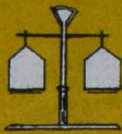


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# WARRANDYTE diary

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No 416, February 2009 For the community, by the community

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This could still happen: Warrandyte CFA brigades, SES and local police stage a fire event exercise in Yarra Street. (Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS)



# Warrandyte waits

## That weekend when fire hung on the horizon

It was stiflingly hot by early morning with the promise of a fierce north wind.

The official fire danger index for Saturday, February 7, 2009 in the Yarra Valley stood at 186. The worst previous fire danger index—on Ash Wednesday in 1983—was around 110.

“Off the scale,” one CFA veteran described it.

A cool change that afternoon brought relief to Warrandyte. It also triggered a wind change that

swept a fire that originated in Kilmore into the township of Kinglake, with devastating loss of life and assets. Christmas Hills, Hurstbridge and Pantom Hill received official bushfire alerts.

“Too close,” said the CFA veteran. How vulnerable is Warrandyte?

History tells us that Warrandyte is as vulnerable as Kinglake. On February 13, 1939—Black Friday—a bushfire swept through Warrandyte. Two men died, 160 houses and three churches were destroyed.

Weather conditions on the day Kinglake and other Victorian communities burned were comparable—if not worse—than Black Friday. Weeks of increasingly hot, dry weather turned forests and grasslands into crisp, tinder-dry fuel, culminating in a day when weather records for Victoria were re-written.

Clearly, there is a lot more hot dry summer to come.

### EDITORIAL

In the event of another extreme weather day and fire, driven by a high wind entering Warrandyte—or igniting here—a disaster could ensue.

The last bushfire to attack Warrandyte was on February 25, 1991, when 45 hectares were burnt after a blaze originating in Pound Bend jumped the river into North Warrandyte.

All three Warrandyte brigade captains—Warrandyte, North Warrandyte and South Warrandyte—agree that big improvements have been made in CFA equipment, strategies and organisation since 1991.

The superb fire service effort during the recent crisis weekend demonstrates the strength of CFA, DSE, the police and the other emergency services working closely together. However, when extreme condi-

tions in Victoria collided to create a firestorm, even the best efforts, the most sophisticated equipment and the best-laid plans failed to stem the onslaught. Communities were destroyed, people and animals died in appalling numbers, the environment was devastated.

One spark in Warrandyte on that fateful afternoon and our town would have exploded. In this closely settled, suburban interface the destruction and the death toll would have eclipsed all others.

Global warming created the horrendous conditions that existed that Saturday. These conditions will surely come again—perhaps in the near future.

As the smoke clears and the dust settles, many questions will be asked.

Are the “leave in time or stay and defend” options still appropriate? Leave early—but how early, given

the speed of rapid onset fire? Stay and defend—but how can life and property be defended against a cyclonic firestorm?

Stay and die might be a more accurate prediction.

Perhaps we need to plan better, heed the advice of fire services days in advance, be more disciplined implementing our fire plans and avoiding the last-minute decision to flee in the face of fire. But will this be enough?

Warrandyte knows the long-reaching, devastating impact such fire events can have on a community. Our understanding, sympathy and support go out to the communities who suffered so much.

Warrandyte will continue standing ready. We will continue scanning the tops of the ridges searching for puffs of smoke. We will continue listening for fire sirens. But will this be enough?

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“If at first you do succeed – try to hide your astonishment”  
— Anon

# WARRANDYTE diary

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### NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, March 11, 2009. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, February 27.

### OUR NEWSPAPER

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

### A SPECIAL PLACE

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

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## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



# Gran remembers happy days: Neville falls in love, laterally

GRAN looked at her family and grinned. "Ugly Betty!" "Adventures of the Gummi Bears!" "Dentures in Paradise?" Gran's mouth stretched wider, her eyes bulged and a growing malice was discernable behind the smile. "Dr Phil?" tried Jasper. Fortunately, Neville interrupted before she hit him. "TV show. Two words. First word. No, you've got me beat." Gran rolled her eyes and kept on rolling her eyes until the family realised she was doing the second word, but it didn't help. "Sorry Gran. We give up!" The wonderful thing about family camping holidays is the opportunity to entertain yourselves without television. What could be more congenial than sharing a simple game around a campfire? Like Charades!

"Happy Days you morons!" snapped Gran. "I was in a daze, and before that I was being happy!" "No wonder we didn't recognise it," muttered Jasper. "Alright, I'll do one," volunteered Narelle. She started the winding sign that might have had something to do

with making films in some previous century. "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly!" yawned Cinnamon. "But I haven't started yet!" "You always do *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly!*" "All right, your turn!" "Song. Five words. First word," interpreted Jasper as Cinnamon started working her way through a succession of clues that mostly seemed to involve gangsters and prostitutes and were a total mystery to anyone except her younger brother. "Let me c u jig!" cried Jasper triumphantly. "Let's not," said Neville claiming centre stage. A certain raising of the tone was evidently called for. He took a deep breath and pointed towards his eyes. "Eye! Eye of the Tiger!" "Bright Eyes!" "Look of love." "See see Rider!" Neville shook his head and tapped two, then three fingers on his forearm. "Second word?" "Third word?" "Come on, son. Which one is it? Second or third?" Neville shook his head. "Help us Dad!"



Neville zipped his lips and was about to move on, indicating the fourth word against his arm, when he stepped back and tripped over the guy rope. "Stagger Lee?" "I Can't Stand It Anymore?" "Rollover Beethoven?" Neville lay flat on his back waving his arms towards them.

### living with The Trotts

"Alexander Beetle? Something by the Beatles?" Only his wife showed any concern at all. "Neville? Are you all right?" she asked as he gestured desperately towards her. "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone!" "Hang on Jasper! Daddy might have hurt himself!" She reached over and helped her husband to his feet. "Are you OK darling?" By way of answer, Neville hugged her tight and kissed his wife in a moment that embarrassed everybody. Then, now fully recovered, he turned to his family and spread his arms as if to say, "Well?" "What?" said Jasper. "Was that it?" asked Cinnamon. "Humph!" humphed Gran. "You make me look like Meryl Streep!" The slow light of dawning spread gently across Narelle's features. She knew what an old Elvis fan her husband was. "It's our song." Neville smiled encouragingly. "I Can't Help Falling in Love With You!"

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<b>VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE: 1800 240 667</b>					

# Memories of Festival 2008

Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS



## Bands in battle



By JOANNE GREEN

Young people in Warrandyte let it be known that they wanted another night-time event at the Festival this year and the committee has responded with a spectacular Battle of the Bands concert, to be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Friday, March 20.

The event will be for all ages and drug and alcohol free. It is hoped that a more intimate venue will encourage good behaviour and avoid some of the negative reactions that arose during the Skate Park event in the past.

"If the weather is good the event will probably be on an outdoor stage in the amphitheatre at the community centre, otherwise it may have to be indoors," youth event organiser Ben Dennis told the *Diary*.

The bands will be judged by crowd involvement and there may also be adjudication by music professionals. It is anticipated that the prize will be a spot performing on the main stage for 30 minutes at the Saturday night concert.

Ben Dennis believes a battle of the bands will be a good opportunity for local bands to be noticed. "A lot of them are starting out in their garages and not many of them are getting heard," he said.

The winners could perform

along with other local bands, as well as the Teskey Brothers and Frankie Wants Out from 5pm on the Saturday night.

The festival committee is looking for youth bands aged up to 23 to apply for the battle. Applications can be sent to Ben Dennis at [contact@eargasmicdjs.com](mailto:contact@eargasmicdjs.com).

Another event especially appealing to young people is a mountain bike ride.

Warrandyte Festival and Manningham YMCA are running the ride on Sunday, March 22, leaving at 8am from the Warrandyte football ground. The ride is classified as medium hard and will be suitable for experienced and fit riders only.

The ride will follow the fire tracks in the Warrandyte State Park. The route will take riders up Gold Memorial Drive and through Warrandyte's significant gold mining and State Park country, including including Fourth Hill, Fiddler's Gully, Timber Reserve, the Common and Black Flat, an approximate distance of 15km.

The ride will be led by experienced riders, familiar with the Warrandyte terrain. All riders under 15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Enquiries can be made via email to [warrandyte.cyclopaths@gmail.com](mailto:warrandyte.cyclopaths@gmail.com)

# An ongoing folly

By ALAN CORNELL

Lust, greed, pride, gluttony, anger, envy and sheer bloody laziness. In a sinful stew of music and mayhem dubbed the Seven Deadly Follies, Warrandyte Theatre Company is once more presenting its Festival Follies.

The writers have been busy since late last year. Twenty-plus young and old troupers brought their enthusiasm to auditions.

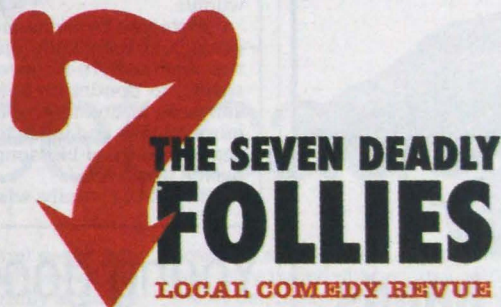
Rehearsals are in full swing under the experienced eyes of Adrian Rice and Lea Stringer. The only thing missing at the moment is any sign of sloth!

How did we ever get involved?

It was 1981. My hair was longer, and so were the collars of my seersucker shirt. We were sitting outside at 'Cambah', Phil and Sally Taylor's old home in Hamilton Road.

My brother-in-law David and I were singing and strumming a few of the old folkie favourites, *Sounds of Silence*, *Fire and Rain*, *Country Roads*, when we became aware of a someone joining in who could actually sing, beautifully. That's how we met Libby Walker—though she's had a few surname changes since then—and how she came to suggest doing a few numbers together at a local show called the Follies.

Enquiries can be made via email to [warrandyte.cyclopaths@gmail.com](mailto:warrandyte.cyclopaths@gmail.com)



We had a few practices at Libby's, till one night a slim, urbane pommie chappie by the name of Tim Sherwood dropped in. "Fabulous!" he said and left. That was the last we saw of the director until opening night.

The show itself was akin to a Sunday School concert, amateur to its core, a curious mix of the bad and the not so bad—anything half decent shone from the dross of mediocrity like gems in slag. But it all had an undeniable charm.

Dulcie, resplendent in flowing boa and ostrich feather, kept things rollicking along on the piano, the Barber Shop quartet sang in unison but we still loved them. The New Settlers from Wonga Park kept reappearing till

they'd almost exhausted the country's entire repertoire of bush songs. Martin Walker was the real star, funny as a fit, raising the roof and lowering expectations. The glue that stuck it up the acts in between.

The next year I wrote a few sketches with Jock Macneish and Ray Norman, and made my acting debut in a pram as Jock and Ray scooped handfuls of peanut butter from my nappy.

Sophisticated stuff. In another sketch, Jock was waiting behind the curtain with Ray on a dog chain when an inadvertent flourish of the chain split Ray's head and knocked him senseless. The show went on, sans Ray, and has done every year from then till now.

It's been a great source of fun for over 2500 audience members and a great introduction to the stage for a procession of Warrandyte wannabees. Anyone who turns up to the auditions is in the show. Behind the scenes an army of others direct, accompany, choreograph, build sets, make costumes, point lights and generate sound.

The writing is now all home-scripted, as opposed to many earlier Follies where we plundered Rowan Atkinson and the Two Ronnies and even presented an episode of *Fawlty Towers* in near entirety. Maybe the standard of our own work is a little less predictable than theirs, but if the charter of the Warrandyte Arts Association is to encourage local artistic expression in its many and varied forms, and it is, then few enterprises contribute so splendidly in so many areas as the Follies.

Its cabaret style as usual this year and the performance dates are March 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 and April 2, 3 and 4.

Tickets are available now from Joan at the Old Bakery Bookshop opposite the Hall, phone 9844 1744.

Will I front up again? Well I think after 28 years, off and on, it's really time I stopped. Though it does kind of get in your blood...

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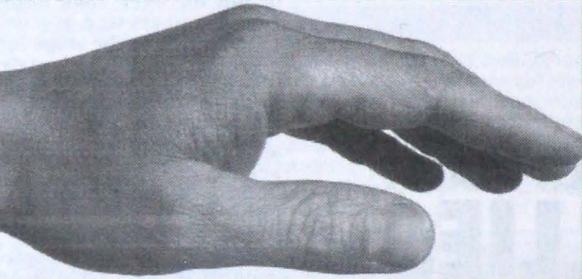
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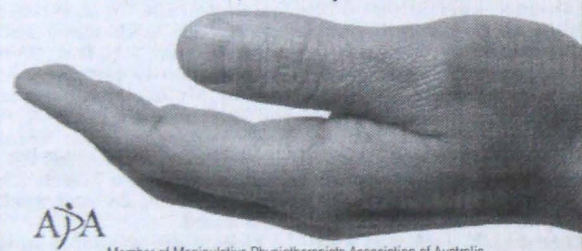
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# What's the RACV got against Warrandyte?

dear diary

Local residents are becoming increasingly alarmed by statements from the RACV pushing for a ring road link through Warrandyte and the "upgrading" of Yarra Street and Warrandyte-Ringwood Road. Have RACV members in Warrandyte been asked if they support this policy?

To: Mr Brian Negus  
RACV Public Policy General Manager

Lynda Gilbert  
Everard Drive



Mr Negus replied  
(in part):

I am writing to you about an article in the *Warrandyte Diary* (October '08) that states that the RACV believes that Yarra Street/Warrandyte-Ringwood Road requires "upgrading". To me, this means removal of vegetation to make way for bigger and wider roads, the imposition of more traffic in our area, and a greater chance of wildlife being killed.

You may not be aware that Warrandyte is part of the Green Wedge, and as such, provides a haven for flora and fauna. ... We in Warrandyte, a small community of 8000 residents, are doing our best to ensure that future generations learn about the unique flora and fauna which no longer exist in the city of Melbourne.

Various volunteer groups, such as the Friends of Warrandyte State Park, Landcare groups, Manningham and Nillumbik councils and local schools, plant an average 100,000 shrubs and trees per annum to provide and replenish the habitat of our wildlife.

I invite you to come and watch the ducks and their fluffy offspring cross the Warrandyte-Ringwood Road in spring, to ponder on the beauty of a kangaroo bounding through the early morning mist and listen to the magnificent diversity of birdsong in the trees beside this road.

If the RACV really wishes to help

the people of Warrandyte, then please support a reduced speed limit of 40kph between Taroona Avenue and Tills Drive and the installation of more roundabouts and speed cameras along the Warrandyte-Ringwood Road to deter traffic.

As you mention, RACV has identified the need to upgrade Warrandyte-Ringwood Road. RACV does not agree that traffic on Warrandyte-Ringwood Road should be restricted. Options for north-south travel in that region of Melbourne are very limited.

The nearest continuous north-south road east of Warrandyte-Ringwood is nearly 13km to the east (Melba Highway) and

the nearest westerly road is over 7km distant (Fitzsimons Lane/Main Road). While it may not be desirable for trucks, buses and general traffic to use Warrandyte-Ringwood Road through Warrandyte, there currently is no other feasible alternative route for most of this traffic.

