

# Park doubts linger

By FIA CLENDINNEN

Questions remain over the future of operational funding at Warrandyte State Park, despite a meeting organised between local community groups, two members of state parliament and a spokesperson from Parks Victoria.

Representatives from the Warrandyte Community Association (WCA) and Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) arranged to meet

with Danielle Green, MP for Yan Yean, Carolyn Hirsh, MLC for Silvan, and Michonne van Rees from Parks Victoria, in response to last month's *Diary* article which reported that Warrandyte State Park had suffered a cut of 90 per cent to its operations budget.

Also there were strong rumours, later denied by a spokesperson for John Thwaites, Minister for the Environment, Water and Victo-

rian Communities, that the depot faced closure, with the Warrandyte staff being relocated.

David Wierzbowski, from the Warrandyte Community Association, told the *Diary* he came away from the meeting feeling very disappointed. He said he had been hoping that an alternative could be found to the huge budget cut but the government representatives seemed to think there was no

other possible solution.

"The (spokesperson from Parks Victoria) basically said, 'that's it, there's no money from elsewhere, you just have to cop it. We have a higher priority in the alpine areas, you're a lower priority. We're taking money from you, we're giving it to them. That's it. Bad luck,'" said Mr Wierzbowski.

The reason given for the budget cut is that extra money is urgently needed in the far

north-east of the state to repair the damage done by the bushfires of last summer, and to take advantage of the situation by undertaking weed and vermin eradication measures in fire-cleared areas.

But Mr Wierzbowski said he found this rationale unconvincing. "If we have had the money originally allocated to us, it is for a good reason. We have proof on the ground where it has been valuable

and it continues to be required. You can't justify taking from one area to give to another area. There are other ways of juggling budgets, of solving both problems."

Mr Wierzbowski also said he had twice raised with Danielle Green the issue of whether the funding cuts were ongoing or would only occur this financial year.

"I asked twice if this could continue for longer than 12 months and I didn't get an appropriate answer to that. It suggests that they are not committing themselves to a maximum of 12 months."

However Carolyn Hirsh, MLC for Silvan, has promised that the budget cuts will not be repeated. "Now that is a one-off thing. The funding will be reinstated next year," she said.

The possibility of the depot closing has again been categorically denied by Carolyn Hirsh and Michonne van Rees, the spokesperson for Parks Victoria. But in the debate a new issue has come to light. It appears that the depot building at Pound Bend contains asbestos, which at some stage will need to be dealt with.

Ms Hirsh said that the asbestos was not a serious problem and would be easily repaired by appropriately skilled workmen. "Apparently some bits of it are asbestos and they are apparently going to be fixed by proper asbestos people," she said.

But residents with long memories might remember back to seven years ago when, as reported in the *Diary*, the council offices in the main road of Eltham were demolished. The reason given at the time, 1996, was that the building contained asbestos and was therefore a danger to public health and safety.

But others in the community disputed this. While acknowledging that the building did contain asbestos, as do many other such buildings constructed before 1978, they pointed out that the asbestos in this case was very stable and therefore posed no real health risk. Some claimed that the asbestos ruling was a "furphy", a convenient way of speedily removing a building which was perceived as being in the way.

● Readers are invited to comment on this issue.

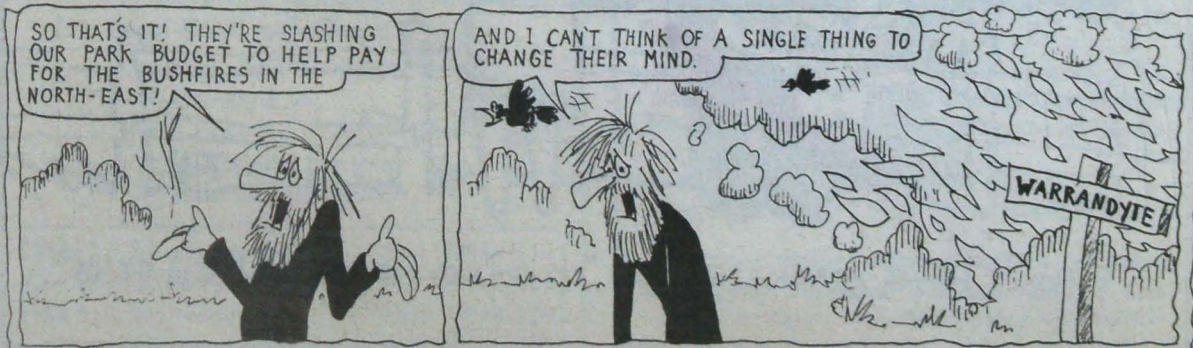


Ready to roll: this young firefighter took the controls at last month's CFA fire expo.

● More Stephen Reynolds pix on Page 6

## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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# WARRANDYTE DIARY

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### OUR NEWSPAPER

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

# Bunter has reservations now about Red Indian wrestlers



Sport 927 is the radio "bible" of local plumber David "Bunter" McLean and he woke to it about six the other morning as big breakfast host Kevin Bartlett was doing a "Whatever became of..." segment on legendary professional wrestler Chief Littlewolf. Gee, did that ring a bell with Bunter, or what! He'd plumbed for the good chief years ago. Real name Bishop. Lived at Kangaroo Ground. Went on to become a big transport executive. Used to wrestle under various names, Chief Littlewolf among them. Bunter just had to share this information with the world at large, so he got on the eau de to 927 and told all he knew. Bartlett was fascinated — as were a host of other listeners, bona fide grunt 'n' groan aficionados all, who phoned in to ridicule Bunter's version of the facts and set the record straight.



Upon reflection, Bunter started to suspect that he might have got the wrong Redskin wrassler here. Certainly, this bloke Bishop grappled under the name of an American Indian chief, but maybe it could have been Sitting Bull or Sitting Pat or Running Bear or Running Nose or Ten Bears or Two Dogs or something. Bunter returned deep in thought to the bedroom, where wife Debbie had been tuned in to the on-air revelations. "Some idiot from Warrandyte has phoned in to Kevin Bartlett and he's a right turkey!" she said. "Yeah," said Bunter, quite coyly. "Me."



John Smith ... the most common of names, but in this case a household one worn by a bloke with an uncommonly great capacity for life. John Frederick Smith — "Porky" to his mates (and he had more of those than he could count) — was a gem of a human being who lived in this town for 57 years. He died at home on October 24, some 16 months after being diagnosed with cancer. He was 63 and his obituary appears elsewhere in this edition. Smithy was a fun-loving character who became a fixture in this column in the late 1970s/early '80s simply because he had a penchant for doing Page 2-type things. He'd protest from time to time about the amount of exposure he was getting, but it's hard to take seriously a protest delivered with a grin and a twinkle in the eye.

## IN RED & WHITE



Bunter McLean dons the feathers for his next pro wrestling bout. He is not to be confused with the peace-loving Sioux gentleman on the right.



We became mates when John was a greenkeeper at the old Warrandyte golf course in Alexander Road and Smokey was a hacker with aspirations. Four of us were playing the fifth one afternoon and John was mowing the elevated, partly-obscured green. Smokey pushed his second shot well wide, pin high maybe but a chip and the regulation two putts away from a bogey five, he reckoned. Amazement all round in our four when we topped the rise to find the old Hot Dot an inch from the flag. "A-grade bounce!" said Smithy, who'd set up the easiest birdie a man ever had before remounting the mower and convincingly feigning innocence. God bless you, John Smith.



We suspect the lady who e-mailed us the other day is neither a regular nor avid reader of the Diary. "I would like to place an ad in the personal column/adult services of your employment section," she said. "Please let me know how much the following ad will be and on what days your paper receives best feedback from employment section ... Regards, Sara, Massage Delights." Sorry, Sara, but our advertising content doesn't yet extend to adult services. Pity, really, because we're all for further lowering

the unemployment rate and there are probably lots of "pretty, over 18, drug-free girls with great, friendly personalities" out there who'd relish the opportunity to start work in a "classy environment with great pay and airfare to Western Australia and accommodation provided".



It seems like only yesterday (or maybe the day before) that we bumped into Gus McLaren and he mentioned he'd turned 70 a fortnight ago and was still recovering from the parties (plural). It was, in fact, 10 years ago. Gus turned 80 on November 7 and is still going very strong, although we doubt the party schedule was as hectic this time around. We reckon Gus is one of this town's few remaining characters. A super-talented potter, artist, animator — you name it — he was also host for many years of an annual ALP wine bottling which was the stuff of legend. Onyer, Gus — and we fully expect to be reporting your 90th 10 years hence.



Our older-timers still talk about the deeds of Bob Trezise, the local publican's son, during and immediately after the 1962 bushfires which did their very best to wipe this town from the map. Bob, now a long-time resi-

dent of Portarlington, has been a very active member of the CFA for 41 years and recognition of just about two-thirds of a lifetime's dedication to that cause came his way late last month in the form of the National Medal, a high-ranking honour awarded from Canberra for outstanding work for any of our emergency services. A worthy recipient if ever there was one — and we're not just saying that because he happens to be a good mate of ours.



Darren Payne, a defender easily distinguishable on the field by his shaven head and no-nonsense approach to his football, polled 12 votes in the Warrandyte's best and fairest vote count on October 17 to finish equal eighth. But he obviously is more easily distinguishable to the umpires than to his clubmates because the men in white gave Darren 15 votes to place him third (behind Coldstream captain Matt Price and Doncaster East's Ben Holmes) in the EFL Third Division competition award. See, Paynie, somebody loves ya! Other Bloods in the competition's top 20 were full-forward Stuart Wynd and rover Adam Barlow.



"Rain, rain, glorious rain!" enthuses our resident native flora expert Joan McMahon.

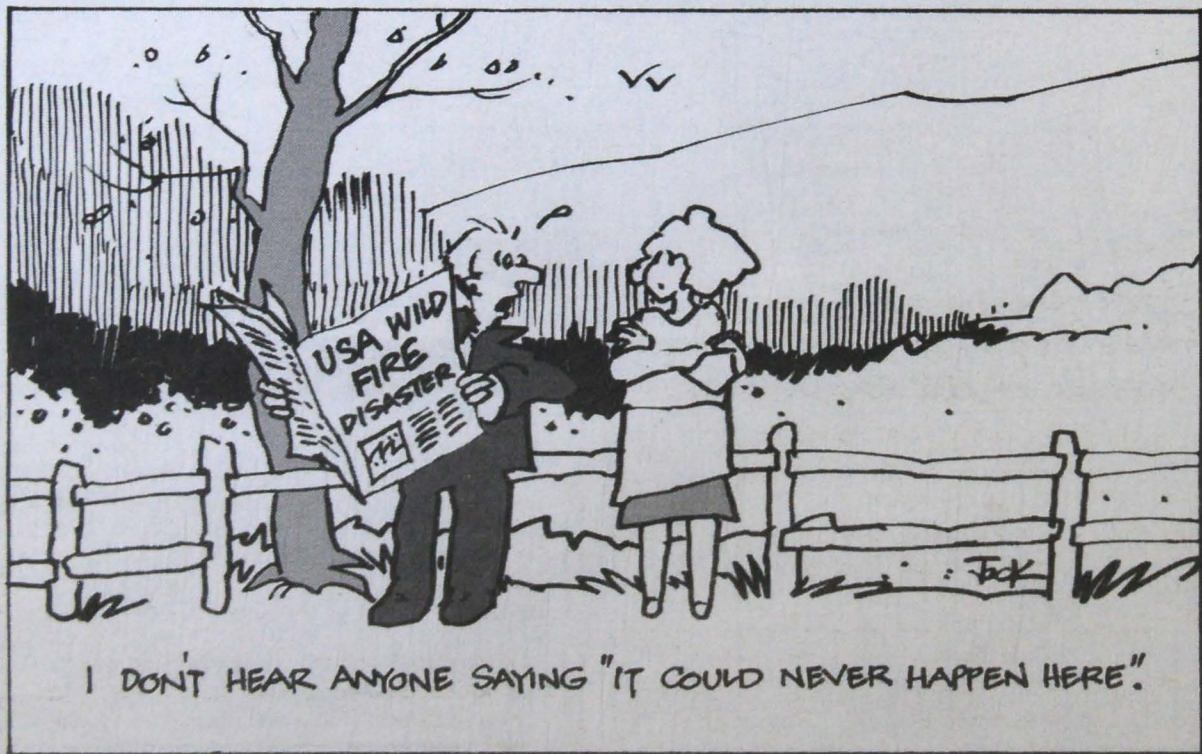
"Water + warmth = great growth and the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend has plenty of cinnamon wattles and tussocky grasses just itching to be released from their plastic prisons and planted in moist earth." Beautifully put, Joan. She says the wattle is in the medium shrub category, likes light shade and is ever so graceful. The grasses are graceful, too, and will do well in moist but not really boggy sites. These and many more native species are available at the nursery (Melways reference 23 C 10) from 10-noon on Thursdays.

Smokey Joe



## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH





# 'Rare' fish — flooding

## Conservationists question golf course approval

By CLIFF GREEN

Conservationists are concerned that recent rains are threatening the survival of endangered fish in the Yarra River.

According to Friends of the Earth spokesman Anthony Amis, "endangered fish living in the Yarra River near the Bend of Islands had a close call on October 25, when the river was running close to a banker along some areas of the Henley floodplain".

This follows concern previously expressed by Friends of the Earth, Native Fish Australia, the Field Naturalists Club and Friends of Warrandyte State Park that excavation and drainage works associated with the Henley (formerly Heritage) golf club project could damage the habitat of such endangered fish species as Macquarie Perch, Australian Grayling and Murray Cod.

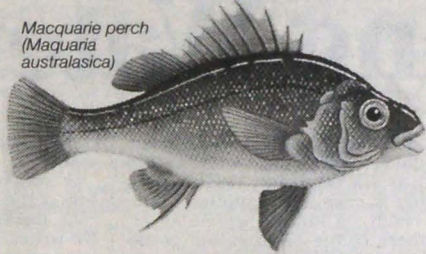
Main concern has been the impact of the golf course, during and after construction, on the ingress of soil and sediment, and fertiliser and herbicide residue, into the river.

Recent above-average rains could herald the beginning of

a prolonged "wet".

"After long periods of drought, Australia is renowned for going from very dry to very wet periods," Mr Amos told the

Macquarie perch  
(*Macquaria australasica*)



*'The Yarra River upstream of Warrandyte has arguably the largest viable breeding population of Macquarie Perch left anywhere on the planet.'*

— FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Diary. "Large rainfall events could inundate the floodplain."

Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp, approved the project on September 16, requiring Yarra Valley Golf to "construct the golf course in accordance with the approved site plan; develop an environmental management strategy" and "provide an an-

nual certificate stating compliance with the approval conditions", supervised by Melbourne Water.

However, "Friends of the Earth remains unimpressed with sub-standard erosion control measures existing on the floodplain," Mr Amos said.

"There are a host of problems that Minister Kemp has overlooked with the development.

"Large areas of floodplain have already been dug up, with large piles of soil dumped on the plain. The Yarra River is of national biological significance, with associated floodplains and wetlands at Henley also of national significance."

Mr Amos believes Dr Kemp has approved the golf course without adequately addressing soil control measures needed during the construction phase—estimated at two to three years.

"If a flood event occurs during this critical time we believe that the Macquarie Perch may be in grave danger of extinction and that the health of the Yarra for a host of users downstream will be severely compromised."

### COREY'S CLAN

By SYD & ONA



Mr Amos is concerned that Yarra Golf is not required to measure "baseline" levels of sedimentation presently in the river.

"Nowhere in Minister Kemp's approval of the Henley golf course project has he stated that the company has to con-

duct baseline monitoring of sediment and pesticides in the Yarra River or baseline monitoring of gravel spawning beds at the Bend of Islands.

"Without this baseline monitoring it will be almost impossible to determine the extent of sediment deposition on the

habitat of the endangered fish that inhabit the Yarra River.

"We are particularly concerned about fragmentation of habitat. The population of Macquarie Perch may be the most secure population left in Australia," Mr Amos said. "It is too precious to lose."

# Mine closures could be 'dangerous'

By SAM DAVIES

The Warrandyte Community Association has questioned the legal reasoning in closing historical mines in Warrandyte State Park, as new concerns are raised that the safety gates that have been installed may have made the mines more dangerous.

In a letter to Parks Victoria, the WCA's Simon Kearney calls for the mines to be reopened for the benefit of the community and questions the legitimacy of Parks Victoria's decision to bar public access to certain mines.

He claims the Mines Assessment Framework stated by Parks Victoria provided "no valid basis for carrying out the works implemented".

Mr Kearney also questioned Parks Victoria's "duty of care" to the public.

"A statutory authority is not accountable for dangers caused by inadequacies of existing situations (in this case mines) inherited from predecessors or due to increase load resulting from uncontrolled growth of surrounding areas," he wrote.

He further suggested the provisions and regulations of the Mines Act should not concern Warrandyte's mines as they are historical mines and not tourist mines, as held by the state government.

Concerns expressed in this letter add to claims being made by fellow WCA committee member, Dr Ron Garrett, that placing solid

gates at the tunnel entrances could have resulted in oxygen levels dropping by up to six per cent less than outside the mines.

If this is so, he warns the mines "would definitely be unsafe and unacceptable as a tourist mine".

Before gates were fitted, data collected by the mines department recorded that the air in Geraghty's Mine contained around two per cent less oxygen than the air outside.

