

Oh no! Not the pub—!



Full story: Page 13

Digitally altered image by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

Cemetery bid fails

By DAVID WYMAN

Residents opposed to the extension of Warrandyte cemetery have won their battle.

Manningham council has voted to abandon a proposed amendment to its planning scheme which would have rezoned adjacent land for cemetery use.

Council officers had recommended that council "give in-principle support to the proposal" and amend the existing conditions of cemetery use. But council instead voted to "investigate the possibility of a special rates and charges scheme to update the roads around the cemetery."

The Andersons Creek Cemetery Trust had sought to rezone and purchase land abutting the northern end of Brackenbury Street owned by St Gerard's Catholic Church.

The trust believes that space in the existing cemetery will be fully used in 18 months time. The extension would

have added 1050 new grave sites and would have been a lawn and bush cemetery.

The concerned residents' group, which mounted a campaign to stop the extension, were delighted with the council vote. "We would like to thank the council for the enormous effort that has been extended in research and deliberation dedicated to this very sensitive issue, and we await formal communication from them," group spokesman David George said.

Cemetery trust chairman John Chapman told the *Diary* he was very disappointed with council's decision. "We thought the matter would go to a panel for a decision and recommendation to the council, but a few residents stirred up a lot of dissension and protest against our proposal," he said. "We will have discussions with our consultants on our situation."

Manningham council received 267 written submissions on the proposal

to rezone the land and make the site into a cemetery extension. Of these 256 submissions objected to the proposal and over 200 were in the form of a pro-forma letter comprising four key objections:

- Locating a cemetery on that parcel of land,
- The potential for pollution from graves, becoming a threat to the local environment,
- Traffic and parking traumas to impact local residents that will be exacerbated by the cemetery's extension and on the basis of severe impact to local residents and that the issue of cemetery space provision is much broader than that which this expansion can address.

Government authorities—Yarra Valley Water, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, the Department of Human Services and Melbourne Water—had no objections to the cemetery trust's proposal.

Chance for retirees

By CLIFF GREEN

Defeat of the proposed Andersons Creek cemetery extension has focused attention on a very real community need—housing for the elderly.

In her objection to the cemetery extension, former councillor Louise Joy suggested this land is "ideally suited" for retirement housing.

"Ten years ago as a Doncaster councillor I was a member of the Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Project Committee," Ms Joy wrote.

"Land adjoining Cemetery Road was considered a suitable site and council approved an allocation of \$350,000 to assist with development. The aim was to enable residents who

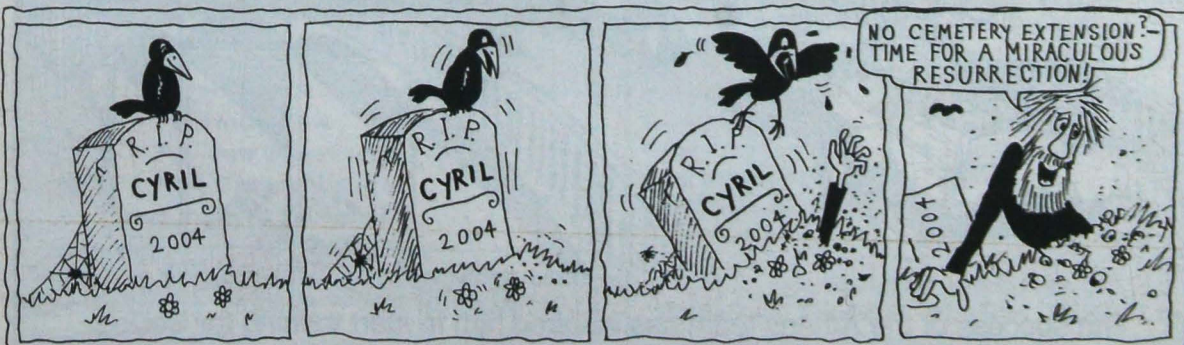
had found their properties too large to stay in the area.

"There was strong support from the community but the commissioners (following the dissolution of council) reversed the decision. The needs in Warrandyte have not changed since that time, if anything the need for such housing has grown. Discussions on retirement housing in Warrandyte have been aired in the *Warrandyte Diary* since 1978.

"The land under consideration is ideally suited for retirement housing for Warrandyte people who like to stay in the bush. The site is near to doctors, shops, churches and social amenities."

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.

Couple are a couple again—and they're coupling as well

The North Warrandyte family had taken a vote and unanimously declared a pair of rainbow lorikeets their favourite birds to visit the feed tray on a daily basis. Comical, brilliantly-coloured little critters (the lorikeets, not the family), they are also one of the gutsiest birds of our bush, thinking nothing, with their David and Goliath attitude, of taking on the magpies and even the dopey sulphur-crested cockatoos when tucker is about. They were quite a pair ... then one of the pair visited no more. Divorce? How dare they! Had one of them fallen off the perch, so to speak? Oh dear. The family consoled themselves with the possibility that the lorikeets were in breeding mode. Maybe they were working shifts, one feeding while the other sat on the eggs. That would be nice. Then just the other day they were a pair again in the nicest possible way — making babies right there on the feed tray! An enormous sense of relief swept through a North Warrandyte household.



Forgive this column for straying beyond Warrandyte's boundaries, but we reckon this shot, taken by Diary staffer Jan Tindale, of a huge flock of gannets in a feeding frenzy just metres off the beach at Portarlington on August 31 is so cute you deserve a look.

IN RED & WHITE



The first thing Essendon enthusiast Lex McDonald did when Carlton spy Kevin Close took him along to see the Bombers play Port Adelaide at Telstra Dome on July 31 was to demand a clipboard. "You've got a clipboard and a lot of other blokes around us have got clipboards — I WANNA CLIPBOARD!" he hollered, in the manner of a spoilt, petulant child. Clipboards are quite common where "forward scouts" sit at AFL grounds and with his now in hand, Lex sat back sucking on his boiled lolly and feeling as important as Andrew Demetriou (whoever he might be). "Okay," said Closey, "you might as well make

yourself useful. You can be in charge of the Essendon forward line — take notice of and record the switches, where they go out of the centre ... stuff like that." The ego of Lex McDonald ballooned and he did a very good sleuthing job for a while. He kept track of all six Essendon forwards in the first half, but then he could find only five in the third quarter and only four in the last. Where the hell had the others gone? The Carlton defenders were delighted when Closey reported back. "Beauty!" they said. "If they've got only four forwards a couple of us can take next week off! And can Lex please be a full-time forward scout next season?"

which "still calls Australia home". You might not be aware, though, that three on-camera members of the choir actually call Warrandyte home. Brothers Rory and Brynton Ashton and Constantine Mimmigiannis went up, up and away (hang on, that was the other mob, wasn't it?) to some great locations during filming. Rory, for instance, travelled to London, Paris and New Zealand and Brynton to Montana, Washington DC and Mexico. Along with 500 other kids, the three boys were also part of the signature Qantas kangaroo shot on Whitehaven Beach in the Whitsundays.



Lex McDonald ... not merely a spy, but a double agent!

Armed with Lex's invaluable statistics, Carlton kicked his beloved Essendon's butt at the MCG the following Saturday in one of the upsets of the season, damn near costing the Bombers a place in the finals. Lex can thank his lucky stars that Kevin Sheedy and his Martians don't know where he lives.

If you heed your TV commercials as attentively as your're expected to, you'll be aware that the National Boys Choir of Australia stars in the recently-released Qantas ad

As far as we're aware, Warrandyte has never had a runner in the Melbourne Cup — but that could change come November thanks to a thing named Uma King. He's a four-year-old chestnut gelding by Umatilla raced by a Warrandyte Football Club-based syndicate of 26 managed by Steve Bell and including Bloods secretary James Logan and long-serving stalwart Andrew "Bucky" Rodgers. Uma King has been nominated for both the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups and has been asked to carry 49 kilos in each. Qualifying for a start in either is, of course, another thing. He's won three of his 11 starts and was placed in

last season's Tasmanian Derby. "Uma King's had two unplaced runs over unsuitable distances this time in and he's been nominated for a more suitable 2000-metre race at Ballarat on September 9," Bucky told us. "Mick Price, out trainer, reckons he's developed into a pure stayer." Uma King has his own website and you can look him up at www.mbb syndicate.com. The "mbb" stands for "men behaving badly" and we reckon there's got to be a story behind that.

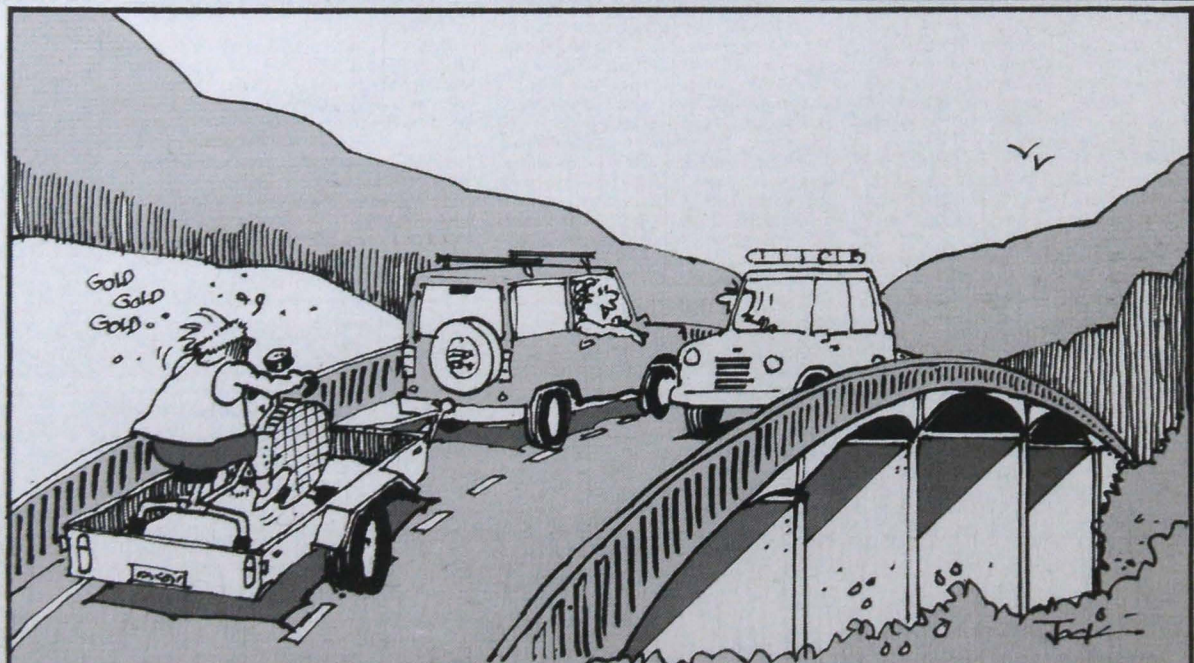
Forget pittosporum and think muttonwood, says native flora authority Pat Coupar. With dark green leaves and small white flowers, muttonwood looks like pittosporum, likes damp, shady places like pittosporum but, unlike pittosporum, is not an invasive environmental weed. A substantial thing, too, growing to about eight metres. And for dry areas, Pat says you can't go wrong with cassinia, a tall, aromatic, hardy and quick-growing shrub from the daisy family. Both these beauties are available from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery at Pound Bend (Melways reference 27 C 10). Want to know more? Call Josh on 0408 800 026.

Smokey Joe



OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



The success of the Athens team has inspired him to start training for Beijing...

Parks budget conflict

By **CLIFF GREEN**

The budget for weed and pest control at Warrandyte State Park has been increased from \$10,000 to \$37,500 and an additional ranger has been appointed.

Funding for the Park has been the subject of heated debate in state parliament recently.

Raising the issue on August 24, Phil Honeywood, Liberal MP for Warrandyte told the lower house, that Danielle Green, Labor MP for Yan Yean, "has promised my local community—my seat shares electoral boundaries with her electorate—that she will provide details of the Warrandyte State Park annual budget for weed and vermin control.

"I can understand the member being upset with me because she has not lived up to the promise she made some months ago to the Warrandyte Community Association," Mr Honeywood said.

On August 26, Danielle Green told parliament: "I am pleased to report that on July 12 a new permanent ranger began work in the Warrandyte State Park, and they have a strong focus on natural values management.

"I am also pleased to report," Ms Green continued, "that the 2004-05 natural values management budget for the Warrandyte State Park has seen a 110 per cent increase on that 2003-04, with \$21,000 for pest animal control and \$17,500 for pest plant control—more than double that for the year before."

Phil Honeywood considers this response "misleading".

"What she failed to mention was that this will mean that our park will still only receive approximately one third of the annual maintenance and management funding it is supposed to receive."

The previous annual budget of \$100,000 was slashed by 90 per cent to cover rehabilitation costs in the High Country, following the recent bushfires.

"All that Labor can provide, even after this so-called increase, is \$37,500, Mr Honeywood told the *Diary* "This means that, for the second consecutive year, weeds, rabbits, and foxes, and other feral pests will increase with minimal control programs put in place."

The Warrandyte Community Association has been campaigning for a number of months for the full restoration of the park's budget and against the possibility of the ranger workforce being relocated to Westerfolds in Templestowe.

"Last year's budget slashing of 90 per cent will have allowed weeds and pest animals like rabbits and wasps to significantly increase their presence in the park," WCA president, Jonathan Upson told the *Diary*.

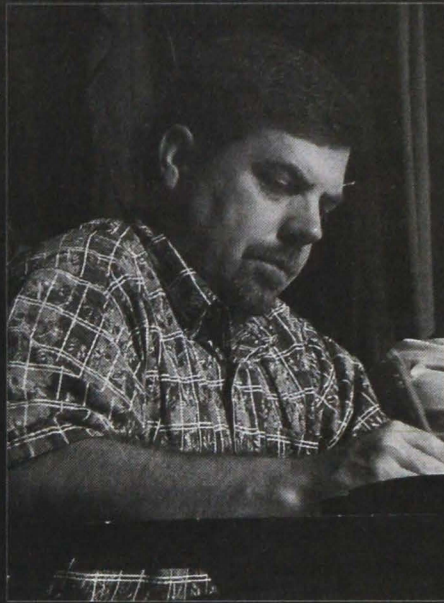
"One could easily argue that we need a budget increase above the previous (2002-03) operational budget of \$100,000 to remedy the damage caused by last year's dramatic budget cuts," Mr Upson said.

"While we appreciate Danielle Green's effort in securing an increase in funding over last year, the announced funding of \$38,500 is still less than half of the budget allocated two years ago.

"The only outcome acceptable to the WCA would be the full restoration of operational funding to the 2002-03 level of \$100,000," he said.

Further comment by Ms Green was not available when the *Diary* went to press.

Exchanging views on management funding



Jonathan Upson: "The only outcome acceptable to the WCA would be the full restoration of operational funding to the 2002-02 level of \$100,000"



Danielle Green: "a 110% increase ... with \$21,000 for pest animal control and \$17,500 for pest plant control—more than double the year before."



Phil Honeywood: "our park will still only receive approximately one third of the annual maintenance and management funding it is supposed to receive."

Comments invited on future park planning

Parks Victoria has completed a new management plan for the Warrandyte State Park and is inviting residents to comment on the draft.

In preparing a draft management

plan a review of the 1990 management plan was undertaken, "current issues were addressed, options were considered and future strategies were identified".

"The 1990 management plan has provided a sound basis for the management of Warrandyte State Park and many of the recommended actions from that plan have been implemented," Mark Stone, Parks Victoria CEO told the *Diary*.

"A range of new and ongoing issues are now facing the park. I encourage the community to contribute to the future of Warrandyte State Park by submitting comments on the draft plan so that we can work towards the final plan in 2004, ensuring the park is conserved for future generations," Mr Stone said.

Copies of the draft plan are available from the Warrandyte State Park office, Pound Road, Parks Victoria Information Centre, 535 Bourke Street, Melbourne, DSE Information Centre, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, or downloaded from www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

Written comments on the plan should be forwarded to David Sewell, Chief Ranger, Yarra District, PO Box 568, Templestowe 3106 by Friday, October 22.

CLYDE & OCKER

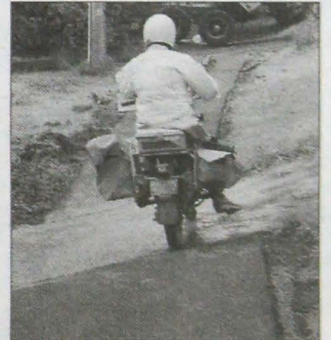


"You could be prime minister, Ock. You walk the walk!"



Research Road pathway on track

Nilumbik council contractors are making good progress with the long-awaited extension to the Research Road footpath. Only the postie (right) is disappointed. He won't need his dirt bike riding skills in future!



Pictures by **SANDY BURGOWNE**

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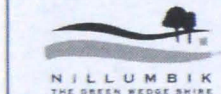
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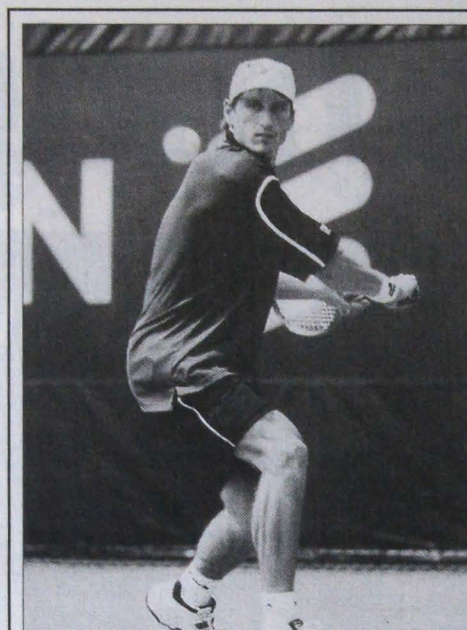
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Key Decisions

These are some of the decisions made by Council in July 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 15 September 2004 at 7.30pm at the Shire Offices. All are welcome to attend or listen to the broadcast on Plenty Valley FM 88.6.



Community, Health, Culture, Sport and Leisure	Land Use, Planning and Environment	Transport and Infrastructure	Economic Development	Governance
<p>Adopted the Community Inclusion Policy for People with a Disability (2004-2008) and the Action Plan (2004-2005).</p> <p>Adopted the Volunteer Policy (2004-2008).</p> <p>Adopted the draft An Early Years Action Plan for Nillumbik 2004-2007.</p> <p>Adopted the proposal to change the wording of the Indigenous Acknowledgement Statement.</p>	<p>Resolved to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit to the land at 35 Silver Street, Eltham in accordance with endorsed plans and subject to conditions.</p> <p>Endorsed the Municipal Strategic Statement Review with changes; and subject to satisfactory responses from the Minister for Planning and /or the Department of Sustainability and Environment, commence implementation of the short term priority actions.</p>	<p>Resolved to proceed with construction of Storey Avenue, Research, but not to include Henzell and Valley Roads as the residents did not support the construction.</p>	<p>Resolved to formally receive and consider the submissions and objections received in response to the proposed Special Rate Scheme for the Diamond Creek shopping and business precinct.</p> <p>Council also resolved to proceed with the Scheme with some modification and advise all submitters and objectors.</p>	<p>Resolved to receive and accept the Supplementary Valuation returns and authorise the adjustment of the Rate Book.</p>



DEAR DIARY

Kids enjoyed tennis program

Many thanks to Michelle Gilling and her team who organised and ran a very successful tennis program for children 6-12 years old.

