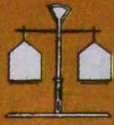


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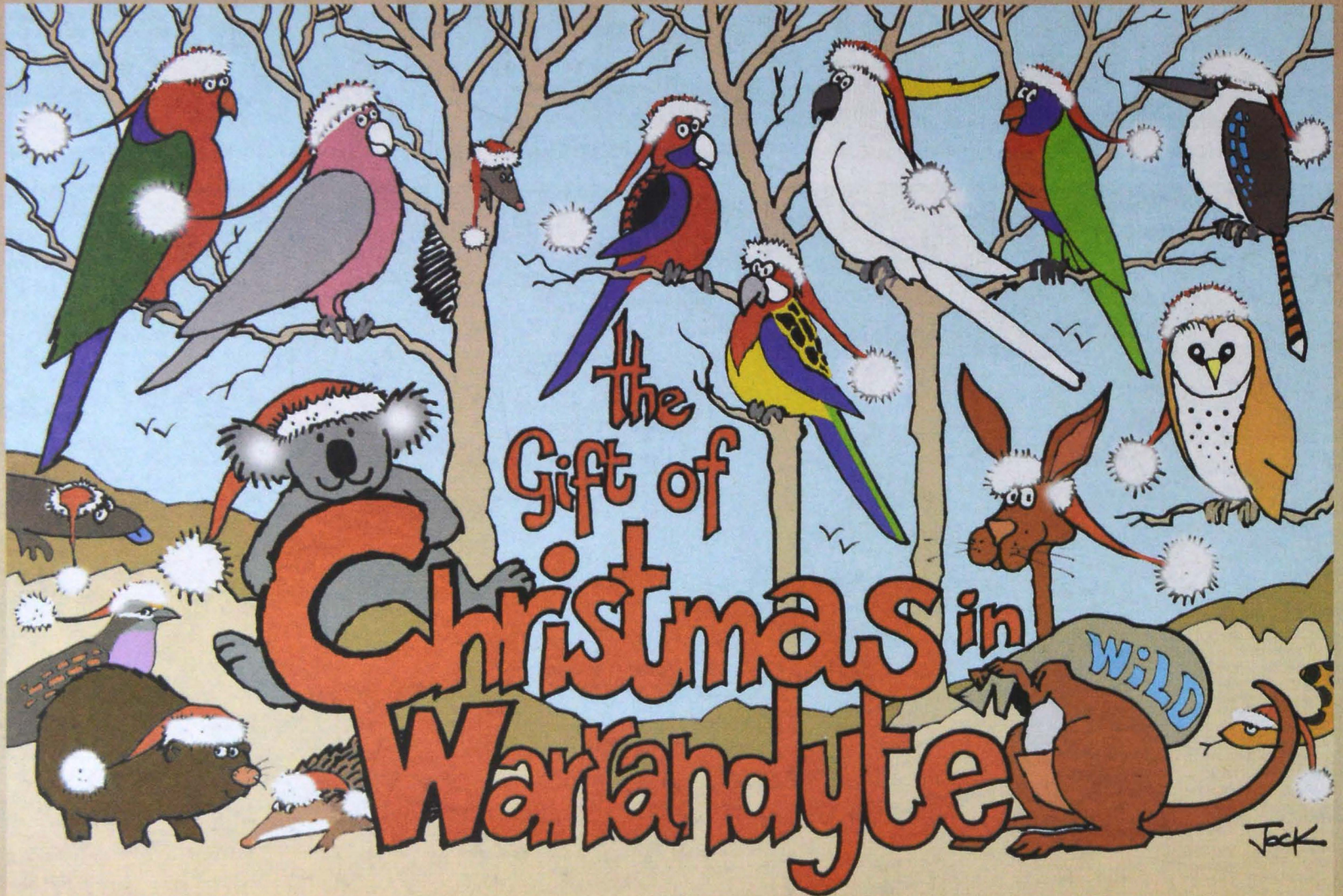
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WARRANDYTE diary

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NEXT ISSUE
Next issue of the Diary will be published on Wednesday, February 7. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, January 26.

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 30km 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.




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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STATE ELECTIONS

'Two-bob each way'

We elect Liberal south, Labor north

By EMMA CLARK

Warrandyte is still served by opposing political parties—Liberal to the south and Labor to the north.

Ryan Smith is the new Liberal MP for Warrandyte, elected with a 52 per cent majority at the state elections last month.

He has replaced retiring MP and former deputy opposition leader Phil Honeywood, who held the seat for an unbroken 18 years, yet again demonstrating that Warrandyte is definitely a "rusted-on" Liberal stronghold.

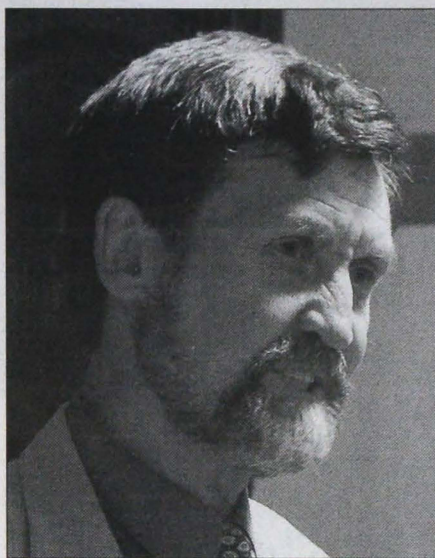
Mr Smith prevailed over ALP's Jarrod Panther, the Greens' David Ellis and Paul Bronte of Family First.

Ryan Smith told the *Diary* that he is looking forward to "doing my part to continue to uphold policies developed by the Liberals. In particular, the schools in the area need a lot of work and I will make sure that this electorate is not too far down on the priority list in getting funding from the government, as this has not received sufficient attention to date."

"There are also several road issues in the area, and we will be supporting Manningham council in getting funding and again ensuring we are included on priority lists."

Mr Smith believes that Yarra River pollution from septic tanks is still "a major issue. The government has been dragging its feet in this area," he said. "The Yarra through Warrandyte is one of the most polluted stretches and connecting to mains sewerage will make an enormous difference in cleaning it up."

Opposition leader Ted Baillieu told the *Diary* in October that a future



David Ellis: Greens vote did not surprise.



Danielle Green: Now a parliamentary secretary.



Ryan Smith: Phil Honeywood's heir apparent?

Liberal state government would spend \$28 million on sewerage in the Yarra Valley, much of it in the Warrandyte-Park Orchards area.

Danielle Green was re-elected ALP member for Yan Yean with a 47.42 per cent majority. This is her second term. "It is an honour to be re-elected and I thank voters for giving me the privilege for another four years," Ms Green said.

During the recent cabinet re-shuffle, Danielle Green was appointed parliamentary secretary assisting Bob Cameron, the new minister for emergency services.

"As a CFA volunteer myself, emergency services provision is a key policy interest of mine and I am really looking forward to getting stuck into such a substantial role."

"The next four years will certainly not be easy, we have achieved lots but the future certainly holds challenges, in

particular water, climate change, public transport, aged care and housing, further improving our hospitals and opposing Howards' unfair industrial relations regime."

The Yan Yean electorate is the largest in the metropolitan region and has had the fourth highest growth rate in the state since 2002.

There were more votes for the Greens in the Warrandyte polling booth than at any other voting centre in both the Yan Yean and Warrandyte electorates, and the sixth highest number of Greens votes at any polling station in the state.

Greens candidate David Ellis's active campaigning in the area achieved 13.95 per cent of votes in the electorate, up from the Greens ten per cent reached at the 2002 election.

David Ellis cites the strong Green vote in the electorate as an example of the "distinguishing characteristic of

Warrandyte".

"My intention was to give the parties a good shake, and I think we did that. The Green vote in Warrandyte was one of the strongest in the state. This shows how passionate the people of Warrandyte are about the local and the global environment issues, and I hope that it is a point which Ryan takes to heart."

Ryan Smith responded, saying that the local environment is a major reason he moved to the area and he "has a great affiliation with the environment and the surroundings of Warrandyte". He will strive to protect the environmental heritage of the area and is looking forward to working with the community. "I have been accessible throughout the campaign and continue to be approachable and open as an MP," he said.

David Ellis does not plan to stand as a candidate in future elections. "I'd be interested in giving assistance to any

one interested in continuing environmental issues in future elections, but it is not my intention to run for MP in the future."

"All-in-all, the election was conducted in a good spirit," Mr Ellis said. "I think it was genuinely a contest of ideas, and inevitably the majority of people vote along party lines. I'm sorry I wasn't able to do more."

The Warrandyte electorate has been a Liberal seat since the 1988 election when it was the only seat the Liberal party wrested from the ALP. Phil Honeywood has been the MP from 1988 until his retirement at this election. In recent years the seat of Warrandyte has become quite safe for the Liberals, to the extent that Phil Honeywood comfortably held the seat at the 2002 election when over half of his Legislative Assembly colleagues lost their seats.

● Letters: Page 6.

PERCENTAGE OF FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES

WARRANDYTE ELECTORATE

DAVID ELLIS	Greens	13.95%
JARROD PANTHER	ALP	29.20%
PAUL BRONTE	Family First	5.51%
RYAN SMITH	Liberal	51.34%

YAN YEAN ELECTORATE

BRIAN MAWHINNEY	People Power	1.32%
MATTHEW FIELD	Family First	3.41%
KARIN GERADTS	Greens	8.25%
ANETA IVANOVSKI	Liberal	35.13%
BELINDA CLARKSON	Independent	4.85%
DANIELLE GREEN	ALP	47.04%

Warrandyte's electoral 'split personality' persists

By CLIFF GREEN

Well, we're still split down the middle. Not just by a river, but also by political representation in the state parliament: Liberal one side, ALP the other.

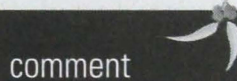
Liberal candidate Ryan Smith increased Phil Honeywood's margin with a winning 14,032 total in the Warrandyte electorate. He received 1236 votes at the Warrandyte Primary School.

Across the river in Yan Yean, ALP sitting member Danielle Green was re-elected with a convincing 15,844

votes. She received 430 votes at the North Warrandyte Community Centre (plus 52 voting in Yan Yean, but at the Warrandyte booth).

However, Liberal Aneta Ivanovski did better in North Warrandyte with 455 (plus 34 at Warrandyte). But there were only seven votes in it!

Mr Smith's nomination followed a bitter Liberal Party pre-selection battle, with Smith—supported by Phil Honeywood—defeating developer and Melbourne city councillor Peter Clarke by the narrowest of margins.



Incumbency would have played a major role in the final results, with Mr Smith being seen as Phil Honeywood's heir apparent and Ms Green already making her mark as a one-term member. Perhaps we will continue enjoying the best of both worlds. It certainly suits us here at the *Diary*. We can ring an MP on one side for

a comment, then call their opposite number, usually for an opposing view. It's called balance!

It was no surprise that the Greens candidates polled comparatively well on both sides of the river, with David Ellis winning 715 votes at the Warrandyte Primary School, beating ALP candidate Jarrod Panther by 184 votes. Overall, the three Warrandyte polling booths (Warrandyte, North Warrandyte and South Warrandyte) registered a total of 890 votes for Greens candidates.

The smaller minor parties didn't make much impact. Family First scored 142 votes across the three Warrandyte voting centres and People Power scratched in 16.

In many ways, the election campaign was a winner for Warrandyte, with all three major party candidates—especially Ryan Smith, David Ellis and Danielle Green—performing well at the WCA electoral forum and understanding and embracing such important local issues as the environment and transport.

VOTES PER POLLING BOOTH

WARRANDYTE ELECTORATE


	W'dyte	Sth W'dyte	P/Orchds	Total
DAVID ELLIS	715	61	278	4032
JARROD PANTHER	531	81	424	8186
PAUL BRONTE	101	16	69	1576
RYAN SMITH	1236	243	1155	14032
Total	2660	415	1984	28814

YAN YEAN ELECTORATE


	K/Grnd	Nth W'dyte	W'dyte	Total
BRIAN MAWHINNEY	10	15	1	616
MATTHEW FIELD	41	19	6	1094
KARIN GERADTS	175	377	37	3013
ANETA IVANOVSKI	349	455	34	11434
BELINDA CLARKSON	9	8	2	950
DANIELLE GREEN	302	430	52	15844
Total	905	1332	137	34235

Thanks to all of you who helped me and the Greens in the recent election. It has been a privilege to be, for that time, the focus of your hopes.

Wishing all Warrandytians a good start to the coming year.



—DAVID ELLIS



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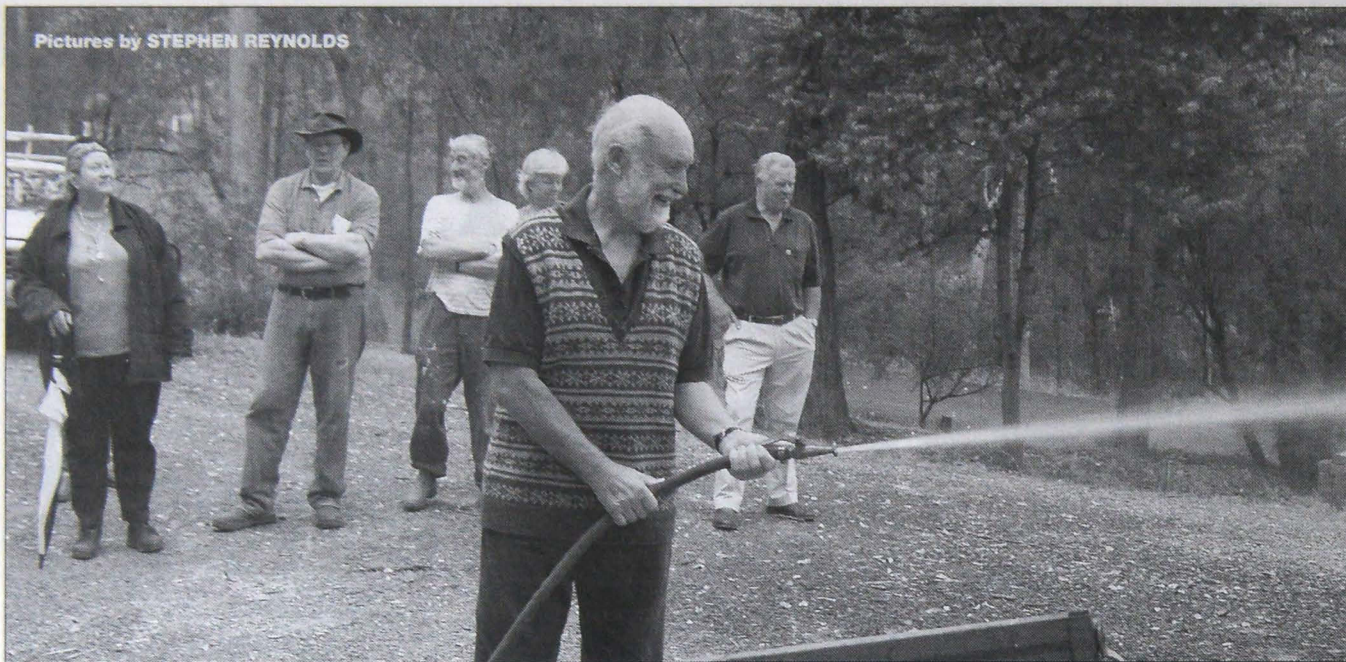



eyes on warrandyte

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FENDI

Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS



Locals stand ready to resist fire threat

The people of Pound Road in Warrandyte have established a vigorous fire emergency self-help group, as have many others in this community.

Started by Gill Balmain and Stewart Lewis with the help of CFA's Jeff Adair 10 years ago, this Fireguard group is now one of the biggest in the area with 78 member families from Pound Road and adjoining streets. Along the way, the group purchased radio scanners to monitor CFA bushfire messages to inform phone tree members about potential bushfire risk situations.

This year members have participated in "Prepare your own family plan for bushfires" sessions provided by CFA experts, received colour-coded newsletters and "credit card" phone-tree lists and visited members' homes for

practical demonstrations of effective fire-fighting approaches.

A recent demonstration showed a full home sprinkler system for protection against wind-borne ember attack, using a petrol pump fed from the swimming pool. The second home had a metal rainwater storage tank supplying water to a petrol pump and long fire hose, and showed that even a light wind affects fire hose aim!

Perhaps even more importantly, the demonstrations provided valuable opportunities for discussion of a wider range of bushfire emergency and preparedness issues among neighbourhood family members.

● For more information on Community Fireguard call CFA Yarra Area on 8739 1300.



Fire event out north

Live fire-fighting demonstrations, fire prevention information and the latest news on the new North Warrandyte fire station will all be part of an open day planned by the North Warrandyte CFA brigade on Sunday, December 17.

"Here is a chance to come and meet the volunteers who protect the community from the risk of fire," brigade captain Paul Buck told the *Diary*.

"It will be a great opportunity to learn about fire prevention, about how the fire brigade operates—and just to chat about what we do and how we can help."

The open day will be held at the North Warrandyte Community Centre in Research-Warrandyte Road. It will begin at 9.30am and continue through until 4.30pm.

Apart from the serious business of fire-fighting and fire prevention, the brigade will be running fun events for the kids, including a chance to meet Captain Koala.

"So come along, share a sausage and get to know the many people who help protect the community of North Warrandyte," Captain Buck said.



Easy steps to your Bushfire Survival Plan.

Preparation is vital to bushfire survival. It's your responsibility to do everything you can to protect your home and assets. You need a plan that works for you and your family. CFA crews will fight every fire, but they can't give individual warnings, and can't always defend every home. You need to decide early whether you plan to stay and actively defend your home or leave before the fire arrives.

Step 1:

Plan what you need to do before the summer fire season.

- Manage vegetation to reduce fuel for a fire
- Seal gaps around doors, windows and in the roof to keep out embers
- Clean leaves and twigs from gutters
- Assemble firefighting equipment such as pumps, hoses, buckets and mops
- Consider availability of water

Step 2:

Plan what you will do on Total Fire Ban and high risk days.

- Leave early before a fire threatens
- Get ready to stay and defend your home
- Listen to the radio for regular updates

Step 3:

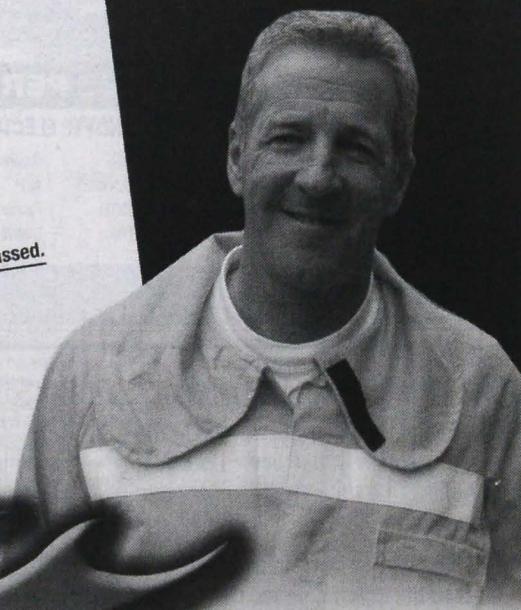
Plan what to do as a fire approaches.

- Put on protective clothing
- Wet down around the house
- Shut all windows and doors
- Remove doormats, garden furniture, boxes etc from around the house

Step 4:

Plan your response after the fire front has passed.