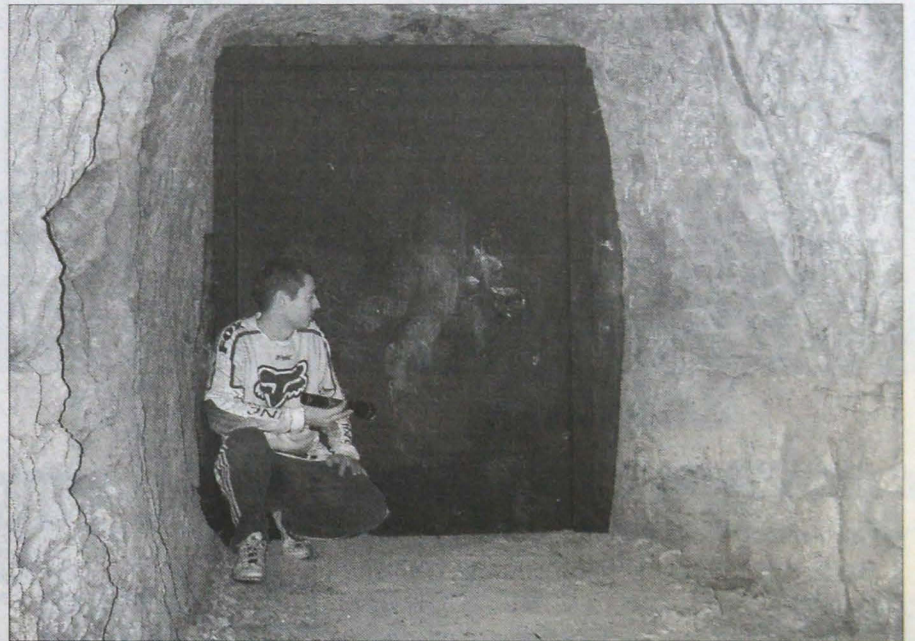
Dr Garrett fears that the solid steel plate used to close the mine has restricted airflow, which can now only come from the ventilation shaft at the top of the hill.

The oxygen levels may also have been reduced by levelling the floor with fine gravel in preparation for its function as a tourist mine. "The increased biological activity may reduce oxygen levels even further," said Dr Garrett. "If the material they used on flooring contains lime, then it could be much worse."

Dr Garrett says that oxygen levels reduced by up to six per cent, due to these factors, are a common experience in caves.

Although he has no conclusive evidence this is happening in Warrandyte's mines, he has asked Parks Victoria to investigate.

Closed off: Local mines expert Peter Hanson inspects the steel door at Geraghty's Mine. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)



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# No home among the gum trees

After 40 years of living in Warrandyte my parents have to leave home. Unfortunate circumstances have led them to this situation and I keep thinking it's perfectly normal for parents to retire or need something smaller so they move, but I am struggling with this "normality".

They have always been here, so have my brother and sisters. It's just not right. Sure the kids eventually will end up living somewhere else, one of my sisters did 10 years ago, al-

though she always tells me how homesick she is. The rest of us all live in Warrandyte in different locations and one day some or one of us will have to leave, probably me because I can't afford to buy here.

My eldest sister Connie is buried in Warrandyte cemetery so she's not going anywhere. But Mum and Dad? Well it's just not normal.

I remember when Mum would take us kids down to the river and we'd swim and splash around in the clear Yarra water. Yes, clear, whilst

## DEAR DIARY



she'd rest on a log, get a tan and keep an eye on us, always laughing. The only thing she had to watch out for was the depth in those days, not broken beer bottles and fishing line.

On Sunday morning I'd kiss Mum hello, then ride my pushbike down the middle of Yarra Street with not a car in sight.

I'd spread my arms out to my sides and fly down the road with the wind through my hair and fingers. Mum and I would do all our shopping at the main stretch of Yarra Street, there was the fruit and veg shop, the butcher, the mini supermarket, the milkbar and State Bank.

We'd lug our bags of shopping up Brackenbury Street, stopping to chat to Mr and Mrs Sloan for a welcome rest. Some days, on the walk back from Primary School I'd see our sheep Nellie waiting out-

side the bank and that was a sure sign Mum was in there, so I'd run in and grab some money for a 20cent bag of lollies.

Thirty-three years later I'm now watching my parents leave home and my heart grows heavier with each day that gets closer to the move. It's all I've ever known, Mum and Dad in Warrandyte at 91 Brackenbury Street. I know every tree, every rock. I know every spot our pets are buried, even the fish, mice, bunnies and chickens. I know every nook, every hid-

ing place.

It is where I grew up, it is where I go to find comfort, talk to Mum about my worries, my plans and where I listen to hers. It's where my sisters, brother and I played for years. It's where Dad used to burn little piles of leaves and raked up after gardening. It's home.

Warrandyte has changed so much since I was a kid, but never so much as it has now.

Nicole Van't Foort  
by email

# Slaughter at Laughing Waters

You ask yourself, "What kind of minds and hearts, what kind of people could perform such violent acts upon helpless creatures?" Under cover of darkness, a vehicle gained illegal access to a State Park reserve in North Warrandyte, then proceeded to run down and kill at least four kangaroos and injure others, which may have died later.

This senseless slaughter had been observed by Warrandyte residents, not knowing what they were actually

seeing, who noticed vehicle lights in the reserve on at least two occasions, the second being the night of the kangaroo killing—September 4—at around 9pm. The sighting of the lights had been reported to the Warrandyte and Eltham police and Parks Victoria authorities.

Subsequent investigations revealed that the locks on the gate to the fenced reserve had been removed with bolt-cutters. Tyre-tracks and slaughtered

kangaroos, along with evidence indicating the possibility of more injured roos, were discovered as well.

Upon hearing the results of the investigation of their reports, horrified residents quickly formed an observation group and telephone tree, involving residents on both sides of the river,

with the hope of catching sight of the vehicle for obtaining identification such as its type and registration number in case it was spotted again. As a result, on Sunday, September 21, members of the observation group observed campers in the same reserve, and the police and Parks Victo-

ria were again notified and action was taken.

Fearing retribution by the perpetrators of the violent act upon the kangaroos, members of the group (including the writer of this letter) wish to remain anonymous, but encourage anyone who notices, or has information about illegal activities in the State Park reserves to notify the Eltham Police (dial 000) and the Parks Victoria authorities (dial 131963.)

Anonymous  
(name and address supplied)



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## A COMMUNITY PLANS FOR TOMORROW

# Taking pride in our place

By SANDY BURGOYNE

Warrandyte residents have long felt a strong sense of pride in this special place.

Now government is recognising this "pride of place" as a tangible asset in which they are prepared to invest.

Thanks to Manningham council, Warrandyte will soon have a "Pride of Place" project underway in our village.

"The Department of Sustainability and Environment has awarded Manningham City Council \$50,000 to carry out a traffic and parking study, a signage study and undertake thorough community consultation," Sarah Lees, council's urban designer, told the *Diary*.

This money comes from the state government's Pride of Place urban design scheme. These grants are intended to assist local councils to work in partnership with their communities to create attractive and safe local activity centres.

"Manningham council considers Warrandyte township a unique area of the municipality—a place of high cultural and historical importance," Ms

## Council looks to the future character of Warrandyte

Lees said. "Many council officers, residents and traders feel that Warrandyte township's popularity is going to cause its demise, unless a sustainable urban design framework is drawn up with a focus on traffic and parking, and Yarra Street's appearance."

The outcome from this first stage of the Pride of Place grant will be to produce an urban design framework. Council staff will start this work next month. They will construct the framework through information gained from business and community groups and from consultants' reports.

"Council will be responsible for overseeing the project, writing the urban design framework and facilitating community consultation," Ms Lees said. "It is intended the project will improve

road safety, parking arrangements, signage, business and tourism, as well as both physical and social cohesion within the township."

The Pride of Place project will take a holistic approach to conserving and enhancing the character of Yarra Street. The type of signage used in Warrandyte's main street is one of the considerations.

"At the moment you know that every business has something different as far as signage is concerned," the Warrandyte Community Association's David Wierzbowski told the *Diary*. "What we are going to try and do is suggest a number of options where the traders can say, well things are ad hoc at the moment. We are going to try to bring things a little bit more into uni-

formity."

The process will also look at options for coordinating the signage of statutory authorities and the implementation of a communications strategy. "The success depends upon participation and cooperation," Mr Wierzbowski said.

The other major component of the Pride of Place application is a traffic study. It is anticipated that professional consultants will do this to record current traffic conditions in Yarra Street, including the availability and use of parking.

"We are going to get a traffic study done," Mr Wierzbowski said. "(Consultants) are going to work out volumes, circulation, parking; how the overall movement and activity can be

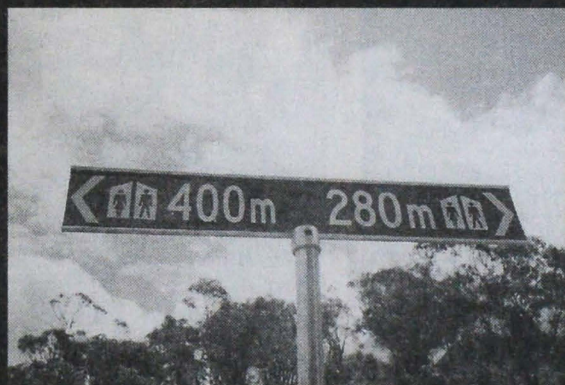
increased and safety improved.

"With the slowing down of the traffic, with the 40kph speed trial, we are hoping that (it) will all tie into a better place to work and live and play," he said.

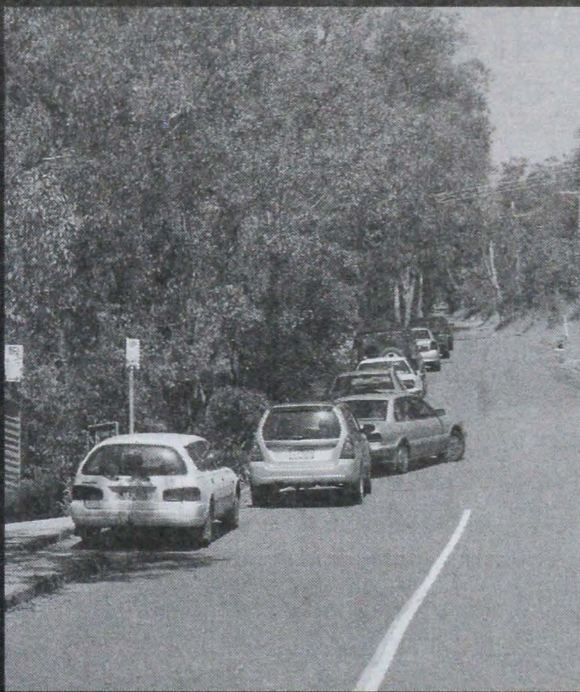
The WCA sees this Pride of Place project as an opportunity to take stock of the function and appearance of Warrandyte village and to plan for the future. "At the moment there appears to be no long-term vision for the direction that Warrandyte's going in and we believe that if it's left to, let's say, market forces, it's going to turn into Ringwood," Mr Wierzbowski said.

A wide range of opinion will be sought in formulating the urban design framework. "The Warrandyte Community Association have been instrumental in raising the profile of the Warrandyte township and the association will continue to play a key role in influencing the outcome of the framework. However, a wide range of stakeholders, including residents and other interested parties, will be consulted throughout the process," Ms Lees said.

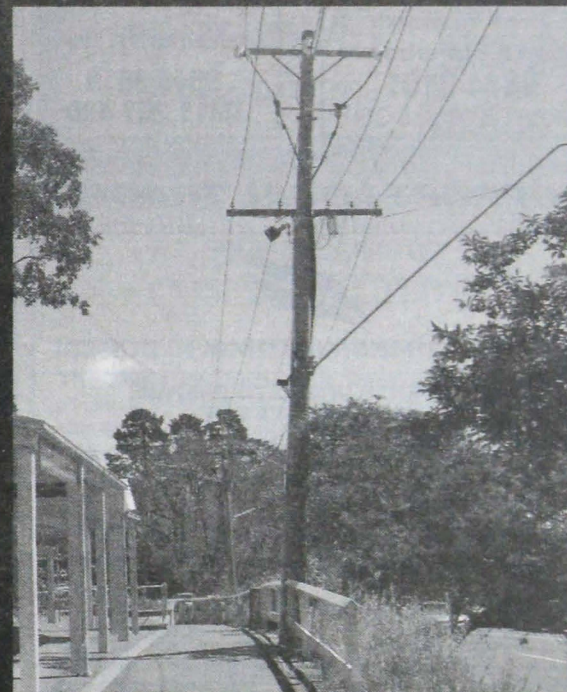
### Investigating the trouble spots



Signage



Parking



Power lines

Pictures by Sandy Burgoyne and Jan Tindale

# We're seeking space to breathe

By SANDY BURGOYNE

The Warrandyte Community Association recently made a submission to Manningham council on local open space. This was in response to council's recent review of its open space strategy.

Its submission the WCA said that development should be contained within the urban growth boundary, as outlined in the state government's 2030 plan. This will increasingly place more stress on existing open spaces, making them even more important.

The WCA suggestions were wide-ranging. For Yarra Street they included: placing the power lines underground, rationalising business signage, the removal of prunus trees and planting of native flora.

Another concern was the vacant land next to the Bendigo Bank.

The original owner, the State Bank, gave the block over to open space in lieu of car parking. The WCA believes that this land needs to be ensured as open space "in an already overdeveloped area".

With Stiggants Reserve the WCA considers that locating the new playspace on the flat section, near the rotunda, is not appropriate.

Instead the organisation suggested that council restore the existing playground site and conserve the lower section of the reserve as "it is a very rare piece of flat open space in Warrandyte".

Other points raised in the submission included: the status of the Tindals Wildflower

Reserve; expanding cycling trails to Warrandyte; encouraging local residents to plant indigenous species; implementation of a weed reduction program; and the continuation of willow removal from the river.

Manningham council periodically calls for submission from the public on its open space strategy.

Included in this are sporting reserves, conservation areas, linear parks, reserves of municipal significance and neighbourhood recreation reserves. The council undertook the previous review in 1999.

Warrandyte's open space: a precious resource. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)





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# Preparing for the worst...

Warrandyte turned out in force for the CFA's fire survival expo last month. STEPHEN REYNOLDS was there for the *Diary*.

## SUPPORT LOCAL TRADERS



MANNINGHAM

### RESIDENTS URGED TO PREPARE FOR FIRE SEASON

Manningham City Council is urging residents to start preparing their properties for the fire danger period by reducing sources of fuel such as tree branches and green waste.

Council is assisting residents within fire prone areas to engage in fuel reduction by offering a free disposal service each Sunday for a period of five weeks.

Residents living within Warrandyte, Warrandyte South, Wonga Park, Park Orchards and Donvale areas are eligible for free vouchers to dispose of green or dry clean wood and branches to a maximum of 100mm diameter. Only clean green wastes will be accepted.

Residents should check the requirements of the Manningham Planning Scheme if they are unaware of the provisions relating to a tree pruning.

Contaminated and mixed loads of waste will not be accepted at the site.

The green waste can be disposed of at the waste mulching service at Tikalara Waste Service Centre, corner of Blackburn and Websters Roads, with entry via the Websters Road entrance. (Melway Ref. 34 D2).

This free service will operate between 9am and 3pm, every Sunday from 2 November until 14 December 2003 inclusive.

To obtain a voucher, please contact Council on 9840 9333 or your local CFA fire brigade.



### PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987 MANNINGHAM PLANNING SCHEME Notice of Approval of Amendment C15

The Minister for Planning has approved Amendment C15 to the Manningham Planning Scheme.

The Amendment comes into operation on 16 October 2003.

The Amendment amends the schedules to the Public Use Zone and Public Park and Recreation Zone enabling a broader range of signage on specific appropriate sites.

A copy of the Amendment can be inspected free of charge during office hours at:

Manningham City Council, Municipal Offices,  
699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

Department of Sustainability and Environment,  
Level 3 Plaza, Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Any queries related to this Amendment should be directed to Chad Griffiths, Economic & Environmental Planning Unit, on 9840 9124.

JOHN BENNIE  
Chief Executive

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

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

Email: [manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au)  
Internet: [www.manningham.vic.gov.au](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au)





# No fire refuges

**Green waste turns black**

By SAM DAVIES

The principle of "fire refuges" in Nillumbik shire, premises considered safe during a bushfire, is being abandoned.

This follows concerns being expressed by local council and emergency services as to their intrinsic safety and practicality in fire emergency situations.

Main concerns are the capacity of emergency services to guarantee public safety at refuges, and an apparent contradiction fire refuges pose to the CFA's message to residents to "plan to stay and fight, or plan to leave early".

The safety of fire refuges is currently under debate at state level and at numerous local councils.

The shires of Banyule and Yarra Ranges have not had fire refuges for some time. There are none remaining in Manningham.

Cr Bob Stubbings said fire refuges sent the wrong message to the community. "We wanted

to work closer to the CFA message. We thought it was wrong to suggest to people that fire refuges were a safe option," he said.

A state government pilot study on the effectiveness of fire refuges in Nillumbik was recently undertaken, involving numerous local community and emergency services groups.

The study concluded most refuges did not meet satisfactory standards for safety, including the need for fire-retardant walls, sufficient first aid facilities and accessibility.

In particular, local schools that doubled as fire refuges were considered impractical, as they were usually locked after hours and on weekends.

Subsequently, at a council meeting in late October, it was decided to remove references to fire refuges in Nillumbik's municipal fire prevention plan and to remove signage for refuges in the community.

Nillumbik council has prepared an information leaflet for ratepayers about planning for bushfires. "Experience shows that emergency services are often stretched when a major disaster strikes," Cr Stubbings said. "Households, neighbourhoods and townships should plan with this in mind."

He said that in the event of a fire in Warrandyte, police would now most likely direct traffic south towards Manningham.

He said the key message for the community was that fire refuges were intrinsically unsafe. "Just look at North Warrandyte community centre. That was a fire refuge and it burnt down! How safe was that?"

Manningham council is urging residents to start preparing their properties for the fire danger period by reducing sources of fuel such as tree branches and green waste.

Mayor Cr John Bruce said council is assisting residents within fire prone areas to engage in fuel reduction by offering a free disposal service each Sunday for a period of seven weeks commencing on Sunday, November 2, 2003.

"Residents living within Warrandyte, Warrandyte South, Wonga Park, Park Orchards and Donvale areas are eligible for free vouchers to dispose of green or dry clean wood and branches to a maximum of 100mm diameter.

