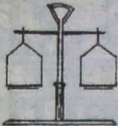


GOLDFIELDS PLAZA



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DIARY

No. 376, June 2005

peter gardiner LLB

FAMILY LAWYER
&
GENERAL PRACTITIONER

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Village makeover



End of a season... Memories of a Warrandyte autumn. More **STEPHEN REYNOLDS** pics on Pages 18 and 19.

A new plan promoting pride in our place

By **CLIFF GREEN**

After more than 18 months of public consultation and debate, proposals for streetscape changes under Manningham council's Pride of Place project have been placed before the community.

The proposals, covering Yarra Street between Whipstick Gully and the post office, have been warmly received.

Addressing a meeting of locals last month, town planner and former resident Tim Hart of Urban Initiatives said, "We're not trying to dress up the area, just address the issues".

Among major issues tackled is the hotch-potch of pavement materials used along Yarra Street, including bitumen, gravel, brick and slate. Many footpaths are in bad repair, and some of the surfaces, especially on the steeper grades, are potentially dangerous.

The proposal is to surface all footpaths with a local gravel—Coldstream toppings rolled into a bitumen base.

However, some specific areas—such as the outdoor dining space at the Grand Hotel—will remain delineated by pavers.

Other proposals provide for the rationalisation of car parking spaces, including the removal of parking on the north side of Yarra Street between the Lions Park entrance and the bridge.

New stone walling—inspired by an existing drystone wall at the Whipstick Gully corner—will be built where appropriate, including replacing the

bluestone batter at the central shops. Extensive indigenous planting and maintenance of existing vegetation will be undertaken.

The "legs" pedestrian crossing at the bank will be replaced by press button traffic lights and a new "legs" crossing will be installed between the bridge and the post office.

Perhaps the most expensive item in this shopping list is a proposal to place all electric cabling underground.

An ancillary report—also funded through Pride of Place—has been prepared on the controversial issue of signage in the village.

Undertaken by David Lancashire Design (Mr Lancashire is also a former Warrandyte resident), the plan proposes a number of subtle yet revolutionary solutions to Warrandyte's signage clutter.

These include the consolidation of a multitude of information notices and displays onto a series of two-metre tall vertical boards, a uniform sans serif letter style and a palette of colours inspired by the natural tones and shades of the local environment.

Of particular interest to residents is the proposed replacement of the ever-multiplying rash of A-frame signs with smaller, modular boards on a simple metal stand.

These improvements will not happen overnight, although some of the works have been funded in the current Manningham council budget. The planners predict a 10-year period during which the changes will occur.

● Full details: Pages 6 and 7



Bridge shops: "... smaller modular boards to replace A-frames ... surface all footpaths with a local gravel". (Picture courtesy Urban Initiatives)

CYRIL

By **PAUL WILLIAMS**

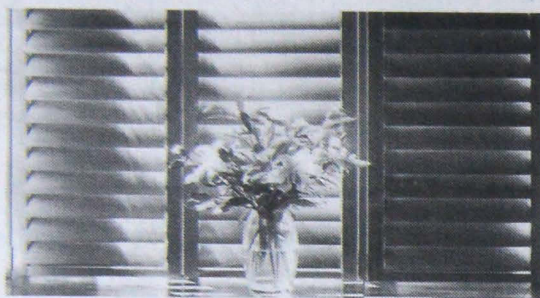


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FOLK ART
WARRANDYTE
WARRANDYTE

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.

Your polties at work as the ultimate possum repellents!



Inspired no doubt by
the proliferation of
those ghastly reality
TV dancing shows, a
new wave of brushytail pos-
sums is now tripping the heavy
fantastic across Warrandyte
roofs. Which means that sleep-
deprived citizens have broken
out the traps again are now il-
legally trafficking the pesky var-
mints, "relocating" them across
the Yarra. "Possum swapping"
has been going on for many
years, North Warrandyte folk
releasing them up on Fourth
Hill and those who pay their
rates to Manningham making
clandestine forays into the
Nillumbik bush. But according
to a great white hunter of our
acquaintance, relocation is
quite unnecessary. "Leave
your possum in the trap at the
point of capture for a few day-
light hours," he says, "and with-
out traumatising the poor bug-
ger, make your presence felt
from time to time. Poke faces
(but not sticks) at him if you
like, but it's probably a bit over
the top to sit there beside the
trap in your Davy Crockett hat
sharpening your hunting knife
on a whetstone. When you re-
lease him right there where the
trap was sprung, he'll scarper
with his unpleasant memories
of life behind bars and you'll
probably never see him again.
The ultimate repellent, of
course, is to play him an ampli-
fied recording of Question Time
in the Senate before release. I
guarantee he'll be so bloody
glad to get the hell out of your
place that he'll never darken
your roof again. Of course, you
might never see your neigh-
bours again either — but is that
necessarily a bad thing?"

IN RED & WHITE



RING
THE
BELLS



We have long lived in
awe of the achieve-
ments of Deidre (Dee)
Prior, tragically wid-
owed in 1996 by the death of
Warrandyte Football Club stal-
wart Tracy (much better known
as Snowy). As our sports pages
pointed out in the April edition,
Dee has raised four great kids
on her own and is delighted
that the youngest — Nicolette
and Campbell — are wearing
Dad's No 16 for the young
Bloods at Under-13 and Under-
10 level in the Yarra Junior Foot-
ball League. Thanks to the (per-
sonally) unfathomable wonders
of hi-tech, that story reached
Swinburne TAFE, who e-mailed
us the news that Dee has won
that institution's 2005 Maurice

Curwood Fellowship student
prize of \$2000. Swinburne
spokeslady Lea Kivivali tells us
that Dee completed Certificate
IV in Financial Services (Ac-
counting) last year, has a his-
tory of achieving exemplary
academic results and won the
judges over with her obvious
commitment to study, family
and the community. "This out-
standing student hopes to even-
tually graduate with an Ad-
vanced Diploma and winning
this award will certainly help
her to achieve her goals," she
said. Did we mention that Dee
Prior is an exceptional human
being?



We'd always believed
golf to be a non-con-
tact sport, but Lex
McDonald — a name
familiar to Page 2 readers
despite having lived here for
about five minutes — has blown
that theory out of the water. Lex
freely admits that his drive from
the 13th at Eastwood the other
Saturday was ... well, mis-hit ...
but he's not accepting total re-
sponsibility for the ball hitting
some poor bloke on the head on
the full and hospitalising him.
"You could say that he was on
the edge of my fairway or that
my ball found its way to the
edge of his," Lex said. "A sort
of no-man's-land. Fortunately
the ball was on the way down
when it hit him." The victim was
taken from the course on a cart
and then to hospital, where the
wound required six stitches. As
Lex was apologising profusely
he let slip that he was from
Warrandyte and the bloke said
he had a lot of relatives there.
Lucky for Rex those relatives
don't have his address.



Life is not exactly a
bed of roses or a bowl
of cherries here at the
community centre. If
it's not vandals vandalising, it's
pigeons pooping and now flash-
ers doing what flashers do. Yes,
a fellow wearing overalls and a
fluoro jacket did his thing out-
side the glass doors of Neigh-
bourhood House the other Fri-
day, bemusing rather than tra-
umatising the two casual staff
ladies manning the place. Quite
agitated, he was, and scarpered

before the cops arrived. It's un-
likely the ladies will be much
help with the ID process be-
cause they didn't see much of
his face.



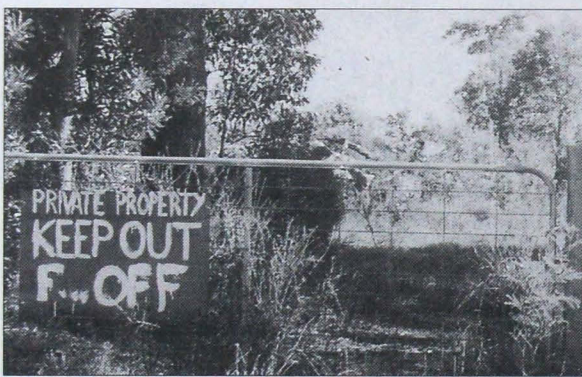
Gerald Walshe, who
recently collected his
second Warrandyte
Cricket Club champion
award, is the consummate all-
round sportsman and as such
will get a mention in a book, to
be released next May, celebrat-
ing 100 years of football in
Warrandyte. He'll be recalled
not so much for his undoubted
footballing talents but for an
out-of-character performance
we reported back in June 1989:
"Mike Tyson can rest easy. He
has nothing to fear from our
Gerald Walshe. One of this
town's outstanding sportsmen
is Gerald — senior 18 footballer,
first XI cricketer and above-av-
erage basketballer. But a boxer
he is not. Walshe ("That's with
an E", as he consistently re-
minds his adoring media entou-
rage) found himself in a footy
punch-up for probably the first
time in the away game against
East Doncaster this month.
When we say punch-up we
mean a flurry of windmill-style
"wides" on his part which prob-
ably made the Marquis of
Queensberry rotate briskly in
his crypt. An unfounded ru-
mour swept the ground that
Gerald had been reported for
creating an unnecessary
draught on what was already a
very cold afternoon."



Dusty Miller might
sound like the name of
a country and western
singer but is in fact an
attractive compact shrub that
would certainly enhance your
native garden. *Spyridium
parvifolium* to those in the
know, it has small dark green
oval leaves with distinctive
veins, the leaves closest to flow-
ers smaller and dusty grey —
hence the name. It's available
right now from the Friends of
Warrandyte State Park nursery
along with a range of local euca-
lypts — including our trade-
mark red box (*Eucalyptus
poyanthermos*) — which thrive
in areas wet, dry or anything in
between. The nursery is at the
rangers depot at Pound Bend
and the manager will answer in-
quiries on 0408 317327.



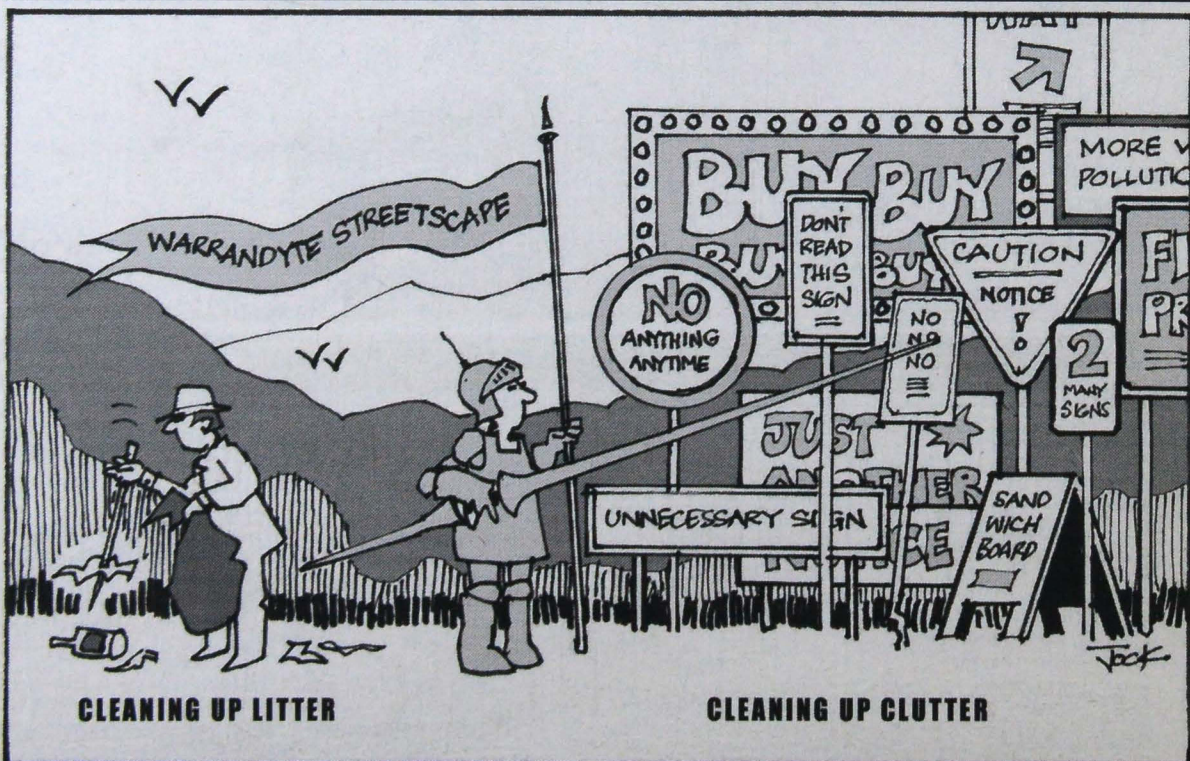
Smokey
Joe



In a multitude of Marlo-based getaways, Smokey and Her Indoors
have always found East Gippslanders to be plain-spoken and very
hospitable. We gave the owner of this property a pass mark on the
first count but an F-minus on the second. And the same to you, sir,
should you ever set foot in Warrandyte! Feeling somewhat threatened,
though, we took a quick snap and his advice.

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



Searching for a high watermark

By CLIFF GREEN

A number of Warrandyte people have come together to examine what is probably Australia's greatest problem—the water shortage.

They have formed themselves into a Watermark group, part of a nation-wide project aimed at public education and action. The local group operates under the auspices of the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House.

When she first heard about Watermark, WNH manager Karen Throssell wondered, "Why do we need to sit around and talk about water? We all know there is a drought, and most of us are 'doing the right thing'—watering at the right time, having shorter showers, trying to get our teenagers to wash their hair every second day and not for half an hour. I am quite scrupulous about not washing my car!

"We're already making sacrifices. And what does sitting around and talking do? It only generates hot air, not water.

"This is what a lot of us thought before we became involved in Watermark," Ms Throssell told the *Diary*.

"Whilst we do look at the big picture and how we can influence the elected decision mak-

ers, of course it is also about changing our own attitudes and behaviour, so that wasting water becomes as unthinkable as spitting in the street, smoking in the movies or pinching an employee on the bum.

"Thus the first stage of the project focuses on what we need to do to change our behaviour, what more we need to know about water; sharpening our awareness; becoming water literate." This investigation will occupy the first half of the Watermark project, designed to cover a year in total.

"The last half of the year looks at how we might act to achieve a sustainable water future," Ms Throssell said.

"The idea is that throughout Australia there are convenors bringing groups of people together—friends, family, workmates, 'around their kitchen tables'—in our case in the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House. And because the aim is to bring the results of these Australia-wide discussions together as a Water Charter, which will hopefully change government policy, these discussions are quite structured."

Each session is supplied with information sheets and follows a plan set out by the central

Watermark team. "All the information we gather is written as a report to Watermark, half-way through the project, then again at the end.

The Warrandyte Watermark group was a little late starting because of all the local activities during February and March—the festival, the follies, the Tsunami fundraiser—so they have only met twice.

"But in two meetings, with the help of our group wisdom and the very thorough handouts from Watermark, we who already thought we already knew it all, have learned heaps.

"For me, it was discovering that it is not just an Australian drought phenomenon, but it is global, and has much more to do with over-use of an increasingly scarce resource than cyclical climatic changes," Ms Throssell said.

In Australia—the driest continent on earth—over-use is a critical issue. Australians in general and Victorians in particular rate badly in terms of per capita water usage. Using 320 litres per person a day, Australia ranks third behind USA (515 litres) and Canada (438 litres).

The most useful piece of information the group garnered was

that 50 per cent of the water we use could be recycled. According to the statistics, 30 per cent of our water is used on our gardens and 20 percent is flushed down the toilet.

"Many overseas visitors are shocked to find that we use drinking water to flush our toilets!" Ms Throssell said.

"At our last meeting we discussed what people in the country do to accommodate their life-styles to drought.

