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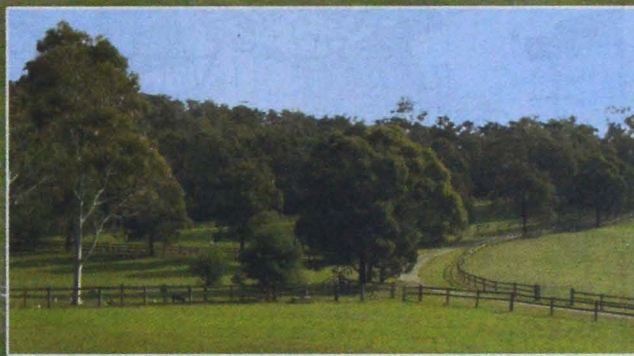
No 421, July 2009 For the community, by the community

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Keep our Green Wedge safe from subdivision!

(Montage by Stephen Reynolds)



Green Wedge fear

By TRISTAN MADDOCKS

There are fresh concerns for the future of local Green Wedges despite an assurance from state government MP Danielle Green that the expansion of the urban growth boundary in other parts of Melbourne would not happen in Nillumbik and Manningham.

Manningham councillor David Ellis and Liberal MP for Warrandyte Ryan Smith both believe the government's open door to urban growth in Green Wedges in Melbourne's north, west and southeast is cause for local concern.

"This is more than a wake-up call for our own Green Wedge—this is a time bomb," Cr Ellis said.

"The government have clearly abandoned their own Melbourne 2030 planning strategy and with it their supposed commitment to Melbourne's Green Wedges. It is only

a matter of time before they turn the same thinking to the open space of Manningham and Yarra Ranges."

Under changes announced in last year's *Melbourne 2030: a planning update—Melbourne @ 5 million*, the state government is looking at permitting development of at least 22,855 hectares on Melbourne's outskirts.

Expansion is being considered in the Melton, Caroline Springs and Wyndham areas in Melbourne's west, the Hume, Mitchell and Whittlesea areas in the north and the Casey area in the southeast.

Eighty-eight per cent of the land being considered for development is in Green Wedge zones.

Warrandyte MP Ryan Smith said the pending development of Green Wedges in other parts of Melbourne sets a dangerous precedent and could have long-term implications

for Warrandyte.

"I think it shows us that the urban growth boundary will be moved at the government's whim," he said. "And I think it allows developers to perhaps focus on areas that otherwise they would not have."

However Yan Yean MP Danielle Green said change would only go ahead in "growth municipalities" and there would be no change to the Green Wedge situation in Nillumbik and Manningham.

"The only growth that's occurring and the only places that we've said that growth will occur is in the designated growth corridor municipalities," she said. "Nillumbik and Manningham—I cannot stress more strongly—are not designated growth municipalities."

Ms Green said the areas that are being looked at for growth are more amenable to development and less

environmentally significant than Nillumbik and Manningham.

"Hume and Whittlesea are more suited to development because they are flat, cheaper to develop and they don't have the significant environmental values that Manningham and Nillumbik have," she said.

"And also, when we are looking at fire risk and things like that, the gradients and all that sort of thing are reasons why no-one in Nillumbik or Manningham should have concern that there is going to be any change.

"There won't be. In fact, (MP for Eltham) Steve Herbert and I have had that assurance from the planning minister Justin Madden."

Ryan Smith said greater community consultation was needed when it came to decisions

about development in Green Wedges.

"The recent announcement, I'm pretty sure, is not going to affect our area but I guess my concern is more broad, (given) that there is a move by the government to perhaps ignore Green Wedges and we've seen the government move the urban growth boundary at its whim.

"I'm just concerned that in the future, if there is a requirement to move into Green Wedge zones around Warrandyte, then the government won't think twice about it."

However, Mr Smith was not able to rule out shifting the urban growth boundary if the Liberals took office.

"The Liberal government brought in the Green Wedge zones, we're very protective of it. We would look at moving it (the urban growth boundary), necessarily, but certainly we'd be conscious of the zones that are in place."

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— Anonymous

WARRANDYTE diary

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, August 12, 2009. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, July 31.

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



WARRANDYTE'S SULOS

Romancing—Eastland style

HHEY Jasper! I hear salami's on special at the Salvador Deli!"

Jasper had been getting these sorts of wisecracks all week. Just because he'd got some weirdo painter's name wrong in Art last week!

"See?" said Robbo, digging him in the ribs. "I told you Brittnee likes you!"

"Likes me? She thinks I'm a moron and mocks me in public!"

"Mate, you don't understand women. The truth of which was confirmed that weekend when Robbo arranged for Brittnee and Tamsyn to go to the movies with them at Eastland."

An apprehensive Jasper made several discoveries that Saturday morning. Where the laundry was. What happens when you leave an iron on your T-shirt when your mobile rings. Clearasil doesn't work as quickly as in the ads. And what it's like to be invisible. It's like sitting in a bus stop being totally ignored by two girls who could talk underwater with a mouthful of sushi. Tamsyn was the conversational equivalent of the Gatling gun and Brittnee could fire off a few rounds herself.

But finally Robbo turned up at the same time as the Number 304 and he and Tamsyn slumped into the back seat leaving Brittnee and Jasper too close for comfort in the seat in front.

"G'day," said Jasper, which seemed to go all right.

"What's up?" returned Britt-

nee. Jasper was still working on a suitably cool response as they passed the Strawberry Farm. By the roundabout at Oban Road he judged the moment had passed and let it go through to the keeper. Especially since Brittnee now had her ipod earphones in and left them there till they reached Eastland.

The only trouble with Eastland on a Saturday is it's still Eastland. And the only people who actually like Eastland are folk who think tracksuits are a fashion item, orienteers

who can practise their navigation skills trying to find where they left the car, teenage girls who know they're the only ones who can actually fit into the clothes in the store windows and teenage boys who like the fact that the shop mannequins don't wear bras.

Consequently the place was almost entirely populated by teenagers, with the exception of a handful of people in tracksuits carrying compasses.

At the Pancake Parlour the girls picked up where they'd



living with The Trotts

love Jack Black? (Apart from David and Margaret, obviously, and anyone else who hasn't actually had a brain bypass). Brittnee thought Michael Cera was the sexiest guy on Earth, which Jasper found encouraging since he'd always thought Michael Cera was the only guy on Earth less sexy than he was. In fact the trip home was hysterical as they repeated the best toilet and fart jokes to each other and when they got off at the roundabout to go their separate ways, the girls back into town and the guys up KG Road, Jasper was in high spirits.

"So," asked Robbo. "How did you go?"

"What?" asked Jasper. "What did you score?" Jasper knew he wasn't talking about rating the movie.

"Oh, um, three," Jasper lied. "You?"

"Two and a half." Jasper smiled. Suddenly he didn't feel such a failure. He and Brittnee may not have exchanged a dozen words between them, but in terms of the most important criteria of male dating—bragging—it was turning into an unexpected success. The two boys smirked at each other as Robbo asked, "How many in your system?"

"Ten," said Robbo. "How many in yours?"

"Three."

ALAN CORNELL

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Nature park above freeway tunnels

A new conservation park has been opened in our area. Mullum Mullum Park, on the borders of Donvale and Mitcham, is located above the East-Link tunnels.

Gavin Jennings, minister for the environment and climate change, launched the new park late last month.

"The new park has significant natural values with the Mullum Mullum Creek and its gorge," Mr Jennings told the *Diary*. "This will ensure that these values are protected."

The park celebrates

the success of a long-running campaign waged by conservationists to protect the Mullum Mullum Valley when the freeway extension—now EastLink—was first planned. The decision by the state government to build the tunnels finally secured the future of the valley.

"Mullum Mullum Park will protect a vital wildlife corridor as the home of Rufous Night Herons, Powerful Owls, Wedge-tailed Eagles and Peregrine Falcons," Mr Jennings said.

"The park features approximately 2000 metres of trails, including the Mullum

Mullum Creek shared user pathway. It also incorporates part of the EastLink trail which links the eastern suburbs to Frankston."

The park can be accessed via Quarry Road in Mitcham (Melways ref: 49B6).

Right: exploring a path through the new conservation park.

Inset: Minister Jennings with Parks Victoria manager, Stuart Ord.



Business isn't booming



Village shops: global downturn hits Warrandyte.

Marked drop in sales in past months

By KARLY HICKMAN

Warrandyte Business Association is concerned about the effects the economic downturn is having on local businesses.

Warrandyte businesses have experienced a drop in sales over the last six month period, and there are fears for the impact on the community if this trend continues.

"All businesses in Warrandyte are feeling it" said Victory IGA Warrandyte owner, Julie Quinton, who has appealed to Warrandyte residents to shop locally to support their community. "If small businesses in Warrandyte don't survive this period, they won't be around for the recovery," Ms Quinton told the *Diary*.

In times of economic crisis, cus-

tomers often look for the best value for money, opting for large chain stores over smaller, independently owned businesses. But if local businesses are not supported during this difficult time, the Warrandyte scene will look very different as businesses close.

"Warrandyte businesses do such a terrific job at supporting our local community. But if residents can't support us, we are going to find it very difficult to continue to support the various sporting clubs, kindergartens and community groups that we help," Ms Quinton said.

Janelle Wareham of Riveresque said that there has been a marked drop in sales of giftware over the last six months, so much so that they have stopped opening on Sundays. "Luckily, our window furnishing sales are steady and sustaining us."

"There certainly aren't as many people on the street," Ms Wareham said. "People might be favouring the larger undercover shopping centres, but they will be missing the uniqueness and the family experience of

shopping in Warrandyte."

"There is a good range of stores in Warrandyte, but there is always potential for new businesses to open up. We are working to revitalise the Warrandyte Business Association to invite more new businesses to the area," Ms Wareham said.

"While independently owned businesses in Warrandyte may not necessarily be always able to compete with big corporations on prices of some items, we can compete on value," Ms Quinton said. Warrandyte businesses can offer wonderful customer service, unique products, tailored services and that exceptional community feel.

"We will continue to support the local community and endeavour to find new, exciting businesses to open up in Warrandyte, but only so long as we are supported ourselves."

"Now more than ever is the time to be supporting your local businesses as without you, they cannot survive and cannot continue to support community initiatives," Ms Quinton said.

'CreekSide'—new retirement villas

The long-awaited cluster of five villa houses for retirees now has a name: CreekSide.

"CreekSide in Warrandyte, the new five villa retirement project planned for Harris Gully Road is moving ever closer with finalisation of the plans," a spokesperson told the *Diary*.

Several difficulties experienced during the planning process, such as the provision and location of underground water retention tanks has led to some unforeseen delays. However all now appear resolved and the

Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Cooperative board is looking forward to the project going out to tender shortly.

At this point the board would be delighted to hear from any local builders who could be interested in tendering for the project. Responses can be made to PO Box 467, Warrandyte.

The board, including new directors, Dick Davies and Richard Aumann, have named the complex "CreekSide" to reflect the site's position

adjacent to Anderson Creek.

"CreekSide in Warrandyte will offer retirees an opportunity to downsize while remaining in the area they love and in which they choose to live," the spokesperson said. "The villas will be both comfortable and sustainable; offering modern, stylish interiors, wheelchair access, double glazing and solar hot water, private gardens and courtyards, and garages with direct access and automatic opening doors."

Following an upsurge of interest

from prospective clients the board is seeking to establish a waiting list for the villas as there have been a number of enquiries from local residents.

"First preference will be given to Warrandyte residents, particularly those aged 65 or over."

As it is intended the villas will be sold "off the plan", an information pack for prospective clients is being finalised.

However the next step is for any interested resident to complete the

form and return it to the address below so a true level of interest can be determined.

The board will also be asking those people who registered an interest earlier to move to the next step of putting in an application for the waiting list (see Page 10).

The board is looking forward to the next stage in the process.

• Further responses from interested residents can be posted to PO Box 467, Warrandyte 3113.

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MP Brian Tee: which Warrandyte?

Now you see them, now you don't.

In our May issue we welcomed, with a banner headline on our front page, the good news that seven new social housing dwellings were to be built in Warrandyte as part of the federal government's national building and economic stimulus plan.

Local Labor MP Brian Tee alerted the *Diary* to the story and told us the project would cost \$1.3million.

It now turns out that the units will be built in the Warrandyte electorate, but not in Warrandyte township.

Last month, Mr Tee told parliament: "I am pleased to announce that seven new social housing units will be built in Wicklow Avenue in Croydon."

"It is now clear that the public housing was never going to be in the Manningham area, much less the suburb of Warrandyte," Liberal MP Ryan Smith said.

"So I find it odd that Mr Tee's original statement went to the *Warrandyte Diary* in the first place."

Pity about the homeless Warrandyte residents whose hopes were raised, thinking they might score a nice new housing unit.

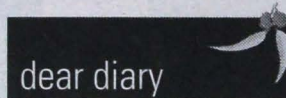
CLYDE & OCKER



"The homeless can live in the old mine tunnels, Ock!"

Police bravery in fire emergency

May I through your paper publicly congratulate Senior Constable Ken Dwight and his police colleagues for their courageous decision to lead a convoy of people who were faced with a life threatening situation as an out-of-control fire of horrific proportion was bearing down on the township of Marysville that disastrous afternoon of Saturday, February 7. Their actions in organising and leading all of those residents to safety was truly remarkable and I am sure that all the people who were saved that day will be



dear diary

eternally grateful.

I am certain that if the wind had not changed that afternoon all of Warrandyte and surrounding areas would have been obliterated as Marysville was, but with a much greater loss of life, due to the greater population density. There would have been little chance of controlling the fire front until it had reached Whitehorse Road in Mitcham or

Ringwood.

I am certain that if similar circumstances had occurred in Warrandyte, Keith Walker and his police colleagues, as well as CFA members, would have exercised the same common sense, practical thinking and courage.

As I drive around Warrandyte streets I become very concerned that there are many properties that are very fire prone. We are often reminded that Warrandyte is in an area as severely fire prone as any other locality in the world.

Regulations governing tree and land clearing need to be seriously updated by the government, DSE and the council so as to at least lower the fire threat to Warrandyte as far as possible. To remain as inflexible as the current regulations appear to be, a second Marysville for Warrandyte is probably only a matter of time, bearing in mind the dire forecasts for the future with climate change, higher temperatures and the obvious serious lack of water.

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Tragic deaths litter our roads

I was confronted with the tragedies of cars and wildlife when I found by the side of Kangaroo Ground-Warrandyte Road a dead baby kangaroo lying across the neck of its dead mother (pictured right).

The tragic story that accompanies this scene occurs more often than we like to admit. We remove ourselves from seeing these things because our lives are too busy to slow down and see what's going on around us. And that includes me most other days.

It made me wonder if we should have a weekly road toll of wildlife killed on roads to wake us up to these silent slayings. This count could occur as part of the existing road kill clean-up system undertaken by Nillumbik council and advertised on the front page of the local newspapers. Maybe, just maybe, there will be more patience when someone in front of you slows

Thanks Joan for eight year's service

On behalf of the Warrandyte Theatre Company (WTC) and the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association (WMIAA) I would like to extend my heartfelt and public thanks for the work of Joan Rogers, who has been our booking officer for the past eight years.

