

It's our State Park! (Photo montage by Stephen Reynolds)

# State Park reprieve

By CLIFF GREEN

Despite persistent rumours that the Warrandyte State Park depot at Pound Bend would be closed, the *Diary* has been assured that the depot will remain open, at least in the short term.

Residents feared that the rangers at Warrandyte would be relocated to Westerfolds.

Danielle Green, MP for Yan Yean, told the *Diary* that "the work centre at Warrandyte State Park is definitely not slated for closure".

According to Ms Green, temporary accommodation is "due to be installed for the work centre staff at the site in the coming months".

Fears that the depot would be closed and the rangers relocated followed rumours that the building was unsafe,

due to asbestos. Ms Green has confirmed this. "Temporary accommodation is necessary to ensure the safety of the staff," she said.

"Not only is the old coolstore building inappropriate for staff, of more concern is the fact that the building is riddled with asbestos."

The *Diary* believes the temporary accommodation will be "relocatable" buildings, similar to portable school classrooms.

"Of course the temporary accommodation is only the first step, because plans will need to be made for permanent accommodation in the future," Ms Green said. "As local MP I will ensure that Parks Victoria fulfils its commitment to consult with both the local community and the staff about future permanent premises for the work centre."

"Consultation with the local community and the Friends of Warrandyte

State Park will not only allow all interested locals to have their say, but will ensure the best future outcome for park facilities. I understand that Parks Victoria has also identified problems with buildings at Westerfolds Park and that new offices are also planned at that park in the future.

Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte and shadow minister for the environment, welcomed this announcement. "Strong local community pressure appears to have won the day in this case," he said.

Friends of Warrandyte State Park also welcomed the news. "The depot appears to be 'safe', at least in the short term," Joan McMahon, spokesperson for FOWSP said.

Also of great concern to the community has been Parks Victoria's decision to cut Warrandyte State Park's operating budget by 90percent. Most of this money is used to pay contractors for

maintenance work and weed and pest control around the park.

Questioned about this budget reduction, Danielle Green said, "I will be strongly advocating future reinstatement to ensure weed eradication and other park activities do not continue to suffer."

"The funding reduction for this year came about through the reallocation of resources from all metropolitan parks and others in the state to the alpine and Gippsland regions to assist in dealing with the devastation wrought by last year's horrific fires."

FOWSP is most concerned that funding should be reinstated. "Whilst we appreciate the obviously urgent need for funding to help repair the High Country, the 90percent cut to the park's operations budget cannot continue," FOWSP's Joan McMahon said.

"These cuts are having an impact. Lack of weed control during the cur-

rent season means that much work done over the past decade, by Parks staff and Friends, will be wasted.

"We are also concerned that maintenance staff numbers have been reduced significantly. The rangers are forced to do routine maintenance work. Who is doing the work for which they are uniquely qualified? So where does this leave our flora and fauna," Ms McMahon said.

"We need an ironclad promise that there will be no further cuts to the State Park's operating budget," Phil Honeywood said, "and that the outrageous 90percent cut will not continue into the future. The fight to save our depot will be useless if there are insufficient rangers to man it."

Danielle Green said she was "looking forward to continuing to work with the local community to ensure that Warrandyte State Park and its facilities get their fair share".

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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# Leg of pork still raw. Leg of ham considerably overdunn

It's fair to assume that when Coral Dunn, of Fossickers Way, goes to church next Christmas Day she'll be insisting that hubby Brian accompany her. For while the inside of a church might be unexplored territory for Brian, he certainly can't be entrusted with management of Christmas dinner. Coral left him with strict instructions on December 25: the leg of pork was to go into the oven at 11 sharp. Simple enough, you'd reckon — but Coral came home to find the leg of ham done to a quite unnecessary turn and the leg of pork still in the fridge.

The local identity who was holidaying at Ocean Grove is a very serious, competitive sportsman who has been known around this town to tender excuses other than sheer personal ability (or lack of it) for a poor round of golf. This time it was the flies. Forgotten the Aerogard, hadn't he. And the pesky, sticky little varmint drove him mad, didn't they. No way, though, was he going to let them ruin his round next day, so he stopped at a supermarket on his way to the course, found the insect repellent shelf, doused himself thoroughly in Aerogard, put the can back on the shelf... and walked out. The flies didn't bother him at all that day and neither, it seems, did his conscience.

We have wittingly allowed the perpetrator of the Aerogard outrage to go nameless here because it is long-standing Smokey Joe policy to protect his mates. And TV Tommy just happens to be a mate of ours. Or was.

While maintaining our stance that hi-tech is an instrument of Satan, we grudgingly admit that it has its moments, like the e-mail that has come our way from Kim Dong-Seok, a 17-year-old high school student from Daejeon City in Korea. "Dear Sir, how do you do?" asks Kim. "I saw your e-mail address on the Internet and I am happy to write to you now. I like to draw something. Especially I am interested in a design (commercial or graphic design). So I want to be a famous commercial designer of the future." (Already we suspect that Kim is going to put the bite on us for something, but we like his style.) "Anyway," says our new-found Ko-

## IN RED & WHITE



Brian Dunn ... Jamie Oliver he ain't.

rean friend, "I want to ask if you can send me something which symbolize your newspaper company. Though I know that asking is somewhat rude, I would like to have some badges, stickers, labels with a logo of your company on them. If possible, please send any of them to me. Anything will do. I have been collecting those of other company all over the world for years. It helps me a lot to study a design. I think it might be difficult for you to send me them since you are very busy, but I would be awfully grateful if you could. I am very sorry to trouble you, but please do me a favor. If you would assist me in this matter, I would be very grateful to you for your kindness. They'll be very beneficial to me. I'll be waiting with great anticipation for your reply. Wishing you happiness and great success in every endeavor, I remain. Thank you, sincerely yours, Mr Kim Dong-Seok."

Unfortunately, the *Diary's* not big on badges, stickers and labels bearing our logo, but we'll be sending Kim whatever we can rustle up, along with our very best wishes. And even if he doesn't get to be a "famous designer in the future", we reckon he's already among the most polite.

A new and intoxicatingly-different feature of next month's Warrandyte Festival will be a home brewing competition, whose categories will include stout, lager, bitter, ale, pilsner and draught. We assume



the judging, over a couple of hours on Saturday, March 20, will be one of those sample-swill-and-spit affairs, so we won't be clamouring for a seat on the panel. But without pre-empting anything at all, we suggest that Bob Cox, of Brackenbury Street, might be a front-runner for a major prize should he choose to enter his wares. Coxie has been making his own since the gentle and fine art of home brewing was known quite vulgarly as bootlegging and Smokey has marked his products 11 out of 10 at each of many tastings and beyond over the years. There are more festival previews on Page 9.

Height (he nudges seven feet in the old altitude terms) rather than speed has always been Andrew Hovey's outstanding attribute on the basketball court — a fact of which his former NBL coaches were fond of reminding him. How ironical, then, that the engraver should unthinkingly turn "Greyburn Cup" into "Greyhound Cup" when etching Andrew's name into the most valuable player trophy for the latest local senior men's sea-



Andrew Hovey ... more than just tall after all.

son. Andrew's team Ballistyx were beaten in the final, but the big fellow swears he'll be taking his MVP award back to those old elite-level coaches to show them just how misguided they were. A seven-foot basketballer who can run like a skinny dog — what could be better?

It might well have been mistaken for a scheduled meeting of *Diary* staff. It was, in fact, a chance encounter at IGA. Advertising/accounts manager Rae Danks, chief-of-staff/photographer Jan Tindale, nature writer Pat Coupar and husband Mike, resident poet Karen Throssell and former editor Bob Millington. Fancy them all just bumping into each other in the liquor department! Notably absent were co-editors Cliff Green and Lee Tindale, who really do try to set a temperate example.

The timetable box on the bus stop opposite the community centre had managed to slide down its pole to the ground and Rae Danks watched from the *Diary* office across the street, spellbound by the absence of commuter ingenuity. Several intending passengers arrived, stood back, scratched their heads and eventually got eyes down to ground level, some bending from the waist, others opting for the hands-and-knees attack. The sole commonsense approach came from a more senior citizen who stooped, slid the timetable back up the pole to eye level, read it quite comfortably and allowed it to slide gently back to earth, where it still lay when this edition went to press several days later and where it will presumably lie until somebody has the nous to report it to the bus company.

Have you noticed what a swell show the sweet bursaria has been putting on around town lately? *Bursaria spinosa* to the informed, its creamy-white blossoms have been busting out all over (as they used to sing) and native flora guru Joan MacMahon highly recommends it for a spot in your garden. It's available from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend (Melways reference 27 C 10) from 10 to noon on Thursdays, but be quick because supplies are limited.

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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 4000 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.

## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH





You're on copper's candid camera: Sgt Keith Walker stands ready to police Warrandyte's new speed limit. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

## At last: village traffic slowdown

By CLIFF GREEN

With 50km/h speed limit signs being erected along Yarra Street, local police have indicated they will be enforcing the new limit.

"Local police will be rigorously enforcing the 50km/h speed limit," Sergeant Keith Walker told the *Diary*. "We will be assisted by the Manningham Traffic Management Unit based at Doncaster.

"Police motorcycles, unmarked cars and the Manningham SAFEST car will also be policing the area. Radar guns will be used by all these units," Sgt Walker said.

The new speed limit will apply along Yarra Street, from 70metres west of Whipstick Gully, to 250metres east of the bridge.

The Warrandyte community has been campaigning for lower speed limits through the village for many years.

The issue was most recently taken up by the Police and Community Consultative Committee, who were told last July that

VicRoads was "investigating the viability of using the variable speed system on this road".

The Warrandyte Community Association and Mr Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte, also became involved and in August, Manningham council resolved to request VicRoads establish a 40km/h limit through the area on a trial basis.

However, late last year the *Diary* was informed that Vicroads had approved Manningham council's request "to lower the speed limit on Yarra Street Warrandyte from 60km/h to 50km/h," advising that the new signs will be "installed by early next year".

Sgt Keith Walker believes most locals will observe the limit, and Yarra Street will be a safer place for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. "The Warrandyte community, the Police and Community Consultative Committee, Phil Honeywood and Manningham council have all worked together to achieve this great result," Sgt Walker said.

# Concern at subdivision

By DAVID WYMAN

Warrandyte Community Association and nearby residents are concerned that a local developer may build three large houses on small blocks on the northern ridge-line of the Warrandyte gorge overlooking the Yarra River in the Bakery area.

The association and residents' concerns are mainly centred on the possible visual intrusion of the buildings into the natural river environment. There are also concerns about vehicle access to and from the narrow downhill stretch of Research-Warrandyte Road, and excessive destruction of bushland and wildlife habitat.

The developer, D.J. Ashton Pty Ltd, of Park Orchards, purchased the property last year and it comprises three lots, each of about one-third of an acre at 246, 248 and 250 Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte.

D.J. Ashton's initial plan was to build three-storey houses on the lots, including the extension of an existing small house at number 248. Don Ashton told the *Diary* that plans for this house were being modified to "eliminate the attics in the roof". Mr Ashton said he had listened to the concerns and viewpoints of residents, and was always prepared to build houses sensibly, considering environmental concerns and the planning guidelines of Nillumbik council.

Nillumbik councillor, Bob Stubbings, said discussions between council planning officers and Don Ashton had taken place on site and the developer "seems happy to accept the council staff view that the houses be single storey".

"I believe there have been some legitimate concerns about the development but also some over-reaction in the community. My main concern is to make sure the visual amenity from the

## Residents worry about intrusion on Yarra ridgeline

riverbank is not diminished," Cr Stubbings said.

Pamela Hipwell, whose property abuts the development, has objected to the proposed extension of the house at 248 Research-Warrandyte Road and said in a submission to Nillumbik council that "this beautiful river bushland needs to be carefully protected by the Low Density Residential Zone overlays under the planning scheme, especially environmental significance overlays and significant landscape overlays".

Ms Hipwell said the house at number 248 was subject to an old subdivision which had left the three blocks with problems with titles, easements and access from Research Road.

She added that high rise developments would affect her residential amenity in skyline, views and sunlight.

Nillumbik council's planning scheme contains provisions for planning policies for the Low Density Residential Zone in North Warrandyte. Council's policy is that "buildings on hilltop ridge-lines should only be considered when it can be demonstrated that the building will be sited and designed so that it will be adequately screened from other properties and roads so not to be prominent in the landscape".

Warrandyte Community Association's objections to the extensions to the house at 248 Research Road were

prepared by vice-president Jonathan Upson. He said:

"On behalf of our 250 members, the Warrandyte Community Association strenuously objects to the building extension application on several grounds. On a general note, the riverbank along the Yarra is the focal point and 'heart' of the village.

"While a few houses can be seen on walks along the Yarra River path, most of the houses are sensitively located amongst the trees and not highly visible.

"Approving a large extension to this house will result in this partially hidden house becoming a dominant feature of the view across the river, and is therefore inappropriate with respect to the character of Warrandyte and the planning schemes in place to protect the community's visual amenity.

"We have a number of other concerns with regard to this proposal, (including) its effect on native flora, fauna and habitat.

"During the construction phase there is significant potential for damage, including run-off into the Yarra River or the nearby creek. The area could well be a significant fauna habitat link as wallabies, wombats and other native animals have been seen in the area—presumably moving to and from the creek and river."



Webb Street residents and Vox Bandicoot members unveil a Sustainability Street sign at the Yarra Street corner.

## Sustained effort

Webb Street in Warrandyte became a "Sustainability Street" late last year. In a project organised by Vox Bandicoot, locals gathered at Alan Noy's house and nursery at the corner of Tunnel Street, where Alan demonstrated his "grey water" system, filtering waste water through reed ponds.

They then walked downhill as Alan identified a number of weed infestations and also pointed out how, in many places along the street, indigenous plants are thriving.

Reaching the Community Centre, the group enjoyed a barbecue and a

few drinks and discussed future plans for their group.

"These plans could include seminars, run by people from our street, Vox Bandicoot and Manningham council," a group organiser told the *Diary*. "These could focus on ways to help everybody live more sustainably, with a focus on water, waste and energy."

Later, a special Sustainability Sign was unveiled on the Yarra Street corner.

• Anyone interested in the project can ring Janet on 9844 1592.

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Yarra at Warrandyte: our beautiful river can be treacherous. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

# River danger

It is high time that the dangers as well as the delights of Warrandyte's little stretch of the Yarra were more fully known. We are very proud of its quiet cooling charm, especially in summer when many seek its peaceful banks and shallows to enjoy family gatherings. But the river is not all that its gentle appearance suggests.

We have already lost one of our own this summer. That is one death too many. Frighteningly soon after, on Friday January 2, a further potential tragedy was narrowly averted. A man was wading with his small daughter by the bank just metres away from the Warrandyte Diary office. His school-age son was just a few feet away near the rocks.

Taking up his toddler, the father and two children were playing together when suddenly they found themselves in a deep water-hole beyond the father's depth. He struggled to hold his two children above water but all three were submerged several times. It happened so quickly it was hard to believe what was happening in front of us.

Were it not for the very quick thinking and rapid action of another family nearby, thankfully all strong swimmers, the father and both children could have been lost. A young woman dived in fully clothed, swam to the spot, took the younger child from the struggling father's grasp and swam back with her to safety.

It was a huge relief to see the toddler returned to her distressed mother's arms. The man and his older child were helped to regain their footing by the other equally valiant rescuers. The young family, those who went to their aid and those who witnessed this

potential disaster, were left shaken and dismayed.

We all now recognise what is not widely enough taken into account about our lovely river. It is full of hidden dangers. The rocks are smooth and slippery. The current is fast and unpredictable. Last year's culling of the willows has left a legacy of huge hidden snags below the water level. Added to that, the December storms would have carved out a totally new shape to the riverbed, creating holes where formerly it was shallow. These new unknown factors make the river an even greater danger for swimmers than it has always been.

At the very least, Manningham council should see to the erection of warning signs along the river, so that visitors and locals are made more aware of the dangers before entering the water. We all need to be more conscious that our beautiful stretch of the Yarra is not as tranquil as it so often seems.

Jan O'Neill  
by email

## Path credit due Roundabout

Those attending the opening of the new community path on Friday, December 5 would have come away with the impression that the whole thing had been planned and built by the councillors—with some help from local schoolchildren. But credit really should be given where it is due.

Jeannette Jennings did all the planning, organising, lobbying, persuading etc, as well as coming up with the idea. The historical society did research and provided the pictures for the history panels. WAA (pottery) made the history panels. (I do

not know who made all the tiles or who did the finishing and sealing, but I'm sure the *Diary* does or can find out.)

Many local people decorated individual tiles, mostly the local primary schoolchildren. The path was laid by council workmen, and finally the council approved the grant, for which we all thank them.

C. Masiulanis  
Naughton Avenue

P.S. The two children who spoke at the opening did so very well—congratulations.

I was astonished this week to find that the proposed roundabout on Jumping Creek/Warrandyte-Ringwood Road is going to take over \$800,000 of ratepayers' money, plus six months to complete.

This is no doubt a massive undertaking.

In the UK, faced with limited space for large road junctions in some towns, the road authorities adopt the practice of just painting a large white circle on the road intersection (with appropriate road signs) which drivers must then treat as a roundabout—that is, all

### DEAR DIARY



cars must give way to traffic from the right.

This seems to overcome the necessity for large roadworks, and still achieves the same end at much lower cost and time. I wonder if the surrounding residents and the council have thought about it in this fashion?