We also note that the road upgrades listed ... do not mean wholesale clearing of roadside vegetation or degradation of habitat. Many of the upgrades listed are to enhance public transport, provide footpaths and bike paths to encourage walking and cycling, to improve safety or improve drainage.

The RACV's Brian Negus said he was delighted that the North-East Link—a \$6bn, 9km link from Greensborough to Bulleen has been included in the plan. But he said the RACV would argue that a different route through Warrandyte should take preference over the Bulleen route, which would come close to the Heide Museum of Modern Art.

The Age, 9/12/08

Letter to RACV  
Royal Auto

It is ironic that on the same day that I read your article extolling the virtues of a drive through the Yarra Valley, I also read RACV's General Manager of Public Policy, Brian Negus, continuing to push for the "missing link", Eastlink-Greensborough freeway to pass through Warrandyte. This would destroy pristine and precious State Park land, the lungs of Melbourne on the edge of the Yarra Valley. Quite who is RACV representing here? The tourist who values our environmental heritage or the petrol head whose concern is to get there quicker?

Dick Davies  
Bradleys Lane

## Young good Samaritans Thanks for the Diary

On the last day it rained in Warrandyte (mid-December) I was on my way to pick up my wife and go to the opera. Naturally enough I was a bit dressed up, clean and neat, when to my disgust I realised I had a flat tyre.

I found the best spot I could and set about the changeover. I was flustered, irritated and had a sore back to boot and nothing went right. Did the wheel nuts turn to right or left? Why wouldn't they move when I applied the pressure? All the time I was getting wet-

ter and dirtier.

Two angels dressed up as Warrandyte youth appeared and took over. Where I was flustered they were calm. Where I was sore they were strong. Where I was frustrated they were happy. Five minutes and it was done. Of course I thanked them but I didn't get their names.

So, to you two young guys, thanks again. You did a great job.

Jack Stringer  
Kangaroo Ground Road

I moved to North Warrandyte about two years ago for the wonderful aesthetics of the area.

But it was a case of serendipity when I found the district to have a small, close community feel, which is exemplified by the *Warrandyte Diary*.

I look forward to each issue as it really does have its "finger on the pulse" of lovely Warrandyte and its river.

I try to be a diligent reader of local neighbouring

Leader publications, but it is the *Diary* I most enjoy.

So a big thank you to all the team at the *Diary* (I did not know there were so many until I read the December issue) and especially the "faces" of the *Diary*, Cliff and Rae.

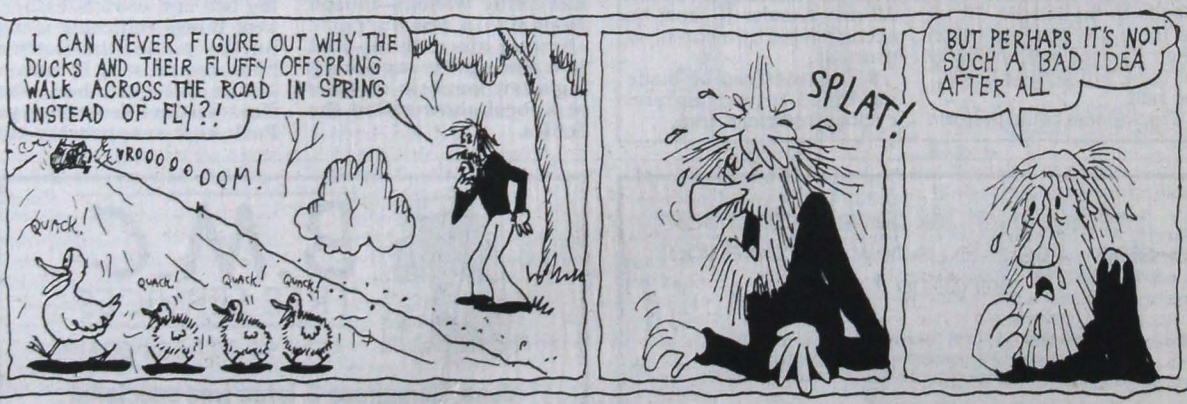
I hope you had a lovely Christmas and have a happy 2009.

Keep up the good work, it is much appreciated.

Jon Elam  
by email

## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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“ We watched fearfully as house after house was engulfed in smoke and flames and then held our breath until the front moved on and the houses reappeared one by one. ”

# The day our street caught fire

January 8 this year marked the 40th anniversary of Black Wednesday, when devastating fires swept across Victoria. Warrandyte was not spared. VAL POLLEY remembers...

**A**T that time we had lived in Hutchinson Avenue overlooking the Yarra River downstream from the tunnel exit for just two years.

For the families living in our street, the friendly neighbourhood, the river at the foot of the slope and the expanse of open space and bushland at the rear of the gardens provided an idyllic place in which to live. Husband Austin and I had a little girl of 18 months and we were on holiday but at home that day, a factor for which we were to be very grateful.

The summer of 1968-9 had been comparatively mild but the morning of the January 8 was one of those overcast yet nasty hot, gusty north wind days when locals find themselves constantly scanning the horizons for smoke.

I remember standing at the windows overlooking the river valley towards the ridge above Alexander Road. There was a particularly ferocious gust of wind and I saw what appeared to be a plume of dust rising above the ridge. At my call Austin came and we watched. But then a thicker plume of unmistakable smoke rose into the air. I phoned the fire station and can recall my voice shaking as I reported the fire, but the reassuring voice at the other end told me they had already been informed and a unit was on its way.

As we watched from our garden however, joined by anxious neighbours, the smoke grew thicker and thicker and suddenly a line of fire

topped the ridge and then, fanned by the increasing wind, began to head towards our area. Action was definitely required.

This was to be our first encounter with a bushfire and yet we felt relatively well prepared. We had been given the relevant information—our memories say via a community fire meeting given by the CFA where we were told how to prepare for bushfires—but the recollection is hazy and may not be correct.

One neighbour decided to leave as she was pregnant and felt she would be a hindrance. Our other neighbours insisted we would be safe in their brick house if the fire front reached us. While our timber house suddenly looked very vulnerable I decided to stay, feeling I would be more use making preparations.

Rapidly we filled the bath with water and several containers which we located at strategic points, blocked the downpipes and filled the gutters, laid out hoses, got out beaters, dampened some towels to wrap round ourselves and changed from shorts and tops into more protective clothes.

All this while we kept anxious eyes on the fire front that, propelled by strong winds, was approaching. Though at that stage it was hidden behind the hills and only evidenced by clouds of smoke.

There were quick conferences with neighbours during this time. Fortunately many husbands were on holiday. A friend in Pound Road came to suggest we leave our car in his driveway as our street was a narrow single lane unmade track at the time and he was worried we could get blocked in. We loaded our little mini with items and did as he suggested (though we were apprehensive that we would keep the house but lose the car). Then we waited for the fire to arrive.

I recall standing with my young daughter, wrapped in a wet towel on my hip, with Austin and neighbours,

watching as the fire front swept into Naughton Avenue high above the river. We watched fearfully as house after house was engulfed in smoke and flames and then held our breath until the front moved on and the houses reappeared one by one. Then one house went up in flames as we watched—which was terrible—but the fire was moving so fast there was not really a chance to be very frightened.

Although unseen by us one arm of the fire then burnt the Speers house on Pound Road before sweeping across the Croxford property and into the Melbourne Hill Road area. Many of these residents went to the Recreation Reserve to wait until the fire had passed. Our neighbour who had left home earlier found herself diverted and held up at a road block amidst smoke, falling branches and confusion when she tried to leave the township. Meantime as we watched, the second arm of the fire was swept by the wind round the river bend towards our houses.

In his book *Fire*, local author and resident Bruce Bence described this particular fire thus:

“Driven by gale force winds the fire from Alexander Road spread quickly, burning two houses in its path. A tongue of flame shot through a window in Merv Naughton’s factory, out of the window opposite which was 10 metres away and set alight the bank on the east side of his factory, just missing Merv on the way. The fire swept across the Croxford estate. Wally Riddle, captain of South Warrandyte brigade was coming down Melbourne Hill when the fire, in one continuous sheet of flame—3 metres high and about 30 metres across—crossed the road in front of him. The fire crossed Old Melbourne Road and was stopped in Leber Street.”

By this time fire units, some from as far away as the Dandenongs, had arrived in our street and were spraying some of the houses with water.

However as the front approached they were pulled out because of the fear of becoming trapped in narrow, unmade, one-way roads and steep driveways. It was at this point the fire reached Merv Naughton’s property and appeared ferocious and unstoppable. To our amazement a man appeared out of the smoke carrying a sack over his shoulder. “It’s a fierce one” he said as he came past.

By now it was apparent that the time had come to take shelter which we duly did because there is a period of chaos when a fire front hits. The noise is incredible, the winds unbelievable, the smoke makes the eyes water (we now have eye protection goggles), it’s hard to breathe (we now have hard hats), the flames are frightening and embers and burning debris whirl through the air (we now have hard hats). We sheltered with the children in the neighbour’s solid house until the front moved past through the open space along the river bank, flames petering out on the green grass of the gardens. The fire was eventually stopped at the tunnel area before it could get into Pound Bend and cause more havoc.

The residents then were busy, along with the returned fire units, damping down and putting out spot fires. Our rockery shrubs caught fire long after the front had passed. Other neighbours were alerted to a fire under their house, caused by embers blowing in; again hours after the actual bushfire was out, when we were altogether enjoying a well earned drink.

This fire lasted several hours, burnt 161.9ha and two houses. We counted ourselves fortunate that council had cut the grass along the River Reserve only the day before, which slowed the progress of the flames, and the young gardens that meant reduced fuel close to the houses.

But we were not to be the only Warrandyte residents to feel the fury of bushfires that day. Before

this fire was fully controlled another fire came roaring in from the Eltham direction on the northern side of the river. This developed into a major fire that burnt over 5000 hectares and destroyed some 70 homes in the Diamond Creek, Eltham, North Warrandyte, Research and Kangaroo Ground areas. More Warrandyte houses were lost but I have no record of these. While this fire was considered controlled by nightfall, the glow in the sky made for an uneasy night with constant checks and every wind gust caused the smouldering logs and tree trunks along the river and surrounding areas to spark and glow again.

Bruce Bence described in his book how this second fire was travelling so quickly that the North Warrandyte Fire Brigade nearly lost its fire unit and only swift action saved it. He related how the fire raced through the area and over Kangaroo Ground Road where the brigades were powerless to stop it and how fighting the fire was an impossible task with the wind breaking up the streams of water from the hoses. He stated that the situation could have been worse but for the greening of some of the area due to the mild weather.

Despite the anxieties and the losses perhaps Warrandyte was fortunate when compared to other parts of Victoria where fires resulted in loss of life. As the DSE website records: on January 8, 1969, 280 fires broke out across Victoria. Of these, 12 grass fires reached major proportions and burnt 250,000 hectares. Areas seriously affected included Lara, Daylesford, Yea, Kangaroo Flat and Korongvale. Twenty-three people died, including 17 motorists at Lara, trapped on the Geelong to Melbourne freeway. The fires destroyed 230 houses, 21 other buildings and more than 12,000 stock.

*Fire by Bruce Bence is available from Warrandyte Historical Society for \$5 a copy.*

# Honours for locals in Australia Day awards

Five local residents were honoured at the Menzies Community Australia Day Awards, held at the Manningham Council Function Centre on Australia Day. The awards were inaugurated in 1995 by federal MP Kevin Andrews.

The community efforts of the following Warrandyte residents were recognised:

### PHIL CLARK

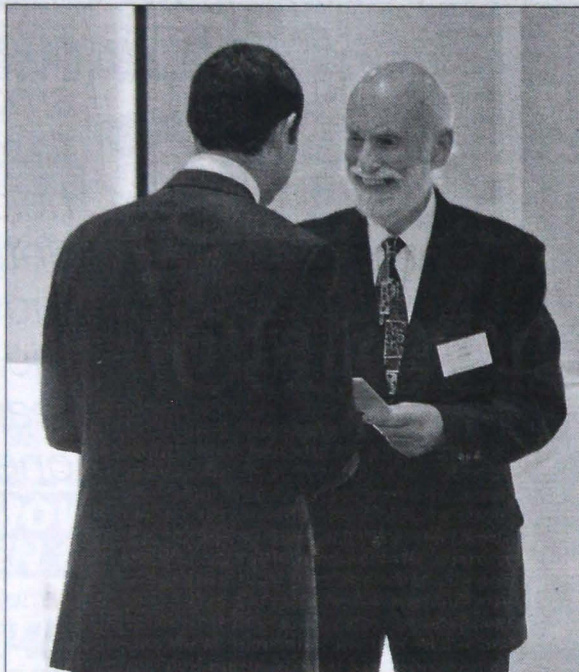
*Nominated by Pound Bend Fireguard Group*

Phil has made an outstanding contribution in enhancing bushfire safety and awareness in the Warrandyte community by establishing the Pound Road Fireguard Group in 1996. Through Phil's inspiring leadership the group has grown in numbers to over 90 local families who provide each other with early warning during fire emergencies and assist one another with bushfire survival planning and practical application of bushfire fighting equipment and strategies. Phil's community spirit, administrative ability and focus on safety and security are much appreciated.

### ANDREW LAVERY

*Nominated by the Warrandyte/Park Orchards Scout Group*

As an enthusiastic and dedicated leader of the troop, Andrew has brought the scouting experience to many young boys and girls since early 2005. Despite heavy work and family commitments he is able to provide exciting and challenging scouting activities for the troop, which has grown by 32 per cent in the past year. He led this contingent with great success at the Australian Jamboree in 2007 and the troop has gained numerous accolades in state-wide activities during both the World Scouting Centenary in 2007 and the Australian Scout Centenary celebration in 2008. Andrew's contribution to our youth is much appreciated.



MP Kevin Andrews congratulates Phil Clark on his award. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

### JAN O'NEILL

*Nominated by Warrandyte Community Garden*

Jan has made a major contribution to the operation of the Warrandyte Community Garden over a number of years. In her role, organising and overseeing the monthly working bees, she has contributed greatly to the community aspect of the garden. She is aware of the need for forward planning and keeps plot holders informed with regular communication and contributes to the twice-yearly newsletters. Jan encourages and sustains the co-operative spirit of the garden, so essential in a community project.

### DAVID WATSON

*Nominated by Warrandyte Community Garden*

David has been a major contributor to the success of the community garden since its inception almost 10 years ago. He played an important role in the original planning of the garden. With his detailed knowledge of plants and their growing habits

and requirements he has been able to pass on advice to the less experienced. He has been involved with the community sections of the garden that are cared for by the group for all of us. David is always ready to help and answer questions from other gardeners.

### JULIE WILLIS

*Nominated by Warrandyte/Park Orchards Scout Group*

Julie has been a member of the Scouting Movement for over eight years—initially as a youth member and since 2005 as the much-appreciated Leader of our Cub Scout pack. With a flair for organising great activity programs, Julie has attracted many more youth members and adult leaders to the pack which grew by 25 per cent last year. Her leadership at the 2007 Scouts Worldwide 100 year celebrations and state-wide "Cub-boree" in 2008 were exemplary. Julie is tireless, enthusiastic and hard working in her efforts to bring quality scouting to our youth.

