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# WARRANDYTE diary

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# Tense wait on link

## Candidate calls for action from council

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte is nervously awaiting a state government decision on the route for a proposed freeway linking the Metropolitan Ring Road at Greensborough with EastLink.

Press reports continue to list two possible routes, through Bulleen to the Eastern Freeway or through Eltham and Warrandyte to EastLink at Ringwood.

It is anticipated that a promised transport statement by the government in November may clarify the position.

Local MPs, Ryan Smith (Liberal)

river—need to speak with one voice on this," Mr Ellis said. "Nilumbik council has a long history of opposition to a ring road through Warrandyte. From our Manningham representatives, the silence has been deafening.

"Our council should insist on their right to be heard, not just to be told."

The RACV is persisting with its argument for the Metropolitan Ring Road and EastLink to be connected, with the Warrandyte route always appearing in their lobbying submission. (See report, page 3.)

"My guess is that there is enormous commercial pressure for this link to be completed, since it will maximise the use of EastLink by the transport industry, particularly between the Hume Freeway and the industrial south-east," Mr Ellis said.

"Are we going to see the Green Wedge carved up for the profit of tollway operators? That doesn't seem like Warrandyte to me."

Retiring Mullum Mullum ward councillor, Ron Kitchingman, has indicated his intention to stand again at council elections in November.

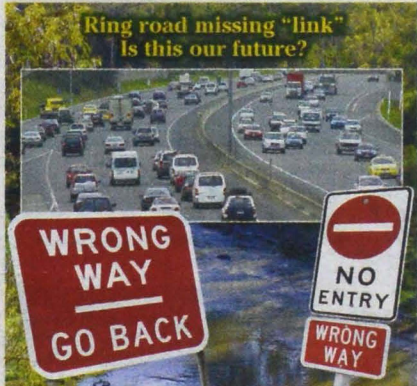
"I am opposed to any link going through Warrandyte, South Warrandyte and Park Orchards that would adversely affect the Green Wedge," Cr Kitchingman told the *Diary*. "But until the state government does release any definite information we cannot take any action."

"I am prepared to work within council, and outside, including personally lobbying politicians, to ensure this will not occur," he said.

"EastLink has really set us up for this, making the so-called 'missing link' seem like a cartographic inevitability," Mr Ellis said.

"I don't accept that for a minute. My hunch is we are going to have to fight this battle many times over coming years."

"Our councillors, whoever they are, have to be ready every time—and ready to win."



in Warrandyte and Danielle Green (Labor) in Yan Yean, have expressed outright opposition to the proposed Eltham-Warrandyte route, as has Nilumbik council.

However, Manningham is still not prepared to show its hand.

"Manningham council does not currently have a position in relation to future freeway link proposals and is eagerly awaiting the outcome of the state government Metropolitan Transport Plan which is due to be released in late 2008," CEO Lydia Wilson told the *Diary* in August.

David Ellis, Mullum Mullum ward candidate in the forthcoming council election, has called on council "to make their voice heard in rejecting suggestions for a toll road through Warrandyte".

"Our Warrandyte council representatives—both sides of the



These young performers featured in Highlights at Warrandyte High School last month. (Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS)

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"If you find yourself in a hole the first thing to do is stop digging."

— Cowboy wisdom



# WARRANDYTE diary

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



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

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### NEXT ISSUE

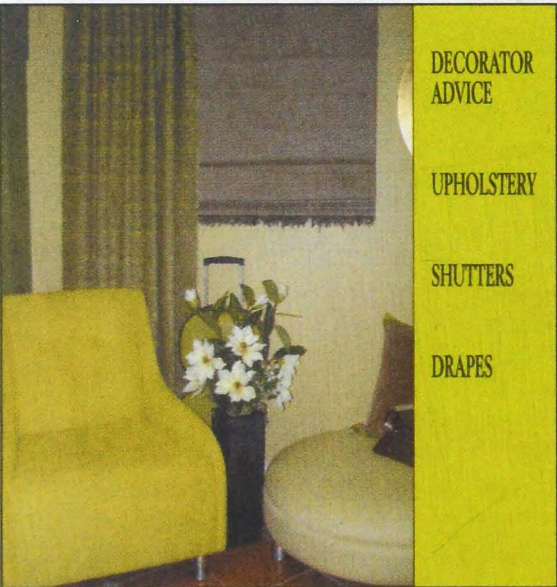
Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, November 12. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, October 31.

### 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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## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



## Neville leads a dog's life

“W HERE’S Charles?”  
 “On the couch.”  
 “Well get him off!” wailed Narelle.

“But he’s asleep!”  
 Cinnamon had found their new dog at the Lort Smith animal refuge and made it her personal mission from God to save him from a life of misery and neglect. He and God seemed entirely satisfied.

“He” was a narcissistic, narcoleptic Weimaraner and dyslexic to boot. He stood when commanded to *sit*, on *drop* he climbed your leg and in response to *come* simply wandered away. Being dysfunctional, he fitted into the Trott family like a wet nose in a dog’s bum.

Charles spent the night under Jasper’s doona, howled if left outside alone and turned his nose up at anything that came out of a can.

“The trouble with that one is it doesn’t know it’s a dog!” said Gran.

“We’ll soon see about that!” scowled Neville, wiping the drool from his new argyle sweater that Charles had been using as a pillow.

“This I’ve got to see,” murmured Gran and five minutes later the whole family was packed into the Land Cruiser with Charles in charge in the front passenger seat.

After a quick stop at Goldfields Pet and Produce they pulled up at Stiggants and settled themselves on the benches by the barbecues to watch the fun unfold. Including Charles, hind legs crossed, one front elbow leaning ca-



sually on the bench beside Cinnamon.

“Alright fella,” said Neville brandishing his brand new Dogapult ball thrower like Harry Potter with a magic wand. “If there’s one thing a dog loves it’s playing Fetch!”

Neville placed a fresh green tennis ball into the end of it and flung it out of sight. The family watched on in fascination. So did Charles.

“Fetch!” cried Neville waving wildly towards the ball.

Charles tilted his head and scratched it.

“Come on boy, let’s go!” said Neville and started after the ball so the dog would follow.

“Let him smell it,” suggested a passing jogger when Neville got back.

Charles inspected the furry round thing, slimed it with drool and returned to his

itch as Neville reloaded the Dogapult.

“OK, this time. Watch the ball. And Fetch!”

The ball sailed away beyond the big swamp gum.

“Come-by. Get away back. Walk on!” bawled Neville, trying every dog-handling term he’d ever heard at the Royal Melbourne Show.

Charles, who’d never been to the Show, rested his jaw on Cinnamon’s lap and waited while the head of the pack retrieved it again.

“Try rolling it in front of him,” offered a lady with a pram.

Neville was happy to give it a go. He was already breathing hard and beginning to regret how far the Dogapult could actually pult. But despite a chorus of instructions, whistles and hand gestures from

### living with The Trotts

the growing band of onlookers, Charles still wasn’t clear whether he was supposed to get the ball, wag the tail he didn’t have or sing Jerusalem in Italian.

“Don’t tell, show,” put in a teacher from Andersons Creek as her class clustered round behind her.

Never one to disobey teacher, Neville doubled over, knuckles brushing the ground, and loped across the grass, all the while looking back to see if he was getting through. Charles found it absolutely enthralling, but whether he was in fact cognisant of the concept being demonstrated for his benefit was less than certain. In for a penny, thought Neville, and to the surprise of some 40 fascinated spectators, lifted the ball in his teeth and let out a howl of triumph! Charles couldn’t have been more shocked if a flying saucer-full of little green dachshunds had landed on the lizard, and hid under the picnic table.

“I give up!” cried Neville and flung the ball thrower at the Sulo bins. In a flash Charles was after it, catching it before it hit the ground, up and scampering back to drop it at Neville’s feet.

“Clever dog,” said someone, taking a seat beside Gran. “But I still think the bloke’s better.”

ALAN CORNELL



# RACV lobbies for Yarra Street 'upgrade'

**By KARLY HICKMAN**  
An \$11million "upgrade" for Yarra Street and Warrandyte-Ringwood Road is proposed in a recently released RACV "document".  
Entitled "Outer Melbourne Connect", the document details specific road, rail and public transport improvements the club believes are required in outer Melbourne to ease congestion.  
It lists 85 arterial road projects totalling \$3.2billion.  
The proposal calls for the "upgrade" of Yarra Street and War-

randytc-Ringwood Road between Harris Gully Road and Jumping Creek Road.  
While the blueprint outlines other road projects as requiring "upgrade and widening" and "duplication", Yarra Street and Warrandyte-Ringwood Road are recommended for "upgrading" only.  
"Now, more than ever, rapid growth and corresponding congestion demonstrate the urgency to complete unfinished projects," Brian Negus, RACV public policy manager told the *Diary*. Since 2002 the state government has

spent \$112million a year on new roads, according to Mr Negus, but "this has only scratched the surface".  
A survey commissioned by the RACV last year revealed that 86% of Victorians believe upgrading outer Melbourne roads is required now, or at the latest, in the next few years.  
Although the blueprint lists specific public transport projects, no mention is made of transport needs in the Warrandyte area.  
Details of the proposed "upgrade" remain unclear, however Warrandyte Community Asso-

ciation vice-president Jonathon Upson said that road changes may not be the answer.  
"Congestion during peak and school times can be addressed by simply reducing the number of cars on the street," he said. Mr Upson identified an increase in bus services, especially to local schools, as being the key to reducing congestion along Warrandyte's main street.  
He suggested the introduction of express bus services from Warrandyte to the city and altering bus routes outside school times as possible congestion reducers.

These proposals would be consistent with the results of a bus users' survey conducted last year by WCA.  
"Bus services in Warrandyte, particularly on the Nillumbik side of the river, need to be greatly improved," Mr Upson said.  
The RACV also identified connecting the "missing link" between the Metropolitan Ring Road in Greensborough and EastLink in Ringwood as a key project for the eastern region.  
● See report, page 1.

# North plan problems

**By TRISTAN MADDOCKS**  
Warrandyte Community Association is disappointed Nillumbik council has refused to expand a planning control designed to protect landscape values along the north side of the Yarra.

WCA vice-president Jonathon Upson says he has spent four years campaigning for an overlay, Yarra River Environs (ESO2) to be applied to private land in North Warrandyte.

Nillumbik council says such an expansion is inappropriate because the ESO2 is intended for public land, and other planning controls are in place on private land.

The objectives of the ESO2 are to protect the environmental significance of the Yarra River environs, to protect and enhance the views to and from the river, and to protect the river and the areas along the river from visual intrusion caused by inappropriate siting and design of buildings.

Mr Upson says that although the ESO2 gives the impression that land adjoining the Yarra is protected from inappropriate development, in fact it is not.

"The loophole is that you have these really strongly-worded guidelines, (but) a map that doesn't apply to any private land," he said.

"So somebody looking at it would say 'Hey, look! This is really great protection!' But then those guidelines only apply to the areas that are mapped, and then the map, of course, is just for the banks of the river."

"What is very disappointing



Community voice: WCA vice-president Jonathon Upson addresses the Nillumbik council meeting held in North Warrandyte last month. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

to WCA is that council committed to fix this problem in 2004, confirmed their commitment in a letter to us in 2005, and now four years later have written a report that attempts to argue there is no problem."  
The report, released at last

month's council meeting, found there was no demonstrated need to review the ESO2.

"The Nillumbik planning scheme currently contains strong existing controls that have successfully protected the landscape values of the

Yarra River environs from inappropriate development," the report says.

Manager for environment and planning services, Margaret Abbey, said the ESO2 was having its intended effect.

"(There) is not a loophole because the ESO2 is particu-

larly targeted for public land," she said. "It would be a loophole if there was a provision that said (the ESO2) related to somewhere else. That's not the case."

Ms Abbey said that since council agreed to review the ESO2 in 2004, controls includ-

ing the Significant Landscape Overlay Schedule 2—Bush and Semi Bush Residential Areas (SLO2) have been successfully applied to private land in Warrandyte.

"When you look at private land, we've got a different suite of controls and a stronger suite of controls to actually protect the environs of the Yarra River," she said.

While the council will not take further action to review the ESO2, it will include a landscape character assessment of North Warrandyte in its Green Wedge management plan.

Ms Abbey said the assessment will be an opportunity to see if there is any need for any additional landscape controls. "While we are quite comfortable with the controls we have in place, we are saying... let's include the whole of the Yarra environs, not just the Warrandyte North area."

But WCA remains concerned that inappropriate development could occur in North Warrandyte.

"While we hope that the landscape study of the Yarra River Valley environs in Warrandyte, recently added to the shire's Green Wedge management plan study, will result in increased planning protection for these very special landscapes, we are understandably sceptical as to the timing, or the extent, of that protection," Mr Upson said. "We are concerned that inappropriate subdivisions and houses could be approved in the meantime."

# Election hopefuls have their say at WCA forums

Council elections—both sides of the river—are scheduled for November and once more the Warrandyte Community Association is running forums at which local residents can listen to, and quiz, prospective candidates.

Nillumbik hopefuls will face their

electors on Wednesday, October 29 and Manningham candidates will run the gauntlet on Thursday, October 30.

Please note that both forums will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre.

"WCA sees this as an important

service to the community," spokesman Jonathon Upson told the *Diary*. "This is a chance for Warrandyte people to really get to know and quiz intending candidates before they cast their vote."

"Manningham's Mullum Mullum ward has been expanded, so it is

even more important Warrandyte's needs should be adequately represented," Mr Upson said.

Sugarloaf ward in Nillumbik is no less important as North Warrandyte seems to have been somewhat neglected in recent years.

"Our previous forums have seen

passionate debate from a wide spectrum of candidates," Mr Upson said.

Intending candidates for both Mullum Mullum (Manningham) and Sugarloaf (Nillumbik) wards are encouraged to contact Jonathon Upson on 0400 501 676 for further details.

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# Shopping centre garden 'vandalised'

## dear diary

I am appalled that the trees have been removed from the front of the IGA. I recall these three Australian White Cedars being planted with the original development, perhaps 20 years ago.

Beautiful, slow-growing and unobtrusive, these deciduous trees provided an ever-changing show of flowers in spring, glossy green leaves with shade in the summer, a bright yellow spray in autumn, and then those almost comically persistent orange berries.

What would possess anyone to remove them? Some paving damage? Surely not! Brick paving is easily repaired. Was there a permit issued? I must have missed the notice. Who is responsible? Who would do such a thing?

David Dyason  
West End Road



Stripped bare: "Exposed" garden at Goldfields Plaza. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

It was with dismay that I discovered on Sunday morning (Grand Final weekend) that all the ground cover along the front of the car park at our local Goldfields shopping centre was being ripped out and mulched.

On enquiry I was told it was to give the shopping complex more "exposure"! Are the powers-that-be (the body corporate) so ignorant that they don't realise how we Warrandytians love our greenery and appreciate the shade and protection that trees and shrubs give us when parking? Don't they realise this makes our local shopping area more attractive and inviting than the ugly wall-to-wall asphalt look of every other shopping complex?

Much time has been spent, firstly putting in attractive greenery, only to then rip it out. Firstly climbers up the verandah poles, then lovely trees and seats outside IGA, and now the correas beneath the gum trees. What will they pull out next?

With this attitude, is this the sort of shopping complex we want to support in Warrandyte?

Margaret O'Connor  
Brackenbury Street

People I have spoken to are concerned at recent happenings at Goldfields shopping centre. Firstly climbers and gum trees near the buildings were removed, then the shade trees and seats were taken from in front of IGA. This area was frequently used by people resting, socialising or waiting to be picked up.

Then all the indigenous correas were removed along the main road. These correas were a great survivor in drought conditions. Parked cars and buildings can be seen through the trees. One person described it as now being ugly.

I'm wondering if it is being proposed to remove any more vegetation, when in many cases weeds are allowed to flourish.

John Hanson  
Webb Street

## They explored global warming

Many of our Warrandyte community are already working to care for our indigenous environment and the heritage of our community, but all this is threatened by climate change. The issues are complex and the need for action urgent.

A group of Warrandyte residents met at the Warrandyte Uniting Church on September 14 to explore climate science and try to understand the reasons for human-induced climate change. The main factor is rapid increase in greenhouse gases that prevent escape of heat from sea and land. We are already aware of the risk to our homes through drought and more severe weather events but eminent scientists are warning us that the situation calls for emergency action. The latest science indicates that loss of Arctic ice in already far advanced. If the trend continues to the melting of Greenland ice, sea level will rise seven metres, with worse to come.

