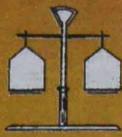


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No 417, March 2009 For the community, by the community

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We breathe again

And it's still a special place

By CLIFF GREEN

Warrandyte is still here. A little smoke-stained perhaps, a good deal crisper and a lot browner.

But our beautiful river still flows and the birds are still singing. As usual.

And on the weekend of March 21 and 22 we'll be celebrating the Warrandyte Village Festival. As usual.

Much the same as last year, really, and the year before that and the year before...

Like the Grand Parade. With kids and bikes and clowns and horses (sometimes) and stilt walkers and truckloads of kinder littlies and bands and Hugh McSpedden's funny little van. Fire trucks will be in the rearguard, just to make sure the wind doesn't change.

Like the performances on Stiggants, with items from the primary kids on the main stage all Saturday afternoon (mums and dads compulsory) and entertainment on the Riverbank Stage all weekend (mind your backside on the hay bales).

Like the billycart derby and the pet parade and the greasy old blokes and their little engines and the scouts' waterslide.

Like the Festival Follies, where the audience tries to be funnier than the performers and Alan Cornell could skylark about all night as far as we're concerned.

They'll set fire to a wrecked car on the riverbank and the CFA will squirt a lot of water and the SES will belt hell out of it to rescue someone who isn't there.

They've cancelled the finale fireworks again. Good riddance. There are enough firebugs out there, without the Festival Committee joining in.

Lots of us will man stalls, run events, marshall parades, drive fire trucks, jump about on stage, decorate floats and paint kids' faces.

The rest of us will just mooch around, greet old friends and meet new ones, scoff milk shakes and fairy floss and grieve for Michael Greve's Singapore special (hold the chilli) and contemplate the stuffed wombat in the Parks Victoria tent.

And we'll thank someone—the CFA would be top of our list—for making it all still possible. As usual.

You will be there, won't you?

See ya.

● Complete lift-out festival program published in this issue.



"She's my special festival friend!" (Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS)

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"To know the road ahead ask those coming back"

— Chinese Proverb

WARRANDYTE diary



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NEXT ISSUE


Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, April 8, 2009. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, March 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, Warranwood, North Ringwood, Kangaroo Ground and Research.

A SPECIAL PLACE


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



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WARRANDYTE WARRANDYTE

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



That was the week that was

IT was a typical Saturday morning in Warrandyte. Jasper was still in bed. Cinnamon was with her friends at the market texting her friends who weren't at the market. Neville was out seeing how many new car washes had been opened since last weekend. Gran was trying to remember which day was watering day as she watered the garden which was actually doing rather well. And Narelle was standing in the queue at Bendigo Bank with all the other people who had just made it inside before they closed.

"Hi Narelle," said Cathy who usually got there about the same time. "What have you been up to?"

And the trouble with that question is that despite the fact you haven't had a moment to scratch yourself all week, despite the fact that every man and his dog wants a piece of you, despite the fact that if they added an hour to every day you still wouldn't have time to clean the floss flotsam off the bathroom mirror, there's never really anything to say.

No new car in the driveway. No exotic cruise just booked at Warrandyte Travel. No unexpected inheritances from Uncle Wally last heard of prospecting in outer Chad. No promotions with a Pacific Brands executive-sized sal-

ary.

The reality was depressingly different.

On Monday she'd made the kid's lunches and gone to work. On Tuesday she'd made the kid's lunches, put something out to thaw for tea and gone to work. On Wednesday she'd made the kid's lunches, put something for tea out to thaw, done a load of washing and gone to work. On Thursday she'd made the kid's lunches, put something for tea out to thaw, done a load of washing, vacced the dog hair from the sofa and gone to work. On Friday she'd made the kids' lunches, put something for tea out to thaw, done another load of washing, vacced up more dog hair, paid the bills and gone to work. Sort of like the 12 days of Christmas without the drumming, leaping, milking, laying or feathered species in fruit trees or in fact anything the faintest bit interesting at all. The only things that distin-



guished this week from any other were an unexpected root canal filling, a flat tyre in the Pines carpark, a call to the principal's office about the naked bottom on Jasper's Facebook and Gran's incontinence episode in the pet food aisle at the supermarket.

Was this the life she'd imagined as she walked down the aisle towards the

living with The Trotts

grinning young man with the shoulder pads and the Elvis quiff? A life of Five Ingredients cooking, children's taxi services and saving shower water to please a man who blamed her hot flushes on global warming?

Where had her dreams gone? Her potential? Didn't the *Mail* describe her performance in Maroondah High School's production of *Salad Days* as *modestly engaging*? Wasn't she voted *girl most likely to make supervisor at IGA*? Didn't her careers counsellor say she would do well in hospitality, which she might even have tried if it didn't involve sick people?


Well next week there'd be changes, sure as eggs! Next week she'd join the U3A! Next week she'd write a letter to the *Diary* about sandwich boards at the bottom of Melbourne Hill Road! Next week she'd put fetta in the kids' lunches instead of Kraft slices! Next week she'd be able to give Cathy a better answer than—

"Nothing much!"

"Next!" said Linda. "Hi Cathy! What have you been up to?"

I think I'll use the ATM, thought Narelle, and headed for the door.

ALAN CORNELL



FIRE NUMBERS FIRE AND EMERGENCY: 000

CFA Regional Headquarters 8739 1300	Warrandyte CFA 9844 3375	North Warrandyte CFA 9844 0847	South Warrandyte CFA 9844 2861	Wonga Park CFA 9722 1463
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VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE: 1800 240 667



Five degrees of separation: Yarra Glen after Black Saturday. (Picture by Kerry Cross)

CFA: home and away

MPs call for future action

Recent CFA briefings in the township of Warrandyte, which is bone dry and extremely susceptible to fire, have caused locals to review their fire plans and reconsider their ability to defend their homes.

My community has been spared the pain of being directly part of the tragedy of past weeks; if we are able to reach the end of the fire season without incident, we will consider ourselves extremely lucky.

I welcome the establishment of a transparent and comprehensive royal commission into these bushfires.

Whatever its findings, be it in the areas of forest management, the validity of early warning systems or the viability of the stay-or-go policy, I hope appropriate attention is given and appropriate action taken.

RYAN SMITH
Address to Parliament
Thursday, February 26

I say to the royal commissioner, Justice Teague, that my community stands ready to work in partnership with you to leave no stone unturned to discover the causes of this unspeakable tragedy and find solutions.

My community lost so many beautiful, creative and passionate people on this dreadful day. I mourn each and every one of them and I commit that I am dedicated to seeing the beautiful place that we all love for its environment and its people restored in your name. The pond of our grief spreads ever wider and deeper for those we have lost, but we will never forget.

DANIELLE GREEN
Address to Parliament
Thursday, February 26

By SANDY BURGOYNE

As well as standing by to protect their own communities, Warrandyte's CFA brigades went out to help neighbouring and more distant towns and districts.

The *Diary* asked a spokesperson from each brigade to tell us where their members were deployed.

Warrandyte, North Warrandyte and South Warrandyte are part of a Region 13 strike team. Each brigade provides a vehicle and puts members on a "composite" crew list. When one of the vehicles is called out each brigade contributes one or two members to the crew. This rotation allows firefighters longer to recover after deployment.

Warrandyte

Chris Spring, 4th lieutenant, told the *Diary* that several members were in strike team 13/64 that was deployed to Kinglake just as the worst of the Black Saturday fire hit. He was part of a contingent sent there to relieve the team on Sunday, February 8. The trip from Kangaroo Ground to Kinglake took three hours, because of poor visibility, and abandoned cars, fallen power lines and trees blocking the roads.

Warrandyte vehicles and firefighters also served at St Andrews, Christmas Hills and Healesville. Warrandyte's "slip-on", an agile four-wheel drive vehicle with a water supply and pump on the back, was deployed to assist Melbourne Water staff in controlling fire around reservoir catchments.

North Warrandyte

Captain Rohan Thornton gave a bald summation of Black Saturday.

"The event was so large that you just grabbed a corner of the fire and worked where you could," he told the *Diary*.

During that emergency the brigade was deployed as part of strike team 13/64, a quick response team that works at the northern end of CFA Region 13.

Most of their activity was concentrated around the St Andrews and Kinglake districts. One firefighter was injured and tanker No. 1 was damaged during that emergency.

Earlier the brigade was deployed to the Churchill National Park/Police Paddocks fire near Dandenong. Since Black Saturday North Warrandyte has attended fires at Woodend, Kyne-

'It was only 6km as the crow flies'

ton and Belgrave. Brigade members have also been rostered to crew at St Andrews to give firefighters there a break.

South Warrandyte

On February 7, South members were in Gippsland.

"The South Warrandyte car was deployed earlier in the day to fires at Bunyip with members of the brigade doing forward observations of the fire and its behaviour to provide information to the incident management team to help them with predicting where it would burn and

how best to manage the deployment of fire trucks," Tom Goldstraw, 1st lieutenant told the *Diary*.

South's new 3000 litre dual cab four-wheel drive tanker was deployed firstly to Strathewen, then to Kinglake when the situation there deteriorated.

South members served at many other fire sites including Woodend, Healesville, Yea, Beechworth and Belgrave.

Spokespeople for the local brigades stressed that the Warrandyte district had adequate coverage during the emergency, for example

in South Warrandyte: "We had approximately 15 members available in the local South Warrandyte area to provide support in the case of local fires and to take care of our normal business locally, which has continued throughout this bushfire emergency," Tom Goldstraw said.

The firefighters the *Diary* spoke to have a strong message for locals.

"I think residents in Warrandyte have to realise that our fire danger isn't over. We were untouched by (Black Saturday) but I think it was a matter of five degrees of wind, which is the difference between Kinglake getting it and us getting it.

"When you look at a map it is only six kilometres as the crow flies. So I think we still need to be vigilant throughout the summer and ongoing," Rohan Thornton said.

"People really need to have a good hard think about their property and their preparation and what they intend to do in the event of a fire," Chris Spring said.



Neighbours: Christmas Hills following the holocaust that was Black Saturday. (Pictures by Kerry Cross)

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'Mayday! Mayday!'

A daring rescue on the firefront

By SANDY BURGOYNE

Around 4pm on Black Saturday, North Warrandyte tanker No. 1 started to climb the mountain to Kinglake and moved from gloom into darkness. Ash, leaves and dust swirled about the truck's cabin.

"We couldn't see...it was very surreal, we couldn't see more than a metre in front of the truck," Rohan Thornton, North brigade's captain, told the *Diary*.

"It's hard to describe, because you could see fire in quite a substantial amount in the front, but you couldn't see the road a metre in front of the truck. I still can't quite find a way of describing it. Nothing like I've seen. I deal in light as a professional and...I couldn't create that environment artificially if I tried."

The five-man crew had been at St Andrews fire station when a call came through that a family was trapped in a house nearby.

"The crew decided that we really couldn't sit there and do nothing, so we decided to go in and see if we could get them out," Mr Thornton said.

Tanker No. 1 drove about 400 metres into the fire front, but on arriving at the house found it empty. The crew members realised they couldn't go back to St Andrews and decided their best route was to continue up to Kinglake.

"We just kept driving and ... drove in the fire for the 12 kilometres up the hill.

"We were just concentrating on the white line. We could just see the white line in front of the truck. Mick, who was driving, was concentrating on what was on the road and we, the crew, were concentrating on the left and right borders of the road. So with everyone contributing we got up the mountain. Occasionally we'd get to a point where light would come through and we'd think, 'yeah we are nearly out of this', then it would get dark again," Rohan Thornton said.

Driving conditions were not improving and the crew put out a PAN (possible assistance needed) call to alert the radio control room to their predicament.

ment.

"As we got into Kinglake we believe it was about the time the service station went up. A ute came through, I guess from the direction of the service station and we collided with it," Mr Thornton said.

The ute did not stop, but turned down an intersecting road. North's tanker was on the Kinglake roundabout, but visibility was so poor that the crew didn't realise that at the time.

"We came around the corner and down what we thought was the Healesville road, but again we couldn't see where we were going and we headed down Victoria Road instead," he said.

"We realised we'd gone the wrong way and we were trying to come back. And then a tree came down, just missing the truck and it took our windscreen out. In order to avoid the tree we came off the road on the opposite side into a ditch, into a fence and that's ... the crash. We couldn't move from there and we put out a 'mayday' call because we knew we couldn't get out and we were stuck there."

Chris Spring, Warrandyte CFA's 4th lieutenant, was at the Warrandyte fire station when the call came through.

"The one thing that catches



everyone's attention is the three calls of 'mayday' coming over the radio. It's never a pleasant thing to hear that.

"The conditions were probably the worst that they've ever been. I suppose that everybody just stopped what they were doing and listened intently to the radio for further traffic and further details," he told the *Diary*.

The North Warrandyte crew members could give only a vague description of where they were.

"We knew we were in Kinglake somewhere, but we really had no idea where we were. We just kept pumping information in that we thought would help. I remember when we went down (the road) we hit some speed humps and I remember thinking what a stupid place for speed humps," Rohan Thornton said.

Meanwhile the North firefighters had gone into crew protection mode. They had covered themselves with blan-

kets and turned on the truck's water sprays.

Wonga Park's pumper-tanker was in the vicinity and the crew responded to the emergency.

"The North Warrandyte crew were not able to give an accurate description of their exact location but did reply to questions from Lt Andrew Wright over the truck radios. He asked: 'have you been over speed humps?', 'have you been through a roundabout?', 'can you hear our sirens now?'," Wonga Park 3rd lieutenant Gary McQuade said.

"Driving conditions could only be described as horrendous and very dangerous. Visibility was almost nil because



Disabled: Warrandyte North's tanker stranded at Kinglake. (Picture by Chris Spring) Inset: Sign at the North Warrandyte Community Centre. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

of the thick smoke and a lot of bush was burning on either side of the vehicle. There were limbs of trees across the road, which they had to avoid along with several wrecked cars."

"There was great relief in our radio room and no doubt at North Warrandyte when the response came from Wonga Park crew they'd found the tanker and have all crew members safely on board Wonga Park's vehicle!," Garry McQuade said.

Remarkably after that long afternoon in February only one firefighter was injured. Rohan Thornton, North's

captain, had sustained back injuries during the tanker's crash.

He was taken to hospital, but is now home and expected to make a full recovery.

Wonga Park brigade is justifiably proud of the members who effected the rescue: 1st lieutenant Andrew Wright, Luke Thomas, Tim Cochrane, Andrew Oxley and Rhys Doughty-Cowell.

"My eternal thanks go to the crew at Wonga Park who didn't have to come in and get us. They put their own lives at risk to come in and get us," Rohan Thornton said.



Braced for the future: North Warrandyte CFA captain Rohan Thornton. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

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10am-4.30pm Warrandyte Community Centre Saturday April 4th

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CFA warned of risk

By **KARLY HICKMAN**

The realisation that fire was on Warrandyte's doorstep on Black Saturday inspired more than 450 residents to pack a CFA Fire Ready meeting at the Warrandyte Community Centre exactly a week later.

Lisa Keedle from Fire Ready Victoria led the discussion, encompassing stay-and-go plans, bushfire behaviour, Community Fireguard programs and preparations necessary for survival in a bushfire.

She said fire risk can be high not just on days of total fire ban. Local weather patterns are key to determining fire risk. "Hot, dry, windy days with low humidity are days with high fire risk," Ms Keedle said. "You don't need us to tell you it is a day of total fire ban. Step outside and make that assessment for yourself."

Much has changed since the original stay-or-go policy was introduced eight years ago. Now the stay component is promoted as "stay and actively defend" and the go component as "leave early". It is suggested that residents in high risk areas have a plan for both scenarios. "Stay committed and focused to your decision. Your coping mechanism is far greater," Ms Keedle said.

Ms Keedle stressed the need for residents to be familiar with bushfire behaviour. "The three aspects of fire are oxygen, heat or ignition source, and fuel. The latter is what we have the most impact on." Fire travels via flame contact, radiant heat, ember attack and wind. "It can travel fast in grassed areas, or slow in highly vegetated areas." Fire also burns faster uphill, "For every 10 degrees in slope of the land, the fire doubles in speed."

"Since the Ash Wednesday fires of 1983, we have investigated how houses tend to burn down," Ms Keedle said. "The number one cause is ember attack, followed by radiant heat then flame contact." Residents are urged to reduce leaf litter around their homes, in gutters and doorways

so as to reduce fire risk from embers landing and starting a fire.

There are not nearly enough fire trucks to come to every house. Therefore, residents need to be prepared to defend their property or leave early. "The trucks will be at the fire front, not at the ember attacks, so you need to be emotionally and physically prepared to save your house, or to leave," Ms Keedle said.

She stressed that if residents plan on staying, they need an adequate water supply. "A static, separate water supply. It must be an alternative to mains water." This could include water-filled garbage bins that you can tip onto fire, or pumps to draw water from pools, dams or ponds.

"If you stay, be well prepared and understand what the risk is to you." The two main causes of death in fires are radiant heat or dehydration. Residents intent on staying to defend need to wear adequate clothing made of natural materials that cover the full length of their arms and legs, gloves, a hat, goggles, mask and boots with a non-slip sole. "Drink plenty of water. Firefighters are required to drink at least two



Fire meeting packed the Community Centre.

litres an hour," Ms Keedle said.

Residents should continue extinguishing embers and flames until it gets too hot, then retreat inside their house. "Inside it will be smoky, loud, with the fire alarms going off and the sound of the wind. Wait 10 to 15 minutes for the fire to pass, then go back outside to extinguish any flames."

Residents who decide to leave should do so early. "Think about the right time, Leave when you're cool and calm; try not to be hurried." Ms Keedle stressed that ideally, residents should leave before a fire incident occurs, in other words, on all days of high risk.

She suggested that as part of fire season preparations, households should nominate a friend or family member living outside the area to keep all important documents and treasured items for the summer. She also suggested you tell this central contact what you are doing and where you are going.

"When you leave you may be out of the area for some time, so take your phone, its charger and a change of clothes." As part of their fire plan, residents should have three or four access routes—in and out of the township—mapped out and rehearsed.

Ms Keedle stressed that while useful, the ABC's bushfire coverage is not an entirely up-to-date source of information. "The minimum it usually takes for a message to travel from the fire ground to broadcast on the radio is half an hour." On an extreme fire danger day like Black Saturday, there were 570 separate fire incidents to report. "This means in most cases you will be experiencing the fire before we give you notice," Ms Keedle warned.

A useful tool in the fight against bushfires is the Community Fireguard program, which encourages residents to work together to improve bushfire safety. Neighbours living in an area of shared bushfire

risk can work together with the CFA to develop strategies to best protect themselves against bushfire.

"The CFA joins with the Fireguard groups to look at the local area, do a street walk and come up with a written plan that all are comfortable with," Ms Keedle said. "These small groups are best equipped to make informed decisions on the best way to protect themselves based on their lifestyle, environment, physical capabilities, finances and experience."

When asked who knew of the extreme fire risk and evacuated Warrandyte before Black Saturday, only a couple of dozen people in the audience raised their hands.

A second well-attended Fire Ready meeting was held at the Warrandyte Recreation Reserve a week later.

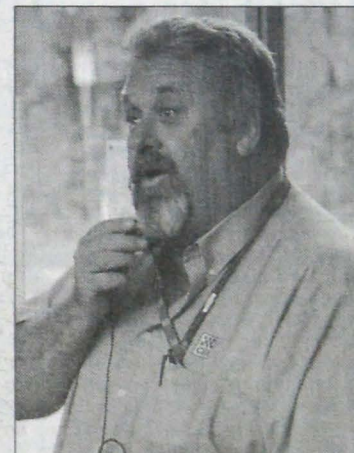
● Residents can join an existing Fireguard group or form their own by contacting their local CFA brigade: Warrandyte 9844 3375, North Warrandyte 9844 0847, South Warrandyte 9844 2861, Wonga Park 9722 1463.



