

GOLDFIELDS
PLAZA



WARRANDYTE diary

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No. 388, July 2006 For the community, by the community

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3-way fight looms



Warrandyte in winter
Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

Liberals select local candidate

THE CONTENDERS



David Ellis: Greens



Jarrod Panther: ALP



Ryan Smith: Liberal

By CLIFF GREEN
and SAM DAVIES

The Liberal Party has pre-selected Ryan Smith of North Ringwood as their candidate for the Warrandyte electorate in the state elections in November.

This means those standing for the seat, representing the three major parties, all live in the electorate.

Jarrod Panther (Labor) also lives in North Ringwood and David Ellis (Greens) is a long-time Warrandyte resident.

Mr Smith is a bank officer. His nomination has been described as a victory for local Liberal Party branches.

He was strongly challenged by Peter Clarke, a Melbourne city councillor and property developer, and a close associate of recently-appointed opposition leader, Ted Baillieu.

The Warrandyte vacancy follows the projected retirement of long-time Liberal MP for Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood, who strongly supported Mr Smith, describing him as "a fellow moderate in the Liberal Party who has deliberately stayed away from factional involvement".

"I am pleased to be replaced by a candidate with the same values, who has a strong conviction to upholding the protection of both Warrandyte and Park Orchards environmental values," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*.

Ryan Smith proposes to follow the "pro-Warrandyte" stance of his predecessor Mr Honeywood.

"I think people in Warrandyte worry that things will change too much," Mr Smith said. "We live in the area because we like the way it is."

Prior to Mr Honeywood's election 18 years ago, Warrandyte was a "swing-ing" electorate, alternating between Labor and Liberal. By Mr Honeywood's second term it was one of the safest Liberal seats in Victoria.

Labor candidate Jarrod Panther does not appear to be fazed by the emergence of a strong, Honeywood-backed Liberal opponent. In a previous statement to the *Diary*, Mr Panther pointed out that at the last state election, in 2002, he secured a 7.5 per cent swing to the ALP, reducing Phil Honeywood's margin to 6.4 per cent.

With an unknown Liberal candidate standing, without Mr Honeywood's personal following, Mr Panther believes he can erode that margin still further.

Mr Panther was born and raised in the electorate. He has been a member of the ALP for five years and works as an electorate officer for two members of parliament.

Although the Greens nominee will always be considered the underdog, David Ellis believes his strong local involvement in a staunchly environmentally aware area will work for him.

Mr Ellis is the only candidate who actually lives in Warrandyte itself. He is a member of several community groups, including the Warrandyte Historical Society and the Friends of Warrandyte State Park and is the owner of Lyndon Park Boarding Kennels in Tills Drive.

If elected, he would like to reinforce and strengthen links between the environmental movement and private enterprise. The Greens second preferences could prove vital in the seat.

● NEXT MONTH: The candidates and the issues.



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— Confucius

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the Diary will be published on Wednesday, August 9. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, July 28.

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, with a mighty crash of thunder, he 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.



"The Diary's the best newspaper published in Warrandyte, Ock!"

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Town debates housing

By CLIFF GREEN

The proposal to develop a retirement housing complex on part of damaged bushland on the Harris Gully Road corner has provoked a mixed reception from local residents.

The Warrandyte Community Association is planning a public forum on the issue later this year.

As reported in last month's *Diary*, the proposed project would have seen clusters of cottages built on land immediately behind the Goldfields Plaza rear car park with the creation of a wetlands-based, environmental restoration scheme as an integral part of the plan.

The land is controlled by the Department of Sustainability and Environment and is zoned public park and recreation with inundation and environmental significance overlays.

And this could be the major sticking

point.

Letters from *Diary* readers suggest the community could be divided on this issue. Frances Jameson warmly welcomed the idea: "I lost my beloved 10 years ago, and now at 91 am looking for a retirement cottage, hopefully in Warrandyte," he wrote.

David Kerr felt that "the site has enormous potential given the access to water, relatively fertile soil (at least for Warrandyte) and lack of steep slope, to be transformed into an area that all in the community could value and use."

Jean Chapman and Louise Joy, veteran campaigners on this issue, believe the community should get on with it. "We are rapidly running out of time and land. This is the time to act."

But others felt very strongly that the land should be restored, but not developed.

Mrs C. Masiulianis questioned the term "degraded". "I agree the department is not managing the land very tidily. But that is different from degraded, which surely means over-cleared and eroded." She also felt the "inundation" overlay should be heeded, suggesting flood-prone means exactly that, not "land we haven't got around to building on yet".

Patricia Alger left readers in no doubt about her position. "Hands off our public land," she wrote. "There is nothing degraded about this land just because someone burnt the beautiful trees. It is not a public park to be sacrificed to retirement housing."

Trevor Parker has taken the opportunity to make a plea for dual occupancy: "However, unless you allow dual occupancy...our elderly will have to leave the area."

Val Polley underlined her reserva-

tions as expressed in the original report: "Although the site is ideally located close to facilities such as shops and transport, it is nevertheless... covered by a number of overlays that make any such proposal problematic. ... The community needs to debate the issue of aged housing thoroughly as there are many issues and no easy answers."

The Warrandyte Community Association is adopting a similar position.

"WCA is very supportive of moves to ensure appropriate retirement accommodation in Warrandyte," president Dick Davies told the *Diary*.

"It is an important issue that has been short-changed by state and local government over the years."

"WCA intends to hold a public forum to discuss the issue, potential solutions and actions before the end of the year."

"We are less enthusiastic about the specific proposal to utilise public park and recreation land for a retirement village," Mr Davies said.

"The zoning allows building, but only that associated with public land use—as a park. There are also environmental, landscape and flooding overlays."

"It is important to continue to protect the environment and restore and regenerate native vegetation, as well as providing appropriate elderly accommodation."

"We anticipate that the proposed WCA forum will allow full expression of all points of view and lead to positive solutions."

"I hope that all the contributors to this important debate will participate. We will advertise the event as soon as a time and venue is set," Mr Davies said.

Pick up your litter? That's all rubbish!

By EMMA CLARK

It would appear some of the kids using the Warrandyte Skate Park on the Taroona Avenue corner leave their rubbish where it falls, because "there is always rubbish on the ground, so we don't put our rubbish in the bins".

As long as this "Catch 22" argument persists, litter at the popular and successful skate park and surrounding areas will continue to be an environmental and hazardous problem, despite the best intentions of Manningham council.

Claude Cullino, director of city development for Manningham told the *Diary* that there were "10 rubbish bins and two recycling bins located at Warrandyte Reserve, one located at the skate park and the remaining 11 within a 50 metre radius of it".

The large volumes of litter to be found at the park could be hazardous, especially—ironically—for the young skateboarders and bike riders who throw it there.

Blake and Tim, skate park regulars interviewed by the *Diary*, said that most people just drop their rubbish on the ground or put it in their bags.

"There is already rubbish on the ground, so we don't put our rubbish in the bin," Blake said. "Maybe there needs to be signs with warnings of litter fines, to remind people."

"I have fallen off my skateboard after riding over a can before. We have to kick the rubbish off before we start riding," Tim said.

Littering in Victoria carries an on-the-spot fine of between \$107 and \$215 as of July 2006.

In another Catch 22 situation, Manningham council told the *Diary* that they determine the number and location of bins based on the amount of litter collected from each. "Given the bins at this site are rarely full when emptied, this would indicate the quantity of bins is adequate," Mr Cullino said.

When the *Diary* visited the skate park, there were papers from the fish and chip shop across the road, ice cream wrappers, cans and bottles and a large number of cigarette butts.

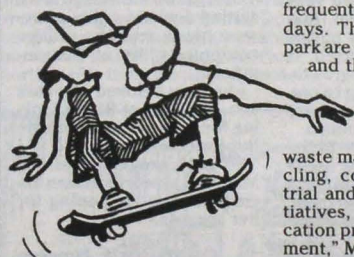
Taroona Avenue leads to the Yarra, where rubbish from the skate park could eventually end up.

The one rubbish bin at the park is located closer to the road than it is to the actual skate park. Mr Cullino said, "The location of the bin at the skate park has been determined in response to issues with vandalism at both the skate park and the reserve, with the bin in question recently being subject to damage."

Acts of vandalism have included bins being torn off their stands, lids being removed from bins and fires being lit within bins.

The council has measures in place to remove the litter. Mr Cullino said that, "Council officers attend Warrandyte Reserve at least once a week to pick up dropped litter. These visits are undertaken more frequently during school holidays. The bins at the skate park are emptied once a week, and the car park is swept once a month, minimum."

"In an effort to improve public place waste management and recycling, council continues to trial and implement new initiatives, policies, public education programs and enforcement," Mr Cullino said.



Words and picture by EMMA CLARK

The gates at Pound Bend entrance to Warrandyte State Park will stay open over winter, despite local concerns and reports of loutish behaviour at the reserve at night.

After a trial period ending in May, Parks Victoria has decided to extend 24 hour access opportunities and review the situation when daylight saving begins.

Warrandyte acting chief ranger Andrew Nixon said that, "After the trial, our view is that 24 hour access is workable from an operational perspective. Whilst there has been concern from local residents, there was minimum vandalism over the trial period."

Mr Nixon told the March edition of the *Diary* that "similar projects had been running throughout Victoria without significant problems".

The *Diary* has published a number of responses from residents during the trial period, which included concerns over the impact on nocturnal wildlife and increased traffic on access roads to the reserve, notably Everard Drive and Pound Road. They also questioned who was actually notified of the trial.

Brian Williams of Pound Road wrote in the *May Diary* that during past open gates policies at the reserve, "the park became a dumping ground for stolen cars, often burnt out". Jo Gilligan of Everard Drive, wrote in April that "for preservation of wildlife and residential security, these gates must be closed at night".

Referring to the open gates policy, the Warrandyte Community Association said they believed the policy was a result of government cuts in the park's budget following the Alpine fires, when initially funding was cut by 90 per cent.

"One manifestation of smaller budgets is their decision to leave the park gates open at night, which encourages hooliganism," WCA president Dick Davies told the *Diary*.

Park funding was restored to about 60 per cent last year, but WCA has been awaiting an announcement regarding the current budget, hoping for full restoration. Parks Victoria had not announced funding for individual parks within the new budget when the *Diary* went to press.

● In other Warrandyte State Park news, Parks Victoria has announced that as well as the completion of the new rangers' offices, new viewing platforms and signage have been erected at the Pound Bend Tunnel entrance (pictured above). The works at the tunnel were undertaken by Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water, with Melbourne Water contributing 50 per cent of the funding.

Access to the tunnel entrance had deteriorated after flooding in February last year. "It was time to revitalise the area and improve visitor facilities," Andrew Nixon said.

The redevelopment includes landscaping and improved fencing along the path to the tunnel, new timber viewing platforms and stairs, and canoe and safety signs.

"The improved facilities will greatly enhance visitor access and use of the area," Mr Nixon said.

Parks Victoria has purchased the house at the corner of the main entry to Pound Bend as part of their public acquisition policy, "which gives the Crown the first option to purchase property on public parkland."

"This vacant property was purchased from the owner a year ago. The general intent is to demolish the house in the future, to make use of the land," Mr Nixon said.

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Thanks for WAA support

On behalf of the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association I would like, very sincerely, to thank all the staff at the *Warrandyte Diary* for the immense amount of assistance rendered during our preparations for the recent 50th birthday celebrations.

During the months of preparation a lot of time and effort was expended on sourcing and consolidating archival material. The *Warrandyte Diary* filled some gaps in our records by providing access to a few photographs and, in particular, for allowing us to photocopy a substantial number of articles from past issues of the *Diary* over the last 36 years. Our display folders and boards of photographs were much enjoyed by all present at the celebration.

We are also very grateful for the wonderful coverage of our event in the June issue of the *Diary*. The photos taken by Stephen Reynolds captured some of the atmosphere of the public event held during the afternoon of May 27 while Jeremy Loftus-Hills hints at the buzz and nostalgia enjoyed by members past and present at the evening celebration. We are particularly pleased with the interesting article compiled by Jeremy who spent a lot of time talking to various members of WMI&AA. I think he has really captured the essence of our association as a means for people to find their place in the Warrandyte arts community and as the saviour of our much-loved hall that all the community can enjoy.

Thank you to Cliff, Rae and all the staff at the *Diary* for maintaining such a wonderful community service and resource.

Pat Anderson
Bradleys Lane

In defence of a creek

In March this year I contacted Parks Victoria about the condition of Andersons Creek, from the bridge on Everard Drive and continuing along Tarooona Avenue, which was suffering from an accumulation of rubbish (including garden furniture) and weed infestation; hardly Warrandyte postcard material. Parks Victoria said it was not their responsibility and to contact Manningham council.

This I did and spoke with Lyn Meredith at Manningham council. She also said it was not their responsibility and to contact Melbourne Water.

This I also did and spoke with Brendan Martin. We arranged to meet on-site in Tarooona Avenue. Brendan followed up this meeting by having the rubbish removed and the weeds sprayed. Six weeks after the spraying, removing of remaining organic waste was completed. On June 28 I phoned to acknowledge and thank him for his efforts.

Apparently, council were very unhappy with the clean-up. Why? If council was so concerned, why did council not look at Andersons Creek last March after my phone call? Council is also unhappy about the burn-off at Harris Gully Road. Did council liaise with Parks Victoria before this "burn-off" disaster? Who is responsible and when is a clean-up and planting program commencing?

These "boundary" and "responsibility" issues are ongoing. For example, does council plan to take notice of the several letters (*Warrandyte Diary*, April and May, of which they received copies) expressing concerns about removal of environmental fauna as a result of the "open gates 24/7" policy of Parks Victoria at Pound Bend?

Isn't this another issue of joint concern and responsibility between different departments and government bodies that should be working together for the common good instead of passing the buck?

Jo Gilligan
Everard Drive

No to retirement cluster

Supports aged housing

DEAR DIARY



Hands off our public parkland on the corner of Harris Gully Road and Yarra Street (*Diary*, June 2006).

It is time Manningham council immediately took the necessary steps to restore the public parkland in Harris Gully Road to its environmental significance and re-establish the beautiful forest which flourished there prior to a "fuel reduction burn" undertaken by the Department of Sustainability and Environment in May 2004.

There is nothing "degraded" about this land just because someone burnt the beautiful trees. It remains a perfect location for growing trees and vegetation that flourished so well on the site prior to being burnt. This is a forest in need

of urgent restoration work and new planting. It is not a public park to be sacrificed to retirement housing.

It is fallacious argument to say that because the older generation set up organisations and sporting clubs in Warrandyte they are in some way entitled to the exclusive use of public parkland for private housing purposes. This idea is reprehensible and not acceptable. It has no regard for the young, future generations who will be denied the same rights to public parkland use as the older generation.

Have the supporters of this housing development on public parkland considered the matter of incremental loss? Once such a dangerous precedent is set what will be next? Little by little the destruction of Warrandyte's unique character, its historic values and complementary bushland will be assured, and will no longer hold its special attraction for local residents or visitors.

Warrandyte has a chance now to decide whether its unique character must be defended and maintained at all costs or whether it will start the process to becoming indistinguishable as just another suburb.

Patricia Alger
Hodson Road

The *Diary* is to be complemented on raising the dual issues of the degraded land around the fire station and retirement housing.

I fully support comments contained in the last two issues about the land in question.

Given the dominance of weeds and non-indigenous plants on the site it is difficult to see any suitable regeneration occurring naturally.

The site certainly is a fire hazard and a home for snakes—issues that become far more important given the proximity to Andersons Creek school.

The site has enormous potential given the access to

water, relatively fertile soil (at least for Warrandyte) and lack of steep slope to be transformed into an area that all in the community could value and use.

The proposal for a substantial clean-up, creation of wetlands and selective use for retirement housing appears to be sensible and well worth further examination. Moreover, it is a project that could proceed over a medium time period, (does not need to be "big bang") and one that could involve the wider community in consultation, planning, doing and using.

David Kerr
Webb Street

Fought the good fight

For over 20 years we have been involved with housing for the elderly in Warrandyte. Beginning with the Stiggart Street units, we helped to select residents who benefitted from the foresight of former councillor John Scott.

Subsequently there have been many discussions and proposals to cater for the needs of Warrandyte residents who are unable to manage. It is this housing we need to create in Warrandyte, without compromising the Green Wedge. For various reasons over the years the land which Warrandyte committees worked to secure was lost.

The initiative by the *Diary* (June 2006) has reignited this issue. Environmentally degraded land has been proposed as a new site for housing for the elderly of Warrandyte, adjacent to the Andersons Creek school and IGA car park. Of all the sites proposed so far, this is the most convenient for older people.

As former mayor and councillor, Val Polley has indicated, there are still environmental overlays that need to be worked through with Manningham council. It is for this purpose that we need a strong committee.

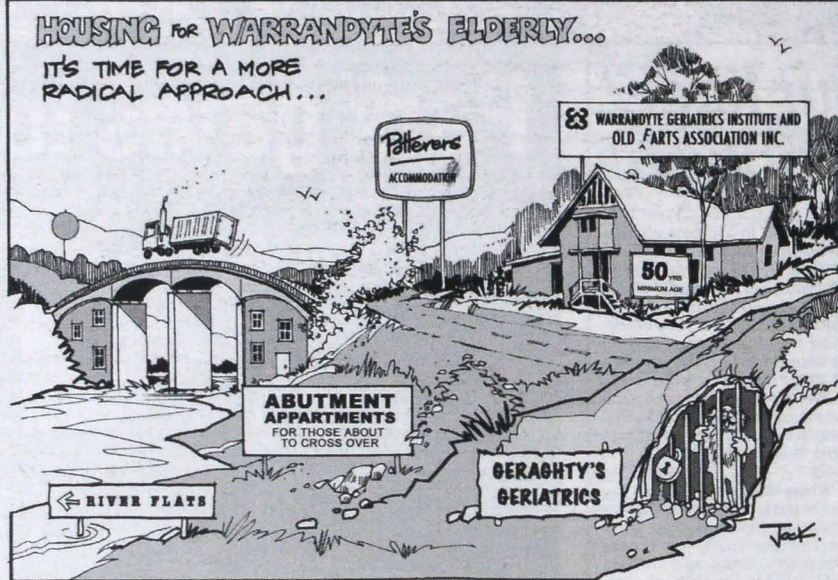
We are rapidly running out of time and land. This is the time to act.

