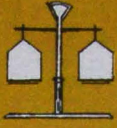


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● LATE NEWS

No ring road link!

Warrandyte- Eltham route abandoned

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte received the best possible Christmas gift earlier this month when Premier John Brumby announced that the projected freeway linking the Metropolitan Ring Road at Greensborough with Eastlink at Ringwood would join the Eastern Freeway at Bulleen.

All previous references to the ring road link have stressed a route through Eltham and Warrandyte as a very real option.

The \$6bn North East Link, described as the centrepiece to the government's transport plan, will include 4.5km tunnels under the Yarra River from Rosanna to Bulleen.

The Warrandyte Community Association welcomed the decision not to drive a freeway through the Green Wedge parkland of Warrandyte, Eltham and Diamond Creek.

"This is a victory for the vigorous campaigning over many years by residents and local state members of parliament who recognised that their constituencies were totally opposed to desecrating the Green Wedge," WCA president Dick Davies told the *Diary*.

"WCA has a mandate to preserve the Green Wedge and has always opposed any proposed route through the State Park.

"We held a well attended public meeting in 2002 which endorsed this approach and have campaigned against it ever since.

"WCA congratulates Yan Yean MHR Danielle Green and Manningham councillor David Ellis who organised petitions against the Warrandyte link"

Mr Davies said he hoped that the decision would cause RACV to dump its advocacy of widening Yarra Street into a major feeder road and destroying the village atmosphere of the township.

Season's Greetings from all at the Diary

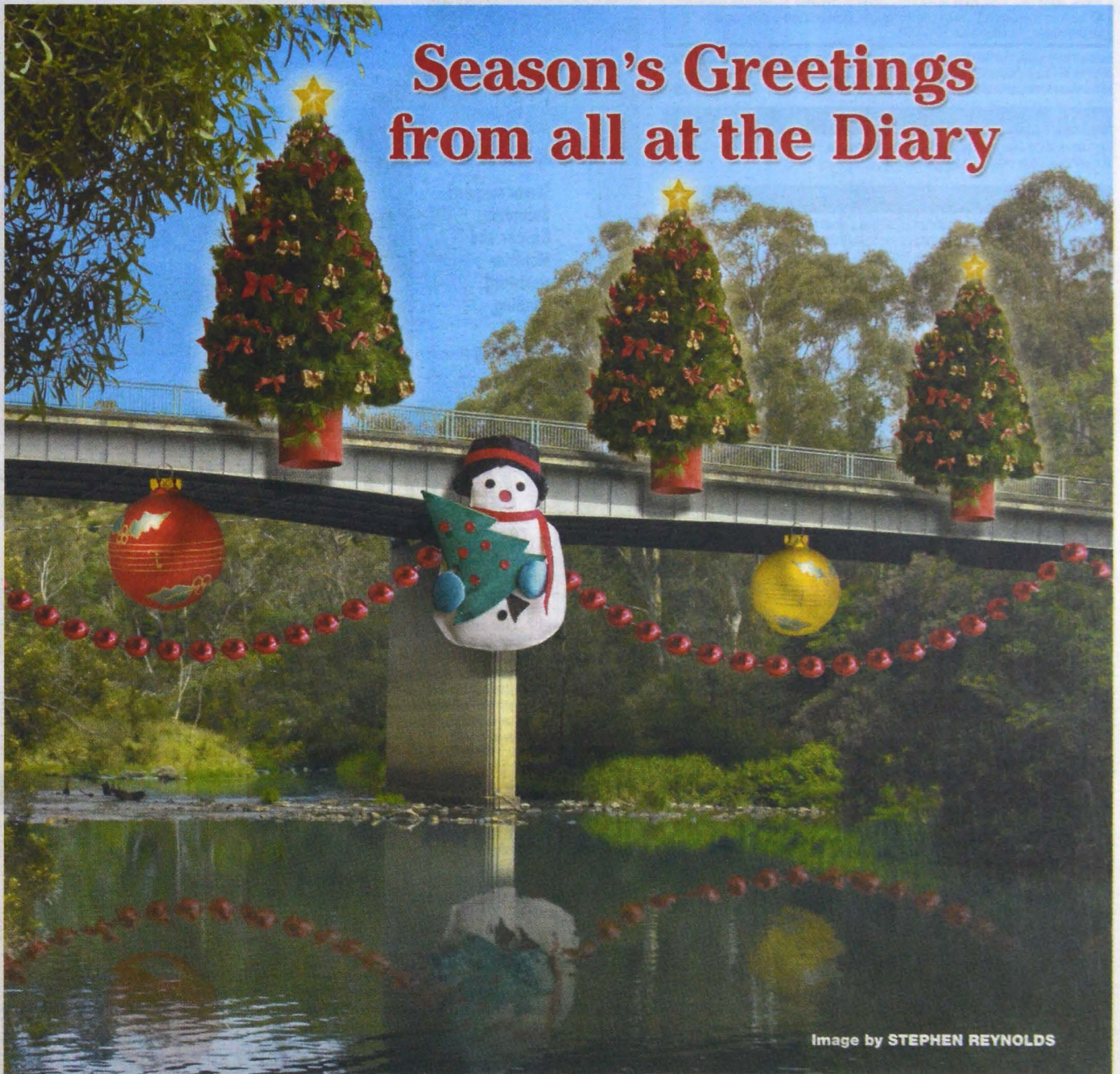


Image by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

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"The hardest thing in life is knowing which bridge
to cross and which to burn."

— David Russell

WARRANDYTE diary

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, February 11, 2009. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, January 30.

OUR NEWSPAPER

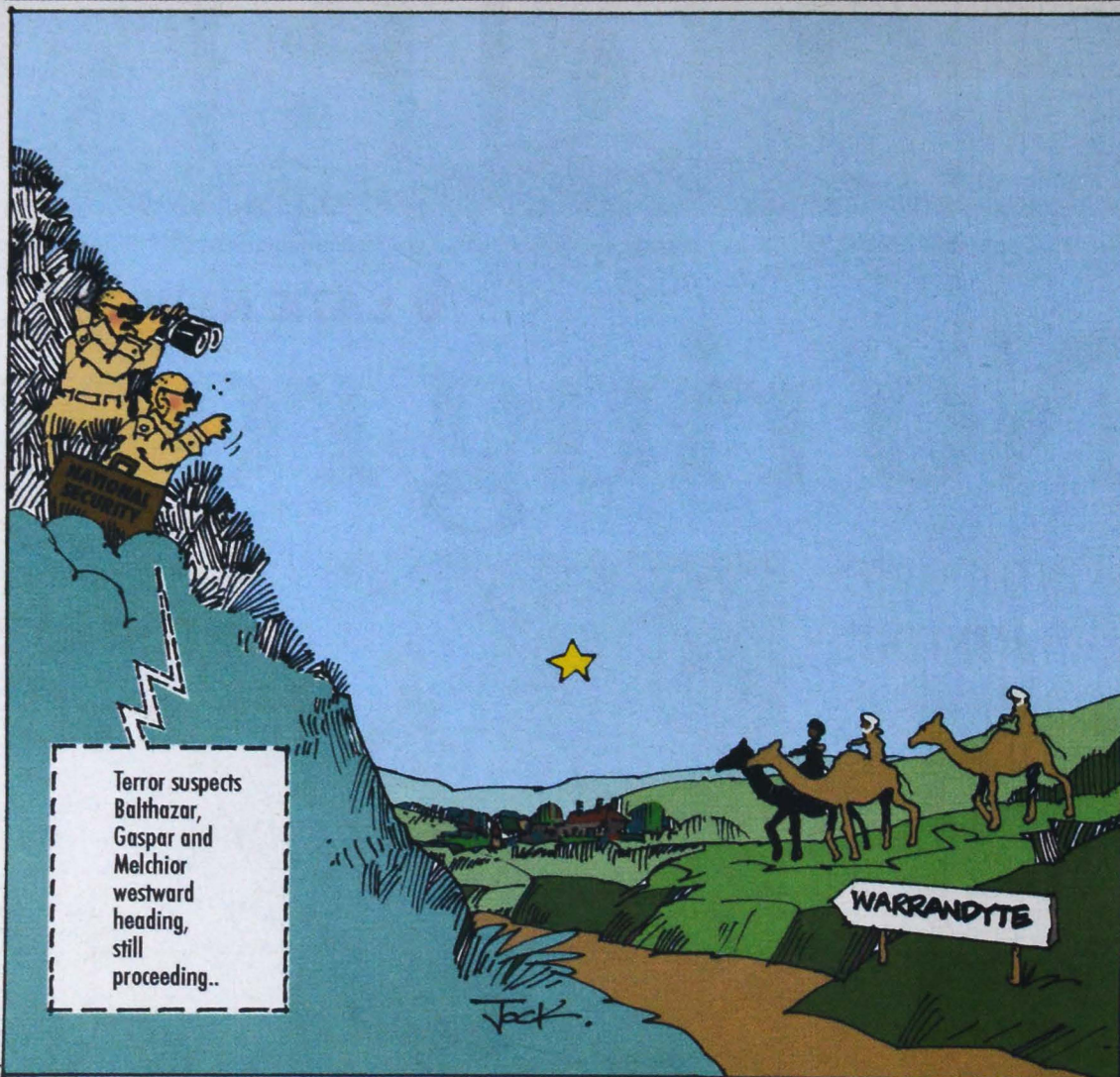
The *Warrandyte Diary* was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its not-for-profit,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

A SPECIAL PLACE

Warrandyte (approximate population 8000) is situated on the Yarra River, some 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.

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



Bringing joy to the world...

NEVILLE was getting fat. Two pillows tied round your middle with rope will do that to you, but was he fat enough? The red suit was still way too big. And the only beard they'd had left at the costume shop was an Abraham Lincoln model he'd gone over with White Out. By the time he'd finished dressing he was about as convincing as John Brumby's commitment to the Green Wedge. Neville took a deep breath, followed by a Carlton Draught, shouldered his sack and stepped outside where the Lions Christmas party was in full swing.

"Ho Ho Ho!" he called, sounding about as jolly as a mortgage lender. No one noticed.

The pride of Warrandyte's service club were so involved in raucous conversation, wine drinking and scoffing carcinogenic meat cooked by men in funny aprons, that an overweight old fogey with bad dress sense just seemed to blend in. And his feeble Ho Hos were completely lost in the din of rowdy children overdosed on coloured cordial feeding fairy bread to Licker the Staffordshire Terrier.

Except for Alice who thought they were being childish and was busy removing butterfly wings when Neville tapped her on the shoulder.

"HEEELP!" shrieked Alice, who had a voice like a judge from *So You Think You Can Dance!*

Conversation stopped, the guests stared and the Staffie locked on to Neville's left leg. "Oh...oh...oh!" said Neville. "Licker!" said the host. "Yes please," said John Boyle holding out his glass.



The dog released his prey and ran off with half a trouser leg as a prize.

"Hey everybody," said Ian Shugg, "it's Santa!"

"Then how come he's wearing Warrandyte footy socks?" asked Alice.

"All Santa's clothes are red and white," answered Neville, which seemed to satisfy the child who attached herself to him for the rest of the afternoon by clinging to the end of the rope that dangled from under his jacket.

As the other children lined up in front of Neville sitting as regally as you can on a banana lounge, Santa's little helper regulated the flow of little I-wants with a piercing "NEXT!!" whenever she decided time was up.

"So, have you been good this year Travis?" enquired Neville as the neighbour's youngest fidgeted on his knee.

"How do you know my

name?"

Neville wanted to say "Because you're the little bastard who pushes our Sulo bin down the hill every Monday on the way to school" but had to content himself with "Because Santa knows everything Travis!"

"Oh yeah? Then what's Mrs Trott's bra size?" sneered the lad who wasn't as green as he was cabbage-looking.

"NEXT!!" cried Alice.

"I want a Baby Born and Magic Potty Doll, a Barbie and The Diamond Castle Princess Liana Doll, a Bratz Girls Really Rock Doll and a High School Musical Sing Together Doll!"

"Sure you wouldn't prefer a Bob the Builder power tool kit, Kevin?"

"NEXT!!" yelled Alice.

"And what do you want for Christmas this year Caitlin?"

"Same as I told you yesterday at Eastland! You got Alzheimer's or something?"

living with The Trotts

"No, no! I just thought there might be something else you wanted to add."

"No," said Caitlin. "Just the spa."

"NEXT!!"

"So what would you like for Christmas little man?"

"Peace in Africa and the Middle East and greater tolerance of people's individual differences!"

"He's from Bend of Isles!" explained Alice.

But all things come to an end, good and bad. "That's the lot!" announced Alice.

"Thank you little elf," said Neville. "And isn't there something you'd like for Christmas before I see to my reindeer?"

Alice nodded. "Implants!"

"Got to go!" said Neville trying to rise too quickly from the banana lounge, which promptly collapsed around him. As did everything else. Wrestling free of the furniture, Neville lurched to his feet, jerking the rope in Alice's hand and freeing the pair of Dunlopillos which tumbled from under his jacket.

Consequential to this sudden reduction in his waistline, his trousers fell down.

"UNDERPANTS!" shrieked Alice.

Neville clutched whatever he could and fled for the refuge of the house and a couple of Panadeine Forte.

"Here!" said the host handing him a glass of water.

And as he gratefully gulped down the tablets, Neville couldn't help noticing the familiar warning on the packet.

"Keep away from small children."

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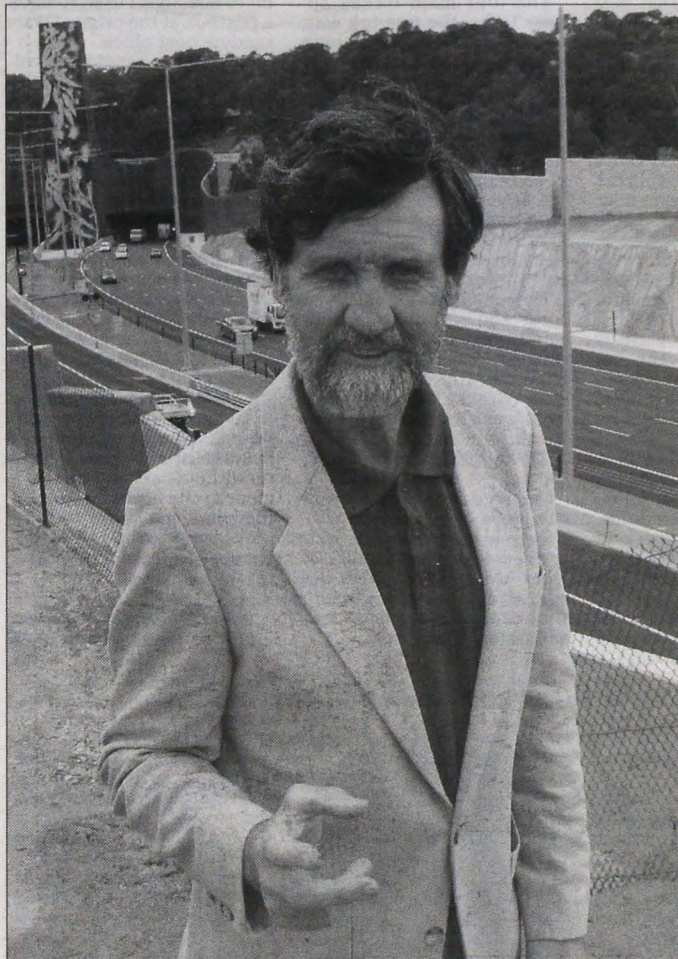
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WARRANDYTE

Ellis' council success



David Ellis: "petition against the freeway strengthened my campaign"

One of three for Mullum Mullum

By **KARLY HICKMAN** and **CLIFF GREEN**

Warrandyte activist David Ellis has been elected Mullum Mullum ward representative on Manningham council, along with Meg Downie and Graeme Macmillan.

Ken King of Kangaroo Ground is the new Sugarloaf ward councillor for Nillumbik shire.

An interesting feature of the election was the success in first preference votes for candidates with Green affiliations. Leizl Shnookal in Sugarloaf, an endorsed Greens Party candidate, topped the initial ballot with 1548 votes. Ken King, who originally polled 1419, won when preferences were distributed, giving him 2720 votes against Ms Shnookal's 2602.

In Mullum Mullum, David Ellis, who previously contested state and federal elections as a Greens candidate, stood as an independent and received the highest first preference result of 3584 votes. Preferences reduced his vote to second place behind Meg Downie, who depended on preference support from several unsuccessful candidates.

"It's been a clean campaign," Ms Downie told the *Diary*, following a bad experience when she ran for council three years ago. "Everyone who made preference deals kept them."

"As a councillor, my responsibility will be to the whole of Manningham," Mr Ellis said. "But I will be taking the opportunity to be a voice for Warrandyte and for the communities and the open areas of Manningham's eastern sector."

"If the Manningham motto, 'Balance of city and country' is to be more than a promotional line it needs to be reflected in a planning strategy that values the open spaces and smaller communities of Mullum Mullum—Warrandyte in particular."

"I have no doubt that the petition against the freeway strengthened my campaign, and was at the forefront of voters' minds," Mr Ellis said.

All winning candidates pledged their support for the Green Wedge and are against a ring road link through Warrandyte, although Manningham councillor-elect Graeme Macmillan did not rule out a freeway through another part of Manningham.

Meg Downie said the Green Wedge and large blocks are "one of the joys of living where we are," and is adamant she will work to rein in the type of subdivisions that have plagued such other municipalities as Maroondah.

Ms Downie says she looks forward to working with a "diverse range of people," each of whom will bring a different strength to the council table.

David Ellis points out that any incoming representative, whether an advocate for "wholesale change or a steady-as-she-goes approach," should take the opportunity to "re-assess, revise and renew" council

policies.

Graeme Macmillan said that in the difficult financial times ahead, "Manningham council needs a more modern approach to financial management and a strong community involvement," citing that the average Manningham ratepayer pays 41 per cent more rates than Whitehorse residents and 21 per cent more than Maroondah residents.

"I seek to eliminate proposed rate increases, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all council op-

council spending on such activities as council retreats and dinners, as well as staff numbers and salaries. "We need to keep rates as low as we can for working families and those on fixed incomes such as pensioners," she said.

Graeme Macmillan stated at the Warrandyte Community Association's election forum in October, "I wish to increase the efficiency, effectiveness and appropriateness of all council services via review. I will seek a fairer deal for Mullum Mullum residents in roads, drains and footpaths, while protecting the Green Wedge."

Ken King, new Sugarloaf representative on Nillumbik council, is postmaster at Kangaroo Ground and a well known Yarra Valley boutique winemaker. He has experience in the corporate sector as an electrical engineer and project manager.

He is keen to ensure "appropriate economic development" in Nillumbik, supporting such businesses as artists and potters, small wineries, bed and breakfast operators and café owners. He is a strong advocate for low impact tourism and believes this provides an "economic base for the Green Wedge."

Mr King adopts a "live local, plant local" approach to preserving the Green Wedge, believing biodiversity is maintained by planting drought tolerant species that are indigenous to the area.

