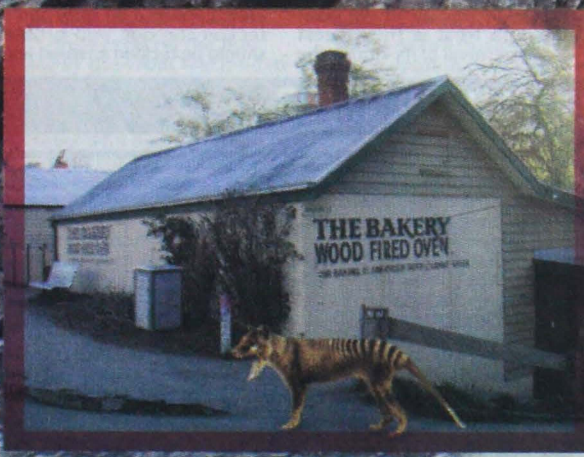


# Thylacineen!

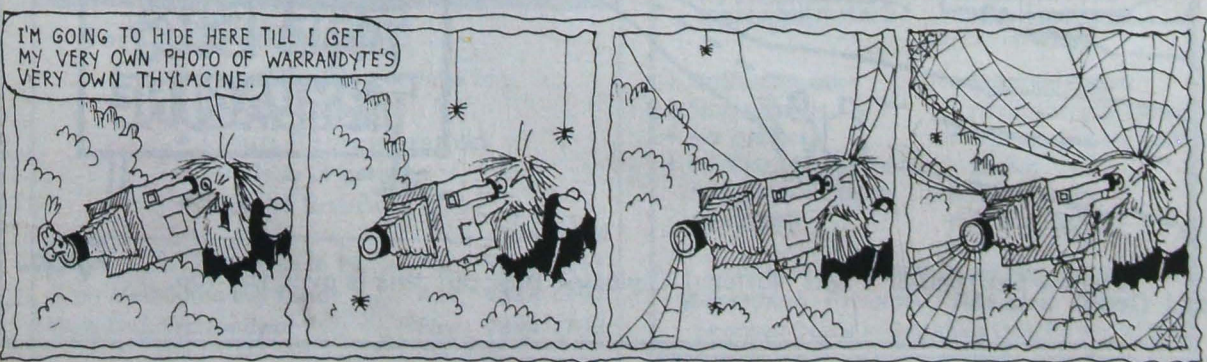


Following local press reports of alleged Thylacine (Tasmanian Tiger) sightings in the Warrandyte area, Diary photographer STEPHEN REYNOLDS went tiger-hunting and captured these remarkable images. ● See Page 3



## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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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!

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AT THE BRIDGE



# WARRANDYTE DIARY

EDITORS: Cliff Green and Lee Tindale

PUBLISHER: Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd, (ACN 006 886 826  
ABN 74 422 669 097) as trustee for the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.

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ADVERTISING & ACCOUNTS: Rae Danks, 9844 3819 or 0414 745 212.

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INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy/

PRODUCTION: Rachel Schroeder, 9725 6699.

PRINTING: Streamline Press Pty Ltd, 155 Johnston Street, Fitzroy.

Published on or about the second Wednesday of each month (except January).

### ADVERTISING RATES

\$5.50 a column centimetre (casual), \$5.20 (permanent), \$550 full page, \$365 half page, \$200 quarter page, \$65 front page "ears". Preferred positions: page one 100%, page two 30%, page three and back page 20%, other nominated pages 10%. Mini-ads: \$4.60 for four lines, then \$1 each additional line. Mini-ads pre-paid unless by prior arrangement. All rates plus 10% GST.

Readers are advised that the Warrandyte Diary accepts no responsibility for financial, health or other claims published in advertising in this newspaper.

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 3900 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.

# Fire, water, snow ... average weekend in Osborne Road!



It's fair to say that the penultimate weekend of August was an eventful one for the McKellar family of Osborne Road. It all started on the Thursday when mum, Anita, followed an activated Warrandyte Fire Brigade truck across the bridge, into Osborne Road and into her driveway, followed closely by a truck from the North Warrandyte brigade. No, the McKellar ranch was not on fire, but a State Parks backburn along the river beyond their 10-acre paddock had gone a trifle pear-shaped. Not to worry, Anita assured them, it can't do any harm in that situation or in this weather. But when the brigades personnel insisted on getting up close and personal with the flames Anita said okay, but make sure you stick to the track as you drive through the paddock or you'll bog down to your axles. Not to worry, said the firemen — who bogged the trucks side by side and down to their axles when they took a short cut through the paddock on the return trip. Four hours later they were extricated from the mire by a heavy haulage vehicle brought in from Coldstream. Anita hated to say she'd told them so, but she'd told them so. She has a photographic record of the drama on a disk which she has tentatively titled "How To Plough a Paddock With A Fire Truck".



The following evening, Anita was about to leave the house to have dinner with her folks when she heard voices in the dark outside. And wasn't she surprised when she opened the front door to 15 faces — those of 10 shivering school kids and five shivering teachers from Berwick Secondary College who'd got hopelessly lost on the Yarra while canoeing from Homestead Road in Wonga Park to Jumping Creek. This particular rescue — a drying out and warming up operation — took a mere two hours.



Not a lot happened to the McKellars on the Friday, but on the Saturday, son Sam, 18, won the senior first-division Victorian schoolboys boarder-cross snowboarding championship at Mount Buller for the second year in a row. He also took bronze with Yarra Valley Grammar schoolmates Ash Parsons and David Sinclair in the giant slalom in what is the biggest sports carnival of its kind in the

## IN RED & WHITE

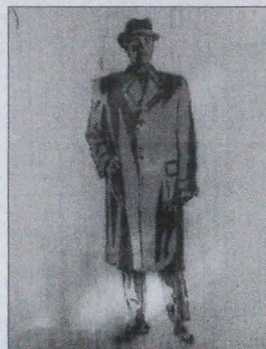


Jamie, Sam and Anita McKellar ... yes, things tend to happen in threes.

world and they're now off to the nationals at Mount Hotham on September 12-14. Also at the nationals will be another Yarra Valley Grammar alpine ace — 17-year-old Chris Height, of Yarra Road, Wonga Park — who won the senior moguls title at Buller.



We'd heard of global political summits (we even remember that old scalliwag Nikita Krushchev banging his shoe on the table at one of them) and Sir Edmund Hillary made us all familiar with the summit of Mount Everest — but a dog poo summit? Never, or not until Munningham council announced that such an event would take place at its function centre on September 25. "People who work closely with our canine friends can get the low-down on all the doggie DOOS AND DON'TS," says the cute press release. On a more serious note, Mayor John Bruce points out that dog droppings are a "major worry for local communities and councils, with concerns focusing on amenity, health and environmental impacts". Council sees September 25 as a great opportunity for a host of people from a host of callings to work though a host of issues relating to dog litter and public health. Still, we're not totally convinced that a "summit" is the way to go in this case. Sounds a bit loopy and we reckon the dog poo problem should be tackled at street level.



Can somebody out there please identify this man — or at least explain what he's doing under our bridge? When council workmen recently removed the graffiti from beneath the bridge they (thankfully) left behind this life-size painting of a bloke who might have been a private eye from the 1950s or any old thing. Local real estate man Glenn Martin was fascinated by it and kind enough to supply the photo. If you're aware of the artwork's origins, please let us know.



The current edition of the Land for Wildlife newsletter has caused us to rethink our options for the afterlife. We'd decided to come back as an echidna — and for a number of very good reasons. An echidna is cute. Everybody loves an echidna, don't they? He lives on

ants — and we know the whereabouts of zillions of those around these parts. And having no natural enemies, he's bulletproof. Or so we thought until Land for Wildlife recounted cases of echidnas being attacked by wedge-tail eagles (desperately hungry wedge-tail eagles, you'd think). So the echidna has fallen from favour on our afterlife list and has been replaced by the armadillo.



You'll read on Page 23 how Warrandyte footy club's three teams — Under-18s, Reserves and Seniors — were all eliminated in first semi-finals at Jubilee Park, Ringwood, on August 24, the Seniors managing only two behinds in shocking conditions against Norwood. The ground was so bad that Maroondah council closed it a few days later and the rest of the finals were transferred to Box Hill. It was kind of spooky that a couple of minutes after the seniors game, the driving rain stopped, the cyclone abated and blue sky appeared. Someone up there must love Norwood — but what have we done to offend whoever it is?



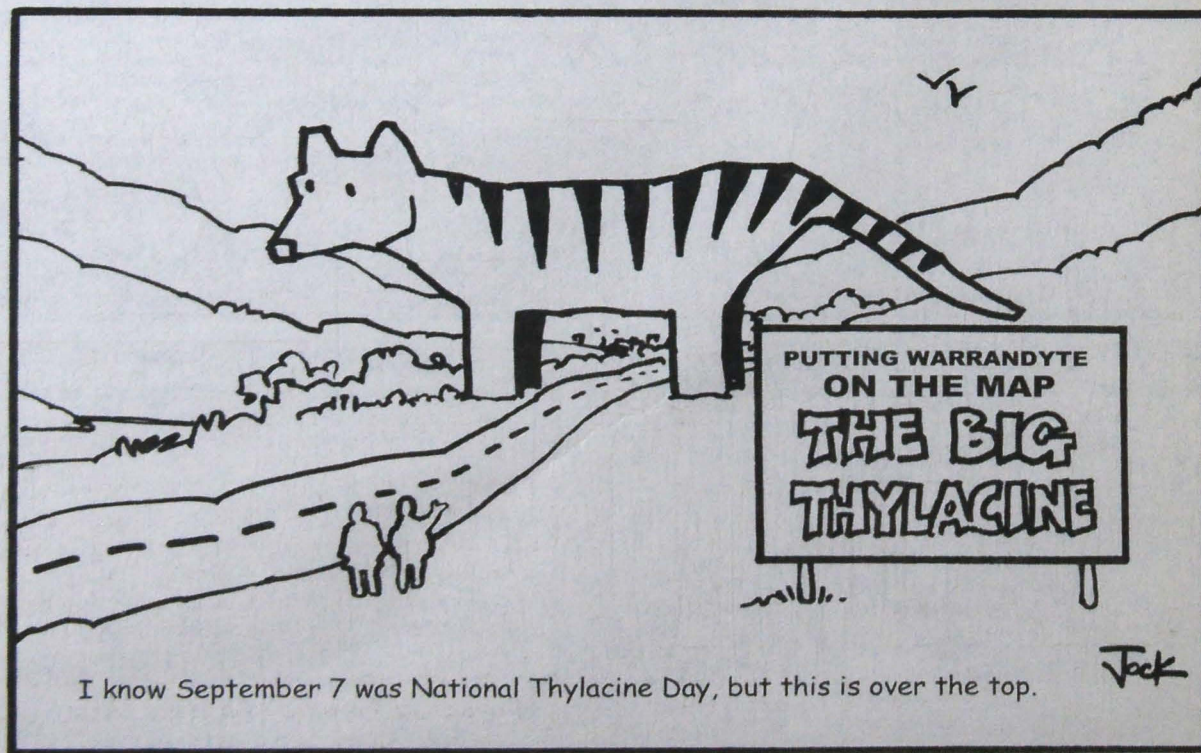
It's the short and the tall of it this month in the native flora department — the spiny-headed mat-rush and the swamp gum, both available right now from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend (Melways reference 23 C 10). The swamp gum, native plant guru Joan MacMahon tells us, favours poorly-drained slopes and boggy sites and if you plant a copse of 'em you might attract koalas to your patch. The mat-rush is a strap-leaved tussock which doesn't mind it wet or dry. Indigenous Victorians made baskets from its leaves and Joan suggests you grow some and do the same. "Wonderfully relaxing, particularly if you find a quiet spot by the river," she says. Gee, you're quite a saleslady, Joan. You can pick up either or both of the above — plus any number of other "keep Warrandyte beautifully green" species — at the nursery from 10am to noon on Thursdays.



Smokey Joe

## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



I know September 7 was National Thylacine Day, but this is over the top.

Jack

# Been there, done that...

**MANNINGHAM LEADER, AUGUST 27, 2003:**

Warrandyte residents should have an open mind and carry a camera with them at all times — just in case they see a Tasmanian Tiger researcher Michael Moss says.

Mr Moss made the suggestion after Freedom of Information documents

released to him earlier this month revealed 63 possible sightings of the animal in Victoria in the past 25 years.

These figures included about 20 sightings — several at close range in broad daylight — at Warrandyte State Park.

“I believe they (Tasmanian Tigers) are passing through Warrandyte... they're carnivores and they have got huge territories which they pass through when they're looking for food,” Mr Moss said.



**WARRANDYTE DIARY, FEBRUARY 1998:**

## Chasing a tiger's tale

By JULIE MURRAY

**T**ASMANIAN tiger in the Warrandyte area? Unbelievable? Maybe.

Over the past 100 years many species of flora, fauna and wildlife have not only become endangered but have been lost to us forever. The most publicised of this wildlife is the Tasmanian tiger. Official records state that the last Tasmanian tiger or thylacine died in a Hobart zoo in 1936.

Since that time more than 400 official sightings have been reported. The most recent in Tasmania was early in 1995 in the north-east, but what made it seem more authentic was that the man making the claim was a parks and wildlife ranger.

Indonesia has also made claim to this large marsupial native to Tasmania. Villagers in Irian Jaya believe that a Tasmanian tiger has been the cause of livestock killing and is the mystery creature locals have sighted. The villagers say the creature lives in the caves or among rocks, and described it as having the head of a dog with a huge jaw and a thinning body, with stripes to the rear and along its tail. The descriptions match the common attributes of the tiger. During the 1960s a fossilized jaw was discovered in Papua New Guinea.

Warrandyte now has made its claim to sightings. The reluctance to come forward in the past in the reporting or publicising of such events is understandable, and reminiscent of reporting a sighting of Elvis or a UFO. Maybe the closeness of the year 2000 has brought us, as a species, closer to standing in and acknowledging our own truth without fear or favour.

Jacky Law, a resident who managed the canteen at the high school for many years, was picking her daughter up from a friend's place in Trezise Street in 1979 when she caught a glimpse of the rear of an unknown animal.

“I didn't see the head,” she told the *Diary*. “What stood out was the long striped tail. It was certainly not a cat's tail. It was beige-brown in colour and there was a harshness or stiffness about it. I remember the awkwardness of the rear. I had never seen anything like this before.”

Bob and Trish Millington of Kangaroo Ground have also had two independent sightings. Four years ago, Trish and her son Gareth, while walking at dusk, saw an animal crossing Pigeon Bank Road. Their immediate reaction was to look at each other and say: “Did we just see what we just saw?”

Twelve months ago, Bob Millington saw a similar animal crossing to Kan-

garoo Ground Road from Pigeon Bank during daylight hours. Their descriptions were exactly the same: “Little ears, black stripes on the rear and tapering down to a long thin tail. Bigger than a large dog with the lean look of a greyhound”. Bob Millington, former editor of the *Diary*, is a well-known Melbourne journalist.

You can download an 11 second video from the Internet to see that these are certainly the characteristics of the tiger. Also notable is how widely the tiger's jaws open. The jaws of a Tasmanian tiger are believed to open wider than any other mammal.

They were hunted extensively because they threatened sheep.

In the unfinished writings of his memories of Warrandyte at the turn of the last century, the late John Hutchinson senior, whose ancestors settled the Pound Bend area of the Yarra River in the 1850s, states: “Wattles lined the river and underneath all the big timber, beautiful green grass with kangaroos and wallabies. Also tiger cats and wild cats.” He was most probably referring to the quoll. Or was he?

There are many firm believers who will swear the tiger is still alive. Of one thing we can be certain—the mystery and intrigue that surrounds the sightings of the Tasmanian tiger will continue well into the next century.



## Saturday bus for North Warrandyte



Danielle Green: ...important for teenagers...

By FIA CLENDINNEN

The state government will deliver on its election promise to extend the Warrandyte to Eltham bus to a six day-a-week service.

Currently the bus only operates five days a week, from Monday to Friday, but beginning on September 21 the bus will also run all day Saturday.

This development has been welcomed by Tim Perry, a 17 year-old high school student who has lived in Warrandyte all his life.

“That's excellent,” Tim told the *Diary*. He said the extra bus service would make a big difference to his life.

“Yes, totally. Now I can get

places without having to nag my parents.”

Tim travels on the bus every day from Warrandyte along Research Road to Eltham High School, and he was one of many local residents who expressed disappointment earlier this year that the government did not seem to be living up to its election pledge to increase the Warrandyte to Eltham bus service to six days a week.

“I was just thinking, hey, they've made a promise but nothing will get done,” Tim said.

But now that the Saturday service is about to become a reality Tim said he was

amazed. “It's taken me by surprise,” he said. “It really has. I didn't think that such a little opinion could have such a big affect. And it's wonderful. It's made me like (politicians) more.”

Danielle Green, ALP state member for Yan Yean predicted that the Saturday buses to and from Eltham would be welcomed by large sections of the community.

“I think that's a really important thing for residents and particularly teenagers in Warrandyte and Research, especially if they go to school in Eltham during the week, because their social and sporting activities are there. And so they want to be able

to have the option to use public transport on a Saturday.”

But Ms Green pointed out that high school students would not be the only ones to benefit.

“And it will be the same for older people, too, who are less keen on driving or who don't have private transport any more. It will make it a lot easier for them to shop and access the Medicare office in Greensborough and things like that.”

Ms Green said improving the Eltham to Warrandyte bus route to a six day-a-week service was only one of a series of bus initiatives in the area. New bus services will

also be operating in Diamond Creek, Greensborough and other parts of Eltham.

She said the ALP was spending more on buses than any other government had in the last three decades.

“It's part of the government's commitment of increasing the number of public transport trips from eight percent of all trips at the moment to 20 percent,” Ms Green said. “That's important for our environment and reaching the greenhouse (gas) targets.”

As the *Diary* went to press, details of the new timetable had yet to be finalised. Residents can ring Panorama Coaches on 9438 3666.

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# Trouble out south

We are the owners of the property located directly next door to the Shell service station. We have no difficulty with the service station apart from the ever-present problem of the disposal of rubbish emanating from their shop.

Fortunately, after discussions with the franchisee, he has been able to negotiate with Shell to place an extra garbage bin near the air pump on the exit side of the station.

However, this may not eradicate the problem totally as there is always rubbish around the bus stop, along our front fence line (fronting Ringwood/Warrandyte Rd), over our fence and along the roadside. We are constantly cleaning up the area.

The other problem is cigarette butts. Not only are these unsightly, they are a fire risk during the bushfire season. Our suggestion is to install a rubbish bin with two functions (cigarette butts and other rubbish) at the bus stop. It could be emptied every Friday when the normal household rubbish is collected.

