

Crisis team evicted

By SAM DAVIES

Warrandyte Housing and Support Services is in crisis following notification they will be evicted from their premises within three weeks.

Their current building at 95 Yarra Street may be demolished, and the group must now find new premises to continue its service, or face permanent closure.

Manager of WH&SS, Margory Lapworth, described the imminent eviction as "pure folly," and said she would now decide "whether to just call it a day".

"We don't know whether to laugh or cry, you wonder whether it's all worth it. The three-week time limit is not feasible. We can't sit back and wait because decisions have to be made about our future," Ms Lapworth said.

The volunteer-staffed WH&SS uses

the property to run its operation, helping families in need with services that include housing, food parcels and emergency relief funding.

The service is supported by Warrandyte Rotary Club and from the proceeds of the opportunity shop run from downstairs in the building.

In a letter dated May 31, 2004, Paul Molan, director of environmental amenity at Manningham council, said that planning zones and overlays prohibited the use of office, store and/or shop on the 95 Yarra Street property, and they were to cease by close of business on June 24 2004.

The week prior to the eviction notice, WH&SS were asked to remove signage advertising the Rotary opportunity shop, following local complaints.

Mr Molan told the *Diary* the property was in contravention of the planning zone as it is on an urban floodway zone. "Margory was advised before she

'It will make a lot of difference to a lot of people'

Happier days: Margory Lapworth at work in the Yarra Street cottage. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)



moved in that her intended use was prohibited. But they moved in, and even intensified their operation," he said.

"They put out an A-frame sign draw-

ing attention to their property and some people in Warrandyte complained that they thought it was inappropriate. The landowner's renovations were also done in contravention

of the planning scheme," Mr Molan said.

It is believed the complaint came from a nearby resident whose view of the Yarra was restricted by the 85-year old cottage.

Chairman of the WH&SS Alan Alder said he was in a state of shock after receiving the notice. "It's a bombshell. There might be ways around it, we're investigating that now."

Mr Alder said they may be able to split the opportunity shop from the office and just keep the office, "otherwise they'll take the whole thing away".

Another possibility would be for local member Phil Honeywood to lobby the water board for a zone reclassification. Although the premises are classified in urban floodway zoning, the river last flooded to the road in 1934.

Mr Honeywood said he was appalled and deeply annoyed by the decision and would lobby council against it. "I think both state and local council deserve a whack here. It's a bona fide group with the runs on the board, providing for local families in genuine need," he said.

"Manningham council is not willing to give any flexibility. They've given a genuine community group three weeks. It's appalling high-handedness. It's only an opportunity shop, and all that money has been going to pay rent," Mr Honeywood said.

Phil Honeywood lobbied successfully in 1996 for the WH&SS to operate out of the former police sergeant's residence on the corner of Forbes and Yarra Streets, paying a peppercorn rental of one dollar a year to the Office of Housing.

In June last year the control of the house was returned to the Office of Housing for other uses, and Ms Lapworth's group was forced to find new accommodation. They have since been paying \$1500 a month, totaling almost \$18,000, to operate from 95 Yarra Street.

"If I was being bloody-minded, I would say it's just a continuation of the council's total lack of understanding of this need. They have never recognized our legitimacy," Ms Lapworth said. "What will happen to the people who come here? There isn't anywhere else they can go. It'll make a lot of difference to a lot of people."



Legs and wheels: at long last council has released their draft management plan for the Warrandyte River Reserve. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds) • See Page 7

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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WARRANDYTE DIARY

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OUR NEWSPAPER

The Warrandyte Diary was established in 1970 as a small
local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it
has retained its strong community character, being produced
by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community.
Financed solely through advertising, it guards its not-for-
profit, non-commercial status and its independent voice.
The Diary carries a strong editorial bias towards the people,
environment and character of the place it serves. Its monthly
circulation is 4000 copies and it is available in Warrandyte,
North Warrandyte, South Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Wonga
Park, Waranwood, North Ringwood, Kangaroo Ground and
Research.

A SPECIAL PLACE

Warrandyte (approximate population 8000) is situated on the
Yarra River, some 24km from Melbourne. For countless ages
a well-stocked hunting ground of the Wurundjeri people, in
1851 Warrandyte became the site of the first official gold
discovery in Victoria. 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.

No, Dick's alive and well but the (cemetery) plot thickens



Dick Davies, founding president of the Warrandyte Community Association and its current secretary, is delighted to confirm that rumours of his imminent death have been somewhat exaggerated. Premature as well. Mind you, he wasn't feeling all that flash just before he literally stopped the show by fainting in his seat during a performance of Linda Carroll's "Colliding Rhythms" at the Mechanics Institute Hall on the night of May 29. As good fortune would have it, paramedic Paul Wilkinson and a couple of nurses just happened to be in the audience, an ambulance was summoned and Dick whisked off to hospital. The drama was to intensify there when a specialist misread the cardiologist's report and insisted that Dick was in urgent need of a pacemaker as early as right now or tomorrow at latest and was he in private health and so forth. It all came as quite a shock to Dick, who prides himself on his fitness but could barely contain his amusement — after things had been sorted out and the incident diagnosed as nothing more than a one-off faint — when a so-called friend suggested he might be a candidate for the first plot in an extended Warrandyte Cemetery.

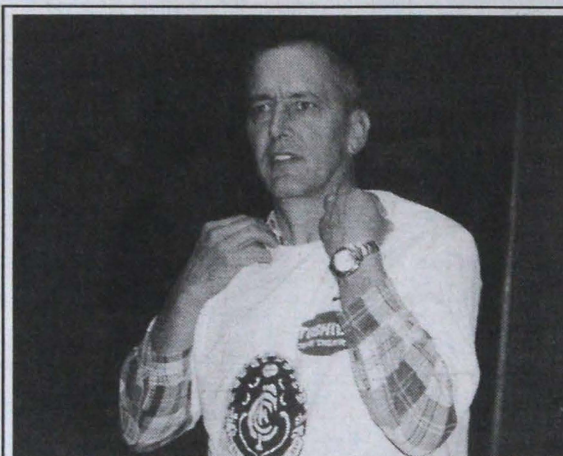


Dick Davies: it really wasn't his week.



Actually, a dark cloud had been hovering over Dick all week. It was raining quite steadily a couple of days earlier when a tradesman arrived to do a spot of maintenance on the pool. Dick greeted him in the driveway with two golf umbrellas, but by the time they got to the pool the downpour had given way to glorious sunshine. Funny about that. Maintenance done, Dick remarked to wife Jan that he hoped the rain had reached parched country Victoria. "What rain?" said Jan. "You've been draining the pool through the roof sprinklers all morning!" Oh.

IN RED & WHITE



Neil Dusting, missing from this page last time because of a clerical error, is a lifelong and passionate Western Bulldogs supporter who worshipped the very ground upon which Tony Liberatore walked. When football discussions would get around to little Libba, his style of play and his tribunal record, Neil would defend him so vigorously that a little vein in his forehead would throb quite visibly. He is on record as saying that he would "follow Tony Liberatore to the ends of the Earth". Alas, Neil has reneged on that vow by refusing to follow him to Carlton (which some people might indeed regard as the end of the Earth), where Libba is now an assistant coach. Neil Dusting deplores Carlton with just about as much enthusiasm and dedication as he adores his beloved Bulldogs, which does very little for domestic bliss because his wife, the lovely Pauline, is a Blue through and through. And when his mischievous mate Kevin Close — a "forward scout" (aka "spy") for that mob — presented him with a Carlton shirt at the RSL Club the other night, expressions of gratitude and appreciation were not forthcoming. "I'll use it to wash the car!" he thundered. Neil was gracious enough, though, to model the shirt for Jan Tindale's camera.



Having resurrected himself from self-imposed Page 2 exile, Alan "Coatsy" Koetsveld will now go to any lengths to get his name into this column on a monthly basis. Even to the extent of riling up a nest of European wasps, surely the most welcome visitors to these shores since the rabbit, the blackberry and the cane toad. Okay, we'll tell the real story. Coatsy was doing a bit of work at daughter Bernadette's place the other day when young Ben ("Little Bunter") McLean, who was giving him a hand, disturbed a redgum sleeper which the wasps called home. They were none too pleased and expressed that displeasure by launching a two-pronged air raid as Coatsy scarpered one

way and Ben the other. By the time Coatsy had made it to the safety of the panel van, the beasties had monstered his left ear and it became painfully obvious that at least one of the little sods had found its way into his T-shirt and down his back, where it was giving him what-for. Whereupon our hero leapt from the van and tore at his clothing in what was probably the most bizarre striptease this town has ever seen. Sorry you missed it. Ben managed to escape virtually unscathed, but Coatsy's left ear blew up so big he could have wind-surfed without a sail!



Rae Danks found the following note on her windscreen the other day: "To the owner of

this car: Why do you always park in the same spot? Love Josh and Phil". Well, Josh and Phil, Rae is our advertising/accounts manager and likes to park as close as she can to the office, directly opposite in the community centre. That answer your question?



Denise Farran's Grade 2 kids at Warrandyte Primary do her footy tips each week for her in the staff competition because she knows very little (for that read nothing) about the game. And when she was about to drop her selections into the office the other day she told them she'd only be a couple of minutes, that she would signal her return by walking quite audibly and expected "dead silence" when she opened the door. The littlies certainly took her at her word, Denise walking back into the classroom to find the entire class lying on the floor, eyes closed and corpse-like. As Denise surveyed the scene, one little head bobbed up and asked: "Is that dead silent enough for you, Ms Farran?"



It's about 15 months now since a diamond ring — presumably one of the engagement variety — was found in a private driveway at Park Orchards and handed into our local police. And there it sits to this very day. No inquiries, no takers. It's hand-made, valued at about \$1000 and has three diamonds set in gold, with a gold band engraved with an October date. If its yours or you know whose it might be, please phone the police on 9844 3231.

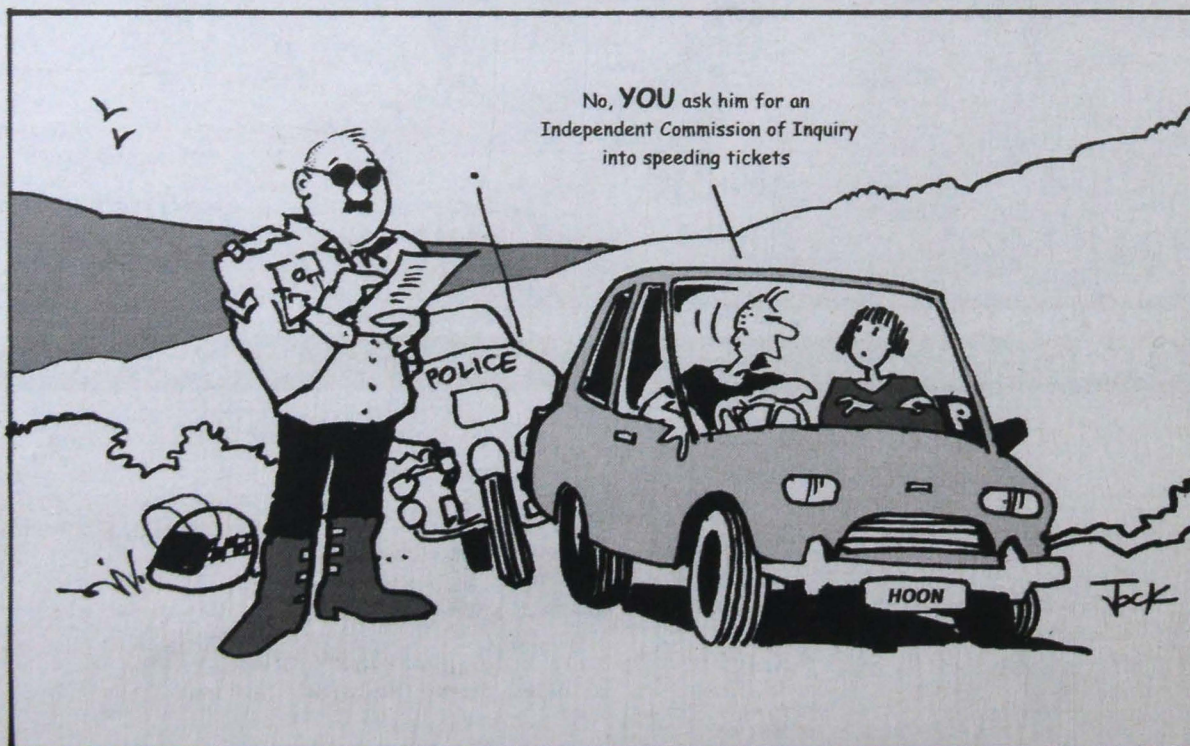


A couple of contrasts this month from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend — a low-growing, easygoing herb and a prickly shrub. The herb is the Austral Storks-bill, one of Australia's own pelargoniums (most gardens grow the South African imports) and native flora expert Joan MacMahon describes its flowers as a "lovely magenta". And from our very own Fourth Hill, an hakea, closely related to grevilleas, with delicate white flowers tinged in pink. Little birds use it for shelter, says Joan, and drink its nectar. These beauties can be had by calling at the nursery (Melways reference 27 C10) between 10am and noon on a Thursday.

Smokey Joe

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



Park funds silence

MP believes rangers will stay at Warrandyte

By SAM DAVIES

Five weeks after the state budget was handed down, it is still unclear how much of Warrandyte State Park's slashed maintenance funding will be restored.

However, the future of ranger headquarters at the Park has been assured.

Last year, \$90,000, representing 90 percent of the State Park's maintenance budget, was reallocated to fund bush-fire rehabilitation in alpine regions.

Community groups and local politicians lobbied hard for the money to be restored in full for the coming financial year.

In May, the state budget delivered \$5.2 million in additional park funding and a further \$2.4 million for the maintenance of park assets.

MP for Yan Yean, Danielle Green, was unable to say how much of this money would go towards Warrandyte State Park's maintenance budget, stating individual parks were still entering funding submissions for the coming year.

"The overall desegregation of the budget, the different bits for the different parts, are be-

ing put together as we speak."

But MP for Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood, accused Ms Green of being "a little disingenuous with the truth".

He said the additional funding was the result of inflation and an increase in the parks levy charged on household water bills from \$45 up to \$50.

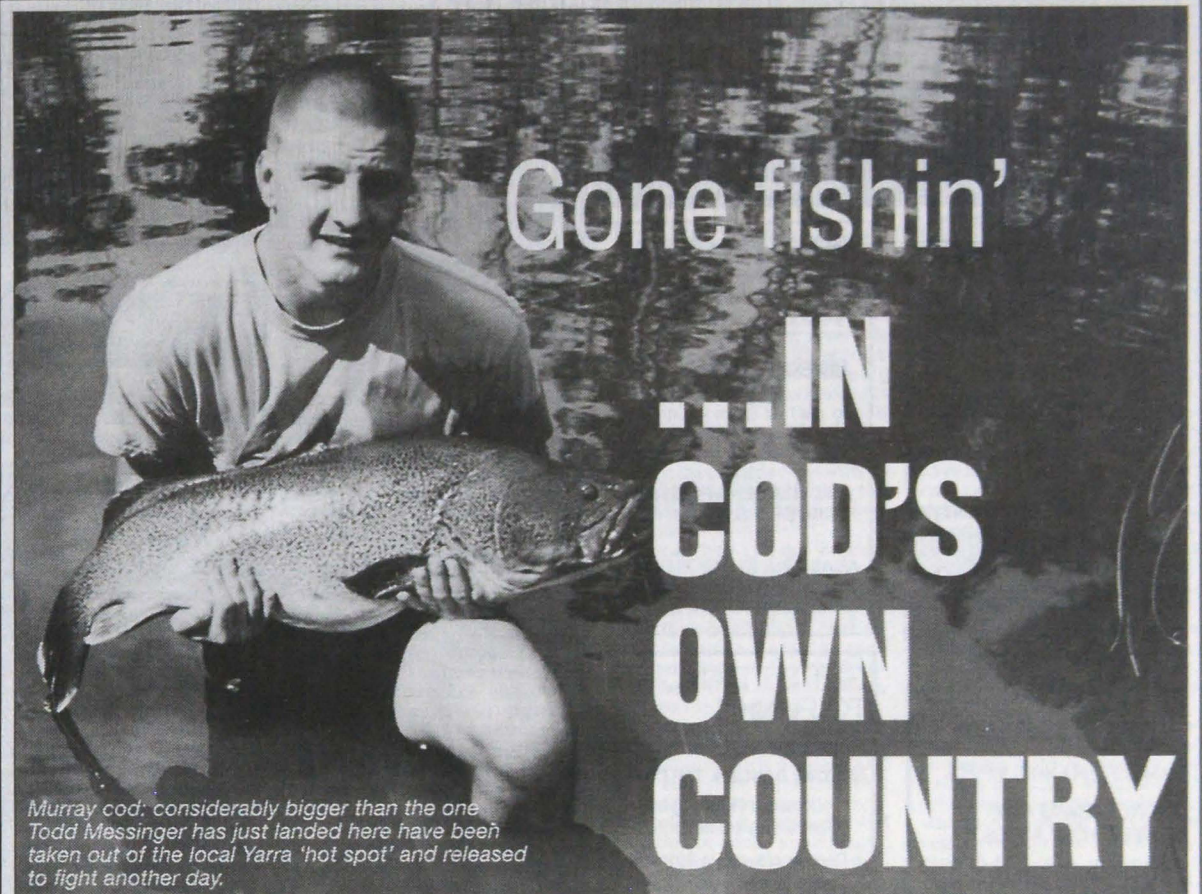
State budget figures show the total output cost for Parks Victoria, including the increased levy, for financial year 2004/05 was \$145.4 million, compared with \$153.5 million for financial year 2003/04. This represents more than five percent reduction in total output costs.

Mr Honeywood said that Parks funding submissions should have been received two months before the budget.

"What the community is expecting from Danielle Green is that she be upfront. If she can't tell us what the specific funding is, she's not doing her job," he said.

Ms Green did however assure the *Diary* that Warrandyte's rangers would remain headquartered fulltime in Warrandyte.

Asked whether the rangers would be based in Westerfold Park in the future, Ms Green replied, "I don't think that's in the offing."



Murray cod: considerably bigger than the one Todd Messinger has just landed here have been taken out of the local Yarra 'hot spot' and released to fight another day.

By SMOKEY JOE

The good news is that big Murray cod are alive and well and living right here in the Yarra.

The bad news is that to keep them alive and well, we're not going to tell you just where.

American visitor Todd Messinger and a mate, a local sport fishing enthusiast who said he'd rather not be named, have been taking cod from a

special hole here on a strict catch-and-release basis.

It is a magnificent part of the Yarra, quite pristine, quite idyllic and fully deserving of staying that way.

That — and the preservation of the fish population in the river — is why Todd and his mate are reluctant to reveal the location, although they were nice enough to share their secret with Smokey.

"The exciting thing is the number of small cod we catch and put back in the water here," said Todd.

"It suggests the fish are breeding very well."

The cod are also doing the river a big favour by preying on the despised European carp.

"One of the bigger fish we caught spat up a foot-long carp as it came out of the water," said Todd.