"Only clean green wastes will be accepted," Cr Bruce told the *Diary*.

"Residents should check the requirements of the Manningham planning scheme if they are unaware of the provisions relating to tree pruning. Remember that contaminated and mixed loads of waste will not be accepted at the site," Cr Bruce said.

The green waste can be disposed of at the waste mulching service at Tikalara Waste Service Centre, corner of Blackburn and Websters Road, with entry via the Webster Road entrance (Melway ref 34 D2).

This free service will operate between 9am and 3pm, every Sunday from November 2, 2003 until December 14, 2003 inclusive.

To obtain a voucher please contact council on 9840 9333 or your local CFA brigade.

**Those paths were made for walking**

Local residents, plagued by the ever-growing number of advertising signs cluttering Warrandyte streets, will be pleased to know that Manningham council has recently introduced a footpath trading law.

This aims to protect and enhance public safety by regulating all commercial activity that occurs on footpaths.

The footpath trading law:

- requires a permit scheme for moveable advertising signs, goods, and street furniture;
- prohibits the placement of moveable advertising signs, goods, or street furniture against the property line / shopfront;
- ensures a minimum distance of clear footpath from the property line is maintained so that all footpath users can use the footpath safely and unhindered.

The law was introduced on October 20, 2003 and now applies to anyone wishing to use the footpath for a commercial activity.

Traders wishing to obtain an information kit and application form should contact council's health and local laws unit on 9840 9333.

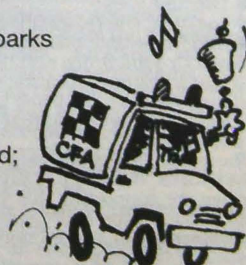


Once was a refuge: the burnt-out remains of North Warrandyte's community centre.

## Prevention is best protection

The Warrandyte CFA brigades are urging residents to start their annual bushfire season preparation (if they haven't already done so). These should include:

- Reduce fuel around the home—long grass, leaves and twigs should be removed;
- Make sure under the home is clear of combustible material;
- Move firewood away from the walls of your home;
- Cover vents and crevices with fine wire to prevent sparks and embers entering;
- Gutters should be cleaned;
- Ensure access to adequate static water supplies;
- Check and have your fire fighting equipment serviced;
- Most importantly—make sure you have a practical bushfire plan in place. Consider who will be home and when. More than one plan may be needed to cover different scenarios



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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Warrandyte Community Financial Services Ltd. Invites all shareholders to attend the first Annual General Meeting to be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre at 7pm on Wednesday 26th November 2003.

By order of the Board: Meredith Thornton, Company Secretary



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**Control Your Weeds!**

Nillumbik Shire Council's Community Weed Control Program can help you control the following weeds:

- Spanish Heath
- Cape Broom
- Cape / English Ivy
- Tradescantia
- Spear Thistle
- Sweet Pittosporum
- Serrated Tussock
- Flax Leaf Broom
- Gorse
- Blackberry
- English Broom
- Fennel
- Bulbil Watsonia
- Hawthorn
- Radiata Pine
- Cootamundra Wattle
- St Johns Wort
- Serrated Tussock

This program provides a cost-effective means for Nillumbik landowners to use a professional contractor to undertake weed control work. Under the program, Council offers subsidies on the cost of both spraying and non-spraying control works. Applications are currently being invited for the control of all weeds covered by the program. See below for details.

**Community Rabbit Control Program**

Expressions of interest are now being invited for Nillumbik Shire Council's 2003 - 2004 Community Rabbit Control Program. This program is designed to assist Nillumbik landowners in implementing effective rabbit control works on their properties and encourages groups of neighbours to work together using an integrated approach.

**If you are interested in participating in the Community Weed Control Program or forming a Rabbit Action Group in your local area, please contact Mark Rowntree, Environment Project Officer, on 9433 3211 by Friday 21 November 2003.**

**Those Pesky Wabbits!**

**Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre  
 13 November 7.00pm**

Trouble with rabbits? Then come along to this workshop and learn about rabbits, their behaviour, control options and the Community Rabbit Control Program. Speakers will include representatives from Nillumbik Shire Council, Parks Victoria and the Department of Primary Industries. **Bookings essential.** Please ring Megan Andrews on 9433 3210 to book your place at this informative evening.

## Rubbish dumpers warned

Manningham council will crack down on offenders illegally dumping rubbish across the municipality.

Mayor Cr John Bruce said rubbish illegally dumped on nature strips, on roadsides, parks, reserves and the number of people using public waste bins to dispose of household waste continues to be a problem across the municipality.

"Last year there were 209 occurrences of rubbish dumping which cost the community \$100,000 to clean up," Cr Bruce told the *Diary*.

"We have a good system of waste and hard rubbish collection. There is no reason why people need to carelessly dump their unwanted goods and household refuse or throw litter from passing cars.

"The dumping of rubbish is not only unsightly, a health hazard and can cause damage to the environment, but it is illegal.

"Council is determined to crack down on offenders and those found to be littering will be prosecuted under the Litter Act," Cr Bruce said.

The maximum penalty for littering is a \$4000 fine; for aggravated littering \$6000, imprisonment for one month or both.

## Lucky one thousandth



The Warrandyte Community Bank last month celebrated the opening of its one thousandth account with a special presentation to the lucky customer. Pictured above, Paul Burgoyne of Warrandyte receives a hamper of locally donated goodies from branch manager Mark Challen. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne—no relation!)



## Count me in, fellas!

The annual eastern suburbs koala count is on again and Manningham council is inviting residents to take part in the survey currently being conducted.

Information gathered from the count will be used to monitor koala numbers and establish a strategy for managing koalas in the area.

Residents can become involved by completing a simple form that records:

- The number of koalas seen
- The time seen
- Location, where, what sort of tree?
- Other relevant comments

Mayor Cr John Bruce said the aim of the count is to get a clearer indication of the distribution and number of koalas living in our suburbs and adjoining rural areas, so that we can take steps to protect them.

The municipalities of Manningham, Maroondah, Whitehorse, Nillumbik, Banyule and the Yarra Ranges are supporting this year's count, along with local friends and community groups and organisers are dedicated to recruiting more enthusiastic people.

"Local schools are also being asked to take part. Students are encouraged to check their own gardens and ask friends and relatives to do the same, especially if they live near the Yarra River or areas of parkland where koalas might live.

"Most people are unaware that koalas are scattered throughout the suburbs and may even make use of their gardens," Cr Bruce told the *Diary*.

Local koala count organiser, Mrs Julie Pryor, offers the following advice to anyone who finds a koala in their backyard:

- Do not attempt to handle it; koalas are not as cuddly as they appear.
- Put dogs inside the house, usually overnight, until the koala has disappeared. Koalas are easily stressed by their presence and have also been known to inflict nasty wounds on dogs.
- Alert your neighbours that a koala is present and ask them to restrain their dogs until it is gone.
- If it's practical, place a plank of wood from the tree to a nearby fence so the koala can move safely without having to descend to the ground.

For further information on how you can get involved in this year's koala count please contact Kay Toussaint at Manningham City Council on 9840 9333 or Mrs Julie Pryor on 9722 1117.

## Meet your platypus neighbours

A recent trapping survey conducted by the Australian Platypus Conservancy, in conjunction with Manningham council and local volunteers, has identified 11 platypus along Mullum Mullum Creek.

The all-night research session yielded the highest number of platypus since surveys commenced in 1995.

Manningham mayor, Cr John Bruce, said the growing evidence that platypus are re-colonising along Mullum Mullum Creek is very exciting news.

"Over the last few years, council, local environment groups and Melbourne Water have all contributed to improving habitat along the creek. As a result, it is great to think that more and more local residents have this very special species living close to them."

Cr Bruce said that as encouraging as the news is, more work needs to be done to improve the local environment.

"One of the platypus found during the survey had a scar around its neck, suggesting that it had been entangled in rubbish of some sort. Eliminating litter from our environment is a simple but important way to help our wildlife," he said.

Mr Geoff Williams, a biologist with the Australian Platypus Conservancy, said the record result was very pleasing.

"Both juveniles identified in a similar survey last February were found to be alive and well, having survived any problems caused by last summer's dry conditions.

"The really positive news is that, compared to previous findings, more than half the platypus were recorded well upstream of Mullum Mullum Creek's junction with the Yarra River."

"In particular, two males were found on the outskirts of Mitcham — the first time that more than one animal has been confirmed in the Donvale/Mitcham survey area. One of the two has been resident in this section for a couple of years."

Follow-up surveys will be conducted in autumn to build on findings of the recent session.



# Desert crossing for a good cause

Local resident CRAIG PEACOCK rode a bike across the Simpson Desert last month, competing in the Desert Challenge for the second time. Here is his story...

During this year's Simpson Desert Cycle Challenge we were blessed with fantastic weather conditions, the maximum temperature each day did not exceed 35°C, we had some good tail winds and of course some head winds, and the sand was very firm.

On the first night of the race it rained - yes, in the desert! Around 10mm fell at Purnie Bore (start of race) and 42mm fell at Birdsville (end of race). It became very wet on the clay pans and across the creeks. All the roads into Birdsville were closed for days. Hence the event was shortened by 49kms under instructions from National Parks. The rain helped compact the sand making it very fast to ride on.

Due to these conditions the times for the top riders were the fastest on record.

My race position was fifth overall and I was the fastest male in the 40 to 44 age group. Twelve months of hard training and racing definitely paid off. My time this year was 26hours 39minutes, which is one of the 10 fastest times on record, and almost half my time in last year's event (50hours).

My average speed of 19.5km per hour kept me well in front of the sweep vehicle travelling at 12 km per hour; enabling me to complete 100 percent of the event. My maximum speed down the biggest sand dune was 58kms per hour.

Last year a typical morning stage took 6.5 hours to complete (6am start to 12.30pm finish) with little recovery time. This year I was completing the morning stages in less than four hours, which provided me with a good four hours recovery time before the afternoon stage.

There were a few dramas leading up to the event with my magnesium bike frame damaged beyond repair. The Nunawading Bicycle Superstore kindly loaned me a new frame (a Malvern Star) and rebuilt a new mountain bike the day before we left. The magnesium frame is now being replaced under warranty.

The mountain bike tyres I used were carefully selected to give a big footprint on the sand (2.5 inches wide). To decrease the rolling resistance I used the angle grinder to turn the heavy tread pattern into desert racing slicks. The only puncture was a pinch flat crossing the Eyre Creek (very rocky and wet). Tyre liners stopped all thorns getting through.

I had two support 4wd vehicles and crews (my brother-in-law, his two children, my auntie and my son James). They did a fantastic job setting up camp, cooking, preparing the water bottles for each water stop, and looking after me.

I was able to raise over \$2000 through sponsorship and entry fees for the Paraplegic Benefit Fund of Australia.

The next adventure is the Australian mountain bike championships to be held at Mount Beauty in November.



Road to nowhere: Craig Peacock crosses the Simpson Desert.

## Festival plans underway



WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL 2004  
March 20, 21

Jock's 2004 festival logo.

"Warrandyte—feel free!" will be the theme of the next Warrandyte Festival, to be held on the weekend of March 20 and 21.

"Local schools were asked by the festival committee to suggest a theme for the 2004 festival," committee member Jill Parker told the *Diary*.

"Many suggestions were made by the school children and teachers; these were voted on by the committee. The suggestion voted the best, submitted by a primary school student, was based on the idea of celebrating freedom.

"So the theme for the 2004 festival is 'Warrandyte—feel free!'"

The 2004 Warrandyte Festival will be even cleaner and more environmentally friendly than ever before, as it has been accredited as a "waste wise" event.

"When ordering for the festival, stallholders are asked to carefully consider the packaging of goods," Jill Parker said, "particularly their potential impact on the environment.

"Glass and polystyrene will not be acceptable. Cardboard, paper (recycled if possible), hard plastic, aluminium, steel, etc., will be fine.

"The message is: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle."

● For all enquiries, call festival chairman, John Boyle, on 9844 3120.



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# Low-rent boys dominate birdland neighbourhood

“THEY'RE hanging around the corner again! I can only imagine that they're up

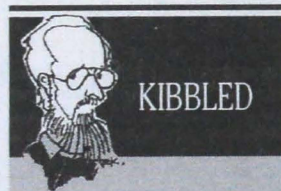
to no good.”  
“What do you mean, 'no good'? They haven't done anything. They're just 'hanging out' until they can fit in with the rest of them. Have you been embarrassed or physically attacked as yet?”

“No, but that doesn't mean that I'm not nervous every time I have to walk past them. I feel like they are sizing me up for an attack.”

Now this is a discussion that could be played out in most shopping centres and suburban streets around most major or provincial cities. The difference this time was that it was about an isolated corner of the countryside and the malevolent adolescents were not “home boys” in oversized pants but neatly plumaged, spur-winged plovers, or whatever they've been renamed.

We have been the custodians for an annual nesting site for a pair of plovers. We have become accustomed to the raucous fending off of possible interlopers and of the concerned attention paid by each member of the pair for the other.

We have watched nervously when the scrape has been established and have become even more apprehensive whenever the chicks are out and about. It's not uncommon to be “buzzed” by the luftwaffe as we stumble into chick territory



KIBBLED

**“We applauded the parents' tough love as they urged their late adolescents to leave home...”**

at different regions of the garden. During one particularly prolonged period of attack, I took to wearing a hat with eyes painted on the back of my head as the “pilots” won't attack if they can see the whites of your eyes.

We also understood and applauded the parents' tough love as they urged, with increasing force and persistence, their late adolescents to leave home. The youngsters would fly away a little and then circle to return to the free meals and lodging provided by Mum and Dad.

Admirably, plover parents are undeterred by the child's plaintive cry of, “But it's so much nicer here. I can't find anything decent. And anyway, it'll only

be until, (a) I can find some mates with enough bond money with steady incomes and no bad financial habits to share with, (b) until I get myself back together again after my broken heart, (c) until I can't stand having to be relatively tidy, polite and grateful or (d) until you get sick of me—but I know you won't because I'm so wonderful and you do love me so much!” Crestfallen, their youngsters' flights become longer and longer until, one blissful day, they don't return and the parents can look forward to a few months' break until the whole cycle begins again.

All of this I knew and understood but I had assumed that the children flew off, took out a mortgage and set up house nearby. What I hadn't realised was that desirable properties are just that, desirable, so land near Mum and Dad is highly sought so it's not easy for the youngsters to land on a piece of property that hasn't already been snaffled and is being vigorously defended by the sitting landowner.

Hence our local corner has become the plovers' version of the soda fountain in “Grease”. Between the fence line and the road is a stretch of apparently unowned grassland and it is on this that 15 to 20 homeless plover youths have gathered.

It appears that their normal territoriality has been forgotten much like racial, economic and class barriers are forgotten during crises like wars and natural

calamities. Instead of the squawking and bickering that they are known for, this group of, I assume, bachelors, cohabit in peace and serenity.

Packs of plovers are no different from packs of humans and packs of teenagers and they have a similar capacity to appear threatening even if they're doing no more than mooching in the hope that Alfie will tell them what's it all about. So, it wasn't surprising really, that Herself was nervous about walking the dog past the locals.

Now it may be that I just haven't noticed this group of young birds on that corner before but it is more probable that they move sites annually, the way that restaurants or night-clubs wax and wane in popularity. And it's not that they can hang around any corner forever anyway because they know, deep down, that they have to get their acts together and join the real world. Which means that they have to stop hanging around with their mates, find a nice chick and settle down, probably on the fringes of town, or at least until the olds leave them their inner suburban house site or they run a very successful worm farm and can afford to knock over an old scrape and build another closer to their ageing parents.

I walked past the corner the other day. The guys were very excited. Some snazzily dressed plovers wearing white shoes were handing out land deal brochures.

ROGER KIBELL

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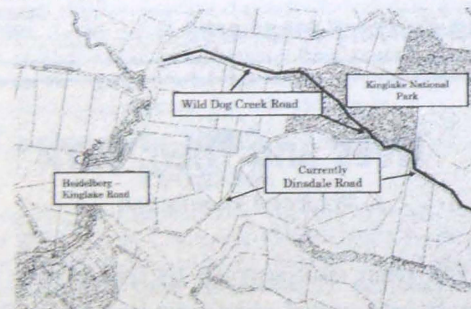
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## NILLUMBIK THE GREEN WEDGE SHIRE

### Proposal to Officially Name the Adjoining Section of Dinsdale Road, St Andrews to Wild Dog Creek Road



Notice is given pursuant to section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* seeking submissions on the proposal to rename a section of Dinsdale Road, St Andrews to Wild Dog Creek Road, as resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 22 October 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 10 December 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.

**Catherine Dale**  
Chief Executive Officer

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# Grass trees live to flourish in the born-again forest

**T**HEIR botanical name is *Xanthorrhoea* — somewhat of a mouthful, and much too difficult to spell. Colloquially they are known as blackboys but these days that term is considered politically incorrect and racially demeaning. In South Australia they go by the name of Yaccas. More commonly, though, they are simply referred to as grass trees.

Neither a grass nor a tree, the plants are so named because they look like a tussock of grass perched on top of a blackened trunk. It is this rather incongruous appearance that makes these uniquely Australian oddities so distinctive.

Grass trees grow nowhere else in the world. In Australia they reach their peak of development in the west, but Victoria has four species and Warrandyte just one. Called the Small Grass Tree, *Xanthorrhoea minor*, the local variety is just that. It doesn't develop a trunk above ground and, unless it is flowering, could easily be mistaken for a grass or sedge.

A great place to see some fine examples of the trunked version—the Australian Grass Tree *Xanthorrhoea australis*—is in the recently declared Box-Ironbark national parks around the Rushworth/Heathcote area, less than two hours drive away. I go there every year, not only for the grass trees, but for the wealth of wildflowers that carpet the stony ground beneath them.