The third problem is the exit road from Shell, next to our exit. The customers tend to cut the corner of the nature strip for a fast exit left on to Ringwood/Warrandyte Road thus creating potholes and damaging the kerb.

Our suggestion is to raise the height of the cement kerbing to deter motorists from cutting the corner and damaging the nature strip. This would also save on band-aid repair very occasionally done by road works.

The fourth problem is the intersection of Croydon/Brumbys/Husseys/Ringwood/Warrandyte roads.

This intersection has the added complication of the entry and exit of Shell customers, plus two bus stops and a general store.

The traffic through this intersection has increased markedly in the seven-and-a-half years we've been resident here and will probably increase with the extension of the Eastern Freeway.

It is an intersection fraught with potential danger and past accidents bear witness to that.

To alleviate the problem our suggestion is that a roundabout be made. This would slow down the speedy motorists who ignore the 70km/h speed zone, and keep the traffic flowing safely.

A pedestrian crossing at the bus stop would also be a life saver. Children live in this area and use the bus frequently. They need to be able to cross the road safely; it is horrendous at the moment with the speed of the traffic.

**Kay Byrnes and  
Artur Muchow  
South Warrandyte**

# Cr Bob has his say

I read with sadness and disappointment the comments of Ruth Rankin regarding the Osborne Road VCAT issue. Such derisive dismissal of my, and other councillors' involvement by one with whom I believed I had a constructive and friendly relationship makes me wonder at what her motives could possibly have been. In the interests of fair play a little objectivity is called for.

The facts are that the applicant sought my support and although initially sympathetic to his cause, I chaired a consultative meeting between him and the objectors: standard procedure.

At the conclusion of that meeting, having heard both

sides of the argument, I drew the applicant aside and advised him that I could not support his application. It was gut-wrenching for me to dash the couple's dreams in this way. I take no pleasure in this sort of influence.

As the ward councillor, it was my call as to whether or not this issue went to Nillumbik council, but as the officer's recommendations coincided with my own thoughts, I directed it to delegation. I suggest this means that councillors had "nothing to do" with the decision is to express ignorance of the system. Councillors make the rules and council officers administer them. These two arms of the same body are inseparable.

I also kept Ruth advised by phone during the application process.

The applicant appealed the decision at VCAT, therefore council was the defendant. Although I hold in high regard Ruth's group's good works, their role at VCAT was no different to that of any other objector.

How one can turn such a positive decision for the environment by this council into a council "destructive to the environment" and having "no input into the process" beats me. Ah well, such is politics!

**Cr Bob Stubbings  
Bradleys Lane**

## DEAR DIARY

# Flora favours garden

With regard to the "Village Garden Concept" (*Diary*, July).

I'm adding my voice to what I expect has been a chorus applauding this lovely idea. I am in complete agreement with the concept and hope to see it go ahead.

As Bev said, great assets like the Yarra River are often taken for granted and, through neglect, eventually degrade.

In our own homes we protect our assets, nurture them and even pay big money to insure them. The Yarra River deserves nothing less. I'm sure Melbourne Water and our neighbours downstream would appreciate less silt and filthy run-off from degraded, eroded banks.

Aesthetically too, Bev's plan has everything in its favour.

**Flora Anderson  
Wonga Park**

# Thanks for honour

Will you please pass on to the *Diary* personnel our thanks for the recognition given both to us and Warrandyte Lions in the August Citizen of the Month Award. Peter and I were most surprised and appreciative.

**Catherine Watts  
Melbourne Hill Road**

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



Gridlock: peak time in Yarra Street.

# WCA supports 40 speed limit

After speaking recently with representatives from Manningham council and VicRoads, I was informed that your last month's story on speed reduction was noticed and will have a positive influence.

Further to that story, in May and June, letters of support for 40km/h limit in Yarra Street were in fact sent by the Warrandyte Community Association, Warrandyte Business Association, Rotary Club of Warrandyte and the Grand Hotel.

All of the above have requested VicRoads provide static 40km/h signs and not the variable electronic type. Below is the most recent letter to Manningham council:

"The Warrandyte Community Association would like to further reiterate its position on the Yarra Street speed limit. We are opposed to a limit of 50km/h as there would still be an 85 percent chance of pedestrian fatality upon collision with a motor vehicle. As statistics indicate, a 40km/h impact produces a 25 percent chance of pedestrian fatality. We believe this 75 percent

chance of survival is what is required in Yarra Street and are prepared to vigorously work for this.

"We are opposed to the use of variable electronic signs, as they would cause significant detriment to the amenity of the area.

"We believe the concept of static 40km/h with instructions for 60km/h out of business hours would be confusing and too difficult to implement.

"The options that are left are either to spend tens of thousands of dollars to improve infrastructure that would increase the safety of the area, or install static 40km/h signs. We suggest that the latter is the most cost-effective and immediate short to mid-term solution, and request council support this."

Recently speaking with Phil Honeywood, he also stated his support, and informed us that he would lobby VicRoads for static 24hr/day 40km/hr limit.

**David Wierzbowski  
Warrandyte Community Association**

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## FOUND male pony

Brown with white patches, about 12 hands wandering in Yarra Street early hours of Saturday 23rd August wearing head collar.

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# Kids are still waiting



Stiggants: due for replacement



Nathan Aly of Australasian Playgrounds demonstrates equipment his company installed at Park Orchards Primary School: "We are just trying to put in a playground for the kids at Stiggants Reserve".

## Playground for the asking

When council announced last year that the Stiggants Reserve playground would be closed, Warrandyte local Ken Aly, of Australasian Playgrounds, offered to donate \$20,000 worth of play equipment for the Stiggants Reserve site. His company has installed playgrounds for many suburban councils, including Whitehorse and Moonee Valley. Mr Aly still wants to do something for his community.

"The offer is still on the table. We are keen to do something," he told the *Diary*. Manningham council acknowledged his offer at the time. "I had a letter some time ago and basically they said they were going to take into appraisal my offer and do a little bit more research into play in Warrandyte," Mr Aly said. He has not heard from council since.

Ken Aly also believes that Stiggants Reserve is important to Warrandyte residents. "The community goes there to get together and have a chat. I guess it's a focus for the community. Certainly the focus isn't down the other end. And that's a pity because it's a split area and there is nothing to pull the people together," he said.

Words and pictures by SANDY BURGOYNE

Stiggants Reserve is set to lose its much-loved adventure playground to be replaced with a "sculptural playspace" down on the river bank.

There is no doubt that the 20 year-old equipment had to be removed or replaced. In a recent audit of its playspaces Manningham council designated the Stiggants playground as being in Condition 3—due for replacement because of its age and with some pieces not conforming to current safety standards.

All councils in Victoria have been directed to check their playground equipment. Manningham councillor Pat Young explained, "(Recreational health and safety) problems came into councils probably five years ago and the government told every council to remove all the play equipment and put new ones into each reserve."

Council's original position, as reported in the *Diary* last year, was that the Stiggants playground would be closed and not replaced. The new Federation playground behind the bakery was expected to fill any void, but Stiggants Reserve is a special place. It is pivotal to many Warrandyte activities and locals want a playground there.

Jill McKimm, one of the original motivators of the Stiggants playground, expressed this feeling. "It's our community area. That's where we have our festival, that's where we have our market." Also, as Ms McKimm pointed out in a letter to the *Diary* last year, the community helped pay for it. "Many fund-raising events were organised,



Federation Playspace: Stiggants would be an "informal, sculptural alternative".

such as cake, soup and pate stalls at the market" and a bush dance at South Warrandyte Hall.

Many other locals felt the same way and wrote letters to the *Diary* and voiced their opinion to Manningham council. "I had so many residents ringing me complaining that if council took (Stiggants playground) away there'd be nothing for them to play on and they would have to go right up to the bakery, which doesn't suit people down this end," Cr Pat Young said.

The new playground at Stiggants is likely to be closer to where the mar-

ket is held. "It won't be put back in the same place. It'll be down probably near the barbecues or near the rotunda, somewhere down the bottom," Cr Young said.

This siting adds a degree of complexity, as it is part of the Warrandyte River Reserve. Any installation of playground equipment will need to wait for release of the council's management plan. This has to be completed by March 2004, but council hopes to finalise the report before that date.

Council considers the opening of the "formal" playspace behind the bakery (the Federation playground) as "an opportunity to provide an alternative, informal playspace" at Stiggants Reserve.

The style of play equipment planned for the river bank is something of a surprise. Manningham council describes it as "a sculptural playspace". It is envisaged that the sculptures "will be designed with the local community through workshops with the local schools and art groups and through the Warrandyte Festival". The shapes will draw on "elements of the natural and social history of the area".

The current state of play is that the old adventure playground will continue at Stiggants for the time being. "The wooden ones will stay there, they are not classed as unsafe, they are classed as (a recreational health and safety) possibility in the future", Cr Young told the *Diary*. The new "sculptural playspace" is obviously some time off. The council needs to finalise its management plan and has also undertaken to consult the community over the design of the new facility.

# Plans for north centre close to completion

By MARILYN MOORE

A concept plan for the new North Warrandyte Community Centre has been released and "user groups are delighted", a Nillumbik council spokesperson has told the *Diary*.

The plan was drawn up by Hurstbridge architects Ross and Cric Henry. The community centre was destroyed by fire in October 2002.

"The new concept plan allows for flexible and integrated use of the site," the spokesperson said. "The building design is aesthetically appealing, using steel, timber and glass in a way that maximises interaction with the local environment. Features include large double-glazed windows and a deck overlooking the Pound Bend area of Warrandyte State Park, and a number of interlocking roof planes."

According to architect Ross Henry, "the multiple surfaces imitate the random beauty of a pile of leaves. There is a strong bushland influence in the design. We've given the roof edgings very light treatment,

whereas the wall cladding will have a highly articulated texture."

The new centre's capacity of 125 people will be the same as before, but a user-friendly layout, rationalisation of shared areas and separate lock-away spaces for individual user-groups will make it much more functional.

The architect's brief was prepared by Nillumbik council after extensive community consultation.

Representatives from Yarra Warra Preschool, the Maternal and Child Health service, the Warrandyte Toy Library, the North Warrandyte Hall Committee, the North Warrandyte CFA, and various groups who will regularly use the centre for meetings joined council representatives, a disability adviser and members of other interested community groups to prepare a set of recommendations regarding the site.

Key recommendations of the community reference group, chaired by Yanakie Ward councillor and North Warrandyte

resident Cr Bob Stubbings, called for a centre that would:

- Meet the multi-purpose needs of existing and additional users, including young people, the aged, performance groups, seminars and functions
- Meet contemporary design standards, have regard for environmental impact and incorporate high standards of fire protection
- Meet best-practice sustainability guidelines
- Meet the future needs of the North Warrandyte Fire Brigade
- Allow for safe and convenient traffic management
- Fall within acceptable cost estimates.

"Working with the North Warrandyte community's input on this project has been fulfilling on a number of levels," architect Ross Henry said.

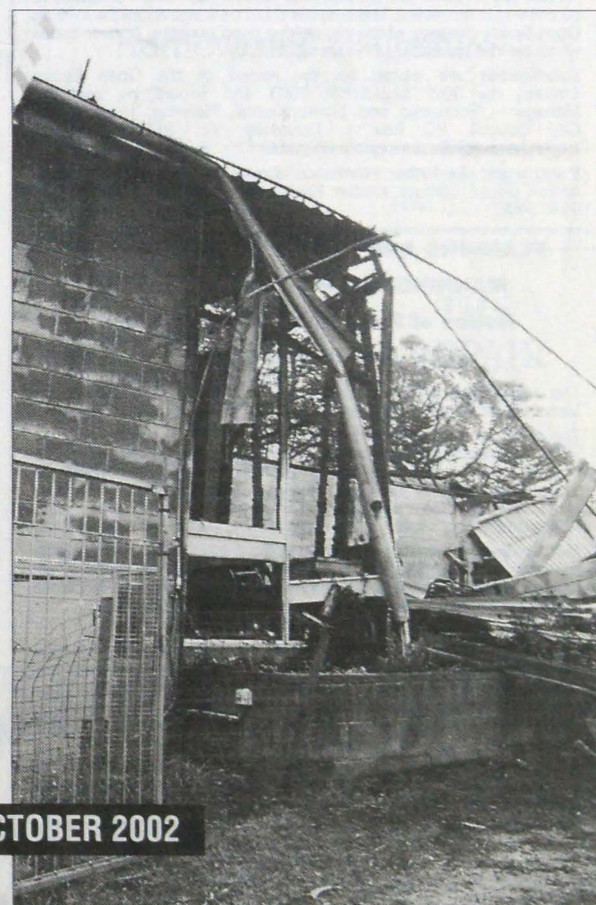
"It has been very helpful to have such clear and united views about what people want. It gave me the confidence to go ahead and design a structure that could meet real practical needs rather than something theoretical dreamt up by a bu-

reaucrat. The council will be able to deliver a centre that truly reflects the local community."

Cr Bob Stubbings is equally excited about the concept plan. "Public buildings should lead the way when it comes to issues of best-practice in design and sustainability," he said. "Ross Henry's proposal certainly achieves that. The integrated design makes outstanding use of the natural amenity of the site, and will enable users to share the facility in a way that reflects strong local community values."

Rebuilding of the centre, which is expected to cost around \$900,000, is running on schedule. Once final plans are approved and a builder appointed, construction should commence in February. The new centre is due to be completed in July 2004.

● Architect's plans of the new centre are on display at Nillumbik shire offices, Warrandyte Community Centre and Yarra View Preschool.



OCTOBER 2002

JULY 2004?



Architect's concept drawing for the front elevation of the new North Warrandyte Community Centre.

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MANNINGHAM

## PUBLIC HEALTH LAW - OPEN AIR BURNING

Council has recently adopted Manningham's Public Health Law. There are changes to the Open Air Burning rules which may affect you. These new provisions are effective from 31 July, 2003.

The changes affect properties which are between 2500 and 4000 square metres in size.

The information below explains the options which are available to you.

### Category A

If you own, or reside on a property which is greater in size than 4000 square metres, you would probably be eligible for an annual Permit to Burn. The rules which apply to you are unchanged from previous years.

### Category B

If you own, or reside on a property which is between 2500 square metres and 4000 square metres in size, there are now changes to your ability to burn. These are:

(i) To be eligible for a Permit to Burn, you must have owned or resided on your property prior to 31 July, 2003.

(ii) Restricted periods to burn will apply. You are permitted to burn during the months of May, September and November only;

The changes to the law have been initiated for the protection of the environment and to maintain the amenity of persons who live in the vicinity of smaller parcels of land.

A fee of \$50 per annum will apply from 1 January, 2004. A pro rata fee of \$25 will apply to those permits which are issued between 1 August and 15 December, 2003. The fee is a charge which now relates to the administration of the scheme.

You may have a query on the new rules, or an inquiry on your property size. Please feel free to contact Council on 9840 9333.

Please contact Council for an application form or access our website at [www.manningham.vic.gov.au](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au)

## REVIEW OF OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

### Have your say!

Council is reviewing the 1999 Manningham Open Space Strategy. The Strategy provides a strategic framework for the development, use and management of open space within the City of Manningham. It includes sporting reserves, conservation areas, linear parks, reserves of municipal significance and neighbourhood recreation reserves.

As part of the review you are invited to make a submission on issues to be covered in the review. These issues could be things about the existing Open Space Strategy which you believe need updating or new issues which are not covered by the existing Strategy.

Submissions are invited for the review of the Open Space Strategy by 30th September 2003 and should be sent to: Manager - Economic and Environmental Planning, Manningham City Council, PO Box 1, Doncaster Vic. 3108. Or email [kristen.kavanagh@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:kristen.kavanagh@manningham.vic.gov.au)

If you would like further information about the Open Space Strategy review please contact Kristen Kavanagh Open Space Planner on 9840 9468.

## PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

### MANNINGHAM PLANNING SCHEME

#### Notice of Preparation of Amendment

#### Amendment C26

The Manningham Council has prepared Amendment C26 to the Manningham Planning Scheme.

The amendment applies to land throughout the City of Manningham where the intensity of wildfire is significant and likely to pose a threat to life and property. In general, the areas of the municipality affected are those located east of the Mullum Mullum Creek and north of Falconer Road, Stintons Road, Brympton Avenue and Rainbow Valley Road. Affected areas are shown on the maps forming part of this amendment.

The purpose of the amendment is to apply the Wildfire Management Overlay to ensure that development in identified areas satisfies specified fire protection objectives and to detail the minimum fire protection outcomes that will assist to protect life and property from the threat of wildfire.

The amendment proposes to:

- Introduce Clause 44.06 'Wildfire Management Overlay' (WMO) to the Manningham Planning Scheme;
- Define land affected by the WMO on new Planning Scheme Map Nos. 3WMO, 4WMO, 5WMO, 8WMO, 9WMO and 10WMO. The schedule to Clauses 61.01-61.04 (inclusive) will be amended to reflect the addition of these new maps to the Manningham Planning Scheme;
- Amend the wording of Clause 21.08 'Natural Environment' of the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) to strengthen the strategic basis for the introduction of the WMO as a hazard identification mechanism; and
- Introduce a new local planning policy, Clause 22.13 'Vegetation, environment and landscape significance protection in identified wildfire areas policy' to provide direction in the exercise of discretion regarding risk management works and the preservation of environmental and/or landscape significance.

You may inspect the amendment, any documents that support the amendment and the explanatory report about the amendment at the following locations:

- Manningham City Council Municipal Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster; and
- Department of Sustainability and Environment, Planning Information Centre, Upper Plaza, Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne.

This can be done during office hours and is free of charge.

Amendment documents can also be inspected via the internet, on Manningham City Council's website, at [www.manningham.vic.gov.au](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au)

Any person who may be affected by the amendment may make a submission to the planning authority.

The closing date for submissions is Friday, 10 October 2003. A submission must be sent to: Mr Gary Bateman, Acting Manager, Economic & Environmental Planning, Manningham City Council, PO Box 1, Doncaster, Vic. 3108.

Signed: JOHN BENNIE  
Chief Executive

# We've \$10m in the bank

By CLIFF GREEN

Deposits and lending at Warrandyte's community bank have reached \$10 million within the first few months of operation.

"In fact we should be closer to \$11 million by early September," Mark Challen, the bank's Warrandyte branch manager, told the *Diary*.

