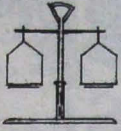


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DIARY

No. 372, February 2005

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New cemetery bid

By DAVID WYMAN

Anderson's Creek Cemetery Trust is keeping their controversial bid for a cemetery extension alive.

After two successive defeats at Manningham council, the trust is now hopeful the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) will support their proposal to extend the cemetery on land in Brackenbury Street.

The trustees have made an application to present its case for the extension to VCAT and the hearing is expected to take place in late March or early April.

Local residents have strongly opposed the extension, lodging 250 objections in August

against the trustees' plan to rezone the land, then owned by the Catholic Church, to allow its use as a cemetery.

Residents objected to the cemetery extension because of fears of parking overload in the area, the risk of toxic chemicals leaching from graves into local watercourses and families living nearby being distressed by evidence of grief.

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.

In December, the trustees applied for a permit to use the land, after realising that the land, which it has now purchased, did not require rezon-

ing. This produced nearly 156 objections from residents.

Council rejected the application, five to two, with Cr Geoff Gough abstaining because of his involvement with Templestowe cemetery.

Anderson's Creek Cemetery trustee, John Chapman, told the *Diary* he was "disappointed with council's decision, again, in view of the officers' recommendation to support our proposal and grant a permit."

"We can't understand why the residents say they would prefer houses on that land instead of a discreet, quiet lawn cemetery," he said.

"While we expected councillors may again vote against our proposal, we had to make another attempt to gain approval as a planning application. The

land, with its design by consultant Graeme Bentley, is ideal for a cemetery."

Cr John Bruce, of Heide Ward, moved the motion in council in December to adopt the recommendation of council officers to grant a permit to use the land as a cemetery. He told the *Diary* that he had carefully considered all the objections and fully supported the officers' recommendations.

"I have sat in the existing beautiful cemetery and had a good look at the land for that extension. I can't see that there would be any substantial increase in the cemetery's impact on residential amenity."

Cr Bruce said he thought that once VCAT had looked at the council officers' report and the objections it would "most likely

come down in favour of the officers' report".

"But I am not wanting to preempt VCAT's decision," he said.

Manningham officers' conclusion in its report to councillors stated:

"It is considered appropriate to support the proposal. It is considered that the application is an appropriate use and development for the site. The extension of the cemetery will provide an essential public service. The impact of the extension will be minimal with the proposal providing for appropriate landscape treatment along all boundaries.

"Further it is considered that with appropriate conditions many of the issues raised by objectors can be resolved."

CLYDE & OCKER



"I thought the cemetery debate was dead and buried, Ock!"



How safe is our river?

See page 3

Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

CYRIL By PAUL WILLIAMS

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How young Nick de-bugged the famous Andre Agassi



It was local lad Nick Crosbie's third year as a ball boy at the Australian Open tennis last month and he found himself sharing a court with Andre Agassi. Something appeared to be bothering the American great during his night match with Taylor Dent and it turned out to be a moth which Agassi unsuccessfully pursued across the court. He called for assistance from the nearest ball boy, which just happened to be Nick, 15-year-old son of Bruce Crosbie and Dr Jannifer Williams. No trouble to this young bloke, who chased the critter, caught it, put it in his pocket and returned to duty. An undistracted Agassi went on to win in straight sets. Game over, another ball boy offered Nick \$10 for the moth as a souvenir — but it had already crawled out of his pocket and flown. Nick, a very promising Warrandyte Tennis Club junior, has fetched his last balls at the Oz Open — he'll be too old for the job next year.

IN RED & WHITE



Not just a ball boy but a darned good player as well. Nick Crosbie (standing, right) as a member of Warrandyte's finals-winning Victoria Tennis Series Grade 16 team last September.

Having inspected Neil's handiwork, Lex remarked that an inordinate amount of paint had splashed on to the decking. Why hadn't he used drop sheets? "I did," said Neil, "but the paint kept falling where the drop sheets weren't!" And the extension ladder? You've been using it upside-down, said Lex. The padded ends on the ground there go on top to protect the walls you're painting. "Oh," said Neil. And Bucky? Well, he got a new watch for Christmas, a fancy thing with Roman numerals, and right chuffed about it he was. When he woke on Boxing Day he checked his wrist and found he had grossly overslept and missed a big day at the MCG Test. It took him half an hour to realise he had the watch on upside-down and it was 10am, not 4pm.

she was speaking into the TV remote control.

Neil Dusting just about scooped the pool at the inaugural Warrandyte Festival home brewing competition last year and will no doubt be defending his title with great gusto. But don't let that scare you off. This year's event will be judged on Saturday, March 19, between 5-7pm and handsome prizes are being offered. Categories include stout, lager, ale, pilsner, draught and "other" and entry fee is \$2 a brew. So get that malt, hops, barley and whatever working and make a name for yourself as a booze baron (or baroness). For further information, Kylie Frowd on 9844 0343.

We thought the *Diary* was a pretty down-to-earth little newspaper until we picked up a copy of the Geelong-based Bellarine Echo as we beach-bummed it at Portarlington a few weeks ago. "BOWLS CLUB SEX BATTLE" screamed the front page, much in the manner of the London tabloids and compelling us to read on. Seems a former woman member of the club at bayside St Leonards had accused a 68-year-old male member of exposing his 68-year-old member, an allegation he hotly denied. It also seems that another bowler had joked that he may have had a tattoo which spelt "Wag" on his own member which expanded to read "Wangaratta". A

matter of creases and increases, you might say. Sounds like a fun bowling club and we salute the Bellarine Echo for bringing this major news story to our — and now to your — attention.

It started off as a discussion between Karen Throssell, Rae Danks, Jenny Chapman and Denise Farran shortly after the tsunami disaster and it has developed into what has been billed as "a monster garage sale" in our community centre foyer on Sunday, February 13, from 11am-4pm. All proceeds will go to the Sarvodaya Relief Organisation for distribution to Sri Lankan tsunami victims. Highlight donations to the sale have included 30,000 yen's worth of Japanese wedding kimono from Linda at the Bendigo Bank and there'll be heaps of other great stuff. You'll read more about it elsewhere in this issue, so be there and dig deep.

We told the tale in our December edition of the bus timetable which slid down its pole at the stop opposite the *Diary* office several months ago and decided to stay there, reducing commuters to their knees or worse or forcing them to raise it periscope fashion to get a reading. Moved by the spirit of Christmas or some other potent force, Smokey decided enough was enough and managed to restore the timetable to eye level with a simple nut and bolt. He reminds bus travellers, however, that he retains ownership on the said nut and bolt and reserves the right to remove them should he find himself bored and in need of amusement.

Think summer think water — and if you're lucky enough to have a creek on your property, or even a garden pond, then the Friends of Warrandyte State Park Nursery has a host of goodies for you. A range of aquatic plants — including bullrushes, milfoil, brooklime, various sedges and a very pretty thing called purple loosestrife — is available right now. The nursery is at the rangers' depot at Pound Bend (Melways reference 27 C 10) and the manager will happily answer your every inquiry on 0408 317327.

Smokey Joe



Someone said that if you sit at one of those tables outside the Grand Hotel for long enough the whole world will pass you by — most of it at high speed and making a mockery of the 50kmh limit. The Ford that passed Rae Danks, Jenny Chapman and Denise Farran as they sat there having a sip certainly wasn't speeding, but what made it conspicuous was that it didn't have a driver. It rolled gently past, heading west in heavy early-evening traffic, turned as if remotely controlled into the hotel car park and came to rest with a bit of a bang against an unfortunate BMW. When the driver was eventually located she turned out to be a woman in perhaps her 30s who had left the Ford in drive and forgotten about the handbrake.



The world has been inclined to stand on its head lately for Page 2's favourite son Neil Dusting and footy club stalwart Andrew "Bucky" Rodgers. Inspired to do a spot of painting on the house in Osborne Road, Neil borrowed an extension ladder from his good mate Lex McDonald and phoned a couple of days later to say it didn't work. "Well," said Neil, "it'll only extend to my feet! You and Karen had better come around for dinner on Saturday night and have a look at it." Okay.



Meanwhile, the lovely Pam Booth, of Drysdale Road, was having reality problems of her own. Hubby Terry had dashed off to Bunnings for more building material for a home improvement project when he realised he was missing a measurement. He phoned Pam with instructions on the difference between the big lines and the little lines on the tape measure and off she went full of confidence to fetch the required dimension. There was no answer, though, when she picked up the mobile phone and said "Hi, Tess" (her cute pet name for Terry) and it took a little while to dawn on her that

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WARRANDYTE DIARY

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Copy closes last Friday of each month

OUR NEWSPAPER

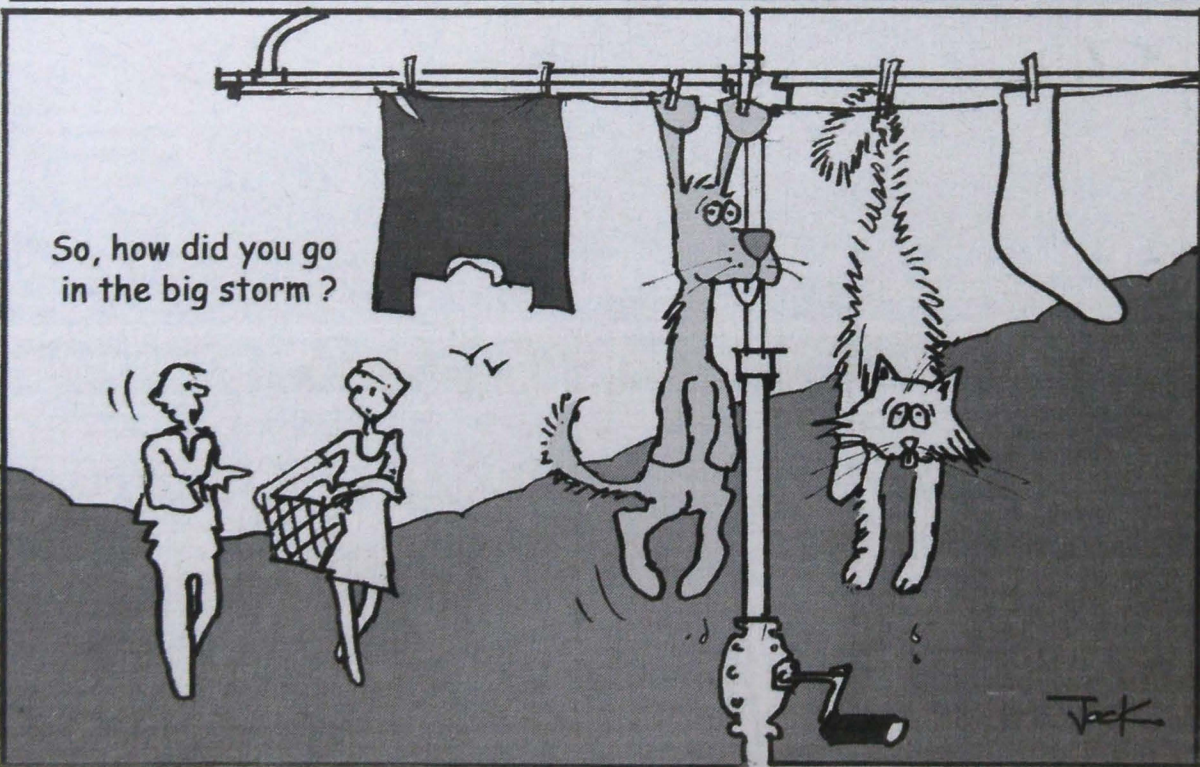
The Warrandyte Diary was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its not-for-profit,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

A SPECIAL PLACE

Warrandyte (approximate population 8000) is situated on the Yarra River, some 24km from Melbourne. 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.

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



How safe is our river?

Authority warns against swimming following rain

By DAVID WYMAN

Is the Yarra safe for swimming at Warrandyte? And what is the current condition of the river at Warrandyte?

The *Diary* put these questions to Melbourne Water, following the intensive media coverage about the quality of the Yarra's water, and current use of the river as a swimming venue.

Our initial enquiry was answered by a Melbourne Water expert in the study of the river organisms. He said he had been swimming in the river recently and he was still alive!

Officially, Melbourne water answered our question about swimming this way:

"The state government does not advise primary contact such as swimming in the Yarra after heavy rain as this is the time when bacterial levels in stormwater are highest.

"The Yarra is generally safe for secondary contact (boating, canoeing, rowing and so on) but again it is advisable not to undertake these activities for five days after heavy rainfall.

"Health authorities, such as the Department of Human Services, recommend that people should avoid ingesting untreated water from creeks, rivers or the bay at all times."

And, we asked, what about the condition of the river?

"The upper Yarra, containing the section of the Yarra River upstream of Warrandyte, is in excellent condition.

"This condition assessment is based upon water quality, aquatic life, habitat and stability, vegetation and flow," Melbourne Water replied.

"The middle Yarra, below Warrandyte to Dights Falls, is in

moderate condition. Water quality and aquatic life are moderate, habitat and stability are good, while vegetation and flow are poor."

In a 2004 report on Melbourne's rivers and creeks, Melbourne Water rated the general condition of the upper Yarra as "excellent" and the middle and lower Yarra as "poor". Mullum Mullum Creek and Brushy Creek were rated "poor".

Meanwhile, Manningham council has taken steps to remedy any defects in the 6000 septic tanks, which are suspects for river pollution, in the unsewered areas of the municipality.

Mayor Cr Bill Larkin said that council officers had tested 1200 septic tanks over the past 18 months and had issued 450 infringement notices.

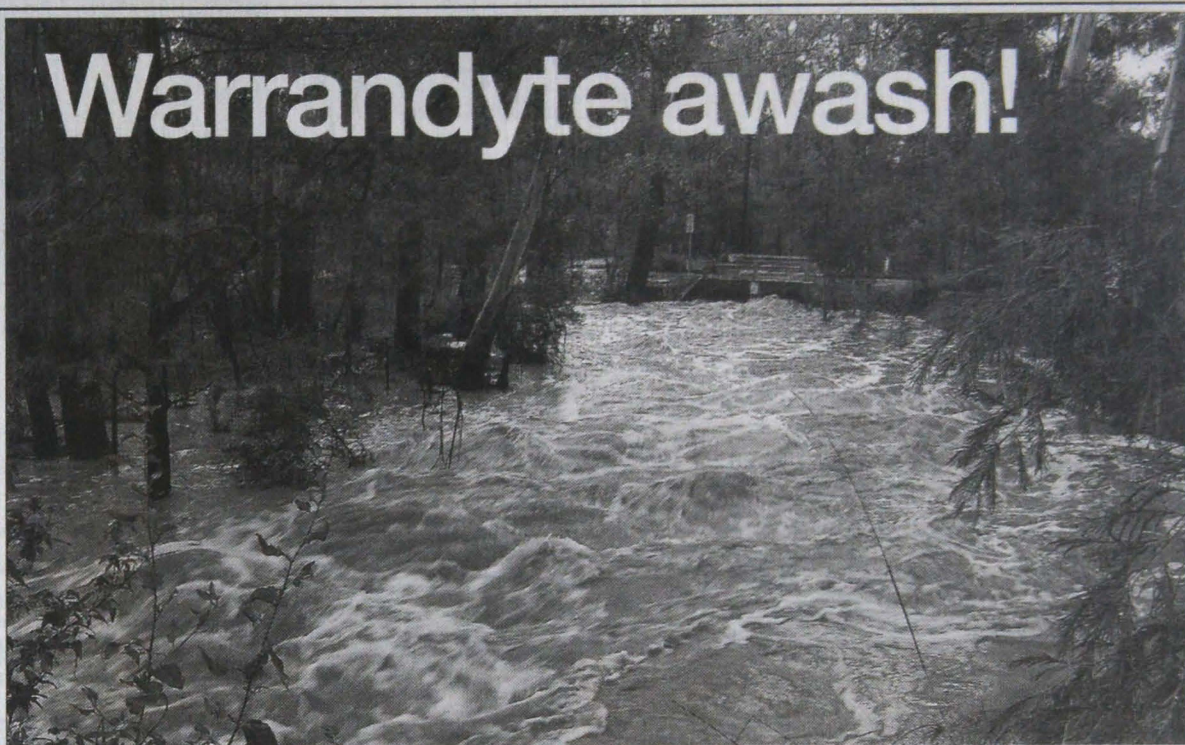
"Many of the septic systems are very old and have not been properly maintained by the owners and require major upgrading," he said.

"Council has targeted the oldest systems and hopes that once the remedial works are carried out e.coli levels in the creeks will decrease."

Cr Larkin said that improving water quality is a team effort and it is vital that residents with septic systems ensure that they are regularly maintained in order to improve water in our creeks and in the Yarra River.

"Similarly, dog owners should pick up after their animals at home and in public places to ensure that faecal matter is not washed into drains and then into local creeks," he said.

● A river of life — Page 17



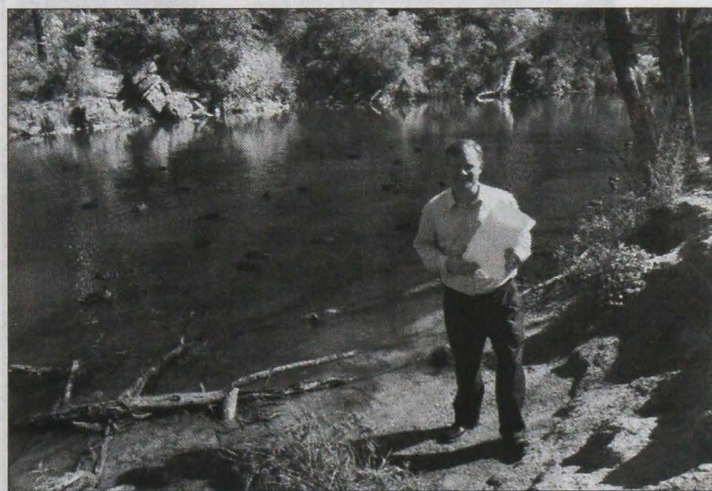
Warrandyte awash!



We received more than our fair share of Melbourne's record downpour on Wednesday, February 2. Above: Andersons Creek breaking its banks at the Everard Drive bridge. Right: Marooned in Harris Gully Road. (Pictures by Stephen Reynolds)

More flood pics on Page 5

'Septic tanks the culprit': MP



As concern about pollution in the Yarra River grows, Warrandyte MP Phil Honeywood claims that Yarra Valley Water's sewerage connection backlog program needs a much higher priority.

"Residents in Warrandyte and Park Orchards take great pride in caring for the local environment," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*. "Most are not aware that if they have a septic tank in their backyard then there is a strong possibility that it is leaking effluent into local waterways and ultimately into the Yarra River."

Of the 17,000 properties still reliant on septic tanks in the Yarra Valley Water area, 6000 of these are located in Manningham.

