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# WARRANDYTE diary

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# Fire and a community

## Warrandyte's submission: see centre pages



### Warrandyte—be better prepared!

Submission by the Warrandyte Community Association to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission

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immature forever"

— Germaine Greer

# WARRANDYTE diary

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Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, July 8, 2009. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, June 26.

**OUR NEWSPAPER**

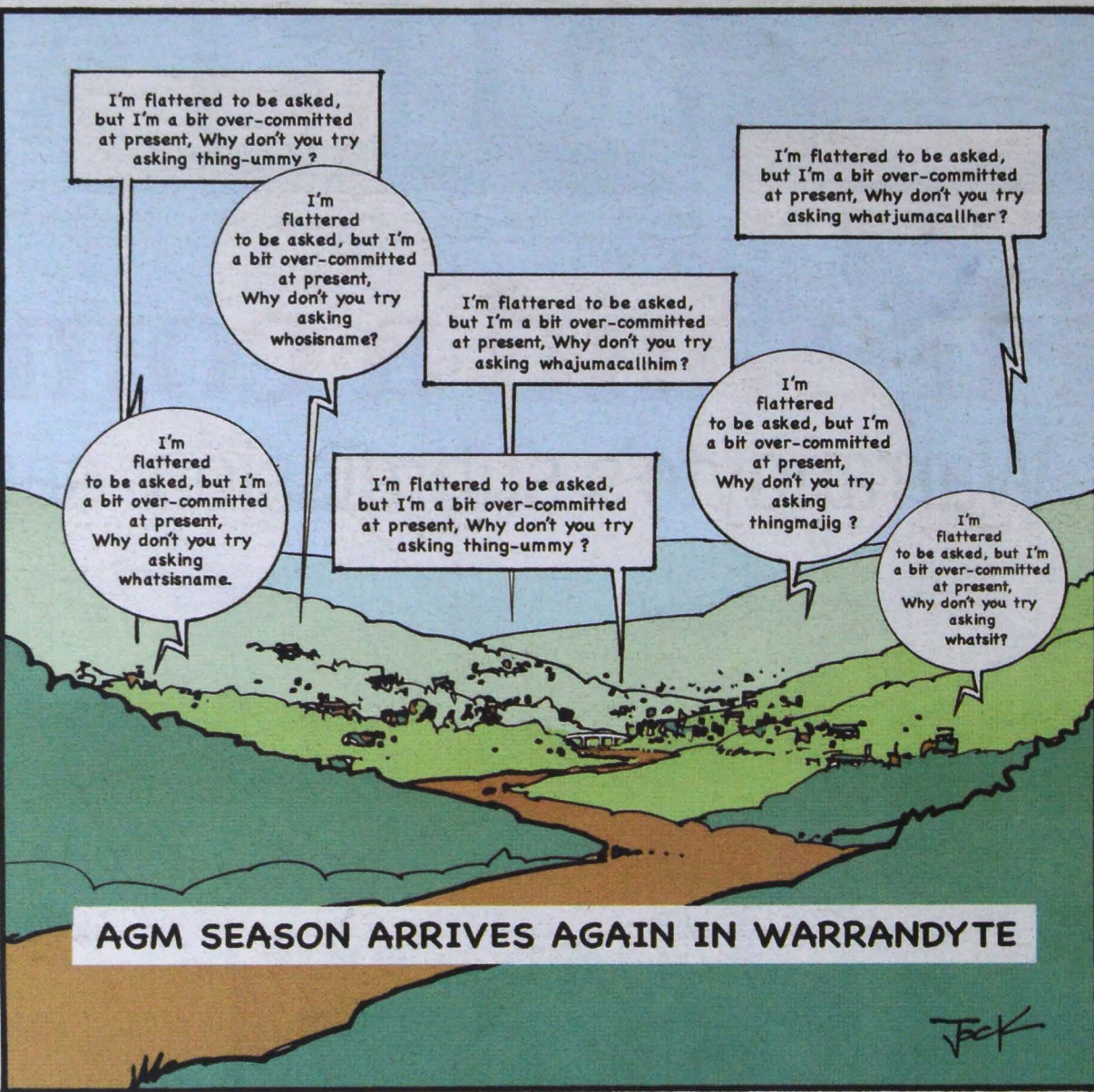
The *Warrandyte Diary* was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its not-for-profit,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

**A SPECIAL PLACE**

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

**OVER THE HILLS**

By JOCK MACNEISH



**AGM SEASON ARRIVES AGAIN IN WARRANDYTE**

JOCK

## Drama on stage—and off

**T**HE play called for a daughter, a mother and a grandmother. What were the odds?  
 Cinnamon got the part of Lotte Smith because she was clearly the best of the girls who auditioned.  
 Narelle only came along to support Cinnamon and was only persuaded to read the part when the director pointed out her uncanny resemblance to Cate Blanchett. (Adrian was a charming man with a certain je ne sais quoi, though no one quite knew what it was.) And even though the other auditionees were clearly more talented, he seemed to think Narelle was more believable as Mrs Smith than Fatimah or Jing-Wei.  
 The part of Grannie Smith was his biggest headache. "I don't know where I'm going to find such a grumpy old hag in Warrandyte!" complained Adrian.  
 "I do," said Cinnamon.  
 "Come on Gran," pleaded Cinnamon later. "If you won't do it the show won't go on and Mum and I will never be seen on the Warrandyte stage together!"  
 "And what's the downside again?" But eventually Gran relented and surprised everyone with her unexpected stage presence. Sort of Dame Judy Dench in need of nasal surgery.  
 As the lights came up on opening night, Cinnamon burst on stage brandishing an envelope as if hailing a taxi.  
 CINNAMON: Look mother, a letter from the King, addressed to Mrs Smith!  
 NARELLE: (projecting so everyone at back of hall can

hear, or could do if audience filled more than front two rows) Mercy! Whatever could it be? (Battles to open envelope. Was never sealed during rehearsals!) Mercy! Whatever could it be? (Tears envelope. Holds pieces of letter together.) But wait. This is for another Mrs Smith. (calls) Grandmama! There is a letter for you from the King!" (Waits for door to open. It doesn't.)  
 CINNAMON: Call again Mother. For Grandmama is sometimes hard of hearing!  
 NARELLE: (very loudly) Grandmama! (Startles old lady at bus stop on other side of Yarra Street) There's a letter for you from the King!  
 GRAN: (entering) Can't hear a thing through that blasted curtain. What the...!!!" (Suddenly freezes like rabbit in headlights.)  
 NARELLE: (waiting for next line) What do you say to that Grandmama?  
 GRAN: (Neither faithful to script nor strictly in character) Somebody turn the frickin' lights down! (Clutches unsteadily at Cinnamon.)  
 NARELLE: Forsooth, yon lights are bright indeed. (An unconvincing piece of ad libbing given play not set in Merry Olde England but Denmark a year after coronation of Frederick and Mary.)  
 GRAN: Bright? I can't see a



JOCK

**living with The Trotts**

mama's eyes are too dim. Also she is not here! (Tries to match torn halves before realising.) But the pages are blank!  
 CINNAMON: (re-entering) Look again Mother. (Mother does but apparently they are still blank) Perhaps it is an invitation? (Tries to straighten wig.) Maybe to dine with His Majesty? At seven tonight, for instance? (Realises wig on backwards and goes off again.)  
 NARELLE: (remembering plot) Ah yes! It is an invitation to dine with King Frederick and Queen Mary this very night, at seven! (Turns to Cinnamon who unfortunately is no longer there. Turns to audience who unfortunately still are.)  
 I must help Grandmama prepare for the banquet! (exits hastily leaving audience contemplating empty stage as drama continues off stage. Minutes pass. Narelle and Cinnamon re-enter dragging Grandmama between them in gingham pinafore, bonnet and Ray-Bans.)  
 But eventually the end arrived, the curtain came down and the audience applauded its descent before hurrying away in confusion. Strangely, no-one has seen Adrian since.  
 P.S. The Warrandyte Theatre Company wishes to reassure readers this is not one of the plays included in their upcoming One Act Play festival starting on June 19.

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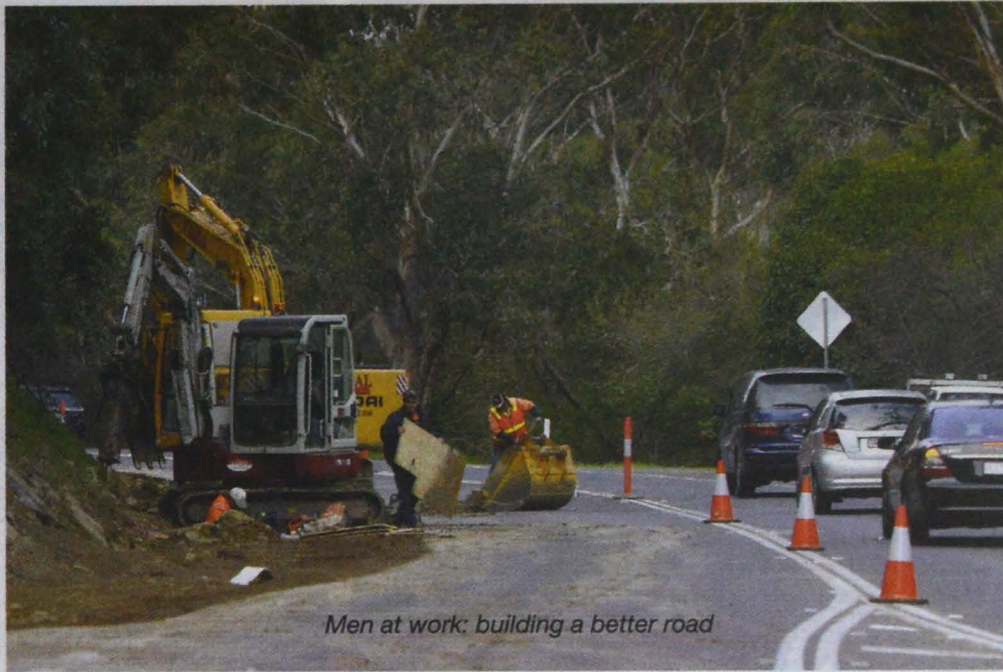
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Men at work: building a better road

## Improved service on Route 304 – one day

By TRISTAN MADDOCKS

We will have to wait awhile, but public transport in Warrandyte looks set to receive a massive boost with a superior Route 304 service coming online from 2011.

The updated service will see buses departing every 10 minutes during peak hours and a significant increase in the overall number of weekday buses.

Other changes will include longer operating hours and the addition of "real time" information displays at selected bus stops along the route, which begins in Ringwood and terminates in the city at Little Collins Street.

The change will come as part of the Doncaster Area Rapid Transit (DART) system, which will upgrade a total of four bus services connecting the Doncaster region to the CBD.

Under the DART system the number of daily bus services for routes 301, 304, 307 and 308 will more than double from 200 to 540.

The Department of Transport was not able to tell the *Diary* what constituted "peak hours" or which bus stops would receive the most significant upgrades. And with the proposed update still 18 months away, no new timetable for Route 304 has yet been determined.

Department of Transport spokesperson Chris Veraa said the upgraded Route 304 would provide a premium service to and from the city, reducing the need to drive.

"We know that people want public transport with longer hours of operation and more frequent services—and that's what DART will deliver," he said in a statement issued to the *Diary*.

"Under the DART project, services will run every 7 to 10 minutes during peak hours, and they will operate between 5am and midnight on weekdays.

"Real time information displays will be installed at some bus stops and timetables and maps will be installed at all stops."

The Warrandyte Community Association has been campaigning long and hard for improved public transport services to the town. They organised a well-attended public forum on the issue several years ago and conducted a detailed survey on local transport needs. These both pointed to a strong demand for better services to and from the town, connecting to Ringwood, Eltham and the city.

WCA succeeded in obtaining an enhanced service between Warrandyte and Eltham in late 2008.

"We welcome any improvement in bus services from Warrandyte to the city," WCA vice-president Jonathan Upson said. "If there's any way it could be brought closer than 2011, that would be even more welcome."

# Safer road is target

Words and pictures by SANDY BURGOYNE

VicRoads is carrying out roadworks on Ringwood-Warrandyte Road between Kendall Road (near Alfred's Homestead) and Tortice Drive North Ringwood. This is the first stage of a project that is part of the state government's Arrive Alive program.

"These works will address the issue of run-off-the-road crashes, and include the construction and sealing of road shoulders, and the installation of kerb and channel and guardrail. This work is expected to be completed in August this year," Praveen Reddy, acting regional

director, VicRoads Metropolitan South East told the *Diary*.

Sealed road shoulders will provide a more stable surface and are expected to minimise the likelihood of motorists losing control of their vehicles. The guardrails are designed to prevent vehicles from running off the road.

The kerbing and channelling will be similar to that installed on Ringwood-Warrandyte Road near the South Warrandyte general store two years ago.

"The second stage, Brumbys Road to Harding Road, is expected to start in July and be completed in September this year. The total

cost of both stages is \$1.9m," Mr Reddy said.

These roadworks are in response to a poor safety record for this section of road.

"In the five years to December 31, 2006, there were 19 run-off-road type casualty crashes along these two sections of Ringwood-Warrandyte Road," Mr Reddy said.

Traffic flows are likely to be affected during the roadworks. At the end of last month one lane was closed between the south end of Hall Road and Wellesley Road during weekdays.

Travellers on this section of road should allow more time than usual for the trip until completion.

# Perilous parking on fire days

By JENNY BROWN

Residents of the Koornung area in North Warrandyte are concerned about the parked cars that clog their roads on fire-ban days when the State Park car park is closed, and have raised what they believe to be a potentially deadly issue with state and local governments and with the police and Parks Victoria.

Chris Davis recently wrote to these authorities expressing the Koornung community's real fear that on high fire danger days there can often be so much vehicular congestion in and around the streets that "not only could I barely get my own car through; a fire truck, ambulance or other larger emergency vehicle would have no chance of access to our residences or the park".

Visitors wanting access to the swimming holes along the river are undeterred by No Standing signs along Koornung streets and according to Jamie Bolton "park along both sides of the roads, usually facing the wrong way and often in long grass".

He said that if these cars did have to evacuate in a hurry they would all have to turn around and the panic could possibly lead to crashes and congestion that could seriously en-

danger the lives of the 22 Koornung residents, and the public.

At 5pm on Black Saturday in February, the residents counted 26 vehicles parked in the Wombat Gully section and around 40 people at the swimming hole. They said this is a typical situation on hot days "and is a disaster waiting to happen".

Parks Victoria ranger-in-charge at Warrandyte, Conrad Annal, explained that while park gates are locked on Fire Ban days, the public still has the right "to walk in even though we would rather they didn't".

Nillumbik Traffic Management spokesman with Victoria Police, Sgt Wayne Burton encouraged residents to contact his office when they see cars parked in breach of No Standing signs "but we have to know about it before we can do anything."

"All we need is a phone call to this office and we will attend." The fine for ignoring No Standing signs is \$115.

Ranger Annal says Parks Victoria will endeavour to work with the Koornung community during the coming months "to attempt to resolve this issue".

Nillumbik Shire recently informed Chris Davis about the action it will take to ease this concerning situa-

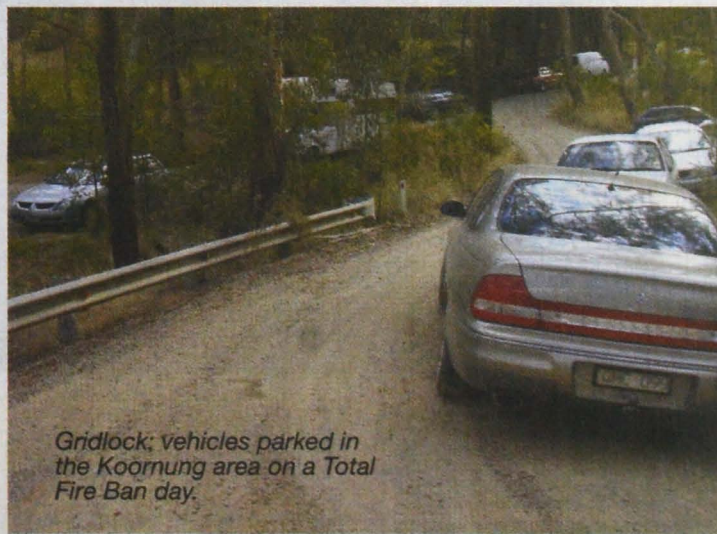
tion. Council proposes to create a permanent "No Standing" area between Hamilton Road and 45 Koornung Crescent and local police have promised to routinely attend the area on Total Fire Ban days.

To contact Nillumbik Traffic Management branch telephone 9438

8300. Mr Davis also advises that ringing 000 is effective.

—From the Newsletter of the Osborne Peninsula Landcare group.

● The *Diary* believes other riverside neighbourhoods in Warrandyte have the same problem. Letters on this issue are welcome.



Gridlock; vehicles parked in the Koornung area on a Total Fire Ban day.

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## A right royale night!

"Funny" money flowed into the hands of the croupiers, and real money flowed into the funds for the Warrandyte netballers' first clubrooms at the Casino Royale held at the Warrandyte Tennis Club on Saturday, May 23.

The town glammed up to play black jack, roulette and wheel of fortune. Making special appearances were Pussy Galore, Blofeld and every version of James Bond, from Sean Connery to Daniel Craig.

"The clubhouse is the heart of a club,"

committee member Carey Nichol told the *Diary*.

"The support we have received from the community and local businesses has been tremendous."

The Netball Club has asked us to thank Bendigo Bank, Yarra Valley Toyota, Agio Group, Landfield Warrandyte, Club Warrandyte, Grand Hotel and the Warrandyte Tennis Club.

"We had so much fun. It was great to dress up in our glad rags and feel like the rich and famous," Dinah Ward said.



## Kids meet Aunty Dot

Aboriginal elder and artist, Aunty Dot Peters (right), recently visited Warrandyte High School. A respected elder of the Healesville community, she is the recipient of many awards, including the prestigious Red Ochre award, presented to indigenous artists who have made an outstanding contribution.

"Year 7 students responded very warmly to Aunty Dot and were engrossed as she spoke to them of her life and growing up in the indigenous community in Healesville," a school spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"Aunty Dot stressed the importance of respecting the lives and stories of elders as she treated students to a unique rendering of Australian history from an indigenous perspective."



## High school students study worldwide

Warrandyte High School students, working with overseas schools, have been awarded second place in the prestigious 2008/2009 Global Virtual Classroom Contest.