## St Stephen's still positive

By KARLY HICKMAN

After facing imminent closure or amalgamation last year, it seems St Stephens has been granted yet another reprieve

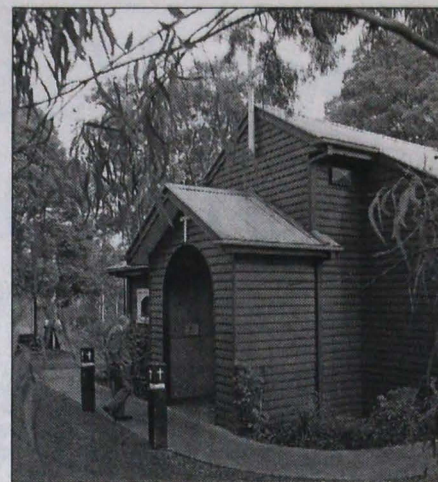
Rev Neville Mellor has been officially appointed priest-in-charge at the Warrandyte Anglican Church.

Rev Mellor has been acting as *locum tenens* priest since the middle of last year, when the Melbourne Archdiocese threatened St Stephens with closure or amalgamation.

"Neville Mellor has had his tenure extended and been promoted to priest-in-charge," church warden Irving Reid told the *Diary*. Father Mellor has been warmly welcomed into the church community.

"Our congregation numbers are always up on what they were, and we have had quite a few baptisms," Mr Reid said.

Archdeacon Stephen May, appointed by the Archbishop to administer St Stephens during its period of crisis, formally resigned from his position as priest-in-charge at the end of



St Stephen's Anglican Church.

January.

"Father Mellor will now be at St Stephens two days a week and will be meeting with the vestry until at least the end of March," Mr Reid said. By that time it is hoped the Archbishop will have decided if another locum will be appointed.

"It is not our last hurrah," Mr Reid said. "We remain positive."

## Your brigade needs you!

The CFA firefighters who turn up to fires in and around Warrandyte are volunteers. This may come as a surprise to residents who have recently moved to the district from an MFB serviced suburb. MFB firefighters are salaried employees, but the person who fights a fire on your Warrandyte property may be your neighbour attending in their

own time.

North Warrandyte fire brigade is looking for new members and will hold a recruitment information evening on Wednesday, February 25, at the fire station, 115 Glynns Road, North Warrandyte at 7.30pm.

The firefighters are the public face of the brigade, but volunteers are also needed

to help with fund raising and administrative tasks. For instance, the brigade has a building sub-committee to handle the many demands of planning the new fire station at the council's North Warrandyte family centre.

● For further information: phone 9844 5143 or visit the website [www.nwcfca.org.au](http://www.nwcfca.org.au)



No, this tanker is not simply emptying precious water out on the side of the road. It is part of a massive water relocation exercise conducted by local CFA brigades, Manningham council, Parks Victoria and Toll Transport earlier this month. "Over the course of the day, 570,000 litres of water was transported to a dam at Pound Bend State Park depot, where it will be used by local wildlife and, in the event of fire, by local tankers and firefighting aircraft," a CFA spokesperson told the *Diary*. The exercise was coordinated by Troy Lowther and involved CFA members from Eltham, Hurstbridge, North Warrandyte and Warrandyte brigades. The water was transported in two double-B tankers and Manningham loaned two council flushers. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

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# Seniors' housing

## Co-op hopes to complete villas by next October

The long-awaited Warrandyte cooperative retirement housing cluster (pictured) looks like becoming a reality later this year.

Manningham council has issued a planning permit for five independent living retirement units on the site at 26 Harris Gully Road.

The project is an initiative of the Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Cooperative Ltd, specifically aimed at local needs.

"All five villas are to be reserved for applicants who are aged over 65 and who are either existing Warrandyte residents or have lived here for three years out of the past 10," co-op chairperson Val Polley told the *Diary*.

Before reaching its decision last October, council considered some objections from nearby residents who were concerned about neighbourhood impact.

"Since the issue of the permit, some discussions have been held with those neighbours most affected, with a view to mitigating their concerns," Ms Polley said. "The co-op has always considered this to be a community project in every sense and wants to ensure that the community supports it."

It is anticipated that the villas will be both comfortable and environmentally sustainable.

"Double glazed windows, underground water tanks, hydronic heating and solar hot water will all form part of the building plans now being



commissioned."

The board is hoping that the villas will be completed by October this year.

The board will begin advertising the villas—"off the plan"—in the New Year as occupancy contracts must be signed for each villa before construction can commence. An information pack is expected to be available this month.

At this stage it is expected that the villas will be priced somewhere in the mid-\$400,000s. The development will be operated under a loan and occupancy structure (as are most retirement villages these days).

Under this structure, the retiree lends the cooperative the full value of the villa for the length of time they occupy the villa. There is no trans-

fer of freehold ownership. The villa remains under the ownership of the Warrandyte community.

The retiree has a legal licence to occupy the villa and pays a small weekly service fee for maintenance, gardening, etc. When the retiree leaves, the loan will be repaid to the retiree (or their estate) less fees, including a deferred management fee.

The board is currently compiling a register of applicants, listing those people who are seriously looking to secure one of the villas. Marketing information and an application form can be obtained from David Ellis (9844 3292), Ivan Fulton (9844 2266),

Val Polley (9844 3086), Doug Seymour (9844 2740), Simon Kearney (9846 2511) or Andrew Yen (0403 952 4899) or by emailing details to valpol@hotmail.net.au.

"The board is most appreciative of the financial support it has received thus far from Manningham council, Warrandyte Lions Club and generous sponsorship from the Warrandyte Community Bank," Ms Polley said.

"We would also welcome help with marketing, building surveyor services and inquiries from local builders, especially those with multi-unit construction experience."

## MPs back growing primary numbers

Warrandyte Primary School expects enrolments to reach almost 280 this February.

Local state MPs Danielle Green and Brian Tee have sought a meeting with the school council and staff to discuss how they can help with the influx.

"We want to sit down with this local school and assist them with a future building plan to cope with this commitment," Ms Green told the *Diary*.

"Education is the government's number one priority."

She said the state government has pledged that every government school in Victoria will be rebuilt or modernised by 2017.

Ms Green also reminded parents that the government is providing a one-off school start bonus of \$300 for students entering Prep or Year 7.

"This will help with the buying of school uniforms, sports uniforms, school bags and other school items so that our children get the best start at school."

"I am pleased that Warrandyte High School—along with thousands of other schools in Victoria—is receiving 126 computers courtesy of the federal government's national computer rollout."

"This will see schools move to a computer ratio of at least one computer for every two students," Ms Green said.

## Call for council meetings in local venues

Newly-elected Warrandyte councillor, David Ellis, is urging Manningham council to hold a number of council meetings away from the council chambers in Doncaster.

"Council is not a place, it's people," Cr Ellis told the *Diary*.

At Manningham council's last meeting for 2008, Cr Ellis called for a designated number of council meetings to be held at other venues in the municipality.

Currently, all meetings are held at the Civic Centre in Doncaster.

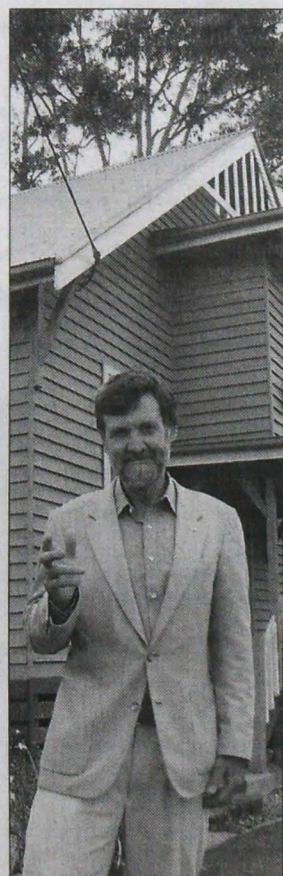
"Council is the elected voice of people from all parts of Manningham," he said.

"Holding a percentage of council meetings at community locations provides a strong symbolic value in showing council's links with all its constituents."

"It also has the practical advantage of enabling and encouraging people in such outlying locations as Warrandyte to attend council meetings."

"Nillumbik council has regularly held community-based council meetings, including in North Warrandyte," Cr Ellis said.

In response to Cr Ellis's proposal, Manningham council officers are preparing a proposal, which will be voted on at an upcoming council meeting.



Is this the place or a council meeting? Cr Ellis outside the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute.

## Village shops rezoned

Village shops on the north side of Yarra Street could soon be relieved of onerous building restrictions.

Manningham council, at their first meeting of the year, resolved to amend the zoning of certain buildings on the north (river) side of Yarra Street to allow for greater flexibility of use.

The buildings in question, including The Bakery, the bookshop and others backing the river in either direction, have for years faced an uncertain future, in that they are in a designated Urban Flood Zone.

"As a result, their use and occupancy is largely subject to Melbourne Water as the responsible authority," Cr David Ellis told the *Diary*. "This has meant very restrictive change-of-use provisions and the prospect that, if accidentally destroyed, the buildings could not be rebuilt or replaced."

Manningham council has for some years been attempting to address the situation through appropriate rezoning.

The rezoning allows for greater leniency in change-of-use provisions. However, the replacement of any building accidentally destroyed will still be Melbourne Water's decision. They have emphasised that there is no certainty in the matter.

## Plans for next relay

The Cancer Council is calling for local volunteers to assist with our second Relay for Life event.

The first relay, held at the Recreation Reserve last November, was one of the most moving events staged in Warrandyte for many years.

The aim was to raise money and honour victims of cancer and their carers.

Survivors and their carers led the continuous relay as teams of walkers and runners circled the oval all night and well into the morning.

Candles were lit in honour of loved ones claimed by cancer. Typical was one little girl who lit a candle for one grandfather, who had recently died of liver cancer, and for her other grandfather, recovering from prostate cancer.

Especially moving was a middle-aged couple who, well into the night, clung to each other as they slowly circled the oval. Each wore the purple "Survivor" sash.

The Warrandyte relay raised in excess of \$11,700. Now the community is planning on doing it again.

The Cancer Council of Victoria has announced that the second Warrandyte Relay for Life will take place in October 2009.

"Relay for Life is the world's largest cancer fundraising event," a spokesperson told the *Diary*.

The event is organised by a local volunteer committee. Committee roles range from administration to fundraising, logistics and entertainment. Guided and supported by a staff member from the Cancer Council, the committee works together, with volunteers contributing what they can.



Ready to relay: Cancer survivors and carers at last year's Relay For Life. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

"It is extremely satisfying, motivating and uplifting and, most of all, we are working towards one goal—a cancer free world," the spokesperson said.

"This is a great opportunity to become involved with a

worthwhile event, support your community and provide a meaningful contribution to the fight against cancer."

For more information visit relayforlife.com.au or contact Sarah on 9635 5057 or sarah.dobson@cancervic.org.au

## Climate action events planned

WarrandyteCAN (Climate Action Now) is looking to engage with the community during the coming year in their campaign to reduce greenhouse emissions and combat global warming.

They are planning three events for the near future.

"Water is our most precious asset," WarrandyteCAN president Wayne Rankin told the *Diary*. "We hope to show local residents how to save, re-use and utilise the water on their own properties."

The group is holding a free community information night on Thursday, February 26 at Andersons Creek Primary School in Drysdale Road, Warrandyte, commencing at 7.30pm.

"Rory Fort, plumber from Kangaroo Ground, will talk about the options we all have to reduce our water use from reservoirs. Water tanks, grey water, waste water treatment systems, drip line irrigations; all will be covered in his address," Mr Rankin said.

Rory Fort is currently installing a large reed bed waste

water treatment plant at Warrandyte High School. "They will be discharging the water from the system onto the school oval and gardens. You can learn how to achieve this at our information night," Wayne Rankin said.

Large year, WarrandyteCAN ran a hugely successful Sustainability Expo at the Warrandyte Community Centre. Several thousand locals and visitors explored a great variety of environmentally friendly products and sought advice from a wide range of experts.

The second Warrandyte Sustainability Expo will be held on Saturday, April 4 at 10am, again at the community centre.

WarrandyteCAN is planning to mount a stall on Stiggants Reserve at the Warrandyte Festival again this year.

"Visit our tent, learn about our organisation and perhaps consider becoming a member," Mr Rankin said.

● You can call Wayne Rankin for further information on 9844 1959.



Parks ranger treats a ringtail possum suffering dehydration.

## Possoms need help on hot days

Parks Victoria rangers are warning local residents that possums—mainly ringtails—have been severely stressed during our recent hot weather.

"Usually asleep high up in trees during the day, extreme temperatures cause many possums to descend in the hope of finding water and cooler temperatures," a Parks Victoria spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"This not only increases their chance of predator attack but makes them susceptible to further exposure from being out of their nest."

Many locals will have seen possums drinking from fish ponds, bird baths, even pets' water bowls.

"If you come across a heat-affected possum, avoid handling it directly as they inflict a nasty bite," the spokesperson said. "Cover the possum with a towel, contain it and take it inside to remove it from danger and further exposure."

"To help stabilise the possum it can be offered fruit and water. In late afternoon, take it to a vet to be checked, never put it back outside in high temperatures."



Rory Fort and one of his horizontal reed beds.

## History help at Warrandyte museum

The conservation of all aspects of local history—documents, photographs, oral history tapes, objects and memorabilia—is a major role undertaken by the Warrandyte Historical Society.

A voluntary archiving team has been busy cataloguing and entering details of this precious collection onto computers at the society's museum in the Old Post Office

in Yarra Street over a number of years.

Now this team is being joined by a group of volunteers from Heritage Victoria and Conservation Volunteers Australia.

"Transcribing and indexing the oral history tapes and cataloguing the artefact collection are activities that are vital to the history of the Warrandyte area," a spokesperson

told the *Diary*.

"This work will help make these stories and objects easily accessible to members of the public researching local and family history."

Volunteers are needed to take part in this program, which is running from February to July at the society's museum. Anyone interested can call Erin Schroeder on 9326 8250.



Archiving historical items is vital.

## Council web renewed

Manningham council has been radically redeveloping its website over the past six months. The overhaul has been undertaken "to give the local community—visitors from across the nation and the globe—access to an exciting and interactive resource," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"The new website's greatest strength is that it offers a fresh approach to staying connected with the community and listening to their needs," the spokesperson said.

"It is very user-friendly and provides a wealth of information, with features such as podcasts, RSS feeds, e-newsletter subscription and a community consultation portal."

## Bank looking for \$100,000 cash spend-up

The Warrandyte Community Bank has decided to seek ideas for a proposed \$100,000 special project from the wider community.

The promise of funding for a special project was announced in the *Diary* in December last year. It was hoped to flag the project in this issue.

However, the bank board has decided to seek further community input.

"While our aim was to select a project at our last meeting in December, it quickly became apparent that the decision was not that easy," board chairman Sarah Wrigley told the *Diary*.

Two community forums were held late last year. Projects discussed included making Warrandyte carbon neutral, improving facilities and services available to younger people, supporting families, upgrading facilities at Stiggants Reserve and netball facilities in Wonga Park and Warrandyte.

"With so many interest groups represented, it was hard to settle on just one

concept, especially considering there were many projects that would benefit the community."