Opposing views on speed limit

By SAM DAVIES

The 50km/h speed limit along Yarra Street through the village has resulted in a minimal effect on traffic speeds, with more than 60 percent of cars still exceeding the new limit, some by more than 60km/h, according to council data.

However Warrandyte Police are satisfied with the way drivers are respecting the new limit.

Over 10 days in April this year, Manningham council located tape counters outside the post office in the new 50km/h zone.

The results showed westbound traffic travelled at a mean speed of 50.5km/h, and had an 85 percentile speed (that which 85 percent of traffic travels at or less than) of 58km/h.

Eastbound traffic had a mean speed

of 53.4km/h with an 85 percentile of 60km/h. The combined total of east and westbound traffic shows a mean speed of 51.9km/h and an 85 percentile of 59km/h.

At the same location in March 2002, westbound traffic had a mean speed of 52.2km/h and an 85 percentile speed of 61km/h.

This shows a 1.7km/h drop in mean speeds and a 3km/h drop in the 85 percentile since introduction of the new limits. Comparative figures were unavailable for eastbound traffic.

Manager of project management at Manningham council, John Stamp, said the figures show the new signage is having an impact.

"There is a level of observance, however, you could argue it is still above the 50km limit," he said.

"What we tend to find is that private individuals have a perception of speed that is not always represented in the figures. We just read these off the tape counters," Mr Stamp said.

Dr Ron Garrett from the Warrandyte

Community Association has done his own interpretation of the post office data, showing that 60-70 percent of traffic still exceeds 50km/h; 10-12 percent exceeds 60km/h; and two percent exceeds 70km/h.

Of this two percent, Dr Garrett notes nearly half travelled at speeds over 100km/h or even 110km/h.

"During business hours, just under 50 percent complied with the 50km/h limit. But during the period from midnight to 6am, between 15 and 40 percent of traffic exceeded 70km/h, showing a culture of very high speeds in the night and early hours of the morning," said Dr Garrett.

Data was also collected over a 16-day period in April outside the Lions Park. This showed eastbound traffic had a mean speed of 45.2km/h and an 85 percentile of 55km/h. Westbound traffic had a mean speed of 50.7km/h and an 85 percentile of 59km/h.

No comparative data was collected outside the Lions Park prior to the implementation of the new limit, but

Mr Stamp said the overall mean was not far removed from 50km/h, and for eastbound traffic the mean was even less than the posted speed.

Sergeant Keith Walker of Warrandyte police said he was happy with the results of the new speed limits so far.

"The police consistently patrol the area, using controlling devices such as the radars to check motorists' speeds. We could say the vast majority of motorists are well within the speed limits."

"My opinion is that it has been very effective," he said.

He called for the speed limit to be extended to Taroona Avenue to slow traffic through the shopping strip. This would also cover the school crossing to Anderson Street.

"There is further discussion needed. It will be interesting to hear comments back from locals and road-users," Sgt Walker said.

● Readers' comments are invited on this issue.



Testing time: motorists are still adjusting to the 50km/h limit through the Warrandyte village. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

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New site causing grief

After considering the proposal for the new Anderson's Creek Cemetery site, and following meetings with local residents, I feel the residents whose properties will be most affected by this development deserve our full support.

In the first instance, no initial consultation process was undertaken; residents were presented with the amendment (C41) as a fait accompli and council was discussing rezoning the land to allow for the new cemetery extension before local residents officially heard of the proposal. It transpires that the proposal is for rezoning of land from Residential 1 to Public Use Zone 5—Cemetery/Crematorium.

In order to have their questions answered a body of concerned residents asked for a meeting with council, outlining their main concerns: negative impact on the environment—potential ground water pollution; lack of sustainability; no infrastructure in place to address current or future impact of traffic and parking; burials 4.8 metres from residential boundaries.

These objections were outlined in a 41 page report to council, which drew on expert opinion and advice.

In a subsequent council meeting, attended by members of the Anderson's Creek Cemetery Trust and concerned residents, it was evident that residents' real concerns were still not being addressed.

Council and residents did agree that it was a most unusual practice for an amendment to be passed here in Melbourne rezoning residential land for cemetery use. In normal practice, where there are existing

**DEAR DIARY**

amenities such as a cemetery, people can make an informed decision as to where they purchase their houses.

In this instance, long-term residents whose homes about this site (and have done so for as long as 30 years) have considered moving rather than being forced to accept the council's proposed amendment.

What is evident is that the majority of people who will be buried in the new cemetery will not be local people. The cemetery trust states that 15 per cent of burials will be of Warrandyte people, however, as many metropolitan cemeteries are closing and burial at Anderson's Creek cemetery has become a popular choice for people who have no connections with Warrandyte, it may no longer be able to serve this community.

Residents will be in attendance at a market stall, Stiggant's Reserve on Saturday, June 5 to discuss key issues concerning this amendment. I believe this lack of consultation and failure to address residents' concerns is not the Warrandyte way.

Marion Winton
Treze Street

Family facts

We are seeking information for a book and reunion of the Bloom family.

Christian Bloom and Ernestine Simon married in 1865. They had a farm/orchard in King Street, Doncaster where they reared their 14 children. The seven boys were: Fred, Otto, Christian, Alfred, Lou, Albert and Edward. The girls were: Annie married William Edwards, Mary married Dan Allen, Matilda married Frederick Hodgson, Rose married William Rann, Minnie married Edward Purchase, Martha married Michael Noonan and Edith married J. Maggs.

Any information regarding these families would be most welcome. The reunion will be held in May 2005 in Doncaster and all descendants are invited to attend.

For further details please contact: Ms Neroli Trebeck, 49 Barlow Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011 or Ms Marion Gullickson, 12 Sea Swallow Pl, Ballina NSW 2478. Ph. 02 6686 6290.

Marion Gullickson
Ballina, NSW

Yarra St oasis

There is a small patch of God's earth between the community bank and a restaurant on Yarra Street in Warrandyte. As many residents would know, it is for sale. For sale! A small resting area between all the commercialism and it too must be sold off, put to "better" use.

I will be delighted, overjoyed in fact, if the purchaser left it alone and I had to eat my words. But from what I have seen in my time so far, that doesn't often happen around these parts any more. Progress always seems to win over the higher good of the environment. Money-making will always be more important than Mother Nature.

Maybe one day Manningham City Council can build a tree museum right in the middle of town? I'm sure our children's children would love to know what we sacrificed for progress, what we are responsible for destroying.

It's a little slice of earth. Let it be, for God's sake, let it be.

Nicole Van't Foort
Houghton Road

Dreams come true!

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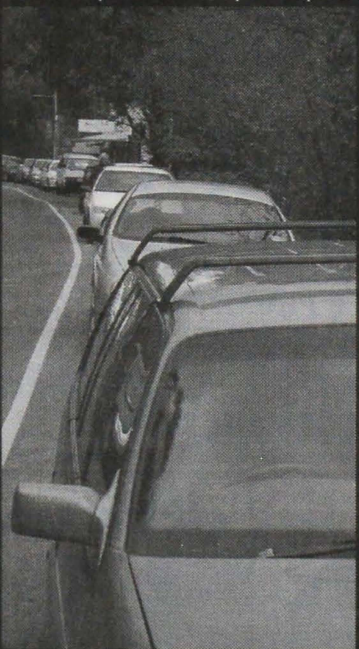
Little pride shown here...



Sale of precious open space



Rubbish behind shops



Problem parking



Inappropriate developments



Hodge podge of official signs



Signage clutter

Manningham council is conducting a "Pride of Place" survey of Warrandyte township. The Warrandyte Community Association hopes this study will address those issues of most concern to the community. They have released the following statement...

WCA envisages a township study that operates within the overall aesthetic framework of the low key, village, riverside community that is characteristic of the Warrandyte township and which most of its residents cherish. Central to this is preserving the Warrandyte environment by retaining the earthy, bush landscape with its characteristic muscular tall gums and other indigenous vegetation.

Warrandyte is very much a township within the visual corridor of the Yarra Valley. Both sides of the river contribute to its unique qualities. In particular, the more heavily treed northern side of the river embankment is an essential backdrop to the township.

The township essentially consists of three "villages"—a central section with an east and west end. It is important that the township retain the separate "village" identity and visual qualities of each "sub-village", maintaining discrete boundaries without surrendering to linear extensions, or boundary creep, which will blur their identities.

Together with the environment is the heritage aspect of early goldfields and later artistic communities. This has created a desirable venue for tourists and a market to some extent for the local business community.

Most residents, whilst welcoming tourists to enjoy the amenity of the State Park and environs, are reluctant to see the essential character abandoned as haphazard signage, inappropriate development and traffic problems undermine the very character residents most enjoy and tourists come to see. Parts of the Warrandyte township have become truly awful.

The landscape in the township has become severely degraded with European trees crowding out the tall gums, scruffy presentation of many shopfronts, haphazard advertising with "A" frame signs liberally scattered on footpaths and inconsistent design in paving and fencing where different attempts have been made at different times to retain the eclectic character of the township. Whilst Heritage overlay guidelines exist, they are widely ignored in the village shopping

strips. Signage suffers from regulation by three separate authorities: Manningham council, Vic Roads and Parks Victoria.

Car parking and traffic flow is a problem as the main street is an arterial road. This is especially noticeable alongside the Lions Park where pedestrians have to walk outside the parked cars on the main road. Whilst parking on the main Yarra Street is limited, there is significant parking allocation behind the shops in several locations which remains unused. Car users either aren't aware or can't be bothered to walk the extra distance which may involve climbing steps. Better access, clearer signage and more stairs would help.

The area on the southern (upper) slope behind the central shopping strip is visually appalling as many commercial premises appear to be using the site as a convenient tip. The vegetation on the block adjacent to the bank will be lost with a development planned. Presentation of the east end shops is equally appalling with rubbish, rubbish bins and a skip littering the site. A new and quite inappropriate housing development now dominates the site, making a mockery of the height restrictions placed on the commercial development and causing exiting car parking from the nearby shops to be even more hazardous. Pedestrian safety is an issue; crossing the road from riverside parking to the shops is hazardous. Disabled access is poor. This is particularly so at the east end crossing over from the bus stop.

● The Diary welcomes reader comment on these issues.

The second of two community meetings to discuss the Pride of Place project will be held at the Warrandyte Seniors Citizens Centre in Tarroona Avenue at 8pm on Wednesday, June 30. The consultants, along with traffic and signage consultants, will be presenting preliminary design ideas for community discussion. Residents and traders are urged to attend to provide valuable input into the project to ensure it reflects true community aspirations.

WCA RECOMMENDATIONS

Many improvements can be made at no great cost with cooperation from residents, businesses and councils.

- Encourage replacement of European vegetation with indigenous plants, particularly tall gums. This need not be an expensive exercise as residents would willingly participate.
- Rationalise signage, enforce Heritage guidelines, encourage cooperation amongst the regulatory authorities (perhaps through the WCA?). Clearer indication of off-main road parking is needed.
- Extend the 50kph limit from Whipstick Gully to the Stonehouse.
- Establish a pedestrian crossing at the east end.
- Encourage shop owners at the east end to tidy up the site, and those in the main strip to remove rubbish behind the premises.
- Establish consistent design guidelines for paving, fascias, banks, railings and so on which recognize the eclectic quality of Warrandyte.
- Liaise with Nillumbik council to ensure the north side of the river bank is not degraded by inappropriate development.

Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

Key Decisions



These are some of the decisions made by Council on **Wednesday, 21 April 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 21 July 2004 at 7.30pm at the Shire Offices. All are welcome to attend or listen to the broadcast on Plenty Valley FM 88.6.



Land Use, Planning and Environment

Resolved to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit at 25-27 Batman Road, Eltham and 248 Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte.

Transport and Infrastructure

Resolved to give notice of Council's intention to declare a Special Charge: Beard Street Footpath Special Charge Scheme; Hamilton Road Special Charge Scheme; Howell Road Special Charge Scheme; Challenger Street Special Charge Scheme; and the Parker/Taylor Road Area Road and Drainage Special Charge Scheme.

Economic Development

Resolved to give public notice of the proposed declaration of a Marketing and Promotions Special Rate Scheme for Diamond Creek Shopping and Business Precinct under Section 163 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Resolved to adopt the Action Plan (2004-2005) for the Economic Development Strategy.

Governance

Resolved to endorse the release of the Draft Council Plan 2004-2008 for the purpose of community consultation and that submissions be heard at the Policy and Services Committee meeting on 9 June 2004.

Resolved to submit a proposal to the Registrar of Geographic Names, to name the reserve at 137 Wilsons Road, Wattle Glen, Wattle Glen War Memorial Reserve.

Jennifer's a champ: no drama

By ALANA HORDEN

Jennifer Byrne has always loved drama. Ever since she was an "attention-seeking" girl in grade 6, playing the prince in her school musical, The Little Mermaid. "I absolutely loved it. And I think I always loved the kick of being onstage and having audience reactions."

Perhaps it's no surprise then that Jennifer would receive a Premier's VCE award for drama. She received a study score of 50 (perfect marks) for drama, one of only four people in the state to do so. Winning the award was "a complete surprise. I had no idea, because drama's such an ambiguous subject, and it's really hard to know what they want and what they expect from you."

Jennifer clearly knew, however, and didn't just excel in drama last year. Receiving dux of Warrandyte High School with an ENTER score of 99.3, she is currently enrolled in creative arts at Melbourne university. She plans to audition for a musical theatre course at the Victorian College of the Arts next year.

Although drama is often seen as an easy subject, Jennifer is quick to deny it. "The theory is really important. A lot of people think drama is an easy subject but you've got to know your stuff, and be interested in it." Especially daunting, said Jennifer, is the final solo piece all students studying drama must perform. "It was scary, but the examiners are all really friendly." The only prop Jennifer used in this performance was a glass of Berocca, which supports her belief that examiners like unique and unusual ideas.

Jennifer plans to travel in the future and impress us all on London's West End. "I'd love to go travelling, and work my way around. I'd love to get into musical theatre, that's my dream." Due to the "insane competitiveness" of the musical theatre industry, however, she also plans to teach singing and performance.



"I hate that there are people out there who are so talented but who have no confidence and no belief in themselves. And then you've got some people who just assume they're God's gift to performance, and they're just not good but they get places because they have that confidence. I guess that's just something I hate about the industry."

Attending Warrandyte High was a valuable experience for Jennifer. "Once you get to VCE, it's got a real community feel to it. The teachers are great. They're really supportive, especially in VCE, and they become friends rather than teachers or authority figures. The principal Terence Twomey was great. He came to the Premier's Awards with me, and my drama teacher. I liked the school."

Jennifer is modest, and laughs a lot. When prompted to speak on her big achievement she laughed and replied "Big award? It's such a big deal about nothing. It's a big show and dance, and there's a big thing at the Regent Theatre, but that's basically all. It's nothing really."

"If you're doing things that you hate, you'll end up hating school, which is hating practically every day. But if you're doing things that you like doing, that's when you'll do well."

Jennifer Byrne is living proof.

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Festival time: the river reserve is the principal venue for the Warrandyte Festival. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

River reserve's future

The River Reserve is probably Warrandyte's most beloved and widely-used asset.

Local residents have been awaiting the release of Manningham council's promised draft review of this area for years. It has just been released for a six-week period commencing Wednesday, June 9.

"The draft plan details proposed improvements to the natural, recreational and cultural quality of the river reserve for the enjoyment of existing and future users and provision of habitat for native fauna," a

council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"The Warrandyte River Reserve is 11 hectares of the most heavily used open space areas along the Yarra River within the municipality.

"The reserve is used intensively for a variety of activities including walking, jogging, picnicking, walking dogs, bicycle and horse riding and for relaxing and enjoying the river and bushland environment.

"It is also used for major events such as the Warrandyte Festival, the Warrandyte market

and the Pottery Expo held annually on the river frontage opposite Webb Street," the spokesperson said.

A community meeting to discuss the Warrandyte River Reserve draft plan will be held at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Centre, Tarroona Avenue, (Mel ref: M35 C1) at 7.30pm on Wednesday, June 23.

Copies of the draft management plan may be obtained from:

• Customer service desk of Manningham City Council, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster or

from the council website at www.manningham.vic.gov.au;

• Contacting Kay Toussaint of the Economic and Environmental Planning Unit on 9840 9348.

Submissions must be lodged by no later than Friday, July 23 2004, addressed to Ms Teresa Dominik, manager economic and environmental planning, PO Box 1, Doncaster, Vic 3108.

For further enquiries contact Nancy Stokes, open space planner on 9840 9138 or by email to nancy.stokes@manningham.vic.gov.au

Happy birthday, bank!

By SAM DAVIES

Despite falling \$8million short of its projected budget, the board is pleased with Warrandyte Community Bank's first year of operation.

Marking the bank's first birthday earlier this month, chairman John Provan told the *Diary* he is optimistic for the future and pleased with the bank's progress to date.

"We're pleased how it's gone, we'd like it to be better," Mr Provan said. "But we're happy with initial response and support and the amount of business we've gained to date."

The bank is currently registering \$25 million dollars invested and loaned, with a further \$5million expected from loans which may come through before June 30. The bank's prospectus predicted a budget of \$38million by June 30.

Mr Provan said predicting the budget was like "stabbing in the dark," as the prospectus was based on the performance of other community banks in the past and the feasibility study.

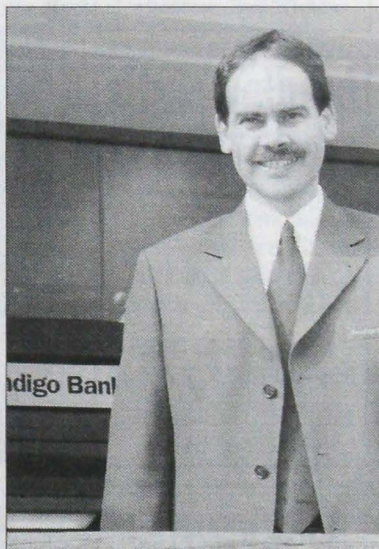
"It just takes time. People in the local area want to see if the bank is going to be successful. A lot of contacts you make don't come to fruition till the next year. It's just a matter of time and effort to transfer their banking across," Mr Provan said.

"Obviously banking is a highly competitive world but the thing that puts us in front is that we offer the number one thing—service and access to a bank manager."

Mr Provan said he expected the bank to reach breakeven point of \$35million around November or December, though it would not show a profit until accumulated losses such as setup had been reimbursed.

It usually takes three years before community bank dividends can be returned to the community. In the meantime, the bank is considering sponsoring local community and sporting groups to "spread the word".

"If you sponsor them, they then reciprocate. We're looking for people in the community to support the bank, because once we're profitable we can look at putting back into the community," he said.