On my visit in September last year I was shocked by the state of the forest. Many of the normally dry-soil-adapted trees, shrubs, grasses and ground-covers had succumbed to the prolonged drought. Leaves that once were green had turned



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

brown. However, the grass trees were unaffected and, as stoic as ever, seemed resigned to the conditions.

It was with some trepidation that I returned to the forest this year. But I had underestimated the power of the bush to recuperate so quickly from such hardship. The vegetation was green again with most plants sporting healthy new growth and the grass trees, responding to the timely rains, were collectively putting up flowering spikes. Contrary to some opinions, they do not necessarily need a fire to flower, although burning will certainly stimulate mass flowering.

Grass tree flowers are extraordinary structures. Borne on long woody stalks, the cylindrical creamy-white inflorescence is packed full of nectar and attracts bees, beetles and butterflies by the flock as well as small birds. Nectar was also prized by Aboriginals who gathered the flowers and soaked them in water for a sweet drink. They also made use of other parts of the plant too: resin which exudes from the trunk in globules was used as an adhesive; the woody flower stems were made into shafts for spears and axes, and for firesticks, and the old dry leaves were useful for kindling.

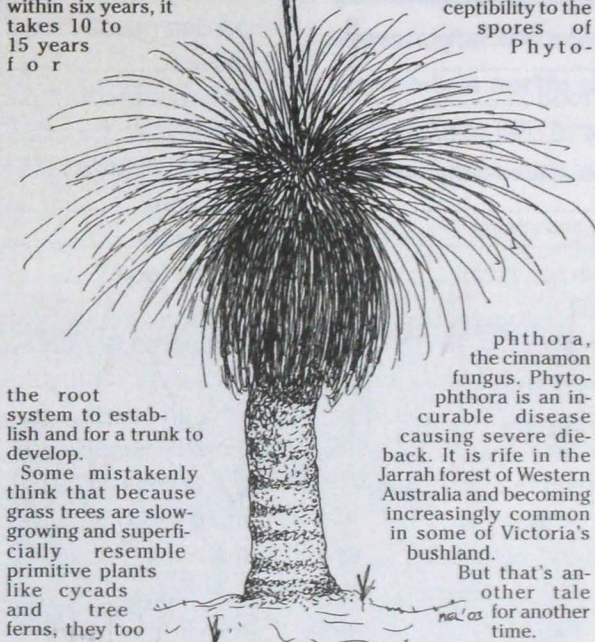
These days, grass trees are sought mostly for decorative purposes. They make a spectacular garden feature in the ground or a pot. But the main source of grass trees available in nurseries, or from roadside

stalls, is from the bush where they have been dug up—legally or otherwise. These plants, sold at exorbitant prices, do not do well. Because of the damage caused to their wide, shallow root system during removal, many will die within three to four years. That they live as long as they do is due only to the reserves of food stored in their stout trunks.

It is not difficult to grow grass trees from seed, but it does require patience. They grow very slowly and although many will flower within six years, it takes 10 to 15 years for

are ancient plants. In fact they are fairly recently evolved, belonging, along with grasses, orchids and lilies, to the more advanced branch of flowering plants called the monocotyledons.

Grass trees are supremely adapted to our island continent and thrive in low-nutrient soils. Being insulated with a thick skirt of dead leaves that persists on the trunk, they can withstand periods of drought and fierce fires. But like most living things, grass trees have their Achilles heel—a vulnerability that has the potential to destroy the species. For the grass tree it is its extreme susceptibility to the spores of Phyto-



the root system to establish and for a trunk to develop.

Some mistakenly think that because grass trees are slow-growing and superficially resemble primitive plants like cycads and tree ferns, they too

phthora, the cinnamon fungus. Phytophthora is an incurable disease causing severe die-back. It is rife in the Jarrah forest of Western Australia and becoming increasingly common in some of Victoria's bushland.

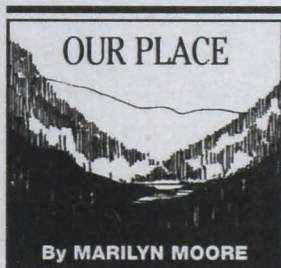
But that's another tale for another time.

# So what? Everyone can write

**F**OUR years ago, in the belief that this writing lark was something that I might enjoy, I enrolled in a part-time Diploma of Arts at RMIT to brush up on a few of the finer points.

What an eye-opener! The first day in Editing class was one of the most scary of my life. Only two or three of the students were not from a literary background, and naturally I was one of them. Until that moment, I hadn't realised what a sheltered existence I'd led. Not one of my usual associates even remotely resembled these bright young things. Aged from 17 to 70, they were like art nouveau *Vogue* sketches come to life—spindly bundles of black rags with crimson hair, trendy specs, tartan leg-warmers and masses of *kohl*. Mellifluous phrases rolled fluently from mouths heavily contoured in shades of dark plum, and they spoke a language I'd never known.

"This text is so limiting!" a typical student might exclaim of a lively kid's book about a country footy team, a book that I had rather liked for its directness. "The prism approach to character definition completely



**OUR PLACE**  
By **MARILYN MOORE**

obscures any latent variability in the texture of emotional response. How can the author justify crystallization of an infinite montage of incipient thought patterns into something as structured as an actual conversation?"

"Oh my God, I silently begged the tutor.

"Please don't ask me. How could I have got myself so far out of my depth?"

Months later, this tutor told me that one of her biggest thrills in teaching came from her newly discovered ability to detect people's auras. Apparently each person wears their personality like a glowing, pulsating halo that is constantly

modified by strong emotions like excitement, anger or mirth. I didn't like to ask what colour fear was, but whatever it was I hope it wasn't too blinding because I probably wore it for months. I was so far off the wavelength it wasn't funny. Clearly this course was going to be much more work than I'd imagined.

And indeed it was. It isn't easy to go back to Uni when you already have a full-time job (as a mother/carer) and a part-time job (as a geologist in my case). But I'd most definitely do it all over again.

The tutors were excellent, and the other students awesome. Almost without exception they were purposeful, inspired and inspiring, and each brought to their work a profound and tangible talent. Significant works were published (perhaps the best-known was Jeff and Jill Sparrow's *Radical Melbourne*), major grants and lucrative jobs won, and I can now put faces to several of the names that appear regularly in *The Age's* Epicure liftout and *Sunday Life*.

So how did I get into this course? Beats me. But it has been such a privilege. When I

was first at Uni during the 70s, everybody treated it rather like school. It was just another stage in the learning journey, and you turned up to lectures, then went off and learnt the stuff you were pointed at. The whole emphasis was on getting it right in exams. My recent experience has been so much more useful. The focus has been on creativity, bringing out the skills that lie within each person and honing them purposefully. Is this because I see things differently now I'm older? Or because it's a new era in education? Or is it because the type of course is so different from my original undergraduate experience? Probably all three.

Hopefully our kids will have a tertiary experience much closer to mine in 2003 than that of the 1970s, despite today's serious underfunding and overcrowding of universities. But don't hold your breath waiting for them to feel privileged—after all, it's the only life they know.

Perhaps that explains why not a solitary soul wants to come with me to my graduation. Ah well, I did it for me, after all.



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Carols  
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B	baby needs..... 7		fresh produce..... front		paper towels..... 7
	baked beans..... 3		flour..... 5		party goods..... 2
	batteries..... front		foil & wraps..... 2		pasta..... 3
	bird seed..... 8		frozen foods..... 9		pasta sauce..... 3
	biscuits..... 2	G	garbage bags..... 9		pest control..... 9
	bleach..... 8		garden needs..... 9		photo needs..... 6
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	butter..... rear		greeting cards..... 2		salt..... 3
C	cake mix..... 5	H	hair care..... 7		sanitary..... 7
	candles..... 2		hardware..... 9		sausages..... 3
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	canned fruit..... 5		honey..... 4		shoe care..... 8
	canned meat..... 3	J	jam/spreads..... 4		skin care..... 7
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	coffee..... 4		margarine..... rear		spices..... 5
	confectionary..... 6		matches..... 9		sports drink..... 6
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D	dairy products..... rear		milk (powdered)..... 4		sugar..... 5
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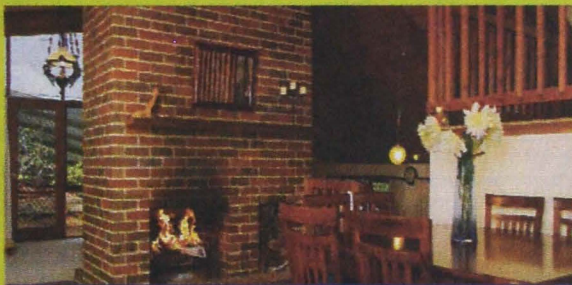
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**warrandyte north** tender: closes 25 Nov at 5pm  
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**warrandyte** auction: 29 Nov at 11am  
Intriguing 3 bedroom home on 1/3 acre, 4 living areas, fully fenced rear garden in heart of Warrandyte



**warrandyte south** private sale  
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**warrandyte** tender: closes 25 Nov at 5pm  
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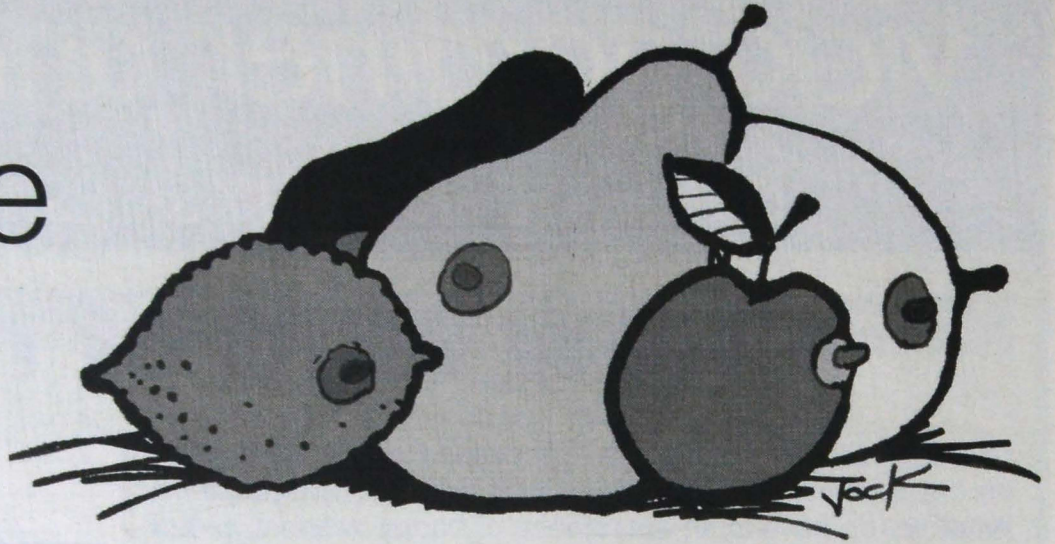
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# Ripe with life



"It's easier in a group"  
they told us.  
The better to dispel  
trepidation about pain, discomfort  
indignity at least.  
So we went together—  
an anxious assembly line  
in our front-closing blue.

I thought of us  
as a collection of fruit  
placed in a row:  
old soft lemons and big droopy melons;  
some soft juicy plums  
and a few small sweet apples.  
No cherries  
and definitely no bananas.

And why were we there  
in our front-closing blue?  
To check for the maverick within—  
the sinister death blossom  
whose spreading tendrils  
left alone would choke, strangle  
and rot that marvellous fruit

But we know it's not there  
It's a precaution  
Just doing the right thing  
In our front-closing blue

So we subject ourselves to the Squish  
The beat of the round and soft  
yields to the zap of the hard and square.  
This machine that now  
has the knowledge, about that  
which was always (mostly) demurely private  
now official property.  
Lovely melons and lemons and plums  
become numbered blobs of grey/black.

Recording too, our deepest fears  
The spot of white in the grey—  
the chick pea in the porridge  
But we know (taking comfort)  
that when exposed, and zapped  
will melt like chocolate in the sun

But we know it's not there  
It's just a precaution  
Just doing the right thing  
In our front-closing blue

KAREN THROSSELL

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Saturday 22 November at 11am



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- There are three categories
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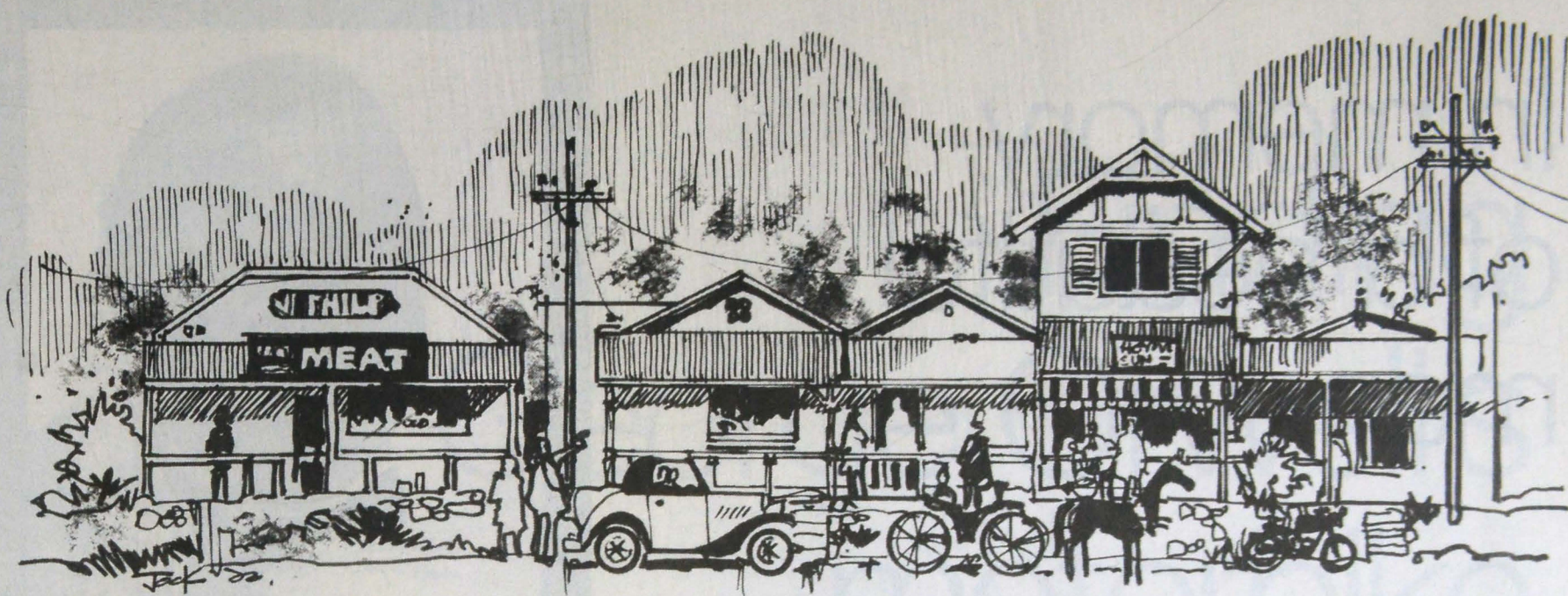
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# Along Yarra Street

YVONNE REID wrote these childhood memories for oral presentation at Warrandyte Festival readings several years ago. Some of the names have been changed.

It is late afternoon in the Warrandyte Pub, well over 50 years ago. I am looking down between the shiny dark banisters with an eye out for the heads of Nellie and Bella Trezise as they pass across the deeply carpeted hall below, going about the Pub business.

Seeing no-one for a time, I reach back my little arms and heave my small bottom one step upwards, further into this forbidden dark at the top of the stairs. There is a faint smell of dust, counterpoint to the careful fragrances of polishing wax and old roses.

You are not to go up there, that is where the Residents belong. No public beyond this point. Not recognising myself as either resident or public, I am edging my way up, stair by stair, to see Her, the Forbidden One. She, who long had been the most Revered One, another She who must be Obeyed to a great family of Hotelkeeping Trezises.

Now she is She Who must not be Disturbed. She was Nana Trezise, and I think she was 95 or so, and very dear.

You could glimpse her from down in Yarra Street, sitting out on the top balcony, surveying the passing parade of just post war-Warrandyte. I don't know if I've added the rocking chair and the black clothes.

Here the story fades, because just when I'd like to tell you that I find my way out to her in the sweet autumn sunshine and sit with her learning about the great mysteries of life, my clear memory stops and the dimmer wafts of imagery, informed more by feeling than recalled event take over. Though I know I did get to talk to Nana Trezise, several times, I rather think it was in the company of Grown-Ups.

Now, downstairs and across the road to where, a couple of years later, I am walking home from school, I'm dawdling on Homer's wooden verandah—the Old Post Office—on the daily homeward odyssey.

Maybe I am waiting for my mother to come out of the Pub. In case you're thinking of my mother's certain dissolution there, let me tell you she is visiting her friends Nellie and Bella Trezise, or their sister-in-law Emmy, who is ill, or maybe she is doing one of her Thursdays hair-cutting in the gents' bathroom.

The ladies, who might include also Mrs Nellie

Langton from up behind the pub, and Auntie Nat Nankivell who lives in a cottage across the road, sometimes have a shandy. If I join them they pour me sweet raspberry lemonade and I sit there looking up at the plants cascading down the rocky cliff outside the window and feeling very special. I used to think that the gardens of palm, exotic succulents and fragrant, old-fashioned geraniums and pelargoniums cascading down the hillside (where the gaming room and big upstairs function rooms are now) were in fact, as Dick Leheny called them, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

But back to the journey home on ordinary days after school. Behind me, behind the neat curtains of the Post Office window on the verandah that edges the footpath, perhaps Mrs Homer the Post Mistress sold stamps across the counter and weighed little brown paper string-tied parcels and counted change. If she did, I never saw her and if she worked the switchboard that lived just inside the window, interconnecting Warrandyte with itself and the outside world, she must have done that too behind those discreet pale curtains.

