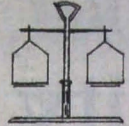


GOLDFIELDS PLAZA



WARRANDYTE

DIARY

No. 351, March 2003

ITS TREES



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Bank's urgent plea

By CLIFF GREEN and SAM DAVIES

Warrandyte's eagerly-awaited community bank is facing crisis.

Unless the board's shareholding target is reached by April 1, the bank could miss out on securing the old CBA banking premises at 142 Yarra Street.

"We have reached the \$400,000 mark," board member Andrew Wilson told the *Diary*. "We need \$600,000. If we don't reach our target of \$600,000 it won't be happening. The Bendigo Bank won't grant our franchise."

The board is now looking to see these pledges honoured through the purchase of shares, as well as inviting people who did not pledge to take up shareholdings. Pledgeholders are also invited to increase their shares beyond the amount pledged.

Mr John Provan, board chair-

man, believes that not everyone is aware that you don't have to be a pledgeholder to take up shares.

"We need you now," Mr Provan said. "It's time to show your community spirit and support your community bank. As soon as we have achieved the \$600,000 we will see our com-

munity-owned bank established at 142 Yarra Street."

"Apart from strictly limited hours at the Bendigo Bank agency, Warrandyte hasn't had a bank for 12 months," Andrew Wilson said. "Setting aside the inconvenience of this, bank profits are going out of the town. They should be coming

back into Warrandyte.

"This is the board's last stand," he said. "If we don't get the money by April 1, it won't be happening."

• Community bank enquiries can be directed to the agency at 158 Yarra Street, or by phoning 9844 0960, 9846 4427 or 0412 357 543.



"It's time to show your community spirit and support your community bank."

—JOHN PROVAN

"We have until April 1 to fulfill the major condition of our lease with the new owner of the old CBA premises. If we don't get the \$600,000 by then we may not get the bank building. That would be serious, as these premises are absolutely ideal for our purpose.

"A lot of people who pledged money earlier on need reminding that we need that money now."

To emphasise this point, numerous signs have been erected along Yarra Street, telling the community: "Warrandyte Community Bank needs your pledges today."

Following its release to pledgeholders in late January, the new bank's prospectus was officially launched on February 11 at a function at the community centre. This event attracted 120 people and more than \$50,000 in shares.

Initial support for the bank through pledge holdings indicated strong backing for a community bank.

When the Commonwealth Bank branch in Yarra Street closed early last year, the Warrandyte Business Association called a public meeting and floated the idea of a local community bank. A special appeal was made at the Warrandyte Festival, and, in a few short weeks, the community pledged more than \$650,000 to underwrite the proposed bank.

A great deal of work has followed, with the conducting of a feasibility study, creation of a business plan and formation of a governing board, all under the auspices of the Bendigo Bank.



Wheelie bin race will be a feature of the 2003 Warrandyte festival

• Full program: Page 17

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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WHAT'S COOKING AT POTTERS?

As you may have noticed, things are changing at Potters. The gallery has been renovated, the grounds are being landscaped and replanted and restaurant hours have been extended. A fresh face and plenty of fresh ideas to make sure Potters remains one of Warrandyte's favourite places. So don't be a stranger - drop in soon!

Potters

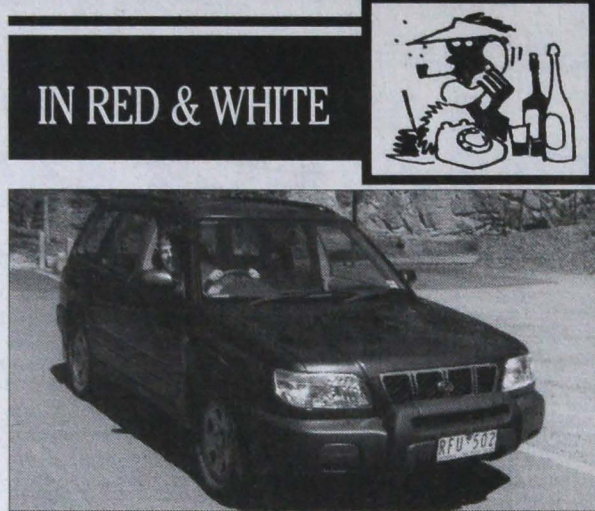
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Right name, right number, wrong vehicle, wrong city

NRMA, the Sydney-based motor insurance equivalent of our own RACV, has been traveling a pretty rocky road lately and we wonder why. *Diary* chief-of-staff Jan Tindale doesn't. Jan got a letter from NRMA last month suggesting she'd been responsible for an accident at Flemington on January 10, which was news to her. Still, she immediately checked out her beloved Subaru for previously undiscovered evidence of a collision and even examined the undercarriage to see if she'd been dragging a dead body around for a few weeks. No, all clear. It worried her, though, that the letter correctly quoted her home address and registration number, although she hadn't been to Flemington for yonks. It also said she might be able to claim on her NRMA comprehensive insurance policy and pay the basic excess of \$450, but that was a bit of a problem because Jan doesn't have an NRMA policy — comprehensive or otherwise. She's insured with RACV. A lengthy free call to the company's headquarters — interspersed with some input from the RACV — eventually shed a faint glimmer of light on the matter. Sorry, but the vehicle in question was not a Subaru but a Hiace. And the scene of the accident? Flemington? No, somewhere in Sydney.

Seems the Hiace carried the identical NSW version of Jan's registration number which, when fed into the computer, came up with the innocent and faraway Subaru. Makes you wonder about hi-tech, doesn't it? Us computer illiterates reckon it's sometimes as useful to civilisation as the hole in the ozone layer.



Jan Tindale at the wheel of her Subaru ... not guilty, Your Worship.

Travis Brogan is far from being the best footballer Warrandyte has ever produced and, indeed, he's played nothing but Reserves for the past six years. But his dedication to the red-and-white jumper is something to behold. Travis never misses a training session and his commitment was recognised at last year's presentation day with the coach's award. But his single-minded devotion reached new heights at a Bloods training camp at the Clifton Park scout camp at Wonga Park on Saturday, March 1. In the course of a day's tortuous physical activity, Travis was badly cut in a clash of heads. A lesser man might have fainted or at least excused himself from further punishment. Not this bloke. He patched himself up, drove himself to the nearest available doctor, took

seven stitches in the wound and returned, head swathed in a bandage, to complete the commando training and help his teammates beat three other intraclub squads for the day's honours. Onyer, Travis Brogan!

Formula 1 fever had gripped the resident petrolheads at the local RSL club, but all the hype and jargon was totally lost on Jenny Chapman, who subscribes to the old proposition that a motor car is nothing more than a convenient means of getting you from Point A to B. The expression "HRT" was being freely bandied about and Jenny just had to ask: "Are you talking Hormone Replacement Therapy?" "God no," replied Jim Pollard, a car dealer who worships motor sport, "Holden Racing Team!"

So who'll be the "hood" component of Neighbourhood House's marchers in the Warrandyte Festival parade on March 22? One of their lot will be wearing a hood and the identity is under lock and key. But we call tell you this person is very well known to *Diary* readers and the hairy legs might give the game away.

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party at St Stephen's Anglican Church on both days of the festival sounds a bit of a hoot, especially the "Crazy Crochet Game" for kids. When we asked what this was about they said

for "Crochet" in the official festival program please read "Croquet". Yeah, that makes more sense.

Coach Denis Pagan knew he wasn't going to be taking a stroll down Easy Street when he took over wooden-spooners Carlton at the end of last season — but did he know the real immensity of the task ahead? We think not, because at that stage he hadn't met our very own Kevin Close, who collects coaches' scalps as a matter of course as he goes about the cloak-and-dagger business of being a forward scout (aka spy) for AFL clubs. Wayne Brittain became his fifth victim in six seasons — joining Robert Walls, John Northey, Tim Watson and Malcolm Blight — when Carlton sacked him last year, but Pagan's not at all superstitious and has retained Closey's service for 2003. "We had a chat the other day and Denis laughed when I pointed out that my recent track record wasn't all that flash," said Kevin. "He even laughed when I said Wayne Brittain had laughed when I told him the same thing 12 months earlier!" We wish Denis Pagan the best of luck. Boy, is he going to need it!

It is time to update Andrew Wilson's amazing weight loss program. The erstwhile biggest man in Warrandyte real estate has now shed 68 kilos since he embarked on his fish-based diet 15 months ago to be comfortably under the "ton" at 96. And he's not finished yet. The target is now 85 kilos but we reckon he should quit before he loses the capacity to cast a shadow.

A double dose of landscaping delights this month from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend. "Two small local plants which blend perfectly, whether in ground or pot," says native flora guru Joan MacMahon. "The grass trigger-plant (pink flowers on a tall spike growing from a cluster of elegant grassy leaves) and the delightful button everlasting (bright yellow paper daisies atop soft grey leaves)." They're available from the nursery between 10am and noon on Thursdays or by calling Joan on 9844 3213.

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WARRANDYTE DIARY

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Copy closes last Friday of each month

OUR NEWSPAPER

The *Warrandyte Diary* was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its not-for-profit, non-commercial status and its independent voice. The *Diary* carries a strong editorial bias towards the people, environment and character of the place it serves. Its monthly circulation is 3800 copies and it is available in Warrandyte, North Warrandyte, South Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Wonga Park, Warranwood, North Ringwood, Kangaroo Ground and Research.

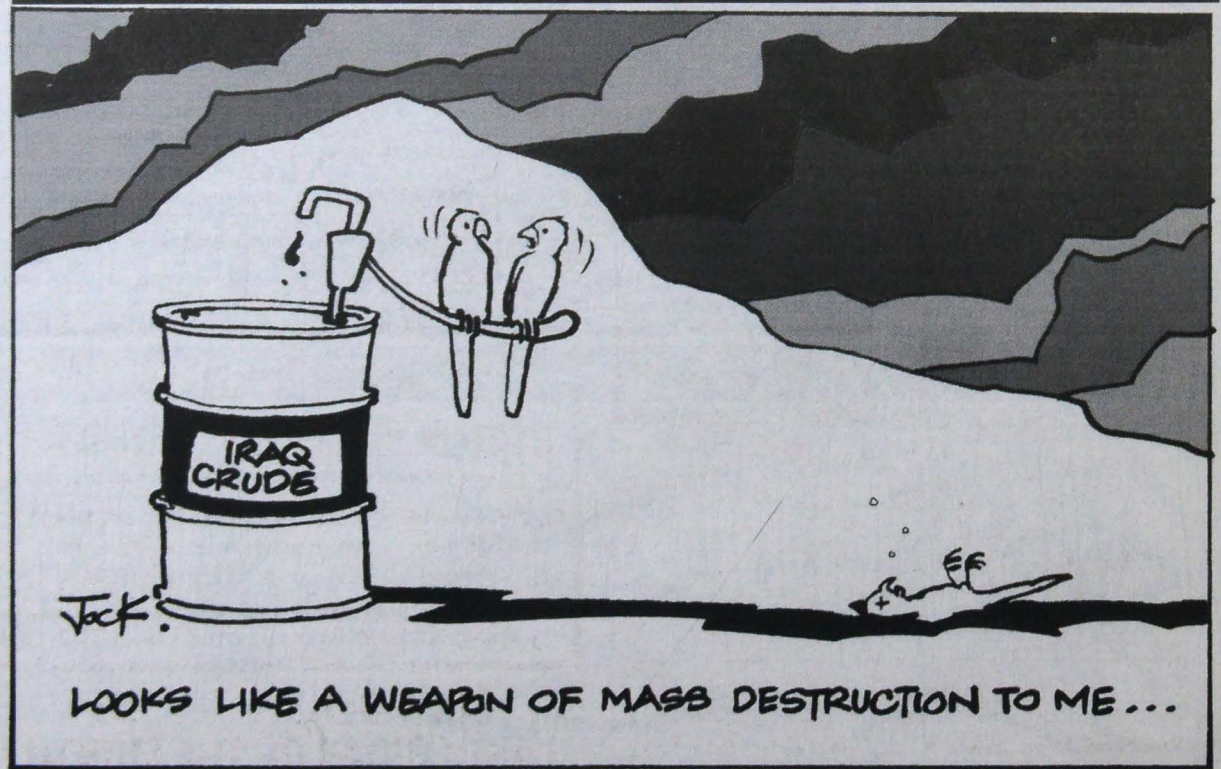
A SPECIAL PLACE

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.



Bloodied, unbowed and off to the doc ... but like Macarthur, Travis Brogan would return.

OVER THE HILLS



By **JOCK MACNEISH**

MANNINGHAM COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Vote 1 Environment

By DAVID WYMAN

All six candidates for the Manningham council election in Mullum Mullum ward have indicated almost total support, with qualifications and provisos, for the major environmental issues facing residents.

The *Diary* sent a questionnaire on these issues to all Mullum Mullum ward candidates with a request for answers and a 100-word statement of policy. However, one candidate, Michael Pountney, did not respond but his views are printed in the ballot booklet/guide.

Residents' votes by post must be received by the returning officer by 6pm next Friday, March 14.

The candidates, in ballot paper order, are Cr Patricia Young, Graham Margetts, Ron Kitchingman, Gerard Dale, Michael Pountney and Richard Aumann.

Readers of the last edition of the *Diary* were warned by local environment groups that the election of pro-Green Wedge councillors in Mullum Mullum ward was crucial to its survival. The Warrandyte Community Association, Park Orchards Ratepayers' Association and Wonga Park Environment Group urged support for preservation of the Green Wedge and election of councillors who would defend it vigorously.

All candidates have indicated, in their answers to the *Diary's* questions, support for retention of the Green Wedge and opposition to moves for its subdivision. Three answers were qualified or answered by a statement of opinion.

Similar responses were given to questions on opposition to insensitive and inappropriate developments in the Green Wedge, and the reintroduction of dual occupancy housing in Warrandyte and Park Orchards townships.

When asked if they would protect the Warrandyte streetscape and the historical and natural environment of Warrandyte, all five respondents said "yes".

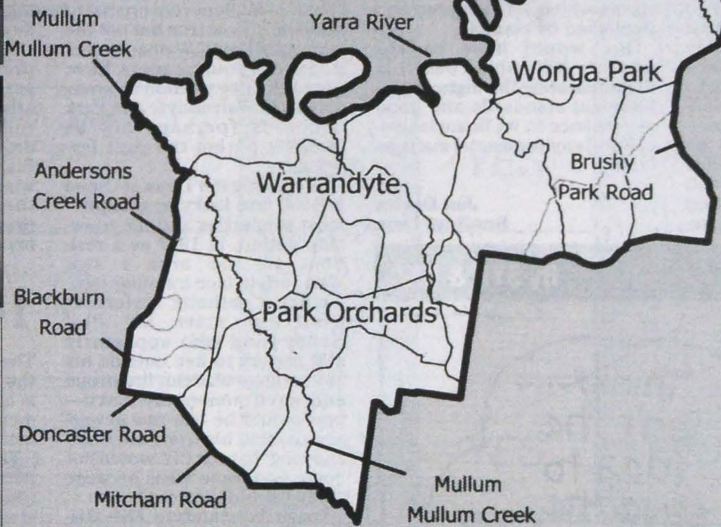
One, Richard Aumann, indicated he would not support a council program to limit and rationalise signage in Warrandyte.

All were in favour of the building of special accommodation for elderly people in Warrandyte.

In her "policy statement", Patricia Young said she had lived in



MULLUM MULLUM WARD



Warrandyte for 16 years and was elected councillor in Manningham's Mullum Mullum ward for the past six years.

Cr Young said she was committed to "creating recreational facilities for our youth, preserving the Green Wedge, its heritage and wildlife, and making Manningham drug-free and safe for our children".

She is also committed to increase the lifestyle choices for the aged and to continue listening to residents' needs. Cr Young said she would work to stop over-development and prevent dual occupancy in Warrandyte.

"If elected again, I will continue being the voice of the people in Mullum Mullum ward and City of Manningham —action, not words."

Graham Margetts repeated his statement given in the election guide, stressing family values and "the need for a balanced, safe community with effective communal responses (transport, schools, health, etc).

"As a growing society we need to be implementing solid cost effective strategies for the care of the community from infancy to our twilight years," he said.

"Over the years, I have gained experience managing various size businesses which demonstrated there is a right mix in the pursuit for solutions to problems and sound governance. What I bring to our council is a high level of professionalism and more than just an enthusiastic approach."

Mr Margetts said he was never satisfied unless the goal was achieved but realised that "compromise can sometimes be more rewarding".

Ron Kitchingman, a former councillor and mayor, said the Green Wedge area was "the responsibility of the state government with council and community opinion". It was important that all worked together and that decisions and recommendations were

made very clear to the government.

"It is obvious that the community wish to retain the Green Wedge areas, but we need more consultation with all parties so as to ensure that the land is maintained to a suitable standard that the community expects. We don't want the areas to become overgrown wasteland or a dumping ground for rubbish," Mr Kitchingman said.

"I am concerned with the overdevelopment in residential areas. Current residents have settled in an area of their choice for their own reasons—(lifestyle, trees, open space etc) and it is unfair to change the density ratios of housing (dual occupancy).

"As a board member of the Manningham Centre (nursing home and hostel), I am well aware of the urgent need for aged accommodation, and it is important that this type of accommodation be provided in the proximity of the person because they are more comfortable in their local

area. Gerard Dale said as a youth, living in Ringwood, he had "recreated" in Warrandyte and loved the place, "its history, its character, its bushland and river". "I love the type of community it has and is attracted to it, and it goes without saying that I will fight to keep it the way it is."

He said "the Green Wedge must be considered as asset for all of Melbourne. It's a fundamental component of our community's health and well being. It must be protected for all time and managed properly".

On community and family issues, he said vigorous representation was needed now more than ever.

Mr Dale said any aged accommodation project in Warrandyte must only be for Warrandyte residents or ex-residents. The development must be on flat land and close to facilities (shops, etc), and in sympathy with the existing local environment, he said.

"I believe the aged of Warrandyte have a right to live out their twilight years near where they have lived and raised families."

Richard Aumann said as a councillor, he would offer "sound financial management, responsiveness to social needs and care for our environment".

"The aim for our Wedge is to protect and enhance it in a sustainable manner," he said in a statement. "I am well aware of the emotional energy that has been invested in the subdivision issue. I do not support a carve-up of any wedge."

"I do seek a basis upon which these areas can achieve exemplary and sustainable land use. State government has identified these areas as having very few allowable uses—the danger with this approach is that these areas will decay further into economically dead zones. Without suitable economic activity/funding, the protection and enhancement cannot occur in a sustainable manner."

Mr. Aumann said he would initially oppose any move to reintroduce dual occupancy in the Warrandyte or Park Orchards townships, but a longer term solution to the elderly accommodation issue had to be found.

"I support the proposal of building special accommodation for elderly people in Warrandyte, but the question is how and where?"

● Answers to *Diary* questionnaire and candidate profiles on Page 5.

CLYDE & OCKER



"We won't grow old, Ock. We're ageless!"

Finding a place for a village

By CLIFF GREEN

Mullum Mullum ward councillor Patricia Young is appealing to local residents to "keep their eyes open for any possible locations" for a retirement village in Warrandyte.

"For the past six years I have kept hoping that suitable land might become available in Warrandyte," she told the *Diary*, "and that a developer might come forward to build some retirement homes."

"Manningham has quite a

number of retirement villages, hostels and nursing homes now—in Donvale, Templestowe and Bulleen—but due to the unavailability of land in Warrandyte, it has not been possible to find a suitable location."

However, most elderly folk want to retire in Warrandyte and remain part of the community they love.

"Council has made it a lot easier for people to stay in their own homes, with support from Doncare and council's aged and disabilities

unit for attendant care, house cleaning, home maintenance and volunteer friendly visits.

"Some people don't want to leave and have told me they will be taken out feet first," Cr Young said.

"Council guidelines for retirement homes are that they need to be easily accessible, on reasonably flat land, near transport and shops."

Dual occupancy was banned in Warrandyte in 1988. Although they had a vested interest in allowing

their large blocks to be subdivided, thus providing smaller, more suitable housing in their old age, Warrandyte's elderlies fought as hard as the rest of the community in condemning closer development. In many cases, the price they are paying is being forced to leave the place they love.