"To their credit our local council recently embarked on an auditing process of septic tanks within the municip-

The evidence: Phil Honeywood checks Yarra Water's annual report. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

ality," Mr Honeywood said. "Of the first 1200 tanks tested an astonishing 450 were found to have leaks and cracks or were in urgent need of being cleaned out."

"Manningham council also recently took it upon themselves to test water quality in the local creeks that flow into the Yarra. In Mullum Mullum Creek they discovered e.coli at four times the level deemed safe for swimming."

Environment minister John Thwaites played down the risk, saying e.coli levels upstream in the Yarra near Templestowe were satisfactory most of the time. "Dog faeces and decaying organic matter like dead animals and decaying trees and plants can lead to bacteria; that's the major cause of it," he said.

Mr Honeywood said it was "deceptive to point the finger of blame mainly at dog owners and dog droppings. "The government has been silent on human effluent as a cause of river pollution. The reason for this silence be-

came clear when it was revealed in Yarra Water's annual report that it had been required to pay \$108million in dividends to the government over the past two years.

"This money was taken from water and sewerage bills, meant to pay for new infrastructure. Yarra Valley Water was only to spend \$5million per annum on their sewerage connection backlog program."

"According to a briefing provided to Manningham council, at this rate of spending, it will take 40 years to connect the 17,000 properties reliant on septic tanks to the Melbourne sewerage scheme."

"At the 1999 state election the Labor Party promised we would be swimming in the Yarra by 2008. It is not good enough that they are taking so much money away from water authorities that the health of local waterways, especially the Yarra, is adversely affected."

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Thanks for tsunami relief

Our community has been deeply saddened by the loss of so many lives and the destruction caused by the Asian earthquake and tsunami disaster on Boxing day.

On behalf of the Menzies community, may I offer heartfelt sympathy to any residents who may have been affected by this tragic disaster.

With a tragedy of this magnitude a long-term commitment of resources is required so that shattered communities can be rebuilt and those surviving provided with hope for the future.

I welcome the federal government's commitment of \$1 billion over five years, under the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for reconstruction and development, which will allocate funds, within strict guidelines, directly to areas of need.

The government is working closely with state governments, domestic/international aid agencies and industry in responding to this disaster. An information portal has been established at www.tsunamiassist.gov.au, and in addition residents with concerns about family members can contact the Australian hotline, 1800 002 214, or visit the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website at www.dfat.gov.au

I express thanks to the many Australians who continue their hard work in providing relief to victims in affected areas and for the generosity of so many who have assisted with donations to relief organisations such as Australian Red Cross and UNICEF.

Kevin Andrews
Federal Member of Menzies

National weed day suggested

Australia has all sorts of holidays, designed to reinforce our sense of national identity.

We have on our postage stamps and currency Australian animals and various other creatures—fast disappearing from the natural environment, I might add—but designed to make us believe we care about them.

Why don't we have a day on our calendars marked "The Day of the Agapanthus" and called "National Weed Day"; for that is what they are—environmental weeds.

Nillumbik has 150 species of environmental weeds, and many are in our gardens because we love them.

We love to live in Nillumbik and South Warrandyte because of their rural bush appearance. In fact we love to see the bush, preferably not as our garden but at a safe distance, because most of us fear it.

DEAR DIARY

Does the flora and fauna of this country have a future, I wonder, for it is even more Australian than you or I.

This love affair with environmental weeds is nothing more than the result of our social conditioning.

If we can plant half or three-quarters of our gardens with indigenous plants, we can still have enough brightly coloured exotics to keep us happy.

Who knows, if it caught on, the Australian fauna that relies upon the flora of this country may live a happy life also, and not become just an image on a postage stamp.

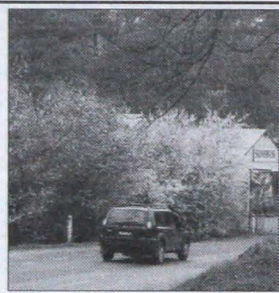
Ron Bence
Hawkes Road

Plum trees

I know there hasn't been much discussion of late about our plum trees, but I felt that I must share this piece of wisdom from a Japanese philosopher who died in 1796: "The road to heaven is lined with plum blossoms."—Masumi Kato.

The plum trees and I rest our case.

Jean Chapman
Taroona Avenue



Noticeboard

Good news. We have a new public noticeboard!

It's in the courtyard at Goldfields and replaces the old mail boxes on the wall between the bakery and the doctors' surgery.

Thanks to the body corporate blokes!

Joan MacMahon
Bradleys Lane

Jam for wasps

In response to the letter "Wasps" from Marymae Trench in September's issue. Strawberry jam works very well. (I once trapped five wasps this way during an outside party.)

Incidentally, any container with a hole made in the lid is usually sufficient.

Angela Welch
Bulleen



North Warrandyte CFA exercise: fire trucks in convoy. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

Thanks for fire drill

I take this opportunity to formally thank Troy Lowther from the North Warrandyte CFA for organising the fire exercise training day on December 12, 2004, in the Warrandyte area. I was part of the team that assisted Troy in organising the exercise and I got to see how many aspects of dealing with a local wildfire event he was working to address.

The exercise provided an opportunity to train each of the fire agencies in managing an escalating incident, not only within their ranks but also the agencies.

The exercise allowed the agencies to build on the partnerships that already exist. They incorporated an aircraft element which was most unusual to experience in a training situation. He invited the local Fireguard groups to "listen in" and enact their wildfire plans and phone trees. Some of the

feedback from them has allowed the agencies to hear a viewpoint from outside the firefighting ranks.

All in all, it was a very valuable training event. Many issues were raised and this has led to further discussions and an opportunity to revisit the way we do things, both within the agencies and between them. This exercise gave us a rare and vi-

tal opportunity to see some of the challenges we need to address before the next fire event takes place. I am sure many individuals who partook, or who listened in, would agree that this exercise has been of great benefit to our local community.

Dave Van Bockel
Ranger/Firefighter
Warrandyte State Park

Thanks to SES

I would like to thank the members of the SES who came to my house in Webb Street on Thursday, February 4 and cleared a large gum tree from my roof.

At 4am the gum tree in question decided to fall down. What an horrendous noise and terrifying experience.

During the day whilst I was at work the SES came and cleared the tree off the roof and I didn't

get to thank anyone. My husband, who is in Mexico on business, would also like to thank this wonderful group of people.

I know the SES have been working tirelessly over the past few days.

Thanking the SES again.

Doreen Hennessy
Webb Street

\$2000, \$1000, \$400

Alan Marshall Short Story Award 2005

Judge: John Jenkins

Closing Date: Wednesday 25 February, 2005

Nillumbik Shire Council invites contemporary Australian writers to enter short stories of up to 2,500 words in three categories:

1. Open Section Award of \$2000
2. Local Writer's Award of \$1000
3. Young Writer's Award (15-19 years) of \$400

The Alan Marshall Short Story Award competition details may be obtained from www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au or Nillumbik Shire Council, PO Box 476, Greensborough Vic 3088, Tel: (03) 9433 3126

Email: Katrina.Rank@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

500 Word Snapshot

Call for stories – 500 Word Snapshots

500 Word Snapshot is a project paying tribute to the people, places and events that have shaped or are shaping the Nillumbik area. Nillumbik Shire Council is encouraging residents to submit written "snapshots" of between 50 and 500 words that reflect Nillumbik and its people. We are looking for writing that is evocative and meaningful yet simple.

500 Words Snapshot has a focus on recent times. The stories might be simple yarns, anecdotes or brief descriptions. They might be about specific moments, urban myths, comic incidences, a special person or deed. The subjects don't need to be famous, but they may have done some important or extraordinary things that have impacted on their neighbourhood or wider community.

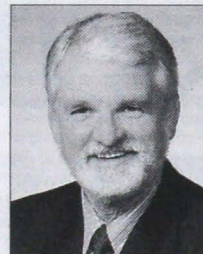
Stories will be published on Council's website and in other publications as opportunities arise.

Contact Katrina on 9433 3126 for further information.

Bill Forrest
Interim Chief Executive Officer



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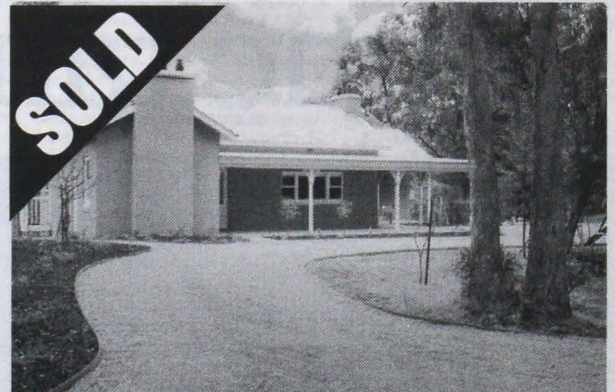


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Problems in Osborne Road

A two-acre bush block in Osborne Road, North Warrandyte, described by locals as "pristine" is to be subdivided into two lots. Twice rejected by Nillumbik council and once by VCAT, the subdivision has now been approved by VCAT. RUTH RANKIN, of the Osborne Peninsula Landcare Group, discusses the ramifications of this decision.

WHAT price a slice of heaven in Osborne Road, Warrandyte? Priceless, say the greenies. Not worth much, says the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE). The VCAT decision for an application for subdivision at 38 Osborne Road, North Warrandyte went in favour of the developer.

In her conclusion, VCAT member Christina Fong said: "The issue that the proposal will involve loss of vegetation cannot be disputed. It is a matter of whether the extent of loss, and the design of the development and subdivision, is acceptable, given that it is in a residential zone and where there is conflicting demand for wildfire management and vegetation retention."

"I am satisfied that the design of the dwellings and the alignment of the subdivision have taken heed of the tribunal's last decision, and that it is a reasonable balance between the purpose of the zone, the need to satisfactorily address wildfire management, and minimisation of vegetation and habitat loss," Ms Fong said.

Particularly disappointing to all the objectors was the last minute withdrawal of CFA and DSE from the hearing.

The fact that the two identical three-storey dwellings share a fuel modification zone was the basis of CFA's original objection. This is still the case, however CFA has now approved the application. Modifications made to the dwellings include siting of 10,000 litre

water tanks with CFA fittings, a petrol pump and roof-mounted sprinkler system. The proximity of the dwellings in this shared fuel modification zone is contrary to the education program run by the CFA for Community Fireguard groups and indeed goes against what CFA is telling us is safe practice. With each dwelling reliant upon the other for fire protection, this is a recipe for disaster. If one dwelling catches alight, the radiant heat will most certainly have an impact on the other.

As part of the land management plan with this proposal, the fuel modification zone has exact requirements for fuel reduction: brushcut and rake off grass in early summer; cut and paint large woody weeds; scrape bark off Red Stringybark trees; remove all weedy shrub species; thin indigenous shrub species, based on amount remaining after all weedy shrub species have been removed; and remove all cut material offsite.

These tasks must all be performed each fire season and both properties need to adhere strictly to this plan.

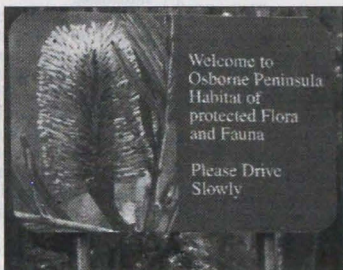
What chance is there that two property owners will work together on these tasks year after year? And who will police it? If one owner neglects to carry out the requirements then the other is at risk.

As custodians of the environment, DSE, in their wisdom, has developed Victoria's native vegetation management framework.

All areas of native vegetation are classified in Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) and these classes are



Ruth Rankin: "We are extremely disappointed at the reluctance of CFA and DSE to appear at VCAT hearings." (Pictures by Stephen Reynolds)



given bioregional conservation status. EVCs provide a standard state-wide system of classification that recognises that broadly similar vegetation types occur in different parts of the state because they exist under similar environmental conditions.

When an application for development involves removal of vegetation, and particularly in an area under a significant vegetation overlay and an environmental significance overlay, such as Osborne Road, Warrandyte, the proposal must include a net gain assessment.

Firstly, the impact of the development on the habitat must be avoided if possible, then minimised on site and then if all else fails an offset must be found in order to achieve a net gain. The actual calculation of this net loss/gain of habitat is decidedly complicated and better left to professionals. The offset is a trade-off when all else fails, gained by revegetating land in the same EVC anywhere in Victoria. DSE

takes an overview approach: the "big picture"!

One thing is certain: the proposal for 38 Osborne Road was calculated at a net loss and all efforts to achieve a net gain offset on the property were fruitless. Victoria's native vegetation management framework allows for offsite offsets. This permits the applicant to remove vegetation from 38 Osborne Road and achieve a net gain by revegetating a section of bush in St Andrews, 17.5km away, as long as it is in the same EVC.

Not only is this entire concept rather difficult to grasp, but the implications for council in monitoring both the development and the offsite offset are huge.

The permit to subdivide cannot be issued until the offsite offset is in place, and conversely the offsite offset must be guaranteed before the permit is issued.

Credits for net gain win for the legal eagles! Fortunately, any offsite offset for the 38 Osborne Road property can be obtained by providing legal protection of native vegetation that assures long-term or permanent protection from clearing or development. This can be achieved by including a Section 173 or a Trust for Nature covenant.

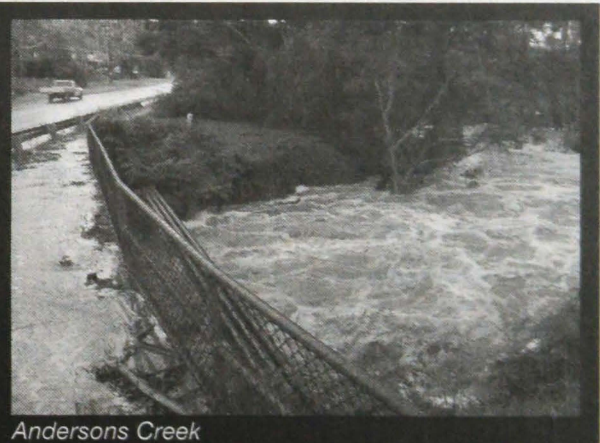
Most developments require a land management plan to be submitted with the application. Usually these plans are for a 10-year period. A Section 173 ensures that the land management plan is attached to the title of the property so that should ownership change, the plan is still to be adhered to.

A Section 173 Agreement between council and landowners is merely a means of transferring the responsibility for adherence to the plan from the current owner to any future owners. I believe it is just a cop-out; a way of passing the responsibility of ongoing maintenance of a property to the council. What means can a council use to enforce property owners to carry out these works?

Developers are increasingly using a Section 173 agreement as a means of achieving their goals, to the detriment of councils who have to find the resources to monitor and report on the outcomes of these agreements over many years. Ultimately it is the ratepayers who are out of pocket, and the developers who are reaping the rewards. The big loser is the environment.

An example of this is a recent subdivision at 28 Osborne Road by a local developer. This property was subdivided into three allotments, each with a land management plan and a Section 173 agreement. All three properties sold quickly and the developer moved on, and many years later the conditions of the land management plans have not been adhered to.

We are extremely disappointed at the reluctance of CFA and DSE to appear at VCAT hearings. There is a sense of a willingness to appease the consultants acting on behalf of applicants, rather than supporting councils in their efforts to protect the environment from inappropriate development.



Andersons Creek



Everard Drive

Didn't it rain!

February 2 floods: Harris Gully Road



Annual Community Grants Programs

Council combines the information session and assessment process for all these grants to ensure that your application has the best possible chance of being successful. Guidelines and application forms for all grants are available on the Council website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au. Council recommends contacting relevant Officers before applying.

Information sessions will be held at Nillumbik Shire Council Offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough on Wednesday, 2 March 2005 at 2pm and Thursday, 3 March 2005 at 6.30pm.

These two hour sessions will provide an overview of all grant categories and advice regarding selection criteria. Attendance to one of these sessions is highly recommended for new applicants. Please RSVP for an information session by contacting Sharon Frosi on (03) 9433 3161.

2004/2005 Grants

Successful applicants will receive these grants by 29 April 2005.

Grant rounds open on 19 January 2005, and close 4pm Friday, 18 March 2005

Arbor Week Grants 04/05

Provide an incentive to local schools to develop and organise conservation or environmental programs with an emphasis on indigenous plants.

Contact: Donna Stoddart, Environment Planning Coordinator: (03) 9433 3216.

Total Grant Pool: \$4,500.

Maximum funding: \$1,000.

Access For All Abilities Program Adapted Equipment Grants 04/05

To assist not for profit community sporting clubs and community event providers to purchase adapted equipment for use by people with disabilities in activities.

Contact: Jenny Gregory, Community Development Officer: (03) 9433 3136.

Total Grant Pool: \$4,000.

Maximum funding: \$1,000.

2005/2006 Grants

All amounts are indicative and approval is subject to Council's 2005/2006 Budget.

It is expected that successful applicants will receive these grants during August/September 2005.

Grant rounds open on 19 January 2005, and close 4pm Friday, 27 May 2005.

Special Events

To support community groups with the development and implementation of emerging community events and celebrations.

Contact: Sally Hansen, Community Events Officer: (03) 9433 3263.

Total Grant Pool: \$5,000.

Maximum funding: \$1,500.

Cultural Development Grants

To encourage individuals, community groups and organisations in the Shire to develop arts and cultural activities which benefit the community.

Contact: Dr Katrina Rank, Arts Officer: (03) 9433 3126.

Total Grant Pool: \$5,000.

Maximum funding: \$1,500.

Youth Support Grants

To assist local community groups to develop new after hours programs, events and opportunities for young people to strengthen community access and increase youth participation.

Contact: Stacey Mansfield, Youth Services Project Officer: (03) 9433 3190.

Total Grant Pool: \$10,000.

Maximum funding: \$2,000.

Arbor Week Grants

Provide an incentive to local schools to develop and organise conservation or environmental programs with an emphasis on indigenous plants.

Contact: Donna Stoddart, Environment Planning Coordinator: (03) 9433 3216.

Total Grant Pool: \$4,500.

Maximum funding: \$1,000.

Community Development Grants

To assist with the development of new, innovative programs, opportunities & services by local community groups and organisations within the Shire.

Contact: Jenny Gregory, Community Development Officer: (03) 9433 3136.

Total Grant Pool: \$10,000.

Maximum funding: \$2,000.

Community Group Support Grants

To assist and support in the operation of small community groups with limited capacity to obtain funds from other sources.

Contact: Jenny Gregory, Community Development Officer: (03) 9433 3136.

Total Grant Pool: \$3,000.

Maximum funding: \$500.

Access For All Abilities Program Adapted Equipment Grants

To assist not for profit community sporting clubs and community event providers to purchase adapted equipment for use people with disabilities in activities.

Contact: Jenny Gregory, Community Development Officer: (03) 9433 3136.

Total Grant Pool: \$4,000.

Maximum funding: \$1,000.

Bill Forrest
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Don is on a mercy mission to Asian tsunami survivors

Don Hughes, of Pound Road, is leaving for Banda Aceh this month to assist survivors of the Boxing Day tsunami disaster in the installation and use of a new Australian septic toilet system.

