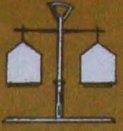


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# DIARY



No. 385, April 2006

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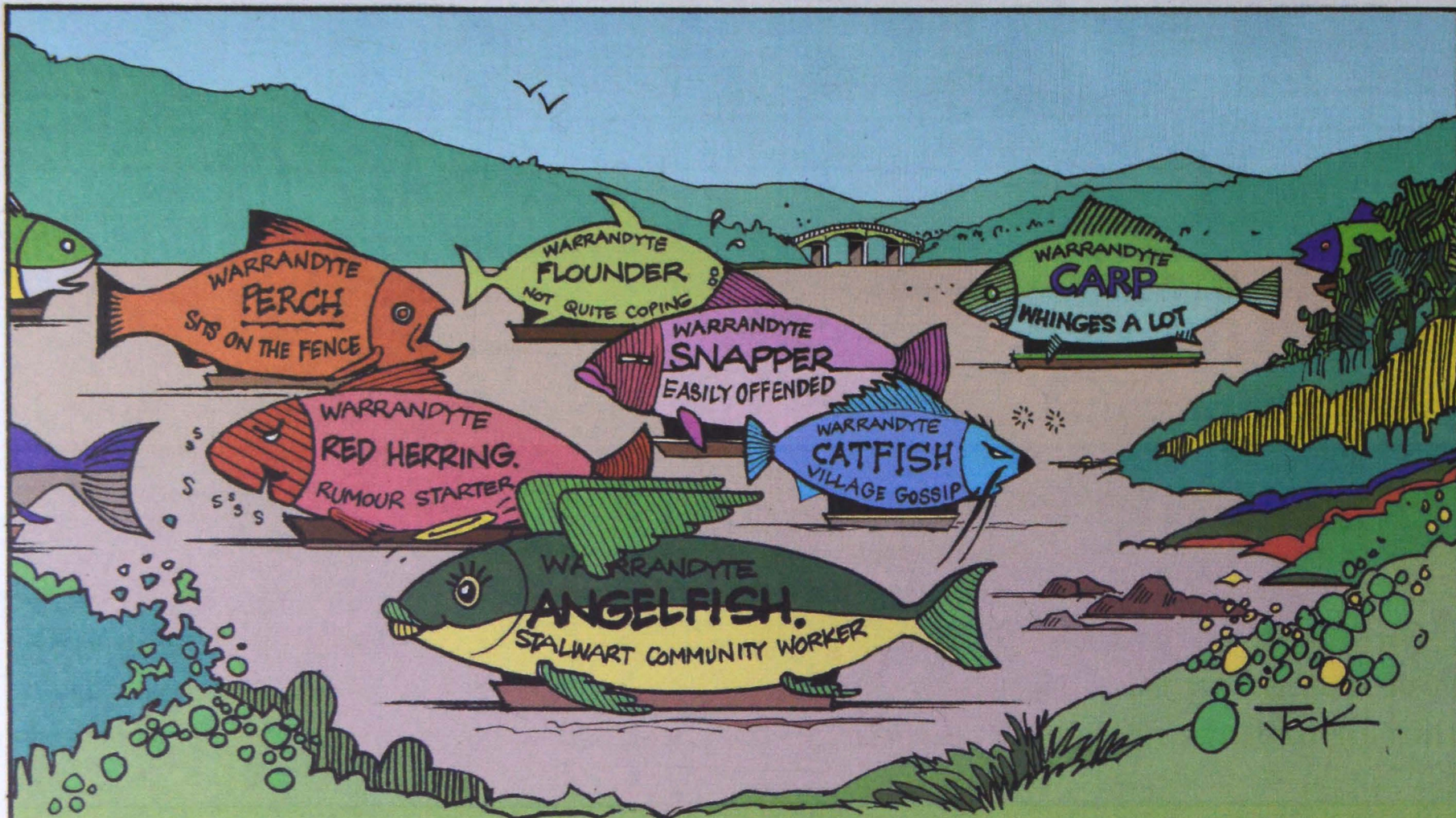
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By JOCK MACNEISH



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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Diary will be published on Wednesday, May 17. Advertising and editorial copy will close on Friday, May 5.

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. 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.



Graphic by  
Melanie Coupar

THE NIGHT THE STAR WAS THROWN

It has long been thought that "Warrandyte" could be translated as "that which is thrown". The Wurundjeri dreamtime story told how Bunjil, the great eagle, the all-powerful, ever-watchful creator of the world, had once gazed down upon his people from the star Altair and seen their wrongdoing. Awaiting their return, he, with a mighty crash of thunder, hurled down a star to destroy them. Where the star struck created the gorge we see today. Bunjil's people always remembered the spot. They called it Warrandyte, the place where Bunjil had hurled down the star to punish his people.



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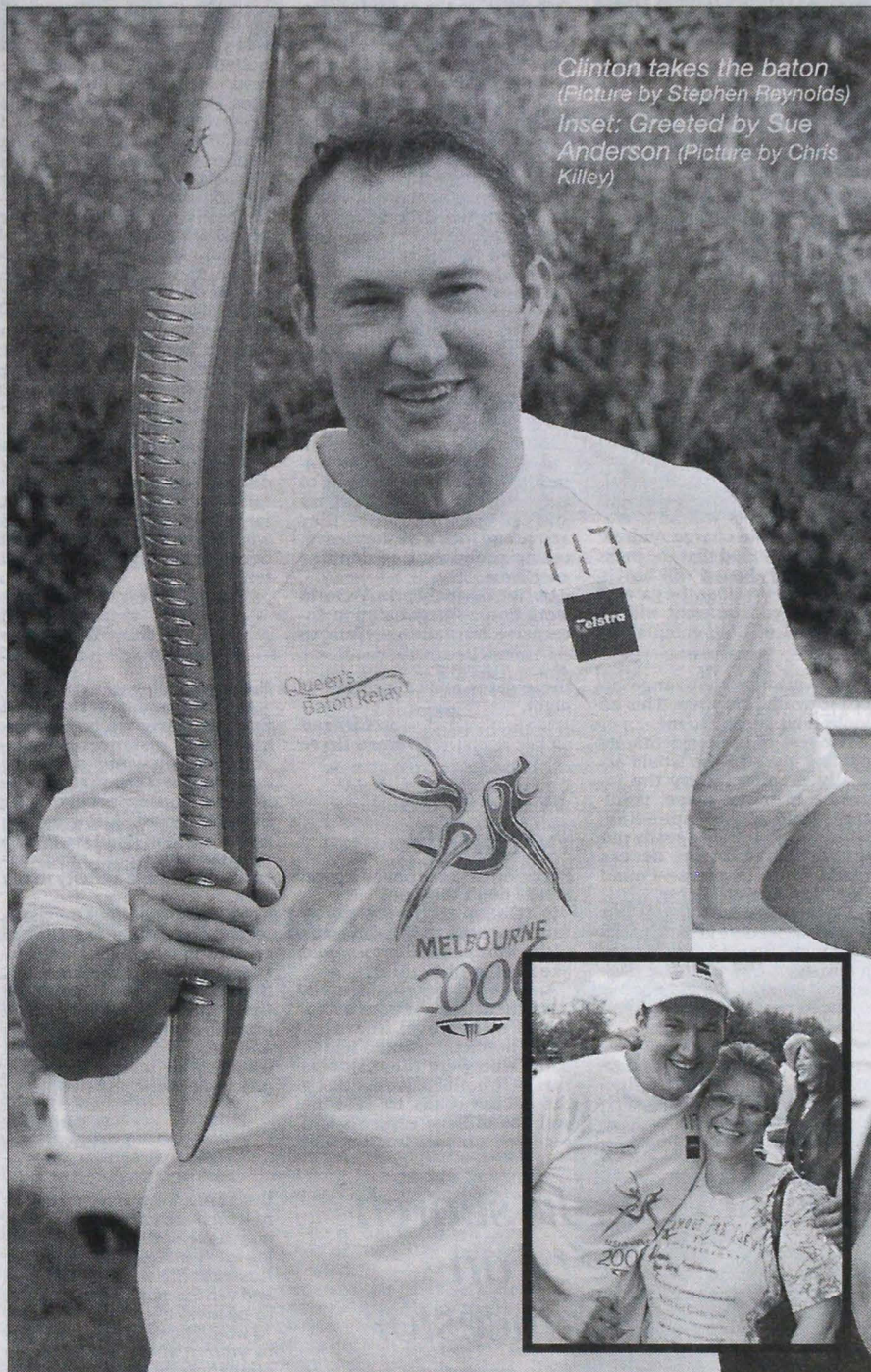
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# OUR PEOPLE AT THE GAMES



Clinton takes the baton  
(Picture by Stephen Reynolds)  
Inset: Greeted by Sue  
Anderson (Picture by Chris  
Killey)

## 'The next few minutes passed in the blink of an eye'

By CLINTON GRYBAS

It had travelled 180,000 kilometres across the globe. Passed through 71 nations and thousands upon thousands of hands. Transported by bicycle, boat, hot air balloon, steam train, horseback and elephant. Passed from luminaries like Elle McPherson to Cathy Freeman to Viv Richards to a host of ordinary folk. And now I had it.

It was the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton. And its marathon one year and one day journey was nearing an end.

I was relay runner number 117 on Labour Day, the 48th day of the baton's voyage around Australia. The MCG was now in sight for the relay's remarkably large support staff. The baton was due to arrive for the opening ceremony two days later barring any drama. Let's hope there would not be any on my watch!

My 500 metres of fame would be to carry the baton along Warrandyte Road in Ringwood past the Ringwood Bowls Club.

Two hours before its arrival I joined three other runners for our briefing. Kitted out in what would on any other day be considered a very daggy all-white outfit, we listened intently as Sandy and Tiny detailed our duties.

This is the world's longest, most inclusive relay, and by sharing in this journey you are a part of sporting history, they exalted grandly, revealing photos of some of the places the baton had already visited. These locations appeared far more exotic than the bowls club car park where we anxiously awaited our date with history. But no one was complaining.

The baton weighs 1.5 kilograms and contains the latest cutting edge technology. It has tiny video cameras, front and rear, to transmit live images to

the Games website.

Two microphones will capture the sounds of the relay. A satellite transmitter sends data on the speed, motion and direction of the baton to the website.

A global positioning system pinpoints the location of the baton at all times. It also contains a computer memory chip of the Queen's message to be read at the opening ceremony.

"Put this special glove on your right thumb. It has a microchip so that when you receive the baton it will trigger 200 lights on it and your face will appear on the website showing that you have taken control."

At this point we dare not ask what happens should we drop the damn thing, although Sandy and Tiny could not confirm an earlier report that Molly Meldrum had managed such a feat earlier on that grey slippery morning.

"Twenty-four police motorcycles will form part of the escort team. There will be several police cars front and rear, a media van, helicopter and medical van. Some police cars have already passed through here but you would not have noticed them as they were operating undercover."

"We will drop you off in the shuttle bus at your location to be handed the baton. You will be met by two police relay runners who will direct you to the centre of the road. When you receive the baton, take it in your right hand and stop and smile for a photo from the media van."

The enormity of the occasion had kicked in. This was quite a deal.

We set off in our shuttle bus trip accompanied by ear-bleeding hype music from Rocky and the Chariots of Fire.

The bus ride revealed that the noticeably sleepy Ringwood af-

ternoon had suddenly come alive. Spectators had materialised from seemingly nowhere to line the roadway, the roar growing as the baton came within sight. I moved to the middle of a cordoned off Warrandyte Road, devoid of all traffic except for those involved in this military-style operation.

Games sponsor Matthew Gerard was running the leg before me. Remembering my brief I received the baton from him, smiled for the cameras and took off.

The next few minutes passed in the blink of an eye. Thousands were there—young and old, many waving the Australian flag and taking pictures. The baton was surprisingly heavy, but very clean—no fingerprints or signs of wear from such a journey.

Within a heartbeat it was time to pass the baton on. A cap, water bottle and leaflet to purchase the photo was thrust at me from yet another van and the caravan moved on. Plenty more runners remained before the MCG two nights later.

After a short chat with family and friends the experience was well and truly over. Warrandyte Road was back to normal—the only signs of the relay a distant whir of the police helicopter.

I would see the baton again in person two nights later. This time it was from 3AW's MCG broadcast box as I joined nighttime hosts Bruce and Phil to describe its handover to the Queen, happy to have played my small part.

It would be day one of a frenetic 11 days of activity, heading up the station's coverage of events. But didn't Melbourne shine! From the Yarra's famous fish to the glorious weather to the friendly volunteers the city looked magical. Let's hope the Olympics can return one day.



## 'Unfortunately I didn't have a clue...'

By SANDY BURGOYNE

My preparation to be part of the Commonwealth Games was almost as long as that of an athlete. Many months after I applied to join the ranks of the volunteers I was invited to attend an interview. I must have impressed, because in November last year I was given a duty roster with Media Services, a workplace (the multi-purpose venue, usually known as Vodaphone arena), notification of training sessions and an appointment to be outfitted in Smurf blue. My first shift was the day before the opening ceremony, but the MPV (insider-speak for my venue) was alive with track cyclists. Those peo-

ple are amazing: they ride on a track that is banked so steeply it resembles a precipice. One of my responsibilities that day was to help photographers, camera-operators and journalists find the media room. This required negotiation of the basement labyrinth, assorted security guards and officials and then queuing for the tiny lift. It was really a normal-sized lift, but by the time a couple of photogs crowded in with their multiple cameras, monopods and 400mm lenses, plus a TV cameraperson and a sound recordist or so the lift full sign was up.

The track cycling was exciting, but just as I started to get the hang of

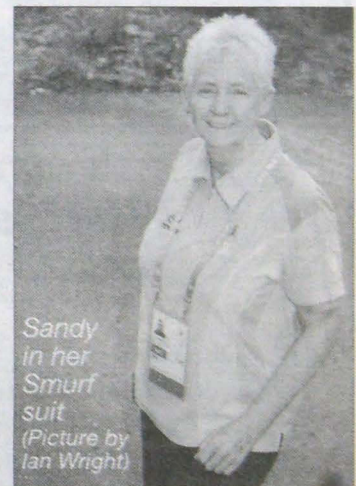
team pursuits and flying laps the competition was over. I had a day off and when I returned the velodrome had disappeared. The multi-purpose venue had lived up to its name and metamorphosed into a basketball stadium with tiered seating on all sides. I promptly got lost and nearly walked into the section reserved for VIPs. I tried to look super-cool and strode off in a new direction and fortunately found the media room.

My tasks over the remaining days of basketball and netball competition included assisting with the press tribunes (those rows of official-looking desks where newspaper reporters sit court or track-side and

file stories), directing photographers to their positions and taking turns at the help desk.

The most surprising part of being a volunteer was the way strangers had the confidence to ask me for information on events or directions to a venue. My favourite example happened in Federation Square after an evening shift. A magnificent athlete, surely a shot putter or weightlifter, walked up to me and asked what time the last bus left for the Games village. Unfortunately I didn't have a clue.

My final memory is chatting to members of the Jersey cycling team as the closing ceremony fireworks lit up the sky at the MCG.



Sandy in her Smurf suit  
(Picture by Ian Wright)

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# Gates should be closed at night

## DEAR DIARY

Who wants the Pound Bend Reserve gates open? What's the real reason? Is it worth it?

In regard to the recent "open gate" trial at Pound Bend Reserve, the statements by District Chief Ranger David Sewell are curious indeed. He claims in the *Diary* (March '06), "Observations have shown that there is a significant need to utilise the park beyond the advertised closing times, due to the variety of leisure activities the park provides."

The statement raises many questions: Whose observation of what? Which after-dark activities would Parks Victoria like to encourage that require vehicle access to the lower car park? How many requests reflecting "very significant need" to keep the Pound Bend Reserve gates open have been received, by whom, over what period of time? What effect will such increased use have on nocturnal wildlife?

The gates have been open as of February 7 for a two-month trial. There have been incidents reported since that time. One local family complained of shouting and loud partying around the tunnel exit, access

steps and lower car park around 11.30pm after February 7, the first time in at least six years such disturbances after 9pm have been noted by these residents. There was another similar incident on Sunday, March 12 at midnight. They feel the word is spreading and loud drinking parties are increasing, encouraged by the open gates.

Of course destructive behaviour can happen even with the gates closed, as Ranger Nixon points out, but an open gate at night sends a powerful message and offers a seductive invitation to opportunists and malevolents alike. The invitation is apparently being taken up.

When asked what the two-month trial will measure and how the results will be evaluated, ranger-in-charge Andrew Nixon responded that the main question evaluated will be, "Is it worth it" (to close the gates)? He reported that what will be measured will be: complaints;

police reports and staff observations—signs of increases in "wheelies" in the car parks, garbage, damage, theft and financial expenditure. One wonders how the effects on nocturnal wildlife will be measured.