The discussion group agreed that while nothing is certain with such a complex issue, the evidence of climate emergency cannot be ignored.

The meeting explored an appropriate response to the critical issue of climate change. The lead-up to, and conduct of, the Second World War was used as a metaphor. While Churchill warned the

British people of impending crisis, Chamberlain returned from a meeting with Hitler proclaiming "Peace in our time". Within 18 months, the world was at war. The Allies won the war because of an extraordinary degree of community solidarity, and the devotion of all national resources to the war effort. Australians went without consumer goods and essentials were rationed. But we worked as one united community.

It was felt that the insidious nature of climate change makes it hard for people to focus on the issues as they did in war-time. Government at all levels needs to be effectively lobbied to take appropriate action, but remedies are needed at personal and community level.

Warrandyte already has some of the solidarity needed to support cooperative activity in renewable energy and optimal use of water. Such local activity would provide opportunities for innovative small businesses. For community solidarity to blossom, care for our damaged ecosystems needs to become a "matter of the heart".

We need to reinforce hope that effective action can be taken and the Warrandyte community can make some impact.

Julie James  
Alan Place

## Skatepark good deed

I would like your readers to know of an experience Margaret and I had a couple of days ago.

We were at the bus stop and with a few minutes to spare, Margaret wanted to go to the toilet behind us.

When she hadn't returned in a short time I went to find out why it was taking her so long, just in time to see her disappear from view in the direction of the Senior Citizens Club. If I took off to bring her back to the bus stop, with the short time we had we would miss the bus.

There were a number of fellows using their speed on skateboards; just what I needed to catch up with Margaret and put her on the right track.

I asked one if he could help me. After a quick look at the problem he immediately skated off to inform Margaret the need to reverse her journey so we were able to catch the bus.

I don't know the fellow's name; he was a complete stranger to me, and if I did know his name it could cause him some embarrassment and to me that would be a poor way to express my appreciation of his kindness.

I use this excellent act of kindness given to Margaret and myself as a model of kindness given to us by a number of other sections of the community, for which we are extremely grateful.

John Gilbert  
Valias Street

## World crises, local opportunities

Standard advice for political candidates: never go to the voters with bad news. Right now, that's a little hard to avoid.

With the world's financial markets and climate both vulnerable, the situation is serious. These are global concerns, but around the globe it's small communities like our own in Warrandyte that are anticipating the impacts, and looking for answers.

Our world is getting warmer, fast. Polar ice and permafrost are melting at unprecedented rates. All signs are that we are on the brink of "runaway" climate change that will be literally unstoppable.

They say that opportunity and crisis travel together. Sound management of these crises will mean recognising, and taking, opportunities while they are there to be taken.

There is no doubt that a major cause—by overwhelming scientific consensus the major cause—of climate change has been the past two remarkable centuries of hyperactive overproduction: digging up fossil fuels and pumping the residue into the atmosphere. Atmospheric CO<sup>2</sup> is something that we can control. We have a duty to ourselves and coming generations to do so—and, fleetingly, an opportunity.

The collapse of financial markets is another symptom of a system in reckless overdrive—but also an opportunity. A prudent response

would be to use this chance to rebuild our economy on the sustainable basis needed to survive and thrive in the 21st century.

Increasingly, informed business leaders understand this. Governments have been slower to respond. The best that could be said for Australia's state and federal governments is they talk a good game. Spin, promotional campaigns and easy symbolism are no substitute for real action on emission controls and renewable energy.

So, what can usefully be done—and done in Warrandyte? Local government offers some immediate opportunities. Here's a few.

● To date 14 councils (including Nillumbik, not Manningham) have passed resolutions to end logging in the state's water catchment. Both water supply and carbon sequestration stand to benefit. Similarly, the Eastern Transport Coalition (seven councils, including Manningham) has combined to push for public transport improvements.

● A Manningham climate strategy should be implemented to review all council decisions and policy—overseen by a designated director for climate impacts. All councils will need similar locally-focused strategies.

● Practical initiatives within the community can best be co-ordinated by council. A local church recently sug-

gested to me using their roof for solar panels. Imagine a project, similar to the recent successful CRAG program, open to all local churches—or other institutions, businesses, community buildings—to buy and install solar electricity in bulk.

● The Manningham council fleet of passenger cars comprises over 80 fossil-fuelled vehicles. A better alternative: replace the entire fleet with non-emitting electric cars for council business and also make them available to rate-payers, and at favourable hire rates for those who choose to relinquish car ownership altogether.

● Adversarial party politics will not work in a state of emergency. There are individuals in all parties who see the urgent need to act. Now, whatever their differences on other matters, they need to join forces in an ad hoc climate alliance. Local government, typically less constrained by party divisions than other governments, is a good place to begin.

Come late November, we will have a new council. Perhaps among *Diary* readers there will be others besides myself who see the need and are willing to serve as councillors, or are willing to share other ideas to ensure our new council really is climate wise.

We've got the crisis. Let's take the opportunities.

David Ellis  
Tills Drive

## CLYDE & OCKER



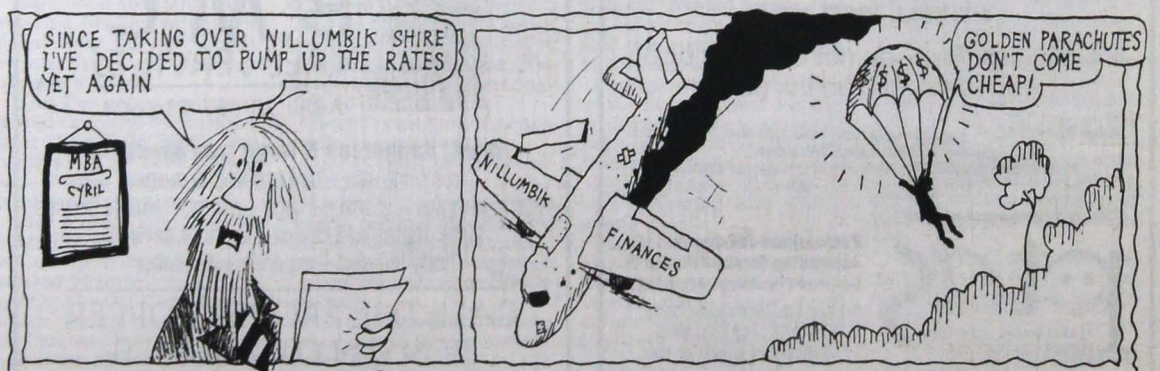
"Global warming is just a lot of hot air, Ock!"

## Anger at rates

Attention residents of North Warrandyte. Are you as outraged as I am about yet another hefty increase in rates for 2008/2009? The rates have increased by 55% over the past three years, but most of the monies are spent elsewhere in the shire. Why are we paying the bulk? If you are concerned, or as angry as I am, please call (9844 3924) and leave your name, address and phone number and I will add you to a list of disgruntled ratepayers.

Briony Bottarelli  
Marbert Court

## CYRIL



By PAUL WILLIAMS



# Mail on the move...

By JOANNE GREEN and CLIFF GREEN

If you rocked up to the Warrandyte Post Office down at the east end of town, hoping to post a parcel or pay your electricity bill late last month, you would have thought you were seeing things. It had gone! There was a big hole where the post boxes had been and the place was locked up. A notice on the window told you that postmaster Don Jinnette had pulled up stumps and relocated to Shop 5, 90-92 Melbourne Hill Road. (That's right beside Mings Chinese Restaurant.)

This is the second time Warrandyte's post office has gone walk-about. Old-timers remember it as a modest little colonial-style building in Yarra Street, diagonally opposite the Grand Hotel, still known locally as "the Old Post Office". It is now the Warrandyte Historical Society museum.

The Old Post Office is a building with a long history, surviving floods and bushfires in the days when mail in Warrandyte was delivered on horseback. It was abandoned as a post office in the early 1970s when the business relocated to the east end.

The building became derelict and was threatened with demolition until some energetic locals launched a campaign to save and restore it.

They were going well, too, until one night in 1982 when someone set fire to the place, attempting to burn it down. Perhaps they were anxious to see the Country Roads Board succeed in their plan to convert Yarra Street into a four-lane highway, right

through the Old Post Office site. However, wisdom prevailed and the restored building was opened in May, 1987. Should we now be calling it the "Old, Old Post Office"?

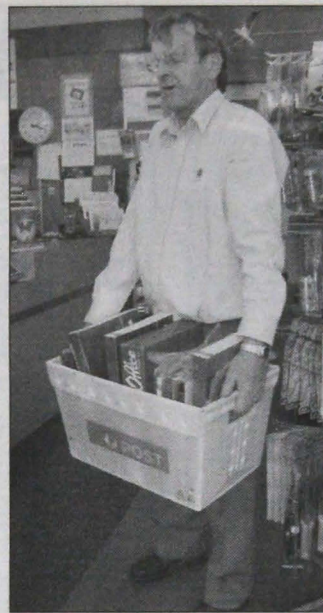
And so, after around 35 years, Warrandyte Post Office has moved yet again, forced to relocate by an unreasonable rent increase. "The lease ended and the owner (of the building) increased the rent to \$70,000 a year," postmaster Don Jinnette told the *Diary*. This would have been an increase from \$14,000 during the previous lease. It is believed the entire post office block is set to be redeveloped as shops and offices.

The actual shift happened in one day. Holders of post boxes were asked to clear their mail by Friday, September 26 and the new office was open for business the following Monday. The relocated post office spent a week and a half without phone connection following the move.

The post boxes were transported by truck to the Melbourne Hill Road location and were reinstalled inside the post office. They can now be accessed through a separate door. Mr Jinnette believes this is a safer option than access out in the street.

Despite the difficulties and temporary inconvenience of relocation, Mr Jinnette says the new Melbourne Hill Road shop is a more convenient location, with safer and better access to parking.

"It's much better, it's brighter," he said. "Parking is extremely good here and it will live up this end of town. The shops around here will probably increase in value."



Postmaster Don Jinnette made his momentous move one weekend late last month. (Pictures by Jan Tindale)



Cartoonist Jock Macneish saw the potential joke way back in September 1981.

## Church still awaits final judgment

By KARLY HICKMAN

Although a \$20,000 debt, accumulated by St Stephens Anglican Church in Warrandyte, has been waived by the Melbourne diocese, congregation members are still concerned about the future of their parish.

They have heard no further news regarding the possibility of a reinstatement of the parish, complete with vestry and a full-time priest, or amalgamation with a neighbouring parish.

"We are still in a state of limbo," church warden Irving Reid told the *Diary*. "It seems, by matter of fact, that we are continuing with visiting priest Neville Mellor conducting services."

As decided by a bishop-in-council meeting last August, the local vestry has ceased administering the parish and administration has been handed to Archdeacon Stephen May.

"I am working closely with members of the parish," Rev May said.

He conceded that amalgamation with a neighbouring parish is still being considered but would not say when this would be decided. He further stated that he was "absolutely committed to reviving the St Stephens parish" and is working on a number of fronts to ensure continuing Anglican ministry in Warrandyte.

● St Stephens annual general meeting will be held on Sunday, November 9. The wardens are appealing to everyone who has been associated with the parish and is not currently on the church's electoral roll to ensure they can vote on any matters arising on the day.

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or by contacting Irving Reid on 9844 3796.

## Safety first

Safety is to be improved at the corner of Research-Warrandyte and Glynn's roads in North Warrandyte.

A \$9000 state government grant, made under the Greyspot program, will be used to improve signage and lighting at the intersection.

The program targets intersections on outer metropolitan and rural arterial roads.

"While the Blackspot program targets intersections with a recognised crash history, the Greyspot program targets locations where the possible risk of future crashes has been identified," Yan Yean MP Danielle Green said.

## We're all millionaires!

Banks might be in trouble around the world, but the Warrandyte Community Bank has just chalked up its first \$100 million.

"Five years and four months after the bank opened its door it has reached this fantastic milestone—\$100 million in deposits and lending," bank chairman Sarah Wrigley told the *Diary*.

"Given the extreme volatility in the banking sector at the moment, we are absolutely delighted to have achieved this goal so early in the financial year," Ms Wrigley said.

"Thanks must go to all our staff, especially manager Mark Challen, our shareholders

and customers, as well as board members past and present."

The strong performance of the branch last financial year has allowed the board to recommend an eight cents dividend. "Shareholders will have now received a total of 19 cents per share," Ms Wrigley said.

The annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank will be held on Wednesday, November 19 at 7pm at the Warrandyte Community Centre.

● For more information call Sarah Wrigley on 0412 186 302.

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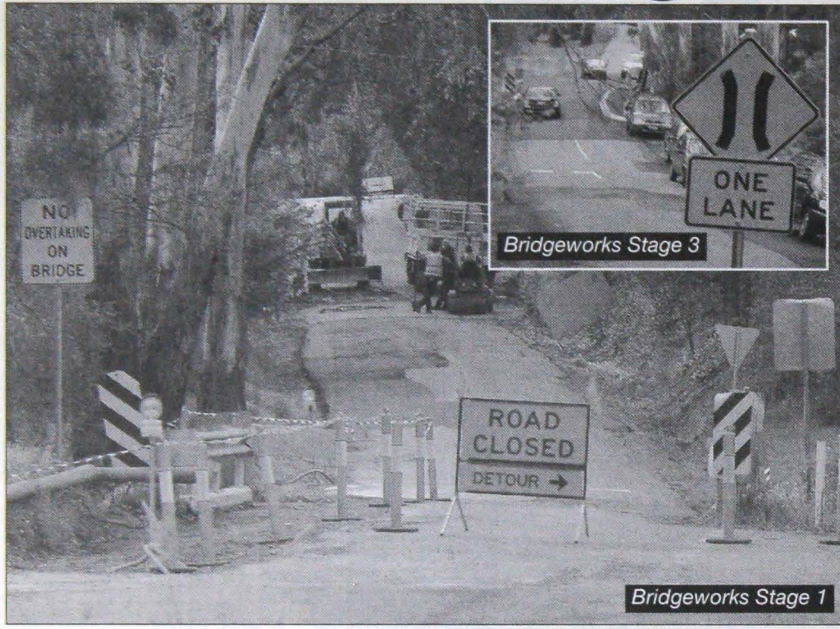
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# Troubled bridge over narrow waters



Strange things have been happening at the little bridge over Andersons Creek in Everard Drive.

Firstly, Manningham council built a much-appreciated footpath beside Everard Drive down from Yarra Street. But when they

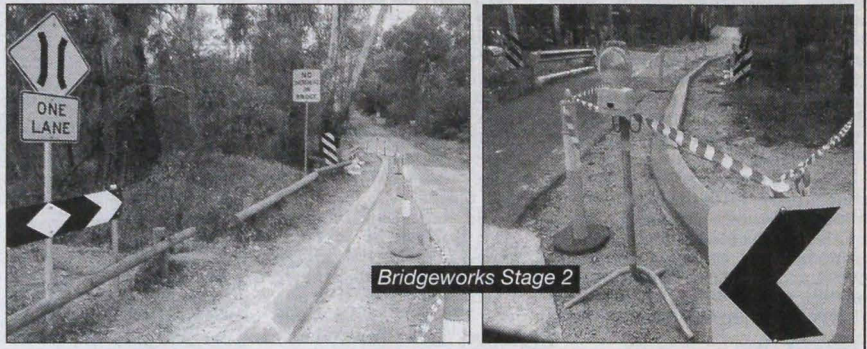
reached the creek they had a problem. How to continue the path across a barely wide enough, two-lane bridge?

So they reduced the bridge to one-way, one-lane. Chaos ensued. So they had another go, narrowing the path, relocating the "give

way" sign and erecting a pedestrian fence on the path side of the bridge.

But it's still one-way, and drivers have still got to take it easy and take their turn.

● Stephen Reynolds has been observing progress and took these pictures.



## Voucher offer for fire clean-up Council's solar water scheme

Manningham council is urging residents to start preparing their properties for the fire danger period by reducing sources of fuel such as tree branches and green waste.

The council is assisting residents within fire prone areas to engage in fuel reduction by offering a free disposal service each Sunday for a period of six weeks.

"Residents living within Warrandyte, Warrandyte South, Wonga Park, Park Orchards and Donvale areas are eligible for free vouchers to dispose of green or dry clean wood and branches to a maximum of 100mm diameter," a council spokesperson said.

"Residents should check with council regarding the requirements of the Manningham planning scheme if they are unaware of the

provisions relating to tree pruning."

