyte, so why can't there be two good playgrounds in Warrandyte?

Bronte Whitcher
Mitchell Avenue

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If you want to know the answers to these questions and much, much more, then Manningham council's property management course is for you.

"People living or managing land in the municipality often face highly challenging land management issues," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*. "Fortunately, there is financial assistance and information available to help landowners conserve and enhance the environmental value of their properties."

Manningham council's property management planning course can help residents learn effective and practical management techniques to improve the use, appearance and value of their properties, in a friendly and comfortable atmosphere.

This inexpensive short course runs over six evenings and two weekend field days and offers participants skills in plant identification, revegetation, erosion, field and pasture management, weed and rabbit control.

Two experienced, professional land managers will be on hand to help residents develop a plan that addresses issues specific to their individual properties.

The course is available to landowners and residents in the Green Wedge, east of Mullum Mullum Creek, and runs from August 3 to September 18.

It costs \$50 and includes course notes, aerial photos and contour maps of your property.

To register please call Samantha Bradley, environmental planner at Manningham council on 9840 9333.

Feral flora: council can help check this menace. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

Council goes dustbusters

Manningham council is accelerating a lightweight pavement sealing program, designed to eliminate the problem of dust and surface deterioration on gravel roads in the rural areas of the municipality.

Mayor Cr Geoff Gough said

trials of the lightweight sealing program showed it was a viable treatment for upgrading unmade (gravel) roads.

"There is considerable community support to increase funding. The benefits of sealing these roads, in terms of noise and dust reduction, reduced grading and fuel usage, less wear and tear on vehicles using these roads, improved travel times, and reduced accidents are enormous.

"At the previous funding level it would have taken more than three decades, but such a time frame is unacceptable.

"With the increase in annual funding, the expected program life will be shortened to a more reasonable 15 years."

To assist in setting priorities, in both local community need and resident commitment, council resolved that abutting residents should contribute to at least half of the cost of the program.

"If the demand is there and the residents are prepared to make a contribution, then council indicated it is prepared to find the extra funding to accelerate the program," Cr Gough said.

We'll bank on the community

By SAM DAVIES

Bendigo Bank has commenced a feasibility study to gauge support for a Warrandyte community bank.

The eight week study, run by an independent group, will evaluate the level of support for a local bank in the community as well as giving indications as to what type of banking the community most wants.

John Provan, chairman of the Warrandyte Community Bank Steering Committee, is confident the results of the study will show strong support for the bank.

"People have indicated they want a community bank because they feel that they have already become shareholders."

He says that the bank has already been pledged over \$675,000 from nearly 420 people, though admits that "some people who have pledged may not bank there".

The amount pledged is a good indication of future capital for the bank,

however the money covers only the start-up costs. "The bank makes its profits by what people bank there. We need people to support it as business, not just as shareholders."

Steering committee member, Andrew Wilson, is also optimistic about the feasibility study, describing Warrandyte as "very affluent area" with "good business".

The committee is hopeful that the community will support the bank, as they see it as both beneficial and necessary.

Mr Wilson is particularly excited about the prospect of money going back to the community in areas such as sports and recreation for children.

"We lack a lot of things out here, and to be able to spend money on young kids is great." Community benefits aside, Mr Wilson said, "we just need a bank".

The committee is urging the community to return their feasibility survey forms as soon as possible.

CLYDE & OCKER

"Fast cars and slow roads. That's the Warrandyte story, Ock!"

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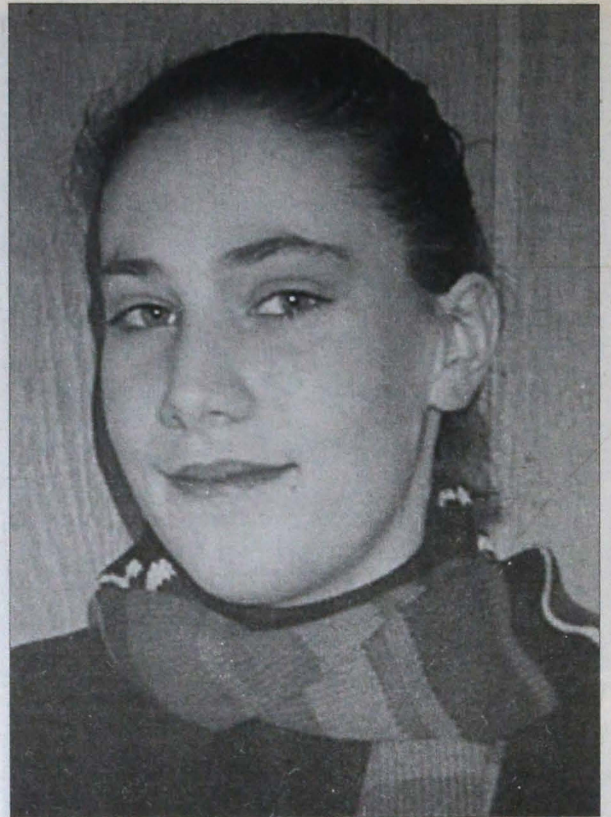
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Gillian wants to lend a hand



Gillian Hiley (pictured) of Blooms Road is a girl with a mission. Completing her VCE at Box Hill Secondary College, she has decided to take off next year—literally—and spend 12 months doing volunteer work overseas.

"Almost by chance I found out about Students Partnership Worldwide," she told the *Diary*. SPW is a non-government, non-profit organization that brings together groups of 18 to 28 year-olds to take part in educational and environmental programs that address urgent problems facing rural communities in India and Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Young people from countries like the UK and Australia partner with local youth to undertake health education and environmental projects. They only work in communities that have invited them in. Pairs of young people live within a rural community without access to electricity or running water, working together as peer educators and role models.

"I quickly realized this was what I wanted to do in 2003," Gillian said. "I applied immediately and have been accepted into a project in Uganda."

"I will be doing peer education, which is working in a school with people my age. I will be helping them understand and deal with social and

health issues in their community; issues like HIV/AIDS, teen pregnancy and their environment. I will help them with these issues through mediums like drama, sport and debates."

Still only 17, Gillian is one of the youngest to be accepted into a program. There is considerable cost to this opportunity but that doesn't seem to be standing in her way.

"For all of this amazing experience I have to raise at least \$10,000 by November," Gillian said. "This will cover my travel and living expenses in Uganda, as well as helping fund my Ugandan partner. I am trying to get this money from fundraising, working full-time during school holidays, and

sponsorship." She is appealing to the Warrandyte community to help her raise this money through sponsorship and fundraising. "I would love to hear from you," Gillian said.

So far she has organized a fund raising auction and dinner at the Warrandyte Community Centre for the evening of Saturday, September 7. Many of Gillian's friends and local business people have already donated items to be auctioned on the night. If you would like to donate an item to the auction, help sponsor the dinner and/or attend the dinner and auction yourself, please contact Gillian on 9844-4547 or gillian@hiley.cx.

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Fire doesn't take a winter holiday

By **CLIFF GREEN**

Local CFA officers are concerned over recently released information concerning dangers of fires starting in the home.

"With hot summer weather long behind us, residents may overlook risks inherent in their own kitchens and lounge rooms," Jeff Adair, Yarra region community safety manager, told the *Diary*.

"With winter, our attention often focuses on roaring log fires, heaters and electric blankets. However we know that these are not the principal causes of house fires."

"Information received

from insurance company surveys confirms local suspicions that the majority of fires start as results of cooking and electrical faults."

CFA brigades are calling for increased vigilance and attention to our cooking habits and preparedness to maintain electrical appliances and fittings within the home.

"Attention to small details and not ignoring the tell-tale signs of appliances—failing to operate properly, sparking, carbon around power points and plugs, worn electrical leads and ceiling insulation covering downlights—all these point

to potential dangers," Mr Adair said.

All such work should be undertaken by a qualified electrician. "These things are easily fixed and could mean the difference between a dangerous house and a safer home."

CFA brigades are confident that most homes are fitted with smoke alarms.

"Residents may be becoming more conscious of the need to regularly replace batteries," Mr Adair said. However, smoke alarms were first introduced about 10 years ago. This is the upper limit of their effective life. It is highly likely that the smoke alarms in your house



should be replaced this winter.

"When people test their smoke alarms, they are only testing the electrical circuitry and the battery charge. This test does include the alarm's capacity to detect smoke."

"Those residents who believe their smoke alarms are older than six or seven years should be considering replacing them."

Lions roaring on

Daniel Singh is the new president of Warrandyte Lions. Daniel, a school teacher, first joined Lions in Fiji, and on coming to Australia was a member of Doncaster Lions before moving to Warrandyte.

Dieter Retz is the club's new secretary and David Dobbs continues as treasurer.