"On being elected to Mullum Mullum ward in 1997, the community of Warrandyte was very quick to alert me to the problems of people ageing here, living

on large properties and wishing to downsize, but not leave the area.

"I will continue to have aged care lifestyle choices as one of my commitments for the future, and I ask the Warrandyte community to keep their eyes open for any possible locations," Cr Young said.

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

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Green Wedge shire

Residents of Nillumbik and North Warrandyte have been duped. Last year, Nillumbik councillors in their election manifestos promised to reduce rates and protect the Green Wedge. On election they promptly increased rates by five percent, and have now voted eight to one in favour of reducing the Green Wedge. Cr Greg Johnson was the lone voice in opposition.

Cr Bob Stubbings, North Warrandyte representative for Yanakie ward, promised to "oppose subdivision in the Green Wedge" and to focus on "tighter budgetary control to lower rates" and "higher professional standards in council" (*Diary*, March 2002). It would appear we have been let down on all three counts.

Last September the state government released its Melbourne 2030 Strategy for the future planning of Melbourne. The strategy defines Urban Growth Boundaries and protected Green Wedges. This visionary

strategy would bring certainty to the future planning of Melbourne, and protect the natural environment for future generations. The government invited comment on the strategy. Nillumbik council prepared a submission that contradicts its own planning document, Council Plan 2002-2005, which was widely accepted by the community. The submission ignores the wishes of local communities.

Specifically council, in its submission, has argued to reduce the Green Wedge by 350 hectares. 350 hectares would be rezoned from its current Environmental Rural Zone (ERZ) status in the Green Wedge to a residential zone status inside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Much of this land is to be moved inside the metropolitan UGB whilst other designated properties were to be moved inside new Green Wedge township boundaries. Included in this land are some areas that the council believe are anomalous—public open space in Diamond Creek and the LDZ land in Plenty. However, most of it is individual properties where owners have campaigned for rezoning.

Cr Johnson, who opposed the council submission, pointed out that the proposal to extend the urban boundary benefits "mainly four individuals". Council wants to increase the residential envelopes around Wattle Glen and Hurstbridge. This is despite the residents of these areas overwhelmingly rejecting this proposition. It would represent a reversal of the township strategy for these towns which was adopted and published by council.

One would have to ask whether Nillumbik council is demonstrating the highest professional standards and good governance in its financial, social and environmental management.

Jan Davies
Bradleys Lane

DEAR DIARY

Council election critic

Your heading (Feb issue) reads "Mullum Mullum vote crucial to survival". How true but not the way your David Wyman states it. Surely your readers have noted the devastation to areas similar to Warrandyte and Park Orchards (perhaps not as "treed") during the past few weeks.

As a youngster I was at Omeo in 1939 and lucky to escape—most properties and the township gutted. In 1962 as a resident in the area I saw Warrandyte face a similar fate.

What a pathetic statement from our state MP Phil Honeywood who apparently still prefers to live outside his electorate—oh dear, fire prone and environmentally risky—how would he like raw sewerage passing his front door and knowing that our CFA would not come into some areas because "they couldn't get out".

South Warrandyte Fire Brigade recently reported "Can you see the signs":

- Saturday, December 21, 2002—Helicopter water bomber and local brigades stop bushfire racing through Mullum Mullum Creek Reserve and houses in Donvale.

- Sunday, December 22, 2002—Local brigades interrupt their Father Christmas run to intercept a fire running up a hill in North Warrandyte toward houses.

Fortunately, weather conditions were favourable.

I sometimes wonder when I read his outrageous statements as to "who is the ventriloquist and who is the dummy"!

Cr Allemand should be commended for his stand re Park Orchards Progress Association proposed plan to allow a small part of the so-called green wedge to be released in an endeavour to allow reticulated sewerage to some 4000 homes in Park Orchards and Donvale and at the same time allow access to "bushy areas" by the CFA. Cr Allemand to my knowledge did not say he agreed with the plan but felt democracy should be allowed to happen.

I and thousands of others were prepared to put our lives on the line for democracy and it is heartening to know that Cr Allemand thinks likewise and obviously is not looking for votes to protect his job.

Corinne King
Research Road

Trevor Parker
Park Orchards

Denis Robertshaw
Research Road

In defence of Potters Cottage

Regarding the alleged "devastation" at Potters Cottage (*Diary*, February 2003).

I note that the owners did not go through the council hooplah before commencing their landscaping, thus arousing the ire of bureaucracy. Perhaps they deserve to have their ankles caned for being so disrespectful of authority.

Be that as it may, I wish to comment on the factual merits of the project.

I have dined at Potters Cottage twice over the last four months. On the first occasion, I cannot remember being impressed with a bunch of scraggy swamp gums in the creek between restaurant and road, as something of wondrous beauty, or a vital part of Warrandyte landscape. Likewise, on the second occasion the landscaping was in progress, and I did not throw up my hands in horror, as your

quoted local residents have done.

I am a pragmatic person, and can support the suggestion of the owner Karl Bell, that when a landscape revamp like this commences, the area must temporarily take on the appearance of a construction site.

Maybe the protesters believe that all that is required is to wave a magic wand.

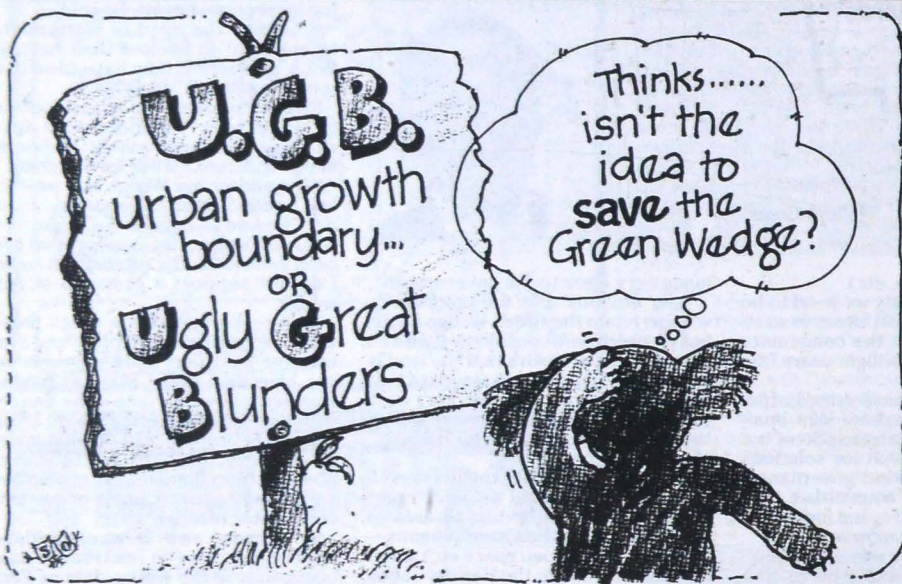
I do hope council will take on a helpful rather than obstructive role, and the landscape consultants produce a good aesthetic outcome.

And I also hope they will prescribe non-inflammatory vegetation for the northern and western side of the restaurant, to buffer Potters Cottage from the tinder-box Warrandyte environment.

Norman Endacott
Warranwood

COREY'S CLAN

By SYD & ONA



Saving a bird in the hand

One early evening during the summer holidays, my son set off on a bike ride. He hadn't gone very far when he came upon an injured bird lying by the side of the road. He carried the bird home and we spent the next hour or so, trying to contact an animal welfare group who might be able to offer some advice on what we could do to help the bird.

Unfortunately, Charlie happened to be an Indian Myna and we subsequently found that, by law, vets or animal carers are required to dispose of these birds.

A friend helpfully suggested we place the bird in a box, provide some water and perhaps a little food, and then reassess

the situation the next morning. Charlie was still alive in his box next morning and both my children spent some time encouraging him to fly off, but it was soon obvious that Charlie was beyond flying.

As a family we discussed the choices. Leave the bird to its own devices in the bush of our backyard, or take it to the vet where it would suffer a more humane fate. My children clearly chose the latter, and so we headed off to the vet with Charlie in a shoebox on my son's lap.

At these times it is often difficult to find the positive in any situation, but the positive did come. On explaining the circumstances to the veterinary

assistant she looked at my son and said, "You realise that he will have to go to heaven."

"Yes," my son replied. I thought later of her words. So much nicer than, "We'll put it down, or get rid of it." And her choice of words made all the difference.

We bring up our children to appreciate the value of life, and teach them that all things are created equal. This was clearly a situation where equality didn't count. How different the story would have been I wonder, if Charlie had been a rare species of one of our feathered friends.

Corinne King
Research Road

Trevor Parker
Park Orchards

Denis Robertshaw
Research Road

100 acres cool burn call

The absence of "cool burns" in the 100 Acres in Park Orchards is a matter that is consistently mentioned to me over the summer period.

The original plan called for 10 percent per annum cool burns (during autumn) on a progressive priority basis.

There have been many excuses offered for the fact that over the last 20 years or so there has only been spasmodic attention given to the progressive removal of fine fuel build-up.

(Fine fuel is the falling leaf and twig build-up on the ground that can be utilised by the arsonist or provide the tinder to sustain an accidental or carelessly caused ignition.)

The longer the period between cool burns the more fine fuel builds on the ground.

I understand that the variety of excuses that have been offered in the past can no longer be considered relevant or valid.

Can council now ensure that appropriate steps are put in train and carried through to fruition this autumn in respect of the worst 10 percent area of fine fuel build-up in the 100 Acres and that a remaining nine areas are identified and prioritised for the following years.

David L. Mayor
Chair, 100 Acres Advisory Committee
(disbanded by council)

Bus seat missed

After five and a half months, council have finally installed a "seat" in the bus shelter alongside the bridge.

It has taken four phone calls asking for a replacement seat. Taken away some time in September 2002, our 30 foot seat has now been replaced with a four foot mini. Bad luck if a crowd wants to catch the bus and it is too hot to stand in the hot summer weather we have been experiencing.

The wheels at council seem to turn very slowly at Manningham when it is a community facility maintenance requirement. We can only hope that the original long seat will be replaced before too long.

Maybe it is in the next council budget, 2003-2004.

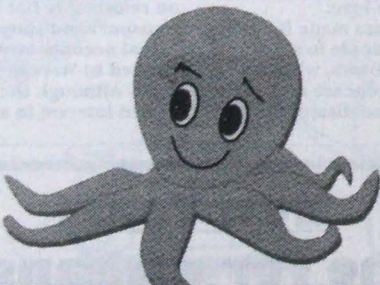
CLYDE & OCKER



"Thought a cool burn was a young bloke doing a donut in a hotted-up Holden, Ock!"

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

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Mullum Mullum voters' guide

WHERE THEY STAND		PATRICIA YOUNG	GRAHAM MARGETTS	RON KITCHINGMAN	GERARD DALE	MICHAEL POUNTNEY	RICHARD AUMANN
1	Would you support retention of the Green Wedge and oppose all moves for its subdivision?	YES	YES*	YES*	YES	NO RESPONSE	—*
2	Would you oppose all proposed insensitive and inappropriate developments in the Green Wedge?	YES	YES	YES*	YES	NO RESPONSE	YES
3	Would you oppose any moves to reintroduce dual occupancy in the Warrandyte or Park Orchards townships?	YES	YES	YES*	YES	NO RESPONSE	—*
4	Would you work to protect the Warrandyte streetscape and the historical and natural environment of Warrandyte?	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO RESPONSE	YES
5	Would you support a council program to limit and rationalise signage in Warrandyte?	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO RESPONSE	NO
6	Would you support the building of special accommodation for elderly people in Warrandyte?	YES	YES*	YES*	YES*	NO RESPONSE	YES

* Answer expanded or qualified. See page 3.



PATRICIA YOUNG

I have lived in Warrandyte for 16 years. Councillor for past six years. Development Manager ParaQuad Victoria. Served on aged and disability, culture and leisure, corporate and heritage boards. I am not a member of a political party.

Committed to:

- Creating recreational facilities for our youth
- Preserving the Green Wedge, heritage, wildlife.
- Make Manningham drug-free and safe for our children
- Increase lifestyle choice for the aged.
- Continue listening to residents' needs.
- No dual occupancy in Warrandyte
- Stop overdevelopment.

1997-2003:

- Built sports stadium, skate park, play spaces
 - Tightened guide lines for no more subdivision in Green Wedge
 - Supported residents in their planning needs.
- If elected again I will continue being the voice of the people in the Mullum Mullum Ward and City of Manningham.
"ACTION NOT WORDS"



ANDREW MARGETT

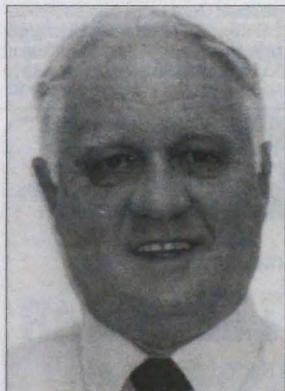
Living in today's world provides important challenges...

● **Family Values:** My family life (married with two teenagers) provides an everyday insight on what is required by the basic family unit, the need for a balanced, safe community with effective communal resources (transport, health, schools, etc). I am however aware that as a growing society we need to be implementing solid cost effective strategies for the care of the community from infancy to our twilight years.

● **Economic Values:** Over the years I have gained experience managing various size businesses, which has demonstrated there is a "right mix" in the pursuit for solutions to problems and sound governance.

What I bring to our council is a high level of professionalism and more than just an enthusiastic approach. I am never satisfied unless the goal is achieved. However I do realise that compromise can sometimes be more rewarding...

Vote 1 Graham Andrew MARGETTS



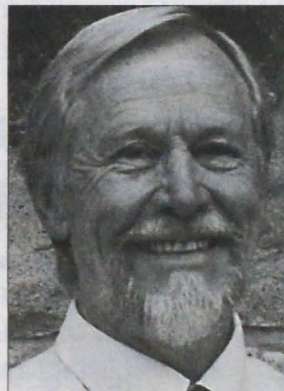
RON KITCHINGMAN

Long-time resident of Manningham, Married with four adult children. Has been actively involved in the community.

Some of my current roles are:

- Board Member at Manningham Centre (Nursing Home)
 - Chairperson Manningham Recreation Association (based at Domenev)
 - Community representative Manningham Library Board.
- I am aware of community concern in regard to:
- Multi-unit development in residential areas.
 - Management of Green Wedge areas will require further community consultation.
 - Facilities for aged care.

There are projects that I am keen to participate in. As a former councillor and mayor of the city I am confident that I can represent the residents of Mullum Mullum.



GERARD DALE

Having lived in Ringwood as a child and youth, I have recreated in Warrandyte from the beginning. I love the place, its history, its character, its bushland and river. I love the type of community it has, and I am attracted to it. It goes without saying that I will fight to keep it the way it is.

On broader issues, the Green Wedge must be considered as an asset for all of Melbourne. It is a fundamental component of our community's health and well-being. It must be protected for all time, and managed properly.

On community and family issues, vigorous representation is needed now more than ever.



MICHAEL POUNTNEY

NO RESPONSE



RICHARD AUMANN

I offer sound financial management, responsiveness to social needs and care for our environment.

Aim for our Wedge is to protect and enhance in a sustainable manner. I am well aware of the emotional energy that has been invested in subdivision issue. I do not support a "carve-up" of any wedge.

I do seek a basis upon which these areas can achieve exemplary and sustainable land use. State government has identified these areas as having very few allowable uses—the danger with this approach is that these areas will decay further into economically dead zones. Without suitable economic activity/funding, the protection and enhancement cannot occur in a sustainable manner.

EXHIBITION 22-23 MARCH

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Grants for sports clubs

Local sporting clubs and groups are invited to apply for VicHealth sports injury prevention grants.

"The aim of the grants program is to reduce the number of sports injuries in Victoria and to make it safer to participate in sporting activities of all sorts," MP Phil Honeywood told the Diary.

"In previous years, a number of our local sporting clubs, covering a wide variety of sports have received funding under similar programs promoting sports safety.

"Some of the most popular equipment in demand included approved headgear, shinguards, goal post padding, safety netting and mats, eye and ear protectors and modified equipment. Additionally, VicHealth has broadened the offer to even include First Aid training."

VicHealth has committed \$500,000 in the 2003 sports injury prevention program which will be granted to sporting organisations whose primary responsibility is organising and implementing physical activity within their local community.

Whilst all sporting clubs are encouraged to apply, preference will be given to those sports with the highest rates of injuries.

"This program will provide funding for safe sport here in our local area. Not only will this equipment provide a safer environment, but encourage people to get more involved in their favourite sporting activity," Mr Honeywood said.

Grants to a maximum of \$2000 are available, with applications closing early this month.

For further information and application forms, please contact the office of Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte, at 44 New Street, Ringwood or phone 9870 7396.

New signs policy alarms community

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte Community Association is opposing a proposal by Manningham council to relax rules concerning signs in the municipality, including Warrandyte.

A council amendment, passed at the February 25 council meeting, will "allow applications for permanent promotion and business identification" within public parks, recreation and public use zones.

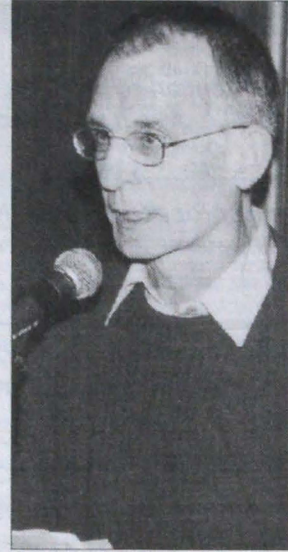
"This despite requests from WCA, the Park Orchards Ratepayers Association and a couple of sporting clubs for deferment of the decision until proper consultation could take place," a WCA spokesperson said.

"WCA is opposing this move on heritage and visual pollution grounds," president Dick Davies told the Diary. "There are already too many signs in Warrandyte. We want the council to take some down, not put more up."

"The Warrandyte community has been campaigning against proliferating and inappropriate signs over many years. Community pressure saw advertising removed from our new bus shelters," Mr Davies said.

According to council's explanatory report, "promotional signs are currently prohibited in...sensitive areas". The amendment would "provide council with discretion regarding promotion sign applications for sporting areas".

Council claims "promotion signs and business identification signs can provide an important source of income to local sporting clubs and community groups and can be integral to their ongoing viability in that they generally allow for spon-



Dick Davies: "already too many signs in Warrandyte".

sorship advertising."

Council hopes "it may reduce the likelihood of requests from sporting clubs and community for council to provide financial support".

Council resolved at their previous meeting to refer the amendment and submission to an independent panel "and that council support the amendment".

WCA is urging residents and other community groups to "make submissions to the independent panel on this issue. Most people don't know that this is being proposed."

"We could wake up one morning to find signs sprouting like weeds across our parks and public places," Mr Davies said.

'Love it -or- lose it'

Warrandyte Community Association is planning a public forum at which local politicians and councillors will be asked to respond to community questions and issues.

"This will be an opportunity for the Warrandyte community to directly engage with state and council representatives from both sides of the river and both sides of politics," WCA president Dick Davies said.

The forum will be a featured item at the association's first annual general meeting, to be held early next month.

The meeting is being held under the slogan, "Warrandyte—love it or lose it".

"We've been going for a year now, and we've already covered a wide range of community issues," Mr Davies said. "This is an opportunity for association members—and the wider Warrandyte community—to monitor WCA's progress, effectiveness and future plans. The meeting will be open to everyone, not just WCA members."

WCA public forum and annual general meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10 at 8pm in the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall.