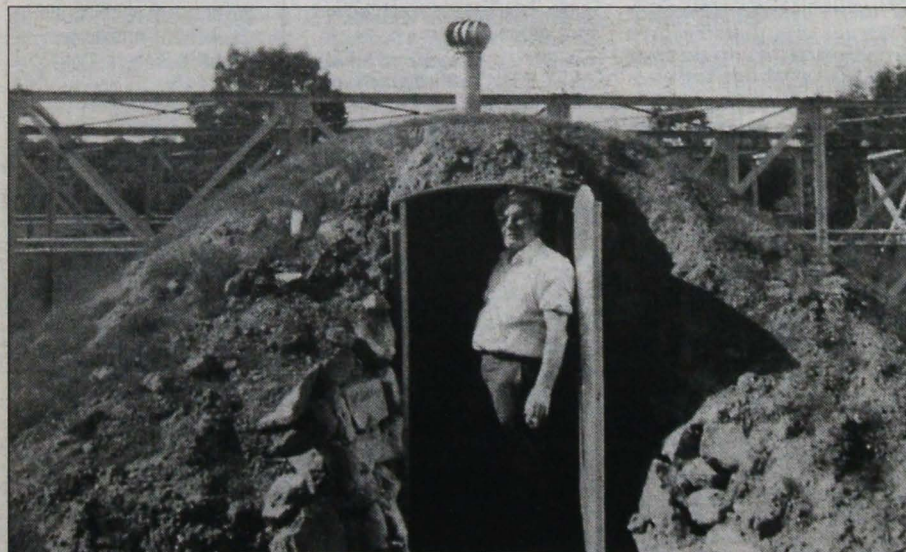
Crowd spilled outside. (Pictures by Stephen Reynolds)



CFA officials told it as it is.



Flashback: bunkers not all bunkum



Refuge: Richard Blackburn in the entrance to his Bushbuoy.

Devastating fires last month brought forth calls for a re-examination of bunkers being built as shelter from bushfires. In November 1983, following the disaster of Ash Wednesday, the Diary published this account of a project by two Eltham engineers.

by **JOHN FORSTER**

A bushfire may last from a few minutes to several hours, however toxic gases, smoke and ash may persist for many more hours, creating hazards for anyone in the vicinity.

The latest in fire safety methods designed to protect people from these hazards is the Bushbuoy. It is a structure of free-standing rolled corrugated iron and has been developed for areas subject to bushfires.

The success of the Bushbuoy lies in a specially designed

smoke trap. It is a feature that the designers say makes the system 100 per cent safe.

The trap consists of a small chamber that acts as an entrance to the Bushbuoy. There are two doors, the first with a one-inch gap at the top and bottom and the second consisting of a water and hessian screen in a steel frame, creating a Coolgardie safe effect.

A gas extractor protrudes through the roof of the chamber. As toxic gases or smoke pass into the chamber through the gaps in the first door, they are sucked through the ventilator and air is then filtered through to the main area.

The system separates the main area of the Bushbuoy from smoke and toxic gases and provides fresh air to those inside. The patented rotary fan requires no electricity, but uses outside air pressure

changes.

The structure can be covered with several types of material for insulation and fire protection. Rubble, stone, clay or soil may be used and graded to an eye-pleasing contour. Sandbags may also be used and then painted with a cement slurry.

The Bushbuoy was designed by two engineers, Richard Blackburn and Ashley Dyer, following the Ash Wednesday fires.

"The destruction and loss of lives gave us the inspiration to design a fire-safety refuge for bushfire situations," Mr Dyer said.

"When it is not required as a bushfire refuge, it can be used as a boatshed, workshop, woodshed or even just a junk shed."

(The Bushbuoy kit was priced at \$1200 in 1983.)

Wildfires followed European invasion

As we know, Warrandyte has not experienced serious fires since 1969. Since that time many more young people have come to live in the vicinity of our beautiful river, and to enjoy living close to nature and everything that is magical about that. Environmental consciousness has grown so much that we are all diligent about leaving dead trees, leaves, logs and brittle bushland around us to provide habitat for native life, and feel as human beings we are somehow connecting with the wondrous ecosystem of nature.

But the fact is that since gold was discovered, people have been slowly invading the pristine wonderland of this area, feeling that it is within their rights to make it their home, ignorant of what we are actually doing.

Black Saturday has happened. We must stop and take notice of what Mother Nature is trying to tell us. It is my deep belief—now in my seventh decade of life—that we should not be so conceited that we believe we are welcome to live hand-in-hand with nature. We should not live in the bushland, because we actually abuse it by our presence, no matter what our consciousness tells us.

It is too late for Warrandyte and surrounding areas—we are called the outer fringes of Melbourne—but we have now to consider the future safety of people, families, children and pets.

Everyone living in North Warrandyte is aware of the fact that we have an enormous bottleneck of traffic at the Warrandyte Bridge—the only way to evacuate. We know this every morning we take children to school. We also know from Ash Wednesday that panic sets in—it is impossible to get out of the area. Strong winds cause weakened trees to fall over roads, blocking all thoroughfares. A fire could—and will—tear through our area. Hundreds of men, women, children and animals will be incinerated in their homes and cars.

We must now go about transforming these densely residential outer fringe areas to make them safe.

We can keep our beautiful trees. It is not the trees that create fuel, it is the undergrowth, the combustible rubbish, the so-called untouched bush. We have to grit our teeth, and for our own survival, totally clean up our place of residence and become a unique fringe garden suburb with trees and hardy indigenous shrubs, creatively cared for. The bushland areas would need to be maintained by council workers, creating more jobs for people.

The old Warrandyte would be no more, but with this totally new attitude we would clean up our act and feel safe for the future.

Lyn Colenso
Kangaroo Ground

Bushfire website

If bushfire comes to Warrandyte, what's the best way to protect our families and our homes? Since that terrible Saturday in February there has been a stream of articles and letters and discussions but very little agreement.

Are the old stay-or-go guidelines still sound? What really works? Do we really have to give up on the house and build a bunker? As a community we surely have a lot of experience and knowledge, but when you go to a firegroup meeting, you realise how little we share it around. To help that along, I've put up a new website called Bushfire Talk, <http://bushfiretalk.org.au>—no www needed.

Check in and have your say, or ask your question. It's free and completely non-commercial. If you'd like to help with the site itself, get in touch by email: bushfire@bushfiretalk.org.au.

Bruce Williams
Boyd Street

Northern route

In reply to the RACV spokesperson, Mr Brian Negus (*Diary* February, 2009) who advocates the need to provide a link through Warrandyte to Fitzsimons Lane to the west and Melba Highway to the east.

The Northern Arterial Road (Melway 33 to 37), from Reynolds Road at Templestowe to the Warrandyte-Ringwood Road at the Falconer Road intersection, with access to the Maroondah Highway and beyond via Oban Road, already exists.

With a future connection from Falconers Road to the Maroondah Highway at Chirnside Park, via the proposed Northern Arterial Road (Melway 35, 36, 37) the stated aim of a workable connection between Fitzsimons Lane and both the Melba and Warburton highways would be satisfied.

Neal Tessier
Templestowe

dear diary

'Profoundly disturbing'

I readily admit to a fondness for "our" *Diary*. I have lived in Warrandyte or the Parish of Warrandyte now for almost 20 years and still look forward to taking a new edition home with me.

However I find the latest banner headline "Warrandyte waits" with the accompanying large front-page photo of the CFA/SES and local police exercise in Yarra Street (February, 2009) profoundly disturbing.

Before doing a Theology Masters (Hons) degree at Melbourne University I practised as a barrister for around 21 years. I only mention this, not to suggest any intellectual ability, but in order that you and readers might feel I could not but have gathered considerable "coal-face" experience over these years on the many infirmities that the human mind can be prone to. I refer here to both deviant behaviour as well as anxieties, particularly in the elderly.

An analogy to the *Diary's* headline and photo would be if at the start of winter with a new antibiotic-resistant strain of flu doing the rounds, you were to show a graphic photo of a frail-looking senior citizen with the headline "Muriel waits to catch flu and pneumonia".

I do appreciate the difficult task you have in balancing fire safety awareness and vigilance in Warrandyte with "disaster possibilities" in your paper. But surely a headline such as "Warrandyte's protection" or similar, with a less dramatic CFA/SES/police image, would have been a more positive approach? And achieve the same result?

I would be interested as to what others think as this is not the first time that the *Diary* has covered an unnecessarily frightening fire montage and headline on its front page.

Ivan Himmelhock
Osborne Road

Homes for wildlife

If our local councils refuse to clear the dead trees from our roadsides because they "may be home for local fauna", would it not be more sensible of them to clear the underbrush and put up possum and bird boxes in the trees. That way, our forests and roadsides may be a little more fire resistant.

Ann Irving
North Warrandyte



Warrandyte turned out for the Cancer Council's Relay for Life. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

Support for local life relay

On behalf of Warrandyte Relay for Life Committee and Cancer Council Victoria, we wish to thank you very much for your support and valued contribution in placing your article in the recent February edition of the *Warrandyte Diary*.

Given the very short time in organising the 2008 relay, which achieved an outstanding amount of support, we are looking forward to Relay 2009 in October. From indications so

far we expect and even greater event.

We will keep you up-to-date with progress for Relay 2009 with relevant newsworthy information.

Again, we thank you for your support and look forward to bringing Relay 2009 to its optimum potential.

Terry Pieper
Warrandyte Relay for Life Committee

'Protected' pine drops

It was on Black Saturday, February 7, that a giant, half-dead pine tree (a feral weed) fell across Park Road, missing a car by inches, with one fortunate motorist escaping with his life. This was at 5pm.

Manningham council had earlier refused permission to have this dangerous tree removed.

With fires raging that day and a strong north wind, several other pines in Park Orchards fell, causing damage to homes and property.

Many residents were fleeing the suburb at the time as part of their "bushfire strategy", with reports that the fires would reach the area that evening if the wind didn't reverse.

Fortunately, the wind reversal and cool change came shortly before 6pm, placing Park Orchards and Warrandyte out of danger.

With Manningham council's strict policy of refusing to issue permits to cull dead, dying and dangerous pine trees and issuing fines to those who transgress, most Park Orchards residents would probably flee rather than fight to save their homes in the event of a pine-fuelled firestorm.

A holocaust would happen if a fire swept through Park Orchards on a hot day—especially if Park Road was blocked by a fallen pine tree.

Raymond Hoser
Park Orchards

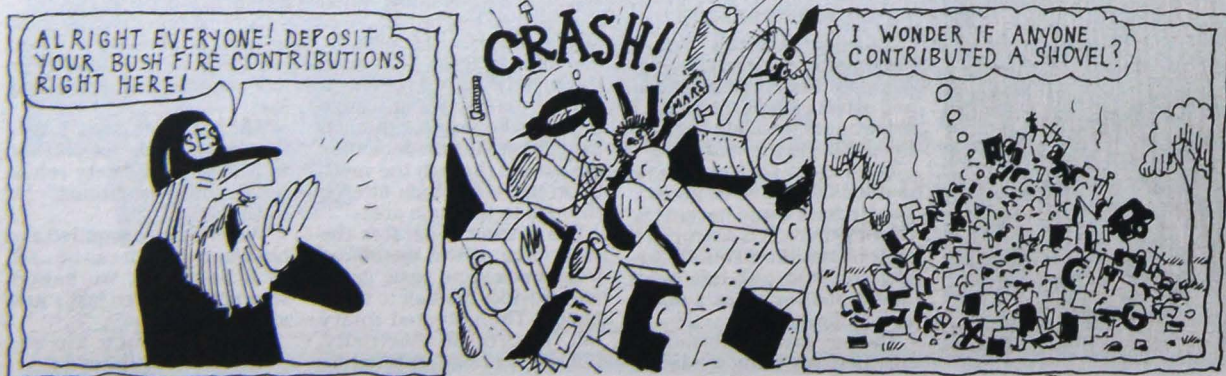
CLYDE & OCKER



"How about the government opening the gold mine tunnels as bushfire shelters, Ock?"

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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Community rallies for bushfire victim relief

By KARLY HICKMAN

Tragedy so close to home galvanised Warrandyte's community spirit as we rallied to support troubled neighbours.

Warrandyte High School, Lions Club, Rotary Opp Shop, Neighbourhood House, the RSL and Bendigo Bank stepped up to provide relief to bushfire areas.

"People's generosity was extraordinary," Warrandyte Neighbourhood House manager Karen Throssell told the *Diary*.

Students at Warrandyte High, many directly affected by Black Saturday bushfires, made personal care packages for their counterparts at Whittlesea Secondary College.

"Students were moved by the plight of those affected by the recent devastating fires and eager to assist in some way, responding with a rapidly executed project to support the students of Whittlesea Secondary College," teacher Greg Stewart said.

Students tried to give what they thought young people might want or need at such a traumatic time. "The high school community responded quickly and generously to the call for donations," Mr Stewart said.

They put together 350 personal toiletry care packages with such products such as lip balm, hair gel, soaps, shampoos, deodorants and even handmade chocolates. The packages were accepted by acting principal of Whittlesea Secondary College, former principal of Warrandyte High, Terry Twomey, on behalf of his students.

Warrandyte High School students were also affected by the fires, some losing their homes, many evacuated or with friends and family in the fire areas and others with parents actively involved in the CFA.

Staff organised a pancake morning tea to raise money to purchase uniforms and books for students who have lost everything in the fires, with ingredients donated by Victory IGA Warrandyte and barbecues and helpers provided by Warrandyte Community Church.

The Lions Club of Warrandyte and their Opportunity Shop swung into purposeful action in response to the Black Saturday fires.

Together, volunteers headed up an urgent campaign, collecting donated items and delivering them to relief centres throughout fire areas.



Warrandyte High School kids remembered their friends at Whittlesea Secondary College. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

"This is what the Lions are all about, involvement in the community, especially at times of adversity," said Lions secretary Ian Abell.

On hearing the magnitude of the fire disaster on the morning of Sunday the 8th, Opportunity Shop manager Liz Prewett, together with members of the Lions Club, gathered clothing, blankets and shoes from the shop's shelves and loaded them into a four-wheel drive bound for the Whittlesea Relief Centre. This first shipment was made immediately available to bushfire survivors.

By Monday, increasing donations from the public, local businesses and the Rotary Opportunity Shop overflowed into the foyer and rooms of the Community Centre. By Monday night, another load was off to the Whittlesea Relief Centre.

After the Lions got word from their counterparts in Eildon that supplies were needed in Alexandra, another delivery was made. Ron Cuthbert and

club president Laurie Hilakari made the hazardous journey through thick smoke to get the delivery to Alexandra.

"We headed back home with a careful watch to our left as the smoke haze had increased to alarming rates, expecting the fires to come over the hill at any moment," Mr Hilakari said.

On Wednesday morning, Lions Club members travelled to the Whittlesea Relief Centre to relieve Whittlesea Lions who had been cooking meals for firefighters since Saturday.

Donations of baby food, non-perishable food, toiletries, pet food, air mattresses and sleeping bags were organised and distributed. "At times there were up to 40 people in the Community Centre. Many came in off the street to help sort and pack, a kind lady even made hot scones for these volunteers," Liz Prewett said.

Local businesses played an important role, with Aumann's orchard delivering fresh fruit

that the club distributed to exhausted firefighters in designated rest areas. "I am deeply moved by the support I received from the community and local businesses," Liz Prewett told the *Diary*.

The Lions Club has resolved to make cash donations totalling \$50,000 for identified immediate community fire safety needs. This comes out of an emergency reserve fund established over 20 years ago. Mr Hilakari said,

"It has been busy and overwhelming but satisfying to be in a position to help in such a tangible and meaningful way. Thanks must go to the Community Centre management for their help and to the great community of Warrandyte for a wonderful effort to help others in need."

Meanwhile, upstairs at Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, they asked, "what would we miss most if we had nothing at all?" Manager Karen Throssell led a donation drive for items to be included in "pamper packs" that

would be donated to bushfire survivors.

"We were aware that relief centres were overflowing with donations, so we wanted to do something different," Ms Throssell said. With the help of the community and local businesses, over 100 packs were produced, full of soaps, hand cream, skin rescue remedy, even vouchers for massages.

Neighbourhood House is now focussing on making craft packs for patch workers, spinners, weavers and tapestry artists who have lost their materials in the fires. Warrandyte residents are invited to donate pre-sorted materials to Neighbourhood House.

Warrandyte Tennis Club is donating their members' night tennis fees for the week to a tennis club in the bushfire area.

The Warrandyte RSL hosted a bushfire relief fundraising day. More than 400 people attended the function, which boasted 25 auctions and prizes, bands and sausage sizzle.

"There were many generous donors, corporate and private," RSL's Robin Batty said.

The RSL's regular Sunday bands Orangatango, The Thod, Catfish Pie and The DDT's donated their performance to the cause. The day raised \$15,000, to be donated to survivors in St Andrews and Kinglake.

"The RSL thanks the Warrandyte community and its guests from near and far for supporting this worthy endeavour," Robin Batty said.

Warrandyte's Bendigo Bank Branch manager Mark Challen said that many residents have been coming in to donate over the counter to the bank's Bushfires Appeal Account. The combined contributions of customers at Bendigo Bank branches across Australia have totalled over \$6 million.

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is running workshops to assist local people in dealing with fire stress. These sessions are currently running every second Thursday at 12.30pm.

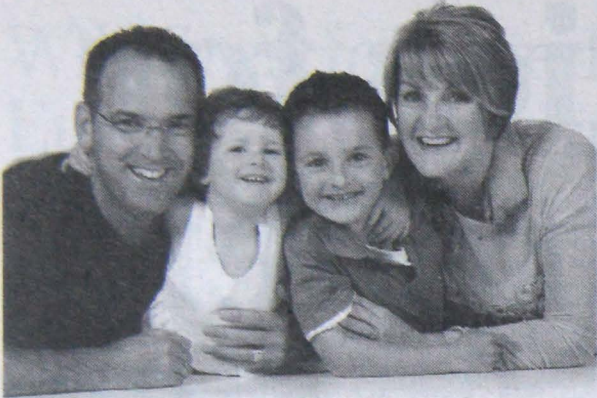


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Life-saving mum: Author Suzanna Paxton and her family—husband Andrew and kids Emily and Samuel.

Local author hits allergies

First-hand family experience underpins a recently published book, dealing with food allergies, written by a Bradleys Lane mum.

Suzanna Paxton is a highly-qualified nurse whose children are both allergic to a variety of foods.

Samuel, who attends Warrandyte Primary School, is allergic and anaphylactic to eggs and has suffered three critical and life-threatening events. Emily attends childcare and preschool and is allergic to peanuts, tree nuts, soy and sesame seeds.

Allergy Safe Family Food is "essentially a cook book," Ms Paxton says, "but it is coded to help families avoid the top nine foods—peanut, tree nut, dairy, soy, wheat, gluten, fish and shellfish and sesame seed—that cause 95 per cent of food allergies.

"Both my children are happy, healthy kids, as long as they do not eat or come in contact with these foods. So at times it can be difficult



for people to cater for my children when they visit for parties, sleepovers and so on," Ms Paxton said.

"This is the only book available that caters for the top nine foods, as many cater for gluten and wheat free, dairy or nut free, and so on."

● *Allergy Safe Family Food* is published by Harper Collins and is available from good bookshops.