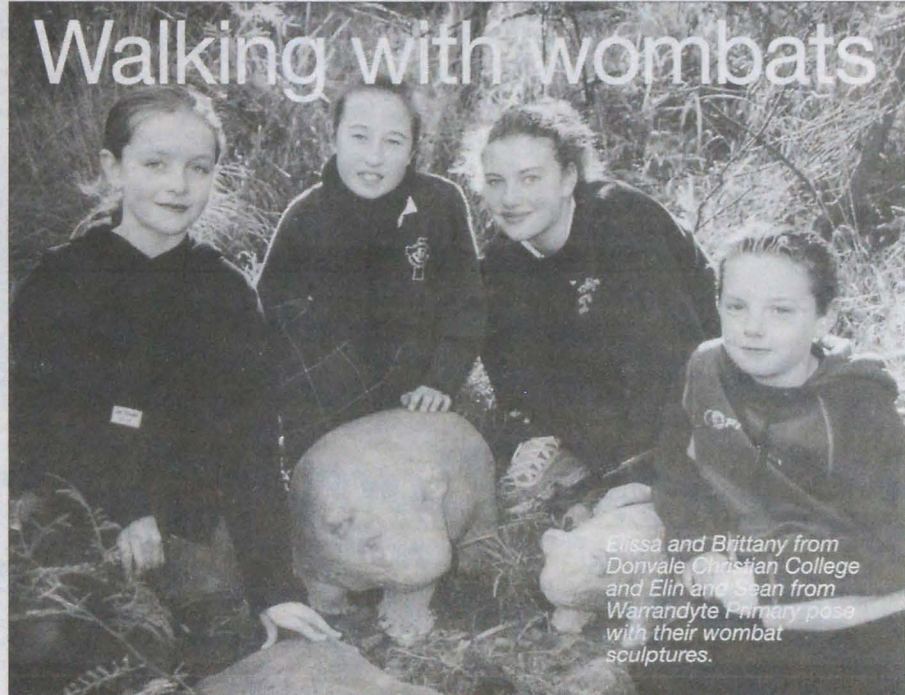
The changeover dinner marked a very busy year for Lions, highlights of which include a successful fund raising effort for Canteen, which assists kids with cancer, a wonderful day at Sandown for the visually impaired, giving them a chance to drive in dual-controlled vehicles, and a charity auction in conjunction with other local groups.

Tribute was paid to the work of Sue Smith, manager of the Opp Shop, and the wonderful volunteers who assist there.

One of the highlights of the changeover was the presentation of the inaugural Lance Vizard Award. This is an award for outstanding service and commitment to the community and the club, named in memory of the club's charter president.

The award went to Geoff Taylor, Warrandyte resident and principal of Warranwood Primary School.

June Vizard, Lance's widow, said how proud and honoured she and her family felt to have the award named after Lance.



Walking with wombats

Elissa and Brittany from Donvale Christian College and Elin and Sean from Warrandyte Primary pose with their wombat sculptures.

Cyclists, runners and walkers using the Mullum Mullum Linear Trail should keep their eyes open for two wombats who recently arrived in the area.

The wombats, located near Beasley's Tea House and Nursery, are the most recent addition to a series of sculptures of native animals that can be found along the trail.

The enviro-sculpture was created by eight students at Warrandyte Primary School and Donvale Christian College, working with local artist Jenny Rickard. The project was

funded by a community development grant from Manningham council.

Unveiling the sculpture, Cr Pat Young highlighted the capital works recently undertaken along the Mullum Mullum trail and praised the work of our young artists.

"The Mullum Mullum Creek and the linear trail are wonderful places to visit and are utilised by local residents and visitors on a daily basis," she said.

"I am pleased to unveil our new sculpture and congratulate everyone on their fine work.

The wombats make a wonderful addition to the series of sculptures and complement the blue tongue lizard and platypus that have already become popular features along the trail."

APOLOGY

In our last issue we published an article entitled "Local riding schools kick up about insurance increases". Three fine pictures accompanied this story. We inadvertently failed to credit the photographer, Kate Drinnan. We apologise for this omission.

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WARRANDYTE YOUTH Arts AWARD 2002-03

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Young artists who usually live in the Warrandyte area are invited to apply for the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award for 2002/03. Applicants between the ages of 18 and 25 - working in any artistic field - are eligible.

A prize of \$6,000 is being offered every two years to enable the winner to further their career as an artist.

Applications close 31 July 2002 and the winner will be announced in March 2003, during the Warrandyte Festival.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from Information Warrandyte in the community centre or by writing to:

Warrandyte Youth Arts Award
PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113

Organised by the Warrandyte Lions Club and the Diary in conjunction with the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.

Sole sponsor: The Lions Club of Warrandyte (Inc)

MANNINGHAM

COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

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

Please contact Nancy Stokes, Council's Open Space Planner on 9840 9468 or email nancy.stokes@manningham.vic.gov.au for information on the grants program and an application form.

Applications for funding close on 16 August 2002.

DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR JUNE/JULY COPY OF MANNINGHAM MATTERS?

Manningham Council has recently delivered the June/July 2002 edition of Manningham Matters to local residents and businesses.

As a small number of residents in Warrandyte, Wonga Park and Park Orchards have experienced distribution difficulties in the past, alternative arrangements have been made.

Manningham Matters can now be collected from:

- Wonga Park Village Supermarket, Shop 6, 4 Launders Ave, Wonga Park.
- Victory IGA, 402 Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte.
- Park Orchards Community House, 572 Park Rd, Park Orchards.

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

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

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Lensless Piggy's blurry view of a matchless future

I DON'T think I've ever felt suitably sorry for Piggy. You know, the Piggy from Golding's "Lord of the Flies". The kid who had all the good ideas but was never taken seriously because he was fat, had asthma and needed his glasses to see anything at all.

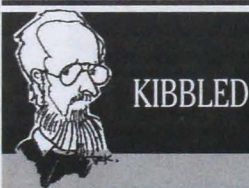
Well, to be fair, I have always felt sorry for him because he was given such a hard time by the other Alpha males but it wasn't until recently that I thought of him again and of his other problem.

In the novel, despite all of Piggy's brave efforts to promote harmony and commonsense amongst the barbaric groups of boys with which he had to share the deserted island, he was rendered virtually sightless when Jack stole and broke his glasses in his attempt to light a fire.

So, there he was, on an island, with shattered specs and no possible way of replacing them. At the time I just thought of this as an interesting plot device but it wasn't until I lost one of the lenses from my glasses that Piggy's plight rose to the surface of my consciousness. Suddenly, his literary difficulty became my reality.

And, true to the literary theme, my loss did take place in a suitably romantic setting but fortunately, without Piggy's somewhat unattractive death.

I had just prepared the vegetable garden. I had dug and raked the soil and had created



"...like those flattering bucolic photos taken with Vaseline on the lens..."

four, three metre long furrows in preparation for planting this year's crop of broad beans. I was following Kevin Heinz's instructions and had created a bed of mushroom compost along the rows in preparation for sowing the bean seeds.

The day was sunny, the wind, for once, wasn't blowing a gale and all was well with the world.

That is until the ground became strangely hazy. I looked up and noticed that the back garden looked like something out of a Victorian handbook. The edges of everything were slightly out of focus. The horse

in the paddock next door was ambling towards me looking very like one of those flattering bucolic photos taken with Vaseline on the camera lens designed to smooth away all the nasty irregularities of real farm life.

I raised my hand to shield my eyes from the sun to find that one of my specs' lenses was missing. With one lens missing it was obvious that I was not going to view the world as crisply as normal. But, at that moment, it didn't worry me. It had happened before and when it did I had switched to a spare pair of glasses and replaced the lens in a minute or two. But, like Piggy, I suddenly realised that I was on my own island and all my equipment was as far away as was Piggy's National Health optometrist.

Piggy was handed his shattered glasses and was, thereafter, forced to contemplate his literal and metaphorically crazed world.

My difficulty was less dramatic but no easier. First I had to find my missing lens. Easier said than done! As I have previously mentioned, I had just been digging and raking the soil and then had dug furrows so there were numerous nooks and crannies within which a sliver of glass could lurk. And I wasn't sure whereabouts on a nine square metre veggie bed it dropped. Nor, for obvious reasons, did I want to clod hop over the ground on the off chance of finding it.

With the speed of light I canvassed the possibilities, or lack of them. I could get down on hands and knees and feel around for it and run the risk of embedding or breaking it. I couldn't call on Herself for assistance as she was a two hour's drive away as were my spare pair of spectacles. And anyway, Herself wasn't planning on joining me for another four days.

It was at this stage in my deliberating that the incredulous comment of my optometrist echoed in my mind. "What do you mean you don't bother about carrying a spare pair with you at all times." And my confident answer, "Nah, I've never needed them. You just want to make another sale!"

And even if I did find the lens, how was I going to manipulate the tiny screw and screwdriver without the aid of another pair of spectacles?

So it was at this stage in my crisis that I did the only thing possible. I swore, long and loud.

"Is that you Roger?" Gary from next door. "I didn't realise you were here, until I heard you just then."

"Yeah, just gardening." "Me too. Burning off. Except I've run out of matches. You wouldn't have a lighter or even a magnifying lens. I'm a bit desperate."


I thought of Piggy and how life can imitate art in a blurry sort of way.

