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# WARRANDYTE diary

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# Fire: leave early!

## EDITORIAL

On Black Saturday, fire came within 10 minutes of striking Warrandyte, however the wind changed and Kinglake was hit, with disastrous results.

Had fire come from the north, igniting our fuel-laden forest and tinder-dry scrubland, almost nothing would have saved our town. Evacuation via our narrow, winding streets, gridlocked roads and two-lane bridge would have been almost impossible.

These conditions are likely to come again, perhaps as soon as this summer.

The state government has issued a new set of fire danger ratings: Code Red (Catastrophic), Extreme, Severe, Very High, High and Low-moderate (see advertisement, Page 9).

Code Red states: "If you live in a bushfire area the safest option is to leave the night before, or early in the morning". No mention of staying to defend.

The next three fire danger ratings recommend leaving the area if you haven't got a well-prepared home and you are not capable of actively defending it.

Prior to last February, many people thought they had undertaken all the right steps and believed they could actively defend their homes and families. Sadly for some, Black Saturday proved otherwise.

The distance of flammable fuels from your home is critical to actively and safely defending your home. Most homes in Warrandyte do not have adequate separation from vegetation and neighbouring houses. Thus they are at risk from radiant heat and direct flame contact.

The community could be lulled into a false sense of security if they focus only on Code Red. Fire behaviour on Very High, Severe and Extreme days could still result in conditions that could prove fatal.

To avoid the risk of being caught in Warrandyte traffic gridlock and narrow roads under fire attack and ember storm, people should leave early and find safety out of the area.

If residents do not have family or friends who can shelter them on multiple fire-risk days, then they will need to identify other places of refuge. These could be public open spaces outside the immediate Warrandyte area. Councils on both sides of the river should identify such locations as a matter of urgency.

The community will need to work with councils and emergency services. Fire and other emergencies are a shared responsibility.

More fire news: Pages 4 and 5.



On patrol: manning the junior helitak at the CFA expo last month

(Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

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— Montgomery Burns

# WARRANDYTE diary

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### NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, December 9, 2009. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, November 27.

### OUR NEWSPAPER

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

### A SPECIAL PLACE

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

## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



# Some folk have all the luck

IT was a wonder the Channel Seven cameras weren't there as Warrandyte's answer to Fashions on the Field descended the treated pine steps of number 48 Dingley Dell.

First came Narelle in a little Laura Ashley number that had been let out more times than Chopper Read. Topped by a hat that looked like two pigeons mating. She looked amazing. Not good, just amazing.

Neville wore a morning suit that had been slept on and possibly been slept in. It strained at the seams and smelt of naphthalene, while the clip-on tie clashed furiously with the hankie-on-cardboard in the top pocket.

Cinnamon emerged showing more thigh than a bucket of KFC, in a dress Narelle said went too far and Gran said didn't go far enough.

Jasper's concession to dressing up was a new pair of Calvin Kleins that rode above the top of his jeans, instead of the usual frayed Y-fronts.

And Gran had picked through her entire selection of black frumpy frocks and picked out a black frumpy frock.

Ah, Sonia Kruger. Never there when you need her, always there when you don't.

"How do we look?" gushed Narelle as they climbed into the Land Crusier.

"Frightening," snorted Gran.

Soon they were elbowing their way through the mob to the Bloodcage, where one of the guys from the footy club had organised a do on the lawns. Not a marquee so much as two patio umbrellas, a stack of sushi packs two days past their use-by date and a wall of Eskies on either side to stake out their territory.

"How good is this?" said Neville ripping open a VB.

"Appalling," said Gran as it sprayed all over her.

The Bloods boys descended on Cinnamon like a pack of bird dogs, all drool and panting with their tongues hanging out. "You come to the races and end up at the trots!" said one and laughed till Jim Beam came out his nose.

"Revoltin'," said Gran.



When it came to the punting, Neville took it all very seriously, carefully assessing where each runner had come in recent starts, against who on what track carrying how much from which barrier position, so that by the time he got to the bookies the race was over. Cinnamon chose

### living with The Trots

the cutest jockeys, Narelle chose anything Bart trained and Gran couldn't read the names and just pointed to the first thing she saw on the betting board. Jasper wasn't allowed to bet so naturally picked more winners than anyone else.

"Mind you stick to lemonade," warned Narelle.

