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No 412, September 2008 For the community, by the community

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Ring road missing "link" Is this our future?



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— Samuel Jackson

WARRANDYTE diary

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NEXT ISSUE


Next issue of the Diary will be published on Wednesday, October 15. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, October 3.

OUR NEWSPAPER

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

A SPECIAL PLACE

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




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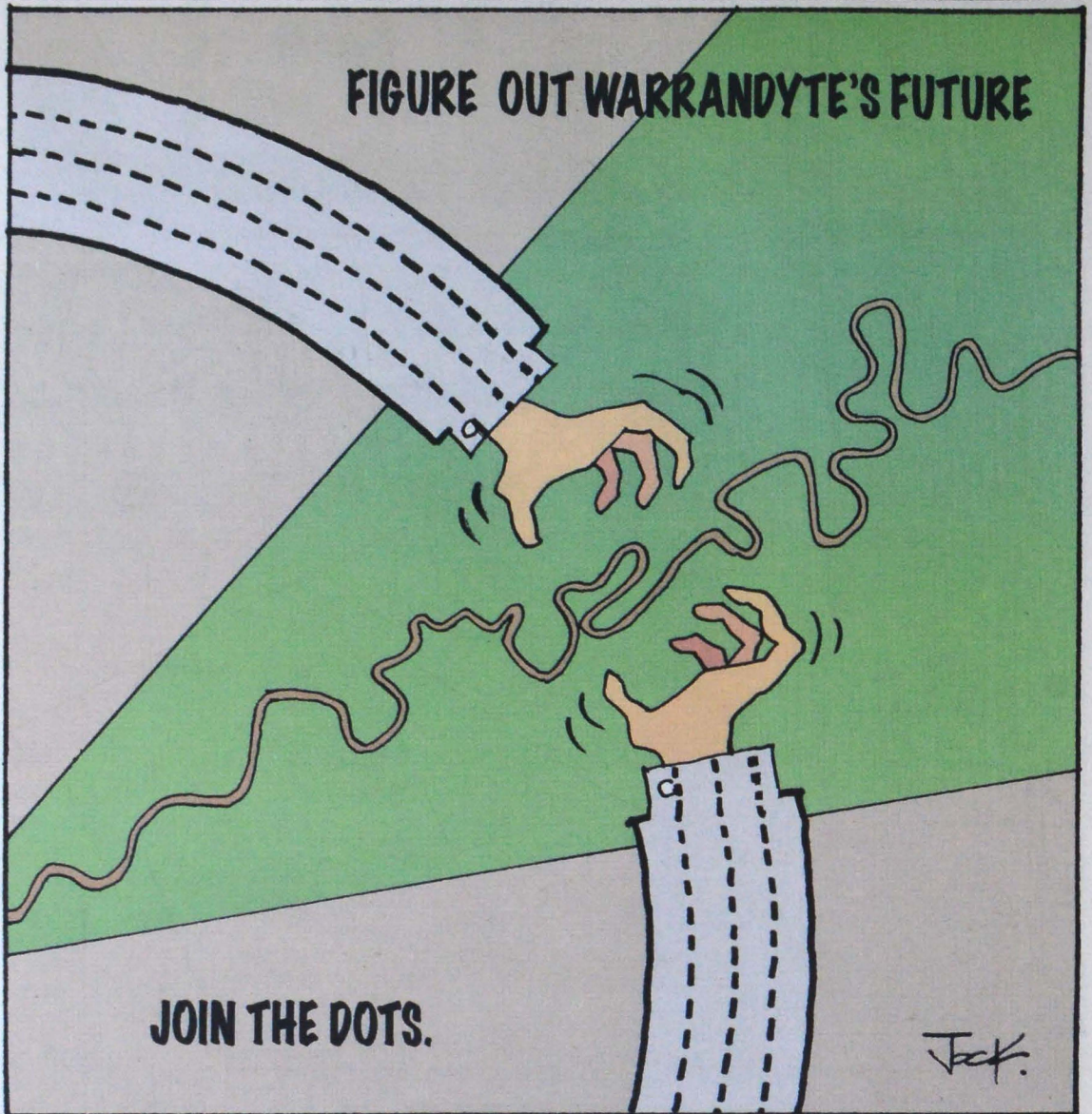
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OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



An old rocker rolls again

*"Well since my baby left me
I found a new place to
dwell.
It's down the end of lonely
street
At 48 Dingley Dell..."*

IT had almost been amusing earlier in the night. But this was the third time he'd sung the same line in the same song till Elvis didn't know which way to turn in his grave.

With a final thigh tremble and a note unrelated to whatever key it was supposed to be in, Neville completed his performance and left the stage to the dutiful applause of his assembled family and friends.

"Let's hear it for the birthday boy," boomed Karaoke Kev. *Have Hits Will Travel*, from behind his equipment set up stage left at the Mechanics Institute Hall. Clearly Kev also worshipped at the shrine of the King—with his silvery stiff quiff and enough chain to start a bicycle shop bouncing on over-exposed man boobs, Kev was a sobering reminder of what Elvis might have looked like if he were still alive today.

"What a great party, eh?" gushed a triumphant Neville as he rejoined his family. "Saints preserve us," moaned Gran. What possessed otherwise intelligent people to subject themselves to such humiliation was beyond her, but there seemed to be no shortage of folk willing to commit musical hari kari as a steady stream of



couldabeens, wannabes and nowayknowns stepped up to face the music.

Cinnamon had already done *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*, which seemed unlikely if it was anywhere within earshot. Narelle had tried to *Climb Every Mountain* but died horribly as soon as she got to the high bit, while Jasper's tuneless rendition of *Stairway to Heaven* went over like a Led Balloon. "What do you want to do

Gran?" pestered Cinnamon. "Trade in my hearing aid at Cash Converters!"

"Have a go Mrs Trott," sniggered Barney from next door. "You could do *Whiter Shade of Hair!* Or maybe Willie Nelson's *On the Commode Again!*" "Useless as fudge at a funeral," snapped Gran. "Wouldn't give them the satisfaction!" "Oh come on Mum," pleaded Neville. "It's my birthday!"

living with The Trotts

"I gave you a card didn't I?" "Well, yes, with pirates on it, and my name written over a big dob of whiteout!"

"Well you're the one always going on about recycling. And what about the lovely pressie from Scandles!"

"We do have electricity you know! Oh, never mind, I'll do another one myself. Do you think *Love Me Tender* or will I do *Heartbreak Hotel* again?"

That did it. Gran would rather have her few remaining teeth pulled than endure her son's thrusting pelvis ever again.

"All right! All right! If it'll make you happy! Here, bodgie boy!" she bellowed, stumping up the stage steps with all the grace of a bear with bunions. Some Eglebert Humpadrun was midway through *Never Can Say Goodbye* when Gran corrected him, shooed him from the stage and barked her request to Karaoke Kev who was so taken aback he was practically in the car park.

"What do you mean you haven't got it?" she bawled. "They've played practically nothing else for the last month! Bigger it'll do it without you!"

And as a hush fell over the hall, in a voice that shattered every glass in the house, glass or plastic, Gran began to sing.

The Chinese national anthem.

ALAN CORNELL

Wrong way, go back!

MPs pledge ring road opposition

By **KARLY HICKMAN**

Further daily press reports have increased local fears that the state government could be planning to build the Ring Road "missing link" through Warrandyte.

Also, it has been revealed that the government has commissioned tax payer-funded polling to gauge public opinion on the Ring Road extension.

The controversial link would connect the Metropolitan Ring Road with Eastlink via a freeway through either Bulleen or Warrandyte and Eltham.

"It would be entirely inappropriate to build a freeway through one of the most pristine parts of the Green Wedge," Dick Davies, president of the Warrandyte Community Association told the *Diary*.

"It is ironic that just when Nillumbik is named as the most liveable area in Victoria the state government has reignited debate over driving a freeway straight through the Green Wedge shire," Mr Davies wrote in a letter to *The Age*, published on Friday, August 22 (see page 4).

The state government was caught out polling residents of the Eastern suburbs when they coincidentally called Warrandyte Liberal MP Ryan

Smith at his home. Questions covered the outer ring road, high-rise buildings in the outer suburbs and attitudes on the state government's management of the metropolitan public transport system.

"I have real concerns that the government is seriously considering this (link) proposal," Mr Smith said.

Such lobby groups as the RACV, Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Victorian Freight and Logistics Council are said to be exerting pressure on the government to complete the "missing link".

"Local Labor MPs, such as Danielle Green, MP for Yan Yean, have claimed they are against building a ring road," Mr Smith said. "Now we find their own party is in fact conducting research to ascertain whether the road has public support or not."

But Ms Green is adamant that she remains against a ring road being built along the proposed Eltham-Warrandyte route. "I support a ring road through the shorter route, starting at Lower Plenty with a tunnel under the Banyule flats and Yarra River and coming out somewhere near Marcellin College to link up with the Eastern Freeway," she told the *Diary*. "This route would cause the least environmental damage and require fewer property acquisitions."

Ms Green reported that her sentiments were shared by Labor MP for Eltham, Steve Herbert, and Labor MP for Ivanhoe, Craig Langdon. "We all have a united voice on the issue."

A spokesperson from Mr Herbert's office said Mr Herbert felt that the Warrandyte-Eltham route was "not practical or economically viable". Mr

Langdon said that he was "staunchly against" an above ground freeway through his electorate, but 62% of people surveyed in his electorate supported an investigation into the viability of a tunnel. "I am not being inundated with objections to a tunnel going through my electorate," he told the *Diary*.

"What people in my electorate need is greater access to the city," Ms Green said. This would be provided should the ring road take the Bulleen route. "A freeway through Eltham and Warrandyte to the eastern suburbs is effectively a road to nowhere."

On the government-commissioned survey, Ms Green was quick to point out that this has been a very "public and open process".

"Right from the start with the Eddington report, John Brumby has sought to create a dialogue with the community, which I think is a very good thing."

Fia Clendinnen, former member of protest group ARRO (Anti Ring Road Organisation) says John Brumby "is very keen on freeways". Ms Clendinnen, who was active in the group during the 1990s, says lack of government funds years ago prohibited many proposals like the ring road from going ahead.

"Now, because of the public-private partnerships, government having insufficient funds is not an issue anymore."

WCA president Dick Davies fears there is pressure to complete the "missing link" now more than ever. "WCA is clearly mandated to protect the Green Wedge. We will be opposing any moves by the government to drive a freeway through this pristine area," he said.

Mr Davies regards the Green Wedge as the "lungs of Melbourne". Referring to Central Park in New York and Hyde Park in London, Mr Davies said in his letter to *The Age*, "The great parklands and nature reserves of the great cities of the world are a testament to civic leaders of vision and integrity whose horizons extended beyond the next election campaign."

Ms Green told the *Diary* that in the past her constituents have never been afraid of voicing their opinion and that this time is no different. She is actively campaigning to ensure parliament adheres to the spirit of the Green Wedge, invests in public transport, and conducts economic and environmental viability research before making a decision on the route. This is outlined in a petition that is available for download on her website.

Mr Smith will be requesting that the government releases the results of its survey to the public.

● Danielle Green's petition can be downloaded at www.daniellegreen.org.au.

Goodbye, Gus



Happy days: Gus McLaren and loving companion Denise Farran were King and Queen of the 1999 Warrandyte Village Festival.

Warrandyte is mourning the death of well-known local artist and personality, Gus McLaren, who died at Pambula, NSW, on Friday, August 29. He was 84.

A gathering to celebrate Gus's life will be held at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall on Saturday, September 13 at 5pm. All are welcome. BYO drinks, donations towards refreshments appreciated.

● We will publish a full tribute to Gus in our next issue.

St Stephen's financial problems are relieved

By **KARLY HICKMAN**

Members of the congregation at St Stephens Anglican Church in Warrandyte believe they may have crossed the first hurdle in the campaign to keep their church open.

A key outcome of the Bishop-in-Council meeting, held in late August, was the decision to waive a debt of \$24,000, accumulated by the parish.

"This takes a huge burden off our shoulders," church warden Irving Reid told the *Diary*.

As previously reported, the congregation at St Stephens reluctantly agreed to the local church community losing effective control of the parish in exchange for the waiving of the debt and the possibility that

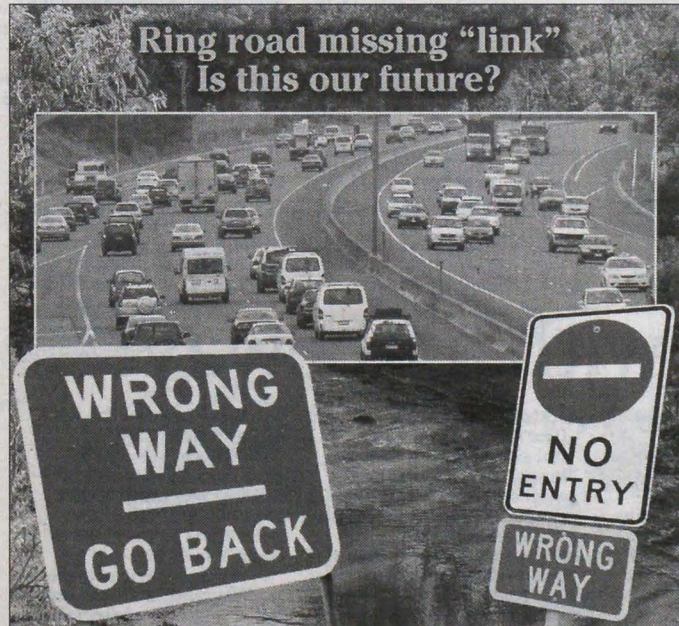
the church would be amalgamated with another parish.

An alternative could be closing the church and selling the site.

Meanwhile, the parish is happy to announce that Father Neville Mellor, who has been visiting priest since June, will continue leading Sunday services until "at least mid-way through October".

"Father Mellor has been made to feel very welcome at St Stephens," Mr Reid said.

While it seems likely that St Stephens will be amalgamated with a local Anglican parish, it is believed there has been no final decision made. The *Diary* anticipates there will be further news on this matter later this month.



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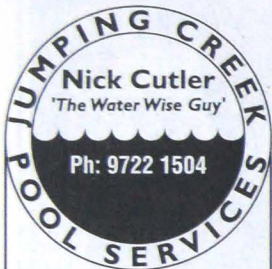
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* **Portrait Drawing** Sat pm
* **Collage Xmas Cards Workshop** Sat pm
* **Monthly Artists Collective 'Keep Creating'** Fri

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Tai Chi Tues pm
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Older Adults on the Move Wed am
Relaxation & Meditation Thur pm
* **Ballroom Dancing** Fri pm

LANGUAGE:

French Club Wed pm
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Source-to-sea Yarra challenge

Two kayakers travelling down the full length of the Yarra River made landfall at Koornong in Warrandyte on Tuesday, September 2.

Chris Ord of Landcare and Jarad Kohler of KEEN and Peak Adventure were making the 250km journey from just below the Upper Yarra Reservoir to Williamstown "to raise awareness of rivercare and landcare issues," Riverkeeper Ian Penrose of Warrandyte told the *Diary*.

They were making the bid—between August 30 and September 4—during Landcare Week, September 1 to 7.

Highlights of the Source-to-sea Yarra Challenge included a dinner at a restaurant in Warburton and various media and "meet the locals" events down the length of the river.

A flotilla of paddlers was invited to join the last leisurely leg of the challenge, from Herring Island on Saturday, September 4 with the promise of a free barbecue at Williamstown.



Riverkeeper Ian Penrose greets Chris Ord and Jarad Kohler at Koornong.

Streetscape works

By JOANNE GREEN

Roadworks being undertaken on Yarra Street are part of a 5-year plan by Manningham council to enhance Warrandyte's environmental and cultural heritage values.

The recent works include construction of a retaining wall at Lions Park and the continuation of stone kerb construction opposite the hotel. Construction of stone kerb and an asphalt path from the hotel car park to the bakery has also been completed on

the river side of Yarra Street.

Future works over the next two years include the construction of on-street parallel parking bays above the Lions car park. Stone kerbing and a new asphalt footpath will also be constructed in this area, up to the roundabout.

The footpath and stone kerbing between Mitchell Avenue and the hotel will be replaced to match that of the surrounding area. There are plans for the installation of pedestrian ramps at the existing crossing

on Yarra Street.