Community bank manager Mark Challen. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

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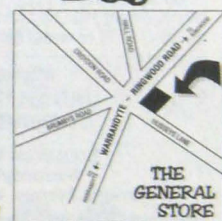
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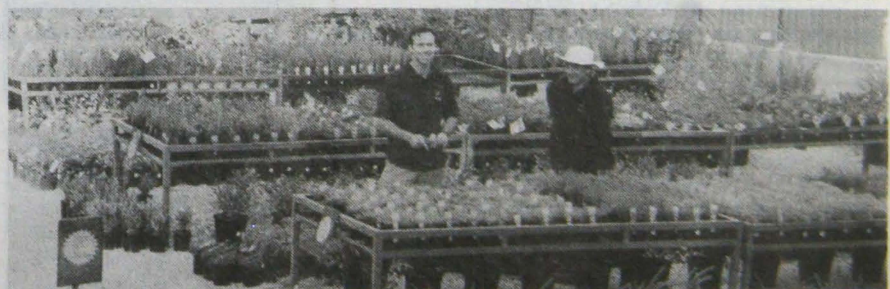
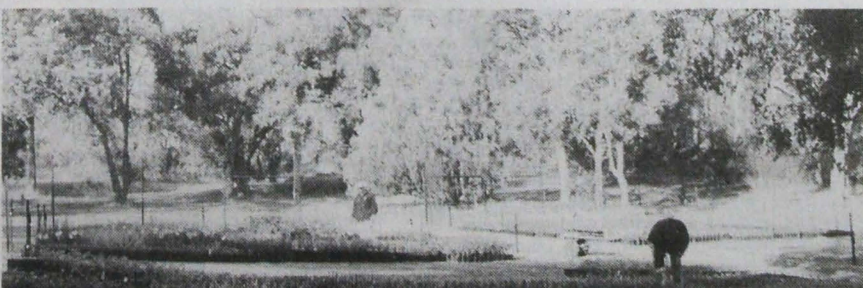
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WARRANDYTE RIVER RESERVE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Exhibition

As part of the implementation of Council's Open Space Strategy, a Draft Management Plan has been prepared for the Warrandyte River Reserve from Andersons Creek to the Stone House at Tills Drive, Warrandyte.

Council is seeking comments on the Draft Management Plan, which outlines recommendations for the future use, maintenance and management of the Warrandyte River Reserve as well as recommends implementation of capital works to improve and enhance the reserve.

You are invited to a community meeting to discuss the Warrandyte River Reserve Draft Management Plan to be held at:

7.30pm Wednesday, 23 June 2004
 Warrandyte Senior Citizens Centre
 Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte
 (Melways Ref: M35 C1)

Copies of the Draft Management Plan may be obtained from the following:

- Customer service desk of Manningham City Council, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster;
- Contacting Kay Toussaint of the Economic and Environment Planning Unit on 9840 9348 or email: kay.toussaint@manningham.vic.gov.au or
- Council's web site: www.manningham.vic.gov.au

Written or electronic submissions must be lodged by no later than Friday, 23 July 2004 and addressed to: Ms Teresa Dominik, Manager, Economic and Environmental Planning, PO Box 1, Doncaster, Vic. 3108 or email: teresa.dominik@manningham.vic.gov.au

Should you have any queries about the Warrandyte River Reserve Draft Management Plan please contact Nancy Stokes, Open Space Planner, on 9840 9138 or email: nancy.stokes@manningham.vic.gov.au

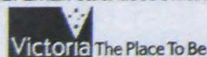
YARRA STREET URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK COMMUNITY MEETING NO.2

8.00pm on Wednesday, 30th June 2004
 Warrandyte Senior Citizens' Centre
 Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte (Melway Ref: M35 C1)

Manningham City Council has received \$50,000 from the Department of Sustainability & Environment through their 'Pride of Place' funding program to carry out an Urban Design Framework in Yarra Street, Warrandyte.

You are invited to a presentation of preliminary ideas for the Yarra Street Shopping Precinct

Contact: Sarah Lees, Urban Designer, Manningham City Council. Telephone: 9840 9432. Email: sarah.lees@manningham.vic.gov.au



MANNINGHAM GREEN WEDGE STRATEGY DRAFT

Manningham City Council has prepared the Manningham Green Wedge Strategy Draft for public comment. The Draft Strategy applies to all land in Manningham outside of the Urban Growth Boundary, zoned as Rural Conservation. The Draft Strategy lists recommendations in relation to biodiversity, land use, landscape, cultural heritage, open space, sustainable local economy, community participation, infrastructure and resource management.

Copies of the Draft Strategy can be obtained from the following:

- Manningham City Council website www.manningham.vic.gov.au
- Customer Service desk of Manningham City Council, 699 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster.
- Contacting Cynthia Briscoe of the Economic and Environmental Planning Unit on 9840 9129.

If you wish to comment on the Draft Strategy you must do so in writing by Friday 9th July, 2004. You must send a copy of your written submission to:

Ms Teresa Dominik, Manager, Economic and Environmental Planning, PO Box 1, Doncaster, Vic. 3108 or email to: samantha.bradley@manningham.vic.gov.au

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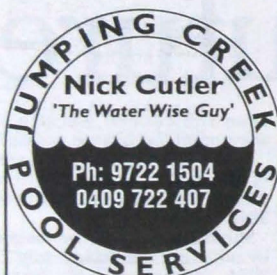
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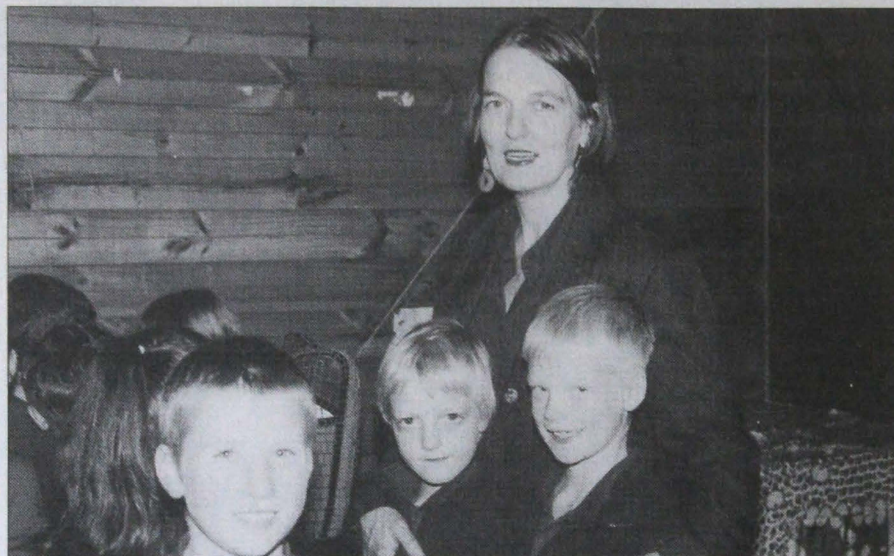
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Mum's back at school



As part of National Back to School Day, Warrandyte Primary School invited former student Deborah Halpern to visit the school and share her experiences as a renowned sculptor. Deborah showed slides of her wonderful work and also showed some smaller samples she had brought with her. She spoke about her passion, encouraged the students to follow their dreams and answered many interesting questions from the assembly. "Oohs" and "ahs" echoed through the assembly as Deborah showed her work. Pictured are Deborah, her son Artek and friends Zac and Sid.

Home fires burning—safely

A fire crackling in a grate or the glimpse of flames through the door of a solid fuel heater is one of the great pleasures of winter. However, there is a "down side".

According to South Warrandyte CFA captain Peter Plant, "open fires and solid fuel heaters, ducted heating units and portable heaters are the major causes of house fires in winter".

Captain Plant advises that the best defence against house fires is vigilance and common sense. A quality mesh guard provides good protection from the flying embers and sparks of an open fire and creates a shield around solid fuel heaters like pot-bellied and combustion stoves. "Never leave an open fire alight when you leave the house or go to bed. Extinguish all flames and embers completely and make sure the ashes are cold before you dispose of them."

Chimneys can also become a fire hazard if they are choked up with soot. "This build-up can catch alight and spread throughout the rafters and beams in the rooftop," Captain Plant told the

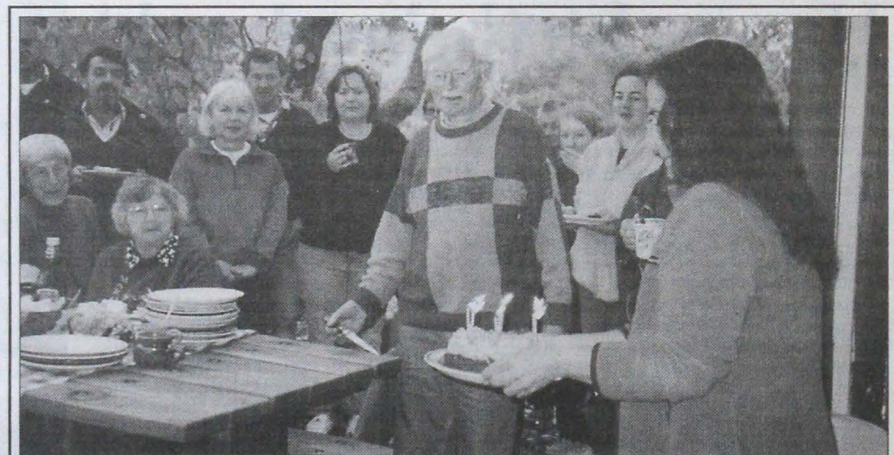
Diary. "

If light wood such as pine or green timbers are burned, the build-up is greater and increases the risk of fire."

South Warrandyte CFA lieutenant Patricia Cridland stated that the brigade has attended a number of fires in the last couple of weeks caused by ducted heaters and fireplaces. She reminded residents that as well as keeping the inside of the flu clean it is important to ensure that leaves and the like don't build up around the chimney within the roof space.

"Ducted heating units should be cleaned and serviced by a professional service provider every two to three years. Always remember to vacuum your floor ducts regularly to reduce dust build-up. Our best advice is to clean and maintain chimneys and flues, treat your winter fires with respect and enjoy the winter warmth."

● For further safety information visit the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au



Ray Clarke, one of the heroes of Warrandyte State Park, turned 90 last month and his friends celebrated accordingly. Ray is still an active bushwalker, outback traveller and willing Park worker. He's also long-serving treasurer of the Friends group. Ray lived in Yarragold Cottage in Yarra Street for many years, recently moving into a retirement home. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

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One-actor actors: Lisa Upson, Caroline Shaw and Kerstin Anderson.

Escaping to a mad, mad world

You don't have to be crazy to join the Warrandyte Theatre Company, but a touch of madness certainly helps.

"Consider the divine lunacy of the Festival Follies", Jack Stringer, supervising producer of the company's latest excursion on stage told the *Diary*.

No wonder, then, at their latest choice in one-act plays scheduled for June 18 and 19. "The lead characters range from whimsically weird to sweetly demented to downright deranged," Jack Stringer said, denying suggestions of typecasting. "Most of the cast seem quite sane—apart from the Poms, who are all bonkers."

One-act plays are an opportunity for some new directors and actors to strut

their stuff.

"We like to break them in gently," Jack said, "rather than scare them off with a full-scale play. The directors and casts are all enjoying the rehearsal process so far, and from what I've seen we should be putting on a very entertaining show."

The three plays are very different, although each deals with a familiar domestic fantasy—escape.

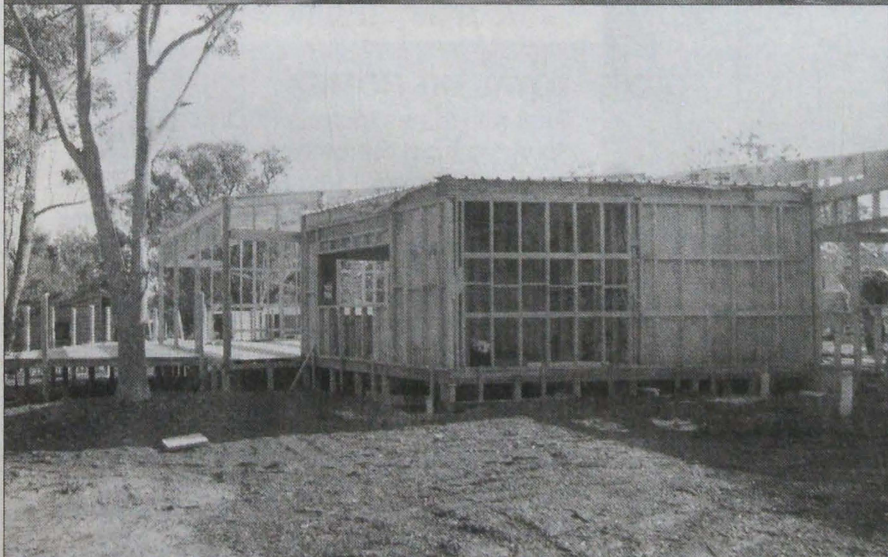
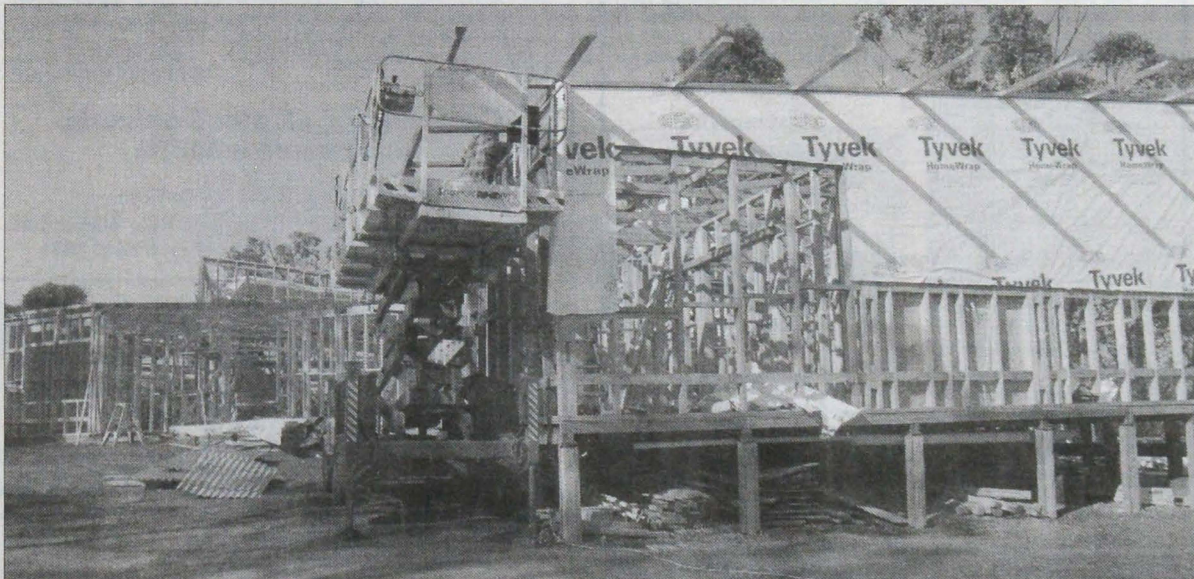
Verve, written by Queenslander Mark Lucas, is Jan Nance's directing debut. A meek husband is infuriated after an argument with his wife. Taking every visitor to his home hostage does little to restore his self-esteem.

In David Ives' Degas, C'est Moi, di-

rected by David Frazer, a man wakes up one morning and decides to be the French artist Degas. In the course of one surreal day he encounters all that makes great art.

Bill Mitchell directs Bubbles, by Australian playwright Tara Adams. It is a gentle piece about the relationships between three generations of women in one family, as each copes in her own way with the grandmother's worsening dementia.

The three one-act plays will be performed at 8pm on June 18 and 19 at the Mechanics Institute Hall. Tickets are \$10 each and can be booked through Joan Rogers at the Old Bakery Cottage Bookshop, 9844 1744.



Rising from the ashes!

Re-building of the North Warrandyte Community Centre, destroyed by an arsonist in October 2002, is well underway, with new framework heralding the shape of the fine complex to come. (Pictures by Sandy Burgoyne)

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Young artists who usually live in the Warrandyte area are invited to apply for the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award for 2004/05. Applicants between the ages of 18 and 25 – working in any artistic field – are eligible.

A prize of \$6,000 is being offered every two years to enable the winner to further their career as an artist.

Applications close 31 July 2004 and the winner will be announced in March 2005, during the Warrandyte Festival.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from Information Warrandyte in the community centre or by writing to:

Warrandyte Youth Arts Award
PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113

Organised by the Warrandyte Lions Club and the Diary in conjunction with the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.

Sole sponsor: The Lions Club of Warrandyte (Inc)



Nillumbik Planning Scheme Notice of Municipal Strategic Statement Review Public Consultation

Nillumbik Shire Council is seeking public comments on The Municipal Strategic Statement Review - Draft for Public Comment until 25 June 2004.

The Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) is the part of any Victorian Planning Scheme which guides the strategic direction of land use and development in the municipality. It is prepared by, and expresses the key planning policies and strategies of, the Council as the local planning authority. Council is reviewing the Nillumbik MSS and wants your comments on The Municipal Strategic Statement Review - Draft for Public Comment which is a detailed report on performance of the MSS over the past three years.

The MSS is about broad strategic directions for the future character of our suburbs and rural areas, environment and conservation planning and provision of transport, services and infrastructure. It will guide future planning permit decisions that may affect you. If you are curious and want to know more visit our website at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au, or contact Megan Andrews on telephone (03) 9433 3210 for a copy of a brochure or the full report.

Submissions about the review must be sent to: Margaret Abbey, Manager, Environment and Strategic Planning, PO Box 476, GREENSBOROUGH 3088 by Friday, 25 June 2004.

Catherine Dale
Chief Executive Officer

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"The Diary's the best newspaper
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published in Warrandyte, Clyde!"

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Fun for all at comedy night

Audiences laughed all night as they raised money for the North Warrandyte CFA new building fund at a "hugely successful" comedy show performed at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute by comedian Dennis Coard.

The brigade is planning to relocate their fire station from Glynn's Road to the site of the rebuilt community centre in Research Road, and this first presentation of the "Warrandyte Comedy Festival" heralded the launch of their appeal.

Playing to packed houses over three nights in May, Dennis "brought the house down to help build a new fire house", a brigade spokesperson told the *Diary*.

Dennis was supported by some talented young performers from Warrandyte High School who entertained the audience with juggling tricks and balloon tying.

"The brigade also had support from local, and not so local, businesses providing goods and services for the comedy nights," the spokesperson said. "And for those who missed out on the fun, we are now planning an extended comedy event for next year."

"We are also seeking expressions of interest from professional and 'talented nobody' comedians who would like to tread the boards for the cause."

Full details and contact information can be obtained from the brigade's website www.nwcf.org.au



Carolyn Noel working with her creative arts therapy group.

Self-esteem through art

The "Creative Paths to self-esteem" creative arts therapy group has been a feature of the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House program for the past two years.

It began with a community development grant from the Manningham council in its first year, and because it was so popular with the participants, the house has been determined to keep it going. It has, but only just, with the constant support of the Warrandyte Lions, Cr Pat Young, and more recently Warrandyte Rotary.

"This year however, we are \$300 short—an amount which covers the rent for the room we hire in the community centre", WNS manager, Karen Throssell told the *Diary*.

"Because the group makes such saleable works (two thirds of all the work displayed in their annual exhibition last year were sold), Carolyn Noel, their gifted and enterprising teacher, had the bright idea of making this year's project a mosaic bird bath, which will be auctioned to the public at a function at the end of the year."