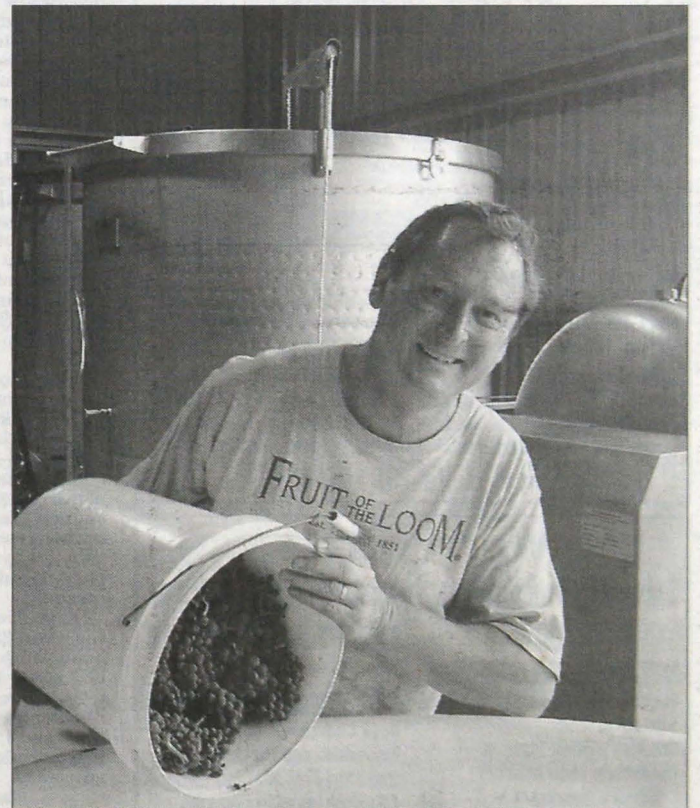
"I am keen to get involved with the Warrandyte Community Association and North Warrandyte organisations in order to develop a close working relationship," Mr King said.



Meg Downie: "it's been a clean campaign"

erations, obtain better accountability and transparency and promote meaningful community involvement in the council's economic, social and environmental decision-making," Mr Macmillan said.

Meg Downie hopes to keep rate increases below CPI by reviewing



Ken King: "keen to ensure appropriate economic development"

HOW WE VOTED

CITY OF MANNINGHAM
Mullum Mullum Ward
(Proportional representation)

FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES	
DOWNIE, Meg	2445
PODOLAK, Peter	2075
MIJAT, Albert	166
SLATTERY, Paul	1307
McNIFF, David	770
HALCOMB, Peter	1626
KITCHINGMAN, Ron	2837
JONES, Brian	887
MACMILLAN, Graeme	2867
GOURLEY, Mary Anne	1228
ELLIS, David	3584
HOSER, Raymond	1503

SUCCESSFUL AFTER COUNTING OF PREFERENCES

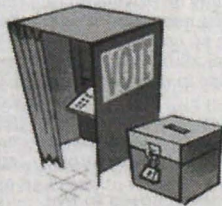
DOWNIE, Meg (1st successful)
ELLIS, David (2nd successful)
MACMILLAN, Graeme (3rd successful)

SHIRE OF NILLUMBIK
Sugarloaf Ward
(Preferential voting)

FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES	
SHNOOKAL, Liezl	1548
KING, Ken	1419
LEESON, Warwick	1041
ASHTON, Jane Elizabeth	448
WU, Irene Mary	540
ROGERS, Zulal	326

VOTES AFTER DISTRIBUTION OF PREFERENCES

SHNOOKAL, Liezl	2602
KING, Ken (elected)	2720



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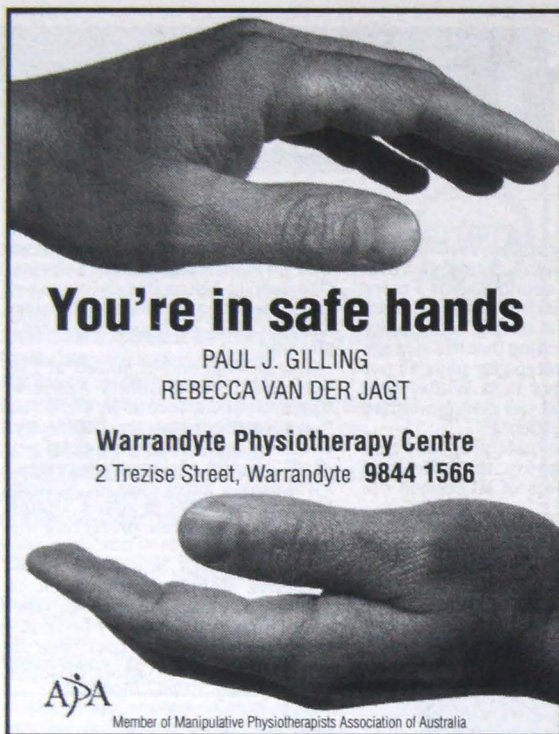
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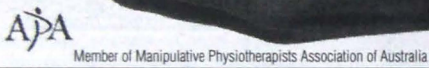

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Warrandyte Neighbourhood House

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Creative Writing Tues pm
Community Choir Mon pm
Children's Drawing Mon, Tues pm
Painting & Printmaking Wed am
Watercolour & Pastels Wed pm
Portrait Painting Sat pm
 * **Jewellery Making** Thur am


HEALTH & WELLBEING:
Yoga Mon *am, pm
Tai Chi Tues pm
Pilates Wed pm
 * **Pilates** Fri am
Strong Women Stay Young Tues, Fri am
Monday Walking Group Mon am
 * **Fitball Class** Wed am
Relaxation & Meditation Thur pm
Older Adults on the Move Wed am
 * **Chi Gung** Thur am

LANGUAGE:
French Club Wed pm

LIFE SKILLS:
Book Club (monthly) Thur pm
Discussion and Lunch Group (monthly) Tues pm
Film Club (monthly) Tues am
Digital Photography Wed am
Cake Decorating Workshop Sat pm
 * **Infant Massage Workshop** Sat Sun
 * **Auslan** (language of the deaf community) Thur pm

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 Tuesday March 24th

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www.warrandyteneighbourhoodhouse.org.au *New this term

BMX invaders Emotional issues

Some years ago, the "relevant authorities" wanted to fence off the small reserve that abuts the south side of Naughton Avenue. This was vehemently resisted by local residents—myself included—who insisted that walking dogs under control did no damage, and was effectively our inalienable right. Then koalas, kangaroos and wombats—and the occasional echidna—were common enough in that little valley that drains into the Yarra.

In more recent times, however, new pressures on that reserve have mounted, and are increasing. A number of adolescent boys—and others quite old enough to know better—have taken to forging new paths throughout that very fragile land, breaking trees and digging large holes up to about a metre square and deep, to build up bike jumps.

Some residents who remonstrated with them received an anonymous letter charging us with wanting to drive their boys to drugs by denying them the use of the BMX track. The BMX track? Well, certainly some parts were by now so degraded by cyclist

dear diary

earthworks and a great deal of fresh litter—including a car rack and a great deal of broken glass—that it wasn't good for much else.

The reserve is "managed" from Westerfolds, and those overworked rangers have done what they can, given their very limited resources and the considerable area for which they have responsibility. For a while they had some effect, but now new bicycle tracks and jumps are springing up on that little piece of very fragile land. Litter, including fresh broken glass, is almost a daily occurrence, as is new evidence of bicycles—and at least one substantial motorbike—making slides on the slopes.

I for one am now so desperate about the continuing destruction that I am much inclined to cry to Westerfolds, "All is forgiven! Come and fence it off!" But surely there is a better solution?

Judith Richards
 Naughton Avenue

I have read the diatribe in your November issue on how the various council candidates have presented themselves. How wonderful they all are.

The four main issues appear to be: the free/toll way, the Green Wedge, the high salaries paid to council executives, public versus private transport; all very emotional but rather unrealistic issues.

We live in a big city and we have to expect the pros and cons of that.

If anyone thinks they can stop the connection between Greensborough and Ringwood being built they have rocks in their heads.

They might delay and even force some of it being built underground, as happened on the "Bracks" tollway, when they dug the double-B tunnels (Bracks and Brumby). That was all very fine for the locals, but it cost an extra \$100,000,000 to the travelling public.

I arrived in Warrandyte in the 1960s.

I would like everyone who arrived after me to bulldoze their house, re-establish the environment as it was before they came, and move back to where they came from.

That of course will never happen.

The same thing was probably said about me when I arrived in Warrandyte. As a bit of nostalgia I used to have a postbox at the original Warrandyte post office.

None of the candidates volunteered to serve as honorary councillors, forego any payment from council other than direct out-of-pocket expenses, and thereby lower the pressure on our rates. Where is the community spirit, or is it only self interest?

We are too diversified to afford a public transport system that serves everyone.

It works well in a city environment, but in "our sacred green wedge acreage size residential blocks" it is just not an economical proposition.

It may be OK for retirees and local business people, who do not have to commute. It is unrealistic to think we can do without cars and trucks. A modern city needs an efficient road network.

We cannot stop the world, but we can learn to live with it.

Gunner Jeppesen
 Warrandyte

Dog invades baby space

An idyllic setting. A 19 month-old granddaughter and her grandmother sitting on a seat next to the river, just below the bakery, the playground nearby in central Warrandyte. Suddenly, one uncontrolled, unleashed dog, jumping onto the little girl's knee, its face directly in front of her face, the grandmother wiping the dog's saliva from her granddaughter's face. The owner defending her dog, saying it is just a pup (a large one), that she has children of her own (irrelevant), that the grandmother should not raise her foot in an attempt to shield her granddaughter from the dog jumping up for a second time (it does).

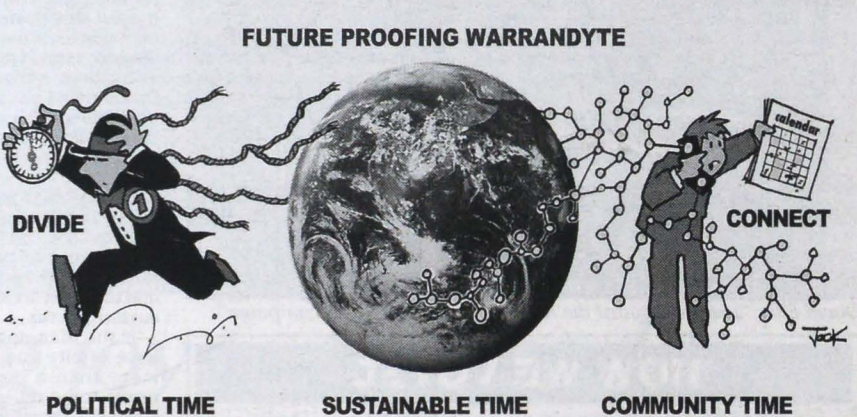
Please dog owners, if you cannot guarantee control of your dog, keep it on a leash.

And—other users of the river area—if you have problems with uncontrolled dogs, please write to Manningham council. If enough of us write perhaps council may change this otherwise beautiful, child-friendly area to a leash-on zone.

I have lived in Warrandyte for over 28 years and for many of them I walked my dog along the river, but always leashed as he was not as obedient as he should have been and I would never risk him harming or frightening anyone.

Warrandyte Granny
 (name and address supplied)

FUTURE PROOFING WARRANDYTE



A future for everything

Val Polley's article (July 2008) well expressed the possibility of "future proofing" Warrandyte. Indeed, it's a grand project for the people of Warrandyte to embrace.

Within the broad sweep of her vision I'd like to suggest we must include the non-human life community as well. Why? Partly for reasons of ethics and partly for obvious self-preservationary outcomes!

Our vision must include our hills and valleys, our forests, our streams, and their cargo of wild life nurtured by these enfolding places.

If you close your eyes you may envisage this other Warrandyte community; it includes the tiniest micro-organisms in your soil, the insects and the frogs you may be privileged to hear, the magnificence of the sugar glider as it floats in the night, a heron so quietly stalking for a meal, dusky moorhens dabbling in shallow water, the fungi that rise in deep water as if by a magical process.

All this and so much more of nature's magnificent gifts are here for us to gaze upon in wonder, and to nurture, as they too are threatened by climate change.

And we, as people who have chosen to live

amongst these precious forest remnants and green places of north-east Melbourne, are so much better placed to help than the millions of folk who live in the heavily modified urban areas.

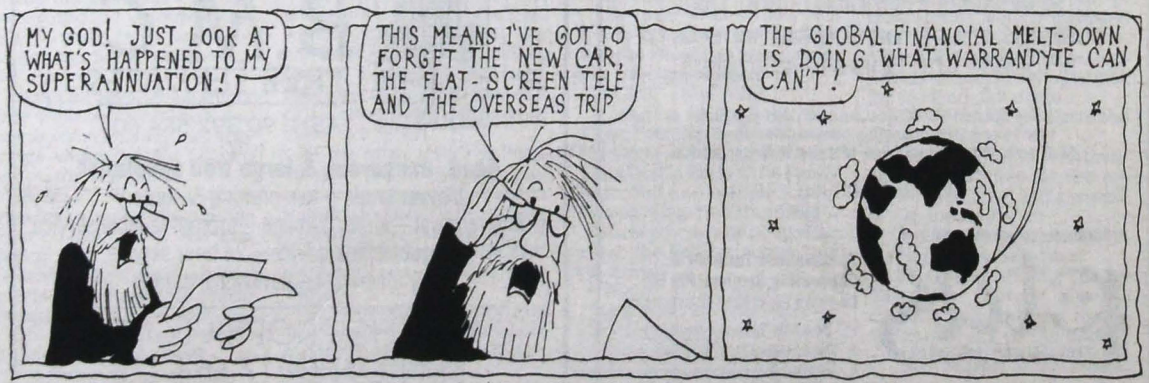
Again, if you close your eyes you may envisage these vast areas of our city, housing a different type of life community; in these places the wild animals and plants were mostly destroyed, and then replaced by buildings, roads and other impermeable surfaces.

The reality is that our Warrandyte ecosystems, while generally much superior to those we've just envisaged, are still severely degraded. Yet there are many ways we can improve them, and so much joy and delight to be had along the way!

We humans face an uncertain future; there are many scenarios being painted, many possibilities being proposed. Let all of Warrandyte's community groups work together on this grand project, keeping strongly in mind that as humans we are but one part of the whole community of beings.

Joan Macmahon
 Bradleys Lane

CYRIL



MY GOD! JUST LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY SUPERANNUATION!

THIS MEANS I'VE GOT TO FORGET THE NEW CAR, THE FLAT-SCREEN TELE AND THE OVERSEAS TRIP

THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL MELT-DOWN IS DOING WHAT WARRANDYTE CAN'T!

January 13, 2009 marks the 70th anniversary of Black Friday, the day bushfires almost wiped out Warrandyte. Two men died and 160 houses and three churches were destroyed. The late BRUCE BENCE wrote this graphic account of the holocaust.

The day Warrandyte burned

THE month of January 1939 came towards the end of a long drought, made worse by a severe, hot dry summer. Water was scarce or non-existent and the forests were tinder dry. One commentator wrote:

"On that day it appeared that the whole state was alight. At midday, in many places, it was dark as night. Men carried hurricane lamps as they worked to make safe their families and belongings. Seventy-one people died. Whole townships were obliterated in a matter of minutes."

That day in January 1939 was the newly formed Warrandyte Bush Fire Brigade's baptism of fire. For Warrandyte it was a day beyond belief.

The thermometer in Melbourne reached 46 degrees Celsius and went even higher in country areas, where large fires had been raging for a week or more. Humidity was down to 8 per cent. Matches, when lit, were described as burning with an unusual blue flame.

It was in these conditions that a fire started between Eltham and the river. Driven by fierce north westerly winds, the fire jumped the river east of Alexander Road and swept towards the township.

The newly formed brigade borrowed a utility truck from the butcher and headed out to Bob Mahoney's place on the Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road. The upholstery in the utility caught fire on the way and they had to stop to put it out.

The brigade was equipped with six knapsacks, and with these they saved the house. But they were powerless to stop the forward spread of the fire. The volunteer firemen involved were Captain Birthisel (local policeman), Lieutenant Jim Walsh (baker) and Jack Cahill, A. Fry, K. Dunkley and B. Stoneham.

The fire leapt from hilltop to hilltop and then burnt out the gullies in between. George Stringer and Jack Cahill made another unsuccessful attempt to stop the fire near Keen's Cutting in Yarra Street. Jack and Ralph McAuley were

picking peaches on a property in East Doncaster when they saw the fire and obtained a lift home. The peaches were literally shrivelling on the trees in the heat.

Jack McAuley went up to Mahoney's to help fight the fire. On his way back he saw that the cricket pavilion was well alight. By the time he got home, his wife Dot had filled every container that would hold water and placed them around the house. This enabled Jack to save the house.

Mr J. Pridmore rode round the area on horseback to warn people that the fire was coming and to head for the river.

Dot McAuley will never forget, in the appalling heat, pushing her son Rodney up over the hill as she headed for the river, persuading Mrs J. Moore to bring her baby Maureen and come with her. Moore's house, at 54 Yarra Street, was destroyed.

They took refuge, with other adults and children, in the pool at the back of the old post office. The river was a lifesaver that day, as it had been in the past and would be again in the future.

Mr and Mrs S. McAuley's house at 34 Brackenbury Street was totally destroyed in a matter of minutes, despite the efforts of Ralph and his father to save it. Ralph took his parents up to the school (the children were on holidays) to shelter from the fire, breaking a window to gain access.

All the McAuleys managed to bring out were the deeds to their land and photographs of their children. Their horse had taken care of himself, and was found munching cooked apples off a tree in the backyard.

John Hutchinson was at their Pound Bend home with his mother when the fire jumped the river east of Alexander Road. Mrs Hutchinson telephoned for help as soon as she saw the fire. Before she could put down the phone, the cypress trees in the front caught fire and the whole front of the house collapsed.

The fence of the pound opposite was on fire. The Hutchinsons barely had time to remove some



Mary, Bill and Dick McCulloch beside their burnt out houses in Brackenbury Street.

furniture and carry it out onto the road before the whole house was alight.

John saved his proudest possession, his car, by running it down to the outlet of the tunnel and throwing water over it.

People were sheltering in the tunnel, along with a wallaby and a couple of possums. The animals had lost their fear of humans when faced with a greater peril.

When the fire had passed, John Hutchinson returned to where their house had been. It was gone. The furniture they had brought out onto the road had been completely destroyed. So fierce had been the wind that not even ashes remained.

John called their cow and she came from the direction of the river, walked to the bails and stood quietly as she was milked. John camped on the blackened site that night in a tent a city garage proprietor had lent him.

In South Warrandyte, two fire-fighters—Norm Bangot and Jack Niven—draped wet blankets over their heads and dashed through the flames to rescue two children from a house.

Communications being what they were, people coming home on the bus to Warrandyte that night did not know what had happened. The bus dropped them off at heaps of ashes; all that remained of the homes they had left that morning. Stan Craker, a passenger, described it as the saddest memory of his life.

The fire had raced through Warrandyte and South Warrandyte, burning the South Warrandyte school, the hall and the post office (then on Croydon Road). The postmistress, Mrs Hill, stayed until the building was well alight. In true post office tradition, she remained at her post until the last possible moment.

Jack Colman and Bill Knee left their homes in South Warrandyte to help Mr and Mrs Hussey in Hussey's Lane. Mr Hussey lay dying in their home as the fire swept towards them, destroying the coaching stables and blacksmith's shop on the way.

Mrs Hussey, who was 74 years

old, had pulled down all the blinds so her husband could not see what was happening. She then went outside to help in the fight to save the house, throwing buckets of water over outside walls. Bill Knee, their son-in-law, pumped water from the underground well. The house was saved.

By the time Bill Knee and Jack Colman returned to their own houses, the fire had destroyed them both. The only thing Jack saved was a clock. His cool store, which had just been finished, was burnt to the ground.

