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WARRANDYTE diary

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No 414, November 2008 For the community, by the community

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Blowing in the wind:
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Relay for Life,
November 2008.
(Picture by Stephen
Reynolds)

By CLIFF GREEN

Council candidates on both sides of the river are overwhelmingly pledged to resist the building of a ring road link through Warrandyte.

The possibility of a toll road linking the Metropolitan Ring Road at Greensborough with EastLink at Ringwood has been widely canvassed in recent months.

One option is for the road to go through Heidelberg to the Eastern Freeway at Bulleen. The other suggested route is through Eltham and Warrandyte to EastLink at Ringwood.

Residents are nervously awaiting the state government's Metropolitan Transport Plan, due to be released by the end of the year.

Nillumbik council is pledged to resist the ring road link, but Manningham has remained somewhat ambivalent, promising to protect the Green Wedge, but awaiting government confirmation of the route before deciding on a position.

A petition against the building of the road through Warrandyte, organised by Mullum Mullum candidate David Ellis, has been circulating in the township during the past month.

The number of signatures was heading for 3000 as the *Diary* went to press.

"We plan to have upper house MP Greg Barber present it to the Legislative Council later this month—before the state government make their intentions clearer with the foreshadowed transport statement," Mr Ellis told the *Diary*.

A total of nine candidates standing in Manningham's Mullum Mullum ward have expressed outright opposition to a ring road link through Warrandyte.

Joining David Ellis are Ron Kitchingman, Paul Slattery, Meg Downie, Mary Anne Gourley, Peter Podolak, Raymond Hoser, Peter Halcomb and Brian Jones.

Graeme Macmillan did not mention the ring road, but promised to protect the Green Wedge.

"My policy is to retain the Green Wedge and oppose any freeway through the Warrandyte Park Orchards area," retiring councillor Ron Kitchingman said.

According to Peter Halcomb, "A tollway or freeway is an outdated solution and we must do better".

Peter Podolak supports the Green Wedge and retention of pocket parks and will "oppose any freeway through Warrandyte". Paul Slattery

has also linked opposition to a freeway through the Green Wedge and stopping the sale of pocket parks.

Meg Downie has promised to "oppose the freeway link going through Warrandyte", as has Raymond Hoser and Brian Jones.

Mary Anne Gourley stated: "The extension of the freeway, whilst shortening travelling distances and reducing pollution, will impact on those properties on its periphery. It is important for this community to seek an alternative route that lessens the impact endemic in building a freeway."

Of the record 12 candidates standing in Mullum Mullum (for three positions), 10 replied to the *Diary's* request for an opinion on the ring road.

One, David McNiff, did not respond and another, Albert Mijat, could not be contacted.

Across the river in the Nillumbik ward of Sugarloaf, four candidates (vying for one position) out of a total of six responded.

All of them oppose a ring road link through Nillumbik. They are: Ken King, Warwick Leeson, Zula Rogers and Leizl Shnookal. Jane Ashton and Irene Wu did not respond.

Leizl Shnookal said she would "find innovative solutions to reduce traffic congestion, oppose any ring road extension into Nillumbik," and seek to improve public transport.

"I am opposed to extending the ring road through Nillumbik," Warwick Leeson said.

"I seek your support to ... improve public transport and provide footpaths and bike paths to North Warrandyte and Research."

"I am against a freeway link," Zula Rogers said, "but we need a realistic traffic management plan for the shire."

Ken King also opposes a freeway through Nillumbik.

● Although in opposing parties, local MPs Ryan Smith (Liberal, Warrandyte) and Danielle Green (Labor, Yan Yean) have both expressed their opposition to the ring road link going through Eltham and Warrandyte.

Recently, Mr Smith asked the premier to state the government's policy on the building of "the so-called 'missing link' between the Western Ring Road and EastLink".

The premier stated that a transport plan is to be released by the end of the year. "No decisions have been made on any proposals under consideration. That is, nothing has been ruled in or ruled out."

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— Scott Hamilton

WARRANDYTE diary

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, December 10. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, November 28.

OUR NEWSPAPER

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

A SPECIAL PLACE

Warrandyte (approximate population 8000) is situated on the Yarra River, some 27km from Melbourne. For countless ages a well-stocked hunting ground of the Wurundjeri people, in 1851 Warrandyte became the site of the first official gold discovery in Victoria. It soon established its character as a small, self-sustaining community set in a beautiful river valley. Around 1900 the miners, orchardists and tradespeople were joined by a number of young painters who were founding the Australian nationalist arts tradition. Now a commuter suburb of Melbourne, the natural beauty, community spirit and sense of independence of Warrandyte has been largely retained. This newspaper is the voice and true expression of that spirit.

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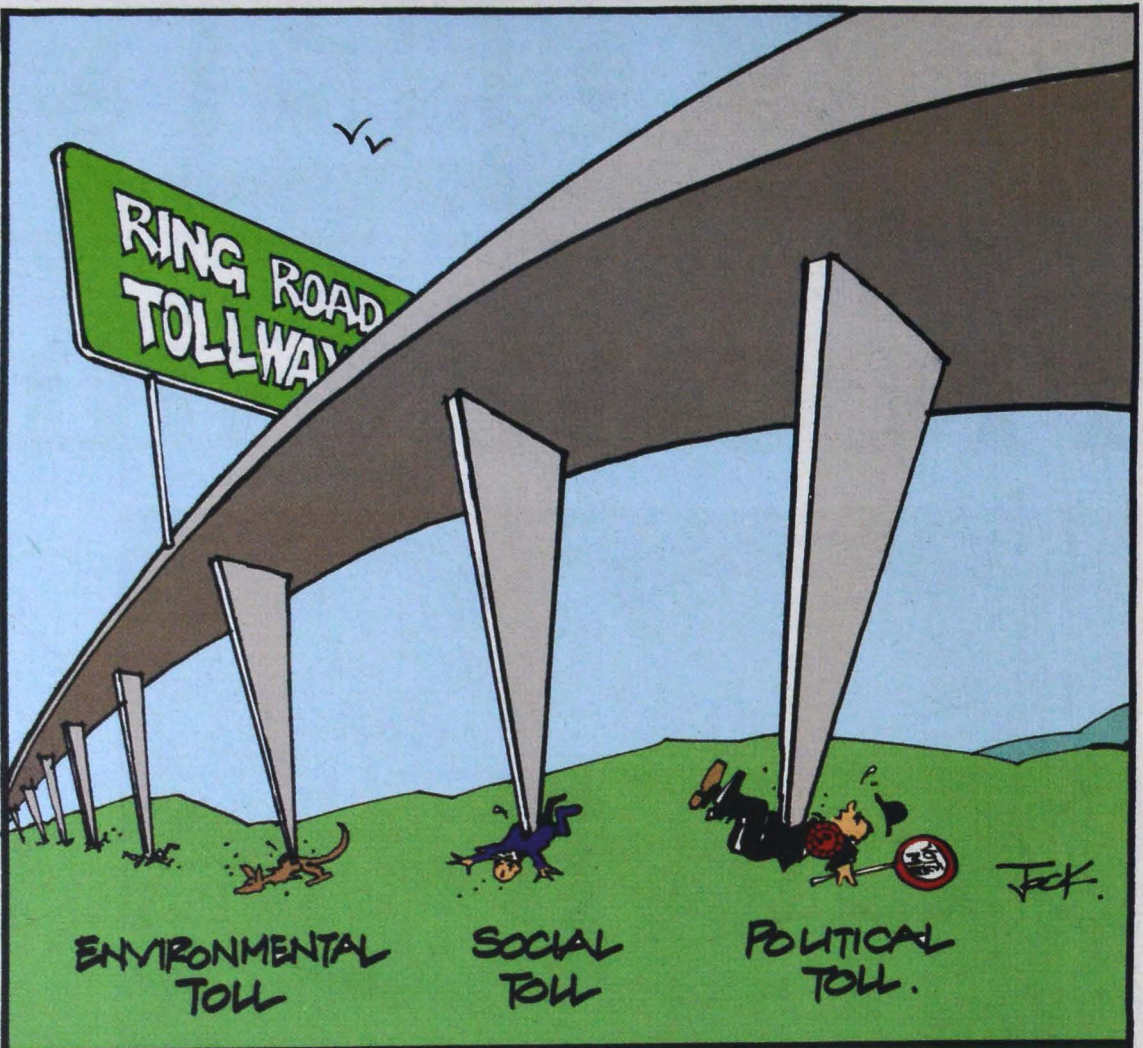
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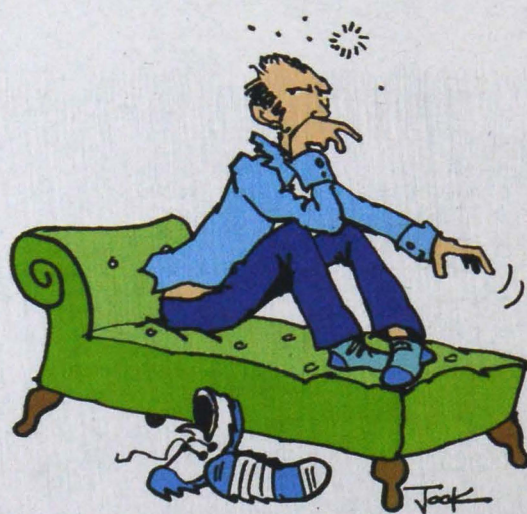
By JOCK MACNEISH



For whom the bell tolls its death knell

Nightmare on Dingley Dell

“So zen, vot seems to be ze trouble?” It was a difficult question, especially as it was written in a bad Austrian accent. “I’m afraid,” said Neville. He was lying on a couch, but telling the truth about being afraid. “Interesting,” answered the Austrian, “I’m a Freud too!” “No, I mean I’m anxious. In a precarious position.” “Would you like a peellow?” “I mean my financial position. I’m worried about my financial position!” “You’re vorried! How do you sink I feel? My superannuation is kaput and my investments! My Coles shares are Voolvortheless, Suncorp goes down every day and excuse my Eenglish as a second langveg but Mirvac sucks!” “But I feel so depressed.” “Ze whole market is depressed. Haven’t you bin vatching ze Down Jones?” “I know. Even Warrandyte is feeling the pinch!” “Vy is he being pinched?” “Well, Giggettos is already in Retreat, Way Ahead is way behind and if things don’t pick up it’s curtains for Riveresque and goodbye Ruby Tuesday!” “Mein Gott! Zere must be somevun who can help you!” Out of nowhere a man with a pinstripe moustache and a lunch box appeared. “Mark Challen at your service!” He opened the lunch box, took out a file, did his nails and put it back. “I used to carry a briefcase,” he explained, “but my papers kept falling



out the leg holes.” “Vot advice do you have for my client?” “I have a bank statement for him. Your capital is feeling underappreciated, compounded principally by falling interest. Either give your wife more credit or consider a debt-equity swap. Cheque your floating commodities, use the term deposit advisedly, trim your hedging and don’t be so negative about your gearing!” “I like your spirit!” said the doctor. “Can you geev me a loan?” “Certainly,” said the banker taking a flask of Johnny Walker from his pocket, “but I want it back when you’re finished.” “That’s all very well,” interrupted Neville “but it’s not just the economy! There are

so many other things to worry about. Like climate change!” “Exactly,” said a poster of David Ellis. “What would you say if I told you the average temperature has gone up four degrees in the last month alone?” “Iz Spring time, ya?” “Ya, but what if I told you the rainfall has fallen, the sea is rising, the ice caps are melting and we need to take steps to reduce our ecological footprint!” “But if we take more steps,” said Neville, “won’t we leave more footprints?” “Melting schmelting. Vot about ze green veg!” “Broccoli!” said Neville. “Vot?” “Broccoli! Narelle always gives us broccoli. I don’t actu-

living with The Trotts

ally like broccoli but she says it’s good for my prostate.” “No dummkopf, ze Green Vedge! Zey gonna put a road through it!” Suddenly a man in a hard hat appeared talking to another man in a fairly easy hat. They leaned over Neville examining a giant map spread out on top of him. “We’ll cut through North Eltham, swing up the Research Road here...” “...turn into Bloom’s Road here... Hang on! How do we get to the bridge?” “Dingley Dell!” said the other excitedly, jabbing his finger into Neville’s ribs. “Dingley Dell is the missing link!” “The missing link! I’m the missing link!” cried Neville sitting bolt upright, tearing at the map still wrapped around his head. Then everything started vibrating. The bulldozers were already ripping up the street outside! “Neville! Wake up!” said Narelle, shaking him violently and dragging the sodden sheet away from his face. “You’re having a nightmare!” “Is that all?” said Neville. “A nightmare? Thank goodness. Things were looking pretty serious for a moment there!” “Things are serious Neville. And we just can’t take it lying down anymore. So what are we going to do about it?... Neville?...Neville?” “Lzzzzzzz.”

ALAN CORNELL

GOOD NEWS MONTH

Better bus service to Eltham



On the road for an improved Eltham service. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

By **KARLY HICKMAN**

The news that bus services between Warrandyte and Eltham are being significantly increased is being hailed as a real victory for the town.

It has been announced that bus services between Warrandyte and Eltham will be increased, with more than double as many services as before.

The announcement that the state government is set to more than double the services is seen as a major win for the Warrandyte Community Association, which has been lobbying the government to increase public transport in the area.

"As the only organisation lobbying for these changes, we can take great pride in this exciting result," WCA vice-president Jonathon Upson told the *Diary*.

The new timetable was announced by transport minister Lynne Kosky at an official launch at Gateway Eltham late last month.

Revamping the timetable comes as part of \$650 million set aside by

the state government for the review and expansion of bus services in Melbourne, MP for Yan Yean, Danielle Green, said.

"The Banyule-Nillumbik bus review created a dialogue with the community, who told us what was good about the current transport system and what needs to be improved," Ms Green said.

For Warrandyte residents south of the Yarra, the changes mean half-hourly services seven days a week to and from Eltham, running up until 9pm and with up to four buses per hour during peak times.

North Warrandyte residents will enjoy hourly service seven days a week to and from Eltham along both the Kangaroo Ground and Research Road routes, with half-hourly services during peak times. This comes as a welcome change to the current timetable with buses every two hours and no services on Sundays.

Additionally, the new timetable sees all services arrive at Eltham station to meet express trains during

peak times in the morning. This will drastically decrease travel time between Warrandyte and the city.

"This is a terrific result. It's everything the WCA asked for," Mr Upson said. "I am certain we are one of very few communities to have their bus service frequency improved by a factor of two."

However, he was quick to explain that, while these changes are part of the new "permanent" timetable, they will be subject to review: "If we don't use it, we might lose it," he said. "It is very important that the Warrandyte community takes advantage of these new services."

WCA was meeting as the *Diary* went to print, hoping to come up with some ideas regarding the promotion of these new services.

The new timetable came into effect on November 9.

If residents have not received a copy of the new timetable by mail, they can pick one up at Eltham railway station, or log on to www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au.

Council 'ticks' villas

Retirement housing in Warrandyte moved a step closer when Manningham council determined last month to issue a notice to grant a planning permit for five single-storey retirement housing villas in Harris Gully Road (pictured).

The project, which has been running for more than a year, is an initiative of the Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Co-operative specifically aimed at local needs to provide housing for older residents who do not want to leave Warrandyte.

The decision followed a favourable officer's report to council recommending support for the application. It said the villas would integrate satisfactorily into the neighbourhood, the site is an appropriate location for retirement housing, the

internal amenity is suitable for retiree occupants and no unreasonable level of detriment to the surrounding area should result.

Both current Mullum Mullum ward councillors—Ron Kitchingman and Pat Young—spoke for the application, citing a high level of community need. Council's decision was unanimous.

Cooperative chairperson, Val Polley, told the *Diary*: "While it has been a busy year it has also proved extremely rewarding. We were particularly pleased with the final design of the buildings, layout and landscaping so it was very satisfying to receive a favourable decision from council. We just have to wait a further 21 days, and provided there are no further objections, a planning permit will then be



issued."

Ms Polley confirmed the high level of community interest and support but said that council had also heard objections from nearby residents concerned about neighbourhood impact. She indicated that discussions with objectors were planned with a view to mitigating their concerns.

"This is a community project in every sense," she said. "We want to ensure, as far as possible, that all the community is behind it. It is understandable that some residents will have concerns and all of us involved with the project are very aware of community

views on development in Warrandyte."

She also acknowledged potential impacts of the current financial downturn. "The (co-op) board remains confident about the financial and market fundamentals of the project," she said, "but recognises these are subject to a number of external factors such as changes in site value, finance sourcing, rising finance charges and the real estate market generally. The board continues to closely monitor all these external pressures in light of current market

volatility."

In the wake of the council's decision, Ms Polley expressed appreciation of financial support received from various sources including an earlier grant from Manningham council, a donation from Warrandyte Lions Club and generous sponsorship from the Warrandyte Community Bank.

She mentioned individual contributions from members of the co-op board—Andrew Yen, Simon Kearney, Ivan Ful-

ton, Doug Seymour and David Ellis—as being essential in bringing the project this major step closer to realisation.

"But council approval is just one more milestone in a long process," she said. "There is still some way to go and we look forward to a few busy months ahead."

● Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Cooperative can be contacted through PO Box 467, Warrandyte 3113.

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COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Candidates speak...

Sugarloaf

By TRISTAN MADDOCKS

Rates, public transport, bike paths, the ring road extension and the Green Wedge management plan were hot topics when candidates for Nillumbik's Sugarloaf ward fronted the Warrandyte community late last month.

Three of the six candidates running in this month's council election fielded questions from locals at the Warrandyte Community Centre.

Nillumbik mayor Warwick Leeson has represented Sugarloaf ward for the past four years and said his council has been financially responsible and transparent. "Stability is what Nillumbik needs by way of government, and I can give you that stability," he said.

Liezi Shnookal has lived in the area for 30 years and is president of St Andrews Landcare. She was a founding member of Friends of Nillumbik and is a member of the Australian Greens. "I will strive to ensure that people in the outlying areas, such as North Warrandyte, get their fair share of services," she said.

Ken King runs the Kangaroo Ground post office and is chairman of the Nillumbik Tourism Association. He said he wants to see appropriate economic development in Nillumbik.

"The sort of economic development I'm talking about is family run, small scale businesses," he said.

All three candidates present were united in their opposition to a ring road extension through Warrandyte. "The idea of putting in roads to ease congestion is a little like putting holes in belts to ease obesity," Mr Leeson said.