Also, there will be footpath, landscape and kerbing works at the group of shops near the post office. Street furniture, including bins and seats will be audited and replaced if necessary. The council plans to consult with community groups and traders over the installation of bike racks on Yarra Street. Revegetation projects will also be undertaken in the Yarra Street area and in the river reserve.

The works are planned for completion in 2010, with the stone kerbing expected to be finished by June 2009.

"Warrandyte residents and traders directly affected by the proposed footpath replacement will be contacted to discuss project timing and access arrangements," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

The Yarra Street project began planning in 2003. An urban design framework was undertaken by Urban Initiatives in September 2004. Local community representatives including Warrandyte's community and business associations, the Warrandyte

Historical Society and Friends of Warrandyte State Park were consulted in a reference group with the Department of Sustainability, Vicroads and Melbourne Water.

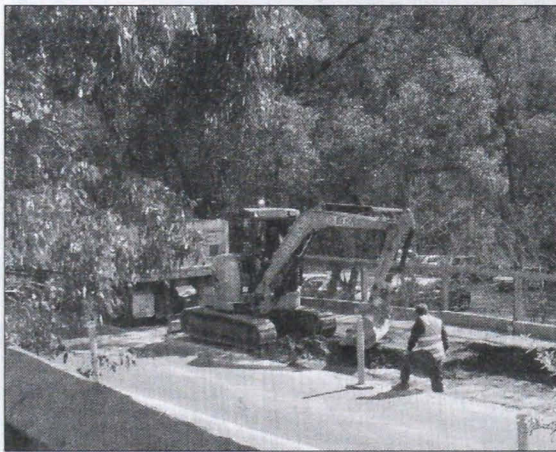
The 5-year plan began construction in 2005 with the construction of stone kerbs near Whipstick Gully and a new sign for the war memorial.

"Upgrade projects are being undertaken for a range of safety and amenity reasons, and to protect and enhance the precinct's significant environmental, cultural and heritage values," the spokesperson said.

Despite the traffic delays, the works have run smoothly, council claims.

"Some recommendations in the urban design framework have required detailed design, structural engineering, planning permits, and ordering of stone and timber materials, which have carried time delays," the spokesperson said.

Following the expected completion of the project in 2010, council will support long-term and ongoing developments identified as part of the urban design framework. These developments will be subject to funding from external grants and further discussions with other government agencies.



Men at work: council contractors are transforming Yarra Street. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

Still 'liveable' with a freeway?

It is ironic that just when Nillumbik is named as the most liveable area in Victoria in the BankWest Quality of Life Index, the state government has reignited debate over driving a freeway straight through the Green Wedge shire.

First raised 30 years ago and persistently denied by

dear diary

government spokespersons of both Liberal and Labor hue ever since, the "Missing Link" proposal to connect Eastlink with the Ring Road appears to be alive and

kicking.

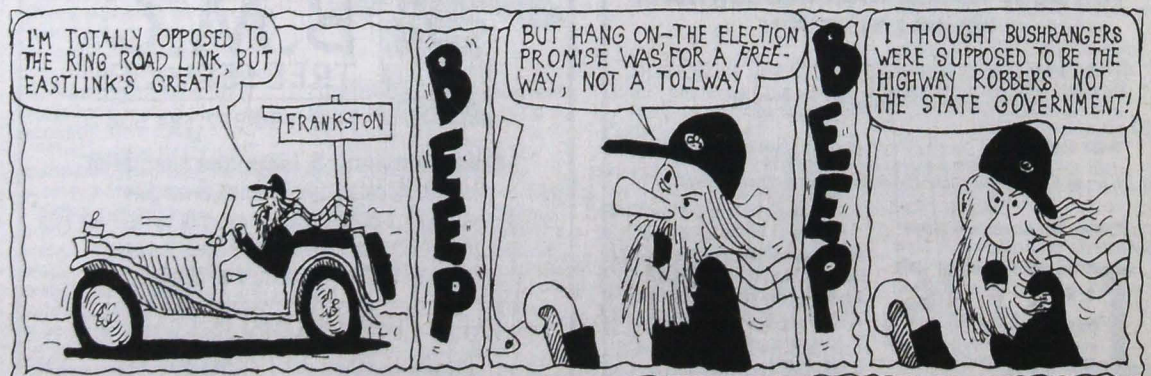
The Green Wedge is a vital component of the "lungs" of Melbourne, needed ever more as the population swells. The great parklands and nature reserves of the great cities of the world are testament to civic leaders of vision and integrity whose horizons

extended beyond the next election campaign.

Let's hope our current crop of polities are up to the task of ensuring that Melbourne 2108 will be as liveable as they like to boast it is today.

Dick Davies, president
Warrandyte Community Association

CYRIL



By PAUL WILLIAMS

Street fighting

Remember the Battle for Yarra Street?

By CLIFF GREEN

HERE at the *Diary* we have had conflicting reactions to the footpath and kerbing work being undertaken along Yarra Street.

Some residents see it as an unnecessary gentrification and suburbanisation of our streetscape, others welcome the splendid walking surfaces, better organisation of parking and sensitive attention to heritage detail, as evidenced by the bluestone kerbing and retention of the cherry plum trees.

But if you think the current work is controversial, you should have been here 35 years ago!

The first hint that trouble was brewing was flagged in the *Diary* of November 1973.

It always came back to the vexed problem of car parking in the Yarra Street shopping precinct—"the village"—then the main commercial and social centre of the township.

Doncaster and Templestowe council had asked the Warrandyte Traders' Association and the Warrandyte Environment League to come up with a plan for off-street parking. Their solution—designed

by "professional architects and engineers"—called for "a landscaped parking area with walkways below road level". A tree-planted "green buffer zone" was "a vital part of this concept".

Council said it would cost too much, and countered with a design by their own engineers, providing for "the widening of Yarra Street at the existing road level by the extensive use of earth fill to a width of 80 feet"—out towards the river—and requiring the demolition of several buildings on the north side of the street.

"The council plan," Richard Morton, president of the Environment League told the *Diary*, "makes provision for cars but threatens to destroy the visual appeal of the street".

We're not sure which dusty council pigeonhole these proposals went into, but they seemed to have been overtaken by calls for a

broader, more comprehensive town plan for the whole of Warrandyte. But don't go away. Widening Yarra Street out towards the river was too bad an idea for officialdom to forget.

In April 1977 a local medico, Dr Rob Allen, took a ranging shot in the opening skirmishes of the Battle for Yarra Street, describing its threat to pedestrians attempting to cross as "a health hazard". He suggested "closing Yarra Street to through traffic, particularly heavy traffic".

Then a year later, the first set of big guns was rolled out. In our issue of March 1978, we announced, "Warrandyte's historic old post office has been sentenced to death." The Country Roads Board had directed that the beloved old building, by then disused and derelict, "must go to make way for the widening of Yarra Street".

The Warrandyte Historical Society seemed resigned to the building's fate. "We have been deeply interested in the (old) post office for a long time," president Ted Rotherham said. "We would dearly have loved to have preserved it, but regrettably, it will have to go." Seemingly, as a final tribute to the building, the society was considering opening it to the public during that year's Warrandyte Festival.

Officialdom, as always, was failing to take this community seriously. The Environment League called a public meeting, which was "overwhelmingly opposed to the widening proposal". The old post office remaining on its original site was always seen as crucial to the preservation of the "country town" style streetscape.

In February 1979, a plan to restore the building and turn it into "a quality art and craft gallery" was proposed. It was believed "if the street is widened—and there is certainly no guarantee of that—it could be done quite adequately without interfering with the building".

By July 1980 the historical society had decided the old post office was worth saving and restoring. But the task appeared daunting. Secretary Jo Laurence volunteered to help "co-ordinate any attempts to preserve the Yarra Street relic".

Ms Laurence said the society "had received one voluntary donation of \$50 towards a post office preservation, but this was eventually returned because it 'got lonely'".

By the end of that year a committee had been formed with the unlikely title "Former Warrandyte Post Office Preservation Group". Their first move was to initiate a "restoration feasibility study". By March the following year, several working bees had "cleaned up debris inside the building and from the surrounds", council was delegating control to the preservation group and the National Trust had inspected the building and offered expert guidance on its preservation.

Then came the next bombshell.

Council appointed acclaimed town planners, Loder and Bayly, fresh from designing the new Berwick village, as consultants. Their plan recommended realignment of Yarra Street towards the river, removal of the old post office and the creation of a parking mall in front of the existing shops. Also doomed was the then chemist's shop on the river side of Yarra Street (now Carter's real estate office). Council asked for "community input". And they got it.

The Environment League stated that "historical, aesthetic, social and environmental considerations are equally, if not more important (than parking)". Their position wasn't unanimous. Rumour had it that a significant minority on the WEL committee supported the Loder and Bayly proposition.

The Post Office Preservation Group (they had dropped "former" from their title) was more determined in their opposition. "As a group dedicated to restoring the post office as part of a historic location—which in itself is vital to the identity of a unique Warrandyte—we strongly oppose the possible loss of this site."

A petition was circulated and the *Diary* commented, "There was an overwhelming response from Warrandyte citizens not to move the post office, but to seek alternative solutions for the traffic problems."

As always, the matter came to a head at a packed public meeting, held in the Mechanics Institute Hall on April 22, 1982.

One resident summed up the feeling of the meeting: "We could take the soft option and accept the Loder and Bayly plan. That would be suitable if we are setting out to build a modern suburb. This community wants the harder option. It may be emotive, but that's how we feel."

The plan for pushing Yarra Street—on fill—closer to the river and for a pedestrian and parking mall was doomed the moment it required the removal of the old post office.

Then it happened. One night about a month later the old post office went up in flames!

"It is my firm belief that the fire was deliberately lit in an effort to remove a major obstacle to the re-routing of Yarra Street," Cr Anne

Martin told the *Diary*. "We are heart-broken," Jo Laurence said. "People in the street watching the fire were crying."

If the firebugs believed this would settle the question forever, they were mistaken. Now emotion really took over. Although seriously damaged, the experts declared the building was not beyond restoration. Local MP Lou Hill stated: "If the state government, the local council and the preservation group work together we will restore this important part of Warrandyte's history."

But the battle wasn't quite over. In November 1982, Doncaster council was considering a proposal for a "road reservation which does not interfere with the chemist site and which passes through the post office site".

Once again it was public meeting time. It resolved that work on the post office restoration should proceed "due to the unstable nature of the building" and a new task force was formed to address the whole Yarra Street problem, to report back within six months. "The task force will need to act quickly as there are massive changes afoot in the Country Roads Board," Cr Martin said.

But then the really big guns were rolled in. Warrandyte Labor MP Lou Hill arranged a meeting between local representatives, the minister for planning Evan Walker, and transport minister Steve Crabb. The ministers agreed to examine ways and means of restoring the building while the road reservation was in force, on the understanding that it could be moved in the future, if necessary.

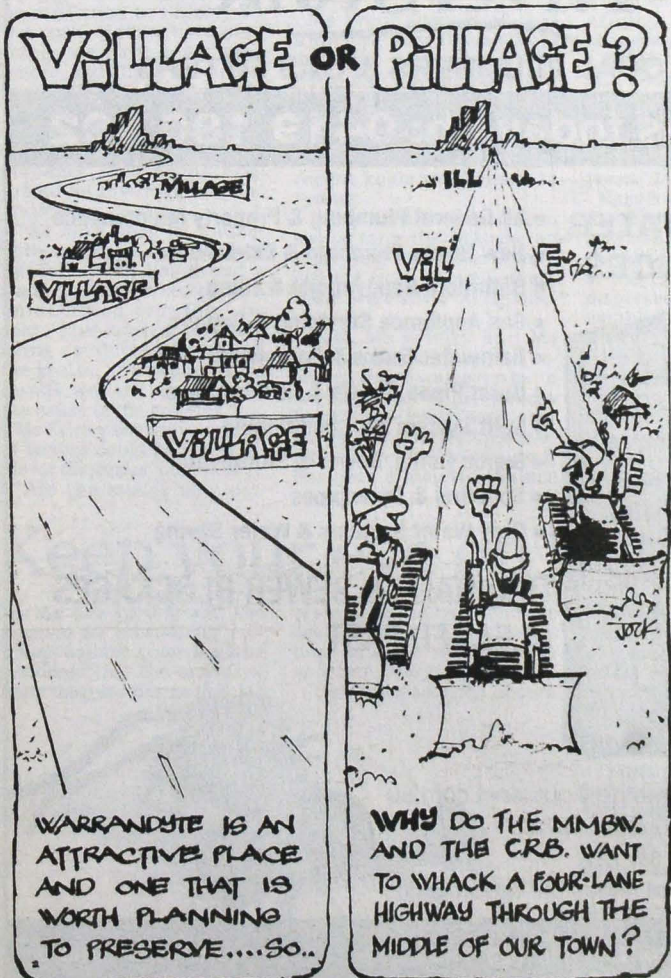
A compromise of sorts. The building remained but so did the road reservation. But with the old post office lovingly restored, what government would even contemplate destroying it for a four-lane highway?

No parking mall, no widened road hanging over the river reserve. Council has been sensitively tweaking the parking areas and the streetscape over the years, roundabouts and traffic lights have appeared but our streetscape and river frontage have essentially remained intact.

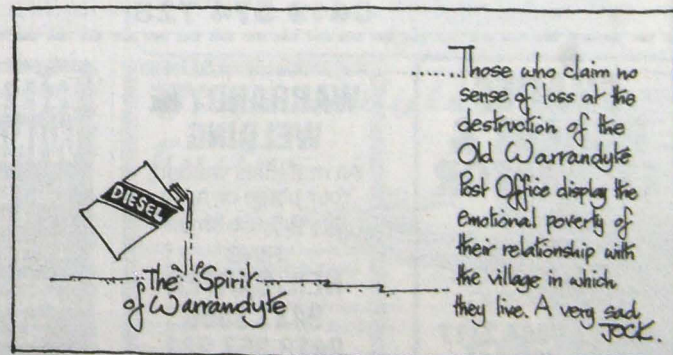
But then there's that ring road missing link...?



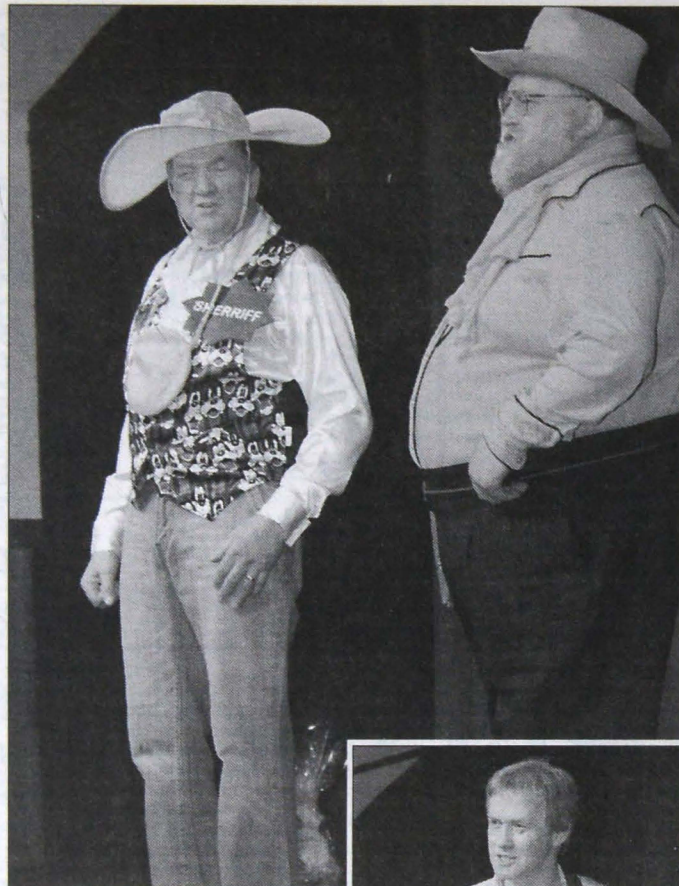
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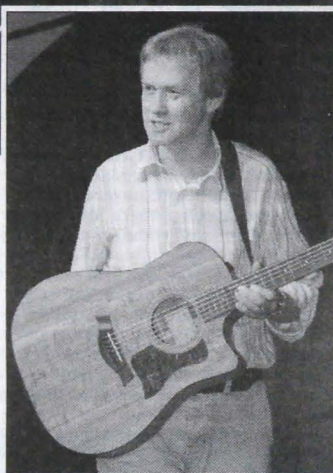


July 1982



Making magic

Diary photographer IAN CRAIG went along to the Warrandyte Childcare and PreSchool Centre fundraiser last month, had a great night and took these pictures. The evening, entitled "A Night of Magic, Comedy and Song" was just that. It was held in the Mechanics Institute Hall and featured Graham Davey, Martine Pavay, David Kaffey, Alan Cornell and Lucy Paris. Oh, and it raised lots of lovely money!