Richar Barre  
by email

## Rescued!

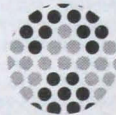
We would like to thank Rosemary and her family who came to the rescue of my husband and two children when they got into difficulty while swimming in the river on the evening of January 2.

We don't know who they are, but we do know that Rosemary's parents are local to the area. So if you happen to read this, thank you so much for your quick and calm response.

Schuyler Family  
North Warrandyte

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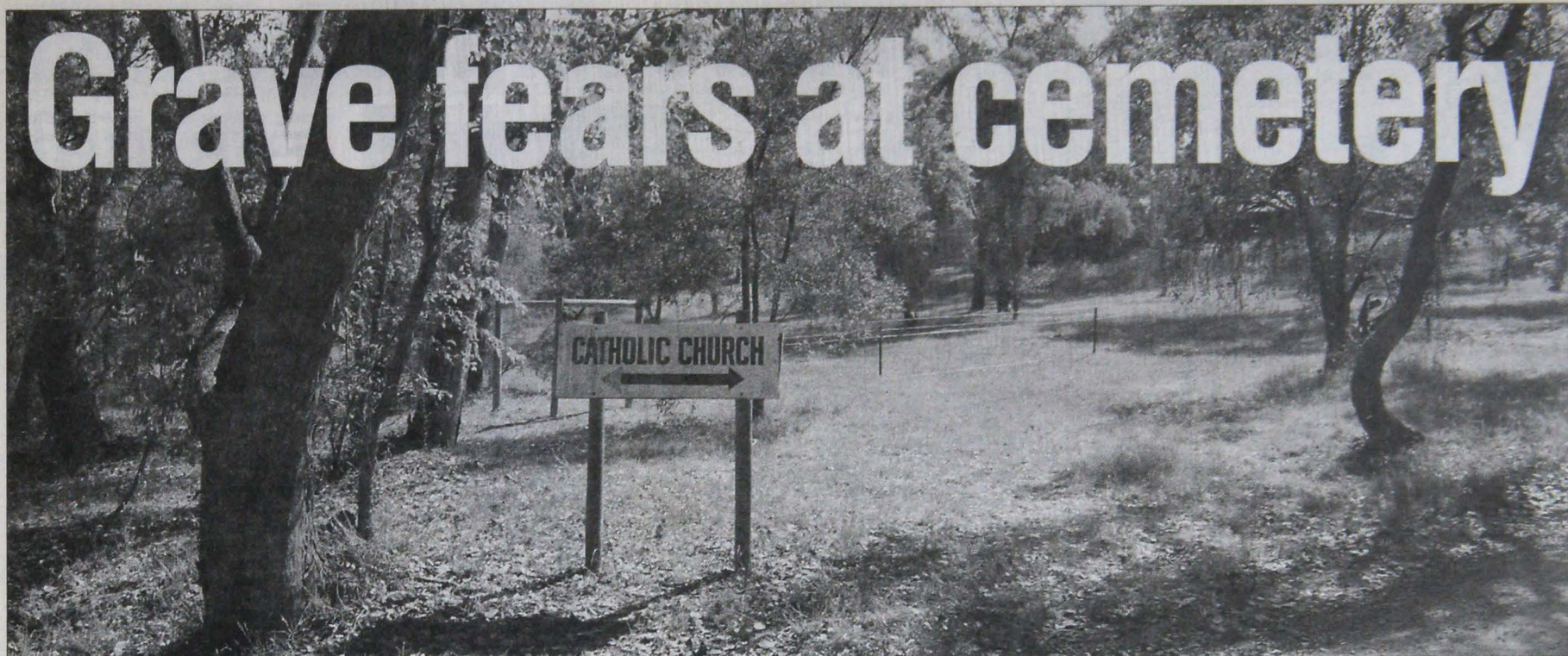
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# Grave fears at cemetery



Cemetery extension is planned for this land.

## Local neighbours are concerned about planned extension

Words and pictures by SANDY BURGOYNE

THE trustees of Andersons Creek Cemetery have made a decisive move in their quest for more land. Late last year the cemetery trust agreed to buy a piece of land from the nearby Catholic Church.

"There's been a contract between the church and us and it's been signed. We've paid a deposit and purchase is subject to the land being rezoned by

the council and a planning permit being issued to use it for cemetery purposes," John Chapman, the trust's chairman, told the *Diary*.

The parcel of land is below St Gerard's church and is bounded by McCulloch and Brackenbury Streets. The fourth boundary is shared with established properties. On the northern edge of the church land is an old, dilapidated house, which will be demolished as part of the proposed development.

"In November (last year) our consultant made the application and that is currently with the council's town planning and they'll go through their processes," Mr Chapman said. A plan of the proposed cemetery extension is on display in the office of Andersons Creek cemetery.

The cemetery trustees held a meeting in December last year for the local residents. "We invited all the neighbours around and gave them all the information we could about the pro-

posal," trustee John Chapman told the *Diary*. More than 20 residents attended.

"A few of them said that they weren't happy with the proposal. It was a reasonably amicable meeting," Mr Chapman said. "We'll be notifying them of whatever eventuates. We told them that we'd made the application to the council and we showed them the plan and all the information that accompanied that application to the council. And we'll keep them informed of what's happening," he said.

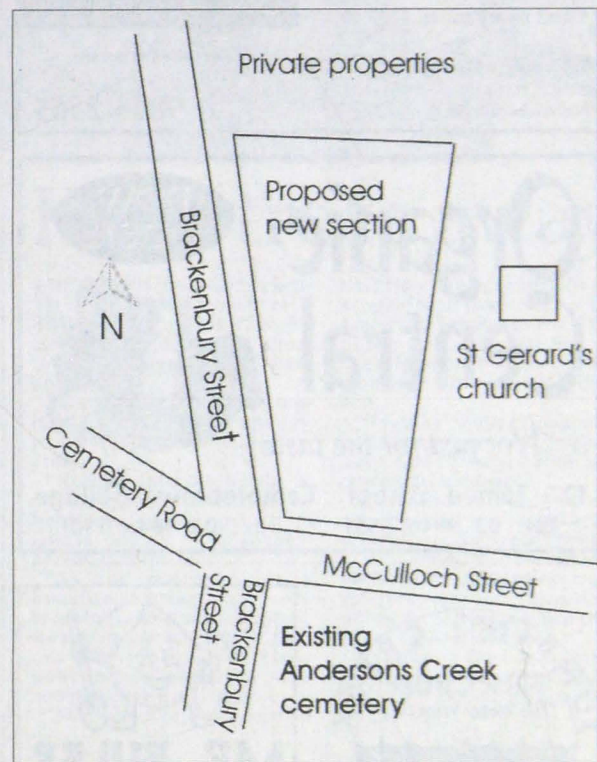
Following a letter to the editor (Cemetery land bid angers locals) in our December 2003 issue, the *Diary* has found resistance among residents in that locality.

"Everybody's totally opposed to the idea," Judy Cook, a spokesperson for the residents' group told the *Diary*. "There are some strategic issues—parking being one of the main ones and that's obvious. A lot of the residents have complained that there's been traffic even parked in their own driveway."

"It's the funerals that cause the congestion. It's enormous," David George, co-spokesperson for the residents' group said.

The residents believe that the operation of machinery in the proposed cemetery extension would cause unacceptable noise and that they would have to put up with dust during the summer.

The residents' group is also concerned about emotional issues. "This grief aspect, I find it quite stressful to be confronted



### Cemetery seeking space

By DAVID WYMAN

Anderson Creek Cemetery Trust's quest for more land for burials continues, remaining focused on property owned by the nearby Catholic Church and privately owned sites on the eastern side of Tindals Road.

The issue became public in December last year, when residents in Tindals Road grew alarmed when they discovered that the trust was "looking at" broadacre sites in their area.

Chairman of the cemetery trust, John Chapman, told the *Diary* the present cemetery would run out of space in two or three years.

"We were approached about four years ago by the property division of the Catholic Church to see if we were interested in any of the land," Mr Chapman

said.

"We said we were, but they didn't want to sell all the property, including the church building.

"Some time later they came back to us to see if we were interested in buying part of the church property—the land in front of the church in Brackenbury Street, about 5000 square metres. We made an offer which they rejected."

Meanwhile, despite resident protests, the trust is still talking to some landowners in Tindals Road, trying to buy eight hectares (20 acres) as a satellite extension to the cemetery.

"We made an offer for land there which was knocked back and we continue to have discussions with the owners to see what price they would

accept," John Chapman said. "Once we know that, we will give it consideration."

If a new suitable site is found, the trust must apply for council to rezone the site for cemetery use.

The parish priest of St Gerard's Church, Warrandyte, and St Anne's, Park Orchards, Father Dennis Andrew, said the cemetery trust "has always been interested in the land of the Warrandyte church".

"There's nothing concrete come out of talks with the trust but the discussions have become a bit more serious," he said. "We've said we are open to negotiation."

It is understood that some local residents are opposed to an extension of the cemetery into church land.

Warrandyte Diary August, 2002.

with that," Mr George said. He also pointed out that children who live in McCulloch Street would need to walk through a cemetery on their way to and from the school bus.

Ms Cook drew attention to the proximity of the neighbour's property on the northern boundary of the church's land. "From his kitchen, living and family room, he and his child will overlook from 4.8 metres a grave plot," she said.

If this development of a new cemetery section is successful it will provide burial space for about 10 years. This relatively short time span is because the majority of burials in our cemetery are not of Warrandyte people.

The Andersons Creek Cemetery Trust administers the site on behalf of the state department of health.

"We have to do things according to their rules. And one of their rules is that you must accept people (for burial) in the

cemetery no matter where they come from," cemetery trustee John Chapman said.

"Apparently there is absolutely nothing that the local people can do about that," Dick Davies of the Warrandyte Community Association said. "Phil Honeywood has raised it in parliament and that's a state thing. It's impossible at this stage to get an exemption for an individual cemetery," he said.

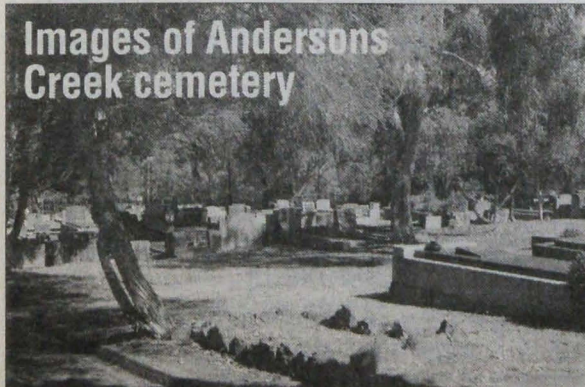
The WCA will follow this proposed extension to the cemetery with interest.

"We are prepared to provide a forum to hear both sides and allow people to have a civilised debate on it," Mr Davies said.


David Ellis is prepared to receive calls from the public on the association's behalf regarding this project, on 9844 2628.

The cemetery trust's application is now before Manningham council and doubtless it will be some months before this matter is resolved.

### Images of Andersons Creek cemetery



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# Honours for locals

Fifty-five people who have made outstanding contributions to the local community were honoured with Menzies Community Australia Day Awards late last month.

Kevin Andrews, federal MP, told the *Diary* that the purpose of the awards, which he inaugurated in 1995, is to recognise the valuable contributions of many people to their local communities.

Award recipients for 2004 have served the community in a variety of ways.

The following local residents were honoured in this year's awards:

### Dorothy Blackie

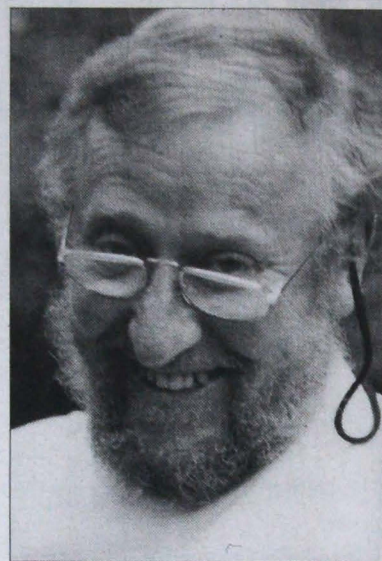
Nominated by the Templestowe auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital, Dorothy has been a loyal and hardworking auxiliary member for 62 years. Though hearing impaired, she is greatly admired for her "lip-reading" skills. Dorothy has been ably supported by her family, especially her late husband Don, who sadly passed away in 2003. She worked hard for fundraising efforts—cooking, transporting and selling raffle tickets. Funds raised in "Memory of Don" to purchase a TV/video were donated to the surgical ward. Dorothy can be counted on to continue her dedicated and generous work for "the kids" for as long as she is able.

### Pauline Cross

Nominated by the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association, Pauline has made a valuable contribution to community arts over the past 20 years. Apart from being an accomplished oil painter, she has given freely of her time, leading the weekly painting group. She has trained many younger painters. In addition, Pauline has organised a number of community painting exhibitions. These have raised funds to support the historic Mechanics Institute Hall.

### Derek Fairley

Nominated by Koala Watch, Derek has been a veterinarian in Warrandyte for 26 years and has always given his time free of charge



*Derek Fairley: he cares for the animals.*

to help sick, injured or orphaned wildlife. He is often called upon to assist with larger animals injured by motor vehicles. He was recently called out at 2am one Sunday, and spent two hours trying to save an injured wombat. Derek is always willing to put in extra time to assist injured animals, however, much of his valued work, while no doubt appreciated by the local wildlife, goes unnoticed.

### John Kelly

Nominated by the Rotary Club of Warrandyte, John was a charter member of the Rotary Club and was club president in 1994. He has worked tirelessly for most Rotary causes, including art show, community, inter-nation and fund raising committees. In addition, John has been a very active member of the Templestowe RSL, be-

coming vice-president in 1993 and has served as the club's president for the past five years.

### Ivan Peter-Budge

Nominated by Warrandyte Housing and Support Services, Ivan has made a long-time contribution as secretary to the Eastern Metropolitan Fruit Growers Association. He served as ward councillor on Doncaster and Templestowe council for five years, was vice-president of Doncaster and Templestowe Historical Society for many years, playing a significant role in the relocation of Schramms Cottage and St Phillips Anglican Church to sites in Doncaster. He was a committee member of the East Doncaster Hall committee. Ivan was an active member and was MC at many dances of the Young Peoples Club during the period from 1945 to 1960.

### John Provan

Nominated by the Rotary Club of Warrandyte, John Provan became a Rotarian in 1991 and club president in 1997. He has been a very active member of the club, serving on the art show, fellowship, community, fund-raising and many other committees. John has worked diligently for Rotary values. During the past two years he has made a tireless contribution within the community to form the Community Bendigo Bank in Warrandyte and is currently president of both the bank board and the Warrandyte Business Association.

### Geoffrey Taylor

Nominated by Warranwood Primary School, Geoffrey has, over the past 13 years, successfully applied for additional resources, which have enabled children with disabilities and impairments to be included in mainstream schooling. He has employed teachers and teacher aides to achieve meaningful integration so that disabilities do not become handicaps. Equality of access to the social and educational life of the school has been achieved for these children.

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The state government is to spend \$359,000 to improve motorcycling safety on Kangaroo Ground Road.

Over the past five years five motorcycle casualty crashes occurred on KG Road, most of them along a 1.1 kilometre stretch near Yeomans Road. The major cause of injury in these incidents was from riders colliding with roadside hazards.

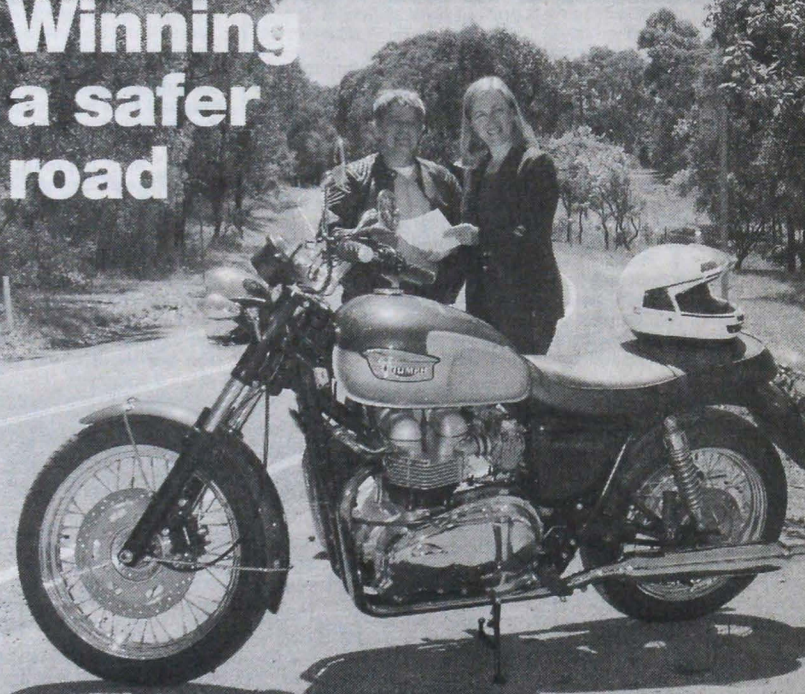

The announced funding will be used to make culvert end walls less obtrusive, improve the road surface's skid resistance and install speed advisory signs. Curve alignment markings will also be installed and the shoulders on both sides of the road near Yeomans Road will be sealed.

This project was announced by Danielle Green, MP for Yan Yean, last month. "Motorcyclists are over-represented in road fatalities, accounting for 11 percent of the annual road toll, yet comprising fewer than three percent of all vehicles registered, Ms Green told the *Diary*."

This extra funding for Kangaroo Ground Road comes from the government's Victorian motorcycle road safety strategy 2002-2007.

