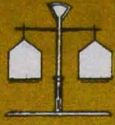


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No. 389, August 2006 For the community, by the community

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Yarra is 'protected'

By CLIFF GREEN

Future dams on the Yarra River have been banned as a result of legislation passing through state parliament this month.

Environment and water minister John Thwaites said in a recent statement that the protection of 18 "heritage" rivers—including the Yarra—would be strengthened by amendment of the Heritage Rivers Act.

"This initiative will help secure a more environmentally sustainable future for some of our most precious rivers and regions," Mr Thwaites said.

As well as the Yarra, the 18 rivers include the Snowy, Mitchell, Genoa and Goulburn.

No more dams?

Mr Thwaites said the amendment would prohibit the damming of these rivers.

"Construction of dams on these heritage rivers would not only impact on the environment but also affect key activities such as fishing, boating and tourism, now and into the future," he said.

Mr Thwaites claimed that the government is working to "secure the state's water supplies with a focus on conservation, recycling and finding additional supplies.

"The policy will allow us to meet the challenges of climate change and

population growth and secure the water supplies for future growth in Victoria—without the need to dam heritage rivers."

Labor MP for Yan Yean, Danielle Green has applauded the government legislating to ban dams on the Yarra and 17 other rivers. Ms Green alleges that the Opposition has not ruled out the possibility that a future Liberal government might build new dams.

According to the Weekly Times newspaper, water spokesman Denis Napthine stated that his party was "definitely not in the no-dams camp; we're in the open-minded camp."

"Warrandyte has been through this all before," Ms Green said. We didn't want dams in the 1970s and we sure

don't want them now.

"A new dam on the Yarra River or its tributary—Watsons Creek—would not create new water, it would simply take it from the environment, cause massive disruption and damage to the Green Wedge and Warrandyte."

Liberal MP for Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood, has slammed the heritage rivers legislation.

"Ms Green has a very bad sense of timing in trumpeting this so-called heritage rivers legislation," Mr Honeywood told the *Diary*. "The very week after she made much ado about this window-dressing legislation, we discover that the E.coli discharge from our 'heritage septic tanks' is much higher than any other section of the

Yarra River."

(According to press reports, Warrandyte recorded the state's highest E.coli reading last month, more than 70 times the recommended safe level.)

Mr Honeywood said that Mr Thwaites recently informed the local community that "we are on a 20-year plan for septic tank replacement."

"The government has required Yarra Valley Water to pay into state treasury \$160 million in dividend payments over the past two years. They were only allowed \$5 million from ratepayers' revenue for septic tank replacement."

● When we were dam busters: Page 5



Footloose: Warrandyte High School's 2006 musical production — September 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 (Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS)

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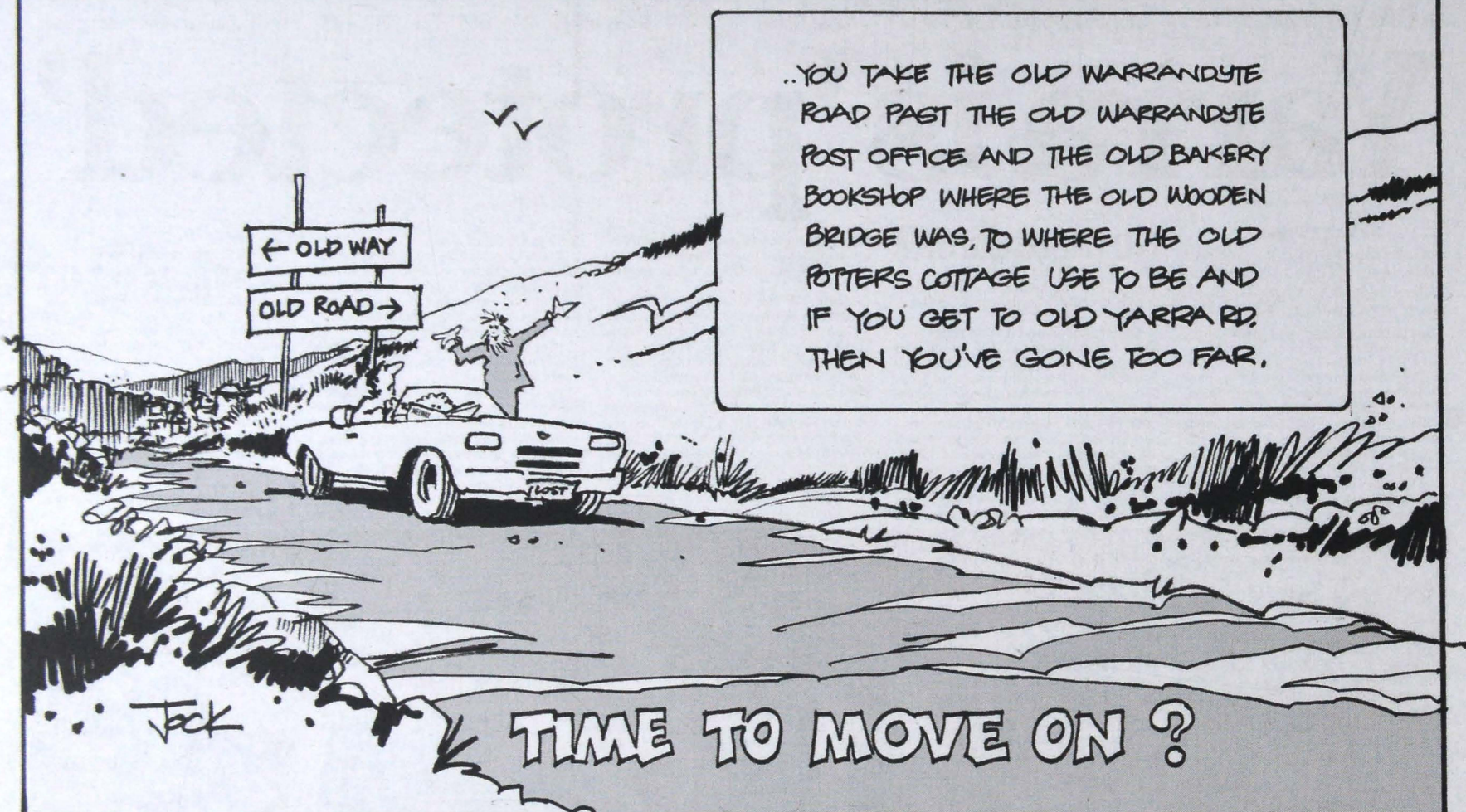
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OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH

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WARRANDYTE diary

EDITOR: Cliff Green
SPORTS EDITOR: Robert White, 9846 5188
PUBLISHER: Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd, (ACN 006 886 826 ABN 74 422 669 097) as trustee for the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.
ADVERTISING & ACCOUNTS: Rae Danks, 9844 3819 or 0414 745 212.
CIRCULATION: Peter Norman, 9844 3268.
FAX: Editorial and Advertising, 9844 4168.
DIARY OFFICE: 168 -178 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 9844 0555
INTERNET EDITOR: Sandy Burgoyne, 9844 2680
EMAIL ADDRESS: thediary@vicnet.net.au
INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy/>
PRODUCTION: Rachel Schroeder, 9725 6699.
PRINTING: Streamline Press Pty Ltd, 155 Johnston Street, Fitzroy.
Published on or about the second Wednesday of each month (except January).

ADVERTISING RATES

\$5.80 a column centimetre. \$730 full page colour, \$600 full page b&w. \$400 half page. \$220 quarter page. \$72 front page "ears". Preferred positions: page one 100%, page two 30%, page three 20%, other nominated pages 10%. Mini-ads: \$5 for four lines, then \$1 each additional line. Mini-ads pre-paid unless by prior arrangement. All rates plus 10% GST.

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, September 13. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, September 1.

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, Waranwood, 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.



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AT THE BRIDGE



Pollies question time

Warrandyte Community Association reports to its supporters

By EMMA CLARK

Everything from helipads through road signs to retirement housing was debated by politicians and locals at the annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Community Association general meeting last month.

WCA president Dick Davies chaired the meeting and was joined by Nillumbik's Warwick Leeson and Manningham councillor Ron Kitchingman, and local MPs Danielle Green and Phil Honeywood.

This was Mr Honeywood's final WCA meeting, which spurred impassioned speeches from both Ms Green and Mr Honeywood himself. In his final address at the end of the evening, Mr Honeywood thanked the Warrandyte community for being such an interesting and passionate group of people, and for "keeping him on his toes".

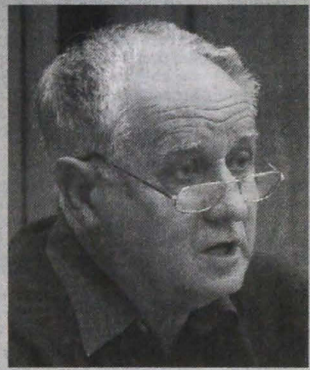
David Ellis, Jarrod Panther and Ryan Smith, candidates for the state seat of Warrandyte in the upcoming election also attended.

The public forum primarily covered such ongoing issues as retirement housing and septic tanks.

Cr Kitchingman said that "there is no reason why (Manningham) council would not support a retirement village, however council will not purchase the land."

This indicated that this community, as usual, will need to organise a self-help strategy.

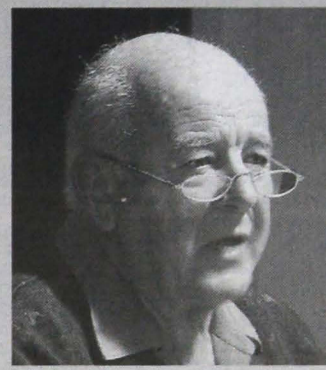
Phil Honeywood suggested that a committee be formed and "refundable



Ron Kitchingman: No Manningham money for retirement village land.



Daniell Green: Sewer timeframe reduced from 40 to 20 years.



Warwick Leeson: Council can't force upgrading of septic tanks.



Phil Honeywood: Sewerage compared to third world countries.

bonds put forward into a trust account. Then the community can ask the council for support and put the money forward.

"We need to maintain community ownership. The retirement village at Stiggants has been successful, but as it is government owned, anyone can live there, not just local residents."

Cr Leeson said the situation was difficult from a North Warrandyte perspective as there is not a lot of land available. "We will do everything in our power to see that people who have lived in the shire are not forced out because of old age. If anyone has a suggestion with regard to North Warrandyte, council welcomes any feedback."

The issue of maintenance and protection of the Green Wedge was also raised. In response to the permit for a helipad in Wonga Park granted in June last year, Ms Green said "We are the legislative party on the Green Wedge decision. We are passionately committed to this, however sometimes we don't get the outcome that we want."

Mr Honeywood cited ministerial interference as compromising "what was supposed to be our environmental heritage. The protection of the Green Wedge has been front and centre of my

18 years as your MP." He expressed concern over the "domino effect" of changes in the area. "If we start to tweak the edges of the boundary, then it makes it easier for bigger, unwanted changes to occur."

Danielle Green expressed her goal of getting the area up to "iconic status" and compared it to the Dandenong Ranges.

"If someone tried to subdivide the Dandenong Ranges, there would be outcry not only from local residents but from all over Melbourne. We should welcome tourists to the area."

Ms Green had also previously raised the point that the timeframe for connection to mains sewerage has been brought forward from 40 to 20 years across Melbourne.

The forum was then opened to questions from the public.

The continuing issue of waste run-off into the Yarra was raised immediately by Nick Robinson. "The water quality is under threat, not just from leaking septic tanks, but from grey water going straight into the Yarra." He questioned the politicians on what was being done on this problem.

"To an extent, there is an element of ignorance by new home owners with regard to septic tanks," Cr

Kitchingman said.

"Many people move to the area and don't even know that they have septic tanks which need to be maintained," Cr Kitchingman said.

Mr Honeywood responded to this by comparing the situation to that of a third world country: "We are in a disastrous situation. The terrain is difficult and lots of people are ill-informed." Cr Leeson added that whilst Nillumbik council is attempting to educate people as fast as possible, they "can't force people to upgrade their tanks".

The announcement that Manningham and Nillumbik councils propose rate increases of six per cent and just under 10 per cent respectively, caused considerable comment from the public.

Dr Ron Garrett addressed the panel on this issue. "What about people on fixed incomes? This level of rate increase is exponential and not sustainable. This is an example of scandalously bad financial management by the councillors."

Cr Kitchingman and Leeson each responded to the accusations, stating that rate increases are the most transparent means of income. "An increase of six per cent is just below the state

average," Cr Kitchingman said.

"We are still going to battle just to get through infrastructural requirements with an increase of 10 per cent," Cr Leeson said. "The last council increased rates by just four per cent and they got chucked out."

During official AGM proceedings, Dick Davies was re-elected president, Val Polley deputy president, Jonathan Upson deputy vice president and Bruce Davidson was elected secretary.

Several notable members of the committee, including secretary David Ellis, treasurer Ron Garrett and vice-president David Wierzbowski, retired after more than five years involvement with WCA.

Richard Aumann, Kerry Boyle, Bruce Davidson, Dick Davies, David Dyason, Val Polley, Doug Seymour, Jonathan Upson and Jenny Chapman were all re-elected to the committee.

In the president's report, Dick Davies congratulated the committee on the successful traffic forum which was held late last year, and made special mention of Bruce Turner's involvement in the forum. Mr Davies also reported that the WCA is planning a public meeting later this year, specifically to discuss the issue of retirement housing.

Community to meet on retirement housing

The desperate need for retirement housing has been making headline news in Warrandyte over the past couple of months.

The *Diary* has received many letters on this issue.

Several sites have been suggested, including environmentally damaged bushland at the corner of Harris Gully Road, immediately behind the Goldfields Plaza rear car park.

Warrandyte Community Association has decided the community should come together at a public forum to debate this matter and decide what actions need to be taken.

"Senior housing has been a long-running issue in Warrandyte for a long time," WCA president Dick Davies told the *Diary*. "WCA is determined to get a result. Progress has

been poor on this issue for the last 20 years. Promises were made and broken.

"WCA is keen to gain the views of the community on the issue."

The meeting will be chaired by WCA deputy president and former Doncaster and Templestowe mayor, Val Polley. Ms Polley has been representing WCA on a Manningham council forum providing input to assist council in developing an "ageing strategy".

Council wants "to change people's perception of ageing and establish what is needed to make Manningham an age-friendly society," Ms Polley said at the time. She appealed for comments from Warrandyte residents. The need for appropriate retirement housing was

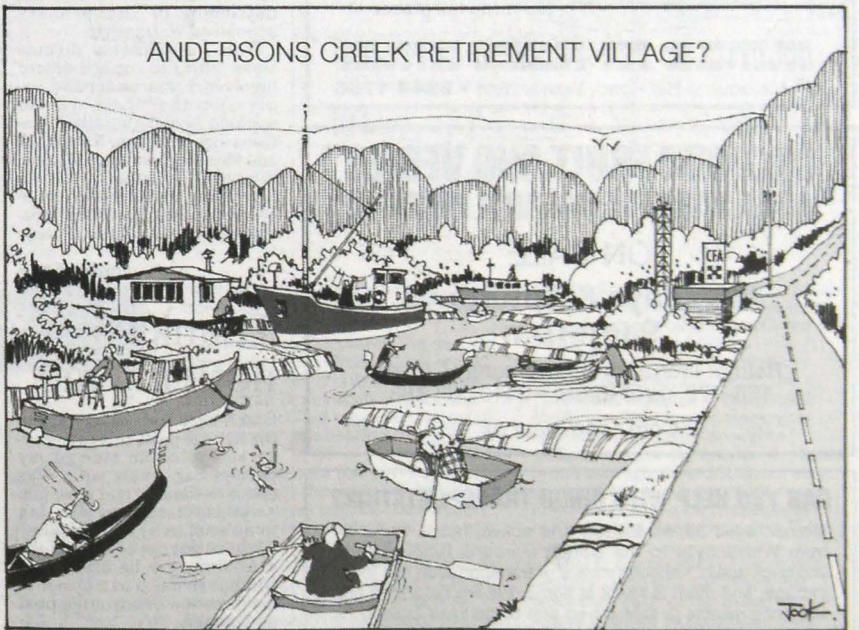
high on the list.

"It is obvious that many older residents leave the township reluctantly due to a number of factors, ranging from difficult blocks and inability to manage houses to living near families for support," Ms Polley said.

"WCA expects the meeting will produce positive outcomes, including resolutions to both councils and the state government," Mr Davies said.

"We want to form a sub-committee to further this issue and we will be looking for volunteers and nominations from the meeting."

● The retirement housing forum will be held at the Warrandyte Elderly Citizens Centre in Tarooona Avenue on Thursday, August 31, commencing at 8pm.



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What happened to our Percy?

Congratulations on your new masthead, it certainly gives the *Diary* a more modern look

But wait—sacre bleu—terrible things are afoot. Percy the Possum has disappeared. Pretty Percy who pranced precociously through the pica has gone POOF. I've searched in case he fell into the inner pages, but it seems he's been banished. Even worse, the tag PRICELESS has also gone POOF. It's the thin end of the wedge. The end of civilisation as Warrandyte knows it. I'll just stay in bed until things get back to normal.

Bring back Percy and Priceless.

David Hogg
Research Road

After 20 years of wallowing in it, I've developed an allergy to printer's ink, so I've been sent back to the Warrandyte State Park. As for Priceless—look again. And who's calling me a poof? —Percy.

Kindergarten prejudice

Nillumbik Shire Council is introducing a zoning for Yarra Warra Pre-School in North Warrandyte, that is discriminating against those who live on the Manningham side of the river.

As everyone would be aware, Yarra Warra and Tarroona Avenue are the two kinders that service the whole of Warrandyte, and have well established links with both Warrandyte and Andersons Creek primary schools. Yarra Warra also offers and provides places for children from Park Orchards and those who will be going to St Anne's Primary School in Park Orchards.

As a follow-on from your feature in the July issue (In search of 'One Warrandyte') this is a clear example of how shire council policy and practice does not reflect the structure and sense of community in Warrandyte. The policy is potentially divisive and over time could alter the demographic of the Yarra Warra children to the detriment of the primary schools in Warrandyte.