Church is still alive

By KARLY HICKMAN

St Stephens Anglican Church played host to Warrandyte's Catholic, Community and Uniting congregations as they came together in the last week of February to commemorate the beginning of Lent.

The joint communion and supper was the first held in Warrandyte for a number of years and was well attended by worshippers from all four denominations.

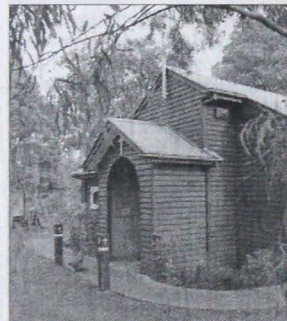
"It was a privilege for St Stephens to host such an event," priest-in-charge, Rev Neville Mellor, told the *Diary*. The church was faced with the threat of closure last year.

Along with St Stephen's Rev Mellor, Pastor Associate Lorraine McCarthy of St Gerard's Catholic Church, Pastor Peter Keep from the Warrandyte Community Church, and Rev Lynette Dungan from the Warrandyte Uniting Church joined in communion.

Rev Neville Mellor will continue his services as priest in charge at St Stephens until the end of March, when he will return to retirement.

"At the beginning of April, either another locum will be appointed or there is still the possibility of St Stephens amalgamating with another parish," Rev Mellor said.

In the mean time, St Stephens is looking healthy, with a continuing rise in numbers, a newly elected, fully-functioning vestry and baptisms on the calendar.



St Stephen's Anglican Church

Netballers score room



Cr David Ellis congratulates Sonya Febbo, president of the Netball Club and David Dyason of WCA on the good news, while the some of the beneficiaries look on.

Warrandyte netballers are celebrating a home of their own—at last. By agreement with the Warrandyte Senior Citizens, a room behind the stage in their Taroona Avenue clubroom has been made available to the netball club, at least for the present.

Warrandyte councillor, David Ellis, said he was pleased to support the venture through a \$12,000 Manningham council ward allocation grant.

"The club, with determined advocacy from WCA's David Dyason, has been looking to secure change-rooms and facilities for some time," Cr Ellis said. "It is terrific that WCA has brought this idea forward and that our senior citizens have graciously agreed."

Meanwhile, the netball club continues working towards the building of a new complex, complete with indoor training courts and adequate change rooms.

School leaders meet MP

At a recent assembly at Warrandyte Primary School, local MP Ryan Smith presented school leaders with their badges. He congratulated the students on their election as school and house leaders.

"The school's leadership program encourages students to be role models for younger students, work cooperatively with others and take on new responsibilities," principal Gill Binger told the *Diary*. "We expect them to uphold the school values of harmony, creativity, integrity and achievement."

Pictured (from left to right back row): Tom, Tenae, Ashley next to Ryan Smith, then John, Connor, Max and Maggie; (front row): Jack, Taylor and Lachlan.



Winds of change

Manningham council is exploring the possibility of wind energy with wind monitors at the council depot and civic centre.

Data collected will add to the information Sustainability Victoria is gathering on wind resources and seasonal variations across different locations statewide.

Manningham is exploring the possibility of wind power generating energy for council buildings and other locations.

"A wind turbine can create reliable, cost-effective and pollution-free energy and it is a clean energy source that can be relied on for the long-term future," mayor Cr Charles Pick said.

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Good water from bad



By TRISTAN MADDOCKS
A new environmentally friendly wastewater treatment facility will be used to water the Warrandyte High School oval and eliminate the school's blackwater effluent flowing into the Yarra River.

Local company Enviro Friendly Plumbing has been working with the school to install the new system, which will be operational from early March.

"The sporting oval below the high school will actually be maintained solely on all the wastewater from the school," Enviro Friendly Plumbing director Rory Fort told the *Diary*.

"We are hoping to have no water going from (the school) into the river any more. We are keeping a lot of the bugs out and helping to improve our river health."

The new setup uses a Root-Zone treatment system, which filters wastewater through a series of reed beds and an ultraviolet disinfectant unit

Above: New waste water treatment facility at Warrandyte High School. Right: Rory Fort compares tap water—left bottle—with recycled reedbed water—right bottle. (Pictures by Stephen Reynolds)

before storing the water for irrigation.

It is a significant upgrade from the previous treatment facility, which had been in operation since the school's construction 30 years ago. It treated wastewater with a trickling filter and chlorine before diverting it to the river.

The old system was designed to treat 6000 litres per day but an increased student base had left it trying to treat 15,000 litres per day.

Warrandyte High School assistant principal Stephen Parkin said the new system would allow the school to provide a top class, drought proof sports oval for its students.

"The school is overjoyed



with its new oval and looking forward to an even better surface when the recycled water comes online," he said.

"Aesthetically, the installation of the vertical reed bed system has involved the addition of two water tanks and a small garden shed. These have all been incorporated into the original treatment plant enclosure with only a small increase in the overall enclosure size."

The upgrade was made possible by a federal government Community Water grant and the cost efficient nature of the reed bed technology.

Mr Fort said he hoped that future modifications of the system would allow treated water to be put to wider use in the school.

"In the future we hope to be able to use it back into the school, for flushing toilets for instance."

WarrandyteCAN brings water tidings to the community

By TRISTAN MADDOCKS
Warrandyte residents have been warned by water experts to expect stringent water restrictions to continue as Melbourne looks to diversify its water resource base over the next few years.

"We are not going to see the benefits of (water resource) augmentation until the middle of next decade," said Andrew Allan, strategic water engineer at Manningham council.

"(But) in the big picture, there is enough water if we are able to capture it to meet household needs."

Mr Allan was speaking at a public meeting organised by the Warrandyte Climate Action Now (CAN) group late last month.

He was joined by Andrew Hinchcliffe, manager of the behaviour change program at Yarra Valley Water, and Rory Fort, who runs Enviro Friendly

Plumbing. Mr Allan spoke about the challenges facing Melbourne's water and the possible impact of the recent bushfires on our catchments.

"The threats to our storages are reduced rainfall, drier soil, bushfire and growing demand," he said.

Melbourne Water has acknowledged that about 30 per cent of Melbourne's water catchments have been damaged by the bushfires, but said Melburnians will not suffer reduced water quality as a result.

Mr Allan said Melbourne's water would come from several different sources in the future, and spoke about the state government's plans to build a north-south pipeline and the Wonthaggi desalination plant.

He said the desalination plant would come at an "ener-

gy intensive" cost and would lead to a rise in the price consumers pay for water.

"I think the new options are going to take more energy, so we need to look at ways to increase our energy efficiency," he said.

Mr Hinchcliffe agreed with Mr Allan that the price of water was going to rise in the near future. "The price of water is going up essentially because of the infrastructure we are putting in place," he said.

"It has to be paid for. Water will probably have doubled (in price)."

Mr Hinchcliffe spoke about the importance of meeting the Victorian government's target 155 campaign, which aims to reduce daily household water usage to 155 litres. "Target 155 is an alternative; it's an alternative to stage four restrictions. I'm not a policymaker,

but stage four restrictions would mean no more water use outside the house."

If introduced, stage four water restrictions would disallow any watering of outside areas—residential, commercial and public—and ban the washing of vehicles.

Enviro Plumbing head Rory Fort informed the meeting about the water treatment systems his company has been installing in and around Warrandyte.

Mr Fort discussed the operation of reed bed treatment systems, which treat greywater and blackwater and can be used to recycle water for garden use. (See report this page.)

● WarrandyteCAN's second Sustainability Expo will be held on Saturday, April 4 between 10.30am and 4pm at the Warrandyte Community Centre in Yarra Street.

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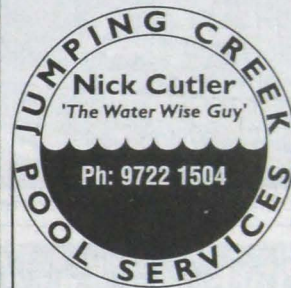
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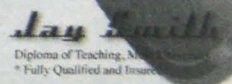


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No fireworks, festival reaches for the moon

By JOANNE GREEN

The Sunday night fireworks display that traditionally closes the Warrandyte Festival has been officially cancelled for 2009. During the past two years there have been last minute cancellations of the fireworks due to unsuitable weather conditions.

Questions arose in Festival Committee meetings as to the appropriateness of fireworks in Warrandyte with extreme weather conditions causing worry over past weeks. It was decided that staging a fireworks display this year would not be responsible.

The fireworks will be re-

placed by an interactive show entitled "Man in the Moon" created by local artist Hugh McSpedden. The Man in the Moon will be a 5 metre latex weather balloon resting atop the open-air stage.

"Technical facilities will be provided to allow the possibility for children to become that man in the moon," Hugh McSpedden told the *Diary*.

A camera will be set up to allow anyone who wants to see themselves in the moon to make a recording of themselves. The recording will then be projected on to the balloon for a few seconds. It is anticipated that the projections will

provide audience involvement and will be as exciting for the kids as the fireworks would have been.

The balloon will be transformed into the moon during the Finale Concert, when darkness descends over Stiggants Reserve.

Included in the evening's entertainment will be performances from such outstanding entertainers as Ella Thompson, Lil Fi and Labjad.

A no smoking ban, which will apply around the stage areas all weekend in an effort to make the festival more family friendly, will be enforced during the Sunday concert.

Bank sponsors meeting rooms

Two newly-renovated and well-equipped meeting rooms are available at the Warrandyte Community Centre situated at the corner of Yarra and Webb streets.

The Warrandyte Community Bank has arranged and financed the refurbishment of the rooms. They are available to local community groups free of charge.

"The Warrandyte Community Bank branch of the Bendigo Bank is the leaseholder of two inter-connected rooms on the upper floor of the centre," a bank spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"The meeting rooms are equipped with wireless internet connection and seating for around 12 people in one room and six in the other. Photocopying facilities are available and data projection facilities will be available in the near future.

"As part of the bank's commitment to local clubs and organisations, the rooms can be used completely free of charge by any local not-for-profit organisation and be rented for a reasonable fee by other organisations," the spokesperson said.

● To book the meeting rooms, call Mark Challen at the Community Bank on 9844 2233, visit the branch in Yarra Street, or book through Brian Prewett at the Community Centre, 9844 4503.

Weeding raffle on again at festival



A young Friend of North Warrandyte on a group planting day last year.

Local conservation group, the Friends of North Warrandyte, is once again running a unique raffle at the Warrandyte Festival.

The winner will receive a visit from a squad from the group. They will weed your garden, help identify your native fauna and plant indigenous Warrandyte plants from their own nursery.

"Weeding and planting is what we do and love," president Leon Grinszpan told the

Diary, "so wouldn't you like your garden weeded for only \$2, the price of a ticket in our raffle?"

The group was launched over three years ago with a brief to confront years of neglect of Stony Creek in North Warrandyte. It now has more than 70 members.

● Raffle tickets will be available at the group's stand at the festival. Further information from <http://www.FONW.org.au>



Music will be a feature at the 2009 festival. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

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Wed 10.30am-12.00pm
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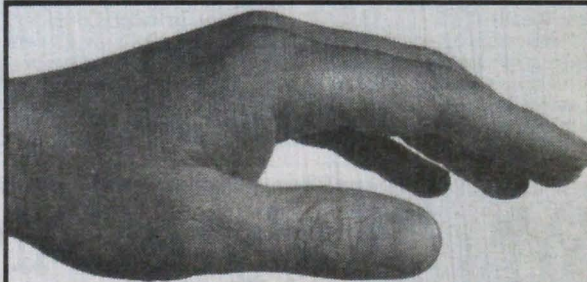
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9844 2271 • 188 Yarra Street Warrandyte
Fully Licensed • Closed on Tuesday

On behalf of my family and staff, I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to all those affected by the bushfires.

Our sincere gratitude goes to all of the fire fighters, emergency service workers and volunteers who have done so much to help.

It is in these times of adversity that we band together as a community to help a friend in need.



Ryan Smith

Member for Warrandyte

44 New Street, Ringwood 3134
Tel: 9870 7396 - Fax: 9870 9518
Email: ryan.smith@parliament.vic.gov.au



Serving the community

Written & Authorised by: Ryan Smith MP, 44 New Street, Ringwood 3134
Ph: 9870 7396

Billanook College Tour

Saturday 21 March 2009

10.15am for 10.30am start > RSVP Essential > Morning Tea and Tour start promptly at 10.30am



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Come and see what creates our success

Billanook is a co-educational College of the Uniting Church for Prep – VCE with an outstanding reputation for developing well rounded, happy, confident, young individuals.



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Get your produce fresh and buy it directly from the people who grow or make it.

Free range meats, seasonal fruits and vegetables, olives and olive oil, cheese, honey and wine and a range of specialty produce from Nillumbik and surrounding regions.

When: Sunday 5 April 2009 from 8.30am - 1pm and every first Sunday of the month until December

Where: Fergusons Paddock, Arthurs Creek Road, Hurstbridge

\$2 entry – proceeds to the CFA
www.hurstbridgefarmersmarket.com.au
Enquiries: 9433 3315



Kevin Andrews MP

Federal Member for Menzies
Level 1/651 Doncaster Rd Doncaster 3108
Tel: 9848 9900
Email: Kevin.Andrews.mp@aph.gov.au
www.kevinandrews.au.com

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund 1800 811 700

In the wake of the devastating black Saturday bushfires may I express on behalf of our local community, deep sadness and sympathy to all who have lost family members, friends or their homes in these tragic bushfires.

The destruction caused by fire is overwhelming and we owe much gratitude to all those who have been fighting against the fires – members of the CFA, SES, Victoria Police, army personnel and thousands of volunteers who continue to invest their time and energy to help hard-hit communities.

Assistance for people affected by the bushfires is available through the services listed below:

- Centrelink queries: 180 22 11
- Victorian Bushfire hotline: 1800 240 667
- Emotional help for survivors: 1300 606 024
- Hearing/speech impaired: TTY 1800 122 969

Websites include: www.dhs.vic.gov.au www.fireready.vic.gov.au www.redcross.org.au

Community spirit, at this sad time, has been strong with Australians joining together to offer their support. I trust this support and the collective good-will can help those who have lost so much in the bushfires.

Kevin Andrews MP

Apply now

Community Enterprise™
Foundation

Warrandyte Community Grants Program

A Warrandyte community grant may be just what your community organisation needs to make a great idea happen

To find out more

Warrandyte **Community Bank**® Branch – 144 Yarra Street or phone 9844 2233

Who is eligible for support?

- Organisations, clubs or community groups that apply:
- > Must be recognised as an endorsed charity by the ATO with Deductible Gift Recipient Status or be a not-for-profit organisation; and
 - > Should have an ABN

Applications Close – Friday 24 April 2009

Community Enterprise™ Foundation ABN 69 694 230 518, Community Enterprise™ Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968, The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo, VIC 3550, (522893) (02/09)



Warrandyte
Community Bank® Branch



LIFT-OUT OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Warrandyte Village Festival



Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 March 2009



A frolic of festivals...

CLIFF GREEN tracks the story of the Warrandyte Village Festival, right back to its beginnings 32 years ago.

An unforeseen emergency set the pattern that guaranteed the Warrandyte Festival would remain a "homemade" community event.

That first festival, titled "This is Warrandyte", planned for the Anzac Day weekend in 1977, happened to coincide with a state-wide strike by petrol workers. By the weekend of April 23, 24 and 25 Victoria had run out of fuel.

The tourists couldn't get here, but the locals walked and rode bikes and horses and virtually the whole town turned out. The weather was perfect and everyone celebrated this unique traffic-free, clean air weekend. The die was cast.

That historic first year, and for several years following, the festival was run by the Warrandyte Environment League, a local lobby group seeking to broaden its image. Many other district organisations participated.

The Youth Club ran a children's fancy-dress ball on the Thursday evening and a rock dance on Friday night. The Warrandyte Historical Society mounted an outstanding history display in St Stephens Hall and the North Warrandyte Pre-school had a dinner dance.

The Saturday parade, from the bridge to Stiggants Reserve has remained a major event right through to the present day. The Victorian Bush Music Club ran a Colonial Night at the Presbyterian Church (now Uniting). The Primary School (only one then) mounted a photographic and school project display and the WAA Theatrekids staged *The Wizard of Warrandyte*, a "play for the whole family".

Although the first parade terminated there, Stiggants Reserve had not yet emerged as the festival's principal venue, although it was the site of a carnival organised by the Apex Club and an afternoon family concert and BYO barbecue, both run by WEL.

With the Anzac Day holiday on the Monday, this first festival was a three-day event, with the Anzac Day parade incorporated into the program and a WAA art and pottery exhibition in the Mechanics Institute Hall.

The following year it was still called "This is Warrandyte" with WEL as principal organisers and all the groups from the previous year taking part, with a few additions: the kindergarten ran the first pet show and the football club staged a wheelbarrow race. Without a convenient public holiday it had settled down as a two-day event. Also in 1978 the idea of a festival theme was first introduced, with "Living in a Conservation Zone" the rather po-faced slogan.

The Apex Club carnival was held at Stiggants Reserve once again. The Follies were yet to evolve, but the WAA Drama Group contributed a locally written show described as "a melodrama with milk and sugar". A Folk Festival, running from 3pm to 11pm was setting the stage for the Sunday night Finale

Concert, still continuing. Local folk group Paradiddle made their first appearance, introducing their specially composed song, "Warrandyte Morning".

By the following year—1979—WEL was announcing that Stiggants Reserve would be the principal venue for the festival. The pattern was being set, with all the "old" events returning, plus such newcomers as gold-panning, wagon

cial disco" at the Whitehouse and a "lively concert" by the Warrandyte Elderly Citizens at their clubrooms. Apart from continuing to act as the festival's principal source of publicity, the *Diary* participated in the program that year, mounting a display to mark their 100th issue. The WAA Drama Group was playing "The Insect Comedy" (the mind boggles!) at the hall.

The festival was officially ex-

ics Institute on Sunday afternoon. The kids got another run at a youth talent quest, organised by professional performers Terry and Carol Ann Gill.

The WAA Drama Group were at it again with Festival Frolicks, featuring "an hilarious medieval melodrama". BYO everything plus TIAB (take it all back). Pats with a live wombat were freely available in the State Park rangers' tent and

Sulo bin race, organised by the scouts and featuring "fathers shoving their children into plastic wheeled garbage bins and setting off down a dusty, kid-strewn track". Heritage was a hit in 1986 with an egg-and-spoon race, according to the *Diary*, "furtively sponsored by the Egg Board in the interests of flogging more cacklefruit".

Two things happened at the 1987 festival. The "This is Warrandyte" title was abandoned and the concept of a theme was reintroduced. "The Magic of Warrandyte" was the slogan, with an appropriate Jock Macneish logo. And it rained and it rained and it rained: "A good time was had by almost everyone," the *Diary* headlined.

In 1989 the duck race was run for the first time with the river featured in the program, including a festival floaties challenge, line throwing, river rescue spectacular, boat rides and a safety rules test, all monitored by the Yarra River Lifeguard Service.

The 1990 event—officially called the Warrandyte Village Festival for the first time—coincided with a federal election. The theme for our "lucky 13th festival" was Movement, Noise and Colour. Obsessed with ghouls and vampires, the WAA Drama Goup's Festival Follies were described as "frightful fun".

February 1991 saw bushfires invade Warrandyte once more. Debate raged about the wisdom of the Sunday night fireworks display. The fireworks prevailed, but contention has continued in the years since. Not only because of fire risk but also the resultant alarm and panic of local pets and wildlife.

Highlight in 1992 was the Warrandyte Festival Undie 500, described as a "novelty race in which all entrants run in their undies or nighties (or someone else's) over a 500 metre course". The duck race was cancelled that year, ruffling lots of feathers.