The green waste can be disposed of at Tikalara Waste Service Centre, corner of Blackburn and Websters Roads, with entry via the Websters Road entrance. (Melway Ref 34 D2).

Residents are reminded that only clean green waste can be accepted. Contaminated and mixed loads of waste cannot be deposited at the Websters Road site.

This free service will operate for a six week period between 9am and 3pm, every Sunday from Sunday, November 2 until Sunday, December 7 inclusive.

● To obtain a voucher, please contact council on 9840 9333 or your local CFA fire brigade.

Warrandyte residents can again look to the sun to help save money and reduce carbon emissions.

Registrations are now open for locals interested in participating in Manningham council's initiative to bulk purchase solar hot water systems.

Council is aiming for at least 500 participants. "The more residents sign on for the program, the cheaper the prices will be," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"The response from the community to our solar panel bulk purchase was overwhelming. Unfortunately we were only able to cater for 170. We want to help as many people as we can to help make Manningham more sustainable," he said.

Registration is open to home owner-occupiers, landlords with a permanent tenant who pays the energy bills and non-profit community groups.

"At this stage council is only taking registrations of interest, so we can approach companies to bid for the work with some certainty of custom," the spokesperson said. "There will be no obligation to proceed in the program."

Registration of interest is free, however once a price is obtained, residents will need to confirm their participation through payment of a \$100 administration fee.

● Forms to register interest are available in the October issue of Manningham Matters, or on [www.manningham.vic.gov.au](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au). Phone 9840 9129 for more information.

## Nillumbik ... Victoria's highest quality of life

In a recently-released Quality of Life survey conducted by BankWest, the Shire of Nillumbik came out on top as the municipality in Victoria with the highest quality of life.

The survey results reaffirm previous community wellbeing indicators that show Nillumbik has high life expectancy and community safety, high levels of education and low levels of unemployment.

We have great arts, recreation and sport opportunities, lifelong learning and high rates of volunteering; but most importantly we are Melbourne's Green Wedge – the lungs of our City. Our high quality natural and built environment contribute greatly to our quality of life.

This is what makes Nillumbik a great place to live and why people choose to live here.

### What has Council done to contribute to this?

There are high expectations of Council to serve the local community with quality programs and services.

Council has done much to contribute to Nillumbik's quality of life, including:

### Keeping active means keeping healthy

- new bike paths and recreation trails
- rehabilitation of sportsgrounds under the \$2.6M WaterSmart initiative
- \$4.5M redevelopment of the Eltham Leisure Centre
- new footpaths
- a doubling of our investment in maintaining and improving leisure centres and community buildings

### High levels of education

- high rates of library use
- early years services, giving children the best start in life (two new preschools)
- arts and cultural services
- lifelong learning through Council's three Living & Learning Nillumbik Centres

### High quality built and natural environment

- development of the Green Wedge Management Plan
- weed and pest eradication programs
- major parks improvements
- quality planning system protecting and enhancing what we value
- GRO three bin waste/recycling system
- GreenPower™ for all Council buildings
- sustainable streetlight project

### Community engagement and volunteering

- Nillumbik talkback community consultation panel
- support for community festivals
- support for volunteers including Friends of and Landcare group, Meals on Wheels

For further information, please visit [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au)



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

9433 3111



## AROUND THE SCHOOLS

# School turfs out grass oval

By JOANNE GREEN

Anderson's Creek Primary School has replaced its dry, natural grass oval with a synthetic surface. The new oval, installed during term 2, is a plastic product, bonded together with 45 tonnes of sand and 17 tonnes of recycled rubber.

The surface is guaranteed for 15 years and is expected to outlast the guarantee with a minimum amount of maintenance.

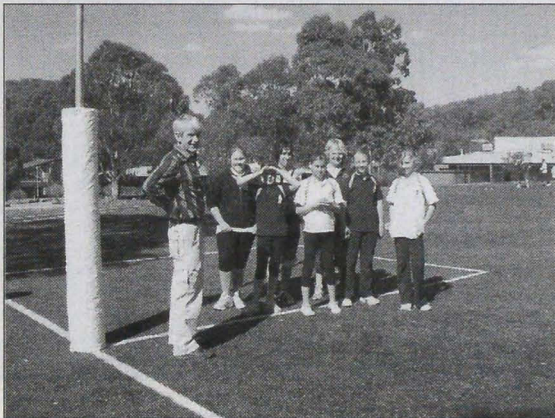
The decision to re-lay the oval with an artificial surface was made to conserve water. "We had initially considered natural turf, but could not entertain the idea of pumping large quantities of water on to it," principal Des McKenzie told the *Diary*, "Failure to water it properly would have

meant that it would have returned to a bunch of weeds in a very short time."

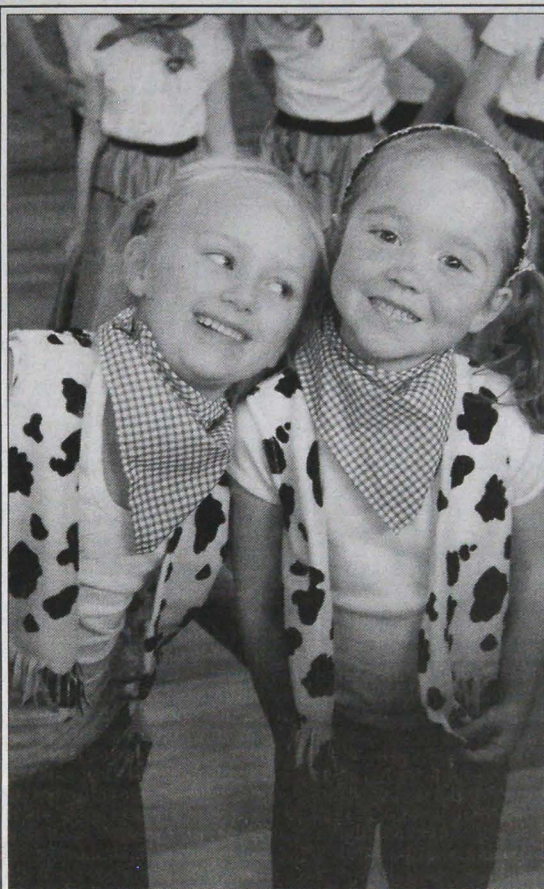
Despite initial concerns by parents that children could receive friction burns, the oval's surface is said to be safe. The rubber and sand bond gives it a resilient quality that could prevent injuries that would occur on the bare dirt of the old oval. There have been no injuries since the oval was resurfaced four months ago.

"Since the installation we have had kids practicing diving marks as the oval is quite soft and forgiving," Mr McKenzie said. "It is infinitely safer than the hard and dry grassed area it replaced."

The new oval was funded from a federal government grant and with money raised by the school community.



Principal Des McKenzie and Anderson's Creek kids are proud of their new oval. (Picture by Jan Tindale)



## Boot-skootin' along

It was concert time at Warrandyte Primary School last month and these two preps—Caitlin and Amy—boot-scooted their way through "These Boots Were Made for Walkin'". The concert is an annual event and all the kids performed on stage, presenting dances, songs and sketches. "It was a wonderful team effort," principal Gil Binger told the *Diary*, with students, parents and teachers collaborating to make costumes, design the backdrop and celebrate the performing skills of the students."

These kids were made for walkin'



Local schools have been invited to take part in Walktober-walk-to-school on Wednesday, October 22.

Last year, hundreds of kids from Warrandyte and Anderson's Creek primary schools took part, with parents and staff joining in.

Walktober is an initiative of VicHealth, designed to raise the profile of walking and to

highlight its broader community health and social benefits.

"There's an amazing groundswell of support for this activity," VicHealth CEO Tood Harper said. "There's no doubt more children want to walk to school every day, not just on this day. There has never been a better time to encourage children to walk to school."

Slow down, your speed is up in lights!



There's no excuse now if you exceed the 40kph speed limit passing Warrandyte High School at school times. Illuminated, electronically variable speed signs (pictured) have been erected outside the school.

Manningham councillor Ron Kitchingman has been lobbying to have the signs installed. "Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road has a large volume of traffic every day, and the electronic signs will play an important role in helping to increase safety outside the school," Cr Kitchingman said.



## FIRE NUMBERS

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Warrandyte CFA  
9844 3375

North Warrandyte CFA  
9844 0847

South Warrandyte CFA  
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9722 1463

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Above: one of South's early fire trucks. Right: the present fleet.



# Brigade appeals for help

The residents of South Warrandyte and Park Orchards have been depending on the South Warrandyte CFA Brigade to protect them from fire and respond to other emergencies for more than 60 years. "Through this time the area has seen many changes, with more houses, busier roads and more residents," brigade spokesman Tom Goldstraw told the *Diary*. "With strong support from locals and the Country Fire Authority, the

brigade's equipment has also moved with the times and is state-of-the-art. "The one thing that has not changed is the never-ending need for volunteers," Mr Goldstraw said. "From active fire-fighting, community education and behind-the-scenes administration, it is volunteers from our community who keep the service alive." The need for more volunteers is constant. "Now is the time for you to help," Mr Goldstraw said. A

new course for recruits to the brigade commences later this month. An open day is planned for Sunday, October 19 at the fire station in Brumby's Lane, South Warrandyte (Melway 35/J5). "The day will feature 'hot fire' demonstrations, kids' activities and fire safety information," Mr Goldstraw said. "All your questions can be answered." ● Further information from Tom Goldstraw on 9844 2861.

# Lions' share of tennis

Lions Park, between the Warrandyte Bridge and the Federation playground below the bakery, has been given a new lease of life in a makeover worth almost \$20,000, funded and coordinated by the Lions Club of Warrandyte. "It's a work in progress," president Lauri Hilakari told the *Diary*. "The work so far is the first stage of an ongoing project to breathe new life into the park that is considered a valuable community resource." The refurbishment of the Lions Park, undertaken in co-operation with Manningham council, has included new picnic tables in the barbecue area, an upgrade of the tennis

court surface, expanded amenities in the shelter and the addition of an enclosed toddlers' play area and sandpit. The club is hoping to attract a new generation of young families back to the courts, which are this year celebrating 100 years. Recently, a local family that had enjoyed using the courts when their children were young returned for a hit with their now adult children and grandchildren. "We have been having family tennis get-togethers and barbecues here for over 20 years now, it's lovely," Geraldine McCormack said. The Lions also facilitate a twice-weekly session on the courts with professional ten-

nis coaches for a group of adults with a disability. An Open Day on Saturday, November 29 will provide an opportunity for all in the community to check out the improved Lions Park and join in the centenary celebrations, including a free hit of tennis and a barbecue by the river. The club is on a mission to track down the then local kindergarten children who etched their names into the bricks paving the barbecue shelter when it was constructed 20 years ago as a bicentennial project. If you can help with this project please contact Bill Gerritson on 0429 325 166 or email lions.tennis.courts@hotmail.com.

# Graeme's gift aids sick kids

Memories of Graeme Doig were renewed at a recent meeting of the Lions Club of Warrandyte when a cheque for \$17,000 was presented to the Lion House Foundation. The funds came from a bequest by Graeme, to be used as the club saw fit. Graeme was a highly regarded member of Warrandyte Lions and was for many years a beloved acting principal at Warrandyte High School. The Lion House Foundation has been set up to provide permanent accommodation for country people in particular, visiting patients in Austin and Mercy hospitals and others in the northern suburbs.



Warrandyte Lion David Dobbs presents the cheque to Tony Benbow, chairman of Lion House Foundation.

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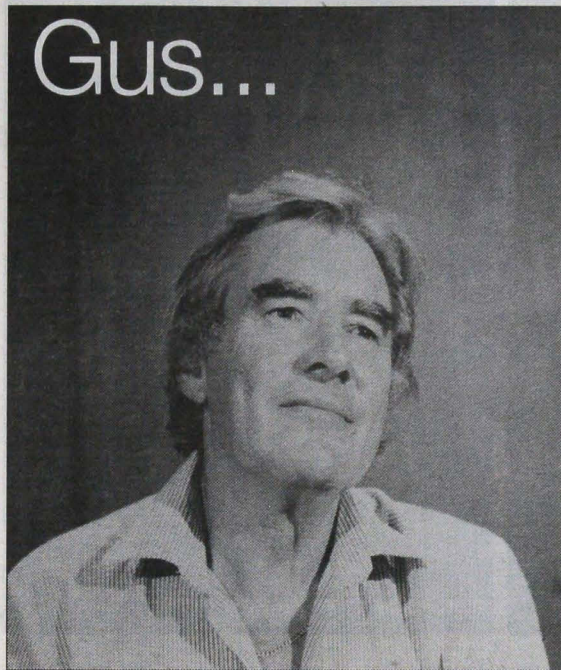
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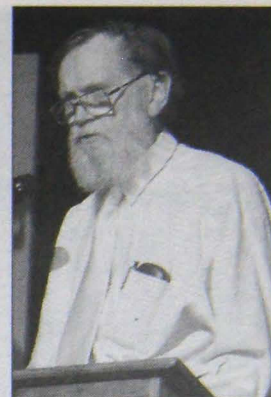
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# How we remembered Gus...



Denise Farran



Irving Reid



Yvonne Linton Reid

By CLIFF GREEN

**M**ORE than 150 friends—many from afar—packed the Mechanics Institute Hall on Saturday, September 13 to farewell local artist, character and well-known good bloke Gus McLaren in typical Warrandyte fashion.

Hosted by the Warrandyte Arts Association and compered by WAA president Ken Virtue, the event combined a wake and a life celebration and gave those present, denied the opportunity to attend his funeral, a chance to share memories and shed a few tears.

Gus's life partner Denise Farran presented the main address, remembering when she first met Gus—in that very same hall.

"Levi jeans, pale blue cotton shirt, sleeves rolled to the elbows, brown boots and a black cap. A handsome and dashing sight," she said. "Who was that man?" she asked. "Gus McLaren," came the answer. "Stay away, he's a rogue!"

Irving Reid and Yvonne Linton Reid remembered Gus as an enthusiastic performer with the WAA Drama Group. "...shades of almost forgotten conjured characters and splendid tales across these 50 years...for all of us who shared this rude Mechanics Hall with Gus..." Yvonne declaimed.

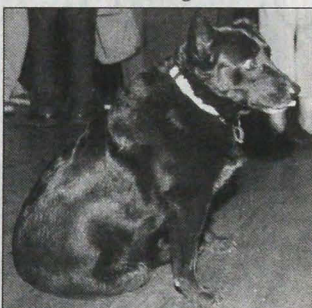
*Diary* poet Karen Throssell, a close friend in later years, presented a moving address. (Karen's obituary to Gus is published on page 19 of this issue.)

Denise had provided quantities of clay, and in memory of a special potter, she asked everyone to mould a tiny pinch pot with their fingers. Ashes from burnt copies of *The Age* were sprinkled into the pots, all present walked across to the river and dropped their pots into the stream. Gus had asked for his ashes to be cast into the Yarra.

The celebration continued well into the early hours. A lot of red wine was drunk in Warrandyte that night.



He'll never be forgotten.



Bella mourns her old mate.

Pictures by SANDY BURGOYNE and IAN CRAIG



Casting his spirit into the Yarra.

## Council Elections: who will you vote for?

Come to a Warrandyte Community Association forum and find out

### Nillumbik–Sugarloaf Ward

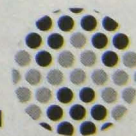
Wednesday, October 29, 7.30pm  
Warrandyte Community Centre

### Manningham–Mullum Mullum Ward

Thursday, October 30, 7.30pm  
Warrandyte Community Centre

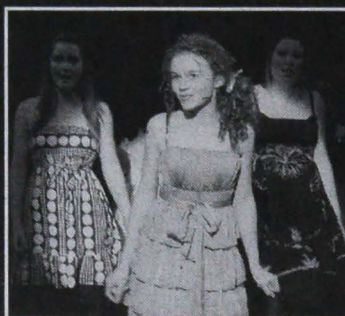
Please note: both forums will be held at Warrandyte Community Centre

WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION





# 24 years of high school musicals



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

**T**HE Warrandyte High School theatre lobby is alive with a familiar buzz, opening night nerves are palpable and eager ushers compete to seat the ambling mix of students, teachers and parents. An expectant hush descends as the house lights fade, making way for a lively rendition of "Time Warp" from The Rocky Horror Show.