A smaller committee was formed and is meeting later this month.

"We want to establish a process that ensures responsible investment, not just for this current funding round, but on an ongoing basis," Ms Wrigley said.

"The aim when we established the community bank branch was to invest the profits back into the community and we want to know where the community would like the money to go. Community banking is unique in this respect, and after paying dividends to our local shareholders, we are now in a position to give a significant amount back to our community."

● Community groups interested in applying for special project funding will need to submit a proposal by the end of March. Please call Sarah Wrigley on 0412 186 302 for further information.

## Expo on this month

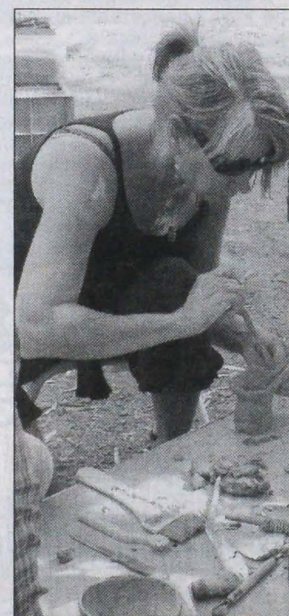
Two ceramic artists from France and several from interstate will be featured at the Warrandyte Pottery Expo, to be held on the riverbank below Yarra Street later this month.

As part of a council plan to build steps and a boardwalk from the Diary Tree car park down to the riverbank, visitors to the Expo are being invited to decorate clay tiles, to be fired and incorporated into a ceramic seat as part of this pathway.

The Warrandyte Pottery Expo will run across the weekend of February 21 and 22, between 10am and 5.30pm. Access will be via the lower end of Webb Street.

● Call Jane Annois, 9844 2337, for further information.

Hands on: Warrandyte's Pottery Expo encourages DIY potting. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)



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# Bushfire relief fund

Warrandyte Community Bank is setting up a bushfire appeal so that people can make tax-deductible donations to assist the families devastated by the bushfires in the local area. A separate fund from Warrandyte will be our way of showing that it could so easily have been us. The local bank is kicking off the fund with a donation of \$2000.

● Warrandyte Lions are collecting clothing for bushfire victims. Donations can be left at the Op Shop in Yarra Street.



**Pancakes:** Warrandyte Uniting church will hold a pancake stall outside the Warrandyte IGA supermarket on Saturday, February 28. Money raised will go to the Share Community Appeal for welfare projects.

## Playgroup

Warrandyte Natural Parenting Playgroup is open to new members. This friendly group offers relaxed child-centred activities for children from 0 to 5 years. Regular and casual membership is available. The group meets locally on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30. For more details contact Fiona on 8944 3306 or fiona@webwords.net.au.

## Music

Music Together, now in its seventh year, is a therapy program for parents/caregivers and their pre-school aged children. Every Wednesday at the Warrandyte Uniting Church music therapist. Tara Force runs two sessions (9.15am and 10.45am) which include singing, dancing, instrument playing and relaxation. Morning tea is provided. The first session is free, so drop in and see what it is all about. For further information call Margie on 9844 3222.

## Gardening

Manningham council has organised a series of sustainable home gardening seminars during February and March. They will take place in Function Room 3 at the council offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster. A variety of presenters will conduct these sessions on Tuesday and Thursday, February 24 and 26, Tuesday and Thursday, March 3 and 5 and Tuesday, March 10 from 7pm to 9pm. Seminars are free but registration is essential. Contact Kay Toussaint on 9840 9348 or kay.toussaint@manningham.vic.gov.au.

## Carols

Due to great communication by the organisers, a surprisingly large number attended the carols in Stiggants Reserve in December when a last minute change of date

## 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.

occurred due to rain. The organisers have asked the *Diary* to thank the community for their support and generosity. \$830 was passed on to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

## Youth

Local churches provide a number of activities for young people. The Uniting Church (9844 2406) has Sunday School at 10.15 am and those in years 5 to 10 meet monthly. The Catholic Church has children's liturgy on Sundays at 10.30am at Park Orchards. The Community Church (9844 4148) runs several programs for various age groups.

## Stories

Entries are now being taken for the Alan Marshall Short Story Award run by Nillumbik council. In memory of former Eltham resident Alan Marshall, the awards are in three sections: Open—\$2000 for first prize, \$1000 for second place. Local Writers' section—\$1000

(both 2500 words) and Young Writer's section—\$400, up to 1000 words, for writers aged between 15 and 19 years. Entries close Friday, February 20. Entry forms from www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

## Concert

The next Earth Harmony Centre concert at 246-250 Yarra Street, Warrandyte will be on Saturday, February 21 at 8pm. It will feature Knot O' The Gate playing a wide range of Celtic music. Cost is \$20 (conc. \$15). Pre-pay or book at the door.

## Orienteering

The northern twilight season for street and park orienteering continues at 7pm on Thursdays until the end of March. Most venues are a short drive from Warrandyte including Eltham, Rosanna and Westerfold Park. Courses range from 2.5 to 10 kms plus a walking course. For further information call Geoff Hudson on 9888 8121. A compass is not needed and map reading instruction is available for newcomers.

## Farmers

The first Hurstbridge Farmers Market will be held on Sunday, March 1, 2009 at Fergusons Paddock, Arthurs Creek Road, Hurstbridge, and will continue

on the first Sunday of each month except January. The market will operate according to Victorian Farmers' Market Association rules, with an emphasis on local fresh food and produce which is grown, reared, caught or made by the person selling it.



## Pastels

Local art group, The Pastel Palette, plan to exhibit "Lovin' Livin' Local" themed work to coincide with the Festival. The nine members of the group all live and paint in the Warrandyte and Manningham area. The exhibition will be held in Aumann's packing shed in Harris Gully Road from Tuesday, March 17. The paintings will include a range of Warrandyte scenes painted over the summer

## Author

Local author, Corinne Fenton of Research Road, has recently released a new children's book, "The Dog on the Tuckerbox". With illustrations by Peter Gouldthorpe and published by Black Dog Books, it is the story of Lady and her master Bill, of the bullockies who worked the rough tracks and of one dog's unwavering loyalty to her master. Corinne is an occasional contributor of poetry to the *Diary*.

## Westfield

The current exhibition at the Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, features a series of works by local artist Reg Cox documenting the rebuilding of Westfield shopping centre. Entitled "Preserving the Moment", the exhibition will finish on Saturday, February 14.

## Dreamlike

The March exhibition at the Stonehouse Gallery in Yarra Street will feature the work of Lindy Longhurst. Depicting people and animals in dreamlike representation, they are painted on canvas with acrylics and mixed media. A collage technique is incorporated where colourful and patterned papers are added and blended into the background scenes.

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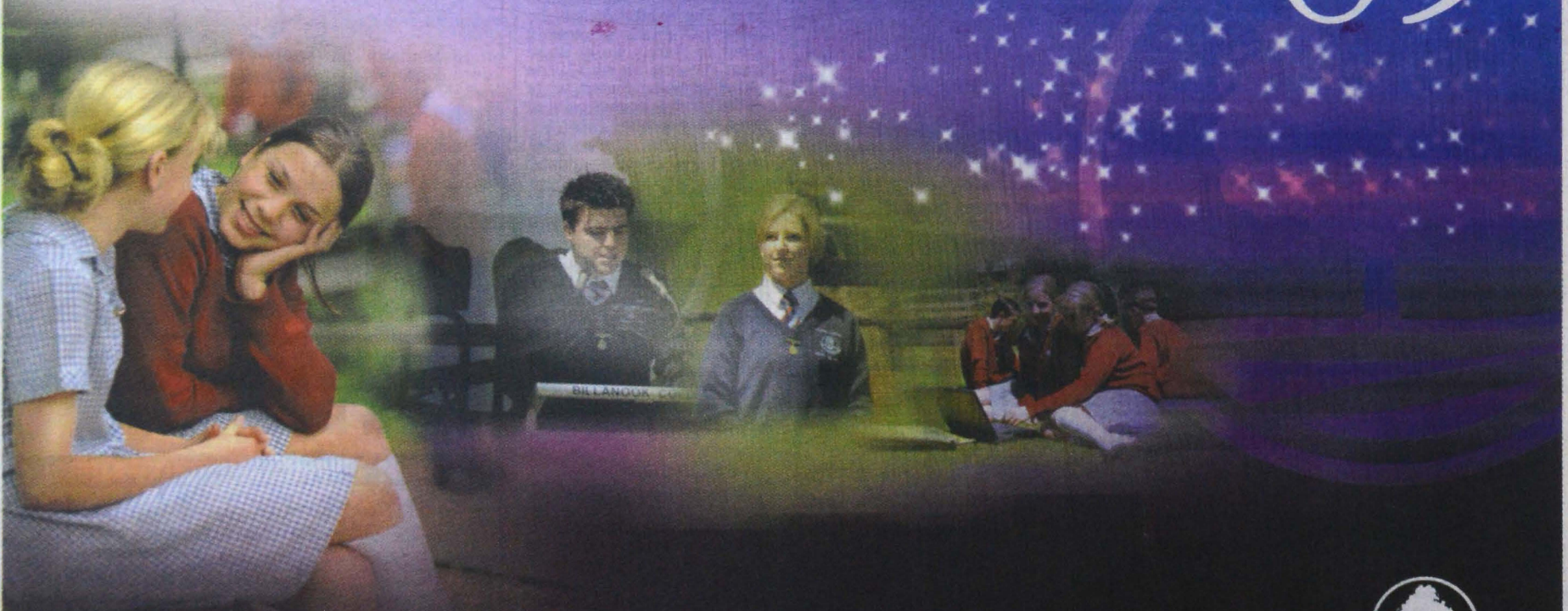
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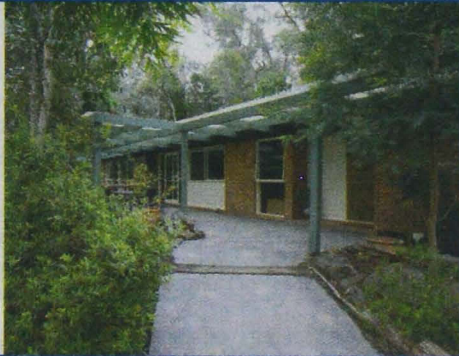


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### WARRANDYTE

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### WARRANDYTE

### WARRANDYTE NORTH

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### WARRANDYTE NORTH

### WARRANDYTE NORTH

#### Yarra River Frontage

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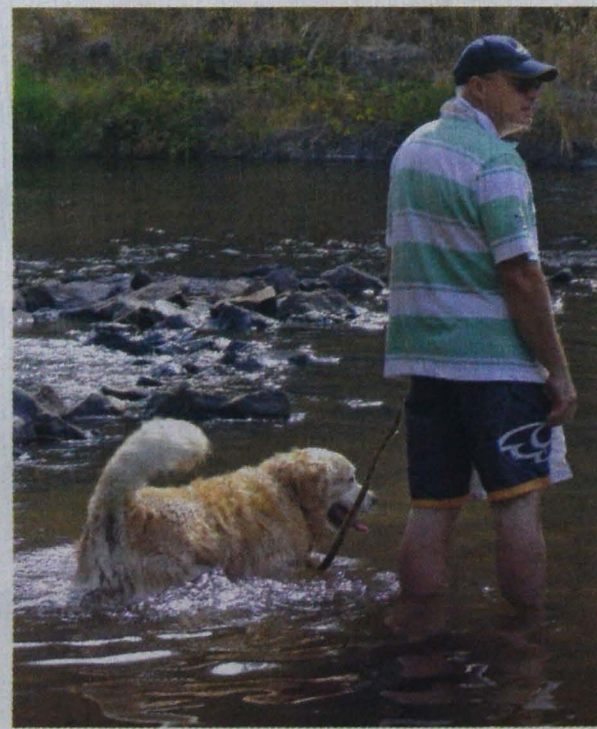
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**PRICE: \$450,000 plus**



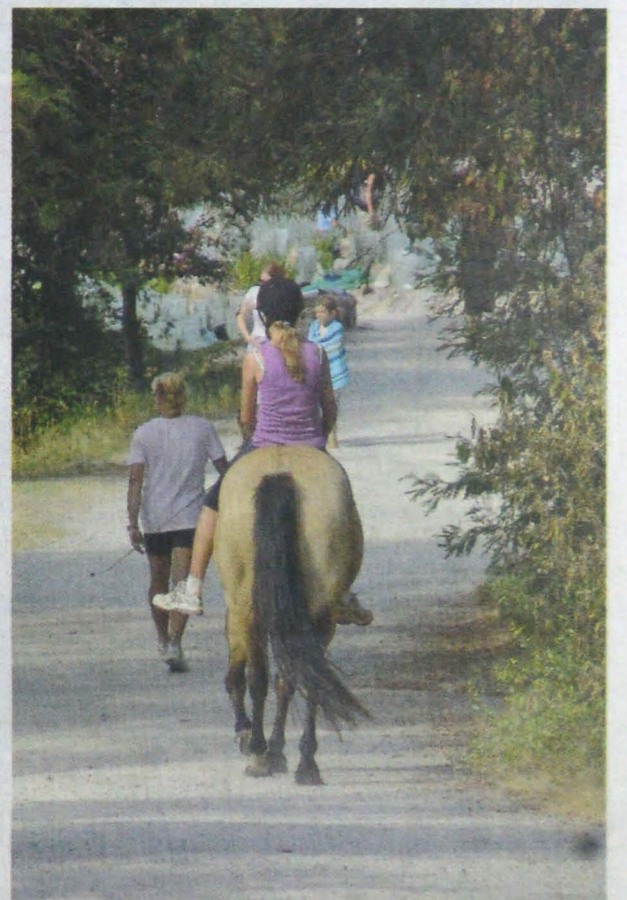
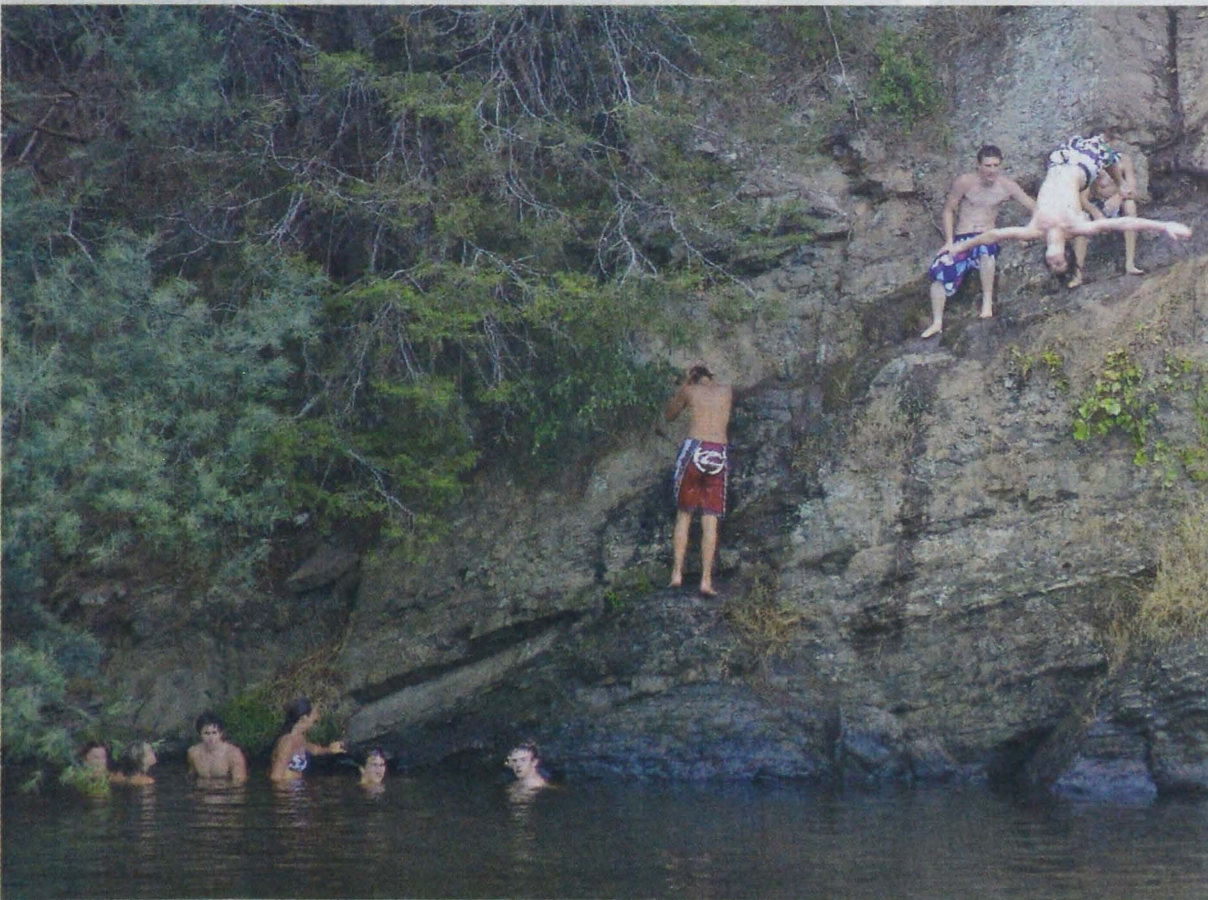