Trivia knowhow

There is nothing trivial about Warrandyte High School's annual trivia night. It's one of the major fundraisers for the school. This year they raised more than \$6500. Theme for the night was the 1970s—both in fancy dress and trivia questions—celebrating the school's 30th anniversary. Warrandyte Community Bank donated \$1500 towards the night, ably supported by prize donations from parents and local businesses. The questions were an entertaining delight, with music, film and TV clips from the period rekindling memories for many participants. STEPHEN REYNOLDS was there and took these pictures.



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Locals report koalas dying

Mysterious disease suspected

By TRISTAN MADDOCKS
An unknown illness is afflicting local koalas amid speculation their population is decreasing. Wonga Park koala shelter operator Julie Pryor recently cared for two koalas that presented with strange growths on their paws. Ms Pryor said at least a further two koalas she had taken in carried internal tumour-like growths. Between January and July this year, Ms Pryor collected eight koalas in close proximity to one another around Mullum Mullum Creek on Warrandyte's western border.



Is the drought killing our koalas? (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

Three were already dead when she found them, and the other five all had to be put down due to serious illness.

Some of the deaths could possibly be attributed to Chlamydia, which is a common cause of death among koalas. But Ms Pryor said she had run the koala shelter for 15 years and had never previously come across koalas bearing the growths.

"We've not seen anything like it before," she said.

Warrandyte veterinarian nurse Keri Fairley was similarly perplexed by the koalas' condition. "They have had really strange phenomena occurring, some of which could be attributed to Chlamydia, but some of them have been things we have never seen before, and I have been nursing in this area for 30 years," she said.

Department of Sustainability and Environment biodiversity manager Jack Krohn confirmed an investigation was underway.

"We have been in contact with a local koala shelter operator who has found a small number of koalas with unidentified growths," he said. "Post-mortem tests are being conducted on one of the koalas. Until we have the results, we can't speculate on the cause of the growths."

Ms Fairley said any number of factors could be responsible for the koalas' poor health. "Are the koalas now eat-

ing leaves that are compromised?" she said. "Is it because the taproots of the trees are now having to go further for water? Is it chemicals that have been there since farming days?"

Ms Pryor speculated that a diet of gum leaves from drought-affected River Redgums could be a possible cause of the koalas' illness. She said photos of the koalas with growths on their paws were shown to experts at a recent koala conference in Sydney.

"They said they had seen similar (growths) in koalas up there, and these things were coming from an area where there were River Redgums," she said.

Both Ms Fairley and Ms Pryor both said they had observed fewer young koalas in recent years. "We are seeing a lot of female koalas with what we call 'dry pouch'. They have either never had a baby, or it has been a long time (since

they had one)," Ms Fairley said.

A healthy female koala will normally give birth to one baby per year.

But DSE did not believe the number of koalas in and around Warrandyte had changed greatly.

"While we don't have specific data for koala numbers around Warrandyte, we have no reason to believe the population has significantly increased or declined in recent years," Mr Krohn said.

Ranger-in-charge at Warrandyte State Park, Conrad Annal, said koalas were released into the Warrandyte State Park in the 1980s, and have since dispersed and become widely established throughout the area.

Mr Annal said koalas were "routinely seen throughout the park system", but Parks Victoria had no information to suggest the population was either growing or declining. He said Parks Victoria

had not identified any factors that have affected the koala population in and around Warrandyte in recent times.

"Animals that travel widely in urban environments are subject to a range of threats, including harassment, car collisions, and other stress-related effects," he said.

Mr Annal said Parks Victoria did not know the cause of the koalas' growths. "Parks Victoria will be guided by findings from veterinarians in relation to the causes of illness or distress in koalas."

"When sick or injured koalas are found, they are immediately taken to wildlife carers, Healesville Sanctuary or are treated by veterinarians."

Ms Fairley said people coming to Warrandyte may miss out on the chance to see a koala if trends continue. "Warrandyte is an area that people like to visit, they love to see the odd koala in a tree, but they're not going to be seeing them."

Keep your eye on feathered 'friends'

Spring has sprung and the magpies are a-swooping!

Manningham council warns residents that the arrival of baby magpies brings the risk

of swooping, and residents are advised to take a few precautions to avoid sudden alarm and even injury.

"Swooping usually occurs

between now and December, and in addition to magpies, plovers, mud larks, butcher birds, wattle birds, Indian minahs and crows may indulge in this aggressive activity," a council spokesperson said.

"Birds usually swoop from behind and fly right across their target's head, sometimes actually connecting with a person's head or ears, using their beak and claws. It is better to look directly at a swooping bird as they generally prefer to attack people who are unsuspecting."

"Birds swoop to protect their eggs or offspring, developing a territory around

their nest and defending this space by swooping at animals and people who enter the perimeter.

"Try and avoid a 'swoop zone' if you can, try and move in a group as people alone are most prone to attack, and don't panic and run as the bird may see this as threatening behaviour and continue to attack."

"Cyclists should keep their helmet on, but should get off the bike and walk, as this appears less threatening to the bird."

"Swooping is a natural part of bird life and cannot be resolved by harming the bird," the spokesperson said.



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Bank aids primary school

Warrandyte Community Bank continues to distribute largesse and make friends in the local area. Last month, WPS principal Gill Binger and student representatives Kieran and Georgia thanked manager Mark Challen for the bank's continuing help.

"The funds will go to support the school's use of interactive whiteboards," Ms Binger said. "We aim to have an interactive whiteboard in each classroom. New technology is expensive and extra funds for the school is wonderful news."

Trade in your old plastic bags

Manningham council is running a plastic bag exchange during the week commencing Monday, September 15.

In Warrandyte, residents can bring their plastic bags to the library at 100 Melbourne Hill Road.

Residents are invited to hand in 10 or more clear

plastic supermarket bags in return for one reusable and environmentally friendly bag, bearing the slogan "My Smart Manningham Bag".

The exchange is also running at libraries in Bulleen, Doncaster and The Pines.

"Last year, council asked residents to bring their plastic

bags to the civic centre for recycling, and the response was overwhelming," a council spokesperson said. "We received almost 12,000 plastic bags over the course of just five days."

Further information from council's waste management unit on 9846 0579.

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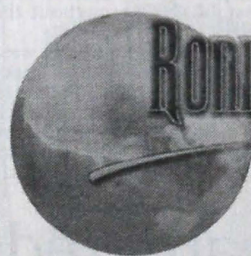
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Manningham looks at retirement house plans

Plans for the proposed retirement cottages in Harris Gully Road in Warrandyte have been "called in" to a full meeting of Manningham council—possibly in late September or October.

The Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Co-operative—originators of the concept—have been working on the project for more than a year.

"The project, is close to shops and facilities and is considered by the co-op to be ideal in terms of location and size," board member Val Polley told the *Diary*. "Despite some objections lodged against the project, we hope that the project will ultimately gain council approval."

"It is a small and balanced development," she said. "Just five single-storey units on a site that could otherwise very possibly be subdivided. This is not a commercially-driven enterprise, it is a community response to a community need. This voluntary not-for-profit cooperative has made every effort to achieve amenity and aesthetics appropriate to Warrandyte while meeting the concerns the neighbours have expressed."

Board member David Ellis stressed the significance attached to success or failure of the project.

"This is a key test of community commitment on this issue," he said. "If this modest and well-planned project can't get the support of council and local residents, I think we can pretty much forget about getting any further retirement housing in Warrandyte."

The loss of another long-es-

tablished Warrandyte resident underlines the desperate need for retirement housing in the area.

After 39 years, Mrs June Buck is selling her home in Valias Street and moving to a unit in Kilsyth. However, this is by no means her preferred option.

"I was really hoping to find a retirement unit in Warrandyte," she told the *Diary*, "but there is just nothing available. I have family and life-long friends here. Moving away is the last thing I wanted to do."

June Buck has been an active contributor to Warrandyte. She has been involved with a local craft group as well as supporting, with her late husband David, a number of drama productions with the theatre group.

"This is a caring and tight-knit community," she said. "I have so much enjoyed being part of it."

The predicament faced by June Buck is by no means an isolated instance. The *Diary* has often pointed to the dilemma facing older Warrandytians who need to downsize to more manageable housing. Mrs Buck said she knew of several neighbours and friends in a similar situation.

"Some of them say to me that they'll just have to be carried out in a box," she said. "I admire that spirit, but I wonder if that's the best that can be offered to people like us."

"We all get to the stage where we can't so easily climb on the roof to clean out the leaves, or keep the garden clear of fire-risk. It becomes difficult to



June Buck packs away 39 years of Warrandyte memories—not happy to be leaving.

stay in our homes. Does that mean that we are no longer welcome in our community?"

Mrs Buck had been hoping to secure one of five units planned for the Harris Gully Road site and specifically reserved for Warrandyte residents. The proposal has received many expressions of interest, but also some

objections from neighbours—which Mrs Buck finds hard to understand.

"I'm amazed that people object to something so necessary," she said. "It seems so short-sighted. After all, everybody gets older—and older people are part of the community just as much as younger generations."

Young riders take out the big gong

By JOANNE GREEN

Two South Warrandyte riders were among a team from St Andrews Pony Club that went on to win Pony Club Association of Victoria's state games championships.

Local rider Casey Wilson competed with her brother Matt in the state games.

The team achieved a perfect score of 300 for the six events in the games.

St Andrews came second in the zone games in April. They had a run-off

against Yarrambat to make it to the state games, held over two days in June at Werribee Park.

The seven members of the team each competed in two or three events: form bucket, flag and drum, bending, tent pegging, two flag and bottles.

The games test riding skills and hand-eye coordination. The St Andrews team achieved the maximum score of 50 points for each game. Team members' ages ranged from 11 to 18.

"Most of the kids have been doing games

since they were eight," district commissioner Pam Stuart told the *Diary*. "They had been training for six months leading up to the state games."

Casey Wilson has been competing in state games events for four years and hopes to compete again next year. "We won a rug, a medal and a ribbon."

St Andrews won the state games against 23 other horse and pony clubs from around Victoria. Yarrambat came second and Benalla and Korumburra were equal third.



His dad and two uncles are builders, a cousin is a plumber, and his two brothers are tradies, so it was no surprise when Christopher Burriss took up an apprenticeship as a plumber.

But it was certainly a pleasant surprise when Christopher was named winner of a major award by the master plumbers' trade association. Employed by Smead Plumbing of Kangaroo Ground,

Plumb on target: Christopher Burriss (centre) is presented with the Frank Maskell Award by judge John Bowman (left) and sponsor Adam Watson of Reece.

Christopher received the Frank Maskell Award at the awards ceremony of the Master Plumbers' and Mechanical Services Association, held at the Victorian Arts Centre recently. It was given to celebrate Christopher's success as an apprentice plumber.

"It's good to know all the hard work is starting to pay off," Christopher told the *Diary*. "I love working with my hands. It's a great feeling to look at something that you've created."

"The awards are an ideal vehicle to encourage and promote the work of apprentices," Mr Vin Ejeber, general manager of MPMSA said.

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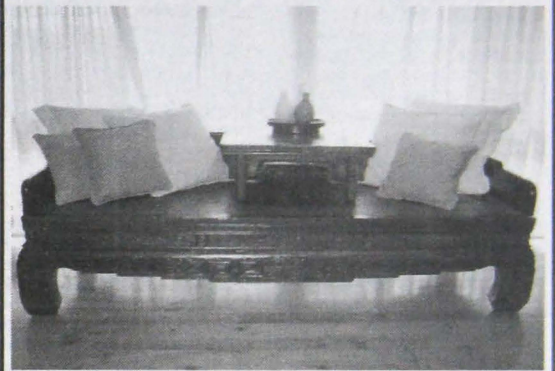
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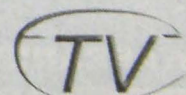
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Relay for life in Warrandyte

The Cancer Council is giving local residents advance warning of a community fundraiser to be held at the Warrandyte Reserve on the weekend of November 8 and 9. An overnight event designed to assist cancer research, education and patient support programs, the relays are being held at selected venues throughout Australia. The challenge is for teams of 10 or more to complete a relay-style walk or run, taking turns to keep their batons moving overnight and enjoying the festive atmosphere created through entertainment and spot prizes and the sheer joy of participating in an exciting community event. Further information on relayforlife@cancervic.org.au.

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

tions. "Even though these are global issues, an effective response will very much depend upon local action," Mr Ellis said. "We need to ensure that Warrandyte and Manningham are in the best possible state of preparedness."

Forum

A small group discussion on the topic "Climate Change—how should we address it?" will be held on Sunday, September 14 at the Warrandyte Uniting Church in Taroona Avenue. It will run from 2pm to 4.30pm and is a chance to see the church's Peace Wall. Refreshments will be provided. Questions and comments from this event will be included in a public forum to be held at the Templestowe Uniting Church, on Sunday September 28 from 2pm to 5pm. This forum "Turning the Titanic"—hope in a sea of change, is open to anyone interested in climate change and social responsibility. The church is located at 104 Atkinson Street, Templestowe. For further information contact Julie James on 0418 597 514.

AGM

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is holding their annual general meeting on Thursday, October 16 at 7.30pm. It will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. All are welcome. Supper will be provided.

Climate

David Spratt, co-author of the recently published book *Climate Code Red*, will be guest speaker at a coming Warrandyte forum. Mr Spratt will speak on the "Climate Emergency—the case of immediate action" at Warrandyte Community Centre on Wednesday, September 24. The forum is being organised by David Ellis, candidate in the forthcoming Manningham council elec-



Park Orchards garden goes public

Mirrabooka is a ridge-top, Green Wedge garden of two acres on the boundary of Warrandyte and Park Orchards. It will be open as part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme on the weekend of September 27 and 28 from 10am to 4.30pm. It is located at 170 Knees Road, Park Orchards on the corner of Husseys Lane. The garden has an extensive planting of natives in a setting of preserved bushland, a Japanese garden, walled garden, rock gardens, ponds, rainforest plants and a conservatory.

Chrysalis

A charity Style Evening in support of Chrysalis will be held at the Warrandyte Community Church, Yarra Street, Warrandyte on Wednesday, October 8 at 7pm. Chrysalis is a registered charity, based locally, for the support of

individuals, families and communities affected by problem gambling. The evening will be conducted by local style consultant, Chris Maines. Tickets are \$10, coffee included. Available from Warrandyte Beauty Centre, Essentially Hair by Emma, Sister's Wardrobe, Goldfields Shopping Centre or from Chris on 9844 5017.

Shelagh Stephenson. The play, directed by Bill Connolly with Lynne Counsel producing, will be presented at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall on October 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25. Bookings at The Old Bakery Bookshop, 9844 1744.

Seniors

The annual seniors' multicultural gathering will be held as part of Victorian Seniors Week at the Manningham Municipal Offices between 10am and 2pm on Friday, October 10. Bookings need to be made early. Call the council on 9840 9715. There will be a variety of entertainment including singing, dancing and music. Light morning tea will be served.

Do Care

Do Care are seeking volunteers. Call 9762 5211 for further information.

Tell us

The *Diary* is your newspaper and we're always ready to publish details of your forthcoming events. Give us all the facts and simply drop it through the door in the *Diary* office, post it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113, fax it to 9844 4168, or email warrandytediary@aapt.net.au.

Concert

Earth Harmony, 246-250 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, will present Maireid Sullivan and Ben Kettlewell in concert on Friday, September 19 at 8pm. They will perform songs and stories from ancient Celtic, Native American and Australian heritage. Tickets \$20 (concession \$15) may be prepaid or booked at the door.

Hip hop

Free hip hop classes will be provided at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Monday, September 15, with littlelies from 5 to 6pm and teens from 6 to 7pm. A barbecue will be provided. Enquiries to Collette Pengeley on 0408 360 525.