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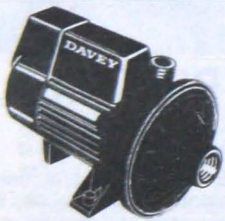
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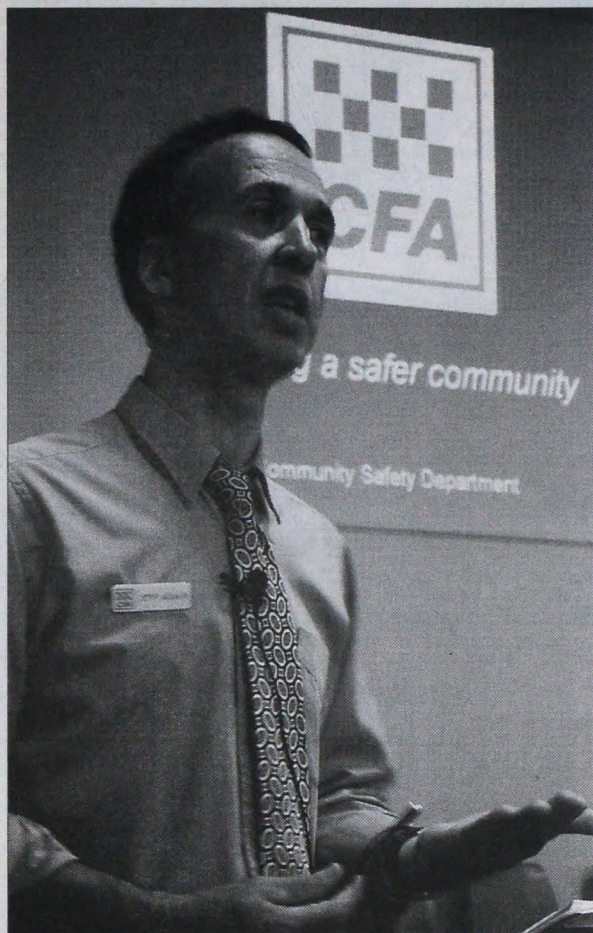
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Keep up your fire guard



"The fire season is still with us." CFA's Jeff Adair addresses the Warrandyte public meeting last month. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

By CLIFF GREEN

Summer may be over, but the fire season is still with us. This was the message delivered to residents at the CFA public meeting in Warrandyte last month.

"Weather conditions have modified, with warm days and cooler nights," Jeff Adair, CFA community safety manager, told the *Diary*.

"However fuels are still dry and will not change unless we receive more rain."

CFA believes that current conditions can still support a serious fire, "especially if strong winds fan small outbreaks," Mr Adair said. "Wind is the critical factor."

CFA urges the community not to drop their guard and be aware that there is still some potential for a destructive fire.

The public meeting was well attended with keen interest shown by those who were there. "This supports CFA's view that Warrandyte is well aware of the level of risk and a willingness to reduce their exposure by developing and refining their fire safety plans," Mr Adair said.

Recent research conducted by CFA indicates that a vast majority of Warrandyte residents are aware and have undertaken varying degrees of preparation. This research also highlighted that a high percentage of the surveyed group still expected an official warning of impending danger.

"Such a warning cannot be guaranteed," Mr Adair said. Survey results also suggest that many people would rely on the presence of CFA firefighters and trucks to protect their home.

"CFA cannot provide protection to all homes and we rely on residents to share the responsibility and take all precautions."

"There are still many misleading perceptions and myths on fires and fire behaviour," Mr Adair said. "These include the notion that houses explode; fireballs destroy homes; that homes and properties cannot survive the passage of wildfire. These views are often unsound and based on anecdotal, secondhand information and media sensationalism which cannot be supported."

"Research conducted by CSIRO and other agencies has demonstrated that there are many treatments and intervention procedures that people can adopt to protect their lives and property," Mr Adair said.

Recent fires in NSW, Canberra and Victoria will lead to an increased bank of knowledge. "Preliminary findings may suggest that there is still a lot to be learned. But these early findings also support much of CFA's advice and information offered to the public."

Fires are a dynamic force, influenced by many variables. These include vegetation type and volume; arrangement of fuels; fuel moisture content; topography and aspect.

Weather conditions are the critical ingredient in determining the severity of fire and may increase the level of danger when combined with flammable fuels.

"Vegetation management, or fuel reduction, is the only element that we have any control over," Mr Adair said.

● For more information call CFA Yarra Region on 9735 0511.

Hot tips for a fire-free autumn

- Review your plan in the event of a total fire ban day. Are your children clear on what to do to protect themselves?
- If your children are at school during a local fire, they are safe and will remain under the care of school staff until the incident has passed.
- Remove door mats and place them inside or in the middle of the driveway on days of total fire ban or days of high fire danger.
- Consider how you might help assist others with special needs on days of high risk—the elderly, single parents, families with spouses at work.
- Move pets and other animals to safer locations on days of high fire risk.
- Remove debris from beneath your decking.
- Block your chimney over the fire season to prevent entry of embers.

- Fill gaps in timber work and wall spaces with metal flywire.
- If you cannot burn or remove fine fuels, store them well away from your home and cover them so they cannot be windblown.
- Store woollen blankets and water in your car over the summer period.
- Obtain plastic buckets, 44 gallon drums, wine barrels, drinking troughs for storage of water in the event of a water shortage.
- Purchase mops and super-soaker water pistols for the hard-to-get-to places.
- Cover your skylights with wire meshing or protective guards.



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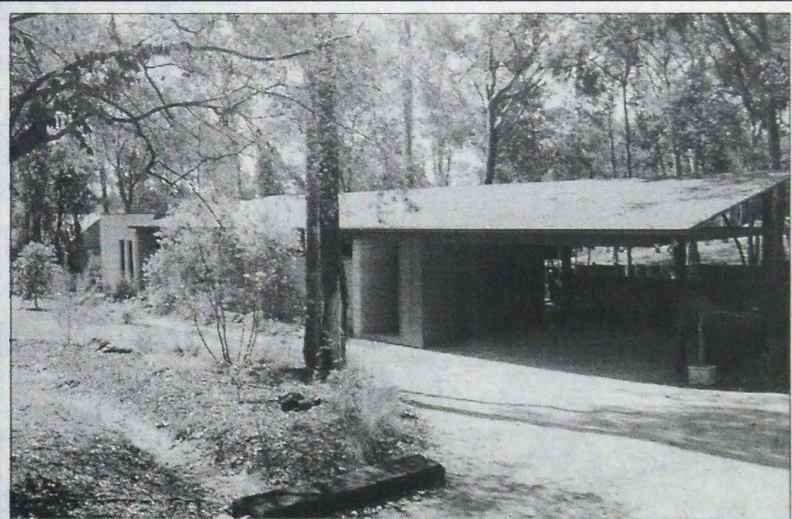
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Local Lions roaring on

March is a busy month for Warrandyte Lions. On March 9 and 10—Labour Day weekend—the club, in conjunction with the Eildon Lions Club and the Eildon Boat Club, hosted a visit from approximately 50 children from "Canteen"—Kids with Cancer—at Lake Eildon.

"This event is run annually and is extremely popular with the children and its supporters," a club spokesman told the *Diary*. "Last year \$21,000 was raised in an auction on the Friday night, the proceeds of which went to Canteen. It is hoped to better this amount this year."

On Thursday, March 20, as part of the Warrandyte Festival, the club, in conjunction with the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust, will host a dinner at Riverlea Estate when the winner of this year's Warrandyte Youth Arts Award will be announced. The successful contestant will receive a prize of \$6000 made available by Warrandyte Lions.

"The award is held bi-annually," the spokesman said, "and is open to those aged between 18 and 25 who have a substantial connection with Warrandyte and who have the potential for outstanding

achievement in their particular field of artistic endeavour."

The following Saturday and Sunday, Warrandyte Lions—as in past years—will be providing take-away food and soft drinks at the Warrandyte Festival.

"This is a labour-intensive effort and requires and receives tremendous support from club members and their partners," the spokesperson said.

The activities for the month conclude at Sandown Racecourse on Sunday, March 30 when "In the Drivers Seat" will be held for the seventh consecutive year.

"This is an event where the blind and visually impaired are able to drive a dual controlled vehicle with assistance from a driving instructor.

"It encompasses all ages, from a minimum of 16 through to 92, our oldest participant yet. This year we will have 165 participants."

The club has asked us to thank "the friends, volunteers and instructors—who provide their cars and time free of charge—the VACC for use of the course and the Australian Army band who provide entertainment".



North Warrandyte residents will welcome the news that Nillumbik council has installed an information stand at Warrandyte Community Centre. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Nillumbik news

A stand carrying vital information for residents has been placed at the Warrandyte Community Centre by Nillumbik council.

The trial stand is one of several being installed in the outer areas of the shire. Moves are afoot to place one at Kangaroo Ground store and in Yarrambat. "Nillumbik Shire Council has been concerned to better communicate with its community across the shire," Nillumbik mayor Cr Lex de Man told the *Diary*.

A full suite of council information will be available to residents. Information will include pet registrations, planning information, council agendas, consultation papers and general council services.

Cr de Man believes this is well

overdue. "This is a fantastic service for our residents," he said. "It's time we put the message out there. We have information on planning, health, environment and all the services council is there to provide."

"We have environmental workshops at Edendale Farm, a program of art exhibitions at the Eltham Library Community Gallery, living and learning centre course details, community safety information, copies of council agendas and information on current issues."

"This is about council being relevant to its community and about open government. I encourage all to make use of these new stands and let us know how they can be improved during this trial period," Cr de Man said.



Flashback: Lions president David Dobbs congratulates Baden Hall, winner of the 2000-2001 Warrandyte Youth Arts Award. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

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Key Decisions

Nillumbik Shire Council

These are some of the decisions made by Council on **Wednesday, 19 February 2003**. If you would like any extra information visit our website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au for full business papers and Council monthly meeting dates. Next Council meeting is 19 March 2003 at 7.30pm at the Shire Offices. All welcome or listen to the broadcast on Plenty Valley FM 88.6.



Customer Service 9433 3111

Transport and Infrastructure



Received the Nillumbik Transport Survey and acknowledged the outstanding response by Nillumbik ratepayers.

Awarded the tender for the supply of 11 Refuse and Recycling Collection vehicles to Compaction Systems.

Awarded the tender for the stabilisation and sealing of Henley Road, Gosfield Road and Arthurs Creek Road to MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd.

Land Use, Planning and Environment



Endorsed Council's Melbourne 2030 submission.

Received the Planning and Building Services status update. The highlight for the month is that 71% of applications were dealt with in less than 60 days, the highest percentage in 18 months.

Agreed Council formally consider the reports of inquiries into the recent bushfires in ACT and north-east Victoria. Councillors and relevant officers to undertake basic CFA training.

Agreed Council include Section 20(f) in its review of Local Law No 5 Amenities.



Community, Health, Culture, Sport & Leisure

Received status update on proposed redevelopment of the North Warrandyte Community Centre.



Governance

Received the Financial Report for the period ended 31 January 2003.

Agreed Council write to the MAV and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to formally request the Insurance Council of Australia offer household insurance premium rebates for households in high fire risk areas which can demonstrate prescribed fire preparedness.

Accepted new membership of the Recreation Trails Advisory Committee.

Agreed Council lobby for changes to Building Regulations to allow for more effective collection of rainwater.

Vital cancer information

To help spread the word about bowel and prostate cancer, the Cancer Council Victoria has teamed up with the Warrandyte Lions Club and members of the local community to host a special cancer awareness evening on Wednesday, April 16.

The impetus for organising this evening has come from the stark reality that the club has lost four members to bowel cancer in recent years.

"The loss of these members has made the club aware of the need for greater community knowledge and awareness of cancer," Lions secretary Peter

Watts told the *Diary*.

The awareness evening, for men and women of all ages, will feature as guest speaker ex-AFL footballer Rob Flower, director of Sportsco and cancer survivor, along with a team of health professionals.

Cancer Council organiser Jason Ferris said, "Cancer is the number one health concern of Australians. Cancer affects not just people who are diagnosed, but family, friends, colleagues and neighbours."

Bowel cancer is the most common (internal) cancer with just over 3000 men and women di-

agnosed each year in Victoria—and it is the second leading cause of a cancer related death.

"Unfortunately it is a cancer that not many people talk about," Mr Ferris said.

"Approximately 2600 Victorian men are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year, and we estimate there are 15,000 men living in Victoria who have been diagnosed.

"We aim to provide information to people with cancer and their families and to give support and encouragement to those who are involved in the cancer journey."

The Cancer Awareness Evening will feature a team of health professionals including:

- Dr James St John, a leading bowel cancer specialist
- Mr Yee Chan, urologist (discussing prostate cancer)
- Dr Catherine Hodgson, an expert on cancer that runs in families.

The evening will be held in the Warrandyte High School Theatre, Alexander Road, Warrandyte, commencing at 7.30pm on Wednesday, April 16. Admission is free and supper will follow.

● Intending participants should RSVP to 13 11 20 by April 9.



Karen Throssell: "poems intense, committed and true". (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

Poets take off

Two poets have published books in the past few weeks. John Jenkins is the author of "A Break in the Weather", a novel in verse, and Karen Throssell, well-known for her poetry in the *Diary*, has put together a collection entitled "The Old King and Other Poems".

John Jenkins' work deals with "global warming, extreme weather and environmental disasters". It is also a love story.

"Bruce Quinn is a weather scientist, doing field research in northern Tasmania and the Great Barrier Reef. As a stress-breaker, Bruce goes on holiday at Uluru, where he falls in love with Miko, a Japanese 'wunderkind' who is on an outback adventure."

The fact that both these poets live locally is not the only connection. John Jenkins has written the "blurb" for Karen's collection.

"You would expect writing to

be in Karen Throssell's blood," he writes.

"The third in an Australian literary dynasty, Karen is granddaughter of Katharine Susannah Prichard and daughter of Ric Throssell.

"She is a passionate advocate for women and the disadvantaged in our community as well as those who seek to be heard above the contemporary materialistic din. Her poems are intense, committed and true. This first collection, with its freshness and directness of approach, establishes an immediate rapport with the reader."

Many of the poems in "The Old King" will be familiar to Warrandyte readers. It is good to see them gathered together in permanent form.

"A Break in the Weather" is published by the Modern Writing Press; "The Old King and Other Poems" is published by Ginninderra Press.

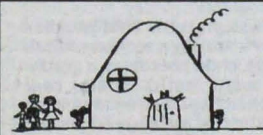
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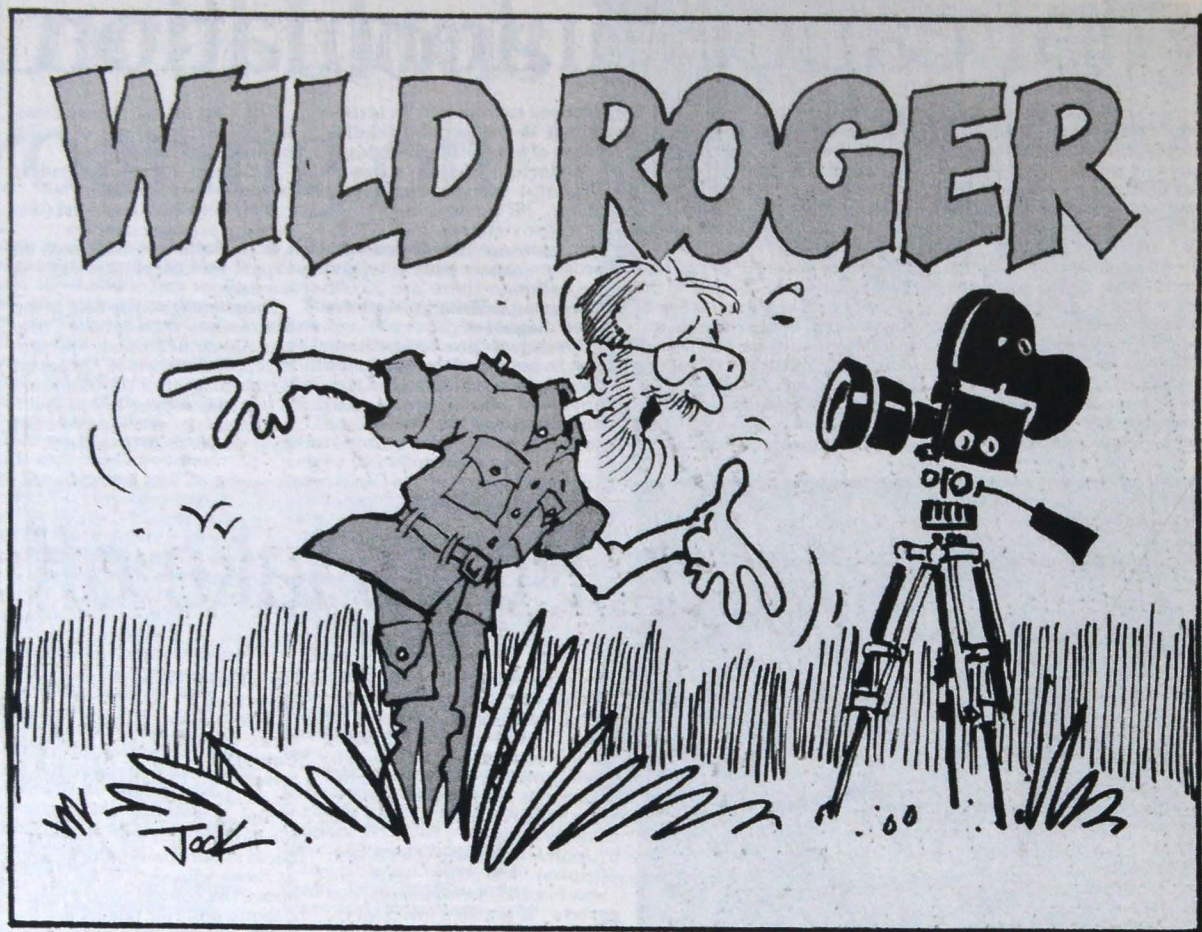
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What's a TV doco got to do with a market?

IT was eight o'clock on a Saturday morning and, with some trepidation, I rang Boy Wonder to admit that we had given him some wrong information. He, his fiancé, Smart One, and some friends had borrowed our beach house for the weekend and we had enthusiastically urged that they should all go to the Farmers' Market. We stressed that they would need to get there early as, if they left it to their normal notion of early, everything would be sold. About 3am Saturday, Herself poked me in the middle of my back. It wasn't that eyes-wide-open-instantly, anticipatory sort of poke but the "I've got something awful to tell you!" sort.



KIBBLED

"Nigella is 'wonderful' or 'I feel sick every time she licks her finger'."

"The market was last week! If they do as we suggested, they'll get there and there won't be anything to see and HE'll be furious."

Now that my eyelids had drooped again and my adrenalin rush had long since subsided, I offered that all could be fixed by a phone call to them at a "reasonable" hour.

At 6.30am, we were arguing about what was "reasonable". "You know what they're like. They think 11am on a Saturday is the middle of the night. If we ring any earlier they'll think it's the police ringing to tell them that one of us has fallen off the perch."

"Don't be ridiculous. You do exaggerate. If you don't ring them by 8am they may have already left."

Covered by superior haranguing, I phoned right on eight. One phone is right next to our bed down there so I reasoned that if they were still abed they wouldn't be too inconvenienced by the call. No answer, so I left the message on Messagebank lest they were out walking before breakfast.

"What if they don't pick up the phone when they get home? You really should ring his mobile."

With something less than good grace, I got out of bed and phoned. Again no answer, so I left a similar message, though this time, the earlier, longer, pleasant chat was abbreviated to "Don't go. It's not on. Dad"

I'd just got back into bed when the phone rang and a sleepy voice croaked, "Hello,

Dad? Couldn't get to the phone in time."

My mind raced through the one possibility for this before he continued.

"I was half way up the stairs when you hung up."

I was about to ask "What stairs?" when I twigged. They were sleeping in the double bed downstairs, not in our bed with the phone.

I explained about the wrong date and that I hoped the call hadn't been a bother.

"No, it's okay. We thought they'd probably cancel it as it's hailing and bucketing down."

Later, I explained the situation to Herself, who nodded knowingly.

"Don't you remember when we had the choice between my parents' bed and those two uncomfortable twin beds that we immediately chose the twins? It's a bit uncomfortable being in the same bed where you were conceived."

I thought about it and realised that we do prefer a bit of distance between events and ourselves. Which is probably why I'm less than happy with the latest trend in TV documentaries.

In the olden days, an instructional show about other countries, food or the weather, concentrated on the information. Today it seems that the info comes a poor second to the presenter.