Then into the spotlight walks teacher/performer Greg Stewart. "Twenty five years ago a marvelous musical journey began" he says, "as a young and fledgling Warrandyte High School staged its very first musical production of HMS Pinafore in the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall. In the 24 ensuing years that journey has taken us through some of the biggest, some of the most popular musical experiences to ever grace the stage."

They were ambitious, always

**theatre**  
By JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

top shelf, and usually booked out. This spring there would not be a 25th musical, but a show featuring highlights from all of them! "This is the first time in Warrandyte's history that the show has been put on entirely internally," said co-director Kate Burns. "Directing, lighting, sound, conducting, promotion, logo and the program have all been done by students or ex-students." Kate, now studying public relations, started performing in the halcyon days, when Chris White instilled the love of theatre across several generations of Warrandyte youth. This year is the school's 30th birthday, and she and Shane Pritchard have come back to direct "Highlights".

With an all-singing all-dancing cast of 35 backed by a four-piece band, Highlights was performed on a simple black stage in two acts. Act one featured 12 songs from 12 shows, ending with Amy Burns and James Sewell putting a youthful spin on the sardonic "Find Your Grail" from Spamalot. Act two featured a solo performance from Greg Stewart—"Stars" from Les Miserable and 10 other songs from nine shows including Chicago, The Wiz, Oliver and Hairspray.

Shows like Highlights are difficult to pull off for a number of reasons. Most obvious is the absence of character and plot. Songs from a musical lose some of their impact when sung outside their dramatic context.

Not so obvious is absence of the original musical architecture. Every musical has a unique sequence of melodies, tempos and rhythms that together deliver a complete entertainment package. Highlights

struggled with these endemic challenges, but the performers were, as ever, irreplaceable.

Highlights was at its best when it evoked iconic moments—as when Sarah Lewis sang "Look at me I'm Sandra Dee" from Grease. In just one song she somehow brought that musical alive. Similarly in the second act she and six others brought the ambience of Avenue Q to the stage. Too often though, the selected song was not enough to take the audience back to those show-stopping moments. The concept of show highlights may have worked better if each selection included some dialogue and a slice of plot along with a song or two from just some of the 24 shows.

Extravagant musicals have been synonymous with Warrandyte High in the spring. But traditions at secondary schools are strange beasts. Dependant upon one person or a creative core, they can lose their strength and direction as teachers

retire or move on. This school has a great theatre, production skills abound there still, and for some reason its musicals have usually gelled with the Warrandyte community. But if, as the directors hope, this show is a new beginning, it was difficult to divine what the new direction might be.

Elaborate, creaky sets, the brash 17 year-olds playing parts like 20s flapper "Roxy Hart" in Chicago, a gutsy brass section thumping it out beyond their years, colourful tap and dance routines are just some of the memories of 24 years of Warrandyte High School productions. Greg Stewart is right to call it a musical journey, and it's reasonable to applaud the sentiment behind the last song—"You Can't Stop the Music".

But this year's show leaves a lingering doubt about who might be making that music, and in what context, next time the wattle blooms in Warrandyte.

# Mum's death is 'uproariously funny'



**A** STAGE play, described as "an uproarious comedy" is currently running at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall.

A Warrandyte Theatre Company production, The Memory of Water by Shelagh Stephenson is about "the ongoing effects of family through ensuing generations," according to director Bill Connolly.

"It's an uproarious comedy about three sisters who have recently lost their mother," he said.

Comedy? Death? Mother? Bill Connolly explains: "Firstly, it's very clever writing; secondly they are well-drawn and diverse characters; thirdly it's being performed by some extremely good actors."

The cast includes Lisa Upton, Lea and Jack Stringer, Jennifer Tully, Naomi Oosting and Nick Anning.

"Mary, Teresa and Catherine are sisters who are at their mother's house to arrange the funeral and sort out and pack her belongings," Bill Connolly said.

"It's one of those situations where family issues surface."

● The Memory of Water is continuing on October 16, 17, 18 and 23, 24 and 25.



Pictures by IAN CRAIG



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**A world of experience in Papua New Guinea.**

Pam and Alan are recently back from Papua New Guinea. Our trip, sponsored by PNG Tourism, Air Niugini and Airlines of PNG, was to help promote specialist travel to PNG.

We choose to visit several dive resorts and enjoyed the great pleasures of warm, tropical waters. Walindi on West New Britain, Tufi in Oro Province and Loloata just a few minutes from Port Moresby were all gracious in hospitality, bountiful with meals of local fish and tropical fruits.



Not much had changed. Most rural villages have few modern conveniences, but the friendly wave and a smile from our hosts challenged our view that they might be deprived. We were the inaugural day tour visitors to Munkip village, near Nadzab, where a sing sing procession began our 'village experience'. We watched traditional fire making, ate meals steamed in bamboo canes, tasted the refreshing 'straight-from-the-tree' coconut water, were entertained by school children's singing and a delightfully silly skit by the many teenage boys of the village. We were entertained, but even more impressed, by how much enjoyment and mirth the Munkip villagers had in sharing with us.

PNG is not an easy country to travel around and not the place for those who need timetable accuracy. This is a place for those willing to take the beauty, the people, the many cultures and the experiences as they unfold. Let us help you get there.

Accommodation is comfortable, remembering these are small, remote resorts using local building materials, with many import limitations, and some long waits for supply. We shared a village visit with the luxurious North Star Cruise's True North passengers - a quality experience for both the visitors and the hosts.

For Pam, this became a special return to visit Lae and the Markham Valley where she lived from 1973-1979.

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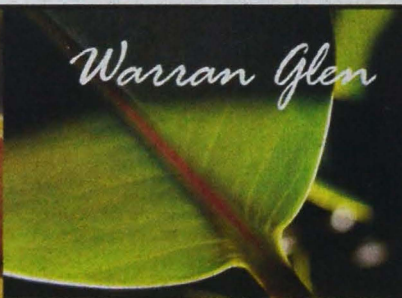
Here are just some of you...

Joel & Dylan Adcock, Lucy Barton, David Baird, Chelsea Bolden, Reece Borella, Boyle family, Braendler family, Butler family, Luke Brown, Simon & Sarah Dean, Jason Dregler, Darrell Elvery, Robert Gilbert, Sharon Hendricks, Scott Hinds, Belinda Hookey, Joy Hooks, Hobson family, Chanelle Hunter, Lamb family, James Longworth, Grant Phillips, Michael Selway, Emma Stubbs, Stokes family, Rachael Taylor, Brendon Vernon, Vizard family, Andrea Wood.

And the rest of the local school children who etched their name into a brick at the Lions Park barbecue in 1988.

**Lions Club of Warrandyte wants to contact you to invite you to a celebration of your contribution to the barbecue area in Lions Park 20 years ago and the recent refurbishment of the 100 year-old tennis courts.**

**Please contact:**  
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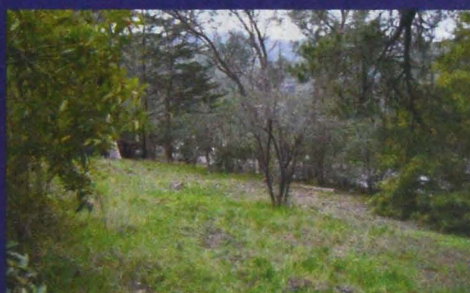


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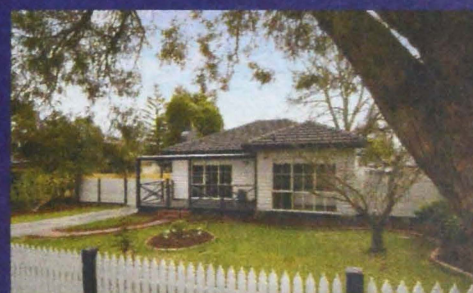
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suit \$290k-\$315k

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**ringwood east** private sale  
estimated selling range \$490k-\$540k

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**warrandyte north** private sale  
estimated selling range \$500k-\$550k

Light and airy 3BR + study (suit 4th BR) home on 1/2 acre with flexible floorplan. Upstairs: open plan kitchen/meals, 2BRs, bathroom. Downstairs: 3rd BR, bathroom + study with external access - suit home office. Single carport, single garage. Balcony, deck and tranquil bush views.



**warrandyte** private sale  
estimated selling range \$570k-\$620k

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.



**warrandyte** auction  
11am saturday 8 november unless sold prior  
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# Marilyn lives her life to the full

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

**M**ARILYN MOORE, the writer of *Our Place*, the *Diary* column that reflects on family life, believes there are more important things than ambition. "My attribute is stamina, I won a 24 hour event at uni and finishing a PhD is more stamina than anything else," she said. "Opportunities don't repeat themselves—you've only got one life and each day is special."

Marilyn, 54, has just returned from a week on the Oodnadatta Track in South Australia where a group of lawyer friends assists Aborigines with information and research. "I went to look at amazing fossils and tag along with these people who dream up projects and make things happen," she said. "I love travel and always want to go back to places I've been before as well. Life's short. My sister died in her early 30s."

Specialising in nuclear fission track geochronology, Marilyn completed her PhD in geology at Melbourne university and she's worked ever since for the company that had its beginnings in the university laboratory, Geotrack International. "We're a world leader in our field, analysing uranium fission tracks and using the information to determine thermal histories of, for example, deep sedimentary basins and continental margins. It's a useful tool for understanding the geology of history of the earth—commercially it's for companies searching for oil and gas." She said the scale is enormous, going back hundreds of millions of years. "Being a geologist, time and space are pretty big and people have an overtly inflated sense of their own importance. But in other ways people can achieve a lot and shouldn't be intimidated by it—with global warming every bit helps."

She felt it has not been a high-flying career. "I enjoy the work, it's quiet and relaxing and not frenetic and I've known some of my colleagues since they were 17 or 18. It's an incredibly ideal working environment worth a string of letters after your name. I was never fulltime until recently as bringing up the family had some priority and I didn't want them in after-school care five days a week. It's an individual thing," she said.

Not working fulltime meant Marilyn could drive her daughter Rosie to collect stream samples before school for her project for the BHP national science award. "Rosie was known for having the most pecu-

## behind the byline

liar reasons for lateness at school such as 'I've been up all night doing platypus surveys'." Rosie is completing her final year studying physiotherapy at Melbourne.

"Life at university was the opposite of how it was growing up. School was pretty dull but starting uni was the first time I was surrounded by brilliant people and they've been inspiring ever since. In 2000 I began a three-year professional writing and editing course at RMIT and I was very inspired, it was so good. I learned at least as much from the others as from the course. They were mostly at least in their 30s so they all had these diverse life experiences—they'd established track records, some were public figures and there were three PhDs in one class. As a whole, it was inspirational; they could get up and do things off their own bat. I'm a perfectionist but a bit weak on ambition and initiative."

Marilyn's father's family farmed in the Mallee where a memorial to them as pioneers in 1891 stands on the original property. "My mother's family were all engineers, lawyers and scientists. I come from a standard Aussie background—well, what was in the 1950s and 60s a classic background—when he was in Year 7 my son Richard's class was asked to put their hands up if all four of their grandparents were born in Australia and only two or three did and he was one of them."

However, she described her upbringing as unusual. Leaving the family farm during the war to become a relieving postmaster, her father hated being surrounded by houses and he eventually bought a hobby farm south of Vermont. Surrounded by orchards, the family grew their own vegetables and wore hand-spun, hand-knitted jumpers. "Every year we had to record how many bags of wheat, bales of wool and sacks of potatoes the farm produced. All we had were washing baskets full of passion fruit and it was hard to measure the strawberries when you eat them as fast as you pick them." They had no TV and little exposure to public figures.

The eldest of four, Marilyn used to come to Warrandyte to swim in the river after school. "There was a sense of community here. I felt anonymous in the suburbs and

didn't see that the community was there as well," she said. "I like a bit of space around me—I lived in Parkville when at university and got that all out of my system. I never wanted to live in the city."

She considered a career as a professional musician but said she wasn't a good teacher or good enough to be a solo performer and it's hard to earn a living as an accompanist. Her father's family were all musical. "My grandfather was a very good violinist and my aunt was a top violinist and teacher. On Sundays all the cousins would play in a jam session at my grandparents' place," she said. She studied piano to Associate of Music level but long excursions on geological study trips meant she didn't complete the final exam, although she frequently accompanied students for their own music exams.

"I love Bach, his counterpoint and the unaccompanied cello suites. His B Minor Mass has the most mind-blowing counterpoint and harmonies in it. It's brilliant; people are still trying to unravel it and assign meanings to every note, a secret word or text. They do PhDs on it."

Marilyn was class dux through the years at Vermont High School and one of her most prized possessions is the Shorter Oxford Dictionary that she won as dux at primary school. She won a string of scholarships, was secretary of the Geological Society of Australia, was involved with the Victorian branch and she is a member of the Royal Society of Victoria. She has written and co-edited research into family history and cherishes family bibles and photos from the 1800s.

An A-grade tennis player, Marilyn met her husband Ian, an actuary, through the university mountaineering club, competing in country tournaments with him "just for fun". "There are not many people over 50 without a dodgy knee. Mine got so bad that I could do nothing and put no weight on it when it was bent. But Rosie said it would get better with exercise, building up the strength and she was right, so now I'm nagging Ian to exercise his," she said.

A few years ago Marilyn was looking at bikes in a shop where she started talking to another woman who had ridden the Around the Bay in a Day cycle ride. "This woman was 67 and she had got her first bike at 65 when she retired. I wasn't going to lie down and be beaten by an older woman so I bought a really good hybrid bike which was at least three times the price of anything I'd looked



at and booked a place in the Around the Bay for four months later. I loved it and we've done it a few times now, as well as 120km trips in the Mad and Bad rides in outer Melbourne and Ballarat and I did the Mt Buffalo leg of the Alpine Classic. We've met new friends and been to lots of places. We've ridden in the Great Tassie, the South Island of New Zealand and the Great South Australia ride, the last one with the kids. I can't believe we did that—I've never seen a child so knackered in all my life.

"I'm terrified of traffic but I rode to work once or twice a week over the last seven years or so. It's a good speed to travel. You see more than in a car and you go further than you can when walking. It's lovely not being enclosed, even in filthy weather. I bushwalked when I was younger and I like walking uphill anyway."

Apart from writing for the *Diary*, Marilyn has been involved with Warrandyte Primary School, tennis and playing piano in the Follies and CFA. "People come up and tell me of similar experiences to those that I write about in *Our Place*. I was amazed by the numbers of people with shotguns in their house, after the snake story."

"I've been on various committees, not the glamour ones, only when they're desperate. Ian and I were team managers for Ringwood Little Athletics crosscountry for a long time. You have to take the kids so you get involved, helping and moving on when the children finish. Someone said 'if you stayed for one more year you'd be life members' but we had someone in line to take over so we

went." This is the first year that neither Richard nor Rosie is in the national surf lifesaving championships, with Richard away working on a PhD in biorobotics at the brain institute of the University of Queensland in Brisbane. "The kids' sport was an enormous expense and effort but you've got to take the opportunities. I always said to them, make sure you do something that's portable."

She finds it hard staying polite and dealing with ignorance, "not being uneducated but general inanity. You could have sense and be educated, it's not a lack of university degree." Family is important to her. "Looking after Ian's parents was physically and emotionally extremely strenuous. You can't order them round, you have to treat them with respect and dignity and manage their behaviour."

"I'm a straight forward person and I don't cajole. I'm too impatient to manage other people. I would have been a dreadful politician. I'm terminally busy, always, and I'm not good at saying no." She said she is intolerant and gets frustrated by stupidity. "I'm a bit short in that department and with so much bad news in the media and within the family recently you could easily get overwhelmed."

"So I find joy in the little things around us. I'm a keen photographer so I could spend all day photographing a gum leaf. You can't ask for a nicer sound than birds singing and at night while I'm on the computer there's a little frog who sits outside and sings his heart out."

## Driveway of memories

Dark furniture  
gold-edged books  
the sound of firewood  
crackling.  
Music boxes  
and old lace.

Rain clouds  
and willow trees  
bending down,  
fingerprinting the earth  
or dipping see-through leaves  
into ripples on a lake.

Purple flowers  
and winding paths,  
patchwork gardens  
waiting for  
tomorrow.

The smell of fireworks  
on Guy Fawkes night  
standing at the bonfire  
watching the flames  
spit and dance  
and feeling their warmth.

Hot scones on a Sunday afternoon  
by an open fire.  
Old photos hanging  
about the walls  
portraits of strangers  
with porcelain faces.

Church bells echoing  
across a winter morning.  
Mud and skinned knees—  
running to get there  
on time.