During this time she has charmed and/or chastised (as required) many of our theatre patrons. It was a pretty daunting and (at times)

tedious task, but one she took on cheerily and voluntarily.

We will also miss seeing her smiley face peering through the door of the bookshop, often framed by columns of old books. We wish her luck on the next stage of life's journey.

David Tynan, president
Warrandyte Theatre Company



down on bush roads, or more people will take time to check the pouch if they do happen to hit one.

There are many kangaroos

in the area, so maybe it's not really about them, it's about us and waking ourselves up beyond the worries of our own life and to our humanity,

which is inextricably linked to the world around us. Any thoughts?

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CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS

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Safe refuge down below?

Thanks to Black Saturday and the Bushfire Royal Commission, fire refuges have been in the news. How practical are they? How safe? Should they be provided for community use or restricted to privately owned structures—or both?

THE people of the mountain township of Woods Point have relied on their disused mine tunnel to shelter them from devastating bushfires on more than one occasion: Black Friday, 1939; fires in 2006 and again on Black Saturday.

There is nothing flash about this “refuge”. The floor is often wet, the ceilings are low, but so far it has proven safe and accessible.

Close to the township, above the school and the police station, its entrance is permanently open and secured against collapse with a concrete structure. And it’s an “official” refuge, maintained by the community.

Beneath Warrandyte there is a network of old mine tunnels and shafts, many of them filled with rubbish, most of them spectacularly unsafe.

But at least a couple on Fourth Hill could have had the potential to serve as refuges until they were “gated” by Parks Victoria as insurance against the possibility of public liability claims.

Sure, they are a relatively long way from the township, and the population of Warrandyte is many times that of Woods Point, but for anyone trapped on Fourth Hill or in Whipstick Gully during a bushfire they could perhaps save lives as refuges of last resort—if they were open.

When we enquired about the current situation from Parks Victoria, the *Diary* was told: “Parks Victoria does not currently allow the use of mine shafts as fire bunkers. Mine shafts within Warrandyte State Park are currently closed to the public for safety reasons.”

We can find no mention of the use of mines as refuges in any of the historical material on bushfires in Warrandyte. The Yarra River often provided sanctuary in times of bushfire, as did several farm dams in South Warrandyte, but never the gold mines, apparently.

A report by the Emergency Services Commissioner in 2005 states: “There is no doubt the subject of fire refuges is both controversial and difficult. The total abolition of fire refuges could deny particular communities the benefits of well constructed and managed fire refuges.”

We decided to ask retired geologist and local resident Dr Ron Garrett his opinion. Ron was a vocal critic of the mine closures back in

2002. He stresses that what follows is exactly that—an opinion.

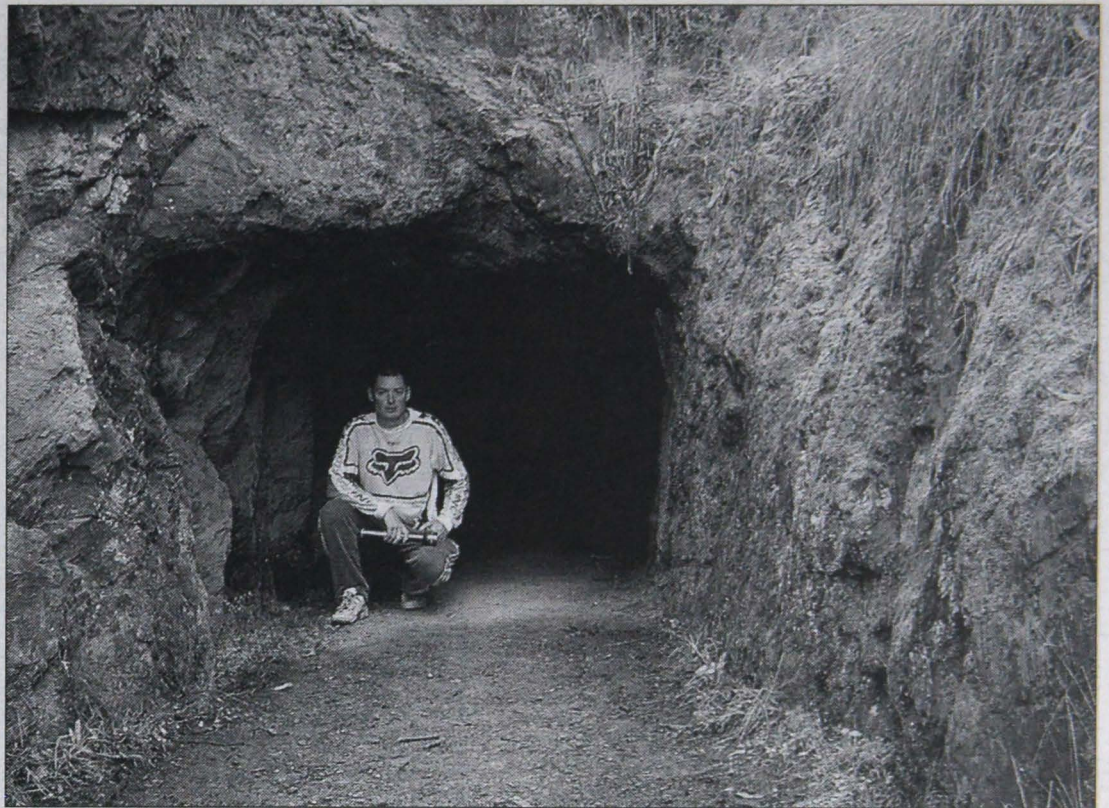
So far as we can ascertain, the general consensus seems to be that our mine tunnels would not make safe fire refuges, and Dr Garrett agrees.

● What do you think? Should they be investigated further? Should other forms of refuge be investigated? As always, the *Diary* columns are open for your opinions and comments.

Would you shelter in these abandoned goldmines?

Right: Peter Hanson at Geraghty's mine prior to closure.

Below: Mines closed by Parks Victoria (left) Victory mine (right) Geraghty's mine.



‘Please don’t go down the mine, Daddy...’

By RON GARRETT

I RECEIVED a telephone call from Cliff Green recently. He was wondering whether or not the old goldmine adits on Fourth Hill could perhaps prove useful refuges in the event of bushfire.

That threw me back seven years. I had wondered the same thing whilst on a Warrandyte Mines Consultative Committee discussing with Parks Victoria their 2002 proposed gating of the adits, and I realised that the mines were too inaccessible for use by the township in an emergency. It would surely be madness to walk up Fourth Hill during a bushfire. However, for someone unwisely caught there the adits could perhaps have been life-saving refuges.

But bushfires are wild things, and are little understood. Would the updraught be sufficient to suck air out through the ventilation shaft, and draw hot smoky air, low in oxygen, into the mine? Knowing that on Black Saturday people lost

their lives in underground shelters, if need be, I will take my chances in the river.

But inevitably, I began to wonder what has happened with the old goldmines on Fourth Hill in the past seven years.

I phoned the Warrandyte State Park to find out if the mines had been designated tourist mines, as Parks Victoria had “intended” and was told “No, but the matter is being re-visited”.

In a way I was glad that nothing had been done. When Parks Victoria gated the mines they used solid gates with a vent hole at the top. At the time I warned that this would reduce significantly the ventilation of the mines. Indeed, I suspect the air in, for example, Geraghty’s mine, has far less oxygen than it had seven to 10 years ago.

A report by a mines inspector dated August 22, 2000, made available by Parks Victoria, showed oxygen levels were even then 20.4

per cent at the main intersection, and 19.8 per cent at the extremities. This proves beyond doubt that with the fully ventilated mine, oxygen was being displaced or removed faster than it could move in.

With the ventilation restricted, we can expect oxygen levels to be even lower, perhaps even lower than the 18 per cent limit for tourist mines.

The low-level of oxygen in the mine is very unlikely due to a volcanic gas, or methane from standing water, common in many natural caves. It is very likely due to the presence of living organisms in the water seeping through the mine, coating the surface of the walls and floor. Considering all the walls, their irregularity and rock surfaces, there could easily be a cubic metre or more of surface water carrying microorganisms which could account perhaps for the 1.2 per cent fall in oxygen in the mine.

Not much, but since the mine

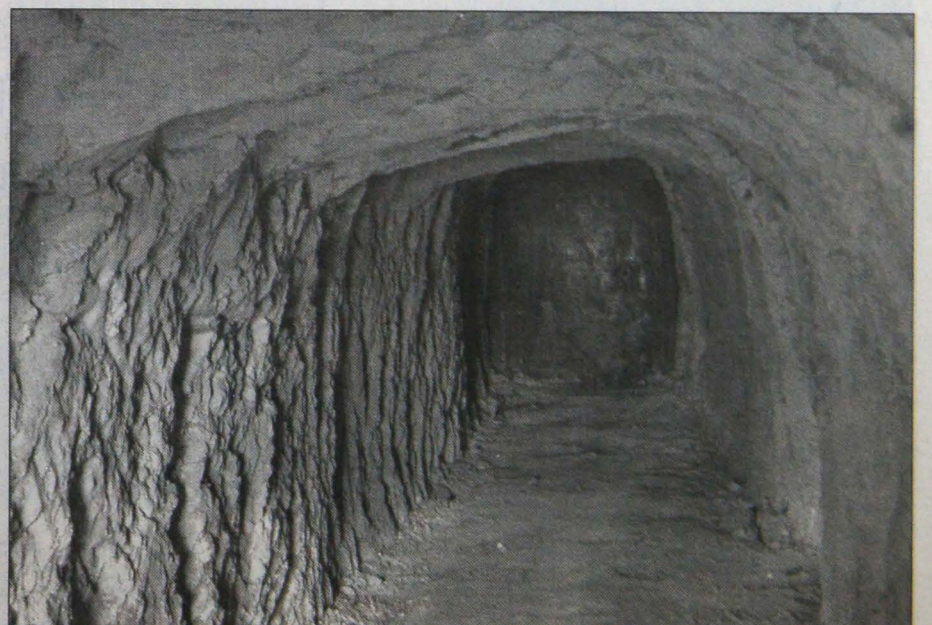
was gated, the ground was covered with screenings to provide a level floor, and an even larger surface area for living organisms. Given that the opening to the adit has been reduced from a few square metres to a few square centimetres one would expect a big impact on the movement of oxygen back in to replace the oxygen already known to be lost.

Perhaps Parks Victoria will make the actual measurements known (if any have been made) and thus find out whether the mine can ever again be explored by the public.

Of course, it is never that simple. If I am indeed right in suggesting that the fall in oxygen in the mine is due to respiration, then there is another problem besides loss of oxygen.

Normal respiration results in the production of one molecule of carbon dioxide for every molecule of oxygen used. A fall of 1.2 per cent oxygen could have raised the carbon dioxide level to about 1.2 per cent (or perhaps much more now that the mine is gated).

Low oxygen and such greatly increased levels of carbon dioxide would provide a serious danger to anyone with incipient cardiovascular or respiratory disorders touring the mines. To my knowledge the carbon dioxide levels have never been measured, probably because the legislation for working or tourist mines does not require it, despite its medical importance.



Local citizens honoured

Warrandyte showed yet again that it is the home of many special people when three residents were named in the Queen's Birthday honour roll last month. Awards went to Brett Ellis, Paul Jenès and *Diary* editor Cliff Green.

Words and pictures by
SANDY BURGOYNE



BRETT ELLIS

BRETT ELLIS received the Emergency Services Medal (ESM) for services to Australian lifesaving.

He has maintained an unbroken connection with the lifesaving movement for more than 20 years, firstly with Surf Life Saving Victoria (SLSV) then with Life Saving Victoria (LSV).

In 1995 he was awarded SLSV's John Wishart Memorial Medal. This is presented each year to an active lifesaver in recognition of excellence and commitment to patrolling.

Brett Ellis joined the staff of SLSV in 1997. In 2002 when that organisation merged with the Victoria Branch of the Royal Life Saving Society Australia to form LSV he

became general manager of life saving operations in the combined organisation.

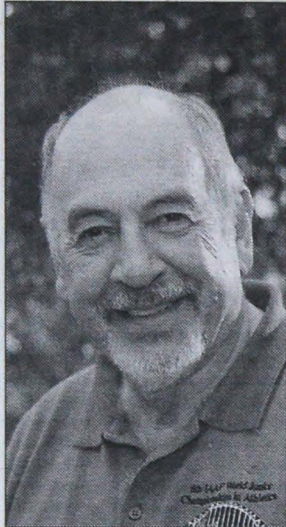
"(From 1997) we evolved the organisation immensely. We moved it from Sport and Recreation (which is part of the Department of Community Planning) to the Department of Justice under the Emergency Services Commissioner, so we were linked to the SES and CFA," Mr Ellis told the *Diary*.

"For the last 11 years I've been responsible for the operations of Life Saving Victoria, all the beach services and over those 11 years I've been able to expand those services across the state and move it into aircraft and a lot more offshore rescue boats and expand our services beyond the traditional 'between the flags'."

One of the initiatives he worked for was the National Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Manual.

"In the summer 97/98 season there were a considerable number of drownings across the state. At one stage it was unfortunately ahead of the road toll. So we got some funding and support from the state government for lifesaving and to try to stop all the drownings. (In) the Gunnamatta incident where four kids lost their lives we identified that the signage could be one of the issues that we could tackle. So from that tragedy it evolved from there to... working on an international standard of signage which we finished last year."

Brett Ellis continues as a surf lifesaver and is a member of the Woolamai Beach club on Phillip Island. He is now the head of the Shire of Yarra Ranges Emergency and Safety Planning Unit.



PAUL JENES

PAUL JENES received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to athletics as a statistician, competition official, commentator and sport historian.

His interest in athletics started as a child when his father bought him and his brother tickets to the Melbourne Olympic Games in 1956.

He found the events fascinating and still has memorabilia, such as programs, from those Games.

He was a keen schoolboy athlete.

"I competed mainly in the high, long and triple jumps and the hurdles and I continued as an athletics competitor into the 1990s," Mr Jenès told the *Diary*.

He has been a member of Ringwood Athletic Club since 1975 after transferring from the YMCA.

However, it was the statistics and history of athletics that particularly interested him.

"When reading a magazine article about earlier performances in a sport, I wanted to know more and started to do my own research," he

said.

During the 1970s he met Bert Gardiner, a statistician by training, who was keeping records for the athletics organisation. Mr Jenès started to assist him with recording the statistics and performance details of athletes and events and when Mr Gardiner retired Paul Jenès took over as official statistician—a position he continues to hold for both the Victorian and national organisations. He is also president of the Association of Track and Field Statisticians (ATFS), an international group formed in 1950.

"I've had a good run. I've been a commentator at local and overseas events and I've been an official at Olympic and Commonwealth Games," he said.

Commentating international events can be something of a challenge when athletes with long, complicated names are competing.

Each individual needs to be clearly identified whilst continuing the description of what is happening on the field.

Mr Jenès' research into sports history was put to good use when he wrote the official centenary history of Athletics Australia *Fields of Green, Lanes of Gold, a history of athletics in Australia* in 2001.

He continues his research into Australia's sporting history.