*Damien Codognotto OAM, of the Motorcycle Riders' Association, accepts safety reassurances from Danielle Green MP.*

## Winning a safer road

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# Funds for female firefighters

Words and picture by  
**SANDY BURGOYNE**

North Warrandyte firefighters work hard to fund their brigade, so they were delighted last month to receive a \$5500 grant from the state government.

This money, from the women's community leadership grants program, is not for purchasing trucks, hoses or pumps, but is an investment in the future of women firefighters.

"What we are aiming to do is run a course for the 12 or so active women in the brigade to do confidence courses and leadership training," brigade secretary Sandy Quick told the *Diary*. "We want someone like Christine Nixon to come in and talk to us about leadership in the emergency services."

The North Warrandyte CFA has a proud history in en-

couraging women to serve as active firefighters. In November 1979 the *Diary* reported "Brigade forms women's unit".

"Our brigade was actually the first in Victoria to have operational female members. So we have got a good history of encouraging women in service. Probably about a third to a half our active operational members are female," Sandy Quick said.

Danielle Green, MP for Yan Yean, presented the cheque to the firefighters last month. Ms Green is herself a volunteer with the Diamond Creek brigade.

*Fireflies all: Danielle Green, MP for Yan Yean, with North Warrandyte CFA members (from left) Deb Wadsworth, Anne Stubbings, Sandi Quick and Sasha Reid.*



## Prevention is best protection

The Warrandyte CFA brigades are urging residents to check their annual bushfire season preparations (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 firefighting 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

## CLYDE & OCKER



"I'm all for female firefighters, Ock. So long as they keep up the tea and biscuits!"

## Keep trees away

With the 2004 fire season reaching its peak this month, residents are being asked to be aware of any dangerous situations with overhead powerlines.

Energy company TXU is urging the Warrandyte community to act now and reduce fire hazards.

"Heading into the height of summer the prevention of bushfires is our priority," Louisa Graham, TXU spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"As the potential for a bushfire starting from trees touching powerlines is serious, we are urging residents to 'step out and look up' at their powerlines to assess any risks and minimise fire danger.

"Many people don't realise

that they are responsible for keeping their trees clear of the powerlines that run from the power poles to their homes, even in suburban areas. But minimising the risk isn't difficult.

"Regular inspections and pruning when necessary will reduce the threat of tree and powerline incidents."

In urban areas, local councils are generally responsible for maintaining the trees growing in your street. TXU is responsible for maintaining trees on private property and on road reserves in rural areas where they affect TXU's powerlines.

To report a fire hazard relating to powerlines call TXU's faults and emergencies hotline on 131 799.

## Safe sports clubs

Local sporting clubs are reminded that state government grants are available to assist with the purchase of safety equipment.

MP Carolyn Hirsh, MP for Silvan Province, is encouraging clubs to consider applying for a sports injury prevention grant in the forthcoming round of funding.

Guidelines and application forms are now available for grants of up to \$2000 to fund injury prevention equipment.

Ms Hirsh said sports injury prevention grants aim to encourage increased participation in physical activity by assisting clubs to provide safe sporting environments. This

funding round will focus on Australian Rules football, baseball, basketball, cricket, hockey, netball, rugby, soccer, softball and tennis.

Approximately 30 to 50 percent of all sporting injuries are preventable, Ms Hirsh said.

"The risk of injury can interfere with the enjoyment of sport and recreation but the good news is there are many ways to reduce risk."

The funding round is now open and the closing date is Friday, March 5.

Guidelines and application forms are available from the office of Carolyn Hirsh MP, 13a Civic Mall, Ringwood, 9870 8284.

## Top senior folk

Nomination for Victorian Senior of the Year close soon, and Carolyn Hirsh, MP for Silvan Province, is urging locals to consider making nominations.

"These awards give people an opportunity to highlight an older person who is making a difference in his or her local community and who deserve statewide recognition," Ms Hirsh said.

Nominees could have excelled in any field of endeavour from volunteer work to sporting pursuits.

"Previous award winners have ranged from a power-lifter to a recovered burns victim, and all winners have shared a single-minded commitment to helping others," Ms Hirsh said.

"These people have a strong

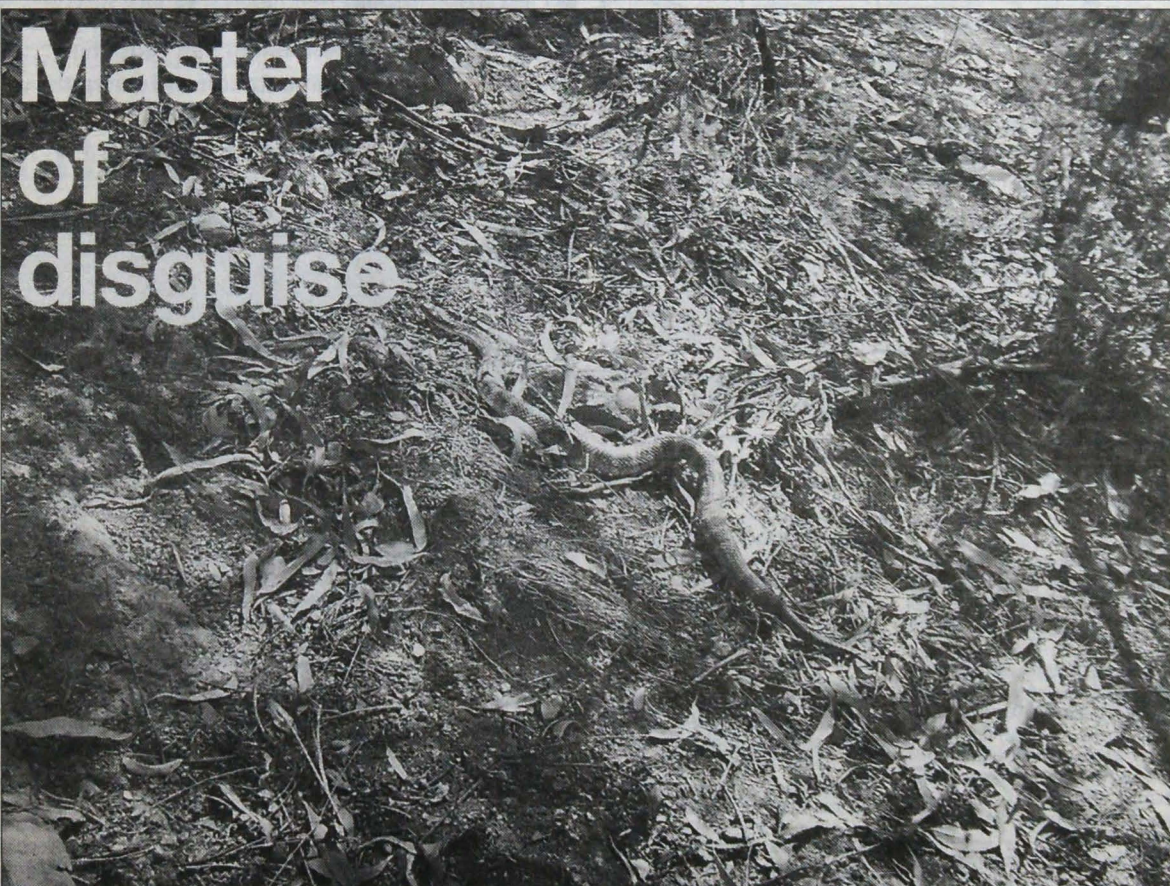
sense of community and are dedicated to reaching out to people in need to make their lives better."

Award nominees will also be considered for a Council of the Ageing "Senior Achiever" award and will receive a certificate of recognition and appreciation from the state government.

The awards are part of the 2004 Victorian Seniors Festival, which runs from March 14 to March 21.

Nomination forms for the awards are available from Carolyn Hirsh's office, phone: 9870 8284. Nominees must be aged 60 and over and the closing date for nominations is Friday, February 13. For further information contact Carolyn Hirsh, 9870 8284, 0417107485.

## Master of disguise



Senior Constable Noel Wilson of Warrandyte police photographed this tiger snake, minding its own business behind the Club Store, to demonstrate how well these creatures blend in with the natural environment. "It was about a metre long and it slithered off happily as I did not antagonise it or get any closer than about a metre," S/C Wilson told the *Diary*. "It may be a timely warning for people to remember to treat such creatures with the respect they deserve as they go about eradicating vermin."

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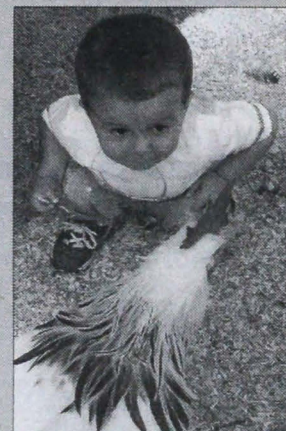
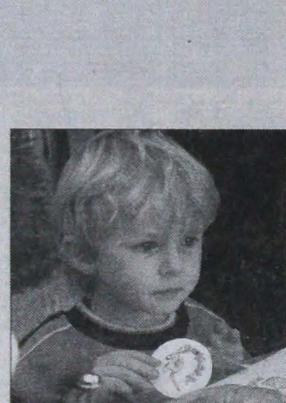
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# New festival events

## Idlers' talent quest tops the hit parade

A "Warrandyte Idle" talent quest, expanded events for young people, a home-brewing competition and the reopening of the Fourth Hill mine tunnel, are all billed as special events at the Warrandyte Village Festival, to be held across the weekend of March 20 and 21.

"There is so much idle talent simmering in the kitchens of Warrandyte that it promises to boil over at this year's festival," organiser Glen Jameson told the *Diary*.

"Warrandyte Idle is your chance to get your voice out of the kitchen and onto the Chariot of Destiny, better known as the Stiggants Main Stage."

Contestants will be supported by a full karaoke orchestra. There will be competitions for hopeful performers under 12, under 20 and an open section, competing for a "staggering array of glittering prizes".

"A tribute to past Australian vocal greats should encourage 'The Idlers' to sing their lungs out."

"Be bold, Idlers of Warrandyte," Glen Jameson said, "you have a date with destiny. Your chance of fame and fortune is at hand."

Would-be contestants should contact Glen on 9844 2395.

You might prefer to "just nervously turn up on the night".

Warrandyte Idle will take place on Saturday, March 20, between 8pm and 10.30pm on the Main Stage at Stiggants Reserve.

● Due to exceptional demand from hundreds of local teenagers, the youth events have been expanded this year to include a "Rock Stage Unplugged" event that will continue into the Saturday evening.

"The Rock Stage will kick off at 2pm, with local bands and performers at the Skate Park in Taroona Avenue," event organiser Rick Gordon told the *Diary*.

"Unlike previous years, when

it has finished at 5pm, the program will go right through until 11pm, with a variety of musical styles, from heavy metal through to rap, jazz and acoustic later in the evening."

Any young local musicians who are keen to perform should contact Rick Gordon, as soon as possible, on 9844 2242, after hours.

The YMCA Skate Comp is on Sunday, with the under 12s at 1pm, under 15s at 2pm and the open age group at 3pm.

"Entry is free," Rick Gordon said, "with great prizes being awarded by leading skate professionals, who will present the traditional heart-stopping demo at 4pm."

Security will be provided by local parents, a professional security company and police officers. The newly-declared alcohol-free status of the area will be stringently enforced throughout the weekend.

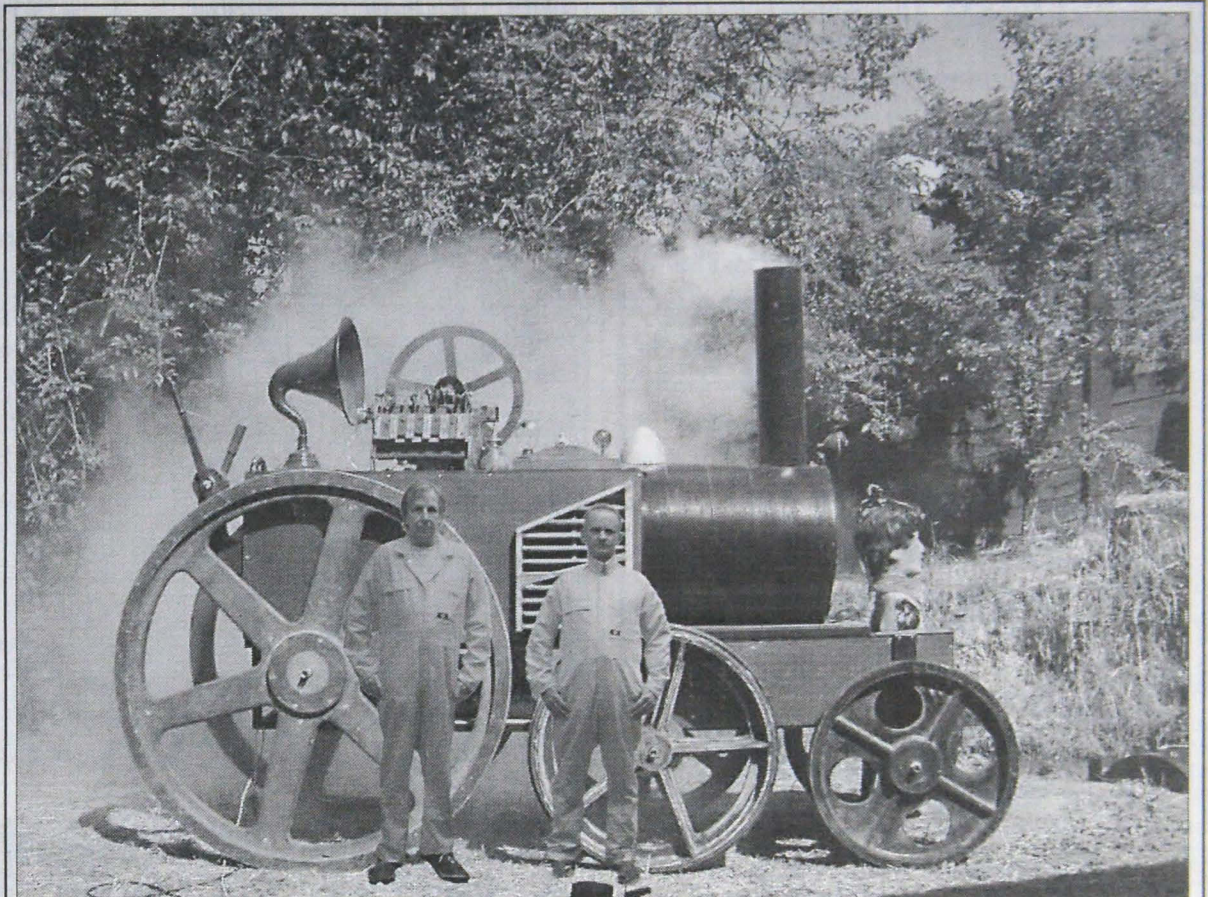
● Alcohol will definitely be part of the scene at the brand new All-Warrandyte Grudge Home Brewing Competition, to be held at the festival on Saturday, March 20, between 5pm and 7pm. Categories will include stout, lager, bitter, ale, pilsner and others singing syrups. Keen brewers should contact Kylie on 9844 0343 for more information.

● The recent decision by Parks Victoria to close several of the mine tunnels in the area has frustrated many locals and visitors. However some respite has been granted over the weekend, with the opening of the Fourth Hill mine on Sunday, March 21.

Well-known local John Hanson will lead the tour, commencing at 2pm, from his house at 104 Webb Street, Warrandyte.

"A ranger will accompany the hour-and-a-half walk and will provide helmets to be worn inside the mine," he said.

John can be phoned on 9844 3906.



Inventor-builders of the Warrandyte Flyer, Air Vice Marshal Hugh McSpedden (left) and Acting Rear Greaser Glen (Jammo) Jameson, stand foursquare and steady, awaiting orders to steam off to the 2004 Festival parade. We hope the committee places them between a couple of fire trucks.

## Hold your breath when this one passes!

The maiden flight of the Warrandyte Flyer, timed to coincide with the Warrandyte Festival, has been announced.

"This wonderful off-road, off-rail, off-planet, 7WD juggernaut of wood, cardboard and smoke, will grace Warran-

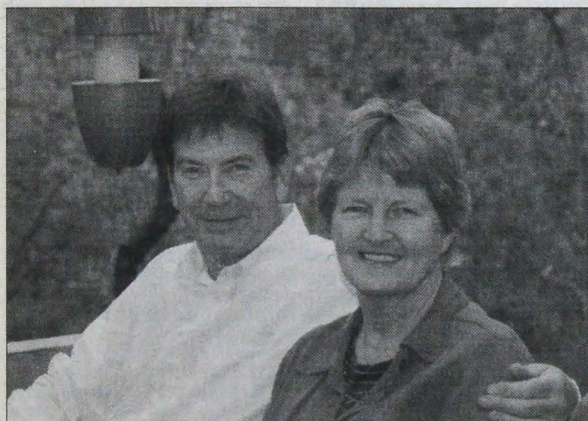
dyte with her presence and aerobatics at this year's parade," owner-inventor Hugh McSpedden of Everard Drive told the *Diary*.

"Much more than your average loco, 'Alice de Tank' is a marriage of convenience, low technology, a torsoless young

lady, a horseless carriage and some hard garbage rejects."

After a game of mix'n'match lasting some years, this "steam-powered cyborgonic levitating Gramophone" came into being in an otherwise unremarkable Warrandyte backyard recently.

