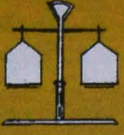


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# WARRANDYTE diary



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They relayed for lifesaving cash.  
(Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

# Cancer fund wins

## Local life relay tops \$52,966!

By CLIFF GREEN

The Warrandyte Relay for Life, held at the Warrandyte Reserve over a weekend last month, raised a total of \$52,966.60.

"Last year we raised close to \$15,000," Sarah Dobson of the Cancer

Council told the *Diary*. "This year we were so close to the \$53,000 mark. This is an amazing result!"

"The committee has been truly amazed at the high level at which the people of Warrandyte and surrounding areas have embraced the relay."

The event attracted 525 registered participants. Organised into 33 teams, they walked, jogged and ran around the main oval, from early afternoon on the Saturday, through the night until late on the Sunday morning, keeping their batons moving at all times.

Each team sought sponsors to help raise money to fund research, education and such projects as the Cancer Council support line. The Warrandyte RSL/Tennis Club Tipplers team raised the highest amount, with a total of \$6,831.

Strong winds and rain periods made conditions unpleasant much of the time, but still the relay teams struggled on. One truly moving part of the event, when participants lit candles placed in paper bags bearing

messages of condolence for loved ones taken by cancer, and support for survivors still battling the disease, had to be abandoned because of bad weather.

"The good spirit in which everyone participated was a joy to watch," Ms Dobson said. "We are grateful to the many businesses in Warrandyte, Ringwood and Eltham who helped. Without the support of Julie and her staff at Victory IGA we would not have been able to raise such a large amount of money."

"It is also important to thank the many performers and entertainers who participated. Our MCs kept everything flowing, the music kept us moving and the Tai Chi helped calm us down," Ms Dobson said.

The organisers are planning an even bigger event next year and are calling for locals to join the Warrandyte Relay for Life committee. They can phone Sarah Dobson at the Cancer Council on 9635 5057.

More pictures on Page 7

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"Moaner Leaser" (noun) A renter, unhappy with her lot.  
— Anon

# WARRANDYTE diary

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### NEXT ISSUE

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

### OUR NEWSPAPER

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

### A SPECIAL PLACE

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

## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



He's torn between the footy, the rugby and the rain gauge.

## Spring in Warrandyte

## All a matter of literary taste

AND see if they've got any new Stephenie Meyers at the library!" called Cinnamon as Narelle and Gran headed off to the Pines. Cinnamon was a sucker for vampire romance.

After running the gauntlet in the carpark of death, Narelle and Gran were soon inside where everything was familiar—the sickly glow of the fluoros, the pervasive smell of cleaning fluids, all those friendly people in the aisles you have to pretend not to see or hear. They had a lovely time browsing at Le Desire which is apparently French for The Candle. They rummaged through the racks at Autograph fashions for the curvy woman. And after 20 minutes inching their way through the checkout maze at Target, they finally headed down to the library.

The first thing Narelle spotted was the Returns Slot in the door. One by one she posted Cinnamon's returns through the flap. And just as the last one disappeared, the door slid open and a group of sniggering school children stepped around the pile of books now littering the floor. "That's for After Hours," sighed Gran. "The In door's over here." Sheepishly Narelle gathered up the books again and took them to the desk where a small group of librarians ignored her completely. "That lot could do with a trip to Autograph," said Gran, more voice than sotto.



### living with The Trotts

"Will I just leave the books here then?" Narelle whispered to Gran. "Unless you particularly want to arrange them according to the Dewey system," sighed Gran and headed for the Big Print section. She thumbed her way through them—"The God of Big Things", "Seven Big Australians", "The Big House on the Prairie". Meanwhile Narelle made for the Crime section but the books had all been stolen. So instead she sat at the computer for 10 minutes only to find you need a university degree to operate it, and surrendered her place to a five

year-old. "Have you got Cinnamon's vampire book yet?" called Gran from Audio Books. "Ssshhh!" said a nearby librarian. "That wasn't me it was a talking book," sneered Gran. As it happened they couldn't find any more vampire stories. "Perhaps we need a bloodhound," sniggered Gran. But eventually they managed to find something for everyone and piled their selection on the out counter where the librarian swiped her card and checked the screen. "You're overdue," said the lass. "Ooh I don't think so," said Narelle. "I had my tubes done straight after Jasper!" She paid the \$4 fine any-

way and they headed back for the car. All in all Narelle was pretty pleased with her selections. *A Guide to Eskimo Rolling* for Jasper. *Matt Preston Tells You What You Can Do With Tofu* for Cinnamon. *Elvis is Alive and Living in Park Orchards* for Neville. And *Olivia Newton-John's Book of Alzheimer Puzzles* for Gran. For herself, Narelle had been tossing up between *The Fat, Lard and Cream Diet* and another recipe book which would be handy for her niece's birthday party the following weekend, and that was what she had finally chosen. *Cooking With Pooh!*

ALAN CORNELL

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# Hey! Didn't it rain!

More than 110mm of rain fell on Warrandyte during the last 10 days of September, watering gardens and filling our tanks, our creeks and our hearts. STEPHEN REYNOLDS was out and about and brought back these images of a swiftly brimming Yarra River.



# Tree-felling causes community worry

By **CLIFF GREEN**

Locals are expressing concern that the state government's "10/30 rule", permitting the clearing of vegetation as a fire safety measure, could be going too far.

These rules, described by the government as "temporary exemptions to help landowners reduce fuel load around their home", apply in both Manningham and Nillumbik.

They permit landowners to clear, without a planning permit, all vegetation, including trees, within 10 metres of their house, and all vegetation (except for trees) within 30 metres of the house.

"Residents in many areas are taking the opportunity to clear trees and vegetation," Dick Davies, president of the Warrandyte Community Association, told the *Diary*. "We are sure that land developers will not miss the opportunity to clear-fell blocks."

WCA believes that fuel reduction should be conducted according to established principles, evidence-

based "on solid science from people like Dr Kevin Tolhurst and the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre.

"There is evidence that vegetation provides some shelter as well as risk and fuel reduction can increase risk in the longer term," Mr Davies said. "It needs to be handled carefully."

Addressing an overflow WCA public meeting recently, Dr Tolhurst said: "Blanket clearing is not always the solution. It is often feasible to modify vegetation and environment around a house without destroying the environment we live in."

The latest issue of *The Fireguardian*, the newsletter of the CFA Yarra Area Community Fireguard Network, states: "Vegetation can ... play an important role in reducing wind speed, catching embers before they reach your home or shielding from radiant heat."

Mr Davies believes that the government response "has all the hallmarks of a 'knee jerk' reaction, cooked up in the media office. It certainly isn't recommended in the Victorian Bushfires

Royal Commission interim report.

"If fully implemented in my street, Bradleys Lane would look like a landing strip."

Mr Davies pointed out that in the WCA submission to the bushfire commission, "based on our public meeting of 280 residents, we noted that land management policy is a very contentious issue.

"There was some—but by no means all—enthusiasm to reduce fuel loads, particularly on roadside verges. Less contentiously, more green waste removal is recommended on both sides of the river. More education and training of residents was also recommended."

Manningham council is not supporting a "clear-felling" policy. Council states, in the latest issue of their newsletter, *Manningham Matters*: "Residents should seek advice from their local CFA regarding their bushfire survival plans and should seek advice from council about implementing a sensible balance between providing a safer home, maintaining

vegetation on their property and preserving our natural environment."

Manningham councillor Meg Downie told the *Diary*: "I am certain that residents will use these measures judiciously and (they) will not lead to wholesale removal of all vegetation, as most have chosen to live in the leafy parts of Mullum Mullum because they, like me, enjoy the treed ambience of the area."

According to Dick Davies, WCA is keen to work closely with local government, emergency services and the state government to ensure that Warrandyte residents are fully prepared for the coming bushfire season.

"We hope that the proposed township protection plans are not a media-driven exercise," Mr Davies said.

● Further information from Dick Davies on 9844 4686. The WCA annual general meeting, which included an open forum with local politicians, was held on October 8. A full report will appear in next month's *Diary*.

## Vegetation has a fire safety role

Many people choose to live in bushland areas because of the environmental values. Vegetation removal can have a significant effect on these values and the amenity of property and neighbourhood.

Vegetation can also play an important role in reducing wind speed, catching embers before they reach your home or shielding from radiant heat. Creating mini-breaks and clumping vegetation may be an effective way of managing fuel on your property, rather than removing all vegetation, and all trees are not necessarily a fire risk.

Implementing a sensible balance between providing a safer home and maintaining vegetation is important.

House survival and the ability to defend your home is also influenced by a number of other factors, including house location, aspect, topography, building structure and materials, water supply and equipment.

Simply removing all vegetation will not guarantee your safety or house survival.

—from *The Fireguardian*, newsletter of the CFA Yarra Area Community Fireguard Network.

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### Manningham Fire Season Preparation Underway

Manningham Council's fire season preparation is already underway and Council is working closely in partnership with emergency services including the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and the local community to make the municipality fire-ready this upcoming fire season.

### Pilot Council in Fire Study

Manningham Council is participating in a municipal area pilot to integrate fire management planning. Fire services, in partnership with Manningham Council, are a leading multi-agency Integrated Fire Management Planning (IFMP) project team, which has been established to ensure that the linkages across fire prevention, response and recovery programs are consistent and holistic. The project team's planning and activities will work in conjunction with the findings of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

### Annual Fire Prevention Actions

Council has a current Municipal Fire Prevention Plan and program of fire prevention works that is undertaken each year prior to declaration of the fire danger period. These works will continue and be enhanced through the allocation of additional funding/resources.

Fire prevention activities in Council parks, reserves and road reserves include:

- Maintaining fire breaks (including grass slashing and maintaining accessibility)
- Vegetation management
- Tree maintenance
- Clearing vegetation around power lines in the high risk areas of Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Donvale. (Wonga Park is maintained by the electrical distribution authority)
- Responding to requests for fire management in specific locations

[www.manningham.vic.gov.au](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au)

# ARE YOU FIRE-READY?

## Plan to Leave Early: Prepare, Act, Survive!

Manningham has a unique interface of urban areas surrounded by large rural properties and vast natural areas but with it comes higher level of fire risk to our community.

Coming into another hot and dry summer, it is important to be prepared and Manningham Council is working in partnership with emergency services to make the municipality fire-ready this fire season.

### Keep Informed and Be Vigilant During the Fire Season

- Visit the CFA website: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)
- Call: Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667
- Listen to 774 ABC Radio
- Visit [www.manningham.vic.gov.au/BushfireInformation](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/BushfireInformation) for information on local fire prevention events

### To Prepare Your Property:

- Keep grass cut and remove fine fuels (leaf litter, twigs)
- Clean gutters and move wood piles away from your home
- Ensure your hoses can reach all areas of your property
- Trim overhanging branches
- Plant trees and shrubs away from your home
- If you live in a high bushfire risk area, consult with Council's Planning Unit on tree and vegetation clearance
- Install an alternative water system – like a water tank with pump
- Install a sprinkler system
- Organise shelter for animals

### Green Waste Service

Residents living in Warrandyte, Warrandyte South, Wonga Park, Park Orchards and Donvale are eligible for free green vouchers to dispose of wood and branches up to 100mm diameter.

The garden waste can be taken to the Manningham Garden Waste Recycle Centre, corner of Blackburn and Websters Roads, Templestowe. This free service will operate every Sunday until 6 December 2009, between 9.00am and 3.00pm.

### Subscribe to e-News

Get the latest local news and events sent directly to your email with Council's new e-newsletter. It is easy to subscribe, just visit [www.manningham.vic.gov.au/enews](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/enews) to register, and keep informed.

### Extra Funding For Fire Prevention

Council has allocated an extra \$350,000 in funding from the 2009/10 Budget for fire prevention. Work underway now includes three extra people dedicated to fire prevention and additional equipment (such as a truck and chipper) for fuel reduction activities. The extra funds will be used to:

- Assess bushland reserves and manage fire risks (eg, 100 Acres, Currawong Bush Park, Mullum Mullum Linear Park, Tindals Wildflower Reserve, etc)
- Revise the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan
- Promote fire safety with the CFA, including Community Fire Guard Groups
- Help assess risks on private property and provide green waste disposal vouchers
- Advocate to the State Government to reduce fuel in State Parks
- Work with the CFA and DSE on control burns in bushland reserves
- Work with the CFA and MFB to identify areas of fire risk within the current road network (dead ends/narrow streets) and identify actions to mitigate potential risks
- Conduct arborist assessments of trees beside main roads
- Review rules for vegetation removal
- Communicate information to the community on the new bush fire legislation

### Report Potential Fire Hazards In Your Local Area

Council's Health and Local Laws Unit undertakes proactive fire risk inspections across the municipality to monitor/reduce areas of fire risk and serve notices to owners of private property where overgrown grass presents a fire risk.

Council also responds to residents' concerns about potential fire hazards on public and private property.

To report any fire risk contact Council on 9840 9333.

### Have a Plan

Make sure everyone in your household knows what the plan is and each person's responsibilities. Stay alert on high risk days and, if you decide to leave your home, you must do so before fire threatens and road travel becomes hazardous with fallen debris and low visibility.