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Foreign invaders wander at will through our bushland

On the left hand side of Kangaroo Ground Road, as you approach Warrandyte from the north, there is a high rock of bright green succulents. I counted at least three species including a patch of the notorious prickly pear cactus. There are similar walls and banks of tumbling succulents along Everard Drive and Bradleys Lane and probably many other Warrandyte roads.

There are very good reasons for the succulents' prolificacy. These plants can grow in places where others cannot. They require little soil, little moisture and are virtually maintenance free. In addition, they smother most weeds.

But unfortunately, they themselves are weeds. Most come from the Americas and South Africa. And in that ironic twist of fate that faces a number of expatriate plants, some species are in danger of becoming extinct in their homeland. A result of that worldwide disease called habitat destruction.

As weeds, succulents are not a major problem except when they are dumped in garden rubbish at the edge of, or worse still in the middle of, the bush. This exact scenario occurred several years ago in a flora reserve at St Andrews, north of Warrandyte.

This particular bushland remnant, with its healthy balance of trees, shrubs and wildflowers, is as intact as any in the Melbourne region. In spring the hillside is liberally dotted with gold, orange and red bush peas, yellow wattles and carpets of cobalt blue



NATURE

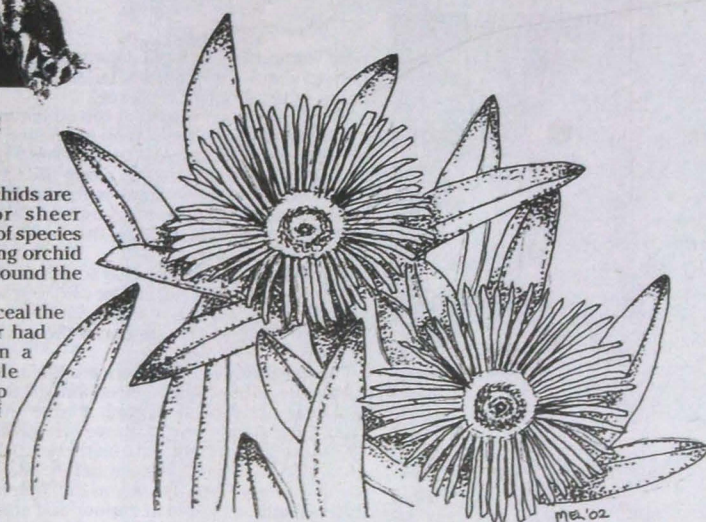
By PAT COUPAR
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

pinchussions. The orchids are something else. For sheer number and diversity of species it is unrivalled, drawing orchid obsessivists from around the state.

In an attempt to conceal the deed, the perpetrator had chosen a site down a slope and not visible from the road, to dump the soil—the bulk of which consisted of some kind of succulent. By the time it was discovered, weeds from the imported soil were already travelling downhill and barging their way through colonies of delicate orchids.

The soil and its cargo of weeds was eventually shifted. However, roots of the succulent, which snapped readily at stem level, had become embedded in the underlying pre-existing soil. On such a dry site it was impossible to extricate the whole plant—some parts were left behind and continued to grow and produce new plants. Several years later the succulent is still coming up at the site.

Despite suitable climate and soils, Australia has few native succulents. The most familiar are probably the pig faces—although not all of these are native. With leaves like plump green jelly beans and flowers



like big magenta daisies, most are generally found in coastal regions. There is, though, an inland species of pig face that grows in the Plenty Gorge and on rocky shallow sites downstream of Warrandyte.

The term succulent, as a definition, is elastic. Under its umbrella are thousands of species spread across many families—from the classic cactus including prickly pear, agave and aloe through sedums and stonecrops to tradescantia and agapanthus.

Of them all, only agapanthus has retained its popularity—much to my consternation (*Warrandyte Diary* 12/98)—and is still regularly planted along borders and driveways. Most other species have gone out of

fashion. Thankfully.

The curtains of succulents on roadside walls and banks around Warrandyte are well established and decades old. They may be redundant and not the plant of choice for the current landowner—private or otherwise. But the fact is, the plants are not easy to get rid of. Part of the succulent's strategy for success is its ability to grow from broken fragments of stem or leaf—they rarely propagate from seed—and trying to remove them may only spread the plant.

So, on reflection, perhaps they are best left where they are. Better anyway, than wreaking havoc through reserves of irreplaceable orchids.

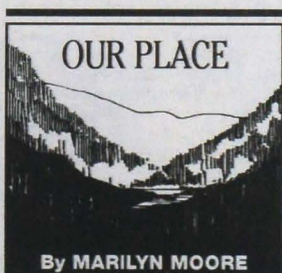
No memory of what you forget

DURING the drive home today, a brilliant idea for this month's column floated across the rain-drenched view out the windscreen. Blowed if I can remember what it was. Even if I'd managed to make a note of the brainwave before it escaped, I'd probably have forgotten where I wrote it. Then in six month's time, when a scratchy message turned up on the back of a take-away menu, nobody would have a clue who wrote it or what it meant.

At my tender age, it's a bit of a worry that the memory is about on a par with that of a dead camel. The joke about having Alzheimer's, not really funny at the best of times, is definitely past its use-by date. Better not to mention some things!

A visit to the Alzheimer's web site (www.alzvic.asn.au) is moderately reassuring. Most people, even older people, who blame Alzheimer's for their forgetfulness certainly don't have the disease.

But the range of memory failure that is classed as normal is a tad worrying. If this is normal, I want to go back to



OUR PLACE

By MARILYN MOORE

where I was before I got to be normal!

Apparently it's normal to forget to bake the ciabatta you especially bought to have with dinner. Everybody sits down to a bowl of steaming pasta, then "Where's the bread?" they wail in unison.

"In the oven," you confidently reply. "It won't be a minute." You clearly remember preheating the oven, arranging the ciabatta neatly on a tray and turning the timer on. When the buzzer goes, there is a rush to grab the hot bread. Only trouble is, the ciabatta is still sitting happily on the bench.

On this occasion, the family is alerted to the likelihood of hot bread by the presence of an

empty breadboard on the table, but nobody misses the lovely pile of broccoli and brussel sprouts that have been lovingly prepared for their benefit. They turn up next day when the hunt is on for the steamer.

Having to look for the steamer is OK because it's also normal to regularly misplace things. Even large saucepans.

Hopefully this OK status includes putting car keys in the bathroom cupboard, laundry detergent in the clothes dryer, wallet in the fridge, watch in the laundry detergent box, and so on.

These are, needless to say, some of the items that eventually surfaced. Presumably the fine line between "misplace" and "lose" falls neatly between the groups of things that have and haven't turned up (yet). Just keep finding those keys, good kiddies-of-mine—if you want your mother to remain normal, that is.

Another symptom of being normal is finding yourself halfway to Templestowe, and wondering how on earth you got there. Especially when you are on your way to Ringwood for an appointment. Hang on, is

that appointment today or tomorrow? The little white card should be somewhere here in my wallet. Or did I put it in my handbag? Maybe it was another handbag. Coat pocket? Not this one, anyway. I could phone the clinic if I'd remembered to bring the number. Or if I'd remembered to put the mobile phone on the charger.

Anyhow, it mightn't be Thursday. That bloke in the supermarket swore it was Wednesday, but it definitely feels like Thursday. Turning on the car radio doesn't provide an answer either. Announcers are good at station call signs and time and weather—all self-evident stuff—but not very helpful with dates. Maybe they're all normal too.

Which is probably why they can't remember their own names. The best they seem to be able to come up with are substitutes like Grubby, Timbo, Dee Dee, Bedders, Moron or Quarters.

Except, of course, on that other station (I'll think of its name in a second)—that breakfast announcer, oh damn, what's-his-name? Well, he's got a name. I think it's his name, anyway. I'll let you know.

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Bird bandits swoop!



Warrandyte's community garden looked a picture before a flock of sulphur-crested cockatoos moved in, ate their fill and wrecked the rest.



Who would have thought a gang of criminals would dare to wreck a community facility, right under the noses of the local police force?

It took place last month at the community garden. Senior Constable Kim Dixon happened to glance out of a side window at the station to see a large number of white cockatoos lined up along the fences next door, eyeing off the verdant vegetable plots.

She jokingly suggested to Sergeant Keith Walker, official patron of the garden, that he should go out and loose off a few rounds.

Bird lover Keith was uncharacteristically dismissive. "They won't do any harm," he said. (Or words to that effect.)

Half an hour later a number of the garden plots were in ruins.

The heartbroken gardeners are taking defensive action. Beds have been netted and glittering, rustling streamers have been erected. A large and threatening scarecrow stands sentry above one garden.

Keith is very relieved the feathered airborne attack didn't strike a month earlier. Before chief police commissioner Christine Nixon had officially inspected this splendid example of copper and community cooperation.

CLIFF GREEN



A number of defensive measures have been taken, including this scarecrow.