Food programs seem to be 80 percent cook and 20 on the food. Invariably, dinner party conversations range over who is preferred as a presenter.

Jamie is either "sexy" or a "yob". Ainsley is "refreshingly enthusiastic" or too "high camp". Nigella is "wonderful" or "I feel sick every time she licks her finger!" Discussions about the food they cook come a very poor second.

The same happens with nature programs in which we see and hear Attenborough full frame with his co-stars performing to his well-modulated script. Even more ludicrous are the programs presented by some minor TV personality. Joe Bloggs' Wild Adventure features Joe telling us what we could have read in the TV guide and this then is followed by the personality-less doco, only to be spoilt at the end by the same pointless Joe urging us to join him the following week on his next "safari".

The latest is the Wild Weather show featuring a reckless, wind-swept, child presenter, a graphics nerd amid some real weather. Explanation about the weather is subsumed under footage of "This is me pretending to be drowned" or "This is me in a big cloud" or "This is me being really cold".


I fear the imminent future plagued by the threat of terrorism. Imagine the conversation the following day after a government documentary teaching us how to deal with WMD.

"Waddya think?"

"Don't remember what she said, but she sure had a lovely smile and big boobs!"

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She fishes for prey with her net of sticky silk

THROUGHOUT the day Deinopis remains motionless, her grey-brown spindle-shaped body blending with the branches of the low shrub. Head down and holding her legs together in pairs, she is doing her best to look like a bundle of dead twigs and not like an eight-legged spider.

Camouflage is her defence. Her life depends on it. As a last resort, if the camouflage fails, Deinopis can always run or rather swing, like Tarzan, from leaf to leaf. Although agile, her speed and agility would be no match for the likes of an acute-eyed, lightning-fast Praying Mantis. Better by far not to be spotted.

Deinopis hunts for prey at night. She does not pursue her victims, but waits for them to come to her. Her method of capture is unique among spiders and probably all other animals too, apart from ourselves—she uses a net. And because of that Deinopis is known as the Net-casting Spider. Another less complimentary name sometimes used to describe her is the Ogre-face Spider, due to the fact her front pair of eyes are round and black and greatly enlarged.

With the setting of the sun and the losing of the light, Deinopis stirs. There is work to be done if she is to eat tonight. A net must be constructed. The spider begins by panning out a line of non-sticky silk from her spinnerets. Attached to this tight-rope, in a head-up position, she spins a rectangular frame of silk. Next, using her rear legs in turn, Deinopis combs out a special silk—not from the spinnerets this time, but from small perforated plates called

NATURE

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

cribellum. This bluish-white cribellate silk is very sticky and fuzzy and is more elastic than ordinary silk and when laid across the frame in a zig-zag fashion forms numerous tiny coils. The completed net resembles a skein of fine knitting wool.

Holding the corners of the crimped square net in her four front legs, Deinopis turns upside down on her silken rope rather like a circus trapeze artist on a high wire. In preparation for the ambush she deposits a drop of white faeces on the bare ground beneath her. The reason for this is pure speculation, but it is thought that the excreta acts as an aiming spot, providing a light coloured background to highlight the prey as it passes below.

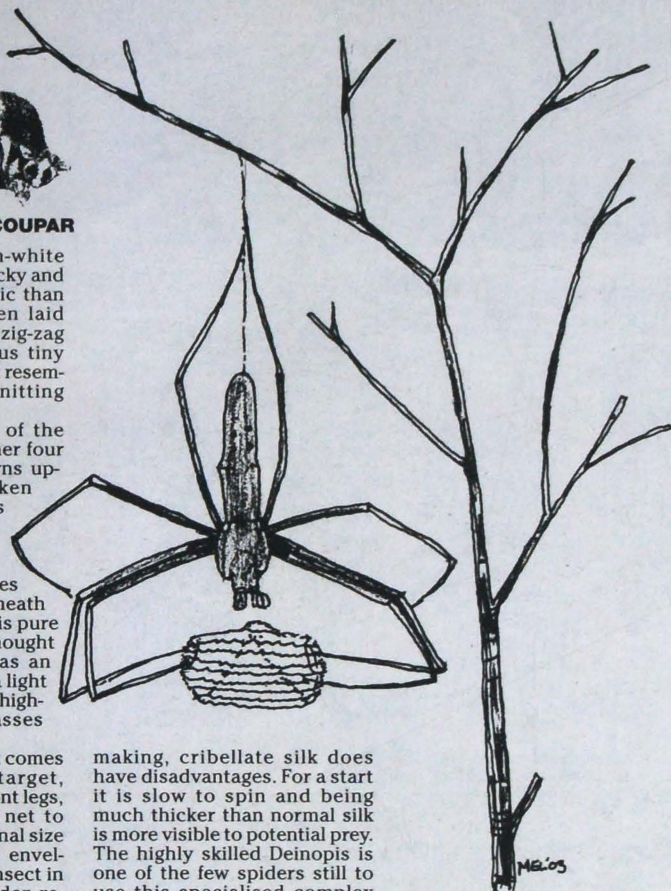
When a suitable insect comes within range of the target, Deinopis spreads her front legs, expanding the elastic net to about five times its original size and lunges downwards enveloping the unfortunate insect in bands of silk. The spider removes her dinner from the net, hanging it up close by to consume later at her leisure. The net may be used more than once, but if damaged it is rolled up in a ball and a new one constructed.

While ideally suited for net-

making, cribellate silk does have disadvantages. For a start it is slow to spin and being much thicker than normal silk is more visible to potential prey. The highly skilled Deinopis is one of the few spiders still to use this specialised complex silk. Although she is seldom seen, the spider is not rare and has adapted well to urban living, using old paling fences and weatherboards to enhance her cryptic coloration.

Incidentally, it is not sexist to refer to the Net-casting Spider

as female. Like many other species of spiders, male Deinopis are much smaller than their female counterparts, they don't make nets or spin webs, neither do they live long. In the world of Arachnids—there is no equality of the sexes.



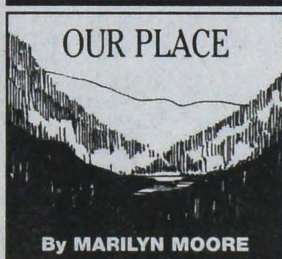
Wonders of pumpkin soup

NICE try, kiddo. But standing one-legged on the bathroom scales doesn't make a single milligram of difference. Avoidupois, it seems, is avoidupois, regardless of the number of gravity-powered conduits to the weighing device.

Sigh! The all-amazing Wonder Soup diet, widely used in hospitals when heart patients need to shed kilos before breakfast and promoted by doctors across the country as the most effective way for everybody else to jettison their spare tyres, only works up to a point, it seems—the point where you get on the scales at the end of the second week.

But I suppose I can't really blame the diet. I should have stuck to it better. And I should have known better as well. Lasting more than a week without a decent feed of muesli or potatoes was never an odds-on bet in my case.

Two weeks ago, after a stern wake-up call from a doctor speaking on ABC radio about preventative lifestyle, shedding a few kilos seemed like a national duty, sort of like mass



inoculation. There'd be valuable side-benefits, too. Think of the small fortune many cyclists pay to own a lightweight bike. If losing a few grams of metal could make you feel a couple of thou ahead of the pack, think what losing a few kilograms of ballast would do! I'd be flying.

And indeed I was. After only a week of feasting on Wonder Soup, riding to work felt like I'd left the laden pannier at home. The rolling hills along the Yarra shrank to mere anthills, High Street outside St Joseph's in Northcote no longer seemed to traverse the summit of Mt Kosciuszko, and, as for the steepish climb out of Merri

Creek gorge? Well, I barely changed gear. Awash with remorse for years of unnecessarily overworking the loyally pumping heart muscle, I felt inspired to redouble my efforts.

The long and short of it is that I'd always believed diets to be rubbish, and that the best way to keep fit is to enjoy healthy food and lots of exercise. But that philosophy doesn't work with quite the same grace once you're on the larger side of 40. No amount of exercise seems to atone for a fulsome pumpkin risotto washed down with a glass or three of sauvignon blanc.

Pumpkin risotto! The very thought drives me, stomach rumbling, in search of one of Gabriel Gaté's bibles on healthy food. There's definitely a limit to the amount of diet cabbage soup one can eat! Damn! The book's gone AWOL. Can't be far away, though.

Sorting through the scatter of newspaper on the kitchen table—usually a productive pastime—doesn't turn up the wayward recipes but does reveal the whereabouts of a number of other missing items: The Concise Oxford German Dictionary.

(Concise? It's at least four inches thick! How could anybody lose that?) February's *Warrandyte Diary*. The box for a borrowed game of Grim Fandango (better hide that until the next school holidays). Melways. Web Sites That Suck! (due tomorrow at the library). VicRoads' Rules and Responsibilities (now where did that come from?) The piano accompaniment for a violin exam book (would never have found that!) Or the CD cover for Shrek (minus CD) and, bottom of the pile, last Saturday's Age with its impossible general knowledge crossword. (There's always at least one word that stops us in our tracks. This week's gem was "an obscure name for the letter z". Now how many people do you reckon would have known that the word "zed" derives from "izzud" or "izzard"?)

Oh well, the book will undoubtedly turn up. In the meantime, perhaps I'll add something ultra-lively such as habanero paste to the forthcoming cauldron of cabbage stew. Alternatively, I could sneak in a tin of creamed corn. And maybe a teensy pumpkin or two. Now that's more like it!

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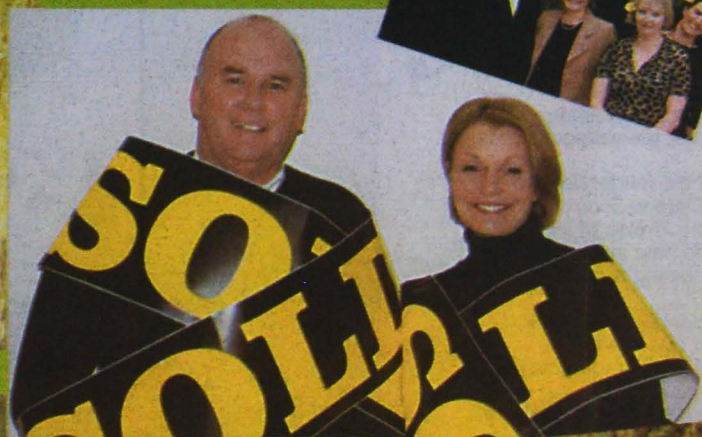
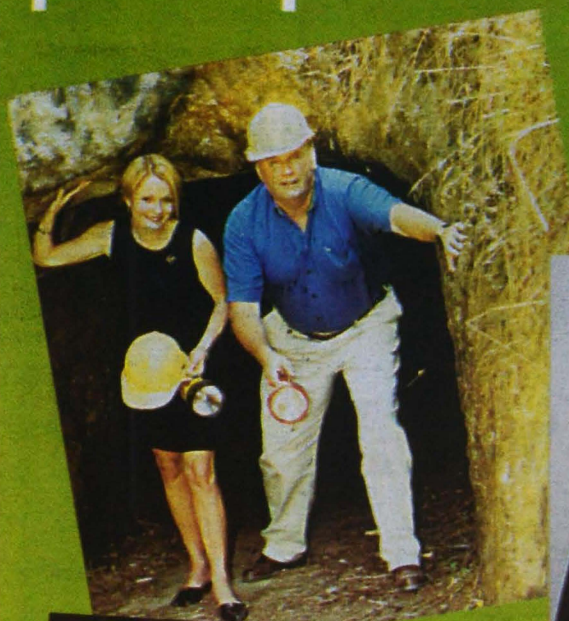
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Summer's high ideals, must melt and fade,
And autumn mists run unravelling, down the sepia river,
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It's just you and me darling, now the kids have all left us,
Gawky teenage ducklings swimming off down the flow,
Spring's quaint puffs of fluff, now dabble and struggle,
Ever braver and bolder, with each day they grow.
Valiant survivors of half a year's foxy vissitudes,
Newly-fledged members of the communal flock,
Their bright eyes are glinting quite as wide and as wary,
As the busily bobbing, yellow plastic, racing ducks.

Everything mellows now doesn't it darling,
As all the old hippies groove out of the hills,
With their softening bodies, and their softening faces now,
To dance at the Festival's equinoctial moon.
And, truth is, we all know each other's compromises,
We're all playing the raga in a subtler mode,
In a minor key now, and it's alright, my darling,
Because everything's mellow now the vintage is pressed.

So the Festival rolls round with the milder days darling,
Stalls selling their produce, the late season's fruits,
The grapes of remembrance, the apples of loving,
And green saplings in tubes, the next season's shoots;
Friends meeting neighbours, meeting brand new acquaintances,
And kindly winds swell as the banners bloom high,
Coming to fruition on telegraph tree branches,
And below, reflected colours of the parade passing by.

Lift a glass of vintage best, mark another social year's passing,
Toast the Festival, the fireworks, us old Warrandytians too,
As everything grows mellow now, even you and I, darling,
Our song's mellowing, sweetening and ripening true.

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Festival briefs

Pre-festival drinks

Dive into the festive spirit a week early this year by rolling along to Cocktail Capers, to be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Friday, March 14. It will be a fun-filled social evening, so dress up and get down and dance the night away to local DJ Paul Haskings. The party starts at 8pm and for \$25 you can eat, drink and be merry.

Bookings are essential and tickets can be purchased at the Old Bakery Cottage Bookshop, 189 Yarra Street, or phone Joan Rogers on 9844 1744.

A grand read

Now in its fifth year, A Grand Read will be held upstairs at the Warrandyte Hotel on Tuesday, March 18 at 7.30pm. The evening encourages an audience to share, enjoy and appreciate the works of both new and established writers. More writers are needed and there is a shortage of women! So if you wish to share your words, ring Karen on 9844 1839.

Art on show

Fancy yourself as a connoisseur of art, or are you just turning up for the grog and grub? Whichever way, the Rotary Club of Warrandyte will welcome you to the opening of their Festival Art Show, in the big marquee on the riverbank below the Community Church. They promise chilled champagne and fine food. Tickets, at only \$10, can be booked by calling Pat Di Gregorio on 9872 4375.

Free fun for kids

The festival fundraiser last November was highly successful. Some of the money raised is funding free children's activities, running all weekend. Kids can try their arty and crafty skills at woodwork, straw weaving, pottery and drawing. With such a creative community here in Warrandyte, there should be some great activities to keep the kids busy. A full program will be available at the information van.

Xtreme music

Warrandyte Skatepark is the venue for an all-ages gig running from 12noon until 5pm across the whole weekend. Saturday will showcase such great rock bands as Haemnoy, Local Hero, Sounds like Chicken, Tort, Neon Nugluu and Shakewell. There will be a rock climbing wall and kids can practise their skate moves for the big Sunday competition.

Jims!

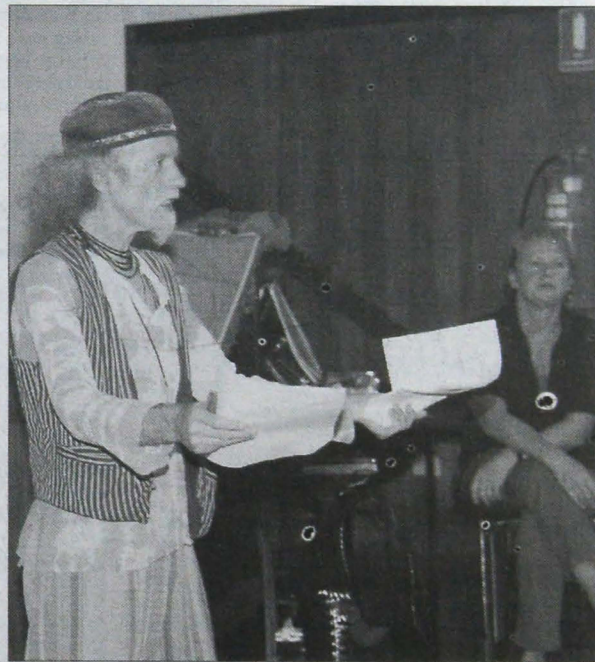
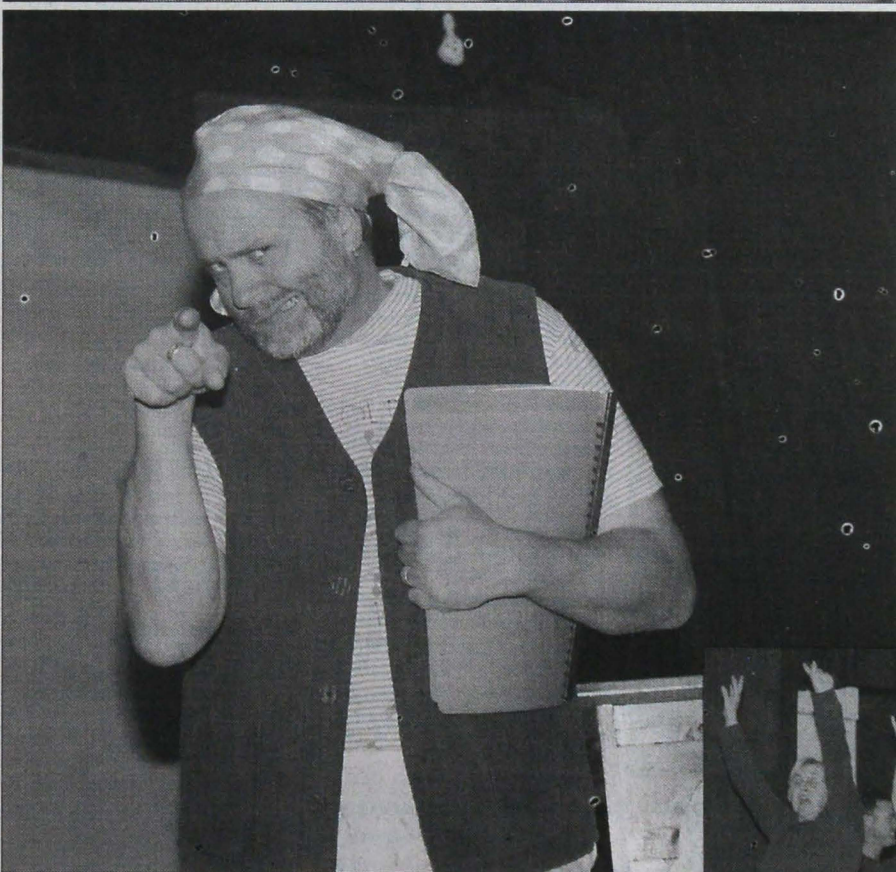
Words by **MEAGHAN O'CONNOR**
Pictures by **SANDY BURGOYNE**

With the 2003 festival fast approaching, the Warrandyte Theatre Company is busy perfecting their songs and learning their lines in anticipation of this year's Festival Follies.

Subtitled "Jim's Follies", the show has a good look—and laugh—at the average suburbanite, showing how people are always "on the make", looking to upgrade or expand their talents and business exploits. It seems that in this day and age there is a franchise for almost everything and people can be paid to do almost anything! Follies 2003 may help you to find your true calling. Hallelujah! It's raining Jims!

Directed by Dougie Esson and Howard Geldard, with a strong cast of over 30 singing, dancing and acting their way through more than 20 sketches, all written by our talented locals. The writers have catered for all tastes, including "Sex in the City" fans.

"Jim's Follies" will be staged at the Mechanics Institute Hall, running across nine nights between Thursday, March 20 and Saturday, April 5. BYO supper for a great night out. Tickets can be purchased from Joan Rogers at The Old Bakery Cottage Bookshop or on 9844 1744. Get in quickly as tickets always sell out fast!



*When the banners go up
along Yarra Street, we know
festival time is here.*

Warrandyte Village Festival

NEWS

A river of festivals

By CLIFF GREEN

Our beautiful River Yarra has been the one constant element flowing through each Warrandyte Festival, right back to its beginning.

It has gurgled past the festival's showground at Stiggants Reserve, carried the duck and li-lo races, safely extinguished one glorious fireworks finale after another and served as stage and backdrop for several remarkable light and sound shows.