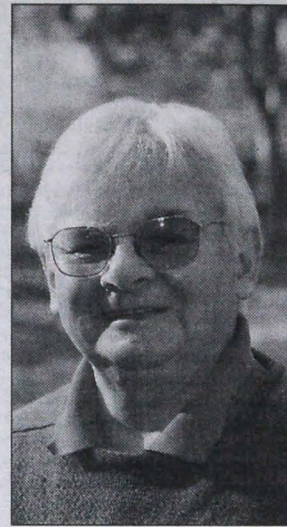
"(Recently) a man enquiring about his mother simply made contact as he was piecing his mum's life together as he was very young when she passed away.

"He wanted to know 'what did mum do in the games?'" Mr Jenès said.

Paul Jenès' love of athletics continues unabated.

He continues to play basketball at Warrandyte in the Ballistyx team in the Greyburn Cup senior men's competition.

"Next year I will be at the Commonwealth Games in India. I am looking forward to that. I will stay on after the events to do some sightseeing," he said.



CLIFF GREEN

CLIFF GREEN received the Medal of the Order of Australia for "service to the Australian film and television industry as a screenwriter and educator".

"I began my working life as an office boy in the city, then served an apprenticeship as a compositor," Mr Green told the *Diary*. "Letterpress printing was dying, so I trained as a primary teacher, married and taught in little bush schools. During that time I began writing educational and children's TV and radio programs. An ABC producer I'd been working with joined Crawfords. He rang me one day and said they were desperately short of writers for their cop shows and would I like to audition. So began my fourth 'career'. This one has lasted more than 40 years."

Following three years at Crawford Productions, Cliff Green went freelance, writing mostly ABC-TV drama, including *Power Without Glory*, *Rush*, *Lucinda Brayford*, *I Can Jump Puddles*, *Phoenix*, *Janus* and *Mercury*.

He also contributed to many dramas on commercial TV, including *Against the Wind*, *The Flying Doctors*,

Country Practice and *Blue Heelers*.

International recognition came with his screenplay for the landmark Australian film, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. He received many screenwriting awards over the years, including eight Awgies, several TV Society awards and two AFI nominations. His *Janus* episode "Fit to Plead" won an Australian Human Rights Award in 1995.

Cliff Green has taught screenwriting at the Western Australian Institute of Technology, the Victorian College of the Arts and RMIT University.

"I find it very satisfying to be able to pass on what I learned in 'the school of hard knocks' to others," he said. "Crawford Productions was our training ground. Now there are a number of excellent courses for tyro screenwriters. Young people are TV and film literate these days. Watching them develop as writers is always a great thrill.

"If you can see the pictures in your head and hear the dialogue in your ears—and tell a good story—then you're halfway there.

"I am probably best known in Warrandyte for my work on the *Diary*," Mr Green said. He founded the community newspaper in 1970. He received a Centenary of Federation Medal in 2001 "for service to the community".

CLYDE & OCKER



"I was once awarded Idiot of the Month at the Patchewollock Pub, Ock!"

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Landcare groups united

By KARLY HICKMAN

The Middle Yarra Landcare Network Group is assisting district environmental and land care groups in protecting and preserving our local surrounds.

The group acts as an umbrella organisation for the Andersons Creek Catchment Area Network Group, Friends of Warrandyte State Park, Jumping Creek Catchment Landcare Group and Wonga Park Environment Group.

"We act as coordinator when it comes to activities and a facilitator when it comes to applying for grants and speaking to authorities," said Artur Muchow who heads up the Middle Yarra Landcare Network Group.

The group is unique in that it addresses environmental issues on all land. "We don't distinguish much between private and public land," Mr Muchow said.

"Much of the work we have been doing recently has been replanting and addressing weed infestation and soil erosion." The group also provides education for people on such practical topics as weed identification, first aid and plant education.

Middle Yarra Landcare Network Group often coordinates activities for all constituents to get involved in. Recently, members from all groups travelled to St Andrews to help the fire-affected area.

"The main issue to tackle in the fire devastated areas is soil erosion," Mr Muchow said.

Other recent activities include a clean-up along Gold Memorial Road and regeneration of land along Jumping Creek Road, involving weeding and replanting indigenous grasses and shrubs.

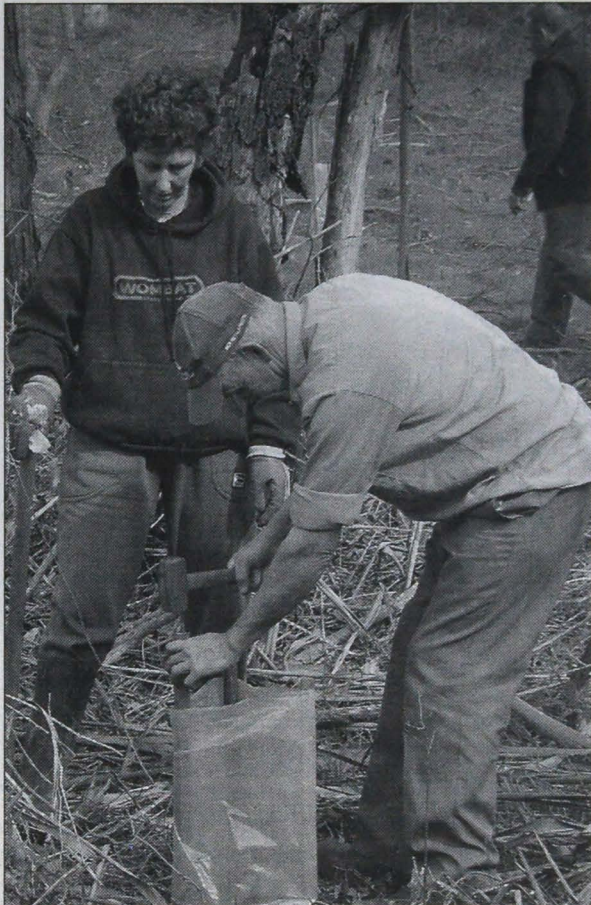
"We have an initiative where we help newcomers to the area manage their block; where every new landowner gets a welcome pack with information on land care," Mr Muchow said. "The response from owners has been tremendous."

The network has been able to utilise many experts and volunteers from the local area who have been happy to help out free of charge.

"Thanks to generous community donations we have a trailer full of tools and gloves that can be used by volunteers."

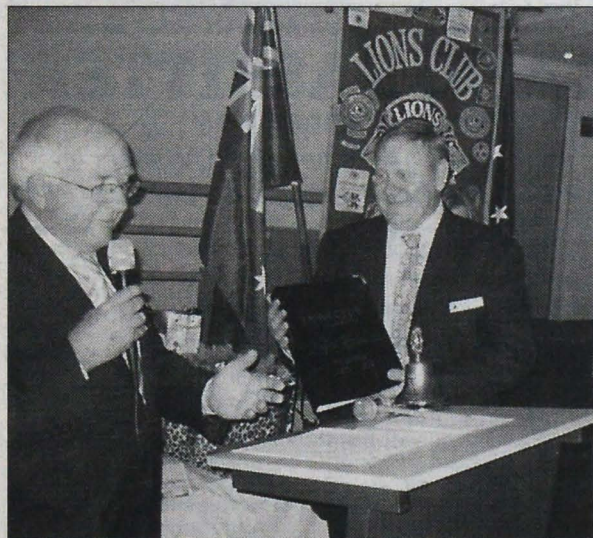
"We have been pretty fortunate with volunteer numbers, with 25 volunteers at a recent Husseys Lane site," Mr Muchow said. But the Middle Yarra Landcare Network Group is always looking for more volunteers. Their activities include social and educational events and all assistance is greatly appreciated.

● To volunteer and obtain a calendar of events, call Artur Muchow on 0415 383 328.



Landcare volunteers planting trees along Brushy Creek in Wonga Park. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

Warrandyte Lions made heroic efforts in bushfire emergency



Coming and going: incoming Lions president Pete Moloney (left) presents an award to outgoing president Laurie Hilakari at the club's change-over dinner last month. (Picture by Daniel Singh)

Red Cross plans for local support team

The Australian Red Cross is currently recruiting emergency volunteers for a skilled "REDiSupport" team for the Warrandyte area.

This initiative follows a call at the recent WCA bushfire forum for the community to consider the need for emergency relief action following a major bushfire in Warrandyte.

It was suggested a Red Cross support team should be formed in the area.

Red Cross emergency services volunteer, former resident Beverley Hoskins, told the *Diary*: "Having grown up in Warrandyte I am very aware of the

extreme fire risk to the area and I am eager to see a REDiSupport team established.

"The program will help you to know what to expect in an emergency and teaches you the skills necessary for supporting people in need."

The local community rallied strongly following Black Saturday, but it is felt that a permanent support group is needed.

● Anyone interested can register their interest with Angela Sutherland on (03) 8327 7968 or 0439 300 507 or visit www.redcross.org.au for more information.

Valiant work to bring relief to the fire-devastated regions following Black Saturday was an outstanding highlight of the 2008-9 year for Warrandyte Lions Club.

Outgoing president Laurie Hilakari made this comment at the Lions 37th change-over dinner late last month.

"The camaraderie shown by all our Lions as they stepped up to the mark following this terrible event was nothing but memorable," Mr Hilakari told the *Diary*.

"We delivered locally donated clothing and food and other essentials all over the fire regions, sometimes at considerable risk to our members."

"We donated \$10,000 to CFA brigades in Marysville, Narbethong and Kinglake. Plus another \$10,000 to North Warrandyte so they could install GPS systems in their fire trucks."

This follows an incident in

which a North Warrandyte truck was disabled and temporarily lost at Kinglake, an accident that could have had fatal consequences for the crew.

An essential part of the dinner was the presentation of awards to Lions members who had made special contributions to the club and the community.

These included Geoff Wood, Carl Sanders, Dennis Robertshaw, Garry Clues, Brian Wales, Laurie Hilakari and Ron Cuthbert who received life membership.

Office bearers for the coming year were installed, including incoming president Pete Moloney and the club's first female vice-president, Liz Prewett.

"An important feature of my presidential year will be a marketing campaign designed to lift awareness of the work of Lions in the local community," Mr Moloney said.

Second stage rising



The new stage at Stiggants Reserve is well underway. Being built by Manningham Council at a cost of \$116,000 the structure is replacing a stage built by the now defunct Warrandyte Apex Club in the mid-1980s. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

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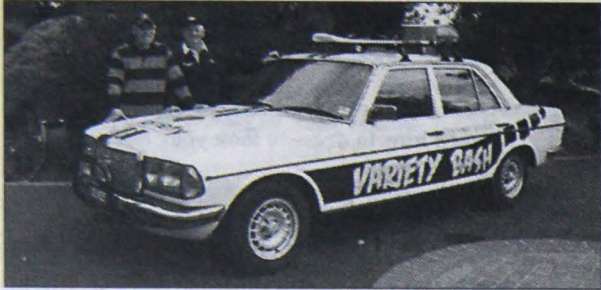
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Benzey goes the Bash

Over the past nine months, well-known Warrandyte personalities, Neville Colenso, Bill Marris (pictured) and friend Bruce Adams (from Queensland) have been busy preparing an old Mercedes Benz car to embark with about 100 other unique vehicles on the 2009 Variety Club Bash. Known as the Wombat Gully Boys, they will depart from Bendigo on Thursday, August 13, and hopefully (10 days later) will reach their destination in Alice Springs in one piece. They will be "off-road" most of the journey, visiting small townships and schools along the way, creating awareness to raise money for underprivileged children throughout Victoria.

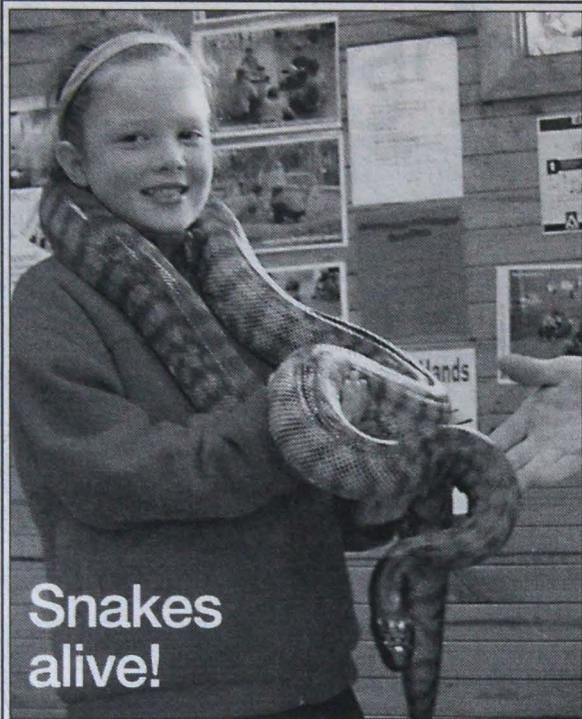
"Benzey (the car) is looking grand and glorious, bedecked

with a full-sized wombat riding a skateboard on the roof, right next to the flashing yellow lights," a spokesperson told the *Diary*. The Variety Club Bash is carbon neutral.

"Together with the Shane Warne Foundation, Variety has donated \$250,000 to the Victorian Bushfire Relief Fund, providing four Sunshine coaches, 240 bikes and helmets, trikes, touch screens and software, swings and many other items."

The Wombat Gully Boys have received generous sponsorship from local Warrandyte businesses.

"Should anyone wish to donate to a great cause, your name will travel on the Bash too, for all to see," he said. Call Neville Colenso (h) 9712 0610 (w) 9560 5266.



Snakes alive!

The Prep kids at Warrandyte Primary School got up close and personal with a bunch of slippery characters last month when a reptile handler visited the school. Karli (pictured) got to hold a boa constrictor. "I wasn't scared one bit," Karli said. "These 'investigations' are an important part of the Prep curriculum, allowing students to discover about the world through hands-on activities," principal Gil Binger told the *Diary*.

Book strikes gold

A new history of Warrandyte's gold-mining days is being published this month.

Entitled *Warrandyte—the Community with a Heart of Gold*, this 300 page account by well-known local historian Murray Houghton is primarily devoted to Warrandyte's gold mining "boom days" of a century ago.

"Essentially this book has been compiled as a centenary tribute in commemoration of the time in July 1909 when the Mines Department sanctioned the establishment of a local trust to operate a waterwheel-powered crushing battery, situated on the south bank of the Yarra, upstream from Warrandyte Bridge," a spokesperson told the *Diary*.

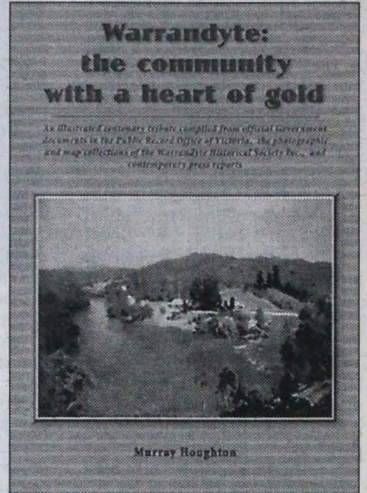
Houghton's book revolves around the district's community spirit and continuing efforts to establish gold processing facilities for the use of its prospectors and mining companies.

He describes Warrandyte's transformation

from a depleted sleepy hollow in the late 1890s to its emergence as a thriving gold town in the first decade of the 20th century.

The book is being launched at the annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Historical Society on Sunday, July 19.

● Copies of the book will be available at the society's museum at the Old Post Office in Yarra Street.