Jean Chapman and
Louise Joy, Warrandyte

CLYDE & OCKER



"No one dies in Warrandyte, Ock. They simply move away!"



Zoning problems a major concern

Just to put the record straight; I personally did not promote the piece of land on the corner of Harris Gully Road as a site for a retirement community.

Ted Rotherham's suggestion came via an email from Louise Joy following my piece in the *Diary* about Manningham council's ageing strategy. When asked to comment on such a proposal, I indicated that although the site is ideally located close to facilities such as shops and transport, it is nevertheless currently zoned public land and recreation and covered by a number of overlays that make any such proposal

problematic. I also said that normally there would be protests over the alienation of public land for any other purpose but it was up to the whole community to debate whether it is prepared to give up public space for such a use. I see it as one option in the quest for senior housing in Warrandyte.

The community needs to debate the issue of aged housing thoroughly as there are many issues and no easy answers; it is doubtful a one-size-fits-all response will suffice. Management options to ensure local residents are beneficiaries of any such housing, as well as the

size and style of aged facilities, location, and ownership, all need to be thoroughly discussed.

Location remains a key issue. As we know, there are few places in the township where this is possible and we need to consider all suggestions and possibilities. Responses to the ageing survey reveal that transport and accommodation issues loom large in planning for older age in Warrandyte and consideration of the possibilities is welcome.

Val Polley
(by email)

Try dual occupancy

Congratulations on your new masthead, very eye-catching and demands to be picked up. Which, of course, is hopefully good for new readers and advertisers.

Your article on retirement housing strikes a chord with me. Over many years, I, like others, have been disturbed by the lack of accommodation for our elderly residents as they approach the reality that we are unable to manage our existing homes.

We now see an effort being made to rectify this. I suppose it is better late than never. Perhaps advancing years by our former councillors have broadened their vision and lateral thinking.

Frankly, I cannot see it happening in the way envisaged. I won't say it's "pie in the sky" and I wish them luck. However, unless you allow dual occupancy off the tourist track in Warrandyte, our elderly will have to leave the area where their roots are. Their grandchildren may be luckier.

Trevor Parker
Park Orchards

Hoping it will happen

I refer to your leading article, "Home among the gum trees", in your June issue.

When we came here from Sydney, but originally from the UK, to work in Bayswater, we looked around and discovered Warrandyte, we thought the nearest approach to an English village.

So here we dropped anchor. Our son, a Sydney university student, decided not to move. So with three girls we settled down to enjoy a five-acre block and the village community life of Warrandyte.

I lost my beloved 10 years ago, and now at 91 am looking for a retirement cottage, hopefully in Warrandyte.

So get cracking, and tell Marjory Lapworth that an ancient mariner is hoping for her success.

Francis J. Jameson
Beauty Gully Road

Many questions about aged project

The plan put forward for a retiree's village on the Harris Gully Road-Yarra Street corner site is interesting. It would certainly be convenient for the shops. It does, however, raise a lot of questions. These are mine, no doubt others will have more.

The land is owned by the department of the environment and is zoned "public park and recreation", "of environmental significance" and "subject to inundation".

So—is the department al-

lowed to sell? For what purposes? Don't the first two overlays mean that this land is not supposed to be built on? And the third, that there is a risk of flooding—a wet year in England five years ago reactivated streams that had not flowed for a century—right through all the houses that had been built in their way. I'm pretty sure it's not supposed to mean "land we haven't got around to building on yet".

Then there is the word "degraded". I agree the department

is not managing the land very tidily. But that is different from degraded, which surely means over-cleared and eroded. It does not mean this lush growth. I thought we were trying to preserve our patches of bush, not become just another suburb.

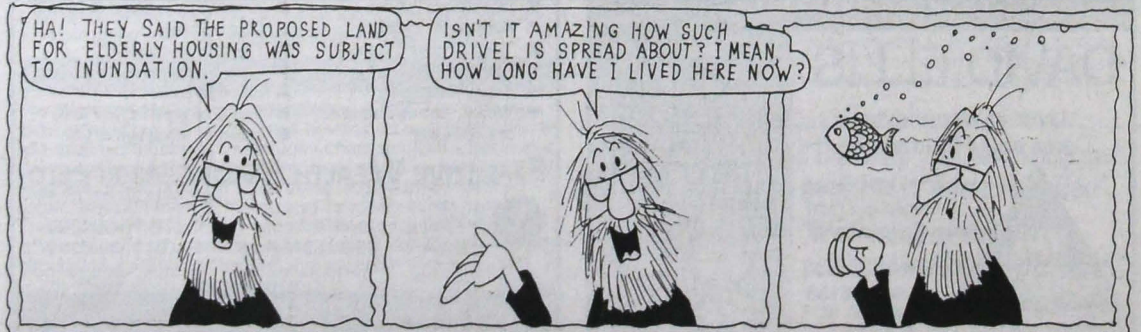
What about one or two of the big house blocks already used? Are there any which still have the old modest houses on them, rather than the new mansions?

Mrs C Masiulianis
Naughton Avenue

DEAR DIARY

Letters to the *Diary* on local topics are welcome. All letters—including emails—must include the writer's full name, address and phone number, even if not intended for publication. Letters may be edited for reasons of style, length or legality. Letters can be posted to: Warrandyte Diary, PO Box 209, Warrandyte Vic 3113. They can be emailed to: thediary@vicnet.net.au; faxed to: 9844 4168 or left in the mail slot in the *Diary's* front door at the Warrandyte Community Centre.

CYRIL



By PAUL WILLIAMS

In search of 'One Warrandyte'

Bridging the gap: is it a lost cause?

Warrandyte and North Warrandyte survive as a united community despite separate municipalities, state and federal electorates, police districts and CFA brigades. CLIFF GREEN tracks 30 years of effort to bridge the gap.

WARRANDYTE is proud of its unity and cohesion as a community.

We have stuck together—quite literally—through fire and flood. Pity help anyone who has tried to commercialise our community centre, destroy our old post office, suburbanise our main street or chop down our trees.

Yet, as Warrandyte and North Warrandyte, we are separated by that most immovable of geographical boundaries—a river.

We have learned to tolerate the administrative hindrances that flow from this, using any disadvantage for our own benefit; pitching one council against the other, for example.

But have we always quietly accepted our fate as a place divided by a river, as a town with a split personality?

The first stirring of a need for municipal togetherness came more than 30 years ago, when Randall Champion, an Australia Party candidate championed the cause of municipal unity. "Although Warrandyte is a distinctive small town with which its residents identify, it is divided by a council boundary," Mr Champion told the *Diary*. "Warrandyte has a community spirit which could be enhanced by the people of Warrandyte having control of their own local affairs."

No one followed through at the time, but a year later some perceived injustice inspired this paper to pronounce editorially: "Do those of us who live on the south side of the river think differently from those who live on the north?" We had no answer, just more questions: "What are we going to do about this? Do we need a separate municipality? Should north join south? Should south join north? Or is there another alterna-

tive?" Somewhere along the road the Warrandyte Environment League (WEL) printed a t-shirt. Almost everyone had "One Warrandyte!" emblazoned across their chests. But how serious were we?

Eltham shire councillor and Bradleys Lane resident Don Ingersole was very serious. "Time for a breakaway council," the *Diary* headlined. Cr Ingersole envisaged snatching North Warrandyte, Research, Kangaroo Ground, Pantan Hill, St Andrews Cottles Bridge, Arthurs Creek, Hurstbridge and Wattle Glen from Eltham shire, and Warrandyte, South Warrandyte and Park Orchards from the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, with Wonga Park and Yarra Glen thrown in for good measure.

"Rubbish!" said Doncaster mayor, Cr Ian Marsden. WEL, succinctly described by the *Diary* as "promoters of the event", arranged for the protagonists to meet at a public meeting dubbed "The Battle of the Bridge".

In a letter a month later, long-time North Warrandyte resident Audrey Cahn wrote, "if the few so vocal supporters of such a scheme have experienced discrimination or difficulties in being part of the Warrandyte community due to living in North Warrandyte, it could be due to their own attitudes or activities".

WEL wasn't giving up. In 1975 they ran a survey, with St Johns Church, of local residents. Of 100 randomly selected people interviewed—62 living south of the river and 38 north, 78 were in favour of one-council local government, 18 favoured the status quo and four were undecided. An unspecified number preferred a separate Warrandyte shire, 15 wanted Eltham to run the show and five preferred Doncaster-Templestowe.



May 1981

In 1976, from somewhere out in far left field, then Doncaster mayor Cr John Scott front-paged that he was "mystified" by reports that Ringwood City Council was proposing to incorporate Warrandyte!

Council boundary changes were in the air in 1980 as the state government began investigating possible amalgamations. Eltham council made an ambit claim for the whole of Warrandyte. The wheels turned slowly, but two years later an advisory board announced that "the boundary between Eltham and Doncaster-Templestowe is outside our terms of reference." Eltham kept working to include Warrandyte. However, by 1986 the Cain government decided it was all too hard and had given up pushing the boundaries.

We got so cross with Doncaster over a number of planning issues in 1989 that the whole row blew up once more. All in one council? All in Eltham, or all in Doncaster? The community was as divided as ever. *Diary* news editor Cliff Green wanted to leave Doncaster, sports editor Lee Tindale was prepared to give Eltham the flick.

An Eltham "interim shire restructuring committee" had another go in

1992, but when they started declaring that "trees are more important than roads", locals on both sides had a re-think. The *Diary* wrote, "We have long dreamed of One Warrandyte, but already the organisers of this proposal seem intent on counting heads. The last thing we want is Warrandyte's own little civil war."

By March 1994 council amalgamation was on again, except Jeff Kennett was now the architect. Warrandyte's fate was in the melting pot once more. "How will poor old schizoid Warrandyte fare in the reshuffle?" we asked. "Will the river still split us in two, or will we be united at last, living entirely within the borders of one or other of the two proposed new supershores?"

We got in for our chop, promoting the idea of a great, grand Middle Yarra shire, stitching together the Warrandyte Ward of Doncaster-Templestowe, the North Riding of Eltham, with Wonga Park and Yarra Glen once more thrown in for good measure. Government MP Phil Honeywood backed us on this one, stating, "It would be difficult to find areas that had a greater community of interest and more (similar) conservation values..."

But it was not to be. Announcement

of the new boundaries in November, 1994, included the Shire of Montsalvat—incorporating North Warrandyte—with the rest of us in the City of Bulleen. Except Wonga Park had joined us. Nobody liked the new names, but perhaps we all breathed a tiny, silent sigh of relief.

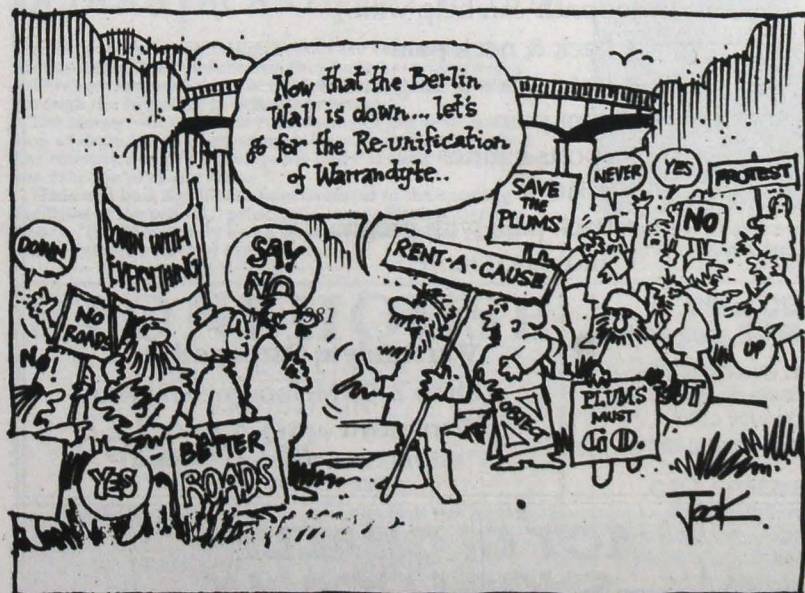
Hands raised at public meetings, straw polls, telephone surveys and shopping centre interviews over the years all pointed to one result: we wanted to be together, but we had no wish to swap municipalities.

So here we are—still divided, yet one of the best and most united communities in the country.

Our kids attend separate kindergartens, but by the time they identify with this place they are going to the same primary schools. They grow up together and play sport together. We socialise, pack public meetings and stroll by the river together.

Perhaps those noisy campaigns have failed over the years because we all really do live in One Warrandyte.

The *Diary* has been silent on this issue for more than 10 years now. Perhaps we have accepted the inevitability of this strange situation, united as we are in our wonderful diversity.



February 1990



August 1991



MANNINGHAM

Receive up to \$1,000 p/h to protect your land

Manningham residents in the Green Wedge area may be eligible to receive funding from Council to maintain the environmental value of their property through a Conservation Covenant.

Conservation Covenants are voluntary agreements that protect the natural values of properties and land, including native vegetation, wetlands, wildlife and related habitat, and areas of cultural significance from clearing and other damaging activities.

The covenant is registered on the property title and ensures the protection of your land beyond your lifetime.

Residents who move to permanently protect their land through a Conservation Covenant facilitated by Trust for Nature can receive up to \$1,000 per hectare in grant funding.

To find out more about applying for a Conservation Covenant and your eligibility for Council funding, please contact the Economic and Environmental Planning Unit, Manningham City Council on 9840 9129.

More information is available on the Trust for Nature website, www.tfn.org.au.

Act now to stop winter weeds

Winter is an important time for weed control, with several nasty weeds such as Bridal Creeper, Angled Onion and Soursob regrowing from bulbs and thriving during the cooler season.

Angled Onion and Soursob will cover many hectares of Manningham, leaving poor bare areas in pastures and streambanks over summer. Landcare calls Bridal Creeper - recognised as one of Australia's most noxious weeds - an 'extremely damaging and persistent environmental weed'.

Many dollars have been spent in Warrandyte State Park on Bridal control. Fortunately, it appears to be succumbing to biological control using rust fungus.

Residents can protect against these pests and keep their property healthy and beautiful.

Management of Bridal Creeper:

- o Treat before fruit set to avoid dispersal
- o Dig up small infestations during autumn, remove and destroy the whole of the tuberous root system.
- o Spray with selective herbicide with care
- o Biological control - which is available to us

Management of Angled Onion and Soursob

- o Hand pull small numbers
- o Spray with selective herbicide with care

Under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, landowners are legally required to control weeds on their property.

For further information about weeds call Council on 9840 9333, or visit the Department of Primary Industries website, <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/notes>.

Environment seminars and walks

Giving the Earth (and us) a Clean Bill of Health, with Bridget Gardner
Thursday 27 July

In the desire to achieve hygienically 'safe and clean' indoor environments, the impact on our health and the planet from the toxicity of cleaning chemicals, the overuse of disinfectants, and the enormous volume of resources consumed and waste generated, is often overlooked.

This forum will challenge some of the myths that create this imbalance and provide ideas for safer and cleaner cleaning practices.

Bridget Gardner has challenged the notion of 'safe cleaning' for five years as director and Chief cleaner of Fresh Green Clean. She conducts Safe Cleaning practices training sessions for the Childcare and hospitality sectors, and is a trainer and supervisor with the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

This session will be held on Thursday 27 July at Function Room 3, Manningham Civic Offices, 699 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster (Mel 33 F12), from 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

Bookings are essential, contact Jeanette Baker on 9840 9129, or jeanette.baker@manningham.vic.gov.au.

Discover Hillcrest

Sunday 6 August, 10.15am to 12.15am

As we walk through the bush above the freeway tunnel, local naturalist Cecily will tell us about this precious remnant of magnificent tall trees and Valley Heathy forest. The area was saved from being bulldozed for the freeway by community action.

Meet: Lisbeth Avenue (at the 'Hillcrest' sign) Donvale (Mel 35 F2)

Bookings are essential, contact Jeanette Baker on 9840 9129, or jeanette.baker@manningham.vic.gov.au.

Who to contact for environmental issues

Manningham City Council has several departments that deal with environmental matters.

The Health and Local Laws Unit can respond to complaints about certain weeds on private property and also damage to Council property including most roadsides.

The City Parks Unit addresses certain weeds on Council property including most roadsides.

The Statutory Planning Unit deals with issues involving breaches of the planning scheme including native vegetation.

For advice, educational programs and incentives for environmental action contact the Economic and Environmental Planning Unit.

For complaints about environmental damage, concerns or advice please call Council on 9840 9333.

Happy 90th birthday, Popsy!



Ruby (Popsy) Bone celebrated her 90th birthday recently. Helping her celebrate were husband Tom, brother Roy, sister-in-law Joyce and sister Iona. Popsy (centre front) whose family name was Wagner, first came to Warrandyte to live in 1929.