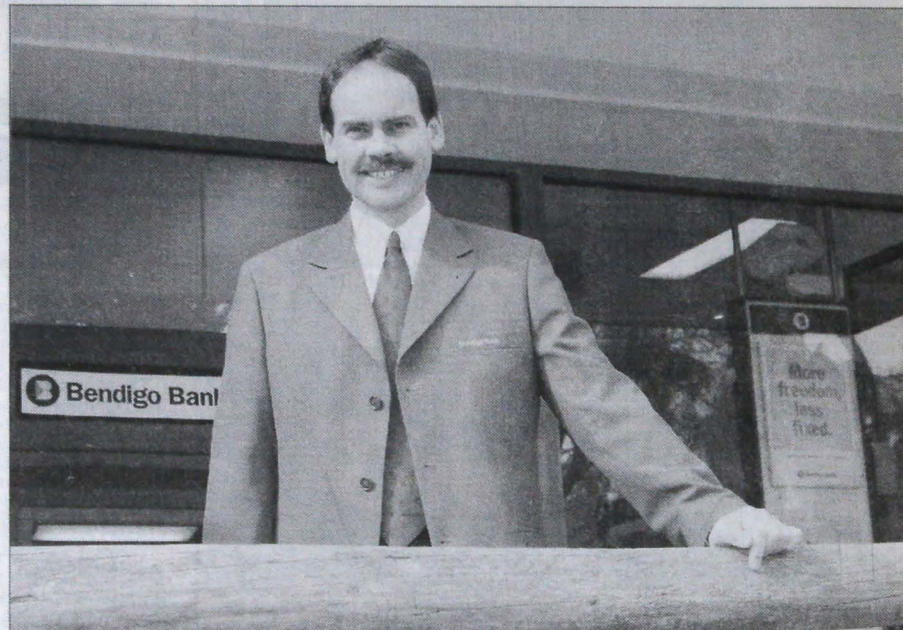
Describing this as a "tremendous response from the community", board chairman John Provan said, "this is a marvellous result and is built on the work of the agency which operated during the previous year".

"Local support has been very heartening," Mark Challen said. "It's true that the work of the local agency of the Hurstbridge community bank gave us a head start. But people have been very welcoming since we opened the branch on June 6. Everyone appears glad to see us here. Word of mouth is really spreading.

"We haven't been doing a hard sell. That's not the Bendigo way. But we're still winning customers—every day. There wouldn't be a day go by when we don't open new accounts. We've got more than 800 accounts now; not bad in a population of only 8000, with 2800 households.

"First we had to win the respect of the community. That's starting to happen. We didn't have a long lead-up time, so we had to hit the ground running.

"Warrandyte doesn't have any industry; there aren't any big employers. So we've been targeting the community groups: Rotary, the business associa-



Mark Challen: "I'm definitely a stayer" (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

tion, sporting clubs, elderly citizens; especially the schools. Get the kids banking with us and we've got customers for life."

The success of the Warrandyte branch is such that they are now seeking an additional staff member. (See advertisement, this issue.)

"The board is now looking forward to the next exciting phase," John Provan said. "Seeing our business grow so that it will enable the branch to return

profits to our community through local projects."

Mark Challen has been in banking all his working life. "I went straight into a bank after leaving school," he said. "I've been in the business for 28 years, both in consumer and business banking."

Living in East Ringwood, he has worked in banks in the Ringwood, Croydon, Mitcham and Doncaster areas.

And he definitely knows what community life is all about,

holding life membership in the Vermont Football Club, formerly vice-president of that club and currently president of the past players and officials committee.

He has coached a local netball team and is an active member of the Croydon Veterans Athletics. "I'm a long distance runner, not a sprinter," he said. "I'm definitely a stayer."

(Cliff Green owns shares in the Warrandyte community bank.)

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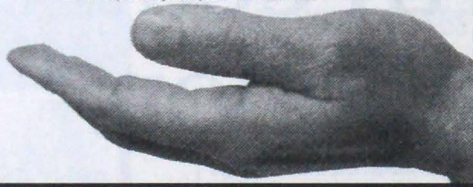
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# Sporting signs opposed

By SAM DAVIES

Manningham council has passed a planning scheme amendment that could increase advertising signage in Warrandyte, despite strong opposition from local community groups.

An independent panel recommended council pass the amendment C15, which effectively reclassifies 34 recreation reserves in the Manningham municipality from "sensitive areas" to "high amenity areas".

The use of promotional signage in sensitive areas is currently prohibited under the provisions of the Manningham planning scheme. In high amenity areas however, the scheme allows greater flexibility to display signs that promote businesses and the activities of the site.

In May 2001, the Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre approached Manningham council and requested permission to erect business identification signs, despite the prohibition of use within that zone.

Council resolved to prepare and exhibit an amendment to the planning scheme that would allow for such signs in those areas.

The amendment was referred to an independent panel following public objection.

The amendment will benefit sporting clubs who can now gain sponsorship and allow directional signage for their organisations.

However, community groups such as the Warrandyte Community Association and Park Orchards Ratepayers Association and local sporting groups including Warrandyte Junior Football Club, Warrandyte Cricket Club, Warrandyte Netball Club and Wyena Horse and Pony Club, fear it could have an adverse effect on Warrandyte's character.

Under the amendment, applications for floodlit signs, reflective or high-wall signs, and signage with no relevance or financial support for sporting clubs at the location could all be legally considered by council. There would also be no limit on numbers of signs per location.

David Mayor, vice-president of the Park Orchards Ratepayers Association, fears if the amendment is passed, recreation reserves could soon resemble the Showgrounds in the amount of signage displayed.

"The panel solution is fine for those recreation areas already in built-up areas, but



"...only inward facing sponsors' signs..." (Picture by Jan Tindale)

it doesn't deal with recreation areas in low density, non-urban zonings," Mr Mayor said.

To prevent this happening, council has agreed to a set of "guidelines and internal policies" to protect the amenity of the locations involved. However, as these will not be legally binding, some people have raised concerns that decisions could be influenced by advertising revenue.

One WCA member was even more sceptical, commenting "If ... the true reason for this legislation is to raise money for Manningham council...then it would be quite reasonable for Manningham council to reject most, if not all, of these concerns by saying 'guidelines', 'policy' and 'common sense' will take care of these concerns. This is simply not good enough."

The WCA suggested an alternative to the amendment that would "provide for financial support for sporting clubs, yet provide long-term statutory protection against potential abuse". This suggestion, however, was not considered in the panel's final recommendation.

A number of Warrandyte sporting clubs also suggested that "only inward facing sponsors' signs should be approved in sporting ovals". This was likewise ignored

by the panel and by council.

Recently, WCA launched a successful campaign to rid Warrandyte of advertising in bus shelters for similar reasons. "We believe that the general public has the right to expect its open spaces are relatively free from advertising," committee member David Wierzbowski said.

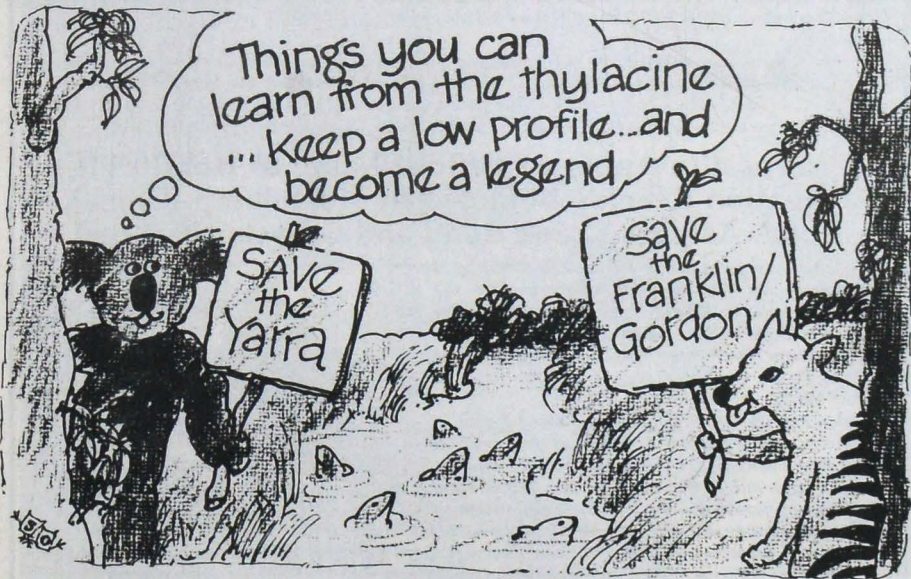
Community groups have expressed concern over the lack of community consultation throughout the process. "We believe it's been grossly inadequate. None of the abutting property owners have been directly notified and would not be aware of what is about to be imposed upon them," Mr Wierzbowski said.

The previous Doncaster-Templestowe council planning scheme made some provisions for sponsorship signage in recreation areas. However, in the process of changeover to Manningham, these provisions were overlooked, and all recreation zones were inadvertently classified as "sensitive areas", thus prohibiting sponsorship signage.

Council must now approach planning minister Mary Delahunty and the Department of Sustainability and the Environment before the amendment can be included in the planning scheme.

## COREY'S CLAN

By SYD & ONA



## CLYDE & OCKER



"The only Tasmanian Tigers I've seen lately, Ock, are the wife's cousins from Launceston!"

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



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# They enjoyed our winter

Five Japanese students left summer behind in Japan to come and taste wintery life in Warrandyte, as guests of the local high school community. They were hosted by the school community and spent three weeks in class at Warrandyte High School. Ranging in age from 16 to 19, they were from a number of high schools north of Tokyo, and spent three weeks living with local families and in class with their hosts at Warrandyte High School.

They were involved in normal class activities, participated in excursions to the magistrates court and to the Japanese department at Monash University. On their final day, they were interviewed by Year 10 students, for their radio program "Spam", on RMIT SYN 90.7.

As well as daily English lessons, the four girls and a boy sighted koalas at Pound Bend, cooked their first barbecue and enjoyed Devonshire tea with the cockatoos.

Their hosts included three students in the school's Year 11 and 12 Japanese classes. The



Farewell Warrandyte: visiting Japanese students (and a few ring-ins) wave goodbye.

local kids enjoyed a unique experience and were given wonderful opportunities to practise their language skills and under-

stand more about Japanese culture and daily life.

The Japanese students set goals for themselves during

their stay. These included, to converse in English with their host parents, learn a new sport and make friends.

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**NILLUMBIK**  
THE GREEN WEDGE SHIRE

## Proposal to Apply an Official Name to the Diamond Creek Falkiner Street Reserve

Notice is given pursuant to section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* seeking submissions on the proposal to apply the name *Barak Bushlands* to the Diamond Creek Falkiner Street Reserve, as resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 20 August 2003:

In accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, any person wishing to make a submission on the proposal must do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 days of the date of publication of this notice. Submissions are to be addressed to:

Chief Executive Officer, Nillumbik Shire Council and hand delivered to the Council Office at Civic Drive Greensborough, or posted to PO Box 476, Greensborough 3088.

Persons making such submissions may request to be heard in support of their submission, either in person or by a person acting on their behalf before a meeting of the Policy and Services Committee of Council on 8 October 2003 at 7:30pm. Further information on the proposal is available by contacting Council's Corporate Support Officer (Governance), Ms Natalie Fournaris on (03) 9433 3312.

## Proposal to Apply an Official Name to Hurstbridge Recreation Reserve bounded by Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, Arthurs Creek Road and Greys Harps Road

Notice is given pursuant to section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* seeking submissions on the Proposal to Apply an Official Name to the Hurstbridge Recreation Reserve bounded by Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, Arthurs Creek Road and Greys Harps Road, as resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 20 August 2003.

*Gordon Ferguson Park* - applied to a small section of the Hurstbridge Memorial Park to the rear of Hurstbridge Preschool and the Ferguson Park Preschool.

In accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, any person wishing to make a submission on the proposal must do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 days of the date of publication of this notice. Submissions are to be addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Nillumbik Shire Council and hand delivered to the Council Office at Civic Drive Greensborough, or posted to PO Box 476, Greensborough 3088.

Persons making such submissions may request to be heard in support of their submission, either in person or by a person acting on their behalf before a meeting of the Policy and Services Committee of Council on 8 October 2003 at 7:30pm. Further information on the proposal is available by contacting Council's Co-ordinator Corporate Support Ms Lidia Harding on (03) 9433 3284.

## Review of Clause 39 of the Amendment (Amenity Local Law No 5) Local Law

Notice is given pursuant to section 119(3) of the *Local Government Act 1989* that the Nillumbik Shire Council (the Council) proposes to amend Clause 39 and the associated Administrative Guideline of the Amendment (Amenity Local Law No 5) Local Law.

The purpose of Clause 39 is to provide for the collection of Domestic Rubbish, Waste And Recyclables. The proposed Local Law, if made, will regulate Domestic Waste, Recyclables and Organic Material Collections.

A copy of the proposed Local Law and Draft Administrative Policy Guideline may be inspected at [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or obtained from the Shire Offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough during office hours - 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Copies are also available for inspection at the Eltham and Diamond Valley Libraries and Living and Learning Centres during opening hours.

Any person affected by the proposed Local Law may make a submission to the Council. Submissions received by the Council within 14 days of the publication of this notice will be considered in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Any person requesting that he or she be heard in support of a written submission is entitled to appear before a meeting of the Policy and Services Committee on 8 October 2003 at 7.30pm at the Shire Offices either personally or by a person acting on his or her behalf.

Submissions marked "Review of Clause 39 of the Amendment (Amenity Local Law No 5) Local Law" should be posted to the Chief Executive Officer, P O Box 476, Greensborough, 3088 or delivered to the Shire Offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough. Telephone enquiries concerning the proposed Local Law should be directed to Ms Lidia Harding, Co-ordinator Corporate Support on 9433 3284.

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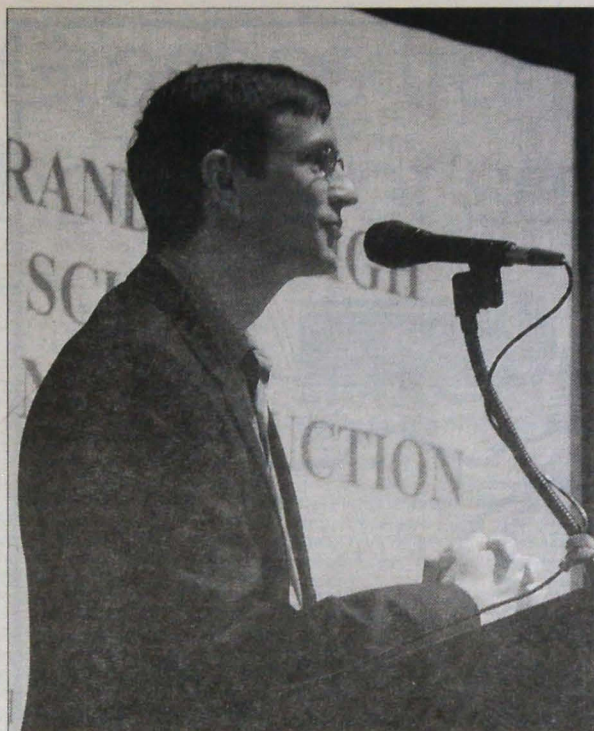
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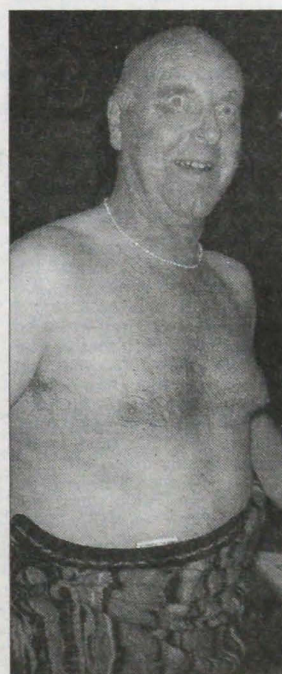
VIC0050





# High jinks at school

Any questions? Warrandyte High School's fourth annual trivia night was held early last month amid scenes of great, brain-storming jollity. Entitled "Are You Game?", the evening included games, raffles, the trivia quiz, a drag-dressing bonanza and a fundraising auction. Musical items were contributed by the school's symphonic, concert and "big" bands. STEPHEN REYNOLDS joined in the fun and took these pictures for the *Diary*.



## Biodiversity Enhancement Program

To protect and enhance Nillumbik's biodiversity, particularly the native vegetation and habitat for fauna, Council is now providing landowners who undertake biodiversity enhancement works on their property with grants of up to \$500.

Grants can be used to reimburse the cost of:

- Materials associated with fencing off areas of remnant vegetation or revegetation;
- Purchasing indigenous plants for revegetation; and/or
- Hiring a contractor to undertake environmental weed control.

Applications for assistance through this program are currently being invited.

An application form and further details of the program can be obtained by contacting Council's Environment Project Officer, Mark Rowntree on 9433 3211.

**Applications close Friday 19 September 2003**

Env/Biodiv 05/03/73

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## Key Decisions

### Nillumbik Shire Council

These are some of the decisions made by Council on **Wednesday, 20 August 2003**. If you would like any extra information visit our website [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au) for full business papers. The next Council meeting is 17 September at 7.30pm at the Shire Offices. All welcome or listen to the broadcast on Plenty Valley FM 88.6.



### Community, Health, Culture, Sport & Leisure

Adopted a *Capital Works Funding Policy for Community Based Sports Facilities*.



### Governance

Resolved to seek submissions on the renaming of a small section of Hurstbridge Memorial Park to the rear of Hursbridge Pre-School and the Ferguson Park Pre-school and the Falkiner Street Reserve and Recreation Trail.

Resolved to give public notice of Councils intention to lease part of Council owned land at 18 & 21 Arcadia Way, Eltham North to Telstra for the installation of mobile telecommunications equipment.

Resolved to commence procedures to amend Local Law 5 as it relates to Domestic Rubbish, Waste and Recyclables.



### Transport and Infrastructure

Adopted an *Asset Management Policy*.



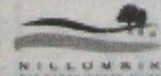
### Land Use, Planning and Environment

Adopted *Amendment C9* which introduces a *Development Contributions Plan* for the Diamond Creek North area for the DPO 1 area.

Adopted *Amendment C12* to introduce the outcomes of the Neighbourhood Character Study into the Nillumbik Planning Scheme.

Resolved to place on formal exhibition *Amendment C20* to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme which proposes a *Development Contributions Plan* for the Plenty Low Density Residential Area known as DP04.

Resolved to place on formal exhibition *Amendment C11* to increase and amend areas covered by the *Wildlife Management Overlay* and to make it consistent with the designation of the Bushfire Prone Areas.



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# A good time was had by all — weather or no


**J**UST had a text message from Boy Wonder and his new wife, Smart One. They write that the weather is hot and sunny and the swimming and snorkelling fabulous. In Fiji that is!

We realised that Boy Wonder had found the right girl long ago but his decision was cemented in our minds when we saw how Smart One approached the wedding.

The first coup was when she discovered that reception centres run like airlines. Not are they both just into transporting customers but they are also cunning enough to realise that there are times of the year that are more popular than others. Hence, we ran into the factor of high, low and shoulder seasons.