From my personal discussions with the council officer involved I was under the impression that there was no working or collaborative relationship between Nillumbik and Manningham on this issue. Why not? (Whereas Nillumbik is working with another council regarding another pre-school facing a similar issue.)

Jozica Kutin
Bradleys Lane

Thanks for noticing me

Lunch time today (July 12) in the IGA car park, this driver reversed into the side of my parked car. I saw what was about to happen and gave him a warning blast on my horn, but to no avail as he kept coming.

While I got out to inspect the side of my car he drove past without so much as a glance in my direction or any attempt at an apology.

Robina Stevens
Cottlesbridge

Aged housing plea

I had no idea that my suggestion that the land adjacent to the CFA and the west end car park would be an ideal site for the erection of housing units for elderly Warrandyte residents would put a cat among the pigeons to the degree it appears to have done.

I am, and always have been, a supporter of the environment and the rural atmosphere of what is left of old Warrandyte. The books I helped illustrate (Flowers and Plants of Victoria, Flower and Plants of New South Wales and Southern Queensland, Australian Orchids, etc.) support this. My long association with the Warrandyte Historical Society (30 years) and over 40 years as a local resident should count for something.

I admit that pedantically I was wrong to call the land degraded. I should have used degenerated, which my dictionary informs me is "having lost that normal and desirable quality of

its kind, fallen from its excellence, debased." It was my description to Louise Joy and Val Polley; do not lay the blame on them.

To be practical—Parks Victoria—Warrandyte's financial allotment for the DS&E is so meagre that it is unlikely they would be able to do anything like restoring this land to its initial bushland condition when they have so many other commitments. In any case the area in question is so "degenerated" it could never be restored to its original pristine condition.

That the land is possibly within the 1934 flood level is admitted. If ever a flood of that dimensions were to occur again, west end and the CFA would be in dire straits as would be many other Warrandyte areas. It would not be impossible to raise the ground level for building two or three feet to escape that risk.

If the area was landscaped by

someone sympathetic with the environment, its façade could well be planted with an indigenous screen of trees to hide the units. The units could be built in sympathy with the area, not like the recent monstrosity that has appeared at the easterly end of Yarra Street.

There seems to have been little restriction regarding some of the MacMansions that have intruded into the area's landscape of recent years. It would or could be far more environmentally attractive that it is now. No paling fences. Perhaps a chain-wire fence on its outer borders.

The Warrandyte cemetery trust is able to acquire extra land for the dead, so why not provide a bit of land for the last few years of the living before they have to go to the cemetery. As things are going, Warrandyte people may not be able to get in there either.

Ted Rotherham
Tills Drive

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.

We're still up the proverbial creek

Further to my letter printed in the June edition of the *Warrandyte Diary*, "In defence of a creek".

On July 11 I contacted Brendan Martin of Melbourne Water to ask if the contractors were returning to remove some vegetation still remaining at Andersons Creek, Tarroona Avenue, after the clean-up a few weeks ago. His reply amazed me.

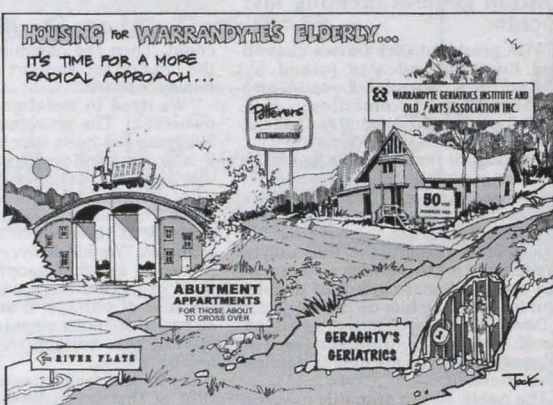
Jane Pammer from Manningham Council had instructed that all green waste, removed by the contractor to the side of the road awaiting collection, be returned to the creek!

This is confusing, considering Lyn Meredith of the same unit stated last March that the creek was not council responsibility.

The result is that the creek looks as bad or worse than it did last March, comparable to the Harris Gully Road disaster; green waste becomes a fire hazard as it dries out; and tax-payers' money has been wasted in the clean-up carried out by Melbourne Water recently.

Whose responsibility is it to clean up the mess that remains—and when?

Jo Gilligan
Everard Drive



How will Dad stay in the town he loves?

I can well remember, many years ago, long-time resident Helen Couch, crying because she had to leave Warrandyte. It was no longer practical for her to stay in her family home and the nearest suitable housing for her needs was in Templestowe. How she would have loved your suggested housing, along with its sustained environment.

My father is 84 and still hanging on to his beloved house in Warrandyte. It is on a steep block with many stairs and he has had several hip replacements. He has a wood fire, which he cannot use unless "guess who" carts up all the wood. It is becoming debatable as to who will end up in a nursing home first!

The proposed land is not far from where he lives and would be ideal, so we would buy a

house there tomorrow. Unfortunately, it will probably all happen too late for Dad, but hopefully it will be ready in time for me!

I was horrified at the insensitive suggestion that a retirement village could have been built next to cemetery. What does that say to our elderly? But to be amongst the gum trees, hear children happily at play, have only a short walk to the shops with a coffee along the way, with the doctor and chemist nearby—and fun at the Elderly Citizens just across the road—wow!

If there is anything my limited talents can do to contribute to this project getting off the ground, I would be more than happy to help.

Briony Bottarelli
Kangaroo Ground Road

Rate increase at Nillumbik impacts on pensioners

Nillumbik council: You raised my rates 9.81 per cent this year and 13.5 per cent last year. The only rebate you gave me as an old age pensioner on more than a \$3000 rate bill is a miserable \$135 per annum.

You might say "sell up. Move out." Why should I? My husband and I built this house mud

brick by mud brick. My family and friends live nearby.

If the energy rebate is 17.5 per cent why can't council give a decent rebate to elderly residents who have contributed so much to the Eltham ethos?

June English
Eltham

CLASSIC CYRIL By PAUL WILLIAMS



When we were dam busters

How we won the battle of Yarra Brae

With the introduction of the heritage rivers legislation in state parliament, the Yarra should be out of reach of any future government dam builders. CLIFF GREEN tracks the story of a year when we feared that Warrandyte was "damned".

THE first ominous threat came in a small, innocuous-looking piece in the bottom right-hand corner of the *Diary* for February, 1973.

"LATE NEWS: Strong local opposition is likely to follow the state government's announcement to build the Yarra Brae Reservoir on the Yarra River near Warrandyte.

"Plans already revealed show that the reservoir will be constructed two-and-a-quarter miles upstream from the Warrandyte Bridge. Maximum level will be 205 feet and capacity 9,500 million gallons. Protest meetings are likely to be held."

"That was the understatement of the year!

First response came from local resident Owen Webster, who contributed a regular column in the journal "Nation Review".

"Dam is 'vicious vandalism'" he headlined a reprinting of his piece. "The 12 miles of the Yarra that this vicious piece of vandalism will inundate is one of the loveliest stretches of its reaches near Melbourne."

The same *Diary* announced the first of a series of public meetings. "Yarra Brae Dam: The Facts."

The old hall was packed. The meeting, called by the Warrandyte Environment League and chaired by Keith Wilson, demanded that government "stop construction of the proposed Yarra Brae Dam". Questions were raised concerning the advisability of "flushing" the river from the dam, dangers of siltation, effects upon surrounding communities, flood problems and the loss of thousands of acres of prime grazing land and irreplaceable river gorges and bushland.

A state election was looming and the same issue of the *Diary* announced another public meeting, later the same month, to be addressed by Dr Moss Cass, federal minister for the environment in the Whitlam Labor government. State ALP candidate Fred Davis promised to address the meeting on "Has Warrandyte a Future?" Doom-laden words.

Then they all came in. Australia Party candidate Dulcie Bethune described the Yarra Brae proposal as a "crisis decision" forced by bad planning. Liberal candidate Jim Plowman said the final decision for the dam rested with the government. "He stressed strongly however that the decision should be made without delay to enable those affected to make the necessary adjustments concerning their future."

According to the *Diary*, "Local public meetings have criticised the government for going into the venture 'half-cocked'."

Fred Davis stated, "I believe the Hamer government has rushed into the early construction of Yarra Brae for political reasons following the recent drought." He claimed the water yield would be of low quality and that the overall effect of the dam on Warrandyte would be "disastrous".

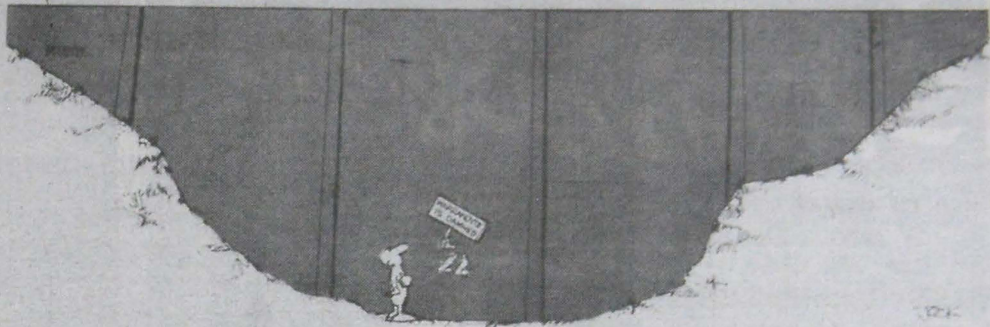
The meeting decided to request the government make an independent environmental and sociological study of the proposed dam and investigate alternative water sources.

The locals won a sort of half first round, when, on July 30, 1973, the premier announced that work on Yarra Brae would not proceed until the government was satisfied with an environmental impact statement on the project. Simultaneously however, he stated that by 1981 Yarra Brae would be making a significant contribution to Melbourne's reserve water storage capacity!

This did not impress the Warrandyte Environment League. WEL president, Richard Morton, told the *Diary* the league was concerned that so little evidence had been put forward to justify the establishment of Yarra Brae in preference to other water sources which may be available.

He said the league had doubts about the effectiveness of the environmental impact study.

The Warrandyte community continued to marshal whatever political muscle they could. Federal Labor MP, Race Mathews, addressed a "packed meeting" in the hall in September.



STOP DAM PROJECT

THE WARRANDYTE *Diary*

NUMBER 26 APRIL 1, 1973 FREE

MONTHLY IN WARRANDYTE, NTH. WARRANDYTE, STH. WARRANDYTE, PARK ORCHARDS, WARRANWOOD, WONGA PARK, KANGAROO GROUND, RESEARCH.

... plea for survey

Approaches are to be made to the Victorian Government to stop construction of the proposed Yarra Brae Dam, two and a half miles upstream from the Warrandyte bridge.

This follows a public meeting of more than 250 people in Warrandyte recently.

As far back as the early 60's the Government was looking at Yarra Brae as a water storage. Interest was renewed during the recent drought.

At the public meeting, speakers expressed fears that the Government might be going off "half-cocked".

Questions were raised concerning the advisability of "flushing" the river from the dam, dangers of siltation, effects upon surrounding communities, flood problems and the loss of thousands of acres of prime grazing land and irreplaceable river gorges and bushland.

Environmental planner Mr Randall Champion suggested that dams could be placed in better positions on

the river, or even on tributaries. He urged that considerably more study should be undertaken before construction begins.

Mrs J. Walliker, vice-president of the Yarra Valley Conservation League said the league was already committed to a study. She said it was important that any further investigations should be carried out in close co-operation with all groups.

The meeting decided to request the Government to make an independent environmental and sociological study of the proposed dam and to investigate alternative water resources.

The meeting was called by the Warrandyte Environment League and Mr Keith Wilson acted as independent chairman.

Commenting this week, A.L.P. candidate for Evelyn, Mr R. Donkin, said that despite the cost involved, he believed that the Government had a clear duty to property owners and others to fully review the alternatives.

"People in the Warrandyte, Christmas Hills and Kangaroo Ground areas can no longer be expected to live under the threat of one day having their properties acquired for the purpose of collecting water from catchments which will embrace unsewered towns from Warrandyte to Warburton," said Mr Donkin.

Dr. Cass will speak here

Highlight of the Australian Labor Party's state election campaign in Warrandyte will be the appearance at a public meeting of the Federal Minister for the Environment, Dr Moss Cass.

He will be speaking in support of candidates for the Assembly seats of Ringwood and Evelyn and the Legislative Council seat of Templestowe.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 26, at 8.00 p.m. in the Mechanics' Institute.

Earlier on the same day, the Warrandyte Environment League plans to present submissions to Dr Cass on local environment problems.

Speakers at the evening meeting will be Dr Bob Birrell, lecturer in sociology at Monash University, Mr Ray Donkin, A.L.P. candidate for Evelyn, Mr Fred Davis, candidate for Templestowe, and Mr Peter Fuller, candidate for Ringwood.

Mr Donkin will speak on water conservation and Labor's policy on the Yarra Brae Dam. Mr Davis' topic will be "Has Warrandyte a Future?"

YARRA BRAE FIGURES

(Based on the 1967 Parliamentary Public Works Committee Report.)

- Concrete wall 90 ft. high.
- Maximum depth of water, 85 ft.
- Area to be submerged, 2,060 acres; to be acquired, 4,350 acres.
- Capacity, 9,500 million gallons.
- Estimated cost (1967): diversion weir, \$4,000,000; treatment works, \$6,000,000; pipeline, \$600,000.
- Total cost: \$10,600,000.



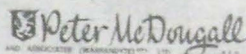
• DR MOSS CASS

SOCIAL CLUB OFFICERS

The annual meeting of the popular Warrandyte Social Club was held recently. About 30 members attended. Office-bearers elected were: President: Mr. B. Hanrahan, Secretary: Mr. S. Robinson, Committee: P. Buchan, N. Pearson, I. Street, P. Lovett, C. Davidson, L. Mitchell. Treasurer: Mr I. Ingersole.

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"And I'm recommending they change the name of the joint to Warrandyte!"

April 1973

"Long before the meeting began the hall was full," the *Diary* reported. "People stood in aisles and overflowed into the foyer." An action committee was formed and donations of \$166 were received. "Car stickers were also sold."

Probably because the meeting was convened by a Labor politician, local Liberal MPs declined to share the platform with Mr Mathews. (Local democracy has come quite a way since then. Politicians of opposite

views now face each other across the hall at every public meeting called in Warrandyte.)

The meeting "deplored the destruction of the Yarra River, which would result from the construction of the Yarra Brae Dam and its associated works and called upon the Victorian government to abandon this program."

They requested the government should adopt the principle that such (environmental impact statements) "should be made only by bodies independent of political pressure".

People living in the Bend of Islands area of Kangaroo Ground and Christmas Hills had formed themselves into a cooperative, dedicated to building and living in a conservation zone. They felt particularly threatened by the Yarra Brae project as they believed their land lay directly in the path of the dam.

"Assuming that it could be a mistake to build the dam," they told the *Diary*, "the mistake would be irreversible. The damage would be done, and through eternity."

"It is essential that, not only the 16 miles of river proposed for inundation in the Yarra Brae scheme, but the whole of the Yarra Valley be made the subject of a master plan in the near future with the aim of conserving the river environment in its natural state for future generations."

Experts were beginning to join with the communities threatened by the dam, arguing that the project was unnecessary.

One water expert stated: "The hasty decision by the state government during last summer's drought

totally disregarded the existence of Cardinia reservoir which was then almost completed and which has recently commenced filling.

"Cardinia has now doubled our storage capacity, and when the Thomson reservoir is completed Melbourne will have a three-year reserve against future droughts."

Then, in April 1974, came the first break-through. "The Victorian state government may be considering a major back-down on the issue of the controversial Yarra Brae dam," we reported.

"This is the opinion of local 'dam-busters', who told the *Diary* this week they believe the Board of Works is about to recommend the construction of a much smaller pumping weir on the Yarra, some miles upstream of the original proposed site."

A month later we confirmed that "the MMBW has concluded that the construction of a dam on the Bend of Isles as planned would have serious adverse consequence for the environment."

So the threat of a 62 metre high dam wall hanging over Warrandyte was history. The Bend of Isles survives as a conservation zone and major wildlife habitat, as do the Stane Brae and Mt Lofty sections of Warrandyte State Park.

The Sugarloaf Dam was subsequently built, but the Yarra Brae Dam, at Warrandyte's doorstep—or more likely, its window ledges—is but a set of dusty plans in some state government engineer's too-hard drawer; never to be disturbed. Maybe.

WARRANDYTE HIGH SCHOOL presents

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 SEPTEMBER ■ THURSDAY 7th ■ FRIDAY 8th ■ SATURDAY 9th**
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Festival celebrates a wonderful creek valley

This year's Mullum Mullum Festival opens on September 3 with an indigenous concert featuring well known Mutti Mutti singer Kutcha Edwards, the Indigenous Elders Choir, Yorta Yorta didge player Shane Charles with Justin Brady and Daungurung elder, Uncle Roy Patterson telling stories of his people in a bush setting at Yarran Dheran.

The day will start with walks covering a range of topics. Birds, bush tucker and indigenous culture, ecology and trees, and a walk for kids are some of the activities on offer.

Walks start between 10.30am and 11am but you will need to check the program for details.

The festival will continue the following weekend with walks starting at different times from a range of places along the Mullum Mullum valley from the upper reaches in Maroondah to the Yarra River in Manningham. Some walks will look for spiders and insects, birds, platypus, wildflowers or nocturnal animals on the ground, and stars and planets in the night sky.

Other walks will take people on the upper reaches of the creek or Manningham council's latest developments on the Mullum Mullum Linear Park. How painters interpret nature or how we deal with sick or injured animals are also on offer.

There is even an activity for people who would prefer to cycle to see the Mullum Mullum creek valley.

These and more will be described in the detailed program available in council offices, libraries, neighborhood houses or on the website: www.vicnet.net.au/~mulfest/. Alternatively contact Les on 9874 2641 if you would like to know more about this exciting festival.

