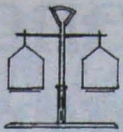


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PLAZA



WARRANDYTE

DIARY

No. 362, March 2004

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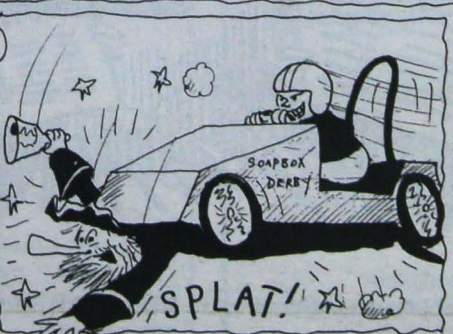
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The law's arm may be long, but the Internet's is longer



Fourteen years ago come May 11, Peta Walker vacated her place in the birthing unit at Mitcham Private Hospital after the arrival of little Georgia for an expat Canadian woman on the brink of motherhood. The two couples — Peta and our long-time police chief Sergeant Keith, and Janet and Jeff Nezon — became instant friends. They got to dining out together, thoroughly enjoyed each other's company and became good mates. Inevitably, though, as each couple went about the business of living life, they drifted apart and lost contact. Now, all those years on, a reunion is at hand — thanks to the wonders of an Internet with which your columnist is grudgingly and very belatedly coming to terms. The Nezens, now living in Toronto, obviously are very determined folk who had never lost hope of renewing their friendship with the Walkers and their persistence was rewarded late last month when they struck paydirt on the *Diary* website. There on Page 4 of the February edition was a picture of Keith preparing to enforce the new 50kmh speed limit in Yarra Street. And the rest, as they say, is hi-tech history.



"We've lost track (of Peta and Keith) over the years, but we remember Keith working outside of Melbourne, policing a small community," said the Nezens in an e-mail to the *Diary* on February 24. "We see a Keith Walker in your local journal and wonder if it is the same Keith and Peta. If it is, would you please be so kind as to pass on our e-mail to them." Not a problem — and Keith was reaching for the keyboard as we left the nick!



And while we're blowing our own Internet trumpet we'll mention a couple of American guys who've called us up and liked what they've seen. "I live in America and have friends in Warrandyte," says Stuart Altus, somewhere Stateside. "Thank you for your on-line service." Colin Jones, of Houston, Texas, is even more outgoing: "I read your February issue on the Internet and must say you have a great paper!" Please keep the fan mail rolling in, people, wherever you are. Who knows, this could be the start of a love affair between Smokey and the 21st Century!

IN RED & WHITE



From Canada with fond memories. Jan Tindale's picture which covered the globe via this new-fangled mumbo-jumbo Internet thing and set up an unlikely reunion.



Neil Dusting, Page 2's walking headline, has been lying so low these past months we wondered had he left town, but no one with such a penchant for dabbling in the bizarre can go to ground indefinitely. Up he's bobbed again — this time at the helm of his pride and joy, his seven-something-metre trailer-sailer 'Beats Workin'. His fair-weather mate and crewman Lex McDonald reckons Neil sails it better on the trailer than off it and a yacht race the other weekend at Paynesville would seem to bear that out. The event was a lost cause from the outset for Neil, Lex and fellow crewmen Ross Thomas and Tim Synnot, the skipper totally misinterpreting the starting instructions at the commodore's pre-race briefing and missing the jump by five minutes. So 'Beats Workin' saw very little of the rest of the fleet of 42 and crossed the line stone motherless. The story as Lex then tells it is that Neil had one very dark, devious and mean-spirited card up his sleeve with which to save a little face. Citing a law of the sea pre-dating the Ancient Mariner, he successfully protested against the second-last boat — a dinghy sailed by two eight-year-old boys — on the grounds that any sailor(s) under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult(s) in an open-class race. "It cost us six Violet Crumbles to stop the kids crying,"



says Lex — but we very much doubt the veracity of that tale because we know Neil Dusting to be a very good loser. God knows, he's had enough practice at it.

There may not have been fairies at the bottom of Alison Clancy's garden in The Boulevard, North Warrandyte — but she swears there was something darned near as rare. Black kookaburras. When first the dusky duo landed, Alison and partner Denis Gates guessed they might be somewhat overgrown kingfishers, but the laugh was a dead giveaway. This was dead-set kookaburra cackle. The birds decided that The Boulevard was the place to be and there they stayed. They were still there when Alison and Denis shifted house (rather reluctantly by now) to the other side of town a few weeks ago. Their phone call to the Bird Observers Club confirmed rare sightings of black kookaburras over the past 15 years but only one other in Victoria — at Marlo, in East Gippsland, in 1988. So next time you hear a kookaburra in full voice, take a close look. Like Alison and Denis, you might have come across something very special.



The *Diary* and the Lions Club Opp Shop have been next-door neighbours since the

community centre opened in 1991 — and jolly good neighbours they are. Sports editor Lee Tindale didn't realise just how good, though, until he arrived home a couple of weeks ago after hip replacement surgery and was in need of a chair — not just any old chair, but a stout, sturdy, high-backed, well-armed and ultra-comfortable chair — in which to spend much of his waking time during recovery. Opp Shop manager Sue Smith got a whisper of it and immediately bobbed up with just what the doc had ordered: a fair dinkum hospital chair. "Just happened to have this in stock," she said. "Keep it as long as you like." Lee says that chair has undoubtedly accelerated his recovery and thanks to it he'll be kicking goals again real soon (although probably not with his right foot). He also says thanks heaps, Sue.



Lee assures us that despite recent and very significant procedural advancements, a hip replacement is no barrel of laughs — although his pre-op had its moments. Taken through the "have-you-had" list for the umpteenth time, he was sorely tempted to answer "Moo" rather than "No" when asked about contact with Mad Cow Disease. And "Not that I recall" was irresistible when quizzed about any problems with memory loss.



We have no idea what impact, if any, the new 50kmh speed limit in Yarra Street has had or will have, but we do hope it makes life just that much safer for the multitude of motorists who consistently do illegal right-hand turns out of Mitchell Avenue. Come sit with Smokey one day outside the *Diary* office and count the sinners.



It's not just raining daisies at Pound Bend right now — it's pouring 'em! The Friends of Warrandyte State Park Nursery there (Melways reference 27 C 10) has not one but five native daisy species available at the moment. "They're colourful delights and hardy as well," indigenous flora guru Joan MacMahon assures us, "so make your garden glow with these butterfly-attracting beauties." The nursery is open from 10am-noon each Thursday.

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WARRANDYTE DIARY

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

Copy closes last Friday of each month

OUR NEWSPAPER

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



"There's a few Presidents around Warrandyte that might relish the idea of retiring..."

Wedge friction feared

By CLIFF GREEN

Residents across Manningham are alarmed at the possibility of their Green Wedge being rezoned from an environmental rural zone to a new rural conservation zone.

Whilst for many years local conservation and community groups have fought to preserve and strengthen the environmental controls in the Warrandyte-Park Orchards Green Wedge, some are now concerned that these new rules could be too restrictive and divisive.

Among other limitations, the proposed new zoning permits the building of only one house for every 40 hectares.

"The typical Green Wedge property in the Warrandyte-Park Orchards Green Wedge has always been only eight hectares," MP Phil Honeywood told the *Diary*.

"With 90 of the current 900 local Green Wedge properties still having no residence, this much higher lot size minimum will cause massive claims for compensation.

"Further division within a local community exhausted by all these

planning changes could be a very real prospect," he said.

One local landowner, who did not wish to be identified, told the *Diary* that after many years of debate and bitterness, "peace seemed to have come to the Green Wedge at last. There has been a generational change.

"People had accepted the reality of the new rules. The stalling for time, waiting for broad acre subdivision opportunities seemed to have ceased.

"Some owners were cashing in their land and moving on, others

were reconciled to staying and enjoying their larger properties.

"But now the rancour and division that blighted these communities for so long could return. This could result in years of disputation."

Mr Honeywood said the state government's "recently introduced Green Wedge core provisions turn out to be only a temporary holding pattern.

"The government has now superseeded these, after only six months, with five rural zones.

"Manningham council argue that none of these five zones reflect the

unique nature of the Warrandyte-Park Orchards Green Wedge," Mr Honeywood said.

"The one zone of the five that nearest matches our area only permits one home for every 40 hectares.

"There has been no consultation with the local council or the local communities.

"Why have a Melbourne 2030 strategy and long-term environment Green Wedge legislation if the minister, can, at her discretion, override the whole process?"



Yarra River at Bend of Isles: canoe launch could "affect sensitive river environment". (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Scout camp canoe launch concerns

By DAVID WYMAN

The Scout Activity Centre at Clifford Park, near Wonga Park, has applied to Manningham council for a planning permit to construct a canoe launching facility on the Yarra on land controlled by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Local residents are concerned that the facility will encourage greater use of the river and may depreciate the habitat of platypus, and native fish and water birds.

The main opponent of the proposal is Mr Ray Mooney, who lives across the river from Clifford Park in Ironbark Road, Kangaroo Ground.

In his submission to council, Mr Mooney said there was no need for a "canoe launch" and that anything that encouraged traffic in such a sensitive river environment would affect not only the environment but his "harmony and lifestyle".

He pointed out that the land affected was Warrandyte State Park land and that "every attempt must be made to deny the scout association from securing a strategy that gives them 'dejure ownership'".

"In the past, the scouting association have erected illegal

buildings on State Park land between the Yarra River and the scout camp.

"They were ordered to remove an illegal scout hall some years back, but there still remains an illegal boat shed and toilet block that the scouts constructed but have refused to demolish," Mr Mooney said in his submission to council.

"Because the surrounding State Park land is still in near pristine condition, we must do everything to ensure its safeguard," he said.

"I am annoyed that the notice of application did not list the true land to be affected by the proposal because anyone viewing this application could be misled into believing the construction of a canoe launch would only affect land owned by the scout association when in fact the land to be affected is not owned by them."

Mr Mooney said that there was no need to construct a "canoe launch".

For 22 years he had observed canoeists adequately using the river bank where the new launching facility would be situated. "It is a perfect natural launching and alighting area that does not need a constructed canoe launch."

'Wilder' roadside plan

By DAVID WYMAN

Manningham City Council expects that a new Roadside Environmental Management Strategy will enhance the conservation of indigenous plants and prevent land degradation on roadsides.

A draft of the strategy has been prepared and released for public comment. Copies have been sent to environmental groups, government agencies and service providers, and is available on council's website.

The strategy is very wide ranging, covering such areas as "installation and maintenance of services — power, communications, water, sewage and gas", "construction or works zones", "firewood collecting", "mowing and

slashing", "horse riding" and "bus stops and shelters", but its main focus is on remnant indigenous vegetation on roadsides.

The vast majority of indigenous roadside vegetation in Manningham occurs in the Green Wedge where footpaths and planted nature strips are rare. Manningham mayor, Cr John Bruce, said land clearing and other human activities had resulted in enormous loss of habitat for wildlife, and roadsides with remnant vegetation provided vital refuge and sources of food.

"The draft strategy recognises that roadsides provide for a variety of uses," Cr Bruce said. "It is an important step for the protection of remnant vegetation and offers management so-

lutions to what are often competing demands."

Manningham council commissioned environmental consultants to map remnant roadside vegetation and habitat assets in response to the threat that competing uses pose to biodiversity and natural heritage.

The vegetation was categorised and mapped in July 2002. This work was a basis for much of the draft strategy.

In the past, council's roadside signs highlighting "significant roadside vegetation" have been used to advance public awareness but only covered a small area.

Copies of the draft strategy are available from council's Economic and Environmental Planning unit.



A significant roadside. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

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Let horses cool off

Driving around Warrandyte I'm reminded of that old saying, "You have to be cruel to be kind".

The reason these words come to me is because right through summer I've seen horses with blankets on, even on the hottest of days.

I wonder if the owners of these horses tried standing in the sun for just one day in their overcoats how they would feel.

Some people love horses, but then you've got to look after them properly.

If you love your horse and don't want it to catch cold during the night, you should consider its feelings enough to take the blanket off in the day, especially in summer.

Ron Bence
Hawkes Road

Courtesy is catching

Visit the "T" intersection on the north side of the bridge any weekday around 9am and you will find cars on Research Road, heading south, banked up to Bradleys Lane and beyond as southbound Kangaroo Ground Road traffic has priority entering the bridge.

However, as one used to city driving, it never ceases to amaze me at the extraordinary courtesy demonstrated at the intersection. Almost invariably KG Road cars will allow one car from Research Road to negotiate the intersection before proceeding. The result is the most orderly procession of cars imaginable.

Fair dinkum, it restores one's faith in human nature. It is yet another of the things that make this place so special.

(Cr) Bob Stubbings
Bradleys Lane

DEAR DIARY

Thank you

In memory of Judith Ann Howlett (Walker).

Please accept our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all family and friends who surrounded Judy and ourselves with love and caring during Judy's illness, and those who attended her funeral service at Warrandyte Uniting Church and graveside service at the Paynesville Lawn Cemetery.

A big thank you to the Warrandyte Uniting Church and Paynesville Uniting Church and friends who provided the refreshments.

We will always remember your kindness and love.

Lochlan and Maddison
Howlett and their father Guy
and Julia and Marshall
Walker

Cemetery facts

I refer to the article in the February edition of the *Warrandyte Diary*, "Grave fears at cemetery".

I was one of the local residents who attended the meeting on December 20 at the cemetery trust offices. I believe that the only reason this meeting was called was as a result of the article which appeared in the *Manningham Leader*, "Grave fears over bigger cemetery bid", on December 17, 2003, and the letter that appeared in your paper from the local residents expressing concerns and disgust at the Andersons Creek Cemetery Trust's failure to consult with the local residents prior to going ahead with their proposal. The local residents asked the trust and the Catholic Church in September 2002 for the opportunity to be involved in any discussion or planning prior to the proposal but were not given the opportunity to do so. If the cemetery were a state government facility,

managed by trustees, wouldn't it be in the best interest of everyone to take all concerns into account?

In the best interests of their proposal and to be seen as doing the right thing in view of the articles in the two papers, we believe that the cemetery trust decided to quickly arrange a meeting for the last Sunday in December with very little advance warning, presumably hoping as few as possible residents would attend.

At that meeting all of the residents expressed disapproval at the proposal and it was made very clear to the two trust representatives that this proposed new cemetery site would be detrimental to the local residents.

The trust representatives did not appear to listen to our concerns and we felt that the speaker was just paying lip service to be able to show that they had consulted. The chairman even admitted that this

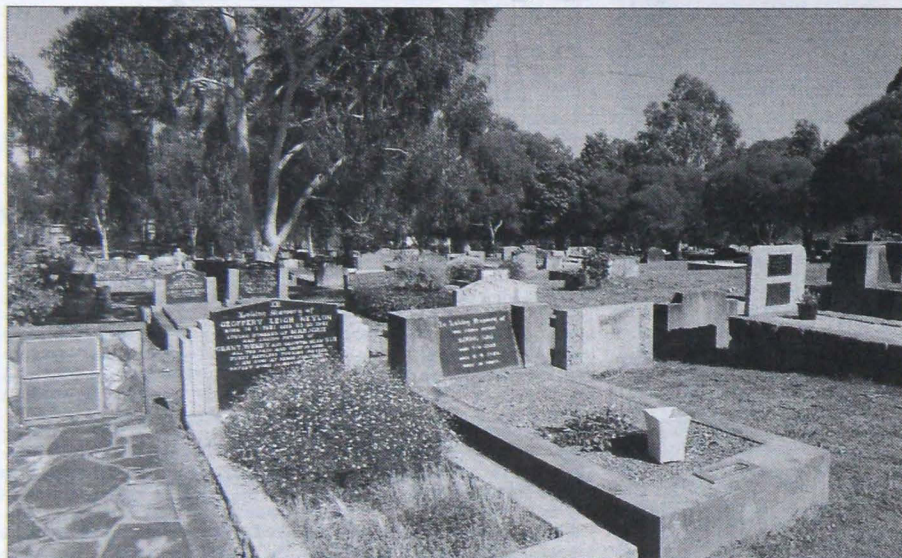
proposal "was going to create angst among the local residents and if it did, so be it".

I would also like to point out that the Amendment to Rezone Residential 1 Landscape Land to Public Use so that the cemetery can proceed, differs from a normal type of application to develop etc. This process will allow for a period of public exhibition when anyone in Warrandyte can lodge an objection. It will then be considered by council.

The process beyond that will be to refer to an independent panel that consists normally of three individuals, one of which is appointed by the state minister for planning. Residents will not have the usual VCAT option as this process will replace it.

There are concerns!

Jack
Member of Resident Action
Group (name and address
supplied)



"A cemetery is a cemetery is a graveyard." (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

Diary pictures confuse

Thank you for your informative article in the February issue of the *Diary* headed Grave Fears at Cemetery.

I would like to make just a couple of comments from an affected resident's perspective.

Firstly, while the Andersons Creek Cemetery Trust did hold a meeting with concerned residents, the meeting was only called AFTER the initial letter on the issue appeared in the December 2003 edition.

Remember, the writers were acting on what they regarded as "leaked" information.

Secondly, the pictures in the *Diary* and the words of the Trust imply that the area is to be turned into a nice parkland

but let's be realistic "a cemetery is a cemetery is a graveyard" and the residents immediately adjacent to the proposed site do not want to be overlooking burial plots in any guise.

Imagine having a Mothers Day barbecue with all the trimmings of laughter, kids shouting, joyful music, while mourners are trying to pay their respects to departed loved ones only metres away.