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A great day for trees

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.



Volunteers at work planting on World Environment Day. The Osborne Peninsula group, with support from the local community, planted out 950 indigenous grasses, sedges and shrubs.

National Tree Day is on Sunday, August 2. To mark the occasion Osborne Peninsula Landcare is holding a planting from 10am to 12noon in the Warrandyte State Park. If you would like to participate meet at 27 Osborne Road and follow the signs. Parking is limited. Wear sturdy footwear. Tools provided. The project is funded by Melbourne Water and Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority. The site forms an important link in the habitat corridor along the Yarra River and the revegetation works will help support wildlife in this area. For more information, log on to the Planet Ark website or ring Ann Penrose on 9844 0934.

Jive

The Warrandyte French Jive Club is a brand new club started by people who just like to get together and dance. Everyone is welcome, with or without partners. French Jive is very easy and great fun, so no previous dance experience is needed. Everyone is welcome to come along and watch, but be warned, you may find that you cannot resist having a go! The next meetings of the club will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Fridays, July 17 and 31. (Call Mick on 9844 5017, 0423 023 041 or Mick@WarrandyteChat.com to double check venue.) A small charge will be made to cover the hall and insurance. Further information from www.WarrandyteChat.com.

History

The annual general meeting of the Warrandyte Historical Society will be held at the museum in Yarra Street, Warrandyte on Sunday, July 19 commencing at 2pm. Guest speaker will be the current Victorian bush poetry state champion, Jim Brown. All are invited to attend. The society is actively seeking new members, especially anyone who

is interested in becoming involved on the committee. If you would like further information call Andy Bevan-Jones on 9812 2357. The afternoon will conclude with the launch of the book *Warrandyte—the Community with a Heart of Gold* by local historian Murray Houghton.

Storytime

Pre-school Storytime takes place every Wednesday at the Warrandyte Library Centre, 100 Melbourne Hill Road, Warrandyte. Children from three to six years can enjoy stories, rhymes, songs and crafts. These sessions are free and no booking is required.

Taxation

Information Warrandyte has two accredited TaxHelp volunteers ready to help clients with their tax returns. To find out if you are eligible for free tax help please ring Information Warrandyte on 9844 3082 on Monday or Thursday afternoons between 1pm and 4pm.

Aid

The Red Cross has launched an online senior first aid course for busy people who need flexible learning solutions. The course is designed for people working full time, or for busy parents caring for children at home who need

to master emergency first aid skills such as CPR and resuscitation. Students can do the entire course in one go, or in small sections in their spare time. The senior first aid course costs \$150 and features audio, video, interactive demonstrations and online quizzes. For more information and to view a demonstration of the online course, visit the Red Cross website at www.redcross.org.au/firstaid.

Do Care

Wesley Do Care are seeking volunteers to spend a couple of hours a week visiting an older or disabled person in the community. For more information call 9762 5211 or email skemp@wesley.org.au.

Need to know

This page is provided to publicise community events. Ensure you tell us: what it is; when it is; where it is; is there a cost? Include a phone number for enquiries.

Tell us

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

artyfacts

Diary cartoonists Syd Tunn and Ona Henderson are participating in an exhibition at the Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham from Thursday, July 9 to Sunday, August 2. Syd and Ona will be showing their paintings and printmaking along with sculptor Brett Ditchfield and poet and writer Fee Sievers. The exhibition is entitled "Tripping the Light Ekphrastic". Ekphrasis gives art a voice and poetry a body. There are 45 works of art, each with their own poem. Professor Peter Steele will open the exhibition on Saturday, July 11 at 1.30pm and will talk about the ancient Greek practice of ekphrasis. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Thursday 10am to 8.30pm, Friday and Saturday 10am to 5pm and Sundays 1pm to 5pm.

Stonehouse

"Winter Warmers" is the title of the July exhibition at the Stonehouse Gallery, 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. There is a variety of warm woolly wraps, hats and scarves including unique felted, woven and knitted garments. There are cooking pots, soup bowls, casseroles, dishes and serving bowls suitable for winter menus. The gallery is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

Exhibition

An exhibition, showing for the next two months at Earth Harmony, 246-250 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, is entitled "Spirit of the Earth". The paintings, by Tanya Salter, illustrate her spiritual belief of the world.

Sculpture

Manningham Gallery, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, will be hosting the Association of Sculptors of Victoria 2009 annual sculpture exhibition and awards from Wednesday, July 15 to Saturday, August 1. The works come from a mixture of amateur and professional members working in a variety of media: bronze, wood, ceramic, glass and wire. The exhibition will be officially opened by Savaad Felich, exhibition coordinator of the Yering Station Art Gallery, on Wednesday, July 15 from 6pm to 8pm. The gallery is open Tuesday to Fridays 11am-5pm and Saturdays 2pm-5pm.

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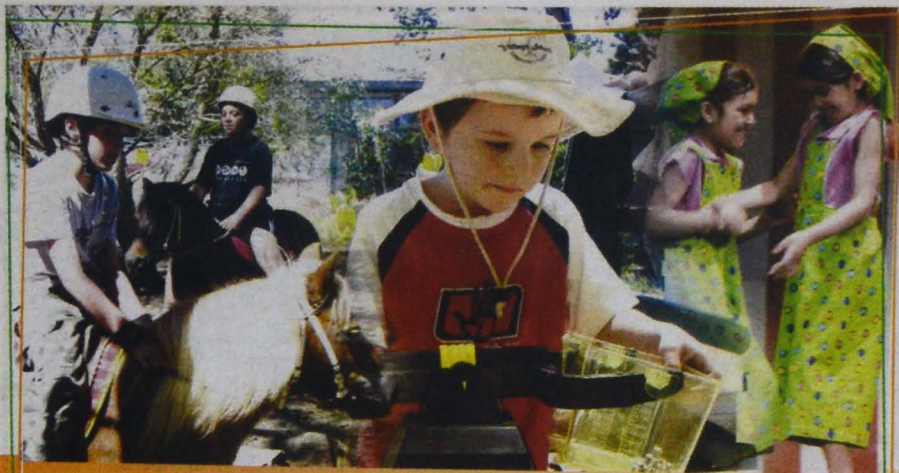
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Applicants are invited to apply for funds for the 2009/10 Community Development Grant Program. This year Council introduces two streams of funding: the Minor Grants (up to \$2,000) and Major Grants (over \$2,000) and both streams of funding are now open for application.

The grant program supports non-profit community organisations in Manningham to develop and deliver projects, programs and events which benefit and meet the needs of the community. This year Council has set aside an amount of "High Priority Funding" within the Major Grants Program. This funding will favour applications that deliver services to people within Manningham that are unduly affected by the Global Economic Crisis. Council will also continue to support a wide range of community activities outside of this high priority funding theme.

Before you apply for a grant you need to obtain a copy of the funding guidelines and the appropriate application form. It is also strongly advised that you discuss your project with Council staff and attend the free information session.

Community Grants Information Session
Tuesday 21 July, 2009
6.30pm - 8.00pm
Function Room 2, Municipal Offices
699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

Minor Grant applications close
at 5.00pm Friday 21st August, 2009.

Major Grant applications close
at 5.00pm Monday 24th August, 2009.

Guidelines and application forms are available from Council's website www.manningham.vic.gov.au, or by contacting the Arts & Cultural Programs Unit on phone 9840 9305 or at the information session.

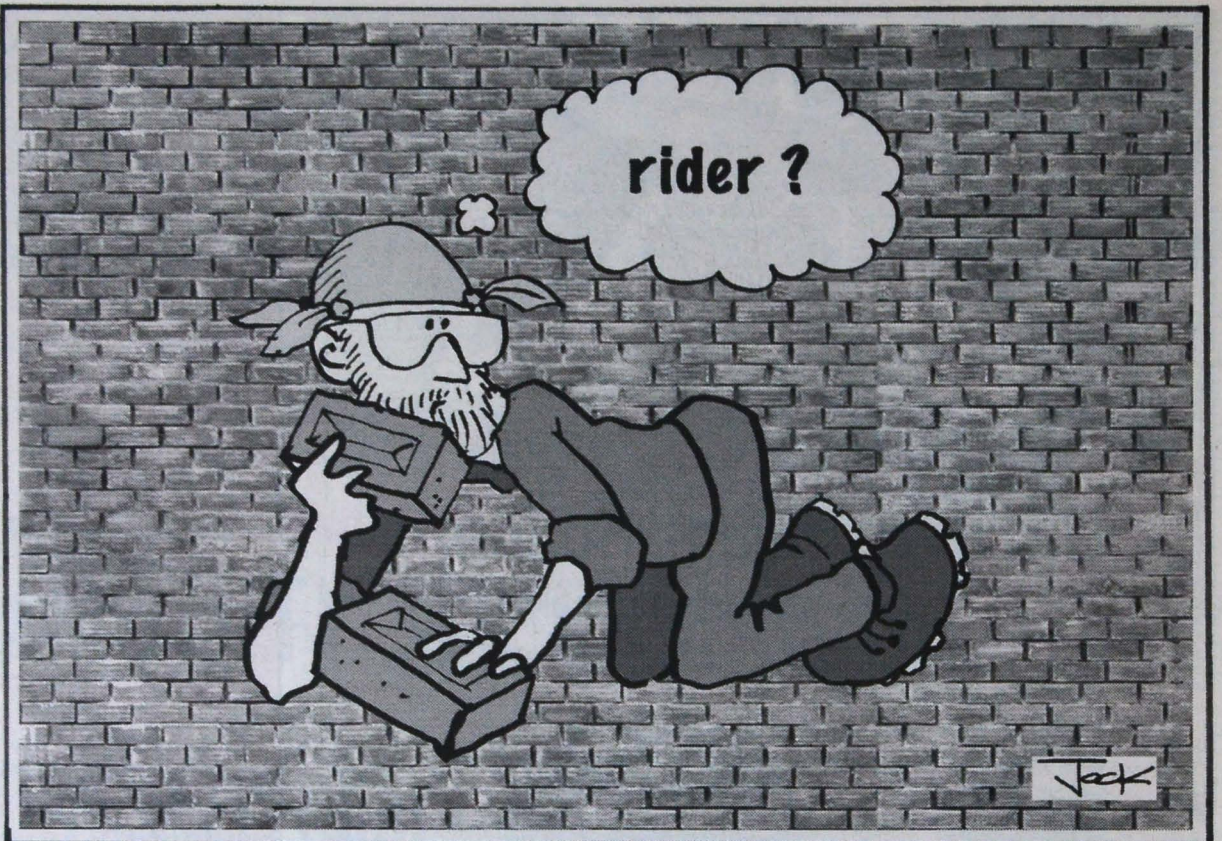


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A backyard paved with good intentions + pain

I WAS up to row eight and I was feeling a little sore in my calves and my thumbs. I have developed osteo-arthritis in a few joints and given the nature of the job, it was not strange that my thumb joints were complaining.



Last summer was the last straw. We had soldiered on with the weed patch that we fondly thought of as a lawn but what with the lack of water and the ever spreading patches of bare earth, we decided that the area had to be redeveloped. The issue was, "to be developed with what?"

Herself was keen on the green thing so we explored different types of grasses, however, we had so many conflicting recommendations from reliable experts that we became as listless as our "lawn" patch. It seems that we could go for Buffalo as that requires little water but the downside is that it was trained in the POW camps during WW2 and knows every possible escape technique for crossing over brick barriers, under stone edging and through weed matting in its desperation to reach the Promised Land of our garden beds.

Our courtyards are brick paved so the idea was raised that we could extend that approach for the rest of the backyard. A moment's thought and we realised that not only would it cost a lot but it would look terrible and in summer would collect so much heat that all the plants in the sur-

rounding beds would be burnt to a crisp.

The solution was a compromise. We already had the vegetable garden ringed by a path of granitic sand; the stuff they have on the paths of Westerfold Park. The sand packs hard and develops a coarse sand layer on the top. It looks attractive and weeds don't trouble it. Despite it looking attractive we didn't want the whole ex-grass area devoted to it so I agreed to incorporate the pile of old red bricks that I had squirreled away when we knocked down the old garage. These would fill in a sweep of the "lawn" area to provide a spot for a small table and chairs under the canopy of a shade tree. I agreed that I would also insert an area of bricks just below

where the washer person pegs wet clothes onto the clothesline. At this stage, however, I have to emphasise that all this was decided without a written contract.

Now, most family decisions are made without the details being worked out. "Let's brick pave sections of the backyard," has a misleading apostrophe "s". That apostrophe, as we all know, indicates a dropped letter, in this case, a "u". The full sentence should read, "Let US pave ...", and because there is no written agreement about what constitutes a shared workload, I have ended up with aching thumbs and thighs and Herself gets to offer "advice" and agonises over a steaming teapot and sliced bun. Not so in the world of rock 'n' roll.

Evidently, all contracts drawn up before a single pelvis is thrust or an expletive is uttered on stage include a "rider". A rider lists the additional, idiosyncratic requirements bands expect, apart from all the normal financial and technical stuff you'd expect. Some are simple like coffee making facilities or a slab of VB. Others, however, push the boundaries of credibility. You'd imagine that those who have "arrived" don't bother so much with outlandish requests whilst those on the make, have to score points. No so. Whilst surfing the net, I came across some interesting versions. The most famous is that of Van Halen who specified that a bowl of M&Ms be made available in their dressing room

but with all the brown ones removed. Willie Nelson, one of the most famous advocates for cannabis smoking insists in his rider that all his engagements should be "smoke free". Iggy and the Stooges require cauliflower and broccoli to be cut into individual florets before being thrown immediately into the garbage.

Nearer to home, I was involved in a gig for a famous Australian band. It was the time of the anti-French protests about nuclear testing in the Pacific. Publicly, the band was insistent that we should all boycott anything French in order to "send a message". Strangely, their rider insisted on the provision of only Perrier water backstage. Equally strange was the fact that the only time I saw it used was when a roadie crawled up behind the drummer and poured Perrier onto his drum so there was an explosion of water when he hit the skins. That certainly gave the French a "spray".

Now that our editor, Cliff Green has been awarded a well deserved OAM, he's written a new set of riders to his contract. When you go in to the office next time, just check out the sheepskin on his office chair, the battery heated slippers, the cup of Milo warmed to exactly blood temperature and his six pack of Yakult.

I've learnt my lesson from the powerful and the famous. Next time my rider will include Dencorub and gingerbread biscuits!

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Hoods abroad in bushland

nature

By LINDA ROGAN

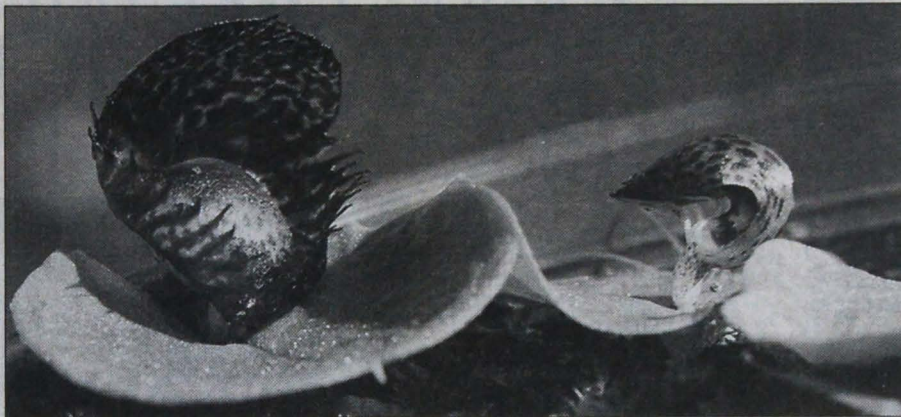
WINTER weather has kept me inside more often than I would like.