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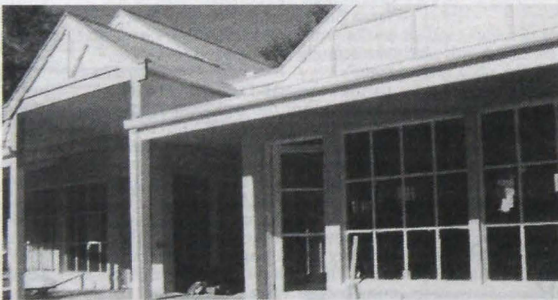


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Quizzing the wannabees

How state election candidates stack up on local issues

By SAM DAVIES

With the planned retirement of Phil Honeywood, Liberal MP for Warrandyte for 18 years, campaigning for the state election on November 25 takes on a new urgency. So far, three candidates representing the major parties: ALP, Liberal and Greens have nominated. All of them live in the electorate.

Representing the Greens, David Ellis is the only candidate who lives in Warrandyte itself.

"I've been in business in Warrandyte for the last eight years," Mr Ellis told the *Diary*. "I bring to the concerns of the environment the perspective of a business man. Environmentalists and business people have got to recognise their common interests."

North Ringwood resident Jarrod Panther is standing for the ALP. He works as an electorate officer for two members of parliament.

While not directly involved in any Warrandyte community groups, Mr Panther said he had been active in the campaign to keep the Croydon outdoor pool open, and had been "closely looking" at Warrandyte's issues.

He said education would be a significant issue at the election, "ensuring all children are given the opportunity to go to school and get a quality education".

Liberal party candidate, Ringwood North banking advisor Ryan Smith, proposes to follow the "pro-Warrandyte" stance of his predecessor Mr Honeywood.

"We (the Liberals) have gained a lot of support being pro-Warrandyte over the years.

"As part of the community, we live in the area because we like the way it is."

Mr Smith said he supports Warrandyte through local business, though is not involved in any community groups.

Aged housing

Regarding local issues, all three candidates agree that retirement housing needs to be urgently addressed.

Mr Panther said he was "staggered" by statistics recently reported in the *Diary* that by 2011 the proportion of local residents aged 60 and over will increase by 44 per cent.

"Obviously it's a real challenge striking a balance between sustainable development and meeting the needs of an ageing community," he said. "To keep these residents who've done so much for the community in Warrandyte is something we need to address."

Mr Smith said the local state MP would be required to coordinate a "whole-of-community initiative".

"This means federal, state and local government involvement and getting the formula right. Sufficient land should be set aside for any future nursing home to be co-located with the retirement village," he said.

Mr Ellis fully supports efforts to provide aged housing, and said it was essential it be prioritised for Warrandyte residents. "We need to come to see older people as a resource in exactly the way in post-war years we saw younger people as a resource," he said.

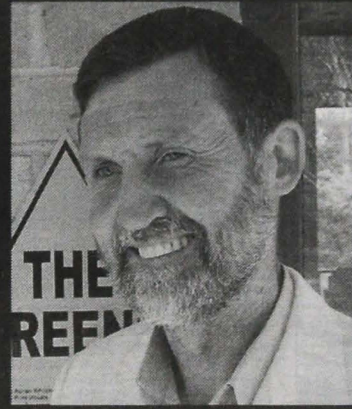
He flagged the area behind the supermarket as a potential site, providing its inundation problem could be addressed and that any development was sympathetic to the bushland.

Transport

Candidates also agreed Warrandyte's public transport needs could be addressed by more frequent bus services.

Mr Smith said more buses would ensure that isolated

THE CONTENDERS



DAVID ELLIS: GREENS
Warrandyte's public transport is a black hole. It will become increasingly important as fossil fuels grow scarcer and petrol dearer.



JARROD PANTHER: ALP
Recognises a need to address keeping those residents who've done so much for the community in Warrandyte.



RYAN SMITH: LIBERAL
The Green Wedge will always be a key priority in order to preserve the bushland lifestyle for future generations.

youth and the elderly could travel conveniently, particularly on weekends.

Mr Panther called for the services to be linked to rail networks. "Governments always say they'll invest in public transport when people use it. But people won't use it until you invest in it. There is a need for more frequent and reliable services to get people on buses rather than using their cars if possible," Mr Panther said.

Mr Ellis said the Greens were already conducting a series of meetings about Warrandyte's public transport "black hole", suggesting it will become increasingly important as fossil fuels become scarcer and petrol gets dearer.

"People should be, as they have been in the past in Melbourne, thinking of going to work and leisure on public transport," Mr Ellis said.

"They will only be able to do this if public transport is vastly improved. We had some vision of what was possible during the Commonwealth Games, we had buses running to Warrandyte past midnight,

and they were full of people."

Mr Ellis said improved public transport was the solution to the morning gridlock. "You could put 20 bridges and 20 roundabouts in Warrandyte, and still have the same problem."

"But you could have a fleet of buses running on bio-fuels and link them efficiently with all parts of the public transport system."

Mr Smith said a solution must be provided to the single lane bridge problem. "However, this can only happen with strong community support and with all environmental issues taken into account."

Green Wedge

Mr Panther said he supported the existing boundaries of the Green Wedge.

Mr Smith said he would follow the example of his predecessor. "Just as Phil Honeywood championed the Green Wedge, this will always be my key priority in order to preserve the bushland lifestyle choice for future genera-

tions," he said.

Mr Ellis said state government support was essential to ensure the Green Wedge amounted to more than "tokenism", particularly regarding potentially lucrative subdivisions in Warrandyte.

"These things shouldn't be left to individual councils or neighbours to run the case to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal."

"There should be no further development. I think the Chinese nursing home is an eyesore, I'm concerned that Aumann's Orchard is going to be next. What we need is government support for people like the Aumanns to stay in orcharding, and not to go chasing the obvious and easy dollar that comes from subdivision."

Mr Ellis also said pressure on water reserves could impact on the Yarra River. "Melbourne will literally run out of water in 13 years. That water has to come from somewhere, and I don't want it to come from the Yarra or Yarra catchment with the result that it is reduced to a creek."

Heritage

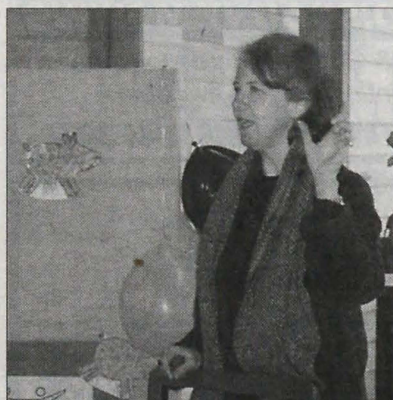
On preserving Warrandyte's heritage, Mr Panther said he was confident he could forge a positive working relationship with Manningham councillor Pat Young. "I would certainly be fighting any proposed developments (that were) not in Warrandyte's interests," he said.

Mr Smith said the colour and design of houses and shops must be in keeping with the historic village character of the township.

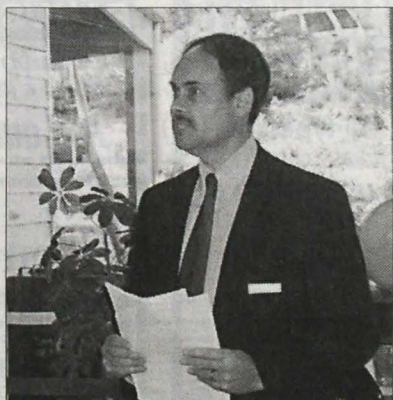
"It is not good enough that three-storey-style homes are allowed to dominate the shopping centre simply because they meet official height limits," he said.

Mr Ellis said an active state government member could have a very important role in overseeing any proposed changes and developments in Melbourne.

"And making sure they are consistent with the atmosphere of this little village which we all hold so dear," he said.



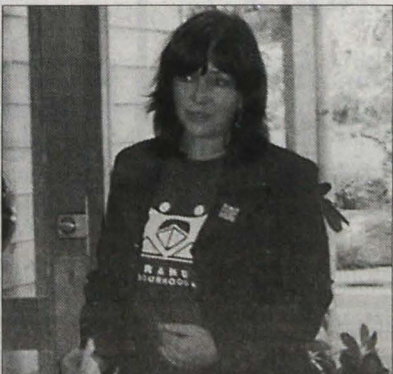
Celebrity speaker Debra Lawrence



Bank manager Mark Challen



WCA deputy president Val Polley



WNH coordinator Karen Throssell

Community bank bails out kids

The childcare centre at the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House faced crisis last year when Manningham council refused to subsidise their rent, due to be paid for their premises in the Warrandyte Community Centre.

Neighbourhood House believed they were being unfairly treated, as other neighbourhood houses were enjoying "peppercorn rental" in their council-owned premises.

The only occasional childcare facility in Warrandyte, the centre provides for more than 70 local children each week, supporting low and single parent families. WNH needed \$5000 to cover their financial shortfall. An anonymous local donor stepped in and donated this amount, relieving the situation for one year.

"Many thought that the recent budget would have assisted the situation," WNH coordinator Karen Throssell

told the *Diary*.

"While some money flowed to long-day care centres, occasional day care received no additional funding."

But this year, the Warrandyte Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank has agreed to assist.

Bank chairman, John Provan, said "it was great to be able to put the branch profits towards something that will benefit children at the centre".

Unable to fund the full \$5000, the bank has offered to match, dollar-for-dollar, all funds raised through a community appeal, up to \$2500.

Ms Throssell is excited by the proposed partnership. "Support from the community bank has been fantastic. Our parents have been asking if the childcare centre will be open next year, and now we can say it definitely will," she said.

The bank cannot, at this stage of their development,

guarantee continuing provision for the centre, "but we are in profit, and if the bank continues to grow, we know we can continue our support for this project and other proposed projects and sponsorships," Mr Provan said.

The community appeal was launched by Debra Lawrence, respected Warrandyte stage and screen actor with long-term roles in Neighbours and Home and Away, at a lunch for business people and community leaders late last month. Nine local cafes donated refreshments.

Donations can be made to the Community Bank branch in Yarra Street, or by cheque (payable to the Warrandyte Occasional Childcare Centre Project) to the Community Enterprise Foundation, Fountain Court, PO Box 480, Bendigo Vic 3552. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

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Warrandyte High School students made a clean sweep of this year's Lions Club of Warrandyte youth of the year award. Briana Packett (pictured above) received the award, valued at \$600, from Lions president Garry Clues. "The award is about identifying and celebrating the achievements of our local young people," Mr Clues told the Diary. Runners-up were Emily Morrow, second, who received \$400 and Steven Clementson and Adam Daniel, equal third, who received \$200 each. All are students at WHS. The school received \$1400.

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Tanks for the memory: Warrandyte Primary School has had tanks installed to water their sustainable garden. A federal community water grant has also enabled the school to fit dual flush systems in all their toilets and replace taps with water regulators. Elish, Victoria and Kris (pictured right to left) are eagerly awaiting good rains to fill those tanks.

NILLUMBIK
THE GREEN MINDS

Nilumbik's Environmental Events Program - August 2006
Learn more about the environment and sustainable living in series of workshops, talks and events brought to you by Nilumbik Shire Council. Events are free unless otherwise stated.

Watermark Australia: Taking action on water from your sink to your rivers - Thursday 10 August
Presented by People for Environmental Protection and hosted by Nilumbik Shire Council.
The Watermark project, coordinated by the Victorian Women's Trust uses the guiding principles of Watermark Australia's Water Charter, a document that draws together the input of more than 2000 people across Australia.
This interactive session will discuss the material gathered from the various groups involved, and provide examples and stories that will assist to influence behavioural change in our homes and local communities.
Time: 7pm - 9pm
Bookings: 9433 3210 - Megan Frye

Restoring your bushland - Tuesday 15 August
Do you have remnant vegetation on your property in need of some TLC? Come along to this informative evening and learn about ways you can protect and restore your bushland.
Time: 7pm - 9pm
Bookings: 9433 3210 - Megan Frye

Going places-green travel - Thursday 17 August
Presented by Banyule City Council and hosted by Nilumbik Shire Council.
Come and learn how you can get around town using transport modes that produce less greenhouse gases and cost you less all round. The night will show case a range of sustainable transport modes.
Time: 6.40pm - 9pm
Bookings: 9457 9816 - Megan Kemp

Waterwise gardens - Sunday 20 August
The Waterwise demonstration garden at Edendale provides an opportunity to view different garden styles, drought tolerant plant species and a variety of water management techniques. During this workshop participants will have an opportunity to learn about water saving techniques and participate in a guided tour of the formal, courtyard, cottage and bush garden.
Time: 9am - 11am
Cost: \$10
Bookings: 9430 1313 - Living and Learning Nilumbik

All events are held at Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre, Gastons Road, Eltham (Melway 22 A1)
For further information about environmental events in Nilumbik visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call Rebecca Petit, Environment Officer on 9433 3216.

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
"Home among the gum trees..."



RETIREMENT HOUSING FORUM

Warrandyte Elderly Citizens Centre,
Taroon Avenue, Warrandyte
Thursday, August 31 at 8pm
Everyone is welcome to come along and discuss this important issue.

WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Have your say on friendly fire

Warrandyte and surrounding areas are notoriously fire-prone. Each summer, the threat of wildfire is quite real.

Residents have the opportunity now to comment on the Department of Sustainability and Environment's plan to reduce the risk of wildfire on local public land.

Each year DSE develops fire operations plans for national parks, state forests, state parks and reserves in consultation with the community, local councils, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, forest managers, the Country Fire Authority and flora and fauna specialists.

The draft plan will be on display until September 8, giving people who live near fire-prone public land the opportunity to have input or ask questions before the plan is finalised in time for spring burning, fire-break slashing and track clearing.

DSE fire prevention coordinator John van de Paverd told the *Diary* that some of the burns planned for the upcoming spring and autumn had been displayed in last year's fire operations plan. Unfortunately there were not enough days of favourable conditions to complete these burns last season so they remain on the plan.

"These burns will be high pri-



DSE firefighter controls a cool burn.

ority, but we need to remember that planning for fire is done for the long term, 365 days a year," Mr van de Paverd said.

"We have a large number of burns planned so we will take every opportunity as weather conditions permit to reduce fuel for this summer, and for many summers to come.

"I would encourage everyone, and particularly those whose properties abut public land, to check out the maps showing where burns and works are planned.

"This is also an opportunity to

think about fire preparedness steps you could be taking on your own property to complement the work done by DSE."

Key features of the fire operations plan are: ecological burning; fuel-reduction burning; fire-access track maintenance; fire-break slashing; and community education and enforcement.

The draft plan for the north-eastern fringe area proposes eight fuel-reduction burns.

Four burns are planned in Warrandyte State Park, (two for Warrandyte and one each for the Wonga Park and Eltham

parts of the park), and one in Boomers Reserve, Pantom Hill.

Some of these are planned to reduce the risk of wildfire around houses and towns near the boundary of public land, however, some have an ecological purpose such as vegetation structure and diversity maintenance and weed control.

The burns will generally be conducted over a six-month period primarily during the milder weather conditions of spring and autumn.

After the community and other stakeholders have commented on the draft fire operations plan, DSE will finalise the plan after September 31 to prepare for the spring burning season. Spring burns that were approved in last year's fire operations plan may be conducted prior to this date if weather permits.

The draft plan, complete with details of each burn and maps, can be viewed on the DSE web site www.dse.vic.gov.au/fire and at DSE and Parks Victoria offices in Box Hill and Warrandyte.

Comments and queries should be directed to John van de Paverd, DSE, Locked bag 3000, Post Office, Box Hill 3128, email john.vandepaverd@dse.vic.gov.au or telephone 9296 4504.

How about fighting fires for a living?

Fit and energetic Victorians are being urged to apply for employment as "project" firefighters during the coming fire season.

"Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) project firefighters play a critical role in helping to protect rural communities from the serious threat of wildfires," Minister Thwaites told the *Diary*. "Firefighting is very strenuous and requires more strength and endurance than other work activities, but it is also very rewarding.

"We intend to recruit more than 320 new project firefighters (PFFs) this year to bolster our full-time firefighting force. This is in addition to the 150 fire fighters recently employed on three-year contracts and 55

new field staff recently appointed in DSE and Parks Victoria," Mr Thwaites said.

"Collectively these people will provide a major boost to our on-ground fire fighting capability."

Project firefighters are hired each year to support DSE's permanent specialised fire fighters. They assist in the suppression of wildfire and undertake prevention works including fuel reduction burning.

PFF applicants who progress through the initial selection phase will be required to complete an internationally recognised fitness test. Advertisements for project firefighters vacancies will soon be published in newspapers across the state.

Successful applicants will attend a five-

day training course in preparation for their role, which incorporates a wide range of skills including fire-line safety, use of equipment, driver training and first aid.

"The hours of work are often unpredictable and firefighters need to be prepared to be available for stand-by for immediate deployment across the state. DSE project firefighters are among the best trained forest fire-fighters in the world," Mr Thwaites said.

Applications for project firefighter positions close on Friday, September 8. Application forms are available at the Warrandyte State Park office, by email from www.dse.vic.gov.au/fire or phone the DSE customer service centre on 136 186.

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Protecting the trees: Earthworks commenced last month on the controversial extension to Andersons Creek Cemetery in Warrandyte. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

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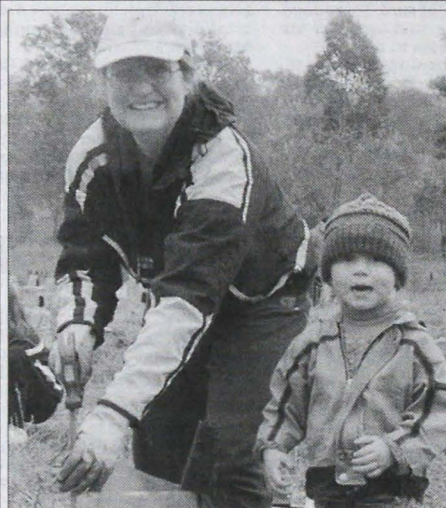
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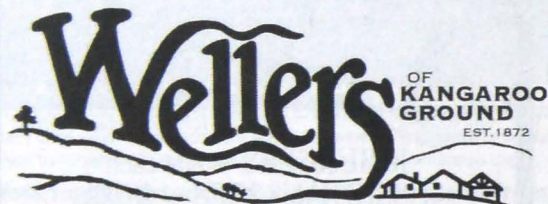
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Planting for the future



The Jumping Creek Catchment Landcare Group conducted their first planting morning on a property in Hillcrest Road, South Warrandyte, early last month. Group members, their neighbours and friends (pictured), Manningham council workers and members of the Manningham Rotary Club joined forces to plant 500 indigenous trees, bushes and grasses. They celebrated this special occasion with a barbecue organised by Rotary. If you would like to join this group, or have an area of land that needs revegetating, weed control, fencing, or erosion control works, call Karen on 9876 1230.