Supersmashers was an outstanding success. Warrandyte Tennis Club should be extremely proud to have such fabulous club people like Michelle—so capable and organised! Congratulations on an outstanding program—your efforts are truly appreciated.

The Jetson Family
 Research Road

Ace tennis international Jason Stoltenberg demonstrated "how to do it" at Warrandyte Tennis Club's Supersmashers.

Wonga Park community facilities near completion

Work on the Wonga Park integrated community facility in Old Yarra Road, is on track for a December 2004 completion.

Manningham mayor, Cr Patricia Young, said that once completed, the \$1.06 million facility would house the Wonga Park Community Cottage and Occasional Child Care, the Burch Memorial Preschool, Wonga Park Playgroup and the Maternal and Child Health Service.

"The refurbishment and extension project is exciting and a welcome addition for the local community," Cr Young told the *Diary*.

"The integrated facility will centralise a wide range of community services and provide the Wonga Park residents with a community focal point."

Works being undertaken include:

- The extension of the Community Cottage building
- Refurbishment and extension of the existing building formerly occupied by the Wonga-roo Child Care Centre
- The construction of an Occasional Child Care facility between the two existing buildings
- A covered walk way linking the cottage with the rest of the building
- Construction of a new southern entrance to the south of the existing cottage with a waiting room, cleaners' store-room and disabled toilet facilities
- All new areas will have a lightweight construction with timber floors, including termite protection

• New "pool-style" perimeter fencing will be constructed to match existing playground fencing

• New playground landscaping works

• Concrete pathways

• Additional car parking for 25 vehicles.

Cr Young said the local community has been very active in all stages of the project and council would like to thank them for their input.

"The facility will become a hub of community activity. It will be a real community meeting place that provides a range of family services including recreational, leisure and educational activities in a friendly supportive atmosphere," she said.

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COMMUNITY VIEWS ON RIVERSIDE

Horses OK, but no new structures

By CLIFF GREEN

A conservative—don't try to "improve" something so good—approach has been taken by the Warrandyte Community Association in their response to Manningham council's river reserve draft management plan.

The WCA submission requests council continue to allow horses and dogs to use the reserve—under controlled conditions—and to build no new structures, carparks or formal picnic areas along the riverbank.

They support continuing efforts to enhance and protect the riverbank bushland—but without obscuring views of the river and with respect for the historic character of some non-indigenous planting adjacent to the area.

WCA challenges the statement in council's draft plan recognising "Warrandyte township area as a major tourist destination". They ask, "does council expect these improvements to generate a greater number of visitors? If so, what is anticipated?"

Council plans to completely ban horses from the reserve, prohibit dogs from the Federation Playspace area and require them to be leashed when the community market is underway and around picnic areas.

The vexed issues of dogs and horses along the "Warrandyte Walk" (as the major pathway along the river is called in the draft plan) is addressed at some length by WCA. They contend that dogs and horses should be treated equally, with similar restrictions where possible.

"If dogs are to be permitted on the river walk they should be banned completely from children's playgrounds," the WCA response states. "Dogs should be on lead in all picnic areas and during events in the reserve, including markets, and off lead only on the hillside of Stiggants Reserve and the areas downstream."

"If horses are permitted on the river walk they must not be cantered, and if trotting they must be brought to the walk within 20 metres of pedestrians and cyclists. Horses should be banned completely from children's playgrounds and during major events in the reserve, including markets and festivals. Horses should be banned from the hillside of Stiggants Reserve."

Council proposes that the sealed car park at Stiggants Reserve should be increased by four more spaces, that an informal car parking area at the Scout Hall should be left unsealed and reduced by six places, that the informal area at the bottom of Forbes Street should be sealed and formalised, providing 20 spaces, that the sealed area at the river end of Webb Street should be increased by 15 spaces and the unsealed car park at the Lions Park/Federation Playspace should be sealed and formalised to provide 20 spaces.

WCA contends that "all these recommendations should have been integrated with the Yarra Street urban design framework. Following recent consultations and written submissions to council, it should be very clear that the local community is strongly opposed to the development of new car parks. This type of change, along with the proposed upgrade of picnic facilities, will permanently and adversely affect the informal and charming character of these locations."

Council has indicated that the play-

COUNCIL'S DRAFT PLAN	WCA RESPONSE
Horses banned	Horses permitted, with conditions
Dogs permitted, with conditions	Agreed
More parking spaces	No more formal parking
Stiggants playground to go, sculptural play equipment on river flats	Stiggants playground should remain
More picnic facilities	No more picnic facilities
New stage at Stiggants	Agreed
Taffy Jones ruin to be redeveloped	Agreed, with reservations
Revegetation, weed removal, hillside/wetland management	Agreed, with sensitive regard for some non-indigenous planting

ground at Stiggants Reserve, built originally with funds raised locally, will be removed, despite an offer by a local playground manufacturer to donate new equipment.

"It is recommended that a low-key sculptural playspace be provided which responds to the local environment by incorporating elements of the natural and social history of the area. Play sculptures will be designed with the local community and will consist of a series of play sculptures along the river flats between Anderson Street and Forbes Street. They will take into account the functions of the market and the Warrandyte Festival."

The community association rejects this proposal, stating: "The existing playground should be repaired and maintained. There should be no further structures along the river flats. There is too little space now and expanding usage will compromise use of the existing space, especially near the existing barbecues. If anything extra is done it should be at the very end of the walk, downstream of the footbridge over Andersons Creek."

Council has identified a need for improved picnic facilities, upgrading existing areas and providing additional facilities, in particular at the river end of Webb Street, "with an electric barbecue, some picnic tables, rubbish bins and a drinking fountain and a small picnic area west of the old dairy building, with the provision of a couple of picnic tables."

WCA has responded strongly against this: "Picnic facilities should not be distributed along the river walk. The ambience would degenerate to that of an ordinary municipal park. New Webb Street facilities are therefore opposed. Only the existing picnic facilities need maintenance and access to these for handicapped or elderly can be easily upgraded."

"Improving the appearance of facilities is of great concern, as their popularity would suggest this is not necessary. If maintenance is required then it should be achieved without visually altering what works well now."

Council has been approached by the festival committee and the organisers of the Christmas carols concert to improve the stage at Stiggants Reserve. They plan to "remove existing stage and replace with a slightly larger, roofed stage with floor area of the stage increased". WCA has agreed that this should proceed.

The ruin of the former home of local

identity Taffy Jones at 215 Yarra Street, destroyed in the 1939 fires, is considered to be a site of historical significance. The draft plan suggests its redevelopment "as a site of cultural interest for visitors to the area and to provide a link to Yarra Street and the Federation Playspace". They envisage a viewing structure and elevated walkway to Yarra Street, plus "a low-key interpretation facility".

WCA comments: "Steps up to a formal viewing area over a car park is a waste of time and money. Apart from cars, the only view possible would be young parents playing with their infants in the playground, resulting in a loss of intimacy, probably making them feel uncomfortable and lessening the quality of their experience."

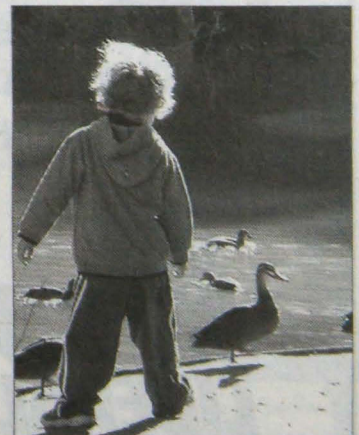
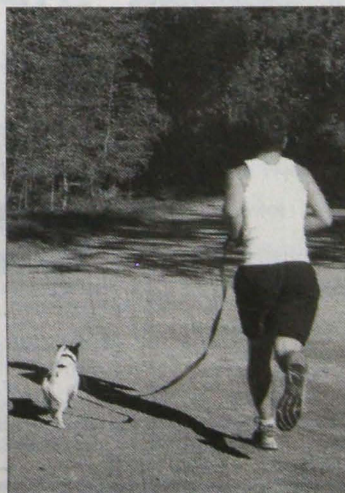
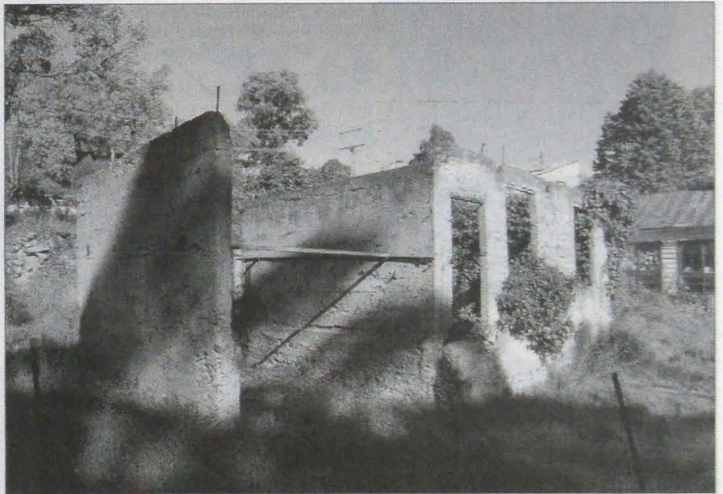
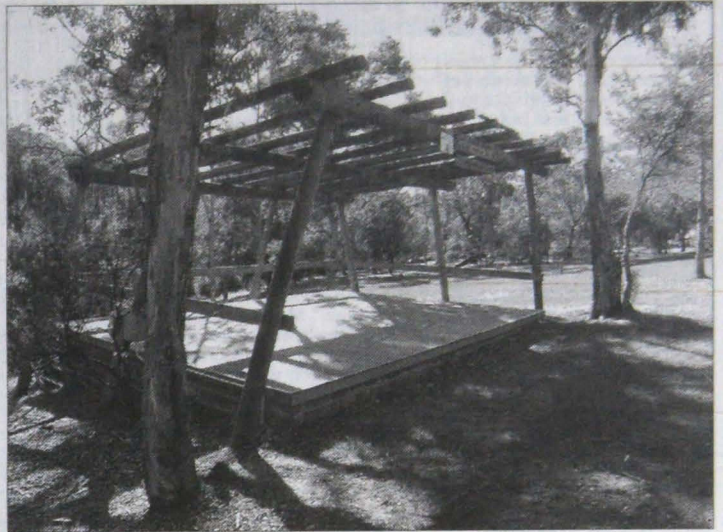
"The structure needs to be stabilised and reinforced, however the external framework required should be kept to a minimum. Encouraging people to actually climb over the structure would dramatically increase the 'dead' and 'live' loads to such an extent that the required engineering support would become significant, resulting in an eyesore."

Council has addressed the vegetation management needs of the area at some length, including the problems of weeds, re-vegetation, fire management and protection of the Stiggants hillside and wetlands.

The community association has responded positively to these recommendations, adding: "Revegetation of the river walk on the river side should be largely restricted to canopy trees with use of low vegetation restricted to the road side, but keeping all existing open space."

They warn against the wholesale destruction of non-indigenous trees, stating: "There are three major weed types that should remain as part of the old urban township ambience; the few introduced oaks and elms, and some of the roadside cherry plums. The community is divided on this, so perhaps a compromise should be sought. This could be achieved by reducing the total numbers and leaving the best examples, which would reduce the environmental impact, however still provide a reminder of what some have come to admire."

"In Warrandyte, this would fill a cultural role comparable with the cedars that Parks Victoria has retained. Indeed, some Parks Victoria staff have lamented the decline of orchards as part of the Warrandyte scene."



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

Stop the 'blame game'

Labor candidate for McEwen, Jenny Beales, and state member for Yan Yean, Danielle Green, say the election of a Latham Labor Government will mean better services for people in McEwen and less point scoring between the federal and state governments.

"It's time to stop the blame game", said Ms Beales.

"People and families in McEwen want our governments to concentrate on our schools, hospitals and roads—not on arguing with each other."

"We need our governments to work together", said Ms Green, "But John Howard just keeps passing the buck. The sharp decline in bulk billing and after-hours services, that he has

overseen, is forcing more people into emergency wards but then he says public hospitals are a state responsibility and nothing to do with him."

Local MPs met recently with Jenny Beales and premier Steve Bracks and agreed to work together to get the best possible deal for McEwen's communities.

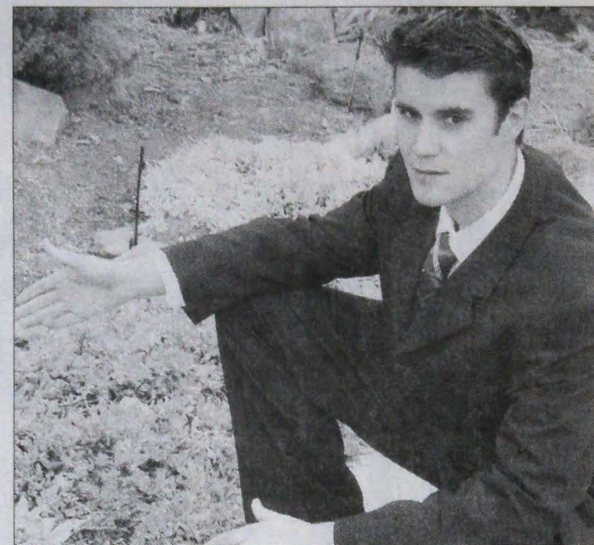
Ms Green said that Jenny Beales would be a strong and effective voice for McEwen in the federal parliament.

"Jenny will be a great local member," Ms Green said. "She has lived in the electorate for over 20 years and has always been active in our community. Jenny knows how to get results and is absolutely committed to getting the best deal for people and families in McEwen."

Ms Beales said her priorities for people in McEwen were:

- Saving Medicare, by rebuilding bulk billing and restoring universal public health care, including establishing a Medicare team at the Northern Hospital;
- Better education, with more money for government and needy non-government schools, an extra 20,000 university places and an extra 20,000 TAFE places;
- Stopping the sale of Telstra;
- A fairer share of federal road funding for Victoria and McEwen; and
- Real tax relief for the people John Howard ignored in this year's budget—Australians earning less than \$52,000 a year.

Local launch for Greens hopeful



Warrandyte came under the political spotlight earlier this month when Mathew Wright, Greens candidate for Menzies (pictured right), launched his federal election campaign at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Saturday, September 4.

Delivering his policy speech he highlighted a strong local issue—the difficulty young residents have buying land or a house in the district, often forcing them to leave the area they love.

"For many of us this historically unprecedented rise in property prices has led to an apparent expansion of assets and borrowing capacity, but with a number of downsides," Mr Wright said.

"The boom is largely over but the current situation has left those who rent, those too young, or those on low incomes shut out of the possibility of owning their own home unless they inherit one or win a lottery."

Mr Wright also explained that vast quantities of retirement funds have been invested in property on the assumption that this would provide easy wealth forever.

"The disturbing result of all those huge mortgages funded by overseas borrowing, through our private financial institutions, is that Australia is left with a vast foreign debt. This is contributing to Australia's largest ever trade deficit.

"When our government gives too much unrestrained power to the market too many citizens are swept aside, too many families are placed under extreme pressure, and too many vital services are not adequately funded. Should our government care more for the banks than for its people?"

Aware of how committed Warrandyte people are to environmental issues, Mr Wright said, "The most important thing we can do for our children is ensure that the Australian and World Environments are protected and sustainable.

"Our forests, waterways, and oceans are being destroyed daily. In particular the destruction of the Murray-Darling river system disturbs me, especially when it is clear that modifying various farming and irrigation practices would begin the process of restoring water flow and quality.

"A central element of our commitment to the future is the development of alternative energy sources. I am integrating many green options into my own home, all of which are financially beneficial as well. I want to see an Australia where those alternatives are mainstream and standard."

Mr Wright drew the attention of his audience to "a Liberal Party document that highlights the Greens being opposed to nuclear power. At this election I'd like to ask the Liberals about their position on nuclear power and whether they are happy to risk Australian lives by supporting the installation of nuclear power plants in Australian cities."

Mr Wright also outlined Greens policy on health, education, employment, the war in Iraq, the Free Trade Agreements and transport.

"The eastern suburbs must get connected to Melbourne's public transport system, probably through the development of a rail link, which would cost half as much as a freeway and be a continuing success," he said. "Even those who drive will benefit because the overall road usage will be controllable.

"The federal government has sidelined half a billion dollars that is meant to be spent on transport infrastructure and the Greens members of the new Parliament will fight to ensure that money is used wisely."

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

Andrews' pledge

Kevin Andrews, federal MP for Menzies has forwarded the following statement to the Diary:

May I take this opportunity to thank the Menzies community for allowing me to represent them in parliament and to assure them of my enthusiasm to work hard on their behalf.

I believe important local issues are—supporting families, caring for our elderly, better roads, creating more jobs and preserving our unique local environment.

I will continue to fight for:

- Reducing taxes and more childcare places for families—there are now 3052 childcare places in Menzies.
- More aged care beds—we have increased the number in Menzies by 530 since 1996 and there are 13

aged care homes.

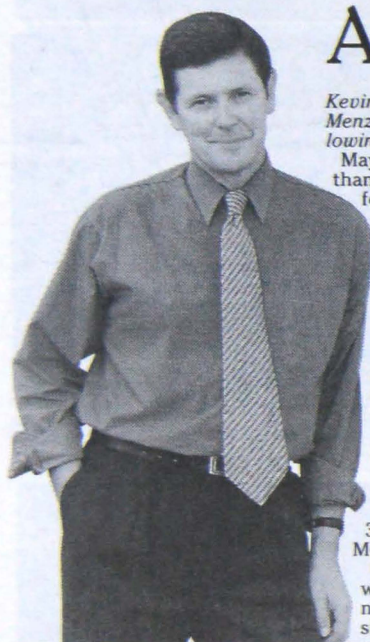
● Roads funding—almost \$8million has been provided since 2001 for Roads to Recovery and Black Spot programs.

● Creating more jobs and training our young people and older workers—local new apprenticeships have increased to 2080 in 2004.

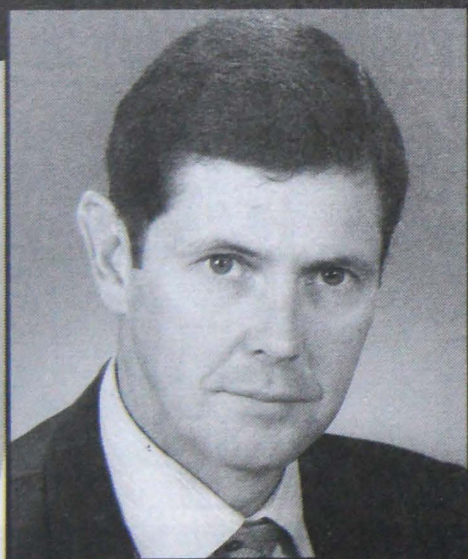
I pledge all residents in Menzies that I will continue to work hard to represent their interests and the needs of our community.

I am determined to ensure Menzies residents continue to benefit from more money for aged care, childcare, health, education, roads and the environment.