"Some Deep Winter days are consumed by Gondwana mists, others are so bleakly freezing. Their Arctic generated winds are honed and sharpened by such an intense cold that they can cut the fat from your kidneys and not leave a mark," according to the Middle Yarra Timelines Calendar. And so it was last week. But the winter solstice is past and the promise of longer days helps to lift my spirits.

This week I'm thinking, how delightful, a Warrandyte afternoon in June. The frost and fog is banished by the sun. Last week's rain has topped up our rainwater tanks; and even better, I have a free afternoon. A leisurely lunch, sitting in the sun at the Folly at Pound Bend, leaves time to wander bushy hills along the Yarra River.

Surely something will have responded to the rains. I set off, looking for mozzies, hoods and helmets.

Mozzies are easy to find. Not the biting variety but terrestrial orchids with the common name of Small Mosquito-orchid. Each plant has a single heart-shaped leaf, attached to the stem and slightly raised off the ground, showing a rich maroon colour underneath. The delicate flowers are pale green and brown. Large areas



Bloom and bud of the rare Fringed Helmet-orchid. (Picture by Linda Rogan)

of otherwise bare, rocky earth are covered with these leaves, most with flowers or buds. In addition to seed set, each plant can produce two or more tubers and each tuber a full plant the next year. The result can be quite a large colony.

The "hoods" I'm looking for are nearby. First a few large blooms of the Autumn Greenhood, but these are darkening on the tips and the blooms are starting to collapse. The best of these blooms I've seen this year were in early April.

I move on quickly and am pleased to find the several fresh blooms of the Striated Greenhood. Smaller than the Autumn Greenhood, but even more handsome, it has green and white stripes up the back of its hood, toning to darker stripes at the front. As with the Autumn Greenhood, only non-flowering plants have rosettes of leaves. The Striated Greenhood is also colony forming, and many rosettes

are scattered nearby. The third "hood" I encounter this day is minute. Aptly named the Tiny Greenhood, each flower on the grass-like stem is less than 1cm and faces inward toward the stem. It is a compact greenhood with short lateral sepals scarcely extending beyond the hood. Unlike the previous two, this plant can only reproduce from seed so plants are more scattered.

Arising from the stony ground, where belly-down I photographed greenhoods, I look around and notice a patch of Correa in bloom. These yellowy-green tubular flowers seem to glow in a ray of sunshine. Sunshine also spotlights the rich lemon yellow balls on the Spreading Acacia. The flowers hide the rigid, pointed phyllodes that substitute for leaves.

Too soon the sun slips behind hills in the northwest; Deep Winter is beginning to reassert itself. I decide to

be satisfied with the helmet "sighting" and photo opportunity I had earlier in the day: blooms and buds in a pot at the indigenous plant nursery run by the Friends of Warrandyte State Park in Pound Bend.

This helmet is the Fringed Helmet-orchid. It is rare near Melbourne but present within Warrandyte State Park in moist mossy areas, often under shrubs. Up close, it is a little jewel. The dorsal sepal makes up the helmet (which would just fit on my little finger) and is translucent mottled with deep red. The rounded boss has a crystalline sheen, like diamonds and rubies, and is surrounded by slender red fringes. I'm grateful for the opportunity to observe it at bench level and this makes the accompanying photo much easier to take.

August will find me north of Townsville. Nature readers will be treated to an article by naturalist Joan Broadberry.

Winter ways without witchcraft

WHAT'S the go for a winter solstice party? My sister was anxious to know. Her 15-year-old daughter had been invited, and of course customary questions of costumery arose.

At the very least I reckoned there'd be a bonfire to dance around. Druids? Not every teenage girl's idea of glamour. Witches? Ditto. Incantations? Possibly. Potions? Surely not—Harry Potter has much to answer for. Ritual sacrifice? I can see why my sister was worried.

It does happen. Last year, deep in the central Australian desert, I chanced upon a site where thousands of "ancient wisdom" worshippers had dutifully gathered for the winter solstice. What went on? Apart from the remains of a sacrificial baby (a doll, fortunately) and numerous modern-day middens, evidence of the nature of their activities was inconclusive. I suddenly found I didn't really want to know. That doll business was a bit off.

Funnily enough, although my solstice party ideas ap-

pealed to nobody, we've established our own brand of seasonal rituals nonetheless. For a start, our bonfire usually warms up a dull Saturday afternoon about now. Hasn't happened yet this year, but the pile is steadily growing as dead wood and weeds come out and new plants go in before winter finally chills the earth. It's slow work, especially with the evenings closing in so early, but the solstice is pretty much the deadline.

Gardening after dark isn't my favourite pastime, despite appearances, but I've discovered a bizarre benefit to twilight tree-planting—sparks flash in all directions as the mattock strikes bare rock. Not quite millennium fireworks, but sufficient to take one's mind off jarred wrists and aching shoulders. After the fireworks settle down, the ritual concludes by watering the poor things in while offering up an apologetic prayer.

Needless to say, the attrition rate for these plants will be significant. It's an annual sacrifice I hadn't specifically connected with celestial events before—all those hard-earned dollars annually sacrificed at

our place

By MARILYN MOORE

the altar of Improvements to Nature!

Gardening thus ticks quite a few solstice event boxes. Did we also partake of potions suited to dark wintry weather? Another tick. Seasonal fare? Not unless you count the avocado-and-vegemite experiment suggested by a girl serving in our local bakery. It would be fair to say that a sampling frequency of once per year is quite possibly once too often for this particular assemblage of ingredients. (The bread was yummy though.)

Incantations? Mutterings, certainly, but I doubt they'd qualify. I'm not sure whether we had a lucky escape or not on the eve of this winter's solstice. The pilot of a single-engine plane was approaching Lilydale airfield much too late in the day. It wasn't completely dark, but that stage of gathering nightfall when a curtain of grey haze obliterates the landscape and it's hardest to see. The pilot, no doubt struggling to distinguish the

landing strip, was flying unusually low and apparently failed to notice that lined up across his path was a queue of stationary vehicles, bailed up by invisible roadworks further along McIntyre's Lane.

Watching the plane's nose cone slowly getting bigger and bigger as it approached my passenger's side window was riveting to say the least. I couldn't help wondering what was going to happen next.

"Errrr...hadn't you better try moving?" suggested my mother, gripping the seat but otherwise showing remarkable composure. But we sat there like a pair of stunned rabbits, well and truly hemmed in, as those final seconds dragged out. Fortunately it ended well. At the last possible moment the plane banked suddenly and steeply. The pilot somehow leaptfrogged the vehicular obstruction on his way to a safe landing. Blimey! I bet he knocked off a good stiff potion afterwards. We certainly did. (Another tick in the "potions" box.)

Unless druids wore parkas, we'll have to skip the spooky costumes. That really leaves only the bonfire. I'll get the husband right onto it.

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Three into one will go

SOME say that the one-act play is the ideal theatrical form in the 21st century. It's pithy, flexible, simple and short. Certainly it is now more popular than ever.

Playwrights like David Ives and Raimondo Cortese have honed it to shape their own skills and intent, borrowing techniques freely from classical and modern theatre, literature, art and social science. The winter 2009 season of one-act plays, produced by the Warrandyte Theatre Company showed how sophisticated and entertaining the one-act play has become.

The first play was David Ives' latest work *St Francis Talks to the Birds*.

It combines the shock tactics of advertising with the jolly dialogue of situation comedy. From the first moment it demands attention as two vultures discuss the contents of a dead monk's stomach.

The audience is given just enough time to tune into the context, then they are whisked away on a provocative and amusing discussion of religion, its innate contradictions and questionable cosmology.

Husband (Aldo King as Mike the vulture) and wife (Simone Kiefer as Angela the vulture) banter, jibe, sing and dance as they taunt a man about to die.

Nothing is sacred, and *St Francis* is driven momentarily to renounce his god and grieve for his wasted life.

This is David Tynan's first time as director. He took some risks. He has the vultures adopt a Yiddish New York accent.

He cast his partner as Angela and built the sparsest of sets. On closing night these risks paid off in spades as the pace mounted to frantic and the mood bounced from provocative to hilarious and then to absurd.

The vultures are keen for *St Francis* to die (he somehow came to life a minute or two after the opening), but first he must endure the barbs of these self-seeking creatures as

theatre

By JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

they challenge his every principle and belief with the materialistic pragmatism that paves the streets of Ives' adopted city New York.

Simone and Aldo were fabulous flighty vultures.

David Howell was perfectly cast as *St Francis* in his physicality, clarity of speech and lightness of touch. In a solid directorial David Tynan found the right balance of comedy and homily. (Despite his often devastating punch lines, Ives can be moralistic at times).

Although this rivals the most surreal setting for any of Ives' plays, there is still a recognisable rhythm to the structure, a confronting theme to the story and a powerful comedic thrust to the dialogue.

The play that follows—*Borneo*—is completely different.

Borneo is a two-hander, with strangers—a young and not-so-young woman, anchored in neighbouring seats on a flight from Indonesia to Australia.

The confined action is skilfully directed by Adrian Rice. The younger woman (Naretha Williams as Sal) shifts, stretches and wriggles in her seat. In contrast the older woman (Toni McSweeney as Angelica) withdraws into more embryonic poses.

Their often highly animated dialogue is dramatised by drawn silences.

Local writer Raimondo Cortese deliberately departs from the arc of story evident in Ives' plays, delivering instead a seemingly random snapshot of a passing moment.

Yet the snapshot is carefully contrived. It shows Sal manoeuvring to win the confidence of her neighbour. She manipulates Angelica with apparent ease and gets what she wants from the situation.

The third and final play is a spoof: *The Mystery at Twickenam Vicar-*

age.

Again written by David Ives, directed this time by Phyl Swindley. This story is tailor-made for the local cast, accustomed as they are to the clichés of the Follies skits.

It features John Milburn-Clark as the buffoon Inspector Dexter, Norene Cooper as the victim's rough and tumble wife Mona Thumpington-Fffienes, Bill Connolly as the alcohol swilling, promiscuous victim Jeremy Thumpington-Fffienes, Ken Virtue as the ambiguous vicar Roger Penworthy-Pilks and Naomi Oosting as Sarah the vicar's sizzling wife.

While the characters outdo each other in a battle of one-upmanship, the story gallops along at a belly laugh a minute, occasionally prompting wonder at what passes as entertainment in this tired old genre.

Happily the victim somehow springs back to life partway through what would otherwise be the third act, and we are left swaying with Bill Connolly's indignant drunk.

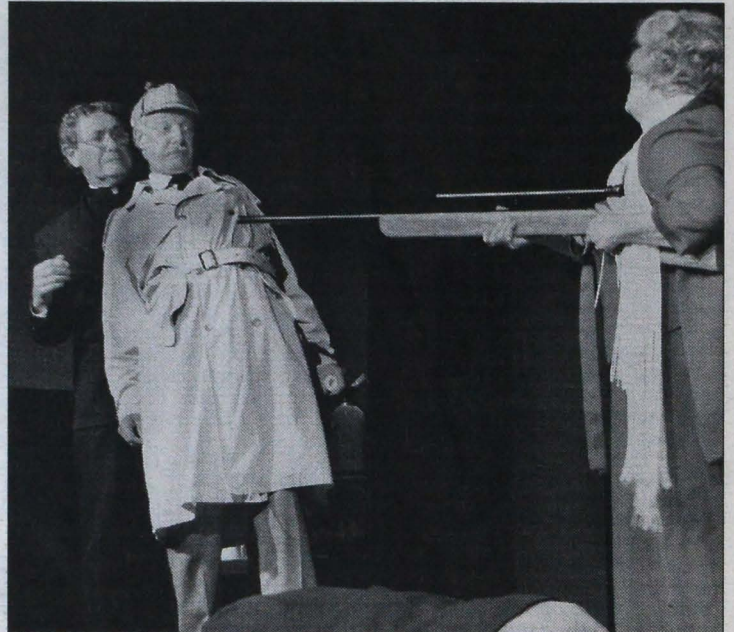
On the closing night, when the stage faded to black, and the entertainment came to an end, the vicar became Ken Virtue, who voiced a sad good-bye to Joan Rogers.

Joan has managed the company's ticketing for nine eventful years. She is every bit the kind of invisible force that makes these performances possible.

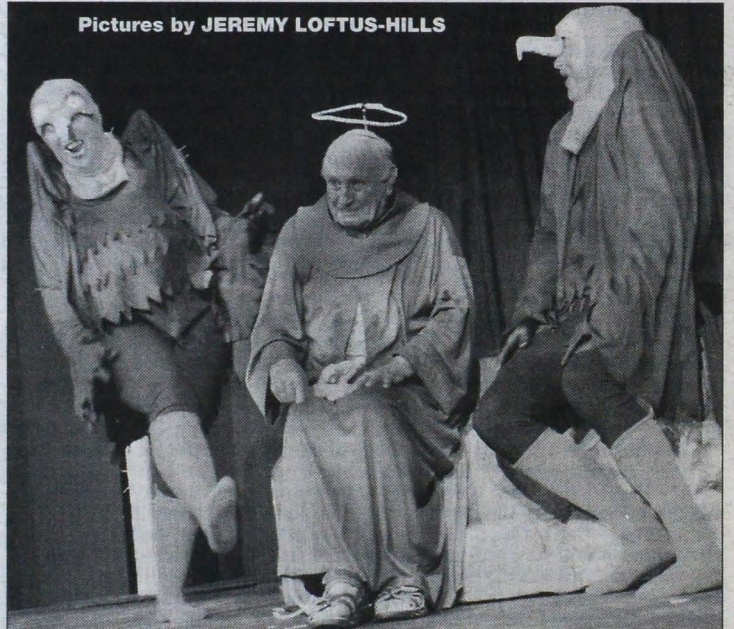
There is little that unites these plays except their perceptive insights into the human condition, the energy and generosity of the cast, crew and caterers, and the warmth and conviviality of a night of comedy and drama in the flesh.

Within each is a spark that if carefully nurtured can illumine a new awareness, a new way of being and a new hope for the future.

Delivered with such verve and panache, this year's one-act plays were an inspiration, setting a new benchmark for the company's performance standards and the quality of local entertainment.



Pictures by JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS



Royal Commission

We need better systems to warn people in the bush.

We had no idea of the terrible danger.

Living up here you get used to the heat, the northerlies.

Twenty-seven dead in a town of 200.

We had no idea of the terrible danger.

No-one could predict the speed—the wind, the fire.

Twenty-seven dead in a town of 200.

We weren't even mentioned on the website.

No-one could predict the speed—the wind, the fire.

The sound like a dozen Hercules screaming their lungs out.

We weren't even mentioned on the website.

I had three water tanks and an active fire pump.

The sound like a dozen Hercules screaming their lungs out.

My wife and son ran to the house—they thought it was safe.

I had three water tanks and an active fire pump.