The Hussey's son Bill was working away from home in the Rubicon Valley, where fires had already burnt 1200 square miles. When the fire struck at Warrandyte, Bill's wife Sylvia was in Ringwood; daughters Betty and Wilma were being cared for by Mrs Birthisel at the police station.

Wilma, aged seven, ran home along Yarra Street to rescue her favourite doll, while Mrs Birthisel grabbed whatever clothes she could carry. When the old coaching stables (where the Telstra exchange now stands) caught fire, 12 year-old Betty helped put it out.

Bill Hussey arrived back from Rubicon that night. Although his family and home were safe, four of his immediate relatives had lost everything.

Bill Couch, a lieutenant in the Kangaroo Ground brigade, left home during Black Friday to help fight the fires at Warrandyte, driving his own truck, which he had fitted with a 100 gallon tank. He did not return home until four days later.

Martin Francis was 12 years old when the 1939 fires hit Wonga Park. His father harnessed their horse to the orchard spray and left Martin with the spray and the job of protecting the house, whilst he went off to fight the fire at the bottom of his property. Forty-four years later Martin was still fighting fires, as first lieutenant of the Wonga Park Brigade.

The Grand Hotel, one of the few places with a reliable water supply, was saved, as was the post office

opposite, thanks to the hotel's water. The hotel caught fire when sparks ignited a kapok mattress that had been left on the balcony. It was soon extinguished.

A number of young children had been locked in a back room at the hotel as a safety measure. One lad of 13 was so indignant that he picked the lock, allowing them all to escape.

Two men lost their lives in Warrandyte that day. Fred Topping was burnt to death in his home and Ernest Schafter collapsed and died whilst fighting the fire in Alexander Road.

By midnight, Warrandyte had experienced the worst of the holocaust. Everyone was exhausted and much of the district had been burnt. But when a call came through for people to help at St Andrews and Wonga Park, where fires were still raging, 50 weary men volunteered.

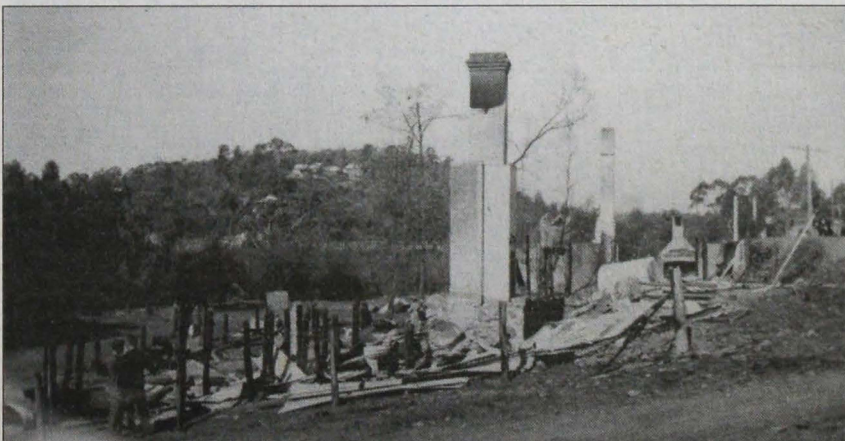
A total of 160 homes were destroyed in the area, as well as the Catholic, Anglican and Presbyterian churches.

As always, following a calamity of such magnitude, help poured into the district. Mrs Davey, whose family owned the Recreation Reserve Café (later the White House) remembers cooking on an open fire at the Mechanics Institute Hall. They provided meals for anyone who wanted them, at any time. The food was all donated.

The women and children of the families burnt out were provided with a month's food and accommodation, in a hall set up to accommodate them, by church organisations in Mordialloc.

A dance in aid of the Lord Mayor's Bushfire Relief Fund was held in Warrandyte on Saturday, February 4, 1939. The first social event following the fires, the dance was organised by Miss Renton and Miss Wagner (now Mrs Tom Bone) who sang at the dance and were brought back for two encores.

The Warrandyte community had begun its long task of rebuilding. (Originally published in the Diary, May and June, 1987. Pictures courtesy Warrandyte Historical Society.)



The Kia Ora Cafe and Taffy Jones' house were completely destroyed.



The Hutchinson family lived in tents following the destruction of their home.

Our kids in space

By TRISTAN MADDOCKS

Students from Anderson's Creek Primary School were granted a taste of life in space when they spoke to the commander of the International Space Station (ISS) in an historic radio contact last month.

More than 200 members of the Anderson's Creek community turned out to hear 10 students ask Commander Mike Fincke about the rigours of space life and the excitement of being an astronaut.

The school auditorium came alive when Cdr Fincke's voice first crackled over the speakers, ending a week of intense preparation by teachers and students.

The students, all from grades five and six, asked Cdr Fincke two questions each and remembered to observe radio etiquette, saying "over" at the end of each question.

The questions were diverse, ranging from food eaten on the ISS to astrophysics.

"When you get hurt, do wounds heal the same way as on earth?" asked Kyle.

"Not so many of us get hurt, so we don't have too much data on this, but most people think that when we heal in space it takes a little bit longer than it does on earth," replied Cdr Fincke.

"Is your speech affected in space?" asked Leah.

"No, because our pressure in the atmosphere is the same and we use the same gasses as we do on the planet—oxygen and nitrogen—so that everything sounds normal here in space," said Cdr Fincke.

"Have you been hit by a meteor? What happens if you are?" asked Bethany.

"Meteors come in two sizes, big ones and small ones. If there's a big one coming, we move the space station out of the way, and if it's a small one we have special ... armour that protects us from the meteors. So we should be okay," replied Cdr Fincke.

"Do your five senses work well in space?" asked Hewitt.

"That's a great question. Because we are in a closed environment inside the space station, we have enough air so all our senses work normally. Some people think their sense of taste changes but mine certainly doesn't," said Cdr Fincke.

"What happens if one of you gets sick or injured?" asked Nicholas.

"The real trick about that is that none of us are doctors, but we all have had medical training. If somebody gets really sick or injured we have a lifeboat spacecraft that can take us home in a matter of hours if we really needed to. But we'd rather not do that, we try to take care of everything on board first. But fortunately we haven't had any major injuries yet," replied Cdr Fincke.

The International Space Station orbits 350 kilometres above the surface of earth, travels at 27,700km/h and completes more than 15 orbits every day.

The radio contact was arranged through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program and lasted approximately 10 minutes; the amount of time needed for the ISS orbit to cross Australia.

In order for the Andersons Creek radio signal to reach Cdr Fincke, it had to be sent to a "telebridge" station in Kingston, South Australia, from where it was beamed up to the ISS.

Three large screens were set up in the school auditorium, showing a map tracking the movement of the ISS over earth and film footage of the ISS crew going about its business.

After the event, principal Des McKenzie said a lot of preparation had gone into making the contact a success.

"When it happened, it was fantastic, just listening to the kids having their say, and I thought it went well," he said.

"From the kids' point of view, just researching the questions and making them think outside the square (was) what it was all about."

"There are no givens, this is space, we don't quite know how it is, and the kids have to think a little bit."

Wireless Institute of Australia president Michael Owen presented the students with certificates and congratulated them on the contact.

Teacher Andrea Leeder said the school had applied to participate in ARISS two years ago, but confirmation of the date of the contact only came 10 days before the event.

"I didn't find out until October 31 as to what the date and time was, and because it was a long weekend, I had three days to try and pull the whole thing together," she said.

"I'm actually hoping to get a lot of other Victorian schools involved, because I'm pretty passionate about science."

"I'm hoping many other schools in Victoria will put in an application and be able to do the same thing."

"Hopefully it's really sparked (the students') curiosity for the unknown and their interest in science."

In future, searching the night sky will never seem quite the same for these fortunate Warrandyte kids.

Does space look like how it is shown in movies?

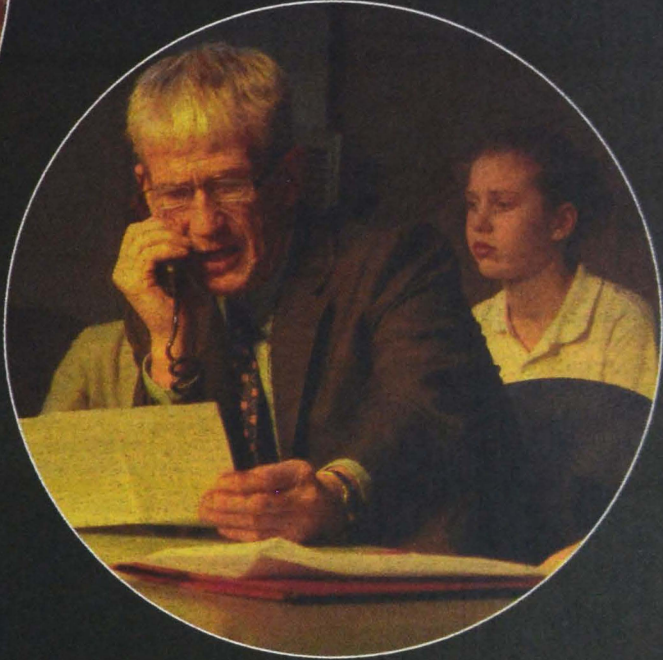
Movies can't capture how cool it is up in space.





What goes through your mind during liftoff?

The thing that goes through my mind is happiness.



How does a spaceship move in space when there are no particles to push against?

Spaceships don't need particles to push against, you just need to have the actual momentum...



How do you navigate your way in space?

A computer program tells us over which part of the planet we are—and we can look out the window.

Images by STEPHEN REYNOLDS



Primary kids speak up

Kids at Warrandyte Primary School spoke their minds at the annual Manningham public speaking competition held at the Warrandyte school. Pictured are local contenders Molly, Leah and Lewis. Leah (centre) won her section, arguing, "There shouldn't be any rules in parks—everyone should be responsible for themselves." Ten Manningham schools participated, with an adjudicator awarding points on matter, manner and method.

High school oval honours teacher



In late 2006, Warrandyte High School was successful in obtaining an "Investing in our Schools Program" grant for the refurbishment of the school oval.

The school's oval had deteriorated to the point where it was becoming unusable. The project consisted of oval surface refurbishment, drainage works, sprinkler system, rabbit proof fence, shade

sails, cricket pitch, and AFL and soccer goalposts.

The works are now almost complete, with costs to date having reached \$230,000. "Grass growth has been a little slower than expected and we have not yet been able to allow our students onto the new surface," assistant principal Dr Stephen Parkin told the *Diary*. The oval has been named

the Rob Graham Sporting Field in honour of a very highly valued and respected member of the school staff who died last year.

"Rob was a great motivator who encouraged students to pursue sport beyond school and into wider competitions," Dr Parkin said.

"The oval will be ready for full use by our students at the start of the 2009 school year."

Thanks one and all

By **CLIFF GREEN**

"Everyone in Warrandyte reads the *Diary*." That's our boast when we're touting for advertising. But it must be close to the truth.

According to Australia Post there are 2800 households in postcode 3113. We drop off approximately 3000 copies in Warrandyte. If that isn't saturation circulation, we don't know what is. The remainder of our 4000 print-run goes out to our neighbouring townships: Park Orchards, Wonga Park, Warranwood, Kangaroo Ground and Research.

But that monthly 24 or 28 pager doesn't just happen. There's a great team of passionate and talented volunteers behind every issue. Time now to thank them on behalf of a grateful community readership.

Reporters are the backbone of any newspaper, and this year we've relied upon Karly Hickman, Tristan Maddocks, Joanne Green, Sandy Burgoyne, Cliff Green and Emma Clark to bring us the news.

Feature articles reflect those aspects of our community—past and present—that deserve a more leisurely exploration. They were contributed by Prudence Truby King, Val Polley, Richard Morton, Jeremy Loftus-Hills, Karen Throssell, Robert White and Don Charwood.

Lots of people in the community contribute to the *Diary* in lots of ways. We thank them all. Those who scored a by-line include Felicity Heath, Ted Rotherham, Gilchrist Clendinnen, Pauline Cross and Irving Reid.

Diary images—black and

white and colour—are windows on our world. Photographers include Stephen Reynolds, Sandy Burgoyne, Jan Tindale, Robert White, Ian Craig, Judy Green and Jeremy Loftus-Hills.

The *Diary* has been known for the high quality of its graphic art from our first issue. Jock Macneish, Paul Williams, Ona Henderson, Syd Tunn and Wayne Rankin wielded brush and pen and computer mouse to create those wonderful images.

Any newspaper worth reading runs columnists—cherished regulars who provide valuable information or give us a timely laugh. Alan Cornell, Roger Kibell, Marilyn Moore, Bev Hanson and Judy Green filled that role to perfection.

Not many newspapers publish good poetry. The ones in *The Age* are so obscure they have to be labelled "poem"! Karen Throssell and Corinne Fenton did us proud in this department.

Our comprehensive sports pages reach out to the thousands of people in our community who torture balls every week. We're especially proud of our coverage of women's and junior sports. Our team included Robert White, Tony Oliver, Judy Green, Edward Munks, Rick Gordon, Chris Chapman, James Logan, Tanya Reardon, Damian Arsenis and Joel Rigby.

Someone has to decide what goes in, what goes where, and how it's presented. It's called "editing" and "sub-editing" and Cliff Green and Robert White accept full blame. Sandy Burgoyne does likewise

with our internet edition, sending our news out to readers across the world.

Behind the scenes labours a team of people, without whom we wouldn't have a community newspaper.

Rachel Schroeder set the type, designed the ads and supervised production. Mark Schroeder and David Hogg were our stand-by technical trouble-shooters. The craftsmen at Streamline Press took pride in printing our newspaper.

Rae Danks charmed our advertisers, kept our accounts, managed our office and warmly guarded our front-of-house image. John Roberts assiduously attended to our corporate affairs.

A newspaper only lives when it's out in its community. Joyce Norman and Peter Norman ensured this, delivering us to our many, greatly appreciated distribution points.

Without money to pay printers, rent, telephone, equipment replacement and all the other necessities, our paper would die. Which is where our esteemed advertisers come in. They recognise the community value of their support and know they are reaching the precisely targeted customers and clients they seek.

Which brings us to the most important people of all—you—our loyal readers, who enthusiastically greet each issue. With special thanks to those who have contributed to our Dear Diary page.

This is our last issue for 2008. No *Diary* in January, but we'll see you all again on Wednesday, February 11. Copy closes on Friday, January 30.

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Cheeses**
(Persian fetta etc, eat in or take out)

**Finest Quality, Long
Lasting Flowers**
(arrangements, etc)

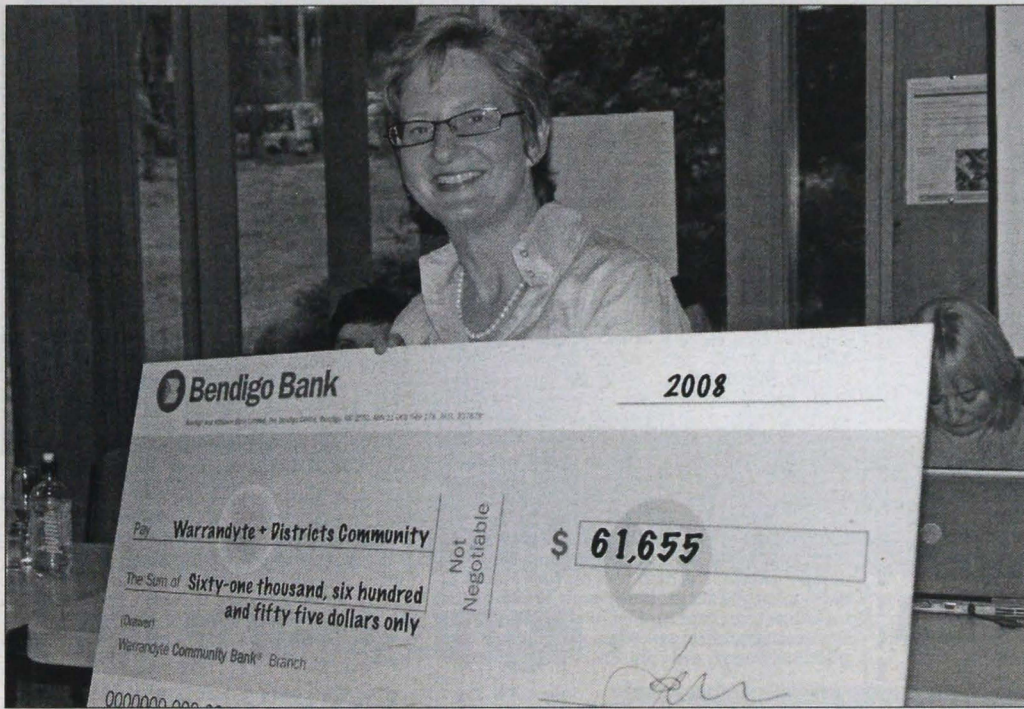
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Bank signals top project



Community bank chairman Sarah Wrigley dispenses largesse. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

The Warrandyte Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank has earmarked \$100,000 to fund a major project.

"We are currently in consultation with a number of key people in the community, discussing where to allocate this funding," board chairman Sarah Wrigley told the *Diary*.

"It is a very exciting development for the branch and we hope it will provide this community with a real legacy."

The bank hopes to be able to announce details of this initiative in the next issue of the *Diary*, due out in February.

The \$100,000 project was foreshadowed at the annual general meeting last month of Warrandyte Community Financial Services, the company that runs the Warrandyte Community Bank.

Ms Wrigley reported that the branch had a very successful financial year.

"We were well ahead of our forecasted growth and as such turned around a profit of \$253,196 (before interest, dividends and tax) well ahead of last year's profit of \$99,385," she said.

"Mark Challen and the team at the branch have done an amazing job generating the business, and most

importantly, generating it profitably."

From its deposits and lending the branch generated income of \$836,538, compared to almost \$640,000 in 2006/07, a growth of 30.9 per cent. A dividend of eight cents per share was announced at the meeting, bringing the total return to shareholders of 19 cents per share.

"As a result the Warrandyte Community Bank was able to donate \$61,655 to more than 40 local organisations, bringing the total returned to the community to more than \$156,000," Ms Wrigley said.

Organisations sponsored by the bank include Warrandyte Historical Society, Warrandyte Community Market, Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association, Warrandyte Tennis Club and Warrandyte Festival.

Sporting clubs and all the schools and pre-schools in the area were also assisted.

Ms Wrigley paid special tribute to founding chairman of the branch, John Provan, who stepped down from his leading role at the previous AGM.

"It was John's enthusiasm and passion that got the Warrandyte Community Bank Branch up and running, and his direction that ensured its success," Ms Wrigley said.

Community centre group's good year

The "Community Conversation" workshop, held in July and designed to give locals a say in the running of the centre, was the highlight of the year for the Warrandyte Community Centre Supporters Group.

"The very successful workshop is forming a basis for planning new community activities at the centre," president David Dyason told the annual general meeting of the group, held late in October.

"In particular, residents emphasised the importance of environmental and sustainability issues, as well as suggesting a range of community activities," Mr Dyason said.

The group was formed in 2001 during a community campaign to ensure the centre remained under local management.

Based on the then popular "user-pays" principle, Manningham council resolved that the prime Yarra Street frontage offices in the centre should be rented at commercial rates. This could have led to the eviction of the commu-

nity groups—including the *Diary*—that had occupied these spaces since the centre was established a decade earlier.

Several concerned locals called a public meeting and at this packed gathering the Warrandyte Community Centre Supporters Group was born. The group ran a vigorous campaign and when council called for expressions of interest, the supporters group won the tender for the management of the centre.