Please do not hesitate to contact my electorate office at 651 Doncaster Road, Doncaster 3108, telephone 9848 9900, fax 9848 2741, email: kevin.andrews.mp@aph.gov.au or website: www.kevinandrews.au.com



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- 3,052 childcare places, including out of school hours care
- \$7.9 million in road funding
- 2,080 new apprentices in training (2004)
- Grants to Warrandyte Housing & Support Services, Warrandyte Fire Brigade and Friends of Clifford Park

On Saturday, 9 October

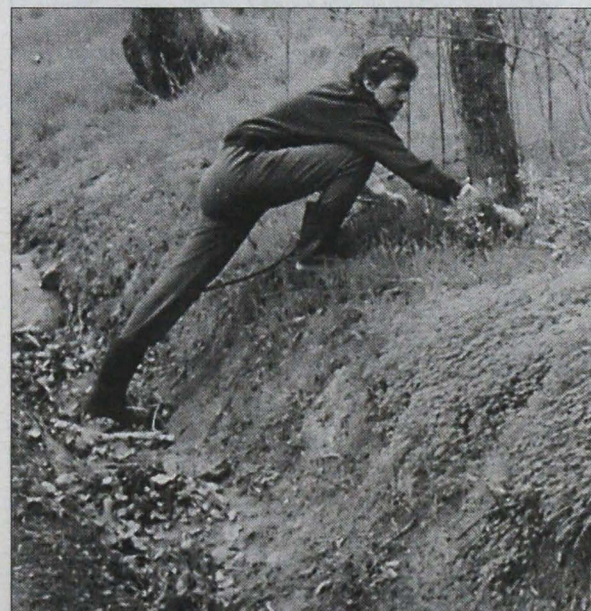
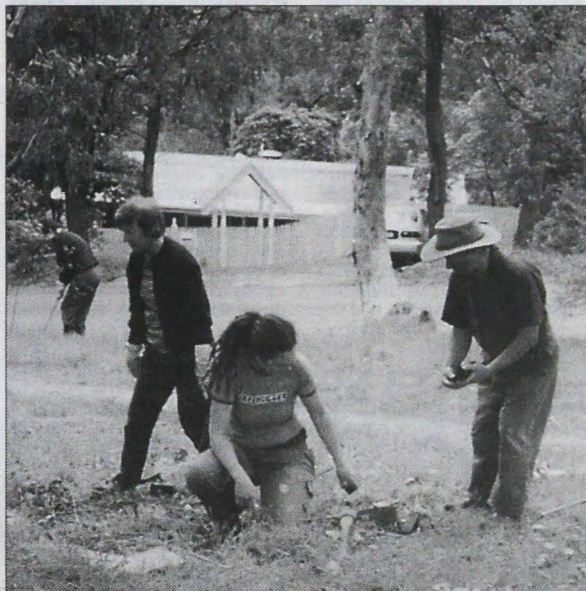
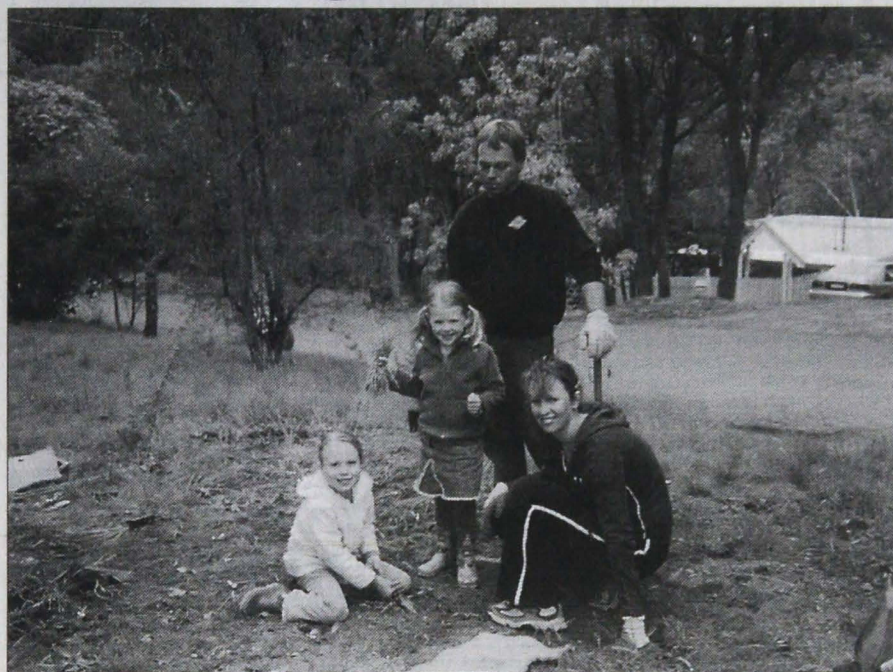
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Sustaining a street

The Webb Street Sustainability Street Group held a working bee last month to commence the revegetation of a parcel of weed-infested council road reserve near the corner of Webb Street and Sloans Road. Webb Street resident and garden designer Bev Hanson is supervising the project with costs covered by a Manningham council community grant. It is planned to carry out further work next autumn.



Pictures by JUDY GREEN



Planting up that council reserve

Could that council reserve near you be improved with some additional planting?

Manningham council is inviting residents to become involved in the community tree planting program.

"The program is a wonderful way residents can make a real difference to their neighbourhood," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"Getting together with your neighbours and planting trees is a great way to improve the visual appearance and environmental significance of local reserves and at the same time strengthen community spirit."

Council is inviting residents, community groups and local schools to apply for grants of up to \$1500 to carry out tree planting on council reserves.

Applications close on Friday, October 15. Copies of the guidelines and application forms are available online at www.manningham.vic.gov.au or by contacting council's economic and environmental planning unit on 9840 9333.



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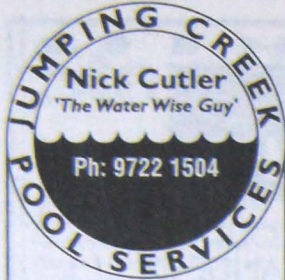
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Welcome to new school principal



Warrandyte Primary School has a new principal. She is Gill Binger (pictured). Formerly assistant principal of Balwyn Primary School, Ms Binger lives locally "and has always loved the strong community spirit of Warrandyte". She has worked with a range of different people, including both mentally and physically disabled. (Information supplied by Josh Parish, Elise Slattery and Jesse Given-Lamb.)

Land case delay

By SANDY BURGOYNE

As reported last month, the owner of an unoccupied two-acre block on Osborne Road has again applied for permission to subdivide it into two.

The new application was listed for a VCAT hearing on August 24, but has been adjourned until October 13. All parties agreed to the adjournment, as a 65-page report was lodged two days late.

The new submission before VCAT concentrates the development into the south-east corner of the property, which has suffered previous disturbance and weed invasion.

In its findings on the earlier application two years ago VCAT identified this as the only section of the land suitable for housing development. This is a small area and the style of the proposed houses is causing concern to some local groups.

"The footprint has to be small therefore they have to be three-storey," Ruth Rankin of the Osborne Peninsula Landcare Group told the *Diary*. "They are mirror-imaged—townhouses—we are calling them, because that's basically what they are."

The Osborne Road group is objecting to the proposed development, as are the Kangaroo Ground Landcare Group, Friends of Warrandyte State Park, the Warrandyte Community Association and immediate neighbours.

"This is the last piece of intact land in Osborne Road," Ms Rankin said. "We've fought through other developments in Osborne Road and this is the last intact piece of land and it is prime, beautiful bush."

Nillumbik council has refused permission for this subdivision proposal to go ahead.



COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING PROGRAM 2004/05

Does the Council reserve near you need some additional planting?

Residents are invited to apply for funding from Council to plant trees and shrubs in their local reserve. The Council also encourages community and school groups to participate in the program.

An application form for the grants program may be obtained from:

- Kay Toussaint of the Economic & Environmental Planning Unit on 9840 9348 or email kay.toussaint@manningham.vic.gov.au or
- Council's website: www.manningham.vic.gov.au

Applications for funding close on Friday, 15 October 2004.

Council's animal policy

Following extensive consultation with the animal management sector and the local community, Manningham council has adopted the revised domestic animals strategy.

A council spokesperson told the *Diary* that the revised strategy had been prepared in response to current circumstances, legislative amendments and anticipated future trends to provide for future direction and management of domestic animals in the community.

"The recent review has shown that, in general, the domestic animals strategy has served the community well," the spokesperson said.

"There have been significant changes in community behaviour in terms of responsible pet ownership, animal management and protection of the environ-

ment, with a reduction of 54 percent in reports of domestic animal issues since the strategy was first implemented."

The strategy was recently reviewed to keep it up to date with community expectations and legislative changes.

"The major areas of concern are barking dogs, dogs at large and dog attacks, dog litter, cats and the environment and animal registration."

Following the review, council has resolved to:

- Control the future keeping of domestic pets in areas of environmental significance via the domestic animals act rather than through section 173 agreements
- Conduct regular surveys of the community in order to maintain and increase compliance with registration requirements of the domestic animals

act

- Adopt the council order as the principal means of control for dogs in public places

- Review the existing dog control measures in children's playgrounds.

"In adopting the revised strategy, there will still be opportunity for the community to have input into the many actions that will flow from the document," the spokesperson said.

WRONG!

In our last issue we claimed that the Presbyterian Church in Warrandyte had "floated away" during the 1934 floods. This was incorrect. Although it was submerged almost up to the porch roof, it survived, to be destroyed in the disastrous 1939 bushfires.

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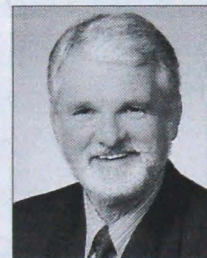
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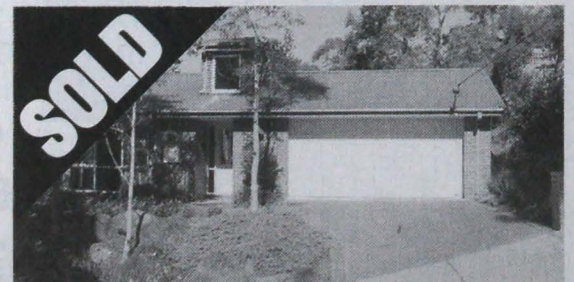
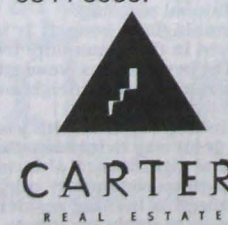
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Restoring the balance through LEAF scheme

By ALANA HORDEN

Walking through Anthony North's 40-acre South Warrandyte property is simply breathtaking. His native bushland, thriving with many varieties of wildflowers, is extraordinary, providing a pleasant pathway to the rest of his property. His pastures are a vibrant green, with rippling dams, century-old trees, and enough native wildlife to fill a zoo (not a single rabbit or fox, however). Surely, you must be asking yourself, how did he do it? How did he turn his property into an amazing array of flora and fauna, teeming with rare species?

Through the Local Environment Assistance Fund (LEAF scheme), that's how. Through this scheme, Mr North has undertaken Manningham council's property management planning course. This is a 7-week, government-subsidised program, which teaches effective and practical management techniques to improve the use, appearance and value of his

property.

Walking through Mr North's place with council environmental officer Cathy Willis we learn how much there is to know about caring for your property. The management course offers skills in plant identification, re-vegetation, erosion, fire and pasture management, and weed and rabbit control. It requires landholders to take a stocktake of their property's assets—the soil, water, fences, trees, wildlife and so on—then plan how to manage them sustainably. Experienced consultants help participants develop a five-year action plan identifying management issues and solutions for their property.

The LEAF scheme also offers financial incentives to carry out on-ground works which will protect and enhance remnant native vegetation and biodiversity. Grants of up to \$800 are available on a \$1 for \$1 basis. These incentives are available for landowners who actively seek to improve the envi-

ronmental quality of their land. This money is often spent on weed control (the LEAF grant can be used for chemical weedicides), or rabbit and fox eradication.

Pest animals, usually rabbits and foxes, wreak havoc on the environment. They damage bushland, cause huge losses for farmers, and out-compete our native animals for resources. They cost the community millions of dollars a year.

"We must be vigilant in controlling pests on our land," Cathy Willis told the *Diary*. "There are many ways of ridding your property of these pest animals."

"More than 1500 Manningham residents participate in community rabbit control programs each summer. By contacting Manningham and being a part of the LEAF scheme you too can be a part of these programs."

Aside from rabbit, fox and weed control, the LEAF scheme also offers grants and advice on fire safety, water and soil man-

agement, and pasture management.

"Water is an immensely precious resource, and we need to protect it in every way possible," Ms Willis said.

"Soil is the starting point for all life. Without soil there would be no vegetation." Both these resources are important, and any moves made to protect them are encouraged by the LEAF scheme.

"The aim of the LEAF scheme is to help people in the Green Wedge areas do the right thing environmentally on their land and protect biodiversity throughout Manningham," Ms Willis said. "A lot of people don't realise that what they do on their own land can have much wider effects."

• If your property is eligible to apply for funding, you would have received a letter regarding the LEAF scheme recently. For more information, or to receive free brochures, call Cathy Willis on 0417 533 993.



Council's Cathy Willis, Diary reporter Alana Horden and landowner Anthony North admire Anthony's restored landscape. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

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Hector heads into the far beyond



By SANDY BURGOYNE

Hector the Clydesdale and his owner Matt Jeffery will soon leave on a working horse trek. Starting at Echuca they will follow a winding route beside the Murray River through the mighty river red gums of the Barmah Forest and end at Deniliquin a week later.

Hector will be pulling a covered drover's wagon that his

owner recently finished restoring. "I bought it at a sale in Lilydale about two years ago," Matt Jeffery told the *Diary*.

His first action in restoring the wagon, which is about 100 years old, was to cut it out of its surroundings. It had been at the Lilydale property for so long that trees had grown up and virtually fenced it in. Since then Matt has restored the

wagon to its former glory including a removable canvas canopy and pin-striping on the wheels. However, inside the vehicle he departed from tradition and installed padded seating.

"The drovers of old would have just sat on crates or boxes," he said.

Hector and Matt will be in good company as several other

horse-drawn vehicles will be making the trip. They include a gipsy wagon, a tyred lorry and a tabletop cart. At the conclusion of the trek to Deniliquin they will stay on for a working horse festival to be held there on September 11 and 12.

The group of horse-drawn vehicles will return to Echuca via the Line Road, an old stock route.

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Sustainable garden award

Manningham council, together with the neighbouring municipalities of Banyule, Nillumbik and Sustainable Gardening Australia, is holding a series of regional sustainable gardening awards.

"You can enter your garden, your school's garden, or nominate a friend's garden," Cr Young told the *Diary*.

"It doesn't have to be well groomed or totally sustain-

able—this is an opportunity to share good ideas, however small, that contribute to reducing our use of resources."

- Do you have a great compost and/or worm farm?
- Does your garden produce beautiful fresh herbs, vegies and fruit? Have you worked out how to harvest and reuse rainwater and greywater on your property to help meet your garden wa-

ter requirements?

- Do you use drought tolerant plants or indigenous plants that don't require extra watering?

"If so, then these awards are for you," she said.

Cr Young said the sustainable gardening awards provide an opportunity for the community to celebrate the many ways in which local gardens make a positive dif-

ference to the environment.

This regional award will offer prizes and encouragement awards for sustainable school gardens, sustainable residential gardens and sustainable rural properties.

- For entry details please contact Kay Toussaint, on 9840 9348 or email kay.toussaint@manningham.vic.gov.au



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Green and gold, pink and white

RON GARRETT
puts the case for a 'multicultural' treescape

NOW that the blaze of green and gold of the wattles is giving way to the delicate pink and white of the cherry plums, it is probably a good time to think about weeds. It really is difficult living in Warrandyte. What with environmental problems, protecting our heritage, and the ever present danger of fire, it's no wonder that from time to time the balance becomes difficult.

A recent article in the Manningham Leader on weeds is a case in point. Weed problems are not usually an emotional issue, but when there is also a possible clash with a sense of heritage people may become polarised, seeing only a part of the issue.

Warrandyte is a small, busy country township steeped in history, on the edge of the city, on the banks of Melbourne's river, merging with the Warrandyte State Park, and having a history of encounters with devastating fires. That is a perfect background for conflicting opinions on Warrandyte's needs for both present and future.

The river walk is one place where conflicting opinions on management are apparent, and controversy will

probably always be present. It serves the purpose of public open space, as far as vegetation and buildings go, and is the only such recreational space in Warrandyte.

The sporting reserve serves a quite different and specific purpose. But one purpose it does not serve is a significant environmental reserve. There are no endangered species that rely on the river walk for their survival. There are dilapidated and even dangerous ruins of historical value. There are exotic trees that are as much part of the orchard history of the township as the buildings themselves are part of our history. There are recreational facilities that are equally incongruous in an environmental sense. There is not one and only one meaning to the word "environment".

The environment of the river walk is a recreational and heritage environment and not a natural environment, and as such serves an essential social environment. It does not detract from the value of the "natural" environments of Fourth Hill, Pound Bend, Blue Tongue Bend, or even Black's Flat. It simply serves a very different role.

In serving a recreational and heritage value, its character as part of the township's heritage should be retained. The retention of the exotic trees will not harm the physical environment, for they still serve to clean the air we breathe, and being generally leafy and fast growing, perhaps do that better than the gum trees themselves.

Of course, there are other

dimensions to "environment". You will not get a koala or glider living in a cherry-plum tree. But so what. You will not likely get one living even in a young gum tree on the side of Warrandyte's main road where the cherry plums now grow. But you will get ringtails and birds living in them. So if they also mark part of our heritage let's keep them there. After all, no one suggests getting rid of the buildings on the other side of the road, especially their own homes.

The trees will not seriously invade the bush for they will not thrive under a canopy. Indeed, the bush is very effective in restricting the range of species that can survive in it, although many will invade the edge. This is why bush regeneration works. The 100 Acres is a classic example of regeneration from a horse property and the Bio-Link project near Westerfolds is another. Agricultural land with a huge seed bank of numerous exotic agricultural weed and crop species is being allowed to regenerate as bushland largely from the indigenous species also in the seed bank, with little concern for the impact of the exotic species there.

The recovery of the bush around Warrandyte after destruction by mining activities and fire shows its resilience. And as for the Cootamundara wattle, it is so well adapted to the local environment that it would only have been a matter of time before it would likely have moved in and established itself naturally anyway, on the edges of local bushland.

So often I hear "Let's keep it as it

was", yet the environment and its flora and fauna was never constant but was always slowly changing as native species continue to explore their potential.

The real question should be, "Does this species do real harm?" for otherwise although foreign, it has more right than we do. This may all seem heresy, but it appears to me that the extremes of the environment movement have a religious rather than scientific mentality.

Indeed, the passion and inability to rationalise the different issues verges on a fixation. This new "religion" has its priests and acolytes pouring forth the cant with negligible scientific thinking and no peripheral vision.

Weeds and feral animals are unfortunately always going to be a part of life. Some are worse than others. Some will only establish in areas where local species are challenged by the disturbance of human activity. I cannot work up a distaste for house sparrows, blackbirds or even the starlings and Indian mynahs. Although feral they are endemic and do no real harm. Rabbits, cats and dogs are another matter.

So it is with exotic plants such as cherry plums and Cootamundara wattles. Blackberry is another matter, as are several escaped garden species. Even agricultural grasses and clovers are endemic through cattle grazing and ryegrass and white clover are frankly naturalised. None of the pasture species will thrive under a canopy except such European woodland grasses as

Briza. Indeed, most agricultural species are poorly competitive in agriculture and soon disappear when bush regenerates with its multilayered canopy and litter.