- Decide when you will go, where you will go, how to get there (know your routes/exit points)
- Decide what you will take (important documents, valuables)
- Decide what to do with pets
- Inform family and friends of your plans
- Take enough clothes, toiletries, toys etc with you in case you cannot return to your home for a few days

**Have an emergency kit ready** - Keep a torch, first aid kit, portable radio and spare batteries in a spot known to all the family as power may fail.

### Community Fire Action Week Now On!

The State Government has introduced a new initiative: 'Community Fire Action Week', from 11 to 18 October as part of preparations for the fire season.

Residents are encouraged to clear gutters, move fuels and act on potential fire hazards on their properties during this week.

Visit [www.manningham.vic.gov.au/BushfireInformation](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/BushfireInformation) for more details on events in your local area.

### Calendar of Local Activities/ Meetings for Fire Prevention

**Saturday 17 October, 10am-5pm**  
Warrandyte Fire Safety Expo, Warrandyte Fire Station, Harris Gully Road, Warrandyte (Mel 35 C2)

**Sunday 18 October** Clean Up Day at 100 Acres

**Sunday 15 November** Spring Festival Fire preparation stall and information/demonstrations

Visit [www.manningham.vic.gov.au/BushfireInformation](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/BushfireInformation)

### Vegetation Removal Exemptions

The Victorian Government has introduced new exemptions for bushfire protection into the Planning Schemes of all municipalities considered to be at risk of wildfire, including Manningham.

Under the '10/30 right', the new exemptions allow for the removal of vegetation without a planning permit in certain circumstances, to reduce fuel loads around homes and minimise risk to life and property from wildfire.

The '10/30 Right' allows landowners to clear, for fire protection purposes only, without a planning permit:

- All vegetation, including trees, within 10 metres of your house
- All vegetation (except trees) within 30 metres of your house.

This right only extends to your property boundary – you will not be able to clear vegetation on neighbouring land without the written permission of the neighbouring landowner.

Some landowners with an on-title agreement or covenant to protect vegetation on their property may not be eligible to clear without a permit under the new measures.

Please contact Council's Statutory Planning Unit on 9840 9333 to learn more on how the exemptions apply to your property.

### Get Involved

The CFA conducts community information sessions for residents each year plus regular meetings with Community Fireguard groups of local residents in a particular area.

Attend your local CFA Community meetings and join a community fireguard group in your neighbourhood – visit [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) for more information.

### Join Twitter to Stay Informed

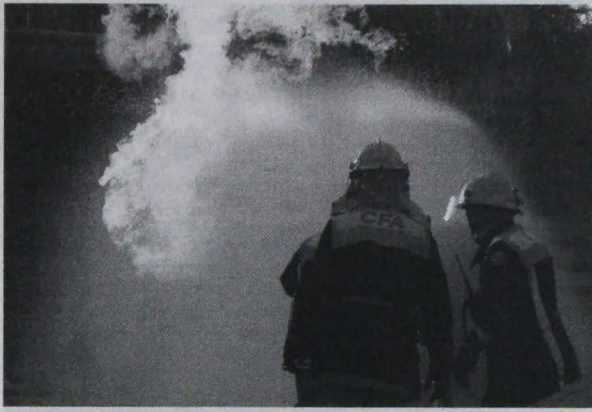
Twitter is a free service now used by Manningham City Council to enable you to keep up-to-date on the latest information, news and events via messages sent from Council's website.

Regular information on bushfire prevention activities will be communicated via Twitter - as well as Council's regular programs, events and activities.

Join today to start receiving Manningham Council's 'tweets'. Just visit our website, [www.manningham.vic.gov.au](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au) and follow the link to 'Twitter' on the home page.



# Heeding that siren call



## Fire sirens: comfort or call to panic stations?

By SANDY BURGOYNE

The use of CFA station sirens to warn the community of emergencies has been a much-debated topic since the tragedy of last summer's fires.

During the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission hearings stories emerged of community expectations that the local CFA siren would sound to warn residents to evacuate. Many residents of Gippsland's Boolarra believe that sounding the brigade station's siren on January 30 saved lives. Although 29 houses were destroyed in and around the township, all residents escaped.

The *Diary* looks back on use of the siren in the Warrandyte district, its use today and what part it may play in the future.

Forty years ago in the days of North Warrandyte captain Jack Stringer and his doughty firefighters, the brigade siren was sounded to call volunteers to the fire station to crew the trucks. Back then many households did not have a telephone service. Mobile phones, miniature two-way radios and computers existed only in the gadgetry of fictional heroes, such as Batman and Dick Tracy, so the station siren was a principal form of communication with brigade members.

"The (siren) system was designed to get firefighters to the fire station. Over time technologies have improved so that we can get the firefighters down here without doing that. But that's what the system was designed for," Warrandyte captain Shane Murphy told the *Diary*.

North's current captain Rohan Thornton agrees.

"Most people think that the siren exists to alert the community. But actually, from a governmental point of view and the CFA, the siren exists purely to alert brigade members to respond to the fire station.

"Now we have a computer-aided-despatch system with pagers, there is actually no legal requirement for brigades to have (fire station) sirens," he said.

All active CFA firefighters carry a pager, which alerts them when they are needed

to crew a truck.

The district's brigades have differing station siren arrangements.

"Basically any response the (North) brigade has the siren goes off," North's captain said. "It goes off if we go out to get a cat up a tree, a car accident, or anything. Basically any response the brigade has the siren goes off."

The Warrandyte siren is operated manually and some call-outs proceed without its use.

"The pager is our primary way of responding. We have a telephone backup to alert a number of people, but that doesn't go through to the whole brigade. Those key people that are on the phone system would come down here and hit the siren and that would alert the members around to come down to the station. So it is sort of a redundancy only," Shane Murphy said.

Warrandyte brigade has a second siren on top of the old fire station in Mitchell Avenue (now the WAA potters' studio). This can be sounded independently or at the same time as that on the Harris Gully Road fire station.

Current issue CFA station sirens have an effective radius of about two kilometres. Add the hilly nature of this district, plus the prevailing winds on the day, and this reach may fall short in one or more sectors. This raises the question of how adequate station sirens are at communicating with the community.

"I'm in Dingley Dell Road and I can't hear our fire siren, but I can hear Warrandyte's siren. We discovered that just a little under a third of the North Warrandyte community can hear the (North) siren when it's set off," Rohan Thornton said.

This problem does not arise with South Warrandyte as they do not have a station siren.

"Due to the remote station location in Brumbys Road, basically surrounded by paddocks and two or three

houses, it was disconnected some years ago (1995) when the paging system was introduced," South captain Peter Plant said.

"The current station location would mean that people in Park Orchards, North Ringwood, Donvale and Warranwood would not hear it anyway and this is where our fire station 'delivery area' population is concentrated."

If sirens are to be part of a community warning system, auxiliary alarms will need to be placed around the district. Then the question arises of whose siren you are hearing and what does it mean.

"I live near the North Warrandyte Community Centre and I can hear both the Warrandyte and North sirens from my home," resident Ian Wright told the *Diary*.

"There has never ever been an explanation or any information to the public tying in any fire information that can be derived from a fire siren, because it doesn't actually give any information about a fire," Warrandyte captain Shane Murphy said.

"It isn't used in that way, but if it was used to warn the community, which it's not, there would already have to be (agreement) in the community of what the siren means. Without that it would be of no use to anyone. They wouldn't be hearing a siren that gives any useful information. All they'd be hearing would be a loud noise," he said.

Peter Plant, South brigade's captain, believes that a range of facts and conditions must be considered in the debate on using stationary sirens to warn the community.

"I think that a broader approach needs to be considered if sirens are going to be used as a medium for communication. Therefore it shouldn't be a 'fire siren' or linked to the fire station as the CFA doesn't respond to flooding or a dam burst, or wind-storms. It may be similar to the old civil defence sirens post similar to that in the Second World War," he said.

"The timing of triggering the siren as a warning device needs to be investigated. People hearing the siren may be in the path of the fire or about to be impacted and their decision to leave could be potentially more dangerous.

"Our sirens are powered by electricity supplied by the power company and we know that power may be lost due to an unrelated event. People relying on the siren for notification of impending fire may be at risk if this is their primary means of notification," he said.

The Warrandyte Community Association has already opened a debate on an integrated community fire warning system.

"One of the longer term actions raised in the WCA submission to the Bushfires Royal Commission was that there is a need for a locally organised early warning system such as a warning siren that is different to the CFA management siren," Dick Davies, WCA president said. "This of course would need to be one of many different warning signals as different people respond to different signals — telephone trees, CFA radio scanners, up-to-date websites from CFA, DSE (Department of Sustainability & Environment), BOM (Bureau of Meteorology), Forest Fire Danger Index (now the Code Red system) were all itemised in our submission.

"Mobile phones and Twitter may be better to contact younger people. WCA supports the recommendations in the Interim Report of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (chapter 4 Warnings) all of which have been accepted by the state government," Dick Davies said.

A uniform system to warn the community of an approaching emergency, at least Victoria-wide and preferably nationally, is overdue. It is to be hoped that the impetus of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission hearings, directly or indirectly, delivers a usable solution.

## Fire: are you ready?

Local CFA officers believe that recent rainfall will do little to reduce the risk of bushfires this summer.

Totals to the beginning of September show that rainfall in the Warrandyte area is still below that of the same period last year.

"Over the last month, Victoria has experienced a number of days with above average temperatures and high winds," Warrandyte CFA captain Shane Murphy told the *Diary*. "The combination of these two elements is already causing vegetation to dry."

This underlines the importance of residents taking the necessary steps—right now—to reduce the impact of a bushfire on their property.

"If residents understand the steps they can take to reduce the threat and impact of a bushfire on their families and property they can make informed decisions early, rather than dangerous decisions when there is a fire," Captain Murphy said.

● Vital information on fire preparations will be available

at the Bushfire Safety and Preparedness Expo, to be held at the Warrandyte Fire Station in Harris Gully Road on Saturday, October 17.

"If residents want the latest information and fire safety products, we urge them to attend the expo, any time between 10am and 5pm," Captain Murphy said.

The expo will feature a number of fire information sessions and trade stands (some offering discounts on products purchased or ordered on the day). Local police and representatives of the CFA, DSE and council will be in attendance.

There will be a number of supervised children's activities, allowing parents to attend information sessions and examine trade displays at their leisure.

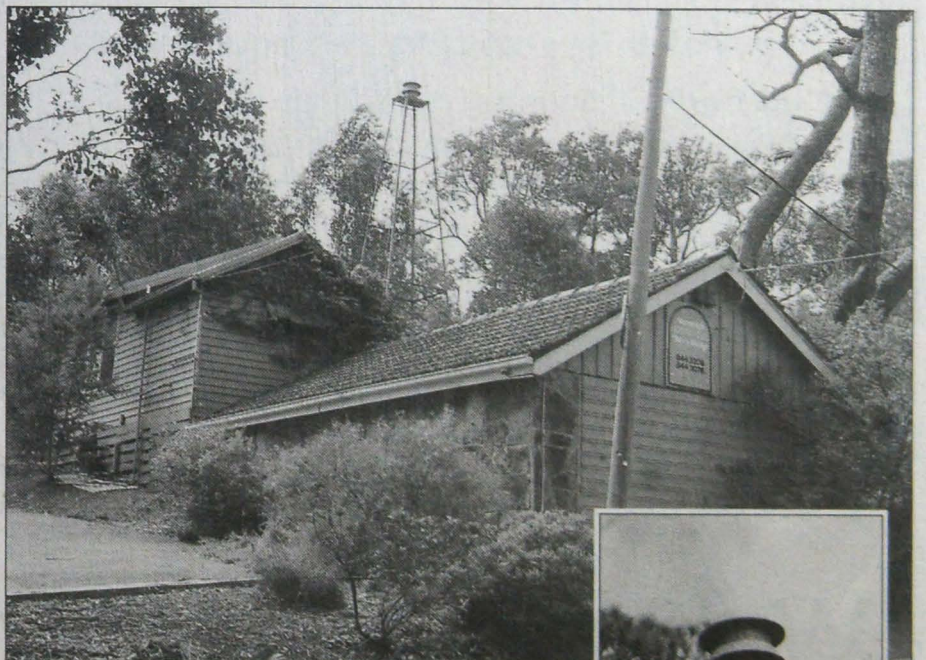
The Warrandyte CFA brigades are urging residents to begin—if they haven't already—their annual bushfire season preparation.

"Remember—the best protection is prevention," Captain Murphy said.

## Fire safety checklist

- Reduce fuel around the home—long grass, leaves, bark and twigs should be removed.
- Gutters should be cleaned.
- Move firewood away from the walls of your home.
- Cover vents and crevices with fine wire to prevent sparks and embers entering.
- Make sure under the home is clear of combustible material.
- Ensure access to adequate static water supplies.

- Check and have your fire-fighting equipment serviced.
- Most importantly—make sure you have a practical bushfire plan in place. Consider who will be home and when. More than one plan may be needed to account for difference scenarios.



Warrandyte's old CFA station in Mitchell Avenue, now the WAA potters' studio. Inset: The original siren, still operational. (Pictures by Sandy Burgoyne)

The Warrandyte CFA station in Harris Gully Road will host a Bushfire Safety Expo on Saturday, October 17. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

# BUSHFIRE

## SAFETY EXPO 2009



The Bushfire Safety and Survival Expo will provide residents in high fire risk areas access to equipment, services and information that will help them prepare for the coming fire season.