Pictures by JAN TINDALE and STEPHEN REYNOLDS

Bolero's

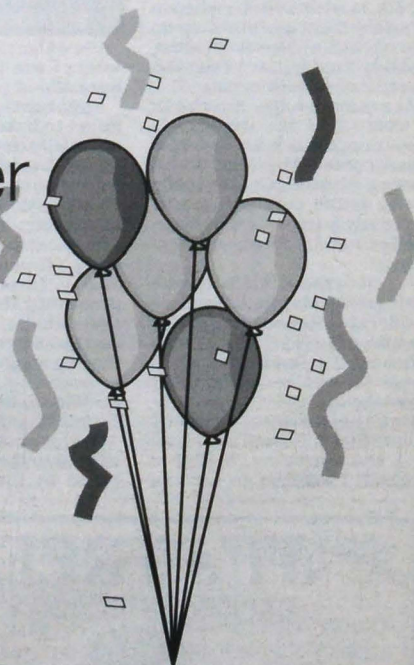
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Selective 'snapshot' history

THE writing of municipal histories has been something of a growth industry over the past decade or so. Stimulated by the 1994 "reforms" of local government in Victoria—which saw many old cities and shires wiped out or amalgamated into more efficient administrative units—many residents have hastened into print to record the histories of their vanished municipalities. Examples of this genre range from Phil Taylor's scholarly *Karkaroc: A Mallee Shire History, 1896–1995* (1996), to the more modest but none-the-less illuminating *Fitzroy Public Library 1877–1997: A History* by Carole Woods (2000). *Manningham: From Country to City* goes against this trend.

The City of Manningham is itself a product of the 1994 reorganisation of municipal boundaries and, with a past that goes back little more than seven years, would seem an unlikely subject for a history. But, whether through good luck or astute political lobbying, what is now the City of Manningham managed to avoid the major upheaval of amalgamation that afflicted its neighbouring local government areas. Today its boundaries follow closely—with a few minor excisions and the addition of the village of Wonga Park—those of the former City of Doncaster and Templestowe. The new municipality thus retains much of its previous integrity and sense of community. Perhaps it is in celebration of this good fortune that the city councillors commissioned this history.

However the authors of this history must have faced a daunting task; what can one make of what is now a uniformly bland middle-class dormitory corridor on the eastern outskirts of Melbourne to stimulate the reader? Fortunately, Barbara Pertzelt and Fiona Walters have been able to draw on some colourful episodes in the district's history to enliven their account. These episodes—the discovery of gold at Warrandyte in the 1850s and its subsequent exploitation; the

BOOK REVIEW

By RICHARD MORTON

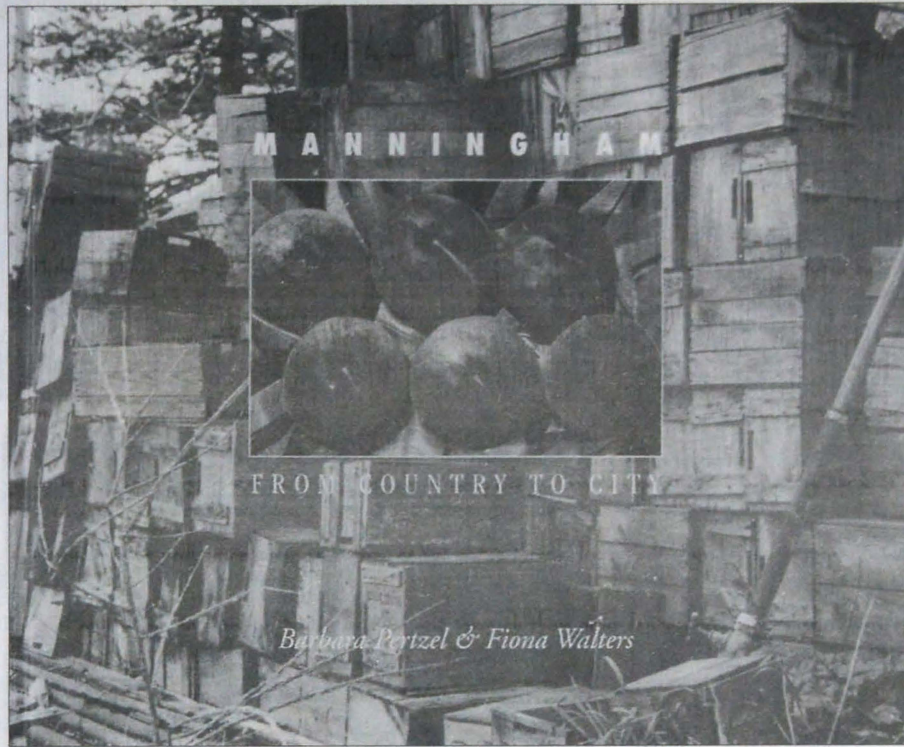
Manningham: From Country to City. By Barbara Pertzelt and Fiona Walters. Melbourne, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2001

development of orchards and market gardens in Doncaster and Templestowe later in the 19th century; and the celebration of the rural landscape by the plein air painters of the Heidelberg school and their successors—provide the backbone for the work. Chapters on "Settlement", "Environment" and "Community" flesh out the story.

The major strength of the book is that it has been able to illustrate it with exciting and evocative images—reproductions of paintings held in major collections; photographs, posters and other artifacts made available by local residents; and particularly the photographs and other images collected and documented so assiduously by the members of the Doncaster and Templestowe and Warrandyte historical societies. More recent photographs supplement these; those taken by Helen Penrose especially for this publication make a wry and perhaps unintended comment on the erosion of the natural environment and the banality of much of the domestic architecture that has replaced it.

One suspects that the commissioners of this work may have had a more ambitious project in mind, but that shortness of time and lack of finance thwarted their ambitions. Making a virtue of necessity, they and the writers have hit upon the happy strategy of writing a "snapshot" history based on questionnaires and oral history interviews.

This approach has the advantage of lending the text a bright human texture and of sparing the reader a dull



"institutional" history larded with the boring biographies of civic worthies. But it leaves the work open to the errors of memory that could have been corrected if more resources and time had been available for research and consultation. A few examples to illustrate these errors: on page 111 the artist Jim Wigley is called Bill Wigley, and Artec Halpern, one of the founding members of Potters Cottage in Warrandyte, is misnamed as "Arthur Halpern". A similar lapse occurs with the caption to the photograph facing page 41, which clearly belongs to a much earlier image in the collection of the Warrandyte Historical Society.

What purpose is this history intended to serve? In the foreword to the book, Cr Eisenbise suggests two intended audiences: "Those who have settled here recently will find much to interest them

and those who have been associated with the area for many years (or even generations) will find pleasure in revisiting memories of eras long past."

These two groups may well be satisfied with the result. Although one might question some of the design decisions—the wider than tall format that makes the book difficult to shelve and yet not grand enough to qualify as a "coffee table" volume; the attribution line to the captions in such minuscule type as to be almost illegible; and the weird font used for the sub-headings that similarly contributes to eye strain—*Manningham* is certainly attractively produced and its many stunning illustrations seduce the casual browser.

But Cr Eisenbise also suggests a more serious academic purpose—"to present a formal

municipal history within the context of Victorian and Australian history"—and here the book clearly falls short. Some readers no doubt will applaud the lack of a "formal municipal history" if this means they are spared a boring catalogue of mayors and corporations, but there is little mention of some of the fateful and often contentious decisions that have helped to shape the suburban environment in which we now live. In a commissioned history we cannot expect a critical analysis of the fatal mixture of incompetence, self-interest and philistinism that has characterised so many earlier council policies, but more mention could have been made of issues that have impacted on the various communities within the municipality.

The inclusions here are selective. Considerable space is

given to the disputes over the decision to construct the Eastern Freeway through the municipality. The battle to save Westerfolds Estate from subdivision is also covered in some detail. But the fight by other early residents groups, such as the Warrandyte Environment League, to preserve the amenity of the district, the battle for the concept of a "green wedge", resistance to "dual occupancy", and rating and subdivision policies that have seen the obliteration of the orchards celebrated in this book with piecemeal development that makes insufficient provision for public open space, are ignored.

In the area of "context" the book is also deficient. Fascinating hints are given of early settlement policies but these are not elaborated. We learn, for example, that Wonga Park was founded in 1893 as the "Eight-Hour Village Settlement", and yet we are told nothing of the social and economic circumstances prevailing during the depression of the 1890s that saw this and numerous other village settlements established in Victoria as a measure to alleviate urban unemployment. Nor do we learn much about the extent of soldier settlement in the district following the First World War. These and other failings to explore the social context will seriously limit the appeal of this book for the student of local and municipal history.

One of the few bright beacons in the study of history is the burgeoning interest in local and family history. To match this interest in our own municipality, and to move our knowledge of the past beyond the anecdotal and the superficial, there is an urgent need for a well-researched and documented history. Unfortunately, because it tries to do too much with too little, this book is not it.

(Longtime Warrandyte resident Dr Richard Morton is editor of the Victorian Historical Journal.)



Death of a local hero

ONE of Warrandyte's best known residents died recently, aged 88 years. Alexander Dale Edwards was born in Warrandyte in 1913, the first child of Alexander Dale and Louisa Edwards of Hodsons Road.

Alex was interviewed by the *Diary* in 1999. He told our reporter:

"We lived near the corner of Harris Gully and Gold Memorial roads. There were two permanent houses and three weekenders there at the time. Dad had a poultry farm first. He went to the First World War and when he returned he became a builder."