This also raises the question avoided by Chief Ranger David Sewell and avoided in a Parks Victoria letter informing some locals of the trial. Money. How much money is actually saved by leaving the Pound Bend Reserve gate open? It has been reported that it takes one to one and-a-half hours to open and close the gates of all the reserves. It is probably true, that, as suggested by Parks Victoria, the time taken to open and close gates can be used for other projects like weed eradication. In the case of the Pound Bend Reserve gate, this would provide perhaps an extra 10 minutes daily for weed eradication, because rangers driving to their office at Pound Bend pass and can open the gate as they arrive and lock it as they leave, taking probably five minutes each time.

During normal Parks Victoria work hours—negotiated in enterprise bargaining—7am to

8.30pm—no extra payment is due. To open the gate for a car locked in the lower car park after 8.30pm (gate closing time in the summer), payment is required for four hours even if the return trip takes just 15 minutes. How many times has this occurred and at what cost? And who should bear this cost? The negligent car owner or Parks Victoria—meaning ultimately the taxpayer? Why can't warning signs be put in strategic points along the entrance stating that cars wanting to exit after hours will be charged the cost of opening the gate? If the signs also included the emergency number to call, then rangers wouldn't need to tour the park before locking the gate, taking extra time to place notices on cars left after closing time, as they do now.

The final question is, will this open-gate strategy really reduce costs and improve the quality of the park environment for users, local residents and wildlife, or increase costs and decrease quality? Only time will tell.

J. Dahl Warrandyte

## Seclusion for wildlife

I was surprised to read in the *Diary* (March '06) Andy Nixon's comment, as reported by Sam Davies, "There had not been a chorus of disapproval from residents notified", as a result of Parks Victoria's plan to leave the gates at Pound Bend Reserve open 24/7.

I subsequently spoke to Mr Nixon and pointed out that "there had not been a chorus of disapproval from residents" because Parks Victoria had not notified, or consulted with, "a chorus of residents".

Those residents who were made aware of the new changes—after the changes had been implemented on February 7—were those adjacent

to or within visual range. In other words, very few. This all looks a bit sneaky to me.

The rest of the residents, including myself (who would actually be affected by the increase in traffic noise, pollution, loud music, speeding, wheelies, which we already put up with) live on the access roads to the reserve—Pound Road and Everard Drive.

The loss of seclusion for our nocturnal wildlife is of huge significance. Beyond that, those living even closer to the park access could have even more reduced personal security and tranquillity.

These areas along the river are used for all sorts of unacceptable behaviour including drug dealing and loutish behaviour. For preservation of wildlife and residential security,

these gates must be closed at night.

Jo Gilligan Everard Drive

## Who was notified?

Parks: open gates policy a good idea? I don't think so!

In relation to the article by Sam Davies in the March issue of the *Warrandyte Diary*, I would like to offer objection.

Andrew Nixon commented, "that there had not been a chorus of disapproval from residents notified". I would like to know who were the residents that were notified. We live along the access roads to Taroon and Pound Bend reserves and received no notification that

the gates policy was changing.

As long-standing residents of Everard Drive, we have tolerated many instances of unfavourable behaviour occurring around the Taroon Avenue Reserve and especially along Everard Drive. Allowing the gates at Pound Bend reserve to remain open would most certainly encourage activity in the area.

Our concerns about the parks remaining open are for increases in late night traffic, issues with late night speeding, interruptions with additional noise caused by loutish behaviour throughout the evenings and danger to the nocturnal wildlife who deserve some respite from traffic and people.

D. Saunders Everard Drive

## Fond memories of Lee

Fun memories of Lee Tindale will always be with the Lovett family. Here are just a few favourite ones we'd love to share with you.

After filing their interstate stories via the tele-printer on Fridays, it was fun time for Lee and Peter. Over to Lou Richards Phoenix Hotel from the Herald was a tradition on Friday arvos. Then off to the Vic Market for a cray each (we could afford them in those days). A quick dash for the last bus, 6pm to Warrandyte and home. A bloke asked what's in the bag mate? Two large crays promptly released onto the bus floor answered that question. Crying little kids and shocked shoppers were all around.

A quick comfort stop in the wilds of Templestowe (camel farm) sustained them until the Warrandyte pub stop.

With a bit of luck Brian Hanrahan (Herald motoring editor) gave them a fast and furious run up the hills to home in the latest sports car (no .05 in those days!). If not, the lovely Jan or myself were at the end of the phone.

Vale Lee, may you and Pete



enjoy each other's spirit. You'll sure brighten everything up. We all loved you as much as Pete did.

Thanks from all the Lovett kids, nieces and nephews who had such fun as copy kids on Saturdays and loved pay day. They still laugh about it all these years later.

Thanks for the memories. Always good for a laugh.

Pat, Michael, Jenny and Dick Lovett, Drysdale

## In search of an ancestor

I was wondering if you could help. I am trying to find anyone in Australia who may have known one of my Scottish ancestors.

The lady in question is Margaret Jane Homer. She emigrated sometime after 1908 with her husband William John Robinson.

She was born about 1897 and lived in Glasgow. She may have been pregnant at the time of emigration. Margaret worked in the weaving industry.

Surviving members of the family cannot, unfortunately, give me much more information, except recalling a newspaper article being sent back to the UK about her son or grandson having helped capture a man who had murdered a policeman.

I think this may have been in

Letters to the Diary on local topics are welcome. Real names preferred. Pen names only if actual names and addresses are included.

the 1970s. I am also unsure as to which area of Australia they may have settled, so I am trying everywhere! I have tried the Australian National Archives and various passenger lists, but to no avail.

I would be very pleased if any of your readers were able to offer some information.

Thanks, hoping you can help.

Victoria O'Neill Polmont, Scotland (email: victoria.o'neill@smart-cookie.co.uk)

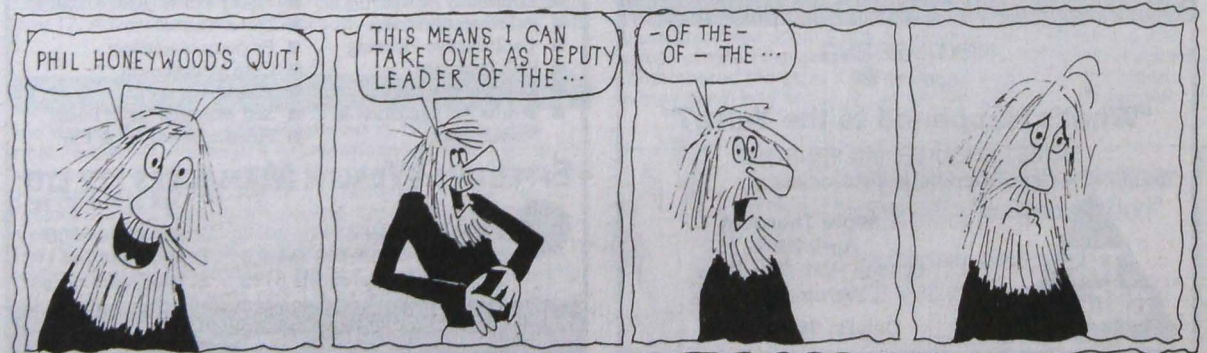
## Thanks from Ronnie

Thank you everyone for your thoughts and contributions to my 20 year anniversary, teaching at the Warrandyte District Pre-school. Our president, Nikki Harris, did a great job organising an extremely enjoyable night of reminiscing for me. I have been very lucky to have taught and been a part of such a close and supporting family here in Warrandyte. Thanks again.

Ronnie Pedersen Taroon Avenue

## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS





# Honeywood to quit

By **CLIFF GREEN**

The shock decision by Warrandyte MP Phil Honeywood to resign his position as deputy leader of the opposition and leave politics before the state election in November has surprised many in the community.

He told the *Diary* he was looking forward over the coming six months to being "a full-time local member".

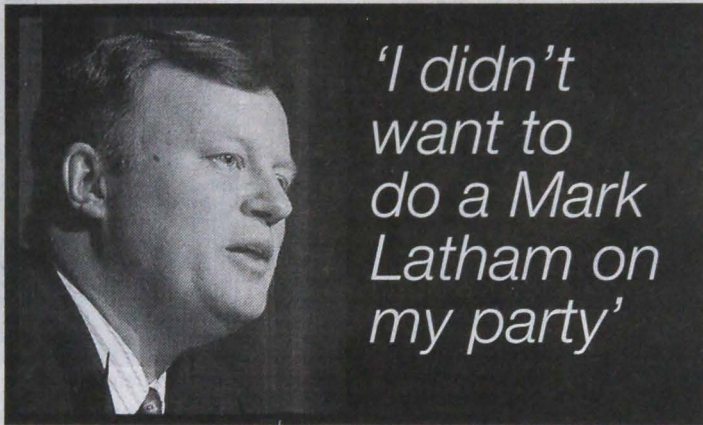
"In parliament, I'm now able to raise exclusively local issues," he said. "For example, I recently raised the ongoing problem of staffing at Warrandyte police station."

Mr Honeywood announced at the time of his resignation that his reasons were "entirely personal". However, he has since expressed some reservations about recent political trends.

"Look, I didn't want to do a Mark Latham on my party," he said, "because too often politicians overlook the fact that it's a party that gets them elected."

"The Liberal Party has been good to me. They gave an opportunity to a 27 year-old to stand for this seat. But what I will say is the Liberal Party is becoming a little factionalised."

"They could very well finish up like the Labor Party if they're not careful, and that's not a healthy thing. You'll have the factions dictating to members of parliament, and the reason



*'I didn't want to do a Mark Latham on my party'*

I became a Liberal was because the party did allow its members, supposedly, to have some free range on policy issues they feel passionate about.

"I will remain a member of the Liberal Party as a branch member to try to ensure my party remains true to that philosophy."

Mr Honeywood admitted the failure of his first marriage could be attributed, in part, to his political career.

"My first marriage suffered. I have two children, and unfortunately my relationship with one of them has broken down because she believes I've always put my job ahead of the

children.

"I'm hoping that she will now see that I've left this weird and wonderful lifestyle behind and I've got double time to give to her, if she wants to take it up."

Mr Honeywood said he was proud to be described in *The Age*, in a quote attributed to Victor Perton, MP for Doncaster, as "a fine liberal in the Hamer tradition".

"In 1988, when I was first elected, I wouldn't have seen myself as an environmentalist."

"However, the Warrandyte community has made me a 'Hamer liberal'. Town planning was a key issue at

the time, especially dual occupancy. Equally the Green Wedge and keeping the ridgelines free from development."

These are among Mr Honeywood's proudest achievements.

"First and foremost was having a win in my party on the issue of Warrandyte and Park Orchards being kept free of dual occupancy. That assisted me in my original election and I have remained true to that value."

"The Green Wedge has been a constant over the years. If I'm remembered for anything in my electorate it would be that I changed nothing. In that respect I could be considered a conservative!"

"I've had personal threats made against me over the years. Some years ago developer interests tried to stack local party branches to get rid of me, but I have to say the hierarchy of the party at the time stood up for me."

"On a bricks and mortar issue, I think working with the community towards building the basketball stadium at Andersons Creek Primary School was one of my proudest achievements."

"One great frustration is not being able to put together a deal for genuine alternative aged housing in the Warrandyte area. I wouldn't mind continuing to be involved in the future, and working with the community to achieve such a facility."

Some local observers believe that since the election of the Bracks gov-

ernment, Phil Honeywood has not taken too kindly to being in opposition.

"The problem I have with opposition is that to be successful, you have to be negative all the time, and that's not part of my nature. I don't like doing stunts to get media attention."

"But you lose an election and you're a rooster one day and a feather duster the next."

Mr Honeywood denied that the resignation of his parliamentary "neighbour", Victor Perton, played a role in his decision.

"Victor and I are different people, in totally different electorates. We're both moderates, but I think every MP has to work out their own exit strategy, and I hadn't made my decision when Victor announced his."

Mr Honeywood appealed to any future MP for Warrandyte "to know the electorate, know the issues and get to know the community groups and the individuals and reflect the needs and aspirations of this electorate above everything else."

His final appeal to the Warrandyte-Park Orchards communities is "to continue to fight for the lifestyle choice that is given each family in this area and their children."

"Warrandyte and Park Orchards have the best that rural townships have to offer in terms of community involvement and environment, but still with easy access to a big CBD. That's worth fighting for."

## Local community leaders pay tribute

Phil Honeywood is an excellent local member who has been good for Warrandyte, good for the environment and has supported the aims of the Warrandyte Community Association. Phil always comes to public meetings well prepared, armed with questions and answers asked in parliament on Warrandyte. He will be missed in the community by those on all sides of politics and those with no sides! No party hack, he has carried on the close community involvement of his predecessors, Lou Hill and Norm Lacy. We trust that his successor will do the same. WCA wishes Phil and his family well in his future endeavours.

Phil Honeywood, for all his qualities, has been a champion for the environmental issues we all value so highly and for the preservation of the Green Wedge.

Over time, he built up a commanding lead in his vote in what was once a swinging seat. Phil put the environment at the top of the list when other pollies of his party were less interested.

Let us hope that whoever replaces Phil as MP for the Warrandyte electorate will heed well, as did Phil, the voice of his constituency.

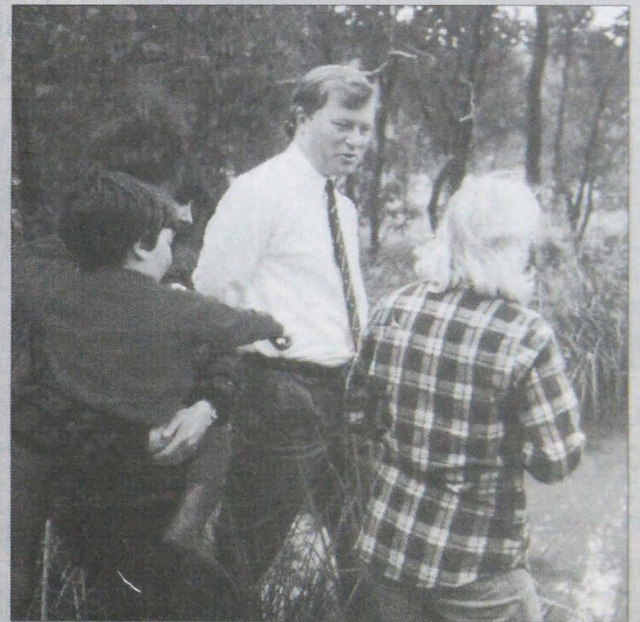
**David L. Mayor**  
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Mark and Emily Birrell, Phil and Kate Honeywood...

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...working for the environment...



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## We want to be taken seriously

COMMENT

With the shock resignation of MP Phil Honeywood, the state seat of Warrandyte could be up for grabs.

In 1988, Mr Honeywood defeated sitting Labor member Lou Hill over the vexed question of dual occupancy in Warrandyte and Park Orchards—fears that our gardens and larger blocks would be smothered with units. Although the Cain government, at the last minute, pledged to forbid dual occupancy here, it was too late, and Mr Honeywood won by a narrow margin. What had been a marginal Liberal seat, then marginal Labor, was Liberal again.

Mr Honeywood honoured his promises and stood rock-solid on such environmental issues as dual occupancy and the Green Wedge.

By the next election, Warrandyte was safe Liberal. Surely, a reasonable percentage of this solid margin should be attributed to Phil Honeywood's personal following.

Warrandyte is a politically and environmentally aware electorate. We are used to being taken seriously by the major political parties. We have had a succession of MPs in the past 25 years who listened to the community and embraced its values. Norman Lacey (Liberal), Lou Hill (ALP) and Phil Honeywood all served us well.

We will not be impressed if the major parties see Warrandyte as a political football to be bounced around among the factions, with final endorsement awarded to some party hack or gormless political careerist.

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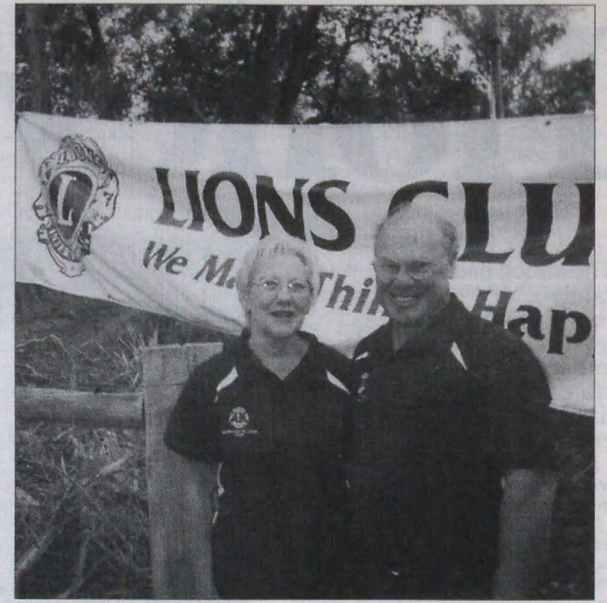
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# Doing the Lions' share



Ron and Helen Cuthbert.

The Lions Club of Warrandyte is celebrating Lions Community Week—April 17 to 23—by involving the local community in activities that demonstrate the valuable support Lions members provide for local projects.