- CFA Fire Ready sessions at 11am and 1.30pm. Advice for your bushfire survival plan.
- Water tanks and water saving products.
- Firefighting pumps, hoses and hand tools.
- Local Council, Dept Sustainability and Environment, Parks Victoria and Victoria Police.
- Fire extinguishers, fire blankets and smoke alarms.
- Building code information and advice between 12pm–2pm.
- Bushfire window shutters, radiant heat glazing, gutter protection.
- Sprinkler systems for bushfire protection.
- Personal safety clothing and equipment.
- Children's activities including: badgemaking, colouring competition, Captain Koala and kids' helicopter.
- Wildlife rescue information and advice.
- Sausage sizzle and much more...



**Saturday, October 17, 2009: 10am to 5pm**

## Warrandyte Fire Station

Cnr Harris Gully Road & Yarra Street, Warrandyte (Melway 35:C2)



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Warrandyte Reserve  
September 12 & 13, 2009

Pictures by **STEPHEN REYNOLDS**



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On the scene: CFA attends the accident on Everard Drive last month. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

## Quick response to accident

I would like to congratulate the CFA as to how quickly they responded to my call, arising from the accident in Everard Drive on September 14. The time from dialling 000 to when I heard the fire siren must have only been two or three minutes.

Within a few more minutes we waved the first fire truck

down, with two more trucks following soon after, then police and an ambulance.

The work our volunteer crews do is challenging and must be traumatic.

It was a very sad morning and my heart goes out to the family and friends of the poor fellow involved in the accident.

Hopefully, drivers will think twice about the speed they travel along Everard Drive. I do think it should be signed as 40kph and some speed deterrents put in place, as speed is a great problem on our road.

Heather Jameson  
 Everard Drive

Julie Keating  
 by email

## In defence of our canine cobblers



**CLYDE & OCKER**

"Animals are taking over this newspaper, Ock. Last month it was goats, this month it's dogs!"

The issue raised in the August edition of the *Diary* regarding dog poo left on the small oval at Warrandyte Reserve deserves some comment and follow-up.

It is pleasing that the writer of the letter considers dog owners who use the River Walk to be worthy of praise for being responsible in cleaning up after their dogs. I think there is still quite a long way to go in this regard, but the message does seem to be getting through to the majority of dog owners. The worst time for dog poo not being picked up seems to be over the weekends. Does this imply that visitors to our beautiful River Walk are not as responsible as locals? Perhaps so.

Education of dog owners is vital. It is no longer acceptable, as used to be the case many years ago, for dog owners not to pick up after their dogs. Gradually dog owners are becoming more responsible, and the power

of responsible owners to influence those less so, should not be underestimated. It's amazing how often, "Would you like a bag?" has the desired effect, when the dog owner's ignorance of their canine's pile of poo is on display!

Friends of Manningham Dogs and Cats (FOMDAC) has been conducting membership drives at a number of Manningham's off-leash reserves, including the River Walk, over recent months. Up until its annual general meeting FOMDAC membership is free to anyone who wants to support responsible pet ownership. You do not have to be a resident of Manningham—we welcome anyone who agrees with FOMDAC's aims.

The AGM is to be held on October 16 at the Manningham council offices. FOMDAC's president, Dr Ted Donelan—a veterinarian from Doncaster, will be speaking on his work with

locals and their animals in the remote Maningrida community in Arnhem Land. This will be a fascinating talk for all—not just pet owners. Everyone is welcome. Please see further details on our website: [www.fomdac.org.au](http://www.fomdac.org.au).

Doreen Burge  
 Vice-president FOMDAC

## Mud at market

Could I make a suggestion to the person who organises the Warrandyte Market stalls? Please have a load of woodchips spread on the track past the stalls furthest from the river. It has been dangerous and very unpleasant walking around those back stalls on the last two market days.

Heather Jameson  
 Everard Drive

## Our Warrandyte Senior Citizens state their case

On behalf of the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club we wish to reply to the negative paragraph in the report entitled "Reserve judgement" in the August *Diary*.

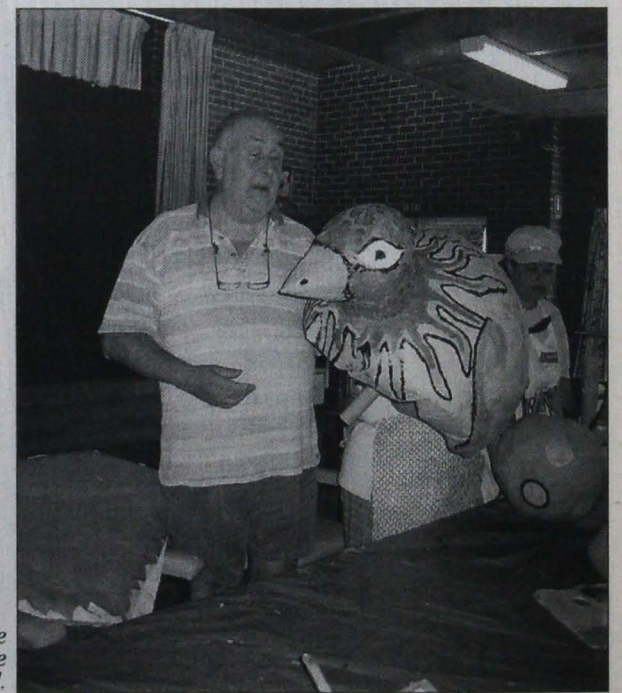
Warrandyte Seniors are a very active social group with many activities catering to many varied and different interests. These include 55-plus, a group that entertains with concerts, drawing audiences up to 100. Activities include carpet bowls and pool. An Artlinks mural, tracing Warrandyte history, is on display outside our hall.

Thursday is Club Day. This includes morning tea, gentle exercises and a visit from

a hairdresser. Regular outings are planned throughout the year, including movies, lunches and visiting and inviting other Senior groups to join us. The largest events held are our annual Easter and Christmas lunches—plus the council lunch. New members are always welcome and we invite the community to visit us and experience our friendly club atmosphere.

Margaret Termorshuizen  
 President, Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club

Last year, Seniors made 'monsters' for the Warrandyte Festival.





# Horse trail debate

By **KARLY HICKMAN**

A proposed off-road horse trail along Gold Memorial Road has become a contentious issue following objections from the Andersons Creek Catchment Area Landcare Group (ACCA).

In a letter to Manningham council, president of the Landcare Group, Robyn Gillespie, stated that the trail would be in breach of the council's Andersons Creek Corridor Plan and would go through areas that have been re-vegetated by ACCA.

"The plan for Andersons Creek is to increase biodiversity along the creek side, improve flora and fauna and enhance the water in the creek," Ms Gillespie told the *Diary*.

ACCA argue that building a horse trail would contribute to the weed problem because horses would leave weed-infested droppings behind. They assert that the trail would threaten the health of the waterway as horses would churn up the ground and cause erosion.

They also state that an off-road trail would threaten the future of native animals living in the Andersons Creek valley. Some of the trail would go through areas that have been re-vegetated by ACCA.

"The group has spent \$26,450 and 780 hours working to protect and enhance the flora and fauna within the Andersons Creek valley, in particular the horse trail area," Ms Gillespie said.

In their letter to the council, the ACCA has proposed that rather than building the trail through the re-vegetated area, the speed limit on Gold Memorial Road be reduced to 30kph.

"Not only would this benefit horse riders, it would be safer for all users as well as wildlife as many are killed or maimed on the road," Ms Gillespie said. Wildlife such as wallabies, snakes echidnas, lizards and birds are often found injured



Horse riders fear accidents along Gold Memorial Road. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

along Gold Memorial Road, stating that it would encourage people to use the area more. "It would make it safer for not only horse riders, but dog walkers, bushwalkers and joggers."

"Horse riders are so restricted as to where they can ride these days, so we need to make it accessible for them to get to places they are allowed to ride, like the State Park or the horse trail along Harris Gully Road," Ms Leek said.

Ms Leek said that Manningham council makes it difficult to obtain permits for building arenas, so existing arenas such as those at Wyena Pony Club should be utilised and made accessible to horse riders via safe trails.

A 30kph speed limit would be in keeping with current recommended speed signs at both ends of Gold Memorial Road, but the ACCA says this speed limit would need to be enforced and slowing devices such as speed humps and chicanes would need to be installed.

"We acknowledge that this is not a proposal that would work without community and police support," Ms Gillespie said.

Jodie Leek agreed that there would need to be a better solution than just speed signs. "I don't think drivers will slow down at all."

Ms Leek suggested that if the dedicated off-road horse trail plan was scrapped, the installation of barriers along the cliff sections and mirrors around sharp corners would make the road slightly safer.

"A horse riding trail along Gold Memorial Road would support the trail that is being constructed along Warrandyte-Ringwood Road, making an excellent trail network that would attract horse riders to the area," Ms Leek said.

ACCA have yet to receive a response from council on their objection.

or dead on the road, including a Wedgetailed Eagle that was discovered injured this year.

Warrandyte horse rider and equine massage therapist Jodie Leek grew up riding along Gold Memorial Road. "These days, it's a death trap even driving along there. When you're riding, it makes you cringe when you hear a car coming and know it's probably going too fast and can't see you."

Ms Leek supports an off-road horse trail

# Mass returns to town



Back at Warrandyte: parish priest Fr Eugene San (left) and his assistant Fr Leenus.

After more than three years without regular Sunday services, parishioners of the Catholic parish of St Gerard and St Anne are able to celebrate mass regularly again at St Gerard's Church in McCulloch Street, Warrandyte.

"This is a new beginning for a community with a long history in Warrandyte, beginning in 1898 when the first mass in Warrandyte was celebrated in the home of James Sloan," parish pastoral worker Lorraine McCarthy told the *Diary*.

In recent years, due to a lack of priests, Sunday mass was no longer celebrated regularly at St Gerard's.

"The church has still been well used for weddings, funerals, prayer groups, and religious education classes for local children, Ms McCarthy said. "However, parishioners have been anxious that Sunday celebrations resume."

In February, Fr Eugene San was appointed to the combined parishes of Park Orchards/Warrandyte and North

Ringwood. He was recently joined by Fr Leenus. Sunday mass will now be celebrated at St Gerard's on the second Sunday of each month at 5pm.

"The mass has a family/youth focus, with live music and with the active participation of younger people encouraged," Ms McCarthy said.

The first of the reinstated masses was held in June and was attended by more than 130 people. "Attendances since then have been very encouraging," she said.

Masses for the remainder of the year will be held on October 11, November 8 (followed by a blessing of the graves of family members in Andersons Creek cemetery) and December 13.

● Fr Eugene, Fr Leenus and Lorraine McCarthy are keen to welcome anyone who wishes to connect or reconnect with their local Catholic community. They can be reached on 9876 1509.

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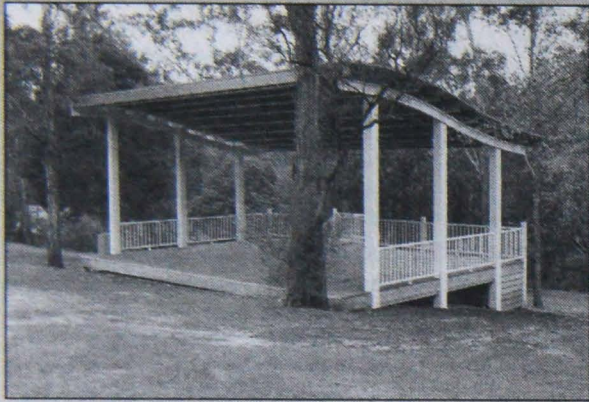
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## CYRIL

By **PAUL WILLIAMS**



# A new stage for Stiggants



Welcome to our new open-air stage at Stiggants Reserve, built by Manningham council at a cost of \$116,000. The steel and timber construction replaces a rustic-style stage



built by volunteers from the now defunct Warrandyte Apex Club in the mid-1980s. Roll on Carols by Candlelight and the Warrandyte Festival! (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne).

# Sheds, tools go out to fire crisis areas

Warrandyte Lions are still working on the frontline of bushfire relief in the devastated areas.

Following their risky work delivering essential aid through the smoke-filled days immediately following Black Saturday, and their hands-on fence building at Strathewen in July, Warrandyte Lions brought 12 garden sheds, plus a wide range of tools, to the devastated areas of Buxton, Narbethong and Marysville last month.

"The club decided that the best way to help these people, who lost everything, was to supply a shed with selected tools needed for rebuilding homes, farms and re-establishing gardens," club spokesman Dieter Retz told the *Diary*.

"It is hard to comprehend that these people did not even have a hammer or a wheelbarrow left," Warrandyte Lions president Pete

Moloney said.

In a letter of appreciation, Marysville resident Kay Menzies wrote: "We received a most wonderful gift from you Warrandyte Lions. The shed and the tools to go in it will assist us in getting our lives back on track as we rebuild Marysville."

Conceived by members of the Warrandyte club, and supported by Park Orchards, Healesville and Whittlesea clubs, the Lions District Disaster Trust donated \$34,000 to cover the cost of 60 sheds and a large range of tools.

"More sheds and tools will be delivered to fire-affected Latrobe Valley, Flowerdale and Kinglake West," Mr Retz said. "The Lions disaster trust has now granted a further \$40,000 to extend the program."