The contest is an online collaborative learning project involving 2100 primary and secondary students from 23 countries. Students worked with students in other countries to a design a website on a topic of their choosing.

Fifteen WHS students worked with students from Japan and Russia to create a "Friendship Bridges Gallery", including numerous titles such as "treasures in my city" and "what's happening here".

During the development of the project, between September 2008 and May this year, Warrandyte students engaged in regular video conferencing with Russian and Japanese students.

"They discovered that, despite the vast physical and cultural distances that separated them, teenagers are the same world over," a school spokesperson said.



From Russia with love: students go global.

Concluding our series on bushfires that have invaded our district, we remember February 25, 1991. These graphic reports by two *Diary* writers no longer with us—BRUCE BENCE and LEE TINDALE—tell of a day when fire came much too close for comfort.

# When courage and technology saved our town



Grey face of death: Browns Gully after the fire went through.

By BRUCE BENCE

WARRANDYTE suffered its worst bushfire for 22 years on February 25 (1991), but thanks to the splendid efforts of the fire-fighting services, there was no loss of life and only minimal damage to property.

Warrandyte CFA brigade received a call at 2.50pm, alerting them to a fire on open ground at Pound Bend. Two units from each of the Warrandyte brigades immediately responded to find State Park staff with their two small 4x4 units already at the blaze.

The fire was out of control when the first units arrived. Warrandyte captain Bob Bird was calling for assistance when the wind picked up the fire and carried it into the timber.

By 3.17, twelve CFA units were in action and a control point had been established at Wagners' front gate, using the South Warrandyte brigade's van.

Lower Yarra CFA group, working out of the Eltham Emergency Operations Centre at Kangaroo Ground, had placed a team on standby, called in more units and set up their mobile forward control.

At 3.26 the fire jumped the river into Bradleys Lane, creating a fire controller's nightmare—fire on both sides of the river.

Lower Yarra group set up a combined forward HQ, ensuring liaison for all the services and cooperation between them. The CFA threw 40 tankers and three pumpers into the attack; they were joined by some 12 units from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Mobile car phones proved a valuable asset in providing communication between the various command centres. The new electronic telephone exchange at Warrandyte stood up well, and for the first time during a major fire the local telephone system did not fail.

A police helicopter patrolled the area, allowing Captain Bird to control operations from it by radio. Later Deputy Group Officer Bernard Murray operated in a similar role.

The Department of Conservation and Environment provided a specially-equipped fixed wing aircraft which dropped foam on the fire. It was re-filled at Lilydale airport.

They also had a command helicopter, allowing head ranger Ian Roach to control C&E equipment, liaising with HQ by radio. This machine is fitted with an infra-red scanner, identifying hot spots on the ground, even inside buildings.

But the most spectacular piece of equipment employed was undoubtedly the water-bombing helicopter—the Helitak. Using its submersible

pump and 1600 litre tank it was able to take water from the river and drop it on the fire from as low an altitude as safety permitted.

The Helitak can take water from an area as shallow as 16 centimetres. Once again the Yarra proved to be Warrandyte's best natural friend during a fire.

Group HQ was able to continually monitor the weather from fax reports coming in from the regional office and the weather bureau. This equipment could be moved into position in anticipation of a change of wind.

A disastrous situation can result from fire unexpectedly changing direction due to the wind swinging around.

Some 70 hectares of country had been burned by the time the fire was finally brought under control around 8pm.

Firefighters had successfully defended a number of seriously threatened homes in Bradleys Lane and Browns Road.

Then began the long job of patrolling and mopping-up. North Warrandyte brigade, that had 45 members and casualties at the fire, spent all day Tuesday mopping-up.

It is estimated that 360 CFA firefighters, 30 from C&E and 35 State Emergency Service personnel took part in the total operation.

In addition to the Pound Bend fire, the CFA group had to deal with two other outbreaks, one at Kinglake and the other at South Warrandyte. The latter was extinguished by three MFB units and two CFA units diverted from Bradleys Lane.

A spot fire broke out in the garden of the Hiscock property in Yarra Street, backing the river. Almost certainly carried across from the main fire, it was extinguished as soon as it landed.

The only residence destroyed was the disused youth hostel at Pound Bend—a sad loss historically, as this building was Australia's first YHA hostel. The YHA canoe shed was also destroyed, as were a studio and a shed in Bradleys Lane.

The pioneer slab cottage at the corner of Kangaroo Ground Road and Castle Road was threatened, but quick action by the water-bombing helicopter and three fire units saved it.

A further outbreak at this spot on Thursday, February 28 was extinguished by units from Warrandyte and North Warrandyte.

Police are investigating the cause of the main fire and the one that started in Castle Road.

Alan Alder, controller of Doncaster-Templestowe State Emergency Service, described the work his unit did as "absolutely first class".

The SES arranged evacuation centres at Kingswood College and Eltham Community Centre in anticipation of large-scale evacuation, had the fire crossed Research Road. They also provided inflatable rafts to take crews and their equipment down the river to attack inaccessible hot spots during the evening.

The SES was stood down at 10.30pm, but was back at 6.30 the following morning with chain saws, helping to mop up.

As always, the Salvation Army was at the scene, helping with mobile catering units in Bradleys Lane and at the North Warrandyte Community Centre.

The profound gratitude of everyone in Warrandyte goes out to all who fought so hard; to those who backed them up and to those who have, through the years, worked to create the organisation that planned and led this successful battle to save our homes and lives.

It is more than 20 years since wildfire last brought havoc and destruction to Warrandyte. But now we all know—once more it has been reinforced—that it really will happen again.

Our best insurance policy is to treat seriously the threat of fire, take all possible precautions and support our volunteer brigades in whatever way we can.



The black stump: Browns Gully was devastated. (Pictures by Jan Tindale)

## Danger too close to home

By LEE TINDALE

YOU'RE constantly aware of the danger when you live in bushfire-prone Warrandyte, but you kid yourself it could never happen to you. It can. And it damn near did to us on the afternoon of February 25 (1991).

For the fact that it didn't we are permanently and deeply indebted to the local and out-of-town Country Fire Authority volunteers who surrounded our home in Browns Road and refused to let it burn.

Having jumped the river from the State Park and roared up the hill, the flames licked at the back door and, thwarted there, divided.

Perhaps they wanted to encircle us, but the CFA men were superb. God bless 'em—and everyone else who had a hand in putting out this town's worst bushfire for 22 years.

A lot of things—mostly irrational—gallop through your mind as you stand in Yarra Street and watch a major bushfire doing its work in your particular pocket of Warrandyte.

You know your home is right in the middle of it, but they won't let you cross the bridge and they're probably right. What can you do that trained firefighters can't, except maybe get in their way? You should be living in hope, but despair comes easier.

Remarkably, you start apportioning blame for the rupture of the ozone layer. It's *their* fault! They heated up this bloody planet!

And the weather men. Sure they said today was going to be a scorcher, but did they have to get lucky

this time?

There are surges of stout-hearted emotion. What we'll do is pull the caravan up from Portarlinton and live in that while we rebuild. We'll be cramped and uncomfortable...but yeah, that's what we'll do.

Funny isn't it, that among all these thoughts there is none of quitting Warrandyte? That is unthinkable.

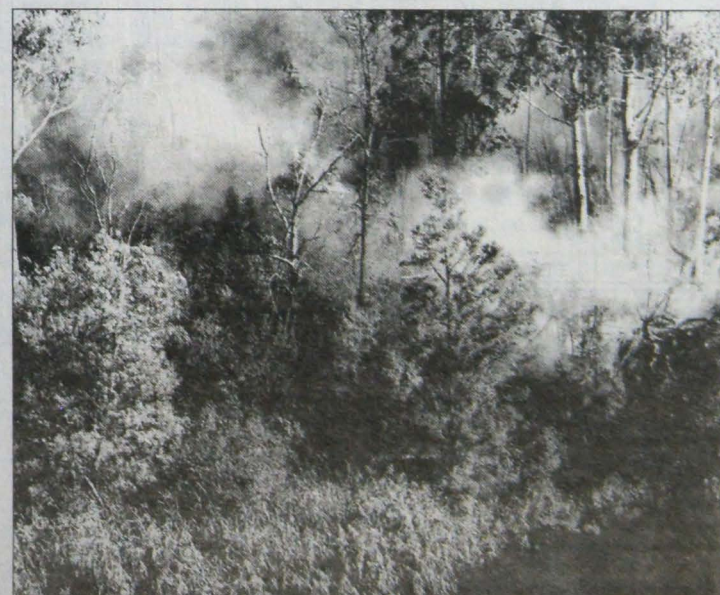
By the time you're allowed back in, you're wondering if there's anything to come back to. The fire has been "contained" and "uncontained" and

you dare not ask anyone among the army of firemen, police, et cetera if the house at the bottom of the track is still intact because, either way, you really don't want to be seen to cry in public.

You shorten stride a little as you reach the point where the dark grey roof should have into view...and I'll be buggered, there it is!

We have survived.

When you've abandoned hope, the sight of your home still standing is a huge bonus.



Fire burns through the Warrandyte bush on February 25, 1991.

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# Council takes it to another stage



Stiggants Reserve—Warrandyte's "village green"—is soon to have a new outdoor stage. Manningham council anticipates building will be completed some time in July.

The original stage was built by volunteers from the Warrandyte Apex Club during the mid-1980s. The club financed the project through paper drives and fund-raising auctions at the old White House on the Recreation Reserve. A crane truck owned by the Doncaster-Templestowe electricity authority equipment was used to position the large timber poles.

Prior to its construction, council and the Festival Committee had to arrange to erect and then remove a temporary stage each year at festival time.

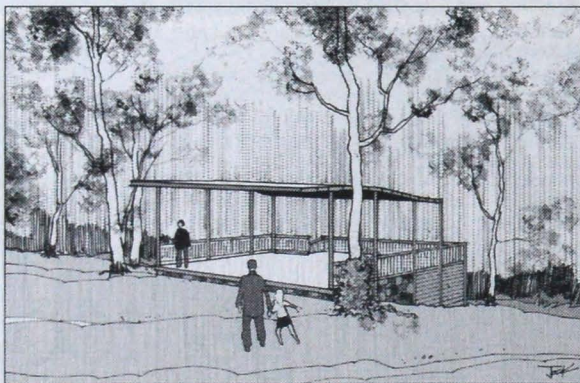
"The original stage has seen good service through some 25 years of festivals, Christmas carols celebrations, outdoor church services and numerous other events," Cr David

Old stagers: Original Apex Club members who built the Stiggants stage, with Cr David Ellis. From left, standing: Dennis Robertshaw, Bill Randall, Gavin Borwick, Cr David Ellis. Seated: Darryl Hurle, Allan Fluck, Gordon Lee, Dennis Barnes, Ron McLellan.

Ellis told the *Diary*. Despite their age, the timbers are still in good condition.

"Nothing lasts forever, and the new stage, with its permanent roof and on-site storage facility will be a welcome addition to future festivals and events," Cr Ellis said. "But I don't think we should let the old stage come down without acknowledging the great service it has done for Warrandyte—and the community spirit, camaraderie and enthusiasm that went into its construction."

Council has allocated \$116,000 to the project.



Our artist's impression of the new Stiggants Reserve stage.

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"Some of my best hours have been spent under that stage, Ock!"

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# Insurance should reflect bushfire reality

One important bushfire issue that homeowners need to consider is how adequate is my insurance cover? Changed requirements are likely to significantly increase the costs of building and re-building homes in our area.

Council wildfire management overlays, the newly revised Australian standard—Building in Bushfire Prone Areas—and removal of asbestos contaminated debris pose additional costs which might not be adequately covered in your sum insured. You would also need to add such things as accommodation and removal expenses to your calculations.

What do we do if we want to find out if

we are adequately covered? First obtain and read an updated Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) from your insurer to find out what is covered—and what is not covered. As different insurance companies treat "additional costs" differently, you need to find out what your insurer includes—and what your policy "sum insured" covers. There may be a "sum insured" calculator on your insurer's website; but make sure you use "replace-

ment cost" rather than original purchase price if you have a "new for old" policy.

The next step is to obtain from the Building Commission—and read—the Guide to Assessing Your Property's Bushfire Attack Level and A Guide to Building in Victoria After Bushfire brochures to better understand your home's bushfire risk exposure and potential costs of re-building a fire-damaged home. There are copies to be read in the library.

Then review your insurance policy PDS and "sum insured" to make sure your cover is adequate.

Philip Clark (by email)

# CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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# Kids flag good reading habit

Warrandyte kids have embraced the reading challenge once again.

Yan Yean MP Danielle Green visited Warrandyte Primary School, Andersons Creek Primary and Warrandyte High School to encourage students to participate in this year's Premier's Reading Challenge.

She congratulated those who are already involved in the scheme.

"Literacy is such an important part of learning so it's terrific to see students at Warrandyte schools taking up the challenge with such energy and enthusiasm," Ms Green told the *Diary*.

"We want to equip modern students with the skills they need to succeed and shine, and the challenge is a great way of doing this."

Students in Years 3 to 10 are required to read 15 books or more by August 31. For children in Prep, Years 1 and 2, the challenge is to



Danielle Green presents a new flag to the kids at Warrandyte Primary School.

read or "experience" 30 books by August 31.

Ms Green also took the opportunity to present Warrandyte Primary with a new Australian flag, replacing a

worn-out one.

She recently successfully lobbied for an additional portable classroom for the school, needed to cope with an increase in enrolments.

# Good neighbours

By JOANNE GREEN

Whether through walking groups, writing classes or sewing circles, Warrandyte Neighbourhood House has been helping to build community and bring people together for 20 years.

It's not really a "house" but a large communal area at the top of the Warrandyte Community Centre, situated on the corner of Yarra and Webb streets.

WNH runs courses in health and fitness, creativity and education. They provide child care and one-off workshops, such as the recent "taking the mystery out of mobiles", aimed at helping older people understand how to use mobile phones.

They run self-support groups, providing an avenue through which people can become involved and better connected to their commu-

nity. An example is the Busy Needles group that meets every Tuesday, where friends come together to chat and work on their knitting.

"We do more than just run courses," coordinator Karen Throssell told the *Diary*. "The courses are a means to an end. We're a place where people—mainly women—can come and make friends."

Many people enrolled in courses go on to become Neighbourhood House volunteers. Apart from community involvement, volunteering can lead to the development of new skills—such as computer competency—which may lead to paid employment.

One volunteer was able to use her skills as an administration assistant to help her gain a nursing degree. WNH is organised by these volunteers, plus two paid employees.

Many of the courses are run by volunteers at cost, most costing only \$10. The house receives annual grants from state and local government. These go towards paying rent and employees' wages. Despite struggling to meet day-to-day costs, the house also raises money for cancer research and other charitable causes.



Staying supple in the neighbourhood.

# Team up for cancer relay

Local residents are being urged to begin getting teams together to take part in this year's Warrandyte Relay for Life, to be held across the weekend of September 12 and 13 at the Recreation Reserve.

"We all seem to know someone who has experienced cancer," local organiser Terry Pieper told the *Diary*. "Relay for Life is an opportunity to celebrate with people in the community who have beaten cancer, while at the same supporting those fighting and honouring those lost to cancer."

The inaugural Relay For Life, held last year, resulted in 20 teams participating. More than \$15,000 was raised

to help in the fight against cancer.

"It is an incredibly moving experience," Terry Pieper said. "Those who took part in our first relay still speak of the feel and impact of the opening ceremony and emotional candlelight ceremony, with personal messages of love, remembrance or hope providing a warm glow in the night."

Relay teams take turns walking, running, skipping, dancing, wheeling or rolling around the oval, all through the night and into the morning.

To register for more information, go on line at [www.relayforlife.org.au](http://www.relayforlife.org.au) or phone 1300 65 65 85.



They relayed against cancer last year

# Bank seeks home for \$100k!

The Warrandyte Community Bank is still searching for a local group to accept a grant of \$100,000 to fund a major project.

The bank offered this money late last year, and is looking for an exciting project that would also attract further substantial funding from outside Warrandyte.

"We want to ensure that the money goes into a project that is sustainable," bank chairman Sarah Wrigley told the *Diary*.

Importantly, it should allow "the organisation to leverage the money to ensure there is money flowing into our community from sources outside the bank, such as local, state and federal government. We so often miss out on this funding, and we hope that our grants can be used to attract this greater level of funding."

The bank is celebrating the sixth anniversary of its founding this month.

"With our sixth birthday on June 5, we have now surpassed \$115 million in deposits and lending, a huge effort in the current economy," Ms Wrigley said. This is "mainly due to an influx of deposits as investors look for a safe haven".

Despite profit growth being "sluggish due to smaller margins, the branch still expects to at least equal last year's profit and declare a dividend to shareholders around August or September".

As well as the \$100,000 on offer, the bank requested applications for smaller grants and sponsorships in April.

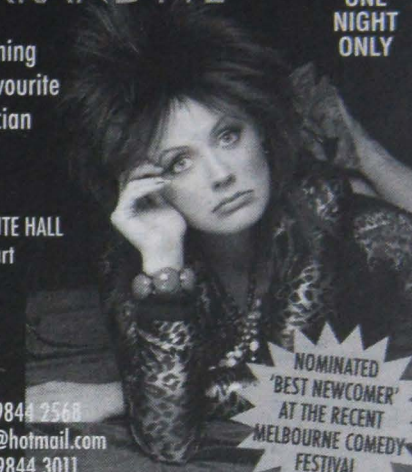
"We are currently assessing these applications to ensure that the money will be used appropriately," Ms Wrigley said. "We will be informing organisations of the outcome in late June." A decision on the larger grant is not likely until the end of July.

# Rosa Waxes Lyrical

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# Locals on guard against fire

By SANDY BURGOYNE

The Country Fire Authority has a policy of encouraging residents of high fire risk areas to set up community Fireguard groups. This is in recognition that local brigades cannot provide protection to every household during a major bushfire. Fireguards are self-help groups formed around a neighbourhood, a street or some other locality.

Several of these operate in the Warrandyte district and the *Diary* spoke to representatives of three of them.

The Bradleys Lane group in North Warrandyte was formed in 1992 as a direct result of the 1991 fire. That had started in an old orchard near Pound Bend Road and jumped the river in several places including to properties on Bradleys Lane.

The Pound Road group has been operating for 13 years.

Several of the members' properties about the Warrandyte State Park around Pound Bend with forest and woodlands nearby.

The Tunnel Street group was formed five years ago at the southern end of Webb Street and is one of several Fireguard groups operating in this street.