- Check for embers and extinguish them
- Continue monitoring, spot fires can start long afterwards.



For all the information you need to complete your plan call 1800 240 667, or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne.

A Victorian Government initiative



If fire comes at night

"It was evening. I was working in my studio when suddenly the lights went out and my computer died. I went outside to discover ash and embers flying about and the smoke was so thick I was seized with a coughing fit. It was pitch black. I thought I was mentally prepared for fire, but it had never entered my head it could come at night. It was very scary."
 —Warrandyte resident, remembering Ash Wednesday.

● Local CFA brigades recently conducted an exercise designed to test their readiness for night fire-fighting. STEPHEN REYNOLDS took these pictures.



Fire prevention: community role

Prevention is best fire protection

The Warrandyte area is again facing an extremely challenging summer. Major bushfires are already burning in the north-east of the state, Alpine areas and Gippsland.

The Country Fire Authority emphasises that the task for all residents over the days, weeks and perhaps even months ahead will be to deal with the threat that bushfires pose to life and property.

"This is not a task that can just be left to the emergency services, to government or to other agencies," Jeff Adair, community safety manager CFA Yarra Area, told the *Diary*.

"Everyone who lives in fire-prone areas has a part to play. Together, individuals, communities and agencies including the CFA can make a huge impact on the effect of such events at a local level."

CFA believes that the risks posed by bushfire this summer are real—to life,

townships and private property. The Warrandyte community, individuals and families must prepare.

"It is not too late to do simple things that will minimise the effects of fire," Mr Adair said.

"Often this means using tools and equipment that you already have around your property. Work done now to protect assets will be critical and valuable over the coming weeks.

"Individual bushfire plans are important and we will be relying on residents to activate them if a bushfire threatens the area.

"Now is the time to review and, if necessary, revise your bushfire survival plan. If you don't have a plan, there is plenty of information and resources available to help you devise one to suit your circumstances."

CFA stresses that making the fundamental decision about whether to stay and defend or leave early is absolutely

vital. Mr Adair believes that Warrandyte will use its initiative, talent for self-help and sense of community in the fight against fire.

"Warrandyte is renowned for its strength of community and its willingness to assist others," he said.

"CFA would like to encourage this and seize upon the opportunity to use the goodwill and care for others that has become a Warrandyte tradition to strengthen individual and community fire plans."

One of the keys to successfully defending homes and assets is having sufficient numbers of people to extinguish small fires and undertake joint fire prevention work.

"History has shown that neighbours working together can save more than one property," Mr Adair said.

"However, the success or failure of these activities is dependent upon

small clusters of neighbours having a thorough understanding of their individual capabilities and having adequate and appropriate fire-fighting equipment.

"Having sufficient static water that is readily accessible and the ability to apply it is paramount. Without water, effective fire-fighting is more dangerous and likely to be unsuccessful."

CFA urges residents to talk with neighbours, discuss the potential risks they face together and come to a clear understanding and agreement as to what they would do on any given day.

"Plans must be locked in place now, be tested and adjusted as necessary," Mr Adair said. "CFA will work with the community before, during and after the threat or pass of fire and will continue to assist with recovery efforts as required."

"Working together, we can keep our community safe this summer."

● Reduce fuel around the home—long grass, leaves and twigs should be removed.

● Make sure under the home is clear of combustible material.

● Move firewood away from the walls of your home.

● Cover vents and crevices with fine wire to prevent sparks and embers entering.

● Gutters should be cleaned.

● Ensure access to adequate static water supplies.

● Check and have your fire-fighting equipment serviced.

● Most importantly—make sure you have a practical bushfire plan in place. Decide whether you will stay and protect or leave early. Consider who will be home and when. More than one plan may be needed to cover different scenarios.

● For further fire information updates, residents are urged to tune in to local radio, especially ABC Radio 774, the emergency services broadcaster, or call the Victorian bushfire information line on 1800 240 667.

● Anyone interested in joining the CFA as a volunteer can contact the volunteer hotline on 1800 232 636.

Hard decisions in a hot spot

In any fire emergency situation, the decision whether to stay and defend or leave early is critical. CFA emphasises that people who intend to stay need to ensure that they:

● are physically and mentally prepared to defend their home

● have a comprehensive plan, reliable water supply and fire fighting equipment

● have an adequate cleared space around their house.

"If residents do not have these things in place, given the expected extreme fire conditions," Jeff Adair said, "they should leave well before the fire threatens their local area."

CFA urges people in fire-affected areas to seriously consider their options and those who choose to leave should do so early, well in advance of fire impacting their area.

"People should avoid being caught out in the open or on the roads during a fire and should seek shelter in buildings or structures that are able to shield them from radiant heat," Mr Adair said.

● During extreme fire weather, people who are not physically and mentally prepared to defend their home should plan to leave the area as soon as they are able—well before the arrival of fire.

● People who do not have a comprehensive survival plan, reliable water supply and fire-fighting equipment to defend their home from severe fire attack should leave the area well before being threatened.

● People who do not have a well-prepared home with a large cleared space around the house should leave the area well before being threatened.

● Staying to defend your home requires physical strength, an adequate static water supply and equipment, a detailed plan of action, and a well-prepared house. If you are not well-prepared then you should leave the area early—well before being threatened.



Victorian bushfire information line: 1800 240 667

Fire and emergency calls: 000

CFA Regional Headquarters 8739 1300

Warrandyte CFA 9844 3375

North Warrandyte CFA 9844 0847

South Warrandyte CFA 9844 2861

Wonga Park CFA 9722 1463

David's thanks

Allow me through the pages of the *Diary* to thank all those who gave me their vote in the state election—and my warm thanks to the many Warrandyte people who volunteered their welcome support and assistance.

With their goodwill and effort in mind, it was gratifying to see a good result in Warrandyte—easily the strongest swing to a Greens candidate anywhere in the state.

Still, nothing can be taken away from Ryan Smith and the very impressive result he achieved as a first-time candidate, not only locally but throughout the electorate. (Nice start, Ryan!)

It is not my choice to be negative, but it is simply a matter of record that at the state level both the larger parties mounted well-funded attacks on the Greens that were in fact totally unsubstantiated. In light of this it is pleasing to be also able to record that at the local level in Warrandyte the campaign was conducted by all candidates and at all times in a spirit of mutual goodwill. I am sure other candidates appreciated this as I did. I am sure too that they will share my view of the role played by the *Diary* in providing thorough and even-handed coverage of local issues.

As I said throughout my campaign, I believe we are now in the early stages of unprecedented and sustained environmental challenges. These will be difficult for us all but they will be particularly demanding of our elected representatives. I sincerely wish both the Bracks government, and Ryan Smith as our new member, good luck and good judgement in all their deliberations for Victoria and Warrandyte.

David Ellis
Tills Drive

Diary enjoyed

Just want to mention I still enjoy reading your newspaper online. About three years ago now I moved from Houston to an island on the Gulf of Mexico, but I can still remember swimming in the river at Warrandyte. Miss those days.

Colin Jones
Corpus Christi, Texas, USA

Lower signs

I fully agree with last month's article in the *Diary*. The small diameter of the bridge roundabout necessitates maximum visibility for turning vehicles. The signs that obscure the blinkers at this very busy location need urgent attention.

John Pepper
Third Street

Bird one, tree zero

A chain of events leading to a tree being knocked down by a garbage truck in West End Road all started because a baby frogmouth fell out of its nest.

First noticed by a passing dog walker, who brought the nestling to the attention of a nearby resident and who was advised by the local vet to put bub up a tree for its mum to find.

With the help of Chris and his mate (who parked their



Baby tawny and mum. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Please help

Once more it is Christmas, a time for happiness and jollity for most. For some this will not be so. We at Warrandyte Housing and Support Services have quietly been organising Christmas hampers and toys for families in the area over the last few weeks.

We expect to deliver 100 hampers within the area and toys for almost 300 children.

On behalf of the WHSS committee of management I would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the groups and organisations that have assisted us not only for Christmas but all through the year to supply food to needy families.

Thanks to Warrandyte Lions Club, Rotary Club of Warrandyte, Andersons Creek Primary School, Warrandyte Primary School, Andersons Creek Uniting Church and especially the Warrandyte community.

A special thanks to the voluntary staff at WHSS for another successful year.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2007.

Alan Alder, President
Warrandyte Housing
and Support Services

One for Greens

I would like to thank Greens candidate David Ellis for allowing me to have his campaign poster on my property.

Unfortunately, Warrandyte has missed an opportunity to be represented in the state government by a local who cares about this area and the entire planet.

Democracy has allowed residents to elect the candidate of the majority. He is not in the elected government and unlike Phil Honeywood, who tried his best for the area, the new Liberal MP will have no voice, and not being a "local" it remains to be seen how vocal he will be to retain this oasis in the midst of suburbia.

I'm in my 80s, I will not see the disastrous effects of global warming. I wonder how the children of those who voted without thought for anything more than the dollars in their bank accounts will judge their parents in the future.

You conducted a great campaign, David, unlike those who paid the bully boys who dismantled and vandalised the Greens posters.

I wear the label of "greenie" with pride.

Dorothy Bale
Anderson Street

Objects to cluster location



Artists' impression of a proposed retirement housing cluster.

I write in response to the Warrandyte Community Association's proposal to develop the parcel of land abutting houses 5-17 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, as a retirement housing cluster.

I find it difficult to find the words to express my anger and disappointment in the association's proposal. In your zeal to find land for this development, you have disregarded the needs of the local residents whom this affects the most.

My husband and I moved to Warrandyte in 2001 seeking a semi rural/bushland environment that we could call home. Luckily enough we found the premises at 11 Yarra Street which offered a bushland outlook from the front of our house that we could wake to every morning. Had we wished to wake up to a housing development, I would have bought in Ringwood or Mitcham.

Your current proposal does not take into consideration the current residents who live in this location. Your inappropriate use of the phrase "disused road reserve" shows how little knowledge your committee has of this specific area and the lack of consultation with

the residents prior to your letter drop.

The "road" you refer to is Yarra Street. This area of bitumen is owned by VicRoads and is a declared road under Road Zone 1. It is not Crown Land as Crown Land Management can inform you. As such your disused road is classified as a main road. It is used by residents from both entry points to access their properties as we only have a single lane track that runs directly outside our driveways. The top part of the road is used by residents to successfully negotiate our comings and goings without having any head-on collisions.

Building on this main road will inhibit our access as well as making it difficult for visitors who often find the steep driveways difficult to negotiate. We would be reduced to the use of our single lane track.

It is heavily used during market days and festival time, as you would expect since it is a road. To build along it would also inhibit garbage collection and hinder the entry of emergency service vehicles such as CFA trucks that have needed to use the top road in the past when attending a gas leak.

The remaining parcel of land is owned by the Manningham City Council which has a Significant Landscape Overlay Schedule 2 and a Wildfire Management Overlay.

I fail to see how you can build on this main road without cutting into the natural embankment to allow for an access road in front of the units. This is an area that supports local wildlife, not only birds, possums and flora but the odd echidna and wombat.

As indicated by the signage at both entrance points to Yarra Street, this area of land is a Significant Roadside Area as declared by the Victorian Road-sides Conservation Committee.

For an area to be declared a Significant Roadside Area it has to have been assessed for its high conservation requirements, meeting seven habitat factors and having a good representation of local vegetation. The original study was done in consultation with local botanist Paul Foreman. Recent consultation with the environmental planner at the Manningham City Council shows that this area of land, from just north of number 17 to south of number 5, from the roadside to just in front of

the existing housing is still protected. It has the highest significance level for vegetation quality and significance that can be applied.

I don't deny that there is a need for retirement housing in Warrandyte. (although the current lack of infrastructure would denote the difficulties with this plan) however it should not impede the Warrandyte way of life or be at the expense of residents in a particular area. It is irrelevant whether you have lived in this beautiful place for 5 years or 50, we all want to protect what makes this place so special.

In the September 2006 *Warrandyte Diary*, it was quoted of past residents that they didn't want to be the generation that "turned the town into something we don't want it to be". Why do you want to do that now? As Sarah Wrigley from the Bendigo Bank and your committee so aptly stated, the housing committee is "looking at land before (they) are looking at the needs of the community".

Leah M Thowless-Siwiek
and Les Siwiek
Yarra Street

dear diary

Fair reward

This evening I took a stroll down my street in Wonga Park and on the walk back I felt compelled to pick up an assortment of rubbish discarded by thoughtless visiting cars.

To my delight, I chuckled when blowing in the breeze amongst the MacDonalds containers was a \$5 note! A just fee I thought for picking up after the offender.

Nikki Hamilton
Wonga Park

Val remembers 25 years of a special teaching experience

At the beginning of the school year of 1982, I walked up the driveway of Andersons Creek Primary School to begin what would become 25 years of teaching classes at this wonderful and progressive school.

Now rapidly approaching the ripe "young" age of 65, I am sadly about to say goodbye. Although I will enjoy having more time to do "me" things, I will greatly miss the children and the school community.

What a school to have been part of for so long! Interested, responsive, cooperative and "fun" children; supportive principals; dedicated and hardworking staff; caring and friendly parents.

Over the years I have seen a huge change. We now have a school that, in my opinion, can easily

rival most private primary schools with its facilities and equipment.

Des McKenzie, the present school principal and the one I have worked with the longest, has really brought our school into the modern age, and with regards to computers, me with it. A few years ago I was computer illiterate, but thanks to Elaine Robertson, John Crabb and Des, I am certainly not now.

Children, staff and community of Andersons Creek, you have been such a big part of my life for a long time and I will certainly miss teaching.

Thank you for a very enjoyable 25 years.

Val Lynch
Park Orchards

CYRIL



By PAUL WILLIAMS

vehicle on the road side) and a ladder, and much advice from a few other residents, mission was about to be accomplished when the Friday morning garbo truck came roaring down the road and with little hesitation, misjudged the space between parked vehicle and the vegetation, neatly broke off a substantial branch, subsequently taking the main trunk with it—much to the surprise and shock of all onlookers.

The garbo collected his next bin and with no more ado was on his way with a passing, "I'll ring the council to clear it."

Fortunately no one was hurt and the baby tawny frogmouth was deposited in a nearby tree.

And no, the tree that was felled was not the one accommodating the frogmouth family. As the year comes to a close I would like to give bouquets to all Warrandyte's hard-working volunteers who make our place the fantastic community it is. And particularly to the *Diary* staff for holding it all together.

Ann Ley
West End Road

The State of the Park



Montage by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

By VAL POLLEY

THE establishment of the Warrandyte State Park, announced way back in 1973 means the Park has been a major presence in the township for over three decades. It is a fact of life for most Warrandyte residents who relish the protection and security that it gives to their surroundings and to the natural environment. However there must be many residents who do not know its origins or that this State Park came about due to the hard work and foresight of a group of environmentally concerned locals.

In 1968 an interim committee for a Warrandyte State Park was set up by a number of local organizations "to explore ways in which the unique natural attributes of the area could be protected for the interest and enjoyment of future generations". Chaired by Bill Algar from the Doncaster and Templestowe Tree Preservation Society, the committee included active local Warrandyte environmentalists Joy Henke from the Pound Bend Reserve Committee of Management, and Joy Walliker from the Yarra Valley Conservation League together with representatives from the Jumping Creek Reserve committee of management and Ringwood Field Naturalists Club.

This far sighted group proposed that all the then public reserves, Crown land under grazing licences and permissive occupancies and other unoccupied Crown land around Warrandyte be combined into a State Park and placed under the management of the National Park Authority.

Looking at the map of Warrandyte at the time, it becomes clear the town had been originally laid out with all necessary requirements for a small rural township. Thus there was a Mining Reserve (Fourth Hill), Timber Reserve, Common, Gravel Reserve, several public reserves (Jumping Creek and Pound Bend) and public land strips along each river bank providing access to the banks and waterway.

However by the 1960s these various reserves and Crown lands were being managed by a wide variety of government agencies or committees of management, all with different requirements and styles of management and most with very little income. Some were being targeted by

various organisations for possible development. One such bid was made by the Warrandyte Country Club who wished to take a lease on the Common to establish a golf course. (The bid was then switched to the eastern area of Pound Bend but in the end did not eventuate.)

The interim committee argued a State Park would preserve the unique natural, cultural and historical attributes of the area and help meet future demands for natural landscape for relaxation and passive recreation. It also claimed that Warrandyte's location; only 18 miles from the centre of Melbourne on the Yarra River; its attractive natural landscape, interesting and important flora and fauna and significant historical association made it an important destination. They also said (with remarkable prescience) that as "total landscape" was regarded as being of the utmost importance a special planning scheme should be established to ensure development of private land proceeded with proper regard for the overall natural character.

The Proposal for a Warrandyte State Park was then put to government in 1969 and after much active lobbying by the interim committee, supported by locals and conservation groups such as the Warrandyte Environment League, the Hamer Liberal government announced its establishment followed by the gazettal of the first parts in 1975 to the delight of local residents.

The original proposal was quite modest in its submissions and the initial declaration incorporated the Pound Bend, Jumping Creek and Black Flat public reserves only, a very modest 135 hectares. Gradually the northern river frontage, balance of Jumping Creek, the Common, Timber Reserve and Fourth Hill were included and gradually by 1981 the Park as we know it today began to take shape. By 1984 the Koorngong and eastern section of Pound Bend were added.

A major campaign by local environment groups to encourage the government to purchase the entire Stane Brae and Yarra Brae areas and incorporate them into the Park was unhappily unsuccessful despite a great deal of community activity. Only the river frontages were purchased in 1982 and incorporated into the Park in 1987 bringing the total

size of the Warrandyte State Park to 586 hectares. However many residents will no doubt remember the exciting night walks with sightings of Sugar Gliders and the wonderful star gazing sessions which formed part of the campaign. By the end of the 20th century Mt Lofty was purchased and incorporated into the Park—many would say "at last!", this event having been eagerly anticipated over several decades.

Changes to government and local government that occurred under the Kennett Liberal government in the 1990s have seen the management of the Park come under the day-to-day management of Parks Victoria. Now the areas north of the river fall within the Shire of Nillumbik while to the south they fall within the City of Manningham reflecting the amalgamations of local councils.

Changes in community attitudes to Aboriginal history and indigenous cultural heritage can also be traced through the plans. There is barely a mention of pre-European history in the original Proposal. By the 1990s plan much more was known about the Wurundjeri and some archaeological work had been completed and it was gratifying that at the plan launch Wurundjeri elders in possum cloaks attended and conducted a ceremony. However by the 2005 plan the huge increase in knowledge and understanding of indigenous history and cultural heritage is reflected in an extensive section covering strategies for indigenous cultural heritage and acknowledging the rich culture of the Wurundjeri.

Walking was an important use identified by the interim committee and over the decades an extensive walking track network has been developed throughout the Park and walking remains a popular activity today. During preparation of the 1990 plan the issue of dog walking ignited a furious debate. The plan eventually identified areas for walking with dogs on lead but phased out walking dogs in other areas such as Pound Bend where dogs had been reported for harassing the local koala population. Phil Honeywood, the recently retired member for Warrandyte, claimed recently that this was the most controversial issue he had to deal with during his term in parliament.

Another issue that raised furious debate during the 1990 plan prepara-

tion was horse-riding. Horses were agisted on paddocks around the township, there were a number of active riding schools and there were a number of connecting tracks that enabled riders to undertake longer rides through the area which they were anxious to protect. To meet their needs yet protect park values, a horse trail network was set out in the 1990 plan and modified further in the current one. Interestingly, as the agistment paddocks along the main road to the west of the township have gradually disappeared under houses and roads, so too have the horses and now due to low useage of the Pound Bend track, horse-riding has been removed from this area in the recent plan.