I only knew her as the Mother Paragon of Health and Goodness in her devotion to her daughter Robyn, who was in my grade at school. Robyn, whose shiny brown hair, rosiest cheeks and nut brown skin were surely because she had carrot and sultana sandwiches and wholemeal bread while we all ate our chunky white bread peanut butter and vegemite sandwiches straight from Ted and Ida Walsh's bakery down the road.

My Mum once found a tram ticket in a high tin loaf, 5d from Russell Street to St Kilda Junction, she said, reading the clipped out holes. And then there was the time Dad sat at the end of the table extracting, with great dramatic effect, a long piece of string from his mouth as he ate a piece of bread with his Sunday cold roast tea. But they were forbearing, because the bread was always scrumptious.

On hot days Ida Walsh would often go down behind the overheated bakery for a swim to cool off and sometimes my Mum and other friends would go with her. I remember when we all must have been going out together straight away, and a couple of the women were having a wash as there was no time to go home and bathe.

"Well" said one "I've washed up as far as possible and down as far as possible".

"And you could even wash possible", chimed in someone else. Huge laughter. Such risqué ladies. I'm sure Mrs Homer's ablutions were very private and I bet they were thorough. And so no doubt were my friend Robyn's.

Ah but it's the next postmistress that stays endeared in my heart forever. Mrs Fitch is a witch, Mrs Fitch is a witch. They never said it to her face, and I never heard even the cheekiest kids put the other obvious rhyme with her

name. No demure curtains for her as she sat at the switchboard in the window, exchanging observations upon everything to passers-by as she interrupted them and herself and deftly connected up the people on the end of the long strands of the talking cords to voices coming in and out of Warrandyte. She would sometimes join their conversations and even pass bits of information to and from her companions out on the street.

In looks, Mrs Fitch might certainly qualify as a witch, but she would have to be a benevolent one. She had the requisite moles on her cheek with long hairs growing out of them which waggled as she spoke and chuckled, and she wore strange layers of cardigans and scarfy things which hung down over her large and multidirectional breasts, sometimes the cardies and scarves housing little scraps of lunch and crumbs of Violet Crumble. I felt she could see right into my heart, but whereas with other adults who had that facility could surely only see my naughtiness, Mrs Fitch could see only goodness and much of riveting interest that I had to tell her about. And she told wonderful stories of extraordinary people in strange places Before the War.

Just opposite the pub was Jack Moore's store, famous still for its lean—but that seemed as natural as the lean on an old and comfortable gumtree. It was where all our Mums ordered their groceries. Mr Jack Moore's shy brother Charlie, who hovered in the shadowy interior, would deliver the groceries once a week in the Moore family truck. At the same time he would bring the vegies that were ordered from Miss Agnes Moore, of the Central Tearooms. But no-one ever called it that, it was always Auntie Ag's milk bar—"give our spiders a fly", the lurid mural advertisement exhorted, and it was where you went for supper during interval at the pictures on Friday night at the Hall.

The shadowy interior of Moore's general store gleamed with dark and mysterious, life-giving elements, and it smelled wonderful. Gritty and earthy, with a worn wooden floor, hessian sacks and shiny new hurricane lanterns and black rubber boots hanging from the poles, and there were billy cans hanging in clusters. Now all this is familiar to us all as it is nostalgically replicated in every country town in this age of idealised country yearnings. But this was the real thing.

Mr Jack Moore himself, white-aproned to distinguish Mr Jack the grocer from Mr Jack the real estate man and Mr Jack the family man, was another model of properness, kindly as well, glinting steel spectacles flashing as he came around to the long wooden troughs that ran the length of the counter to scoop out the bran and pollard, flour or brown sugar or spuds from the compartments under separate wooden lids.

I only ever saw his composure rattled once, and I don't really know what it was about, except that it was the day that the Widow Mrs Lansdale almost descended from her buggy. Yes, I really said buggy. There were certainly still a few horses and carts around in those days, but it would have to be said that Mrs Lansdale was the only person who still used a horse and buggy as her major means of transport. And this time I'm not inventing the black clothes—maybe she was still in mourning for her departed husband, or maybe she was on her way home from a funeral.

But there she was, pulled up outside Jack Moore's store, the fabled Mrs Lansdale, whom we had all heard about but never seen, in her shiny black buggy with a shiny black horse. Fabled because she had many, many children, and had something in her bearing which seemed to inspire awe and wonderment and even a certain terror, in everyone who came into her presence. Well, kids anyway. Her Polly was in my grade, and Henry in my sister's. I thought she was the old woman who lived in a shoe.

Well on that day she sent Polly—who had walked along with all of us straggling on the way home from school and had met her mother just as we did—she sent Polly into the shop for something and a few moments later, poor Polly, her pale hair and pale legs seeming thinner and paler than ever, came out with nothing. Mr Moore hasn't got any.... Her voice fell away into a mumble. Mrs Lansdale seemed at once to grow into a huge dark-robed giantess, looming up in her buggy. She seemed to make the world shake with rage, the buggy shook, the kids looked as if they were about to take off but were frozen to their places in fear. I felt scared. Mr Jack Moore came out of his shop apologetically and anxiously wiping the palms of his hands on his apronfront. He looked scared. He said something to her. Mrs Lansdale was not amused. She gathered up the reins and slapped at the horse, which went on chomping at a nice patch of grass it had found until it was ready to amble off.

I'll leave it to you to ponder the subject of the exchange. Who knows. That's the worst of being a child and hearing only bits, isn't it? Later Mrs Lansdale married Mr Smith, and in surrendering that splendid name her mythologically-amplified splendour seemed much reduced. As ordinary Mrs Smith she was no doubt just another Warrandyte woman who managed in those days, like most I knew, to be extraordinary and ordinary at once as she caught and reflected the imagination of fanciful young children.

Well goodness, we've only moved a few yards up the street, with one or two small diversions across the road and time, but there you are, a little glimpse of Warrandyte long ago. Maybe we'll go there again some time, if you like.



# In memory of a beautiful man

By LEE TINDALE

**W**ARRANDYTE lost one of its favourite sons with the passing on October 24 of John Frederick Smith.

A devoted family man, a champion all-round sportsman in his youth, a cherished mate of many, he was a much-loved member of this community for 57 years.

He died peacefully, surrounded by his adoring family at his home at Croydon Hills — where he had lived for the past six years — 16 months after being diagnosed with cancer.

John Smith, who bore the nickname "Porky" with his trademark grin, was born at Blackburn on June 3, 1940, to Horace and Helen Smith. He was the eldest of three children and was educated at Warrandyte Primary School and Box Hill High.

Smithy was to spend a third of his life growing peaches, pears and cherries in the family orchard, Fernhill, in Tindals Road.

He met his future wife Helen at a New Years Eve dance at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall and they married on October 12, 1963, recently celebrating their 40th anniversary.

John and Helen had three children — Julie, Sharon and Dean — and the love those kids were afforded and fully reciprocated was something to behold.

"Our Dad, Pop, was simply the best human being we've ever met," said Sharon (Copeland-Smith) in her eulogy at a crowded funeral service at Wantirna on October 29.

"No fuss, no frills, no fanfare. Pop just loved the simple things in life — his lemon tree, sunshine, his Jack Russell Heidi, the Strathbogie Ranges where he went rabbiting — and his ferrets.

"Pop was a first-class ferret breeder and trainer. A ferret whisperer, if you like — he knew their language."

Sharon said a smile and strength summed up her father.

A smile? "Pop was a man of few words — but every one of them was bloody funny!"

And strength? "He had an infinite amount of strength, more than enough for everyone here today."

And those beloved ferrets? Sharon recalled the sunny Saturday afternoon when her father's entire "stable" of them escaped and went on a rampage in the backyard, forcing Helen and the kids to take refuge in the house and pulling Candy the family dog in through a window with a ferret attached to her nose.

"Once inside, Mum sent a message down to the Warrandyte pub, where Dad was spending his sunny Saturday afternoon: 'Tell John to come home and round up his ferrets.'"

"Well, the Pied Piper of ferrets finally arrived home and casually collected his ferrets one by one," said Sharon.

"He said to us: 'I don't know what all the fuss is about. They're blind as bats in the daylight. Didn't you know they can only see at night time and in rabbit burrows?'"

In his eulogy, son Dean outlined his late father's illustrious local sporting career. John Smith was a very good footballer for Warrandyte in the 1960s and was named in the team of that decade.

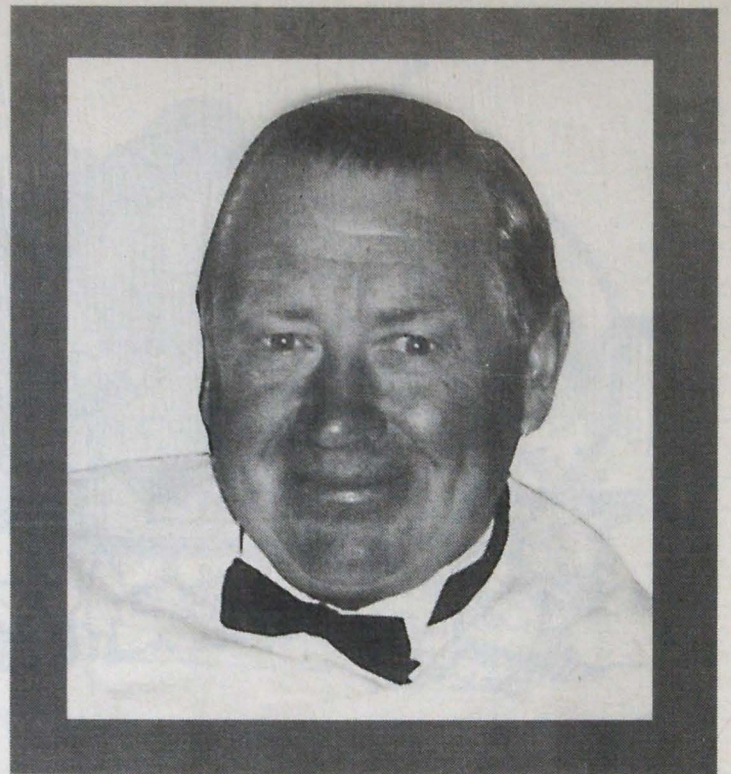
But his real passion was cricket. A fine batsman, he played with great distinction for Warrandyte Cricket Club alongside his best mate, the late Allan Chapman, the doyen of the game in this town.

He also played briefly at North Warrandyte before forging an ongoing association with South Warrandyte Cricket Club. He was a member of South's 1970-71 premiership team and in 2000-01 was named in their team of the century.

"Dad is described by many at South as an absolute legend both on and off the field," said Dean.

"He used to tell me: 'Play everything on its merits, boy. Wait for the loose one and belt the cover off it. Don't be afraid of the short ball — that crap won't get you out.' He was always spot-on."

Dean also recalled the family school holiday trips to Maroochydore in the finely-tuned Kingswood, "us kids piled in the back of the car, stuck to the vinyl seat".



"Dad was intent on the most direct route, which unfortunately didn't include toilet stops."

"For those who don't know, Dubbo to Maroochydore is a bloody long 10 hours-plus drive."

Dean described his father as "in our eyes, the greatest person of all".

Tributes from outside the immediate Smith family have flowed in since John's death.

Jean Chapman, matriarch of Warrandyte's best-known cricketing family, described John as a "magnificent batsman and a beautiful person".

She said: "The day before the 1962 bushfires burnt our house to the ground, John and Helen arrived and John's first words were: 'Do you know you're surrounded by bushfires?'"

"We'd spent all afternoon working on the building of our house, a glorious day free of radio, tele and phone calls. Our moments of bliss were over. We were indeed ringed by fire at Kinglake and in the Dandenongs."

"After the fire, John and Helen were the first to help us with moral support, which we desperately needed, and with soil and a mini orchard of fruit trees."

"Our daughter Jenny's first lasting memory of John, when she was about five years old, was the incredible amount of Vegemite he put on his toast. It looked like a tarred road!"

"There was always a big smile and a hug when we met. He was a beautiful

man and the world could do with a few more."

Kevin Luttick, a close mate over many, many years, tells of being deep underground with wife Monica and John and Helen Smith in the Yanchep caves north of Perth during a trip west in 1979.

Smithy's beloved Collingwood were playing Carlton in the VFL Grand Final that day the guided tour of the caves paused to listen to the dying minutes of the game on a transistor.

And who led the howls of protest from Collingwood supporters in the party when Carlton's Wayne Harnes tapped the allegedly dead ball back into play for Ken Sheldon to goal and cost the Magpies the flag?

John Smith, of course. It was an unusual place in which to be leading a football cheer (or in this case, jeer) squad, but then this was no ordinary man.

Kevin also tells of John briefly knocking off work on a sodden Warrandyte golf course one afternoon to belt two balls 250 yards down the centre of the 11th fairway — the first with John Knox's right-handed driver, the second with Kevin's left-handed club. And in gumboots!

John Smith is survived by Helen, Julie, Sharon and Dean, son-in-law Paul, daughter-in-law Meagan and grandchildren David, Dylan, Jessica and Ashleigh.

To them, the *Diary* extends its heartfelt sympathy.

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## Key Decisions

### Nillumbik Shire Council

These are some of the decisions made by Council on **Wednesday, 22 October 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 on 19 November 2003 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**

Resolved Council officers continue to support the Hohnes Road Playhouse Committee of Management to develop a sustainable service model. Made a one-off grant of \$16,831 to support the process.

Approved Community Grants 2003-2004.

**Governance**

Resolved to amend Part 20(f) of Local Law No. 5 regarding the removal of dead vegetation and weeds on Council road reserves which are not classified as being of environmental significance.

Resolved to commence procedures to make Local Law No. 7 Asset Protection Local Law, to provide Council with powers to ensure building sites in the Shire are maintained in a condition commensurate with community standards of safety and amenity.

Resolved to classify four properties as Farm Land for the 2003-2004 rating year and to advise applicants accordingly.

**Transport and Infrastructure**

Resolved to delete the reference to fire refuges in Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Plan, for community safety reasons. Resolved to remove all signs identifying fire refuges; and to develop and implement a community education/information campaign to reinforce the CFA's key message of 'Plan to stay and fight, or plan to leave early'.

Adopted the Nillumbik Shire Council Road Safety Strategy (Sept 2003).

Resolved to support the Australian Local Government Association's *Renew Roads to Recovery Program* Campaign by undertaking a Nillumbik campaign, highlighting local issues.

**Land Use, Planning and Environment**

Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning, and prepare a planning scheme amendment, to implement recommendations of the Environmental Significance Overlay Review (Stage 1).

Customer Service 9433 3111





# Finding George Orwell's motorbike

George Orwell, renowned author of *Animal Farm* and *1984*, lived and worked for some time on Jura, off the coast of Scotland. JOCK MACNEISH went looking for his motorbike.

**D**ID you know that George Orwell was a biker? Do you know that his bike is supposed to be just where he left it, in a clump of bushes on the Scottish island of Jura? Would you like to go and track it down? I had returned to Scotland to visit the Clan Macneish and my two motorcycling brothers Donald and Iain were keen to show me around. A cartoonist can get overly attached to his drawing board, and the chance of a bike tour with a "Quest-for-the-Holy-Motorbike" was too good to miss.

Orwell had left London to live on Jura in 1945. He retreated to an abandoned farmhouse called BarnHill to write *1984*. He would have had few interruptions. BarnHill is a remote and isolated building, 10 kilometres from the nearest neighbour and 40 kilometres from Craighouse, the one village on the island. Orwell's only transport was his bike and I can assure you he was a serious rider. Just getting there was an epic trip.

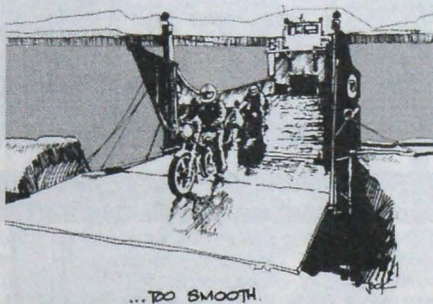
We set off from Clan headquarters, Lamash on the Isle of Arran, my brothers on Don's rare Honda 650 Four and myself astride something even rarer, a borrowed, brand-new K755. Who, you may well ask, who lends anyone their brand

new BMW? My brother-in-law, the remarkable J. Stanley Anderson, that's who. May the world take note and pay homage to such Highland generosity.

The first leg of the trip was a ferry crossing from Lochranza to Claonaig. It was rough.

I was torn between spectacular scenery, sea-sickness and worrying about the bike falling over. I huddled beside the bike and watched it rocking gently on its forks. We both survived.

The short ride to Kennacraig, and the next ferry trip to Port Askaig on the island of Islay were smooth. Too smooth. The ferry's steel plate floor, soaked in diesel oil and sprinkled with salt water, makes an extremely



smooth surface for the motorcycle tyre. The extra weight of all that camping gear on the back of the bike was all that saved me.

We stayed that night on Islay, near a beach. I encouraged damp driftwood into a campfire using motor spirit while Don and Iain encouraged

each other with the distilled variety. There was a lot of laughter. We visited the pub at Port Charlotte for fresh supplies. On the wall was a map of the island, its coast decorated with the last hundred or so shipwrecks, showing the year of impact and the number of lives lost. It made the roads seem suddenly a healthier

place to be.

Riding back to the campsite, glowing with inner warmth, I came across an unhealthy phenomenon in the middle of the road. Grass. Yes, grass. The green stuff, quite common really. It's just that I wasn't expecting it to be growing in the middle of the bitumen. It did terrible things to the front wheel when my thoughts and my bike went drifting out on a sweeping curve.

I took longer than normal to fall asleep that night.

The morning brought the final ferry trip, from Islay across to Jura, and I started to get that "This is the place" feeling. We alighted on Jura at a place with no name. Just a pier, and a road. It's a place with no place.

Just a road. The road is not easy to recognise. The black-faced sheep certainly don't recognise it as a road. They stand there, watching the approaching motorbike with hesitant curiosity, but the idea of moving out of the way is slow to dawn. When the penny finally drops they are apt to suddenly change their mind about which way to run. Left? Right? Left again?