All the Fireguard groups have a phone tree to alert member households to warnings or emergencies. The operation of these varies with the group.

Elaine Provan is co-ordinator of Bradleys Lane Fireguard, a group of 43 households. She and her neighbour initiate messages through their phone tree.

"(We) determine whether we will send a message round and then we each ring four people and then those four people ring their little circle.

"(This) saves people ringing from one end of the lane to the other because it is a kilometre long. It means that they are ringing people within walking distance ... if they can't get them on the phone and they need to specifically go there they can," Ms Provan told the *Diary*.

The Tunnel Street group of 14 households, which includes most of the large properties at the top end of Webb Street on Fourth Hill, has a single phone tree.

"We don't want it to get too big. It would take a lot longer to get through the phone tree and it could break down somewhere along the line—the fewer on it the better," co-ordinator John Hanson said.

The Pound Road group has 75 members. Each phone tree section is limited to 10 members to ensure rapid transmission of alert messages.



Pound Road Fireguard members test their equipment. (Pictures by Stephen Reynolds)

At least two practice runs of phone trees are staged before each fire season.

As reported in the April issue of the *Diary* a new system is being developed to speed up and improve communications within Fireguard groups. Now called Firelinx, a trial is expected next summer with groups from Hurstbridge, Wattle Glen, Kangaroo Ground, Research, North Warrandyte and Warrandyte likely to participate.

"The group of people who are involved in the trial will be meeting during July to progress the arrangements for the trial," Phil Clark of the Pound Road group said.

All the Fireguard groups interviewed have at least one analogue scanner although that is not compulsory. These radio-like receivers pick up the communications traffic of emergency services. Or at least they did until recently.

"Now the police and ambulance have gone onto digital, the only thing I can get on the scanner is the CFA. If they go to digital, this (analogue) scanner might be \$100 or so, but they reckon the digital ones could cost \$700. That's out of the range of Fireguard groups if they do change," John Hanson said.

Fireguard activities are not limited to passing on fire alerts or status messages. All the spokespeople interviewed commented on the importance of getting to know their neighbours and working together to enhance their fire

readiness.

The groups also organise meetings, property walks and newsletters.

"We had a big meeting after the fires. I suggested we might like to get together and de-brief and we had a huge meeting. We had 60 people. And I think that was because it had reawakened everyone's awareness, whereas I find it very hard sometimes to get people interested. I think the complacency got worse because we hadn't had any threats and until February 7 people were starting to get a bit complacent. And I think that reawakened the need to be more aware and be prepared," Elaine Provan of Bradleys Lane said.

Group members also share advice on fire preparedness such as installation of tanks and pumps and their readiness.

"We believe it is important to have clear instructions (for the pump) that are easy to read," John Hanson said.

Within his group members have commented that instructions are often hard to understand or are written in small type.

The Bradleys Lane group has organised several property walks.

"That entails a member of the CFA coming ... and it's usually just a small group of four to six people perhaps and they go to their own properties. The whole group goes to each property and has a look and the CFA point out what

they need to do to make their house more fire resistant.

"I think it's been good and you learn from each other and that's where I think the best of Fireguard ... is it gets people to know their neighbours. It also helps people understand where they are at—if they are going to defend a house, or whether they decide it is just too much and they will go," Ms Provan said.

Although enthusiastic Fireguard groups operate around the Warrandyte district many households are not covered.

"At that meeting down at the Community Church they said hands up who's in the Fireguard group and not many put their hands up among those 450 people," John Hanson said.

Phil Clark believes that more could be done to publicise the work of these community groups. "There is scope ... for much more proactive marketing of Fireguard groups.

"It is a very important neighbourhood promotion. We get to meet people at Fireguard meetings that we would not otherwise have met. That in itself is an important thing in a place like Warrandyte. I place that as equally important as the bushfire alerting—the neighbourhood promotion.

"The other is the education aspect," he said.

● For information on joining or forming a community Fireguard group contact the co-ordinator for CFA region 13—Helen Wositzky on 8739 1315.



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# Bush poet for AGM

The annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Historical Society will be held at their museum in the Old Post Office in Yarra Street, Warrandyte on Sunday, July 19 commencing at 2pm. Guest speaker will be the current Victorian bush poetry state champion, Jim Brown, who will recite a selection of Australian classics along with some of his own compositions. Afternoon tea will be served. All are invited to attend. The society is actively seeking new members, particularly anyone who is interested in becoming involved on the committee. If you would like further information call Andy Bevan-Jones on 9812 2357.

**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.

range of categories. All key details about how to enter the awards can be found on [www.landcare-online.com](http://www.landcare-online.com).

### Men

To coincide with International Men's Health Week, senior men of Manningham are invited to attend a men's health forum on Thursday, June 18 between 9am and 3.30pm at the Ted Ajani Centre in Bulleen. The forum, entitled "It's Just a Bloke Thing" will feature a range of information on men's health targeted towards males over the age of 55 years. Entertainment and a two-course lunch will be provided. Tickets to the event are \$7.50. Bookings are essential. Please call 9840 9700 to register.

### Launch

A book by local historical author Murray Houghton entitled "Warrandyte—the community with a heart of gold" will be launched at the Warrandyte Historical Society's museum on Sunday, July 19 following the annual general meeting. The launch, by Vicki Court, information technology manager of the Victorian Royal Historical Society will take place at 3.45pm. The book is set in the 1890s and early 1900s.

### Planting

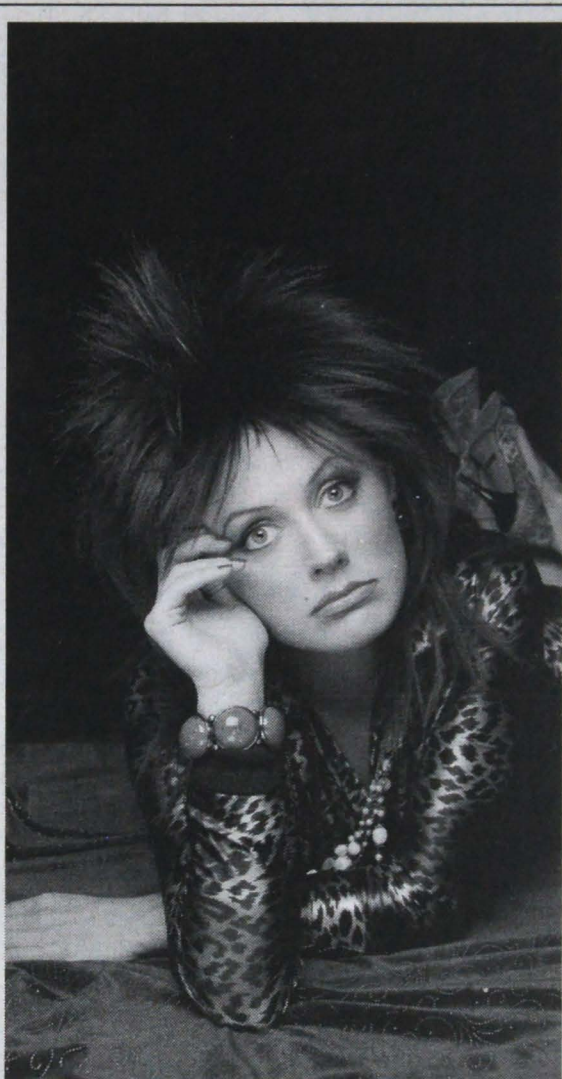
Osborne Landcare is calling for help to plant 1000 plants in Warrandyte State Park to mark World Environment Day on Sunday, June 14, from 10am to 12noon. The plants will be planted along the Lowestoft riverbank. Tools will be provided, just wear sturdy shoes. Access down the lane-way adjacent to 31 Osborne Road, North Warrandyte and through the paddock. Everyone welcome. Information: Ruth on 9844 1959.

### Walk

Friends of Manningham Dogs and Cats are holding a community dog walk on Saturday, July 18 at 2pm in parkland on the east side of Fitzsimons Lane, opposite Westerfolds Park. Look for the balloons and FOMDAC banner. A short fun walk with agility and games. Information on [www.fomdac.org.au](http://www.fomdac.org.au).

### Awards

Landcare is urging people across Victoria to enter the National Landcare Awards as it reaches its 20 year milestone. The awards are held every two years in a diverse



## Rosa waxes lyrical!

Marney (aka Rosa) McQueen—celebrity beautician with a difference—is coming to the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute on Friday, July 3. Described as "an international sensation in beauty therapy" she shares the secrets of her international success with witty songs, comedy and tales from behind the Iron Curtain. Marney was nominated Best Newcomer at the recent Comedy Festival. The show is due to start at 7.30 for 8pm, costs \$25, supper included. Tickets from Maxine Chapman on 9844 2568 or email: [maxine\\_chapman@hotmail.com](mailto:maxine_chapman@hotmail.com) or Jenny at Scandles on 9844 3011.

and standard players—is \$8 plus postage with all proceeds going towards habitat and biodiversity projects through the Friends group. Order form is available on [www.fowsp.org.au](http://www.fowsp.org.au).

### Watching

Monthly meetings of the Warrandyte area Neighbourhood

Watch groups are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Senior Citizens Centre in Tarroona Avenue, Warrandyte. The purpose is to identify preventable criminal activities and safety concerns in the area.

### Do Care

Do Care are seeking volunteers in the local community. Please call 9762 5211 if you can help.

## COREY'S COMMUNITY

By SYD & ONA



### artyfacts

"Techniques Times Two" is the title of the current exhibition at the Stonehouse Gallery, 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. It features pottery by Jan O'Neill and Joy van Heyden. The two artists show a diversity of clay techniques and styles. The exhibition closes on June 29.

### Painting

Local Templestowe painter Rossella Picciani will be showing her latest work in an exhibition exploring the power of semiotics at Manningham Gallery from Wednesday, June 17 to Saturday, July 4. The gallery is at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

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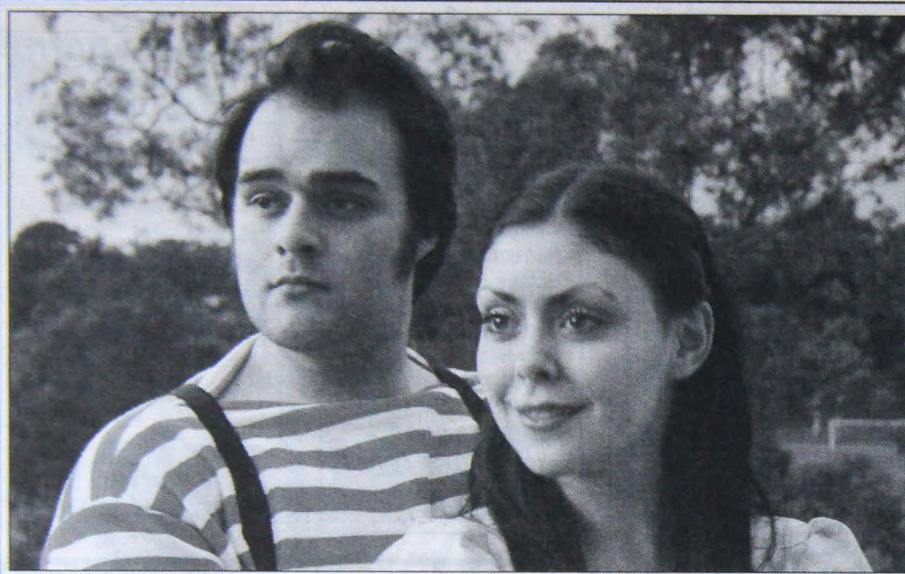
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# Carousel comes to town

Carousel, hailed by Time magazine as "the best musical of the 20th century", is coming to Warrandyte.

The Diamond Valley Singers are presenting the show at the Warran-

dyte High School Theatre for a limited season of eight performances in early July.

Acting locally and thinking globally, Diamond Valley Singers will donate the proceeds from these performances to World Vision and Open House.

First performed on Broadway in 1945, this story of two star-crossed lovers is set to "one of the most ravishing and celebrated scores of all

time", including *The Carousel Waltz*, *If I Loved You*, *June is Bustin' Out All Cver* and *You'll Never Walk Alone*.

The show is running at the High School Theatre, in Alexander Road, Warrandyte on July 3, 4, 8, 10 and 11 at 8pm; and on July 4, 5 and 11 at 2pm.

● Book through Angela on 9439 7843 or by email: [dvsbookings@netscape.com](mailto:dvsbookings@netscape.com).

Gerard Schneider as Billy Bigalow and Esther Counsel playing Julie Jordan lead the cast of *Carousel*, performing at the Warrandyte High School Theatre next month.

## Three-in-one play season *Memories of early days*



The Warrandyte Theatre Company's celebrated annual season of one-act plays is on again. Featuring two comedies and a drama, the plays are being produced by WTC veteran, Gail Macrae.

*St Francis Talks to the Birds* by British playwright David Ives is described as "a comic excursion into death and dying in which the holy man meets a couple of desert vultures waiting to turn him into dessert". Being directed by David Tynan.

*Borneo* by Raimondo Cortese, directed by Adrian Rice, introduces us to two women on a plane returning from overseas. They seem very different—strangers thrown together. But they make a connection and arrange to meet up after their return. They seem to have become friends; but then...

David Ives also wrote *The Mystery at Twickenham Vicarage*. "Three shots are fired on a dark stage. The lights come up on the corpse of a sex addict, a detective and the three people he most recently bedded: his wife, her girlfriend and their minister." *Shades of Midsommer Murders*, directed by Phyl Swindley.

All three plays will be presented at the Warrandyte Mechanics' Institute on June 19, 20, 26 and 27.



Ruby "Popsy" Bone, one of the town's most loved identities, recently celebrated her 93rd birthday with family and friends at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club.

Ruby (formerly Wagner) came to Warrandyte with her family in 1929. They settled on a property where the State Park ranger's depot now stands, transforming the bush into a thriving market garden and orchard.

Popsy was widowed when she was 36, being left with two young boys. She worked at the original Warrandyte post office for 17 years, where she got to know Tom Bone, whom she married.

Recently finding relief from chronic back pain, suffered over the past seven years, she is now back working in her garden and singing with a local concert party.

Warrandyte will want to wish Popsy a very happy birthday!

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## Warrandyte—be better prepared!

Submission by the Warrandyte Community Association to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission

### SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

**W**ARRANDYTE is a severely fire-prone area with a sad history of bushfire disaster. The Warrandyte Community Association convened a Bushfire Forum open to all members of the public in the Warrandyte area to hear Warrandyte residents' views and feelings on the issues arising from the fires. There were no formal speeches or presentations. About 280 residents participated in small groups to raise matters of concern. Twelve topics emerged with recommendations for short and longer term actions and supporting comment. These views are residents' views: they are not necessarily the views of the WCA or the local emergency services, neither are they always consistent. They do however accurately reflect community concerns.

There was an emphasis on the need for better education and communication with people taking personal responsibility for their safety, particularly by supporting Community Fireguard groups.

Better resource allocation is advocated, training local citizens to defend as well as providing better back-up.

There was enthusiasm for designated, safe community refuges and individual bunkers, with more specialist information required.

Early warning systems must be improved with clarity as to what they mean.

Building codes should be tightened in fire-prone areas.

The most contentious area is perhaps land management policy with some passionate advocacy in favour of maintaining Warrandyte's rich bush environment and conversely for fuel reduction and tree clearing. There is no doubt that this area of policy needs revision, but based on evidence and consistency between councils.

Warrandyte has severe access and egress problems which have been raised in other public forums hosted by WCA before but yet to be resolved.

The potential for and questions arising from evacuation of the whole community are considered. There was much support for publicising and utilising the Forest Fire Danger Index.

Finally, insurance issues were raised: compulsory fire insurance and potential rebates for fire protected properties.

The forum was well received as evidenced by the feedback notes and correspondence.

The WCA will work with the local community, emergency services, local councils and state government to implement the actions called for in this submission.

### WCA BUSHFIRE FORUM

The recent bushfires raised significant issues which resonated within the Warrandyte community. Warrandyte is extremely fire prone. Bushfires have burned through the area in 1851, 1939, 1962, 1965, 1969 and 1991 causing property loss, habitat destruction and death. The WCA is aware that the immediate focus of the Commission has been on the areas tragically affected by the recent fires. As the focus of the Commission is on adversely impacted communities, it is understandable that the Commissioners did not hold any meetings in Warrandyte. However, our community feels vulnerable. Consequently, the Warrandyte Community Association convened an open forum or workshop to hear Warrandyte residents' views and feelings on the issues arising from the fires.

The purpose was to explore possible ways forward, to focus on issues and actions and to better prepare Warrandyte for the next fire season which could be upon us in October 2009.

There were no speeches or formal presentations. The format of the workshop was to enable residents to raise matters of interest and concern which were then pri-

oritised for submission to this Royal Commission. There were matters raised which undoubtedly require further expert technical, local and political input. The WCA will host subsequent meeting or activities with the appropriate authorities.

### BETTER COMMUNICATION

Warrandyte is a potential fire disaster zone. To better prepare for the next fire season it is essential to improve communication with residents to adequately prepare in the short time available.

It was with some disappointment the WCA learned that the administration of the CFA Region 13 were unwilling to publicise this forum through the CFA Community Fireguard networks in Warrandyte or indeed to advertise or communicate any other meeting prepared by local communities in threatened areas unless they were organised by the CFA. This is an occasion of bureaucracy overriding common sense.

Volunteers in the CFA are heroes in our community: they deserve more professional support, improved communication networks and all the help they can get to connect with the local community.



## FORUM ORGANISATION

Under the theme *Warrandyte—Be Better Prepared*, participants were invited to gain a better understanding of community issues and concerns relating to the threat of bushfires in and around Warrandyte and the diversity of views. It also provided an opportunity for community members to identify practical ways to improve their own safety before the next fire season, to make connections and to support and follow through with appropriate action.

The forum was facilitated by Bruce Turner, a professional facilitator acting in a voluntary capacity, assisted by 12 voluntary helpers as group leaders, some of whom had professional counselling and facilitation skills. Over 280 people attended the forum. They were spread into small groups to encourage conversations, shared stories, thoughts and feelings "after the fires". The groups were then asked to prioritise a list of topics that they would want to talk more about. Twelve major topics emerged. The second part of the workshop was for topic focused discussions convened by a volunteer helper. At the end of the evening each of the groups reported back to the meeting. The substance of this report to the Royal Commission is the thoughts, feelings and concerns expressed by Warrandyte residents around each of these major topics.