## Their Majesties



Jock and Di Macneish (pictured above) will be this year's festival monarchs, but the festival committee's invitation was not expected. "It came as a surprise," Di told the *Diary*. "I think a shock is probably closer to it," Jock said.

"They want us to put on fancy clothes and ponce about and be a suitable monarch and monarchess," he added.

So the new royals are off to the regal outfitters. "Strange as it may seem I don't have any crowns or ermine robes. I looked extensively in the wardrobe, but all I could find were old shirts, which Di's been trying to give to the op shop for years," king-in-waiting Jock said.

The *Diary* asked the regal couple why they had been invited to be the festival king and queen. "I think anyone silly enough to be president of the Community Centre committee, a trustee of the *Diary*, a life member of the Arts Association and a committee person for the Youth Arts Awards and the Christie Lawrence/Luke Mayall Memorial fund has demonstrated the necessary social incompetence to be appointed festival monarch," Jock replied.

(Words and picture by Sandy Burgoyne)



## Rotary art show's 20th birthday

The Rotary Art Show at the Warrandyte Festival is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

Beginning in the Mechanics Institute Hall in 1984, then moving to Warrandyte Primary School, the show re-located to a big marquee on the riverbank behind the Community Church at the suggestion of John Boyle, president of the festival committee.

"Entries for the show will be received from local, Victorian and interstate artists," show organiser Richard Forde told the *Diary*.

"In addition, there will be a number of entries from Warrandyte High School students. A special prize will be presented to the winner of the

best-judged student painting as a youth encouragement award."

The annual show, run by the Rotary Club of Warrandyte, has raised more than \$120,000.

"The art show is our major money-raising event for the year," Peter McDonald, Warrandyte Rotary president, said. "It provides us with funds to contribute to worthwhile local projects."

Opening night of the show is a champagne and chicken function on the Friday night, March 19. Invitations are open to the artists and to friends of Rotary. The show continues on Saturday, March 20 and Sunday, March 21.

Further information can be obtained from Richard Forde on 9876 1862.

## Kids' downhill racing thrills

The kids—and perhaps their mums and dads—will be racing once more at the Warrandyte Festival Billy Cart Derby.

This year's entrants stand to win some great prizes. The winner will take away a PlayStation 2, with trophies and prizes for second and third, best cart and best effort on the day.

Entrants are asked to register before the day and organiser Rob Cousins reminds potential racers of the rules:

● Billy carts must be home-made and have no devices to aid starting or propulsion;

● Fully protective clothing, including full-face masks and gloves, must be worn in order to compete;

● Entrants must be aged between 8 to 15 years.

Registration costs \$5 per entrant. Please contact Rob Cousins, on 9844 2328. Previous entrants will receive their registration forms in the post.



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Warrandyte Theatre Company presents their All-Star Festival Revue for 2004....

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A store no more: Kangaroo Ground's closed 'shopping centre'. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

# Farewell to a beloved facility

BY FIA CLENDINNEN

It's happening all over the world, from Paris to the Punjab, and I think the blame can be laid squarely at the feet of supermarkets. The general store, the local milk bar, the little shop on the corner: one by one they have closed down and vanished forever.

People with long memories, and there are still a few of us left hiding out in these hills, will remember that the well-known Warrandyte businesses Folk Art, Stonehouse and Scandles used to be the site of very different establishments; these were once places where locals went to buy newspapers, milk, bread, tins of this and that, and lollies, most importantly of all.

Now, sadly, this unstoppable phenomena has extended to Kangaroo Ground. The Kangaroo Ground General Store, which has been in operation for over a hundred years, has closed its doors. According to unconfirmed reports, the owner of the building will at some later stage reopen it as

an Italian-style delicatessen cum cafe.

Bob and Anne Moloney who held the lease at the Kangaroo Ground Store for the last 12 years, ran the business very much in the traditional style. In 1891 a local newspaper, the Evelyn Observer, described the original Kangaroo Ground Supply Store as "being able to procure anything and everything from a needle to an anchor at reasonable prices".

This was the exactly the kind of place that thrived under the Moloneys. They also sold anything and everything, including petrol, videos, and lunches for the primary school across the road. And, through a door at the side, they ran the post office, weighing parcels and counting out stamps.

Locals will miss the Moloneys. They will miss the cheerful bustling atmosphere they created in their store, they will miss the fact that dropping in there to pick up a carton of milk often meant bumping into a friend or a neighbour for a quick chat, and they will miss the countless

small favours the Moloneys performed for the community. But there were also practical considerations. People were worried that with the closure of the General Store their mail service would also disappear and they would have to drive to Research or Eltham to collect their letters.

This is where Ken King, a local vintner who grows grapes in the paddock across the road, saw some "synergy" and came up with a creative solution: he decided to take up the Australia Post licence.

From a commercial point of view he thought it made sense to combine his winery with a Post Office but he also understood how much the community needed the service to continue.

"My understanding was the landlord (of the General Store) was not interested in buying the Australia Post licence," Mr King told the *Diary*. "So I bought it, and I got a site specific amendment done to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme, so the post office can exist in my winery

building. So we now have a combined post office and winery facility. And I think that's a first, I don't think that's been done before."

Mr King planted his vineyard 18 years ago. His winery has been trading for around a year selling five kinds of wine at the cellar door: pinot noir, chardonnay, cabernet, riesling, and shiraz. His background is in computers and he has worked in the IT industry for over 30 years. But it's not hard to see where his true passion lies.

"You know, computers aren't very interesting," Mr King said. "There's no personality in computers. I hate them. I've always hated them. So I'm certainly wanting to scale up the wine business and scale down the computers."

Mr King also plans to open a coffee shop and wine tasting room on the same site in about a year which he hopes will become, along with the existing winery and post office, "a new meeting place for Kangaroo Ground".

# Rough ride at Wonga Park

A final plan detailing the Wonga Park BMX track dirt jumps revamp has been released for public viewing following extensive community consultation.

The plan was developed from an initial consultation phase and a site meeting in October 2003, and then circulated for comment.

Manningham council's park development planner, Joey Boothby told the *Diary* the final plan considers all comments made by participants in the consultation.

"The plan aims to make the BMX track safer and more user-friendly as well as providing a challenge and more variety for the users," Ms Boothby said.

"The plan responds to requests made by the community and meets council require-

ments in regards to risk management and environmental amenity," she said.

The plan proposes a general clean-up of the area, more planting and seats, shade, a rubbish bin, and will cater for riders of all abilities and ages.

Council's economic and environmental planning and city parks units were consulted to ensure the revamp meets strict environmental considerations including the protection of native vegetation and incorporation of new planting areas to improve aesthetics and provide shade and habitat.

It is proposed that the jumps be built by the users under the guidance of council staff and will include junior, intermediate and advanced level jumps. General main-

tenance will be the responsibility of the users, however, council will carry out checks to ensure the facility is maintained in accordance with the plan.

The jumps have also been designed to avoid conflict between other park users including walkers and the playground.

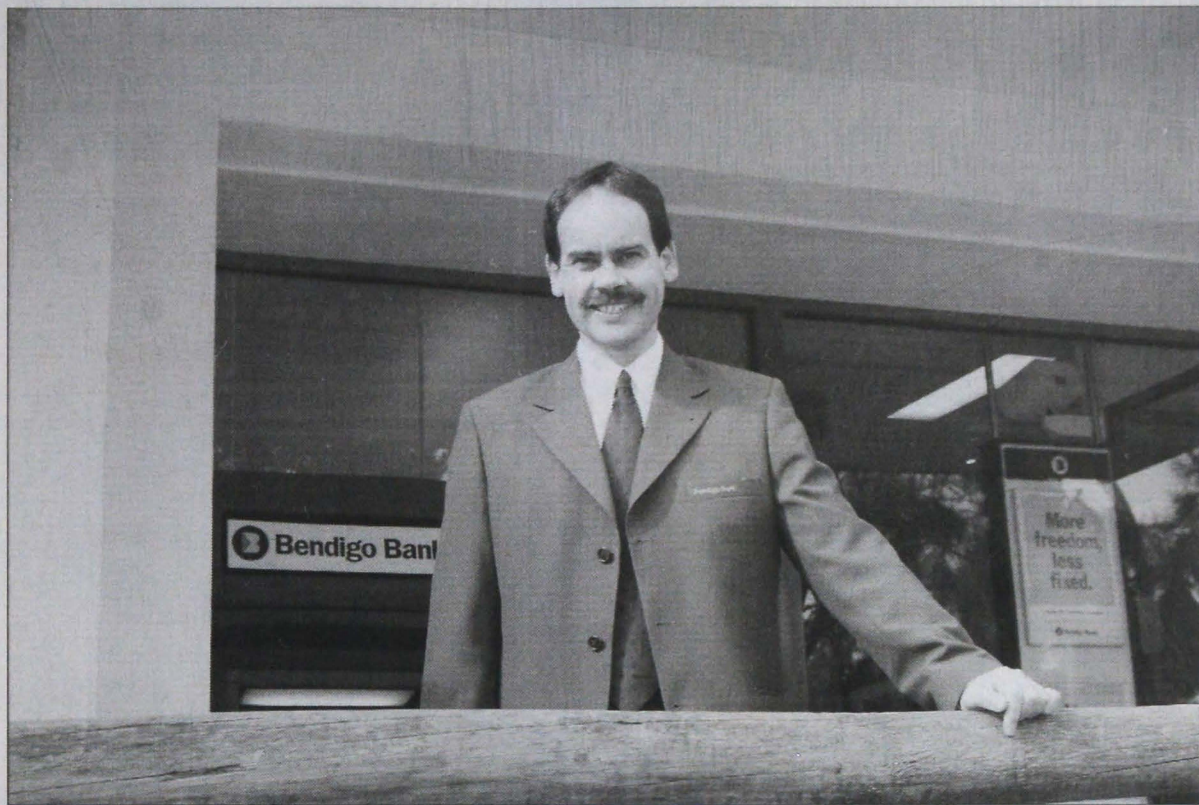
Construction of the track will commence with a "jump-building working bee" on Saturday, February 2, and those who have already expressed interest will be notified.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting project, or have any further comments, please contact Ms Joey Boothby on 9840 9303.

The Wonga Park BMX track dirt jumps revamp plan is available from council offices at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

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# Community bank passes \$20million



Raking in the money: Warrandyte Community Bank's manager Mark Challen. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

Outstanding support from the community for the new Warrandyte Community Bank branch has seen deposits and lending reaching a further milestone of \$20million.

This result was achieved within the first six months of operation.

"The board is very happy with this new achievement and thanks the community wholeheartedly for its strong support over the first few months of the bank's operation," chairman John Provan told the *Diary*. "Reaching these important milestones is an indication of the support the bank is receiving."

"However it is pleasing that reaching \$20million is only one of a number of good news stories recently associated with the bank."

The board was very pleased to learn that the branch was ranked third of all the metropolitan community banks in a table released by Bendigo Bank listing total growth over the past six months.

"The board is delighted with this result," Mr Provan said. "We hope that with further strong backing from the com-

munity we can reach the number one position in the future. The directors and bank staff will be working hard to achieve this goal."

John Provan was recently awarded a Menzies community Australia Day award in recognition of his time and efforts to establish a community bank in Warrandyte.

"I am delighted to receive this award on behalf of a dedicated team of people," Mr Provan said.

"But the true reward has been the successful start of community banking in Warrandyte and the strong support the community has shown."

"The Warrandyte community now has access to local banking and with ongoing support will retain a percentage of their banking funds within the community in the future."

"Residents can visit the branch at any time to have a chat to staff or discuss their banking needs," branch manager Mark Challen said.

"Our bank branch is open every day and Saturday mornings, and the ATM is also available at all hours to meet the banking needs of local people."



These Warrandyte scouts, Troy Donis, Ben Dennis, Matthew Versteegen and Tom Lavery attended a jamboree at Woodhouse, South Australia last month.



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The team at Victory Supa IGA Warrandyte would like to thank the Warrandyte community for its support of the IGA community chest programme. This has enabled \$4,000.00 to be donated to the Warrandyte, North Warrandyte and South Warrandyte CFA brigades.

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**Citizen of the Month**  
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*In recognition of her contributions to the Eastern Emergency Relief Network, Warrandyte Crisis Housing Support Services and wildlife care.*



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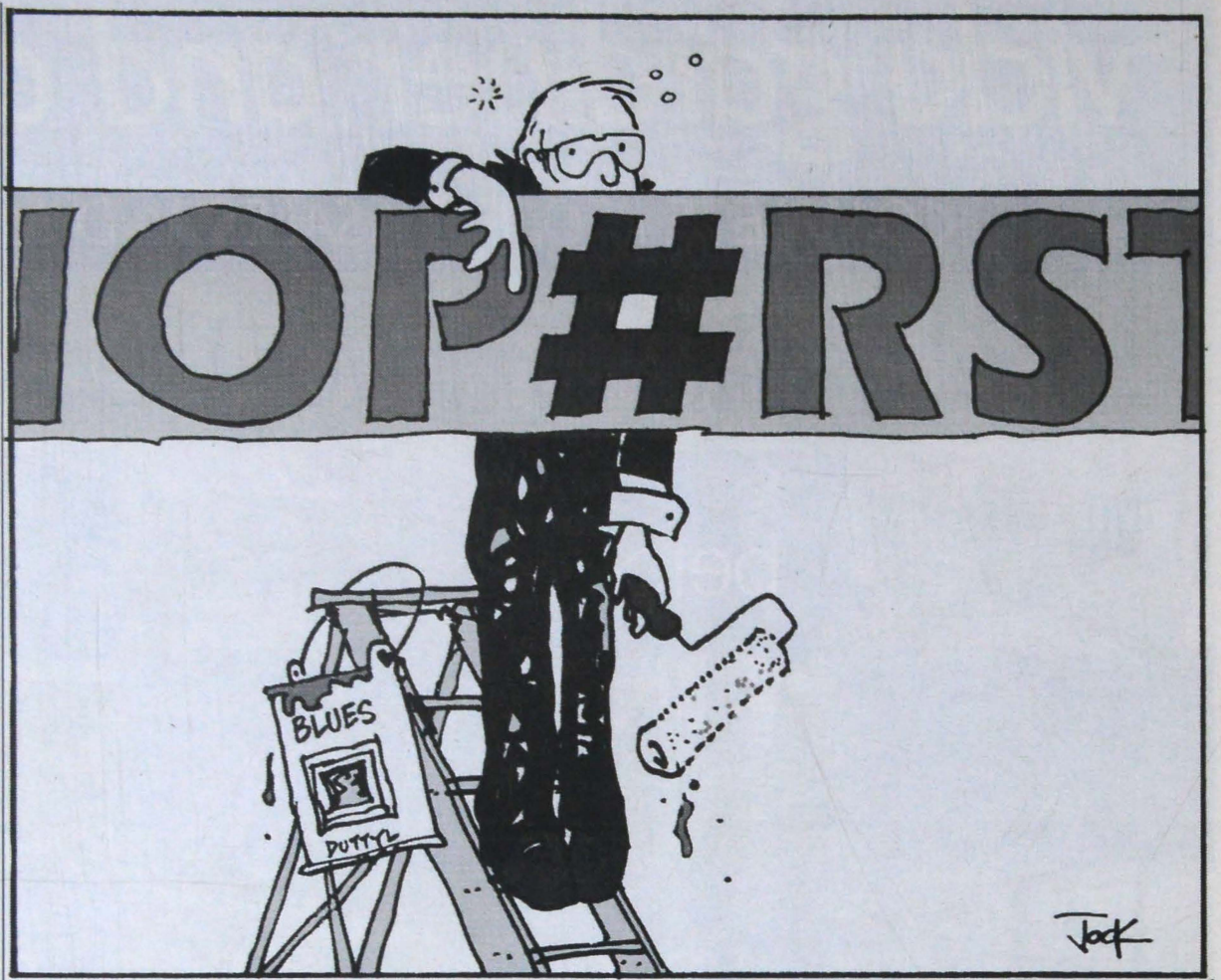
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# Holiday project: painting the floor of a superstore

**J**UST before we get going, I'd like to render an apology, in advance. In the course of this article, I will not be using the letter of the alphabet that begins the five-letter word for a female version of a king.

Now you might find it strange that a mature, intelligent, handsome and personable gentleman like me would be superstitious. Well I don't think of it as superstition but more like "hedging my bets".

If there is such a thing as a malevolent force in the world then it's just as well not to antagonise it. On the other hand, if all that concern about the forces of evil are bunkum, then all I've lost is a little more concentration about where my little finger points. Anyway, just to be doubly sure, I will only be using #.

Same reason actors won't mention the name *Macbeth* in a theatre, before opening night. To do so is to invite disaster. I've heard it argued that the first three productions of the play were beset with problems and, ever since, the prospect of a repeat malevolence fills producers and actors with a foreboding of imminent unemployment.

So in the case of actors, mention *Macbeth* and revisit disaster. In my case, I just have to mention that sound for a similar fate. You want proof?

We are building a small unit for our tourist accommodation business. It is really like two



**KIBBLED**

**"Now you might find it strange that a mature, intelligent, handsome and personable gentleman like me would be superstitious..."**

offset milk cartons topped with two pyramid shaped roofs. The idea is to reflect the chicory kilns that were popular here at one stage when coffee was hard to get. The building is clad in weatherboard and horizontal corrugated iron. The iron is already coloured but, for the weatherboards, I had to buy the same blue paint to match our house.

At the same time, I had to buy paint for the base of an old cast-

iron bath we've had resurfaced. It's to match the old powder-blue pedestal basin the bath is to match.