"Our Place in Space" was the 1993 theme, inspiring a group of talented locals to create an open-air light and sound show, utilising giant puppets, a pre-recorded sound track, special light and sound effects, live action and pageantry. Thousands attended in the natural amphitheatre beside the old dairy site in Yarra Street. They said the applause could be heard in Eltham.

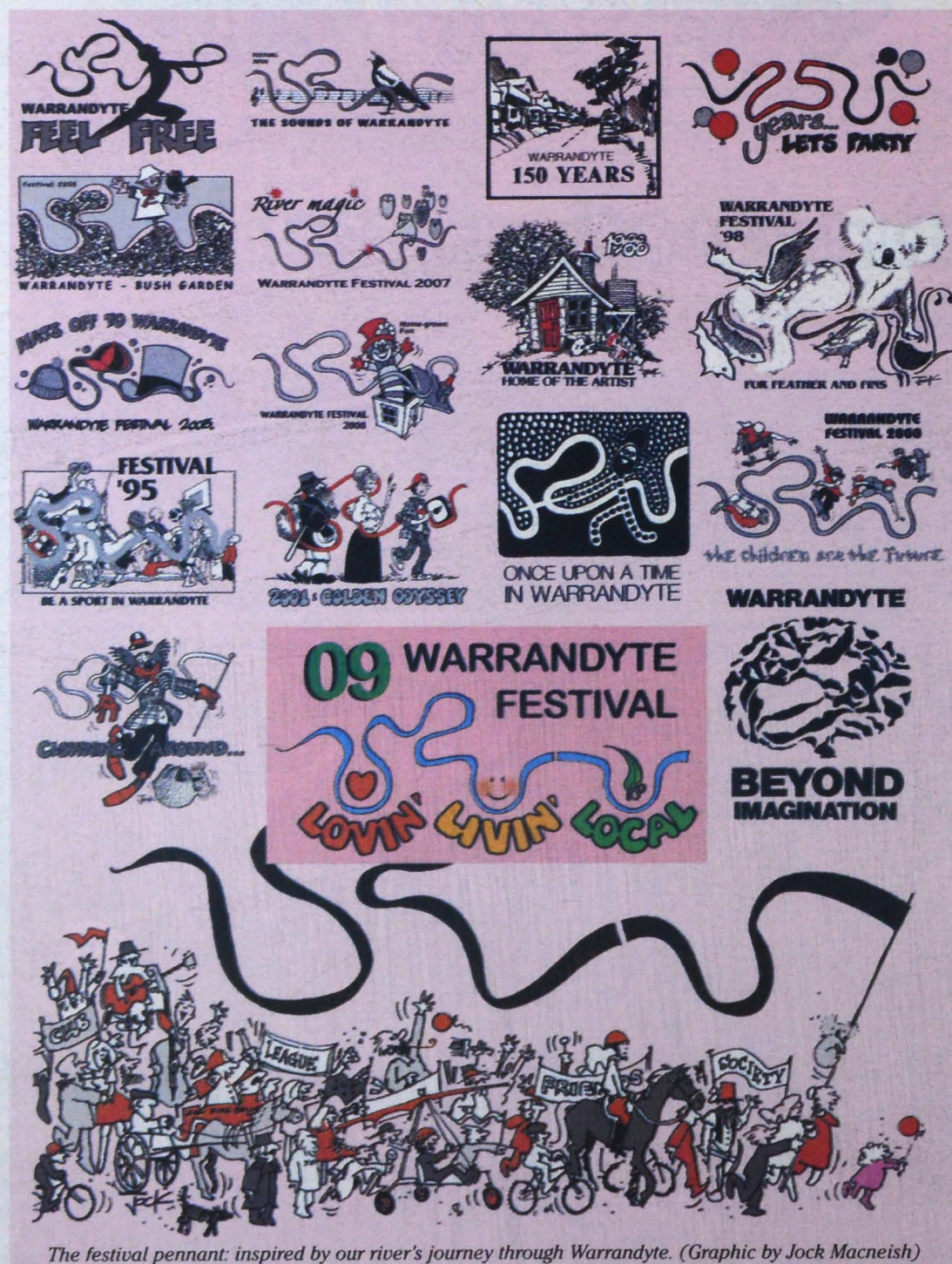
And so the show has continued until the present day.

Funding has always been difficult, with councils both sides of the river as principal sources of finance. Councils have offered paid officials as festival organisers, but the committee has resisted. The Warrandyte Festival began as a "home-grown" affair, and so it has continued.

Efforts have been made to convert it to a fund-raising event or a carnival with such commercial attractions as helicopter rides and dodge-em cars. Again, emphasis was placed on true community involvement.

We have watched neighbouring festivals and carnivals succumb to these temptations, only to see them collapse or convert to trader-run commercial events. Warrandyte Festival has evolved over the years; some attractions have remained, others have disappeared. But our festival has always been—and will undoubtedly remain—a true celebration of community.

This year's slogan sums it up: "Lovin', Livin', Local".



rides, canoe races and a bicycle derby. The festival ran across the weekend of March 31-April 1 and the organisers took the opportunity to announce a "surprise activity for April Fools' Day". As well as the folk concert, Paradiddle supplied the music for a combined Historical Society and WAA Colonial Old Time Dance at the Mechanics Institute. The Uniting Church ran goldfield tours to Fourth Hill—also still continuing.

Young and old were well catered for at the 1980 festival with a "spe-

tended in 1981 to include Thursday through to Saturday. The Festival Follies made their first appearance, announced as two nights of "music, mirth and melodrama", featuring "many local leading lights with Mr Martin Walker topping the bill as compere and Dulcie Griffiths on the piano". Also featuring that year was the Billycart Derby, destined to become a festival fixture.

The kids at Andersons Creek Primary School starred in 1982, performing *Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat* at the Mechan-

ics Institute on Sunday afternoon. The kids got another run at a youth talent quest, organised by professional performers Terry and Carol Ann Gill.

The WAA Drama Group were at it again with Festival Frolicks, featuring "an hilarious medieval melodrama". BYO everything plus TIAB (take it all back). Pats with a live wombat were freely available in the State Park rangers' tent and

Warrandyte Village Festival Program



ALL WEEKEND

SATURDAY 21 MARCH: 9am - 5pm
SUNDAY 22 MARCH: 10am - 4pm
(Unless otherwise stated)

FESTIVAL INFORMATION CARAVAN: East of Main Stage on Stiggants Reserve. All festival information, lost property, lost children. Buy your ducks here for the Duck Race.

FIRST AID: Available from St John Ambulance in the West Riverbank area.

RADIO EASTERN FM 98.1: Be constantly up to date with Festival happenings. Radio Eastern FM is broadcasting live from the Stiggants Riverbank area all weekend.

FESTIVAL ART WORKS: Spaced out over the reserve. Enjoy art works by the artyfarty artists and the senior citizens from Artlinks. All works are produced at very low cost but lots of hands make fun times.

STIGGANTS RIVERBANK

FESTIVAL FEASTING: Lots of food to suit every taste available all weekend including Saturday and Sunday evenings. Wine tastings from local wineries.

WARRANTYTE COMMUNITY GARDEN: Guess the weight of the pumpkin.

PARKS VICTORIA DISPLAY and FRIENDS OF WARRANTYTE STATE PARK DISPLAY: Extend your knowledge of the park—displays & videos.

WOODCRAFT MANNINGHAM: Woodturning machines on display.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE: Static display including local aerial photographs.

MANNINGHAM CITY COUNCIL: Information and displays.

WARRANTYTE CFA: Fire safety.

NILLUMBIK SHIRE COUNCIL: Information and displays.

WARRANTYTE CLIMATE ACTION NOW (CAN): Learn about issues of climate change.

WARRANTYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION: Community information.

ANIMALS ON THE MOVE: Feed and cuddle farmyard favourites. Small charge.

WARRANTYTE TOY LIBRARY: Kids' activities.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE: Meet staff and volunteers, discuss courses and support groups and find out about this fabulous local resource. Activities include the Busy Needles craft group who will be there all weekend. See tent for times and activities. Free "House" biscuits and a 20% discount on classes to all new customers who visit the tent.

TENNIS SERVING COMPETITION: Check your service speed by radar (as seen during the Australian Open). Run by Warrandyte Tennis Club.

ELTHAM STEAM & STATIONARY ENGINE PRESERVATION SOCIETY: Display of working engines and machinery.

PROSPECTORS AND MINERS: Display of old gold mining equipment. Children can come and pan for gold!

PONY RIDES: Run by the Village School.

ABORIGINAL ART

SALTY THE BLACKSMITH: See demonstrations on his forge.

ELTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION: Focus on sustainability.

CERES BRUNSWICK ENERGY TRAILER

WARRANTYTE NETBALL ASSOCIATION

NILLUMBIK TOURIST ASSOCIATION

STIGGANTS RESERVE

ART AND CRAFT MARKET: Homegrown or handmade products including craft, produce, plants, clothes, jewellery and other goodies.

FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES: A range of free art and craft activities for children will take place in the children's tent over the weekend. Run by the Warrandyte Uniting Church from 12noon-3.45pm.

KIDS' GIANT WATER SLIDE: Starts noon Saturday. Run by Scouts. Changing tent available. Bring bathers and towel. \$1 per ride or \$5.00 for all-day pass.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

ROTARY ART SHOW: Featuring local and interstate artists. Warrandyte Community Church in Yarra Street. Open 9am-6pm Saturday, 11am-4pm Sunday. Admission \$2.

WARRANTYTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM: The museum features displays on Warrandyte's aboriginal, gold mining, artist and general social history. 111 Yarra Street. Entry is free between 12noon & 4pm Saturday and Sunday.

WARRANTYTE COMMUNITY CHURCH: LEISURE ON THE LAWN. Behind church, adjacent to Riverbank Reserve. Hang out and have coffee. Enjoy activities for all ages. Festival Service Sunday 10am.



WARRANTYTE FESTIVAL
Saturday 21 & Sunday 22
March 2009

Warrandyte Festival Official Program sponsored by

Warrandyte
Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank

THURSDAY 19 to SATURDAY 21 MARCH THURSDAY 26 to SATURDAY 28 MARCH THURSDAY 2 to SATURDAY 4 APRIL

THE FESTIVAL FOLLIES "The 7 Deadly Follies". A tongue-in-cheek look at the seven deadly sins and sinning in general! March 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, April 2, 3 and 4. Mechanics Institute Hall. BYO food and drink. \$18 per head, \$15 concession. 7.30pm. Bookings: Joan Rogers at The Old Bakery Cottage Bookshop, 189 Yarra Street, 9844 1744. Booking essential.

FRIDAY 20 MARCH

YOUTH STAGE Featuring seven local bands battling it out for top spot and an additional performance at the Saturday night main stage event! Bands include Mad Dah & The Hyphenators, Triact, Silent City, Up An At Em, Mersey, Quint and The After Editions. Warrandyte Community Centre, 6.30pm till 11pm. Entry is free. This is a drug and alcohol free event.

ROTARY ANNUAL ART SHOW: OFFICIAL OPENING & COCKTAIL PARTY from 7.30pm \$15 Warrandyte Community Church, Yarra St. Tickets and Art Show entry forms from Margory Lapworth, 9844 4495.

SATURDAY 21 MARCH

9am-5pm ALL-WEEKEND ACTIVITIES. See side panel.

Roving Entertainment: RUCCIS and RHYTHM ANTICS

9am-5pm: ROCK CLIMBING WALL: Riverbank area. Run by the Warrandyte Relay for Life Committee. Information will also be available on the upcoming Warrandyte Relay for Life to raise money for cancer research.

10.15am: PARADE MARSHALLING: At the bridge tennis courts (pedestrians and passengers) and Tills Drive (vehicles and horses).

10.30am: JUDGING OF FLOATS: Perpetual Trophy for best parade entry. Other categories: Most Colourful, Most Imaginative, Best Costumes/Make-up and Most Warrandyte-ish.

11am: OFFICIAL START OF PARADE: At Community Centre. Cutting of ribbon by local councillors.

11.10am: FESTIVAL PARADE: Including town crier Ian Craig, Festival monarch Alan Alder, bands, floats, vintage cars & more. Commentaries at Community Centre, Grand Hotel and Stiggants Reserve. Enquiries: Jill Parker, 9844 0180 or 0417 057 655.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE: Local artist Kim Tarpey will demonstrate her water colour and pastels. In Neighbourhood House stall east of rotunda on river reserve. Ask at the stall for session time.

12 noon: MAIN STAGE AT STIGGANTS: Official festival opening by the monarch of the Warrandyte Festival, Alan Alder, and local councillors, followed by entertainment provided by local schools, dance groups and musicians—see right hand panel for details. This stage is a non-smoking area.

12-4.45pm: RIVERBANK STAGE: MC Red the Clown with Rhythm Antics, Sarah Carnegie, Catchment Players, Jessica Paige and Josh Romig Duo and Mutton Music—see right hand panel for details.

4.30pm: HOME BREWING COMPETITION: Registration from 4.30pm and judging from 5pm, followed by announcement of winners. Warrandyte is full of home brewing enthusiasts and this is your chance to pit your skills against each other! Beer categories include stout, lager, bitter, ale, pilsner, draught, light/others and peoples' choice; \$2 per category. Please provide at least 2 bottles per category. Located in the tent next to the top Stiggants St entrance to the Reserve. (Ask at the information caravan if you can't find it). Sponsored by The Grand Hotel and Buckley's Beer.

4.30pm: CAR RESCUE: Police, CFA, Ambulance & SES. Simulation of a rescue from a crashed and burning vehicle in a combined training exercise. Riverbank near Stiggants St carpark.

5pm-10.30pm: SATURDAY NIGHT SWING: Stiggants' Main Stage. This stage is a non-smoking area. Top two bands from Friday night's youth concert will entertain us before an evening of swing and soul with The Teskey Brothers, Nudist Funk Orchestra and Frankie Wants Out—see right hand panel for details.

ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY

THE FESTIVAL FOLLIES See earlier in program for details.

SUNDAY 22 MARCH

10am-4pm ALL-WEEKEND ACTIVITIES. See side panel.

8am: WARRANTYTE FESTIVAL MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE: The Warrandyte Festival, YMCA Manningham and Parks Victoria are proud to present the 4th Annual Warrandyte MTB Ride. Ride through Warrandyte State Park by the Yarra and historical gold mining areas. The ride travels through Fourth Hill, Timber Reserve, The Common and Black Flat and finishes at the Festival. The ride is approximately 15km circuit conducted on fire access tracks which are rough and uneven. The ride will suit only experienced mountain bikers with reliable bikes and good level of personal fitness. Each rider must be fully independent with spare tube, pump and water. Meet at the Warrandyte Netball Courts from 8am for an 8.30am sharp departure. Riders must fill out a registration form prior to riding. The form can be downloaded from the Festival website. Enquiries: email warrandyte.cyclopaths@gmail.com, or visit the Festival website <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~warrfest> for an entry form.

9.30am: BILLYCART DERBY: Registration 8.30-9.15am. Police Street, outside police station. Ages 8-15. Plus a race for the parents. Lots of great prizes and trophies. Tea, coffee and snags on sale, so come for breakfast. \$7 registration. Enquiries Neil Carter, 0418 357 282. Sponsored by the YMCA.

9.30am: DOG SHOW & PET PARADE: Various categories, including cats, rabbits, hamsters, mice, goldfish, birds, etc. All animals welcome if under owner's control. Run by Warrandyte High School. Stiggants Riverbank. Enquiries: Sue Martin 9844 2749 or 9870 8720 (AH).

10am: COMMUNITY SINGING GATHERING: All welcome. No experience necessary. A warm up followed by a few songs with the theme "Autumn days". Meet next to the main stage. Enquiries Michelle, 0409 946 994.

10.30am-12.30pm: KIDS' MARKET: Applications are welcome for a stall with any home-made or home-grown goodies. There will be certificates awarded in three categories: Most Colourful, Most Creative and The Green Prize (for the most environmentally aware). Applications available from local schools. Enquiries Emma Rose 0407 173 619.

11am: NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE: Demonstration by Older People on the Move Fitness Class. Neighbourhood House stall east of Rotunda on river reserve.

11am-4.30pm: RIVERBANK STAGE: The Snakeman Reptile Show, Flash Twinkletoes, Chocolate Lillies, Circus Street Theatre Wassawumba, Glory Tuesday and Foot in the Door—see detailed program below.

Roving Entertainment includes JESS LOVE and FLASH TWINKLETOES

11.15am: AFTERNOON CONCERT MAIN STAGE AT STIGGANTS: A wide variety of musical entertainment featuring Eltham Concert Band, Orangotango, Catfish Pie, Dingley Dell Tones, Brunswick Blues Shooters and Emily and the Side Saddle Gals. See right hand panel for details. This stage is a non-smoking area.

2pm: GOLD MINE TOUR: (90 min duration) Join John Hanson for a leisurely walk and visit an 1850s gold mine. Wear flat shoes. Run by Uniting Church. Meet at 104 Webb Street. Donation to Walk Against Want appreciated. Further info phone 9844 3906.

2-2.30pm: NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE: Sophie Hastings Circuit Fitness class, Busy Needles craft group, plus displays of Hebel sculpture and felting. Neighbourhood House stall east of Rotunda on river reserve.

2.30pm: DUCK RACE: Ducks sold at schools beforehand, and during the weekend at the Information Caravan. See over 1000 ducks launched into the Yarra at Forbes Street, finishing at Stiggant Street. \$2 Entry. Trophies awarded. For further information contact Anne 9844 5141.

3.30pm: KIDS' GAMES: A chance for all kids to form teams and join in fun. Bigger kids (adults) will have their opportunity too. Run by Warrandyte Primary School at Children's Free Activity Tent on Stiggants Reserve.

4.30pm: CAR RESCUE: Police, CFA, Ambulance & SES. Simulation of a rescue from a crashed and burning vehicle in a combined training exercise. Riverbank near Stiggants St carpark.

5.35-9pm: FINALE CONCERT: Featuring Ella Thompson, Lil Fi and Labjad to close the concert—see right hand panel for details. Local artist Hugh McSpedden will also provide an Interactive Man in a five metre moon (along with a number of live Warrandyte Kids in the Moon), weather permitting. Main Stage, Stiggants Reserve. This stage is a non-smoking area.

ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY

THE PASTEL PALETTE Embrace the Festival theme "Lovin' Livin' Local" in paintings at an ART EXHIBITION at the Aumann family orchard. 150 Harris Gully Road, Warrandyte. Commencing 18 March 2009. Open daily 9am to 5pm. Free admission. All welcome.

TUESDAY 24 MARCH

THE VERY GRAND READ Our very popular evening of local writers reading their own work. This year's readers include three award-winning poets—Jordie Albiston, John Jenkins and Elizabeth Campbell. Cost \$12 (advance booking) and \$15 at the door. Supper provided and drinks at the bar. From 7.30pm at the Grand Hotel. Bookings at the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, 9844 1839.



YOUTH STAGE

NEW FRIDAY NIGHT TIME!

FRIDAY 20 MARCH

Featuring local bands battling it out for top spot and for a spot in the Saturday Night main stage event!

Bands include:
Mad Dash & The Hyphenators, Triact, Silent City, Up An At Em, Mersey, Quint, The After Editions.

FREE ENTRY
Warrandyte Community Centre
6.30pm till 11pm

THIS IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

STIGGANTS RESERVE- MAIN STAGE

NON SMOKING ZONE

SATURDAY 21 MARCH

12noon: Official opening of the Festival with Manningham and Nillumbik councillors and presentation of Festival Monarch Alan Alder.

12.15pm: Dramaskool @ Warranwood Primary School.

12.30pm: Warrandyte Primary School Bush Band.