**These views do not necessarily represent the policy of the WCA nor the priorities of the emergency services based in Warrandyte.**

Nevertheless, some members of the emergency services participated in the forum in a private capacity as Warrandyte residents.

The topics, not listed in any particular priority order, were:

- Education and Communication;
- Personal Responsibility;
- Fireguard Risks;
- Resource Allocation;
- Community Refuges;
- Individual Bunkers;
- Early Warning Systems;
- Building Codes;
- Land Management Policy;
- Access and Egress;
- Evacuation of Whole Community, and
- Insurance.

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

### Short term actions:

- Ensure residents have a detailed checklist:
- Have you assessed the risk and understood how fire impacts?
- Have you educated younger people on fire risks, particularly through school education programs with a syllabus for Warrandyte and surrounding areas?
- Have you developed individual bushfire plans?

### Longer term actions:

- There should be a Community Education Officer to interface between state departments, councils and the Warrandyte community. Communications should use appropriate language. Communicators should recognise and identify the different constituencies within the community and tailor the message accordingly.
- There should be a Warrandyte Area Bushfire Plan.

### Comment:

The community education group identified a lack of local fire information in Warrandyte. They questioned: Do Warrandyte residents really understand about fires? Are Fireguard groups well supported and are they really working? Does the CFA hold fire training meetings for residents? In writing fire plans for their house and using appropriate technology (pumps, sprinklers, building materials etc), do the residents understand the risks and how to be better prepared?

There is a need for a Warrandyte Area Bushfire Plan because residents must be aware of the following issues.

### Planning and preparation:

- websites and information;
- appropriate exit roads
- the need for and training of volunteers

### Implementation:

- refuges
- resource allocation (see section below)
- sirens
- emergency signage

### Recovery:

- recovery procedures

## PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

### Short term actions:

- Build community awareness. Every family is responsible.
- Each householder should take practical steps to prepare for fire (Plan; Prepare; Document; Practice!)
- Promote the Community Fireguard Program.
- Fire education should have a visible presence at the Warrandyte Community Market, Festival and other like occasions in order to engage people in conversation, give out brochures, information etc.
- List website addresses and community radio; signs in appropriate locations, (*Warrandyte Diary*; various roads etc.).

### Longer term actions:

- Develop an education program to change the culture. Promote a culture that ensures that all the required things are done to prepare.
- Shift focus of education from being on factual to include issues of personal responsibility and community responsibility.
- The Bendigo Bank 3113 website could be used to disseminate more bushfire information.
- Need for a central agency to coordinate education, information and community groups.

### Comment:

The group identified a mismatch between real responsibility and actual responsibility; there is a need to check expectations against reality. The terminology used by authorities can be confusing; there are different levels of understanding in the community as to what actual advice really means. People do not necessarily take information in, even when it is given to them. There is a cultural issue of people not liking to be told what to do. However there is a real need to foster Fire Awareness; that it is integral to living in the bush.

## COMMUNITY FIREGUARD GROUPS

(Risks, Participation and Coordination)

### Short term actions:

- An immediate goal of this group was to convene an annual forum of the Warrandyte area CFA Community Fireguard leaders to encourage networking, exchange of information and encourage membership.
- Experienced CFA leaders in the area could assist and mentor new Community Fireguard Group leaders.
- Warrandyte needs an assertive community campaign to get residents to join or start Community Fireguard Groups.

### Longer term actions:

- The CFA should endorse or accredit residents' individual fire preparation action plans.
- Participation in the Community Fireguard Groups could be encouraged through a rebate on fire insurance levy or a rate rebate for those adequately prepared. Rebates could be provided to those Community Fireguard Group members who can produce proof that their individual fire preparation action plans have been endorsed by the CFA.

### Comment:

There is a great advantage in being a member of a Community Fireguard Group (CFG). To join an existing group or to start a new one people should call Helen Wositzky of the CFA on 8739 1315. Members of a CFG learn more about the detail of being fire ready. There should be an annual

meeting of CFG leaders. There are 80 in Warrandyte including 26 in North Warrandyte, the largest number in Victoria.

It would be useful to find out how many residents were not home on February 7. This one question provides a lot of useful information on:

- the effect of the warning messages
- the number leaving early
- the potential of a disastrous outcome of late departures
- the number of people who need to make themselves safe at their home.

## RESOURCE ALLOCATION

### Short term actions:

- Citizens should be trained in firefighting for strictly localised firefighting.
- There is a need for greatly improved green waste collection and dispersal (skips in the street, local woodchipper and truck teams, weekly clearance of larger green waste bins, possible easing of burn-off restrictions?)

### Longer term actions:

- Emergency Services need to develop better systems for the anticipation and communication of firefront activity and accessing back-up support from the MFB.
- Council resources should be allocated for inspection of all private properties for fire preparedness.
- Employment of more spotter aircraft to give more accurate and rapid reporting of fire location/s.
- Adoption of the NSW Community Fire Unit model.

## COMMUNITY REFUGES

### Short term actions:

- Be more vigilant about clean-up before fires.
- Support Community Fireguard Groups
- Prepare bunkers
- Plan to leave—Forest Fire Danger Index driven

### Longer term actions:

- Is there potential for an underground car park/fire refuge under the new football ground?
- Modification of existing mines and refuges for human safety?
- Where is the best place to build community refuges—in Warrandyte or outside Warrandyte?
- Financial incentives for people in communities to build fire bunkers.

### Comment:

Refuges and bunkers are not an end in themselves. Individuals have a responsibility to be better prepared, not just with Plan A, but also Plans B, C, D etc. There is also a responsibility to friends, neighbours and others in the community. The Powelltown Community Bunker (*built following the 1939 bushfires*) was successful in the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires. Should there be a planning zone for refuge bunkers? Research and regulation would be required.

## INDIVIDUAL BUNKERS

### Short term actions:

- Need for an informal bunker information group.
- Research before acting. Accurate information is urgently required (Google fire bunkers—systems available)
- Specifications for bunkers are urgently required
- Subsidy and support systems and support information should be provided
- Existing products promoted.

### Longer term actions (for building a bunker):

- Must be a safe room
- Must have method to filter or ability to deal with toxic gases
- Use of compressed air cylinders?
- Employ materials such as corrugated iron, wet hessian in a dug-out
- Location—inside or outside a house?
- Accessibility and exit—a major factor
- Survival kit required
- Ability to look out from inside via a window or periscope?
- Provision for communication to the outside world.
- Planning requirements?

### Comment:

Specifications are required now for building individual bunkers. Information is required on subsidy and support systems and on existing products. (See CSIRO, CFA, IB Systems.net.au). A list of participants in this group is available for advice. (However, who is to determine if a proposed bunker is safe? Many have died in bunkers.)

## EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

### Short term actions:

- Telephone trees
- CFA radio scanner use
- Up-to-date websites (See BOM/CFA and other)
- Personal observations relayed to authorities
- Recognition by authorities that residents are able to interpret the Forest Fire Danger Index for staging of their individual fire plans.

### Longer term actions:

- There is a need for a locally organised early warning system.
- A clearer explanation and application of the Forest Fire Danger Index.
- Radio, SMS text, television and phone warnings. Regional updates overriding television and radio stations with continual updates.
- A warning siren that is different from the CFA management siren.
- A central warning authority. (Are residents aware of what is in place?)
- Legal ability for residents and/or responsible authorities to clear land surrounding homes.

### Comment:

Should there be a legal obligation for real estate agents and other vendors to inform of bushfire risk? We also need access to reliable and informed data and research. Experiential education for young people in the community is needed. The Stay or Go System needs refinement and a clear and detailed explanation. The extreme limitations of the bridge bottleneck at Warrandyte do not enable safe and complete evacuation. Should evacuation be enforced?

Could [www.warrandytechat.com](http://www.warrandytechat.com) be used as source of FFDI information?

## BUILDING CODES

### Short term actions:

- More information is needed about fire protection systems
- Longer term actions:
  - Give consideration to regulating mandatory fire protection and installation services for homes in high-risk fire zones
  - Inaugurate insurance discounts for protected homes and/or those who have had a formal fire assessment done
  - Regulation of vegetation proximity to housing is required.

### Comment:

A study of buildings which have survived the fires is needed with an emphasis on sealing against ember attack. Also sprinklers, tanks and pumps should be protected against heat or installed underground. Residents should be aware of up-to-date knowledge on their current Bushfire Attack Level (BAL). See A Guide to Assessing Your Property's BAL by the Building Commission (Google it).

## LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY

### Short term actions:

- WCA should establish a consultation group to work with the councils on land management policy
- Clear ground fuel levels and reduce fuel loads particularly on roadside verges (Whilst this was a minority voice within the group, subsequent letters and feedback support this viewpoint—a contentious issue)
- Education and training for fire-safe gardening in Warrandyte and bush management in Warrandyte
- Need for consistency between Nillumbik and Manningham in council by-laws.

### Longer term actions:

- Future policy and planning should be evidence-based and take into account more extreme weather and fire risks.
- Further research is needed on fire safe plantings.
- Forum group participants were divided on the issue of allowing councils to empower individual residents to clear their property as they see fit versus the view that native vegetation needs to be protected.
- Higher maintenance of electrical infrastructure to avoid ignition.

### Comment:

There is no simple answer to this very contentious area. Views ranged from the extreme of clearing all vegetation within 20 metres of housing, widening roads and connecting with the freeway, to maintaining the essential character of Warrandyte without destroying the bush environment. There was however a general view that policy on land management and fuel reduction needs urgent assessment. It was noted that there are differing responses between the two local councils (Manningham and Nillumbik). There are conflicting by-laws and policies. Local mapping of the fire risk areas is needed. Higher water density vegetation reduces the fuel load. Planning should be evidence-based. A multi disciplinary approach is required by the CFA and the councils in providing fire assessments; such assessments to cover fire risk to the whole property and not just buildings.

Reference: *Fire-proofing the Australian landscape—Fire retardant species list.*  
For an introduction to fire retardant species visit [www.ilda.com.au/page/fire\\_retardant.html](http://www.ilda.com.au/page/fire_retardant.html)

## INSURANCE

### Comment:

Compulsory fire insurance for houses was raised during some discussions. They raised the issue of insurance discounts for protected homes and/or those who have had a formal fire assessment done. There are obvious difficulties with this however, in terms of preventing fraudulent assessment claims and ensuring that fire plans are actually enacted.

## EVACUATION OF WHOLE COMMUNITY

### Short term actions:

Identify places for people and animals to go to for those who choose to leave early. This applies to Total Fire Ban days, which can be frequent, as well as on extreme emergency days such as February 7, 2009.

### Longer term actions:

Investigate the feasibility of evacuating Warrandyte.

### Comment:

The majority of the group had previously planned to stay and actively defend their properties, and were by and large well prepared with pumps, sprinklers, ember protection, clothing etc. Prior to Black Saturday they believed that adequate preparation would virtually ensure not just their own safety in the event of a bush fire, but also offer a fair chance of saving their homes, businesses etc. That confidence has now been seriously undermined, with feelings of vulnerability and helplessness in the face of what may become a fire-storm compared to what is traditionally thought of as a bushfire with predictable patterns of behaviour.

Grave concerns were expressed in relation to how close the St Andrews fire came to Warrandyte. Many residents were largely unaware. It was felt that there is a need for an effective warning system to be established that can communicate with residents in "real time" about a clear and present danger in their immediate vicinity. This may involve a specific siren, text message, phone call, overhead alarm plane or similar. It was felt that although radio and

the CFA website were useful in this process, the time lag in informing residents was too long.

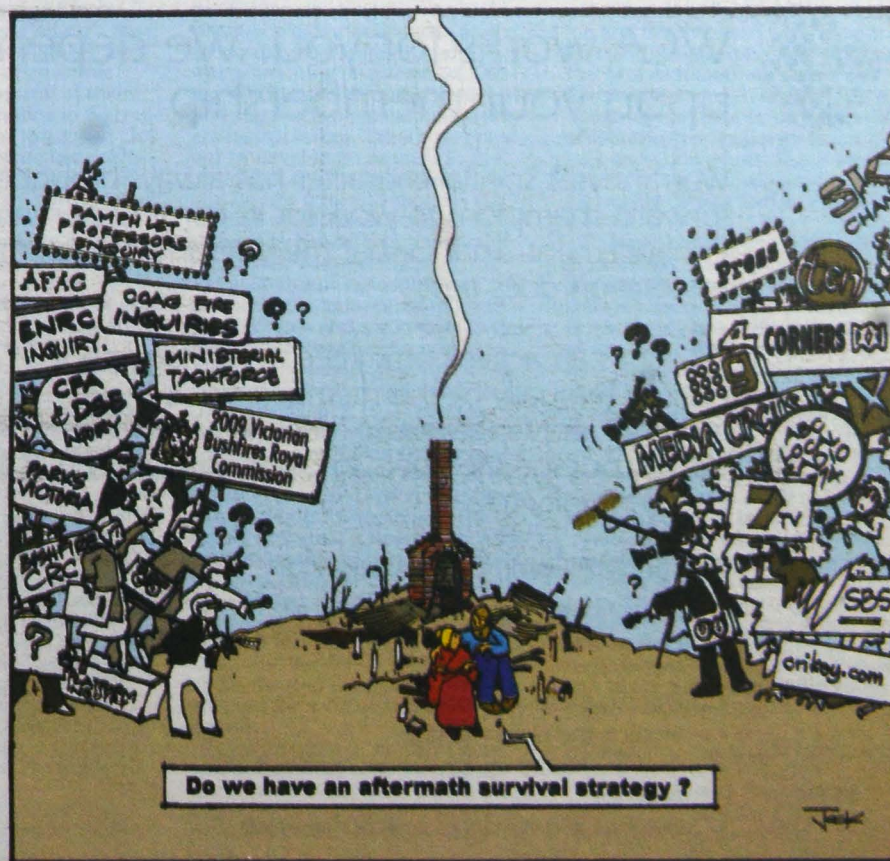
Bunkers were a hot topic for discussion, and the observation was made that much of the Community Fire Guard planning and preparation relates to activity prior to the fire-front and after it has passed and the property is subject to ember attack. Less emphasis relates to how to increase the chances of survival while the fire-front passes. The need was identified for information being made available about what works and does not work in bunker design and strategies to make them cost effective for all residents need to be explored. Although community bunkers were discussed it was not felt that this was either a viable or realistic option.

Warnings about the extreme fire risk were well communicated and available well in advance of the terrible day, however the view was expressed that the media's language was ineffective in communicating the severity of the risk. The use of Total Fire Ban days as a trigger to implement the Leave Early option are too frequent resulting in some complacency about the potential severity of the risk. A need for a more articulate language (and education) to enable residents to more effectively gauge the potential for firestorm compared to bushfire is needed. This may include use of the Forest Fire Danger Index or some other graded scale that is communicated in addition to Total Fire Ban.

Some discussion occurred around the feasibility of evacuating Warrandyte in the event of a fire, in particular North Warrandyte. This conversation recognised that many people who plan to leave do not leave early and may need to exit at relatively short notice. Although the potential flow of traffic across the bridge is a popular issue, the group largely felt that the bridge issue is a red herring as any road could be easily blocked by accident or tree fall. Smoke visibility will be zero, virtually guaranteeing that accidents and blockages will occur. Perhaps communicating that our area does not really offer a late evacuation option, highlighting the specific local issues, may both encourage more people to leave early and others to better prepare in the event that they must stay.

Mandatory evacuations were discussed and most people felt that it would be inappropriate to expect residents to leave, particularly if they felt well prepared.

A need was identified for some people who felt that they didn't really have a viable evacuation destination to go to, as they did not have friends, or family who lived in a safe area. A short term priority was discussed to identify a number of locations where people could go with their pets until the threat had passed.



## ACCESS AND EGRESS

### Short term actions:

- Timing of introduction of road blocks and communication with the local population
- Communication with the community—access/egress issues
- Clarification of the types and intensity of fires, the impact on access and egress, and road closure decisions (should be clarified)
- On total fire ban days close access to river and swimming? Signage?—short term
- 774 ABC warning of local road closures
- Consideration of a concrete ford across the Yarra River between Pound Bend and The Boulevard
- Management of through traffic at road blocks—limited to local traffic.

### Longer term actions:

- Infrastructure improvement needed to improve access and egress
- Add a third lane to ease gridlock on the Warrandyte bridge
- Triggers for the Stay or Go policy should be clearer to avoid congestion
- Burning off, better land management will reduce road hazards
- Councils need clear policy and actions to improve access and egress
- Bunkers (see previous sections)
- Security issues for unattended properties
- Designated community refuges; many people need somewhere to go!
- Better access to affected properties is an issue for some residents.

Have your say. The *Diary* invites readers' comments on all these issues.

**CARTOONS:** Jock Macneish  
**PICTURES:** Stephen Reynolds, Bruce Turner, Kerry Cross, Chris Spring

## ELDERLEY, DISABLED: WHERE TO GO?

Frail, elderly and chronically disabled residents, particularly those living alone with pets, experience particular difficulty in finding somewhere to go on a day when evacuation is recommended. If a person does not have a relative in the surrounding suburbs, there is little shelter available.

Clearly, authorities are unwilling to designate safe refuges in the area in case these too become vulnerable. However, there is no provision for people who have no friends or relatives in other suburbs.

Chronically disabled people in Warrandyte have particular difficulty. They need to evacuate to places that are able to cater fully for their needs, for example with lifting equipment and other specialised facilities. Those who do not have their own disabled transport rely on disabled equipped; taxis which are hard to find at the best of times.

The WCA has members in all these categories who have particular concerns over evacuation.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Warrandyte Community Association is sincerely grateful to all its members and friends who have helped in organising the Bushfire Forum and capturing its output, and especially to the 280 Warrandyte residents who contributed so positively to the success of the event. In particular, I would like to thank Bruce Turner for his facilitation—we thought we could manage 150, and 280 turned up! Jock Macneish, Wayne Rankin, Doug Seymour and Cliff Green helped to publicise the event and Sergeant Keith Walker and Jeff Adair gave valuable advice. Pastors Peter Keep, Tony Lyons and Dan Crozier kindly made the Warrandyte Community Church available as a magnificent venue and Doug Mealy operated the equipment and recording. WCA members Bruce and Pam Davidson, David Boyle, Jonathan Upson, Richard Aumann, David Dyason and Mark Tansley assisted on the night. Special thanks to the volunteer helpers who led discussion in forum groups: Melinda Turner, Bill Pheasant, Jane Ormonde, Tania Virgona, Val Polley, Fiona Elliott, Jeff Adair, Jock Macneish, Bruce Davidson, Adrian Rice, Anne Warren, Cenred and Vince van der Zee. Thanks also

to the *Warrandyte Diary* staff, especially Karly Hickman for writing up the forum so well and Sandy Burgoyne for supplying the archival material. And finally, last but by no means least, thanks to Judy Cooke for heroic efforts in preparing the manuscript and helping sort the mass of notes, butcher's paper and sticky bits into a coherent document.