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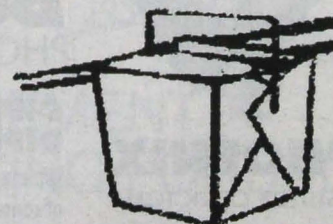
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They're building a wall for peace

A mosaic "Peace Wall" is being built in the bush garden at the Warrandyte Uniting Church.

"We wanted to create a place of peace for the community, a special place where people could reflect, contemplate and draw strength in serenity," Rev Ros McDonald told the *Diary*.

Local artists Walter Magilton and Denise Keele Bedford produced a design that mirrored the Yarra River flowing through Warrandyte. A number of community groups, schools, preschools, churches and Wurundjeri people, instructed by ceramic artist MaryLou Pittard, created the tiles for the wall and its surrounds.

The project has been funded by Manningham council, Warrandyte Lions Club, Bendigo Bank and church fundraising. Photographer STEPHEN REYNOLDS has been documenting the progress of the Peace Wall.



Warrandyte Brownies lend a hand.



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MaryLou Pittard



Peace doves awaiting firing.



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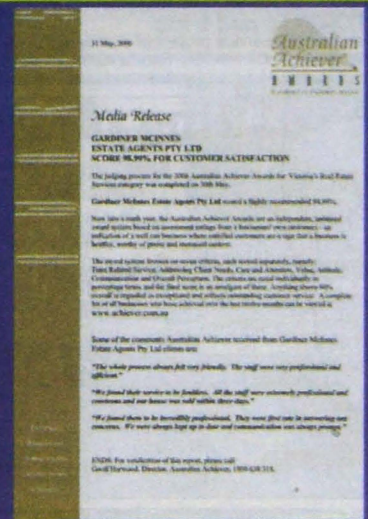
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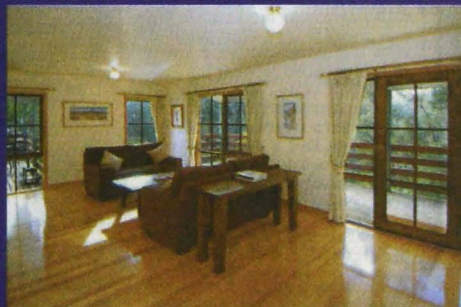


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Sartorial embarrassment? Try wearing 'Fair Isle'!

It was talkback radio or "pooled ignorance" as I affectionately call it.

The topic was about embarrassing moments in life and one of many callers phoned with a childhood horror story of being forced to wear his parents' bad taste. Evidently he had been scarred for life by being made to wear brown corduroy pants and a yellow skivvy when he was a child.

Thereafter followed a counsellor's caseload of damaged egos.

"I was dressed in the daggiest dresses you can imagine; gingham with white frilly topped socks. How embarrassing!"

"I had the worst experience when tight-fitting gear was in and I was expected to walk around looking like Warwick Capper's shorts. What were my parents on!"

"My mother liked knitting so all my jumpers were hand-knitted in the worst designs you could imagine. All my friends were in brand-name tops. I had to lump around in what looked like op-shop gear. I still can't even look at a knitted pullover." And on they went.

We were driving into the city at the time and Herself turned to me and asked what I remember about embarrassing clothes I had to wear and I was hard-pressed to remember anything at all that my mother dressed me in.

I could recall a hairy, bottle-green Harris Tweed sports coat but the only reason I remembered that was because I never went anywhere to wear it. It remained in my wardrobe as an enigma, a permanent reminder



"I could recall a hairy, bottlegreen Harris Tweed sports coat but the only reason I remembered that was because I never went anywhere to wear it."

that out there was a different world, a world where different people led different lives and they not only knew when but had the opportunity to wear a hairy, bottle-green Harris Tweed sports coat.

I do remember, finally, there being an occasion when I could justify wearing it but by then I had grown too tall and it was too small so there it remained, in my wardrobe, a symbol of lost opportunities.

Apart from that, I didn't suf-

fer the "embarrassing clothing syndrome" until I committed the crime on myself.

Adolescence is not a refined period in human development. The words "tact", "consideration", "taste", "patience" and "understanding" should never be uttered in the same sentence as the word "adolescent". At such a time experimentation takes precedence over commonsense. For me, the synonym for "experimentation" was "self-blindness".

Now, some heads are better shaped than others. Some hair is more manageable and attractive than others. Some ears are smaller than others. Some adolescents have clear skin whilst others are forced to adopt the Vesuvius look. Let's just say that I drew the short straw with all the negatives.

This being so, where was my mother to prevent me from committing that haircut embarrassment. A number one crew-cut may be practical for members of the armed forces or for those chunky guys with thick luxuriant crops of hair but for a gangly, pale, splotchy skinned, lank-haired, homely lad, I think not. They say that the difference between a bad and a good haircut is four weeks. Wrong! In my case it's been a lifetime of short fortnights.

And then there was the case of the stove-pipe pants that were all the rage when I was a mid-teen.

School pants are cut as they are for a reason. They are designed to provide a snug fit around the waist and room for the hips and the legs to move

comfortably. The front and the back are cut differently so the crease hangs mid-leg. Strangely, school pants are not designed to be "pegged".

Combine a mother's refusal to alter perfectly good school pants with a tunnel-visioned adolescent who has a fleeting acquaintance with a Singer sewing machine and I'll show you an embarrassing fashion statement that puts brown corduroys and a yellow skivvy into the shadows!

A word of advice. If you want to "peg" pants, don't just sew down the seams unless you like the look of seams spiralling around your leg like some drunken adder. Nor do I advise cutting away the offending unwanted selvage. There's something about squeezed toothpaste and a tube. Which leads me back to the talkback tragi-

I have a filing cabinet full of my own fashion indiscretions. My children keep reminding me about my 1970s flared tracksuit. For some reason they believe that they had moved on but, evidently, I hadn't. Now, I take great pleasure in fessing up that I deliberately wore it only when they came to visit.

So, with so many of our own fashion idiocies, why do we have the gall to come out on public radio and condemn our parents for committing fashion crimes that we have, without doubt, surpassed? And as proof, I tender the muffin top jeans!

By comparison, the gingham dress and yellow skivvy are haute couture.

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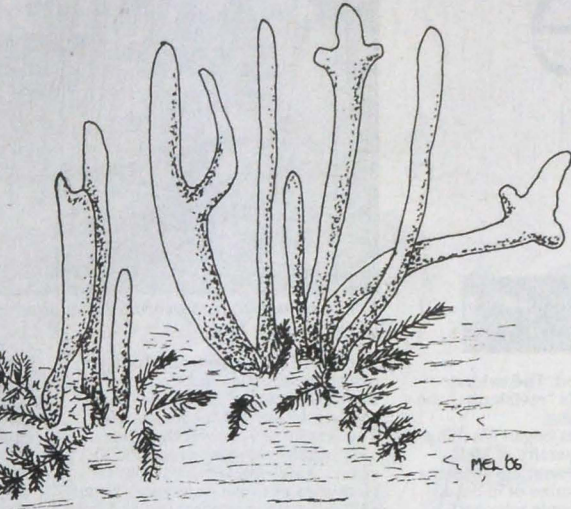
IT would have been a good year to migrate north for a few months to avoid Melbourne's extended winter chill. Starting a month early in May, it's been a long cold winter with more foggy mornings and less sunny afternoons than usual. And it's not over yet.

There are several ways to warm up on these dreary doldrum-inducing days—stand under a hot shower for longer than is environmentally wise, crank up the heating—also environmentally unfriendly and not good for the hip pocket! Vigorously vacuuming the whole house works well, but you can't do that every day. It is tempting to stay inside and hibernate some days, but it's much better for body and mind to don a polar fleece and go for a walk. As I did.

Destination Black Flat. There are two ways into this Warrandyte State Park reserve—one is to follow the river track downstream from Sandy Bay car park in Jumping Creek Reserve, the other entry is via Tills Drive along a broad management track.

Not as botanically rich as some other areas of the State Park, Black Flat however can boast great river views, the antiquity of gold relics, the site of the original Park rangers office and an intriguing array of mosses and fungi. And it was the mosses I had come to see. Having written last month about the scourge of the moss family (a weedy invasive species called Neat Feather Moss), it was time to add some balance and extol the beauty of our native species.

Mosses are an ancient group of plants. They inhabited the earth long before flowering



plants evolved. Nonetheless, mosses are true plants, they have stems and leaves but no roots. Instead they are attached to the soil, tree trunks, logs and rocks by fine branched hairs called rhizoids.

Unlike more advanced plants, mosses have no vascular system to transport water and nutrients. Water is absorbed directly into each cell via a process called osmosis. The lack of a protective outer layer to prevent water loss—together with the requirement of water for sexual reproduction—places limitations on where mosses can grow. I was about to enter their habitat.

Following a narrow bush track I found myself in a dense, dark grotto where sunlight barely penetrates the thick canopy. It was a haven for mosses. Whilst mosses may look superficially the same, under a hand lens or magnifying glass their differ-

ences are revealed with stunning clarity. As it is preferable not to remove pieces of moss from their habitat, I was constantly on my hands and knees, hand lens pressed to my eye; such a variety of shapes and textures in this miniature world. Some of the mosses were like feathers or fishbones, others resembled tiny pine trees. When I brushed my hand over one verdant cushion, tiny fragments flicked into the air like jumping beans.

Scientific names are hard to pronounce and difficult to remember and although I could name only a very few, it didn't matter. I simply enjoyed their transient beauty. For in two or three months the mosses will shut up shop—leaves and stems will shrivel as a strategy to survive the hot dry summer.

A splash of colour caught my eye. Beside the track a cluster of bright red fungi emerged

nature

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

from the moss. Crouching down, I examined the erect, fleshy-textured, club-like stalks. Some were branched at their tips, others were entire. Appropriately named Flame Fungus, the little tongues of fire—that also come in a chrome yellow variety—provided a stunning contrast to the bottle green and emerald moss bed.

In a few weeks Warrandyte's bush will be enriched with colour as first the wattles, then the peas, daisies, lilies and orchids burst into bloom. In this fore-runner to spring, now is the time to be out there, walking with head bent; sometimes even crawling beneath the undergrowth. Only then can you really become acquainted with those lowly in stature—and in profile—plants, the mosses.

Footnote: the Friends of Warrandyte State Park have just published a colour brochure on the local mosses and lichens. These are available from the Friends trailer at the monthly Warrandyte market.

Plant of the Month

Friends of Warrandyte State Park have something very special available this month at their nursery—a pot of local orchids. The Trim Greenhood (*Pterostylis concinna*) is a colony-forming orchid that occurs naturally in only a few areas of the State Park, but the Friends have managed to grow this species in the nursery. Six inch pots of flowering orchids can be obtained this month from their nursery which is located at the rangers depot at Pound Bend. For more information contact the nursery manager on 0408 317 327.

Of blunt knives and volcanoes

YOU are probably wondering why I'm typing this so very, very slowly. My fingers usually fly across the keyboard, emitting a stream of words I haven't even thought of yet. But not today. It's taking so long to find each key that I'm forgetting things while I'm still typing them. How do so many one-fingered typists cope? One's brain simply loses traction at that speed.

The moral of the story is don't cut up slippery things like onions when you're very tired. And never use a knife that you couldn't be bothered sharpening. Not unless you want to do gruesome things to your fingers, gruesome things that are best left untold. There's no point in all of us fainting.

"Mum! How can you be so squeamish? I didn't know anybody could be that bad!"

Well, the cat is out of the bag. Now you know why I never leave sharp things lying about. Why we have one of those clever tin-openers that leaves a safely sealed edge on both the tin and the lid. Why we don't

our place
 By **MARILYN MOORE**

ever use sewing needles in carpeted areas of the house. Why I keep my kitchen knives razor sharp. Why I don't ever put my hands into a drawer or toolbox where I can't see what I'm doing. Why I never wade across the Yarra without old sandshoes on.

Obsessive? No—common sense. The most sickening accident I ever saw happened up at Jumping Creek Reserve in 1971. I suppose the chances of any of us school kids encountering a broken beer bottle wedged between rocks in the riverbed were pretty slim, but when it happened the consequences were horrendous.

Ughh! I don't want to think about it. I intended to write about something much more riveting. Several days ago I remember mulling it over all the way home. Pity none of it got written down! How could such

a profound line of thought simply evaporate? Perhaps I was dreaming.

My best-ever column isn't the only thing to have evaporated this week. The other night, the one I don't want to think about, I spent in the comfy chair with my hand heavily bandaged and raised above heart-level. It throbbled away like a generator, sometimes quietly to itself but at other times piercingly. Sleep wasn't an option, so I turned on the tele and spent the wee hours watching a couple of old black-and-white British films—the sort that had maximum plot and minimum production expense. Somewhere between the adventures of young Fanny and a pre-dawn episode of "Hymns of the Ancients", there was a remarkable documentary about Japanese islanders who live in the shadow of a volcano that's been erupting since 1995 and regularly showering their town with ash.


Coincidentally, I've been working on a project on volcanoes, and one of the most interesting things I've found is the difference in outlook between

westerners and others when it comes to volcanic hazard.

Westerners are into defining the hazard, controlling it, avoiding it, making rules about it. Others, especially the Japanese, have turned reverence for such hazards into an art form, and have developed wonderfully symbiotic relationships. They treat volcanoes almost like children, something to be treasured, and no amount of cleaning up after them is too much trouble. These islanders know all about living on the edge.

This mystery documentary was the answer to a prayer. If only I could get hold of a copy! But was it a scheduled program? No. Did anybody at the ABC know about it? No. Can you buy the DVD, video or book? No. Did I dream it? I'll swear I didn't.

So I've been sitting here googling away one-handed, but the mystery volcano is just as much a mirage as it was half an hour ago. Nothing mirage-like about pain though. Hopefully by next week this whole episode will seem like a dream.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Or to make a donation, contact Diana at 9844 1678. Stalls available @ \$25 + 10% donation of profit.

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Brother, can you spare me two bob?

By CLIFF GREEN

Is there anyone still alive who can remember the Great Depression in Warrandyte?

They were hard times. Local myths tell us that people kept body and soul together by catching fish in the river, scratching for gold on the old mullock heaps, panning in the creeks and trapping rabbits through the hills. They survived on a diet of cherry plum jam and rabbit stew.

Although a number of people probably did survive like that, at least in part, reality for many would have been quite different.

But these sorts of perceptions may have skewed our history and tainted our literature.

Part-time local resident and retired history lecturer David Potts has set

out to demystify those iconic years, from 1929 to 1934. His book is appropriately titled "The Myth of the Great Depression". It has attracted criticism, even rebuttal, from mainstream historians and left-leaning commentators. Perhaps the title is part of the problem, suggesting that the author is denying the very existence of this traumatic period in Australia, when unemployment climbed to record heights and many people were living in real poverty.

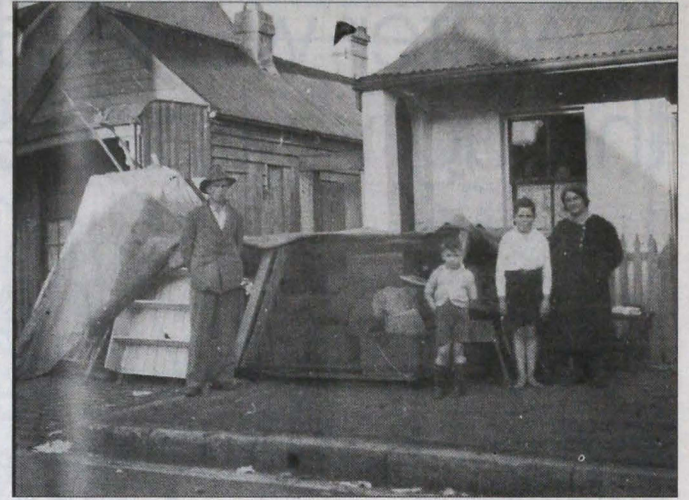
But Potts does nothing of the sort. In 420 well-written, painstakingly documented and solidly argued pages, he does not gloss over the very real hardships suffered by people during those hard years. What he does suggest is that the vision of widespread desperate suffering and the overall impact of those difficult economic conditions may have been

books

grossly exaggerated. The evidence he presents for this "revisionist" thesis seems convincing.

When David Potts began teaching history at the University of Melbourne in 1965, he sent his students out to conduct a series of in-depth interviews with people who had lived through those difficult years. Many tales of hard times emerged, but to Potts' surprise, the overwhelming response was positive. They were hard times, but for a surprising number of respondents, they were good times.

Something was wrong. Potts had grown up in a left-leaning household. He had imbibed heartbreaking stories of the Depression with his break-



Evictions due to rent arrears have always been a feature of Depression history.

fast cereal. So he sent his students out again, this time with a more tightly structured set of questions, seeking an ever-widening sample. The results were much the same.

He began taking his students' discoveries seriously. Were the bitter memories of those hard years being subconsciously suppressed and only the fleeting good times remembered? Was "The Romance of the Swag", as Henry Lawson, our noted chronicler of the 1890s Depression termed it, overwhelming all other recollections?

The newspaper files told him that the results of his surveys were wrong. Stories of desperate hardship, suffering and tragedy filled their pages during those years. But newspapers live off sensation and exposé, and although the individual accounts and revelations may not have been exaggerated, examination of statistics and other official records convinced him they were not typical; they did not truly reflect the day-to-day experiences of most ordinary people.

Death rates declined during those years, and although suicides peaked to a national record level in 1930, they continued falling as the Depression deepened.

Public health markedly improved. People were eating much less fatty meat. Rabbits and fish are largely fat-free! Many more people grew their own fruit and vegetables, consuming them fresh from the garden. Consumption of alcohol dropped. Unable to afford fares on public transport, they walked everywhere.