And what do I think is the future major weed problem for Warrandyte? Cherry plum, oak and elm trees and Cootamundara wattles are certainly not. Well, it's probably the European gorse. It is established on the Mullum Mullum creek, present in the 100 Acres reserve, there are scattered plants in South Warrandyte and it is present in at least one Park Orchards garden. Even worse perhaps, it is widespread along the disused railway line at Yarra Glen, just upstream of our State Park.

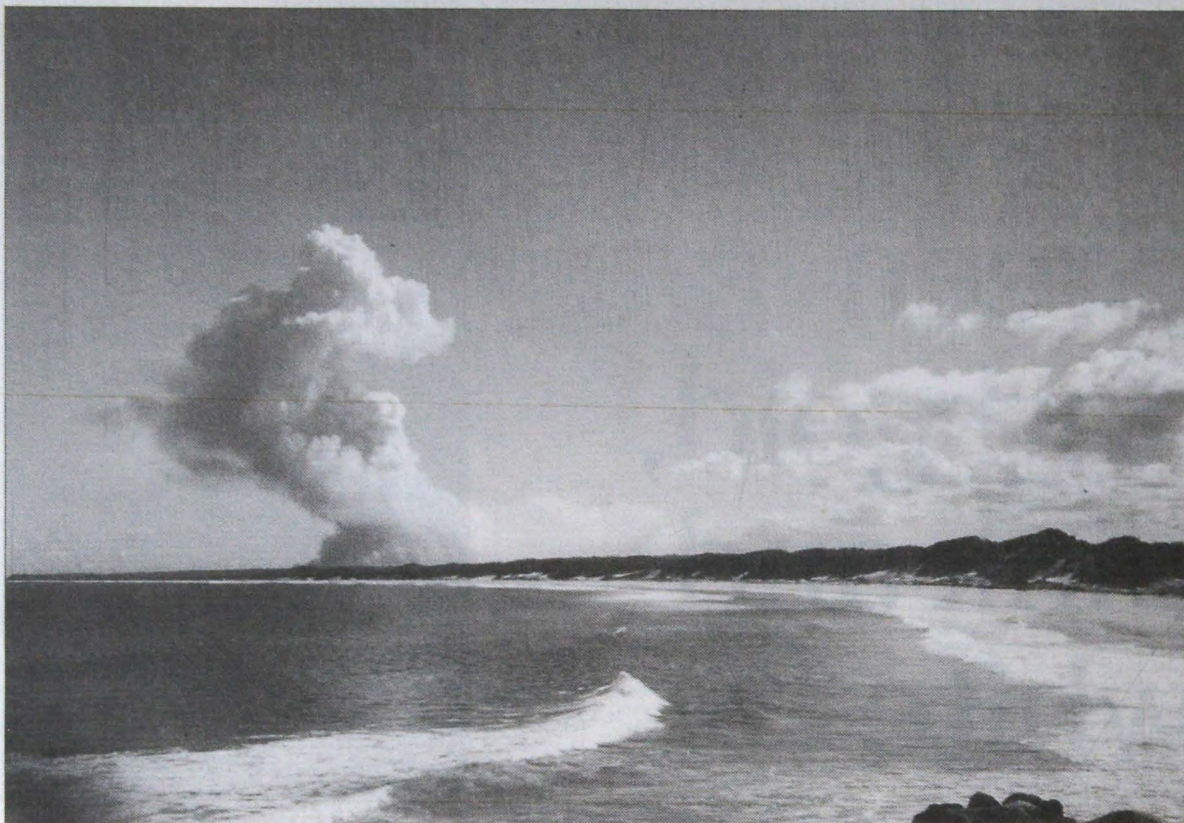
How bad is the outlook? Although it's hard to predict how bad it could get, there is a precedent. In the early 1980s I took my family on an overnight walk down the Campaspe River near Kyneton, down to the junction with Piper's Creek. It was a delightful walk, with clear river banks, although there was evidence cattle had grazed there. I took some families there in the early 1990s and the junction with the creek was smothered with gorse. The cattle were no longer there to eat the juvenile plants. In just 10 years gorse went from unseen to smothering the river valley.

Let's worry about problems that are problems. If we can balance heritage, recreational and environmental values between the township and the river, Warrandyte will remain a pleasant, if often a difficult place in which to live.



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

Facing fire on a lonely beach road



The August 18 burn-off as seen from Cape Conran. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

By LEE TINDALE

You don't really expect to be thrust into a life-threatening bushfire situation in Victoria in August — particularly at the tail end of one of the most miserable winters in memory.

But it happened to wife Jan and I on August 21 just outside Marlo, where the Snowy River meets the sea in East Gippsland.

A close encounter with a burn-off gone wrong frightened the hell out of us.

We spend a lot of time at Cape Conran, 18 kilometres to the east, during our annual pilgrimage to Marlo

and were there on the afternoon of Wednesday, August 18, when the mushroom cloud rose.

It was a fire of considerable dimensions and we correctly figured it to be roughly halfway between the cape and Marlo and safely inland from the road home. Signs along the way confirmed it was a burn-off and the drive back to camp was uneventful.

It was a very different story four days later.

Again at the cape, we watched a mushroom cloud rise again, this time driven by a howling north-westerly. We wondered why the hell

anyone would burn off in those conditions, but not to worry, it'd be controlled, wouldn't it?

Unfortunately not.

The fire had burnt for an hour or more before we headed back to Marlo — and into a world where day suddenly turned to night, a night eerily illuminated by a high wall of flame just metres to our right and about to hit the road.

If our whole lives didn't exactly flash before our eyes, it was something pretty close to it. Should we abandon the Subaru and make a run for it? No. Remember Geelong

Road that January day in 1969?

Do we make a screaming U-turn and get the hell out of there? No, the road is too narrow. Do we heed expert advice by stopping and praying to God that the flames will lick over the car and spare us?

No bloody way! We plant the foot and fly blind! Jan did just that, through the murk, headlong into whatever.

It's impossible to estimate the distance we travelled that way before we saw daylight again, enough daylight for Jan to pick up the white line.

A hundred metres? Two hundred? Haven't a clue. Didn't matter now. We were not going to die today.

But would the occupants of a utility which had been following us? Very thankfully, no.

We met the young couple later at Marlo.

"Bit hairy, eh?" said the P-plate driver.

At the Marlo end of the hot spot a few volunteers were trying to sort things out. Remarkably, the road was still open, about to be jumped in at least a couple of places.

As we reached Marlo, a local CFA truck headed east.

An Orbest truck followed 10 or 15 minutes later.

At dinner that night at the Marlo Hotel, some very weary firefighters told us the Wednesday burn-off had been a Department of Natural Resources and Environment decision and that Saturday's high winds had re-ignited it.

Jan and I have no beef with the department and certainly none with the CFA, to which we are eternally indebted for saving our home in 1991.

But we reckon that if you start a burn-off you should finish it. For good.

Laying plans against wildfire

Jeff Adair has been appointed project manager to implement a number of recommendations from the Victorian Bushfire Inquiry. He tells CLIFF GREEN about his new responsibilities.

The Victorian Bushfire Inquiry, called by the state government following the disastrous alpine fires in 2002-03, has recommended five key themes.

"My project aims to change municipal fire prevention planning to municipal fire management planning," Jeff Adair told the *Diary*. "This means that CFA will lead the process of incorporating prevention, preparedness, response and recovery into an integrated planning framework on public and private land across the state."

CFA has been charged by the state government with the job of carrying through these recommendations.

"Additionally, CFA aims to develop an enhanced municipal emergency planning process for Victoria in conjunction with the key agencies, such as SES, Victoria Police and other emergency services," Mr Adair said.

"Both stages of this process will require the ownership and involvement of key agencies, but most importantly, local communities."

The project will be on-going in nature and has received a multi-million dollar budget over a three to four year duration.

"It is an enormously complex and large project which will involve identifying a fire management planning priority at a local and municipal level. CFA aims to ensure that all aspects of fire planning are incorporated into one consistent format that will be duplicated across the state."

"There are many challenges associated with this project, including how

we incorporate the management of public land into the management of private land. Many people may consider the principal threat from fire arises from public land.

"However, based on evidence gathered during the inquiry, the key consideration is how we plan for, and reduce the risks to communities that border these areas. An example would be how we protect the biodiversity of forests and bushland, but minimise the risk to people living nearby."

"In order to do this, CFA and other agencies will need to demonstrate a willingness to develop a common language, a set of agreed planning priorities and apply these when we have a fire or other emergencies on our doorstep."

CFA intends to undertake an intensive consultation and liaison process. "This will allow us to better understand the priorities and views ex-

pressed by agencies and communities. It will be a long and complex undertaking that will occur over the life of the project."

Jeff Adair sees an important role in this consultation process for communities bordering bush and farmland, such as Warrandyte, North Warrandyte, South Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park.

"Within communities exists a matrix of differing views and priorities, and in order for us to identify both the differences and the common ground that exists in such communities, we will need to talk to community associations, interest groups, ratepayers, CFA brigades, Fireguard and environmental and conservation groups. The exact mechanisms for doing this will unfold as we go," Mr Adair said.

"At the end of this project we intend to apply a consistent approach to how we think about, how we plan, prepare,




respond and recover from fire and other emergency events. We will endeavour to ensure that all our resources are used more efficiently and effectively to guard against, and to deal with fire.

"I hope to be talking with local community groups some time in the near future," Mr Adair said.


NEXT ISSUE

The next *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, October 13. Copy will close on Friday, October 1.



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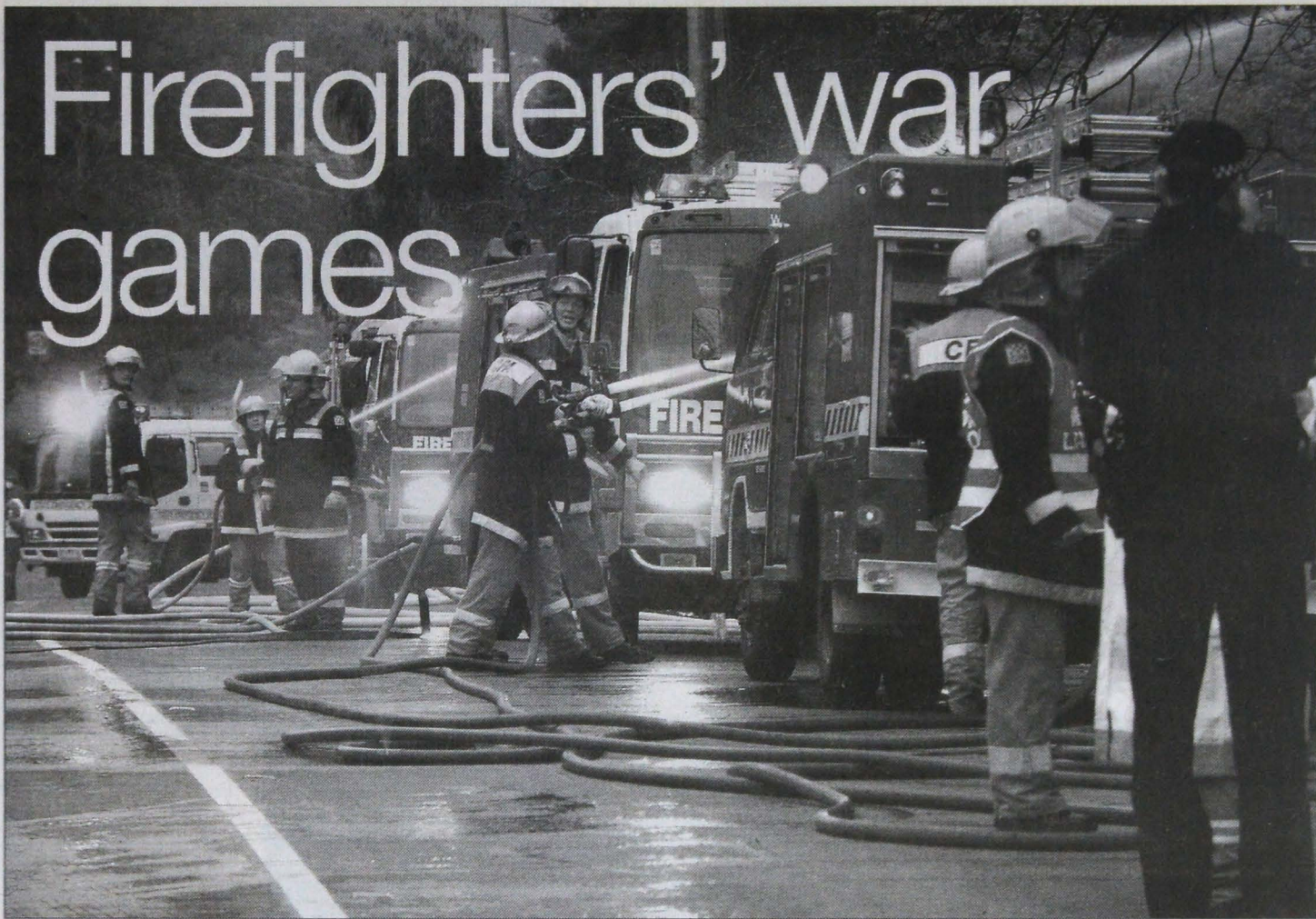
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Firefighters' war games



No, the Grand Hotel did not go up in flames on the morning of Sunday, August 8. The three Warrandyte CFA brigades, Bayswater CFA, local police and Doncaster SES were engaged in a major training exercise.

"This exercise involved a scenario of a fire at the Grand Hotel, Yarra Street, with staff and patrons still unaccounted for inside the building," Glen Lowther of North Warrandyte brigade told the *Diary*.

"The exercise was run as close to reality as possible, with members paged to the 'emergency' at around 7am. The first units to arrive were confronted by the hotel manager who stated that there was a fire in the kitchen area and a number of staff and patrons were missing."

The exercise aimed to provide crews with valuable experience in general fire fighting skills, use of breathing apparatus, search and rescue, command and control and exposure to a large-scale incident.

"The exercise was an outstanding success, with more than 60 people taking part. It was a great example of the brigades, other services and the community working together," Mr Lowther said.



**Pictures by
STEPHEN
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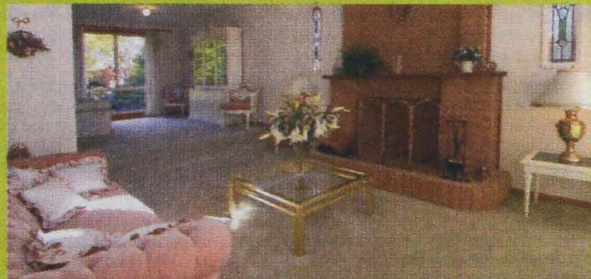
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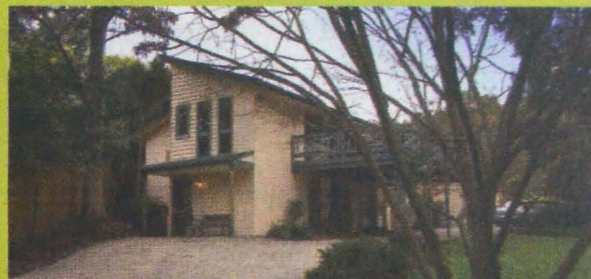
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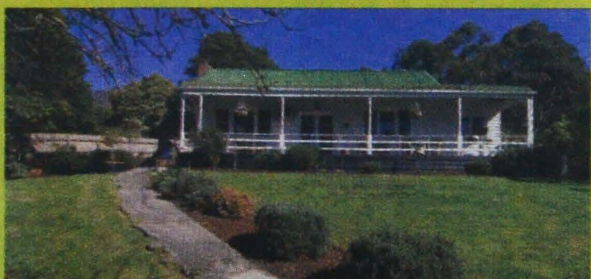
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Messing about in mud: even the ducks laughed

I WAS on a sympathetic fishing trip really but the response was unexpected. "A disgrace!" "Pee weak!" "They should have drowned her!"

All this from, "What do you think about the rower who" I didn't even get the chance to finish the question before the tirade began.

"She's an elite athlete and she should know how to pace herself!"

"Why didn't she just 'air row' if she was feeling bushed. But to just stop and fall flat on her back..."

I left feeling somewhat shell-shocked. I had expected at least someone to say something about exhaustion and finite endurance levels but there was no one who came to the defence of the rower who had gained herself a reputation similar to Bin Laden's.

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"Sweat was streaming down my face and my hands were locked into rigor mortis. I was exhausted and finding it harder and harder to lift my feet out of the mud."

The problem was that I was feeling fragile at the time and was hoping for a sympathetic segue between the rower's experience and my own.

We had finished building the unit at the bottom of the garden but hadn't dealt with the drainage and the pathways. In hindsight, it would have been preferable to hand over the grounds to the local conservation society for an environmental marshland, but that wasn't really going to be an option, so the only solution was to dig trenches, lay drainage pipe, fill the trenches with screenings

and then topsoil.

We have 16 ducks who live on our dam and although they have thousands of cubic litres of water to drink from, they seem to prefer drinking from the muddy pools of water that have been formed in the clay by the feet of the builders. This, in itself, is not a problem, but what is unfortunate is that their adorably cute, webbed feet massage the surface of the clay into a slurry with a minus friction ratio and the adhesion power of a telemarketer.

After the first step onto the rink and losing the first pair of shoes to potential mulch, I went for the gumboots with string tied around the ankles to prevent them being enveloped in an archaeological future.

It was a very easy task to mark out the route the trench was to follow but it was not so simple when I came to dig it.

My first swing with the mattock was full of promise: a smooth arc, a steady rhythm and a forceful downward stroke. However the squelch, followed immediately by a bone-shuddering jar, was my first intimation that all was not well. I tried to raise the mattock but it was stuck firmly in the clay. Stroke number one was a complete failure and I still had thousands to go!

Undeterred, I gripped the handle even more firmly and yanked. Remember the bit about minus friction?

My ankle-tying of the gumboots was terribly efficient because my feet stayed firmly inside the boots as they slid from beneath me. I still can't see what the ducks find so intriguing about the muddy pool water amongst the pock-marked clay, but I can tell you that my bum, arms and eventually my back found nothing endearing in the way it seeped through to my skin.

Having changed clothes and reassessed my plan of attack, I set to work scraping off the six or seven centimetres of mud along the trench line before

starting on the mattocking. I still had trouble maintaining my footing, but by some grace of some god, I managed to begin the trench line without any more falls.

To that stage, I had taken one and a half hours and the screenings were to be delivered at any moment. The only place for them to be dropped was a good 10 metres away from the trench and in order to get the barrowload of screenings to the trench, I would have to cross a muddy quagmire. I remembered the photos of the trenches in WWI and set about placing a board path across the menacing swamp.

I had the trench quarter dug when the truck arrived with the screenings. Sweat was streaming down my face and my hands were locked into rigor mortis. I was feeling exhausted and was finding it harder and harder to lift my feet out of the mud.

Suddenly, I heard the reverse beeping of the truck and looked up to see it heading straight for our garden tap. Obviously, the driver couldn't see that he was about to turn on Old Faithful so, desperately, I tried to lurch my way to stop him. Half-way to the dumping spot, I hit a particularly slippery section.

I heard the truck stop and the door close. I was waiting for words of concern but all I heard was a belly laugh and, "Mate, I wouldn't join a rowing crew if I were you!"

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Living in birdland in a North Queensland paradise

I HAVE never had the time or patience to study birds as intensely as I have plants. Even armed with a comprehensive field guide, identification of a swiftly moving silhouette is frustratingly difficult.