Diary artist Jock Macneish has always captured the spirit of the festival through his inspired and original graphics. As well as little figures like the girl with the balloon, the parade led by a banner marked "Banner", the mad musicians and the cartoon fire truck, he has used the river as his theme again and again, both specifically and with elusive subtlety.

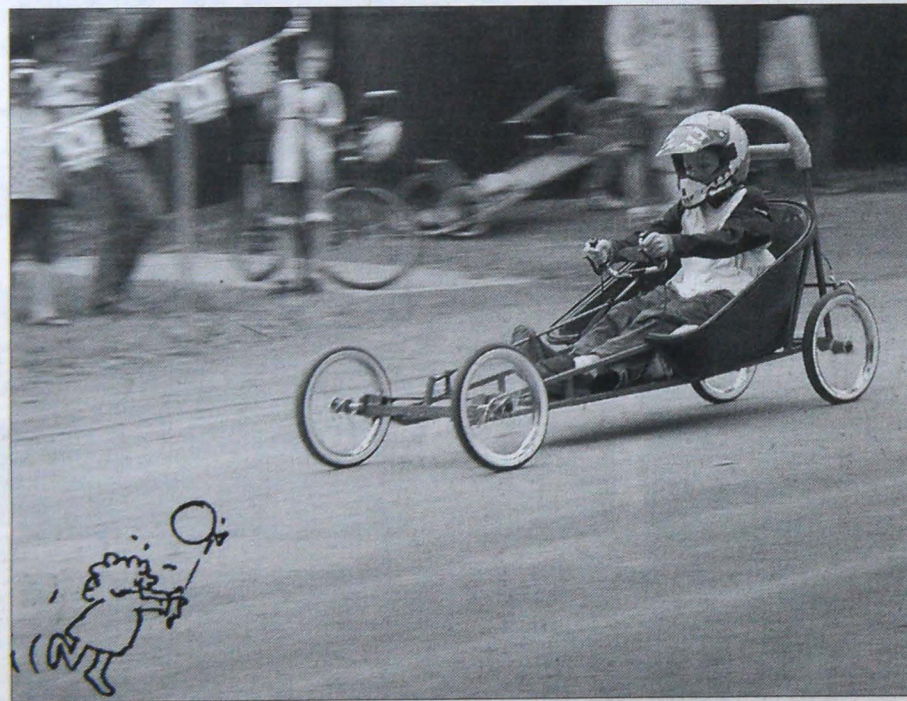
Warrandyte Festival's permanent logo is a free-waving pennant, its ribbon-like form following the course of the river as it flows through Warrandyte: bridge and all.

Each year Jock has been commissioned (for no fee, of course!) to express the various themes of the festivals in graphic form. For the past dozen or more years, Jock has allowed the river's course to flow through each design: as a creator-serpent moving sinuously through the animal world; as a message of hope from outer space; as a Dreamtime legend; a montage of sporting heroes; a party streamer celebrating 20 years of festivals; a wild skateboard ride; a collection of hats. Always integral to the design is a small gap, indicating the bridge.

It is probable that when the Festival Committee cogitates and debates and finally comes up with a theme for the next festival, they will consider the theme's suitability for interpretation by school children in the parade, rather than how Jock will express it in his annual logo design. But he always manages, always including the river.



On parade Despite the early shenigans, the festival really gets underway on the weekend of March 22 and 23. The grand parade will wander its way through Yarra Street starting at the Warrandyte Bridge at 11am on the Saturday. A colourful parade featuring floats of all sorts, bikes, horses, dancing girls, flying lollies, children from local schools and kindergartens, marching bands and this year's King and Queen—John and Margaret James, formerly of Potters Cottage.



All downhill from here

The name of the game is skill, speed and a great looking chassis. Warrandyte's very own billycart classic is a festival tradition and must-see event. Guaranteed to get you out of bed on Sunday. But this race is not for the faint-hearted. Everyone hopes Casey Carter is going to show up to defend his win last year, or maybe Jamie Hayton will be back to take this year's first prize: an X-box game console. There are heaps of great prizes to be won including one for the best-looking billycart! Registration is just \$7 and can be done through Robert Cousens on 9844 2328, or just rock up on the day. Be early, the races start at 8:45am. And don't worry about breakfast, there'll be snags to go.

Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS • Graphics by JOCK MACNEISH



Xtreme fun

Sunday is show-off time for all you top skaters. Demonstrate your skills with skate comps including under 12, under 15 and open. Great prizes to be won, including decks and accessories. There will be a DJ and demos from professional skaters Scotty Cameron and Anthony Mapstone. Test your nerve on the Pinnacle of Terror or put on some velcro and ride your board into the Inflatable Flytrap.

Serve 'em right!

Fancy your hand at tennis? Reckon yourself to be Warrandyte's fastest racquet swinger? Then check your speed by radar at the Warrandyte Tennis Club's stand near the Rotary art tent, all weekend. Trophies for boys and girls in various age groups and men's and women's open competition.

Breakfast at Stiggants

After a night grooving away to the tunes of Elvis, come riverside and enjoy a new event on the festival calendar: a champagne and croissant breakfast. Held on the riverbanks from 10am Sunday, you can spend a relaxing morning sipping champagne and eating croissants, listening to the talents of an ensemble of musicians from the Warrandyte Arts Association playing light classical music. All enquiries through Sallyanne Stone on 9844 2756.

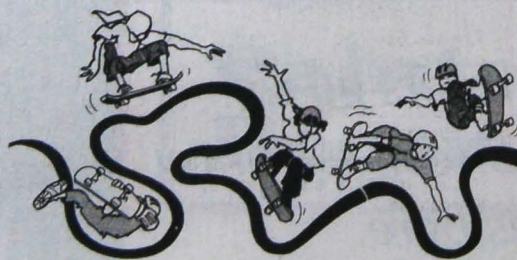
Rapid descent

Festival organisers are floating a new idea this year: the lilo race. Get your hands on a lilo, a helmet, a life jacket and some old runners and meet at the bottom of Forbes Street at 1pm on the Sunday. Register for just \$2, and you can ride the rapids to be in the swim for some great prizes. Any enquiries to Kylie Frowd on 9844 0343.

Fire-breathing teen!

Sunday afternoon features great musical entertainment on the main stage, including jazz, rock and blues. Featured at 2.30pm will be Barry McKimm's Eltham Community Orchestra with guest vocalist Heather Jameson. Back by popular demand is the legendary Reverend Funk and the Horns of Salvation, who will hit the stage at 7.45pm. A new highlight this year is a special pre-fireworks performance from Maurice the Firebreathing Teenager. Watch him light up that night sky! The festival will go out with a bang with the fireworks display at 9pm.

MEAGHAN O'CONNOR



WARRANDYTE VILLAGE FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

FRIDAY 14 MARCH

COCKTAIL CAPERS at the Community Centre with Paul Haskings spinning discs for Warrandyte's cool cats and kittens. 8pm-late. \$25 per head (includes finger food and drinks). Bookings essential. Tickets at The Old Bakery Cottage Book Shop, 189 Yarra Street or phone Joan Rogers on 9844 1744. Enquiries to Marilyn Imbery, 9844 2021.

TUESDAY 18 MARCH

A GRAND READ New and established writers read original works covering a variety of genres and styles. Held at the Grand Hotel, 7.30pm-late. Entry \$7 includes cheese and biscuits, bar available. Tickets available at the Neighbourhood House, the Post Office or at the door. Enquiries: 9844 1839, or Marion on 9844 2971.

THURSDAY 20 MARCH

THE FESTIVAL FOLLIES: "Jim's Follies." Warrandyte Theatre Company's annual revue at the Mechanics Institute Hall. BYO food and drink. \$15 per head. 7.30pm, March 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29; April 3, 4, 5. Bookings: Joan Rogers at The Old Bakery Cottage Book Shop or on 9844 1744.

FRIDAY 21 MARCH

ROTARY ART SHOW OPENING: Enjoy chilled champagne and fine food. 7.30-10pm. Admission by ticket only, \$10. Bookings: Pat Di Gregorio 9872 4375. Giant marquee behind Community Church.

THE FESTIVAL FOLLIES: "Jim's Follies." Warrandyte Theatre Company's annual revue at the Mechanics Institute Hall. BYO food and drink. \$15 per head. 7.30pm, March 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29; April 3, 4, 5. Bookings: Joan Rogers at The Old Bakery Cottage Book Shop or on 9844 1744.

ALL WEEKEND

SATURDAY 22 MARCH: 9am-5pm
SUNDAY 23 MARCH: 10am-4pm
(Unless otherwise stated)

FESTIVAL INFORMATION CARAVAN east of Main Stage on Stiggants Reserve. All festival information, lost property, lost children. Buy your ducks here for the Duck Race and register for lilo race.

FIRST AID available from the St Johns Ambulance in the West Riverbank area.

RADIO 3ECB-FM You can be constantly up to date with Festival happenings by tuning in. 3ECB-FM are broadcasting live from the Stiggants Riverbank area all weekend.

ON STIGGANTS RIVERBANK

West of Rotunda

FESTIVAL FEASTING Lots of food to suit every taste: satays, hamburgers, sweetcorn, spit roast, felafel, hot chips, pies & pasties, baked potatoes, poftetjes, home-made ice cream, milk shakes, donuts, fairy floss, Chinese noodles and more.

DUNK THE TEACHER Run by North Warrandyte CFA. Small charge.

UNITING CHURCH FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES. Tea, coffee and cake available for purchase. Come and relax while your children are entertained.

PARKS VICTORIA DISPLAY Includes free children's activities. Extend your knowledge of the park.

FRIENDS OF WARRANDYTE STATE PARK Display of indigenous plants, free plants, information on the local environment.

SPINNERS AND WEAVERS DISPLAY by Doncaster & Templestowe Spinners & Weavers.

POTTERY DISPLAY

GRAND CONCERT STREET ORGAN AUSTRALIA FAIR. Australia's finest street organ generously sponsored by The Bakery, Warrandyte's Woodfire Bakery.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE static display including local aerial photographs.

MANNINGHAM COUNCIL TENT featuring local laws unit and animal rangers as well as the economic and environment planning unit with information on the Warrandyte Reserve Management Plan.

NILLUMBICK SHIRE TENT featuring local Landcare and Community Fireguard groups.

East of Rotunda

ANIMAL FARMYARD Feed & cuddle farmyard favourites. Small charge (in Riverside Rotunda).

WARRANDYTE TOY LIBRARY Come and try our playground and toys. Parental supervision required. \$2 per child.

ROTARY ART SHOW featuring local artists. Giant marquee behind Community Church. \$2 entry.

TENNIS SERVING COMPETITION Check your service speed by radar as seen at Melbourne Park. Run by Warrandyte Tennis Club - next to Rotary tent.

ELTHAM STATIONARY ENGINE PRESERVATION SOCIETY display of working engines and machinery.

MINI GOLF Small charge.

ON STIGGANTS RESERVE

ART AND CRAFT MARKET home grown or hand made collection including craft, produce, plants, clothes, jewellery, and other goodies.

FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES including woodwork with Craftpower; pottery with Jane Annois; straw and reed weaving with the Basket Weavers of Victoria; Drawing with Nancy Johnson, Neighbourhood House; craft activities with Warrandyte Guides, Andersons Creek and Warrandyte Primary Schools. Sponsored by the Warrandyte Festival. Full program on display at the information van.

PLASTER PAINTING Paint a figurine - lots to choose from. Cost from \$2.50

WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION information and membership at the Festival Information Van by the Main Stage.

KIDS' GIANT WATERSLIDE. Starts 12noon Saturday. Run by Scouts. Changing Tent. Bring togs & towel. 50c/ride or \$2 for all-day pass.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

ART COMPETITION Paintings by Primary School students on display IGA Supermarket, Goldfields. Enquiries: Andrea Gleeson, 9844 2394.

MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY (morning and afternoon tea), The Red Queen's Rummage Sale, A Crazy Croquet Game for Children and a Display of Hats - Holy and Unholy - at St Stephen's Anglican Church in Stiggants Street.

WARRANDYTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM in Yarra Street. Hours: Saturday 11am-5pm; Sunday 1-4pm.

SATURDAY 22 MARCH

9am-5pm: ALL-WEEKEND ACTIVITIES See above

10am: PARADE MARSHALLING At the Bridge Tennis Courts (pedestrians) and Tills Drive (vehicles and horses).

10.30am: JUDGING of floats. Perpetual Trophy for best parade entry. Other categories: Most Colorful, Most Imaginative, Best Costumes/Make-up, Best Theme and Most Warrandyte-ish.

11am: FESTIVAL PARADE Festival King and Queen - John and Margaret James, Bands, floats, bikes, horses, vintage cars & more. Commentaries at Community Centre, Grand Hotel and Stiggants roadside. Liz Law, 9844 0685.

12noon: OFFICIAL OPENING by mayors and presentation of the King and Queen of the Warrandyte Festival - John and Margaret James.

12.15pm: ON STAGE AT STIGGANTS featuring Andersons Creek, Park Orchards, Warrandyte and Warranwood Primary Schools, Warrandyte High School, Dance Plus and The Burra Squares - see detailed program below.

12noon-5pm: ROCK ON SATURDAY Rock Stage with local bands and Rock Climbing Wall at Skate Park Warrandyte Reserve, corner of Yarra St and Tarooona Ave - see details below.

12noon: ROVING ENTERTAINERS Jason the Faerie Tale Man and Pete the Sheep Man. 12noon-5pm.

12noon-4.30pm: RIVERBANK STAGE - M.C. Unique Creatures with giant puppets, Children's Games & Fun, Fun. A great afternoon's entertainment including Jessica Page, Ustad Anthony Bass, Kieran Murphy, Hey Gringo - Program below.

1.30pm: THE MAD HAT, HAT SHOW Presented by Unique Creatures. Bring your Hat. Prizes to be won. All contestants register at side of Riverbank Stage by 1pm. Categories: The Biggest Hat, The Brightest Hat and The Most Bizarre Hat.

4.30pm: CAR RESCUE Police, CFA, ambulance & SES rescue a victim from a crashed & burning vehicle in a combined training exercise. Riverbank Stage Area.

7-10.30pm: AN EVENING WITH ELVIS Sing Elvis. Live Elvis. Be Elvis. Elvis is Everywhere. It's a voice that has seduced generations. His swivelling hips, rosebud lips, hip musical genius and an air of mystery from his Cherokee ancestors; Elvis ran hotter than a souped-up Chevy with a dry radiator. Join the throng as we live the songs that made the King strong. Features Elvis impersonators, karaoke, Elvis poetry and a fabulous Elvis movie. Join the fun and win an Elvis CD in the "Elvis Look-alike Competition" or in the karaoke.

ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

FESTIVAL FOOTBALL MATCHES: Seconds 12noon, Seniors 2pm. Warrandyte vs South Croydon. Warrandyte Reserve.

THE FESTIVAL FOLLIES: "Jim's Follies." Warrandyte Theatre Company's annual revue at the Mechanics Institute Hall. BYO food and drink. \$15 per head. 7.30pm, March 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29; April 3, 4, 5. Bookings: Joan Rogers at The Old Bakery Cottage Book Shop or on 9844 1744.

SUNDAY 23 MARCH

10am-4pm: ALL-WEEKEND ACTIVITIES See above

8.30am: FAMILY CELEBRATION SERVICE at St Stephens Anglican Church, Stiggants Street.

8.45am: BILLYCART DERBY Forbes St, outside police station. Ages 8-15, first prize an X-box game console, with other prizes for second and third, and best looking. Also parents' race, lots of trophies. Tea, coffee and snags on sale, so come and have breakfast. \$7 Registration. Robert Cousens, 9844 2328.

9.30am: DOG SHOW & PET PARADE Various categories, including cats, rabbits, hamsters, mice, goldfish, birds, etc. All animals welcome if under owner's control. Run by Warrandyte High School. Stiggants Riverbank. Enquiries: Sue Martin, 9844 3535.

10am: CELEBRATION OPEN AIR SERVICE Combined Churches. Worship, entertainment and music for all ages.

10am-12noon: CHAMPAGNE & CROISSANT BREAKFAST On the riverbank near Stiggants car park. A delightful beginning to the day with an ensemble of musicians from the Warrandyte Arts Association playing light classical music. Enjoy a glass of champagne or orange juice, and a croissant (\$5 with \$3 glass deposit). Enquiries: Sallyanne Stone 9844 2756.

10.30-12.30pm: KIDS' MARKET Magnificent array of stalls offering goods and fun things by local kids for local kids. Stiggants Reserve. Phone: Andrea Gleeson 9844 2394, Terry Mason 9844 1255.

11am: WHEELIE BIN RACE Organise your own team of three to enter or just come and watch the fun. Information Neil Dusing, 9844 2596.

11am: BASKETBALL SHOOT OUT (finals at 3.15pm) run by Warrandyte Basketball Club Riverbank East.

11.30pm: CONCERT MAIN STAGE STIGGANTS A wide variety of musical entertainment featuring The Rock Arcade, Vardos, Interfunk, Barry McKimm's Eltham Concert Band featuring Heather Jameson, Mike Elrlington Band and The New Frontier. See details below.

12noon-4.30pm: RIVERBANK STAGE MC Jason The Faerie Tale Man has songs, stories, magic and balloons throughout the day. Other entertainment includes Musaraki, Purple Haze, Cagey Minstrals, Kate Adams & Chris Pierce, Trojan Horns and Yalla. See program details below.

12noon-5pm: XTREME ON SUNDAY Skate Comp. Free entry, great prizes, DJs, professional skate demos plus The Pinnacle of Terror, incorporating High Wire, Leap of Faith, Abseiling Wall and Step of Fear and the Inflatable Fly Trap. Warrandyte Reserve, corner of Yarra St and Tarooona Ave.

12noon: FREDO THE SNAKEMAN Australian Nature Live. Riverbank, east of rotunda near the Stationary Engines.

1pm: LILO RACE Three age groups: 13-15, 16-18, 18+. \$2 registration on day. Helmet, life jacket and sand shoes must be worn. Supply own lilo. Meet at the Yarra at Forbes Street. Kylie Frowd, 9844 0343.

2pm: FREDO THE SNAKEMAN Australian Nature Live. Riverbank, east of rotunda near the Stationary Engines.

2pm: GOLD MINE TOUR (90 min duration) Join John Hanson for a leisurely walk & visit an 1850's gold mine. Bring torch, wear flat shoes. Run by Uniting Church. Meet at 104 Webb Street. Donation to Walk Against Want appreciated. Further info phone 9844 3906.

2.30pm: DUCK RACE Ducks sold at schools beforehand, and during the weekend at the Information Caravan. See over 1000 ducks launched into Yarra at Forbes Street, finishing at Stiggant Street. \$2 entry. Prizes. Adie Courtney, 9844 2725

3pm: KID'S GAMES A chance for all kids to form teams and join in fun games. Bigger kids (adults) will have their opportunity too. Run by Warrandyte Primary and Andersons Creek Primary Schools on Stiggants Reserve.

4pm: FREDO THE SNAKEMAN Australian Nature Live. Riverbank, east of rotunda near the Stationary Engines.

4.30pm: CAR RESCUE Police, CFA, ambulance & SES rescue a victim from a crashed & burning vehicle in a combined training exercise. Riverbank Stage Area.

5.30-9pm: FESTIVAL FINALE CONCERT (MAIN STAGE) featuring 4 in a Bar, The Cadillacs and Reverend Funk and the Horns of Salvation, and Maurice, the teenage fire breathing act.

9pm: FIREWORKS FINALE (Subject to CFA approval, sponsored by IGA Warrandyte).

ON STAGE ★ ON STAGE ★ ON STAGE ★ ON STAGE ★ ON STAGE ★ ON STAGE ★ ON STAGE ★ ON STAGE ★ ON STAGE ★ ON STAGE

MAIN STAGE — STIGGANTS RESERVE

SATURDAY 22 MARCH

12noon: Mayors of Manningham & Nillumbik opening Festival.

12:10pm: Presentation of King & Queen of Warrandyte Festival

12:15pm: Warranwood Primary School

12:30pm: Warrandyte Primary School Prep & Grade 1; Bushband.