In a move to introduce "fresh blood", initiated by the Warrandyte Community Association, a new committee was elected in 2007. They decided to seek input from the community to test if the centre was fulfilling community needs and aspirations, hence the well attended Community Conversation workshop.

Mr Dyason reported that the centre "is in good shape after the first year of management by the new committee".

He confirmed that Manningham council "has agreed to take the first steps to im-

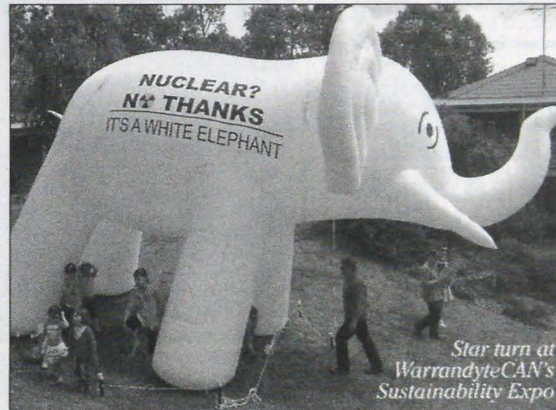
prove lighting" at the centre, and were "also discussing improvements to the heating system", both measures designed to support "our objective to be more environmental".

Negotiations are continuing on extending the supporters group lease from one to three years.

Mr Dyason also reported that the Warrandyte Community Bank is making available to community groups, free of charge, the meeting room they have been renting on the upper level of the centre. The room is being repainted and refurbished to "board room standard".

The current committee comprises David Dyason, Liz Prewett, Peter Burns, Ross Henry, Dick Davies, Leisa Martin, Karen Throssell, Alex Dyason and Ben Dennis.

● Groups interested in hiring the Bendigo Bank meeting room should call David Dyason on 9844 1765 or centre manager Brian Prewett on 9844 4503.



Star turn at WarrandyteCAN's Sustainability Expo

Honour for FOWSP

Parks Victoria recognised the outstanding contribution made by the Friends of Warrandyte State Park at a special function earlier this month, marking International Volunteers Days.

"Friends of Warrandyte State Park have been working hard over the past 26 years contributing to the protection and conservation of the park through their successful revegetation projects, growing and planting thousands of seedlings," ranger-in-charge Conrad Annal told the *Diary*.

"They have been growing plants for the local community for over 15 years. This work means local plants are available to residents at an affordable price, ensuring indigenous plants are being returned to areas outside the park.

"Our volunteers are of all ages and walks of life," Mr Annal said. "They are vital partners in our efforts to preserve the beauty and diversity of these protected natural environments."

CAN really can do

WarrandyteCAN (Climate Action Now) was formed early last year following growing concern in the community about the threat of global warming and climate change.

The idea was hatched at a dinner party of Osborne Road neighbours who came together to hear environmental activist and local Adrian Whitehead speak on the urgency of the problem.

"The idea for a wider public forum on the issue grew from this gathering," Wayne Rankin of Osborne Road told the *Diary*.

A community-wide forum was called for February, and on this "ironically hot night", WarrandyteCAN was formed and Wayne Rankin was elected president of the new group.

"Our mission was to deliver locally, informing the community on practical ways to act on climate change and reduce emissions," Mr Rankin said.

A flurry of activity followed through the year and into the next, as concerned locals joined the new group and attended a series of information nights, dealing with facts about the threat of global warming, practical steps for households to reduce carbon emissions, the need for sensible food choices to reduce "food miles", and the case for sustainable design in house building and renovations.

In October, 2007, WarrandyteCAN organised a highly successful Sustainability Expo. The Warrandyte Community

Centre was packed with exhibits and information stalls, passing on vital details about climate change and how we can deal with it.

The centre was also packed with people—locals and visitors—eager to participate and learn about this most urgent of issues.

CAN staged a display at the 2008 Warrandyte festival, gaining a number of recruits in the process. They also took their message further afield, sharing a stand at the Sustainability Living Festival in Federation Square.

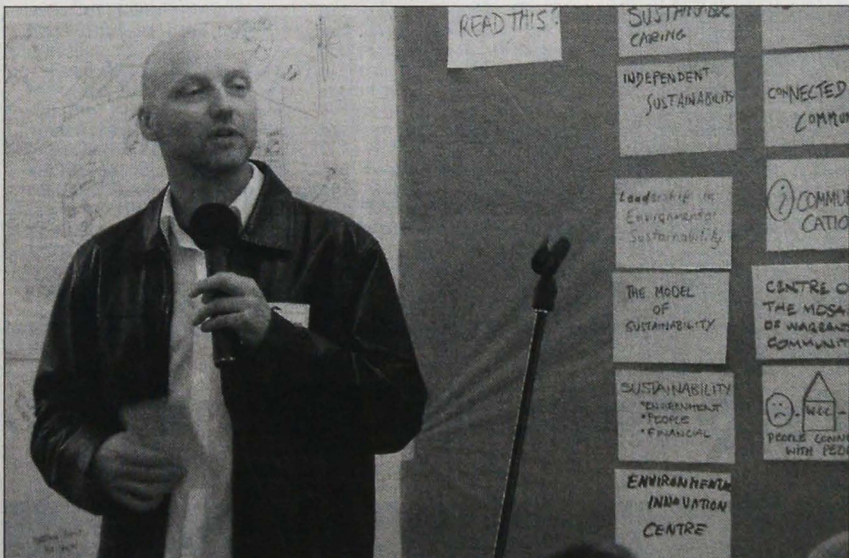
Although the group has been going—in essence—almost two years, such legal formalities as incorporation took a while, and last month they called their first annual general meeting.

"In a short period of time, WarrandyteCAN has gained recognition far and wide," president Wayne Rankin reported. "We are regularly invited to attend and be part of many climate change events in Melbourne and country Victoria."

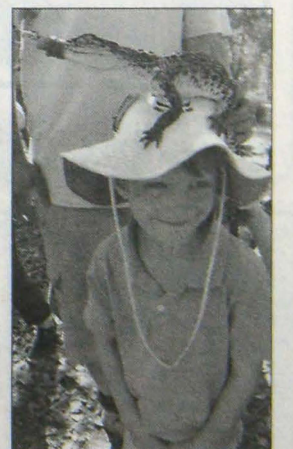
The group is planning another Sustainability Expo, to be held around the time of 2009 Warrandyte Festival.

"The journey has just begun," Mr Rankin said. "There is a lot to do and time is of the essence. We have to work on creating a larger impact on the community of Warrandyte, to educate and enable them to act on the impact of climate change."

● Wayne Rankin can be contacted on 9844 1959.



David Dyason holds court at the Community Conversation. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)



The Friends of Warrandyte State Park celebrated their 25th year in December 2007.

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Bands battle at festival



By JOANNE GREEN

A featured event at the 2009 Warrandyte Festival will be a "battle of the bands" style competition for local young musicians. Planned for the Youth Stage on the Saturday, the three most popular bands will be invited to play on the Main Stage between 5.30 and 6pm on Saturday.

The committee is hoping to recruit volunteers studying the Year 9 CFA course at Warrandyte High School as helpers during the festival. "The program will give the students an opportunity to get involved with the community and provide them with valuable volunteer experience," a spokesperson said.

The traditional Fireworks Finale, usually scheduled to close the Sunday night concert and thus finish the festival, is at risk. "The display has been cancelled for the past two years due to the hot and dry weather," the spokesperson said. "We are assessing if it is worth spending \$2000 on a fireworks display with no prediction of the drought breaking in 2009. The bushfire risk could be too great, yet again."

Local home-brewers are reminded that the festival home-brewing competition is on again. Plenty of time to get those brews bubbling. The competition will be held on Saturday, March 21 at Stiggants Reserve. Enter your brews at the top stage tent, next to the Lions fast food stall. Beer registration is at 4.30pm, judging will take place between 5 and 7pm. Entry fee is \$2.50 per



Young bands will compete for top billing.

category entered. Winners will be announced at 7.30pm in the tent. Brewers will be vying for a great array of prizes.

Categories include light beer, stout, lager, bitter, ale, pilsner, draught and others (wine, ciders, anything home-brewed). There will also be a public choice award.

• Home-brewing competition enquiries to Kylie Frowd on 9844 0343.

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Carols service brings the community out singing



Kevin O'Mara will help lead the carolling.

The organisers of Warrandyte's Community Carols are not running the risk of their celebration being washed out this year. If the program is postponed due to bad weather, it will take place the following night.

Organised by the combined churches of Warrandyte and Park Orchards, the program will be held at Stiggants Reserve, Warrandyte, on Saturday, December 13, commencing at 8pm.

Warrandyte choir the Bellbird Singers, will lead the singing, accompanied by the Eltham Concert Band. Kevin O'Mara will feature, along with choirs from Donvale, Kangaroo Ground, Warrandyte and Andersons Creek primary schools.

Tenor Raymond Khong will perform jazz and traditional Christmas numbers, accompanied by his pianist wife May Gavin. Gospel folk singer Cindy V will join her band in a melodic blend of folk and rhythmic blues.

Bring a picnic tea, food and drink will be available and entertainment will commence at 7.30pm. Candles will be available for sale. Donations will go the annual Christmas Bowl Appeal.

If the program is postponed due to bad weather, it will be held the following night, Sunday, December 14.

• All enquiries to 9844 4148.

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Climate Change Action Plan - have your say!

Nillumbik Shire Council invites you to comment on the Draft Nillumbik Climate Change Action Plan. The Plan aims to provide strategic direction in responding to climate change.

The Climate Change Action Plan addresses:

- sustainable transport planning
- energy efficient building design
- streetlighting upgrades
- waste minimisation.

Copies of the draft Plan are available from Council's website www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au, or alternatively a printed or CD copy can be posted to you by request.

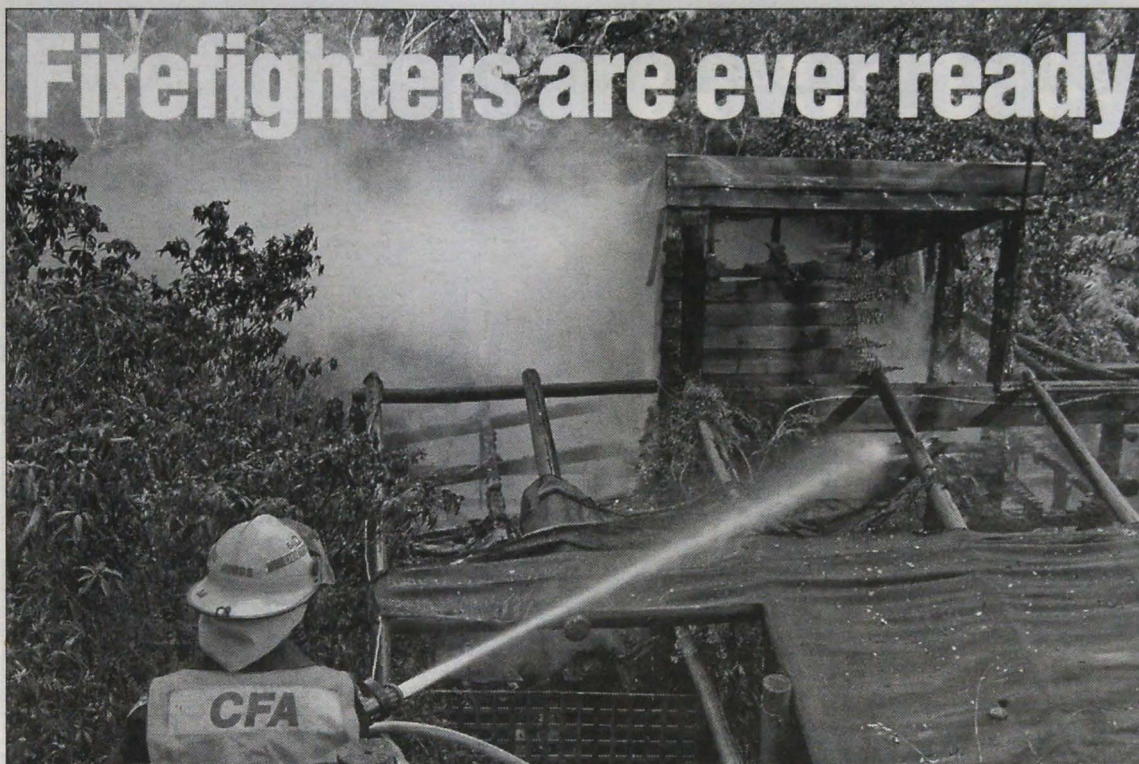
If you would like to comment on the Plan, please send in your written comment to Donna Stoddart, Environmental Planning Coordinator, by Friday 30 January 2009; by post, addressed to Donna Stoddart, Nillumbik Shire Council, PO Box 476, Greensborough 3088, or email Donna.Stoddart@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

If you have any questions about the Plan, please contact Donna Stoddart, Environmental Planning Coordinator, on 9433 3216.

www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

9433 3111





Firefighters are ever ready

Fiery meetings

Warrandyte residents are being urged to attend a community meeting in their neighbourhood to find out if they are prepared for a bushfire.

They should ask themselves: do we have a bushfire survival plan; will we stay or go on days of high fire danger; and do we know where to get information about fires?

All these questions—and more—will be answered at Fire Ready Victoria meetings to be held at the North Warrandyte Community Centre in Research-Warrandyte Road on Wednesday, January 14 at 7.30pm and Sunday, February 1 at 2pm.

"Fire Ready Victoria community meetings provide important information to help people understand the risk of fire in their area and how to minimise the threat," CFA community coordinator Geoff Deacon told the *Diary*.

The fire danger period was declared on December 1. "People really need to start to focus themselves on finalising their bushfire preparedness plans and reviewing what they will be doing if there is a bushfire near them.

"It's time to get your plan out and update it if circumstances have changed," Mr Deacon said. "Make sure such fire equipment as ladders, hoses, mops, buckets, torches and protective clothing are packed and ready for use.

"While the recent rain has been very welcome, it comes at a cost. The grass will now be really taking off and will require extra attention. The rain hasn't reduced the overall fire risk, but it has given people an extra week or two for their preparations."

Each summer Victoria has days of extreme fire danger and fire is a natural part of the Australian environment. People living in Warrandyte and surrounding areas must understand their high level of bushfire risk.

"You need to decide early whether you plan to stay and actively defend your home or leave before the fire arrives," Mr Deacon said.

● For information on Community Fireguard or to obtain an information pack, phone 1800 240 667 or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Burns restricted

Despite recent limited rains, continuous dry weather across the year has severely limited the amount of fuel reduction burning the Department of Sustainability and Environment could safely conduct.

"Each spring DSE and Parks Victoria firefighters carry out fuel reduction burns in semi-urban areas, including Warrandyte State Park," DSE spokesman Bernard Barbetti told the *Diary*. "Spring burning is heavily reliant on good rainfall, and our fuel reduction burning prior to summer will be extremely limited if the dry conditions persist.

"During planned burning we use low intensity fire to clear fuel, and there must be a certain amount of moisture in the

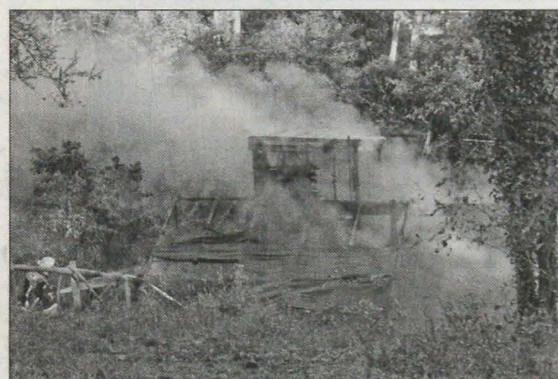
soil and vegetation to avoid the burn getting too hot," Mr Barbetti said.

Also, DSE is warning landholders that fire restrictions are in force in most districts and burning off is illegal. At least two private burns were attended by DSE and CFA recently.

One burn, near Flinders, entered Mornington Peninsula National Park, burning two hectares before being contained. Another burn-off, near Gembrook, travelled just short of Bunyip State Park before it was brought under control.

● More information is available on www.dse.vic.gov.au, www.cfa.vic.gov.au or freecall 1800 240 667.

Recently, firefighters from North Warrandyte CFA responded to a call to a fire in North Warrandyte. David Wierzbowski was close by and took these pictures.



Fire Ready meetings will be held at North Warrandyte Community Centre, Research Road on Wednesday, January 14 at 7.30pm and Sunday, February 1 at 2pm.

Prevention is best 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.


MANNINGHAM
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The Environment Team at Manningham City Council is seeking an enthusiastic 'people person' to fill the role of 'Community Rabbit Group Facilitator'.

The role is primarily to facilitate and support Community Rabbit Action Groups and residents, in implementing 'integrated rabbit control' works including baiting, warren fumigation and warren destruction. Additional tasks may include facilitating weed control and supporting other environmental programs as required.

The successful candidate can expect to work up to 20 hours per week until 30 June 2009 with the possibility of extension subject to funding availability.

The skills and experience required to perform the role include:

- Knowledge of integrated rabbit control practices and programs.
- Experience in or the ability to manage and work with residents and volunteer community groups in planning and undertaking natural resource management activities.
- Experience in or the ability to, organise and manage community meetings and events.
- Knowledge of natural resource/sustainable land management planning and practices is desirable.

Further information and a position description can be obtained via the Web: www.manningham.vic.gov.au, Telephone: 9840 9422 or Email: jobs@manningham.vic.gov.au.

Please quote vacancy number 008908 when applying for this position. **Applications close on Friday 19 December 5pm** and should be sent to: The HR Officer, Manningham City Council, PO Box 1, Doncaster 3108 or via email to the address above.

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VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE: 1800 240 667					

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Coming in January: "Salad Days"

An exhibition of beautiful bowls for your summer table - also salad servers, tablemats and glassware.

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Thank you for your support during the year and the Stonehouse Artists wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

GALLERY OPEN DAILY 10am-5pm
103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte • Phone 9844 3629

Christmas services

Celebrate at your local church this Christmas

Local church services for Christmas 2008 are:
Anglican (9844 3796) Christmas Day, 9am; Unit- ing (9844 3476) Christmas Eve, 7.30pm and 11.30pm, Christmas Day, 9am; Catholic (9876 1509) Christmas Eve outdoor family mass, 6pm (Park Orchards), Mass, 9pm (Warrandyte), Christmas Day, 9am (Park Orchards); Community Church (9844 4148) Christmas Eve, 7pm, Christmas Day, 10am.



Born again: Thanks to community concern, St Stephen's Anglican Church in Stiggant Street, threatened with closure, is still welcoming Christmas Day worshippers.

Market

The Rotary Club of Warrandyte's special Christmas Market will be held at Stiggants Reserve, Warrandyte, on Saturday, December 20 from 8am to 1pm. Featuring a huge number of stalls for your special Christmas shopping. Rotary Christmas cakes and puddings will be for sale, plus your chance to win the giant Rotary Christmas stocking raffle, drawn 12.30pm on the day.

Orienteering

The northern twilight season of street and park orienteering is now in full swing every Thursday at 7pm. Most venues are a short drive from Warrandyte and include Eltham, Rosanna and West- erfolds Park. Courses range from 2.5 to 10km, plus a walk- ing course. A compass is not needed and map reading instruction is available for newcomers. All courses finish around 8pm. For further information call Geoff Hudson on 9888 8121.

Carols

Warrandyte's annual Commu- nity Carols by Candlelight will be presented at Stiggants Re- serve on Saturday, December 13 commencing at 8pm. Pre- vent entertainment begins at 7.30; food, drinks and candles available for sale. In the event of bad weather, the event will be held the following evening, Sunday, December 14. For further information call 9844 4148.