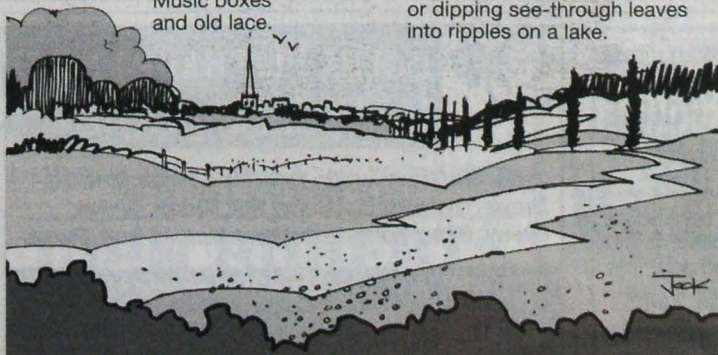
The smell of sawdust,  
new wood,  
burnt toast  
and the taste of  
hot jam donuts  
eaten by the sea.

Hanging on tight  
to the swing  
at the end  
of the row of poplars  
that stood like soldiers  
along the driveway of memories.

Rainbows of happiness  
and smiles  
looking in the mirror  
or lying on a bed  
of honeysuckle.

Autumn leaves  
tumbling along  
footpaths.  
Daisy chains  
crickets  
white frost on the morning grass.

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## WARRANDYTE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN: OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT

Council is currently reviewing the Management Plan for Warrandyte Reserve and welcome your comments. The Management Plan is important as it will provide direction for the future use, development and management of the Reserve. To have your say or for more information, contact Manningham City Council on 9840 9333 or leisure@manningham.vic.gov.au before Friday 31st October 2008.

## GREEN WASTE VOUCHER

Manningham Council is urging residents to start preparing their properties for the fire danger period by reducing sources of fuel such as tree branches and green waste.

Council is assisting residents within fire prone areas to engage in fuel reduction by offering a free disposal service each Sunday for a period of six weeks.

Residents living within Warrandyte, Warrandyte South, Wonga Park, Park Orchards and Donvale areas are eligible for free vouchers to dispose of green or dry clean wood and branches to a maximum of 100mm diameter.

Residents should check with Council regarding the requirements of the Manningham Planning Scheme if they are unaware of the provisions relating to tree pruning.

The green waste can be disposed of at Tikalara Waste Service Centre, corner of Blackburn and Websters Roads, with entry via the Websters Road entrance. (Melway Ref 34 D2).

Residents are reminded that only clean green waste can be accepted. Contaminated and mixed loads of waste cannot be deposited at the Websters Road site.

This free service will operate for a six week period between 9am and 3pm, every Sunday from 2nd November until 7th December 2008 inclusive.

To obtain a voucher, please contact Council on 9840 9333 or your local CFA fire brigade.

David City Communications

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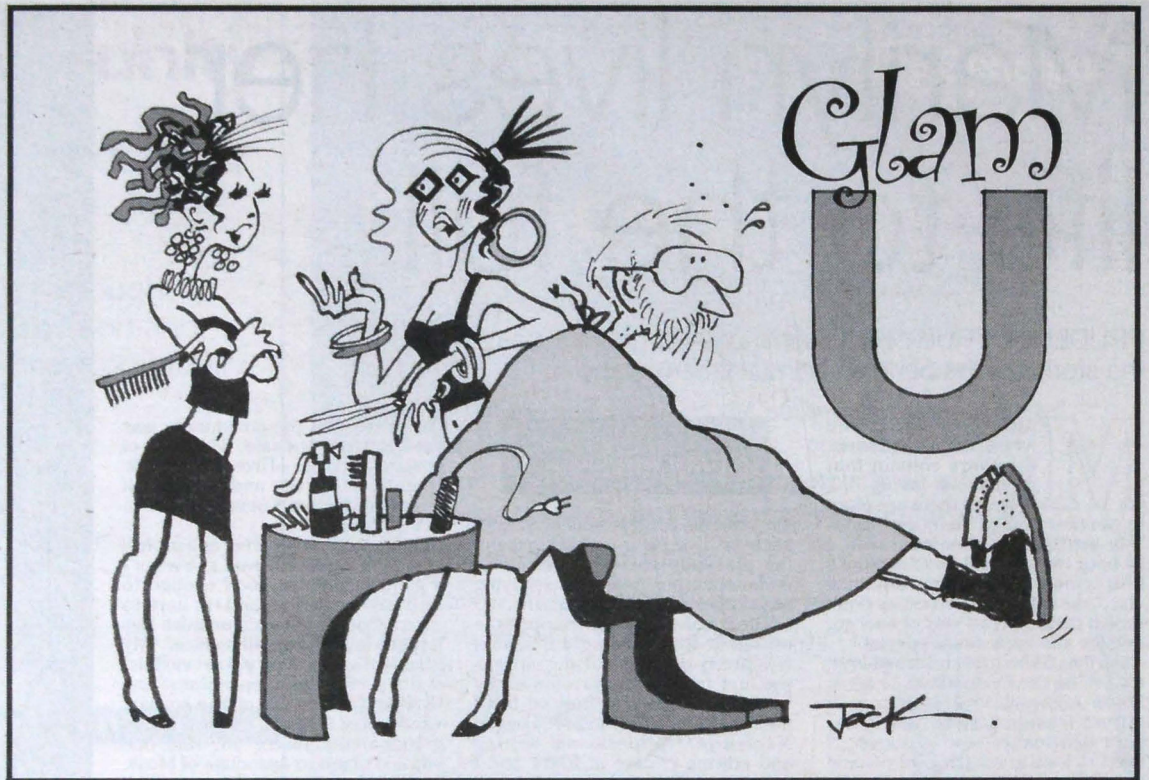
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# Enduring a haircut is an out-of-body experience

“WADYA reckon on about women?” Now this is one of those questions, without notice, that can get you into a whole lot of trouble. In the midst of a long conversation about relative skills, cooking, sand blasting or nuclear physics, it just might be appropriate to question whether the respondent has noticed any discernible differences between the way males and females approach similar tasks. However, this was not the case.

I had just sat in the barber's chair and hadn't even got to the stage of asking for a total head, hair transplant before I was hijacked into a no-win situation.

“Eh! Wadya reckon then?” I was conscious of all the other ears in the room. A barber's shop is both similar and different from the ubiquitous Uni Sex Coiffeurery. The latter is full of 12 year-old Chantelle-Exoticas and Madonna-Satanistas who treat anyone older than 20 as an inmate from a home for the mentally defective.

“Have we had a lovely day then? And what have you been up to today? Just taking it easy I s'pose. Just clean it up around the edges then? I suppose you feel the cold. Anyway it's getting warmer now, isn't it?”

Having finished their repertoire of chit-chat for the elderly, learned on day one of their course, they rapidly lose interest and continue their conversation with the tat-



**“You have to make an appointment at 'Bewty Box' and when you walk in it takes a while to work out what's a chair and what's décor...”**

toed infant operating on the purple and green streaks on the bleached hair next door.

“That'll be 30 dollars, unless you're a pensioner. Oh no, that's only on a Wednesday between 10 and 11. So that's 30 dollars.”

As you walk out you notice how much older you look and that only one or two hairs seem to have been shortened but the rest seems strangely similar to the way it looked when you entered the coven.

On walking through the mirrored and psychedelically spangled doorway you hear M-S telling her next customer, “Just clean it up so it doesn't

look like you've just been butchered at the barber's?” You then catch a glimpse of her handiwork and know that you'll have to get it cut properly the next day.

Whereas the trendy hair stylist establishment is all about Brownlow night razzamatazz, the barber's shop is a different fish altogether. The surroundings are much less intimidating for a start. The only concession to poofiness is the red-and-white-striped representation of the old barber's pole. If it has a name, it won't be something like “Bewty Box” or “Glam U” but something more prosaic like “Men's Barber” or if it has pretensions it might be “Gents' Hair Care”.

“You have to make an appointment at “Bewty Box” and when you walk in it takes a while to work out what's a chair and what's décor. At the barber's you just roll up and wait your turn. If the vinyl bench is full of balding heads, you turn tail and try another day.

It's the same with reading material. Instead of the crumpled, ripped and expectedly out-of-date car, fishing and sporting magazines, “Glam U” offers magazines full of images of what no one in the salon will look like when they walk out into real life.

You know where you stand at the barber's. As soon as you walk in there is invariably a large sign indicating how much the whole thing is going to cost you. It doesn't bother to itemise all the possibilities offered in “Glam U” because

the guys who go to a barber are there “to get their hair cut”. All they want to know is that it costs more on a Saturday and that if you want them to bother with facial hair, then it'll cost you.

Most times, the haircut is a quiet experience, except for the commercial radio station filling up the spaces between the clippers and the occasional bon mot about world issues.

Over the years, however, I had come to understand that my barber is a very conservative man. We have travelled the death penalty, “piss weak” jail sentences, harsher penalties for dole bludgers, vandals, litterers and have come to the conclusion that all politicians, lawyers, officials, professionals of any sort and the guy next door are incompetent and are on the fiddle. It came as a bit of a surprise when I was instructed to commit to a decision about women.

My brain raced. He'd just started on the bit above my ears. I didn't relish the idea of a chunk out of my hair or lobe so I stalled for time.

“Difficult to say. So different at times.”

“All the same I reckon. Never satisfied and change their minds all the time!”

I remained silent as he clipped away, enmeshed in his private nightmare.

In the mirror, I could see the row of faces lining the vinyl bench. Only one conspiratorial wink eased my conscience.

ROGER KIBELL

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# Planning for happy days in your own 'outdoor room'

## garden life

By BEV HANSON

**M**ELBOURNE—the place where you can have four seasons in one day." How often have you heard this said as a joke, especially by friends from interstate. However, the changeability of our weather should be seriously considered when you are planning for outdoor living.

The popularity of outdoor eating has led many homeowners to plan, in consultation with a landscaper, special areas for outdoor entertainment which really add another "room" to the house—the outdoors room.

If possible, such an area should be reasonably close to the kitchen for ease of transportation of food and the essentials for cooking and eating.

Thought should be given to shade in summer and maximum sunlight in winter. A deciduous tree can help in this regard. A point to remember is that cold winds, mostly from the west and south, can spoil an otherwise pleasant meal outdoors. Protection can be provided for the outdoor room by locating it on the north or east side of the house. Wing walls with creep-



Rugged garden furniture blends into rustic surroundings.

ers and shrubs can also add to wind protection, as well as providing privacy.

Any area likely to have a concentration of people should be paved or put down in crushed rock. Outdoor furniture should be low-slung to heighten the relaxed nature of the area and to blend in with the garden.

Don't neglect the barbecue design. A poorly thought out barbecue can spoil the appearance of an outdoor eating

and entertainment area. The pleasant presence of birds can be attracted by the provision of simple birdbaths, trees and shrubs. Banksias, grevilleas, correas and other flowering native plants attract honeyeaters.

Now for the lights. Attractive weatherproof lights can be purchased to enable garden living to be extended well into the night, with neighbours being considered, of course. Try for subdued lighting that

provides atmosphere, located in such a way that it doesn't shine too harshly into your neighbours' bedroom window.

Finally, give more than a passing thought to the future, when you may be able to locate a swimming pool or wetland next to your outdoor room, fed with water from your roof. This may save having to rip out attractive trees and shrubs sometime in the future.

# Google? Keep it in perspective

**G**OOGLE is an amazing resource, as life-changing as the introduction of the computer itself. If I ever retire to a little tent somewhere out in the wild blue yonder, it will be a tent with a satellite dish. My favourite plaything is Google-Earth. How amazing to be able to look down from such a great height! The resolution is remarkable—the satellite view can be clearer than the view from an incoming Boeing 737—and digital technology yields an awe-inspiring onscreen image. The real Big Picture, however, sometimes has little to do with technology or even money.

I've just returned from Arabunna country along the Oodnadatta Track. Endless red gibber is intermittently interrupted by lateritised mesas, longitudinal dunes, clusters of mound springs, and the odd rocky hill. GoogleEarth's satellite images reveal magnificent outlines of tightly folded strata emerging from the gibber. Reds, browns, greys and ochres take shape as if swirled onto the earth's surface by the hand of an ancient master painter. This landscape is intricate and

## our place

By MARILYN MOORE

ancient beyond imagination, the dramatic PreCambrian folded strata underlying sedimentary rocks deposited over millions of years in what is now the Great Artesian Basin. Evidence abounds of various Mesozoic landscapes: at one time massive thicknesses of beautifully winnowed sands accumulated in seas where ichthyosaurs swam; at another time there were vast treefern-rimmed lakes where shellfish flourished and mud-cracks lay bare. Astride all this history and colour sits the present-day Lake Eyre Basin, at its focus the blindingly white and salt-encrusted lakebeds that shimmer with endless mirages.

It's breathtakingly beautiful, but none of the usual necessities of life are immediately apparent. Yet we saw corellas, galahs, brolgas, emus, pipits, gibber chats, zebra finches, rainbow bee-eaters, woodswallows, nankeen kestrels, black kites, magpies, crows, goannas, lizards and geckos of all sorts, red kangaroos

and wild horses as well as the tracks of dingoes, rabbits and feral cats. Numbers are down, however, and this year's breeding season is barely happening. Wildflowers are scarce, and we didn't see a single Sturt Desert Pea. Most of the springs are reduced to small puddles. The land is clearly suffering the combined exigencies of extended drought and the devastating extraction by mining companies of millions of litres per day of artesian water, water whose only natural outlet is the life-giving mound springs that litter the margins of the Lake Eyre Basin.

The Arabunna people survived for tens of thousands of years in this harsh country. Tribal law was of necessity severe; interfering with the established order often invoked the death penalty. Intimate knowledge of "country" was (and still is) effectively title to that land—a language more sophisticated than our own tells life-defining stories, songs, ceremonies, the meaning and purpose of every part of every plant, every stone, every living creature, right down to the miniscule footprints of ants and crickets. An intruder could never own

a fraction of that knowledge and thus could never survive; the viability of the Arabunna people depended wholly on the skill of the elders in keeping the knowledge alive and keeping it secret. Travellers and traders were assisted, however, by galleries of carefully engraved artwork that told of waterholes, public routes, meeting places, tribal boundaries and other necessary information.

Arabunna people understand what non-indigenous Australians have yet to appreciate: that every living thing depends on everything else, and ultimately on the earth itself. It's the ultimate Big Picture, way too big to quickly comprehend. We can most easily examine only tiny pixels, where brolgas grub for onion-like sedge bulbs in a dry creek bed, or forage for aquatic delicacies in a wetland, or decapitate a tiny bird with one swift snap of a powerful bill; where darting pipits and chats chase airborne insects; where a cricket excavated from its deep burrow is as transparent as a termite. In a land almost devoid of vegetation, what could that cricket possibly eat? Looks like Google is in for a good workout this week!

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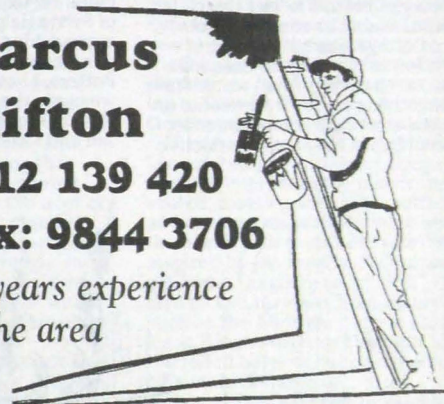
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# Fond memories of Potters

By **DOREEN BURGE**

I NEVER met Gus McLaren, but reading his death notices and obituary last month set my mind on a trail of memories. I knew he was one of the founders of Potters Cottage—a place that played an irregular but intrinsic part in my life for well over 40 years.

One of my earliest memories is of playing with my kindergarten friend Creina Beecham in thick damp green groundcover (probably periwinkle or ivy, my weed-sensitive self now realises), under heavy foliage by a little cottage in Warrandyte. My mother must have brought Creina and me from our homes in Templestowe along the old winding Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road that was the link to Warrandyte before the new road formed cuttings through the hills. I was aware that we crossed the bridge, turned off and into the lovely verdant spot. In those days, before the current perception of the many lurking dangers to children, Creina and I were left to our own devices outside while Mum disappeared into the little cottage. I knew this to be Potters Cottage and for some reason it stayed in my mind—a sweet innocent memory of something simple and happy.