Upgrade for Stintons Road

Stintons Road is receiving a \$120,900 makeover. Manningham council has commissioned works to be undertaken on the eastbound lane between McIntyres Road and a point north of Tindals Road.

The works will involve:
● asphalt overlay of the existing pavement
● construction of a splitter

island in the vicinity of McIntyres Road

- adjustment to concrete and paving works
- adjustment to the road camber

A council spokesperson said the works will benefit all road users and improve the safety factor.

The east-bound lane will be

closed for the duration of the works and traffic on this section of Stintons Road will be managed to permit east and west bound movements.

Delays to traffic movement are expected. Council is advising motorists to seek alternative routes where possible. Works are due to be completed by Friday, June 18.

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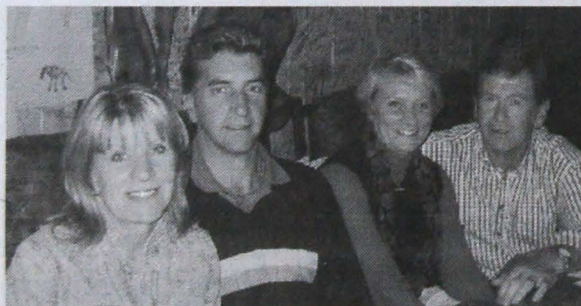


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WARRANDYTE NEWSAGENCY

Ian and Jacquie jumped at the chance to purchase the Newsagency in October 2003 after having moved to Warrandyte in 2000.

"We would like to thank our wonderful shop staff, delivery staff and customers for helping us through our initial 8 months. We have been steadily increasing the shop's stock levels and are currently approaching local businesses and schools offering them a full range of stationery, copy paper and inkjet cartridges at Officeworks prices or better."



From Left: Jacquie and Ian (Warrandyte Newsagency) Gina and Colin (Total Kit Homes) at a recent Warrandyte Business Association function at the Riverfront Deli.

"We have installed the 'Bill Express' bill pay and mobile phone recharge card system recently. We are currently looking at purchasing a new photocopier, digital printer and installing an ATM machine to provide a wider range of services for our customers."

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A garden at Chelsea

By CLIFF GREEN

MARK BENCE of Warrandyte and Martin Semken of Ringwood are back from London, having led their team of gardeners to success at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show.

The garden, entitled Australian Inspiration, generated enormous media and public interest and was awarded a silver-gilt medal.

"We knew it was going to be a hard ask, expecting to win any sort of award first time in and from so far away," Mark Bence, partner in Semken Landscaping, builders of the garden, told the *Diary*.

"We would have been delighted to have won bronze in such distinguished company, overjoyed with silver, but silver-gilt has sent us over

the moon. We believe it's only a whisker below gold."

Designer Jim Fogarty is even more positive. "I'm not saying silver-gilt is less than gold. For me, it's a huge leap above silver," he said.

The project was sponsored by Flemings Nurseries, one of Australia's largest wholesale growers, located at Monbulk in the Dandenongs.

Jim Fogarty describes the garden as "a true blue Australian garden with an eclectic blend of plants, indigenous and exotic, brought together in an informal and relaxed way."

"This is not an Australian native garden. It is, nevertheless, a typical Australian garden," he said.

The central area is a sunken garden, a useable outdoor room. It is

flanked by a long timber pergola, the paved path, inset with polished pebbles suggesting a drying creek bed and leading to a magical "secret garden", backed by an espaliered wall of flowering callistemon.

Apart from the plants, which were grown in England because of quarantine restrictions, and the rammed earth retaining walls, made in the UK for the same reason but using an Australian technique, all the materials were shipped in from Australia.

The garden was built by a team of Australian landscapers and was planted by Australian gardeners.

Above all, Australian Inspiration is a welcoming garden, with its beautiful Jarrah benches and table, its stainless steel barbecue and its gently playing fountains of square-cut,

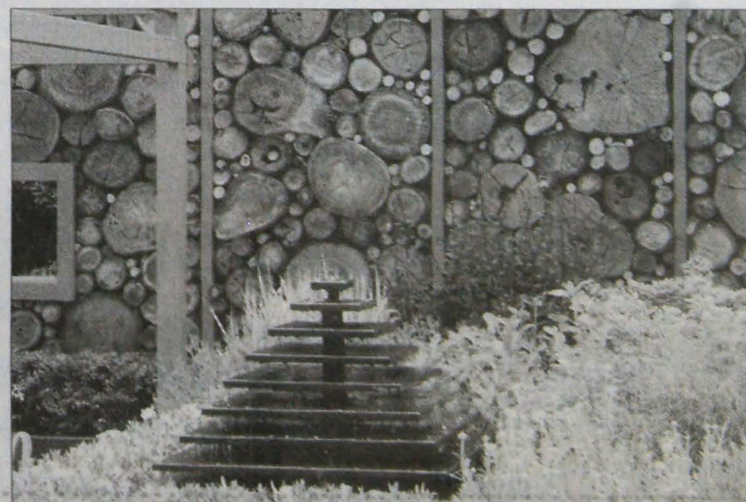
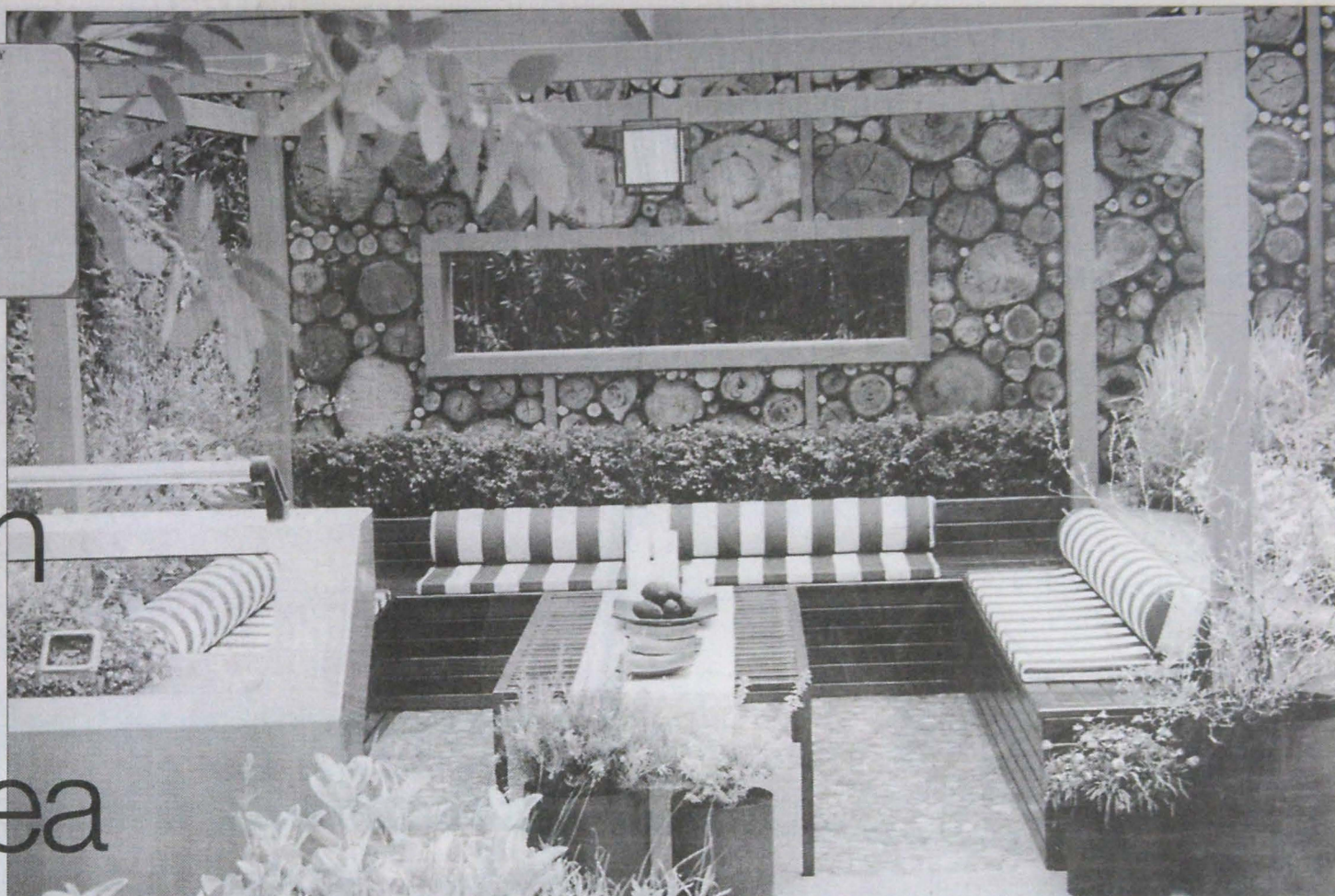
black Victorian slate.

One UK visitor remarked to the *Diary*, "I feel like I just want to step down into that garden, sit down at that beautiful table and enjoy a glass of Australian wine or a cold beer."

A real showstopper was the firewood stack wall, made of Eucalypt logs salvaged by Adrian Clancy, arborist of Statewide Tree Service, Warrandyte.

"No trees died for this wall," Mark Bence was heard to tell show visitors, sometimes crowded 10 deep in front of the garden. "And no kangaroos died for these Kangaroo Paws," Martin Semken chimed in.

● *Cliff Green is writing a book about the Australian Inspiration adventure, to be published later this year by Lothian.*



Pictures by JUDY GREEN

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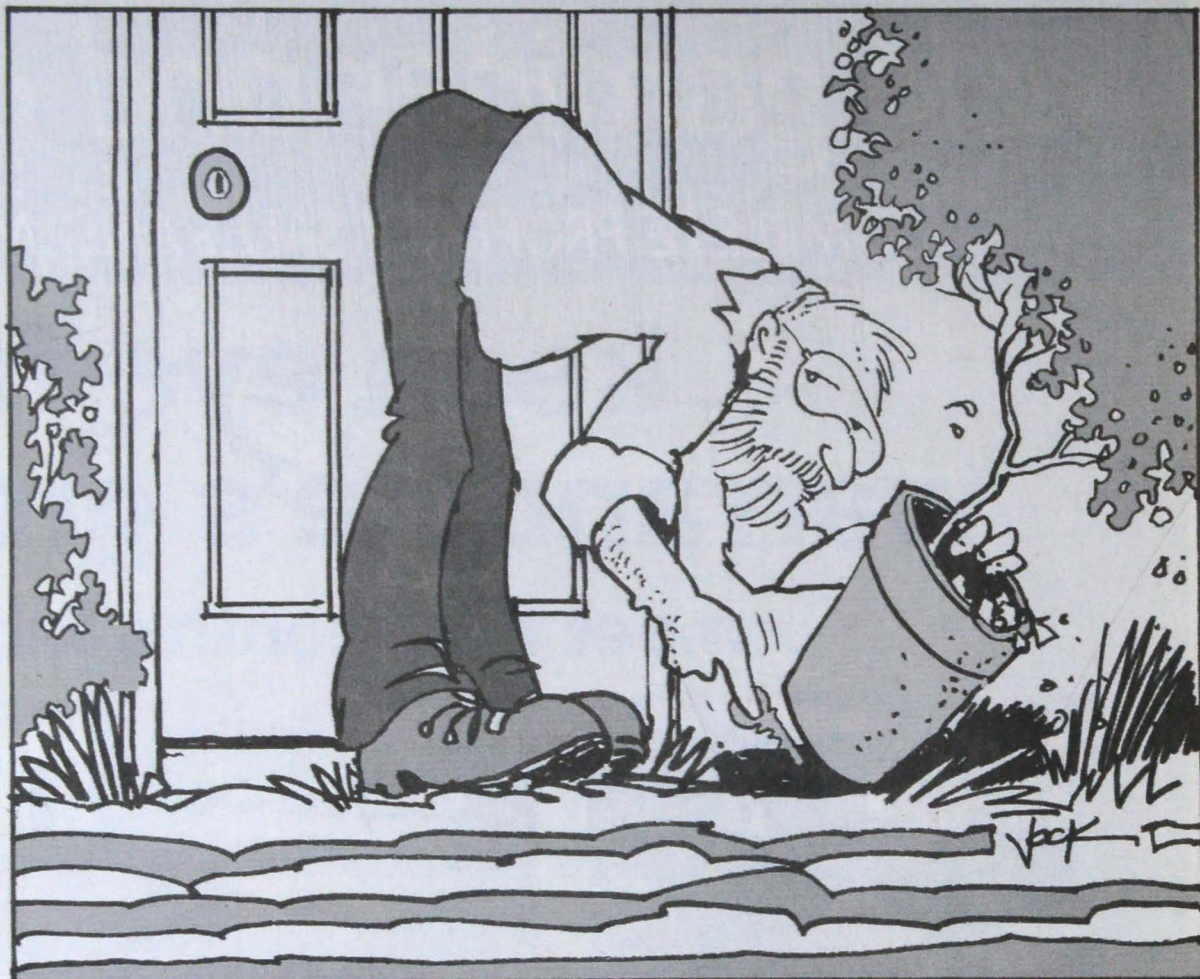
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Living apart: finding the key to all their problems

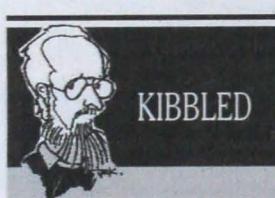
THERE are innumerable sit-coms written around the fairly common situation of losing front door keys or of having them locked inside the house.

If my memory serves me correctly, the plot usually revolves around the pathetic attempts the frantic resident makes to get back in and the humour stems from our recognition that, "there but for the grace of God go I!"

Many of you may already be aware that Herself and I have separated this year. Now before you start nodding and saying, "I told them that marrying on Friday 13th was a bad idea!" I need to mention that we have been married for 38 years and the separation is not the stuff of soap operas. You see, Herself has accepted a two-year job contract in the country. During the week, I live in the Big Smoke and motor down to see her over the weekends. But what has this to do with lost keys, you might ask?

It all started with a broken front door handle where Herself lives. Predictably, when we built the house, economy was uppermost in our pockets and I obviously scrimped on the quality of the front door handle and locking set. It worked satisfactorily for a few years but thereafter broke down. Rapidly, it became irksome because whenever I pulled too hard, the door stayed and the handle came off in my hand.

For several months I perse-



"If that's the most sensible suggestion you can come up with, I don't think there's much point in continuing this conversation."

vered until the rest of the family got fed up with having to wrestle the handle back in place. I considered replacing it but I had so many keys cut for all members of family and friends that I put off the replacement. That is, until an ultimatum was given. Either the lock gets fixed or there would be no more desserts.

It only took the locksmith two hours to arrive and another 20 minutes for him to replace the lock with one that "will outlast you and the house". He had reassured me that he could re-jig the lock so I could use the same keys from the last lock. Naturally, this appealed to my inherent stinginess, however, there

was a downside. The new lock required the keys to be far more precisely cut than was required for the old lock and only half of the old keys worked.

I spent days collecting keys, testing them and working out how many had to be recut. And this included the ubiquitous under-the-flower-pot-in-case-you're-locked-out key.

Rarely do I find any need for all of the potential of my laptop but if there was any time that I needed more than "Word", it was then. Unfortunately, if there were a program like a "spreadsheet for morons", I didn't know about it and I had to rely on nothing but my intelligence to sort, recut and replace the bodgie keys. Yep, you're right! You can see the sitcom being written right before your eyes! Murphy was right! I replaced all but the flowerpot key. In my subconscious, however, I had restored every key to its appointed position.

Which is why when I received the phone call from Herself at 7.45 one morning, I couldn't understand the problem.

"I've just locked myself out of the house and the spare key doesn't seem to be under the flowerpot."

"Of course it's there. Have you had a proper look? Perhaps it's under the pot next to that one."

"No. I've looked under all the pots in the area and it's definitely not there."

Now we all know that when things are going pear-shaped and you feel yourself falling into a kilometre deep crevasse, the

natural thing to do is attack the messenger.

"I just can't believe that you could be so stupid! Why on earth did you lock yourself out?"

Suffice it to say that the conversation went downhill from that point. Eventually, when the sniffling subsided, I came up with the solution.

"I bet you haven't locked the door leading onto the top deck. All you need to do is climb up the lattice, shin over the balustrade and you'll be in!"

There was an ominously long pause, a deep intake of breath and a very controlled but steely reply. "If that's the most sensible suggestion you can come up with, I don't think there's much point in continuing this conversation."

Fortunately, the builders arrived at that moment and, in a flash, had extended their ladder and had the door open.

The following Saturday I searched all the potential key sites and discovered nothing but a depression underneath the designated pot plant. Surprisingly, I filled the space with a key.

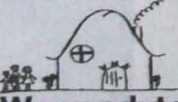
Later that day, just by chance, we found the key. "There, I told you so!" and tried it. It didn't work.

"So much for Mr Perfect. It's still one of the shonky keys! Thank goodness I could rely on the builders!"

I was left feeling foolish, waiting for the credits to roll.

ROGER KIBELL


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Not so common plants in our vulnerable Common

KOWN simply as "The Common", this isolated wedge of Warrandyte State Park is tucked away between Haslam's Track and Johanson's Road. At its northerly point, however, the reserve is just a stones throw from the increasingly chaotic Jumping Creek Road.

Unlike some of the more high profile areas of the State Park, The Common has no picnic tables, no barbecues and no toilets. Signage is minimal and parking is confined to an informal bay with room for half a dozen cars at the most. And that is the way it should stay. Too much spoon-feeding causes the spirit of adventure to dwindle and the pleasure of serendipity to diminish.

The Common is strictly BYO. Visited mainly by locals, the reserve still offers the opportunity for exploration and discovery. In fact it is quite easy to get lost on The Common—temporarily at least—it happens to me regularly, and I am not the only one! It's the gullies; they are densely vegetated, steep-sided, branching unexpectedly and hopelessly disorientating.

Also confusing are the many tracks that criss-cross The Common. They range from broad management vehicle tracks to meandering bush paths. Some of the management tracks are designated bridle trails, and that is fine providing riders stay on the allocated tracks and stick to the rules. But there are always those who don't. While they may not get caught in the act they leave behind hoof prints and droppings as unarguable evidence of their digression.

Hard hooves on soft soil cause damage to delicate ground flora, while seedling clover and introduced pasture



NATURE

By PAT COUPAR

Drawn by MELANIE COUPAR

grasses germinate readily in moist droppings. When riders cut corners, take short cuts or go where they shouldn't, the impact their horses have on the bush is destructive and long-lasting.

Unfortunately a small minority of people will always flaunt the law. Too many times I have witnessed dog owners blatantly walk their pets into the State Park past the no dog signs. Aside from deliberate acts of vandalism, other infringements include trail-bike riding, dumping rubbish—household and garden—cutting down trees and the most heinous of crimes—digging up orchids.

A prime example of "we can do what we like" has been the construction of an elaborate mountain bike circuit over Fourth Hill involving steep hill climbs through orchid-rich bush causing serious erosion problems and obliteration of native vegetation. Rangers are not policemen, but part of their job is to ensure that the public comply with Park regulations. This is not always an easy task as they sometimes encounter non-cooperation and occasional aggression.