Tense. We made it to Craighouse and stopped for petrol. "Aye, we sell petrol," they said in the only shop. "Go away up the road a wee bit (!) turn left and there's a pump in the bushes. I'll be there in a wee while (!). He was; and then it's back to the shop. "And I'll be there in a wee while to tak yer money (!)"

From Craighouse, the road gets rapidly worse. The weedy grass bit in the middle of the bitumen gets wider and wider till the whole road is weedy grass bit. Then it turns into stony creek bed with lumps of moss and finally, peat bog with occasional boulders. About three quarters of it is now under water.

I wondered how Orwell had coped. He had learnt to ride with the British police force in Burma where he gained quite a reputation astride his huge American motorbike. (Hender-

son? Indian? Harley?) With his mate Roger Beadon, Orwell scandalised the colonials by going tiger hunting on the bike, armed with a Luger Parabellum pistol. There is a questionable story about one of Orwell's more spectacular step-offs outside the gates of Fort Dufferin, but he

could certainly handle the rough going. He was renowned for riding along tracks which the locals claimed were "unfit for bullock-carts".

However, writing from BarnHill in 1965 Orwell described

the road on Jura as "Hell."

Hell, is what it was. I loved it. Yet out on that lonely road there was also a feeling of desolation. In the 18th century there were 100,000 people living on Jura. When Orwell went there, there were only 300. Today, maybe less than half that. When we arrived at the crest overlooking BarnHill, it was a long time before any of us felt like speaking.

The house sits at the head of a narrow valley, leading down to wild and windswept Jura Sound. To the north, one of the largest whirlpools in the world, to the south, the full power of the North Atlantic. A place that puts politics into perspective. A place for writing *1984*.

"If you had a bike and it wouldn't go, where would you bump it to before giving up?"

We looked through the bushes down the valley. At the point where what-had-been the farm gave way to what-still-was the bush, there was a

lone alder tree. It was old and gnarled and in the bracken at its foot—was George Orwell's motorbike.

The man of words would have said something fitting. We could only manage gestures, nods and an overwhelming sense of occasion. I knew: "This is the place".

Of the bike there was not much left. Forty years of exposure to the salt air had left only the engine, frame and forks. A major restoration project for the devoted. Our devotion was perhaps more reverent.

We left it where it lay. It was a 499cc Rudge Whitworth four valve single, built sometime in the 1930s. There are probably quite a few still going. The lack of rear suspension would have made for hard going on that road. I don't expect the handling was all that wonderful either. It was what we would now call "agricultural". In the 1930s it was an elegant street machine. At no time would it have been easy, but I bet it was fun.

We took photos, paid our respects, replaced the vegetation and left. The long road back to the ferry offered spectacular glimpses of the island's huge herd of wild deer, its three stately mountains and its windswept valleys. But our minds were back in BarnHill, back in 1948, and back with George Orwell and his faithful Rudge.

In the cramped comfort of the hotel bar back in Port Askaig, we joked about my being the eldest, Donald the strongest and Iain the tallest. Who should be Big Brother?

On the mainland, the heavens, which had been kind, decided that the party was over and we arrived home cold, tired, soaking wet and very happy.

Did you know that George Orwell was a biker?

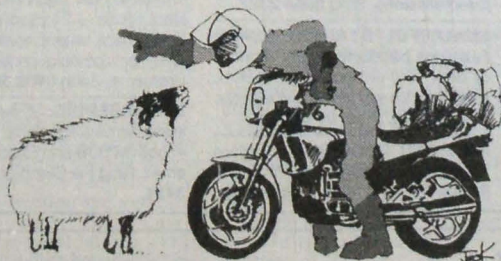
Do you know that his bike is still just where he left it? Wouldn't you like to go and see it too?



BARNHILL...IN SILENCE.



THIS IS THE PLACE.



BLACK FACED SHEEP.....RED FACED RIDER.



# Rotary keeps on helping

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

## VILLAGE LIFE

People looking for a challenge helping others locally while having fun themselves may find the answer in the Rotary Club of Warrandyte.

"We're looking for people who are quite comfortable in their business and family lives, as the club is going through an age cycle where there are lots of members around retirement age," said Rotary president Peter McDonald. "The club needs an injection of younger members—people in their late 30s would be ideal."

The club is multi-faceted: fundraising for local projects, helping youth in several ways and aiding the community according to need. "Several months ago we cut up firewood and distributed it to 12 to 15 families for winter heating and we provided a lot of food for people in crisis housing," Peter said. "We source supplies, bring it back to where it's needed and keep it topped up. It's good fun and we're helping at the same time."

"The mad, young and strong members do the hard work and others, who can't physically do much, help in other ways. The amount of time and involvement depends on the member and

they have the opportunity to use their individual skills.

The club is very involved with young people. "Rotary invites the cream of students to a summer science school in Canberra," Peter said. "This exposes them to the whole gamut of science and is a lead-in for them to get into that area. Other courses, not necessarily for disadvantaged kids, provide leadership and self-development programs."

The club works with local schools in selecting youngsters for these programs which are run as camps by Rotary members or outside experts. Many young people who participated on previous courses are involved with this training.

"We go to schools, tell them of the number of places available and the schools are involved in the selection of students. The youngsters go off to the programs then come back and give us a verbal presentation at a Rotary meeting and at other clubs. Having to stand in front of people and take com-



Rotary at work: preparing the new op shop. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

mand gives the kids confidence and we've not had any failures.

"It's great to see these troubled children go off and come back as brand-new kids."

The Rotary student exchange program has not been very active in Warrandyte recently, with most of the members now past having their own teenage children.

Rotary is about to open a second opportunity shop in Warrandyte in the old building adjoining the carpark next to the Club Store in Yarra Street. "The building has been renovated and is being outfitted in an arrangement with Warrandyte Housing and Support Services who will run the new venture," Peter said.

Rotary meets every Tuesday evening

at Potters and although it's not compulsory, most of the 27 members attend regularly. Annual membership is about \$190.

Peter can be contacted on 9844 1134 or if you're walking through Warrandyte, drop in to Pam at Harvey World Travel or Vicki at Vicki Gardiner Real Estate, both in Webb Street.

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**Time: 6.00-8.30pm**

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#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN:

- the new website will be launched (funded through our Streetlife project)
- the new directory will also be launched (funded through our Streetlife project)
- there will be an update on plans for the next enhancement scheme.
- WBA AGM (very brief)
- drinks and nibbles will be provided.

WARRANDYTE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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# Senior entertainers

Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club will be celebrating their 41st birthday with a program entitled "That's Entertainment", to be presented by the club's concert party group at their centre in Tarooma Avenue on Thursday, November 13, commencing at 1pm. The concert will feature songs from the shows, including singing, dancing and comedy. Everybody welcome. Bookings are essential. Call the club on 9844 2437.

school in Birchwood Avenue, Lower Templestowe, on Saturday, November 15 from 12noon till late. There will be stalls, fabulous food, entertainment, rides and other activities. For information call 9850 5751.

## Drivers

Manningham Community Health Service, in conjunction with Roadsafes Inner Eastern, is offering a wiser driver course for older residents over a four-week period of Fridays in November, running from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Cost is a gold coin per session. For further information call Jackie on 9848 5236.

## Fete

St Charles Borromeo Primary School is holding their 20th anniversary fete at the school, 222 Serpells Road, Templestowe, on Sunday, November 16. A wide variety of stalls and amusements will be featured, including dunk-a-teacher, trackless train, camel and ponyrides and the titanic slide. There will be a trash 'n' treasure stall, a ballroom dancing demonstration and a wide variety of food stalls, including Asian, Indian and South African cuisine and a beer garden.

## Carols

Warrandyte's 2003 Christmas Carols celebration will take place on Saturday, December 13 at 8.15pm at Stiggants Reserve, Warrandyte. Pre-event activities, including an animal farm and a family barbecue, will commence at 6pm.

## Light-footed

The Warrandyte Senior Citizens next 50-50 dance will be held at their hall in Tarooma Avenue on Sunday, December 14 at 1.30pm. Dancing, sing-a-long, entertainment and afternoon tea costs \$5 per head. Dances are held on the second Sunday of each month except January



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.

## Dieback

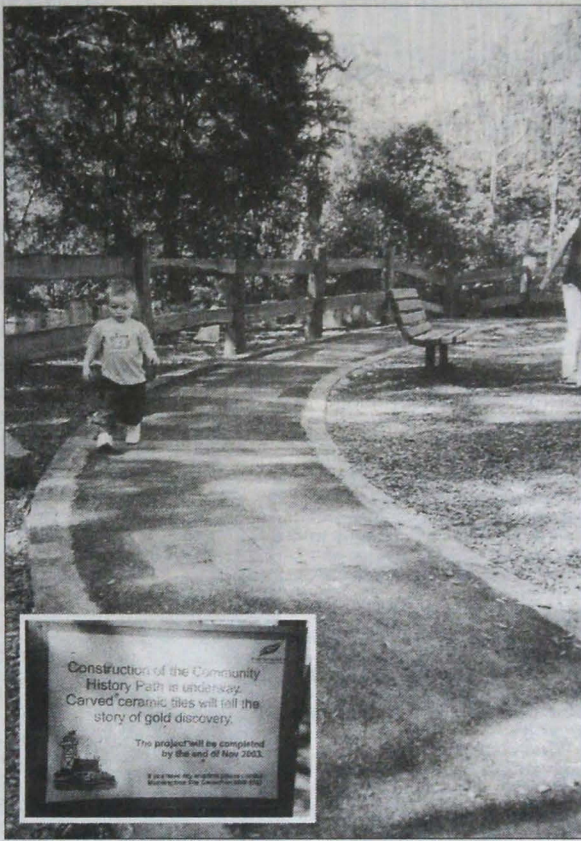
Ian Smith, senior forest pathologist, Forest Science Centre, Department of Sustainability and Environment, will be the speaker at the next environment seminar, to be held in the function room, Club Warrandyte (Grand Hotel), 120 Yarra Street, Warrandyte on Thursday, December 4, commencing at 7.30pm. Ian will discuss the latest research into dieback, caused by phytophthora (cinnamon fungus) occurrences in our area. He will indicate how we can prevent the spread of this scourge.

## Dance

The next dance organised by the South Warrandyte Social Dance committee will be on Saturday, December 13 at the South Warrandyte hall in Hall Road. For enquiries call 9729 8192

## Festival

A spring festival, organised to raise money for the Templestowe Valley Primary School, will be held at the



Construction of the Community History Path is underway. Carved ceramic tiles will tell the story of gold discovery. The project will be completed by the end of Nov 2003.

Pictures by Jan Tindale

## History path

Warrandyte's historic tiled pathway (pictured) will be officially opened by Cr John Bruce, Manningham mayor, on Friday, December 5 at 3pm. The pathway, which involved many locals in tile decorating earlier this year, and is being laid from the Federation Playspace upstream towards the bridge, was initiated by Jeanette Jennings, art teacher at Donvale Carey Baptist School. She consulted with the Warrandyte Historical Society and involved many local groups and organisations, including both primary schools, Warrandyte Arts Association and Warrandyte Neighbourhood House. The project culminated in the firing of 1200 tiles. Everyone is invited to the opening.

## Friends

Like to spend a few hours of your spare time in a good cause? The St John Ambulance visiting friends program is seeking volunteers to meet the con-

stantly increasing need for volunteers to assist with companionship and support for persons entering aged care facilities. For further information call 9736 2130.

## Sale

The Warrandyte Uniting Church is conducting a grand garage sale on Saturday, November 15 at 9am at the church in Tarooma Avenue, Warrandyte.



## Artists at work

The studio of *Diary* cartoonists, Syd Tunn and Ona Henderson (pictured), will be open to the public on November 15 and 16 as part of Nillumbik's open studios program. The studio is at the corner of Henley and Oxley Roads, Kangaroo Ground and it will be open from 12noon to 5pm on both Saturday and Sunday. Other Kangaroo Ground artists participating in the program include Shan Schnookal, 85 Menzies Road (glass artwork) and Robina and Tony Summers, 191 Catani Boulevard (textiles and photography).

Harman, Terunobu Hirata and Judith Roberts continues at the Stonehouse Gallery until November 16. It will be followed by "Christmas is coming", a collection of unique collectable Christmas decorations. The gallery is at 323 Warrandyte-Ringwood Road, Warrandyte.

ner Jumping Creek Road and Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte, includes paintings by Jan Neil, works in iron by Luke Rogers, glass works by Phil Stokes and Marcus Dillon and ceramic sculpture by Sonia Attard. The exhibition ends on November 23.

Doncaster Road, Doncaster, is entitled "Beyond the Selvedge". Running from November 18 to 29 it presents the works of 15 female final year students of the Box Hill TAFE Diploma of Arts Studio/Stitch Textiles. Daily demonstrations with two artists' floor talks are scheduled for November 22 and 27. Contact Manningham Gallery on 9840 9367 for information.

## Potters

"In Form", the exhibition currently showing at Potters, cor-

## Selvedge

The latest exhibition at Manningham Gallery, 699

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## ARTYFACTS

### Bargains

Warrandyte Arts Association will be holding a bargain art sale in the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute hall on Sunday, November 17 between 10am and 4pm.

### Contemporary

"Impetus", a collection of contemporary oil works by emerging artist Ruth Anderson, is on display at the Warrandyte Café, corner of Yarra Street and Forbes Street, between November 16 and December 31. Thursdays to Sundays, 9am to 5pm. Enquiries: 9844 0365.

### Stories

Entries are now open for the Alan Marshall Short Story Award for 2004. This is an annual contemporary Australian short story competition held in memory of Alan Marshall, noted Australian writer and former Eltham resident. There are three categories for a short story of up to 2500 words written in any style: an open section, local writers' section and a section for young writers. Entry forms and guidelines available by calling Nillumbik arts officer, Katrina Rank, on 9433 3126.

### Stonehouse

An exhibition exploring the diversity of clay techniques by Vipoo Srivilasa, Margaret

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# Asia today, tomorrow the world



Cameron Donald on the podium after taking his third straight race in the Asia Pacific Road Racing Championship. Now for the decider.

By LEE TINDALE

We reported almost two years ago that local motorcycle ace Cameron Donald was a young man going places in a hurry.

Cameron is still living and loving life in the fast lane — but one thing that has changed in the meantime is the trophy count in his cabinet, which continues to mount.

His burning ambition to ride at world championship level in the 600 or 1000cc class and to fill that cabinet to overflowing certainly has not changed at all. And he believes it is all coming together.

When last we'd seen him, Cameron, of KG Road, was basking in the euphoria of his first international success — the 1991 Macau Grand Prix, which he won by a whopping 36 seconds in lap record time.

Now 25, he flew out late last month for another assault on November 15 on that event, in which he ran second last year.

Then it's on to the final round of the Asia Pacific Road Racing Championship on December 14 at the Formula 1 Grand Prix venue at Sepang, Malaysia.

Cameron is running a closing second in that series, having won the last three races for Team Zongshen, the biggest in the event.

Although racing in Asia tends to dominate his schedule now, his career on the domestic scene also continues to flourish.



The camera gets up close with Cameron on his way to another chequered flag.

He was top privateer and fourth overall in this year's Formula Extreme 1000cc event, an east coast series which attracts greater exposure than the Australian championship.

He was forced to miss the final race and a top three finish because it clashed with Round 1 of the Asian championship.

Cameron rode for Team

Dynobike in the Formula Extreme and on the way to such an impressive finish took out the Victorian Superbike Championship, a four-race series at Phillip Island and Winton.

And that ambition to ride at the elite international level?

"It's coming along very nicely," said the very likeable young man who learned to ride

as a five-year-old in great-uncle Ron Day's paddocks at Pound Bend.

"It seems to be taking forever, but we're getting there."

"I spend more time overseas than in Australia at the moment and I really miss Warrandyte. I love the travel and seeing new places, but it certainly makes you appreciate this place."

## Shop locally this Christmas

Discerning shoppers travel to Warrandyte from all over Melbourne to buy that special gift. Interstate and overseas tourists come here for unique souvenirs and presents. Usually handmade, often one of a kind, always good value. Gifts bought in Warrandyte demonstrate your good taste, individuality and sense of occasion. Shop locally this Christmas.

Warrandyte shops will be open until 9pm on Thursdays, December 4, 11 and 18



## Rhys goes in to bat for his state

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte's history as a nursery of outstanding sportspeople will be further enhanced this month when young Rhys Aldenhoven goes in to bat for Victoria.

Rhys, 12, of Yarra Street, will represent his state in the national primary schools softball championship in Sydney.

And softball isn't really his go. Baseball is his true forte.

Andersons Creek Primary School nominated Rhys to try out for the Victorian Primary Schools Softball Association Boys Exchange team, a selection process that began in May.

A T-ball player with the Doncaster Dragons at age five, he certainly caught the state selectors' eyes and was invited to attend further selection trials before a team of 15 was named.

He will now join his teammates in a series of practice matches and training sessions leading up to the big School Sport Australia championship from November 23-23.