Theatre

Warrandyte Theatre Company's next production is *The Memory of Water*, a drama by

artyfacts

Stonehouse

Stonehouse Gallery is celebrating the coming of spring with a colourful canvas of the arts during September. Local artists Veronica Holland and Elizabeth Verco and photographer Susie Walker will colour the walls. Potters Brien Keyte and Lilach Mileikowski will showcase the diversity of clay along with Anna Sowards and other Stonehouse potters. The gallery is open daily in the Old Gospel Chapel at 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

Paintings

Richard Scales will present an exhibition and sale of his recent paintings, sketches and compositions inspired by the landscape of Kangaroo Ground at the Evelyn County Estate Gallery during September. The gallery, 55 Eltham-Yarra Glen Road, Kangaroo Ground, is open Monday to Wednesday, 9am to 6pm; Thursday to Sunday, 9am to late. The exhibition finishes on October 5. The artist will be present on Saturdays.

Dreamscape

Dreamscape Chronicles is a Manningham Gallery exhibition of oil paintings created in the last 10 years by Bosnian born, now Melbourne based artist, Dragana Gackic. The exhibition opens on Wednesday, September 24 between 5pm and 6pm and will run until Saturday, October 11. Gallery hours are 11am to 5pm, Tuesdays to Fridays and 2pm to 5pm on Saturdays at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

Photographs

The Capture Manningham Exhibition currently running at the Manningham Gallery will be open until Saturday, September 20. A selection of photographs has been chosen from entries in the competition announced earlier this year by Manningham council in conjunction with Melbourne Weekly Eastern. The gallery is at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

Arts

The Artyfacts column is designed to carry news of exhibitions and other arts events happening in Warrandyte and surrounding areas. Send all your details—free of charge—to Judy Green; email: warrandytediary@aapt.net.au.

COREY'S COMMUNITY

By SYD & ONA

Corey spits the dummy...

Dog the frog catches dummy with both feet



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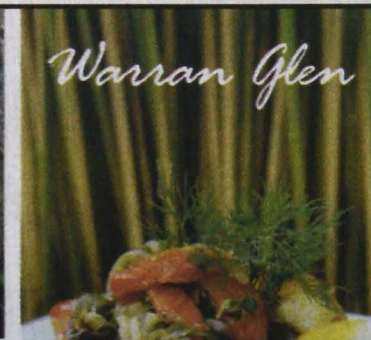
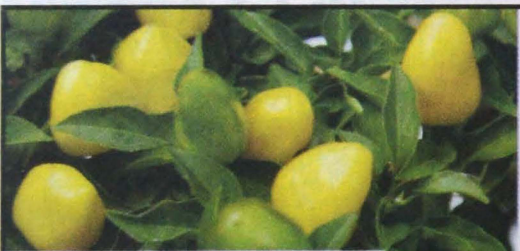
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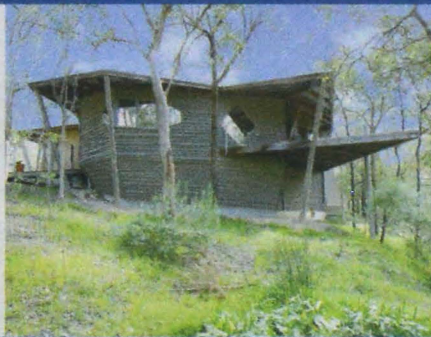
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WARRANDYTE NORTH

Live the Green Dream

Created by sustainable design architect Ross Henry, this tri-level eco home on 1 acre lightens the carbon footprint with recycled 120-year old jarrah floors, double glazed windows, and north facing construction to take in the sun. Nearing completion, the work of art just needs the finishing touches to its 3 upstairs bedrooms with lofts, attic and downstairs cellar and hothouse. Walk into the breathtaking open plan living room, and you'll have all the inspiration you need to finish the job.



Architect Designed, Mother Nature Inspired

Appreciate design excellence in this stunning and unique home on a level 1-acre property. Distinguished Marklews architecture with soaring cathedral ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows let you take in the natural landscape, just metres from the Yarra River's edge. Family-sized with 3BRS + study/4th BR and light-filled casual living rooms that flow from the kitchen to a hexagonal meals area, family room and rumpus. Plus ducted heating, evaporative cooling, cathedral carport, outdoor paving and covered verandahs.

PRICE: \$880,000 plus



WARRANDYTE NORTH

WARRANDYTE NORTH

Space, Light & Serenity

Proof that clever feature walls have the power to set exactly the right mood. This two-level 4-bedroom family home on just under 1/2 acre features saffron yellow in the lounge room for warmth, tangerine in the kitchen/meals area to stimulate the appetite and aquamarine in the master bedroom for a tranquil night's sleep. Natural light, high ceilings, polished boards and gorgeous mountain views from nearly every room, plus downstairs living with bedroom, bathroom and large rumpus, ducted heating, coonara, OFP and dual access from Somers Rd.

PRICE: \$590,000 plus



Brand New Delight

A beautifully crafted architectural contemporary design, encompassing the excellent north orientation of the site. The interior of the kitchen, living and dining, flows directly through to the exterior to allow for informal relaxed entertaining. This project marries cleverly with its surrounds, emphasising the rich natural textures of the bush yet not compromising on modern function. A unique pocket of architectural homes within Warrandyte situated within walking distance to the shops, public transport and local schools.

AUCTION: Sat 4th Oct at 1:30pm



WARRANDYTE

WARRANDYTE NORTH

Contemporary Eco Masterpiece

'La Dolce Vita' an architectural masterpiece set on 1.5 acres of private bushland. Its unique contemporary eco design offers 5-star hotel ambience with sharp angles, designer lighting and furnishings. This dramatic home is made all the more exciting by the unspoilt views from every room. A showpiece Caesarstone kitchen with Miele appliances flows through to generous dining and leisure zones. Outside, the high class living continues with architectural landscaping, a secluded pond, BBQ and open steel fire pit.



A New Adventure Begins

Enjoy family adventures galore in this impressive riverside home on just over one acre. Just 100 metres to the Yarra for bushwalking, kayaking and fishing, the two-storey (approx) 40 square home offers 4 huge living zones, 4 double bedrooms with BIWs and river views, master with WIR and ensuite, study/home office, mod con kitchen, ducted heating/vacuum, evaporative cooling, dble garage. A wrap-around verandah and covered porch lets you take in the pristine bushland, sheltered from noise, traffic and neighbours.

PRICE: \$790,000 plus



WARRANDYTE NORTH

WONGA PARK

Where The Grass is Greener

A Mediterranean-inspired home set on 12 acres of lush land, with three spectacular terraces to take in the views. A solid brick north-facing home across 4 living levels built by the original owner –romantic bluestone open fireplace, Mountain Ash kitchen, 9ft ceilings, 3 robed bedrooms with balcony access, and upstairs teenage retreat. Family room and formal lounge, spa bath, 3 toilets, downstairs sewing room/rumpus and cellar and 4 car garage with workshop & storage.

PRICE: \$1.6 million plus



Wake Up With A Smile

Watch hot air balloons at sunrise from your glass-fronted terrace with sweeping mountain views. Approx 42 squares of stylish open plan living on a 3/4 acre block, with 4 robed bedrooms + study, two bathrooms (master with spa), formal dining room, front sitting room, central family room, mod con kitchen and fenced play area. Brivis central heating/cooling, double glazed windows and downstairs bedroom wing. Bus out front, and the river and Yarra St shops just a 10-minute walk.

PRICE: \$650,000 plus



WARRANDYTE NORTH



Precious beyond all value

Gold was discovered in Warrandyte in 1851, but we find gold here every year, when the wattles bloom along the river, beside the roads and pathways and through the gullies...

Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

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Great Warrandyte swapmeet

By IRVING REID

As time was ticking down to the Beijing Olympics—and now to the AFL Grand Final—so too it has been gently propelling us towards that great, peculiarly North Warrandyte phenomenon, the annual swapmeet.

Sponsored by our visionary Nilumbik Shire Council, this event is one that engages nearly every genuine resident during days off as we train and prepare ourselves for the actual festival.

Although it is officially claimed to last about a fortnight, our wise and tolerant municipal officials quietly acquiesce and allow it to extend for up to five or six weeks in some years, depending on the local terrain and conditions, the state of the economy and other hidden parameters known only to those wise arrangers of the event. Those of our readers who have not started on preparations for the event still have time to join the thousands of residents who are already beaver-ing away at the various tasks in-

involved in training themselves.

When the first day arrives we will suddenly witness a wonderful burgeoning on our streets, a kind of plein air installation, simultaneously created by members of our community, acting independently of each other, yet somehow coordinated as if by a hidden creative intelligence that orchestrates the constellations of individuals' offerings. Yet within a day or two of this mystical efflorescence of the streetscape happening, an amazing phenomenon begins, which is stamped intrinsically and stylistically with our own Warrandyte aesthetic.

A fortnight before the proclaimed grand conclusion of the event, the installation begins its own headlong course of development. At first, almost imperceptibly, then with a growing momentum—sometimes incrementally, at other times with giant leaps—certain components begin to disappear. They either vanish entirely to magically reappear on other parts of this great whirling, dynamic concatenation of components.

As we meander through the lanes

and streets of our beautiful town, perhaps walking our dogs or jogging or whatever, we may, at any time of day or night, witness staccato fashion an enlightening micro-event. Suddenly a car might pull up and, after a furtive glance this way and that, someone will leap out and grab an item—such as a chair or a computer or a coil of polythene piping—and almost simultaneously leap back into the vehicle, to speed off triumphantly in a cloud of dust.

Indeed it could be said that this whole festival provides a marvellous instrument for categorising and classifying humanity. Sometimes in the dark of night it is possible to witness shy individuals quietly walking from a pile, carrying or dragging some longed-for, pre-loved item that will finally set off that empty corner of the patio, or show off next season's petunias to perfection. Occasionally a whole family group might be seen lugging items defiantly and assertively, as though their absolute right to that item had been infringed by its previous owner.

Yet, along with pandering to our weaker acquisitive side, this event also brings out the philanthropic spirit of sheer giving in some of us.

It can even give us the courage to flout those petty, restrictive rules that limit our offering to one cubic metre or so.

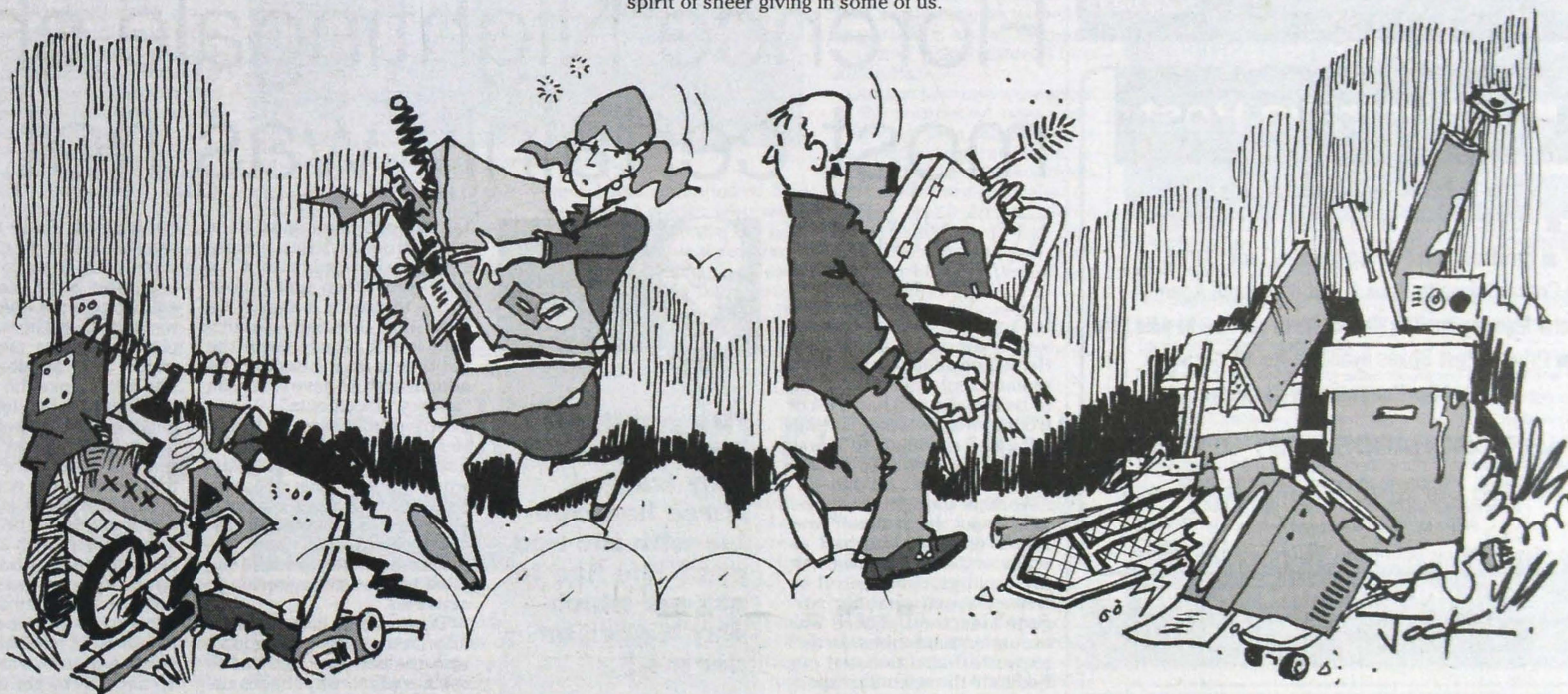
One morning while walking the dogs, my wife and I witnessed an example of this phenomenon. A young man in a mini-truck pulled up in a driveway, jumped out and proceeded to unload five enormous plastic chemical containers with astonishing rapidity. Acknowledging our friendly wave, he proceeded with professional assurance until every one of the kegs was unloaded and stacked neatly on the roadside. Then, just as we expected him to continue on his way up what we thought was his driveway, he turned around and drove off, post haste. We fear that he has not been seen in the vicinity since.

What is occurring here of course has a very misleading title. Officially called a hard garbage collection by our council, it is, as we all know, the great swapmeet, in which we clear out items that have been stored, awaiting repair for 20 years or so, and take in replacements to be re-housed and fondly cared for, often ending up in the same spaces

vacated by our own discarded junk.

The whole process is worthy of a mathematical formulation to equal the Principles of the Conservation of Mass; of Momentum or of Energy. I tentatively propose that it be called the Principle of Junk, which could read as follows: *For each consumer or family of consumers, throughout the course of every collection event, the sum total of hitherto accumulated unused goods shall remain constant.* No matter how much junk we divest ourselves, our nature necessarily determines that we will replace it by equal amounts of junk, by number, mass or volume, previously acquired by other consumers who have divested themselves accordingly.

One last practical consideration. In order to minimise cost for councils collecting junk themselves, I modestly propose a small fee be charged for tourists who wish either to participate in our great ritual, or, with suitable concession rates, for those who wish merely to come and be observers during our magnificent Junkfest.



One-acters win drama prizes across the state

THE acclaimed season of one-act plays presented by the Warrandyte Theatre Company at the Mechanics Institute in June went on tour to drama festivals in Maroondah, Macedon and Ararat, winning numerous awards at all three events.

"The strength of our productions and casts was amazing," a WTC spokesperson told the *Diary*. "Every actor, director and production either won an award or was nominated for one."

At Maroondah, the play *Universal Language* won best production, Ian Craig was judged best director and David Tynan took best actor.

The Macedon festival saw *Words, Words, Words* win best play, Caroline Shaw was awarded best director and Simone Kiefer and John Milburn-Clark received best supporting actor awards.

Words, Words, Words was awarded best comedy at Ararat, with Bill Connolly taking

theatre

out best actor and Caroline O'Meara winning best youth actor.

As well as these awards, Warrandyte received a wide range of nominations.

● The company's next production is *The Memory of Water*, a drama by Shelagh Stephenson.

Three sisters come together for their mother's funeral, each haunted by their own demons. The three have different memories of the same events, causing constant bickering about whose memories are true. Sound familiar?

The play is being directed by Bill Connolly, with Lynne Counsel producing.

The Memory of Water will be presented at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, October 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 and 23, 24 and 25.