In an earlier article I bewailed the "silliness" of paint names. I now would like to add another complaint. If a colour is named white in one chart, why is it called white but is a different white in another. Another out-of-control office party I might suggest!

We were visiting some friends in East # when I decided to nip out to buy the paint. There wasn't a paint shop in their little shopping centre, so I had to go to Big # where I found a convenient paint supplier.

I'm a sucker for a bargain and there was #uite a good one on offer: \$10 off the 10litre tin. Too good to miss I decided, so I asked, not just for four litres, but for a 10litre can of *Indigo Nights*.

"How much do you want?"  
"I'll have the 10litre special please."  
"Dulux or Watty!?"  
I hesitated for a moment but reasoned, "It doesn't matter, as long as it's *Indigo Nights*. Dulux is on special so I'll have that."

As soon as he had finished mixing the big lot, he mixed the *Blue Satin*.

Now, I know I should have done the grocery shopping separately but I didn't, so it wasn't strange that I had a lot to carry. Not only did I have a lot but also it was heavy and cumbersome. To make life easier I balanced the small tin

of *Blue Satin* on top of the 10litre can.

I staggered up to the checkout counter, pleased that I had the paint and at a bargain price. Arriving at the line of customers, I carefully put everything on the floor.

"I'm sorry, I'm closing. Would you all move to the other #!"

Confidently, I lifted everything and began my move. I felt the small tin slipping and could do nothing except watch as it slid gracefully to the concrete floor. There was a plop as it spewed *Blue Satin* across a good half metre of the checkout aisle.

I felt bad enough about the spilt paint but it was even worse when I got back to East #.

"That's Dulux. It should be Watty!" Herself exclaimed.

"Why does it matter? This one was on special. I've saved us \$10. Must be the same colour. It's the same name!"

"It may have the same name but did you check the colour on the chart? You should know what they're like. Same name with a different brand usually means a different recipe!"

I felt myself falling gracefully and spilling over the floor when I opened the can to see, not blue, but 10 litres of mauve.

"We could target Pink Tourism," I offered.

She glared. "Where did you get it? Up here?"

"No. I went to Far #."  
Herself nodded sagely.

ROGER KIBELL

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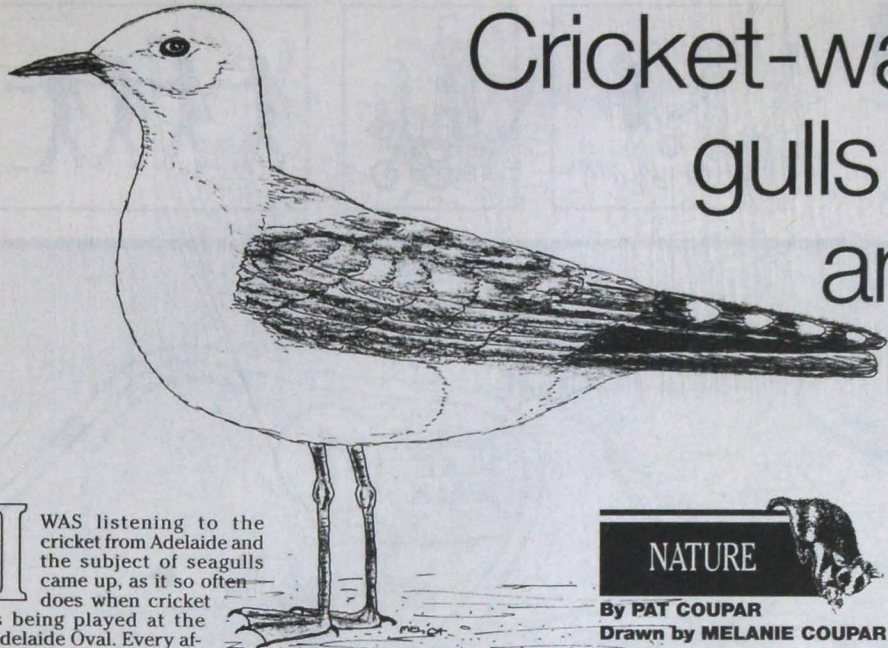
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# Cricket-watching gulls risk life and limb

I WAS listening to the cricket from Adelaide and the subject of seagulls came up, as it so often does when cricket is being played at the Adelaide Oval. Every afternoon, large flocks of seagulls arrive uninvited at the ground and, free of charge, congregate on the flat, grassy outfield. When a batsman drives, pulls, sweeps or hooks the hard cherry-red ball in the direction of the boundary rope, they scatter, only to resume their precarious position before the next ball is bowled.

Death by cricket ball is not unknown, as the commentators are quick to remind us. They tell of one incident when a bird, killed by a direct hit, was ceremoniously carried off the field by a soft-hearted cricketer.

During a slow passage of play, and still on the seagull theme, the commentators ponder on an appropriate name for a collection of seagulls, asking listeners to ring in with their ideas. One person came up with the suggestion of a "squabble of seagulls"—very fitting, I thought. Another rang in to say that the birds should be called Silver Gulls and not seagulls. Pedantically he was right. Seagull is a very loose word

used around the world to describe those most common of archetypal gulls—in Australia they are the Silvers and in Britain it is the Herring Gull. And as an ex-Pom I remember them well. The piercing yodelling cries of Herring Gulls are an unforgettable ingredient of childhood summers spent at the seaside.

Gulls are far more common in the Northern Hemisphere. Apart from the Silver, only two other species of true gulls breed in Australia. These are the handsome black and white Pacific Gull—a large, more solitary species and the Kelp Gull, similar in size and plumage to the Pacific. Both are confined to southern waters.

Not so Silver Gulls. They are common to the point of ubiquitous, reaching pest status in some places. Why? It is simply the fact that these birds have

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

successfully adapted to the human way of life. Our sewage farms, city parks and rubbish tips are their dining tables and the food is free. Even in their natural habitat, Silvers seek out humans, pestering at beach picnics. They were gregarious and garrulous, adopting a range of postures, depending on hierarchy, from upright and hunched to arched and submissive. Beaks agape and wings aloft, the birds squawk and mew.

Silver Gulls are part of the scenery at the beach. They are instantly recognisable and so familiar that we don't always appreciate their sleek beauty—the immaculate snowy-white head and underbelly, misty-grey back and contrasting black-tipped wings; and in adult birds startling red legs, feet, bill and eye-ring.

Like all gulls, Silvers are strong and graceful fliers, however, they rarely venture far from land. Perhaps they should be called coastgulls rather than seagulls. While they will bob about on water, much of their

time is spent strutting or squatting on the ground or perching on posts. Their balance has to be admired for they often choose to stand on one leg. Sometimes, though, they have no choice for one leg is all they possess—the other having been bitten off by a barracouta.

Breeding takes place once a year between the months of August and November generally on offshore islands and sand bars. Every summer, following the breeding season, the birds return like regular holiday makers to their favourite beaches where they join the human throng.

Seagulls like to hang around humans, which brings us back to the squatters at the Adelaide Oval. Larrikins they may be, but these gangs of gulls have not come to watch the cricket. They are there for a feed and they are prepared to wait. Once the game is over and the crowds have gone home there will be plenty of free-pickings—a chip here, a sandwich there, a piece of pie, a scrap of fruit. They are easy to please. These birds are the ultimate scavengers, their only competition is each other. Aggression is a key trait to their success. And that is why wherever there is food for free there will always be squabbles of seagulls.

## Warrandyte Community Market

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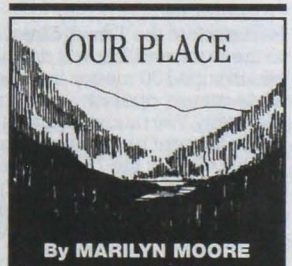
# Memories are made of this

WOULDN'T you think that a person could tell a boat from a gumleaf? Not necessarily, as it turns out. No doubt the average punter could distinguish a nice piece of Fourth Hill redbox from the QEII, but stylistically speaking there isn't a whole lot of difference between the evenly ribbed hull of an old wooden dinghy and the neatly veined outline of a swamp gum leaf.

The shape in question has been cunningly produced by a sculptor, who was presumably commissioned by the City of Wyndham to create an eye-catching monument alongside Geelong Road. Or series of monuments, it should be said, for an entire row of these shapes decorates the roadscape with all the majesty and improbability of a line of Easter Island statues.

There is a definite sense of déjà vu about these erections. Once upon a time, an ambiguous brown Warrandyte emblem (now thankfully obliterated) generated an equally lively debate that lasted all the way home.

This time we are en route to Anglesea, refuge for a surpris-



OUR PLACE

By MARILYN MOORE

ing number of Warrandytians. In the grey drizzle of early dawn, our once-snuggly beds lie cold and empty behind us as we cruise sleepily down this vast highway to the beach. Technicolour visions of summer splendour dance in our dreams, but alas! We hug the Polartecs closer and wait in vain for daylight to arrive. Hours later we are still waiting, as charcoal skies merge into a sodden grey landscape. Mid-summer? This is a full-on beanie, jumper, parka and boots job!

In Anglesea, the wide sandy river mirrors a leaden sky across the silver expanse of the inlet. Fine drizzle barely ripples its perfect surface. Beyond the river-mouth, a freezing wind,

courtesy of Bass Strait, drives a stinging wall of fine sand into the dunes that back the broad acres of beach curving gently towards Point Roadknight. The receding tide has left a playground of hard flat sand, shiny-wet and perfect for cricket, but today only a few teenagers are braving the elements. Further on, two middle-aged women paddle cautiously, dodging the odd waft of white spume. Their little black dog looks expectantly at a straggle of huddled gulls. Aloft, a lone gull faces into the breeze and keeps adjusting his wing-flaps, but with little success, as he is relentlessly gusted backwards. A clump of surf lifesavers creates a bold splash of red and yellow between the wildly flapping flags, grounded firmly on the beach beside a slogan-covered vehicle. A big red IRB snoozes on the sand just beyond the reach of the lapping foam.

Not a single other soul inhabits the beach. For a Sunday in February, this is truly memorable!

Needless to say, the entire population of Anglesea seems to be crammed into the ever-multiplying cafes along the main street. A roaring trade is happening as customers queue

for steaming porridge, eggs, bacon, and grainy toast with home-made preserves. The atmosphere is extremely compelling, even for one who has breakfasted already. A toddler tugs at his mother's sleeve as she chats to a neighbour: "Stop talking!" he cries. "We're here to EAT!"

The smell of brewed coffee and scorched linseed does not reach the shivering crew on the beach, but they are probably thinking of little else. With luck, an obliging shopkeeper will soon send them a hot food parcel. The locals are good like that — Anglesea, dependent on the joys of its surf beach, certainly supports its lifesavers, almost every one of them has prevented a drowning; some have saved many. A post-Christmas doorknock raised over \$16,000 in under two hours, funds urgently needed in the face of an insurance crisis (unlike the CFA, the government does not cover it).

Now wouldn't it be nice if the state government treated surf lifesaving the way it treats the CFA, and the citizens of Warrandyte showed the same respect for the CFA that the citizens of Anglesea have for their lifesavers?

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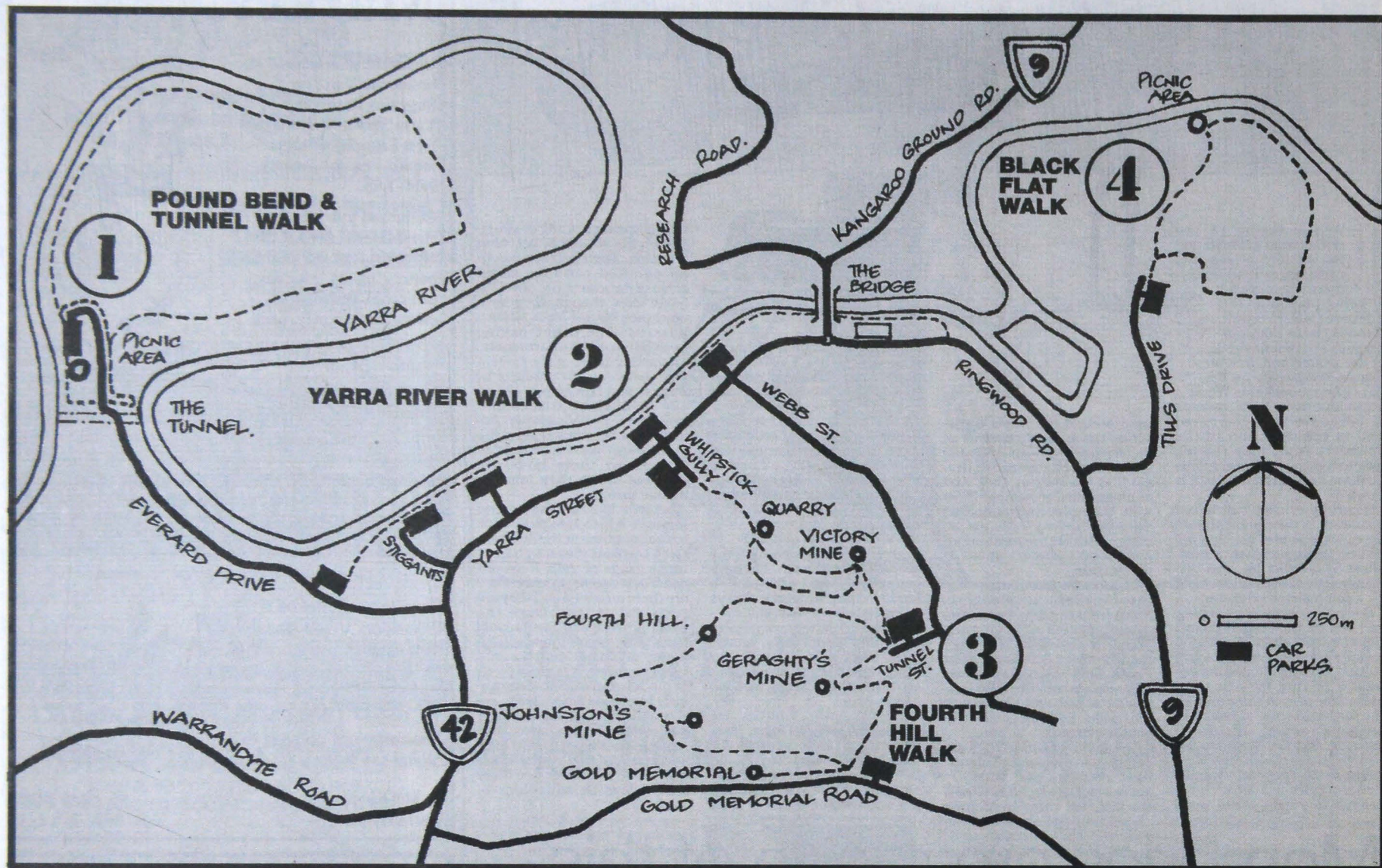
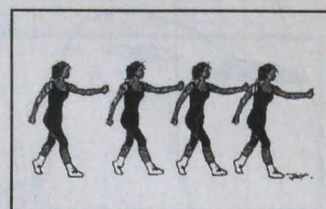
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## 4

# Walks around Warrandyte



## 1 Pound Bend Walk

Drive to the end of Everard Drive to find Pound Bend, which is situated in a large, narrow-necked loop of the Yarra River. In the early years the land was used as a pound for cattle, hence its present name. With luck you may spot a koala high in one of the smooth-barked manna gums. The picnic area attracts many birds, including colorful parrots, honeyeaters, kookaburras and noisy miners.

A short walk from the picnic area will lead to the unique Pound Bend Tunnel. This amazing venture was carried out by David Mitchell, father of singer Dame Nellie Melba, in 1870. The tunnel, six metres wide and almost five metres high was dug through 145 metres of solid rock at the neck of the loop. A dam was built across the river and the water was diverted through the tunnel, leaving exposed a five kilometre stretch of river bed, which was dredged for gold.

While no remains of the dam can be seen today, the tunnel, in which lives a colony of bats, looks as if it was carved through only yesterday.

A walking track along the Yarra River, to the north of Pound Reserve, crosses various gullies by wooden bridges and ends at a large open area. The track continues to the south-east past the plaque dedicated to the site of the first youth hostel in Victoria, then joins the entry road to the park office, and turning south continues to Pound Bend Road. For alternative walk along the ridge top, return to the tunnel site above the Pound Bend Reserve car park.

## 2 Yarra River Walk

Halfway along Everard Drive begins a wide track which follows the river and is shared by walkers, joggers, cyclists and horse riders. Dogs under control are welcome in this reserve. A wooden bridge crosses Andersons Creek just above where it joins the Yarra. (Andersons Creek was the original name for Warrandyte). At Stiggants Reserve, site of the monthly Warrandyte Community Market, there is a children's playground, a small amphitheatre, picnic tables, electric barbecues, public toilets and two picnic shelters. A small wetlands area has been created by Doncaster council and the Friends of Warrandyte State Park. Each autumn, the two-day Warrandyte Festival attracts thousands of visitors. Above the path, adjacent to Warrandyte village itself, are additional public toilets, the historic Gospel Chapel and the old Warrandyte post office, faithfully restored and home to the Warrandyte Historical Society's museum.

This walk terminates at the Warrandyte bridge. Immediately downstream is the site of the old wooden bridge, built in 1865 from yellow box timbers felled in the Stony Creek area. The old bridge was the focal point in Warrandyte for New Year celebrations, when the locals would meet to sing Auld Lang Syne to the accompaniment of bagpipes and fireworks—and sometimes exploding gelignite! The existing steel and concrete bridge was built in 1955. A smaller picnic area, with barbecues provided, is located at the public tennis courts, downstream from the bridge. A third set of public toilets has been provided adjacent to the bridge.

