

Gridlock-on-Yarra



Everyone wants to cross Warrandyte bridge: Research Road on a weekday morning
(Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS)

WCA plans local forum

By CLIFF GREEN

Pressure is growing within the community for a solution to the mounting traffic problem in Yarra Street.

Every weekday morning, anywhere between 7.30 and 9am, and again in the evening, between 3.30 and 6.30pm traffic is gridlocked, with the Warrandyte Bridge the main bottleneck.

The Warrandyte Community Association has identified this traffic problem as a key issue for the area.

"We want to hear community views," WCA president Dick Davies told the *Diary*.

"We want help to formulate a policy to put before state and local governments, on behalf of the community."

"No one has really identified the components of the problem and come up with a satisfactory solution," he said.

"The gridlock appears to be caused by Warrandyte people going to and from work and school.

"An unknown component is the current volume of through traffic.

"The bridge is clearly a bottleneck, but what else is contributing to the problem?"

The most controversial solution proposed so far has been the building of the long-proposed Western Ring Road extension, linking Greensborough and Ringwood, possibly through Eltham and Warrandyte.

The ring road debate has begun to build on the letters page of the *Diary*.

Last month David Hogg wrote: "Yes, please, let's have the ring road completed and another bridge across the Yarra."

When a ring road was first proposed, early in 1994, there was strong local opposition. Within a few weeks the Anti-Ring Road Organisation (ARRO) was formed, with members in Eltham, Kangaroo Ground, Research and Warrandyte. (See Page 4.)

Local Liberal MP Phil Honeywood stood firm against the proposal at the time, despite his government's apparent support.

In a statement to the *Diary* last month, Mr Honeywood said, "I have long been opposed

to an outer ring road carving up the Warrandyte landscape".

Danielle Green, Yan Yean Labor MP, has also taken a firm stand against a ring road.

She told the *Diary*: "As I stated at the public forum earlier this year, the state government has no plans or proposals to build such a road, and there is no demonstrated case for such a road, in fact just the opposite." (See Page 5.)

Apart from the unavoidable environmental damage, many people believe that if most of the traffic is local, a ring road would not solve the problem.

Another proposal is for a second river crossing somewhere between the Warrandyte and Fitzsimons Lane bridges with standard width road linkages.

However, as roads on either side of the river do not align, this could result in considerable bushland damage and amenity loss for nearby residents.

It is also thought that calming and slowing traffic in Yarra Street might increase pedestrian safety and create gaps, permitting a more even traffic flow at the bridge roundabout and the Kangaroo Ground and Research roads intersection.

A major improvement to public transport in the area could solve the problem. A late development is a proposal to build a railway from Doncaster to the city and link the Eastern and Tullamarine freeways with a tunnel.

No doubt there will be other ideas come forward, "but the community association wants to hear from the residents themselves," Mr Davies said.

"We want to know what the local mums and dads and commuters think about it. We're not just looking for the canvassing of set opinions. We want to open it up to everyone."

WCA has organised a public forum for Thursday, December 1, at 8pm at the North Warrandyte Community Centre in Research Road.

"The key issue at this forum will be the traffic problem in Warrandyte," Mr Davies said.

"Whilst we are inviting MPs, councillors and town planners, most importantly, we want to hear your views on this issue. Everyone is welcome. Everyone will be listened to."

● The *Diary* welcomes further readers' letters on this subject.

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



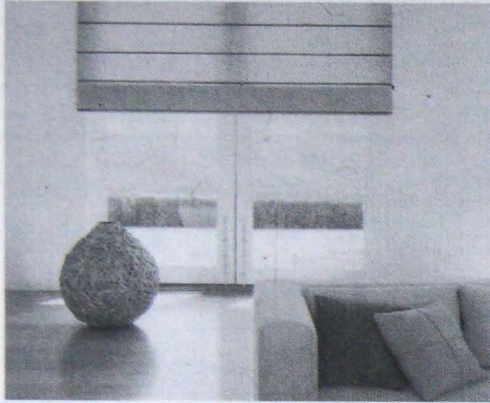
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It all started when the *Diary* and IGA named Kevin O'Mara Citizen of the Month for July. Now, we ask, can the juggernaut be reined in? You might well be forgiven for mistaking this *Diary* as an episode of "This Is Your Life". Kevin bobs up at length as a superdad in the news pages and we shouldn't be at all surprised if he's lurking up back in sport, either. Without surrendering the entire plot we can say that Kevin suffered a good deal of personal discomfort last month keeping an important appointment at Melbourne Town Hall after breaking three ribs in a fall involving a laundry basket at home. His version of the story has him carrying the basket downstairs, but his close mate and business partner Mark Leehy casts lengthy shadows over it, pointing out that our hero just happens to lovingly create and store his award-winning bootleg beers at the foot of those very stairs. We're prepared to swap the benefit of the doubt, though, for a selection of those beers, Kevin — and please address the package very carefully because the majority of us here at the *Diary* office tend to be of the red wine or chardonnay set on whom your brewing talents would be wasted.



It's now official: we live in a divided society here at Warrandyte, divided not by the Yarra, ideology, the destination of our council rates or anything like that, but by the agapanthus. Thanks to last month's Page 2 exclusive, this pesky, imported South African lily now has us surreptitiously and furtively inspecting our neighbours' gardens and asking are they with or against us. A sign up on Research Road offering agapanthus giveaways is explained by the donors' enthusiasm to rid their own property of an agapanthus plague by sharing it. For all we know, battle lines are being drawn up all over town. A rough and ready conservationist of our acquaintance believes he has the situation covered by the introduction of a brand new event at next year's Warrandyte Festival. A shootout across the cricket pitch at the recreation reserve. Agapanthus at 20 paces. Better still, Paterson's Curse at point-blank range. Last man, woman or child standing. A bit extreme, perhaps, so why not simply

IN RED & WHITE



colour in our sketch here in drab blues and greens and send it to someone you hate?



Few hospital waiting rooms of our experience have seemed to fit the public perception of fun places to visit, but we give top marks to the radiotherapy department at Ringwood Private. In a poignant appeal to patients to exercise perhaps a little more patience, a sign at reception says: "Please be patient. I only work here because I'm too old for a paper round, too young for a pension and too tired to have an affair." Bet that makes the patients feel more patient already.



It may well have been his first day on the job at the near-neighbouring pharmacy for the fresh-faced, well-presented kid and the last thing he needed

was to be thrown in at the deep end by a woman from Warrandyte — or anywhere else for that matter — shopping for suppositories for her husband (far too sensitive to do his own dirty work, of course). So he did the logical thing by throwing himself upon the mercy of the pharmacist himself, a jolly fellow with a resonant voice. "Husband constipated? Right, got just the thing," he boomed across the shop as he produced a packet of grey mini torpedoes from a shelf. "Best on the market and if it doesn't work within 40 minutes, stick another one up!" We think the fresh-faced, well-presented kid learned a valuable and instant lesson in customer relations: Tell it how it is!



"Is Warrandyte still a place where intellectuals and tradesmen can exchange news and

views?" was the question posed by Louise Joy in last month's *Diary*. And David Hogg's reply: "It certainly is, Louise. In Warrandyte the tradesmen are the intellectuals. Which is why I spend most of my time talking to myself!"



Okay, the bloke flogging the Nissan Bluebird in last month's *Diary* Mini Ads could maybe have put it better than "Ex con, 1 owner." No, the one owner had not done porridge and even those most naïve among us know "ex con" means "excellent condition" in used car talk, don't we?



On August 6 at home, Warrandyte (last) produced the boilover of the 2005 Eastern Football League Third Division season by defeating second-placed Bayswater by six points. On September 4, Bayswater won the premiership by defeating Doncaster East by five points at Boronia. It was Doncaster East's second defeat in a 20-game season. So does that mean Warrandyte were the best team in the competition? And, if so, should we be promoted to Division 2 next season instead of lining up for the first time ever in Division 4? We reckon we wuz robbed — but then logic has never been a true football supporter's best friend.



If Wattle Week didn't totally wattle you out, the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery still has something quite special for you. One of our rarer local species, the hop wattle (*Acacia stricta*) is a medium-sized shrub with erect, greyish-green leaves which are not true leaves at all but function as such. Grows well in most soils, particularly attractive when planted in groups and not at all averse to pruning. Forestry tubes of this beauty are available from the nursery (at rangers depot at Pound Bend) so give the manager a call on 0408 317 327.

Smokey Joe



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WARRANDYTE DIARY

EDITORS: Cliff Green and Lee Tindale
PUBLISHER: Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd, (ACN 006 886 826 ABN 74 422 669 097) as trustee for the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.
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INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy/
PRODUCTION: Rachel Schroeder, 9725 6699.
PRINTING: Streamline Press Pty Ltd, 155 Johnston Street, Fitzroy.
Published on or about the second Wednesday of each month (except January).

ADVERTISING RATES
\$5.50 a column centimetre (casual), \$5.20 (permanent), \$550 full page, \$365 half page, \$200 quarter page, \$65 front page "ears". Preferred positions: page one 100%, page two 30%, page three and back page 20%, other nominated pages 10%. Mini-ads: \$4.60 for four lines, then \$1 each additional line. Mini-ads pre-paid unless by prior arrangement. All rates plus 10% GST.

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

Copy closes last Friday of each month

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

A SPECIAL PLACE
Warrandyte (approximate population 8000) is situated on the Yarra River, some 24km from Melbourne. For countless ages a well-stocked hunting ground of the Wurundjeri people, in 1851 Warrandyte became the site of the first official gold discovery in Victoria. It soon established its character as a small, self-sustaining community set in a beautiful river valley. Around 1900 the miners, orchardists and tradespeople were joined by a number of young painters who were founding the Australian nationalist arts tradition. Although now a commuter suburb of Melbourne, the natural beauty, community spirit and sense of independence of Warrandyte has been largely retained. This newspaper is the voice and true expression of that spirit.

OVER THE HILLS

By **JOCK MACNEISH**

BEEP **TOOT!** **HONK**

they might just be grumpy about the price of petrol.

YARRA STREET - MONEY FOR JAM

MANNINGHAM COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Groups seek pledge on Wedge

COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION

September 28, October 17: Candidates information sessions

October 20: Nominations open

October 25: Nominations close

November 8-10: Ballot packs mailed to electors

November 25: Voting closes at 6pm

November 27: Results should be known

By DAVID WYMAN

Local resident groups have made it very clear to the *Diary* that they want existing planning controls retained, sending a clear message to the two Mullum Mullum ward councillors who will be elected after Manningham council elections in November.

The election will again be held by postal ballot beginning on November 8 and the deadline for receipt of votes by the Victorian Electoral Commission is November 25. Any aspiring candidates for council will need to nominate their intentions between October 20 and 25. Voting is compulsory.

Existing Mullum Mullum ward councillors are Patricia Young and Gerard Dale, but only Cr Young will be standing for election again. Cr Dale has indicated he will not stand again for family reasons.

Park Orchards Ratepayers' Association spokesman, David Mayor, said his group stood for "preserving the existing amenity with no subdivision". He said there was still an impetus for subdivision despite the new boundaries of

the Green Wedge.

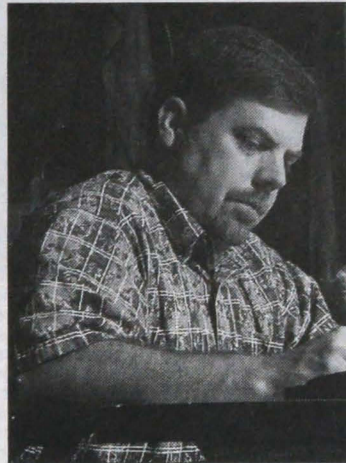
"The big issue will always be subdivision, for where there is land sparsely populated there are those who want to cut it up...so we have two camps, subdivision or not. We clearly don't want it."

Jonathan Upson, past president of the Warrandyte Community Association, said his group would be looking for candidates who were environmentalists and supportive of the Green Wedge. "If anyone is interested in being a councillor, we would like to hear from them."

"One of the big issues has been the building adjacent to the post office which was not consistent with the planning scheme," he said. "No one seemed to know about it until the council approved it. Since then the council sends us a list of all planning applications."

Wonga Park Community Cottage coordinator, Linda Hay, said she wanted councillors who "recognised that Wonga Park is part of Manningham".

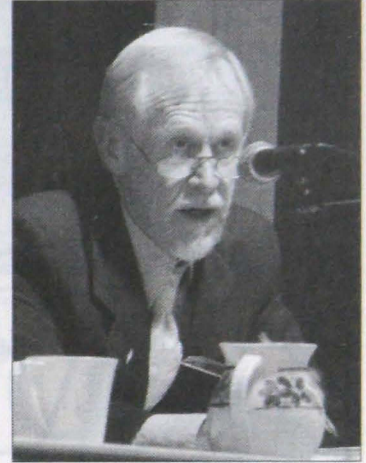
"We are sometimes seen as an afflu-



Jonathan Upson: looking for candidates who are environmentalists



Cr Patricia Young: firm on the environment and no subdivisions



Cr Gerard Dale: indicated he will not stand again for family reasons

ent society here, but we have all types of people who need the same services from council.

"The environment here is considered a major issue and we want councillors who recognise that," Linda Hay said. "The environment is why people live here."

Cr Patricia Young told the *Diary* she "stood firm on the environment and no subdivision issues" and would continue to work to preserve and improve the amenity "if the community want me". More activities for young people,

improvements to the Warrandyte "virtual library" and implementation of the urban design framework would receive her continued attention if re-elected.

Council ballot packs will be mailed to electors by the Victorian Electoral Commission between November 8 and 10, according to a VEC spokesman. Deadline for receipt of votes is 6pm on Friday, November 25. Results should be known by Sunday, November 27.

Prospective candidates are being offered two informal information sessions at the Manningham council

chamber, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, on Wednesday, September 28 and Monday, October 17 commencing at 7pm. No registration is required. Further information on 9840 9403.

Residents who wish to check their enrolment can do so at the Warrandyte Community Centre and the Park Orchards Community House.

Residents not enrolled can obtain an enrolment form by downloading one on the VEC's website, www.vec.vic.gov.au or call 13 18 32. Enrolments close at 4pm on September 30.



Council must continue to protect our precious Green Wedge. (Pictures by Stephen Reynolds)

Minister commends Manningham council on Green Wedge stand

Victoria's 12 Green Wedge areas will be better protected with the release of state government guidelines to assist councils to develop Green Wedge management plans.

At the launch of the guidelines, developed in consultation with the Planning Institute of Australia, the Victorian Farmers Federation, Green Wedge groups, the Department of Primary Industries and Green Wedge councils, planning minister Rob Hulls congratulated Manningham on having made "significant progress" on its Green Wedge strategy.

"Green Wedges represent

some of the most valuable land in the state in terms of environment, agriculture and tourism," Mr Hulls said.

"It is important that councils have comprehensive plans in place to safeguard these important areas," he said.

Manningham council's Green Wedge strategy was adopted in November 2004, following a prolonged public campaign, culminating in two years of reviews, considerations, analysis, workshops, revisions and community consultation.

"This area has immense value at a local, regional and

state level," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"It is one of the few areas in close proximity to Melbourne city that has retained an essentially 'natural' character. It is widely recognised for its natural beauty as well as its botanical and zoological diversity."

"It has stretches of significant landscape that ought to be protected and environmental values and eco-systems that need to be preserved."

A copy of the Green Wedge strategy can be viewed on the council website: www.manningham.vic.gov.au

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Travelling a long, long road

Locals have been concerned about a ring road through Warrandyte for more than a decade. CLIFF GREEN takes that long, hard journey one more time.

With the completion of the Western Ring Road—at least as far as Greensborough—and the planned extension of the Eastern Freeway to Frankston and beyond, many people believed a major freeway connecting the two—probably through Eltham and Warrandyte—was inevitable.

The alarm bells began ringing in March, 1994, when we published a letter stating: "The recent announcement by the

state government of a construction schedule of 15 years to complete the outer ring road, and to find a route from Greensborough to Ringwood within the next two years ... must be of concern to the residents of Warrandyte."

The story moved to the top of Page 3 a month later, when David Wyman reported that the *Diary* had obtained documents outlining VicRoads intention to "determine the most appropri-

ate means of joining the Western Ring Road and the Eastern Ring Road. All the maps provided by VicRoads show Warrandyte in the middle of the link."

By June 1995 it was on the front page, with Fia Clendinnen telling us that "Warrandyte and Eltham residents are bracing themselves for a major fight as they join together to oppose the proposed eastern section of a ring road circling Melbourne".

Warrandyte resident and Melbourne university senior lecturer in planning, Nick Low, weighed in with: "The push for the ring road is led by developers wanting shopping centres, industrial parks and high density housing. The ring road would not be built to serve demand because there is no demand."

A few weeks later, at a public meeting called by ARRO (as the residents' group had styled itself), local Liberal MP Phil Honeywood said, "the Kennett government now has doubts about the need to extend the ring road from Greensborough to Ringwood". He said he "could not in all conscience vote in parliament for any project that threatened Warrandyte's unique environment".

Eight municipal councils, including Manningham, joined together to call for the construction of the ring road and to lobby for federal funding.

In March 1997, Fia Clendinnen wrote that an official report "reveals details such as a construction schedule for the ring road (work would begin in 2003 and finish in 2010), a map clearly showing the route of the ring road through Warrandyte and Eltham, and an estimated budget of \$850 million".

Also in March, newly-elected local councillors Patricia Young and Lionel Allemand in Manningham and Robert Marshall in Nillumbik pledged to oppose the building of the ring road.