1pm: Anderson's Creek Primary School—Marimba Band, Grade 5 Choir, Senior Dance Troupe.

2pm: Warrandyte Primary School Grade 2 Choir, Grade 3 Choir & School Band.

SUNDAY 23 MARCH

10am: Celebration Open Air Service.

11:30am: Rock Arcade—classic rock.

12:30pm: Vardos — Transylvanian gypsy music.

1:30pm: Interfunk—deep vintage groove.

2.30pm: Barry McKimm's Eltham Community Band featuring Heather Jameson.

3:45pm: Mike Elrlington Band — blues, rock covers and originals.

4:45pm: The New Frontier — well-known local jazz trio plus two.

2.45pm: Park Orchards Primary School

3pm: Warrandyte High School Symphonic Band

3.30pm: Dance Plus Jazz Funk Prep 1, 2 class; grade 3,4,5 class then grade 6+

4pm: Warrandyte High Clarinet Ensemble; Percussion Ensemble

4.30pm: Burra Squares demonstration of Square Dancing

7-10.30pm: An evening with Elvis includes karaoke, best dressed Elvis and movie.

5:45pm: 4 in a Bar—top local vocalists... even better than they were last year.

6:45pm: The Cadillacs—the best of '50s rock and roll played by the best of the '50s rock and roll bands.

7.45pm: Reverend Funk and the Horns of Salvation — 100% live 10-piece showband.

8.59pm: Maurice — teenage fire breathing act.

9pm: Grand Fireworks Finale — subject to CFA approval, sponsored by IGA Warrandyte.

ROCK STAGE & SKATE COMP

ROCK ON SATURDAY

Skate Park, Warrandyte Reserve Cnr Yarra St & Tarooona Ave

12noon-5pm: ALL AGE GIG

Local Bands and Rock Climbing Wall

Featuring:

LOCAL HERO
TORT • SHAKWELL
NEON NUGLUU
THE TINGLE FACTOR
SOUNDS LIKE CHICKEN

XTREME ON SUNDAY

12noon-5pm: ALL AGE GIG

Skate Competition — free entry Great prizes in three age groups
DJs, Professional Skate Demos
Prizes from Surf & Turf

THE PINNACLE OF TERROR incorporating HIGH WIRE LEAP OF FAITH ABSEILING & STEP OF FEAR INFLATABLE FLY TRAP

Refreshments available Alcohol Free Event.

Enquiries: Rick Gordon, 9844 2242, 0411 025 412

RIVERBANK STAGE

SATURDAY 22 MARCH

12noon: MC Unique Creatures — giant puppets, children's games and fun, fun.

12.15pm: Chris Sprague & Glen Kneibeiss — traditional Arabic & European Eastern Sounds.

12.45pm: Unique Creatures

1pm: Jessica Page — Original, melodic, acoustic music.

1.30pm: Unique Creature presents The Mad, Mad Hat Show — bring your hat. Prizes to be won. All contestants register at side of stage by 1pm. Categories: The Biggest Hat, The Brightest Hat, The Most Bizarre Hat.

2.10pm: Ustad Anthony Bass — Traditional North Indian Tabla Master — Solo Recital.

2.40pm: Unique Creatures

2.45pm: Kieran Murphy—Kieran returns to play songs from his CD.

3.15pm: Unique Creatures

3.30pm: Hey Gringo — Groovin' original Blues/Roots music.

4.30pm: Car Rescue Demonstration — Local SES and CFA

SUNDAY 23 MARCH

9.30am: Dog Show & Pet Parade

11am: Wheelie Bin Race

12noon: MC Jason The Faerie Tale Man — songs, stories, magic and balloons throughout the day.

12.15pm: Musaraki — Female Japanese Drumming Group. Hear the drum workshop.

1pm: Purple Haze — Solo Singer/Songwriter. Original and Classic hits.

1.45pm: Cagey Minstrals — Energetic Gypsy music.

2.20pm: Kate Adams & Chris Pierce — Folk music, guitar, flute and percussion.

3pm: Trojan Horns — 9-piece brass and horn band.

3.40pm: Yalla — Belly dancing & Middle Eastern music.

4.30pm: Car Rescue demonstration — Local SES and CFA



Facing the firestorm

Diary writer GLEN JAMESON fought fires in the north-east during the recent catastrophic outbreaks

DRIVING through the blackened landscape we realised it could happen anywhere. Anywhere along south-eastern Australia and we could be in its path.

What surprised us was the force of the fire. Even then, three weeks after it had burnt through this tiny rural hamlet, we could feel the full force of the firestorm. It lay heavily upon our imaginations, pushing our fears and the awe of fire into our faces.

Absolutely nothing was left unburnt. Everything was consumed with a violence and power almost beyond comprehension. Not even lines of white ash, marking where small branches were laying on the ground, were left in place. No leaves on trees, no remains of burnt grass tussocks, not a twig. Nothing but the cold sterility of a moonscape littered with Kangaroo corpses caught in frozen moments of flight, and a deadly quiet overpowering any other sensations. No bird chatter, hum of insect or rustle of leaves.

Perhaps the drive up to the fire-affected regions should have prepared us by giving warning signs in the landscape. Endless kilometres of paddocks, tired and worn through over-use and agricultural abuse. In the dead of summer they looked like part of the journey to the "Cracks of Doom". Dead trees, stark skeletal remains of once great forests stood in paddocks where grass had been dried to powder, chewed beyond submission. Gaunt beasts stalked barest skerricks of grass or palatable dirt. Paddocks that should have been managed for the peak of summer but instead had been

managed for the middle of winter. Still with our European viewing eyes we cannot see the fragile nature of this land. Residing in this rural landscape is a disappointment and misery that we have not come to terms with. A view that we refuse to see for it challenges our very hold on the earth.

Firestorms visit with a regularity that shouldn't surprise us. This year we experienced one of those pulses of El Nino muscle. It is a feature of our seasons and something that we are becoming familiar with; the prolonged dry spell punctuated by extremely hot days with wild winds full of menace tearing at the fabric of the world. An essential nature of this country is revealed in these awesome moments of primal power, climaxes that are known as Victoria's "Great Fires": Black Thursday 1851. Red Tuesday 1898. Black Friday 1939. Ash Wednesday 1983. Great only in that it describes their awesome power to destroy.

These Great Fires occurred when Victoria was still full of virgin forests, first recorded by Europeans only 16 years after European settlement began. They are still occurring when 60 percent of the forests have gone and been replaced with exotic grassy paddocks. They will continue to occur long into future eons.

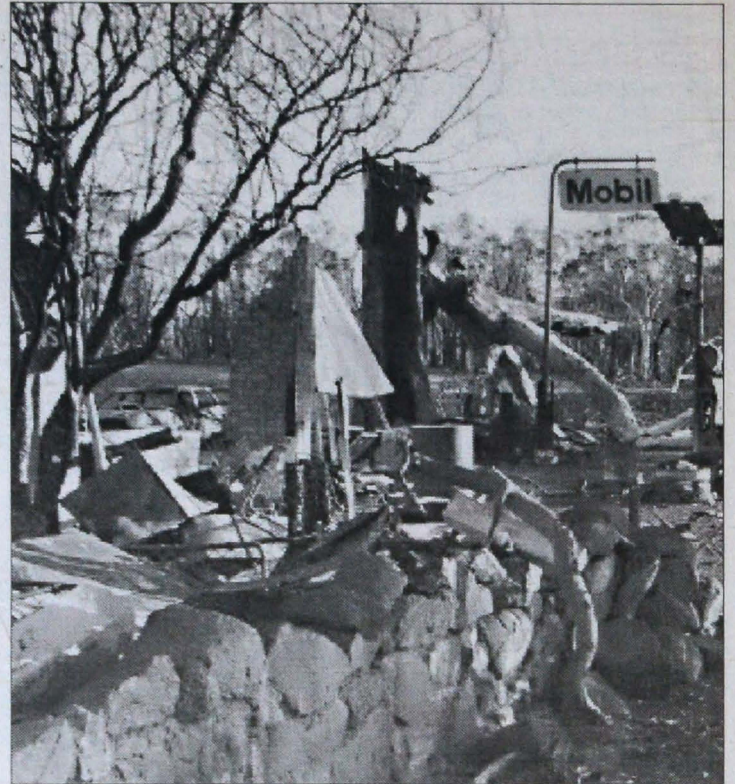
The wild, unpredictable nature of fire, the chaotic fusion of wind, heat and fuels is a force to be fearful of. There is no escape from its reckless magnitude. Perhaps the fire didn't come this year or hasn't come for a while but it will come one day. One only hopes that it never comes in the form of the firestorm that hit that little hamlet up on the Snowy River valley.

We are fascinated by the fringe between the urban and the wild. Our community's distaste for heavily populated urban settings and desire for more bushlands surrounding our homes reflects a change in direction in our cultural values. We have sought

out the indigenous landscape and embraced the concept of biodiversity. It is part of our yearning to remain connected to the earth. The flammability of the bush and the intrinsic biological values are inseparable. We could not replace the bush with other vegetation and still have the same environmental conditions. If we replaced every Eucalyptus and indigenous shrub in our gardens, we would also say good-bye to our native fauna. We would lose the biodiversity and probably ourselves in the process. Yet even if these landscape elements were replaced, the land would still burn. Under the relentless austral sun everything dries out just as the exotic grass paddocks and Monterey Pine plantations have over this summer, creating terrible consequences.

Yet we seem still not prepared to believe that it will happen. Facing realities of our fragile tenure in this land, we may need to return to the basic elements themselves for a greater understanding. Rediscover the values of water, earth, air and fire. Explore the essential nature of all our land and resource use. The topical quest is to understand how we can run with the wild beast that is fire. It is a test of the flexibility of our management, to be able to merge the rhythms of fire with our social philosophy, budget and biological wisdom. It is a challenge to recognise fire's valid existence, accept the partnership with fire and converge with its power to shape the ecosystems and our life. Perhaps we should all visit these rural areas that have suffered from fire to help this process. There are good lessons out there in the blackened forests.

Our ability to respond to these problems challenges the very tribal nature of our society. During the present fire crisis, many groups lacked grace under fire and used the opportunity to advance political agendas, often revealing a green bogeyman under the bed. Finger-pointing and the politics of



"Absolutely nothing was left unburnt." (Picture by Glen Jameson)

blame will reduce our ability to resolve our fire management issues.

Fire and bushland management is a complex issue. There are some bushland places in Warrandyte that have been regularly burnt in response to lobbying about fuel loadings and perceived dangers. Over the years I have watched these places change from grassy open woodlands to areas that support a heavy cover of middle storey plants. That means that the fuel load has actually increased as the repeated fires have germinated lots of wattles and other shrubs. The push for less fuel has actually made more fuel. There is much to learn and climatic shifts may have already created a different beast than those that we may

know something about.

The increasing sophistication of the Country Fire Authority's information package and ability to tell its story has been a feature of this year's fire season. There is more to be done. Private property owners and the CFA need to join in a partnership of proactive and responsible fuel reduction through ecological burns on private land. We need not be fearful of our failure to manage fire, but fearful of the politics of blame and not learning when the opportunity presents itself to improve the system. This year presents a wonderful opportunity to advance our understanding of fire and to delve deeper into the one of the major mysteries of the nature of Australia.

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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.

Warrandyte Festival Committee have organised a pre-festival party, to be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre a week prior to the festival itself. Disc jockey Paul Haskings will provide the entertainment. "Cocktail Capers" will be on Friday, March 14 from 8pm till late in the foyer of the community centre in Yarra Street. Cost is \$25 per head with drinks and canapes provided. Tickets can be obtained from Joan Rogers at the Old Bakery Cottage Bookshop on 9844 1744.

Mullum

Mullum Mullum Festival 2003 will take place on Sunday, March 30 and the weekend of April 5 and 6. This festival celebrates the ecological and cultural values of the Mullum Mullum Creek valley. It will be opened by Malcolm Calder, a man with a long and distinguished involvement with conservation planning in Victoria, at Yarran Dheran, Mitcham. (Melways 49B6). There will be numerous guided walks on the day. Further walks will be held on Saturday, April 5 with a twilight outdoor concert featuring the Victorian Welsh Male Voice Choir from 5.30pm to 8pm at Currawong Bush Park in Reynolds Road, Warrandyte. Concert seating is provided. Adults \$10, concession \$8 and children \$5. Further walks will take place on Sunday, April 6. A \$2 donation would be appreciated for the guided walks. For further details call 0500 802 804.

Meetings

The Warrandyte Community Centre is offering local community groups free use of a meeting room on Monday nights. Call the centre on 9844 4503 to make a booking.

Churches

Warrandyte and Park Orchards churches are combining to present Stations of the Cross at Stiggants Reserve on Good Friday, April 18, at 10am, a Week of Prayer service on Sunday, June 15 and carols at Stiggants Reserve on Saturday, December 13. Office bearers for the current year are Fr Denis Andrew—president, Rev Ros McDonald—vice president, John Hanson—secretary and Heather Ingram—treasurer.

Seminar

As part of Manningham council's environmental seminar series, Kath Handasyde from Melbourne University will speak on "Animals in Remnants and Roadside Corridors" at the Function Room, Club Warrandyte, 120 Yarra Street Warrandyte (Grand Hotel) on Thursday, April 3. The seminar begins at 7.30pm.

Veterinary

The phone number for the North Warrandyte Veterinary Clinic is 9844 0781. The number for the Warrandyte Veterinary Clinic is 9844 3071. This is to clarify any confusion by the correction in last month's *Diary* following an error in the Cricket Club's 2003 calendar.

Bowls

Eltham Recreation Bowls Club, Blind Bowls Victoria, Nillumbik Shire Council and Vision Australia are organising a bowls



Warrandyte's annual Pottery Expo was held late last month on the riverbank. Stephen Reynolds caught these pot fanciers (above and below) with his camera.

Wiregrass

The Eltham Wiregrass Gallery is presenting a series of lectures based on the VCE art curriculum. Everyone is welcome but there is a limit of 30 places and preference will be given to students. Demonstrations will be given by Joy Smith, a woven tapestry artist, on Sunday, March 30 and Helen Bodycomb, a mosaic artist, on Sunday, April 27. Both sessions will be from 2pm to 3pm. To book please ring 9439 1467.

Paintings

Bruce Little, who lived in Warrandyte for many years, is presenting his paintings at an exhibition at the Wyreena Community Arts Centre, 13-23 Hull Road, Croydon from the opening on Wednesday, April 2 at 7.30pm to Saturday, May 3. The centre's opening hours

ARTYFACTS

are Monday to Saturday 10am to 3pm. Bruce will be in attendance at the opening and on Saturdays. His book "Painting Australia" will also be available.

Women

International Women's Day will be celebrated at the Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham with an exhibition showcasing the diverse works of 15 creative women, a mix of professional and emerging artists. Artist talks will be held on Thursday, March 13 from 6.30 to 8.30pm. Works will be on display until March 18.

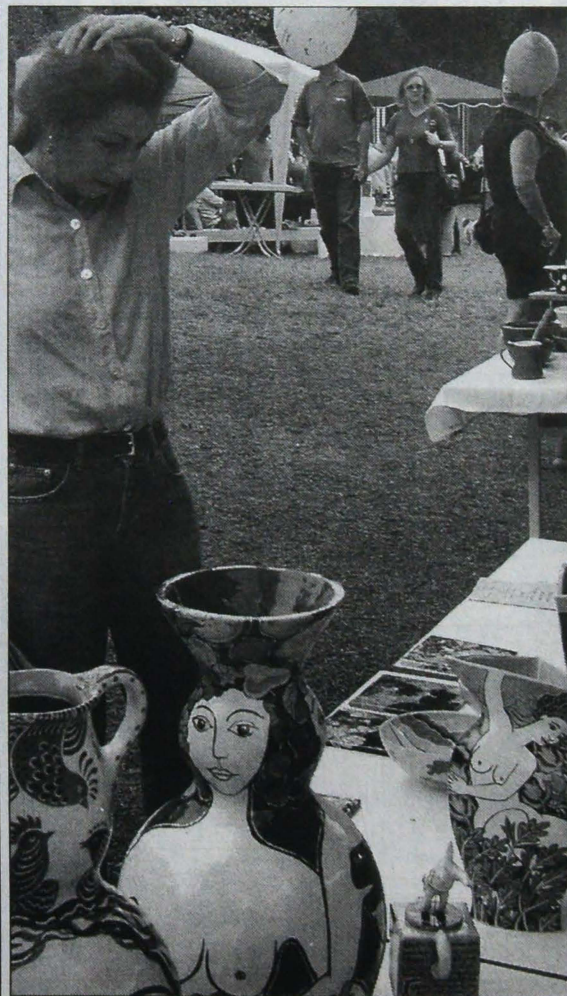
Twisted

"Twisted, Interpretations of the

Natural Environment" is the title of an exhibition of art quilt at the Barn Gallery, Monsalvat, Hillcrest Road, Eltham from March 5 to April 28. The Gallery is open daily from 10am to 5pm and admission is free.

Horizons

Nu Horizons: Australian China Tour is taking place at the Manningham Gallery in Doncaster Road, Doncaster, between February 28 and March 29. On Saturday, March 22, the Chinese Artist Society of Victoria will invite visitors to watch their weekly painting class. On Wednesday, March 26, there will be a Body Adornment textile/paper workshop and Dancing with Brush, a painting workshop on Friday, March 28. Sessions are \$35 per person and bookings are essential. To book call 9840 9367.



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YOGA—IYENGAR STYLE: Tues 6-7.30pm & Thursday 10-11.30am at Warrandyte Community Centre. Friday 9-10.30am at the Michael Centre, Warranwood. Enquiries: Juliette **9844 1953**.

NEW POTTERY SCHOOL Opens 24 March 2003. Enquiries/bookings: Judy Trembath **9719 7431**. Twin Chough & Globe Pottery, Pantton Hill.

CHEAP PEA STRAW: \$8.00 per bale pickup. \$8.50 per bale delivered. Phone **9844 0343**.

KEYBOARD and THEORY LESSONS: 9844 2019.

YOGA: Warrandyte Monday. Level 1, 6pm, Beginners 7.45pm. Enquiries Paula, **9844 5005**.

CIVIL CELEBRANT: Meaningful ceremonies for all occasions. John Byrne **9844 2155, 0418 995 189**.

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CIVIL CELEBRANT: Attractive weddings, child name givings and renewal of vows ceremonies. Bruce Shand, JP **9879 6726**.

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

QIGONG The ancient art of QiGong is "a hidden treasure" not widely known. QiGong is an active and holistic form of gentle posture-based body movement, meditation and correct breathing technique, enhancing energy levels for overall wellbeing. The method used is called the EMEI style and incorporates "Pilates" based postural stabilisation. Contact for bookings and venues, Rochelle, **0411 655 514**.

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Wyena: a horselovers' paradise

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING



VILLAGE LIFE

WYENA Horse and Pony Club is a Warrandyte community group which is defying the trend by expanding its membership despite pressure on horses in the area.

According to the club's district commissioner Mark Waite, the club is on "a bit of a roll" at the moment, with 12 new members starting in February and half a dozen this month.

"It's against the trend as demographics in the area change and agistment properties are priced out," Mr Waite said. "The club relies on the contribution of the provision of land from private landowners but three years ago we lost more ground. Wyena will not be able to continue long-term without continued Manningham City Council support for its instruction and horsemanship."

Mr Waite said he thought the club would have to relocate. "There's pressure on horses in the Manningham municipality, with Westerfolds Park closing to horses and the possibility

of shared footpaths being closed also. "The outlook for the short term is good but in the medium to long term the club will have to consider the direction it wants to go."

Founded over 40 years ago, Wyena Horse and Pony Club's first grounds were in Jumping Creek Road and in the next 10 years the club moved several times around the Warrandyte area. In the early 1970s it moved to Croydon Road, South Warrandyte, where the current membership of 65 riders is based. Well-known in the past for the strength of its mounted games teams, the club also produced showjumping representative Jenny Parlevliet who competed for Australia at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

According to Mr Waite, most Wyena riders are in the 14-16 year bracket and although there is no facility for members without horses, some riders lease their mounts. The club has a clubroom

and four all-weather arenas with one dedicated to showjumping. There is also a 13-acre paddock in nearby Husseys Lane which is being prepared for crosscountry training.