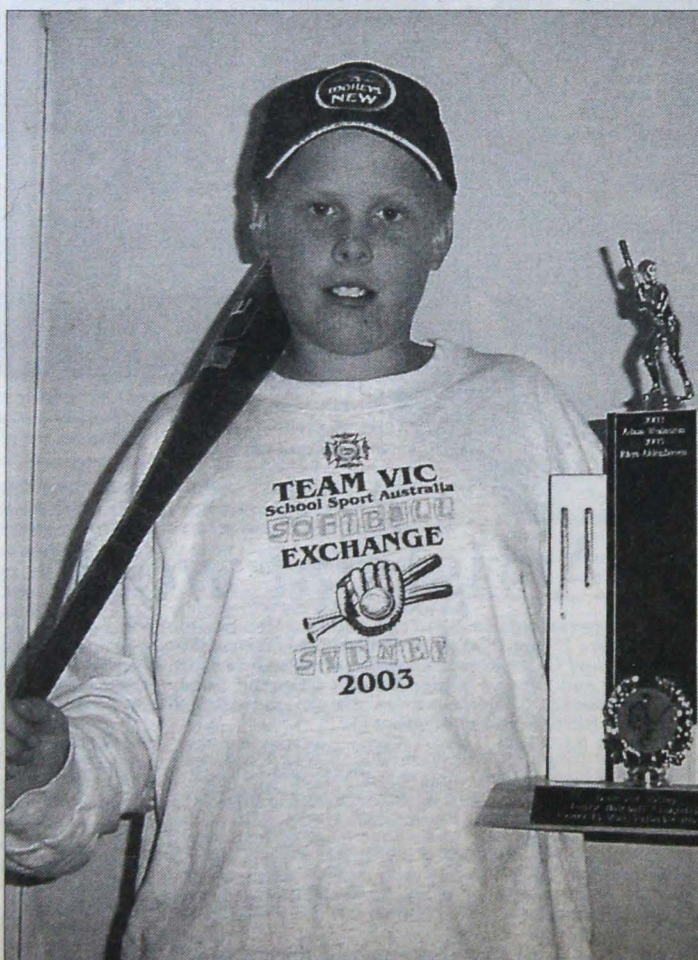
It is the culmination of a big year for Rhys. Having long since progressed from T-ball to baseball with the Dragons, he played state league with the Doncaster club and this year took on the Banyule Saturday morning competition.

He was adjudged most valuable player for the entire Under-12 competition and also took out his team's MVP playing for Research Baseball Club, with Doncaster unable to muster an Under-12 team.

Rhys is also a very accomplished footballer who won this year's Warrandyte Junior Football Club coaches award in the Under-12s.

"He has a natural ability in ball games," said mother Alison.

"I tried to coach him at baseball until he reminded me that I'd never played the game," said father Horrie.



Rhys Aldenhoven ... maintaining a Warrandyte tradition of producing outstanding young sportspeople.

Discover Warrandyte Gold this Christmas...





New Warrandyte Tennis Club junior champions Kirsten Sabo and Trent Valentino.

# Trent, Kirsten sweep junior tennis crowns

By JUDY GREEN

Warrandyte Tennis Club have two new junior champions following the finals matches played last month.

Fourteen-year-old Trent Valentino won the boys singles title, comfortably defeating Daniel Wiltshire in straight sets.

In the girls final, Kirsten Sabo was also a straights-set winner, defeating Allison Trotter.

Rhys Simpson was awarded the club's annual trophy for the most improved junior over the previous 12 months.

Trophies were presented at the Junior Presentation Night along with club awards for those players who had been successful in Eastern Region and Diamond Valley Tennis Association finals and in the club's masters event earlier in the year.

Awards were also given to those who had attained places in Eastern Region squads or in the club squads. Certificates were presented to juniors completing their first season of competition tennis.

Junior championship results:

18 and under:

Boys singles: Trent Valentino d Daniel Wiltshire 6-1, 6-2. Boys doubles: Jarrod Hodgson/Daniel Wiltshire d Tulloch Greve/Joel Greve 6-2, 6-0.

Girls singles: Kirsten Sabo d Alison Trotter 6-1, 6-2. Girls doubles: Jenna Hodgson/Kirsten Sabo d Alison Trotter/Jemima Higinbotham 6-2, 6-0.

Mixed doubles: Daniel Wiltshire/Tamara Valentino d Nick Atkins, Linda Stanzel 6-2, 6-4.

15 and under:

Boys singles: Alex Beltramin d Adam Waugh 8-3. Boys doubles: Adam Waugh/Joel Greve d Alex Beltramin/David Wildsmith 8-6.

Girls singles: Tessa Cudmore d Alison Trotter 8-4. Girls doubles: Alison Trotter/Tessa Cudmore d Honne Atkins/Donna Atkins 8-0.

Mixed doubles: Alex Beltramin/Kirsten Szabo d Adam Waugh/Alison Trotter 8-3.

12 and under:

Boys singles: Daniel Buckley d Tristan Valentino 9-8. Boys doubles: Andrew Bird/Tristan Valentino d Daniel Buckley/Troy Donis 8-4. Girls singles: Larissa Travassaros d Elise Northover 8-2.

Girls doubles: Larissa Travassaros/Elise Northover d Jade Valentino/Georgia Courteney 8-4.

Mixed doubles: Daniel Buckley/Larissa Travassaros d Blake Tester/Elise Northover 8-3.

# Redbacks make the grade

By TONY OLIVER

The Warrandyte Redbacks are fielding almost 50 teams in the summer EDJBA Saturday basketball competition as the club continue their growth of recent years.

With the grading phase reaching its conclusion, a number of teams are trying out in higher grades.

The Under-18 boys had been winning easily in B-grade and were given their opportunity in A-grade against Ivanhoe.

Steve Morossi, an experienced coach but new to the Redbacks, led them to an exciting 32-31 win.

The game started at a fast pace and Ivanhoe were running a press and forcing turnovers. But despite their relatively high error rate, Warrandyte trailed by only four points, 17-21, at the break.

Strong team defence was the outstanding aspect of the game.

The second half followed much the same pattern, but the Redbacks were able to counter the strong press defence to reduce the turnovers.

Ivanhoe needed to score in the last 30 seconds to win, but the shot was wide and Warrandyte tidied up the rebound to run the clock down for a very gutsy victory.

Topscorers for the winners were David Mock (10), Dean Lucas (9), and David Webb (6).

"Brilliant team defence was the key," said coach Morossi, "especially from the tall forwards."

A similar grading situation faced Warrandyte's Under-16 boys, coached by Hayden Wall, with a game against Collingwood potentially for a spot in A-grade.

But this encounter was one-way traffic, Warrandyte much too good and winning 53-26 after leading 25-16 at the break.

All players contributed significantly to the result, tall forwards Hamish Hosking and Josh Collins controlling the boards and Jake Ratcliffe showing strong ball control.

Hosking led the scoring with 20, followed by Collins with 12 and Robert Illingworth with 10. Illingworth hit successive three points in the second half as the Redbacks ran away.

The going is tougher in the girls division, with the Under-18s of Jake Templeton going down 43-29 to Eltham in an A-grade try-out.

Warrandyte were able to draw level late in the first half with strong performances by Steph Simpson and Georgina Smith, but Eltham easily replied to take a 23-17 lead into the break.

Unfortunately, the Redback girls could not reproduce a challenge in the second half and Eltham piled on the early points and applied enormous pressure



Warrandyte's Lee Thompson is about to get his pass away despite close attention from a Banksia opponent in an Under-14 CB-grade game. The Redbacks came from behind to win 22-19.

on the Redback ball carriers with triple team play.

Warrandyte were able to score whenever they broke this defence but too often Eltham forced the turnover for easy baskets.

Still, the game was not without positive aspects for the Redbacks, whose leading scorers were Georgina Smith (9), Katie Bottomley, whose contribution of eight included a three-pointer in the second half, and Katherine Neilson (5).

It was the second defeat in A-grade for these Warrandyte girls, having gone down to Balwyn the previous week, so a spot in B-grade would appear the best outcome.

The Under-16 girls were beaten 49-13 by Park Orchards, who were simply too strong and applied too much pressure. Andrea Peters and Lyndall Thomas led the scoring for Warrandyte with four points apiece.

An excellent result for the Redbacks was the Under-8 boys' 29-19 win over Koonung. Leading scorers for Warrandyte were Tim Apostolides (7), Trent Arnold (6) and Zac Ballard (4).

Damian Arsenis' Under-10 boys went down 30-17 to Eltham, but the coach was impressed with his charges because Eltham are the stand-outs of this competition and no other team had been able to get



It's all eyes up as Warrandyte and Banksia Under-14s await the outcome of a crucial shot. The two Redbacks in the picture are Nathan Annand (left) and Narayan Tobin (right).

within 25 points of them.

Warrandyte started slowly but outscored Eltham 11-10 in the second half.

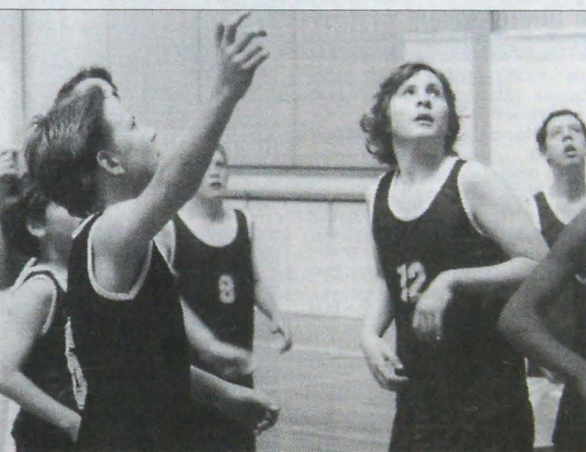
"It is difficult to pick out the best players in such a good team performance," said Arsenis, "but Daniel Tester was strong both in offence and defence."

"This was an outstanding result as only one of the Redback team has Friday night experience and we were up against a very strong and experienced side".

Tester and Lachland Buckley topscored for Warrandyte with six and four points respectively.



Above: That's sheer concentration on Hannah Bensch's face as she lines up a shot in an Under-10 A-grade against Eltham 3. Her teammates (from left) are Kelly Peters, Casey Taylor and Sam Bingham. The Redbacks won 19-6.



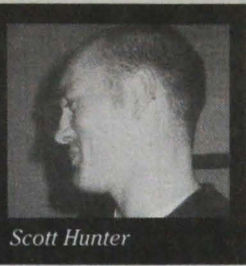
Below: Rhennen Hodges is a very interested spectator at Redbacks teammate Ryan Hales shoots a basket on his way to a game high 10 point against Banksia.





# Bloods coach walks!

## 'I reckon I got put through the wringer'



Scott Hunter

By LEE TINDALE

Scott Hunter, Warrandyte Football Club's senior coach for the past three seasons, has "jumped ship" after verbally accepting the position for 2004.

He claims to have been "put through the wringer" by the Bloods' coaching selection process.

Hunter, who led Warrandyte into this year's EFL Third Division finals, will coach Knox in Division 2. And he is likely to take several senior players with him.

They include his close friend Stuart Wynd, who topped the competition's 2003 goalkicking list with 84. Wynd was assistant to Hunter at Warrandyte this year and will fill that role at Knox.

Warrandyte will be coached by Ash Hamilton, who comes highly-credentialed. Hamilton, 36, is a former Richmond Under-19s premierships player, was a senior-listed player at both Richmond and Melbourne and a finals representative with Box Hill in the VFL and East Burwood in EFL First Division.

He has also played in premierships with Chelsea and Queensland club Southport. His playing/coaching expe-

### SPORT

rience has been with Koo Wee Rup, Tyabb and for the past five seasons with Cora Lynn, in the Gippsland.

He will be a non-playing coach have at Warrandyte, believing it better enables him to ring effective changes.

"He told us he is fit enough to play but would prefer to devote himself fully to coaching," Bloods president-elect Phil Treeby told the *Diary*.

Ironically, Hunter and Hamilton have played both alongside and against each other — alongside at East Burwood in 1995 and against when Hunter played for Oakleigh in the VFL in the early '90s.

Hunter and Hamilton were among five applicants for the 2004 Warrandyte job, which was advertised as a matter of policy. Hunter applied verbally and was interviewed twice after applications closed on October 3. He got the nod and agreed verbally to the contract offered.

He had told the club that because the

position had been advertised he had applied elsewhere to protect his own interests, but that Warrandyte was the job he wanted.

"Scott agreed to a contract and made a verbal commitment to us," Treeby said. "But the following week we got it through the grapevine that Knox had offered him their coaching job. I phoned Scott and he confirmed this."

"He said unfortunately, for selfish reasons he wanted to coach and play in Second Division."

At the time of Hunter's "reappointment", outgoing president Noel Taplin had told the *Diary* the committee had decided to give him the opportunity to take the club the next step — to a premiership and promotion to Second Division.

Hunter told the *Diary* that Treeby had phoned him on October 20 to say he had heard that Knox had signed him.

"I told Phil that was news to me, but that I had spoken with Knox and they'd asked me to have another chat with them that night," he said.

"At the end of the season I one hundred per cent wanted to stay at

Warrandyte, but when they decided to advertise the position I had to cover my back.

"I just got vibes they weren't all behind me. Phil was fantastic. He was in my corner, but a few others weren't," he said.

"I wasn't 100 per cent comfortable. When I spoke with Knox I was confident they were 100 per cent behind me."

"Steve Randalls, my chairman of selectors, wanted us to stay on at Warrandyte, but he became frustrated because the selection process took so long. I felt the same."

"In 2002 we had a poor season and I got the 2003 job pretty easily. We had a reasonable season this year and I reckon I got put through the wringer."

"I'm disappointed and I feel I've let Phil down."

Hunter said he had written to every Warrandyte player explaining his decision.

His departure will also see an exodus of experienced players, largely former East Burwood men he had attracted to Warrandyte.

Apart from Wynd, Adam Barlow,

Darren Payne, Ross Bradshaw and Adam Williamson are all likely to follow Hunter to his new club.

But far from regarding that as a portent of gloom and doom, Treeby sees it as creating new opportunities.

"We were very single-minded in our approach to goal with Wynd on board and we were found out," he said. "Stuart helped us win games we won by big margins, but not the close ones."

"This will also open the doors to our younger players — the Under-18s now coming through the ranks again and those who had excellent seasons in the Reserves."

New coach Hamilton was holidaying in Queensland when his appointment was announced.

"He is likely to bring new players to the club," Treeby said. "We haven't yet spoken to him about that, but he is certainly well connected."

Knox finished down the ladder this year after losing the grand final the previous season.

"I felt they offered long-term security — they don't like to change coaches — where Warrandyte didn't," Hunter said.

## No, not like the old man



Andrew Bawden

A young man with an immaculate Warrandyte footballing pedigree has taken out a major AFL award in Sydney.

Andrew Bawden, 19, has won the Snow Medal as best and fairest in the second division of the senior Sydney competition.

Bawden, who played junior football in Warrandyte up to Under-13 level, is the son of Colin Bawden, who achieved just about everything there was to achieve in a junior and senior career here spanning 20 years.

A much-respected and non-nonsense ruckman, Bawden senior was the Bloods' best and fairest winner in 1977-78, a member of the 1983 premierships side and club president in 1990-91.

The Bawden family — Colin, Louise, Andrew, Cameron (now 18) and Ellie (14) — moved to Sydney in 1997 and Andrew played two seasons of Under-16s for the Miranda Bombers before turning his hand to boundary umpiring in the AFL competition.

Remarkably, 2003 was his comeback season as a player, his first in senior football.

A 198-centimetre ruckman with the Southern Sharks, he wrapped up the Snow Medal with a best-on-ground performance in the final home-and-away game.

And is this a classic case of son following in dad's footsteps?

"Not at all," said Colin. "Andrew's lean, he's fast and he has football skills — so he's nothing like his dad at all."

# The reluctant champion

The Warrandyte Football Club committee's powers of persuasion were fully tested before Todd Holman signed up for the 2003 season.

Holman, who had played his recent football in quality company in Canberra, had arrived back here with excellent credentials. A local boy who'd been educated at Warrandyte High School, he had mates at the club and had been coached in a Preston Knights junior development squad by ruling Bloods best and fairest and 2003 captain Matt Blagrove.

It was Blagrove who described him to the *Diary* at the time as "a very good player, a quality player ... Robert Harvey-ish, very cool".

But Holman wasn't sure if he really wanted to play for Warrandyte and it took a lot of hard work, a lot of perseverance, to talk him around.

That work was rewarded and the club's faith in their judgment fully vindicated last month when Holman, 21, won the Bloods' best and fairest award.

An on-baller/half-forward, he polled 25 votes to score by two from defender Liam Riley. On-baller Matt Wood, club champion in 2001 and runner-up last year, was third, a further two votes away.

Blagrove, who missed the last four home-and-away games and the semi-final with a facial injury, and full-forward Stuart Wynd tied for fourth on 16 votes.

Coach Scott Hunter told the Presentation Night gathering that it had been hard to sign Holman but certainly worth the frustration.

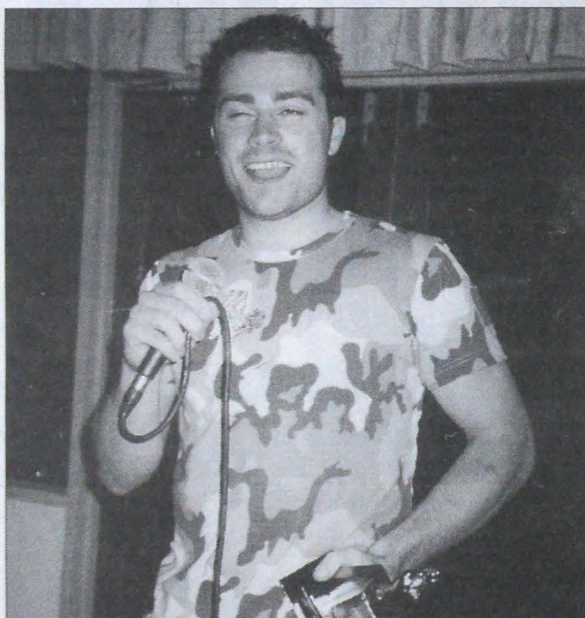
"He has amazing ability and is a great guy to have around the club," he said.

Holman was overseas when Presentation Night was held at Club Warrandyte on October 17 and missed an enthralling tussle with Riley. Both polled consistently throughout the count, which went right down to the wire.

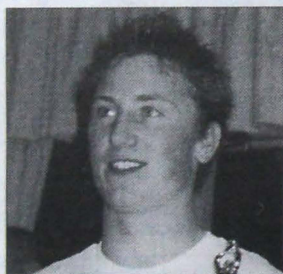
Holman led by two with the last set of votes to be called and polled two to Riley's maximum three to get over the line.

It was, however, a very good night for Riley, a class act who was tried with great effect in defence this year after filling various roles.