“Lions members are at the forefront of serving the Australian community, Keith Parry, national chairman, said. “Community Week is an opportunity for Lions to connect with the community, continue to strengthen relationships and support local interests.”

Lions Australia is involved in various fundraising projects which raise money to support medical research into the causes and cures of childhood cancer, provide walking aids for children

with cerebral palsy and sponsor sight programs to reduce blindness in Australia.

For example, for the past 10 years, over March and April, Warrandyte Lions have run a weekend for Canteen (teenagers living with cancer) at Eildon Reservoir. Organisers Ron and Helen Cuthbert were delighted with the total of \$30,000 raised at this year's event.

“Teenagers from Victoria and Tasmania vote the watersports day the highlight of the year's activities,” a local Lions spokesperson told *the Diary*.”

Another outstanding event organised by Warrandyte Lions is their annual “In the Driver's Seat”, where a

number of visually impaired people (VIPs) enjoy driving lessons.

This year—the event's 10th—175 VIPs were taken through a driving experience with 25 qualified instructors.

The lessons took place at Sandown racing circuit with help from the Ulysses Motorbike Club, Ford Customline Club and the Vintage Drivers Club.

“Our Lions provided the barbecue lunch and many VIPs said this was the best day of their lives,” the spokesperson said. “It was great to be part of a team to make this happen.”

● Warrandyte Lions membership enquiries to Brian Wales on 9844 1986.

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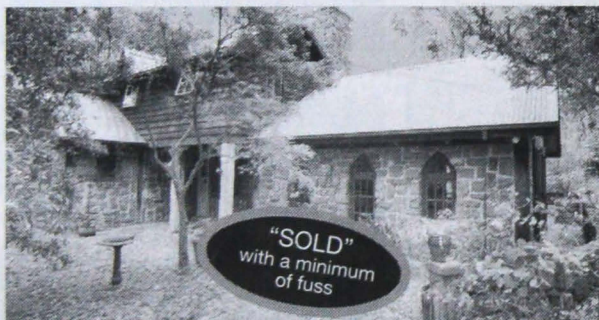
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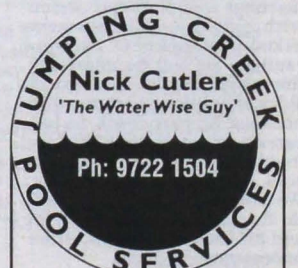


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# Flow stops in local creeks

By SAM DAVIES

Several of Warrandyte's best known creeks have been reduced to cesspools following the decommissioning of a century-old aqueduct by Melbourne Water.

After a dry summer, residents have reported watercourses including Stony Creek and Pigeon Bank Gully Creek, whose flow the aqueduct's leakage sustained, had largely dried up, impacting on flora and fauna and local amenity.

Stony Creek Road resident Richard Stone said it was "quite unpleasant" to walk along Stony Creek due to effluent smells, while Bobbee Terrill said she no longer let her dogs swim in it "because of the grey slime".

Melbourne Water turned off the obsolete Maroondah Aqueduct last April, after it had served Melbourne since 1891. From 1981 it was in service only to provide water for a small number of direct connections, and was losing up to 500 million litres in leakage each year.

A Melbourne Water community information bulletin released in November said the environment around the waterway would return to "its natural condition".

"This will most likely mean that the (Stony) creek will be

dry throughout most summers," the bulletin said.

But Mr Stone questioned whether it was feasible for the creeks to return to their natural condition given the build-up of houses in the area. He said the creeks had since played an important role in washing away greywater runoff, which now stagnated in pools.

The North Warrandyte Osborne Peninsula Landcare group feared plants that had become accustomed to the constant water flow would cease to flourish.

Margaret Burke, of the Landcare group, said the small Rasp Fern was one of the rarer ferns which might be affected. "It's growing abundantly in Pigeon Bank Gully for instance and I don't know how it will cope with drier conditions," she said.

Alex McCaullum, of Friends of Pigeon Bank Creek, said Melbourne Water had not consulted the community.

"They just didn't tell anybody, and they've built it up, they'd created a flow which created an ecology in itself, then turned it off overnight. It ran out and everything changed there.

"There was a waterhole where we'd seen platypus and fish come up. They've now become

big stagnant pools of black muck. All the yabbies have gone somewhere else.

"I suppose it's bit of a warning to people in Warrandyte to be vigilant because these people will go ahead and do things in the community without consulting. They only put a sign up about what had happened," Mr McCallum said.

Melbourne Water spokesperson Ben Pratt said Nillumbik council and residents with connections along Stony Creek had been informed, though he conceded they had not been aware of, or undertaken, an environmental impact analysis.

But, he said, once residents had phoned with concerns about the waterways, they undertook an information letterbox drop. "The impacts weren't realised in the first stages which is why a consultation wasn't undertaken," he said.

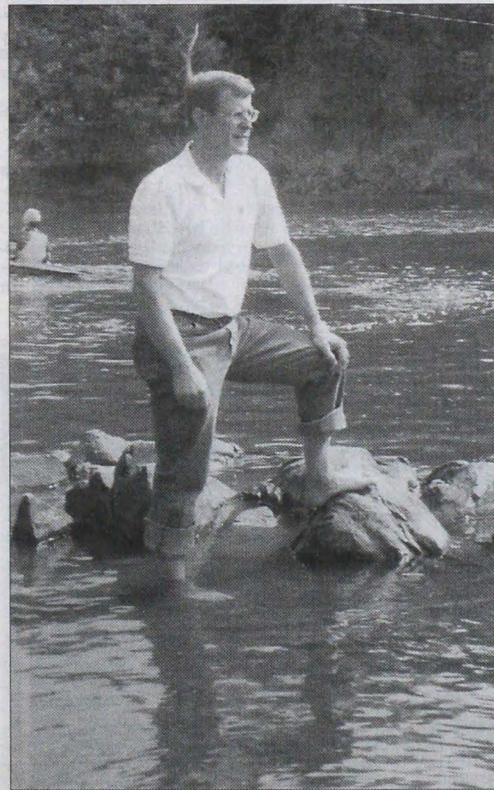
"The focus was on decommissioning a Melbourne Water asset. Because the flow in the creeks was unintentional, while there were some environmental benefits, the water wasn't released for that purpose. It was inadvertent."

Mr Pratt said it was also important to note that it was an offence to discharge grey runoff water into a waterway.



Stony Creek: big stagnant pools of black muck. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

# Yarra needs nurturing



Ian Penrose

Future generations will inherit an increasingly sick, degraded and dying Yarra if more water is sucked from the river, the Yarra Riverkeepers Association (YRKA) warned last month.

Yarra Riverkeepers Association president David Redfearn told the *Diary* they feared the health of the river would be ignored under the state government's central sustainable water strategy, due for release this month.

Mr Redfearn said Melbourne Water's own study on the minimum water flow needed could be ignored. "We're deeply concerned the needs of the Yarra will be overlooked and water authorities permitted to take even more water out of the river.

"Any further water removal would put the river at an increasing risk of degradation at a time when it is already sick and dying," Mr Redfearn said.

The mean annual flow in the Lower Yarra is now only 60 percent of its natural condition, and the loss is much greater upstream and in dry years. He said the Yarra must be given a clearly defined right to its share of water under the strategy, which will set water authority entitlements.

"It's essential the Yarra is guaranteed enough water to ensure its long-term health. But we're dismayed that the state government doesn't even have a clear definition of how much water the Yarra needs.

"Entitlements for water authorities are set in stone yet it's clear the

health of the Yarra, and the people who enjoy it, are low priorities for the government."

Mr Redfearn said the strategy was an opportunity for the government to protect the health of the Yarra and set a benchmark for environmental water entitlements.

"The state government has a duty to protect the health of the Yarra River for future generations of Victorians. It must not miss this critical opportunity to protect the health and future of our rivers."

Local Riverkeepers' representative, Ian Penrose, told the *Diary*, "The balance between the need for water and the health of the river environment is crucial. We have to get it right.

"Not many people realise, for example, that the average summer flow at Warrandyte is now down to a third of what is has been historically.

"The public have a general concern about pollution and its effect on their health, but they don't typically think in terms of the health of the river: overall volume, rate of flow and, just as importantly, its variability with the seasons.

"As an example, fish breeding cycles can require the trigger of a flow variation."

● Ian Penrose will deliver at illustrated talk, "What happening to the Yarra?" at the next meeting and public forum of the Warrandyte Greens on Thursday, April 20 at "Lyndon Park", Tills Drive, Warrandyte. All welcome. Enquiries: 9844 3292, Riverkeepers: penrose@lexicon.net

## Historic tree had to lose weight



Local residents were concerned about the fate of a large and historic gum tree next to the Stonehouse Gallery (pictured) after council workers were seen removing branches earlier this month.

The tree is estimated to be over 100 years old. Parks Victoria commissioned the tree to be inspected and pruned after a large branch fell on a nearby walking path during strong winds earlier in the week.

Workers climbed the tree and checked every branch for stability, particularly the several overhanging branches which posed a threat to the historic Gospel Chapel, recently refurbished as the Stonehouse Gallery. The gallery houses five leadlight memorial windows which were the subject of controversy last year after community groups opposed plans to remove the windows in the renovation of the chapel.

Residents can be assured that the tree will continue to tower over the street for many more years.

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Peter Cupples.....	Thur 22 Jun



# Nillumbik's Environmental Events Program

## April-May 2006

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

### The Mysterious life of the Nillumbik platypus

Come and hear Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy discuss everything you have ever wanted to know about the secret life of the platypus. Learn where they live, what they eat and how you can help to enhance their habitat.

**Date:** Sunday 23 April

**Time:** 2.30pm-4.30pm

**Bookings:** Megan Andrews, 9433 3210

### Erosion prevention and control

Would you like to learn about the different forms of soil erosion commonly occurring in Nillumbik? Then come along to this informative session and find out about the common causes of erosion, the consequences and methods of control and stabilisation.

**Date:** Tuesday 2 May

**Time:** 7pm-9pm

**Bookings:** Megan Andrews, 9433 3210

### Weed identification and tour

Join us on this tour to learn all about weeds. Learn which ones are a threat in Nillumbik and how they can spread. A tour of several properties will demonstrate some great practical examples of how weeds can be controlled. The tour will commence from Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre. Free indigenous plant to every participant. Lunch provided.

**Date:** Saturday 6 May

**Time:** 10-3pm

**Bookings:** by Friday 28 April; Megan Andrews, 9433 3210

### Introduction to property management planning

This one day course introduces the concept of sustainable property management by providing an overview of the process and issues involved. Topics will include property analysis, pest plant and animal control, pasture management and vegetation protection.

**Date:** Sunday 28 May

**Time:** 10am-4pm

**Cost:** \$20 per property (includes notes and lunch)

**Bookings:** Living & Learning Nillumbik, 9430 1313.

Please note places are limited.

**Unless otherwise stated all events are free and held at Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre, Gastons Road, Eltham (Melway 22 A1). For further information about environmental events in**

**Nillumbik visit**

**[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au) or**

**call Rebecca Petit,**

**Environment Officer, on**

**9433 3216.**



Tindals Wildflower Reserve burns — for its own good. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

## Bush needs friendly fire

Manningham council, in conjunction with the regional office and local brigades of the CFA is conducting controlled "burns" in the municipal reserves this autumn.

Mayor, Cr Patricia Young, said controlled burns means that they are officially sanctioned, deliberately lit and kept under control by trained personnel.

"The aim of these low intensity, controlled burns is two-fold with both fuel reduction and ecological benefits," Cr Young told the *Diary*.

"Burning has a preventative function in that it reduces the volume of flammable vegetation such as ground cover, shrubs, barks and twigs, which in turn decreases fuel available in case of bushfire.

"Ecologically, burning aids in weed control and contributes to the overall health of bushland. As fire is a natural occurrence in Australia it is

important for reinvigorating many plants, and stimulating the germination of soil-stored seed," she said.

Cr Young said the burns are dependent on suitable weather conditions including low temperature, high relative humidity and low wind speed to ensure they are conducted in a safe and effective manner.

"The burning process involves the CFA lighting and then blacking-out the fire and once the designated area has been burnt, council continues to monitor and extinguish any hot spots," she said.

Remaining burns still planned for the coming two months include the 100 acres (Park Orchards), Bimbadeen Park (Lower Templestowe), Zerbes Reserve (East Doncaster), Reynolds Road (roadside near Springvale Road), Green Gully Linear Park (Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road end) and

Mullum Mullum Linear Park, stage 1 (East Doncaster).

Surrounding residents of these sites will already have received letters informing them of the process.

Signs will be placed at all reserve entries and a doorknock of residents will occur on each burning day.

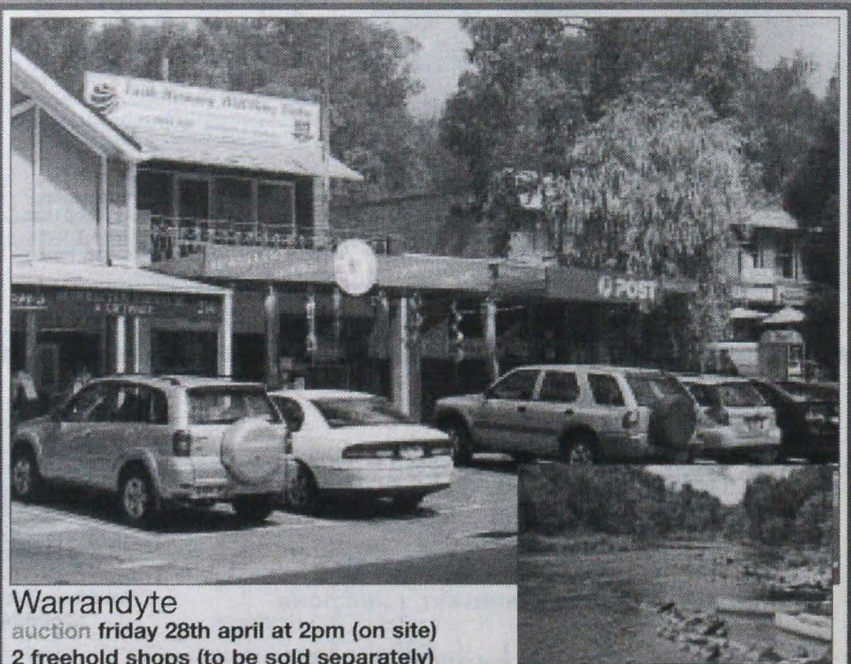
"During the burn operations all care will be taken to minimise the impact of smoke, however people with respiratory concerns may wish to leave the area for part of the day," Cr Young said.

Controlled burns for 2006 have already successfully occurred at Wonga Park Reserve, Colman Park, Domeney Reserve and Tindals Wildflower Reserve, on the corner of Melbourne Hill Road, Warrandyte.

Any enquiries should be directed to Jane Pammer, bushland management officer, on 9846 0509 or 0413 908 968.



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# Happy anniversary WAA!

By PAT ANDERSON

The Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association is 50 years old. They are marking their golden anniversary with a series of events, running throughout 2006.

They are inviting the community to share this special time with them and join in celebrating their 50th year.

To celebrate this special birthday, WAA is showcasing some of its activities to the community in the Mechanics Institute Hall on Saturday, May 27 between 12noon and 5pm. There will be an exhibition of memorabilia, a small exhibition of painting, craft and pottery, incidental music, the unveiling of the 50th birthday sculpture at 3pm. A one-act play will be performed at 4pm. In the evening, members past and present will toast their 50 years with invited guests, while enjoying refreshments and highlights from past productions.

WAA activities first began in 1956. These were heady days and the drive and enthusiasm of that first year have probably never been equalled since. There were concerts given by guest artists, a travelling exhibition from the National Gallery, two theatre productions, the first WAA art show and a Christmas festival where all the groups combined to stage a performance on a grand scale at the Warrandyte Recreation Reserve.

It was also the drive and commitment of WAA members that saved the Mechanics Institute Hall for the community. Without the WAA, the Mechanics Institute Hall might

have fallen into total disrepair. It was kept standing upright—just—through the efforts and financial aid of WAA members.

In 1958, many members purchased debentures to keep the hall afloat. By the 1980s, after many years of being the only major user of the hall, WAA was amalgamated with Warrandyte Mechanics Institute which allowed a complete refurbishment of the historic hall to begin. Following many fundraising efforts and working bees, Warrandyte can now be proud of its Mechanics Institute Hall, which not only looks good but is used on a daily basis by all manner of groups in the community.

Fifty years on, and the association is still an active part of the Warrandyte community. Many residents will have enjoyed another "Festival Follies" recently or attended more serious dramatic productions, while others may have snapped up bargains at the bargain art sales in the hall. Others will have created decorative items for their homes and gardens, or taken part in music nights. Some will have enjoyed works of art in the community to which members have contributed. The festival banner project, for example, was the brainchild of the paint-

ing group leader, Pauline Cross, while the potters, with Marjorie Beecham and Amanda Sgourakis, have made a huge contribution to recent community projects at the Federation Playspace area and The Pines shopping centre.