Alex attended the local primary school, starting in 1919. "Mary Aumann, from the orchard up on Harris Gully Road, took me to school on the first day. The school had one room. I had boots on but a lot of the children had bare feet. There was one teacher for 40 children for all grades. When I left there were three teachers."

Alex completed his formal education at the Caulfield Institute of Technology. He began his working life as an apprentice plumber and builder, often riding a bicycle from Warrandyte to Ringwood, then to Bayswater or Ferntree Gully, depending on where the job was for that day or week.

Work was scarce during Depression, so Alex and his brother Ernest left Warrandyte and found work as fruit

pickers and fencing contractors in and around Mildura. "We came home with 20 pounds each, which was a lot of money in those days. I went back to pick grapes a second time and stayed there for six years. We camped and trapped rabbits and cooked them. We also sold them for threepence a pair. We'd get 50 pair a night using traps. I came home in 1939, just after the fires, to help my father rebuild."

When the Second World War broke out, Alex joined the army at its very beginning, in November 1939. He enlisted in the 2/7th Infantry Battalion, 6th Division, AIF. Among the first Australian troops sent overseas, he saw action in Libya, Greece, Crete, Ceylon and New Guinea. "They reamed us on Crete with loose ammunition. We had to load one bullet at a time. We had no water bottles. The Germans parachuted on us. We counter attacked. There were only 11 men left in our platoon."

He commanded a pioneer unit in New Guinea, constructing an airstrip under the most difficult conditions. He survived 1240 service days overseas and was awarded the MBE for his sterling service. He also received the Desert Star and various service medals and was demobbed in 1945.

Following the war, Alex returned to Warrandyte and married Audrey Miller, his loving wife for 54 years. "As a small child Audrey lived in Kia Ora, which was demolished by the floods. Scandles, the candle shop, is now on that site. In the 1930s Audrey lived at the Recreation Reserve, in the building later known as the Whitehouse."

They purchased land and commenced building their home. "I built our house and workshop on Yarra Street in 1947. We had two sons and a daughter. Our house had a one-fire stove, open fire and ice chest. Jack Keep delivered the ice."

During his working life after the war, Alex built many houses in Warrandyte and surrounding areas. He also built the Uniting Church in Taroona Avenue, Gedge's chemist shop and residence (now Spencer Martin Real Estate), and the RSL clubrooms in Brackenbury Street.

Alex enjoyed many hobbies over the years. Fishing was an annual Christmas pursuit down at Phillip Island, and bee-keeping became an all-year interest. "I retired in 1972 and I kept a large vegetable garden which people often stopped to admire." His family remembered the pots of strawberries to be picked for tea, as well as his giant pumpkins.

Due to deteriorating health, Alex spent his last nine months being cared for at Templestowe Grange aged care facility. His funeral was held in Doncaster and was attended by surviving comrades from the 2/7th Battalion, members of Warrandyte RSL, his near and extended family and longtime friends.

Alex Edwards is survived by his wife Audrey, children Ivon and Louise and grandchildren Nicole, Julia, Belinda and Mark.

(Compiled from material written by Louise Dannals, Robyn Jeans and Rachel Baker.)

Alex and Audrey Edwards.
(Picture by Robyn Jeans)

Travelling the world with Sandy

By CLINTON GRYBAS

For Warrandyte expats living interstate or overseas, Sandy Burgoyne is a vital link in helping them stay in touch with important issues back home. For the last four years she's been the *Diary's* internet editor, delivering village news to displaced locals across the globe via the world wide web.

"I get fantastic feedback," she said. "People who are travelling, people who have moved overseas permanently or temporarily. I get great e-mail from a family in Singapore where the husband has been posted. They are a globe-trotting family and they love being able to look at the *Diary* on-line."

All of the *Diary's* essential elements are there, from an animated Clyde and Ocker greeting to the newspaper's photographs appearing in full colour. With an easy to negotiate index and links to local community and sporting groups, interest in the site is growing rapidly. It now attracts hundreds of "hits" each month.

"Occasionally I do get some strange e-mails from people overseas," Sandy said. "One bloke sent me an e-mail saying I'm moving to Warrandyte shortly and it's good to get into the groove of the community before I get there."

"We now have many people subscribing to our mailing list, where they automatically get an e-mail informing them when the new *Diary* is on-line."

That is usually in the same week as locals back home get their hands on the latest

printed copy, Sandy downloading the information electronically and scanning the illustrations and photographs.

Sandy has a particular interest in photos appearing in the *Diary*. She has been one of the *Diary's* leading photographers for the last 23 years.

The *Diary* web site, which can



Sandy Burgoyne

be viewed at www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy, contains special software that allows it to be accessed by those who are vision impaired.

When Sandy isn't snapping pictures or downloading files she's busy making the *Diary* the subject of her Master of Arts research thesis. As we announced in our last issue, she still wants to hear from readers with their memories, reminiscences, anecdotes and opinions of the *Diary*. She can be reached, electronically of course, at diarystories@bigpond.com.au.



Dramatic festivities

The inaugural Warrandyte Theatre Festival was a "huge success", according to organiser Sue Dyring. "I believe it's potential is unlimited," she told the *Diary*.

Organised by the Warrandyte Theatre Company, the festival was staged on Saturday, June 15 in the Warrandyte Mechanics Hall.

As well as the local drama group, the Waverley Theatre Company entered a production, "Barney". Adjudicator, Mr David Small, awarded this production three prizes: best staging, best male actor (Steve Karandais) and best play.

Warrandyte Theatre Company entered five pieces.

"Chux 'n' Tux", by local Keryn Wood, took four awards: best theatrical work, best original work (Keryn Wood), best director (Sue Dyring) and best female actor (Jan Nance).

The Warrandyte Theatre Company is considering making the festival an annual event.

An accompanying arts and crafts show, staged by the WAA painting, pottery and craft groups and held in the community centre foyer, rounded out the weekend. It was also declared a success.

Pictures by SANDY BURGOPYNE

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For the next six months, individuals and community groups from Warrandyte can hire the space in the Community Centre for just half price
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Warrandyte Neighbourhood Chemist

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Warrandyte Ph: 9844 2029

Want not, waste not

Manningham council's environmental seminar for August will be on Thursday, August 1 commencing at 7.30pm. The seminar, entitled "Sustainable Living" will be conducted by Keith Jesse from the Centre for Education and Research for Environmental Strategies in Brunswick. It will focus on organic waste disposal, recycling and environmental building. Seminars are held at the Currawong Bush Park Conference Room, Reynolds Road, Doncaster East.

Annual

Information Warrandyte is holding its annual general meeting on Wednesday, August 14 at 8pm at the Warrandyte Community Centre. Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm prior to the meeting. All are welcome.

Concert

The Warrandyte Senior Citizens Concert Party Group would like to invite all their friends to their new monthly musical afternoons on the third Sunday of every month. Join in for a singalong, dancing, a cuppa and chat commencing at 1.30pm. The July afternoon will be on Sunday, July 21

Volunteers

Legacy are looking for volunteers to spend a few hours as volunteer collectors for the Legacy Week Badge Appeal which takes place from September 1 to 7. Please phone 9663 3564 if you can help.

Seniors

Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club will be holding their 2002 annual general meeting on Thursday, August 1 commencing at 12noon at the clubrooms in Taroona Avenue. Nominations are called for both officers and committee members.

Dance

The next monthly dance organised by the South Warrandyte Social Dance



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 the last Friday in the month.

Committee will be held at the South Warrandyte hall in Hall Road on Saturday, July 13. Old time and new vogue dancing commences at 8pm. Cost is \$7 and tea and coffee are supplied. Enquiries to 9723 3892.

Historical

The Warrandyte Historical Society's annual general meeting will be held in their museum in Yarra Street, Warrandyte on Sunday, July 21 commencing at 2pm. Anyone interested will be most welcome. There will be a guest speaker and afternoon tea will be provided. Further information from Lisa on 0409 190017.

Participation

Panton Hill Living and Learning Centre are running a Women's Participation Program every Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm for 10 weeks from July 31. Activities will be decided by the participants, but half of each session will involve a group discussion led by a guest speaker. Cost is \$3.80 per session including free childcare and the cost of activities. For further information ring 9439 3463.

Auditions

Auditions for Warrandyte Theatre Company's September play will be held at the Mechanics Institute Hall in Yarra Street, Warrandyte at 2pm on Sunday, July 21. The group will cordially welcome any newcomers.



Emerald showed her prowess on the piano at a music recital at Warrandyte Primary School.

Recently, in the music room of Warrandyte Primary, the students from the Warrandyte and District Community Music Program performed music recitals.

"It was great to see families and friends come along to enjoy the music and celebrate with the students their achievements throughout the semester in piano, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, drums, cornet and violin," a school spokesperson told the *Diary*.

Dedicated instrumental teachers offer high quality programs to all in the community.

"It is a pleasure to see secondary students, parents and young students perform together," the spokesperson said. "We appreciated the performances by past primary students who are in their last few years of secondary school."