Herself and I had been aware of this phenomenon after organising Gorgeous Creatures' wedding, but I must admit that it came as a bit of a reality check to find that by holding the reception one week earlier than desired, the cost reduced in dollars by almost a quarter. So, ever the pragmatist, the loving couple booked for the week earlier. As the saying goes, you've got to spend money to save money.

Her next win was in selecting St Ignatius church in Richmond. This, as most of you who took any notice of Captain Blood's funeral will know, is a grand building set, characteristically, on the top of the Richmond Hill. It has wonderful acoustics and provided an ambience that was



**KIBBLED**

**"The first coup was when she discovered that reception centres run like airlines ... high, low and shoulder seasons."**

far more serene for their wedding than was the day outside.

You see, you can't get nothing for nothing, especially in these days of economic rationalism. So it was sadly ironic that the lovebirds had defeated everything but the weather. As hot and sultry as it had been on Gorgeous Creature's wedding day, the day for BW and SM couldn't have been colder, wetter or more blustery.

My first presentiment that things were going to be interesting was when Herself and I made the dash from our front door to the car, in preparation for driving to BW's house on the morning of the wedding.

Herself had been made up at some ungodly hour of the morning and had her hair constructed with the assistance of a can of hair spray and as we ran for the car, I could see dollar droplets being blown away on the cyclonic gusts that were buffeting the street.

I drove off, anticipating that it was going to be a fraught day.

We arrived at BW's house to be greeted by him dressed in tracksuit pants, a t-shirt, moccasins and a curly, black Afro wig. As soon as I saw BW's grin, I realised that no matter what the weather, it was going to be a great day. And it was.

We arrived at the church in the middle of a force nine gale and just managed to make it into the icebox of the interior with only the umbrellas blowing inside out and Herself's hair losing only a few millimetres of bouffance.

As I looked around, we saw that the guests on both sides of the aisle were silently staring straight ahead, I assume, in a valiant effort to forget their frostbite and hypothermia.

Meanwhile, the groom's party was warmed on adrenalin with Boy Wonder cracking jokes with the priest and threatening his mother that he was going to re-enact some of the stunts he performed during the wedding

rehearsal.

Two-thirty arrived but the bride didn't. Traditionally late or trapped in a snowstorm? The first strains of the organ indicated that the RACV had managed to tow the limo out of the snowdrift just in the nick of time. And there she was, on her father's arm and both of them were beaming.

The rest of the congregation were shivering under layers of wool and there was Smart One, in her white satin dress with a long train covering acres of floor behind her. Unfortunately, so I thought, she had no covering for her neck or shoulders.

Irrelevant! She had just walked inside from minus 600 degrees centigrade but there was not a single goose bump to be seen. She looked down the aisle at Boy Wonder and the love that flowed between them filled the church with a warmth that lasted until we re-emerged to take the traditional church-step photos.

As we drove to the reception, Herself and I glowed. Some might argue that it was because we had no feeling left in any part of our bodies, but we both knew it was because we have fulfilled our biological destiny.

Both children have left our nest and have decided, with their partners, to build their own. And after living happily in ours for 36 years, I can only hope that the blueprint for our nest design is hard-wired into both sets of lovebirds.

**ROGER KIBELL**

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# Grasses trampled by the hooves of settlement

It was not gross negligence on my part that native grasses failed to get a mention in last month's article on the grass family. By omitting them I was not denying their importance, quite the reverse, there was simply not enough space to do them justice.

Native grasses are one of the most over-looked and undervalued group of plants. Victoria's volcanic western district and northern plains were once dominated by native grasslands and grassy woodlands. In only 150 years, less than one percent remain. It is a staggering statistic that reflects a terrible tragedy. Today the isolated remnants that are left, together with their dwindling cargo of endangered species, are the most threatened ecosystems in the state.

It is not hard to see how and why the decimation occurred. Grasses are plants of open places, thriving in full sunlight, forming huge swards on flat or undulating plains. To the early settlers these lands, with their fertile soils, were ripe for the seizing. And seize they did. With the minimum effort they turned the native grasslands into pasture and fields for crop production. Heavy grazing, drought and rabbit plagues all took their toll on the land, completing the degradation.

At a local level, native grasslands were never part of the Warrandyte environment—too hilly—but a vegetation community known as grassy dry forest does occur here. Best examples can be found on the slopes and ridges of Fourth Hill and the Timber Reserve. Firebreaks,



## NATURE

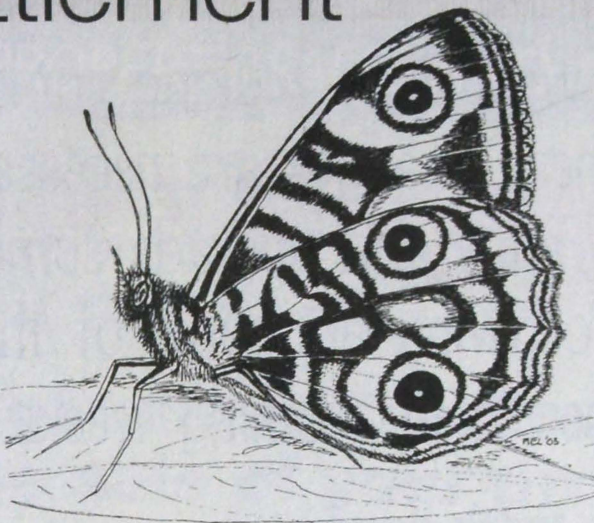
By PAT COUPAR  
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

like the one beside Pound Bend Road, between the entrance to the picnic area and the ranger's depot, are also good places to view native grasses and the wildflowers that accompany them.

Wallaby Grasses dominate these drier sites together with Spear-grasses, Plume-grasses and of course Kangaroo Grass, while in damp gullies and beside the river and creeks, tussock grasses take precedence.

And then there is Weeping Grass—*Microlaena*—elegant, verdant, lush and hardy. It grows in all but the very driest sites. So resilient is this low-growing, mostly creeping, sometimes solitary grass that it can be used as a lawn or to stabilise banks. Seedlings germinate readily and often. If Weeping Grass were a weed it would be almost impossible to eradicate.

When the native grasslands of western Victoria disappeared, so too did the fauna associated with them. Marsupials like the bandicoots, dunnarts, native mice and rats, and ground-dwelling birds like the plains wanderer, bustard, stone curlew and button-quail. While the furred and feathered creatures of the grassy plains may have gone, some small invertebrates have hung on or adapted to the



change.

At least 10 of our local butterflies rely on grasses for food and shelter. A few, such as the Common Brown, have broadened their diet to include introduced grasses, but others have not. One of these is the Ringed Xenica, a strikingly beautiful butterfly with bright orange markings on the upper side of the wings and bold eye-spots on the underside of the hindwings.

Although still relatively common around Warrandyte, the species has become extinct in other areas as its habitat diminishes. Ringed Xenica caterpillars feed only on Kangaroo Grass, Poas and Weeping Grass, crawling up the tussock after dark to chew the soft leaf tips. During the day they hide deep inside the centre of the grass or amongst moist debris near the base of the plant.

The grasslands of Victoria are gone forever. No matter what

rehabilitation takes place they can never be completely restored—too much has been lost for too long, too many exotic species have taken over. Conservation of remaining remnants is imperative.

Last year, in my garden, I cut down a plum tree—it was struggling in the dry stony soil and any fruit that developed was promptly eaten by parrots and possums. In the plum tree's place I decided to create a tiny wildflower grassland—nothing over half a metre tall. In an area approximately three metres by five I have planted over a hundred plants, 35 different species in all and there is still room for more. The delight of watching my garden grow is immeasurable and when a Ringed Xenica butterfly appeared in autumn, flitting amongst the flowers and sussing out the grasses, I knew that this minuscule patch of grassland was priceless.

# Shop till you perfectly drop

MISSION impossible: to procure, in the short space of one busy Saturday afternoon, an evening dress for a school formal.

Easy, you think? You've obviously never tried.

First of all, the dress has to be perfect. Nobody at this stage knows what the specifications of "perfect" are, but they'll definitely know it when they see it.

Secondly, you won't find anything suitable in any of the shopping areas that we regularly frequent. They're all too old hat, too boringly ordinary, too bridesmaidish. The fact that I know exactly where to park the car to get quickly in and out is of no relevance at all.

So we did the inner urban thing and spent half the afternoon stuck in traffic en route from Puckle Street, where the silk evening wear was gorgeous but too ornately beaded, to Bridge Road, that magic strip on Richmond Hill where "old hat" translates to retro, where "boring" and "ordinary" become simply versatile, and "bridesmaidish" turns into a magnificent sweep of taffeta.

We tried on an incredible number of dresses, but the



## OUR PLACE

By MARILYN MOORE

more we wriggled in and out of gorgeous floral georgette, swathes of pastel satin, and some slightly weird knitted things in a nasty shade of grey, the further away we seemed to be from ever finding that perfect dress.

Too pink, too loose, too long, not pink enough, too low-cut, too pale, too tight, too difficult to lace up, too purple ("Mum, I'm not wearing school colours!"), too short, too seethrough ("Oi, you are NOT wearing that!"), too brightly floral. Y-a-a-w-w-n! I needed a very strong coffee. Or a sit down. Preferably both.

My definition of perfect requires a lot more information

than can be obtained merely by trying on the dress. The fine print on the price tag is a good place to start, followed by the laundry instructions (ever since I bought a dress that said—and meant—"do not clean" on the laundry label!) as well as the potential of the garment to be worn more than once.

Ahh, relief is finally in sight. My opinion doesn't always count for much, but the bronzed and leggy shop assistant has finally persuaded her young customer that she looks simply divine in a perfectly-fitted strapless gown in rose/sky shot taffeta. I have never been so keen to pay for anything in all my life.

Coffee time! Zig-zagging through the queues of semi-stationary cars that seem to permanently clog Bridge Road, we made a beeline for the nearest coffee bar, the one that sells rustic Sicilian pizza, heaped with pumpkin, goat's cheese, potato, olives, mushrooms, semi-dried tomatoes and spinach. Just the thing to stop you feeling weak at the knees.

In the discussion that followed, the dress turned out to be the mere tip of the iceberg.

It transpired that items yet to be finalised included the shawl, the shoes, the necklace, the hair, the makeup, the practice hair, the practice makeup, the nail polish, the toenail polish (not necessarily the same thing), the hair decorations, the partner's shirt and tie, the stretch limo, the photographs, the table seating, the afterparty...

Flamin' heck, kiddo. I didn't do even a fraction of this for my wedding! We didn't do anything like this for our school dances either. In a good year, we'd catch the train up to Croydon market, or down to Tait's at Box Hill or Adair's at Camberwell, and bring home a little parcel of fabric and paper pattern to run up a dress that would do the job. Shoes and hair were pretty much as usual, there was no make-up, little or no jewellery, and thank goodness nobody took a photo.

It could be worse. For the present extravaganza, I've apparently been spared the diet, the salon tan, the tattoo, the teeth-whitening session, the tantrums and a \$1000+ bill for the dress.

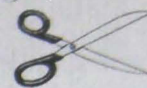
Evidently Hollywood's not quite as far away as I thought!



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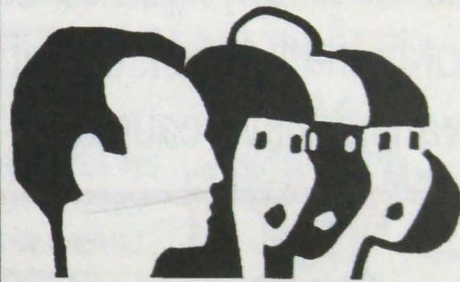
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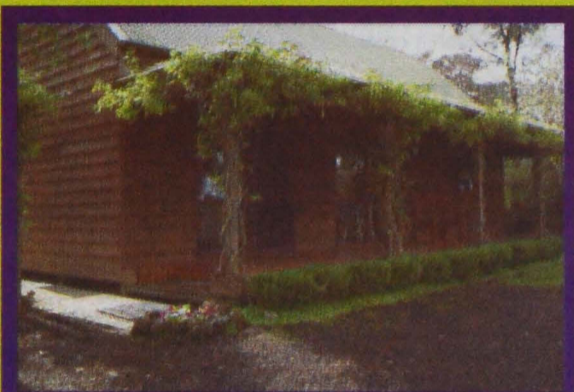
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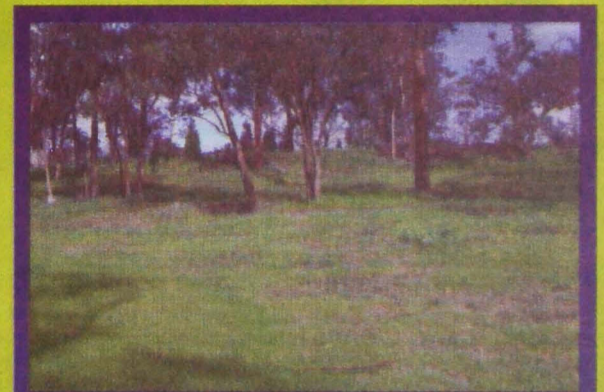
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- ☺ THANKS DAD FOR BRINGING ME TO LIVE DOWN UNDER! (EMILY)
- ☺ FOR TEACHING ME THE COLLINGWOOD THEME SONG (MELANIE)



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### PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987 NOTICE OF AMENDMENT C11 TO THE NILLUMBIK PLANNING SCHEME

Nillumbik Shire Council has prepared Amendment C11 to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme and Nillumbik Shire Council is the Planning Authority for the Amendment.

The amendment affects:

- **Part A** (Wildfire Management Overlay area)
  - all land proposed to be included in the WMO, and
  - all land from which the WMO will be removed.
- **Part B** (Wildfire Management Policy)
  - only land proposed to be included in the WMO.

**Part A** makes corrections to the area covered by the Wildfire Management Overlay and ensures that the Wildfire Management Overlay in the Planning Scheme covers the same area as the bushfire-prone area defined under the Building Regulations.

**Part B** introduces a new Clause, 22.12 Wildfire Management Policy, in the Local Planning Policy Framework. The new Clause 22.12 encourages

- the safe siting and design of developments in locations where the impact on the environment is minimised, and
- the implementation of good water management practices.

The amendment can be inspected during office hours at:

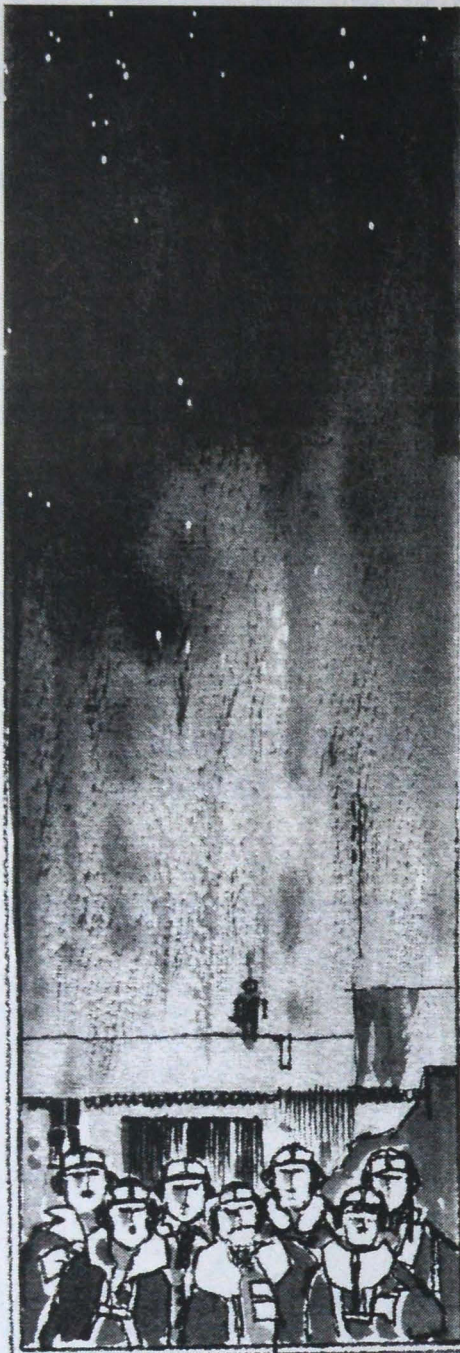
- Nillumbik Shire Council Offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough.
- Department of Sustainability and Environment, Planning Information Centre, Upper Plaza, Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Submissions regarding the amendment must be in writing and sent to:

Ms Margaret Abbey  
Manager Environment and Strategic Planning  
Nillumbik Shire Council  
PO Box 476  
GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

By 24 October 2003

Catherine Dale  
Chief Executive Officer



# Journeys into night

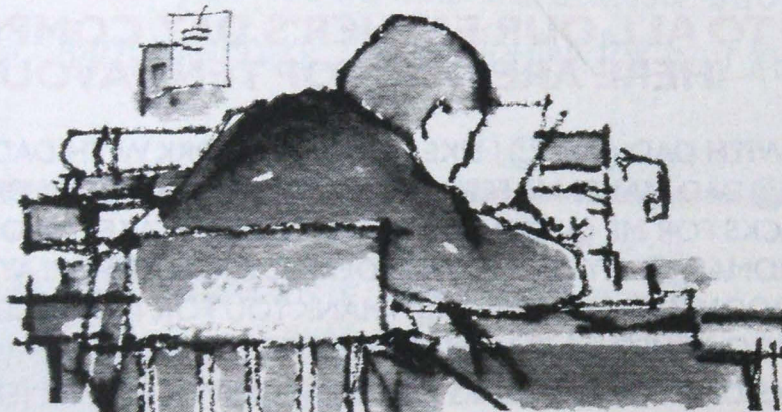
Seven men looked down from our father's wall  
When we were children.  
He was writing a book about them.  
They wore strange hats and didn't smile.  
We couldn't understand why he thought so much  
About things that happened long ago,  
Ten years or more—  
The crew, the war.

Later, in England, a broken shed in a dreary field  
Was far from our span of golden years—  
Not knowing what was alive  
In our father's mind,  
Not seeing mountains crossed  
At such a cost.

Now, those who are gone  
Speak to me in my father's voice:  
Unloose the web that bound and broke us  
Before it binds and breaks again.  
Be not ant-like—see God's cathedral whole;  
Be as he made you to be.  
Shine in the day as bright  
As we who journeyed in night.

Actors who saw that season through  
Are surrounded still by the youths they knew.  
I honor all in that fateful cast,  
So near though fifty years past,  
Grateful for my generation's gentler task.

SUE BROWN



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Picture by DOREEN BURGE

# All Don's green years

Last month we published "Forty years on", a memoir by noted local author Don Charlwood. His daughter, SUE BROWN, has sent the *Diary* this tribute as an 88th birthday surprise.

VICTORIAN writer and Warrandyte resident Don Charlwood celebrated his 88th birthday on September 6. His life connects us with several generations. His writing connects Victorian people and places with universal themes and events.