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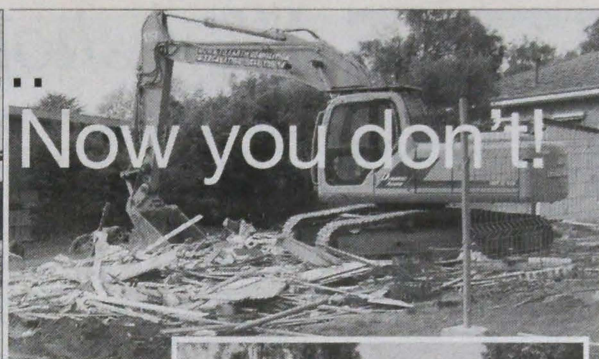
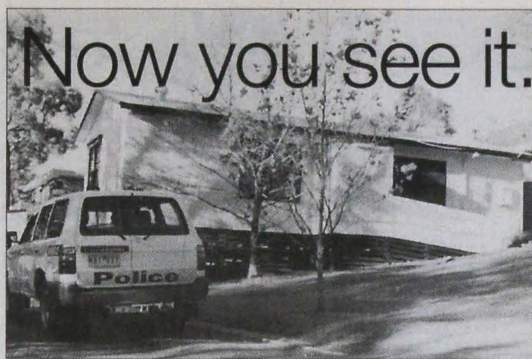
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Warrandyte **9844 2465**

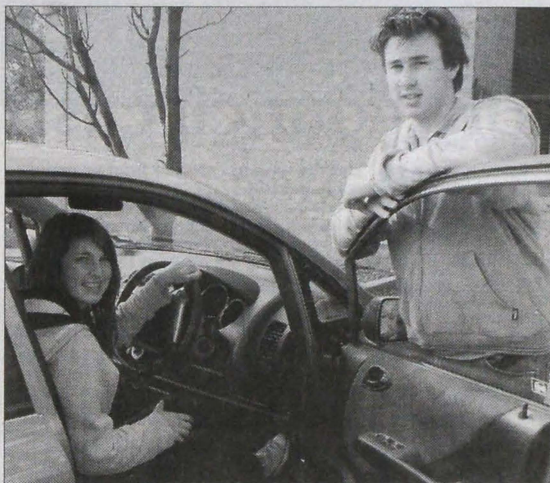
**ACT GLOBALLY
—SHOP LOCALLY**



Now you see it...

Now you don't!

The site has been cleared to make way for Warrandyte's new police station at the lower end of Forbes Street. Inset: The new building, as visualised by artist Jock Macneish.



WHS students test their driving fitness.

Kids behind the wheel

Alarmed by a number of serious road crashes involving young drivers in Manningham, council has stepped up its driver education program.

The first fit-to-drive workshop was run at Warrandyte High School earlier this month.

These half-day workshops are aimed at year 11 students "to help them understand the responsibility of driving a car, and to make better informed decisions".

Mayor, Cr Pat Young, said that prevention is the key when it comes to new and inexperienced drivers.

"Students participate in break-out sessions focussed around four key concepts: responsibility, impacts, peer pressure and choices.

"Facilitators use real-life scenarios and a range of tactics including videos, role-playing,

games and discussions, to address issues with the students around both driver and passenger behaviour."

The workshops include a practical session on how to check and adjust a car before driving it, with tips about oil, water, tyres, lights, mirrors, brakes and seat adjustments.

Cr Young said approximately 120 year 11 students participated in Warrandyte High School's first fit-to-drive workshop, in part made possible by community backing.

"Council is pleased that the Warrandyte Rotary Club generously donated \$1000 to enable Warrandyte High School students to take part in this event," Cr Young said.

This event is also sponsored by the Inner Eastern Road Safe Committee, and Eastern Honda, who provide a car.

School picks up \$150,000

The kids at Warrandyte High School are celebrating the announcement last month that they have been awarded a federal government grant of \$150,000 to upgrade their oval through the Investing in Schools program.

The money will cover the resurfacing of the oval, installation of drainage and pop-up sprinklers, a new cricket pitch, the construction of a rabbit-proof fence around the oval and the erection of shade sails.

"This will be a significant improvement to the sporting facilities at the school," principal Glennis Pitches told the *Diary*. "It will certainly be an improvement on the rabbit warren that we have at the moment."

WBA fighting plastic bags

It is estimated that 15,000 plastic bags were used weekly in Warrandyte, prior to the recent campaign reducing their use.

However, the Warrandyte Business Association and Manningham council are concerned that locals might be forgetting this important conservation message.

They have joined together to launch the Plastic Bag Free Challenge.

WBA president, John Provan, said the association is backing the initiative all the way.

"The Plastic Bag Free Challenge has gained significant backing from traders in Warrandyte, with 88 per cent of businesses pledging their commitment to the campaign," WBA coordinator Meredith Thornton told the *Diary*.

"The Warrandyte business community's involvement in this program demonstrates a commitment to environmentally responsible trading," Ms Thornton said.

"Prior to the adoption of plastic-bag-free initiatives, Warrandyte shopping precincts distributed approximately 15,000 plastic bags each week.

"With the Plastic Bag Free

Challenge we aim to reduce single-use plastic bag distribution by 80 per cent by November this year," she said.

The Plastic Bag Free Challenge, an initiative of Sustainability Victoria, will be officially launched in Warrandyte on Thursday, July 20 at 3pm in the courtyard at Goldfields shopping centre.

The Warrandyte township received a \$3000 grant from Sustainability Victoria and \$1000 from Manningham council to fund the Plastic Bag Free Challenge.

Manningham mayor and Warrandyte resident, Cr Pat Young, said the initiative works at a local level to take action against the 80 million plastic bags that end up as litter on our beaches, streets and in parks every year, taking as much as 1000 years to break down.

"Warrandyte traders have a long history of participating in environmental and sustainable programs, and once again, through the Plastic Bag Free Challenge, Warrandyte is demonstrating its environmental awareness, with the long-term goal of phasing out plastic bags altogether," Cr Young said.



Just say no: shoppers and Goldfields Plaza staff back WBA's anti-plastic bag campaign.

THE CHRISTIE LAWRENCE & LUKE MAYALL MEMORIAL FUND



AWARD

\$3000

Christie and Luke's promising careers in the Arts and the Hospitality Industries were tragically ended in a car accident in 1998. Their families and friends created the Fund in their memory to help the careers of other young people in the district. The Fund awards \$3000 to an applicant showing particular promise or talent. In 2006 the Award will be made to a young person working in the Hospitality Industry. It is available for applicants between the ages of 18 and 25 who live in the Warrandyte, Park Orchards and surrounding areas. Applicants will be assessed for their eligibility on the recommendations of an Expert Panel. Applications close on 31 July 2006. The Award will be announced in November 2006. Phone Greg Lawrence on 9844 2498 or Phyl Swindley on 9879 9843 for applications. The Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall Memorial Fund, PO Box 150, Warrandyte, Vic 3113.

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Warrandyte High School's Annual

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Saturday August 12th, 7.15pm

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\$15 per head. BYO Drinks & Nibbles

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This is now a Warrandyte institution as the main event of the school calendar. **GRAND PRIZE – A night out at Wellers Restaurant, Kangaroo Ground for the winning table.**

Book a table of 8 or 10 or we can organise a table for you
BOOKINGS please contact the school on **9844 2749**

Workshops will help to keep you out of the poo

Do you have a septic tank? Does it smell, leak, is slow to flush, or turns your backyard into a boggy quagmire. It does? Then you need—Sammy the Septic!

Nillumbik council has launched this campaign to better inform householders of the critical need to keep their septic tank in good order.

"Approximately 6000 properties in the Shire of Nillumbik are serviced by septic tank or onsite domestic waste water treatment systems," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"When these systems are working efficiently, they provide a safe and effective way to treat and dispose of domestic waste water in areas not connected to sewer. However, when these systems fail, waste water



Sammy the Septic

pollution can cause threats to both public health and the environment."

Nillumbik council has identified a need for better education and information to be available

for property owners on the requirements of septic tank management.

"Maintenance of systems is often only undertaken as a reaction to problems such as odour, poor drainage and boggy patches in the backyard," the spokesperson said. "This often means problems in the system have escalated to such an extent that costly plumbing repairs are required."

Combined with the publication of a number of brochures, Nillumbik council is holding a series of workshops around the shire, including one at the North Warrandyte Community Centre in Research Road on Monday, July 24 at 7pm. RSVP and further enquiries to 9433 3340.

How to score council cash

Last year, Manningham council allocated more than \$92,000 to 38 local community organisations for various projects including sporting, arts, health, ethnic and special interest sectors.

Council is inviting community groups to attend an information session on Thursday, July 20 to find out how to apply for funding from its community development grant program.

The annual program facilitates and supports new initiatives for local community projects, programs and events that address needs in specific areas.

Mayor, Cr Patricia Young, said council is keen to assist community groups to develop and run projects that benefit the wider community.

"Council recognises the good work of not-for-profit groups and the community development grant program is one way council can assist these groups develop projects that they would otherwise be unable to fund," Cr Young told the *Diary*.

Cr Young said the program receives an overwhelming number of applications each

year and that council aims to fund as many projects as possible.

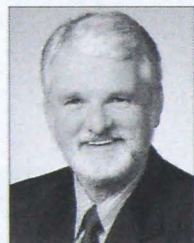
"There are always more applications than we can fund but we are keen for as many groups as possible to realise their project idea, which is why we have an independent panel to select the projects that best fit the criteria."

"Due to the popularity of the program, it is important for applicants to gain a clear understanding of the grant program guidelines. "We recommend that interested groups attend the information session or discuss their project with council staff prior to submitting an application," she said.

The information session will be held on Thursday, July 20, from 6.30pm to 8pm in function room 3 at the Manningham council offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

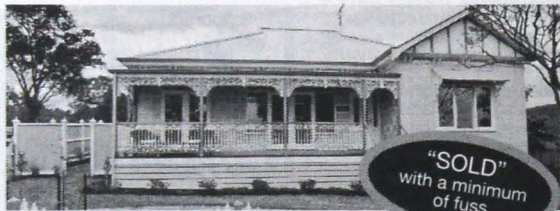
Applications for the 2006/07 community development grant program close at 5pm on Monday, August 14.

For more information about the program contact Lisa Waters at council's cultural and leisure services unit on 9840 9305 or email lisa.waters@manningham.vic.gov.au.



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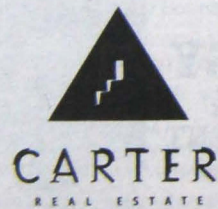
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MANNINGHAM
MANNINGHAM COUNCIL'S
COMMUNITY GRANTS 2006/07

Applicants are invited to apply for funds from the 2006/07 Community Development Grant Program.

The Community Development Grant Program supports non-profit community organisations in Manningham to develop projects, programs and events, which benefit and meet the needs of the community.

Applicants should obtain a copy of the funding guidelines and application form prior to applying for funds. Intending applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their project with Council staff prior to submitting an application. An interpreter can be arranged to assist community organisations with understanding the grant program guidelines upon request. Requests for this service must be received three weeks prior to the closing date.

It is recommended that all potential applicants attend an information session to be held on:

Thursday 20 July 2006
 6.30pm – 8.00pm
 Function Room 3, Municipal Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

Applications close at 5.00pm
Monday 14 August 2006.

Guidelines and application forms are available from Council's website www.manningham.vic.gov.au, or by contacting Lisa Waters, Cultural and Leisure Services Unit, on 9840 9305 or at the information session.

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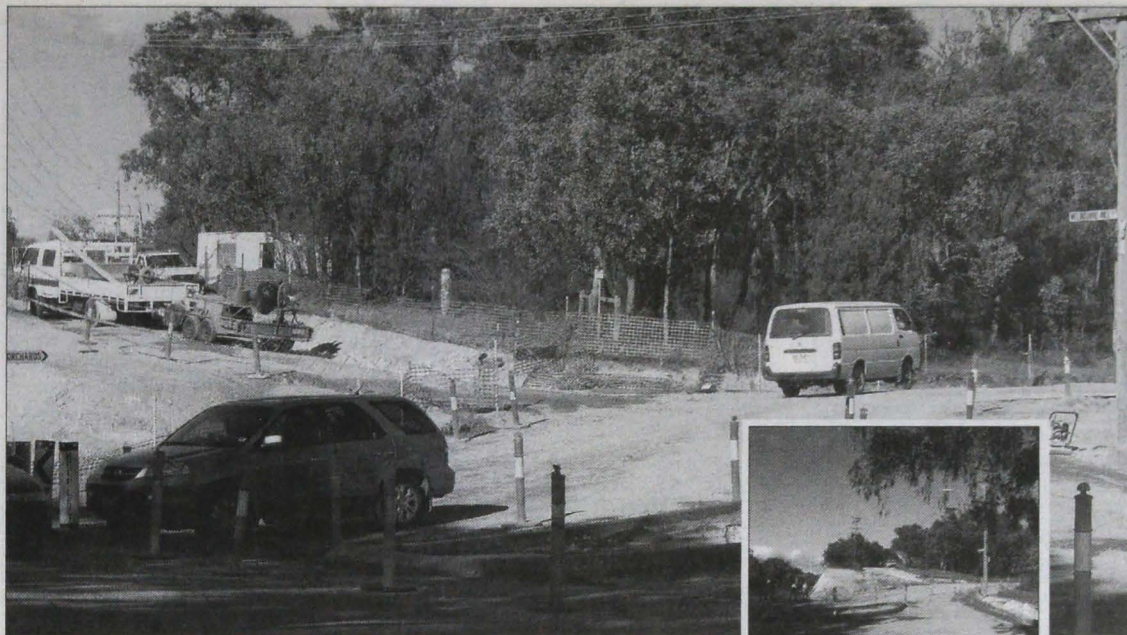
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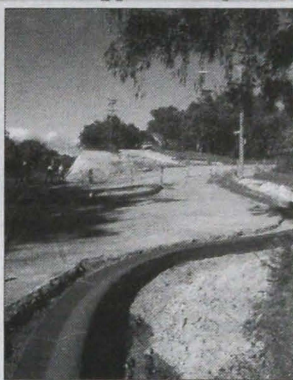
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Men at work: The intersection of Tindals Road and Warrandyte Road, at the top of Melbourne Hill, has long been a local "black spot". But, as shown in these Stephen Reynolds pictures, substantial improvements are on the way.



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SALES, SERVICE & REPAIRS

Council enhances linear park

Mullum Mullum Linear Park, running beside Mullum Mullum Creek, from Crystal Brook Caravan Park in Warrandyte Road, through to Reynolds Road, is described by a Manningham council spokesperson as one of the municipality's "most utilised parklands".

The park management plan "aims to enhance the accessibility and value the park offers to the community, while protecting its environmental amenity," the spokesperson told the *Diary*.

Council has "recently completed some major works in one of the city's favourite parks".

"The park has been further enhanced by the construction of a boardwalk and maintenance of the Beasley's Nursery car park."

The new Mullum Mullum boardwalk provides park access via a walking track loop on the eastern side of the creek. The construction of more than 100 metres of boardwalk and a footbridge, was completed in June 2006 without the removal

of native vegetation.

Council has retained the car park for use by Beasley's nursery on the condition they provide access to their tea room toilets for park visitors during daylight hours. Visitors to both the nursery and the Mullum Mullum Linear Park are able to use this parking space.

Council has also purchased playspace materials and commenced ground works at Beasley's car park, and the next 12 months will see the completion of the playspace and pic-

nic facilities, fencing, landscaping, improved car parking facilities and signage in the area.

The have also undertaken weed control and revegetation with the help of a grant from Melbourne Water totalling \$13,320.

"Council has secured additional funds, totalling \$18,490 for 2006/07, earmarked for further weed control and revegetation works along the creek as part of Melbourne Water's Corridors of Green program," the spokesperson said.

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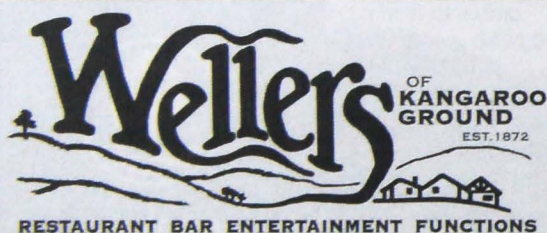
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Price: \$595,000 plus buyers



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Price: \$395,000 plus buyers



WARRANDYTE NORTH

WARRANDYTE NORTH

Chalet Lifestyle

We can't all afford a romantic chalet in the snow, but this stately clinker brick on 2/3rds of an acre comes close. With its imposing cathedral ceilings, it features 3 bedrooms plus study, a rumpus room and 2 living areas which open to a slate verandah. A solar-heated pool & spa completes the package.

Price: \$490,000 plus buyers



Enhanced with natural beauty

Set on approx 1.25 acres, this rustic mudbrick family home has it all. With 3 bedrooms plus study, 2 family living areas, renovated bathrooms, new jarrah/vic ash kitchen and a separate dining area for the guests. It also features a large pitched pergola with plenty of room and a garage/workshop. A must see to truly appreciate all it has to offer.

Price: \$520,000 plus buyers



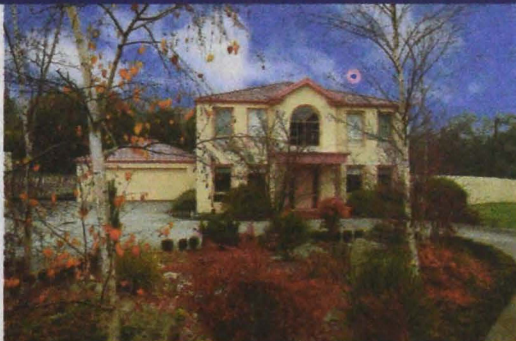
WARRANDYTE NORTH

WARRANDYTE

Five star elegance

This dream home in Warrandyte offers a 2-storey design on 3/4s of an acre, open plan design with granite kitchen, formal lounge & dining rooms. It features a master with ensuite, spa & WIR, 3 other bedrooms, a study, family bathroom, powder room and separate rumpus room. This is a palatial home with all the fancy trimmings.