But Ms Shnookal said more could be done to oppose the ring road. "While the current council says they oppose (the ring road extension), I don't know that there has been really strong lobbying of the state government," she said.

The candidates agreed public transport needed to be improved but differed on how it should be done.

Mr King advocated duplication of the Hurstbridge train line. "I think it's ludicrous that there is still a single (train) track from Hurstbridge to the city," he said.

Ms Shnookal said she felt very strongly that pressure must be put on the state government regarding public transport.

"It's great that the bus service (between Warrandyte and Eltham)

has been increased, but I'm worried about whether the state government has made public transport attractive to users." Mr Leeson said, "it's absolutely essential that we get better public transport out to our areas."

Mr Leeson said his council had been on target to reduce rates, and denied his council had been building a bureaucracy. "We are only putting two people per annum into fulltime positions," he said.

Mr King said he had a strong background in simplifying business structures; a background he would draw upon if elected. "I see about 200 locals each day when they come through my shop, and the biggest whinge is rates," he said.

Ms Shnookal said if elected, she would look for ways to increase the council's non-rate funding base. "I am not necessarily a great advocate of reducing rates," she said. "I am an advocate of increasing efficiency and ensuring equitable access to services."

Mr Leeson said bike paths for North Warrandyte would be on his agenda if re-elected. "We have increased our spending on bike paths but we have not been able to do everywhere at once," he said.

"North Warrandyte is very much on the radar for these things and we will get there now that we have broken the back of the infrastructure demands of the first term."

Ms Shnookal said improving options for cyclists in Warrandyte needed to be seen as a priority. "Many people want to cycle and should be (able to)," she said. "It should be encouraged." She said she would look at creating more walking paths in North Warrandyte.

All three candidates voiced their support for the Green Wedge.

"I'm really thinking about the Green Wedge and how we can use the concept of sustainability to preserve it," Mr King said.

Ms Shnookal said she would (fight) for strong and unambiguous planning laws to protect the Green Wedge and neighbourhood character, in order to provide much needed security for residents, businesses, farmers, developers and authorities."

Mr Leeson said he expected the Green Wedge management plan to be finished by December or early 2009. "I want it to be sustainable, practical, (and) workable," he said.

By KARLY HICKMAN

A number of hopeful candidates standing in the Mullum Mullum Ward of the Manningham council elections, took advantage of a forum organised by the Warrandyte Community Association late last month.

The forum, held at the Warrandyte Community Centre, gave candidates an opportunity to introduce themselves, present their priorities and respond to questions from local residents.

The dreaded ring road, water tanks, public transport, rates, Green Wedge protection, sewerage and bike paths were the hot topics on the night, with candidates reaching consensus on some issues and disagreeing on others.

Of the 12 candidates standing for Mullum Mullum ward, nine were present. WCA vice-president Jonathon Upson chaired the gathering.

Current Mullum Mullum councillor Ron Kitchingman said he was dedicated to improving public transport facilities and is "adamant that there be no intrusion into the Green Wedge".

Park Orchards resident Graeme Macmillan said that he'd like to use his strategic planning skills to "assist the council in what looks like will be difficult financial times" by reducing rates, increasing the efficiency, effectiveness and appropriateness of all council services.

Peter Podolak said he was concerned that currently, Manningham council does not approach budgets in an effective manner. He attributes this to excessive expenditure and "32 senior executives on salaries between \$100,000 and \$230,000".

Raymond Hoser spoke on protecting the Green Wedge, prohibiting any rates increase and ensuring no toll road through Warrandyte. He pledges that, should he be elected, he would be a true representative of ratepayers, rather than of the council.

Peter Halcomb said he believes we need "new solutions to today's problems and when planning for tomorrow". He is an avid supporter of effective public transport, Green Wedge protection and is actively campaigning against a toll road going through the area.

Well-known in the area through his state and federal election campaigns, David Ellis expressed his concern for the "contempt the state government has for local government". He explained that local governments are being given more responsibility and less money. He is concerned that Warrandyte is being "left out of the loop" when it comes to Manningham services.

Meg Downie hopes to "work for the whole of Mullum Mullum". She is committed to preserving the Green Wedge and will "fight tooth and nail to not allow subdivision of our beautiful acre blocks". Ms Downie is concerned that Manningham council has no water conservation policy, and that owners of new homes are

installing insufficient, or no, water tanks.

David McNiff sees Manningham as being a too "diverse council". He believes councillors should have roles much more like directors. Mr McNiff is dedicated to fairly representing the ratepayers and says "if there is a position you want me to take, I will champion it".

Paul Slattery identifies public transport as an area in need of reform, saying it needs to be "regular, seven days a week, for nine or ten hours a day". He called for immediate action on water recycling and the development of a water policy. He supports the Green Wedge and would like to see more transparency in the financial management of council.

WCA president Dick Davies began the public discussion by asking candidates whether they would return the recently diluted C60 planning amendment to its original form. This amendment allows greater opportunity to alter the historical landscape of Warrandyte.

Mr Podolak explained that while this is a state act, the council would have the opportunity to oppose it, but this would probably be later defeated at VCAT. David Ellis pointed out that this is an example of local government being at the "beck and call" of state government. Mr McNiff said we need to maintain Warrandyte's uniqueness, not just its historical side, but its way of life.

On rates, candidates were divided. Peter Halcomb, Meg Downie, Raymond Hoser and Graeme Macmillan agreed that rates were unjustifiably high. Ms Downie said she'd like to keep rate increases below CPI, while Mr Slattery said "44% of rate revenue is paid in salaries. If we can reduce staff and improve expenditure, rates can be kept down over the next 4 to 5 years".

Graeme Macmillan called for more modern financial management, with the average Manningham ratepayer paying "41% higher than Whitehorse residents and 21% higher than Maroondah residents".

However, Ron Kitchingman insisted that the rates paid by Manningham residents were comparable to like municipalities, and that the problem rests with the state government's lack of funding to local councils. David McNiff stated, "High or low rates isn't what matters, it's the value you get for your money." He believes Manningham ratepayers were not getting a fair deal.

All candidates were opposed to a freeway or toll road running through Warrandyte, with the exception of Peter Podolak, who said it was "hard to say yes or no," when there is no official route available.

As for a new freeway or toll road running through another part of Manningham, Raymond Hoser, Peter Halcomb and David Ellis were opposed. Mr Ellis said, "we need smarter solutions to travel congestion: we have to find alternatives".

Peter Podolak said there is always

a place for transport, seconded by Meg Downie who said "freeways are central to our way of life," citing the Bulleen route as being favorable for a proposed ring road link. Paul Slattery also supported the Bulleen route, saying "where new roads serve the community they're good." David McNiff said whether we like it or not, a new ring road is likely to happen; "we've got to fight for the best of the worst".

Ron Kitchingman, who is opposed to any interference with the Green Wedge, said that when it comes to new freeways, "we need to keep in mind it increased usage on joining roads." Whilst opposed to a freeway or toll road through Warrandyte, Graeme Macmillan was not opposed to such roads in other parts of Manningham.

On road congestion, Peter Halcomb said freeways are old solutions and the key is to get people committed to using public transport. This sentiment was echoed by David Ellis who said we need to become less car dependent and that bus lanes and bicycles need to be part of any transport plan.

Raymond Hoser expressed his concern for factory development in the area should new roads be developed. Ron Kitchingman opted for "traffic calming mechanisms" such as roundabouts, to slow traffic in residential areas.

David McNiff expressed his concern that, as outer suburbs continue to sprawl, "the demand on our local roads will increase". Graeme Macmillan said he sees road safety as a "behavioural problem, not just an engineering problem. I'd like to see a move towards the Danish or Swedish system where cars co-exist with people," he said.

All candidates supported an extension of the bike path from Warrandyte to Beasley's Nursery via Warrandyte High. "65% of Warrandyte High year 12 students are being driven to school every day," Mr Ellis said, in strong support of a bike path.

All candidates in attendance declared that their election bids were not funded or endorsed by any political party.

While Peter Halcomb and David Ellis have been involved with the Greens, both candidates are running as independents.

"I am not endorsed by the Greens, therefore I am not adhering to Greens policy, but I embrace their values," Mr Halcomb said. "Local governments run better without politics," Mr Ellis told the forum. Meg Downie also acknowledged she is a member of a political party, but her candidacy is not endorsed or funded by this party.

Voting is compulsory for enrolled residents under 70. Ballot papers were posted on Tuesday, November 11 and must be returned by Friday, November 28 at 6pm.

Candidates Mary Anne Gourley, Albert Mijat and Brian Jones did not attend the forum.



Rural buffer: Council candidates pledge to protect the Nillumbik-Manningham Green Wedge.

Who will you vote for? The *Diary* contacted every candidate and requested a statement of no more than 100 words. Most of them responded.

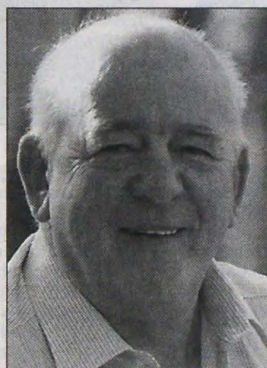
Candidates' statements...

Shire of Nillumbik: Sugarloaf Ward (One to be elected) Listed in ballot paper order



LEIZL SHNOOKAL

I've loved living in St Andrews and Kangaroo Ground for the past 30 years and belong to many community groups. I'm passionate about protecting the Green Wedge and neighbourhood character of North Warrandyte and Research. As the Sugarloaf Ward councillor I will ensure that all residents receive their fair share of services and infrastructure; fight for strong and unambiguous planning laws; ensure effective protection of indigenous vegetation and wildlife; find innovative solutions to reduce traffic congestion; oppose any ring road extension into Nillumbik; improve public transport. I am a member of the Australian Greens.



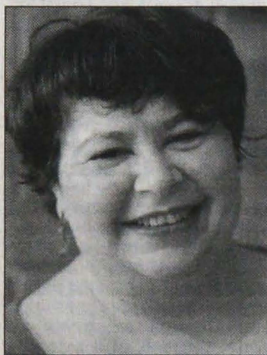
WARWICK LEESON

I am proud to have served as your local councillor for the past four years, the last two as mayor. In that time Nillumbik council has been acknowledged as having the highest quality of life in Victoria and third in Australia. We have significantly addressed the challenges of climate change. The auditor-general has declared Nillumbik financially sustainable. Stable governance is essential to the efficient ongoing delivery of services to the Nillumbik community. I am opposed to extending the ring road through Nillumbik. I seek your support to continue to enhance our environment, improve public transport and provide footpaths and bike paths to North Warrandyte and Research.



KEN KING

I'm a Nillumbik resident of 30 years, the last 20 in Kangaroo Ground. Following an engineering and corporate project management career, I am now postmaster at Kangaroo Ground. I have established a highly regarded boutique winery and sustainable, unirrigated vineyard on our rich volcanic soil. I am young at heart with six children, three still in primary school. I am community minded having served on committees such as the Eltham Copper Butterfly campaign and the Kangaroo Ground Primary School. I support the Green Wedge, appropriate economic development, farmers' market and our artisans. I oppose a freeway through Nillumbik.



ZULAL ROGERS

Eltham resident for 21 years, I have four children (4-17) and own a café in Research. There is so much we can do for all the families and wonderful young people in this area: preschool programs, effective transport, activities for our youth and increased support for sporting facilities for all. I'm on the Nillumbik Tourism Association and the Research Traders Association. I believe residents must come first, rate hikes need to be reviewed, political agendas have no place in local government. I am against a freeway link, but we need a realistic traffic management plan for the shire.

Jane Ashton and Irene Wu did not respond.

City of Manningham: Mullum Mullum Ward

(Three to be elected) Listed in ballot paper order



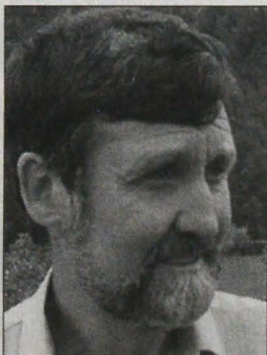
MEG DOWNIE

I live in Donvale. At this election you have the opportunity to change the direction of this council to one that consults widely, listens and acts. We no longer need a council that follows officer directions, but rather a council that sets the agenda. We need to operate budgetary constraints, address infrastructure deficiencies, reduce the rate burden and preserve the Green Wedge. Planning controls to preserve our open space and parks must be strengthened. Schemes promoting storage and reduced water consumption need consideration. I will oppose the freeway link going through Warrandyte. If elected, I will consult widely, listen intently and be your advocate.



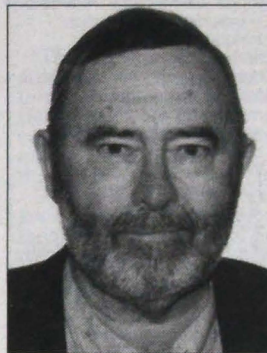
PETER PODOLAK

Resident in Donvale for 32 years, I have been involved in local issues and communities through office and membership of council committee, civic, educational and charitable organisations. I support the Green Wedge and retention of pocket parks, and oppose any freeway through Warrandyte. I will address the imbalance of "City and Country", obtain a better deal for Mullum Mullum, vigorously oppose rate increases, expand other sources of revenue (state and federal grants), expose high operating costs and wasteful practices, identify deficiencies in management performance, reduce reliance on expensive external consultants and develop genuine consultative processes. Vote (1) Peter Podolak (9879 2093).



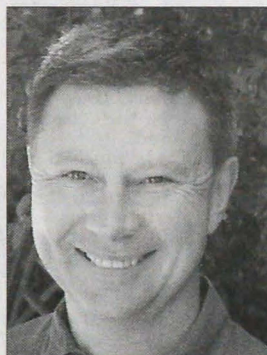
DAVID ELLIS

There's a wealth of great ideas in this community. We need them and we need people



PAUL SLATTERY

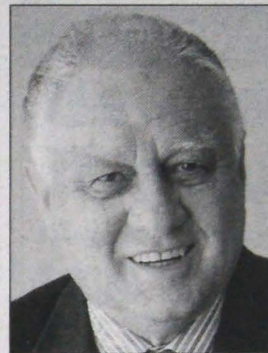
A longtime Mullum Mullum resident, with 20 years regular attendance at council meetings, ratepayers have endorsed my due diligence in getting results. I will be your voice to stop unnecessary rate increases, improve public transport, infrastructure, safety, oppose any freeway through the Green Wedge, stop the sale of pocket parks, get a fairer deal for all residents, seek transparency of council operations, salvage stormwater for residents' use, have council-funded effective ratepayer associations to promote real community involvement and consultation. Vote Paul Christopher Slattery No. 1 for Mullum Mullum and the environment. For policy details: 9812 2029, or slatteryb@optusnet.com.au.



PETER HALCOMB

New and effective ideas are needed on issues such as transport, water security, energy efficiency, the liveability of the different parts of our city. A tollway or freeway is an outdated solution and we must do better. I will work with the Executive for increased rates effectiveness and to have a model local government. I have an MBA (Monash), over 20 years of corporate experience and an owner of a human resource consulting firm advising commercial and government organisations. I'm happy to discuss local issues and how we seek to influence state issues on 0414 580 740 or phalcomb@bigpond.net.au.

prepared to turn them into action. Whether it's getting better housing options for senior Warrandytians, or mobilising community response against the prospect of a tollway/freeway (over 3,000 signatures so far) I like to work with others to make things happen. Now more than ever we need sound leadership that is responsive to local needs. This will be a close election. We need a strong result for Warrandyte: a mandate and a real voice for our community, our environment and our future.



RON KITCHINGMAN

My policy is to retain the Green Wedge and oppose any freeway through the Warrandyte and Park Orchards area. I will continue to consult with residents, listen to your requests and get results. I have served nine years as a councillor and am committed to ensure that Manningham is a great place to live. Warrandyte's environment must be maintained to suit the requirements of the local community. All development and road construction must comply with community expectations. Existing road transport services are still not adequate and must be increased. I will continue to support tourism because of its importance to Warrandyte.



BRIAN JONES

As a retired and longstanding East Doncaster resident, and an active Probud member, I believe recent world events will put increasing pressure on fellow senior citizens. Our ageing population has long been neglected and our needs must be addressed by a compassionate council. I will actively work for pedestrian lights outside all retirement villages, will strive for the protection of our flora and fauna and the Green Wedge. I oppose a freeway link through Warrandyte. If elected I will seek to improve our roads, footpaths and drainage. I seek your support to facilitate such a change.



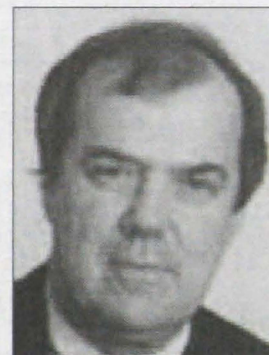
RAYMOND HOSER

(Snakeman) Aged 46, married, two children, dog, snakes, crocodiles, etc. Resident in



MARY ANNE GOURLEY

It is a fact of life that we are constantly balancing good against bad; the greatest good for the greatest number must prevail. The extension to the freeway, whilst shortening travelling distances and reducing pollution will impact on those properties on its periphery. It is important for this community to seek an alternative route that lessens the impact endemic in building a freeway. My concerns have been the inequities that exist in apportioning resources in this city. If elected I will seek to correct this imbalance with roads, drainage, transport, and the conservation of our country atmosphere being priorities.



GRAEME MACMILLAN

A Park Orchards resident, I am a chartered accountant working in international public sector financial management. Having contributed regularly to the council's policies and strategies, I want to serve our community directly in the difficult financial times ahead. I seek to eliminate proposed rate increases, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all council operations, obtain better accountability and transparency and promote meaningful community involvement in the council economic, social and environmental decision-making. I will seek a fairer deal for Mullum Mullum residents in roads, drains and footpaths, while protecting the Green Wedge.

Manningham 19 years. Owner "Snakebusters", leading reptile educators in Australia (several staff). My policies: I'll cut rates. I'll stop waste in council. Abolish ratepayer funded booze-ups and holidays and inappropriate business practices. Savings to support childcare, youth services, aged care, weed and pest removal and other community benefits. Protect Green Wedge. No tollways. I will listen to ratepayers instead of dictating to them. Further information at: <http://www.raymondhosier.com>

Albert Mijat and David McNiff did not respond.