1pm: Andersons Creek Primary School.

1.30pm: Park Orchards Primary School.

2pm: Warrandyte High School Symphonic Band.

2.30pm: Warrandyte Fifty-Five Plus Variety Group.

3pm: Sonic Dance. Enquiries 0416 007 711.

3.20pm: Dance Plus Dancers. Enquiries 9431 1933.

SATURDAY NIGHT SWING

5pm: Battle of the Bands runner up.

5.45pm: Battle of the Bands winner.

6.30pm: Teskey Brothers. A blues/reggae/ soul band from Warrandyte who have been a Festival favourite for many years.

7.45pm: Nudist Funk Orchestra. The Nudist Funk Orchestra AKA NFO is a seven-piece, booty-shaking extravaganza, who play a mixture of original tunes together with some very groovy and unusual covers.

9pm: Frankie Wants Out. The band is Frankie Wants Out, that unmistakable sound is Swing, and they've been making audiences jump from Fitzroy to Brisbane with no signs of letting up. Frankie Wants Out is a nine-piece band playing original red hot Swing tunes guaranteed to make you jump and give all the way across the Festival dance floor.

SUNDAY 22 MARCH

11.15am: Eltham Concert Band. Back again with its big and brassy sound.

12.30pm: Orangotango. Swing away those recession fears, dance into oblivion those financial depression funks.

1.30pm: Catfish Pie. Catfish Pie are a blend of blues, swampy backwater grooves with dash of alternate country thrown in too!

2.30pm: Dingley Dell Tones. Great local rock and roll! All your favourites guaranteed.

3.35pm: Brunswick Blues Shooters. Stone blues, country, folk and exotica at low volume.

4.30pm: Emily and the Side Saddle Gals. Lots of great harmonies, plus guitars, mandolin, drums and banjo. Oh Brother meets Johnny Cash and June Carter with a bit of Dolly Parton to top it off!

FINALE CONCERT

5.35pm: Ella Thompson. Showcasing Ella's smooth, inimitable style. A range of modern R&B sounds and old soul grooves!

6.40pm: Lil' Fi. A dynamic entertainer with a unique style hailing from the classic women's blues era. Nothing compares to the feel good energy of Lil' Fi.

7.30pm: Tribute to our emergency services.

7.55pm: Labjad ('lab-jacked'). This nine-piece Latin hip-hop outfit was described by Rolling Stone magazine as "one of the best live acts in the country".

from Dusk: Hugh McSpedden will provide an Interactive Man in a 5 metre Moon (along with a number of live Warrandyte Kids in the Moon), weather permitting.

RIVERBANK STAGE

SATURDAY 21 MARCH

12noon: MC Red the Clown.

12.15pm: Rhythm Antics.

1pm: Red the Clown.

1.15pm: Sarah Carnegie.

2pm: Red the Clown.

2.15pm: Catchment Players

(cast of "25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee").

3pm: Red the Clown.

3.15pm: Jessica Paige and Josh Romig Duo.

4pm: Red the Clown.

4.15pm: Mutton Music.

SUNDAY 22 MARCH

9.30am: Dog Show and Pet Parade run by Warrandyte High School.

11am: The Snake Man—Raymond Hoser.

12pm: Flash Twinkletoes.

12.30pm: The Chocolate Lillies.

1pm: Circus Street Theatre—Callan & Justin bring buskers to Warrandyte.

1.15pm: Wassawumba.

1.45pm: Circus Street Theatre.

2pm: Glory Tuesday.

2.45pm: The Snake Man—Raymond Hoser.

3.30pm: Foot in the Door

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~warrfest>



BUSHFIRE PREPARATION AND SURVIVAL

Manningham City Council has a Municipal Emergency Management Plan and a dedicated Municipal Fire Prevention Plan in place. The Plan identifies risks, and nominates agencies responsible for dealing with risk and the timeframes. Council undertakes its fire prevention program each year before the fire season and is continuing these activities, working with all agencies - Country Fire Authority (CFA), Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFB), Victoria Police, State Emergency Service (SES), the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and other State Government Agencies. For details on Council's bushfire prevention activities and vegetation management visit:

www.manningham.vic.gov.au/BushfirePrevention

One of Manningham's most valued features is the balance of City and Country. With large rural areas and vast natural areas of open space, fire prevention is a priority and Council is remaining vigilant to ensure Manningham is prepared.

The following information is a guide on some of the steps you can take to prepare yourself, your family and your property.

A brochure providing further details will shortly be distributed to all households.

KEEP INFORMED AND BE VIGILANT

- Call the Victorian Bushfire Information Hotline 1800 240 667 for incident updates and advice on actions during a bushfire
- Attend your local Country Fire Authority (CFA) Information Sessions - visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au for upcoming dates in your area
- Listen to ABC 774 - Official Emergency Radio Station
- Monitor fire activities by visiting the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- Monitor road closures through the VicRoads website www.vicroads.vic.gov.au
- Visit Council's Website www.manningham.vic.gov.au or contact Council on 9840 9333

PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY

- Keep grass cut and remove fine fuels (grasses, leaf litter, twigs) from your property
- Clean gutters and move wood piles away from your home
- Ensure hoses can reach all areas of your property
- Trim overhanging branches
- Plant trees and shrubs away from your home
- If you live in a high risk bushfire area,

consult with Council's Statutory Planning Unit regarding vegetation removal - phone 9840 9495

- Residents are eligible for FREE Green Waste Vouchers to dispose of green waste during March 2009 (in addition to the annual free vouchers offered in November/December)
- Install an alternative water system (like a water tank with pump)
- Install a sprinkler system
- Organise shelter for animals

PREPARE YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

Have a plan

Make sure everyone in your household knows what the plan is and what each person's responsibilities are. Declaration of Total Fire Ban or other high risk days should be your trigger to put your plan into action.

If your plan is to leave early, decide:

- When you will go
- Where you will go
- How to get there (prepare a map, know your routes/exit points)
- What you will take (important documents, valuables, emergency kit)
- What to do with pets
- Who you need to tell (family and friends)

DON'T LEAVE LATE

If you decide to leave your home, you must do so before fire threatens and road travel becomes hazardous with fallen debris and low visibility.

If your plan is to stay and protect your property:

- Prepare a fire kit: You will need protective clothing made from natural fibres (trousers and long-sleeve shirt, hat, goggles, face mask, leather boots, gloves).
- Gather fire fighting equipment to put out spot fires/embers (a metal bucket, mop, ladder to reach gutters, portable water pump and hoses)

- Fill baths and buckets with water. Hose down the house and have plenty of bottled water on hand
- Power and water supplies may not be reliable during a fire - carry a torch/batteries and have alternative water supplies
- Have a battery operated radio handy to keep informed
- Prevent smoke from entering your house - close doors/windows and use wet towels and blankets to seal gaps
- When a fire front arrives seek shelter from radiant heat inside away from windows. A fire front typically passes within 20 minutes.

For more details visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au

PRIVATE PROPERTY FIRE RISK

Council's Health and Local Laws Unit undertakes proactive fire risk inspections across the municipality annually to monitor/reduce areas of fire risk. Following the first round of inspections in October 2008, a total of 342 notices were served to owners of private property where overgrown grass presented a fire risk - with a request to cut. Following the notices being issued, Council's contractor cleared a total of 258 private blocks considered a fire risk. The first cut was undertaken late October/November 2008. The second round was completed in January. Since the recent bushfires, residents have raised several concerns about potential fire hazards on private property. Council has responded to these requests - giving them high priority with 24 hour turn around. **Residents are encouraged to help identify potential fire hazards and report them - phone 9840 9333.** Council can take action by contacting the property owner/undertaking mowing, working with the CFA, and with State Government on their land.

COUNCIL PARKS, RESERVES, ROAD RESERVES AND POWERLINES

Council has a fire prevention program which aims to reduce fire hazards in locations including

parks, reserves and road reserves in accordance with Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Plan and the Electric Line Clearance Management Plan - approved by Energy Safe Victoria each year. The fire prevention program includes:

- Maintenance of fire breaks (including grass slashing and maintaining accessibility in areas like 100 Acres and along major roads)
- Pruning overhanging vegetation
- Street tree maintenance
- Clearing of vegetation around powerlines in the high risk areas of Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Donvale
- **In addition, Council responds to resident requests for fire management in specific locations - phone 9840 9333.**

STATE RESERVES

The State Government has an active role in preparing fire management plans for State parks (such as in Warrandyte where the Department of Sustainability and Environment/Parks Victoria have responsibility for State parks) and representatives of these agencies are on Council's Fire Prevention Committee.

IN AN EMERGENCY

- Contact Police, CFA and Ambulance - 000
- Call the Victorian Bushfire Information Hotline - 1800 240 667
- Listen to ABC 774 - Official Emergency Radio Station
- Recovery Centres will be established, as directed by Victoria Police, at safe locations away from the emergency to provide short-term shelter, first aid and information

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FOR FIRE PROTECTION - A GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS

REMOVING VEGETATION WITHOUT A PLANNING PERMIT

In areas of Manningham with significant environmental or landscape values the Planning Scheme controls the removal of vegetation, particularly native vegetation. In these areas you are generally required to obtain a Planning permit before vegetation can be removed. However, in areas where the risk of bushfire is significant and likely to pose a threat to life and property i.e. those areas covered by the Wildfire Management Overlay (WMO), you are allowed to remove vegetation for fire prevention and protection purposes, without the need to obtain a planning permit, under certain circumstances. These circumstances, or 'exemptions' from the need to obtain a permit, allow you to remove, destroy or lop vegetation to the minimum extent necessary for fire protection purposes.

Check with Council's Statutory Planning Unit on 9840 9495 to see if your proposed vegetation removal qualifies as an exemption under one or more of the following circumstances:

- The vegetation is 'ground fuel' within 30 metres of a building used for accommodation. Ground fuels are shrubs, grasses and groundcovers but not trees. They are generally the fine fuels (thinner than a finger) that contribute most to the heat and speed of a fire. Fine fuels include dry grass, leaf litter, twigs and bark but not branches, logs and trees.
- At least 50% of native shrubs within the 30m zone must be retained;

- Native grasses must be kept to a minimum height of 100mm; and
- Native trees more than 2m from the building, within the 30m zone must be retained.

- The vegetation is a tree overhanging or within 2 metres of a building used for accommodation.
- The vegetation is to be removed, destroyed or lopped for fire fighting measures or periodic fuel reduction burning. Fuel reduction burning should only be undertaken with the advice and permission of the CFA. No fuel reduction burning is permitted during the declared fire restriction season. Outside of the fire restriction period a Local Laws permit is required for fuel reduction burning.
- The vegetation is to be removed, destroyed or lopped for the making of a fuel break up to 6 metres wide. A fuel break is a strip of land where vegetation has been reduced or removed. Fuel breaks provide an area from which fire fighters can safely carry out planned burns to reduce fuel loads before bushfires occur, as well as back burning which removes fuel ahead of an approaching bushfire. Permission for creating fuel breaks will generally only be granted if your property is larger than 0.4ha and is part of or connected to an area of bushland vegetation that poses a fire risk. Approved fuel breaks also need to be part of an overall Bushfire Survival Plan for the

property and should be designed and approved in consultation with the CFA and/or DSE.

- The vegetation is to be removed, destroyed or lopped in accordance with a fire prevention notice under:
 - Section 65 of the Forests Act 1958, or;
 - Section 41 of the Country Fire Authority Act 1958, or;
 - Section 8 of the Local Government Act 1989.

NOTE: In Wildfire Management Overlay areas, additional vegetation removal beyond the extent provided for in the exemptions above, can be allowed if you obtain a planning permit. Other exemptions are also available e.g. for emergency works and for removing declared noxious weeds. Contact Council's Statutory Planning Unit for further advice - 9840 9495.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ALONE WILL NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION

Managing the vegetation around your home and property can only assist in fire protection by reducing the spread, speed and heat of a bushfire. It can contribute to your safety in three main ways:

- By helping your home survive the passage of the fire front and providing a place to take shelter;
- By providing an area for you to defend your home from ember attack; and
- By reducing the chance of direct flame and radiant heat igniting your home.

However you should not rely upon vegetation management alone to protect yourself and your property from bushfire. Low fuel areas such as driveways, pools, tennis courts, gravelled areas, mown lawns and dams can also help reduce fire intensity. You should develop a well considered bushfire survival plan to incorporate all the key issues including water supply, vegetation management, emergency vehicle access, equipment and clothing, design and siting of your buildings, including measures that can be taken to increase their and your chances of survival in a bushfire.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS

- For further information and a copy of the Bushfire Survival Plan Workbook "Living in the Bush", visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- Information on vegetation management and bushfire preparedness can also be obtained from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) - visit www.dse.vic.gov.au

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This information has been prepared by Council in consultation with the CFA.

DISCLAIMER This information is provided as a guide. If you have any uncertainty about applying the information to your particular circumstances, you should obtain further professional advice. Manningham City Council does not accept any responsibility for how you apply, interpret or rely on the information in this advertisement. Council accepts no liability for any loss or damage resulting from your use of this information, due to unintended inaccuracy, omission or any other cause.

A potpourri of pots

Once again the Warrandyte Pottery Expo, held last month on the riverbank below Yarra Street, was a huge success. The potters came from near and far, and so did the patrons. A special feature this year was a workshop, at which clay tiles were decorated. They will be glazed and fired and used to decorate a ceramic seat being installed as part of a planned pathway and boardwalk to be constructed by Manningham council from the Diary Tree car park on Yarra Street to the riverbank. Each potter exhibiting donated a pot. The proceeds—\$1085—went to North Warrandyte CFA.

Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS



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Plan: have your say

Forums will be held in the Manningham municipality during March, prior to the council finalising its current plan. The plan is produced with every incoming council and is a blueprint for its values, strategy and objectives through the ensuing four-year term. The public is invited to attend the Warrandyte Community Centre on Wednesday, March 18, or the Wonga Park Hall on Monday, March 30, both at 7pm. Council officers and local councillor David Ellis will also be on hand in the Manningham tent at the Warrandyte Festival, seeking community comment on the plan.

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.

or you can plan your own stall of goods. Gold coin entry fee. Stalls available for \$30. Call 0448 151 028 or email dct128@hotmail.com.

Birthday

Warrandyte Community Garden will be 10 years old in April. Past gardeners are invited to a celebratory barbecue at the garden on Sunday, May 3 at 12.30pm. Tea and coffee will be provided, BYO everything else.

Interchurch

The combined churches of Warrandyte and Park Orchards are holding three events in 2009. Stations of the Cross will be held at Stiggants Reserve on Good Friday at 10.30am. The Week of Prayer service will be held on Sunday, June 14 at 7.30pm at the Uniting Church and the annual carols will be at Stiggants Reserve on Saturday, December 12 at 8pm. Interchurch office bearers are Murray Bouchier—president, Peter Keep—vice-president, John Hanson—secretary and Heather Ingram—treasurer.

Farmers

In the wake of the bushfires that have affected Nillumbik, the launch of the Hurstbridge Farmers' Market—scheduled for Sunday, March 1—has been postponed until Sunday, April 5. It will be held at Ferguson's Paddock on the first Sunday of every month except January. All gate fees from the April market will be donated to the Strathewen, St Andrews, Hurstbridge and Pantan Hill fire brigades.

Toys

Diamond Creek Toy Library is holding a toy and kids' goods sale on Saturday, March 28 at the Sacred Heart Primary School, 25 Gipson Street, Diamond Creek from 9am to 12noon. Your clean unwanted goods can be donated for sale

Seminar

The next Manningham City Council Environment Seminar will be on Wednesday, April 1 at the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road, South Warrandyte commencing at 7.30pm. The topic "Monitoring—who can be bothered?" will be conducted by Glen Jameson.

Environment

As part of its environment events program, Nillumbik council will be holding a One Tree Hill wildlife walk on Sunday, March 19 from 10am to 12 noon. The walk will be led by Richard Francis.

Market

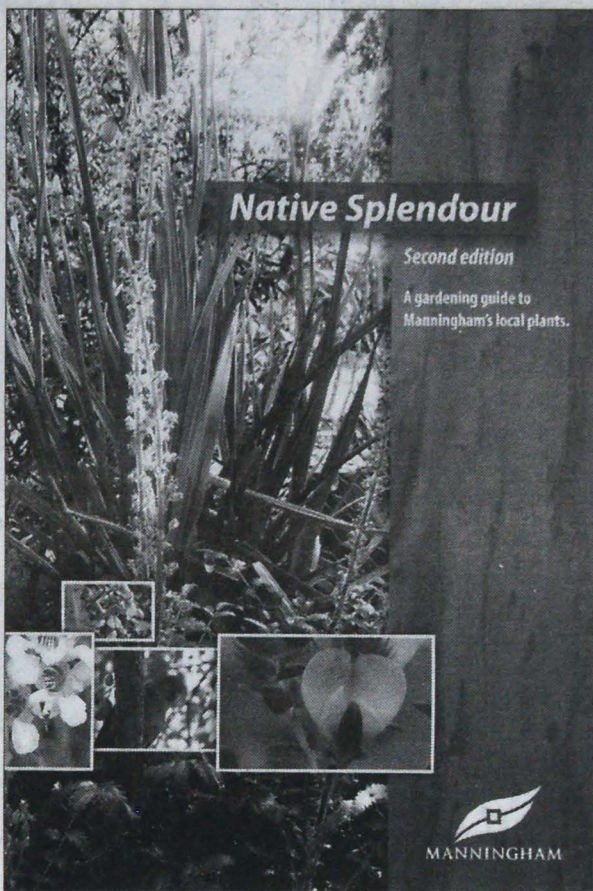
Research CFA is holding a fundraising market every second Sunday of the month throughout this year. It will be held in the parkland next to the CFA, corner of Warrandyte-Research Road and Main Road, Research, from 9am to 2pm. All proceeds will go towards funding a new small truck that will allow firefighters to enter narrow roadways and paths. Anyone interested in setting up a stall should contact Judy on 0401 059149 or Janine on 0419 381403.

Tell us

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

Newsletters

To keep the *Diary* informed of your group's activities, put us on your newsletter mailing list.



Native Splendour

Second edition

A gardening guide to Manningham's local plants.



Splendid plantings

Manningham council has released a new edition of *Native Splendour*, a guide to gardening with local native plants. The booklet offers advice on selecting plants that will enhance your garden and suit the local climate and soils. It contains information on pre-planting preparation, mulching, garden design and attracting wildlife. Copies can be obtained free from council offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster or by calling 9840 9333. Electronic copies are available on www.manningham.vic.gov.au

artyfacts

Art show

The Melbourne Rudolph Steiner School is holding an art and craft exhibition and sale commencing on Friday, March 20 between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. All profits will go to bushfire relief. It will remain open on Saturday and Sunday March 21 and 22 from 10am to 4pm. The school is at 213 Wonga Road, Warranwood. Entry forms for artwork are available online on www.mrss.com.au.

Workshop

The Manningham Arts Centre is presenting a workshop, "Working with precious metal clay", offering participants the opportunity to make their own silver jewellery. Precious metal clay is a clay-like substance that can be sculpted like clay and after firing in a kiln, the clay burns away leaving 99 per cent pure silver. The workshop will be conducted by local artist and jeweller, Marlize Myburgh over two Saturday afternoons, March 21 and 28 between 2pm and 5pm at the Manningham Arts Centre, 177 Foote Street, Templestowe. Course fee is \$199 (\$180 conc) and includes silver clay, equipment and firing. Bookings can be made by calling the centre on 9840 9381.