Ron Cook
Trezise Street

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

Disturbed

After reading the most recent article in the *Diary* regarding the new Warrandyte Cemetery, I was somewhat disturbed by the way this sensitive subject/issue was portrayed.

The article leaves the reader with the impression that this new cemetery will be a place of charm and beauty and does not address the realities of death, grief and sadness which will be imposed on the residents and their families who will be forced to live with it, if it is established.

David George
Trezise Street

● The *Diary* stands by its report, which we believe was accurate, fair and balanced.

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MANNINGHAM

ROADSIDE STRATEGY

Manningham Council has released a draft Roadside Environmental Management Strategy, designed to protect, conserve and enhance native vegetation on the city's roadsides, while maintaining the safe function of roads and community infrastructure assets.

The Draft Strategy is available for public comment from the Economic and Environmental Planning Department ph: 9840 9333.

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Nillumbik Shire Council Grants 2004

Nillumbik Shire Council is seeking project proposals for one-off funding in the 2004/2005 financial year. All projects must meet the appropriate guidelines to be eligible. Funding for grants will be subject to Council's 2004/2005 budget.

Grants Available:

Community Development Grant
Enquiries: Ms Megan Andrews 9433 3210
To assist the development of new innovative programs, opportunities and services by local community groups and organisations within the Shire.

Community Support Grant
Enquiries: Ms Megan Andrews 9433 3210
To assist and support in the operation of small community groups with limited capacity to obtain funds from other sources.

Cultural Development Grant
Enquiries: Ms Katrina Rank 9433 3126
To encourage individuals, community groups and organisations in the Shire to develop arts and cultural activities that benefit the community.

Special Events Grant
Enquiries: Ms Jessica Neath 9433 3263
To support community groups with the development and implementation of emerging community events and celebrations.

Youth Support Grants
Enquiries: Ms Stacey Mansfield 9433 3190

Information Sessions:
It is highly recommended that all applicants register and attend one of the sessions listed below:

Nillumbik Shire Offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough
Session 1: 7pm Thursday 1 April 2004
Session 2: 2pm Friday 2 April 2004

To register your attendance please contact Ms Megan Andrews 9433 3210.

Please note that the guidelines and application forms for all grants are available on the Council website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Closing date for all grants excluding Youth Support Grants is 4.00pm, Friday 30 April 2004.

Festival funding fears



Council brings off a last minute rescue

By CLIFF GREEN

Until a few weeks ago, the Warrandyte Festival Committee was facing financial crisis.

Committee president John Boyle told the *Diary*, "I was really starting to panic. We faced an insurance bill of \$10,250. Rubbish disposal was going to cost \$3800, and our total subsidy equals \$25,500; \$15,500 from Manningham council and \$10,000 from the Shire of Nillumbik."

This meant festival organisers had the magnificent sum of \$11,500 with which to run the entire festival, including equipment hire, entertainers and artists' fees, advertising and printing and all the other myriad costs they have to meet. "It costs us \$2500 just to have the street banners erected," Mr Boyle said.

"Our projected total expenses for the 2004 festival run to \$46,460. On top of this is the value of the huge input of volunteer community effort and all the things we beg, borrow and steal.

"Including the relatively small amounts we bring in from sponsorships and other sundry sources, the committee faced a shortfall of \$11,540.

"The councils are getting a pretty cheap festival," Mr Boyle said.

He felt that the Warrandyte Festival could have been in jeopardy. "You've got to pay your bills, otherwise you go under. The wider community—well beyond Warrandyte—has enjoyed this special event for

more than a quarter of a century. It's the biggest thing Warrandyte does. We faced the possibility that 2003 could be our last hurrah."

John Boyle finally called Manningham mayor, Cr John Bruce and communicated his deep concerns. Cr Bruce organised a meeting with John Bennie, Manningham CEO.

"This resulted in all our costs for rubbish removal being wiped and the promise of a full refund for last year's costs. This meant we were instantly \$5000 better off. Since then, local councillor Pat Young—who has always been a strong festival supporter—has pledged additional funding from her ward allocation."

The committee has also negotiated cheaper insurance. "Things are looking better, but we're still sailing very close to the wind," Mr Boyle said. "We've had to prune and keep pruning. We have a very good treasurer in Claire Dawson, and she won't let us drift into the red."

Insurance has proved a nightmare for the Warrandyte Festival. Following the insurance panic that followed the September 11 bombings in New York, insurance premiums went through the roof—if they were available.

Last year, the festival committee was unable to obtain public liability cover for the billycart derby, "wheelie bin" race, the pony club contingent, two rock climbing walls and the "dunk the teacher" event. Several



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

other attractions went ahead because outside organisations extended their insurance to the

festival. These included Scouting Australia covering the waterslide and YMCA the youth events. The police Blue Light Disco insured the billycart derby, permitting this event to be held at a later date.

"Last year, right up until the final Friday night we were still looking for insurance for a number of events," Mr Boyle said. "People were resigning from the committee because they felt they could be exposed to crippling litigation."

This crisis has now passed, "although public liability insurance is always a concern. We have had some financial relief on this front also, and we have recently negotiated our insurance down from \$10,000 to \$6050."

This follows state government intervention in liability insurance. "Local MP Danielle Green played a major role in this," Mr Boyle said.

The Warrandyte Festival prides itself on total community involvement. "The festival is run by the community, for the community. It succeeds because Warrandyte is a unique community; therefore it deserves a unique festival."

The festival has resisted the temptation to go commercial. "We refuse to sell out our community. Our parade is free of

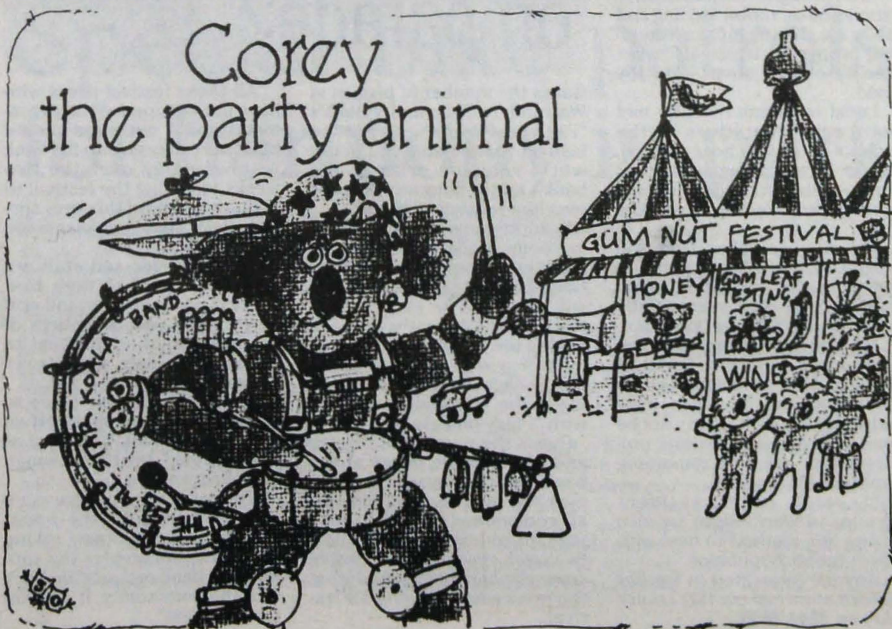


commercialisation, our sponsors remain low key; they back us because they want to be seen to be part of a good show, not because we promote them commercially. The local people who contribute so much, give so freely of their time and talent; you could never pay them.

They'd cost you millions. That's how we've kept the show going. "Anyone who comes along during festival weekend and has such a good time that they would like to be involved with the committee, can come and talk to us at the caravan near the main stage," Mr Boyle said.

COREY'S CLAN

By SYD & ONA

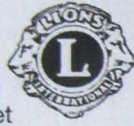


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Cr Pat Young lends a hand at the Wonga Park BMX track.

Rebuilt BMX track on its way

A volunteer group of "jump builders" made their mark on the newly-formed dirt jumps at the popular Wonga Park BMX jumps track, one Saturday last month.

Approximately 25 Wonga Park residents arrived at 10am to work on their new BMX track. With the assistance of the local Wonga Park CFA brigade, the group worked tirelessly with shovels and spades compacting the soil.

Ms Joey Boothby and Mr Paul Reading from Manningham council were on hand to oversee the works and Cr Patricia Young helped to barbecue sausages and provide drinks to the thirsty workers compliments of Manningham council.

Cr Young told the *Diary*, "It was terrific to see all different age groups working together to make a really exciting BMX jumps track for the young people to use. I am sure they will take pride in it as they have worked so hard and for so long to get a dirt jump track at Wonga Park."

"Manningham council places a strong importance and value on building a sense of community in Manningham. It was as strong as ever on that Saturday," she said.

Manningham council's park development planner, Ms Joey Boothby said beginners, intermediate and advanced riders can now all be accommodated at the track.



Volunteers dig in.

Rabbits on the run

Residents of Brackenbury Street are concerned about the spread of rabbits in their neighbourhood.

With both the State Park and Warrandyte Primary School situated in their street acting as "safe havens, the rabbit popu-

lation has exploded," according to resident Louise Joy.

"The drought conditions have impacted on rabbit feeding and they are moving into surrounding properties which also offer plenty of safe cover," Ms Joy said.

Local residents recently met with representatives of the school council, school officials, Parks Victoria, Department of Primary Industry, Manningham council and Ferelex Pest Control.

"Advice was taken from the experts, including local vet Derek Fairley and John Hanson who has worked successfully with the Webb Street program.

"Options on netting, as well as poisoning were discussed at length. After checking the affected areas, the group were advised that netting may not be suitable, leaving Pindone poisoning as the only remaining option," Ms Joy said.

"Several other resident groups in Warrandyte are also using this method to deal with their rabbit population."

Anyone interested in further information can contact Louise Joy on 9844 3600.

CORRECTION

A report in the *Diary* last month, relating to a development in Research Road, contained several inaccuracies. The heading read "Concern at subdivision". In fact this is not a new subdivision, the land was subdivided some years ago. Also our report stated, "D.J.Ashton's initial plan was to build three-storey houses on the lots." This should have read: "D.J.Ashton's initial plan was to build three two-storey houses on the lots." The errors were made by a *Diary* editor.

How many piggies on parade?

Guess the number of piggies in Warrandyte Community Bank's "Piggy on Parade" entry in the festival parade and you could win a valuable prize at the bank's tent at Stiggants Reserve over the festival weekend.

In addition two special offers are being made to attract new bank customers over festival time. Some establishment fees will be waived for new customers during the two weeks following the festival.

The new Warrandyte Community Bank is proudly participating in the Warrandyte Festival with "Piggy on Parade".

Guess the number of piggies and win valuable prizes at the bank tent at Stiggants Reserve over the festival weekend and all comers are invited to take part. In addition there will be a two week special offer to waive some establishment fees during the two weeks following the festival.

"All those festival goers who have not yet opened their community bank accounts should make sure they go into the bank without delay over the two weeks following the festival to take advantage of this very special offer," a bank spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"The manager and staff are looking forward to their first festival participation and will be on hand with members of the board at the bank tent to meet with people and answer any questions."

"There is no better place to support your community than at the community bank tent at the festival," board chairman John Provan said.

"The more support the community puts into the bank, opening accounts and taking out loans, the greater the support the bank can provide back into the community. It's a win-win situation."

North centre rising from the ashes

Words and pictures by
SANDY BURGOYNE

North Warrandyte Community Centre is at last rising from the ashes. The footings and slab were poured last month and building works continue apace.

Although the slab is obviously smaller than the floor area of the original structure the new centre will be larger than its predecessor. The slab represents only a third of the floor area. Piles will support the remainder of the building.

North Warrandyte locals should start to see structure above the ground from this month.

Local groups were consulted during the centre's planning stage.

"Council organised a series of meetings with all stakeholders. We gave the various groups sketches of suggested designs and asked for their comments," Nillumbik councillor Bob Stubbings told the *Diary*.

The final design is for a multiple use structure. Yarra Warra Pre-school, the toy library and council's maternal and childcare services will all be housed there. The pre-school section of the centre will have its own kitchen facilities. The new hall will be available for the use of the North Warrandyte community.

The structure is environmentally friendly and incorporates energy-efficient measures, such as double-glazing on the panoramic windows that will overlook the river valley.

A row of large cypress trees that dominated the boundary with Research Road have been removed, greatly improving the appearance of the site. Once building is completed the council will develop a garden of indigenous native plants.

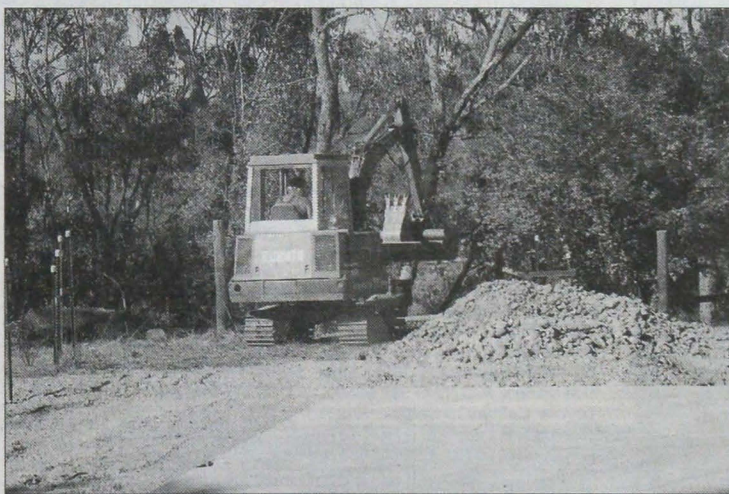
Completion of the new community centre is expected by the end of this year. Yarra Warra Pre-school will be in its new home by the first term of 2005. Pre-school enquiries should continue to be directed to Nillumbik council.

The original community centre, which was built about 30 years ago, was destroyed in an arsonist-laid fire in October 2002.

To the *Diary's* knowledge nobody has been charged in relation to that outrage.



"This is what it will look like." Cr Bob Stubbings shows young clients plans of the new North Warrandyte community centre. Below: at work at last.



Special bike patrols aim for harmony in parks

In a bid to improve harmony in our parks and reserves, Manningham council and the Victoria Police are joining forces to improve community safety by educating residents about their responsibilities.

The council's local laws officer and police crime prevention officers will be conducting regular bicycle patrols on shared pathways across the municipality.

Manningham mayor, Cr John Bruce, said the joint initiative aims to educate park users on responsible pet ownership and bicycle laws and encourage positive relationships between pet owners, other park users, police and council.

"Council and police enjoy a good working relationship. The idea of the patrols is to better educate our residents

about park etiquette and encourage a more responsible use of the community's open space.

"On occasions there can be misunderstandings with the use of a shared footpath.

"Pedestrians should keep to the left and approaching cyclists should warn of their arrival by ringing their bell or vocalising their approach. It is really just a matter of common sense and communication.

"The role of council officers and the police will be to create a visible presence in our parks and reserves and work together to deter unruly behaviour and encourage residents to get active and make use of our beautiful parks.

"The vast majority of residents who use our parks and reserves do the right

thing. There is, however, a small minority who fail to respect other users' rights.

"Police and council officers will be on the look out for unacceptable behaviour such as graffiti, vandalism, bikes ridden at excessive speeds, bike riding without helmets, dogs off-lead and those failing to carry a bag to pick up after their dog," Cr Bruce said.

Dog owners found to be "doing the right thing" (include muzzling pets as required, only having the dog off leash in designated areas, keeping pets away from children's play areas, picking up your pet's droppings and disposing of them appropriately and having pets wear a collar with council registration tag) will be provided with free dog Pooch Pouches and sample dog food packs.

Schools urged to apply for funds

Local schools can apply for state government funding to enable them to build new facilities that can be shared with the wider community.

Danielle Green, MP for Yan Yean, and Carolyn Hirsh, MP for Silvan Province, are urging schools in the Warrandyte area to apply to the government's \$30 million Community Facilities Fund (CFF) to build new facilities to be shared with their local community.

Libraries, sporting facilities, community halls, playgrounds, school holiday sites, before and after school programs, information technology centres, performing arts centres and child care centres were projects that could be funded under the new program.

"The CFF will fund up to half the cost of approved projects," Ms Green said.

"Sharing facilities is a great way for schools and the wider community to create local resources that will be used on the weekends and at night, not just during the school day," Ms Hirsh said.

Ms Hirsh said the government had committed \$30 million for the Community Facility Fund.

"Under the program schools will need to work closely with local government to explore the range of exciting opportunities that will be created by the program," she said.

Schools considering applying for funding during 2004/2005 should contact their regional office of the Department of Education and Training as soon as possible to ensure their application can be submitted by March 19, 2004.

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Water savings bring benefits

Sports grounds will continue to be watered across Manningham, thanks to a water conservation plan, developed in line with state government guidelines.

To be granted this concession by the government, Manningham council had to meet strict guidelines and develop a plan that reduced water consumption at council sports grounds by a minimum of 10 percent.

The plan outlines initiatives and actions relating to water conservation objectives and site irrigation efficiencies that are expected to save more than 16,000 kilolitres a year.

Manningham mayor, Cr John Bruce, said the state government concession is great news for the thousands of people who play sport across the municipality, but he emphasised the concession is reliant on council exhibiting significant water savings.

"The sustainability of valuable natural resources such as water is a high priority for our community.

"Council supports the implementation of the government's stage two water restrictions and as such, it is also currently developing a council-wide water conservation plan, that will integrate the sports ground component."