Thank you!

**DICK DAVIES**  
 PRESIDENT  
 WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.  
 MAY 18, 2009

This is an edited version of the WCA submission. The entire submission can be downloaded at: <http://www.warrandyte.org.au>  
 WCA gratefully acknowledges financial assistance from the Warrandyte Community Bank.

# Support your community



WCA works for you. We depend upon your membership.

Warrandyte's special character has always brought forward champions to work for its conservation and enhancement. That's what the Warrandyte Community Association does best.

WCA has an active committee of management elected annually by the membership. It meets monthly and holds public meetings and forums. We encourage members to participate and be active in community affairs.

### Warrandyte Community Association

- Promotes all aspects of community life
- Defends the character and heritage of the township
- Protects the environment
- Protects the Green Wedge
- Promotes sporting, educational and cultural activities
- Defends and enhances community assets

**Warrandyte Community Association**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

New Membership     Renewal (tick one)

To become a WCA member/s please fill out this form and send with your payment (\$10.00 pa) per person. Membership falls due after the 1st July.

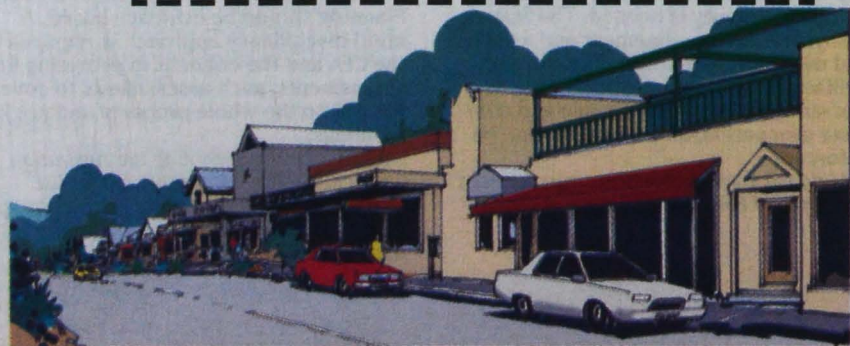
1 Full Name: ..... 2 Full Name: .....

Address: ..... Address: .....

Tel: ..... Tel: .....

Email: ..... Email: .....

Please forward completed form to: Warrandyte Community Association  
 PO. Box 75, Warrandyte 3113



VAL POLLEY believes that women have not been accorded their proper place in the Australian story. Here she documents the lives of several who left a lasting impression on Warrandyte.

# Some wonderful Warrandyte women

**I**N the early days of the new colony women were very much second class citizens with no voting or property rights, expected only to become wives and mothers. The writing of these women's history largely fell to the women themselves. It is fortunate for Warrandyte that one such woman, Penelope Selby, wrote of her early life in the 1840s. Her letters home were recorded by her son Prideaux. They provide a unique picture of the Warrandyte area before the discovery of gold, when there was only a handful of white settlers.

On the voyage from Britain with their two young boys, the Selbys became friends with the Dawson family. Together they established a property called *Bonny Town* in Andersons Creek (now Warrandyte). Penelope started out with tremendous optimism which somehow she managed to maintain throughout her life in the new colony despite many disappointments and setbacks including seven babies stillborn or who died shortly after birth.

Her letters chronicle her life and new environment and in them she recounts her daily tribulations. Alas for the Selbys; the depression of the early 1840s caused them real hardship along with many other early settlers. So in 1844 they and the Dawsons relocated to Port Fairy where Penelope anticipated a better future for herself and her family especially after the discovery of gold in 1851. She died unexpectedly in December that same year after a fall from a horse.

No doubt Penelope Selby would have been amazed to know that her words would be read by an audience far beyond that of her circle of friends and family and that later generations would have access to her story. Even after the discovery of gold as the colonial society developed and matured, still the reporting of women's history was either largely ignored or written in relation to men and women struggled to find their voice. In the mid-1800s women were still denied

rights considered basic today.

The achievements of the following women then are even more remarkable when viewed against the context of their times. For instance it was 1880 before women received the right to attend Melbourne University, 1884 before married women were granted the right to own property, 1887 before the University of Melbourne's Medical School accepted female applicants, 1908 before women were granted the vote in Victoria and 1911 before they could exercise it. No women had been elected to the Victorian Parliament before 1933 and it took until 1979 before a woman was elected to the Legislative Council. Against this background then, the following women can be seen as pioneers and trailblazers.

Angela Booth, political and health activist, was very committed to a wide range of health and women's issues, lecturing and writing in support of her ideas, arguing for equal pay for women; women to become politically active and for public education on sexual matters. She became interested in Warrandyte following a visit to an artist friend there in the early 1900s. She and husband James bought a property in Alexander Road, Warrandyte soon after (variously spelled *Nilga* or *Nilja*—now burnt down). This was originally a four roomed cottage transported from Port Melbourne as a holiday home to which they eventually retired. Angela was elected as a councillor (1926) for the then new Warrandyte riding of the Doncaster and Templestowe shire, just the third woman to be elected to local office in Victoria. A year later she became one of the first women JPs in the state. At the age of 60 she was unsuccessful as an independent Nationalist candidate for the Legislative Assembly but continued as a councillor until her defeat in 1933. While a councillor, she was an active advocate for Warrandyte. In 1936 following James' death in 1944, Angela remained at *Nilja* until 1950. During this time she continued her many activities but gradually age,

distance and travelling curtailed her movements. In 1948 *Nilja* was bought by Sir George and Lady Reid and Angela went to live with a daughter until her death in 1954 aged 85.

Clara Southern was already a major artist of note before she came to Warrandyte. She had studied at the National Gallery School of Design and painted with the artists of the Heidelberg School and was regularly teaching and exhibiting during the 1890s. In the early 1900s she married a local miner John Flinn and made Warrandyte her home, *Blythe Bank* with its lovely garden was located on the northern bank of the Yarra overlooking the river. She encouraged many other artists such as Penleigh Boyd and Frank Crozier to visit her and became the centre of an active colony of artists. Several of them built houses and studios in Warrandyte including her artist friend "Jo" Sweatman who became her neighbour, living at *Kipsy* the house she built herself. Clara's paintings captured the essence of Warrandyte and the tranquility of the nearby Yarra River. She was a well-known local identity in Warrandyte; an imposing woman with an air of graciousness some found intimidating, according to Alexa Goyder. Clara found ready sales for her artworks among local residents and although she produced fewer works after John's death in 1920 she was still actively working and exhibiting paintings in the shows presented at Penleigh Boyd's Warrandyte studio in the 1930s. Her influence was felt not only through her paintings and artists' networks but also through the ongoing actions of Connie Smith. Connie lived with Clara at the time of the Great Depression in 1938 and Connie went on to be a major supporter and advocate for local painters, sculptors and potters. Just as Sunday Reed was significant for her support of modernist artists at *Heide* in Bulleen so was Connie Smith to Warrandyte's artists.

Alexa Goyder first visited Warrandyte in 1919 then came to live

with her husband Guy in 1925. She was a journalist and friend of Clara Southern. She and Guy first built a house of random rubble design with locally quarried sandstone and materials salvaged by a demolition company. This house was largely rebuilt after the 1939 fires and it was through this house and other buildings created in similar materials that she made her unique and creative contribution to the built environment of the town and one which is considered to have had a far wider influence.

Ethel Osborne (B.Sc., M.Sc. Leeds University) travelled to Melbourne with husband William. Ethel worked for the Victorian state government examining the conditions of women in various trades and (according to daughter Audrey), was something of a socialist. During WW1 in the UK she conducted investigations on munitions workers health issues. Ethel's work led her to develop an interest in the sociological aspects of medicine and on her return to Victoria she studied medicine at Melbourne University before practising at the Queen Victoria Hospital, the Royal Melbourne Hospital and privately. She continued to write, give lectures and radio talks in the intervals between representing Australia overseas at a number of major conferences and congresses before retiring in 1938. The Osborne family spent holidays at *Lowestoft*, a rambling timber house at Warrandyte which provided an idyllic retreat and where they spent many wonderful summers. The family had great influence on Warrandyte's cultural life. In the 1930s Ethel was president of the Warrandyte Women's Auxiliary Association, an organisation instrumental in much good work and activity. Ethel was known for her strong will and unlimited energy and for her support for a wide range of worthy causes.

Ethel's daughter, Audrey Cahn was a renowned scientist considered ahead of her time for her work in nutrition and dietetics who was born in 1905 on the Melbourne Uni-

versity campus. In the early 1900s, the family bought a holiday retreat on the river in North Warrandyte to reach which, Audrey remembered, meant taking a horse-drawn cab to Royal Park railway station, steam train to Heidelberg, horse-drawn coach to the Warrandyte Bridge and walking the rest of the way. The family enjoyed connections with Heidelberg School artists and Audrey was painted by Clara Southern as a six year-old, a portrait she treasured. Around 1946 Audrey took up residence in the *White Cottage* in Osborne Road, originally the gate-keeper's residence on her family's property. She continued lecturing in dietetics and nutrition as well as painting, sculpting and involvement with various Warrandyte organisations such as the Arts Association. Audrey left Warrandyte aged 87 to live with a daughter and died in 2008 aged 103 attributing her longevity to good luck and good genes. She is remembered for her enthusiasm for life, especially causes for the rights of women.

Dr Mary Kent Hughes specialised in radiology. She came to live in Warrandyte during the 1930s. She served overseas with the British Army during the Second World War afterwards opening practices in East Melbourne and Warrandyte. She survived the fires in 1939 only to see her house burnt down in the 1962 bushfire. A well known local identity and the author of four books she was considered forthright and down to earth if somewhat eccentric in later life.

These women were worthy role models who helped pave the way for other activists and the women's movement that was to follow later in the 20th century. It is fitting their lives and achievements should be recorded and important that women's history is chronicled so their contribution is not lost.

Photographs courtesy of Warrandyte Historical Society.

Penelope Selby's story can be found in *No Place for a Nervous Lady* (1984) by Lucy Frost.



Above: Audrey Cahn as a child, painted by Clara Southern. Right: Clara Southern and friend.

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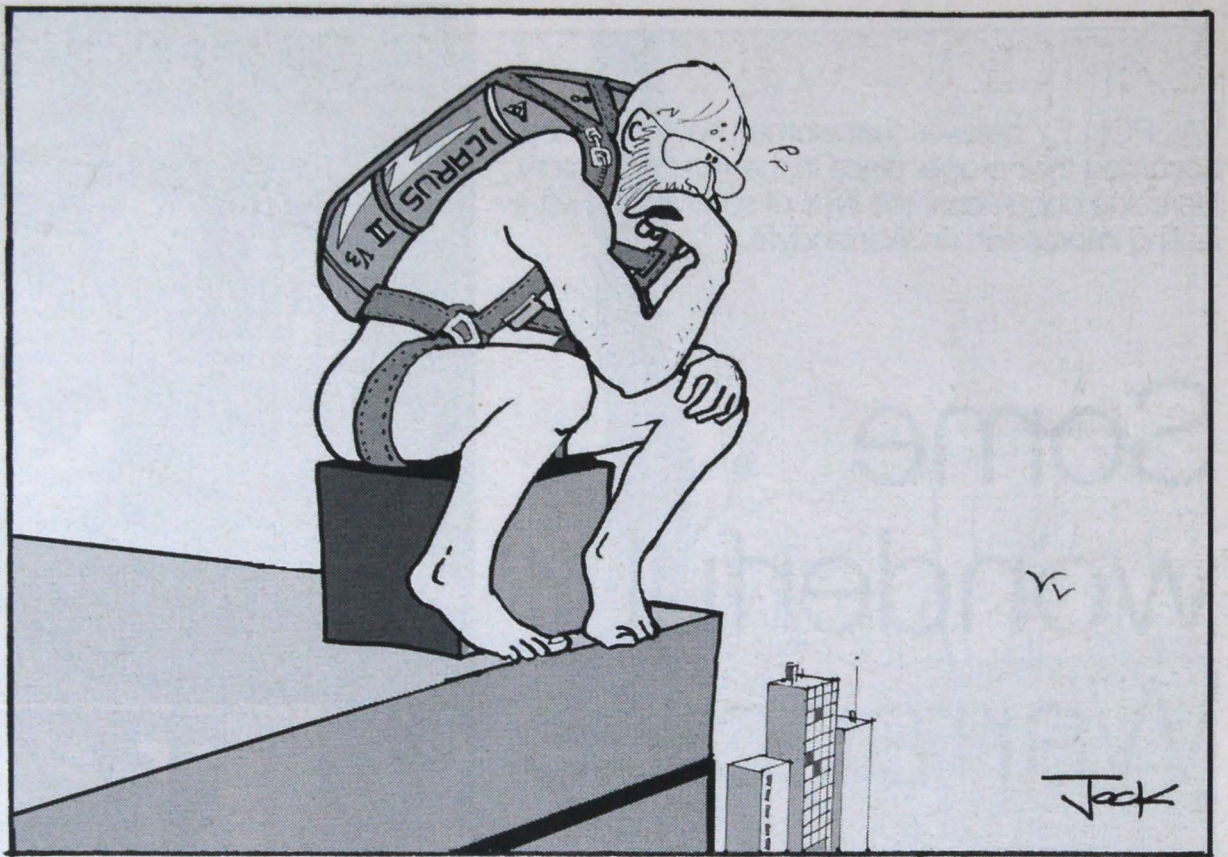
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# Any difference? Running bulls and skiing slopes

**T**HERE is obviously something terribly wrong with me. I was listening to the radio to a discussion about skiing and the ways to prevent injuries for both young and old.

Evidently, skiing is generally a safe sport; in fact, it seems it is more dangerous driving to the slopes than skiing them. The main problems faced by the intrepid bunch is with bindings that are too tight and with those who don't follow the correct etiquette.

At first I thought they were talking about not pushing in at the bar or the horrors of not wearing the latest gear but evidently, it is infra dig to stop at the bottom of a slope without checking uphill to see whether some yahoo is heading for you, out of control and with self-preservation and mass genocide tattooed across his forehead. Being "wiped out" by a weekend kamikaze snowboarder or skier accounts for lots of weekday physiotherapist visits.

I suppose none of this should have surprised me. Human beings, but particularly the younger male version, is prone to risk taking and showing off. And skiing seems to fit the bill. After all, it seems counter intuitive anyway, in the winter, to want to leave the warmth and comfort of a suburban house to drive for hours to some mountain, wrestle with chains so you can drive to an expensive and inconvenient parking spot,



**"Being wiped out by a weekend kamikaze snowboarder or skier accounts for lots of weekday physiotherapist visits..."**

pay an exorbitant amount for accommodation and food and drink just for the privilege of being able to strap planks of wood and fibreglass to your feet so you can risk life and limb getting to the bottom of the mountain again.

Once at the bottom of the slope, you have the choice of either mortgaging your house to buy a ski lift ticket that allows you to ascend the mountain again amidst howling winds and sleet whilst below you can get a more accurate picture of the "run". And the word itself gives you the clue.

The ski run is similar to that of the Pamplona Run in

Spain. In the Spanish, warm version, testosterone fuelled young men go on bus tours to the San Fermin Running of the Bulls. Evidently they are driven by a primeval urge to prove themselves worthy of procreation. Consequently, they wait, on "the run", in crowded, narrow streets waiting for a herd of increasingly disgruntled bulls to pass by. The young men are restricted to a narrow street, the barriers erected not just to protect the onlookers but to funnel the men and bulls into a situation conducive to mass carnage.

As the men run ahead of the bulls they bunch up, providing more and more chances of being head-butted out of the way by incensed bulls who want nothing more than to get back to a bit of grass grazing and the odd crossword or Sudoku.

The unsuspecting bulls are made cross by being taken from a day's grazing on grass and the occasional whistle at a passing cow to be herded into a truck and then released at the start of a bowling alley full of swaggering males, whose sole task is to outdo each other and to impress the young women onlookers.

The bulls, now hungry and more than a little annoyed at having their Saturday ruined, run the streets in an attempt to get back to the sanity of the fields. If they have to "butt out" some annoyances on the way, so be it.

Whilst the men slalom their

way along the road, the women lining the barriers have a bit of window shopping to do. Evidently, their task is to assess the potential male gene pool. Those downed by the bulls are obviously not adequate breeding stock, those who leap over the barrier at the first sight of a glinting horn are understandably shunned, those gored to insensibility might just be worth considering but the real rutting value are those who outstare the bulls, grab their horns before they are attacked and then gracefully swing over the beast and out of the way of the lumbering mass of infuriated prime beef fillet.

Now consider the ski run. See any parallels? Colour, movement, potentially endangered bodies and a suitable supply of nubile onlookers. Instead of the slightly bloodied, ripped silk shirt we can substitute the Porsche car key ring casually dropped on the après ski bar.

Perhaps, when all is said and done, it's just a matter of age. Extreme anything is for extreme desires. I'm glad we have people who are driven to test themselves to the limit. The time to do that is when you are hormone-driven enough not to worry too much about the possible dangers. I have been known to do some pretty stupid things, in my youth, but nowadays I have to think twice before base jumping!

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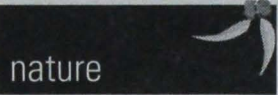
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# Dingoes and birds co-exist



nature

By LINDA ROGAN

**I**FROZE in my tracks. An animal was trotting boldly up the track near our camp. I first thought, "A dog! Who would dare to bring a dog into Croajalong National Park?" She was not afraid and was certainly aware of me but did not approach closer than three metres. This was a healthy looking animal, reddish brown and bigger than a fox. As my mind slowly ticked over, I realised, "Of course, a Dingo." I expected to see Dingoes on Fraser Island, but I'd never seen them before while camping in East Gippsland. The next day a park staff member, who was repairing the toilets, confirmed that there are many Dingoes in the area.

I wondered how they fit into the ecosystem in the national park.