"No shwet," said Jasper opening another Two Dogs.

"Disgusting," said Gran. At last the big race came and the entire crowd surged up against the rails. Everyone was buffeted from pillar to post, nobody could see a thing, the noise was deafening, the microphones incomprehensible and the results humiliating.

"Daffodil wilted in the straight," moaned Narelle.

"Alcopop was overtaxed!" whined Neville.

"Mine ran Leica Ding," grizzled Cinnamon.

"How ditch you go Gran?" slurred Jasper.

A hint of a smile crept across the old girl's face.

"Shocking!"

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# We quiz the pollies

By **KARLY HICKMAN**

The "Meet the Pollies" forum that followed the overflow Warrandyte Community Association AGM last month was an explosive affair with 180 frustrated residents quizzing their representatives on bushfire preparation and prevention.

It even rated a mention in parliament the following week.

In attendance was Liberal MP for Warrandyte, Ryan Smith, and Labor MP for Yan Yean, Danielle Green. Upper house MP, Greg Barber, represented the Greens.

Ryan Smith commended WCA on their ongoing community representation. "When issues arise we need community support."

He said it is astounding how many people attend community meetings in Warrandyte. "It shows the concerns people have around fires, which is why I have already raised a number of issues in parliament."

Danielle Green apologised for not spending as much time with her North Warrandyte constituents as she would have liked, having spent the last six months focused on parts of her electorate that were directly affected by the fires.

She said her role as parliamentary secretary for emergency services has been difficult over the last year. "I have been strident in ensuring the 10/30 (vegetation and tree clearance) right is reviewed in 12 months time and encouraging local government to play their part in making sure the community does the right thing."

Greg Barber said that as one of only three Greens members in the upper house, he attempts to reach out to 13 shadow portfolios. "I see WCA as existing for the sole purpose of protecting why you want to live here." He said that the "stay and defend or go" policies are clearly out of date and that he had concerns

that legislation may be passed that give local government the power to allocate neighbourhood safe places. "This is an incredibly complicated matter that requires deep thought," Mr Barber said.

On evacuation and community safe places, Ryan Smith said a major problem was that as he is not in government, he is not privy to what a "township protection plan" entails. Danielle Green also seemed sketchy on the details of the plan.

Ryan Smith commented, "It is a concern if the parliamentary secretary for emergency services doesn't know what the township protection plans are". Greg Barber stated that the premier had admitted the day after the release of the Royal Commission interim report that there may not be suitable geographic spots in all communities.

Also present was Manningham councillor David Ellis. "Local government is crucial to an integrated response," he said. He expressed his concern that, "state government has put responsibility back on the individual with a 'grab a chainsaw' approach".

The new 10/30 provisions give home owners the right to clear any vegetation including trees, within 10 metres of their house and any vegetation, excluding trees, within 30 metres without applying for a permit.

"The 10/30 provisions are a massive over reaction that will give the illusion of safety with no real benefits," Cr Ellis said.

One resident said that the 10/30 provisions were effectively a "license to destroy". Danielle Green responded by saying the removal of trees and vegetation generates incredible conflict. "I have said to the planning minister that we must have clear guidelines to ensure people are clearing for the right reasons," she said.

Greg Barber pointed out that the fundamental problem

with the 10/30 rules is that "we have known for a long time trees are not the real fire threat". He said that other factors, such as the design of the home, whether the owner is home, and debris around that could put a heat load on the house, all contribute to fire risk. "Wind speed and embers can be minimised by trees," he stated.

Ryan Smith claimed he had faith in the people of Warrandyte. "Most are not going to go mad with tree removal," he said. "The DSE has produced a brochure saying councils are responsible for ensuring fuel reduction on private land."

"Anyone who supports the 10/30 provisions needs to ask themselves how they can expect the fearful individual to make a rational decision when state and local governments will not and have not," Cr Ellis said to an applauding audience.

Again the issue of the bridge arose, a theme that has been prominent at all bushfire meetings. Ryan Smith said the problem of the bridge will have to be addressed at some stage, "but hopefully we won't have to alter the environment too much". Danielle Green said it is not a question that she has brought to government.

Details of the new telephone warning system were elusive. Danielle Green stated she "doesn't believe any warning system will be directing people to leave, but hopefully people are now more informed to make their own decisions". Ryan Smith said he is talking with Manningham council about bringing back the sirens.