Further information from Pete Moloney on 9844 2249 or 0409 182 375.



Water watch: Chris Heislars (left), Greg Barber, David Ellis, Laurie Levy and Jeremy Loftus-Hills at the water forum.

## On yer bikes!

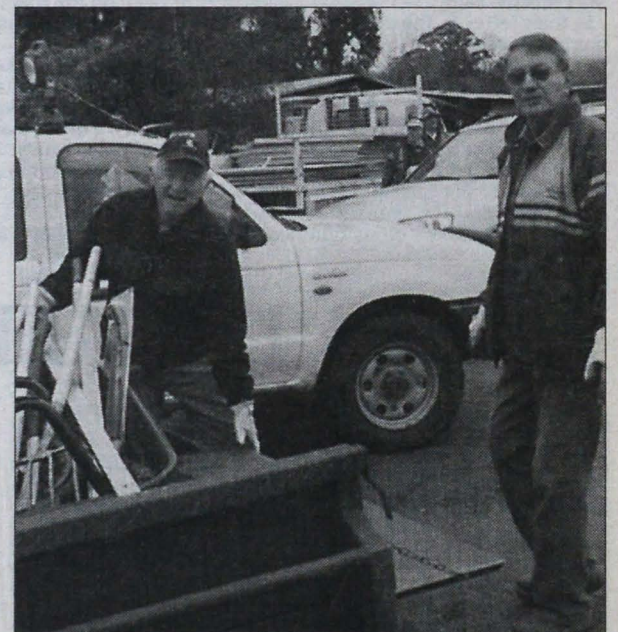
What's going on? Warrandyte police are reporting a rash of abandoned bikes, found discarded around the town, left at the police station and as yet unclaimed.

"The bikes are all mountain bikes and have been located in the past three months," Leading Senior Constable Dan Sonderhof told the *Diary*. "They all appear to be in reasonable condition, and most probably have owners."

All these bikes are clogging up the limited storage space at the police station.

"Anyone missing a bike should contact Warrandyte police station," Senior Sonderhof said.

The station is situated (appropriately enough) in Police Street, formerly the river end of Forbes Street. Phone 9844 3231.



Tooled up: Warrandyte Lion Brian Wales (right) helps deliver a wheelbarrow and other tools to a bushfire-devastated area.

## Weighty words on water

A DVD documentary entitled "Fresh Water Solutions", created by local filmmaker and *Diary* writer Jeremy Loftus-Hills, was a feature of a forum on water at the Warrandyte Community Centre late last month.

The evening, attended by about 40 people and hosted by Greens branch convenor Fiona Mackenzie, heard three speakers address the environmental impacts of water shortage.

They were well-known campaigners for bird-life, Laurie Levy, Yarra Riverkeeper Ian Penrose and Tim Curmi of Native Fish Australia.

They were followed by a discussion of current government water policy, led by Greens MP Greg Barber, Neil Rankine of Watershed Victoria and Warrandyte vet Chris Heislars, a spokesman in opposition to the planned Gippsland desalination plant.

Dr Heislars said there are "saner and far less costly water solutions," than desalination.

"We currently lose over 600 billion litres annually in storm water and waste water," he said. "This could be reclaimed at a fraction of the cost, with minimal carbon pollution and without the environmental damage of a \$3.7 billion desalination plant."

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# Kinder kids enjoy their new garden

Words and pictures by SANDY BURGOYNE

The children at North Warrandyte's Yarra Warra preschool have a new garden space to play in.

Landscape designer Julie King planned the project and a posse of parents installed it over two weekends.

"There are two distinct areas of the garden. We tried to go native, some are indigenous natives ... and we tried to get different textures and some flowering and different textural experiences," she told the *Diary*.

"We have got some ferns there and then the grass tree for the beautiful textural trunk."

The garden has rocks, a circuit of paths, a bridge over a small stream, enclosed spaces and dinosaur footprints.

"It is a bit Jurassic there, because in 3-year-old and 4-year-old they study dinosaurs," Ms King said.

The parents brought equipment and many skills to the garden working bees.

"One dad took control of the bridge and went and got all the timber for that. And another dad did the enclosure with the brush fencing. We had a kind father who had a bobcat and he came in and did the path and placed the rocks," Ms King said.

The garden has been designed to encourage children's play and creativity.

"If we drape pink material and add a few little gems we create fairyland," Connie Sholty, teacher of the four-year-olds said.

"It has endless opportunities. It is a private area. It is a meeting place, maybe to get a bit dirty and dig a bit, but also to have water so that you have got sound and you have got time to reflect. It is a quiet area.

"What a great community.

(This garden) is for the future of the children living in this area. That's really important to me," she said.

The pre-school's committee has added a new feature each year since the centre was rebuilt five years ago. These include a scent garden and landscaping around the sandpit.

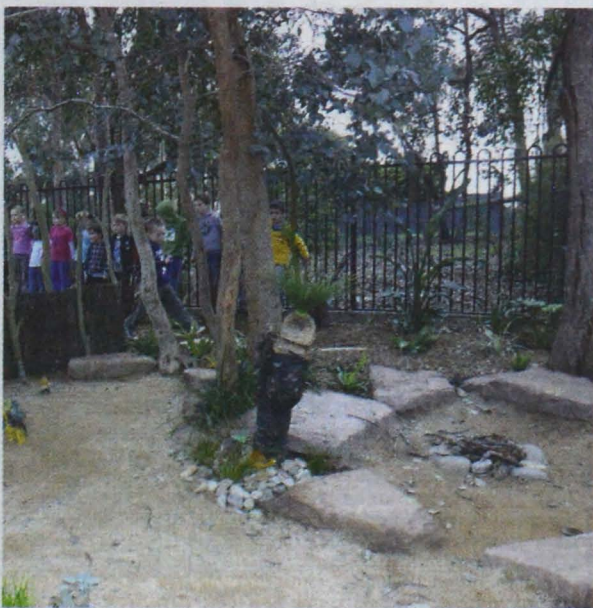
The parents and children of Yarra Warra have a lot to be proud of with the new garden, but they still have time to remember a pre-school that has suffered recent loss. Immediately after the Black Saturday fires the committee pledged to raise \$4000 for the Kinglake pre-school, which was totally burnt out.

The committee raised \$2000 by holding an art gallery, a face-painting event and a barbecue. The Doncaster Rotary Club matched the amount to make up the promised donation.

"Now we are buying specific things for the Kinglake (pre-school). We've asked them and they've given us (a list) of requested items and they are outdoor things — tricycles and other things.

"When you think that we are a non-profit organisation, but that's the calibre of our community. Kindergartens don't rely on a lot of money and yet parents are still happy to dig deep and help another kindergarten out," Connie Sholty said.

● Yarra Warra is in the unusual position of having vacancies in 2010 for the three-year-old program. Parents who are interested in starting their child at the pre-school (184 Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte) next year should contact the enrolment officer, Jon Cooke on 9844 3306, or 0407 531 312.





# CARTER



**AUCTION**  
this Saturday

### Simply Sensational

As bright as the morning sunlight is this north facing vertical timber home situated on a 2019 square metre (half acre approx.) corner allotment with a fabulous view. Step inside via the attractive entrance foyer to large lounge/dining room with stone feature wall, leadlight highlight windows & door to fantastic covered timber verandas, an ideal place for those morning or evening meals. There is a galley style kitchen, three bedrooms-master with en-suite, walk in wardrobe and separate toilet, 2nd bathroom, polished floors throughout, split system air-conditioner & ducted heating. Large storage area under the home, a great workshop and a large area with timber seats as well. PLUS separate studio with its own bathroom, split system air-conditioner and timber deck. Also included is a double carport. Only a short walk from the Warrandyte Tunnel with the Yarra River gliding slowly by and a short drive to the West End shopping centre, the football ground and tennis courts. All in all, a property you should inspect now, this could very well be your next home.

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This spacious individually designed home offers an attractive entrance foyer, lounge room with open-fire place, modern galley style kitchen adjacent to a large family/dining room. There are 4 bedrooms plus a study, master bedroom with en-suite and walk in robe adjacent to which is a parents retreat and wet bar, second bathroom and 3 toilets. There is ducted heating and a ducted vacuum system, two air-conditioners, plenty of storage cupboards, two timber decks, a cubby house, a double carport and plenty of space for other cars or a caravan and trailer as well. All this on approximately 954sqm only a short drive from the centre of the Warrandyte Village. Inspect to appreciate the size and privacy offered for each individual member of the family inside this home.

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### Windsong

Imagine waking to the cry of cockatoos and currawongs as you gaze across a green valley, where the morning mist hangs suspended over the Yarra River as it winds its way to the city, which is just visible on the horizon. From the southern side of this special home, you can see kangaroos grazing on Pound Bend and, if you watch carefully, you might see an echidna, koala or lyrebird as they pay a visit to the secluded back garden. Step inside and find an attractive entrance foyer, lounge/dining room with feature fire place with wood heater, galley style kitchen adjacent to family/meals area and door to large timber deck. There are 3 bedrooms plus a study (or fourth bedroom), master with en-suite, second bathroom, large storage area under the house and a completely separate studio/games room. The property has ducted gas heating and sits on an acre on the corner of a quiet court, within a short stroll of the Warrandyte Village.

**194 RESEARCH WARRANDYTE RD,**  
**WARRANDYTE NORTH**  
**FOR SALE \$680,000 to \$710,000**  
**OPEN SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2009**  
 2-2.30pm  
**CONTACT Glenn Martin 0427 852 806**



### In a Picturesque Peaceful Setting

Here is your chance to own a valuable piece of Warrandyte gold that backs onto the "Yarra River" which flows slowly by. Step inside and discover this delightful family home which offers 5 bedrooms (2 with en-suites), split level lounge room with open fire place, separate dining area, modern kitchen/meals area, separate family room both of which have windows that overlook the magnificent rear yard with its brick paved BBQ area which is an ideal area to sit back, relax and enjoy watching the kids play in this picturesque paradise. Included is a third bathroom, ducted heating, laundry, covered patio and a double garage. Also included are some stained glass windows, four water tanks and a shed as well. There is a superb circular drive way, with plenty of room to park a number of cars, caravan, trailer or truck if required. All this on just over 1 acre (4886m<sup>2</sup>). This is a property you will be proud to call your own, come and see for yourself, you won't be disappointed.

**43 BRADLEYS LANE, WARRANDYTE NORTH**  
**FOR SALE \$795,000 to \$845,000**  
**OPEN SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 2009**  
 2-2.30pm  
**CONTACT Glenn Martin 0427 852 806**



### Relaxed Rural Living Environment

Situated at the end of a quiet court, with a fantastic view over the Yarra Valley towards Mt Dandenong. Certainly a place to sit back and look at the stars & if that doesn't lift your spirits, nothing will. This stylish brick & stone home has wide slate paved verandas all around. Slate floors & high timber ceilings throughout the home. 3 bedrooms plus study (or 4th bedroom), master with en-suite, 2nd bathroom, large lounge/dining room with feature open fire place, modern timber kitchen with wall oven, hot plates, dishwasher & range-hood adjacent to large family room with wood-fire heater and small sitting area. There is a single carport, 4 car steel garage, a dam, water tank (100,000 litre). All this on 14.8 acres (6.002 hectares) of bushland. Inspections strictly by appointment only. Call today and make a time to see what may well be your next home.

**65 YEOMANS ROAD, KANGAROO GROUND**  
**FOR SALE \$880,000 to \$960,000**  
**INSPECTIONS by appointment only**  
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9870 6211  
 9844 1200

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Saturday 7 November 2009

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



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 tel: 9724 1179 email: registrar@billanook.vic.edu.au  
 web www.billanook.com.au

**Billanook College**  
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**warrandyte north (sms: REN649)**  
**suit \$480k plus buyers**

Situated on a near 1/2 acre in a leafy relaxed setting, this 4BR brick family home offers 3 living areas and would suit owner occupiers or investors alike! Features open plan lounge/dining with pol boards. Kitchen/meals. Separate rumpus. Double garage, workshop plus sheds. Walk to Yarra River and transport, and only minutes to the Warrandyte township.

private sale



**warrandyte north (sms: REN653)**  
**suit \$320k plus buyers**

Do you have dreams of building a gorgeous new home but just can't quite find the right location? Look no further than this fabulous 1.8 acre (approx) vacant allotment, situated within walking distance of the Yarra River, transport and only minutes from the Warrandyte township's shops and cafes. Includes a huge 706sqm building envelope and all services are available (excluding sewerage).

private sale



private sale



**warrandyte (sms: REN652)**  
**suit \$410k plus buyers**

Ideally positioned in the heart of Warrandyte, this immaculately presented 2BR single level home on 397sqm approx offers a low maintenance life-style and is perfect for downsizing, first home buyers or investors alike. Features open plan kitchen, adjacent meals/family living area. Private balcony to enjoy abundant birdlife. Single carport. Only a short stroll to the Yarra river, Warrandyte village shops & cafes, with public transport at your doorstep.

2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1



private sale



**ringwood north (sms: REN651)**  
**suit \$670k plus buyers**

Stunning fully renovated 5BR family home offering 3 living zones and 2 designer outdoor living areas. Highlights include formal lounge opening to a covered paved terrace. Gourmet kitchen with granite benches and professional grade appliances. Open plan family meals/living area. Separate rumpus. Solar heated saltwater IG pool. Double remote garage. Fabulous leafy family location, close to schools including Yarra Valley and Luther College.