The association has been consolidating its archives with the help of various members, the Historical Society and the *Warrandyte Diary*. It has been a big task trying to track down some former members. We hope we haven't missed anyone. If you can put us in touch with former members who have moved out of the area or have any vital information, please contact us through either Marjorie Beecham (9844 3206) or Pat Anderson (9844 3442). We would also like to hear from anyone who has any records of events from the early days tucked away at home. Many official records were lost in the 1961 bushfires, but there must be people with old programs of productions or even newspaper clippings. Please ask around and contact us if you find anything.

• Details of WAA 50th anniversary events on Page 15.



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## We shall not forget

Anzac Day will be commemorated in Warrandyte with a parade, assembling in Yarra Street at Whipstick Gully at 10.30am on Tuesday, April 25. Following the march, a non-denominational remembrance service will be held in the RSL Memorial Grounds, between Brackenbury and Yarra streets, commencing at approximately 10.45am. Refreshments will be served in the clubrooms following the service. Everyone welcome. The nearest dawn services to Warrandyte will be in Doncaster and Ringwood.

## New mowers for old

Like to exchange your old, smelly, petrol-powered mower for a new, quieter, rechargeable one?

Manningham residents are invited to participate in an environmental program called "Mowdown" that offers a \$200 rebate as an incentive to trade in their petrol-powered mower for a more environmentally friendly rechargeable mower.

Manningham, in conjunction with the City of Boroondara will host a Mowdown lawnmower exchange day at Timber Ridge Reserve, Anthony Avenue, Bulleen (Mel 32 K9) on Saturday, May 6, 2006.

Mayor Cr Patricia Young said residents who have registered their interest can bring their old mower along between 9am and 3pm on the day and exchange it for a new, efficient, cordless rechargeable mower.

For further details or to register, phone 1800 468 476 or visit: [www.mowdown.com.au](http://www.mowdown.com.au)

## Queen for a day



The kids at Warrandyte Primary School staged their own Commonwealth Games opening ceremony last month. Doreen Hennennessy, queen-for-the-day (pictured), charmed everyone.

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Pictures by Stephen Reynolds

# A great weekend

By EMMA CLARK

I've often wondered if the number of road accidents in Warrandyte increases during the month of March, as drivers gawk up at the power poles looking at the banners for the schools, the churches, the scouts and guides.

Signifying that the festival is just around the corner, the brightly coloured signs are reminders of childhood, of art rooms and big brushes with poster paint, decorating plastic yellow ducks for the race, and hours spent sticking crepe paper feathers to a garbage bag for the parade costume.

Watching the parade brings back memories of a whole variety of homemade costumes for different floats: dressed in overalls and a checked shirt as a four year-old farmer in the kinder truck, as a bird of paradise in grade one and of course, on stage in jeans and a flannie, making music out of two back-to-back soup spoons with the internationally acclaimed Warrandyte Primary Bush Band. Or walking along in a basketball singlet and shorts on a particularly freezing weekend behind the Warrandyte Redbacks banner with my under-12 team, keeping an eye out for Mum as she walked along the footpath, just far enough away so as not to embarrass her 10 year-old daughter.

Straight after the parade, it was down to Stiggants, with the annual debate of "Do we start at the top or the bottom?" The smell of sawdust, hay bales and sizzling sausages would permeate everything. On particularly muddy years, the clean sawdust would last until about midday before becoming a steaming brown carpet, which would cake to the bottom of thongs and gumboots.

A highlight was the waterslide, created by the Scouts. In true Warrandyte style, what was essentially a ditch with a tarp over it created hours of fun for all the local kids. It wouldn't be described as the smoothest ride, with many a bruised bum from the thud into the pool at the end, but would guarantee a laugh even on the coldest days.

I remember being about five and forgetting my bathers, so after me throwing a hissy fit Grandma relented and bought a tie-died swimsuit from a stallholder. I spent the rest of the afternoon sliding down and running back up, muddy-footed and goose-bumpy but thrilled.

The freedom of being allowed to walk around with your friends, only bumping into Mum occasionally, was exhilarating for an eight year-old. Money was always spent on twirling ribbon sticks, lucky dips and those giant red lolly

dummies that would stick to your hair and clothes and take days to eat. In the later years of primary school, it was cool to buy the so called "Roman wedding rings" from the jewellery stand, a linked set of three rings which were worn for months after, until they left a greenish line around your finger.

The fireworks were, and still are, the perfect end to the weekend. The Commonwealth Games opening ceremony fireworks display was no match for the magic of being snuggled up on a picnic blanket on the slope of Stiggants Reserve as the skies light up with twirling lights. The branches of the trees and the faces of the surrounding people illuminate in the (usually cold) night.

Going to a non-Warrandyte secondary school, I put up with many a wise-crack about living in "the sticks". What, no Maccas? But there is something special about sitting on the kerb, watching the parade, and recognising parents of friends, the girls from IGA, faces from the *Diary's* pages and old teachers crowded on the footpaths. The festival emphasises what makes Warrandyte unique: a homemade waterslide, a smiling face, crazy weather and some muddy sawdust surrounded by leafy trees and the Yarra. I wouldn't change a thing.

## FESTIVAL RESULTS

### DUCK RACE

- 1 Joel Carruthers
- 2 Leah Halton
- 3 Finn Swedosh
- 4 Elise Mueller
- 5 Alana Fenton

### PARADE

- Best Overall Entry—Warrandyte High School
- Most Warrandytish—St Anne's Primary School
- Most Colourful—Andersons Creek Primary School
- Most Imaginative—Warrandyte Childcare & Pre-school
- Best Makeup/Costume—Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association

### HOMEBREWING CONTEST

- Champion Beer—Kevin O'Mara
- Lager—Randall Boyce
- Pilsner—Pound Bend Brewers
- Stout—Andrew Cavery
- Draught—Shaun Johnstone
- Ale—Kevin O'Mara
- Ginger Beer—Randall Boyce

### AIR GUITAR COMPETITION

- 1 Claudia Wareham, Ava Coffen & Zoe Simmons
- 2 Ned Clancy
- 3 Connor Joy, Jamie Arnold & Jayden Clay

### COMMUNITY BANK GUESS THE PIGGIES

- (\$50 Bendigo Bank Account)  
 Roland Youakin, Logan, Emily Aldridge, Samuel Stares, Jack Lavery



### TENNIS SERVING

- Open
  - Men: Neil Sproat, 175kph
  - Women: Ange Centrone, 136kph
- Veterans (over 45)
  - Men: Ken McMahon, 128kph
  - Women: Jenny McDonnell, 118kph
- Under 18
  - Boys: Adam Waugh, 191kph
- Under 16
  - Boys: Joel Greve, 189kph
  - Girls: Cassie Wilson, 116kph
- Under 14
  - Boys: Tim Keeble, 136kph
  - Girls: Elise Northover, 114kph
- Under 12
  - Boys: Jayden Deohon, 126kph
  - Girls: Claire Hamley, 87kph
- Under 10
  - Boys: Jack Eadie, 110kph
  - Girls: Tahlia Nolan, 77kph

### BILLYCART DERBY

- 1 Taylor Hayton
  - 2 Jaimie Hayton
  - 3 Hannah Bensch
- Best Cart—Oliver Reade  
 Best Effort—Cyrus Gordon

## Billycarters slug it out

By FIA CLENDINEN

On festival Sunday morning I went down to the billycart derby. There was the usual festive atmosphere: crowds of kids, their over-excited parents, 26 peculiar looking billycarts and the St Johns Ambulance helpfully parked to one side. The air was full of the smell of sausages from the foodstall and dogs scavenged on the ground for scraps.

I saw the infamous Carter billycart—winner of many a previous derby. The Carter clan couldn't bear to let their machine sit idle while the race was on and had roped in a family friend to be the new driver.

I saw Jaime Hayton, the only girl I'd ever known to compete in the billycart race, and last year's champion. Five years ago, Jaime had the long-legged grace of certain skinny Warrandyte kids whether they are boys or girls and when she put on her full-faced helmet you couldn't tell what sex she was. These days, as a 15 year-old, she's just as long-legged and graceful but even taller, with her hair in a plait and a boyfriend to give her a hug before she got ready to race.

There was also a white duck sitting up behind the starting line, surveying the scene through bright beady eyes, and with the arm of some kid draped around its neck.

Finally, all the billycarts were registered and issued with a number, and the race could begin.

The Carter billycart lost its first heat. That was a surprise. The other surprise was that there was a girl behind the wheel. For the first time since I've been watching the derby, two girls were competing.

Jaimie looked to be winning all her heats without even trying. But there were some fearsome machines and the competition was going to be tough.

There were a couple of dramatic spills. A billycart would flip over and the driver's small body would lie still on the road for too many heart-stopping seconds. Then, parents ran forward, the kid scrambled up and we all took a deep breath.

As the morning wore on it became clear there was a force to be reckoned with: 12 year-old



Taylor Hayton. The Haytons are another Warrandyte family who have put their mark on the billycart derby. Taylor has the trademark Hayton long eyelashes and the same steely resolve to win. He came second last year and this year he was winning all his heats. But to me it was painful. Was Jaime really going to lose her title as champion to her own brother?

That is exactly what happened. Taylor Hayton took out first place, Jaimie Hayton came second and Hannah Bensch, the driver of the Carter billycart, made a surprising recovery and came third.

Cyrus Gordon, who built his cart all on his own, took out best-effort trophy, and Oliver Reade won best designed cart.



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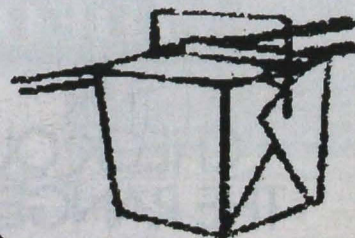


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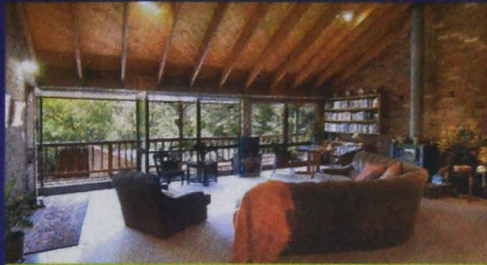
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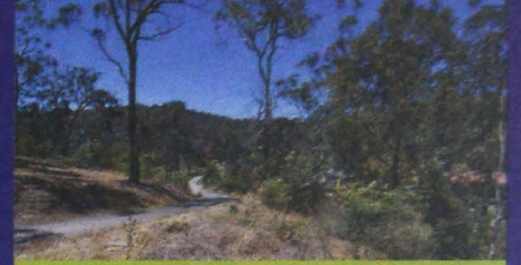
**warrandyte north** for sale by tender  
closes 5pm tues 2 may unless sold prior  
buyer enquiry range \$330k-\$370k

Charming 3 bedroom home. Open plan kitchen/meals/family with vaulted ceilings. Set on more than 1/4 acre with views of Professor's Hill. Garden gazebo. Double garage.



**warrandyte** private sale \$270k+

Rare opportunity to secure a prestigious Warrandyte address. Accessed by private driveway. Gently sloping 1.5 acre allotment adjoining nature reserve.



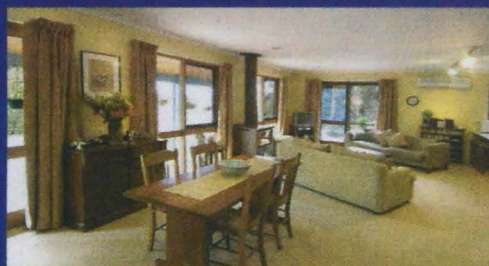
**warrandyte north** private sale \$370k

1.7 acres approx of beautiful bushland just minutes from the Warrandyte township. Sealed road and driveway access. Large elevated home site.



**warrandyte north** for sale  
expressions of interest invited  
buyer enquiry range \$580k-\$630k

What features are on your wish list? Level landscaped gardens, new kitchen, 4 living areas perhaps? This home has it all! 3 bedrooms, formal dining, separate formal lounge, informal dining, rumpus with wet bar. Deck and inground pool. Double garage and double carport.



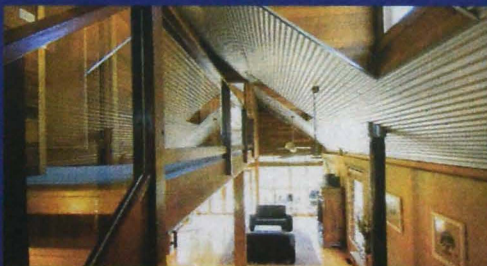
**warrandyte north** for sale by tender  
closes 5pm tues 2 may unless sold prior  
buyer enquiry range \$580k-\$630k

Near 5 acres of picturesque land. 3BR + study. Open plan kitchen/family/dining. Separate family living area. Deck, terrace and inground pool with stunning views of Yarra Ranges and Mt Toolebewong. Option to agist horses (hard feeding required). Double garage.



**warrandyte north** for sale  
expressions of interest invited  
buyer enquiry range \$390k-\$430k

Alistair Knox inspired mudbrick home on more than 1/3 acre just a short stroll to the Yarra. Upstairs 2BRs, open plan kitchen/dining/lounge with polished jarrah boards. Downstairs zone suit teenagers' retreat or home office.



**warrandyte** for sale  
expressions of interest invited  
buyer enquiry range \$580k-\$660k

Custom designed and Macquarie built 3BR + study (suit 4th BR) home, combines New York warehouse chic with charm of Warrandyte mudbrick. Environmentally sensitive design, incl natural timber oils and paints. Open plan kitchen/dining/family. Deck and 1/3 acre level gardens. Walk to river, shops, schools and transport.



**warrandyte north** for sale  
expressions of interest invited  
buyer enquiry range \$590k-\$630k

Would you like the Yarra at the bottom of your garden and a premier Warrandyte address that will make your friends green with envy? Nestled on 1.46 approx of level landscaped gardens. Main house offers kitchen/meals. Conservatory. Terrace & pool. Studio (suit teenagers' retreat or home office). Accessed by 17th century timber and stained glass doors. Double carport.



**warrandyte** for sale  
expressions of interest invited  
buyer enquiry range \$400k-\$440k

Do you operate a home based business? Are you looking to make Warrandyte your home? Versatile 3BR + study home, includes zoned third bedroom with study and ensuite — suit home office. Kitchen/meals, lounge, separate dining/family. Carport and garage.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



### Warrandyte and District Pre-School Association Inc. Tarroona Avenue, Warrandyte

We currently have vacancies in our 4 year old kinder program.  
If you are interested please call the pre-school on 9844 3363.

Congratulations Ronnie on 20 years!

If you would like our community spotlight to shine on your community group's great work, please call Melanie on 9844 0052.

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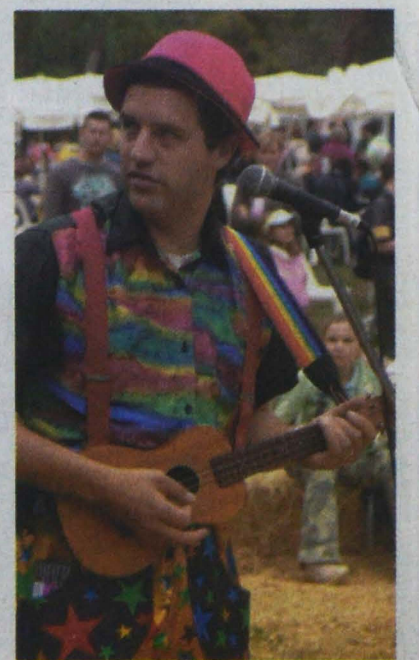
property managers



The sounds of  
Warrandyte



# Warrandyte Village Festival

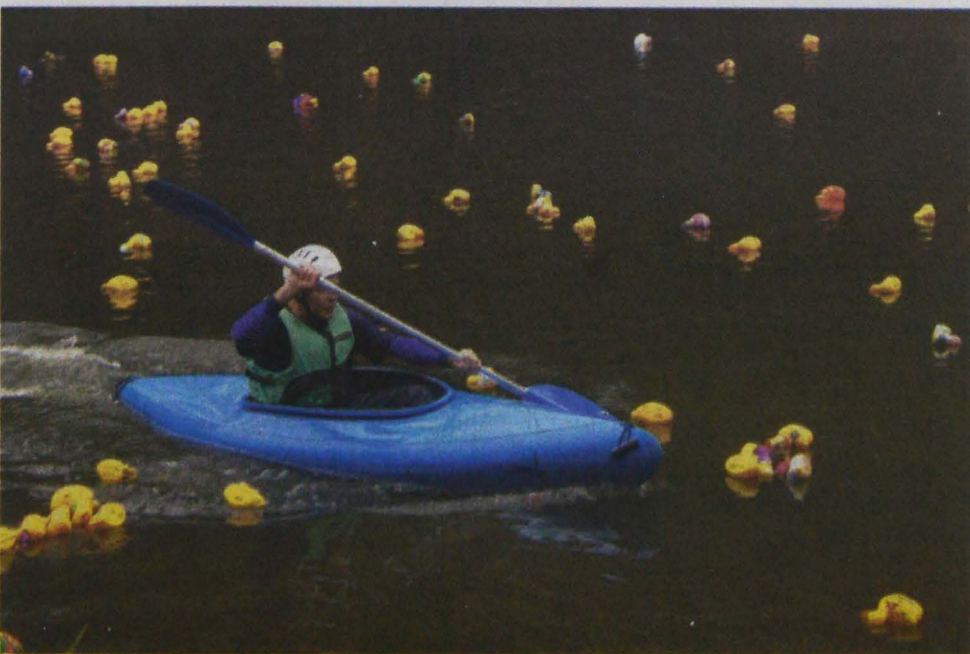




The sounds of  
Warrandyte   
**Warrandyte Village Festival**



Pictures by  
**STEPHEN REYNOLDS**







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Surname: .....