David Hogg was a lone voice supporting the road. In a letter published in April, 1997, perhaps presaging a future crisis, he stated: "A ring road and another bridge across the Yarra are desperately needed to take the through traffic away from the village. Residents who are currently opposed to any ring road should see the inevitable futility of such a campaign."

In November, 1997 we reported that RACV policy manager, Professor Ken Ogden, strongly believed a ring road "would make Melbourne a better place to live and work". He stated, "It will act as a magnet for development. It will link industrial areas to each other and attract such facilities, that would otherwise occur in a scattered pattern, to the corridor."

The campaign cranked up a notch in August 1998 with the release of the Scoresby Environmental Effects statement. Fia Clendinnen wrote: "The EES, a study commissioned by VicRoads, has recommended that an \$800 million freeway be built from Frankston to Ringwood." It was obvious that engineering logic would dictate that this freeway should be linked to the Western Ring Road, probably through Warrandyte.

In October 1998, community organisations, including the Friends of Warrandyte State Park, the Warrandyte Awareness Group, the Wonga Park Residents Association and the Bend of Islands Conservation Association pledged to support ARRO in their campaign.

Greater Dandenong council raised the ire of ARRO when



Warrandyte Diary, November 1999.

they stated, in September, 1999 that "council will continue to urge the state government to construct ... the Scoresby Freeway, including the northern extension across the Yarra River". ARRO responded: "If Dandenong wants to push roads through this area, we should make it clear to them that we don't want to be on the receiving end of what they generate in terms of traffic noise and pollution."

A month later, a VicRoads map came to light, indicating the possible route of a six-lane freeway through the Yarra Valley Green Wedge. The *Diary* reported: "The alleged route follows the Mullum Mullum Creek from Ringwood to Warrandyte, with an interchange at Warrandyte Road near the Crystal Brook Caravan Park, before crossing the Yarra River and heading west into Eltham".

In November that year we reported that the newly-elected Bracks government had dropped plans to construct the Scoresby Freeway, easing pressure for a "missing link" ring road.

We had reason to believe it was all over in June 2000. Our

front page trumpeted the news: "Ring road 'closed': Labor government abandons plan for 'missing link'".

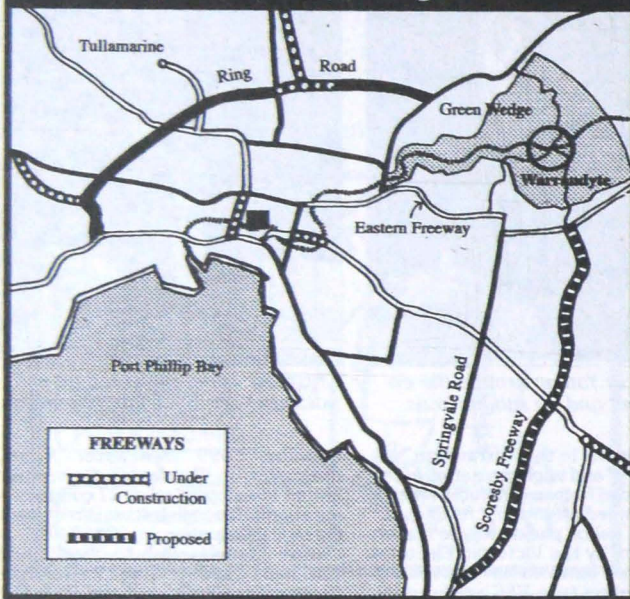
There were a few rumbles on the horizon during the following years. The state government back-flipped on the Scoresby Freeway in August 2000 and ring road fears re-emerged.

An advisory board reported to the state government in March 2002 recommending "filling in the gaps in Melbourne's freeway network". According to the Sunday Herald Sun a ring road would run through, under or around the "bushy suburbs" of Eltham, Templestowe, Warrandyte and Park Orchards to Ringwood.

A *Diary* reader, writing on our letters page, first warned the community of the potential dangers of a ring road. Two letters, published in recent months in this newspaper have suggested that the mounting problem of traffic through the village could be solved with the building of such a road. This community, never silent on important issues, will be stating their various opinions once again.

Over to you, Warrandyte!

Warrandyte—the missing link



The *Diary* published this map in August 1998.

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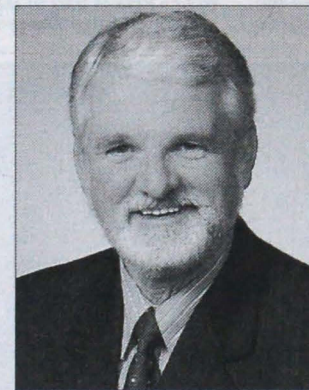
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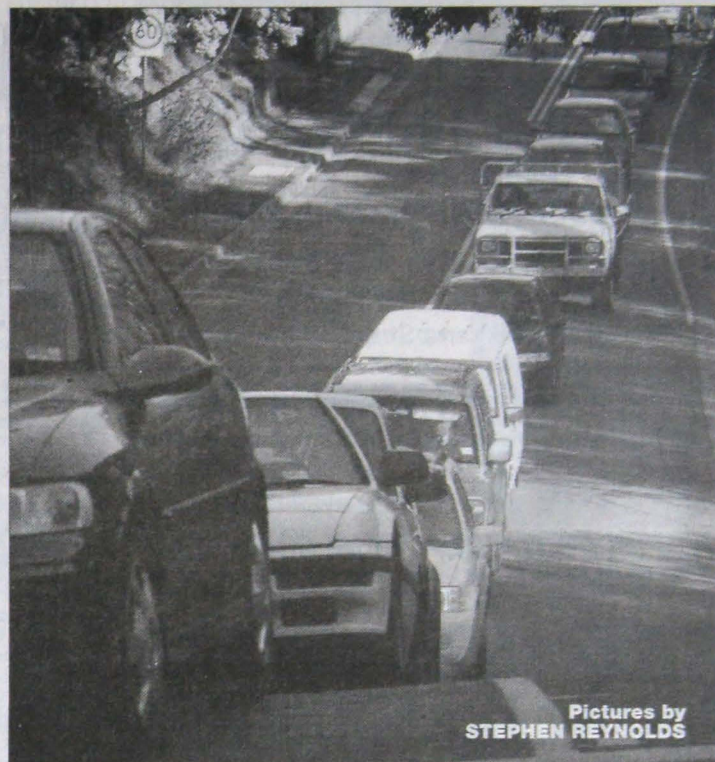


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GRIDLOCK-ON-YARRA



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

MPs firm on ring road

By CLIFF GREEN

Local state representatives from both sides of politics and either side of the river have firmly rejected the notion that a ring road would cure Warrandyte's traffic problem.

Brian Laurence, in an open letter to both MPs, published in the *Diary* in July, stated: "The Ring Road... stops at Greensborough, and then the new Mitcham-Frankston tollway (EastLink) will pick up the circuit traffic... Traffic wishing to get from one artery to the other must... cross the river at either Eltham or Warrandyte..."

Danille Green, Labor MP for Yan Yean, denies that the completion of EastLink would result in more traffic through Warrandyte.

"Traffic modelling performed for the EastLink project shows no expected increase in traffic through the Warrandyte area as a result of this new road," she told the *Diary*.

"I expect that once Eastlink is completed, motorists leaving the Northern Ring Road will enter the Eastern Freeway at Burke Road or Bulleen Road via Greensborough Highway and Rosanna Road, just as they do now. To detour through the steep and winding roads of Eltham, Research, Kangaroo Ground



Phil Honeywood: opposed to a ring road carving up the landscape.

and Warrandyte would be to take an indirect and longer route.

"I understand that in Warrandyte, like many areas of Melbourne during peak times, traffic can get banked up at certain locations, but I understand that traffic queues around Warrandyte



Danielle Green: government already planning traffic management.

are largely due to local and semi-local traffic."

According to Ms Green, the government is already planning for the future management of outer Melbourne's traffic.

"We have commissioned the north-

east integrated transport study to assess the traffic and public transport across the local government areas of Nillumbik, Manningham, Whittlesea and Banyule," Ms Green said.

"The results of the study will be used for planning public transport needs and the future traffic management of the north-eastern suburbs.

"I have long advocated the protection of the unique natural values of the Green Wedge and I believe a ring road through the area would not be beneficial for local traffic conditions and would be to the vast detriment of the natural values of the area," she said.

Phil Honeywood, MP for Warrandyte and shadow minister for the environment, is likewise opposed to "an outer ring road carving up the Warrandyte landscape".

He is also suspicious of any move towards a second river crossing, somewhere between Warrandyte Bridge and Fitzsimons Lane.

"Any attempted construction of a second crossing in Warrandyte State Park land will meet strong opposition from a large proportion of the local community," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*.

"I invite anyone to look at a copy of

Melway and show the community where on maps 22 and 23 they would advocate a new river crossing. The history of new bridge construction across rivers in Melbourne indicates that they very soon become major traffic thoroughfares."

Mr Honeywood argues that "local major north-south roads do not align on either side of the Yarra", suggesting a second bridge would require major excavation and bushland destruction.

He acknowledges that "short term fixes" will only go so far to alleviate the pressure of increased traffic volumes at the existing bridge."

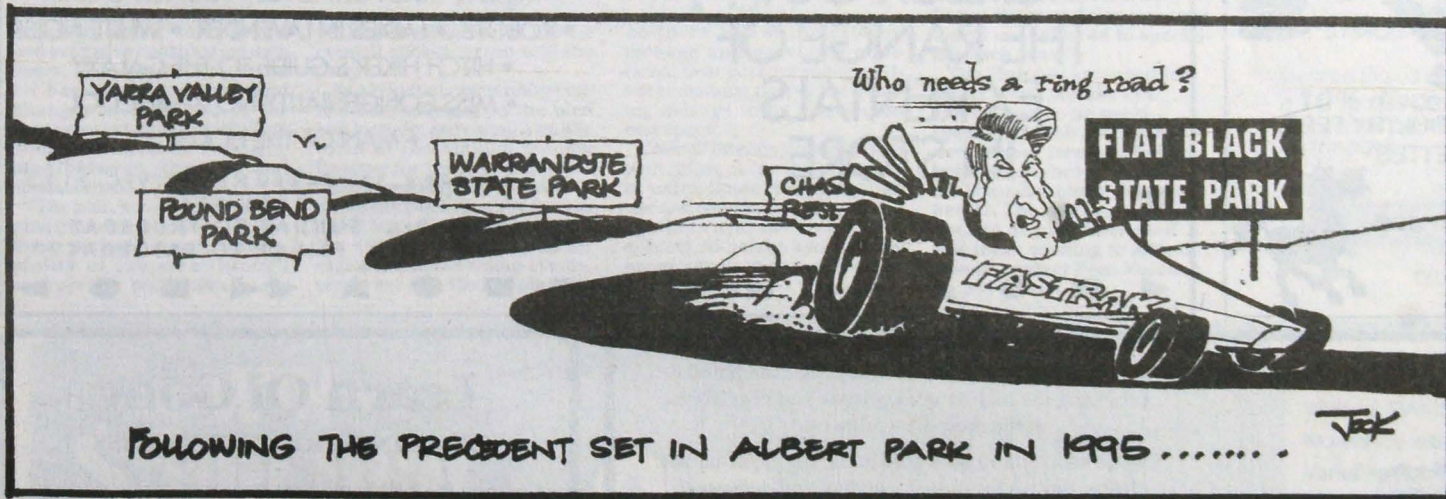
"Clearly, the addition of a second laneway in each direction on the bridge would then require additional laneways at the roundabout and in Yarra Street. This would only serve to ruin the historic village atmosphere."

Phil Honeywood has suggested residents could be "polled" on this issue to fully test local opinion.

"A combined survey by Manningham and Nillumbik councils and VicRoads may provide a much better indication of the priorities of local residents," he said. "However, the type of questions would have to be carefully scrutinised (as well as) the number of responses that would be deemed satisfactory." He sees a role for WCA in this process.

Responding to questions about reducing speed and "calming" traffic along Yarra Street, Manningham councillor Patricia Young said, "VicRoads have agreed to bring the speed down to 50kms along this stretch, but will not allow 40kms as we requested. There are rules and regulations about where we can put pedestrian crossings. We have tried to stop trucks coming through the township by requesting a load limit, but VicRoads said no to this also."

"All we can hope is that when the EastLink tollway is finished, traffic might start to go to Maroondah Highway straight along the tollway, instead of running through Warrandyte and along Jumping Creek and Brushy Park roads," she said.



How *Diary* cartoonist Jock Macneish saw the Ring Road issue in June 1995.

Would a tunnel/railway solve it?

A proposal for a tunnel connecting the Eastern with the Tullamarine Freeway, accompanied by a railway from Doncaster, both recently announced in the daily press, will be of great interest to Warrandyte residents, given the current debate about the deficiencies of public transport and traffic problems through the town. Manningham council has welcomed the proposal by

the Committee for Melbourne and Melbourne council.

Mayor Cr Bill Larkin told the *Diary* that while the proposal has not been costed or subjected to detailed analysis, council believes it is very interesting and potentially exciting.

Cr Larkin said this proposal actively seeks to address two of the key transport challenges facing Manningham residents.

"These are traffic congestion on the Eastern Freeway, particularly during peak periods, which results in delayed travel times and is having an adverse impact on bus travel, and poor public transport and, in particular, a lack of modal choice with Manningham being serviced by buses only."

"The proposal might address both of these key

issues," he said.

Cr Larkin said, however, that at this stage the proposal is best described as a "vision" as it lacks detail.

"Council believes that further research is necessary and would be encouraging the state government to explore the proposal."

The proposal, which recommends "integration" of road-based and public transport opportunities, will

address council's long-held desire to see a rail-based transport option brought to Manningham.

"Manningham is the only municipality in metropolitan Melbourne that is not serviced by either train or tram and we feel this lack is disadvantaging our communities."

Warrandyte residents will be watching this situation with keen interest.

CLYDE & OCKER



"Trouble with tunnels, Ock. Parks Victoria keeps closing 'em!"

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Computer cash: challenge

I found the article on "Cash grants for school computers in your August edition quite enlightening. Warrandyte High School (and I presume the two primary schools as well) has for many years paid for computers and internet access out of funds received from parents as part of school fees. It is therefore very interesting to read in your article a quote from Danielle Green that the state government is now going to "provide them (the schools?) with the resources they need".

However the high school will need significantly more than \$15,431 to cover the costs of existing computers, let alone pay for additional computers.

It really irks me to read that a politician claims that the government is providing schools with what they need. The fact is that the government is providing a limited amount of money and the rest, such as most of the computers and internet access, are paid for by



DEAR DIARY

the parents who pay school fees.

This is from the same government that insists that school fees are not compulsory. Of course if the government really is going to "provide schools with the resources they need" then we really will be able to do away with school fees altogether.

And pigs might fly!

C'mon Ms Green—the money will be welcomed by the school communities, but don't take credit for providing schools with the resources that they need. Without the annual contribution from fee-paying parents, our state schools would be a disaster zone!

Peter Byrne
Kruses Road

Nasty noises in the night

I think I'm turning into Victor Meldrew! Or maybe I'm just sleep-deprived. It seems all my Saturday nights are spent lying in bed listening to the "yobs" of Warrandyte, stumbling either to a party, or returning home (anytime between 10pm and 4am the following morning).

However, my sleepless hours have not been wasted. I've made an interesting discovery. Saturday nights seem to render these otherwise ordinary individuals hearing-impaired (what other explanation for the ear-shattering levels of "music" which pervades the valleys). The other observation is that they turn into morons who can only communicate by a series of grunts, squeals and obscenities.

If I'm lucky, a sprinkling of cans and bottles can be found in my garden. On a really good night my letterbox gets a makeover. Oh, yes. I feel really

lucky living amongst such outstanding citizens.

Before you spring to the defence of your very own, special little teenagers, ask yourself, when they're not tucked up in their little beds, where are they and what are they doing? Chances are they're in my street. Yes, there are some goodies out there who know how to have fun without inflicting themselves on the Victors of this world. But unfortunately they don't live near me!

Name and address supplied

Thank-you from the Jones clan

A big thank-you to family and close friends (many of them local) who attended our parents'—Ben and Jean (formerly Chapman) Jones—50th wedding anniversary on August 20.

The afternoon gathering was a big surprise for our parents and they (and everyone else) had the best time. We would also like to thank everyone who sent their best wishes, but the biggest thank-you goes to the Warrandyte RSL for all their wonderful help in making it a special day for all —The Jones children

Agapanthus —no friend

With regard to Smokey Joe's paragraph about Agapanthus last month. Please be informed that we are not cultivating Agapanthus—quite the opposite.

We recently purchased a property infested with noxious weeds. Having removed the Cherry Plums, Cottonasters, Hawthorn bushes, Ivy, Blackberries and Onion Weed we could see the extent of Agapanthus damage. Our 1/3 acre was 60 percent covered in them from massive clumps the size of cars to juvenile plants carpeting the land. We have dumped trailer loads of "the bloody things" at the tip, filled our green bin week after week and, as we acknowledge that a lot of people are fond of Agapanthus, we have given some away with a stern warning! We are now re-vegetating with indigenous and native plants.

We are disappointed that you published your theories before "enquiring within" to check your facts. A well-meaning environmentalist to be sure, perhaps socially misguided.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring this matter to the attention of Nillumbik council to reconsider the listing of Agapanthus on their noxious weed eradication program. We have pleaded on several occasions for assistance to no avail. These plants have spread onto neighbouring properties and into the adjoining crown land on the northern side of the Yarra.