● paintings ● drawings ● prints ● art cards

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Ona Henderson
& Syd Tunn



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P.O. Box 12
Kangaroo Ground 3097

or studio visits by
appointment
9712 0393
please ring to make a time

www.artistsopenstudios.com.au



MANNINGHAM COUNCIL COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING PROGRAM 2008/09

Does the Council reserve near you need some additional planting?

Residents, community and school groups are invited to apply for funding from Council to plant trees and shrubs in their local reserve.

An application form for the grants program may be obtained from www.manningham.vic.gov.au or by contacting Kay Toussaint of the Economic & Environmental Planning Unit on 9840 9348 or email kay.toussaint@manningham.vic.gov.au.

Applications for funding close on **Wednesday, 10 December 2008.**

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Many new and exciting artists have exhibited their work with us this year and their art and craft have added to the diversity of the Stonehouse work on display.

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dear diary

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

Tollway bad deal

I'm writing in support of the "No to a Tollway" campaign.

We seem to be oblivious to the environmental problems from encouraging more cars onto our roads, which is the inevitable outcome when more freeways and tollways are built, without starting with improvements in public transport.

Moreover, to suggest that areas of our Green Wedge are fair game for these roadways is completely counter intuitive. Our green wedges provide vital corridors for our native wildlife, a break from the monotony of brick and concrete for we humans, and help to soak up carbon dioxide.

But let's put aside the emotive and environmental issues, as if these aren't enough, and let's touch on the economic issues involved.

The plan to build additional roadways is premised on a 30% increase in road traffic over the next 10 years with fuel at around 75 cents a litre, a price we'll never see again. At \$3, \$4, \$5 or up to \$8 a litre, it is more realistic to expect fewer cars on the road, not more. Except, of course, if we continue to pursue a Melbourne of six to eight million people.

Is this what we all want? Let's get real and do things that reduce the number of cars on our roads and leave our green wedges alone.

Peter Halcomb
Lower Templestowe

Marnie is still going strong



Marnie Horkings

In recent weeks I have been asked tentatively by several people, "Has your little mum gone?" Yes, she has gone, but only as far as Ringwood. Marnie Horkings is now living at Blue Willows Residential Care, Ringwood.

In July, Marnie had a fall at home and cracked three ribs, which put her in hospital for a week. After that she needed convalescent care and Blue Willows was recommended and chosen for a short stay. It didn't take long for Marnie to suggest to her family that she would be happy to stay there permanently.

She is so happy with her accommodation and carers, and has made friends easily, taking part in all their activities. The purple raincoat still gets an airing when she walks in the garden on a cool day.

Marnie celebrated her 97th birthday in September, and is still knitting Teddies for the Red Cross (700 Teddies in four years!).

Marnie lived in Warrandyte, next door to daughter Leonie and son-in-law Peter, for 55 years.

Leonie Horne
Mitchell Avenue

East End feeling the pinch



"I shop locally and whinge globally, Ock!"

It has been four weeks—at the time I wrote this letter—since the Post Office moved to their new abode. We wish Don and his team all the very best. But the main purpose in writing this letter is to send out a message to all of the "locals" in Warrandyte that some of your local businesses have been directly and almost instantly affected by this relocation.

If Warrandyte wants to keep its local shops, save petrol and support their local community through some very tough times, we need your valued patronage *all year round*. Obviously we are referring to the east end of the village where sometimes the misconception is that the tourists are our "bread and butter". This,

unfortunately for some of us, is not the case. We at this end of town need our lovely locals for regular patronage.

We have exciting plans for the coming New Year, but if the Christmas season fails to produce, these plans may not get off the drawing board.

Warrandyte is a beautiful area and we all need to support our local community so that the people who do visit (and yes, we do need them to visit) will want to come back and also spread the word about this fantastic township. It really does have lots to offer.

Jan O'Neill
Delicious Drop
Yarra Street

Our township is worth fighting for

I have lived in North Warrandyte for more than 40 years and I cannot begin to tell you how wonderful is the ambience of Warrandyte—north and south.

In fact I think we all owe so much to Rupert Hamer for his Green Wedge concept.

If I view the township in and around Warrandyte, and compare it with almost every

other suburb of Melbourne I have been to, I think it is totally different; so unimaginably beautiful because it still retains its rural ambience. This is because it has not been developed.

Development of the bush and rural land must turn it into just one more typical suburb.

So often we think of the built

environment giving us all the amenities that we don't have in the Green Wedge, but some built environments of Melbourne have very poor public transport, no cycle tracks, and although the streets are wide, there is still a traffic problem at peak hour.

So I wonder should we consider destroying the township of Warrandyte for the sake of

traffic flow, which will quickly become like it was; perhaps even worse.

How many times do we have to say, this is one of Melbourne's greatest assets and so unimaginably beautiful and we don't need it developed out of existence.

Ron Bence
Hawkes Road

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



Wildfire risk very real

Experts are predicting that this summer could prove to be one of the worst fire seasons on record. The bush is bone dry and ready for burning.

Warrandyte, its state park and forested hills and its interface with residential pockets all pose special risks.

Yarra Area CFA operations manager Graeme Armstrong said that people need to ask one question, "If you and your family fail to prepare for bushfire this year, if a bushfire does occur near your home what will you be doing the day after?"

People who live in areas that might be affected by bushfire need to make sure their preparations are well under way.

"Waiting until the fire danger period is declared is really leaving it too late to prepare," Mr Armstrong said. "Now is the best time to get into your fire preparation works."

As to the date when the fire danger period is declared, "it's a day-to-day assessment; I am in constant contact with brigades, groups and the DSE monitoring conditions in both the grasslands and bushland. Further to the north and west conditions are slightly different to what we are seeing in Region 13 and that is why our date of declaration may be slightly different."

"We will give as much warning as to the date of declaration as possible but people should understand that the fire danger period will be declared some time soon, so it is vital that they start their preparations now—if they haven't already."

It's important everybody understands and abides by the local burning-off regulations. "In many cases there really is no need to burn off, removal of green waste to collection

centres or, better still, mulching and recycling of green waste through composts is a simple and cheap alternative," he said.

So what can people do to prepare for summer?

"Firstly accept that every year we will have fires, mostly these are small and are controlled quickly, but occasionally we will have a mix of conditions on a day when a fire occurs that makes controlling them very difficult."

"If we accept that we will have fires we then need to understand that even small fires can impact directly on you, if it starts close to your property you may even be the one to call 000 or in the case of larger fires it may simply be that there are not enough resources for us to be everywhere and this is why we say everybody needs to be well prepared," Mr Armstrong said.

"There are many considerations. What type of vegetation surrounds your home? How well is the house constructed? Is the right fire fighting equipment available? Is the house correctly insured?"

"Preparing yourself and your home for bushfire takes thought. Clearing gutters and mowing long grass will help, but successfully defending your house takes effort and a good plan of attack. A task list of all your preparation activities that you can tick off when they are done is a good place to start and will help keep you on track for your preparations," he said.

CFA is conducting a number of bushfire awareness sessions throughout the local area to help residents prepare this summer. Come to one of these free sessions and learn how to prepare your family for bushfire this year.

Be prepared this summer

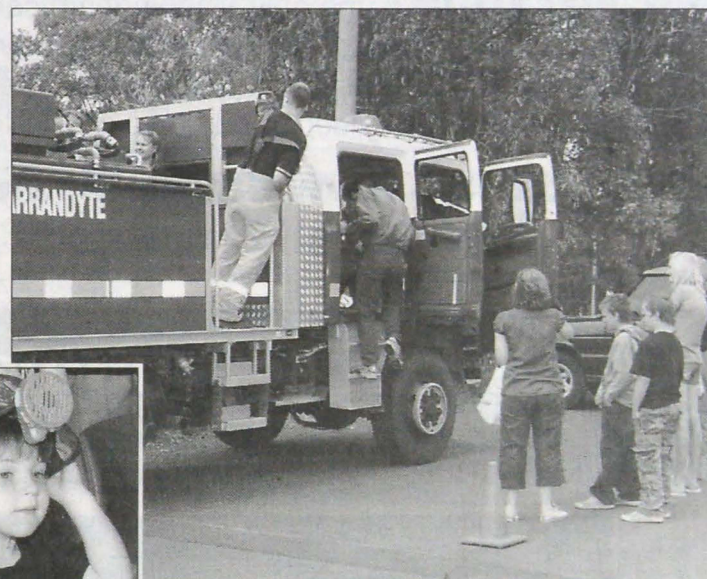
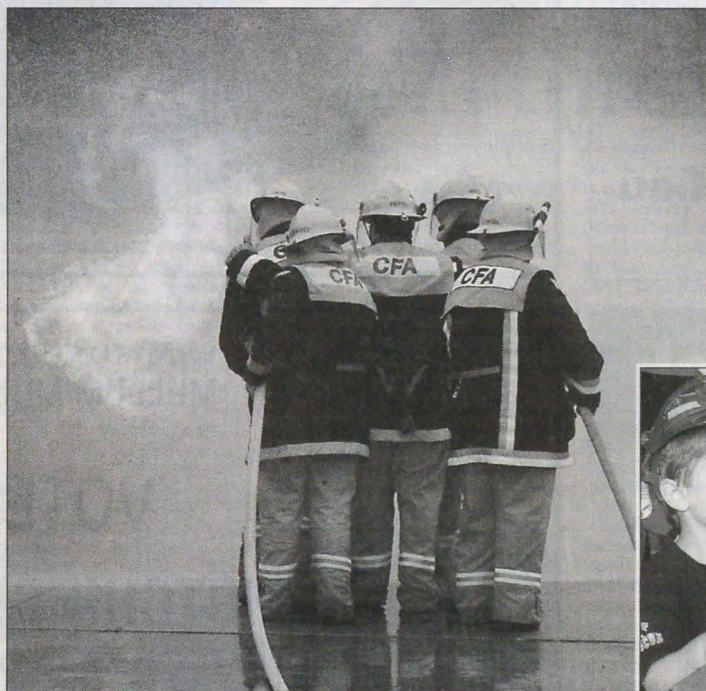
Fire Ready Victoria meetings will be held at—

- South Warrandyte Fire Station, Brumbys Lane Sunday, November 23, 2008 at 2pm
- Warrandyte Fire Station, Harris Gully Road Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at 7.30pm
- North Warrandyte Fire Station, Glynn's Road Saturday, November 29, 2008 at 2pm
- North Warrandyte Community Centre, Research-Warrandyte Road Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7.30pm
- North Warrandyte Community Centre, Research-Warrandyte Road Sunday, February 1, 2009 at 2pm.

Prevention is the best bushfire protection

- Reduce fuel around the home—long grass, leaves and twigs should be removed.
- Make sure under the home is clear of combustible material.
- Move firewood away from the walls of your home.
- Cover vents and crevices with fine wire to prevent sparks and embers entering.
- Gutters should be cleaned.
- Ensure access to adequate static water supplies.
- Check and have your firefighting equipment serviced.
- Most importantly—make sure you have a practical bushfire plan in place. Decide whether you will stay and protect or leave early. Consider who will be home and when. More than one plan may be needed to cover different scenarios.
- For further fire information updates, residents are urged to tune in to local radio, especially ABC Radio 774, the emergency services broadcaster, or call the Victorian bushfire information line on 1800 240 667.
- Anyone interested in joining the CFA as a volunteer can contact the volunteer hotline on 1800 232 636.

Open house out South



Heroes all: South Warrandyte CFA demonstrate their firefighting fitness. (Pictures by Sandy Burgoyne)

By SANDY BURGOPYNE

The South Warrandyte fire brigade held its first open day for residents last month.

"The idea was to raise the brigade profile within the community itself," Tom Goldstraw, brigade first lieutenant told the *Diary*.

"It's important for us to educate (the residents) not only that their local fire service is a volunteer service and that they can put into their community through the fire service, but also fire education as well."

Many families attended the fire station on the day. The brigade put on firefighting displays, showed visitors over the fire trucks and advised householders on fire safety in and around the house.

Local resident Tim Butterfield believes the South Warrandyte brigade has raised community awareness of the need for planning in the fire season.

"I know from living here that...in

the last four or five years (the CFA) has really increased the awareness of the fire plan.

"So I think most people living out here are very aware of what they have got to do if there is a bushfire in the area," he said.

Inspection of the fire trucks was a big hit with the kids, as were the firefighter badges they could colour in and wear. Open day visitor William Butterfield is a fire brigade enthusiast and already has his own firefighter hat. South Warrandyte brigade is looking for new members, but at four years, William is a little young to volunteer.

"We like to think we are a family brigade and that people can prioritise—you give the fire brigade the time that you can afford," Lieutenant Tom Goldstraw said.

"There are two roles—we need people to get on the truck and we need people to help organise days like today and to go to the schools and to do education," he said.

In common with other local fire brigades South Warrandyte regularly loses young members once they have finished their studies and leave home.

"While they were at uni and school they were volunteers, but when they went out and got a job and went to buy a house they moved out of the area."

"To buy your first house in the area of Warranwood, South Warrandyte and Croydon Hills it's almost impossible. The price of housing around here is so expensive," Tom Goldstraw told the *Diary*.

By the end of the open day several residents had expressed interest in volunteering to serve with South Warrandyte.

The brigade is also keen to educate local residents on the importance of obtaining a council permit before burning off.

"At this time of year we have a lot of problems with illegal burn-offs and burn-offs out of control. The big thing

is people aren't aware of the dangers associated with burning off.

"Last year we lost half a dozen sheds in the area and we also lost a stable—thousands of dollars of property damage—because people had either not burnt off on the correct day and the fire had escaped, or they didn't extinguish it overnight and the fire has flared up again and trickled off into the grass and into the shed," Tom Goldstraw said.

"People are trying to do the right thing by clearing their block, but just going about it the wrong way. They just need to make sure they have a permit and adhere to the conditions on the permit. Not burning overnight and making sure the size of the fire is controllable, that they have water there and that they don't burn off on an inappropriate day."

● For further information about South Warrandyte CFA brigade phone 9844 2861.



FIRE NUMBERS

FIRE AND EMERGENCY: 000

CFA Regional Headquarters
8739 1300

Warrandyte CFA
9844 3375

North Warrandyte CFA
9844 0847

South Warrandyte CFA
9844 2861

Wonga Park CFA
9722 1463

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE: 1800 240 667





David Ellis is the only Manningham candidate who *lives in Warrandyte*. He knows Warrandyte — **We know David**. He has the understanding, the energy and the ability that we need in our local councillor.

9844 5135 www.davidellis.net.au

Authorised by D. Ellis, Tills Drive, Warrandyte

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PAUL J. GILLING
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Warrandyte Physiotherapy Centre
2 Trezise Street, Warrandyte **9844 1566**

Member of Manipulative Physiotherapists Association of Australia

Vote 1 **Liezl Shnookal**
Candidate for the Sugarloaf Ward

November 2008 Nillumbik Shire Council Election



I am passionately committed to getting great outcomes for the Green Wedge and North Warrandyte's residents.



I believe in political transparency and therefore declare that I am a member of the Australian Greens.

Authorised by Betty Russell, 41 Koornong Cres, North Warrandyte



MANNINGHAM CITY COUNCIL ELECTION
MULLUM MULLUM WARD

VOTE 1

KITCHINGMAN Ron

An experienced Councillor for 9 years (Mayor 2006/07)

ACTIVE COUNCILLOR

Currently a member of many committees including Transport, Water, Waste Management, Tourism, Audit Committee and Library Board.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Has successfully lobbied for:

- improved bus services
- controlled lights at Warrandyte High School
- road construction and drainage throughout Warrandyte including Yarra Street
- roundabouts for road safety
- improved and additional library services
- implementation of the river reserve management plan
- approval of the final stage of planning for the Mullum Mullum Linear Park

SUPPORTED many local groups with funding:

- Warrandyte CFA
- Warrandyte Football Club
- Warrandyte Festival Committee
- Rotary Club of Warrandyte
- Warrandyte Community Association
- Warrandyte Primary School

POLICIES include:

- improved public transport services
- sewerage connection
- retention of the Green Wedge (no reduction)
- provision of sporting and recreational facilities for residents of all ages
- responsible financial control so as to minimise rates
- additional facilities to support older people and people with disabilities
- support for local shopping precincts and tourism

FOR RELIABLE REPRESENTATION VOTE **1** **KITCHINGMAN Ron**

Authorised by R. Kitchingman, 12 Boronia Grove, East Doncaster

New river access plan

By **TRISTAN MADDOCKS**

A landscaped path and steps, linking the Diary Tree car park in Yarra Street with the riverbank below, is to be built by Manningham council.

The project, first floated by local landscape designer Bev Hanson in 2003, is being designed by the council's landscape architect with input from Ms Hanson.

A council spokesperson told the *Diary* that the intention of the pathway was to improve pedestrian access between Yarra Street and the River Reserve, in particular to the grassed area below the car park.

"The proposed works comprise a short section of boardwalk adjacent to the car park to improve pedestrian access to the Yarra Street pedestrian crossing, in-ground steps down the bank below the car park, a picnic table and landscaping," the spokesperson said.

"The style of the boardwalk and steps will be the same as those adjacent to the Landfield Real Estate office."

Ms Hanson said the project was about making the riverbank more accessible to more people. "If you're down on the riverbank you see these

people scrambling up or sliding down on their bottoms," she said.

"It's just (about) access to the riverbank at that point. There's parking and roadway up there, and riverbank down there, and no foot access to it without great difficulty."

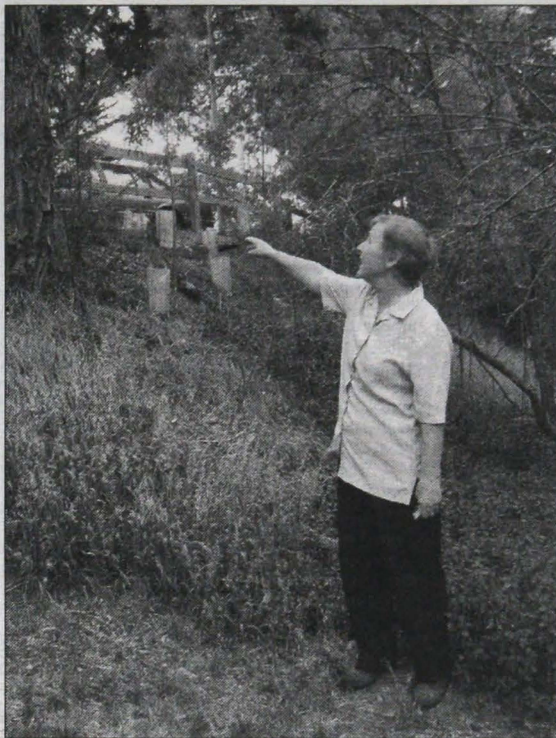
Both Ms Hanson and Manningham council acknowledged the new pathway would be of benefit to the annual Warrandyte Pottery Expo, which is held on the grassy area below the car park each February.