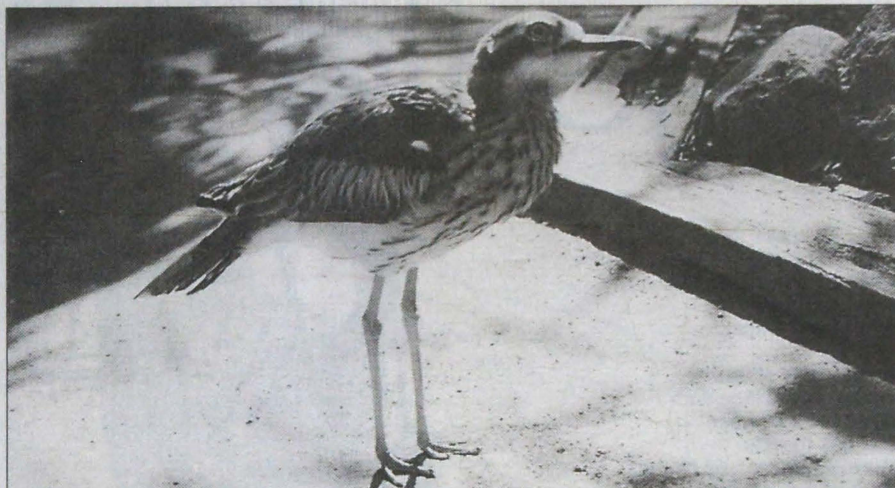
Unlike plants, you cannot simply collect a specimen and take it home to identify at your leisure. However, during June and July this year I had the opportunity to get to know birds in a way I have never done before.

We were in North Queensland, 55 kilometres south of Townsville, staying in one of only six houses on site at the Australian Institute of Marine Science where my scientist husband was working for eight weeks. For the first time in many years I had time on my hands to catch up on some writing. Quite unexpectedly the added bonus was the birds.

The institute is surrounded on three sides by the dry tropical woodland of Bowling Green Bay National Park and, on the fourth, by the Pacific Ocean. With so few people to disturb them the birds were unusually bold. Raucous Friarbirds constantly flittered amongst the foliage of the large tree outside the house and when the sprinklers were turned on in the garden beds it was an open invitation to all and sundry. Sharing a drink and a bath were various honeyeaters, trillers, finches and the glorious Yellow-bellied Sunbird.

Soaring the skies above, on broad outstretched wings, kites and even eagles were a common sight. In fact, there are 15 species of birds of prey listed for the park—more than any other group of birds.

Some birds were simply too big to miss, like the pair of Bustards grazing in the grassland beside the road, or the



NATURE

By PAT COUPAR

lone Jabiru prodding the mudflats with its sharp ultra-long black bill. Ever present were the enigmatic Brush-turkeys—those black-bodied, red-necked, yellow-collared, chook-like birds that strut over the grass holding their broad fan-like tail erect.

Quite early in our stay I discovered the bower of a Great Bowerbird. I was drawn to it by the incessant electronic-sounding churring of the male bird. Unlike the Satin Bowerbird of southern regions that collects blue objects to decorate its bower, this bird—and I presume other males of the same species—prefers pink adornments.

The bower itself is a skilled construction consisting of a curved, twin-walled central

platform made of sticks separating, at either end, two piles of shells, pumice, foil and broken glass. Scattered amongst these were various pink objects including drinking straws, lids, berries and even a scrap of lurid pink material. I watched the bird in his bower on several occasions, picking up the articles in his beak and rearranging them like a fussy housewife.

The birds I grew to know best and love most were the Bush Stone-curlews or Bush Thick-knees as they are also known—although I much prefer the former name, as turn to stone they certainly can. These curiously endearing creatures have a great repertoire of calls including a frantic yapping, a quiet mewing, a threatening hiss and strangest of all, at night, they wail. It is an eerie sound that starts slowly with one bird and then reaches a strident crescendo as more individuals join in, only to fall away and begin again and again.

We nicknamed them “the wailers”.

Reluctant fliers, up to six birds at a time would chase each other across the grass on long skinny legs. A few weeks after we had been in the house a lone bird took up residence outside the back door. Sometimes it just stood motionless, melding with the shrubs, other times it lay prone on its belly, neck outstretched on the ground, indistinguishable from the surrounding logs and fallen leaves. It seemed to enjoy being around us and I came to realise that the hissing sound it made was not to deter us, but was actually to draw our attention to it—a kind of greeting.

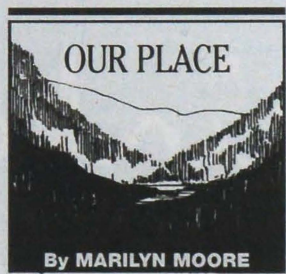
The memory of the Stone-curlews lingered long after our return to Warrandyte. Sometimes waking in the night, momentarily confused about where I am, I think I can still hear them, wailing like forlorn spirits, calling to each other across darkness.

Synchronised grinning, for one

IT'S all over. *Obesa cantavit*. The fat lady has sung. Now that the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad have slowly sunk back into the earth from which they first arose, we'll have to find something to do with ourselves for the next four years.

I must say it was all getting a bit silly. Flicking between SBS and Channel 7 last week, we mostly got to watch boring old basketball, beach volleyball, basketball, baseball, boxing or more basketball. And half of these were relegation matches. To further add insult to injury, network ads were being replayed for the zillionth time. I can't imagine any circumstance that would tempt me to watch rubbish like “Surprise Wedding 2”. I'd rather toss the TV right out the window.

Back to what we really wanted to watch: the Games. *Citius, Altius, Fortius* is indeed stirring stuff, but there's just too much of it. We aren't the only ones compiling a list of Olympic sports that ought to be ditched. The Olympics are getting so big that soon no one will want to host them. Poor old Greece will be in hock for the rest of the



OUR PLACE

By MARILYN MOORE

century after the squillions they spent on this year's effort, so I'm sure they'd be the first to agree.

So what's on your scrap list? I reckon there's two ways to look at it. The first is to go back and check out the IOF's criteria for inclusion of a sport in the first place. However, this is scary. Six pages of fine print. Presumably if a sport has passed all these criteria, then it's just about impossible to argue a case for getting rid of it. It obviously appeals to somebody, or even quite a few people, and generates a considerable audience (with associated revenue).

The other way to downsize the games would be to use the gut-feeling approach. I vote for

leaving out any event that:

- starts with a “b”;
- involves “time out”;
- involves nose-clips;
- looks more like fun than hard work; or
- has it's own World Cup or Grand Slam.

Let's see, as well as all the boring “b's”, that's shifted volleyball, soccer, water polo, synchronised grinning, mountain biking, sailboarding, tennis; and probably a few others as well. And all the martial arts could be streamlined into one truly exciting competition. You wouldn't know whether your next opponent was going to wield a sabre or wrestle you in the time-honoured Greco-Roman fashion. If that didn't spruce up your Taekwondo tactics, nothing would! Perhaps shooting had better be kept separate though, to keep the lid on insurance costs.

Another idea would be to revert to the 1896 sports. On second thoughts, maybe not. There were no women's events, for a start. But there were some other intriguing contests (alongside athletics, gymnastics and swimming): rope climbing, army pistol firing, 100m

freestyle for sailors, a 12-hour cycling race, and weightlifting divided into only two categories— one-handed lift and two-handed lift. Given the primitive nature of 19th century bicycle technology, I wonder how many riders survived the rigors of 12 hours in the saddle? No sealed roads in those days. Ouch!

Going back even further in time, the events of the ancient Games must have satisfied the customers pretty well, because the format lasted for over one thousand years: running (various distances), pentathlon (including discus, javelin and long jump), boxing, wrestling and equestrian events. Boxing would have been even more of a bloodsport than it is now, as metal pieces were bound onto the hand joints to enhance the violence of the punches. Perhaps this is why a pugilist called Melankomas developed a famous winning technique of wearing his adversaries down by continuously evading their blows. In ancient Olympia there would have been no timers, no statistics—only the stuff of which legends are made.

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Skin shedding

You know it's been sneaking up
Gradually, and then
she wants to dye her hair
white
"but your own's so nice..."

The beckoning finger
of feminine artifice.
The fresh young face
disturbed by paint—
which hardens around the eyes.

The obsession with reflection,
constant gazing into mirror's pools.
Narcissus looks too deeply.
Falls in and out of love.

And when she's in (love)
it's all cocky superiority,
flashing more than bits
of that lovely body
"Look what I've got?"

And the mother's worry
they know that
the sleaze-men leer
the addendum.

But when she's out (of love)
There's no magic potion
from the cupboard full
that will change the fact
that she's not the perfect "Dolly"
with gossamer skin
and floating hair.

The blackness then seeps.
Ms Hyde bares her fangs
after ensuring that they
are super white
and smell of mint.

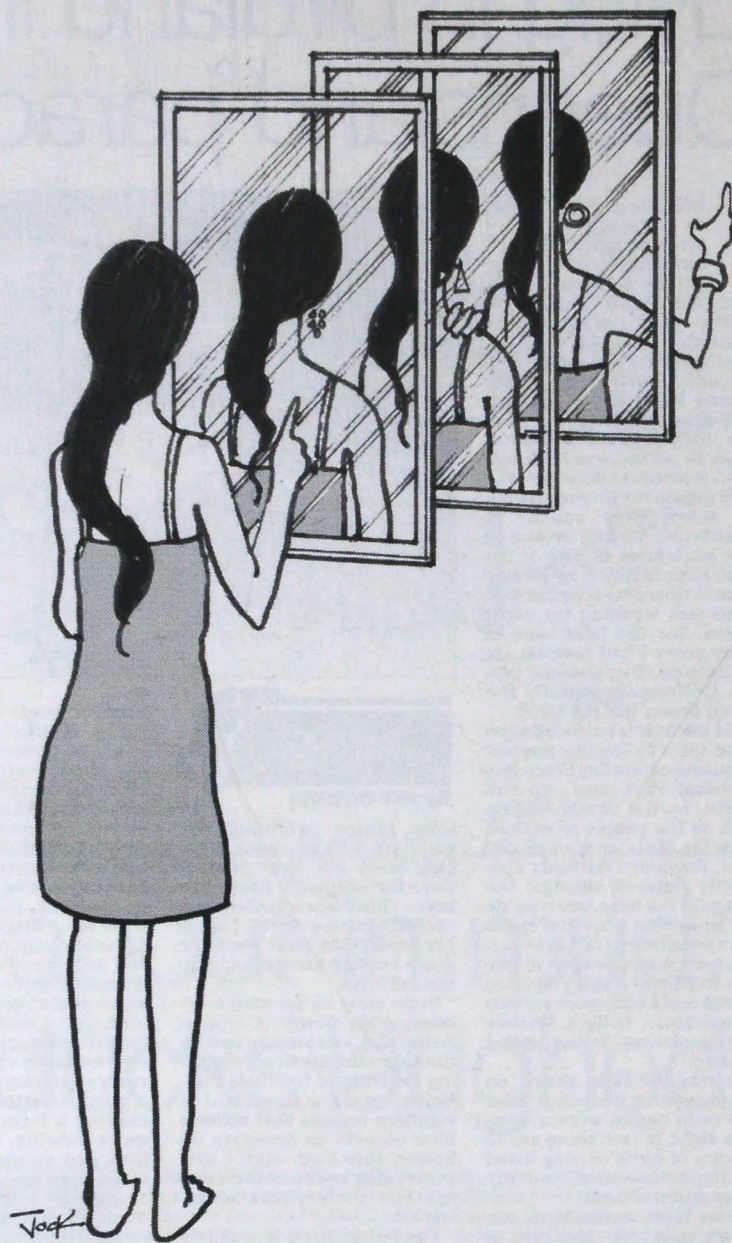
She bleakly stares
at that lovely face and
sees flaws so huge
she has to hide.
Burrows under bed clothes.
"Not home, not here."

And the mothers worry—
Depression? Drugs?
But surely quite a sane
response
to being sometimes skinless

She's shed her child's skin
Feels naked, wants it back
So she camouflages or retreats
Flaunts, then hides—
a bewildered dance.

Whilst she waits
for her new skin
to fit.

KAREN THROSSELL



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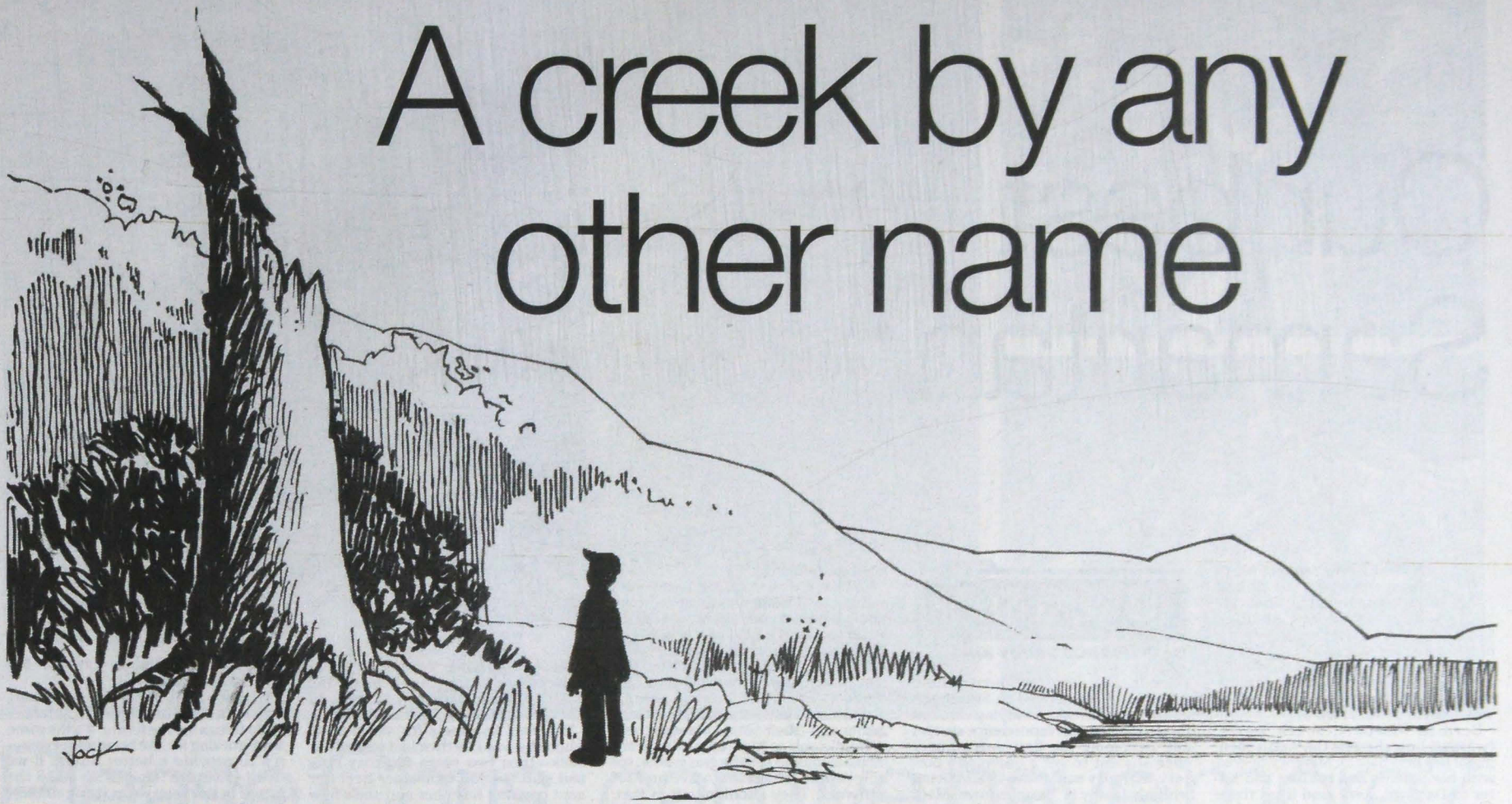
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A creek by any other name



“Just as the key to a specie’s survival in the natural world is its ability to adapt to local conditions, so the key to human survival will probably be the local community. If we can create vibrant, increasingly autonomous and self-reliant local groupings of people that emphasise sharing, cooperation and living on the earth, we can avoid the fate warned of by Rachael Carson (in Silent Spring) and the world’s scientists and restore the sacred balance.” David Suzuki

In the Latrobe picture collection of the State Library of Victoria is a sketch by Herman Zumstein entitled “Andersons’ Creek, August 1856”. It depicts a traveller with swag on back, coat, hat and walking stick, arriving at a clearing with a random collection of five bark huts, scattered beneath tall Eucalypts on sloping land. The traveller appears to be seeking advice from a child, possibly on directions to a resident’s hut. Huge tree stumps and thick bush surrounding the clearing attest to the recent conversion of the forest into the beginnings of the Andersons Creek village.

The Wurundjeri were still very much part of that landscape in 1856, although they are not depicted in the sketch of that bush idyll. Andersons Creek was known to the Wurundjeri as Be-al, which is the word for River Red Gum. They are perhaps the most ubiquitous Eucalypts in Australia; curiously however, they are almost entirely absent from Warrandyte. Why would the Wurundjeri name a creek after a Eucalypt that is extremely rare and where Manna Gums control the river and

FELLOWSHIP OF THE FORESTS

By GLEN JAMESON

Red Box rule the ridges?

Perhaps by sweeping along the entire 250km length of the river with a broad brushstroke and defining the Yarra Valley riparian landscape in terms of the dominant Eucalypts, patterns may emerge which help resolve the Red Gum riddle.

The Yarra Yarra begins its travelling life high in the hills surrounding Mt Baw Baw. The river here is youthful and fast, cutting its way through the mountains, eroding rock and soil, carrying the sediment load on its downward journey. Towering Mountain Ash, Mountain Grey Gum and Alpine Ash characterise these riparian valleys. Coming off the mountains and landing on the huge flood plains around Yarra Glen, a complex of Swamp Gums dominates the cool frosty valley with specialist Eucalypts like the rare Yering Gum and the Yarra Gum eking out a living. The Yarra matures as it crosses the Yarra Glen floodplains; slowing down its flow, discarding the soil it has carried in its swag from the mountains, adding to the rich alluvial deposits of the floodplain.

Mt Lofty marks the start of the Warrandyte Gorge. The uplifted land of the Nillumbik plateau means that the river has to cut its way through rock to keep on course to meet the ocean. It becomes swift and youthful once more. Manna Gums dominate the river’s edge through the Warrandyte Gorge. These are the trees the traveller would have seen in 1856, the trees after whom the Wurundjeri named

themselves millenniums ago, and they are the Eucalypts we see along the river today. The Warrandyte Gorge nears its end at Tikilara, at the confluence of the Mullum Mullum Creek and the Yarra. There on the broad floodplain at the end of the Mullum Mullum Valley, Blakley’s Red Gum and River Red Gum begin to populate the Yarra Valley, and by Westerfolds Park, the domination of the landscape by River Red Gum is complete—all the way to Port Phillip Bay. Emerging from the Mullum Mullum Valley, the Yarra once more behaves like a mature river, slowing its flow, meandering in wide arcs and dropping its load of sediment on the Chandler floodplains of Templestowe, Heidelberg and Ivanhoe.