Tour

Local potter, Jane Annois, will lead a south-of-France painting/drawing tour with Warrandyte artist Cherry Manders from June 5 to 19, 2009. "In the Footsteps of the Impressionists" will visit regions where some of the great artists worked and will include painting on site. Call Jane on 9844 2337 for further information.

Arts

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

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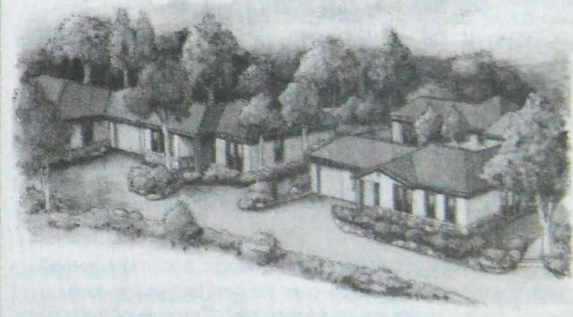
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ABN 97 550 242 856



Expressions of Interest Invited

The Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Cooperative is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to help older residents remain in the community. The Cooperative is now inviting expressions of interest from building companies to build five single storey independent living units and associated works at its site in Warrandyte

A planning permit has been granted by Manningham City Council for this project at 26 Harris Gully Road, Warrandyte.

The villas, designed by local architect Adie Courtney, are north facing and stepped across the site. The buildings have been designed for ease of construction yet have a 'Warrandyte' feel with rendered walls and stone features. Features include sizeable private courtyard areas, a communal landscaped garden and 5 star energy rating with double glazing. Solar hot water and stormwater conservation are also provided for.

The Cooperative is now seeking a builder to undertake construction with start of works scheduled for around mid-year. Documentation will be available to interested contractors and we look forward to discussions.

Our contact person, Andrew Yen, can be phoned on mobile No. 0403 924 899 or emailed at achenar@netspace.net.au

COREY'S COMMUNITY

By SYD & ONA

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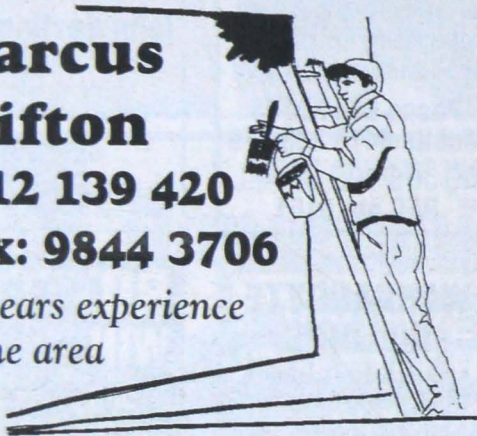
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Council Plan and Budget Workshops *Have your say!*

Manningham City Council is holding a range of community consultation sessions during March to provide an opportunity for local residents, ratepayers and community groups to have a say on priorities and future directions for Council services, projects and activities.

The Council Plan 2009-2013 is the strategic document that will guide the delivery of services over the next four years - setting the objectives, strategies and action plan. The annual Budget is also being drafted and Council would like to obtain community input on key priorities.

The following sessions will be held. Please come along and have your say. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to the Community Planning and Engagement Unit: 9840 9179.

Wednesday 18 March, 7.00pm
Warrandyte Community Centre, 168-178 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

Thursday 19 March, 1.30pm
Civic Offices, Council Chambers, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

Monday 23 March, 7.00pm
Park Orchards Primary School, Peltet Centre, Bowmore Avenue, Park Orchards

Wednesday 25 March, 7.00pm
Ajani Centre, 284 Thompsons Road, Lower Templestowe

Thursday 26 March, 7.00pm
Civic Offices, Function Room 3, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

Monday 30 March, 7.00pm
Wonga Park Hall, Corner Launders Avenue and Yarra Road, Wonga Park

You can also have your say at the following festivals:
Templestowe Festival: Sunday 15 March, 10.00am - 4.00pm
Warrandyte Festival: Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March, 10.00am - 4.00pm

For further information or to have your say phone 9840 9179 or visit www.manningham.vic.gov.au/CouncilPlanandBudget



Everything changes, but it all stays the same...

As one schoolboy howler would have us believe; "Growing up is like a journey from A to B and back again."

At the time of reading this on an exam paper, I was struck by the student's regrettable narrowness of vision. To think that, given the potential 25 additional letters of life to live, that all we can look forward to is one step was sad. The possibility, that having gone as far as you can go, the only movement is back again, I thought, was even sadder. In effect, this couldn't be seen as "growing up" at all. Instead, it was more a metaphor for our whole lives. We begin dependent and dribbling and end up in much the same way.

These were my considered thoughts many years ago when I was younger and even more inclined to jump to rash conclusions. I would consider an issue from all one side and run through the possibilities from one to two before pronouncing my pearls of wisdom. Just ask me and I had rock solid views on everything from the meaning of life to why we are here. There was nothing that couldn't be solved by the application of logic. The world and its people only needed to view things rationally and we could enter the Age of Aquarius but without the macramé and flares.

In many ways, I still think that an empirical approach to life has a lot going for it,



kibbled

"...whoever or whatever made the mischievous decision to plonk us on the earth then stood back to watch and have a good laugh..."

however, it's not the complete solution. When whoever or whatever made the mischievous decision to plonk us on the earth then stood back to watch and have a laugh, he/she or it, only gave us just enough grey matter to get us part way along the alphabet of life and development. The fact that IQ tests display a wide range of natural intelligences indicates that there were a lot of "Monday lemons" on the Creator's human assembly line that fateful day. As a result, the Creator has had innumerable opportunities to laugh at our stop start, "go back to start" and abortive attempts to kick-start our control of life's journey.

And the older I get, the more I am coming around to my student's point of view!

We live, so the saying goes, in strange and mysterious times. We have sent men to the Moon but seem unwilling to provide fresh drinking water to all people of the earth. We have select groups of the world changing car models when fashions change whilst, at the same time, many more in the world are forced to walk or risk lives on overcrowded and unmaintained wrecks. Pharmaceutical companies devote their scientific expertise to producing bee-sting injections for the socially inadequate but choose not to pursue cures for diseases endemic to countries unable to pay enough. And it's not until the Creator throws us deliberate googlies that we take time to reassess how far we've travelled since A and B.

The War to end all Wars. We've learnt from the mistakes of the financial system in the Great Depression "and we'll never make those mistakes again". "It's nothing more than a cyclical drought." "Black Friday." "Ash Wednesday." "Black Saturday." "Keynes, Friedman, Keynes." Then: "Nature 80 per cent, nurture, 20 per cent" (Reverse this in the 1980s.) Now?

Boy Wonder sent us a text from Buxton at 12.57am on Sunday, February 8: "Hi. I'm alive but please send fire trucks to Buxton. Eleven people. All OK."

There were other texts both

before and after but the best news we received at about 7am. All eleven in the log cabin survived but every other nearby building around them had been destroyed in five hours of terror.

It reminded us of the time we stood in our backyard in North Warrandyte overlooking Pound Bend as the flames raced towards the river with our place at the top of the cliff, but in a direct line with the firefront. We had done all we could around the place, within stipulated parameters. The CFA advised us to clear around the house but the council wouldn't give permission to cut the trees. Anyway, to clear effectively on our site would have resulted in wholesale devastation. Also, the termite people had advised us to leave a six inch gap between weatherboards and ground whilst the CFA recommended closing the gap against embers. Fortunately for us, the wind shifted and the fire changed direction. Whilst we were saved, others nearby suffered when the fire leapt the Yarra and raged up the cliff.

Daily we read about fire, financial doom, environmental catastrophe, political instability and human suffering generally. It seems we can never get past J or K. Surely, The Big Thing That Made Us will grow tired of déjà vu and will re-jig us so we don't need to regress to A so often!

ROGER KIBELL

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Celebrating new life in a reclaimed garden pond

nature

By LINDA ROGAN

HOW I long for rain, the cooling, healing rain we all need so much. While I wait, I gain solace from the life in my small rain-water pond.

My husband Peter dug the pond last spring to replace a much shallower one after I tried to plant some native bog plants and poked my trowel through the rubber lining. The lining had to be lifted for repair, so I suggested that we (he) might as well deepen the pond enough that it wouldn't dry out over summer. We had rainwater from our tank to fill it, and as it lies in the natural drainage line of our small property, I thought keeping it topped up would be no problem. Little did I know what a summer was coming.

Peter, who supports me in so many ways, bought a new larger lining and dug a pond that, in his words, is 2 metres by 2 feet by knee-deep. A veritable frog pond this time, but up until the present, no frogs.

This pond is now planted with indigenous plants. Many of them have interesting stories.

The local Nardoo, a water-plant that looks like a four leafed clover but is actually a fern. This plant was a food for Aboriginal people who



A Mason Wasp on Linda's pond.

collected the flat brown fruit. Well pounded and mixed with water, it formed dough. I have yet to see any fruit on my Nardoo. Perhaps I won't, as they rarely fruit until the mud they are in dries out. I will now watch the edges of my pond where it is high and dry.

A plant that provides colour in the summer and dies down in winter is Purple Loosestrife. It loves growing with its feet in water and produces clusters of magenta flowers on stems, about a metre tall. There has been discussion as to whether or not this plant is a native. It was recorded as being collected on the banks of the Yarra in 1856. It has shown no sign of becoming weedy in the Melbourne area up to the present, so I'm happy to have it in my semi-indigenous garden.

A favourite plant, the Water

Milfoil, is a Myriophyllum species found in Warrandyte State Park. The emergent part of the plant has whorls of fine leaves resembling tiny green Christmas trees. Not only is this a beautiful plant but it also is the site of an exciting discovery.

In January, Peter took a jar out to capture wrigglers (mosquito larvae) to show our three year-old granddaughter, but this time the jar came up empty. However, to the delight of both child and adults, the Water Milfoil was decorated with emerging damselflies and their empty larval skins. I believe the mudeyes (larval form of damselflies and dragonflies) had eaten most of the wrigglers. At first the damselflies were a dull beige or dun colour; four days later they were showing green, gold and blue colours as they flew

about the garden.

A Warrandyte friend has recently had an echidna soaking in her pond; another has a dam attracting microbats which feed on insects, then roost a while in the eaves of their house. My pond visitors are smaller but more colourful.

The most colourful to date is the native wasp. As I sat quietly beside my shrinking pond recently, a little annoyed by mossies, a creature a little bigger than a hover fly scouted the perimeter then settled delicately on the surface of the pond, without breaking the surface tension. It flew off and returned several times. It wasn't until I looked at my photos on the computer that I realised how colourful it was. Shiny black, marked with yellow bands grading to orange and nearly red, rather like the Adelaide Crows (according to Peter). As it kept returning for more water, I thought this could be a mud nest building wasp. Consulting the internet, I believe this is the Mason Wasp, a solitary wasp that is generally beneficial in gardens. It can sting, but is not aggressive. This wasp builds a mud chamber for its eggs and deposits a caterpillar inside to feed its larvae I will now watch to see if I can find the mud chamber of the Mason Wasp.

So that's a glimpse of some plants and animals that make up the thriving ecosystem of my rainwater pond, and here I sit and wait for rain.

Days we will always remember

WHAT a perfect morning! No smoke, no dust, no wind, only lovely cool, cool air—the first tinge of autumn, one might venture to think. Everybody will remember this day, if not the date, the day that marked the end of an apocalyptic summer, the day we awoke to rain-soaked earth, the day that dawned clear and sparkling, redolent with birdsong and the almost forgotten fragrance of eucalyptus and wet grass.

For the first time in weeks, the sky is blue. Really blue, that deep clear cerulean hue that distinguishes Australia from most of the more densely populated areas on earth. The filthy thick smoke-and-dust-haze of recent weeks has finally been vanquished into the damp earth; buried with it are the anxieties of all us fringe-dwellers who still have something to lose.

Everybody will long remember that other day, too—unbelievably almost a full month ago—when Warrandyte lay in the shadows of one of the most dreadful firestorms in history. Had the wind not

swung around when it did, Warrandyte too would have been battling for survival.

Our story is pretty insignificant compared with those of people who had to confront the fire firsthand, or those of the countless courageous CFA and DSE crews. Our story, like that of many Warrandytians, is merely one of being on the edge, a small paragraph in the book of the many tales. Tales, I might add, that have galvanised everybody in relation to the meaning of the words "defendable" and "clean up your block".

We spent most of that scorching day working outdoors, sweeping and raking up leaves and bark from around the house and under the deck; plugging spoutings; parking a stepladder indoors for manhole inspection; re-arranging hoses; filling buckets, bath, trough and water drums; testing and re-testing the fire pump; fine-tuning roof sprinklers; bringing loose items indoors. All these things had already been done during preceding days, but the time had to be passed somehow. It was too hot to concentrate on anything else. Nobody knew

our place

By MARILYN MOORE

when or where fire would strike, but it was a lay down misère that it would.

By mid-afternoon we ran out of things to do. We were also running out of steam—if flames arrived here any time soon, we'd be too knackered, too dehydrated, to put in the required effort. A breather was clearly called for, so we jumped thankfully into the pool, still more or less dressed, along with a neighbour, CFA radios, transistor to plot the progression of spot fires, several water bottles, a slab of rich dark Christmas cake and a bottle of shiraz—probably not a recommended fire-fighting diet, but it went down surprisingly well.

And so we wallowed in the cool blue depths, wallowed and waited with burnished faces, unnerved by the fierce winds, rapidly darkening sky,

thickening smoke and amazing quantity of forest debris flying overhead. At the first sign of glowing embers we would start the fire pump and roof sprinklers in earnest. But early in the evening, the wind gusted wildly before suddenly changing direction, and the burning embers never came. We listened in horror to the CFA radio as Kinglake was swallowed up. Mayday calls from a trapped North Warrandyte tanker crew became increasingly desperate until they were miraculously rescued. The crisis continued well into the night, its full enormity being revealed only after daybreak.

We all know the rest. We all know people who have lost houses, friends, family, neighbours, everything. Sitting on the periphery of the ongoing operations, we are constantly aware of the relief activities, of the fire-fighting efforts, and of the incredible number of personnel involved, their exhaustion and their dedication.

The summer of 2009 seems to have come to an abrupt halt, but its impact lives on. Life will never be quite the same again.

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Heather and David Briggs

Heather's good life

WARRANDYTE lost a popular and well-loved resident when Heather Briggs died on January 9 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Heather Mary McGregor was born on August 14, 1938 to Alma and Horace McGregor. She spent her childhood on a dairy farm at Lockington, Victoria, then moved to Moonee Ponds with her family.

Her father died in 1945. She attended Strathurn as a boarder, which she loved, returning home each fortnight to see her mother; but she was often "kept in" for naughtiness.

Heather married David Waddington Briggs in the chapel at Scotch College in October, 1963. After rent-

ing briefly in Caulfield, they found their dream home on the side of a hill in Warrandyte. It was an avant garde timber house on a beautiful bush block and it was here that they spent the rest of their 40 years of marriage.

They became active members of the community, including the fire brigade, kindergarten, primary school, Warrandyte Arts Association, tennis club and Potters Cottage, making many friends along the way.

They had two daughters, Amelia and Phoebe.

Before marriage, Heather trained as a nurse at the Alfred Hospital and was employed there many years later as a research nurse in the cardiology department.

Heather was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, potter, tennis player,

cub leader, volunteer for the AIDS council, English as a second language teacher, deliverer of Meals on Wheels, golfer, theatre goer, music lover and gardener.

Her husband David died in August, 2004.

Never happy with the status quo and always saying, "A fast game's a good game," hers was a life well lived and she lived life to the fullest, never doing anything by half.

Heather was a real character. She was someone who made a huge impression wherever she went, and with whomever she met. As a close friend of hers said, "They broke the mould when they made Heather."

She will be remembered with love for her wicked wit, her grin, her creativity, her feistiness and her incredible courage.

Rob's tragic death

By JAN DAVIES

LIKE many Warrandyte residents I was saddened to hear of the death of Prof Rob Pierce in the fires at Strathewen on Saturday, February 7. Rob lived in Doleen Road with his wife Jan and children Chris, Lucy, Nick and Tristan in the 1970s and 1980s, and still had strong links with Warrandyte through his children and friends. He made many lasting and deep friendships with neighbours and others in Warrandyte.

Rob was active in the community and generously shared his medical and other skills and knowledge. He was committed to the preservation of the environment, and as a committee member of the Warrandyte Environment League (WEL) brought passion with well-reasoned and persuasive argument to any issue under discussion. While on the WEL committee he helped save the Koorong land from development and helped to secure the Getson land for the future Warrandyte Community Centre. Rob and Jan continued to support environmental causes from their new home in Strathewen.

As an intellectual and academic, Rob believed that you could learn everything from books, even sailing. When he bought his first yacht he took it to Bournda Lakes for the annual family holiday. He arrived with boat and trailer and book in hand. All went pretty well until he reached the other side of the lake. He hadn't got to the chapter on tacking. However, he became a good sailor and as a member of the Hobson's

Bay Yacht Club, regularly competed in races in his classic timber sloop, *Terra Nova*. Many locals, including Doug Seymour, Helen Paizes, and Peter Balding enjoyed crewing duties and Rob will be sadly missed at the club.

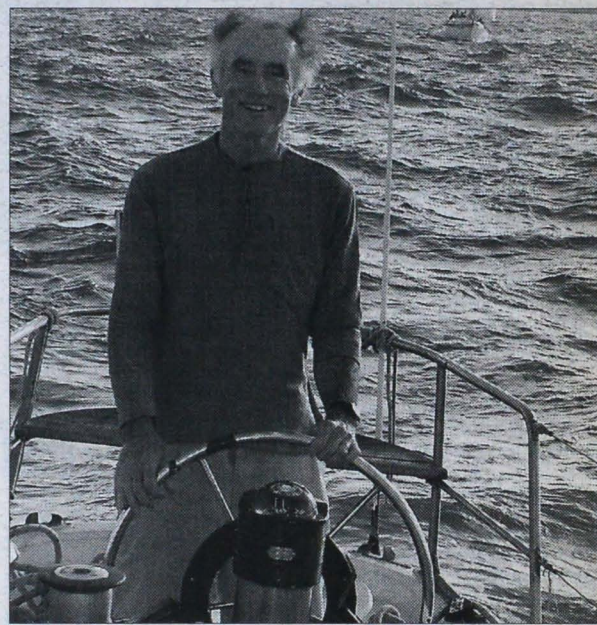
I also knew Rob professionally. He was a wonderful and caring physician and a nationally and internationally respected researcher, specialising in respiratory and sleep disorders.

As professor of respiratory medicine at the University of Melbourne, director of respiratory and sleep medicine at the Austin and director of the Institute for Breathing and Sleep, Rob was at the peak of his career and recently won a grant of \$4.9m for research to optimise

sleep for people with quadriplegia.

Rob, through his commitment, vision, determination and compassion improved the lives of many, and had plans to extend his work into the indigenous communities. Rob spent his sabbatical in 2008 working on a report on respiratory and sleep health in indigenous Australians, and was looking forward to helping to implement its recommendations. He was loved and admired by all who met him.

I extend my heart-felt condolences to Rob's wife Jan, to their children and grandchildren, and to Rob's Warrandyte and other friends who have been deeply affected by his tragic and untimely death.