Pictures by IAN CRAIG



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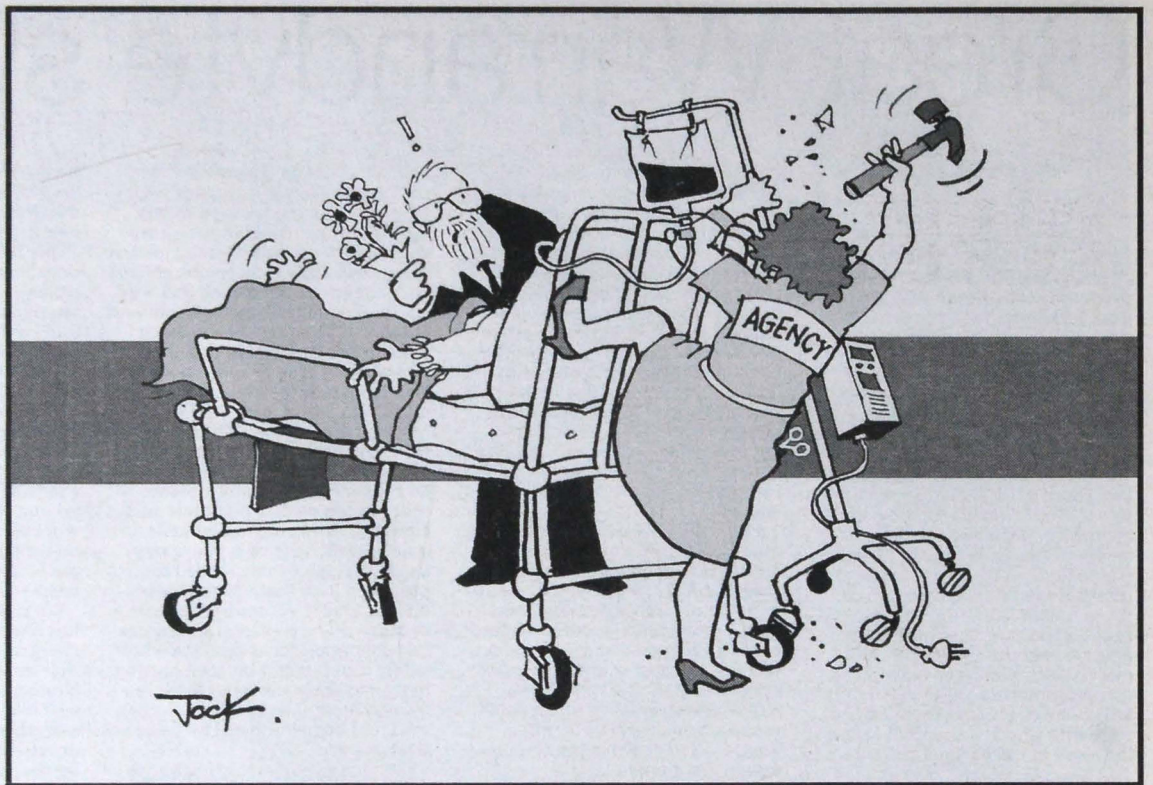
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Florence Nightingale she most certainly was not

WE'VE had a medical and a sporting month. With nothing better to do in August than to watch the Olympic Games, Herself decided to have a hip replacement operation. Well, to be fair, she had had a lot of trouble with walking, sitting, lying and abseiling so it was not unreasonable to decide that enough was enough.

We had thought long and hard about the planned "saw-bones festival" and had already organised to have our life savings transferred to Herself's orthopaedic surgeon's account. There was an understandable shortfall so we had also donated our bodies to the scientific experiment of his choice and we had signed a 30 page document agreeing to place our children in domestic service if there were any financial complications with the operation.

Our visit to the surgeon was interesting in that he did end by assuring us that all would go well. The slightly worrying aspect was the length of time he had spent prior to this in cataloguing all the things that could go wrong. Fortunately we have been there and done that before and realised that we had been through yet another "covering my own butt against litigation" episode. Obviously one does not want any stuff-ups to occur but it seems that we have wandered into the era of "assumed guilty until proven innocent", the exact reversal of what I had always thought the law and



kibbled

"Do you think it's odd that a fully trained nurse had trouble with the bed pan? She had to ask me which way it goes under me."

democracies generally held dear.

I'm glad to say that the operation went extremely well, however, we must be the only people in Melbourne who did not see the TV medical show on which the operation was shown in all its bone-shattering glory because everyone who came to visit regaled us with the horror of the sawing, drilling and hammering. At one point we wondered whether we should have signed an HIA agreement with a seven year guarantee rather than the arrangement we had with a man whom we assumed was a sensitive, delicate technician.

Herself's care in the hospi-

tal was outstanding with the exception of "that memorable early Sunday shift". It may have been just one of those things or it may have been that that early Sunday shift is not popular with the full-timers and therefore the administrators have to rely on "agency placements".

I arrived mid-morning to find Herself uneasy. Now, Herself is a sensible and understanding woman but on this occasion she was less than gracious about her nursing angel. Being the SNAG that I am I dismissed her concerns until she filled me in on the morning's activities.

"Do you think it's odd that a fully trained nurse had trouble with the bed pan? She had to ask me which way it goes under me. She then had trouble putting it under then taking it away."

"A temporary lapse," I offered.

"But then she just asked me what medication I was to have, without checking the chart, then lost the tablets, argued that she had given them to me, then was unapologetic when she found them in the top drawer of my bedside table an hour later."

"Sunday forgetfulness, I guess."

The penny fully dropped as I then watched as "she" tried to dismantle the equipment from the bed so Herself could go for an x-ray. Having spent five minutes trying to remove a welded drip pole from the head of the bed she gave up and headed for the portable drip stand. The saline drip

equipment came off quite easily. All that was required was for her to undo the holding knob but I watched in amazement as she tried to wrench open the safety-protected ratchet mechanism on the pain monitoring unit. The knob looks the same but it requires a key for it to be undone. Now, I'm not a trained nurse but it didn't require years of experience to realise that brute force was not going to work. My suggestion that it needed to be unlocked first was met with a renewed attempt to manhandle the knob anti-clockwise. Relief came from the orderly who came into the room, took one look at what the Queen of the Amazons was trying to do and ran to get the senior nurse who returned with the appropriate key.

It goes without saying that the bed made whilst Herself was in the shower had to be remade by the senior nurse when she helped "the injured one" back to bed.

We laugh about it now but our laughter is tinged with concern when we contemplate what might have happened had "she" been on duty when Herself needed constant monitoring and careful drug administration.

Any organisation is vulnerable and its greatest strength and vulnerability is in its personnel. Both Herself and I count ourselves lucky to enjoy a medical system where such Sunday experiences are rare.

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Tantalising glimpse becomes an adventurous exploration

garden life

By BEV HANSON

IN 1968 we spent a working year in England, travelling over by ship, as you did in those days. Air travel was too expensive. The Suez Canal was blocked, due to the Israeli-Egyptian war, so we went via the Panama Canal, hoping the Suez would be open for the return journey.

This was not to be, so on the way home we had one day in Cape Town, in South Africa, the last port of call before Fremantle. That day, travelling up to Table Mountain and walking amongst the wildflowers was magic. I always hoped to return to further explore the flora. So in 2008, exactly 40 years later, we did just that.

Travelling to our lodge from Johannesburg airport, it seemed as though we were still in Australia with many mature gum trees and wattles growing along the roadside. A little further, passing the many makeshift shantytowns, we realised that we do indeed live in the lucky country.

The countryside of South Africa, Botswana and Namibia is just so similar to the Australian outback. There are vast open desert areas with low shrubs, salt pans, sand dunes and grassland with termite mounds and mountains.

The Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park in Botswana reminded us of Kakadu National Park. Of course



Wild world: Bev makes a friend in Africa.

the animals and much of the flora are so different. Yes, they have their acacias, most with serious spines.

(Perhaps I should say, used to have. In 2006 the botanists split the *Acacia* genus. We Australians fought long and hard to keep the acacia name and won out against the Afri-

cans. I was reminded of this by several guides who were just not going to use the new name. Maybe we would have done the same if we had lost.)

Some acacias are a huge problem in South Africa, the worst being *A. Cyclops* and *A. Saligna*. Because there are no natural predators, they

have spread in thickets, out of control. The government has introduced biological control, with some success in slowing the spread of—for instance—*Acacia Saligna*, the Port Jackson wattle, whose gaul forms rust fungus.

Then there are our Aussie Eucalypts. I was told more than 300 species were introduced to South Africa as they do so well in the similar climate. They are important as timber, with vast areas set aside as plantations. Along the roadsides, any designated picnic spot is sure to have gum trees shading the picnic table. They are more reliable and faster growing than their indigenous trees.

It was surprisingly hard to find some of the South African plants that are classified as out-of-control weeds here in Australia. I could only find one plant of Cape Weed, the yellow daisy that plagues our lawns and pastures. Over there it is considered a wildflower. This brought home to me the importance of not bringing untested plant material into Australia.

Our last few days were spent in the south-west near Cape Town, an area renowned for its special vegetation diversity, rather like the southern part of Western Australia.

Many South African plants are strikingly beautiful. Several garden ornamentals, such as the proteas and ericas, are derived from these.

Forty years ago we glimpsed a little of this wonderful flora. Now I feel satisfied I have explored it to the full.

Surviving revolution in paradise

“TABLES with thick wooden bars across the legs are very bad feng shui,” I declared, cracking my shins for the umpteenth time. I am starting to look as though I’d been in an accident, with one blackened toe (hopefully not actually broken) and a string of bumps and bruises from ankle to knee, along with a couple of unwanted blows to the head.

I am discovering that Phuket is a paradise full of traps for the unwary. Namely, low-slung beach umbrellas, uneven floors, broken or non-existent footpaths, deep drains and miniature doorways.

Not given to clumsiness generally, I’m blaming my multi-focals for most of the personal prangs to date. I’m even blaming them for my first ever dose of seasickness earlier this year. Once upon a time, being tossed around in a sea kayak in a maelstrom aptly named the Washing Machine wouldn’t have upset my status quo at all. Now I’m nervous even on the placid pontoons of Circular Quay!

our place

By MARILYN MOORE

At the moment, however, commuter ferries in Sydney seem a world away from Thailand’s sticky 35-degree monsoonal heat. The rains, when they fall, are awe-inspiring. We were climbing a steep mountain road during one downpour. Our little van chugged valiantly upwards through sheet water powering down the hill; bow-waves from ascending vehicles were sufficient to force motorcyclists (of which there were many) off their bikes. My goodness! What would the roads be like in the valley?

Knee-deep, as it turned out, with bow waves washing into open-fronted shops. Many roads were impassable, and our driver patiently tried many before he found a route through. A 45-minute journey took over two hours. However, everybody is philosophical about such things. I suppose they are used to it. The devout politeness and gentle kind-

ness of Thai people is humbling, especially in Bangkok. Even the newsmongers greet their public with the prayerful *Sawadee-krab*. It takes a lot of frazzle the Thais.

So why is a nation of such thoughtful and placid people experiencing such political turmoil? It’s difficult to say, as there don’t seem to be any Thai news services in English, and the Bangkok Post (when it gets here) is out of date. What we understand of the politics is complex and highly regionalised. Word-of-mouth spreads like wildfire and it took very little time to learn that what had looked to us like reasonably orderly and peaceful street demonstrations in Bangkok (albeit involving tens of thousands of protesters) had escalated into a more serious situation when 5000 protesters invaded Phuket airport, effectively closing it for several days. This happened very suddenly—passengers passing through only half-an-hour prior saw nothing out of the ordinary.

Rumours now abound—the airport is closed to all airlines except Thai Air; the airport

is open to all airlines except Thai Air; Thai Air is bussing people to Bangkok; the airlines are on strike. The situation changes hourly. With a state of emergency declared in Bangkok, it is not at all clear if and when flights to Australia via Bangkok will operate. Hotel staff here in Phuket phone friends who work at Bangkok’s Suvarnabhumi airport for up-to-date news, rather than rely on official channels.

Crikey, it’s not too often that we find ourselves stranded in the middle of a revolution. I must say we are coping pretty well, sitting by a delightful pool set in tropical gardens fragrant with orange jessamine and alive with large butterflies and tiny crimson-fronted birds. The sea is clear and green and teeming with fish, and warm as toast to swim in. There is plenty to do—snorkelling, canoeing, shopping, sightseeing, devouring fragrant meals of Thai seafood and, of course, experiencing the rigours of Thai massage.

So life is not entirely bad. Hopefully, that’s not famous last words!

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September Ordinary Meeting of Council - change of location
 The September Ordinary Meeting of Nillumbik Shire Council will be held at the North Warrandyte Family Centre on Tuesday 23 September 2008.
 Members of the community are encouraged to attend the meeting and have the opportunity to discuss any matters of interest with Councillors between 7.15pm-7.30pm. The formal meeting will commence at 7.30pm. North Warrandyte Family Centre is located at 184 Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte (Melway 23 D9).
 Enquiries may be directed to Nillumbik Shire Council on 9433 3111.
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Living, loving and writing about sport

PRUDENCE TRUBY KING continues her profile series tracking the stories of the people behind this newspaper.

THE man who took over the unenviable task of *Diary* sports editor from the late Lee Tindale is Robert White, who was quick to make his mark on the paper. He said he just does it differently. "I love putting in names and pictures and lesser known sports. There's a great wealth of sport in Warrandyte. But it is time consuming, four or five pages of sport," he said.

Robert's grandfather had a draper's shop and his father started work there, first meeting his mother in another drapery store in Northcote where she dispensed change using the old pneumatic "rocket". His grandfather went to Alfred Crescent primary school with Bill Ponsford and his father went to Alfred Crescent with Neil Harvey. "My father said Neil would bat first and all day because nobody could get him out. I let the school down because there were no Australian cricket captains there when I was there."

The White family lived in the inner suburbs until 1959, when they moved to East Doncaster, Robert's father working as a sales rep for Cottes at the head office and factory on Maroondah Highway opposite the end of Blackburn road. "We lived in the third house to be built in the street, with orchards behind us and muddy unmade roads. It was very primitive," Robert said. His mother still lives there and Robert and his sister were in the first intake of students at the new Beverley Hills primary school.

He had always wanted to be a school teacher. "I was playing league football for Fitzroy and Carlton reserves and in the First XI for district cricket at the time and I thought there'd be lots of holidays if I was a teacher. But my mother said I'd be a great journalist, because I liked writing. Just before my matriculation results came out I was sitting in the office with a Leader Group editor having a job interview when a photographer rushed in saying there'd been an explosion at a quarry in South Morang. The editor leaped up and pointed at people to get onto it and I thought, wow, this is just like in the movies and I was offered a job the next year, when I was 17."

At this stage Robert's father was working in advertising for the Leader in Northcote and that's where Robert started his career. He did what all cadets should do, six months without writing, accompanying senior journalists on court and council rounds and learning the craft. Then he was thrown in, ringing round the primary schools in Brunswick and Preston "which sounds dull and boring but I got some really good stories," then onto more senior work. At 21 he

behind the byline

was editor of the Doncaster and Templestowe News, then he was Melbourne sports editor for The Australian for two years. He went back to the Leader as executive editor of its eastern suburbs newspapers from Box Hill to Boronia. He was editor of the twice-weekly Knox-Sherbrooke News and has edited most of the Leader papers over the years.

At 22 he was the youngest-ever councillor for Doncaster and Templestowe, representing Warrandyte. "I always had my eyes on being a federal politician but after 12 months on the council I realised I'd rather report than be in politics," Robert said. He's now been a member of the Andersons Creek Cemetery Trust for 20 years.

Always interested in sport, Robert promoted the Victorian Football League in the 1980s when South Melbourne was going north to become the Sydney Swans and he was also involved in the start of Sunday football "This was an extraordinary event with all that opposition. That was basically the start of national competition, an exciting time and very political—I learned just how political it could be. Each club wanted exposure in the Football Record, and if by round five or six they hadn't been on the front cover there was hell to pay. It's the weekly bible of the game," he said.

At Templestowe High School Robert met his future wife Margaret Lee, a fifth generation Warrandyte girl whose great grandfather was a goldminer in the area and whose family owned orchards along the south side of the road opposite the high school. Margaret went to Warrandyte primary and later taught there and their three children went to Andersons Creek where she also taught. But when their third child was born Robert resigned and with no income he decided to start working for himself and write a book.