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.



Blues Mama Lil' Fi

Pottery

One of Warrandyte's special events—the Pottery Expo—will be held on the weekend of Saturday, February 21 and 22, 2009, on the riverbank below Yarra Street, between 10am and 5.30pm. Described as a "celebration of fine studio ceramics", the expo will feature special guest artists from France and Sydney. For further information call Jane Annois on 9844 2337.

Screening

Has bowel cancer screening saved your life or the life of someone close to you? If so, Cancer Council Victoria would love to hear from you. They are looking for people who have completed an at-home test and are willing to talk publicly about their experience. Your story could encourage others over 50 to do this simple life saving test. Please call Shona Clarke on 9635 5673 or email: Shona. Clarke@cancervic.org.au.

Concert

Earth Harmony Centre is presenting a special Christmas concert. It will feature Lil' Fi, local Blues Mama singer/song- writer; keyboard player, Big Boy Lemonade and vocalist and guitarist Bobby Bright. It will be held on Sunday, December 21 at 8pm at the centre, 246-250 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Bookings on 9844 5155 or pay at the door. Cost is \$20, concession \$15.

Picture

Details have been announced for the 18th International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment. This is a global contest organised by the United Nations Environ- ment Program and Bayer AG. Children from Warrandyte between five and 13 are being encouraged to paint pictures depicting human actions in and around the home to help

battle the negative effect the population is having on the environment. The Asia-Pacific winner will receive a trip for themselves and a parent/ guardian to an international children's event in 2009. For details see <http://www.uncp.org/tunza/children/inner.asp?ct=competitions&comp=int comp>.

Do Care

Do Care are looking for vol- unteers to help with older or disabled people in the com- munity. Call 9762 5211 if you are interested.

Newsletters

Looking for a simple way to keep the *Diary* informed of your group's activities? Put us on your newsletter mail- ing list.

artyfacts

During December, Stonehouse Gallery is featuring a variety of textiles, pottery and jewel- lery made by local artists, suitable for Christmas gifts. The gallery's January exhibi- tion, "Salad Days" will exhibit beautiful bowls, table mats, salad servers and everything for outdoor entertaining. The gallery is in the old Gospel Chapel, at 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte.

Exhibition

Local artist, 19-year old, Jon- athan (Bono) Gemmell is exhibiting a collection of his abstract paintings and sculp- tures at the Warrandyte Café Gallery until December 28. The gallery is opposite the Warrandyte Police Station, on the corner of Yarra and Police streets and is open at café times.

Manningham

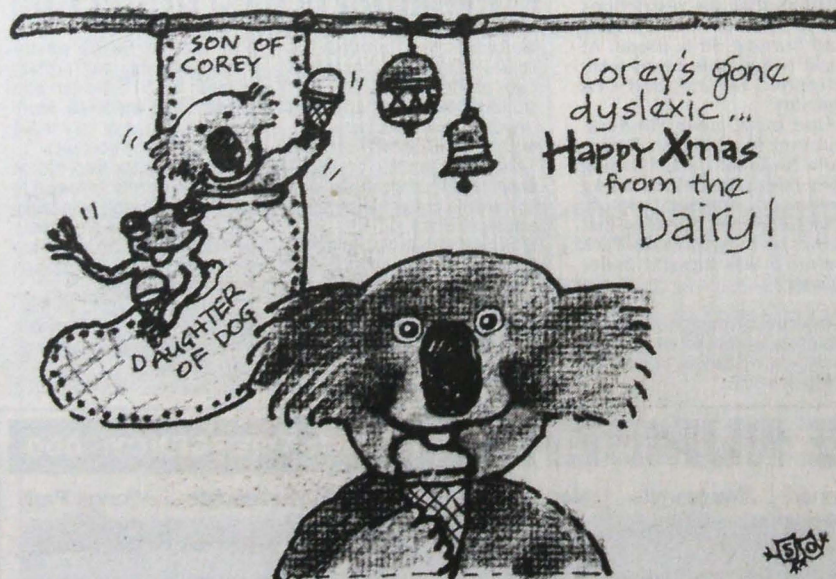
This year's exhibition from the students and staff at the Manningham Arts Centre in Templestowe is entitled "Space and Time". It will be open until December 20 at the Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster. Opening hours are Tuesday to Friday, 11am to 5pm and Saturday 2pm to 5pm.

Arts

The Artyfacts column is de- signed to carry news of exhibi- tions 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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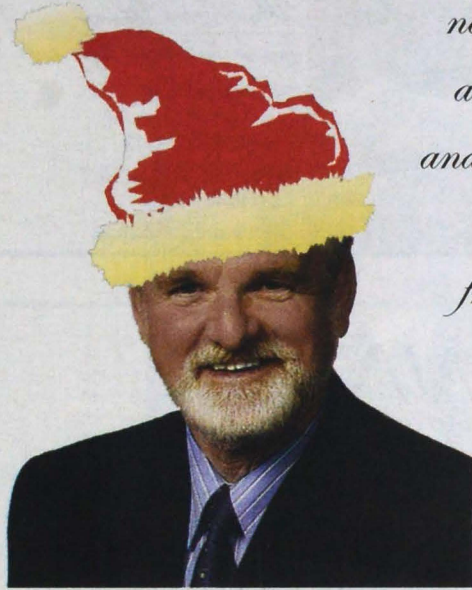
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Council is providing a FREE garden green waste drop off period
The drop off days will be **Friday 16, Saturday 17, Sunday 18 and Monday 19 January 2009**. (What a great way to get rid of your Christmas trees!)
Drop offs can be made between 8am-4pm on these days at the Recycling and 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.
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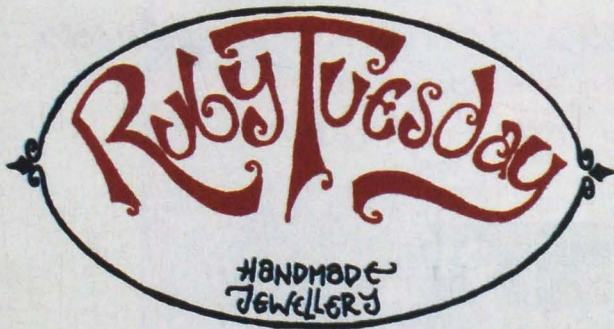
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This year Ruby Tuesday Jewellery is celebrating 10 years in Warrandyte. A party was held with in excess of 170 guests attending, to help Ruby Tuesday celebrate with cake and champagne.

They have come a long way since Anita's first tiny shop front and two workbenches in Yarra Street, progressing from there to occupy the whole shop and joining forces with Terry to create a five person team, including Heidi, Andy and Joel. The purchase of the old hardware store at Goldfields two years ago created new opportunities for creative expression and is still a 'work in progress'.

"We all feel privileged to have been accepted so comprehensively into Warrandyte. It's such a lovely stress-free place to work, and now 10 years on, with our own premises, we really feel like we belong", Terry said during the party.

Ruby Tuesday would like to thank all their customers and all the great people of Warrandyte for their ongoing support and encouragement over the past 10 years.

Don't forget to collect your complimentary party bag when you next visit the shop.



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Garden Centre: 9844 3027
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Opportunity Shop

The Lions Club, Liz, staff and volunteers would like to thank everybody for your generous donations throughout the year and wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

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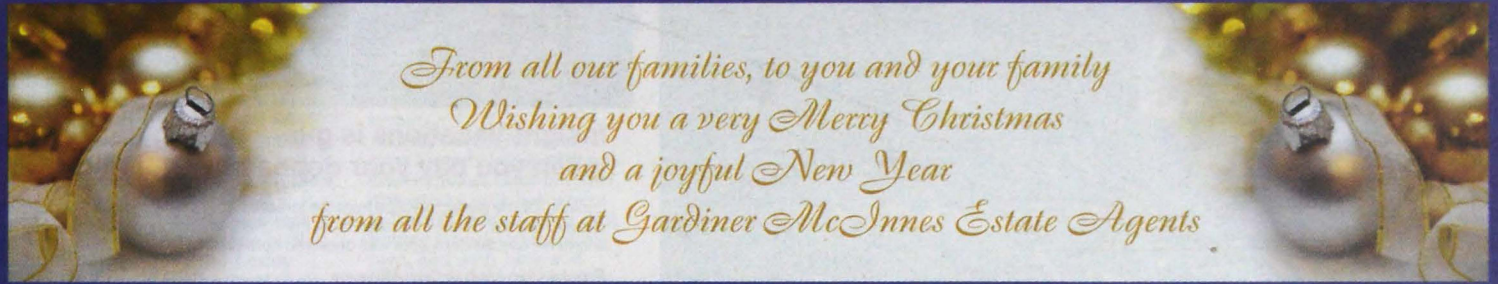
Wishing all our valued customers a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!

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*From all our families, to you and your family
Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
and a joyful New Year
from all the staff at Gardiner McInnes Estate Agents*



warrandyte north private sale \$480k
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 north private sale \$530k
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 private sale
suit \$470k plus buyers
Modern 4BR home on 1/4 acre crafted to capture garden views. Kitchen/meals. Family living room flooded with natural light. Downstairs rumpus with wood burning heater. Ducted heating. Deck for entertaining. Fenced rear gardens. Walk to river, transport and village.



warrandyte north private sale
suit \$800k plus buyers
Fully renovated 5 dble BR home with 4 living areas on useable 1 acre. 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.



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.



warrandyte private sale
suit \$580k plus buyers – Location and River Views!
Rare opportunity to secure 3BR+ study home with uninterrupted river views! Kitchen/meals. Lounge/dining. Deck overlooking rear gardens. Walk to shops, schools, transport and of course... the river's at the bottom of your garden!

please join us to help our community this christmas



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

Food for Thoughtfulness CHRISTMAS FOOD APPEAL

Saturday 20 December from 8.30am–12noon
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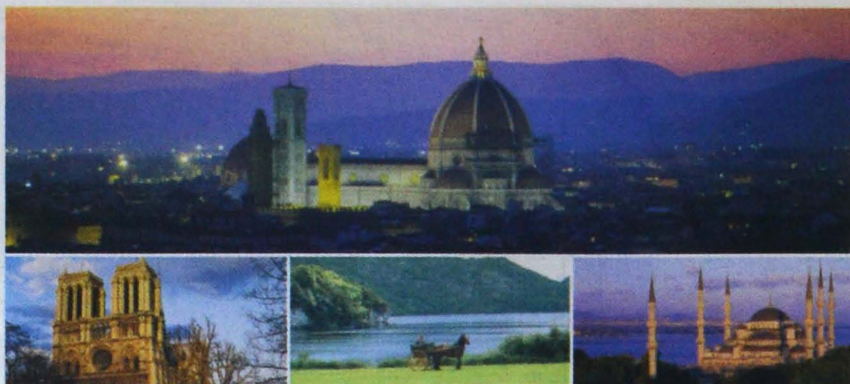
Celebrate a sustainable
Christmas

From all of us at Warrandyte **Community Bank**® Branch we wish you a very merry Christmas and a wonderful celebration with family and friends.

See you soon at 144 Yarra Street, Warrandyte or phone 9844 2233. And when you do call in, ask us about our efforts to make 2008 a sustainable Christmas in the branch.

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Escorted touring has always been a cost effective way of seeing Europe. Now more than ever, with all the components of a holiday including accommodation, sightseeing and transport, are taken care of in one great value package – prepaid in Australian dollars.

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Warrandyte Travel have Insight Vacations 2009 Premium Europe and Britain program brochures in stock. These feature more than 80 holiday options, each with exclusive included premium highlights worth hundreds of dollars, ensuring holiday budgets stretch further.

Insight guests enjoy more intimate groups, limited to just 40 passengers, on luxury touring coaches. These have been specially reconfigured with up to

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Why not explore the Treasures of Turkey 15 days from \$AUD147 per day or a comprehensive 22 day tour of Britain & Ireland from just \$AUD250 per day?

The best news of all is that Insight Vacations is guaranteeing its 2009 tour prices when you pay your deposit by 31 January 2009. This represents massive savings for you and a holiday that promises experiences and memories to last a lifetime.

Oberammergau 2010

The world famous Passion Play performed by local villagers every 10 years is on again! Accommodations and tickets to the Passion Play are always in great demand and often sell out years in advance.

With specially reserved seats, there is no finer way to enjoy Europe and Oberammergau than with Insight Vacations.

Pam, Alan, Andrew and Pat will be pleased to share their Insight touring experiences with you. We look forward to your call.



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Santa's coming to town!

**Goldfields Plaza Courtyard
between 1pm–2pm & 6.30–7.30pm
Thursday 11 & 18 December**

Have your photo taken with Santa and receive a complimentary 6x4" Christmas photo.

Calendars also available.

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

Look out for "specials" on these evenings.

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

She had a wild and fascinating past...

By **LESLEY MITCHELL**
WELL-KNOWN local resident June Antonoff, formerly of Bradleys Lane and more recently of Eltham Lodge, died on November 5, 2008. She was 82.

June was a familiar face to many in Warrandyte. In the early 1950s, June and husband Hugh purchased the first block of land sold in Bradley Lane.

June loved Warrandyte. She loved the land, her garden, the river and the many eccentric and fascinating friends they came to know.

She became a surrogate "mother" to many local children and when parents couldn't find their children they came looking at "Aunty June's" house.

It was a time when everyone pitched in and helped. Every weekend was spent at working bees, moving from one house site to another, slowly completing all the homes together.

People worked, played, raised children and celebrated together in a wonderful sense of community that still

exists in Warrandyte. Living next door to Gus McLaren, June and Hugh had many parties, social events and great celebrations with their friends.

After 15 years, June and Hugh celebrated the birth of their daughter Lesley. By this stage, most of their friends had children and a new circle of "family" was being established. Lazy days were spent together, swimming in the river, chatting, travelling around Australia and overseas and creating community groups.

June, Gwen Szabo and Pat Barr decided North Warrandyte needed a kindergarten and set out to collect thousands of bottles and initiated many other fundraising efforts so they could build the North Warrandyte kinder.

June joked that it was finished a year too late for Lesley to attend.

Some 35 years later Lesley's son was able to join the kinder and June said, "Well, maybe I assisted for my grandson." That was the year the kinder burned down and the children were relocated elsewhere.

June thought this was quite ironic.

Always there for others, June forged a strong friendship with Les Gilhorne who operated a milk bar where Folkart is now situated. Not having strong family of his own, and with June and Hugh's house now completed, Les was invited to live in the "shack" on the block, where the Antonoffs had lived whilst their house was being built. Les immediately became part of the "family" and you could regularly find June helping out down at the milk bar or sitting up on a high stool with the kids, sipping lime spiders from big metal cups.

June Holroyd Parker was born on June 23, 1926 into a large family. Her parents were mayor and mayoress of Ringwood.

She had a wild and fascinating past. She and her friend Pat were believed to be the first women to ride motorbikes around Australia.

She was fascinated by rocks and rock-hunting and her home still overflows with the many treasures she

collected. Hugh bought her a bus, converted it with six beds and a stove and with a huge bucket in which to bath the kids, off she went—with groups of women and children—rock-hunting all over Australia.

The men never travelled with them and June said she had the perfect relationship, where she could do whatever she liked and yet always had a lovely man in Hugh to come home to.

She fell in love with China in later life and had many journeys there. Working as tour leaders—sometimes June leading tours, sometimes Lesley—they travelled the world together for several decades. Sometimes they led individual tours and might meet for a cuppa in the Sinai desert, Milan, Singapore or Egypt.

June had a fascination with the mysteries of the mind and the spirit and was one of the founding members of Tumbetin Healing Centre in Upwey and the Australian Mind Reading Society.

Towards the end of a her life, June was moved, with great sadness, to a wonder-



June Antonoff

ful nursing home where she lived for four years, before peacefully passing on.

June's funeral was no mournful event, but was a celebration of her life with more than 160 friends, family and loved ones. She was

farewelled to the strains of "King of the Road".

June, thank you for sharing with us. You assisted to make Warrandyte a colourful and fun place and you will be missed by so many. Go gently, with love.

Patches of life

It's nearly done the black velvet border just complete: because she asked for it around her coffin. Although cutting up that dress—beautifully made real silk velvet, like slinky fur, felt a bit funny. But she wanted it around her coffin and we couldn't afford it then, not real velvet, used real velvet ribbons instead. But real silk velvet—black was such a symbol of her quiet elegance—the slink and swish of those "going out" nights.

The 50s brown and turquoise with black traffic lights saying "Go": the flared skirt saying go, go, go. Bright happy days having her all to myself: visiting Granny in Albury on the train; going mushrooming on misty Canberra weekends; red lipstick and ballet lessons.

The hot pink smock: with shiny black buttons and a Chinese collar so elegantly hiding my baby sister. Soon the smell of Johnson's baby powder, tiny clothes—embroidered bed jackets and "hug-me-tights" laid out ready. Me touching these strange objects, apprehensively.

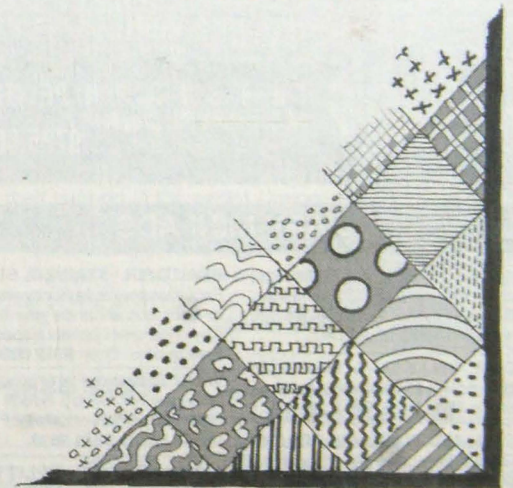
The pale green suntop I made her: she wore so often, it was paper thin (hot summer days in her shorts and thongs). Often wore it when I arrived in summer waiting to replenish me after long sticky drive. And even then she looked beautiful.

And then there's the 70s caftan section: So many of them they take over. But there's Dad's there too—his special "going out" shirt, brought home from some travels. He wore it on that last Feast day and many past—quite a feature of the photo album.

The Italian linen, the loveliest of all: was only the "dirty clothes bag" in the days when you had such things—the days when you only washed on Mondays. It hung in Dad's cupboard with the spartan few shirts and suits, the brown suede jacket for weekends. That jacket, such a part of him for years—it's not in the quilt, but I wish it was. Though it would be better keeping someone warm, put in the Vinnies bag. But oh, where is it now?

He would not have approved of this quilt. He would have said: "Don't be sentimental they're just clothes." But mum would have understood. She loved her clothes. And we've got them. Clothes as history, cloth as memory patches of life.

KAREN THROSSELL



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'Tis the season to have a jolly fake Christmas tree

“ROG, can you vacuum the Christmas tree for me?”

Not a strange request you might think until you consider that the tree in question is a live tree living in a container in our backyard.

Now it's usual for trees to be self-cleaning. They have a business arrangement with the wind and the rain. The agreement runs this way. You agree to clean me regularly and I'll organise to have some branches or in fact the whole trunk weakened sufficiently so that if you feel like a bit of aggro, it'll be easier for you to wreak havoc. Now this seems like a reasonable enough arrangement unless you interfere with the details of the contract and this we did.

When we went away for a few weeks, we thought it prudent to put the Christmas tree under some cover. Given the lack of rain and the increasing temperatures, we didn't want to return to a desiccated pile of sticks and needles. We decided to place it under a pergola over which climbs a beautiful Lamarque rose. The Lamarque is a white rose with a fragrant lemony scent and is much beloved by Herself. It is also a particular favourite of the ringtail possum who has set up residence in a nest just far enough out of reach to drive our dog into fits of apoplexy.