"Group members had read of families in the Goulburn Valley who have one bath a week, then the water is used on their garden. It becomes much more real when not only your livelihood is dependant on it, but you are relying on what falls from the sky, and it just doesn't happen.

"We are beginning to realise that our 'sacrifices' are really quite laughable, and we are going to do a lot more.

● Anyone interested can come to the next Watermark meeting at the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House in the community centre on Thursday, June 9 at 4.30pm. Check out Watermark on the internet at www.watermark.org.au. If you want to be involved without attending meetings you can follow the project online.



Karen Throssell: "... it has more to do with over-use of an increasingly scarce resource than cyclical climatic changes".

We eat a lot of water!

According to John Williams of the CSIRO, we "consume" 5000 litres of water each time we eat a standard meal of steak, potato and salad with two glasses of wine.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 cup of lettuce | 11 litres | 1 potato | 500 litres |
| 1 slice of white bread | 28 litres | 8oz steak | 4660 litres |
| 1 bottle of wine | 360 litres | | |

School kids working for the Wedge

A cluster of four local schools, known as the "Green Wedgies", took part in Greening the Green Wedge earlier this month, playing their part in celebrating World Environment Day.

The Green Wedgies—Warrandyte Primary School, Anderson's Creek Primary School, Donvale Carey Grammar and Donvale Christian College—are part of the sustainable schools cluster project. They are working on revegetating their local part of the Green Wedge as a cluster initiative.

The schools are working with the Gould League, CERES, Friends of Warrandyte State Park, Parks Victoria and Manningham council.

"The Green Wedgies is the first cluster in Victoria to choose a name and a logo to signify their unity and shared vision," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*. "The logo will be used by all schools in the cluster for items such as their newsletters, websites and reports."

As a result of joining the sustainable schools cluster, Warrandyte Primary School has signed up for the Manningham land management program.

Last month, the schools began joint seed propagation training at the friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery in Pound Bend.



Graphic by
Melanie Coupar



Not a drop to drink ... Warrandyte was overflowing with water in February. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

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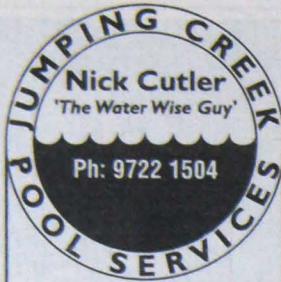
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SUPPORT LOCAL TRADERS

Gospel Chapel:
owner seeks
community help

As owners of the Old Gospel Chapel we would like to inform the Warrandyte community the latest information regarding the article reported in the May edition of the *Diary*, "Old chapel windows at risk".

Firstly, we the owners are all residents of Warrandyte. We are looking forward to the preservation of this Warrandyte landmark. The Gospel Chapel is under threat of extinction if major works are not carried out soon, due to past neglect.

We have acquired the services of Geoffrey Wallace, a stained glass specialist. His report concluded deterioration on all windows, buckling and numerous broken panes. The forward three lead-light windows have a total of 53 broken panes. It would be a considerable cost to restore them.

We feel these windows are

DEAR DIARY

a Warrandyte community asset. For this reason we have applied to both the Warrandyte Historical Society and the Warrandyte Community Association, who objected to the removal of these windows, for financial assistance. We have not received a reply.

The issue of the decking, as reported in the *Diary*, is for maintenance of roof and guttering, also assistance in restoring the lead-light windows.

We need the support of the Warrandyte community to see the chapel restored to its former glory.

Dwayne Schulyer
(by e-mail)

Private landholders
need cool burns too

The article by Jeff Adair from the CFA, in the last edition of the *Diary*, was informative and instructive. However, it was very quiet on a most important role that the CFA fails to fulfil in fire management on private land, thus leaving a large gap in fire management in this community.

Most of the arguments in all these articles revolved around the use of fire on public land, but there was no mention of the use of fire on private land and how this could be facilitated.

There is far more private land in the rural-urban interface and beyond than there is public land. Surely it is just as critical to manage fuel loads on private land and to regenerate the local ecology on private land (which holds some of the most important biodiversity in the area) as it is on private land.

How can private landholders be expected to manage some sort of fire regime without the support of the CFA? Why is the CFA so reluctant to burn-off private land when this is so critical to the overall fire protection of the community? Liability problems?

Private landholders cannot hope to be able to supply the resources and know-how to burn-off larger properties. Surely it is the CFA's role to facilitate fuel reduction on private land through a system of planned and strategic burns, rather than just writing about how necessary it is and putting out dire warnings about the coming fire season each November. Let's get strategic and integrate our community fire management.

Name and address supplied.

Plans for Ruffey Lake
Park challenged

I am a regular user of Ruffey Lake Park and I am most concerned about Manningham council's plans to develop the park using nearly \$3million of ratepayers' money to add things to the park which are not wanted by the majority of respondents to their questionnaires.

I do not believe that small parks should be sold off to pay for these works. Instead, money should be spent improving the small community parks.

I am also concerned about their plans to place further restrictions on dogs off-leash in Ruffey Lake Park and—now—also around Mullum Mullum Creek. The plans are contrary to council's domestic animal strategy and also the response they got from their surveys, where 64 percent of respondents in one and 81 percent in another said they were happy with the existing controls.

It is a terrible waste of ratepayers' money for council to continue doing surveys in their quest to obtain the answers they want. Council is here to serve the ratepayers, not make changes to suit the whims of a few councillors and council officers who are being paid for by us the ratepayers.

It is disappointing to see that we are going to be hit by yet another rate rise of over five percent, but there appears to be no provision to establish the dog activity centre which they promised some years ago.

Nothing should be done until after the council elections later this year.

Margaret Downie
(by e-mail)



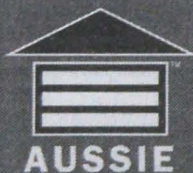
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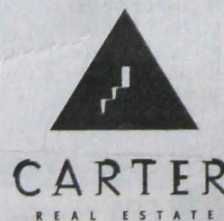
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Pictures by
STEPHEN REYNOLDS



Community talks back

By SAM DAVIES

At the annual Warrandyte Community Association general meeting and public forum, councillors talked about weeds and rates, while local politicians argued about sewers.

About 60 residents attended the meeting and forum at the North Warrandyte Community Centre. They joined local MPs Danielle Green and Phil Honeywood, Manningham councillors Pat Young and Gerry Dale and Nillumbik's Warwick Leeson.

The forum began with a brief address from each representative. Newly elected WCA president and forum facilitator Dick Davies came armed with an egg timer. "Last year we had complaints that politicians talked too much and there wasn't enough room for questions from the floor," he said.

In his address, Cr Leeson said while Nillumbik's budget was not yet framed, he hoped there would be significant funding towards shared waste collection, extension of footpaths, road repairs and signage. He outlined ideas to make Nillumbik a plastic-bag free zone, and to introduce anti-pest plant local laws.

He said the new council was settling in after their first six months in office. "We may not necessarily agree on every single issue, but there is no personality fighting now."

Cr Young said Manningham's budget was now on display to the public, and, pending approval, there would be a rate cut. "We're going to be able to help a little with reduction of rates. We've had to have rates fairly level at 8.9 per cent, but not so this year," she said.

Cr Young said the river reserve plan and urban design framework were nearing completion and she was looking forward to seeing them start. "We want to make the strip between Whipstick Gully and the (east end) roundabout look like a heritage historic area. It would be a shame not to

show off our wonderful buildings," she said.

Councillors then fielded questions from the public. On banning horse-riding along the river bank, Cr Young reiterated that because the trail was on crown land, council was responsible for any incidents that happened. "We are not going to take any risks," she said.

Boulevard resident Steve Munro questioned if Cr Leeson's pest plant bylaws would include a campaign against dumping weeds on roadside reserves. Cr Leeson said the pest plant campaign would be a two-year program, comprising community education, followed by enforcement.

On planning issues, resident John Hanson said many people were appalled at the development next to the post office. "My question is how did it happen, and is there a landscape plan?" he said.

Cr Young agreed the design did not "fit in" with the streetscape, but said current planning restrictions would not have stopped it from being built. "Even if it had gone to VCAT it would have been approved. We are now bringing in far more stringent heritage guidelines along that strip. We can't believe this had to happen," she said.

Member for Yan Yean Danielle Green used her speech to outline the state budget's benefits for Warrandyte. In addition to the new police station, she

said there was money for outer-suburban roads and extension of bus services (the funding is yet to be broken down), as well as an additional \$19million on weeds and pest control for parks state-wide, and broadband access for local schools. She said she was looking forward to the new State Park rangers' depot opening in July.

Mr Honeywood said the Yarra's water quality was disconcerting, with readings in Templestowe showing E-Coli bacteria levels 3-4 times higher than usual. He said the problem was due to septic tanks in Warrandyte and Park Orchards, which leaked into Mullum Mullum creek and then the Yarra.

Mr Honeywood said more than 600 houses in Warrandyte remained on septic systems and about 1300 in Park Orchards, and called on the government to restore funding to Yarra Valley water to continue their implementation of sewerage systems. He said residents should not pay for sewerage connection. Ms Green agreed the issue needed to be addressed.

WCA member David Wierzbowski asked the members for a response to a rumoured extension of the Western ring-road through Warrandyte.

Ms Green said the government had no plans to extend the ring-road through two green wedges. "With the Eastlink (tollled freeway), there will be less traffic on local streets because

heavy transport and commuters will have an alternative route," she said.

Mr Honeywood said he "furiously agreed" with Ms Green in his opposition to any ring-road, but said he had major concerns the Eastlink tollway would divert traffic through Warrandyte.

The public was also interested in roads at a local council level. One resident proposed sealing his street so he would not need to waste water washing his car.

But Webb Street resident Darren Bowers said there was a certain charm in unsealed roads. "A lot of us prefer the rustic unsealed roads. We can put footpaths in where they're needed, but once you seal over all the roads, we're just a slightly more hilly Doncaster." The comment was greeted with enthusiastic audience applause.

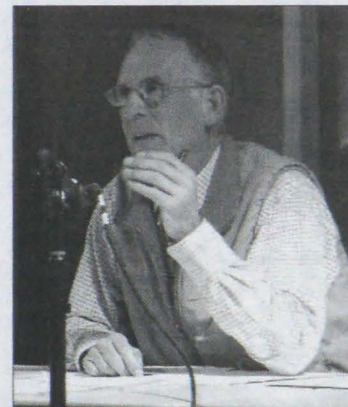
During the evening's official AGM proceedings, Dick Davies was elected president, replacing Jonathan Upson and reprising the role he first held. David Ellis replaced Simon Kearney as secretary. David Wierzbowski remains vice president, with Kerrie Boyle as deputy vice-president and Dr Ron Garrett as treasurer.

David Dyason, Val Polley, Doug Seymour and Richard Aumann were elected to the committee, joining Simon Kearney, Jonathan Upson and Bruce Davidson.

In his treasurer's report, Dr Garrett

"Last year we had complaints that politicians talked too much and there wasn't enough room for questions from the floor."

Dick Davies

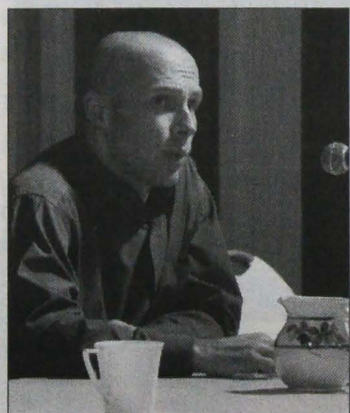


said the financial situation was secure, and they had \$3557 in total assets. He thanked the Warrandyte Festival Committee for allowing the WCA to join in their fundraising, which netted about \$1000.

The report said the two major costs were the website and their mail drop. The treasurer said WCA needed to decide whether to keep its website. "At present it is being retained in order to simply advertise the existence of the WCA...not to communicate with members."

He said to increase income, their four options were to increase membership, increase membership fees, organise fundraisers, or obtain sponsors. He said there was little scope for reducing expenditure.

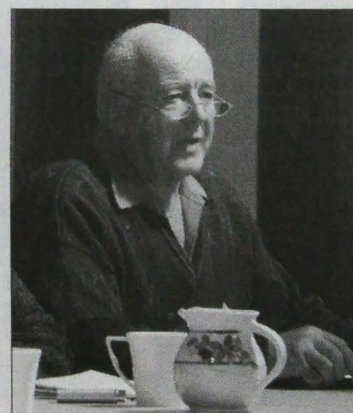
The president's report said, that in the last 12 months, the WCA had been as active as possible on its "shoe-string" budget. Their involvement included working with council on the Pride of Place project, lobbying to lower the Yarra Street speed limit to 40kmh, and numerous VCAT appeals.



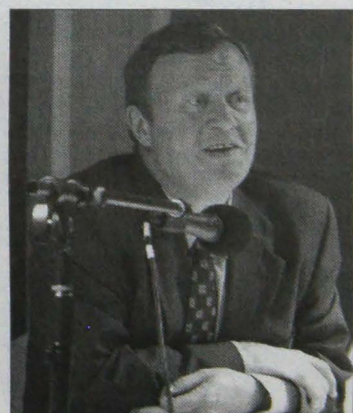
David Wierzbowski: asked about rumours of a ring road through Warrandyte.



Danielle Green: no plans to extend the ring road through the Green Wedge.



Warwick Leeson: outlined ideas to make Nillumbik a plastic-bag free zone.



Phil Honeywood: called for restoration of funding for sewerage systems.



Pat Young: river reserve and urban design plans are nearing completion.

Signing off on a...



"At the moment it's sign city"

David Lancashire

By SAM DAVIES

THE Warrandyte community is impressed with plans for a bold makeover of the township which will reduce signage by 50 per cent and give buildings a new coat of paint.

Sign design consultant David Lancashire, commissioned to address Warrandyte's numerous signage problems under the Pride of Place grant and as part of the broader urban design framework, presented his ideas to an open forum of locals on May 18.

Mr Lancashire's ideas, which apply to the river trail and streetscape between Whipstick Gully and the post office, included putting information on benches and handrails as well as on vertical signs, and getting rid of bus stops and taxi zone signs by painting them on the road.

"At the moment it's a sign city," he said. "Some places had three bus stop poles. I'm asking, do you really need all this signage?"

Banner signs would be replaced by slender vertical signs, and would vary in size depending on the importance of the information and whether it concerned motorists or pedestrians.

The colour scheme for the proposed signs has been inspired by the local environment. "In the summer months

when you have bellbirds ringing and shafts of light on the Yarra, you get a brilliant palette with purple hues," he said. The material used would include a rusting steel which would "disappear" into the environmental fabric.

He suggested that riverside carpark signs prohibiting alcohol, dogs and horse riding, and parking signs, could be combined into a single, two-metre tall sign.

Under the plans, traders would be dissuaded from using A-frame signage, which can clutter footpaths and is unsightly. Instead, vertical modular signs which can be removed have been proposed.

After the presentation, Mr Lancashire opened the meeting for comment. Locals were largely impressed with most of the designs, questioning only the concept of bus signs written on the road.

Warrandyte Business Association president and a member of the signage reference committee, John Provan, said traders were behind the ideas but warned funding could be an issue.

"We're happy with this strategy. What we have to look at is how we implement it. If we agree to ratify it, who is going to pay for it?" he asked.

He said the largest concerns were from businesses without street frontage that rely on A-

frame signage to attract customers.

"The traders are local people. They don't want to flood Warrandyte with signage. But if half the traders agree to the changes and half don't then we haven't succeeded. We need all traders on board," he said.

Mr Provan suggested government and council may need to offer initial funds to subsidise signage. "If we can convince traders that visually it is better, then that's good."

The proposed signs have been costed at approximately \$500 each. Manningham council urban designer Sarah Shaw said any sign under \$1000 was extremely good value.

She said many of Warrandyte's existing council signs were due for replacement and council had already set some funding aside.