5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2



artist's impression

tender closes 5pm tuesday 17 november unless sold prior



**kangaroo ground (sms: REN642)**  
**suit \$750k plus buyers**

Crafted with uncompromising attention to quality & designed to provide the ultimate in family living, this yet to be completed grand 65sq home is situated on 19 acres (approx) & offers stunning views, 5BRs & 5 living areas. Includes open plan kitchen/meals/family opening to a central courtyard with IG pool. Formal lounge & sep formal dining room. Rumpus plus an additional games room. 4 car garage plus ample additional parking. Plans & permits provided to make this dream home a reality.

5 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4



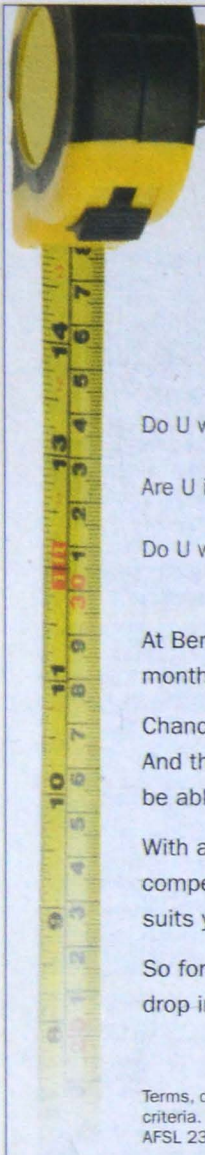
auction 11am saturday 24 october, unless sold prior



**warrandyte (sms: REN644)**  
**suit \$530k plus buyers**

Imagine the lifestyle you and your family will enjoy... Waking up to views of the Yarra River reserve set against a backdrop of the Yarra Ranges. Sunday mornings spent strolling or kayaking along the Yarra River, stopping for brunch at the Warrandyte bakery, or simply entertaining family and friends at home. Situated on more than 1/3 acre this beautifully presented 3 bedroom home + 1 bedroom studio includes period features that hint at its 1940s heritage. Features formal lounge with huge windows to capture vibrant cottage garden views. Separate formal dining room with open fireplace. Open plan kitchen/meals with polished brick flooring and atrium window to bring bush views indoors. 3 bedrooms, main with bay window, ensuite and private balcony. Plus a separate self-contained 1 bedroom studio — ideal as a home office, artist's retreat or B&B (stca). Large deck for outdoor entertaining. Fully fenced terraced rear gardens with meandering secret garden paths for children to play. Double garage. Walk to river, Goldfields plaza, school & transport.

4 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2



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# Scary time at Andersons Creek!

## 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](mailto: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.

Anderson's Creek Primary School is holding a Spookfest Family Twilight Nite on Saturday, November 7 from 5pm onwards at the school in Drysdale Road, Warrandyte. The event includes a giant outdoor family movie feature at 8.30pm. There will be a haunted house, jumping castles, food and drink stalls, games, competitions and a talent quest. Judges will pick the best-dressed spook and the best decorated pumpkin. This is a community event and the school would love to see lots of visitors. If the weather is wet, events will take place in the basketball stadium. Families are invited to bring along their picnic and blanket or enjoy the barbecue and food stalls provided.

## Sale

A monster garage sale will be held at the Warrandyte Uniting Church in Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte on Saturday, October 24 from 9am to 2pm.

## Watch

The next monthly Warrandyte area meeting of Neighbourhood Watch will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre on Tuesday, November 10 commencing at 7.30pm.

## Barbecue

The Warrandyte Festival Committee invites the community to join them at Stiggants Reserve from 12 noon, Sunday, November 15 for a BYO barbecue. Enquiries to John Boyle on 9844 3120.

## Pets

A public lecture will be held as part of the annual general meeting of the Friends of Manningham Dogs and Cats on Friday, October 16 at the Manningham Council Chambers, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster commencing at 7.45pm. Dr Ted Donelan, a veterinarian, will discuss improv-

ing the health and welfare of animals and people in remote communities in the Northern Territory. Everyone invited to attend. RSVP to 9848 4111.

## Birthday

Gum Nut Gully Pre-school in Larnoo Drive, Doncaster East is celebrating its 21st birthday with a family day on Saturday, October 17 from 10am to 2pm. Entry is free with a number of activities to enjoy.

## Writing

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is providing several writing courses this term. Creative writing with Carmel Macdonald Grahame runs on Tuesdays from 7.30 to 9.30pm, workshopping for publication with John Jenkins on Thursdays once a month, poetry for beginners with Jordie Albiston on Fridays from 10am to 12 noon and writing for advanced students on Wednesdays from 4 to 6pm. Call 9844 1839 to enrol.

## Market

The Park Orchards Primary School is holding a Twilight Market on Friday, November 13 from 6.30 to 9pm. This is a fundraiser and the school is calling for 50-50 stallholders to attend on the night. Cost is \$25 per stall. Bookings and enquiries to Sandra on 9876 5554 or email [sandra.peter@bigpond.com](mailto:sandra.peter@bigpond.com).

## Wildflowers

As part of the 2009 Spring Outdoors Festival organised by the Banyule, Manningham and Nillumbik councils, a wildflower walk and talk will be held at the 100 Acres Flora and Fauna Reserve in Park Orchards on Saturday, October 31 from 2 to 4pm, conducted by Dr Graeme Lorimer. Bookings are essential on 9840 9348.

## Swimming

A "Swimming for Life" program is to be held at the Doncaster Aquarena in Williamsons Road, Doncaster during November. It will be run by the Doncaster Dolphins and is available to adults over 21 who can swim at least 100 metres continuously. It will take place on Sundays, November 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 9 to 10am. Further details and a registration form from [alan.gibson@cua.com.au](mailto:alan.gibson@cua.com.au) or call 0419 161 439.



Ghouls and ghosts galore: The kids at Andersons Creek Primary School are scaring themselves half to death in preparation for their Spookfest Nite on Saturday, November 7 commencing at 5pm. Join them if you dare!

## Rockin'

Li'l Fi, Bobby Bright and Big Boy Lemonade will be performing a rollicking, raunchy, rockin' night at the Earth Harmony Centre on Sunday, November 1 at 8pm. at 246-250 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Bookings are essential. Prepay the \$20 or pay on the night. Call 9844 5155.

## Turtles

The next Manningham City Council Environment Seminar will be held at the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road, South Warrandyte on Wednesday, November 4. Robert Bender will discuss Hawksbill Turtles of the far-north Barrier Reef. The seminar is free and begins at 7.30pm

## Environment

Upcoming Nillumbik environment events include Managing a Bush Block for Biodiversity and Bushfire Prevention on

Saturday October 17 and the Sugar Glider Experience, an evening walk on Wednesday, October 21. To book for either event call Georgia Ramsay on 9433 3210.

## Talkback

Nillumbik Shire Council is inviting residents to become Talkback members. Talkback aims to provide feedback on community interests by setting up a panel of local residents or people who work in Nillumbik who can be surveyed from time to time in their areas of interest. Further information from Dimitra Bitsas on 9433 3188 or [talkback@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:talkback@nillumbik.vic.gov.au).

## Do Care

Do Care are seeking volunteers to spend a couple of hours each week helping old or disabled people in the local community. Call 9762 5211 if you are interested.

## Newsletters

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

## 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](mailto:warrandytediary@aapt.net.au).

**artyfacts**

**Explore**

"Fire and Fibre Alternatives" is the title of an exhibition being held at the Stonehouse Gallery from October 15 to 30. It will showcase the exploration of both clay and fibres including paper, basketry, and different clay techniques. The gallery is at 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte and is open daily.

son and can be booked by calling 9840 9367.

**Ceramics**

This month Manningham Gallery will host a commemorative National Award and Exhibition to celebrate Ceramic Victoria's 40th year. This exhibition was postponed from its scheduled time in September due to a fire at the council offices. The exhibition will run from October 14 to 31. The gallery, at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, is open Tuesday to Friday, 11am to 5pm and Saturday, 2 to 5pm.

**Exhibition**

Manningham Gallery have brought together four artists with their "John and Betty" exhibition, taking us on a nostalgic journey through the old John and Betty readers used in Victorian schools in the 1950s and 1960s. The works will include embroidery, wood sculptures, ceramics and paintings. The exhibition will run from November 4 to November 21 at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster.

**Arts**

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

**Studios**

Manningham Council will present a Manningham Artists Studio tour on Saturday, November 7 from 11am to 4pm. This bus tour, departing from the Manningham Gallery, will visit the home studios of six well-known artists. Cost is \$15 per per-

## COREY'S COMMUNITY

By SYD & ONA



"The Diary's the best newspaper published in Warrandyte, Ock!"

"It's the only newspaper published in Warrandyte, Clyde!"

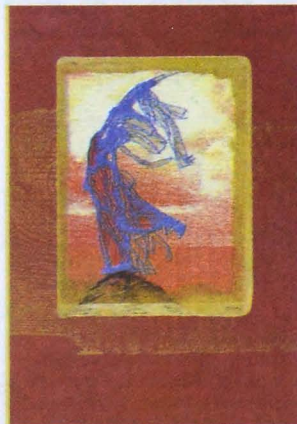
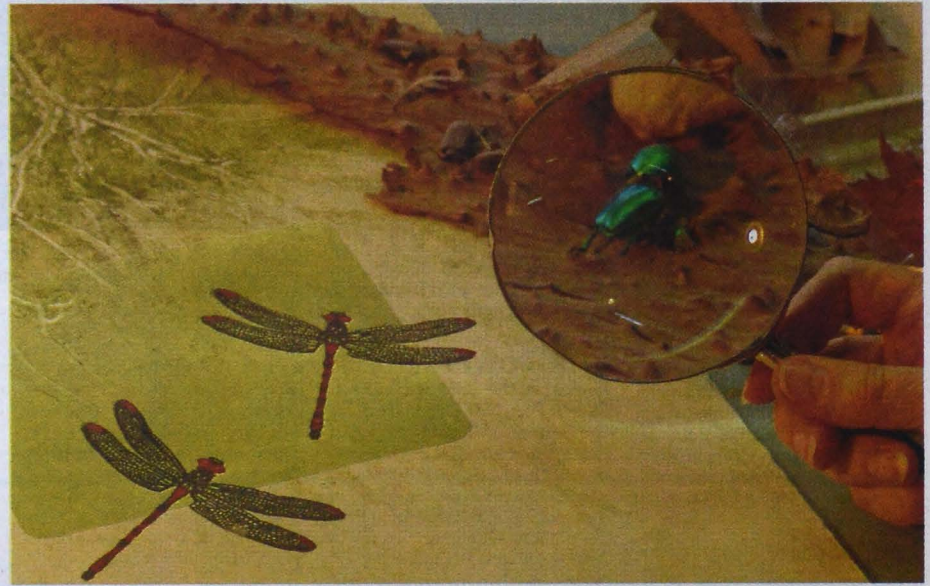
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# They share life, love and laughs

Ona Henderson and Syd Tunn, painters and printmakers, work from a large, rambling studio in the Bend of Islands, Kangaroo Ground where they create the long-time *Diary* cartoon, "Corey's Community". They coordinated the Nillumbik Open Studio Program from 1988 until 2005. Ona's interpretations often have a dreamlike feel. Syd takes humour seriously: still life with a whimsical twist, quirky animal and bird studies.



This is the fourth in an occasional picture series on local artists by *Diary* photographer STEPHEN REYNOLDS.





Warren Gore and family, North Warrandyte locals, were in Paris the last time the Diary heard from them.

# Words across the world

The online *Diary* travels around the world each month to more than 160 eager readers. We alert them when the latest issue is up on the internet. Online editor SANDY BURGOYNE asked them for their comments on why and where they read the cyber version of our newspaper. Here are a few of the responses we received...

## The travellers

Warren and his family were in France last we heard from him. "We are visiting the war beaches and finding the graves of fallen relatives who gave everything all those years ago."

"I have just sat down and caught up with the *Diary* news. As we won't be back until near on fire season, it has been good to read the stories and progress for the troubling season ahead," he wrote. "He has a novel way to surf the internet."

"We decided to take our laptop with us, as we are on the go all the time ... We worked out that if there is a McDonalds in the town, we call in for a snack and check our email on their free Wi-Fi access. Needless to say the kids reckon it's a great idea!"

Rod Valentine is on an odyssey of his own, but somewhat closer to home in a converted bus called *Burnin' Daylight*.

"I have been travelling and working my way around Australia since 2004. I am living in my self-contained bus and I'm currently situated in Brisbane. I previously used internet cafés and libraries to keep in email contact, but now I use my own laptop," he wrote.

"I've only travelled along the east coast from Melbourne to Cairns, and back down to Brisbane, so I have a fair way to go."

"I take particular interest in the match results of the WFC Senior and Reserves footy teams ... I also take an interest in the *Diary* stories relating to the schools. In the past I enjoyed reading Smokey Joe, and I look forward to reading the festival edition of the *Diary* each year," he wrote.

## OS readers

Stuart Altus of Philadelphia rang from the USA to tell us his interest in the *Diary*. His godchildren Horatio and Anna live in Warrandyte and he visits occasionally. He first met the family when the

parents were working in the USA. "I want to know everything that goes on there. I could read *The Age* and get the flavour for what's going on everywhere else, but the *Diary*'s like a real fun sort of an affair for me," he said.