As a young couple with our first home, we feel their complete eradication is beyond our ability as we do not have the funds to engage a contractor for their removal and disposal. Again I ask that Nillumbik send out a representative to assess the environmental damage of these plants and to rethink their status on the Agapanthus problem.

Laural Retz
Research-Warrandyte Road

Let there be light

We have all heard the riddle, "How many people does it take to change a light globe?" I would like to know how many organisations and how long it takes to switch a light on top of a light pole on?

For years I have heard frustrated discussions about getting light at the Warrandyte Reserve for the Warrandyte Netball Club to practice after school. Many parents and grandparents are concerned for the girls' safety as in mid-winter it is dark at 4.30pm.

Repeated requests to both council and TXU have been frustrating and fruitless. If this isn't resolved now, the situation will be the same next year. Other sports nearby have floodlighting, others have indoor facilities—much safer conditions with regard to safety and injury prevention.

In this age of increasing obesity I cannot believe the relevant authorities don't want to encourage sport participation.

I recently learned that power authorities have been instructed to reduce their charges because of their levels of profit.

In this litigious society any "unfortunate incident" may have parents demanding a safe indoor venue rather than "just let there be light".

From a concerned and frustrated grandmother.

Joan Shaw
Box Hill

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




SEPTEMBER RELEASES...

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• ROBOTS • LADIES IN LAVENDER • WHITE NOISE
• HITCH HIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
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Kevin is top dad

Well-known Warrandyte resident Kevin O'Mara received the best Father's Day present ever when he was named Victorian Community Father of the Year for 2005.

"Father of three and local Warrandyte community identity, Kevin is a role model for Victorian fathers everywhere," Peter Burns, YMCA chief executive, told a gathering at the Melbourne Town Hall on August 29, introducing Kevin as Community Father of the Year.

Musician and former teacher, Kevin is best known in Warrandyte for his leadership of the bush band at the Warrandyte Primary School, his work with the Warrandyte Junior Football Club and his membership of Paradiddle, the legendary folk band.

Commenting on his role as a father, Mr Burns said, "Kevin and his wife Alison have raised three fine young people. Their family is very close and supportive, active and admired in their local community."

Kevin is dad to Erin (21), Paul (19) and Joseph (17).

"Like so many 'great ordinary dads' his community involvement has often centred on supporting his children's participation in local activities," Mr Burns said.

Reflecting proudly on his children Kevin said, "I really enjoy being involved with my kids. I feel as though I have been able to give them opportunities whilst enjoying time with them. Seeing your kids happy is the greatest satisfaction, it makes you feel as though you have done something right."

Kevin's kids think he is wonderful.

Erin, now a music teacher, fondly recalls her father narrating the end-of-year concerts for local dance group, Bhava. "He would preside over a magical wonderland of colour, beautiful music and movement," she said.

Paul and Joseph, both apprentice carpenters, have benefited enormously through their dad's involvement in the Warrandyte Junior Football Club, where Kevin has been a leading committee member during a very successful period in the club's history.

"Our success on the football field has

come from a dedicated group of local community people making sure that the kids have fun and participate safely," Kevin said.

This year Joseph carried on his father's tradition, helping to captain the WJFC Colts to their grand final. Paul was previously club captain.

Kevin's love of music began as a chorister with St Patrick's Cathedral at the age of nine. He is committed to bringing the joys of music to children.

When he taught at Warrandyte Primary School he started the bush band. And every year since, more than 20 years later, the band evolves, continuing to perform every year to parents and friends as each new wave of children passes through the school.

"Performing together fosters kids' love of music," Kevin said. "It is really great seeing their confidence build through the recognition they receive."

His love of bush music is really no surprise given that he was a founding member of the famous Melbourne Irish-Australian bush band Paradiddle.

"As well as the school and the Junior Football Club, Kevin is involved each year in the Warrandyte Festival, one of the few remaining in the state that is organised entirely by volunteers," Mr Burns said.

He has also been a basketball coach, involved in the local drama group and acted as musical director for the "Festival Follies". Next year he plans to become a junior football umpire.

Kevin's small business Bushfire Press is involved in the creation of music education resources for primary school children. "It's a labour of love really," he said.

Alison O'Mara said, "We are a partnership. We have a great family and live in a wonderful community where we can all get involved. This award is a wonderful honour for Kevin; he loves his children very much and let's them know every day."

"I'd like to think that dads everywhere can take time to think about how important they are in their children's lives this father's day."



Kevin O'Mara

Pollies fly the flag

Earlier this month local MPs Kevin Andrews (left) and Phil Honeywood presented a flag marking the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games to Warrandyte High School.



Mullum Mullum park upgrade

Following public submissions and extensive consultation with users, Manningham City Council has approved proposed changes to stage two of the management plan for Mullum Mullum Creek Linear Park, situated between Reynolds and Tindals roads.

"The plan aims to protect the environmental values of the linear park and ensure sustainability of the area through appropriate recreational use,

particularly equestrian use," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

As a result of community consultation changes to the plan will include: providing a public toilet at the Mullum Mullum Reserve for users of the linear trail; amending dog controls to designate Buck Reserve flats as an off-lead area, except on days the reserve is being used for organised horse-riding events; removing and landscaping the

northern end of the existing ménage and providing additional float parking space, with the remaining part of the existing ménage to be retained as one space.

Council intends investigating, with riding clubs, the provision of extra times for equestrian use and overflow parking on the southern end of the reserve, subject to safety and maintenance requirements and other users' needs.

Lions help kids' hearing

Ninety-five children from schools and kindergartens in Warrandyte were tested for hearing deficiencies in a program organised by Warrandyte Lions as part of their ongoing health program. The tests were run by a team of 18 audiologists from the University of Melbourne.

"Hearing and vision deficiencies account for most learning problems children encounter in the earliest years of education," a Lions spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"Warrandyte Lions have been running this valuable program for 13 years. Between three and five per cent tested are referred to specialists each year."

The club has arranged for noted youth worker Les Twentyman to be guest speaker at their next partners dinner meeting, to be held at Kellybrook Winery on Thursday night, September 22. The meeting will be open to anyone interested and those wishing to attend should contact Pete Maloney on 9844 2249.

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Margory and Tony



The Rotary Club of Warrandyte hosted the celebration of Margory and Tony Lapworth's 50th wedding anniversary at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Sunday, August 28. They were married in Kent, England on August 27, 1955. Margory and Tony have lived in Warrandyte since 1986. Margory is well-known for her selfless devotion to a number of splendid causes in the town.



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Jean and Ben




Long-time Warrandyte residents, Jean and Ben Jones, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at a function at the Warrandyte RSL clubrooms on Saturday, August 20. Ben and Jean (formerly Chapman) met on a bus as it travelled along Yarra Street, between Forbes Street and Webb Street. They were married in Rushworth on August 20, 1955. They have seven children, 16 grandchildren, five great grandchildren—with two more on the way!

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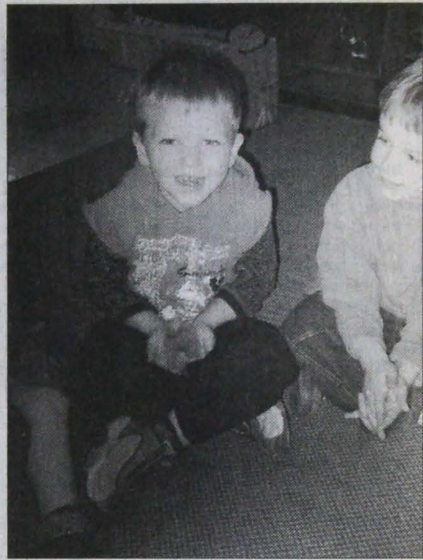
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Kiyo arrives in town

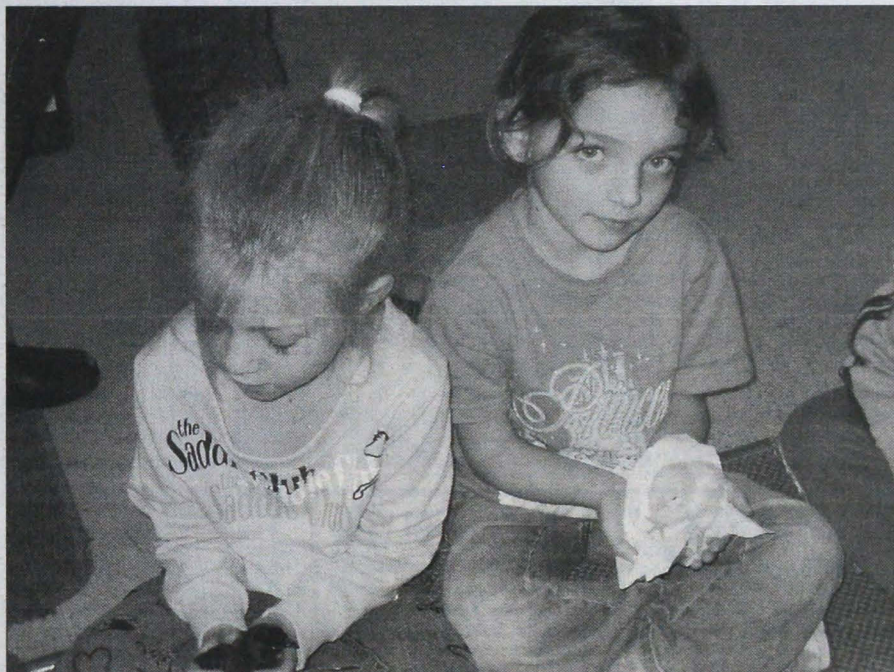


The Rotary clubs of Warrandyte and Templestowe are hosting Kiyo Obo, 18, (pictured) from Gotanbai in Japan. He is this year's Rotary international exchange student and will spend the next 12 months enjoying local life and studying at Warrandyte High School. Kiyo is proficient in daiku drums and has a black belt in judo.



A charm of chickens

A batch of chickens has hatched at the Warrandyte kindergarten in Taroon Avenue. JUDY GREEN was the grandma on fruit duty and she took these pictures.





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Those wonderful kinder days!

Words and pictures
by EMMA CLARK

Kindergarten is usually fondly remembered as a flurry of paint, play-dough and Christmas concerts. Unfettered by the worries of the world, big imaginations ran wild along with little legs.

I took a trip down memory lane and visited my kindergarten, attended 15 years ago.

Whilst the rest of the world embraced the excess of the 1980s, art smocks and paint-splattered fingers were the fashion in my day at Yarra Warra Pre-School, nestled in the trees along Research-Warrandyte Road.

Driving past the kinder every day on my way to high school it became part of the landscape. Then one day I noticed cars slowing down. We were staring at a burnt frame; all that remained of the kinder many of us had attended and loved so well.

When an institution like a kindergarten is so wantonly destroyed, deep emotions are stirred. The blistered building evoked memories.

Of the possum executed by the power lines above, giving many of us our first experience with death. Fashioning an Easter bonnet from an upside down ice cream container covered in sequins and paint, which my Grandma proudly wore down to Harry Heaths. Sitting with Mum on the festival float, dressed as a farmer.

Visiting the new, architect-designed kinder as a young adult was a lesson in the absolute unwavering optimism and patience of kinder teachers.

When I was a four year-old, complete with pigtails and a Barbie permanently in hand, Ann and Wendy were our teachers. They were second only to Mum in the authority stakes.

Undyingly vibrant and always ready

to listen and praise, my kinder teachers are fondly remembered as the creators of many happy times.

Connie Soly and Kaye Versteegen were the teachers on duty when I went back to kinder last month.

All kinder teachers possess resolute patience. They have the ability to make young finger-painting artists feel like they have created the next Mona Lisa. The kinder teachers at Yarra Warra, who have guided children through losing their kinder and then beginning again in a new building, deserve special congratulations and admiration.

Little Gabrielle, aged five, informed me that she liked the dress-up box at the old kinder. But her Mum had made new dress-ups for the new kinder. This is just one example of the way the Warrandyte community rallied in support.

The Community Church gave the use

of its premises, providing the kids with a new home and helping them deal with the trauma. Local residents provided funding for the beautiful new playground. Families have stuck by the kinder when they could have moved on.

All this help meant that quality was not compromised when the time came to equip and restock the new premises.

In one corner, budding astronauts can discover outer space in a planetary set-up, complete with a tunnel entrance.

Across the room, future scientists are getting messy with slimy green goo in custom-built sinks. Up-and-coming film directors can put on shows with a projector-puppet theatre, and potential architects can design, build and decorate towering structures made from cardboard cereal boxes and egg cartons, donated by the community.

Sarah Drew, president of the pre-

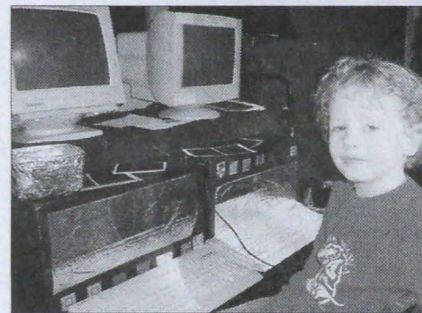
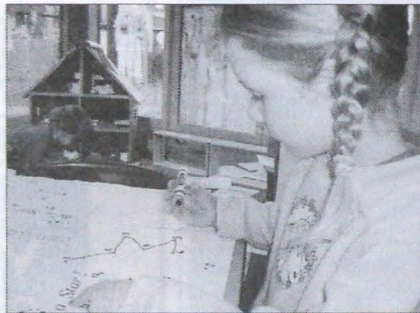
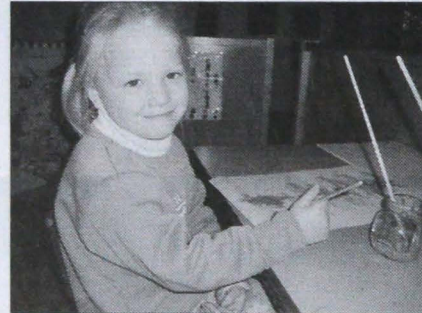
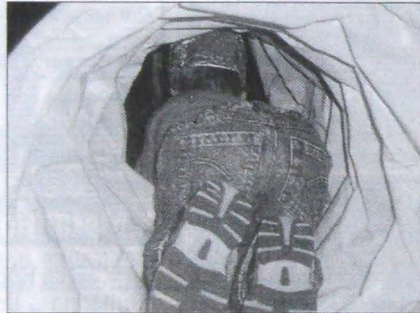
school committee, is proud of the work and support the community, staff and committee have willingly provided. The kinder is definitely back on its feet and can now look forward after finally restoring what was lost.

"Thanks to the generosity of the local community, we are now working to the future," Sarah Drew said.

The magic and the memories that Yarra Warra Pre-School holds for many locals—young and old—did not die in the flames.

Ruby, aged five and Kinder Star of the Week, loves going to kinder to see her friends. She is a would-be detective and her prime suspects for burning down the old kinder are "little boys".

Going back to kinder to see the new building and do jig-saw puzzles with the kids brought back many memories. It also renewed my sense of pride in Warrandyte's community spirit.



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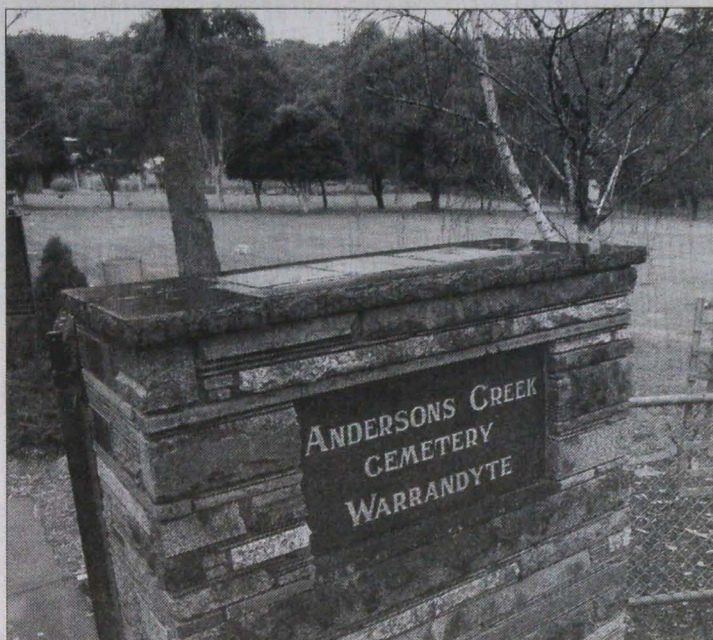
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A place where our past lies buried

Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

By SAM DAVIES

Everyone knows Warrandyte for its goldmines, but cemetery trust chairman John Chapman knows 6000 other sites of significance which the township has below ground.

When former premier Jeff Kennett wrote to cemetery trusts requesting lists of the "significant people" buried on their grounds, Mr Chapman wrote back that people buried in Warrandyte, were all of "equal significance".

"A lot of residents are buried there, dating back to the times when gold-mining was being carried out," he said.

Mr Chapman, too, can trace his forebears back to the start of the cemetery in the 1860s. They are buried under the name of Holloway. "My dad is there, he's significant to me, and my grandmother, my grandfather. They are significant to me."

Non-locals may be attracted to the cemetery for its beauty. An American once rang Mr Chapman to say Warrandyte's was the "second nicest" cemetery in the world behind the USA's sprawling military memorial, Arlington.

Running the cemetery is the trust. Alongside Mr Chapman, its three other members are Robert White, John Ingram and Terry Sloan, who has been there more than 40 years.