Mr Lancashire also presented ideas on a colour scheme for buildings in the township, which would be phased in when buildings were due to be repainted. Mr Provan, inspired by the colour scheme, has already converted his Yarra street shop from a dull peach tone to a dark burgundy.

Mr Lancashire said the paint job looked fantastic. "Already it's started to give a character back to the area. We're dealing with buildings that may not be national trust, but are really important to the area."



Pictures courtesy
David Lancashire Design

village makeover



"Not trying to dress up the area" Tim Hart

By SAM DAVIES

TWENTY years after writing his thesis on Warrandyte's urban design, Tim Hart has returned to fix the problems that have niggled him ever since.

His company, Urban Initiatives, was given the task of creating an urban design framework for Warrandyte's Yarra Street precinct, between Whipstick Gully and the post office.

The former Warrandyte citizen presented the framework, which he completed in March, to a community forum at the Senior Citizens Club on May 18.

"These are our suggestions, but we're open to comment," Mr Hart said. He stressed the framework was not "trying to dress up the area, but just address the issues".

"Warrandyte is unique because of its character, and being by the river," he said.

"But it has the problems other towns have of different pavements and ad-hoc developments."

"The framework is like having a style guide, though not a regulated one. We put a lot of thought into it. Warrandyte is a special place. All those quirks that have amazed me over the years, it gave me a chance to solve them," he said.

The issues he wanted addressed included pavement which was varied and inconsistent in mixtures of concrete, brick, slate and bitumen, and generally, in poor condition.

He said some pavements did not relate to the character of the town, or were not practicable in "this litigious society". An example, he said, was the brick outside the video store: "Warrandyte is not a brick town."

The framework proposes replacing the pavement from Whipstick Gully to Webb Street with a local crushed stone aggregate, rolled into bitumen, though they may retain some slate at the Grand Hotel to mark the dining zone.

The plan redesigns the pedestrian crossing to allow access to shops from both directions and removing the bluestone batter.

Mr Hart also criticised the town's street furniture as "standard Manningham issue". "It might look fine on Doncaster Hill, but there is an opportunity to design and modify the furniture to give it a more local feel," he said.

The treated pine and steel handrails needed maintenance, and did not conform to current code requirements.

Parking spaces will be redistributed under the framework. Warrandyte Business Association president John Provan expressed concern that up to eight parking spaces would be lost on Yarra Street outside the tennis courts, which he said represented nearly a quarter of spots available.

But Mr Hart said there was little alternative, as the parked cars were a footpath hazard. He said clearer marking of bays in areas such as Whipstick Gully would increase parking spaces.

On vegetation, the framework suggests re-doing the presentation of all beds and using low indigenous plants on areas that are currently only gravel.

Powerlines will also be put underground, at a cost of \$200,000, though half this will be subsidised.

The works will now be packaged into stages, and implemented over a 10-year period, with the most needy areas flagged by the reference group.

A stroll along Yarra Street

WHIPSTICK GULLY CARPARK

- Resurface entry and carpark area in a local gravel (Coldstream toppings).
- Provide stone wheel stops.
- Undertake weed control and revegetation along creek/carpark edge.
- Remove treated pine barriers, replace with hardwood timber bollards.
- Remove two northern bays to improve sight lines for vehicles exiting Whipstick Gully Road.

NORTH SIDE OF YARRA STREET

- Remove three car spaces at the opposite entry of Whipstick Gully Road to improve sight lines and turning movements.
- Meander existing path alignment and improve surface with local gravel spray seal.
- Remove pine log kerb and replace with low stone kerb.
- Where possible provide low planting between kerb and road edge.

BEAUTY & VIDEO SHOPS

- Replace brick paving with exposed aggregate coloured concrete.
- Extend insitu concrete surfacing to Whipstick Gully Road (existing gravel on sloping path is a safety issue).
- Install new stone kerb extensions and local stacked stone retaining wall.
- Plant low indigenous groundcovers to up-graded garden bed areas/kerb extensions.
- Improve access to shops with new steps and paved connections.

BOTTLE SHOP ENTRANCE

- Improve presentation at bottleshop entry including groundcover planting and local stacked stone retaining wall to replace stone kerb and conceal sign footing.

HOTEL FRONTAGE

- Retain steel railing, strip paint and apply 'Penetrol' finish (or paint in more muted tone).
- Maintain pedestrian clear zone of minimum 2m in front of hotel.
- Define hotel outdoor dining area by retaining a section of the existing slate paving and providing new insitu concrete paving to the pedestrian zone.

CENTRAL CARPARK

- Improve path surfacing and planting to garden beds.
- Reduce signage clutter (as per signage consultants' recommendations).
- Continue to monitor the health and viability of the Diary Tree.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

- Improve pedestrian safety by replacing existing signalised crossing with traffic lights.
- Construct insitu concrete surface to crossing

to define crossing and integrate with new pedestrian paving.

- Construct dual pedestrian ramp to conform to disabled code (max 1:14).

- Provide low stone retaining walls, steel handrails and low planting to garden beds.

CENTRAL SHOPS

- Remove existing bluestone cobbles to embankment and replace with local stone facing and enlarged planting areas.

- Replace concrete paving, steps and existing handrails.

- Provide low planting and clear stemmed trees to enlarged planting areas on embankment.

WEBB STREET CORNER

- Improve access to Community Centre carpark.

- Remove existing slate paving to Webb Street corner (slippery on sloping areas) and flare pathway to carpark.

- Reinstate planting to garden bed areas.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

- Retain existing slate paving to Community Centre forecourt (remove slate at Webb Street and Mitchell Avenue corners).

- Replace seats and bins.

- Remove tree guards.

- Provide recessed seating area with new Community Information board and rammed earth retaining walls.

- Provide on-grade path between Community Centre carpark and Mitchell Avenue.

- Remove concrete block to Mitchell Avenue crossing and replace with spray seal and local gravel toppings rolled into surface.

MECHANICS HALL AREA

- Resurface existing bitumen path with a toppings layer of local gravel rolled into surface.
- Continue program of weed control and revegetation to the existing embankment and garden bed areas.

- Apply a dark stain to the existing treated pine planter in front of shops and replant with additional low indigenous plants.

BAKERY AREA

- Move parking back from path edge to improve pedestrian access (maintain 1.5m path width).

- Provide new low stone kerb.

- Resurface existing bitumen path with a toppings layer of local gravel rolled into surface.

- Undertake weed control and planting to garden bed areas and batters.

PLAYGROUND/TENNIS COURT CARPARK EXIT

- Allow left turn only onto Yarra Street.

- Remove on-street parking between carpark

exit and roundabout to allow safe pedestrian access.

- Install new low stone kerb and spray seal path with local gravel toppings layer (approx 2.4m wide).

- Meander path and provide low planting between kerb and path edge.

BRIDGE ROUNDABOUT AREA

- Provide new custom-made bus shelter.

- Carry out weed control and re-vegetation to the existing embankment and garden bed areas in front of RSL.

- Consolidate and improve presentation of Emergency Information signage (as per signage consultants' recommendations).

- Selectively thin and trim trees to open views to Memorial (in consultation with RSL).

- Remove stone paving near Folkart and replace with exposed aggregate coloured concrete. Consider retention of stone in front of Folkart. Grind to remove edges and lips.

- Retain steel railing, strip paint and apply 'Penetrol' finish (or paint in muted tone).

BUS STOP/TOILET BLOCK

- Reconfigure carparking/taxi parking to improve path connection from bridge.

- Define pedestrian pathways with local gravel toppings rolled into asphalt.

- Bus shelter provides opportunity for interpretive signage (as per signage consultants' recommendations).

NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

- Provide new signalised pedestrian crossing.
- Improve pedestrian access ramp to river reserve carpark.

- Carry out weed control and revegetation to embankments. Provide low planting to garden bed areas/kerb extensions.

- On the southern side of the new crossing, provide low rammed earth retaining walls to replace existing grass banks at carpark entry.

POST OFFICE AREA

- Provide improved seating area with local stone seating walls, new furniture, and upgraded planting.

- Provide low stone kerb and resurface existing bitumen with a toppings layer of local gravel rolled into surface to carpark area in front of post office.

- Relocate skip bin to upper carpark and provide timber screen.

- Consolidate A-frame type shop signage in accordance with signage consultants' recommendations.

- Remove some on-street carpark spaces to the northern side of Yarra Street to enable construction of pedestrian crossing and improve pedestrian access.

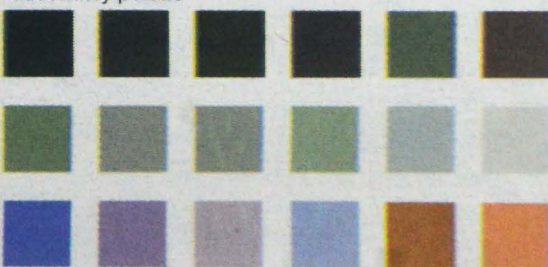
Proposed colours: signage and buildings

Primary palette



Colours may change slightly during printing.

Secondary palette



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MP confirms police station promise

Local Labor MP Danielle Green has confirmed that Warrandyte will receive a new police station "as part of a \$87million police station upgrade program announced in this year's state budget".

This follows claims by Phil Honeywood, Liberal MP for Warrandyte, that "there is no funding in this year's budget for the work," Ms Green said. "Either he is being disingenuous or he cannot read the budget papers."

Mr Honeywood stated in last month's *Diary* that, regarding a new police station in Warrandyte, "he would believe it when he

saw it".

Ms Green told the *Diary*, "This government has an enviable record of improving community safety in our local community."

Last month in state parliament, Ms Green called on police minister Tim Holding to "do all in his power to reassure the communities of Warrandyte and North Warrandyte that funding has been allocated for a new police station in Warrandyte."

"I will be standing together with the community making sure that happens," Ms Green said.



Warrandyte police station: definitely in this year's budget. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

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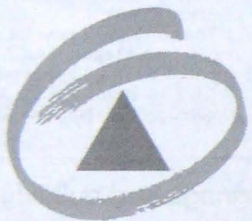
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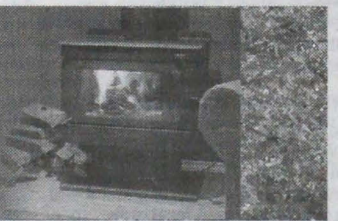
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Jenny Lynch at work. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

All the kids love Jenny Lynch

By MEAGHAN O'CONNOR

Jenny Lynch runs the Warrandyte Community Childcare Centre in Ringwood Road. This is her 20th year at the centre.

Her love of children began at the Canterbury Family Centre, in the mothers and babies after-care wing, helping mothers care for their newly born babies.

The Warrandyte centre was only a year old when Jenny arrived. "We were originally just two little houses and it used to be operated by the Community Workshop Co-Op. They ran both the woodyard on the old community centre site and the childcare centre."

"When I think back to the old days I become quite nostalgic because we just had to have fun—not that it isn't fun now—but things are a lot more serious as there is far more accountability."

One thing Jenny warns all parents when they first come to the centre is—"Don't expect your kids come home clean!" There is a real focus at this centre on the kids being outdoors, doing all the things kids love to do:

digging in the mud, playing in the sand, riding bikes, running, jumping, climbing or painting. "Everyone is very busy and happy."

Jenny loves being a part of the Warrandyte community. "It really is a wonderful community to work in. There is such diversity." She has made many friends along the way. She remembers one family in particular: "The daughters are now 20 and 22 years of age. They were just babies when I started and now they are wonderful young women."

One Saturday Jenny realised she had left her wallet at work and had to do the food shopping for the week. "I said to my husband, 'I'll only be a couple of hours,' but by the time I got home, I had been gone five hours! He asked me what had kept me."

"I said shopping on a Saturday morning in the Warrandyte IGA, I end up having a conversation with every second person. There really is a sense of belonging. It's lovely."

Funny little things happen at

the centre every day. "It's very entertaining. We hear things about their parents, what happens at home; some parents would really cringe. Children are so open and so honest. They innocently say things without malice and they really do make you laugh. Then of course there is all the censored stuff—mainly of the swearing kind."

"The other day I was talking to a child and telling them that this behaviour wasn't appropriate, and a little voice in the background said, 'Oh, you sound like the Super Nanny!'"

Jenny isn't one for colouring in. "I find children under five years really get frustrated keeping inside the lines and it doesn't allow their creativity to bloom. But once they reach, say five, they actually look for the more formal type of school-work."

Turn your back for a moment and the "creativity" is really running wild. One little fella has just decided to paint the wooden table orange. "You really do need eyes in the back of

your head in this line of work!" Jenny said.

Outside, another child was playing with a stick from a tree. Jenny quickly went over and broke the stick into pieces so the child didn't poke out anyone's eye. Moments later, the child had caught on and was further breaking up the stick into tiny little pieces.

"This place just doesn't stop until every little one is then picked up by their parents and taken home. Then the following day it starts all over again."

Wandering around we found dress-ups, fake food in the mini wooden kitchen, stuffed spiders made of mum's old panty hose, kids crying, snotty noses, kids falling over: then the phone rings.

Someone needs to go to the toilet, whilst someone else needs to be fed, another one wants a cuddle and someone is in need of a nap.

Spend an hour and you will really appreciate the time, love and energy that Jenny and her colleagues put into making this centre a truly unique place.



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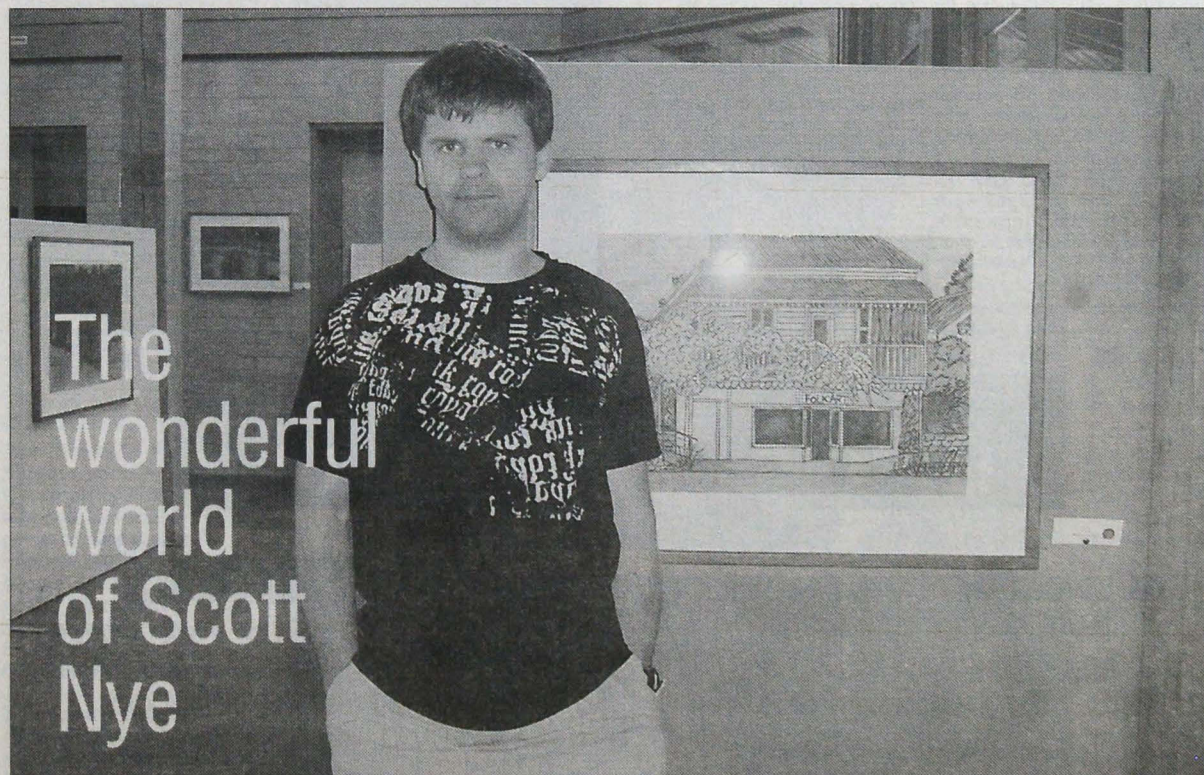
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The wonderful world of Scott Nye

A recent successful exhibition by Warrandyte artist Scott Nye (pictured) celebrated a life of triumph over adversity. Scott was born in 1979. When he was two years old he showed signs of genius. His ability to learn was amazing, but by the time he was three he was diagnosed with autism.