Address: .....

Town: .....

State: ..... Postcode: .....

Boy  or Girl  Please tick one

Your Birthdate You must be under 12 next birthday

Day Month Year

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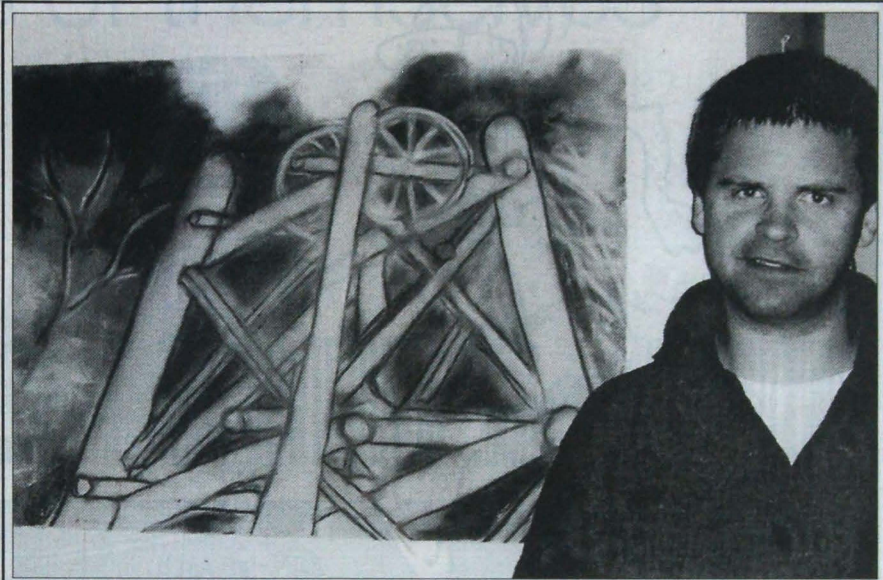
Phone 9844 1735

Goldfields Shopping Centre, 6/402 Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte



# Celebrating 50 years

Warrandyte Arts Association now the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. An exhibition "Showcasing the activities of the WMI&AA, past and present" will be held in the Mechanics Institute Hall on Saturday, May 27 from 12noon to 5pm. It will include memorabilia, painting, pottery and craft with live music. At 3pm a sculpture will be unveiled to mark the occasion and there will be a performance of a one-act play at 4pm. In the evening past and present members will gather for formalities and entertainment. The drama program for the year includes a one-act play festival by the Theatre group in June followed by the performance of Joanna Murray-Smith's "Honour" in September. For information and audition times contact Adrian Rice on 9844 1528. The painting group will be holding a bargain art sale in the hall from 10am to 4pm on Sunday, May 7 with another bargain sale on Sunday, August 6 also in the hall, between 10am to 4pm. For painting group information call Pauline Cross on 9439 1775. The pottery group meets on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in the Old Fire Station. Call Marjorie Beecham on 9844 3206 for pottery information. For the music group contact Pat or John Anderson on 98443442 This group meets roughly every two months in private homes. The craft group meets on the third Monday of each month in the hall. Contact Rosemary Climas on 9844 2154. For hall bookings call Graeme Breadmore on 0408 443 368.



Scott Nye



**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.

lost at the end of the parade on Festival Saturday? If you have, please call Donna on 9844 2953.

## Anti-cancer

Louisa Davies will be speaking on the work of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria with special reference to the cancer helpline and other support groups on Friday, April 28. This is a joint effort between the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House and Information Warrandyte. It will take place in the Neighbourhood House, upstairs in the Warrandyte Community Centre, at 12.30pm. Everyone welcome.

## Nia

Classes in Nia will be held in the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall on Sundays, April 30 and June 4 at 11am. Nia—standing for neuromuscular integrative action—is an expressive body-mind practice to eclectic contemporary music. Call Amanda Stead on 0407 541 156 or Deborah Shaw on 0400 529 897 for further information.

## Meditation

Weekly drop-in classes in Buddhist meditation with Western Buddhist nun, Kelsang Lhachog will be held on Tuesday evenings in the Evelyn room of the Warrandyte Community Centre. There will be a free public talk on April 18 and then classes each week until May 23. A donation of \$12 would be appreciated. Call 9756 7203 for further details.

## Fete

The Emmanuel Anglican Church in Hopetoun Road, Park Orchards, will be holding a family fun fete on Saturday, April 29 from 9am. There will be games for the family and a wide variety of stalls. Morning tea and a barbecue lunch will be available.

## Seminar

The next Manningham Environment seminar is entitled "A stroll through Mongrel Downs-Tanami Desert". Conducted by Rob Dabal, it will be held in the South Warrandyte Hall, 66-68 Hall Road, South Warrandyte on Wednesday, May 3. This free seminar commences at 7.30pm. Bookings are not necessary.

## Scarf

Anyone find a handknitted, brown and grey possum scarf

## Landscapes and buildings in local painter's show

An exhibition of drawings and painting by local artist Scott Nye will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7, 10am to 5pm. The formal opening will be on the Saturday at 11am. Entitled "Landscapes and Buildings", it features many local subjects, plus others "from the Heritage golf course to the MCG".

### ARTYFACTS

#### Stonehouse

The April exhibition at Stonehouse Gallery, 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte shows works by Barbara Ratcliffe and local potter Marymae Trench. Marymae has used fishy designs to decorate her claywork while Barbara has been inspired by her recent visit to France. The gallery is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

#### Exhibition

Earth, Fire and Water is the title of the exhibition running at the Manningham Gallery from April 18 to May 13. Artist Nick Chlebnikowski has been inspired by the beauty of fractal mathematics—the complex patterns which form the basis of the natural world. The gallery at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster is open from 11am to 5pm, Tuesday to Friday and 2pm to 5pm on Saturday.

#### Workshop

A series of professional ArtWear workshops will take place at the Manningham Arts Centre from April 22 to June 3. It is a project dedicated to artworks designed for display on the body. The series will cover millinery, sculpting and shaping artworks to the body, mask-making, jewellery design, weaving, printmaking and felting. The centre is at the corner of Foote Street and Glendale Avenue, Templestowe. The workshops range in price from \$50 to \$70. For details and to reserve a spot call 9840 9367.

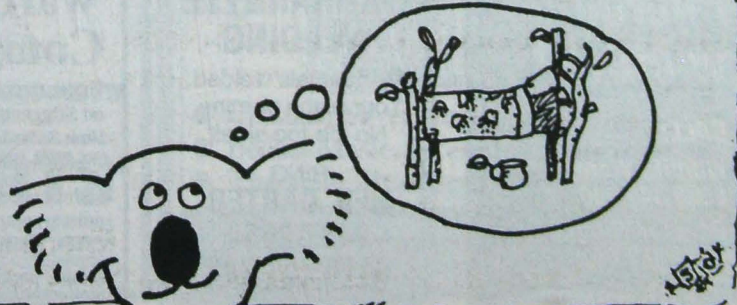
#### Montsalvat

An exhibition of photography and paintings—"Places in the Mind"—presenting works by Leonie Ryan is running at the Long Gallery, Montsalvat, in Eltham until May 1.

## COREY'S COMMUNITY

By SYD & ONA

The ideal community is 1/2 way between a kibbutz & an old people's home. 1/2 are in bed with each other. 1/2 are hobbling around trying to get into bed. The third 1/2 can't remember what bed is!



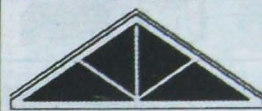
CLASSES HELD TUESDAYS AT WARRANDYTE PRIMARY SCHOOL Multi-purpose Hall, Forbes Street, Warrandyte

4.15-5.15PM TRIPLE BILL: Kinder, Prep & Grade 1 (Jazz, Classical & Tap)  
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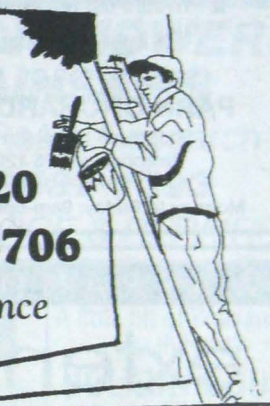


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WARRANDYTE MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND ARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:  
to be held in the WMIAAI hall  
Cnr Mitchell Avenue & Yarra Street  
Monday, June 5 2006, at 8pm  
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## Warrandyte Neighbourhood House

TERM 2 COURSES 2006

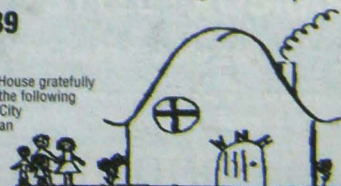
Busy Needles (weekly craft group) Tues am • Children's Drawing Mon, Tues pm • Yoga Mon pm • Tai Chi Tues pm • Pilates Tues am, Wed pm • Tibetan Meditation Fri pm • Bollywood Dancing Tues pm • Monday Walking Group Mon am • Monthly Discussion and Lunch Group Fri monthly • French Club Wed pm • Book Club Wed pm (monthly) • Creative Writing Tues pm • Community Choir Mon pm • Mosaics Thurs pm • Card Making Wed am • Dolls with a Difference Wed pm • Mental Illness Support Group Wed pm • Men's Group Wed pm • Strong Women Stay Young Tue, Fri am

### NEW THIS TERM

Felting Workshop Sat • Create your own Journal Sun  
• Introduction to Natural Therapies Fri • "I am Me" Workshop Sat • Machine Embroidery Workshop Sat

RING 9844 1839 TO ENROL

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House gratefully acknowledges funding from the following organisations: Manningham City Council, Department of Human Services and Doncare.



Website: www.warrandyteneighbourhoodhouse.org.au



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# Dressing for an occasion — upmarket and down

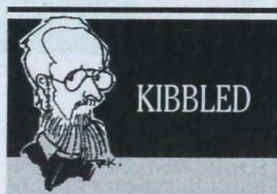
**A**s a species we are weird. We behave oddly and sometimes, not only do we behave strangely but also we appear to contradict the very rules we make for ourselves.

This world-shattering insight struck me the other day as I was lounging on the beach. It was one of those blissful March days, the sort that is hot but without the oppressive and enervating swelter of February. The type of day when there is nothing to do but think wise thoughts.

Usually, the most difficult task on a beach day is to negotiate the shortest route from the car park to our designated piece of tide-washed foreshore. "Regulars" like us have unwritten land rights to time-selected spots on the beach. Without a word being spoken, squatter rights are maintained. Foreigners who stumble upon a "selection" and thereby breach beach protocol are tolerated, but only because it is understood that normality will be resumed the following day. On this particular beach day, normality reigned.

The day was relatively windless, unlike those brash January days whose squalls sandblast skin and delight in uprooting beach umbrellas to send them on their way to shishkebab nearby loungers. On that March day however, what breeze there was cooled rather than ruffled. The worst it was prepared to do that day was waft the medicinal aroma of insect repellent and sunscreen.

The sky, too, was stage-managed. It was the clean blue of the volunteers' Smurf uniform with an occasional smear of



**"Foreigners who stumble upon a 'selection' and thereby breach beach protocol are tolerated, but only because it is understood that normality will be resumed the following day. On this particular beach day, normality reigned."**

whipped cream and the sun had not yet moved west far enough to dazzle the sea. All in all, the afternoon provided the perfect

conditions for observation.

On weekends and school holidays, our beach teems with the complete age range of our species. Nearest the waterline are the young parents with toddlers who are busily eating sand and alternately pleading for parental help and then, as quickly, dismissing them with the same degree of self-concern.

Around them are the male just-teenagers, relentlessly attempting to manage their first flush of testosterone. They skim along the shallows on pieces of circular plywood. When this palls, but their tanks of hormones are still reading half full, they resort to goading their respective pack leaders to any contest. They are driven, but as yet don't know why. The alpha males humour their pups until lethargy, injury, or the prospect of food and drink draws them back to the shade. Meanwhile, the cubs are left complaining about the unfairness of having to coexist with adults.

In the shallows are the flirts; the guys who rush past the gaggle of nubile bikinis, accidentally, to splash them, then to be cheered by their mock screams of fear and outrage. Older versions, further up the beach, who have lurched past the splashing stage and who are now sun and sex aroused, lounge provocatively, ogling the older bikinis, wishing their real life resembled their fevered day and night dreams.

Then there are us, the sensible, mature, beachkeepers. Sensible that is, until you realise that we too, whilst on the beach, present in a way that others may find strange.

We were out of milk and Her-

self, who is perfectly capable of driving to the local shop, insisted that I go because she was not properly dressed as she was wearing only underwear and a sarong. Minutes before, both of us were walking along the beach, in front of innocent children and an audience of hundreds, all of whom must have been blind to the fact that we were wearing the equivalent of underwear. Why is it that we blanch at the horrifying social gaff we might make by wearing semi-formal to a formal do and yet are happy to disport ourselves in our least flattering garb at the beach?

There should be something wonderfully liberating about the fact that the same dress rules don't apply at the beach. There we can, literally, let it all hang out; unless of course you have easily embarrassed children who remind you that although there may not be the same strictness of dress code at the beach there definitely is one; theirs. Evidently it is perfectly appropriate for them to wear baggy, clingy kneelength shorts that look like a circus clown's pants, or a swim costume that is, in reality, no more than two bottle tops and a cork, whilst my quick-drying, neat and comfortable "budgie smugglers" are gross and idiotic.

It all seems bizarre! Perhaps the only reasonable way to deal with clothing inconsistencies is not to think too hard about them or if you do, perhaps, at least with beach etiquette, the only logical solution is to go back to bathing boxes and neck-to-knees or, alternatively, to shop in the nude.

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# Feathered clowns make galahs of themselves

It was my brother's fourth visit to Australia, but my sister-in-law's first. Naturally we took them down to our Mallacoota house in the far south-east corner of the state for a hectic self-indulgent week of swimming, boating, golfing and so on. Around six o'clock most evenings the four of us would collapse in the comfy chairs with a drink.

One evening, planning the next day's itinerary, I was engrossed in a map when my sister-in-law Maggie started chuckling loudly. I looked up to see what had amused her. Just outside the window, hanging upside down by its beak from the telephone wire, was a galah. Belly up, wings outstretched, it was indeed a comical sight. While the birds will upend themselves to wash their feathers in the rain, the day was fine and in its typical larrikin way, this one was just mucking about. To confirm this, the galah proceeded to swing round and around on the high wire like a trapeze artist.

Maggie loved all the birds at Mallacoota—the parrots, lorikeets, magpies (her namesake), kookaburras, bowerbirds, honeyeaters and wrens—especially the wrens, so much more friendly than those back home in England, she said. But it was the galahs and their rascalion antics that were her favourites.

They generally arrived in small flocks with crests raised—boisterous and rowdy like a group of unruly teenagers, which in bird terms they are, as roving flocks of galahs are primarily made up of young birds. Adults, which pair-bond for life, are basically resident. Quite frequently a couple would land on our balcony railing. Bobbing their heads they would snuggle up side-by-side, touching beaks and tenderly preening each other.

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

Galahs are one of the smaller cockatoos belonging to the family Cacatuidae, distinguished from parrots by a large mobile crest. Because they are so common we tend to overlook the beauty of their smokey grey wings and tail feathers and deep rosy pink breast and neck which becomes paler over the head and crest—coloration that has given rise to the species name of *roseicapella* (rosy-headed).

Like other cockatoos, galahs nest in a tree hollow which they line with green eucalyptus leaves. Both parents incubate the eggs and tend the young until they become independent—up to two months. Galahs can live for over 20 years in the wild (double that in captivity), returning to the same nest site year after year. However, many birds do not survive that long. Viral disease can wipe out a whole brood, while others are killed on the road or shot by farmers. Predators such as cats and foxes also take a heavy toll on these ground feeding seed-eaters.

Two hundred years ago galahs were confined to the wooded inland where there was access to water, they only reached the coast in the far west. Following European settlement, food and water became more abundant with the planting of cereal crops and construction of farm dams. As agriculture developed the range of the galah expanded dramatically to encompass most of the continent.

Today huge flocks congregate to feed on grain spilt from silos



and trucks. At harvest time these opportunistic cockatoos descend on farms to forage for seeds left behind on the stubble.

Not unexpectedly, this results in conflict between the farmers and the birds and various efforts have been made to reduce galah numbers, but without any great success.