# Warrandyte in summer

The sharp click of a cricket ball striking willow at the Recreation Reserve; the soft clip-clop of a pony on the river track; the guttural roar as a posse of motorbikes ride into town to dock at the pub; the squealing of kids and the barking of dogs, all cooling in the river. These are the sounds of a summer weekend in Warrandyte.

Images by STEPHEN REYNOLDS





## InfoForum February 26 Water, Our Most Precious Asset!

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## Warrandyte Sustainability Expo 10am - 4pm Warrandyte Community Centre Saturday April 4th

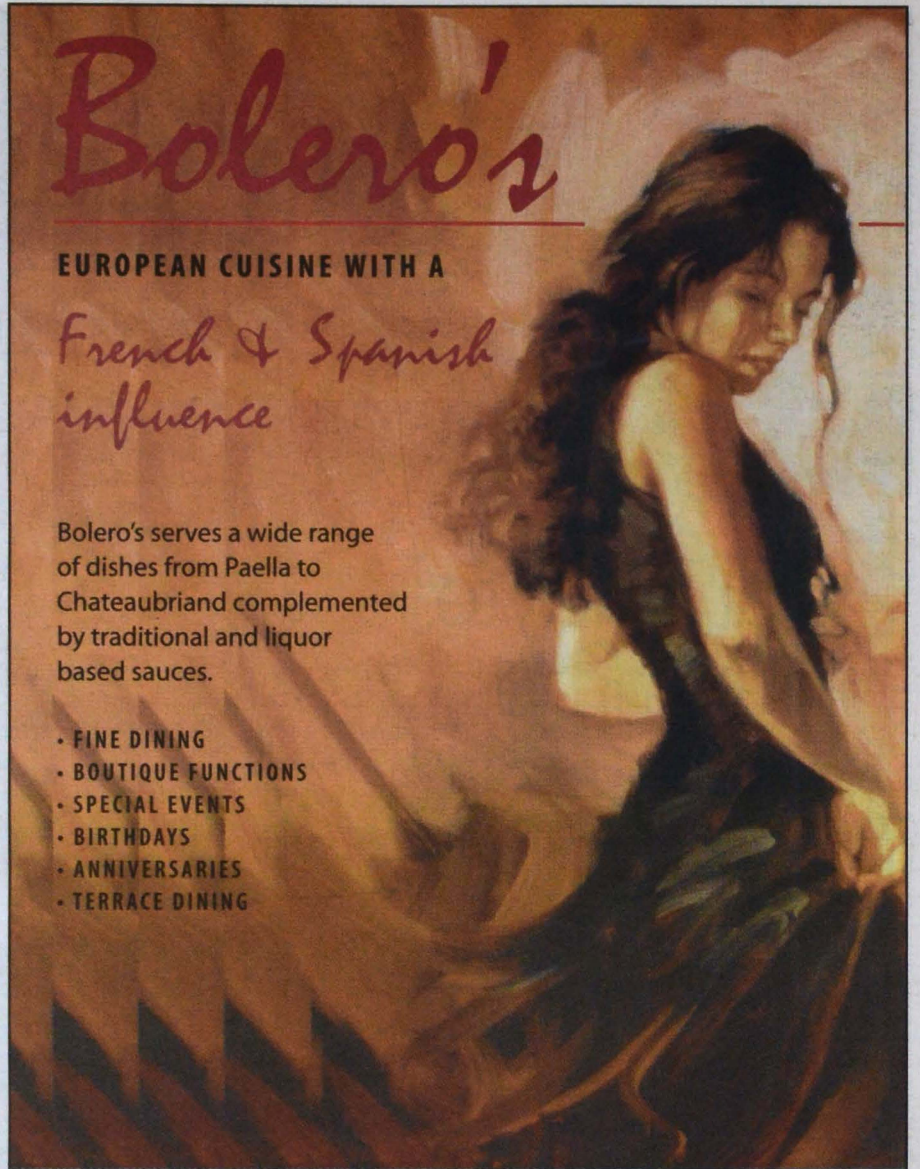
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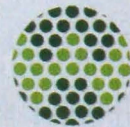
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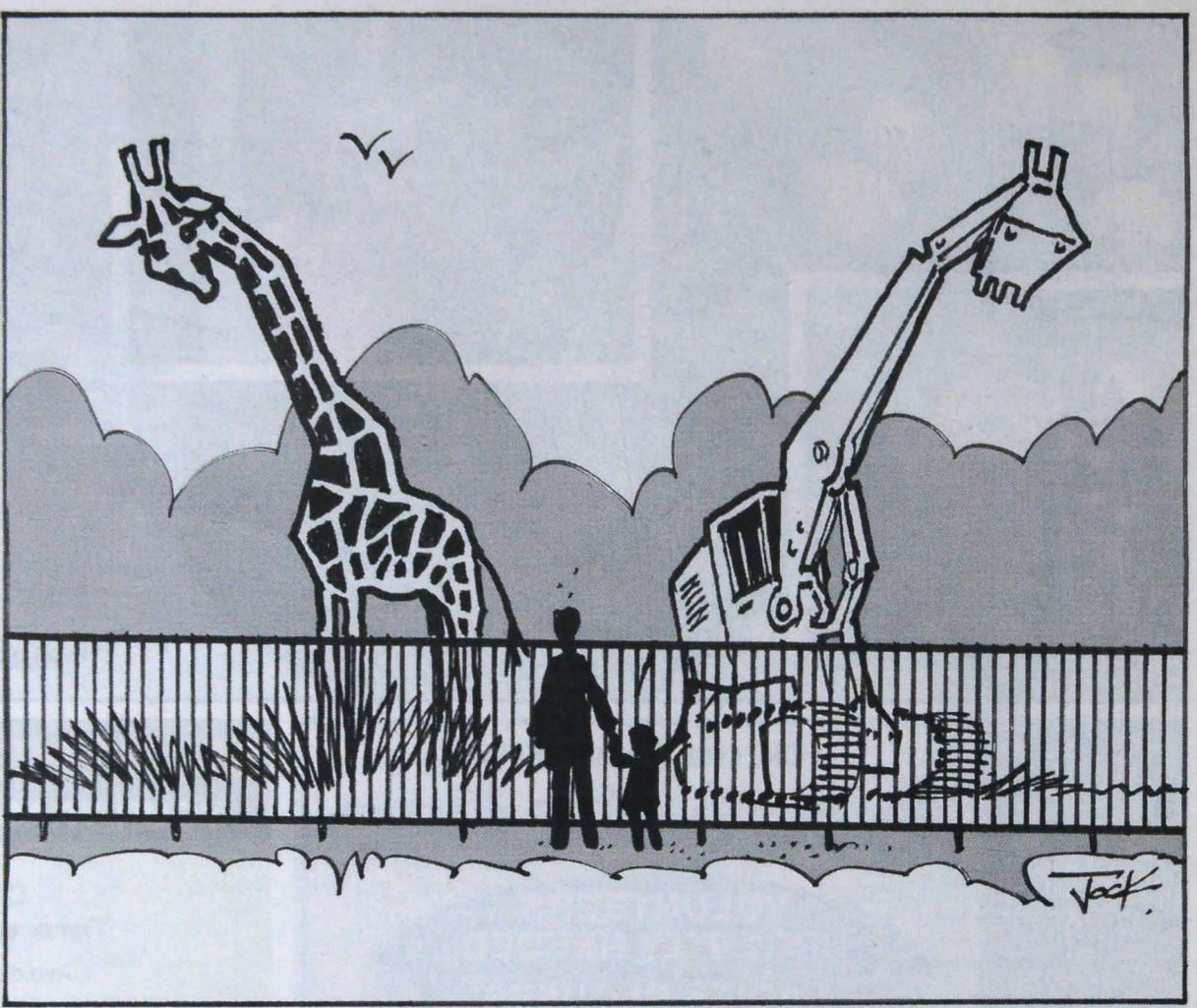
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# Child's garden of heavy earthmoving equipment

**N**O matter what our age, as human beings, we have selective memories. During my primary school years, it was always 90 degrees in the shade, recesses and lunchtimes were full of nothing but joint-wrenching British Bulldog or hustler-ridden marbles games. At home, after breakfast, we were told to go out and play and were not to return till lunchtime and "tea" time. Any early return AM or PM was met with a finger pointing outside and an admonition that "I've got more to do with my time than bother about your problems. You just sort them out and if you are feeling hungry, the apples on the tree are ripe enough!"

So it was with these ideas nagging away in the back of my mind that H and I set off to take our grandson to the zoo. Previously, we had taken him to Healesville Sanctuary where he had been equally interested about the prospect of getting an icy pole, "later", than the quirkiness of the platypus or the inanimate mound of fur that was the wombat. The swooping falcon, barking owl, kite and wedge-tailed eagle offered more excitement but even



**kibbled**

**"...expended a lot of time extolling the impending zoo attractions, SC asked, 'Will there be many diggers?'"**

they were slightly overshadowed by the lunch we were having at the time.

In the car, on the way home, we were reminded that it had taken a very long time to get there and he hoped it wasn't going to take so long to get home. After 10 minutes, he sensibly fell asleep, waking just as we pulled into his driveway. Under questioning by his mother, Superior Child,

with wisdom far greater than his years, managed to list the animals he had seen and what he had done. I'm sure, in his mind, what was replaying in his mind was; boring car ride, hot and tiring having to walk past all those sleeping things, GREAT icy pole, scary birds, Gran is still a soft-touch, Pa's getting a bit more difficult and I wonder what they'll try and make me eat for dinner?

The zoo, we convinced ourselves, would be much better: more exciting animals, a wider range of habitats and a shorter car ride. Who were we really convincing? We arrived to collect SC and after mother and grandmother expended a lot of time extolling the impending zoo attractions, SC asked, "Will there be many 'diggers'?"

We buckled up and set off but not before agreeing that Pa would look out the front window, Gran, her side window and SC would scan everywhere else. At the first glimpse of a building site, we were to give specific information about colour, size and type of digger seen. Unfortunately, travelling from His house to the city yielded poor digger sightings so we had to compromise with "Oh look at that big truck!" and "Not many

diggers here are there? Perhaps we'll see a train crossing the bridge ahead!"

It was a windy morning and getting hotter by the minute. We had assumed by the overflowing car park that the zoo would be crowded but we soon discovered that, unreasonably, city workers use the zoo car park as free, long-term parking whilst they commute to the city. Great, we thought! We'll be able to see all the animals without having to negotiate screaming herds of humans.

We loved the elephants, orang-utans, the monkeys, the unexpectedly animate reptiles, the playful otters, the gorillas, the ever-sleeping lions, the giant turtles and the tiger that, apart from his worrying pacing, did go for a swim in his "river" whilst we watched. Superior Child was fascinated by the giraffe and the zebra but his real favourite was the, "under construction", marine life enclosure. It had diggers galore! Aqua, yellow, white and green. Big ones, graders, thumpers and more trucks than you could fit in the lions' enclosure.

That was one happy boy who slept on the way home!

**ROGER KIBELL**

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# An imperial butterfly that is anything but common

nature

By LINDA ROGAN

We welcome LINDA ROGAN, our new nature columnist. Special thanks to BEV HANSON who contributed her gardening column throughout 2008.

As the dry winds of summer scorch the earth and whither all but the heartiest of plants, I find my attention moving from orchids and wildflowers to small winged creatures that are prolific in Warrandyte and nearby bush.

One butterfly in particular has been accommodating enough to allow me to observe and even photograph all stages of its life cycle. That butterfly, only 32-37mm wingspan, is the Common Imperial Blue Butterfly. I first had a good look at this jaunty butterfly last summer and I couldn't believe that I had been walking past it each summer for the past 25 years without taking any notice. The orange spots and hairstreaks at the tail are quite dramatic. But its life cycle is even more remarkable.

This creature lives out its whole life on one of a few Acacias and the colony may persist in the same group of



Common Imperial Blue Butterfly.

Silver Wattles and Black Wattles for many years. First to be seen is often the adult butterfly. To the casual observer it may appear as just a pale butterfly noticeably smaller than the Cabbage White, we all know so well, but clearly larger than the Eltham Copper Butterfly. If it stops and opens its wings to warm in the sun, the pale to bright blue upper wings shine out. When its preferred stopping point is one of the above wattles, it is very likely that pupae, caterpillars and attendant ants will also be found.

The caterpillars tend to ag-

gregate together, especially in the evening when they cluster together near the ends of branches for the night. They often pupate in large groups as well.

The ants are from a species of Iridomyrmex ants and help to protect the eggs, caterpillars and pupae from other aggressive ants, wasps and many predators. In return the ants receive rewards of sugars and amino acids secreted from special glands on the caterpillar's back. Even the pupae have glands that secrete rewards for the ants. Although I am unable to hear

it, the caterpillars and the pupae also stridulate (some say sing) in a way that attracts these ants.

Despite the guarding by the ants, some predators are successful, but when ants are present, survival of the caterpillars increases seven-fold.

However, there is one wasp, the Apanteles wasp, which uses the ants to help it locate these caterpillars. This wasp lays its eggs into the living caterpillar where they hatch and feed on the non-essential organs of the caterpillar, emerging to pupate under the carcass of the caterpillar at the fourth instar stage. Normally the caterpillar passes through five instar stages, before it pupates.