Concert

"Blue Sky, Fair Weather" is a concert of classical music, both old and new to be performed by the Eltham Concert Band on Saturday, August 17 at 8pm at the Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School Performing Arts Centre, Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe. Soloist is Janis Cook who will play Mozart's Piano Concerto No 21 and a new work "Rhapsody for Solo Piano" composed for her by Warrandyte composer Barry McKimm. Other items include another piece by Barry McKimm commissioned by Eltham College in 1996. The concert and associated master class by Janis Cook is part of the

ARTYFACTS



Banyule Festival. Tickets and enquiries to Sue Boyle on 9844 2683.

Embroidery

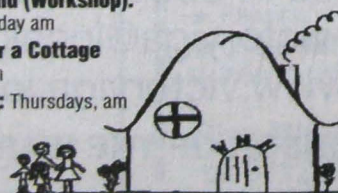
"Indigo", an exhibition of the blue and white embroideries of Sichuan, will be held at the Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, between July 12 and August 11. There will be embroidery workshops on Wednesday, July 17 and Saturday, July 20. Call 9840 9367 for further information.

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House

— TERM 3 COURSES

- Yoga:** Mondays pm, Thursdays pm
- Belly Dancing:** Tuesdays pm, Wednesdays am
- Strong Women Stay Young:** Tuesdays am, Fridays am
- Kids Drawing:** Mondays am, Tuesdays am
- Adult Writing:** Wednesdays pm
- Warrandyte Writers:** Fridays pm (monthly)
- Warrandyte Walkers:** Mondays am
- Friday Lunch Group:** Fridays am (monthly)
- Tai Chi (Day):** Fridays am
- Tai Chi (Night):** Tuesdays pm
- Lizzie's Craft Group:** Thursdays am
- Ribbon Roses Workshop:** Wednesday am
- Arthritis Management:** Tuesdays pm
- African Dance:** Saturdays, pm
- Astrology Workshop:** Saturday pm
- Creating Your Own Website:** Saturdays am
- Returning to the Workforce:** Fridays pm
- How to Save, Budget & Prosper on a limited income (Workshop)** Thursday pm or Saturday am
- Developing the Joyful Juggler-balancing Your Busy Life (Workshop):** Monday am
- Giving Nature a Hand (Workshop):** Thursday am or Saturday am
- Colorful Natives for a Cottage Garden:** Tuesdays am
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Redbacks regroup for finals assault

Road show reaps its rewards

By TONY OLIVER

The mid-season break in the junior championship basketball competition has allowed the Warrandyte sides to regroup and in some cases allow players to recover from injury.

After 11 rounds, the Under-12 Metro 1 boys team coached by Damian Arsenis are sitting in second spot on eight wins, the first defeat of competition leaders Nunawading among their achievements.

The 31-28 Round 9 victory came in somewhat controversial circumstances and was followed by a 42-35 loss to middle-of-the-table side Knox the following week. Next up were third-placed Diamond Valley and the Redbacks started well, good passing creating opportunities and Daniel Hughes rebounding strongly and scoring valuable baskets.

Diamond Valley slowly picked up their game, however, and cut Warrandyte's lead to two points at half-time.

The second half saw Diamond Valley lift their game and quickly run to a four-point lead.

Warrandyte came back with a three-pointer from Shaun Turner and some excellent work by Andrew Clough, who scored back-to-back baskets, but Diamond Valley were not about to lie down and two shots from the charity line saw the scores locked together.

With seconds to go, Jordan Beltramin found himself free under the basket and made no mistake to get the Redbacks home in another close call.

Although they are clear in second place, their percentage of 106 — the second-lowest among the top five — reflects their habit of figuring in tight finishes.

While the boys side are performing well, a critical time is ahead for each of the three girls Metro sides, who face make-or-break challenges.

The Under-12 Metro 1 girls are sitting



The Redbacks Under-10 girls narrowly beaten in the grand final of the Queen's Birthday Whittlesea tournament. Back row (from left): Eleanor Cousens, coach Anne Cousens, Hannah Bensch, Alexandra Drohan, Sophie Richardson. Front: Amber Sounders, Emerald Shields, Kelly Peters.

sixth and starting to put it together after a couple of recent indifferent performances.

Round 11 saw them away to against second-placed Cranbourne, down to six players and having to call on the services of Bonney Jones.

Ashlee Collins and Courtney Petalas were very strong in offence and Kirra Solty's height caused problems for the home team in rebounding situations.

A highlight of this clash was the excellent performance by the referees, who controlled the game well and allowed the match to flow.

Warrandyte were able to control play

and, although the final margin was just 29-24, were always in control and appear to have turned the corner.

A good second half of the season will see them as strong finals contenders.

More worrying is the fate of the Under-16 girls, who have turned in some strong performances after an indifferent opening to the season. They have, however, suffered a cruel run of illness and injuries to four key players — Louise Yates (appendix), Sarah Bensch (back), Libby Lavery (ankle) and Danielle Curavic (hand).

Meeting top teams Dandenong and Cranbourne in the two latest rounds

has not helped and the team have slumped to ninth.

Coach Lorraine Parfitt was desperately hoping the July break would enable the team to return to something like full strength.

The Under-18 girls have had a roller-coaster season so far, opening with four straight wins then compounding with six losses and some very individualistic and lack-lustre basketball.

Nick Peters, who took over as coach when Emma Wood stood down because of other commitments, has had some impact and oversaw a 35-26 win over lowly Melbourne in Round 11.

Best on court were Jess Kemp, with a strong offensive performance that yielded eight points, closely followed by Kim Singh and Simone Gemmell.

A pleasing aspect of this effort was the sustained focus from the girls. This will need to continue and the intensity level to lift.

Peters also has charge of the other Under-16 North West side and may have problems balancing his commitments.

On a positive note, tall forward Jenna Hardy is making her comeback from a series of illnesses and this added height, along with other tall Sam Smith and Anna Middleton, should give the Redbacks control under the basket. Other Warrandyte results for the North West Conference:

Under-12 boys (coach Frank Gatti) defeated Keilor 42-23.

Under-14(1) boys (Ian Wood) defeated Whittlesea 29-27.

Under-14(2) boys (Jerrod Gibson) lost to Broadmeadows 37-25.

Under-16(1) boys (Gavin Whitmore) drew with Collingwood 41-41.

Under-16(2) boys (Nigel Walsham) lost to Broadmeadows 45-16.

Under-18 boys (Norm Dunn) defeated Port Melbourne by 10 points.

Under-16 girls (Nick Peters) lost to Sunbury 44-23.

U-17 girls sitting pretty

By TONY OLIVER

The school holidays also marked the halfway point of the Saturday EDJBA winter season, with Warrandyte teams reflecting on mixed fortunes in their respective campaigns.

The A-grade Under-17 girls are sharing top spot with Balwyn in a bunched field, their latest outing producing a big win over Eltham at Warrandyte High School.

With regular coach Nick Peters unavailable because of a clash of games, Michelle Smith took over and saw an injury to fast guard Simone Gemmell put a dampener on a good start.

Gemmell fell heavily when attempting an intercept and took no further part in the game.

Still, the Redbacks' speed was starting to worry Eltham and Chelsea Ransom and Stef Smith were able to score from broken play.

Warrandyte's defence tightened up with the injection of Bec Parson and Tori Oliver into the game. Parsons in particular was having a top game with strong defensive rebounds and good offensive work.

A fast break by Oliver and a quick pass to Smith allowed Warrandyte to

take a comfortable 12-point lead into the break.

The game was getting more physical and although the early part of the second stanza was tight, Warrandyte were able to pull away and ran out surprisingly easy winners 44-24.

The A-grade competition has developed into a two-horse race between Warrandyte and Balwyn, who have often had the wood on the Redbacks and beat them comfortably earlier in the season.

Since then however, Warrandyte have started to pull together, demolishing the third-placed Nunawading Vikings 44-15 in Round 9.

The Under-15 girls are sitting mid-table, winning some and losing some. They are struggling with injuries and could field only six in the Round 10 clash with Balwyn.

Two of those were returning from injury and it was perhaps surprising that Balwyn led by only three points (19-16) at the break. Louise Yates and Hannah Massingham were putting the score on the board for Warrandyte and Gina Oliver and Danielle Curavic were outstanding in defence.

The game was still close midway through the second half when Oliver

went down heavily in a defensive move.

She was helped off the court and played no further part in the game and her departure unsettled the Redbacks, who were never able to regain focus and went down 44-25.

In the boys competition, the Under-19s are enjoying a successful season but are struggling with injury and loss of personnel to school camps.

Only five players were available against Bulleen Templestowe in a battle for clear second place on the ladder.

With Hayden Wall strong under the basket and in defence, Warrandyte led by five points at the break. The second half was tight, but Warrandyte were running out of energy. A number of them were playing out of position, with Jake Templeton having to take on the guard role.

Although they led for most of the game, the Redbacks could not sustain the effort, going down by 42-38.

Despite the defeat, Warrandyte remain in strong contention for the B-grade flag. Most of the team are playing up an age group and are benefiting from the stronger competition.