Cycling in the Park was not even envisaged by the interim committee and barely touched on in the 1990 plan. However the current enthusiasm for mountain bike riding and trend to off-track or freeriding has had to be addressed in the 2005 plan to minimise impacts on soils and vegetation. Scouting on the other hand was given great weight by the interim committee because an important use of the Park in the 1960s was providing bush areas for scouting activities, particularly camping, at Black Flat and Jumping Creek. Changes in scouting activities and scout numbers over the decades have seen this activity decline and under the recent plan will be phased out in these two areas.

The management plans, detailed as they are, do not cover every contingency. Indeed in the area of public risk and public safety, a number of changes have taken place over recent years. The gating of several old gold mines and adits, beautification/landscaping of the tunnel exit area, closure of the access track to the tunnel entrance and changes to the park offices at Pound Bend appear to have occurred as a result of ongoing assessments and evaluation of risks. A decision not to lock off several reserves overnight which is still causing local residents much angst is being monitored at present.

The fragmented nature of the Park means there is a very long boundary and numerous abutting properties. The interim committee was concerned about this, calling for special measures over adjoining areas which in the main have been implemented

under the various planning schemes. Both the subsequent plans discuss the issues of complementary planting, pet management, prevention of encroachments, and managing pest plants and animals across boundaries. They emphasise the need for a long-term cooperative approach.

However it is in the area of community involvement where Warrandyte State Park has had the most impact with the formation of its Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) group, one of the oldest and most successful in the state. It has made a major contribution over the years with plant propagation at its nursery, restoration of native vegetation, environmental monitoring and gaining of grant monies.

"Our" Park is popular with local residents and visitors looking for attractive bushland and river landscapes for a range of informal activities. The 2005 plan does not consider it important for international visitors (though many seem to find their way here to view koalas, kangaroos and perhaps even platypus at Pound Bend!) However the plan sees the Park as one of the most important areas with remnant indigenous flora and fauna in the north-east of the metropolitan area but one which is very susceptible given the fragmented nature of the Park.

The original committee members would surely be very proud to see what has been created as a result of their proposal in 1969.

We, who are so fortunate to live here, must surely continue their good work to ensure the ongoing protection of the Park. Get a copy of the new plan from the Parks Victoria website or their office, become conversant with it and its recommendations, visit some of the areas you don't know, talk to the park staff, or join Friends of Warrandyte State Park to offer your support.

(Val Polley was community liaison officer during the preparation of the 1990 Warrandyte State Park management plan and later worked for the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands. At various times she has been a member of the Pound Bend Reserve Committee of Management, committee member of the Yarra Valley Conservation League and was an inaugural member of the Friends of Warrandyte State Park.)



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Carols in the valley

It's Christmas time and the highlight of Warrandyte's festive season is on again—the Carols by Candlelight at Stiggants Reserve, presented by the combined churches of Warrandyte and Park Orchards.

The Bellbird Singers will lead the community carol singing, accompanied by the Eltham Concert Band and joined by choirs from Warrandyte and Andersons Creek primary schools.

Soloists will include renowned opera singer Raymond Khong, accompanied by his wife May Gavin. "They will charm the audience with their warm presentation and their stunning renditions of popular jazz and classic Christmas pieces," organiser Rick Gordon told the *Diary*.

Among other featured artists will be Rachel Ju-

hasz and Esther Baulch. Rachel is a talented singer and dancer who has performed at the Crown Casino Showroom and the Athenaeum Theatre and Esther, a youth worker at the Community Church, sings folk, jazz and blues.

"Come early with your picnic tea," Rick Gordon said. Food and drinks can be bought on the night and candles will be available for sale. Donations will be accepted for the annual Christmas Bowl Appeal.

● The Warrandyte Carols by Candlelight will be held at Stiggants Reserve on Saturday, December 16 commencing at 8pm. Pre-event entertainment will be provided from 7.15pm.

Further information from the Warrandyte Community Church, 9844 4148.



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FOWSP discovers a rare little beauty

By SANDY BURGOYNE

A little piece of Warrandyte, in the form of a small, drought-resistant shrublet, is popping up in plant nurseries across Australia. The botanical name is *Hibbertia aff. Pedunculata* "Boomers", but the plant is on sale as Sun Drops™ Hibbertia.

The Hibbertia family is indigenous to Australia and is commonly known as guinea-flower. It is a small shrub or prostrate plant renowned for its masses of showy flowers. Some species have been available in nurseries for many years, but Sun Drops is a recent discovery.

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) found the tiny, compact shrublet growing locally and realised that it was unlike any of those Hibbertia species commonly found around the district. They called in Bill Molyneux of Austrafflora to ask his advice on commercially marketing the new discovery. Mr Molyneux has more than 30 years experience in breeding, marketing and promoting Australian plants.

"I think it will be determined as a new species and I think it is fairly well isolated to Warrandyte and some other ironbark areas close to Warrandyte. It is a great little plant—it is very hardy," Mr Molyneux told the *Diary*.

"It is amazing. It is only a little plant, but the flowers always look too big for the size of the plant. They are very big and a lovely strong golden colour," he said of Sun Drops.

Bill Molyneux was also impressed with the positive attitude of the FOWSP committee.

"They responded very quickly to wanting to commercialise this because they could see that they could only sell so many through one nursery.

"Whereas this plant has potential right across Australia through Mediterranean up to sub-tropical zones," he said.

The Friends of Warrandyte State Park will receive royalties from sales of Sun Drops through commercial nurseries.

"It's a major move for FOWSP to go commercial this way and to have a plant which will now be sold in the broad marketplace. The benefit of that of course is that what comes to them will assist in their local programs."

To prepare for commercial release Sun Drops was propagated from cuttings and not grown from seed.

"At this stage we have a couple of tube growers and probably eight or 10 growers from WA up to southern Queensland. They will grow in numbers as the plant becomes well known," Mr Molyneux told the *Diary*.

Austrafflora classifies Sun Drops Hibbertia as a "Water Miser" plant—with very low water needs once established in a garden. Bill Molyneux believes that the plant has great sales potential.

"It grows naturally in harsh, dry areas and it adapts very well to low water regimes. It is a good plant for modern gardens because modern gardens don't have as much space for plants as they used to. So it fits in little niches and is a great little container plant as well. People are going more and more for



Golden glory: Sun Drops set for success. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

plants that are small, can grow in containers that you can shift around on decks and patios," he said.

More plant releases to commercial nurseries may follow from this collaboration between FOWSP and Austrafflora.

"You never know what else is out there that they may find that

can be commercialised in this way. It is a pro-active way for a little group to go out there and utilise their natural resources to benefit the broader environment," Mr Molyneux said.

Sun Drops will be available from retail nurseries, but not from the FOWSP nursery at Pound Bend.

Local band in big win

By JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

Last month local band The Shades won first prize in the schoolies category of the 2006 Musicoz competition. Like the four other finalists they gathered in Sydney for the awards night, held at the Enmore Theatre, on November 14.

Members Sam and Nick Lawrence (17 and 19), Sam Teskey (17), Vincent Ward (19) and Henry Bear (17) gave themselves little chance.

"It's a big event, with 5000 entrants," said Vince the drummer. "When they seated us way down the back of the theatre we thought we definitely wouldn't be winning. Then when they announced the result we were really stoked."

According to Musicoz manager Pat Maloney, The Shades winning song "Everything was Pink" is light years ahead of anything else entered in their category. "Every year we hear a 'snapshot' of the entire country. Everything was Pink leads a reggae revival in Australia. It's a fresh, exciting sound.

"The Shades sound like they're much older than they are. With that sound they should be playing to mass audiences in stadiums, not just small gatherings in local venues."

The band won a Maton acoustic guitar and a short replication run (500) for their next CD release. But the recognition is probably more important for the young band.

The Shades, formed about two years ago, has performed at major Warrandyte events. They have independently recorded and distributed a CD that has sold well at gigs and local outlets.

Rob Teskey father of lead guitarist Sam has helped arrange gigs at Federation Square, Docklands, Vodaphone Arena and venues up and down the Yarra valley. "They're really still evolving. They keep discovering new music and experimenting with new harmonies and rhythms. It's amazing to watch them discover and digest the music from other eras. And they always find a new and creative way to approach the music of other performers."



Local band The Shades.

Film festival changes plans

The organisers of the Warrandyte Film Festival, planned to coincide with the Warrandyte Festival next March, have altered their schedule.

Two weekend workshops intended for November and December this year have been delayed until the middle of next year.

"The dates have not been finalised," a spokesperson told the *Diary*, "but we are looking at some time in July, possibly during the mid-semester break."

The workshops have been delayed to allow the organisers to concentrate on planning for the Film Festival itself.

"We intend paying homage to celebrated Warrandyte filmmaker, the late David Baker," the spokesperson said. "We recently viewed selections from David's work." Foremost among them was the pilot for the Australian TV children's drama series "The Magic Boomerang".

"It was only a kids' show, but it tackled some issues that are topical today," David's son Anton Baker said.

A 20-minute colour documentary entitled "In My Beginning" will also be screened at the festival.

"It contains classic scenery of Warrandyte at that time, and features activities at the Koornong school which ran for about seven years, before and into World War 2."

A competition for short films by local filmmakers, entitled the Cameo Awards, is also planned for the festival. Meanwhile, anyone from Warrandyte who needs help preparing a short film for the Cameo Awards, or any further information about the film festival, should call Jeremy Loftus-Hills on 9844 3697.

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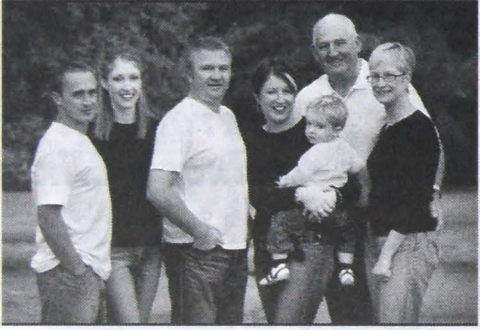
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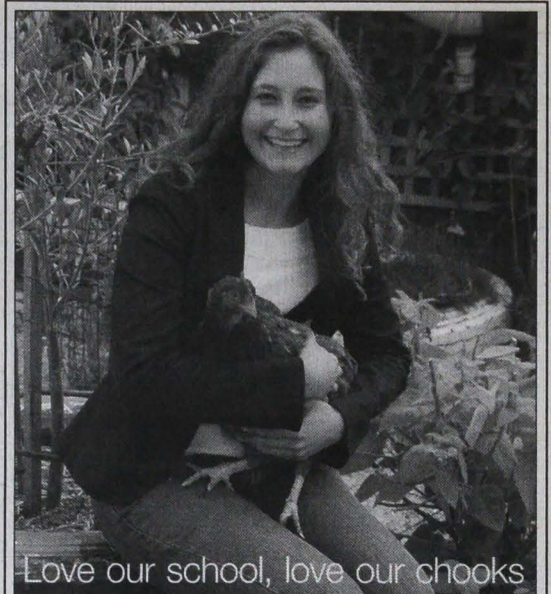
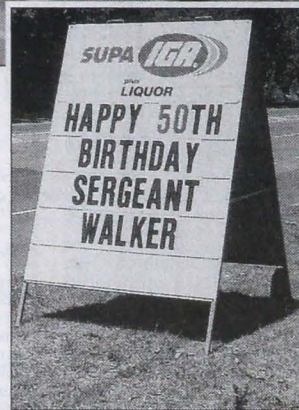
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Fair cop, young Keith!




Don't tell anyone, but Warrandyte's favourite policeman, Sergeant Keith Walker, turned 50 last month. Keith wanted it kept a secret, so Linda (left) and Joan at the Warrandyte Community Bank promised not tell anyone. But the folk at IGA (inset) couldn't resist telling the whole town! (Pictures by Jan Tindale)



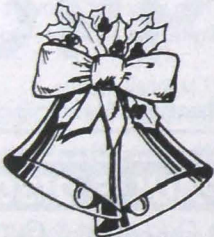
Love our school, love our chooks
Meg Singer (pictured), student teacher from Wisconsin, USA, has been working at Warrandyte Primary School during term 4. When asked about the differences in education between Warrandyte and home, Meg named "chooks, olden days celebrations, engagement in learning and wonderful behaviour of the kids, the bush band and pride in their school". Meg asked us to pass on her appreciation of the support given by her host family, Linda and Pat Bromilow, and the staff and students at the school.

Alex pays us a visit

Andersons Creek Primary School hosted Alex Harris, aged 10, from Atlanta, Georgia, USA for several days last month. Alex was in Melbourne to celebrate the 80th birthdays of her grandparents, Ron and Bonnie Harris, formerly of Harris Gully Road, Warrandyte. She participated in Grade 3/4C and is reported to have "loved her experience of an Australian school and delighted to make a lot of new Australian friends". Alex (left) is pictured with Claire.

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Alan Marshall Short Story Award 2007

Nillumbik Shire Council invites writers to enter this annual short story competition held in memory of the great writer and former resident of Eltham, Alan Marshall.

Entries close: 4pm, Friday 23 February 2007
Judge: John Button

The three categories are:

- Open Section Award of \$2000 for stories up to 2,500 words
- Local Writers' Award of \$1000 for stories up to 2,500 words
- Young Writers' Award (15-19 years) of \$400 for stories up to 1,000 words.

Competition details and entry form may be obtained from: www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
email artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
or telephone (03) 9433 3127.



Modest requests cross the world

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House has despatched a parcel of urgently needed items to a birthing centre in the tiny village of Akeum in Southern Sudan.

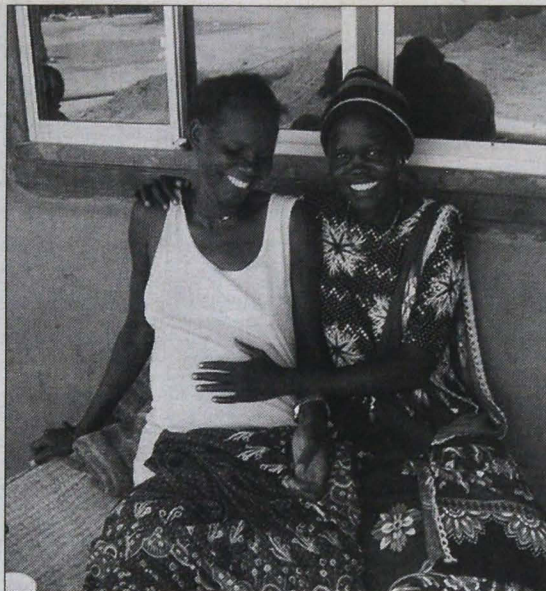
When local resident Kussum Wells visited Jean Chapman prior to departing for Sudan, Jean said, "Let me know if you need anything."

Last August a letter arrived from Kussum. "Her list of requests was so minimal it was humbling," Jean Chapman told the *Diary*.

The letter asked for, "10 watches—\$2 ones would do—so that we can record the time of birth and count how long it takes to resuscitate a baby; two pairs of dressmaking scissors so that the birth attendants can cut gauze to make pads for the women and cut sheets and blankets into squares for the babies; a thermos flask and six metal cups so staff can have tea on night duty and non-hybrid seeds of vegetables that will grow in the tropics".

Akeum is so remote that it is contactable only by plane—every two months.

Jean spoke to a small group of women from the Neighbourhood House who formed a support group—the Friends of Akeum.



Akeum birthing attendants sporting their "\$2" watches.

The group purchased the dressmaking scissors, then a hospital donated a bundle of surgical and nail scissors. "An embarrassment of scissors," Jean said.

A health shop donated most of the seeds.

"We took a photo of the women involved, wrote letters, posted the package at the end of the September and held our collective breaths. Contrary to some of the cynics' doubts, the parcel arrived via Kenya."

Kussum wrote to Jean: "It was just like Christmas. I've had to stagger the release of the goods

as I fear it will be too overwhelming, but the other night we all had our first hot cup of tea. And you should see the reaction of the children when they see the balloons!"

The original letter requested a Doppler, a device to measure the babies' heart beats, costing \$800. "This was too much for our small group to purchase, so we have formed a fundraising committee and are looking for ideas to find the money," Jean said.

To learn more, call Jean Chapman on 9844 3326 or Karen Throssell at Warrandyte Neighbourhood House on 9844 1839.

Loughlan will dance across the Tasman

By JOANNE GREEN

Loughlan Prior, 18, of Fossickers Way, has achieved the first of his life's ambitions. He has been admitted to a national dance academy.

Having just completed his VCE at the Victorian College of the Arts, his years of dancing dedication has seen him accepted into the New Zealand School of Dance in Wellington.

Auditions for the school were held in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane in October. Loughlan told the *Diary*, "I did the Melbourne audition. They watched a ballet class and a contemporary class." Of the many students who auditioned for the New Zealand School of Dance at the Melbourne audition, only Loughlan and one girl received a letter requesting a second audition towards becoming enrolled in the school, which takes around 60 students a year.

Loughlan's success means that he has fulfilled the criteria of the school's panel, which includes such qualities as aptitude for dance, commitment and achievement to date. He is very excited. "I have never wanted to do anything else," he said.

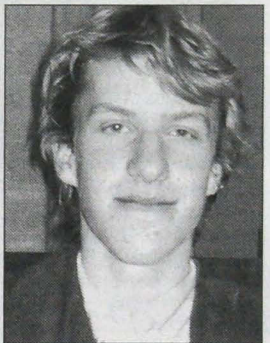
Loughlan has been dancing since he was five years old. Fourteen years of training and study has resulted in him gaining entrance to the diploma of dance in dance performance at the prestigious NZ school. The three-year course focuses on both classical and contemporary dance.

His ultimate aim is to become a principal dancer in a major company.

Loughlan will live in New Zealand for the duration of the course, however he hopes to be able to return home each Christmas.

A jaw operation has delayed Loughlan's departure for Wellington, but he hopes to be away before long. "Hopefully in January," he said.

Loughlan Prior (pictured below) is a candidate in the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award, sponsored by the Lions Club and currently being judged.



Lions test kinder kids

Warrandyte Lions successfully completed a health program at the Warrandyte kindergarten in Taroona Avenue when they arranged for 40 children to be tested for vision impairment.

The volunteer optometrists doing the testing were from Mitcham Eye Care.

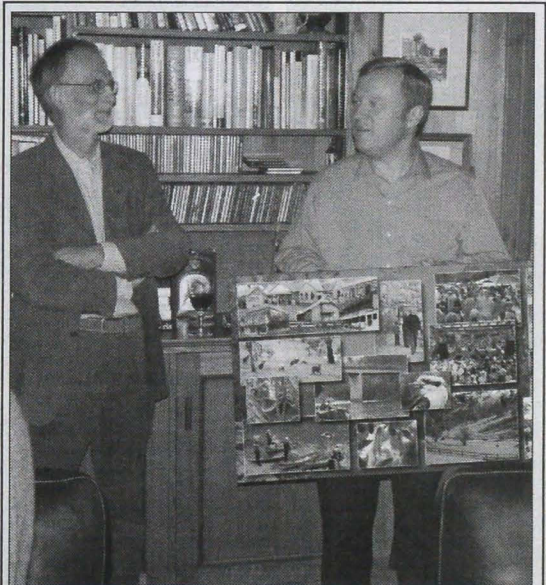
Fortunately, only five per cent of children tested were found to be deficient and were referred for specialist examination.