## 3 Fourth Hill Walk

Four kilometres long, this walk takes about one-and-a-half hours. It starts from the carpark near the gold memorial cairn at Andersons Creek in Gold Memorial Road. Ford the creek, turn to the left and walk up the steep track. On your left is a mine shaft surrounded by a wooden railing. This whole area is covered with mullock heaps and other relics of the gold mining days.

About 30 metres horizontally left across the hill, on a small track, is a corrugated iron hut of a type common around Warrandyte in years past. This hillside is covered in a sea of white heath in the late winter months.

Continue past the hut, and another shaft, on the steep track that climbs uphill. At a T-junction, turn right for 20 metres to reach Johnston's Mine.

Backtrack to the T-junction and continue around the hill past some mossy boulders to a vehicle track, running from Betton Crescent to the top of Fourth Hill. Turn right and follow the track straight up onto the large, open area at the top of Fourth Hill. Nearby is a grate covering an air shaft down into the Fourth Hill Tunnel.

Walk straight ahead from point of entry to a walking track which leads downhill and to the right. Continue in the same direction, past the Y-intersection, towards the park gate. Turn left at the gate along the vehicle track, following the fenceline. This track undulates down into Whipstick Gully. The shorter Bruce Bence Walk commences just behind the Information Centre to the south-west, meanders through old diggings and mullock heaps. This narrow track is only 620 metres long but quite steep. It ends on a vehicle track overlooking the Victory Mine site, which had five levels going up inside the hill. This mine is safe to explore up to 20 metres in, where a steel gate prevents further access for safety reasons. A torch should be carried.

Backtrack to the Tunnel Street gate and continue on, veering to the right, and follow it downhill to the Fourth Hill Tunnel, which runs 100 metres into the hill. This was the first large-scale mining operation in the area, started by Patrick Geraghty, Warrandyte's first innkeeper. Geraghty did not strike the reef he was seeking, but two other miners continuing his work in the 1880s were more successful. This mine is safe to explore with a torch. Emerging from the tunnel, turn right and follow the track downhill along Wild Cat Gully to Andersons Creek, where the walk commenced.

## 4 Black Flat Walk

The entrance to Black Flat Reserve, Warrandyte State Park, is situated partway along Tills Drive, which leaves the Ringwood Road close by the Stonehouse craft shop. There are carparks and a picnic area at the reserve.

This is a fully-developed "nature walk", the route is marked by signs and arrows and will take about an hour to cover. Black Flat is covered by open forest, dominated by eucalypts—mostly red box—and is one of the most scenically attractive areas of Warrandyte. Each season brings its own special surprises.

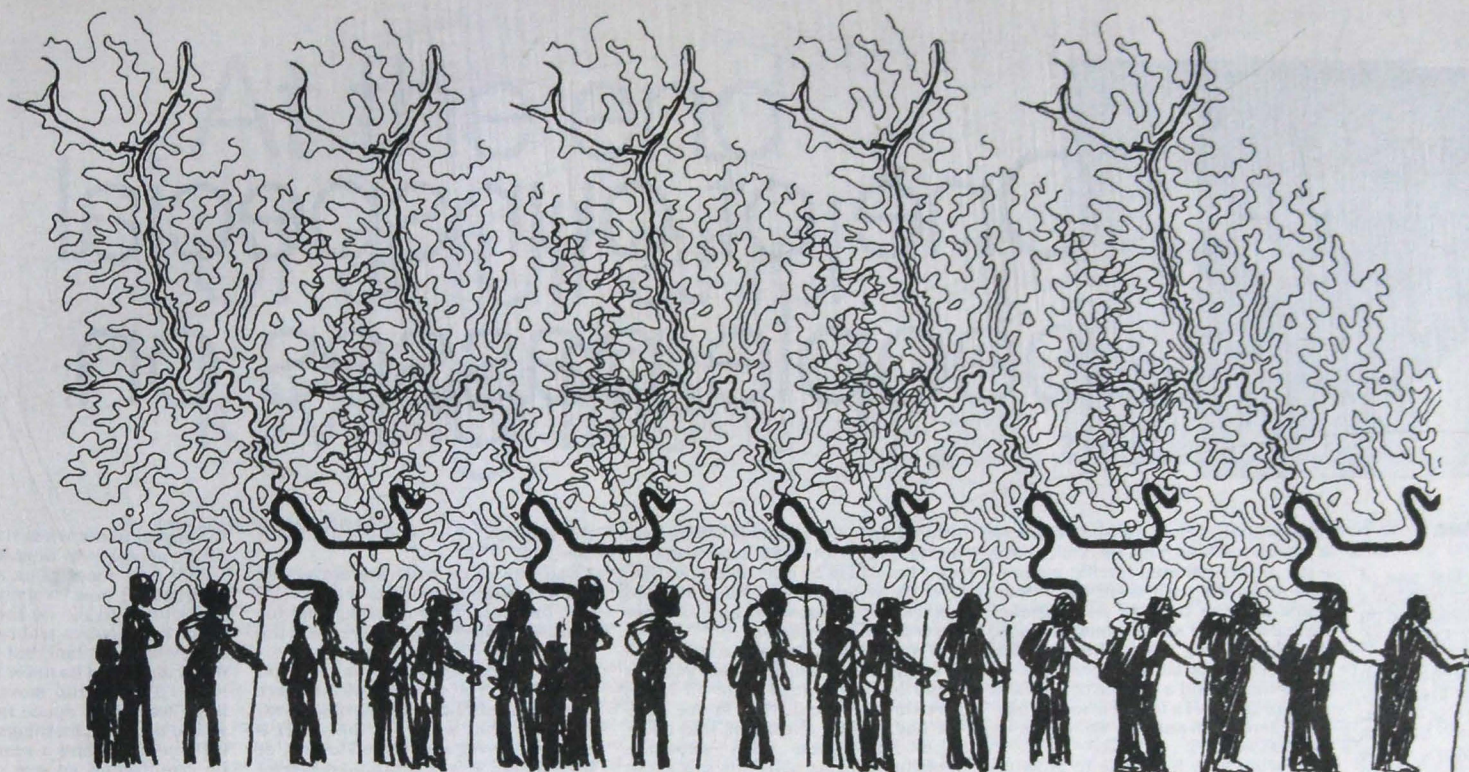
One is constantly reminded of the part this area played during the goldmining era. In 1904, Warrandyte's largest mine—the Caledonian—commenced operations here. One of the boilers that provided steam power for these extensive workings can be seen on the left, not far from the entrance to the reserve.

Also to be seen is a circular depression in the ground, marking the remains of a puddling machine, powered by horses walking in a circle and used to crush quartz from which gold was extracted.

Reminders of the agricultural history of the area include a grand old red box tree used as a fence post by the Mullens family, who homesteaded the area from the 1870s to 1914. Evidence of some of the orchards planted by the Mullens can also be observed, as well as a breacher dam wall. Partway along the nature trail is a sign indicating the track to Jumping Creek Reserve, not shown on the above map. Spectacular views of the meandering river are a feature of this longer walk. Wombats have burrowed into the soft soil beside the narrow track, creating a maze of holes and tunnels.

A grassy area by the river, near the start of the track, marks the site of one of the old orchards. Close by is a pleasant swimming spot and a delightful picnic area under the shade of a huge manna gum.





# Narr Meian: along Jumping Creek

**T**HE huge ridgeline that runs from Croydon to Wonga Park rises as if a great creature is moving below ground, pushing up land as it attempts to crawl towards Birrarung. The sinuous backbone of the creature is traced by the curves of Yarra Road as its great shoulders lift and twist bedrock into the crumpled contours that push and concertina steep cliffs up against Birrarung (the Yarra River).

At Jumping Creek Road this geological creature stretches out two huge arms as if reaching desperately for water. The easterly arm, the right hand ridgeline, arches towards Yarra Brae, lifting the terrain in an effort to capture the mouth of Watson's Creek. The left arm, the most westerly ridgeline, reaches towards Stane Brae, falling short of the water in those dry, stony hills.

To the west of this creature is another muscular ridgeline running along Croydon, Wonga and Plymouth roads, and created between these two immense ridges, the steep valley of Narr Meian.

Narr Meian, or Jumping Creek as it is known locally, sounds as if it should be the name of a magical country in a mythological story; and in many ways it is. When you have country that has not been destroyed, that has been allowed to keep its "dreaming", then it is able to carry many stories that tell of the Earth's past. Narr Meian carries secrets and mysteries on its bubbling waters and in the gorges that protect it.

Narr Meian has an enchantment to it that is not present in other local creeks. It is an intimate creek, mostly hidden from view, small in scale. Many of the Fellowship live along the length of Narr Meian and protect its spirit by removing weeds that grow on its banks and repair any damage by revegetating with indigenous plants. Wedge-tail Eagles nest on the banks of Narr Meian, trusting its sanctity.

Amidst a flurry of Manna Gums and Pomiderris, Narr Meian flows under Jumping Creek Road and then enters Birrarung. The Jumping Creek Reserve section of Warrandyte State Park protects the confluence of Narr Meian and Birrarung, and a good deal of wonderful country rich in habitat and species.

The Jumping Creek Reserve section of Warrandyte State Park is shaped like a huge eccentric bend, the northern section promontory-like in shape. A spur sweeps

## FELLOWSHIP OF THE FORESTS

By GLEN JAMESON



along the southern section of Stane Brae to join up with the Jumping Creek ridgeline, which then rises high over the Yarra Valley to provide a backbone for the promontory of Jumping Creek. The powerful ridgeline of Jumping Creek runs north-westerly, forcing Birrarung to carve its way around the promontory of the Jumping Creek Reserve.

Jumping Creek Reserve retains its mystery. Heavily shrubbed and treed, there are not many long vistas across its land. Not many places to get an overall idea of the shape of the reserve. It retains its intimacy as a habitat that is unique in Australia.

Jumping Creek Reserve possesses thick forests of Burgan, the local tea-tree, under which some remarkable discoveries have been made. Bruce Fuhrer, a naturalist of exceptional ability, has studied the area over many years and recently found five *Hygrocybe* species of Fungi, new to science, growing under the Burgan with other fungi that should only be found in Tasmanian cool temperate rainforests. One Fungi has been named in honour of Jumping Creek, *Hygrocybe saltorivula*, in recognition of this unique habitat. Another, *Hygrocybe fuhreri* named in honour of Bruce's work in natural history.

The Fungi assemblage is only there because the heavy Burgan growth has suppressed tree and other growth and created a closed canopy micro-climate which induces a massive growth of a variety of Moss species. The thick layer of Mosses provides a bio-mulch that retains moisture when other habitats are drying out, and allows the germination of Fungi spore that travel the winds. It is such an effective site that it is hosting species new to science. Bruce has recorded over 500 species of Fungi in Warrandyte State Park, verifying its exceptional biodiversity richness.

Burgan is often looked upon in a negative way due to its fire-prone nature, however its contribution to the protection of biodiversity is often overlooked. Presently, in many areas, it is keeping a lot of weeds from invading bushlands and providing important habitat.

Narr Meian has had a lucky existence. Much of the bushlands that remain around Melbourne exist because of the area they occupy was deemed agriculturally worthless. This small parcel of land was so poor that it was not worth the effort of clearing.

Melbourne, perhaps, has the smallest area of natural bushlands among Australian capital cities, due to the agricultural richness of the basalt soils to its north and west, and the spread of the city elsewhere. But large cities can accommodate a rich store of natural heritage. For example, within a 250 radius of Sydney there are more than 2million hectares of protected areas. In contrast, "Melbourne's history has been one of prodigious human activity and unimaginable ecological catastrophe". (Tim Flannery).

When European settlement spread over the country it was a multi-faceted invasion. Recently there has been a focus on the politics of invasion, that is, the usurpation and occupation of Aboriginal land. Economically there was a quick conversion of any land that was thought to be arable enough to plough or graze. However there was also an ecological side to the coin. Environmental historian Alfred Crosby refers to the process of "ecological imperialism" which describes ecological invasion that accompanied the colonial expansions of the 18th and 19th centuries. Crosby suggests that much of the success of the establishment of colonial settlement was due to the domesticated animals, pests, pathogens and weeds which constituted an important dimension of imperialism, perhaps even more important than its technology in facilitating the conquest. Immigrants arrived in the New World accompanied by a "grunting, lowing, neighing, crowing, chirping, snarling, buzzing, self-replicating and world-altering avalanche".

Jumping Creek is the old Warrandyte. Tough and resilient with a gnarled inner strength to survive that reaches back into mists of Gondwanaland. Jumping Creek has managed to survive everything so far, an impregnable fortress of indigenous bushland resisting the advances of ecological imperialism.

Jumping Creek Reserve is the best fragment of Warrandyte State Park. It has the best habitat, rare animals such as Powerful Owls and Brush-tailed Phascogales are found using its varied and almost pristine

habitat. Bush Rats and Agile Antichinus shelter in its thick undergrowth. There are areas of Jumping Creek that are in such good condition that they are of "reference standard" quality. That is, they can be used to reference what the country looked like before it was converted to farming and housing.

Smooth Pomderris, Dainty Bird Orchid and Fringe Helmet Orchid are indigenous plants that grow in specialist habitats in the sandy soil areas of Jumping Creek Reserve. Sometimes these are sandy remnants of old river courses where the sand was deposited over thousands of years, and sometimes these sandy remnants can be found near ridgelines, thereby recording the geological uplifting of land. Elsewhere in Victoria, these plants are also often found in coastal vegetation associations, and perhaps are species stranded from an era when the coast was much nearer Warrandyte than it is today. These plants are pages in the book of nature. They can be found in areas where the primal library has not been dismantled.

The walk along the river track upstream to Blue Tongue Bend provides some of the most attractive scenic beauty of the Middle Yarra. The track, carved into the side of the gorge, gives you a sense of being "tipped into" the view. The country is steep, the track winding, and you climb across rock-faces that are covered with the most intricate arrangements of mosses and liverworts. To stop and ponder these Moss kingdoms in mid-winter, with their lush luminous green growth, is a moment to cherish. This miniature world of green commands the viewer to consider other realms of reality, something that illustrates the intense richness and value of undisturbed bushlands. Across the river a wondrous stand of tall Manna Gums in the Koornong provide a magnificent backdrop that beholds the glory of the Middle Yarra country.

The walk in the opposite direction, towards Black Flat, is also superb and carries the bonus of crossing the confluence of Narr Meian and Birrarung. Black Sheoaks guard the confluence, ferns embroider the banks, a lacework of Mosses covers rock-faces whilst Bird Orchids flutter on the ground.

It is a place where the Fellowship celebrates the feeling that some places, some things, remain undiminished and promise to last forever.



By JOHN GOLDING

**W**ARRANDYTE lost one of its best-known residents when Ron Golding died on December 12 last year, aged 82 years.

Ron, my father, was christened John Ronald, but was known by his family as Jackie and by everyone else as Ron. The only person I ever heard call him John was one of the doctors in the Geelong hospital. He was checking to see if Ron was still alert and asked him, "John, how old are you?" Ron, who by this time had quite enough of being in hospital, replied wearily, "899".

Meg, Nonnie, Martin and I called him Dad, of course, and we loved him.

One of my earliest recollections of Dad was at a birthday of one of my friends. This boy had been given a shiny, all-new, metal tricycle and we were taking turns, riding it down their steeply-sloping front path. Well, Dad

turned up to collect me and of course it was all too tempting. He had to have a go. As he gathered terrific momentum down the path there was a loud crack and the tricycle disintegrated beneath him in spectacular fashion, with bits flying everywhere. Fortunately Dad has always been good at fixing things and a couple of hours in the workshop of a friend who had oxy-acetylene gear and the trike was as good as new.

We were very fortunate to grow up in Warrandyte, which at the time was a small village on the Yarra River. We spent a lot of time in the river and on blistering summer evenings we would remain there. Dad would arrive from Melbourne University, where he worked, and join us for a late swim and a picnic tea.

While working at the university, Dad, who left school at 14, was learning a lot of the technical and scientific stuff that so interested him all his life. An-

other Carlton institution where Dad learnt quite a lot was Jimmy Watson's wine bar where he often gathered with friends at lunchtime. He really did know a lot about wine, and at times served as a wine judge.

In Warrandyte, Dad was active in the fire brigade, serving for many years as radio officer. In 1969 huge bushfires tore through the district in one terrible day. By late afternoon, Dad and I, who had been with separate firefighting teams, somehow met at our house in Pound Road as the fire approached. There were two large gum trees beside the house which Dad felled with an axe in record time, probably saving the house.

Dad was also involved in the Warrandyte Arts Association, which Joan, our mother, and others formed to encourage cultural life in the district. They were both in the drama group, Dad occasionally appearing hilariously on stage, but more often in

the bio-box, overseeing sound and lighting.

Dad moved on from the university, but all his life he worked in the scientific business, until much against his wishes, he was required to retire at the age of 65.

Dad worked hard to give us all a good education. I'm sure he would have been pleased if I'd had a scientific bent, however that wasn't to be. After a small fuss over some small forgery at high school, it was felt that art school was best for me, and Mum and Dad supported and encouraged me through the course.

Dad was always very pleased and proud of the achievements of family members—children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

By his bed in the hospital were lovely cards drawn by the great grandchildren. One of his proudest moments, I'm sure, was when Mum was presented with the OAM. He always liked

to suggest to her when it be an appropriate occasion to wear it.