For many years Scott's world stood still. He stopped speaking, threw tantrums and tried to make something of his confused world.

At around four years of age, Scott began to draw. His natural perspective, sense of colour and skills of observation were very satisfying and a new Scott emerged.

Unlike most autistic artists, Scott's subject matter is very diverse and not obsessive. Many of his pieces are unique and not repeated.

The many visitors to his exhibition in the atrium at the Warrandyte Community Centre on May 7, 8 and 9, were charmed by his work and moved by his courage.



April 2005

Key Decisions

These are some of the decisions made by Council on **Tuesday 19 April 2005.**

If you would like any extra information please 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

Resolved that Council forwards comments on the Report of the Hotel, Motel and Accommodation of Short Stay Accommodation to the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Governance

Resolved to appoint Mr Bill Forrest as Chief Executive Officer of Nillumbik Shire Council and that the contract of employment be signed and sealed by Council.

Transport and Infrastructure

Resolved that Council note an objection was received to the Kruses Road, North Warrandyte Special Charge Scheme; give notice of the declaration of a Special Charge for the purpose of constructing the unsealed section of Kruses Road and that the Special Charge for Kruses Road, North Warrandyte, Special Charge Scheme shall remain in force for ten years.

Economic Development

Adopted the Action Plan (2005-06) for the Economic Development Strategy and resolved that a further report on the achievements for 2005-06, an update on key local economic indicators and the Economic Development Strategy Action Plan for 2006-07 be presented to Council by April 2006, remainder of Council's Special Charge Schemes Policy and Procedures; and advise property owners accordingly.

Land Use Planning and Environment

Resolved to issue a Notice of Refusal to Grant a Permit at 145 Dawson Road, Kangaroo Ground for buildings and works for construction of a dwelling, swimming pool, gazebo and four water tanks and conservation of the existing dwelling to be used for group accommodation (itinerant workers accommodation).

Resolved to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit at 55-57 View Hill Crescent, Eltham for the development of the land for a second dwelling and the removal of one native tree; subject to conditions.

Resolved to defer the decision on the application for use and development of the land at 16 Wombat Drive, Eltham for a place of worship and associated reduction of car parking requirement and removal of native vegetation for one month pending further discussions between the applicant, objectors and Council.

Resolved to oppose the granting of a Permit at 488 Skyline Road, Christmas Hills for the re-subdivision of the land into six lots, use each lot for a dwelling (including the development of three lots) and native vegetation removal.

Resolved to issue a Notice of Refusal to Grant a Permit at 729 Main Road, Eltham for the development and use of the land for a car wash, altering access to a Road Zone Category 1 and the removal of one tree.

Resolved to submit a proposal to the Registrar of Geographic Names to name the land surrounding the Plenty Hall and Plenty CFA station - Plenty Heritage Park; to name the land bounded by Butlers Road, Memorial Drive, Yan Yean Roads and a boundary fence to the south - Plenty War Memorial Park; and to advise the submitters and all relevant authorities of the outcome accordingly.

Resolved to submit a proposal to the Registrar of Geographic Names to rename the northern section of Ramptons Road, Eltham North (between Manning Road and Ryans Road) Laurison Road and advise the submitters, affected property owners and relevant authorities of the outcome.

Adopted Amendment C28 (Development Plan Overlay Area 2 (DPO2) for Diamond Creek Area B) to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme with changes; forward the Amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Resolved to advise the Boomerang Alliance that it supports higher recycling targets to be included within the National Packaging Covenant; request the support of State and Federal Ministers and local Members of Parliament in the introduction of higher recycling targets included; and refer the matter to the Northern Region Waste Management Group and Eco Recycling Victoria for their consideration and to ensure that a regional approach to the issue is implemented.

hemaBlaze: 107976

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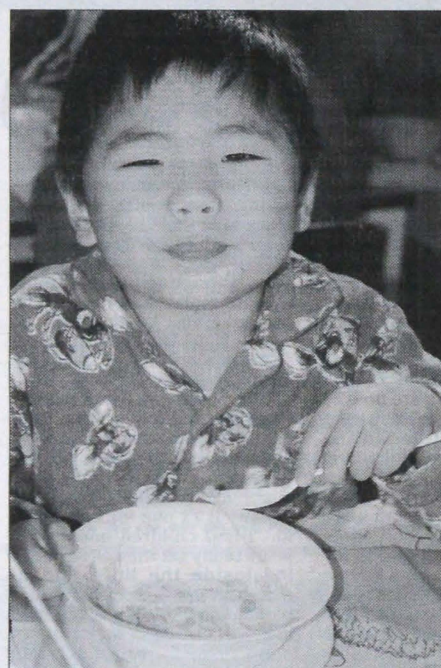
WANT A DIARY MINI AD? The cheapest way to send your message to the Warrandyte community. \$4.60 for 4 lines, then \$1 each additional line, prepaid. Phone **9844 3819**.

KIDS IN THE NEWS



Flying the flag

Members of the Warrandyte-Park Orchards Scout troop (pictured above) proudly display their new flag, presented to them by Park Orchards Neighbourhood Watch. Scout leader Don Hughes told the *Diary*, "The flag cost about \$350 because our name is so long! We're delighted. This gift emphasises good citizenship and the close bonds of community that exist between Park Orchards and Warrandyte."



Breakfast with the stars

Healthy food and healthy eating has become a major focus for students at Warrandyte Primary School. As part of this project, kids in Prep to Year 4 held a BIG breakfast. They have been discussing the importance of a healthy start to the day. Teachers and students arrived at school still in their pyjamas and enjoyed cereal, fruit and toast. Daniel from Prep (pictured left) tucked in and wants to "eat breakfast at school every day!"

Animated

Xavier Longfield and Mitchell Gaffney of Andersons Creek Primary School (pictured left) each won \$500 in a competition conducted by the National Institute of the Moving Image.

They entered a contest to "Bring a Stamp to Life", using computer animation to create their interpretation. Xavier is putting his winnings towards buying an iPod and Mitchell is keen to invest his prize money in a go-kart.



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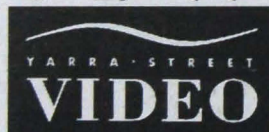
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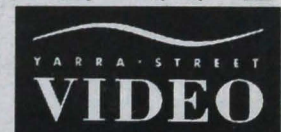
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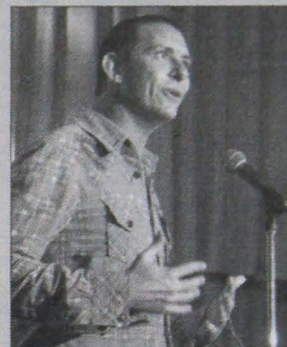
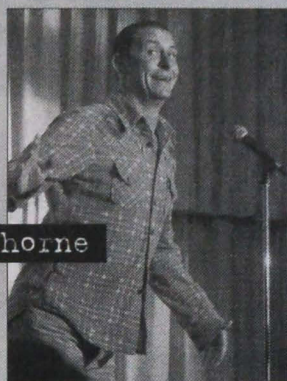
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LAUGHTER IN THE VALLEY

Some of Australia's funniest comedians visited Warrandyte last month, raising funds for a new North Warrandyte fire station. STEPHEN REYNOLDS sneaked in and caught them at it...



Peter Rowsthorne



Hamlet in One Hour



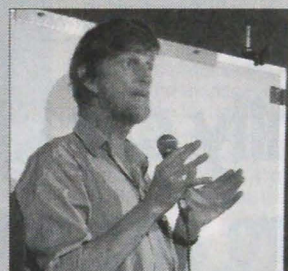
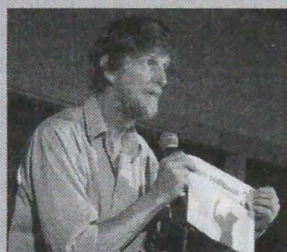
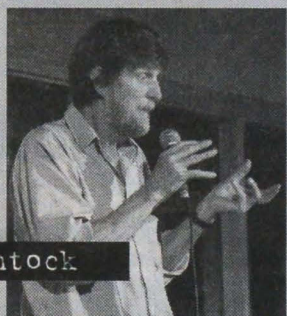
Linda Haggard



Christine Basil

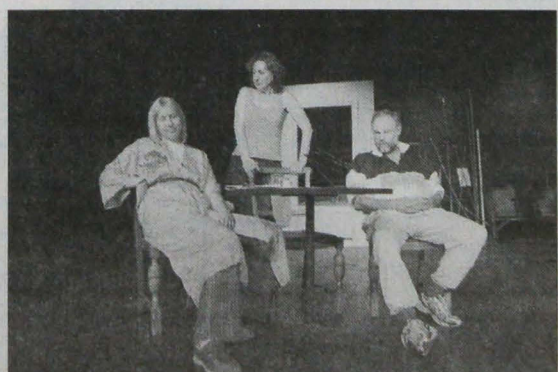


Rod Quantock



The hills are alive...

The Diamond Valley Singers and the Eltham Community Orchestra are combining to present Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma" (pictured above) at the Warrandyte High School Theatre in Alexander Road, on July 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9 at 8pm; and July 2, 3, and 9 at 2pm. The production celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Diamond Valley Singers and their 20th stage production. Tickets (\$25, \$20 and \$18 for groups of 10 or more) can be booked through 9434 7273.



Park Players, the Park Orchards resident company, who have charmed local audiences with their musical comedies, are this year presenting a potpourri of favourites in a fast-moving selection from popular musicals, old and new in a program titled "A Romp in the Park—Songs You Love" (pictured above). From Gilbert and Sullivan to Rodgers and Hammerstein; from "The Desert Song" to "Chicago", 39 talented performers will be "singing up a storm" for two shows only. The program will be performed at Karralyka Theatre, Mines Road, Ringwood on Friday, June 25 at 7.30pm and Saturday, June 26 at 4pm. Tickets are available (\$28 and \$23) by phoning Diana on 9876 1926 or Chris on 9872 4529.

Once again the Warrandyte Theatre Company is presenting a suite of one-act plays to tide us over the wintry season (pictured left). Four plays, two written by members of the company with a taste for black comedy, plus a touch of farce, a dash of the absurd and some confronting and realistic drama. "Travis", written and directed by Josh Mitchell, features a number of young actors making their debuts. "Avatar", directed by Jan Nance, takes a poke at the gullible, revealing unlikely heroes, villains and losers. "Time Flies", directed by Caroline Shaw, features the life span of Mayflies. "Restorations", by local John Marshall confronts us with the issue of abuse. The plays will be performed at the Mechanics Institute Hall on June 17, 18, 24 and 25. Tickets (\$15) from Joan at the Old Bakery Cottage Bookshop, 9844 1744.

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 Price: \$360-390k plus
 Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
 Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161
 Andrew Wilson 0408 315 927

FOR SALE NORTH WARRANDYTE

109 Research-Warrandyte Rd

"Embrace me or replace me"

Situated on a generous allotment (approx 1/4 acre) in a basic, but liveable condition, this home will appeal to those looking for an affordable foothold in the area or those looking for land to build their dream home. The cottage comprises 2BRs, bathroom with spa bath, kitchen with meals area and informal lounge/dining room.

 \$280-320k
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FOR SALE NORTH WARRANDYTE

9 Hamilton Road

"You can't take the view away"

 Keep the views forever with this quiet, convenient and comfortable home with feature brick, cathedral ceilings, timber dado, lounge with OFP, fully equipped kitchen, formal dining, meals, 3 robed BRs, ensuite, bathroom plus hydronic heating, rumpus/games & office, fenced pool, spa, carport & bitumen drive. **FOR SALE BY TENDER (unless sold prior).** Register interest by Mon July 4th at 6pm. Price: Mid \$500's
 Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
 Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161
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FOR SALE WARRANDYTE

22 Osborne Road

"An acre of view & Yarra"

A Warrandyte acre with outstanding views is tempting and made all the more appealing with Yarra frontage. But the clincher has to be the sensational tri-level home with 3 living areas, fully equipped kitchen, meals area, 4 robed BRs, ensuite, den/retreat, main bathroom with spa. Also a deck with views, carport, and wellworn track down to the Yarra.

 Price: \$525k plus buyers
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FOR SALE NORTH WARRANDYTE

73 Kangaroo Ground Road

"Wonderful tri-level home"

 3BRs (master with ensuite & WIR) open plan study, large family, mod kitchen with sep meals and park-like 1/3 acre block (approx). Features include duct heating, evap cooling, in/out bitumen drive with option to convert under house storage into a rumpus. **FOR SALE BY TENDER (unless sold prior).** Register interest by Thur July 7th at 6pm. Price: \$380-420k plus buyers
 Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950

FOR SALE NORTH WARRANDYTE

38 Osborne Road

"Choose your acre with plans and permits"

 There can only be one thing better than an acre 50 metres from the Yarra — and that would be a choice of two blocks! Both have plans and permits and only one block will be sold with the other retained by the vendor. Choose your block, build your home, and enjoy the great views, wildlife, the sounds of the rapids and location, moments from Warrandyte. Inspection by appointment. Price: \$380-420k buyers
 Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
 Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161
 Andrew Wilson 0408 315 927

FOR SALE WARRANDYTE NORTH

33 Blooms Road

"Large family living"

 When space is what you need, look no further than this large family home with 5BRs plus study (or 6th BR), large rumpus, lounge/dining, kitchen/meals. Also ducted heating/vacuum, fresh paint, new carpet and 1/3 acre block. **FOR SALE BY TENDER (unless sold prior).** Register interest by Wed July 6th at 6pm. Price: \$460k buyers
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FOR SALE KINGLAKE

1140 Glenburn Road

"200 glorious acres"

 A short drive off the Melba Hwy this picturesque property of 200 prime grazing acres includes a basic weekendender shack, crystal clear spring water fed into large s/s tanks, dams, sheds, good fencing. Offered as land only or as walk-in, walk-out venture with existing stock and machinery. \$790k plus buyers
 Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
 Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161

FOR SALE KANGAROO GROUND

305 Kangaroo Ground Road

"The views are free"

 A glorious partly cleared 17.5 acres offering stunning views, cleared home site with driveway and room for a pony or two. Only moments from Warrandyte and Eltham, this is a rare opportunity not to be missed. Price: \$650k plus buyers
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FOR LEASE OR SALE WONGA PARK

68-70 Jumping Creek Road

Expressions of Interest

 Wonga Park's Jumping Creek Inn (Orlanos) offers an amazing freehold opportunity for the investor or restaurateur. Fully licensed with 80+ seat capacity, fully equipped commercial kitchen, walk-in cool-room, parking & space downstairs that could be separately tenanted. Register your interest for sales & leasing. \$725k plus buyers
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FOR SALE KANGAROO GROUND

85 Donaldson Road

"Oakfield Hall"

This magnificent Yarra Valley property offers 12.5 acres of fertile ground with a further 3 acres of landscaped gardens. The grand architect designed 4 bedroom plus study home of award winning builders comes complete with a separate historical bungalow, tennis court, swimming pool and more.

 Price: \$2 million plus buyers
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FOR SALE WARRANDYTE

106 Bradley's Lane

"A touch of olde England"

This extraordinary octagonal home on 1.5 acres has the Yarra out the back. The home is wildly different and includes 16th/early 17th century church stained glass doors and windows. Lounge with OFP, kitchen & meals area, 2BRs, carport, undercover outdoor area, decked pool, bungalow/office with storage space & garden shed.