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WARRANDYTE

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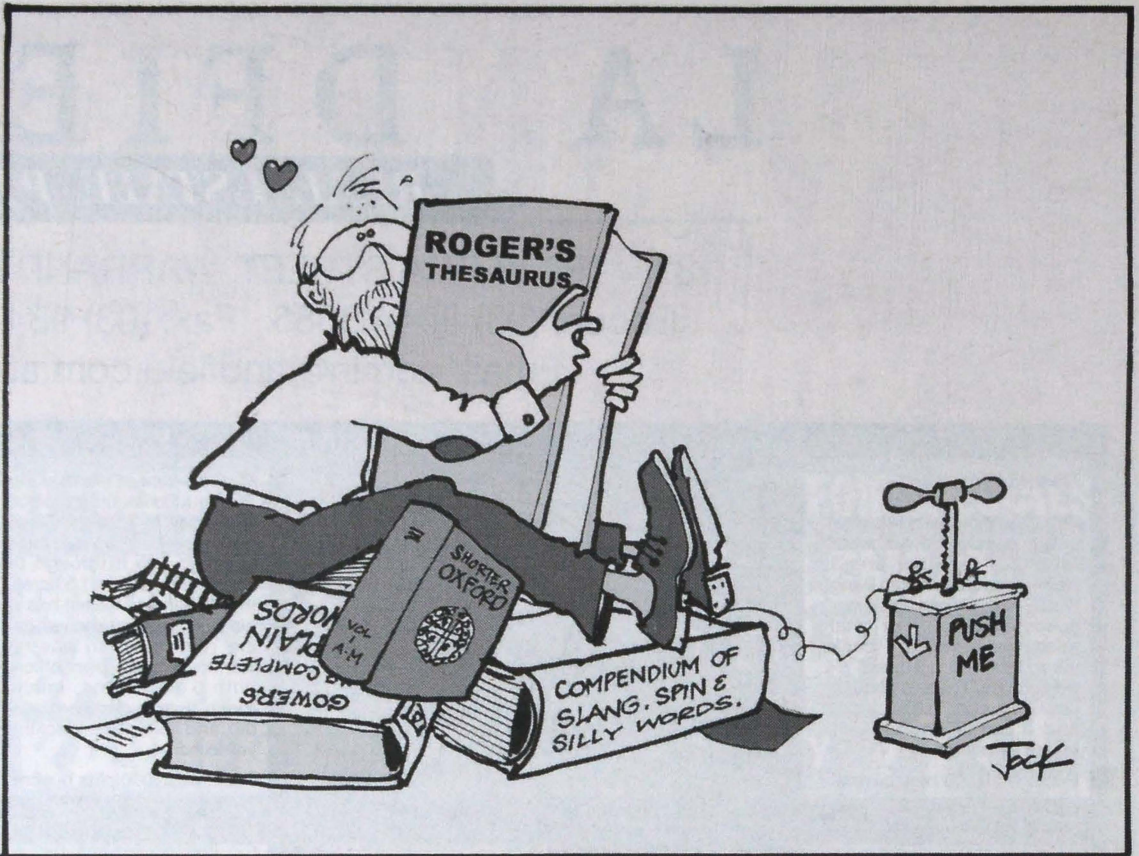
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Clichés rule the roost? Stand up and be counted!

“Do you want some cheesecake with your tea?”
“I didn't think there was much left,” Herself replied.

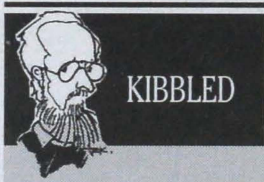
“There isn't, but I couldn't eat the lot without asking you if you wanted any.”

“Oh, that's nice! I'm not really hungry anyway, so just give me the smaller half.”

Bingo! “The smaller half!” I bit my tongue as I cut the sliver of cheesecake. We have had the discussion several times before and now it's become a joke. You can't have the smaller half. A half is an exact proportion. What should be said is, “I'll have the smaller portion”, but common usage is holding sway and precision is being replaced with convenience. Herself knows perfectly well how to push my pedant's buttons and delights in seeing the steam rise from my ears when the language is abused.

We are all aware of the products of the AFL's School of Meaningless Clichés. Players in a team suffering a stream of losses are asked to “stand up and be counted” in the next game. The obvious alternative is for them all to lie down in the shade of the pavilion hoping not to get picked. If they do stand up and are counted, they will preferably be playing in a “champion team” rather than a “team of champions” as they will be “thinking of the jersey” rather than of themselves.

To win the game, all they have to do is “get more possessions and make sure we convert when we get it up to our end”.



KIBBLED

“...my paranoia is probably the result of a career lifetime of reading 'howlers' in kids' essays. After a while however, once you get over the distress, the gaffes become funny...”

To a kinky Satanist this might be construed differently but to a footy devotee, conversions do lead to Paradise.

But it's not just footy that has its linguistic idiosyncrasies. For some reason known only to the programmers at “your ABC”, presenters (or are they “broadcasters”?) are now drawn from the ranks of fading or faded comedians. Apart from the very

obvious one or two presenters who are concerned more with issues than with themselves, the conversations of the other “fading stars” are peppered with “segues”, snatches of discarded comedy routines and unwanted information about the difficulties of earning a living as an actor or comedian in Melbourne.

And don't get me onto the topics of the lost adverb, “really” or of the floating and random apostrophe before any s.

For most people, such concerns are boring, trivial and the product of someone who should “get a life”. Probably, that's real true, but in my defence, my paranoia is probably the result of a career lifetime of reading “howlers” in kids' essays. After a while, however, once you get over the distress, the gaffes become funny because of the odd images they create. Let me share some of them with you.

The most memorable howlers are produced under exam conditions because it's at that time that pressure takes over and we tend to rush and a word that sounds close enough to the correct one is inserted in the wrong place.

The topic was about democracy, a very timely one given the current disputes in a number of the world's countries. It was obvious therefore that I should read that “both politics and democracy are similar” and that “politics is everywhere in our ocular state”. When a democracy is unstable we must take care because upheaval can “ultimately lead to corruption and dicta-

tion”, in other words, a “coup de tar”. Democracy is a wonderful system, so good, in fact, that “the freedom that underpins a democratic system is the right to abdicate”. The highest paean of praise for democracy, however, was very Australian. I was pleased to read that to “understand democracy's greatness it has to be seen alongside the Hill's Hoist and the Victa mower”.

Even life on a more general level has its lighter sides. You will be reassured to learn that sometimes in life we experience “not ordinary chaos but uncontrolled chaos” and that “social interruption influences our behaviour”, that “behind every father is a child” and that “growing up is like a long journey from A to B and back again”. Children go through a difficult phase in “preadulthood” and most of us “like to think of ourselves as ornately different”.

OK, so I'm being picky, but my basic point is that we owe it to ourselves to be self-critical. We bemoan the Americanisation of our culture and the “dumbing down” of our media and TV and radio programs. Communication is precious, and as has been seen in propaganda over the years, can be potentially dangerous. Without a concern for the precision of the language, we easily fall prey to the spin doctors and the “shock jocks”, in fact, as one of my students warned, we leave ourselves open to the horrific world depicted in “George Orwell's classic novel Eighteen Ninety Two”.

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A rolling moss that gathers no friends in our bushland

I HAVE been thinking about whether to write this column or not. One of the problems is that my knowledge of the subject is very limited and my usual sources of information are as barren as the Great Sandy Desert. However, the fact that so few people know about it was reason enough to pass on the little information I do have.

Pest plant and animal introductions are nothing new, I have written about them many times. But this one is different—it is a moss and its steady, but surreptitious invasion of Warrandyte's bushland has gone on for years, unnoticed by all but a handful of people.

Neat Feather Moss, scientifically known as *Pseudoscleropodium purum*, originated in the northern hemisphere. I was first made aware of it three years ago by a local bryophyte (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) expert. Although, casting my mind back 30 years or so, I probably encountered it when I came across a dense sphagnum-like moss in the bush. I remember thinking that it would make an ideal liner for a hanging basket. It was growing in the State Park and I didn't collect it.

There is no doubt the moss is attractive with its bright yellowish-green feathery filaments, and it doesn't look out of place either, growing in dense shade amongst the native mosses. But unlike the native species, the Feather Moss forms a very thick layer. The moss mat is so dense that it prevents the germination of seedlings and smothering ground covers like Veronica, Violets, and Maidenhair Fern. In addition, in common with most other weed species, the moss grows aggressively fast, out-competing the more delicate native mosses and lichens.

According to the expert who first showed me, Neat Feather Moss moves at a rapid rate—

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

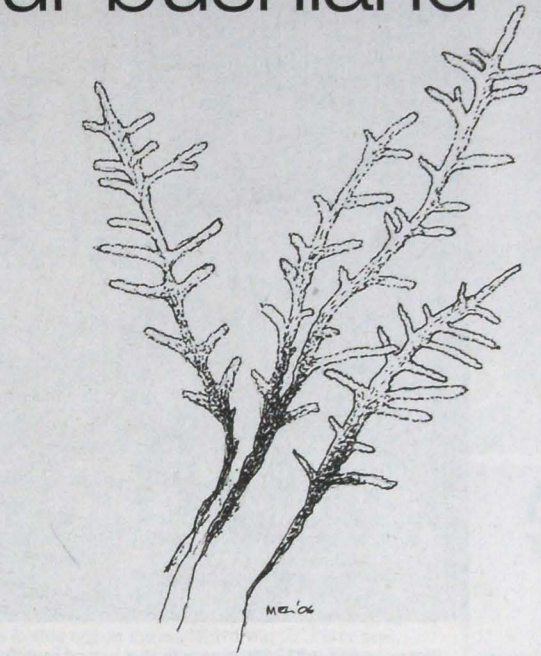
one patch he noted had doubled in size in two years. Sexual reproduction is unknown in this species as no spores are produced. Instead the moss grows vegetatively from small pieces of the plant—even a few cells can grow into new plants! It is highly likely that birds, collecting soft ferny filaments for nesting material, are responsible for much of the spread of this introduced nasty.

As mentioned earlier, I had been unable to unearth much information on the Feather Moss. Finally searching through the scientific journals I did find one article by an American author who had studied the moss, which he called the European Feather Moss, in cemeteries in New York State. His research revealed that a specimen of the moss had been collected from the west coast of North America in the 19th century, which indicates the moss may have reached this region in the late 1800s probably as packing material.

He describes the moss as "naturalised" in cemetery lawns where it is readily dispersed by a maintenance regime of mowing and raking.

According to the study, the same species of Feather Moss is also found in Chile, Hawaii, Iceland, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and south-eastern Australia. How and when it reached these widely separated places is a matter of conjecture. One suggestion is that the moss came from Europe with imported garden plants.

In Victoria, Neat Feather Moss has been found in the Otways, around Portland and at Cement Creek in the Yarra Ranges, but



its occurrence is likely to be much more widespread than these records indicate.

So, what to do about it? While we are used to treating a variety of troublesome weeds, we have no experience at dealing with an introduced moss. One local landowner, who has been watching the spread of the moss with alarm for some time, has tried burning, spraying and raking with no great success. Once entrenched, the moss is almost impossible to eradicate.

In the end it will probably be left in the "too hard basket". Because of its low profile, the unremitting invasion of Neat Feather Moss will continue to go unnoticed for decades. It is inevitable that native mosses, lichens and ferns will be lost under its dense mat and the seeds of shade-loving grasses and wildflowers will no longer

germinate. Unfortunately, by the time its devastating impact on our bush is recognized it may well be too late to do anything about it.

Plant of the Month

According to the Flora of Victoria, *Poa sieberiana* is the commonest tussock grass in the state, occurring from sea level to the alps. It forms a dense tuft of dull green, slender, cylindrical leaves. This attractive local grass is very adaptable in the home garden and will even grow under existing eucalypts. Forestry tubes of *Poa sieberiana* 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 317 327.

Marmalade that walked by night

VERMONT corner used to be such a pretty place. Boronia Road climbed up to it through a cutting, so the shops on one corner were ringed by a dirt service road lined with stately mahogany gums. These trees had an enormous girth, and their rough red-brown bark and bulging roots provided a great haven for kids to twirl toes in the dust and eat icy-poles on summer afternoons.

State School No. 1022 stood on the other corner. A quaint old timber building, it had an undulating floor, high panelled ceilings and a proper bell tower. A massive oak shaded the bench where the dairyman left the morning milk crates.

In between, Canterbury Road was almost a one-rabbit track, hidden beneath tall gums that met overhead. Grade 6 kids were rostered on the hand-operated boom gate that held back the so-called traffic at the school crossing. (I was nervous about this job, as during the previous year two boys had been summoned to the headmaster's office for the serious

OUR PLACE
By **MARILYN MOORE**

offence of causing a car to stop.)

Our favourite teacher, known in the playground as Ren-Ren, lived just down the hill from the garage, diagonally opposite the school. An impressive stand of gums, widely said to be over 100 feet tall, towered overhead. It was not an uncommon sight to see one of Ren-Ren's vintage cars chugging up to the pump.

Always a work-in-progress, at least one of these vehicles had to be stopped by dragging the driver's right foot along the ground.

While the tank was being filled, the passenger's left foot doubled as handbrake.

It was Ren-Ren who found Greenhood Orchids in the schoolground and encouraged us to draw them and correctly label the parts. He liked to explain how things worked. We learnt about siphons, capillary action, osmosis and diffusion—

the magical ways in which nature transports molecules, seemingly without the expenditure of energy. I should have paid more attention. Those lessons have now come back to bite me on the bum in the most unexpected context.

A bag of freshly picked grapefruit turned up here the other night, so we set about making a batch of marmalade. Cutting up the fruit took hours, as we carefully separated pith, flesh, zest, core and pips. (My grandmother used to cook the lot and strain it through muslin before adding slivers of zest—great for winning prizes at the Show, but rather wasteful of pulp.) We used a well-worn recipe that asked for "one quart of water to each pound of fruit".

One of us had no idea what a quart was, and the other didn't have any scales, but we eventually translated the instructions into useful terms and poured exactly 10 cups of cold water onto the fruit before leaving it to soak.

To keep the contents of the bowl safe from things-that-drop-down-in-the-night (things such as millipedes and spider

poo), I covered it tightly with a tea-towel.

Or so I thought. During the night the tea-towel must have slumped just enough to touch the sticky liquid in the bowl. Unfortunately some combination of diffusion and capillary action kicked in. The molecules of marmalade juice did not hesitate. By next morning, a significant (but unknown and immeasurable) proportion of them had, without any apparent expenditure of energy, climbed up the tea-towel and out of the bowl. But why stop there? In full exploration mode, they were bursting forth from the bowl like lemmings, flooding the bench and half the kitchen floor.

Precision marmalade-making was thrown to the winds. We topped up the bowl more or less to its previous level, and haphazardly added sugar. The recipe asked for an "equal quantity", but by this time "to the nearest bag" was about all we could manage.

Despite the odds it turned out to be an excellent brew, but I have this funny feeling that I've just failed Grade 5.

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2006-2007 Annual Community Grants Program
Successful applicants will receive these grants during September 2006. Grant round opens on Wednesday 21 June and closes 5pm Friday 28 July 2006. Guidelines and application forms for all grants are available on the Council website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/grants&volunteers.
Community Development Grants:
To assist with the development of new, innovative programs, opportunities and services by local community groups and organisations within the Shire.
Total grant pool: \$10,000
Maximum funding: \$3,000
Further information: Jenny Gregory, Community Development Officer, 9433 3136
Cultural Development Grants:
To encourage individuals, community groups and organisations in the Shire to develop arts and cultural activities which benefit the community.
Total grant pool: \$10,000
Maximum funding: \$3,000
Further information: Jessica Neath, Arts Officer, 9433 3126
Youth Support Grants:
To assist local community groups to develop new after hours programs, events and opportunities for young people to strengthen community access and increase youth participation.
Total grant pool: \$10,000
Maximum funding: \$3,000
Further information: Deb Ruiz-Dove, Youth Services Project Officer, 9433 3190
www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
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Hard old world of hardware

Words and pictures by
JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

MILTON KARIS stared pensively through his large shop window. He'd just hung up the phone. Black plastic draped over the storefront hid the words most small business operators dread: "Closing down sale".

"I was all ready to finish up by the end of the financial year. I had the flyers merged into this month's accounts; the sign on the window and the stock about right. Then this guy walks in and says he wants to buy me out. So I trash the flyer, cover up the sign and buy more stock. Now that was him, on the phone. He says

he doesn't want to buy the business anymore."

There's a mix of anger and resignation in Milton's eyes—his options are rapidly running out. "Someone's buying the building and the rent's going up," he said. "That makes this business unviable. Looks like Warrandyte's not going to have a hardware any more."

To accountant John Roberts, Milton's plight is all too familiar. "Retailing in Warrandyte's pretty tough," he said. "In the last 15 years I've helped about 20 people set up in business, only to see them close down due to lack of sales, and the closures have a compounding effect. When the NAB moved out of Warrandyte it cost a small business

like mine about \$15,000 a year. In the same way the closure of the hardware will prove expensive. We'll have to drive into Eltham or Ringwood, and so will our tradesmen. That will cost us all—in time and petrol."

John believes local retailers would do better if parking was easier. "These days customers expect to park and walk safely to shop. Yet I take my life in my hands every time I visit the post office," he said. "If we want to have vibrant local shopping centres we have to make the hard decisions and provide better parking facilities."