With retirement came a move from Warrandyte, now virtually a suburb of Melbourne, to life by the sea, which Mum had always wanted. Dad was somewhat reluctant, but upon arrival in Portarlington he never looked back. It was a wonderful move. Dad had a large workshop space in the garage where he could fix things and powerful binoculars and a scanner so that he could keep an eye on shipping movements in and out of Geelong, and goings-on at Avalon Airport.

I'd like to mention the care Dad received in Geelong Hospital. Apart from the unfortunate wrong name incident, the people there looked after him wonderfully and his life ended comfortably and peacefully.

He had a good life, it's just a pity he had to leave us so soon, but as Mum said the other night, "Wherever he is now, he's sure to be drinking Grange".

## Remembered for her charm and courage

**W**ARRANDYTE is mourning the passing of Pamela Retz, who died on December 28 last year, following a long and heroic battle with cancer. She was 59.

Pamela Marion Retz was born on December 17 to Bruce and Ellen Russell of Carlton. She lived with her grandparents at Cottle's Bridge and Coburg, then with her parents in their new home in Bakers Road, North Coburg.

She commenced school at Merlynston State School in 1951 and in 1955 she passed First Grade Piano-forte with honours. She began her secondary schooling at Fawcner High School in 1957 and matriculated from Coburg High School in 1962, specialising in science subjects.

In 1963, Pam began working at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories and commenced studying for a diploma in applied science at RMIT. She worked on flu vaccine, met Dieter Retz

and they married on April 16, 1966. In those days, married women were prohibited from working in the public service, so Pam left CSL and obtained employment as a laboratory technician at Ringwood High School, where her charm, energy and professional expertise helped transform the science department.

Dieter and Pam bought their first home in Longfellow Avenue, Mooroolbark and Pam decided to study for her teaching qualification, but before she could begin, their first child was on the way. Natalie Louise was born on January 10, 1969 and Laural Andrea arrived on July 30, 1971.

Pam Retz turned 27 the day the family moved to Hamilton Road, Warrandyte. Eight days later they were sharing Christmas drinks with neighbours. So began Pam and Dieter's long and rewarding life of friendship and service within the Warrandyte and Kangaroo Ground communities. Pam flung herself wholeheartedly into this

life, serving on the kindergarten committee, as a member of the Kangaroo Ground Primary School committee, president of their mothers' club and working with the pony club.

Not content to limit her life to community work, Pam undertook part-time studies in Australian History, and when Dieter began his own business, Pam decided to work beside him, undertook the firm's secretarial work and at the end of 1980 was awarded a Diploma of Secretarial Practice. Working together, she and Dieter began learning about genealogy and researching family history. Ultimately, in June 1999, Pam published her first book, *My Moreland Family*, and commenced her second.

In July, 1988 they moved to their new home in Menzies Road, Kangaroo Ground, and in October that year they purchased a holiday house at Coolum Beach in Queensland.

Pamela Retz is perhaps best known locally for her outstanding support of

Dieter in the many roles he has undertaken and positions he has held in the Lions Club of Warrandyte. Between 1994 and 1997 she worked as a volunteer at the Lions Club opportunity shop, and when called upon to provide corsages for the ladies on the night Dieter was installed as Lions president, she attended florists' classes with Moira Hughes, Elaine Greatrex and Lori Marchingo, followed by professional training at Ireland's, ultimately going into business, styling themselves "Tigerlillies". Her outstanding community service was recognised when, in June 2001, Pam received Lions' highest Australian award, the James D. Richardson Honour Award for support of Lions Club events and projects.



When Dieter was diagnosed with MS, Pam's positive attitude was a great help during that time of change and adjustment. It was that same positive approach to life that saw Pam manage her several bouts of cancer so well over more than 10 years. She responded well to surgery and other treatments to enjoy long remissions after a holiday to the UK, Ireland and Europe in 1993. However, since May last year, the fight has been on in earnest and Pam's courage, openness and honesty have been very evident. She passed away peacefully at Warringal Private Hospital, surrounded by the love of her family and friends.

(Based upon material contributed by Dieter Retz, Moira Hughes and Rev Mark Dunn.)

### Key Decisions

#### Nillumbik Shire Council

These are some of the decisions made by Council on **Wednesday, 17 December 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 18 February 2004 at 7.30pm at the Shire Offices. All welcome or listen to the broadcast on Plenty Valley FM 88.6.



Customer Service 9433 3111



#### Transport and Infrastructure

Resolved Council not proceed with a road construction Special Charge Scheme in Edinburgh Street, Diamond Creek and Brogil Road, North Warrandyte, and to impose a three year moratorium on future investigations into road construction in this street.



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

Approved the Community Grants Operating Priority Projects 2003-2004.

Endorsed the recommendations of the Grant Makers for the Youth Support Grants 2003-2004.



#### Governance

Resolved to make Local Law No. 7, Asset Protection Local Law to come into effect in January 2004.



#### Land Use, Planning and Environment

Adopted the Urban Design Framework for the Bridge Street Business Precinct; refer the document to the Review of the Municipal Strategic Statement and the Eltham Activity Centre Structure Plan for information; apply for funding from the Pride of Place Program to carry out works; receive further information regarding the relocation of powerlines underground.

Resolved to issue a Notice of Refusal to grant a permit to the land at 30 Daphne Crescent, Hurstbridge for the purpose of a 2-lot subdivision.

Resolved to issue a Notice of Refusal to grant a permit to the land at 746 Main Road, Eltham to increase the operating hours of the hotel and provide live amplified music in the bistro.

Resolved Council will write to the Department of Sustainability and Environment supporting the key principles outlined in the Securing Our Water Future Green Paper subject to further consultation with local government.

Adopted the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan (MFPP) 2003-2007.

# At the end of a full and loving life



By AMANDA FITZHERBERT

ONE of Warrandyte's best-loved residents died on January 7, aged 92 years.

Dorothy Lillian McAuley was born on April 28, 1911 to Simon Samuel Henry and his wife, Ethel May. Her early years were spent moving around Victoria with her father's work and in later years the family, which now included her four younger brothers, lived in Port Melbourne and Mentone.

One day, when Dorothy (usually known as "Doss") was about 17, a cousin invited her to a dance in Warrandyte Mechanics Hall. This trip was to prove auspicious, as it was here she met Jack McAuley with whom she subsequently fell in love and married in June, 1929.

Upon their marriage, Jack and Dorothy were given a portion of the McAuley land in Warrandyte. Jack's mother Eva had, with excellent foresight, purchased a parcel of land some years earlier with the intention of giving her six children a head-start in life.

Doss was thrilled to be part of a big family and to be able to put down roots in a place as beautiful as Warrandyte with the man she loved.

The house that Jack built started off as two rooms and a verandah and in

following years, as finances permitted, extra rooms were added. Doss loved nature and, in particular, trees and flowers. In the early days she planted many trees, including a row of Rubinias along the western side of the house.

When questioned by Jack as to the need for these trees she said, "You'll see. In years to come these trees will provide wonderful shade for the house in summer and you'll be glad of them". She was right and they still provide shade today. In later years, the gift of a tree or plant would always delight her.

Doss and Jack had three children—Elaine (my mother), and sons Rod and Bruce. She was a dedicated homemaker—no nonsense, practical, resourceful, disciplined and hard-working. In the early years of her marriage, during the Depression, it was necessary for Jack to take work woodcutting away from home and for an extended period of time.

Doss did not want to be parted from Jack and so, with a young child in tow she camped out in the bush—cooking, washing and caring for her family in the most primitive conditions.

Doss settled well into life with the McAuley clan and enjoyed being part of an extended family which included four of Jack's siblings—Lil, Ralph, Bill

and Ga and in time, Lil and Ralph's children who grew up with her own family.

Life went on and in due course her children grew up to marry and have children of their own.

Nan—as we called her—was the most wonderful grandmother. She adored her grandchildren and we adored her. Her greatest gift was her love of family and in particular, the love she gave so freely to her grandchildren and later, to her great grandchildren.

As young children we were always welcomed with open, loving arms. I have many happy memories of school holidays spent at Nan's—cooking sultana cake and making hedgehog, going for walks in the bush. Nan took us into the city for lunch at Coles cafeteria and then to the pictures, giving us sixpence to go down to the shops to buy lollies. Nan loved to indulge her grandchildren.

Nan was a meticulous housekeeper. Her house was always as neat as a pin; as clean as a whistle; the paths were always swept; the washing was always ironed; her cupboards were always ordered and a vase was always filled with flowers or creative arrangements from foliage.

Everyone was welcome and her home was the focus of many happy

family get-togethers often with Jack, Ralph and Lil singing their favourite tunes.

Nan had a lovely relationship with Pa, which she cherished. She told me that every spring he would pick the first bloom of the lilac bush and present it to her as a token of his love. She said that sometimes it would take a few days for him to notice that the plant had bloomed, but she waited patiently for the gift.

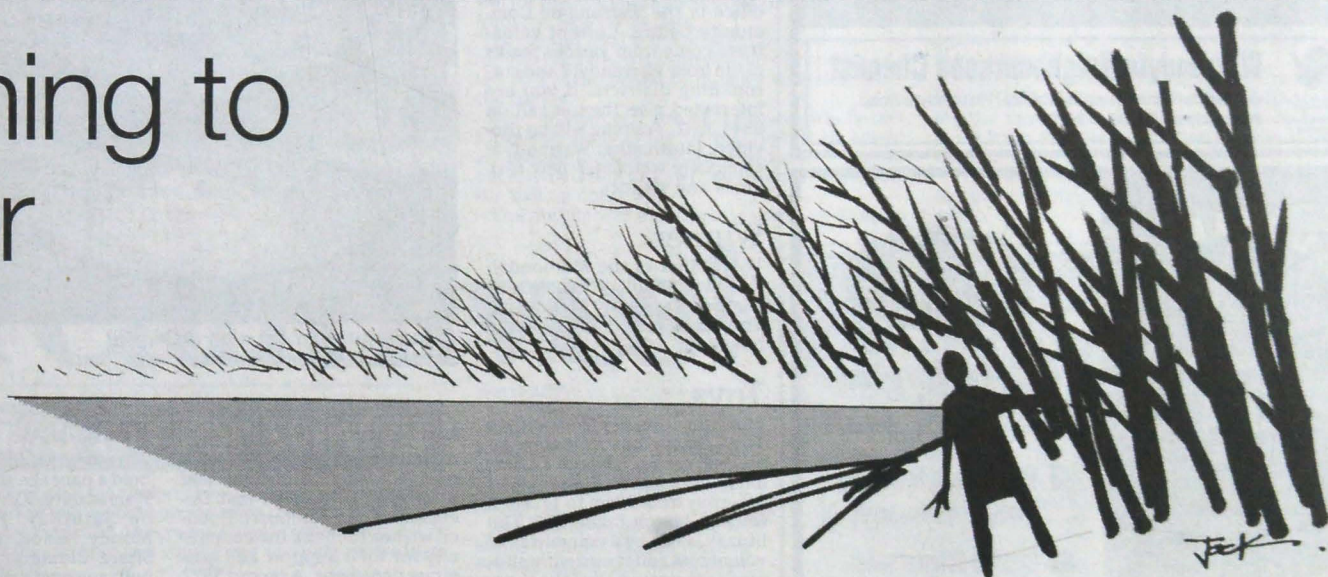
She missed Pa dreadfully when he died and after years of suggesting that perhaps it might be a nice idea for her to have a dog, she finally agreed.

A few weekends were spent inspecting the dogs at the RSPCA and Lost Dog's Home. According to Nan, none were suitable, and it became clear that what she wanted was a hairless, de-barked, 500 gram dog. Eventually, a few years later, she settled for a cat. Zoe provided her with much comfort in her last years and she lavished the same care and attention on this animal as she had lavished on her grandchildren—although she did not teach it to cook!

She lived a full life, surrounded by loving family, friends and neighbours and at the ripe old age of 92 was ready to move on.

We will remember her fondly and with much love.

## Awakening to summer



Cat kissing me awake.  
Silken sinewy warmth  
curving sleekly  
slowly insinuating  
curving into warm contours.  
How good to be  
so easily ecstatic.

Through the purring blur—  
the welcome screech of  
coffee grinder.  
The rich musky smell  
floats up the stairs.  
Wakes up my nose

Luring me down  
to the summer sweet  
tangerine tang  
of ripe melon.  
Sticky juice  
dripping onto warm  
verandah boards.

Early enough  
to turn on the hose.  
The skirting  
touching briefly, kissing  
desperate, open-mouthed ground.  
Earth sweet and gum sharp smell  
poignant reminder of the real thing.

And the river's still there  
as I walk in the dawn.  
improbably, flowingly  
wet.  
Languorously lying  
like liquid silk.

Its brown and gold gleam  
mocking the crackling trees which  
lean, dry and dust-parched  
as if to at least breath in  
the moistness  
the whiff of river damp

I too breathe it in,  
and start the day.

KAREN THROSSELL

# Women and health

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Conducted by **JUDY GREEN**

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

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is running a Women's Health Day on Wednesday, March 3 at the Warrandyte Community Centre, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. The day begins with a river walk followed by sessions of dancing (belly dancing, African and contemporary) and singing (with Nerida Kirov from the Chocolate Lillies). The program will run from 9am to 2pm. Cost is \$10 for the day including lunch. Drop in or ring 9844 1839 to enrol.

## Flying

Simon Ward will be addressing the next environment seminar on the subject, "Flying with Feathertails". The Feathertail Glider is the smallest gliding mammal in the world. Simon, a senior lecturer in the Zoology Department of the University of Melbourne, will reveal recent findings from studies of its behaviour in the field. The seminar, one of a monthly series organised by Manningham council, will be held on Thursday, March 4, commencing at 7.30pm in the function room at the Grand Hotel, Yarra Street, Warrandyte.

## Volunteers

Information Warrandyte is seeking volunteers to help in their office in the Warrandyte Community Centre. Current volunteers come from various walks of life from Warrandyte and surrounding districts. If you are interested give them a call on 9844 3082. Training will be provided. Information Warrandyte especially welcomes new residents and visitors.

## Winner

The winner of the Maroondah Hospital Auxilliary Christmas hamper was Jenny McDougall. The raffle raised \$580 for the hospital.

## Toys

The first term for Warrandyte Toy Library has commenced and will run until March 27. Session hours are Wednesday and Saturday from 10am to 11.30am (closed March 6 and 20). The library is run by a committee of volunteers and is currently situated in the rear hall of the Community Centre, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte.

## Seniors

Warrandyte Senior Citizens are running a cabaret night entitled "That's Entertainment" at their centre in Tarroona avenue, Warrandyte, on Friday, February 27 commencing at 8pm (please be seated by 7.30pm). Cost is \$5 per head. BYO drinks, nibbles and glasses.

## Bands

Battle of the Bands will take place at ParkFest 04 at Ruffey Lake Park in Doncaster on Saturday, February 28. The winning band will receive a recording package from Cavalier Studios and will go on to compete in The Push Regional Finals. ParkFest is a youth event with many attractions on the day, including skateboarding, sumo suits and wrestling, a fly wall, body art and much more. It is presented by Manningham council and the FreeZa Virus committee.



An exhibitor at last year's Warrandyte Pottery Expo.

## Pots galore at expo

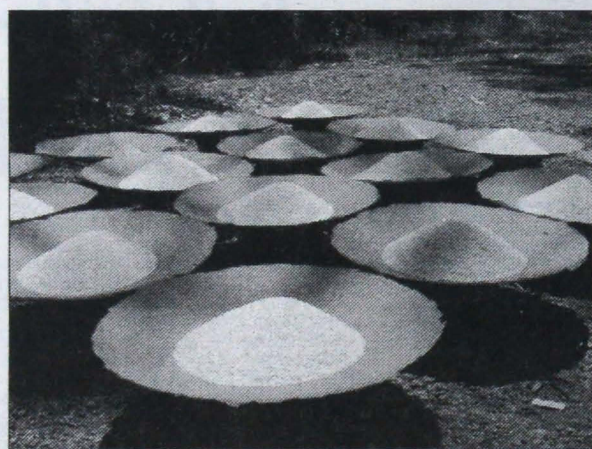
Warrandyte's fourth Pottery Expo, to be held on the riverbank, will take place across the weekend of February 28 and 29.

About 40 potters will be represented, showcasing a wide variety of styles and techniques. "Visitors can again take part in the hands-on ephemeral sculpture", expo organiser Jane Annois told the *Diary*. "Sue Kneebone and David Shepherd will again facilitate the creation of a group clay structure along the riverbank."

Ceramics students from Melbourne TAFE colleges will be displaying and selling their work, while staff will be on hand to discuss courses.

Musicians and singers will add to the ambience, and refreshments will be available.

Manningham Gallery is holding a ceramic exhibition in conjunction with the expo. Entitled "The Chosen Vessel", it opens on Thursday, February 26 at 6pm.



Chinese-inspired art is on display at the Manningham Gallery.

## ARTYFACTS

### China

Warrandyte artist Denise Keelebedford, along with Isobel Clement, have recently returned from a short-term residency arranged through the Red Gate Contemporary Chinese Art Gallery. While in Beijing they were able to create and display a variety of artwork and on return have been producing works based upon their experiences, especially in the exotic city of Bei Gao. These works are on display at the Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster during February. The gallery is open Tuesday to Friday, 11am to 5pm and Saturday, 2pm to 5pm.

### Special

Stonehouse Gallery is exhibiting works by the NADRASKA artists at their gallery, 323 Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte, from February 15 to 29. The NADRASKA group are artists with special needs. Works include paintings, decorative textiles and sculptures.

### Theatre

Eltham Little Theatre will be performing "Present Laughter" by Noel Coward at the Eltham Performing Arts Centre, Main Road, Research from February 26 to March 13 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sunday, March 7, at 2pm. Cost is \$16 (concession \$14). Bookings on 9437 1574.