I've often wondered what makes people deliberately disregard the rules. Is it ignorance, defiance? Do they enjoy taking risks, thinking they won't get caught? Is it that they have always done it, or do they consider it such a minor offence that all they will get is a warning?

The rules are there to protect the natural biological values of

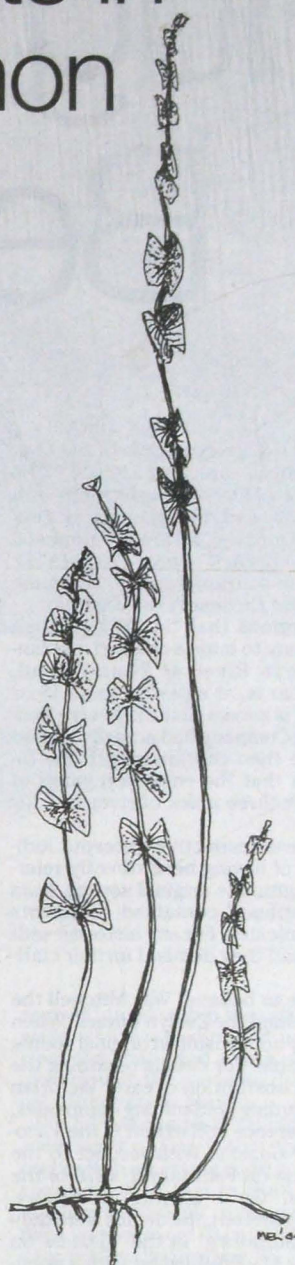
the State Park, a fact that these regulation-breakers do not seem to understand, or if they do, they simply don't care.

Which brings me back to the biological values of The Common—its flora and fauna. The relatively undisturbed nature of this reserve makes it a haven for birds and mobs of kangaroos frequently shelter in the forest during the day. The Common is home to many plants that are far from common in the Warrandyte area. Species like Silky Daisy-bush, Slender Tick Trefoil, Blue Grass-lily, Hooker Fescue, Wonga Vine and several orchids.

The reserve is resplendent in spring when the wildflowers bloom, but I have come this time in late autumn specifically to check out a non-flowering plant—a fern, one of Warrandyte's rarest, called Screw Fern. Contrary to most of its ferny relatives this species prefers light to shade and generally grows in moist depressions in sandy heathlands.

While Screw Fern has been found on Professor's Hill north of the river, this is the only known occurrence of it in the Warrandyte State Park. The small fern forms colonies of wiry, erect, yellowish-green fronds. The fertile spore-bearing fronds are taller and narrower than the rest and twist like the thread of a screw giving the fern its name.

There are two small populations of Screw Fern growing in The Common, discovered only a few years ago and I was delighted to relocate one of them without too much trouble. It seemed to have spread despite the thirsty conditions and the ever-present rabbits. There are weeds too, plenty of them. But The Common is doing okay, and it's still a great place to get lost in any time of the year.



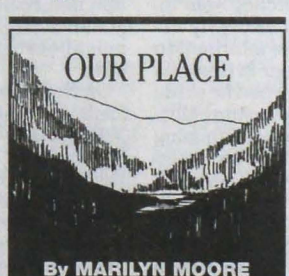
Shop till you drop all hope

MY ideal shopping trip is one where you zip into a handy carpark, make a bee-line for the right shop, then select exactly what you want from a useful range of items at a good price, all with the knowledgeable help of a polite shop assistant.

In view of this ideal, weekend shopping trips are generally to be avoided. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, the ratio of customers to sales staff soars to maximum levels, and the tendency of shoppers to hunt in packs clogs up escalators and aisles in a way that induces panic in claustrophobes like me.

There seem to be two sorts of people down at the shops: those who climb escalators with the same energy that they would use on a normal staircase, and those who choose to remain rooted on the spot while the escalator ever-so-gently transports them. I am working on a theory for this mysterious but pronounced division in the behaviour of similarly capable human beings.

So far only one explanation has occurred to me: those who



OUR PLACE

By MARILYN MOORE

guard their personal tread jealously until the end of the journey are gadget freaks, people who never tire of experiencing the wonder of the moving staircase. On the other hand, the rest of the population barely heeds the escalator. Their mind's eye is focussed well ahead, and they feel just as annoyed by the blockage as they would if three lanes of traffic on the highway suddenly decided to stop without the reason of a red light.

Another stressful aspect of some stores is the current fashion of extending shelving and displays almost to the ceiling. No longer are direction signs visible unless they are right in

front of you, and the aisles are purposely arranged in such a way that anybody venturing more than a few layers into their depths quickly becomes disoriented.

To add to the confusion, during the two months since your last visit, the location of every item has been switched. Regularly updated floor plans, ever-more-discreet signage, and the apparent extinction of any species of shop assistant together ensure that the customer has no chance of quickly making their intended purchase. Knowing that the express purpose of this scheme is to keep customers wandering around the store for hours only makes things worse. I just can't get out fast enough.

So imagine my distress when I got lost in an entire shopping centre recently. To fill in some time during a hockey match, I'd ducked down the road to buy a quick present at a huge factory outlet complex that I'd never previously been to, but which I'd been assured was the ONLY place that one ought to buy anything. It became quickly apparent that the rest of Melbourne had the same information.

Within minutes of getting inside, and no doubt still frazzled from trying to park, I completely lost track of what I'd gone in for. In fact I completely lost track of everything, including the location of the exit, the carpark, even the whereabouts of that all-important north magnetic pole.

There was no rhyme or reason to the layout of the place, no way of finding anything recognisable, and absolutely no way out. For only the second time in my entire life (the other was about 30 years ago in a maze of partially charted forest tracks in thick fog) I had to admit defeat. I was utterly bushed.

"Calm down", I tried to reason. "There are a zillion people packed in here, and not one of them looks lost. Glazed, definitely, but lost, no."

"Finding an exit cannot be that difficult."

Forty-five minutes later, just as I became miserably resigned to eternal fluorescent chaos, the elusive portal materialised. I literally shook with relief. Never again! If this is how other people get their adrenalin rush at weekends, give me a filthy hill on a bike any day!

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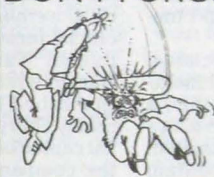
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Who dug the Pound Bend tunnel?

WHAT is it about certain famous people, particularly those who have been high achievers in more than one field—and who today perhaps might be referred to as celebrities—that it is sometimes necessary to endow them with an even greater reputation?

Take the case of David Mitchell (1829-1912), whose outstanding achievements speak for themselves. Not only did this outstanding Scottish-born stonemason become Melbourne's most prominent builder during the Victorian age, and have the construction of such important landmarks as the Exhibition Building (completed in 1880), Scots Church (opened 1874), and several other large office, educational and industrial buildings during the city's "boom" period to his credit, but he was also an astute enough business man to appreciate the potential of Lilydale's Cave Hill limestone and marble deposits, which property he purchased in 1878, and the exploitation of which made him a fortune.

In addition of course, he had the further distinction of being the father of the internationally famous opera diva, the soprano Helen Porter Armstrong (nee Mitchell), better known as Nellie Melba, born in 1861 at "Doonside", the Mitchell residence in Burnley Street, Richmond.

So why then should he also be attributed the credit of being the man in 1870 behind the excavation of Warrandyte's Pound Bend tunnel?

Just what was Mitchell's actual association with mining in the Anderson's Creek goldfield? As an initial means to determining this, a number of biographies devoted to the man's lifetime achievements have been consulted. Some two of these were found to contain rather brief references to his involvement at Warrandyte. In the 1992 booklet entitled "David Mitchell a Forfar Man" written by a Mitchell family member—Pamela, Lady Vestey, of Coombe Cottage—there is included a passage which commences "Another of David Mitchell's early interests was gold mining".

This is appended by the bald statement "In

1870 he formed the Evelyn Tunnel Gold-Mining Company with a capital of \$16,000." The other account of a Mitchell involvement with an unnamed Warrandyte company is contained in Joan Campbell's 1974 biographical article entitled, *Mitchell, David (1829-1912), builder, contractor and businessman*, in Volume 5 of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

Campbell mentions that "In 1890 Mitchell formed a company to mine a channel and tunnel on the Yarra River at Pound Bend, Warrandyte," that is, at a period some 18 or so years after it is known that the Evelyn Tunnel Gold-Mining Company had actually ceased operations. She then continues with the bizarre statement that "he employed gangs of Chinese to work three miles of river bed for gold".

Neither of these respective excerpts indicates evidence of having been directly referenced from a legitimate original source, from which either authors' contained comments might be authenticated. For any historian with an enquiring mind they demand further clarification.

So what is one to believe? Was Mitchell the driving force behind the Evelyn tunnel? When all else fails, why not consult an original source if it is still available. For details regarding the formation and constitution of early Victorian companies, including gold-mining companies, the primary reference still extant is the *Victoria Government Gazette*. With respect to the official formation on February 8, 1870 of the Evelyn Tunnel Gold Mining Company, Warrandyte (Registered), the details were duly "published by authority" in the "Gazette" on Friday February 11. Established with a nominal capital of \$16,000 in 8000 shares of \$2 each, the company as constituted had a paid up capital of \$12,500, with the principal shareholders being Robert M. Young, Charles Muir Inglis, Peter Davies and William Hutchinson Gresham. Gresham, who was nominated by the board as its legal manager, was also the licensed occupant of the tract of land, "of area 57 acres, 3 roods, 32 perches" on the surface of the Bend below which, at its southern extremity, the tunnel was to be driven.

His co-board members, namely Peter Davies, with a mining licence for an area of 59 acres, 3 roods, 28 perches, and Robert M. Young, who

had also secured a licence for 58 acres, 1 rood, 9 perches, were the other company shareholders to occupy the adjacent land sections contained within the isthmus of the Bend. In all, there were some 65 registered shareholders in the company as originally constituted, and their respective names and addresses, as well as the numbers of \$2 shares they each initially held, were also listed in the registration details.

It is important to note that one minor shareholder, by name David Mitchell, a prominent baker and local politician from Footscray, and an occasional mining investor—and who later in the early 1880s became mayor of Footscray—held 30 shares. By contrast his more well-known namesake, David Mitchell, of Richmond—and later of Lilydale and Coldstream—was not listed as a shareholder at all, and obviously had no involvement in the formation of the Evelyn Company at Pound Bend. Whether he ever held shares in the company at some later date cannot be confirmed.

If we can assume the above *Gazette* information regarding the Evelyn tunnel inaugural management and shareholders is correct, and there is no reason to doubt its veracity, why then did Vestey and Campbell both mention, with what appears to be some degree of certainty, that Mitchell formed the company which brought about the tunnelling project at the Bend, albeit at vastly different times? Is there some truth in the old adage "a little knowledge can be dangerous"? Did they, or even someone before them, confuse in some way the Evelyn tunnel events with one or other of two well-documented, though relatively unknown and much less-spectacular, mining ventures with which Mitchell was associated at the Anderson's Creek goldfield during the years 1873-74 and 1883-87?

So what were these mining activities at Warrandyte in which David Mitchell was involved? Can these events be confidently authenticated? Our earliest reliable information indicates that his initial endeavour in this area dates from Friday, May 10, 1873, when he made application to the warden of the mining division of St Andrews, C.E. Strutt, for a goldmining lease on a one acre site he had purchased within the "Elliott's Freehold", which was "adjoining (but not including) the Yarra Tunneling claim", and the boundary of which contained a portion of the "road between Anderson's Creek and Lilydale". For a man with his extent and breadth of big business dealings it was an extremely small venture, as he employed only two men, and according to the official report of Alfred Armstrong, the mining registrar for the St Andrews division for

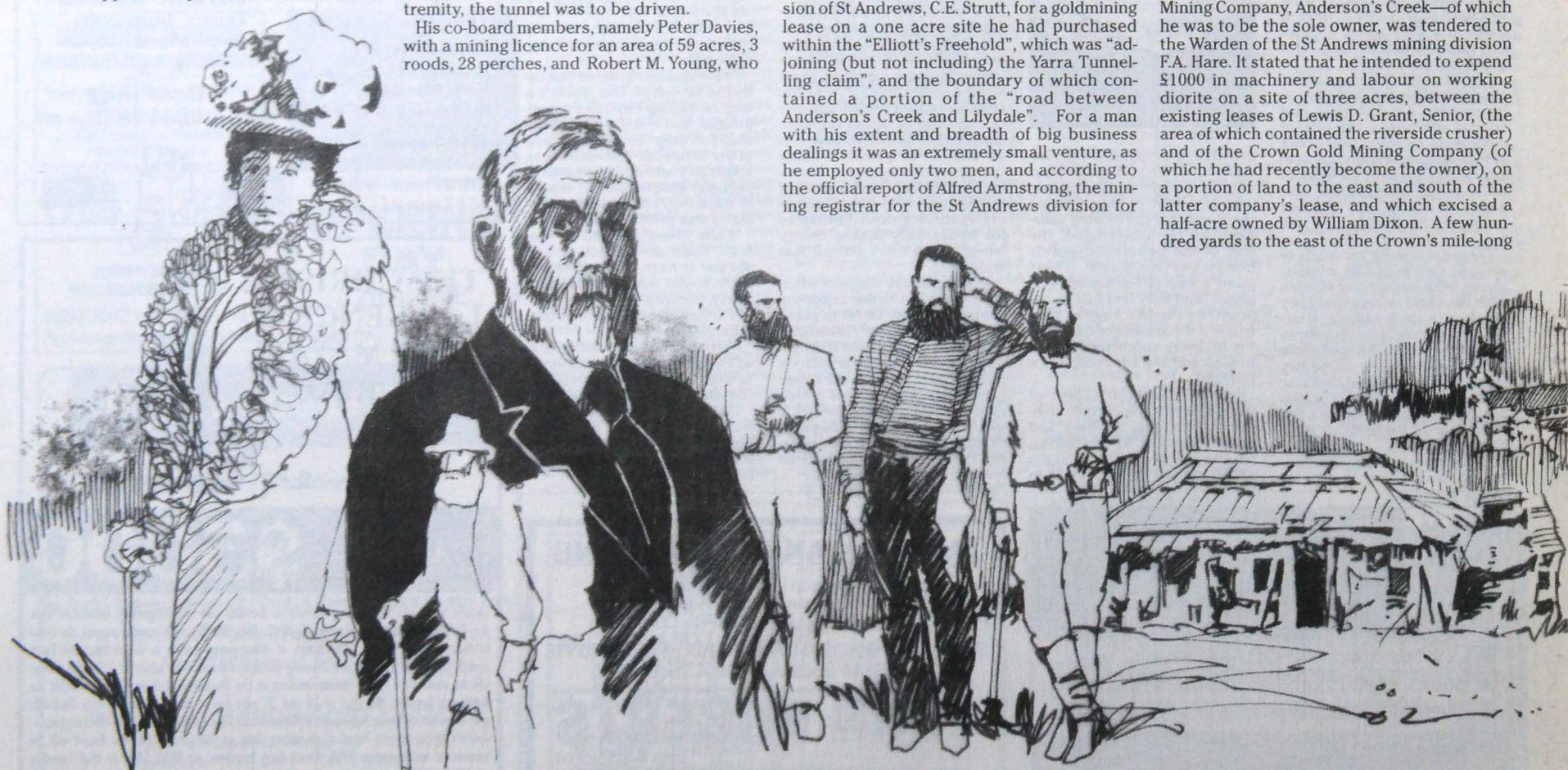
the quarter ending June 30, 1874, during that 12 months they had succeeded in producing only the paltry amount of 11 ounces, 11 pennyweights of gold. In his same report Armstrong appended the statement that the "claim lately purchased by Mr David Mitchell, has been abandoned by him, and the machinery removed".

Mitchell's second attempt at mining in the Anderson's Creek area occurred in the subsequent decade, and was far more significant, both in its scope, duration and economic returns. This activity was first announced in *The Evelyn Observer* of Friday, November 16, 1883, in which readers were informed that "Mr David Mitchell has purchased from Messrs H. and H. Stiggants and A.S. Hartrick their Crown Company Dyke claim for the sum of \$425".

To that time the easy-to-crush gold-bearing mineral diorite contained in the Crown Company's dyke mine, discovered by Henry Stiggants Junior and the Holloway brothers in 1877, had been worked continuously over a six-year period by the Stiggants, father and son, in association with different partners. Though possessed of a relatively low yield in gold—in the vicinity of 10 pennyweights per ton—processing of this friable dyke material by the previous owners had nevertheless proven to be particularly remunerative. Undoubtedly its profitability had, also in part, been dependent on the mined mineral's effective transportation via a railway track within a tunnel driven along the course of the dyke from the point of excavation to a water-powered crusher on the Yarra River's edge operated by Lewis Grant.

However by 1883, much of the Crown mine had been dug out, and a great portion of its product garnered, so much so that opportunities in this dyke for further economical exploitation were limited. Nevertheless, Mitchell, realised there was much more of this gold-bearing mineral still lying untapped in a neighbouring parallel dyke situated to the east.

On November 30, 1883, his application for a lease for a new company—The Diorite Gold Mining Company, Anderson's Creek—of which he was to be the sole owner, was tendered to the Warden of the St Andrews mining division F.A. Hare. It stated that he intended to expend \$1000 in machinery and labour on working diorite on a site of three acres, between the existing leases of Lewis D. Grant, Senior, (the area of which contained the riverside crusher) and of the Crown Gold Mining Company (of which he had recently become the owner), on a portion of land to the east and south of the latter company's lease, and which excised a half-acre owned by William Dixon. A few hundred yards to the east of the Crown's mile-long





The tunnel at Pound Bend, as it appears today.

dyke lay the other similarly north-south directioned, but much shorter, dyke, known as the Hope (or occasionally the Good Hope), which had been originally discovered, and for a short period not very successfully mined in a deep shaft (referred to locally as the Hope shaft), by Logan and Party.

Not only was the diorite in this dyke much denser and harder to excavate, but also the location was a considerable distance from, and as a result of difficult terrain relatively inaccessible to, the nearest crusher: Grant's. Most of the gold originally contained in the Hope dyke was still there, and Mitchell planned to access it by extending the existing tunnel in the Crown dyke by diverting it via an easterly course across to the Hope by driving through the hard rocky terrain which lay between the two diorite-filled chasms.

Although Mitchell's application for his mining lease to connect the two dykes was not considered by Warden Hare until Monday, March 24, 1884, at a sitting of the Heidelberg court, and was finally sanctioned by J.F. Leven, minister of mines, on April 18, 1884, Alfred Armstrong, the mining registrar for the St Andrews mining division, had already reported twice regarding the project's progress, for the entrepreneurial magnate had not waited for official approval to commence work.

On November 30, 1883, the *Evelyn Observer* advised that initial tenders for driving the tunnel between the "Hope shaft—as abandoned

by Logan and party—and the Crown Company's working dyke" had been opened, and been accepted by the tributers, Messrs Lewis, Grant Junior and Mullens, at five shillings and ninepence per foot, with the anticipation that the task would take five weeks.