My house exploded—one great whoosh.

My wife and son ran to the house—they thought it was safe.

Living up here you get used to the heat, the northerlies.

My house exploded—one great whoosh.

We need better systems to warn people in the bush.

KAREN THROSSELL



Ted saw the world through life's lens

By KATE ROTHERHAM

TED ROTHERHAM—internationally recognised photographer, WW2 veteran, champion of local history, engaging teacher, pioneering owner builder, family man and true friend of Warrandyte—died on May 31, aged 85 years.

Ted was born in 1923 in Melbourne and spent his early years in Caulfield. His father died of WW1-related injuries when Ted was 9, leaving his mother to raise him alone through the difficult Depression years.

He attended Melbourne High School before training as an industrial chemist and gaining work as a laboratory assistant in 1940. He enlisted in the AIF in 1942 and his three years of service included training as a signaller and a commando, serving for a year in Papua New Guinea and another year in Bougainville.

On his discharge Ted returned briefly to industrial chemistry before studying at Melbourne Teachers' College. On graduation he took on the challenge of primary teaching in small Victorian country schools, including posts in Katamatite, Moolap, Kingsville and Mullindoolingong where he was the sole teacher of the 30-pupil school. Ted's time in the country inspired him to pursue photography; and his love of nature, bushwalking skills, and eye for detail led to a specialisation in photographing reptiles, for which he was widely recognised.

Ted relocated to Melbourne and joined the staff of the Visual Education Unit of the Education Department, which led to the position of photographic lecturer at RMIT, where he worked until his retirement in 1983. Ted's photographic work was extensively exhibited overseas in 12 different countries and he was awarded the Fellowship

of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain (FRPS) in 1957 and Associate of the Photographic Society of America (APSA) in 1958.

At RMIT, Ted met Shirley Bingham a fellow member of the Melbourne Camera Club. They married in Brighton in May 1959 then bought a weatherboard house on three acres with river frontage in Tills Drive, beginning their great love of all things Warrandyte and immersing themselves fully in the community. Joanne was born in 1961, Andrew in 1963 and Karen in 1967.

Ted made several renovations to the existing home before undertaking the huge task of building a new adjoining home from sandstone. Over 10 long years Ted combined full-time work at RMIT with part-time owner building, salvaging materials from historically significant demolition sites around Melbourne, and completing the project in 1980. During this time he was involved in illustrating numerous books on natural history with his photographs, including *Flowers and Plants of Victoria* and *Flowers and Plants of NSW and Southern Queensland*, both published by AH & AW Reed.

Ted was passionate about the local history of the area, helping found the Warrandyte Historical Society, serving as president for 20 years, and remaining involved until his death. He photographed, collated and archived material, constructed model replicas of mines, curated and maintained exhibits, researched and wrote monographs, and tirelessly shared his knowledge with busloads of children on school excursions.

Ted was instrumental in establishing the historical society in the old Post Office building, ensuring an atmospheric venue for visitors, records and exhibits and thus a secure future for the society. Murray Houghton, a friend and fellow society member described Ted's

warm, enthusiastic support for all involved with the society as "both infectious and inspirational".

For his untiring efforts to preserve Warrandyte's history Ted was awarded the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Order of Merit in 1998, the Year of the Volunteer Award by the City of Manningham in 2001, and the Menzies Community Australia Day Award in 2002. He was particularly thrilled to be crowned King of Warrandyte, with Shirley as his Queen, in the 1999 Warrandyte Festival parade.

Two weeks before his death, Ted was discharged from hospital to attend two special gatherings and he did so with a dignity that belied his discomfort and frailty. On Saturday, May 16, Ted and Shirley celebrated 50 years of marriage with friends and family at the Community Centre. The following day a gathering of historical society friends was held at Tills Drive to acknowledge their 50 wonderful years in the Warrandyte community.

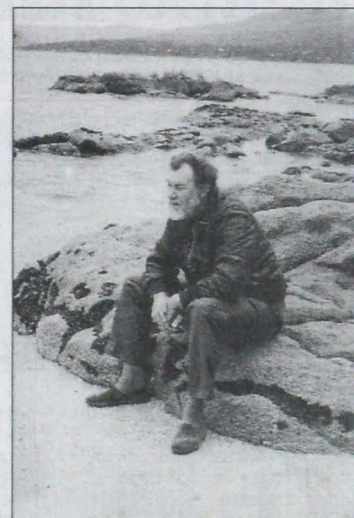
It was a long held wish of Ted's that his body be donated to the Anatomy Department of Melbourne University, this final generous act personifying his love of teaching and helping others learn.

More than 130 people gathered at a memorial service held in the Mechanics Institute Hall on Friday, June 5 for Ted. They took away native plants to be planted locally in his memory, ensuring Ted lives on in his beloved Warrandyte.

Ted Rotherham lived a life that mattered, and his family, friends, students and the Warrandyte community are the richer for his kindness, dedication and sharing.

He is survived by his wife Shirley, his children Joanne Heard, Andrew Rotherham and Karen Rotherham and his grandchildren, Jennifer and Georgina Heard; Lochie, Henry and Annie Rotherham.

Kate Rotherham is Ted Rotherham's daughter-in-law.



He climbed every mountain

LONG-TIME Warrandyte resident and internationally known mountaineer Michael Parker died suddenly last month following his second successful climb of Makalu in the Himalayas. He was 36.

Mick prided himself on climbing without oxygen and had climbed a number of major peaks over 8000 metres in this manner across the years. He died of a pulmonary oedema and it is believed his decision not to use oxygen exacerbated his condition.

"He always knew climbing without oxygen was a risk," his father Bruce Parker told the *Diary*.

"He always believed there was a better way to do things." He always took the hardest route to the top. "Convention was not his style. He never ever used oxygen. All his climbs were done without oxygen. He was the only high altitude climber in the world to have climbed nine 8000-plus peaks—all without oxygen."

Mick Parker on Makalu summit, his last climb.

These successes included the north side of Everest, K2 and Manaslu twice. But he regarded the summit of his final climb—Makalu—as "the hardest".

Although Mick continually struggled to reach these peaks of personal achievement, he never sacrificed his sense of humanity and selfless care for others, no matter what the risk. In 2007 he went out of his way to retrieve the body of a climber who had fallen to his death. In 2005 he sacrificed his own attempt to reach the summit of K2 in order to bring to safety an Irish team leader, lost in a whiteout.

Michael Francis Parker was born in Box Hill on March 3, 1973 to Bruce and Gail. Bruce Parker operates a motor engineering business in Dandenong and is a regular *Diary* advertiser.

Mick attended primary school in East Doncaster, went on to complete his secondary education at Wesley College and trained as a graphic artist at Box Hill Technical College. His attachment to Warrandyte shared his passion for the high peaks.

When he wasn't climbing mountains, Mick "lived on a bush block near Jumping Creek," his father said. "He loved Warrandyte." He has painted many murals and his part-time graphic design and signwriting business financed his great mountaineering adventures.

Mick felt a deep sense of affection and respect for the courageous, poverty-stricken Sherpa people of the Himalayas. On one occasion he used the last of his money to charter a helicopter to fly a desperately ill child to hospital. He greatly admired their cultural heritage and he took a course in traditional Nepalese painting techniques.

Mick was lapsing in and out of consciousness on his trip back to Kathmandu from his final successful assault on Makalu. The following day he was found dead in his hotel room.

The *Diary* has been proud to report some of his major mountaineering achievements over the years.

Michael Parker is survived by his parents, Gail and Bruce, and by his brother Daniel and sister Amy.

Warrandyte basketball round-up with Tony Oliver



New basketball referees in training

New basketball referees are currently in training at Warrandyte.

Cam Prior, left and Rachael Watson, right with their trainers Jamie Hayton left and Amber Saunders before a game at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre.

Skills sessions are ready to start

Warrandyte's popular basketball skills sessions are back each week at WSC on Thursdays between 5.30pm to 6.15pm.

Players of all levels are welcome to attend these free sessions, which are conducted by Warrandyte's Big V coaches and players.

Players attending should be aged between 5 and 12, bring a basketball and drink bottle, and be prepared to work hard and learn.

Warrandyte names new administrator

Warrandyte Basketball has appointed Jason Weidemann as the association's first ever full-time administrator.

Weidemann started at the



Jason Weidemann

Two premierships at Nunawading titles

Warrandyte has capped off a successful Nunawading Tournament, winning two grand finals.

Two sides also finished runners-up and two teams won their way through to semi-finals.

The two successful teams were the 12.2 girls (coach Greg Pearson) and 18.2 girls (coach Brendan Ricci).

The two runners-up were the 16.2 girls (coach David Reinecke) and the 18.1 girls (coach Justin Nelson), while the 12.3 boys (coach Andrew Robertson), 16.1 boys (coach Darren Evans) and the 14.2 boys (coach Gavin Eddy) made it through to the semi finals.

Big V Venom pass critical title test

Warrandyte Venom faced and passed a critical test in their quest for finals representation for the third time in their short Big V womens basketball history when they defeated the dangerous Craigieburn at Craigieburn 71-57.

Craigieburn are a far better side than their two wins from 17 games this season, with one of those wins being over Warrandyte at the Andersons Creek stadium earlier in the season.

The Venom were weakened with the flu and fielded a side smaller than their opponents.

Coach Justin Nelson sprung a surprise opening

with three small but very fast guards in Janelle Lucas, Mollie Burke and Meg Dargan.

Their speed caused Craigieburn problems and the Venom opened up a 9-2 break early in the game.

To their credit and as is their reputation, Craigieburn came back strongly to take the lead at one point and to turn only two points down at the end of the first quarter.

The pattern was repeated in each subsequent quarter with Warrandyte never able to "break" Craigieburn who kept coming back.

The teams shared the points in the final quarter

with three of the Venom players on four fouls. Craigieburn closed to seven points mid way in the quarter but two steady field goals to Mollie Burke were enough for the Venom.

"Another good result at a venue that is always hard to win at" said Nelson. "The team is feeling sky high to make the finals and with such a young side, the prospects are good for the future."

Janelle Lucas continued her strong performance with 18 points, with captain Jaz Borella with 14 points and Mollie Burke with 13 points.

Another outstanding per-

formance was put in by Sharlene Dalsanto with 17 rebounds, highlighting her excellent work against the taller Craigieburn opposition.

Free throw shooting was good with a success rate of 14 out of 17 but the field shooting percentage at 36 will concern the coach somewhat.

The Venom are playing a very attacking game with an emphasis on fast rebound play which can lower the numbers.

While not fully assured of a finals position, the girls do have a two win break with a game in hand over Latrobe City.

Finals loom for Venom

The race to the finals is becoming an issue for some Venom teams in the elite Friday night basketball competition.

The Under 18 VJBL Division 1 girls teams is under pressure. They currently sit in fourth in a tight race.

The girls came up against competition leaders Frankston and were far from disgraced to go down 36-31.

Warrandyte pushed the visitors all game but the breaks did not go their way.

"A 100 per cent effort from everybody" said coach Justin Nelson after the game. "And we only had six players"

The Venom face a number of hard games in the coming rounds and will need to put a string of wins together to get in the finals.

Meg Dargan with nine points and Amber Saunders with eight points were the Venom's top scorers.

In an earlier Under 18 game, Warrandyte's second girls side had a thrilling 36-all draw with Sunbury.

It was a game of swinging fortunes with Sunbury dom-

inating the opening minutes and the Venom coming back at the break to make it 14-all.

The second half was the reverse with Warrandyte going out strongly and seemingly having the psychological edge with an 11 point lead going into the final minutes.

Sunbury were able to put together some momentum and with full court pressure, closed the gap to a single point in the last minute.

Caitlin Hallet scored one from two from the free throw line to extend the lead to two. The game flowed quickly from both ends but a Venom foul with 3.8 seconds left put Sunbury to the line.

Both shots went in and a final desperate lunge from the Venom was unsuccessful.

Caitlin Hallet was the Venom's top scorer with a dominant 23 points, with nine points coming from Tess England.

Gerry Pearce's Under 14 boys pressured the visiting Kilsyth all night but could not get their noses in front,

going down 43-38.

Nathan Delacy and Chris Bolland shared the scoring honours with 11 points each with Zac Plischka contributing seven points.

Gavin Eddy's VJL4 boys had a 27-21 win over Camberwell in a low scoring game. Scoring honours for the Venom were well shared which is a good sign of a well balanced team.

In VC home court action, Warrandyte's Under 16 girls were one point in front of Geelong going into the final quarter but could not hold on going down 46-43. Kahlia Flett with 22 points was the outstanding scorer for the Venom.

Warrandyte's Under 12 girls were defeated by Frankston by 41-20 with Teegan Leeson scoring eight points and Hayley McIntyre six points.

In a low scoring game Warrandyte's second placed Under 20 VJL 4 boys took on fourth placed Melbourne. The sides were always close with Warrandyte opening the better but Melbourne coming back strongly to take a three point lead at the break.

Melbourne had the advantage in the second half but Ryan Holloway hit a three point shot for the Venom to close the gap to two points with 30 seconds to go.

Play went to the Melbourne end with the Venom getting possession but without an opportunity to put together a good shot. Melbourne took the 30-28 win with Ryan Holloway scoring 11 points and David Wood seven points for the Venom.

Irish eyes are smiling

The Fighting Irish took out the A Grade final and Ballistyx won the B Grade title in the Greyburn Cup basketball competition.

It was the second successive premierships for Ballistyx in the competition which is held at Warrandyte High School on Wednesday nights.

The competition has been running since the late 1980s and for many years was run by the late Clinton Grybas. Adam Borwick took out the MVP for the second time, beating Tony Davis and Paul Rimes.

In the A Final, Fighting Irish 42 d. Baghdad 33 Baghdad who were runners up last season were favored to take out the title, especially after beating the Irish in the semis. And the Irish were further hampered with the loss of Liam Bottomley and Ash Grybas, who had missed a lot of the season due to injury, was their only bench player.

The game was tight from the start and at the break, Irish had moved away to a nine point lead. Baghdad had no answer to season's MVP Adam Borwick and couldn't bridge the gap and again finished runners up.

For the Irish Adam Borwick scored 22 points, Jarrod Dick (7), Brad Giampietro (6), Chris Springett (4) and Damien Johnston (3). Ash Grybas played a very controlled game as well as coaching the Irish.

For Baghdad, Tony Davis scored 12 points, Steve Oakley (8), Al Henderson (6), Pete Maynard (4) and Em Toohey (3). Also playing were Pete Appleby and Terry Ryan.

In the B Final, Ballistyx 52 d. Party Boyz 38 The full-strength Ballistyx started well and from the start dominated the boards.

The Boyz main striking force Chris Gallagher was closely guarded and denied the three point shots putting pressure on Pat Eddy and Luke Saunders to score.

Ballistyx's Lucas Reed made his presence felt and by the half Ballistyx led 26-18.

The Boyz threw everything at Ballistyx in the second half but struggled to penetrate the tight Ballistyx defence.

Redbacks set for run at the finals

Warrandyte Redbacks teams are in good positions at the half way mark of the Saturday EDJBA basketball season.

Gerry Pearce is in charge of the Under 13 A boys side, who recorded a strong win over Koonung.

The game was tight at 22-20 to the Redbacks at the break but Warrandyte were able to break away in the second half to run out winners by 56-36.