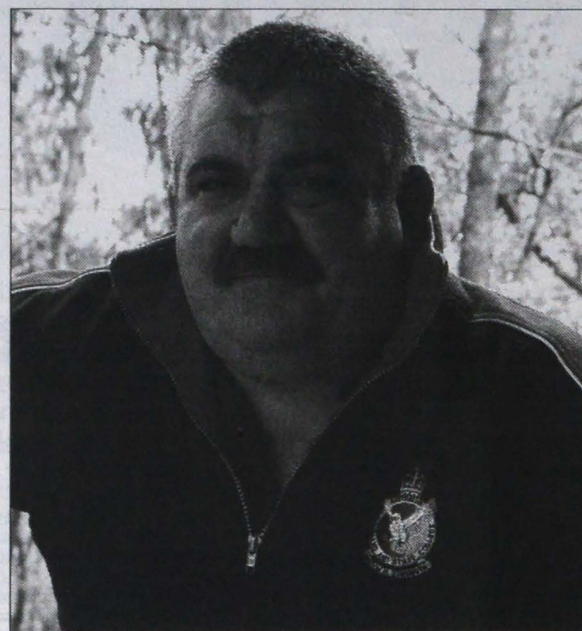
Don, well-known in Warrandyte as a local builder and Scout group leader, has previously worked in Papua New Guinea constructing roads, airfields, schools and hospitals, and in Mozambique clearing landmines in his role as a senior engineering officer in the Australian Army.

But on this occasion, Don will be travelling as a private citizen, anxious to use his skills as part of the international aid effort, "to assist in the survival and then recovery period" following the tsunami.

He will be teaching the locals how to install the "light-weight expedient septic tank system," Don told the *Diary*.

The environmentally friendly system has been invented and designed by Bob Paterson of Tasmania, one of Don's old army mates. All the equipment needed for the project departed by sea last month.

"Bob, an environmental health professional, Army Reserve officer and winegrower, has used his system in Timor, Bougainville and Uganda," Don said. He recently showcased the system on the ABC-TV New Inventors program.



Don Hughes: installing emergency toilets.

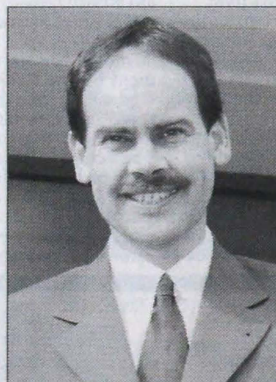
Titled the Bioremedial In-field Personnel Unit—BiPu—it is "suited to areas that are sensitive to high water tables. Because of their cheap cost to manufacture and install, they are also highly suited to developing countries."

The Tasmanian government has sponsored the project, and Don and Bob will be working in Banda Aceh with

Oxfam/Community Aid Abroad.

"Bob's company, Tasmanian Environmental Solutions, has installed the system in many wilderness and environmentally sensitive areas, as well as in more conventional applications, such as private homes and golf clubs," Don said. "Much interest has been shown in the use of BiPu in developing countries."

Our bank seeks donors



Mark Challen: calling for donations.

The Warrandyte Community Bank is accepting donations for the Asian tsunami appeal.

The appeal was launched across all Bendigo Bank branches late in December. It has already topped \$1,300,000 and continues to grow strongly.

Warrandyte Community Bank manager Mark Challen said the appeal is being conducted by Bendigo Bank's Community Enterprise Foundation, a charitable foundation able to provide taxation receipts to donors.

Proceeds will be channeled through registered overseas aid agencies, including Red Cross, CARE Australia and World Vision.

"We have only just started advertising the appeal with posters in the branch and yet we have been overwhelmed by the response of our customers," Mr Challen said. "This tragedy has obviously touched everyone and people have been incredibly generous."

Mr Challen said donors did not need to be Community Bank customers. "It is open to the entire community."

"Our staff will provide donors with a bank deposit receipt and will email their details to the foundation in Bendigo. The foundation will then post a receipt which may be used to claim a tax donation."

Bendigo Bank made a \$20,000 donation to start the appeal.

Compassion for sale

Ever since that fateful Boxing Day, Warrandyte residents have been rallying to help victims of the tsunami disaster. Many pledged money direct to aid organisations, others collected a great deal of used clothing, and the Warrandyte Community Bank opened its appeal.

One of the town's biggest efforts is being organised through Warrandyte Neighbourhood

House. They are running a "Monster Garage Sale". Except there won't be any monsters for sale and it won't be in a garage.

The sale will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre, on the Yarra Street-Webb Street corner, on Sunday, February 13. Only used goods of high quality will be for sale. "We've been given some of the most unique and amazing items," organiser

Karen Throssell told the *Diary*.

"The money will go direct to Sarvodaya, a relief organisation in Sri Lanka. Sarvodaya is a large, grassroots Gandhian organisation which is doing relief and humanitarian work."

Saleable goods can be left at the Neighbourhood House, on the upper level of the community centre. Further enquiries: 9844 1839.

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On patrol: fire trucks mass for CFA exercise. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

Answering your fire emergency questions

By CLIFF GREEN

Flooding rains earlier this month may have lulled Warrandyte residents into thinking the bushfire season is over.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," CFA manager of community safety, Jeff Adair, told the *Diary*.

"These heavy rains have given us a short reprieve. History has shown us that in the late 1960s and just prior to Ash Wednesday we had heavy rains and flooding. A renewal of hot, windy weather, such as preceded the recent heavy rains, may well see the benefits of this rainy weather evaporate.

"As we know, Warrandyte is dry, hungry country at the best of times and summer is far from over."

With the threat of wildfire almost constant across the extended summer season, the *Diary* put a number of critical questions to Mr Adair:

There have been a number of fires so far this season. What is our current local situation and what can we expect?

Warrandyte could still experience significant fire activity if we have a run of hot, dry, windy days. February and early March are typically our hottest months, and despite recent rains, the bush can still burn. If we do have fires, CFA would anticipate a significant degree of community confusion and uncertainty. We would also anticipate many residents being ill-prepared and off-guard.

Tragically, a number of people died in the South Australian fires earlier this year. What can we learn from this?

The South Australian fires emphasised the importance of preparation and planning. Sadly, lives were lost because people made a last-minute, panic-driven decision to flee in advance of a raging fire. Not being able to outrun or see where they were going, cost people their lives. Many underestimate the danger of radiant heat and its threat to life and, thinking they can escape,

pay the ultimate price. These fires also highlighted that even our latest technology and fire truck capacity has little impact on large-scale, intense wildfire.

Warrandyte has a history of fires. Could a similar event occur within our community?

We have all the conditions in Warrandyte and surrounds for a similar event. We have a combination of dense vegetation, winding roads, houses cheek by jowl and steep and rugged terrain. This makes combating fire difficult and dangerous. It is also likely that many Warrandyte people will try and leave at the last minute. They may not know where the fire is, how big and in which direction the fire is travelling. This is a deadly combination.

Some people may have expectations that CFA will be in attendance at all times for all fires. Is this so?

CFA has a limited capacity and we cannot—and will not—guarantee a fire truck at everyone's property during a major event. Our primary goal is the protection of life and property, but there is a limit to what we can do. We need residents to assist CFA by taking responsibility for their own safety and protection of their property by undertaking preventative measures, such as fuel reduction, planning and early decision making; deciding whether to stay and defend or leave early.

What are the risks associated with waiting until the last moment before you decide to leave?

CFA recommends that if you decide to leave your home, you must do so before a fire threatens and road travel becomes hazardous. Experience has shown that many residents receive little if any warning of an approaching fire. You may not have time to leave the area safely and conditions often confuse this further. Your house offers better protection from the heat of the fire than being in your car or out in the open. In order to make this decision people need current and accurate information. This is

best obtained by listening to ABC.774 as well as phoning Victorian Bushfire Information on 1800 240 667. These sources will have up-to-date information, provided by CFA.

If residents decide to leave, how will they know when it is the right time to leave? What are the early warning signs for a bad fire day?

Any days with hot, dry, windy conditions can produce dangerous fires. The longer the run of hot, windy weather, the greater the likelihood of intense, fast-running fires. Melbourne weather conditions often produce three to five days of increasing temperatures in a row, culminating in extreme temperatures and hot, howling northerlies, followed by a blustery south-westerly cool change. This pattern can be a deadly combination. Most people watch the TV news and weather each night and should be aware of the fire potential when these conditions are predicted. This is the best early warning that anyone can ever receive.

How can people protect themselves if caught in their car?

Do a U-turn to safety, if you have the option. But if caught out, pull over to the side of the road, into a cleared area. Do not park in a place that is surrounded by fuel for the fire. Ensure windows are up and vents closed. Leave engine and air conditioning running to cool the car. Switch on hazard lights and headlights. Cover exposed skin as much as possible with non-synthetic material. Get down as low as possible—below window level—and cover up until the fire front passes.

How do residents obtain more information on reducing their risk?

CFA has produced a new and revised version of the Bushfire Survival Plan Workbook. This can be obtained by contacting your local fire station, by phoning the CFA regional office on 9735 0511 or from www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

A heavy hand for firefighters



Awaiting the worst: Danielle Green poses before one of the new bulldozers with a DSE firefighting team.

Yan Yean MP Danielle Green recently welcomed the allocation of five new bulldozers destined for the state's worst hot spots.

The additional dozers are part of the government's \$168 million injection over the next four years and will greatly assist the Department of Sustainability and Environment in "keeping small fires small".

The funding boost also includes a total of 200 new firefighting staff employed over the next four years, and increased training, upgraded fire roads, new equipment and assistance in supplying 190 new CFA fire trucks and upgrading CFA fire stations across the state.

Ms Green said the changes would ensure that Victoria stays ahead of the new challenges in managing the state's

fire risk caused by climate change and shifting demographics.

DSE's fire manager for Port Phillip, Bernard Barbetti, said the three first attack dozers and two heavy dozers were an invaluable addition to DSE's firefighting capabilities. He said they would be used in fire suppression and to cut access tracks and maintain forest roads.

"The first-attack dozers are used for the initial response to fires, able to get to the fire quickly and rapidly create control lines around them," Mr Barbetti said. "The large D6 dozers are used in more serious ongoing fires and enable us to construct large control lines away from the fire that we can backburn from."

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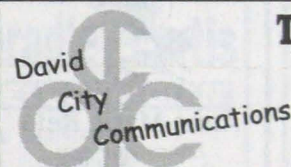
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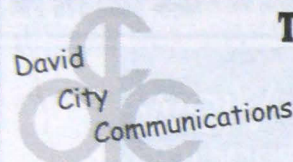
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Nillumbik's Environmental Workshops Program 2005

Learn more about the environment and sustainable living in a series of workshops, talks and events brought to you by Nillumbik Shire Council. Events are free unless otherwise stated.

Saturday 12 February THE FASCINATING WORLD OF REPTILES

Would you like to know more about reptiles that live in the local area? Then come along to this informative session and find out where local snakes and lizards live, how you can identify them and what you should do if you have them living on your property.

Time: 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Venue: Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre, Gastons Road, Eltham (Melways 21 A1)
Bookings: 9433 3210 - Megan Andrews

Thursday 24 February Nillumbik Shire Council and Eltham Bookshop present

THE COMPLETE FIELD GUIDE TO BUTTERFLIES OF AUSTRALIA

Would you like to know more about Australia's diverse range of butterflies? Then come along and hear award-winning author Dr Michael Braby discuss his latest work 'The Complete Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia'. Michael, a former Eltham resident involved in the founding years of the Eltham Copper Butterfly counts, has been collecting and studying Australian butterflies for more than 25 years. Travelling across most of the Australian continent, he has gained first-hand experience of more than 75% of Australia's 416 species.

Time: 7pm - 8.30pm
Venue: Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre, Gastons Road, Eltham (Melways 21 A1)

Bookings: 9433 3210 - Megan Andrews

Sunday 6 March CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 2005

It's time to put on your gloves and make a difference! To find a site near you please contact Council on 9433 3210 or visit www.cleanup.com.au

Sunday 20 March GARDENING WITH THE PLANET IN MIND

Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA) is a not for profit organisation helping gardeners to use less pesticides, conserve water, produce less waste and avoid growing environmental weeds. Come along to this informative talk and learn how you can use sustainable gardening principles in your own garden. Don't miss this opportunity to receive great environmentally friendly gardening advice for free.

Time: 11.00am - 12noon
Venue: Rivers Garden Centre, Kurrag Road, Yarrambat (Melways 184 C11)
Bookings: 9433 3210 - Megan Andrews

To receive a copy of Nillumbik's Environmental Workshop Program please call Narelle Liepa, Environmental Projects Officer, on 9433 3214 or visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Bill Forrest
Interim Chief Executive Officer

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CIVIL CELEBRANT: Weddings, child name-giving and renewals. Bruce Shand, JP. Phone **9879 6726**. Website: www.bruceshand.com.au

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CIVIL CELEBRANT: Meaningful ceremonies for all occasions. John Byrne **9844 2155, 0418 995 189**.

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FREE INFORMATION EVENING: on Women's Mysteries. Thursday 24th February, 7.15-9pm. Drinks & nibbles avail from 7pm at Ginkgo Foodstore & Cafe, 152-156 Yarra St, Warrandyte. RSVP essential to Melissa: **9844 4442** or **0416 183 679**. melissa@bluep.com Women's Mysteries is a 5 day residential retreat which takes women into the mysteries of the feminine and covers all aspects of a woman's life cycle. The retreat is being offered in Melbourne from Friday April 1 to Tuesday April 5. Women with babes in arms welcome on retreat.

WANT A DIARY MINI AD? The cheapest way to send your message to the Warrandyte community. \$4.20 for 4 lines, then \$1 each additional line, prepaid. Phone **9844 3819**.

Cool crash at Sloan's Corner



Pictures and words by **SANDY BURGoyNE**

A large van loaded with bags of ice came to grief at Sloan's Corner, junction of Research-Warrandyte Road and Bradleys Lane, North Warrandyte, early last month.

The truck was travelling towards the village. It failed to take the corner and slid across the road and ended lying on the driver's side just short of a property fence.

Amazingly, no one was injured and no property was damaged. The truck finished

up neatly parked—on its side—on the nature strip, well clear of the road. It even missed the household's letter box.

The bags of ice had to be unloaded before the truck could be righted. A fleet of smaller vans was summoned to ferry the ice away.

A heavy haulage truck pulled the ice truck back onto its wheels then towed it away. The whole procedure took more than four hours. North Warrandyte Fire Brigade remained in attendance throughout.



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Pride in our place

By **CLIFF GREEN**

For more than a year, Manningham council has been carrying out a series of studies in Warrandyte aimed at creating a Yarra Street urban design framework.

This project has been funded through the state government's Pride of Place urban design scheme.

Traffic and parking studies have been undertaken, several public meetings have been held, such lobby groups as the Warrandyte Business Association and the Warrandyte Community Association were consulted and residents were surveyed on a number of important issues.

As this controversial project continued, fears were expressed that the focus of the studies could be too narrow. As long ago as last April WCA stated: "The community association wants to ensure that the whole cultural, environmental and heritage issues, not just the traffic, tourism and retail aspects are considered."

At the same time as the urban framework project was underway, council was also involved in drafting a river reserve management plan for Warrandyte. WCA believes these two plans should have been proceeding in tandem.

Council issued their draft report on the urban framework

project in October last year and called for public comment. Once again, WCA was far from satisfied, telling the *Diary*: "The most significant failure of the draft document is that it fails to take advantage of the combination of strong heritage guidelines and the development of a local policy."

At its last meeting for the year, Manningham council considered a summary of the results of a survey of Warrandyte residents examining the Yarra Street urban design framework.

Council's heritage guidelines and planning rules for Warrandyte came in for strong criticism in the submissions. Much of this centred on approval being granted for the new residential development near the post office.

Acknowledging this concern, council officers stated: "The heritage guidelines are in need of review. (This) review will tighten up planning controls in the future. Council has appointed a new heritage advisor. The community will be consulted as the new guidelines are developed."

Residents generally opposed the introduction of additional parking and the sealing of existing unsealed car parks. Council acknowledged this concern and said the sealing of car parks had been dropped. One resident raised specific problems with

parking at Whipstick Gully. Council indicated that this would be dealt with.

The question of traffic through the village brought a series of responses. Two residents called for a night-time heavy vehicle curfew between 7pm and 7am, another suggested speed humps, a third suggested "the solution to the volume of traffic is to design the Yarra Street precinct to look and function as a pedestrian precinct". Several residents called for the speed limit to be reduced to 40km, one suggesting that this would be ineffective unless feeder streets were similarly reduced.

Council responded in various ways, pointing out that as Yarra Street is a main arterial road, principal responsibility rests with VicRoads.

Pedestrian crossings in Yarra Street were a contentious issue. Several supported an additional crossing near the bridge, but another believed reducing the speed limit to 40kmh would solve this. One resident called for three crossings: new ones at Webb Street and the post office and shifting the existing crossing to a position in front of the hotel bottle shop. Council indicated that a new zebra crossing would be installed east of the bridge, the existing crossing would be "signalised", but a third crossing is "unlikely".

There was general agreement on the vexed question of signage. Everyone wanted less of it, some wanted uniformity of design and A-frame footpath signs were universally deplored, although in one instance permanent roadside signs were considered worse. The need for "entry signage" at the town's approaches was dismissed. Council's response was: "The need for and effectiveness of all signs will be reviewed during a signage audit to be carried out in the next year (2005)."

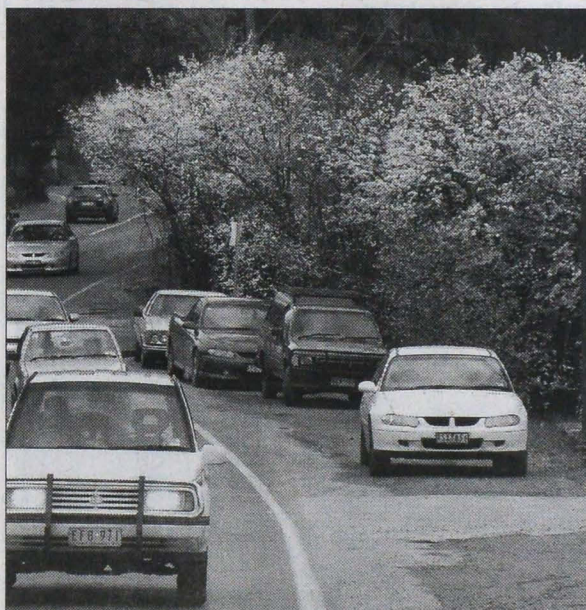
Vegetation through the village was discussed, with some spirited defence of the cherry plum trees and in support of a "rich tapestry of vegetation". Council responded: "The community is divided on whether to maintain or remove the plum trees. Council will not remove healthy plum trees. However, we will commence a program of new weed growth removal and will remove dying trees."