I think this would have been about 1960; those who know the history of Potters better than I would be able to confirm if Potters Cottage was still in its first location in Warrandyte-Research Road at that time. Mum would have been buying a gift for someone, or maybe starting her modest collection of Sylvia Halpern's distinctive

white and green pottery. Mum was probably driving our little Renault, or maybe our new FJ Holden; the outing would have been exciting for two little children, not yet used to frequent car trips.

I wonder if my parents' interest in pottery was forged through their friendship with a couple of families who played a big part in my early life—the Beechams and the Trewenacks. Marj Beecham and Toni Trewenack were both potters, and of course Marj still is. I spent many days at their homes and can still remember my fascination with the Trewenack's home—designed by Geoff Trewenack—with its huge windows of north-facing glass, a monstera growing inside, black tiling in the bathroom, Eames chairs, a stone terrace. Geoff designed the terrace for my parents' home, and its beautiful stone paving was done by Warrandyte stonemason, Ralph McAuley. How can that Trewenack home, so ahead of its time and so friendly to its environment, have been demolished and replaced with a McMansion of shocking proportions?

My next remembered visit to Potters Cottage was with my oldest sister Jan. I have no recollection of whether this was to the original Cottage, or to the newly established one at the corner of Jumping Creek Road. Jan had decided we would buy Mum more of Sylvia Halpern's pottery for an approaching birthday. Where our parents were when we went to Potters, I have no idea, because we made the trip by bus and on foot. For years I told myself that Jan and I walked the whole way

to Warrandyte and home. But that could not be. Maybe that's what it felt like to a six or seven year-old. I recall walking from our home near the Templestowe Cemetery to the corner of Church Road and Porter Street, where I suppose we caught the bus. I imagine the bus would have terminated at the Warrandyte Bridge, so maybe that's where the walking started.

What did we buy? I recall a fairly big parcel being carried on the return. Maybe it was the still-used casserole with its beautiful squat shape. How many delicious meals has it held in the 45 or more years since? Or was it the elegant wide-waisted coffee pot—filled so often with rich percolated coffee for the many dinner parties my parents held? Whichever it was, I was fascinated by the signature on the bottom—SylHa. As a child keen to read everything, I could make no sense of it. It was some years later I connected the abbreviation with the maker's full name.

Then came a gap. Mum frequently bought pottery for gifts, often from Marj Beecham's studio, and sometimes added to her Halpern collection, but I recall no more visits to Potters Cottage until my teens, during the 1970s. My boyfriend's father, Keith McDonald, was a jazz trombonist who had been a working musician since before the Second World War, in which he served as an entertainer to the troops in New Guinea. His regular gigs were with the ABC Showband, and as the leader of Smacka Fitzgibbon's backing band at Smacka's Place in North Melbourne. On several occasions Keith worked at Potters

Restaurant, filling in for an absent trombonist, or fronting his own band for a night of jazz. On more than one occasion my boyfriend, Mum, Dad and Keith's wife Hazel went along to enjoy the jazz and the food. Hazel had long been absent from the dance floor she loved, as her partner was always playing in the band, so she, Mum and I hit the Potters floor together and I learnt to Charleston.

They were great nights. Music that swept you away, delicious casseroles served in Potters Cottage ware and eaten from dark-glazed plates, fresh flowers on the tables. I think we even drank from pottery goblets.

Over the 1970s and 80s Potters Restaurant made the pages of *The Age Good Food Guide*, always recommended by Cliff Green in the list of well-known people who named their favourite eateries. I shared many lunches there with teacher friends over this time, and always we wandered afterwards through the little cottage and the gallery extensions, seeing familiar shapes and glazings; knowing there was always a gift to be bought. My brother, in addition to learning his future trade of stonemasonry from Ralph McAuley, attended the pottery school at Potters Cottage. My mother's and my kitchen benches are still lined with the pots he produced.

In 1986 Graham and I were married in my parents' Templestowe garden. We'd already bought our block of land in Warrandyte and were finalising plans for our home. We considered a marquee in Mum and Dad's garden for the wedding

reception, but Potters Cottage beckoned once more. Twenty-two years later we still have friends who comment on the delicious meal Potters prepared—a menu to select from; none of the reception centre "beef for the men and chicken for the ladies"!

Many of our wedding anniversaries were celebrated with a dinner at Potters, or sometimes a lunch so we could browse the Cottage once more. Wedding gifts were still bought; we remained faithful to Potters Cottage. Soon it was one of only a very few places in Warrandyte where locally-made goods could be bought. There used to be many, but they were being overtaken by cafes and imported giftware.

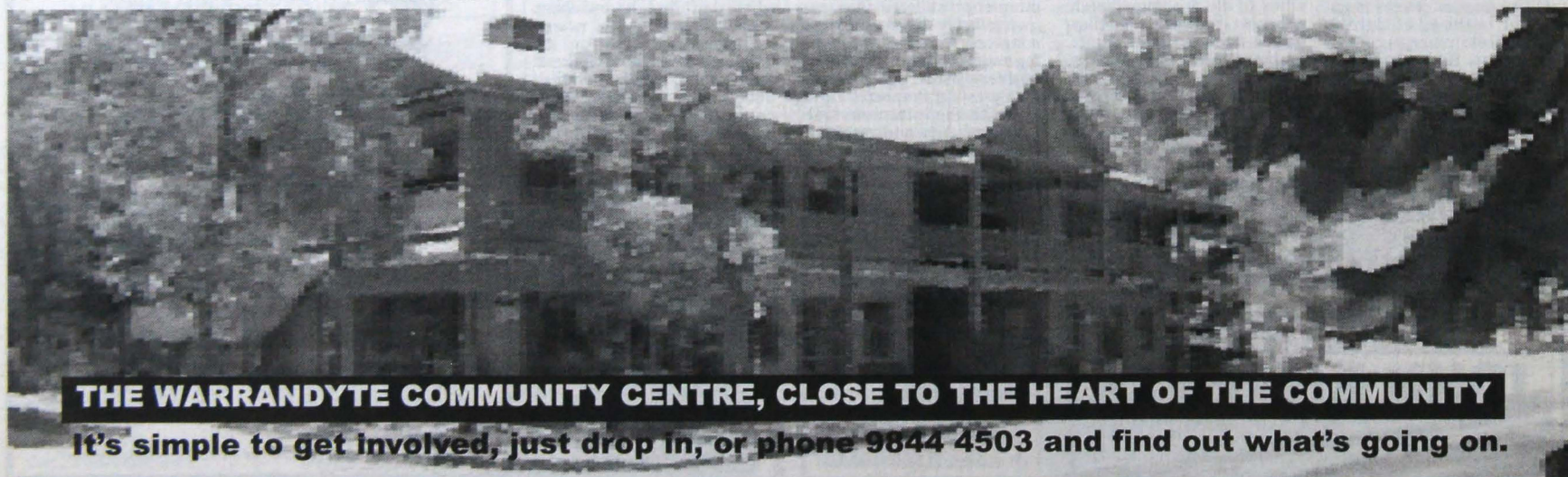
Then suddenly "our" Potters Cottage was gone. How could that be, in a town that had produced and nurtured artists of all sorts? We had bought our last pot, eaten our last meal, and celebrated our last anniversary at a little place that had meant so much to so many, and provided an outlet for such creativity—art, music, food and garden.

I often prepare slow-cooked meals in my huge casserole. It was our wedding gift from the committee at the kindergarten where I taught. Of course it was bought at Potters Cottage. I also treasure two pottery bowls—wedding presents from Ann Arnold and family and bought, too, from Potters Cottage. None of them have SylHa on the bottom, but they're very special—a link to my old Warrandyte. Rest in peace Gus McLaren, and thanks to you and all the other creative souls who made Warrandyte what it was.

● Potters now operates as a function centre.



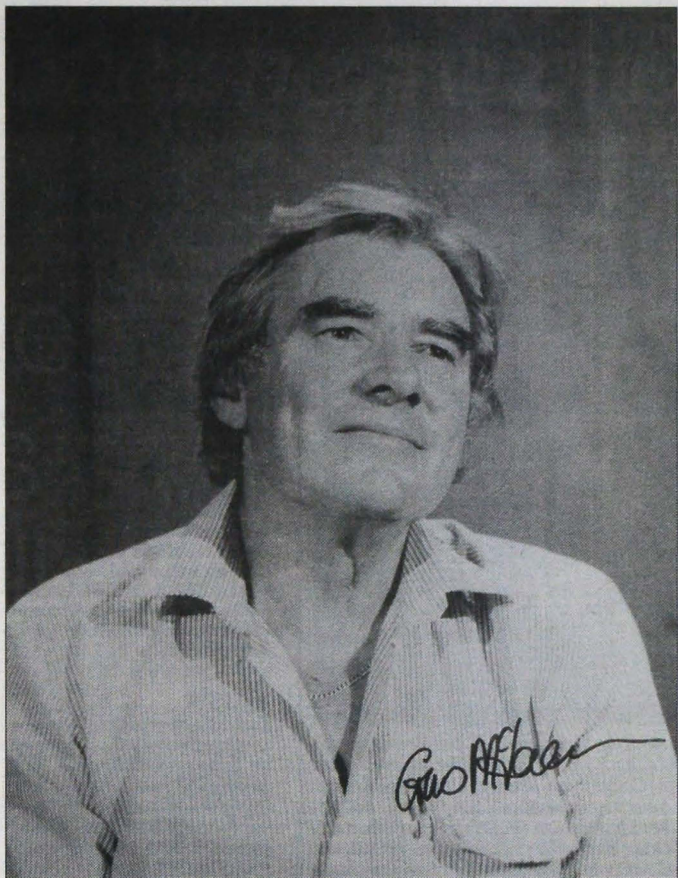
*Moonlight Cottage, the original Potters' Cottage.*



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# Gus may have left us, but his spirit still dwells in Warrandyte

By KAREN THROSSELL

REMEMBER Warrandyte when Yarra Street was a dirt road, and you could walk up it at night roaring drunk and never see a car." So said Gus McLaren (quite often) when he was reminiscing about his early life in Warrandyte. Gus was a true Warrandyte character, a versatile and passionate artist, with a great love of life and a good red wine, a man who loved Warrandyte because of its community spirit and the characters who lived here—the artists, the free-thinkers and fun-lovers. He found his soul-mate Denise Farran here, and they were so much part of the town that in 1999 they were made King and Queen of the Warrandyte Festival.

Gus McLaren died on Friday, August 29, 2008, not in Warrandyte, but in Pambula, NSW, far from his beloved Denise. He was 84.

Even though Potter's Cottage, which he co-founded, no longer displays his wonderful earthy pottery, Warrandyte is full of reminders of Gus. From the festival banners, to the bi-centennial mural at the Warrandyte Primary School, from the walls and gardens of his two homes in Bradleys' Lane and Francis Street, to the many pieces of pottery on the shelves and in the gardens. He has left many memorials in this town.

He was born William George McLaren on November 7, 1923. The son of a baker who frequently told him he was wasting his time drawing, Gus left school at 14 and paid for night-time art school classes by working in factories.

He joined the Australian army aged 18, serving for seven years.

When war ended he was stationed on Morotai where he painted a mural in a Red Cross hut. At the time it was just an "amusing diversion"—a cartoon history of the war, painted for the injured troops. It is now displayed in the National War Museum in Canberra and was the catalyst for Gus's early artistic career as a cartoonist and animator.

He first worked as cartoonist for the Sydney Daily Telegraph, the Women's Weekly, the Courier Mail and finally the Melbourne Argus, where he had a daily cartoon spot called "Just Gus".

When he moved to Warrandyte with wife Betty in the early 1950s, building his mud brick home in Bradleys Lane, he met potter Reg Preston, who taught him how to mould clay animals and his life turned again. Under Reg's influence he decided to "chuck in his well-paid job at the Argus and become a potter," earning "only five quid a week". Despite the drop in income, Gus enjoyed having more time to reflect and be his own boss.

In 1958 he joined with a group of local potters including Reg Preston, Phyl Dunn, Artek Halpern and Charlie Wilton to establish Potter's Cottage as an outlet for local hand-made pottery. This first Pottery was in fact a cottage—an old miner's hut situated on architect John Hipwell's property near the Warrandyte Bridge.

However Gus discovered that selling pots wasn't sufficient to feed his family of four. In 1960 he learned the art of film animation and spent three years with Channel 9, eventually creating Australia's first animated cartoon series—"Freddo Frog". He established with a partner his own unit, creating animated commercials. He worked

for Hanna Barbera on films like "Scooby Doo" and contributed to the animated feature film "Grendel, Grendel, Grendel".

Throughout this time he continued his involvement with the heady Warrandyte art scene, working with such local artists as Danila and Betty Vassilief, Adrian Lawlor, Dave Robertson and Howard Matthews, always including lots of parties and a great deal of red wine!

By 1961 Potter's Cottage had to move to larger premises and they secured the old Zoch farmhouse, converting it to a gallery and subsequently building a pottery school and a restaurant. In an interview, Gus described Potter's as a symbol of Warrandyte's community spirit as well as an icon of its artistic heritage. "We were a very close-knit group. There was a sharing and community feeling. I think most Warrandytians felt proud of it."

Gus's pottery has been described as "quite special—earthy and functional yet whimsical in its decoration with a distinctive use of colour that extends to all his work, with decoration sometimes reminiscent of the French painter Miro. You can always pick a McLaren!"

Gus enjoyed performing on the local amateur stage and was a key member of the Warrandyte Arts Association drama group. He played in a number of productions, most notably "Out of the Question", "The Miser" and "Travelling North". He also designed sets and programs.

It was during this time that he met his life partner Denise Farran. Denise was a young schoolteacher just arrived in Warrandyte. She decided to meet some kindred spirits by joining the drama group as backstage crew. She describes her first sight of him walking across the

stage: "Levi jeans, pale blue cotton shirt, sleeves rolled to the elbows, brown boots and a black cap. A handsome and dashing sight!" "Who was that man?" she asked. "Gus McLaren. Stay away, he's a rogue!" But of course she didn't and this was the beginning of a long and rich relationship.

Gus was a great gardener and passionate builder, saying that "carpentry was one of his great loves". Gus and Denise did a lot of gardening and building together, working on each other's gardens and houses with a seemingly endless variety of projects. His gardens always had different levels, with little walls and stairs—interesting nooks and crannies.

The story of the Polish duck is one of the best examples of Gus's affection for Denise. As a lover of ducks, Denise's friends were wont to give her duck ornaments as gifts, and when one friend brought a blue ceramic duck back from Poland, saying how it had travelled in a backpack across half of Europe and made it back to Australia safely, Denise was delighted. Unfortunately it didn't last the distance down Gus's front stairs, and when Gus saw the dismay on her face he comforted her by saying, "Don't worry, I'll make you another one." So he did—and one for the friend, too. He then went on to make some Australian ducks, using the same design, but making them brown instead of blue.

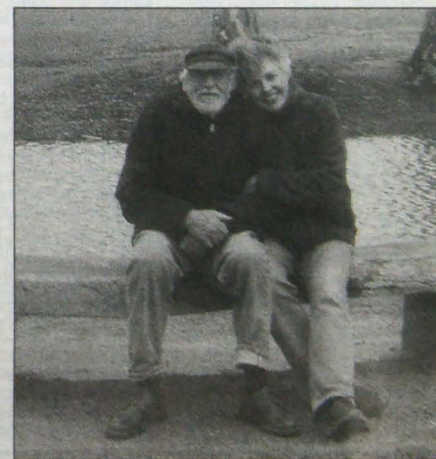
They also did some wonderful travelling together. Denise introduced him to a whole new world of adventure. They made one overseas trip to London to visit his daughter Kirsty, but most of their trips were to outback Australia. Gus has seen what is Back o'

Bourke (North Bourke!) has closed the Oodnadatta track (being the last car through after seeing Lake Eyre full for the first time in 10 years) gone on a mystery trip to the Bungle Bungles in a four-seater plane when he thought he was going to Darwin. "We're not going to Darwin in this are we?" he asked.

They would seek out the galleries, exhibitions, and other things of creative interest in the places they visited, meeting with local potters and artists. Gus would love to settle in and "talk shop". He was often inspired by his travels: "When we get home I'm going to try this." He also picked up ideas from nature, such as the Aboriginal stone mosaics at Beechworth, or the sight of the rolled bales of hay and the bare hills of the Wimmera.

They visited galleries throughout Victoria, following the work of such artist friends as Ron Reynolds, David Moore, Deb Halpern and Malcolm Laurence. They attended poetry readings, theatres and restaurants, and were regular attendees at Friday drinks at the Warrandyte Café, where Gus would bemoan (and then enjoy) the fact that he was "the only bloke" and where in latter years Denise would mix his red wine with blackcurrant juice, so he could watch his liver and still be able to socialise.