The trustees are all volunteers, charged with maintaining the upkeep of the cemetery. It is funded through burial and entombment fees—plots costing between about \$2800 and \$3300.

Wives of two trustees are paid to work some days each week: Maxine Chapman is in charge of accounts and finance working twice weekly and Barbara Sloan is there four days.

When Melbourne's inner-city cemeteries began to close, Mr Chapman said more business and demand was created for outer-suburban locations such as Warrandyte. As such, the health department told them they would need to employ some staff to work. "We asked if it was okay if our wives worked there, and they told us 'fine'."

Mr Chapman has been chairman for nearly 10 years, and on the trust since he was 27. He said the last few years have been the hardest of his chairman-

ship, due to the onerous reporting obligations from the state government, and the local controversy over the trust's plans to expand.

Concerns about dwindling room in Melbourne's cemeteries have led to some interesting ideas about just what to do. In April, planning minister Rob Hulls gave permission for a cemetery in Corangamite shire in Victoria's south-west to proceed with vertical burials. Media reported the four-hectare site would accommodate 40,000 bodies.

But Mr Chapman isn't so sure. "I don't support vertical burials, if only because I support burying them horizontally. I'm a bit of a traditionalist." While he admits to not liking cremation either, he says people should have a choice and concedes "it will be the way of the future".

For the cemetery trust, the reality of finite space hit five years ago, and they began seeking more land. Though "new internments" have been in decline since 1992, at the current rate Warrandyte will make its last in March next year.

None of the remaining plots are reserved, the trust deciding a few years ago against the practice because it could result in "a cemetery full of plots but with nothing to use", said Mr Chapman.

The cemetery began as a three-acre block, and nearly 20 years ago, the trust was granted an additional three-and-a-half acre parcel from Crown land. In 2001 they sought a property in Tindals Road for annexation, which nearby residents successfully opposed complaining it would not be appropriate in the Green Wedge environment.

Then in late 2003, the trust shifted focus to acquiring adjacent land belonging to the Catholic Church. Again, the affected residents appealed, on grounds of parking issues and possible noise conflicts. Of particular contention was that the new plots would mostly be filled by non-locals. State legislation however, prevents any exclusivity.

The trust's plans are for a lawn cemetery only, which is in keeping with the style of about three-quarters of the existing site. Mr Chapman said there would be no headstones, and despite

popular conjecture, no crematorium either.

After an initial rejection of the extension by councillors despite approval by council officers, the trust's plans went to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. They granted the trust interim approval in mid-July, on proviso they increase the distance from the property at 22 Brackenbury Street.

The trust has until September 16 to submit revised plans, which will then be displayed at the site and sent to all objectors.

If approved, Warrandyte's extension will add 1000 plots, extending the life by up to 12 years. The acquired land could be ready within six months, just in time before existing land runs out.

If the expansion bid fails, Mr Chapman said the cemetery would still continue to run for some time.

"There's been 6000 burials over the years, and a reasonable number of them have been first internments. Most plots take two people, so we would continue with 're-opens' and with ashes, and we have to keep maintaining the cemetery which means mowing the lawns, pruning the roses and removing dead flowers from vases."

Despite highly vocal opposition from nearby residents, Mr Chapman and the trustees are adamant the expansion is the right idea, and that they are speaking for the broader community. Indeed, in December 2001, Mr Chapman told the *Diary* the possibility "that we would not provide burial plots for locals in the future disappointed many Warrandyte residents, who suggested we acquire more land".

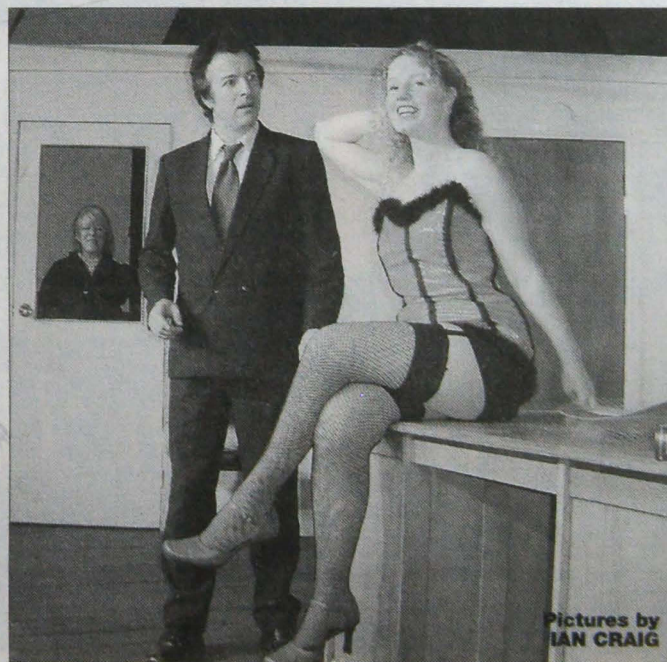
He says many people are misperceived about what cemeteries are really like, and will support their plans once they are finalised.

"Cemeteries are not bad places. I see them as nice quiet places where people are placed when they die. I wouldn't be concerned if there was a cemetery next door."

"I think once the residents can see what we're doing, their reservations will be found not to be warranted. Some people just have a misconception about what a cemetery is. I mean everybody dies, it's part of life."



An invitation to life, money and sex



The Warrandyte Theatre company's next production is "There's more to Life than Money and Sex".

Kangaroo Ground writer John Marshall has produced a play peppered with crazy characters: a solicitor with an eye for a fortune, a judge with an eye for flesh—however it's served up, an enraged citizen who has strange ideas about justice, a young woman with interesting jobs, an animal liberationist and a devoted and yearning secretary.

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"There's more to Life than Money and Sex" is—Benny Hill meets Carry On, meets the word play of Neil Simon.

The play opens on Thursday, September 8, then September 9 and 10, continuing on September 15, 16 and 17. Tickets cost \$15. Bookings at the Old Bakery Bookshop, phone 9844 1744.

Pictures by IAN CRAIG



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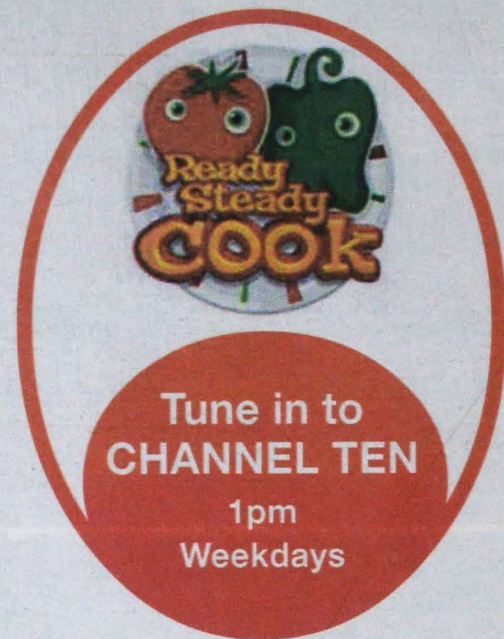


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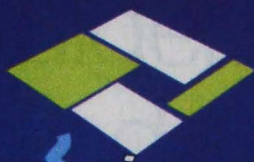
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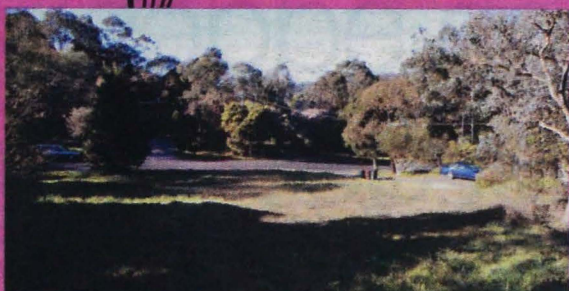
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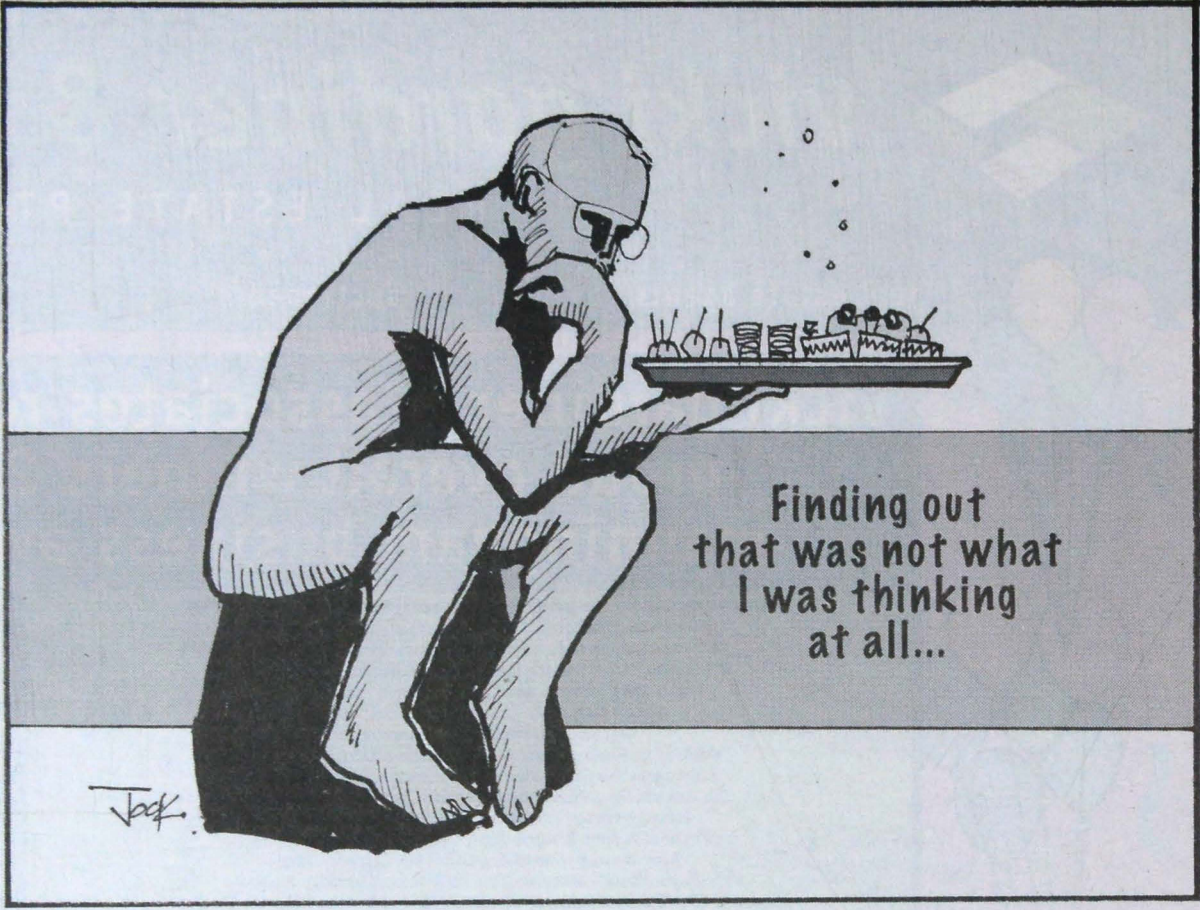
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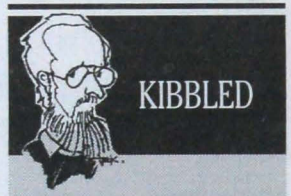
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Nibbling at the edges, he gets his just desserts

I'VE come to the realisation that you commit to a dessert but you just trifle with nibbles.

This revelation came about when Herself and I had a combined significant birthday celebration. Not the sort of bacchanalian rort one had when one was callow, but rather the sort of "old bull" type dinner, when you prefer to wander over and enjoy the lot on offer rather than rush over, skol, gorge and stagger out to oblivion.



KIBBLED

"It wasn't until she had been through her second tear-stained box of Kleenex tissues that I decided to cease that avenue of enquiry."

Herself had decided early in the year that I wanted a combined birthday party and what I really wanted was a combined, sit-down dinner for 20 or 30 of our closest friends. Not only that, but I also wanted to become passionately and inextricably involved in the guest list, the selection of the menu, the seating plan, the wines and the general ambience of the Age Fest

It goes without saying that the event required planning equivalent to that required for the first Moon landing. However, it may come as a surprise to some of you that we don't have seating and table space for 30 people chez nous. So, to the list of my secret "want to dos" add furniture removal, collection of trestles and chairs and a game plan requiring a computer generated critical path map.

Whilst I was wrestling with just thinking about the physical details of the day, Herself was up to her elbows in alternative menus, balanced courses and how and where to store pre-cooked courses. In the midst of

and confident that I was pulling my weight, I told Herself that the day was under control. I soon found out that that wasn't what I thought at all.

For weeks before the event, Herself had been cooking things and storing them in the chest freezer. There were little bally things made with breadcrumbs, eggs and herbs, chocolate cakes and containers of stock. Wherever I looked, there seemed to be packets of gourmet stuff. There were lists stuck to the fridge with some items crossed off, others ticked and other items added in different coloured inks. I was beginning to think that there was more to this dinner caper than I had previously thought.

Near the event, I was given a shopping list and was told to buy exactly what was written and "not the no-name cheap crap you usually come home with!" Offended, but not willing to recommence an argument about the need to look after the pennies, I set off and came back with enough non-main course provender to supply a restaurant for a month.

"Why do we need all this nibbly stuff? Most of it will go to the chooks. Why don't we just..." What I soon learnt was that what I really wanted to ask was whether I could be helpful and offer to prepare the hors d'oeuvres.

I ended with about five large platters of small things covered with salmon, farmers' market smoked mussels, smoked trout, dips of every nationality, twisty biscuit things, pickled mush-

rooms, olives and sundry other mouth-sized morsels.

On the sideboard, Herself had laid out the seven or eight luscious desserts, all of which, in an ideal world, should have been the main courses.

With the main course ready, the cheese platters waiting for collection in the bedroom and the desserts beckoning from the sideboard, it was— Showtime!

When the last of the guests arrived, we had been through an Olympic swimming pool of champagne and all bar a few dropped hors d'oeuvres were left. I surreptitiously asked Herself why she hadn't catered for more nibbles but for some reason, she didn't answer.

The main course was a triumph, the cheese platters scoffed and we were ready for dessert. Despite my urging, it took far longer than I would have imagined for people to flock to the gorgeous desserts. Even when they did go, many selected small helpings. The very people who had chosen equally-high-everything nibbles, time after time, felt guilty about "overdoing it" with the desserts. All of which made me think.

Perhaps desserts and nibbles are metaphors for adult life. Instead of embracing the delights of life wholeheartedly, we now back off, preferring to nibble away at minor pleasures believing that they're all we deserve.

Perhaps it's time for us to reverse the courses!

Exhausted by the planning,

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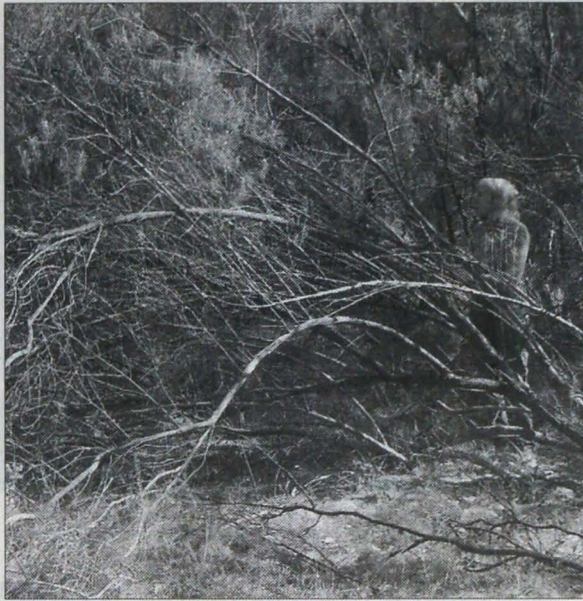
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Indigenous plants can also invade our precious bush

SOME of Warrandyte's indigenous plants should be treated like weeds. Why? Because under certain circumstances they behave like weeds. That is, because of their capacity for rapid growth they become dominant, reducing the biodiversity of native bushland by competing for light, nutrients, water and pollinators. In addition, they shade and crowd out other indigenous species, preventing natural regeneration.



Most Warrandytians are familiar with Burghan—that tall, multi-trunked, tea-tree-like shrub that grows in dense dark stands to the exclusion of all other understorey plants. Now there is another indigenous plant that, just like Burghan, is behaving badly. It is called Shiny (Long-leaved) Cassinia. This member of the daisy family is a large woody shrub with soft, somewhat sticky, dull green aromatic leaves and, in late summer, flattened heads of tiny papery greyish-white flowers which has given rise to the alternative name of Cauliflower Bush.

While Burghan is found mostly along sheltered gully lines and in riparian habitats, Shiny Cassinia occupies the drier slopes and ridges and its potential for harm is far worse. For these stony hills are where Warrandyte's richest assemblage of orchids grow. Already, in some places, the Cassinia has closed in so thick and fast that it is impossible to walk through the bush unimpeded.

Shiny Cassinia is not only fast-growing, but is also short-lived and shallow-rooted. Its brittle trunk splits as the shrub ages or sometimes even under the weight of rain on leaves. At first the branch continues to grow in its horizontal position, but eventually it separates com-

pletely and finally dies leaving a tangled mass of dead wood that suffocates the delicate ground cover, obliterating ephemeral orchids, lilies and other wildflowers. Native grasses struggle to grow beneath the layer of limbs and leaves; weedy grasses, though, seem to proliferate.