 Price: \$595k plus
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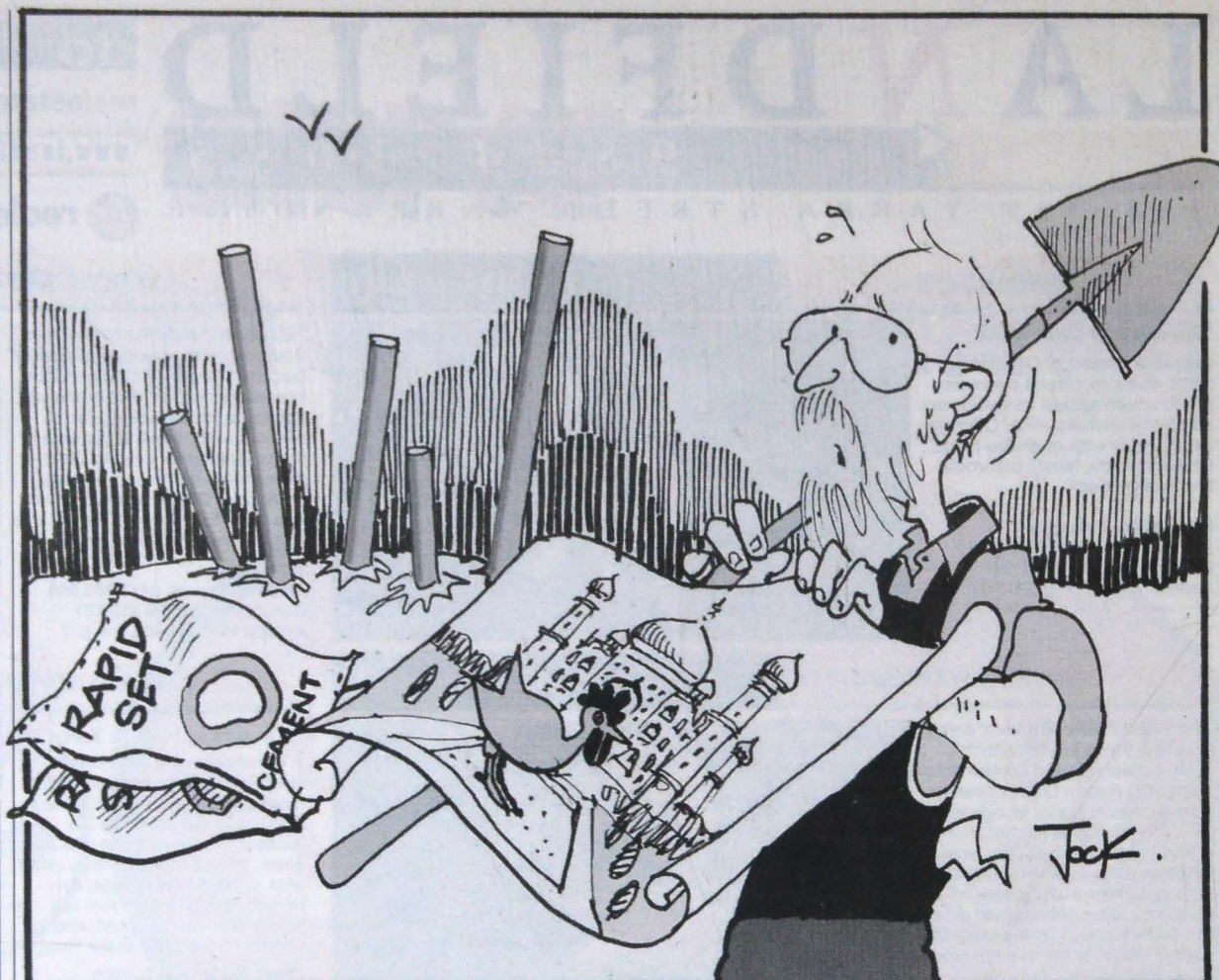
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Egg on face, but none in the chook house

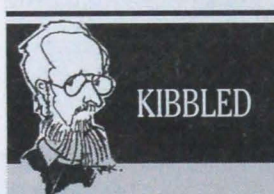
IT seemed like a nice 1970s retro sort of idea. Chooks—but in a chook shed! We already have ducks who wander freely from local dams to our dam so why not some useful birds? Granted, the ducks do produce eggs but we never get to them before the ravens or other prowling critters.

With chooks it would be different. We would let them free-range in the garden but, unlike the ducks, our fowls would be provided with safe nesting boxes and protected eggs. With these, we would have breakfasts even better than those pictured in the food mags. White whites and golden yolks, unpolluted by antibiotics or growth hormones. Just through this one improvement to our lifestyle we could almost guarantee another 20 years to our lifespans. The one hitch in this scenario was that we didn't have a chook house.

Not to have our dream thwarted, the resident architect-carpenter-labourer and animal-husbandry expert set to work designing the Taj Ma Fowl House. But I kept the project secret from Herself.

On rummaging through my sheds, I found lots of framing stuff and bits that would be "useful" but I finally had to admit defeat about the support poles. Grudgingly, I realised that I would have to buy those. And this is when things went a little less than pristine free-range egg shape.

I was a little traumatised when



"With chooks it would be different. We would let them free-range in the garden but, unlike the ducks, our fowls would be provided with safe nesting boxes and protected eggs."

I loaded the poles and rapid set cement onto the trailer. Obviously, I had bought solid gold bars instead of treated pine. So, it was not just the cement bags that made the car a little heavier on the home journey.

I have one of those manual auger posthole diggers. I have used it to dig holes for a few arbour/pergola things around

the garden. I have looked enviously at the motorised versions but they have handles requiring two people and I usually have to dig the holes alone. Once, I did toy with the thought of hiring one and risking it but was put off by the prospect of getting the screw a few centimetres into the ground, hitting a hard section and then finding myself horizontally orbiting the auger with no way of turning it off. So it was to be the hand auger.

When we were pondering the chook possibility, Herself had agreed to one section of the garden that is screened from the house but close enough to make egg-collecting reasonable. So, it was there that I began. At the time I didn't even wonder why it was a bare patch in what is otherwise a crowded garden.

The first two holes were a doddle. Down the auger went like a hot knife through butter. The third was a little trickier as I encountered small pebbles at about 15 centimetres. This was annoying but nothing like the next. I had moved no more than a metre from the first easy hole and suddenly, I came upon Uluru.

Rapidly, I redesigned the fowl yard and started another hole. This time it was difficult and, after a lot of foul language, I managed to get enough depth to cradle the pole. I rationalised that the pole didn't need to be sunk all that deeply as it wasn't going to be load-bearing.

I made another three abortive attempts to dig holes and got a

tad apprehensive. To assuage this, I cemented the poles I could erect. Even then, I had only half the posts in place and they were in a random configuration. With even the best will in the world, a Jackson Pollock hen house was not what either of us had in mind.

A more sensible DIY person would have realised the pointlessness of continuing the effort and called it quits, but not me. After all, no one but me knew it was underway and to pull up stumps would not be life-altering. However, pulling up stumps would have been easier said than done! Remember my apprehension? I had set five posts in rapid set cement and what I had was not the framework for a dwelling but something that resembled an archaeological site of a long-lost totem society's graveyard.

What to do? It was obvious that even my butchered plan was not going to work. Not only that but some of the posts that didn't have quite the required depth for their holes were swaying in the breeze. Obviously, this was an OHS problem. I stopped work and reconsidered.

It didn't take me long to solve the problem. No one but me knew about the project, so it was easy. It took no time to chainsaw the poles to ground level and even less to cover the remains with dirt and debris.

I looked up to see the ducks looking at me, smiling.

ROGER KIBELL

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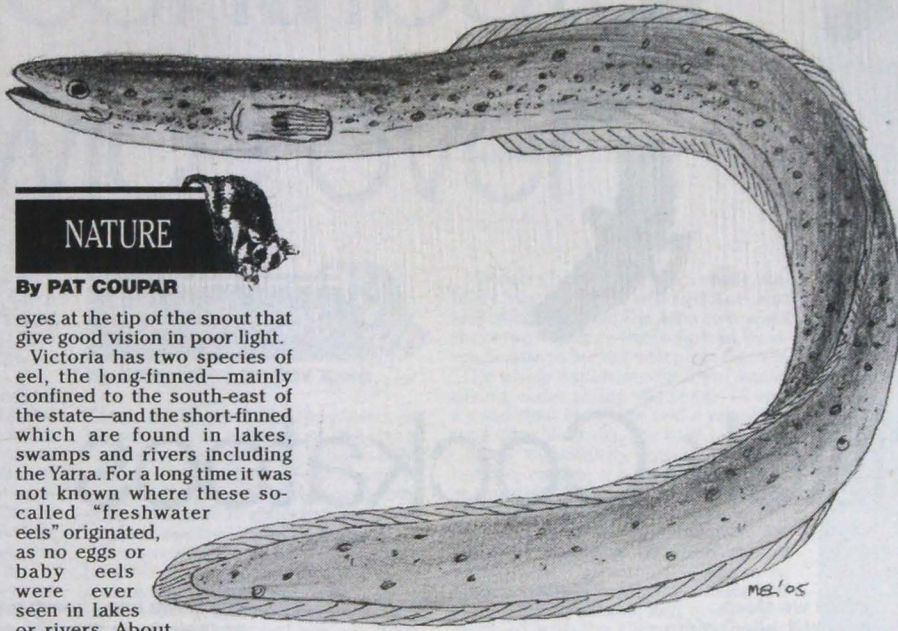
A giant eel and a mysterious catastrophe at Dights Falls

IN January this year over 100 dead eels were found floating in the Yarra River downstream of Dights Falls in the vicinity of the Hawthorn Rowing Club. By all accounts—and my son was one of those who saw them—the eels were in a state of advanced decomposition. He said the stench from the rotting carcasses was awful.

Speculation as to how the eels died and concerns over the health of the river became a political football that was kicked around on the media playing field for weeks. The eels had been dead for several days before the EPA carried out tests on the putrid bodies, but by then it was too late and no obvious cause for the mass death could be identified.

Not long after that incident, eels were in the news again—or to be more precise, one very large eel that had become trapped in a dam at a trout farm near Warburton, east of Melbourne. Estimated to be around four metres in length and weighing a hefty 100 kilograms, the monster eel was thought to have been washed into the dam during the January storms. A reward was offered for its capture, but the media lost interest in the story and the fate of the eel was never reported.

Eels are the strangest of fish—more like a snake, both in appearance and in movement. Their fishy features are discreet. Scales are small and deeply embedded in the thick fleshy skin of the body and gill openings are reduced to a single narrow slit on either side of the head. Eels are opportunistic carnivores, feeding on anything from other fish to yabbies, insects, worms and frogs. They are well-equipped for hunting their prey, with an acute sense of smell and forward pointing



NATURE

By PAT COUPAR

eyes at the tip of the snout that give good vision in poor light.

Victoria has two species of eel, the long-finned—mainly confined to the south-east of the state—and the short-finned which are found in lakes, swamps and rivers including the Yarra. For a long time it was not known where these so-called “freshwater eels” originated, as no eggs or baby eels were ever seen in lakes or rivers. About 60 years ago the mystery was solved when it was discovered that adult eels spawned not in freshwater, but in saltwater thousands of kilometres away in the Coral Sea near New Caledonia.

Eggs are laid in water up to 300 metres deep, a single female can lay up to 10 million eggs. With a compressed leaf-like body, the tiny hatchlings bear little resemblance to the adult form. During their first year these larval eels are carried southwards on ocean currents towards the shallower waters of the coast. Between 12 and 18 months of age the eels metamorphose, their body becomes cylindrical, but is still at this stage unpigmented, this see-through appearance giving rise to the name “glass eel” for

these metamorphlings.

The eels develop their brownish grey pigment sometime between the age of one and three years. Now known as elvers, they are transported by floodtides into estuarine waters where they shelter amongst vegetation and burrow in the mud. Those that stay in the estuaries develop into males, while those that move upstream become females. The migrating eels may take to the land to get around obstacles such as waterfalls and dam walls, their slimy coating of mucus enabling them to slither through damp grass. During this time out of water they absorb all their oxygen requirements from the air through their skin.

The eels may stay in their freshwater environment for up to 35 years. Then, possibly stimulated by an exceptional rain event, they move en masse out of the rivers back to the open sea, swimming northwards to their spawning grounds. It is a journey of around 3000 kilometres and takes about three months. Adults spawn only once, after which they die.

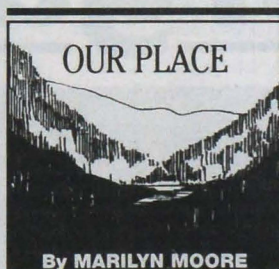
Did the January storms trigger a mass migration of the Yarra River eels? Were they on a lemming-style forge back towards the open sea when the freak weather made conditions too hostile for some weaker individuals? Or was it, as has been suggested, a virus that killed the eels? We will probably never know.

It's good to stay out of touch

MY brother, who has the good fortune to be spending an Arctic summer in the rugged emptiness of outback Norway, has never heard of Schapelle Corby. In such places it's almost impossible to find anybody who understands English, much less an English-language newspaper. With few opportunities to connect to the internet, he listens to the BBC World Service for news from Australia. So far the closest he's come is a weather forecast for Port Moresby.

If I were him, I wouldn't be too concerned. These days, I find that one of the greatest pleasures of dropping out of the modern world is being out of earshot of the news. Now is this a sign of the times or a sign of my age?

I didn't always like being out of touch. When John Lennon was shot in the cold concrete American winter of 1980, I was in another world altogether. Lennon's assassination was the sort of dramatic event that became seared into graphic black and white images—the glare of flashlights and the foggy breath of the crowd shrouding the



greyness of overcoats and pallid faces. At the heart of this cold hardness lay one dead individual: streams of unwritten music ebbed away with his blood-red life, and the world stopped, shocked and grieved.

Well, sort of. Had the news reached us in the back streets of Jaipur, we might have heard local chaps muttering the Islamic equivalent of “John who?” But I doubt they'd have bothered to do even that.

The reality of life for the average Rajasthani that day was crammed with the brilliant heat haze of desert sands; the ancient red brickwork of the crowded city centre; the rabble and gabble of the busy market

place; the sometimes overpowering aroma of oxen, sweat and open drains; and the pressing need to make a rupee or two before dinnertime.

The average Rajasthani might well have been the so-called dentist squatting on the kerb, his gruesome tools-of-trade neatly laid out beside him on a filthy blanket, or the camel-driver leading his beasts of burden obliviously through honking traffic on the wrong side of the road.

India is the most glorious, the most shocking, the most overwhelming of places. We were totally immersed in its vibrancy, its history, the shimmering heat, the architecture, excruciating smells, grasping crowds, sensational food, filthy drains, non-existent road rules and magnificent scenery. We loved it, were swallowed up by it, and finally exhausted by it.

We boarded a British Airways flight home, and the plane was full of pasty-faced people who, unlike most Indians, had not seen the shape of their own bones for rather a long time. Already the culture difference was hitting us like a brick, an unexpected aftershock that got

worse when we arrived back in Melbourne.

I can't recall exactly when we first heard about John Lennon, but at the time the news created the strange sensation that a great India-sized chunk was missing from my life. It was as if there were parallel worlds, and we'd changed lanes for a while and somehow missed the bus in consequence.

Now, 25 years later, nothing seems more idyllic than being as far away from the news as possible. Federal and state governments routinely deceive us with their polished rhetoric, the state opposition (in particular) carps incessantly, and our senses are constantly assaulted by world tragedy, physical violence and bad news of every description. It just gets too frustrating and depressing to keep taking all this on board. Each time a young person is killed in a car accident, I listen with bated breath, knowing that sooner or later it will be somebody I know.