Sam strolls to the back of the hardware and helps himself to half a dozen coach screws. With a cheery grin he drops them on Milton's well-worn counter. But Milton's hardly noticed him. He's immersed in memories of happier times. He's telling a story about the holiday he and Cheryl had years ago—with another couple on a houseboat on the Hawkesbury River.

He looks down at the coach screws, then up at Sam. "Five dollars," he says.

"I had one of my honeymoons on the Hawkesbury," says Sam.

Andy's kneeling on the floor, sorting through a box of plumbing fittings. He looks up with a grin. "How many honeymoons you had?" he asks. "Depends," says Sam. "Two were real ones and two sort of trials. But the one on the Hawkesbury—that was probably the best one."

Sam pays, picks up the bolts and leaves. Maybe that was as funny as it sounds, or maybe it was a personal tragedy. We will never know, because that's the way it is in the hardware shop.

From the point of view of local psychologist Peter O'Connor, the closure has implications for the social

and emotional well-being of the community. "There's no doubt that Milton's hardware is an important greeting place," he said. "Such places help build healthy communities. They allow us to find meaning in each other's company. Of course when it comes to men in hardware shops I'm not sure that they are always connecting in a meaningful way. There's always the possibility that they are escaping from real communication. But certainly, that kind of contact helps men define themselves and feel like they are participating in 'men's business'."

"Think about the diverse people Milton deals with each day," said Peter. "The elderly, single mothers, home-alone housewives and men who may not be all that handy. They can visit Milton's shop and get what they need, including advice and support. And we're losing these kinds of places. The wine and spirit merchant closed in 2004; last year it was Ginkgo and now the hardware. In a world that is increasingly impersonal we can't afford to lose our greeting places at this rate."

"There's no commercial property left in Warrandyte," said John Roberts. "And with the Post Office building selling for \$800,000 plus, and the developer planning to plough \$1 million into that property, there's not much future for traditional strip retailing down the east end."

"One by one those retailers will probably face the inevitable. For most of them that means being forced out in favour of residential development or finding a profitable niche in the weekend tourist trade."

None of this is of any comfort to Milton. He was a computer programmer before he bought this business. He's owned and operated the

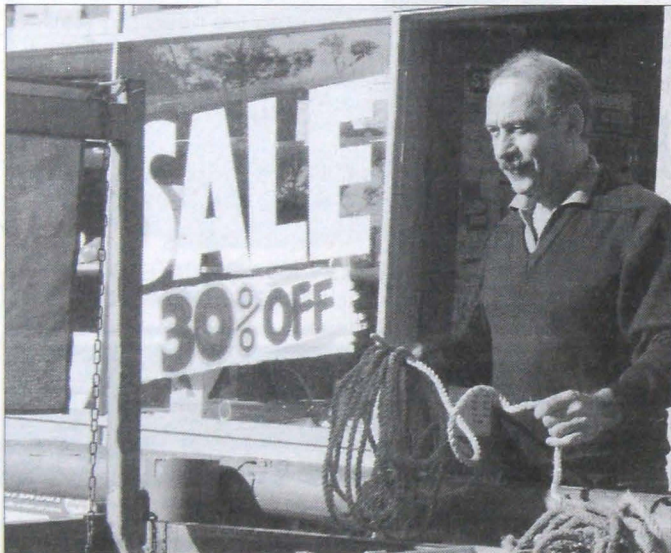
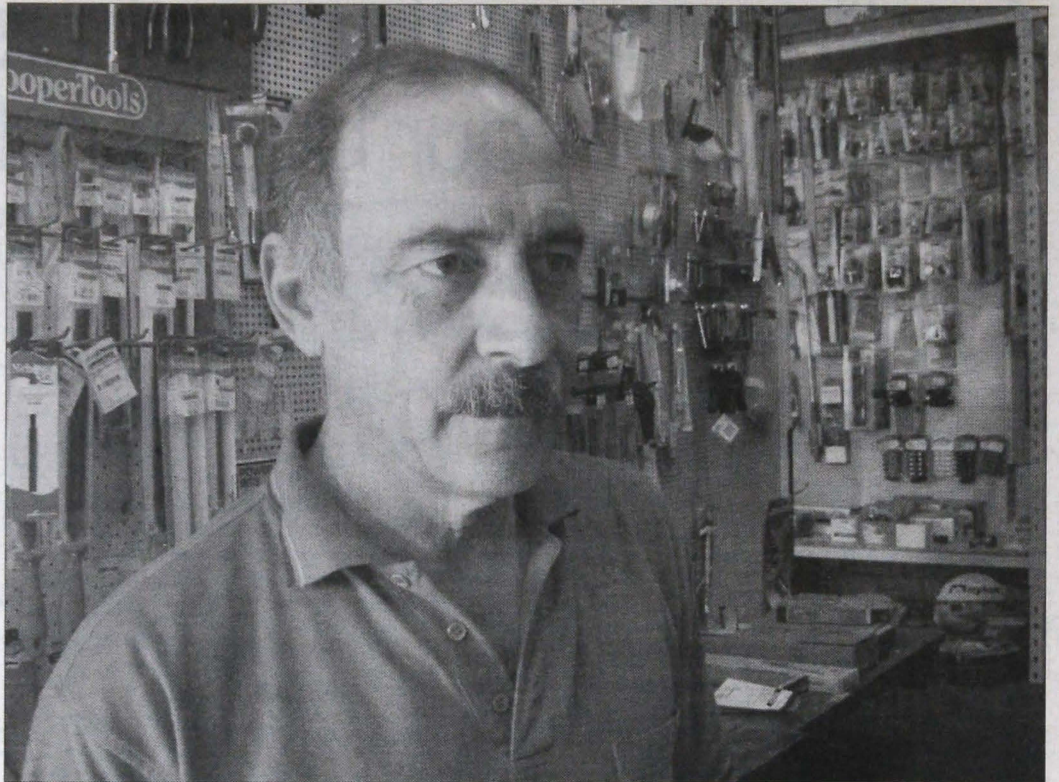
Warrandyte hardware for 18 years. All the while the industry has been consolidating in favour of large national companies like Bunnings.

"It's hard to compete with massive corporations like that," says Milton. "I might buy 100 hammers a year—at the going price. Bunnings probably buy 100,000 hammers a year and they can negotiate with suppliers from all around the world to get the best price. And that's good for the customers, of course. They pay less. The problem is the little guys are being killed off in the process. And after we're all gone I guess Bunnings will charge what they like for hammers and everything else."

Milton's gone sort of quiet. He's thinking of taking an early lunch. Maybe in the pub. "It's kind of weird how everything seems to have taken a turn for the worse all of a sudden. Nothing seems to be working out. One minute I've got a buyer, next I'm out in a month. One day I've found a way to carry on, the next day it all seems too hard."

Throughout the ages Warrandyte has provided a challenging proving ground for men. In tribal days a man tested his skills against fish in the river or prey in the stringybark scrub. Miners tested their luck and judgement digging long dark tunnels underground. Farmers, merchants, tradesmen, artists and engineers; all have found ways to prove their worth in this timeless river valley.

But the invisible hand of global economics is a mysterious foe. Warrandyte now faces a world with no blacksmith, ironmonger or hardware shop, and men of Milton's generation face an uncertain future, where even the most able and industrious amongst them is no match for the unfettered economic forces of this global age.



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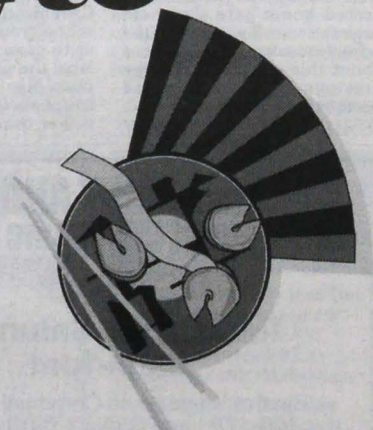
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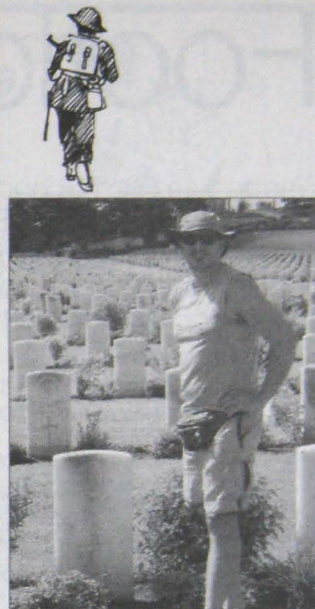
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A "PLATOON" of friends, most with lifetime connections to Warrandyte, recently concluded a seven-day, gruelling 96km trek across the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea.

They include Peter Sharpe, whose parents still live in Pigtail Road; Dale McCartin of Melbourne Hill Road; Matthew Elliott, who played cricket and football for Warrandyte for more than 20 years; Stephen Bell, formerly of Brackenbury Street; Jay Gunning, Dale McCartin's nephew; and Aron Whillans, a friend of Steve Bell.

"All of us have been talking about doing the track for years," Peter Sharpe told the *Diary*. "It was not until Steve bought a Kokoda Track package at a charity function that we all committed ourselves."

The group trained for six months, including weekly treks up the Dandenong Ranges notorious "1000 Steps" and scaling Mt Donna Buang every couple of weeks. "We also did a 40km overnight hike around Wilsons Promontory," Peter said.

"Once on the track, we immediately realised that all the training we did would hold us in good stead. The track is extremely difficult in parts, where every step is on slippery tree roots, in mud, or on a log river crossing."

The party was extremely lucky, as there was no significant rain during the seven days they were on the track.

"The local village inhabitants were fantastic, most of them being self-sufficient. They also derive significant income from the trekkers."

Each member of the party had personal reasons to complete the trek, "foremost being a greater understanding and respect for the sacrifices made by Australians during the battles in this region during World War 2," Peter said.

"We all read as much as we could about the Kokoda campaign, but until you actually see the battlefields, memorials and cemeteries; only then do you start to realise the enormity of the struggle."

Peter Sharpe's great uncle fought at Kokoda, succumbing to dengue fever in May 1943 during a later battle in North PNG. "I was able to find his grave at the Bomana Cemetery in Port Moresby. It was a very personal and moving moment, and I thought of him often as I walked the Track.

"I have travelled to many sites around the world where Australians have fought, including The Somme, Crete and Gallipoli. For me, Kokoda is not just a track, but an experience I will never forget," Peter said.



Magic by moonlight

Still here, defiantly hunkering down, reclusively swathed in a twisting green haze which slowly seduces and smothers, so that soon I'll be more like a bush than a house. But I've been touched by moonlight magic, there's many lives ahead.

Constructed all by moonlight and help from lantern's flare with the night birds and mosquitoes filling the damp night air. Their calloused miner's hands slapping branch and mud, their backs already aching from daylight's pick and thud. And they wouldn't get to stretch out straight in the makeshift leaning tent till the last star started fading and their strength was all but spent.

It was fortunate, the little stream that ran so closely by. All that mud for walls, and the rammed earth floor; it made the missus want to try and plant an English garden—a little green oasis midst all that brown and dry. And it fed the mighty willow that's still standing there today, wrapping its wand around me making magic in its way.

There was also many a moonlit night saw the candle flicker and fly in the wee small hours with the banshee bleat of another newborn's cry. Another little Sloan is born, and the others move up to make room and the walls expand with a little sigh we'll need some more space soon.

And Clara paints by moonlight and I, the small white house grey on white, and white on grey, sturdy slabs of stone and mud framed by a creamy froth of cherry plums. I was her sometimes haven too.

I watched her climb the weary hill to paint her "Evensong", capturing the creeping night, misty dusk seeping over innocent streets—a small clutch of buildings wrapped in evening's purple cloak.

And families came and went getting smaller every time until I no longer heard at all a moonlight cry nor sleeping sighs. No-one sleeps here any more.

Except for the row of pots, except for the odd drunk collapsed in the rose bed after a particularly wild show.

A new life for me—all these pots stacked in the tiers where all the little Sloans slept.

A bit of a face lift I got a new floor—sturdy concrete covering all those years of little feet and sturdy artists treading in the dirt.

A broken doll rescued, buried underneath. Scraped out by small child Before concrete buried it again.

But I became famous for a bit "Potter's Cottage" and so did the potters and the town too as a refuge for potters and I was it where it all happened for a bit.

Too famous really They needed to move Too big for their boots and for me.

They moved on to Zock's took down the shelves some rose cuttings too and I was alone in the moonlight again

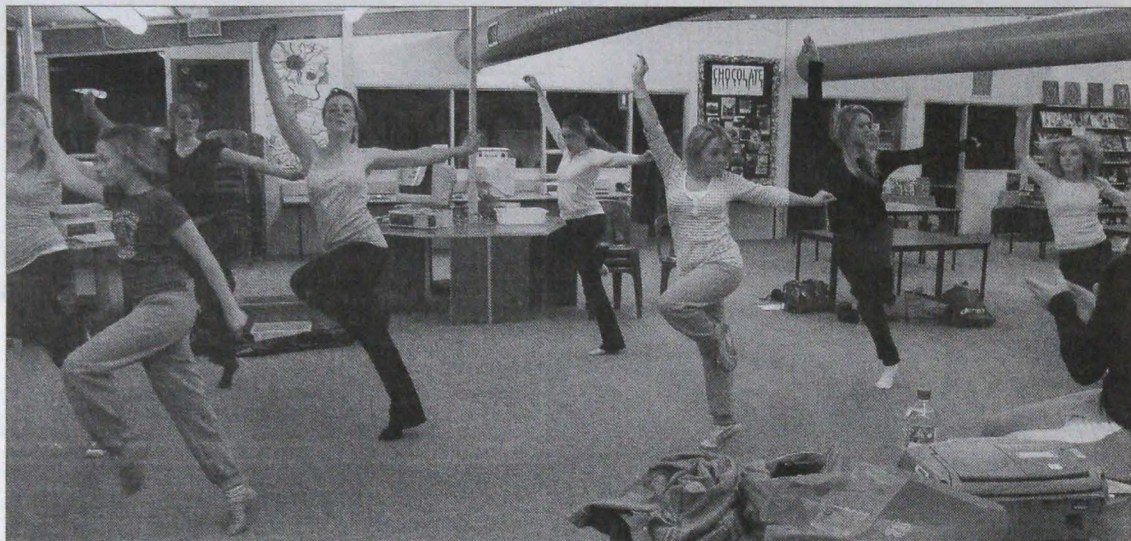
And I'm still here, defiantly hunkering down, reclusively swathed in a twisting green haze which slowly seduces and smothers, so that soon I'll be more like a bush than a house. But I've been touched by moonlight magic, there's many lives ahead.



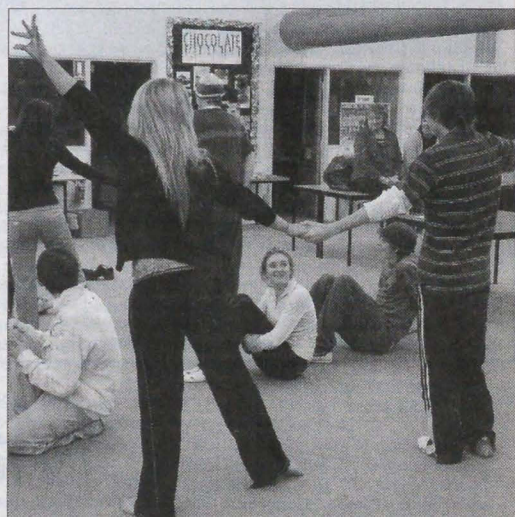
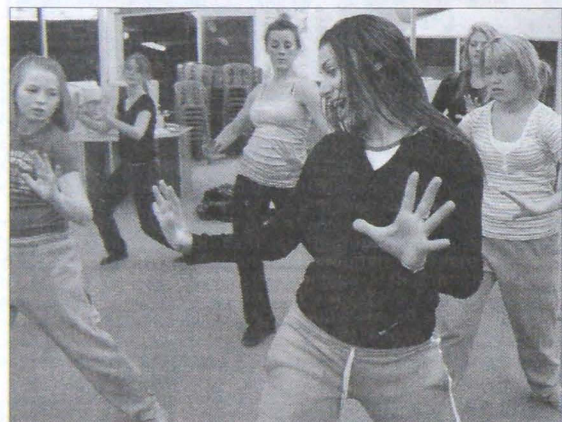
KAREN THROSSELL

Footloose and fancy free

Warrandyte High School is staging the musical "Footloose" in September. "This production continues the great tradition of Warrandyte High's musicals," a school spokesperson told the *Diary*. Rehearsals for "Footloose", featuring an all-student cast of 48, have been underway for two months.



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS



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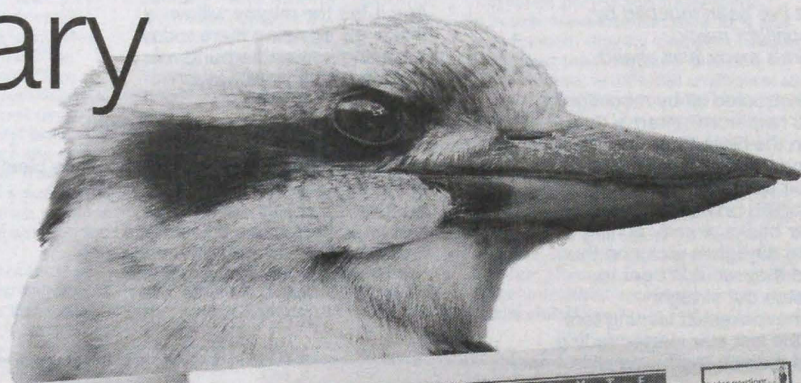
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Dual occupancy back on agenda

GALLERY

A century of tennis

Warrandyte Tennis Club will celebrate its centenary in 2007. The club was formed in March 1907 and its first court, adjacent to the bridge where the Lions courts now stand, was opened in 1908. Planned activities will commence with a wine and cheese night and display of memorabilia at the club in March next year. Subsequent events will include a dinner at the Karralyka Centre in Ringwood on April 21, a family fun day later in the year and the launching of a new updated edition of the club history. WTC is seeking any old photos or other memorabilia. If you can help please call Judy Green on 9844 2096. Names and addresses of past members, especially if they no longer live in the area, would also be most appreciated.