A question was posed on the lack of fuel reduction burns in the Warrandyte State Park. Ryan Smith displayed a photograph of himself, standing on Fourth Hill amongst fallen trees and an abundance of overgrowth, taken that afternoon. He said he was shocked at the state of the park, so close to the fire season.

On the closing of schools on high risk days, Ms Green said, "The department is prioritising the northern and eastern regions and working with kindergartens and the non-government sector to try to adopt some policies. Individual schools are being assessed for risk."

Dick Davies asked the forum whether new residential zones that allow two dwellings per block would be viable in a high fire risk area such as Warrandyte. Danielle Green said that despite many submissions received, wildfire and Green Wedge overlays still apply so it is unlikely dual occupancy will be allowed, although "community consultation may allow waiving".

"None of us want the character of Warrandyte to change," Ryan Smith said.

"We don't want to put more and more people in harm's way," Greg Barber said. He quoted Kinglake's population having grown by 30 per cent between the 2001 and 2006 census, placing more people at risk. "It seriously needs to be addressed, large scale and quickly," Mr Barber said.

In his concluding statement, Ryan Smith told residents to "take note of the township protection plan, but don't let the word 'protection' give you a false sense of security".

● A week later in parliament, Mr Smith said, "I am disappointed to say that having spoken with a number of residents after the meeting, members of the Warrandyte community walked away feeling that their many questions had gone unanswered."

"People I spoke to were frustrated that their questions were avoided or answered with a lack of detail," Mr Smith said. He has requested Bob Cameron, minister for police and emergency services, organise a public meeting in Warrandyte to "fully explain the steps that government is putting in place to mitigate the dangers associated with the upcoming fire season".



Pictures by **STEPHEN REYNOLDS**

## Our community faced many tough decisions

By **KARLY HICKMAN**

The Warrandyte Community Association held its ninth annual general meeting early last month.

Much had changed since the AGM last year, when the continued viability of the organisation was questioned. It was concluded that the organisation acted as an important overarching coordination of smaller groups, was an invaluable voice for the community and would likely be needed in times of crisis.

No one could have predicted the crisis that ensued. "Sadly bushfires have emerged as a dominating issue in the past year as they affect each and everyone of us," WCA president Dick Davies said. In his report, Dick Davies outlined the work of the organisation over the past year.

"In May, Bruce Turner and 18 others helped facilitate a bushfire forum which served as the basis of the WCA's submission to the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission," he said. "In August approximately 700 people packed the Warrandyte Community Church to hear bushfire expert Dr Kevin Tolhurst speak on reducing the bushfire risk in semi-rural environments."

Later, WCA attended the release of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission interim report and has been involved in the development of Warrandyte's township protection plan.

The organisation assisted Bendigo Bank in distrib-

uting \$100,000 to projects in the area. WCA was also successful in lobbying for more bus services between Eltham and Warrandyte, and has expressed its concern to Manningham council about the exclusion of Warrandyte from their community bus route.

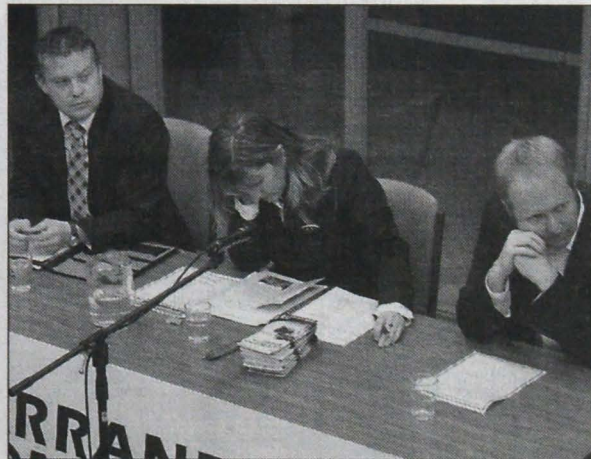
The "missing link" threat relating to a proposed freeway through Warrandyte emerged and receded, while amendments were advised for the new car wash at West End. A WCA representative consulted with Nillumbik about road construction, and bike paths through Warrandyte continue to be discussed.

"Some improvements to the Warrandyte Netball Club facilities have been approved and a successful proposal to reopen the heritage mines has been made," Mr Davies said.