Ms Hanson said she wanted the finished project to fit the character of Warrandyte and was negotiating with council for the pathway to have a "rustic look".

"I've had several meetings with (the landscape architect) and we'll come up with something that is hopefully in keeping with Warrandyte."

"The area we are proposing to put in the steps is through a very weedy area, (and) those weeds would be removed and replaced by indigenous plants," Ms Hanson said.

Council has lodged a planning permit application for the works, but the timing of the project has yet to be determined.



Bev points the way: site of the planned landscaped steps. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

BUGs on bikes win through

A proposal for a bike track connecting the Warrandyte township to the Main Yarra Trail network at Beasley's nursery has gained momentum over the past couple of months.

Following a request from the Warrandyte Community Association (WCA) in June this year, members of the Warrandyte Wednesday bike group BUG (Bicycle User

Group) put forward a detailed proposal.

The group recognised the historical and terrain difficulties that prevent the Main Yarra Trail being extended to Warrandyte along the river route as originally proposed. To overcome these problems an alternative route which substantially uses the road reserve along the main Warrandyte/Heidelberg road to

the Warrandyte township was investigated.

Members of the group walked the length of the proposed extension, taking photos and detailing options. The proposed route has a major advantage of connecting the Warrandyte High School to the township.

"This could mean more students riding to school with benefits in reduced car use,

and health benefits. It is anticipated this would be a shared track benefiting both cyclists and walkers," a WCA spokesperson told the *Diary*.

WCA submitted the proposal to Manningham council who have since been in consultation with Parks Victoria.

Recently a discussion and inspection were held on-site between an engineer and planners from Manningham council and Parks Victoria's recreation planner from the Metropolitan Trail Network and the strategic planner from the Melbourne Northern District.

The feedback from this meeting was that the proposal has merit. However, before any final decision can be made, consultation with VicRoads, as well as engineering, environmental and heritage assessments are required.

Once a decision is made to proceed, budget allocations would need to be made by both Manningham council and Parks Victoria and there would be consultation with the local community.

The Wednesday bike group is delighted with the progress of the proposal.

"This would complete an initiative that has been on the government's drawing boards since the 1980s, much debated and never finalised," a BUG spokesperson said.

"This would enable local and other cyclists to ride from Warrandyte to the city and other destinations, on a safe, world-class trail network."



On their bikes: (from left) Paul Gleeson, Austin Polley and Ed Fall on the site of the proposed trail. (Picture by Bernie Goggin)

Eltham scores new library Council aid for Landcare

Eltham Library is to be extended and improved, using a \$500,000 grant from the state government, matched by a similar amount from Nillumbik council.

The redevelopment will include a larger children's library, with outdoor space for storytelling and interactive learning; additional technology space so double the number of computers can be accommodated; a new reading lounge; a greatly expanded local history area; and more space for the teenage area, with flat screens, games and other equipment.

The award-winning library opened in May, 1994, with integrated functions including library, community meeting space, exhibition gallery and café.

"The library already has a vital role in the community," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*. "The additional space and facilities for young children, teenagers and people without access to online resources and computers will greatly enhance this role."

Manningham council offers financial and logistical support to many residents and groups who generously give their time to maintain local waterways and bushland.

Among these are two Landcare groups in the Warrandyte/Wonga Park area—the Jumping Creek Landcare Group and the Andersons Creek Landcare Group.

"The area has many hard-working volunteers who give their time and effort keeping the local environment healthy and thriving," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*. "They work together in a coordinated effort to protect and enhance the environment on both public and private land."

This effort was recently recognised when Manningham won the Local Government Caring for Land category at the 2008 Port Phillip and Westernport Landcare Awards.

● If you are interested in becoming involved and joining a Landcare group, or finding out more about the various local environmental volunteer programs, call council on 9840 9333.

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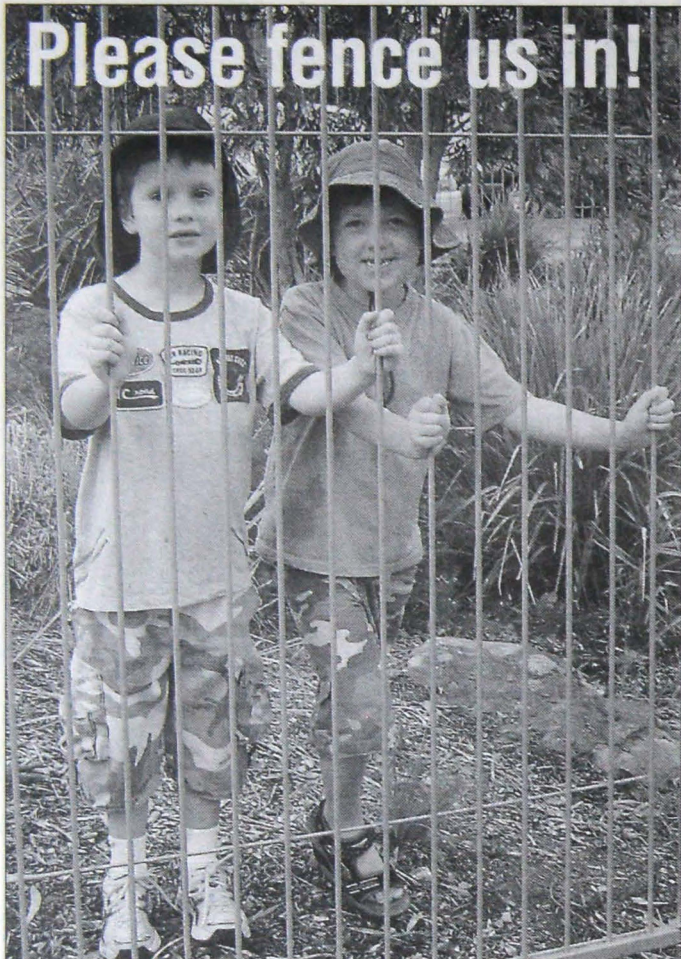
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Warrandyte pre-school kids demonstrate the effectiveness of their new fence. (Picture by Jan Tindale)

The kids at Warrandyte Pre-school are safer since a new fence was erected. The safety fence, designed to stop children running from the kinder entrance, up and onto the adjacent car park, cost \$5500. The kinder parents raised \$1500 and council paid the rest. An application to the department of education for government funding for the fence failed last year. "This fencing now protects kinder children and toddlers from entering an unsafe car park," parent Nyree Taylor told the *Diary*. "The kinder committee has been working with council to have the fencing installed since February."

New water tank for North CFA

North Warrandyte CFA brigade has received 12,000 litres of water to help fill its new water tank, situated on Chase Road.

The 130,000 litre concrete tank was jointly funded by the Nillumbik council and the state government.

Chase Road can be accessed from Research Road, via Stony Creek Road, and from Kangaroo Ground Road via Floods Road.

The tank cost \$27,743, with \$15,868 contributed by Nillumbik council and \$11,866 from the government.

Nillumbik mayor, Cr Warwick Leeson, said the new water tank provides a reliable water source for the brigade in North Warrandyte, "providing reassurance for residents leading up to this year's fire season".

Rohan Thornton, captain of the North Warrandyte brigade, told the *Diary*, "The new water tank will shorten tanker turnaround times and increase the amount of time firefighters can spend at each fire scene."

Warrandyte High girls aid disadvantaged kids



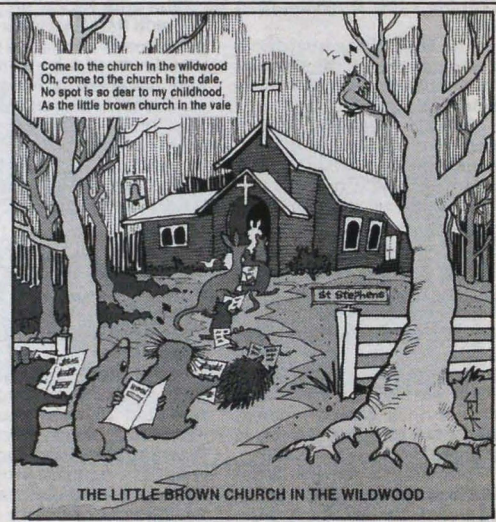
A number of girls from Warrandyte High School recently participated as leaders at a five-day camp for disadvantaged children at the Lions Wilderness Village at Licola in Gippsland. They received Lions International Leadership Awards for their services. Pictured with camp organiser Helen Campbell are (from left) Kara Lucas, Lauren Tomkins, Michelle Tomkins and Anastasia Plishchka.

Diary takes news award



The *Diary* has received recognition for best hard news reporting in the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria annual awards. The award was for our reporting of the crisis facing St Stephens Anglican Church in Warrandyte. Our coverage included front-page news stories, cartoons, photographs, historical background and regular updates across several months. Lead reporter on this assignment has been Karly Hickman. The CNAV awards were launched in 2006. We won best layout in 2007 and best historical article in 2006.

Jock's take on St Stephen's crisis



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Council is providing TWO FREE garden green waste drop off periods

The first drop off period will be **Friday 28, Saturday 29, Sunday 30 November and Monday 1 December 2008**. This will provide an opportunity to clean up for the fire season period.

The second drop off days will be **Friday 16, Saturday 17, Sunday 18 and Monday 19 January 2009**. (What a great way to get rid of your Christmas trees!)

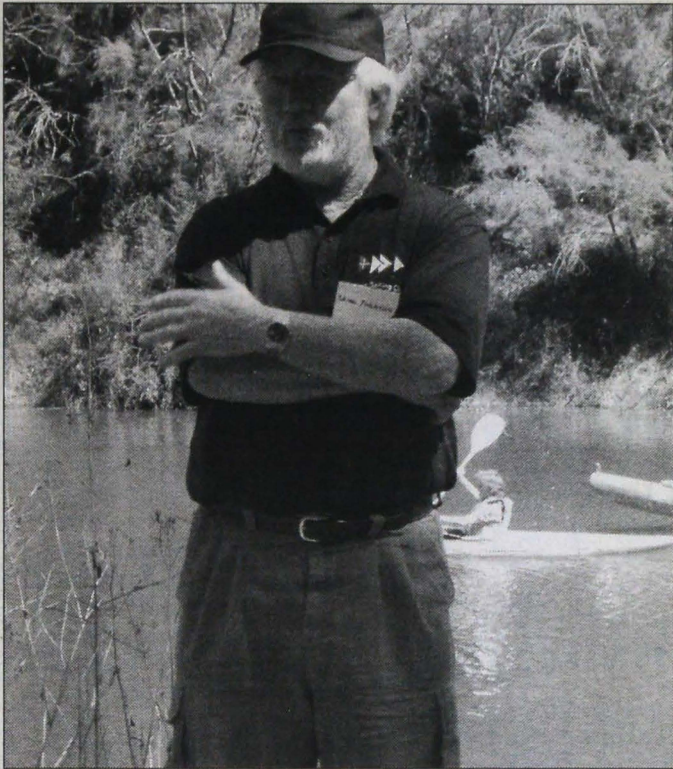
Drop offs can be made between 8am - 4pm on these days at the Recycling & Recovery Centre, 290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty.

Only tree prunings, garden clippings and leaf litter will be accepted. Charges will apply for all other materials including mixed loads. Residents will need to show either a rates notice or their driver's licence as proof of residency within the Shire. Please note green food waste will not be accepted.

For further information check Council's website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au, your local newspaper, roadside signage or call Council on 9433 3555.

www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
9433 3111





Dr Brian Finlayson of WaterLinks helped launch the project. (Picture by Jeremy Loftus-Hills)

Expert aid for water activists

A two-way service linking water experts with community members and groups concerned about protecting local waterways was launched at Jumping Creek Reserve in Warrandyte last month.

Called WaterLinks, the program is a joint initiative of Waterkeepers Australia and Environment Victoria.

"Waterlinks will provide a two-way flow of information between the community and specialists to help make a positive difference to the health of our state's great rivers, creeks, lakes, wetlands and bays," Leone Duncan of Environment Victoria told the *Diary*.

Technical experts from such areas as ecology, conservation biology, water management, law and media will be available.

"Experts will be able to assist community members increase their effectiveness in protecting and conserving our precious waterways," Ms Duncan said. "What's more, through contact with the community, the ex-

perts will have increased access to local knowledge and on-the-ground experiences to help inform their work and provide case studies."

Dr Brian Finlayson, a WaterLinks member, was guest speaker when the project was launched at Jumping Creek Reserve as part of the Yarra Riverkeepers' Yarra Yabber Tour.

"A lot of the environmental activist movement is driven by people with passion and care for place," Riverkeeper and local resident Ian Penrose said.

"But in today's world, to speak up about the environment you have to have a strong scientific basis and an understanding of the legal process. That's where the battles are now fought."

"Groups need to lean on the scientists, lawyers and other experts. WaterLinks is proving that linkage."

● For more information on the WaterLinks program visit www.envict.org.au.

Committee planning a great village festival

By JOANNE GREEN

The Warrandyte Festival Committee is preparing for next year's "Lovin' Livin' Local" themed festival to be held on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March.

Many of the old favourites, such as the duck race and billycart derby will return in 2009. There are also plans for many new events and attractions.

The committee will be experimenting with a smoking ban at next year's events. The ban will be around the stage areas, where many children and adults gather. The ban will be in force for the entire weekend, and is aimed at providing a healthier and safer environment for festival patrons, free from smoke and hot cigarette butts, that are a potential fire hazard.

They are also planning to provide shade over the lower, portable stage area and the traditional hay bales

will be replaced by seating. The upper stage on Stiggants Reserve is being upgraded by council, hopefully in time for the 2009 the festival.

There are plans for the Sunday night show to include light projections over the stage. The projections, run by Hugh McSpedden, could include images of past festivals, stills from the 2009 festival and live shots of performers. These images would be displayed on three circular screens above the stage.

The committee is holding talks with local climate change group, WarrandyteCAN. They are exploring the idea of staging a sustainability expo in the Warrandyte Community Centre on festival weekend. It is hoped that the two events combined will draw more visitors to Warrandyte that weekend.

There are new ideas for festival advertising, with plans to run a competition, urging Warrandyte



residents to paint a sheet for the festival and display it in their front garden during the month leading up to the festival.

Manningham council has pledged around \$24,000 for the 2009 festival. This has been increased from the \$16,000 granted in previous years. Bendigo Bank has also offered a donation to the committee.

Even though the festival is still five months away, the committee's plans look set to make the 2009 Warrandyte Festival a community and family oriented event with something for everyone.

● The committee is still looking for new volunteers to help with planning and managing the stage for the festival weekend. Anyone interested can phone John Boyle on 9844 3120 (home) or 9874 2266 (work).

New minister at Uniting Church



Welcome to Warrandyte: (from left) daughter Hannah Dungan, Rev Lynette and husband Rod.

Warrandyte Uniting Church has a new minister. She is Rev Lynette Dungan.

This follows the resignation of Rev Ros McDonald in August 2007. Ros moved on to Mernda, near Whittlesea, after eight years at Warrandyte.

Rev Lynette Dungan was ordained 13 years ago and has served with parishes in Essendon and Glen Waverley. She is a certified

spiritual director and has worked "in both the parish context and the wider ecumenical contexts."

"I am really looking forward to engaging with the missions of peace with God, with others, and with the earth, which is the mission of the Warrandyte congregation," she told the *Diary*.

Rev Dungan is married, with two adult daughters.

"My husband Rod is a chaplain at

Brentwood Secondary College and a director and trainer of Thriving Youth Australia, promoting healthy communities and asset building for young people.

"I love the area and the creatures that are dropping in to say hello in our new home," she said.

Rev Dungan describes herself as a "perpetual student, currently finishing a Master of Theology thesis by research".

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Local traders will be opening their doors later on Thursdays 4, 11 & 18 December.

Look out for "specials" on these evenings.

Details of the Warrandyte Colouring Competition will be available at all local schools.

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We all relayed for life

The Cancer Council's Relay for Life came to the Warrandyte Recreation Reserve this month as locals turned out to raise money and honour victims of cancer.

Survivors and their carers led the continuous relay as teams of walkers and runners began circling the oval. Candles were lit in honour of loved ones claimed by cancer.

Local performers entertained the crowd and the stalwarts walked and ran through the night and into the morning. The event raised in excess of \$11,700.

STEPHEN REYNOLDS was there and took these pictures.



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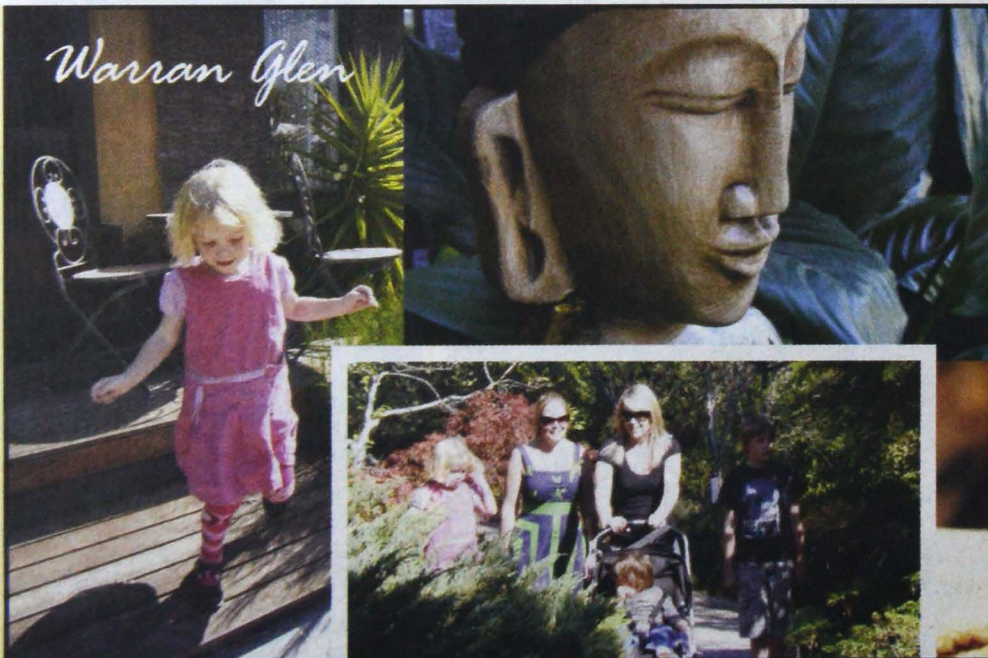
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Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays

'Anyone for Tennis?' - An Open Day Invitation

Warrandyte residents are warmly invited to join the Lions Club for a free hit of tennis and barbecue between 12 noon and 2 p.m. on Saturday, 29 November to celebrate 100 years of tennis at the bridge. Free tennis 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Bookings essential phone Landfield Real Estate on 9844 3085. BYO refreshments.

www.lionsclubwarrandyte.org.au



WARRANDYTE

Kick Back and Relax

A warm and inviting 5-bedroom home set amid tranquil native gardens on a 785sqm (approx) property that borders acreage. Superb mountain views from a timber deck amid the trees, solid timber kitchen with Westinghouse appliances, formal lounge, meals area, open study, upstairs TV sitting room and 3 bathrooms. Plus split system unit, double tandem carport, underground storage cellar with space for potential office or rumpus.