Armstrong, in his registrar's report for the quarter ended December 31, 1883 noted that "at Warrandyte, a new company was formed to work the diorite dykes, by driving a tunnel to 'command all the ground that can be worked by that means'." By the following February extreme difficulty in progressing through the hard ground "showing pyrites freely" had been experienced by the tributers, and this demanded that fresh tenders should be called. Mullens resumed the task alone following his agreement to accept 10 shillings and ninepence per foot, and by the end of March 1884, he had reached the Hope dyke, but was still a long way from reaching the shaft.

On Friday, April 4, 1884 the *Evelyn Observer* local correspondent wrote, "I am very pleased to report that the dyke material obtained in the Hope tunnel shows very good coarse gold." While digging work by Mullens and an associate was being progressed along the Hope tunnel and they were some 50 feet distant from the Hope shaft, this shaft was also being bailed out.

When it had become sufficiently dry, which was by the end of May—and in accordance with the labour covenants of Mitchell's lease, which stated that after six months of operating four men were to be employed on the project—two other miners started driving a

second tunnel within the confines of the dyke walls which was directed northwards away from the shaft, and which would ultimately meet up with the one being driven in the southerly direction by Mullens.

But all was not plain sailing, the diorite and associated quartz within this dyke, though originally possessing good gold prospects, by comparison to that in the Crown dyke was much more difficult to recover, and one stoppage was followed by another.

By Friday, September 26, 1884, with additional labour employed on the project, the *Evelyn Observer* reported:

"The contract for driving the tunnel in the Hope dyke, after a deal of unnecessary trouble and delay, has been thrown up as being unpayable, and a fresh contract must be entered into; all this means delay. When the dyke is in working order it means employment for a good many men, and a general diffusion of so much a week. However, we are a long-suffering people and must put up with it."

Seven weeks later the same newspaper commented:

"The contractors driving the Hope tunnel on the dyke are not having a very rosy time of it; its ground is very hard, and instead of what was expected, a change for the better, it seems the reverse."

Nevertheless, despite the rock-hard nature of the dyke terrain, work proceeded, but some sections above the tunnel showed a tendency

Written by MURRAY HOUGHTON

Graphics by JOCK MACNEISH

Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

towards collapse and required support timbering to allow the excavating to continue; and as a consequence — through the aegis of Lewis Grant, Senior, who had assumed the on-site management of the mine — the following tender notice was placed in the local press during the second week of December 1884:

DIORITE GOLD MINING COMPANY, ANDERSON'S CREEK.

TENDERS wanted for 1000 feet, prop from 12 to 15 feet length, 8 inches diameter; also, 200 cap pieces, 18 inches long, 8 feet broad, by 4 inches thick, to be delivered at Claim.

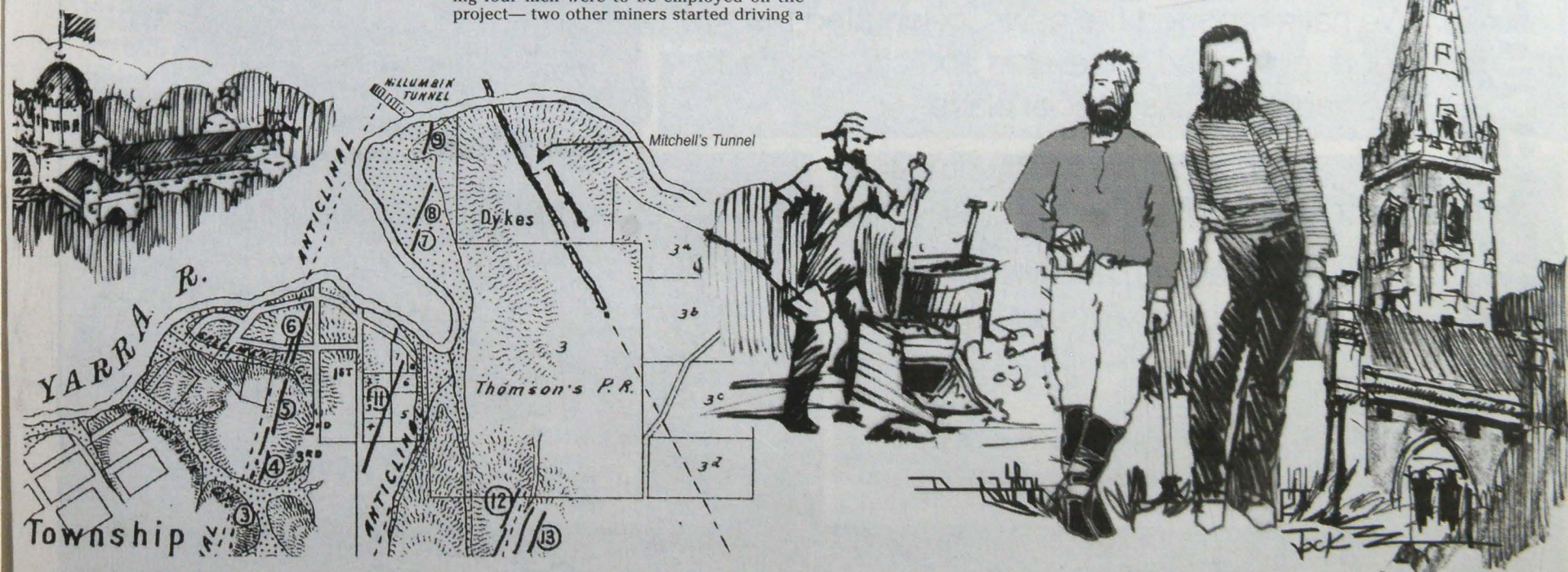
Tenders addressed to Mr. L. Grant, Anderson's Creek, up to the 22nd. inst.

For how long then did the company continue to economically mine its Hope and Crown dykes for gold? This cannot be accurately ascertained, for the returns which it and other mines in Anderson's Creek were required by law to be provided to the St Andrews division mining registrar of that period were deplorably inadequate, so much so when the state government's official document entitled

A Return of all Mining Leases in The Colony, was tabled by the minister of mines, and subsequently published, the reference to Mitchell's dyke lease of four acres, simply bore the comments "no report". What is known, however, is that his company continued to exist for another 18 months, at least until the time an advertisement was inserted in *The Argus* on Saturday, March 5, 1887, which announced that the sale of "the machinery, plant (in good order) together with the leases of the Diorite Gold-Mining Company, Anderson's Creek, Warrandyte," was then being arranged through the Collins Street solicitors Messrs Westley and Demaine.

So in response to the relevant questions: Was David Mitchell the instigator of the Pound Bend tunnel in 1870, the correct answer should be an emphatic "no". Did he operate mines in Elliott's Freehold (near today's Till's Drive and the Black Flat area), the answer is certainly "yes", during the 1870s and 1880s.

(This article first appeared in the Newsletter of the Warrandyte Historical Society.)



Soul's rest

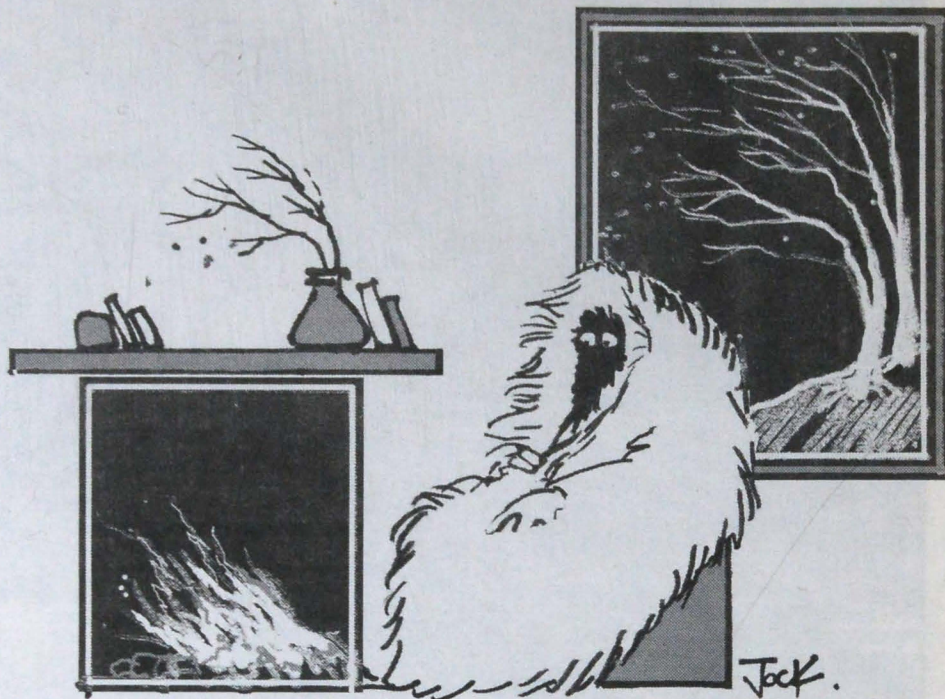
Into the cave
Block up the door
Curl by the fire
Enveloped by fur
This is the night
The dark
The quiet time

The rain whips
The wind weeps
Soaking and soothing
This is the night
The dark
The inside time

Wraiths of mist
Drift over river
Crystal branch gleams
This is the dark
The night
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More dark than light
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This is the dark
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Songs to stir the heart

THE Warrandyte High School theatre recently resounded to another season of swash-buckling mayhem and wanton wile as the evocative Desert Song traversed its nightly stage.

Set in French North Africa during the 1920s, Desert Song (1926) was a huge hit in its day but pretty much marked the end of several decades of popular operetta. With musical score by Hungarian-born Sigmund Romberg (of Student Prince fame), and lyrics by Otto Harbach, Frank Mandel and a young Oscar Hammerstein II, the show teems with melodic gorgeousness and former hits such as "The Desert Song", "The Riff Song" and "One Alone".

The plot is convoluted, featuring on one hand a troupe of French colonial officers (and a young woman, Margot Bouvalet, who has arrived to marry one of them), and on the other, a band of Moroccan rebels (under the leadership of the feared Red Shadow). Much gentlemanly derring-do is afoot, but the real substance to the storyline depends on an array of peripheral characters that rather steal the show: mishap-prone British journalist (Bennie), his awful secretary (Susan), vengeful Moroccan dancer (Azuri) and the colourfully captive Spanish harem of splendiferous Moroccan sheikh Ali Ben Ali. The ultimate twist to the plot (and I'm not giving anything away here) is the fact that the bold daredevil Red Shadow is, in another life, none other than the garrison's village idiot (Pierre), son of the French governor (General Birabeau).

Needless to say, Desert Song is a good old-fashioned love story. Will

THEATRE

By MARILYN MOORE

Margot do the sensible thing and marry the dashing Captain Paul Fontaine? Will she succumb to the doting idiot poet Pierre? Or will she follow her girlish dream of adventure and romance and allow herself to be captivated by the thrilling Red Shadow (on whom the General has issued a death warrant)?

Thus Desert Song, with Anne Gibson's enchanting sets and Gail Kimber's picturesque costumery, transported the audience straight back to the era of an early Agatha Christie novel—a time when colonials (a jolly old bunch of baritones) ruled by pomp and ceremony, the natives were merely restless (rather than rampaging international terrorists), girls warbled like nightingales and knew what was good for them, and the world was altogether a much safer and more predictable place.

Graham Whiteside's portrayal of the comic Bennie, along with Jannine Evans's inspired interpretation of the dreadful Susan, gave this production much of its energy and rhythm. Rhonda Yates's splendid soprano rendition of Margot eclipsed all the other singing roles, but her characterisation was sometimes ambiguous as she had a rather Joan Sutherlandish stage presence and did not always seem like the sort of impetuous young woman who might run off into the unknown with a dangerous stranger.

Hot-headed Moroccan dancer Azuri was played with consistency



(and suppleness) by Emerald Kimber, although the audience would have loved African drums and some authentic Berber rhythms from at least this dancer (this is probably a fault of the original musical score). Another stand-out performance was that of Dawn Whiteside as the seductive Spanish captive Clementina. Her duet/pas de deux with Benny (husband Graeme) was remarkably Leunig-like, and had the audience wiping away tears of laughter. Gordon Thomas, playing the dual roles of Pierre Birabeau and the Red Shadow, was very effective

as the gentle Pierre, but his tenor voice did not have the resonance required for the stronger role. The lead cast was rounded out by well-honed performances from Steve Griffin as French officer Paul Fontaine, Tony Gibson as Ali Ben Ali, Ian Milligan as General Birabeau and Patrick Port as Sid el Kar.

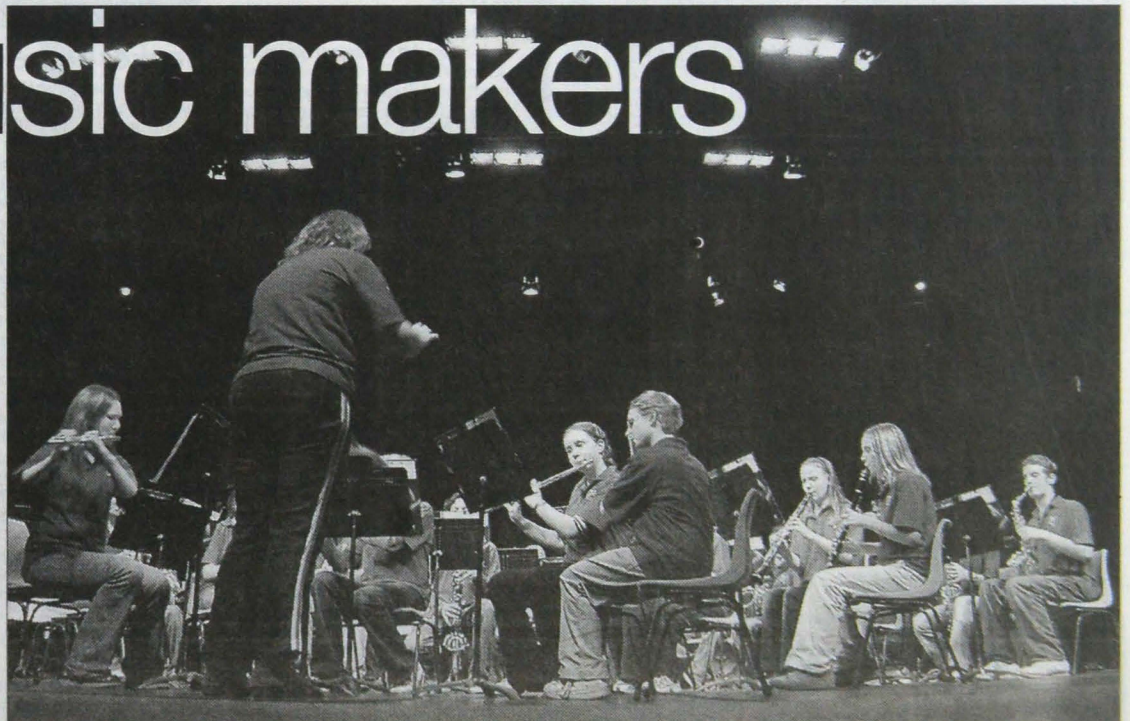
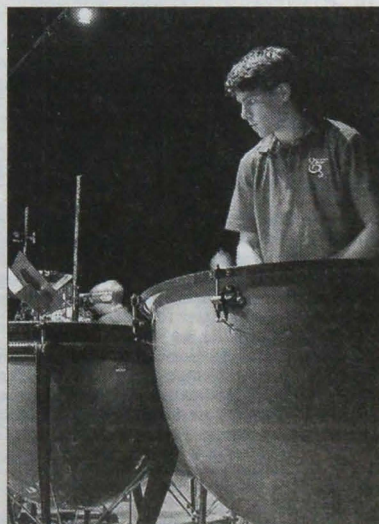
Musical director Jenny Caire did an excellent job with a rather small orchestra, and experienced direction on-stage by Rosemary Chapple resulted in a polished production, bringing out the best in what was, in the main, a cast of enthusiastic

amateurs. As such, Park Players Inc., performing annually since 1998, provides a forum to exercise the talents of singers from near and far. The group's profits are returned to the local community in the form of on-going shows, equipment for the WHS theatre and scholarships for local primary school students. A new feature of this season's production was the provision of buses to transport elderly residents to and from the theatre. All in all, Desert Song was a worthy community enterprise as well as a welcome drop of colourful nostalgia.

Young music makers

Around 70 Warrandyte high school students and staff attended a three-day music camp at Daylesford during the first week of June. The students comprised the Symphonic, Concert, Junior, Junior Jazz and Big Bands and four ensembles of clarinet, percussion, saxophone and guitar. On their return the students performed for their parents and families in the High School theatre to display their talents and to show the results of an intensive but fun-filled three days of music rehearsal and workshops.

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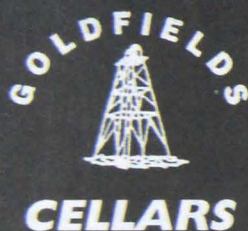
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Conducted by **JUDY GREEN**

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



An historical reunion occurred recently when past workers of landscape artist Ellis Stones met at Bev Hanson's to view slides of many of his gardens from the 1960s and 1970s. A number of people were difficult to locate but most were found living in the Manningham area.

Information

Information Warrandyte, located in the Warrandyte Community Centre in Yarra Street, provides information folders for people who have recently moved into the local area. To improve and update the quality and relevance of these folders they are calling for suggestions from individuals and groups in the community. Their aim is to cater as broadly as possible. If you have any ideas, please call Information Warrandyte on 9844 3082 between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Thursday or 10am and 1pm on Fridays. Alternatively email to warrandyte@bigpond.com.au

Birds

On July 1, at the Function Room in Warrandyte's Grand Hotel, Dr John White will run a seminar entitled "Bird-friendly Cities". He will look at the composition and type of habitat in urban woodland parks and open space, its effect on bird populations and how we can help create bird-friendly cities to avoid further species loss. Dr White is a lecturer in wildlife ecology at Deakin University. The seminar begins at 7.30pm with supper provided.

Links

Art Links is a newly established project of Manningham Community Health Service, providing senior members of the city, with or without disabilities, the opportunity to get together, foster friendships, participate in art and craft projects and have some fun. A wide variety of art and craft activities is included. Sessions will be held at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Centre in Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte on Wednesdays from 11am to 3.30pm. If you are interested contact Art Links coordinator Rebekah Stuart on 9848 2424.

Vicswim

Enrolment brochures are available for Vicswim programs to be held during the winter and spring school holidays. Vicswim offers families the chance to enrol their children, four years and over, in vital swimming and water safety classes. Call 8843 2000. Program details can be viewed on www.vicswim.com

Needles

Needles and Threads is a program of the Community Care

Branch of the St John Ambulance. They make sewn and knitted items for community-based hospitals and aged care facilities. If you are interested in helping, ring Doreen Humphrey on 9736 2130.

Care

Do Care are looking for volunteers to spend a couple of hours each week visiting older or disabled persons in the community, giving them companionship and support. For more information call Wesley Do Care on 9762 5211.