Gus left Warrandyte under strange circumstances and was taken by his family to Merimbula. Whilst it is a tragedy that these last four months did not mirror the rest of his rich and exuberant life and were spent away from this place and from the many people who had been part of it, we know he would have wanted us to remember him in the many good times. And we do. Vale Gus.





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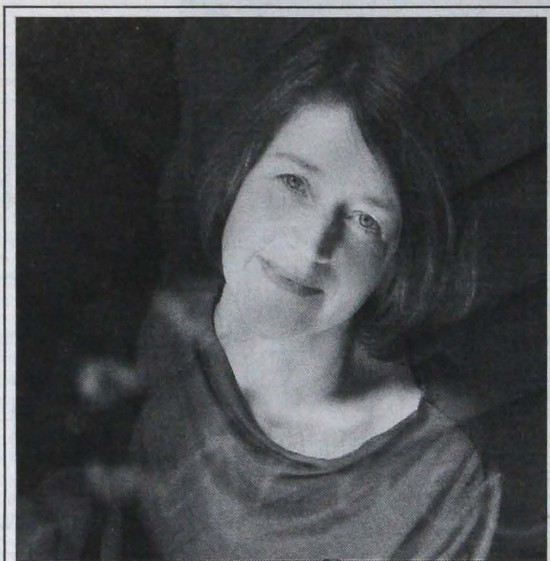
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# Local artists spring to it

A tour of artists' studios will be a feature of Spring Outdoors, an annual program designed to enable people to discover the many facets of the natural environment of their area. It is a joint venture arranged by the councils of Manningham, Nillumbik and Banyule. It includes a variety of seminars, walks, demonstrations and so on. Among the activities is a seminar on composting and creating a worm farm, a guided tour through the Mullum Mullum Linear Park, or you can join a tour of Warrandyte artists' studios, visiting the workplaces of Deborah Halpern, Inge King, Ron Reynolds and Walter Magilton. Brochures can be collected from Manningham council offices, the Warrandyte Community Centre or downloaded on www.manningham.vic.gov.au.



Lisa Young of Warrandyte (pictured) is performing with her quartet as part of Jazz in the Gallery being presented at the Manningham Gallery on Friday, October 24 from 8pm to 10pm. The quartet consists of Lisa (voice, konnakkol, aslatu), Stephen Magnusson (guitar), Ben Robertson (double bass), and Dave Beck (drums). Lisa's compositions combine Indian and African influences. She and Ben have recently returned from master classes in South India. Tickets are \$18 (\$12) and can be booked by calling 9840 9367.

## Relay

Everyone is reminded that the Cancer Council's community fundraiser and fun event—Relay for Life—takes place on the weekend of November 8 and 9 at the Warrandyte Recreation Reserve. The challenge is for teams of 10 or more to complete a relay-style walk or run, taking turns to keep their baton moving overnight. Further information on relayforlife@cancervic.org.au

## Pre-school

The annual general meeting of the Warrandyte and District Pre-school will be held at 7.30pm on Monday, October 27 at the kindergarten in Taroon Avenue. Guest speaker will be Anna Jones from Doncare. Her topic is "Making a difference with positive praise".

## AGM

The annual general meeting of the Yarrowarra Pre-school will be held at the pre-school, 184 Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte on Tuesday, November 11, commencing at 7.30pm. Guest speaker will be Kathy Walker, sponsored by the Bendigo Bank.

## Gardens

As part of the Australian Open Garden scheme, two Wonga Park gardens will be open on Saturday, November 18 and

Sunday, November 19. They are Tanglewood at 9 Valley Road and The Elms at 38 Dudley Road. Open times are from 10am to 4.30pm. The opening of The Elms will raise money for Berry Street Child Protection. This is 10 acre garden set around a small lake. Cost is \$7. Jazz music will be played on the Sunday afternoon.

## Centre

The Warrandyte Community Centre annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 28 at 8pm in the centre. Following the successful "Community Conversation" in July, the committee is prioritising the list of improvements recommended and working on a report that will detail this. Further information from Leisa Martin on 0409 833 931.

## Climate

Warrandyte CAN (Climate Action Now) is holding its annual general meeting at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Thursday, November 6 at 7.30pm. The purpose of the meeting will be to receive reports on the activities of the past year, to elect a committee for the coming year and discuss any items of general business. Members must be finan-

cial to be eligible to nominate, stand for a position and vote.

## Parenting

Warrandyte Natural Parenting Playgroup is seeking new members. The group offers children aged 0-5 a nurturing environment with songs, freeplay and craft, while parents can meet others and have a chat. The group meets on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am in Warrandyte. For further details contact Fiona on 9844 3306 or fiona@webwords.net.au.

## Youth

Manningham's newest musical talent will be showcased on the Youth Stage at this year's Manningham Spring Festival to be held at Ruffey Park Lake on Sunday, November 30. Young people who would like to present an act or musical performance can contact the associate producer, Ramsay, at events@manningham.vic.gov.au.

## Pets

The annual general meeting of Friends of Manningham Dogs and Cats (FOMDAC) is to be held at the Manningham council offices, 699 Doncaster

## 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.

Road, Doncaster at 7.30pm on Tuesday, November 11. Well-known local dog trainer and author Michael Tucker will be giving a talk on dog training, accompanied by a demonstration with his border collie Pippa. All are welcome. Enquiries to Doreen Burge on 0402 831 045.

## Music

Earth Harmony Centre is presenting Native Inka in concert on Friday, October 17 at 8pm at 246-250 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Native Inka is made up of two friends, Andrew Mellado and John Paul Pincheira who share a passion for the lively indigenous music of the Andes. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 concession) and can be prepaid or paid at the door. For bookings or more information call 9844 5155.

## Cellars

Sixteen of Nillumbik's boutique wineries will take part in their Open Cellars weekend on October 18 and 19 from 11am to 5pm. Further information can be obtained from Nillumbik Tourist Association on 1300 660 072 or visit www.opencellars.com.au.

## Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the Menzies Community Australia Day Awards. Nominations are open to individuals active in any field of endeavour in the Menzies electorate. Organisations may submit up to two nominees each. Nomination forms may be obtained from Kevin Andrews' office, 1st floor, 651 Doncaster Road, Doncaster or call 9848 9900. Closing date is November 7. Nominations are also open for the Manningham council Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year Awards. They are presented to local citizens who have made outstanding contributions to the community. Nominations close on November 12. Further enquiries to 9840 9210.

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## COREY'S COMMUNITY

By SYD & ONA



## artyfacts

## Stonehouse

Stonehouse Gallery's October exhibition features a colourful collection of works in textile, clay and other mediums inspired by a recent group visit to Turkey. The gallery, at 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, is open daily.

## Entanglement

Entanglement is the title of the current exhibition at the Manningham Gallery. It includes works by several prominent weavers and glass artists. It will be open from the evening of Wednesday, October 15 until Saturday, November 1. The gallery, at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster is open from 11am to 5pm, Tuesdays to Fridays and 2pm to 5pm on Saturdays.



# Stars come out for footy's night of nights

## McAdam takes out top honours

By JOEL RIGBY

Hair-gel replaced mud and suits replaced tape as members of the Warrandyte Football Club walked the red carpet at Club Kilsyth to celebrate Season 2008 with their presentation night. Grant McAdam was rewarded for a consistently impressive season, taking out the club's top honours.

Pre-count, the seniors vote count was predicted to be a tight contest, with surprise favouritism being held by young player Dion Mullett-Treloar. Mullett-Treloar had shown great form throughout the year to receive a Leader Newspaper 'Young Gun' nomination as one of the best U21 players in Division Three.

Club legend and four-time best and fairest winner Matt Wood and the rejuvenated Grant 'Sugars' McAdam were also looming as contenders.

The count began with new recruits and first year Bloods Ben Torney and Adam Gamble receiving best-on-ground honors, and it took until round three for Mullett-Treloar or McAdam to poll their first votes.

From there however, McAdam hit an early season purple patch, taking 14 votes from the next five games to lead by several votes after seven rounds.

Luke Naughtin was rewarded for his hard work under the packs to be sitting in second, on 11 votes, with the veteran Wood sitting on nine votes after a consistent start to the season.

While the side's form teetered off at this point in the season, it was not due to the duo of McAdam and Wood, who consistently polling up to round 14. McAdam had jumped to a four-vote lead on 20, with Wood behind on 16, needing to finish strongly to add another best and fairest

trophy to his already glowing cabinet.

With McAdam missing through injury, Wood caught him on 20 votes by round 16 as club captain Tom Naughtin returned from injury to poll two best-on-grounds to rocket to fourth position on the leaderboard. As a hush fell over the room leading into the final round, Wood could not poll the three votes needed to catch McAdam, and falling two votes short on 21.

McAdam duly collected his first senior best and fairest trophy, along with the John O'Brien overall club champion award, with Wood second and Tom Naughtin in third, with 18 votes.

Incredibly, McAdam did not pull on the boots until 2005, the naturally gifted athlete picking up the game in a very short amount of time. After a handful of Reserves games in that season, he went on to become an integral member of the 2006 Premiership side, and this latest achievement is well-deserved recognition for a talented player.

It was also an incredible effort from skipper Tom Naughtin, who missed eight games early in the season with a serious knee injury, but finished with a flurry to take second prize.

Brother Luke Naughtin was rewarded for a tough season under the packs, his continual ability to put his head over the ball earning him the Gary 'Madge' Allsop Shield for the most courageous player, while big ruckman Ben Torney took out the best first-year player award.

The players' award, voted by senior players themselves, was given to another first-year player Vinnie Jones, who had a stellar second half of the year after settling in at his new club.

Bustling Ben Taylor was awarded the Darryl Valentine Memorial Shield as the club's most-determined player, a fitting reward for his hard work in season 2008.

In what is becoming an annual tradition Michael 'Magic Hands' Morello won the Ron Wilson medal. It is the fifth consecutive year Michael has collected the trophy given to the club's leading goal-kicker. Morello has now kicked 291 goals in just 87 games for the senior side, averaging well over three goals per game, and is looking forward to adding his 300th goal for the club in season 2009.

The Reserves' vote count started with midfielders Daniel Large and Bernie Opteynde polling top votes in round one, and by round seven these two players were neck-and-neck at the top of the leaderboard, Opteynde narrowly in front 11 votes to 10.

However Opteynde's season was to be crippled by injury, a story that was all too common for Warrandyte in 2008.

Some strong mid season form saw our defender Dean Heller take the lead, only for Large to poll strongly late in the season to wrestle it back.

The crowd were on the edge of their seats when mid-way through the count Paul Burgoyne started his anticipated charge towards what was looking to be a popular win. However, Large held strong and followed up his 2007 season U18s Best and Fairest with a 2008 Reserves Best and Fairest trophy.

Large was also awarded the players' award, voted by his peers as the most valuable for 2008. Large also had a taste of senior football this year and is looking to have a strong future at the club.

Tim Beasley was rewarded for consistent form all year with his own taste of senior football, and returned to the Reserves in the final round of the season to leapfrog Paul Burgoyne into second position.

With Paul Burgoyne coming in third, all three of the top vote-winners were under 20 years old, a great sign for the future of the Bloods.

Dean Heller was rewarded for his hard play all year with an award celebrating his courage in his first year at the club. The Geoff Darby Memorial Shield for the most determined player was awarded to one of the Reserves vice-captains in Brendan Zach, another young player who has a promising future and will be a vital member of the Bloods lineup in 2009.

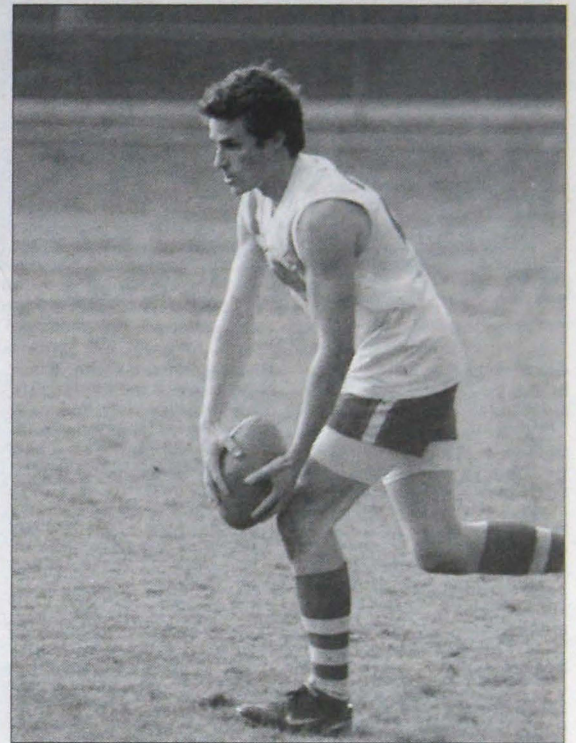
When the votes were read for the U18s, Rowan Mullett-Treloar started well. His 11 votes to round seven had earned him an early lead and a call up to Senior duty.

Captain Zac Boyce was also rewarded for his great consistency, receiving votes in every game to round seven to be perched just behind on nine votes.

By round fourteen, injury and some solid Senior performances had crippled Mullett-Treloar's chances, but first-year Blood Kane Stoffels was polling extremely well after a late start to the year after moving across from Donvale.

Joel Rigby had skipped to the lead, but consistent form saw Zac Boyce still hot on his heels in second. It was a tense final round, as Rigby lead by a single vote with 22, but a final game injury saw Zac fall short by the narrowest of margins, Rigby taking the honours.

Stoffels was left ruing his late-start to the season as



Grant McAdam shows his prize-winning style.

he finished third on 17 votes after an impressive second half of the year. Wade Austen was rewarded for his hard work throughout the year, taking out the most improved player award, while both Ross Brown and Ross Ansaldi were recognised for their consistency and determination.

Overall it was a pleasing year for the Bloods colts. They came ahead in leaps and bounds under some great coaching and leadership by coach Jason Bowen and assistant Geoff Zach, who both give their time willingly in order to provide a bright future for the Warrandyte Football Club. On a night in which the club acknowledges the best and fairest players over the year, it was also an opportunity to celebrate the unsung heroes who keep the Bloods flowing throughout the year.

The Tracy 'Snowy' Prior Best Club Person Award was given to a worthy recipient in John Zach. John is a tireless worker for the Bloods, often up before the birds painting the lines of the oval, even when many players are still tucked up in bed.

The aptly named Fay Rice,

who helps to run the canteen on game day at Warrandyte, was a popular winner of the President's award - clearly showing that players and supporters alike were delighted with her work behind the counter.

Perhaps the biggest cheer of the night rang out when life-membership was awarded to club stalwart Terry Ryan. It was a befitting accolade for a man who defines what it is to be a member of the Bloods.

Since his debut in 1990, Terry played more than 200 games for Warrandyte, and has been a member of the football club committee since 2004. Terry, along with wife Lisa and the girls rarely miss a game, or a Thursday night training session where they can be found doling food out to 60 or more hungry and tired players. Life membership is worthy recognition from the club and a testament to Terry's hard work and persistence.

After a long night celebrating season 2008, it is with optimism that the Warrandyte Football Club looks forward to bigger and better things in 2009.

## Early win fires up cricketers

Warrandyte bounced back from an unexpected opening round loss to Ainslie Park to defeat early premier-ship favourite, Bayswater Park in Round 2 of Ringwood District Wilkins Cup cricket.

Led by an inspiring century from captain, Adam White, Warrandyte chased down 220 runs to win with an over spare.

In a perfect example of the highs and lows of cricket, it was a remarkable comeback from White who was bowled without scoring from the second ball he faced in the opening round.

The win highlighted an outstanding start for the club. With two rounds completed, the First XI's defeat in the opening match has been the only loss for the five grades.

Saturday's win was critical for Warrandyte as the loss to Ainslie Park was

a surprise. Bayswater Park have been grand finalists in the past two seasons and early success will prove an important psychological advantage later in the year as finals loom.

But despite the clear cut win, Warrandyte's bowling remains a problem with the pace attack unable to get important early breakthroughs.

On Saturday, Bayswater were able to get away to a sound start and at 0-136 they looked like posting a score of 250 or more.

But two quick wickets helped slow the scoring down to restrict the target to a still healthy 5-220.

Orthodox left arm spinner, Matthew Sazenis was again the pick of the bowlers with 1-24 off his eight overs and followed on from a brilliant spell in the opening round where he took 4-30.