Harrowing newspaper reports of suffering may not have been typical, but they resulted in overall positive results. Governments reacted, mostly positively. Unemployment benefits were introduced, and perhaps for the first time, families that had been poor for generations had a regular income, meagre though it was. When food coupons replaced "dole" money, suddenly women controlled the purse strings; they had true purchasing power.

Although evictions due to rent arrears have always been a feature of Depression history, depicting entire families thrown onto the street with their meagre possessions, many landlords permitted their tenants to remain rent-free, sometimes through

compassion, more often so their houses would not be vandalised.

Surprisingly, many people interviewed said that through the Depression they found true meaning in their lives for the first time. Unemployed and thrown back on their resources, they started small businesses, some of which grew and prospered when things improved.

They entertained themselves and each other. For the first time in their lives they took part in political activity, battling for the dole and against evictions. These trends resulted in a higher level of political awareness that persisted in the nation, up to and through WW2.

Overwhelmingly, the most compelling impression that comes through this material is that poverty was no longer a sin; or a crime. Accepting charity was no longer shameful and unemployment benefits were a right, not a privilege. Although the statistics tell us otherwise, many believed that "everyone was in the same boat", and found real comfort in that assertion.

Tramping the country in search of work was not necessarily the last option for desperate unemployed men. Shearers and other bushworkers had followed this path for generations. Many found a level of freedom and fellowship in this life that provided many happy, if nostalgic memories. Nor did the "swaggies" necessarily regret their lot. Although small "cockie" farmers pitied these "poor homeless men" (which, of course these itinerants exploited for tucker hand-outs and casual work), the swaggies expressed compassion for the farmers, struggling with debt and drought, their lives tied to their unproductive holdings.

Again, there were many hardships suffered on the track, as in all other aspects of Depression life. But this book is a welcome antidote to the many grim, unrelenting accounts of these confusing, often bitter, years. It is, finally, a tribute to the capacity of ordinary people to rise above fear and hardship and "make the best of things". It is a tribute to the unyielding strength and vitality of the human spirit.

The Myth of the Great Depression: David Potts (Scribe).



People were eating much less fatty meat. Rabbits and fish are largely fat-free.

The Activist

And frail sparrow Jean Layers of mauve in her wild yard— tangles from here and there lovingly grown from cuttings.

"Nurseries are a capitalist plot yet another thing to make money from what we used to do ourselves."

She might have waited till she was an old lady to wear purple but she's always been a fighter, the tentative quaver of her voice belying the roar within.

"There were all those times when the 'important men' in Council would groan when we came in. 'Give her what she wants,' they'd say and they did, and often more."

Frail sparrow Jean Now concentrates her fury on clippings from the paper and a constant flow of letters on issues big and small, because she knows our bit of paradise in this country, in the world— must be vigilantly fought for and because that frail sparrow is an eagle in disguise.

KAREN THROSSELL



Tale of a wonderful elephant

By WENDY GRAHAM

There was a time when for tuppence you could ride on the back of an elephant at a zoo. Queenie was one such elephant.

Local writer Corinne Fenton (or some of you may know her as Corinne King), has been working away at her desk for the last 10 years, pursuing and achieving her dream of writing for children. She now has around 16 books published, some also printed in foreign languages.

Corinne also writes poetry, contributing to the *Diary*.

Corinne's picture book, "Queenie: One Elephant's Story", illustrated by award-winning artist Peter Gouldthorpe, is being released this month.

Evocative of a time gone by, it is the true story of Queenie the elephant, who, for almost 40 years, walked the circuit at the Melbourne Zoo, giving rides to up to 12 passengers at a time. In her lifetime Queenie walked over 100,000 miles (that's around 160,000 kilometres) and carried more than a million passengers.



Corinne King

"I came across the zoo's web page on Queenie four-and-a-half years ago," Corinne said. "I read it, I

cried, and from that moment I knew I had to write Queenie's story. It took a long time to get right because it is a story that tugs at the heartstrings. I kept thinking, how can I write this true account and make it a good story for children?"

Corinne explained that she solved this by telling Queenie's story from the heart, and not shying away from the emotional side. "Tears are part of life," she said. "I believe Queenie deserves to be remembered forever and not just in faded newspaper clippings."

During her research, Corinne met many wonderful people who had been connected with Queenie in some way and this was a journey in itself. One former Warrandyte resident, Estelle Western, remembered riding on Queenie's back in 1938. On that day, Queenie was "training" two smaller elephants, Betty and Peggy, who were following her around the circuit.

The book has been dedicated "to Queenie's memory, so that she can go on living for many more generations in the hearts of us all".

We are certain Corinne's wish will come true.



Shirley and Ted Rotherham

A fair achievement

For this month's profile, PRUDENCE TRUBY KING spoke to Shirley and Ted Rotherham, of Tills Drive, about their life together in Warrandyte. Ted, 82, met Shirley, 71, when they worked together at RMIT 50 years ago. They have a German Shepherd, Gretel.

SHIRLEY grew up in Brighton, in "a restricted, happy childhood, with holidays and camping," she said, "and I loved my dog. My dad always believed that if we had nothing to do then we'd get into trouble. He'd give me a list of jobs and when I'd finished, he'd give me something else to do. I often wished he'd give me a whole list so I could finish them and have some time to myself."

Shirley loved ballet, dancing until she was married, and used to ski. After completing a secretarial course at RMIT she worked there as a stenographer in the educational publishing section, copying illustrations from books onto films for classroom projection. A photography student, she joined the Melbourne Camera Club and met Ted when she was 22 and he was 34. "I was a cradle snatcher," Ted said.

Ted's father was an Anzac who died of war-related injuries when Ted was nine. He said his mother struggled through the depression years and he attended Melbourne High School before training as an industrial chemist.

"Then my country called and I served in New Guinea and Bougainville," he said. "When I returned to my job I decided to take up teaching. I was idealistic, teaching in country primary schools. I became interested in photography, particularly natural history—birds, beasts and butterflies." Ted taught photography at RMIT, illustrating many books, mainly of flowers and plants, and he's a fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and an associate of the Photographic Society of America. Copying pictures for Warrandyte primary school's centenary saw the beginning of the historical society where he was president for many

years, restoring two rooms in the old post office.

"But the highlight was when I got to know Shirley," he said. "I started taking her home in the car from the camera society and one thing led to another, not like it is today," he said. They both loved the outdoors, the bush and Ted was part of the Melbourne Walking Club.

The Rotherhams felt Warrandyte would be an ideal place to live. Introduced to Tills Drive by a friend, they bought a weatherboard house there on a few acres in 1959. "Shirley's passion for horses was part of the reason for buying such a large block," Ted said. "Their great big soulful eyes. I don't mind them—they're good for the garden. It's gently sloping land but I would have liked more trees. It was Les Tills' old house—he was the mine manager for the Cal- edonian mine.

"I got loads of stone from the old PLC college in Albert Street just for the cost of cartage and built an extension to the existing house and this is it," he said, looking around the large stone and timber house. "The slab was poured but I did all the framing and stonework and I got help with the roof. The architect who designed the house then died, the dirty dog, and we only had the drawings, no dimensions, and I had to work it out with books.

"Now to pick things up is one of the hardest things to do, this inability to shift weighty objects."

"That's why he's got a bad back now," said Shirley. "To build this house when he wasn't a builder I was really, really proud. Anything he goes into, he does fully. He's never satisfied. Shifting from here will be hard."

"Building the house, I reckon it was a fair achievement," said Ted. "I'd

village people

have liked to become an artist or painter. I do the shopping with Shirley. Since I've stopped driving, I'm very dependent on Shirley for transport. It's a real bind. I'm useless at the moment. My other failings—I like a dog. I talk to the dog and she talks back to you. I'm taciturn. I used to be ambitious but there are so many things that I want to do but I can't physically do them. I was keen on the garden but as I've got older the ground has got further away."

The Rotherhams have three children—Joanne, who lives in western Victoria with her family, Andrew, a surveyor near Yackandandah and Karen, a zookeeper in Perth. Ted said he was intensely proud of the family, the achievements of the kids. "We don't see family as often as I'd like."

Shirley said their children each have different personalities. "I'm really proud of them. We set the basics right at the start—if they didn't look after the horse, we'd sell it. They're all nice people. My genes, I'm not religious, will be passed down, who I am. My father and my mother carrying on.

"I like doing things, learning, meeting new people and helping in the community. Through the family I was in baby health, the school and secondary school, meals on wheels and Wyena Pony Club, where I'm a life member." She studied enamelling and jewellery making and she is also a qualified saddler.

"My brains and my hands weren't artistic but I'm pretty good with my hands. I love beautiful things—horses, the way they move. I can't ride but when the girls started riding I did a saddlery course at TAFE with an English master saddler as an excuse for me to be involved. I made two stock saddles, several sets of harness, a pack saddle. I just love working with leather." Shirley made new reins for the merry-go-round horses at Luna Park and for Melbourne Zoo and she's working on

leads for the German Shepherd club. "We're a DIY family—if you want a house you do it yourself and if you've got a horse you need gear so you do it yourself."

Ted described their log cabin near Omeo where Shirley plans to teach leatherwork at the local hospital. "It's three and a half acres that we've planted extensively with native trees. Emus, kangaroos, wombats and all the animals up the bush. Up in Omeo there's no TV and it's good to get away from that. Like lemmings, the world's going to overpopulate. They should introduce a program of limited reproduction worldwide like China. Aids is rampant.

"I'm a bit mellowed, I suppose. I don't like 'progress' but that's part of old age. Put quotes around 'progress'. It's very easy to become nostalgic about the good things in the past, but change is inevitable, you can't do anything. The Grand Hotel was a grand hotel with its verandah posts. I can't do anything. Having the road sealed was the most marvellous thing that'd happened in years. Shirley prefers the dirt road but the house was full of dust—she finds it hard to keep the house clean!"

Shirley described herself as "not a housekeeper. Ted feels useless so he's cooking: main meals, every day. Casseroles, he uses several recipe books." She dislikes people who transmogrify Warrandyte. "That place near the post office, I can't understand how it got there. They should bring it to the attention of the council, all this talk about keeping Warrandyte. I don't like bad drivers and Ted butting in when I'm on the phone. Not being able to walk. I've put on weight and it's impossible to lose."

And what brings them joy? "My grandchildren," said Ted, "Two boys and two girls. A bit of photography up the bush. The completion of a job. The success of any manual endeavours—there's also an awful lot of frustration if I can't do it. Appreciation of work by other people. Jo Laurence was such an outgoing per-

son, intensely interested in Warrandyte; artistic, willing to put herself out for the community and tremendously community oriented. And congratulations to Cliff Green at the *Diary* and the valuable service it is for the local community."

For Shirley it's sitting on the riverbank watching the river flow, the birds, the ducks. "It restores you. Pictures and diaries—it's so wonderful to relive what you've done, like our trip around Australia. In the 1962 fires mum was here, we had a new baby, three weeks old," she said. "I packed the baby's clothes, my wedding dress and other clothes. Now the wedding dress can burn but I'd save the photos. Watching people who can paint, play music, create in the arts world. Living here, but we'll have to shift."

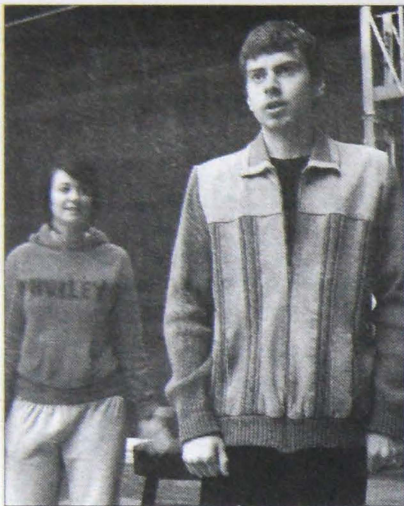
"Standing on top of a mountain, looking down. Our son's wedding was on Mt Pilot in north-eastern Victoria at sunrise. A didgeridoo resting on a rock, sound all around. Little birds in the forest, the sun came up, it was fantastic. When I hear music I feel like crying, it moves me."

Ted said they'd love to stay in the district, "the house is too big, but we can't go until Gretel dies. I'm looking forward to the retirement village, that's about it, and becoming computer literate—I'm starting a course. Getting rid of the collected bits gathered here. When Dad died I had to do what was needed. We were a thrift generation, always a hoarder out of necessity."

Turning points for Shirley were being married and having the children and coming to Warrandyte. They'd had three kids and they can now spoil the dog. "We have coffee down the street, especially on Saturdays, people stop and talk."

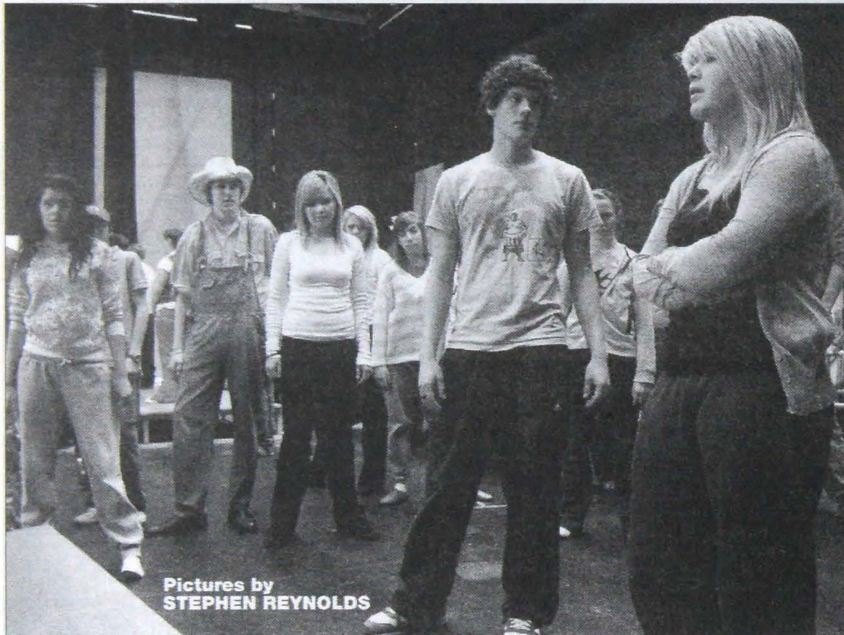
"Gretel and I visit a nursing home every six weeks and let the oldies pet the dogs. If I was living there I would love to touch a warm animal. People smile and walk up to her. She's my pride and joy at the moment."

"But she hates the dog getting away from her," said Ted.

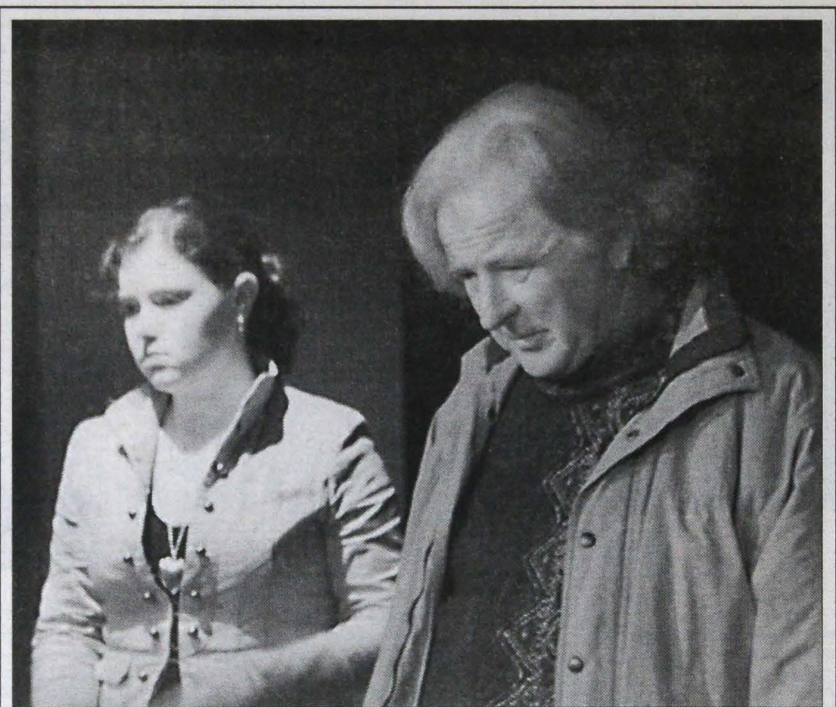


Footloose in the 1980s

Once more it's musical production time at Warrandyte High School. For many years, attractively presented and beautifully staged musicals in the school's splendid theatre have charmed local audiences. This year it's "Footloose", which is set in a small town in America in the 1980s. "The students are learning an incredible range of new singing and dancing skills," principal Glennis Pitches told the *Diary*. "The costumes are fabulous, with lots of taffeta, puffed sleeves and thin leather ties." The Warrandyte High School Theatre is in Alexander Road, Warrandyte. Opening night is Friday, September 1 and the season continues on Saturday, September 2, Wednesday 6, Thursday 7, Friday 8 and Saturday 9. All tickets are \$20 and bookings can be made on 9844 2749.



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS



Becca Posterino and Bill Connolly feature in WTC's production of Honour. (Picture by Deborah Silva)

To honour and obey

A story of marital betrayal and its consequences is the theme of "Honour" by Melbourne playwright Joanna Murray-Smith, to be presented by the Warrandyte Theatre Company in September.

"I was completely engaged by Joanna Murray-Smith's insightful dialogue," director Noeleen Cooper told the *Diary*. "It cleverly exposes the complexity of emotions experienced by the characters."

Honor and Gus, both writers, have what seems to be a good marriage. A comfortable, loving relationship of 32 years. Sophie is their 24 year-old daughter.

Claudia is a striking 28 year-old, ambi-

tious young journalist who has been chosen to interview Gus and is the catalyst for change for them all in their day-to-day lives and relationships.

"I was eager to bring 'Honour' to Warrandyte audiences, some of whom I know were unable to obtain tickets in 2004 due to its popularity," Ms Cooper said.

"Honour" is playing at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute for six nights only—Thursday, September 7, Friday 8, and Saturday 9; and Thursday 14, Friday 15 and Saturday 16. Tickets—\$18 and \$15 concession—can be booked with Joan Rogers at the Old Bakery Bookshop, 9844 1744.