The Lamarque's advantages



kibbled

“Have you ever tried to vacuum soggy, rotting gunk from between the needles of a spruce-type tree?”

are undisputed, however, the downside is that it seems to shed last years leaves and its spent petals in a veritable snow flurry. The spent vegetation produces great mulch for the garden but if it is left unswept and it becomes wet, it becomes nastily rotten and gluey. By necessity, I had been sweeping up daily but the penny didn't drop when we made the decision to leave the tree beneath the fragrant arbour.

When we got home, the rose had finished doing its stuff. Obviously, it had enjoyed an absolute orgy of fertilisation over the period of our absence as evidenced by the dunes of rotting petals and other discarded clothing that lay festering on the path beneath the climber, a climber

that was now puffing on a cigarette with a satisfied smirk on its face.

Have you ever tried to vacuum soggy, rotting gunk from between the needles of a spruce-type tree? I hadn't either. Vacuuming relies on the creation of suction between the nozzle and a solid surface. I had the suction but I didn't have the solid surface. This was my problem and I couldn't think of a suitable vacuuming solution. It was time to think laterally. My first effort was a bit lame really. I spied the dustpan and brush and imagined that I'd be able to gently sweep away the offending goo.

Mother Nature has a lot to answer for. Just at the time that I want to sweep a tree, MN decides it's a good time to make trees develop tender new growth that has devoted all its time to developing length rather than strength. Do I need to explain the apprehension I felt when I noticed that it was not just the Lamarque that was dropping foliage! I rapidly disposed of the evidence and rethought. Well, if it is good enough for MN it was good enough for me.

It's not a small tree and therefore it is not a small or a light container. It was not a long distance from its normal spot to under the rose bush so the first move hadn't been all that difficult. Unfortunately, to move the tree to a suitable cut and polish position, I had to move it a lot further and this

required heaving it into the wheelbarrow and rolling it to a grassy section where I could finish tidying the centrepiece of Herself's Christmas décor.

Those of you who are wheelbarrow aficionados will recognise the problem. Wheelbarrow with sloping sides, heavy top-heavy tree, incompetent driver, sloping ground, overhanging branches, difficult turning manoeuvre, teetering wheelbarrow, many expletives, wheelbarrow lurching uncontrollably to the left, Roger's life flashing before his eyes, vision of vacant spot in Christmas tableau, all dissipated by the sounds of breaking ceramic container and the splintering of branches.

I didn't bother Herself about the fate of the old tree and I don't understand what's wrong with the replacement polypropylene Christmas tree. I had it installed in the right spot, I had taken care to ensure that the lights were not going to fuse, as they had last year and I had used the least soiled bucket as the container. I had taken care to use the attractive trimmings that came with the tree and I'd added my own touch with some pressure pack fake snow. I think the results of my decorating were quite impressive.

Taste is a very individual thing. You'd think that after living with someone for 40 plus years you could get it right!

Merry Christmas.

ROGER KIBELL

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A garden with a Christmas message of peace on earth

garden life

By BEV HANSON

IN December 2006 the Warrandyte Uniting Church completed a peace wall on the south-facing wall of the church in Taroona Avenue. The design was created and implemented by local artists. It represents a river flowing through the town and is made up of more than 4000 clay tiles.

Approximately 100 members of the local community were involved, from elderly citizens to schools and kindergarten children, some from other faith communities and others having little or no connection with the church.

It was seen as a way of providing an opportunity for children and adults to discuss aspects of peace. Through a number of workshops, people created their own images of peace on clay tiles, which were then painted, fired and incorporated into the overall design.

The area in front of this beautiful mural was given to me to design a peace garden, complementing the peace wall. I always ask the clients what they want included. In this case, people came forward with many ideas, the most common being the inclusion of seating open to the community, and the use of water to create a pleasant place for contemplation.

The site was mostly flat, with a straight drive running



A plan with a purpose: Bev Hanson in her peace garden. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

through, with some exotic plants along this driveway. It was agreed to remove these plants, eliminate the driveway, change levels and sculpt the land into a more interesting form. It should have a natural look, open to the outside streets and with a true Warrandyte feel.

A bobcat was used to place rocks and move soil around, mounding some areas and flowing others down a natural slope planted with indigenous grass. A stone sitting wall was constructed, incorporating a stone dish to catch water

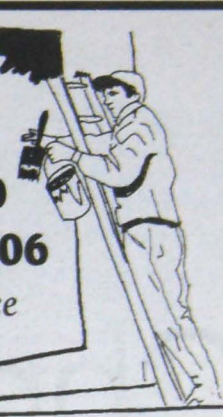
flowing from the roof (when it rains!), feeding into the garden. A garden of wildflowers indigenous to Warrandyte was planted during several working bees attended by many willing volunteers.

The area is now available to anyone who wishes to come and sit in a restful place of peace. Groups from other areas arrange visits to the wall and garden. One time when I was there, a group of school children arrived and began excitedly pointing out to each other the very tile they had created.

Christmas is a time for peace on earth and goodwill to all people. This peace wall and garden is but a small part of an international endeavour, built around the themes of peace with each other and peace with the earth. It embodies the belief that there is a need for communities to seek, to create and to build areas that encourage peace.

I would suggest that anyone who has not yet viewed the peace wall and garden should pay a visit sometime and contemplate the meaning of peace.

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Football: that's real crisis stuff!

APPARENTLY the GFC has taken over the world. I've been a bit busy to listen to much radio lately, but each time I tune in to AM or The World At Noon, this takeover is happening everywhere. Kevin Rudd is sweating over it; Gordon Brown is adamant that it mustn't happen; Angela Merkel has announced a recession; George Dubbya Bush is running scared; and Barack Obama is promising to throw zillions of greenbacks into the arena.

Having always thought GFC meant Geelong Football Club, this uproar was at first somewhat baffling. Last time I heard the mighty Cats mentioned, they had just lost the AFL Grand Final. I am quite certain about this, as a certain Hawks supporter in our house has let no opportunity pass, no matter how slight, to rub salt into the wound. Speaking of which, the Cats are almost certainly licking theirs, and it's difficult to imagine the club rising phoenix-like to take over the world. Obviously something

our place

By MARILYN MOORE

more sinister is afoot. It turns out that the nation's jargon-coiners have hijacked the hallowed initials to refer to a widespread disaster, a disaster even more unthinkable than the 2008 Grand Final. I suppose the theory is that if a global financial crisis can be compressed into a glib little catchphrase like GFC, it will somehow make it more palatable, more run-of-the-mill, more transient.

And if the crisis was unthinkable, it certainly wasn't unlikely. Too many people have borrowed too heavily. Millions of unsustainable lending contracts were used to build a massive but flimsy house of cards. Impressive from a distance but the foundations were barely a lick and a promise, and it didn't take a very big jiggle to bring the whole lot crashing down. Everything's now worth about half of what it was, which takes

us back, they say, to 2005.

Dunno about you, but I don't recall feeling terribly devastated about my net worth in 2005, or any other year for that matter. I don't think I ever considered myself as even having a net worth. The answer to Question Time in our house ("What's for dinner?") depends more on whether IGA has lamb shanks in stock than it does on the re-sale value of our house or the state of my super fund. However I will admit to being duly thankful for having a roof over my head, which is more than some people ever have.

So how bad is this all-consuming GFC? Blowed if I know. Money has never seemed particularly real to me. People are real. Food is real. Water and wine are real. Being fit and healthy is real. Money is just a number written on a piece of paper. It doesn't buy you happiness—plenty of people are living proof of that.

Perhaps I should have paid more attention to financial advice in my formative years—advice that was, as it turns out, readily available from

the former Melbourne Stock Exchange. I have an old brochure right here: *The Woman Investor*, circa 1960s (if the hairdos are any indication). "Women Can Make Money ... most women have a head for business; if not, how would they manage the household?" Aims in life, purportedly "a trip abroad, a small car, or a new house with a landscape garden", can be achieved by putting spare money to work; "spare money" being the leftovers "after providing a small reserve from the housekeeping for emergencies". A phone call or short letter to a stockbroker (a cosy middle-aged man wearing a suit and holding an old-fashioned black telephone receiver to his ear) will set you on the road to prosperity.

Clearly this guff assumes that the mortgage and all living expenses are being comfortably paid from one income—the husband's. Patronising by current standards, but sound advice nonetheless. If everybody lived within their means then the only GFC would be the real GFC. Go Cats!

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THANK YOU

Thanks to those many Warrandyte people who gave me their vote and their support in the recent Council elections. I look forward to working in the interests of Manningham and - especially - our valued community of Warrandyte.

—David Ellis



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Christmas, 1944

A Canadian-Australian connection



Neil East aged 62.

By DON CHARLWOOD

Of the four white Christmases that came my way during the Second World War, the one I remember most fondly was in 1944 on Vancouver Island in Canada. Heavy snowfalls at sea level there are not common, but this fall, at Qualicum Beach, came two or three days before Christmas. The coloured lights on our tree spilled each evening onto soft drifts outside the windows. So it was all through that beautiful village.



THE Christmas scene that year remains vivid in my memory: a gathering of the East family in the home of Ellis East and his wife Lila, the family into which I have not long married. I see them yet: Ellis, about four years my senior, tall and fair, is the local GP. Over there is his sister Nell, the girl with the lively eyes, now my wife. Ellis was their mother's maiden name—Dora Ellis. She is here, too—an Australian, a nurse who did her general training in Perth and returned home to Melbourne to do midwifery at the Women's. She is there by the fire, that diminutive lady, just under five feet, whose face reflects such joy from the gathering. She might well be thinking how very different from Perth. In Perth, at her sister's home, she first met her husband, Neil East, that tall rugged man, handsome still at 67, a good head of steel-grey hair, upright carriage. He is speaking to Ellis of whom he is immensely proud.

Neil East was a successful gold miner, drawn by gold to Western Australia. In marrying a man to whom distance seemed no obstacle, Dora must have had every hope of revisiting her Melbourne family. The irony is that, even after they had retired to Edmonton, it was Neil who returned to Australia, drawn back by the prospect of fur-

ther gold from the old mine. This was just five years ago, in 1939. He even saw Dora's family—her brothers and sisters, anyway. Was this, I wonder, why Dora invited two RAAF trainees to the East home in Edmonton? But she could hardly have foreseen that one would be a Melburnian who from that first night, hoped he would survive and marry her daughter. Neil is a formidable pacifist. When I was sent to Bomber Command and Nell and I continued writing regularly, he warned her that, even if I survived, I would be a different man, calloused from having bombed Ger-

regarious family of 13 children, raised in Melbourne by benign parents. Not really a wealthy family, but comfortable enough to have a cook, and two maid-servants. Several of the family became well known in academic and arts circles.

Neil East came from a family of 15 children, raised in poverty on a small Ontario farm. Despite their beginnings, many of the brothers became confident, resourceful men, physically strong, undaunted by hardship. Each brother in turn left home as soon as they were able to support themselves. At 16 Neil

an Ontario powerhouse, where he quickly gained a high reputation. By chance this fitted him for an unexpected call to Australia. His brother James, Neil's elder by seven years, began in his late teens following the gold trail through parts of the United States. Over several years he learned much of mine management; finally, he moved to the Murchison field in Western Australia where he became a highly paid manager. In 1898 he made a find of his own in the boomtown of Lennonville, a few miles north of Mount Magnet. On having the gold assayed and re-

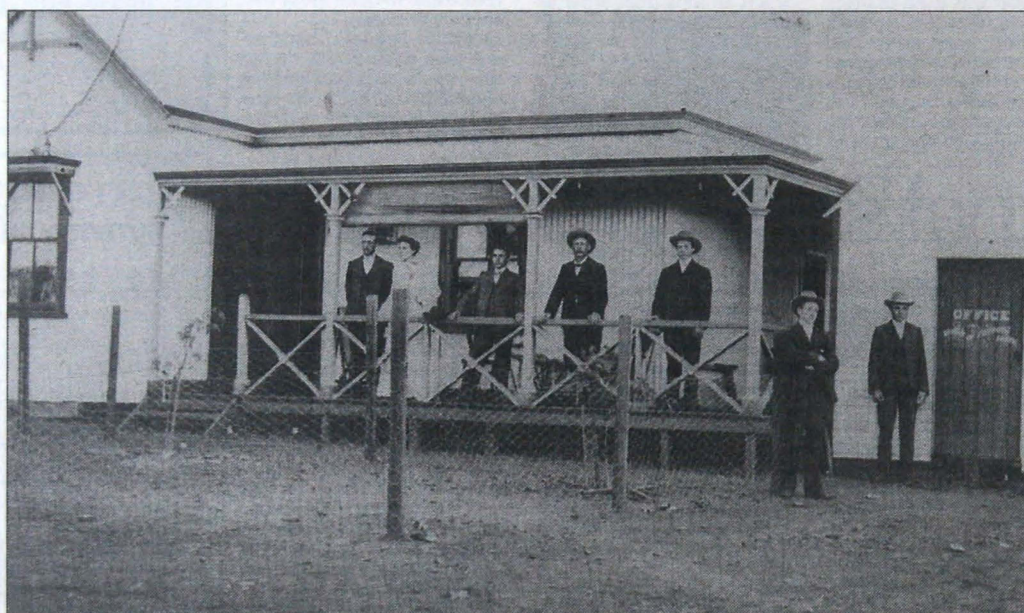
cooking in the open, enduring summer heat and, in winter, nocturnal winter temperatures below freezing. The Lennonville mines were transporting as much as a ton of gold at a time by rail to the Perth mint. The East brothers paid their men in sovereigns from their gold. The family became well liked and their home something of a social centre. They even had a pianola brought up from Perth; around it their friends sang on Sunday evenings, their sister providing refreshments—excepting alcohol; even in that thirsty land the brothers remained abstainers.

For six years the Wheel of Fortune South mine flourished, but in 1905 the family recognised it was nearly worked out.

James and Neil then planned an attempt to find further gold-bearing country, eastward, in an area little explored. The state government backed them with a loan of three camels. They added three more of their own and employed Miski, an Afghan driver. Neil bought a marine sextant and a small bath of mercury to "shoot" the reflected sun, by this means establishing latitude. For longitude he could do no more than plot their daily compass headings and estimated distances on graph paper; it was not practicable to carry a chronometer.



THEY were to reach a point 550 miles from Lennonville, in the Warburton Ranges, near the borders of South Australia and Northern Territory. But, as Neil said ever after, "a search for gold became a search for water". On August 21 they turned back to the last waterhole they had reached on the way out. They came to it four days later. On his 27th birthday Neil wrote in his log: "At about 3.30 I found the spring and we camped—had only enough for tomorrow morning. I cut our names in rock and the date:



The East family outside their house and mine office in Lennonville, Western Australia.

man cities. By luck I survived, returned to Edmonton and proposed to Nell. Neil happened then to be in British Columbia, not far from Ellis. Though I had not yet met Ellis, he interceded on our behalf, then all went smoothly. He even booked our wedding reception at the Empress Hotel, on Victoria's beautiful harbour front.

Dora Ellis had come from a large,

had saved enough to return and, with the help of his 14-year old brother, built a two-storey home for their mother and younger siblings. This was in 1903. Nell and I saw the house 80 years later, still lived in, still in good condition.

After finishing the house, Neil enrolled in a correspondence course in engine maintenance, gaining practical experience in

alising its extent, he was confident enough to send passage money for five of his brothers and his sister and her husband, asking them to join him. All accepted, Neil coming first. James had a five-bed-roomed house built for them.

Neil was appointed "underground boss". Before long East Brothers were employing about 30 men, a shifting population, living in tents,



25th of August, '05."

By now the explorer Frank Hann, who regarded the brothers highly, was predicting they would fail to return. He was delighted when, after more than three and a half months away, they got back. Later he named twin peaks in the Warburton Ranges "East Brothers". Unfortunately this was not promulgated until after James' and Neil's lifetimes. Neil's plotting had proved so accurate that the state government retained his charts.

Some of the East family now decided to remain in Australia, others to return to Canada. Neil himself continued working on the gold-fields until 1908 for Herbert Wray, a highly regarded mine manager for a British company. It was when Wray invited him home to Perth that he met Dora Ellis, Mrs Wray's younger sister. Whether they discussed possibilities of a future together we do not know.



NEIL left for Canada alone, pioneering land thrown open in eastern Alberta. In 1911 he proposed to Dora by letter: would she marry him if he came to Melbourne? She was by then fully qualified and at the Women's Hospital. She accepted him, even though she knew she would be going temporarily to a log cabin. But she could have had a small idea of Canadian winters. The two were married on February 12, 1912. In mingling with Dora's family, Neil was undoubtedly an impressive figure. He knew how to comport himself and was an engaging conversationalist with a fund of tales from remote places. Her family surely believed they would never see Dora again.

Ten days later the bride and groom left to cross the Pacific. Dora was enchanted by the beauty of Vancouver. She first saw snow closely as the train climbed through the Fraser Canyon, writing in her diary: "Never have I seen anything so wonderful. I immediately woke Neil to look at the scene. The poor man had been born and bred to it, but he had to help me admire the view."

In Edmonton they were met by James, founder of the Wheel of Fortune South mine, now married and well established. Dora stayed with them, enjoying Edmonton life, while Neil went ahead 140 miles

to prepare the cabin. Three weeks later he met his bride at the remote rail stop at Islay and began a slow wagon journey of 35 miles to the cabin, their furniture piled behind them. As the thaw had set in, they drove through mud and melting snow.

In her diary, Dora wrote of the cabin as being better than she expected. The logs were chinked with a mixture of mud and cow dung. Next day Neil laid the linoleum: "A great luxury here. The room looks quite pretty in spite of log walls. April 3rd: Neil started work in the fields today—seeding, it means frightfully hard work for a month or more. April 4th: Dinner was ghastly failure, we live on salted pork in the summer, other meat is not procurable. I did not half cook the pork. I nearly made Neil sick, I think, although he did not say much."

By the time Ellis was born Neil had built a large granary that sufficed as a place to live while he began building their home. He built where bore water was available, enabling him to pump to a tank in the roof and, by a sleeve around the stove, provide hot water; the only homestead with such a luxury, the home of Nell's earliest memories.

Twenty-five years later, when Nell sailed for Australia, she took her mother's diary with her, to add her own experiences of immigration. In Melbourne there began a succession of events in our lives. By 1947 Neil had at last provided passage money for Dora. After 36 years she arrived back in her home city for the births of our first and second daughters. Of her own family only three were still living.

Then in 1951 an urgent letter reached us from Ellis: Neil was coming to Australia; he was now 74. Ellis had warned him not to attempt to go back to the old mine. It was up to us to stop him! "As easy as stopping the earth rotating," I murmured. He arrived, met two small grand-daughters, then headed west.



WHEN he reached Lennoxville he found nothing but the crumbling, disused rail siding.

Since 1939 all else had ceased to exist. All he was able to locate was the kurrajong tree his family had planted near their home; there he pitched his tent for several weeks, but further gold eluded him.

Early in 1955 he returned to us looking splendidly fit. He knew we had bought an acre of lemon orchard at Templestowe for 500 pounds; it looked across the

Church Road valley onto groomed orchards. Reynolds Road didn't exist. It wouldn't exist for 12 more years. "Draw me up a plan and I'll build you a house," Neil ordered. I had just been transferred from shiftwork to lecturing air traffic controllers and was trying to finish my first book. But a house! And I had not yet used my war service homes loan entitlement.