Warrandyte has two other species of Cassinia, but neither cause the same problems. Common Cassinia (Dogwood) is a shorter-leaved version of Shiny Cassinia, however it prefers the deeper soils of the eastern ranges and is not particularly common here. Drooping Cassinia, also known as Chinese Tea-scrub, is a much smaller shrub with short, narrow leaves and pendulous plumes of cinnamon flowers and although it is a colonising pioneer plant like Shiny Cassinia, it is restricted

to barren disturbed sites.

Over the last couple of years I have been involved in the rehabilitation of some bushland reserves in and around Warrandyte where Shiny Cassinia has become over-dominant. To restore the biodiversity of these sites it was necessary to thin the Cassinia by cutting the shrubs at ground level. The cut branches were dragged to a track or open area, piled and burnt on site. The only follow-up required is to hand pull all the seedlings that germinate from time to time.

At one reserve in Greensborough the results have been truly spectacular. Two years after clearing the Cassinia and opening up the site, orchids have returned in their thousands. If there was ever any doubt that the Cassinia was suppressing orchids the evi-

NATURE

By PAT COUPAR

dence was the emergence of a group of rare Striped Greenhoods right next to a cut stump of a Cassinia.

Both Burghan and Cassinia are so-called pioneer plants that move in and colonise areas that have been disturbed by clearing or fire or are under stress for some other reason. While the Burghan problem has been known about for a long time, the Shiny Cassinia advance seems to be a more recent event, possibly in response to the decade of drought, but also as a result of reduced rabbit grazing—as many of these sites have been fenced to protect the orchids.

Management of remnant bushland is a complex issue, particularly in areas like Warrandyte where the bush is fragmented. Isolated habitats are at greater risk from increased nutrient levels and weed invasion from nearby residential development.

The argument that the excessive growth of Burghan is part of a natural cycle is hard to sustain, given the scientific and historical evidence that Warrandyte has long been an altered environment following clearing. What we have now in these areas is an unbalanced ecosystem with declining populations of vulnerable indigenous species.

If we do nothing, if we do not fight for those orchids they will surely be lost forever. Fortunately most land managers are aware of the critical need to reverse some of the threatening processes that are degrading native bushland, even if it means removing indigenous species.

Travelling can be fun—or not

TRAVEL broadens the mind (a good thing), along with the beam (a bad thing), but we baby-boomers just can't get enough of it.

The hardest part is transferring yourself from the comforts of home to the confines of your whizbang aircraft. In fact getting from A to B can be so exhausting that it's almost tempting to fork out the extra dosh and pamper yourself in business class. Almost.

After all the rush and slather of cramming a few belongings into a small cabin bag, dashing out the door and battling the traffic en route to the busiest place in town, you are so pumped.

Playing Ring Road Roulette at the crack of dawn is guaranteed to get the adrenalin going. Where do these kamikaze drivers come from? Not Warrandyte—our familiarity with single-lane winding roads must have engendered some gentle trait (if not actual patience, then at least a resigned courtesy) completely unbeknownst to the lunatic impresarios who inhabit the land of multi-laned

OUR PLACE

By MARILYN MOORE

speedways.

On alighting from your transport, Antarctic gales test your resolve not to take a warm coat, an item rarely needed elsewhere in Australia. Next, you find yourself at the end of a human daisy-chain the length of the MCG. Cooling your heels in a queue for an hour or so is the last thing you feel like, but your chances of getting to the check-in before the 100th yawn are about as remote as kicking a goal with a paper daisy from outside 50.

Ahh, but today is different. That's the joy of travel. You never know your luck. Today we are going to test our intelligence at one of the new e-ticket check-in things. Nifty. No luggage, no queues, no fuss. These post-modern steel sculptures with their kaleidoscopic faces look like multimedia art installations rather than airline seat allocation devices.

All one needs, according to a large overhead sign some 30 paces to the left and facing the other way, is a credit card, a frequent flyer card or a reservation number. Fishing my e-reservation number out of a pocket, I line up behind a chap who looks as though he knows the routine. I can't quite see over his broad shoulder, but it seems straight forward enough. A rapid volley of finger-taps, a pause, another tap or two, an infinitesimal hesitation, then out pops his boarding pass. Wow!

My turn. The display screen shows a delightful collage of images, relaxed and glamorous, with implications of high-tech capability and sunshiny smiles. Ummm... I wait for something more useful to appear. And wait... Maybe there's a button to start the ball rolling? A bit of shuffling and edgy throat-clearing comes from a lengthening queue. A frantic search of the entire pedestal reveals nothing more functional than a swipe-card slot and the highly decorative but singularly uninformative screen, on which none of the artwork seems to relate to

any aspect of the check-in process. Argghh! I need an icon, an array of icons, a touchpad, an encouraging message, a clue—anything!

I touch the screen randomly to see if it does anything. Ding! It leaps into life and there, finally, is the touchpad. Why couldn't they have said so? The queue breathes an audible sigh of relief.

No wonder the caffeine dispensaries at the airport do such a roaring trade. By the time you get through security (and most frequent travellers could write a book about that) you definitely feel jaded.

It's worse for kids. "Mum! MUM!" bellows a small voice. "I'm t-i-r-e-d. I'm HUNGRY."

"OK, OK," soothes the flustered mum. "Just a minute. We'll get some nice hatch browns."

Hatch browns? This woman must be a close relative of the nong on telephone answering services who tells you to press the hash key.

Do the authorities know about this? Seems you can dial up almost anything these days. Except maybe a hassle-free transit of Tullamarine.

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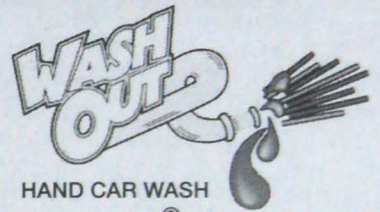
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Blowing their own trumpets!

Warrandyte High School's bands won top honours at the Melbourne School Bands Festival last month. The Symphonic Band and the Concert Band were both awarded gold shields and the Big Band took bronze.

"The key adjudicator (from USA) was especially glowing in her assessment of the Symphonic Band," a school spokesperson told the *Diary*.

**Pictures by
STEPHEN REYNOLDS**



July 2005



Key Decisions

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

If you would like any extra information visit 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

Land Use Planning and Environment

Resolved to defer consideration of the application for 320 Hurstbridge-Arthurs Creek Road, Nutfield (change in use from an educational centre to shared housing) pending further clarification and detail of the proposal.

Resolved to advise the Department of Sustainability and Environment that it supports allotments being reserved for public purposes and request that Council become the Committee of Management for the allotments, to improve coordination throughout the St Andrews market site.

Resolved that as a result of the introduction of Melbourne 2030 and the Green Wedge legislation Council will not pursue any action in relation to the Part B Recommendations, not initiate any investigations nor support any amendment requests in relation to these recommendations and amend the Wattle Glen Township Strategy May 2001 accordingly.

Community, Health, Culture, Sport and Leisure

Presented Sporting and Cultural Achievement Grants to: Christine Pfeiffer for her participation in the Victorian Under-18 Womens Soccer Team; Kylie Nicolaci for her participation in the Victorian Under-16 Womens Soccer Team; Jessica Bass for her participation in the Victorian Under-16 Womens Soccer Team; and Luke Stanton for his participation in the Under-16 Boys Victorian State Basketball Team.

Resolved to approach Whittlesea and Hume City Councils seeking their agreement to form a consortium for the purpose of submitting a tender to sponsor an Inclusion Support Agency (ISA) in the Sub Region; and endeavour to identify other potential consortium partners within the Sub Region in the event that either Whittlesea, Hume or both decide not to participate in the new program.

Resolved to note and endorse the progress report for the Diamond Creek Activity Centre – Structure Plan and Leisure Facilities Plan; approve the membership of the reference group; write to all those who nominated for the reference group and in response to the proposals for a multi-purpose indoor recreation facility (sports stadium) endorse and support the preliminary work of the Proposed Diamond Creek Stadium Working Group; request Officers prepare a revised timetable for the Leisure Facilities Plan; and request Officers convene a scoping workshop in early August.

Governance

Resolved to endorse the submission on changes to the proposed Electoral Regulations and to note and welcome the stated intention of the Minister for Local Government.

Resolved to note the proposed Victorian Legislative Council electoral boundaries and forward a written submission to the Electoral Boundaries Commission expressing Nillumbik's concerns.

Resolved to note and endorse the submission on the proposed arrangements for the formation of the Metropolitan Waste Management Group.

Transport and Infrastructure

Adopted the amended Road Management Plan for the purpose of consultation and provide public notice that a consultation period from 30 July to 29 August 2005 inclusive is available to allow comments from the public.

Resolved to issue a notice of intention to declare special charge schemes for Ashley Road, Yarrambat; Eisemans Road, Yarrambat; Cullen Crescent and Seymour Drive, Plenty; and Latrobe Road and North Oatlands Road, Yarrambat.

Resolved to write to the Treasurer and local Members of Parliament thanking them for their support through the Natural Disaster Relief Program; invite community organisations to discuss financial assistance for losses incurred in both the November 2004 and February 2005 floods; use some of the funds to restore Council's cash surplus position to the same level it was prior to the November floods; fund works; and hold the balance of funds in the Plenty Landfill Reserve.

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She is the mother of our community



Jean Chapman during the heyday of her beloved co-op.

WHAT do the Warrandyte childcare co-op, the neighbourhood house and youth services have in common? A lot to do with Jean Chapman, a feisty octogenarian in Warrandyte who is a founder of the original co-op which organised them over 20 years ago.

"Three blokes used to meet at the pub for a drink, working on a telephone tree for senior citizens," Jean remembered. "I was helping. I was also involved with the ALP at the time and I had a typewriter—I was born a secretary. When the Labor Party got in they were very keen on co-ops. We formed the Warrandyte Community Workshop Cooperative Limited in 1981 and we got a quarter of a million dollars for employment programs. By the second year we decided to run it ourselves to save money for the workers. It went until 1991 when the climate changed.

"Through the co-op we set up the childcare centre, after-school care, a sole parents' group, youth services, a transport committee for the community bus, we restored the bakery, we sold mudbricks and wood fuel, ran the employment service with thousands of jobs, we sold books by local people and organised the senior cits. We helped start the Citizens Advice Bureau, now Information Warrandyte," she said.

"We even had a window cleaning and potting mix business. We helped change two 1930s quarry disaster houses which were set up for widows into four. The co-op name could pull strings. Anything to help the community."

Jean worked with Louise Joy to establish the elderly housing units at Stiggant Street. "The council said 'we'll put in five of our people and you can put in five of yours'. But we said we'd make trouble doing it that way so they gave us the lot."

She was a co-founder of the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House. "Now Karen Throssell has to worry about the financial side of it, making it pay. There's all this greed and selfishness now in our society. They don't get enough money to pay as much attention as they ought to to teach things for nothing, pass skills on to other people. People are the most important

thing. "These places should be there for those who need it. The co-op was an idea of what things should be—people doing things to help other people. I'm 80 and I'm allowed to say it. The co-op came at an opportune time. I worked for \$40 a week, then \$20 when the money dried up, in that first year."

The community worker is a real collector. "I've got every copy of the *Diary* that ever was, because I save things. I've got six grandsons and two granddaughters and ever since I said I like owls they keep giving me them. 'Granny likes owls', they say. I keep scrapbooks of clippings from the *Diary*, pieces about the family. It's a proper scrapbook. I stick anything in—cards, letters. My poor children are going to have all these things to sort out when I go. But my mother lived until she was 97."

Jean came to Warrandyte in 1948 with her husband Allan. "Allan's family had been here since the gold mining days. We built a house on top of the hill in Kangaroo Ground Road. Pigeon Bank Lane was then a government road and it was only wide enough for a horse and dray. For the first 10 years we had no electricity, water or phone.

"It'd been bliss, sitting in the trees at Granny's and I'd always wanted to live in the trees. I was a bit peculiar even then," she explained.

Nine years after Allan died from a brain tumour in 1981 Jean moved nearer to the centre of Warrandyte, finding a cottage within walking distance of the shops and the cricket because she doesn't drive. She became a Justice of the Peace in 1985.

"I'm a stirrer. Left wing. My family were ordinary working people, my mother a tailoress making pyjamas for the army and my father a labourer who went to WWI when he was 17 and was gassed a year later. He didn't work after he was 40 and lived the rest of his life on antibiotics. Most of the old blokes had bronchitis. I had one sister and we lived through the Depression. I was 14 when the second war started.

"I tend to remember the good things in life but when we were burnt out in the 1962 bushfire I lost all my scrapbooks and had to start again. I tended to say 'oh, we had that' about some-

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

thing but then we'd realise it must have gone in the fire. We lost just about everything, but we were okay.

"When it happened I was there until the last minute. Allan was an electrical linesman, a foreman, working in Kinglake and the fire was between Kinglake and Kangaroo Ground. He said 'I'll go to work and fight the fire and come back if it's getting worse.' The wind was blowing from the north-east. I stayed there with Dulcie Griffiths on the corner. We got our kids—I had three then—and waited to hear. Allan came back and said it was coming in our direction. All the firemen went to our place then a fireball hit the house. They all had to get out.

"We drove down KG Road, the fire running alongside. Truckloads of fire-fighters were on the bridge. We were not long across when we saw the houses on Research Road going up. It was pretty scary."

Jean recalled how they helped each other build houses in those days. The Chapmans had a scoop and horse and they dug a dam to get the mud for a neighbour's mudbricks then Alan helped build a log cabin for another neighbour.

"We built our own house and they helped us. Huge houses are obscene, they waste water and they also stop children learning to think about other people. We had four children over 14 years in an 11 square house. Kids had to learn to live with a baby, live with other people and not think selfishly of themselves," Jean said.

The four Chapman children learnt about making things happen too. "My son Brian wanted to join an under-12 cricket club but there wasn't one so the men said 'you start it'. We got numbers and names and when we had 30 kids I got a note from Peter Moran saying he could help and we set up the under-12s. There was only one other woman running a team in the Box Hill division then and men would come up to talk to Peter. He'd say 'talk to Jean'. Peter's a beautiful person, wonderful with the kids."

Their daughters both played cricket.

"Jenny played three times for Victoria and Susie twice. Susie went to India with the first women's team for Victoria. Warrandyte asked them to captain and vice-captain a team here and they went for 20 years. I scored for them and the seniors for years and last year I helped with the 150 year anniversary book for the cricket club. It's the fourth oldest in Victoria. Allan, Jenny, John and Brian are all life members of Warrandyte cricket club.

"I was also part of the Norwood High School mothers' group and the Diamond Creek Technical School. We used to walk through the paddocks, looking for wildflowers, but I won't go there if it's changed too much. I worked with Louise on the save the police house campaign. I said to her 'What's wrong with Warrandyte? No-one will do anything.' But I had to be apolitical on the co-op. I was Louise's campaign director when she stood for state parliament.

"I was secretary to the football club's women's committee, the primary school mothers' club, the cricket club. I couldn't be a politician—I'd get into too many arguments and be in real strife." Jean was the first queen of Warrandyte festival in the mid-90s but she had to join the parade on her own. "My king, who was normally in a wheelchair, had been skittled by a car and he was in hospital on the day."

She was awarded a Centenary Medal and an Australia Day award for 50 years' community service but had to think about whether or not to accept them. "I feel appreciated by the people I've worked with—you can't do things on your own. A few of us discussed whether we should accept the awards and decided we should as we had been put forward by our peers. But the awards are not terribly important in the scheme of things.

"I'm weird, different. I don't seem to have the same values as other people. People are greedy, there's not enough love, kids get a raw deal. I'm very sorry for them. The uniform business (blazers being introduced into some state schools), I'm against all that. I don't like John Howard, Peter Costello, Kevin Andrews and most of all those. People are forced to make money doing things that we used to do for nothing, for example teaching knitting. I don't agree with call centres.

"The council plants native trees

alongside the road and neglect them and how many survive? It's okay to say we don't need any more trees but what native trees are going to replace the cherry plums? Nothing is more beautiful than when they are in blossom. Get rid of the onion grass and weeds which have proliferated by their clearing."

Jean presses flowers and makes cards and pictures for people. "I've got to keep busy. I knit, read and love all things Celtic. I do The Age crossies and cut out articles of news for my friends who don't buy it. At knitting group I trot out all these cuttings. I read poetry and discuss the world at the neighbourhood house. I write letters." Jean knits donated wool into garments for the housing service.

"During the Depression when you didn't know where your next meal was coming from, Dad had a mate with five kids. This man would get on his bike and ride around Mitcham all day and pretend he was coming home for lunch. Mum'd cut sandwiches for Dad who'd take some over for him as well. People would do that sort of thing for one another.

"After Allan died, I met Ernie Watkins and things changed. Now he's died and things have changed again." She paused. "I'm lucky to have been loved by two men.

"Evening is the worst time for being on your own. I do all the things in the daytime and rest about 5pm. I tape MASH, have a nap, rewind MASH, watch it, get tea with music on. If there's anything decent on TV after I've had tea I can sit up until 11pm and go to bed.

"I love family, trees, books, owls, fairies, dragons, music, flowers, poetry, witches and cricket. I've got a poster of dragons and Merlin by the bed. I've got four beautiful children and eight most beautiful grandchildren and partners. My kids are my greatest accomplishment.