What am I bid? A silent auction will be a feature of this year's High School Trivia Night.

Undercover

Monthly undercover garage sales will take place at the Warrandyte Community Centre on the first Saturday of each month. Tables will be provided for \$10 per table. There will be plenty of parking and no insurance hassles. This is a joint community service provided by the Lions Club of Warrandyte and the Community Centre management. To book tables please ring 0428 319 478. Stalls selling burglar's tools and sawn-off shotguns will not be welcome.

Flora

Friends of Warrandyte State Park have recently released two new brochures depicting indigenous vegetation in Warrandyte. Following the earlier brochures on wattles, eucalypts and wildflowers, these new publications describe mosses and liverworts and fungi. The brightly coloured brochures, with photos and descriptions, are available from the FOWSP trailer at Warrandyte market or the Warrandyte State Park office and nursery at Pound Bend any Thursday between 10am and midday.

Activities

The City of Manningham is supporting formation of a new Life Activities Club in the area, joining 30 existing clubs in the state with more than 6000 active members. The club, aimed at active over-50s who are retired or approaching retirement, plans to provide inexpensive access to as many activities as it members wish. A free interest meeting will be conducted by the Life Planning Foundation of Australia at the Templestowe Memorial Hall, corner Parker and Andersons streets, Templestowe at 7.30pm on Thursday, August 3. The club will be a non-profit organisation run by local people.



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.

History

The annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Historical Society will be held in the museum in the old post office building in Yarra Street, Warrandyte on Sunday, July 16 commencing at 2pm. The society is seeking new members to join in collecting and preserving our local history. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the society and founding member Ted Rotherham will be the guest speaker. All are welcome to attend. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Do Care

Volunteers are needed by Do Care to spend a couple of hours each week visiting an older person or person with a disability living in the local community. For more information call Wesley Do Care on 9762 5211.

In pursuit of trivia

Warrandyte High School's famous Trivia Night is on Saturday, August 12 commencing at 7.15pm. The theme this year is "It's Carnivale Time!" The venue has been changed this year. Instead of the High School, the event will be held at Andersons Creek Primary School. Bookings are essential. Please call the school on 9844 2749.



ARTYFACTS

Debris

Debris is the title of the current exhibition at Manningham Gallery, closing on July 29, showing the work six artists have created from everyday objects and waste materials, transforming them through processes of assemblage, construction and installation. As part of this project, VCE students from Doncaster Secondary College, Warrandyte High School, Eltham College and Camberwell Grammar have been participating in a workshop conducted by one of these artists—Mandy Gunn (pictured left)—translating waste materials from Manningham council offices into works of art.

Stonehouse

The exhibition now showing at Stonehouse Gallery, 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, entitled "Culchered T'arts, includes textile works exploring fabrics, fibres, techniques and textures. The gallery is open from 10am to 5pm daily.

Scarf

Bend of Islands textile designer and artist Robina Summers recently won "Scarf of the Year" at the 2006 Melbourne Scarf Festival. The brief was for scarves that can house accessories such as iPods, mobile phones or precious objects.

Nilumbik

Pastel and pottery created by groups from Living and Learning Nilumbik will be on display at the Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham from Wednesday, July 19 to Tuesday, August 8.

Tomorrow

The Box Hill Community Arts Centre is staging an exhibition of work by multimedia and art students at Yarra Valley Grammar School, entitled Designers of Tomorrow. The show runs from Monday, July 24 until Friday, August 11. The arts centre is at 470 Station Street, Box Hill, 9898 3544.

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Warrandyte Community Market

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COREY'S COMMUNITY

By SYD & ONA

Corey needs lots of personal space this month



Tell the Diary your news

Lucky seven for Ballistyx

By CLINTON GRYPAS

Ballistyx won Warrandyte's senior basketball competition for a third straight season when they beat Baghdad in a thrilling grand final last month.

Their seventh Greyburn Cup title victory was their narrowest—a heart-stopping 47-45 point triumph over a luckless Baghdad team that remains without a premiership.

Alastair Henderson had the chance to force extra time but his off-balance jump shot rimmed out as the siren sounded.

Baghdad trailed for most of the game and rallied from a 44-36 deficit with 90 seconds remaining to force the exciting finish. First,

Tony Davis (game high 25 points) nailed a massive three-pointer, his third for the game, then added a fourth after a terrific Peter Appleby (8) screen to make it 44-42.

Mark Salomon (10) steadied Ballistyx with two free throws to restore a four point buffer. After Baghdad blew several chances Salomon then made one of two for a five point lead with 18 seconds to go.

But still the game wasn't over. Dave Blyth launched a successful bomb from closer to half way than the three point line off the back board. In the flurry of activity that followed, the ball went out of bounds with one second left, leading to Henderson's unsuccessful last gasp attempt.

Ron David added 10 points, Gavin Eddy nine (all in threes) and Steve Killie nine (all at the free throw line) for the winners who finished a perfect 15-0 for the season. Andrew Howey had another big game on the boards and was later named the league's Most Valuable Player.

"He probably spoils the competition he's so good," one wag in the crowd uttered. Howey polled 26 votes to beat Davis (22) and Darren Hay (18) third.

Andersons Creek won the 'B' Division crown when they beat Steelers 32-22. Ben Skene scored 16 and Neil Chetkett 10 for the Creek while David Brown potted nine for Steelers.

The new season, with games played on Wednesday nights, begins soon. Entries can be made through Gavin Eddy on 0418 800 704.

Bike star sets the pace

Warrandyte's Cameron Donald continues to perform well on the international motor bike racing scene, finishing second in the Senior TT, the main event at the 2006 Isle of Man titles.

Riding his Robinson's Concrete/Honda Fireblade for Uel Duncan racing, Cameron completed the mountain course in an amazing 1h 47.59 minutes.

His fastest lap time was at 128.44mph, breaking the lap record set in the Superbike race earlier in the week and he ended up recording the third fastest lap in the 99-year race history!

This was Cameron's second attempt at the TT. Last year he rode as a newcomer in the 600 Supersport class only.

"I'm just elated with the result.

"This is my first year on the Superbike and second place is unbelievable and beyond all my expectations for this year," Cameron said.

Warrandyte junior football

Title hopes rest on results of final rounds

Warrandyte Junior Football Club continues to impress with most teams focussed on a finals berth as the end of the season draws near.

"This is a great result for our club, but the most pleasing thing to us is the way we are going about it," said club secretary Phil Ashfield.

"We are a club that is very much focused on good sportsmanship and respect for the opposition and in the last couple of weeks we have had several opposition clubs take the time to write and congratulate us on both our sportsmanship and the quality of our coaching staff.

"This is a testament to the excellence of people we have involved at our club and fills us with a sense of pride that our people and philosophies are not only bringing us success on the field but, more importantly, enhancing our reputation off it," he said.

TACKERS

Round 9 saw the Tackers travel to Binnak Park where they took on St.Damians.

"We realised early on in the first quarter that they had some big players and they kicked away to an early lead. We made some adjustments and the remaining three quarters saw a very even affair," said coach David McMennimen.

Defenders Cam Caffin, James Buckley and Joel Bumpstead were among the best.

Kiama Harris-Allen was rewarded in the Club Warrandyte Bistro award and the Lee Tindale medal went to one of the senior tackers, Joshua Rowarth.

Warrandyte Tackers hosted Park Orchards in Round 10 and once again it was a fantastic team effort where every player made a contribution.

"The backline was strong and Josh Rowarth led the charge with good solid support from Lockie Wintle, Connor Lucas, Kyal Norris, Josh Costin and Jake Tucker," McMennimen said.

The Yarra View pizza award went to Fergus Ward, Connor Joy received the Club Warrandyte Bistro Award and Rob McKenzie was the week's Lee Tindale medallist.

Another great team effort saw the Tackers outplay Bundoora in Round 11.

McMennimen said the players were inspired by the recent visit at training by three Hawthorn AFL players Sam Mitchell, Grant Birchall and Beau Dowler.

"It's great to see players like Liam Cashion and Josh Bilos get among the action," he added.

Joel Bumpstead received the Club Warrandyte Bistro Award, the Lee Tindale Medal went to James Buckley.

UNDER 10

In Round 9 the Under 10s took on Balwyn and came away with a 31 point win.

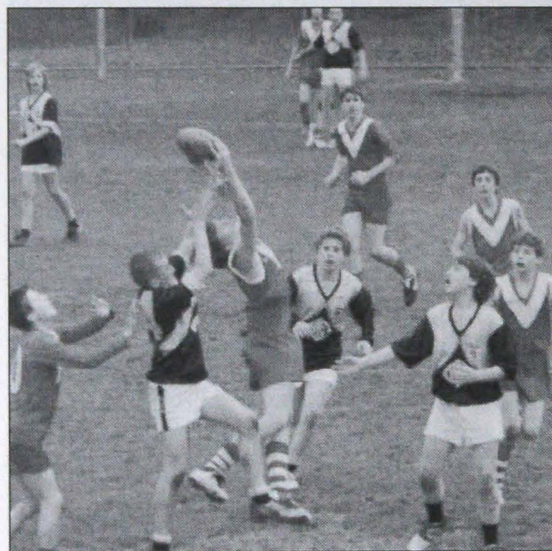
The best player award went to Hewitt Murray for all round good play, and Michael Bilos won an award for his ground work and passing.

Coach Peter Stafford praised Sean Goring for an unheralded, but brilliant, piece of shepherding that made a goal possible.

Round 10 saw Warrandyte take on Kew Rovers B team.

"The score line indicated that our centre men and backline are just as valuable to us as our forwards," Stafford said.

"It wasn't that Kew couldn't ever get to their forward line, it was just that Warrandyte



TJ Law takes a strong mark for Warrandyte Under 13s.

just kept sending it back," he added.

"I think that our boys have demonstrated that they will be a force to be feared in the Gold Division. You couldn't find a person who wasn't putting in hard."

Kieran Robertson received an award for his adherence to instructions and his good crumbing, and Zack Ballard an award because he seemed to be a magnet for the ball.

Round 11 saw the Under 10s take on the third placed Kew J team

"Awards should have gone to the entire team, but as usual Reece McKenzie, Jason Castagna and Sid Phillip-Owen played top games," Stafford said.

Awards were given to Zack Ballard who once again managed to be there wherever the ball was. Tim Willis showed he could open up plays on the forward line and received an award, and Shaun Gorrie was awarded for his consistency in play.

UNDER 11

Following last weeks encouraging effort against third placed Camberwell, the Bloods ventured off to tackle second placed Kew Rovers in Round 9.

"We won our share of the centre breaks and just as encouraging, the contest wins were well in our favour. We were giving Kew Rovers a torrid time but our inability to score was hurtful," coach Shane Newman said.

Daniel Mifsud. Daniel played his 50th game and continues to produce some fantastic football for his side.

Joe Hardy was selected in the YJFL representative side for 2006.

Round 10 started with the team looking to continue their impressive improvement.

"History would tell you that Warrandyte were in for a big loss but history doesn't see the improvement that has been made this season," said Newman.

"The siren sounded with Kew running out winners but their players and coaches were full of praise for the Warrandyte boys."

The Lee Tindale medal was awarded to Michael DeLacy for a great effort in the forward line and the Club Warrandyte award went to Darcy Lang for his spoiling which is an example to all.

Round 11 saw the Under 11s reap the rewards for all their effort this year with their first

win against Glen Iris

"The improvement of the boys is a source of pride for everyone at the club.

"In every game we play, we show enormous improvement," Newman said.

Ben McMellan won the Lee Tindale medal and Darcy Lang received the Club Warrandyte award and Josh James received the Yarra Views pizza award.

UNDER 12

Round 9 got off to a blistering start for the Under 12s against Kew.

"Despite Madie Denholm and Daniel Kranjc contesting hard in the middle, Kew were clearly on top in clearances," said coach Lance Nilsson.

"Our rucks consisting of Jacob Harris and Jayden Clay contested well to give our runners reasonable supply of the football. Jarrod Buzzini was superb in defence as he teamed with Tim Nilsson, Lachlan Frowd and Jack Power to stem the flow of goals."

The Lee Tindale Medal was awarded to Jarrod Buzzini and the Yarra Views Pizza Award presented to Madie Denholm.

Round 10 saw Macleod host Warrandyte on a small ground which allowed Warrandyte to show outstanding team play that resulted in many scoring opportunities.

"After establishing a good lead, we switched the team around and our new mid field division of Jack Power, Lachlan Imeneo and Kyle Robertson kept the momentum up.

"Zac Galbally, Daniel Kranjc and Billy Lavery were rock solid in defence and were backed up by our wingers.

"A highlight of the second half was the work of James Fisher who had his best quarter for the year," said Nilsson.

The Club Warrandyte Award went to Josh Edwards and the best players included Ryan Exon, Jack Power, Zac Galbally and Rowan McKenzie in a 52 point win.

UNDER 13

A Round 9 58 point win against Greythorn made amends for the previous week's loss.

"The boys came out strongly against skilled opposition, good team work by the forwards resulting in TJ Law kicking an early goal.

"Sam Beasley was dominant in the ruck, using his height and strength around the ground," said coach Steve Blakey.

"Alistair Douglas and Tom King attacked the football hard all day, doing everything I asked, and more.

The Lee Tindale Medal was awarded to Heath Fitzpatrick, the Club Warrandyte Award went to Adrian Mifsud and the Yarra Views Pizza Award was presented to Lachy Buckley.

Round 10 saw the Under 13s continue their solid performance with a 72 point win over Glen Iris.

"There was a balanced contribution from the team with seven goal kickers and plenty of assistance from all players in delivering the ball to the forward line," Blakey said.

The Lee Tindale Medal was awarded to Mattie Colbourne-Veale and the Club Warrandyte award went to Jake Fitzgerald.

Ivanhoe W were defeated by 22 points by the Under 13s, in a wet and blustery Round 11

"It was a great team effort by all on a wet cold day. Sam Beasley and Dylan Burns tackled hard and were solid as a rock in defence with Mitchell Gaffney running hard all day, marking well and kicking long," Blakey said.

The Lee Tindale Medal was awarded to Sam Tansley, The Club Warrandyte Award went to TJ Law and the Yarra Views Pizza Award presented to James Kalinchev.

UNDER 14

Ashburton were beaten by 78 points by a spirited Under 14s team in Round 9.

"To single out players would run the risk of missing out on some one, and as any one who has watched the past few weeks would know, the team as a whole unit has been improving steadily," said coach Chris Appleby.

"The strengths were the accuracy in passing to team mates, the marking and running to space. Players are talking and watching out for each other. The tackles and shepherds have increased and this added pressure on opposition teams has had results," he said.

Round 10 saw a depleted Warrandyte take on Camberwell at home.

"This was always going to be a tough game as Camberwell are certainly a talented team and a hard side to beat and it didn't help matters that we had a few players out through injury," said Appleby.

Andrew Reddy marked everything that came his way and Jake Miller kicked a great goal from nearly 50 metres out and Zac Brodrick showed some great skills marking and passing.

UNDER 15

Round 9 saw the Under 15s defeat Doncaster by 35 points.

"Jarrod Godwin and Duane Cox were outstanding down back leading a defence that kept a top four team to just one goal after quarter time,"

said coach Jason Bowen.

"Caleb Atkinson and Tristan Valentino were sensational in the midfield and Rhys Aldenhoven kicked five goals in two quarters."

Tristan Valentino received the Club Warrandyte award, Rhys Aldenhoven the Yarra Views Pizza award and Lewis Bulman the Lee Tindale Medal. Special mention to Julian Phillipou who played his 50th game.

Round 10 saw Warrandyte (third) play away against Kew (fifth) which was won by Warrandyte by 53 points.

"Sam Casey, Caleb Atkinson, Matt Falkingham, Sean Mason, Jarrod Godwin, Charlie Grounds, Lewis Bulman and Duane Cox all featured in the best players," Bowen said.

Jarrod Godwin completed 50 games and Sean Mason reached a century of games.

A wet and wintry Round 11 encounter against Emmaus Wattle Park resulted in another win for the Under 15s, this time by 25 points.

"It was a game was played in awful conditions that negated some of our strengths and made for a more even contest," said Bowen.

Duane Cox and Sean Mason were solid in defence, Caleb Atkinson and Nathan Down controlled the midfield while Julian Phillipou and Nick Moore provided options up forward.

COLTS

Warrandyte Colts played middle of the ladder St Damians in a Round 9 clash which cemented Warrandyte into a top four spot with a gutsy 14 point win.

"Nathan Gordon won in the midfield and Ben Power, Zac Boyce, Michael Whittle, Justin Hull and Tim Hookey were also prominent," said coach Clem Mifsud.

The ruck was dominated by Ben Power and Nathan Gordon and Tom Fitzgerald had plenty of the ball.

"Things were tight at half time but we managed to turn things around in a hard, come from behind win," Mifsud said.