PRICE: \$450,000 plus



Romantic Bluestone

A unique tri-level bluestone set on approx 1/4 acre of natural landscaping with two verandahs to immerse you in Mother Nature's tranquility. Rustic charm with leadlight, slate floors, exposed beams and timber kitchen with sturdy St George oven and Bosch dishwasher. Two living areas, the family room with a Heartcharm woodheater and a step-down lounge with bluestone open fireplace. Plus 3 robed bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, split system heating/cooling, full working shed/garage, plus room for a caravan, trailer or boat.

PRICE: \$460,000 plus



WARRANDYTE NORTH

WARRANDYTE NORTH

A New Adventure Begins

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

PRICE: \$760,000 plus



Brand New Delight

A beautifully crafted architectural contemporary design, encompassing the excellent north orientation of the site. The interior of the kitchen, living and dining, flows directly through to the exterior to allow for informal relaxed entertaining. This project marries cleverly with its surrounds, emphasising the rich natural textures of the bush 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

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: \$880,000 plus



Wake Up With a Smile

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

PRICE: \$590,000 plus



WARRANDYTE NORTH

WARRANDYTE NORTH

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.

PRICE: \$490,000 plus



Where the Grass is Greener

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

PRICE: \$1.6 million plus



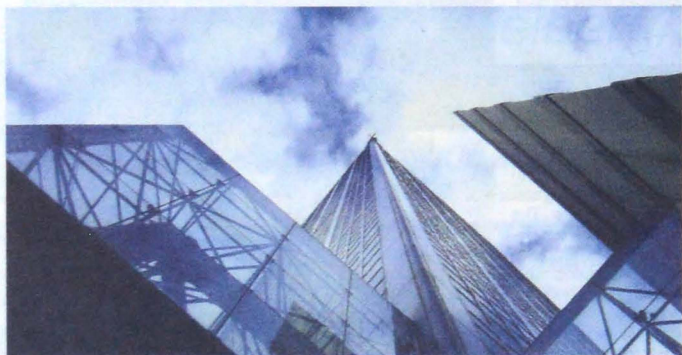
WONGA PARK

Art at the high school

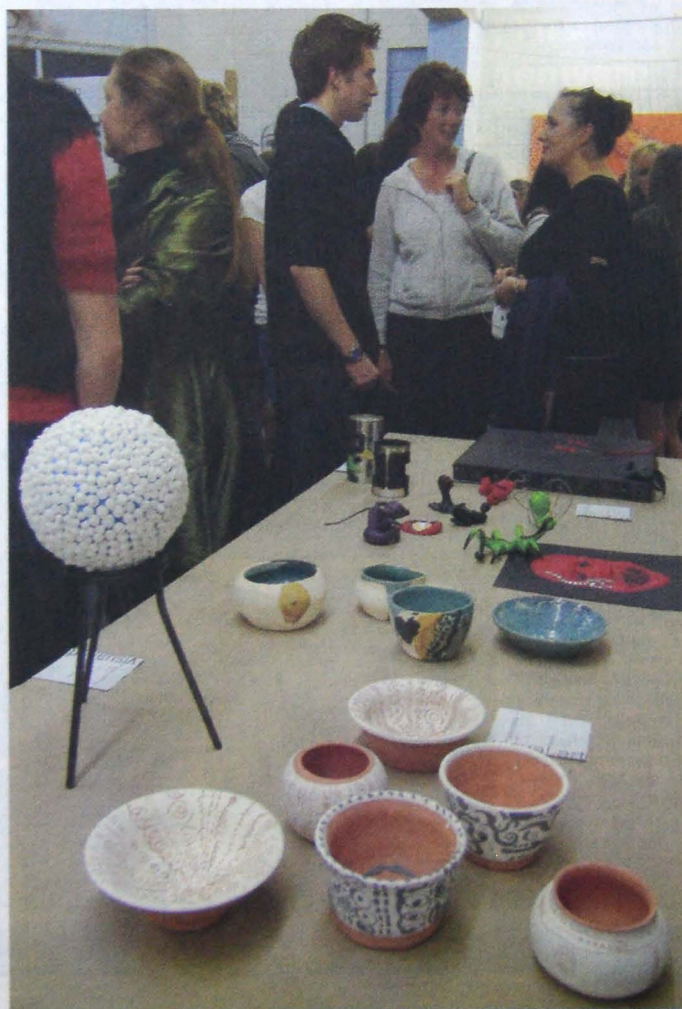
Art students at Warrandyte High School once more exhibited their work in an "inspirational" end-of-year exhibition, held at the school earlier this month.

"Students took a journey through the creative process, generated ideas and created final art works," teacher Anita Petrik said.

"They produced installations, beautiful digital images, black and white photography, animation, movies, sculptures from plasticine, jewellery, lamps, ceramic planters, tables and dresses made from paper, whilst other students refined a medley of images, drawings and paintings of realism."



Pictures by **STEPHEN REYNOLDS**





Carols by Candlelight

Saturday December 13
at 7.30pm

Stiggants Reserve

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South West England



I have recently returned from touring south west England where much has changed since I immigrated to Australia. At London Heathrow I was greeted with quite stringent airport procedures.

Immigration for foreign passport holders took at least an hour, while the British passport holders entered within 15 minutes. Terminal 3 seems to have outgrown its early teething problems. It is very busy but has good signage to direct you to taxi or trains or coaches. It takes about 30 mins to walk to the central train and coach station.

For the Fly Drive holiday makers, the roads into and out of Heathrow are well signed. Petrol in the UK is equivalent to \$2.50 a litre. Many British cars are small and run well on a small amount of petrol. The smallest cars would be suitable for just 2 people, including 2 suitcases and 2 pieces of hand baggage.

I was visiting the counties of Somerset, Devon and Cornwall—my original home. They are only 3 hours by coach or car south and west of London. It is mostly rural, with a pretty countryside and spectacularly rugged coasts. Restaurants and

Bed and Breakfasts abound in this area and are very good value—costing less than in Australia. The pub culture for meals sees a lot of competition and prices are remarkably low for very good basic English meals.

The roads are narrow and winding and travelling between villages can seem quite slow. Although travelling on the motorways is much faster you would miss the magic of all the incredible villages—the highlight of the area.

Warrandyte Travel now have most of the 2009 Early Bird Air Fare offers available and significant discounts for early booking and payment on coach tours with Insight, Globus and Trafalgar and car hire. Please drop by our office for your brochure, or ring for an appointment to start planning your 2009 holiday.

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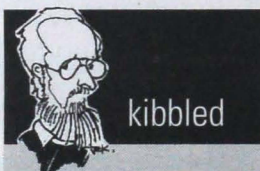


He was as big a fraud as the Millennium Bug

“I’m mostly a law-abiding citizen so it should come as no surprise that I was offended when my computer informed me no, chastised me that I had performed an illegal operation and therefore my computer was to be closed down. There was no chance to put my side of the case. No opportunity to chew the fat about what I should or could have done to avert what can only be described as a high-handed approach by the law that is IT.”

Now it’s not the first time that I’ve had a run in with my PC programmers. I am glad to hear, however, that I’m not the only user to be offended when my program decides that my formatting of a document is inadequate and just decides to override my decisions.

Why does it assume that if I use the number one that the next time I press “enter”, I’ll want number two? Fair enough, the mini monks who live in the machine and rapidly write what you ask onto the screen may argue that if I didn’t want to have a sequence of points then I should not have used number one in the first place. There’s logic to that but what about artistic licence? Surely it is acceptable nowadays for some degree of poetic licence when writing. Just think what the modern computer program would have done with Laurence Sterne when he was writing Tristram Shandy.



“I have a grudging admiration for those people who spend their time polishing their glass bottle bottom glasses and spilling coffee over their fawn cardigans...”

Sterne wrote his weird novel in the mid-1700s and despite being so long ago, it is remarkably “modern” in that it contravenes all the assumed conventions of story telling. To read it, you have to be prepared to accept chapters beginning with two lines of asterisks, blank pages, squiggly lines illustrating the progress of his storyline and punctuation that would send the mini monks into self-flagellation.

Now a word program is not designed to expect this sort of thing so it immediately assumes that the typist is at fault. Now sometimes that

is true, especially with spelling, but is it really possible to design a program that can be everything to everybody. Obviously not, so it has to take the “normal” path which is why I am informed, regularly, that I have committed stylistic mistakes. It’s at this stage, therefore, that I should concede that any stylistic, grammatical or logical errors in my articles are mine and not those of one of the richest men in the world.

Actually, I have a grudging admiration for those people who spend their time polishing their glass bottle bottom glasses and spilling coffee over their fawn cardigans as they design clever sequences of numbers and letters so our computers can tell us that because we haven’t read the hundreds of pages of gobble-dyook called a “manual” that they have lost patience and have taken their algorithm under their arm and have headed off home in a huff.

If I sound a bit jaundiced, it’s probably because of the past. Herself was courted by such a creature. He was wild, windswept and devilishly attractive. Not at all the typical nerd of Hollywood flicks. He was a bit of a threat, however. He not only had the smarts when it came to computers but he also had a rogue gene that urged him to court women as they are wont to be courted. Unprompted, he would present flowers! He rang, “Just to hear your voice.” He called in unannounced, presenting

a little something he thought would appeal. He suggested where they might go for the afternoon, loved picnics and noticed any slight change of clothes or hair style. In all, a decidedly suspect competitor. Fortunately he lived interstate or overseas so my more basic approach of a quick cudgel blow to the head and a locked cave had time to cement its appeal.

Grudgingly, I have to concede that he was smarter than I. He was living abroad at the time and was respected internationally. Inevitably, he was headhunted by an intergalactic company to work on a computer program that would automatically translate from English to Chinese and Arabic. Unfazed, he hired an unfurnished New York apartment, sat on the floor and meditated until the problems of dealing with languages that went from left to right, right to left and up and down made some sense to him. After a week, he decided that it wasn’t possible, yet, but that the experience had been exhilarating.

Now, it’s easy to see why guys like that are decidedly threatening to bozos like me, so it was understandable, but I must admit churlish, that when he came to call on us as a newly married couple, I met him at the front door and had to tell him that his romantic program had crashed and that I was going to have to close down the door.

ROGER KIBELL

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Planning for happy days in your own 'outdoor room'

garden life

By BEV HANSON

IN my job as a landscape designer/consultant I have the privilege of working with great clients on their gardens.

Every garden is different and I usually first go through the client's needs. Some have children and play areas required. Others need a large entertainment area, and so on.

From this information I then try to weave a naturally flowing, overall design to fit into the existing landscape.

I usually ask people to give me a list of plants they may want to include in their garden. There is a huge number of plants out there. We are especially fortunate to have such a fantastic range of Australian flora, with its unique character, most of which grow well in our dry climate.

Depending on the client, I usually advise them how they should proceed; or I draw up a design, complete with plant list. The latter is sometimes required by council when building a new house or extending.

Let me give you two examples of Warrandyte gardens constructed this year. One required a detailed landscape plan as part of a planning permit, the other wanted an advisory visit with me leaving them a sketch of the proposed changes to the landscape.

Caroline Shaw had purchased a block of land with a



Jameson's swimming pool, converted to a wetland.

gentle slope to the east that included a group of large indigenous eucalypts, but otherwise I had a clean slate. Caroline chose to build with a company that did most of the construction in a factory, then transported it on a semi-trailer, all folded up, to the prepared site. A team of workers then unfolded and assembled it. In just one afternoon there was a house in place, with plumbing and other fittings coming later.

Everything included the latest technology, with water tanks, solar power and a reed-bed septic system that reticulated clean water in a dripper network around the garden. A council requirement was the provision of water outdoors for wildlife, and a large tank, full during the summer months, with an outlet to the road for CFA use in the event of fire.

Most of the planting is native with many plants indigenous to Warrandyte planted in the outer areas. With the dry conditions we now face, when any earthworks are being carried out I always look for opportunities to hold water on the site by creating slight depressions so heavy rain will hold and soak into the ground, instead of scouring the earth on its rush downhill.

The garden belonging to Jill and Graeme Jameson was interesting. They had bought an existing house and garden with a swimming pool in the back. Like many swimming pools it looked like a big bathtub with its obligatory fence. The main windows of the house all faced the pool to the north. The owners rarely used the pool, and with water now a precious resource it was decided to scrap the pool and build a wetland over the top.

Holes were pierced through the concrete structure, fill was brought in, compacted and left to settle over several months. A bobcat was then used to further compact the fill and carefully place large feature rocks, some overhanging where the water would be. Mounding the soil ready for new planting completed the picture.

A special pond-liner was used to create the new pond, which is about 5m x 6m x 50cm deep. All the water from the roof is collected into several tanks and this is used to fill the pond. (Care should be taken that any run-off from the ground does not go into the pond, causing a build-up of silt, or, in the event of a thunderstorm, a disaster for fish and water plants, washing them downhill.)

It was a great pleasure to work on these gardens.

Making 'friends' in cyberspace

AM I the last person in the world to sign up to Facebook? The concept of chatting to real friends in an ethereal world has never appealed. The real world is so much more, well, real! It bothers me that so many people are hooked on yet another digital fad. Where will it end?

Maybe it's ending in Japan. According to The Age Odd-spot last week, a Japanese man has rallied more than a thousand supporters to lobby the government to change marriage laws. Why? He wants to legally marry a cartoon character. "I feel much more comfortable in the two-dimensional world," he claims. Blimey! Now there's a chap whose game-boy should have been unplugged at birth.

Is Facebook merely a fad? How does it compare with MySpace? SMS? Blogs? Skype? MSN chatrooms? Email? Unbelievably, it's only 10 or 15 years since email was an alien concept to most people. Now we can't live without it.

our place

By MARILYN MOORE

But do we need all this other stuff? If you need to write a letter, you still write a letter. If you need to convey an idea, or a few photos, or a document or two, then email is still the way to go, provided, of course, your idea is less than about 10 lines in length—a long email is a dead email. If you want to soliloquise, you write a blog. If you want to chat, you use Skype. If you're on the train, you use SMS.

Facebook is primarily a networking interface. Facebook chat is like SMSing the world at large. When you sign on, the screen asks what you are doing. "Exams! Bridget is panicking." "James has finally got a job!" "Mick's car's out of petrol." "Marilyn has just finished eating all the chocolate in the fridge." You can pick a beginner—this last response is way too long. You could

write a novel on Facebook if you wanted to, but brevity seems to be the name of the game. We're not talking lines here, or even words. Twenty or 30 characters would be more like it.

Why is Facebook so popular? It's such a time-waster. You select email contacts to be your "friends"—whoever would have predicted that the word "friends" would acquire a technical definition? Then any time one of them moves a muscle, you are simultaneously notified of the fact. Emails started landing in my in-tray at the rate of more than one a minute; and that was from an incipient group of only a dozen "friends". Imagine the influx if you had a hundred "friends"! Blow that for a joke. I wasted no time in searching for the relevant toggle and firmly switching it off.

So what's left? I can scan people's noticeboards, read their conversations and look at their photo albums. I can tell everybody what I'm doing, and post photos. If "friends" are online, I can chat. None of

this is stuff I'd do particularly often; I'm highly unlikely to part with hard-earned cash to take up additional options like sending "friends" dinky cartoon presents or joining virtual communities. Such things are definitely on the far side of reality.

Like us, many of our contemporaries are signing up because an offspring has moved offshore. Facebook chat is consequently shifting into panic mode. "Dad's got a profile!!!" "OMG I'm cancelling!" "Who put him up to it?" "WAS NOT ME!!!" It will do the kids good, I reckon, to think twice before posting spurious photos, mostly taken on mobile phones at parties. Don't they know that the first referee a prospective employer checks is Facebook?

Increasing numbers of groups, like our old mountaineering club, are using Facebook to link members, so I guess we'll give the old Facey fleamarket a fling. If we can dodge all the flotsam, it might even be a goer. Ask me in 10 years' time.

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Comedy on a dark background



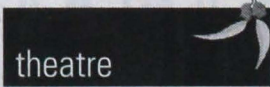
THE *Memory of Water* is Shelagh Stephenson's first play. First performed in 1996 it explores the conflict between the demands of the present and the images of the past.

It speaks of this tension while it discusses a long list of contemporary family issues including death of the mother, loss of the son, dementia, intoxication, adoption, self definition and new age industries. The action takes place in the parental bedroom in the family home.

The story is simple enough. Three sisters come together to bury their mother. While it is focused throughout on the girls and the ghost of their mother, the men in their lives also appear in the flesh, in memory and by phone as the story unfolds. But the plot is less important than the development of character, as the women sojourn through contradictions in their private lives and dysfunction in their family.

Lea Stringer plays Mary the middle sister. Her portrait is complex. She is on stage throughout and overloaded with back-stories including a failing relationship, dead adopted son and a burdensome relationship with her mother. Her role is pivotal to the play, as she provides the constancy against which the other characters define themselves. Lea showed her maturity as an actor in keeping the character consistent while revealing the ghostly memories that torment her.