Chris Bolland used his height effectively and finished with 22 points. However one of the strengths of this side is its overall skill level with the smaller guards doing more than their share of the work.

Conor Gardner contributed 12 points on the scoresheet with Zeph Hilton

adding 10 points. The result was a return to the winning form after a hard fought loss against Bulleen the previous week.

The result was the other way for the girls Under 13 A side, going down to Eltham by 41-33.

The Redbacks appeared to have the game in their keeping with a half time lead of 17-12 but Eltham did more work in the second half.

For the Redbacks, Meg Keppel led the scoring with 12 points with good support from Simone Caruana with nine points and Lauren Robertson with five points.

Warrandyte's Under 17 girls had an easy win over an Eltham side winning by 50-13. Courtney Petalas led the scoring with 16 points.



Auskick round-up with Edward Munks



Family Day for Auskickers

Warrandyte's senior footballers hosted a Family Day early last month with 46 Auskickers attending to make it an action packed day.

Activities included face painting which Hugo Wright took full advantage of, a Jumping Castle, food for the little champs and three games of Auskick rules at the half time break.

Oscar Hodgson in his North Melbourne jumper was in the thick of the action, receiving many good

tap outs from ruckman Ben Jackson.

Spencer Hamilton and Oliver Casamento were busy with strong marking a feature and Bomber Jarrah Smith, Cormaic Connelly and Harper Oehlman were busy providing attacking handballs to Sam Munks, Joel Carruthers and Marco Fernandez who were able to provide the run and carry for their teammates in the forward line led by goal sneaks Ben Munks and Luke McAndrew.

In other games around the ground Seb Nitschinsk was again in good form gathering kicks and was ably supported by Josh Ball and Sebastian Stark.

Billy Podmore and Hayden Carruthers, Angus Ramsdale and Sebastian Stark combined well with the elusive Mark Somerwil.

Tom Jackson emulating his elder brother in the ruck controlled the air with good knock-ons to Ethan Stark and the hard running duo of Nathan Stewart and Finn Swedosh.

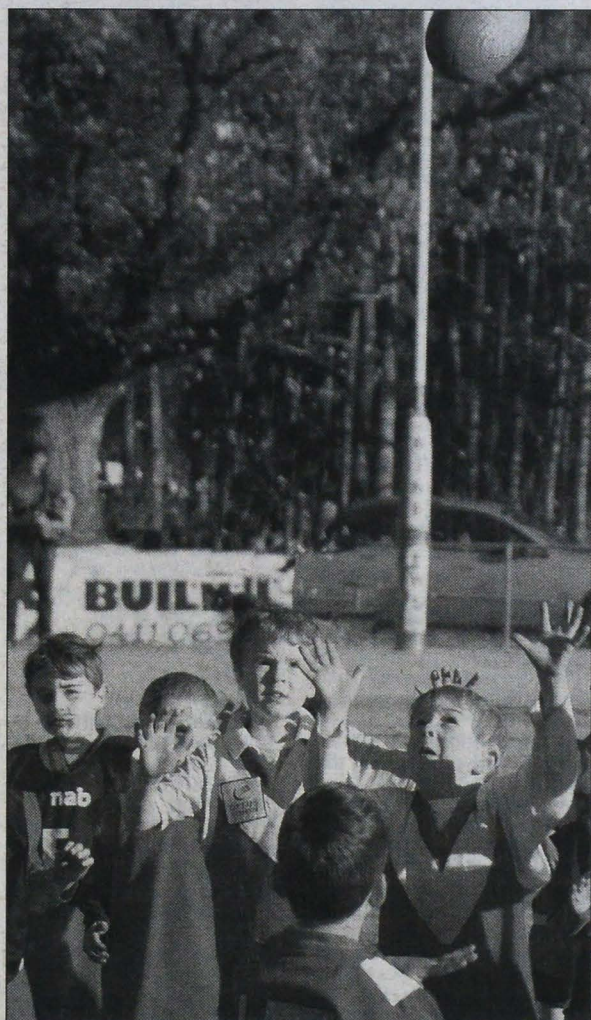
Harrison Nitschinsk and Luke Papez, Austin Humphris and Bombers duo Archer and Hudson Rostron along with Ethan McShanag with his improved kicking provided a reliable avenue to goal.

Auskick would like to thank Warrandyte president Phil Treeby and his team for providing support to the youngest aspiring Warrandyte footballers

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



Sebastian Nitschinsk gets his kick away during the Auskick match at the half time break of a recent senior Warrandyte football match.



Hands up who wants the ball? Action from Auskick.



Sam Munks does his best to break a tackle during the Auskick match at the half time break in the recent Warrandyte Football Club game.

Ed plays to a Brazilian beat

Auskick correspondent, Ed Munks can now lay claim to being an international Australian Football star.

Ed represented Brazil in a match against Chile last month.

He played in the match in Rio de Janeiro at a local university rugby ground.

Ed said the Australian embassy staff in Sao Paulo, led by a good "Croweater" in Greg Owen, had been trying to get an AFL game played for about 12 months but the big issue was getting enough people in Brazil together in the one spot.

"There are more Aussies working in Chile and it was easy for them to get a team together," Ed said.

"The Chileans had a local boy called Pablo who

had played with the Port Adelaide Magpies in the early 1990s.

"The interesting thing was that there were five Chileans in their side and were very keen on AFL and had spent months training with Pablo and the local expats.

"Pablo and his mates also double up for cricket in the summer.

"The Brazil side had two local players and they enjoyed the day and especially the after-party."

Ed's involvement follows his regular business travel to South America. "One of my younger colleagues keeps in touch with the embassy in Sao Paulo and about six weeks ago they started looking short of



Diary Auskick correspondent, Edward Munks (second from left kneeling) represented Brazil in a recent Australian Football match against Chile.

numbers and we stepped in to fill the void.

"We arranged our business trip around the footy game. We had one guy in his 50s originally from Port

Melbourne fly in from Brasillia to play.

"After talking to him it was obvious he hasn't been back to Australia for 20 plus years as he commented that

it was good to see Gary Ablett still playing, not realising it was the junior version.

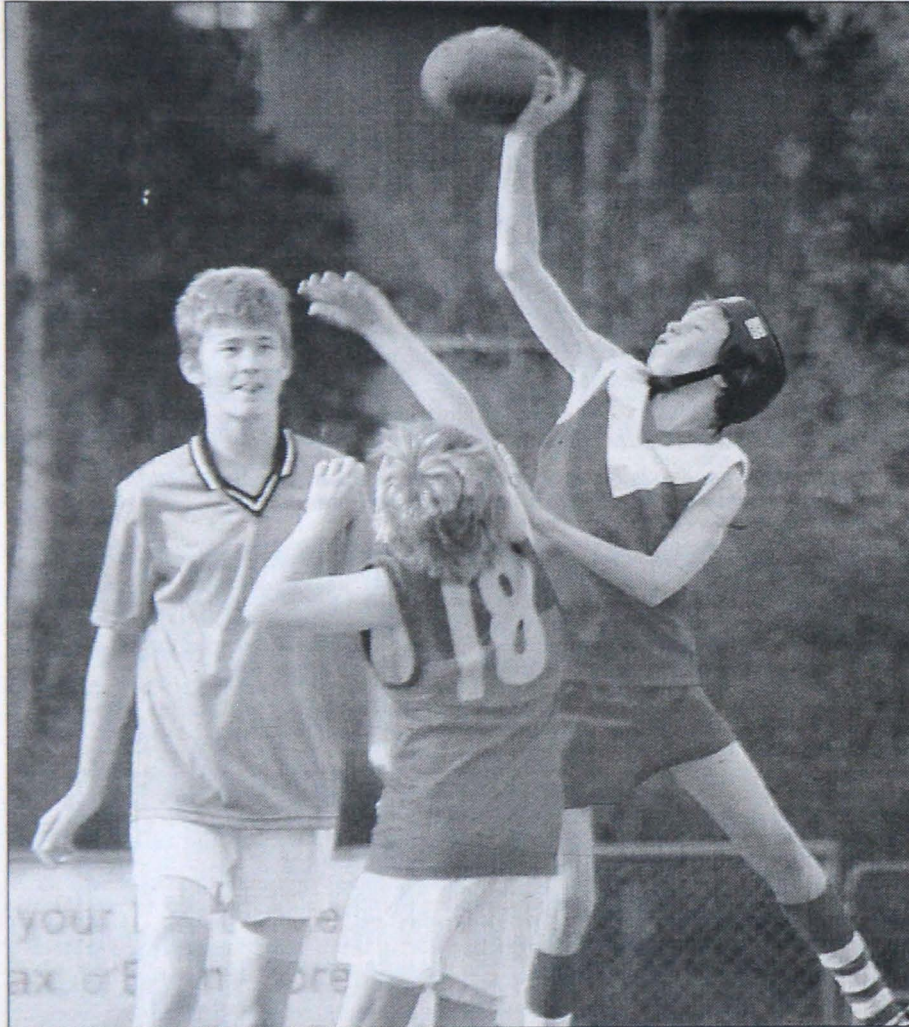
"We started in great form taking a quick four goal lead

using footy smarts only to be over taken in the second and third quarters by the younger Chile side," Ed said.

"We fought back valiantly to go down by two goals."



"You mean we have to play those big guys?" There are a few wary looks on the faces of these Warrandyte Tackers.



Mark Baker wins the ruck tap in the Under 10s match against Fitzroy.

Recognition for club stalwarts

Warrandyte Junior Football Club secretary, David Ure has been named Club Person of the Year for 2009.

The award was announced at the annual 'Big Night Out' along with the announcement of a Life Membership for Brad Curtis.

Ure was recognised for his efforts as secretary and his ability to undertake the many administrative matters and liaise with and communicate all relevant information to team managers, coaches and parents alike.

Curtis becomes only the 11th Life Member of the club and is a reward for his passion, dedication and commitment to the Warrandyte Junior Football Club in past years.

Curtis was Registration Secretary for many years and was also a team manag-



Connor Huntly is under siege in the Tackers game against Fitzroy.

Milestones add up for junior footballers

By LANCE NILSSEN

The past month has been significant for the number of milestones achieved by Warrandyte Junior Football Club players.

In the Under 14s, Christian Petracca and Rory Chipman celebrated their 100th games while Jake Martin and Alan Pardoe completed 50 games.

In the Round 9 Under 15 clash at Warrandyte, three banners were made to celebrate the 100 game achievements of Daniel Nilsson, James Munks and Neil Brown. All three kicked a goal to cap a big win over a determined Beverley Hills.

Rounds 10, 11 and 12 will see Nick Lee, Tim Nilsson and Lauchlan Frowd break the century milestone.

In a recent clash against St Mary's, Kyle Robertson completed a determined century of games.

In the Under 11s, Joel Bumpstead, Josh Costin, Fergus Ward, Jake Tucker, Ryley Reardon, Brodie Powell, Josh Bilos and Josh Kleeberg have all completed 50 games.

In the Under 12s, Dylan Krajnc and Connor Joy performed well to celebrate

their 50th games.

The Colts 1 side celebrated a quadruple milestone with Toby Versteegen, Anthony Haikal, Jake Miller and Nathan Campbell all completing 100 games.

The Under 14 side coached by Peter Stafford was elevated to the top division after an outstanding 2008 in Division 2 and have faced monumental challenges against opposition clubs that had many more boys to choose from and are more accustomed to top division football.

While they have only managed one win for the season, the year has brought out so many more positives for the boys.

Small targets set each week by the coaching staff have been achieved and great morale built amongst the boys.

The Under 11s have posted four good wins in 2009 and the boys are playing with spirit and are looking forward to a big finish to the year.

The Under 12's have been a force all year and are presently fourth on the ladder.

If they play to their potential they have a real chance

to play finals football.

The Colts 2 side is playing superb football and currently sit on top of the ladder, two games clear. They are certain to play finals football and are looking forward to the challenge.

The Tackers played for the first time on the big ground against St Mary's. Both teams loved the wide open spaces and had opportunity to show their skills. Ryan Rota and Sam Brown were worthy Lee Tindale Medalists on the day.

The Under 11's have been very competitive throughout the season and have scored four memorable wins.

Coach Paul Reardon is confident of finishing the season well with a number of winnable home games.

● A number of players have recently been selected to represent the Yarra Junior Football League in Interleague games.

The following boys are to be congratulated on their achievement: Under 10, Mackenzie Smead; Under 11, Fergus Ward; Under 12, Jack Poole; Under 13, Zac Ballard and Reece McKenzie; Under 15, Zac Galbally.

Young Bloods have their eyes on finals

Warrandyte's Under 18s have continued their winning form and have cemented a spot in the top four on the Division 3 ladder.

Despite a loss in Round 12 to top-of-the-table and as yet undefeated North Ringwood, Warrandyte are full of confidence and belief that they can match it with any side in the competition.

Saturday's match saw a very competitive Warrandyte team go down by 34 points to the dominant Saints side, who sit atop the ladder after 12 rounds with a percentage of 342!

Coaching staff insist that the Bloods have learned a lot from their two clashes with the impressive North Ringwood side and look forward to meeting them again come finals time.

Better players on the weekend included Khouri, Pollard and Atkinson.

Round 11 saw the Under 18s pitted against one of the dominant sides in the Under 18 competition, the second placed Upper Ferntree Gully.

Contrasting game styles saw the hard running Bloods finish all over a tired opposition and record a most impressive 16 point victory, with Biggs effective as usual up forward with another five goals.

Holewa was the other multiple goal scorer with three majors, and Buhagair and Beasley were also in the best for Warrandyte.

Round 10 saw a convincing 50 point win against Boronia at Warrandyte Reserve, with Shane Biggs

once again dominant up forward with five goals,

Justin Khouri and Robbie Bowen were also among the best.

Coaches recognised consistent performer Liam Whitfield with a promotion to the Under 18 leadership group, a just reward for effort which has seen Liam training and playing with dedication and commitment and amongst the best players week in and week out.

Warrandyte now sit in fourth place on the EFL ladder, three games and percentage clear of fifth placed Coldstream and are now very unlikely to miss out on finals.

ROUND 9
Bye

ROUND 10
Warrandyte 12.9-81 d. Boronia 4.7-31

Best: Khouri, Pollard, Biggs, Bowen, Ryan, Williams
Goals: Biggs 5, Peter-Budge 2, Whitfield, Buhagair, Atkinson, Godwin, Pollard

ROUND 11
Warrandyte 11.11-77 d. Upper FTG 8.13-61

Best: Biggs, Bowen, Buhagair, Beasley, Khouri, Whitfield
Goals: Biggs 5, Holewa 3, Pollard 2, Godwin

ROUND 12
Warrandyte 7.5-47 lost to North Ringwood 12.9-81

Best: Khouri, Pollard, Atkinson, Buhagair, Biggs, A. Batsanis
Goals: Biggs 2, Pollard 2, Brouwer, Khouri, Godwin

Supersmashers are back at Warrandyte

Warrandyte Tennis Club's annual Supersmashers program will be held from Sunday August 16 through to September 13.

It is designed for children in the 5-12 year age group who have little or no tennis experience.

The program, now in its sixth year, is supervised by club coach, Craig Haslam and all participating children will be presented with "smashpacks" of goodies at the start of the season.