"The point of pony club is for young people to gain instruction in riding and general horsemastership in a safe, structured environment," Mr Waite said. "It's also to have fun and to encourage maturity in members through the development of leadership skills."

Wyena membership subscriptions are \$200 annually which gives unlimited access to use the grounds, tuition at 11 rallies and 11 recreational rallies per year where emphasis is "on the kids having a fun but safe day with their ponies".

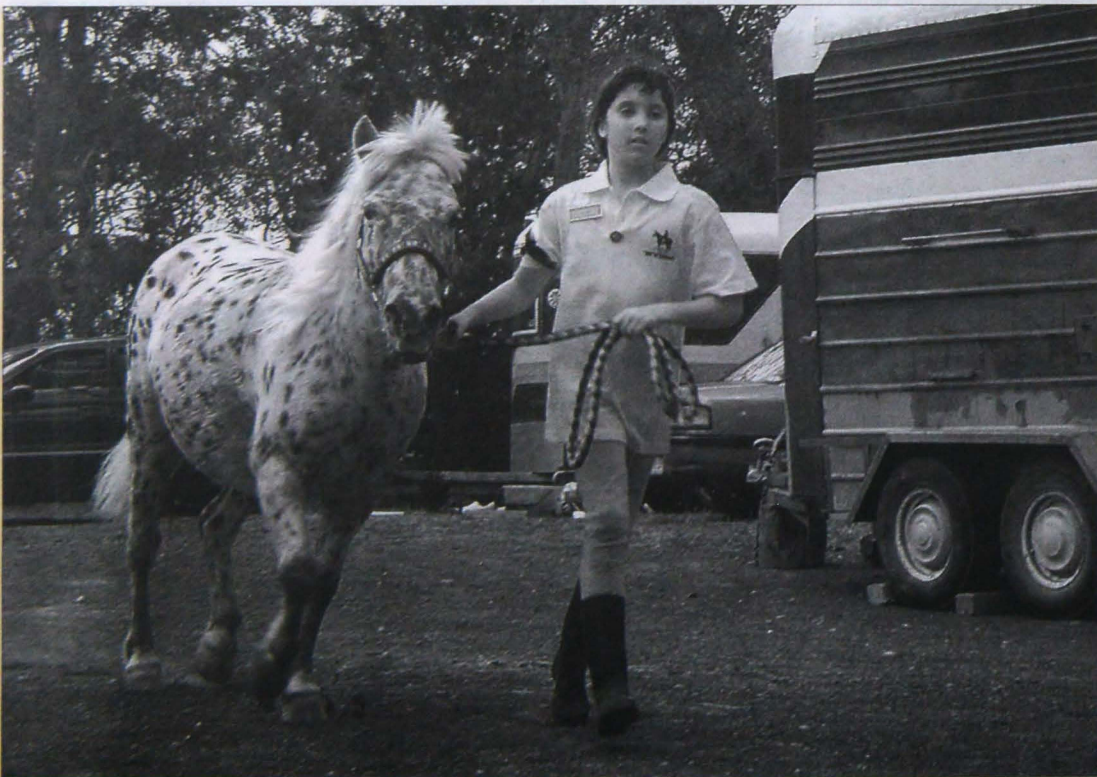
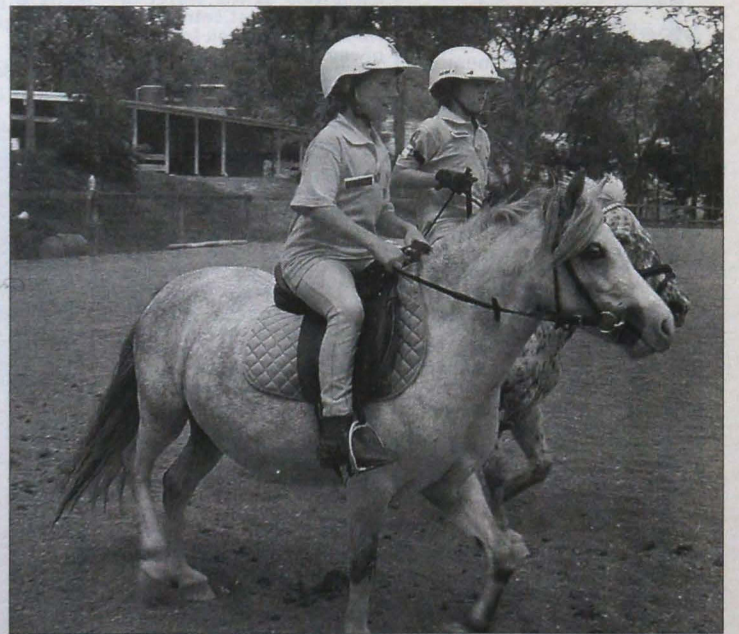
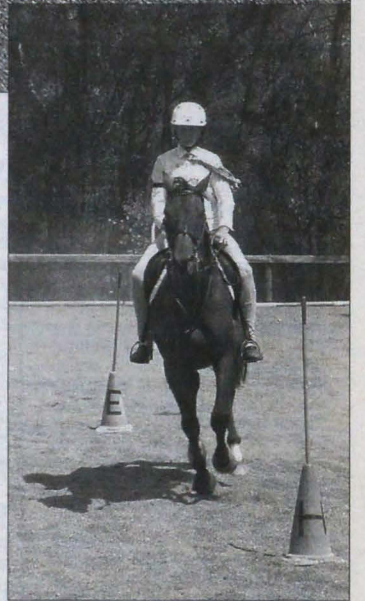
Mr Waite said a typical instructional rally at Wyena starts with a check on the correctness and safety of horse and riders, their gear and uniform. "Then there are two ridden sessions

for everybody, one in the arena and one either showjumping or crosscountry. All riders also have a half hour's theory session."

A recreational rally could be anything from games and drill to unmounted excursions to events such as zone or state pony club championships. "There's been a recent shift in emphasis to formalised games and team drill at recreational rallies. This year we plan to visit the Inter-Pacific pony club championships at Werribee. "We like to make rallies fun—we like to see the kids go home with a smile on their faces from having fun on their ponies. Some ponies come straight out of the paddock to rallies—others are well-educated, well-bred, expensive mounts. It's a sport for all."

● Membership enquiries: Helen Simmons on 9876 0817

Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS



Friday is super for some

By TONY OLIVER

February 21 was "Super Friday Night" for six Warrandyte basketball teams playing for positions in higher grades of the Friday Night Junior Championship.

The Under-16 girls coached by Nick Peters faced Southern Peninsula in a crossover game for a spot in Metro 2.

The girls had finished top of their pool in the final grading phase, albeit with some close finishes.

They started well against Southern Peninsula and applied a lot of early pressure in defence. The Southerners struggled to convert early shots and the Redbacks played well to make the most of their opportunities.

Warrandyte showed a lot of maturity finding open spaces inside the paint. Again it was their commitment to play a team defence that had them in front 24-8 at the break.

Running a full-court man-to-man defence in the second half, the girls showed that they were really starting to come together as a team. Good heads-up offence and a fair degree of on-court talking saw the Redback girls run out winners 47-29, with all players contributing in a meaningful way.

The scoring was led by Lindel Thomas with 13, and Nicole Dadswell (10).

The question of how the Redbacks were going to perform in Metro was answered on March 7 at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre in the first night of the formal competition phase.

It was to be a very good night for Warrandyte, with all four girls teams successful.

The game was against Broadmeadows and the Warrandyte girls were looking good just before-time until the

Warrandyte strive for elite gradings

SPORT

visitors hit two three-pointers to close their deficit to 21-17.

But that hiccup was soon overcome. Warrandyte were using the fast-break attack to good effect, with Sarah Pattison and Nicole Dadswell scoring heavily, and the Redbacks were able to maintain the pressure and run out comfortable 41-31 winners.

The result will do their confidence no harm at all, but they must be reminded of the need to stay in focus for the full 40 minutes at this standard.

Also on show at home were Sam Smith and the Under-18 girls, who had maintained their position in Metro 2 but lacked consistency in recent games.

The visitors were Hawthorn and Warrandyte were able to establish a match-winning 15-6 lead at the break.

The second half was more even with Hawthorn coming back but the Redbacks steady for an eight-point win. The offence is still not working as it should, but Melissa Pritchard and Stephanie Simpson are applying offensive pressure when required.

The Under-12 girls had opened the night's proceedings, facing Ringwood in a Metro 1 game. The Redbacks had missed out on a chance of Victorian Championship honours (the highest level) when beaten 44-27 by Hawthorn on

Super Friday but put that behind them to run away to a 36-11 win after an even first half.

Courtney Petalas topscored with 21 points and Lisa Rennie contributed 10.

Final game on March 7 saw another of Warrandyte's four Metro teams, the Under-14 Metro 3 girls coached by Bill Bottomley, in action.

There was nothing in their game against Hawthorn at the break, the Redbacks' noses in front 9-8, but Warrandyte were able to steady after being seriously threatened and got home 21-14.

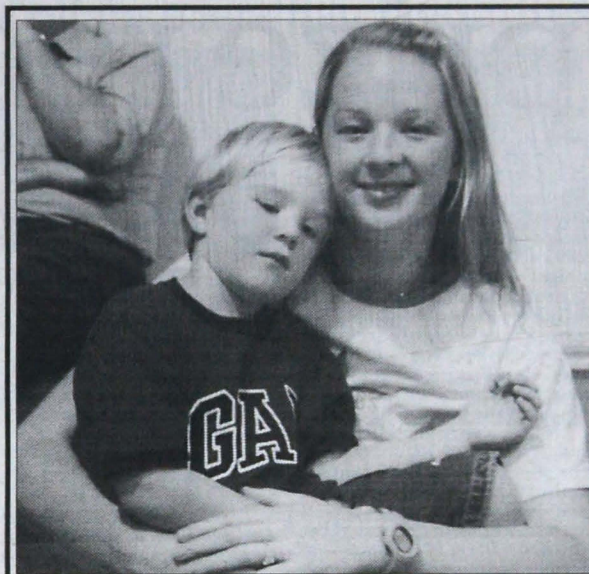
Scoring for Warrandyte was shared among Fiona Rennie (seven) and Kaitlin Little and Ashleigh Bingham (six apiece).

On the boys side, Damian Arsenis' Under-12 boys were a chance for Metro 1 honours but needed to defeat Sunshine in a crossover game at Mill Park.

Early scoring by Jordan Beltramin had the Redbacks looking as if they would cruise through, but missed opportunities later in the game proved costly.

Numerous turnovers saw the Redbacks trailing heading into the final minutes and a late flurry of baskets — including a triple from Zac Brodrick — wasn't enough, Sunshine icing the game from the free throw line for a 10-point win.

The grading phase for Ian Wood's Under-14 boys had been going well, wins in their first three games giving them the opportunity to challenge for Metro 3. But they then ran into the aptly-named Darebin Giants



An Opal looks us over

Australian Opals representative Michelle Brogan was an interested spectator at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre on Friday night, March 7, as four local girls' teams went through their paces.

The Redbacks are hoping Michelle, who lives at Donvale and brought her young son along, might be persuaded to "lend a hand" in their coaching department.

She probably liked what she saw — all four Warrandyte teams were successful.

and their 190-centimetre centre.

The game was played at a hectic pace in the first half and the undermanned Redbacks trailed by just one point (26-25) at the break. But the pace eventually took its toll, with the Giants making 10 points in the last four minutes to close it out.

Still, it was a very gutsy performance by Warrandyte, Josh Blakey holding Darebin's huge centre exceptionally well under a lot of physical pressure and Julian Philippou (12 points) and Tom Fitzpatrick (11) turning in their trademark free-flowing games and hitting some big three-pointers.

The Under-20 boys (or men) met Broadmeadows to maintain their Metro 2 rating.

Broadmeadows were strong and fast and altogether too ac-

curate with their three-point attempts, but Warrandyte played it hard too, Hayden Wall, Gavan Hennessy and Jarrod Gibson replying with three-pointers of their own.

At half-time, Warrandyte were down 24-26, but coach Paul Whittingham must have said the right words, because they bounced back and quickly ran to the lead.

Jake Templeton and Tim Given were playing strong defensive game, each contributing points, and Luke Drake and Michael Whittingham also kept the scoreboard ticking over.

It was exciting, neck-and-neck basketball until the last eight minutes, when Warrandyte grabbed momentum and took the game away 53-40.

The last Warrandyte team aiming to make Metro were the

Under-16 boys coached by Peter Clough. The qualifying match was against a much bigger Broadmeadows side and the game got away from Warrandyte right from the start, with a 12-1 blow-out 14 minutes in.

The Redback defence was powerless to stop the continual bombardment of baskets but started to make some kind of impression and whittled the deficit down to 15-27.

The boys fought the game right out and made a valiant comeback with eight minutes on the clock, but Broadmeadows were never going to lose it and prevailed 56-32.

Missing out on Metro 3 put the boys in the eastern qualifying round and they made an excellent first-up impression in beating Knox 41-31.



Left: Now hear this! Coach Bill Bottomley lays down the law to his Under-14 Metro 3 girls at half-time in their match against Hawthorn at home on March 7. And they must have listened — the girls got home 21-14.

Right: The Under-12 Metro 1 Redback girls couldn't be happier after a 36-11 victory over Ringwood at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre.



Redbacks queue for finals flings

By TONY OLIVER

The race in on in earnest for final spots as the Eastern Districts Junior Basketball Association summer season approaches its climax. And Warrandyte will be well represented.

The Redbacks' Under-18 girls of Nick Peters are defending the A-grade premiership won under coach Emma Wood and came up against Balwyn in the penultimate qualifying round.

These teams have third and fourth spots sewn up, but the game was critical from a psychological advantage viewpoint coming into the finals.

Coach Peters was unavailable for this game, undergoing an advanced referees course, but many of his team are backing up for a second season and hopes were high for a good result.

But this it was not to be, Balwyn winning 23-17. Warrandyte suffered from turnovers at critical times and missed too many opportunities under the basket.

However, these talented girls are regaining form and showed they were

still a threat for the flag with a 21-16 win over Doncats the previous week.

Their biggest problem remains one of concentration and when they put together a full 40 minutes of focused basketball they will challenge any side in the competition.

The Under-16 girls are starting to produce some reasonable form after a slow resumption from the Christmas break.

The low point was a 71-13 thrashing by Ivanhoe with an understrength team, but they were much better in a loss by the narrowest margin (35-34) to fifth-placed Nunawading in a high-standard game at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre.

Warrandyte led at the break with a three-point shot to Tahnee Templeton and the second half was neck and neck, the visitors prevailing in a desperate finish.

Warrandyte welcomed back Emma Razzi, who made an impressive return, and are still realistic flag contenders in A1-2 grade.

Nick Peters' Under-14 girls will also hold on to a place in the A1-2 finals race despite a 50-18 loss to Bulleen, who gave the Redbacks a lesson in precision offence and defence.

In another disappointment, Lorraine Parfitt's Under-10 girls went down 47-21 to competition leaders Bulleen. Parfitt was hoping for more from her players, who had defeated Eltham 40-5 the previous week in a crossover game.

Although beaten 27-20, the Under-14 boys put in an excellent performance against unbeaten Eltham.

Warrandyte started strongly to open up a useful lead, but Eltham were slowly able to force their way back into the game, although the determination of the Redbacks was still unsettling them.

Hamish Hosking had his normal strong game under the basket both in offence and defence, but Warrandyte were missing Mitchell Hawley, who provides a good scoring avenue with outside shooting.

Jason Turner, with his mobility on the court, Jake Ratcliffe and Shane Holloway were also stand-outs.

Coach Hayden Wall must be happy the way the boys are playing, all making positive contributions in a side that is showing real teamwork at the right end of the season.

On form these two sides should fight out the grand final on April 5 April and with the return of Hawley stand a real chance of taking out the blue flag.

In another probable grand final rehearsal, Damian Arsenis' Under-10 boys were up against Eltham, who capitalised on some poor passing and costly turnovers to open up a comfortable lead.

Warrandyte came back in the second half but a number of missed lay-ups and easy scoring shots cost the Redbacks any chance of victory. Eltham ran out winners 32-19.

Best for Warrandyte in an even side were Daniel Tester and Toby Vesteegen.

The Under-12 boys coached by Gavin

Whitmore had a comfortable 39-30 win over Eltham to retain third position in A-grade. Best for Warrandyte in a real team performance were Tom Fitzpatrick, Julian Beltramin and Troy Ratcliffe.

Ian Wood's Under-16 boys lost any chance of making the finals when they went down to ladder leaders Ivanhoe.

It was a disappointing result after a very competitive first half, but the boys have maintained good focus with recent 45-27 and 45-21 wins over against Bulleen and Eltham respectively.

Both those teams will be playing in the finals, which highlights what might have been.

Competition leaders Banksia defeated Paul Whittingham's Under-18 boys 55-49. The game was close in the first half but Banksia gained the ascendancy and Warrandyte were unable to bridge the gap.

Best for the Redbacks were Jake Templeton, Michael Whittingham and Jarrod Gibson.

Under-18s merge to kick on in 2003

Warrandyte Football Club and near neighbours Doncaster East will field a combined Under-18s team in 2003.

With neither club able to come up with the numbers to run a side in their own right, the team will be known as Doncaster East-Warrandyte.

Home games and training venues will be shared equally between the two clubs.

Moves to resurrect a Warrandyte Under-18 side have been ongoing since the club withdrew for want of numbers from that competition after season 2000.

A couple of months ago it appeared likely that the Bloods would be able to muster the numbers to go it alone in the new season. But at last count they had 12 definite starters and four "part-timers" who have schools or other football commitments.

Doncaster East have 10 registered players.

The composite side will be jointly coached by Warrandyte's Shaun Wilson and Doncaster East's Jim Kilsby.

"The kids are very positive about wanting to play in a combined side," said WFC vice-president Phil Treeby who, along with committeemen Brian Williams and Lawrie Sloan, has been a driving force in the campaign to put the Under-18s back on the paddock.

"We know that other clubs in EFL Third Division, including Templestowe, are having a lot of trouble getting an Under-18 team together.

"If they cannot, we'd be hoping to attract eligible players from those clubs."

Warrandyte and Doncaster East have drawn up several designs for a new jumper to incorporate the colours of both clubs.

Bloods grab prize recruit

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club have signed outstanding young on-baller Todd Holman for their 2003 EFL Third Division campaign.

The Bloods had been particularly keen to recruit Holman, 20, who comes highly recommended by reigning club champion Matt Blagrove, his former coach in a junior development squad at the Preston Knights.

"Todd's a very good player, a quality player," Blagrove told the *Diary*. "I'd describe him as Robert Harvey-ish ... very smooth."

The excitement generated by the acquisition of Holman — a former Warrandyte High School student who has played his recent football in top company in Canberra — has been tempered somewhat by the loss of homegrown young star Andrew Brown.

Brown had returned to the Bloods after two seasons with East Ringwood in EFL First Division and was expected to have considerable influence on local fortunes this season.

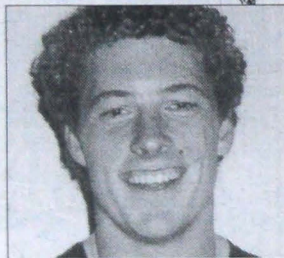
But he has now been picked up by the Bendigo Diggers, Essendon's feeder team the VFL. It is a career opportunity too good to refuse and Warrandyte wish him all the best.

Still, the Bloods have recruited well and this looks a better player list than that which under-performed so badly until the last five rounds of last season.

Coach Scott Hunter certainly believes so.

"It's definitely a better list," he said. "We've gained more than

SPORT



Andrew Brown: lost to the Bendigo Diggers.

we've lost. "We've lost Chris Cornell (retired), which is unfortunate, but we've picked up three or four good players who hopefully will continue our improvement."