Sadly the galah's entertaining behaviour is its downfall, as these Australian birds are a popular item for the legal and illegal overseas bird trade. Some die in transportation, whilst those that survive are doomed to a life behind bars. For a bird that expresses its freedom in such an exuberant way, it is an onerous sentence.

**PLANT OF THE MONTH**

Long-leaf Box (*Eucalyptus goniocalyx*) grows on Warrandyte's dry stony hills and ridges. When young it has attractive round, grey-green leaves. These are replaced by typical long narrow leaves as the tree gets older. Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) is a large dense shrub, adaptable to most soils. Its showy clusters of white flowers appear in summer and attract butterflies. Both these local species make good garden plants and can be obtained this month from the Friends of Warrandyte State Park nursery which is located at the rangers' depot at Pound Bend. For more information contact the nursery manager on 0408 313 7327.

# Memories are made of this

A RING of white fire soared skywards from the roof of the "G", blazed along the curving Yarra and leapt from the tops of the city skyscrapers. Any vintage Londoners must have had flashbacks to the Blitz. Luckily for us, it was all in fun, sensational, a never-to-be-repeated moment in history.

"This is one of those great occasions," burred some hapless commentator, "when each of us will remember where we were and what we were doing."

Of course we will, you nong. We were watching you on the telly. Or trying to—as we adjourned to yet another ad break.

You can just imagine the TV network's committee meeting that decided which nations' entries to the arena, which foxy captains, which surfboats gliding upstream with the silent and powerful purpose of Viking invaders, which of all these definitive moments the viewers could gloss over.

"Tuvalu... never won a Commonwealth Games medal—"

"Neither's Samoa, or Niue."

"Nah, too close to home—has

**OUR PLACE**  
By MARILYN MOORE

anyone from Seychelles ever won a medal?"

"Cayman Island's pretty small ..."

"There's Belize ..."

"Who?"

"What about Dominica? Have they ever won anything?"

Forget the telly. To get a sense of occasion, one had only to wander along the Yarra and look at the line of great silvery fish linking Princes Bridge with Swan Street. What a brilliant idea! Every competing nation was there, shoulder to shoulder, each displaying a representative of their aquatic fauna that taught us something about the place. Some countries wouldn't have had much choice of emblem (for example, landlocked Botswana, which backs onto one of the world's great deserts) and others had simply too much (like Australia), but the fish symbolically brought the nations together on a level footing and in an interesting

and meaningful way that the televised version of the opening ceremony just couldn't manage to do.

Why don't TV presenters understand that events like the Commonwealth Games aren't just about medals? Everybody else seems to know it. Having trundled one of our own budding athletes off to the Pacific School Games several years ago, I can vouch for the fact that while the time spent on the track is important, in the end it's barely a few minutes of fame. The real event lasts much longer, and is made up of life-and-death things like finding shoes for athletes who came without, checking out the food from Japan or the Cook Islands, partying with the boys from Niue, getting used to different accents, colouring the hair of some brave little person from Vanuatu at two o'clock in the morning... it's a whole kaleidoscope of shared moments and lasting friendships.

The athletes delight in the differences between their clothes, food and music because at heart they have so much in common. Their talents differ widely, but they all know the

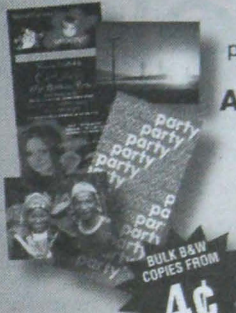
meaning of hard work, they all have something to share and they all have something worthwhile to offer. It simply doesn't matter whether you are black or brown or white, able or disabled, a medallist or not.

Spectators also celebrated much more than only the winners: the last man home in the marathon, (from tiny St Helena, whose roads don't even make up the marathon distance); the last two cyclists in the women's road race (gutsy young women from Malta and Malaysia); a B-grade rugby sevens match between Kenya and Samoa... it was a celebration of just being there, being part of it all and giving it your best shot. Rather like life in general, really.

It took 13-year-old Melissa Wu to highlight this truth. When asked what she would take home from these games, she listed everything from her enjoyment of the athletes' village ("awesome!") and its new friendships to all the little souvenirs she'd bought for her family.

The reporter had to prompt her several times to get her to mention the medal she'd won in the synchronized diving. QED.

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# Keeping the potters' wheels turning

Words and pictures  
by JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

**A**S I browsed the stalls at the sixth annual Warrandyte Pottery Expo, held on the last weekend in February, I wondered about the science of artefacts. Just for fun I adopted the archaeologist's perspective and searched for the story within the pots and behind those who make them. What I found surprised, delighted, and confronted me.

When Potters Cottage school closed in 2003 our community felt the loss of one of Melbourne's best-loved centres for the development and teaching of ceramics.

Yet there is more to the closure of Potters Cottage than meets the eye. The broader reasons for the closure and its likely effect on the future of potting in Warrandyte were revealed in part as I discussed potting with a selection of Expo stallholders.

Jane Annois was the first I met. She established the Pottery Expo in 2001 with support and encouragement from a few potters—French and local.

She told me how she travelled to Europe in 1997 and joined a small potting community in the South of France. In this setting Jane shared potting skills and developed innovative sales techniques.

She was struck by the simplicity and impact of potters' markets. This is where local potters displayed and sold their work, and made contact with buyers from across Europe. It was imperative that the work was of a very

high standard. The pottery markets had gained a reputation for quality and innovation. She became a keen stallholder, first in Lyon, then in other towns and villages in France and Switzerland.

On her return to Warrandyte Jane found that galleries and ceramics courses were closing, potters were abandoning their wheels and the cottage industry seemed to be in crisis. Inspired by her experience in France, Jane and a few others from the local potting community started to look for solutions: "We can't blame the public, the government or the galleries, we've got to do something. Let's get off our bums and try the French style pottery markets here in Warrandyte." And that's what they did.

Five years later the Expo is flourishing and serving as a shining example to other communities. You can now find annual potters markets at Federation Square, Gapsted Winery (near Beechworth) and (soon) in Adelaide. Her French connection is of mutual benefit to both local potters and the French.

"I will be taking a pottery tour group to Europe in our spring, and one in autumn, when several of us will have the opportunity to participate in the French potters markets," Jane said. "Next year we hope to have seven French potters at the Warrandyte Expo. And of course all this activity is stimulating local potters to extend their ceramics practice, to reach standards which sit proudly at an international level."

Understandably Jane's pottery has a distinctively French air about it, using the style known as *Terre vernissee*—a terracotta clay with white slip and traditional glazes from the South of France. Decorations are inspired by her love of French culture and "le poulet" (the chook) is a common motif.

These pieces are meant for everyday use. The French use handmade pottery in their houses, and delight in the presentation of food and the pleasure of using beautiful objects as a matter of everyday life. Australians have tended towards mass-produced earthenware imported from low wage countries such as China and the Philippines. The Expo aims to show this need not be the case.

Jane also makes more "arty" pieces using the ancient Japanese Raku process. Raku firing gives the glaze a unique rustic look with iridescent reds, greens and blues seeming to shine from within the clay.

Jena Bedson is another of the Expo's seasoned potters. Jena takes her inspiration from peasant traditions in South America and Russia.

As it was for Jane, the Potters Cottage community was also a major influence during Jena's formative years. She told me how that community was like a magnet to her while she was still at school.

Over the years she has taken many different approaches to potting. She has dug her own clays, made her own glazes, and fired pots in every possible way. This taught her a lot about the

earth and fire, but proved very labour-intensive. Eventually she found that her forte lies in decorating pieces in bright colours. "Now I work at integrating form and function in a colourful and fun way," she said.

Jena and Jane are emblematic of a core group of potters at the Expo—experienced perfectionists, globally aware, finely attuned to the commercial realities of the potter's trade. They form a nucleus upon which developing potters can grow and develop. For example Tracey Sharkey and Rose Vallis are recent graduates of the Holmesglen (TAFE) ceramics course. They are searching for niches within the changing industry. Their story demonstrates the nurturing functions of the Pottery Expo.

Tracey Sharkey began by making porcelain beads. "I could not be bothered making beads anymore, so I squashed the beads and made some buttons," she said. "I rang up a button supplier and asked if they stocked local porcelain buttons and they said no, we import them from Japan."

Since then she has found an increasing demand for her "high-fired wearable ceramics", now marketed under the Butans brand. During the Expo she was approached by galleries and buyers and started to wonder how she could supply her buttons in higher volumes.

Rosie Vallis is also a recent graduate of Holmesglen TAFE, with higher qualifications in education and visual arts. For her the challenge is to integrate her love of learning with a desire to

express her creative spirit. Recently she has found ways to integrate fine art with her porcelain pottery—drawing directly onto porcelain, rather than the paper used by other artists

Not for Rosie the teapots and coffee mugs that were once the bread and butter of the potter's trade. For her pottery is all about aesthetics, how the object looks and feels. Her pieces are fine innovative statements that integrate the malleable shapes of porcelain with the poetic lines of the human form.

Graduates of Chisholm TAFE (Dandenong) also displayed their work and participated in the sculpting competition.

These stories are just four of dozens that filled our riverbank with colour and life for one weekend in February. Some potters take a comic view, others more tragic, yet one theme prevails. Skills once considered the lifeblood of a society are under threat. It's no different in pottery, upholstery, textiles, or the visual arts.

I admit to being saddened by the prospect of a future where our coffee mugs and teapots, once so proudly produced in local cottages will be the product of potters' wheels that turn half a world away.

Our potters are a tenacious breed, revealing familiar aspects of the Australian spirit in the face of adversity. The Pottery Expo provides an opportunity for Warrandyte to imbibe these qualities. I believe our pots continue to tell us so much about ourselves and our community.



Jena Bedson with her favourite teapot.



Rose Vallis and her fine porcelain.



Evening of the second day and Jane Annois' stand is thriving still.

## Fooling around at the festival follies

**M**ELBOURNE'S Commonwealth Games provided a fabulous once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to assemble at the MCG and witness the coming together of 71 nations in our own city. Correspondingly, the Warrandyte Theatre Company's "Not the Commonwealth Games" Follies provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Warrandytians to assemble at the Mechanics Institute and glimpse some of the peripheral action in our own worthy village.

Okay, maybe not once-in-a-lifetime for the Follies. There was a similarly themed show during the early 1990s. But Games events are rich with pickings and Warrandyte was certainly ready for another perspective on it all.

Another perspective was certainly what the audience got. Replacing the opening ceremony, a Chaplinesque film of the baton relay took us from one recognizable locale to another (although nobody in the audience would have objected to a larger screen or a clearer

picture). The baton changed hands and changed guises in any number of slapstick ways, and at one stage looked a complete goner after ending up in the Yarra, but next thing, there it was in Mitchell Avenue, knocking at the Mechanics Institute door for presentation to Her Majesty. HRH then graced us with a few well-chosen words and Not-the-Games was up and running. And unlike the real thing, we were amused.

As always with the Follies, there was a large number of items put together by a dozen or more writers and covering a range of styles and themes, some funnier than others but all well-conceived and well-performed. Directed by Adrian Rice and Lynne Counsel and produced by Leanne Stringer, the 2006 Follies was notable for its excellent production and timely between-scenes transitions, aided by short interludes of Ken Virtue's lively limericks. Never a dull moment!

This year's Festival King, Kevin O'Mara, received by far the rowdiest ovation (what were those girls drinking?) for



By MARILYN MOORE

his duet with everybody's favourite Follies entertainer Alan Cornell. The audience needed very little encouragement to join in their double act "Come Out to Play" and "Synchronised Singing". The rafters would have been rattling—as everything else in the hall was. Unfortunately the chorus of Alan's song cannot be repeated here, but like many of Alan's choruses it does tend to stick in your mind so I daresay you will hear the odd snatch of it in the aisles down at IGA over the next few weeks. Kevin's iconic status amongst the younger generation is clearly a result of his long-time and popular involvement with Warrandyte Primary School, the junior football club and the festival, amongst other things. It explains why this type of act, while highly professional, is unique to community theatre and epitomises what

the Follies is all about.

Other audience favourites included the amazing "Ping Pong" performance, Bill Mitchell's extraordinarily apt John Howard impersonation in "Hero" and the beautifully sung pathos in "On the Street Where We Live", the tale of two homeless people who were being shunted out of sight for the duration of the Games.

Writing scripts several months in advance must have been a challenge, because nobody could have foreseen what would become topical during the Games. The material for some skits, such as those exposing racial stereotyping ("Billet"), blithe government spin ("Meat the Press"), whingeing British tourists ("Visit") and a certain sprinter's male appendage ("Matt Shavingcream") was predictable in its general applicability. Only during the actual Games, however, might anybody have thought of writing about the extraordinary popu-



spotted!

Cariacaturism is seen as a bit shallow in mainstream theatre, but it is a vital element that drives many Follies skits. The Prue & Trude-style volleys in "Ambassadors", Camilla and Charles in "Royal Visitors" and "Water Polo", the Sybil Fawley-style waitress in "Risotto" along with assorted tarts, newsreaders, reporters and so on, successfully established wonderfully clichéd characters within seconds of being on stage. Perhaps the most enjoyable example was in "Old Farts", where eight or so nursing home residents lined up in chairs along the footpath to watch the mara-

larity (and palpable incomprehensibility) of Melbourne's Lord Mayor ("So Hard to Understand"), or of the restlessly wheeling gulls unable to enjoy their usual quiet night's sleep on the hallowed pitch at the G ("Gulls Just Want to Have Fun"). Well

thon go by. It would be quite rude to laugh at this sort of behaviour in real life, but by crickey, you've got to laugh at it somewhere. This was a delightfully perceptive contribution from Keryn Wood.

The musical items, written and/or arranged by musical director and pianist Jack Stringer, rounded out the show beautifully. "Commonwealth of Nations", "Down to the Games" and "Jerusalem" were performed with expertise and discipline, and greatly enjoyed by all.

Putting on the Follies each year involves a cast of thousands, so to speak, not only writers, performers and organisers but stage crew, sets, costumes, lighting, sound and film production as well as all the audience-gathering elements: publicity, programs, tickets and front-of-house. It's a huge overall investment in time and effort, but the result speaks for itself. Warrandyte without the Follies would be like Her Majesty without the hairdo, frock, gloves and handbag—simply unrecognisable.



# Passing generations

**P**EOPLE come and go in communities and Warrandyte kindergarten teacher Ronnie Pedersen estimates she has taught "about 800 of them".

Ronnie moved to the old Tarooma Avenue kindergarten in 1986. "I didn't even know where Warrandyte was before that," she said. "I had 50 children in two groups in the old building until we moved to the community centre while the new building was built. I was pregnant when I went through the floorboards because of the termites."

A kindergarten doesn't work the same way each year, she said, with group dynamics and parental involvement bringing a freshness to every group. "Parents within the community have changed—Warrandyte was a local town with the arty people and the locals. Now there's more business families, from outside the area and from overseas which makes it difficult for them, but this area has been good for them."

Ronnie admires anyone who works well with children, such as her co-teachers. "They are very creative and we swap ideas which makes for a richer program. Staff changes mean it's not stale and we're up-to-date with the latest methods because of visiting students." Last year Ronnie won a community award for involving the kindergarten in community activities.

"I've been here for 20 years now and it's great for kindergartens and kindergarten teachers to get recognised—we can be fairly isolated. It was lovely getting my award and a crystal decanter from the mayor. We soldier on, but it's kind of embarrassing at the same time. Kindergarten teachers put their heart and soul into their work and it's nice that people realise that." She said she'd recently seen a former student come into the kinder with her own baby.

A self-described country girl from South Gippsland, Ronnie grew up living with her grandfather, a bachelor uncle, her mother and siblings. She was the fourth of five children, only a year old when her father died in a car accident, her brother born shortly after his death. The family lived on a dairy farm on the edge of Boolarra but Ronnie and her sister were not allowed to work on the property.

"My grandfather disapproved of girls on the farm. Mum got to look after all of us, poor thing. She was very practical and down-to-earth. All my grandfather would let us girls do on the farm was bring down the billy of milk."

Ronnie felt she was brought up by the community. "My mum's era had all grown up during the war together and were extremely supportive of one another. My mum, and her mum, anyone with problems would come and talk to them. Our house had a big passage right through the middle where people used to come and go all the time. I suppose I was used to helping."

She said she didn't immediately go into kindergarten training but worked in an office for two years. "I think I cried just about every day for those two years, I hated it so much. Then I

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

was married at 19 and went to live in Red Cliffs for seven years where I worked as a relieving maintenance officer at Mildura base hospital. It was scary when the oxygen supply went off while they were operating."

Realising she related quite well to children, Ronnie became a teacher's aide. A kindergarten teacher told her she would be okay teaching the younger children, and although earlier she had not wanted to move into social work because the training would have meant a move to Melbourne, she enrolled at the Institute of Early Childhood Development in Kew. Her marriage ended and later she married Bandula Karunatilake—"Karu", a former flat-mate from Sri Lanka.

"It took a bit of learning to see how Australians treated people with a different skin colour. I was disgusted to see how we treated people from a different cultural background. Twenty years ago in a shop Karu would ask for something and the shop assistant would ignore him and reply to me."