Rob Pierce

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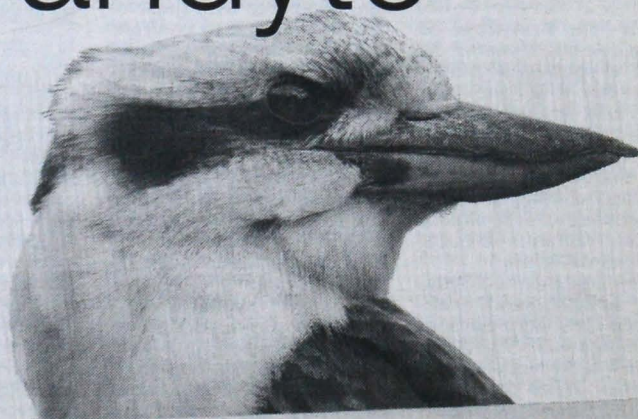
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On the firefront on Black Wednesday

Last month we published Val Polley's personal account of Black Wednesday, 1969. VINCENT THORNTON takes us on the same journey, but from the back of a fire truck.

I WAS a member of the crew manning the first fire unit to attend the Alexander Road fire on January 8, 1969. We came close to losing both the South Warrandyte and Warrandyte tankers and their crews that day.

As a teenager in the mid 1960s I was encouraged to become an active member of the Warrandyte CFA Brigade through the influence of my uncle, Bruce Bence, who was a senior officer of the Warrandyte Fire Brigades Group at the time.

That morning being on school holidays I opened up the WFB Group headquarters behind the fire station in Mitchell Avenue (now the WAA pottery studio) and contacted the forestry commission fire spotter in the Fourth Hill lookout tower (now dismantled and removed), via direct telephone link and the St Leonards lookout tower via VHF radio to advise that the Warrandyte station was manned.

June Riddle, wife of South Warrandyte captain Wally Riddle, was also manning the radio as was normal practice during the summer high fire danger period.

When the Fourth Hill lookout rang and reported there was a fire burning in Alexander Road, I activated the fire siren and Lieutenant Chris Emery quickly arrived (sans boots) in his recently restored WWII Jeep. With Ian Street and two other brigade members completing the crew, we turned out post haste.

With Chris Emery driving the Warrandyte brigade's Austin tanker along Yarra Street, we contacted June Riddle via radio and were advised that she had also been notified by the lookout tower and had

turned out the South Warrandyte tanker. I suspect that when Val Polley called the fire station, it would have been June Riddle who received the call.

We continued up Melbourne Hill and turned into Alexander Road where the fire was burning in open grassland in a paddock, to which we quickly gained access.

The brigade had retrofitted the Warrandyte tanker with two special modifications that were very useful in combating grass fires. Front-mounted spray nozzles and a rear-mounted "live" hose reel allowed us to fight fires from the rear of the tanker whilst mobile, rather than having to dismount and unroll conventional canvas hoses. Innovative ideas at the time, they were later widely adopted by other CFA tanker units.

Despite this advantage we were soon in difficulty due to the gale force north-westerly wind making a mockery of our attempts to control the fire. When we got in front of the fire the wind turned our hose stream into a spray and blew it back in our faces.

We then changed tactics and attacked the fire front from the rear quarter, however the rate of spread was too rapid and the fire just ran away from us, heading towards Melbourne Hill where it jumped the main road into more heavily timbered areas containing numerous houses.

By this time reinforcements from the Dandenong Ranges and other parts of Region 13, along with units from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, had arrived and this fire was eventually brought under control. We spent time blacking out hotspots whilst keeping an eye on the smoke to the north in the vicinity of Eltham

and Research area as we knew from reports over the radio that another major threat was developing.

We were then directed by group HQ to proceed, in company with the South Warrandyte tanker, to Kangaroo Ground Road just beyond Pigeon Bank Lane, where either by good fortune or good judgement Wally Riddle positioned the South Warrandyte truck 30 metres before and Chris Emery positioned the Warrandyte truck 30 metres beyond the bend in the road.

We headed down the hill to fight a spot fire that I later realised was ahead of the main fire front.

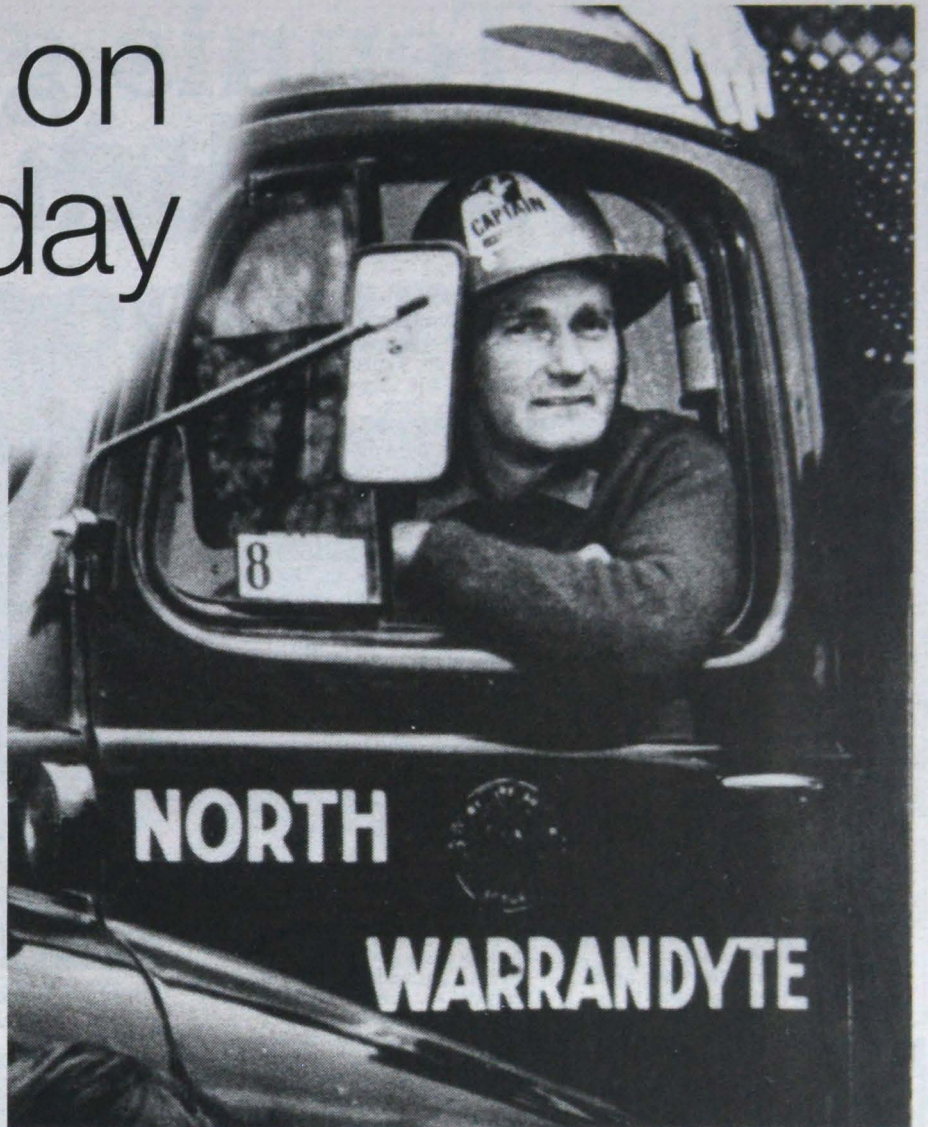
After extinguishing this spot fire, Chris Emery, as our training dictated, reminded us to retain enough water reserve in case it was needed for crew preservation.

Suddenly we became aware of an increasing roar which I likened at the time to the sound of a pair of low-flying jumbo jets as the gale force winds drove the approaching main fire front crowning through the tree canopy. We were immediately ordered to evacuate back up the hill to the fire trucks on KG Road.

The crew took shelter in the cabin and behind the wheels of the truck as protection from the intense heat radiating from the crown fire whilst we used some of our reserve water to put up a curtain of spray at the rear, using the fog nozzle we had earlier fitted to the "live" reel. We could no longer see the other fire truck 60 metres behind us.

The fire roared up the gully crowning across the road both ahead and behind us. The heat in the cabin was intense. I was able to hear South Warrandyte radio group HQ to inform them the fire had jumped KG Road between the two trucks and expressing grave concern about the Warrandyte crew's welfare. Having lost visual contact we were "gone".

The relief in the base radio



Jack Stringer in the cab of North Warrandyte's Austin tanker.

operator's voice was as evident as the apprehension in mine when I reported in that we were in fact in good health. We were saved from disaster by the smallest of margins and both crews could have been lost if the fire had crossed the road a few metres either way. Lieutenant Emery then decided it was time for us to go back to fighting the fire, so we moved out in search of a hydrant to refill our water tank.

This fire was eventually brought under control when it reached the Yarra River, assisted in no small way by the fact that these terrible fire conditions occurred early in an otherwise mild summer, slowing the fire as it reached areas where the undergrowth

was still green.

We were also fortunate in that this fire occurred only seven years after the disastrous 1962 fires with limited opportunity for undergrowth fuel build-up. Many of the lessons learned and experience gained was retained by volunteers still active in the local brigades.

We were very active in fuel reduction burning, particularly along the sides of the major roads to improve safety margins for fire crews and the ability to defend these locations.

This was how we conducted a large part of our training and we learned from those who experienced 1962. However, we were never able to train under the conditions we

encountered on such once-in-a-generation fire days like January 8, 1969, February 16, 1983 and February 7, 2009.

It is of some concern that the Warrandyte area, which is recognised as one of the highest fire risk areas in the world, has not experienced another major bushfire since 1969. Whilst in a way we are fortunate this is the case, the down side is that we now have over 40 years of fuel build up, a higher population density and a generation yet to experience fires like those Warrandyte saw on January 8, 1969. May good fortune continue to smile upon us.

Vincent Thornton has dedicated this account to the memory of the late Bruce Bence.

The taste of grief

Heat
Like an oven-door blast in the face
sucks out saliva, closes throat
you taste an absence of water

Ash
The acrid tongue blackening
taste of burning
charred lives

Salt
When the wayward streams
from your eyes and nose
meet at your mouth

Bitter
The sharp squirt of mocking medicine
saying "it's awful now
but you'll feel better soon".

Nothing
You chew paper, cloth, rubber
only because you're told to

where food, like the world
has lost all meaning.

KAREN THROSSELL



Hunt is on for Open ball kids

Warrandyte Tennis Club coach Craig Haslam is calling for local young tennis players to try out for the once-in-a-lifetime experience of serving as a ball kid at the 2010 Australian Open.

"I was a ball kid for three Australian Opens, as well as other professional tournaments held in Melbourne in the 1980s," Haslam said.

On Sunday, April 26, Haslam will be hosting level 1 Australian Open Ball Kid trials on behalf of Tennis Australia at the club's courts in Taroona Ave. Trials will run from 10-11am.

Participants will complete a series of drills and are then graded to be forwarded to Tennis Australia for the level 2 trials.

These trials are open to students enrolled in the coaching program, the Friday night competition or school holiday tournaments and to Warrandyte Tennis Club members.

No cost is involved but applicants must be between 11-15 and available for further trials and training and the Open itself next January.

Apply online at australianopen.com between March 23 and 31.

● The 2008 season 4 of the Friday night competition at Warrandyte Tennis Club resulted in awards for the following players.

Overall champions were Matt Williams, Sam Turner, Jacob Rose, Cameron Do, Cam Prior and Lauren Szigeti. Encouragement awards were given to Michael Masson, Katherine Murray, Jade Fielder and Noah Wakefield.

This competition is designed as a social event for players of all standards aged 9-17 with the emphasis on participation. It is played under the coach's supervision.

Entries for term 2 are now open. Cost is \$66 for nine weeks from 6.30pm to 8.30pm every Friday.

Call Craig on 0488 722 538 for further information.

● School holiday tournaments will take place at the Warrandyte Tennis Club on Wednesday April 8 and Thursday April 16 under the supervision of club coach, Craig Haslam.

They will run from 9am-5pm each day and are suitable for children aged 9-17 of any standard.

Lunch and drinks will be provided and trophies and prizes will be presented at the conclusion of each event. Cost is \$35 per tournament.

Entries close on Monday April 6 for the first day and Tuesday April 14 for the later one. Call 0488 722 538 for further details or enrolment forms.

● The Mums Tennis program run by club coach Craig Haslam at the Warrandyte Tennis Club on Monday and Wednesday mornings will continue in term 2. A Tiny Tots program is incorporated to allow mothers of three to five year olds to participate.

It will run for eight weeks at a cost of \$145 for mums only and a further \$45 per family for Tiny Tots if required.

Tennis racquets can be supplied if needed and there will be a maximum of four mums per group.

For any further details or enrolment call Craig Haslam on 0488 722 538 or 9844 4625.

Tennis gets a boost at South Warrandyte

The re-furnished clubhouse at Warrandyte Tennis Club's South Warrandyte Annexe was officially opened on February 22 by the Mayor of the City of Manningham, Cr Charles Pick.

Club president, Mark Bence, welcomed a number of past South Warrandyte Tennis Club members to the function held to celebrate the occasion. The two clubs amalgamated in 2005.

Mark thanked the Manningham Council for financing the project and introduced life member, Barry Mock, a life member of the South Warrandyte club, who gave a short history of the site and expressed appreciation of the improvements that had been carried out.

The club's 2008 Club Person of the year trophy was presented to Bill Parry.

Bill has co-ordinated the club's participation in the Lilydale and District Night Tennis competition for a number of years and has had considerable involvement in the establishment of a new data base. He has always been there to help in a variety of other club activities.

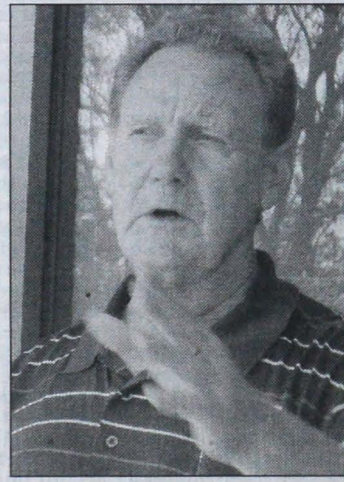
The gathering marked the tragedy of the recent bushfires with a minute's silence.



Among the special guests at the official opening of the refurbished annexe at South Warrandyte tennis courts were from left Lyn Bryant, Marion King, John Bryant, Peter Fry and Bill Goudie.



Manningham Mayor, Cr Charles Pick, left, with Warrandyte Tennis Club president, Mark Bence.



South Warrandyte life member, Barry Mock.



Greg Waugh made sure everyone was well fed.



At the function at South Warrandyte tennis courts were from left Barry Mock, Robert Kessler, Judy Kessler, Val Lynch, Joan Bardrick and Ross Bardrick.

Hawk cricketers shape up for finals action

South Warrandyte Hawks' Chandler Shield team finished in seventh position at the end of the home and away season of Ringwood District cricket.

The Fifth XI also failed to make the finals but there will still be finals action for other teams.

The Second XI suffered a massive form slump after winning their first five games. However, scores in the last two matches of 7/266 (Dale Owen 110 and Shane

Biggs 51) and 5/345 (Andy Uren 154 n.o.) set up wins that consolidated top spot and the double-chance.

The Third XI play Wantirna South in an elimination final at home after a good win (Robbie Cutler 120, Shane Hansen 59) followed by a bad loss.

Eight wins and four losses for the season included two wins against Wantirna South, so this team is quietly confident of play-

ing deep into March.

The Fourth XI were outside the four at Christmas but a run of four wins and just one loss since then left the team just 0.9 point away from a home final.

Junior Hawks are also chasing finals action. With one week to go, the finals picture is becoming clearer for the eight Hawks' competitive sides.

Under 14-4 (a merger with North Ringwood) will finish second or

third, and Under 18 Brown is almost certain to finish fourth. Under 16-4 and Under 12-2 are each fighting for fourth spot.

The Junior Hawks Presentation Day is Sunday 29 March in the Colman Park clubrooms and will be split into 11am to 1pm for Under 10 and Under 12 teams, and 1-3pm for Under 14s, Under 16s and Under 18s.

Senior Presentation Night is Friday 3 April from 7pm.

Warrandyte basketball round-up with Tony Oliver

Redbacks set sights on premiership honours

Venom waits to get final grades

In a disrupted season, the Saturday basketball competition is heading towards the finals of the summer program.

In the last of the home and away rounds, a number of Warrandyte's leading sides were in action at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre.

In the Under 16 girls, the Redbacks hosted ladder leaders Bulleen and won 35-30.

Both sides were short of players with small subs benches and the game was played in a relaxed and enjoyable way.

Warrandyte quickly jumped to a 10 point lead but could never extend it. Bulleen came back strongly but the Redbacks steadied to take the points.

Courtney Petalas top scored with nine points with good support from Ash Brobbel with eight points.

Warrandyte will finish third on the ladder and have the talent to go all the way.

Both the Under 14 and Under 12 girls came up against Bulleen and both went down.

The Under 14s, coached by Neville Joy were one point ahead at the break after a strong start. Bulleen were a bit tidier in the second half to win 26-17, the game being closer than the scores might indicate.

Demi Joy was very strong under the basket and finished with five points, with Sarah Boras also contributing five points on the score-sheet.

"It was a good effort with only six players. They just ran out of legs in the second half", Joy said.

The Under 12's were out-classed by 38-7 against much stronger opposition but will appear in the AR finals seasons.

Winning form was also hard to find on the boy's side with Ryan Holloway's Under 14 A grade boys going down to Bulleen by 38-14. Bulleen jumped out of the blocks early and were never headed.

Holloway was happy after the intense game against quality opposition.

"It has been a long season with little skill errors letting us down at the end - pass-

ing for example. The boys can take a well earned break before the winter competition starts," Holloway said.

Jake Martin with five points and Michael Delacy with four points were the Redbacks' leading scorers.

Doug Hilton however was able to bring the Under 12 boys home against Nunawading Vikings with a strong 35-25 win.

"A good solid season and to finish on a win was encouraging. We are now looking forward to the finals" said the coach.

Chris Bollands with 14 points led the Redback scoring with 11 points to Nathan Delacy and a host of other contributors on the score-board.

Warrandyte finished clear in second position and will approach the finals series with some confidence.

Another win was grafted when Doug Hilton took his second side, Warrandyte Under 14 C boys to a win over Nunawading by 30-18.

The game was close in the



Last game of the round and coach of the Redbacks Under 12 side and club president Doug Hilton talks to the players at a time-out. Warrandyte defeated Nunawading by 39-25.

first half but the scoring freed up in the second for the boys to run out with a win.



Nicholas Castagna (8) with the ball while Jesse Givens-Lamb (13) waits for the pass.



Under 14 action and the Redbacks' point guard Campbell Prior has the side ball.



Under 14 A grade action between Warrandyte and Bulleen. Warrandyte's Conor Gardiner applying back court pressure to the Bulleen ball handler.

The final grading games for representative basketball is under way with a number of Venom sides with chances.

Final positions will be known after the March long weekend.

The Venom continues to develop as a club with 49 teams in total in the elite basketball competition.

Warrandyte appear to have one team in the top division of representative basketball, the Under 16 girls, coached by Nicole Howard.

The girls did well in the second round grading with strong wins over Melbourne and Sunbury.

Warrandyte will also have a number of teams in Metro 1 and will look forward to another strong season.



COULD YOU BE WARRANDYTE VENOM'S FIRST SENIOR MEN'S COACH?

Warrandyte Basketball Association is a thriving basketball operation in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Home to more than 40 domestic (Redbacks) teams, 25 rep-ball (Venom) teams, two MMBL teams, a successful women's Big V team and a mid-week men's competition, the WBA involves more than 500 players, 350 families, 200 Big V membership holders and a vibrant, supportive group of sponsors.

The association is currently going through the formative steps to apply for a men's team in Division 3 of the Big V in 2010 and is embarking on finding the right senior coach to be a part of club history. Warrandyte has strong family values and is highly regarded for its communicative approach, community involvement and insistence that a quality attitude and integrity are the cornerstones of developing a good program.