So why name Andersons Creek Be-al? River Red Gums were particularly important to the Wurundjeri. The bark could be removed—without killing the tree—and made into canoes or such smaller items as dishes and shields. Canoes were essential for river navigation and critically important for fishing and the harvesting of edible water plants. To know where Be-al grew was an important ecological detail. A few hundred metres downstream of the Be-al and Yarra Yarra confluence, is the stump of an old River Red which died in 1989. It had been burnt out, swung on for a rope swing and finally broke in half, never to recover. It would have been cherished by early settlers because of its durability and strength and therefore may have been selectively logged. The Warrandyte Gorge is perhaps too cool and wet for River Reds to thrive, except in a few isolated places. The black stump marks the upstream extent of its Yarra Valley distribution. It is an important piece of ecological information for those dependent on the local environment to provide everything, and this informa-

tion would have been embedded in the cultural and philosophical cosmos of the Wurundjeri.

Today, when weekend travellers arrive in Warrandyte for brunch and café latte, some tall Eucalypts, set in surrounding bush, still survive in places. The village looks nothing like it did in 1856, but still they ask for advice, perhaps where to park the vehicle. There are so few parking slots the traveller has to search among the Manna Gums, wondering, perhaps if the space they occupy would be better used for parking.

A traveller to the village now does not need to know the distribution of River Reds to survive; just where to get a feed at the fast food counter and how to pay for it. The ever busy road through the village connects us to the city and beyond to the pace of the world. Each day brings more and more travellers to Warrandyte and beyond. It is a busy life with the pace of living speeding up with every electronic heart beat of technological change.

Distracted by modern technology we have abandoned absorbing the detail of the natural world. Awash in the smog of data we have information at our fingertips, yet remain further away from any real knowledge about our place in the world. We seem to be running away from being part of any particular place. Being part of a place entails responsibility for that place. Anderson, whose name is carried by the creek, only stayed in Warrandyte for a short time but his name lasted, for what reason? Be-al on the other hand is forgotten. Ecological information is not part of our cosmos.

The author is indebted to David Quammen’s Song of the Dodo for direct quotes and many ideas contained in this article.



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Our best Samaritan

ANYONE in Warrandyte who's ever suffered a bit of bad luck, whether it be financial, housing or just needing some advice, will know the name of Margory Lapworth. She's currently in charge of the local housing and support service, continuing the huge contribution she's made to the Warrandyte community.

Born in Newport, south Wales, (which is how she gets the Welsh spelling of her first name), Margory moved with her parents and brother and sister to Dartford, Kent, and lived there until she was married and moved to Nottingham. In 1968 she and her husband Tony and their 12 year-old son Mark came to Australia.

"Our friends kept writing from Australia, saying 'it's a great place to bring up your son; the education is fantastic,'" Margory said. "But when we walked off the boat after being seasick for five weeks we walked down into Melbourne and I said, 'I can't stay here, I'm going home.' It wasn't a good entry."

Her father had been in the merchant navy for a long time and then worked for the electricity board, while her mother was a psychiatric nurse and secretary of the local branch of the British Legion. Margory's brother was killed in a road accident in England and her sister, who'd migrated to Canada and had seven children there, died five years ago. "We went to Canada to visit my sister after 27 years of Christmas cards and toll calls for birthdays. It's very isolated here—there are just three of us and 25 of the extended family in Canada."

The year after their arrival in Australia, the Lapworths left for Sweden to work, initially for a year during which Mark went to school in England. "Sweden was a very interesting place to live for children. One weekend we went from 30 degree heat to five feet of snow," she said.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

But their term drew out to three years and Mark moved to Sweden to be with his parents, studying through the Australian correspondence system and becoming the first correspondence student to get a university bursary, Margory said. Now 48 and living with his family in Templestowe, Mark is a chemical engineer who works in health and safety.

In 1984 the family moved back to England, permanently they thought, and bought a hotel in Derbyshire. "Running our own hotel in England was amazing, a great eye-opener. Every October there's a footrace in Derbyshire up a mountain and down again. We had hotel rooms, self-contained cottages and a caravan park and we were warned about the numbers that would attend the race. We got up at 6am to find the car park and the road and everything jammed by coaches—we served 1000 meals over two hours of lunchtime."

The Lapworths returned to Australian after Tony became very sick. "We'd lived in Eltham previously and we went to look at a house in Warrandyte which we didn't like, but I said to the agent I liked the look of the one across the road. It was for sale; we walked in and out and bought it. Warrandyte's the only place to live."

"I don't have an answer to the cemetery question but I'm pleased it's not going ahead. Ninety-nine per cent of the population would say a new cemetery is necessary 'but not on my front door.' Lilydale is just magnificent—I want to be there—that view!

"It's the same as for the retirement houses, Stiggants Reserve-type places, which could go there—there's such a

need for housing.

"When I was younger I was very ambitious. I trained as an accountant but I've been a consultant most of my life in the health field and now I work in transitional housing." Margory feels her biggest achievement has been running Warrandyte's housing and support services, whose office is now under threat. She's angered by governments and "their total inadequacies".

"Politicians as high up as the prime minister should see the grassroots, see how people are meant to live on \$200 per week. They shouldn't sit in their ivory towers saying people can afford to live on what they give them. There are people with children living in cars. Children should have the right to a decent home."

"And there's no housing for mental health. A long-haired, bearded Warrandyte man who's never had anywhere to live has been coming into the office for coffee and warmth. We've just found a place for him, a permanent home, in Box Hill."

"I love to see one of my families (in need) get housing, get money, moving on. Children and parents can be very miserable and terribly unhappy and seeing them achieve something a few weeks later makes it all worthwhile."

"Volunteers inspire me. People like Alan Alder. It doesn't matter what I want, he'll get it. Keith Walker, he's there. Quiet achiever Stephen Grubb, who'll find clothes, presents for kids, fundraising, most people wouldn't even know who he was. The whole of the Warrandyte community is so great to us at the housing service."

Margory has won three awards for community services, an Australia Day award, a Federation Medal and a Paul Harris Rotary award. "I'd like to get an Order of Australia, but someone would have to put me up for that. That would make me a real Australian."

In her free time she plays piano, reads and knits. "I've just knitted and



(Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

collected 142 items for children in Sudan, various people have helped." She is also a foster parent to 13 year-old Anastasia, 'who's gorgeous, lovely.'

"We had Anastasia for six months when she was five then had to give her back—then two years ago they rang and said, do you remember her? Her aunt couldn't have her and she's now with us. She still sees her parents which is very important. We're quite old to have such a young person in the house but you'd have to prise her away with pincers to get her out now."

"I don't like the way the world is going. The way children are treated is just awful. Mark was very quiet and we had no problems with him but when I see some of the problems families have I didn't know I was born."

"We're looking at how literacy can be helped with reading rooms—voluntary grandmas helping sit and teach children to read. Children are slipping through the system. Either they're very naughty and branded as menaces or they're so quiet they become 'good children' but they don't know how to read or write."

"Louise Joy and I have been friends since 1988 and she's very special to me. So are all the volunteers who work with me. I love to see my family achieving. Anastasia was Year 7 dux at Warrandyte High School with seven As, and she's just passed her Grade 3 music. I was thrilled. I love to see kids achieve their potential."

"A big turning point for me was deciding to become Australian. Thirty-one years was a long time to make up our mind. We had no need to do so but it only took the visa office to suggest it. Another turning point was the graduation of our son. It was a cutting

of ties—'now you're on your own but we're still here for you'."

Margory feels she's always looking forwards. "It's why I joined Rotary—to do things for the future. It's the same with working for the housing service—it's to provide a better future. If we don't have the impetus to make the future better then we're living shallow lives."

Her biggest issue at the moment is to keep the housing service office and to find housing for people living on the streets or who are being evicted. "We provide food parcels, emergency relief, we support families in trauma, the courts and child protection. We're funded by the \$6000 we get for organising the community market—we beg, steal or borrow the rest."

"I would love to see that our service is totally unnecessary, that would be a good legacy. I hope people appreciate what I have done and remember it. But people don't want to know. They don't like to think of hardship. It's 'I've got my own family—it's not my problem.' But I've got to do something to make it better."

"I'm just an ordinary person, although other people would see me differently from how I see myself. I'm a grandmother. I have empathy for people and I love to work very hard for their rights. I'm a second Louise Joy, who said 'Margory is taking over where I left off.'"

"I can't be normal—I must have elements of madness. My husband says I have to have a challenge but I'm just a person trying to do something about the madness of the world. I'm not as bad as I'm sometimes painted. All I can say is, if you've got a passion about you, do it."



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Please Chris, can we have more?

SUNSHINE never seems to penetrate the perpetual gloom of Dickensian London. Like rats in a sewer, criminals and starving urchins struggle to survive in a dank underworld where stealing something as seemingly worthless as a "nose rag" makes a difference. Such is the setting of Lionel Bart's adaptation of *Oliver Twist* in the much-loved musical production *Oliver!* And nobody could have been disappointed with Warrandyte High School's recent version of it. Thoughtfully balancing the rigmarole of a stage show with Dickens's insights on the plight of the poor in London's workhouses, directors Chris and Lynette White delivered a wonderfully rounded production. Strong performances across the board made the most of a dynamic script. Almost every scene, from the forlorn workhouse gruel queue to Fagin's final exit, was enlivened by a freshness and vigour that more than compensated for the occasional lack of polish or off-key note. This production of *Oliver!* was also visually exciting. Imaginative and functional set design, finely tuned lighting

and great choreography provided the framework of a seamless flow onstage. Costuming and make-up contributed significantly to the eye-catching roles of Fagin, Nancy, Bill Sykes, Sowerberry and the Artful Dodger amongst others. The ensembles were very effective, especially the workhouse urchins, and there was never any doubt about the status of characters such as Bill Sykes and Mr Bumble. Even the program looked good. The casting worked well, too. Young Callan Hales made a fine *Oliver*. His stage work was practised and capable, quite distinctively so for a Year 7 student, and his voice pleasant and mostly well-controlled. We look forward to seeing more of this young man in the future. Liam Gough, veteran of noteworthy performances in past productions of the *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Pippin*, made a welcome return to WHS for a stand-out role in *Oliver!* He invested in the crafty rogue Fagin a vivid and meticulously observed character that once again brought the house down. Liam's rendition of "Reviewing the situation" was particularly impressive.

THEATRE

By MARILYN MOORE

One of the most eye-catching performances was that of Ashlee Noble as the bold and resourceful Artful Dodger. Years of training and professional experience came to Ashley's aid, producing a finely honed little character that stood out even from the depths of a chorus and proved one of the great strengths of this show. Her solo effort in "Consider yourself" was quite brilliant. Kate Burns gave a lovely gutsy performance as Nancy. Her powerful and flexible singing voice coupled with a dynamic stage presence just about had the audience singing along with the drinking song "Oom-pah-pah". In contrast, the sweet and passionate ballad "As long as he needs me" was delicately handled. The role of feared bully Bill Sykes was played with awesome ferocity by Damien McLean. It's hard to imagine

any redeeming qualities in Sykes, and Damien's portrayal was convincingly that of a loathsome thug. Yet Nancy loved him! Another Dickensian contradiction colourfully rounded out. One of my favourite characters was the wonderfully macabre Mr Sowerberry, played with great virtuosity by Shane Pritchard. His shrewish wife (Jen Dix) was also a delight. Even in one short scene, this couple displayed all the little vices and virtues that bring Dickens's characters so powerfully to life; Shane and Jen got a really good handle on this. Greedy beadle Mr Bumble (Lachlan Ruthven), overseer of the workhouse, and his conniving lady friend Widow Corney (Jess Chandler) also made a memorable couple. Dickens again managed to squeeze into these two characters quite a bit of social commentary (on marriage amongst other things), faithfully translated by Bart into the script of *Oliver!* and imaginatively delivered by Jess and Lachlan. "I shall scream" was particularly well-performed. In *Oliver!*, of course, excellent script notwithstanding, the characters and

the visuals would be empty shells without the all-important music. Below stage in the pit, the little orchestra (under the direction of Kirk Skinner) did a splendid job in providing that magic ingredient—a live backing. On stage, the colourful barrage of tunes, well-known to most, is one of the great strengths of a show that never fails to appeal. Favourite numbers not already mentioned include "You've got to pick a pocket or two", "I'd do anything", "That's your funeral", "It's a fine life"; the list goes on and on. It was all simply wonderful stuff, with never a dull moment. Following the supposed retirement in 2003 of long-time directors Chris and Lynette White, there was an element of the unknown surrounding WHS's 2004 production. But the Whites did a Dame Nellie Melba and bounced back, and this year there is no word (in the program, anyway) of a second retirement. Who knows what the future will bring? One thing is certain, anybody who saw *Oliver!* will be looking forward eagerly to next year's WHS production.



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

My childhood dream

Last month we published a tribute to Lynne Cappellani, who died on June 24. Husband DANNY CAPPELLANI has contributed this moving account of their life together.

HAVING been born during the war years in the humble but beautiful Adriatic village of St Domenica, in a country ravaged by war, life was anything but ideal. Food was scarce and the hardship was overwhelming for the peace-loving community of Istria. Our childhood was not lavish, but we had plenty of family love. Being a twin in a family of 10 kids my memories are many and precious. Our parents taught us to be respectful, honest, humble, hard working. Above all we learned that dreaming cost nothing, so we did plenty of it, hoping for a good future.

The fallout from the war had dramatic consequences for our region and overnight it became part of Yugoslavia, after being part of Italy since the Roman Empire. Our family was always patriotic and although it took nine years we were eventually allowed to be repatriated, as long as we left all our possessions to Tito's government. So in 1957 we packed our bags and left our beloved homeland of Istria and settled in Varese at the foot of the Alps. Thus began my love for the High Country.

In summer 1958 my mother, who was very ill at the time, asked me how I saw my life unfolding. I was 16. I told her of a dream I had had not long before. That I had married an elegant girl with long shining hair that touched her hips and that we lived happily in a country environment surrounded by loving family and friends. I remember mother smiling and assuring me that as long as I believed in my dreams they will come true. Our beloved mother passed away that autumn and although devastated we got on with life, but it was hard for Dad with a young

family and not much income. It was too much of a struggle. An opportunity presented where we could join our older brother Nino in Australia where he had been for some years. So in November 1961 we again packed our bags and sailed for the promised land in search of our dreams.

It was back in 1967 that my childhood dream began. I had been working for Dowell Windows since our arrival in Melbourne. In 1961 I was promoted from factory production to the company's general office where I was the only male, but all the girls were married or engaged except for this new, skinny, long-legged girl. There was no fooling around with her, so any idea I had I quickly put to rest as Lynne and I had to work together often.

One day I told her that the boys in my band were taking our girls to see "The Shadow" (Cliff Richard's backing band), but my girl was ill and would she like to come instead. She said "yes". I discovered she was fun to be with and we occasionally went out together when the band was not working.

That Easter Lynne's family invited me to join them for a camping trip to "Rabbit Skin Crossing" on the Ovens River at Bright. (Her father Jim was born one kilometre upstream at "Smoko"). That trip was to change my life as I discovered the wonderful world of the Kennedys. Jim and Millie's devotion and love for each other and their family was infectious. One day as I was lazing by the river I looked up and saw this beautiful, elegant girl with long shining hair smiling at me. I knew then that she was the girl I saw in my childhood dream. Lynne and I married in December 1969.

In late 1970, whilst looking for a plot of land to build our home, we discovered that Eltham was outside our finances. So in desperation we travelled to Warrandyte where we found our dream block. After having a picnic on the site Lynne declared, "I want to live here for the rest of my life." She remained true to that statement.

Our home was built and we moved in during July 1971. One of the wettest winters in decades, it was a mud patch, but this did not dampen Lynne's spirit. The wattles blossomed, spring came and Lynne blossomed too. She could

not believe the beauty of the place. As we worked for the same firm we travelled together. At knock-off time she would seek me out and say, "C'mon Cappy! Take me to my Warrandyte!"

The years rolled on. Glenn and Scott arrived and with them new responsibilities. Lynne gave up work and took to her mothering role like a duck to water. She adored her boys and had the wonderful gift of being able to be mother, disciplinarian, confidant and, above all, a close friend to Glenn and Scott and all their friends, by whom she was affectionately called "Mrs 'C'".

Lynne blossomed into a wonderful community person and served on as many committees as she could manage. Most notably, on John Boyle's festival committee for countless years. She used that platform to improve entertainment facilities for Warrandyte's youth, whom she felt local government had let down.

In 1993 a Siberian Husky called Shar came into our life and although it was Scott's dog it did not stay so for long. Lynne and Shar were inseparable and unless you have been living on Mars for the last 10 years you must have seen Lynne and Shar on one of Warrandyte's walking tracks.

During the past seven years the boys, myself and Shar had to share Lynne with line dancing. She became passionate about it. She did it twice a week and was good at it. When on holiday, first thing she would do on arrival was to find out where the line dancing would be that Saturday night. All I wanted to know was where the golf course was!

Lynne's illness was whirlwind fast and devastating. She was literally taken before our eyes. What started as a mild sinus virus developed into viral asthma. Then it seemed a virus attacked her heart and she received treatment accordingly. But in fact it was her lungs that were in trouble, and with her immune system broken down a virulent cancer attacked her lungs, closing down her breathing system. She ran out of breath on the morning of June 24.

Our Lynne was a rare person. She had the ability to touch the heart of most people she met. Once you got to know her you could not get enough of her. I always felt the need to be a bet-



ter person so that I could justify my place in her life and sometimes had to pinch myself to ensure I was actually married to her and the father of her children.

Lynne, the boys and I travelled Australia-wide, but my best memories are of those lazy holidays on the Ovens River where we both felt so at home. We could climb Mt Feathertop, go for bike rides or simply laze around the

campfire and sing songs. She just loved the simple things in life; the rivers, the bush and the mountains.

I will remember Lynne for her wisdom, peaceful and quiet nature. The way she embraced and respected my family and heritage and allowed me to be my own person. But most of all for loving me and giving me two wonderful sons. She will always be the elegant girl in my everlasting dream.

A country girl who came to stay

RUTH Smith, who lived in Warrandyte for more than half a century, died at the end of July, aged 84 years.

The oldest child of Arthur Chaney and Mary Tritton, and sister to Nora, Ruth was born on September 12, 1919 in London.

Her family immigrated to Australia on the SS Bennella in 1926. Arriving in Melbourne they moved to Lara, just outside Geelong, to learn farming before heading to a diary farm in Katandra, 17 miles west of Shepparton, where Ruth and Nora would have to milk the cows, collect the eggs, and feed the pigs and calves before going to school.

The farm was sold to take on a general store. The only store for miles, it included the local telephone exchange, post office and sold petrol. The girls soon became postmistresses, switch operators and pump attendants. Ruth was only 16 at this time.

As girls, Ruth and Nora both enjoyed playing tennis and horseriding. About 1937 the family moved to Oakleigh to open a café.

It was only by accident that Ruth came to Warrandyte—to act as chaperone for her sister Nora. Ruth, then a young woman in her 20s, did not realise that this was the place where she would meet her future life partner and spend the rest of her life.

While chaperoning at the picnic, one



of Nora's male friends sized Ruth up and said, "I'll have the little one, thanks". A year later Ruth and David settled at Frencham's, then moving to the corner of Webb Street and David Road where they lived in a cabin until David built a house out of cinder blocks and stone.

Ruth and David raised five children, four boys and a girl, the oldest boy passing away in 1989.

Ruth once recalled how as she was

helping evacuate a woman from Pound Bend during the 1960 bushfire:

"We had the car filled up with stuff and a cockatoo running up and down the back seat. When we were pulled over by the police the cockatoo abused the hell out of the officer, swearing at him and shouting, 'Who the hell do you think you are!'"