Don Charlwood — my father — was born in Hawthorn in 1915. Market gardens grew across the road from his childhood home, up the hill from Camberwell Junction. Much of his boyhood was spent by Port Phillip Bay in what was then the small town of Frankston. This was the starting point for *All the Green Year*, his novel about a year in the life of a boy on the verge of manhood — and the setting for his first volume of autobiography (*Marching As To War*).

As a young man himself, Dad cherished the beauty of Victoria's Western District while working on a relative's property for seven years during the Depression, journeying part of the way there by foot through the Otway Ranges. He was drawn to that part of Victoria after hearing his paternal grandmother's stories of her arrival on our shores. As a girl of 18, with her family, she was shipwrecked at what is now Peterborough in 1855, as a passenger on the beautiful clipper *The Schomberg* (all passengers survived). It seems remarkable that in 2003 we talk to someone who heard first-person accounts of those early shipwrecks, now a tourist attraction seemingly distant in history.

Dad's interest in that coast and its tragic history of wrecks has led to short stories and books — *Wrecks and Reputations*, *Settlers Under Sail* — and to Dad delving into the diaries of early settlers for *The Long Farewell*, an account of emigration from England to Australia. A book of short stories, *An Afternoon of Time*, grew from people and events experienced in the Western District, and reflects currents of the history of Scottish and Irish settlement in this distant Australia Felix.

Now these books are printed by the family-run (and Warrandyte based) Burgewood Books, which sells direct to outlets along the coast. My parents must jointly have earned a most-frequent-traveller award for the Great Ocean Road, with their dozens of book-selling trips starting in the 1970s and still continuing today — along with numerous informal tours for interstate and overseas visitors.

Their travels on the Victorian coast have extended from Mallacoota near the NSW border to Discovery Bay at the South Australian end. Dad first hiked Wilson's Promontory, in addition to the Grampians, in the 1930s, and in later years has become familiar with the snow country.

With his roots deeply in Victoria, Dad also has an abiding love for England. His father's family came originally from Charlwood, in Surrey, a village Dad first visited while on leave from Bomber Command during World War 2. The first Charlwood to emigrate to Australia from England brought with him a printing press, and established a bookshop in the heart of Melbourne, near the GPO in Bourke Street. A later Charlwood, Dad's uncle, when a small choir boy, provided the measure for the choir stalls in St Paul's Cathedral at the time they were built.

War-time training in Edmonton, Canada, brought Dad a dinner invitation to the home of a Melbourne-born woman married to a Canadian. Towards the end of the war, Dad returned and married their daughter, Nell East, who then settled with him here in her mother's city. Don and Nell went on to have four children,

and now have three grandchildren. For 50 years, they have lived in the gentle hills of the Yarra Valley, building a house in Templestowe in the early 1950s when it was still beautiful orchard country, then moving upstream in 1999 to the bush of Warrandyte.

It is a measure of his life's good fortune that Dad has accomplished his 80-plus-eight years in good health. The chances of surviving wartime Bomber Command were daunting. Of 20 Australians with whom he crossed the Pacific to train in Canada, six lived to return home. His first book, *No Moon Tonight*, chronicles the story of these men and their companions, as does the second volume of Dad's autobiography, *Journeys Into Night*.

After the war, an absorbing but stressful career as an air traffic controller and in civil aviation led to Dad being warned, at 59, to retire immediately due to a heart condition. (This career also led to two books: *Take-off to Touchdown*, an account of Australian air traffic control, and a book of short stories, *Flight and Time*.) Dad did retire, and settled into a new life of writing, also learning Transcendental Meditation (TM), which he has continued to practise. He sought in TM a means of helping deal with the stressful experiences not only of Bomber Command and air traffic control, but also of raising teenage daughters amidst the social turbulence of the 1960s.

Perhaps due to the life-threatening experiences of war and heart, Dad values the details of everyday living. These details come into sharp focus in his writing, whether fiction, autobiography or history, drama or comedy. What was it like below deck on a sailing ship (*The Long Farewell*), or in a Lancaster bomber over the Ruhr (*No Moon Tonight*, *Journeys into Night*)? A country cricket match on a hot day, an arithmetic test in a 1920s school room (*An Afternoon of Time*, *All the Green Year*). He writes vividly of flying, and of its associated dramas and tragedies, both wartime and civilian.

Dad is an acute observer of ordinary lives, approaching his subjects

with compassion and humour. His bullfight episode in *All the Green Year*, must have brought laughter to Victorian classrooms when, for many years, the book was a set text.

Deeper themes run through Dad's writing — of immigration, of war and of loss, of our connection with the landscape. A couple of short stories in *Flight and Time* reflect a mysterious play on the enigmatic nature of time itself. Moments of beauty and stillness are captured, whether in describing a mob of sheep moving along a bush track, or the experience of an aircraft lifting above the earth.

Dad crafts his sentences with care and attention. He likes the flow and flexibility of writing with pencil on paper — then rewriting, re-arranging, reading aloud to catch the rhythm of the words. He grew up with the cadences of the King James Bible and the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, which helped mould his own sense of the power in words. His first published work was a school-boy history of Frankston, printed in the local paper, and he has gone on to publish eleven books and numerous short stories and articles.

How did he do it? — how did he juggle writing with family life, plus commuting an hour to work and back each day, and negotiating air-traffic control personnel supply and demand at a time of air-travel expansion? He did it by writing during lunch hours in the city, and at home in the evenings, often leaving his desk to share the dining room table with our homework. There his thoughts were interrupted by maths or history, the rhythm of his sentences by music practice. Rogets Thesaurus, Fowlers, and the Oxford Dictionary and Book of Quotations led off at tangents from our set tasks.

I don't think he could have done it without the loyal and energetic support of our remarkable mother. She ran an efficient household of up to seven people at any one time, typed and re-typed all Dad's manuscripts (in pre-computer days), applied her librarian skills to indexing, arranged book launchings, and had a full-time career of her own for many years. Now Mum has written her own lively and evocative account of growing up

in the snows of the Canadian prairies.

Sometimes, the hours our father spent writing did impinge on childhood activities — "Keep quiet or go outside. Dad is trying to write". Later, we maybe felt that our own concerns deserved more attention than another chapter. Dad must have been glad to have the chapter to turn to. However, in childhood, we also relished original poems and bedtime stories, in which the rascal Freddie Fox played havoc with the local Templestowe farmer's chooks then went home to his wife in what we knew of as Chivers' Bush. Dad's favourite verses of Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Houseman, and Ben Jonson became permanent in our memories.

Although *No Moon Tonight* is recognised as a classic of "war writing" (and has been continuously in print since publication in 1956), in the deepest sense it is not a book about war. It is a book about the human spirit, about the bonds between people, and about loss. It describes the contrast between the normality of English lanes and fields and the horror of night flying over heavily defended German cities, the bewilderment a thoughtful man feels on being enmeshed in mass killing. It leaves us with the emotional impact of war's wastefulness of young lives. Many letters of appreciation still come to Dad's desk from readers of *No Moon Tonight*, some from younger readers who find in it a way to understand their parents' or grandparents' life experiences.

Throughout his life, Dad has continued to reflect on war-time experiences, on how his generation was shaped for war (in *Marching As To War*), and on how war could be averted. In this, and in many other ways, to many people, my father's voice is a voice of wisdom and sanity — a voice we need today. He values us as individuals, connects us with something bigger than ourselves, and speaks in words which resonate with our inner experience. He is a civic-minded man, who loves his city, state and country — but not at the expense of being, above all, a member of the human family.

# Barak's special



# place

Bunjil the creator  
(Drawn by  
Melanie Coupar)



By MICK WOIWOD

**B**RUSHY CREEK rises in the Dandenongs beyond Mooroolbark and flows into the Yarra through a small rocky gorge in Wonga Park. Today, alongside its confluence, is Wittons Reserve, the most over-used and abused public park on the Yarra River, its once magic littered by the throwaway goods and weeds of a culture that cares little for its part.

It was on this same creek back in 1822, a decade before the arrival of Europeans, that Barak was born.

Brushy Creek had always been a special place for Wurundjeri people. Since time immemorial they have hunted and gathered their wild foods along its fertile flats. To them it was a sacred place. It spoke of the dreamtime legend of *Bukker-til-tible* and of how they had strayed from the true path mapped out for them by their dreamtime beings and as such failed to show due respect to their ancestors.

The dreamtime story told how *Bunjil* the all-powerful, ever-watchful creator of their entire world had once gazed down upon his people from the star *Altair* and seen their wrongdoing. Awaiting their return to where the two streams met he, with a mighty thunder, hurled down a star to destroy them. Where the star struck was created the small gorge we see there today. *Bunjil's* people had always remembered the spot.

They called it *Warrandyte*, the place where *Bunjil* had hurled down the star to punish his people.

Barak remembered it too. It was there that he had camped one night in 1881. He'd sat there alone, huddled over a small fire. Sadly he'd thought of happier days—of the times before the white man came, when as a child he had played happily at the self-same spot with his cousin Wonga. It was his country. It was part of his *Dreaming*. He was a proud Wurundjeri and his people had long known the creek as *Barngeong*, the place of healing, for it passed through the blood-red earth of *Mooroolbik*. The river that roared alongside on its way from mountain to sea was *Birrarung*, the "river of mists", the stream of life that provided his people with their every need.

As Barak gazed into his fire it conjured up images of childhood—his people—his cousin Wonga. Momentarily he glimpsed proud hunters returning from the chase; women carrying baskets of *myrniong* and water-ribbon bulbs collected in the fertile flats upstream; the smoke of many fires. Slowly the image dissolved—now only his own small fire; now only himself—old Barak, alone and sad. Again he gazed into his fire, hoping to recreate the past but saw only sadness; the open grave of his 14 year-old son, David. That had been just two days before in Melbourne. A month earlier he had stood be-

side another grave, that of his faithful wife Annie in the small crowded cemetery at *Coranderrk*. When would all the dying cease! Where had all the children gone?

He cast his mind back to the day when, as a child, he had seen the first white man. There had been great excitement that day! He saw his father studying the bright shiny axe he had been given; around him stood the mothers bedecked in bead necklaces. Central in the group stood a tall white man handing out grey woollen blankets. It was the first time any of his people had seen a white man; the first time Barak had seen his face in a mirror! The man carefully unrolled a scroll of parchment and asked each uncle his name to add to the written word. *Jaga Jaga* had been first to offer his mark and by some strange magic his country had become the white man's land. Then *Batman* had departed saying that he would return bye and bye with more axes and beads and more of his people.

Barak threw more wood on the fire. It was winter and he was cold and the wood wet. Smoke billowed up into the night-sky and his eyes following it up saw *meenean*, the moon, racing through the clouds. It reminded him of when he had been a proud young trooper in Captain Dana's Port Phillip Police. He had worn a smart uniform with cap and brass buttons and ridden a fine horse. He was Barak, Captain Dana's best tracker. He had learnt much

from the white man and could smoke and drink the white man's drink and swear with the best of them. He could ride into the camp of the *meymet* and shoot them down if he pleased for that was the white man's way.

Barak shook his head. He was tired and confused. Tomorrow he would continue on his journey to *Coranderrk* via *Wyenondabul* and out through *Billanook* and *Yering* where the *gubba's* fat cattle grazed. He would tell his people the sad news that his son was dead!

He must be strong for he was their *ngurungaeta*. But where must he lead his people? The *gubbas* had decreed that they must remain on the reserve in the wintry cold hills beyond Healesville. There were now scarcely 50 left; most of them old—Barak too had grown old.

Barak slept, no longer disturbed by memories of the past; no longer aware of the last of his Wurundjeri children being laid to rest. Barak dreamed. He saw himself standing alone—the last of the "old world" Wurundjeri! He was holding his head high. Bye and bye he too would die and climb into the *tharing-bek*, there to gaze down on his people beside the cool clear waters of *Barngeong*, and watch as it joined the "river of mists" through *Warrandyte* where *Bunjil* had seen fit to punish his people. And, from the *Tharing-bek* he knew he would one day see the new Wurundjeri rise to resume their rightful place in *Kulin* country.



They came together, inspired by park rangers and the Friends of the Warrandyte State Park, to plant trees in a campaign to restore Barak's special place — Brushy Creek Reserve, Wonga Park.

Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS





# Crossing the river

To allow miners to travel from Andersons Creek to the Calcedonian Goldfields, and to facilitate the transport of livestock and goods across the Yarra at Warrandyte, George Shorthouse on September 24, 1856 was contracted to construct a large punt with road approaches over the Yarra for the sum of £292 10s. The punt, which carried passengers, livestock and carts across the river was located at a site just to the east of Whipstick Gully.

However, by the late 1850s, and influenced by the significant mining activity of the period, the traffic had increased to such an extent that the government was persuaded to erect a permanent structure across the river. A wooden bridge was commissioned in 1860 and, following its construction by William Elliott under contract at a position downstream from Whipstick Gully, it opened to traffic in 1861. But one of the worst floods in the history of the Yarra occurred in December 1863, and the new bridge was largely washed away. A second bridge was to be constructed in 1875 and this was to last until 1955. In the interim years (1863-75), a second smaller punt operated by Harry Houghton was utilised, but livestock had to be forded across when the river was low.

## Cofferdams

Following the 1863 floods, a number of cofferdams were introduced for mining the bed of the Yarra, and these were a feature of the river scene for the next five years. Joseph A. Pantone—who in December 1864 had succeeded to the positions of gold warden and police magistrate at Andersons Creek (and who regarded the residence conditions provided at the Creek to be less than clement, and remained domiciled at Heidelberg)—in a report to the minister of mines reprinted in the Australasian on December 2, 1865, said that Andersons Creek had "maintained a good reputation as a gold field for many years, but is now almost deserted. During the summer months portions of the river bed are worked by means of cofferdams; but the damage sustained by floods, renders this style of mining precarious".

The quarterly Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Registrars of Victoria for the period from June 30, 1864 till September 31, 1868, reveal that cofferdams continued to be worked, intermittently between heavier rainfall periods, along the riverbed for at least four years. The itinerant photographer-journalist and botanist Carl Walter—who from 1874 until his death in 1907 retained a residence at Warrandyte—published an engraving entitled "Gold Mining In The Bed Of The Yarra Yarra" in the Illustrated Australian News For Home Readers on June 28, 1867 to illustrate his article described cofferdam activity:

"In the neighbourhood of Anderson's

Creek, gold mining is rather a formidable undertaking. A party of four miners initiated the enterprise by erecting a dam across the Yarra, and cutting a race, by which means about 500 feet of the river bed is left dry. Other parties followed their example, and now there are several claims in the locality. The gold is found in sand bars, and on a rocky sandstone bottom in considerable, though fluctuating, quantities. One of these claims, including the dam, the sluicing box, and the Californian pump in full operation, is well shown in our illustration."

Another photograph by Walter of the period shows the alluvial activities of the "Grab-All" party personnel, including Harry Houghton standing in his punt in the foreground, in front of a California pump (a water-wheel driven bucket elevator), and alongside the 1864 cofferdam that his party had constructed out of the debris from the washed away bridge.

Alfred Armstrong, the St Andrews Division surveyor, continued to report favourably on the prospects of cofferdam dredging:

"The river workings are now suspended, owing to the rising of the River. All have done remarkably well, with one exception. The claim called the "Grab-All" yielded to four men, for four months' work, 93 oz. of gold, and at the time of its suspension, the claim-holders state that their ground had only been begun upon. The "Happy-go-Lucky" claim of Lee and Cargill's, situated a short distance higher up the River, yielded from 30 tubs of wash-dirt, 3 ozs. to the tub; the last 6 feet of drift having given 10 ozs., the claim being now registered for future resumption, as soon as the Yarra falls sufficiently to admit of the same being worked."

Apart from one being used as a temporary measure during the construction of the Evelyn Tunnel, cofferdams for the mining of alluvial gold were not to be seen again on the Yarra at Warrandyte until the 1930s depression.

## Pound Bend Tunnel

Several schemes were put forward in the 1860s to drive a tunnel through the narrow "isthmus" where the Yarra River turns back on itself in the long loop known as Pound Bend. By diverting the river through the proposed tunnel, some five kilometres of the riverbed could be de-watered and worked by dredging and hydraulic sluicing for the alluvial gold contained in its detritus. However, it was not until the Evelyn Tunnel Gold Mining Company was formed in February 1870 that the project commenced.

The Leader of 30 October 1869 reported that the company had "secured a lease from the Crown of over 126 acres, comprising the bed and banks of the River for a distance of nearly three miles of its course". The formal registration of the company followed four months later. The legal manager

## GOLD IN THE GULLIES: 5

By MURRAY HOUGHTON

and driving force behind the project was William Hutchinson Gresham, a substantial shareholder; other major shareholders were Peter Davis, Gresham's neighbour at the Bend, and Charles Muir Inglis. Messrs Yeamans and Gleister were contracted on February 23 to build the tunnel. By then it was already well underway with work performed on both night and day shifts. By the middle of June the tunnel proper had been completed, and the Leader reported that work to that stage had been:

"Accomplished in three months, at the cost of £2100. The rock tunnelled is a clay slate, intersected in places by quartz leaders, and no lining has been required in any part. The dip of the strata is in line with the excavation, so that everything was favourable to the undertaking. The length of the tunnel is 639 feet, width 18 feet, and depth 14 feet. It is estimated to discharge 15,000 gallons of water per second."

A temporary dam was constructed just below the entrance to the tunnel. This had in its centre a sluice for the hand race, which followed the workings down the bed of the river. As there was a fall of 13 feet in the course of the workings, there was no difficulty in keeping up the supply of water for the sluicing operations.

A description of the official opening of the Evelyn Tunnel was given by the Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers of August 13, 1870. Referring to the accompanying full-page illustration captioned as "Opening of the Evelyn Gold Mining Company's Works, Upper Yarra", the text mentioned that:

"On July 23, 1870, a party of gentlemen assembled at the works of the Evelyn Tunnel Gold Mining Company to witness the diversion of the River Yarra from its ancient bed, along which it flowed for unnumbered ages, into the new course cut for it through the very base of one of the lofty ridges round the foot of which it formerly coursed its way. After a scramble along some of the steep ridges, they found themselves at the foot of the precipitous cliff through which the tunnel had been cut."

In December 1870, Alfred Armstrong reported that the company had been granted two further leases of river claims, one above and the other below the "isthmus". The company thus possessed in total, licences to work about seven miles of the river. Although the company's progress to that time had appeared sound, confidence was not shared by the Melbourne stock market, and towards the end of 1870 the nominal £2 shares were being traded at less than half their face value. An extraordinary general meeting of the

shareholders was held on January 31, 1871, and a decision made to increase the capital from £16,000 to £19,000 by the issue of a further 1500 preferential shares at £2 each.