NEIL and I had been considering plans for a year or more, now I completed them in a night. By morning she had turned the plan end for end. This would be it then! In the meantime Neil was already building the frame for a power saw of his own devising; the saw would be drawn to the timber by a foot pedal.

Fortunately we had not long bought a small Renault car. In this Neil began carrying out her father's orders. "Buy me two car cases." On our acre the two were joined to become "The Shack"; power on, Neil took up residence there. I began to see how life must have been on the prairie farm: looking after children would be Dora's job; domestic tasks were not work, as Neil understood it. Neil became his righthand man. As for me, I rode my bike the seven miles from Canterbury at weekends and competed with Neil in digging a trench out of the water main on Foote Street. I uprooted lemon trees from under the house-site, dug most of the redgum stump holes, and at last raised the roof timbers with Neil and Neil.

Below us orchards spread eastward, now in blossom, among them placid dams reflecting the sky. On Sundays Neil drove her mother and two excited girls to The Shack, bearing a roast dinner. We moved in on June 8, 1953, the power saw still in the lounge. Each evening Neil swept the sawdust to the walls. Dora had been with us nearly six years. Soon, amid lamentations, Dora left to go back to Ellis's family. He was now a heart specialist in Winnipeg. Before the end of the year, the urge to travel descended



Dora and Neil at the farmhouse built in Vermilion 1918.

again on Neil and, after further lamentations, he also started for Winnipeg.

Four years went by and in 1956 we had our third daughter. She was less than a year old when news reached us that Ellis had contracted aplastic anaemia; in the following year he succumbed to it.



Dora and Neil departing Melbourne on the Orsova, June 1959. Dora died on this journey and was buried at sea.

Their sorrow drew Neil and Dora closer and in 1958 they embarked on an around-the-world cruise, allowing weeks to be with us in the

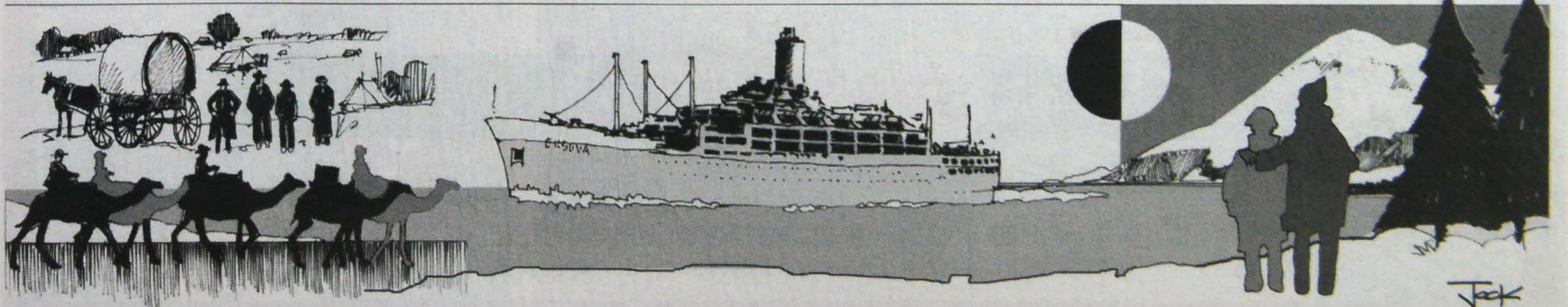
house we now called Qualicum. We farewelled them at Port Melbourne on the Orsova. Weeks later news reached us from Neil: the night after leaving Honolulu, Dora had died and was buried at sea. She, the true hero of this tale!

In time Neil came back to us, spending 19 of his last years at Qualicum, a favourite among our daughters and an important influence on our 1962 son. In the Canadian summers he sometimes visited Lila, his widowed daughter-in-law, but it was in Melbourne that he died, in 1973, aged 96. By then he had no assets other than his miner's pick, his sextant and phial of mercury and the tools with which he built our house.



CHRISTMAS dinner is over. It is 1944. Presents have been exchanged, it has long been dark. Somnolence has overtaken the family. Neil and I put on jackets, scarves, mitts, overshoes and go into the moonlit night. Beyond the inlet of Qualicum Beach, Mount Arrowsmith lifts its white peak in blessing.

We climb a path through a spruce wood and are enclosed by branches bowed under burdens of snow. Arm in arm we sing carols as we walk. Then we turn about and descend to the sleeping village and its lights. I say, "We will be able to come back. Soon there will be airlines crossing the Pacific." And there were, and this we did many times.



JFK



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Funfest!

Words and pictures by
SANDY BURGOYNE

The Anderson's Creek Primary School fete was an all-singing, all-laughing, roaring success early last month. Titled "Family Funfest", it brought out the whole Warrandyte community, raising lots of money for the school and, more importantly, giving everyone, especially all the kids, a great fun day.

"What we really enjoyed about it was seeing so many of our families there," teacher Luanda Pianta told the *Diary*. "As far as a community event went we thought it was very, very successful. That's where we saw our success, more than the actual money-raising."

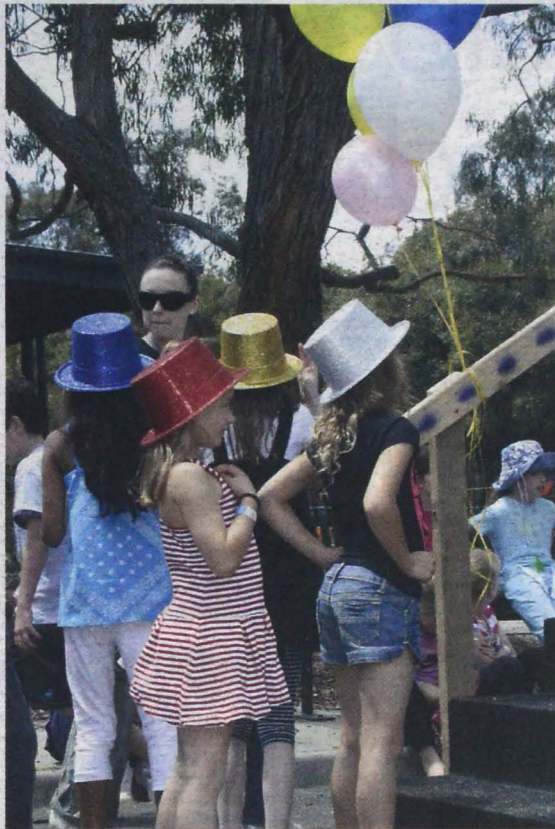
All the usual attractions were there including fairy floss and drinks, with the addition of Cha Cha rides, jumping castles, and a miniature ferris wheel.

The fete took around 12 months of planning and included just about everyone at the school. "This ... was just so well organised because there were so many people involved," Ms Pianta said.

"Every grade of the school took on one of the stalls. There was a grade involved in the pony rides and there was a grade involved in selling mystery bottles and there was a grade involved in the Aussie barbecue."

The fete was billed as the school's first, but that wasn't quite true. Soon after its foundation about 25 years ago a fete was held. It ended in disarray when the heavens opened and water cascaded through the grounds.

This year's successful fete has pretty well erased that soggy memory and it looks to be a likely event for the school next year.



Convict ancestry helps pen a wicked column

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

“IT’S about human interest and human failings, where I hope to say a lot about a little to indicate the commonness of humanity,” Roger said about Kibbell. “I always come off second best, I’m the dull.”

“When my column started the pronunciation and spelling of my name was KIBELL, but Cliff or someone came up with Kibbled and there’s been continuous confusion over the pronunciation of my name ever since.” He said the name Kibbell is probably Polish-Jewish, meaning “cudgel-maker,” dating from the 1400s.

More recently in family history, Roger’s grandfather was a convict in Tasmania, “a bad bugger, for stealing and a bit of violence,” he said. “When he was released he was told he was so awful that he wasn’t to go the northern part of Tasmania at all, but of course he did. He eventually married a co-prisoner’s daughter and they became pillars of the community in Beechworth. An uncle came across the Kelly gang camped in the Beechworth forest and he was moved along, told not to say anything.

“My grandfather became a ‘peasant’ farmer and there’s a street named after him in Beechworth. The family used to go there for Christmas holidays, sliding down big boulders in the gorge.” Back in Bentleigh, “a very safe WASP environment” where Roger’s father ran a furniture-removing business, the children roamed the streets on bicycles. Roger said he went from the archetypal Australian childhood at primary school—where a girl was picked on for her foreign name—to Brighton High where there was an enormous influx of post-war European migrants, particularly Jewish. “It was a very rapid and exciting introduction to a different cultural class, one of the most influential, and it saw a change in the educational system too.

“I was always interested in painting and I painted at home. I saw examples of what the Europeans had brought and they were mind blowing, a lot of modern art, current abstract and post-war. I saw the art films at the Dendy and at school I was also interested in acting.” Having done very well in Year 12, he was going to art school after finishing high school but a well-advised

behind the byline

teacher said to do university then go back to art. “But you’d never do it,” Roger said.

“The decision to follow one career rather than another. If I were more determined I could have done it and it’s been a big regret that I never pursued art. I know my limits and faults and I lack the technique. I get distressed and unhappy with the results. Painting filled a desperate creative urge as an adolescent.”

The drama teacher at school “taught me about expressing myself and not to be shy” and there was also “a dynamo who taught us the importance of rigour and not being satisfied with second best in analysis. She was an introduction to academia. Henry Schoenheimer, the English methods lecturer at university who sadly took his own life, showed me different ways of teaching and offered me a place as a tutor when I graduated.”

Roger had started at Monash University in only its second year. “There were 800 of us; it was like going from one school to another. There must be 20,000 there now and what was the library for the whole university I think is now the engineering café.

“We started the Monash Players, performing in lecture theatres and we did Midsummer Night’s Dream under the pine trees. Max Gillies was there at the same time and we did plays together.”

Recently Roger saw on a website that one Players’ performance was absolutely slammed.

“We took A Taste of Honey to a lot of centres around Victoria which meant my Mini Minor was loaded with lights. Yarrowonga has one of the largest theatres I’ve seen—we had to bring the curtains in three quarters to perform to 50 people. We ended at Pentridge in C Division, the lifers’ one, the long term murderers. In the play a woman takes off her clothes which was cause for catcalls. I was in the bio box with a guy who was in for murder and not happy to be there. It was very sobering—we were bright young things inside the gates of Pentridge and reality suddenly hit.”

Roger met “Herself”, Carolyn, who was studying the same course, in the

listening room at Monash which was an English faculty room with vinyl recordings of Shakespeare’s plays.

They were married on Friday the 13th, owning only Roger’s car and a double mattress, and set off on a luxurious holiday to Canberra where they could afford accommodation but no food and had to stay over on the way as the untrustworthy car was boiling.

Roger completed his arts degree and a diploma of education before tasting country life at Shepparton Tech, learning to fish in the irrigation channels and visiting wineries. He said the wine industry was just starting but there were remnants of early wineries and they drank “lots of plonk”.

“I taught English and Social Studies which weren’t the highest priority for the kids or the other teachers. Other classes had 25 in them but my subjects were taught to combined classes of 50 and the other teachers would say to the students, ‘never mind, it won’t be long until you’re out’.”

Later he joined the Preston Institute which meant needing another vehicle. “Our second car was a Morris Minor, a wonderful car but its brake and clutch pedals were fused together. You had to push the pedal halfway down to change gear and all the way to brake.

It was later stolen and brought back a week later with a bunch of flowers on the back seat with a note saying ‘I understand your problem’. It was a lovely car but I couldn’t afford to get it fixed.”

In 1982 Roger won a teaching exchange scholarship to England. “I was very lucky to work at a comprehensive in Hampshire when half a mile down the road was a difficult one. We had a wonderful year there, touring the continent and living off the smell of an oily rag. The Falklands War was on and the guy next door was in charge of destroyers. He told us that television news footage from the war was two years out of date and nowhere near the Falklands. Truth is the first victim of any sort of war.” It was while in England that Roger started writing for the *Diary*, “occasional, reflective pieces”.

“Then we had a house in Lower Templestowe but it wasn’t the life we wanted and we bought in Warrandyte in 1975. It was a bit of a hippy period where cooperative behaviour and the social group

and community were important. We didn’t want the kids growing up with superficial materialistic values and felt the Warrandyte environment was a better social milieu where the parents were more like us. A sort of mini seachange.

“We were looking for a flat acre and ended up with two-thirds, sloping land leading to a cliff to the Yarra. A year after we’d built an extension to the cedar house someone fell through the floor behind the couch. Termites had eaten through the pine framing but they didn’t touch the cedar. There’re nasty little buggers—they’re an act of God, like a terrorist attack, for insurance companies, and it was an expensive lesson.

“We’ve also lived in our house at Phillip Island but there can be a big problem for sea or tree-changers with the lack of medical facilities.”

Aged 63, Roger said he’s getting grumpier as he gets older and gregarious but not overly. “I prefer to solve a problem rather than flare up. I’m too self critical and never a risk-taker, which is a pity. I wouldn’t do well on the Donald Trump program where you have to sell yourself. I’ve let others take some of my glory but it’s my fault for not taking it in the first place.”

Earlier this year Roger spotted an ad for a free six-week course in four-part men’s chorus singing and went along, finding himself absolutely rejuvenated. “More than 50 guys come together on Monday nights, the only reason being their love of singing. Their occupations, their age, everything else is irrelevant; there’s none of that ‘who’s got a big dick, more money, a big car’. Singing predominates.” He finds that as he gets older he listens to early music—more esoteric music—as well as rock.

Roger enjoys getting a successful result from something he sets out to do but is angered by bigotry, hypocrisy and crassness and most of all by the prodigal son syndrome. “I felt I was the son who stayed at home and had been nice while the tearaway who gets away with murder is forgiven. It’s a metaphorical assessment of worth in the community. There’s much more attention and favour given to the naughty boys of football and the economic high fliers who do wrong and then say they’re sorry.

“The cult of hollow celebrity pisses me off, these people who are famous for being famous,” he said. “The ap-

ing of the worst aspects of American commercialisation and litigation is distressing.

“In Australia we take up gadgets—videos, DVDs—far more rapidly than others. It’s the tyranny of distance. We don’t have a ready comparison to modify what we do but we’ve lots going for us, we shouldn’t screw it up by adopting this attitude. Some of the people at the centre of the financial crises have never known a downturn—they’ve grown up with a view that it would just keep getting better and better.” As a self-funded retiree Roger blocks out worrying about the downturn. “Sleep is important to me.”

He admires Obama and “a lot of ordinary little people who have achieved tremendous things in the community and are never mentioned, those who work without fame for the homeless and destitute. The unlauded, small ‘r’ religious groups helping people, not out to prove their religion is better than anyone else’s.”

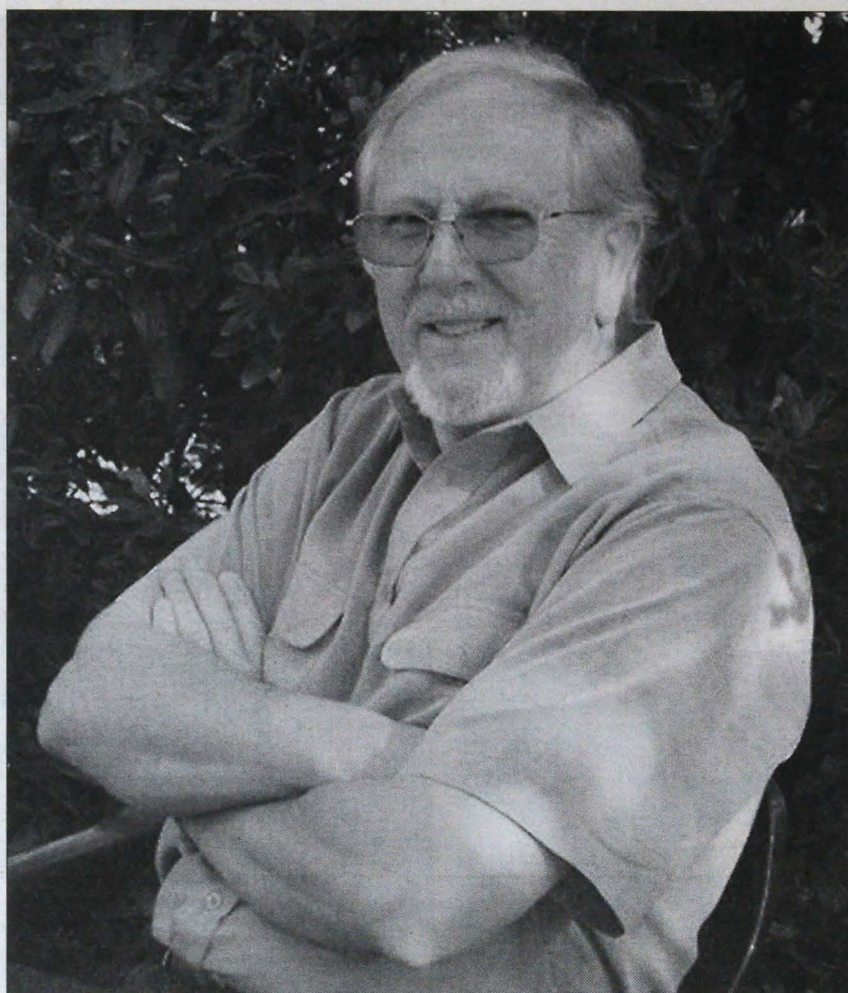
Roger and Carolyn care for two and a half year-old Eliza, one of their three grandchildren, for three days a week since her mother’s gone back to work. “We accept Eliza unreservedly, unlike when we were parents when there’s too much going on, or worries about children’s stages. It’s unreserved love. We have time to do things with her that we didn’t have with our own two kids and we can give her back at the end of the day. You’ve got more perspective on childhood and child rearing.

“As grandparents we make different mistakes, it’s less stressful. There isn’t the angst that there was for us as parents—financial, relationship pressures all at once. It’s very special. I feel a bit cheated, I missed out without a grandparent. It would have been marvellous. It keeps us young.

“Surviving for 41 years with your marriage intact is a great accomplishment, keeping your family intact and the same group of friends,” he reflected.

“There were a few paintings I’ve done that I thought worked. I’ve got outlets in other ways, both writing and acting. I’m very proud of the articles for the *Diary* and some roles in the drama group have been taxing. I’ve been a successful teacher and administrator.

“Secretly, I’d like to do a bit of artwork without my wife knowing about it.”



Roger Kibbell (Picture by Carolyn Kibbell)



Top calisthenics coach, Katrina Barryman with Liana Zordan, winner of the Warrandyte Calisthenics College Top Girl award.

Calisthenics coach wins top award

The principal coach of the Warrandyte Calisthenics College, Katrina Barryman has been named the Coach of the Year 2008.

Katrina has been involved in calisthenics for almost 40 years and founded the Warrandyte Calisthenics College in 2001.

She coaches every class from tiny tots through to masters, incorporating almost 100 members, with ages ranging from 3-60 years.

Katrina is one of around 660 coaches in Victoria, but is one of just a small handful of coaches nationally to have achieved her Level 2 qualification.

She is actively involved in coach education at all levels and is committed to presenting the sport of calisthenics

to the greater community.

She was presented with the award for "Coach of the Year 2008 for Calisthenics Development" at the college's annual display that was held at the Kel Watson theatre in Forest Hill last month.

Katrina said that she was honoured and humbled to receive the award and that it meant a great deal to her.