Replacing the bluestone toilet block at the bridge with one built of local materials was re-

jected: "Bluestone, as a material, is in keeping with the history of Warrandyte." However, several residents suggested the attached bus shelter needed refurbishment. Opinion was divided regarding the building of a toilet block at the Federation Playspace.

With one exception, residents opposed the rezoning of properties on the river side of Yarra Street from urban floodway zone to special use zone. It was suggested these could be rezoned on an "as-needs" basis. Council commented that the draft framework "merely flags the current UFZ as potentially detrimental to the character of Yarra Street. There is much work in liaison with Melbourne water to be done."

WCA and a number of residents questioned the level of community consultation throughout the process. Council replied that they held two well-attended public meetings, received 57 responses to a questionnaire, distributed the draft document to 93 members of the public and received 15 public submissions.



Council will not remove healthy plum trees.

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Australia Day awards

Several Warrandyte residents were honoured to receive Menzies Community Australia Day Awards for services to the community. The awards were presented by federal MP Kevin Andrews. Honour certificates were received by:

- Andrew Bevan-Jones, former president of the Warrandyte Historical Society
- Stephen Grubb, a tireless worker for Warrandyte Housing and Support Services

- Troy Lowther, valued, longtime member of the North Warrandyte Fire Brigade

- Betty Prangley-Warr, community worker since 1988, including the Citizens Advice Bureau and Warrandyte Housing and Support Services.

A special presentation of an Australian flag was made to Warrandyte Housing and Support Services.

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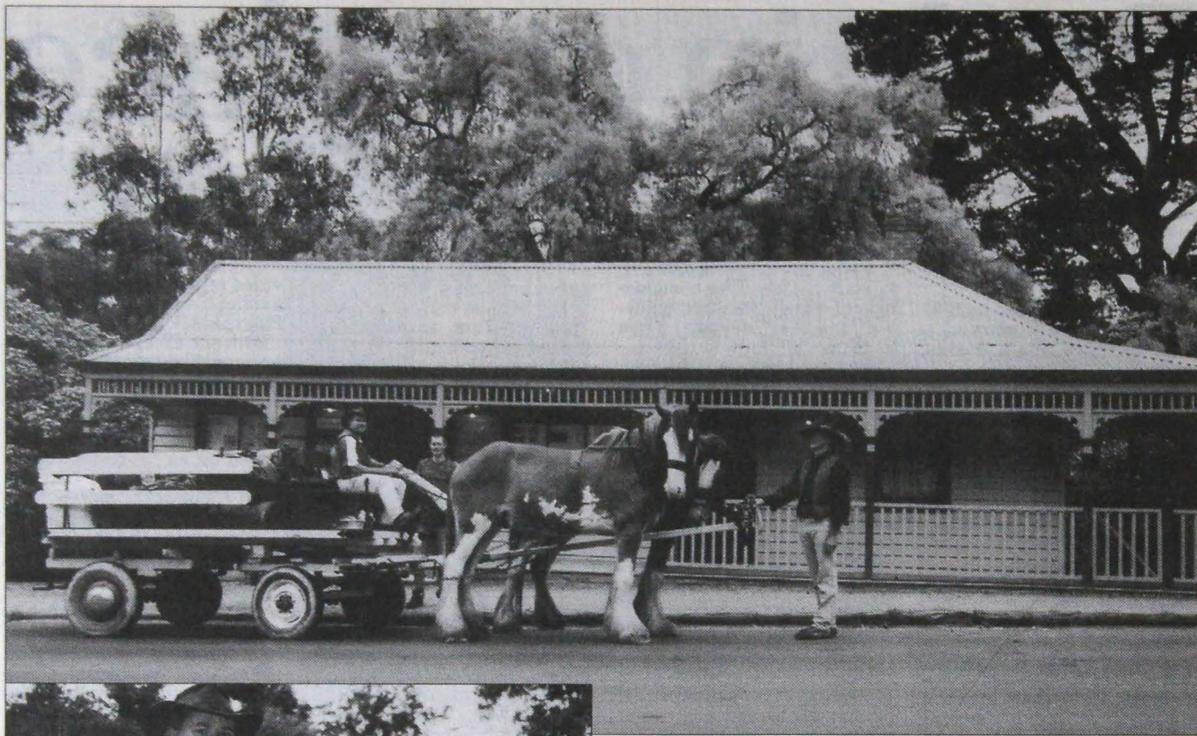
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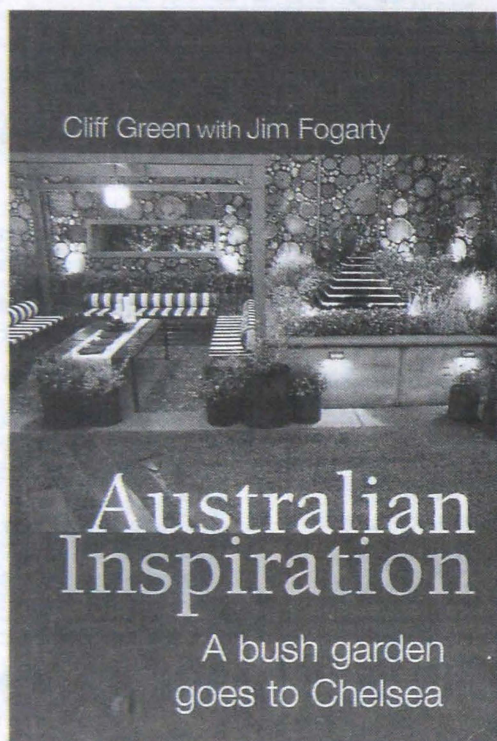


Heavy haulage

Matt "Crackerjack" Jeffrey and his locally-based Clydesdale horses, delivered a precious artefact to the Warrandyte Museum late last year.

It was a remnant timber railway sleeper from the Crown gold mine at Black Flat.

Peter "Feathers" Doyle is shown holding Hector (above) and (left) Peter Hanson, of the Warrandyte Historical Society is taking delivery of the sleeper from Matt. (Pictures by John Jeffery)



Cliff Green with Jim Fogarty

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Trelawney rode for glory

Warrandyte rider Trelawney Dewé competed in the Victorian pony clubs state titles at Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre on February 5 and 6.

Trelawney, aged 17, is a member of Kangaroo Ground Pony Club and represented the North Metropolitan Zone in the contests. She has been riding since she was 10.

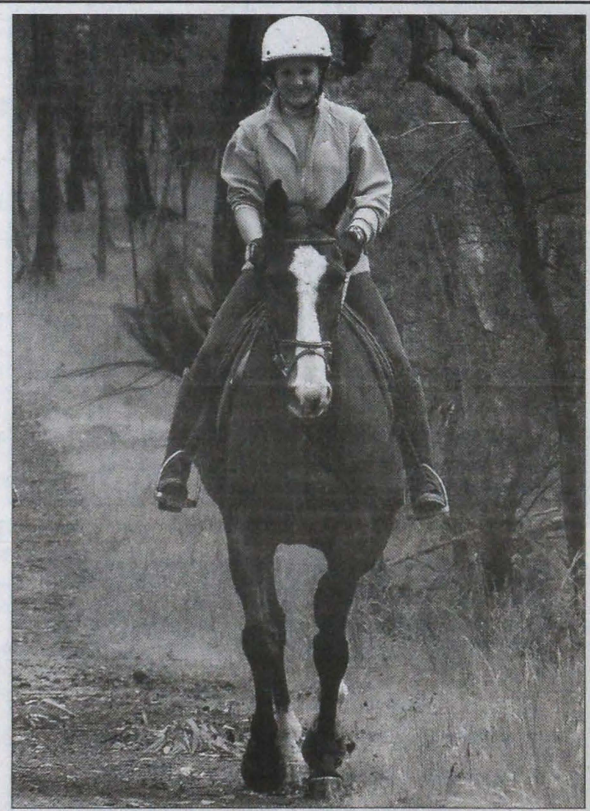
Zone representative Wendy Olenick congratulated Trelawney and all the other competitors who were riding for the zone. "Everyone representing the North Metropolitan area has ridden to an exceptional standard," she told

the *Diary*. "They have also undertaken important study in horsemanship, grooming and animal health.

"It's not just about riding, each of the competitors must have successfully gained their C certificate to ensure a well-rounded understanding of their horse and the equestrian industry," she said.

Trelawney competed in dressage events at the championships.

Horse and rider: Trelawney Dewé and Kendalee Odd Bod competed in the pony club state titles. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)



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WARRANDYTE - BUSH GARDEN

Sculptors take festival art out to the schools

By MEAGHAN O'CONNOR

A feature of this year's Warrandyte Festival will be Undercurrent 2005, an exciting arts project involving a number of local secondary schools and colleges. It began last year with Undercurrent 2004, a site-specific environmental art project exhibited along the banks of the Yarra during festival weekend.

This year it will be expanded, thanks to the festival committee receiving a \$12,400 grant from Festivals Australia and a further \$3000 from Manningham council.

Local artist David Shepherd was approached in 2003 to come up with a project to encourage youth art within the region, coinciding with the Warrandyte Festival. An environmental sculptor, David brought in Mandy Gunn and Sue Kneebone, artists working in similar fields.

Introductory "master classes" will be carried out in the schools prior to the festival, bringing together children interested in the project and aiming to demystify the terms "site

specific" and "environmental sculpture".

As David Shepherd explained to the *Diary*, environmental sculpture is different from "pedestal-based" or "permanent object" sculpture. It is about creating works that are environmentally sensitive and have a low impact on the landscape. They are often designed with an environmental site in mind. "Ephemeral like the seasons, these works are known as 'installations' and may only last a day or so." They are then packed up and taken away, leaving nothing behind. Sites around Warrandyte for Undercurrent 2005 are being negotiated with Parks Victoria.

David worked with John Davis, who is at the forefront of this type of artwork in Melbourne, and then went further afield to study in Japan.

"It was through the introduction of this type of sculpture that I was inspired. My works have a strong environmental feel to them. I work with a lot of cane, the wrapping of cane onto pre-fabricated forms, steel

forms," David said.

Since graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts, David Shepherd has exhibited his works at various venues, including Heidi Gallery and Herring Island on the Yarra.

"I have a history of working with projects that have occurred on Parks Victoria land. This work can be adapted to a gallery situation but is often to do with events and festivals. They turned Herring Island into a sculpture park, running punts across the river to the island so that the public could be a part of the creative process and see it come to life."

David is currently teaching at RMIT, Swinburne and the VCA.

Mandy Gunn began her studies in textile design. She is now working in sculpture and currently teaching at RMIT. Sue Kneebone began her career in ceramic design and has since moved into multimedia and environmental, installation-based sculpture. She is currently teaching at Victoria University.

The program began in the schools during the first week of

February and will culminate at the festival.

During the festival period there will be an exhibition of all the documentation of the journey the students have travelled during Undercurrent 2005. The documentation will be exhibited in a local hall and an onsite installation will take place over festival weekend, allowing the public to participate.

David Shepherd spent his youth in North Ringwood, and the family often visited Warrandyte to enjoy music and theatre at the Mechanics Institute Hall. "People moved to Warrandyte for the art, now they come for the environment."

This form of art is not confined to a frame or perched on a white box in a gallery. "It's about visual sensitivity as well as these works not infringing on the land," David said. "It can be in an open space but it can also be in little nooks and crannies where there is an element of discovery, like a bird's nest. The sculpture style can include assemblages of objects either found or brought to the site."

Beatles in the bush

Hello. Goodbye. It won't be long until the Warrandyte Festival will have a hard Saturday's night with the music of the Beatles here there and everywhere on stage at Stiggants Reserve.

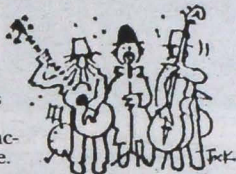
Come together and help us sing along to all the songs your mother should know. Every Beatles favourite because you can't do that anywhere else without feeling like a fool on the hill.

Run for your life to get there and sit upon the strawberry fields, joining Warrandyte's very own Fab Four in community singing. Let your vocal chords twist and shout with misery until we are getting better at fixing a hole in the Octopus's Garden as we get back to the 60s, letting our consciousness drift across the universe.

Sing in chains. Sing with the Sun God. Sing as if you've just seen a face that you know. Sing with a little help from your friends. Twist and shout your favourite request. Wake up next morning and think I should have known better than to sing in public, and vow not to sing in public anytime at all.

Prizes for best memorabilia, something displayed and best costume inspired by Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band and individual karaoke performance (audience's choice). Beatles film. Circa 1960s light shows

On Saturday, March 19, commencing at 8pm on Stiggants Main Stage. PS I love you.



Are you having a go at me?



Puns on paper

Fancy yourselves as future *Diary* cartoonists, kids? A session with Jock Macneish at the festival "Having a Go" session could help.

Jock will be kicking off proceedings at the free activities for kids' tent with a cartooning workshop for young people on Saturday, March 19 commencing at 12noon, immediately following the parade, continuing

until 2pm.

Jock told the *Diary*: "Future Warrandyte *Diary* cartoonists will get the chance to develop their wicked side and learn more about how to turn a funny drawing into a great cartoon."

Organisers describe the workshop as "very full on, appealing to a broad age range. Come along and have a go at 'Having a Go'."



Billycarts downhill — all the way

The Billycart Derby is one of Warrandyte festival's special events.

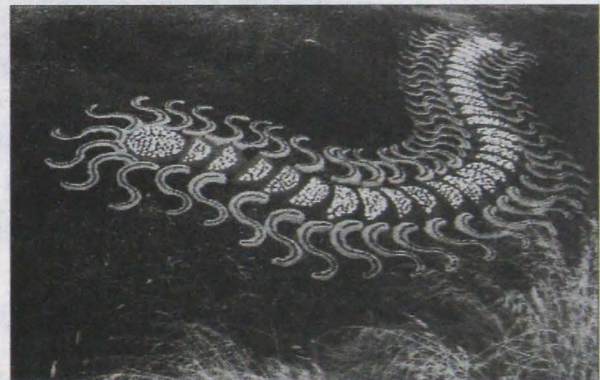
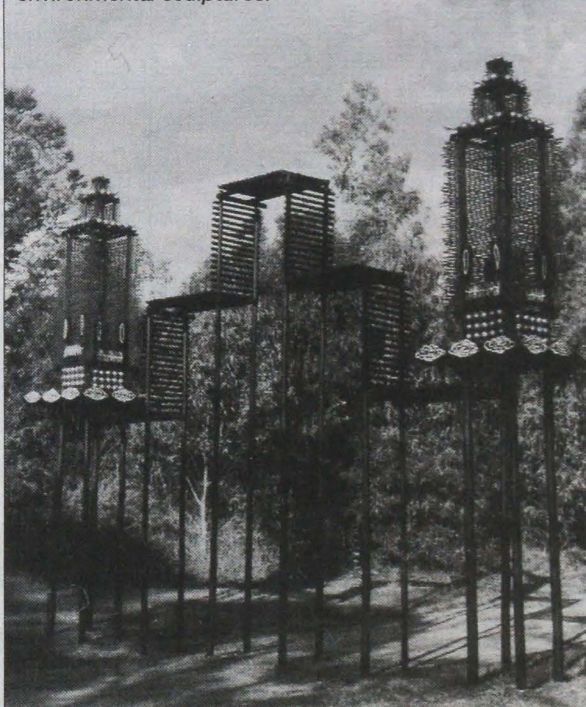
Organiser Rob Cousens tells us it will run down Forbes Street, in front of the police station, on Sunday, March 20, commencing at 9.30am. "But competitors must arrive for registration at 8.30am."

"There will be lots of fun and prizes on the day," Rob said. "Good prizes for first, second and third placings, for the best cart and the best effort on the day."

All carts must be homemade; go-cart frames are not eligible; wheels can be no larger than 16" and protective helmets and clothing must be worn by all drivers. Age limit from 8 to 16 years.

Registration fees of \$7 can be paid prior to the event or on the day. Call Rob Cousens on 9844 2328 for more information.

Some of David Shepherd's environmental sculptures.



Skate Park rocks

The Warrandyte Festival has always provided special events for young people and this year is no exception.

The Rock Stage will kick off at 2pm on Saturday, with young local bands and performers at the Skate Park in Tarroona Avenue, continuing until 10pm, with music ranging through heavy metal to rap, jazz and acoustic.

"Any young musician interested in performing should contact me as soon possible on 9844 2242," organiser Rick Gordon said. "We have already booked a number of local bands, but have space for a couple more."

As a tribute to Lynne Cappellani, one of the founders of the event, the inaugural presentation of an encouragement award will assist the development of emerging talent.

The YMCA Skate Comp is on Sunday, with Under 12s at 1pm, Under 15s at 2pm and Open at 3pm. Entry is free, with prizes awarded by leading skate professionals, who will present "a heart-stopping demo" at 4pm.

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

Hey nonny follies

Was Elizabeth I really the Virgin Queen, or was it clever PR? What was in that tobacco from the New World?

All will be revealed at this year's Hey Nonny Nonny Follies; an Elizabethan feast of bawdiness, hubble bubble, jest and song.

"This year's Follies has a cast of over 30," director Keryn Wood told the *Diary*, "featuring several new young local faces, a host of strong singers, and the comedic talents of Caroline Shaw, Adrian Rice, Noelene Cooper, Bill Connolly and, of course, Alan Cornell and Ken Virtue waving their Morris dancer hankies."

Easter is early this year, and the Follies will run the week before and after Easter. Performances dates are Wednesday, March 16 to Saturday, March 19 and Wednesday, March 30 to Saturday, April 2.

Bookings through Joan Rogers at The Old Bakery Cottage Bookshop on 9844 1744. Tickets are \$15.

"Book early, as last year's Follies was sold out by the first week," Keryn Wood said. All ticket sales from the opening performance will be donated to the tsunami appeal.

Call for scarecrows

Scarecrows galore will be featured at this year's Warrandyte Festival in a competition organised by the Warrandyte Community Garden. Alongside a special non-competitive section for artists will be a competition in the following sections: open, under 18, under 12 and under 8 age groups. Scarecrows can be made from any materials, so long as they are free-standing or mounted on a stake that can be hammered into the ground. A non-competitive section for pre-schoolers will be available for small figures that can be stood up on hay bales. Times and site for delivery will be announced in the next *Diary*.



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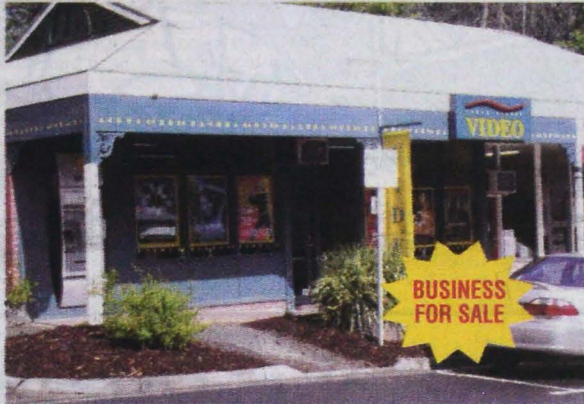
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FOR SALE WARRANDYTE

8 Second Street

"A Short Walk to Everything"

With the Yarra River, shops, schools and transport at your fingertips, this gorgeous 4 bedroom plus study home offers a relaxed family lifestyle in a quiet street. With outdoor heated spa, stunning rear deck with views, huge double garage, heating/cooling and a whole lot more, don't let this one slip through your fingers.