This was May while we were at our favourite camping spot. My husband and I were here to canoe, hike and observe nature. I had taken many photos of the birds as they visited our camp. A White-browed Scrubwren arrived first each morning ducking into the ventilation hatch on top of the Jayco and breakfasting on any insects that had settled overnight. Later, during the day, scrubwrens would flit across the leaves and gravel of the camp picking up tasty tidbits. If I held very still, they would approach and peck insects and other minutia from my shoes.



An Eastern Yellow Robin uses a camp rope for a perch. (Picture by Linda Rogan)

Next to arrive were the Superb Fairy-wrens (or Superb Blue-wrens) hunting in family groups and flicking their tails in hops and bounces to scare up a feast of small insects. The males are in their eclipse or winter plumage at this time of year and resemble the females.

When I was lucky, a pair of Eastern Yellow Robins would also visit as we sat quietly in camp. They would entertain us by perching on a tent rope, then dropping to the ground on some tasty morsel, quickly

returning to another vantage point to search for more. I've seen this described as "perch and pounce" feeding. One robin finally perched on a camp rope when I had my camera ready.

Later in the day, the rather plump and proper Wonga Pigeons moved methodically through the camp, always keeping a bit ahead of my focus if I moved toward them.

On our last evening, a new camper brought a Didgeridoo. He sat down for a musical evening but had barely

started to warm up his lips when the sharp yelping of a fox was heard in the bush. This was heard only once but as the player continued, the unmistakable howl of Dingoes accompanied the didge. They sounded close to camp. This caused such a commotion that the player soon abandoned his music.

I had wondered, was the presence of Dingoes threatening to the birds and smaller wildlife we observed? Once back home, my research revealed that where Dingo numbers have been greatly reduced, there is a marked increase in red fox and feral cats. The foxes and cats prey on the small native animals, pushing them to the brink of extinction. In this case the Dingoes are important to the survival of small native animals.

Professor Chris Johnson of James Cook University Townsville argues that, while we have been looking for a biological control for foxes and cats for many years, the Dingo is that control; with "bells and whistles".

I now believe that the Dingoes I saw and heard are an essential part of the balance that makes Croajalong so suitable for small animals and birds such as the Eastern Yellow Robin.

\*\*\*

*Apology to alert readers: Last month some of you may have noticed my photo labelled Sharp Midge Orchid with Orange and Black Beetle was in fact Parsons Bands orchids with a native bee. I blame this mistake on an email gremlin.*

# Living and dying by the rules

**D**UNNO about you, but the early news from the Bushfire Royal Commission has been driving me nuts. If I hear one more person miaowing about the lack of warning they had about an approaching fire on Black Saturday, my head will explode.

Even without the exceptional lead-up, Black Saturday itself was so extreme, so extraordinary, that you would've needed to have been either unconscious or curled up inside your refrigerator not to have known that something very terrible was imminent. It turned out to be absolutely rotten luck for those in the path of the firestorm (and having just walked down Bald Spur in Kinglake, I realise that's a bit of an understatement), but nobody should be trying to blame others for the predicament they found themselves in on that day.

I guess our lives have become so over-regulated that people have forgotten how to think for themselves. We have become used to signs by the squillion to keep us on the straight and narrow, speed cameras to enforce

common sense on the roads, announcements, directions, rules, guidelines, information sheets, interpretative signage, opinions, systems, charters, procedural guides, warnings, deadlines, frameworks, forums, memos, recipes, mission statements, texts from scripture, labels, notices, sirens, non-stop advertising ... how many people get through the day simply by joining the dots of the incessant commands that make up Life's Instruction Manual?

I remember being amazed some years ago when our little babysitting club merged with a larger club that had more rules than you could poke a stick at. Our club had been made up mostly of local CFA families, so we mostly knew each other, all the mums and dads and kids, and we overlapped considerably at playgroup, kinder and primary school. We didn't have rules as such, but inside the front cover of the secretary's book there were a few reminders about leaving out supper, torch, candles and a blanket for the babysitter, and making sure you phoned home if you were delayed. The club didn't have any serious problems



our place

By MARILYN MOORE

that I recall, although one family became notorious for their tendency to over-indulge in alcoholic beverages and arrive home considerably later than expected.

The club we merged with, on the other hand, was run with military precision. It was strictly a mothers-only affair, and had been going for about 20 years. Over that time, even minor incidents had triggered a process whereby a complaint would be lodged, then a Complaints Subcommittee met and a new rule was forged. The Rule Book had evolved into a weighty tome, and included detailed procedures for all sorts of contingencies: late arrival of the babysitter, vomiting kids, inadequate supper, car parking, slobbering dogs, misbehaviour at midnight, kids jumping out windows and disappearing into the bush, leaking roofs, troublesome neighbours, even the unforeseen death of a parent. The list of things that could

possibly go wrong, and indeed had gone wrong, was so fearsome that it would put the average person off babysitting for life. Once a rule was made, too, it was almost impossible to erase it, as there was generally somebody who could recall the founding incident and argue convincingly for its retention. It's not hard to see how this sort of grass roots governance translates into an impenetrable maze of legislation at state level!

Unfortunately all the rules under the sun wouldn't have saved those poor souls who died along Bald Spur Road on February 7. Their homes, their lives, their surroundings couldn't have been obliterated more completely if an atom bomb had struck. Bleak charcoal sticks are all that remain of once-magnificent forest. Blackened ground, from which all seeds of life have been extinguished, is dotted with meagre relics: burnt gas cylinders and twisted metal alongside recently grouped bunches of flowers, foil balloons and a child's birthday cards. The silence is profound, the sadness overwhelming.

And there but for the grace of God go we.

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PRUDENCE TRUBY KING concludes her series on *Diary* personalities with this self portrait.

# From the pastures of Waikato to the wilds of Warrandyte



Prudence Truby King

IT'S a bit of a challenge (being a Kiwi, a but of a challenge?) to practise on yourself the form of interview you've already done for dozens of people from the *Diary*. To start with, you're lining yourself up against Jock and Cliff and Alan and the like, successful artists all and creators of Great Works, Major Issues and Humour while I plug away at interviews, trying to peel the layers from my subjects and bring to you in Warrandyte some idea of the heartwood of these beings who contribute to the paper and hence the community.

I could begin by reverting to the list of questions that I vaguely use when interviewing for this column, which began with "leading lights" of Warrandyte and then became a sort of exposé on people who work unfailingly each month to bring you the paper which you now read. I've always thought of my interview questions as those that you might like to ask if you had the gumption and the time, questions that perhaps your mother would say you shouldn't ask but because I'm a journalist and nosy and interested in people I can get away with (with which I can get away? Nup). Questions which if the subject has the time to consider will reveal their quintessence.

As said, I'm a Kiwi, one of nine children (middle one) and as the name suggests, a great niece of childcare pioneer Sir Truby King (sometimes maligned in Australia but one of the earliest exponents of wholeness in diet and medicine), a daughter of Miles King who thought he was the first man to break the sound barrier, and of Bunny and John Mortimer, foremost New Zealand authors on trees and creators of Taitua Arboretum. My curly hair comes from a West African tea planter five generations ago and family folklore holds that I'm a direct descendant of Don Cervantes' sister through the maternal line.

Born under Mt Egmont in mighty Taranaki, I was still tiny when my

## behind the byline

parents split and I grew up on my grandparents' 500 loamy acres in the Waikato, thoroughbred country of infallible 48" annual rainfall. There's nothing like a but of reliable rain. The farm carried mixed fat stock and a horse or pony for each of us, enough acreage to roam freely and always lots of friends at our place. Each year my birth father would fly up and buzz our house, landing nearby and taking us out for dinner. My youngest brother we adopted. Almost all of us rode to pony club. I was introduced to hunting (no foxes mind, hares though) and School Life. The latter probably did something for me but hunting's the real lesson for life, more so than having horses generally although that's a good start too. Hunting teaches you to pace your horse, to look where you're going, to watch out for others, to warn of risk and estimate it and to care for your horse. He's the one you rely on to carry you all day.

Whoops, off on a horsey tangent. I finished school (Waikato Diocesan, for Young Ladies), became a cadet for a provincial daily and joined the journalistic high life. Early shifts, working weekends and on Fridays we were all finished and in the bar of the Commercial by 2pm. I was 17. At the same time I was riding and producing good eventing horses and in my early 20s I stopped writing for newspapers and took my best horse, Nicholas Nickleby, on the road, successfully competing on the national eventing circuit and hunting throughout the North Island before the continental lure of Australia and Europe drew me away, paid for by the proceeds of the sale of my horse.

After a short stint touring and as a polo groom in Oz, I travelled together with my brother, via

ship, to Italy via the South Pacific, Mexico, the Panama Canal, a cyclone as we crossed the equator in the Atlantic, the hustle of the Mediterranean and then the continent. Architecture, trains, paintings, great cities and towns where the building you lived in seemed insignificant and how you looked was critical. My grandmother used to wear one dress in the morning and another in the afternoon but in Italy you dressed superbly and immaculately for the day, even to go to the market. Not a hair out of place, beautiful shoes and bags, more luxurious and glamorous than in rural NZ.

I stayed at first with my cousin the admiral, deep in watercoloured Sussex, their flint cottage full of fine furniture cushioned in English lawns and herbaceous borders. Onwards to London and temp office jobs, living in the west end at first with crazy Iranians and then to a Georgian town house at Marble Arch. This was the era of Sinn Fein and the bombing campaigns in London, serious warnings about unattended bags and everyone on the tube looking suspiciously at everyone else. I was almost blown up twice and after the car I usually travelled to work in was flipped over by a bomb (the IRA got the wrong vehicle) I thought, enough of London, let's go and explore the top end of the isle.

Horse jobs are easy to come by and I was quickly in Aberdeen, Scotland, in deep snow and looking at a new born foal which one of the riding school ponies had just foaled in a sheltered rocky outcrop. If I mention that no-one at the school had realised the mare was in foal you'll get an idea of the sort of establishment this was. However, 50 horses and ponies, a steadily expanding clientele because of oil exploration in the North Sea, and I was busy, head coach and sharing a caravan on the headland where it was so cold that first winter that the water in the goldfish bowl froze over. There's no hunting so far north but we taught riding to fat

oilmen from Texas and to nearby families—and we learned to like chip butties.

The Englishman I later married arrived in Aberdeen from Louisiana at the same time as I came to Scotland and he came to the riding school "to meet the locals". I studied human resources, we explored the highlands and we skied at Aviemore but when he was seconded to Angola I felt the need for warm air and moved to the south of France, working as a tour guide in the Camargue. Black bulls and white horses, tamarisk, wine and the mistral. We led tourists through the marshes on horses to the Mediterranean coast where we cooked campfire lunches of Sisteron lamb with Provençal herbs and drank local rosé, stretched out for a siesta under the trees and rode back in the cool, ferrying the horses across the Petit-Rhone. Drink in the night-clubs was £10 a nip, even in the 1970s.

This was all very well but my brain needed another challenge so I joined the newsroom of the NZ national broadcaster, researching, interviewing, writing and presenting news stories. Then London loomed again—life as an oilman's wife sounds exciting but it can limit your own professional career. The birth of our daughter in London kindled the idea of writing a book on fatherhood and when she was two we came to live in Melbourne where, after I interviewed 50 new dads, *So You're Going to be a Father* was published. We had two more children then off we went to Houston, returning to Oz in time back for our fourth to arrive, almost a Texan but yet another non-Kiwi.

I'm passionate about the importance of meeting babies' and children's needs, about teaching and about human and animal behaviour. And isn't parenting harder when you're away from home and family? Much of my support came from friends at Warrandyte Primary which all four Dewés attended—Tamsin is now an equine vet in England, Trum's the sous chef at Vin in

Prahran, Trelawney's a Victoria Police Recruit and Tarleton is a drama nut in Year 11.

I had studied acting in London and script-writing in Houston and to relieve the mayhem of motherhood in Melbourne I became a leader of a single teenage mother program and a host for youngsters needing emergency short-term accommodation. I picked up arts and counselling, taught writing at the Centre for Adult Education, had a one-act play produced, played cello in community theatre and wrote for the *Diary*. I worked as an actor for students of medicine at Melbourne uni, as an interviewer and writer of life stories in aged care and I taught ESL to migrants, all the time playing tennis at Warrandyte, hunting during winter and being head coach for the pony club region. Now I lecture third-year university students in equine studies, hold a Certificate IV to train thoroughbreds and I'm studying Training and Assessment, which could explain why my membership of Mensa has lapsed.

Until this year I worked as a qualitative social researcher and discussion group moderator for local, state and federal governments but at the moment I work for the Victorian bushfire case management service, acting as an advocate and support for families. Little by little we're piecing the bits of their lives together. Life will never be the same for bushfire survivors but together we're making a new normalcy.

Which brings me to a question I often ask when interviewing—what should you be doing now if you weren't talking to me? Mmm, well, to start with there's no should. I'm just back from NZ again and I could be catching up on paperwork. I could dust my dressing table but that would stop me from chainsawing a tree that's fallen across the fence. Then I'll ring and email my offspring, whose names all start with T. There'll be time for my horse, for writing, and for my cello, patiently in the corner.



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**Auskick round-up with Edward Munks**

# Tiger brightens day for Auskickers

In one of the best coaching displays at Warrandyte by an AFL footballer, Will Thursfield, the 47 gamer from Richmond was able to instill his lively and energetic enthusiasm for the Warrandyte Auskickers during their training drills.

Billy Podmore, Jarrah Smith and Tigers supporters Spencer Hamilton and Jed Aitken showed the big Tiger player their ball skills in the wet.

Others to showcase their emerging talents were the diminutive Oscar Lang, Oscar Hodgson, Ethan Stark, newcomer Jack Carson and Ethan McShanag who shows a real willingness to learn and improve his skills and game.

New comers in Penny Burke and Shea Wischusen-Gibbons were undaunted by the big occasion and showed the boys that they could match them with their ball handling abilities.

The young up and coming coaching aspirant Jack Welch together with team mate Angus Ramsdale had great fun playing the game in the wet conditions.

As the morning progressed the rain abated and a gathering throng of mums and grandmothers (granny Anne Drew leading the charge) gathered on the main oval in preparation for the eagerly awaited main event of the year - the Great Mother's Day kicking

competition.

Early leaders were Karin Mead, Shannette Kontos and Andrea Jackson with good long straight kicking.

Last year's winner Wendy Snowball rushed to the ground from work and without warming up tried to launch into on of her trademark booming torpedoes only to see it slew off to the side.

Rob and Jack Casey provided the targets for the ladies to kick at and mum Libby tried her best to land a kick at them.

The eventual winner was Michelle Parker who seemed to surprise herself. Second place went to Sarah Jane Drew followed by Nicole Canty.

Prizes to the winners were arranged by Bec and Marty Rostron.

The after match barbecue was well received by all the Auskickers and parents alike and thanks for Michael Canty, Mark Papez with James and Lauchie from the Under 15s who ran the day.

Budding footballers can still register for Auskick during the season.

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

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



*A young Tiger supporter shows Richmond full back, Will Thursfield how to tackle.*



*Narelle Haas has her turn at the Auskick Mum's Day long kicking competition.*



*Melissa Aitken shows her style at the Auskick Mother's Day event at Warrandyte.*



*Warrandyte Tennis Club Section 2 premiership winners, from left Tracey Ellis, Pauline Frolley, Kim Mead and Karen Ellis. Front: Meredith Connaughton.*

## Two titles for mid-week ladies

Warrandyte Tennis Club brought home two winning pennants after the Ferntree Gully and District Ladies Tennis Association Thursday grand finals were played early this month.

The Section 2 team which included Tracey Ellis, Pauline Frolley, Kim Mead, Karen Ellis, Meredith Connaughton and Karen Savage had defeated Parkwood by only four games in the semi final the previous week.

They were much more comfortable in the grand final defeating Emerald 44 games to 27 games, winning four of the six sets.

The Section 9 team defeated Yarra Glen in back-to-back grand finals.

The match was close throughout but Warrandyte were victorious in the end winning by six games.

Black Saturday bushfires cancelled the first match against Yarra Glen and Warrandyte had won comfortably in the second round but faced much stronger competition in the grand final.

The team on the day consisted of Angela Dziedzic, Mandy Bence, Lois Windridge, Kerrie Stafford and Kate Baker. Pat Allgood and Anne Semken also played in this team during the season.



*Members of the Section 9 premiership team were Angela Angela Dziedzic, Mandy Bence, Lois Windridge, Kerrie Stafford.*

## Bloods are set to have a ball

Warrandyte Football Club will hold its annual ball on June 13 on level 89 at Eureka Tower in Melbourne.

There are very limited tickets available. Contact James Logan on 0414 337 418.

A past Warrandyte players get-together will be held from 12pm at the clubrooms on June 20 and \$30 includes lunch and drinks along with an appearance from former Essendon champion Gary O'Donnell. Book with Bucky Rogers on 0411 519 671.

Later that same day the club hosts its annual charity evening, with the traditional girl's game being played under lights at 6.30pm following the senior game against Boronia in a bid to raise money for the Call to Arms Foundation.

Any local ladies interested in participating are more than welcome to join in the fun. Contact Tom Naughtin

on 0421 231 419.



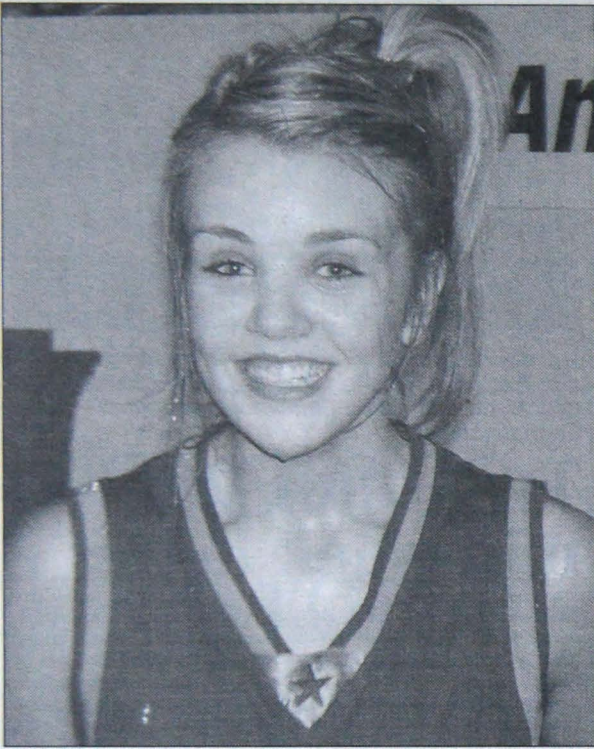
Inside the rooms on the same night will be the Great Warrandyte Shave-Off, which will see several members of the club doing away with their hair and going under the razor all to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave For A Cure.