Teresa (Jennifer Tully) is the eldest child whose life is a mix of well-intentioned interventions and disappointments in life, love and work. This is another difficult role as Jennifer must balance Teresa's self-obsession with the desperation of someone who has not found fulfilment in her life. As she reveals to Mary the truth about her lost adopted son Patrick—she has known he was dead for some time—we



theatre

By JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

recognise the misguided judgements that cloud family histories, and wonder anew at the power of memories relived, suppressed and unleashed.

Mary and Teresa are complex, realistic characters who are at once pathetic and resilient, trapped in the present and haunted by the past. In comparison, Catherine (Lisa Upson) as the youngest sister is a one dimensional, comic character confused and empowered by a drug-induced haze. She brings imagination and passion to the family and is honest and forthright in her criticism of her sisters and their interpretations of the past. Lisa plays Catherine with the panache she demands, and from her entrance gives the audience permission to laugh at home truths that in another context might prove disconcerting.

While the sisters are amongst the most complex characters I have seen portrayed in the Mechanics Hall, the men in their lives are thin stereotypes. Jack Stringer plays Frank, Teresa's husband. A long suffering, world weariness pervades his dialogue as he copes with another round in the battle to make sense of his relationship with his wife.

Mike (Nick Anning) as Teresa's fading love interest brings little more than lust into her life, while she reaches out for meaning in her relationship with her mother and her own distorted memories.

Vi (Naomi Oosting) is the mother who appears as an apparition with a kind of surreal, regal quality. Typical of this play, even the ghost is a multi-faceted being, bringing maternal sensitivities and hard-edged assertiveness that help her

children restructure crystallised interpretations of the past.

This must have been a challenging play to direct. The characters are ordinary women, coping with a seminal experience, redefining their relationships with each other both now and in their recollections. The comedy of human frailty contrasts with the gravity of mortality as in the third act the mother's coffin takes centre stage. Director Bill Connolly has inspired the cast to portray their characters in all their many colours. Judging from the audience response, the net effect is a comedy played against a dark background. Given the nature of the play, it could just as easily have been the reverse—a tragedy played against a comic background. The truth is that's more the way I experienced it, although judging from the laughter around me I was pretty much alone. It occurred to me that my reaction might be more likely in a male.

If local repertory is about growth through challenge then there is no doubt that the Warrandyte Theatre Company is right on track. This play provides an opportunity for actors to hone their skills as contemporary characters caught in a moment of truth, with their past laid bare. The power of memories to create, destroy and maintain our selves and our relationships has probably been dealt with more effectively in other stories. The ability of these actors to portray these characters, tell a moving story, evoke laughter and reflection along the way is testament to the depth of talent within our community. Such a serious and challenging play is an ambitious project, on par with the 1956 Christmas pantomime staged on the Warrandyte Reserve, a play that still exists, however dimly, deep in the memory of our collective experience. Or was it was an Easter pantomime at Stig-gants Reserve?



Pictures by IAN CRAIG



My wise woman

My wise woman is a listener
—my mother.
Lifetime of listening with a knowing nod,
sift out the dross and store the clever, kind
and useful.
Weighing her words,
each precious gem.
Offer them only when necessary.

My wise woman has strong hands
—my sister.
Car fixing, wood chopping, soil turning hands—
transforming themselves
into delicate instruments for making
soft jewel-coloured cloth
bright sunlit glass.
Cloth for warmth, glass for rapture.

My wise woman is a thinker
—my daughter.
Ideas, schemes, waking dreams
always question, always search.
Marvelling at all the world,
cupping small wonders in her hand,
taking nothing for granted.

My wise woman is a fighter
—my grandmother.
A tent at Greenham Common
a bus to Kakadu,
printing pamphlets for the strikers
raising money for the poor.
She's here to make a difference
"that's what we're all here for".

KAREN THROSSELL

A road to better times

By VAL POLLEY

A LOT of public attention has been focused on Everard Drive in recent months thanks to the new footpath and changes in the bridge path over Andersons Creek (see *Diary* last month). Everard Drive is extremely popular amongst people of all ages who walk between the River Reserve and Pound Bend. It must surely rate as one of Warrandyte's most scenic and historic roads with its pleasing vistas of the Yarra River meandering through steeply sloping wooded banks and tumbling over rocky bars. So perhaps it is not surprising to see so many mothers with prams and young children, walkers with dogs and groups with backpacks. But how many of its users are aware of the interesting story of its construction which marks an historic time in Warrandyte.

The road is named after W.H. Everard, member for the Legislative Assembly seat of Evelyn. William Hugh Everard followed his father John Everard into both the family tea business and politics entering state parliament in 1917. There he remained for 33 years until his death in 1950. He was identified with a succession of political parties over that time; the Nationalists, the Economy Party, the United Australia Party, the Liberals and the Liberal Country Party. He served as Speaker between 1934 and 1937 and on the board for the protection of Aborigines. As the local member for so many years he was notable for his active participation in local affairs across his electorate. There are constant references to him in the newspapers of the day whether opening a patriotic bazaar in Warrandyte in 1917, or the Wonga Park show in 1918. He actively encouraged the schools in the area, attending arbour days and supported the push for a railway line to Doncaster in 1923, organising public meetings and a deputation to the minister for railways. Amongst his many official openings were the Kangaroo Ground tower in 1921, the Eltham swimming pool in 1933 and the Mooroolbark hall in 1942. The list of his activities, openings and works goes on and on.

However it is the building of the road that bears his name that provides an interesting insight into the self-help image that Warrandyte residents have always prided themselves on possessing. A report in *The Advertiser* on November 14,

1930 reported that "the ladies of Warrandyte district had formed a Warrandyte Women's Auxiliary Association to promote the welfare of the district, and to foster good fellowship between residents and visitors." At the time the president was well known local activist, Dr Ethel Osborne, the secretary was Florence Hargreaves and the treasurer Bella Trezise. One aim of the new organisation was to establish a fund towards the relief of local unemployment, and to this end a fundraising event the Back to Warrandyte Christmas Carnival was planned for the Christmas-New Year period of 1930-31 (which included a river carnival and an exhibition of paintings at Penleigh Boyd's studio) to be followed by a second event, a ball, planned for February 1931.

It must be remembered that these years, 1930 and 1931, were the worst years of the Great Depression. While this major financial crisis had an impact on countries worldwide Australia was badly affected as it relied heavily on its agricultural and industrial exports at that time. There were substantial downward pressures on wages due mainly to falling export demand and declining commodity prices across the world. Unemployment reached a record high of almost 32% in 1932 before conditions began to improve and gradual increases in wool and meat prices led to a slow recovery.

However in February 1931 the Warrandyte Women's Auxiliary Association invited representatives of various public bodies to meet at the Mechanics' Hall to discuss the possibility of establishing work for the relief of local unemployment. The local press reported that the association had some funds to pay for work carried out by the local unemployed for the improvement of the district. The meeting was chaired by the local member W.H. Everard with representatives attending from local councils, the Warrandyte Progress Association, RSL and River Reservation Board.

The newspaper report of the meeting said that "Mr Everard pointed out that there was a great deal more privation and distress in the country districts than people possibly realised". The meeting decided its first duty was to consider the needs of the actual residents of the district who were out of work. Various plans for suitable work were discussed, including the construction of a scenic river road

which had been promised for many years and if built would connect the scenic reserve at Pound Bend to the township more directly. As is usual at such meetings a sub-committee was then formed to make detailed plans so that work could be undertaken "before the distress of winter is added to the present burden".

By June of that year the press was reporting that work on the new road was underway. While no practical details of the construction have been found it must have been quite an undertaking, cutting a road alignment into the steeply sloping hill high above the river. However all seems to have progressed well as by 1933 it was announced the road was completed and was to be named in honour of W.H. Everard MLA as an acknowledgement of his public service as the local member.

The official opening (see photo, W.H. Everard is on the left) on March 25, 1933 must have been a prestigious affair for Warrandyte with the then premier of Victoria, Sir Stanley Argyle and his wife Lady Argyle attending together with other local dignitaries. In his speech that day Sir Stanley said that "it was his misfortune to be the leader of a government when the nation had its back to the wall, and its

sources of income had dried up or disappeared, and obligations entered into in more prosperous times had to be met". He congratulated Mr Everard on the work he had done for the district, and said it was fitting that the Drive should be named after him. However at the request of Lady Argyle it was the local organiser, Dr Ethel Osborne, who actually cut the streamers, and declared the road open.

The cost of the new road totalled \$685 and this amount was divided between three funding sources. The government sustenance department provided £390, £170 was paid by the Doncaster and Templestowe shire council; and £125 was contributed by the Warrandyte Women's Auxiliary Association. This really was an amazing contribution from the local community considering it was a time of great difficulty for many families in the region. The official opening day ended with an evening function at the Mechanics Institute Hall with a grand concert given by the Civil Service Military Band.

The success of the Everard Drive project led to discussions on creating a Yarra Boulevard as a centenary objective. This was planned to extend down the river to Heidelberg, opening up the river scenery and providing further work

for the unemployed. Once again the Warrandyte Women's Auxiliary Association instigated discussions, inviting the Melbourne Centenary Celebrations Committee (which included such notables as Sidney Myer, Russell Grimwade, and Norman Brookes), to Warrandyte. Whilst the Centenary Committee was generally supportive at the time, it is now known that a boulevard didn't make it to Warrandyte along the river. Instead we all now enjoy riverside parkland and river access by foot and bike.

There have been numerous changes in Everard Drive over recent months resulting in a new footpath, new bridge footpath (Mark 2 version, narrow, bitumen plus white kerbing), new white line markings and more signage, plus a heavily patched road surface in many places. All of which will take time to blend once more into a harmonious whole. Nevertheless no matter what occurs, Everard Drive itself remains forever testament to a committed politician and the hard work and altruistic contribution of those early Warrandyte women.

(With acknowledgement to Warrandyte Historical Society for use of research material and photo in this article.)



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Heart and soul of this newspaper

Lee and Jan Tindale contributed greatly to the establishment and success of the *Diary*. The newspaper is still part of Jan's day. PRUDENCE TRUBY KING explores her life...



Jan Tindale (Picture by Karen Throssell)

JAN'S parents came to Australia in the 1900s from England and Scotland. Her father's parents bought a property at Tallarook and they built a house at the service station there.

"Dad was an aircraft engineer during the war and afterwards he thought that cars leaving Melbourne would break down when they got to Tallarook. He worked on the cars and he always had a garage full, so he was right," Jan said.

"I'm sure I was an accident because my brother was 12 years older than I was and my sister was 10 years older. I had a wonderful childhood. My brother taught me how to rabbit, how to ferret, shoot and how to skin a rabbit. I had a reject Kelpie dog and we went fishing an awful lot of the time. I used to go spotlighting in an old MG. They'd hold onto me while I pulled the trigger, with the gun balanced on the bonnet."

Jan was the only girl in a school of 40 or 50 boys at Tallarook "They were all farmers' boys. I was very excited when a new family moved into the general store. The girls were all blonde but they only stayed at school for about 10 days. Occasionally two or three girls would come and go."

Because Jan was the only girl in the school, her parents sent her to boarding school in Brighton when she was nine. "They asked me at school what sports I played and I said, football and cricket. They said, 'We'll put you down for softball and basketball.' Then they asked me what team I barracked for and I told them Tallarook. 'We'll put you down for Melbourne,' they said.

"Boarding school was a big shock and the first year was pretty hard. It was horrific, I didn't have a clue. That first year I couldn't go rabbiting or fishing and no-one knew

behind the byline

how to skin a rabbit," Jan said.

"I had seven years there. The boarders stuck together. They taught French and I wasn't even very good at English but I got honours in bookbinding. I'm good at bookbinding—I've never bound one since. I would perhaps have been better as a geologist than a bookbinder.

"We had to go to all the operas at school. In the first year you thought they were horrible but if you go enough you soon learn. I'm a bit tone deaf but I love listening to music."

Back in Seymour, Jan's parents built up a big transport business, with three garages, the local bus service with 48 buses and a taxi service. "But there was nothing there for me and primary school teaching or nursing were the only things you could do. I went nursing for two years, it wasn't a high priority, then I was married at 20 to John Lahey, a journalist at the Herald.

"We came to Warrandyte and I had three kids in two and a half years. Tom, Sarah and Jenny. John was away a lot and at one point when he won a Herald scholarship he was away for three months, going around the world as a guest of the Australian ambassadors.

"While he was away I met him in Israel and we had dinner with General Moshe Dayan in the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. An Australian diplomat looked after us." But it was a tumultuous time.

"I was in Tel Aviv when the seven-day war broke out. Soldiers with guns were walking around. All the shops were shut down. Fighting started on the border and we were told to get out and eight hours later we flew out. I came straight

home and I remember going in to see Mr Mapleston, the bank manager. He'd been a soldier in the Australian army in Israel and I said 'Oh, I was there yesterday.' I'll never go overseas ever again."

Jan met Lee and they were married in 1970 and they had Lisa. In 1974 Jan started with the *Diary*. "Lee was co-editor with Peter Lovett and he bowed out. There was an emergency meeting and Lee offered to take it on. He had lots of time at the Herald and he moonlighted. He would finish there after the last race, go to the Sunday Observer and 'put it to bed,' come home at 1-2am and on Monday he worked at Truth. On a day off he slept.

"Lee would say, 'Check the *Diary* box,' (on the tree) or 'Do this.' It became a fulltime job for me and it didn't change. Lee didn't drive, which is one of the reasons that I did so much running around.

He found it more convenient to catch the bus. It took one and a half hours to get in and he'd read all the papers on the way so he'd get to the office with half his work done. He always had people who could pick him up or drop him off. "I remember all these pieces of paper hanging on clothes pegs—they were our layouts.

"There was always work to do, galleys to be picked up and checked. Stories would go from the box to the typist then home and Lee would edit them and then the typist would retype them, they'd be looked at, picked up and go to press. I'd take photos when and as I could for Lee to take to be made into blocks at the Herald office. He'd say 'Take a photo of this or that councillor'."

Always a passionate cook, Jan makes cherry plum jams for the Neighbourhood House to sell at the Warrandyte Festival. "We had dreadful food at boarding school and now I cook for the sake of it. I

make pickles from leftovers at the community garden; chutneys, jams and jellies. I love to smoke food. Buy a leg of pork, brine it for so many days and smoke it yourself. My family all wanted one each but I couldn't do it.

"When Lee died I felt I had to get out and do things. I cooked so much—pickles, chutneys, quince jelly—and gave it to the family. It kept my mind off it and it was really good therapy. I had to do something.

"I went to the strong women's group at the Neighbourhood House. I remember I wore no sneakers but socks and sandals. That first day was tough but after that it was great."

She has also loved being involved with the Friends of Warrandyte State Park over the past 25 years. "I get angry at people tearing up the bush. I have wallabies and the odd koala coming through the garden and at the moment I can see a tawny frogmouth out the window."

Jan has a suitcase of family photos and a box of old jewellery which she would take in a bushfire. "I'm not a material sort of person," she said. "I've got nice paintings—my grandchildren are good artists—but if they burn they could do another one.

"I've been through two fires. The first time I stayed and I knew to close the windows, put the blinds down and have buckets of water around the house. The fires in 1968-69 came around both sides of the house—the firemen from Boronia made a wall, 25 men with hoses. The fire burnt my clothes line, that's how close it was.

"In 1991 I was looking after my granddaughter and I saw it jump the river and I knew there was no point in staying with a baby in the house. Later they wouldn't let us cross the bridge to get back home."

She would like to travel and visit her family more in New South

Wales and South Australia. "I have wonderful children and 10 grandchildren but I don't see enough of them. My three daughters and I go surf fishing every year at Marlo. I was thinking of not going this year because I've been having trouble with my knees but they said, 'We need you to clean the fish.'

"I turn 68 soon; I've had a good life, with wonderful children. They're my greatest accomplishment," she said. "I've been involved with the *Diary* all these years with Lee. When Bob Millington took over as editor he begged me to stay on as 'chief of staff' but there was no staff. It just went from our house over to his house then to the new office in 1991. I did all the odd jobs: photos, deliveries, cleaning the office. It's all a part of life, 38 years or something.

"Cliff is very good and particularly in the earlier days when he and Lee were working together. We had a desperate need of staff and he'd ring up the high school and talk to the English teacher, asking for journalism students. 'Were there any VCE students who were interested in sports?' Lee and Cliff would help them for a couple of months. We missed Clinton Grybas because he was such a great all-rounder. When Sam Davies started writing for another local paper, Cliff told him 'I want you for the *Diary*'.

"I've always found it hard to write. I remember one story I wrote, I worked so hard on it. Then Lee transposed my first paragraph for the final one so I said I'm not doing that any more. I just do the 'who, why, when, where and what' and hand it over to someone else."

"Now I do photos for Cliff, a couple of little stories and I'm in the office quite a bit, doing the odd jobs. At the last *Diary* Christmas dinner when we had to stand up and say what we do for the *Diary* I said I've done everything that everyone else said, except write."

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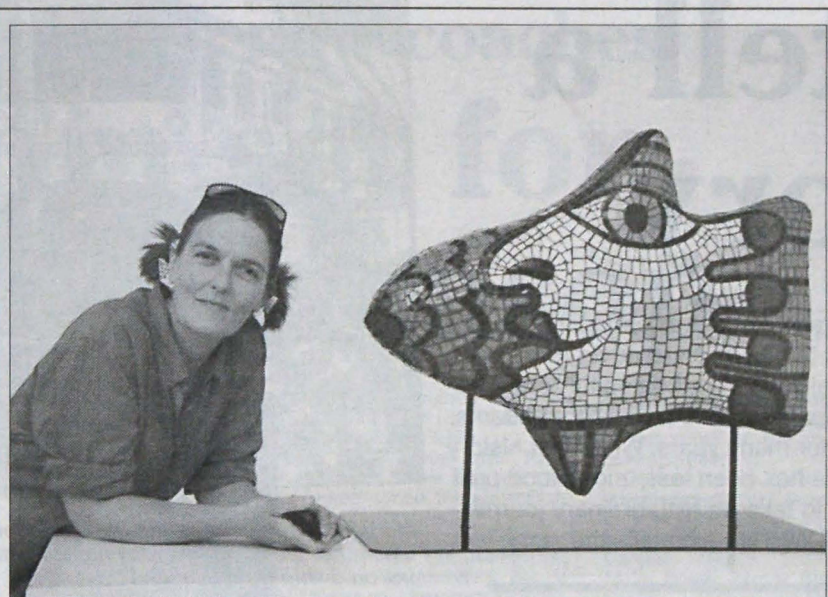
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Funfest is fun for all

Staff and parents at Anderson's Creek Primary School are cranking up for their first big fete, to be held on Saturday, November 15 commencing at 10am. There will be a large array of stalls with food, drinks, toys, books and tons more, and a range of sideshow games and novelty stalls. A talent quest will operate throughout the day where kids will perform for visitors. A poster competition, organised through the school, was won by Louise Bartley from Grade 5. A wide range of amusements including pony rides, the Cha Cha jumping castle and dogdems will entertain the kids. For a one-off payment of \$25, kids can pre-pay for a wristband that will deliver unlimited rides throughout the fete. These must be pre-paid and can be obtained from the school office, Warrandyte primary and high schools, St Annes, East Doncaster secondary and local Warrandyte kindergartens. Individual ride tickets will be available on the day ranging from \$4 to \$8 per ride.