"I was lucky to start a business and when Adam walked home from school I could put everything down and play footie with him, or tennis with Zoe and Emily in the street. Other men went at 7am and weren't home until seven or 7.30 at night—you never appreciate how fortunate you are. I'm very laid back, the opposite to my dad, but he was very encouraging." Adam calls football for ABC radio and the girls are in the music industry.

Fortunately things started to happen; opportunities arose with old contacts and suddenly jobs flowed in. Robert wrote a history

of racecourses in Victoria and the Riverina, *Courses for Horses*, since expanded to include South Australian, Tasmanian and more New South Wales tracks, and started freelance writing. As the business grew he extended the house, converted the double garage and finally moved into a shop in the West End. With desktop publishing he now works from home again, producing a monthly newspaper for dairy farmers from the Murray-Goulbourn Co-op, which makes Devondale products. "I said I'd do the job if it was a professional paper that people looked forward to reading every week and 23 years later I'm still doing it."

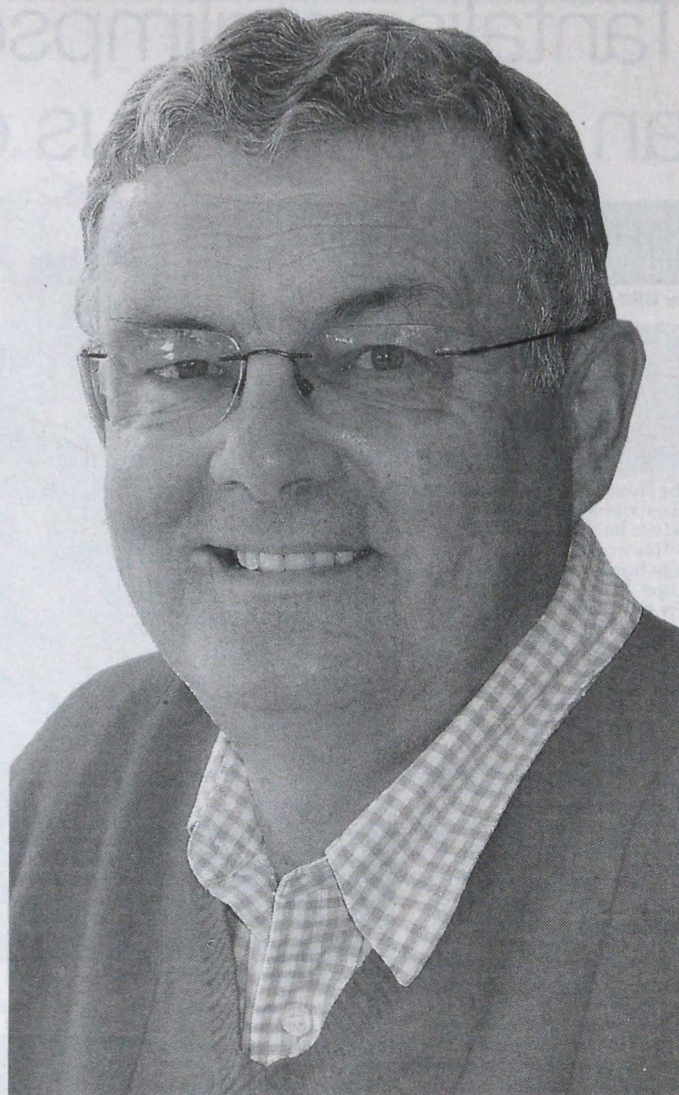
Robert met one farmer who a year earlier had severed his hand one morning while repairing an auger. "The young chap with him fainted and the other man, who was a former butcher, wrapped the stump up in a dirty cloth and with no time to wait for the ambulance they set off in the ute. The farmer picked up his mobile phone and rang his wife, asking her to look through the wheat for his hand and to give it to the ambulance which was still on its way. A plane was held up and they flew to Sydney where it was sewn back on at 8pm.

"Here he was 12 months later, shaking my hand and handing me cups of coffee with this hand that had been cut off," he said.

"Farmers are perceived as the scourge of the earth, environmental vandals, and I get angry at politicians who don't appreciate what's happening at grassroots. Perception is a powerful thing and farmers are producing food for us in difficult circumstances with no support. But they care for the land they work and if it doesn't rain they don't survive and if there's too much rain they don't survive either. I grew up in the city and I can turn the shower on and water comes out and also in the country when I stay at a motel. But farmers have to save every drop and people in Melbourne just don't understand the importance of water and take it for granted.

"You drive down to Warragul through good dairy country which is now carved into five acre blocks for a horse and the owners go there at the weekends, pushing farmers further out, further from the markets and onto marginal land. And they need another dam, they've got no right to bring water down here from the country."

Robert felt he'd been very lucky in his life. "I've got three well-adjusted kids who have an understanding of what life's about and who do all these things; they and Margaret have been very supportive. I was captain coach of Warrandyte and am still playing and it's a thrill to play with my son Adam



Robert White. Right: in action.

who is captain of the First XI. It's an opportunity for him to tell me what to do."

He's won both singles and doubles championships at the tennis club and he has travelled extensively overseas with the Crusaders, an organisation formed 30 years ago by former test players to teach young players the sportsmanship and skills of cricket. The Queen came and watched twice when they played the Royal Household Cricket Club at the cricket ground in Windsor Castle. "My mother's generation probably didn't even have passports," he said. "I've been blessed."

One of the most important places Robert ever wanted to see was the D-Day beaches. He visited the American war museum on the cliff face above where the Americans landed, listening to the recorded interviews with mothers and soldiers and he emerged through a narrow passageway into the white light of a circular room where the names of all those killed were listed on the wall. "There were pictures and stories of men who'd won the Medal of Honour and outside there were acres and acres of white crosses, perfectly lined up, perfectly white and it was incredibly moving, I was blown away.

"Two weeks later Margaret and I were staying at a B&B in England and there was this chap at the table well into his eighties, tall and correct, and I said I had wanted to see the beaches. This man's wife said here's a man who was there—he'd been a commando, flown in on a glider three hours before the landing to take an important bridge and hold it.

"He said, when you're in a situation you get used to it and you get used to men dying beside you. I'd



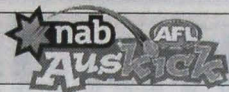
seen *The Longest Day* and *Saving Private Ryan* and asked myself, could I do that at 21? I was just in awe."

Robert wants to visit the Grand Canyon before he's 60. "I have lots to look forwards to but it's hard to fit everything in. I did recently change a light bulb. Today I'm going north to interview farmers and I'll be back at the weekend. On Tuesday it's Mt Gambier and I've got posters to organise for a promotion and pictures for the co-operative calendar. The month's gone but then everything needs to be done again.

"Every day is an important one. I once spoke to a farmer over at Orbst who was 77. He was spending \$55,000 building an underpass for his cows to cross under the Princes Highway. I asked him, why would you spend that sort of money at 77? He said, you've got to have a reason for getting up in the morning and I've never forgotten that."



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Auskickers end a busy season

It has been a big year in football for those involved in Warrandyte Auskick this year.

Richmond player, Dean Putt, visited Warrandyte and gymnastics lessons were conducted by Warrandyte gymnasts Kylie Frown and Alicia Wiltshire who advised on such things as how to roll when bumped and tackled.

Grid games and little league games were played at the MCG and Telstra Dome and there were Saturday afternoon half time games at the Warrandyte Bloods games followed by the mandatory barbecue for the young players and parents alike.

To coincide with the senior Bloods last home game the young Auskickers ventured down to play their final grid game in cold but dry conditions and the players' well honed football skills were put on display for the large crowd.

The Fab 2 of Owen and Alex Clark were into the thick of the action early with both gaining

numerous kicks and handballs. Megan Wiltshire showed her older brother Daniel, a Bloods reserves player, and his teammates on how to tackle hard and get the loose ball, Sam and Ben Munks roved the packs with the competitive left footer Luan Philip-Owen, pin pointing kicks like his real life footy hero Luke Power.

The quick Callum Bowers gathered many possessions and together with the junior Bombers pair of Hudson and the elusive Archer Rostrom shared the ball with attacking handball to the hard running junior Collingwood duo of Nathan Stewart and Harper Oehlmann.

Harper and his sister Oakie are supported at each of these games by their family including their effervescent grandmother and Warrandyte stalwart Anne Drew, who is also a frequent visitor on the Saturday mornings to chat with coaches and kids.

Other good players on the day

were Connor Martin who dominated the ruck, his high marking being a feature of the game. St Kilda fan Hayden Taylor was creative with his kicking to the fast leading Ben "Buddy" Waldren and his crumbing co-forward Spencer "Tiger" Hamilton

A total of 121 future young champions were involved at Warrandyte Auskick this year and were assisted by nine accredited coaches, three assistant coaches, the rain man Chris Jackson, four first aid people; Matt Allan, Suzanne Smith, Mary Green and Tracey Grayden, two regular photographers; Belinda Martin and Scott Podmore and two regular ball blowing-up mates in Peter Norman and Rob Heazlewood together with a good bunch of enthusiastic parent helpers.

Some of the regular players during the year such as Daniel Kelly, Hugo Wright and Nicholas Sharpe showed the benefit of regularly attending the weekly sessions with



Auskick coach Michael Stark has some instructions for his young players.

handballing improvements evident.

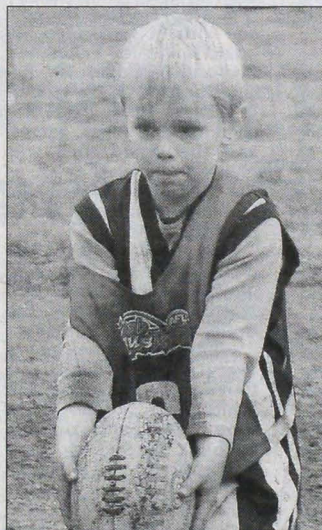
Jack Casey, Cameron Parker and Joshua Ball enhanced their kicking skills. Joshua Moran, Lauchlan King and Josh Anderson were enthusiastic in their tackling drills, Matthew Conlon and Samuel Waldren both improved their marking skills. Zachary and Levi Naunton, Zane and Tynan Kontos were other young players who developed their all round skills.

The last day of the season was

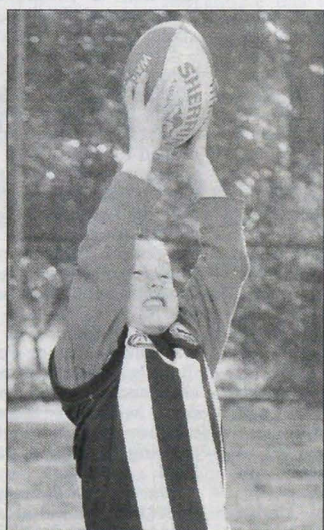
certainly action packed, starting with a downpour that forced presentation of trophies and awards to be held first with an early start to the barbecue.

To top it all off a car caught fire across the road with the local CFA quickly on the scene to show everyone how to avert a potential crisis, it certainly impressed the kids.

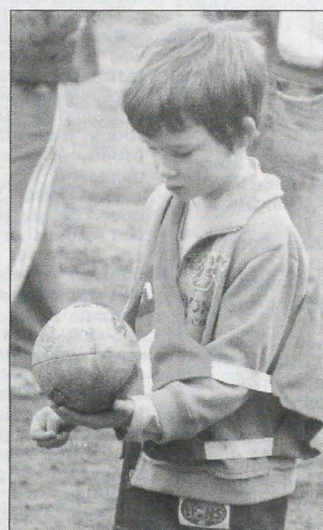
For information on joining Warrandyte Auskick contact Edward Munks on 0434 020 191 or edwardmunks@dodo.com.au.



Billy Podmore is all concentration as he takes his kick.



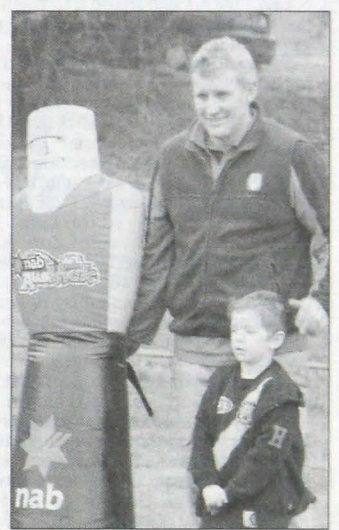
Connor Martin takes a high mark.



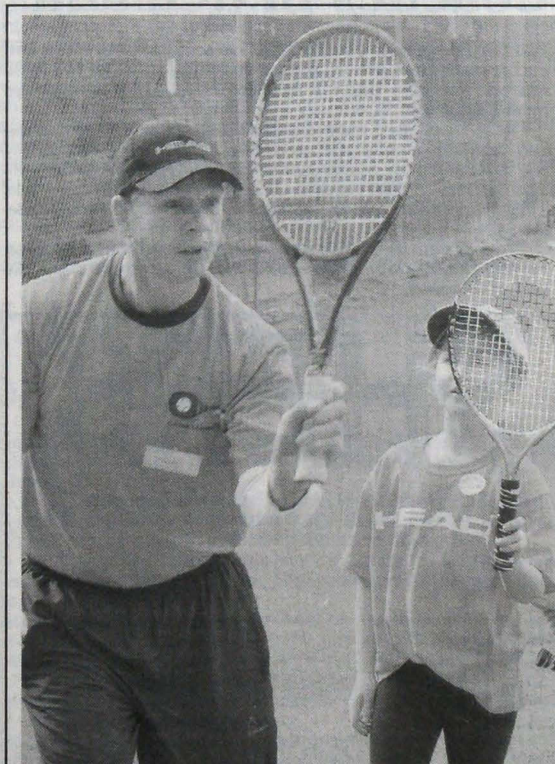
Alex Clark shows his handball skills.



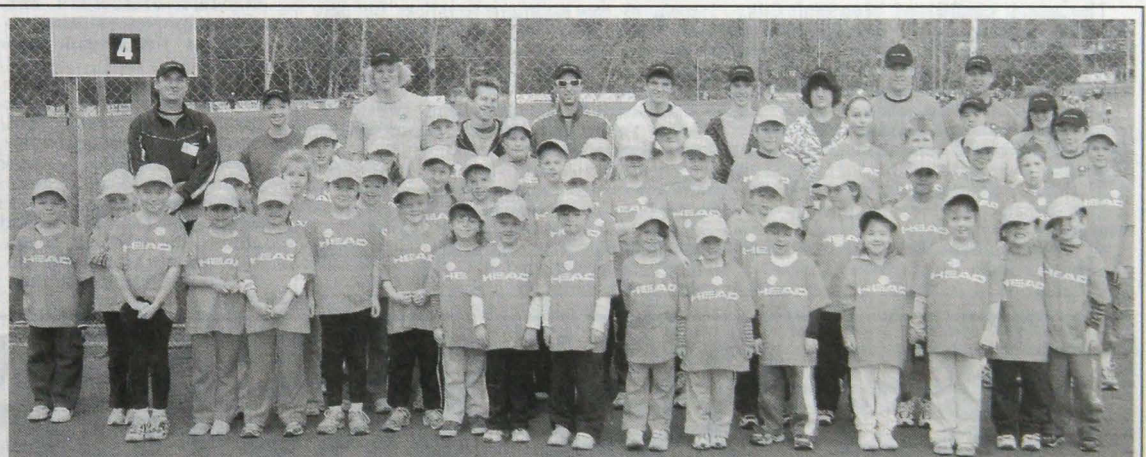
Coach Michael Stark and an enthusiastic tackler.



Coaching assistant, Peter Sharpe with Marcus Green.



Paul Gilling offers some advice on volleying.



The Warrandyte Supersmashers line up for a team picture.

Little smashers are a super hit

Warrandyte Tennis Club is currently conducting its fifth annual Supersmashers program.

This program is designed for beginner players between 5-12 years of age. Mini nets of varying sizes, modified court size and a range of modified colour-

coded balls help cater for the different age and standard of the players.

Warrandyte club coach Craig Haslam said the balls that were used covered three stages.

The first involves large foam balls which move slowly in the air and are eas-

ier for the kids to hit. The next is a 25 per cent compression ball that is larger than the regular ball and has a low bounce into the hitting zone of young kids. The third ball is of regular size but has 50 per cent compression.

"The outcome is a safe

environment where the kids feel very comfortable and can have fun and success," Haslam said.

The program is supervised by Haslam with a number of assistant coaches including some of the club's more successful past juniors.



Warrandyte Netball Club's Under 13 Fantails are premiers of their division.