The WBA seeks a senior men's coach who has a proven record of developing young talent and an ability to bring players together who always put the team and club first. The right candidate will be one who wants to be actively involved in a great club and a supportive community, who values hard work and can present a long-term plan. While qualifications are important, so too is a vision and a willingness to build a stable and productive senior program with strong links down to junior level.

Further particulars about expectations and remuneration will be discussed at interview level. Player-coaches are also welcome to apply.

If you believe you have the qualities and coaching credentials to join a club that sets high standards and values, then we want to hear from you. Coaching applications should clearly outline your experience and a brief snapshot on how you would be an ideal choice as coach of Warrandyte Venom's first Big V men's team.

Email applications to Justin Nelson at j.nelson@sportingpulse.com by Friday March 27. All applications will be treated with strict confidence. Interviews will commence in early April.



Dave Mooney played key roles in the final two games of the season to ensure Warrandyte avoided relegation.

Warrandyte in mix for four flags

Although Warrandyte's senior team failed to make this season's Ringwood District cricket finals, the four lower grades all finished in the top two positions on the ladder and all have a realistic chance of taking out the premiership in their grades.

The Thirds and Fourths, who had dominated their grades all season were brought back to earth with a thud when they lost their opening semi finals matches

at the weekend and will now play in preliminary finals this weekend.

The Second XI, which finished two games clear on top, had a few anxious moments as they dismissed Chirnside Park for 142 and then limped to 7-145 to win their way through to the Grand Final.

The Fifth XI upset top-placed Warranwood to book a Grand Final position.

The Second XI were

unbackable favourites for their semi final having scored a massive 8-371 against Chirnside Park in the final home and away round. Skipper Cam Day and experienced opening batsman, Marc Centofanti both scored centuries.

But on Sunday it was left to Brendan Zach with 65 to steer the side home.

The Third XI were humbled for 106 against Eastfield with only Josh McKellar with 35 getting among the runs.

The Fourth XI, aiming for their fourth successive premiership, found East Ringwood too strong. Again the batting failed and Warrandyte was dismissed for 112.

The Fifth XI scored a match-winning 297 with Luke Revell making 78 and Joel Greeve 73.

This was followed up by a brilliant bowling spell of 7-52 by Chris Douglas as they routed flag favourites, Warranwood for 203.



Warrandyte's Jack Wright plays the ball into the covers during last weekend's Third XI semi final loss to Eastfield.

'Dytes keep relegation fears at bay

Warrandyte won its final two matches of the season to avoid relegation from Ringwood District Cricket Association's Second Division (Wilkins Shield).

So tight was the final result that the 'Dytes ended up in sixth position, a game from relegation, yet only a game and percentage from a finals berth.

The final two wins were also against teams that finished second and fourth on the ladder.

"It was an extraordinary season. There can't be too many years when you are in a position to win every game yet you find a way of losing," said Warrandyte captain, Adam White.

"In the end, we only had ourselves to blame for not finishing in the top four because we couldn't win the important moments."

White said the fact that the team had finished on top of the ladder last season and was almost relegated this season had to be seen as a disappointing result.

"Yet despite that, there have been positives. We were under a lot of pressure in the final two games to keep our spot in Wilkins Shield and we did it.

"We also had a number of new players in the team such as Cam Skermer, Clint Thomas and Lee Evans and they had come from a turf competition and took a while to adapt to the conditions provided by hard wickets," he said.

"I think all the new players, including Under 16 batsman, Jack Ellis who we blooded in the seniors this year, will be better for their experiences," White said.

Club president, Matthew Chapman echoed White's comments saying that while it was disappointing the senior team did not make the finals, there were many positive things to come out of the season.

"All four of our lower grades will play finals so we are building up a successful

squad of players to feed into our senior team," he said.

"We will also be working hard from this point to talk to other players who might like to join the club and help build us to a point where we can take the next step in the RDCA's top grade, Chandler Shield."

Warrandyte went into Round 13 against Montrose knowing they had to win to keep bottom-placed Lilydale at bay. The match had been reduced to a one-day fixture after the first day was abandoned due to the heat on February 7 and Montrose amassed a very competitive score of 212.

Warrandyte were without Cam Skermer, their most consistent player, who was out of the side with an injury but in the end it was experienced heads of White and Dave Mooney who steered the team to a win that eventually occurred on the last ball of the game.

Mooney and White put together a match-winning partnership of 84 but with the result seemingly wrapped up, the 'Dytes again got the wobbles. Mooney was run out for 82 but with an over left and two wickets in hand, Warrandyte needed two runs to win.

A wide from the first ball left the scores tied but after four balls without a run, Warrandyte lost a wicket leaving only one ball remaining. Clint Thomas strode to the wicket and blasted a four to win the game.

The final round was just as important for the 'Dytes as a loss would have seen them relegated.

Thomas who was again a key player, but this time with the ball, as he took 5-42. Mooroolbark crashed to 9-99 but as they have done all season, Warrandyte let their opponents off the hook and they scrambled to 162.

Ben Taylor and Matthew Sazenis batted positively to

have Warrandyte 0-37 at the close of play and their eventual opening stand of 78 proved to be decisive. White with 25, Holland with 41 and Mooney with 42 led the 'Dytes to a comfortable win.

Scores:

Round 13:

First XI: Warrandyte 9-216 (Mooney 82, White 38) d Montrose 212

Second XI: Warrandyte 8-162 lost to Eastfield 5-233

Third XI: Warrandyte 6-273 (Hookey 102, Wellesley 81) d Warranwood 4-188

Fourth XI: Warrandyte 3-236 (Croft 86 n.o., G. Zach 51, Goddard 46 n.o.) d East Ringwood 7-210 (Sharpe 3-69)

Fifth XI: Warrandyte 206 (G. Warren 48, Aly 39, J. Greeve 35) d North Ringwood 89 (L. Warren 4-15, Douglas 3-25)

Round 14:

First XI: Warrandyte 290 (Mooney 42, Taylor 41, Holland 41, Sazenis 35) d Mooroolbark 165 (Thomas 5-42)

Second XI: Warrandyte 8-371 (Day 131, Centofanti 109, Lander 35) and 4-98 d Chirnside Park 137 (Sherriff 4-24, Beardall 3-21)

Third XI: Warrandyte 9-354 (Goddard 95, Wellesley 77, Smead 40) d Mooroolbark 197 (McKellar 3-67, Gidley 3-48) and 5-178

Fourth XI: Warrandyte 340 (Large 86, Hoiberg 72, Canham 63) d Boronia 112 (Prangley 6-67) and 6-110

Fifth XI: Warrandyte 152 (Steel 67) lost to Norwood 200 (Douglas 3-41, Carver 3-49)

Semi Finals:

Second XI: Warrandyte 7-145 (B. Zach 64) d Chirnside Park 142 (Warr 3-22)

Third XI: Warrandyte 106 (McKellar 35) lost to Eastfield 6-110 (Wright 3-30)

Fourth XI: Warrandyte 112 lost to East Ringwood 211 (Prangley 4-64, Croft 3-34)

Fifth XI: Warrandyte 297 (Revell 78, J. Greeve 73, Aly 33, Douglas 30, L. Warren 30) d Warranwood 203 (Douglas 7-52, Carver 3-35)

Registration Day set for Auskick

Warrandyte Auskick is set to start up with another action packed year which kicks off with a registration day at the Warrandyte Football clubrooms on April 4 from 9-10am.

The cost for the season is \$60 per child and each child receives a backpack, football, pump, an AFL CD and of course a trophy at year's end.

The season proper will start on Saturdays in May and will run for 16, 80-minute weekly sessions.

The program is also hopeful of securing two Hawthorn AFL players in early May to come down and give the Auskickers a helping hand

in their skills development.

Warrandyte has nine coaches committed for the season however there is always welcome opportunity for interested persons to begin or restart their coaching careers at this level.

Warrandyte Auskick is in the Eastern Ranges TAC cup region and for more details on a football pathway to the AFL please look at their website at easternranges.aflvic.com.au or contact Anthony Parkin on 9724 9488.

For information on joining Warrandyte Auskick please contact Edward Munks on 0434 020 191 or emunks@gmail.com



Billy Podmore takes his kick during an Auskick training session last season.

Bloods' senior list swells on eve of '09

The whispers from Warrandyte Football Club are getting louder. A logical and consistent message is being delivered by the new look coaching group which has bred an infectious positivity amongst the players.

This air of excitement has led to unprecedented numbers on the track and an atmosphere that many of the mature age players compare to that of 2006 - a premiership year.

More than 100 players have participated in pre-season training, and an average of more than 50 players per session has provided some logistical headaches for coach Michael Tout.

Sessions have regularly been split into groups for anaerobic, skills and boxing circuits to accommodate the big numbers.

In pleasing signs for the future of the young Bloods side, the vast majority of the 2008 playing group has returned in 2009 while the list has been supplemented by some handy additions.

According to secretary James Logan there have been some significant developments to the playing list in the last fortnight.

"After last year's demoralising run with injuries, it is great to see the long term injured and the overseas travellers returning to pre-season in '09. We had some quality players such as Tsapatsaris, Holman, Rough and Bellofiore who did not make the field last year which hurt us.

"Add to that a return from retirement by former club champion Ben Reid and the return of junior stars Steve Christopher and Hamish Hoskings and all is boding well.

"Many of our young players have clearly taken the next step both physically and in football ability, adding much needed depth, which will put pressure on the 'regular' senior list."

Traditionally strong starters, the

CHRIS CHAPMAN previews Warrandyte Football Club's build up for the 2009 Eastern Football League season.

Bloods started the 2008 season with a bang, registering a big win at home against Mitcham before suffering a couple of heavy defeats at the hands of Waverley and Coldstream. Wins against Templestowe, Nunawading and Upper Ferntree Gully saw the in-form Bloods sitting inside the top four after six rounds with four wins and two losses.

From there, Warrandyte hit a mid-season slump from which they were never able to fully recover, winning just one of their remaining 12 games to finish the season in 8th place, above only Mitcham and the Division Four bound Templestowe.

Despite the disappointment of the 2008 season, Logan is excited when discussing the Bloods prospects in 2009.

"Our recruitment has been targeted and the perseverance undertaken is starting to pay off. In 2008 we conceded more goals than any other side after being forced to play key forwards in the backline.

"Some quality inclusions from higher divisions will bolster our backline, ruck divisions and general depth. We also hope to make some exciting announcements in the next fortnight. We are certainly aiming for finals in 2009 and expect to give it a real shake."

An influx of players at the Bloods also bodes well for the Reserves who were in the top five for all of 2008, missing finals by eight points.

Reserves playing coach Adam Hinds is excited about the season ahead and what the side will be able to achieve. With a more settled side a certainty in 2009, Hinds will expect nothing less than a full

tilt at the flag. There may be some long nights ahead at the selection table.

The future is also looking bright for the Under 18 side, to be led in 2009 by coaches Tony Biggs and Barry Williams, with consistent numbers attending pre-season training alongside their senior counterparts.

Training reverts to Tuesday and Thursday nights on March 17 in the lead up to two practice matches on March 22 against Tarwin Lower and March 28 taking on Murchison. Both games are away due to ground availability.

In what is becoming a perennial problem for local football clubs, Warrandyte players have been unable to train on the oval to date, and Manningham Council have only this week extended their ground closure to winter tenants until March 31. This only allows the football club one training session on the main oval before Round One.

Far from an ideal situation for the club, but unfortunately one that has become an ongoing issue in recent years due to the ongoing drought.

The current ground condition however, is encouraging. Although council chose to allocate water resources to Stintons Reserve instead of Warrandyte Reserve throughout summer, the drought resistant grass laid in September 2007 has established on most of the oval. With some expected rain in March the winter ground cover should be the most abundant in many years.

Players will also be attending the much anticipated EFL v VAFA Bushfire Charity match at

Ringwood's Jubilee Park on March 29.

The best players from the two premier metropolitan Melbourne competitions will do battle to raise funds for those affected by Black Saturday and some pretty serious bragging rights.

The season proper starts on Saturday April 4 with the Bloods travelling to Tormore Reserve to take on Boronia Hawks.

Season launch on March 20

The Bloods are launching Season 2009 with a Sportsman's Night and Season Launch on Friday March 20 at 7pm. At just \$30 for food, drinks, entertainment from musician Paul Ray and an all star AFL panel hosted by Sport 927 and ABC Radio's Adam White, it is tremendous value.

Tickets are available from Chris Chapman (0421 736 592) or at the clubrooms on the night. All welcome!

Warrandyte Football Club is again offering a community discount card that grants direct discounts, offers and benefits to many of Warrandyte's shops, restaurants and services.

The WFCCommunity Card is a fantastic way to support your local club while also benefiting by saving money when shopping in your local community.

Cards will be available from March 20 and can be purchased for only \$20 from Club Warrandyte or Warrandyte Football Club rooms. Alternatively complete the online order form at www.warrandytefc.com/communitycard.html

If you are owner or manager of a local business and would like to be involved in the WFCCommunity Card program, please contact Chris Chapman on 0421 736 592.



Breanna Large

Breanna's Swedish success

Seventeen-year-old Breanna Large from Warrandyte recently returned from Sweden after completing a year as an exchange student in a town called Örebro, 90 minutes west of Stockholm.

Breanna who now speaks near fluent Swedish was introduced to a Swedish javelin coach who got her involved in the Swedish athletics program.

Breanna competed in the recent Swedish All Schools Under 18 javelin competition throwing a personal best to achieve second placing.

Breanna's exchange was organised through the Templestowe Rotary Club student exchange program.

Breanna also competed for 10 years with the East Doncaster Little Athletics Club, where her mother, Dee Sheffrin is a life member.

For more information on Little Athletics please contact Liz Phillips on 0416187140 or Edward Munks on emunks@gmail.com

Venom determined to shake off bridesmaid title

Warrandyte Venom hasn't known a Big V season without finals action and despite losing three retiring star players, the club's senior women will again aim for post-season action in 2009.

Following two runners-up finishes in their first two years in the Division One competition, the Venom head into the new season without guards Kate Cohen and Jodi Kennedy, along with centre Jo Metcalfe.

Cohen and Metcalfe both made the division's all-star team last season, so it goes without saying that they leave big shoes to fill. However such a challenge is exactly what the team's coaching staff thrives on.

Coach Justin Nelson is excited about the new season, the inclusion of two young recruits and the enthusiasm being generated by emerging players out of the Venom's junior program.

"There's plenty to like about this year's team," he said.

Though not prepared to talk about the possibility of another finals campaign, the third-year coach insists that the future of the senior program will continue going from strength to strength.

"The off-season brought about some changes due to retirements and both Nicole (assistant coach Nicole Howard) and I are really

The Big V Venom squad

- 4. Sally Phillips (captain)
- 5. Chelsea Ransom
- 6. Mollie Booth
- 7. Casey Taylor
- 8. Meg Dargan
- 9. Nicolette Prior
- 10. Lauren Sabidussi
- 11. Carla Sabidussi

- 12. Jess Oram
- 15. Ash Brobbel
- 20. Janelle Lucas
- 21. Sharlene Dalsanto
- 22. Jaz Borella
- 23. Bec Heddles
- 34. Billie Addlem (vice captain)
- 44. Mollie Burke

happy with the squad," said Nelson.

While Nelson admits that the likes of Metcalfe, Cohen and Kennedy will be missed, he's quick to point out that the experienced trio delivered much more than wins during their two-year stint at the club.

"Having enjoyed so much success in just two years in the competition our players are in a program where a winning culture has been firmly established. I'd like to think those sort of qualities will continue to drive us.

"Jo, Kate and Jodi were always big on setting high standards and there's no doubt that the whole program has benefited as a result."

With a squad of 16 players, including nine players aged 18 or younger and 11 players who have come through the club's junior program, the team is filled with local faces.

Returning from last season are forwards Jess Oram, Billie Addlem and Jaz Borella, along with guards Sally Phillips, Chelsea Ransom and Nicolette Prior.

Former Opal, Phillips, replaces Metcalfe as captain, while Addlem takes the role of vice captain in a team where leadership is openly encouraged.

Some of the younger players who have already had a taste of Big V and are sure to be seen even more in 2009 include Meg Dargan, Mollie Burke, Lauren and Carla Sabidussi, Casey Taylor and Ash Brobbel.

Janelle Lucas, a point guard from Bulleen has added significant speed and intensity, while former Knox and Monash forward Sharlene Dalsanto has been enlisted to add more rebounding at both ends of the floor.

Youngsters Mollie Booth and Bec Heddles have joined the

squad after showing promising signs at junior level, with the likes of under-16 players Kahlia Flett and Georgina Weringhaus being enlisted as training squad players.

"We're trying to establish a production line at the club and encourage our players to take certain steps towards becoming senior players," said Nelson.

"Becoming a senior player and building a strong team doesn't just happen overnight. Our coaching style is to absolutely keep our young players grounded and focused on taking one step at a time.

"There isn't a player in our group who doesn't want to see the team perform strongly and that's a key ingredient of achieving success.

"Everyone needs to be on the same page and I genuinely think we have that at Warrandyte.

"Our sponsors and supporters are fantastic, the best in the competition. I hope all of them get along to every game and enjoy watching the team give it everything."

The Venom's Big V season tips-off on Saturday March 21 with a home match against Hawthorn at Warrandyte Sports Complex from 7.30pm.

Memberships are now available from Lisa Saunders on 9844 1921.

Junior football to kick off

The first round of matches for Warrandyte Junior Football Club will be held on April 19.

Following a successful registration day on February 22, training has started and the boys are building fitness with river runs and various games of touch football. The coaches have been very creative in designing training sessions that improve both fitness and skills.

The coaches for season 2009 are: coaching co-ordinator-Brian Cartwright; Tackers, Carlos Castagna; Under 10, Dick Baker; Under 11, Paul Reardon; Under 12, James Yoffa; Under 13, Chris Appleby; Under 14, Peter Stafford; Under 15, Steve Blakey; Colts, Shane Newman and Josh Blakey.

The club has appointed Lachlan Chapman as Club Captain and Andrew Reddie as Vice Captain.

If you have not yet registered or are thinking of taking up the game, check the club website for registration details. Our motto 'It's all about the kids' is lived out throughout the season. The club website is www.warrandytejfc.org

Further information from David Ure (secretary) 0412 380 034, Tanya Reardon (registrar) 0417 052 001 or club president Phil Ashfield 0409 542 112.

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 To those who gave so generously to the victims of the recent bushfire

disaster, we say a big *Thank You!*

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WARRANDYTE

Make the Tree Change to the River

Escape the noise, traffic and chaos of city life with this secluded river frontage retreat. A double brick split level home with 3 bedrooms + study/4th, formal lounge, rumpus room and bar, double carport, water tank, secure dog run and inground gas-heated pool on over 1/4 of an acre. A maple timber kitchen and meals area opens to a spectacular deck facing the river, where kids can kayak, swim and fish. Minutes from schools, shopping and restaurants.

PRICE: \$590,000 plus



Take Your Place At The Top

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

PRICE: \$680,000 plus



WARRANDYTE

WARRANDYTE

Kick Back & Relax

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

PRICE: \$450,000 plus



The Long Weekend

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

PRICE: \$580,000 plus



WARRANDYTE NORTH

WARRANDYTE

Pure Imagination

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

PRICE: \$280,000 plus



A New Adventure Begins

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

PRICE: \$750,000 - \$800,000



WARRANDYTE NORTH



Warrandyte Village Festival

Join us in celebrating the annual Warrandyte Festival! We will be providing a

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE
 outside our office on **Saturday 21 March**

All donations will be forwarded to the Warrandyte Lions Club.