The current exhibition at the Manningham Gallery, entitled "Beyond the Angel", is an insight into the work of Warrandyte sculptor Deborah Halpern (pictured). Deborah is the creator of many of Melbourne's most loved public sculptures, such as "Angel", the Bicentennial sculpture for the National Gallery of Victoria. Her works are included in numerous public and private collections in Australia and overseas. She has recently been short-listed for the Helen Lempriere Sculpture award. The exhibition will run until November 22. Gallery hours are 11am to 5pm, Tuesdays to Fridays and 2pm to 5pm on Saturdays, and the gallery is at 699 Doncaster Road.

Variety

The Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club's concert party, known as the 55 Plus Variety Group, is presenting two performances of a program entitled "Melbourne Town" at their centre in Taroona Avenue. On Friday, November 21, commencing at 1pm, the program will be presented as the club's 46th annual birthday concert, and a week later, Friday, November 28, at 7pm, it will be the featured attraction at a BYO cabaret. Bookings and information (concert)—Alan Rundell on 9738 2216; (cabaret)—Allan Spencer on 9877 1077.

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.

Concert

The next concert to be held at the Earth Harmony Centre, 246-250 Yarra Street, Warrandyte will feature Nick Charles, a mainstay of the acoustic roots music movement in this country. Singer Cora Browne will also be performing, supported by Lorraine Blythe on guitar and Eugene McKinnon on bass. The concert will take place on Friday, November 14 at 8pm. Tickets are \$20 (concession \$15) and can be pre-paid or paid at the door. Call 9844 5155 to book.

held at the South Warrandyte Hall, 66-68 Hall Road, South Warrandyte on Wednesday, December 3 commencing at 7.30pm. Dr Peter Temple-Smith will discuss monotremes. These seminars are free with no bookings required. Supper is provided.

Sale

Warrandyte Historical Society will be holding a book and plant sale at the Warrandyte Community Market, Stiggant's Reserve on Saturday, December 6.

Seminar

The next Manningham council environment seminar will be

Reunion

The date has been announced for the next annual Warran-

dyte Primary School pre-1940s students reunion. It will take place on Sunday, March 1, 2009 in the school's multipurpose room from 11am to 3.30pm.

Do Care

Would you like to volunteer to spend a couple of hours each month visiting an older person or a person with disability in your community? If so, please call Do Care on 9762 5211.

Music

Warrandyte's multi-award winning singer/songwriter Jessica Paige will add a local flavour to the Manningham Spring Carnival when she headlines this year's program. Jessica, with her band The Paige Boys, will perform at Ruffey Park Lake on November 30 from 12 to 6pm. Starting her career busking on Swanston Street when she was 14, Jessica's recording career kicked off in 2004 with the release of her first EP. She has just received funding assistance from the Foundation for Young Australians for her long awaited debut album due out early in 2009.

Tell us

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



Mosaic

Local sculptor Deborah Halpern is conducting classes in mosaic on Saturday November 15 and Sunday November 16 from 9am to 5pm each day. Bookings can be made on 9840 9367. All tools, materials and equipment will be provided. Cost is \$350 (\$315).

Stonehouse

The works of many artists and potters who have had their work showcased at Stonehouse Gallery over the year are currently on display. The gallery at 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte is open from 10am to 5pm daily.

Open

Nullumbik Artists Open Studio Program for 2008 will take place on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 November and again on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November. Several Warrandyte artists are involved including Jane Annois and Piers Brown. Diary cartoonists Syd Tunn and Ona Henderson will open their Bend of Isles studio for the occasion. For details of studios open, contact www.artistsopenstudios.com.au To celebrate the group's 21st year there will be exhibitions running through the month at Montsalvat, Eltham Community Library Gallery and Evelyn County Estate in Kangaroo Ground.

Arts

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

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COREY'S COMMUNITY By SYD & ONA

Corey & Dog the Frog are running mates for each other!

Postcards from the past tell a family story

Margaret White (nee Lee) was brought up in Warrandyte. She attended the local kindergarten and school and later went back and taught at Warrandyte Primary School. Her family on her maternal side has a local history that dates back to the goldrush days of the district and her maternal grandparents, Frank and Ethel Adams, ran an orchard on Warrandyte Rd., near Pound Rd, for many years. While that history is well known, the story of her paternal grandparents has been less understood until recently when a suitcase of postcards enabled her to take an extraordinary journey with her husband, *Diary* sports editor, ROBERT WHITE, who tells the story.



Margaret White outside the former Tattersalls Hotel in Townsville where her grandmother, also named Margaret, worked after arriving on a ship from Scotland.

IT all started with an old tin trunk and a faded suitcase full of old postcards.

And last month the story ended with a meal at the Barron Valley Hotel at Atherton in far north Queensland.

The story is about a journey that I have made with my wife, Margaret. It has taken us across the world and to some of the remotest parts of Australia as we have followed the footsteps of her paternal grandmother and grandfather.

It is a story that has all the hallmarks of a great Australian novel. In 1910 and a 20-year-old Scottish girl named Margaret McCulloch left her homeland and sailed across the world on a ship. She disembarked at Townsville, a destination she did not intend to make.

Yet she quickly got work in the local orphanage. Her work as a maid in Scottish hotels enabled her to work in some of Townsville's public houses. She worked her way through northern Queensland and finally ended up at the Barron Valley Hotel.

Her journey is recorded in a series of letters and postcards she sent home to family in Scotland.

In the meantime, a hard working young man named Arthur Lee left his home in Melbourne and joined a shearing team that headed north. It was not the first time he had been away for up to 18 months, following dust-laden tracks leading to vast sheep stations where he plied his trade.

His work first took him to northern Victoria and then outback New South Wales before the trail found itself as north as Winton in far western Queensland.

His tracks are marked by a series of postcards he sent home to his family.

As fate would have it, the two people from different corners of the world met, married and set up home at Murrumbena in the south eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Even after they were married in December 1913 Arthur would set out each year on his marathon trek, shearing sheep and earning his keep.

At home, Margaret reared five children.

"She seemed to get pregnant each time my grandfather came home from shearing," my wife suggested.

Arthur ended his shearing life in the mid 1920s and took on a new career as a plumber.

Margaret did not live long, dying of TB in 1934 at the age of 44. Arthur died a little over 20 years later.

But on Arthur's death he left a tired old suitcase which his second youngest child, Jim, took home with him to his own family which included an elder daughter,



Arthur James Lee



Margaret McCulloch

Margaret, who had been named after her grandmother.

Also included in the items that Jim gathered was an old tin trunk that his mother had used to pack her belongings for her trip to Australia.

No-one was really interested in the suitcase and no-one really cared about its contents.

That was until it was opened and it revealed, among other things, countless old postcards, many with pictures of Scotland and some bearing photographs of old buildings, including hotels, in outback Australia.

They were the writings of my wife's grandparents.

My wife said she would look at the Scottish pictures for hours and read the messages over and over.

The names of the Australian outback places intrigued her and from a very early age, she was determined to learn more about these two people whom fate had brought together.



Peta Polsen, left, her son, Hugo, and Margaret search a pile of iron used to bind wool bales in search of old shearing blades in the Manuka Station near Winton in north west Queensland.

The last part of that odyssey was completed last month when we headed to outback Queensland to where her grandfather was known to have sheared.

And it was the postcards that led us to the ground on which he worked.

It was those same postcards that almost 20 years ago took us to Scotland where we traced my wife's grandmother's early years. The postcards took us to stay in a hotel at Kenmore where she had worked; we had lunch at another in Perth where she was a live-in maid and we visited other places where she had lived and worked.

The postcards also unveiled relatives in Glasgow and the eventual original home of my wife's grandmother in that same city.

One part of the puzzle had been completed. Now it was my wife's grandfather's turn.

Two of the postcards had been written from sheep stations near Winton. One was called Toolebuc and the other was Manuka.

I decided to email the local tourist authority to see if the stations still existed and whether it would be possible to make a visit.

To my astonishment, they both did still exist and I phoned the owners who showed great interest in my wife's plans to visit the area.

Unfortunately we needed a four-wheel drive vehicle to visit Toolebuc and one wasn't available for hire.

But Manuka was a different story. I contacted Jim and Peta Polsen and they invited us to not only visit but also stay the night. The original homestead had been replaced and the original shearing shed was gone, although the ruins remained.

Manuka is located at a dot on the road map called Corfield and is

40,000 acres. It is now a beef grazing station. It was the original property owned by Australian Estates and covered hundreds of thousands of acres before it was broken up in 1946 under a farm settlement scheme. It has been in Peta's family since that time.

The following morning Jim and Peta and their children, Hugo and Ruby, took us over their property and to the remains of an old shearing shed.

Arthur Lee was a hand shearer, using blades rather than electric combs.

Peta said it had been many years since she had been to the site and if we were lucky, there might be remnants of old blades.

And so there were. We picked up a dozen among the dust, old bottles, tin cans and strands of wire used to bale the wool.

It was an exciting and nostalgic find. They were duly packed and my wife brought them home with her. The Polsens were genuinely interested in my wife's personal crusade and their help and support was outstanding.

From Manuka we went back to Winton with postcards of local buildings to show the local librarian. An old postcard depicting the original National Bank was greeted with reverence by the current bank staff who have promised to have it framed and displayed.

It was then 340km to Boulia, less than 250km from the Northern Territory border. We passed the turn-off to Toolebuc Station and marvelled at how people ever reached such remote destinations without the help of a sealed road and an air-conditioned car.

Another 340km to Mt Isa and then the postcards took us on to Cloncurry.

Finally we arrived in Townsville.

Alas, the orphanage where Margaret McCulloch once worked was now a series of townhouses and the Crown Hotel where she also worked, and where we intended to have a meal, had been demolished only a few months before to make way for a high rise apartment block.

But the postcards took us to what was originally called the Tattersalls Hotel, now known as Molly Malones. It was here that my wife's grandmother lived and worked. Little remained of the original building but there were the obligatory drinks at the bar and the photographs to prove we had been there.

More than 300km to the north lay the Atherton Tablelands and the town of Atherton where my wife had a postcard her grandmother had written from the Barron Valley Hotel.

The hotel owner was excited to read the card, written in 1910 but alas, he had to advise that the original hotel had been pulled down and the current building was erected in its place in 1934.

But we joined the locals for a Saturday night bistro meal. It was a typical country pub. The meal was hearty, the tablecloths were bright and the bare wooden floor echoed the noise of people having a great time.

The journey was complete. The postcards are back in their folder among all the birth, marriage and death certificates and all the other memorabilia that goes with tracing a family history.

And the old tin trunk sits at the foot of our stairs. It's a daily reminder of times much harsher and the extraordinary courage and daring of a young Scottish girl who met and fell in love with an Aussie shearer.

Warrandyte basketball round-up with Tony Oliver

Club enters 25 teams and appoints seven new coaches Venom set for a hectic season

Warrandyte Venom is ready for another successful season following a vigorous four-week try-out schedule that resulted in 25 teams being selected, including eight that will start in contention for Victoria's prestigious Championship Division.

Competition starts this month and senior coaching director Justin Nelson is expecting opposing clubs to again notice the rise of the Venom.

"We keep talking about the growth at Warrandyte basketball, which has arguably been more than at any Victorian club at rep-ball level in recent years, but it's our depth in the program that is starting to shine through now," said Nelson.

"To have eight teams starting in pool one is an outstanding effort and highlights the overall development in the players. They're the ones that should take the credit.

"We have also been fortunate enough to add more experienced coaches, while the selection process was really tough given the talent



Justin Nelson

on show. It's a great sign for the future."

Coaches to join the Venom program include Darren Evans (Kilsyth), Danny Black (Ringwood), Rebecca Daniel (former Venom junior), Jill and Tess England (Park Orchards Steelers), Di Trenfield (Warrandyte Redbacks) and Mandy Ratcliffe (Warrandyte Redbacks).

Nelson, who also coaches Warrandyte's Big V women, had more good news for the club's passionate supporters.

"We've signed Janelle Lucas as our point guard in the women's team.

"She'll step into Kate Cohen's shoes and will add some speed to our transition both ways."

Lucas, who plays domestically for the Redbacks, joins Warrandyte's Big V program after two seasons at Championship level with Bulleen.

She'll join recognised seniors in Billie Addlem, Sally Phillips, Jess Oram, Jaz Borella and Chelsea Ransom.

Phillips was recently announced as captain, while Addlem will support her as vice captain.

"Janelle is another quality young person. She has a real passion for the game and at only 20 years old she will form a very big part of our women's program going forward.

"I'm really happy with the group as they are very united and determined to keep Warrandyte Venom at the top of the Big V," added Nelson.

With the retirements of Cohen, Jo Metcalfe and Jodi Kennedy, Nelson and his

assistant coach, Nicole Howard are preparing to unveil some of the club's leading juniors.

Current Venom junior representative players selected in the 2009 senior squad include Nicolette Prior, Meg Dargan, Ashlee Brobbel, Molly Booth, Mollie Burke, Casey Taylor, Lauren Sabidussi and Carla Sabidussi.

"It's an exciting time for our younger players. Nicolette really stepped up last season and is a proven senior player, as was Lauren the season before, while I'm expecting big things from the others as they gain more exposure at senior level," said Nelson.

The club has also announced Gardiner McInnes Real Estate as Principal Sponsor for a fourth consecutive year, All-Over Bins is a Major Sponsor again, while Warrandyte Retreat returns as a sponsor in 2009.

Other supportive sponsors include Aumann's Nursery, Ruby Tuesday, Bendigo Bank - Warrandyte, Furniture Galore and Clipsal.



Warrandyte's Leah Abicair makes a fast break.

Redbacks make the grade

The grading phase of Saturday basketball is well under way for the summer season with some of Warrandyte's top teams again likely to feature in the higher grades.

The Under 20 boys had a good tough win against the visiting Banksia who had a significant height advantage with two players well over two metres tall.

They seemed to be in control with a 10 point lead late in the game but Warrandyte were able to change their game plan and came away with a 52-48 win.

Three point shooting was a hallmark of this clash with a total of eight successes between the sides.

For the Redbacks Mitchell Hawley with 16 points and Bryce Petalas and Jake Ratcliffe with 11 points each were the main scorers.

The Under 18 girls, coached by Jenni O'Brien also had a come-from-behind win against Bulleen.

In a close first half the visitors held a four point lead

at the break but the second half was tight with Warrandyte slowly getting back to establish a lead in the final minutes. The girls held on to win 29-24.

Bonnie Jones, Nicolette Prior and Phillipa Birch with six points each were the top Redback contributors on the scoreboard.

Basketball volunteer recognised

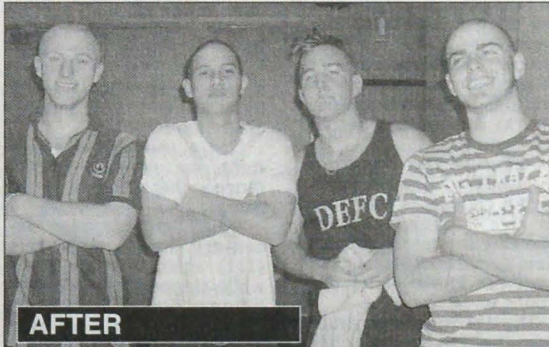
Warrandyte's Anne Cousens was recently recognised as one of five finalists for the annual Victorian Women in Basketball Award.

This award is presented to the woman whose work has contributed greatly to the active involvement of women in our sport.

This is an outstanding achievement by one of the club's most dedicated volunteers.



BEFORE



AFTER

Students' close shave for charity

Four boys from the Warrandyte Basketball Club took shaving to new heights recently and made a big contribution to charity.

The Warrandyte High School students shaved their

heads and raised more than \$1000 for the charity, CAN-TEEN.

Those who took part in the "big shave" were Zac Boyce, David Wood, Troy Ratcliffe and Clayton Pearce.

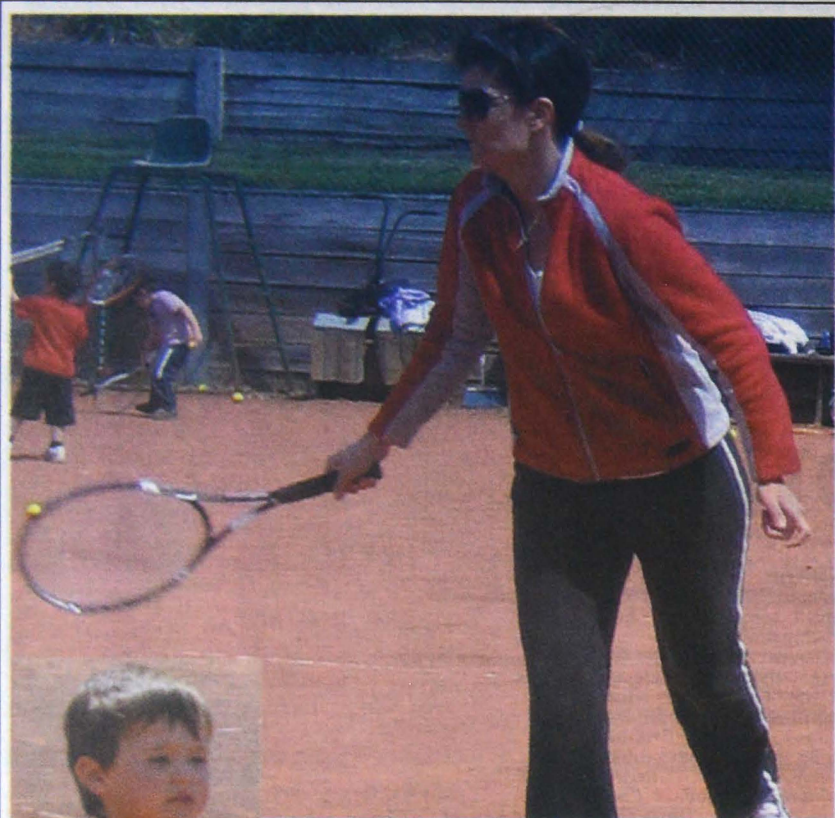
WARRANDYTE TENNIS CLUB



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Heather Kidd shows her style at Warrandyte's Tennis Mum's Program.