However, the value of the company's shares continued to drop and at the half-yearly meeting on July 14, 1871, the financial report revealed a debit balance of £598. 12s. 1d. Despite extra expenditure to improve efficiency, a gold yield of 330 ozs., 8 dwt., realising only £1,256. 15s. 8d., had been insufficient to cover costs.

In addition to this disappointing result, further difficulties arose through an exceptionally high rise in the river level in August. A permanent dam had been constructed to replace the temporary structure, about 20 yards below the entrance to the tunnel, but this had proven insufficient to withstand the pressure at high water levels, and the river had eroded a new course by-passing the dam altogether. Although the dam was repaired, further working of the riverbed still proved to be unprofitable. The company had not bargained on the broad pockets of accumulated silt (in some places up to 45 feet deep) which had been deposited over vast areas of the original riverbed, and which needed to be dredged prior to sluicing. Gold deposit layers were then found below the silt "in quantity", but the yields were not nearly enough for the shareholders to fully recoup their investments.

Because of these setbacks and a continuance of poor yields, a notice by Gresham on September 6, 1872, announced that an extraordinary meeting of the company was to be held on September 19, 1872. At that meeting a resolution was passed to voluntarily wind up the company.

Any mention of the Evelyn Tunnel would not be complete without reference to John Chatty (or Chat Tee). In the late 1860s Chatty became the first (and probably the only) Chinese-born quartz miner to receive a miner's right at Anderson's Creek. Prior to this period all non-Europeans in the district had been permitted only to glean over previously worked alluvial deposits. Chat Tee's residence was on the southeast corner of Anderson and Yarra streets. On March 23, 1870, his alluvial claim in the Yarra was purchased for the sum of £200 and 40 paid-up shares in the Evelyn Tunnel Gold Mining Company; and thus he became the first Chinese in the district to hold shares

in a mining company. Despite the respect he had gained, he was not welcomed wholly into the European community, and on his death of silicosis (miner's complaint) in 1893, he became the victim of a bizarre hoax when his corpse was stolen. The resulting notoriety was reported as far away as England.

## The Lean Years

Quartz mining continued on a limited scale during the period 1870-90, and the search for alternative rewards continued. By the mid-1880s the mining workforce of Andersons Creek had dropped to around 50 or 60. The reason it had remained even at that level was due in part to the quartz endeavours of Edwin Holloway and Lewis Grant Junior in reviving the Yarra Tunnel line-of-reef resulting in the formation of the "Yarra Tunnel Gold Mining Company, Anderson's Creek", and a spasmodic resurgence by the discovery of the "Pig Tail" mine by Stiggants and Holloway in 1874.

However, with the discovery—by Henry Stiggants Junior and the Holloway brothers—in June 1877 on Crown lands of a "mullock wall from seven to eight feet thick", the Creek miners received an even bigger boost. This latter discovery was later confirmed to be one of two stonewalled dykes, containing predominantly a powdery mineral, diorite, which was easy to crush, and through which ran innumerable fine thread-like strands of auriferous quartz, not larger than three inches in length. The first of these diorite-filled chasms was subsequently to be traced and prospected to the north across the Yarra to North Warrandyte, and to the south beyond Elliott's Freehold, through the Crown lands onto William "Bully" Brown's property, the Wonga Station at East Warrandyte (Wonga Park). This dyke was worked principally by Holloway and Stiggants, whose extensive claim was later to become the "Crown Company". The other dyke was much shorter in length and had a dissimilar auriferous quartz texture. It was discovered, and claimed, by Logan and Party, and later became known as the "Hope Company". It was some 200 feet to the east of the Holloway and Stiggants' dyke, and ran parallel to it.

(Reprinted by permission of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Pictures courtesy Warrandyte Historical Society.)

Warrandyte's gold saga is available in booklet form

## WARRANDYTE'S PRECIOUS COMMODITY

GOLDEN DAYS AMONGST THE GOLDEN WATTLE  
BY MURRAY HOUGHTON

For sale at the Warrandyte Historical Society Museum  
Yarra Street, Warrandyte — \$5.50

# Great costumes, superb dancing

**S**ORRY folks, the duck wins. You can spend as many months as you like rehearsing the show, perfecting every moment, and further spend untold hours slaving over costumes, choreography, sets and makeup. But enter one small boy cuddling one large white duck and the audience awaits the next line with such breathless anticipation!

Following the unfortunate demise of Otto the duck, however, the duck substitute (a large woolly mutt with an overdose of Old English Sheepdog genes) created even more interest off-stage than on. His lolling gait could be heard backstage for some time after his abrupt exit. Was he chasing the now not-so-dead duck? Was he exuberantly letting off a bit of steam? Or was he deliberately avoiding capture?

But back to the onstage entertainment.

When it first hit Melbourne in the 70s, *Pippin* wasn't one of those must-see musicals, so the story isn't that widely known. In fact, without its one hit song "Corner of the Sky", the show might have sunk almost without trace.

It worked well, however, in a school

## THEATRE

By MARILYN MOORE

production, where the small number of solo singing roles, the dynamic ensemble parts and the lightweight storyline were most effective.

Briefly, Pippin (Liam Gough), the elder princeling of Roman emperor Charlemagne (teacher Greg Stewart), returns home from university in Padua disgruntled with academia. There must be more to life than the written word for such a promising young man!

Persuaded by his stepbrother's enthusiasm for a military career, the pale and scrawny lad valiantly decides to enlist in the Roman army. Unfortunately for Pippin, he and his vain bodybuilding step-brother Lewis (Hamish Fox) are like chalk and cheese, and it takes only one bloody battlefield experience to disillusion our young hero.

He turns next for guidance to his ribald old granny, Berthe (wonderfully camped up by former student Tighe Byrne). She, who is ageing as dis-

gracefully as she can raise the gallop for, leads young Pippin into an abandoned lifestyle of wine, women and song.

However Pippin falls prey to his conscience as a peasant revolt breaks out against the injustices committed under Charlemagne's harsh rule. Encouraged by his scheming stepmother Fastrada (delightfully portrayed by Monica Grubb), the young man (somewhat unconvincingly) assassinates his father.

Pippin of course brings too much youthful idealism to the job of emperor, and takes about three minutes to get bogged down in the conflicting intricacies of social justice versus protective rule. Killing his father had clearly been a bit of a rash move. If only he hadn't!

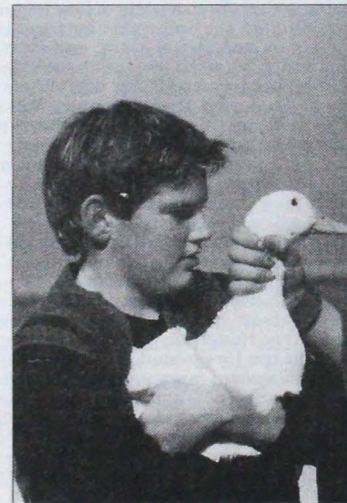
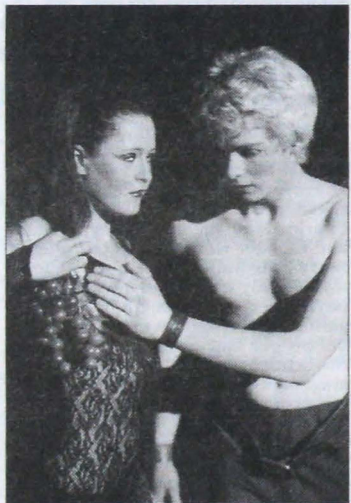
Resurrection of Charlemagne was one of the weaker moments in the production. However it left Pippin free to roam the land as an artist, despairing of ever finding his purpose in life. However one thing was certain—he was not cut out for serfdom on the vast estate of the delightful widow Catherine (beautifully played by Jenny Byrne). Oh no.



pin's "Love Song" duet with Catherine—but some of the music in this show is awkward to perform and was occasionally too difficult for immature voices. The orchestra itself, under the experienced direction of Kirk Skinner, was, as we have come to expect, a highlight of the production.

The dedication and hard work of assistant director, choreographer and costume designer Lynette White, as ever, shone throughout. The simplicity of the principal characters' costumes endowed them with great strength and provided a stunning contrast to the brilliantly black and lacy corsetry of the ensemble. In the absence of a riveting script, the choreography gave this production much of its life and soul.

Sadly, *Pippin* marks director and set designer Chris White's final year at Warrandyte High School. For local audiences, but especially for the kids who have passed through his theatre over the last 23 years, he has given a lifetime of inspiration, dedication and high professional standards that will continue to send ripples not only into Warrandyte but also into Melbourne theatre for many years to come.



Pictures by GREIG RUTHVEN

# Telling you all you need to know

**H**AVE you just moved into the Warrandyte area? Or perhaps you have a new neighbour? Then Information Warrandyte has something you may find useful. The information and referral group based at the community centre has a package for newcomers entitled "Introduction to Warrandyte" which lists important contacts, emergency numbers, doctors, pharmacies and churches plus fire information for people moving into the area. It's available free from Information Warrandyte, whose

president Patricia Abbott said the folder has been well-received.

"So many people were coming in asking about local services that it was easier to compile a package and we just keep it current," she said. "We also publish a primary students' kit of Warrandyte history which includes details of population, vegetation, animals and local clubs."

Information Warrandyte has 30 voluntary members who spend about three hours per week each at the office, handling over 3000 queries a year.

## VILLAGE LIFE

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

Most questions are from tourists wanting to know about local shops, walks in the area and where to buy coffee, but the bureau also offers information on wineries and bed and breakfast stays. Patricia says that for this reason local businesses should always make sure their details are with Information Warrandyte. Other enquiries are about government and council, interest groups, recreation and sports. The organisation can refer people and make appointments for them regarding social welfare issues.

Unlike other offices within Community Information Victoria, the Warrandyte office does not offer a financial or housing service, but it can refer people to Legal Aid. It has its own mediation service as well as two qualified tax helpers who give free advice on basic tax matters and they can refer clients for further assistance.

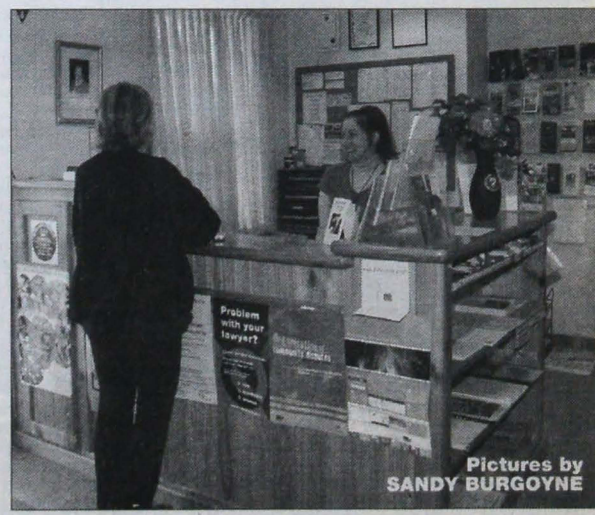
"Our volunteers tend to be local and they often find it's a

stepping stone for retiring," Patricia said. "Working with us gets people moving into the community which is very good for people on their own. They meet people and find us a friendly group. It's a great team, and we do a few social things together." Volunteers are of all ages, with some in their 80s and others finding their experience at Information Warrandyte a good fill-in between school and tertiary education.

According to Patricia, volunteers gain satisfaction from helping the community and there's scope to do more courses after their introductory training. She herself came to the group in 1995 after helping Meals on Wheels and she said other volunteers are already involved with different community organisations, or go on to become further involved.

Volunteers have to sign a confidentiality agreement and they are on probation for three months. After this, they are encouraged to complete the community information workers' course. There are always at least two people working in the office, one of whom has to have the course accreditation.

A typical day entails opening up the office at the Webb Street corner of the Warrandyte Com-



Pictures by SANDY BURGoyNE

munity Centre, opening and processing mail and answering phone messages, handling enquiries and keeping stock of pamphlets and information. The office charges a small fee for public internet, computer, printing and faxing facilities. As the supply of "mostly free" information is the main business, Patricia said a new database is being set up which will speed the process and depth of re-

sources, making advice more efficient and faster. New computers have been an expense.

"Manningham council has been brilliant with Information Warrandyte, providing three quarters of our budget, while Nillumbik has also been of some assistance," she said.

● Information Warrandyte is open 10am-4pm Monday to Thursday, 10am-1pm Friday and 12.30pm-3.30pm on Sunday.



# George: still alive!



Conducted by **JUDY GREEN**

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

Following a successful first week, Warrandyte Theatre Company's production of "Life After George" continues, with performances on September 11, 12, 13 and 18, 19 and 20. This play, by Hannie Rayson, is being directed by Sue Dyring and Alan Cornell. It has been described as "a passionate blend of the personal and political, revolving around charismatic Professor Peter George". Tickets at \$15 (concession \$10) can be booked from the Old Bakery Bookshop on 9844 1744. There are limited discount group bookings available on Thursdays (\$10 each for a group of 10).

## Trivia

The Warrandyte Lions Club will be conducting a trivia night on Friday, September 14 at the Warrandyte Community Centre, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Master of ceremonies for the evening will be Alan King with mystery prizes offered throughout the night. Everyone is invited to make up tables of six to eight persons. Supper is BYO with tea and coffee provided. Cost is \$10 per head. Bookings to Denis and Sandra Robertshaw on 9437 1155.

## Garden

The Hanson garden at 104 Webb Street, Warrandyte will be open to the public on the weekend of September 20 and 21 between 10am and 4.30pm as part of the Open Garden Scheme. This is an informal garden using mainly Australian plants. Adult admission is \$4.50.

## Disability

The Warrandyte Lions Club is investigating the feasibility of providing tennis coaching for people with disabilities. Coaching would be held at the Lions courts, adjacent to the Warrandyte bridge. If you would like to participate could you please register your name with either Colin Davis on 9844 2307 or Peter Watts on 9844 3903.

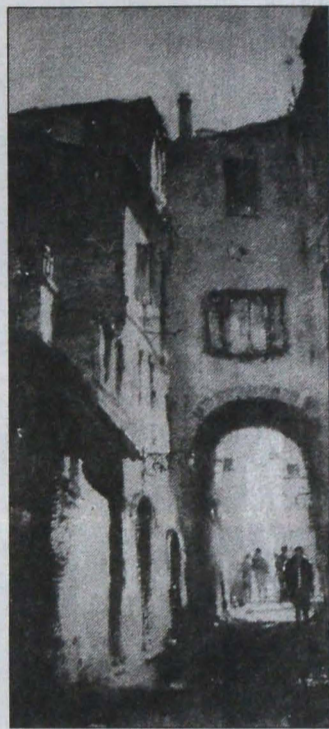
## Musical

The Warrandyte branch of the Maroondah Hospital Auxiliary is holding a musical afternoon at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Centre in Tarroona Avenue, Warrandyte, on Tuesday, September 16. The fun will commence at 2.15pm and afternoon tea will be provided. All are welcome. Gold coin donation.

## Green

Gardeners in Manningham have the opportunity to "go green" at a free community evening promoting sustainable gardening practices. Manningham council, Melbourne Water and Sustainable Gardening Australia are hosting the seminar on Thursday, September 11 as part of the new Green Gardeners program. Residents will receive useful information on reducing the amount of chemicals used in the garden, improving soil naturally, choosing plants that will benefit the natural environment and preventing run-off that can harm our precious waterways. It will be held from 7 to 9pm in the Heide Room at Manningham council, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster. Bookings are essential. Please phone Kay Toussaint on 9840 9348 to reserve a place.

## Memories of Tuscany



Evocative watercolours by Ron Muller and Jenny John are a feature of this exhibition.

"Tuscany revisited" is the theme of the current exhibition at the Stonehouse Gallery, 323 Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte. It features works by Jenny John (watercolours and clay) and ex-Warrandytians Ron Muller (watercolours) and Maree Muller (ceramics and basketry). The exhibition runs until September 30. The Mullers are regular visitors to Tuscany and Jenny John joined them for a period last autumn. Tuscan colours and textures are reflected in these artists' works.

## 50-50

Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club are organising a 50-50 dance, to be held at their centre in Tarroona Avenue on Sunday, September 14, commencing at 1.30pm. The afternoon will feature live music, entertainment and a singalong. Everyone welcome, \$5 admission. Call 9879 3356 for more information.

## Information

Please note a change in the opening hours for Information Warrandyte. They are now 10am to 4pm, Mondays to Thursdays, 10am to 1pm on Friday and 12.30pm to 3.30pm on Sundays. Information Warrandyte is located in the Warrandyte Community Centre, 168 Yarra Street, and provides a free local information and referral service. It would be appreciated if any local clubs who have not confirmed their contact details for the group's new database could please ring 9844 3082.

## Seminar

The next environmental seminar to be held at the Function Room, Club Warrandyte, 120 Yarra Street, Warrandyte will be on Thursday, October 2 commencing at 7.30pm. Speaker, Kieran Croker, section leader, waterway planning, Melbourne Water will talk on "The Yarra and its tributaries in Manningham".

## Dance

The South Warrandyte social dance for September will be held on Saturday, September 13 in the South Warrandyte hall. For further information call 9729 8192.

## Market

The next Christmas Hills community market and car boot sale will be held on Sunday, September 14 from 9am to 2pm at the Christmas Hills Primary School, 1409 Eltham-Yarra Glen Road. Stall holders welcome. Enquiries to Liz on 9712 0414 or Rob on 9710 1512.

## ARTYFACTS

## Potters' birthday

Potters Gallery (formerly Potters Cottage) is celebrating their 45th year of operation with a special exhibition entitled "Connections", bringing together the work of artists who have been connected with Potters during the past years. Some of the artists will have family connections, others may have learned from the founders of Potters Cottage, others may have taught at Potters School, participated in exhibitions or won awards in the long-running Potters Prize. Founding potters, Gus McLaren, Sylvia Halpern and Elsa Arden will be among the featured exhibitors. "Connections" opens on Saturday, October 4 and runs until Sunday, October 26. For further information call 9844 3078.

## Mosaic

Over the next three months, members of the Warrandyte community will be coming together to create a mosaic sculpture for permanent display in the vicinity of the bakery. Everyone is welcome to be involved, whether you consider yourself to be creative or not. If you are interested please call Caroline Jenkins on 0438 138 266. It is intended to build a sculptured "chaise longue" on site. Caroline is currently seeking

donations of any spare tiles or other suitable materials. They can be left at the bakery. She can also be contacted on 9844 0437 after hours.

## Everest

A display of photographs taken by British photographer Alfred Gregory during the historic Everest climb by Hillary and Tensing in May 1953, is showing at the Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster until Saturday, September 13. Gregory was a climbing member and official stills photographer on the expedition. He reached 28,000 feet in support of the Hillary-Tensing ascent. His dramatic images of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay capture their human struggle against such a beautiful, yet deadly, setting. This will be followed by an exhibition of work by emerging and established indigenous artists from the Central Western Desert, including the Utopia and Kintore regions of the Northern Territory, and will run from September 17 to 27.