Turn it off, folks, turn it all off! Give your brain a holiday right here at home. After all, if it matters to Warrandyte, it'll turn up in the *Diary*.

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Black Cockatoos

While we sleep
on a still, silent morn
black wings steal like shadows
into the mist.

Their cry is like no other—
haunting,
yearning,
searching
for a morning banquet.

They cry out once more
louder, knowing—
this time announcing they've found what they were seeking
and they gather like gossipy women
feasting on delicate food and camaraderie.

The bows hang heavy under their weight
as they drape themselves like heavy cloaks
over the hakeas and pine.

Their presence is like that of
black angels
and there is not a sign of
other morning birds.

Then something disturbs them.
They lift
from the trees
and almost touching the roof tops
swing northward and disappear into
the ethereal mist.

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PARK ... Behind the Community Ctr

Top contributor — twice over

HERE are two sorts of people who join the theatre group, according to Ken Virtue, president of the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association.

"Some people move into Warrandyte, they're here for a couple of years and see an activity on the board outside the hall and say 'here I am'. Others have been here for 10-15 years and they'll get involved 'when the children grow up'—they're sleepers wanting to strut their stuff," Ken said. "It looks like fun, another element that makes the Warrandyte community what it is."

"The arts association has one eye on tradition and one eye on new ways. It offers people the opportunity to broaden their skills and interest base in lighting, sound, backstage and acting. They start in the chorus and end up directing. It's challenging and particularly with new people it's like herding cats."

Ken's been president of the WMI&AA for 12 years, following the tradition of another long-term president, Henry Beecham. "There were 52 clubs and associations in Warrandyte when I moved here, which on average involves more people than in mainstream suburbs."

He said the pottery and painting groups continue in much the same way, offering stability. "But if you look at the history of performances there's a big change in the theatre company—travelling shows, one act plays, there's a solid outreach of arts into other communities. The body of work in the last 10 years has been quite important and varied and there's a solid calendar planned with one-act plays about to start."

He said the Follies were always well supported, selling out faster than ever this year, and other productions were solidly supported, "which shows the audience base must be convinced things are worth seeing".

"Viva diversity in the community. The WMI&AA is not marching on the town hall demanding better conditions for whales in the Yarra—we're here for the community."

Ken's the son of a Royal Navy sailor who met his future wife in Sydney at the end of World War II. "Six days after my parents met he sailed for Hong

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

Kong and England but they were engaged within a week of meeting. They've been a great and stable influence in my life. My father is a creative artist of the old school. He could write copperplate in 10 different faces and he drew ads for Women's Weekly."

Ken grew up in Sydney and was a trainee research and development chemist for British Paints while studying science at Sydney University until he was conscripted into national service at 20.

"I was politically naïve. With my background you did what was asked and expected of you. But I knew enough that I didn't want to be an infantry foot soldier in the national service. I'd done a St John's Ambulance course plus a bronze medallion in lifesaving so the army decided I could be a medic—I thought I'd drive around in ambulances."

"I was posted to Brisbane, where I loved the beach, but suddenly I was marched into the adjutant's office and told I was starting jungle training. I was sent to Vietnam and posted to a field ambulance unit and became a helicopter medic."

"It was harrowing, a crossroads in my life. You've got life and death responsibility with wounded patients that could die. There was the pressure of working with limited knowledge, a first aider stopping haemorrhaging and putting drips in, fast, at night, with people shooting at you. There were way too many things to cope with. But you see other people get by and you survive because other people are facing the same thing. If I got through that I could be positive and get through anything. It was overcoming your natural fears when you'd rather be somewhere else."

"It wasn't a popular topic when people came back from Vietnam and it wasn't until 20 years later at a Sydney reunion that it was like a big release for the people involved. I've kept a small number of ex-Vietnam mates who I see regularly."

He came back looking for more stability very quickly, married Lee and was offered a job in Fiji. After two years there the Virtues went to Apia in Western Samoa to build a new paint factory. "The whole expatriate lifestyle, scuba diving, water skiing and so on—it was a good time in my life and a repairing time after Vietnam," he said.

They eventually moved to Melbourne, renting a house for a couple of months on Doncaster Road. "The traffic was horrendous and every weekend we went to Warrandyte for the quiet, the trees on the river and eventually we bought a house in Blooms Road." Despite no background in community affairs, Ken quickly got involved with the *Diary* and was editor in 1980. "They were desperate—Cliff Green and Lee Tindale were fairly worn out. I had been good at English and literature and I learnt from them both, dealing with local merchants and associations. It was a fast force-feed of getting up to your neck in Warrandyte." He was part of the citizens' advice bureau and the drama group and did some Shakespeare and Follies.

By now the parents of Ben and Jeremy, the Virtues adopted their youngest son Anthony at 15 months old. "We all went to Shepparton to see him with his foster family and there he was, cute as a button. We all just naturally felt protective of this lovely little boy. The acceptance happened more quickly than I had expected. It was eerie—his foster parents' names were Lee and Ken as well."

Looking for an escape to a simpler life, the family moved to Perth, with Ken working in an advertising agency, but the marriage ended. He spent a year in Sydney, met Libby, who already had two daughters, Hilary and Sophie, and moved back to Melbourne where they married at Potters Cottage. "I wanted to come back as Warrandyte's special place. And I'm a bit in awe of Libby who is in the caring professions—they do so much good."

He said it's a great life. "We've just returned from four weeks in Italy. Work has funded our thirst for holiday travel and educated all the children. Travel helps keep work in balance. We're empty nesters. Instead of saying 'what time will you be home?' it's 'when will we next see them?' It's a more adult

relationship and quite fascinating. I'm not putting pressure on them but I'm waiting to become a grandparent."

He's reading Robert Dossa's *Night Letters*. "It's fascinating, erudite, learned and he gossams me with his knowledge of history. I've read all of Dan Brown's—I had to before I went to Italy. I go to a lot of stage shows and musicals and I watch all the available movies on planes and talk about them afterwards. I try to stretch myself—there's so much to know and get exposed to, different ideas."

"I value friends, really interesting talented people, the families whose kids grew up together and still see each other. People with creative talent inspire me, people in marketing, advertising agencies, actors, producers, directors and musicians. I'm fascinated by the creative process and how they make something out of something that wasn't there before."

"Aggressive ignorance angers me, local or international bullying tactics and stuff like Hotel Rwanda drives me

nuts. The 'might is right' attitude versus an educated, considered view. I'm saddened by the news, it gets you down a bit, all that suffering and injustice. I'm always struck by how lucky we are here with the rule of law, reasonable infrastructure, mostly reasonable people, our lives are not at risk and we have a good lifestyle."

"I believe in the importance of the environment, which in Warrandyte is close to what you think about every day, and I'm worried about the dumb stuff that we're doing to the planet. But you need to have horizons, something to look forward to."

Children coming and going and finally moving out has been another turning point for Ken. "I'm looking forward to the next step when I'm not working so hard and I have time for creative pursuits. Pottering in the shed and on the block gives me peace of mind after the cut-and-thrust of commerce. Libby says when I put on my overalls that it's my playsuit and I'm going out to play."



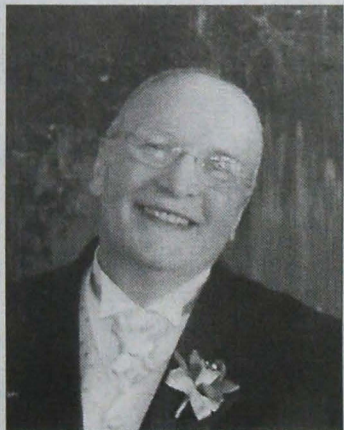
He fought for adopted people

By ELIZABETH HORNER
and MEREDITH LENNE

DAVID Hirt, artist and activist for adoption reform and anti-hanging, died in February at his home in North Warrandyte after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was 67.

Named Harry Young at birth, David was relinquished by his natural mother and placed for adoption. From the moment he breached the secrecy that surrounded the fact of his adoption, David's search for his own identity became the driving force of his life. It impelled him to take a powerful leadership role in the adoption reform movement in Victoria, which culminated in the passage of the radical Adoption Act in 1984. For the first time in Australia, adopted people were able to access their original birth record.

David, an only child, was brought up by his adoptive parents in modest circumstances in Hawthorn and Box Hill. His family life was extremely difficult. He studied mechanical engineering at Swinburne Technical College, but his talents and interest lay elsewhere. For many years he belonged to Presbyterian youth groups, and through their camps developed leadership skills and found mentors who introduced him to



the possibility of higher education. In 1960, he entered Ormond College as a candidate for the Presbyterian ministry.

It was 1962 and Premier Bolte had just announced his government's decision to hang Robert Peter Tait for the brutal murder of an elderly woman. David challenged his fellow theological students to "do something about it". Next morning, a small group of students handed out leaflets at Flinders Street railway station, and thus was

launched perhaps the first university mass protest since WW2. David became the inspiring leader of the students anti-hanging committee, which organised mass rallies, vigils and street walks. With Barry Jones and others, he worked tirelessly until the High Court intervened and Tait's death sentence was commuted.

David eventually withdrew from theological studies and completed an arts degree and a diploma of education. Pursuing a long-held passion for painting, in 1963 he began studies at the National Gallery art school. He married Dorothy Hope in the same year, and though they later divorced, they remained life-long friends. David and Dorothy had two daughters, Catherine and Judith. His commitment to being a good father to his beloved girls was to steady and sustain him through his life.

David joined the Commonwealth Department of Works in 1966, becoming personal assistant to the secretary and, in his spare time, assisting with the Ryan anti-hanging campaign. His meteoric rise through public service ranks was cut short by ill-health and he was forced to retire, aged 34.

In 1976, David joined a newly established grass roots, self-help adoption agency called Jigsaw. Thus began an exhausting, but ultimately triumphant decade-long campaign by a small

group of people to reform the Adoption Act and win the right for adopted people to have access to their original birth certificates. He was president of Jigsaw from 1982 to 1986. For five years, David represented adopted people on the committee that drafted the proposed new act.

He brought a political acumen that was unique in Jigsaw. He forged a close working relationship with the late Mrs Pauline Toner, who as community services minister, oversaw the passage of the Adoption Act 1984.

Four years later, David orchestrated a bold lobbying campaign that influenced the government to take steps to eliminate the long waiting period for obtaining birth information and to fund Vanish, a search and support organisation.

David brought the force of his personality to the struggle for adoption reform. He was indomitable; dogged and pugnacious in the face of opposition, fired by an absolute and unwavering commitment to the rights of adopted people, giving strength and courage to those around him. His search for his own identity ended in 1980. At last David knew who he was. But both his birth parents had died some years before.

David's painful journey can be charted through the legacy of paintings that he left behind. He was an art-

ist of great versatility and skill, painting, with some breaks, for most of his life. His "inner-scapes" spoke with great emotive power of the struggle with his demons. Over time, they became intricate, imaginative and complex, their sheer beauty often moving their viewer. David's rich—and even startling—use of colour is evident in the paintings he produced for one of his last major exhibitions, at Townsville College, James Cook University.

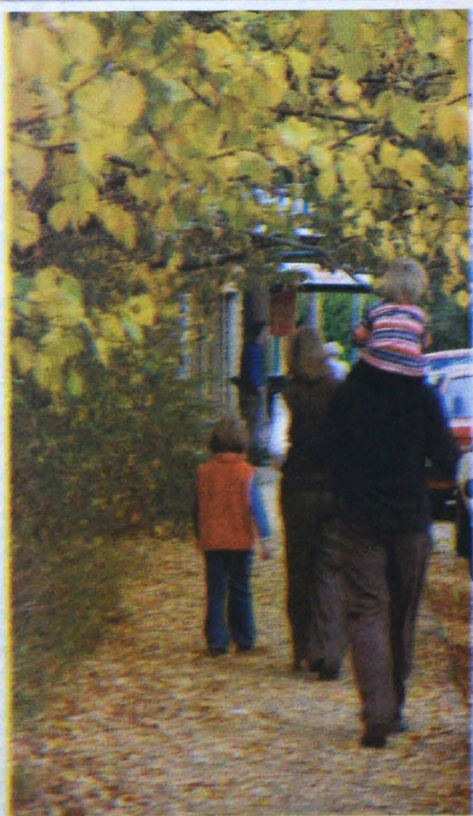
He moved to North Warrandyte in 1980. His studio looks over the treetops to the Dandenongs. He never tired of the ever-changing colours, the light and the cloud-scapes, the sound of the birds. He would often say that this place on the hilltop was his refuge and he could never leave. He never did.

David's last six years were more peaceful. He pursued his wide range of intellectual interests with characteristic single-mindedness. He wrote, read, enjoyed friends, jazz, food and singing in the community choir. He delighted in his grandchildren, Isabella and Jack. David married again in the last year of his life: a tribute to his love of life in the face of his illness. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, his daughters Catherine and Judy, and two step-daughters, Thea and Sarah. David Hirt was a man of great generosity of spirit, who touched the hearts and lives of many people.

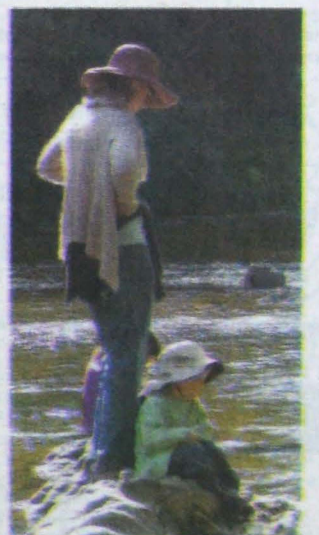


End of a season

Memories of a Warrandyte autumn



Pictures by
STEPHEN REYNOLDS



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Walking by the Yarra

The next Manningham environment seminar will feature a subject close to the heart of everyone in Warrandyte: the River Yarra. The seminar will be held in the function room of the Grand Hotel in Yarra Street. It will be conducted by Kate Whitehouse, who will present "The Long Yarra Walk". It will be held on Wednesday, July 6, commencing at 7.30pm. These seminars are free and no bookings are required.



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.

Kits

Information Warrandyte provides kits with information about the local area, places of interest, bushfire precautions, Manningham and Nillumbik councils, community facilities, local clubs and businesses. These kits are available to new residents. Call in at Information Warrandyte in the Community Centre, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte or phone 9844 3082.