Come play with the
Warrandyte Redbacks

The summer Saturday basketball season runs during Term 4 2002 and Term 1 2003 with age groups from Under-8 to Under-20 in boys and girls. Registration Day is on Saturday July 27 at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre between 9am and 5pm.

For further details contact Tony Oliver on 9844 4287

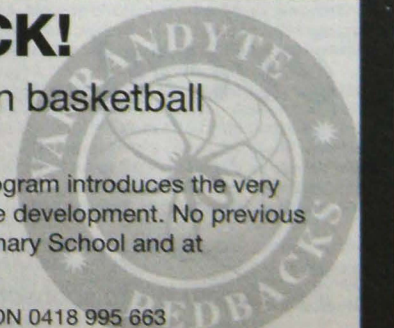


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Ballistyx grab Greyburn glory



Left: Winners all! Ballistyx celebrate their third Greyburn Cup. Back row (from left): Steve Killey, Paul Aspin, Ashley Grybas, Dave Bolton, Gavin Eddy. Front: Nick Fraraccio, Mark Solomon, Ron David.



Right: The PP Champs, who made it 12 from 17. Back (from left): Michelle Dawson, Briony Clarke, Cathy Lynch. Front: Amanda McLellan, Rebecca Leslie.

● More basketball Page 17

By CLINTON GRYBAS

A brilliant start and a powerful finish delivered the Ballistyx men's basketball team their third Greyburn Cup last month as the curtain came down on Warrandyte's senior competitions.

Ballistyx defeated Warrandyte 43-24 in the grand final, denying Warrandyte their first premiership since 1996.

Ashley Grybas (14 points) set up the win, scoring back-to-back three-point baskets as Ballistyx shot to a 15-3 lead after just 10 minutes.

With Ron David (eight points) and Gavin Eddy (seven) also contributing

in attack, the margin was 25-10 at half-time and Ballistyx had one hand firmly on the Cup in their third straight appearance in the grand final.

"We shut down Warrandyte early, which was pretty important," Ballistyx captain Dave Bolton said later. "We kept them below their best and shot at a good percentage ourselves, so I guess to a degree we were a bit lucky."

Warrandyte skipper Steve Doyle (10 points) led a fightback of sorts in the second half, reducing the deficit to 29-18 with plenty of time remaining. But any thoughts of a drought-breaking

premiership disappeared as their shooting percentage remained as low as the temperature inside the frosty stadium.

While Ballistyx were minor premiers, Warrandyte were thankful just to be playing in the decider. They stunned defending champions the Fakers in the preliminary final, getting home by two points when Shane Johnson scored a tough basket from the top of the key as the siren sounded. But Johnson failed to fire in the big one.

Perennial winners the PP Champs did it again in the women's Grand Hotel

Cup, claiming it for the 12th time in the 17-year history of the competition.

It was another very comfortable win, too, a 67-25 triumph over first-time finalists the Warrans.

Rebecca Leslie (18 points), Amanda McLellan (15), Michelle Dawson (15) and Cathy Lynch (12) led the scoring onslaught while Briony Clarke dominated the rebounds.

Shannon Chapman (nine) top-scored for the Warrans, whose slender hopes disappeared when Shannon Fitzpatrick injured an ankle.

In the over-30 men's B Division final,

the Plastics beat River Rats 55-43. Tony Lumsden scored 23 points for Plastics and Mike McCormack led the Rats with 13.

The Rats' John Skidmore shared the Cup's Most Valuable Player Award with Jon Moore, while Tracy Newstead won the women's crown. Grybas, Lumsden and Leslie were named players of the finals in their respective divisions.

The summer season begins on Wednesday, July 17 (men) and Thursday, July 18 (women). For entry details contact Steve Doyle (0418 370389) or Terri Slabon (0417 332148).

Come along and support a great local event...

Pub Power vs Warrandyte Football Club

Girls Football Match



Saturday 20th July at 5pm (under lights) after Warrandyte Seniors take on Mooroolbark

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The **Pub Power** players are on a mission to raise money and awareness for CPEC (Cerebral Palsy Education Centre) and Kids with Cancer and thanks to the generous support of our local business community the "girls are kicking goals" not only at practice.

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Bloods' day of shame!

Division 4 beckons as Kilsyth crush us

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club flung themselves on to the razor's edge of despised relegation to EFL Fourth Division with a shocking performance at home to Kilsyth on July 6.

This was the Bloods' "grand final", the one they had to win to put space between themselves and the cellar-dwelling visitors at the bottom of the ladder.

A game and 20.85 percentage points clear, the anticipated victory would have virtually assured us of continued occupancy of Division 3 in 2003.

But our first-ever trip to Division 4 — and there is nothing beyond that — became a very real and very scary possibility as Warrandyte capitulated without a whimper.

They managed just 2.9 for the day. Sure, conditions weren't the best. Sure, it blew a half-gale from the supermarket end. But Kilsyth made light of it as they amassed 14.7.

The wind didn't blow the Bloods away — Kilsyth did! And you left the ground wondering why the visitors had won only one of their first 12 games — yes, against Warrandyte in Round 4.

They were very good — or at least made to appear so by one of Warrandyte's most inept efforts in memory.

Approached for a post-game comment, coach Scott Hunter said: "Use as many expletives as you like. It was disgusting, embarrassing.

"They (Kilsyth) came here today determined to stay in Third Division — just as we were. But they wanted it much more and we chased arses all day."

WFC president Noel Taplin said it was now purely up to the players to ensure that the club spent next season in Third Division.

"We've just got to band together and get some wins on

the board," he said.

If losing the game wasn't bad enough, losing by such a whopping margin certainly was, eroding our last lifeline — the percentage factor — to just 10.34.

It means that every kick, every handball, every tackle, every behind, every goal is going to be critical in a last-man-standing run to the end of the home-and-away season.

The first quarter against Kilsyth gave little indication of the carnage that was to follow — although it was bad enough, Warrandyte managing just two behinds to 3.3 against the wind.

The opening was typical of an encounter between two teams fighting for survival — desperate and free of finesse. It took Kilsyth 10 wind-assisted minutes to get on to the scoreboard, with a goal from a scrimmage in the square, and Warrandyte 13 minutes to register their first behind.

Mistakes were not merely creeping into the Bloods' game — they were already starting to dominate it and their rare sorties into attacking territory were amounting to nothing.

But containment was at this stage the name of the Bloods' game and despite consistently running second in the race for the ball, they managed to keep the floodgates closed.

Those gates sprang a leak 18 minutes in when Kilsyth goaled from an angle and opened a little close to the siren, allowing them to take a 19-point lead into the first change.

Coach Hunter spoke in the huddle of taking a lead into the long break with the wind at our back — but it was Kilsyth who drew first blood in the second term, taking the decisive road home while Warrandyte fiddled, fumbled, fell over and picked out opponents with pinpoint accuracy.

Four behinds were all we could muster before Mick



Here's cheers from the littlies

There have been bigger football cheer squads, but maybe none younger — nor cuter.

These are the Ryan kids — Bradley (left, son of David and Maddy), his cousin Casey (daughter of Terry and Lisa), Bradley's sister Gemma and Casey's sister Jade. Lifelong and devoted Bloods supporters at ages 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively. Grandparents John and Julie Ryan are among the most stalwart of Warrandyte Football Club stalwarts and this new generation will guarantee the maintenance of this commendable one-eyed tradition on the terraces. That's David (far left), Terry and Maddy Ryan in the background of Jan Tindale's picture.

McCormack was brought down heavily at 23 minutes and steered through our first goal. Was this to be the start of something big? No.

At half-time it was 4.4 (28) to 1.6 (12) — by no means a huge margin, but formidable enough in the context of the game so far.

The Warrandyte faithful had already turned their heated attention to the umpires, who had yellow-carded three Bloods — including gun full-forward Stuart Wynd — and Wynd's opponent to the sinbin.

Kilsyth had indeed had the better of the free-kick count, but it's a football axiom that when you consistently play in front you're going to win the ball and the penalties.

You sensed the Bloods' ears were still ringing from a half-

time haranguing from the coach when hostilities resumed and things looked briefly promising as they attacked — albeit with little conviction — against the wind.

But from a Warrandyte viewpoint, the less said about the rest of the game the better.

Kilsyth's seemingly over-bulked forward line snapped into action and it started to rain goals. From the four-minute mark they added 6.2 and conceded the Bloods not a Mintie wrapper!

The three-quarter time scoreline told a woeful story: Kilsyth 10.6 (66), Warrandyte 1.6 (12).

A furious Hunter told his troops they were heading for Fourth Division and spoke of "spineless, cowardly football — a style which would maybe suit

Fourth Division". Assistant coach John O'Brien told them if they had no pride in their performance they should at least have pride in the jumper they were wearing.

But the final term produced another Kilsyth onslaught — four goals into the wind punctuated only by an accurate snap by Adam Barlow at six minutes.

It was as difficult to find good players for Warrandyte as it was easy to list their goal-kickers. But those who could

walk off the field at the end without blushing included Aidan Davey, Dale Vitritti, Stewart Rough, Rick Templeton, Warren Ruehland and Dean Hunter.