As part of wider water saving initiatives, Manningham council has commenced programs to recycle stormwater, to install water tanks at several council facilities and to plant drought-tolerant grass species

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We're still living in the 60s: Students at Warrandyte Primary School went back in time when the group "Bushwazee" arrived and led a series of workshops taking everyone back into the 1960s, dancing to The Twist, The Stomp and The Limbo Rock. Jack, Hamish and Mark (above) entered into The Swim of it all!

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

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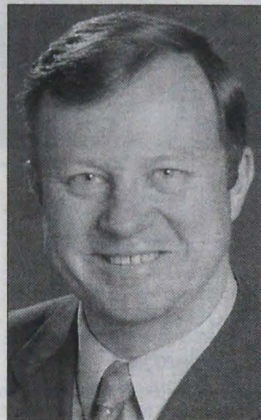
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Aged care facility breaks Green Wedge guidelines



Phil Honeywood

The state government has approved the building of a large aged care facility in Tindals Road, close to Donvale Christian College, in defiance of the Manningham planning scheme. Mayor Cr John Bruce said the decision by the Minister for Planning, Mary Delahunty, to amend the planning scheme without consulting council sets a dangerous planning precedent. MP Phil Honeywood has told the *Diary* that "the location of the proposed 60-bed aged care facility is on the crest of a hill in Tindals Road, has no sewerage on-site and does not meet any proximity to public transport, shops and other key guidelines for the siting of such facilities."

Cr Bruce said that "by invoking section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Minister Delahunty has approved Amendment C39 to the Manningham planning scheme, which allows for the development of the aged care facility for Chinese residents." The proposal for the facility is prohibited under the current Manningham planning scheme, as it is located outside the designated Urban Growth Boundary and is in Manningham's Green Wedge area. Cr Bruce said council has consistently supported the Chinese community's desire to locate a nursing home within Manningham, but has never endorsed the Tindals Road site. "As Manningham's population

ages, there is a growing need for such aged care facilities. "Council officers, in conjunction with officers of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, have been actively looking at alternative sites for the Chinese community aged care facility that complied with the planning scheme. "The minister's decision has been made without consultation. Council was merely advised by letter dated February 25, 2004." Mr Honeywood said that while he supports "any community group who want to construct their own nursing home, it is the ministerial interference in the planning that is the crucial issue".



Warrandyte fire brigades are festival favourites. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

Smoke alarm changeover

The end of daylight saving later this month is an ideal time to remember to renew the batteries in your smoke alarms. Last year CFA attended more than 1100 house fires in Victoria. While most houses now have smoke alarms installed, local brigades are finding that an increasing number of alarms are ineffective as they have flat batteries or have had their batteries removed. South Warrandyte CFA captain Peter Plant told the *Diary* that, "Smoke alarms provide an early warning of fire which can save lives by providing time for residents to escape. Without a working battery there is no sound and therefore no warning." Captain Plant highlighted that the end of daylight savings marks the start of the winter months, traditionally a high-risk time for household fires. "South Warrandyte CFA urges everyone on Sunday, March 28—clock turn-back time—to replace their smoke alarm battery with a long-lasting alkaline battery and check that all alarms are in working order. "It only takes five minutes once a year, but it could save the lives of you and your family," Captain Plant said. "We are also asking people to think of others who may need help in changing batteries, particularly the elderly who may struggle to get up a ladder to reach smoke alarms." People living in new homes need to remember that mains power smoke alarms have back-up batteries that need to be checked and replaced. Smoke alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area of a home or, in the instance where bedroom doors are closed at night, installed inside the bedrooms. In a home where the bedrooms are upstairs or on another level, an additional

smoke alarm is required to be installed on the route commonly used to exit the house. Smoke alarms should not be installed in kitchens or bathrooms unless it is a specialised alarm. Steam and cooking fumes will set alarms off.

Smoke alarms should not be installed in "dead" spaces—at the apex of cathedral ceilings or at the corner where the roof joins the walls. Set them approximately 30cm down the wall and one metre from air conditioning and ceiling fans.



Scout's honour: Warrandyte scout Paddy Dennis received the Premier Scouting Medallion from celebrity guest Tommy Hafey at a special ceremony recently. Paddy was further honoured when he was invited to represent Warrandyte at the flag-raising ceremony at Melbourne Town Hall on Australia Day. (Picture by Peter Barker Photography)

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Warrandyte Village Festival: March 20 and 21



Pictures by IAN CRAIG



Festival briefs

A grand read

Now in its sixth year, A Grand Read will be held upstairs at the Grand Hotel on Tuesday, March 16 from 7.30pm. The evening features readings of original work by local and other writers, both new and established. Light refreshment provided, drinks from the bar. You can book (tickets \$7) at the Warrandyte Post Office, at Neighbourhood House or at the door. Interested in reading something? Call Karen on 9844 1839.

Serve 'em right!

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

Unplug your ears

"Rock Stage Unplugged" will kick off at the Warrandyte Skatepark, on the corner of Taroona Avenue at 2pm on the Saturday and will continue into the Saturday evening—until 11pm! Any young local musicians keen to take part should contact Rick Gordon on 9844 2242, after hours, as soon as possible. The newly-declared alcohol-free status of the area will be strictly enforced.

Skating on the edge

The YMCA Skate Comp will be held on Sunday at Warrandyte Skate Park on the corner of Taroona Avenue. Sections for under 12s at 1pm, under 15s at 2pm and the open age group at 3pm, followed by a heart-stopping demo by professionals commencing at 4pm. Again, strictly no alcohol allowed!

Trouble brewing

But there will be plenty of alcohol at the Home Brewing Competition to be staged in the big tent near Stiggants Main Stage between 5pm and 7pm on the Saturday. Bring your entry bottle at 5pm to compete. Categories include stout, lager, bitter, ale, pilsner, draught and others. Winners will be announced on stage during Warrandyte Idle that evening.

Creative impulses

St Stephens Anglican Church has taken this year's festival theme—"Feel Free!"—to heart. They are encouraging everyone, children and adults, to join in free creative activities in their tent in the church grounds, opposite Stiggants Reserve. This event will run between 12noon and 4pm on the Saturday and between 11am and 4pm on Sunday. Art materials and clothing covers will be provided and artists will be available for help, inspiration and encouragement.

Demolition derby

Wish you could set fire to a real car and then rip it apart? You could if you were a member of a CFA brigade. Local fireflies, police and SES stalwarts will be demonstrating their rescue techniques in a combined training exercise at the Riverbank Stage Area at 4.30pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

Follywood fun feast

By SANDY BURGOYNE

It's exotic. It's tremendous. It's colossal. It's stupendous. It's Follywood!

That's right, appearing at our own world-famous Mechanics Institute for a strictly limited season, prior to a tour of the world's fleshpots, is Warrandyte's annual Festival Follies.

Imagine a star-studded night of intimate entertain-

ment with your favourite celebrities.

"Follywood is colourful. It's glitz and glamour. It's got everything from Shirley Temple to John Wayne and Rhett and Scarlett," Warrandyte Theatre Company's Rae Danks said.

The *Diary* has it from a reliable source that George Bush, Saddam Hussein and John Howard are among the

luminaries who will donate their valuable time to the show.

Even the reclusive Mrs Schwarzenegger (mother of Arnie) has been persuaded to make a special appearance.

Follywood: the Cinematic Follies of Warrandyte is an all-singing, all-dancing showcase of local talent. In the finest of tinsel-town traditions audiences will be treated to

no less than three lavish production numbers.

"It's absolutely fabulous with lots of sparkle and glamorous costumes and a cast of thousands," Ms Danks gushed.

The *Diary* believes that the cast is closer to 40, but that's show biz for you.

Follywood performances are on March 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 and April 1, 2 and 3 at

the Mechanics Institute from 8pm.

Seating is cabaret style with patrons bringing their own food and drink. Tickets for this stupendous extravaganza, which are ridiculously cheap at \$15, are on sale now.

For bookings contact Joan at the Old Bakery Bookshop on Yarra Street, phone 9844 1744.

Hip, hip, hooray for the bold, brave bilycarters

By GILCHRIST CLENDINEN

The Warrandyte Bilycart Derby, favourite of the Warrandyte youth and probably the most fiercely contested event at the festival, is back. This year's bilycart race will see some changes. There is to be a slight curve at the start of the race and parents have their own race as well.

Last year, looking at some of the more advanced carts, you might have felt at a bit of a loss as to what happened to the old bilycarts that when we were younger we played around in. What happened to the carts that your dad or uncle had made out of a plastic seat, a few bits of wood and some old rubber tyres? The steering on those carts was always just a length of rope and only pansies had brakes.

Last year the winning carts were highly-toned machines, some even having suspension. Steering is always with a proper steering wheel, air resistance is cut to a minimum and if you don't have brakes you'll be lucky to last the event.

For a while I've been looking forward to this race as it looks to be one of the most contested Warrandyte bilycart races ever. Here are three of the competition's heavyweights who will fight it out to the end:

The Carters (who won the 2002 race) will be keen to reclaim the title though Casey Carter, the cart's driver, says no large changes are being made. The Carters can be distinguished by Casey's three loud



older brothers who will probably carry Casey to the winning podium on their shoulders—if he wins. Their cart has a Ferrari symbol on the front and is made mainly of metal.

Luke Skewes is racing in Shaun Johnston's cart (last year's winner who is now too old to race) and says that he is trying to fit a CD player in it. Shaun is the brains behind that duo and will probably be poring over complex physics problems to make the cart faster in the coming weeks.

Also one can't forget Jamie Taylor who has come second in the last two years and is sure to be hungry for her name on the trophy. She is usually the

only girl racing and has a wooden three-wheeler. In the last two years she has never lost by more than a cart-length and will probably be fine tuning her cart to get it that little bit faster.

Throughout the years the bilycart race has evolved to be one of the favourites of the festival. Last year when it was delayed because of public liability insurance the community outcry was huge as they were forced to face a festival without a bilycart race. Now it is back and will begin at 9.30am on Sunday, March 21. I advise anyone who can get out of bed to come on down and take part in true community spirit.

Hear ye! Hear ye! David hangs up his hat and bell

By JUDY FINGER

"Oyez! Oyez!" David Hogg, festival town crier, is passing on his bell after 14 years of distinguished service. He answered an advertisement in the *Diary* prior to the festival in 1989 calling for volunteers to take on the Town Crier's role.

David said at the time that he was surprised and delighted when he "got the position without even having to audition!" His wife Patty made his splendid outfit, which he has worn every year since 1990, only missing one year when he was away. He was also responsible for the production of the festival program between 1991 and 1997.

David told the *Diary* that he "has enjoyed participating in the festival and has loved interacting with lots of people of all ages."

Today, children often identify him as a pirate, with his three-cornered hat. He has explained to many of them the role of the village town crier in times past, when he acted as the conveyor of news prior to the spread of newspapers and the invention of radio and television.

Offering to ring his bell, small children always found it took a deal of strength and skill to extract a chime from it.

As well as attending Warrandyte market at the beginning of March, to harangue patrons and distribute leaflets advertising the festival, David explained that his job also involved an element of security duties as he led the parade and made sure



Farewell and adieu: David Hogg our retiring crier.

the road was clear, with no oncoming bicycles, so that the parade could safely pass.

The festival committee has paid tribute to David's dedication to duty. "David has been the face of the festival for many years and will be greatly missed," a spokesperson said. "We would like to thank him for his contribution. We are sure that his successor, Ian Craig, will do a magnificent job, and we welcome him to many years of town crying!"

WARRANDYTE VILLAGE FESTIVAL • OFFICIAL PROGRAM

TUESDAY 16 MARCH

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

THURSDAY 18 MARCH

THE FESTIVAL FOLLIES: "FOLLYWOOD – the cinematic follies of Warrandyte". Warrandyte Theatre Company's all-star revue directed by Phil Swindley. March 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 & 27; April 1, 2 & 3. Mechanics Institute Hall. BYO food and drink. \$15 per head. 8.00pm, Bookings: Joan Rogers at The Old Bakery Book Shop Yarra Street, 9844 1744

FRIDAY 19 MARCH

ROTARY ART SHOW OPENING Enjoy champagne and chicken. 7.30–10pm Admission by ticket only. \$10. Bookings: Richard Forde 9876 1862 Giant Marquee behind Community Church.

THE FESTIVAL FOLLIES: "FOLLYWOOD – the cinematic follies of Warrandyte" see details above.

ALL WEEKEND

SATURDAY 20 MARCH: 9am–5pm
SUNDAY 21 MARCH: 10am–4pm
(Unless otherwise stated)

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

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

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

● ON STIGGANTS RIVERBANK:

West of Rotunda:

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

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

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

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

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

WOODTURNERS display and demonstration.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE static display including local aerial photographs.

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

NILLUMBIK SHIRE TENT featuring local Landcare and Community Fireguard groups.

East of Rotunda:

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

WARRANDYTE TOY LIBRARY Come and try our playground and toys. Parental supervision required. Small charge.

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

WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION information and membership opposite the art show.

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

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

MINI GOLF small charge.

WAVEDANCE KAYAK display.

● ON STIGGANTS RESERVE:

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

FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES including Woodwork with Craftpower; Pottery with Jane Annois; Drawing with Nancy Johnson, Neighbourhood House; Craft Activities with Warrandyte Guides, Andersons Creek and Warrandyte Primary Schools. Sponsored by the Warrandyte Festival. Full program on display at the information van.

PLASTER PAINTING paint a figurine – lots to choose from. Cost from \$2.50.

KIDS' GIANT WATERSLIDE Starts noon Saturday. Run by Scouts. Changing Tent. Bring toys & towel. 50¢ a ride or \$5 for all-day pass.

● OTHER ACTIVITIES:

FEEL FREE St Stephen's Anglican Church, Stiggants Street invites you to 'Feel Free' to be creative. A large variety of interesting materials supplied for supervised activities for all ages and it's free! Also, in the church grounds second hand goods for sale including books, clothing, house wares & collectable items – a freebie with every purchase. Afternoon tea to lift your creative spirit! Saturday 12noon–4pm; Sunday 11am–4pm.

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

SATURDAY 20 MARCH

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

10am: PARADE MARSHALLING At the Bridge Tennis Courts (Pedestrians) and Tills Drive (Vehicles and Horses).

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

11am: FESTIVAL PARADE Cutting of the ribbon by Manningham and Nillumbik Councillors. Parade includes Town Crier – Ian Craig, Festival King and Queen – Jock and Di Macneish, bands, floats, bikes, horses, vintage cars & more. Commentaries at Community Centre, Grand Hotel and Stiggants roadside. Liz Law 9844 0685.

12noon: OFFICIAL OPENING by the King and Queen of the Warrandyte Festival – Jock and Di Macneish and local Councillors.

12.15pm: ON STAGE AT STIGGANTS featuring Andersons Creek, Park Orchards, Warrandyte and Warranwood Primary Schools, Warrandyte High School, Dance Plus and The Burra Squares as well as a variety of other talented local youth – see detailed program below.

12noon: ROVING ENTERTAINERS Allana Le Mar – School of belly dancing

12noon-4.30pm: RIVERBANK STAGE – M.C. Unique Creatures with giant puppets, Children's Games & Tricks. A great afternoon's entertainment including Garry Hayes, Allana Le Mar, Chocolate Lillies, Ella Thompson & Sam Lawrence, BB Gunn, Leased and Dave Gleeson Trio – program below.

2pm-5pm: ROCK ON SATURDAY Rock Stage with local bands at Skate Park, Warrandyte Reserve – See details below.

2.10-2.25pm: PUPPET PARADE with Unique Creatures – present your favorite Puppet. Best Puppet wins a prize! Plus free puppet untangling!

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

5-7pm: HOME BREWING COMPETITION Warrandyte is full of home brewing enthusiasts and this is your chance to pit your skills against each other! Bring your bottles at 5pm to compete in beer categories including stout, lager, bitter, ale, pilsner, draught and others. \$2 per entry. Location is the big tent on Stiggants Reserve near the main stage (ask at the information caravan if you can't find it). Winners will be announced on the stage during the Warrandyte Idle in the evening. Sponsored by The Grand Hotel and Cellar Plus – North Melbourne.

6-11pm: ROCK STAGE UNPLUGGED Funk, rap, jazz, blues and acoustic bands 'til late. At Skate Park, Warrandyte Reserve – see details below.

7.30-10.30pm: WARRANDYTE IDLE A Quest for Talent in a Gifted Community. There is so much idle talent simmering in the kitchens of Warrandyte that it promises to boil over at this year's Warrandyte Festival. Warrandyte Festival Committee presents 'Warrandyte Idle' your chance to get your voice out of the kitchen and on to the 'Chariot of Destiny' – (Stiggants Festival Stage). Supported by a full Karaoke Orchestra there will be Talent Quest Competition for three age groups; Under 12, Under 20 and Open Age who will compete for a staggering array of glittering prizes. A Tribute to past Australian singing greats will encourage the Idles to sing their lungs out. 'Warrandyte Idle' will be musically opened by the sensational 'Harmonic Minors' (formerly 'Rusty Nails') at 7.30pm. Be bold Idlers of Warrandyte, you have a date with destiny, your chance of fame and fortune is at hand. Contact Glen 9844 2395 (or just nervously turn up on the night) Main Stage at Stiggants Reserve.

● ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

THE FESTIVAL FOLLIES: "FOLLYWOOD – the cinematic follies of Warrandyte" Warrandyte Theatre Company's annual revue see under Thursday 18 for details.

SUNDAY 21 MARCH

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

9am: BILLYCART DERBY Forbes St, outside police station. Ages 8-15, plus a race for the Parents. First prize a Playstation 2, with other prizes for second and third, and trophies for best cart and best effort. Tea, coffee and snags on sale, so come and have breakfast. \$5 Registration. Robert Cousens 9844 2328 sponsored by Blue Light Disco Committee.