Fussy

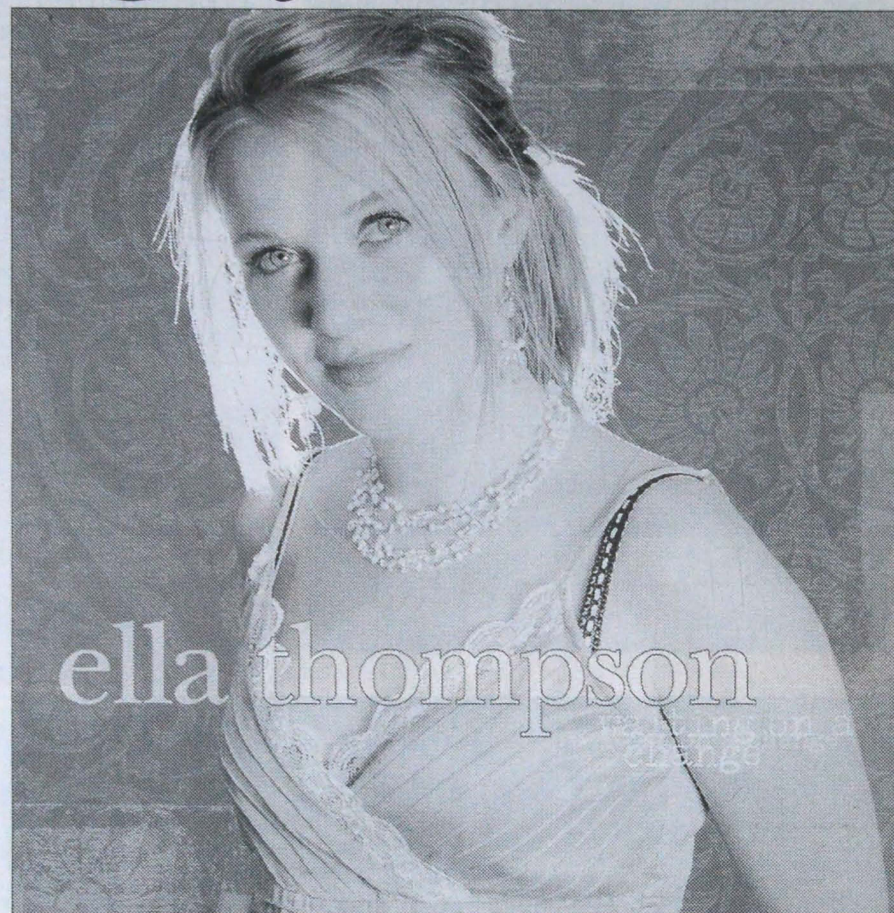
If your toddler or preschooler is a fussy eater, help is at hand. Dietitian Anne Netherway is presenting a workshop entitled "Family Food and Feud" at the Manningham Community Health Service on Wednesday, June 22. She will discuss effective strategies to use to encourage your young child to enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods and restore some enjoyment at meal-times. The service is at 1/1020 Doncaster Road, Doncaster East. The workshop will run for two hours, from 9.30am to 12noon. The cost is \$5. Bookings are essential. Call 8841 3000.

Reunion

Members the 106 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery are getting together for a reunion from July 29 to 31 in Gympie, Queensland. All past members of the 106 Battery are welcome to attend. Phone Peter on 07 5483 7591 for further information.

Market

The Christmas Hills car boot sale and market will be held on Sunday, June 12 at 1409 Eltham-Yarra Glen Road from 9am to 2pm. Enquiries to Liz on 9712 0414 or Rob on 9710 1512.



Cover of Ella Thompson's new CD — "Waiting for a Change" — which contains several of her own compositions.

Ella's on her way

Young local singer, Ella Thompson, often seen on stage at the Warrandyte Festival, will have her own show at Wellers of Kangaroo Ground on Saturday, June 11 from 8pm. Ella, who is just 15 years-old has played in bands ranging from jazz to funk for the past three years. She has performed at many well-known venues, including Cornish Arms, Rainbow and the Espy. She has also played in the Australian Blues festival and will soon be playing at an international music festival in the Czech Republic. She has just released her first CD—"Waiting for a Change"—which includes several of her own compositions.

Swimming

Vicswim run five-day intensive programs for children during school holidays. The range of programs will cater for a wide range, from an introduction to swimming and water safety through to reinforcing skills previously learned. Call 8843 2000 for a brochure or enrol online at www.vicswim.com.

Volunteers

Do Care are seeking volunteers to spend a couple of hours each week visiting an older person or a person with a disability in their local community. Call 9762 5211 for further information.

Tell us

The Diary is your newspaper and we love to print news of your group's activities. Jot down all the details, including date, time, venue and contact number and drop it through our letter slot at the community centre, fax it to 9844 4168, email thediarystory@vicnet.net.au or by post to PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113. We close copy on the last Friday of each month.

Newsletters

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

COREY'S COMMUNITY

By SYD & ONA



ARTYFACTS

Quilting

Quilt squares are being received for an exciting national project—Australia's first ever Citizen Quilt. Closing date for the receipt of squares is Thursday, June 30. The theme of the quilt is "what it means to be Australian". Instructions are available on the government's website, www.citizenship.gov.au

Colour

An exhibition of painting and ceramics, entitled "Colour and Form" will open at 2.30pm on Sunday, June 12 and continue until Sunday, July 3 at the ArtStreams Gallery, 63 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Jean Bohuslav is exhibiting a series of encaustic wax/oil paintings. Judith Roberts is showing a collection of raku ceramics. The gallery can be contacted on 9844 0248 or 9434 7969.

Ceramics

The June exhibition at Stonehouse Gallery, 323 Warrandyte-Ringwood Road, Warrandyte, features a journey in clay and glaze by Penny Cearn, Jan O'Neill and Joy Van Der Heyden. The exhibition closes on Thursday, June 30.

Sculptures

A series of ephemeral sculptures will be created when five Nillumbik artists partner four Nillumbik restaurants. This will occur over the weekends of June 11, 12 and 13 and June 18 and 19. Visitors will be able to view the construction of the works and discuss them with the artists. For information call 1300 660 072.

Wildlife

The 17th Annual Wildlife Show is being held at the Barn Gallery, Monsalvat, 7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham between June 1 through to July 5. Works by more than 20 of Australia's top wildlife artists will be shown. The gallery will be open from 9am to 5pm daily.

Littlest of the littlies

By SONIA RAPPELL

Competition starts early at Warrandyte Netball Club, with girls as young as seven playing bottom-age Under-11s. And the cold and sometimes foggy conditions at nine o'clock on Saturday mornings do nothing to dampen their enthusiasm.

Warrandyte have four Under-11 teams in an age group which is generally short of numbers. The Doncaster and District Netball Association have only three sections at this level, which means Warrandyte players are sometimes drawn against their clubmates.

The Under-11/1 and 2 teams contain players with a few seasons' experience

and that shows out in their ever-developing skill levels.

When girls are in their first season a goal can be the source of great excitement because it might be the only one of the game.

Any girl interested in playing Under-11s for Warrandyte is invited to contact Lesley on 9844 2068. Some netball or netball skills clinic experience is preferred and the club reminds parents that the skills clinic for five to nine-year-olds, held locally after school on Fridays, still has vacancies. Inquiries to Peta on 9844 4898.

This month we look at the Under-11s through the eyes of their coaches.



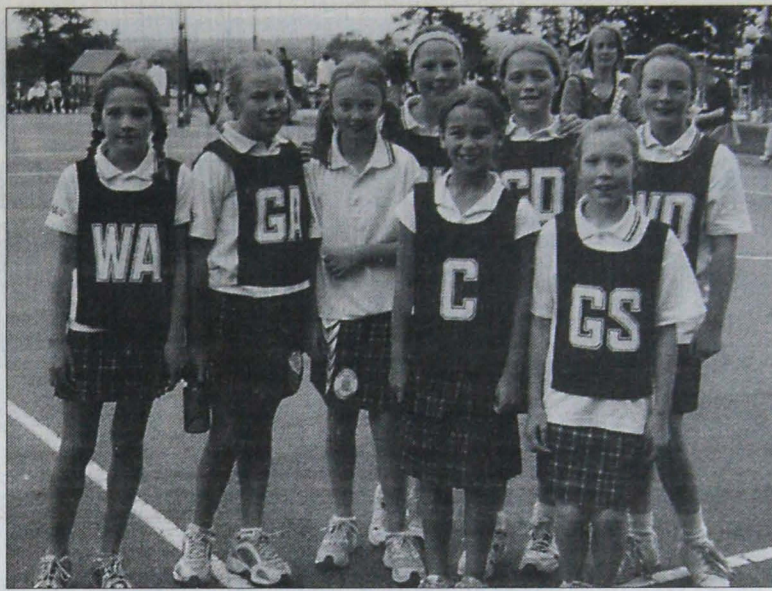
U11/3 JOEYS:

Coaches: Carly Sayer and Lauren Fraser McKelvie.

The team: Riley Clay, Tara Cromwell, Claire Garrick, Kelsey Horton, Brita Kalejs, Imogen Maillardet, Stephanie McMellan, Holly Mulder, Alexandra

Smead.

Carly says: *The girls are mostly seven and eight years old and this is their very first season. They just love playing and training — they love anything to do with netball.*



U11/1 WRENS:

Coaches: Jan Bryar and Erika Dyason.

Team: Brenna Edsell, Sara Feebo, Ysabel Galley, Keeley Green, Katelyn Horton, Julia Lewis, Gabrielle Ryan, Zoe Van Gulick.

Jan says: *We are fourth on the ladder and playing in Section 1 of the 11 and under competition. While all girls do their best, we have three players who are consistently best on court — centre court player Gaby Ryan, goaler/defender Brenna Edsell and defender/sometimes goaler Ysabel Galley.*

U11/2 POSSUMS:

Coaches: Amelia Fraser McKelvie and Megan Seymour.

Team: Paige Annand, Samantha Dwyer, Madeleine Edsell, Tamika Farley-Lehmer, Holly Jenkins, Leah Milburn-Clark, Lauren Mueller, Lauren Pinolo, Georgia Thornton.

Amelia says: *The girls have had a great start to their year with a couple of wins, a few losses and a draw. The emphasis this season is on having fun and playing in lots of different positions. The girls are great fun and coaching them is very rewarding.*



U11/4 GLIDERS:

Coaches: Nicole Hogan and Annita Kleeberg.

The team: Hannah Carter, Lizzy Ellis, Zoe Hogan, Bridie Jones, Zoe Kleeberg, Corrin Mueller, Danielle Norris, Nicola Pinolo, Matilda Post.

Nicole says: *This is the girls' first season and they are all putting in a terrific effort. Players look forward to each week. Enthusiasm is high.*



Under-15 boys hammer out a warning

By TONY OLIVER

The grading phase of Saturday junior basketball was completed on June 4, Warrandyte's Under-15 boys signalling that they will be a strong force in A-grade with an impressive 50-23 win over Eltham's second side.

There was little in it in the first half, Ian McLeod scoring in the last seconds to make it 19-10 in the Redbacks' favour.

Eltham opened the scoring in the second half from an intercept, but Gavin Yates replied with a three-pointer. Eltham continued to give it their all, but Warrandyte were running freely now and careered away with the game.

Centre Ben Power led the scoring with 15, followed by Josh Blakey with 11 and Anthony Spinosa and Troy Ratcliffe with six each.

Warrandyte's Under-19 boys defeated visiting Banyule 41-32. It was an uneven game, with the Redbacks establishing apparently match-breaking leads in both the first and second halves but Banyule fighting back. The Redbacks tightened up in the last minutes to close it out.

Grant Godwin topscored with 19, supported by Dean Lucas and Tristan Boyce with seven each.

Both top-age girls sides were winners. The Under-17s coached by Nick Peters easily accounted for Eltham 45-10 after leading 17-8 at the break.

Kara Hibbert was strong under the basket, leading the scoring with 19 points, followed by Andrea Peters with seven and Chelsea Crisp with six.

The Under-19 B-grade girls coached by Jake Templeton recorded their first win of the season with a 31-15 result against Whitehorse.

Warrandyte fielded a strong side, with Ellen Brabbury leading the scoring with 15.

Some of the younger Warrandyte sides are also showing promise of a good season.

Steve Killey's Under-11 boys defeated an Eltham side 26-24 with the very last shot of the game.

Michael Holloway topscored with six points and Matt Killey, Campbell Prior and Matt Ratcliffe each contributing four.

Andrea Peters' Under-15 C girls recorded a 21-20 win over Eltham in a physical game, Megan Walker dominating the scoring with 12 points.

Lorraine Parfitt's Under-11 B-grade girls were also successful, defeating Eltham 22-17. Warrandyte were always in front but Eltham kept the contest close.

Guard Gabrielle Mitchell led the scoring with six and had support from Casey Taylor with five and Hannah Bensch and Emma Miller with four.

The success could not be repeated by the Under-9 girls, who went down 6-5 to Nunawading Vikings. Meg Keppel and Simone Carvana, with two each, and Madeline Edsall our scorers.

Another Under-9 girls side coached by Emma Collins defeated Park Orchards 12-6, Maddie Beriman doing all our scoring.



Warrandyte's Kane Keppel is going nowhere — but neither is the ball in the Under-9 D-grade game against Ivanhoe, which the Redbacks won 8-2.

Creber goes in to bat



Greg Creber

Greg Creber is the new president of Warrandyte Cricket Club. He was elected at the club's annual general meeting last month.

Creber, who began his cricket career at Warrandyte and was last season awarded life membership, replaces Robert White, who has stood down after four years at the helm.

Andrew Jarvis was re-elected secretary and John Chapman will continue as treasurer. Lee Dehmel was reappointed junior coordinator.

The club have also appointed a new-look committee, with Graeme Rees, Ken Miller, John Barry, Matthew Sazenis and Steve Warr all taking on first-time roles. They join Campbell Holland, Steve Goddard, Jason Graf and Matthew Chapman.

White congratulated everyone at the club for the work which had seen nine teams in last season's finals. "We may have won only two premier-ships, but it was the start of a journey back as a power in the Ringwood District Cricket Association," he said.

He congratulated Creber on his new role and was confident he would lead the club into a new era.

"We have such a wonderful group of young players coming through the club and there is commitment to support them in their development," White said. "This can only be positive for the future of the club."

The meeting was told that Lindsay Clay had been reappointed club coach. Clay took on the job last year and quickly developed a strong rapport with senior and junior players.

The club are already looking to the new season and indoor training will start in the first week of August. All players will be advised of dates and times.



Robert White

Second's best for the girls

Despite finishing top of the ladder Warrandyte Tennis Club's Section 1 women's team had to settle for second place in the Ferntree Gully and District Thursday competition.

The team of Shelagh Morton, Harriet Morton, Ruth Rankin, Jeanette Cleaves, Sue McGinty and Rhonda Brown were defeated on finals day by Yarra Glen Gold.

The Redbacks rule!

By TONY OLIVER

Peter Clough's Under-18 boys came away with a critical 43-37 win over Broadmeadows at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre on June 3 at the halfway mark of the Friday night championship basketball season.

Warrandyte were coming off a strong victory over second-placed Geelong the previous week but needed to maintain the winning frame of mind to hold their place in the ladder.

The Redbacks opened well, Broadmeadows came back strongly late in the first half, inspired by some accurate outside shooting.

Warrandyte's Jake Ratcliffe capped off a big first half with a strong drive on the baseline for a score and one from the free throw line gave the home side a 22-20 lead.

The second half opened promisingly for Warrandyte when Luke Dimmock scored from a baseline move, but Broadmeadows immediately responded.

It was entertaining basketball played at a hectic pace with numerous turnovers and fast breaks.

Warrandyte opened up what appeared to be a winning seven-point lead midway through the half, but the visitors came back strongly, upping the tempo and grabbing a one-point lead with a little more than three minutes on the clock.

Dimmock restored the lead for the Redbacks on a fast break and with their noses in front they were able to control the tempo of the game and await

SPORT

their opportunities.

Two strong rebounds to centre Hamish Hosking put the game beyond Broadmeadows' reach. Scoring for Warrandyte were Dimmock topscored for the winners with 12 points, followed by Ratcliffe with 10, Hosking with eight, Luke Ebzery seven and Shane Holloway six.

The win retain fourth spot for Warrandyte and if coach Clough can focus the team on a strong second half of the season, this team can be serious grand final aspirants.

Warrandyte Regional 4 Under-18 boys side won on a forfeit from Western Port to retain fifth place on a crowded leader board.

In an earlier home game, Damian Arsenis's Under-12 Metro 2 boys went down 41-33 to higher-ranked Ringwood, who were always in control and led 17-15 at the break.

Warrandyte tied hard in the second half, with all players contributing, but were always playing catch-up basketball.

Jack Power led the scoring for Warrandyte with 14 points, followed by Sam Holston with six and Tim Apostolides with five.

Warrandyte's Eastern 3 Under-12 boys side recorded an impressive 39-29 win over Frankston in an away crossover game.

The opening minutes were



"It's mine!" says Warrandyte's Caroline Bell in the Under-9 B-Grade game against Nunawading — but her immediate opponent tends to disagree. Caroline has teammates Meg Keppel (left) and Olivia Yammouni in support. Warrandyte lost 6-5.

close but strong Redback teamwork and contributions from all players were the foundation for the victory.