"It is just so important that when we don't live nearby that we are connected to the community. A community newspaper like this is very important."

"Sometimes I want to know what's going on at the schools, sometimes I want to know what's going on in the real estate. Sometimes I want to know what the feel of the land is and the events that are going on," he said.

James Bell has never visited Warrandyte. He is retired and lives in Sheffield in the UK.

"My three grandchildren live in Warrandyte and go to school there. I follow all the events and happenings as reported in the *Diary* with great interest. My grandchildren are achievers and have been mentioned from time-to-time in the *Diary* and I have seen their photos when they have been involved with a community event."

"As a former councillor in a small west country town I am interested in how the council deals with matters affecting Warrandyte. The same personalities and characters are still around raising the same objections!" he wrote.

## The locals

Elaine lives in North Warrandyte. "We're fairly new to Warrandyte and to the *Diary*."

"I choose to view the online *Diary* for easier access and to be kept up-to-date as to what's going on in my community. The wonderful thing about living in Warrandyte is the sense of community and the friendliness of the residents and I feel that the *Diary* reflects that and is specific to me and my surrounds."

"It keeps me informed about what's happening and alerts me to

things I may otherwise miss," she wrote. Leon finds the online version convenient.

"I live in Warrandyte with my mum, but travel to Richmond to stay with my dad every so often. The online *Warrandyte Diary* keeps me informed on what's happening in and around Warrandyte."

"I also find it great when we go away on holidays," he wrote.

## The 'dispersal'

Bob Street grew up in Warrandyte and lived in "Yarra Lodge" on Yarra Street. He left in 1968 and visits occasionally.

"I travelled and worked around Australia and finally ended up retiring in Mount Isa, Queensland. I've always had an interest in the town (and read) the current news stories and most other articles," he wrote.

Ros Chandler and her family moved from North Warrandyte to Singapore for two years and are still there 11 years later!

"Our thoughts were with you all on February 7 — that fire came too close for comfort. Next summer is obviously going to be a challenge."

"We enjoy getting the news from home in the *Warrandyte Diary*. Many of the people mentioned we know and we especially look for community or sporting news that involves them and their families," she wrote to the *Diary*.

Russell Ellis lived in Bradleys Lane in the 1960s and early 1970s. He now lives in Cairns, Queensland.

"We had a company transfer to New Zealand (that was) supposed to be three to six years. We stayed there for 27 years in total."

"We were receiving a hard copy for a while. However I decided that an (internet) version made it simpler for all," he wrote.

A great deal of work goes into providing the online version of the *Diary*, but the cheerful comments we received from our cyber readers make it worthwhile.

## How we send your newspaper through space

**T**HE *Diary* came early to the cyber waves — in July 1997 with Eric Sandblom as designer and webmaster. The *Age* beat us by two and half years and Wikipedia came along in 2001.

The website carried a dozen or so selected stories and Smokey Joe's In Red and White column. That incarnation of the cyber *Diary* ceased at the end of 1997 when Eric moved to the NSW coast.

The current webmaster, Sandy Burgoyne, uploaded a redesigned website in July 1998. In this version all *Diary* material is included, except for Out of the Box (coming events) and Dear *Diary* (letters to the editor). The webmaster's aim is to present a quick-loading, readable site with logical navigation. Several minor redesigns have been made over the years to enhance these qualities.

The *Diary* is hosted on Vicnet, a remarkable initiative of the State Library of Victoria, which makes web space available to community groups for no charge. However,

it indirectly places limitations on the *Diary*—our URL remains a sub-domain of Vicnet ([www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandyte](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandyte)) and we must stay within a modest space allocation. This is one of the reasons we limit the online version to the current and the immediately previous month. The Vicnet web servers have been reliable, with few interruptions to service over the years.

The online *Diary* is easy to find. Simply type "warrandyte diary" into any of the major search engines and we will be at the top of the listing. Some online readers use this method to routinely find us and never bookmark the site. The cyber *Diary* now attracts about 300 hits per week.

The community links page is popular and many residents use it to locate the websites of other community and sporting groups. The webmaster maintains a mailing list of readers who want to be informed when the latest issue is available online. Interested readers can subscribe to this service via our website.



This converted bus is home (temporary, he assures us) for Warrandyte footy fan Rod Valentine.

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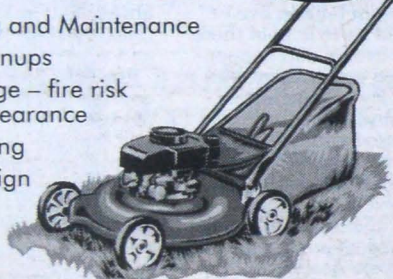
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# Sing a song of gender in solitary confinement

**B**UT surely you must know their names by now! I can't believe that you see them every Monday night and sometimes at other times during the week but still you don't know who you sing with." As Herself continued with her predictable, "female speech of frustration", my mind processed this proffered information in what I can only assume is a normal male mode.

"I don't need to know all their names and anyway it's too difficult." Well if I had the courage or more importantly the time for an in-depth exposition on the need for interpersonal relationships and how it is important to foster interactive communication, I would have spoken this out loud but I didn't. Instead, I just smiled and had "man thoughts".

I have been singing with a local male four-part a capella harmony chorus for the past 18 months. Rehearsals are from seven to ten every Monday evening. We usually wear name tags so we do learn some names by osmosis, especially the names of those closest to us on the risers. If you too are like Herself, you might even think it would be easy to learn the names of the other 50 or so guys but somehow, that doesn't seem to happen. In fact, it seems that chorus members are perfectly happy to conduct conversations with other chorus members without name tags and without necessarily being



**"I don't need to know all their names and anyway it's too difficult."**  
**I would have spoken this out loud but I didn't.**

sure of the other guy's name. To Herself this is not only unbelievable but just further evidence that males are odd and she goes to extraordinary lengths to assure me that that couldn't or wouldn't happen in a female chorus. No doubt that is true but sometimes events just conspire to make things more difficult than even Herself can imagine.

The first thing to realise is that males are basically solitary animals. We are quite able to go for a day without discovering whether someone's daughter has just become pregnant to an insensitive bastard who doesn't know what a wonderful partner he's got and who needs to take a good hard look at himself or he won't have her for long.

He doesn't need to know how everyone in the workplace is "feeling" nor does he feel the need to worry about anniversaries, significant occasions or birthdates. Instead, he is quite happy to pass the day making the required short business phone calls, parrying jibes with other males at the water cooler and casting wistfully lustful glances at individuals well out of his range. The rest of the time he is quite happy to survive in a form of suspended animation until the scent of food rouses him from dormancy. It's not difficult to understand, therefore, why a male chorus can function as it does.

Our rehearsals are run like a military campaign. We arrive at seven and immediately set about erecting the "risers" on which we sing. This means there is only time for "banter" as we manhandle a marine ply and carpet covered construction. With this done, we straggle to our allocated positions, ready for the warm-up exercises. Now if you haven't spoken to any of the others in any meaningful way to this point then you certainly can't expect to start chatting to someone three places away about your day's doings let alone solve the meaning of life. Instead, you follow the musical director's coaching until nine o'clock at which time we have a break.

Now, no doubt, in a female chorus this might be the time to "bond" in a meaningful way but our break is a time to sit and listen to "chorus busi-

ness" for a few minutes after which we have an allocated three minutes to go to the loo or do whatever can be done in three minutes. Most of us take a few sips of water; pass a few idle thoughts with the next seated colleague before we're up again on the risers until 10 o'clock.

At the end of the night we have to disassemble the risers and put them away by which time most of the name tags have also been put away so they don't get tangled in the "pack-up". Any after-rehearsal discussion is conducted in a friendly but by necessity, name-free fashion. Although we have spent months singing together and hours standing next to each other we don't necessarily know each other's names and there is nothing more embarrassing than having to ask someone his name after all this time.

We're just about to head off for a singing convention and we have been issued with a printed singing position plan. Herself is rapt as now I have been able to match names and faces with places on the risers.

But I know what'll happen. As soon as I learn their names, Herself will expect detailed biographies. But there is a solution. I've discovered on the internet that there are vacancies in choirs in monasteries where the guys have taken a vow of silence—apart from singing the Gregorian chants.

**ROGER KIBELL**

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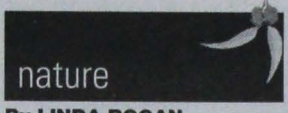
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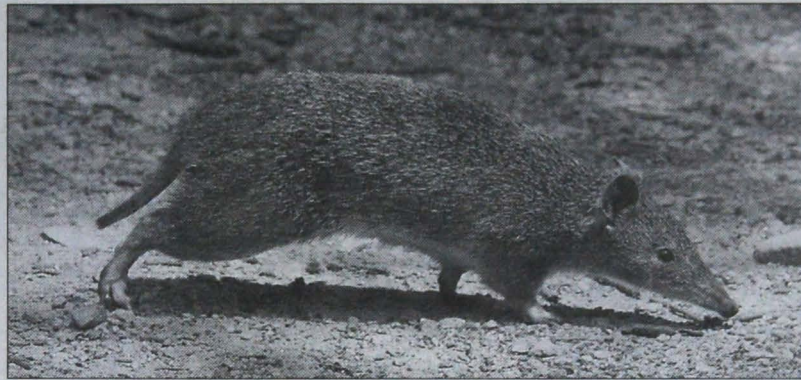
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# Don't ban the Bandicoot



By LINDA ROGAN



Farmer's friend: Southern Brown Bandicoot at Cranbourne. (Picture by Linda Rogan)

**W**E saw a Bandicoot last week, right up close", said my friend, a Warrandyte resident and train driver. "It was fossicking in the Sheoke litter near the parking lot at the Australian Gardens in Cranbourne. We watched while it crunched a millipede or two."

Spotting and photographing a bandicoot is a privilege and thrill. Cranbourne is one of very few places where the Southern Brown Bandicoot is frequently seen in the daytime and can be approached, with care, without disturbing its feeding.

So what are Bandicoots? Small marsupial mammals, they give birth to immature young with strong fore-limbs and three claws on each front foot that help the young crawl into the backward opening pouch. A backward opening is advantageous to digging marsupials including our familiar Wombat. After attaching to a teat, and shedding the claws, the young remain in pouch for nine or ten weeks.

Our Bandicoots have a pointed face and nose and a short tail. Their sharp teeth help them eat a wide range of foods but frequently insects and fungus that they dig out of the soil. Their presence is often indicated by the deep conical diggings they leave.

A close relative is the Bilby, sometimes called the Rabbit-eared Bandicoot.

Bandicoots were once very common and widespread in Victoria, and have been considered by some as pests. I am reminded of Peter Cundall's response to a phone call from a lady (in Tasmania) bemoaning digging by Bandicoot in her vegetable garden. He responded "Oh Madam, you are so lucky to have a Bandicoot....They are such beautiful animals". I can still hear the joy and enthusiasm in his voice. I'm with Peter.

An Information Note from the Depart-

ment of Primary Industries under "Problem Wildlife" indicates that Bandicoots are beneficial to farmers and gardeners as they mostly eat the young of pest insects such as cockchafer beetles. It suggests they be regarded as "natural insecticides" and that we should "be grateful for minor earthworks as evidence of active natural pest control by the bandicoots".

The Southern Brown Bandicoot, as found in Cranbourne, is a creature of the heathlands where it digs in sandy-loam soils. The Cranbourne population seems unusual as Bandicoots are generally known to be nocturnal. This group is frequently found fossicking around the picnic area, perhaps feeding on dropped food as well as their normal diet. The fact that these individuals are habituated to the presence of humans may give a false impression of a large and secure population. However the Southern Brown Bandicoot is regarded as a nationally threatened species and "near threatened" in Victoria.

According to the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation "the region's only secure population occurs at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. This population has limited genetic diversity, making it vulnerable to fire and disease. It is also

becoming isolated from other remnant Bandicoot populations by rapid urban development." The foundation is coordinating a regional recovery program which aims to reconnect this population with the remnant groups scattered between Frankston, Koo Wee Rup and Bunyip. This requires working closely with local property owners to enhance habitat corridors.

Another species found in Victoria is the Long-nosed Bandicoot. It generally prefers the wetter forest areas such as Kinglake, Healesville, Dandenong Ranges area and is also becoming threatened in some areas.

So are there Bandicoots in the Warrandyte area?

There are only a few records of both species in the lower Yarra River area. It is likely they would have occurred in suitable pockets where friable, easily dug soil existed. Such areas would have been amongst the first settled and cleared. Much of the rocky soil around Warrandyte would break a Bandicoot's heart. They may always have been uncommon/rare here. However there has been at least one record of the Long-nosed Bandicoot as close as Bend of Islands.

In any case, we can enjoy Bandicoot watching when visiting the Australian Gardens in Cranbourne.

# Wet tale of a towel misplaced

**C**RIPES, it's only 9.30am and I've had three rivetting thoughts already.

The first one hit like a shock of cold water. I'd happily cruised through my morning swim at the neighbourhood pool, dutifully done the requisite after-stretches then joined the group of retirees who more or less inhabit the spa.