Liana Zordan, a member of the intermediate class, won the college's club girl award for 2008, a perpetual trophy named after Katrina's mother.

The award acknowledges a passion and total dedication to the team, the club and the sport of calisthenics.

Liana performed at the

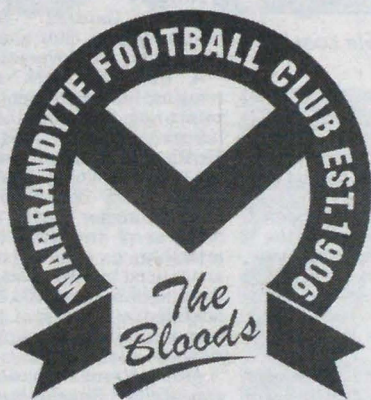
Royal South Street Eistedford in Ballarat for the first time this year.

Katrina has also been asked to represent Victoria's coaches at a national forum to be held in January, to plan the future of calisthenics in Australia.

Despite her commitment to calisthenics as a whole, her first priority is to her family, closely followed by her commitment to the girls of the Warrandyte Calisthenics College.

The club is sponsored by the Warrandyte Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank. New members are always welcome, and are encouraged to come and find out more about the club.

Any enquiries about the college can be made by calling 9899 7886.



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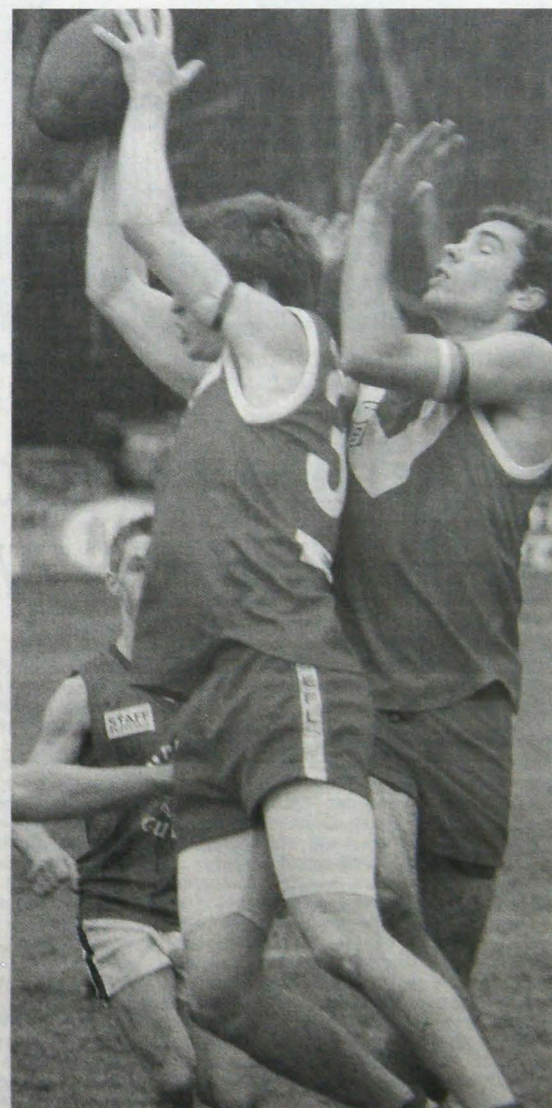
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Warrandyte basketball round-up with Tony Oliver

Warrandyte makes Big V move for men

Planning is under way for a formal application for a Warrandyte Big V Men's basketball team for the 2010 season.

This is another big step for the association and clearly shows it is keen to establish a strong and viable pathway for all players from the junior Redback and Venom ranks.

The Big V Women's side recently returned to pre-season training with a new look and feel about the squad.

A new recruit from Bulleen, Janelle Lucas, is settling in well. Sally Phillips has been announced as captain with Billie Adlem as vice captain.

As before, the squad is a mixture of more experienced players with eight players from the Friday Night Venom teams.

All players however have the opportunity of good court time as has been shown

in the past two years.

Warrandyte Friday night representative grading phase is well under way with 25 teams being entered across the competition from Under 12 to Under 18.

This makes Warrandyte one of the larger associations in this competition.

The Saturday domestic grading phase is also complete and following the final grading meeting, the teams will be settling down in their various divisions.

Across the club a number of players have achieved great personal accolade and rewards for their hard work.

Mollie Burke and Demi Joy have been selected in the ITC (Intensive Training Centre) program for Under 16 girls, while Mollie along with Nicolette Prior and Meg Dargan are involved in the Under 18 State trials.



Madeleine Hallett top scored for the Venom with nine points in their close 34-32 win over Waverley.

Strong forward Casey Taylor, part of the Venom's Under 16 Pool 2 side who defeated Camberwell by 41-38.

Grading sessions continue for Venom

Grading Phase One continued for all Venom basketball players on Friday night.

This first phase will see each Venom team play one game at home, one game away and one game at a neutral venue (in any order).

If required, teams can then play in a crossover game. These matches will determine where all teams will start Grading Phase Two, which starts next February.

After an exhaustive process, 25 teams have been selected for the season.

The club's coaching directors have completed a professional job in placing players in teams, running the sessions and exhibiting the very high level of coaching and playing experience at Warrandyte.

Damian Arsenis's Under 12 boys are again in the running for Championship honours. After going down to Frankston in the opening game they took on Diamond Valley at Warrandyte Community Sports

Centre, going down 27-17 in the end.

"You could not fault their 100 per cent effort," Arsenis said later that night. "They just need a little more poise at key times".

A critical charge call in the second half followed by a rebound goal to Diamond Valley were the turning points.

Daniel Robertson top scored for the Venom with six points with good support from Campbell Graham and Keiran Urquhart with four points each.

Gerry Pearce's Under 14 boys, also playing in Pool 1, were next on court against Frankston but also suffered a defeat losing 44-15. Chris Bolland, returning quickly from a toe injury top scored with seven points.

In the final Venom match, David Daniel's Under 18 boys went down 52-22 against Wallan. Ryan Daniel with 11 points and Peter Cormick with 10 points were Warrandyte's top scorers.

New coach has Bloods on the track

By CHRIS CHAPMAN

Warrandyte footballers have started pre-season training in preparation for a tilt at Division Three success in 2009.

Under the guidance of newly appointed coach Michael Tout and assistant Brendan McCormack, more than 50 players have been training on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

In 2008, 73 players took to the field for either the seniors or reserves and with a good mix of new players and those returning from other commitments, it looks like there will be even more depth in 2009.

In fact there have been 17 new players train during the pre-season, coupled with several Under 18s coming through from last year's squad.

The club officially announced the appointment of Tout and McCormack in early November, following an exhaustive search to fill the vacant senior coaching position after 2008 coach Graeme Hocking was not reappointed.

Tout brings a wealth of experience to the Bloods after stints playing at Fitzroy, and VFL (then VFA) clubs Port Melbourne, Springvale and Werribee. More recently Tout has been involved with Donvale in the EFL.

Part of the Donvale premiership side that defeated Warrandyte in 1992, Tout returned to Donvale in an assistant and coaching capacity finishing Runners Up in Division 1 in 1998 and 2001.

In addition to imparting his wisdom from the sidelines, Tout is hoping to pull the boots back on for the 2009 season and lead from on the field.

Assistant coach McCormack has experience playing with Fitzroy and Brisbane and more recently has become a popular and well respected figure in the



New Warrandyte coach, Michael Tout.

Eastern Football League.

He will bring a wealth of knowledge with him and is certain to make an impact at the club.

Adam Hinds has been appointed coach of the Reserves in his second year at the club after several years at East Ringwood and Barry Williams and Tony Biggs will coach the Under 18 side.

Club legend and 300 game veteran Dale Vitoritti has been assisting the senior squad as a development coach.

The majority of the club's senior list from 2008 have either started training or have indicated that they will once again be pulling on the red and white jumper next year.

The club also welcomes a number of newcomers including Josh Pierpoint, a solid forward originally from Albury and more recently Broadbeach in the QAFL, and Beau Biggs, an athletic key position player recruited from the Eltham Panthers.

A number of key players are also expected to return from long term injuries including former best and fairest winner Todd Holman, currently in rehabilitation from a recurring hamstring injury and Adam Tsapatsaris, who arrived

from the Eltham Panthers in 2008 and impressed in a handful of senior games before succumbing to a serious ankle injury. Tsapatsaris has looked sharp on the track following mid-season reconstructive surgery. Former Blood Stuart Rough also returns to the club following a stint in Western Australia in the mining industry. Rough will add valuable size and experience to a young Warrandyte list.

Nuggety midfielder Nathan Gardner also returns to the club after a number of years overseas.

A question mark still remains however over the return of 2008 best and fairest winner Grant McAdam, who is yet to start pre-season training. On the other hand, Ben Reid, a valuable senior player and member of the 2006 premiership side who announced his retirement at the end of season 2008, has attended a number of pre-season sessions, prompting rumours of a re-think.

After a strong start to season 2008 the Bloods slipped away to finish a disappointing eighth, above only Mitcham and local rivals Templestowe, who will play in Division Four next year. Heathmont will join Division Three after winning the 2008 Division Four premiership.

New players are invited to join training sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm, with an optional Friday session also starting at 6pm. Players should meet at the clubrooms at Warrandyte Reserve.

The final training session will be Wednesday December 17, with training to begin again on January 19.

If you are interested in joining the club in 2009 whether it be as a player, member or volunteer, contact club captain Tom Naughtin on 0421 231 419 or see www.warrandytefc.com

Premiership for tennis women

Warrandyte Tennis Club mid-week ladies, playing in the Ferntree Gully & District Tennis Association's Thursday competition, brought home one flag after the finals were played last month.

The winning Section 9 team included Angela Dziedzic, Mandy Bence, Pat Allgood, Kerrie Stafford, Kate Baker, Lois Windridge and Anne Semken.

Finishing fourth on the ladder they played a very tight match in the semi-final against top team, Belgrave.

The score was level at the end of six sets with three sets, 40 games each. Two Warrandyte players battled out a tight tie-breaker to decide the match, finally winning 9-7.

The team had an easier



Premiership winners from left, Angela Dziedzic, Mandy Bence, Pat Allgood and Kerrie Stafford.

run in the grand final defeating second placed Park

Orchards 5 sets 45 games to 1 set 25 games.



The trap is set. Warrandyte fieldsmen crowd the batsman during Saturday's match against East Ringwood. Rain marred Warrandyte's hopes of a win.

Rain dampens 'Dyde's hopes

Rain has proven to be the nemesis of Warrandyte in the past two Ringwood District Cricket Wilkins Cup matches.

In Round 6, Warrandyte made 247 against St Andrews only to have the second day abandoned because of rain.

And in last weekend's match against East Ringwood, Warrandyte set a respectable total of 240 at the end of the first day only to see intermittent showers make it impossible for the bowlers to control the ball on the second day.

Twenty minutes before tea, East Ringwood were 5-118 with left arm orthodox spinner, Matt Sazenis well on top with four wickets and Warrandyte in control of the game.

But the rain nullified his ability to turn the ball and East Ringwood slowly worked their way back into the match.

Further heavy rain at the tea break meant a delayed start and the ball became like a cake of soap.

Warrandyte's captain, Adam White, pleaded with the umpires to allow him to change the ball but they refused and it was only when it was hit into the Anderson's Creek that a dry ball was permitted to be introduced.

Warrandyte picked up two quick wickets and the game threatened to turn again but the East Ringwood lower order steadied and they recorded a comfortable win.

"The rain was a problem and the domination that Sazenis had of the game was curtailed," said White.

"But we still had our chances and we can't blame the weather alone



Warrandyte captain, Adam White, unsuccessfully pleads with the umpires to change the rain-sodden ball on Saturday.

for our loss."

White feared too much was being placed on the shoulders of Sazenis.

"He is probably the best bowler in the competition and he again took the first four wickets of the East Ringwood innings," White said.

"But we can't continually rely on him. He has taken an incredible 20 wickets already this season which is more than a third of the wickets taken by our bowlers."

The loss has severely dented Warrandyte's finals hopes and with two wins and four losses, they share the bottom rung of the ladder.

But White remained confident and said it now up to the players to show that they wanted to be part of a finals campaign.

"We have the ability. We just now need the desire," he said.

Round 7 also saw the

debut of Under 16 player, Jack Ellis who replaced Lee Evans who was injured.

A key positive over the past two weeks has been Warrandyte's ability to score heavily, something that had been missing in the opening five rounds.

Against ladder leader, St Andrews, Warrandyte scored 247 which was built on a patient 76 by Sazenis and an equally responsible innings from White who top scored with 86.

Both were able to play the key roles in partnerships that slowly built the score to what remains as the highest for the season.

A washout on the second day meant Warrandyte could not capitalise on this performance but it provided a confidence boost that was built on against East Ringwood.

Ben Taylor fell early but Sazenis and Dave Mooney combined for a 52-run partnership before White joined

Mooney and the pair took the score comfortably to 98 before White was dismissed, sparking a batting collapse that saw Warrandyte go to tea at 6-112.

But Cam Skermer, with help from the lower order, put together a series of partnerships that took the total to 240.

Skermer, playing his first season with Warrandyte, was in total command. A hard-hitting left hander, he showed the value of experience in pushing the ball into gaps for singles and then taking full toll on the bad ball.

Warrandyte received a rude awakening when the East Ringwood captain took to the bowling as if it was a one day game and he was finally dismissed for 59 with the score at 1-70.

Tyson Walshe, playing only his second First XI game, was a stand out among the fast bowlers but like the other quicks, he was unable to get the breakthrough.

Sazenis stepped up to dismiss the East Ringwood skipper and then took the next three wickets before White chimed in with a valuable caught and bowled just before tea.

But with the break came the rain and from that point, bowlers struggled to have any control.

White and then Sazenis struck in quick succession and East Ringwood were 7-220 and the game was again on the line. But East Ringwood's lower order saw them over the line.

With two one day games to play before the Christmas break, Warrandyte's finals hopes demand that both games are won.



Cameron Skermer joined Warrandyte this season and top scored with 83 against East Ringwood.

Fifth XI upsets a clean sweep

An unexpected loss by Warrandyte's Fifth XI on Saturday ended what would have been a first half season clean-sweep for the club's lower grades.

The seconds, thirds and fourths all remain unbeaten after Round 7 while the Fifth XI suffered its first defeat.

One of the highlights over the past two rounds was the ability for the Third XI to gain first innings points on the first day of Round 6. The second day was abandoned by the Ringwood District Cricket Association because of rain. But the Third XI was able to dismiss Ainslie Park for a lowly 62 and then rattled up 3-190 to secure the valuable points.

The Second XI continues its remarkable run of form although they may have been lucky in Round 6 when they were dismissed for only 139 and then rain washed out the second day.

But in Round 7 they scored 9-246 with Stuart Howarth showing a welcome return to form with a typically swashbuckling 69.

Leg spinner, Adam Beardall, overcame a slipper ball to take 6-56 while Dan Barry continues with his development, taking 2-33 off a marathon 23 overs.

Brendan Zach was in brilliant form with the bat in the Third XI's crushing victory over St Andrews in Round 7.

He scored 144 and batted almost through the entire innings to enable his team to amass 329 before Mitch

Gaffney and Stewart Smead combined to rout the opposition with some intelligent bowling.

John Prangley, better known for his bowling exploits which this year has seen him already return an eight wicket haul in a single innings, turned all-rounder in Round 7, taking seven wickets for the match and top scoring with 62.

Round 6:
First XI: Warrandyte 248 (A. White 86, Sazenis 76) drew with St Andrews.

Second XI: Warrandyte 139 drew with Croydon Nth 1-3
Third XI: Warrandyte 3-190 (Wright 59, T. Greve 50, Goddard 34) d Ainslie Park 62 (Gaffney 3-7).

Fourth XI: Warrandyte 222 (Hookey 68, Croft 46) drew with Ainslie Park 1-38.

Round 7:
First XI: Warrandyte 240 (Skermer 83, Mooney 47) lost to East Ringwood 309 (Sazenis 5-62)

Second XI: Warrandyte 9-246 (Howarth 69, Wellesley 54, Lander 44) d Warranwood 149 (Beardall 6-56)

Third XI: Warrandyte 329 (B. Zach 144, J. Greve 48, Large 37) and 6-160 (McKellar 55) d St Andrews 140 (Gaffney 4-37, Smead 3-51)

Fourth XI: Warrandyte 131 (Revell 41) and 125 (Prangley 62) d Bayswater Park 58 (Prangley 4-34, Lockie 4-15) and 5-52 (Prangley 3-38)

Fifth XI: Warrandyte 146 (Creber 69) lost to Boronia 8-296

Hawks tumble from top four

After a successful start to the season, November proved a little tougher for the South Warrandyte Hawks in RDCA cricket.

The Chandler team fell out of the top four in the most recent game after it scored 267 but failed to chase down Norwood's 8-333 at home.

B Grade is on top with Matt Cowen in great form, taking 5-30 in the most recent game.

E Grade remains in the top four with Troy Donis with 5-28 being the best of the bowlers.

Junior results are mixed. The U12-2 and U14-2 teams are bottom, but the U12-3 team is on top. The U14-4 team (combined with North Ringwood) is fourth and the U16-2 and

U16-4 teams are mid-table, but still with reasonable prospects of making finals. The two teams in U18-1 are third and fifth respectively.

South Warrandyte has often joined other clubs to form junior teams, but never like this.

There are two Hawks teams out of six in the single RDCA U18 grade. The "second" team was entered just three days before the season began, starting with five Hawks players and three from North Ringwood. Since then it has added players from Boronia and Warranwood. The other side is mostly from last season's Hawks U18 team, with the addition of a couple of "imports".

LANDFIELD

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We would like to wish all our clients and the Warrandyte community a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**



from all the staff at Landfield Real Estate

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



WARRANDYTE NORTH

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

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.

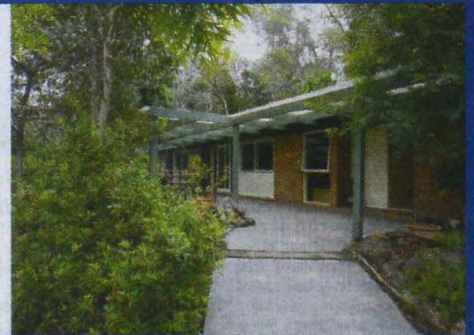


WARRANDYTE

The Long Weekend

Imagine a long weekend escape every day of your life from this family retreat on 1 and 3/4 acres. A front entertainment area overlooks native gardens and rolling lawns, with a big open kitchen to watch children roam safely. With four robed bedrooms (the master with a huge ensuite), a tiled family room and study nook, there's room enough to watch your children grow. Fully fenced with a separate animal paddock, double carport and 3 sheds in a tranquil corner of Warrandyte North.

PRICE: \$580,000 plus



WARRANDYTE

Take Your Place at the Top

Perched at the top of a private court is this grand custom-built residence on 1/2 an acre, with 11ft ceilings, hardwood floors, formal lounge with brick OFF, private dining room and balcony. With 3 bedrooms + study/4th, timber kitchen with Bosch appliances, central family room with cathedral ceilings, heavy duty ducted heating/evaporative cooling and master overlooking a resort-style pool. Double remote garage, workshop, cellar and storage—truly a refined property so close to the river and Yarra Street shops.

PRICE: \$680,000 plus



WARRANDYTE NORTH

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.



Lions Club of Warrandyte Inc.

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays at Kellybrook Winery Restaurant

Seasons Greetings

The Lions Club wishes our community and our supporters a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.**



www.lionsclubwarrandyte.org.au



www.landfield.com.au