Tennis is a big hit for Mums

The past few weeks have seen increased activity at the Warrandyte Tennis Club on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

The club is one of a number across both metropoli-

tan and regional Victoria, participating in a Mum's Tennis Program during October and November.

Subsidised by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing and co-ordinated by Tennis Victoria, the five week program costs the players only \$15 with balls and racquets supplied.

It is designed for players from absolute beginners to past players who are trying to get back into the game.

Tennis Victoria's aim is to promote the fun, fitness and health benefits of tennis in a non-competitive environment.

Alongside this event ran a Tiny Tots Program catering for children in the three to five year age group, allowing the mums to participate without having the worry of looking after the young ones.

The Warrandyte program was organised by club coach, Craig Haslam with help from several of the club's previous top juniors



Alida Zuluaga is part of Warrandyte Tennis Club's Mum's Tennis Program.

Tennis shorts

Premiership winners

Warrandyte Boys singles/doubles Section 6 team of Blake Tester, Stuart Langridge, Andrew Matotek, Kieran Sproule-Carroll and Hayden Matthys brought home the flag in winter competition.

Three other teams were runners up.

They were Boys singles/doubles Section 2 (Adrian Mifsud, Michael Tricarico, Daniel Tester, Ryan Tester, Michael Ashfield), Boys singles/doubles Section 3 (Mark Ford-Learner, Nick Ford-Learner, Brayden Mifsud, Max Dolan, Kieran Robertson), and Mixed singles/doubles Section 4

(Tristan Jackson, Daniel Ford-Learner, Daniel Mifsud, Jade Valetino, Camilla Rogers, Gabby Mitchell).

School holiday tournaments

The past school holidays saw Tournaments 5&6 of the Warrandyte Junior Round Robin Series.

Club coach, Craig Haslam said the emphasis of the tournaments was participation.

Winners of the various tournament sections were: Tournament 5: Tristan Jackson, James Buckley, Matt Williams, Katie Waugh, Michael Kuzminski and Lauren Szigeti.

Tournament 6: Andrew Matotek, Matt Gilling, James Wolfe, Nathan

DeLacy, Imogen Maillardet and Alisha Centrone.

Each school term there is an in-house Friday Night Junior Tennis Competition at Warrandyte.

It is open to all junior tennis players and Season 3 of Friday Night Competition has been completed with a close finish once again in all categories.

Singles Champions: Donata Honeyborne and Kyle Newman; **Doubles Champions:** Rhys Newbury and Steven Garrick; **Team Champions:** Brandon Stafford and Gareth Newbury.

Sportsmanship Awards: Leo Garrick, Nastasya Foster-Zuluaga, Richard Liu, Danielle Polkinghorne

Reddie wins State Schools 1500m title

Warrandyte High School student, Andrew Reddie, has taken out one of the most prestigious athletics titles at the recent Victorian State Schools Sports Association Championships at Olympic Park.

Reddie won the Under 17 1500 metres in a time of 4.12 making him the best 1500m runner in the state school system for Victoria.

Reddie has represented Warrandyte High School successfully at District, Zone and State level for the past three years.

He is also a member of the AVIS 08 Development Squad run by Athletics Victoria and has competed in the State Titles for Athletics Victoria in the 800 and 1500 metres finals.

Reddie is also an outstanding junior footballer and has been a member of the Northern Knights Under 14, Under 15 and Under 16 development squads.

He has played more than 120 games at junior level for Warrandyte and Simpson [Colac league] and in 2007 he won Warrandyte's Under 15 best and fairest.



Top schoolboy athlete, Andrew Reddie.

Hawks make strong start to new season

South Warrandyte Hawks have started the new Ringwood District Cricket season in spectacular fashion and head the Chandler Shield ladder.

One of the wins was outright, an unusual occurrence at that standard of the game.

A highlight has been the century by Josh Barrett (111) against Wonga Park while skipper, Steve Garrett returned figures of 7/37 and 7/44 in the outright win over South Croaydon.

Barrett had intended to leave the Hawks after their premiership win and join

Ringwood in Melbourne's Premier League but work commitments caused him to change his mind.

"We're all glad he is back as he is a class player," said Garrett.

South Warrandyte were Chandler Shield premiers two seasons ago and finished fifth last season but are determined to be a premiership challenger again this year.

Garret said other inclusions such as John Eldridge, who is back after a season off and Steven Lindsay, a middle order batsman and first-change bowler from

Kilsyth would make a big difference.

Garrett said the club was keen to encourage players at all levels.

"The aim is to play our best up-and-comers in as high a grade as possible, but teams should have a good balance of senior and junior players throughout all grades," he said.

South Warrandyte's B Grade team is also on top while E Grade is in second position.

The club's junior teams are also doing well with Biggs taking a hatrick for the Under 18/1 team.

Juniors receive tennis awards

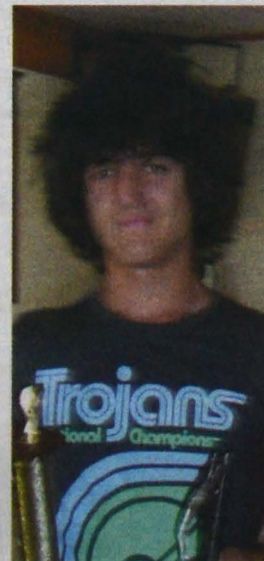
Warrandyte Tennis Club's 2008 junior presentation night saw two of the club's promising juniors receive special awards.

Adrian Mifsud was presented with the perpetual trophy for the most improved player while Kyle Newman received the coach's award.

Other awards were presented to successful players in the club championships, masters event, ERT Victorian Junior and Saturday morning competitions.



Kyle Newman



Adrian Mifsud

'Dyete's stocks slump

Warrandyte's batting is going the way of the international economy. Like share prices, wickets are tumbling in free fall and there appears to be very little value now being placed on those wickets.

With five games played, Warrandyte has two wins and must turnaround the current slump if they are to be involved in finals action.

The problem facing selectors is that players in the Second XI, despite being undefeated, are providing only sporadic glimpses of form and are not putting the necessary pressure on First XI positions.

The lack of desperation was shown clearly in Round 3 when Lilydale were dismissed for 115 yet by stumps on the first day Warrandyte were 7-92. This became 9-102 early on the second day before veteran Gerald Walshe and Matt Sazenis inched their team to victory.

In a remarkable day of cricket, Warrandyte dismissed Lilydale for a second time and only failed by a handful of runs from securing outright points.

Sazenis was in full command with his off breaks and took eight wickets for the match and also scored a match-winning 33 in the first innings.

At St Andrews in the following match, Warrandyte's bowlers picked up wickets at regular intervals but the batsmen were still able to score easy runs.

They gave Warrandyte a lesson in constantly looking to score singles or push the ball into open spaces to take two runs rather than crash the ball to the fieldsmen in the deep for a single.

It was a lesson the 'Dytes could not master and

despite some dogged middle-order batting, the intensity was not apparent and St Andrews kept a lid on the scoring with some accurate bowling.

In Saturday's match at East Ringwood, the Warrandyte attack kept the home side to a moderate 158 on what was a fast outfield.

But after being well placed at 5-107, the middle and lower order lost their way and Warrandyte fell 12 runs short.

Last wicket pair, Lee Evans and Jake Sherriff looked likely to lead their side to an unexpected win but with three overs remaining, the innings was over.

Warrandyte captain, Adam White, said he was bitterly disappointed with the team's approach to batting.

"We have played four one day games in the first five rounds and we just don't seem to be able to adapt to the shorter version of the game," he said.

"We were in a position to win each game as we restricted our opposition to moderate totals. But we can't seem to get partnerships going and there are times when we tend to panic."

White said the next two games would define the season.

They are two-day matches and Warrandyte cannot afford to drop both if they are to make the finals.

Campbell Holland has been a key player so far in the one day games. Sent in to bat in the top three in the order, he has given his side a quick start with his aggressive style but the batsmen following have been unable to take advantage of the situation.



"Don't lift that foot!" Warrandyte Second XI wicketkeeper, Dale Landers is poised for a stumping while team mate, Gerald Walshe screams out an appeal.

Barry's batting banks a tie for Second XI

With an over to go, nine wickets down and 15 runs to win, there seemed little chance that Warrandyte's Second XI would be able to keep their unbeaten run alive.

But the North Croydon attack didn't figure on 16-year-old Daniel Barry. The young off spinner showed he was more of an all rounder than many had thought and blasted 10 runs leaving five to be scored off the last ball to win.

With six of North Croydon's fielders patrolling the outfield, Barry smashed a boundary and although Warrandyte did not win the game, they were able to share the points with a tie.

Barry was among the runs again the following week when Warrandyte collapsed from 1-67 to be 8-89 in the one-day game against Warranwood.

Barry took to the attack again to score what turned out to be a match winning 21 as Warrandyte were dismissed for a paltry 119.

But the attack tore through the Warranwood batting line-up and they were dismissed for 74.

In the Fourth XI, Stuart Smead scored an amazing 165 which included 17 sixes and led Warrandyte to a massive 3-290. It proved far too many for Bayswater Park who finished with 212.

John Prangley returned the outstanding figures of 8-24 as the Fourth XI routed Lilydale.

These efforts have highlighted a remarkable start for Warrandyte with the First XI losing three games but all other grades remaining undefeated.

The Fourth XI, under the leadership of Graeme Rees, are seeking their third successive premierships and look certain to be among the premierships contenders again this year.

Each year the Fourths have been promoted a grade following their premierships wins which makes the performance of the team even more extraordinary.

The Fifth XI, introduced this season, are struggling for opponents as matches are regularly forfeited.

Warrandyte president, Matt Chapman, said the situation was creating a headache for the club as it had the players available but could not provide a regular game.

"It's very frustrating for all concerned when players make themselves available only to be told their opposition has forfeited."

As it stands, the Fifth XI is on top of the ladder in their grade.

Scores:

Round 3:
First XI: Warrandyte 136 (A. White 38, Sazenis 31) & 6-106 (Holland 48) d Lilydale 116 (G. Walshe 3-22, Holland 3-24) & 133 (Sazenis 6-37)
Second XI: Warrandyte 249 (Centofanti 63, Day 45,

Wellesley 43, Landers 33) d Norwood 141 (Warr 4-23).
Third XI: Warrandyte 274 (Greve 74 n.o., Goddard 52) d Eastfield 192

Fourth XI: Warrandyte 6-263 (Creber 102 n.o., Large 53, B. Zach 30) d Lilydale 94 (Prangley 8-24) and 135

Round 4:
First XI: Warrandyte 157 (Cleaves 31) lost to St Andrews 183

Second XI: Warrandyte 9-176 (Centofanti 46) tied with North Croydon 176 (T. Walshe 3-30, Greve 3-45)

Third XI: Warrandyte 5-227 (Creber 92, McKellar 65 n.o.) d Ainslie Park 99 (Gidley 3-7)

Fourth XI: Warrandyte 210 (Canham 102, G. Zach 42) d Ainslie Park 80 (G. Rees 3-8, Sharpe 3-10, Prangley 3-14)

Round 5:
First XI: Warrandyte 147 (Holland 31) lost to East Ringwood 7-158

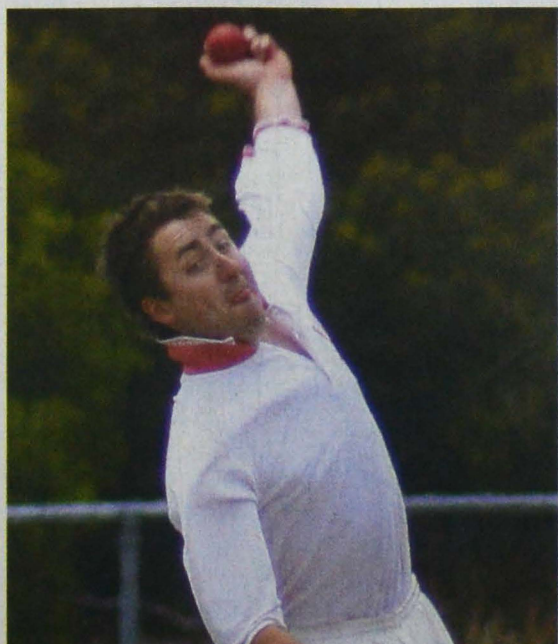
Second XI: Warrandyte 119 (Ellis 26, Wellesley 25) d Warranwood 74 (T. Walshe 3-20).

Third XI: Warrandyte 8-173 d



Daniel Barry ... scored 14 off the last over to secure a tie.

St Andrews 7-163
Warrandyte
Fourth XI: Warrandyte 3-290 (Smead 165, Croft 64 n.o., G. Zach 34) d Bayswater Park 9-212 (C. Douglas 4-40)



Matt Sazenis took eight wickets as Warrandyte almost defeated Lilydale outright.



Warrandyte speedster, Campbell Holland has his St Andrews opponent ducking for cover.

gardiner mcinnes

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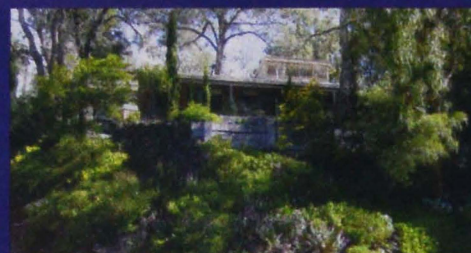
ringwood east private sale
suit \$450k plus buyers

Picture perfect 3BR + study (suit 4th BR) weatherboard home on level 1/4 acre (approx) in brilliant family location. Open plan timber kitchen/meals and spacious adjacent family living room. Separate lounge with ofp. Large rear gardens with 120 year old oak tree.



warrandyte north private sale
suit \$420k plus buyers

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
suit \$450k plus buyers

North facing 3BR + study (suit 4th BR) home crafted from Daniel Robertson bricks. Features open plan kitchen/meals. Lounge/dining with jarrah floors. Covered terrace with built-in bbq. Fully fenced rear gardens. Double remote garage. Walk to Goldfields plaza, school, river and transport.



warrandyte north private sale
suit \$470k plus buyers

Beautifully presented 4BR (3BR + study) home on useable 1 acre with easterly views and scope to renovate or build (stca). Features lounge/dining. Kitchen/meals. Large shed. Fruit trees and abundant roses. Double carport.



warrandyte north auction
2pm saturday 29 november unless sold prior
suit \$500k plus buyers

Tranquil 3BR home on 1.3 acres with hardwood floors and wide windows to capture panoramic views. Features formal lounge, adjacent dining. Separate family room. Storeroom & workshop with shower facilities - suit artist's workshop. Easy walk down KG Road to Warrandyte village.



warrandyte north auction
11am saturday 22 november

4BR home ideally situated on a near 1 acre on the bend of the Yarra River. Boasts direct river access, river views on two sides and mature native gardens. Kitchen/meals/family. Rumpus. Potting shed. Workshop/bungalow with WC. Garage and single carport.



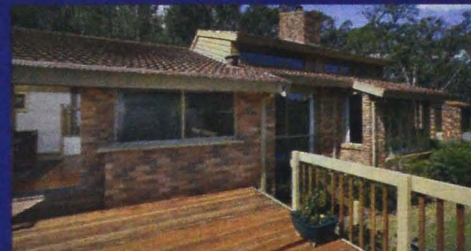
warrandyte private sale
suit \$550k plus buyers

Immaculate 4BR home on 1/4 acre in one of Warrandyte's best loved family precincts. Formal lounge/dining with ofp. Kitchen/meals/family with polished boards. Covered patio for entertaining. Double lockup garage with HUGE under house storage (space for boat!) Walk to river, park, school and transport.



wonga park tender
closes 5pm tuesday 25 november unless sold prior
suit \$650k plus buyers

Beautifully presented 4BR + study + bungalow home situated on near 3 acres of gently rolling pasture (fenced for horses) with wide areas for children to play. Formal lounge/dining with ofp. Family room. Timber kitchen/dining room. Deck, pool + patio. 4 car garage, workshop & storage sheds.



warrandyte north tender
closes 5pm tuesday 18 november unless sold prior
suit \$650k plus buyers

Immaculate 3BR plus study (suit single 4th BR) home on 1.25 acres approx adjacent to State Park and easy walk to river. Formal lounge/dining. Spacious timber kitchen/meals. Deck for entertaining. Panoramic bush views. 2 double garages with internal access + storeroom (suit extra living area stca).



warrandyte north private sale
suit \$800k plus buyers

Fully renovated 5 double BR home with 4 living areas on 1 acre of mature gardens. Formal lounge with ofp. Open plan kitchen/meals/family. Rumpus. Sitting room/parents' retreat. Open plan study. Deck and separate terrace for entertaining. Triple remote garage.



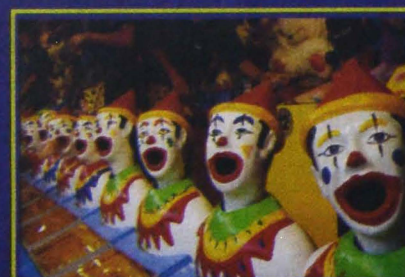
kangaroo ground auction
11am saturday 29 november unless sold prior
suit \$860k plus buyers

The ultimate equestrian lifestyle! 4BR mudbrick home plus cottage on 7.15 acres (4 fenced paddocks) with panoramic views. Lounge. Kitchen/meals. Sep family room. Study. Hamish Knox built barn: 2 stables, tack room, feed room and horse wash. Menage. Triple carport and horse float accomm.



warrandyte private sale
suit \$1.15 million plus buyers

Stunning 4BR + parents' retreat (suit 5th BR) home adjacent to State Park with finishes straight from a 5-star hotel. Open plan kitchen/meals with granite benches. Formal lounge/dining. Rumpus/entertainment room. Covered terrace, outdoor kitchen and IG salt water pool. Double garage. Walk to village.



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