Once qualified, Ronnie found it hard to get work so she returned to the country, this time in Colac, to the Wydinia kindergarten, seeing Karu only at weekends. "He was a food technical officer in the Arnotts biscuit factory, not a country person. When he walked down the street everybody would watch him. I realised how hard it must be to live in another country."

Ronnie moved on to Yooralla, the society mainly for children with cerebral palsy in Footscray, where she taught nine children. "Most were quadriplegic, one was quad and a couple had no special needs and were able-bodied. They were fully rounded children who acted as role models." She had two assistants plus specialist therapists and said she found the work very rewarding.

"I learned at Yooralla that children are children—people may put their behaviour down to being special needs at times but they were just being cheeky, trying out things." However, she preferred the involvement of more parents in her kindergarten and hence the move to the east.

Ronnie and Karu have two daughters, 16 and 12, who went to Donvale and Mitcham kindergartens. "You'd like to put your own wisdom into young people's heads, give them the psychological knowledge that I've had rather than learning the hard way. I'd like them to be well-rounded people and fair parents."

Working fulltime, Ronnie said she doesn't have much time for herself but she would like to help the community, perhaps reading to older people or working with migrants.

"You never know when you might need that support. When my second child was born with a major heart condition the kindergarten parents were



Ronnie Pedersen and friends. (Picture by Judy Green)

amazing—some mothers came all the way to Mitcham with meals for me for several weeks, all had young families. There are good networks here in the Warrandyte community, it's vibrant and people support one another very well," she said.

"Always say 'yes' to offers of help—people often find it hard to say yes—we thought that we had decent jobs and didn't need help. Accepting help makes the difference between sanity and insanity."

Her divorce, a miscarriage and her daughter's heart condition have helped Ronnie to gain the trust of parents. "Living at the Royal Children's Hospital for four weeks I saw things that I'd never seen before. I saw a priest in the kitchen who was helping parents decide whether to turn off life support—thank goodness we never had to make that decision. Although I never want to go through my daughter's medical problem again, these life experiences help—I know a lot of personal details about the families at the kindergarten."

"I'm not full of confidence and it was a huge achievement for me to do the kindergarten course. I'm gullible, approachable and I tend to take on other people's problems, which can sometimes become a problem for me. I'm friendly and treat everyone as equals. I like to make a difference with some people in their child's life." She said she liked to keep up-to-date in her field and also felt part of the community,

also through her children's schools and sports clubs.

"Children have changed over the 22 years and so has the whole education system. There was a lot of play but now there's a lot more education through play, honing in on different areas and being aware of the whole child."

"Children are exposed to much more now—their developmental levels are the same but the stages occur at a faster pace. It's a shame with all the television and computer games that they lose their innocence now. They're much more exposed to mainly visual impacts and don't play as many board or card games. They do more sensory play with water, clay and slime, and one or two can explore something together at an interest area. They practise fine motor stuff and social skills as a group."

"All kids learn differently and no one way works for all kids. Some are perfectionists, some are haphazard, some are leaders and some are followers. You look at them and say this child will be an engineer or that one is suited to accounting. It's fascinating how they will turn out—I look in the *Diary* for the names of which former students have done what."

"It's all very well to have flash-bang things but they still need social skills. If you watch children with blocks and little cars they crash them into the blocks—they never used to do that. They've got no respect for equipment, if something happens they say 'just

buy another one' but we try and teach them to take care of their environment. Children are more demanding now but they need to understand society's rules, have manners, wait their turn and learn that they can't always get what they want."

Ronnie said music was a huge thing in kindergarten. "The children respond so well, they have a natural beat in their body. Developing and enriching that beat helps their listening skills and survival. If they're stressed, music is calming. They need lots of sensory stuff; it builds their own body awareness, a sense of self-worth and achievement."

Ronnie hates people being nasty to one another and putting others down. She and her two co-teachers teach the children to be part of society, believing that they must belong in a group to survive emotionally and physically.

"We teach them to help each other putting on their smocks and if they see someone who's lonely to go up and ask if they want help. By the end of the year it feels like a family group." She enjoys seeing people laugh and watching her own children succeed. "To see children mastering something, the look on their faces, it's lovely. There's laughing or smiling in every session."

Ronnie lives for the day, "because there's so much to think about, working and running round after two teenagers. I look back at the past more positively than it probably was sometimes, and I can't imagine the future."



## Blood running brown

I think that it's got me  
This sleepy green town.  
I think that the river  
now runs through my veins.

Me, the girl from Fitzroy  
came here on a whim.  
My friends thought for months  
it was a phase that would pass

as soon I missed  
the bustle, the pubs,  
all that night-time excitement,  
and I'd pine for my mates.

But the magic it got me  
right from the start,  
the green and the silence  
then that raucous dawn chorus.

And the brown satin river  
that flows through my life,  
its dreamy meander  
slowing you down.

And now that I'm here  
that bossy river insists  
I'll never again  
wear stockings or suits;  
attend "Best Practice" meetings  
have bars on my windows;

and I'll never again  
think that "going for a walk"  
is from front door  
to tram stop,  
or sometimes  
to corner shop.

Each morning I start  
the day with my river—  
walking its banks and  
absorbing its moods,  
knowing the while  
that what I do daily,  
those folks from the city  
wait until Sunday,  
drive a long time  
and spend a whole day.

Each morning  
I walk,  
and give directionless thanks  
for the day that I chose  
to slow down and breathe,  
for the day  
that the magic  
seeped through my veins,  
and for day after day  
of my blood running brown.

KAREN THROSSELL



# Warrandyte's hat-trick of junior tennis flags



Boys' Section 26 premiers from left, standing: Roland Youaikim, Toby Versteegen, Adam Given. Kneeling: Braden Pynt and Mark and Nicholas Ford-Learner.

Three junior teams from Warrandyte Tennis Club have won grand finals of the Eastern Region Tennis summer competition.

Boys singles/doubles 10 had a very close battle with Wantirna. After drawing on both sets and games (four sets and 38 games each), a tie-break set was played to decide the match, with Warrandyte winning 6-2.

The team consisted of Matthew Versteegen, Lachlan Buckley, Tristan Jackson, Satchi Wallis, Adrian Mifsud and Kyle Ratcliffe. The team had finished the season second on the ladder and defeated Parkwood in the semi final.

Boys singles/doubles 16 came from second on the ladder to defeat Guy Turner Reserve six sets 47 games to two sets 32 games. This followed a very close semi final against Wonga Park where they finished equal on sets but managed to be one ahead on games. The team included Stuart Langridge, Xavier Longfield, Michael Ashfield, Kieran Robertson, James Woodman, and Phillip Abbot.

Boys doubles 26 who finished top of the ladder managed to hold their position with a win over Ferny creek four sets 32 games to two sets 23 games. They had soundly defeated Selby in the semi final.

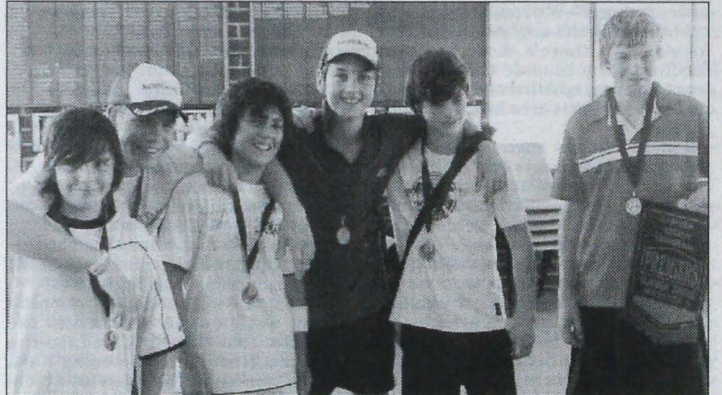
Members of this team were Mark Ford-Learner, Nicholas Ford-Learner, Braden Pynt, Roland Youaikim, Toby Versteegen and Adam Given.

Six other Warrandyte teams made it to the finals but lost their semis.

Junior Convenor Michelle Gilling said the club would have a record number of teams entered for Eastern Region competition in the coming winter season with 19 teams.



Boys' singles/doubles 16 premiers. Standing from left, Phillip Abbott, Michael Ashfield, Kieran Robertson, Xavier Longfield and James Woodman while captain, Stuart Longridge is holding the pennant.



The Boys' singles/doubles 10 premiers from left, Satchi Wallis, Kyle Ratcliffe, Adrian Mifsud, Lachlan Buckley, Tristan Jackson and Matt Versteegen (captain).

## Junior champions retain their titles

Warrandyte Tennis Club junior champions from 2005 retained their titles in this year's finals played last month at the Taroona Avenue courts.

Joel Greve defeated Tristan Valentino in hard fought match. After losing the first set 4-6, Joel rallied to take the second in a tie-breaker, finishing off with 6-4 in the third. Tristan won the 15 and under section final.

In the girls events Claire Bence defeated Elise Northover 6-1,6-4. Elise was successful in the 15 and under section. Ryan Tester and Gabbi Mitchell won the 12 and under events.

Full results:

18 & under:  
Boys singles: Joel Greve d Tristan Valentino 4-6,7-6,6-4. Boys doubles: Nick Crosbie/Adam Waugh d Tristan Valentino/Chris Robinson 6-4,7-5. Girls singles: Claire Bence d Elise Northover 6-1,6-4. Girls doubles: Elise Northover/Camilla Rogers d Tessa Cudmore/Claire Bence 6-2,7-6. Mixed doubles: Rowan Dwymer/Claire Bence d Rhys Simpson/Tessa Cudmore 2-6,7-5,7-6. 15 & under:

Boys singles: Tristan Valentino d Daniel Buckley 8-6. Boys doubles: Tristan Valentino/Andrew Bird d Daniel and Ryan Tester 8-0. Girls singles: Elise Northover d Camilla Rogers 8-4. Girls doubles: Elise Northover/Camilla Rogers d Jade Valentino/Stefanie Lambrianidis 8-1. Mixed doubles: Jade and Tristan Valentino d Elise Northover/Daniel Tester 8-5.

12 & Under:  
Boys singles: Ryan Tester d Daniel



Warrandyte Tennis Club's champion boy, Joel Greve.

Mifsud 6-0. Boys doubles: Daniel Ford-Learner/Ryan Tester d Daniel and Braden Mifsud 6-2. Girls singles: Gabbi Mitchell d Jade Valentino 6-4. Girls doubles: Jade Valentino/Ariel Patterson d Gabbi Mitchell/Kate Gorrie 6-1. Mixed doubles: Jade Valentino/Daniel Ford-Learner d Gabbi Mitchell/Keiran Robertson 6-4,6-3.



Members of the mid-week premiers team, from left at back, Trish Alger, Maaikie Naude. Front, Karin Green, Nicole Hogan and Sally Grieg.

## Mid-week tennis premiers

Warrandyte Tennis Club's section B5 team won the grand final of the Tuesday mid-week ladies competition played earlier this month.

They defeated Mount Waverley by a very large margin, six sets 48 games to nil sets 14 games.

The team, which included Karin Green, Nicole Hogan, Maaikie Naude, Sally Grieg and Trish Alger, had been

on top of the section ladder all season.

The section A7 team who also finished top of the ladder reached the grand final losing to Park Orchards by three games.

The team consisted of Di Dempsey, Noella Bird, Jennifer Bennett, Sue McGinty, Robyn Waite, Pam Hiscock and Barb McBain.



Warrandyte Tennis Club's champion girl, Clare Bence.

## Proving a point

After three seasons of trying, Callum Sheppard realised his basketball dream when he scored his first-ever points during the Warrandyte Redbacks' Under 8 semi-final.

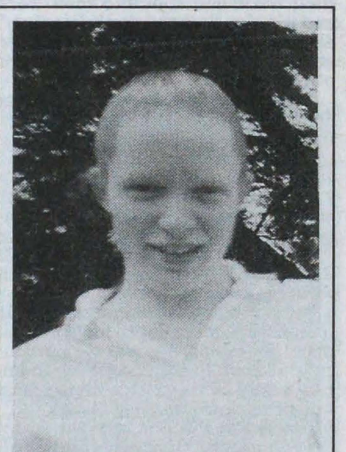
After the ball fell through the hoop, Callum stopped, faced the crowd and put his arms in the air. Everyone cheered and all of the Warrandyte team ran and congratulated him.

The other team thought this must be a big event so they all stopped and congratulated him as well.

It was a tearful time for all the mothers of boys in the team as Callum has fought leukemia and is now in remission.



Callum Sheppard (no. 5 bottom left) with his Under 8 team mates, Lachlan Shannahan, Luke Killey, John Molony, Darcy Trenfield, Joel Bumpstead, Daniel White and coach Steve Killey.



Kathleen Knott

## Victorian honours for Kathleen

Kathleen Knott is the latest Warrandyte Netball Club player to achieve major recognition in the sport, and one of the first to achieve State selection.

Kathleen, excited with her well-earned selection has been learning so much, in the Victorian State Under 19 netball team.

Kathleen, 18, who plays for the open age Warrandyte Falcons in the Doncaster and District Netball Association Saturday competition, is now proudly wearing the navy blue and white team colours of the Victorian netball team.

Her dedication to the sport is demonstrated by the teams in which she plays - State League Knox mid-week, Saturday for Warrandyte and the State team in tournaments.

Overall she trains up to four times per week in addition to match play.

This is Kathleen's second consecutive year of selection at State level. Her selection followed an invitation to try out on the basis of her State League Knox performances.

After continuing to train with the Victorian squad in the off season, Kathleen was selected for the 2006 Under 19 team from trials held at the State Hockey and Netball Centre in the new year.

- Sonia Rappell



## Warrandyte Cricket Club

# A Whitewash of awards

Captain, Adam White, made it a clean sweep when Warrandyte Cricket Club presented its top individual awards last month.

White, in his first year as leader, of the senior team, won the batting and bowling averages and also won the Jack McAuley Memorial Award for senior club champion.

It is the third time White has won the championship award.

His father, Robert, who captained the Second XI, won that grade's bowling award.

In the Third XI, Stuart Smead topped off a great season, winning the club batting award and also the association award.

Jake Sherriff indicated he is a player of the future at Warrandyte, taking out the Maria McGhee Memorial Award for the best performed junior in the senior competition.

Jake, who plays in the Under 16 team in the morning, played in the Fifth and Fourth XI and was also a key player in the Third XI's bid for

a premiership.

He is an almost certain starter in the Second XI next season with many at the club suggesting he may join his under 16 team mates, Ayrton Dehmel and Chris Barry in the First XI before the end of next season.

In the junior section, Under 14 player, Daniel Barry, won the batting award and also took out the Les Adams Memorial Shield for the best performed junior player.

Daniel also played in the Fifth XI this year and won the Captain's Award trophy.

His brother, Chris, won the Under 16 batting award.

In an outstanding season, Chris made his debut in Warrandyte's First XI, top scoring on debut against Montrose.

Details of all awards:

First XI:

Senior Club Champion (Jack McAuley Memorial Shield): Adam White.

Batting and bowling awards: Adam White

Fielding award: Adam Beardall.

Captain's award: Dave Mooney

Second XI:

Batting award: Matthew Gamble

Bowling award: Robert White

Fielding award: Ayrton Dehmel

Captain's award: Marc Centofanti

Third XI:

Batting award: Stuart Smead

Bowling award: Steve Lockie

Fielding award: Tim Hookey

Captain's award: John Prangley

Fourth XI:

Batting award: Vin Pettigrove

Bowling award: Graham Rees

Fielding award: Geoff Zach

Captain's award: Eric Blythe-Levin

Fifth XI:

Batting award: Ken Miller

Bowling award: Chris Carver

Fielding award: Jack Ellis

Captain's award: Daniel Barry

Special awards:

Darul Valentine Memorial Award for best performer senior player other than First XI: Ken Miller

Maria McGhee Memorial Award for best performed junior player in senior cricket: Jake Sherriff

McCartin Family Shield for Clubperson of the Year: Graham Rees

Century makers: Matthew Gamble, 115 (Second XI); Tullock Grieve, 125 (Fifth XI); Ken Miller, 111 n.o. (Fifth XI); Vin Pettigrove 111 (Fourth XI).

Seven wickets in an innings: Ken Miller, 7/36.

Hat-trick: Dean Gidley (Third XI).

Warrandyte Cricket Club President's Award: Chris Sherriff.

Juniors:

Under 12:

Batting award: Alex Hubbert

Bowling award: Tom Ellis

Fielding award: Daniel Nilsson

Coach's award: Luke Warren.

Under 14:

Batting award: Daniel Barry

Bowling award: Jack Ellis

Fielding award: Ayrton Dehmel

Coach's award: Jack Vanderzant

Under 16:

Batting award: Chris Barry

Bowling award: Ayrton Dehmel

Fielding award: Ayrton Dehmel

Coach's award: Chris Carver

Les Adams's Memorial Shield for Best Performed Junior: Daniel Barry



Junior stars making their mark at Warrandyte Cricket Club. From left, Chris Barry, winner of the Under 16 batting award; Jake Sherriff, top junior performer at senior level and Daniel Barry, winner of the Under 14 batting and overall junior champion player. Picture: Daniel Wellesley.