The Reserves were infinitely more competitive, going down by eight points — 8.15 (63) to 8.7 (55) — and are still in the finals race, although the defeat has somewhat dented their prospects.

Their best were David Young, Glen Carle, Craig Lincoln and John Rough.

Be the belle or the bull of the ball

The highlight of Warrandyte Football Club's social calendar — the annual Gala Ball — will be held on Saturday, July 13, at the Hawthorn Social Club.

It will be a night to remember and tickets are still available from secretary James Logan on 0411 223418.

Ronaldo, Rivaldo — now Morello

So who'd do this for a bunch of kids? Gavan Costin would

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

It is a typical Warrandyte Sunday morning — cold and wet outside, but very snug under the doona. Who'd drag himself out of bed to go and watch 100-odd little kids run around on a footy ground?

Meet Gavan Costin. He does. Costin is coordinator of Auskick, the launching pad for football careers. This is where kids first learn to kick, handball and enjoy team sport.

It is also the place they first learn to enjoy playing in the mud — and where their mums learn the benefits of the various fabric softeners on the market.

And it is the local venue of one of the biggest organised children's sporting events in Australia.

About 100 kids revel in organised chaos at the Warrandyte Recreation Reserve each Saturday morning in the season, with parents yelling encouragement. Gavan Costin is the bloke in the middle of the park with the whistle and the harassed look.

"Auskick numbers have

been building progressively in Warrandyte," he said. "Two years ago we had about 70 registered players and we have up to 100 this year. The growth does not look like slowing in the next couple of years."

Teaching and developing football skills is the focus of the program, but it is important that the youngsters have exercise in their routine.

"The sessions go from 9am to 10.30," said Costin. "We break the morning into two parts: a series of skills sessions — kicking, handballing et cetera — and a practice game."

"The large group is broken into nine or 10 sub-groups per session so everyone gets maximum attention from the parents who volunteer to help out. The mums and dads are

fantastic and I think they have as much fun as the kids.

Under Auskick rules, at least two Level 1 coaches must oversee the skills sessions and the children must at all times be safe and treated with respect and care.

"We have a very good relationship with the Warrandyte Junior Football Club, with some of our children playing in the Under-9s and Under-10s on Sunday mornings," Costin said.

"We regularly talk to the junior coaches to identify areas in which we can improve what we do to enhance the kids' football and team skills."

"The juniors have donated football jumpers and we couldn't be more helpful to ensure we are successful in anything we do," Costin said.

Juniors kick up their heels

Warrandyte Junior Football Club will hold their annual Dinner Dance on Friday, July 26, at Alfred's Homestead.

"This is the chance for all supporters and sponsors to get together to celebrate the spirit and success of the club," said president Mathew Matheou.

Tickets are \$35 a head and are available from Matheou (0418 542434) or secretary Kevin O'Mara (9844 2964).

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

It may not be the World Cup, but Warrandyte Junior Football Club captain Michael Morello is having just about as much impact on the local competition as the other "Big Os", Ronaldo and Rivaldo.

The record-breaking full-forward kicked eight goals in the recent Colts 1 win over traditional rivals Surrey Park in the Yarra Junior Football League.

"He was just unstoppable," said co-coach Shaun Wilson. "He'd had a few quiet games because of injury and school pressure, but he just exploded against Surrey Park."

"Michael just led from the front and long-term players such as Rene Pidgeon, Josh McKellar, Tommy Naughtin and Alan Garreffa and recent recruit Haydn Moyes responded magnificently."

It has been a long season for this undermanned squad, but a few more results like that could see them in the finals.

Colts 2 coach Oliver Doederlein is full of praise for the efforts of his squad — with particular mention for Troy Konrad, Jarrod Boyce and Callum Dunsford — for keeping in touch with the pacesetters.

The team have struggled for numbers but are likely to have a big say on the composition of the final four.

The Under-15s are firmly entrenched in the four and shaping as genuine premierships prospects.

"We need to keep the boys concentrating on their game and we will be unbeatable," said coach Bruce Corrigan.

The skills of Under-15 player James Singh have been recognised by his selection along with teammate Shaun Carter in a Yarra representative team to play two Queensland sides at the Gabba this month.

"This type of experience is priceless for these two boys and we look forward to learning from them," said team manager Bill Christopher.

The Under-14s are sitting just outside the four on a 5/6 win/loss ratio and are capable of anything. Such players as Scott Allwood, Beau Tobin, Hamish Hoskins and Luke Ezbery continue to make a big impression.

The Under-13s recently celebrated in style after their first win of the season. It was long-overdue — the boys had been on the wrong end of some close calls and had figured in a draw.

They are now justifying the innovative coaching of the Pellegrino brothers earlier in the season and more recently Sid Saunders.

James Riddell is on target to take his Under-12s into the finals in his first season of coaching.

They are playing a brand of football beyond their years and blending teamwork with individual flair. They are also role models on the score of sportsmanship and behaviour both on and off the field.

Battle-weary Under-11s coach Wayne Moore says his boys' greatest enemy is over-confidence. "They are capable of playing exceptional football but seem to get distracted by their success," he said.

A recent one-point loss to third-placed Bundoora has hurt the Under-11s' finals chances, but the team continue to showcase the talents of such players as Matthew Faulkingham, Sam Fisher, Sean Mason, David Beasley, Robbie Bowen and Nicholas Moore.

At 4/7, the Under-10s will need luck to make the finals but showed their potential and courage by coming from 10 points down against Fitzroy in the mud to get home by three. Jordan Beltramin and Alexi Sabo played well all day and Ethan Hale-Vaughan weaved his way through heavy traffic to kick the winning goal on the siren.

The Under-9s continue to shine while at the same time showing how to really enjoy a game of football, such players as Jacob Ballard, Jarrod Buzzini, Kurtis Potter and Kieran Sproule-Carroll developing their skills with every game.



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WARRANDYTE

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LEANNE is one of the most respected property managers in the eastern suburbs. Her experience in Warrandyte spans 14 years and her dedication to providing outstanding service to clients has resulted in the development of a busy and vibrant property management department at Wilson McDougall & Associates. Satisfied clients have shown their appreciation with glowing testimonials.

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WARRANDYTE

1-15 Beauty Gully Road — AUCTION



SATURDAY, 20th JULY 2002 at 11am

RURAL LIVING WITH CITY CONVENIENCE

5 undulating acres. This home comprises magnificent formal and informal living areas, including drawing room with granite fireplace and wet bar. Emporite kitchen with European appliances, 4 dble BRs, 2 with ensuite plus a spa in the cedar-lined bathroom. Top quality fittings throughout. Ideal for horse lovers with stabling, extensive shedding and wide open paddocks. Inspection will not disappoint.

WARRANDYTE

10 Carol Court — AUCTION



SATURDAY, 20th JULY 2002 at 2pm

BIG, BOLD AND BULLETPROOF

In a quiet court location, high on the hill, this magnificent 4 BR investment property features large family room, central kitchen and lovely formal lounge room, 2 bathrooms, a huge rumpus and superb entertaining deck. Securely tenanted with great returns, this is a golden opportunity for the shrewd investor.

WARRANDYTE

18 Dingley Dell Road — AUCTION



SATURDAY, 20th JULY 2002 at 12.30pm

DINGLEY DELL FARM

1 superb acre of rolling lawns featuring 100 year-old oak trees, this fully renovated homestead offers the charm and character of a bygone era. Retaining all the original features including baltic pine flooring, fireplaces, resolated tiles, leadlighting, ornate cornices and a traditional bathroom. Comprises 3 good sized BRs, formal lounge, jarrah kitchen and corner meals area. A unique opportunity—buy yesterday's charm with today's convenience.

WARRANDYTE

4 Harding Road — AUCTION



SATURDAY, 27th JULY 2002 at 11am

RAINBOW RIDGE, PICTURE PERFECT

On over 5 glorious cleared acres, this ranch style homestead with full length verandah comprises spacious lounge, formal dining, central kitchen/family, master BR with full ensuite, renovated bathroom, study and 2 other bedrooms. Offering commanding views and on the high side of the road complete with a second dwelling, this property offers a country lifestyle with city conveniences.

WARRANDYTE

28 Hodson Road — AUCTION



SATURDAY, 17th AUGUST at 11am

NOT FOR THE FAINT-HEARTED

A Warrandyte original with extensive use of local stone, but in need of lots of TLC. Comprises 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge and central kitchen on over a 1/4 acre of rambling well-established gardens. Your choice—renovate or demolish, bring your own paint brush. A great location amongst quality homes.

WARRANDYTE

\$550,000+



ON BANK OF THE RIVER
This imposing Vindin Suares family home comprises 4 dbl BRs, master with WIR and full ensuite, spacious lounge with OFF, formal dining, timber kitchen/meals, family room plus generous games room. Set on 1.5 acres of professionally landscaped native gardens and featuring a triple car garage and located in one of Warrandyte's most private and prestigious locations; this property with its abundance of native flora and fauna will delight the discerning buyer.

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