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

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

10am: CHURCH IN THE PARK Combined Churches. Worship, Entertainment and Music for all ages.

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

11.30am-12noon: HOOPSA DAISY at the Kid's Market.

11-11.30am: FREDDO THE SNAKE MAN'S REPTILE SHOW Australian Nature Live – Dangerously exciting and educational snake display!

11.30am: CONCERT MAIN STAGE STIGGANTS A wide variety of musical entertainment featuring Rock Arcade,

Vardos, The Effigy of Now, Barry McKimm's Eltham Concert Band featuring Meaghan O'Conner, Intafunk, and The New Frontier – see details below.

12noon-4.30pm: RIVERBANK STAGE MC Red The Clown. This clowning legend blends traditional & contemporary clowning. Red is a highly skilled juggler, magician, unicyclist, balloonologist & is our MC for the day. Other entertainment includes Hoopsa Daisy, Freddo the Snakeman's Reptile Show, Great Chefs of Europe, Savanaha and Velvet Lounge – see detailed program below.

1pm-5pm: SKATE ON SUNDAY YMCA Skate Competition – Free Entry, Prizes. Registration from 12noon. At Skate Park, Warrandyte Reserve – See details below.

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

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

3.30pm: KIDS GAMES A chance for all kids to form teams and join in fun games. Bigger Kids (adults) will have their opportunity too. Run by Warrandyte Primary School at Children's Free Activity Tent on Stiggants Reserve.

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

5.45-9pm: FESTIVAL FINALE CONCERT (MAIN STAGE) featuring Four in a Bar, The Cadillacs and Reverend Funk and the Horns of Salvation.

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

WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~warrfest>

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MAIN STAGE — STIGGANTS RESERVE

ATURDAY 20 MARCH

12noon: Mayors of Manningham & Nillumbik officially open the Festival & Presentation of King & Queen of Warrandyte Festival — Jock and Di Macneish.

12.15pm: Warranwood Primary School – drama & dance performance by grades 2 & 3.

12.30pm: Warrandyte Primary School Prep & Grade 1; Bushband.

1pm: Warrandyte High School Big Band, Percussion Ensemble & Symphonic Band.

1.45pm: Warrandyte Primary School Grade 2 Choir, Grade 3 & 4 Choir & School Band.

2.30pm: Burra Squares demonstration of Square Dancing.

3pm: Andersons Creek Primary School children perform.

3.20pm: Sian Humber – 12 year old soloist.

3.25pm: Park Orchards Primary School.

3.40pm: Dance Plus – Jazz Funk Prep & 1 class; grade 4, 5 & 6 class then year 7 plus.

4.10pm: David Caffey – Unusual as Usual – fun & comedy magic, and the Paris School of Music's brightest young stars.

4.40pm: Falun Dasa exercises.

7.30-10.30pm: WARRANDYTE IDLE – A Quest for Talent in a Gifted Community. Opened with the sensational group "Harmonic Minors", followed by a tribute to past Australian singing greats, and then your chance to be in the Talent Quest Competition.

SUNDAY 21 MARCH

10am: Church in the Park – combined local churches.

11.30am: Rock Arcade – classic rock.

12.30pm: Vardos – lively gypsy music

1.30pm: The Effigy of Now – smooth jazz with the energy of funk.

2.30pm: Barry McKimm's Eltham Concert Band featuring Meaghan O'Conner.

3.45pm: Intafunk – soul funk and groove.

4.45pm: The New Frontier – well-known local jazz group.

5.45pm: Four in a Bar – contemporary acoustic harmonies.

6.45pm: The Cadillacs – the best of '50s rock and roll.

7.45pm: Reverend Funk and the Horns of Salvation – full funking force & fine rhythm.

9pm: GRAND FIREWORKS FINALE

ROCK STAGE & SKATE COMP

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Enquiries: Rick Gordon, 9844 2242,
0411 025 412

RIVERBANK STAGE

SATURDAY 20 MARCH

12.00-12.05pm: MC Unique Creatures Giant Puppets, Games & tricks.

12.05-12.35pm: Garry Hayes Solo/Singer Songwriter.

12.35-12.40pm: MC Unique Creatures.

12.40-12.50pm: Allana Le Mar School of Bellydancing.

12.50-1.20pm: Chocolate Lilies Sweet harmonies & uplifting Melodies.

1.20-1.25pm: Unique Creatures.

1.25-1.35pm: Allana Le Mar School of Bellydancing.

1.35-1.45pm: Unique Creatures.

1.45-2.10pm: Ella Thompson & Sam Lawrence – Local Blues and Soul.

2.10-2.25pm: Unique Creatures. Present your favorite Puppet, Best Puppet wins a prize! Plus Free Puppet untangling.

2.25-3.05pm: BB Gunn featuring Greg Ham & Bob Minshul – From Men at Work songs to their favorite Blues Tunes.

3.05-3.15pm: Unique Creatures.

3.15-3.35pm: Leased Heartfelt Local lads play Blues & originals.

3.35-3.50pm: Unique Creatures Puppets on Parade. Bring your Best handmade Puppet! Prizes to be Won!

3.50-4.30pm: Dave Gleeson Trio Ambient World Music.

4.30pm: Car Rescue Demonstration – Local SES, Police, Ambulance and CFA.

SUNDAY 21 MARCH

9.30am: Dog Show & Pet Parade.

11-11.30am: Freddo the Snakeman's reptile show. Australian Nature Live. Dangerously exciting & educational snake display! **12-12.20pm:** MC – Red The Clown. Clowning legend – Blends traditional & contemporary Clowning. Red is a highly skilled, juggler, magician, unicyclist, Balloonologist & our MC for the day.

12.20-12.40pm: Hoopsa Daisy – Two totally Gorgeous Cloned Dolls with incredible Hoola Hooping Skills & Fab Mad Costumes. Hula hooping demon-stration followed by an invitation to the audience to try the moves. Dynamically athletic, watch as they flex, stretch & shimmer!

12.40-1pm: Freddo the Snakeman.

1-1.15pm: Red The Clown. Tricks, Games & Balloons.

1.15-1.55pm: Great Chefs of Europe Cosmopolitan Grooves.

1.55-2pm: Red The Clown.

2-2.30pm: Freddo the Snake Man.

2.30-3.05pm: Savanaha. Featuring Banjo Young & Friends – Original Folk Rock.

3.05-3.15pm: Red The Clown. Magic tricks, balloons & fun for all the family.

3.15-3.45pm: Freddo the Snake Man.

3.45-4.30pm: Velvet lounge.

4.30pm: Car Rescue Demonstration – Local SES, Police, Ambulance and CFA.

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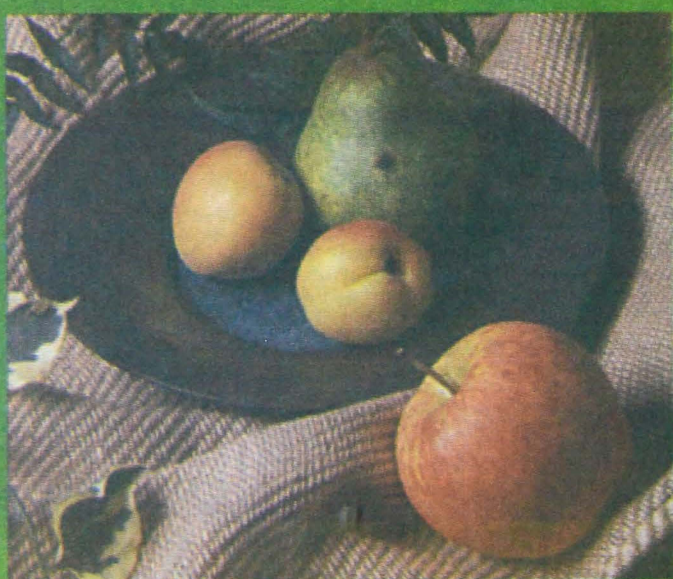
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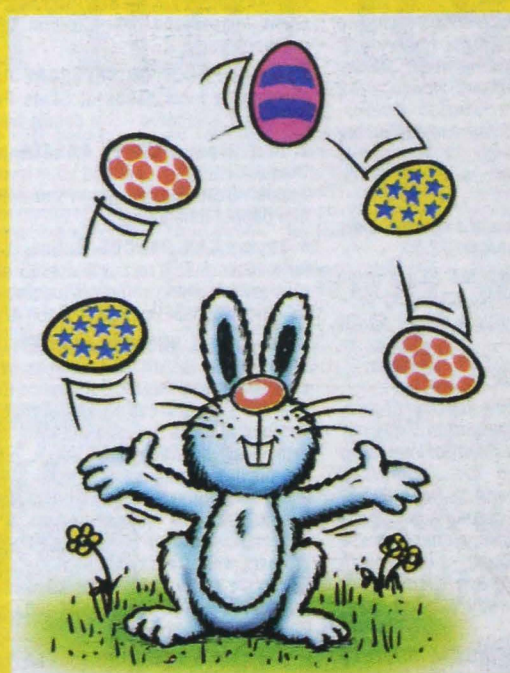
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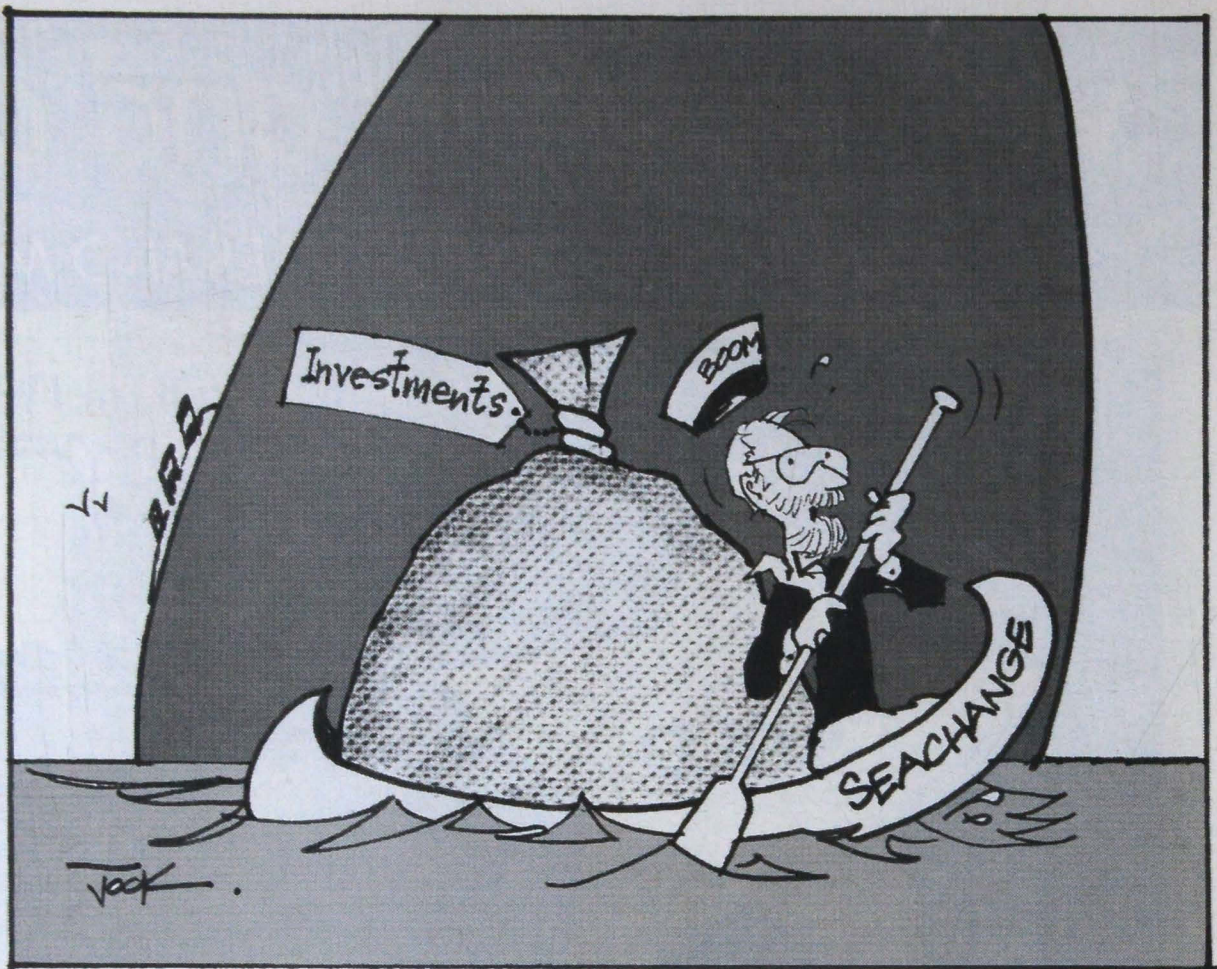
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Baby boomers go down to the sea in Volvos

AS I was driving to work the other day, I was listening to a very serious discussion on the radio about the trend for large chunks of our population to flee the terrors of the city in pursuit of a simpler, less materialistic lifestyle along the coastline and in small country towns.

The discussion was about whether this was because we are returning to the Age of Aquarius after the failed experiment with "Greed is good" and "Lunch is for wimps" philosophy of the 80s and 90s, or whether it was because land prices are cheaper in those areas.

One, an American female commentator, was an advocate for the notion that her personal experience has shown that simplifying one's life leads to a more meaningful existence. In her past life she had been an attorney in Los Angeles and had swapped this for a life of country solitude, writing about living in the country; writing in solitude.

Her solitude, however seemed to consist now of appearing at conferences and on radio and television talking about how to live the simple life like hers. Meanwhile, her husband had agreed to the shift from corporate high-earner to country hippy as long as he was allowed enough time, before the shift, to amass enough simple capital so that their simple retirement from the hustle and



KIBBLED

"My perennial beef is with the Prodigal Son syndrome that we Boomers exhibit..."

bustle could be simply delightful.

The other commentator had conducted a survey, the findings of which proved that materialism does not lead to happiness. Evidently the more we have, the more we realise and wonder, "Is that all there is, Alfie?" Apparently, even some younger couples are renouncing the pursuit of Mammon in favour of The Good Life.

Now, if all of this is true, it might suggest that the past 30 years have been three decades of wasted experimentation and that we are retreating to a time when we grew our hair, wore simple Indian cotton caftans and drank a lot of very rough red from lip-lacerating pottery goblets.

Wrong! The Baby Boomers

have never done it tough and I am prepared to suggest that they're not going to start now. I would argue that the Seachange phenomenon is just the continuation of the Boomers' belief in their right to toy with the world they see to be their personal plaything.

I know because I'm one of them and I would bet that, so too, are a lot of you out there reading this!

My perennial beef is with the Prodigal Son syndrome that we Boomers constantly exhibit. You all know the story to which I refer. The good son stays home and does the right thing by Dad and the rest of the family. Meanwhile, the tearaway son carouses his way around the place until he gets bored and heads back home. Dad is out of his tree with delight that his wayward son has renounced The Devil and instantly gives him the family's share portfolio, their collection of antique jewellery, their beach house at Sorrento and an open-credit Am Ex card.

Meanwhile, the ordinary, law-abiding, good son loses his bedroom, he's cut out of the will and he's told to honour his brother for surviving the difficult life he's led on the tiles. And to make matters worse, the Prodigal Son believes he deserves it!

Any bells ringing? No, Seachanging is just the next experiment the Boomers are having with life. We went through all that poverty and

hair shirt stuff when we were in our 20s and early 30s and decided that a bit of luxury was better.

We managed to use our educational advantage to "spin doctor" our lifestyle change by claiming it to be egalitarian; a change whereby everyone could enjoy the benefits of our ascent of the slippery pole.

Like the American attorney and her husband, we Boomers are prepared to go back to the soil but only if we know that if the soil turns on us, there will always be the investment-city apartment to return to.

At this moment in time, Herself and I are involved in a Seachange. During the week, she works in a country town whilst I work in the city. We meet for the weekends. At the end of the year I'll head off to live permanently in our new lifestyle.

Gorgeous Creature comes to clean our city house. After one such occasion, she phoned Herself, bemoaning the fact that there was nothing in my fridge and that I was probably starving myself. Both herself and I were touched by her concern but the truth is, she hadn't counted on the guile of a Boomer. Why cook when you have the money to buy take-away?

For most Boomers, a Seachange is more like sneaking off from the Queen Mary 2 for a fun ride in a canoe.

ROGER KIBELL

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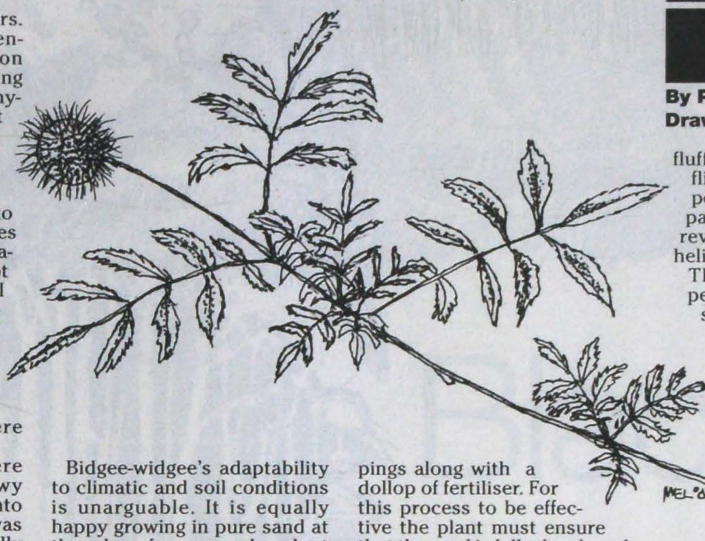
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Hitch-hiking foreigners carry a catastrophic backpack

THEY were hitchhikers. The unpaid passengers had come on board without asking and wanted to go anywhere I would take them. But I didn't know all their names and by the look of them, most were from overseas. The itinerants were using me as a vehicle to transport them to new places where, if conditions were favourable, they would attempt an invasion. Methodically, I proceeded to evict them one by one. Some were armed with sharp spikes and hooks and held on tenaciously to my socks and shoelaces. The hitchhikers I had inadvertently acquired were seeds—the seeds of weeds.