Ruth was one of the first female competition motor bike riders in Victoria, winning a race from Stawell to Melbourne. She also dabbled in competition latin dancing, bred a number of champion English setter dogs, showing them all over Victoria.

She was involved in a number of Warrandyte community activities through the years. One of her last responsibilities was booking officer for the White House and she was heavily involved in the campaign to have the building restored.

As a country girl, Ruth had no illusions about rural life. One of her sons remembers, as a boy, looking out of the kitchen window and seeing a hawk or fox after the chickens. "Mum reached for the .22 rifle, pushed up the window, and with one shot I had something for show and tell the next day."

She had a beautiful soprano voice and Ruth and David "would belt out a song given half a chance".

Ruth moved in to Tullamore Mercy at Montrose in 1996 "where she continued her mischievous high jinks with staff until recently".

Fond memories of an artist's life

By PAULINE CROSS

PAULINE Grayling, who died on July 7, aged 80, was one of the earliest members of the Warrandyte Arts Association, which was founded in 1956. Now known as the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association, she joined the association in the early 1960s, becoming the longest active painting member until her recent passing.



With her great love of music, along with her family she was also part of the WAA music group, joining when her boys were young.

Always an independent person with a love for travel, in her late teens Pauline migrated to Melbourne from England, exploring Melbourne and its surrounds on her bicycle, travelling far and wide.

Her fascination for old buildings, painting pen and wash, watercolour and oils, goes back to the days when she worked in an architect's office drawing buildings not then built.

Her skill has taken her on many overseas trips to France, England, Italy and many other countries, as well as our Victorian historic gold mining towns, painting the delightful little villages, cottages, shops and streetscapes as well as the most elegant homes, which are all familiar to us.

Pauline illustrated two books on mining towns and historic sites with her pen and wash technique, and was also adept at painting many other subjects, with her work being held in many collections in Australia and overseas.

Always very professional in her attitude to the arts, Pauline had many one-person exhibitions, winning many awards. A founding member of the Ringwood Arts Society, along with her husband Ian, Pauline was also an active member of the Victorian Artists' Society.

We had many happy, fun times away painting, including most Wednesdays with Pauline. Her quiet sense of humour always left us giggling. We all have very fond memories to keep, and we will miss our dear friend.

Needing a sponsor?

An entertaining night was held last month at the Grand Hotel when media personality Tim Lane spoke of his life in the sports world. The sponsorship night was arranged by the Warrandyte Community Bank and all local groups, schools and sporting clubs were invited. Advice was offered on how groups and the bank can work together to help each other and benefit the Warrandyte community. Bank manager Mark Challen has sponsorship packs at the bank, so if your club or group would like further information, please call in and see him.



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.

Fundraiser

Last month the Warrandyte Festival Committee combined with the Warrandyte Community Association to present a fundraising concert at the Andersons Creek Primary School. The night was a huge success, raising more than \$3500 for the two groups. The organisers have asked us to thank everyone who attended and gave so generously as well as the many locals who contributed their talents free of charge.

Garden

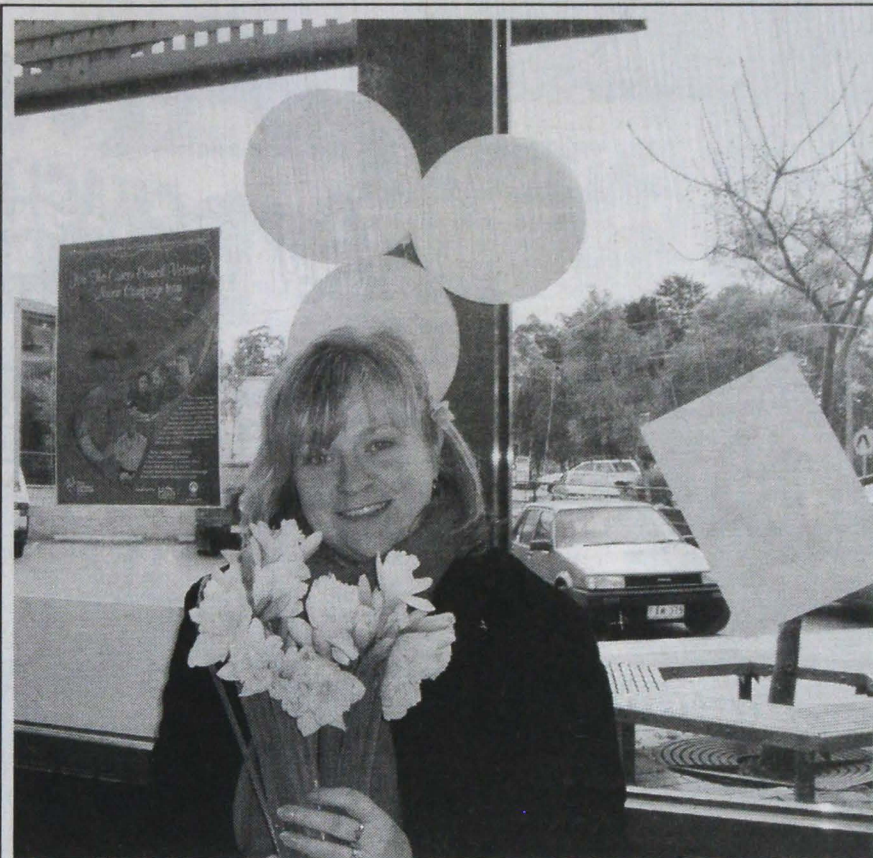
The Hanson garden at 104 Webb Street will be open to the public on the weekend of September 18 and 19 between 10am and 4.30pm as part of the Open Garden Scheme. It is an informal garden using mainly Australian plants. Admission is \$5.

Grants

Applications for multicultural festival grants are now being accepted for events planned between January and July 2005. Applications details are available by calling Carolyn Hirsh's electoral office on 9870 8284, or by checking the website on www.multicultural.vic.gov.au



You still have time to book seats for Warrandyte Theatre Company's production of *Secret Bridesmaids' Business*, a comedy by Elizabeth Coleman, running at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall on September 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18. Tickets cost \$15, (\$10 concession) and can be obtained from Joan Rogers at the Old Bakery Cottage Bookshop, Yarra Street, Warrandyte, phone 9844 1744. (Picture by Ian Craig)



Daffodil day in Warrandyte

Campaign project officer and former Warrandyte resident Jenny Brown (pictured) was joined by local volunteers at Goldfields Plaza on Friday, August 20. They raised \$765 for Victoria's Daffodil Day Appeal for the Cancer Council. The campaign raises money for vital cancer research, education and prevention programs and patient and family support services.

Support

The annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Community Centre Supporters Group will be held at the centre at 8pm on Tuesday, October 5. Everyone welcome.

Piggy

Giant piggy banks are about to leave their base at Very Special Kids in Malvern to travel throughout Victoria for their annual Piggy Bank Appeal. A pig named Percy will be visiting Eastland in Ringwood on Saturday, September 18 from 9am to 5pm and Coles store at Eltham on Friday, October 15 from

11.30am to 1pm, then at the Warrandyte newsagency, 1.15pm to 1.45pm. Very Special Kids supports families of children with life-threatening illnesses. At each "pig stop" volunteers will collect donations and sell merchandise. Various children's activities will be held. The appeal aims to raise \$1million in Victoria.

Sale

Christmas Hills community market and car boot sale will take place on Sunday, September 12 from 9am to 2pm at the Christmas Hills Primary School, 1409 Eltham-Yarra Glen Road, Christmas Hills. More stallholders are welcome at \$5 per stall. Call Liz on 9712 0414 or Rob on 9710 1512.

Waterwise

On Saturday, October 2 between 10am and 12noon, Alan Noy, a revegetation and indigenous garden professional, will lead a property tour round his own home situated on a lovely Warrandyte bush block at 94 Webb Street. The tour will highlight treatment of waste water, water conservation and indigenous garden design.

Tell us

The *Diary* is your newspaper and we love to print news of your group's activities. Jot down all the details, including date, time, venue and contact number and drop it through our letter slot at the community centre, fax it to 9844 4168 or by post to PO Box 209, Warrandyte. We close copy on the last Friday of each month.

Newsletters

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

NEXT ISSUE

The next *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, October 13. Copy will close on Friday, October 1.



Theatre

Warrandyte resident Matt Moran is organising a theatrical showcase evening on Friday, October 1 at 7.30pm at the Luther College Chapel, Plymouth Road, Croydon. All proceeds will go to charity. The evening will feature Nova Music Theatre performing *Jekyll and Hyde*, Croydon Parish Players in *Guys and Dolls* and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Victoria performing *The Mikado*. They will be joined by the Bellbird singers and soloists. Cost is \$10 per ticket; group discounts available. To book call 9844 2553.

Pottery

Stonehouse Gallery's current exhibition includes works by local potter Marymae Trench and friends exploring their creativity in clay and a group of woman textile artists showing fabric artworks. The gallery is at 323 Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte, near the corner of Tills Drive. Open daily, 10am-5pm. Further information call 9844 3629.

Music

Classical harpist Natalia Mann and folk harpist Michael Johnson are joining forces for a "folk meets classical" concert at 2.30pm on Sunday, September 12 at the Artstreams Gallery, 63 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Booking essential on 9844 0248 or 9434 7969.

Photographs

A series of black and white photographs taken by David Porter when he toured with many legends of Australian rock music during the 1970s will be on show at the Manningham Gallery from August 31 to September 11. The gallery is open Tuesday to Friday, 11am to 5pm and Saturday, 2pm to 5pm, at the Manningham City Council offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

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Simply super, said the kids, simply smashing!



The class of 2004. Warrandyte Tennis Club's Supersmashers mass for the camera at the local courts. The program was an unqualified success.

A group of keen young tennis players eager to learn all they could about tennis have been having a smashing time at the Warrandyte Tennis Club over the past five Sundays.

Participants in the club's Supersmashers program for six to 12-year-olds, the 42 beginners all received Smashpaks which included

new tennis racquets, T-shirts and caps.

"It was fantastic to see how very excited the children were with their Smashpaks," said club junior coordinator Michelle Gilling. "The place was abuzz, with parents and children everywhere."

The program was developed and supervised by club coach Aaron

Nolan with assistant coaches Jessica Delaney, Daniel Wiltshire and Paul Gilling. Former top Warrandyte juniors Rod McCutcheon, Joel Drew, Will Rogers, Katrina Sochacki, Linda Stanzel and Emily White made up the rest of the team.

Local physiotherapist Paul Gilling worked with the children in warm-up exercises, specialising in gross

motor skills, hand-eye coordination and agility.

Michelle Gilling told the *Diary* the program had been very successful. "The children have all had a fantastic time and were keen to come back for more every week," she said.

The program concluded on September 5 with an exhibition match

featuring former top 20 player Jason Stoltenberg, Aaron Nolan, former Warrandyte coach Fabio Forlano and top national junior Natalie Teneveski. Supersmashers was sponsored by Philip Webb Real Estate, Volkl, Curnow, IGA Supa Warrandyte, Jannifer Williams and Heatherbrae Shortbreads.

Dytes score ERT double

By JUDY GREEN

Warrandyte Tennis Club's Girls 2 team and the Senior Open Sets 3 team brought home premiership pennants from the Eastern Region Tennis finals last month.

The senior team had finished undefeated on top of the ladder and maintained that form to win the grand final five sets 41 games to one set 23 games. The team comprised Trent Valentino, Mark Hill, Paul Lynch, Paul Gilling, Bill Parry, Neil Sproat, Carmen Hill and Michelle Gilling.

The Junior Girls 2 came from third on the ladder to defeat top team Serpell five sets 43 games to three sets 36 games. They

had beaten Templestowe in the semi-final eight sets to none. The team comprised Stacey Freedman, Tessa Cudmore, Claire Bence, Samantha Dehmel and Jessica Travassaros.

The Boys Section 23 doubles team of Matthew Sheers, Xavier Longfield, Shae Courtney, Keiran Robertson and Luke Saunders reached the grand final but were narrowly defeated by Warbuton.

Warrandyte's victorious Eastern Region Tennis girls. From left: Stacey Freedman, Jessica Travassaros, Samantha Dehmel and Tessa Cudmore. Absent Claire Bence.



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Redbacks' drawn-out drama!

By TONY OLIVER

The Under-17 boys have provided the highlight so far of Warrandyte's heavy involvement in the Eastern District Junior Basketball Association Saturday finals.

The Redbacks triumphed 52-48 over Doncats in a preliminary final at Doncaster, an amazing game which ran into two periods of overtime.

Warrandyte had finished third in top B-grade and had accounted for Nunawading 37-27 the previous weekend in a strong all-round performance.

A key play in the first half saw Cameron Rappel score a basket and quickly get back in defence to stop a Vikings counter-attack.

Coach Gavan Hennessy was happy with the win but was looking for more passion in his players for the following week. He got that and more when they came up trumps over Doncats.

Warrandyte were slow out of the blocks and down 4-15 at one stage of the first half but recovered to lead 24-23 at the break.

The second half was neck and neck, with first Doncats and then Warrandyte grabbing a slender lead.

The Redbacks forced the first overtime period when Josh Collins calmly scored an equalising basket with just seven seconds to go.

Warrandyte started the better in extra time when Rappel scored the first two baskets, but it needed one shot from the free throw line by Warrandyte's Jake Ratcliffe to force the game into overtime for the second time.

Both sides were now in foul trouble, consistently visiting the free throw line.

It was a time of strong defence and turnovers, both sides now down to five players with Redbacks Josh Collins and Tom Jameson fouled off.

A three-pointer from Grant Godwin edged Warrandyte to the front and a similar attempt by the Doncats fell short and Godwin took the rebound. He was again in the play when perfect defence from him forced an offensive charging foul.

Warrandyte's Jack Ransom was fouled going to the basket and sank both shots to give the Redbacks a memorable victory.

Godwin finished with 22 points, including four three-pointers, and was admirably supported by Jameson and Josh Collins, with eight apiece, and Rappel, with six.

Warrandyte's Under-13 A-grade boys were defeated 55-34 by Eltham in their minor semi-final.

Top scorers for the Redbacks were Troy Ratcliffe with 14 and Daniel Hughes with 10.

Our second Under-19 boys side lost 49-44 to Park Orchards in a sudden-death semi-final and the Under-15 A-grade boys bowed out with a 61-53 defeat by Eltham.

The Under-19 B-grade girls went down 27-19 to Balwyn in their first semi-final, a game they had really been expected to win.

Warrandyte's star-studded side opened well, scoring the first three baskets with Emma Collins, Jess Kemp and Kim Singh prominent.

The Redbacks, however, were never able to dominate. Balwyn were in front 9-8 at the break and did all the scoring in the opening minutes of the second half.

Warrandyte redeemed themselves with a 27-21 win over Park Orchards, a workmanlike performance with strong contributions from Singh and Anna Middleton.

The result set up a rematch with Balwyn.

In another results against form, Warrandyte's Under-9 B-grade girls lost 13-6 to Bulleen. They tried hard but simply could not find the basket and face Eltham for another shot against Bulleen.

The Redbacks' scorers were Meg Keppel with four and Simone Caruana with two.

Lorraine Parfitt's Under-11 girls went down 23-14 in their A-grade semi-final against Nunawading Vikings and faced Eltham in a preliminary final at WCSC on September 4.

Warrandyte were favoured to win but started slowly, Sophie Richardson opening the scoring for the Redbacks after 12 minutes.

Their play was disjointed and they had little luck when shooting for goal.

Eltham led 16-5 at the break, but with their season on the

line, the Redbacks contested well in the second half. Both sides, though, were inefficient under the basket.

Warrandyte's spirits lifted when Eleanor Cousens scored twice midway through the half and when Richardson added another soon after, they were in with a chance.

However, Eltham were able to control the game more closely, shutting down most of Warrandyte's avenues to goal and scoring themselves.

The Redbacks will need to regroup.

In a delayed game, Warrandyte's Under-13 A-2 girls coached by Jenni O'Brien defeated Bulleen 49-25 to advance directly to the grand final.



Animated coach Nick Peters revs up his Under-19 girls at half-time against Balwyn. The Redbacks went down 27-19



The Under-11 C-grade boys, who defeated Eltham 34-23. Back (left to right): Kyle Robertson, Jack Power, Mathew Ratcliffe, Liam Roodhouse, Jacob Ballard. Front: Caleb Brodrick, Mathew Patroni, Sam Holston.

Lorraine's Under-12s go it alone in finals

In deference to the dads

Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Association have delayed the second day of try-outs for the 2005 until Sunday, September 12, to avoid a clash with Fathers' Day.

The first session, on August 29, produced strong numbers in both boys and girls sides in all age groups.

The try-outs are in age groups from Under-12 to Under-18 and are open to all players, regardless of what club they are associated with.

Times are available at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre in Drysdale Road and the contact is championship director Nick Peters on 9846 1516 or nickp@connexus.net.au

with baskets from Hosking, Kercher, Cousens and Kelly Peters.

Dandenong improved significantly in the second half and outscored Warrandyte 12-10, but the damage had already been done.

In the late game, Steve Camm's Under-18 boys needed to beat third-placed Ringwood to have any chance of making the finals.

The game was played at a fast pace, with both sides taking advantage of defensive turnovers to apply scoreboard pressure from fast breaks.

It was goal for goal early as both sides counter-attacked.

Tall centre Aaron DeLacy put the Redbacks' first two baskets on the scoreboard and late in the half guard Nick Kosovac had a purple patch, finding the target three times.

A late basket from Richard Domeyer sent Warrandyte into the break with a 20-14 lead. Given the pace of the game, though, Ringwood were still right in it.

But the second half belonged to Warrandyte's Luke Dimmock, who scored 10 points — most of them from fast breaks — as the Redbacks prevailed 40-33.

A Warrandyte finals berth then depended on fifth-placed Darebin losing to bottom side Caulfield Malvern.

But it was not to be and the boys were left to reflect on two earlier games in which Warrandyte wins on the scoreboard were reversed when the score sheets were reviewed.

Had the scoreboard results stood, they would certainly have seen finals action. Also unlucky to miss out on finals were

Malcolm Anderson's Under-16 Metro 3 boys.

The Warrandyte side scraped into their division after a hard qualifying program and were in the top five and for most of the season.

However, a late form slump and a string of losses meant they had to win their last game and rely on other results going their way.

The Redbacks played bottom Darebin, but such is the even nature of this competition that the result was in doubt until the final seconds.

Darebin led by eight points midway through the second half, before Warrandyte turned on one of their trademark comebacks. Coach Anderson stepped up pressure on Darebin by double-teaming the ball carrier and the Redbacks were able to level with a few minutes to go.

The baskets were coming at both ends of the court and the scores were locked at 44-all with 2.8 seconds to go and an end ball to the Redbacks.

The ball came in to centre Ben Power, who landed the basket under heavy Darebin pressure. The resulting foul shot was successfully converted for a 47-44 win to Warrandyte — and the first half of the objective had been achieved.

Again, however, the outside result did not go Warrandyte's way when fifth-placed Keilor defeated Chelsea 43-39.

In another game at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre, the Redbacks' Under-14 Metro 2 girls went down 33-30 to fifth-placed Sandringham, who needed to win to guarantee a finals place and looked in trouble when three points down two minutes out.

However, the visitors produced a strong scoring burst to grab the lead and, despite a late comeback by Warrandyte, held on for the win.