Apart from the runner-up trophy, he collected the Darryl Valentine Memorial Shield as most determined and a new award for the most effective and prolific tackler.



Above: Best and fairest runner-up Liam Riley. Below: Reserves champion Ben Reid.



Wood, who spends a lot of time getting the hard ball at the bottom of the packs, was another multiple winner, walking away with the players' award judged by his teammates.

The Reserves best and fairest went to Ben Reid, a young man who is destined to play an important role in Warrandyte senior football.

Reid polled 22 votes — he also picked up four in the seniors count — to win by three from ruckman Rob Ryan. Brad Giampietro was third, one vote adrift.

At a separate presentation function, Warrandyte's Tom Naughtin was judged best and fairest in the Under-18s joint venture with Doncaster East.

AJ Adgenis (Doncaster East) was second, with Josh Eyre (Warrandyte) and John Daou (DE) sharing third.

## Terry's in for life

Half a century of dedication to Warrandyte Football Club has been rewarded with a life membership presentation to Terry Sloan.

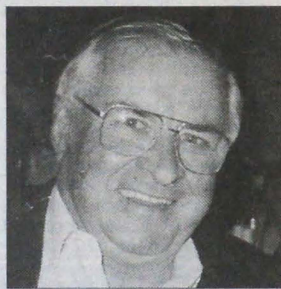
A past player, committeeman, vocal supporter on the terraces and general willing helping hand, Sloan, of Hodson Road, joins younger brother Lawrie — the Bloods' longest-serving president and most decorated official — on the ultimate honour roll.

Terry Sloan, 66, played football here for four years before a seven-year stint as a VFL reserves umpire.

The roles he has filled off the field for the club have been many and varied, currently as a committeeman and vendor of raffle tickets at the Grand Hotel.

The raffle prizes are packed for presentation by wife Barbara.

Another club stalwart honoured



Terry Sloan.

— with the president's award — at Presentation Night was Joan Atkinson, who heads the voluntary bar staff and dispenses drinks with a smile.

The clubpersons of the year award went to *Diary* staffers Lee and Jan Tindale.

### FULL AWARDS DETAILS

**SENIORS**  
Best and fairest: Todd Holman 1; Liam Riley 2; Matthew Wood 3.

Coaches award: Matthew Treeby.

Most improved: Andrew Gordon.

Darryl Valentine Memorial Shield (most determined): Liam Riley.

Gary "Madge" Alsop Award (most courageous): Guy Taylor.

Players' award: Matthew Wood.

John McCartin Shield (most consistent): Matt Blagrove.

Tacklers award: Liam Riley.

**RESERVES:**  
Best and fairest: Ben Reid 1; Rob Ryan 2; Brad Giampietro 3.

Coaches award: John Rough.

Most improved: Ben Gaylard.

Players' award: Aidan Davey.

Geoff Darby Memorial Shield: (most determined): James Powell.

**CLUB AWARDS**  
Life membership: Terry Sloan

President's award: Joan

Atkinson

Tracy "Snowy" Prior best clubpersons award: Lee and Jan Tindale

**UNDER-18s:**  
Best and fairest: Tom Naughtin 1; AJ Adgenis 2; Josh Eyre and John Daou 3.

Most consistent: Jake Kilsby.

Most courageous: Ricky Bourke.

Coaches award: Gene Ali and Adam Woods.

Most improved: James Bowen.

**Full best and fairest voting details:**

**SENIORS:** Todd Holman 25; Liam Riley 23; Matthew Wood 21; Matt Blagrove, Stuart Wynd 16; Adam Williamson, Guy Taylor 15; Darren Payne, Warren Ruehland 12; Craig Dick 11; Matthew Treeby 10; Kimberly O'Connor, Scott Hunter 9; Adam Barlow, Stewart Rough 8; Glen Carle 7; Rick Templeton 6;

Ross Bradshaw 4; Andrew Gordon, Ben Reid 4; Chris Cornell, Dale Vitiritti, Dean Hunter, Piers Brown 3; Mark Spiliotopoulos, Peter Fotiniotis 11.

**RESERVES:** Ben Reid 22; Robert Ryan 19; Brad Giampietro 18; Ben Gaylard, James Riley 14; Craig Evans, Heath Decker, James Powell, Mark Spiliotopoulos 13; Aidan Davey, David Young, Mark McCormack 11; Andrew Gordon, Travis Brogan 10; Nathan Ireland 9; Craig Lincoln 8; James Logan, John Rough, Kimberly O'Connor, Piers Brown, Rick Templeton 7; Chris Springett, Nathan Gardner 6; Chris Cornell, Dean Hunter, Jarrod O'Connor, John Prangley, Leigh Giampietro, Steve Warr, Warren Ruehland 4; Peter Fotiniotis, Sam Perkins 3; Dale Vitiritti, James Riddell, John O'Brien 2; Jarrod Dick, Matthew Treeby, Tristan Koochew 1.

## Juniors prepare for big 2004

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

After wrapping up one of their more successful seasons, Warrandyte Junior Football Club are already planning for 2004.

The executive committee — president Mathew Matheou, secretary Kevin O'Mara, Steve Blakey and Brad Curtis — was re-elected at the recent annual general meeting, with new members Phil Ashfield, Ray Exon and Sharon Vaughan inducted.

"The new blood is essential for the succession planning within the committee and these people will play an important part in making the place better for our players," said Matheou.

"We are already searching for coaches for next season as well as looking at equipment to improve the training facilities for all the players," he said.

"We have planned our registration day for early February and are also looking to record our club song on CD.

"Plans are also in place for a Parents of Warrandyte calendar to be used as a fundraiser for the 2004 season," Matheou said. "Volunteers are currently being sourced."

● For more information about the activities of the junior club, contact O'Mara on 9844 2964 or Matheou on 0418 54234.



# Hawks falling short!

By LEE TINDALE

Chandler Shield debutants South Warrandyte have made heavy weather of their entry into the Ringwood District Cricket Association's elite competition.

The Hawks' first eleven, coming off consecutive premier-ships in lesser company, are yet to break the ice with the rain-affected season three games old.

They have lost two and drawn one, lucky to share the points with South Ringwood when rain intervened in Round 2 on October 25 — and coach Bob Neagle says they must "grow up".

"The boys have to accept the fact that this is the Chandler Shield and they must lift their games," Neagle said.

"It's not going to be the easy haul of the last two seasons and if they don't lift they're going to find themselves back in A-grade (the Wilkins Shield which they won last season)."

Asked if the batting or the bowling was the major worry, Neagle (who coached South Ringwood in the Chandler Shield last season but has two accomplished sons, Ben and Jeremy, playing for the Hawks) said: "Both. If you're going to bowl rubbish you're going to get belted."

"In Chandler Shield you've got to bowl well and eight inches outside off stump. Bowl middle and leg and these blokes are

SPORT

good enough to put you away every time.

"They're bowling eight inches outside off to us and we're making stupid mistakes," he said.

"But we'll be okay — it's just a matter of attitude. We're a very young side, an average age of about 20, and this is a learning curve."

"Once we get going we'll go on with it."

South's latest outing — a two-day fixture against reigning premiers Lilydale abbreviated to a one-day on November 8 by a washout the previous Saturday — was always always going to be tough.

They went down by 56 runs, failing to capitalise on a promising start to finish on 7-135 in the allotted 40 overs.

None for 27 became 5-71 before Nick Barrett and Chris Jones mounted a salvage operation in a partnership with produced 59 runs. Each scored 32, Barrett unbeaten.

Still, it was a modest enough target for a team of Lilydale's status and they did it very comfortably, coasting to 4-191.

Scott Brasher was the best of South's bowlers, finishing with 2-18 from eight very tidy overs. The other wicket-takers were

## Coach bemoans the missing eight inches

Damien Smart and Ben Garner, with 1-13 and 1-27 respectively.

The Hawks had started the season on a promising note, restricting Mooroolbark to an apparently-gettable 7-216 at their first-ever Chandler Shield appearance.

But they were always in trouble in reply, tottering at 5-58 before Jones and Smart went in search of respectability. They took the score to 129, but it became another procession thereafter, the last four wickets yielding just 21 runs.

The Hawks chased leather next up against South Ringwood on October 18, conceding 255 in the process of capturing eight wickets. Garner sent down 15 miserly overs for 3-28 and Kane Hartrup 20 for 4-89.

South were in real trouble at 6-118 in response when the hardy umpires — apparently impervious to rain and gloom — took notice of a bowler slipping on delivery and mercifully pulled the pin.

The second eleven are undefeated, accounting for Mooroolbark by 20 runs first up in a high-scoring affair.

Darren Johnson top-scored with 56 and David Cutler producing a fine double of 32 runs and 4-62.

Like the seniors, they were in real trouble against South Ringwood in Round 2, 6-96 chasing 6-307, when the rain gods smiled upon them and called it a draw.

All-rounder Cutler was again among the wickets and runs, 3-64 and 27 not out.

The two bounced right back against Lilydale, hitting up 2-145 in response to 114. Opener Marty Smith and Mick

Kenneally were unbeaten on 52 and 35 respectively.

Paul Milne took three Lilydale wickets for 25, Tim Debenham 2-16 and that man Cutler bobbed up again with 2-2 off 13 balls.

The third eleven stand 1-2, beaten by 70 runs by Wonga Park on November 8 after a win over Warrandyte in their season's opener and a heavy defeat by Croydon Rangers.

The fourths are unbeaten in four outings, a fortunate draw with Scoresby-Ferndale in Round 3 punctuating wins over Norwood, North Ringwood and, most recently, South Croydon by 120 runs.

### Details

**FIRSTS:** South Warrandyte 155 (Jones 42, Smart 46) lost to Mooroolbark 7-216 (Hartrup 5-57, Garner 1-30, Callaghan 1-38).

South Warrandyte 6-118 (Head 30, Horwood 19) drew with South Ringwood 8-255 (Hartrup 4-89, Garner 3-28). Game washed out.

South Warrandyte 7-135 (Barrett 32, C. Jones 32 n.o., Careedy 21) lost to Lilydale 4-191 (Brasher 2-18, Smart 1-13, Garner 1-27).

**SECONDS:** South Warrandyte 6-260 (Johnson 56, Barrett 40, C. Smith 38, Cutler 32, M. Smith 29) d Mooroolbark 240 (Cutler 4-62, Kenneally 2-76).

South Warrandyte 6-96 (Cutler 27 n.o., Johnson 18) drew with South Ringwood 6-307 (Cutler 3-64, De Keizer 2-75). Game washed out.

South Warrandyte 2-145 (M. Smith 52 n.o., Kenneally 35 n.o.) d Lilydale 114 (Milne 3-25, Cutler 2-2, Debenham 2-16).

**THIRDS:** South Warrandyte 6-97 (B. Neagle 30, Adams 19) d Warrandyte 82 (Garrett 2-13, Neagle 2-14, Russell 2-22).

South Warrandyte 102 (Buljubasich 30 n.o., Adams 19, Sommers 18) lost to Croydon Rangers 7-254 (Russell 3-65, Buljubasich



Chris Jones ... becoming a salvage operation specialist.

2-54). South Warrandyte 82 (Uren 23) lost to Wonga Park 9-152.

**FOURTHS:** South Warrandyte 2-80 (Milne 52 n.o.) d Norwood 76 (Garrett 4-6, Milne 3-23). South Warrandyte 4-88 (Williams 48) d North Ringwood 79 (Hall 3-

16, Craven 2-25). South Warrandyte 6-129 (Cutler 60 n.o.) drew with Scoresby-Ferndale 333 (Duncan 4-71, Hall 2-46). South Warrandyte 3-215 (Sewell 68 n.o., Duncan 26) d South Croydon 95.

## One for the wine buffs

South Warrandyte Cricket Club's Wilkins Premiership Cup Wine Collection will be presented at a tasting and barbecue at the Colman Park clubrooms on Saturday, November 22.

The wines are from McLaren Vale and Yarra Valley regions and will bear special club labels. Orders for them will be taken on the night and they will be available in time for Christmas celebrations.

The evening starts at six and the organisers need to know numbers for catering purposes. The contact number is 9879 9342.

# Batting horrors haunt Dytes

Warrandyte's Cricket Club's batting woes continue and unless they can overcome the remainder of the season will be a battle to avoid relegation.

After five rounds, the first eleven languish on the bottom of the RDCA Wilkins Shield ladder and although they are only a game and a half outside the top four in a rain-marred start to 2003-04, a resurgence in the batting line-up is necessary if they are to pose any threat to other sides.

Former club champion Adam White made a welcome and imposing return to the senior side in the most recent match, against North Croydon, taking 5-25 then scoring an unbeaten 78.

But as has been the case in all matches this season, there was no one able to put up his hand in support.

The attack continues to put the team in a winning position and North Croydon's 157 was the highest score made against Warrandyte so far this season.

But with losing scores of 84, 86 and 144, Warrandyte face an uphill battle to pressure the opposition.

The only bright spot of the season was a thrilling one run win over premier-ship contenders South Croydon in Round 2, but with the Warrandyte score at 8-96 it took a last-gasp partnership between Matthew Chapman and Gerald Walshe to steer the team to a winning score.

Warrandyte were unable to follow up the exciting victory and collapsed to be all out for 86 in the next match, against North Ringwood.

The shame of the result was that Warrandyte dismissed North Ringwood for 132, with veteran spinner Robert White taking 5-22. Rain then washed out play with Warrandyte 3-43 in their second innings. With most other games washed out, teams picked up points for a draw while Warrandyte received nothing.

Round 4 against Norwood was washed out without a ball being bowled and the game against the powerful North Croydon loomed as critical for Warrandyte.



Gerald Walshe (left) and Matt Chapman, last-gasp heroes against South Croydon.

Again the bowlers responded, with leg-spinner Adam Beardall taking the new ball and picking up two quick wickets. Another wicket to Walshe and then a run out had strong North Croydon batting line-up reeling at 4-40.

Adam White then took a career best of 5-25 for Warrandyte and North Croydon were dismissed for 157 before



their allotted 40 overs were complete. But as has been the case all season, our top order crashed, Beardall dismissed without scoring then Andrew Jarvis run out for the same result to have the Dytes 2-9.

Adam White and Daniel Wellesley then proceeded to build a partnership against a fiery attack and at the half-

## Why not have a go with Milo, kids?

Warrandyte Cricket Club's "Milo Have-a-Go" cricket is off and running again this season.

The successful clinic for children aged between five and 10 is held every Sunday morning at the recreation reserve.

A registration morning was conducted on November 2, but newcomers can be registered each Sunday morning.

The "Have-a-Go" program has been operating at Warrandyte for many years and children are taught the skills of cricket in a fun manner.

They also receive great giveaways when they register, including a cricket bat, ball and sunhat.

The cost to register your child is \$40. As a result of the success of the Warrandyte clinics, two Under-10 teams have been entered this season in the Ringwood District Cricket Association. Matches are non-competitive and are played at Warrandyte on Friday evenings.

Further details about the "Have-a-Go" clinics are available from coordinator Lee Dehmel on 9844 2834.

way mark had given their team a strong chance at 2-45.

But in the end, White's unbeaten 78, Wellesley's 17 and Walshe's 13 were the only scores higher than the "extras" total and Warrandyte fell 15 runs short.

Critical games now loom against Bayswater Park and Chirnside Park and both must be won if Warrandyte are firstly to remain in the race for the finals and secondly release the pressure of possible relegation.

While Warrandyte's first eleven continue to struggle, the seconds, thirds and fourths go on their winning ways, all three holding down top two positions in their respective grades.

Charlie Wright, who is visiting Australia from England, led the seconds to victory over North Croydon with 2-24 and 64 while Colin Dorning returned to some welcome form with 28.

The thirds match was virtually a two-man affair, with captain Eddie Cauchi, dominating with the ball and Steve Goddard taking over with the bat.

Cauchi took 7-18 as Croydon Ranges collapsed to be all out for 104. But Warrandyte were in early trouble and it took Goddard's individual effort of 92 not out to lead his team to a winning 7-118. The next highest score by a Warrandyte batsman was four.

The fourth eleven continue to exceed all expectations and have won three of their four completed matches.

The team are made up of fathers and sons of the junior grades and the concept has proved so popular that a roster system has been introduced to select the team for each match.

In the most recent match, against Parkwood, Ken Miller, with 82, and Graeme Rees (69) led the team to a respectable 174 and then restricted the opposition to 164, junior Chris Barry taking 2-15.

### Details

**FIRSTS:** Warrandyte 86 and 3-43 lost to North Ringwood 132 (R. White 5-22).

Warrandyte 8-144 (A. White 78 n.o.) lost to North Croydon 157 (A. White 5-25, A. Beardall 2-37).

**SECONDS:** Warrandyte 174 (T. Cloke 50, G. Creber 40 n.o.) lost to North Ringwood 267 (C. Lincoln 2-59).

Warrandyte 8-199 (C. Wright 64, G. Creber 32, C. Dorning 28) d North Croydon 5-186 (D. Gidley 2-23, C. Wright 2-24).

**THIRDS:** Warrandyte 171 (B. Baker 64, S. Goddard 30) d North Ringwood 83 (E. Cauchi 3-10, J. Prangley 3-26).

Warrandyte 7-118 (S. Goddard 92 n.o.) d Croydon Ranges 104 (E. Cauchi 7-18).

**FOURTHS:** Warrandyte 174 (K. Miller 74, G. Rees 69) d Parkwood 4-164 (C. Barry 2-15).



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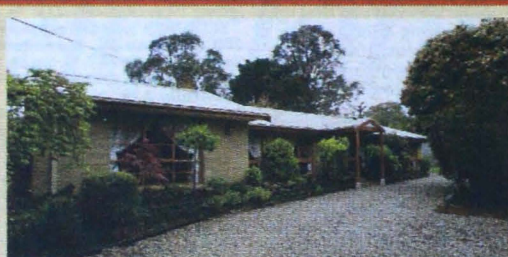
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