It was January. We were camped beside the Snowy River, just over the border into New South Wales. The area was remote and rugged, scenically stunning, but weedy beyond repair. A cornucopia of introduced plants had colonised the fertile river flats overpowering most of the natives. The invaders had arrived by wind, water and on the fur and in the droppings of animals. They had come from land upstream that had been cleared decades ago for grazing.

Not all the seeds on my socks were strangers. One was a regular hitchhiker frequently picked up in Warrandyte. Known as Bidgee-widgee, the status of this common creeper wavers between cosmopolitan weed and cosmopolitan native depending on the opinion of the "expert". One reference claims the plant originally came from Great Britain and, attached to seabirds, made its way to the southern lands via oceanic islands.



Bidgee-widgee's adaptability to climatic and soil conditions is unarguable. It is equally happy growing in pure sand at the edge of an ocean beach at zero altitude as it is in the peaty bogs of alpine meadows above the snowline. On the home front Bidgee-widgee, with its attractive shiny fern-like leaves, is useful as a quick-growing ground cover. Problem comes when the spherical heads of small greenish-white flowers turn into brown balls of burrs.

These break up on attachment to clothing or animal fur—an annoyance for us, but even worse for dogs as burrs and hair become tangled and matted.

While Bidgee-widgee gives nothing but trouble in return for the seed transportation service, many plants do provide a reward. Some offer an enticement in the form of succulent berries. Birds, foxes and lizards eat the fleshy fruit packages, excrete nutrients and expel the undigested seeds in their drop-

pings along with a dollop of fertiliser. For this process to be effective the plant must ensure that the seed is fully developed before it is eaten, otherwise it will not germinate. So, while the seed is immature, the berry is sour and inedible—this is usually advertised by the colour green. As the seed matures, the fruit ripens, signalled by a change in the colour of the berry along with a tempting fragrance.

Most plants have some sort of structural modification to aid seed dispersal. The "hangers on", like Bidgee-widgee and Cleavers, also known as sticky weed, have hooked hairs or spines. Others such as grass seeds have a needle-sharp, bristly appendage called an awn, that not only lodges in fur and clothing, but can also penetrate the skin of an animal.

Seeds of daisies and thistles are light and carried by the wind. Many are equipped with tufts of silky hairs that form

NATURE

By PAT COUPAR
Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

fluffy parachutes to facilitate flight; while other wind-dispersed seeds have elaborate papery wings that twist and revolve like the blades of a helicopter.

The hard-coated seeds of peas and wattles are encapsulated in pods that open explosively, catapulting the seeds over several metres. In addition some seeds have a waxy or oily covering that is particularly attractive to ants. The ants harvest

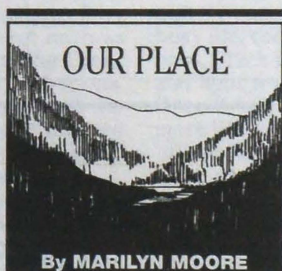
the seeds and take them back underground to their nests where they eat only the waxy coating, leaving the seeds undamaged.

But it is us—the human couriers—that have been the greatest bonus for the plants. With our cars, machinery, soil-moving activities and dumping of garden rubbish, we are responsible for transporting huge amounts of seed. With our help, hitchhiking seeds travel around the world, embedded in dried mud on the soles of shoes, as impurities in crop seed and in fodder and in the ballast water of ships.

We are such a mobile lot these days that it is virtually impossible to stop new weeds slipping unnoticed into the country. The challenge is to spot them early and stop them in their tracks—be alert, and yes, be alarmed.

On our island in the sun...

HERE we are on a remote island, lazing on a weathered deck overlooking the sea. The deck is perched high on a hillside covered thickly with rainforest. Ancient gnarled pohutukawa trees tower above kanuka, sleek palms and mighty treeferns, while orchids and ferns sprout abundantly from every nook and cranny. Our only access, a rough foot track, leads steeply through the forest right down to the bay, blue-green below. Four hours by ferry from the nearest civilisation—bliss!



By MARILYN MOORE

It's not entirely quiet here though. Even on the beach it's hard to hear the gentle lap of the sea, for a zillion cicadas hit full throttle at first light, and big brown kakas make almost as much noise as white cockatoos. Over this din you can just hear the throb of Tuesday's barge as it chugs out to sea. A forklift is busy on the wharf, loading a small tray truck with building materials. A white minivan travels slowly along the cliff-hugging road from the harbour to restock the island store, where drums of muesli, honey, flour and peanuts sit side-by-side

with detergent, cooking oil, black rice, mozzie repellent and kerosene. Tuesday nights are red-letter nights in the kitchen—over at the pub they make the most of the influx of fresh vegies by cooking up a range of fragrant curries. It's a big night for locals and visitors alike.

From the deck we can see almost the whole sweep of the bay. Fishing boats come and go, to shelter from rough weather or to get supplies. It can take several trips in a rowboat to get everyone ashore, then to return people and their various bags and boxes to the anchored boat. Strenuous work, too, when the loaded boat sits low

between the waves.

In contrast, a wiry bloke with a feral beard and a cabbage-tree hat makes much better progress as he rows out to a couple of buoys. He must have set fishing nets or pots, for he repeats the journey several times during the day, occasionally moving the buoys to another spot. Not surprisingly, for he has probably spent a lifetime rowing across this bay. He is a strong oarsman and his little dinghy glides swiftly over the turquoise shoals.

Over the hill in the next bay, a wooden school building occupies a patch of lawn abutting the high-water mark. Barefoot kids splash in the shallows at recess, racing back across the sand when the bell rings, but today there is much more activity than usual—an interschool swimming carnival is in progress. A couple of minibuses snooze under a giant pohutukawa and a chaotic assortment of mothers, toddlers and beach gear is piled up on the seawall. The bay is dotted with coloured buoys, and waist-deep on the start line, a dozen or so jumping, chattering contestants hold hands to keep the

line more-or-less straight. A bikini-clad teacher eventually establishes some sort of order, claps her hands and the race is on. Too much splashing to call, but there is plenty of screaming and cheering from the seawall. At the rear of the field, a couple of less-accomplished swimmers take huge underwater strides in a futile effort to keep pace.

At the close of competition, several boys are sent in canoes, unsupervised, to collect the buoys and a long floating rubber line. This is a two-minute job, but an hour later these resourceful little fellows have paddled far out into the bay, unseated each other numerous times, capsized the canoes, raced each other back and forth, filled a buoy with water before hurling it into the deep, chased and splashed each other, argued about who should collect which buoy, emptied each other's canoes of their spoils and sent the floating line-buoy sailing out to sea. The teacher, meanwhile, is no doubt making the most of their absence.

Paradise it might be, but some things are just the same!

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River Haiku

Summer

A river of stones
rising while the water sinks.
Jewels laid bare by drought.

A river of stones.
Solid tears in forlorn piles.
Soon they'll be a path.

Improbably wet
Lying limp like liquid silk
tantalising gleam

Mocking crackling trees
leaning out, dry and dust parched
gulping river's breath

Autumn

Green wears yellow flash.
Hands clenched against river's breath
which I, train-like puff

Soft ghostly swathes hang,
hover, over river glass.
White trunks rise through mist

Winter

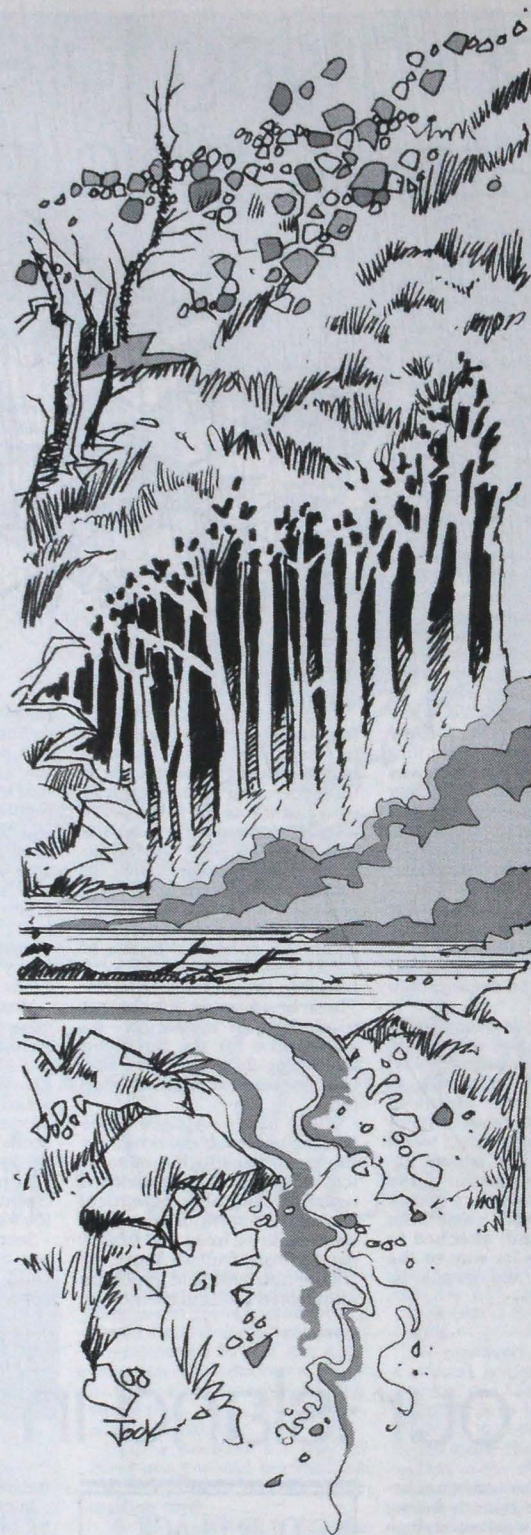
Whispy wraiths writhing
scurry restless over glass.
Shimmer white ice breath.

Headless, sleeping forms
Carving Victory on glass
Wings stretch and stutter

Spring

She's got the numbers
Ranks swollen by tumbling hordes
Joyously renewed again

KAREN THROSSELL



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Warrandyte Community Market

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



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Visit Pandora's Box downstairs at 95 Yarra Street (near 50k sign) weekdays and weekends.

All funds raised are used by Rotary for community projects including Warrandyte Housing and Support Services.

Key Decisions Nillumbik Shire Council

These are some of the decisions made by Council on **Wednesday, 29 February 2004**. If you would like any extra information visit our website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au for full business papers. The next Council meeting is on 17 March 2004 at 7.30pm at the Shire Offices. All welcome or listen to the broadcast on Plenty Valley FM 88.6.



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Community, Health, Culture, Sport & Leisure

- Received the responses for Health and Community Services Strategic Directions, accepted the revised document as the basis for Health and Community Services Strategic Planning and Management and endorsed the actions outlined.



Transport and Infrastructure

- Endorsed service options for the GRO 3 bin system.
- Noted the interest expressed by the CFA to locate a new station on part of the site of the North Warrandyte Community Centre, and to advise the CFA of Council's in principal support for the concept, subject to requirements.
- Resolved to initiate a petition to be presented to the State Government requesting a 24 hour ambulance service be provided in Diamond Creek.



Land Use, Planning and Environment

- Resolved to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a permit at 53 Silver Street, Eltham for the removal of ten native trees for the purpose of building a dwelling; at 35 Eltham-Yarra Glen Road, Kangaroo Ground for the re-subdivision of two existing lots; at 145 Manuka Road, Pantom Hill for the use of the land for the purpose of a function centre.
- Resolved not to support a permit at 638 and 640 Main Road, Eltham for the development of the land.
- Endorsed Council's Submission on the Proposed New Rural Zones.



Governance

- Resolved Council receive and note the Risk Management Policy and Strategy Report.



The Black's Flat

INCONSPICIOUS though it may seem, Black Flat is a place that looms large in the history of local protected areas in that it was instrumental in bringing about the birth of the Warrandyte State Park.

It is an easy matter to forget, or perhaps not know, the intense struggle the Fellowship of the Forests undertook in bringing forth the Warrandyte State Park. It was not a gift freely given. It was born in a struggle to protect and understand this land. Wisdom and foresight were the midwives, as the Fellowship fought to bring the principal of the sacredness of protected areas and open space into the light of day.

Governments are cumbersome, seldom having the insight or sentiment to declare new parks. They are never dexterous enough to initiate bold, new moves. It is community action and passion that drives these issues, bringing local focus to the search for a sense of place, and such was the case at Black Flat.

It was a seminal day in the early 1970s when a small sign appeared at Black Flat announcing the formation of a "Country Golf Club". At that time all the components of what was to become Warrandyte State Park were isolated reserves, some managed by local committees of management such as Pound Bend. Others, like Jumping Creek were managed by scouting organisations. Some, like Fourth Hill, accommodated water storages, but were also used as off-road driving ranges. Yarra Brae, Mount Lofty and Stane Brae were privately owned.

There had been in existence since 1969, community proposals for the Warrandyte State Park, but the Black Flat announcement "broke the waters" of the community marking the beginning of the struggle. Westerfolds Park was also saved from being subdivided by similar community action. The name Westerfolds had been chosen by the local developer, the housing lots planned. It was almost ready to be carved up when a concerted effort by locals, mainly women, brought about the making of the Park.

Black Flat is a rich river terrace, flat land

FELLOWSHIP OF THE FORESTS

By GLEN JAMESON

that lies between Jumping Creek Reserve and the village on the south side of Birrarung. Early on, this river terrace was torn up in the frantic search for gold. Gold, the alchemist's dream, the symbol of the soul, had blind miners searching amidst the mullock for what they saw as the soul of the land. At the turn of the 20th Century it was further cleared and Mullen's Orchard was planted. You can still see the raised soil mounds that carried the orchard trees, reminding me of the tribal scars across the chest of Wurundjeri initiates. Black Flat has a thick shrub cover of the tea-tree Burgan, which is like a healing, protective scab over the land. The growth of Burgan is a response to the damage inflicted by the plough when it carved its way into the earth's flesh to make the orchard. The land has resisted the ecological invasion by regrowing back, reverting towards its primordial state.

Black Flat: the flat land that was used by Black people living by the river. A reserve quietly out of the way of our numbingly busy life, tucked away from our consciousness. Black Flat, almost a Jungian shadow and light word-play is cast over the name. Once it was Black's Flat, but there are no more Black people living there.

Black Flat, like so much of the reserves and land around Warrandyte, carries the imbedded memory of the other: the other country that lies buried within our consciousness; the indigenous landscape that remains a "mysteriously charged and magnificently alive archetypal presence" despite us building a city upon it.

David Tacey in his book "Edge of the Sacred" argues that Australia is in need of a spiritual change and that landscape can play a major role in this. "The Australian psyche has not quite been able to absorb the primordial power of the landscape and until the non-Aboriginal population experiences a psychic connection to the land, they

will not have a true connection to this land. At a sub-conscious level, the conqueror remains the outsider, and the spiritual curse upon the invader-conqueror is that they will never feel at home or at peace with their stolen territory."

However this doesn't mean that European Australians need to turn into Aboriginals to be connected to the landscape. "White Australians are often constructed as brazenly and gloriously secular, full of disbelief, cynicism and blasphemy. Black Aboriginal Australians are frequently depicted as possessing sacred values, truths and visions, and as inhabiting sacred space. This is understandable given the fact that the Aboriginal Dreaming is possibly the most ancient continuous sacred tradition on earth. But this convenient polarisation or splitting within the Australian psyche is very costly indeed. By virtue of this split, white Australians are denied access to sacredness (especially the sacredness of the land) and black Australians, often imprisoned in the 'religious' category, are denied access to materiality, wealth, and economic security. The split is convenient, but it is also fatal."

One can feel the power of the landscape across Warrandyte. There are forces at play that we enjoy at an aesthetic level but seldom do we venture to penetrate the deeper level by "dissolving" ourselves into nature. It is something we have resisted since our arrival. We have been afraid of "going native". The early colonialists brought a culture with them, but it could not be transplanted on to this land because it did not fit with the psyche of the landscape. We have not yet completely developed one of our own that fits into this primordial land. Consequently, we are suffering from the loss of our mythic vision and spiritual integrity, lacking a fully balanced cultural attachment to this land.