In the past two years the club has been able to raise more than \$7000, more than any other EFL club.

Finally all local women are invited to our Ladies Luncheon, to be held at 12 noon on Saturday July 18 at the clubrooms.

The cost of \$35 includes champagne on arrival, two course meal, wine and soft drinks, mystery guest speaker and door prizes and raffles.

Contact Michele Falkingham on 0458 566 886 or Kaylene Bowen on 0421 610 396.


**Warrandyte basketball round-up with Tony Oliver**



Kahlia Flett ... selected in Victorian team.

## State selection a first for Venom

Kahlia Flett has been selected into the Victorian Under 16 girls team for the national championships in Tasmania this July.

Currently a member of the 16.1 Venom VC team, Flett is the first ever Warrandyte player to make a State team. Flett has been named in the state team in only her second season at Warrandyte.

After joining the U14.2 team last season, which was her very first try at representative basketball level, Flett has advanced quickly and is only one of two bottom-age players to make the State team this year.

## Redbacks score runaway win

Jenni O'Brien's Under 19A grade girls did enough to record a 56-30 win over the visiting Collingwood in the opening round of the Saturday competition.

The Redbacks started slowly but late in the first half the girls stepped up the pressure and changed the defensive pattern to break to a 24-21 lead.

The second half was one way traffic with Collingwood restricted to nine points with Warrandyte scoring 32.

A much tighter game followed with the Under 17 boys taking on Nunawading. The Vikings were well in control in the first half with a comfortable 16-9 lead at the break.

Warrandyte stepped up the pressure in the second half slowly getting back into the game and taking the lead in the final minutes. Both sides attacked without success.

The key play was an offensive charge with Warrandyte's Dylan Thompson in perfect position. This provided possession to the Redbacks who hung on for their first win over that Vikings team.

In the final game, the Under 15A grade boys needed to make up for a slow start against Balwyn. Leading 19-4 at the break, Balwyn looked to be in easy control.

The Redbacks however slowly chipped away at the lead with Balwyn appearing to "freeze". Warrandyte

locked up the score at 22-all with minutes to play.

However, it was Balwyn who were able to regain their composure and closed out the game by 27-22.

The Under 11 boys came up against a Bulleen side and were in front 12-8 at the break. Bulleen came back strongly to take the lead in the final minute.

A tight final seconds with Warrandyte missing some free throws and Bulleen scoring on the rebound to extend their lead.

Liam Taylor dragged one back from the free throw line for the Redbacks but Bulleen replied.

Josh Kleeberg put up an unsuccessful shot on the buzzer to give the game 28-25 to the visitors.

Earlier in the day, Demi Joy's Under 9 girls got the points against Eltham by 21-20 in a tight game.

Top scorers for the young Redback girls were Amy Potter with seven points and Phoebe Joy with six points.

To round off the day, Kelli Taylor's Under 13 girls defeated Eltham by 41-26 after a tight first half.

"It was good defence with the girls trying new things. Passing was good and for once the shots dropped," said Kelli.

Meg Keppel top scored with 15 points and Madelene Edsell with eight points and Maddison Taylor and Simone Caruana with six points provided support.

# 'Baby' Venom team on winning spree

Despite having the youngest team in the competition, Warrandyte Venom continues to be a playoff contender in the Big V after a productive month that has yielded three wins from four games.

With an average age of just 18, the Venom is continually giving away size and experience, but their tenacity and work ethic continues to catch opponents napping.

Coming off wins against Latrobe City, Hawthorn and Craigieburn, the Venom is sitting equal third on the Division 1 ladder and coach Justin Nelson believes his team is shaping as a finals contender for the third successive year.

"I'm really happy with the progress of this group," said Nelson. "We are respected by our opponents as being very competitive and we are easily the youngest team in the competition. Our upside is huge."

With the likes of 15-year-olds Casey Taylor and Mollie Burke, along with 16-year-olds Ash Brobbel and Meg Dargan, it's the team's youth that Nelson believes has added an important element to the group.

To cap off a successful May, the Venom recorded an impressive home court overtime win against Latrobe City Energy. This was Warrandyte's third game that needed overtime to decide the result and the girls have now played a total of five overtime periods.

Latrobe City had come to play and to win. Warrandyte started well but the game was tied up at 21-all at the break.

The Venom started the third quarter well but Latrobe finished stronger to take a six point lead into the final break.

The last quarter was tough from both sides but it looked like Latrobe would

win with a two point lead and free shots with only seconds to go. Both free throws missed for the visitors and the rebound to the Venom saw Sharlene Dalsanto drive to the basket forcing the foul as the final siren sounded.

The stadium was hushed when Sharlene's first went into the basket.

When the second also went in, the home court crowd erupted as both sides prepared for five minutes overtime.

Perhaps this was where the Venom's overtime experience came to the fore as the local girls were able to do the opening scoring and hold Latrobe City scoreless to record the 54-48 win.

"It was a very defence orientated game" the Latrobe City coach said after the game. "The crowd support and emotion especially in the overtime period was enough to get you over the line".

In a deceptively impressive performance, court captain Jaz Borella top scored with 16 points, with Sharlene Dalsanto with 13 and Janelle Lucas with 12.

"The defensive nature of our game coupled with our fighting spirit makes us one of the most respected clubs in the competition" said Nelson.

The win opens up a two game gap between the fourth and fifth placed teams, but the race might be to finish third to escape facing clear ladder leaders and flag favourites Werribee in the semi finals.

● The playing days for captain Sally Phillips may well be over with a severe achilles injury meaning a long recovery period.

"I might be able to come back for another season, but with the youngsters doing so well, maybe it is time to stand aside and give them the opportunity," said Phillips.

## Under 12 girls score a breakthrough victory

Warrandyte's Under 12 VC girls basketball team broke through for their first win of the season defeating Dandenong by 38-24 in their most recent outing at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre.

Warrandyte opened strongly controlling the first quarter to lead 13-7 at the break.

Dandenong had the better of the next two quarters and the scores were locked together going into the final term.

Warrandyte are strong finishers and with six points to Tegan Leeson and four points each to Lucie Roual and Victoria Bolland in the deciding period the Venom came away with the win.

The result was not so good for Warrandyte's other VC side with the Under 16s going down to Bulleen by 44-33.

Bulleen started well and with two three pointers in the opening quarter set up the game.

The Venom surged in the third quarter to narrow the gap but Bulleen were always in control of this game.

Mollie Burke top scored for the Venom with 12 points with strong support from Jasime Haikel with six points.

"The girls contested for the full game" said coach Nicole Howard after the game. "Bulleen's outside shooting was the main difference".

While the top three positions in this league are looking set, the race is on for the fourth place with six teams, including Warrandyte vying for finals action.

In an unusual end to the



Time out for Warrandyte's Under 12 VC girls as Coach Emma Collins encourages her charges.

night, the Division 1 Under 18 girls recorded a hard fought win 31-23 over Craigieburn.

Warrandyte were always in control but the visitors applied the pressure late in the game to close to a two point gap. Steady performances especially from Ash Brobbel with a game high of 12 points including enabled the Venom to establish the lead.

With only seconds to go, the stadium was plunged into darkness as a power failure blacked out the lights. The referees declared the result.

The power failure also affected games at Warrandyte High School, but there the final game had just completed when the lights went out.

Earlier in the night, Peter

Anderson's Under 16 boys surged in the second half to look a real chance in the game against Ringwood but faded in the final minutes.

Warrandyte started slowly and were nine points down at the break. A better performance at the start of the second half saw the Venom even up the game. However Ringwood steadied when it counted.

The boys did what they were asked to do," said Peter Anderson, "and I am very pleased. This is very much a development squad and the future does look good."

Vlad Slaverio top scored with 10 points for the Venom, with contributions for all other players.

In a game of two halves at the Park Orchards court, Warrandyte's Under 16 girls

drew with Broadmeadows 31 all.

The game ebbed and flowed but the Venom looked good after a strong opening half, leading 20-10 at the break. Warrandyte's intensity dropped off and Broadmeadows got back into the game, levelling it in the tight final seconds with four successful shots from the free throw line.

Simone Caruana top scored for the Venom with 11 points, with Megan Keppel scoring eight points.

Also at Park Orchards, the Under 14 boys coached by Gerry Pearce went down 35-21 to Knox.

While strongly competitive in the second half, Warrandyte could not recover from a 16-6 half time deficit. Chris Bolland's top scored with 12 points.

# 14-goal haul from Colts' sharpshooter

By LANCE NILSSON

Matthew Colborne-Veel from the Warrandyte Junior Football Club's Colts 2 team went on a goal kicking frenzy in Round 6, kicking 14 majors.

Matthew took full advantage of great team play in the big victory over Greythorn.

Coach Josh Blakey has the team playing committed football as they sit in second place at the halfway mark of the season.

Despite being hit by injuries, the Colts 1 side has posted a number of inspiring victories.

Josh Harris has given great drive from the ruck in recent weeks and with players returning from injury, the second half of the season looks promising.

Coach Shane Newman believes one positive from having key players missing has been the opportunities presented to others.

Toby Verstegen has stepped up in his mid field role and Blake Hanson has been a standout with his hard work inside the packs.

The Under 15s have been very competitive and were pipped in the last 90 seconds against reigning premiers Kew Rovers.

Tim Nilsson has provided a target up forward and the determination of Lachlan Frowd has been most impressive.

Zac Galbally celebrated his landmark 100th game in grand style.

The Under 15s are working hard and have winnable games ahead that gives them a chance to play finals football.

James Munks and Rohan McKenzie have played well up back and have been great supports to the ever reliable Kyle Robertson and Jarrod Buzzini.

The Under 14s have competed well in the top division.

Matt Collins has provided first use of the ball on many occasions and this has allowed the onballers to get plenty of the footy.

The Under 13s have played exciting football over the past month and sharing of the ball has been a feature as the young Bloods have posted commanding victories.

Coach Chris Appleby has been impressed with the efforts of all team members with some outstanding efforts from Zac Ballard and Sid Phillip-Owen

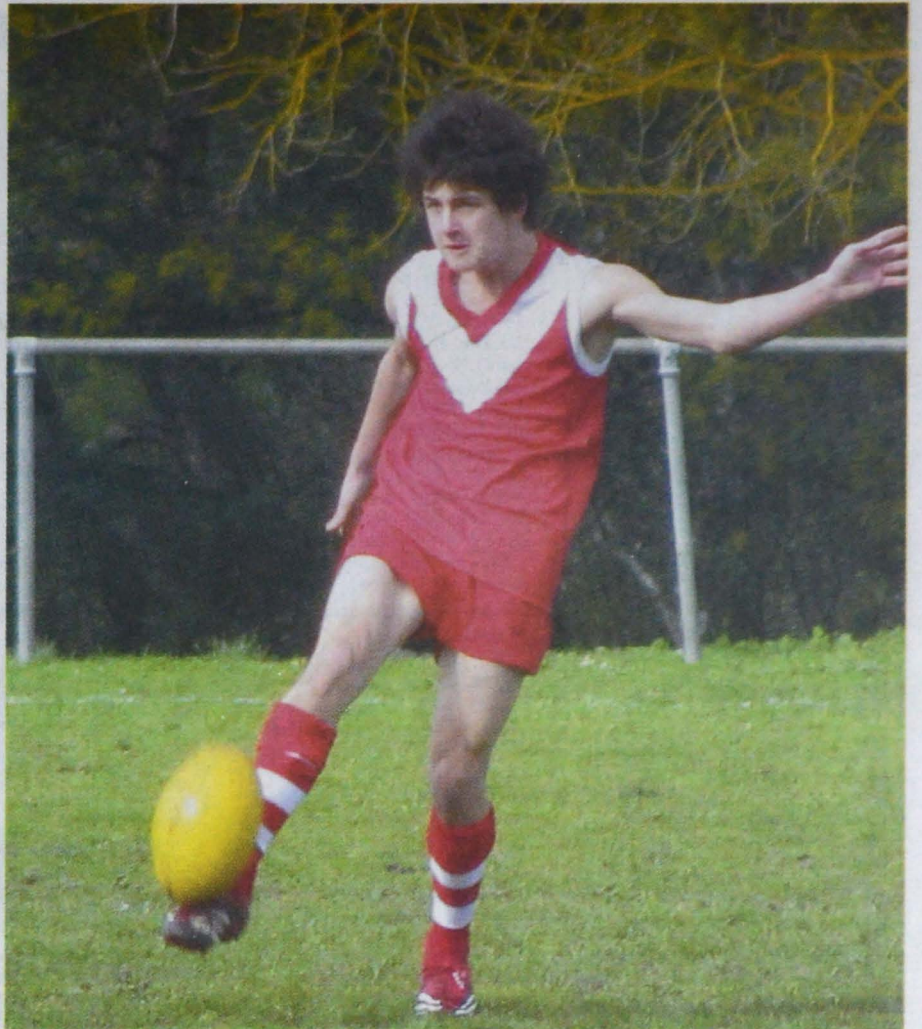
In a very competitive division the Under 12s sit in the top four after Round 7.

Coach James Yoffa is encouraging the boys to play with a positive attitude and this has been reflected in some spirited performances in the past month and the Mother's Day victory over Kew Rovers was a highlight of the season.

Team spirit and enthusi-



Under 15 player, Jacob Ballard gets his kick despite the efforts of his Ivanhoe opponents.



Matthew Colborne-Veel kicked 14 goals for Warrandyte Junior Football Club's Colts 2 side.

asm have carried the Under 11s to some fine victories this season. Fergus Ward celebrated his 50th game in fine style and Josh Costin and Lachie Richardson have hit the ball hard and provided opportunities for other players.

The Under 10s has a well deserved win in Round 4 against Doncaster. At the ground there was a real buzz at three quarter time as the boys realised what they could achieve if they all played their part.

With Joel Carruthers dangerous up forward and Luan Philip-Owen and Oscar Vernon in control on the wings, victory was certain.

The Tackers had a wonderful game against Doncaster where all players made a contribution. The Young Bloods show that they love their footy and display plenty of raw talent.

A special mention to Aaron Castagna who won the Doncaster best player award for their 40th anniversary. He had leather poisoning from so many kicks.

A reminder that the WJFC Bloody Good Night Out will be held on June 20.

Tickets are on sale via team managers. Food by Boleros and music from Black Cat Bones ensure a great night out.



Action from Warrandyte's Under 14 clash at Ivanhoe.

## League selection for junior players

A number of Warrandyte Junior Football Club players have achieved representative selection.

Ryan Exon and Jacob Ballard were selected to play for the YJFL Under 15s in the carnival over the Queen's Birthday long weekend.

Harry Volger, Matt Collins and Daniel Misfud have been selected in the YJFL Under 14 representative team.

Two other players achieved personal milestones in recent rounds.

Zac Galbally passed the 100 game mark while playing with the Under 15s.

He may be only playing in the Under 11s but Fergus Ward notched up his 50th game with Warrandyte.



Hand-up who wants the ball? Warrandyte's tackers in full flight.

## Cricket



Matthew Chapman

## Chapman to head 'Dytes

Matthew Chapman was re-elected as president of the Warrandyte Cricket Club at last month's annual meeting.

Other members of the executive are Ben Taylor (vice president), Daniel Wellesley (secretary), John Chapman (treasurer) and Dave Ellis (junior coordinator).

Committee members are: Stephen Goddard, Campbell Holland, Justin Cleaves, Ryan Hoiberg, Adam White, Jack Wright, Stuart Smead, Geoff Taylor and Brad Valentine.

The club has reported a strong financial position and Chapman said he was hopeful the club would secure a number of class players this season to add to the recruits who made their debut last season and the young players coming up through the grades.

In a radical move, the club has also set up a task force into the future of junior cricket in Warrandyte.

The club struggled to field two junior sides last year and has commissioned a report into ways and means of encouraging youngsters to take up cricket and keep them involved.

## Hawks name leaders

South Warrandyte Hawks Cricket Club has re-elected president, Peter Debenham and re-appointed captain coach, Steve Garrett.

Justin Hansen adds vice president to his junior administrator role, while Under 18 premier-ship captain Robby Bowen joins Sam Williams as the faces of the future on the committee.

The 2009/10 committee is: Peter Debenham (president), Justin Hansen (vice president and junior administrator), Chris Hartup (secretary), Andrew Hall (treasurer), Dale Owen (social secretary), Alan Duffus (veterans co-ordinator), Adrian Smith (assistant secretary), Barry Williams, Damien Vozzo, Meagan Price, James Price, Chris Jones, Tom Chrisfield, Michael Sweeney, Sam Williams, Robby Bowen (general committee).

The Hawks have also moved to install lights over the nets by the end of this month.

This will give the club greater flexibility with training times and will help to reduce the shadows cast by overhanging trees.

Steve Garrett will be captain coach again this season with the support of Ryan Hill as assistant coach.

Former Australian fast bowler, Mick Lewis has been helping Hawks' coaching adviser, Bob Neagle with the squad of Hawks junior players selected for the first round of specialist indoor training.

# Nat nets 300 games

Netballer Nat Dusting has achieved an outstanding milestone after playing her 300th game with the Warrandyte Netball Club.

Dusting, 23, started playing netball at the age of eight in the Under 11s and has been playing for 15 years (30 seasons). She is now playing in Open A Grade.

Dusting has been a pivotal part of the Warrandyte club throughout those 15 years, not only as a player but also as an umpire for six years and a coach for seven years.

Some of the teams she has coached have reached grand finals and were successful in winning five premierships.

She has also played representative netball for Doncaster and Districts Netball Association for five years from Under 13s to Under 17s.

She has also won Warrandyte Netball Club's, Club Person of the Year award.



Warrandyte Netball Club president, Sonya Febbo congratulates Nat Dusting on reaching the 300 game milestone.

# Basketballers set the pace for the future

Warrandyte Basketball is just weeks away from releasing its anticipated new on-court structure, bringing about the next phase of a staggering four-year growth that has seen the local association jump to be one of the State's most respected.

With a strong development pathway now in place, where players can start in programs from as young as five and progress through to senior level in the Big V, the club's committee is eager to take another progressive step by pushing funds back into administration and on-court personnel.

Key appointments have already been made with American Kelvin Bowers signed as the club's inaugural Big V men's coach and coaching director of the entire men's and boy's programs.

A similar position will soon be filled on the women's side of the program, while interviews for a

full-time administrator are expected to start this month.