"These screenings are important because the early detection of such problems amblyopia ('lazy eye') can mean the difference between loss of sight and successful treatment," a Lions spokesperson told the *Diary*.

The club is now liaising with Eyes on Warrandyte for a similar screening at the Yarra Warra kindergarten in North Warrandyte early in 2007.

In another success, the bi-monthly publication, "Lionews" was voted best club brochure at the recent Lions district convention.

The purpose of "Lionews" is to inform local residents of the club's activities.



Farewell, Phil

Phil Honeywood, for 18 years MP for Warrandyte, took his leave from parliament and from this electorate last month. Among a number of farewell functions organised around the district, the Warrandyte community tendered two. The largest, at Andersons Creek Primary School, was organised by the Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park Police and Citizens Consultative Committee. A second gathering, tendered by the Warrandyte Community Association, was held at the home of Bruce and Pam Davidson in Betton Crescent. Pictured: Mr Honeywood (right) receives a framed montage of *Diary* photographs by Stephen Reynolds from WCA president Dick Davies.

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2007 ENROLMENT (Melbourne):


INFORMATION EVENING

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MANNINGHAM

PERMIT PARKING

Council-issued parking permits expire on 31st December 2006.

The permit scheme is designed to provide for the safe and equitable use of parking spaces to the benefit of everyone.

Those affected include the holders of:

- Resident parking permits;
- Trader parking permits;
- Aquarena - short term permits;
- Aquarena - staff parking permits; and
- Permits for schools, preschools and private property areas which are patrolled by Council.

If you are a resident, or if you are eligible to access a permit zone on private property, please contact Council for an application to renew your permit.

If you are a trader, you should contact your traders group representative for a new permit.

Those desiring to access the permit zones at Aquarena should contact the centre.

Disabled persons parking permits are not affected. Your permit expiry date remains unchanged.

The new scheme will operate until 31st December 2009.

A requirement of the law is for you to conspicuously display a current and valid permit if you are desiring to use a permit zone.

For further information please telephone 9840 9333.

Time to thank our Diary volunteers

Another year has whizzed by, another 11 issues of the *Warrandyte Diary* under our collective belt.

Time to thank all the wonderful volunteers who give so generously of their time and skills to ensure this newspaper keeps on coming.

Reporters this year have included Emma Clark, Sam Davies, Cliff Green, Sandy Burgoyne, Stuart Teather and Joanne Green.

Prudence Truby King, Jeremy Loftus-Hills, Marilyn Moore, Val Polley, Meaghan O'Connor and Cliff Green contributed features.

Our columnists included Roger Kibell, Pat Coupar, Marilyn Moore and Judy Green. We pub-

lished poetry by Karen Throssell and Corinne Fenton.

Sports reports were written by Robert White, Clinton Grybas, Sonia Rappell, Dennis Hoiberg, Paul Vander Zant Tony Oliver, Tim Colman, Rick Gordon, James Logan, Josh Bevis, Damien Arsenis and Judy Green.

Stephen Reynolds, Sandy Burgoyne, Robert White and Emma Clark took the photographs. Cartoons and other artwork were by Jock Macneish, Paul Williams, Syd Tunn, Ona Henderson and Melanie Coupar. Wayne Rankin designed our beautiful new masthead.

Cliff Green and Robert White edited the paper and designed the pages.

Rachel Schroeder designed the ads, set the type and supervised production, assisted by Mark Schroeder who serviced our computers.

Sandy Burgoyne continues to edit our website, sending our paper into cyberspace and around the world.

Rae Danks charmed our advertisers, kept the money flowing and managed our office. John Roberts attended to our corporate responsibilities.

Peter Norman and Joyce Norman (assisted by Betty Oke and Neal Tessier) took our newspaper out to our many, greatly appreciated distribution points.

Last, but certainly not least, we remember the folk who make it all financially possible—our esteemed advertisers. Please think of them when you need a product or service and remember our motto—"act globally, shop locally".

And finally, heartfelt thanks to you, our many loyal and enthusiastic readers, with a special mention for those who have contributed to our Dear Diary page.

We're taking a break over Christmas and the New Year, but we'll be back with your favourite

CLYDE & OCKER

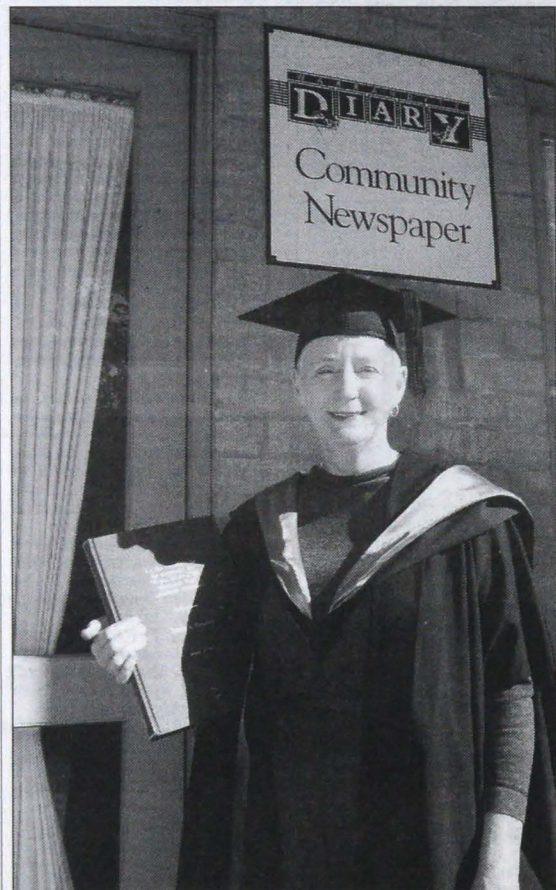


"You don't look a day older than you did 35 years ago, Ock!"
"That's digital technology for you, Clyde!"

newspaper on Wednesday, February 7, 2007. We close copy on Friday, January 26.

In the meantime, here's wishing everyone a joyous Christmas and wonderful New Year.

Pages from the past



Long-time *Diary* staffer Sandy Burgoyne (pictured) graduated as Master of Arts, RMIT University this month. Her thesis, entitled "For the Community", examined the 35-year history of this newspaper from its founding in 1970. (Picture by Ian Wright)

Emma wins inaugural award

For many years now, the *Diary* has operated an informal "cadetship" project, encouraging young locals seeking a career in journalism to join our staff and work with us.

Occasionally they come to us during their final high school years, more often when they begin a university journalism course.

Young people who have worked with us through the years and are now following successful careers in journalism and public relations include Clinton Grybas, Georgi Stickels, Rachel Baker and Sam Davies.

Earlier this year, soon after esteemed editor and *Diary* legend Lee Tindale died, a good friend of Lee's—and of this paper—contacted us and offered to sponsor an award to honour Lee's memory. The prize proposed was for \$1000, to go to an



Emma Clark

outstanding *Diary* cadet, on the strict understanding that the donor remained anonymous.

Emma Clark, now aged 20, came to us in mid-2005 and we published her first report in September that year. She showed real talent as a writer and an immediate grasp of the essential skills and has contributed major news stories to our paper ever since. A student at Monash University, Emma is clearly set for an outstanding career and is the worthy recipient of the inaugural Lee Tindale-Warrandyte *Diary* Young Journalist's Award.

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Carols by Candlelight

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 16
commencing at 8pm

Entertainment will be provided from 7.15pm

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FURTHER INFORMATION: 9844 4148



Warm wishes for the festive season.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Christmas. For all your banking needs drop in and see us at 144 Yarra Street, Warrandyte or call 9844 2233. Our ATM will be available over the Christmas period.

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*from all the staff at
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warrandyte north private sale
 buyer enquiry range \$500k+

Gorgeous newly completed 5BR family home. Formal lounge/dining. Kitchen/meals with jarrah floors. Separate family living area. 5 double bedrooms! Landscaped gardens, space for children to play. Fantastic location. Walk to river, park, school, shops and transport.



warrandyte north private sale
 buyer enquiry range \$500k-\$540k

Searching for something that offers the flexibility to update or build? This spacious 3BR home set on a beautiful 4359sqm allotment features kitchen/meals, elevated lounge, double carport, single garage, workshop and a rear patio with lots of sunshine.



warrandyte north auction
 11am saturday 17 february unless sold prior
 buyer enquiry range \$550k-\$600k

A Bradleys Lane address is within your reach! Spacious 3BR family home. Large kitchen/meals/family with cathedral ceilings. Separate formal lounge/dining. Huge bedrooms. Workshop and double carport. Nearly 1.25 acres with river access! Bliss!



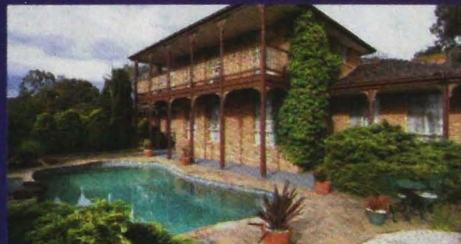
park orchards auction
 11am saturday 16 december unless sold prior
 buyer enquiry range \$600k+

As featured in *Home Beautiful*, this stunning architect-designed 4 bedroom + study home features open plan kitchen/meals/family living flooded with natural light. Children's retreat. Study with external access. Situated on level 1/2 acre of landscaped gardens. Carport and workshop. Fantastic family location!



warrandyte private sale
 buyer enquiry range \$610k

Count them - 5 living areas! 4BR + study home situated on 2/3 acre in one of Warrandyte's best loved family precincts. Lounge/dining. Gourmet emporite kitchen, meals and family living area. Separate rumpus. Solar heated IG pool. Double garage and workshop. Walk to river, shops, schools, transport and village.



warrandyte north/research private sale
 buyer enquiry range \$950k+

'Tinarra' situated on a near 6.5 acres of landscaped gardens. 5BRs + study. Formal lounge/dining. Kitchen/Meals/Family. Rumpus. Panoramic views of Macedon Ranges. IG pool and terrace. Dbl garage, carport, sheds, stable.



kangaroo ground/bend of islands private sale
 sale price \$220k

Magnificent lightly treed near 4.5 acre allotment, situated in the heart of the Bend of Islands conservation zone, offering state park and river access. Just waiting for your dream home!



warrandyte private sale
 buyer enquiry range \$250k-\$280k

With so little vacant land left in Warrandyte, this 862sqm approx allotment is a rare find! Situated in a coveted pocket of Warrandyte, only a short stroll to the Yarra River and Pound Bend Reserve and within easy walking distance of Goldfields Plaza, transport and primary school.

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Please join the staff from Gardiner McInnes Estate Agents and Supa Victory IGA Warrandyte for our annual

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Christmas church services

Celebrate Christ's birthday at your local church.

Christmas services for 2006 are as follows: Anglican Church (9844 3473) Christmas Eve 8am, 10am, 11.30pm. Christmas Day 8am, 9.30am. Uniting Church (9844 3476) Christmas Eve 10.15am, 7.30pm, 11.30pm. Christmas Day 9am. Community Church (9844 4148) Christmas Eve 10am, 7pm. Christmas Day 10am. Catholic Church (9876 1509) Christmas Eve 5pm family mass, 9pm mass. Christmas Day 9am mass—all at Park Orchards. Anyone requiring transport or more information please call the church of your choice.

Carols

The Warrandyte Community Carols by Candlelight will be presented by the combined churches of Warrandyte and Park Orchards at Stiggants Reserve on Saturday, December 16 commencing at 8pm. See elsewhere in this issue for full details.

Hope

Hope in the midst of hurt—a quiet reflective time for those who find Christmas hard. Warrandyte Uniting Church on Sunday, December 17 at 7pm. Enquiries to Ros on 0419 120 407.

Read

The Grand Read, an annual event run by the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House in con-

junction with the Warrandyte Festival will be on again at the Grand Hotel on March 27, 2007. Readers are invited to read their original works—no longer than seven minutes per reader. Admittance to readers is free, but they are asked to bring along two paying guests. Supper is provided with drinks available from the bar. Entry is \$12. If you are interested call Karen on 9844 1839.

Specials

Friends of Warrandyte State Park are holding a summer special sale with 25 per cent off on a large range of plants including drought tolerant ground covers, wildflowers and wattles. Plants (15 for \$10) are available at the FOWSP nursery in Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte on Thursdays only between 10am and 12.30pm.

Carols again

Manningham Carols by Candlelight will take place at Ruffey Lake Park on Friday, December 15. This year celebrates 25 years of the carols tradition in Manningham. The night starts with a family festival from 6pm to 7.45pm with free entertainment, sausage sizzle, fairy floss and face painting. Humphrey Bear will then be in attendance until 8.15 when the carols will get underway. An outstanding group of local artists will be performing.

Library

The Doncaster branch of the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library is temporarily relocating as part of the redevel-

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 thediary@vicnet.net.au, fax it to 9844 4168, or post it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113 by the last Friday in the month.

opment of Westfield Doncaster. The existing branch will close on January 12 at 8pm and re-open on January 20 at 1 Hummell Way (rear of the scout hall off JJ Tully Drive). The library will be relocated to new larger premises when the Westfield development is complete.

More carols!

Carols by Candlelight will be held at Panton Hill Memorial Park on Sunday, December 17 at 8pm. If you wish to join a choir for the singing call Wendy on 9718 1352 or Anne on 9719 7438.

Foxes

The Fox DNA project is an Australia-wide study of the genetics of feral foxes. They are seeking help from any members of the public who can provide samples of foxes they shoot, trap or find as roadkill. Easy-to-use kits are available. For further information please call Dr Oliver Berry on freecall 1800 633 097 or see www.foxDNA.animals.uwa.edu.au.

Care

Wesley Do Care are seeking volunteers. Please call 9762 5211.



Brian Laurence and Ted Rotherham test the seat dedicated to the memory of Jo Laurence.

Historical society honours a special friend

A memorial seat in honour of Jo Laurence was unveiled at the Warrandyte Historical Society museum during their recent Christmas get-together. The unveiling was performed by Jo's husband, Brian. Jo was a founding member of the society when it was formed in 1976 and was serving as president when she died earlier this year. The society is very anxious to increase its membership and would particularly like to hear from anyone willing to serve on the committee. Enquiries to Shirley Rotherham on 9844 2438.

artyfacts

Montsalvat

An exhibition of landscape painting and printmaking entitled "Salon de Montsalvat" will be held from Thursday, December 7, 2006 to Sunday, January 28, 2007. Works by a large number of artists, including Diary cartoonists Syd Tunn and Ona Henderson, will be on show. A number of awards and prizes will be given. The gallery is open from 9.30am to 5pm daily.

Stonehouse

Stonehouse Gallery wishes all their friends a happy and safe Christmas and invites everyone to visit the gallery where new works have been created for this special time of year. The gallery is at 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte.

Perceptions

An exhibition entitled "Evolving Perceptions" and showing oils, acrylics and silk scarves by Bernadine Williams will be on show from Wednesday, December 13 until Tuesday, December 19 at the Box Hill Community Arts Centre, 470 Station Street, Box Hill.



Hospitality girls win award in memory of Christie & Luke

The annual Christie Lawrence and Luke Mayall award for 2006 has been won jointly by Leah Spencer and Michelle Fitzjohn. They received their cheques for \$3000 from Warrandyte Arts Association president Phyl Swindley at the awards ceremony last month. This year's award was given to young hospitality aspirants. Next year's award will be given to a local young achiever in the performance arts.

Tell the Diary your news

COREY'S COMMUNITY

By SYD & ONA



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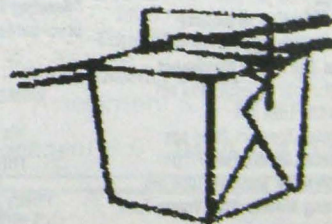
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 Children's Drawing Mon, Tues, Wed pm
 Machine Embroidery Sat (workshop)
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 * Calligraphy Thurs pm

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 Yoga Mon pm
 Introduction to Natural Therapies Fri pm
 Nia: The Joy of Movement (dance for fitness) Mon am
 Tai Chi Tues pm
 Pilates Tues am, Wed pm
 Tibetan Meditation Fri pm
 Bollywood Dancing Tues pm
 Strong Women Stay Young Tues am, Fri am
 Monday Walking Group Mon am

LANGUAGE:
 French Club Wed pm

SUPPORT GROUPS:
 Men's Group Wed pm
 *Time Out for Mums Thurs am

EDUCATIONAL / LIFE SKILLS:
 Monthly Discussion and Lunch Group Fri pm
 MYOB Wed pm
 *Film Club Tues pm

GARDENING AND THE ENVIRONMENT:
 *Keeping Them Alive (drought proof gardening) Sat pm

EVENTS:
 WOMEN'S HEALTH DAY
 March 7th
 Nia and brain gym

THE GRAND READ
 March 27th
 Poetry and prose by local writers at the pub

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TERM STARTS: Jan 30-Mar 30
 Enrolments from January 22

**New this term*

www.warrandyteneighbourhoodhouse.org.au

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



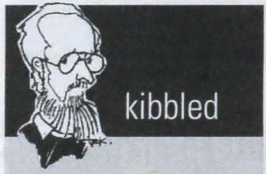
Travelling the world in search of pots and pans

WHEN do you call a halt to visiting kitchenware shops? How many whisks, cake tins, silicone sheets and new improved apple peelers do you really need?

For some reason, kitchenware and gourmet food supply shops seem to have a magnetic attraction for Herself. Conversely, I have a very developed interest in good tools. I can spend hours researching them in hardware shops, for possible future projects. It's easy to drop in for just a minute or two only to come out an hour later with a pile of necessary items. I can't see, however, how the same commonsense can be applied to scouring kitchen shops for mere cooking gear.

There we were in Paris. It was a beautiful sunny morning and I assumed we would be going for a walk in one of the many squares near our tiny apartment. As we set off west, I wondered why we were taking an apparently circuitous route to get to our nearby pocket handkerchief of greenery. My fears became alarm when we didn't turn at the next corner but, in fact, turned in the opposite direction.

Like all men, I always listen attentively to everything my wife says and yet I was sure that we hadn't discussed an alternative activity for that morning. I do remember that Herself was talking whilst she was preparing the previous evening's meal. I was sitting on the couch, heavily involved in reading the labels of several different regional wine bottles. I made appropriate acknowledging sounds ev-



"It wasn't just that the goods were described in French that confused me. There were things there that I couldn't believe anyone would use, let alone want."

ery now and then but I'm sure that I would have remembered agreeing to a change in what I thought we were going to do that morning.

"This is an interesting way to come," I offered.
 "Not really. It's about as straightforward as it could possibly be. You do know where we're going?"
 Instead of my life flashing before my eyes, an image of Herself poring over the Paris guide ran in slow-mo. After that memory,

there intruded a vague recollection of words like "unique", "historic", "a gourmet's delight" and "not very far from us" from last night's pre-dinner "conversation". Fearful of being unjustly charged with lack of attention, I decided to bluff my way through.

"Of course I do! It's just that I think some of these buildings are architecturally interesting, so naturally, it's an interesting way to come."

"Since when have you been interested in rather boring commercial buildings? You have no idea where we're going, do you? Weren't you listening last night when we agreed to do this?"

"Don't be silly. Of course I know what we're doing. I just can't remember the name."