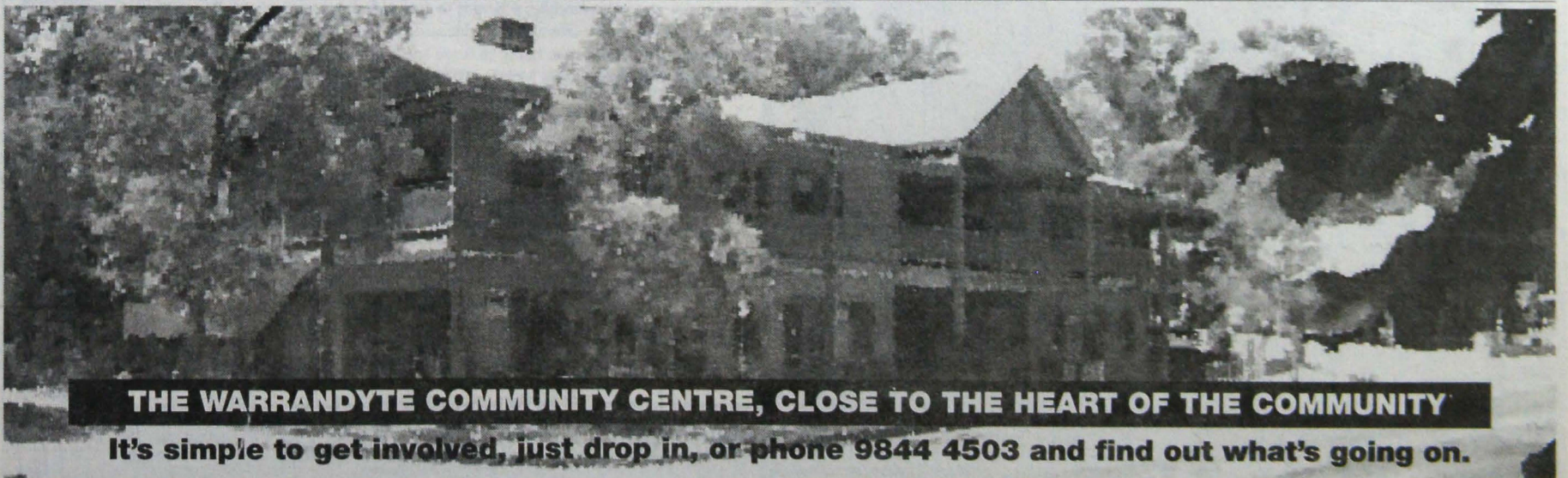
The Fellowship of the Forests have worked to find a way into this other world, where landscape holds a key to unlocking a cultural connection and understanding. They have celebrated the indigenous primordial world, forsaking the ego of empire building for the pursuit of a place for the soul. Aus-

tralian literature and art are full of references that mark the journey of our psyche as it searches for a place to connect. All over Australia this process is in place with communities looking for the path to an enriched and fuller cultural life though appreciation and celebration of the purely local. Tapping into the indigenous plants and animals and taking the time to appreciate what Aboriginal communities have to say about the land. Perhaps the Fellowship is involved in an ancient human process; the cycle of death, disintegration (of the old culture), and re-birth of the spirit.

The positive, light side of our psyche, has declared the reserves of Warrandyte State Park and protected areas, but the negative, shadow side, has allowed the destruction of almost everything else. The power of the shadow is such that if we allow it to dominate the landscape, as we have, then it will eventually consume the reserves, the protected areas. The Warrandyte State Parks of the world will be consumed by the destructive side of our psyche. The landscape needs to be a manifestation of the positive healthy interaction of humanity and nature. Our gardens, our private land, need to be sympathetically managed and integrated into the local ecology, so that they are not consumed by the power of the shadow. We need to embrace the landscape before us and heal the wounds that it is suffering.

David Tacey suggests that "once the archaic spirit of the continent is contacted it can act, not only as a force of disintegration, but it is capable of a profound psychical rebirth, deepening, and regeneration. "The sacred lies in wait for our approach and is always accessible to those of us who drop the defences. If the human ego can learn to live in the presence of the sacred without being overwhelmed by it, then a genuine spirituality can emerge from the creative interaction of humanity and the sacred."

The author is indebted to Edge of the Sacred: Transformation in Australia by David Tacey for the direct quotes and for many of the ideas expressed in this article.



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Margie will be sadly missed

By **JOFF MANDERS**



THE end of January this year saw the passing of yet another Warrandyte identity, Margaret Elspeth Manders, or "Margie" as she was known to her friends. She passed away at the age of 84 after bravely battling the debilitating effects of dementia.

In recent years many people in Warrandyte would have recognised Margie Manders as the elderly lady walking spritely along Yarra Street on one of her daily shopping outings. You may have noticed her anywhere along the road from West End to the post office, walking purposefully along, shopping bags in each hand and often with the addition of a bunch of flowers, irregardless of the time of day or the extremes of weather.

Often when it was late, or during inclement weather, some kind soul would come out from the shops, or pull over off the road and offer her a lift home, or to wherever she was going. Sometimes this person would be a stranger. Such was the generosity that passers-by and shop keepers afforded her. She was the type of person to whom kind things happened.

Margie, or Margot as she referred to herself, first came to live in Warrandyte soon after marrying another former Warrandyte identity, artist Wally Manders. Moving here to live in the early 1950s Warrandyte was not new to her, as a child she had enjoyed many family outings, when in the 1920s her mother Mina Moore, one of Australia's pioneer women photographers, would come to Warrandyte to photograph the bush and stay to visit such friends as Clara Southern and Jo Sweatman.

Margie and Wally had moved out from number 90 Collins Street, Melbourne, where Wally had rented a garret and where during one of the many "artists' parties" held there the two of them first met. Margie later confided that coming from a more conservative background she at first didn't approve of Wally's lifestyle and also considered his artist friends to be somewhat "common". None the less it was to be an enduring union. "The Garret" as it was referred

to was not far from where the artist Mirka Moira lived at the time. It served both as an artist's studio and home until the arrival of their first and only child Jonathon, who grew up and still lives with his family in Warrandyte and who is known around the town as Joff.

The tiny damp garret, in its bohemian setting, with leaky roof, lack of heating and hot water, was no place to raise a son. So when the opportunity presented itself, Wally purchased another studio home, this being the residence of his one-time painting tutor Frank Crozier in what was then called Selby Avenue (now Tills Drive). Wally, like Margie, had earlier memories of Warrandyte, in his case it was the weekly visits on horseback from Pascoe Vale in the 1930s to learn landscape painting from the officially appointed First World War artist Crozier.

The Warrandyte address had much in common with the Collins Street garret; a leaky roof, lack of effective heating, no hot water and in fact not even electricity. But it did have the river, the bellbirds and the bush and later many long friendships that Margie cherished and which surrounded the secluded cottage domain.

Margie led a very active and creative life in those early years, leaving fond memories of cosy gatherings on cold winter's nights, of book reading groups and musicales. Friends from the city would also come to stay at weekends and soak up the artistic, if not Spartan rural environment. Guests arriving after dark would have to negotiate a winding pathway running down from the muddy road through a maze of mullock heaps and abandoned mine shafts.

Apart from being an avid reader and her love of playing the piano, Margie's passion in life was teaching, and after leaving her position at Melbourne Grammar in the late 1940s to marry and subsequently move to Warrandyte, she still felt the need to continue in her chosen role. With no car or child care for son Jonathon she decided to set up a kindergarten at the Selby Avenue home which she ran for a small group of hardy local kids until such time as Jonathon was old enough to attend pre-school and she could resume her career as a teacher, this time at Carey Grammar where she continued teaching the pre-

paratory grades until her retirement some 25 years later.

Some of her beloved "little boys" have since become leading community and business leaders, some have become teachers themselves. One of her more unusual punishments for errant schoolboys was to make them sit away from the rest of the class under her piano so that they could quietly contemplate their sins. One might think that a few of these people recently named in politics and business should still be made to sit under Margie's piano from time to time!

As Margie and Wally never owned a car and never drove, commuting into the city with the limited public transport services of the day often began by leaving home in the early morning darkness and involved long walks between poorly-connecting buses and trams, the latter activity keeping Margie fit and trim into her 80s. For a while the tyranny of distance necessitated renting another address in the city, just so they could continue to get to work on time during the week days. Come weekends though, the desire to be in Warrandyte brought them back to spend every weekend in the Warrandyte cottage.

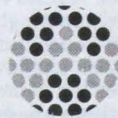
After Wally's untimely death in 1969, Margie returned to live permanently in Warrandyte until such time as she was no longer able to manage her property. Upon retiring from Carey she moved to Adelaide to live with her sister where her enthusiasm for teaching continued in the local church's Sunday school, that is until the urge to return and be closer to her family brought her back once more to Warrandyte, this time living in Stiggart Street.

Even in her 80s the desire to stimulate young minds continued and young students at Warrandyte Primary School may recall her weekly visits as a teacher's aide—to hear the children read—a labour of love which was recognised with a community service award.

More recently requiring hostel care she moved to Glen Waverley where she remained until the time of her death. She leaves behind son Joff, daughter-in-law Cherry, grandchildren Sacha and Minna and great grandchildren Prya, Myka and Amelia. Artist Cherry carries on the "artist's tradition" at the family studio home in Tills Drive.

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To become association member/s please fill out this form and send with your payment (\$10.00 pa) for either single or family membership. (Due each April.) Please list all family members over the age of 16.

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As a resident of Warrandyte, I desire to become a member of the Warrandyte Community Association Inc. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force and that I am over the age of 16 years. I understand that I need to be a Financial Member of the Association to be entitled to vote.

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 Signature of Applicant/s

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A man for all festivals

THE loss of eccentrics and mischievous children in society concerns John Boyle, chairman of the Warrandyte Festival Committee. Aged 55 and a father of four, he says it would be sad if Warrandyte lost its eccentric people.

"We make it very hard for them to continue living here. We should treasure eccentrics, some of whom have lived here 20 or 30 years," he said.

John is also disturbed that children no longer walk to school.

"They have to learn what's right and what's wrong — if they're never allowed to see for themselves by getting into mischief they won't learn. My own kids were into mischief, I'm sure. Lots of wonderful kids have grown up in Warrandyte but it's pretty sad that we cotton wool them so much.

"Some people are disturbed by gangs out there. I think it's fantastic to see them. Being in a gang is lovely."

John was one of five children who grew up in Rosanna — "it was all paddocks" — where he enjoyed "wonderful, easy days, with bonfires, cracker nights and billy carts. Stuff that the kids aren't allowed to do as it's considered dangerous now." He came to Warrandyte 26 years ago to be close to the river for canoeing and to build a mud brick house with his wife Kerrie. "It was a romantic notion that we had then.

"We bought an acre from Bob and Pat Freestone, wonderful characters who welcomed us in and had great parties. At Christmas everyone in the street was invited in for drinks. People were very good to us."

John's father Jim was a millinery wholesaler in Flinders Lane and John and Kerrie bought a feather importing business from him. They combined it with another business from John and Betty Hipwell, co-founders of Potters Cottage, and Boyle Industries, gift and craft wholesalers, now employs about 20 people in Mitcham. Kerrie, "who gets her photo on the sides of bus shelters", does the financial side and John is in charge of sales.

"We always fight like cats and dogs but we've managed to make it work, and the marriage too. You have to have the male and female in a partnership — the wife has got the soft side and the

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

male does the crazy things.

"Maybe you could have a crazy wife and a stable husband. We need all different personalities to make up the world."

On the board of the Gift and Homewares Association, John doesn't think he is a good businessman. "Things got in my way that made it easy for me, meeting nice people and the right doors opening. I'm not particularly astute and most who know me know I'm not." John has been involved with the festival committee for over 20 years. "I've got the easiest job on the committee but I take all the glory. It's an excuse for getting out of everything else.

"It gives something back to the community and it's just been fantastic, all the joy you can see it gives people. The strength of this town is amazing, like the *Diary*, the tennis club, the drama group and the historical society. Just speak to anyone who's a member of one of these organisations and they're just part of a much bigger family.

"I'm sorry for people who don't have these friendships. If I go to someone's funeral such as Pi Beecham or David Buck it's a celebration of the life of whoever's passed away. We shouldn't die and disappear without touching anybody. A wonderful life affects someone."

What angers John is bureaucrats. "They're a big thing for me. It concerns me the way society has changed over the past 10 to 15 years. It's become so litigious. If someone trips over people say 'who can you sue?' The courts will pay such enormous amounts.

"Bureaucrats put more hurdles in our way. It disappoints me for example that we can't have horses in the festival parade because of the insurance.

"One of the biggest joys is to see women who I remember as little girls, now building houses, happily married and involved in the festival com-



mittee. And people like Jock Macneish, Tim Ferguson, Cliff Green and Bruce Ganjell inspire me."

He says he's lazy. "I'd be really disappointed if the festival didn't continue. I hope I've helped it grow and become a success. But I'm only one of a big committee of about 20. I'm happy to pass on responsibilities to other people — it's to give them responsibility. So many I've seen grow in themselves because of these opportunities. They've never done it before."

John's father was a prisoner of war in Changi and on the Burma railroad for three and a half years. He attributes his attitude to life to him.

"My father was orphaned at about 13 or 14 and his early childhood was in the Depression in a

really tough time. He became self-reliant and it was really hell during the war. His best mate died two weeks before they were released and Dad had his 21st birthday on the railway. He was secretary of the prisoners of war association. He always said, if you didn't have friendships like that on the railroad then you died. I suppose a bit of that has rubbed off on me.

"If your life is easy and you strike a hiccup then if you haven't had a few hardships and kicks in the guts you don't build strength of character."

John's mother told him she wouldn't wish fame or fortune on anyone. "I'm very conservative myself, a pretty ordinary chap. Wouldn't it be lovely to be eccentric?"

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Get down and dirty



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.

As part of Nillumbik Heritage Week a “Dirt Farming Expo” will be held in the Pantom Hill Hall from Friday, March 26 to Sunday, March 28 from 10am to 4pm. A number of district history groups, including the Warrandyte Historical Society, will be taking part. “Dirt Farming” encompasses our orchard and farming background as well as our gold mining and mud-brick making heritage. It also relates to the Aboriginal meaning of the word “Nillumbik” which is “poor soil”. Along with audio-visual and static displays of local history, the expo will feature artwork by local children. The public are encouraged to bring interesting objects from home for appraisal by a heritage expert and there will be genealogical workshops taking place.

Harmony

The promotion of harmony and greater understanding of the contribution of Muslim families to Australia is the focus of a community event to be held on Sunday, March 21 at the Bulleen and Templestowe Community Centre, Ted Ajani Reserve, 284 Thompsons Road, Lower Templestowe from 4pm to 6pm. The event is part of the Australian government’s “Living in Harmony” initiative. Interested members of the community are welcome to this free event. Please RSVP to the Migrant Information Centre on 9873 1666

Strawberry

The Parish of St Gerard’s and St Anne’s will be holding their annual Strawberry Fair on Saturday, March 13. There will be a variety of foods, cakes, crafts, toys, books, plants and a white elephant stall along with some new amusements. The fair will be held at St Anne’s, 54 Knees Road, Park Orchards. Further information from 9876 1509.

Tennis

The Warrandyte Lions Club would like to advise all parents of juniors who were receiving coaching prior to Christmas at the Lions courts adjacent to the bridge that a new coach will be starting shortly. Please contact Jamie Gill on 9842 3692.

Snakes

On Thursday, April 1, Heath Butler will conduct a seminar “Snakes in the City” in the Function Room, Grand Hotel, 120 Yarra Street, Warrandyte commencing at 7.30pm. He will look at how snakes live and interact in the urban environment, as well as shed some light on interesting aspects of their biology and ecology.

Market

The Christmas Hills community market and car boot sale will be held on Sunday, March 14 at the Christmas Hills Primary School, 1409 Eltham-Yarra Glen Road. There will be a large variety of stalls and more stallholders are welcome at a cost of \$5. Enquiries to Liz on 9712 0414 or Rob on 9710 1512.

Concert

You are invited to celebrate St Patrick’s Day with Maria Forde in Concert with guest guitarist Phil Manning at the Grand Hotel, 110 Yarra Street, Warrandyte on Wednesday, March 17.



Pancakes: Toss ‘em up and toss ‘em down! Late last month members of the Warrandyte Uniting church manned a pancake stall outside the IGA Supermarket to help Unitingcare with its many welfare projects. Nearly \$300 was raised. Similar events were held right across Australia at the same time. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

Cost is \$40 per person for two-course meal and show. Dinner at 7.30pm. Booking and enquiries on 0411 158 593.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the St John Ambulance visiting friends program to help bring companionship to isolated residents of aged care facilities. Please contact Jim Humphrey on 9736 2130 or Wendy Addison on 9737 1053.

Fatathon

Yarra Warra Pre-school is seeking participants to be involved in their “fat-be-gone-a-thon” in which people are sponsored by family and friends to lose weight. It will run from Saturday, April 24 to August 7. Funds are being raised for a new playground at the pre-school. For further details contact Sarah Drew on 9844 1649, Fiona Carnell on 9844 4317 or Katri Miller on 9844 0666.

Youth

Local churches provide a number of activities for the youth of our area. The Catholic Church (9876 1509) has children’s liturgy on Sundays at 10.30am and religious education on Tuesdays at 4pm, both at Park Orchards. The Uniting Church (9844 2874) has Sunday school at 10.15am and youth clubs on a regular basis. The Community Church (9844 4148) has Sunday school at 9am and 11am, Grades 5 and 6 Club fortnightly on Fridays at 7pm and youth groups fortnightly on Fridays at 7.30pm. There is also youth bible study on Wednesdays at 8pm and café church on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 7pm.

Dance

The next South Warrandyte Social Dance will be in the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road on Saturday, March 13. Call 9729 8192 for further information.

Highland

The annual Ringwood Highland Games will be held at Jubilee Park, Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood on Sunday, March 28. For further information call Sue MacLeod on 9876 4140. Sue can also provide you with details of the Ringwood Caledonian Society’s dance classes which are held regularly at the Central Ringwood Community Centre.

Newsletters

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

Irish

Warrandyte RSL will present “An Evening in Green” at their centre at 115 Brackenbury Street, Warrandyte on Saturday, March 20 at 7pm. Irish band and food for \$20. RSVP to 9844 3567 by March 12.