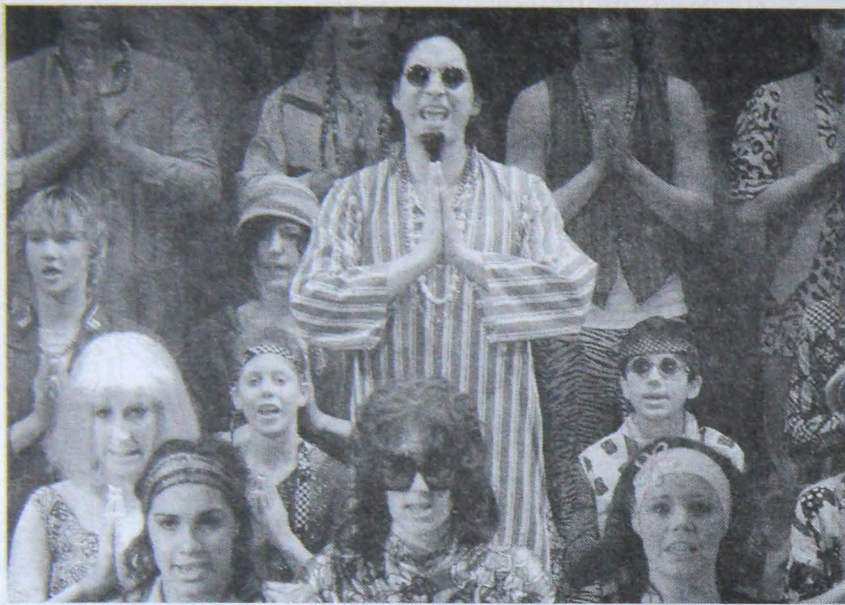
"We've had a great time fixing the world. If you get mad about something and you could do something about it you should—get up in arms and do it. I'm angered by social injustice. I'm looking forwards to old age, life in general and being able to keep reasonably fit. I want a nice peaceful old age—it probably won't be, I should get out more."

Ostara

From the dark night it seeps— a sliver of pale dawn. The light's creeping fingers eke into the sleeping earth, the wakening warmth stroking tomorrow's curling green stroking, stroking until it feels the light stretches, and greets the day.

From our cocoon, our fireside sleep, heads full of summer plans that simmered while the winter howled, now we feel the prodding of the bright outdoors and languorously stretch cautiously step—barefoot onto new cut grass.

KAREN THROSSSELL



Pictures by
STEPHEN REYNOLDS

Showtime's a real charmer

WARRANDYTE High School is proud of its tradition of staging quality musicals, and rightly so. The productions, always an artistic and technical triumph, invariably perform to packed houses, and this year was no less amazing.

It's Showtime was a concert-style celebration of tradition, the coming together of the school community under the leadership of Chris and Lynette White over the past 22 years to provide students with an opportunity to acquire experience, develop skills, work cooperatively and showcase their talents to the wider community. Although the theme of the evening was "follow your dreams and take a journey with us through musical theatre", the overriding aura was one of nostalgia. From the MC's de-

lightfully deliberate opening number "Willkommen" (from the musical Cabaret) to the colourful, spunky Show Tappers' "Tap Your Troubles Away" (Mack and Mabel), Act 1 of the show delivered a balanced program of Broadway favourites.

Well-chosen numbers gave the more experienced performers something to work with. Kate Burns's "Don't Cry Out Loud" (The Boy From Oz), Kara Leenaerts's "Castle on a Cloud" (Les Miserables), Ashlee Noble's "Don't Rain On My Parade" (Funny Girl), Shane Pritchard's "Empty Chairs" (Les Miserables) and Tess Vague's "Time Heals Everything" (Mack and Mabel) provided a wonderful cameo portrait of each singer that seemed all too brief.

Interspersed on the program, shared solos spread the benefits of stage experience to Glenn Adams, Robbie Bowen

THEATRE

By MARILYN MOORE

and Callan Hales in "Corner of the Sky" (Pippin); Alexander Bamford, Sam Stern and Anthony Keal in "Where is Love?" (Oliver); Amy Burns, Shaan Noble, Carly Gregorich and Becky Nielson in "Over the Rainbow" (The Wizard of Oz); and Ashlee Noble, Lina Zafiriou and Jess Carson in "On My Own" (Les Miserables). These were attractively presented.

The ensemble numbers added greatly to the momentum of the production. Led by Lachlan Ruthven in "Solla Sollew" (Seussical) and Sarah Lewis in "Tomorrow" (Annie), the chorus was polished and dynamic.

"Big Spender" (Sweet Charity) was clearly a favourite with both the performers and the audience.

Act 2 raised the bar even higher, with vibrant ensemble numbers such as "Rhythm of Life" and "Rich Man's Frug" (both from Sweet Charity).

Outstanding performances, including some rather wonderful character acting by Damien McLean and hairy friend in "If They Could See Her" (Cabaret), Shane Pritchard and Kate Burns in "Suddenly Seymour" (Little Shop of Horrors) and Jen Dix, teacher Greg Stewart and motley maids in "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid" (A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum) simply brought the house down.

Chorus numbers "Summer Lovin'" (Grease), "Together" (Gypsy) and "Being Alive" (Company) rounded out the

second act with a great feeling of togetherness. It's not an easy thing to build a poignant moment into this sort of concert-style production, but Greg Stewart's "This is the Moment" (Jekyll & Hyde) followed by the entire cast's performance of "We Go Together" (Grease) did just that.

An unmistakable sense of val- ediction hung in the air, a sense of sadness that many of these fine young performers will be moving on from the school, and at the same time a sense of optimism and purpose as they step off that stage to follow their dreams.

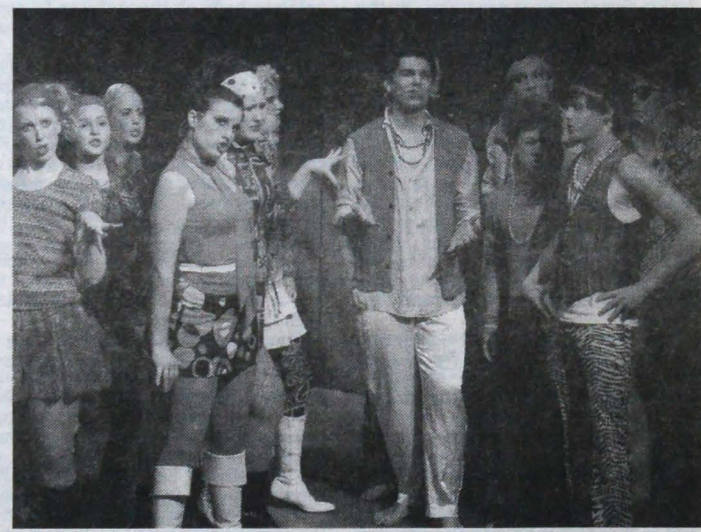
The professionalism of the staging (Lynette White), production (Michael Blake) and musical direction (Brian Fitzgerald) stood out a mile. The single set (designed by Chris White) provided a versatile, practical yet unobtrusive back-

drop. Well-thought-out lighting (Michael Blake), brilliant costume changes (Lyn Wilson and Lynette White) and great audio backing brought about all the changes in mood and style that were needed.

The musical arrangements nicely supported the performers, too, with none of the sound-mixing stuff-ups that often plague amateur productions. The momentum rarely faltered.

The program doesn't acknowledge a choreographer, but the dance sequences were polished, stylish and very much a highlight of the show.

"Big Spender" and "Rhythm of Life" were extraordinarily good, reflecting the talents of not only the performers and the production team but of the whole community of helpers who combine to make these shows such a roaring success.



War romance led to a life of service



Edna Houghton, aged 19

EDNA Marion Frith, formerly Houghton, died in Sale on July 21, aged 84. She was the second youngest of nine children born to Herbert George Houghton and May Evaline Houghton.

The family lived on the corner of Yarra and Blair streets. Times were hard, and Edna's father made a precarious living as an axeman and woodcarter.

Edna was enrolled at Warrandyte School No. 12 at the beginning of 1927. At the end of her first school year she was chosen to present a gift to departing head teacher Henry Paul.

The Ringwood Mail noted: "little Edna Houghton, one of the infant grade children, asked Mr Paul to accept a smoker's outfit just for himself from the school".

She excelled at basketball (now called netball) playing for her school against neighbouring

schools in Templestowe and Doncaster. "Cooling off" in the Yarra on hot summer days, she soon became an excellent swimmer.

On Black Friday—January 13, 1939—Edna, then aged 18, escorted a number of children and elderly people to a place of safety in the river just downstream from the old battery weir. During this time of crisis she saved an old man from drowning. The family returned to find their house had been destroyed in the bushfire.

The Houghton sisters—Alice, Rose, Charlotte and Edna—were all very attractive girls and excellent dancers. They were never short of partners at dances and balls at the Mechanics Institute Hall. Edna met Eric Frith, a serviceman stationed in the grounds of the Park Orchards Chalet at one such dance. They were married in 1942. Eric had worked as a hairdresser before the war, but following his discharge

decided to become a farmer. They commenced poultry farming at Beaumaris, but when suburbia encroached they began market gardening at Blackburn.

In 1953, seeking to establish a farm under the soldier settlement scheme, they moved to Sale. Awaiting an allocation of land, they accepted temporary employment, jointly running the dairy farm at the Kilmany Park boys farm home near Sale. Here they stayed for more than 24 years. Eric was appointed superintendent and Edna became matron. The orphan boys at Kilmany Park became their life work.

Their own family—Faye, Bruce and Heather—were not only supplemented by the arrival of twins Jan and Robert, but by the hundreds of boys who spent their childhood at Kilmany Park, nurtured, loved and educated in life's skills by Edna and Eric.

Kilmany Park closed as a boys' home in 1977 and Edna and Eric retired to Sale. Following Eric's death, Edna went to live at Ashleigh House. She had recently returned to Sale, where she died and was buried.

Her daughter Faye Miller said of her: "There are many things to miss about my mother, the feisty opinions, her quick wit, the smell of her French perfume, shopping with her for clothes, watching her talk to her grandchildren, her wonderful style—who else will ever tell me I look a ball of style?"

"Edna could light up a room, she could draw out the shyest person. She reached out to people with warmth and love—her whole family is proud of her legacy, as it is the legacy of a loving heart."

Compiled from material supplied by Murray Houghton, Edna's nephew.

Go bush this spring

A regional program of spring-time environmental events has been organised by the councils of Banyule, Manningham and Nillumbik. The program includes a walk through Professors Hill in North Warrandyte with local botanist David Cameron on Sunday, October 2 at 10.15am; a tour with Bev Hanson through her garden in Webb Street on Saturday, October 22 at 10am; a guided wildflower walk on Fourth Hill on the afternoon of October 27 and a number of other activities. For further information and booking details call Manningham council on 9840 9333 or Nillumbik on 9433 3111.



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.

Acres

A walk through the 100 Acres in Knees Road, Park Orchards on Sunday, September 25 has been organised by Manningham council. Walkers will gather at Domeney Reserve football oval in Knees Road, Park Orchards at 11am. The guided walk will focus on local flora and fauna, followed by a free picnic within the 100 Acres at 12.30pm. BYO picnic rug. RSVP is essential for catering purposes. Please call Nicky Hall on 9840 9423 or Samara Mansfield on 9840 9304.

Seminar

The October Manningham council environment seminar will be on Wednesday, October 5 in the function room of the Grand Hotel in Warrandyte. Heath Butler will discuss the growling grass frog. The seminar is free and commences at 7.30pm.

Reunion

St Anne's Primary School in Park Orchards is holding a silver ball celebration and reunion at the Manningham Function Centre on Doncaster Hill on Saturday, September 10. All past and present parishioners, teachers, parents and students over 18 years are warmly invited to attend. Reunion and class tables can be arranged. Call Kathryn Lammers on 9876 3911 for tickets. They are \$80 per head for the all-inclusive evening, which includes pre-dinner drinks and canapes, a three course dinner, wine, beer and soft drinks.

Art Links

Art Links is an established project of Manningham Community Health Service, providing senior members of the community, with or without disabilities, the opportunity to get together, foster friendships, and participate in art and craft projects. Previous art experience is not necessary. Art Links runs weekly at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Centre. If you are interested call Emma Stuart on 8841 3000.

Sale

Emmanuel Anglican Church in Hopetoun Road, Park Orchards is holding a garage sale on Saturday, September 17 from 8.30am to 2.30pm. Stalls include plants, books, white elephant, toys and a barbecue. There will be a good selection of new workwear, including shirts, pants and overalls.

Garden

The Hanson garden at 104 Webb Street will be open to the public as part of the Open Garden



Blessing the animals

Warrandyte Uniting church in Taroon Avenue, Warrandyte is inviting people to bring their pets on Sunday, October 3 at 10.15am for a service of "Blessing of the Animals". This friendly, relaxed occasion is an opportunity to show your appreciation for your pet.

Scheme on the weekend of September 24 and 25 between 10am and 4.30pm. This is an informal garden using mainly Australian plants. Admission is \$5 for adults. Plants will also be on sale.

Pain

Manningham Community Health Service is organising a six weeks course for people with ongoing pain from September 14 between 1.15pm and 3.15pm. The classes will be held at the Manningham Community Health Service in Doncaster Road, Doncaster East. Enquiries to 8841 3000. They are also considering a support group for people with chronic pain. Interested people can leave contact details with Manningham CIHS on 8841 3025.

Dance

Old-time and new vogue dancing will take place in the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road on September 10 and 24 and October 8, 22 and 29. Cost is \$6 and dancing commences at 7.30pm. Call Dorothy or John on 9404 3368 for further information.

Anniversary

A ball celebrating the 115th anniversary of Kingswood College will be held at the Manningham Function Centre on Saturday, October 8 at 7pm. Music by Normie Rowe and the Allstars. Bookings close September 15. Call 9890 0677.

Appeal

The annual Piggy Bank appeal for Very Special Kids will take place during the month of September with five giant piggy banks visiting various areas around the state. While the piggies won't come to Warrandyte, they can be visited at Doncaster Shoppingtown Hotel and Eltham Coles on September 7 and North Ringwood Newsagency on September 10. Call 9804 6222 for further de-

tails or you can make a donation on www.vsk.org.au or at any Commonwealth Bank.

Railways

A spectacular model train show will be held at Croydon Secondary College, 212 Croydon Road, Croydon (Mel 50 J1) on Saturday, September 10 from 9am to 6pm and Sunday, September 11 from 10am to 5pm. The show is being organised by the Croydon Model Railway Club.

Awards

Banyule, Manningham and Nillumbik councils, together with Sustainable Gardening Australia, are holding a series of sustainable gardening awards in the Middle Yarra region. Sections include both sustainable school and residential gardens and sustainable rural properties. Entries close October 10. For further information and entry forms please contact your local council.

ARTYFACTS

Potters
A collection of the works of founding and associate members of Potters Cottage from the collection of John Nixon will be held at the TarraWarra Museum of Art, 311 Healesville—Yarra Glen Road, Healesville from Saturday, August 20 until Sunday, October 23. The museum is open Tuesday through to Sunday—11am to 5pm.

Lids
Entries are invited for an exhibition of Nine x Five (23cms x 13cms) art to be exhibited at the ArtStreams Gallery, 63 Forbes Street, Warrandyte on September 18 at 2.30pm. The exhibition will pay homage to the Heidelberg School of painters who painted "Impressions" on cigar box lids of this size. For further details contact Peter Dougherty on 9844 0248 or 9434 7969.

India
"Journey to India" is the current exhibition created by Rozz Harding and Jenny John at Stonehouse Gallery, 323 Ringwood—Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte. Colourful textile

wallhangings and clay urns, tiles, bowls and platters reflect the Indian journey.

Rhythms
Rhythms of Land and Sea presents paintings and mini-installations that celebrate the natural environment and human relationships to the environment by Julie Tipene-O'Toole, Eltham artist and storyteller. The exhibition will remain on display at the Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster until September 24.

Collaborators
Local young actor Josh Mitchell is collaborating with Renae Peck to present "Enki and Inanna", a multi-media event integrating dance, theatre, live music and visual projection. It will be performed in the Meeting Room at the North Melbourne Town Hall between September 23 and 30 (excluding Monday) at 6.30pm (5.30pm on Sunday). Bookings and inquiries on 8412 8777

Launch
You are invited to attend the launch of local singer Ella Thompson's CD at the Cornish Arms, 163 Sydney Road on Sunday, September 25 at 5pm.

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Grand finals goalrush ends a stunning netball season

Local girls rewrite the records

Everyone's a winner!



By SONIA RAPPELL

Warrandyte Netball Club made short work of records last month in the Doncaster and District winter finals.

It was by far the local club's most successful winter season, producing five premierships and glowing tributes from association president, former club president and senior Warrandyte coach Lorraine Green.

"Warrandyte are to be congratulated on their winter season," she said. "This magnificent achievement saw premierships to the Open A Woodies, 17/1 Falcons, 15/1 Magpies and 13/1 Sparrows and Swallows.

"This is the first time they have finished the season on top of every age group and it speaks volumes for the club's strength and depth."

Warrandyte went close to making it a clean sweep of the Under-13s grand finals, the 13/4 Gumnuts going down 12-4 to Donvale Dolphins in the big one.



U15/1 MAGPIES:

Defeated DYC Jaguars 29-26
Coach: Natalie Dusting.

Team: Aisling Bolton, Nicole Cukierman, Brittany Duncan, Stephanie Freemantle, Bonnie Jones, Jenny Parkes, Shana Poly, Emma Stanley, Georgia Walker.

U13/1 SPARROWS:

Defeated DYC Cubs 23-18
Coaches: Lynley Hurst, Emma Stanley.