Warrandyte High School's Annual
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To market to market

The Warrandyte Community Church is holding its first Annual Indoor Market on Saturday, September 9 from 5pm to 10pm. You are invited to join in an evening of fun, food and shopping. There will be a kid's zone with jumping castle, face painting etc., and plenty of food to eat. For more information or to make a donation contact Diana on 9844 1678. Stalls are available for \$25 plus 10 per cent of profit.

Mullum

The Mullum Mullum Festival is on again, opening on Sunday, September 3 at Yarran Dheran, and continuing through the following weekend. A special indigenous concert will be a feature of opening day, with walks in the morning and during the next weekend. Further information from 8974 2641 or www.vicnet.au/~mulfest/.

Wall

Help Warrandyte Uniting Church create their Peace Wall! The church is inviting everyone interested to a tile-making and painting workshop at the church in Taroon Avenue on Sunday, August 20 at 10.15am.

AGM

The annual general meeting of Information Warrandyte will be held on Wednesday, August 30 at 8pm in the Warrandyte Community Centre, 168 Yarra Street. Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm. All welcome.

Trivia

Reminder: Warrandyte High School's annual Trivia Night happens on Saturday, August 12 commencing at 7.15pm—at the Andersons Creek Primary School (note changed venue). Bookings on 9844 2749.

Seminar

The next Manningham City Council Environment Seminar will be held in the South Warrandyte Hall, Hall Road, South Warrandyte on Wednesday, September 6. Dylan Osler will discuss "Wetlands of the Yarra Catchment". The seminar is free, commencing at 7.30pm. No bookings required.

Neighbours

The Warrandyte Neighbourhood House will hold its annual general meeting and volunteers' and members' party on Friday, September 15 from 7.30pm in their rooms on the upper level of the Warrandyte Community Centre. All welcome.

Back-to

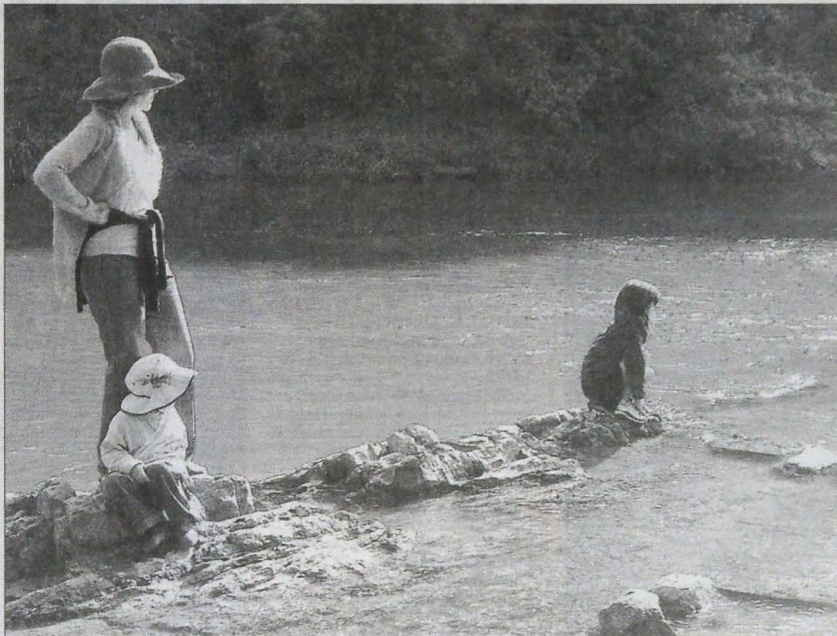
The Ringwood Horse and Pony Club is holding a reunion at Quambee Reserve, Wonga Road, North Ringwood on Sunday, September 10 commencing at 1pm. Former members are invited to meet old friends and current members and enjoy afternoon tea. A plate of afternoon tea would be welcome. Please let Marie know (9876 1943) if you can attend and pass this information on to anyone who might be interested.

Poetry

As part of Melbourne's annual poetry festival, Overload, the Courthouse Readings will take place at the Eltham Courthouse, 728 Main Road, Eltham on Thursday, August 17 commencing at 7.30pm. It will feature readings by Barry Dickens.

Talent

FreeZa is a government initiative designed to encourage the implementation of drug and alcohol-free youth events with a focus on youth participation between the ages of 12 and 25. Fusion, the Manningham division of FreeZa is running a talent quest. Young performers and artists are invited to enter. Call Ella on 9848 9544 or complete an online registration form on www.manningham.ymca.org.au under Youth Space. The quest



The Victorian National Parks Association will be holding a series of walks as part of the Great Australian Bushwalk Sunday on September 10, including a Yarra-side ramble at Warrandyte State Park. Leaders will be guiding groups of 15 to 30 people on walks suitable for beginners and all levels of fitness. Bookings are essential. Call 9347 5188 or register on www.greataustralianbushwalk.org.au. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

out of the box
By JUDY GREEN
Drop your news in the letterbox in the front door of our office at the Community Centre, email it to thedairy@vicnet.net.au, fax it 9844 4168, or post it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113 by the last Friday in the month.

will showcase acts in front of a live audience as well as a judging panel of industry professionals.

Green

An evening will be held at the Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre, Gastons Road, Eltham on Thursday, August 17 discussing the use of transport modes that produce less greenhouse gases and are more economical. It will run from 6.30pm to 9pm. Call 9457 9816 for further information.

Care

Wesley Do Care are seeking volunteers to help with older and disabled people. Please call 9762 5211.

Tell us

The *Diary* is your newspaper and we love to print news of your group's activities. Jot down all the details, including date, time, venue and contact number and drop it through our letter slot at the community centre, fax it to 9844 4168 or by post to PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.

COREY'S COMMUNITY By SYD & ONA



Artstreams

Artstreams Gallery, 63 Yarra Street, Warrandyte is holding a Nine x Five 111 exhibition of miniature works, commencing on Sunday, August 13, opening at 3pm.

Stonehouse

An exhibition of works entitled Critters—Wild and Woolly is currently showing at the Stonehouse Gallery, 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. It includes mythical creatures and humorous characters crafted by Jan O'Neil, Lydia Uhl and Diane Allen.

Paintings

An exhibition of recent landscape paintings of the Warrandyte and Kangaroo Ground area by Richard Scales will be held at The Riverlea Gallery, 485 Warrandyte-Ringwood Road, Warrandyte South (35/J6), from Sunday, August 24 to Sunday, September 24. Hours: Thursday to Sunday, 11am to 5pm (closed 10/9/06). Phone 9844 2150.

Ceramics

Ceramic artists from Melbourne eastern region have invited artists from around Australia to exhibit alongside them at the Manningham Gallery. The exhibition opened on August 2. Local potter Jane Annois is the guest curator and the exhibition includes the works of Warrandyte sculptor Deborah Halpern and emerging ceramicist Amy Kennedy.

artyfacts

Montsalvat

Students of the Montsalvat Art School recently travelled with their teacher, local artist David Moore, to capture the stunning landscapes of the Flinders Ranges. Fifty of these works, painted by 10 students, will be on show in the Long Gallery at Montsalvat from August 31. The gallery is open from 9am to 5pm daily.

Yering

Eighteen of the Nillumbik Open Studio artists are exhibiting at Yering Station, Melba Highway, Yering, until October 2. Works include paintings, photography, textiles and mosaic. *Diary* artists Sid Tunn and Ona Henderson will be participating.

Dunmoochin

Painter Frank Werther is staging an exhibition, "Dunmoochin comes to Montsalvat" in the Barn Gallery at Montsalvat, 7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham, until September 9.

Colour

Splash of Colour is the title of an exhibition by Judy De Gier and Carole McKeon showing at the Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham, commencing on Wednesday August 9.

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INTRODUCTION TO CRYSTALS If you feel drawn to crystals and want to know more, then this fun, sparkling and colourful workshop is for you. Saturday August 26, 2006, 1-4pm. \$50.00. Earth Harmony Shop and Well-Being Centre, 272 Yarra St, Warrandyte. Bookings essential: 9844 1555 info@earthharmony.com.au, www.earthharmony.com.au

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COPY CLOSES ON THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH



Jim Burbidge ... set to race in the National Nostalgia Drag Racing Titles.

Jim hopes to drag home a title

Long time Warrandyte resident, Jim Burbidge, is heading off to Queensland later this month to compete in the Australian Nostalgia Drag Racing Titles.

The titles will be held at the Willow Bank raceway, near Ipswich and will involve a wide range of vehicles that fit within the rules of nostalgia racing.

Burbidge will compete in events for Australian/American style sedans, utes and roadsters with a body cut-off date up to 1972.

Nostalgia style vehicles must hold an Australian Drag Racing Association technical and safety inspection pass and drivers must also have a full licence to compete.

Burbidge's car is a 1969 HT Holden Monaro which is maintained and race prepared in his workshop in Warrandyte.

He support crew includes crew chief, John Berry and Ian Burbidge, Adam Burbidge and Peter Smith.

Burbidge started in drag racing as a teenager but moved away from the sport as his family grew up.

But he is now back into drag racing and his hopeful the Holden Monaro he has driven for the past three years will lead him to a national title.

"It's an exciting sport ... it really gets the adrenalin rushing," Burbidge said.

Burbidge races his car about eight times a year and admitted there had been a few scary moments.

"That's all part of the sport and I suppose it's one of the reasons that makes you want to be involved," he said.

Burbidge's standard style Monaro is powered down the quarter mile track at speeds of up to 135mph in around 9.5 seconds by a big block Chevy engine, creating 700hp.

The 475 cubic inch engine is mechanically fuel injected with 12 litres of methanol race fuel.

For the true believers in drag racing, the engine has high performance aluminium heads which are filled with titanium valve triple valve springs, roller rockers and supported by a skid girdle.

According to Burbidge, this "locks things in nice

and tight."

A race-prepared two speed powerglide transmission backs up a high stall torque converter and a four inch tail shaft transfers the power to a nine inch braced differential, fitted with 4.87 race gears.

Burbidge said the whole package was tied together with a 12-point roll cage and chassis connectors.

Wheels and tyres are light weight drag racing items and are suspended by coil-over shock absorbers.

Burbidge said his chance to compete at the prestigious national titles was made possible by local companies that had provided sponsorship. These include Warrandyte Electrics, Jonco Services, PRS Chassis (Peter Smith) and Yarra Valley Prestige Car Care (Glyn Lowther).

Burbidge said that Milestone Chemicals, River Esque, Water Treatment Victoria, Lobosco's Restaurant, Penguin Dry Cleaners, Honey Health, Goji Juices, Warrandyte Auto Electrics, Warrandyte Newsagency and Possum Hollow Natural Health had also provided sponsorship.

Bence returns to lead tennis club

Neil Dusting retired from the presidency of the Warrandyte Tennis Club at the annual general meeting held last month.

He handed over the reins to Mark Bence who had served as president for a number of years before Dusting took on the position in 2004.

Mark will now lead the club into the first year of its second century. Celebrations for the centenary season will start in March, 2007 and continue through the year.

A presentation was made to Neil in appreciation of his large contribution to the club over many years.

He has retired from the committee to pursue other interests but will continue to be actively involved.

Karen Sproat and Neil Sproat were re-elected as secretary and treasurer respectively.

Get set for a smashing time

Warrandyte Tennis Club's successful Supersmashers program is on a again this year.

Club junior convenor, Michelle Gilling, said applications forms were now available and could be collected from the club rooms.

"The Supersmashers program, has been an enormous success as it has provided 50 children aged between six and 12 years, not yet playing competition, with an invaluable introduction to the game," she said.

The club organises a number of coaches and assistants to co-ordinate the program.

Michelle said the increased number of children now playing junior tennis could be attributed to Supersmashers.

Tennis juniors are served up in record numbers

TIM COLMAN talks to a dedicated club member trying to cope with a massive increase in junior tennis players at Warrandyte.

As Warrandyte Tennis club moves ever closer to its centenary next year, it appears as though it will enter the new era with more junior players involved in competition teams and social tennis than ever before.

Junior membership numbers have increased in recent years, culminating in a record number of team entries.

More than 120 junior players are involved in competition tennis as well as approximately 50 players involved in the club's Supersmashers program. And junior convenor Michelle Gilling says that the growth in player numbers keeps her very busy.

"It definitely is worth about one day a week in organising and making phone calls just to make sure that we have teams entered and that the kids know when and where they need to go and play", Michelle said.

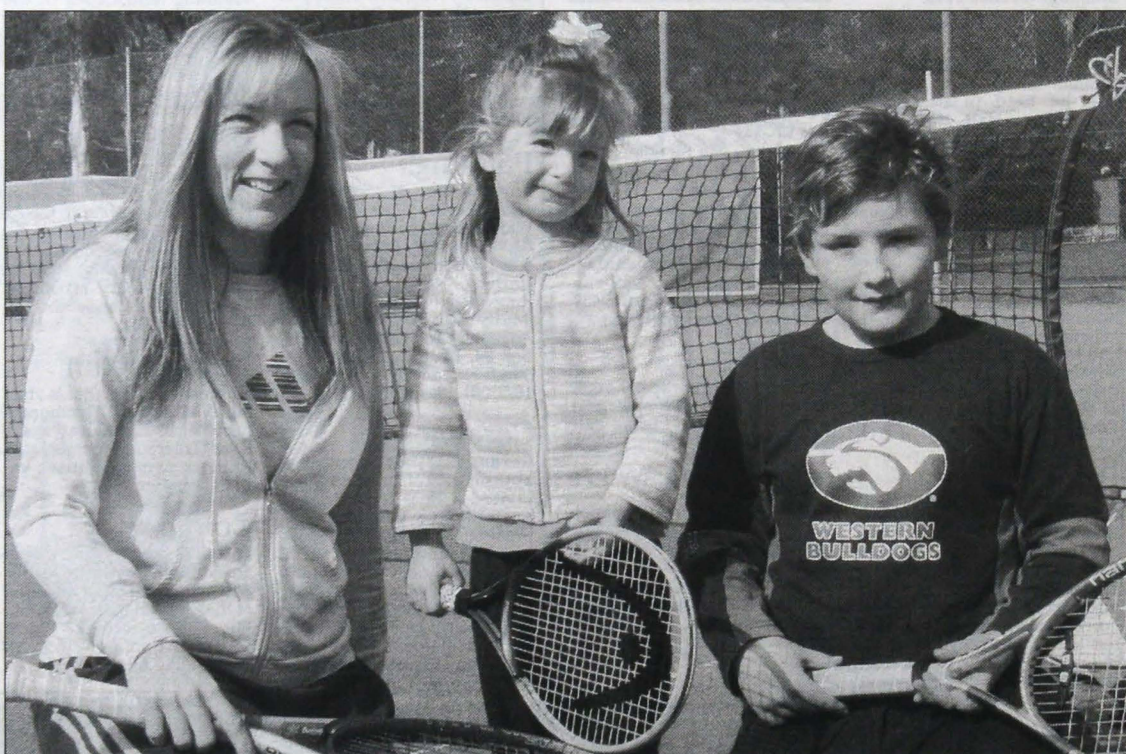
"When I work on three other days and have got to look after my own kids, it certainly keeps me busy".

This season the juniors will use both Warrandyte and South Warrandyte courts and play on both days of the weekend.

But Michelle's association with the club is far deeper than just as its junior convenor.

She has played tennis for much of her life and has been a member of Warrandyte Tennis Club since 1993 when she moved to the area.

In that time Michelle has won seven club championships from seven attempts and is the current club cham-



Warrandyte Tennis Club junior co-ordinator, Michelle Gilling with her two children, Kimberley and Matthew.

pion. But with a young family of future tennis players, much of Michelle's playing time is committed to teaching her children the game she loves.

"I've got two children, Matthew and Kimberley. Matthew is 10 and has just started his first year of competition tennis and Kimberley is still too young to play competition but loves to have a hit with us", she said.

Michelle's commitment to her job as junior convenor has seen many new junior players join the club and with so much activity and so many programs available to younger players it is not surprising that this season is one of the busiest in the club's history.

But perhaps the best initiative that Michelle's six years

as junior convenor has provided is the Supersmashers program.

This year is the third year of Supersmashers and is aimed at children that aren't playing competition tennis and are aged between six and 12.

The program is based on the highly successful Auskick program for junior footballers and focuses on all aspects of the game, including fitness and coordination as well as tennis coaching.

"The kids love it. They come down on a Sunday morning and my husband Paul takes them in warm-ups and a bit of fitness and then they split up and get some coaching and play some games," she said.

"We have a big party on the

last day and the kids get a racket, a bag, a T-shirt, stickers ... heaps of stuff. Jason Stoltenberg has come and played in an exhibition match for us. It's a really big day".

The program was so popular that last year registration had to be limited to 50. "Demand is pretty high for it and it is starting again soon so I'm sure it will fill up again. I'd love to get as many kids involved as possible but with only five courts at Warrandyte we do have to stop somewhere."

Along with the Supersmashers program Michelle is also a part of organising and entering teams into various weekend junior competitions and with this season having a record number of teams and players,

Michelle is kept on her toes at all times.

"I made about 30 phone calls one night last week, just trying to organise all the teams for the new season. But I enjoy it".

With preliminary plans for the tennis club's centenary celebrations next year already under way, and with junior membership and participation at a record high, there is no question that Michelle's commitment to her job, and initiatives such as Supersmashers are bringing a lot of children to tennis.

And while Australian professional tennis may be struggling with results at the moment, the future looks bright as many junior clubs across Melbourne continue to thrive with record numbers.

Basketball

Venom have nine chances for pennants

By TONY OLIVER

With three rounds to go in the Friday Night Junior Championship Basketball competition, Warrandyte Venom appear to have nine teams likely to be in finals action with two still with outside chances.

Venom's Under 14 Metro 1 girls are two games clear and with a healthy percentage, are assured of the minor premiership.

Justin Nelson's girls put on a convincing 59-23 win over the visiting Coburg at the Park Orchards stadium.

Venom were never challenged with Meg Dagan leading the scoring with 19 points, followed by Amber Saunders with 14.

Also assured of top billing is the Under 12 Metro 3 girls who had a regulation away win over Cranbourne by 37-12. One more win in the next three will guarantee the minor premiership.

The race is tight in the Under 18 Metro 4 girls competition. The Venom have two sides in the grade with the higher side sitting in second place.