But the quick and medium-

paced bowlers were unable to get the vital breaks to keep constant pressure on the Bayswater batting line-up.

Warrandyte took up the attack with the bat and after four overs had scored 38 runs but lost two batsmen in the process.

It was then that White joined young opening batsman, Ben Taylor and they put on a partnership of 68 before Taylor, on 24, was run out when the batting pair collided in mid-pitch as they scampered for a second run.

New signing, Cameron Skermer then joined White and the pair built a 120-run match winning partnership with a mixture of aggressive running between the wickets and the ability to take full toll on any loose ball.

White was particularly damaging, hitting four sixes in an innings that was dominant from the start.

Skermer, an experienced

player recruited from Ashburton in the Eastern Cricket League, proved an ideal foil and finished with 54. The dashing left hander fed White the strike with deft nudges and placement but then crashed the ball to the fence when the opportunity arose.

Both were out within a handful of runs of victory but the middle order took Warrandyte home to a convincing win.

Such was not the case in the opening round against Ainslie Park when the Warrandyte bowlers again failed to make early inroads and the Parkers reached a handy 2-63 at the 20 over break.

Veteran spinner, Robert White was able to close down one end but rarely looked like getting a breakthrough while Campbell Holland, Gerald Walshe, Jake Sherriff and Clint Thomas toiled hard but struggled to put the necessary

pressure on the batsmen.

It was Sazenis who finally broke through and his 4-30 enabled Warrandyte to keep their opponents to a score of only 163.

It looked to be well within Warrandyte's capabilities but the loss of Taylor, Sherriff and White in quick succession put too much pressure on the middle order with only Dave Mooney and Skermer putting up any real resistance.

Warrandyte were eventually dismissed for a poor 103 in only 30 overs.

In other grades, Warrandyte continue to be in commanding form. The Second XI has been particularly strong with two outstanding wins, the most recent being on Sunday when they made 7-175 and shot Kilsyth out for a lowly 57.

Greg Creber with 81 was the standout in the big win by the Fourth XI over Templeton.

Under 16 fast bowler, Jack

Ellis, continues to press for a higher grade with a three wicket haul in the Third XI's big win over Croydon North.

Daniel Large was also in top form as the Fifth XI ran all over Croydon Ranges.

Scores:  
Round 2:  
First XI: Warrandyte 6-223 (A. White 100, Skermer 54, Taylor 24) d Bayswater Park.

Second XI: Warrandyte 7-175 (Day 67) d Kilsyth 57 (Warr 3-9), A. McIntosh 3-13, T. Walshe 3-16).

Third XI: Warrandyte 8-165 (Kline 45, Gidley 37) d Croydon North 7-154 (Ellis 3-29).

Fourth XI: Warrandyte 5-227 (Creber 81, Sharpe 36 n.o.) d Templeton 130 (Rees 3-15, Lockie 3-28).

Fifth XI: Warrandyte 3-223 (Large 89, Kenham 52 n.o.) d Croydon Ranges 6-189 (G. Warren 3-20).



# Five teams of grand finals best Redbacks

Grand final day for Saturday basketball saw 13 Redback sides in the EDJBA finals.

In something of an unusual outcome, there were five Redback girls sides in grand finals and all came away with a premiership. Included in these results were the coveted Under 15 A and Under 17 A flags.

Both these games were close and only decided in the final minutes.

The Under 15 girls, coached by Kelly Taylor, overcame a determined Balwyn to win 42-20. The scores do not reflect the endeavour of the Balwyn side, which challenged the Redback girls to get within four points early in the second half.

The girls stepped up a gear to take the game.

The Under 17 game was much closer, with two points separating the Redbacks from Bulleen at the break. The second half was equally tight, with Warrandyte taking the game 37-34 at the final siren.

Nicolette Prior top-scored with 10, with very good support from Phillippa Birch with nine and Bonnie Jones with eight. Scoring was rounded out with Courtney Petalas and Ashlee Collins each scoring five.

Warrandyte were hampered with three out with other commitments, including two "talls" but Ashlee O'Brien, although carrying injury, was able to provide support when necessary.

"Just the best," was coach Jenni O'Brien's comment after the game. "And back-to-back premierships."

Emma Collins' Under 11 girls in the A2 grand final were no match for Marcellin, winning 46-22. In a game where everybody contributed, Lauren Robertson and Maddison Taylor led the scoring with 10 points each.

"Sophie scored her first goal," was an excited parent's reaction in the Under 9 girls' game between Warrandyte and Whitehorse.

Sophie (Cookes) had actu-

ally scored in an earlier game but the joy of seeing the girls from both sides having fun on the court was infectious, especially when you are coached by former Opal Jo Metcalfe.

Siobhan Brodrick with six, Amy Richardson with four and Sophie Cookes with two were Warrandyte's scorers.

Nick Peters' Under 19 girls picked up a premiership flag when the girls defeated Eltham by 32-23.

On the boys' side, the big shock was the defeat of Warrandyte's Under 17 boys by 44 to 17 by Nunawading. Warrandyte were minor premiers and progressed straight to the Grand Final whereas Nunawading had to win through from the second semi-final.

Nunawading opened the scoring and it was not until the 11-minute mark when the Redbacks Leif Dehl-Cope tipped the ball into the basket.

The second half was no different from the first, with Warrandyte unable to put together a game plan.

Warrandyte were hampered by the unavailability of Andrew Clough with a knee injury and Matt Lane was playing his first game after an ankle injury.

Coach Gavin Whitmore was not using that as any excuse: "We were not there either in the beginning, in the middle or at the end."

Troy Ratcliffe top-scored with seven points with four points to the game's most-determined player Ryan Holloway.

In another disappointment Warrandyte's Under 15 AR boys went down to Bulleen in a close game by 36-31.

The Redbacks were looking good with a four-point lead at the break, but Bulleen were doing slightly better in the second half.

"It was a well-fought game that could have gone either way," was coach Ryan Holloway's comment after the game.

The Redback's Taylor Hayton top-scored with 17, as

# Saturday night basketball finals



(Above) Winners of the Under A grade grand final, defeating Balwyn by 42-20. Back: Casey Taylor, Meg Dargan, Rosemary Piazza. Front: Amber Saunders, Aly Birch, Ashlee Brobell, Caroline Nitsos.



(Right) Premiers in the Under 17 A grade grand with Warrandyte defeating Bulleen by 37-34. Back: Phillippa Birch, Ashlee O'Brien, Nicolette Prior, Jenni O'Brien. Front: Fiona Tansley, Bonnie Jones, Ashlee Collins, Courtney Petalas.

well as picking up the most-determined player award. Jarrod Buzzini and Luke Collins contributed four each.

Things were better for Warrandyte when Under 13 boys, coached by Mandy Ratcliffe, defeated a determined Eltham by 32-14. Michael DeLacy top-scored with 10, with good support from Jack Cousens at six and Nathan Delacy with five.

"An awesome game with good, clean defence. All players contributed" was coach Mandy Ratcliffe's comment after the game.

The Under 11 AR game between Warrandyte and Bulleen went Bulleen's way by 58-29.

On past form the result was not unexpected, and the Redback boys should not be disappointed with the effort. Zac Stevenson with 11 was Warrandyte's top scorer, with assistance from Jules Jones at six and John Moloney at five.

Warrandyte collected two other premierships. The Under 9 D boys, with Dale Leeson as coach, defeated Eltham by 10 to five. Alex Leeson and Lockier Durran each scored four points with Dylan Brown with two.

Angela Germeck's Under 13 D grade boys defeated Nunawading by 45-11.

A runners-up flag went to Greg Pearson's Under 13 BB boys, who went down to Eltham 35-31 in a physical game.

Steve Killey's Under 11 BB boys were also runners-up going down to Eltham 33-31.



Warrandyte's Under 9 girls. Left to right: Kayla Bell, Sophie Cookes, Jo Metcalfe (coach), Brooke Mulder, Siobhan Brodrick, Amy Richardson.



Action from a time out in the Under A2 grand final between Warrandyte and Marcellin. Coach Emma Collins getting the best from her girls, who won 46-22.



# Finals bite stings Venom hopefuls

A 12-month commitment by parents, players and coaches concluded in September with the finals of the Friday night basketball competition.

The Venom had 16 teams going through into the finals series, with three making grand finals and three making bronze medal games.

In a game of two halves, Warrandyte's Under 16 boys came up agonisingly short in the grand final against Nunawading by 44-42.

Liam Roodhouse opened the scoring for the Venom in tight opening minutes, but the Venom were able to open up a good break by the half-time break. Taylor Hayton, Jack Power and Liam Roodhouse were combining well in offence.

The score line 29-18 at this point gave the Warrandyte supporters good heart.

But Warrandyte could not get their free-flowing game of the first half going against and the taller Nunawading side were slowly getting back into the game.

With 10 minutes to go, the scores were locked together after a three-point swish to Nunawading.

The final minutes were tense, with the lead changing regularly, but Nunawading were able to maintain the tempo on the scoreboard.

Tim Demos for the Venom stole the ball and scored the basket with 72 seconds to go to give the Venom a one-point lead.

Nunawading replied soon afterwards to regain the lead and the seconds ticked down with both sides having opportunities from the free throw line, but the pressure was telling.

The siren sounded with the Venom in attack, but they could not put up the shot.

The Venom were shattered after the game with all players having given their all. But there was no disgrace in defeat and nothing was left on the court.

Taylor Hayton at centre had a strong game scoring 20 points, with six points from Jack Power, Luke Harris and Tim Demos.

Things were better when Jennet Ure when her Under



14 boys were winners over McKinnon by 27-24.

To say Warrandyte started slowly was an understatement, with the score line at one stage 15-1 in McKinnon's favour.

But the Venom slowly worked their way back into the game.

They were showing the effects of finishing on top of the ladder with little pressure basketball over preceding weeks.

McKinnon still held the advantage, but the Venom's Nick Cookes scored with seconds to go, forcing the game into five minutes of overtime.

Overtime was intense and decided from the free throw line, with the Venom slightly steadier to record the win.

The Venom's coach Jennet Ure was speechless after the game. "We did it!" was about all she could say after the emotion of the game.

Aiden Ceh and Steven Reynolds, with nine points each, were the Venom's top scorers, supported by Mitchell Taylor and Nicholas Cookes with five each. Nicholas was also awarded the most-determined player award.

While the Under 14 boys were playing on one court at Waverley, on the next court, David Gibson's Under 12 boys were playing in the bronze medal playoff against Kilsyth.

In this game, the Venom were comfortably in control at the break, leading 20-8. Like all good finals, Kilsyth had much the better of the second half, with the Venom holding onto a two-point lead with seconds to go, and Kilsyth shots

bounding off the ring.

David's comments after the game focussed on the development of the young side and their continued improvement over the season.

Gerry Pearce's Under 14 boys' were runners-up in the bronze medal game against Sherbrooke.

The Venom tried all day but could never get enough scoreboard pressure to challenge the Sherbrooke side, with the final score being 41-29.

"Their opponents were just too tall and too big, but the boys all tried for the full game. All ran their legs off," was Gerry's comment after the game.

The comments were echoes by the Sherbrooke's coach after the game: "At no time did you ever give up."

Chris Bollands was Warrandyte leading scorer with 19 and with numerous rebounds.

Nick Maywald's Under 16 girls came up just short against minor premiers Melton by 38-37 in the final game at the Diamond Valley court.

The Venom came back strongly after trailing 16-11 at the break, but could not get the key goal in the final seconds, despite a number of shots going up.

"The game could have gone either way at the end. Every single player gave 100% effort and they would all have to be happy with that effort," said Nick.

Brianna Ricci top scored with 13 and picked up the most-determined player for the Venom at the end of the game with centre Jasmine Haikel scoring 10.

The final result was a win on walk over to Mollie Booth's Under 12 girls in their bronze medal game in the Central 1 division.

## 51 reasons to smile

Congratulations to all teams that made it through to the finals this year. All-up, Warrandyte basketball had 51 teams make it through to finals in their respective competitions. This is a fantastic achievement and highlights the overall growth and strength of basketball in the region.

Here's a snapshot:  
**SENIOR VENOM:** Women runners-up in the BIGV Division One competition.

**JUNIOR VENOM:** 16 teams made finals with three through to grand finals and three in bronze medal games.

**JUNIOR REDBACKS:** 34 teams made finals with 13 through to grand finals and eight winning premierships.



Runners up in the bronze medal playoff against Sherbrooke: Back row: Coach Gerry Pearce, James, Eddy, Oscar Pearson, Chris Bollands, Zac Ratcliffe. Front: Connor Gardiner, Zac Plischka, Zeph Hilton, Nathan Delacy.



Some despair still on the faces but the Venom's Under 16 boys with their runners up medallions. Back row: Kyle McGinley, Tim Baker, Liam Roodhouse, Taylor Hayton. Front: Jarrod Buzzini, Luke Harris, Jack Power, Tim Demos

## Basketball 2009 tryouts

Round two of tryouts for the Junior Venom (Friday night) continue at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre. Tryouts for all age groups will consist of three training sessions and two intra-club games. Contact Tony Oliver (9844 4287), Ian Wood (boys) or David Reinecke (girls) for further details.



Under 12 boys, winners in the bronze medal game by 30-28 over Kilsyth: Back row: Stephen Marks, Liam England, David Gibson (coach), Dylan Lee-Porcher, Darcy Trenfield. Front: Chris Dodds, Ben Richardson, Matthew Kilkeny, Connor Joy.



Runners up in Regional 3 grand final: Back row: Ashlee Maywald, Brianna Ricci, Jasmine Haikel, Sarah Boras, Maddison Weightman. Front: Emily Tricarico, Eleanor Deforest.



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REAL ESTATE PTY LTD

183 – 187 YARRA STREET, WARRANDYTE 3113

Phone: (03) 9844 3085 Fax: (03) 9844 2228

Email: admin@landfield.com.au

## Lions Club of Warrandyte Inc.

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays

LIONS MAKE THINGS HAPPEN...

**Additional members**, men and women, are sought to carry on meeting the future needs of our community. Be our guest at one of our bi-monthly meetings - ring our membership committee, **Garry Clues on 0416 220 650** or **Danny Pennacchio on 0438 324 437** and discuss what is in it for you and your community.



www.lionsclubwarrandyte.org.au

### 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.

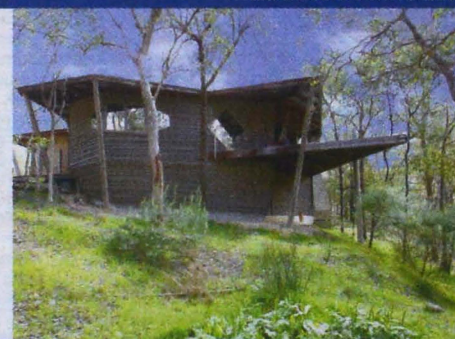
PRICE: \$990,000 plus



#### 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.

AUCTION: 25th Oct at 12:30pm



### 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.



#### 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 and yet not compromising on modern function or understated style. A unique pocket of architectural homes within Warrandyte situated within walking distance to the shops, public transport and local schools.

PRICE: \$590,000 plus



### WARRANDYTE

### 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: \$530,000 plus



#### 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 BWs 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: \$760,000 plus



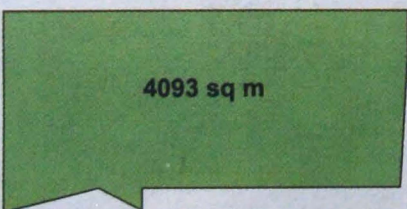
### WARRANDYTE NORTH

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#### Yarra River Frontage

Build your dream home on precious land. This magnificent 1 acre block offers breathtaking views of the Yarra River, which winds its way in front of your exclusive patch in North Warrandyte. Enjoy the tranquility of country living, just 30 km from the CBD - a golden opportunity to enjoy river frontage, spectacular bush land and the artisan ambience of a suburb built on dreams.

OSBORNE ROAD



4093 sq m

#### Pure Imagination

With plans and permits in place for an impressive 3-bedroom + studio home with a spectacular front balcony, all that's left to bring to this quarter acre is your imagination. See beyond the crushed rock driveway to the bushland freedom this property could bring you and your family - just behind the charming Yarra St village of cafes, shops and the river, on a sealed road with Warrandyte State Park as your backyard playground and Warrandyte Primary within walking distance.

PRICE: \$280,000 plus



### WARRANDYTE