Warrandyte's senior women's coach and current coaching director Justin Nelson is delighted with the direction and focus on building the club's on-court structure.

"The club's growth has taken it to a point where money can be spent on improving the program, the whole on-court structure and in attracting experienced coaches and administrators," said Nelson.

"This new on-court structure will outline key fundamentals for coaches, players and parents across all levels of Warrandyte Basketball. We want to build an on-court culture that is borne out of a clear pathway for the development of skills, an understanding of defensive and offensive principles, an emphasis on enjoyment and inclusiveness, plus a desire to produce quality players for senior basketball."

The initial plan will include the announcement of key appointments, an outline of all programs including Redbacks and Venom, a strong focus on coach development and the integration of skills required to be taught from beginner programs through to representative level.

"It's an exciting time," said Nelson. "With Kelvin Bowers coming in and a number of other coaching announcements to be included, the club is in great shape going forward."

"The thought of the kids being able to come and see senior men and women in the Big V wearing the Warrandyte colours is exciting. The overall on-court development is set to rise, as are the equally important areas like coach, referee and team manager development."

Nelson also indicated that key dates, times and team numbers,

along with selection policies and parental expectations would be included in the plan.

"We're going to make sure every area is covered. We want our members to know and understand selection policies, the development and participation pathway, the expectations and responsibilities they have as members and, importantly, how they can get involved in coaching, refereeing and assisting across all areas."

"Warrandyte Basketball is the biggest sports club in the region and we need to be a leader when it comes to developing players. Our performance in recent years shows just how far we have come, but you should never rest on your laurels."

The new on-court structure is expected to be released by the end of June and will be available on the club's website at [www.warrandyte.basketball.net.au](http://www.warrandyte.basketball.net.au)

# Warrandyte reserves break the drought

A zero no longer appears in the 'wins' column for the Reserves as Warrandyte's second side recorded not just one, but two wins over the past month.

The wins come as no surprise to coach Adam Hinds who knew what his team was capable of if they could just play four quarters of consistent football.

The team's Round 9 clash against Coldstream was always going to prove to be a crucial match. Both teams were sitting at the lower end of the ladder, each with one win for the year and each desperate to claw themselves ahead of the other.

This meant the first quarter of the game was hotly contested, with both teams trying to stamp an early ascendancy on the game and put themselves ahead. Warrandyte's skill errors were lower than previous weeks and this saw an improvement on the scoreboard.

The Bloods played good football, but despite leading for most of the day were never comfortably in front as Coldstream hung on and ensured the match would be tight up until the final siren.

Some wayward kicking in front of goal saw the Bloods squander numerous chances to put the

game out of reach in the third quarter. Despite a late comeback from a desperate Coldstream, Warrandyte came home with goals to Ross Brown and Jarrod Boyce in a tight last quarter.

Hamish Hosking was again prominent around the field, along with bullocking midfielder Cal Haskings and up-and-coming tagger Jake Bentley.

In Round 7 the Reserves were keen to take on Mitcham in an effort to win their first game for the season.

Up until this point, Warrandyte's second side had been playing good football in patches and knew a win was well within their reach if they could put four quarters together.

Midfielders Cal Haskings and Jarrod Boyce continued their good form as Warrandyte moved the ball more efficiently through the middle.

The team was held secure by reliable backman, Glenn Carle as he helped stop any surge by Mitcham's forward line.

The game remained tight right up until the last quarter and in a performance that turned the game, Hamish Hosking was the undisputed best on field, producing a second half that crushed

Mitcham and led the Bloods to their first win for the year.

Hosking booted four goals up forward and controlled the ruck, watching on as his teammates fed off his presence around the ball to run away with the points. Campbell Holland was also handy kicking five goals including a freak shot from mid air in the final quarter.

**Round 8**  
**Warrandyte 10.18-78 d**  
**Coldstream 9.8-62**

Goals: J. Boyce 2, H. Hosking 2, B. Zach, G. Carle, R. Brown, D. Bryant, S. Lockie, T. Konrad  
Best: B. Zach, R. Cullen, C. Haskings, J. Bentley, R. Brown, F. Jarvis

**Round 7**  
**Warrandyte 12.12-84 d Mitcham 7.5-47**

Goals: C. Holland 5, H. Hosking 4, T. Konrad, L. Brewis, W. Hosking  
Best: R. Cullen, F. Jarvis, R. Gordon, G. Carle, C. Haskings, H. Hosking

**Round 6**  
**Warrandyte 9.5-59 d**  
**Nunawading 15.7-97**

Goals: J. Boyce 3, C. Holland 3, D. Bryant, P. Burgoyne, C. Haskings  
Bests: J. Boyce, L. Brewis, C. Chapman, R. Cullen, R. Bethune, C. Haskings

## Under 18s in third place

The young Bloods of the Under 18s team have proven a success both off and on the field this year. Currently the boys sit at third on the EFL ladder, posting a win/loss ratio of five wins and three losses.

Big Justin Khouri and the high flying Shane Biggs have been leading the way up forward with Liam Whitfield, the Batsanis brothers and Caleb Atkinson also featuring among the best players each week.

**Round 8**  
**Warrandyte 12.19-91 d**  
**Coldstream 2.9-21**

Goals: J. Khouri 3, L. Whitfield 3, J. Buhagiar 2, M. Motea, S. Mason, C. Atkinson, T. Valentino  
Best: Z. Bentley, L. Whitfield, L. Holewa, C. Atkinson, D. Beasley, J. Buhagiar

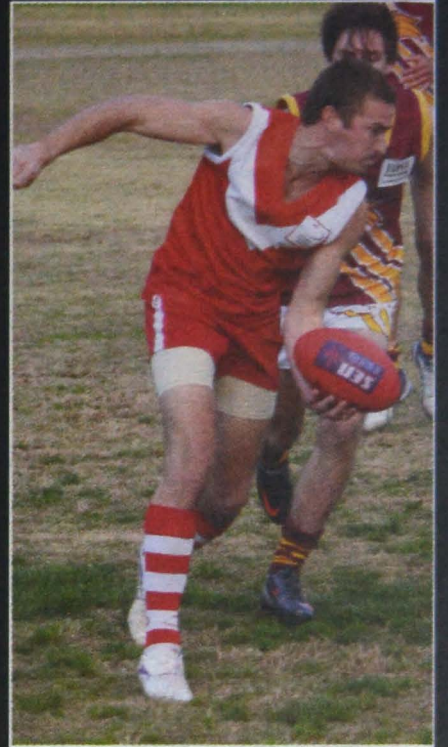
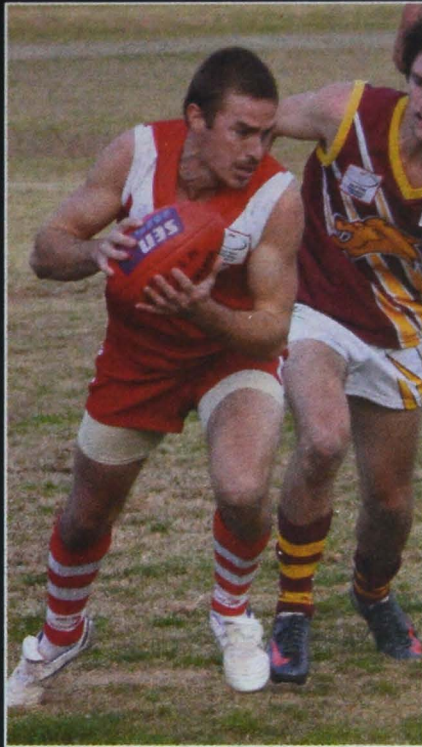
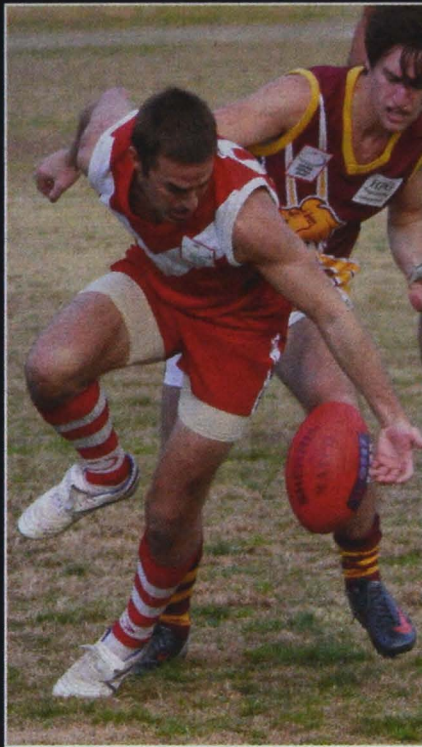
**Round 7**  
**Warrandyte 17.14-116 d Mitcham 11.10-76**

Goals: J. Khouri 4, C. Atkinson 4, B. Jackson 3, L. Holewa 2, C. Ryan, J. Clancy, L. Brouwer, L. Whitfield  
Best: C. Ryan, J. Khouri, R. Bowen, J. Buhagiar, A. Batsanis, S. Williams

**Round 6**  
**Warrandyte 10.8-68 lost to**  
**North Ringwood 18.16-124**

Goals: S. Biggs 3, J. Khouri 3, L. Whitfield 2, C. Ryan, N. Batsanis  
Best: N. Batsanis, L. Brouwer, J. Khouri, M. Falkingham, L. Whitfield, J. Buhagiar

# You can't catch me, I'm a Warrandyte man!



Grant McAdam demonstrated the determined approach from Warrandyte footballers this season when he fought for possession of the ball against strong Nunawading pressure before firing off a handpass to a team mate. Pictures by ROBERT WHITE.

## Four successive wins and ... Bloods are on a roll

By BEN TAYLOR

Warrandyte moved into third position on the EFL Third Division ladder this week after posting their fourth consecutive win against Coldstream.

The Bloods join a host of other teams on five wins and three losses, meaning each week is more important than the last in an effort to stay ahead of the pack and keep from falling behind.

After an encouraging start that saw narrow losses due to loss of concentration for brief periods, Warrandyte players have begun to gel together as a team and maintain four quarters of high pressure football that has proved too much for opposing sides.

Warrandyte's recent win against Coldstream was its fourth in a row and another example of the new brand of footy that has seen the Bloods on-field improvement so far this season.

The early minutes of the game saw Coldstream dominating around the ground, winning clearances and moving the ball quickly.

Fortunately for Warrandyte, the opposition could not convert their early dominance into any scoreboard pressure and when the Bloods did eventually move the ball forward, they took an early lead from the boot of first year player and former Warrandyte junior Steve Christopher, who finished with four goals for the day.

The second quarter saw the Bloods take the game by the throat and really test

their opposition. Warrandyte settled into an attacking brand of football, with the back half combining well and getting the ball down forward to presenting targets Lee Evans and Michael Morello.

Inaccuracy in front of goal meant that the half time Warrandyte lead was not as imposing as it could have been, but the Bloods still held a 36 point margin at the long break.

Coach Michael Tout pleaded with his players to continue their efforts, while praising the hard work of a few stand out individuals. The team readied themselves for a comeback from Coldstream and knew they could get closer to victory if they held off an attack from their opponents.

Coldstream showed the expected fight in the third quarter but Warrandyte players such as Grant McAdam and Vinnie Jones began to accumulate important possessions across the half back line and with better conversion from the forwards, the Bloods managed to stretch their lead out to 40 points at three quarter time.

Tout asked his players not to get too excited with the score but assured them that if their hard work continued then success would surely follow.

The first 15 minutes were hotly contested by Coldstream but Warrandyte held on to win by 31 points which was indicative of a game that the Bloods controlled from start to finish.

**Warrandyte 15.15-105 d Coldstream 10.14-74**

Goals: S. Christopher 3, L. Evans 2, A. Gamble 2, M. Morello 2, B. Reid, L. Dunn, V. Jones, T. Beasley, A. McIntosh, A. Tsapatsaris  
Best: G. McAdam, B. Reid, S. Christopher, L. Evans, B. Taylor, V. Jones

● **ROUND 7**  
Round 7 of the EFL season saw Warrandyte travel to Mitcham to play the bottom side of the competition.

The game was always going to be a danger for the Bloods as Mitcham had come close, but had not yet seen victory in the first six rounds and memories of their huge victory over the Bloods last year were sure to have them hungry for their first win.

The Bloods addressed this issue during the week, preparing themselves for what would be a desperate and unrelenting opposition.

Further motivation for the win was the celebration of club legend Matt Wood's 150th game for the club.

The quick and confident play of Warrandyte young gun Ross Ansaldo electrified Warrandyte's forward half as the Bloods enjoyed a large quarter time lead.

From quarter time the game played out in a similar fashion and once the Bloods got ahead, they were determined not to let Mitcham back into the game.

**Warrandyte 26.12-168 d Mitcham 13.11-89**

Goals: M. Morello 6, L. Evans 4, M. Wood 3, A. Gamble 3, A. McIntosh 3, B. Reid, L. Dunn, C. Watson, R. Ansaldo, T. Naughtin, S. Christopher, A. Tsapatsaris  
Best: T. Naughtin, G. McAdam, M. Wood, V. Jones,



Matt Feben takes a strong mark over team mate Ben Taylor and his Nunawading opponent.

B. Reid, L. Evans  
● **ROUND 6**

By Round 6, a new trend had started to emerge at Warrandyte Football Club. Each week was being pencilled in as a 'must win' game in the senior side's mission to play finals footy and a new belief about what was possible was evident in all players.

Nunawading loomed as another crunch game for the Bloods. The previous years had seen tight encounters between the two sides and there was sure to be some feeling in the game.

Playing for respect in Division Three, as well as to even-up the ledger at three wins and three losses,

Warrandyte showed another level of play that shocked their opponents and pleased the crowd.

The club's 1999 Premiership reunion lunch proved an inspiration for the younger Bloods, with passionate support coming from the larger than usual crowd at Warrandyte Reserve.

The play was tight throughout the day but Warrandyte were too desperate to win to let the opposition in and once the Bloods stretched their lead they were keen to hang on to it, despite what Nunawading threw at them.

In what was hopefully a preview of things to come,

Warrandyte showed more focus and more desire than their opposition and through the execution of a well rehearsed game plan, came out on top of the fancied opponent by 40 points.

Coach Michael Tout has stressed the importance of each game, pointing out that with such an even competition there was no such thing as an easy game.

**Warrandyte 16.13-109 d Nunawading 10.9-69**

Goals: M. Morello 4, S. Christopher 4, L. Evans 3, D. Large 2, C. Watson, T. Naughtin, A. McIntosh  
Best: M. Wood, M. Feben, T. Naughtin, L. Evans, D. Mullett-Treloar, S. Christopher

# LANDFIELD



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**Email: admin@landfield.com.au**

## Lions Club of Warrandyte Inc.

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays

**Hearing Tests at Warrandyte Primary School 23 May 2009 for pre-schoolers and prep children between 8:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.**

**Enquiries and bookings telephone 9844 2041 or 9722 1369.**



[www.lionsclubwarrandyte.org.au](http://www.lionsclubwarrandyte.org.au)

### WARRANDYTE NORTH

#### Rustic Mudbrick

This rustic mudbrick home on approx 2 acres features the expansive use of timbers from Sydney's Darling Harbour waterfront, adding a bit of history and character to the charming qualities on offer. Featuring five bedrooms plus study/office, two living areas and serene bush outlooks. Enjoy the warmth and comfort of the designer styled open fireplace in the formal lounge whilst taking in the natural beauty that surrounds the home. All of this, just minutes from Warrandyte's central river position on Yarra Street.

**PRICE: \$580k plus**



### WARRANDYTE SOUTH

#### Let Your Family Flourish

Superbly placed overlooking the Great Dividing Range, this unique architectural brick home is a 12-sided dodecagon, set on 2 acres to deliver the perfect family lifestyle. Enjoy fresh fruit from the orchard and wondrous wildlife including kangaroos, wedge-tailed eagles, water birds and tame kookaburras. Find your own space with 4 bedrooms, two living levels and a flourishing garden.

**PRICE: \$820k plus**



### WARRANDYTE NORTH

#### The Best Kept Secret

Rarely does the opportunity arise to secure such a magnificent acre in one of Warrandyte's most sought after locations. Build your dream home on this cleared allotment of approximately 1.5 acres, boasting magnificent views of the Warrandyte hills. Don't miss this chance to secure a great block.

**PRICE: \$625k plus**



### WARRANDYTE

#### Impressive on All Fronts

Offering 4 bedrooms plus study/office, master with extra large walk-in-robe, a well equipped kitchen and large meals area, this home also boasts 4 living areas that will not only appeal to those who value the luxury of space but also to those who enjoy the satisfaction of entertaining both indoors and outdoors on the large covered deck. You will have no problem accommodating as many things as you like with substantial storage space and a huge 4-car remote garage. All this set on approx 1/4 acre.

**PRICE: \$670k plus**



### WARRANDYTE

#### Build the Home You Always Wanted

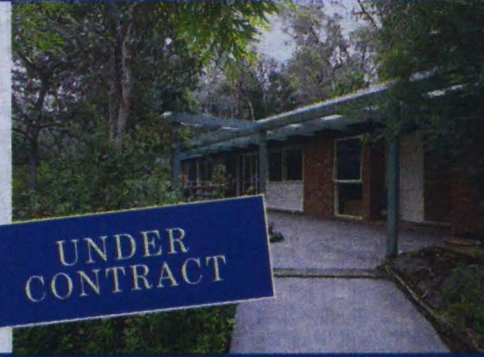
This fantastic block of land of approximately 1/4 acre is ideally positioned to build the home you always wanted. On offer is a fully fenced near level block, positioned in a natural bush setting within a quiet residential area. You will also enjoy the convenience of having all amenities including schools, transport and shops within walking distance of the allotment. The block has a generous building envelope giving you every opportunity to be at your innovative best in designing the home of your dreams.



### WARRANDYTE NORTH

#### 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.



### 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, Westinghouse appliances, formal dining, meals area, open study, upstairs lounge room and 3 bathrooms. Plus spa, unit, double tandem carport, underground storage/cellar with space for potential office or rumpus.



### WARRANDYTE

#### Opportunity to Use Your Creative Talents

Don't miss this great opportunity to delight in the sights and sounds of nature at all times. Ideally positioned within tranquil natural surrounds, this 1/4 acre block of land has a number of appealing qualities. Within walking distance of schools, shops and transportation, the land is almost level, securely fenced, is not heavily wooded, making it so much easier with preparations to use your creative talents in creating a home tailored to your needs and desires.