Opposing presidents and captains in the RDCA D Grade final. Barry Williams, left, successfully led the South Warrandyte Hawks to a win over Warrandyte, led by Greg Creber.

## Hawks win local Grand Final derby

South Warrandyte Hawks took out the local derby when they defeated Warrandyte in the Grand Final of the RDCA D Grade.

In an unusual twist, South Warrandyte was led by club president, Barry Williams while Warrandyte was led by its president, Greg Creber.

South Warrandyte batted first and scored a challenging 200. Best of the Warrandyte bowlers was Nathan Croft who took 4-21. He was well supported by Ian Fahy with 3-32.

Warrandyte got off to a sound start with opener, Ryan Hoiberg making 29 but only Daniel Wellesley with 48 offered any further support and the batting collapsed to be all out for 131.

It was a remarkable effort by the Warrandyte Third XI which scraped into the top four in the last game by the slenderest of margins but could not match South Warrandyte which had held a position in the top four all season.

Final scores: South Warrandyte 200 (Croft 4-21, Fahy 3-32) d Warrandyte 131 (Wellesley 48, Hoiberg 29)

## Warrandyte Junior Football Club

# Mixed success as season opens



Action at the centre bounce as the season opens for Warrandyte Junior Football Club's Under 13s.

By PAUL VANDERZANT

The 2006 season has got off to a mixed start for the eight teams fielded by Warrandyte Junior Football Club.

After their first game, Tackers coach, David McMennemin said: "All who watched the game would have thoroughly enjoyed the fast attacking football the boys produced."

"They came off in the end pretty tired but each player had a significant contribution and the only way to describe the end result was a great team effort."

After a huge win against Doncaster (117 points to one), Under 10's coach Peter Stafford said all the boys had played their part.

Goals were scored by James Appleby, Reece McKenzie, Jason Castagne, Zachary Ballard and Brandon Stafford.

The weekly awards went to Reece McKenzie, not only because he scored goals but delivered superbly to set up goals and to Liam Dane and Jason Castagne as they were always chasing hard, delivering well and generally helped to keep the ball between the centre and the forward for most of the game.

Shane Newman's Under 11s were embarking on a journey in Green Division two years ago, before progressing to Brown Division last year. This season the boys have achieved their goal and made the top division.

"No favours were offered as we drew the Gold premiers from 2005 as our first opponent," said Newman.

"The emphasis before the game was applying pressure to Camberwell and trying to break up their running game. The boys started fantastically with honours shared at quarter time but in the end our boys went down 2.1.13 to 5.14.44.

"Gold division is a notable step up from Brown but if we play to our maximum, we can be more than competitive."

Lance Nilsson's Under 12s had a solid win against Park Orchards, winning 9.4.59 to 3.4.22.

"The team tried to find the best disposal option and this will be a focus of 2006," Nilsson said. "James Munks, Andrew Woodward and Rohan McKenzie continually created a contest in the forward line and this allowed us to control the tempo of the game."

The Under 13s got off to a flying start for season 2006 against St Marys, winning 13.11.89 to 0.2.2.

"It was particularly pleasing to see every single player contributing and the ball winning and second efforts. It's a great sign of how far we have come as a side with their hard work resulting in many goals," said coach Steve Blakey.

Regular Brown Division contenders, Camberwell, were always going to be a good first up test for the Under 14 Bloods.

After last year's Grand Final appearance, the Under 13 Green Division team was promoted to Brown Division as Under 14s.

Unfortunately with a slow start, it took time to shake off the cobwebs and they went down 6.2.38 to 12.9.81.

Coach, Chris Appleby reminded his charges that they had deserved their and now had to produce their best efforts.

Coach of the Under 15s Jason 'Plugger' Bowen said his team got away to a perfect start, leading by two goals at the first change.

"Our defence was impassable in the second quarter and kept our opponents goalless, while we added three goals kicking into the wind. We then

dominated the third quarter, doing all the things that a coach could ask," he said.

For the final quarter, the backs went forward and the forwards back, and the better players were rested.

Warrandyte quickly added two more goals and the lead peaked at 72 points, but to St Mary's credit they fought back with seven unanswered goals.

"It was a timely reminder to not get too far ahead of ourselves, although the final result was still a solid 33 point victory," Jason said.

"After winning the premierships last year, 2006 was always going to be a hard act," said newly appointed Colts coach, Clem Mifsud.

Warrandyte trailed Balwyn by five points early and while the Bloods were winning their fair share of the ball, the stronger Balwyn defence held firm.

It looked like the game had slipped away in the third quarter with the Bloods scoring only one goal and trailing by 19 points at the final break.

"When Balwyn snapped the first goal in the final quarter we were concerned but the never-say-die Colts showed their true colours and every player on the field really put in 110 per cent in the final quarter," said Mifsud.

"With Tom Fitzgerald, Michael Whittle, Narayan Tobin and Alex Beltramin in the centre, David Wood on the wing, and Braydan Pettigrove from the back line, all helped drive the ball forward."

"A magnificent grab by Nick Crosbie and goal sealed the game in the dying minutes and we ran out winners 9.9.63 to 8.6.54," Mifsud said.



Warrandyte's centenary season gets first round boost

# Flying start as Bloods storm home

WARRANDYTE 12-10 (82) d. EASTERN LIONS 9-6 (60)

By DENNIS HOIBERG

Warrandyte started its centenary season in stirring fashion with a hard-fought win over Eastern Lions in the opening round of the EFL season.

A large crowd turned out to see the game which kick-started the club's aim to return to the EFL's Third Division by taking out the Fourth Division premiership.

The Bloods also won the fiery Reserves grade match to complete an important first-up double.

Club President, Phil Treeby, described the day as the perfect way to start the season.

"Both teams played attractive football and it was evident that the pre-season fitness campaigns that coach, Peter Green had implemented worked well.

"Both teams ran the opposition off their feet in achieving come from behind' wins."

The key to Warrandyte's win was its use of the ball when the team had the wind in the second and final quarters.

They kicked five goals to a solitary behind in the second quarter and although trailing by four points at the final change, ran away to a comfortable win.

The game started at an amazing pace with the Eastern Lions jumping the slow starting Bloods and at the end of the first quarter, the team was down by 13 points.

This led to the player-coach Peter Green providing one of the better "sprays" heard at the ground in a number of seasons and reminded the audience that the football season had truly started.

The Bloods responded after being reminded of the team rules of commitment and accountability and to the need to follow game plans.

This dramatic turn around in the second term was due to key forward, Michael Morello doing what he does best - stepping up and making that end of the ground his own.

The half time message was for the team to be positive, to concentrate on the little things and take the opportunities when they came along.

## Under 18s uncover more stars

The intensity of the pre-match warm up belied the fact that due to a forfeit, the Under 18 game on a Sunday was a trial match against Chirnside Park.

The pre-match talk focused on the importance of this team to the football club and that anything less than a committed performance was not good enough.

The boys heard the message and responded despite some of their players being injured from pre season practice games. The team rolled their opposition by 25 points but what was more important than the scoreboard was how this team came together and played.

With some cohesion already existing from the players for the Colts squad last year, the early season focus has been on integrating the new players to this squad. After Saturday, coach Brad Valentine can relax as the early season signs are positive.

The highlight was an outstanding debut by new player Tom Dlabik who was ably supported by Tim Beasley and Paul Burgoyne.

After a tight third quarter, the Bloods attacked with long kicking and persistence to score a comfortable win.

"This was a great way to start the season", said Green. "The Eastern Lions were in the top four of this division last year so this gives us a measure of our coming challenges."

The day was highlighted by, among others, the significant debut of two new players, Luke Ebzery and Dillon Hudson-Norris.

Luke was one of the leadership group of last year's Under 17 Colts premiership winning team and made the significant step into seniors football.

Green was enthusiastic about Ebzery's debut.

"For this young kid to take such a step was a real tribute to his skills, fitness levels, and football brain. I think Luke may have found the game initially a little quick for him but by the third quarter, he had really acclimatised and made a contribution that he can be proud of.

"All Luke has to do is share our belief that he belongs at this level and the club will have a valuable player for many years to come."

Green said Hudson-Norris had played exceptionally in the ruck and gave the drive when it was needed.

"He is another exceptional player and we really believe he will only get better as the season unfolds."

The best players for Warrandyte were Matthew Wood, Peter Green and Ashley Grybas, Morello, with six

goals, another ex junior Tom Naughtin and Jimmy Logan.

The club still faces a number of challenges in relation to player fitness and Green has declared that he is now on a mission to work with talented players lacking fitness.

The Reserves got the ball rolling with a courageous win in a game marred by an unfortunate incident off the ball, which saw Rick Burke carried off on a stretcher 10 minutes before half time. The incident halted the game and due to the umpire's decision to call the game to an end and then instruct the teams to continue, everyone was very confused as they entered the rooms for the half time break.

To the credit of the players and the leadership of captain coach David Young, the half time message was to concentrate on the game, put pressure of the opposition and to build on the 18 point lead.

The team come out and kicked four goals straight to take the "premier-ship quarter" the 30 points. Only a lack of concentration by the Bloods allowed their opposition to kick some late goals in the last quarter to draw within five points at full time.

The first game of the season gave the Reserves the perfect hit out for the season. Geoff Zach confirmed his goal kicking capacity by his two under-pressure goals. David Young also kicked two goals. Even more pleasuring was the form shown by Jason Bowen, Grant McAdam and Jamie Ellis.



There was plenty of action as Warrandyte kicked off its centenary season with a win over Eastern Lions in a hard fought match at home.

## Grand final fever hits Redbacks

By TONY OLIVER

Warrandyte Redbacks Basketball Club has 12 boys and seven girls teams represented in the grand finals of the Eastern Districts Junior Basketball Association.

A number of teams reached this through the preliminary final route and two highlight games at Warrandyte Community Centre were from the Under 14 grade.

Maree Vincent's A grade girls took on the taller Collingwood side and despite a slow start were never really challenged. The Collingwood coach continued to swap his on court five but to little effect.

The half time lead of 16-11 was turned into a 41-25 win at the final whistle.

Main scorers for the Redbacks were Nicolette Prior with 18 points closely followed by Lisa Rennie with 16.

Most of the Warrandyte side stayed to watch the final game which pitted Warrandyte against Park Orchards in B Grade.

Warrandyte started well which Chloe Simpson finding clear space in the key and shooting accurately. The early break was seven points to Warrandyte.

That turned out to be the largest break of the game with Park Orchards settling down. Guard, Courtney Anderson, proved elusive and was able to keep the scoring going for the visitors and the had narrowed to two points at the break.

The second half was equally tight with neither side being able to establish a lead before Warrandyte's Courtney Petalas was able to use her speed to put points on the board.

Coming into the final minutes, Park Orchards had the slightest of

leads, but it was Warrandyte who were able to finish the better, winning 41-35 at the final whistle.

The leading scorers for Warrandyte were Chloe Simpson with 13 points and Courtney Petalas with 11.

Also represented in the grand final will be Damian Arsenis's Under 10 boys, who had a relatively comfortable win over Bulleen by 36-17, and face Eltham in the A grade final. The Redback scoring was shared amongst most of the players with Ryan Tester leading with 14 points.

In B grade, Greg Pearson's boys

went down in a tight game to Balwyn by 27-26.

Scoring for Warrandyte was shared between Zac Plischka, Oscar Pearson, Trent Arnold and Nathan Delacy.

Warrandyte has a second A grade grand finalists when Greg Pearson's Under 18 boys defeated Bulleen in another tight game.

Warrandyte were reduced to four players in the final minutes when Shane Holloway received his fifth foul. Josh Collins had earlier been fouled off.

Jason Turner, injured earlier was

now forced back on the court.

In the dying minutes, Jake Ratcliffe and Mitchell Hawley were able to control the ball with strong support from Jason Turner and Matt Clough.

The Redbacks were more composed and held on to win 49-46.

Nick Peters's Under 18 girls had an easy run into the grand final when their prospective opponents were found to have played an unregistered player the previous game, allowing the Redback side direct passage into the Grand Final.

## Venom makes its mark in championship basketball

By TONY OLIVER

Two wins and a loss marked Warrandyte Venom's introduction to Junior Championship basketball following the completion of the first round.

In a fourth match in the competition, two Warrandyte teams clashed.

The opening tip off at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre was between the Warrandyte Venom and Sandringham in the Under 12 Metro 3.

Warrandyte were far more skilful and accurate under the basket to run out easy winners by 29-10.

Top scorers were Rachael Watson with 10, and Madiline Hallett with 8.

In the following game, Warrandyte hosted Ballarat in the Under 14 girls Metro 1 Division.

This was a tight game with only a couple of points separating the sides at any one time and in the end Warrandyte Venom had the better of the second half to win 32-26.

Meg Darganm Amy Birch, Ashlee Brobbel, and Zanetta Hosking were the main contributors on the scoreboard for Warrandyte.

"To win against the best Under 14 girls team for Ballarat is another exciting step for Warrandyte Venom", said

coach Justin Nelson. "This team just keeps fighting and working hard".

The dream start to the season could not be sustained when the Under 16 Metro 2 girls went down to a very accomplished Melbourne side by 36-16.

The consensus of astute judges was that this Melbourne side were the best that Warrandyte had seen at any stage and they would be expected to be a strong contender for end of season honours.

Coach Kevin Zuccolo took the Venom girls aside after the match for a long time to bring them back up for the next week.

The final game in the Under 18 Metro 4 girls was an all Warrandyte game when the Maree Vincent girls defeated David Daniel's girls by 34-22.

The game was quite rough with one girls forced to leave the court under the blood rule.

For the winners, Megan Walker scored nine points and Stacey Nelson scored seven.

For the losers, Kara Curtin scored seven points assisted by Casey Hall and Jordan Rule with five each.

In an outside result, Warrandyte Venom's Under 18 Victorian Championship girls opened their 2006 season with a 43-42 win over Dandenong.





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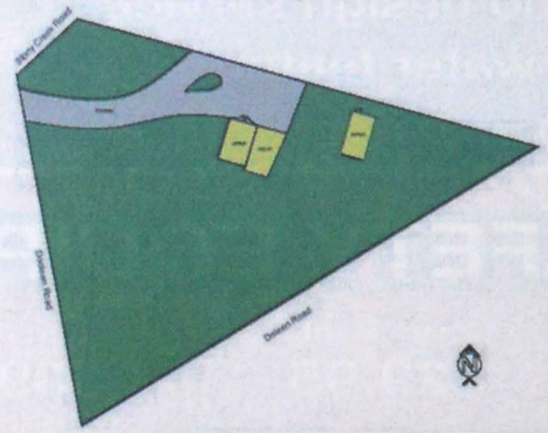


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 Are you tired of not being able to find that suitable allotment to build your dream home, well your search is over. This picturesque 1613.2 sq.metre allotment (approx.) features an array of attractive trees, garage and a large shed.



Price: \$250,000 plus buyers  
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#### FOR SALE WARRANDYTE NORTH

**"Perfect view, Perfect home"**  
 This five BR solid brick home with a grand entrance, remote gates and circular driveway will suit the growing family. Featuring IG pool, double car accommodation, ducted heating, full length balcony with access from bedrooms, outdoor entertaining areas, landscaped gardens, formal and informal living areas and three bathrooms. Having a northerly aspect with fantastic views and situated on 1 acre (approx.), this property is a must to inspect.



Price: \$595,000 plus buyers  
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#### FOR SALE WARRANDYTE NORTH

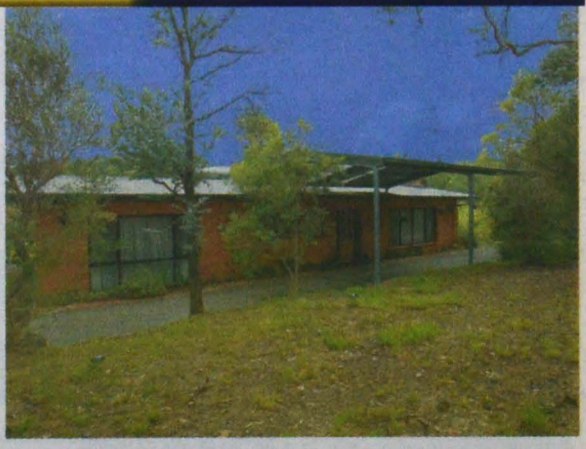
**"Yarra River Frontage"**  
 Build the great Australian dream home on precious land. These two magnificent 1 acre blocks, offer breathtaking views of the Yarra River, which winds its way in front of your exclusive patch in North Warrandyte. Enjoy the tranquillity of country living, just 30 km from the CBD. Plans and permits for a 3 bedroom home are already available a golden opportunity to enjoy river frontage, spectacular bushland and the artisan ambience of a suburb built on dreams.



Price: \$320,000 plus buyers each  
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#### FOR SALE WARRANDYTE NORTH

**"Entertainer's Delight"**  
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