Price: \$420k-\$460k
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FOR SALE WARRANDYTE

9 Hamilton Road

"A great place to call home!"

This well presented clinker brick home is situated on a parklike 2/3 acre (approx). Comprising 3BRs (BIRs & master with ensuite), good sized study (or 4th BR), large rumpus, formal dining, lounge with OFP and balcony views. Beautiful landscaped grounds, inground solar heated pool with bbq area, sunken spa with gas heating, 4 car carport.



Price: \$540k plus buyers
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381 Heidelberg-Warrandyte Rd

"Your outlook will be bright"

Ideally located within walking distance to shops, schools and public transport, this well presented 4 bedroom home features a large lounge and dining room, rumpus/office, kitchen with meals/family and lovely views from the rear timber deck. Offered on a generous 1/4 acre block with double carport and plenty more.



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"Fabulous living in the treetops"

Nearing completion is this stunning brand new 5 bedroom home featuring stone and Daniel Robertson bricks on 4.61 acres of native bush backing onto the Mullum Mullum linear park with superb valley views to the north-west. Comprises family room with gas fire, huge elevated deck, rumpus and theatre room. Naturally it comes with all of the usual luxuries of a home of this calibre.



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19 Cassinia Road

"Clinker Classic"

Located in a wonderfully leafy street, and within a short walk to the Aquarena, is this charming 4 bedroom clinker brick home on a fully landscaped corner block. Comprising family room, kitchen with meals area, separate laundry, master with ensuite, 2 car garage, landscaped garden with automatic sprinkler system, gas wall furnace and more!



Price: Low \$380k-\$420k
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FOR SALE WARRANDYTE

30 Melbourne Hill Road

"We know what's inside!"

Step in and have a look at this lovely home. On 1/4 acre (approx) and with superb leafy views, this modern 3 bedroom home features formal lounge/dining, modern kitchen with meals area, terrific rumpus with fireplace and a large timber deck. With its timber floors, feature walls and colonial charm, what a wonderful place to call home! Short walk to schools, shops and transport.



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Anthony Hansen



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Time: 1pm - 3pm
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RSVP: 18 February 2005



Unplugged melody: All power to the dishwasher

I HAD been holding out for years. It wasn't that I had a love of repetitive domestic work but it was just that I couldn't justify the expense. And anyway, I've never had a problem with washing and drying dishes.

In much the same way, I enjoy ironing. There is something soothing and elemental about the mindless smoothing out of life's wrinkles. Herself always offers to take over the ironing once I get down to the handkerchiefs and the table napkins but I invariably refuse her kind offer. They're the reward for having mastered the business shirts and the linen trousers.

So, it was with some measure of bad grace mixed with severe emotional blackmail that the dishwasher arrived. Well, to tell the truth, it wasn't without a prolonged battle on my part and a carefully planned strategy by Herself.

We had been through all the initial skirmishes. She raised the concern about the number of dishes that needed re-washing. I countered with the request for statistics and concrete evidence. The argument then moved on to health concerns and the unsanitary nature of tea towels. I provided the rejoinder that we need a low-grade dose of bacteria to maintain our bodies' defence mechanisms.

I decided to go on the offensive and hit Herself with the cost argument. I was a bit rattled by the counter-offensive that cost was not the issue, particularly as she was providing

KIBBLED

"Why don't we go next door and see if there's anything we need?" And guess what type of chain store it was! And were they having a dishwasher sale? Game, set and match!

an equal amount of money into the coffers. Added to which, she just happened to have made enquiries at the local chain discount shop and, just by sheer coincidence, they were having a sale of dishwashers just at that time.

My best form of defence was the avoidance technique. The pamphlets were left lying around the living room but they were not discussed. Thankfully, the sale period ended and I as-

sumed we could get back to normality. But I hadn't taken into account the years of genetic adaptation that have occurred in the female brain.

We all know that GATTACA, the name of the film, is a word made up from the first letters of the chemicals that make up our gene store. What hasn't been included is the letter for the female gene for "how to manipulate your man so that he reaches your decision".

I had believed the battle to be over. No more mention was made of the appliance and for all intents and purposes, life was set to maintain the same course. Or so I thought!

We were doing our normal grocery shopping. Herself had taken possession of a new work car and had indicated that she wanted to buy some car mats. I suggested the El Cheapo shop and she agreed. When we found that they didn't sell them, I was about to go home when Herself had a brainwave. "What about the car accessories shop?"

Unsuspectingly, we drove to the car shop and bought the mats. Just as we were leaving, she innocently suggested, "Why don't we go next door and see if there's anything we need?"

And guess what type of chain store it was! And were they having a dishwasher sale? Game, set and match!

So with the dishwasher at home the next step was installation. When we built the house we had the plumbing and, I thought, the power point installed. So with great equanimity, I called my plumber mate

and arranged for the installation. But, before that, I had to remove the cupboard.

After quite a bit of sweat and profanity, I had the cupboard bare, with the two stoppered water points at the back. But the power point? Perhaps in the adjoining cupboards? No! It was Sunday afternoon and the plumber was arriving at 9am the following day. Panic was the obvious solution.

I chastised Herself for my rising blood pressure and didn't take kindly to her simplistic suggestion that I should ring our electrician to see if he could fit it in before the plumber. When he said he'd be there at 7am, I reminded Herself that she was lucky that I am resourceful as I am.

The power point was installed at the top of the next cupboard. He fitted the dishwasher and drilled a hole through to the adjoining cupboard for the power cable plug to fit through. I went around to plug it in but called out, "You need to drill another hole so it can pass up through the middle shelf."

"No need! Just plug it into the one under the shelf right at the back."

"What one?"

The only way to see this plug was to lie on the floor. It was there all the time.

"How'd the installation go?"

"No probs. You might have the control gene but, luckily, I've got the practical, organisation gene!"

ROGER KIBELL

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Great tree above all others, set to come tumbling down

THE canopy is massive. Thousands of almond-shaped leaves form a filigree network of green against a sheet of blue sky. It is a beautiful tree. Tall, elegant, imposing, inspiring—a sentinel tree. But in a few months it may be gone leaving a terrible gap in the skyline.

I am not into hugging trees as such, however, I do like to touch them—to run my hands down the silky-smooth, creamy-white, barkless trunk of a Manna Gum or Candlebark, to slot my fingers into the deep fissures of an Ironbark and feel its crusty resin ridges.

The sentinel tree is a stringybark. Its bark consists of dense, interwoven fibrous strands that provides the tree with a thick overcoat to protect it in times of fire; successfully, as evidenced by the faded charcoal streaks near the base of the trunk.

The tree does not stand alone, it is part of a forest, part of a habitat corridor—it's just that it is so much bigger than all the rest, and older—probably around a hundred years. So how did it get to be the grand master?

Starting out as a tiny seed released with hundreds of others from a woody "gumnut" capsule, it was lucky enough to fall—or be blown—onto favourable ground. When conditions were right it germinated along with many others. To succeed it had to grow faster and stronger than its rivals, out-competing them for light and water and eventually out-shadowing them. It needed a high concentration of toxic cineole oils in its leaves to deter all but the most persistent grazing animals and chewing insects. It developed a strong structural root system that was important for stability.

Once established, the sentinel

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

tree began to exert an influence that ranged beyond its own physical size. Being taller than the others its blossoms attracted more nectar-feeding birds, bats, possums, butterflies, beetles and other flying insects for pollination. From its lofty position on the ridgeline, the resultant seeds were scattered by the wind for a considerable distance. Over the years many birds built nests and raised their young amongst the foliage and branches. A pair of kookaburras returns to the tree every year to lay their eggs in a cavity formed where the main trunk divides.

Dozens of invertebrates including beetles, spiders and ants seek shelter in the nooks and crannies of the fibrous bark, caterpillars too find secure niches to spin their tough cocoons against the rough trunk of the tree.

The tree is a huge old living organism—a powerhouse of energy. Its leaves harvest sunlight to photosynthesize. Taking carbon dioxide from the air and water from the ground, they convert these raw ingredients into carbohydrates for their use and oxygen for ours. So, in effect, we both rely on inhaling each other's exhalations for life.

The sentinel stringybark is not a rare species, in fact it is the dominant tree of the landscape in this far corner of south-east Australia, belonging to the ecological vegetation class (EVC) known as Lowland Forest.

It is not irreplaceable either—well not quite—but it would



take the best part of a century to do so! The problem for the tree is that it is growing on private land that the owner wants to develop for tourism purposes.

Throughout its life the tree has faced and overcome the challenges of nature—fire, drought and wild storms, but this ultimate challenge is beyond its control. The fate of this

magnificent sentinel tree, in the prime of its life, with its cargo of animals, is in the hands of a tribunal. Just one person will decide in the next few weeks whether to uphold the rights of nature or give to humans the right to end the life of this magnificent sentinel tree because it stands in the way of a development designed for short-term gain.

Tidying away those resolutions

IT'S that time of year. Time to start afresh, turn over a new leaf, ditch the old and embrace the new.

Starting during the pre-Christmas cleanup, my new year's resolutions invariably revolve around the theme of reducing the mess, indoors and out. Apart from the fact that Santa would break his neck if we didn't shift a few impediments, I would go insane if another layer were to be added to the stratigraphy in this house.

If only we didn't feel obliged to keep so much stuff—rarely-worn clothing, "important" books and papers, data CDs that just might contain something useful, and an array of missing bits for which we might one day discover the original pieces. Where the hell am I supposed to keep it all?

I just need more time, lots more time, as well as another shelf here, another wall unit there...

I'm not the only person who finds herself swearing to turn over a new leaf in 2005. As I sit writing this at a café table in the shade of a huge spreading jacaranda, four young men, univer-



OUR PLACE
By **MARILYN MOORE**

sity types, wander over and sprawl around the table next to mine, talking energetically. Upgrading their physical fitness is to be a high priority for each of them in 2005.

"The only part of my body I'm not happy with," declares one young Adonis, "is my stomach." "Yeah, you can swim and run all you like", speaks another with the authority of one who has been there and failed, "but the only thing that'll do any good for your stomach is sit-ups."

"I do 30 every day..."
"I reckon I could do 40..."
"But is that with your feet pinned down?"

I am visited by a sudden urge to do a few sit-ups. I bet I can do more than 40. Well, I could when I was their age, anyway. If only I could get back to that level of fitness! I feel another resolution coming on.

Resolutions or no resolutions, the coming year will be rather different from the last 20. "Mum's taxi" is finally having a well-earned rest. Baby number two now has her own transport, and has taken to being off the leash with disconcerting alacrity. She seems to be everywhere but Warrandyte, hopefully not too lost, too late, or too careless of personal safety.

Reports filter in from time to time: "Was that your daughter I kept seeing on the TV the other night?" asked one caller.

"See p14 today's AFR," urged an SMS last week. Ah yes, there she is, right at the top of page 14, chatting excitedly on her mobile phone from Federation Square after the university offers came out.

I am resolved not to be a nervous wreck, but when the daughter in question hasn't come home from her first night-time excursion to a faraway suburb,

and at 1.30am the fire siren goes off followed 10 minutes later by the shrill summons of the phone, I find myself leaping out of bed, heart thumping.

The phone call turns out to be a stupid prank, I have no idea why the fire siren is going, and a little white car soon toddles happily up the driveway. But the damage is done, and it's after 5am before I get back to sleep.

In real life, of course, no amount of merely promising yourself things makes them actually happen.

During just the first week of this year, our good intentions were systematically overturned by the weather (too hot, too wet), the demise of the septic pump, paralysis of the pool filter, a blown gasket on the hot water service, the inaugural performance of the Screeching Symphony in A# Major by the pool pump, and a wild-weather alpine camping trip. Our state of disarray has to be seen to be believed.

I'm sure it's all for the best. A life dominated by sticking to good resolutions would be too boring for words.

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Whose lucky country?



Sprawling on your velvet lounge,
lulled by sounds of comfort's purr
loosening the straining belt after
yet another bulging lunch.
When through the window,
down the road,
you see a crime.

A woman being bashed,
child cowering at her skirts.
The still air bruised with thud and shriek
and shout and whimper.
The stark sounds hit your guts
disturbs your lunch
a bit.
(Too far away, not really your concern)

And then she's free
and runs and runs.
He's hurling rocks.
She ducks and weaves.
The blows bounce off her fragile form.
A dog gives chase, attacks the child.
She beats it off
and staggers on.

Tripping, stumbling,
She's at the road,
confused and bloody
the heat haze blinds.
Too fast—too slow.
Screech, thump "you silly cow".
She lurches on.

She's seen your house.
The picket fence
beckons and says cool and clean—
and safe.
The mat on which she falls
says "Welcome".
(And she's on your turf
dripping dust and blood
on your piece of mind.)

She's found a haven.
You'll let her in
and shut him out.
You'll tend her wounds,
a bath, a bed
with soft white towels
and cool clean sheets.

You'll help her mend her life.
A refuge, and a course at CAE
on "Life-Skills".
There's child-care and a part-time job.
It's the very least that you can do,
she's in the lucky country.

It must be 40 out there.
You turn up the air,
and ring the cops.

And hope the stain
comes off your mat.

KAREN THROSSELL

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A river of life

CRADLE of life, the river gathers all to its flow. Healer of our land, it succours us in our needs, nourishing with a never-ending flow of love. Everything prays to the river, offering tributes in each and every particle created, all streaming towards the centre of its fluid universe. In this the driest continent, it gathers water with the resourcefulness of a skilled juggler.

The river is a living organism, an accumulator, an aggregate of the sum of its living parts. Each drop of water brims with life: phytoplankton (algae), zooplankton (microscopic animals) and aquatic invertebrates.

Platypus, fish, frogs, water plants, water birds, crayfish, river mussel and other creatures are dependant on the flow of life the river generates. It is sensitive to minute changes in the catchment: the amount of dissolved oxygen; levels of salts; flows rising and falling with each drop of water given or taken away. Its ambience changes each moment. Sometimes quiet pools of contemplation, silvered by sun or moon or wrapped in silky mists. Sometimes a fast-running stream, at other times meandering slowly.

The river is a measure of the health of our environment. Everything we drop, discard and splatter across our landscape, the hydrological process draws it down the valley and offers it to the river. Constantly herding, the ecological processes that re-cycle, re-use everything, are in constant motion gathering all the elements that fall within the catchment. It may take time to reach the water, but this river can wait, having flowed through this country for at least 60 million years. It has time. We are nature's children, still suckling Mother Earth's breast, having been on Earth for such a short time.

In the course of all these activities the river collects a myriad of pollutants, both natural and man-made. Natural pollutants include clay particles which increase water turbidity, tannins which increase water colour and salts adding to salinity. Man-made pollutants include a wide range of pesticides and fertilisers used in agriculture, chemicals and heavy metals from industry and transport, faecal coliform (*e.coli*) from grazing animals and nutrients and bacteria from untreated sewerage discharge.

The river is our doppelganger. We are the wa-

FELLOWSHIP OF THE FORESTS

By GLEN JAMESON



ter, the rapids, the riffles and pools. The river has a human face. We are indivisibly wrapped in its environmental womb. If the river is unhealthy, then we are unhealthy. According to Melbourne Water's report *Melbourne's Rivers and Creeks 2004*, the Yarra in its middle region (Warrandyte to Dights Falls) is in poor condition, largely due to inputs from urban tributaries. High *e.coli*, bacterial rates and botulism are not new, they are a result of the simple mechanics of rain flushing matter into the river; a consequence of septic tanks that leak and farm animals having river access. If our industries and vehicles send polluting fumes to the skies each and every day, then these gaseous fumes must fall back to earth, each and every day. The status of the native fish in the Yarra illustrates its poor condition. Of the 14 fish species that inhabit the river, seven are common, and of the other seven, their status is either potentially threatened, not known or vulnerable.

Just as the river is a reflection of the health of the environment, so are we. We also accumulate all the elements from the environment, including its fragrances — its vitality as well as its chemical toxins. Such toxins as dioxins, organophosphates, organochlorines and endocrine disrupters. Toxic chemicals are a huge problem in many countries. Endocrine disrupters are chemicals that at low levels—parts per billion or parts per trillion—impact upon health, fertility and intelligence.

"Twenty-four billion pounds of these developmental toxicants are released in the United State of America annually. ... The higher you live and eat up the food chain, the more toxins are concentrated in your body. Toxin levels increase fifty or a hundredfold with every step up the food chain. Humans live near the top of the food chain ... the simple truth is that we are now all holding body burdens of these chemicals." According to the American reports, "Human breast milk has become one of the most toxic foods ... the only known way to reduce the level of toxic chemicals in your body is to get pregnant and breastfeed your

baby. A mother's level of persistent organic pollutants declines very significantly when she gives them to her baby, who then carries that as part of its lifetime burden. ... A small study that looked at the first bowel movements of babies and analysed them for organophosphates pesticides found that all had more than one organophosphate pesticide residue in their bowel movement and most had five or six." (Ausubel)

We are now suffering an epidemic of cancer, with the incidence and mortality rates having escalated dramatically since the 1940s. This is not caused by humans living longer. "There's overwhelming evidence that the increase in cancer rates results from avoidable exposure to carcinogens in the workplace, in consumer products, and in the air, water and soil. ... If you examine the fat in your own body or in fish or wildlife, you'll find some two to three hundred industrial chemicals and carcinogens. Even in the Arctic, where there is no industry to speak of, we find PCBs and other carcinogenic and toxic chemicals." (Ausubel)

Just as the river has been gathering its life forces and humans their high levels of toxins, the Fellowship of the Forests has been accumulating ecological knowledge and developing environmental culture over the years. Interest and concern over environmental matters is not something new to European Australians. Perhaps it has been partly inspired by the first Australians' attitude to the environment. There is a history of ecological thought and action going right back to first contact. Eminent botanist Joseph Banks sailed with Captain Cook, gathering information on flora and fauna. The French expedition of Baudin in 1802 was probably the most magnificent scientific expedition to visit the region. Charles Darwin reached Australia in 1836 on a world journey that was to culminate with the theory of natural selection. Early artists and poets were obsessed with interpreting "the Bush". Henry Lawson explored "stoical responses to defiant landscapes" and Adam Lindsay Gordon "helped his readers appreciate landscapes by making them part of the story". (Mulligan)

The Heidelberg School artists produced a more authentic representation of the Australian landscape, "responsible for a deeper shift in perception about the relationship between

people and landscapes in Australia". One of them, Arthur Streeton, "used his paintings and his column in the *Argus* to campaign for the protection of forests in the Dandenong area". (Mulligan). Sidney Nolan explored myths embedded in landscape. We enter into cultural landscapes through Aboriginal art. Patrick White took a strong stand in favour of the natural environment; many writers, including David Malouf and Tim Winton, mythologise places in their writing. Crosbie Morrison, Vincent Serventy, Myles Dunphy and the poet Judith Wright campaigned for environmental protection. Each artist signposted directions for better environmental management.