## Poets

Enjoy writing, reciting or listening to bush poetry? The Bush Poets will next meet upstairs at the Grand Hotel, Yarra Street, Warrandyte on Sunday, October 5. Anyone interested in further information should contact Laurence Webb on 0438 872653.

## CLYDE & OCKER



"I don't write poems about bushes, now, Ock. I've dug deeper and gone back to my roots!"

**Alan Vitiritti**  
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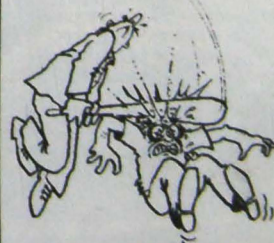
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**DON'T FORGET... WARRANDYTE FOLK CAN HIRE THE HALL FOR HALF PRICE**



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

Phone 9844 4503 for bookings

# Goalden girls!



## No stopping Steph

To say that Stephanie Freemantle (above) is having a big year is a considerable understatement.

Twelve-year-old Stephanie was elected school captain of Warrandyte Primary at the beginning of the year and this month was part of a barnstorming Victorian team which made a clean sweep of the VPSSA Netball Exchange championship.

It was the first time a Victorian team had gone through the event undefeated, playing 10 games against representative sides from NSW, South Australia, Queensland, the ACT and the Northern Territory.

And Stephanie was one of three girls nominated by Melbourne Kestrels and Australian player Nicole Richardson — who conducted a skills clinic during the series — as having outstanding potential.

Stephanie, of KG Road, began her netball career with Warrandyte Netball Club three years ago and worked her way up to representative level, this year playing with the Doncaster and District association in the Open 13s.

The long selection process for the exchange event began in April when she was invited to attend further trials which culminated in her making the final squad of 12.

Stephanie took part in a series of training sessions and practice matches leading up to the big School Sport Australia tournament at Waverley Netball Centre from August 31-September 5.

Stephanie hopes to one day play for her country. "She really loves her netball and she'd love to play for Australia," said her mother Sally, who teaches physical education at Warrandyte Primary.

"Her idol is Sharelle McMahon, who plays goal attack for the Melbourne Phoenix and the national team."

"Goal attack is Stephanie's position, too, although she was selected at wing defence for Victoria."



Warrandyte Netball Club have just completed their most successful season in recent memory.

Fourteen of the club's 18 teams made the top four in the Doncaster and Districts Netball Association winter competition, 10 played in the preliminary finals, seven reached the grand finals and four brought home the ultimate prize.

Of the five Under-11 teams, who do not play finals, four finished in the top four, with the 11/4 Joeys — in their first season of netball — and 11/1 Blackbirds top of their sections.

Warrandyte's premiers were the 31/1 Rosellas, the 13/2 Sparrows, the 15/3 Kookaburras and the Open B Eagles.

The Rosellas, coached by Mandy Ratcliffe, fought a close and tough battle throughout, displaying a great standard of skill and sportsmanship to defeat NYC Lynx by a single goal, 25-24.

The Sparrows, coached by Natalie Dusting, were all tied up with Deep Creek at half-time in their grand final, but ran away in the second half to win 22-11.

It was the Warrandyte girls' first grand final and a first for the coach, so early game nerves were understandable.

Bruce Twite's Kookaburras were all fired up for their game against Donvale Magic and they played accordingly, winning 25-12. Again, it was the first grand final for players and coach and their performance on court showed just how badly they wanted to win it.

The Eagles went about their business as if it were just any other Saturday game but had no intention of allowing the Koonung Flyers a look in.

They stepped up their game in the second quarter and were too good all over the court, the 45-24 final scoreline telling the story.

Warrandyte's beaten grand finalists were the 13/3 Wallabies, the 15/1 Magpies and the 17/2 Ravens.

The Wallabies, coached by Rochelle Roodhouse, went down 27-24 to NYC Koolkats in a very good game of netball; Jacinta Hennessy's Magpies were overrun by NYC Jaguars in the second half to go down 29-16; and Erica McCutcheon's Ravens took it right down to the wire against Donvale Angels, losing 18-16.

"There was a terrific finals atmosphere on the day, WNC secretary Pauline Dusting told the *Diary*.

"Some of the girls sprayed their hair in red and white strips, others furiously waved red and white streamers every



Above: Warrandyte's premier 13/2 Sparrows. Back row (left to right): Caitlin Hurst, Georgina Walker, Megan Seymour, Emma Stanley, Georgia Nichol, Lauren Fraser-McKelvie, Natalie Dusting (coach). Front: Shannon Lowe, Elizabeth Pichut, Rhiannon Simpson.



Left: The victorious 15/3 Kookaburras. Back row (from left): Michelle Green, Kelli Oreilly, Erika Dyason, Sophie Post, Taryn Greenlaw, Shelley Barriball. Front: Jessica Jones, coach Bruce Twite, Rachel Hill.

time a Warrandyte goal was scored. "A great day for the club and very pleasing to see the girls being supportive not only of their team but other teams as well."

Below right: The triumphant 13/1 Rosellas. Back row (from left): Aisling Bolton, Sarah Clough, Elin Twite, Shana Poly. Front: Stephanie Freemantle, Brittany Duncan, Simone Reid, coach Mandy Ratcliffe, Nicole Cukierman, Jenny Parkes.



The table-topping Under-11s. Left: Coaches Sarah Brown and Tegan Humble (at back) and their 11/4 Joeys. Middle row (left to right): Selene Foster-Zuluaga, Montana Cox, Anousha Andrews, Nastasya Foster-Zuluaga. Front: Claudia Bowers, Tamika Farley-Lehmer, Akela Coutts, Gemma Lindsay-Knape, Dayle Humphreys. Absent: Emily Bird. Above: The 11/1 Blackbirds: Back row (from left): Hannah Twite, Jessica Drohan, Lucinda Link, Bianca Stockley. Front: Emilee Hassall, Jessica Dusting, Bridgitte Freemantle. Absent: Harriet Rappel.



# Redbacks in with 16 chances



Warrandyte's Under-19 girls get the message from coach Nick Peters at half-time in their 35-25 preliminary final win over Bulleen. Left to right: Kim Singh, Casey Hawley, Bec Parsons, Jess Kemp (No 55), Melinda Walsham (No 33), and Sam Smith.

By TONY OLIVER

Warrandyte have 16 teams in the grand finals of the Saturday EDJBA basketball championship on September 13.

Five sides had made it directly through to the grand final, including Sharon Bensch's Under-9 AR girls, who turned the tables on Park Orchards for an 18-15 win.

They have been joined by 11 sides who were successful on preliminary final day on September 6, when the Redbacks had 22 teams in action.

Preliminary final winners included Nick Peters' top A-grade Under-19 girls, who defeated Bulleen in a spiteful game at Balwyn High School.

After finishing as minor premiers, the Redbacks had gone down 36-28 to Nunawading in their semi-final, pegged back by some good outside shooting after starting well.

But they were never in danger against Bulleen, winning 35-25. The game was marred by technical fouls and the ejection of a spectator.

Warrandyte had welcomed the return of Casey Hawley, whose height under the basket and speed around the court were telling. Kim Singh, Jess Kemp and Sam Smith were again very good players.

The Redbacks meet the Nunawading Vikings in the grand final.

Warrandyte's second Under-19 side, coached by Shona Williams, went down 37-33 to Ivanhoe after appearing to have the game in their keeping with a 20-12 lead at the break.

Ivanhoe turned it on in the second half to hit the front with just over two minutes left on the clock. The Redbacks equalised with one minute 38 seconds to go but were in foul trouble and Ivanhoe made the most of this from the charity stripe. The final goal from Kathleen Shepherd — Warrandyte's best with 14 points — was not enough.

Successful in their preliminary final were the Under-15-3 girls coached by Tony Farren. They had finished top of the ladder but surprisingly had lost the first semi-final and now faced Balwyn.

The result was never in doubt, Warrandyte running away 37-17 and Madeleine Prior, in her first season after switching from netball, dominating with 20 points.

In the Under-11s, Ann Cousens' girls — minor premiers who had lost their semi-final to Nunawading by a single point — came up against the tall Eltham side.

Warrandyte had missed a number of early shots and the 10-all half-time scoreline was not a true reflection of the game to that stage.

The Redbacks appeared to have the game in hand when Tayla Flynn put away two baskets to take a 18-16 lead, but Eltham used their height under the basket to repel attacks and counter-attack.

Warrandyte also lost Sophie Richardson late in the game after a heavy clash and Eltham

## Try your arm at a basket or two

Try-outs for Warrandyte Basketball Association's 2004 season will be held on October 12 and 19. Any interested player should contact championship director Nick Peters on 9846 1516 for details.

scored the last three baskets to run out winners by 22-18.

Highlight game in the boys division was the Under-15AR match between Warrandyte and Bulleen.

After finishing on top, Warrandyte had gone down 37-34 to Balwyn in the semi-final, but started well against Bulleen and held a 14-point lead at the break, with "talls" Josh Collins and Hamish Hosking dominant under the basket.

Bulleen came back strongly in the second half, but three three-point shots late in the game were not enough to snatch the win for them and Warrandyte prevailed 46-42 to set up a re-match with Balwyn in the grand final.

The Under-15s of first-year coach Andrew Petalis turned on a thriller against the Nunawading Vikings. Warrandyte had "pinched" the second semi-final when first Wade King and then Bryce Petalas hit three-point shots late in the game for a 37-34 win against Marcellin.

In the preliminary final, defence was the order of the day in a low-scoring game. Warrandyte held a two-point lead in the last minute and Nunawading failed by a fraction of a second to beat the buzzer with a successful outside shot for a 22-20 Redbacks result.

In an earlier game, Warrandyte's Under-17 boys went down 44-31 to Balwyn, Daniel Noone scoring 11 and Jared Fitzpatrick eight for the losers.

Success came the way of Paul Whittingham's Under-13 A-grade boys, who led Nunawading 21-17 at the break and skipped away to a 32-25 advantage with just eight minutes to go.

But the scoring dried up for Warrandyte as Nunawading slowly closed the gap and there was just one point in it after a Redbacks foul with less than a minute left. A number of fouls followed and Ian McLeod scored one from the free throw line to ease the pressure.

A final Nunawading shot landed short and Warrandyte held on to win 33-31 and book themselves into the grand final against the strong Eltham side.

The Under-11s of Damian Arsenis were surprisingly beaten 47-39 by Bulleen after leading 15-10. The difference was Bulleen making critical baskets while Redback shots were failing to find the target.

Top scorers for Warrandyte were Daniel Tester and Toby Versteegen, with eight, followed by Zac Brodrick with six and Andrew Clough (five).

In the Under-9s, Warrandyte's top team had gone down 41-34 to Eltham in the second semi-final, but the Redbacks will be represented in the grand finals by other teams including Jake

Ratcliffe's B-grade side, after their 24-5 win against Eltham, and Frank Gatti's C-grade boys, who defeated Koonung by 12-9. Jason Turner's Under-11 C-grade side went down 23-19 to Whitehorse.

● A number of families faced difficult decisions on grand final day, with their children represented in various show-downs.

The Petalas family had Courtney playing in the 11AR grand final, son Bryce in the Under-15 B-grade and Scott in the Under-13 C-grade. Bryce was also coaching his Under-9s in the D-grade grand final.

By TONY OLIVER

The junior championship Friday night basketball finals are under way, with three Warrandyte teams in strong contention for grand final honours.

Damian Arsenis' Under-12 Metro 2 boys finished the season equal top with Keilor on points but were relegated to second place on the head-to-head system. This meant a semi-final appearance against Cranbourne on September 5 at Waverley.

Despite a close final scoreline of 45-40, Warrandyte were never headed.

A number of the Redbacks were suffering from the flu and overall the team were off their game in the first half, missing several straightforward shots. But the defence was strong.

Warrandyte stretched the lead to 15 points in the second half but were in foul trouble. This kept Cranbourne in the game as they were able to make 11 from 17 attempts from the free throw line in this half.

Best for the Redbacks were Jordan Beltramin, with 13 points, and Charles Johnstone, who made eight. Jake Miller and Zac Brodrick contributed 10 and seven respectively.

The Under-12s were no match, however, in a later game against Keilor for a place in the grand final. They went down 60-26 and faced a qualifying final on September 12 to stay in the race.

The Under-12 Metro 1 girls coached by Lorraine Parfitt finished top in their pool, just nudging out Bulleen on the head-to-head system, and played Bulleen, also at Waverley, on Saturday night.

Warrandyte were without tall centre Lisa Rennie (flu) and

## A 2008 date in Beijing

If natural progression runs its course, local teenager Rachael Lynch will be playing hockey for Australia at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Just 17, Rachael, of Weerona Way, North Warrandyte, has already been recognised as the best goalkeeper in this country at Under-16 and Under-18 level — so you wouldn't want to bet against her achieving her Olympic ambition.

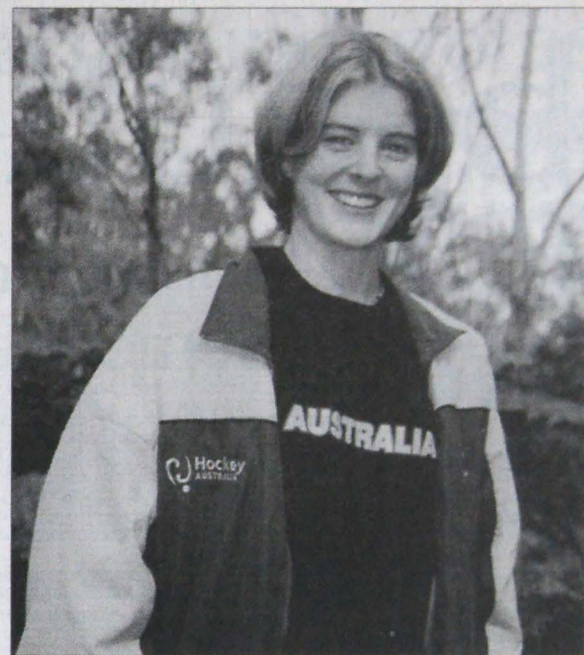
The Year 11 Eltham College student, who plays club hockey for Greensborough, is recently back from an Australian clean sweep of a three-match Under-18 series against New Zealand.

She was the "baby" of the Australian team, selected after the Under-16 interstate championship in Sydney in April, and its only Victorian member.

Two years ago, Rachael — for whom training and playing hockey is a six-days-a-week activity — was selected, along with schoolmate Lauren Brook, of Webb Street, in the Australian Under-16 team (although there is no international competition at that age level).

Parents David and Anne were in New Zealand for the Under-18 series in Hamilton and North Shore (north of Auckland) in late July/early August.

Ironically, a friendly, recrea-



Rachael Lynch ... plans to make a habit of playing for her country. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

tional game of basketball organised by the team physiotherapist almost cost Rachael her place in the final match.

"She rolled her ankle in that basketball game, but fortunately rain delayed the last match and gave her 48 hours in which to recover," said Anne.

"It was a very good series for Australia — although the New Zealanders were quick to point out it was about time we won something, seeing they'd beaten us recently in netball and rugby union.

"The highlight for David and me was to see Rachael line up in the national uniform for the first game as they played the National Anthem," she said.

"It was very moving."

Rachael described the New Zealand experience as the highlight of her career so far.

"Just wearing the Australian colours for the first time gave us a big lift," she said.

A by-product of Rachael Anne Lynch's latest national selection has been her induction into the Victorian Institute of Sport, where she receives specialist one-on-one coaching.

She trains there with Hockeyroos goalie Rachel Anne Imison. How appropriate it would be if our Rachael were to succeed her Christian-namesake and idol as Australian goalkeeper.

As we said, don't bet against it happening.

# Our three of the best



Pretty as pictures and more than just pretty good basketballers are Friday night Under-12s Courtney Petalis (left) and Kelly Peters.

were always going to struggle against the taller Bulleen side.

The Redbacks held a three-point lead at the break and needed a good start in the second half, but Bulleen had the better of it after the resumption and ran to a three-point lead which they stretched to seven with three minutes left on the clock.

It was a frantic finish from both sides, but Warrandyte were unable to string together sufficient baskets. Missed opportunities under the

basket proved costly, Bulleen advancing directly to the grand final with a 35-31 win.

Top scorers for Warrandyte were Courtney Petalas, with 15, and Zoe Simmons (eight).

Warrandyte now face Sunbury on September 12 to earn a re-match against Bulleen the following day.

There will, however, be some hard decisions made because Warrandyte are also committed to playing the EDJBA grand final on the Saturday. If a suitable game time cannot be arranged

the Redbacks may have to forfeit this game to concentrate on the Metro 1 championship crown.

Warrandyte should have Lisa Rennie available and the extra height may make all the difference.

A measure of the talent of the Warrandyte girls is that five of this side have been asked to take part in the Intensive Talent Camp Program this month. The invitees are Lisa Rennie, Zoe Simmons, Courtney Petalas, Myka Johnstone and Nicolette Prior.

The third Redback team in line for grand final honours are Ian Wood's Under-14 North West Division 1 boys. They were unlucky to miss out of the Metro competition and were clear leaders at the end of the home-and-away season.

However, in a major qualifying semi-final upset on the Saturday night at Sunshine, Warrandyte went down 38-30 to Werribee.

The Redbacks were probably feeling the effects of earlier games, as the boys had just competed in the EDJBA finals.

Warrandyte opened strongly with baskets to David Wood and Jash Blakey and seemed well in control with a 19-12 lead five minutes out from half-time. But Werribee rallied and went into the interval with scores locked together on 21.

Warrandyte led by a single point with five minutes to go but, as in the first half, could not withstand Werribee's powerful finish.

Top scorers for Warrandyte were Josh Blakey with nine, Gavin Yates with six and Julian Philippou (five).

Warrandyte were to front in a preliminary final on September 12.

# You little beauties!

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

The Under-11s and Under-13s did Warrandyte Junior Football Club and the local community proud by bringing home premierships from the Yarra league grand finals on August 31.

The Under-11s scored a heart-stopping one-point win in extra time against Kew. Team reporter Paul Van der Zant described it as one of the best and most thrilling games he and the other parents had seen.

It was played in terrible conditions, Warrandyte winning the toss only to have the strong wind change direction, which saw them six points down at the first change.

With the wind behind them, the baby Bloods wiped off the deficit and led by two points at the interval — well aware, though, that they would be kicking into the teeth of the gale when play resumed.

But the third quarter was a "nil-all draw", Warrandyte defending grandly to hold Kew scoreless.

To their credit, Kew outscored Warrandyte two behinds to nothing in the last term and siren saw the scores all tied up and two five-minute periods of extra time applied.

Urged on by coach Clem Mifsud, Warrandyte played tough, frenetic football but with no addition to the scores and the clock running down to just seconds, a shared premiership seemed inevitable.