"I don't really count Andrew Brown as a loss because although he came back to us he has left without playing for us again."

"Andrew wants to play at a higher level — and good luck to him!"

Hunter said was disappointed with the numbers who had turned out on the training track. "Those who have been there have been all right," he said, "but I'm still not happy with the commitment of all the players."

"The ball is on their court. We can't pick them up and bring them to training. It's up to them to get off their backsides and be there."

Hunter would not be drawn into predicting how far the Bloods might go in 2003.

"No, we've done that before and been hurt by injuries," he said.

Warrandyte expect big things this season from newly-acquired former First Division key position players Adam Williamson and Ross Bradshaw, both from East Burwood.

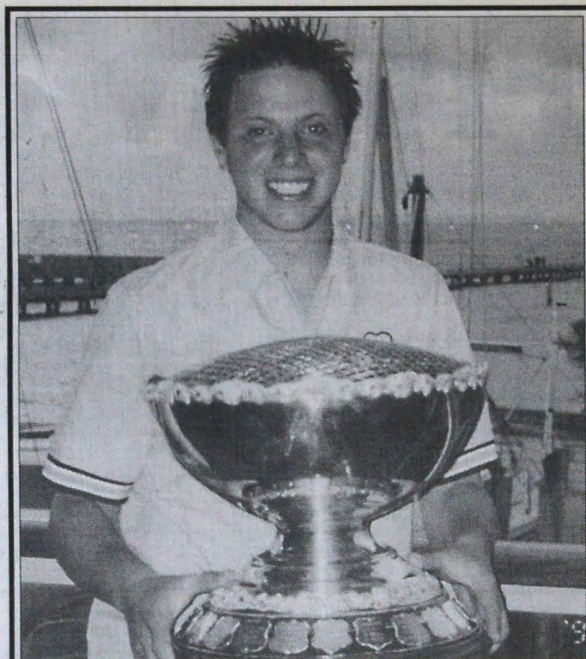
Williamson is a dual Division 1 premiership centre half-back and Bradshaw a well-performed centre half-forward.

Bloods officials have also been impressed by the form on the track of on-baller Mark Spiliotacopoulos, from powerful First Division club Vermont.

Veteran ruckman Kimberly O'Connor had not yet appeared on the training track when this edition of the *Diary* went to press but has assured club officials that he has been working out in private and will not lack fitness.

The club are also awaiting the imminent return of young ruckman Craig Dick, who has been trekking through South America. Based on the perception of the South American terrain, he would have put a lot of hard yards into his legs.

Warrandyte will play three practice matches in the lead-up to the season's opener at Mooroolbark on April 5. They will meet Fourth Division club Chirnside Park at home on March 15, Division 2 side South Croydon at home on Festival Saturday (March 22) and Pantom Hill, from the Diamond Valley league, away on March 29. Three games will be played on Festival Saturday, the Under-18s starting at 1pm, the reserves at three and the seniors at five.



Ryan Epstein and the national 12-foot dingy trophy his crew won so convincingly.

It's plain sailing for young Ryan

A mate really started something when he took young Ryan Epstein for a spin in his 12-foot Cadet dinghy five years ago.

The sailing bug bit instantly and hard — and there is apparently no antidote.

A few weeks ago, Ryan, 17, of Fossickers Way, was forward hand in a three-man Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron crew which won the Australian 12-foot dinghy championship off Brighton. Sailing a squadron boat, the crew won eight of the nine races sailed in the biggest regatta of its kind since 12-footers first competed for a national title in Sydney in 1921.

Some of the earlier competitors went on to sail in the Sydney to Hobart race and the America's Cup.

Boats and crews for this year's event came from as far afield as Queensland and Tasmania.

Having won the national championship, Ryan, who attends Mount Scopus College in Burwood, certainly does not intend to rest on his oars. He regards it as a stepping stone to bigger things.

"I plan to get my own boat and hopefully sail for Australia at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006," he said.

Bloods, sweat, no tears

Former Essendon premiership player Peter Bradbury has put the toughness and stamina of Warrandyte's footballers to the ultimate test.

Bradbury conducted a day-long camp at the Clifford Park scout camp at Wonga Park on March 1, subjecting them to 12 tortuous hours of commando-style training.

If they'd thought anything senior coach Scott Hunter had put them through on the training track was painful, they were to think again.

A squad of about 30 players was broken into four teams competing as runners, boxers, wrestlers and climbers.

And all four showed admirable fitness and resilience by breaking the record over the commando course.

The exercise started at 5.30am and finished at 6pm. It resumed shortly after on bar stools at the Grand Hotel.

Sponsors' night out

Scoreboard naming rights will be up for grabs at Warrandyte Football Club's Sponsors Night on Friday, March 28, at Club Warrandyte.

Tickets are \$220 a double and include dinner, drinks, entertainment highlighted by The Music Men and entry into the scoreboard naming rights raffle.

The function starts at 7pm.

Naming rights for Warrandyte's new jumpers have already been won by the Victoria Schoolwear Company.

Eight carry juniors' banner



Beaten Under-14 grand finalists last season, can these boys take that one further step as Under-15s in 2003. Warrandyte Junior Football Club reckon so.

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

Warrandyte Junior Football Club will field eight teams, from Under-9s to Under-17 Colts, in the Yarra Junior Football League in the new season, which starts on April 6.

The club have more than 160 boys on their books and, because of the numbers and movement of personnel since last year, are seeking coaches for the Under-12s, 13s and 14s.

"These years are critical to our success," said secretary Kevin O'Mara, "and it provides an opportunity for any interested party or parent to get involved in junior sports coaching."

"The club will sponsor the training of these coaches and anyone interested is urged to contact us," he said.

Meanwhile, club president Mathew Matheou has set a number of priorities for the coming season:

- The development of Auskick players with a particular link to the junior club.

"These players are the long-term lifeblood of football in

Warrandyte and we are keen to work with Auskick coordinator Bruce DeLacy to ensure their success," Matheou said.

"Again, parents are encouraged to get involved with Auskick every Saturday morning at the Warrandyte reserve."

- The ongoing skills development of junior players.

"All this club exists for is to ensure about 160 youth of Warrandyte and surrounding communities get to play sport on the weekend," Matheou said.

"All our players are important to us and we want to make sure that through the club they develop skills, experience a positive team sport culture and most importantly have heaps of fun."

"Over the past couple of years we have put in place a number of planks to achieve this."

"They include a club policy manual, a coaches development strategy, the appointment of a club captain for increased participation of players in the running of the club, a strong financial plan, protective equipment and improved training facilities," he said.

"While premierships are important to us, we believe they will come if we get everything else right."

- Building effective links with the Under-18s.

"We applaud the efforts of the senior club to develop the Under-18 squad," Matheou said.

"This level gives our players the opportunity to keep playing football in the community to senior levels."

"The more interaction between the senior and junior levels the better it is for football here."

For further information about the junior club contact Matheou on 0418 542434 or O'Mara on 9844 2964.

Your chance to give youth a hand

Warrandyte Junior Football Club are offering a number of opportunities for involvement in the development of youth in the community.

As reported above, the club are seeking coaches for their Under-12, Under-13 and Under-14 sides for the new season.

"We will assist any volunteers to gain Level 1 coaching accreditation and provide as much support as is required," said WJFC president Mathew Matheou.

"We are also looking for someone to oversee the operations of the canteen. This is an important service we offer

our players and visiting players and it is important to the viability of the club.

"We are open to various options on how interested parties might like to manage this canteen on our behalf," he said.

Matheou welcomes inquiries on 0418 542434.

- To kick off the new junior season, all players and parents are invited to a gear swap and sausage sizzle at the clubrooms on Sunday, March 16, from 5.30 to 7pm.

Parents are invited to bring along football gear — jumpers, shorts, boots

and the like — as a swap for other equipment.

For further information, Karen Nicol on 0417 536132.

- The real littlies — the Auskick kids — start their football careers at 9am on Saturday, March 29, with a registration and skills clinic at the recreation reserve.

This is the opportunity for boys and girls to start to learn their football skills. Parents are welcome to be involved in the skills sessions.

The Auskick co-ordinator this year is Bruce DeLacy (0418 366293).

Hawks baulk at big one



Steve Garrett ... last of 26 overs darkened an otherwise dazzling day for the Hawks quick.

By LEE TINDALE

South Warrandyte Cricket Club squandered a golden opportunity for direct entry into the RDCA Wilkins Shield grand final by more than once letting Croydon North off the hook in their semi-final on March 8-9.

They were beaten by 10 runs. The Hawks appeared to have the premierships favourites at their mercy as pace bowler Steve Garrett ripped through their batting on the first day.

Despite conceding 20 runs from his last over, Garrett finished with 8-81, reducing the home side to 6-48 at one stage, then 9-104.

A swashbuckling last-wicket partnership took them to a respectable but very gettable total of 156, South's openers Brett Careedy and Dave Horwood then laying the basis for what should have been a winning score with a 42-run stand to have the visitors 1-60 at stumps.

But wickets tumbled when play resumed, the next three falling for just eight runs.

The carnage, led by paceman Shane Thompson, continued and at 9-103 the Hawks were an old price to reach the modest target.

That's when Craig Smith, batting at No 8, and Jeremy Neagle

Collapse lets flag favourites off the hook



Craig Smith

mounted a desperate, last-ditch rescue mission.

Standing tall in the face of a hostile attack, the pair produced heroics and 43 runs to take South Warrandyte to within 11 of victory before



Scott Brasher

Smith was dismissed. He topscored with 28; Neagle was unbeaten on 17. Thompson finished with 6-67.

South's bogeyman in Croydon North's innings was middle-order hitter Ryan Hill, who bludge-

oned an unconquered 73, dominating a last-wicket stand of 52. Hill turned a phenomenal day for Garrett into just an excellent one by belting two sixes and two fours off the last of his 26 overs.

The Hawks will now meet Norwood, who defeated North Ringwood by one run (8-284 to 283) in the other semi-final for a chance to turn the tables on Croydon North in the grand final.

A premierships would put the icing on a couple of remarkable seasons for South Warrandyte, who had languished in the lower divisions before finding a saviour in the form of captain-coach Scott Brasher.

"We'd struggled for coaches until we were able to lure Scott — who had played junior cricket here and coached elsewhere — back last year," said club president Darren Johnson.

Under Brasher, the first eleven were undefeated Newey Shield premiers last season and have made a huge impression in the tougher Wilkins Shield company, finishing second on the ladder to Croydon North.

The seconds lost only one game last season — the grand final, by one run.

Thirds sit on hat-trick

South Warrandyte's Third XI put themselves in the box seat for a rare hat-trick of premierships by coasting to a five-wicket semi-final victory over Wonga Park at Kilsyth.

The Hawks go straight into the grand final.

They had Wonga Park on the ropes at 4-11 and 5-27 (Will Riddell finding himself on a personal hat-trick he was unable to complete) before the lower-order batsmen rallied to compile an apparently-competitive total of 172.

South made light work of the run chase, however, reaching 5-174 with 21 overs to spare.

Opener David Cutler top-scored with 50 and Stuart Haworth considerably enlivened proceedings with some big hitting, including one over the pavilion roof.

Dytes beat the dreaded drop

Local derby trophy goes south

South Warrandyte have taken charge of the Warrandyte Cup following the last round of the Ringwood District Cricket Association's home-and-away season.

The cup, sponsored by the Grand Hotel, was introduced this year as a trophy for matches between South Warrandyte and Warrandyte Cricket Clubs.

Warrandyte took out the inaugural event in Round 2, but the Hawks made it one-all for the season with a nail-biting win at Colman Park.

Sent in to bat, Warrandyte again struggled and found runs hard to come by on the small South Warrandyte ground.

The South Warrandyte attack seemed to be able to achieve a breakthrough just when it was needed and the fall of three wickets just before the tea break left Warrandyte in trouble.

Only Tyson Brent, with 43, looked to be in control but an outside edge finished at first slip and his patient innings was over.

Gerald Walshe and Adam Beardall put on 40 for the last wicket but the final score of 188 never looked enough, especially when the Hawks reeled off 0-42 by the end of play.

The home side always looked in control of the match until some uncontrolled hitting saw wickets fall in quick succession, having them at 8-180.

But the lower order batsmen were able to steady to take the score to 208.

The victory confirmed second spot on the ladder for South.

There's an old axiom in cricket that the game is never over until the last wicket falls.

And so it was at Warrandyte when the home side staged an amazing fightback to defeat finals aspirant St Andrews in the penultimate round of Ringwood District Cricket Association's Wilkins Shield competition.

The Dytes seemed destined for relegation to the third division of the competition but rallied to score a mammoth 307 to defeat arch rivals Norwood by one run in the third-last round.

But they were still on the bottom of the ladder and needed another win to retain their place in Wilkins Shield.

On the first day of the match against St Andrews, the tight and patient Warrandyte attack restricted the highly-rated opposition to 9-161, a score that looked well within reach, especially with the anticipated rewards that would accompany the win.

But as had happened all season, Warrandyte's batting collapsed and at tea the hopes of the team looked dashed as they slumped to 8-96.

Veterans Gerald Walshe and Robert White, who both were selected in Warrandyte's "Top 12", a team of the best players at the club since 1950, resumed after the break and took the score to 112 before Walshe was dismissed.

Enter Adam Beardall. The team's young leg spinner joined White with 50 runs required for victory. It still looked like mission impossible.

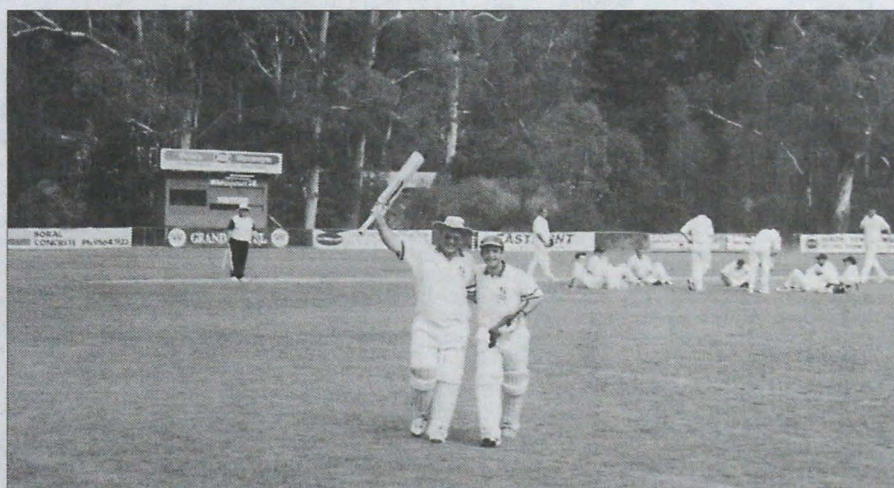
The same two batsmen had been together earlier in the season for a last-wicket stand of 18 that saw them nudge within two runs of beating North Ringwood.

But this was to be a different story. White clubbed two sixes and two fours and with Beardall holding up against a barrage of fast bowling, the two batsmen shrank the deficit to just 18 runs.

It was then that the tension really set in and the possibility grew that the two unlikely heroes could bring off an amazing win.

It took a further 15 overs of desperate cricket before an edge to third man produced three runs to tie the score.

An overthrow for a single in the next over won the match.



Nice one, Mr President! Warrandyte Cricket Club president Robert White (left) and Adam Beardall leave the field triumphantly after their amazing, relegation-saving last-wicket partnership against a very disconsolate St Andrews.

The unbeaten last-wicket stand had produced 68 runs, White finishing on 62 and Beardall 18.

The win took Warrandyte off the bottom of the ladder but with a game remaining and an inferior percentage, a loss in the last game against South Warrandyte and a Croydon Ranges win over Norwood would still have seen the Dytes relegated.

But the status quo was to be preserved.

Warrandyte went down narrowly and Croydon Ranges failed to overhaul Norwood's score.

"The two wins over Norwood and St Andrews were wonder-

ful results for the club," said president Robert White, "but we really shouldn't have let ourselves get into such a precarious position.

"We were well placed to win many times but our batting constantly let us down.

"It is something we will have to rectify if we are to be a competitive unit next season."

Warrandyte are currently seeking a coach for 2003-04 and are expected to talk with Warren Cotterell, who joined the club before Christmas.

An experienced coach and player in Melbourne District and Mornington Peninsula cricket, he took 4-50 in the final game against South Warran-

dyte.

"The competition is getting tougher each year and if we are to match it with the other clubs, our players must take a more professional approach to their game and to the way they practice," said White.

"We have a number of outstanding young players in our senior ranks at the moment and with the success of the Under-16s this season, I am hopeful we will be able to fast-track a few of these young lads through our top grades."

Warrandyte will hold its presentation night at Pasta Mania restaurant on March 23. Tickets are available from all committee members.

We host veterans carnival

Warrandyte Cricket Club will host two rounds of the Australian Veterans Cricket Carnival later this month.

The club will also field a team in the prestigious carnival with matches being played on March 17, 19 and 21.

Warrandyte have been drawn to play away in the first round but in the second round will host the Gold Coast Dolphins and in the final round the Australian Cricket Society.

Warrandyte have a strong list of players to choose from as they field two teams in the Ringwood District Cricket Association's veterans competition.

Club president Robert White said he hoped as many local people as possible would come along to the recreation ground to watch the matches on the Wednesday and Friday.

Matches start at 10.30am with the lunch break at 1pm. "It's a big event and is staged every second year," White said.

"Warrandyte have been a strong supporter of veterans cricket over the years and it's quite an achievement to be accepted as one of the host clubs for the carnival," White said.

Under-16s in drawn-out semi-final drama

Warrandyte Cricket Club's Under-16s were locked in an engrossing, rain-extended semi-final against Mooroolbark when this edition of the *Diary* went to press.

The young Dytes, the only team to have beaten the Barkers this season, amassed 3-220 from their 50 overs at Mooroolbark on March 8, captain Blake Morgan carrying his bat for 98 and Ben Taylor making 61.

The game was delicately poised on the second day, Mooroolbark 1-97 in reply, when rain drove the players from the field after 25 overs.

The match was extended to a third day — the Monday holiday — for the second

half of Mooroolbark's innings.

More than 150 people attended the junior presentations at the clubrooms on March 2. In a departure from the traditional Sunday morning presentations, this was a sit-down Saturday night dinner and proved very popular.

All players were presented with participation medals and the following individual awards were made:

Under-16/2: Batting and bowling awards to be made after the finals campaign; fielding: Daniel Kittelty; coach's award: Adam Harris.

Under-14/1: Batting: James Shannon; bowling: Eric Blyth-Elvin; fielding: Tom

Maddocks; coach's award: Tyson Walshe.

Under-14/2: Batting: Ayrton Demhel; bowling: Tyson Rees; fielding: Tim Hookey; coach's award: Tim Hall.

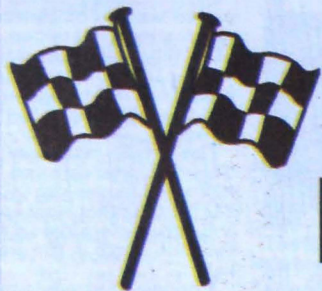
Under-12/2: Batting: Chris Barry; bowling: Jake Sheriff; fielding: Joshua Miller; coach's award: Patrick Beggs.

The club's Milo Have A Go presentation for the very junior players was held the following morning, attended by more than 65 children with parents in hand.

All children received certificates and trophies.

The club thank Lindsay Clay and Gavan Costin for their assistance in running the Have A Go program.

Wilson McDougall



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This quality built home set on 1/2 acre of peaceful natural surroundings comprises 3BRs with BIRs, master with ensuite and large double glass shower. Large rumpus with study facilities allows the light and bright feeling to flow through giving a true feeling of space. Outside, sit back and relax under the stars in the spa. A double garage/workshop for the handyman.



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Undoubtedly the best Yarra frontage allotment on the market in Warrandyte. 4 glorious level acres with picture postcard views over the water. Build your dream home and relax in this private and serene location away from life's hustle and bustle. Come home to a plethora of native flora and fauna including platypus, koalas and kangaroos. A lifestyle choice for the privileged buyer.



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