Fantails bring home premiership flag

Warrandyte Netball Club's winter season ended with a grand final spree as six of the club's eight teams fought for the premiership in their respective grades.

Eight teams had made it to the finals and six Warrandyte teams achieved spots in grand final matches.

Warrandyte was represented in the grand finals by Under 13 section 1 Brumbies; Under 13 section 2 Fantails; Under 13 section 3 Wallabies; Under 15 section 1 Magpies; Under 15 section 2 Rosellas; and Under 17 section 1 Eagles.

Of the six grand final teams, the sole premiers were the Under 13/2 Fantails. The team was Sarah Abdurazak, Hannah Carter, Tara Cromwell, Zoe Kleeberg, Matilda Post, Kennedy Price, Riley Price, Rebecca Sierak and Aly Smead.

The team was coached by Helena Dwyer and Zanetta Hosking.

The Fantails defeated the ED Diamonds 17-13.

Dwyer said: "The girls played an awesome game and deserved the win."

The young coaches themselves have had a very successful year as players, both having been selected in talent identification tournaments along with Under 17/1 player Montana Cox, to go on to future invitation-only competitions.

The closest runners-up who went down by the narrowest of margins were the Under 17/1 Eagles, coached by Nat Dusting.

The team comprised Montana Cox, Zanetta Hosking, Sarah Lewis, Rhianna Kemm, Georgia Nichol, Harriet Rappell, Ally Van Summeran and Cass Wilson. The Eagles lost to the ED Hotshots 24-25.

Dusting said: "It was one of the most rewarding seasons for me and the girls. Ultimately you win some by one and you lose some by one."

In the previous week's semi-final the Eagles defeated the Toxic Barbies by only one goal.

Other Warrandyte Netball Club runners-up were:

- Under 13/1 Brumbies: Sara Febbo, Keeley Green, Zoe Hogan, Sienna Jones, Kayla Mansour, Rachael McKernan and Caitlin Yule, coached by Ally Van Summeran and Courtney Ratcliff. The Brumbies lost to the East Doncaster Rockets 11-24.

Van Summeran said: "It was an amazing game and we tried hard. Every single one of the players put in 100 per cent."

- Under 13/3 Wallabies: Lizzie Ellis, Lara Petrou, Nicola Pinolo, Eve Portwood, Sam Stockley, Celene Watson and Jenny Wilson, coached by Jess Dusting and Gabbie Ryan. The Wallabies lost to the DYC Bobcats 11-24.

Dusting said that the team had improved over the season.

"Half had not played at all before, but made the finals, and I was very proud of them."

- Under 15/1 Magpies: Claudia Bowers, Jess Dusting, Helena Dwyer, Kirilee Hosier, Georgette McKeough, Sophie Richardson, Marjorie Saunders, Sarah Wainwright, and coached by Amie Dusting. The Magpies lost to the DYC Cougars, 13-24.

"It was a great season. The girls unfortunately did not win on the day but next season will be our season" said Dusting.

- Under 15/2 Rosellas: Taylah Brendish, Alex Drohan, Brenna Edsell, Ysabel Galley, Natalie Kouts, Julia Lewis, Courtney Ratcliff, Gabbie Ryan, Zoe Van Guylick and coached by Jan Bryar. The Rosellas went down to the Koonung Hotshots by only two, 16-18.

"It was a great team effort, but we were beaten on the day by a better team," said Bryar.

Warrandyte Netball Club president, Sonya Febbo said that the teams all had good winter seasons.

The biggest challenge had confronted the open-aged teams playing in Open A, after previously being in Under 17 competitions.

The spring 2008 season started late last month.

200 footballers in junior ranks

By TANYA REARDON

Season 2008 was another successful year for the Warrandyte Junior Football Club with all teams performing well in the Yarra Junior Football League.

More than 200 players took to the field ranging from seven-year-olds making their first appearance in the red and white guernsey, through to the 17-year-olds who played their 150th games as Warrandyte junior footballers.

The Tackers had a great year with Dick Baker and Carlos Castagna offering plenty of support and encouragement to our future champions.

A highlight of the season was the performance on "Tackers Day" where the Warrandyte players performed admirably against all the other tackers in the YJFL.

Paul Reardon's Under 10s had a fantastic year with the team making it all the way to the Grand final.

The standard of play and willingness to share the ball was a real feature of the team's performance and the improvement demonstrated throughout the season should leave all the players proud of their achievements.

The Under 11s had an uncertain start to the season with a shortage of players, however the team focused on the positives and played some fantastic football.

Coach James Yoffa created an enjoyable team environment which fostered success and resulted in the team playing finals football which was a great reward for the positive approach of the coaches, players and parents.

Chris Appleby's Under 12s had an excellent season in the hardest of competitions, Gold Division.

The boys played a great standard of football and their improvement was evident as the season progressed.

Their eight wins and a draw from 16 games was a great achievement and should set them up for an even better 2009.

The Under 13s had a great year under the guidance of Peter Stafford. The team started the season in Green Division and was graded up to Brown Division due their

dominance in the early games.

Although they were narrowly defeated in the preliminary final, the players demonstrated some sensational team play which will see this team continue to prosper.

Lance Nilsson's Under 14s continued their journey in the highest competition, Gold Division.

Once again the boys were ultra competitive and secured another seven wins against the most talented Under 14 players in the state.

These boys have played competitively for several years in Gold which is an amazing achievement and a direct result of the commitment displayed by the players and coaches.

The under 15s also played finals football following some excellent results during the season.

Coach Steve Blakey continues to develop the players with a program that focuses on skills, fitness and quality decision making.

After some early uncertainty the Colts once again assembled two competitive teams and the pleasing aspect was the unity displayed by both Colts teams with up to 20 new players joining this season.

Both teams started off slowly but by season's end, the Colts 1 team was a likely finals contender and the Colts 2 team finished a credible fifth.

The motto of the Warrandyte Junior Football Club is "its all about the kids" and that was again evident with an increasing number of participants registering to participate in 2008.

The club's development initiatives included a pre-season skills development program, game sense ses-

sions conducted by WJFC coaching co-ordinator Brian Cartwright, computer analysis software to conduct skill remediation and guest coaches attending training sessions to assist with knowledge acquisition.

These and other development initiatives enabled many players to represent the club at league representative, state, development squad and TAC levels.

A number of players reached game milestones during the season. They included: Robbie Bowen and Tristan Valentino, 150; Dave Beasley, Tom Campbell, Tom Appleby, Pat Heffernan, Jake McKee, Andrew Reddie, Jacob Ballard, Josh Edwards, Daniel Krajnc, Dylan Burns, Adrian Mifsud, Kieran Sproule-Carrol, Heath Fitzpatrick, Taylor Hayton, Nick Tookey and Levi Polkinghorne, 100.

WJFC also had 16 players achieve 50 games during the season.

After starting the season without a score on the board in the first match, the Warrandyte Under 10s finished second on the ladder.

Banners were made for each of our finals games, and the grand final was highly anticipated by all, as the only Warrandyte team to make it into the Grand Final this year.

The week before the grand final, AFL Richmond players Jake King and Matthew White took the Under 10s training session.

While the boys made every effort to defeat our toughest competitor, Whitehorse Colts, they were beaten on the day.

The scores were Whitehorse 6.10.46 to Warrandyte 2.3.15

Joel Bumpstead also played his 50th game during the grand final.

Coaches in demand

Warrandyte Junior Football Club is seeking interested and enthusiastic people to apply for coaching roles for the 2009 season. The club intends to field teams in all age groups from Under 9 to Under 17.

Those interested should submit a brief profile including any previous coaching experience and which team(s) they are interested in coaching by the 30 September 2008 to: The Secretary, Warrandyte Junior Football Club, PO Box 259, Warrandyte, 3113 or email: secretary@warrandyte-jfc.org

All applicants will be interviewed promptly and successful candidates, where possible, will be announced by the end of October.



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Warrandyte basketball round-up with Tony Oliver


Big V Venom fall at Grand Final hurdle

Warrandyte's Big V Venom women's team went down 78-56 against Diamond Valley in the championship grand final.

"We left nothing on the court" said coach, Justin Nelson.

Warrandyte had come off a disappointing home court loss to the Eagles in the first of the best-of-three final series by 79-45. Warrandyte were blown away in the second and third quarters losing those quarters by 16 and eight points.

In front of a packed stadium at the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre, the Venom came out firing in game two. The home court crowd were silenced as the Venom lifted the tempo and intensity to lead at one stage by 12 points in the second quarter.

The Venom offence was working well. Shooting percentages were similar between the two sides but the Venom were putting up more shots often taking risks which were paying off more times than not.

The rebounds were working for the Venom, taking the half by 22 to 18.

Warrandyte had had a scare in the opening seconds when Billie Addlem went down early but she was soon back on the court.

It all came undone in the second half when Diamond Valley took control with speed and intensity. The tale of the third quarter was shooting percentage, with the Eagles lifting to 52 per cent while the Venom's fell away to 18 per cent.

Warrandyte were also hampered with Jo Metcalfe being unable to take the court with a calf injury and the Venom ran out of legs in the final quarter, having given their all and not disappointing their supporters.

For the record, Sally Phillips led the scoring with 19 points with Kate Cohen with 12 points (plus seven rebounds) and Jasmine Borella with 10 points.

After the game, coach Nelson paid tribute to the players and supporters.

"Warrandyte has come a long way in two years, being runners up both years and developing and building on the community spirit," said Nelson.

Redbacks are ready to tackle finals series

The winter season of Saturday basketball is reaching its conclusion with the finals series well and truly under way.

Jenni O'Brien's Under 17 A Grade girls had a good nine point win over Eltham at Eltham.

This was the first win over Warrandyte's neighbour and was built on a good team game and sends the Redback girls straight to the Grand Final with a week off.

The Under 15 A Grade girls, coached by Kelly Taylor also moved directly into the Grand Final with a convincing 36-32 win over Balwyn.

Warrandyte looked comfortably in control going into the break but two late goals by Balwyn cut the margin to five points. The second half was even with the Redbacks just shaving the visitors by one to record the good win.

For the Redbacks all players registered on the score board with Meg Dargan leading with 12 points with Ali Birch and Rosemary Pianna with six points each in support.

"Good team effort" was Taylor's

comment after the game.

The Redbacks Under 19 A2 girls also progressed to the Grand Final with a controlled 30-23 win over Eltham.

Janelle Lucas was the difference between the two sides with a strong game with 11 points and dominating the top of the key.

"The week's break will be good for the girls", was coach Nick Peters' comment.

Peters, after doing two games as a referee, was the coach of the Under 19 C Grade girls who went down to Doncaster, ending their season. Warrandyte, through injury and other commitments could only field four players and finished the game with two, with fouls taking their toll. "They just ran out of puff" said Peters.

Among the best were Kirra Solty, Fiona Rennie, Kaitlin Little and Rebecca Thomas.

Some results from the boys included the 15 AR boys' win over Bulleen by 42-38. Bulleen shot out of the blocks early with good three point shooting but the Redbacks slowly pegged them back.

Bulleen held the lead 17-14 at the break. In the second half, the Redbacks continued to apply pressure to close the gap but Bulleen were putting up a strong showing, slotting a total of seven outside shots for the game.

The Redbacks gained the lead for the first time with a three point success to Taylor Hayton. Both sides were desperate for the win with the lead changing a number of times before the scores were locked with less than a minutes to go.

Bulleen were at the free throw line for no success and Taylor Hayton was able to get the key field goal for the Redbacks at 14.2 seconds.

"Last time we lost by 30 points" said coach Ryan Holloway after the game. "Now we are straight into the Grand Final. It was a good game to win".

Also straight into the Grand Final are the Under 13 boys, coached by Mandy Ratcliffe.

Playing in BA grade they always appeared in control against Eltham, holding a comfortable 22-9 lead at the break.

For most of the second half the game was gong according to plan but to their credit Eltham lifted the pressure in the final minutes to close the margin to single figures.

The Redbacks steadied to record the 46-34 win over a determined opponent.

The season may be over for the Under 19 boys who lost controversially to Bulleen in overtime.

Bulleen appeared in control until Warrandyte came back at them in the final minutes.

On the score board, Warrandyte appeared to have got in front with a successful three point shot from Matt Belgiovane and Bryce Petalas appearing to give a one point win.

However, close inspection of the score sheet showed a draw and the need for extra time.

Bulleen came away with the points from the overtime but Warrandyte are likely to submit a protest.

Major awards night for basketballers

Warrandyte Basketball Association is nearing the end of another very successful season as the finals of the Saturday and Friday night are completed.

The association has continued to develop in these junior areas, with the aim of giving juniors a positive basketball experience, through opportunities in domestic and representative basketball.

The Big V Venom women's side were runners up for the second year in a row and the MMBL, the Wednesday night competition, continues to develop.

Major presentation days will be held on September 14 at WSC (6pm) for the Saturday basketball, the day after the Grand Finals. September 20 will be the Annual Trivia Night to be held in the Multi-Purpose room at Anderson's Creek Primary School.

Tables are selling fast for this monster event. This will be combined with the Big V presentations.

Major club awards will also be announced during the Trivia Night. Voting for these awards, to recognise those around the club who make major contributions to the running of the Association is open to all. Voting is via the link on the Web site, www.warrandyte.basketball.net.au.



Warrandyte Under 20s point guard David Wood has control of the ball in the semi final against Whittlesea.

Premiership hopes for Venom

The second week of the final series of Friday night basketball was completed with three Warrandyte Venom sides progressing through to the Grand Finals or preliminary finals.

Billie Addlem's Metro 4 girls overcame a determined Camberwell side to win 39-34 at the Eltham Leisure Centre.

The game started slowly with both sides feeling each other out. Warrandyte went into the break with a four point lead after finishing the half with late scoring.

Camberwell came out and evened up the game in the early part of the second half with both sides trading goals.

Two points from the free throw line to Amber Saunders and a three point success to Caitlyn Wilson established the key break towards the end of the game.

The Venom, with good defence especially from Breanna Waugh late in the game, held on to win. They now face Bulleen in the Preliminary Final.

The following game at Eltham saw Ian Wood's Under 20 Metro 3 boys go down to Whittlesea by 53-32.

Warrandyte were hampered by the absence of Josh Blakey through illness and could only field six players.

Whittlesea established an early 10 point break which they held for most of the game.

Every time Warrandyte challenged, Whittlesea were able to respond and the lead blew out at the end of the game as the Venom tired.

Ian McLeod top scored in the semi-final with nine points. Peter Whittingham with eight points and Luke Saunders and Matt Spinoso with six points each were the main scorers for the Venom.

This ends the Venom's season, but it was a good performance with a good second half of the season.

Nick Maywald's Under 16 Regional 3 earned the week off with a 29-27 win over Melton, advancing them directly to the Grand Final.

The fairy tale of Mollie Booth's Under 12 Central girls came to an end in an intense and physical clash against Darebin. The taller Darebin girls won 29-20.

Coach David Daniel's Under 12 Metro 2 boys were not disgraced going down to a taller Sandringham side by 21-16 in the first semi final played at Dandenong.

The Venom boys held the lead at the break by a single point but Sandringham started the better in the second half to open the margin to four points.

That margin was held through most of the game. The intensity of the game lifted in the final minutes but all of the Warrandyte shots that hit the ring rolled out and not in. A bit of luck the other way would have seen the boys progress to the preliminary final, which would have been an excellent result, after starting the finals race in fifth position.

Nathan Johnson top scored for the Venom with six points with Jules Jones the other main scorer with five points.

David Reinecke was standing in for the Under 14 Metro 1 girls regular coach Justin Nelson and will need to make a difficult phone call after the girls went down 41-29 against Frankston.

The taller Frankston players were able to control the game better, never allowing the Venom into the game after an even start.

The main scorers for the Venom were centre Demi Joy with eight points, with good support from Meg Keppel with seven points, Crystal Kaye with six points and Meg Cook with five points.

The Venom's Under 16 East boys established themselves as Grand Final favourites with a strong 44-22 win over Nunawading to progress directly to the Grand Final.



Ryan Synnot, left, and brother Bradley with their baseball trophies.

Young baseballers step up to the plate

THE Synnot brothers, Bradley and Ryan from Warrandyte, have made a big impact on the Doncaster Dragons Baseball Club this season.

Bradley took out Under 11s MVP award in his first season.

He had an outstanding season as a batter, finishing with a batting average of .895.