Australia has been a world leader in environmental action in a few areas. A conservation group was formed in Bendigo in 1888: the Northern District Forest Conservation League was probably the first conservation organisation in the world (Mulligan). Stephen Boyden was a pioneer in human ecological thought; David Holmesgren and Bill Mollison contributed their ideas on permaculture; and the Bradley sisters created a practical and philosophical approach to bushland management. The United Tasmania Group was the world's first environmental political party. The "Green Bans", instigated by trade unions led by Jack Munday, helped inspire Europeans to establish Green political parties.

Everything has a capacity to heal itself, a universal tendency to seek equilibrium. Rivers have ways of deal with pollutants. A certain amount can be detoxified through the natural healing processes. Overload it and it will die. Healing is a fundamentally natural process. (Ausubel) We need to think like a river and allow the environment to be our teacher and source of inspiration. Thinking like an ecological system may guide us on a way to replace our dependence on disruptive, polluting production systems with knowledge-based ecologically sustainable methods that foster the development of wisdom and skill. (Mulligan)

The author is indebted for ideas and words for this story to Ecological Pioneers: A Social History of Australian Ecological Thought and Action (2001) Martin Mulligan and Stuart Hill and Ecological Medicine: Healing the Earth, Healing Ourselves (2004) Kenny Ausubel.

Woman of the natural world

NORTH Warrandyte's Margaret Burke believes in the "drip method" of teaching people, whether they be parents, children, householders or politicians. It's a system she's found has changed people's attitudes in a life that has seen-sawed between school teaching, the arts and caring for the environment.

"The drip method has worn down stones and made little channels in all sorts of things," she said. "People, even bureaucrats, gradually look at ideas that are important and accept them as their own—they don't even notice it. You think, aha, they've got it, when you hear your words repeated back to you."

Obsessed with the importance of land care and biodiversity "until my dying day", Margaret encourages people to turn their properties into habitat nodes. "People should look at their land and work out a way to make their bush sustainable and productive as mother nature intended," she said. "It's very rewarding and motivating to create a safe haven along strings of creeks and rivers; little havens of habitat richness for animals and plants. These people are the guardian angels of these plots, which become repositories of seed and plant material of national importance."

Margaret and her husband Ian, who died in October last year, were early members of the Friends of Warrandyte State Park which 20 years ago had no facilities and no money to buy plants. "The poor volunteers were doing an amazing job—no person working for money would have put up with the facilities at the time. There was no shelter, only standing under a tree," Margaret said. Loving growing things, the Burkes "nosed around", finding grants for facilities.

"My husband collected 'shed men', often retired men with practical skills who built most of the infrastructure; they became the building force. There was division according to sex—the men liked building and heavy stuff and the women were growers. It's the same with weeding—men like mattocks and shovels and women prefer to sit on their bottoms with a knife and hand-weed. We've wrought such changes—hellholes are now blissful bushland places."

Margaret's "drip plan" was to keep

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

the best areas of the park going while gradually extending fingers into damaged areas, setting up sustainable, self-generating systems and healing places where there's been considerable destruction.

"There're little herbaceous things here that no-one would notice. The local form of juniper wattle *acacia ulicifolia* was threatened and *deyeuxia minor* is now growing here when it's not been seen in the Port Philip catchment area for 50 years," she said. "There are several geranium species which grow nowhere else in the world, also *dianella longifolia var. grandis*. Quite a number of species would be extinct."

Growing up in Dandenong, "just a big market town then", Margaret always liked the bush. She was only three months old when her father, a flower grower and florist, died in World War II. She and her mother went to live with her grandfather, a Gippsland shire valuer, who'd lost his wife only six months earlier. "It seemed that all my life I spent tagging around behind my grandfather, in the garden and surveying land in Gippsland. I had an extraordinary relationship with him," she recalled. She believes it's where she gets her love of the bush and sense of community.

Later, having moved with her mother and her new family to Essendon, Margaret decided very early on to be a school teacher. "I was never able to catch a ball and I was always the last one picked for basketball teams. I became more of a brain."

She went to teachers' college then taught preps, ones and twos, in Sydney for 25 "extremely happy" years. "I love dealing with people. Having little people coming to me at the beginning of the year like clean slates, undrawn-on pieces of paper, who adored you and finished the year able to read and write, it was the ultimate. Realising I was good at teaching and the importance of what I was doing was earth-shattering."

"I believe if you approach people at grade two level then they will respond.

But everyone can tell I was a teacher. People laugh when they hear the schoolmarm in me—I hear it myself."

Returning to Melbourne following the end of her first marriage, Margaret joined an adult education class. "Ian was there and I remember thinking what a nice man he was and what a shame we'd met as it was too soon for me. But he just patiently waited. He would take me to Warrandyte for picnics—we both loved the bush and the river and this was our courtship. One day I said to him if I bought a house would he live in it with me. He said yes and in 1986 we bought in Osborne Road." Fifteen years younger than he was, she was his princess.

But Margaret was shocked to realise she didn't know the names of vegetation in Melbourne. Rather than return to teaching, she decided to make a career out of "helping make my bit of Warrandyte better and healed. I had no children so I mothered the bush."

"I get very frustrated by bureaucracy when government relies on volunteers like me but our service is treated with such little respect. You spend every cent so carefully and so well with voluntary labour then you look back and see there's been no follow-up; the contact people change and there are always occupational health and safety issues."

But she also became involved with local arts groups. "I met Cherry Manders, 'my master', who set me off as a sculptor. I was never any good at anything two-dimensional and I did a class with Cherry and suddenly found my fingers worked in three dimensions," she said. She's part of an artists' group which includes pastelists, watercolourists and printmakers. "I need to work with somebody to focus—it's a wonderful experience and very stimulating."

"My pieces become part of me and they now cover every horizontal surface of the house. I've got handbuilt naked women everywhere and only about two men. I've never been bothered with men."

Margaret's just turned 60. "It came as a terrible shock to me. I can remember back in the 1960s talking about LOLs—Little Old Ladies—and they probably weren't even 60." Following poor health over the past few years and her mother's death in August, Margaret finds herself reflecting but



Margaret Burke (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

also looking forwards, to going on with things she and Ian did together and also to finding a new angle to life. "I find the older I get the better I am for looking for talents and working with them," she said. "I like to go about things making as little damage as possible."

For her stepfather's ashes Margaret

made a pottery cushion with an angel's head sleeping on it. "When my turn comes, I hope it's not that chaste," Ian had told her. He asked to be cremated and Margaret is sculpturing a naked woman as a receptacle for his ashes which she'll put by a pond in their garden. She hopes he'll not mind the frogs croaking.

It was a good life lived well

Mary Huxtable died in December. This is one of the eulogies given at her requiem mass at St Gerard's, Warrandyte.



Mary Huxtable

By BOB MILLINGTON

WHAT a life it was. Mary was only four years younger than the Commonwealth of Australia. She was two years old when the Wright Brothers flew. Mary saw Halley's Comet twice and she got to within four months of her ton. As far as is known she was the longest-lived member of the Argus family, a mob who came to Australia in 1842.

Mary was the first white child born on the goldfield of Orabanda, north-west of Kalgoorlie, to an Irish mother brought up in Scotland and a Victorian-born father who gave his occupation as farmer but who had a cattle and sheep station the size of Luxembourg.

This was the bloke who, when Mary came to vote for the first time and asked which party she should support, replied: "Daughter, it's not up to me to influence you but remember, if it wasn't for the Labor Party we'd still be serfs."

Mary never forgot that advice. In later years she would ask: "How do you think Labor will go in the next election? Everyone I talk to says they're voting Labor." You would reply: "But Mary love, you only ever talk to Labor voters." Pause. "Oh yes, that's a point."

In 1926, with her brother Dick, she came to Melbourne by steamship—the Transcontinental Railway had only just been completed—and stayed with family. Here she studied the violin, played in a Malvern orchestra and travelled to Warrandyte for the first time. It was a fateful visit.

Back in the West she married. It didn't take but fortunately produced Ann. In the early years of the war she

married Jack Huxtable, the love of her life, and Maureen and Trish arrived.

Mary followed Jack on his posting to the RAAF base in Sale. When the war ended Jack became a foundation member of Trans Australia Airlines and the family settled in Deer Park. This is when the first manifestation of Our Mary Scourge of Bureaucrats is reported.

The house was cold and needed a gas fire. Mary rang the Gas and Fuel Corporation to order one. It was a time of shortages. "Can't do it for nine months," said the clerk at the other end. Mary simply phoned him every day for the next two weeks. The appliance arrived at the end of the third.

In later years other targets of Mary's telephonic wrath included the Department of Veterans Affairs, a couple of talk-back radio presenters and Qantas, for having taken over TAA and cut off the cheap flights she and Jack enjoyed.

The smog from the ICI plant at Deer Park played havoc with Jack's lungs. "Let's take a look at this Warrandyte you're always talking about," he said one weekend. They drove there, picnicked by the river and Jack disappeared. He came back 90 minutes later to announce that he'd bought a house. Mary was to live there on Kangaroo Ground Road for half a century.

She threw herself into the new community and started her famous coffee mornings helping, among many good causes, Monkami, the Women's Hospital and later the Lions Club. Women tended to leave these affairs with grins and ruddy cheeks, commenting how full-bodied the trifle was.

Granddaughter Bronwyn Hookey recalls being taught practical cooking skills before one of these mornings.

"Now," Mary told her as she stirred the mixture, "when it comes to the part where the recipe says top up with water, I always top up with brandy."

Mary was famous for her story telling. If she began by saying, "I've never told you this," you sighed silently. It meant that she must have regaled you with the yarn 250 times. And often she would address a son-in-law as "Egon-lan-Bob". It was a handy short form.

Straight as a die, she could still tell a fib with the best of them. In the red-hot summer of 1962 she rang her insurance representative to increase the cover on the house. "The bushfires aren't anywhere near you?" he questioned sensibly. "Not that I can see," she replied. Mary was facing the wall, not the window through which flames could be observed advancing on the hill behind.

Mary was a dutiful Catholic but never a bigot. Indeed, consider this. Her father was Protestant, her two husbands Protestant, her three daughters married four Protestants between them and none of her grandchildren's partners or spouses are Catholics. We proddies chuckle and joke that it's spreading the faith by stealth.

She was the undisputed loving matriarch. All her granddaughters were beautiful and talented, all her grandsons handsome and talented. Not a word must be said against them. Amazingly, these traits seeped down into the next generation so that her great grandchildren—Lloyd, Jacob, John, Rebecca and Chantel—were, ditto, talented, pretty and handsome.

But the years closed in. Jack died and then Colleen, the Downs syndrome granddaughter she had looked after from an early age. Mary lost her mo-

bility and entered Gracedale Nursing Home in North Ringwood in 2000.

Even there and in hospital bouts her humour and swiftness of tongue didn't desert her. One nurse got her goat for something or other. "You know the one I mean," she said, "the one with a face like a frightened monkey."

Towards the end she found it hard to eat, so the family organised a roster to be there at lunchtime to try to persuade her to nibble. It didn't work. One day Ann and I were trying to kid her into sampling a bit of chicken stew and mashed potato.

"No," said Mary. "I'll just have the glass of wine." Said Ann: "But Mum, it's probably juice, not wine." Mary bristled and threw her head back. "Do you think I don't know the difference between wine and fruit juice?" She drank it. "It's wine," she said happily.

On December 18, about sunrise, she chatted to the night attendant as he turned her from her back to her side. At that point her great heart gave out.

Yes, we wanted her to reach 100, but it wouldn't have been to her liking. She would have copped a letter from that "awful little Johnny Howard", as she put it, and that "nice young queen". Little recognition that Her Majesty was trudging up the slope towards the age of 80.

She wanted a Labor prime minister and a president of the republican Commonwealth of Australia.

It was a privilege to know and love her. Mary is survived by daughters Ann Hookey, Maureen Fink and Trish Millington, sons-in-law Ian, Egon and Bob, grandchildren Jane Roe, Bill and Sean Dealy, Bronwyn Hookey, Brendan and Rory Fink and Gareth Millington, and five great-grandchildren.

Students meet again

Warrandyte Primary School pre-1940 students will meet in the school multipurpose room on Sunday, March 6 from 11am to 4pm. BYO food and drinks. Enquiries to Frances on 9884 9262 or Audrey on 9870 1803.

COREY'S COMMUNITY

By SYD & ONA



Community bank in balance

Only 18 months after first opening its doors, Warrandyte's community bank has "broken even".

"That's a major milestone in local banking history," bank spokesperson Sarah Wrigley told the *Diary*. "This means benefits to the community can begin to flow through," she said. "We are now planning our sponsorship program for 2005." If a local voluntary organisation or club banks with the community bank, "and meets the criteria for the bank's sponsorship policy,

the bank would like to hear from you regarding any sponsorship opportunities you feel may exist".

Applications must be made by February 28. There are three categories: major sponsorship—up to \$1500; minor sponsorship—up to \$250 and sponsorship of special events—amount unspecified.

Please call Mark Challen, Warrandyte Community Bank manager—on 9844 2233—for further information.



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.

Toys

The Warrandyte Toy Library is now back in its old home at the North Warrandyte Family Centre, Warrandyte-Research Road, North Warrandyte along with some brand new toys. New members able to help on the committee or with the rostered duty days would be very welcome. Library sessions are from 10am to 11.30am on Wednesdays and Saturdays. If you are interested please contact Sondra Hobson on 9844 0102 or Alison O'Toole on 9844 3349.

Pancakes

Warrandyte Uniting Church will hold a pancake stall outside Warrandyte IGA supermarket on Saturday, February 12. Money raised will go to the Share Community Appeal to help support welfare projects.

Yarra

"Geomorphology of the Yarra Catchment" is the title of the next environment seminar to be held on Thursday, March 2. It will commence at 7.30pm in the Function Room of the Grand Hotel, 120 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. The seminar is free, no bookings required. Supper will be provided.

Eastern

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is running a celebration entitled "Learning from the East—Alternative Approaches to Health" marking Women's Health Week, on Thursday, March 3 from 9am to 3pm at the Warrandyte Community Centre. Restore balance to your life through yoga, Tibetan meditation, tai chi, Chinese herbal medicine and acupuncture. Cost \$10, lunch provided.

Anniversary

St. Anne's Primary School, 60 Knees Road, Park Orchards is celebrating their 25th anniversary in 2005. To commemorate this occasion, a special Mass will be held at the school on Sunday, February 13 at 11am. Anyone who has had association with the school is welcome to join in. Mass will be followed by a picnic lunch in the school grounds. BYO food, drinks and chairs.

Appeal

Louise Joy is holding a fundraising event at her home, 47 Brackbenbury Street, Warrandyte, opposite the Warrandyte Primary School, at 3pm on Sunday, March 6. Taking the form of a jewellery and photographic sale, the event will benefit the Christian Medical College at Vellore in South India. Louise's parents, Edward and Edna Gault and her aunt Adelaide Gault were doctors there for many years.

Churches

Please mark your calendars. Warrandyte and Park Orchards churches are combining to present Stations of the Cross at Stiggants Reserve on Good Friday at 10am, a Week of Prayer service on May 15 and carols at Stiggants Reserve on Saturday,



Tess is facing the world

As part of her final year of International Studies at RMIT, local student Tess Keam (pictured) left North Warrandyte on Australia Day and headed off to sunnier shores and new experiences.

The first three months will see her working with the Red Cross in the Cook Islands, 5500km north east of Australia where her duties will include assisting with the HIV/Aids education clinics, helping staff with their computer skills and working with mothers and children on the outer, more remote islands.

The Cook Islands comprises 15 islands and is spread over 2.2 million square kilometres of the South Pacific. This contributes to the difficulty of providing social services.

Tess' second stint will see her heading to Malaysia to work at a home for disabled children and adults. Tess told the *Diary* she was excited about the opportunities and was looking forward to learn from the people she'll be meeting and the organisations she'll be working with.

Tess and another Warrandyte student, Nicky Winters, had previously spent time working with indigenous communities in Northern NSW.

December 17. Office bearers for the year are: president—Ros McDonald, vice-president—Peter Keep, secretary—John Hanson, treasurer—Heather Ingram.

Auxiliary

The Warrandyte branch of the Maroondah Hospital Auxiliary has asked us to thank everyone for their support for the stall held in December. The stall and raffle raised over \$700. The raffle was won by Frank Mirange with Chris Stammers taking second prize.

Carols

Records tumbled at the annual Carols by Candlelight held at Stiggants Reserve late last year. Approximately 2000 attended and \$1135 was passed on to the Christmas Bowl Appeal. The Interchurch Council wishes to thank the community for their support and generosity.

Gardens

The Nilumbik Garden Club meets on the first Monday of each month at 8pm. Meetings include a club bench competition, flower of the month, trade table and supper. Enquiries to Chris on 9434 2023.

Youth

Local churches provide the following youth activities. Uniting Church (9844 2874): Sunday School at 10.15am and other youth activities. Community Church (9844 4148): Sunday School at 9am and 11am;

Grades 6 to 9 Club and Years 10 to 12 Club fortnightly on Friday at 7 and 7.30pm; youth bible studies on Wednesday at 8pm and Café Church on second and fourth Sunday at 7pm. Catholic Church (9876 1509): children's liturgy on Sunday at 11am and religious education on Monday at 4pm, both at Park Orchards. A Year 7 and 8 youth club meets monthly.

Trailwalker

The Oxfam Trailwalker is a fund-raising event that will take place on the weekend of April 1-3. This endurance event for teams of four aims to complete a 100km trail from Wheelers Hill

to Mount Donna Buang in 48 hours. Oxfam is seeking help with the large number of volunteers needed. If interested contact Amanda on 1800 088 110.

Shoulders

The University of Melbourne is seeking volunteers for a study evaluating physiotherapy treatment of shoulder pain. If you have had pain in your shoulder—with movement—for more than 3 months, or have been diagnosed with rotator cuff problems, please contact Elin Wee at 83448127 or elin@unimelb.edu.au for an interview or for more information.

Pottery

Warrandyte's annual Pottery Expo will take place on the riverbank on the weekend of February 26 and 27. This event was started in 2000 by local potter Jane Annois after she experienced pottery markets in France, designed to ensure the survival of indigenous ceramics. A wide variety of works from some 40 potters will be on show. Further information from Jane on 9844 2337 or www.potteryexpo.com.