The Venom hosted fourth placed Cranbourne last Friday at Park Orchards and came away with a bruising 36-25 win.

Warrandyte appeared always in control but could not shake the determined Cranbourne side.

The visitors were struggling with only five players and no substitutions.

Warrandyte took advantage when a Cranbourne forward was off the court with an injury for some minutes in the second half.

The Venom were not without their injury problems when Madeleine Prior left the court with an ankle injury.

In the final analysis, Warrandyte Venom had more depth and avenues to the basket. Siobhan Power with 10 points with Sarah Clough, Brittany McGinley and Kaitlin Little with six points each led the scoring.

In the following game, the second Venom side, sitting in fifth place took on sixth



Under 14 Metro 1 girls. Time out and Justin Nelson explains exactly what he wants.

placed Darebin.

While the Venom tried hard all night, Darebin always had the answers to record a 32-24 win and take Venom's place in the five.

This is the second recent loss for Venom against lower ranked teams, following a surprise 36-30 loss against eighth placed Hampton Park the previous week.

Jordan Rule led the scoring for Venom with 10, assisted by Simone Schumann with seven and Casey Hall with five.

The Venom will need to regroup and return to a level of desperation and commitment they showed earlier in the season.

Key results did not go the

Venom's way for the boys.

The Under 18 Metro 3 boys travelled to Cranbourne to record a 48-36 loss against the fifth place side.

With Knox winning, this will drop Warrandyte to fourth place, no danger of missing the finals but possibly costing them a place in the top three, which would have given them a second chance in the finals season.

Warrandyte were always competitive but a burst of scoring (12-2) in a brief period in the second half to Cranbourne gave the home side the victory.

Warrandyte's second Under 18 side appears safe in the finals for Eastern Qualifying competition with a tight 42-36 win over Eltham.

Eltham were fifth, and the game opened very defensively at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre with little scoring in the first five minutes after an early goal to Venom's Julian Byrne and one point from the free throw line to Eltham's Jarrod Cugley.

Eltham held a slight three point advantage at the break.

Warrandyte were able to improve their shooting percentage in the second half to take the match. James Edwards led the scoring with 23, supported by Julian Byrne with eight and Jesse Radisich with seven.

Coach Paul Whittingham was happy after the game and although some work still needs to be done, a finals birth looks assured.

Damian Arsenis's Under 12 Metro 1 boys, which are assured a finals place, travelled to Cranbourne who were on equal points with the Venom and a win was vital for a top three finish.

The scores were locked at the break at 12-all, after Warrandyte scored two late three point shots.

The second half was a more entertaining game with the Venom running out 34-24 winners when the goal shots finally fell. Warrandyte now sneak into second spot but will need to keep winning to hold on to this position.



Redbacks Under 13 girls team: back row from left, Sharon Bensch, Casey Taylor, Kelli Taylor, Alexandra Birch, Amber Saunders, Sophie Richardson. Front: Hannah Davis, Claire Brown, Shelby Greenlaw, Hannah Bensch.

Redbacks in form as finals approach

By TONY OLIVER

High quality basketball was on show at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre as the finals are fast approaching for the EDJBA.

The Warrandyte Redbacks Under 17 boys, lying fourth in A grade took on an Eltham side in a danger game. Eltham were lying sixth with an outside chance of making the finals.

Warrandyte were weakened by the withdrawal of David Wood and Matthew Spinoza.

The game started briskly for the Redbacks with Anthony Spinoza, Matthew Clough and Clayton Pearce scoring before Eltham were on the board.

The game was effectively over at half time when Warrandyte went on a scoring blitz to lead 29-9. Josh Blakey was devastating in the key taking a number of strong rebounds and using his jump shot to good effect.

Eltham outscored Warrandyte in the second half as the Redbacks eased the pressure.

Final scores were Warrandyte 47 to Eltham 34.

Anthony Spinoza finished the game with 12 points, ably assisted by Clayton Pearce with 11, Josh Blakey with nine and Matthew Clough with seven.

The following game featured Warrandyte's Under 17 girls up against ladder leaders Koonung in another A grade game.

The Redback girls were in the game, trailing by three points at the break and were able to gain the lead, scoring the opening baskets of the second half.

Koonung steadied and were able to apply pressure when it mattered and ran away with the game at the end by 41-26. The score did not do justice to Warrandyte who have stepped up a grade to be highly competitive in A grade.

Fiona Rennie, in another strong game, finished with 11 followed by Kara Hibbert with eight.

Warrandyte were well served by Kara Hibbert and Kara Lucas with strength under the basket.

Earlier in the day, both Redback Under 13 teams suffered defeats.

Ryan Holloway's Under 13 A grade boys opened brightly against the visiting Nunawading but Nunawading's class soon stood out and they recorded a comfortable 54-18 win.

Warrandyte continued to press through the game and did have superior height under the basket. Nunawading, however, were able to put pressure at all stages of the game.

Scorers for the Redbacks were Sam Tansley with eight, TJ Law with six and Sam Holston with four.

In a top of the table clash in A2 in the girls, Warrandyte went down narrowly to ladder leaders Bulleen by 18-16.

Bulleen were always slightly in front in a low scoring game. The visitors held a 9-8 lead at the break which was extended to six points mid way through the second half.

Amber Saunders scored from a base line drive but Bulleen were soon able to answer easily.

Hannah Bensch gave Warrandyte another glimpse of a possible win after a defensive turn over to the Redbacks.

The scene was set for an exciting finish when Alex Birch scored in the last 30 seconds to narrow the gap to two points.

A late shot from Warrandyte was not successful and Bulleen held on for a two point win.

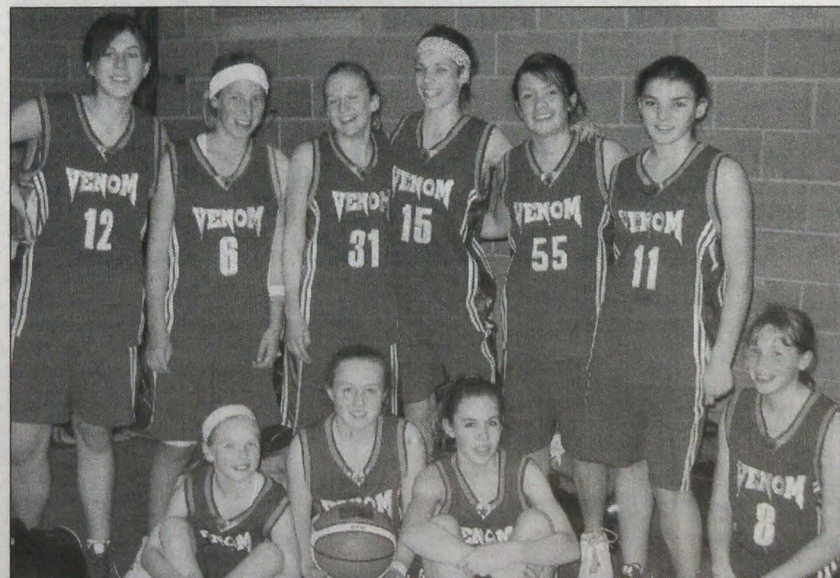
Low conversion percentage cost the Redbacks dearly but the game highlighted the evenness of the competition at this level.

Warrandyte will retain their position in the top four and will need to build quickly from this loss.

In a sign for the future, David Gibson's Under 9 boys had a strong 27-13 win over an Eltham side to take Eltham's place in the top four.

"They have all lifted since the Melbourne Tigers Tournament in June" David Gibson said after the game.

Scoring for the Redback boys was shared around with Mark Stevenson with seven, Nick Parker with six and Ben Robson with five.



Venom's Under 14 Metro 1 girls' team. Back row from left, Victoria Bacclas, Aly Birch, Ellesha Gavan, Ashlee Brobbel, Zanetta Hosking, Sophie Richardson. Front: Amber Saunders, Meg Dagan, Jemma Iacono, Caitlin Hallett.

Hat-trick for motor cycle ace

Warrandyte's Cameron Donald's amazing motor bike season continues with a dominant hat-trick at the Kells Road Races in Ireland.

In warm conditions, the 27-year old opened his account with victory in the 600cc race aboard the Wilson & Craig Honda and followed this up with two convincing wins in the Open and Grand Final events on the Robinson Concrete Honda Fireblade.

To cap a perfect day, he also raised the lap record to a new high of almost 112mph.

"I was on an absolute mission this weekend and I was really determined from the beginning.

"I was really looking forward to the meeting so I tried hard each and every lap and I really enjoyed the circuit," said Donald.

"It has a good, consistent surface and it's one of the best circuits we've been to this year.

"We all put in a lot of effort this weekend so it was awesome to get the hat-trick, especially on the Wilson and Craig machine as it's been a while since we won a 600cc race."

Warrandyte junior football

Finals to highlight a successful season

Warrandyte Junior Football Club could have six of its seven competitive teams lining up for finals action.

"It has been an excellent season for the club both on and off the field and to have so many teams in the finals is a great achievement," said club secretary Phil Ashfield.

"I would like to pay tribute to the many volunteers that make it possible. On behalf of our hardworking committee, I would like to say a special thanks to our wonderful coaches, assistant coaches and team managers who put in countless hours every week.

"Thanks must also go to all the parents. Not only do they do a wonderful job running the kids to where they need to be for training and games, we could not run a game of football without their help."

TACKERS

After Round 12, Warrandyte coach David McMennemin said the team was on a roll and it had been a long time since the opposition had the better of the Tackers.

"Players like Joshua Rowarth and Conor Lucas have taken their games to new levels," he said.

The Lee Tindale Medal for the round went to captain Kyal Norris while Brodie Powell and Joel Bumpstead celebrated their first goals for season.

A close encounter against St Damien's in Round 13 saw two Lee Tindale Medals handed to Kiama Harris-Allen and Lachlan Wintle.

"Kiama is one of the smaller boys but he plays the game as big as anyone," said McMennemin.

"Lachlan is a good player and his endurance to run for four quarters is inspirational."

Joshua Costin kicked two goals to bring his season's tally to six.

Round 14 saw a home clash against Park Orchards and in wet conditions Jake Tucker, Dylan Kranjc and Kyle McMennemin all worked hard.

In the Round 15 match against Bundoora, Cameron Caffin and Connor Joy both won the Tindale Medals.

"Cam played a solid four quarter game and Connor played one of his best games for the season," McMennemin said.

UNDER 10s

Round 13 saw the Under 10s defeat Banyule in a game where the ball rarely got to the Warrandyte fullback.

Coach Peter Stafford said the best players were Sheldon Schuyler, Brandon Stafford and Reece McKenzie.

A two point loss to Park Orchards Sharks in Round 14 led Stafford to say that Warrandyte were beaten by the conditions.

Tim Willis and Alex Coues won awards, however all players did well in difficult conditions.

Following a draw against Kew in Round 15 the awards were won by Jacob Benn and Liam Dane who Stafford said were both providing a great contribution to the team.

UNDER 11s

Following a nine point victory against Glen Iris in Round 12, coach Shane Newman said the continuous improvement of the boys was a source of pride for everyone at the club.

Ben McMellan won the Tindale Medal with Darcy Lang and Josh James also receiving awards.

An away game loss to Bulleen-Templestowe in Round 13 saw Kyle Newman receive the Tindale Medal and Talon Stroot the Bistro award in his first game.

After a solid win against St Mary's in Round 14, Newman said that to see the players take responsibility for our structures and assist each other was fantastic and a sign of maturity beyond their years.

"We've gone from being almost uncompetitive early this season to winning two of our past three games," Newman said.

Jake Wintle and Daniel Mifsud received the Tindale Medal for inspirational performances and Brayden Mifsud and Lloyd Grounds also received awards.

A run of injuries in the Warrandyte



Tim Baker flies for a centre ruck clash for Warrandyte's Under 12 team.

camp assisted Fitzroy to a win over the Bloods in Round 15.

"Good opposition make you pay for bad decisions," Newman said.

Campbell Prior received the Tindale Medal and Joe Hardy the Bistro award.

UNDER 12s

A sluggish start led to a solid defeat of an undermanned, but valiant, Canterbury in Round 12.

Daniel Krajnc won the Tindale Medal and Zac Galbally, Tim Nilsson, Ryan Exon and Jayden Clay were singled out for special mention.

A 49 point defeat of Hawthorn Citizens next round was described as a committed and disciplined performance. In a strong team effort the Tindale Medal went to Kurtis Law and Tim Nilsson and the Bistro award to Jacob Harris.

A loss to Ivanhoe by the smallest possible margin in Round 14 was still a pleasing result because of the team's endeavour.

Among the best were Maddison Denholm, Jack Power, Kyle Robertson and Sam Holston.

On a day where the 12s were undermanned, a skilled St Mary's had a resounding Round 15 victory over the Bloods. Best players included Jacob Ballard, James Munks and Andrew Woodard.

UNDER 13s

On a cold and wet Sunday the Bloods handed Ivanhoe a 22 point defeat on a muddy Warrandyte Reserve.

"The forwards worked hard in the heavy conditions while the backline sometimes turned to icebergs due to the lack of action," coach Steve Blakey said. "Every goal was precious and it was a great team effort."

Timothy Law received the Bistro award, Sam Tansley the Tindale Medal James Kalinchev the Pizza Award.

A strong six goal win against Park Orchards allowed Blakey to call it "a strong marking, fast running contest with great team work, aided by some dynamic work by Adrian Mifsud, Michael Ashfield and Keiran Sproule-Carroll".

The Tindale Medal went to Sam Beasley for his strong work around the ground, great marking and effective kicking.

In a 35 point win against the similarly outfitted Preston, Blakey said the boys should be praised for their tenacity in attacking the ball under trying circumstances, which saw the game degenerate into a slippery mud-fest.

The Tindale Medal went to Johnny Dobbie with Adrian Mifsud winning the Bistro award.

The U13s machine kept rolling with a 13 point win against Kew at Victoria Park in Round 15.

"Both teams came out firing in the first quarter with free flowing passages of play, great marking and excellent teamwork," Blakey said.

"We lost some momentum later in the game but the boys came out firing in the last quarter to punish Kew."

UNDER 14s

Round 13 saw Warrandyte face the talented Bulleen-Templestowe but Jordan Beltramin, Lachlan Chapman Andrew Reddie and Josh Harris marked everything in sight, coach Chris Appleby said.

"Great defensive work by Pat Heffernan, Jake Van der Zant, Jake McKee and Jack Beriman minimised the opposition opportunities", he added.

Against the second placed East Malvern, Warrandyte suffered a 10 goal loss after conceding a 11-1-67 to 1-1-7 first quarter.

"Apart from the first quarter, we pushed them hard all the way and with Charles Johnstone and Lachlan Moyes on top of their opponents, we drew the remainder of the game.

"Despite the scoreboard difference the boys never gave up and great performances from Michael Steenhuis, Sam Turner, Jake Miller, Tobi Versteegen and Alexi Sabo were impressive.

"We look forward to our finals encounter with East Malvern when we have a full team," Appleby said.

An eight point win over Balwyn in Round 15 saw a contest where Warrandyte dominated the first half, then saw Balwyn come out with all guns blazing.

"It was a great effort by Balwyn, but a greater effort by our guys to arrest the momentum and turn the game around.

"Jake Miller was at his absolute best, Jake Van der Zant collected possessions across the back and Kyle Pianta, Nathan Chapman, Jake McKee and Ethan Hale Vaughan all delivered the ball into the 50 metre arc".

UNDER 15s

Round 13 saw the Bloods play Hawthorn Citizens away in a 52 point loss.

"We kicked with a four goal wind in the first quarter but could only manage one goal," said coach Jason Bowen.

"Sam Casey and Charlie Grounds worked hard but they were outnumbered," he added.

Sean Mason's four quarter effort earned him the Bistro Award and David Beasley won the Tindale Medal for four quarters of solid defence

under constant pressure.

The match against Richmond was a second versus fourth battle in which the second placed Bloods came out with a 44 point victory.

"Richmond had only lost one game since dropping from Section 2, so it was great to see our boys come out with a strong attitude combined with great discipline to record a great win", Bowen said.

"Sean Mason and David Beasley were again outstanding, as was Duane Cox's leadership of a near impassable defence. Nathan Down, Caleb Atkinson, Tristan Valentino and Tyler Arnold were great up forward."

Nathan Down was awarded the Pizza award, Joel Amesbury the Bistro award and the Tindale Medal went to Andrew Bird.

A disappointing loss against St Mary's in Round 15 caused Bowen to lament: "When we were missing seven players and could only field a team of 17, you can understand how 10th beats first."

Duane Cox, Mathew Falkingham and Julian Phillipou all played hard and special mention to Nathan Down who played with a perforated eardrum".

COLTS

A 22 point Round 13 victory over Doncaster Heights cemented the Colts position in the top four.

"We maintained pressure all day with Narayan Tobin, and Nick Crosbie dangerous up forward," said coach Clem Mifsud.

"It was a good team effort with some standout performances by Tyson Fitzgerald, Brayden Pettigrove, Alex Beltramin and Ben Everard."

Round 14 saw a 74 point win against bottom of the ladder Camberwell where Warrandyte played some of the best footy of the season.

Luke Miller and Luke Saunders kicked a number of goals and there was no shortage of great performances, notably from Pat Eddy, Tim Hookey, Pat Nichol, Jack Wright and great tagging from Zac Boyce.

A loss against Ashburton in Round 15 by eight points was not what Mifsud had wanted.

"There were heaps of missed opportunities and we tended to forget to shepherd our team mates. We lost but hopefully the boys realise that they just don't have to turn up to win," Mifsud said.

"Pat Nichol, Tim Hookey, Tom Fitzpatrick and Michael Whittle were good contributors, but there were few others prepared to get the ball."



Alex Beltramin celebrates 150 games.

Alex reaches 150 game milestone

Alex Beltramin became only the fifth player to reach the 150 game milestone for the Warrandyte Junior Football Club.

Alex is in his 10th season with the WJFC and has two premierships medals, one with the Under 11s in 1999 and another with the Colts in 2005.

He has been twice awarded the Best and Fairest and has also been runner up twice.

He also spent two years in the Eastern Ranges Development Squad and was in the YJFL representative team.