When the going got toughest, though, the toughest got going.

In an inspired passage of football, Warrandyte moved the ball via many hands from deep in defence to deep into attack.

It finished in the hands of Jordan Beltramin, who just managed to get foot to ball in the shadow of full time to kick the winning point.

"The boys had been pushed to the brink," said jubilant coach Mifsud. "They were emotionally drained and some couldn't feel their fingers, it was so cold. They were shot."

"We had two very hard games prior to this—even being beaten by Kew in the first final—but they showed what great players they are."

"These boys displayed the team spirit that the junior club are famous for."

"I'm just so proud of them."

Supercoach Steve Blakey got his Under-13s to "do the undoable" by winning their flag from fourth place on the ladder. Banyule, their grand final op-

## Young Bloods bring home the big ones

ponents, had lost only one game for the season and boasted some of the tallest players of that age in the league.

But Warrandyte jumped them, their first goal coming up in just 90 seconds and their second three minutes later.

Rain intervened to make ball handling extremely difficult for both teams, but Warrandyte were harder at every loose ball and kids in red and white were throwing themselves into the packs.

"To watch our bigger boys standing tall in the packs and coming away with the ball, to see our smaller players running alongside opponents who stood at least a foot taller, to see every player jump in and help the one at the bottom of the pack ... this is what we saw," said team reporter Martin Versteegen.

"Some great individual plays, but mostly we saw a team of champions."

"Banyule tried to stem the flow of our game but were not up to the job once we got started. It seemed their 'bigs' weren't big enough, their rovers fast enough or their backline strong enough to stop the determination and dedication of every boy that coach Steve sent on to the ground."

Warrandyte won by 32 points, 5.5 (35) to 0.3.

Statistics tell the story of Warrandyte's magnificent finals campaign.

In their three games, the Under-13s kicked a total of 173 points while conceding just 16.

"It is amazing what a bit of self-belief can do," said coach Blakey. "These boys gave their all to the team and came up champions."

"It was just inspiring to watch—it doesn't get any better than that."

The Under-10s also made it to the grand final but were beaten by Banyule 2.13 (25) to 0.4.

"By all reckoning, the boys shouldn't have made that far," said coach Greg Edwards. "We finished fourth on the ladder and had been beaten by the top three teams during the season."

"For the boys to win two of their final games says a great deal for their future seasons at

the club. They improved with every game and while it was unfortunate that we couldn't go the next step, they boys can be justly proud of their achievements," Edwards said.

Warrandyte's Under-15s reached the finals for the second year in a row but were eliminated at the preliminary final stage.

"We are just short of a few tallies but the club can be proud of these boys," said coach Shaun Wilson, who doubles as joint coach of the senior club's Under-18s joint venture with Doncaster East.

"They have that never-say-die approach to football which one day will bring them the ultimate reward."

● Jarrod Buzzini (Under-10s), Jake McKee (Under-11s) and Narayan Tobin (Under-13s) were named David Clifton Memorial Players of the Finals Series.



Maintaining a proud tradition ... Warrandyte Junior Football Club's triumphant Under-11s (above) and Under-13s. (Pictures by Gavin D. Andrew)



## Right up there when it counts



Ethan Hale-Vaughan

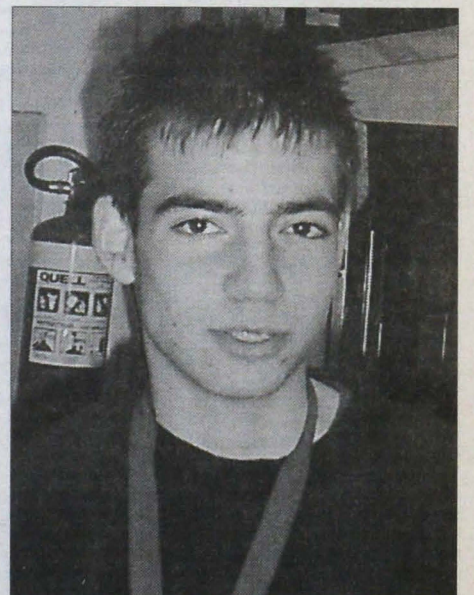
Warrandyte's Ethan Hale-Vaughan, Tom Fitzpatrick and Tyson Fitzgerald (Under Under-11s, 13s and 14s respectively) all finished third in the Yarra Junior Football League's recent vote count.

All Warrandyte Junior Football Club teams had players selected to attend the count.

The other invitees were Ryan Exon and Darcy Jones (Under-10s); Jordan Beltramin and Jake McKee (Under-11s); Andrew Bird (Under-12s); Hamish Hoskings and Luke Ezbery (Under-15s); and Stephen Christopher (Colts).

At the recent Colts presentation night at the Grand Hotel, Dylan Matheou was named club captain for season 2004. He succeeds Paul O'Mara.

At the same function, Stephen Christopher was named Colts Player of the Year.



Dylan Matheou

# Warrandyte looking to the up-and-comers



Campbell Holland

Warrandyte Cricket Club open their 2003-04 campaign against St Andrews when the Ringwood District Cricket Association season begins on October 4.

The Dytes have been working hard indoors in recent weeks to prepare themselves for what looms as another challenging season.

Two new clubs have joined the Second Division with South Croydon being relegated from First Division and Chirnside Park earning promotion from Division 3.

"The competition is pretty fierce," said Warrandyte president Robert White.

"It is vital that we get in as much pre-season work as we can to make sure we are ready to be at our best from the first round. Winning early games is critical."

Warrandyte will be relying on the further development of young players who made their mark last season.

Fast bowler Campbell Holland has been playing in England over the winter and he looms as a key player again this year.

Not long out of junior ranks and the winner of the past two club championship awards, Holland's tireless bowling and aggressive middle-order batting have proved match-winning over recent seasons.

Top-order batsman Daniel Wellesley is also expected to improve further this season after last year's debut in the senior team.

Wellesley held down the important No 3 spot and with his medium-paced bowling steadily improving, he is expected to play a leading role during the new season.

Young leg spinner Adam Beardall continues to improve with experience while Travis Cauchi and Justin Cleaves will be pressing for senior selection after sound seasons in the second eleven.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Dave Mooney has been reappointed captain for the third year and, with tireless fast bowler Gerald Walshe, will provide the much-needed experience for the team.

Former club champion Adam White is also expected to return to Warrandyte this season after two years of coaching in the Eastern Cricket Association and his batting will strengthen the top order.

A handy off-spin bowler, he will add variety to an attack that has been able to contain most batting sides.

"We are still talking to a number of new players who are keen to play at Warrandyte, but football commitments are making it difficult for them to attend practice," said Robert White.

"We hope to field four senior teams again this season and we would welcome any new players to come along and play for their local club."

Sunday morning practice, at 10.30 at Maddocks Sports in Mary Street,

Blackburn, will continue until September 14. Tuesday and Thursday evening practice will get under way at the Warrandyte ground from September 9, weather permitting.

Warrandyte juniors are also up and running for the new season with three nights of indoor practice already under their belts.

"We look certain to have additional junior teams this year, which is a tribute to the hard work of our junior coordinator Lee Dehmel and team managers," said White.

"We had an excellent turn-out for our registration day and all is in readiness for another great year."

"Last year our Under-16 team won the premiership and we are confident that some of the other grades have the talent to step up and achieve the same success."

Parents seeking advice on junior cricket should contact Dehmel on 9844 2834.

# Bloods all washed up!

## Beaten semi-finalists fire in official ground protest

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club's 2003 season came to a sad and sodden end with a triple whammy at Jubilee Park, Ringwood, on August 24.

In atrocious conditions — conditions bad enough to prompt an official complaint from the Bloods to the EFL about the state of the ground — the Seniors, Reserves and the Doncaster East-Warrandyte Under-18s were all eliminated in first semi-finals, by 18, five and 31 points respectively.

The Seniors probably set an unwanted EFL record by managing just 0.2 in four quarters against eventual premiers Norwood — but before you gasp your disbelief, bear in mind that the winners had managed only 1.2 themselves until two quick soccer goals midway through the last quarter sealed our fate.

The Bloods actually won the second quarter by kicking one of their two behinds. That's how bad a game of football it was. That's how precious goals were.

Four days after the debacle, Maroondah council deemed the surface of the much-used Jubilee Park unplayable and closed the ground. The EFL transferred the rest of the Third Division finals to VFL club Box Hill Hawks' City Oval.

Warrandyte have sent a letter of complaint to the league condemning the condition of the ground and complaining that the teams were denied new or exchange balls at each change.

"We made it clear to the league that we're not whingeing about the result of the game," WFC president Noel Taplin told the *Diary*.

"This was a letter of protest to correct the situation for the future."

Jubilee Park had indeed taken some heavy traffic this season. The home ground of Ringwood Football Club in Division 2, it was also Norwood's home base this year while their own ground was being resurfaced. So it got very little rest.

The Bureau of Meteorology had warned us all that Sunday, August 24, was going to be foul — but why did they for once have to get it right?

The MCG-sized ground had already been cut up by hosting three second semi-finals the previous day and heavy overnight rain that revisited produced the kind of slush that turns a game of footy into a game of chance.

A howling crosswind was always going to condemn play to the far, uninhabited side of the ground.

Still, before the ball became leaden, and before the game was five minutes old, Norwood snapped the first goal of the match. And what a defining goal it was.

In hindsight, they could have blown the final siren there and then because Warrandyte were never going to able to match it.

It was to be the only goal until the 14-minute mark of the final term.

It wasn't a case of the Bloods playing badly, it was a case of Norwood playing just a little better in conditions the like of which neither side may experience again.



The brollies are up as coach Scott Hunter (facing camera) addresses the Bloods at quarter-time.

### SPORT

Warrandyte coach Scott Hunter was not at all dismayed by the quarter-time scoreboard — 1.1 (7) to 0.0 — and we were stiff when our first genuine scoring chance, at the 12-minute mark of the second term, saw the bouncing ball bog down in the mire just centimetres from the goal line to be picked up and cleared.

The Bloods' first score of the game, a rushed behind, came four minutes later and that was to be it for the second quarter, 1.1 to 0.1 at the interval. You couldn't really say the goal umpires and scoreboard attendant had been overworked.

It took Norwood 10 minutes of the third term to improve on their quar-

ter-time tally, with a rushed behind, but Warrandyte grabbed that one back six minutes later with the game's first score at that end of the ground.

Huge numbers at the fall of the ball, rugby style packs and soccer tactics remained the order of the day, with no further addition to the score and Warrandyte still six points in arrears — 1.2 to 0.2 — at the last change.

In the soggy huddle, Hunter exhorted his troops to "attack, attack ... we've got nothing to lose!"

"We're putting up with this shit (the conditions) for one reason — so we'll be playing again next week," he said.

First Norwood then Warrandyte threatened something dramatic, but their forward sorties came to a common end — buried under packs.

Then the break went Norwood's way. A soccer goal 14 minutes in broke us. If we'd been unable to kick a goal

in three-and-a-half quarters of so-called football, how were we to kick two in half a quarter?

Norwood made that question absolutely academic a minute later by soccering another. Two lucky goals? Maybe, but someone deserved a reward for slugging it out at Jubilee Park that day. Pity it wasn't Warrandyte.

Final score: Norwood 3.2 (20), Warrandyte 0.2.

The Bloods' best were Warren Ruehland, Dale Vitiritti, Kimberly O'Connor, Stewart Rough and Darren Payne.

● The semi-final was the season's third meeting between Warrandyte and Norwood. The first, at home, was drawn; the second Norwood won by five points at Jubilee Park in a game that should probably have gone our way. And the less said about the third the better.

## It's the blues for our Twos

Despite a five point loss to eventual premiers Upper Ferntree Gully in their semi-final, Warrandyte's Reserves enjoyed their best season for 10 years.

And a hotly-disputed umpiring decision late in the game might have cost them the chance to go right on with it.

The Bloods, who had lost just four of 18 home-and-away games to finish third on a crowded leader board, trailed by a couple of points at each change but goaled to hit the front by the narrowest of margins midway through the last quarter.

But a free and resultant goal restored Upper Gully's lead.

The game boiled down at an ambi-

tious set shot at goal by Warrandyte after the siren, but the leaden ball fell considerably short.

Final score was Upper Gully 4.9 (33), Warrandyte 4.4 (28).

Best of the Bloods were Aidan Davey, James Logan, Rob Ryan, Nathan Gardner and Dean Hunter.

"A very disappointing result, but our best season for a long while," said coach Harry Gardner.

"We had basically the same list as we've had for the past couple of years, but the boys are more committed now."

The Under-18s started well against Upper Gully and had they kicked

straighter might have booted away to a handy lead. But they were run over when the heavens reopened and went down 8.13 (61) to 4.6 (30).

Still, the very formation of the Doncaster East-Warrandyte combine had been a success story in itself and a finals berth was a possibility only the incurable optimists had canvassed.

The benefits of the venture — which will continue next season if neither club has the numbers to go it alone — will shortly be felt at senior level.

Best in the semi-final were Tom Naughtin, Jake Kilsby, John Daou, Adam Woods, James Bowen and Geoff Zach.

## The good, the bad and the reasons

In accordance with policy, Warrandyte Football Club will advertise the senior coaching position for 2004.

And Scott Hunter, playing coach for the past two seasons, will certainly be a candidate.

The Bloods hope to announce the coach at Presentation Night at Club Warrandyte on Friday, October 17.

It was indeed a season of contrasts for Warrandyte's senior side, who dropped three of their last four home-and-away games and were in very real danger in the last round of slipping from the four for the first time.

In the end, Doncaster East saved our skins by two premierships points on August 16 by defeating Upper Ferntree Gully, who were steaming home after a sluggish start to the season, as Warrandyte unexpectedly went down to Nunawading.

The Bloods finished with 10.5 wins from their 18 games, short of coach Hunter's pre-season target of 12.

Warrandyte had pencilled in wins against down-the-ladder Templestowe, the Waverley Blues and Nunawading in the run home, but lost the lot.

Ironically, they belted second-placed Doncaster East by 75 points at home in the penultimate round — a 145-point turnaround from the season's previous encounter.

"The first two-thirds of our season was very good," Hunter told the *Diary*, "but we dropped off in the third part because we simply couldn't kick goals."

"If Stuart (Wynd) wasn't kicking them, nobody was."

(Full-forward Wynd kicked 84 goals for the season to easily lead Third Division, but when his form fell away in the later stages, so did Warrandyte's win-loss ratio.)

"The really good sides have multiple goalkickers over the course of a season," Hunter said.

"You need a couple of 30-40 goalkickers and that should be a priority for us next season."

(Coldstream had three players among the top 10 on the Third Division goalkicking list for the home-and-away season, contributing 139 between them.)

"Our centre clearances weren't strong, either," Hunter said, "so we'd also be looking for another aggressive on-baller."

"Our kids — and young Andrew Gordon was an exception — perhaps didn't improve as much as we'd have liked, but we have Under-18s coming through now for the first time in a few seasons and there are some very promising players among them, so that's a big bonus."

"We also missed Stewart Rough at full-back for the seven or eight games he was overseas, Stewart gives us strength and stability in defence and he was a major loss."

Warrandyte's cause also suffered by the absence of inspirational captain Matt Blagrove for the last five games.

Blagrove suffered a severe facial injury in the game against Coldstream on July 19 and took no further part in the season.

WFC president Noel Taplin said the big positive to come out of 2003 was to have all three sides in the finals for the first time.

"The seniors started off so well," he said, "and we had the players to win the premiership. But that start didn't continue on and our inconsistency over the last six or seven games was strange."

## Hawks hovering in numbers

By LEE TINDALE

South Warrandyte Cricket Club will field up to 15 teams in the new Ringwood District season — the Hawks' debut season in the elite Chandler Shield competition.

The club will run five senior sides, three veterans elevens and, hopefully, seven junior sides, including one in a newly-created Under-17s competition.

An expansion of the junior section was an avowed intention when South Warrandyte won last season's Wilkins Shield competition, having gone undefeated through the Newey Shield division the previous year.

The Hawks will begin their first Chandler Shield campaign on October 4 with an upgraded Colman Park ground and the promise of renovated clubrooms.

When this edition of the *Diary* went to press, Maroondah council was about to start work on leveling and top-dressing the playing surface to meet Chandler Shield standards.

Substantial clubroom improvements were to follow.

"Everyone is very enthusiastic about the new season," said Hawks vice-president Ed Garner.

"We were ecstatic when we won the Wilkins Shield

last season and it probably came a bit quicker than we'd expected.

"Every RDCA club wants to play Chandler Shield and we're very excited about it."

Garner said the club had been training — indoors and on Sunday — since early July and numbers had been excellent.

"We've managed to recruit a couple of good senior players, but cricketers in competitions such as ours tend to become entrenched and are reluctant to move," he said.

South Warrandyte will be coached this season by Bob Neagle — father of first eleven players Jeremy and Ben — who was in charge of South Warrandyte in the Chandler Shield last season.

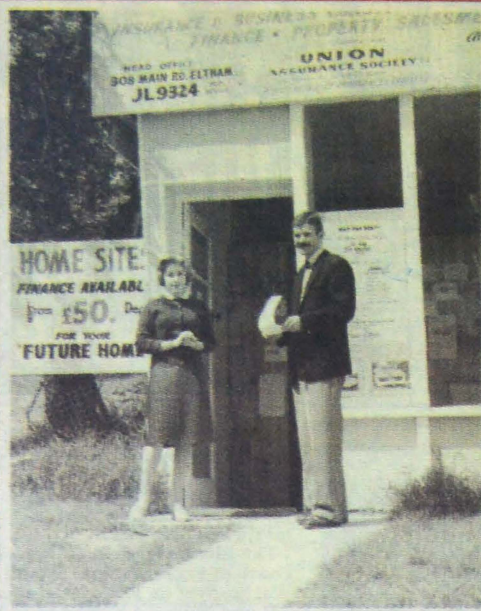
He has replaced Scott Brasher, a former Hawks junior who presided over the club's meteoric ascent from virtual obscurity to the premier level of competition in the space of two seasons. Brasher will remain a member of the first eleven and is involved in the expansion of the club's junior division.

● South Warrandyte will hold a karaoke night at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Saturday, October 11. Inquiries to social secretary Nick Barrett (0438 227798).



Scott Brasher

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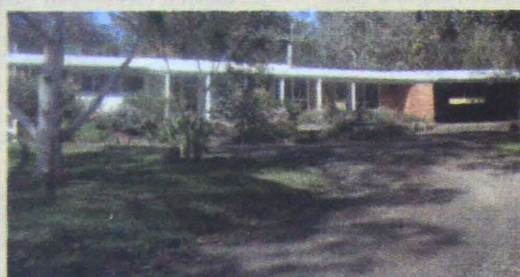
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