"Of what?"
 "Of where we're going."
 Well, I don't need to go into all the rest of the sordid conversation. Suffice it to say that after some blustering on my part and some spleen-venting and blubbing on her part, we arrived at The Famous, Historical, Parisian Cookware Shop.

"And don't you dare complain and spoil this even more than you already have!"

There was a decided chill in the air and I must admit to feeling relieved as we entered the warmth of the shop.

Whilst Herself's face broke into a satisfied grin of delight as she sprinted down a flight of rickety steps to the basement, I lounged, nonchalantly, against a pile of enamelled mixing bowls.

After five minutes, Herself emerged with some copper saucepans.

"Finished?" I offered.
 "Instead of being so dismissive, why don't you come with me and help. They're not just my friends we're buying presents for! Let's start over here."

It wasn't just that the goods were described in French that confused me. There were things there that I couldn't believe anyone would use, let alone want. A bath for cooking a whole fish. A rack on which to roast a trussed quail. Cauldrons large enough to float the QE2. Knives for every conceivable task from micro-surgery to mass destruction.

Suddenly, it struck me. There was not one piece of plastic to be seen. Everything was made to survive rigorous handling in a "serious" kitchen. And that was when my eyes opened.

Everything in the shop was "quality". The brass handles on the copper pans were riveted and soldered. Canisters had metal latches and hinges made of brass. Glassware was of toughened glass if used for preparation and delicate and decorated if it were to be used for food presentation.

As Herself was salivating over the joy these products would bring to her cooking, I began to marvel at the craftsmanship. Eventually I had to be dragged out, not because I'm a great chef but because I came to the realisation that a passionate collector is not just interested in utility but in the magnificent creativity and craftsmanship that resides in human nature.

Something we might do well to contemplate when we open our presents on Christmas Day.

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When a little London sparrow evoked wistful memories

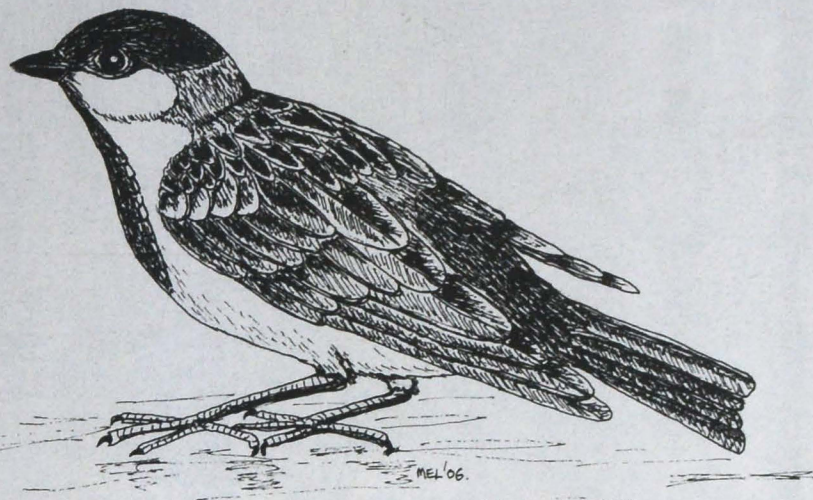
NOSTALGIA is an emotional cocktail containing ingredients of happiness, sadness, pleasure and pain sprinkled with a dash of embarrassment and regret. It evokes a wistful yearning for youth lost over the passing of time and is an acute reminder that life does not go on forever.

Thinking about the past requires a conscious effort or a trigger. A few weeks ago I received an email that sent my thoughts spiralling back four decades. The Middlesex Hospital. The November 1966 nursing set was having a reunion in London. It came as a shock. Was it really 40 years ago that we were thrown together to embark on our chosen career? We all were so young—all of us straight from school.

In those days most of the training was done on the wards, but there was a preliminary eight weeks of study during which time friendships were formed—sometimes for life. Carrie, the organiser of the event had done an incredible job contacting 43 of the original 55 of us who had started. Out of those, all but six could make it to the luncheon.

By pure luck I had been in London for the last one, 20 years ago, but not this time. Instead, like the other non-attendees, I was asked to write a short synopsis of my life and select the best, worst and funniest moments of hospital life and a favourite patient.

I gazed out of the window for inspiration, wondering how to condense the last 40 years into 25 words! A small round bird was perched on a low branch of a Correa bush. It was a House Sparrow. How strange, I hadn't seen one of those in the garden for ages. Or maybe I had only noticed this one because my thoughts were back in London, their homeland. And in that old and grubby city, sparrows were one of the few birds to



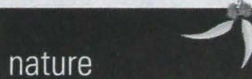
regularly visit the window sills and ledges of the hospital wards and nurses' home where I lived for the first two years of my training.

Sparrows are intelligent little birds that have learned to adapt to major changes in the environment to such an extent that they have become partly dependant on humans for shelter and food. They will eat just about anything from insects, spiders, berries and seeds to human food scraps. Nests—an untidy ball of grass lined with feathers—are built in wall crevices, roofs and under bridges. The House Sparrow has a country cousin called the Tree Sparrow. Similar in size and colour, it is more at home in open woodlands and orchards than around human habitation.

Both species are found in Australia although of the two the Tree Sparrow has a more

limited distribution being confined to eastern Victoria and the Riverina district. Sparrows were introduced into this country in the 1860s by British settlers for purely sentimental reasons. These early migrants called themselves "acclimatisers". They formed a society bent on "stocking waste waters, woods and plains with choice animals, making that which was dull and lifeless become animated by creatures in the full enjoyment of existence, and lands before useless, become fertile with rare and valuable trees and plants teeming with excellent fruits, variety of foliage and gay and brilliant flowers." So said Dr George Bennett at an early acclimatisation meeting.

There were proposals to introduce monkeys, boa constrictors (to control the native venomous snakes), giraffes, mongooses, hummingbirds and flamingos.



nature

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

In fact there were grand plans to redistribute animals around the globe for mankind's betterment and pleasure. Fortunately their dream failed—mainly through lack of funding and poor planning. Nevertheless plenty of animals and plants were introduced to quell the homesickness of these early settlers and most of them have become environmental ferals that we are desperately trying to control over a hundred years later.

How far my mind had wandered, down the years and back again. I redirected my thoughts back to the late 1960s and those austere hospital wards. Now who was my favourite patient?

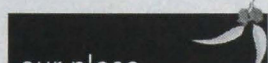
Christmas day in the hothouse

I THINK I might have come full circle on Christmas. Nearly, anyway.

When we were kids, tradition was de rigueur. Starting before first light, little fingers explored mysterious objects in Santa's stocking before grasping the lollies that always filled the toe. We tried not to wake the others before the 6am curfew, but a chorus of muffled squeaks and rustlings emanating from the other kiddies' sleeping quarters suggested that there wasn't a lot of sleeping going on.

After breakfast we opened presents around the tree before throwing on our Sunday best and proceeding ceremoniously to Dad's family for Christmas dinner. Already feeling slightly queasy from an early morning surfeit of licorice, we feasted on turkey, gravy and Christmas pudding with threepences and sixpences that Pop never found, not even when Mum carefully inserted them into his slice before serving it.

Dinner was always followed by playtime with cousins before we were rounded up and piled back into the car for the drive over to Mum's family for Christmas



our place

By **MARILYN MOORE**

tea. Gourmet cold cuts, more presents, more pudding, and more playtime with more cousins while the grown-ups washed dishes and chatted over cups of tea. Finally, when the moon was high and everybody satisfactorily stuffed, we'd clamber once more into the nest of torn wrapping papers and new treasures crowding the back seat of the old VW and sedately motor home.

Years later, after our own kids were born, I immediately rebelled against this demanding regime. Who said we had to have a traditional Christmas dinner? Who said we had to have Christmas dinner at all? Especially if it was to be immediately followed by Christmas tea. Much more civilised to enjoy champagne brunch with the neighbours then a feast of gently seared seafood and tropical fruits mid-afternoon. The pudding comes out later, after the kids have had their last swim and the

adults are ready for a bit of a sit-down.

The trouble with Christmas dinner, whatever time of day it's eaten, is the degree of difficulty, the number of pots and pans required and the fact that you need at least as much food as you would for a week-long camping trip. Not easy when you are working right up until the eleventh hour, as most women do. It doesn't necessarily help, either, to be confronted with soothing epicurean cookbooks, boldly authoritative recipes in glossy magazines, simpering TV kitchen goddesses, and oceans of conversation ebbing and flowing along the lines of "I might pop down to the Prahran market and get some of those little friandises amandes, you know, they're so sweet. Robert's sending me a big crate of blue swimmer crabs from the north coast, and jus d'iguazu is simply divine as a marinade—you can get it from any Peruvian hawker's stall..."

Yeah, right. Women have dug such a big hole for themselves over Christmas. They've thrown away the impossible-to-maintain schedule of a traditional

Christmas and replaced it with something that takes a month of Sundays to research, test-drive, negotiate and prepare. And that, of course, has to be integrated with other seasonal necessities such as writing dozens of Christmas cards, buying and wrapping presents, and getting the house and surrounds into a condition that won't have all the relos gossiping for months afterwards. ("Do you think she's coping...?")

Well no, she's not, really. There is no such thing as a stress-free Christmas for a working mum. All that expectation of sumptuousness and due process! Maybe there's some sense in tradition after all—it certainly saves thinking, and Christmas simply wouldn't be Christmas without pudding. On the other hand, when the thermometer hits 35 and the cicadas' blinding rhythms shimmer in sync with the heat haze, roast dinner makes no sense at all.

Well, I reckon you can worry too much about some things. Tradition or no tradition, we always thoroughly enjoy the day—and that's what counts. So Bon Noël, folks! See you next year.

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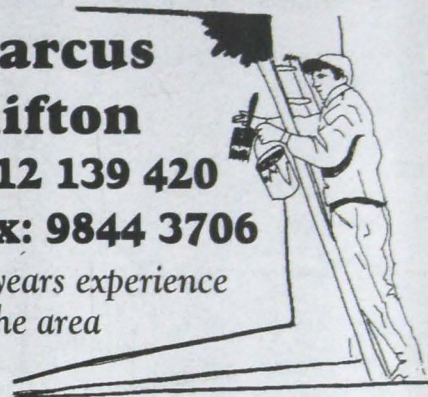
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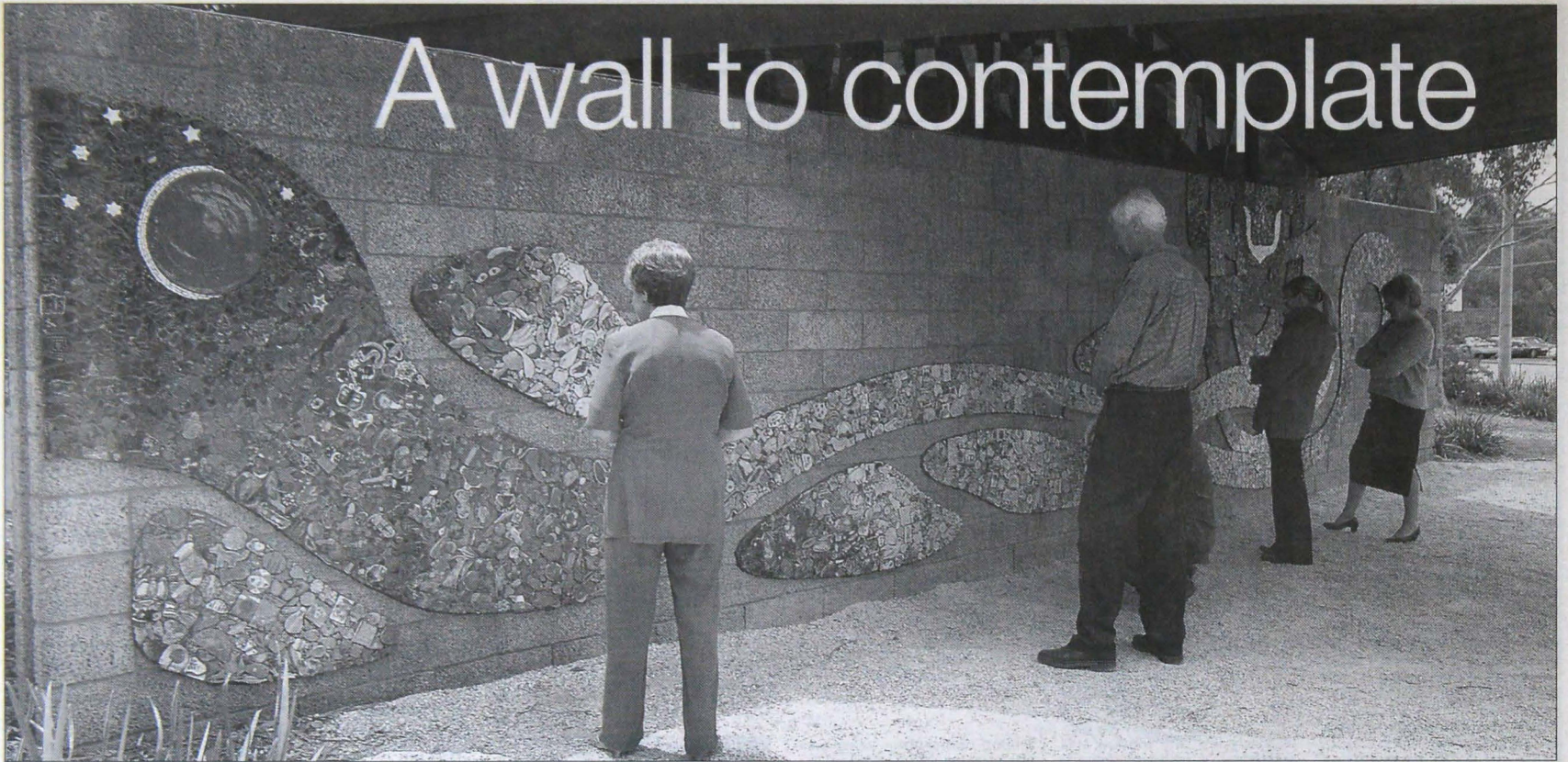
Warrandyte Community Market

Under the gum trees, on Stiggants Reserve, Yarra Street, Warrandyte
 First Saturday of each month - except January, 9am-1pm.

Ample parking. Light refreshments available.
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A wall to contemplate



Have you noticed the wonderful ceramic mosaic decorating a wall of the Warrandyte Uniting Church in Taroon Avenue? That's their long-awaited Peace Wall, officially opened earlier this month.

Comprising more than 4000 handmade tiles, the Peace Wall project "grew out of the desire of members of the church to do something positive to make the world a more peaceful place," a church spokesperson told the *Diary*.

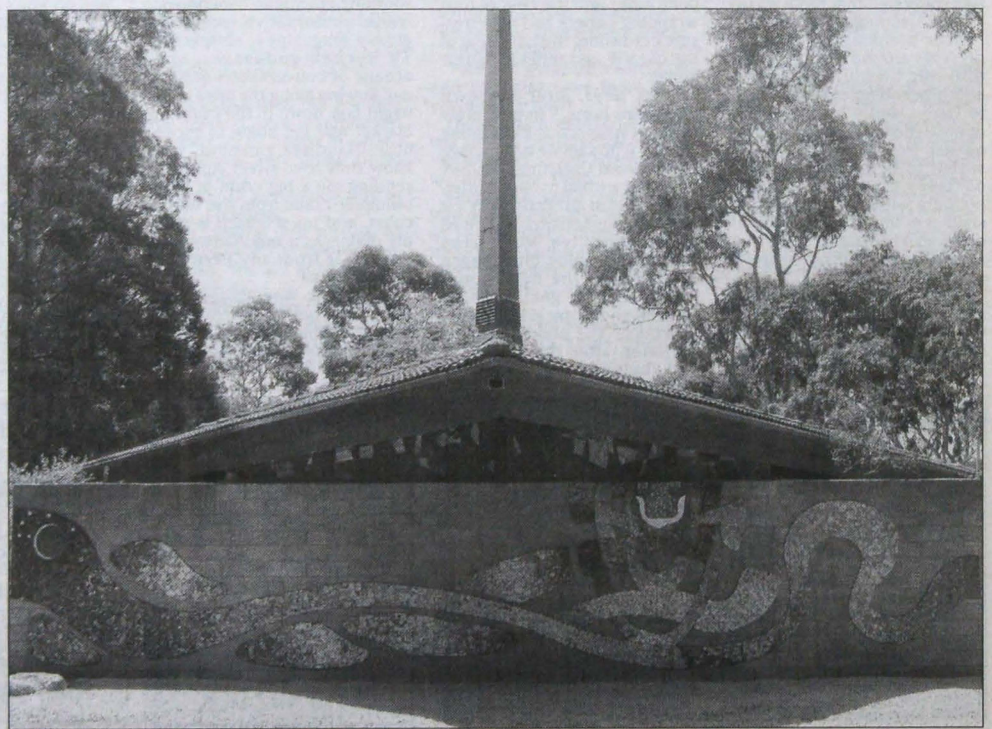
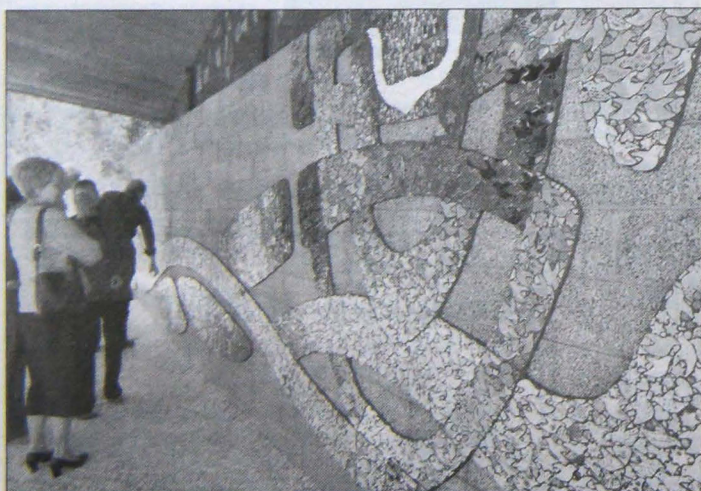
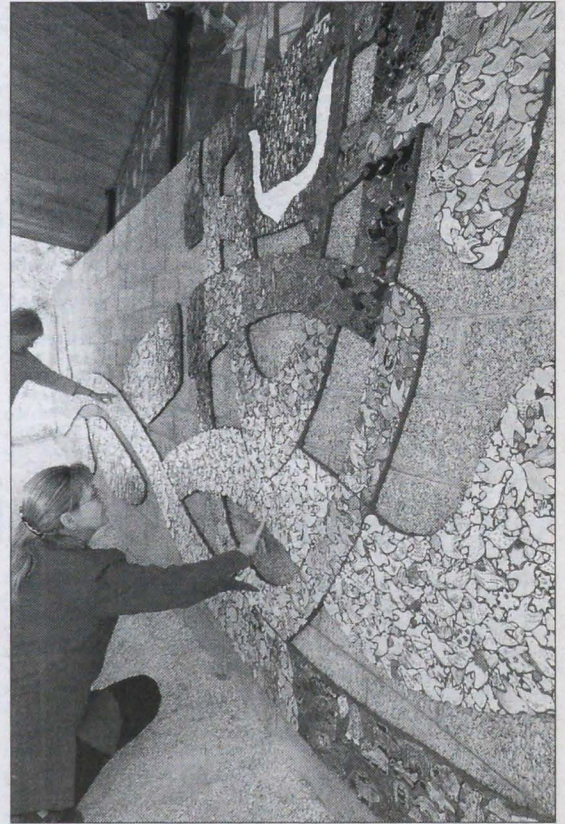
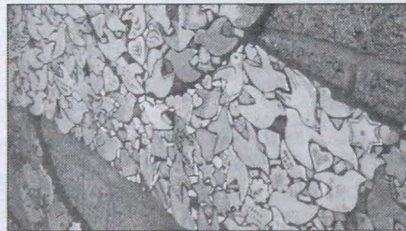
The wall was officially unveiled by Manningham mayor, Cr Patricia Young, before 200 people, including more than 40 representatives of local schools, pre-schools, community groups and other religious faiths. The wall was dedicated by Rev Jason Kioa, Uniting Church moderator.