Team: Jennie Annand, Montana Cox, Brigitte Freemantle, Sarah Lewis, Lucinda Link, Kelsie Nabben, Harriet Rappel, Hannah Twite, Ally Van Summeren.



OPEN A1 WOODIES:

Defeated DYC Pumas 32-25
Coach: Lorraine Green.

Team: Melissa Aitken, Joanne Bolton, Amy Green, Tahlia Hoegel, Cathy Kinnear, Brooke Lashford, Sacha Poly, Tanya Puglia, Regina Rigetti, Shona Woodhouse.

U17/1 FALCONS:

Defeated DYC Lions 36-21
Coach: Teresa Knott.

Team: Erin Carroll, Hannah Cox, Amie Dusting, Ellie Freemantle, Mandy Gammilonghi, Sophie Groth, Julia Knott, Lauren Reid.



U13/3 SWALLOWS:

Defeated Deep Creek 19-10
Coaches: Karen Green, Caitlyn Hurst.

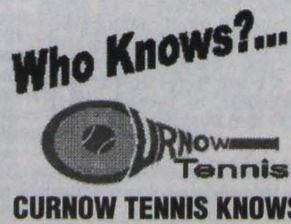
Team: Annushia Andrews,

Claudia Bowers, Kaya Dean, Helena Dwyer, Sarah Green, Zanetta Hosking, Aimee Hurst, Morgan Hurst, Melissa Moritz.



SUPERSMASHERS

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It's ready, set Redbacks!

13 of our best line up the premierships

By TONY OLIVER

Thirteen Warrandyte teams will line up in the grand finals of the EDJBA Saturday basketball competition on September 10.

The preliminary finals were completed on September 3, with a number of local sides taking this route to the ultimate round.

The Under-19 C-Grade boys defeated Banksia 41-23 in a late game at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre, never headed to set up a grand final berth against Ivanhoe. Playing coach Dean Lucas led the scoring with 14, well supported by Grant Godwin with 12, including two trademark three-point shots early in the second half to erase any doubts.

The Under-17 A-grade boys went down 55-53 to Eltham in the highlight game — a high scoring and high standard away affair — before a big crowd which had turned up to support the Redbacks after an impressive 55-37 win over Nunawading the previous week.

The finish was high drama after the Redbacks went into the last three minutes with what appeared to be a match-winning five-point lead before former local Ari Pianta scored for Eltham to narrow the gap.

Warrandyte's attack was turned back with an offensive charge and the sides exchanged goals. With 90 seconds to go Eltham scored to trail by just one point, but Warrandyte had possession and attempted to run the clock down.

Eltham were putting extreme pressure on the Redback ball handlers and eventually forced a turnover for a three-point play and a two-point lead.

It was now the turn of the Eltham players to feel the pressure as the seconds ticked away. A turnover came with 12 seconds to go, Matthew Clough's shot — taken off balance — missed, but a foul sent him to the line with the opportunity to send the game into overtime.

The first shot missed but Clough tried to force the rebound off the ring for the second shot. The ploy nearly worked as Josh Collins collected the rebound, but the Eltham defence stood firm, denying the Redbacks a clear shot before the buzzer.

Leading scorers for Warrandyte were Mitchell Hawley and Josh Collins with 18, followed by Shane Holloway with seven and Clough with six.

Damian Arsenis' Under-11 AR boys comfortably defeated Eltham at home. Warrandyte opened strongly but Eltham did most of the scoring in the latter part of the first half to go into the break just four points adrift. The Redbacks

continued to apply the pressure after the interval, however, and the outcome was never really in question.

Jack Power, Jacob Ballard and Jake Wintle led the scoring with eight, nine and seven respectively.

The boys play another Eltham side in the grand final and will need to be at their best, having lost to the same combination by four points in their semi-final.

Coach Ari Pianta's Under-13 AR boys were not so impressive in their preliminary final against Eltham, defeated 44-29. The Redbacks had started brilliantly with the opening six goals, but squandered them to trail by a point at the break.

The defining stage in the game was early in the second half when three critical turnovers in the back court allowed Eltham the key break on the scoreboard.

Warrandyte were never able to bridge the gap.

It was a particularly disappointing result for Warrandyte, who had qualified top.

The scoring was spread evenly, with Kyle Pianta (six) and Zac Brodrick (five) leading the way.

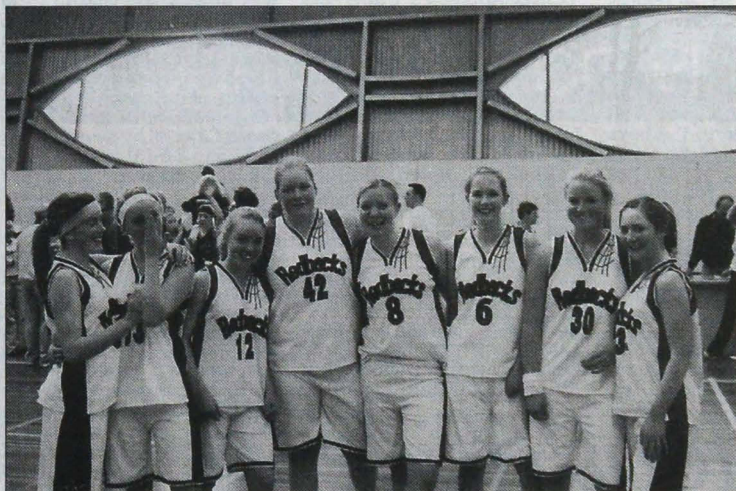
Gavin Whitmore's Under-15 A-grade boys had already earned a spot in the grand final with a 44-40 win over Eltham.

Also playing in grand finals will be Warrandyte's Under-17 girls, courtesy of a strong 42-23 semi-final win against Banyule. They will join the Under-19 girls, who defeated Eltham 27-11 in their semi-final.

The other top Redbacks side playing off for the ultimate prize will be the Under-9 girls, who defeated Eltham 14-6 to advance directly.



Hands up the winners! Warrandyte's Under-9 B-Grade boys celebrate their 30-24 preliminary final victory over Bulleen. Back (from left): Coaches Ashleigh Bingham and Sarah Clough, Reece Mckenzie, Kyle Thomas, Joseph Arnold, Noel Wakefield. Front: Dylan Hart, Benjamin Stuyfbergen, Callum Shephard.



Our Under-15 C girls after their preliminary final win over Eltham. From left: Kirsten Palensky, Elli Linney, Rebecca Falcone, Megan Walker, Amy Chandler, Rebecca Thomas, Brittany Greenlaw, Sarah Matheou.



We can't all be winners. Under-13 coach Ari Pianta addresses his troops during their 44-29 loss to Eltham.

We're in — with a little help from the enemy

The statisticians were working overtime — literally — on September 2 calculating and collating the composition of the Friday night championship basketball finals.

Warrandyte's Under-16 girls had faced a must-win situation to keep them in a three-way battle for the last position in the finals.

While sweating on Waverley to lose elsewhere, they confronted fifth-placed Hawthorn in the highlight game at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre.

And both results fell their way.

Hawthorn had previously defeated an under-strength Warrandyte unit and scored first as goals were exchanged in the tense opening minutes.

The visitors ran to a three-point advantage, but April Richardson was fouled driving to the basket for a three-point play then scored again as the Redbacks grew in confidence to have them in front 18-12 at the break.

Warrandyte's long game was working well, with

Fiona Rennie passing down to court to set up Richardson, Natalie Medcalf and Kara Lucas for goals.

The dominance continued in the second half, the Redbacks refusing to allow Hawthorn to really get into the game, thanks largely to the aggression of Kaitlin Little and Jaimie Hayton around the court and strong rebounding by Ashlee O'Brien.

The final scoreline of 46-30 to the Redbacks delighted coach Jenni O'Brien.

"We had set ourselves a number of objectives and over the last six weeks the girls have delivered," she said.

The Redbacks scoring was led by Richardson (14), Medcalf (12) and Rennie (eight).

In a likely finals preview, the fourth-placed Warrandyte Under-18 girls hosted taller, second-placed Pakenham, who opened well and sprinted to a 12-3 lead.

The Redbacks improved their offence in the second half with Sarah Pattison, Jaclyn Eddy and

Andrea Peters scoring early and perhaps looked the winners with a two-point lead with less than three minutes to go.

Pakenham, however, were more disciplined when it mattered. They equalised and, after turnovers to either each side, grabbed the psychological break with a three-point play.

Warrandyte were never quite able to regain their rhythm and went down 33-26. All the Redbacks registered on the scoresheet and the team retain a position in the finals.

Damian Arsenis' Under-12 Metro 2 boys ended the season with a 38-27 win over Werribee. Warrandyte allowed Werribee to come back in the late stages but the result was never really in doubt after the first few minutes.

Jake Wintle led the scoring for Warrandyte with 11, supported by Jack Cousens with eight and Jarrod Buzzini six.

The result ended Werribee's slim hopes of making the finals and confirmed the potential of the Redback boys.

In other results, Ian Wood's Under-16 Metro 1 boys defeated Coburg 37-32 in an unconvincing game to finish second on the ladder. However, they have the best for-and-against record of any team in this elite competition and the ability to go all the way.

Warrandyte's Under-16 Eastern Qualifying boys will not feature in the finals after losing their last game 42-41 to Healesville and falling short on percentages.

Peter Clough's Under-18 Regional IX boys went down to Whittlesea 38-31 but qualified by finishing fifth in an even leaders group. Their opponents in the elimination final will be Blackburn.

The Under 18-2 Eastern Qualifying boys capped off a good year by defeating Waverley 37-20 in a rough game of basketball to finish second on their ladder.

Malcolm Anderson's Under-12 Eastern Qualifying boys slipped to third position when they lost 40-15 to ladder leaders Melbourne and the Under-14 Metro 1 girls were beaten 45-20 by Latrobe.



Shaun Wilson

Colts come of age

'Great news for the footy community of Warrandyte'

A smash hit on their hands



Warrandyte Tennis Club have been besieged by the response to their 2005 Supersmashers series.

Entries have closed way before the advertised October 2 deadline, with sponsors apparently as keen as the participants to follow up the tearaway success of last year's inaugural event.

Supersmashers, to run at the club this time from 9.30am on Sundays from October 9 to November 13, is based on such programs as Auskick, to introduce the very young to their sport.

The participants will learn all the tennis strokes and receive instruction on fitness and coordination. They will also receive a "Smashpack" of tennis giveaways.

Little athletes on track again

The new Doncaster Little Athletics season is about to get up and running. Registration day for all comers (Under 5-14) is on Saturday, September 10, between 9am and noon at the Doncaster Athletics Track, Rieschieks Reserve, George Street (Melways reference 33 J11).

The season gets under way on Saturday, October 1, and will again provide children with a fun and friendly environment that encourages them to be their best no matter their skill levels. Little Aths also enhances other sports by starting a lifetime of health and fitness.

From Under-6 to Under-8, athletes participate in a skills development program called On Track from 8.30 to 10am on Saturday. This is a non-competitive environment based on of instruction and fun practice opportunities.

From Under-9s to Under-15 activities cover a range of track and field events from 10am to 12.45pm, mostly on Saturdays. All athletes compete together on a number of Friday nights during the season and in some special events.

The season's calendar is on the DLAC website www.doncasterlac.org.au

Athletes can also "try out" for a day or join at any time during the season.

For further information: Jenny Watson (registrar) 9842 0185, 0418 397273 or Haydn Dunne (secretary) 9846 5547, 0413 120 740.

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG
Junior football in this town achieved new heights on Sunday, August 28, when five of the local club's possible seven teams contested the grand finals of the far-reaching Yarra league.

Warrandyte Junior Football Club sent the Under-10s, 11s, 13s, 15s and Colts into the season's deciders and came home with the major prize — the top-age Colts premiership.

And the Under-13s and Under-11s fell less than kick short of making it an even more memorable day for the young Bloods.

The Colts had taken the long route to the grand final, with a 22-point semi-final loss to arch rivals Doncaster then an awesome 110-point thrashing of Park Orchards (24.9-153 to 6.7-43) in a preliminary highlighted by an 11-goal haul by potential superstar full-forward Josh Cunningham.

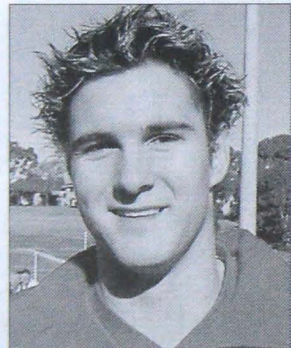
Cunningham's blitz crashed him through the 100-goal barrier and set a club and Yarra Junior Football League record. He kicked two in the grand final to finish the season on 103.

Mindful of a sluggish start in the Park Orchards game, coach Shaun Wilson's grand final game plan was to go in exceptionally hard in the first 10 minutes.

The game was played in ideal conditions inviting fast, open football — and Warrandyte, smaller and faster, made full use of them.

A big and vocal contingent of local supporters roared their approval as Wilson's boys followed his instructions to the letter to wrap the game up by 20-points, 11.10-76 to 8.8-56.

The Colts' home-and-away season record of 13 wins, a draw and just two defeats had



Josh Cunningham

'Old firm' steps aside

The end of the season saw two of the junior football club's stalwarts step aside after collectively racking up 20 years' service.

Kevin O'Mara and Brad Curtis both joined the WJFC management committee in 1996, Curtis becoming and remaining registrar and Kevin holding various positions culminating his current role as secretary since 2001.

They have also filled major roles in the all-conquering Colts outfit, as team manager and runner respectively. O'Mara's son Joe captained the Colts to this season's Yarra Junior Football League premiership and young veteran Rick Curtis was one of the side's stars throughout the long campaign.

Both fathers reflect on the past decade with enormous satisfaction, having watched the club grow from a newly-established entity in the Yarra league to one of its most respected components.

"While the premiership flags have been wonderful and great

SPORT

testified to their remarkable consistency under Wilson and his coaching/management team this year.

"The squad has really come on this year," said team manager Brad Curtis. "We have seen real development."

"Players like Tim Beasley, Alex Beltramin, Nic Crosbie, Peter Cudmore, Daniel Large, Nic Meade, Pat Nichol, Braydan Pettigrove, Luke Saunders, Tim Hookey, Travis Parsonage, Mitch Canham, Tyson Fitzgerald, Justin Hull, James Johnson, Tom Maddocks ... they have all adjusted to the demanding pace of Colts football."

"This victory is just great news for the footy community of Warrandyte," said Wilson. "It reinforces in the boys' heads just how good they are and will provide the impetus to create an Under-18s team, which is a long-held ambition for many of us in the juniors and seniors football clubs."

Warrandyte's Under-15s finished top of the ladder and survived a real scare in their semi-final, getting home by one point, 8.10-58 to 9.8-57, over Hawthorn Citizens. After trailing all day, coach Steve Blakey threw all his players forward in the last few minutes.

It turned out to be a master stroke when Ross Brown took a screamer above the pack, took his time and calmly slotted an after-the-siren goal to snatch the win.

The boys were unable to retain that level of focus in the grand final against Camberwell and went down by 32 points, 10.2-62 to 4.6-30.

"A few early misses goal and a few decisions that didn't go our way again forced us to play catch-up football and we just couldn't bridge the gap," said Blakey. "It proved to the boys that you are only as good as the game you are playing and not to take too much for granted from previous victories."

Team manager Sharen Vaughan believes this squad will produce very good footballers at Colts level next season.

"Players such as Zac Boyce, Aaron Domeyer, Nathan Gordon, Ian McLeod, Mat Sleeth, Peter Whittingham, David Wood, Luke Miller,



Baby Bloods class of way back go all the way

The Colts grand final was also a "passing out parade", the graduation of the first player group to have represented WJFC all the way through from Under-9 Tackers to top junior age level.

And how fitting that it should produce a premiership.

"A couple of the boys already have 150 games under the belts and others have comfortably passed the 100," said club secretary Kevin O'Mara.

"Our challenge now is to keep these boys within the Warrandyte football community so they can form the nucleus of an Under-18s team."

Pictured here are members of the original Under-9s class who shared the Colts glory last month. Back (from left): Scott Alwood, Chris Watson, Joe O'Mara, Beau Tobin, Luke Ezbery, Dion Mullett Treloar, Chris MacDougal. Front: Chris Douglas, Rick Curtis.

Natayan Tobin, Matthew Versteegen and Jack Wright all put up their hands for additional responsibilities this season and the team have benefited," she said.

Chris Appleby's Under-13s were beaten 2.4-16 to 1.7-13 by a Bundoora kick after the siren. They had surprised everyone by simply making the finals and had to win their last three.

Warrandyte came out firing for a 7.10-52 to 2.6-18 win over Richmond then came from behind to down Bulleen Templestowe — their conquerors by a point earlier in the season — by 15 points, 5.6-36 to 3.3-21.

Two down, one to go but not quite good enough in a great grand final despite some desperate individual and team football. Jordan Beltramin, Charlie Bullard, Lachlan Campbell, Jack Ellis, Ethan Hale-Vaughan,

Charles Johnstone, Nathan McFarlane, Jake McKee, Luke Costin and Jake Miller were, as usual, right in the thick of it.

Greg Edwards' Under-11s were forced to do it the hard way after a late-season form slump in the elite Gold Division. But never underestimate a Warrandyte Junior Football Club team — regardless of the quality of the opposition.

After accounting for Hawthorn Citizens by seven points (3.7-25 to 2.6-18) in the first final, they reversed an earlier result by defeating traditionally-strong St Mary's B by two goals, 4.3-27 to 2.3-15, to become one of the few Warrandyte teams to enter a Gold Division grand final.