Garden

The Nillumbik Garden Club holds meetings on the first Monday of each month at the Metzner Hall in the Judge Book Retirement Village, Diamond Street, Eltham. For details phone Chris on 9432 3375.

Easter church services



Details of Warrandyte churches’ Easter services are as follows: Stations of the Cross will be held at Stiggants Reserve on Good Friday at 10am. Other services include: **Uniting** (9844 3476)—Thursday April 8, 7.30pm, Good Friday 9am, Easter Sunday 10.15am. **Angli-**

can (9844 3473)—Good Friday 2pm, Easter Sunday 8am, 9.30am. **Catholic** (9876 1509)—Good Friday 3pm, Park Orchards, Easter Saturday 7.30pm Park Orchards, Easter Sunday 8.30am Warrandyte, 10.30am Park Orchards. **Community Church** (9844 4148)—Good Friday 9am, Easter Sunday 9am and 11am.

ARTYFACTS

Ona

Diary cartoonist Ona Henderson of Creek House Studios in Kangaroo Ground is currently showing in USA in a curated gallery group exhibition that will close in New York City in May. She is one of three Australians chosen to exhibit there.

Winner

Previous Warrandyte Youth Arts Award winner, Peter Davenport, is exhibiting a selection of his paintings at the Smyrnios Gallery, 32-34 St Edmonds Road, Prahran. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Saturday from 12noon to 6pm. The show closes on March 21.

Ceramics

Ceramics for the garden and table created by Jill Bygott, Judith Roberts and Warrandyte’s Robin Carter are on show at Stonehouse Gallery, 323 Ringwood-Warrandyte Road during March.

Potters

The March feature exhibition at Potters Gallery, 321 Jumping Creek Road, Warrandyte showcases works by four artists: hand-blown glass by Pauline Delaney, crystalline glazed ceramics by David Williams, wildlife paintings by Janet Flinn and watercolour landscapes by

Barbara Stuart. The show runs from March 13 to April 4 and is open Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 3pm.

Red

Warrandyte artist Denise Keele-Bedford is one of 12 women artists exploring the use of the colour red in contemporary art. The exhibition is being held in celebration of International Women’s Day and is running from March 6 to April 3 at the Maroondah Art Gallery, Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood. Hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 4pm and Saturdays, 12noon to 5pm.

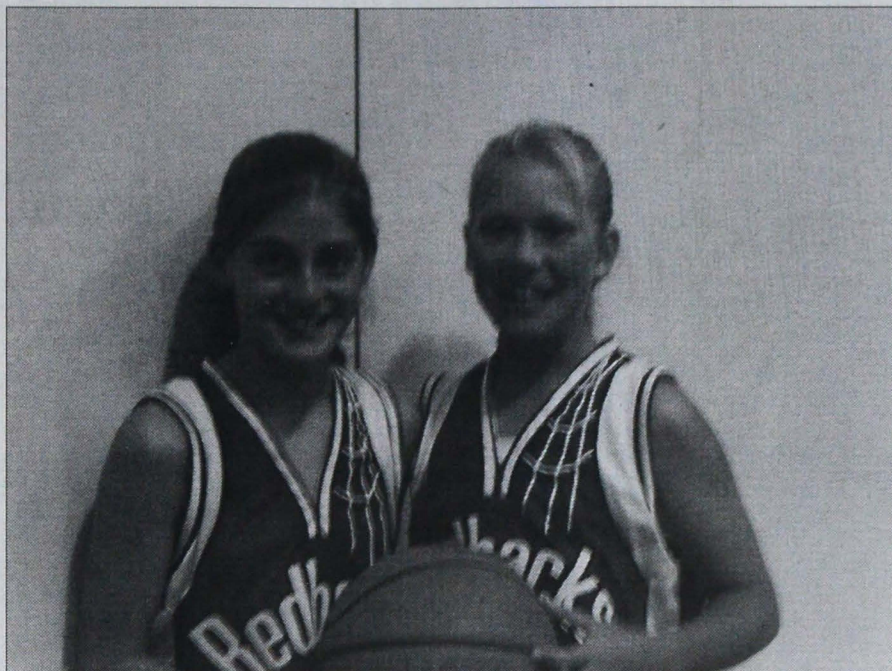
Chosen

“Chosen Vessel” at the Manningham Gallery is exhibiting works linked by a theme, “the vessel” from Tuesday, February 24 to Sunday, March 14. It is being held in conjunction with the recent Pottery Expo on the riverbank in Warrandyte. The gallery, at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster is open Tuesday to Friday, 11am to 5pm and Saturdays, 2pm to 5pm.

Daffodil

The Daffodil Day arts awards—Captured Moments—invites entrants to honour the past and embrace the future by sharing their cancer experience. Entries may be stories, poems, films or artwork from anyone with an experience of cancer, direct or indirect. Entries close on Friday, May 7. For entry form and further information call 1300 65 65 85.

They're big-time boys now!



Losers can be grinners too. Courtney Petalis (left) and Nicolette Prior manage smiles for the camera despite defeat in the Under-14 Metro 2 game against Nunawading.



Coach Jenny O'Brien addresses her Under-14 troops at half-time against Nunawading, who were simply too big and too good at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre.

By **TONY OLIVER, MANDY ANNAND and MANDY RATCLIFFE**

The first round of Metro competition in the Friday night junior championship basketball competition was completed on March 5, with Warrandyte's Under-16 boys doing coach Malcolm Anderson proud in their first taste of the big time.

The Redbacks were on the road to Rosebud to take on Southern Peninsula in a 150-kilometre round trip.

They had fought for their Metro 3 spot coming through the qualifying round a fortnight earlier when they scored three wins over one weekend.

The boys accounted for in-form Geelong with surprising ease, winning by 48-36, and next up on the same night were Sunshine.

The earlier game against Geelong had taken the edge off Warrandyte, who seemed out of contention when they trailed 23-15 with three minutes to go. But vital substitutions and a move to a full court man game set off a Redbacks scoring spree which produced 10 unanswered points.

Sunshine got one back to level but Warrandyte scored again to record a two-point win and progress to the play-off for the final spot in Metro 3 against Cranbourne on the Sunday.

Coach Anderson rated this game the best, Warrandyte leading most of the way to win 56-43.

Having arrived in Metro 3, the game against Southern Peninsula was regarded as an indicator of Warrandyte's chances in this high grade.

Proceedings opened slowly, the Redbacks missing some early baskets but leading 11-9 at the break.

The second half was much like the first, the difference being that Southern Peninsula were able to grab the lead. But Warrandyte finished much the better in the last few minutes, their superior fitness and stamina carrying them to a 39-25 win.

All Warrandyte players made the scoreboard, led by Ben Power with 12 points and Wade King with eight.

The Redbacks' second Under-16 team, going through the final grading cycle in Eastern, came up against the Waverley Falcons at Warrandyte High School.

The Falcons were first on the board and that set the trend for the first half. The ever-dangerous Matthew Peters opened Warrandyte's account and Peter Whittingham and David Gibson had plenty of the basketball, but loose passing was producing costly turnovers.

SPORT

Waverley led 21-10 at the break, but the Redbacks returned to the court fired up and both their passing and scoring lifted a notch or two.

Sam Hardy and Nathan Annand were fighting for the rebounds and David Wood kept the ball coming down the court.

There were just four points in it as the clock ran down, Gavin Yates scoring consistently to keep Warrandyte within striking distance, but Waverley held on grimly to win 45-39.

Yates finished with 12 points and Matt Peters with nine. Again, all players were among the points.

In another close one at the high school, Damian Arsenis' Under-11 boys defeated Cranbourne 32-31 in a see-sawing affair that saw some excellent basketball from both sides.

The game was all tied up at half-time, but Cranbourne were in foul trouble late in play, which allowed Jacob Ballard and Jake Wintle to go to the line and get the Redbacks home. Ballard top scored with 10 points, followed by Wintle with seven.

In the final high school game, Steve Camm's Under-18 boys scored a 52-45 win over the Blackburn Vikings.

Warrandyte's quick transition and accurate shooting kept them on the boil and although Blackburn scored a few quick baskets at the end, the result was never really in doubt.

Shane Holloway (13), Luke Dimmock (10) and Bryce Petalas (nine) led the scoring.

Two Redbacks girls teams were no match for the visitors at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre.

Jenny O'Brien's Under-14 Metro 2 girls were outclassed 39-16 by a taller Nunawading side who applied constant pressure.

Warrandyte missed the services of the injured Kirra Solty and although Ashlee O'Brien and Myka Johnson tried hard in the key they were outmuscled for the ball.

Diminutive Cassie Wilson gave it her all in both offence and defence and was especially effective in forcing jump balls.

Courtney Petalas topscored for the Redbacks with six points, Fiona Tinsley contributing four.

Peter Clough's Under-16 girls were similarly overpowered by Kilsyth, going down 34-20.

Warrandyte scored the opening points through Kaitlyn Little and Natalie Medcalf, but Kilsyth answered the challenge and held a 16-10 lead at the break.

Little and Metcalf led the home side's scoring with seven and four respectively.

Nick Peters' Under-18 Metro 3 girls were beaten 24-15 by Doncaster in a game which never really showed the potential of either side.

This Warrandyte team are notoriously slow starters and tonight was to be no exception. They trailed 12-4 at the break despite a heavy foul count against Doncaster and although the second half was even, the Redbacks were never able to exert scoreboard pressure.

In frustration, coach Peters called two time-outs with 12 seconds to go in an attempt to get the girls to focus.

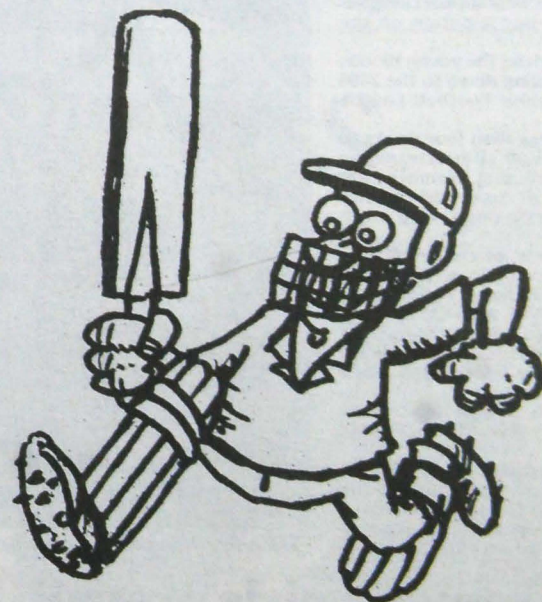
Nicole Dadswell and Lindel Thomas topscored with five points, followed by Jess Solty with four.

Luke Dimmock and Matt Camm's Under-14 boys went down to Eltham by 29-18 in an Eastern qualifying grading game.

Scott Patroni (six points) and Toby Versteegan (four) led the scoring for Warrandyte.

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

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Wonga Park Cellars	9722 1302



PLEASE SUPPORT
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It doesn't get any bigger than this

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

Warrandyte Junior Football Club's premier Under-13s of 2003 have accepted the ultimate challenge.

As a result of their grand final triumph they will compete as Under-14s this season in Gold Division — the highest level in the Yarra Junior Football League.

"This level of competition is a cut above anything we have ever experienced," said coach and club committeeman Steve Blakey.

"The boys will be challenged by this level of football. We can expect our opponents to be bigger, faster and harder at the ball — but judging by their early-season level of commitment and fitness, we are confident that we will be very competitive.

"We have always said that we are about giving our players the best opportunity to excel and this level will do that," Blakey said.

"There is no doubt that these boys will be exposed to AFL team scouts, giving them the opportunity to be selected for other squads and, who knows, even drafted."



As good as gold! Coach Steve Blakey and his Under-14s, who have stepped up to an elite level of junior football.

Girls? So what's the big problem?

Bloods warm up on Pies' hallowed turf

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

While others struggle to come to terms with the concept, Warrandyte have become one of the first Victorian junior football clubs to publicly declare their support for female players within their ranks.

"We pride ourselves on this being a family club," said WJFC president Mathew Matheou, "and quite frankly can't see what the problem is.

"The committee believes that we have achieved a high level of player safety and have the right culture and right facilities to ensure female players can fit right in to how we do things around here," he said.

"We have a very high level of participation by our juniors' mothers in the running of the club, so it's natural that we would actively support a higher level of participation on the field."

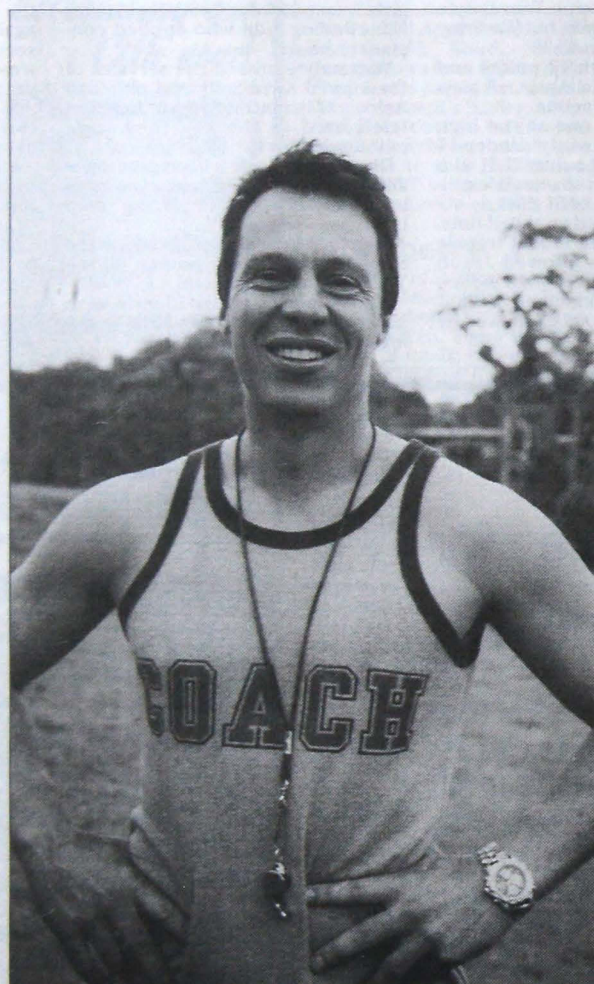
Meanwhile, the young Bloods are counting down to the 2004 Yarra Junior Football League season.

With less than four weeks to go to kick-off, all local teams are in full training. Numbers are good in all cases and coaches are already fine-tuning strategy.

"There is, of course, always room for more players, so anyone interested in representing Warrandyte, from Under-9s to Under-17s, should contact the club" said registrar Brad Curtis.

For more information about the activities of the club, contact Matheou on 0418542434 or secretary Kevin O'Mara (9844 2964).

● The junior club will hold their first happy hour of the season on Sunday, April 4, from 5-7pm. All members and supporters are very welcome.



Coach Ash Hamilton: new drills, new enthusiasm.

By LEE TINDALE

Our local Collingwood faithful can take a trip down memory lane this month as Warrandyte Football Club get deadly serious about the 2004 EDF Third Division season.

The Bloods will play the second of three scheduled practice matches on the hallowed Victoria Park turf on Sunday, March 21, against Murrumbena.

"This is a great chance for the Collingwood fans among us to revisit Victoria Park and, indeed, a great chance for all Warrandyte supporters to assess our chances for the new season," WFC president Phil Treeby told the *Diary*.

The Bloods will also play Kew at Bulleen Park on March 13 and Aquinas at Aquinas on March 27 in their lead-up to the season, which kicks off against 2003 Fourth Division premiers Rowville away on April 3.

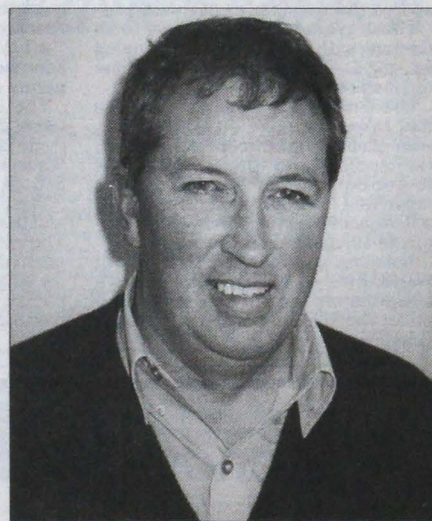
"We're very happy with the pre-season so far," Treeby said. "We have a lot of youth and a lot of enthusiasm here.

"The players got their first sniff of battle for the new season in a full-scale scratch match at Stinton Reserve on March 3.

"It was a very willing affair, a very good hit-out," Treeby said the club were still looking for two or three tall players to fill key positions.

"We're following up a lot of leads and waiting on commitments to be made," he said.

"Training has been very good and we have on the track up to 10 graduates from Under-18 and Colts ranks and other players who are returning to football here," Treeby said.



Phil Treeby: so far so good.

"Coaches Ash Hamilton and Andrew Hamer (seniors) and David Young (reserves) are doing a fantastic job and the players are responding very well to their new training drills."

Training has now returned from Stinton Reserve to the traditional Tuesdays and Thursdays at the recreation reserve.