Warrandyte Uniting Church minister, Rev Ros McDonald, told the gathering, "When people work together to make something beautiful, then they are making peace. As more than 1000 people have handmade tiles for the wall, and as the wall is indeed beautiful, I think we've made peace."

The wall was designed by local artists Walter Magilton and Denise Keele-Bedford and ceramicist Mary Lou Pittard. Chris Pittard glazed and fired more than 4000 tiles. Lee-ann Kearn coordinated the project.

Financial assistance came from Manningham council, the Warrandyte Community Bank and the Warrandyte Lions Club.

**Pictures by
STEPHEN REYNOLDS**





Christmas: In every word you say, in every gift you give

By JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

PETER KEEP is the pastor of the Warrandyte Community Church. It's our largest Christian congregation (140 of Warrandyte's families) and the only one that's growing. The day is young and he's working on a speech. "We're expecting about 2000 people at Carols by Candlelight in Stigants Reserve. They're coming for the festivities, not to listen to me. I reckon they'll give me about two minutes of their time. All I really have time to say is 'open up to God and he will accept you as you'. That has been my experience and it has changed my life."

Alone she sits, the large family bible on the coffee table before her, the thin eucalypt scrub through the window behind her, the sleepy haze of a hot Warrandyte afternoon all around.

"This Christmas I will read to the family from the gospel of Luke. His is the most beautiful story of all, and the most potent."

"I love it—from the annunciation in Nazareth and the virgin birth in Bethlehem to the circumcision in Jerusalem. And I'll put out a nativity scene from Sweden. It reminds me that Christmas celebrates love. The love of God for man."

Louise Joy has a lot to say about Christmas.

Some of it is sweeping and mythic: "Look at these illuminated manuscripts from the middle ages," she says, pointing to the coloured pages of a treasured gift from her daughter "inspired by the nativity according to Luke".

Some of it is deeply personal: "Last Christmas we had my daughter's fiancé Eechay from Nigeria," she says. "His grandfather had seven wives, was a

healer in the old tribal tradition. His father was converted to Christianity from a tribal situation, and Eechay was a dedicated Christian. He came into this non-Christian home—my husband had dropped away and my children no longer believed—and led the prayer at the beginning of the Christmas meal. I thought it was ironic that Eechay was like the missionary bringing Christianity back into our home."

"They married in the winter but Eechay died three weeks later. The prospect of Christmas re-awakens that sadness. Last night my daughter said, 'Mum, how will we celebrate Christmas when you're gone,' and I wonder about that too. I think my tradition will be lost with the passing of my generation." Louise lifts her gaze from the bible to the bush. "You know, I can't understand why we shrink from displaying the nativity in public these days..."

The connection between Christmas and art reminds me of the party, held on the bank of the river the night before, and hosted by Peter Dougherty.

"I invited the artists of Warrandyte to submit one or two selected works, put on some wine and food and called it a Christmas party—of sorts," says Peter. "There is some kind of metaphysical element in the creative process, but there is thought as well. It's a kind of dialectic I think. The artist holds the image, but sort of sees through it or beyond it. Great art is a synthesis of objective reality and another element—maybe a universal quality, maybe a mystical truth, or maybe something that allows people to see whatever they want to see in the work."

Peter is affable enough, but will not countenance the creative act as pure inspiration from a divine source—a virgin birth, in the language of Christmas.

High in the ivory towers of the Australian Catholic University, Bob Dixon and Dr Richard Bymarz enjoy a working lunch. They're poring over the results of their latest research. Entitled "Catholics who have stopped going to mass", it concludes amongst other things that they believe the church is misusing its power.

"It is irrelevant to life today and mass was not an intellectually satisfying experience. Virtually everyone interviewed objected to the church interfering in their personal life."

Meanwhile in Park Orchards, parish associate Lys Crowe explains why there'll be no more masses at either St Gerard's or St Anne's after Christmas. The new arrangements are "purely administrative, made necessary by low attendances and a shortage of priests".

Down at the Uniting Church, Reverend Ros McDonald and artist Walter Magilton pose for the Fairfax photographer in front of the new peace wall. "It all began about three years ago," says Walter. "We were looking for ways to connect with the community, and art has always been something that churches promote. So we came up with the idea of a ceramic peace wall."

"It's the work of more than 1000 people," says Ros. "It's interdominational and interfaith. Bev Hanson is going to build a garden here. We hope it will be a place where people of all beliefs can take time out and contemplate peace in the world and peace with God."

No chance to contemplate, it's already time to pick up the kids. "I had twins seven years ago," says Petra. "They're just of an age now to think about Santa. I remember when I was that age I used to get up every hour to see if he'd been. My parents did it like this: some of

the presents were from Santa, and the others were from humans. But for our kids all the presents under the tree are from Santa."

"It's fun watching your kids discover Christmas. We keep away from the commercial side—Santa at Eastland and things like that." Raised a Catholic, it doesn't worry Petra that her local church has effectively closed. "The kids get religious education at school. I think that's enough."

Marjorie Lapworth coordinates the Warrandyte Housing and Support Service. She leans across her large desk and retrieves a thick exercise book. On a double page she has listed the 77 Warrandyte families who will receive a Christmas hamper this year. "We are the one remaining voluntary relief agency in the Manningham council area," she says.

"The Lions and Rotary clubs each give us a moderate cash grant and we receive toys and food directly from the community. The rest is up to a small group of volunteers and the children at Andersons Creek Primary School. There are many more families who could use a hamper, but our resources will not stretch that far."

It's Friday evening—happy hour at the Wellers pub. Everybody's got something to say about Christmas. As the discussion proceeds there emerges a sense of disconnection; between the attachment to stories like Luke's and post-Darwin/Jung cosmology of the 20th century; between the immutable traditions of the 1950s and the cultural, technological and ecological challenges of the 21st century.

Joseph Campbell understands the significance and the power of the essential elements of Luke's nativity story. "The birth to a virgin of a hero/saviour is an

ancient myth, predating Christ by thousands of years. It was woven into the Christian bible and associated with the winter solstice as Christianity became the dominant religion in the Western world early in the first millennium."

"Christian leaders often believe that what their congregation is seeking is a meaning of life," he says. "But I don't think that's really what they're seeking. I think they're seeking an experience of being alive. So that their life on a purely physical plane will have resonances with their innermost being and reality, so that they actually feel the rapture of being alive."

There may have been a time when the Christian church helped people connect with these resonances. But the consensus at Wellers? "It's rare these days."

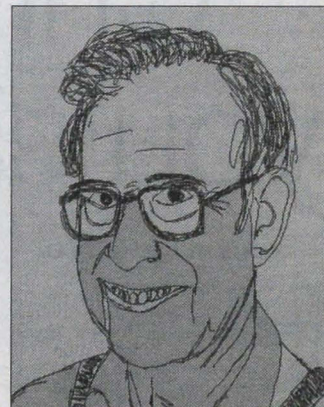
Peter Lawry used to be an Anglican priest in Panton Hill. Now he's a management consultant with a global clientele. "Australians are a deeply spiritual people," he says, "and we are finding unique ways to express that. Ours is like the shadow, in a Jungian sense, of Christmas in the Northern hemisphere."

"It's a short journey, from the head to the heart. But it is not easy to forget your beliefs and express your love for another. Despite the posturing of our leaders, it is happening—within Australian families, amongst people in communities like Warrandyte. Gradually we are establishing our own Christmas festival and people all over the world are responding. Like Madonna said, we live in a material world, we are material people. So let's get on with it. Christmas, Saturnalia, call it what you like, then celebrate the divinity in everything you do, in every word you say, in every gift you give."



Students' artwork on show

VCE Studio Arts students at Warrandyte High School have been working hard all year preparing their final folios. Long renowned for the high quality of its art department, the school was proud to show these works at a special exhibition last month. STEPHEN REYNOLDS went along for the *Diary* and took these pictures.

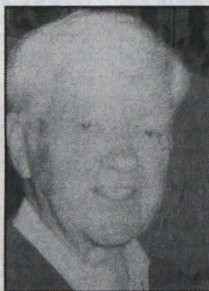


He left his imprint on this place

WALLY CORNHILL, well-known former Warrandyte resident, printer of the *Diary* for almost 10 years, has died aged 84 years. Walter was born on March 27, 1922 the son of Walter and Rhoda Cornhill, formerly Fraser. He was educated at Surrey Hills State School and Swinburne Technical College. Securing an apprenticeship in the printing trade, he attended the School of Printing and Graphic Arts in North Melbourne. With the outbreak of World War 2, Wally joined the army. His four years of war service included a period on the Kokoda Track in New Guinea. Returning to civilian life, Wally established Port Phillip Press in Elsternwick in 1947. Beginning as a one-man business, it grew to employ 24 people and was well-known throughout the Melbourne printing industry.

Wally had married Margaret and they gave birth to two children, daughter Rhonda and son Alan. In 1950 they shifted to Warrandyte where they took on a catering business in the Recreation Reserve. Known as The White House, its telephone number was Warrandyte 41. Margaret always called it "The Wreck". Naturally, Wally joined the RSL and was soon taking a leading role. With Edgar Finlay (the "Peanut King") and others, he worked hard to achieve the building of the league's clubrooms in Brackenbury Street. He was president of the Warrandyte Football Club for nine years, performing a major role in the campaign that resulted in the building of the football and cricket clubrooms at the Recreation Reserve. Wally began printing the *Warrandyte Diary* in 1974, firstly at Port Phillip Press and latterly in his workshop in North Warrandyte. His years as printer are fondly remem-

bered by everyone associated with the paper. When interviewed by Sandy Burgoyne a couple of years ago, Wal recalled: "I could make up the thing because I was a compositor and Hans (Termoshuizen) was a machinist so between us we had a pretty good working relationship. He'd come up after tea and I'd have the first three formes ready. One would be on the machine and when that was finished we'd drop that out and lock up the fourth one and print it. So it would be finished in a night, more than often not." Wally Cornhill and editor Lee Tindale had a complicated arrangement for checking the galley proofs. Wal recalled: "I would give Lee the galley proofs. He would read them for errors, then I would make up



the pages. Sometimes it would be two o'clock in the morning before I'd finished. I would take those page proofs and leave them in Lee's letterbox, then go home and go to sleep for a while. Lee would take them into the Herald office and read them in there." When Ken Virtue was editor in early the 1980s, Wal would leave the galley proofs, layouts and copy under a rock at Ken's front gate. That worked wonderfully until Ken's dog found the package and ate the lot! Wally remembered another occasion when he delivered the galleys and copy to the then (unnamed) editor. "After four days I still hadn't heard so I rang to ask. I was told there was a 'slight fire' in the house, and that's

where the *Diary* finished up. In the fire." Cliff Green remembers a time when he received a late night phone call from Wally, telling him he'd dropped a forme on the floor and two pages of type were scattered everywhere. Like Wally, Cliff had served an apprenticeship as a compositor, so he drove out to North Warrandyte and several hours later they had it all back together. "The paper looked a bit beaten and battered that month," Cliff said. Wally printed his last issue in September 1983 when newly-appointed editors Bob Millington and Mark Davis found it more convenient to take the paper to an inner suburban printing firm. Wally and Margaret Cornhill remained in Warrandyte for a number of years, but finally settled in Corowa where they ran a motel. Wally Cornhill died on August 29, 2006. He is survived by wife Margaret, daughter Rhonda and son Alan.

Teaching children was her life

66 **T**O give children a happy year and hear them say 'gee, I've had a good year, is better than any presents,' said Val Lynch, who completes more than 40 years' primary teaching when she leaves Andersons Creek Primary School this month. "Being with the kids, rapport is really important. I've really learned a lot from them, it's a two-way thing."

"My greatest accomplishment is having children and getting children to believe in themselves and blossom, to make them feel capable and not to put themselves down. Today's children are put into a society which is quite threatening—internet chatrooms could become a real problem, and schoolies' week—it's rather frightening. I just hope the children can develop a sense of self-protection."

Val said it was hard for students to get jobs when they leave school, saying parents are very encouraging but they can be critical when they push their children too hard. "Nowadays parents are interested in how their children are going and they're far more eager to know what's going on at school but sometimes they get the bull by the horns and get the wrong message."

She's saddened that parents are having children later, because the children won't know their grandparents—either they won't be there or they'll be so elderly that they won't have the same rapport that younger grandparents do. And she finds children have changed over the 40 years. "It's a social thing; they're a lot more outspoken and a lot more aware of what's going on, not always for their own good. It's a pity they can't enjoy the magic of childhood for a bit longer." Val gets angry at seeing people hurt other people, "especially children—probably more so in what they say, the name calling."

Andersons Creek was a great school to teach at, with nice children and parents, and it built up more facilities over the years. "You wouldn't teach until you were 65 if you weren't happy. There's been good principals and supportive staff—another teacher, Geoff Taylor, was a great mentor to me—he helped me with my first Grade 6 class when I was really in fear and trembling. He now comes up and volunteers with my Grade 3 kids." Geoff went on to become principal at Warranwood Primary School.

Val's father Lawrie Franklyn-Vaile was an Australian who joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers when World War 2 was declared. He met and married her mother Olive, an Englishwoman, and Val was born in Northern Ireland. Frequently overseas,

village people
By PRUDENCE TRUBY KING

Lawrie was killed leading his battalion into action in the battle of Monte Casino in 1944 when Val was two and she and Olive moved to Melbourne three years later, where Val's father had family. They paid full fare, not realising they could claim assisted passage and Val remembered there were "lots of passage people" on the ship and that she was sea-sick most of the way.

Initially mother and daughter lived in Melbourne, then in Wangaratta, back to the orchards that were Wantirna and eventually the pair settled in Ringwood.

"It was very low key then; we went to the pictures at Eastland and there were shops down the main street. My mother managed to buy a war service house but she struggled and never remarried," Val said. "We went to the gym and dancing club at Legacy, which did a wonderful job—they were all volunteers and they were a great support for forces' women and children."

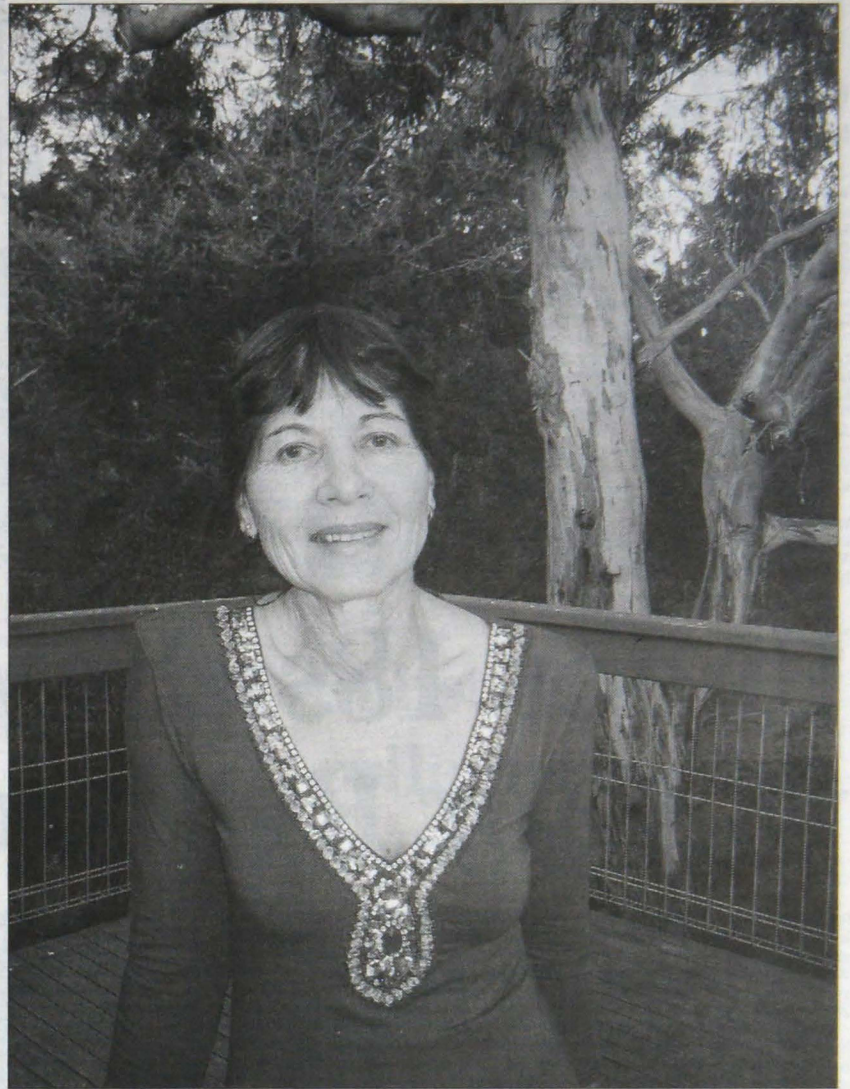
She often wished she came from a family with a father, brothers and sisters, finding her childhood lonely in a lot of ways, and she'd see other families and want to be like them.

"I know with bigger families that there's lots of infighting but on the other hand it would teach you such a lot about dealing and getting on with other people. I was very shy as a child and even in my adult years mixing with people socially wasn't an easy thing," she said.

After attending Ringwood High School, Val trained as an infant teacher at Burwood Teachers' College and worked at schools in Lilydale, North Balwyn and Boronia and at Yooralla. She married Terry in 1966 and had two children, her daughter Katherine and son Paul, who lives in Warrandyte. Katherine works for a bank in London where she's lived for almost 10 years.

"I'd love to be a grandmother but it's never going to happen. Teaching is what I love most but if I weren't a teacher I'd be a physio or a nurse," Val said. She's played tennis in Warrandyte since the 1980s and done some dog showing, firstly with a Keeshond, a Dutch barge dog, and then obedience and agility with German Shepherds. "I just love dogs. I'd find it very, very hard not to have a dog."

When the children were in their teens Terry



Val Lynch (Picture by Judy Green)

died suddenly of a brain aneurism, aged 47, and life changed for the family. "We'd built the house but we hadn't much money and suddenly I had to do everything by myself—I'd hammer in a nail or check the oil in the car and say, 'wow, I can do it'. I was on my own for a long time," she said. Val's friend Jenny Shearn who started with Val at Andersons Creek 25 years ago, and her husband Derry, were very supportive at that time.

Eleven years later Val went to a high school reunion and met her first boyfriend, Peter Fry; romance was rekindled and they've been together now for two and a half years.

"Meeting Peter again completely altered the way my life was heading. It was like a crossroads, turning in a different direction. It's made my future far more exciting and it's certainly widened my interests. On your own the cash flow is much tighter."