Stonehouse

Six ceramics students from Box Hill and Holmesglen TAFE have combined in an exhibition being held at Stonehouse Gallery, 323 Ringwood-Warrandyte Road from January 31

ARTYFACTS

to February 28. The gallery is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

Exhibition

The next exhibition at the Bolin Bolin Gallery at Bulleen Art and Garden will be a display of works inspired by a French pottery tour arranged by Warrandyte potter, Jane Annois. Tour participants included experienced and professional potters who have joined together for this exhibition. It will run from March 6 to 30. Pottery by French potter Jean-Marc Plantier will also be on display.

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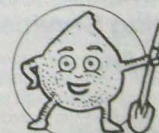
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Key Decisions

These are some of the decisions made by Council on **Wednesday 17 November 2004**. If you would like any extra information visit our website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au for full business papers and 2005 meeting dates. All are welcome to attend or listen to the broadcast on Plenty Valley FM 88.6.



Community, Health, Culture, Sport and Leisure

Adopted the Nillumbik Art Collection Loans Policy and apply a 12 month pilot period.

Resolved that Council support the retention and enhancement of the Family Day Care Program and approved an increase in the recommended hourly fee for Family Day Care to assist the recruitment and retention of carers.

Resolved that Council lodge the following applications for funding under the Sport and Recreation Victoria Community Facility

Funding Program: Sports Field Assessment Report (planning grants); Greensborough Hockey Multi Purpose Facility Stage Two (major facilities grants); and Hurstbridge Sporting Club; Diamond Creek Football Club; and Diamond Creek Bowling Club (minor facilities grants). Subject to receiving notification of the success of grant applications, and subject to receiving confirmation of the availability of monies pledged by local organisations where applicable, refer the appropriate

Council contribution for each project to the 2005-2006 Budget estimates process. Write to local members of Parliament seeking their support for Council's Sport and Recreation Victoria Facilities Development Grant Program 2005-2006 applications. Write to all clubs which have made submissions notifying them of the outcome and thanking them for their application.

Land Use, Planning and Environment

Resolved that Council issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit to the land at 36-38 Old Aqueduct Road, Diamond Creek for the development of five new single storey dwellings to the rear of the existing dwelling subject to conditions.

Adopted the Road Management Plan to meet Council's obligations under the Road Management Act.

Resolved that Council write to the Member for Eltham and the Member for Yan Yean indicating Council's general

support for the Outer Suburban/ Interface Services and Development Committee's work and in particular seek their support for the implementation of Recommendations of the Inquiry into sustainable urban design for new communities in outer suburban areas.

High kids cross the map



A group of Warrandyte High School kids took the bicycle ride of their lives late last year when they joined 8000 other cyclists on the Great Victorian Bike Ride.

The 580km ride from Port Fairy to Geelong took nine days, with much of the journey along the Great Ocean Road.

"This was the largest number of riders ever to attempt the Great Victorian Bike Ride," one of the young participants told the *Diary*. "It was a record! The record set for the longest ever dinner queue was not so amusing."

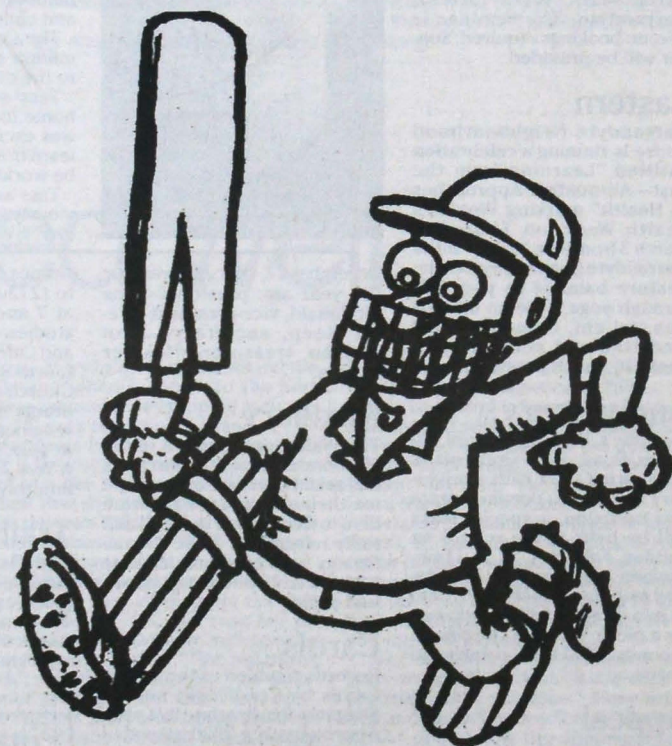
"We all enjoyed the adventure. It was an awesome experience and we all felt a great sense of achievement," the young rider said.

● Pictured are Warrandyte High's intrepid riders in their "Top Gear".

Warrandyte Cricket Club would like to thank the following sponsors for season 2004/05.

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- Warrandyte Glass
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- Gateway Concrete Pumping
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Fleming fires fair-dinkum Fakers

By CLINTON GRYBAS

A peerless shooting display by Kevin Fleming piloted the Fakers to victory in Warrandyte's senior men's basketball championship last month. The Fakers beat Ballistyx 47-38 in the grand final to secure their third Greyburn Cup title.

The highly-credentialed Fleming, whose resume includes a distinguished career playing for Broadmeadows in Australia's second-tier SEABL competition, knocked down a game-high 21 points in the decider — all three-pointers.

Four of them arrived in the game's opening six minutes as the Fakers charged to an early lead. It was one they would not relinquish despite a late scare.

The gap was 19-4 after 12 minutes and a lopsided game loomed. But slowly Ballistyx began to gel offensively, with Mark Salomon (10 points) and David Bolton and Andrew Howey (eight each) engineering a revival. They closed the gap to be within 10 points at half-time and eight in the final minutes.

Noted scorer Ron David was held to just two free throws for the match — a statistic in which Fakers captain Scott Rimes took pride after the game.

"We made a point of picking up Ron because he had damaged us in the past," Rimes said.

"That was good, as our work was on the

boards. You can't rebound against Andrew Howey because he's too tall, so we made sure we jumped and tapped it away from him.

"We're also very happy that Ashley Grybas and Gavin Eddy weren't playing for them."

Grybas (overseas on his honeymoon) and Eddy (injured) had both been key scorers for Ballistyx during the season.

Luke Mitchell (11 points) and Steve Doyle were also good for the Fakers, the third team with which Doyle had won a Greyburn Cup title, this one coming in his first season with them.

"It was certainly worth the move," he said. "I quit PlasSpurs because I was playing too much basketball each week. I ended up with Fakers by default — usual centre David McNeill went down injured and they asked me to fill in. I'm glad I did."

Fakers finished the regular season third on the ladder with a 15-3 record in one of the most keenly contested competitions in the history of the event. Minor premiers Baghdad, paced by MVP Tony Davis, lost two finals matches by a basket to be eliminated in straight sets.

PlasSpurs won the B Division, defeating Red Devils 65-42 in the final, Gary Dickinson terrific with 25 points. The new season began on February 2. Entries can still be taken with Gavin Eddy on 0418 800 704.



The premier Fakers, with captain Scott Rimes holding the Greyburn Cup.

Redbacks' big weekend!

Under-14s are still the ones

By TONY OLIVER

Round 11 of the EDJBA Saturday competition was completed on February 5 with mixed results for Warrandyte teams.

Highlight was the 50-24 win by Gavin Whitmore's Under-14 boys over a Bulleen side to hold top place in the A-grade competition.

The Redbacks' Julian Philippou opened the scoring with a lay-up, but Bulleen managed to stay in touch early.

Warrandyte's superior speed and technique started to tell, however, and they held an 18-12 lead at the break.

They stamped their name on the game with the first two baskets of the second half and powered away to win as they liked.

Philippou led the scoring with 19, followed by Tom Fitzpatrick with nine, Ian McLeod with eight and Daniel Hughes with six.

McLeod had a busy few days, playing for Warrandyte on Friday night, for his school away at Mentone on Saturday morning and then fronting up for this game in the afternoon.

"The team is progressing well," said coach Whitmore, "and looking forward for the challenges ahead towards the finals."

Warrandyte's Under-20 boys kept their slim hopes of a top-four finish alive with 66-42 win over Park Orchards, who were sitting in fourth place a game clear of the sixth-placed Redbacks. The battle will be very tight with four teams vying for the final spot in the finals.

Top scorers were Jake Templeton with 17, followed by Nick Graham with 12 and Tim Given and Jerrod Gibson with 10 apiece.

The third-placed Under-18 boys were given a shrill wake-up call by seven-placed Balwyn, who trounced them 70-31 at Warrandyte High School after leading 34-13 at the break. Warrandyte are unlikely to miss the finals, but will certainly need to improve.

Josh Collins topscored for the Redbacks with 14.

Damian Arsenis' Under-10 boys went down 30-24 to Eltham after leading 17-12 lead at the break. Eltham scored the opening two baskets of the second half and went right on with it.

Top scorers for Warrandyte were Jack Wintle with seven and Ryan Tester and Matt Patroni, each with five.

By TONY OLIVER and DAMIAN ARSENIS

Our young basketballers again made their mark on the huge annual Eltham-Dandenong Australia Day tournament on January 21-23.

Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Association sent 11 teams — four girls, seven boys — to the event and came home with three premierships.

Going all the way were Lorraine Parfitt's Under-14 girls, Ian Wood's Under-16 boys and the Under-10 boys of Damian Arsenis.

More than 700 teams took part in the tournament, which occupied 20 stadiums and involved 300 referees.

The Under-14 girls went along with high expectations and came away with the ultimate prize.

Playing in B-grade, they went through their first five games undefeated, recording tight wins over Kilsyth and Doncaster along the way.

Their opponents in the grand final were Camberwell, whom they had comfortably defeated in the opening game.

Warrandyte started slowly and Camberwell scored the first two baskets before Courtney Petalas opened the Redbacks' account from the field.

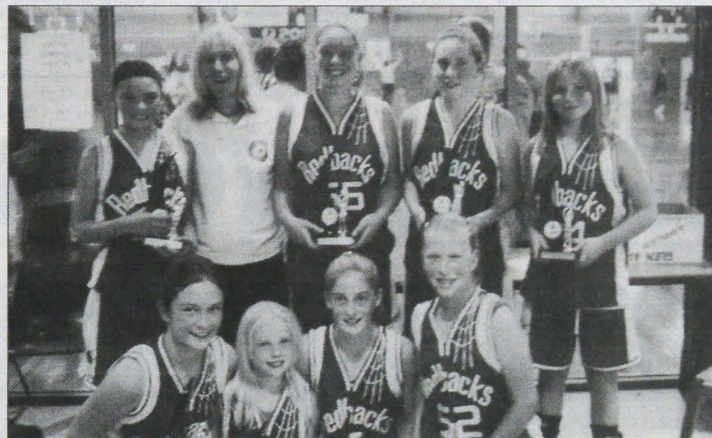
The Warrandyte girls took a 13-11 lead into the half-time break. They were playing aggressively but collecting the fouls.

Early in the second half, the flow of the game started to go with the Redbacks as Petalas and Myka Johnston stretched the lead despite Camberwell putting pressure on the ball carrier and forcing a number of defensive errors.

The Redbacks were still feeling the wrath of the referees, with Johnston being fouled off.

Zanetta Hosking was having a strong game and her aggression at the basket earned her four trips to the charity stripe for a 50 per cent return.

Warrandyte's long game was working effectively, with fast transitions keeping the Camberwell defence stretched. They were able to ease off in the final minutes to run out winners 31-24 and complete the tournament unbeaten.



Warrandyte's premier Under-14 girls. Back (from left): Sophie Richardson, coach Lorraine Parfitt, Myka Johnston, Lisa Rennie, Harriet Rappell. Front: Zanetta Hosking, Amber Saunders, Courtney Petalis, Nicolette Prior.

Topscored for Warrandyte were Petalas with 16, Hosking with six and Johnston with five.

The Under-16 boys, also playing in B-grade, defeated Darebin 58-35 in their grand final. It was expected to be close, with Darebin having a slight height advantage, but the result was never in doubt, the Redback boys' fast game irresistible.

The score was 34-13 at the break and Warrandyte eased up in the second half.

All players contributed in this well-balanced team and the scoring was spread, Ben Power finishing with 16, Tom Fitzpatrick 14, Gavin Yates eight, David Wood seven, Josh Blakey and Ian McLeod five and Paul Whittingham two.

The Under 18-2 girls coached by Bill Bottomley reached the preliminary final and came up again against Collingwood, a team they had earlier defeated 17-16.

It was 11-all at the break, but Collingwood had the better of the second half to win 30-25.



They may not grin like winners, but our Under-16 boys have just taken all before them. From left: Tom Fitzpatrick, Ian McLeod, Paul Whittington, Ben Power, coach Ian Wood, Gavin Yates, Josh Blakey, David Wood.

Under-16s survive a thriller

By TONY OLIVER

The second and final series of grading for the Friday night junior championship basketball is well under way — and Ian Wood's Under-16 boys have provided Warrandyte's latest highlight.

They got home 45-43 over Sandringham on February 4 at the Warrandyte High School court.

The early minutes were close but Sandringham were doing slightly the better and edged their way to a six-point lead.

The play of both sides was open and clean, with fast breaks a feature. Warrandyte came back late in the half to trail 19-18 at the break.

The second half was very similar to the first, although this time it was Warrandyte who were slowly increasing the lead.

A late three-pointer by Josh Blakey provided the crucial breathing space and although Sandringham scored a long three-pointer of their own right on the buzzer, it was not enough. Ben Power led the Redbacks' scoring with 23 points.

The win gives the team a strong chance of playing in the Metro 2 competition this year.

Also well placed to make it to Metro 2 are Damian Arsenis' Under-12 boys, who beat Dandeeong 46-12. Top scorers were Jake Wintle with 18, followed by Ryan Tester with eight.

The Under-18 boys went down 40-37 to Eltham, which now makes a Metro berth difficult but not impossible assignment.

Warrandyte's Under-14 girls suffered their second heavy loss in as many weeks, going down to Bendigo 53-7.

They are in a very competitive draw but still have a chance of being Warrandyte's first team into Victorian Championship.

They will, however, need to win their next two games.

Sign-up time for winter

The Redbacks' registration day for the winter season of Saturday basketball is on Saturday, February 12, at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre. It will run from 9am to 5pm for age groups from Under-9 to Under-19.

Contact Tony Oliver (9844 4287) for further details.

Jessica takes a bow

By LEE TINDALE

It is not drawing the long bow at all to say that young Warrandyte archer Jessica Walters has the world in her sights.

Jessica has set those sights on the 2008 Beijing Olympics. And her credentials in a competitive career of less than 12 months suggest she is, as usual, right on target.

Just 16 and a Year 11 student at Warrandyte High School, she shot her first competitive arrow in March last year after being introduced to the sport by an uncle and cousins, members of the Yarrambat-based Diamond Valley Archers.

And things have happened very quickly for this unassuming young lady since then. She is already No 1 junior girl recurve archer in Victoria and has broken 12 state records, two of which had stood for more than 25 years.

Last month Jessica represented Victoria in the Australian National Junior Archery Championships at Nowra, NSW, and won gold in the Under-18 girls target and field sections and silver in the clout competition.

Three days later she was in Sydney representing her country in the Australian Youth Olympic Festival. Another silver medal this time, teamed with fellow Victorian Caitlin Webb and NSW girl Semra Ferguson as Australia 2 in match play.



Jessica Walters on target at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival.

On the way to meeting the all-conquering Chinese Taipei team in the final, they scored a stunning victory over the much more experienced Australia 1.

Jessica, the daughter of Barry and Jackie Walters, of Glynn Road, was placed seventh overall in individual match play.

If archery wasn't love at first flight for Jessica, it certainly was at second. "The second tournament I was in last year was probably the turning point," she said. "I think it was then I decided to concentrate on archery."

She now puts in three sessions a week at the Diamond Valley Archers, about 15 hours shooting in all. And her enthusiasm

and success have been infectious.

Proud mum Jackie has just taken up archery and brother James, 12 and in his first year at Warrandyte High, is about to join the ranks.

"It's a family sport," said Jackie. "Mum, Dad and the children all seem to have a go at it."

Hawks still a chance

Despite performing below expectations this season, South Warrandyte Cricket Club are still in with a chance of making the finals of the RDCA's elite Chandler Shield competition.

The Hawks must win their two final home-and-away matches — in this case both away — against top-four sides and rely on other results going their way if they are to see finals action.

The last-ditch assignment began on February 5 against Warranwood and South appeared in command at stumps on day one, six without loss in pursuit of a modest 145.

It will end one way or the other on February 26 when stumps are drawn in the game against East Ringwood.

"We're one-and-a-half games outside the four, so obviously we have to win these last two," said captain-coach Steve Garrett, "and other games would have to go our way."

"We certainly have the potential to play finals cricket, but we haven't played to our potential this season."

"We have at least cemented a spot in Chandler Shield next season, which was one of the goals we had set ourselves."

"Our main objective, of course, was to make the finals." Garrett said that because of injuries and other commitments the Hawks had often been unable to field their best sides this season.

"Still, we have lost four games — including the two one-dayers — we should have won easily," he said.

"A pleasing aspect of the season is that our lower grades have come along in leaps and bounds, both in numbers and performance."

"The Second XI won't be playing the finals and the Thirds are in a similar position to the Firsts, needing to win their last two and depending on other results. I expect the Fourth XI to be in the finals."

The Chandler Shield side went into the Christmas recess on good terms with themselves after a big win over Croydon North, David Horwood carving out a superb century and Ben Neagle unbeaten on 52.

They resumed after the break with one-day fixtures against Ferntree Gully and Mooroolbark and their batting let them down on both occasions, too much being left to far too few.

All-rounder Chad Rogers, who is having a great season, was the architect of the Hawks' win over Wantirna South next up, his 5-14 off nine overs and Ben Garner's 2-6 skittling the visitors for a round 100.

South were none-too-convincing in reply, John Eldridge's 65 and Head's 41 saving them from embarrassment. Only one other batsman made it into double figures on a score of 149.

Wantirna South doubled their own first innings score when they batted again and the Hawks were 5-105 at the end.

Details

FIRST XI: South Warrandyte 4-231 decl (Horwood 112, B. Neagle 52 n.o.) d Croydon North 110 (Rogers 4-27, B. Hartrup 3-23, Garrett 2-26) and 7-148 (Garrett 3-55, Rogers 2-46). South Warrandyte 160 (Head 39, Rogers 35, Rowe 32) lost to Ferntree Gully 7-181 (Hartrup 2-19, Rogers 2-28). South Warrandyte 9-163 (Rogers 54, Rowe 38, Head 24) lost to Mooroolbark 4-164 (Rogers 2-44). South Warrandyte 149 (Eldridge 65, Head 41) and 5-105 (Rowe 27, Head 25) and 5-105 d Wantirna South 100 (Rogers 5-14, Garner 2-6) and 200 (Garner 3-32, Rogers 3-52, Garrett 3-64). South Warrandyte 0-6 v Warranwood 144.