ARTYFACTS

Shakespeare

A Shakespeare Festival will be taking place in the Barn Gallery at Monsalvat, 7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham from July 16 to 18. The festival begins with a forum chaired by Phillip Adams at 7pm on Friday 16, followed by a number of actors performing works by Shakespeare on both Saturday and Sunday nights, also at 7pm. Local performers Debra Lawrence and Dennis Coard will be participating, as well as such well-known performers as Kerry Armstrong, Helen Morse, Reg Evans, Sigrid Thornton, Alison Whyte and John Wood. "King Lear, His Daughters and the Fool" will be performed at 11am on both days by the Wander-Light Eurythmy Company. There will be youth performances at 1pm on both Saturday and Sunday. A number of workshops will be conducted during the weekend. Enquiries and bookings to 9439 7712.

Brigadoon

The Diamond Valley Singers will be performing Lerner and Loewe's "Brigadoon" at the Warrandyte High School Theatre, Alexander Road, Warrandyte on July 2, 3, 7, 9 and 10 at 8pm and July 4 and 10 at 2pm. It will be directed by Lynne Counsel with Ian Lowe as musical director. Tickets are \$25 (concession \$20) and can be booked by calling Diane on 9718 2035 or on-line at www.dvsingers.org/brigadoon.

Stonehouse

The June exhibition at the Stonehouse Gallery, 323 Warrandyte-Ringwood Road, Warrandyte will feature mixed



Walter on display

Warrandyte artist Walter Magilton (pictured with one of his festival banners) is presenting his latest works in a joint exhibition with Barbara McManus at the Australian Guild of Realist Artists, Cnr Camberwell and Inglesby Roads, Camberwell commencing June 2 and open until June 13. Walter has used gouache for a number of these paintings, which he feels particularly suit the way he interprets panoramic landscapes of an intimate scale. His exhibition, entitled "Land of Wild Horizons", captures the feeling of many of the places he has visited around Australia. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Friday from 10am to 4pm and Saturday and Sunday 1pm to 4.30pm.

medium works and clay creations by Rozz Harding and Jenny John. The exhibition is entitled "Barking up the Wrong Tree".

Concert

Local composer Barry McKimm will be conducting the Eltham concert band and the Boroondara Symphonic Band on Saturday, June 19 at the MLC Theatre, Barkers Road, Kew at 8pm. The concert will feature two of Barry's compositions "A Song of Swans" and "Yellow Yellow Sweet" and a premiere performance of "Concerto for Concert Band" by Catherine Clarke-Jones. Soloists are Douglas Heywood, Lesley Walton and

Peter Morant. Adults \$14, concession \$9 and children under 16 free. Tickets at the door or telephone 9439 5391.

Spirit

The Manningham Gallery with the Doncaster and Templestowe Artist's Society are presenting "Catch the Spirit" from June 8 to June 26. The exhibition is a broad group show by members of the society and features an extensive public program including beginners' art workshops on Sundays 20 and 27 June, with floor talks and demonstrations. For further details and to enrol in workshops call the Manningham Gallery on 9840 9367.

DIARY ADVERTISING WORKS
CALL RAE ON 9844 3819 OR 0414 745 212

Words: LEE TINDALE
Pictures: JAN TINDALE

The media releases from Tattersall's tell you its monthly Enterprise and Achievement Award targets unsung heroes ... people in the community who are prepared to "have a go".

Which makes Gary Allsop, the latest winner, amply qualified indeed.

Allsop was a very talented and very gutsy little ruck-rover for Warrandyte Football Club's senior side before he ran into a knee in the first quarter at Upper Ferntree Gully on April 29, 1989, and broke his neck. His worst fears — and those of his family, his friends and the football community at large — were realised several weeks later when he was declared quadriplegic.

It would have been easy to sky the towel, to spend the rest of his life moping in his wheelchair. But Gary Allsop — nicknamed "Madge" many years ago after a character in the long-running BBC soap *Coronation Street* — is a bloke who "has a go".

Now 43, he has devoted a great part of the 15 years since his accident to the spinal research cause, not for a moment doubting that he and others like him would walk again.

He remains convinced that a cure for severe spinal injuries exists out there and is doing his darndest to make it happen sooner rather than later.

About three years ago he came up with what seemed like a good idea — a celebrity shirt auction to raise funds for what is now Spinal Cure Australia.

He spent the next two years on the phone and computer rounding up autographed shirts and other personal gear from such sporting and showbiz celebs as Robin Williams, Kylie Minogue, Greg Norman, Steve Waugh, Steve Irwin and Gai Waterhouse — to name just a few of heaps.

The gala auction was held at Flemington Racecourse on May 31 last year and was a huge success. It raised more than \$80,000 and was the cornerstone of his nomination by Tony Robinson, the state member for Mitcham, for Tattersall's May award.

At the presentation at the Whitehorse Centre in Nunawading on May 20, Allsop received a personal cheque for \$5000, a trophy and \$15,000 for his nominated beneficiary. And there was never any doubt that the beneficiary would be Spinal Cure Australia.

He is also in line for Tattersall's annual enterprise and achievement award which carries a personal prize of \$15,000 and a \$75,000 grant to the nominated beneficiary. That will be announced when Tattersall's hosts a lunch for the 12 monthly winners at the Park Hyatt on July 31.

Allsop told the presentation that the \$15,000 Spinal Cure Australia would receive from his monthly award would help finance a funding project directly involved with the discovery of a cure for spinal cord injury.

"The aim is for people like myself to be able to walk again and regain some semblance of their former lives," he said.

"To me it would be like being born again."

Madge's moment

A bloke who 'has a go' has his day



Of his parents, Fred and Joyce, who have cared for him at their Doncaster home since the accident, Allsop said: "Anything I've come up with in my life, they've been an ongoing source of encouragement."

And of the accident itself: "I've searched and searched for a reason for what happened to me and the only answer I can come up with is that I was meant to do this kind of work."

Gary Allsop's work for spinal research is ongoing. He recently met state treasurer John Brumby seeking increased government funding for the cause and believes he was given a "sympathetic hearing".

He is also an accomplished songwriter and motivational speaker who has been sought by AFL clubs, among others.

His latest project has involved talking to thousands of primary and secondary students about life in a wheelchair and, specifically, about the dangers of diving.

Young and old, unsung heroes all

Tattersall's, which is celebrating its centenary this year, introduced its Enterprise and Achievement Award 24 years ago.

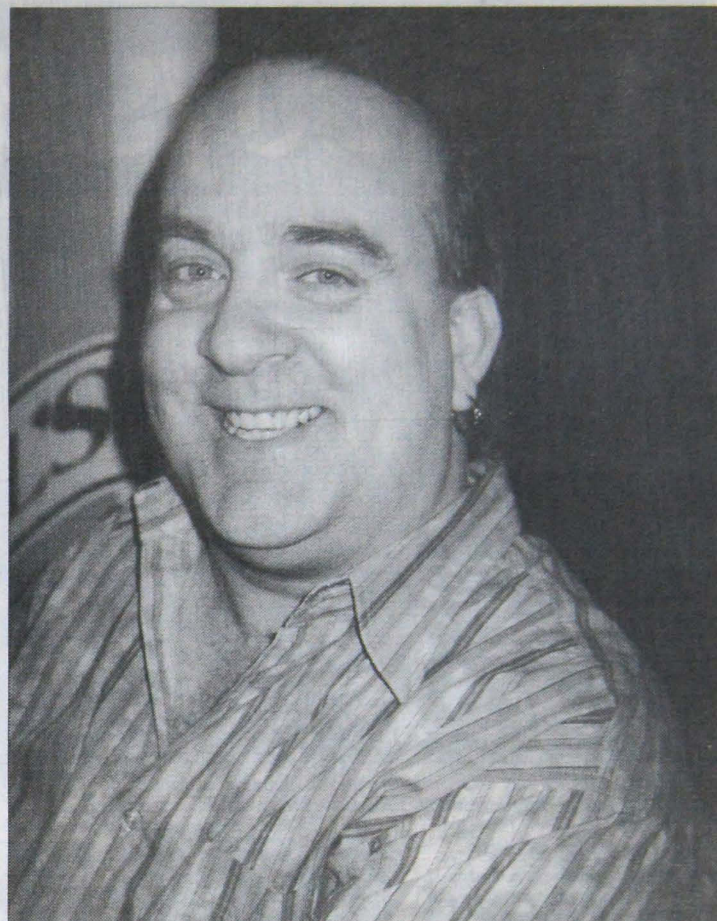
In that time, more than 250 men, women and children have been recognised.

"The award is one of Tattersall's most significant community-initiated programs that honours those prepared to 'have a go', whether it be overcoming physical disabilities, heroic deeds or helping someone in

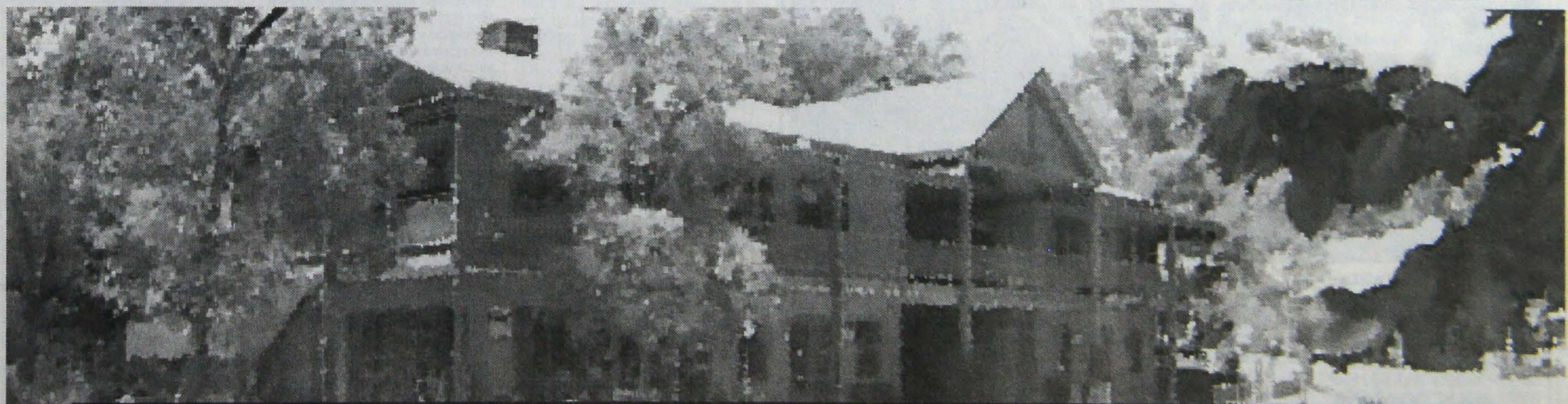
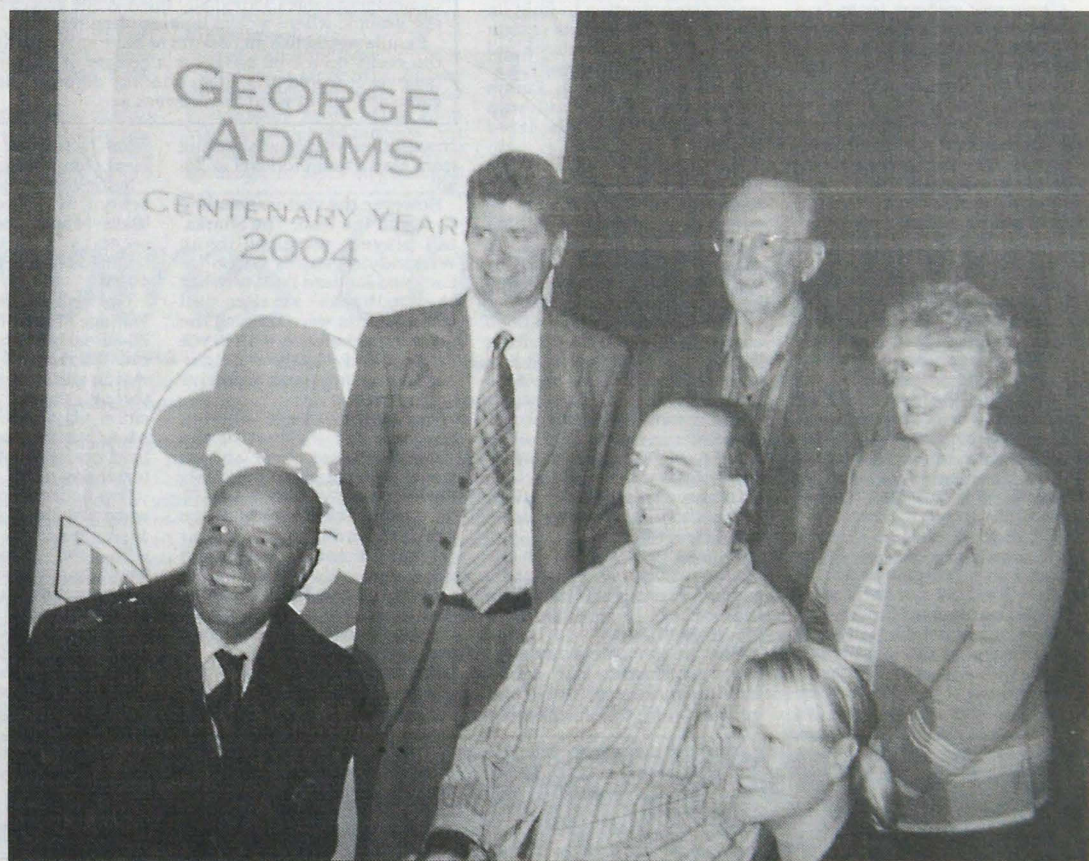
need," said managing director Duncan Fischer.

"Gary Allsop is a great example of the awards having demonstrated persistence and determination above the norm."

Tattersall's public affairs manager Peter Franich, who hosted last month's presentation, said the award recognised "unsung heroes, inspirational people like Gary, who could comfortably have worried more about his own plight than that of others".



Above: Gary Allsop at his award presentation. Left: Welcome back, mate! Teammates greet Allsop in July 1990 during his first visit to the Warrandyte clubrooms since his on-field accident 15 months earlier. Below: At the presentation (left top right): Tattersall's public affairs manager Peter Franich, the member for Mitcham, Tony Robinson, Allsop and his parents, Fred and Joyce, and (front) Tattersall's representative Amanda Newton.



THE WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY CENTRE, CLOSE TO THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

It's simple to get involved, just drop in, or phone 9844 4503 and find out what's going on.

The boys are back in town!



Redback Maddy Kercher puts up the shot during the Under-11s' 21-10 win over Eltham on June 5, watched by teammates Hannah Davis and Amy Byrne.



Gee, a basketball court's a great big thing when you're as little as these guys. These are Warrandyte's Under-9 boys in action against Ivanhoe on June 5.

By TONY OLIVER

Malcolm Anderson's Under-16 Metro 3 boys returned to the winners list with a tight and controversial win over top-placed Keilor in the main basketball game at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre on June 4.

The boys had started the season well with a string of wins after being the last team to make this elite grade.

However, recent form had been disappointing, with a 50-29 loss the previous week to eighth-placed McKinnon indicative of the form slump.

Warrandyte had lost on the road to Keilor and the return game was fast and uncompromising, the Redbacks leading 21-19 at the break.

Both defences were miserly and Keilor's two tallest players were keeping Warrandyte's Ben Power in check.

The second half was similar to the first, with neither side able to establish any dominance. Both were contesting for every ball and coming up with a number of turnovers.

With the scores locked up with just over 90 seconds to go, Keilor were driving to the basket but were called for a travel. This upset their coaching bench and a technical foul was awarded against the visitors.

Wade King went to the line and sank one to give the Redbacks a one-point lead.

The final 80 seconds were nail-biting, with both sides having chances and the ball being stuck between the basket and the backboard at one stage.

But the clock ran down without any addition to the score and

SPORT

Warrandyte prevailed 39-38.

Top scorers for the Redbacks were Tom Fitzpatrick with 13, King with eight and Power seven. Fitzpatrick and King each shot a three-pointer.

This team's technical skill is improving and they showed great determination to hold on for the win to put their season well and truly back on track and retain their top-five position.

In an earlier game, Emma Collins' Under-14 Metro 1 boys went down 37-17 to fifth-placed Eltham.

The game was tied up at 11-all at the break, but the Redbacks could not match the speed and shooting of Eltham in the second half.

Chris King led the scoring for Warrandyte with eight, followed by Daniel Hughes with four.

Steve Camm's Under-18 boys came up against the visiting Western Port Sharks after a heartbreaking loss the previous week to Darebin. The scoreboard showed a draw at the end of that game, but a check of the scoresheet gave it to Darebin by two points.

This was the second such loss to the Redbacks, leaving Camm totally frustrated.

Western Port, second on the ladder, brought a tall, fast team to the courts at Warrandyte High School to face the fifth-placed Redbacks.

The game was played at a fast pace and Western Port held a 21-16 advantage at the break, but Warrandyte lifted after the

You're never too old

Juniors generally fill the places when Warrandyte Basketball Association conduct courses for new referees — but the current batch are all parents.

Association president Stephen Bendle, who is currently undergoing the course himself, is enthusiastic about the idea.

"We want to provide a pool of more experienced and more mature referees to act as mentors to the juniors," Bendle said. "As well, it gives us a larger pool to draw on for the more challenging games, especially the A-grade games and the older age groups, where a calm head is often required."

Bendle would like all parents to have an opportunity to be on the court on a trial basis for a couple of games at least. He believes it would give them a totally different view about the game and about what the referees see.

resumption with good shooting from Matt Camm to level at 23-all.

However, the visitors steadied to regain the lead. The Sharks' tall players were nullifying Warrandyte centres Aaron De Lacy and Richard Domeyer, but the Redbacks' smaller and faster guards were keeping the game in the balance, with Bryce Petalas and Matthew Belgio-vane providing spark and drive up the centre.

Warrandyte were playing catch-up for the rest of the game, but were never able to get close enough to seriously challenge and went down 45-39.

Guards Nick Kosovac (nine points) and Jason Turner (eight) led the scoring, with good support from Matt Camm (seven), Shane Holloway (six, two three-pointers) and Luke Dimmock (five, including a shot from outside the circle).

Warrandyte should hold on to fifth place but will need to regain the winning habit soon in

what is turning out to be an even competition.

In the earlier game at the high school, Warrandyte's second Under-14 boys side recorded their second win of the season, defeating fifth-placed Mornington 40-35.

The visitors held a 17-16 advantage at the break and it was 20-all early in the second half, but Warrandyte established a match-winning break midway through the half with fast transition play. Mornington came back, but the young Redbacks held on to win 40-35 in an entertaining game.

Top scorers for Warrandyte were Charles Johnstone with 14, followed by Scott Patroni with eight and Jake Miller eight (including two three pointers).

Warrandyte's other win was on the previous Sunday, when they upset the visiting second-placed and undefeated Camberwell 31-28. Although a finals place may be beyond them, they will certainly trouble any side.

Warrandyte's Under-18 Metro 3 girls travelled to Altona to face the high-scoring competition leaders.

The Redbacks' strategy was to concentrate on playing really strong defence, but Altona got off to a good start and led 25-12 at half-time. The second half followed a similar pattern to the first, with Warrandyte putting scoring pressure on Altona from the outside.

Redback players Andrea Peters, Kaitlynd Bottomley and Amy Caudry each hit a three-pointer, which made the final scoreline of 47-28 look a little more respectable against the premiership favourites.