Recently, I had the exciting experience of watching an adult butterfly emerge from its pupal case (this took five minutes), and climb up a twig to inflate its wings (this took over an hour).

The hardest stage to observe, unless you have very sharp eyes, are the eggs and the newly hatched caterpillar. When viewed up close, these eggs are exquisitely formed but only about 0.6mm in diameter. This butterfly overwinters in the egg stage to hatch out as first instar caterpillars next spring.

The butterflies can be seen in flight from November through March and colonies are present at Pound Bend and Mount Lofty, among other locations. Happy hunting!

# Curtain call for an ailing lemon

An unexpected crash in our lounge room had me running. Splintering wood, possibly breaking glass, followed by a protracted lumpity-thump and the screech of metal on glass. It sounded like somebody falling through the roof.

Heart pounding, I quickly scanned the room. Puzzlement! Nothing astir, and the ceiling was plainly intact. Maybe the noise had originated outside, maybe our elderly wooden ladder had broken, maybe my good man had slipped on the corrugated roofing iron...

No, nothing amiss outdoors either. The aforementioned good man was refreshing himself mightily in the pool, nowhere near the house.

Intrigued, I hurried back indoors. Had a brushtailed possum plummeted down the chimney then gone berserk around the lounge room? It wouldn't be the first time that had happened. Nup. No sign of a disturbance in the grate. I checked behind the couch and—ah! You wouldn't read about it. The blimmin' curtains had come down, every man jack o' them along

a whole wall, their rustic 31-year-old wooden brackets and rings shattered and splintered all over the place. And that was the day before recent soaring temperatures turned the house into an impromptu wood-drying kiln!

Our beloved lemon tree didn't think much of the heat wave either. The poor old thing has clung to life with gutsy determination for 25 years, yielding the occasional handful of fruit but never prospering. I'd always thought it wasn't getting enough sun. After all, don't luscious lemons, figs, olives, grapes and rosemary thrive on hot-baked stony hillsides in Greece and Croatia? Our nice grassy hillside, dappled with the shade of a few scraggy eucalypts, seems a far pleasanter place to put down roots, but clearly not so. The recent inferno must have been the last straw. I don't think there's a green leaf left on it despite bucket loads of ex-shower water. Curled leaves, scorched crunchy and pale as a moth's wing, litter the ground; only a few remain clinging to stick-like branches. All we can do is pick the fruit, keep plying the shower bucket, and await

our place

By MARILYN MOORE

a miraculous resurrection.

Our lemon tree wasn't the only casualty. Gardens up and down the street have scorched and shrivelled in a slow-mo version of what would happen ahead of a bushfire, and not necessarily in the sequence one would have predicted. Something to keep in mind during the next plant-buying spree!

The heat took its toll in other ways, too. Not the heat directly, perhaps, but certainly the escalating mayhem including complete transport chaos. I probably wasn't the only person who didn't bother going to work that Friday. The new buzz-word—"load-sharing"—seems to be a euphemism for unannounced blackouts. Knock-on effects, such as delinquent computers and a failed ventilation system, have taken days to overcome. I have nothing against load-sharing, if that is what it takes to prevent Melbourne's power generators from blowing their kerfoofer valves, but

may I respectfully suggest, ladies and gentlemen of the management team, a more orderly approach? If power shortages are the way of the future, as seems inevitable, then can we please have some sort of pre-arranged blackout roster? Or an hour's notice on-line? It's not as if nobody knows when this sort of thing is imminent.

Another pertinent question that few seem to be asking: why are modern houses so reliant on air-conditioning? Where are the appropriate design regulations to mitigate extremes of heat and cold?

On a much more delightful note, boxed fans of every shape and size have been clambering on and off my Brunswick bus recently. I saw a slightly built child of about 12 struggling home with two such boxes, bringing to mind Mussorgsky's imaginative "Hut on Fowl's Legs".

Then later, a slightly stressed-looking chap hurried past, carrying under one arm what must surely have been the world's largest boxed domestic fan, and in the other, a gorgeous bunch of flowers. Hmmm! There's a story there for sure.

bradley curtis

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# Last turn of the potter's wheel

By RICHARD MORTON

**T**HE death of Sylvia Halpern on December 3, 2008 marks the end of an era in Warrandyte's artistic history. She was aged 90.

Following the death of Gus McLaren earlier in the year, she was the last surviving member of the original Potters Cottage cooperative.

Sylvia Pauline Black was born on March 25, 1918 in Kobe, Japan, the youngest of five daughters of John Reddy Black and his wife Helen Dorothy nee Kilby, members of a peripatetic British family that had lived in Japan for two generations. Her grandfather, also J R Black, was a journalist and newspaper editor credited with founding the modern press in Japan. Initially home schooled, Sylvia had an idyllic childhood in Japan, mixing with the local children and accompanying her father and sisters on walks in the hills above Kobe.

With her favourite sister, Peggy, she was sent to the China Inland Mission School at Chefoo (now Yantai), Shandong Province, Northern China. This was a boarding school established by the mission

to provide education for the children of foreign missionaries and of foreign business and diplomatic communities in China. The trip to China across the Yellow Sea was on a small icebreaker ship on which the girls had to step over sleeping coolies on the deck to get to their cabin. They never felt in any way frightened or threatened.

Sylvia loved the Chefoo School and spoke of it afterwards with great affection. Although separated from her parents, she had the company and support of her older sister. Sylvia's father died in 1929 and, while her mother remained in Japan where she was employed as an English teacher, it was decided that Sylvia should complete her secondary education in England. In what would have been most unusual in the decades between the wars, she travelled alone overland on the Trans-Siberia railway, an experience that she greatly enjoyed and which probably stimulated her later love of travel and adventure. She enrolled at a boarding school for girls in Bedford catering for the daughters of mainly colonial and military personnel. The school followed a modern curriculum and

believed that its pupils should be prepared for practical careers; Sylvia completed her training as a shorthand typist.

In 1939, Sylvia's mother left Japan and came to Australia. Here Sylvia joined her and was employed in Melbourne as a stenographer in the offices of Lever and Kitchen where she met Margaret Olsen (later North) who was to remain a life-long friend. The two young women showed unconventional style for the time. With the outbreak of the Second World War, silk stockings became difficult to obtain so the girls sometimes turned up for work in the winter months wearing knee-length striped football socks, to the disapproval

of their parents (and probably their employers).

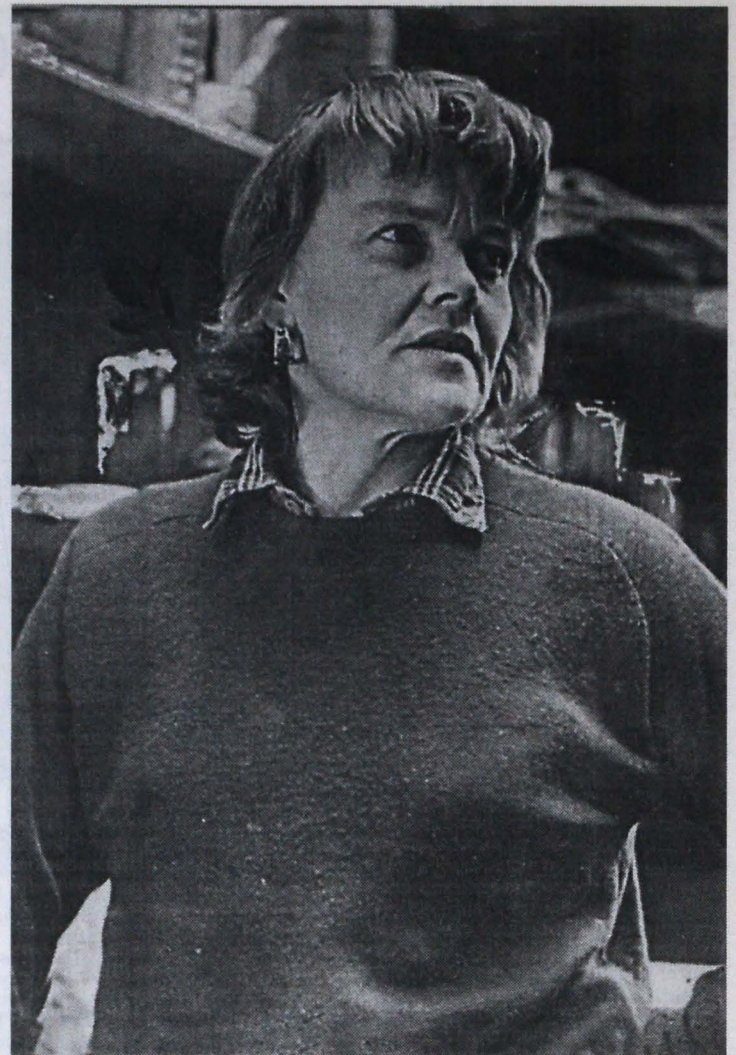
It was through Margaret Olsen that Sylvia met a group of Europeans, many of them refugees from Nazi tyranny, who were to change the direction of her life. In the evenings they would gather at someone's flat to discuss politics and listen to records of classical music and jazz. Here too she was introduced to reproductions of modern European artists—Picasso, Matisse, Gauguin, Miro—then making a profound impact on the modern art scene in Melbourne.

On August 28, 1943 at the Melbourne registry office she married Polish-born Stanislaw (Stacha or Stazek) Halpern. Stazek had emigrated via England to Perth in 1939 and later that year travelled to Melbourne where he was employed as a fitter and turner. While working at a Melbourne commercial pottery as a mould-maker in 1944–45, he developed an interest in the craft. At this time he befriended Arthur Boyd who, with John Percival, had established the Arthur Merric Boyd Pottery at Murrumbidgee. In 1946–47 Stazek set up a home studio with the aim of becoming a full-time potter.

Sylvia's recollections of this time give her a more prominent role in stimulating Stazek's interest in ceramics. She had enrolled at the Melbourne Technical College (now RMIT University) to study pottery. The techniques then being taught were rudimentary but enough to excite her interest. On returning from pottery classes, she would show Stazek everything she had learned.

Stazek introduced Sylvia to Warrandyte. They would put their bikes on the train to Ringwood and then cycle to Warrandyte where they would camp by the river. There they met Danila Vassiliev. Warrandyte had had a vibrant artistic community since the early years of the 20th century and by the late 1930s had become a centre of the controversial Modern Art movement. In 1939 Vassiliev had been invited to oversee the building of, and become foundation art teacher at, Clive and Janet Nield's experimental Koornong School. Nearby he built Stonygrad, a house of stone and logs that soon became a Mecca for younger artists, including Bert Tucker, Joy Hester and Syd Nolan who were sometime residents.

Sylvia and Stazek bought a house in Black Rock. In 1945 they had a daughter; but the marriage did not last. While both retained an interest in pottery their professional careers began to diverge; Stazek saw his future more as a painter



Sylvia Halpern

And there was a new distraction; after the war Stazek's older brother, Artur (Artek) had come to Australia and Sylvia was soon attracted to him. Stazek and Sylvia divorced and in 1951 Stazek joined the exodus of young Australian artists for England and Europe where he led a semi-nomadic existence for the next 15 years. Artek and Sylvia married in Melbourne on June 13, 1952. This marriage was to last 11 years.

Artek and Sylvia lived first in Murrumbidgee where they were friends with the Arthur Boyds. Artek had come to Australia with an engineering degree but this wasn't recognised here, but he saw Sylvia's pottery skills through entrepreneurial eyes. They set up a pottery in a shed at the back of the Murrumbidgee house, modelling, casting and firing a line of work that was sold through Georges, Miss Primrose's shop and other outlets in Melbourne.

In 1957 they had a daughter and the following year moved into a house built by Artek in Drysdale Road, Warrandyte, close to the home and studio of Inge and Grahame King with whom they became close friends. Here Sylvia, with Artek's encouragement and support, continued her pottery production. They soon became involved in the Potters Cottage enterprise.

The Warrandyte Group of Potters was formed in 1958 as a cooperative venture "To promote an interest in Australian hand-made pottery" and to counter the impact of cheap imported pottery then flooding the market. Artek became one of the founding members with Phyl Dunn, Gus McLaren, Reg Preston, Charles Wilton, and architect John Hipwell—"very much a non-potter"—as president. Previously, these potters had organised combined Christmas sales of pottery at "Décor", Reg Preston's studio on the Kangaroo Ground Road. Décor had been built on the site of Penleigh Boyd's studio destroyed in the 1939 bushfires. Between the wars, the studio had been the focus of much artistic activity in Warrandyte and had witnessed the foundation of the avant-garde modernist movement in Melbourne. Now Décor was to see the continuation of Warrandyte's artistic tradition in a new medium. The potters sought a permanent outlet for their work

and John and Betty Hipwell made a wattle-and-daub cottage—"Moonlight Cottage"—on their land at the corner of Research Road available to them. Thus the first Potters Cottage came into being.

The Cottage was an immediate success and soon outgrew its premises. In 1961 land was purchased over the river at the corner of the Ringwood Road and Jumping Creek Road and a new Potters Cottage built. At the same time the group was re-formed as a limited proprietary company with Reg Preston as chairman, and three new members admitted: Elsa Arden, Kathe Janeba and Sylvia.

In 1962, Sylvia's elder daughter, Jacqui, was killed in a motor accident on the Heidelberg Road. Sylvia was devastated. It was not until she went to a John Percival exhibition that she began to come out of her deep grief; the joy and vigour of the work brought her back to life. About a year after Jacqui's death she and Artek separated. She then met Graham Witt, "the love of her life". Gray was the nephew of Phyl Dunn and some years her junior. Their relationship was to last 40 years until Gray's death in 2004. She had always enjoyed skiing and the outdoor life and with Gray she built holiday houses at Moggs Creek and Phillip Island. Although she grieved for the death of her partner, she found many distractions in people, pottery, travel and study. Her inquiring mind remained sharp. In her 80s she continued her love of languages, enrolling in French classes at the U3A and picking up again the Japanese she had learnt as a child.

Despite failing eyesight (she suffered from macular degeneration in her later years—a tragedy for a visual artist) Sylvia continued with her craft up to the end. With the closure of Potters Cottage she sought other outlets for her work. The Saturday before she died, she delivered her latest batch of pottery to the Stone House Gallery in Yarra Street. Two of her famous birds were immediately snatched up as table ornaments by a young couple who knew nothing of the artist. This is testimony, not that Sylvia had been forgotten, but that her work remained as fresh and appealing as ever.

Her daughter, the celebrated sculptor Deborah Halpern, and grandson, Artek, survive her.



Sylvia (in the bunny suit) and her siblings in Japan.

PRUDENCE TRUBY KING continues her series profiling the people behind this newspaper. Alan Cornell chronicles the monthly misadventures of The Trotts, an invented dysfunctional Warrandyte family.

# Father discouraged a creative career

**O**BLIGATIONS to the *Diary*, Follies scripts, writing group, the local arts society newsletter and getting back to his new book are all pleasure jobs that Alan Cornell fits in around his professional life as an advertising writer. Like his father, he has a strong sense of responsibility and obligation to others. "Dad was strict and impressive," Alan said. "Raised in the Mallee, his own father died when he was 14 and he was sent to an uncle in Melbourne where he got a job as an office boy for the Victoria Insurance Company. Dad sent his wages back to his mother and four siblings, put himself through university and married late when he could afford it. He stayed with the company all his life, becoming general manager, and was Australia's top insurance man for a time.