"Peter's an old car fanatic and so was Terry. Peter's very interested in travel and he's very

happy driving on the wrong side of the road when we're overseas. I tried to drive on the other side of the road in Europe and felt at a complete and utter loss because I couldn't judge the distance.

"I fell in love with a little 1949 MGTC car and bought it and it sounds silly but I can't actually reach the pedals because my legs aren't long enough. I'm not tall, a bit over 5ft 2ins. Peter has to drive it with me in the passenger seat," she said.

Val loves searching Ebay for Shelley pottery and she's also collected 40 books by Robert Ingpen as well as those by Clifton Pugh. She said she used to have cereal for breakfast, "but now I have porridge, mushrooms on toast or muesli with yoghurt and strawberries—whatever Peter wants to cook. He tinkers and I do the gardening."

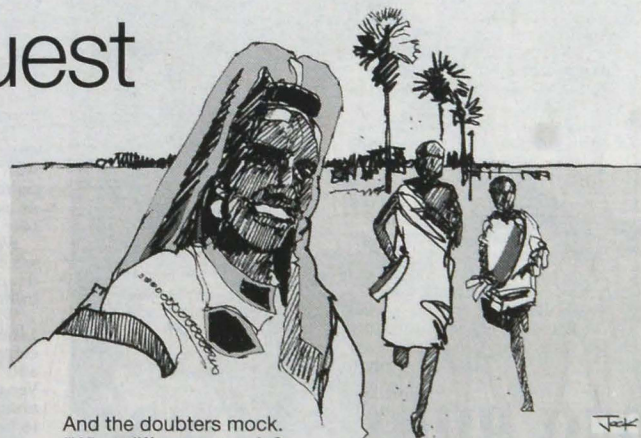
"Then the next thing I want to do is travel, to see my daughter. I'm also looking forward to reading novels—you feel guilty reading them as a teacher. One day I wouldn't be surprised if I go back and help at the school as a volunteer."

Small request

Two pairs of scissors for cutting gauze; pads for the mothers and blankets for babies; ten watches (two dollar shop ones would do) for measuring baby heart beats, and for telling time of birth; a thermos and six metal cups so the staff can have a cup of tea; balloons and sparklers for the kids (they have no toys).

Bald dusty plain shimmering with expectation skinny legs running—a flash of colour to greet gift-bearing birds, feet stirring puffs of joy, then doubt and then settling in resignation.

And the do-gooders say: "We have so much, we must give back. It's not so hard to 'make a difference'. Our little gesture can soften lives, our little gesture can ease our guilt."



And the doubters mock. "What difference made? Pathetic gestures from those who would spend the same amount on weekly grog, on daily gym or on diets to stop eating as much as they would like to."

And the doubters say "It'll never get there the corruption, the police will confiscate, keep things for themselves. The post is hopeless—doesn't know the way. You know what they're like in those countries."

And the Marxists say, "You're propping up the system that's responsible for their lot—the colonels and the IMF who leave them starving, desert strewn. It suits them fine—the scissors and the thermos softening their lives. A few less revolutionaries."

Bald dusty plain shimmering with expectation skinny legs running—a flash of colour to greet gift-bearing birds, feet stirring puffs of joy, then doubt and then settling in resignation.

And so I'm a sort of Marxist and I sort of agree but then if I'm doing nothing to oust the colonels, curb the IMF change the big picture—then why not change the little one?

Small requests only need small gestures.

KAREN THROSSELL

Venom women in State's big league

Warrandyte Basketball Association has been accepted into Victoria's premier women's basketball competition in 2007 with the Big V officially entering the Warrandyte Venom into its Division One competition in 2007.

President Stephen Bendle said the team would be based at the Warrandyte Sports Complex.

The team will include a talented mix of experience and youth, highlighted by the inclusion of former WNBL players Jo Metcalfe and Jodie Reinecke, all-American college guard Maree Vincent and England national university guard, Jodi Kennedy.

The coaching staff has selected a strong senior list, along with a handful of youngsters keen to step up from the junior program.

Bendle said that the club was very fortunate to have such experienced coaching staff as head coaches David Reinecke and Justin Nelson, plus assistant coaches Jo Metcalfe and Nicole Howard.

Pre-season training has started under the

control of fitness and conditioning coach Steve Metcalfe

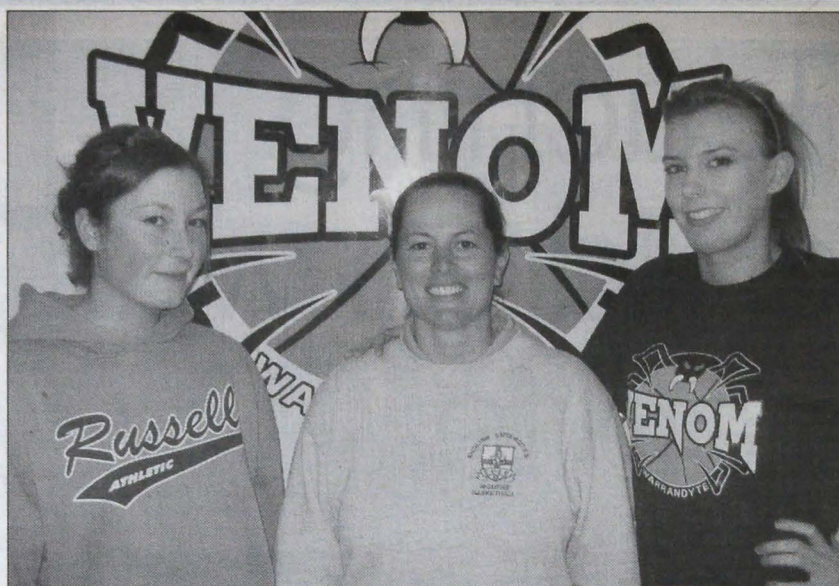
Bendle said that the entry of the team was a culmination of 12 months of hard work by a small group of people and that it represented the next phase of the Warrandyte Venom representative team program.

The basketball pathway is now clear in Warrandyte and provides the opportunity for young players to develop from the Oz Ball program, through the Saturday Redbacks competition, into the Friday night Venom Championship teams and onto the senior ranks through the MMBL teams on a Wednesday night and now into the Big V competition.

Bendle said that with more than 75 teams and 400 local families participating, basketball was going through a great phase in Warrandyte.

The 2007 season starts on March 24 and will include 22 home and away games, ahead of a four-week finals structure. The full draw is expected to be released in early January.

-Tony Oliver



Three of the girls who will play a big part in the Warrandyte Big V Venom team for 2007. From the left, Lauren Rule, Jodi Kennedy and Julie Davis.

Under 18s show the way for Redbacks

Round 8 of the Saturday basketball competition saw a strong performance from Warrandyte's Under 18 boys' side, defeating Balwyn by 37-25.

Balwyn were hampered by having no reserves on the bench but kept the intensity up for the full game.

The scores were 18-12 to the Redbacks at the break and the second half followed the same pattern as the first with Warrandyte doing just a bit better.

Mitchell Hawley led the scoring with 10 points followed by Jake Ratcliffe with nine points and Matthew Clough with six points.

Coach Josh Collins would have been happy as all players contributed to the score board and the season is looking good for the Redbacks in A grade.

Earlier in the day, Gerry Pearce's Under 14s were not so lucky when they came up against a far more determined Collingwood who won 35-12.

The opening was tight with neither side scoring for the first five minutes but Collingwood were doing far more to record the win.

Leif Cope (6 points) was top scorer for Warrandyte.

Damian Arsenis's Under 10 boys played "their best game for the season" to record a 35-17 win over Bulleen.

"A team game for the whole of the game," Arsenis said.

Leading the scoring for Warrandyte were Conor Gardiner with nine points, Zac Ratcliffe with eight points and Dane Stewart with seven points.

On the girls' side, Jenni O'Brien's Under 16 A team recorded an easy 62-26 win over an under-strength Banyule side.

While the win was pleasing, two earlier wins against the top Eltham side were more pleasing for the coach.

Leading the scoring for Warrandyte were Philippa Birch, Nicolette Prior and Fiona Rennie (all with 12 points), Melissa Zuccolo and Kirra Solty with 11 points and Cassie Wilson and April Richardson with two points.

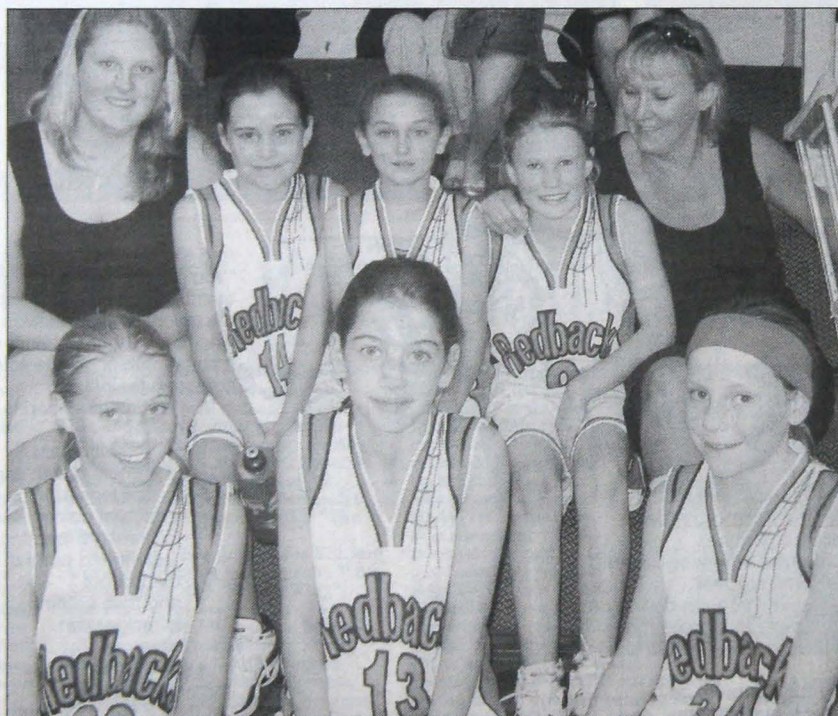
In a positive sign for the future, Kelli Taylor coached the Under 10A girls to 19-all draw against Eltham.

Eltham were dominant in the middle stages of the first half but were pegged back and the Redbacks dominated most of the second half leading for most of the period.

However Eltham grabbed a two point lead with two minutes to go. Both sides attacked furiously and



Redbacks Under 18 boys A Grade team. From left: back row, Jake Ratcliffe, Matthew Clough, Mitchell Hawley, Luke Dimmock Front: Ben Power, Shane Holloway, Jason Turner.



Redbacks' Under 10 girls. From left: Back row, Ashlee O'Brien (coach), Michaela Brown, Jessica Hunter, Maddy Taylor, Kellie Taylor (coach). Front: Alice Evans, Olivia Yammouni, Maddy Edsell

Warrandyte's Alice Evans sank the basket with five seconds to go to claim the draw.

Strong contributions on the scoreboard were recorded by most players with Maddy

Taylor (6 points) Alice Evans and Jessica Hunter (4 points) the main contributors.



Venom's Under 16 girls' team finished third in their grading pool. From left, back row: Nicole Howard (coach), Katya Chan, Brittney McGinley, Alisha Buzzini, Alex Gammilonghi, Courtney Anderson, Molly Booth (recovering from a knee reconstruction). Front: Nicolette Prior, Katie Wallace, Illana Calguro.

Venom teams make the grade for new season

By TONY OLIVER

The latest results from the representative Friday Night basketball competition have given a clearer idea of where the Warrandyte Venom teams will be for the 2007 season.

Phase 1 grading has been completed and perhaps the surprise packet has been the Under 14-1 side, coached by Julie Davis.

They capped off an excellent grading phase with a close fought win over Darebin at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre by 38-33.

The game was in the balance at the half time break with the Venom up by three points. Darebin opened the second half in strong form to take the lead.

Warrandyte steadied and were able to control the game, despite a strong comeback from Darebin late in the game.

Warrandyte's centre Jasmine Haikal dominated the centre but it was the strength and determination of the Venom's smaller players around the court that proved to be the difference.

Top scorers for Warrandyte were Casey Taylor with 14 points followed by Jasmine Haikal with 10 points and Caitlyn Wilson with eight points.

The win means Warrandyte were undefeated in this grading round and will play off next week for a place in the Victorian Championship grade, the highest ranked competition for juniors in Victoria.

The next game at WSC was Nicole Howard's Under 16 girls who took on the visiting Corio Bay.

Warrandyte were never significantly challenged and

came away with a 36-20 win after leading at the half time break.

Leading scorers were Courtney Anderson with 14 points and point guard Nicolette Prior with eight points.

Venom advances directly into Pool BB with an opportunity of making Metro 1.

On the boy's side, Warrandyte went down to nearby club Doncaster by 58-42. The Venom will also finish third in this pool and move directly to Pool BB.

Damian Arsenis's Under 12 boys played Sunbury in a must win game to keep alive their hopes of a Victorian Championship (VC) spot.

Following an honourable loss to Blackburn, and then after playing arguably their best game of the season to record a thrilling draw against Bulleen a week earlier, the young Venom boys were confident.

Despite a solid start as Warrandyte jumped to an early 5-0 lead, the Venom were then out-hustled by a team that wanted to win more.

Sunbury managed to hold an 8-10 point buffer for most of the match.

With only three minutes remaining the Venom youngsters finally began to play with desire and closed to within three points.

Arsenis' charges progress to Pool AA in the New Year where they still have a strong chance of making VC.

Warrandyte's Under 12 girls completed their initial grading Round Robin with a strong 47-15 win over Sunbury to earn a cross over game. Like the Under 12 boys they have a good chance of VC for 2007.

Dual premierships for netball club

By SONIA RAPPELL

Warrandyte Netball Club has two premierships teams with Rosellas and Kingfishers premiers in the Doncaster District Netball Association Summer Season.

The two premierships and new faces on the committee completes another successful year for the club.

Warrandyte's Under 15/2 Rosellas and Under 13/3 Kingfishers won their Grand Finals earlier this month.

Rosellas, coached by Amie Dusting, were also premiers for the 2006 Winter Season.

"They are an amazing team, who put in all year, and deserved their victory," Amie said.

The team consisted of Kathleen Kopietz, Sarah Lewis, Lucinda Link, Alysce Maclaren, Kelsie Nabbin, Harriet Rappell, Chloe Simpson, Mikaela Smith, and Emily Van Bergen.

They defeated DYC Moggies 17-10.

The Kingfishers scored a convincing 20-7 win over the Donvale Dazzlers.

Coach Karen May said: "It was a fantastic effort by everyone. I'm very proud of the whole team."

The team was made up of Shelby Greenlaw, Julia Lewis, Gemma Lindsay-Knape, Kellie

May, Hannah Thornton, Bronte Whitcher, Selene Foster-Zuluaga and Kirilee Hosier, with assistant coach Jennie Annand.

Warrandyte fielded four further teams who finished runners up:

Under 13/2 Wallabies lost to ED Mavericks 7-23.

Under 15/3 Bellbirds lost to Burners Hotshots 20-23.

Under 15/1 Magpies lost to Koonung Meteors 16-22.

Under 17/1 Eagles lost to DYC Jaguars 25-45.

● Warrandyte Netball Club has a new president in Sonya Febbo and new vice president in Monique Smead. They join ongoing executive member, Peta Walker.

The committee farewelled outgoing president Lesley Reid after an impressive seven years at the helm.

Sonya Febbo and her family have a long and productive association both with the DDNA and the Warrandyte Netball Club.

Monique Smead is a long time resident of Warrandyte, keen to work towards a positive future for the club.

The new summer season will start with training in February 2007.

New player enquiries may be directed to Peta Walker 9844 4898.



The premier Warrandyte Kingfishers team.



The premier Warrandyte Rosellas team.



Warrandyte Calisthenics College representatives who performed at Ballarat.

Calisthenics college reaches higher levels

After winning the Victorian State Championships in 2005, and therefore being pushed to a higher grading division for 2006, each section of the Warrandyte Calisthenics College has been required to perform to a much higher standard.

This was evident at their recent annual display concert held at the Kel Watson Theatre last month.

Throughout this year each age section performed successfully at local competitions as well as at the State Championships, with the Senior Section also competing for the first time at the prestigious Royal South Street Eisteddfod in Ballarat during October.

The Warrandyte Calisthenics College was established in 2001 and has rapidly grown to be one of the larger clubs in Victoria due to its remarkably high retention rate.

With around 90 members, currently all girls, whose ages range from three years to 40 plus, the club prides itself on the wonderful friendships that develop within the teams.

The girls enjoy coming to class each week as well as working towards their stage performances and competitions where the emphasis is on self improvement.

The following awards were presented at the college's annual concert.

Tiny of the Year: Adele Bicknell.

Sub-Junior of the Year: Rebecca Gawler.

Junior of the Year: Charlotte Wallin.

Intermediate of the Year: Julia Robertson.

Senior of the Year: Natalie Luckhurst.

Improvement Awards: Josie



Perpetual Trophy winner, Emily Hull.

Ward and Katherine Dean. Encouragement Award: Emily Sproat.

Consistency Award: Stacey Bowles.

Club Perpetual Trophy: Emily Hull.

It is only the second time that the Club Perpetual Trophy has been given to a pupil outside the senior section.

Classes for 2007 begin in early February. Anyone wishing to find out more about the Warrandyte Calisthenics College can contact Katrina Berryman on 9899 7886.

Bloods start training for tilt at Division 3

By JAMES LOGAN

It was no surprise that Warrandyte has re-appointed Peter Green as senior coach for 2007.

Peter, who played with the Sydney Swans, came to the club two years ago and has experienced both highs and lows at the Bloods, with this year's premiership quickly healing the wounds of relegation in 2005.

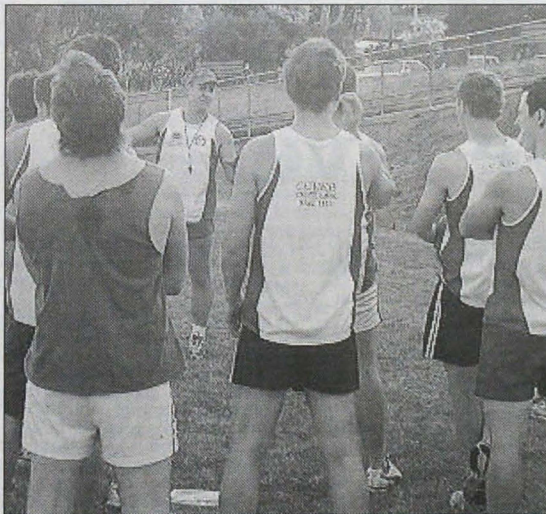
The club has a strong ambition to lay foundations for a smooth transition to senior football for the community's youth and Green has played a major role in developing local talent.

Pre-season training has started with Green working on the fundamentals of football and skill development.

"Pre-season fitness and skills work will lay a solid foundation for the tough season ahead," said Green.

"We are pleased to see a good number of players putting in the hard work which will pay off in spades next year."

Glen McCartin and Chris Quinlan will again assist the coach on the sidelines and on the track. The successful trio combined well last season and



Warrandyte's premiership coach, Peter Green, addresses players at the first pre-season training run.

the players responded to their individual directives.

Andrew Brown, a 1999 premiership player, will join the coaching committee, assisting with training and selection.