In the nine matches he played, he made 19 appearances at the plate, managed 17 hits, made 13 runs and 6 RBI's and did

not strike out once.

In the field he either pitched, played catcher, first or second base. By the end of the season he had found his position as first pitcher.

Ryan took out the Under 13s batting award for the second consecutive season with an average of .520.

He played 12 matches, obtained 13 runs from 13 hits and nine walks. He played his first season as catcher.

Swimmers to compete in Pan Pacific titles

Local swimmers, Joseph Arnaud and Isabella Plush have been named in the Victorian team at the Pan Pacific games swimming team to be held in Canberra in late November and early December.

The Pan Pacific involves children from 30 countries competing in various events.

Joseph and Isabella both competed in the Victorian primary schools 12 and Under 50 metre butterfly and breaststroke championship events.

Both swimmers live in North Warrandyte and Joseph attends Warrandyte Primary School while Isabella attends Eltham College.

Both entered the recent trials for the Pan Pacific and Joseph won the 50 metre and 100 metre butterfly and will compete in both events, along with the medley relay.

Isabella came second in the 100 metre butterfly and qualified for the event at the Pan Pacific.

There are 140 children and teenagers from 11-18 years representing Victoria at the games.



Young swimmers, Isabella Plush and Joseph Arnaud will compete in the Pan Pacific swimming titles.

New recruits boost Dyte's cricket hopes

Warrandyte is looking forward to a big season with the Ringwood District Cricket Association season opening on October 4.

New notable recruits, Cameron Skermer and Clint Thomas, have joined the club this season after outstanding service to Ashburton in the top grade of the Eastern Cricket Association.

Skermer is a dashing left handed top order batsman while Thomas is an outstanding all rounder and will boost the senior team's middle order batting.

"They are important additions," said Warrandyte captain, Adam White.

"But while they will give the team greater experience and depth, it will be the improvement from other players that will give us a premiership chance."

Last season Warrandyte finished two games clear on top of the RDCA Second Division ladder but could not complete the premiership challenge.

"All players are looking forward to the new season. We all realise that we wasted a wonderful premiership chance last season so there is still a job to be done."

White said that while the senior team didn't taste premiership success, other senior teams had brought home flags in recent years and there was an expectation that more premierships were possible.

"We have also had a number of former players return to the club in what has been an outstanding pre-season and it is likely that we will now have five senior teams for 2008-09."

All of last season's senior XI will be available this season and with the inclusion of two new recruits, there will be strong competition for positions.

The club is looking to young players, Jake Sherriff and Jack Ellis for big improvement this season. Sherriff made his debut in the First XI last season and showed he is up to the challenge of senior cricket.

White said his young opening bowler looked stronger this season and he expected a big improvement in his pace and accuracy.

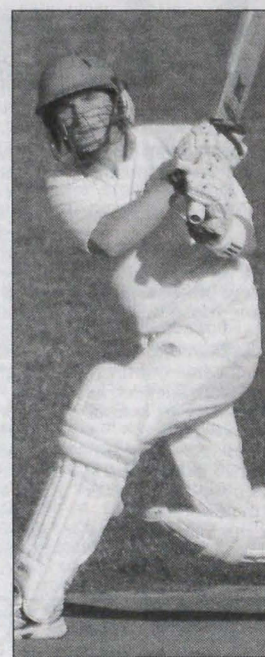
"Jake is a real talent and I expect that his batting will also play a big part in any success that we have this season."

Ellis, 16, was an outstanding player at Under 16 and Third XI last season but looks almost certain to step up into the Second XI this season.

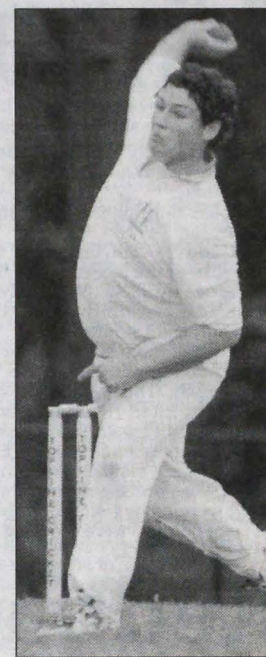
"Jack has grown a few centimetres and I think he will also be stronger and he is certainly a player with a great future at Warrandyte," White said.

Talented left-arm orthodox spinner, Matthew Sazenis again looms as Warrandyte's key player.

The club's leading wicket-taker last season, he has



Justin Cleaves



Campbell Holland

established himself as one of the leading spin bowlers in the competition and is almost certain to take on the bulk of the bowling again this year.

Much will also be expected of White and fellow top-order batsman, Brad Valentine this year.

White scored 699 runs last season to take out the RDCA Second Division batting average while Valentine was also prolific with the bat, scoring more than 400 runs.

Both players were involved in match-winning partnerships last season and will be expected to lead the batting line-up again this year.

All-rounder Justin Cleaves will have benefitted from his first year back at Warrandyte after a stint at Premier league club, Northcote.

His solid batting in the middle order and his medi-

um paced bowling combined with his outstanding fielding will be key factors again this season.

Veteran batsman, Dave Mooney is also determined to have a big season and will be a valuable player nestled in the batting line-up between White, Valentine and Skermer.

Opening bowler, Campbell Holland, looks fit and strong and will be keen to build on last season's outstanding comeback form. Holland, a regular First XI player, was hit hard by injury but returned to the senior side with some inspiring spells last season.

Training is now under way at the Warrandyte Reserve on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, starting at 4.30pm.

Practice matches have been organised in coming weeks to have the club primed for their opening round matches.

South Warrandyte ready for action

South Warrandyte Cricket Club will almost certainly field six under age teams in this season's Ringwood District Cricket Association season, starting next month.

The club held its registration days last month and despite the chilly weather, many eager juniors turned up, with the Under 16s leading the way it looks likely that two teams will be formed.

At this early stage, the club expects to field at least six competitive teams from Under 12 to Under 18.

To make junior co-ordinator Justin Hansen's life easier, juniors need to register soon, or at least confirm they will be playing.

Details will be released

soon for "Milo Have a Go" and "Under 10 Friday Night Competition", both starting late October.

For further information, contact Justin Hansen via: mobile 0414 473 611.

Senior training continues with indoor sessions continuing at Topline Sports, Burgess Road, Bayswater North each Tuesday 6.45pm to 8pm until end September.

Junior pre-season indoor training (U12 and above) will be held at the Action Indoor Sports Centre, New Street Ringwood on Mondays from 4.30pm at \$4 per session.

Junior pre-season outdoor training (U12 and above) will be held on Sundays from 10am at Colman Park.

Injuries take their toll on 2008

Bloods limp home after tough season

By CHRIS CHAPMAN

The injury ravaged Bloods have limped across the line to finish the 2008 season in 8th place on the EFL ladder.

After a promising start to the year with four wins in the first six rounds, Warrandyte were unable to recover from a mid-season slump which saw them lose seven games in a row.

Despite the disappointing finish to the season, the club will take a number of positives from the year, namely the impressive performance of several first year players and the continuing development of younger players at the club, both in the two senior sides and also the Under 18s.

Round 18 saw the Bloods take on the Whitehorse Pioneers at Springfield Park in Box Hill. The two sides have developed a fiery rivalry since the Grand Final clash of 2006, and both clubs were keen to finish the season on a positive note with a win in the final round.

Warrandyte had the majority of the play in the first term, registering nine scoring shots to the Pioneers' two, but squandered numerous opportunities in front of goal to finish the quarter just one point in front on the scoreboard, with an inaccurate one goal and eight behinds.

In just his second senior game, 17-year-old Joel Rigby gained confidence with every possession and perhaps showed a hint of things to come in coming years for the club.

First year player Vinnie Jones also continued his impressive recent form and is quickly developing into an important member of the Warrandyte side.

Unfortunately the second quarter saw no improvement in the Bloods' accuracy

Presentation night set for October 4

Warrandyte will reflect on the 2008 season and celebrate standout individual performances at the Vote Count and Presentation Night, to be held at Club Kilsyth on Saturday October 4.

The night will include a two course meal along with entertainment, as special achievements by both players and volunteers are recognised and celebrated.

All supporters are welcome, please book with James Logan on 0414 337 418.

cy in front of goal with Warrandyte's forwards spraying four behinds for the term, seemingly unable to find the big sticks.

Whitehorse started to gain the ascendancy in the midfield and took a 10 point advantage into the half time break.

At half time, Warrandyte coach Graeme Hocking encouraged his players to take risks and enjoy their final half of football for 2008.

Big ruckman and first year Blood Dave Hand came out firing with a couple of handy tap outs to running midfielders and skipper Tom Naughtin started to rack up possessions through the centre of the ground.

Aided by a strong breeze, the Bloods finally started kicking goals rather than points and started to take control of the third quarter.

Four straight goals, all coming from midfield runners, saw Warrandyte narrow the margin to just one point going into the final quarter for season 2008.

Sadly for the Bloods, a last quarter fadeout allowed the Pioneers to kick away with a seven goal to one final term and register a 38 point victory.

Among the better Warrandyte players were regular reserves standout

Brendan Zach, and tough on-baller Ben Reid, in perhaps his final time in a red and white jumper.

Leading up to the final round match, Reid announced to teammates that he would not be pulling on the boots in 2009 due to ever increasing work commitments.

Reid has been an important member of the senior side since making the step up from the reserves in 2004, has served on the leadership committee as vice captain in 2006 and 2007 and was an integral part of the 2006 premiership side, and runner up in the best and fairest that year.

The Bloods now look forward to a well earned break before once again starting preparation for the long EFL football season.

For several players who have had medium to long term injuries, the end to the season could not have come soon enough and a number of Bloods will be focusing on getting their bodies right for next year.

Adam Tsapatsaris showed plenty of promise despite playing just a handful of games for Warrandyte before sustaining a serious ankle injury and is now recovering well from a reconstruction operation.

Enigmatic premiership player Todd Holman is also

making good progress in his recovery from a recurring hamstring injury and former captain Matt Blagrove is preparing to undergo a knee operation.

In pleasing news for committee and supporters, early indications are that the majority of players from the 2008 list will be retained and the club will look to bolster that list with some key recruits over the summer months.

Meanwhile, the club has announced that 2008 senior coach Graeme Hocking would not be re-appointed as coach for the 2009 season.

Hocking came to the Bloods last November and immediately set to the task of moulding the players, and club, to his football methodology.

Unfortunately for Hocking, a strong start for the senior side was followed by an extended mid-season slump from which the Bloods were unable to recover.

An unprecedented 52 players played senior football in 2008 making it very difficult to find any stability which was exacerbated with evolving instructions. Players have learned a lot from Hocking's football knowledge in 2008 and will take many of his directives on board moving forward.

Hocking's focus on youth development was also well received.

The club will now advertise for applicants for the vacant coaching position and the committee has announced that they will be looking for a sideline coach or playing coach that will be able to attract key position players.

With stability off the field, the aim will be to stabilise on the field with consistent performances and to again play finals.

Sport shorts



Bryar wins netball clubperson award

Jan Bryar was awarded the Warrandyte Netball Club Person of the Year in 2007 as recognition for her generous and wide-ranging contribution to the club, its teams and to individuals, on an ongoing basis.

She is pictured with club president Sonya Febbo, in the new red and white Warrandyte windcheaters introduced this season.



Emily Waugh, left, and Brigitte Freemantle ... members of the Victorian school volleyball team.

Local girls help bring home bronze

Local sporting talent Brigitte Freemantle and Emily Waugh, both from Warrandyte, together with their Victorian State team, brought home bronze in the School Sport Australia's Under 16's Volleyball Championships held in Adelaide recently.

Year 9 students at Yarra Valley Grammar, Freemantle and Waugh, both 15, competed against teams from the ACT, Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales in the week long tournament.

The Victorian team put on an awesome display of skill, courage and determination defeating the ACT in round one, 3-0.

In Round Two they battled with tournament champions, Queensland, going down to the wire in the first set but were defeated 26-28, only to loose the following two sets 14-25, and 17-25.

Round three saw the girls put in a gusty effort against South Australia who finished silver overall, taking them to a four setter, in the end defeated one set to three, a score line not reflecting the closeness of the match with only a two to four point margin in three of the four sets.

The Vics had convincing wins over NSW and the ACT in Rounds 4 and 5, winning three sets to one in each.

Subsequent losses to the top two leaders in the tournament, Queensland and South Australia, placed the girls third at Round 8 where they were challenged by NSW in a five setter, the Vics taking victory three sets to two. This set both the Victorian and NSW's teams up for a bronze play off, with Victoria winning convincingly by three sets to one.

Registration time for little athletes

Warrandyte junior athletes have been invited to become involved in the East Doncaster Little Athletics Club.

Registration day is Saturday September 13 at Rieschiek's Reserve in George St, East Doncaster.

Registrations will be taken between 9am-12 noon, for children aged between 5-15 years.

For more information contact Edward Munks 0434 020 191 or Liz Phillips 0416 187 140.

Reserves finish in fifth place

The Warrandyte reserves side has missed out on a finals berth after finishing fifth on the EFL ladder.

Occupying fourth position on the ladder for the majority of the year, the Bloods slipped out of the four after a loss to Nunawading in Round 13 and were never able to move back into finals contention.

Injuries hit the twos side hard in the latter half of the season, with pacy wingman Bernie Optheynde breaking his thumb and captain Chris

Chapman not playing since Round 10 due to a recurring hamstring injury.

Vice captain Jarrod Boyce has also been absent, not having played since Round 14 and currently studying overseas.

Veteran Adam Hinds also had a frustrating second half to the year with niggling leg problems meaning he played only a handful of games.

Despite the disappointment of missing out on finals action, it can be seen as a successful season for a

reserves side that has continued to develop younger players, who have gained experience alongside a handful of older players.

The Round 18 clash against Whitehorse was one of the side's better performances for the year, with the Bloods leading from start to finish in an at times fiery encounter to record a strong 44 point victory.

Paul Burgoyne was judged best on ground and has now strung together several outstanding games to finish the season as one

of the favourites for the reserves best and fairest award.

Tim Beasley and Daniel Large were also among the better players against Whitehorse and, like Burgoyne, are young players who are also likely to be amongst the contenders for end of season accolades.

Tyson Fitzgerald, another young first year Blood who has gained valuable senior football experience this year, kicked four goals while standing up to some heavy opposition pressure.

Colts win but are denied finals action

The Under 18 side also fell just short of finals action, finishing fifth out of the eight Division Three colts sides.

It was a season of highs and lows for the young Bloods, who were coached by senior club veteran Jason Bowen, with some standout performances from a number of exciting future prospects for the club.

Three Under 18 players had a taste of senior football in 2008, with Ross Brown, Joel Rigby and Rohan Mullett-Treloar all running out with the senior side at some stage throughout the year.

The colts finished the season on a high note with a nailbiting three point victory over Whitehorse Pioneers in Round 18.

Kane Stoffels was one of the Bloods' best, capping off what has been an impressive debut season in the red and white. Ross Brown kicked two goals and once again proved to be an important member of the Colts side.

The Bloods can look forward to further improvement from Brown in years to come. The lanky six footer is a natural athlete and ball winner.

gardiner mcinnes

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warrandyte private sale
 suit \$475k plus buyers
 Light and airy 3BR + studio weatherboard home on over 1/2 acre. Formal lounge with ofp and polished boards. Open plan kitchen/meals. Family room. Large formal outdoor entertaining area. Studio is perfect to work from home. Double garage plus 2 single carports.



warrandyte private sale
 suit \$550k plus buyers
 Crowning 1/3 acre with stunning views of the Warrandyte hills, this 4BR plus study home includes formal lounge with ofp and cathedral ceiling. Open plan kitchen/meals/family. Master suite - suit conversion to 5th BR. Covered patio and terraced rear gardens. Double auto garage.



Wonga Park Scouts invite you to jump into scouting!

The newly reformed Wonga Park Scout group is under new leadership and invites boys and girls of all ages to jump into scouting!
 2008 is Australian Year of the Scout, celebrating 100 years of Scouting in Australia. Scouting emphasises nature, adventure, citizenship, leadership and of course having fun.
 Wonga Park Scouts meet each Tuesday from 7pm-8.30pm at the Wonga Park Scout Hall, Yarra Road, Wonga Park.
 For further information telephone Mignon Hogan on 9848 8785 or pop in and say hello at one of their regular Tuesday meetings.