"He was a little austere and I lived in his shadow and stumbled under his expectations somewhat. It was difficult to live up to and I probably took a while to come out from his shadow. His public face was stern and stoic and disciplined, a product of the demands of his life, but nothing to do with my own life. He had a great sense of humour, he was a funny bloke," he said.

Alan's mother was a commercial artist, a pianist who did a lot of accompanying before becoming a corporate wife. "My mother was gorgeous; I thought she was the most beautiful mother in the world. She illustrated state school readers like the Loaded Dog stories and drew elaborate wood-engraving style curlicue letters. She was a very gentle, background person. Creativity was a hobby for her in our childhood and not to be taken too seriously."

Of Cornish descent, with Sir Walter Raleigh supposed to be in the family lineage, Alan said he had a very happy childhood "in the nice comfortable suburb of Deepdene. I was the afterthought, born when my sisters were 10 and six." He went to school at Carey and studied economics and politics at Monash.

"We were a very constrained family. Eventually, when it was only Mum, Dad and I at home, we would frequently bring books to the table at dinner and read. I wouldn't express myself. (My wife) Jan is much more gregarious and an aspect of my married life and kids is that I have emerged as life broadened. Hopefully I've made some progress."

As a youngster Alan spent every Saturday at the house in Kew of his grandfather, who was a keen Geelong supporter. They would listen to 3GL on the Bakelite radio in the kitchen and his grandfather would write to coach Bobby Davis

## behind the byline

each week telling him where he went wrong. "I've had a passion for Geelong ever since."

He said his father steered him through university and into a public service job. "I joined Australia Post in economic research then went into marketing. It was 1966-68, the Vietnam War, but I wasn't very political—aware but not embracing." He said it took him a long time to get out and into the more artistic and creative field that's probably his strength.

"Should" played a massive part in the way I operated as a young fellow. Dad was not particularly impressed when I made the change to advertising and Mum was vaguely interested. I'm happy I've created a life of my own but Dad never said 'well done, son, you've made it'."

After about 10 years Alan had had enough of the public service. "I absolutely had to get out or drown," he said. "A close friend found a place for me in an advertising agency—I had been in charge of Australia Post advertising so I had the qualifications. It was a privilege to find something for my natural bent." Eventually he had his own agency and he's worked in agencies ever since, mostly smaller ones. "It's rewarding indulging in creativity when it's not trivialised by client needs and expectations." His work has appeared on television and won some awards.

He said advertising appeals because of its variety. "You can work on cars one moment, then soap powder and pharmaceuticals, dabbling in lots of ponds. It's creative, applying imagination to the mundane and producing something in a creative and interesting way. It's not very important in the work sphere and not a great contribution to mankind so there are other ways."

"I would love to give away advertising and work for me, not others, but economically because of the downturn I can't do it. I've worked from home for the last 10 years and in the last six to 12 months things have quietened down considerably, so by default I've a lot more time for my own projects. Although it wasn't planned and the income implications are unfortunate, it's given me more opportunities."

"It's a huge problem retaining energy from the professional life and allowing separate private space; relearning how to attach discipline to my own writing as a job worthy of dedicated effort. I'm still learning how to do that with the same discipline as the job demanded. In

the last 18 months I have finished a novel but I'd rather write than be a sales person. Time is running out. I've got a few books and stories under my belt. I've got to put myself first—when a client rings I put work first."

The novel is about a sportscaster and darts. "It was going to be a practice novel but after 12 months' slogging and so much effort, I thought I'd see if anyone thinks it's good enough to be published. I'd like to honour the effort. The lady from Penguin said 'it's a pity about the darts'." He's working on a second novel, with the whimsical tone found in his songs and family life with the Trotts.

Alan has been in Warrandyte nearly 30 years. He and Jan enjoyed the village atmosphere they found living in Edinburgh as young parents when Alan was on a student exchange program doing an accountancy job with Deloitte. "Jan came home with Jonathan to find I'd arranged the Edinburgh exchange which was not what a first-time mum wants to hear. She coped womanfully." They came back to Balwyn "where the fences were four foot high and you could see the neighbours but you didn't speak to them. Letters from Edinburgh were misdirected across the road and the neighbours sent them back to Scotland."

"We decided to live either in the city with what it had to offer or on the fringe with country—it was the time of *The Good Life* and self sufficiency. We bought an acre in Research and grew vegies, goats and chickens but everything died and the fences fell down. It was not what we were good at but we had a great lifestyle and friends."

"In Research we had neighbours who weren't ideal, dog kennels at the back and drummers on the side. Then we met Libby Skeels at an outdoor singalong in Hamilton Road, who encouraged us to look at the house next door to them in North Warrandyte. We fell in love with Stonygrad in 1981—it was a special house, a character house, built with rocks and tree trunks by Danila Vassiliev, one of the Angry Penguins, and we grew to belong there. We lived there for 25 years—it was alternate and creative and a Leung of life, a step apart from every day, wonderful for the kids."

With three children, the family became part of schools, scouts and so on. "Libby suggested getting together for a few songs for the Follies and we got involved with the Warrandyte community," Alan said. Jan has been on the festival committee for a long time and Alan MCs for parades, shows and book readings "until you felt you were a part of Warrandyte and Warrandyte was a part of you. The community we had in Edinburgh



Alan Cornell (Picture by Ian Craig)

we looked for and found in Warrandyte. This is special."

A member of the Warrandyte Legions veterans' cricket team where he's "neither a batsman or a bowler", Alan said he's a small pivot within the community. His father had a keen interest in cars and Alan and Jan had to sell their first sports car, an MGB, when Jonathan was small. Since then Alan has competed in Porsche club racing and owned sports cars with the badges of Mercedes Benz, Alfa Romeo and Mazda MX5.

With the family leaving, Alan and Jan moved across the river from Stonygrad. "It was very difficult, a huge wrench giving up part of us, but time deals with most things. It's a cosy, quiet and secluded house with a separate work space for me and we look over the state park."

"Our own kids recall their childhood so fondly and are now building their own houses and recreating their own childhood with lots of Stonygrad influences, quirky things; they learned to love something curious and individual. They give me a powerful hug when they come in the door and it blows me away—it's an expression I would never have done in a million years with my own father."

"Rising as he did and making something of himself, Dad always felt 'Sir Bill Cornell' would be an undignified title but 'Sir William' would be pretentious but the gong never happened. He told me I was called Alan because you couldn't shorten it—you can't be anything but Sir Alan—and that's expectant. As a young kid I thought I would rise to the top wherever but I developed self doubt as a teenager and stopped putting myself forward. I didn't succeed as Dad wanted. I stopped worrying when I decided I could make my own decisions. When Dad was alive I felt like a boy and although I loved him dearly, when Dad died, suddenly 'I'm free'."

"Our son Jonathan is an alternative, hippy type who has followed the beat of his own drum. It's a matter of pride to us as parents that we left him the space to follow his own path. Chris is a builder with a strong love of sport and he's done a number of shows with us." Daughter Verity is a producer of TV commercials in Sydney.

"Seeing the kids grow up and succeed as full and wonderful people is fulfilling and it's sheer joy seeing the grandkids emerge. We'd say 'shit, I don't know how we did it, there's

no training for parents but we did it between us'."

Alan said he is still shy even at 61 and he needs to be acknowledged now and then, which is "why I stand up in front of people when I'm scared to." When pushed, he describes himself as "withdrawn and living in my own head, dashing off superficial dangerous judgments" but "I've grown more available and emotionally expressive over the years."

"The changes in my life have been incremental rather than dramatic," he said. "I've taken a long time getting here—I'm probably fearful of change and I come to things tentatively. I'm irritated by people who leave the "u" out of colour, and Americanisation, where the culture I remember was distinctive is drifting to a global one. Changing from the public service lifestyle to advertising was a significant plunge and moving to Warrandyte was a significant arrival."

"Performing in the Follies was my first time on stage in my mid-30s and it opened the door to songs, music, comedy and more writing. It helped get me out of myself and gave me permission to express myself in media and meet the people who encourage you. My father didn't praise easily. I needed to find acknowledgement and show off every now and then, then go back into my shell. Sometimes I wish I was more extroverted and sometimes less."

He looks forward and tries to live in the present. "I enjoy reminiscing with other people but it's not where I live. What I hope to achieve is more compelling than what I did before."

"I've spent a lot of life looking forward to what it would be like when I got it all together and fortunately I've done a few good things: people smile, things worth remembering. You accept as valuable the little songs and stories and smiles that I pass on to others on the way, those unleashed moments laughing heartily with others."

He finds it hard to put himself first and to embrace new things and dealing with the collapse of a business and going into administration was hard, "digging our way out, firing people."

"The opportunity is here now in 2009 but I can't guarantee it because of client demands. Jan's income as a psychotherapist has always been nice to have as an extra and now it's very important," he said.

"I'd like to progress with my own writing projects."



"They're trying to preserve the peace and serenity of Warrandyte."

# Chips off the old block

We've told this tale before, but we think it's worth another run...

LATE last year The Age marked the 10th anniversary of their cartoon feature, *Adventures of a Naked Man*. Our naked men—Clyde & Ocker—first appeared more than 36 years ago in a Jock Macneish cartoon: two little figures, off to the right, commenting on the mayhem occurring in the rest of the large cartoon. In those far-off days, the *Diary* was printed letterpress.

Photos and cartoons had to be reproduced by expensive process engraving—known in the trade as "blocks". Our meagre budget only allowed us one cartoon and one or two photographs per issue. (At various times *Diary* editors—through "contacts"—managed to have blocks made as "foreigners", firstly at The Age office and later at the Sun News-Pictorial, for the price of a slab of beer. But this was an unreliable source, prone to considerable risk.) When the August 1971 issue was published, one of the editors had a bright idea. Why not have the printer cut off the two little figures, remount the plate and use them again and again, writing a new caption

each time? First they had to have names. Despite a lack of clothes, the taller of the two seemed to have retained some semblance of dignity, so he was baptised "Clyde". His little knockabout mate seemed a typical "Ocker". As Clyde appears to have his mouth open, he usually does the talking. And so we launched our first "pocket cartoon", a newspaper feature devised by the late Bill Green—Weg. No planning goes into their monthly appearance. As the editor and typesetter pull each issue together on the computer screen, an unfilled space will inevitably appear, often on the letters page. Clyde & Ocker are used to

block the hole and a caption is composed and typeset on the spot, or occasionally left to be



"We're the original recycled cartoon characters, Ock!"

puzzled over and written in at proofreading stage. Cynical ratbags from birth, Clyde & Ocker's comments usually run in direct opposition to the paper's—often the community's—take on any local issue. And apart from the time Jock dressed them in kilts as part of the campaign to have Scotchman's Hill declared part of the State Park, they have always appeared naked, minus the dangly bits of course. Some readers innocently thought Jock drew a new graphic each issue! Over the years, Clyde & Ocker have had many more adventures than *The Age's* Naked Man. One editor organised a caption-writing contest as part of a Warrandyte Fes-

tival, they always featured on our festival street banner and for years Peter Norman towed them behind his vintage tractor in the parade. Jock has animated them so they walk on the front page of our website—perpetually going nowhere. After a number of years of being bashed in an old letterpress printing machine thousands of times each month, Clyde & Ocker began to look distinctly flat and furry. Offset printing and digitalised typesetting changed all that. Now they come up crisp and fresh each issue. Not bad after 36 years and more than 400 appearances.

CLIFF GREEN

## Waiting

It's one of those *waiting* mornings—there's a feeling like something is about to happen and we, who live in this unique place hope that today will not be a day when we smell smoke hear sirens or have to start our fire pump.

The birds were up earlier than usual made more noise, seemed to be warning us that today could be different.

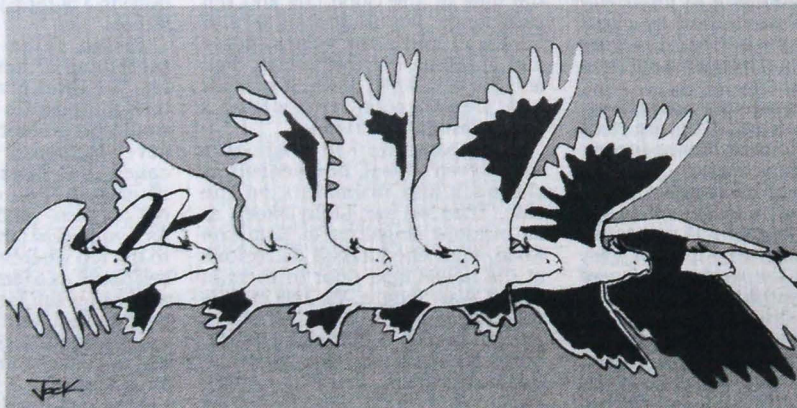
A dragonfly drifts by slowly at first, before making staccato movements backwards and forwards up and down.

The white cockies are flying low and still screeching—longer than usual searching maybe for somewhere to rest. A cool, safe spot to hide from the day.

If the air was water right now it would be a mill pond. There's not a movement—still trees, still leaves stock-still branches.

Cicadas come to interrupt the peace and other insects buzz... flutter-wing by.

And now, from a paint-brush perfect sky a morning-gentle-sun wakes and plays on the leaves. She throws shadows on the trunk of a gigantic gum and I wait and wonder and hope that today will not be a day when we smell smoke hear sirens or have to start our fire pump.



CORINNE FENTON

## Everyone in Warrandyte reads the Diary

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"Off and running" at a recent St Anne's Strawberry Fair Fun Run.

## Fun Run is all part of the fair at St Anne's

The St Anne's Primary School annual fun run is on again this year.

It will be part of the school's Strawberry Fair and offers runners than chance to compete over 2.5km or 5km.

It will be held on Saturday 14 March and the course runs through Domeney Reserve and the 100 acres Reserve.

The run will start at 8-30am sharp at St Anne's Primary School, Park Orchards. Entries are open to anyone and medals are awarded to first place in all categories.

Registration opens at 7.30am on the day at St. Annes' Primary School.

Contact Catherine MacDonald 0412 368 803 or Marita Annunziata 0404 042 263 for more information.

# Big V Venom set for 2009

The first practice games for Warrandyte's Big V women's team start in February.

Warrandyte fans will be able to see the Division 1 girls in action on Sunday 22 February in a practice game against Melton.

The tip off is 3 pm at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre.

Warrandyte will be looking to rebuild the team after the retirements of Jo Metcalfe, Kate Cohen and Jodi Kennedy last season.

New court captain Sally Phillips said it was a great privilege to be captain of the Big V women this season.

"It's a role I'm looking forward to in what promises to be another exciting year for

the team. With Jo, Kate and Jodi retiring, you will see plenty of the talented juniors who have progressed through the program in recent years.

"In fact, we have nine players, 18 years or younger this year, so I'm sure you'll see plenty of enthusiasm on the court."

Phillips is a former Australian Opal, a WNBL veteran and is in her second season with the club.