"A very pleasing game despite the scoreline," said coach Nick Peters.

Peter Clough's Under-16 girls had broken through for their first win of the season when they defeated Chelsea 36-26 but faced competition leaders Kilsyth and went down 29-18 in a spirited performance.

Lorraine Parfitt's Under-12 East girls recorded a 28-26 win against second-placed Dandenong at Dandenong to remain undefeated. But Jenni O'Brien's Under-14 Metro 2 girls could not get over the line against Doncaster, going down 28-25.

Saturdays action the real deal

By TONY OLIVER

The grading section of the EDJBA Saturday winter basketball action has just finished and the season proper is under way.

Warrandyte courts hosted the top sides in the Under-17 and Under-19 boys and girls sections on June 5.

The Under-19 boys met Banksia at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre but went down 45-33.

Warrandyte went into the game with some confidence, having a full list and coming off a 39-32 win against an Eltham side the previous week.

The action was high tempo in the first half with a number of turnovers and fast transitions and Banksia scored twice in the last 10 seconds to give them a 27-19 break.

Tall Redbacks centre Tim Given was unable to take the court in the second half after suffering an ankle injury and his absence unbalanced the Redbacks.

Coach Mandy Ratcliffe fired up her players at half-time as they were playing below their capabilities and they came out strongly to narrow the gap to 29-23.

Banksia steadied, but Warrandyte challenged again with a three-point shot to Luke Drake and two from the free throw line to Jake Templeton.

However, the visitors were able to close out the game. In a rather surprising move, they slowed down the game in the last three minutes, denying Warrandyte any chance of staging a comeback.

Hayden Wall led the scoring for the Redbacks with 10, followed by Kane Lucas with six and Dean Lucas with five.

In the following game, Warrandyte's second Under-19 boys side, led by playing captain and coach Chris Staggard, went down 33-25 to Park Orchards.

This team play an entertaining fast game but could field only five players. Tragedy struck Warrandyte when

Warrandyte's leading scorer, Alex Moore, was fouled off in the second half and the Redbacks were down to four players.

They rallied but could not hold on to their slender lead.

Despite missing most of the second half, Moore top scored for Warrandyte with nine, followed by Michael Whittingham with eight. Warrandyte's low shooting percentage probably cost them the game.

The Under-17 A-grade boys held on for a 35-all draw with Koonung.

The visitors led 19-14 at the break, but the Redbacks came back well in what was a low-scoring game for this standard of basketball. Koonung tied it up with the last score of the game.

Warrandyte are still feeling the loss of Josh Collins with a broken arm. Collins will miss the next eight weeks.

Top scorers for the Redbacks were Grant Godwin and Cameron Rappell, with nine apiece and Tom Jamieson (seven).

After a slow start, Warrandyte's Under-19 girls had a regulation 25-13 win over Bulleen, never seriously challenged after leading 13-7 at half-time.

Specialist outside shooter Kim Singh hit two three-pointers to lead the scoring for Warrandyte with eight, followed by Anna Middleton (five) and Jess Kemp, Georgina Smith and Casey Hawley, each with four.

Warrandyte's Under-17 girls went down to 51-23 to a very determined Balwyn team in another A-grade game.

Balwyn led 20-12 lead at the break despite a very spirited effort by the Redbacks, who had been unable to convert enough opportunities under strong pressure.

Kelly Farren scored early in the second half to give the Redbacks a chance, but Balywn replied quickly.

All Warrandyte's players scored, Jess Soltz leading with six and Julie Rennie contributing four.



Warrandyte's Uniting Church tennis team (above) have won the Section 5 premiership in the Melbourne churches competition, defeating top side St Michael's Ashburton eight sets to three in the final. The premiers (left to right) are: Peter Hanson, Wendy Rawlings, Jonathan Rogers, Bev Hanson and John Hanson (captain).

Yes, some you win and...

Warrandyte Tennis Club fielded two midweek women's teams in the grand finals of the Ferntree Gully and District Tennis Association last week.

Both were defeated in close matches.

Section 2 — Elaine Greatrex, Jenny Bennett, Noella Bird and Sue McGinty — finished top of their ladder but were beaten by East Croydon.

Section 6 (Anita McKellar, Marg Molloy, Sandy Ransom, Lyn Thomas and Gwen Youl) lost to St Judes by five games.

Bloods blow it badly

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte squandered a golden opportunity to move into EFL Third Division finals territory when they stopped as if shot against bottom side Nunawading on June 5.

The Bloods surrendered a six-goal second-quarter lead, conceding the next seven to take a three-point deficit into the interval.

They were to come again to lead narrowly at various stages of the second half but fell away under relentless pressure from a side who play their pocket handkerchief-size ground at North Blackburn very well and have a nasty habit of burying highly-rated opponents there.

Playing for a potential spot in the top four, they went down by eight points, 14.13 (97) to 13.11 (89).

Coach Ash Hamilton was clearly disgusted by the capitulation. He would not comment immediately after the game and left Koonung Reserve well in advance of his players.

Warrandyte Football Club president Phil Treeby said the team must learn to respect any and every other side in the competition.

"We wasted a very good lead and allowed them to run over the top of us," he said.

Rebuilding around youth after a heavy loss of experienced hands in the off season, the Bloods have been giant-killers at home but major disappointments away against teams below them on the ladder.

They went into the Nunawading game 4-4 after dropping their first three and had penciled in a win to reach the half-way mark of the home-and-away season "in the black".

At their previous run they had beaten the powerful Doncaster East at home by five points but immediately before that had

succumbed by 26 points away to the Waverley Blues, who had won just the one.

Their next game is at home to competition leaders Rowville on June 19, the Queen's Birthday weekend interleague game intervening to give them a fortnight to take stock and regroup.

Despite the absence of quality players Matt Wood and Chris Cornell, it looked like being a stroll in the park against Nunawading when the Bloods led by 36 points with the second quarter just 10 minutes old.

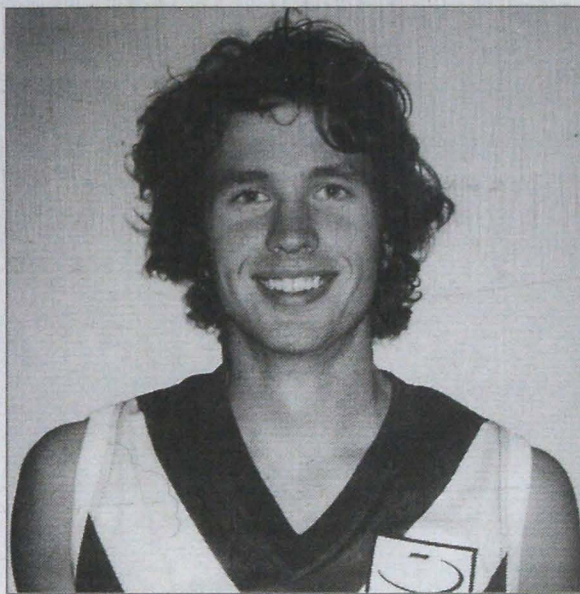
The first term had been encouraging enough, Warrandyte kicking straight to lead 3.0 to 1.2 at the change, although the home side certainly had their share of it, swapping gang tackles with us and creating loose men with their trademark short game out of defence and use of the ground's width (which probably equals its length, which is not much at all).

Young full-forward Michael Morello got us on the board first after seven furious minutes by helping a long, bouncing ball on its way in the square. And when Tom Naughtin snapped a beauty four minutes later, we were all smiles.

The more so when Mark Spiliotacopoulos passed to Naughtin for his second 20 minutes in, but Nunawading spoilt our party somewhat with their first goal four minutes later from a free in the pocket.

If there was a worrying sign for Warrandyte it was that the hosts had stickier hands and were feeding well off Craig Dick's dominance of the ruck on our behalf.

But who worried about that five minutes after hostilities resumed when Tim Andrews passed to Matt Treeby, who threaded the needle from the boundary? Or when James Powell found Morello two min-



Rene Pidgeon, one of the best of the beaten Bloods.

utes later for our fifth? Or when Tom Urbano ran into an open goal a minute later and Glen Carle followed suit a minute after that?

Champagne footy — but it obviously went to the Bloods' head.

Assuming that 7.2 to 1.2 was quite enough to win this game, they allowed Nunawading the next seven goals in the next 15 minutes.

It started at the 13-minute mark and became terribly repetitious.

And what were the Bloods doing while all this was happening? Not a lot. Very little. Nothing, in fact.

Nunawading were muscling the ball out of the centre and using it very effectively, hunting in packs and making us look

silly. We were committing cardinal mistakes and paying the full price.

At half-time it was 8.3 (51) to 7.6 (48) and that match-winning lead had gone down the gurgler.

The switch of Morello to centre half-forward and Rene Pidgeon to the goal square paid immediate dividends in the third quarter, Pidgeon taking full advantage of a strong mark and a penalty which put him point blank.

Nunawading responded immediately, but Naughtin to Pidgeon four minutes in restored a slender lead.

The hosts were still looking the more assured side, finding teammates more often than Warrandyte could manage, but Spiliotacopoulos wove a little of his magic to put a 10-point gap

More fun than footy!

Places are still available for Warrandyte Football Club's past players luncheon at the clubrooms on June 19.

The luncheon will precede the game against Rowville, marking the start of the second half of the home-and-away season.

Tickets are \$30 and include a two-course meal.

Contacts: John Ryan (9844 2552), Terry Ryan (9879 0373) or Andrew Rodgers (0411 519671).

Bookings are also being taken for the club's annual ball on Saturday, July 10.

A change of format this year — a luxury cruise on the Yarra, a ticket-only affair and dress semi-formal.

For further details and tickets, James Logan (0414 337418).

our way. Nunawading grabbed that goal back with 15 minutes elapsed and, rightly or wrongly, were freed three times within range towards the end of the term for two goals, a near miss and an 11-point advantage at the last change.

Coach Hamilton was not a happy man in the huddle.

"This is our grand final for the first half of the season," he said, then accusing the team of carrying "too many soft passengers ... too many players waiting for others to do it".

"You're breeding confidence in them (Nunawading)," he said. "We've got blokes who are selfish, who don't want to do the team thing."

His message obviously got through because within four minutes Warrandyte were back in front, courtesy of goals from Morello and Pidgeon.

A Nunawading behind at 10 minutes squared it all up at and a rushed behind three minutes later put them ahead again.

Enter dashing midfielder Aidan Davey, who snapped a goal at 14 minutes, but enter Nunawading after five minutes of frenetic football to tie it up at 13.11 all.

The signs were there, though, and they weren't good. The Bloods were defending with

passion but struggling to put themselves in a scoring situation.

A Nunawading poster at 20 minutes put their nose in front again and the telling blow came just 60 seconds later — a snapped goal which was to put the game beyond our reach.

Warrandyte's goalkickers were Pidgeon 3, Morello 3, Naughtin 2, Spiliotacopoulos, Treeby, Urbano, Carle and Davey.

Their best were Urbano, Naughtin, Dick and Pidgeon.

● Warrandyte's Reserves suffered a similar fate against Nunawading, kicking the game's first two goals in double-quick time and assuming this was going to be easy.

It wasn't and they spent much of the rest of the game playing catch-up.

Final score was Nunawading 13.9 (87), Warrandyte 10.12 (72), with Brian Elliott, Geoff Zach and James Dodd our best.

The Heathmont-Warrandyte Under-18s provided the only highlight of our day, runaway winners over Knox (2).

John Kunsden, Cal Haskins, Paul O'Mara and Jarvis Flynn were the best of a very good bunch in a 19.14 (128) to 3.8 (26) victory.

'The Tank' inspires Colts upsurge

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

"The highest standard of junior football we have seen from a Warrandyte team in many a long year!"

That's how one Warrandyte Junior Football Club official described the awesome recent performance of the local Under-17 Colts against higher-placed Greythorn.

And in the process of a meteoric ascent of the ladder after a sluggish start to their season, the Colts have unearthed a "human tank" in the form of Josh Barrett.

A recent recruit, Barrett combines bulk with speed and an uncanny skill to kick long bombs to score or to find the chest of a teammate with deadly-accurate stab passes.

He was one of the stars of Warrandyte's 12.18 (90) to 3.7 (25) victory over Greythorn. That win and successes against Fitzroy (by 42 points) and Beverley Hills (21 points) propelled the Colts into the top four and they went right on with the job on June 6, defeating Bundoora by seven goals — 12.7 (79) to 5.7 (37) — to claim third spot.

Team manager Kevin O'Mara had felt that May was going to be the month in which this team would really start to fire.

"With the restructured Colts coming together, they are a new team and needed time to get used to each other's style of play," he said.

"The past month has positioned us for a real dip at the flag. To maintain our focus and achieve our goals, we will continue to rely on players like Josh, co-captains Stephen Christopher and Dylan Matheou, Rick Curtis, Sean Frost, Daniel Gullery and Rob Illingworth to keep firing.

Shaun Wilson's Under-15s have also hit their straps after a slow start to the season.

A recent 48-point win against traditional rivals Beverley Hills and a follow-up victory over Tally Ho (by 55 points) put them in third spot, but they ran into a reality check in their latest game, a 46-point loss to Kew.

"The biggest threat to these boys is complacency," said team manager Grant King. "They have got to strong positions within some games but seem to go to sleep and let the opposition overrun them."

Nevertheless, Tyson Fitzgerald, Ross Brown, Tim Beasley, Tim Hookey and Daniel Large (who recently played his 50th

game for the club) continue to improve with every outing.

The Gold Division continues to be a challenge for the Under-14s, but an indication that they are adjusting to this highest level of competition is that they turned around a Round 1 55-point loss to St Mary's to a 49-point win over that side in Round 8.

"After an 84-point dubbing by second-placed Ivanhoe the previous week, the boys took a deep breath, recommitted themselves to each other and went out and absolutely outplayed St. Mary's," said Sharen Vaughan, their team manager.

"Players like Nathan Gordon, Mat Sleeth, Narayan Tobin, Tom Fitzpatrick, Josh Hale-Vaughan and Aaron Domeyer just threw their bodies at their taller opposition and proved to themselves how good they were."

They could not, however, carry that form into their June 6 encounter with top-of-the-ladder Canterbury and went down by 90 points.

The Under-13s are also struggling — for numbers and for premiership points — but broke through for their second win of the season last start, defeating St Damian's by seven points, 7.0 (42) to 4.11 (35).

"We would back each of these boys — especially the likes of Sam Casey, Morrison Birznies, Matthew Falkingham, Tyler Arnold, Taylor Beaumont and Trent Parker — against any opposition," said assistant coach Phil Mason. "But when they have to go the full game against a team that has fresh players, it is a bit hard."

"We rely on boys from other years to back-fill our numbers, so if there are under-13-year-old boys who want to make new friends and have a lot of fun, contact the club — you will be most welcome," said team runner Rick Casey.

An eight-point win over Ivanhoe on June 6 lifted first-year coach Chris Appleby's Under-12s into fourth position, following on recent defeats of higher-placed Macleod 1 (by 18 points) and St Damian's (by 59 points).

"We recognised early on that these boys are probably not the most skilled in the competition so we elected to become a champion team, rather than a team of champions, and so far it is working," said team manager Paul Van der Zant.

Assistant coach Jim McKee nominated

Ethan Hale-Vaughan, Natalie Exon, Lachlan Chapman, Jake McKee, Jake Miller and Sam Allardice as typical of the players responding to this year's challenge.

The Under-11s of last year's premiership coach Clem Mifsud are 2-9 after a series of narrow defeats, although they were well beaten by fourth-placed Kew in their latest game.

"It should be remembered that we have lost a number of games by just a handful of points," said Phil Ashfield, the team manager.

"We know players like deputy vice-captains Johnny Dobbie and Darcy Jones, Adam Harahap, Mitchell Gafney, Lachlan McKeogh and Matthew Edwards have the potential to play representative football and they just have to play to their potential," said assistant coach Mick Jones.

A recent 51-point thrashing of highly-rated Bulleen-Templestowe sent the Under-10s to the top of their ladder and they consolidated that position on June 6 with a whitewash of Beverley Hills Blue, 6.16 (52) to zero.

They have a percentage of more than 330 and team manager Isabelle Woodin is in awe of their talent.

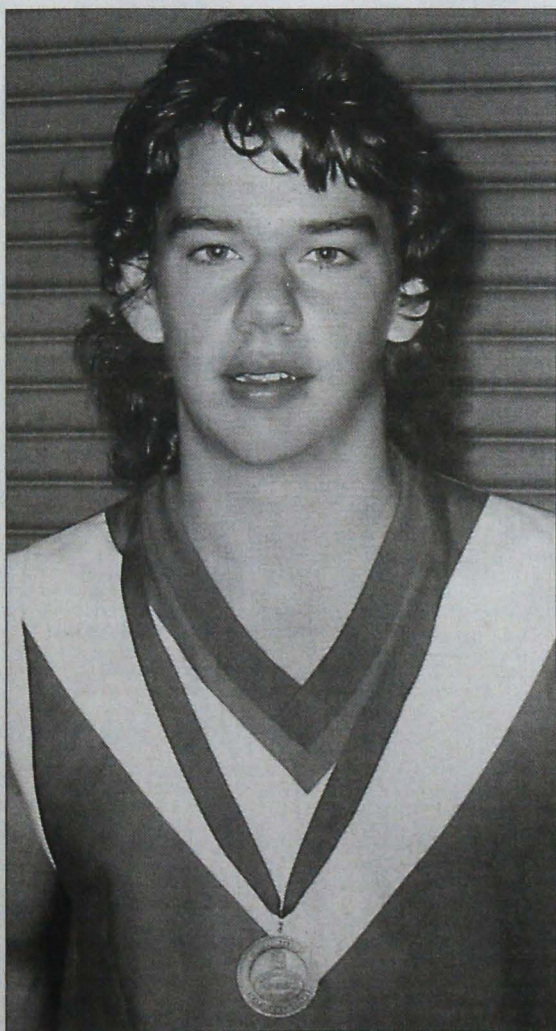
"They are playing excellent football and just need to keep going," she said, nominating vice-captains Jacob Ballard and Ryan Exon, Daniel Krajnc, James Mitchell, Kurtis Law, Lachlan Frowd and Sam Holston as just some of the players excelling.

● "Order from chaos" was how Under-9 Tackers executive coach Steve Ballard described the recent round robin competition involving Warrandyte's two teams.

"The teams play two or three games during the day, so by the end there are plenty of exhausted players and parents," Ballard said.

"Players such as Matt Keeley, Kyle McMennemin, Zach Pleichka, Brayden and Daniel Mifsud, Callum Chapman, Joseph Arnaud, Patrick Currie, Conner Lucas and Jason Castagna all demonstrated their abilities and thoroughly enjoyed the experience," said Under-9 Whites coach Shane Newman.

● WJFC will hold their annual Dinner Dance at Park Orchards Chalet on Friday, July 30. Tickets are available from Kevin O'Mara (9844 2964).



Colt Dion Mullet Treloar, a young veteran of the junior club, shows off his Unibic Team Spirit Medal, awarded to the player demonstrating the best teamwork on the day.

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