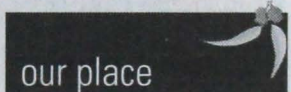
A few minutes of froth and bubble, out into the shower, then—ding! Out of the blue came a startling revelation, one that I could have well done without. No towel! Usually at the pool I'm surrounded by women who've forgotten socks, stockings, undies, hair-dryer, even shoes—but I've yet to come across anybody scatterbrained enough to have left their towel at home. Aaarrggghhh!

What would Danny Katz suggest? I could just imagine a letter to his Modern Guru column (The Age Good Weekend): 'Dear Danny, Here I am, completely starkers and dripping wet in a public shower, and my nearest towel seems to be in the cupboard at home. Help!'

This is hardly a question of ethics, or even etiquette. It's a serious practical dilemma.

Mr Katz would probably waffle on for a bit about how people stupid enough to go lap swimming before breakfast get everything they deserve. Yeah, yeah, I know all that. But that doesn't exactly help the present crisis. Do I (a) rush dripping out of the shower, exclaiming "Omy-gosh! I've forgotten my towel!" in the desperate hope that somebody is willing to share? (b) climb back into wet togs, creep shamefacedly to the front desk and try to buy a gym towel? (c) throw on work clothes over wet bathers and drive home, even though I'm already late for work and my car is parked two km away? Or (d) pretend nothing is wrong. Enjoy a nice hot shower then dry off on the least necessary item of clothing, hoping nobody notices?

Luckily September was positively beaming outdoors, so I could afford to run with option (d). Nobody would realise I was minus a t-shirt under my strappy dress. Baring so much skin might seem an overreaction to the forecast



By MARILYN MOORE

20-degree sunshine, but what the heck. By the time I get to work I'll have passed at least one other sleeveless person. Spring sunshine fires up the optimism gene in just about everybody.

Luckily, too, it was windy as well as sunny outside—what my Gran would have called a good drying day—or even after my very best efforts, the t-shirt finished up remarkably dry. Conversely, I was still remarkably wet.

Revelation number two: Unfluffy towels are incredibly useless!

To finish off the drying process, I stopped for coffee and a bite of breakfast in the sun at one of Brunswick's many hospitably hippy hideouts. Tucked in between exquisitely scruffy designer shopfronts, worn doorsteps and sumptuous Victorian leadlights, you can find any number of eateries with deliciously hearty Real Food served in a cosy atmosphere of as-

sorted crockery, distressed timber, mismatching tables, multicoloured 1950s vinyl chairs, fresh flowers, old LPs, interesting books and retro knick-knacks.

There's even an overgrown outdoor dunny with homemade latches and a pull-cord for the light. Before noon the staff are bound to be bleary-eyed but they happily treat customers like old friends nonetheless.

Revelation number three: whatever happened to Warrandyte's arty ambience? Is it my imagination, or has it become increasingly submerged beneath layers of mainstream suburbia? We have a richly diverse and wonderfully talented community, but it seems to be barely rate on the bobo (bohemian bourgeois) scale these days compared to Brunswick, Northcote, Fairfield and even parts of Eltham. Even our schoolkids look more respectable than they used to. Are we succumbing to the influence of surrounding aspirational lifestyles? Surely not!

But then maybe my view is distorted, refracted through the stream of water droplets still trickling from my hair.

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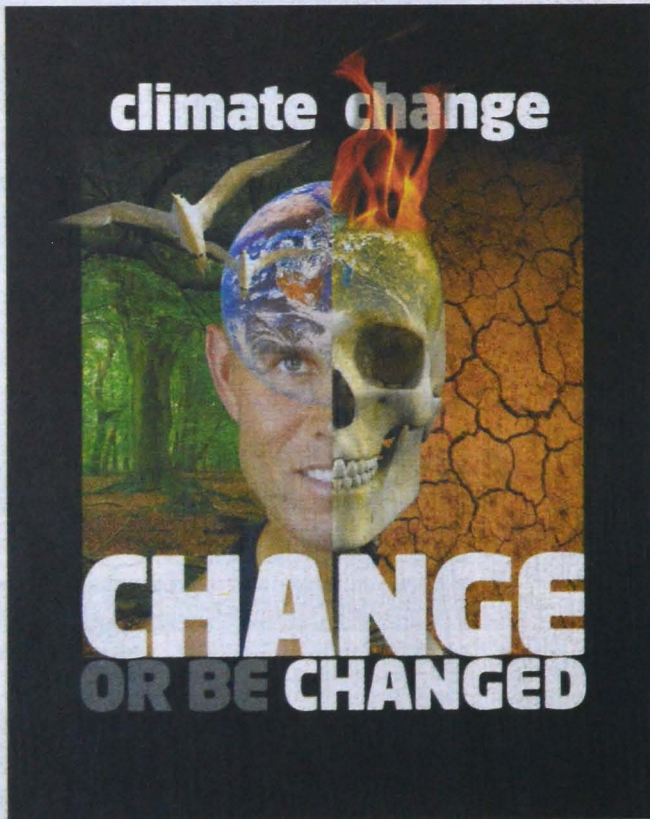
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# Imaginary lover comes alive in an alien setting



Pictures by JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

**L**OVE song is a story of two couples. Harry and Joan are, perhaps, a normal 21st century middle-aged couple, separated by contrasting views of their world. He is mechanical, analytical, determined. She is egocentric, anxious and loud. Joan's brother Beane is a complex character who may be mentally ill.

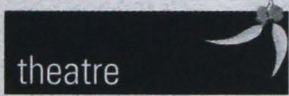
In the few weeks during which the action takes place, Beane starts a relationship with imaginary lover Molly. This virtual romance enervates Beane and rekindles Harry and Joan's lapsed love for each other, bringing communication and passion back to a tired, adversarial marriage.

The action takes place in a montage of short vignettes, alternating between Beane's absurdly minimalist apartment and Joan and Harry's comfortable sitting room.

This structure gives director Helen Ellis the freedom to accentuate the play's strengths—character, dialogue and theme.

The result is a highly entertaining 90 minutes of comedy, pathos and poetry, thankfully delivered without New York accents.

The little Mechanic's Institute stage was transformed especially



By JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

for this play—extended over the prompt-side stairway, given a second level with a large low riser upstage, with a half cyclorama adding colour and depth.

John Shelbourn's set design is marvellous in its detail, complete with in-built special effects that enhance the sense of Beane's hallucinatory world.

Similarly Ash Whelan's lighting design works hand-in-glove with the set, creating depth and spacial separation as each of the parallel worlds comes to life then slumbers again.

The central character, Beane, is played by Aldo King. His is a demanding role, in which he must transition from mime to comic to high intensity drama and back again, all played with only a hint of bipolar disorder.

The changes in character are made credible by change of scene, and a great performance from King. He gave Beane a strength and continuity of character while retaining an ambiguity and lightness of be-

ing.

For the most part Aldo King played opposite Vanessa Alpina (Molly). Molly is another challenging role, not least because she is an assertive, sometimes threatening presence, yet she is nothing but a projection of Beane's own mind.

Like Beane she moves through many quasi-psychotic states, yet unlike him she expresses tenderness, staccato sweet imaginings and journeys through periods of introspection.

Beane's sister Joan, played by Phillipa Adgemis, is a more constant, recognisable, mortal character who, one imagines, is playwright John Kolvenbach's nightmare of a thoroughly post modern New York woman.

She is supposedly transformed by the power of Beane's love for his phantom friend. This element of the story lacks credibility, making it difficult for anyone to play Joan convincingly. Beane might shout from the rooftops that it is "all about sexual intercourse", but it's hard to accept that this is motive enough to stop a high powered, egocentric career woman in her tracks.

Or is Kolvenbach playing with us? Is this meant to be a satirical take

on the stereotypical plotlines that pour out of the United States with little or no variation, year after year?

Joan's husband, the long-suffering Harry, is played by Frank McCarty. Amid the confusion and projection, his is the frustration of an everyday male, locked into a relationship with an A-type female.

His strategies for dealing with her are far from ingenious, and while he puts enormous energy into proving that logic really does make the world go around, he is ultimately a passive chameleon, a victim in a way, of Joan's wilfulness and own reductionist thinking.

His is arguably the most thought provoking portrait in the play, and one is left with an eerie feeling that whatever energies are driving this foursome, they are more malevolent than good, and yet Kolvenbach has called it Love Song.

The title has encouraged some critics to call this a Jungian comedy, and it certainly makes some sense from this perspective.

Helen Ellis's interpretation allowed the characters full and unfettered authority, leaving the audience free to make of it what they could.

Love Song is not a well-known

play, although it was performed by the Melbourne Theatre Company last year.

It is challenging for actors, directors and audiences. It has many features of post-modern drama—using traditional characters, themes and relationships to parody and dramatise current and emerging social trends, as well as commenting on the medium itself.

In an unusual move, the Warrandyte Theatre Company devoted its time and effort to making its humble theatre available to "outside" directors and players.

The potential is for regional repertory groups to pool their talents, marketing and production facilities. The risk is that "home grown" theatre may be lost to each community.

Widening the base of local theatre begs the question of its function. Does it exist to hold a mirror to our unique themes, characters and environment, or to bring the very best of contemporary dramatic works to a regional audience?

Love Song certainly achieved the latter, but one is left with the feeling that this is a play that deals with universal themes in a way that may mystify audiences for whom New York is an alien world.



## Sylvia won't be coming today

Sylvia won't be coming today—another bad night and the pills didn't take. She's just woken up and she'd be far too late.

Sylvia won't be coming today. The heater's blown up and the man hasn't come. It takes the whole morning just to get warm.

Sylvia won't be coming today. She says her son's coming. (How many times have we heard that before?) It's so long since she's seen him—she wants to be there.

Sylvia won't be coming today. She's had a small fall, and it's just done her in. No need to fret, she says she'll be fine. It's just that she needs to give it some time.

Sylvia won't be coming today. It's her appointment this morning, it's all such a rush, "Doctor comes first." Last week he said she'd got a bit worse.

Sylvia won't be coming today, though she does love her outings and her friends miss her too. "It's all got too hard—but what can you do?"

KAREN THROSSELL



Warrandyte captain, Tom Naughtin, is favoured to take out the club's Best and Fairest award.

# Naughtin favoured in Bloods' award

By CHRIS CHAPMAN

Warrandyte captain Tom Naughtin has finished equal third in the EFL Division 3 Best and Fairest and has catapulted himself into favouritism for the club's top award.

Naughtin, 24, was consistently among Warrandyte's best in his most impressive season since making the step up from Under 18 football in 2004.

Coldstream's Matthew Price was named Best and Fairest, for the fifth time.

Warrandyte legend Matt Wood was also rewarded for a standout season, polling 14 votes to finish in eighth place.

Wood enjoyed more freedom this year as other players put their hands up to take on leadership responsibility within the senior side, and this was instrumental in the Bloods' success in 2009.

Big Ben Torney, who kicked 28 goals from centre half forward in his second year as a Blood, also polled well to finish with 10 votes.

Other Bloods to poll were gun full forward Mick Morello, rewarded for his 82 season goals with six votes, recently recruited ruckman

Jade Hill, who polled five votes from seven home and away games, the reliable Luke Naughtin who also polled five votes, Vinnie Jones and Ben Reid who each polled two votes, and Dave Hand and Ben Taylor, with one vote apiece.

The EFL Reserves Best and Fairest count saw Cal Haskings finish inside the top 10 with nine votes.

Haskings played a key role within the successful Warrandyte Reserves side, winning countless centre clearances and providing an important physical presence through the middle of the ground.

With a strong pre-season, Haskings should push for senior selection in 2010.

Jarrold Boyce and Campbell Holland also polled well with eight votes apiece, Boyce having played just 11 Reserves games before being rewarded with a call-up to the senior side.

Holland had a successful season in front of goal, finishing the year with 54 goals and on top of the EFL goal kicking ladder.

Other Reserves players to poll were Daniel Bryant and Brendan Zach, both key

midfielders and both with seven votes, Lee Evans with four votes in just two games returning from injury, Paul Bellofiore, Glen Carle, Josh Eyre and Jo O'Mara all with three votes, Ross Brown and captain Grant Godwin with two votes, and Paul O'Mara with one vote.

In the Under 18 vote count, Liam Whitfield performed best for the young Bloods, polling 11 votes to finish in equal seventh place. One of the younger members of this year's Under 18 side, Whitfield could potentially play another season in the under age side, but may consider a step up to senior football in 2010.

Nick Batsanis and the spring heeled Shane Biggs both finished the season on eight votes, while Justin Khouri and Tristan Valentino also polled well, with six votes apiece.

Other players to poll were Chris Ryan, with four votes, Caleb Atkinson with three votes, Matt Falkingham, Ryan Pollard and Sam Williams, each with three votes, and David Beasley, Kurt Belot and Jacob Buhagiar each

with one vote. Attention now turns to Warrandyte Football Club's presentation night, where Best and Fairest winners will be announced at the Manningham Function Centre on Saturday 17 October.

For the senior side, captain Tom Naughtin must go in as a red hot favourite to take out his second Best and Fairest award, with five time winner Matt Wood also staking a strong claim.

The 2008 winner Grant McAdam is also a realistic chance following another consistent season, while Adam Tsapatsaris and the elusive Vinnie Jones have also impressed this year.

In the Reserves side, Cal Haskings would be a short priced favourite with any bookie after a fantastic season in the two's midfield. Jarrold Boyce and Glen Carle were also consistent performers, and Daniel Bryant could poll well in his first season at the Bloods.