### Follywood

Warrandyte Theatre Company's Festival presentation this year is the all-star revue — Follywood — the cinematic follies of Warrandyte. Directed by Phil Swindley, the season commences on March 18 and continues through March 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27; April 1, 2 and 3. Follywood will be staged at the Warrandyte Mechanics Hall. Cabaret seating. The show commences at 8pm. Phone Joan at The Old Bakery Bookshop, Yarra Street, 9844 1744.

## Carols

A large crowd attended the annual Carols by Candlelight held at Stiggants Reserve last December. The Interchurch Council wishes to thank the community for their support and generous donations. A record \$877 was passed on to the Christmas Bowl appeal.

## Poetry

You are invited to join local poets and singers for an evening of truly Australian entertainment upstairs at Warrandyte's Grand Hotel on Sunday, March 14 from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. This is the tenth concert organised by the Bush Poets, developing local poets and attracting visitors as well. Lawrence Webb, who started these concerts, won the Bush Laureate award in January, as featured on Channel 9. Entry is by gold coin donation, or please book a table for the hotel buffet dinner and the show for \$20 per head. Queries to Lawrence Webb on 9712 0514

## Reunion

Warrandyte Primary School pre-1940 students are holding a reunion at the school on Sunday, March 7 from 11am to 4pm. Enquiries to Frances on 9884 9262 or Audrey on 9870 1803.

## Pancakes

Warrandyte Uniting Church will hold a pancake stall outside the Warrandyte IGA supermarket on Saturday, February 28. Money raised will go to the Share Community Appeal to help support welfare projects.

## Dance

The next South Warrandyte Social Dance will be held in the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road on Saturday, February 14. Cost is \$7. For information call 9729 8192.

## Guide

Friends of Warrandyte State Park have produced a "Gardener's Guide to Indigenous Planting", covering Warrandyte and surrounding areas. You can get one from their stall at the monthly Warrandyte Market.

## Do Care

Volunteers are needed to help with visiting older people or those with a disability in the community. Call 9762 5211 if you are interested.

## Newsletters

Looking for a simple way to keep the *Diary* informed of your group's activities? Put us on your newsletter mailing list.

# The real things!

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Warrandyte's senior men's basketball grand final produced a typically exciting finish in December, with the Fakers netting a third Greyburn Cup.

Fakers defeated Ballistyx 41-29 in the title decider, coming from behind to score the game's last 13 points.

Captain Scott Rimes was delighted to win the cup back from Ballistyx, who defeated his team in the decider last season.

"We've got a very willing rivalry with them so it's terrific to get the win," he said. "They are a very good team."

"We were extremely worried when Stuart Edwards had to withdraw before the game with a perforated ear drum, but we steadied well after a shaky start."

Ballistyx took command early, leading 9-2 with Ashley Grybas and Ron David (each with seven points for the game) finding the basket.

Andrew Howey provided the defensive backbone, but Fakers clawed their way back. By half-

time they were in front 19-18. Fakers guard Anthony Callanan (11) was important in Edwards' absence as the match developed into a tight scrap.

Steve Killey put Ballistyx in front 29-28 with four minutes remaining, but the reigning premiers would not score again.

Kevin Fleming (nine) tied the scores with a free throw a minute later before David McNeil (12) used his considerable muscle close to the basket to put the Fakers ahead for good. They secured the title with a vigorous effort at the defensive end.

Baghdad 69ers engraved their name on the "B" trophy for the first time by beating Warrandyte in their final. Jon Moore was again the stand-out, scoring 31 points in the 50-29 win.

Andrew Howey won the season's most valuable player award for the first time. He polled 23 votes to beat Moore by one. John O'Brien was third with 16 votes. The new season began on February 4, but entries will still be received via Gavin Eddy on 0418 800 704.



The fair-dinkum Fakers celebrate their Greyburn Cup grand final triumph over Ballistyx.

# Our girls sweep it clean



Coach Lorraine Parfitt keeps her all-conquering Under-12s on the boil. Back (from left): Hannah Davis, Gabbi Mitchell, Amber Saunders, Maddy Kercher, Kelly Peters, Sophie Richardson. Front: Eleanor Cousens, Olivia Allerdice.

By TONY OLIVER

Warrandyte's Under-12 C-grade girls swept all before them at the 29th Eltham Wildcats/Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament over the Australia Day long weekend.

This is traditionally a huge event, attracting more than 700 teams this year from as far afield as New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania.

The Redbacks had nine teams involved, the Under-12 girls going through undefeated, the Under-18 girls eliminated in a semi-final and a couple of others with near-miss stories to tell.

The Under-12s, coached by living Redbacks legend Lorraine Parfitt, were never going to lose their grand final against Darebin, prevailing 24-12 in the game at Eltham High School. Their passage into the big one was, however, a far more breathless affair.

Warrandyte trailed by four points late in their semi-final against Whittlesea, but Amber Saunders turned the game around by scoring twice. Hannah Davis then grabbed a 15-14 point win for the Redbacks by scoring the telling point from the free throw line.

The grand final was a straightforward exercise for Warrandyte, who started full of running and led 10-3 at the break, both sides wasteful under the basket.

Darebin matched the Warrandyte girls basket for basket early in the second half, their height advantage nullified by the Redbacks' superior pace, with Gabbi Mitchell and Saunders bringing the ball up court well.

The margin was eight points with a little more

than three minutes on the clock and quick baskets to Davis (two) and Sophie Richardson put the game beyond Darebin's reach.

Richardson topscored for Warrandyte with seven, followed by Davis (six), Saunders (four), Madeleine Kercher (three) and Eleanor Cousins and Kelly Peters (two apiece).

The Under-18 girls of Nick Peters went down gallantly 37-27 to Tasmanian side Devonport in their semi-final. They had met the same team earlier in the day at the end of the round-robin stage, losing 26-25 in controversial fashion when a late contested ball was deemed a foul by a Warrandyte player and Devonport converted one from the free throw line.

The Tasmanian girls made a certainty of the semi-final, however, by building an early lead and taking an 18-13 advantage into the interval, a gap the Redbacks were never able to bridge.

Chelsea Crisp led the scoring for Warrandyte with eight, one more than Amy Caudry.

Malcolm Anderson's Under-16 (1) boys narrowly missed a semi-finals appearance, winning two and dropping three — including a one-point loss to Diamond Valley and a hard-fought game against eventual winners Keilor in the final round-robin stage.

Warrandyte's Under-14 boys, under new coach Emma Collins, also performed well without making the semi-finals, but the real hard-luck story came from the second Under-14 side, coached by Luke Dimmock and Matt Camm.

They won four of their five games, but missed out on semi-final action on for-and-against averages.

# The dream lives!

By TONY OLIVER

Last year it was the Under-12 girls who had the chance to become the first Warrandyte basketball team into the elite Victorian Championship. This year it is the Under-14 boys.

Coach Emma Collins has been in charge of this talented side for only a few weeks, but the boys performed well at the big Eltham tournament and recorded a 37-34 win against Melbourne the previous week.

But they met their match and put those VC dreams at risk when they hosted Dandenong in the Friday night junior championship on February 6.

For the first time at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre, the game was played in quarters with a 24 second shot clock and the new held ball rule applying, and supporters were there in abundance.

But while there was probably little between the sides in terms of skills levels, Dandenong were far more experienced in use of time and court space in this form of the game and won 52-30.

The visitors' defence was outstanding and always had the Redbacks under pressure.

Warrandyte were still in it with a 28-18 scoreline against them at half-time, but Dandenong did the damage in the third quarter, stacking on 12 points to one.

Topscorers for Warrandyte

## Signing on for winter

Warrandyte Basketball Association's registration day for the Saturday winter season will be held on Saturday, February 14, at the community sports centre at Andersons Creek Primary School.

It will run from 9am to 5pm and cover boys and girls teams from Under-9 to Under-19.

Further information is available from president Stephen Bendle on 9844 0878.

were Matt Molloy and Ryan Holloway, with 10 each, and Jordan Beltramin with seven.

Dandenong paid Warrandyte the tribute of saying it was the fastest game they had been involved in for quite some time.

Warrandyte were to play Frankston in their next game and needed to win to keep their VC hopes alive.

Malcolm Anderson's Under-16 (1) boys were never challenged in a 65-37 victory over Diamond Valley at Warrandyte High School in Section 1 of the Eastern Qualifying Conference.

Ben Power was more than a handful under the basket with strong rebounding and scoring, and much damage was done up the court with Matt Clough, among others, applying continual pressure to the visitors.

The win followed a 28-19 success over Eltham the previous week. Coach Anderson is bringing the players along very nicely well and still believes they have a chance of making

Metro 3. They certainly are playing with that ability.

The Under 16 (2) boys, on the other hand, were on a rebound mission after a heavy loss to Melbourne when they faced Eltham at Eltham.

Reduced to just five players with injuries to Gavin Yates and Scott Petalas, they were more than competitive in the first half and led 15-13 at the break. But they could not sustain it and went down 50-23, finishing with just three players when Matt Peters was fouled off and Peter Whittingham joined the injured list.

The Under-18 boys, coached by Steve Camm, were coming off a 41-34 loss to Eltham when they faced Melbourne in the final game of the night at the high school.

Melbourne flew the blocks and led 16-6 at the interval, the Redbacks taking nine minutes to find their first basket.

Nick Kosavac and Luke Dimmock led the scoring for

Warrandyte in the second half and a three-pointer from Shane Holloway put the Redbacks within reach. But Melbourne stepped up another gear and ran out comfortable winners, 36-24.

The Under-18 girls, vying for Metro honours, played Western Port at Lilydale. Warrandyte settled first and solid play from Amy Caudry, Nicole Dadswell and Andrea Peters provided quick points.

Western Port stayed in contention by catching the Redback defence napping and it was 15 apiece at half-time.

Lindel Thomas was playing one of the best low-point games by any girl in the competition for a long while and was assisted by some disciplined play from the guards who continually fed the ball low.

The second half belonged to Warrandyte — thanks to an almost impeccable defence.

Western Port managed to add just six points to their half-time score while Warrandyte stacked on 26 to run away 41-21, Thomas, Peters and Dadswell leading the scoring.

The Under-12 girls lost 32-24 to Waverley, but the Under-11 boys maintained their good form by downing Ringwood 26-16 following a 38-16 victory over Knox.

The boys provided their coach Damian Arsenis with a wedding present for his marriage next day to Donna Barlow.



## Coaches' coaches

By PAULINE DUSTING

Warrandyte Netball Club have appointed two coaching coordinators, Rebecca Minichelli (left) and Jacinta Hennessy.

They have been working together since late last year to set up a coaching and player development program to be incorporated in the Under 11, 13 and 15 areas of the club.

The program is designed to assist current and new coaches and teach players new skills and develop their knowledge of netball.

Training nights will be conducted with each age group working together. Under-15s on Tuesdays, Under-13s Wednesdays and Under-11s on Thursdays.

Rebecca and Jacinta will also run netball and coaching clinics throughout the year to further instruct coaches and develop player skills.

Warrandyte's new season in the Doncaster and District competition begins on Saturday, March 13, and players will be advised of their training nights. Training gets underway in the week beginning February 16.

For any further information, call Lesley Reid (9844 2068) or Jacinta Hennessy on 9844 2378.

# Juniors hungry for the 2004 kick-off

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

Warrandyte Junior Football Club will be all out to surpass last season's brace of premierships when their 2004 campaign kicks off on April 4.

The Under-11s and Under-13s brought home flags from the 2003 Yarra Junior Football League finals series and the success of the club's recent registration night strongly suggests the young Bloods will have all the numbers and enthusiasm to at least match that achievement.

Older faces were welcomed back and many new ones introduced to what has traditionally been a very strong junior football environment.

Training is already under way for the older-age teams and all squads will be in full swing by mid-March.

Trial games will be an important part of pre-season and an inaugural intracub Secretary's Cup — recognising those who have filled that crucial role — will be played to "add spice" to the countdown to the new season.

"This time of year is always exciting and we are looking forward to doing everything we can to ensure all of our players taste success this year," long-serving club president



Young Joshua Costin just can't wait for the first bounce of 2004. He'll be playing Under-9 Tackers for Warrandyte — and as you can see, he's already predicting a first-up victory.

Mathew Matheou told the *Diary*.

"There is always room for more players, so anyone who'd like to join us is invited to contact myself (on 0418 542434) or Brad Curtis, our registrar, on 0418 333979.

"Opportunities also exist for interested parents and other people to be involved in coaching and team management responsibilities at the club," Matheou said.

"This is a great opportunity to be involved, with the club funding all coaching to Level 1 status."

● Player safety has always been a key priority at Warrandyte Junior Football Club and that policy has been underscored by the convening of a special seminar for coaches, team managers and officials.

The workshop will be conducted by club member and legal practitioner Carey Nichol.

"Player safety is our number one concern and everyone involved with the juniors must be totally focused on creating a safe playing environment," Nichol said. "This workshop will provide helpful hints on what to do to ensure that."

# New Bloods thinking big

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club have nominated three "talls" as their prime recruiting targets for the 2004 EFL Third Division season.

"We are looking for height in key positions," new Bloods president Phil Treeby told the *Diary*, "a centre half-back, a ruckman to assist Craig Dick and a centre half-forward."

"And we are already following up a few leads in those departments."

While committing themselves to a policy of fostering and promoting local young talent for their 2004 campaign and beyond, the club have certainly not withdrawn from the recruiting race.

"There are already several new faces at the club — largely mates brought along by present players — and at this early stage, prospects for the new season are looking very good," Treeby said.

"The players are training with new enthusiasm under new coaches Ash Hamilton and Andrew Hamer."

Up to half a dozen experienced players will be missing from the new list, most of them former East Burwood (Division 1) personnel said to be following last season's coach Scott Hunter and his assistant Stuart Wynd to Second Division club Knox.

But Treeby said the Bloods were still hoping to retain forward-ruckman Ross Bradshaw, who came to Warrandyte last season from Gippsland club Cora Lynn and had been mentioned as another likely departure.

"We are still talking with Ross," Treeby said.

Warrandyte resumed their pre-season on January 28 and will train Mondays and Wednesdays at Stinton Reserve until the cricket club vacate the recreation reserve.

The Bloods will play three Sunday practice matches next month in the lead-up to the season's opener at Rowville on April 3.

They will meet Kew at Stinton Reserve on March 14, Murrumbena at Victoria Park on March 21 and are arranging a third game for March 28.

## SPORT



Former Templestowe player David Young, who joined the Bloods two years ago, has been appointed coach of the Reserves, whose performance last season was their best for more than a decade.

And the successful Under-18s joint venture with Doncaster East will continue in the new season, under a Doncaster East coach.

The Bloods' new commitment to a local youth policy has already been implemented at committee level.

Current players Stewart Rough and Travis Brogan and not-long-retired player Greg Creber were elected to the committee at the annual general meeting on December 17.

They fill the vacancies created by outgoing president Noel Taplin, outgoing treasurer Jeff Evans and the long-serving Lawrie Sloan.

As expected, Treeby was elected unopposed to replace Taplin in the chair and James Logan was returned as secretary.

There were no takers on the night for vice-president or treasurer, but former senior player and club secretary Rod Valentine has since accepted the latter position.

Brian Williams and Terry Sloan remain on the general committee and Brendan Smith continues as football operations manager.

Warrandyte will approach the new season in a sound financial position after trading in the black for the preceding year.

Taplin told the AGM that season 2003 had been the club's strongest all-round effort on record, with all three teams — Seniors, Reserves and Under-18s — making the finals for the first time.

And he said it was particularly encouraging to see youngsters put their hands up for committee.

Warrandyte Cricket Club would like to thank the following local businesses for their sponsorship for the 2003/04 season.

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| Goldfields Plaza Medical Centre             | 9844 0466                 |
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| Sharni Leon – Osteopath                     | 9844 2465                 |
| The Bakery – Wood-fired Bakery Yarra Street | 9844 1809                 |
| The Soil Shop – Garden & Building Supplies  | 9844 3329                 |
| Warrandyte Beauty Centre                    | 9844 3477                 |
| Warrandyte Glass                            | 9879 0373 or 0418 369 294 |
| Wonga Park Cellars                          | 9722 1302                 |



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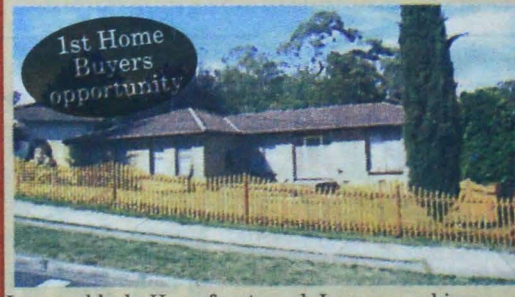
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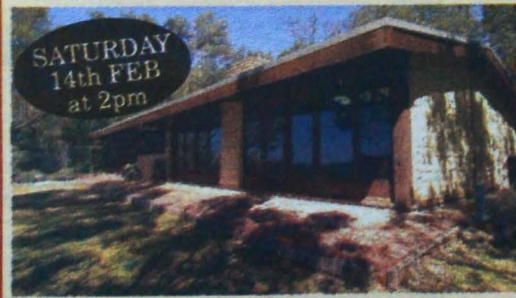
Lge cnr block. Huge front yard. Lge car parking area, dble LU garage. 3BRs, 1 bathroom lge lounge, new kitchen with family/meals. Ducted heating, 2 air cons, rear deck, gorgeous outdoor living area.  
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