She was the team's leading scorer in 2008 and won the Best Offensive Player of the Year.

Phillips said the local support in Warrandyte's first two years in the competition had been fantastic.

"We really are one of the

best supported teams in the Big V, which shows how much pride and passion we have at Warrandyte.

"Once again we need you to buy a membership in 2009 and the club has kept prices to a minimum to ensure that coming and watching us play is cheap enough for the whole family, especially the kids.

"You can also sponsor a player if you wish, something that I know the girls in the team really appreciate," Phillips said.

● Warrandyte Basketball has invited interested members to a planning meeting for a Big V Men's Team on Sunday February 22 at WSC from 6pm.

The intention of this

meeting is to gauge support for an official proposal to start with a team in the Big V in season 2010.

Those members looking to be actively involved in preparing the submission and starting with the groundwork required to put a team together should attend this meeting.

● Though it's hard to imagine Glenn Archer anywhere other than on a football field, get ready to see the Shinboner of the Century and 311-game AFL champion sitting in the stands and watching his local basketball team in 2009.

A Warrandyte resident, Archer and his family have just stepped up to become Warrandyte Venom's num-

ber one members of the women's Big V team, an honour that will no doubt please Glenn and Lisa's four children.

The couple's younger children, Remy and Jackson are yet to start playing basketball but there's a fair chance they will follow in the footsteps of older siblings Madi and Abbey, who both play with the Park Orchards Steelers.

The Archers attended last year's finals series to support the Venom and will support the Big V Division One team in its quest to reach a third successive grand final.

"We really enjoyed the atmosphere last year at the game and the kids love bas-

ketball, so it's a perfect fit for the family and we'll no doubt enjoy some good times out at the games," said Archer.

Venom coach Justin Nelson welcomed the Archers on board and said the club's decision to have a number one family rather than an individual highlighted the importance placed on getting the whole family involved in the game.

Warrandyte Venom Big V memberships for season 2009 are now available for \$10 (U18), \$20 (adults) and \$50 (family).

Call Lisa Saunders on 9844 1921 to book or visit the club's website at [www.warrandyte.basketball.net.au](http://www.warrandyte.basketball.net.au)



## Warrandyte Cricket Club

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their support in season 2008-09

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- Warrandyte Veterinary Clinic 9844 3071
- Wubbish (Rubbish Removal) 0419 786 679

If you have not received a Business Directory for 2009, they are now available from the Warrandyte Post Office. The Warrandyte Cricket Club would like to thank the above listed sponsors for their contribution towards the development of cricketers in the district.

**Please support the businesses that support your local club**

## Warrandyte basketball round-up with Tony Oliver

# Venom out in force at Eltham tournament

Warrandyte Venom were one of the biggest entrants in the Eltham Dandenong Australia Day tournament.

While Warrandyte was unable to win one of the divisions this year, the Association did enjoy watching a number of teams play in semi-finals and grand finals.

It was also encouraging to see teams running offences and trying new things ahead of the VJBL season.

The tournament is an excellent way to "get back into it" after the Christmas break. Coaches use the event to try new things in offence and in defence and to sharpen skills before the second round grading phase begins.

One of the Venom teams to make the finals was Gavin Eddy's Under 14 B boys.

A strong showing in the semi final against Broadmeadows saw the lads up against Eltham in the Grand Final.

The game was tight early with both defences being effective. Eltham were more accurate under the basket and took a 20-15 lead into the half time break.

The second half was similar with both sides being successful on the turn overs. Eltham continued to play that bit better but the margin was never great.

The Venom lifted for a late rally and closed the gap to one point with 95 seconds to go. The large crowd were excited but the final seconds belonged to Eltham who were able to control the play better.

A basket to the Venom's Nicholas Cookes closed the gap to four points again, but the final siren came to soon for the Venom.

Nicholas Cookes and Mitchell Taylor with seven points each and Jayden Forde with six points were the Venom's top scorers in a game where all Venom players were on the scoreboard.

Billie Addlem and Jessie Oram were in charge of the Under 14 B girls in the grand final game against the Diamond Valley Eagles.

In a similar game to the Under 14 boys, the Venom girls were always playing catch up basketball against the Eagles.

Both sides were undefeated coming into the final and the half time score favoured the Eagles by 14-7. The Venom came out strongly in the second half and closed the gap to two points before the Eagles steadied.



Time out in the Under 14 semi final with coach Gerry Pearce leading the discussion.



Danya Matomti brings the ball down for the Venom.

The Venom came back late in the game again and were in attack when the final siren went giving the game to Diamond Valley by 20-16.

Simone Caruana and Maddison Taylor with four points each were the Venom's top scorers.

"A really good job and a fantastic weekend" was Addlem's summary after the game. "All had a ball. And all players showed great heart," was Oram's comment.

In an encouraging sign of the future, the Venom's Under 12s made the grand final. They were gallant in defeat going down to the Vikings by 24-19.

Little separated the teams throughout the whole game with the taller and stronger Vikings players doing just enough to hang on.

Josh Collins stepped in at the last moment to coach the team, when their regular coach, sister Emma Collins, had to have her appendix removed on the Friday before the tournament.

In a comment on modern medical technology and Emma's determination she was out of hospital and supporting her team within 24 hours.

## South Warrandyte gets tennis upgrade

Warrandyte Tennis Club's refurbished South Warrandyte annexe will be officially opened on Sunday February 22.

The annexe at Colman Reserve, South Warrandyte was originally the location on the South Warrandyte Tennis Club which was formed in 1958. The first court was opened there in 1960 with a further three courts and clubhouse being constructed later.

The two clubs amalgamated in 2005 and since then considerable work has been carried out on the courts and surrounds.

The clubhouse has recently undergone major renovations financed by Manningham City Council.

A barbecue lunch will be provided on the day starting at 12.30pm with the official opening by the Mayor of the City of Manningham, Cr Charles Pick at 2pm.

Courts will be available for those who wish to have a game and the club's 2008 Club Person of the Year will be announced.

All past and present members, families and friends are invited to attend. Past South Warrandyte Club members will be particularly welcome.

For further information call Wendy Synnot on 0409 353 882 or Jeanette Cleaves on 9844 0619.

## Century up for cricket veteran

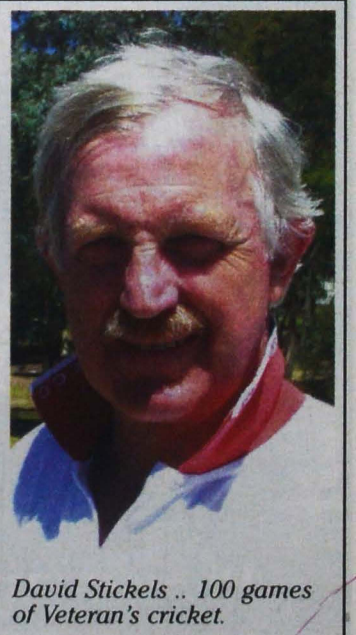
Warrandyte veteran cricketer, David Stickels celebrated his 100th game milestone with an unbeaten 40 against Parkwood last month.

It was not enough to give his team a win but was a fitting celebration for a long-serving member at Warrandyte.

David is one of only three players at Warrandyte to register 100 games of Veterans cricket.

David, who played Premier cricket with South Melbourne, has also played First XI with Warrandyte and was a member of the club's two Over 40s premier-ship teams.

He now plays with Warrandyte's Over 50s team.



David Stickels .. 100 games of Veteran's cricket.



Top netballer, Montana Cox.

## Montana takes next step in netball

Montana Cox, 15 has achieved selection for the Under 19 Ariels in the Victorian Netball League team.

A Year 10 student, Montana has played for the Warrandyte Netball Club since the Under 9 competition. She has shown early and continued promise, playing representative netball for the Doncaster and District Netball Association since the Under 11 level.

Last year Montana was selected for the Victorian State Team and the Victorian Catholic Netball Association state team. The VCNA team made it to the grand final held in Adelaide only being defeated by two goals by NSW.

Montana was selected for the Talent Identification for State selection from outstanding on-court performance with the Doncaster and District Representative Team, for the second year in a row.

Weekly competition during 2008, in addition to the Warrandyte Under 17/1 team, saw Montana play for the Palladians Under 17/2, where the team won the grand final.

Montana has recently gained a position in the 2009 Central East Zone Academy.

Warrandyte Netball Club president Sonya Febbo said: "We are very excited and pleased for Montana that she has received these accolades and now the opportunity to play for the Ariels in the new Victorian Netball League."

The results from the Spring 2008 Doncaster and District Netball Season saw seven Warrandyte teams make the finals with two teams making their grand final.

Nat Dusting's Under 17/1 Eagles team went down to the Toxic Barbies 25-31. The Eagles team list is Montana Cox, Zanetta Hosking, Sarah Lewis, Rhianna Kemm, Georgia Nichol, Harriet Rappell, Sophie Richardson, Ally Van Summeran and Cass Wilson.

The Open C grand final was called off at half time due to rain. As the game was not completed the score from half time stood so Warrandyte lost by 10 points.

The team, coached by Lyn Dyason, is Jess Allwood, Cherise Angelotti-Casey, Jennifer Barrett, Patricia Barrett, Erika Dyason, Amelia Fraser-McKelvie, Jacinta Kemm, Alysce Maclaren, Carly Sayer, Kristie Turner and Bethany Whitcher.



# CARTER



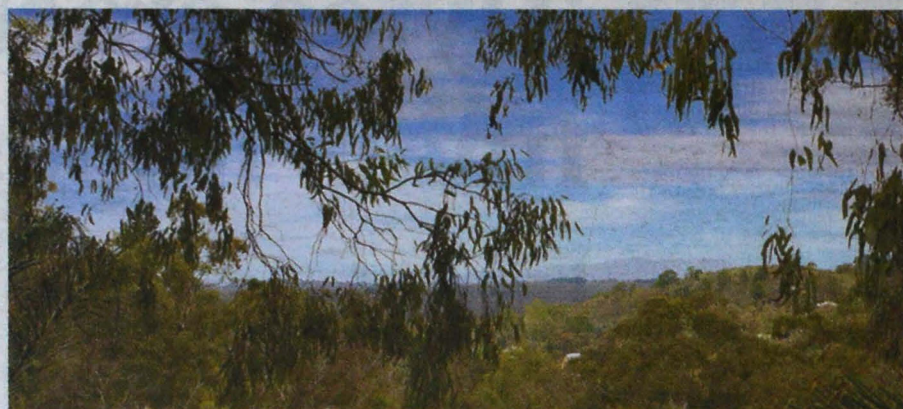
## Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud

A very fine example of mud brick excellence situated in a quiet cul-de-sac on approximately 1428sqm backing onto the Yarra River. Enter along a brick paved veranda to a very attractive entrance foyer, further to a large lounge room with feature open fire place, separate dining room, modern kitchen/family room, four bedrooms (master with ensuite and WIR) and second bathroom. There is a gas heater, gas hot water service, brick paved floors throughout and tall timber ceilings with exposed beams. In an excellent bush setting, the rear yard is fully fenced and has a gate leading to an ideal spot to sit and relax while you watch the fabulous 'Yarra River' as it silently passes by. Look

further across to the large 'Pound Bend', Warrandyte State Park or go for a short walk to the right, take the canoe or go swimming in this magical location. Properties such as this rarely come on the market, so if you're looking for a quality home in a quiet location with river access, don't miss this one, call today and arrange an inspection, this one's a beauty.

### 21 ALBERT ROAD, WARRANDYTE NORTH

**FOR SALE** \$600,000 to \$630,000  
**CONTACT** Glenn Martin 0427 852 806  
 David Green 0437 340 131



## A Real Surprise Package

Enjoy the indoor and outdoor lifestyle offered with this family home on a sloping 2225sqm allotment (approx.) with a view to Mount Dandenong as a priceless bonus. Separate lounge/dining room, brand new kitchen adjacent to a huge family room with canopy open-fire place and door leading to large timber deck, three bedrooms (master with FES) and second bathroom. New carpet throughout, ducted heating, covered rear veranda, timber deck and spa, in-ground swimming pool with brick paving and timber decking and a further timber deck with pergola overlooking the stunning view. Added bonus of a self contained two bedroom flat under, ideal for

that older teenager to be independent, or to be used as office space to work from home. Not often does a home offer a great lifestyle and an income as well, but this one does. All this situated only a short walk to the Yarra River with its walking tracks, the wood-fire bakery, shops, restaurants and all that the Warrandyte Township has to offer. Come and see for yourself, this may very well be your next family home.

### 13 SOMERS ROAD, WARRANDYTE

**FOR SALE** \$630,000 to \$675,000  
**CONTACT** Glenn Martin 0427 852 806  
 David Green 0437 340 131



## Stop, Look and Buy

This impeccably presented brick veneer home situated on a landscaped 1090sqm allotment with cobblestone effect driveway leads to a large double garage/workshop with two roller doors and under house storage area – an ideal DAD'S retreat. Enter via an attractive entrance foyer to lounge/dining room complete with canopy open fireplace and door leading to a paved covered patio. Adjacent to the large family room with polished timber floor is the modern kitchen with s/s appliances. There are four bedrooms (master with ensuite), second bathroom with spa bath, good size laundry, quality fittings and

fixtures, ducted heating and vacuum systems, three toilets and air-conditioner. Situated in a picturesque street this impeccably presented family home shows great value and lots of space for the money. So call today and make a time to view.

### 36 LYNETTE AVENUE, WARRANDYTE

**FOR SALE** \$500,000 – \$535,000  
**CONTACT** Glenn Martin 0427 852 806  
 David Green 0437 340 131



## Great Position, Great Potential

A home such as this is constantly sought after but rarely found. Do yourself a favour and inspect this charming two storey brick veneer and timber home situated on a corner allotment of 1590 square metres (approx) with a good view. A versatile floor plan upstairs provides lounge with wood-fire heater and door leading to a great balcony which overlooks the large patio BBQ area. There's a separate dining room, kitchen/meals area, two bedrooms and bathroom. Downstairs is a rumpus room with gas heater and an area that could be turned into a third bedroom; second bathroom, laundry and a work shop that could

be made into a good study. The property also has a double garage with two roller doors and a large work shop as well. So don't miss this one, come and see the potential, the position and the view and buy yourself a property within walking distance of the football ground, West End Shopping Centre, Anderson Creek Primary School, Warrandyte Tennis Courts, the Yarra River and transport.

### 37 MELBOURNE HILL ROAD, WARRANDYTE

**FOR SALE** \$450,000  
**CONTACT** Glenn Martin 0427 852 806



## Country Living, City Convenience

The best of both worlds. An interesting, rambling weatherboard on 1390 square metres backing on to acres of Warrandyte paddocks and bushland. Room here for the largest of families – 10 principal rooms over three levels of flexibility. Four bedrooms or more, several studies, home office or rumpus room. Main road abuttal ideal for working from home – plenty of off street parking. All with the convenience of the bus at your doorstep to Warrandyte in one direction or

Ringwood, Eastland and railway station at the other. Talk about flexibility of lifestyle.

### 425 WARRANDYTE-RINGWOOD ROAD, WARRANDYTE

**FOR SALE** \$480,000 to \$530,000  
**CONTACT** David Green 0437 340 131  
 Glenn Martin 0427 852 806

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