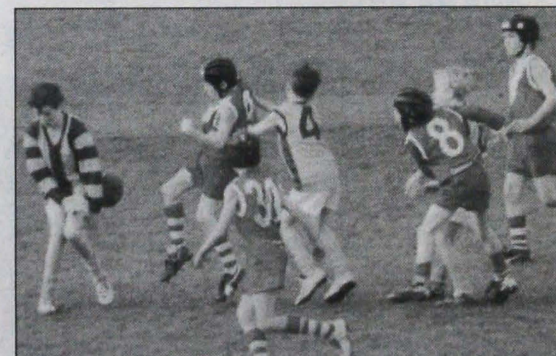
Against Balwyn in Round 10, the Colts had a narrow loss by 17 points.

A Round 11 clash, against top of the ladder Hawthorn Citizens, saw the Colts comprehensively beaten by 60 points.

"Even though we were third on the ladder, our undermanned team was outgunned by the stronger and taller players," said Mifsud.

"Nick Crosbie kicked our first goal and there were other chances to goal but they were squandered."

Pat Nichol, Tom Fitzgerald, Michael Whittle, Nathan Gordon, Zac Boyce, James Johnson, Braydan Pettigrove and Luke Brevis were the strongest contributors during the game.



It's all action as Warrandyte's Under 10 team battles for success.

Basketball

Pennants are elusive for Venom

Queen's Birthday weekend saw 13 Warrandyte Venom basketball teams in action in the popular Nunawading Basketball Tournament

Six teams reached the semi finals with the Under 12 girls, Under 16 B girls and the Under 18 C boys going on to the grand finals.

Sadly, all finished runners up.

Under 12 B girls finished third and lost the Grand Final to Doncaster Panthers 30-19.

For most of the game, Warrandyte Venom were within three points for most of the game. Unfortunately in the last five minutes the Panthers managed a couple of baskets to take the lead and hold on for the win.

Grand Final MVP award went to Venom's Jordan Maloney.

With the tournament over the focus is back on their normal season where the Venom are defending their number one placing in Metro 3 having won nine out of their 10 games so far.

Under 16 B girls lost the Grand Final to Camberwell Dragons by 32-31 and Under 18 C boys lost the grand final to the Kinglake Lakers by 59-55.

MATCH REPORTS

Under 12 B girls

By James Kafkalakis

The under 12 Venom girls had an exceptional result during the Nunawading tournament. On the first day, they lost their first game to Sturt Sabres (Adelaide team), managed a nail biting one point win over Bendigo Braves and then lost by three points to the Doncaster Panthers.

Day 2 was just as exiting with a win against Forestville Eagles (Adelaide team) to start the day.

The last game against Venom and Nunawading Spectres 3 would determine who would finish second and play the semi final in the evening.

With finals at stake both teams went at it hard but the determination of the Venom girls was too much for the Spectres and the final result was a 31-17 win to the Venom.

The semi final was against Hawthorn Magic 2 who finished first in Pool 2. After some great steals, intercepts and fast breaks Venom was up. Magic dropped into a zone to slow them down. This only made things worse for Magic as Venom scored two three pointers in as many minutes to force them to break their zone formation.

Magic had no answer to the sheer intensity of the Venom girls which saw them win 29-18.

Playing seven games since Friday, Venom turned up to play in an 8am grand final against Doncaster Panthers (metro 1 team).

Venom managed to be within three points for most of the game but unfortunately in the last five minutes the Panthers managed a couple of baskets to take the lead and hold on for the win.

The under 12 Venom Girls finishing runners-up in B Grade and the Grand Final MVP was awarded to Venom's Jordan Maloney.

With the tournament over Venom's focus is back on their normal season where we are

defending their number one placing in Metro 3 having won nine out of their 10 games so far.

Under 12 Boys teams

By Damian Arsenis

Warrandyte Venom entered three Under 12 boys teams in the recent Nunawading Spectres Junior Basketball Tournament played over the Queen's Birthday long weekend.

The teams included Damian Arsenis' Metro 1 team who were placed in A grade, Greg Pearson's East 2 side were scheduled in C grade Pool 1, and a development team comprising of Redback domestic players were also entered in C grade and were fixtured in Pool 2.

Facing stiff opposition from teams that play in the Victorian Championship

(VC) division, Arsenis' team encountered host team Nunawading in the first game and despite playing great team basketball, the Venom failed to capitalise on their scoring opportunities as they fell short by 16 points.

Buoyed by their encouraging performance against a "VC" team, they squared off against the Hawthorn Magic in their next game. Taking the court with renewed spirit and determination, the Venom youngsters took the game right up to their more highly fancied opponents.

Limiting their turnovers, they dictated terms to the Magic and this time converted their scoring opportunities to place pressure on their opponents where it really hurts - on the scoreboard.

With minutes remaining the Venom held onto a slender lead. Under enormous defensive pressure, Hawthorn finally cracked and the Venom ran out five point victors, with the Warrandyte boys celebrating like they had just won the grand final in what proved to be the tournament highlight for this talented young team.

In their last two round robin games, this Venom team recorded a narrow eight point loss to Central City and a disappointing capitulation to Blackburn in their final game.

The East 2 boys of Greg Pearson recorded some impressive results over five round-robin games, in most cases against more fancied and far taller opposition.

With Gavin Eddy at the helm, the boys got off to a demoralising start after going down to Waverley in their first encounter in a game they could have easily won but for turnovers and lazy defence.

The Venom showed good maturity as they bounced back with a solid win over Hawthorn Magic as they began to tighten their defence.

After getting back on track with a win, the boys were quickly brought back down to earth as they were ambushed by a bigger and more experienced Sandringham Sabres Metro team. Just like a roller coaster ride, the boys again regrouped to deliver a knock-out blow to the Nunawading Spectres and take a split record into Day 2 of competition.

Game 5 saw the Venom take on the Broadmeadows Broncos who were absolutely huge and another team that also played in Metro

competition.

After quickly falling 18-points down mid-way through the first half, a large contingent of Venom players and supporters began chanting their support from the stands at Knox.

Energised by the vocal support, the Venom boys lifted their games considerably and from there narrowed the margin back to as low as 12.

While the boys eventually lost, they performed well above their weight and appreciated the positive atmosphere and vocal support the Venom dominated crowd provided.

Eddy's boys then capped off a memorable tournament where every player improved, by knocking off South Australian opponent Woodville District in their last game to finish with a 50 per cent record.

Damian Arsenis also coached the third Warrandyte Venom under 12 boys team that were entered as a development team and were comprised of bottom age Redback players.

Faced against opposition that all played at a higher standard, the youngsters were expecting a hard tournament ahead.

First up they faced the Doncaster Panthers and after a promising first half, Warrandyte went into the break locked at 6-all.

However lack of experience and missed scoring opportunities cost them dearly, as the Panthers ran out easy 20-point victors. Coach Arsenis stressed the importance of improving and learning from their mistakes, and improve they did against Blackburn Vikings.

Despite facing a more skilled and experienced opponent, Warrandyte never gave up as they began to improve their defence and passing to limit the damage despite going down on the scoreboard.

Taking the same hard-nosed approach into game three against Diamond Valley proved successful. Again clearly outgunned, Warrandyte displayed the same never-say-die attitude as they played their best game of the tournament so far.

Although another big loss was registered, the boys sensed their improvement was going to prove decisive in scoring that elusive victory.

Determined to win a game, Warrandyte started strongly against the Camberwell Dragons on Sunday morning. However a lapse in concentration allowed the Dragons to slip out to a 10-point lead.

After regrouping at the break, Warrandyte lifted their defensive intensity to force Camberwell into numerous turnovers and easy scoring chances.

However the Venom would only get as close as four points before the Dragons managed to scrap out an eightpoint win.

Playing Central City in their last game, the Venom came out firing! Playing a more confident and disciplined brand of basketball, the Venom held a slender led all game before finishing stronger and winning by sixpoints.

The victory was just reward for a team that worked hard all weekend.



Warrandyte Venom's Under 12 Girls who were runners-up in the Queen's Birthday Tournament. Back row from left: James Kafkalakis, Olivia Yammouni, Emily Stones, Demi Joy, Rachael Watson and Lauren Robertson. Front: Megan Keppel, Jordan Moloney (MVP in Grand Final), Meg Crook, and Madaline Hallett.

Mid-season break proves to be valuable

The school holidays provided a useful break for Warrandyte's Friday Night Championship Basketball teams at the mid way point of the long season.

The Venom have three sides in the girls section.

The last game before the start of the holidays saw the top Victorian Championship side break through for their third win of the season with a tight 43-42 win over Hawthorn.

Clearer results were recorded by the second and third sides both competing in the Metro 4 grade.

First up on the Park Orchards court, the Warrandyte Venom 2 side easily defeated Diamond Valley by 57-32.

This game was followed by the third side which recorded a 41-28 win over Cranbourne.

The score line flattered Warrandyte Venom who needed to pull it together when Cranbourne threatened in the last minutes of the game.

Damian Arsenis's Under 12 Metro 1 boys side recorded a 46-40 win over Frankston to cement their third place position.

Ian Wood's Under 18 boys continued to put wins together defeating Melbourne by 45-40, also to retain third place.

Warrandyte Venom are having a very successful year with 15 teams competing. Try-outs for the 2007 season are starting in late August and continue in September and early October.

The Associating is looking for interested players for teams from Under 12 to Under 20 for both boys and girls. For further details, contact Director of Coaching Justin Nelson on 9725 5697 or 0413 453 257.



Newly qualified referees, from left Fiona Rennie, Jaimie Hayton and Ryan Holloway.

New referees still enjoy their turn as players

Three members of the Warrandyte Basketball Club are combining playing with refereeing ... but not at the same time.

Fiona Rennie, Jaimie Hayton and Ryan Holloway have recently qualified as referees. Fiona and Jaimie recently refereed a morning

game at the Warrandyte Community Sports Centre and then turned out as players in the Under 17's A Grade game against Banyule later in the day.

On the same day, Ryan Holloway played for the Under 15 A Grade side against Koonung.



Australia's latest Hockeyroo, Rachael Lynch.

Rachael keeps her Olympic goal alive

When Warrandyte's Rachael Lynch started playing hockey for her club side, Greensborough in 1998, she always had dreams of playing at the top level of her sport.

For Lynch, that dream has been achieved with her selection as a replacement goalkeeper for the Australian national hockey team – the Hockeyroos.

Lynch joined the team at their temporary training base in London in June, before heading to Holland for the Champions Trophy which runs from July 6-20.

"I have always dreamed of playing hockey for Australia and there have been a few injuries to some of the girls and so here I am," Lynch said.

Her selection came as a result of the second and third goalkeepers in the team, Toni Kronk and De-Anne Gilbert both suffering injuries and the first choice 'keeper Rachael Imison in need of a back-up.

Lynch missed out on selection for the squad at the start of the year, so has not had the chance to play with the Hockeyroos.

And her selection for the Champions Trophy squad, came as a surprise to the 20-year-old.

"After I missed out on being picked at the start, I thought that was it for this year. But now I've got a bit of luck and we'll see what happens," Lynch said.

Lynch has played in the Victorian representative hockey team in recent years, with the Victorian Institute of Sport recognising her talent and offering her a scholarship.

She has retained the scholarship for four years and this has allowed her to further her develop her

TIM COLMAN speaks with a young woman who has taken the first step towards an Olympic quest by being named in Australia's premier hockey team, the Hockeyroos.

talents to even higher levels.

Lynch's career started to soar when she was selected in the Under 18 Australian team, which played several games in Chile. She was then named in the Under 21 Australian team, the Jillaroos.

Part of her selection to the Jillaroos saw her involved in the 2005 Junior World Cup in Australia in September last year.

But Lynch is also active outside of hockey, having just started a nursing degree at the Australian Catholic University.

"The course I'm doing is about 20 contact hours a week. I'm either training or playing hockey or at uni so I don't really have a lot of time to myself," Lynch said.

"We do about four sessions of actual hockey training and then about two gym sessions per week, so it definitely keeps me busy."

Lynch finished Year 12 in 2004 at Eltham College and has been able to commit much of her time since finishing school to fulfil her dream of playing hockey at the highest level.

It is this sort of commitment to her sport that has seen her rewarded with a spot in the Hockeyroos team and she is showing no sign of nerves which is surprising considering that she has never met most of the team.

"This is the first time I'm going to

meet most of the girls. I know

Rachael Imison, the goalkeeper because she is Victorian, and couple of others.

"But for the most part it will be the first time I've met them, let alone played with them."

Now that the Hockeyroos selectors have given Lynch her chance, even though it may be just for this tournament, she is very keen to make herself a permanent member of the national side.

She has her sights set on the 2008 Beijing Olympics, with the hope of being a part of the team as early as next year when a new squad is selected.

"My aim is the Olympics. That is really what I have dreamed about since I started playing hockey, and now that I have got myself into the team, it is the best way for me to get to Beijing in 2008."

"I just need Rachael Imison to retire soon, then I'll be right", she joked.

But Lynch, who turned 20 at the start of July, has plenty of years of hockey left in her and you get the feeling that it is only a matter of time before she cements her spot with the Hockeyroos.

And with Beijing just around the corner, Lynch will be hoping that her name will be called out when the Olympic team is announced.

Basketball

Holiday fixtures create problems

By TONY OLIVER

In a relatively unusual move, Saturday basketball got under way on the last Saturday of the holidays with the start of the regular winter season.

A number of teams were struggling to find players and a number of visiting teams conceded walk overs or forfeits.

Warrandyte's Under 17 boys turned up to play Banksia but ended up playing between themselves when their opposition did not arrive.

Warrandyte's Under 19 A grade boys were hosts to Eltham, with the visitors recording a 55-46 win.

Warrandyte were struggling at the break with Eltham having a comfortable 31-19 lead. The visitors were causing Warrandyte problems with speed in transition and skill under the basket.

Eltham opened the scoring in the second half to snuff out any hope of a Redback come back. Warrandyte actually outscored Eltham in the second half but the game was lost at that stage.

Leading scorers for the Redbacks were Mitchell Hawley with 11, Grand Goodwin with 10 and Josh Collins with nine.

The quality of these two sides is such that they are likely to play each other at the business end of the season.

Despite suffering from missing players, Nick Peters' Under 19 girls were able to record a good 32-26 win over Whitehorse.

Lisa Rennie (from the Under 15s) and Megan Walker (Under 17) both backed up for a second game and were strong contributors for Warrandyte.

The Redbacks opened well, dominating the scoring. Mobile forwards Lindel Thomas, Chelsea Crisp and Jess Soltz proved a hand full for the visitors.

However, as the game settled down the scoring for the Redbacks dried up and Whitehorse closed the gap to one point, and an upset was possible.

This spurred the Redbacks into action and with a final flurry of scoring, took a 18-10 lead into the break.

The second half was similar to the first with first Warrandyte and then Whitehorse dominating. Julie Rennie was able to take a number of rebounds at key times to ensure the Warrandyte win.

Megan Walker had little under an hour's break after her Under 17 A grade game had finished. The Under 17s, despite being even at the half time break and mid way through the second half, went down to Banyule by 29-24.

Some technical errors cost Warrandyte the chance of the win, and Banyule were able to score easy baskets at critical times.

April Richardson, with eight points and Kara Hibbert and Fiona Rennie with six points each were Warrandyte's chief contributors on the scoreboard.

Coach Grant Goodwin was positive after the game, noting that the team stepping up to the line in this A grade competition.

Another Warrandyte side performing well is the Under 13A girls who had a thrilling 34-32 win over nearby club Park Orchards at the Warrandyte High School court.

This was a game where a draw would have been a better result with the biggest margin between the side being three points and the lead changing hands many times.

Alexandra Birch with 14 points and Amber Saunders with 12 points dominated the scoring for Warrandyte.

Skills camp for juniors

In another first for the Warrandyte Junior Football Club, two skills football camps were held at the Warrandyte ground during the recent school holidays.

"Our club's slogan is that 'It's all about the kids' and this was the prime driver for these skill camps," said Steve Ballard, skills development co-ordinator for the club.

"This year we have put in place a structured development strategy for all of our players."

"The first mid-week camp was a little bit more serious with our selected players receiving specialist coaching from specialist coaches from within our club, from players from the seniors and from the Eastern Ranges Football Club."

"The end-of-week camp was a little less serious but by no means less intense and was attended by about 30 players," Ballard said.

"What was wonderful about the two days, besides the obvious skills enhancements, was seeing players ranging from 10 to 15 years of age



Warrandyte Under 11s players, from left, Michael Delacey, Jake Wintle and Ryan Tester use their Under 9 colleague Joshua Kleeberg, as a resting post during their skills camp.

helping each other out and encouraging each other.

"We had some wonderful examples of our players of varying ages interacting with each other in all different positive ways."

"This is all part of building on of one football club culture. It was par-

ticularly pleasing seeing some of the senior players interacting so positively with our kids", said Ballard.

"We are very much indebted to Lance Nilsson and Brian Cartwright who took on the challenge of organising a highly successful day – the first of many to come".

Under 18s make the grade

Warrandyte Under 18s football team is in second position with only one loss to the Basin.

"This is a great result considering in early January we only had 12 players," said coach Brad Valentine.

"Now there are an impressive 29 players on the list. The team is on track and looks forward to the run home to the finals. They are a very even group of players and all the boys are doing well," he said.

In the latest match against Chirnside Park, Warrandyte dominated the first half, but could not bury the opposition in wet and muddy conditions.

A five goal burst in the third quarter and a four goal last quarter put the game beyond doubt and confirmed Warrandyte as a finals prospect with The Basin still the team to beat in top position on the ladder.

Warrandyte 14.12.96 d.