Numbers are limited so anyone interested should contact Craig on 9844 4625 or Michelle Gilling on 9844 2025 as soon as possible.

Season two of the club's Friday Night competition was completed recently with a close finish in all categories.

Awards were presented to Steven Garrick, Bradley Synnot, Cameron Do, Campbell Prior, Imogen Maillardet, Melissa Cook and Seth Martin.

Places are limited for this competition but anyone interested in participating in the upcoming season should contact club coach, Craig Haslam on 9844 4625.

Warrandyte strengthens top four place

Bloods are finals bound

By BEN TAYLOR

Warrandyte have consolidated their place in the top four of EFL Division Three after a hard fought win over local rivals North Ringwood on Saturday.

The Round 12 game against the in-form North Ringwood side was always going to be a tough contest, with both teams sitting on six wins for the season and knowing that the victor could place themselves in the top four with just six rounds remaining before the finals.

Now a game clear in fourth spot, but with still plenty to work to do, the coming month looks promising for the Bloods as they make their finals charge.

This Saturday will see a huge test as Warrandyte travel to Mooroolbark to take on the undefeated ladder leaders and competition pace setters.

Warrandyte coach Michael Tout was forced to make several changes to the side that travelled to Upper Ferntree Gully in Round 11, with key backman Dion Mullett-Treloar away overseas, and Ross Ansaldi, Daniel Large, Bernie Opteynde and Adam Gamble all unavailable due to injury.

Into the side came Jarrod Boyce, Brendan Zach and Daniel Bryant, all of whom have impressed in recent weeks in the reserves side, along with Paul Bellofiore, returning after two weeks in the reserves following a shoulder reconstruction. Along with those changes, new signing Jade Hill played his first game for the club and has quickly shown every indication of becoming a cult figure amongst the Warrandyte faithful.

At Warrandyte Reserve on Saturday it was the visitors who came out firing, kicking two quick goals to post a handy early lead.

Despite the slow start, Warrandyte regrouped and displayed some hard running, attacking football, slamming on seven unanswered goals before North Ringwood clawed one back.

Warrandyte went into the first break with a handy 24



Tim Beasley ... one of Warrandyte's best against North Ringwood.

point lead.

Looking to put away their opposition in the second quarter, Warrandyte were disappointing, dropping off in their pressure and tackling and letting North Ringwood back into the contest.

Making hard work of the game for themselves, Bloods players appeared frustrated but still went in to the half time break with a six point lead in what was shaping to be an extremely tight contest.

The third quarter was evenly balanced, with both sides making several forays forward but failing to fully capitalise on the scoreboard.

North Ringwood scored an inaccurate three goals and six behinds for the quarter and Warrandyte two goals five. First-gamer Hill, or "Death" to his growing fan club, was beginning to have a real impact around the ground with several important ruck clearances and contested marks.

Tim Beasley, who is becoming an important member of the side in his second year of senior footy, was also impressive, with ferocious attack on the ball and several tackles and smothers at key moments.

At the three quarter time huddle, Tout stressed to players that the chance to play finals footy in 2009 lay in the final half hour of foot-

ball and implored his players to give one last big effort.

It was North Ringwood who struck first with a contested mark in the goal square and subsequent goal.

The two teams then traded goals and when it counted most, Warrandyte's backline stood tall under pressure and worked the ball up to the midfield, where clever use and hard running saw opportunities open up for the forwards. The opportunities were taken as the Bloods put on three unanswered goals to open up some breathing space.

Unsurprisingly, North Ringwood fought out the contest and kept the Warrandyte crowd uneasy, until a late snap from Paul Bellofiore sealed a courageous 18 point win for the Bloods.

Mick Morello finished with four goals, as did dominant centre half forward Ben Torney, with Luke Dunn and Alex McIntosh kicking three apiece. Tim Beasley, Luke Naughtin and Grant McAdam were also among the better players.

● The previous week saw Warrandyte head to Upper Ferntree Gully with high hopes of pinching another important win away from home.

The opposition made it clear from the outset that a physical game was on the cards and Warrandyte responded well by posting the first goal through Morello, who would go on to kick the first four for the Bloods on his way to seven for the day.

The half time deficit stood at 27 points, with a late surge from Upper Gully giving them a handy lead.

On a typical cold and windy day down at the Gully, Warrandyte players responded well to the coach's message at half time and clawed back some of the deficit with a four goal to two third quarter, going into the three quarter time huddle within striking distance.

When Warrandyte kicked the first goal of the fourth term through Luke Dunn, an unlikely comeback looked

possible, but the Bloods ran out of steam and Upper Gully showed why they are second on the EFL ladder, overrunning the visitors with several late goals to eventually win by 46 points.

Better players for the Bloods were Morello, Adam Tsapatsaris, the ever reliable Matt Feben and Daniel Large.

● Warrandyte's Round 10 clash against Boronia marked the turning point and the start of the run home for the Division Three season.

Having played each team once and sitting at five wins, four losses, the Bloods were keen to maintain good momentum and hopefully improve on their record when playing teams the second time around.

Coming off their most disappointing performance to date against Whitehorse Pioneers, Warrandyte were impressive in their ferocious attack on the football and had Boronia concerned through their unrelenting attack and desire to win the ball.

A shell shocked Boronia side could only watch on as Warrandyte piled on goal after goal in a dominant first half, to take a 64 point lead into the main break.

The second half saw a frustrated Boronia turn their attention away from the ball and to the man, with several off-the-ball incidents resulting in Warrandyte free kicks.

Under Tout's strong leadership, the young Bloods remained focused and committed to winning the contested ball.

This theme continued throughout the day until Warrandyte were eventually rewarded with a 110 point win, their biggest winning margin since the 2006 season.

In a standout performance, 18-year-old livewire forward Ross Ansaldi finished with five goals and just as many goal assists, justifying the faith shown in him by coaching staff. Torney and Morello finished with four apiece while Adam Gamble and Alex McIntosh were the other multiple goal kickers with two each.

Reserves

Winning streak stretches to six

Warrandyte's reserves side has maintained a remarkable six game winning streak and moved to fifth on the EFL ladder, just one game behind fourth placed Nunawading.

After a shocking start to the season, with six straight losses, the seconds have been growing in confidence since finding their first win for the year against Mitcham in Round 7 and have not looked back since.

Their most recent effort against North Ringwood was another come from behind win that showed great spirit.

The game seemed to be going North Ringwood's way right from the opening bounce, with some uncharacteristically casual efforts from Warrandyte players.

A two goal quarter time margin could have been worse for the Bloods except for some solid defensive work from the Warrandyte backmen.

Just two behinds to Warrandyte in the second quarter saw them go into the half time break with just one goal on the scoreboard and a 24 point deficit in what was thankfully shaping up to be a low scoring affair at Warrandyte Reserve.

Some inspired words from assistant coach and on-field leader Campbell Holland to his younger charges, as well as some timely words from coach Adam Hinds saw a different team come out to play in the second half.

It was the second week in a row that Warrandyte had blown away their opposition in the second half and while the coaching staff would prefer a four quarter effort, the spirit shown by the group to come back from such disappointing circumstances was pleasing, especially without key midfielders Bellofiore, Bryant and Zach who were all called up to senior duties.

Holland finished with three goals despite some heavy attention from North Ringwood defenders, while Josh Eyre was clearly best on ground in the midfield.

Eyre is a welcome addition to the club for the second half of 2009, returning mid-season after a stint with the Australian Defence Force in Canberra.

ROUND 11

The reserves brought up win number five against a challenging Upper Gully side who were determined to come away with the points on their home turf.

Good performances from consistent midfielders Jarrod Boyce and Daniel Bryant were once again a big part of the win, while the return of players such as Paul Bellofiore and Josh Eyre into the side also boosted the midfield talent.

The contest was fierce for the first three quarters with Warrandyte wasting opportunities as Upper Gully continued to switch play and use their huge home ground effectively.

As if a switch had been flicked, the Bloods came out in the last quarter and simply blew away their opposition to win by 19 points. Major contributors included the much improved Troy Konrad who amassed more than 15 possessions in the final term and played his best game for the club to date.

In a surprise move, Brendan Zach took on the role of full forward, filling the sizeable void left by the ill Campbell Holland, and made the most of his opportunity by booting six majors, four of which came in the triumphant final term.

ROUND 10

Round 10 saw a ferocious Warrandyte more than match a Boronia side that had intimidated the young Bloods in their first round encounter at Tormore Reserve.

On a special day for the club in its quest to be the premier fundraising club in the EFL for the important Call to Arms and Cancer Council charities, from the first bounce it was evident that the Bloods were playing with a passion and intensity that had not been seen before in 2009.

Gang tackles and shepherds were the order of the day with Boronia players shell-shocked by their more desperate opponents.

In unfamiliar territory, a Warrandyte side accustomed to narrow wins and big losses found themselves in front by 34 points at half time.

A lapse of concentration in the third quarter allowed Boronia a number of goals in succession and a slight glimmer of hope, but a determined Warrandyte side refused to let this one slip and regained their ascendancy in the final term to run away with an impressive 27 point victory.

Campbell Holland finished with five goals, with Jarrod Boyce, Cal Haskings and Glen Carle also starring for the Bloods.

ROUND 9

The reserves were a beacon of shining light on a dark day for Warrandyte at Springfield Park back in early June.

Showing no signs of slowing down from their previous two victories, Warrandyte's second side came out firing against Whitehorse, winning the ball around the ground and working it forward, the Bloods had strong targets up forward in Ryan Cullen and Campbell Holland, with young Blood Ross Brown presenting himself up the ground also in another pleasing performance.

Warrandyte showed heart when facing a strong second quarter from their opposition which saw a succession of goals in a short period of time.

In the end, power forward Campbell Holland reaped the rewards of good delivery from his midfield as he booted five majors. Ryan Cullen showed his experience and played his best game yet for the club, being a strong presence at both ends of the ground and leading by example through his attack on the footy.

Trailing by two goals at half time, the young Bloods responded to the efforts of their elder counterparts and lifted. Starved of success in the early rounds, once a win was within sight the reserves were not going to let up and in the end ran away with a satisfying 20 point win.

Along with Cullen and Holland, Flynn Jarvis and Josh McKellar were among the better Warrandyte players on a cold and windy day.

All the scores and details

SENIORS

Round 12
Warrandyte 18.15-123 def. North Ringwood 15.15-105
 Goals: B. Torney 4, M. Morello 4, L. Dunn 3, A. McIntosh 3, B. Reid, T. Beasley, L. Naughtin, P. Bellofiore
 Best: T. Beasley, L. Naughtin, P. Bellofiore, T. Naughtin, J. Hill, G. McAdam
Round 11
Warrandyte 11.11-77 lost to Upper Ferntree Gully 18.15-123
 Goals: M. Morello 7, M. Wood, L. Dunn, B. Torney, T. Beasley, A. McIntosh
 Best: M. Morello, A. Tsapatsaris, M. Feben, D.

Large, T. Beasley, B. Torney
Round 10
Warrandyte 23.18-156 def. 6.10-46 Boronia
 Goals: R. Ansaldi 5, B. Torney 4, M. Morello 4, A. Gamble 2, A. McIntosh 2, B. Reid, M. Wood, L. Dunn, D. Large, T. Beasley, S. Christopher
 Best: M. Wood, M. Morello, T. Naughtin, L. Dunn, B. Reid, D. Large
Round 9
Warrandyte 6.11-47 lost to Whitehorse 11.12-78
 Goals: M. Morello 2, S. Christopher 2, L. Evans, A. McIntosh
 Best: D. Mullett Treloar, T. Naughtin, V. Jones, S.

Christopher, M. Feben, L. Dunn
RESERVES
Round 12
Warrandyte 10.15-75 def. North Ringwood 7.6-48
 Goals: C. Holland 3, J. Eyre, J. Bowen, S. Rough, R. Gordon, T. Konrad, C. Chapman, P. Burgoyne
 Best: J. Eyre, E. Jones, P. Burgoyne, G. Carle, S. Rough, P. O'Mara
Round 11
Warrandyte 13.9-87 def Upper Gully 10.8-68
 Goals: B. Zach 6, R. Brown 3, T. Konrad, G. Godwin, P. Burgoyne, P. Bellofiore
 Best: T. Konrad, D. Heller, J.

Boyce, G. Tessier, B. Zach, J. O'Mara
Round 10
Warrandyte 11.14-80 def. Boronia 8.5-53
 Goals: C. Holland 5, J. Boyce, G. Carle, R. Brown, J. O'Mara, C. Chapman
 Best: J. Boyce, T. Konrad, G. Carle, C. Haskings, P. Bellofiore, D. Bryant
Round 9
Warrandyte 12.12-84 def Whitehorse 9.10-64
 Goals: C. Holland 5, G. Zach 2, J. Boyce, R. Cullen, T. Konrad, R. Bethune, P. Burgoyne
 Best: J. Boyce, G. Godwin, F. Jarvis, J. Burgoyne, J. McKellar, R. Cullen

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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. Please note: Photo ID required at inspections. Thank you. *Working in conjunction with Barry Plant Eltham.



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. Set in the prestigious school zone near Rudolf Steiner, Yarra Valley Grammar and Luther College.



WARRANDYTE SOUTH

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.



Impressive on All Fronts

This impressive home located in a quiet court with scenic surroundings has a number of desirable features that captures the essence of space and comfort. Offering 4 BRs 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. Substantial storage space and a huge 4-car remote garage. All this set on approx 1/4 acre. A great opportunity not to be missed.

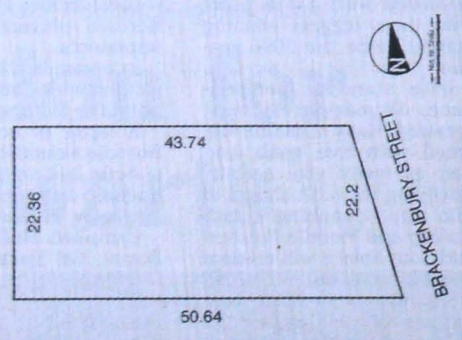


WARRANDYTE

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.



Pure Imagination

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



WARRANDYTE

WARRANDYTE SOUTH

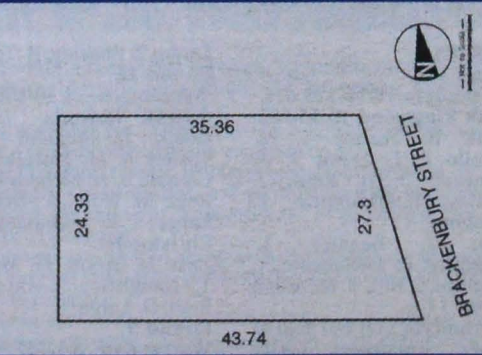
Make a Fresh Start

Claim peace, privacy and the country lifestyle with this promising 1-acre property and its humble 3-bedroom blonde brick. Set on a flat acre close to Warrandyte State Park, Tandivale Equestrian Centre and horse riding and walking trails, this is the ideal horse haven or bush retreat. A charming but simple home offers a pine timber kitchen, hardwood floors, romantic Coonara heater in the lounge and floor to ceiling robes in each bedroom. Plus a sprawling block with a 5-car brick garage, rear pergola and brick BBQ.



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.



WARRANDYTE