After polling well in the EFL Best and Fairest vote count, Liam Whitfield certainly stands a good chance of taking out the Under 18 award on Saturday night.



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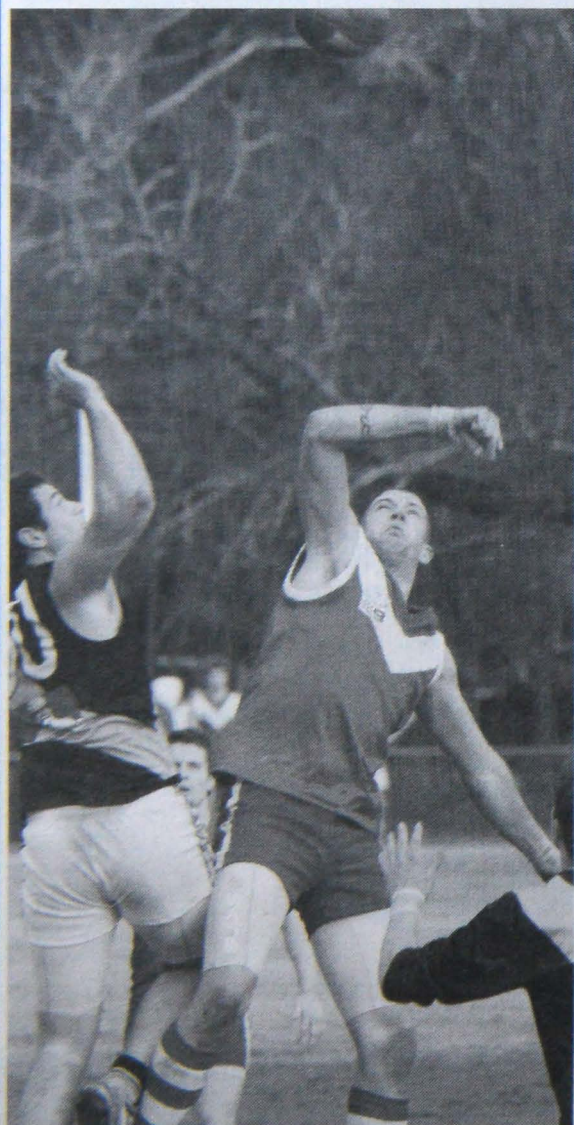
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# Smashing event for young players

A Learn To Play Tennis program initiated by the Warrandyte Tennis Club was held recently.

This is the sixth consecutive year since its inception in 2004 and every year around 50 primary school aged children from the Warrandyte and local area come together at the tennis club to get involved in tennis.

This year 51 children were enrolled and the first day saw a wet start to the program.

Each child received a Smashpak which included some fantastic gear, including, racquet, T-shirt, cap, drink bottle, tennis activity book and some other fun items.

Unfortunately not much tennis was played on that morning but at least the children got all their gear to take home and open up.

Last month saw a lot of tennis played, fun activities

**Report:**  
**MICHELLE GILLING**  
**Pictures:**  
**BILL PARRY**

undertaken and much excitement at the club.

Each week the club had a band of 12 coaches leading the way. Most of the coaches had come through the junior ranks at the club and were keen to volunteer their time to give back to their much younger counterparts.

The final day of Supersmashers started out wet, similar to the first day of the progra. However the weather cleared by the time the children arrived and held out for the entire day.

On the last day there was a trophy presentation, followed by a spit roast, barbecue, jumping castle and a visit from "Bendigo Piggy".



Marcus Green, Owen Kelly and Kate Foster have differing views on how to be a Supersmasher.



Margie Bishop isn't going to drop this one.



Tilly Hodgson during a Supersmashers game.



Kailynn Menzies gets sets for a return.



Claire Youl found you have to be fit to play tennis.



Samantha Earle is a true Supersmasher.

**WARRANDYTE TENNIS CLUB**

# SUPERSMASHERS

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All Star Venom point guard, Janelle Lucas. Picture: Gavin Andrew.

# All Star awards for Venom duo

Warrandyte Venom's Big V women's team has capped a successful season with point guard Janelle Lucas and coach Justin Nelson both being named members of the competition's All-Star team.

The two awards recognised the outstanding season for both Lucas and Nelson, but more importantly signaled the respect held for both throughout division one women with all the coaches and captains responsible for the voting.

"It's a great honour to be recognised by your peers and Janelle's award is due reward for her outstanding season," said Nelson.

"As for my award, well that really is about the whole group and something that I share with them proudly."

Lucas was also honoured at the recent club awards night where she won the Venom MVP for season 2009. Sharing the spoils on the night were Jaz Borella (Coach's Award), Mollie Burke (Rookie of the Year), Meg Dargan (Most Improved Player), Chelsea Ransom (Best Defensive Player) and Sally Phillips (Player's Player Award).

In other women's news, coach Nelson has announced his senior squad for next season with three changes to this year's team.

Out go Carla and Lauren Sabidussi (both delisted), along with Nicolette Prior (school commitments),



Venom captain, Jaz Borella won the club's Coach's Award. Picture: Gavin Andrew.

from Blackburn.

"I'm really pleased with the squad," said Nelson. "We are going with 13 players at this stage, which means plenty of opportunities exist for our young group and I have no doubt they will continue to build on the improvements made this year."

"Picking up Jennifer is also an absolute bonus. She's a quality person and will fit into the culture we have built, plus we desperately needed another 'big' and she ticks every box."

In latest developments for the new Venom men's team, senior coach Kelvin Bowers has put prospective players through their paces for the first time, marking the first of a month of try-outs for the club's first Big V men's team.

## The team for 2010

The Venom Women's team for 2010 is:

4. Kahlia Flett
5. Cheslea Ransom
6. Mollie Booth
7. Casey Taylor
8. Meg Dargan
10. Georgine Wearinghaus
12. Jennifer Cameron
15. Ash Brobbel
20. Janelle Lucas
21. Sharlene Dalsanto
22. Jaz Borella
23. Rebecca Heddles
44. Mollie Burke

while joining the successful program are junior rookies Kahlia Flett and Georgina

Wearinghaus. The 23-year old power forward Jennifer Cameron joins the Venom

# Two premierships wins for Redbacks

Saturday basketball came to an end in mid September with the finals of the EDJBA competition.

Warrandyte were well represented in the finals with 18 teams contesting for the flag.

The club came away with two premierships and 16 runners up.

Winners were Jake Martin's Under 9 B1 boys who defeated Bulleen by 21-17.

Also on the winner's list were Gerry Pearce's Under 13s who wrapped up a good season with a 40-33 win over Nunawading in the final.

On the girl's side Warrandyte were well represented with the top girl's teams in the Under 9, Under 11, Under 15, Under 17 and Under 19 all in the final matches.

Unluckiest runners up must go to Jordan Macleod's Under 13 D boys who went down in a very close overtime game to Ivanhoe by 22-21.

The Redback boys had come back late in the game to tie the game up at 19 all and were attacking strongly as the final siren sounded.

Three minutes of overtime and Andrew Sanders for Warrandyte scored a field goal and it looked like the boys would hang on for a win.

Ivanhoe pegged one back from the free throw line and with six seconds a two point shot fell in for a win.

"The team did very well and for an under aged side to get through to the grand final was a great result" said Macleod.

Nick Tenbroek top scored with 10 points with eight points coming from Dylan Clifton. Dane Barber collected the Most Determined player award.

Koonung capped of an impressive season, defeating the Redback girls by 38-30 in the Under 19 A Grade final.

Warrandyte paid the penalty for a slow start as they easily won the second half by 24-12.

Under 11-2 girls, runners up against Park Orchards, going down by 36-21

The Under 15 girls were runners up to Marcellin by 41-37.

Warrandyte had won straight through to the Grand Final but Marcellin were able to apply more pressure when it counted.

## Senior basketball

The mid week senior basketball split-winter competition

is at the finals stage.

Warrandyte's mens team finished in the top four and won through to the preliminary final with a 65 - 47 win over Caulfield.

Unfortunately they progressed no further going down to a powerful Craigieburn 57-37 in the preliminary final.

The women's team did not make the semis but nearby club Doncaster are playing in the Grand final against Waverley.

## Members given 'life'

A big night capped of a fantastic season for Warrandyte Basketball on Saturday with a number of awards presented.

These included two Life Memberships and the annual club awards.

Jenni O'Brien and Ann Cousens were both recognised for their outstanding contributions over many years with induction to the club's Life Members, a fitting reward for both ladies.

This year's club awards went to Kellie Taylor, Jenni O'Brien, Tony Oliver and Demi Joy, all of whom have put in hours of work and delivered so much.

# Warrandyte supports tennis club at Kinglake

Warrandyte Tennis Club has donated \$500 worth of equipment to the Kinglake Ranges Tennis Club following the devastating bushfire in February this year.

Warrandyte had \$500 worth of store credits at Rebel Sports in Ringwood and decided to donate the full amount to Kinglake.

The club also donated \$750 to the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal.

The Kinglake club has thanked Warrandyte for the donation of tennis rackets, tennis balls and soccer balls.

A Kinglake club spokesman said the fire devastated many homes and lives in the community.

"One of KRTC clubrooms in Kinglake Central was destroyed by the events of Black Saturday, however our courts are now a temporary home for the Kinglake Middle Primary School for approximately 2-3 years while the rebuilding of the school is under way.

"Kinglake West tennis courts were fortunately not destroyed by the bushfires, perhaps because they were fortunate to be located next to the Kinglake West CFA shed," the spokesman said.

"As one quarter of our members lost their homes in Black Saturday, KRTC membership base has



Warrandyte tennis coach, Craig Haslam, centre hands over sports equipment to Michael and Julie Stott representing the Kinglake Ranges Tennis Club.

decreased dramatically.

"We have now appointed a new young and enthusiastic coach to bring membership, socialisation, fun and fitness back to the Kinglake Ranges Tennis Club.

"We aim to encourage past and new members back to the club by hosting events such as Active After School Program at the

local primary schools, Hot Shots, Mums with Bubs tennis coaching, club competition and social tennis days.

"Your kindhearted donation of equipment will enable us to host such events and perhaps even provide door prizes or raffles prizes for much needed club fundraising," the spokesman said.

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WARRANDYTE

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### 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.



### Live immersed in a naturally beautiful environment

First time offered to the market, this architect-designed home by sustainability master Ross Henry offers a lifestyle of unrivalled style and sophistication. Dominated by breathtaking views, it sets a new benchmark for contemporary living. Sleek fusion of sweeping light filled spaces and effortless indoor/outdoor living, this near new residence is a sophisticated haven, promising relaxed entertaining. Featuring three bedrooms, two bathrooms and double remote garage.



WARRANDYTE SOUTH

WARRANDYTE NORTH

### 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.



### Land of Opportunity

Wander through this 13-acre site of natural bushland and you can see the potential for yourself: hilltop views from Kangaroo Ground to Waranwood, flat useable land across the ridge line at the top of the property, a long winding driveway, and creeks that trickle through a gully at your entrance. Just a few minutes' walk from the Yarra River's stunning Blue Tongue Bend, you can enjoy weekend pursuits like bushwalking and fishing every day. This is an amazing canvas for an astute buyer with a vision.

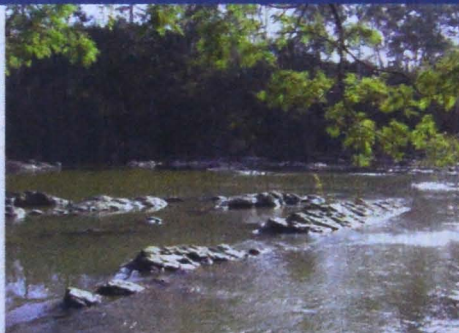


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WONGA PARK

### Yarra River Frontage

Build your dream home on precious land. This magnificent 1 acre block offers breathtaking views of the Yarra River, which winds its way in front of your exclusive patch in North Warrandyte. Enjoy the tranquility of country living, just 30 km from the CBD – a golden opportunity to enjoy river frontage, spectacular bush land and the artisan ambience of a suburb built on dreams.



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The closest thing to a Tuscan retreat you'll find in Melbourne. A Mediterranean-inspired home set on 12.25 acres of lush land, with three spectacular terraces to take in the views. A solid brick north-facing home across 4 living levels built by the original owner –romantic bluestone open fireplace, Mountain Ash kitchen, 9ft ceilings, 3 robed bedrooms with balcony access, and upstairs teenage retreat. Family room and formal lounge, spa bath, 3 toilets, downstairs sewing room/rumpus and cellar and 4-6 car garage with workshop & storage



WARRANDYTE NORTH

KANGAROO GROUND

### 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.



### Wake up to breathtaking views

Make the most of both the city and the bush with this exceptional 20 acre property with panoramic views of the Dandenongs and the Yarra Valley. Share your dwelling with kangaroos, echidnas and tawny frogmouths. A secluded valley encased by your fences emerges from a wandering track through trees to expose a large adobe shed, horticultural facilities and registered dam with irrigation rights. Features 4 BRs, study, ensuite, bathroom, kitchen, family, dining, 2 entertainment areas and a self-contained flat. Triple carport and workshop. Vast storage is a handyman's dream. Breathe in the country air and relax.



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