Redbacks coach, Jenni O'Brien was happy with the endeavour her girls had shown. Most of them are bottom aged and it was a credit to their abilities they were playing in such a high grade.

Leading scorers for the Redbacks were Kirra Solty with 12, followed by Courtney Petalas with nine.

Solty has developed her game particularly well over the season, with strong offensive and defensive skills in the critical centre position.

The final game at WCSC involved Peter Clough's Under-16 girls against Nunawading. It was 10-all at the break, but Nunawading finished better to win 29-21.

Fiona Rennie led the scoring with 10 points, ahead of April Richardson with four and Madeleine Prior with three.



Daniel Hughes (left) contests the ball during the Under-13 A-grade boys' 55-34 loss to Eltham as teammate Andrew Clough awaits the outcome.

150 up and batting right on

Warrandyte Cricket Club unveil a century-and-a-half of history

SPORT

Warrandyte Cricket Club will open its 150th anniversary season at the social clubrooms on Thursday, September 30.

Highlights of the evening will be the unveiling of the club's premiership gallery and the launch of the 150th anniversary history book.

Representatives from Cricket Victoria, the Ringwood District Cricket Association, Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association and the Victorian Women's Cricket Association have been invited to attend the function.

"We have had an association with all these groups through our 150 year journey and it is appropriate that they join us for this occasion," said WCC president Robert White.

He said the informal evening would be the ideal start to a very important season in the club's history.

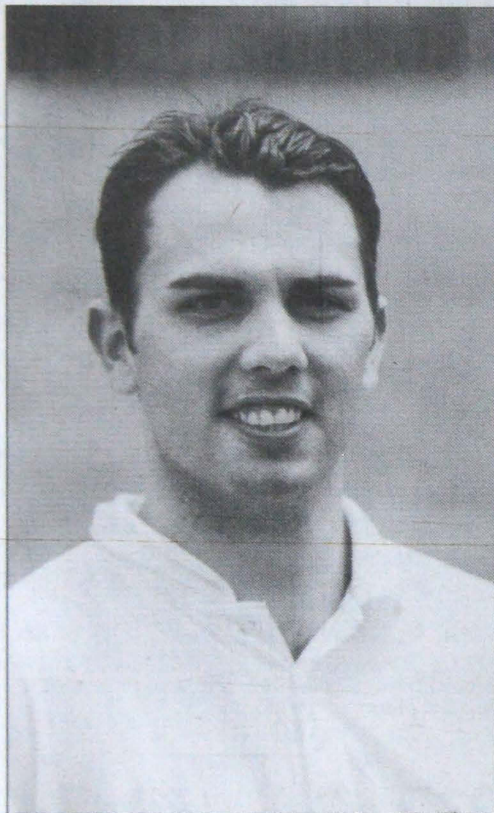
"Not only is this a milestone season but it is also critical that we have success on the field as major changes are planned to the make-up of the Ringwood District Cricket Association," said White.

"If we are to maintain our position in the top two groups of the competition, we must be final contenders again."

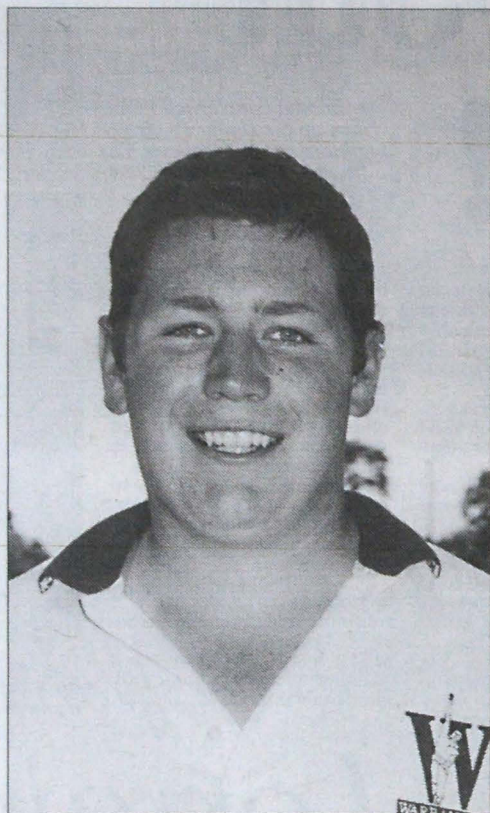
Last season Warrandyte were defeated in the grand final of the RDCA Second Division (Wilkins Shield), which cost the club a chance of returning to the top grade for the first time in three years.

"It was a wonderful effort, but that was last year and this year shapes as an even tougher task as clubs fight hard to retain their status within the RDCA," White said.

Warrandyte's pre-season training has started in spec-



Steve Bell ... hopefully returning to the fold.



Campbell Holland ... could be a rising star.



Gerald Walshe ... back for umpteenth campaign.

tacular fashion with record numbers attending indoor sessions.

"We really had more players than we could cope with on the first two nights.

"In then end we had to expand the number of nets we hired to cope with the numbers," said White.

Indoor training has now finished and outdoor training started at the Warrandyte ground on September 7. It will continue to be held there on

Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting at 5pm.

Practice matches have also been organised against South Warrandyte at Colman Park on Sunday, September 19, and against Ashburton at the Warrandyte ground on Sunday, September 26. The 2004-05 season starts on Saturday, October 2.

"The new season looks promising with a number of new players arriving and there has been encouraging interest from last

year's Under-16 players who have now graduated to senior ranks," White said.

"We are also confident that former senior player Steve Bell will return this year if he can overcome his work commitments, while all-rounder Warren Cottrell is back after missing last season because of injury.

"They will both make a big difference to the team.

"We are also expecting improvement from some of the

younger brigade such as Tyson Brent, Matthew Sazenis and Campbell Holland, while evergreen Gerald Walshe will be back again after an outstanding 2003-04.

"We are now building up a strong talent pool and with our numbers growing it may be necessary to field an additional team. We will make that decision within the next fortnight."

Apart from the season launch on September 30, the club also intend to play a special anniversary

celebration match at Warrandyte on December 5 against a team made up of first-class players and personalities. The 150th anniversary dinner will be held at the Park Orchards Chalet on Saturday, January 22.

"We want as many past and current players and supporters as possible to take part in all events," said White. "This is a celebration for the Warrandyte Cricket Club and the Warrandyte community."

Netball girls strike again

By PAULINE DUSTING

Warrandyte Netball Club's winning ways were on show again in the finals of the Doncaster and District winter season last month.

Thirteen of the club's possible 15 teams made the finals, eight advancing to the grand finals and two — the Under-15/2 Legends and Under-15/4 Wagtails — going all the way.

Our near-missers were the Under-13/1 Rosellas, 13/2 Sparrows, 13/4 Swallows, Under-15/1 Magpies and Open B and Open A.

The Under-13 games were played on a miserable and bleak Saturday morning, one of the worst days the local club has experienced for finals.

Doncaster and District Netball Association pushed on with the games until midday, the weather becoming so foul that the rest of the day's play was cancelled.

The girls involved in the morning games toughed it out, battling on in wind and rain which threatened to become hail.

Warrandyte's Under-13/2 Sparrows, coached by Rachel Natsis, lost an epic struggle



Coach Natalie Dusting (left), who has a habit of winning flags, and her all conquering Under-15/2 Legends.

with Serpell. The game was all tied up at the final siren and the Warrandyte girls went down by two goals in extra time.

The 13/1 Rosellas of Rochelle Roodhouse had beaten NYC in a memorable preliminary final to earn the week off and came up against that team again in the grand final.

This time it was NYC's turn and they were just too strong on the day.

The Under-15s returned the following Saturday to better conditions, the 15/1 Magpies coached by Amy Green confronting another NYC team and going down fighting, 23-15.

Warrandyte's 15/2 Legends team, however, squared the ledger by overpowering NYC in their section and running away with the game to give coach Natalie Dusting three consecutive premierships.

Her team comprised Erin Carroll, Nicole Cukerman, Carla Dinale, Brittany Duncan, Erika Dyason, Narelle Link, Sophie Post, Carly Sayer, Rachel Hill and Jenny Parkes.

The 15/4 Wagtails were also convincing winners over Koonung, handing Samantha Hassall and Amelia Fraser-McKelvie the ultimate prize in their first season as coaches.

They were represented by Lisa Anneveldt, Melissa Curulli, Katherine Douglas, Maxine Lockie, Tamika Pettigrove, Megan Seymour, Leah Watson and Brittany D'Silva.

Warrandyte's Open As coached by Loraine Green and Erica McCutcheon's Open Bs both made their grand finals but could not take their success all the way.

The Bs fought a tough battle before going down 25-19. The As confronted a very formidable NYC team and played an amazing third quarter in which they shot six goals on the run. However, the fourth quarter

saw NYC turn it on to snatch victory by a solitary goal.

The season finished with a highly successful presentation night on August 22 in the Mechanics Institute Hall. Special guest was state player Meredith Ball, goal attack for the championship division VUT Brimbank Flames, who addressed the girls about following their dreams in netball and never giving up.

The club thank Yarra Views Pizza for supplying the pizzas on the night.

Registration day is coming up soon. Watch the *Diary* for further information.

◆ Warrandyte Netball Club's Under-11s do not play finals, but their performances in the winter season indicate that the longer-term future of the club is in very good hands indeed.

The Under-11/1s coached by Jan Bryar and Carly Sayer, finished the season in second spot on their ladder, as did the 11/3s of Tarryn Greenlaw and Christie Turner.

Our 11/2s coached by Lauren Reid and Amie Dusting finished fourth, a performance matched in their first season by Karen Green and Alice Saunders' 11/4s.



The triumphant Under-15/4 Wagtails of first-year coaches Samantha Hassall and Amelia Fraser-McKelvie

High five! Park Orchards' perfect score

Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club achieved a 100 per cent result in the Yarra league grand finals on August 29.

The club had five teams in the big ones — and came home with five premierships. "It is club record and may be a record in the Yarra Junior Football League record," said delighted president Stephen Harrington.

The successful teams were the Under-16 Colts, Under-15s,

12s, 11s and 10s and the premierships iced what had already been a season of plenty for the Sharks.

Their record achievements of 2004 included:

- The participation of 12 teams, from Under-9 Tackers to Under-17 Colts.
- The involvement of more than 150 primary school children in the Auskick program.
- The listing of three former players — the Cloke brothers Jason, Cameron and Travis —

by the same AFL club (Collingwood).

Season 2004 was also a significant anniversary for the club, a celebration of 35 years of junior football following the formation of the original Park Orchards Junior Football Club in 1969.

A merger with North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club in 1991 created the existing body.

This season kicked off with a very successful registration day

in March, with AFL playing/coaching legend David Parkin guest speaker.

During the year, club coaches were treated to educational sessions with Western Bulldogs assistant coach Alan Richardson and AFL national talent manager Kevin Sheehan.

AFL players Glenn Archer (Kangaroos) and Mark Chaffey (Richmond) took training sessions during the season and the club were visited last month by former Kangaroos

premiership player and Bali bombing survivor Jason McCartney.

Such has been the club's growth over the past four years that a second home ground is being established at Stintons Reserve. Already playing home games at Domeney Reserve in Knees Road, the club are discussing with Manningham council a proposal to floodlight Stintons Reserve.

The club always welcome new players and parents and presi-

dent Harrington (9879 0095) will happily provide further information.

- Grand final scores:
 Under-16 Colts: PONRP 15.9 (99) d Doncaster Heights 11.12 (78)
 Under-15s: PONRP 12.8 (80) d Kew 8.10 (58)
 Under-12s: PONRP 10.9 (69) d Preston 5.2 (32)
 Under-11s: PONRP 6.10 (46) d Camberwell 3.4 (22)
 Under-10s: PONRP 5.5 (35) d Banyule 4.3 (27)

Juniors fall at final hurdle

Under-18s fail the acid test

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

In one of the most disappointing finishes for many years, Warrandyte Junior Football Club have walked away empty handed from the 2004 season.

The club had three teams — Under-17 Colts, Under-12s and Under-10s — in the Yarra Junior Football League finals, but none was able to bring home the bacon, despite putting in Herculean efforts.

The Colts were eliminated in the preliminary final, the Under-12s in the first semi and the top-of-the-ladder Under-10s beaten in the grand final by traditional rivals Bulleen Templestowe.

Coached by Greg Edwards, the Under-10s travelled to Preston on the last Sunday in August to play off for the flag. They'd had a saloon passage into the grand final, beating Bulleen Templestowe by 14 points in their second semi-final two weeks earlier.

"That win put us straight into the grand final, giving us a Sunday off, and in retrospect it was probably the worst thing that could have happened," Edwards said.

"Even though we had two really good training sessions, this team thrive on hard work and game time and maybe we just weren't mentally prepared for the day." Final score was Bulleen Templestowe 4.5 (29), Warrandyte 1.3 (9).

"While we are shattered by this result, I want to reassure all supporters who weren't at the game that our boys played well, refusing to get involved with roughhouse tactics," Edwards said.

"The boys need to learn to keep focused and stick to the game plan even when things don't go the way we want them to. This is just another opportunity for the boys to learn and they will come back next season ready to give their all again to the junior football club."

Asked to nominate his best players of the finals, Edwards said every member of the team had represented the club with pride. But Jacob Ballard, James Munks and Lachlan Imeneo had stood up and played to another level, he said, and Ryan Exxon, Lauchlan Frowd and Jarrod Buzzini had been the other stand-outs.

Chris Appleby's first season as coach ended in a 28-point defeat — 7.7 (49) to 3.3 (21) by Banyule in the first semi final.

"After finishing the home-and-away season well we were not



Young Bloods are top of their class

Warrandyte players were among the most decorated at the Yarra Junior Football League's 2004 awards night.

Stephen Christopher was named in the league's Colts Team of the Year and teammate Rob Illingworth also polled very well in the best and fairest voting.

But Ryan Exxon provided the real highlight of the night for Warrandyte by taking out the league's Under-10 award, with teammate Jacob Ballard in third place.

"Young Ryan told me that while the individual award was an honour, he would give his back for a premierships medal," said proud coach Greg Edwards. "This just demonstrated to us what a close-knit team the Under-10s are and how much value they place on teamwork."

"These boys, while unlucky this year, are a quality team and will provide many highlights for the club for many years to come," he said.

able to maintain the momentum and went down in terrible conditions," Appleby said. "The mud was knee deep and I cannot recall worse football conditions."

"The season has been a roller-coaster ride, but these boys showed they can play and only good things await this team."

"These boys are learning how to play quality football for a sustained period and this will go well for them next year. Players like Ethan Hale Vaughan, Jordan Beltramin and Jake Van der Zant are typical of the quality of player we have and it will be a pleasure watching them grow over the next couple of

seasons," said Appleby.

The Colts had finished second on the ladder under the coaching of Mathew Matheou but could not come to grips with finals football and slipped out of the picture with losses to St Damians (by 11 points) and finally Tally Ho (6.14-50 to 4.3-27).

"The boys just couldn't put it together on the field," said Matheou.

"We had finished second and felt we were a chance, but a few injuries and a few bad calls and our season was over."

"What we do have is a whole list of boys such as Rob Illingworth, Josh Barrett, and Shaun Carter who are ready to

step up and represent our community in the Under-18s then hopefully the seniors.

"The Colts will remain a strong team with the injection of boys coming up from the Under-15s."

◆ Colts presentation night was held on September 7, with all other team presentations at the clubrooms on Sunday, September 12.

The club's annual general meeting is on Monday, September 13, and all members and supporters are welcome.

For more information on the activities of the junior club contact secretary Kevin O'Mara on 9844 2964.

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club's last hope of premierships glory in 2004 was snuffed out in the EFL Fourth Division Under-18s grand final at Boronia on September 5.

The Bloods' joint venture with Division 4 club Heathmont had exceeded expectations by making the big one, but the combine were found wanting against the Whitehorse Pioneers, the competition's pacesetters.

Heathmont-Warrandyte had gone into the game with a degree of confidence, having inflicted the Pioneers' only defeat of the home-and-away season.

They led 2.2 (14) to 0.7 at half-time but were overrun thereafter to go down 9.12 (66) to 2.4 (16).

Their best were John Kunsden, Dylan Matheou, Shaun Leech and Lee Evans (who kicked both Heathmont-Warrandyte goals).

Warrandyte's senior season ended on August 14 with a 31-point loss — 6.11 (47) to 2.4 (16) — to Nunawading in atrocious weather at home.

The Bloods finished seventh of 10 on the ladder with six wins from their 18 games. The Reserves finished just outside the four, defeating Nunawading 8.7 (55) to 6.10 (46) in their final match.

"We knew it was going to be a tough season with the departure of so many experienced senior players," WFC president Phil Treeby told the *Diary*, "but it turned out to be better than I'd anticipated."

"Our young and inexperienced team provided plenty of enthusiasm and excitement towards the middle of the season with wins over some powerful sides, but we tailed off a little

after that and were never really able to find our way again.

"But I'm pretty happy with the way the season went."

(The wins Treeby referred to included a 14-point result at home in Round 4 over South Croydon, who went on to play in the grand final, beaten by 26 points — 17.10 (112) to 13.8 (86) — by Rowville at Mitcham on September 4. This was the first leg of a hat-trick culminating in an 11-point win in Round 6, also at home, over eventual finalists Templestowe.)

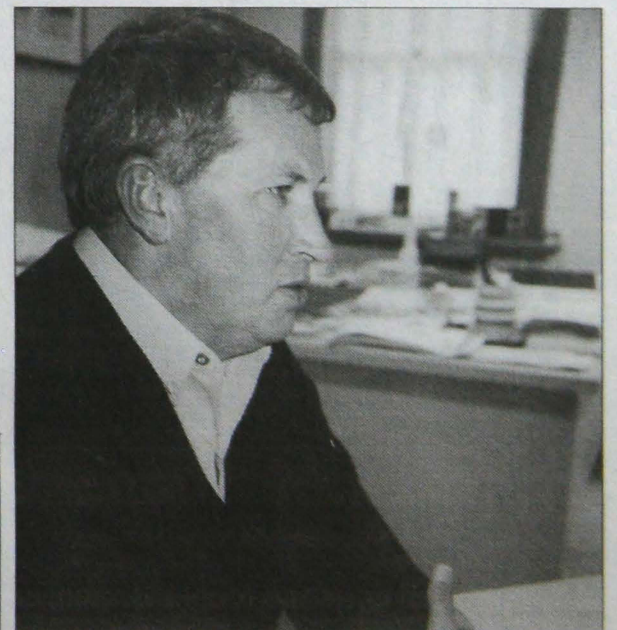
In accordance with club policy, Warrandyte will advertise the senior and assistant coaching positions, held by Ash Hamilton and Andrew Hamer respectively.

Treeby, who will be seeking a second term as president, said off-season recruiting would target tall, robust players to strengthen the Bloods' spine and midfield and ease Craig Dick's extreme workload in the ruck.

He said Warrandyte were likely to lose three experienced players — defenders Stewart Rough and Warren Ruehland and midfielder Dale Vitritti — to retirement but would induct graduates from this year's Under-18s and welcome back a few former Under-18s who had been playing Under-19 football elsewhere.

◆ Co-captain Matt Wood, who enjoyed another stellar season, will be strongly fancied to add the 2004 club champion's trophy to his 2002 award at the Bloods' presentation night on October 8.

It will be held in the upstairs function room at Club Warrandyte, starting 7.30, and James Logan is taking bookings on 0414 337418.



Phil Treeby ... tough season but better than expected.

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