Their training in the week leading up to the big one was sensational, but poor kicking cost them in the end — 10 scoring shots to Ivanhoe W's five for a five-point defeat, 4.1-25 to 2.8-20.

Regardless of that result, big things are in store for these boys over the next few seasons. Coach Edwards predicts particularly bright futures for such players as Tim Baker, Jarrod Buzzini, Jayden Clay, Lauchlan Frowd, Mark Johnstone, Luke

Mueller, Mat O'Neil, Jack Power, Nathan Upton, Toby Ward, Daniel Krajnc and Darcy Lang

Warrandyte's Under-10s, who qualified top of the ladder, called on the double chance in the finals after a surprise 38-point loss (2.6-18 to 8.8-56) to Bulleen Templestowe.

They regrouped against Kew Rovers to scramble home by a point and set up a rematch with Bulleen Templestowe. Unfortunately, the big one got away to the tune of 30 points, 7.6-48 to 2.6-18.

"We knew we had to shut down their spine and hope that our superior run would prevail," said coach Shane Newman. "We have high quality players such as Rory Chipman, Mat Collins, Thomas Dobbie, Aaron McFarlane, Lloyd Grounds, Joe Hardy, Mat Killey, Brayden and Daniel Mifsud, Levi Polkinghorne and Jake Wintle and we knew that if we played to our potential we would have had a real chance."

"But we ran into a very, very good football team."

● WJFC's presentation day is at the clubrooms on Sunday, September 11. The annual general meeting will be held there on Monday September 5.



Brad Curtis (left) and Kevin O'Mara: long service with a smile.

for the kids, the highlights, besides watching our boys develop over the years, have been the many friendships we have seen developed through the Club," said O'Mara.

The newly-named Victorian Community Father of the year (see story Page 7) won't be lost to junior football. O'Mara plans to join the umpiring ranks next season.

Voting confirms our star status

The success of the junior football club's year was reflected in Warrandyte performances in the Yarra Junior Football League vote count.

Luke Ezbery ran third in the Colts player of the year count, with Hamish Hoskings and Josh Cunningham also figuring in the top 10 — the highest representation of any team in the competition.

Ben Power was second in the Under-15s player count, with Tom Fitzpatrick and Mike Whittle also polling very well. Nathan Down and Sam Casey were second and third in the Under-14 voting and Ryan Exon (third) and Jacob Ballard (sixth) showed just how well they handled the expectations of Gold Division in the Under-11 competition.

Jake Wintle, Ryan Tester, Levi Polkinghorne, Matt Collins, James Appleby, Zach Ballard and Rory Chipman polled strongly in the YJFL Under-10 count.

Just passing through

By LEE TINDALE

Warrandyte Football Club are already working on making their first-ever trip to EFL Fourth Division next season a fleeting thing rather than a matter of long-term occupancy.

Their 2005 on-field season barely cold, the Bloods, condemned to relegation after just two wins from 18 games, have 2006 "battle plans" in place.

A recruiting process which promises no instant miracles is already under way, aimed at attracting a certain number of experienced key-position players to supplement the club's ongoing local youth development policy.

"We've watched the EFL finals very closely and we're already in discussions with a few people," WFC president Phil Treeby told the *Diary*.

"Ideally, we would have our recruiting both on and off the field well and truly settled for the start



Phil Treeby: already in discussions.

SPORT

of a full-on pre-season in early February." Warrandyte will certainly not be embarking on a shopping spree.

"Obviously, we want our stay in Division 4 to be as brief as possible," said Treeby, "but the way out is not about wholesale recruiting from outside the club.

"We've already identified the areas of our greatest need on the field and they are down the spine, players with a bit of height and strength to shore up key positions.

"Clearly, just two wins this season fell short of what we thought could have been delivered by such a young list."

Coach Peter Green, already reappointed for 2006, sees positives emerging from the season of on-field paucity.

"Just two wins," he said, "but it might be remembered that we lost 20 players from our list from the previous season. The positive was that it gave many more young players the opportunity to step up for their first taste of senior football and they will take that experience into 2006.

"One of the match committee's main objectives was to keep this players group together — to stop the bleed — and we believe we have achieved that," he said.

"Now we can go out and look at increased efficiency, a couple of experienced players for key positions."

Green stressed the importance of getting an Under-18s team — the crucial link between junior and senior football — back on the field at Warrandyte as soon as possible.

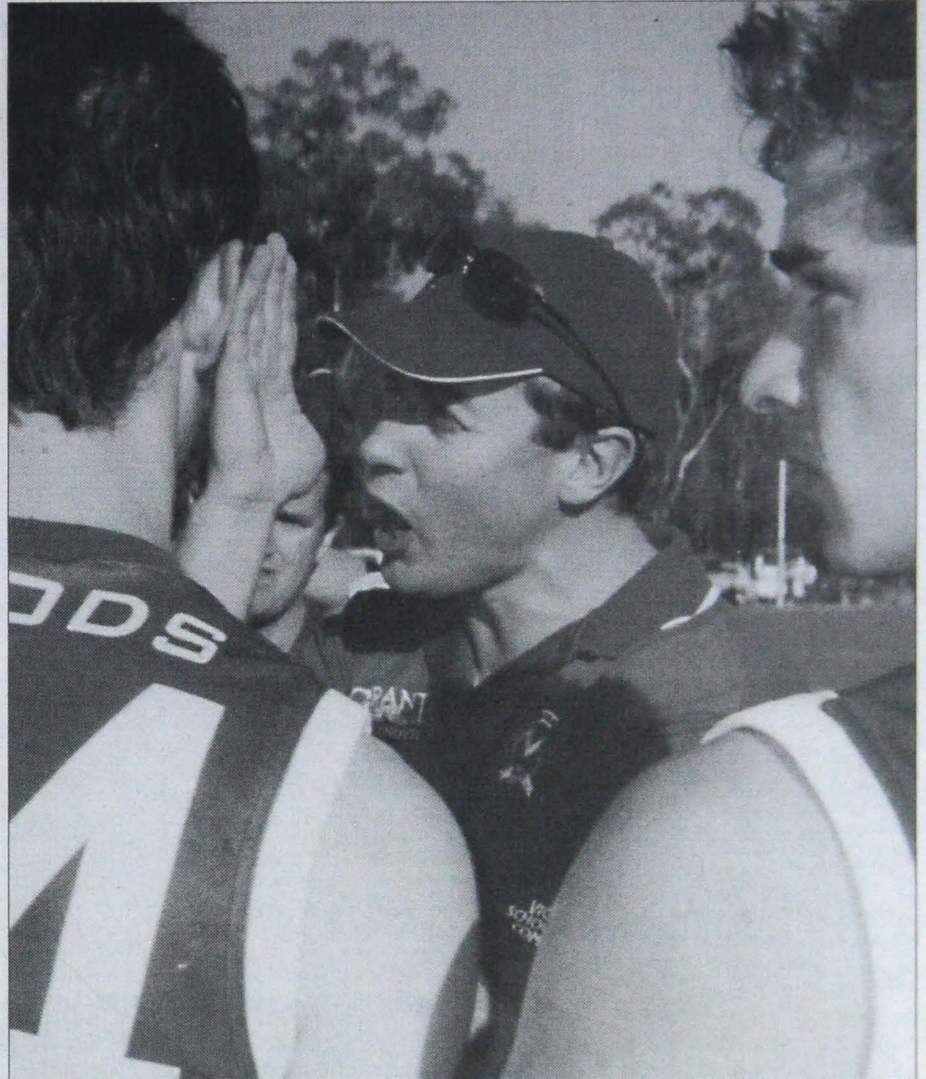
"You cannot over-emphasise its importance," he said. "There are a lot of late-bloomers among junior footballers," he said, "who have by no means approached their potential by the time they outgrow junior ranks as Colts (Under-17s).

"Without an Under-18s side there is simply nowhere for them to go to fully develop that potential.

"We invited the local Colts to train with the seniors during the season and I was invited to speak to them before their grand final, which they won so well on August 28

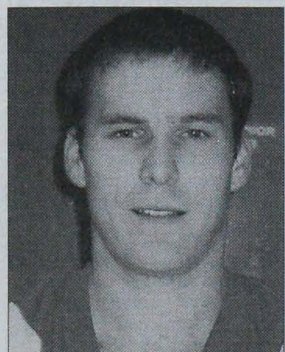
"I saw at least three players in that Warrandyte team who would walk into the senior side.

"There is so much young talent in this town and the junior and senior clubs must feed off each other's success."



Peter green: stopping the bleed was a major priority.

How our Fourth Division virginity came to be lost



Clint Wheatley: injured.

Warrandyte took the despised and unprecedented drop to Fourth Division by capitulating to Heathmont — the only other "candidates" — in a final home-and-away shootout at Heathmont on August 13.

Quarter-long fadeouts which had unfortunately been par for the course during the 2005 campaign this time involved going missing for two quarters — the third and fourth.

Warrandyte had led narrowly for much of the first half and trailed by just four points — 7.6 to 7.2 — at the interval. But they suffered a terminal leg injury early in the third term with on-baller/forward Clint Wheatley leaving the field, five goals to his name.

With Wheatley sidelined and strongman Adam Kearney — with whom he had crossed from Lalor, in the Diamond Valley league —

suspended over an incident in a boiler room against Bayswater a week earlier, Heathmont's Hartman brothers took the game apart.

Key forwards Lee and Brett Hartman are two of the bigger names in the EFL and they put their experience and talents to devastating effect, finishing with eight and five goals respectively.

Heathmont rattled on seven goals in each of the final two quarters. Warrandyte could muster just 2.2 in the third term and 0.4 in the last for a final scoreline of 21.10-136 to 9.8-62.

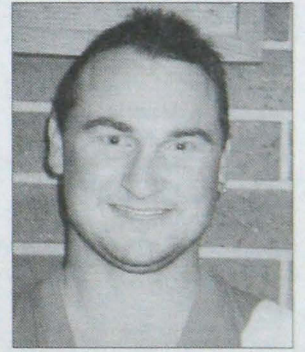
A debacle in the end, but the redeeming feature of Fourth Division is that there only one way to go from there.

Doncaster East, who dropped just one game in the home-and-away season, fell a heart-breaking kick short of the Division 3

premiership. They surrendered the grand final by five points (8.12-60 to 7.13-55) on September 4 to Bayswater, whom Warrandyte had defeated by six points on August 6.

Football justice was, however, done in Division 4 on September 3. The Waverley Blues, whose only defeat had come at the hands of The Basin in the second semi-final, turned the tables in the big one, winning by seven points (14.7-91 to 12.12-84) to climb straight back into Third Division at Warrandyte's expense.

● Warrandyte will hold their presentation night in the upstairs function room at the Grand Hotel on Friday, September 30. It's 6.30 for 7pm and tickets (at \$30 covering a three-course meal and introductory drink) are available from secretary James Logan on 0414 337418.



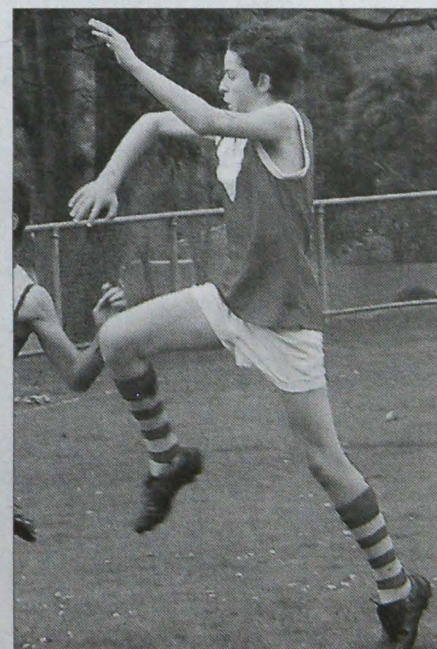
Adam Kearney: suspended.



WJFC President Steve Blakey and Ben Power



Nathan Campbell



Josh Harris

Bound for glory

Warrandyte Under-15 star Ben Power has iced an outstanding season by being named Northern Knights Rookie of the Year in the elite statewide Under-18 TAC Cup competition.

And two other outstanding local prospects — Joshua Harris and Nathan Campbell — have been selected for the Yarra Junior Football League's 2005 Development Training Squad.

Harris and Campbell will train under coaches from the Northern Knights and fellow TAC Cup club the Oakleigh Chargers.

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FOR SALE NORTH WARRANDYTE

9 Hamilton Road

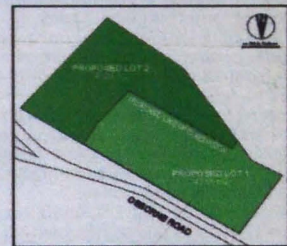
"You can't take the view away"
Keep the views forever with this comfortable home: cathedral ceilings, timber dado, lounge with OFF, fully equipped kitchen, formal dining, meals, 3 robed BRs, ensuite, bathroom plus hydronic heating, rumpus/games & office, fenced pool, spa, carport & bitumen drive.
Price: Mid \$500's
Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161



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



FOR SALE NORTH WARRANDYTE

73 Kangaroo Ground Road

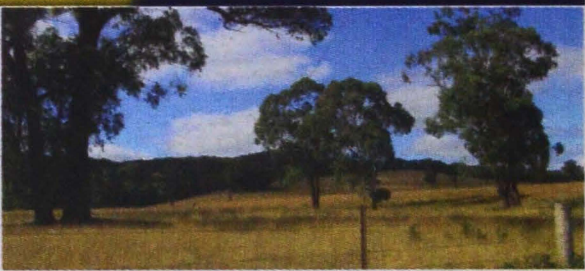
"Wonderful tri-level home"
3BRs (master with ensuite & WIR) open plan study, large family, mod kitchen with sep meals, park-like 1/3 acre block (approx). Features duct heat, evap cool, bitumen drive with option to convert under house storage into a rumpus.
Price: \$380-420k plus buyers
Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161



FOR SALE KINGLAKE

1140 Glenburn Road

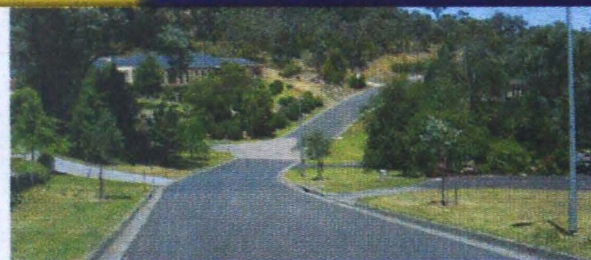
"200 glorious acres"
Off the Melba Hwy this property of 200 prime grazing acres includes a basic weekender shack, crystal clear spring water fed into large s/s tanks, dams, sheds, good fencing. Offered as land only or as walk-in, walk-out venture with existing stock and machinery.
\$790k plus buyers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



FOR SALE WARRANDYTE

Amersham Drive

"Prestige Locale"
Very rarely does half an acre become available in the Manningham area. Fantastic location in a tranquil setting surrounded by large prestige homes with tennis courts and swimming pools.
Price: \$450k plus buyers
Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161



FOR SALE WARRANDYTE SOUTH

503 Ringwood-Warrandyte Road

"Two titles... possibilities?"
Offered for sale is a renovated 2 bedroom home on 2 titles. The house block measures 1012m2 and the vacant block 595m2. Live in, let out or develop the site STCA. The possibilities are yours!
\$380k-\$420k buyers
Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161



FOR SALE KANGAROO GROUND

315 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: \$595k plus buyers
Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161



FOR SALE WARRANDYTE NORTH

56 Kangaroo Ground Road

"Expand your horizons"
With a level home site already in place, this one acre property boasts some of the areas finest views and provides for the perfect canvas on which to paint and build your dream home.
Price: Mid \$360k plus
Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161



FOR SALE KANGAROO GROUND

85 Donaldson Road

"Oakfield Hall"
This magnificent property offers 12.5 acres of fertile ground with a further 3 acres of landscaped gardens. Architect designed 4 BR plus study home of award winning builders comes complete with a separate historical bungalow, tennis court, pool and more.
Price: \$2 million plus buyers
Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161



FOR SALE WARRANDYTE SOUTH

488 Ringwood-Warrandyte Rd

"The charm of yesteryear"
This new 2BR home offers the charm of yesteryear with a sleek modern interior. Features air-con, open plan living spaces, mezzanine master BR with WIR, soaring ceilings, polished timber floors and rear deck with amazing views.
Price: Mid \$300's
Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161



FOR SALE WARRANDYTE

22 Osborne Road

"An acre of views & Yarra"
With outstanding views this 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
Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161



FOR SALE WARRANDYTE

42 Oakland Drive

"Grand residence"
With its towered roof and grand entrance foyer with sweeping staircase, this palatial 5 bedroom plus study masterpiece, nestles into a manicured acre setting complete with swimming pool, cabana and floodlit tennis court.
Price: \$1.4million plus buyers
Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161



FOR SALE WARRANDYTE

41 Brackenbury Street

"Positioned perfectly"
This beautifully presented home offers 4BRs plus study, master with ensuite, formal lounge with bar, well equipped kitchen, large family room, huge rumpus and double garage. All this and more located within a stone's throw to schools, shops and village.
Price: \$460k plus buyers
Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161



FOR SALE WARRANDYTE NORTH

8 Caloola Drive

"It not only looks big"
4BRs (ensuite & WIR to master), lge family, lge formal lounge with OFF, rumpus, dble garage and workshop, IG solar-heated pool and lge timber decks to soak up the views. A great family home & one that is ideal for entertaining.
Price: \$520k plus
Anthony Hansen 0417 850 950
Dominic Cruz 0409 410 161