Alex said some of his best memories would be of playing all his junior football with Warrandyte over the 10 years and the many terrific friends and team mates he had played with.



Tom Appleby hunts the loose ball while supported by Josh Harris and Jake Van der Zant in a recent Under 14 match.

Tough road to premiership but ...

Bloods confirm a finals berth

By JAMES LOGAN
& JOSH BEVIS

Warrandyte are locked into the Eastern Football League Fourth Division top four with two games to go and a three and a half game buffer.

But the Bloods will have to win the premiership from either third or fourth position after letting a 42 point lead evaporate into a draw with Forest Hill earlier last month and losing to top side The Basin.

Easy wins over Kilsyth and Ferntree Gully assisted with percentage but gave a false impression of the team's ability under pressure.

"The whole team will have to step up a notch or two if we are to go anywhere in the finals," said coach Peter Green after last week's game.

Star forward Michael Morello has been rested due to a persistent knee injury, but this has not been a major factor in the two poor performances.

In Saturday's game at The Basin, the home side had a dream start with three quick goals before Warrandyte had hardly had a possession.

The Bears moved the ball very quickly and Warrandyte just couldn't keep up.

Rod Mitchell starred in the first quarter providing a massive target for the Bears and was fed well by his team mates. He kicked four in the first quarter and six goals for the game.

The Bloods struggled through the rest of the quarter without scoring.

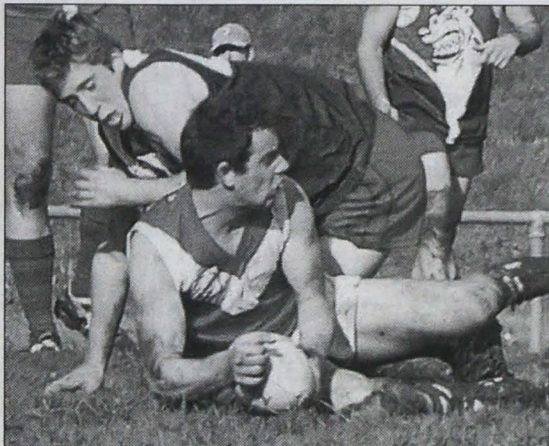
Warrandyte had to do a lot of work to get back into the game and no-one worked harder than Todd Holman who was getting to every contest and trying to put a stop to the Bears' run.

Warrandyte looked a lot better in the second quarter and matched The Basin around the ground and pegged back the score.

Lee Evans took an inspiring grab over three opponents which showed that the Blood's confidence had lifted a notch.

The third quarter started scrappily with neither team able to break away.

At long last the Bears sprang



Andrew Gordon gets a handpass clear despite pressure from his opponents at The Basin on Saturday.

to life and kicked two quick goals but although looking to be in charge, the Bloods recovered to reply with two goals of their own before three quarter time.

The Basin had control of the game and as the final quarter opened it seemed that the Bears wanted to play defensively, slowing down the game and chipping the football around.

Finally Warrandyte broke the pressure and kicked a goal but this was to be the last show for the Bloods as The Basin ran over the top of them for the last seven minutes of the game to win by 53 points.

Warrandyte 5.7-37 lost to The Basin 13.10-88

Goals: L. Ebzery 2, M. Wood, L. Evans, G. McAdam
Best: T. Holman, D. Mullett, Treloar, C. Quinlan, G. McAdam, C. Dick, A. Gordon

● **Round 15:** Warrandyte dominated the entire game and managed to come away with a handy win over a flat Kilsyth outfit.

The first quarter started out as a tight, congested battle between the teams but this was quickly broken open by the swift running of the Warrandyte midfield.

It seemed that Kilsyth were just watching The Bloods run

straight through the lines and burst the quarter open.

Lee Evans played a big part in Warrandyte's dominance and was the story of the day up forward, kicking three goals in the first quarter and four for the day.

Kilsyth looked flat and fatigued and had some terrible disposals which were picked off by Warrandyte.

Kilsyth started a charge early in the third quarter but once again Warrandyte replied solidly with four steady goals.

Now that the Bloods knew they had the game in the bag the game got very scrappy. The disposals were poor from both sides and the game slowed right down.

Warrandyte 14.14.98 def. Kilsyth 7.6.48

Goals: L. Evans 4, C. Holland 3, G. McAdam 2, J. Logan, B. Reid, M. Wood, L. Ebzery, T. Holman

Best: L. Evans, T. Naughtin, T. Holman, B. Reid, C. Holland, C. Dick

● **Round 14:** The game looked over early with an impressive seven goals to nil first quarter by the Bloods, but Forest Hill battled hard for the rest of the game and ended up reeling in a 42-point deficit to come away with the draw.

It was a disappointing result

for Warrandyte. Tommy Naughtin was under every pack, first to the ball all day, and Ben Reid and Grant McAdam showed good early form, kicking two each.

The Zebras came out fired up and defiant after the break, and won most of the 50/50 contests around the ground cutting the Bloods defence up.

By half time Forest Hill had turned the game around, having 11 scoring shots in the quarter to the Bloods' three.

Warrandyte dominated the third quarter on the scoreboard but it was always going to be tough to hold off the Zebras in the last term, as they were kicking to the scoring end with the aid of a four goal breeze, and the Bloods had key forward Michael Morello sidelined with a knee injury. The Zebras ran out of their huddle with a mission and started perfectly with two quick goals.

The Bloods tried their best to hold off Forest Hill but they just kept on coming. The Zebras booted the next three goals and suddenly the scores were even with 30 seconds to go. The desperation of both teams was on show, just trying to get that one score on the board. The scores remained even, and a frustrating draw was the result.

Warrandyte 12.10.82 drew with Forest Hill 11.16.82

Goals: P. Green 2, B. Reid 2, M. Morello 2, G. McAdam 2, C. Holland, J. Logan, R. Templeton, A. Davey
Best: M. Treeby, A. Davey, M. Wood, D. Mullett, Treloar, C. Holland, T. Holman

● **Round 13:** Solid rain for the 24 hours preceding Warrandyte's Round 13 clash against Ferntree Gully had taken its toll on the oval. After the Colts and Reserves had finished their games, the state of the ground resembled that of the 1980s.

Wet and boggy conditions are a great leveller and Gully were a realistic chance of causing an upset.

In front of a small crowd, it was clear from the outset the ball would spend a lot of time on the deck and constant rain made overhead marking difficult.

The Eagles had more of the play in the opening quarter hacking the ball forward at all costs. Warrandyte slowly adjusted to the conditions and managed the first major of the game nearing quarter time.

When play resumed, Ferntree Gully again had more of the ball, which by now was like soap, and after several rushed shots on goal managed to kick truly after a dubious free kick.

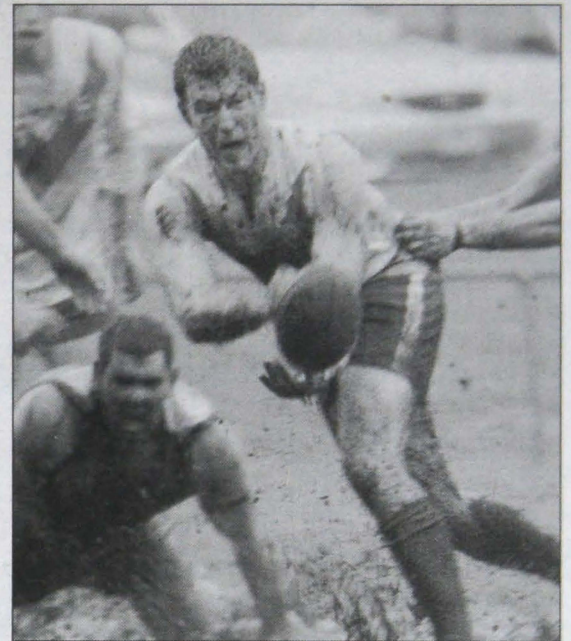
A frustrated Warrandyte increased their work rate and attack at the ball which resulted in two goals from the boot of Naughtin and Green. Another doubtful free kick in Gully's forward line right on half time was not converted and the Bloods led 23 to 14.

The third term saw a more determined Warrandyte side ease away from Ferntree Gully kicking 2.3 to no score with Lee Evans and Grant McAdam handling the sodden ball well across half forward.

The lead stretched to 40 points by the final siren, Morello and Holland helping Warrandyte score 2.5 to one point in the last quarter. **Warrandyte 7.13.55 def. Ferntree Gully 1.9.15**

Goals: M. Morello 2, P. Green, C. Holland, J. Eyre, T. Naughtin, L. Evans

Best: D. Mullett, Treloar, L. Evans, A. Davey, M. Wood, B. Reid, P. Green



Rain and mud marred Warrandyte's match at home against Ferntree Gully but the Bloods' Josh Eyre was able to get this handball to a team mate despite the conditions and despite pressure from his opponents.

Reserves blow top four chance

Warrandyte Reserves appear to have let a finals berth slip with three narrow losses in a row and it will now take a minor miracle to get back into the four.

They are in fifth position on the ladder, one game behind fourth, and will need to win the remaining two games and rely on Surrey Park going down to Whitehorse Pioneers in the last game of the season.

It was a gut wrenching loss to top side The Basin on Saturday in a low scoring game that went right down to the wire.

Leigh Giampetro dominated across the half-back line, and the heavy conditions suited the pace of Ryan Parker who assisted in defence and Patrick Hernandez who was solid as a rock at full back. It was a battle of the backlines, and each team had only scored one goal at three quarter time.

The Bloods were in front after an amazing snap from Jimmy Riddell in the last five minutes of the game and there were many other opportunities to score a major in the last few minutes, but each time The Basin were able to clear the ball.

The Bears finally took it up into their forward line and with a kick off the ground the ball landed in the mud on the goal line and was rushed through by Jamie Ellis, but was awarded a goal after some discussion between the young goal umpire from The Basin and the central umpire.

"We lost the game rather than The Basin winning it. Our decision-making let us down and we made some crucial mistakes which you can't afford in such a low scoring game," said a disappointed coach David Young.

"Hopefully the players will learn from their mistakes and come back better and more experienced next season."

Warrandyte 2.8-20 lost to The Basin 2.12-24

Goals: J. Riddell, A. Eyre
Best: L. Giampetro, R. Parker, P. Hernandez, A. Eyre, B. Opteynde, R. Bourke

● In Round 15 against Kilsyth, Geoff Zach was knocked out early on in the game and wanted to keep playing despite not knowing what day of the week it was.

In the end, losing Zach and Aren Jenkins (groin) early on hurt Warrandyte's chances as it limited the team's options across the ground and forced the on-ballers to spend large amounts of time chasing the ball.

This, along with a couple of

minutes of third quarter madness from Warrandyte's defenders, meant the Bloods were always playing catch-up.

Warrandyte 11.6.72 lost to Kilsyth 12.12.84

Goals: C. Haskings 3, R. Pidgeon 2, J. McKellar 2, J. Riddell, A. Eyre, G. Zach, J. Ellis
Best: P. O'Mara, C. Haskings, R. Bourke, J. Boyce, R. Pidgeon, B. Opteynde

● For the second time this year Forest Hill proved too good for the Reserves, this time winning by 12 points.

In stark contrast to the previous week, perfect conditions greeted the teams at Forest Hill Reserve, but unfortunately Warrandyte were unable to handle the ball or the pressure provided by the opposition. Despite a great second quarter and a late charge at the end, the game always seemed to be out of Warrandyte's reach.

No doubt the efforts of many of the players were high, but their decision-making and skill errors proved very costly against a well-drilled opponent. Paul O'Mara got the Players Award for a great game, with Cal Haskings, Craig Lincoln, Damien Robertson and Leigh Giampetro also featuring in the votes.

Warrandyte 10.11.71 lost to Forest Hill 12.9.81

Goals: C. Quinlan 3, A. Jenkins, D. Vitriritti, J. Riddell, J. McKellar, J. Boyce, C. Haskings
Best: D. Robertson, R. Bourke, D. Vitriritti, C. Haskings, P. O'Mara, J. McKellar

● Oh the joy of winter football in Melbourne - the rain, the cold, and six inches of mud on just about every part of Warrandyte Reserve.

Fortunately, the players didn't see this as any reason not to give their all against Ferntree Gully, and as a result, a comfortable 64 point win was the prize.

Despite the ordinary weather, the first quarter was of a very high standard. Skills were good, play was direct, and goals came quite easily.

As the day went on, and the ball got heavier and heavier, the game more closely resembled an under 12s game, with packs of players following the ball through the mud and looking forward to the warmth of the showers.

Plenty of players worked hard in the tough conditions, with the big blokes doing surprisingly well.

Warrandyte 11.19.85 def. Ferntree Gully 3.3.21

Goals: J. Prangley 3, C. Quinlan 3, R. Pidgeon 2, L. Giampetro, A. Jenkins, J. Ellis
Best: J. McKellar, C. Haskings, R. Bourke, P. O'Mara, P. Hernandez, T. Elliott

Under 18s in flag challenge

Warrandyte Under 18s are safely locked into the top four, but have yet to show their dominance over the other two top sides in the competition.

This has been brought about by often fielding a depleted side through injuries, senior selection and school commitments.

The scene was set for a top of the table clash last Saturday with third placed Warrandyte taking on first placed The Basin.

Warrandyte were a good chance of causing an upset and heading into the finals with great confidence but unfortunately this was not to unfold.

Again Warrandyte was only able to field a team with 18 players (due to injury and school commitments) and The Basin kicked away to five goal lead at quarter time.

The Basin adjusted to the poor conditions better and while Warrandyte continued to fight all day there was to be no miracle victory.

Warrandyte 3.7-25 lost to The Basin 13.10-88

Goals: B. Zach, M. Canham, L. Dunn

Best: C. Watson, M. Dunn, D. Large, J. Ratcliffe, R. Curtis, J. O'Mara

● With the finals approaching a team meeting held prior to the game was crucial to the success that would follow.

When the day finally came, it was third-placed Warrandyte hosting finals aspirants Kilsyth who were in fourth place on the ladder.

It was no surprise to see Warrandyte attacking the entire first quarter and kicking 5-4 to 1-2 into the wind. This was the best quarter of football for the year. In the second quarter Warrandyte came out strongly again kicking three goals to one.

Again kicking into the breeze, Warrandyte sensed the challenge and kicked away to an eight goal lead at the final break.

As they had done in the previous quarters Warrandyte came out and dominated the final stanza, and went on to a 100 point victory.

Warrandyte 20.22.142 def Kilsyth 6.6.42

Goals: L. Dunn 7, C. Watson 2, H. Hosking 2, O. Mock 2, J. Ratcliffe 2, J. O'Mara, N.

Meade, C. Fulton, T. Greve
Best: T. Diabik, C. Watson, C. Fulton, J. Ratcliffe, J. O'Mara, L. Dunn

● The side was undermanned from the beginning for the match against Forest Hill and the Bloods were soundly beaten all day.

Luke Dunn still did well with four goals from limited opportunities.

Warrandyte 9.12.66 lost to Forest Hill 20.8.128

Goals: L. Dunn 4, Y. Bektash 2, R. Campbell, T. Greve, J. Ratcliffe
Best: L. Dunn, Y. Bektash, J. Ratcliffe, M. Dunn, J. O'Mara, D. Large

● The Under 18s were the first side to face the wet and muddy conditions after a night of rain and coped well against Ferntree Gully.

The worst bit was waiting, wet and muddy, for the Reserves to emerge from the warm confines of the rooms.

Warrandyte 6.10.46 def Ferntree Gully 4.7.31

Goals: L. Dunn 4, C. MacDougall, T. Greve
Best: C. Watson, D. Large, J. O'Mara, P. Burgoyne, J. Ratcliffe, S. Allwood

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Best of Luck...

The staff at Landfield Real Estate (Warrandyte), wish all the teams competing in the junior football finals the best of luck and hope there are some Grand Final wins...

GO BLOODS...!!!



Kingdom in the heavens

This stunning mudbrick on 3/4 acre is like your very own kingdom. Ornate features include Castlemaine slate floors, leadlight windows, vaulted ceilings and a bluestone fireplace, plus balconies with breathtaking views of city skyline. Featuring: formal lounge & dining room, 4BR incl parent's retreat with marble ensuite, office studio & fabulous decked platform with gas BBQ.

Price: \$690,000 plus buyers

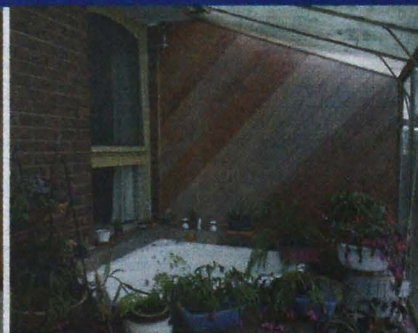
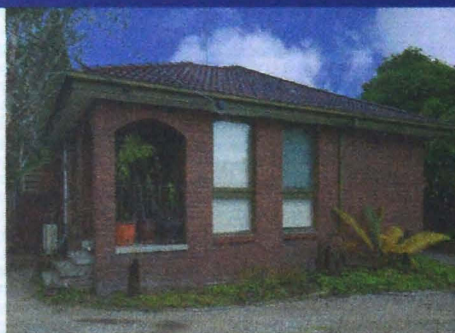


WARRANDYTE NORTH

Size does matter

In a suburb known for its wide open spaces, this 3BR brick veneer home offers outstanding value. With a flat 878sqm, there's potential for townhouse development (STCA) or an extension to lift this home to grander proportions. Includes an undercover spa set in a tranquil greenhouse and secure fencing. A fabulous location — close to bus stop, shops and park.

Price: \$295,000 plus buyers



WONGA PARK

Five star elegance

This dream home in Warrandyte offers a two-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.

Price: \$790,000 plus buyers

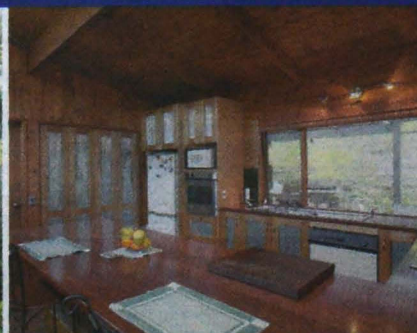


WARRANDYTE

Enhanced with natural beauty

Set on approx 1 1/4 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

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