Caleb Brodrick was the right player at the right time to lead the Redbacks scoring with 10 points, but all players hit the scoresheet. Matt Killey and Zac Ballard brought the ball up effectively, with Michael Delacy controlling it well.

The win maintained Warrandyte's top-of-the-ladder position.

In a top-of-the-table clash, ladder leaders Warrandyte's Under-16 Metro 2 boys went

down 39-37 to Eltham.

The Redbacks came back late and had a chance of snatching a draw but the bounce of the ball did not go their way.

The result has cost Warrandyte top spot, but they will be eagerly looking forward to a return match.

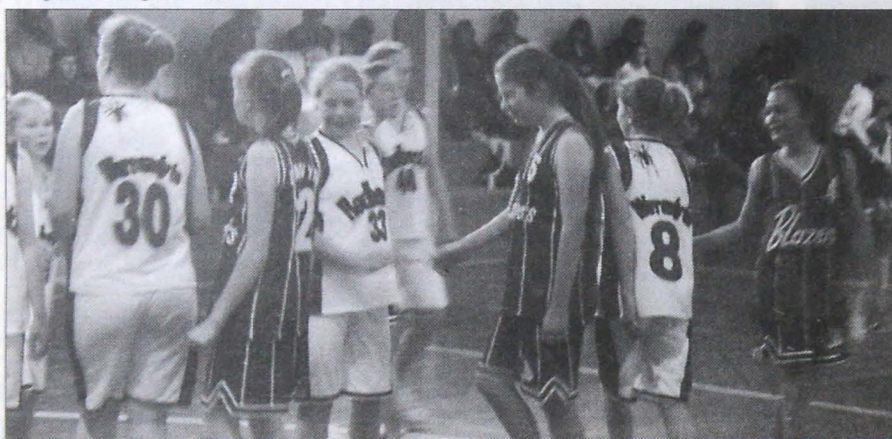
Emma Collins' Under-16 Eastern had a comfortable 69-47 away win against Pakenham. The home side came back early in the second half, but Warrandyte stepped up a gear to win easily and move into sixth place with a strong chance of playing finals basketball.

Jenni O'Brien's Under-16 Eastern girls had a spirited 37-35 win over ladder leaders Sherbrooke, moving them into fifth place and continuing some recent good form which has seen them win five of nine games.

Nick Peters' Under-18 girls went down 39-35 to Chelsea, squandering a 15-6 early lead to trail 16-15 at the break. They remain in the finals hunt, however, in fifth position.

Lorraine Parfitt's Under-14 Metro 1 girls also suffered a narrow defeat, 25-22 away to Dandenong.

● More basketball Page 21



Game over and it's handshakes all round after the Under-11 B-grade Redback girls' 22-7 win over Eltham. Above right: Warrandyte's Gabrielle Mitchell heads for home in the same game.

Baby Bloods unbeatable!

The youngest Bloods created a club record recently by scooping their pool in an Under-9 Round Robin tournament conducted by the Yarra Junior Football League.

"The idea of the day is to allow the kids to get a feel of playing a number of games end on end to build up their stamina and skills levels," said Warrandyte coach Peter Stafford.

"The matches consisted of two six-minute halves with, unlike the normal games, no coaches allowed on the field. This made the players feel as if they were all alone and they coped really well."

"The junior club have been entering teams since the competition started and this is the first time that we have won all four games we played."

The Warrandyte Tackers played the highly-fancied Kew Rovers, a tall and fast Ivanhoe Black, an aggressive Hawthorn Citizens and a determined Bundoora 2 and overcame the lot.

"At the end of the day there were a lot of tired players and exhausted parents, but they all enjoyed themselves and learnt heaps," said Stafford. "Throughout the day, players like Matthew Wilson, Lachlan Wintle, Sean Bowers, Jason Castagna and Patrick Curry all improved their understanding of the game and how teams should work."

The Under-9s continued on their winning way in normal competition with big results against St Damien's and St Mary's.



Coach Greg Edwards lays down the law to his Under-11 boys, who share top spot in Gold Division.

Bloods back in business

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club kept their EFL Third Division tenure alive with a desperate, ice-breaking seven-point win over Heathmont at home on June 4.

The battle of the cellar dwellers was virtually a grand final for the Bloods. Lose and they virtually condemned themselves to the wooden spoon and the club's first-ever trip to Division 4. Win and they lived to fight other days, level on points with Heathmont, last year's tearaway Fourth Division premiers, at the season's half-way mark.

Heathmont had broken through for the their first win of the season six days earlier with a shock 49-point thrashing of South Croydon.

Warrandyte's maiden win of 2000 was achieved despite the loss of three key players to injury before half-time.

Adam Kearney, who had kicked three first-quarter goals, and exciting youngster Tom Naughtin went off late in the first term with a hamstring and a compound finger fracture respectively and coach Peter Green limped off midway through the second quarter with a calf injury which threatens to sideline him for up to six weeks.

It left the Bloods without an interchange bench at all — although Green and Kearney limped back on to the field to make up the numbers late in a frantic final quarter — and, on the face of it, very little hope. That they overcame it all was a tribute to the good old-fashioned G and D of a very young team still learning the senior football business.

"The boys realised the importance of this game from a possible relegation viewpoint and when we lost three players in the first half they knew they had their backs to the wall," Green said later.

"I told them at half-time that the game would be won by the team who wanted the ball more. That turned out to be us."

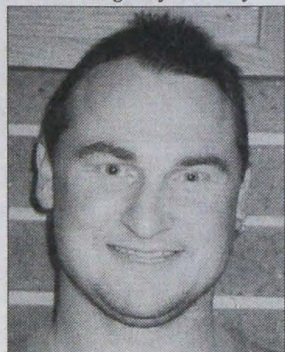
WFC president Phil Treeby applauded the performance of a "very young team coming to maturity". He said the win had opened the path to a much-improved second half of the season.

In perfect football conditions, Warrandyte opened up against Heathmont looking nothing like potential wooden spooners. In their best first quarter of the

season, they kicked 5.1 to the visitors' 1.1.

Kearney, who has been great value since arriving from Lalor in the Diamond Valley league this season, set success-starved local supporters alight with two goals in the first six minutes, the first from a great grab, the second a clever snap.

James Riley to Clint Wheatley — another classy recruit from Lalor — four minutes later produced our third goal and when Sean Donovan, a recent arrival from Montrose, found Andrew Gordon with a long handpass it was 4.1 to 0.1 and Heathmont were looking very ordinary.



Adam Kearney: hamstrung after three first-quarter goals.

Fast-learning rookie ruckman Anthony Richardson compounded their problems when he tapped superbly to Aidan Davey, who sent a footpass to Kearney for his third goal and Warrandyte's fifth.

How good was this? Not so good when Heathmont snapped their first goal with the quarter 28 minutes old, but a 24-point lead at the first change was very, very tasty.

If the opening stanza belonged to Warrandyte, however, the second was very much Heathmont's.

It was a six-goals-to-one quarter, the Bloods, who had so dominated proceedings in the first, now struggling to cross the centre. Heathmont suddenly found their feet and their form and within 20 minutes had hit the front with four unanswered goals.

Full-forward Lee Hartman had begun to expose glaring deficiencies in the Warrandyte defence and his teammates had lifted a notch or three as well, making space and finding targets. A behind at 21 minutes

was our first score of the quarter, but full-forward Michael Morello restored our lead five minutes on when he deftly intercepted a Z-grade kick-out and split the middle.

Heathmont struck back from a free and accompanying penalty and loose Warrandyte defence sent them into the interval with an eight-point advantage, 7.4 (46) to 6.2 (38).

Could the injury-riddled Bloods turn it around from here? That seemed unlikely when Heathmont goaled within a minute of the resumption, but Wheatley grabbed that one back from the boundary and when Morello marked and goaled with just four minutes elapsed we were right back in this ball game.

Ben Dart, a newcomer from Foster and a very likely lad, put us back in front with half the quarter gone and we might have skipped away to a handy lead if the kicking boots had been on up forward.

Still, Craig Dick made full use of a free kick at 22 minutes to send us 13 points clear, an advantage partly squandered by poor defence with the clock ticking down.

Warrandyte led by six points — 10.8 (68) to 9.8 (62) — at the last change and coach Green told his troops that Heathmont were ready to crack. It looked a little that way, too, when the Bloods kicked the first two goals — courtesy of John Potter and Dart — in six minutes when hostilities resumed. Unfortunately, Heathmont got the next two and the three-quarter-time status quo was restored.

It set the scene for a gripping finish, an arm wrestle that was to run for 35 minutes as Warrandyte defended a slender and fluctuating lead.

Morello kicked us 12 points clear with 13 minutes gone and nine minutes of last-man-standing football were to slip by before the next score of any description, a potentially match-winning behind to the Bloods.

Morello struck again at 24 minutes with what surely would be the clincher, his fourth goal giving us a 19-point lead. But Heathmont were not quite done yet. They goaled at 27 minutes and again as a result of a dubious free kick with just seconds on the clock.

In the meantime a behind to Morello after a sensational mark had put the game beyond



Warrandyte ruckman Anthony Richardson reaches for the sky in Warrandyte's home game against Templestowe on May 21 as skipper Matt Wood awaits the crumbs. Not one of the Bloods' better days, they went down by 91 points. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

the visitors' reach.

And no, the Bloods hadn't forgotten the words of the club song.

Warrandyte's goalkickers were Morello 4, Kearney 3,

Wheatley 2, Dart 2, Gordon, Dick and Potter. Their best were Ricky Bourke, Donovan, Grant

McAdam, Rick Templeton, Matt Wood and Dart.

● The Reserves are still seeking their first win of the season and were no match for Heathmont, going down by 55 points, 14.12 (96) to 6.5 (41). Best of a battling bunch were Cal Haskings, Bernie Opteynde

and Tarvis Brogan.

● The Bloods will relish a break from football over the Queen's Birthday holiday weekend to recover from injuries and freshen up for the second half of the season. Warrandyte's next fixture is at South Croydon on June 18.

Juniors have that finals feeling

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

With the 2005 season half gone, Warrandyte Junior Football Club are poised to play a strong hand in the Yarra league finals.

Shane Newman's Under-10 continue to lead their competition with an impressive 8-1 win ratio and a huge percentage.

The team had strung together wins over Surrey Park (39 points), Bundoora (one point), Park Orchards (69 points) and Balwyn (six points) before accounting for Beverley Hills 8.12 (60) to 2.2 (14).

"Our regaining to a higher grade has had little effect on the boys," said team manager Debbie McMellan, "as they just lifted their efforts and continued to play team-orientated football."

"Lloyd Grounds, Rory Chipman, Luke Brendish, Ben McMellan, Alan Pardoe and Campbell Prior are typical of the players who welcomed the stronger competition and just continued to develop their skills. We need to remain focused, of course."

Captain Josh Edwards, Tim Baker (vice-captain) and Kurtis Law (deputy vice-captain) continue to provide the leadership required to share top spot in the elite Under-11 Gold Divi-

sion. "Greg (coach Greg Edwards) has the team playing an attractive, aggressive style of football that the opposition are having trouble responding to," said team manager Isabelle Woodin.

"Every week the boys turn up to play and developing players such as Tim Nilsson, Daniel Krajnc, Madison Denholm, James Munks, Sam Holston, Jacob Ballard, Lachlan Frowd, Billy Lavery, Ryan Exon, Jayden Clay, Jacob Harris and Lachlan Imeneo continue to do their club proud."

The team have built during the season with a 24-point win against Kew Rovers, a disappointing loss against Beverley Hills (16 points), a 26-point win over Camberwell, a tough 12-point victory over Bulleen Templestowe and an 11-point result against Hawthorn Citizens last start.

Andrew Wildsmith's Under-12s have resigned themselves to missing the finals.

Their 2-7 win-loss record has included some near-misses, including a one-point loss to Whitehorse Colts. Their latest outing was a 63-point defeat by Doncaster Heights.

"Naturally we are disappointed with the year so far but

Mums, dads come out to play

Warrandyte Junior Football Club will hold their annual Dinner Dance — their major fundraiser — at the Eltham Community Centre on Saturday, July 16. "At \$50 a ticket the night will be great value, an occasion for the junior community to get together, let their hair down and celebrate the 2005 season," said club president Steve Blakey. Blakey (9844 4943) and WJFC secretary Kevin O'Mara (9844 2694) are handling bookings.

we are determined to shape the make-up of the final four," said team manager Paul Van Der Zant.

"We want our opposition to treat us with respect as boys like Jake Fitzgerald, Dylan Burns, Adrian Mifsud, Matthew Edwards, Alistair Douglas, Sam Tansley and Michael McDougall have on their day the capacity to really damage any opposition."

"Probably one of the most pleasing things about this season is that the boys have never given up. They are still competitive and, frankly, we couldn't have asked any more of these players."

Chris Appleby's Under-13s can consider themselves unlucky. The boys are standing 4-5 after a 53-point win over Greysthorne last start but could be much better placed but for

injuries and losses by less than a kick.

"We are focusing on retaining players like Ethan Hale Vaughan, Natham Campbell, Tom Appleby, Pat Heffernan, Luke Costin, Jake Miller and Charles Johnstone as they will be part of the backbone of the club for the next few years," Appleby said.

"Our two girls, Natalie Exon and Nicolette Prior, continue to be highly competitive at this level."

The club have their collective fingers crossed for the Under-14s. Against all odds — a small team, lacking numbers and with a first-year coach — the boys sit just outside the top four but with an impressive percentage.

"If we concentrate every week the finals are not beyond us," said coach Andrew Gordon.

A 63-point win over Kew, a 45-

point loss to Macleod, 111-point crushing of Fitzroy 2 and an eight-point defeat by St Damien's before a two-point loss to St Mary's really highlights the inconsistency of this team.

"On their best days, they are unbeatable but on their not-so-good days they play dumb football," said Gordon.

"As always, consistency is our challenge. We will continue to rely on boys of the calibre of David Beasley, Duane Cox, Rhys Aldenhoven, Robbie Bowen, Jim Taylor and Charles Grounds and we are mildly confident of finals action."

A recent loss to top-of-the-ladder Camberwell hurt the Under-15s on the ladder but they remain well positioned for finals action.

"The players were really geared up for that game," said team manager Sharen Vaughan, "but the nine-point loss (5.14-44 to 8.5-53) was really disappointing."

"The game reminded the boys about the need to be ready to play from the first moment and to kick accurately. Fourteen behinds was just not good enough."

"The loss was a good reminder that work equals suc-

cess. We have had some good wins against Park Orchards (52 points), Doncaster (26 points) and Hawthorn Citizens (eight points).

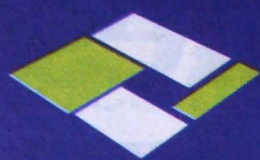
"We probably weren't hard enough at the ball, but the latest win, by 53 points over Fitzroy 2 put our season back on track."

Shaun Benchor continues to set the benchmark for the club with his Colts sitting second on the ladder with a 7-1 win-loss ratio and one draw.

Captain Joe O'Mara is displaying real leadership qualities and the Colts have won their last five by big margins — over Banyule (110 points), Richmond (75 points), Balwyn (60 points), Tally Ho (114 points) and Fitzroy 2 (138 points).

"Shaun has instilled in us a sense of real personal belief and we are translating this into on-field performance," said young O'Mara.

"Daniel Large, Tom Maddocks, Rick Curtis, Chris McDougall, Tim Hookey, Chris Douglas, Tyson Fitzgerald, Brayden Pettigrove, Nick Crosbie, and James Johnson are all playing their roles and this is a team that I feel honoured to lead."



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warrandyte

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warrandyte

private sale

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