The club has also

announced that dual premiership player Ash Grybas will coach the Reserves.

He takes over from David Young who has retired from coaching.

Ash was at the helm of Warrandyte Reserves in 1999 when the side had their best result in years.

His focus will be on preparation, decision making and accountability. He will look to instil self belief and reaffirm that the Reserves are an integral part of the club and should be disappointed with anything short of a finals berth.

Ash's assistant coach this year will be Mark Watson who steps up from the Under 18s last season to spread his infectious enthusiasm on the Reserves.

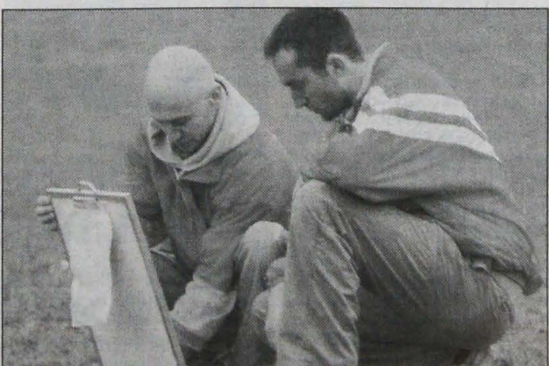
Mark is passionate about local football, having guided the Under 18s from their earliest days as Under 10s.

He will also continue to assist with the senior's statistics.

Chairman of selectors, Chris Quinlan, will be the third man on the bench sharing his wisdom and football mind with Grybas and Watson.

The club has also appointed three triple premiership player, Dale Vitiritti as coach of the Under 18s.

The playing list looks strong, even at this early stage and after the success of last year's squad enthusiasm is high.



Glen McCartin, left, and Chris Quinlan, will again assist Warrandyte coach, Peter Green.

New training program available for junior football players

By ZAB BOYCE and TYSON BARBER

Warrandyte Junior Football Committee has started preparations for the 2007 season with the announcement of another innovation.

"We are conducting a sports conditioning program for our players aged 12 and above", said football operations manager, Steve Ballard.

"We have linked up with a specialist junior sports condi-

tioning group to offer a pre-season fitness and conditioning program that would suit a range of players starting in late January."

Two groups will be offered to players.

High performance program: for players hoping to make the grade to TAC and prepared to work to reach the demanding fitness levels required for this level of football.

Development squad: for

players who are committed to improving their fitness levels and want to learn more about how to train and look after themselves

Sessions will be held once a week for eight weeks using the facilities at the Carey Sports Complex Bulleen.

"We would expect to start in the week starting 29 January," said Ballard.

"This is another innovation for the club and we believe we

are one of the first in the region to do something like this at this level," said club secretary, Phil Ashfield.

"This is a demonstration of our ongoing commitment to the community. I invite not only players from our club but any child from the community who wants to improve their conditioning."

Contact Phil Ashfield on 0409 542 112 or Steve Ballard on 0411 137 179.



Warrandyte Tennis Club Champion, Tristan Valentino.

Family link in tennis titles

Two juniors played starring roles when Warrandyte Tennis Club's men's and ladies' champions for 2006 were decided last month.

In the men's event 15-year-old Tristan Valentino took out the title defeating Neil Sproat in a hard fought battle, finally resulting in a straight sets win 6-3, 6-3.

Tristan was following in the footsteps of his brother Trent who won the title in 2004, also at the age of 15.

In the ladies' section Michelle Gilling continued her excellent record retaining the title which she has held since 1995 apart from one year when she was unable to play.

However, she had to battle hard to beat up and coming 13-year-old Elise Northover 6-2, 6-3.

Elise then combined with Nicole Hogan to win the doubles title defeating Jenny McDonald and Kerrie Stafford in a closely fought match 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.

The men's doubles was won by Scott Brimelow and Joel Drew defeating Neil Sproat and Paul Gilling 6-4, 6-2.



Michelle Gilling ... tough defence of her Championship title.

Phantoms prove to be fantastic

The Phantoms Women's basketball team competed in the Pan Pacific Masters Games on the Gold Coast last month.

They finished top of their pool in the Women's Over 35 division winning all their games and then narrowly lost the cross over game in extra time finishing up with the Bronze medal.

Chris Wintle, Ann Cousins, Isabelle Woodin, Jenett Ure, Jenny O'Brien, Robyn Jones, Heather Caruana and Kelly Taylor and Fiona Shimatovich made up the team and management and support was provided by Karen Buckley and Michelle Tester.

The team extend their thanks to the Warrandyte community for all their support and good wishes and also thank their sponsors Rob Cousens Outdoor Furniture Ideas, Rinnai and Veolia Environmental Services.

The team is now planning their next medal campaign at the 2007 Australian Masters Games in Adelaide.



The Phantoms basketball team returned from the Masters Games with a Bronze Medal.

Cricket legends to be honoured at heritage event

Warrandyte Cricket Club will conduct a journey into the past when it plays Norwood at the Warrandyte oval on January 20.

The day has been organised to celebrate a number of important events, including the 25th anniversary reunion of the club's first Chandler Shield victory.

The event will start with Legend's Day when Warrandyte plays host to long time rival, Norwood.

The two teams will play for the Steve Pascoe Cup while the Player of the Match will be awarded the Chapman/Sansom Medal.

Pascoe is a Life Member of both clubs and still plays in Warrandyte's veteran teams.

The Medal has been named in honour of the Chapman family who have played a long and important role in the Warrandyte club while the Sansom family has had a similar role at Norwood.

The match starts at 1pm and finger food and drinks will be served from 4pm.

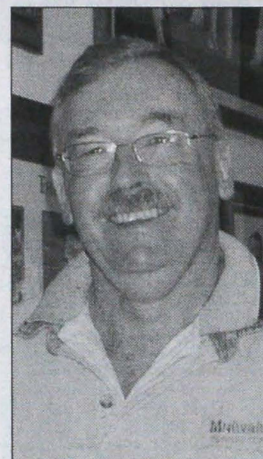
At 7pm the club will convert into Heritage Night mode and all former players and supporters are invited to attend at the clubrooms where an exhaustive history and memorabilia display will be shown.

Club statistician and historian, Steve Goddard, has researched books and newspaper records to uncover more than 970 senior players who have played at Warrandyte since 1905.

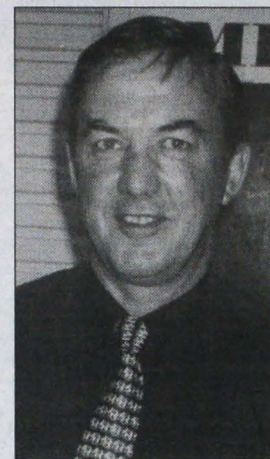
His work has also uncovered extensive statistical match records which will be launched during the night.

The club has also invited members of the 1981-82 Chandler Shield premiership team to attend the night.

Club secretary, Daniel Wellesley, said the day and night events would be a celebration of the importance



Steve Pascoe ... Life Member of Warrandyte and Norwood Cricket Clubs.



John Chapman ... Life Member at Warrandyte and member of the family cricket dynasty.

cricket has played in the community development of Warrandyte.

In season 2004-05, Warrandyte Cricket Club celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Entry to Heritage Night is \$30 and includes a meal, free

drink on entry and automatic entry into the major raffle draw.

More details on Legend's Day and Heritage Night are available from Daniel Wellesley 0416 085 717 or Steve Goddard 0411 367 808.

Young cricketers reach representative level

In year which has already provided plenty of positives for the Warrandyte Cricket Club, two of the Bloods' young players are making a big impact at representative level.

Sixteen-year-old Jake Sheriff has been named captain of the Under 16 RDCA team that will play in a Carnival during January.

It is a big honour for the young all-rounder who is also starting to make a name for himself in senior ranks.

Sheriff is currently opening the bowling in the second eleven and has already taken 15 wickets including a six wicket haul in late November.

Warrandyte captain Adam White has no doubt he will play in the First Eleven after Christmas.

"I am delighted with the big improvement in Jake, because he is quickly turning into someone who wants to win his team matches with the way he plays his cricket" White said.

"We are all really proud of him captaining the RDCA team, because he has been rewarded for his leadership and commitment to his cricket along with his obvious ability," White said.

Blake Morgan has also been rewarded for his dramatic rise after being named in the RDCA Under 21 team.

Late last season Morgan was playing in the Third Eleven, but he is now opening the bowling in the First Eleven.

His aggressive approach to his bowling and batting and his new passionate approach to his game has been recognised by the Association.

"Blake has proved to his team mates and himself that he is now a First Eleven player," White said.

Morgan and Sheriff are just two of a number of young Warrandyte players starting to shine.

Matthew Sazenis was captain of the RDCA Under 21 team last season, while Chris Barry will represent Melbourne in the Dowling Shield competition for Under 16 players during January.

Both Sazenis and Barry have become integral First Eleven players at Warrandyte. ● Warrandyte's Under 16 team scored its first win for the season in Round 3 following outstanding batting efforts from Chris Barry with 84 and Jake Sheriff with 34.

Warrandyte posted 4/170 against Croydon North and then some fearsome bowling by Alex McIntosh (5/21) supported by good catching by the rest of the team saw Croydon North restricted to 117.

In Round 4 the team was hit by injuries to key players and Croydon established a total of 207.

Off field injuries to Ayrton Dehmel (hip) and Ryan Pasco (collar bone) saw Warrandyte with a depleted side and while the opening partnership of 50 between Barry and Peter-Budge set Warrandyte up for a good score, wickets tumbled and despite a resolute knock of 22 by Chris Carver Warrandyte were all out for 112.

Scores: Round 3: Warrandyte 4/170

(Barry 84, Sheriff 34) d Croydon North 117 (McIntosh 5/21)

Warrandyte 9/112 lost to Croydon 5/207 and 2/19

● A solid innings with the bat saw Warrandyte's Under 14s score 4/179, with top performances from D. Jones 40, J. Ellis 42 and L. Warren 28.

Warrandyte then restricted North Ringwood to 8/144 with the wickets shared amongst the bowlers. This produced, on paper, a comfortable win. However these figures hid a mixed performance in the field with a couple of run-outs and stumpings but also a number of dropped catches and fielding errors.

In Round 4, tight bowling by Warrandyte, mixed with wicket-taking spells by Dylan Burns and Luke Warren saw East Ringwood restricted to 111 from 36 overs.

This appeared to be an easily achievable total on a small ground with a fast outfield. Confidence was misplaced however as the normal big guns failed to fire and the end of day one saw Warrandyte at 4/20.

Jarryd Lane produced an innings of 30 but wickets never stopped tumbling and Warrandyte were all out for 70 from 31 overs.

Scores: Round 3: Warrandyte 4/179, D. Jones 40 n.o., J. Ellis 42 n.o.) d North Ringwood 8/144 Round 4: East Ringwood 8/111 (L. Warren 3/11, D. Burns 3/13) and 3/154 d Warrandyte 70 (J. Lane 30).

● In Round 3, the Under 12s restricted Wonga Park to 117

with McKenzie taking 4/13.

This total could have been even lower but for sundries of 53.

For Warrandyte the first innings score looked easily achievable however some accurate bowling by Wonga Park (only giving 12 extras) away meant that Warrandyte had to get the total off the bat.

They produced a thrilling finish, passing Wonga Park's score with one over to spare.

This was after some dogged batting from R. Synott (18) and quick scoring from N. Brown (27) and D. Nilsson (25) to bring them home.

One individual landmark in this game was that of nine-year-old Jamie Arnold who scored his first run in junior cricket. This was after sleeping in his cricket kit and waking his parents at 6am.

In Round 4, Mooroolbark batted and despite not losing wickets, their innings never really got under way and they finished on 5/95 off 45 overs.

With a much drier outfield on the second day, the Warrandyte batsmen passed Mooroolbark's total in the 22nd over and went on to establish a total of 210 with retirements by T. Ellis, N. Brown, R. Chipman, D. Nilsson, and T. Ward.

Scores: Round 3: Warrandyte 6/126 (N. Brown 27, D. Nilsson 25 n.o.) d Wonga Park 117 (R. McKenzie 4/13) Round 4: Warrandyte 4/210 (T. Ellis 30 n.o., R. Chipman 27 n.o., N. Brown 27 n.o., D. Nilsson 27 n.o., T. Ward 25 n.o.) d Mooroolbark 5/92



Warrandyte's Jake Sheriff has been named captain of the Ringwood District Under 16 team.

Mooney, Barry lead come-from-behind win Critical games ahead as Dytes push for finals

As Warrandyte reaches the halfway mark of the season in the RDCA's Wilkins Shield competition, the Bloods are still confident they can be involved in finals action in March.

Warrandyte currently sits just a game outside the top four, with three wins from its first seven games.

The Bloods are dramatically on the improve, having already had the same amount of wins by December, as it did for the entire season last year.

Captain Adam White puts the rise down to a new-look team who all want to contribute to see Warrandyte emerge as a strong club again.

"We have had six different players already make it to 50 this year with the bat, which is something I have been aiming to get out of the team since I took over as captain," White said.

"It means that each game we don't have to rely on too few, because we have faith in everyone that goes out to bat that they will do a good job for us," White said.

"We don't have too many stars in our team, but if we can all contribute whether that be with the bat, or with the ball in our hands, we believe we will win more often than we lose," White claimed.

Dave Mooney and Chris Barry have been two stars of Warrandyte's season.

Mooney has been outstanding with the bat so far, already passing 50 three times in seven games to have 250 runs under his belt well before Christmas.

Barry, 16, has produced with the bat and ball, scoring well over 100 runs and taking seven wickets, to be seen as a genuine first eleven all-rounder.

Mooney and Barry also teamed up to score a match-winning partnership against St Andrews.

When Barry joined Mooney at the crease, Warrandyte had crashed to 4 for 6 chasing 190 for victory, only for the pair to put on a match-winning partnership of over 100 to help steer the Bloods to victory.

According to White, that partnership illustrated a new resolve among the team.

But despite that effort, Warrandyte could not repeat the performance in the two day class with East Ringwood.

Having the visitors in trouble at 7-142, they escaped with some sensible batting to score 233.

In reply, Warrandyte had an early collapse but veterans Dave Mooney and Cameron Day put on more than 100 runs to have Warrandyte poised for victory at 5-173.

But things went wrong from that point and the Dytes failed to reach 200.

While the batting department is showing strong signs, the bowling department still needs some work.

While Matthew Sazenis and Dean Gidley are taking a lot of wickets between them, the Bloods are yet to find the right balance heading into the second half of the season.

"We lost Campbell Holland to a shoulder injury earlier in the season, so we just need to look at some of our other options to find the right bowlers to work well with Sazenis and Walshe," White said.



Sixteen-year-old Chris Barry is developing into a key all-rounder for Warrandyte.

Warrandyte plays Croydon Ranges at the weekend in the final game before Christmas.

In an incredibly even competition, as many as seven teams are seen as legitimate premiership contenders.

A win for Warrandyte will keep the team well and truly in the race for a berth in the finals against a team in a similar position on the ladder.

It has been a season full of positives for the entire club at the halfway mark of the year.

Apart from the improvement from the first eleven, the lower grades have been punctuated by a number of impressive individual efforts.

Remarkably, already five centuries have been made by Warrandyte players - four of them coming in the third eleven.

Adam Beardall, Campbell Holland, Ben Taylor and Nathan Croft have all made it to three figures in the Thirds, while Nathan Aly scored a century in the Fourth Eleven in his first game of the year.

Beardall's maiden century has been the standout individual performance of the year.

His 162 was the tenth highest score made at Warrandyte since records were kept over 50 years ago.

But the individual performances are not the only thing pleasing the club's hierarchy at the moment.

The second, third and fourth eleven are all entrenched inside the top four and are on track for finals campaigns later in the year.

The impressive results are built around the dramatic improvement of a number of players at the club.

Jake Sherriff, Tim Hookey Ben Taylor, Lachlan Beggs and Steve Lockie are all performing consistently in the lower grades and are quickly moving up the ranks.

While John Prangle and Daniel Wellesley are two evergreen performers who have also been integral in the winning efforts of the Second and Third Elevens teams over the past two months.



Adam Beardall scored 162 for Warrandyte's Third XI.



Warrandyte Tennis Club's Most Improved Junior Player, Elise Northover.

Elise wins club's top junior award

Junior player, Elise Northover was presented with Warrandyte Tennis Club's perpetual trophy for the Most Improved Junior for 2006 at the club's presentation night last month.

Elise, 13, recently won the girls' section of the club's Top Gun competition and was runner-up in the senior singles club championship.

Other finalists in the Most Improve Junior category were Toby Versteegen, Lachlan Buckley, Erica Brockwell, Stuart Langridge and Parris Webb.

A number of other special awards were presented including Best First Year player, Olivia Allardice and Sports Camps awards to Ryan Tester and Gabby Mitchell.

The coach's award presented by club coach Aaron Nolan, was won by Jakob Reade.

Certificates for sportsmanship were presented to Mason Webb, Eric Li, Jakob Reade and Kyle Ratcliffe.

Club recognition awards went to Claire Bence, Alex Beltramin, Nick Crosbie, Joel Greve, Tully Greve, Chris Robinson, Adam Waugh, Daniel Buckley, Tessa Cudmore and Rhys Simpson.

Trophies were also presented to the 51 juniors who had started competition in the past 12 months.

Tina named Club Person of the Year

Warrandyte Tennis Club's 2006 Club Person of the Year is Tina Mifsud.

Tina, who was presented with the trophy at the club's recent Christmas function, won the award for her work with the juniors over the past 12 months.

This perpetual trophy was initially awarded to Keith Wilson in 1984 and has been presented annually to honour someone each year who makes a substantial contribution to some facet of the club.



Tina Mifsud

Tennis players needed at Kangaroo Ground

Kangaroo Ground Tennis Club is on the look out for players for a number of competitions.

"We are looking players of any standard," said Jenny Holding.

The competitions involved include Monday night mixed, Tuesday and Thursday night mens, Wednesday night and Thursday ladies; Friday night junior singles and Saturday morning junior doubles.

Contact Jenny on 9439 9310 for more details.

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Lions Club of Warrandyte Inc.

"Lions & Community Working Together"

Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Kellybrook Winery Restaurant



The Lions Club of Warrandyte has drawn its success from the members it has recruited over the years and the close friendships that have been formed between those people, some enduring for whole families for over twenty years. Those friendships have been cemented by a common wish to serve the community at the same time offering each a chance to share fellowship and fun while doing a worthwhile job.

Any organization looks to regeneration to progress, and in doing so Warrandyte Lions seeks a new generation of women and men to carry on meeting the future needs of the community. Be our guest at one of our bi-monthly meetings — ring our membership chairman David Dobbs on 9872 5822 during business hours and discuss with him what is in it for you and your community.



To all our valued clients

Thank you for your support in 2006.

May you and all your families have a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year

WARRANDYTE TENNIS CLUB



1907 – 2007

Celebrate a century of tennis in Warrandyte

The Warrandyte Tennis Club was founded on March 21, 1907. To celebrate its centenary the club is running a number of events through 2007.

The stand-out function will be a 100th Anniversary Dinner at Karralyka Centre, Ringwood East on Saturday, April 21 commencing at 7.15pm.

Enquiries to: Neil Dusting 9844 2596, Mark Bence 9844 2859, Judy Green 9844 2096.
The club is seeking the whereabouts of past WTC members. Please call Judy Green.



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