Chirnside Park 6.10.46

Goals: L. Dunn 6, T. Beasley 2, T. Greve 2, J. Ratcliffe 2, H. Hosking

Best: J. O'Mara, T. Beasley, C. Watson, C. MacDougal, P. Burgoyne, L. Dunn

Round 11: All players contributed in a great win over Whitehorse, but inaccurate kicking robbed Warrandyte of valuable percentage, which could be critical late in the season.

Nick Meade returned from school football and made a big impact and Jake Ratcliffe performed well once again.

Heavyweights Scott Allwood, Hamish Hosking and Daniel Large gave a dominant presence around the ground.

Warrandyte 14.15.99 d.

Whitehorse 5.5.35

Goals: L. Dunn 3, R. Campbell 3, B. Zach, S. Lockie, B. Breslin-Smith, H.

Hosking, D. Large, M. Canham, C. MacDougal, N. Meade

Bests: N. Meade, J. Ratcliffe, S. Allwood, H. Hosking, D. Large, C. Watson

Round 10: Bye

Round 9: Luke Dunn got the flags waving with seven goals for the Colts in a comfortable 110 point win over Glen Waverley.

The Colts have had injury and availability problems over recent weeks and coach, Brad Valentine has had great difficulty in getting a side together.

Warrandyte 17.22.124 d.

Glen Waverley 1.8.14

Goals: L. Dunn 7, C. MacDougal 2, J. Ratcliffe 2, C. Watson, S. Lockie, D. Large, M. Canham, T. Beasley, T. Greve

Best: C. Watson, S. Lockie, M. Canham, L. Dunn, J. Ratcliffe, C. MacDougal

Bloods prevail in bruising contest

Reserves on finals track

By JAMES LOGAN & JOSH BEVIS
A thrilling four point win over Chirside Park last Saturday in a rough, tough and intense match has entrenched Warrandyte's position inside the EFL Fourth Division top four.

With the season two thirds over Warrandyte has nine wins and three losses and sits in third position on the ladder.

It has been a huge turnaround in the Bloods fortunes compared to the previous two seasons.

The policy of developing young talent is beginning to have an impact on the success of the Bloods' year.

The result of each game is now crucial to Warrandyte's premiership hopes and the Round 12 contest at Chirside Park provided a pressure match, in which Warrandyte triumphed in the dying minutes of the game.

For the majority of the match the ball was in tightly congested situations which was reflected in the low score line.

Despite the cold, slippery and muddy conditions Chirside seemed to hit targets with ease and ran the ball when they had the chance and went into the first break up by 16 points.

In the second quarter with the breeze, the tall Warrandyte forward line of Evans, Morello and Holland dominated but with inaccurate kicking meant the Bloods led by only one point at half time.

Late in the third quarter a few big bumps were laid but fortunately no serious injuries occurred. As some of these were a little late, spot fires broke out among players which only added to the intensity of the match and scores were all tied up at three quarter time.

Luke Ebzery and Aiden Davey proved a handful for the Chirside Park defence, having a number of shots at goal. But late in the last quarter Warrandyte found themselves five points down with very little time left.

The Bloods kept up the intensity and held the ball in the forward line, but kicked poorly, only producing four behinds.

With Warrandyte only one point down and the siren about to sound Warrandyte finally broke through as coach Peter Green came storming through a pack to grab the ball, steady and guide through what seemed certain to be the game winner.

Chirside took the ball into their forward line, but the desperate defence led by Gordon, Templeton, Treeby and Mullett-Treloar smothered the ball and rushed a behind.

Ben Reid was voted Best on Ground, gathering numerous possessions and a few bruises throughout the game.

Green said after the game that Warrandyte now had a solid mix of senior players and young players within the team, which allowed the inexperienced players to learn from the experienced group.

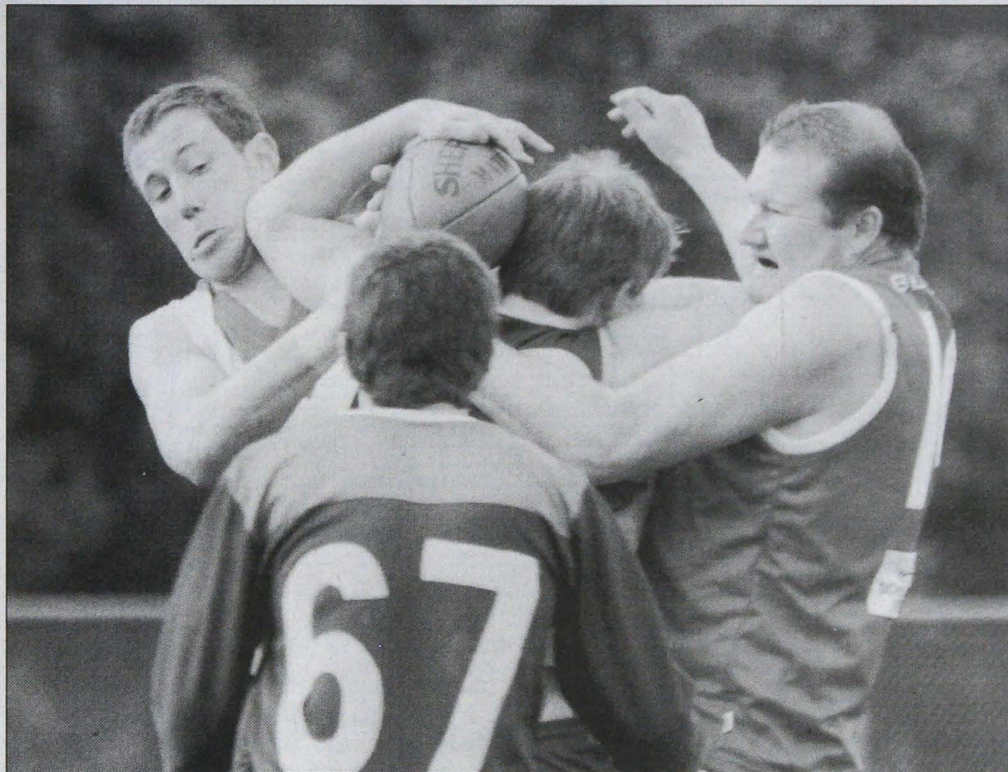
"Players such as Matt Wood, Todd Holman, Rick Templeton, Ash Grybas and Matt Treeby bring a large amount of experience, which has a positive effect on the younger playing group of Bernie Opteynde, Jamie Ellis and Lee Evans," said senior coach Peter Green.

"As well as this, players who are now into their third and fourth season of senior football have enough games under their belts to produce consistent solid performances contributing greatly to the overall success of the team.

"This group includes James Logan, Craig Lincoln, Mick Morello, Aiden Davey and Andrew Gordon," he said.

"The other bonus this year has been the inclusion of the Under 18's who are also putting their hand up to play senior football with Luke Ebzery and Dion Mullett-Treloar both proving their worth at senior level," said Green.

Warrandyte 8.16.64 d.
Chirside Park 8.12.60
Goals: M. Morello 3, L. Evans 2, P. Green, M. Wood, L. Ebzery
Best: B. Reid, M. Wood, T. Naughtin, D. Mullett Treloar, A. Gordon, A. Davey



An Eastern Lions player is caught in a sandwich between Warrandyte's Bernie Opteynde, left, and Ash Grybas. Picture by Daniel Wellesley.

● **Round 11:** Warrandyte turned in a poor performance against Whitehorse Pioneers, losing by 28 points. It was the first home loss since July last year.

Despite losing key big men Craig Dick and Mick Stewart before the match, the team was confident of a victory.

Backed by a strong breeze Whitehorse got the jump and skipped away to an early lead and it was apparent very early that the Pioneers would dominate in the ruck and in turn the centre clearances.

Although they had more of the ball in the second term the Bloods were unable to apply scoreboard pressure and it was Whitehorse who stretched their lead going into the main break.

The third term was important to not only stay in touch but outscore Whitehorse who were kicking with the wind. Morello was again being double and triple teamed which freed up Ezbery, Evans and Gordon as avenues to goal.

A four goals to two quarter had the Bloods within a kick and the feeling was good at three quarter time.

Whitehorse had three quick clearances from the centre bounce in the final term and capitalised from each to take control.

A goal to Elliott kept the home side in touch but they never really threatened to bridge the four goal deficit.

Although soundly beaten at stoppages, the midfield was named in the Bloods' best and Morello added three goals to take his season tally to 65.

Warrandyte 11.9.75 lost to Whitehorse Pioneers 15.13.103

Goals: M. Morello 3, B. Elliott 2, L. Ebzery 2, T. Holman 2, A. Gordon, L. Evans
Best: A. Davey, B. Reid, T. Naughtin, M. Wood, T. Holman, G. McAdam

● **Round 10:** The Eastern Lions had been in good touch, winning their previous three games and making a mid-season bid for finals contention.

Although Warrandyte had all of the play, goal kicking was poor and the Lions capitalised on the majority of their opportunities.

Key forward, Michael Morello was forced up the ground to present different avenues to goal. Andrew Gordon and James Logan stepped up for valuable goals while Lee Evans continued his strong marking but failed to convert, taking his tally to 3-12 in two weeks.

He wasn't the only one off target and at half time Warrandyte trailed 4.13 to 6.3.

Matt Wood and Todd Holman dom-

inated around the ground with the assistance of Ben Reid and the defence settled and gave plenty of drive for Morello and Luke Ebzery who took charge in the third term and kicked an improving Warrandyte into a commanding position.

The Bloods kicked the first two goals of the final stanza and the game was played at a lower intensity as a result. With the game beyond doubt Eastern Lions started to pepper the goals and the final margin could have been closer if accurate goal kicking prevailed.

Morello left the field with seconds remaining and handed his sixth goal to Andrew Gordon after a strong leading mark. Grant McAdam, Ben Reid, Bernie Opteynde, Holman and Wood were amongst the best and it was a pleasing return to form for Aidan Davey.

Warrandyte 14.17.101 d Eastern Lions 9.12.66

Goals: M. Morello 5, L. Ebzery 3, A. Gordon 2, J. Logan, B. Reid, L. Evans, T. Holman

Best: G. McAdam, B. Reid, B. Opteynde, T. Holman, A. Davey, M. Wood

● **Round 9:** The home match against bottom side, Glen Waverley was expected to be one way traffic for the Bloods but things changed quickly when Glen Waverley took their opportunities when in attack to kick five goals in the first quarter.

The Bloods were again inaccurate

with 7.8 but commanded a handy quarter time break.

Still lacking a first class ruckmen the brains trust threw young Dion Mullett-Treloar into the mix and he rose to the challenge jumping over the top of his taller opponents.

It wasn't until the third quarter that Warrandyte gained control, moving the ball well and applying pressure to the opposition.

Morello was again a focal point, with Wood and Holman also contributing several goals.

Seven goals to two behinds stretched the lead to 85 points at the last break and coach Peter Green called for a 10 goal last quarter and a boost to our lagging percentage.

Another seven was all that could be managed and to the Hawks credit they battled on kicking four of their own with Darren Hill using his size and experience well.

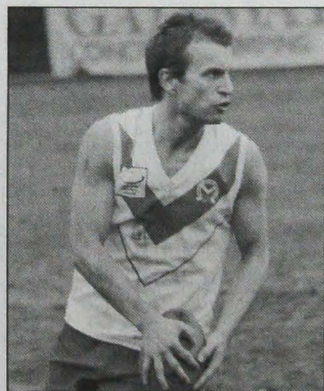
Morello kicked 10 goals, Wood finished with six and Holman finished with four and they were joined in the best by Reid and Templeton. However it was 17-year-old Mullett-Treloar who was awarded best on ground and won the Players' Award.

Warrandyte 26.17.173 d Glen Waverley 10.6.66

Goals: M. Morello 10, M. Wood 6, T. Holman 4, B. Elliott 3, L. Ebzery 2, B. Opteynde

Bests: D. Mullett-Treloar, M. Morello, M. Wood, T. Holman, R. Templeton, B. Reid

Century for Wood



Matt Wood

Warrandyte's mid fielder, Matt Wood has completed 100 games with the Bloods.

Invited to Warrandyte in 2001 by friend Chris Cornell, Matt made an immediate impression winning the first of his three Best and Fairest awards for the club.

Wood has settled in at Warrandyte where he has vowed to finish a career that has seen him play for the Northern (Preston) Knights and Carlton before a stint in the Diamond Valley First Division.

Wood has enjoyed a stellar career at the Bloods finishing in the Best and Fairest top three each season and winning the award in 2001, 2004 and 2005.

Wood said he hoped to help lead Warrandyte back to EFL Division Three.

Despite thrashing Chirside Park by 97 points first time around, Warrandyte had to struggle to a 12 point win in Round 12.

The Panthers were in as good a form as any team in the competition, and a win away from home would set up Warrandyte's run to the finals.

A fantastic start set the tone, but a customary lapse in the second quarter found Warrandyte trailing the home side just before half time.

A Jamie Ellis goal after the siren wrested back the lead and some momentum. The third quarter was a tight contest but as the quarter went on, Warrandyte's runners started to control the tempo of the game.

The last quarter saw that pattern continue as the lead stretched to four goals, but a couple of late goals to the Panthers made the final margin 12 points.

Warrandyte 10.5.65 d. Chirside Park 7.11.53

Goals: D. Young 3, J. Ellis 2, S. Donovan, C. Quinlan, G. Zach, P. O'Mara, C. Haskings

Best: S. Donovan, J. Ellis, C. Haskings, J. Eyre, R. Bourke, N. Drake

● The Round 11 home game against Whitehorse Pioneers gave the Reserves a chance to avenge the narrow loss in the second game of season.

The team took some time to settle, but once they got their running game going, they ran rings around their bigger and slower opponents.

Unfortunately their goal kicking skills were down and a 3.6 to 0.1 to second quarter with the wind could have proved costly.

Pioneers steadied in the third when they had their turn with the strong northerly breeze, but Warrandyte's midfield runners in Ricky Bourke, Cal Haskings, Jarrod Boyce and Geoff Zach delivered the ball well into the forward line, where big Campbell Holland marked strongly at full forward, kicking six for the day.

Warrandyte 11.18.84 d. Whitehorse 6.8.44

Goals: C. Holland 6, C. Haskings 2, J. Potter, C. Quinlan, G. Zach
Best: C. Haskings, R. Bourke, C. Holland, S. Donovan, D. Vitiritti, J. Riddell

● Round 10 meant the start of the return matches and first up were our rivals at the Eastern Lions.

Fortunately, the events of Round 1 (when Rick Bourke was felled behind play) didn't distract Warrandyte from the job at hand, and after a tough battle all day the Bloods had a comfortable 19 point win.

For the first time this year Warrandyte played with just 21 players and when Paul O'Mara went down with a knee injury just before half-time, we were a running player short. To the boys' credit, they found a little extra when needed and got away with the win.

While it was not the best game of the year, it was important to get the points and keep in touch with the four. Campbell Holland kicked six goals at full forward and Leigh Giampetro marked everything that came his way in defence.

Warrandyte 11.12.78 d. Eastern Lions 8.11 - 59

Goals: C. Holland 5, D. Vitiritti 3, C. Haskings 2, A. Eyre

Best: C. Haskings, S. Donovan, J. McKellar, T. Elliott, C. Holland, J. Boyce

● In Round, six goal first quarter set up the day and an 11 goal last quarter finished off Glen Waverley to the tune of 148 points.

Players won their positions all over the ground, attacked the football with confidence, and constantly provided run to help out their mates.

There were plenty of good players all over the ground, from Patrick Hernandez down back to Ricky Bourke, Dale Vitiritti and Tommy Naughton in the middle and AJ Eyre, Matt Neale, and Campbell Holland up forward, who took home the top award and also the players' award for his 11 goals.

Finally, congratulations to Travis Brogan, who played his last game for the club this week. A top bloke, fantastic clubman, and great player for 10 years or so, it was a fitting way to send him off.

Warrandyte 26.16.172 d. Glen Waverley 3.6.24

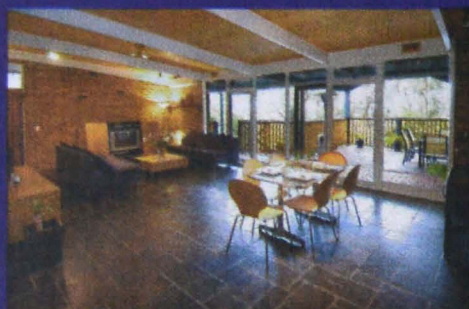
Goals: C. Holland 11, T. Brogan 3, S. Donovan 3, T. Naughtin 3, P. O'Mara 2, J. Bowen, L. Giampietro, C. Chapman, J. Ellis

Best: C. Holland, T. Naughtin, J. Ellis, J. Boyce, R. Bourke

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Newly renovated family home offering 3 double BRs + separate rumpus with ensuite (makes ideal 4th BR or teenagers' retreat). Formal lounge/dining. Open plan kitchen/meals/family area. Sep lounge/dining. Walk to river, shops, school, community park & transport. Dble carport.



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Imagine life with the yarra river at the bottom of your garden. Charming 3BR timber home on more than 1 acre with direct river access! Kitchen/meals with polished boards. Formal lounge and adjacent dining. Separate bluestone cottage — ideal artists' studio. Elevated deck. Double carport.



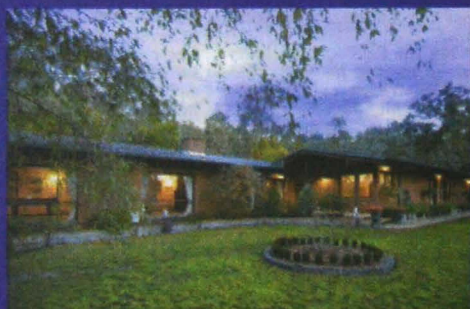
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