SECOND XI: South Warrandyte 8-215 (Milne 71, Hansen 26, Uren 23) lost to Croydon North 9-274 (Williams 2-38, Mock 2-68). South Warrandyte 203 (M. Smith 55, Milne 51 n.o.) d Ferntree Gully 127 (Garner 5-18). South Warrandyte 6-184 (M. Smith 47, Uren 43, C. Smith 37) lost to Mooroolbark 6-187 (Buljubas 3-32). South Warrandyte 138 (C. Smith 56, Barrett 25, Uren 20) lost to Wantirna South 6-353.

THIRD XI: South Warrandyte 3-196 (Thiele 109 n.o.) d North Ringwood 119 (Smart 4-38). South Warrandyte 145 (Batten 24, Cowen 23, Thiele 22) lost to Croydon Ranges 8-181 (Batten 5-43). South Warrandyte 8-200 (Cutler 76, Batten 44) d Croydon North 7-198 (Russell 2-22). South Warrandyte 153 (Batten 62, Thiele 32, Jones 20) lost to Warrandyte 7-183 (De Keizer 3-36, Cutler 2-19).

South Croydon our first victims

The kids are out to play

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club will begin their 2005 EFL Third Division campaign at home to South Croydon on April with a new coaching team, new faces to complement a young playing list — and, according to president Phil Treeby, a "very good positive outlook".

The Bloods resumed serious pre-season training on January 17 and both Treeby and new coach Peter Green have liked what they have seen.

"Training has been good, numbers have been good and we have found an excellent coach who interests himself in the players on a personal level," said Treeby.

"Peter has been very well received — as has the rest of the coaching staff."

Green, a much-travelled, well-credentialed footballer whose resume includes stints as a youngster at the Sydney Swans and Carlton, comes to Warrandyte from Division 2 Montrose, where he was assistant and reserves coach last season.

He has brought with him assistant coach/chairman of selectors Brendan Darveniza and fitness coach John Potter.

The Bloods' pre-season has included a three-day training camp at The Basin (January 28-30) combining physical activity with development work concentrating on working effectively as a team.

"It was a very successful team-building exercise," said Treeby.

Training will continue on Monday and Wednesday evenings at the recreation reserve until next

month, when it reverts to Tuesdays and Thursdays.

At this stage, defender Stewart Rough, who is shifting to Perth, and classy midfielder Todd Holman, who returned briefly late last season, are the only declared withdrawals from last year's list. And the new list will include at least four new faces and an old familiar one.

Three of the confirmed newcomers are from Lalor in the Diamond Valley league. They are half-forward Clint Wheatley, his cousin Aaron Wheatley (a centre half-back) and forward Adam Kearney.

A most interesting recruit is Anthony Richardson, a 200cm former local basketball player who has been living in Queensland. And key-position player Adam Borwick has returned to the Bloods after a couple of seasons with the Whitehorse Pioneers in EFL Fourth Division.

The new Third Division clubs this year are Bayswater, relegated from Division 2, and Heathmont, runaway Division 4 premiers last season. Warrandyte will get their first look at them at Bayswater on May 28 and at home the following Saturday.

The Bloods will maintain their liaison with Heathmont in the Under-18s competition. Forged last year, the partnership was an instant success, the combine making the grand final.

Initial response to Warrandyte's recruiting efforts for the new combined team has been slow, but any player keen to try out is urged to contact Brian Williams on 9844 3346.

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

If player numbers are any indication, Warrandyte Junior Football Club are in for a 2005 season of plenty.

A highly-successful registration day will see numbers again up on the previous season, particularly at the entry Under-9 (Tackers) level.

President Steve Blakey said all teams would be well stocked but invited any child to come to the club and sign up.

"We have a reputation as a well-run, successful club that creates a supportive, nurturing environment for our players and this year will be no exception," said Blakey.

"We have already started skills training sessions and expect all of our teams to be competitive."

The following coaches have been appointed for the new season: Under-9s, Peter Stafford; Under-10s, Shane Newman; Under-11s, Greg Edwards; Under-12s, Andrew Wildsmith; Under-13s, Chris Appleby; Under-15s, Steve Blakey; Colts, Shaun Wilson.

"We are close to securing an Under-14s coach," Blakey said, "but anyone interested in the role is invited to contact me on 9844 4943 (after hours) or club secretary Kevin O'Mara on 9844 2964."

The new season starts on April 3.

On yer bikes, boys!

Warrandyte Football Club are seeking a small fleet of bicycles to further their 2005 premiership campaign.

Not just any bicycles, but unused exercise bikes for the recovery program the coaching staff will be putting players through after every game.

"We're looking for a maximum of nine bikes," said new coach Peter Green. "We can negotiate a return of them, if desired, at the end of the season and we'd ask that any bikes donated are in reasonably good condition."

Anyone willing to donate is asked to contact Green on 03 864 78518 or football operations manager Brendan Smith on 0439 344557.

The club are also seeking trainers and physio staff (male or female) for the new season. They would be required at training on Tuesday and/or Thursdays from 6-8pm and games on Saturday mornings and/or afternoons. Flexible hours and good remuneration are available and applicants should contact Brendan Smith.

Warrandyte's 2005 football draw

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 9: v South Croydon (H) | June 18: v South Croydon (A) |
| April 16: v Upper Ferntree Gully (A) | June 25: v Upper Ferntree Gully (H) |
| April 23: v Coldstream (H) | July 2: v Coldstream (A) |
| April 30: v Nunawading (A) | July 9: v Nunawading (H) |
| May 7: v Mooroolbark (H) | July 16: Mooroolbark (A) |
| May 14: v Doncaster East (A) | July 23: v Doncaster East (H) |
| May 21: v Templestowe (H) | July 30: v Templestowe (A) |
| May 28: v Bayswater (A) | August 6: v Bayswater (H) |
| June 4: v Heathmont (H) | August 13: v Heathmont (A) |

First Semi-final August 21; Second Semi-final August 20; Preliminary Final August 28; Grand Final September 4.

A learning experience

South Warrandyte Cricket Club will sort out the intelligentsia from the numbskulls at their annual Trivia Night as the Warranwood Primary School Hall in Wonga Road on Saturday, February 19.

Hosted by Flashback Trivia's Jeff Lane, this is your chance to rise above your peers or be regarded by them as a total waste of space. Either way, a fun night is guaranteed.

It will be tables of 10, 7pm for 7.30, \$10 a head and BYO food and drink.

Veronica Williams (9876 4020) is taking bookings, or put your name on the tables list on the clubrooms notice board.

Dytes sitting pretty!

Warrandyte Cricket Club's bid for a senior premiership to celebrate their 150th anniversary has strengthened enormously following a win over second-placed St Andrews in Round 12 of Ringwood District cricket.

The win catapulted Warrandyte from third to the top of the Second Division (Wilkins Cup) ladder as top-placed South Croydon were beaten.

The Dytes are now just 40 runs short of ensuring a top-of-the-ladder finish and a double chance in the finals, 4-64 at stumps in pursuit of South Croydon's 103 at stumps on the first day of their penultimate home-and-away game on February 5.

Warrandyte share top spot with South Croydon and a win on February 12 would see them a game and percentage points clear with one to go.

A remarkable finish to Round 12 saw all five Warrandyte senior sides in the top four in their respective grades.

The outstanding performance has come from the Second XI, who were winless after five rounds but have won six of the past seven matches to slip into fourth position with a nail-biting win over St Andrews.

The First XI continue a roller-coaster ride with the batting still providing problems.

In the first game after the Christmas break, they restricted North Ringwood to 9-137 in a 50-over match but could manage only 115 in reply,



SPORT

Adam White top scoring with 33.

In the following match against Bayswater Park, Stewart Rough saved the team from embarrassment with a swashbuckling 62 from fewer than 40 balls as Warrandyte were dismissed for 131 in only 31 of its allocated 40 overs.

It was the bowlers who came to the rescue, dismissing Bayswater Park for 126, Steve Bell starring with 4-27.

But it was the key match against St Andrews which has shaped the season and given the club hopes of a premiership and promotion to the elite Chandler Shield competition.

Batting first, Warrandyte finally got their act together and with Adam White (86) and Steve Bell (49) sharing a century partnership, they amassed a score of 239. A handy 25 by Steve Goddard in the final overs gave the score much-needed momentum.

Warrandyte were forced to bowl in wet and greasy conditions and St Andrews were well placed at 1-91 but veteran Gerald Walshe and young left-arm off-spinner Matt Sazenis turned the game around after the tea break and St Andrews collapsed to be all out for 122.

Walshe was at his miserly

best, bowling 24 overs and taking 5-28 and Sazenis was equally frugal, taking 4-24 off 22 overs which included 11 maidens.

St Andrews were equal second with Warrandyte before the game but are now a game and percentage behind, leaving Warrandyte to win one of the two remaining games to seal a top-two finish.

The Seconds' astounding run continued with a win over St Andrews. Stewie Haworth made his highest-ever score of 73 when asked to bat at No 3 for the first time.

He was in total command of the St Andrews' attack and his innings included four towering sixes.

Adam Beardall returned to some batting form and his 51 at the end of the innings proved crucial. So too did the effort of Under-14 captain, Ayrton Dehmel, who joined Beardall at the fall of the seventh wicket with 25 runs to win.

They took the score to within five runs before Beardall was run out, but then Dehmel and Ian Fahy scored the necessary

A carnivale finale

The final event in Warrandyte Cricket Club's 150th anniversary celebrations will be a "Carnival of Cricket" at the recreation reserve on Sunday, February 13.

An Invitational XI including former Victorian state players, current and former AFL footballers and media personalities will play a senior Warrandyte team.

The match of 40-overs a side will start at 1pm.

The curtain-raiser will be a 20-20 match between Warrandyte players not selected in the main game.

It will start at 9.30.

And to top off a great day of cricket, Warrandyte Veterans will play the last of their home and away fixtures on the small ground adjacent to the main oval.

Barbecue lunch and snacks will be available.

"It will be a great day and a great way to finish off our 150th celebrations," said club president Robert White.

"We would like the people of Warrandyte to call in during the day and be part of their community club and also see some great cricket."

runs for victory.

The diminutive young Dehmel has been one of the major reasons for the Second XI's revitalisation. Brought into the team two games before Christmas, the exciting young off-spinner has taken 13 wickets for little more than 100 runs and looms as an important player of the future at Warrandyte.

The Seconds were well placed on February 5 to strengthen their claim to a finals spot by scoring 210 against South Croydon, Tyson Brent the star with 90.

The Third XI held down second place with a convincing win over South Warrandyte.

when defending a big total of 7-261 against Knox City. The score was highlighted by Under-14 player Chris Barry, who was 83 not out, and Under-16 player Tyson Rees, who made 49.

But Knox City got to within 21 runs as one of their players blasted 155, including 15 sixes.

In the first game after Christmas, Vin Pettigrove scored 101 and Tyson Rees 59 as Warrandyte scored a convincing win over Croydon Ranges.

The Fourths amassed 320 at their latest outing.

The Fifth XI were well beaten by Mooroolbark but are still a big chance of playing off in the finals.

After a strong win over Warranwood in the first game after Christmas, only Chris Chapman, with 32, and Matt Elliott (28) could get among the runs against the strong Mooroolbark side.

They were in trouble again on February 5, managing only 123 against Wantirna, who were 2-60 in reply.

Details

FIRST XI: Warrandyte 115 (A. White 33) lost to North Ringwood 9-137. Warrandyte 131 (Rough 62) d Bayswater Park 126 (Bell 4-27). Warrandyte 239 (A. White 86, Bell 49) d St Andrews 122 (Walshe 5-28, Sazenis 4-24). Warrandyte 4-64 v South Croydon 103.

SECOND XI: Warrandyte 8-186 (Goddard 87) d North Ringwood 7-181 (A. Dehmel 4-40). Warrandyte 8-158 (Kline 47 n.o., Logan 40) d Bayswater Park 105 (A. Dehmel 3-15). Warrandyte 218 (Haworth 73, Beardall 51) d St Andrews 7-210.

THIRD XI: Warrandyte 156 (Croft 40, Brent 35) lost to Kilsyth 7-163 (E. Cauchi 3-34).

Warrandyte 7-183 (Baker 52, Creber 32) d South Warrandyte 153.

FOURTH XI: Warrandyte 215 (V. Pettigrove 101, T. Rees 59) d Croydon Ranges 9-132 (K. Miller 3-29). Warrandyte 7-261 (C. Barry 83 n.o., T. Rees 49, G. Rees 32) d Knox City 240 (K. Miller 3-54, T. Rees 3-63).

FIFTH XI: Warrandyte 7-175 (Khatry 62, Baker 47) d Warranwood 99 (Khatry 3-4).

Warrandyte 169 (C. Chapman 31, Elliott 28) lost to Mooroolbark 261 (D. Clements 3-39, Wright 3-65).

Dining out on memories

The memories flooded back as Warrandyte Cricket Club celebrated their 150th anniversary with a dinner dance at the Park Orchards Chalet last month.

More than 230 people attended the event and brought together players from the 1950s through to the current era.

"We had wonderful support and the night was a huge success," said club president Robert White. "Such an important celebration deserved such a big night and current and former players didn't let us down."

Many former players came from interstate for the occasion while others caught up with teammates for the first time in 25 years or more.

White told guests of the important role the cricket club had played in community life in Warrandyte over 150 years and how it had been part of the township's development through the gold rush, early settlement, the orcharding days until the current day.

"Last season the club introduced a father and son team, made up of boys from our junior teams and their dads. On reflection, I now realise that Warrandyte has always been a father and son club for almost all of its 150 years," he said.

"In fact, in the 20 years that we had a women's team it was a father and daughter and mother and daughter club as well.

"This has been the strength of Warrandyte Cricket Club ... passing the baton or in our case, the bat, from one generation to another."

John Chapman, current club treasurer and a former president and club captain, told guests of watching his father play in the 1950s and how as a 14-year-old he played cricket with some of the older members of the club at the time.

Chapman is still playing today in the club's veterans team and is captain of the Fifth XI. Chapman's three sons are now playing senior cricket at Warrandyte, further emphasising the father-son link.

Chapman introduced Stan Davis, whom he described as one of the most influential figures to join the club.

Davis, who captained the club to premierships in 1979-80 and 1981-82, came down from Sydney for the night and spoke of his involvement with Warrandyte.

"I was only here for four seasons but they were among the happiest of my life as a cricketer," he said.

"There is a great sense of belonging and an understanding of the role the club has in the community."

One of the club's greatest modern-day players, Gerald Walshe, also spoke, referring to his years as a junior and his development into a senior player.

Current and former players and life members were then presented with a special badge to commemorate the night.

The club have produced a book, 150 Not Out, to mark the anniversary year and is available at the West End Newsagency, the Warrandyte Post Office or through the Historical Society for \$25. It is also available through the club by contacting Robert White on 9846 7114.



At the 150th Anniversary Dinner. Above (from left): Max Summers, Bruce Kline, Andrew Snaidero and Tony Graf. Right: Gerald Walshe, who began a long and on-going career with the local juniors. Below: Former premiership captain Stan Davis. (Pictures by Gavin Andrew)



Bendigo banks on us

Mark Challen, the manager of the local Bendigo Community Bank, wasn't intending to bat or bowl when he turned up to Warrandyte Cricket Club practice recently. He made an appearance to present a sponsorship cheque of \$1000 to club president Robert White.

"We are pleased to be involved with a local club that is doing so much for the community," Challen said. "We are particularly pleased to be part of Warrandyte Cricket Club's 150th anniversary celebrations."

White thanked Challen and the bank for their generous sponsorship and hoped it would be the start of a long and healthy relationship between the two organisations.

"Running a club of our size, which includes five senior teams, five junior teams and two veterans teams, is a difficult task and sponsorships like that from the Bendigo Community Bank help to ease the pressure," he said.

He also thanked the club's other sponsors, Warrandyte Travel, Club Warrandyte, The Soil Shop, Sheen Panels and Chapman Gardiner Pty Ltd, who had given valuable support throughout the year.

Death of a stalwart

Warrandyte's sporting community was deeply saddened last month by the death of Norman Carrington.

Mr Carrington, 55, was a tireless worker for Warrandyte Football Club over several seasons. He was secretary in 1990-91 and in the 1993 premiership year and treasurer from 1998-2000.

Lawrie Sloan, the Bloods' longest-serving president, described Mr Carrington as the best club secretary of his experience.

"Norm had been secretary under the presidency of Colin Bawden in 1990-91 and agreed to take it on again when I was president again in 1993," he said.

"He did an outstanding job." Mr Carrington is survived by his wife Sue and sons Jason and Brad.

For one, please read two

The December issue of the *Diary* erroneously reported that only one Warrandyte Netball Club team — the Open B Eagles — were successful in the Doncaster and District spring grand finals on December 4.

There were in fact two Warrandyte premier teams, the Open A Woodies defeating DYC by 10 goals in their grand final.

The triumphant Woodies, coached by Lorraine Green, were Jo Bolton, Amy Green, Tahlia Hoegel, Kathy Kinnear, Brooke Lashford, Sacha Poly, Tanya Puglia and Lauren Reid.

Warrandyte's new winter season will start on Saturday, March 12 and training will begin in the next few weeks (players will be contacted).

Training nights are: Under 17s Monday; Under-15s Tuesday; Under-13s Wednesday; Under-11s Thursday. The Netball Skills Program for learners will be held on Fridays.

Further inquiries to secretary Vicki Hassall (9844 1351) or president Lesley Reid (9844 2068).

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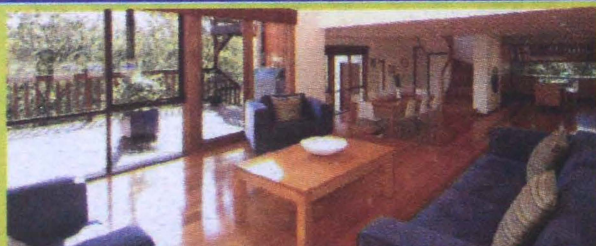
H Which Warrandyte Real Estate Agent was named Real Estate Category Finalist in the 2003 & 2004 Manningham Business Awards?

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february's feature properties



warrandyte auction 5 march @ 11am unless sold prior

situated opposite the yarra river, near new home combining old world charm with modern sophistication. 3BR plus study (suit 4th BR)



warrandyte auction 19 march @ 2pm unless sold prior

immaculately presented open plan 5BR family home, set on 1 acre with river views, spacious deck for entertaining and direct river access



warrandyte north private sale

a short walk to work! spacious 5BR home on 1.5 acres with inground pool and spa, boasts separate 4-car garage, workshop and office.



warrandyte north private sale

a beautiful 6.5 acre allotment, with large level home site, ornamental dam, sealed road access and all services available.

warrandyte rental centre

effective property management solutions

our service makes the difference

ask about our landlord reward program

this month's feature rental property



pretty as a picture

\$220pw - \$240pw

charming 2BR weatherboard cottage offering a slice of warrandyte history, lounge/dining with hardwood floors, full length verandah, single garage, walk to river & village.