Warrandyte's 2004 draw

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| April 3: v Rowville (A) | July 3: v Mooroolbark (H) |
| April 17: v Upper Ferntree Gully (H) | July 10: v South Croydon (A) |
| April 24: v Mooroolbark (A) | July 17: v Coldstream (H) |
| May 1: v South Croydon (H) | July 24: v Templestowe (A) |
| May 8: v Coldstream (A) | July 31: v Waverley Blues (H) |
| May 15: v Templestowe (H) | August 7: v Doncaster East (A) |
| May 22: v Waverley Blues (A) | August 14: v Nunawading (H) |
| May 29: v Doncaster East (H) | First Semi-final August 22 |
| June 5: v Nunawading (A) | Second Semi-final August 21 |
| June 19: v Rowville (H) | Preliminary Final August 28 |
| June 26: v Upper Ferntree Gully (A) | Grand Final September 4. |

The golden girls prevail

By JUDY GREEN

Three Warrandyte Tennis Club teams played in the grand finals of the MEMRLTA Tuesday competition on March 2. In Section B10, a very tight match saw Warrandyte Gold defeat Warrandyte Blue by just two games — three sets 34 games to three sets 32 games.

The Gold team (Atsuko Parker, Sally Grieg, Nicole Hogan, Tina Asker, Angie Szabo, Simone Newman) had finished the home-away matches in second place, just one point behind the Blues (Cathy Lucas, Pat Allgood, Trish Alger, Elaine Davis)

In Section A7, second-placed Warrandyte lost to top team Koonung Park, who had not lost a match for two seasons. The team of Barbara McBain, Noella Bird, Sue McGinty, Robin Waite and Pam Hiscock were defeated two sets 35 games to four sets 44 games.

Under-18s change partners for new season

Another joint venture — this time with First Division club Donvale — will see a Warrandyte Under-18 side on the park again this season.

As the EFL's registration deadline approached, the Bloods struck a deal with Donvale, who had not intended to field a team.

Despite Donvale's Division 1 status, the new Under-18s combine will play in Third Division.

The new venture has the blessing of Doncaster East Football Club, whose Under-18s merged with Warrandyte last season to make the finals.

It is understood that Doncaster East will not be represented in 2004 at this level, considered the vital link between junior and senior football. Warrandyte and Donvale are each believed to have about 14 Under-18s available.

"Warrandyte Junior Football Club sec-

retary Kevin O'Mara and his son Paul — a very promising young player — were largely instrumental in rounding up the local faithful," said senior club president Phil Treeby.

It had been a long, ongoing struggle by a dedicated few to resurrect a Warrandyte Under-18 side last season after two years in limbo for want of numbers. A coach has yet to be named for the Warrandyte-Donvale squad.

Somehow, we're there

Dynamic duo set up remarkable premierships tilt

A remarkable unbeaten 205-run partnership between Tyson Brent and Adam White has given Warrandyte an equally remarkable tilt at the Ringwood District Cricket Association's Wilkins Cup premierships.

The pair came together at 2-18 as they chased South Croydon's score of 123 on February 28 and batted through the day to take Warrandyte to 2-223.

White finished on 131 and Brent on 80.

The relevance of the partnership only became clear when RDCA officials set about compiling the final four.

Before the final game of the home-and-away season, Warrandyte had been sitting in fifth place on percentage behind St Andrews. The only way into the finals was for North Croydon to defeat St Andrews.

But St Andrews won the match and Warrandyte's hopes looked dashed until officials looked at percentages.

Dismissing South Croydon for a lowly 123 and only losing two wickets catapulted Warrandyte into third place, with South Croydon, who had been a game ahead in second place, falling out of the top four altogether.

Warrandyte were to host the first semi-final against St Andrews. And in a further remarkable situation, the third and fourth elevens also hosted first semi-final matches, at Stinton Reserve and the Warrandyte No 2 oval respectively.



SPORT

The thirds sealed their place when their opponents forfeited, while the fourths leapfrogged into third place by scoring 9-420 declared, Ken Miller belting 110 — including 12 sixes — from just 33 balls. The senior result was the completion of a journey that saw the team staring at possible relegation at the Christmas break.

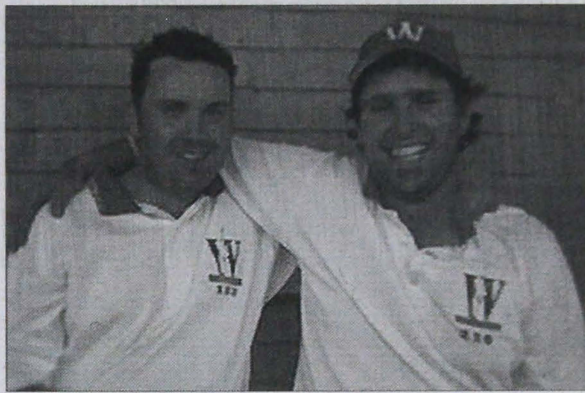
The dramatic story of the final round started the previous week when an inspired bowling performance saw Warrandyte dismiss the strong South Croydon batting line-up for 123. Veteran Gerald Walshe was again the stand-out bowler with 4-40, but it was the four-pronged spin attack the team have developed that set up the batting collapse.

Matthew Sazenis, 19, continues his remarkable run and his left arm orthodox spinners returned 3-7 off seven decisive overs, five of them maidens.

Adam White picked up a wicket with his off-breaks while his father Robert was his usual miserly self, taking 1-29 from 16 consecutive overs.

Warrandyte were left with 13 difficult overs at the end of the first day's play and lost Sazenis cheaply.

Tyson Brent and Jason Graf resumed on the second day, but



Adam White (left) and Tyson Brent celebrate their season-saving, unbeaten double-century stand.

Graf was out in the third over with the score at 18 and Warrandyte appeared set for a nail-biting run chase.

The calculators had been out all week trying to work out percentage scenarios and it was clear that Warrandyte had to score at least 200 runs for the loss of no more than three wickets to put themselves in with a finals chance.

Adam White was the aggressor in his season-saving partnership with Brent. The former club champion and junior player, who returned to Warrandyte this season after two years away coaching, jumped on any loose ball and his driving on both sides of the wicket was a highlight.

He collected his first senior century for Warrandyte with a massive blow for six over mid-wicket but then regained his composure to play out a further 13 overs to remain unbeaten.

While White's innings was dominant, the effort of Brent was also outstanding. He blunted the South Croydon attack from the beginning and his

unbeaten 80 meant that he was on the field for the entire match and batted a total of 93 overs.

It was an innings that could turn his cricketing career around. A former junior at Warrandyte, Brent has always shown great potential in the second eleven but a lack of confidence in his own ability restricted his chances of playing to his true form in senior company.

But his concentration against South Croydon and determination to play within his limitations stamped him as an important player for the future.

The second eleven needed to win the final match against South Croydon to reach the finals and although well placed at the end of the first week, scoring 188 and having their opponents 5-75, the lack of depth in the attack proved telling and they were beaten by 17 runs.

The thirds had the last round off courtesy of a forfeit, requiring skipper Eddie Cauchi to muster his team for an assault on the D-grade premierships.

It has been an amazing season for the thirds, who in the past two years had struggled to win a match. But Cauchi's effervescence and greater depth in the team have given them a realistic chance of premierships success.

The fourth eleven are the outstanding success story of the year. Established at the start of the season and made up of fathers and sons from Warrandyte Under-13, 14 and 16 teams, they have surprised everyone with their mixture of experience and youthful exuberance.

Many of the boys, some as young as 13, have produced outstanding results at senior level and they have been well

One down, two to go!

Warrandyte grasped the opportunity of an unlikely entry into the RDCA finals by comfortably disposing of St Andrews at home on March 6-7.

The four-wicket victory put the Dytes into the preliminary final against North Ringwood on March 13-14 for the right to play Croydon North for the premiership the following week-end.

And they will approach their assignment with plenty of confidence.

"The momentum is with us," said WCC president Robert White, a member of the eleven who saw off St Andrews.

"Our confidence is sky high. The guys are doing things they haven't done for a long time."

After breaking a menacing opening stand against the visitors, Warrandyte were always in the driving seat. Six wickets tumbled for just 17 runs as St Andrews teetered at 6-59 before a 45-run partnership frustrated a "quick kill".

St Andrews were dismissed for 156 in the 68th over, ageless paceman Gerald Walshe Warrandyte's hero with 4-44 from 24.2 overs. Walshe had a great ally in young spinner Matthew Sazenis, with 3-40 from 12.

Warrandyte saw out stumps without loss but were no good things next day at 4-68. Enter skipper Dave Mooney and Matt Chapman, who linked up in a 65-run partnership to put the result beyond doubt.

Mooney was still there on 46 when the target was reached with six wickets down. Chapman contributed an invaluable 34.

The third and fourth elevens were both eliminated in their semi-finals but can look back on very rewarding seasons.

LATE NEWS



Gerald Walshe

supported by their fathers, who have relished the chance of sharing a Saturday afternoon with their sons.

Their final-round performance was an excellent example as they needed a big win to bounce into the top four from fifth spot.

Warrandyte dismissed Croydon Ranges for 175 and then Under-13 players Chris Barry and Jake Sherriff put on an 80-plus opening stand before their team manager Ken Miller

blazed away with his whirlwind century.

Details

Seniors: Warrandyte 2-223 (A. White 131 n.o., T. Brent 80 n.o.) d South Croydon 123 (Walshe 4-40, Sazenis 3-7).

Seconds: Warrandyte 188 (Baker 54) lost to South Croydon 205.

Thirds: Warrandyte d Lilydale (forfeit).

Fourth: Warrandyte 9-420 dec (Miller 110, G. Rees 51, Heffernan 50) d Croydon Ranges 174 and 2-80.

Juniors in on premierships act

Warrandyte Cricket Club's vibrant junior section is sharing the Dytes' season of plenty.

Two of the three junior teams will contest the grand finals on March 13-14.

The Under-13/1s and Under-14/2s both won their semi-finals very convincingly and are undeniable chances for premierships.

More than 150 juniors and their families were at presentation night on February 28 to see all players awarded participation medals.

Major beneficiary of the individual awards was Daniel Kittelty, who took both batting and bowling honours in the Under-16s.

Award winners:

Under-16s: Daniel Kittelty (batting and bowl-

ing); Lachlan Beggs (fielding); James Shannon (coaches award).

Under-14/2s: Tyson Rees (batting); Ayrton Dehmel (bowling); Peter Cudmore (fielding); Jack Wright (coaches award).

Under-13/1s: Chris Barry (batting); Jake Sheriff (bowling); Patrick Beggs (fielding); St John Cranna (coaches award).

The Les Adams Shield for junior all-rounder went to Under-16s captain Shane Thomas.

"Congratulations to all the winners, but more importantly to all our players," said junior convenor Lee Dehmel.

"We've had a very good year and let's see if we can top it off with a couple of flags."

Survival of the species

By LEE TINDALE

South Warrandyte Cricket Club have survived their maiden season in the Ringwood District's elite Chandler Shield competition despite winning just one game.

The Hawks finished second-last on the ladder, half a game clear of relegation-bound Montrose.

Their one win was over competition leaders Ferntree Gully in Round 4, but they shared the points by drawing with South Ringwood in a rain-ravaged second round and tying with Montrose in Round 5.

Far from carrying lofty and unrealistic aspirations into season 2004-05, South have measured ambitions that go no further at this stage than a middle-order finish.

"Statistically, this has been a disappointing season, but I think we've achieved quite a lot," SWCC president Barry Williams told the *Diary*.

"It is a huge step up from A and B-grade (the Wilkins Cup and Newey Plate, which the Hawks barnstormed in the previous two seasons) to Chandler Shield and the boys have learnt a lot from it.

"We didn't gain a lot of players, but we moved on."

"It is a different type of cricket in Chandler Shield ... far more professional," he said.

Hawks' night out

Tickets are still available for South Warrandyte's presentation night dinner on Friday, March 12, at Alfred's Homestead.

Festivities start at 7.30, dress is semi-formal and a great night is, as usual, guaranteed.

All tickets must be pre-bought. They're \$35 a head and available from social secretary Nick Barrett (9789 9863).

"To be where we are from three years ago is fantastic and I'd rather be in the middle order of Chandler Shield than top of A-grade because everyone benefits from better cricket."

Williams said a lot of things were happening at the club.

"The Under-12 (3) boys, one of our three junior sides playing competition, are in the finals," he said, "and today (February 27) we had more than 120 people — the kids and their parents — at junior presentation day."

"It says a lot for the future of the club." Extensive renovations to the Colman Park clubrooms will be finished well before the start of next season.

"The new facilities will make for a much brighter social atmosphere and hopefully this will transfer into on-field perform-

ances," Williams said.

South Warrandyte's batting — their Achilles heel all season — again was their undoing as their season wound down.

Well placed at 1-42 in pursuit of 197 at stumps on the first day of the penultimate fixture against East Ringwood, the Hawks succumbed for just 129, ever-consistent Ben Neagle providing the only significant resistance with 39.

They did better in their final assignment, Brett Careedy top-scoring with 60 in 9-198, but then chased leather as Wonga Park cruised to 7-270 despite another lion-hearted performance by paceman Steve Garrett, whose marathon 27 overs yielded 3-74.

Details

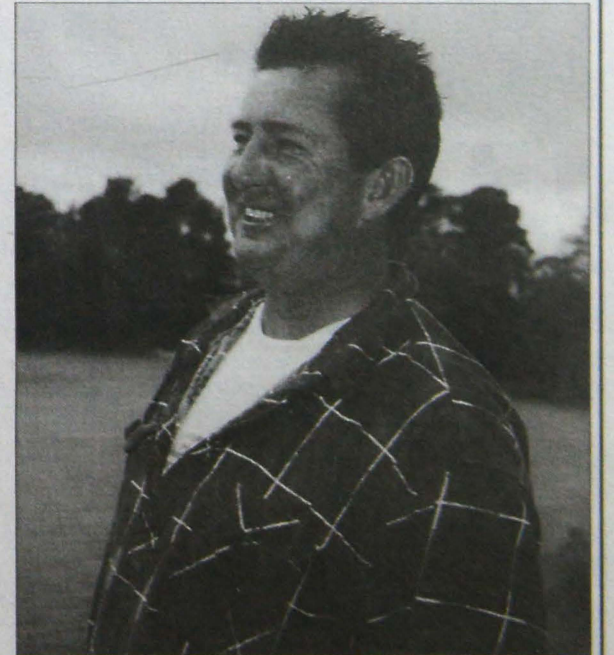
FIRSTS: South Warrandyte 129 (B. Neagle 39) lost to East Ringwood 196 (S. Brasher 4-51, K. Hartrup 2-16, B. Neagle, 2-23, S. Garrett 2-63).

South Warrandyte 9-198 (B. Careedy 60, S. Garrett 39, J. Barrett 27 n.o.) lost to Wonga Park 7-270 (S. Garrett 3-74 off 27 overs).

SECONDS: South Warrandyte 213 (D. Cutler 50, D. Smart 39, P. Milne 37) lost to Wonga Park 9-356 (T. Chrisfield 3-84).

THIRDS: South Warrandyte 197 (S. Adams 34, D. Head 32 n.o.) and 4-55 lost to Ainslie Park 306 (P. Garrett 4-75).

FOURTHS: South Warrandyte 110 (D. Johnson 43) and 310 (R. Jones 98, D. Johnson 51, B. Onken 32 n.o.), Croydon North 9-156 (R. Cutler 3-52).



Barry Williams: measured ambitions for next season.

Wilson McDougall

Wilson McDougall has been a trusted part of the unique Warrandyte community since 1958. Solid, reliable and with an impeccable reputation, the agency has been a landmark presence in the area, having occupied the same office in the main street since it was founded. Wilson McDougall is an integral part of the Warrandyte community and will continue to be so for many years to come.



Current principal Andrew Wilson assumed control of the business in 1990 and since then has maintained and indeed grown the community reputation of Wilson McDougall. After having lived in Warrandyte for 24 years, Andrew has become more than just a real estate agent. He is actively involved across many levels and widely respected as a high profile fixture of the community. He currently serves as president of the Warrandyte Blue Light Disco Committee, and is a director of the board of the Warrandyte Community Bank. Andrew is a supporter of a wide range of community causes and issues, including the provision of promotional materials, such as boards, to acting as an auctioneer at fundraising charity auctions for any number of community groups.



Kerrie Stafford has lived in Warrandyte for almost 12 years is married and has two young children attending local schools. Kerrie is always on hand to offer young families moving into the area support and information on local family services. Having spent many years in the pharmaceutical service and managing her own small business, Kerrie has learnt the importance and value of listening and the ability to communicate with people at all levels. Always active whether in the community, at home or at work, Kerrie has a very attractive philosophy when it comes to real estate. Her goal is to simply do a really good job. Kerrie can be contacted at any time on 0418 599 826.



Shirley Gower has recently joined Wilson McDougall bringing with her a wealth of life experiences. She has lived in Warrandyte for 8 years, has two adult children and enjoys working close to home. From a nursing background, Shirley has a B.A. in Social Sciences and a Diploma in Professional Counselling. She has also designed and subcontracted the building of her own homes (2 of them muddies), managed her own business in Aged Care and now combines all of her life skills into her role as a Property Consultant with 5 years experience. Shirley has the insight and inspiration to help people choose the type of property which suits their needs and the integrity and maturity to act for you, the vendors, in the marketing and sale of your most treasured possession, your property. Professionalism and passion are what drives Shirley to perfection. She can be contacted at any time on 0419 565 350.



Having several years as a conveyancing clerk provided the ideal background introduction for Leanne Highmore when she joined Wilson McDougall in 1992. It is testimony to Leanne's training and skills that she is able to deal with most problems or situations with great poise and dignity. Leanne is fully conversant with the Residential Tenancies Act and its many provisions relating to all parties, be they agent, landlord or tenant. Leanne is married with 3 children and successfully manages her dual responsibilities of family and work. Leanne's knowledge and very pleasant nature contribute to her healthy and respected relationship with her landlords and rental clients and she looks forward to many years involvement in property management with Wilson McDougall. Leanne can be contacted at the office on 9844 3085.

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