For now, the leading concern for the WCA is its communication with members. "We are working on improvements to the website and hard copy newsletters. Website development is key to communication between associated members and committee."

Dick Davies was re-elected president, Jonathan Upson vice-president, Bruce Davidson deputy vice-president and Kerry Boyle treasurer. Four vacancies for committee members still exist.

Mr Davies concluded the meeting: "Let's hope the coming year will be less dramatic than the last one."



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# Upgrade for historic fire lookout tower

The fire-spotting tower at Kangaroo Ground is to receive a major upgrade.

"The tower, built in 1926 to honour Eltham soldiers who fell in the Great War, is vital to our past—and our future," Danielle Green, parliamentary secretary for emergency services and MP for Yan Yean, told the *Diary*.

The state government has committed \$247,000 to upgrade the fire-spotting facilities and improve public access to the tower. Neighbouring municipalities will contribute an additional \$25,000 to the project.

"The new air-conditioned fire-spotting cabin will have both floor and roof access, with a harness point," Ms Green said.

"The windows will be at 13 degrees to the vertical to prevent reflection and there will be a new VHF radio repeater installed to boost radio com-

munications in the area."

The project is scheduled for completion by December this year and a new circular staircase will be built in the tower at the end of the 2009/10 fire season.

Operators in the tower spot about 50 blazes each summer and relay vital information to ground crews.

They provide early and ongoing information on fires in the Kinglake Ranges, Great Dividing Range and Mt Dan-dengong.

The tower provides coverage across Nillumbik, Manningham, Banyule, Maroon-dah and parts of Yarra Ranges, Knox, Murrindindi and Whittlesea municipalities.

The CFA spotter manning the tower on Black Saturday estimated that the Kilmore fire was only 10 minutes from Warrandyte before that fateful wind change took it into Kinglake.



A long-promised fuel reduction burn was conducted in Warrandyte late last month. The three-hectare burn took place in the Warrandyte State Park, between David Road and Whipstick Gully. The burn, part of the Department of Sustainability and Environment's spring preparation program, was undertaken to reduce the risk of fire to nearby houses and property. Weather conditions on that day were favourable and the burn was successful. (Pictures by photographski)



Danielle Green announces the upgrading of the Kangaroo Ground fire-spotting tower, accompanied by CFA area manager Lex De Man.

## Be aware — be there!

CFA Fire Awareness meetings will be held at the following local venues during the current fire season.

**Donvale Christian College,** Wednesday, November 11, 7.30pm, Tindals Road, Donvale, Melway 23 D12

**Warrandyte Fire Station,** Thursday, November 12, 7.30pm, Harris Gully Road, Warrandyte, Melway 35 C2

**Warrandyte Primary School,** Monday, November 16, 7.30pm, Forbes Street, Warrandyte, Melway 23 D12

**Tabor College,** Tuesday, November 17, 7pm, 222 Oban Road, North Ringwood, Melway 49 G2

**South Warrandyte Hall,** Wednesday, November 18, 7pm, Hall Rd, South War-

randy, Melway 34 J8

**Andersons Creek Primary School,** Wednesday, November 18, 7.30pm, Drysdale Road, Warrandyte, Melway 35 C2

**Whitefriars Catholic College,** Tuesday, November 24, 7pm, 156 Park Road, Donvale, Melway 49 A2

**Our Lady of the Pines Primary School,** Tuesday, November 24, 7.30pm, Carbine Street, Doncaster East, Melway 34 F9

**Warranwood Primary School,** Wednesday, November 25, 7pm, Wonga Road, Warranwood, Melway 36 B9

**Warrandyte High School,** Thursday, December 3, 7.30pm, Alexander Road, Warrandyte, Melway 34 H2

**North Warrandyte Community Centre,** Monday December 7, 7pm, Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte, Melway 23 D9

**Kellybrook Winery,** Tuesday, December 15, 7.30pm, Fulford Road, Wonga Park (carpark), Melway 24 J8

**North Warrandyte Community Centre,** Wednesday, January 13, 2010, 7pm, Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte, Melway 23 D9

**Warrandyte Fire Station,** Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 7.30pm, Harris Gully Road, Warrandyte, Melway 35 C2

A number of CFA neighbourhood street meetings have been scheduled. Consult [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) for the meeting nearest you.

## Checklist

- Plan to leave early.
- 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.

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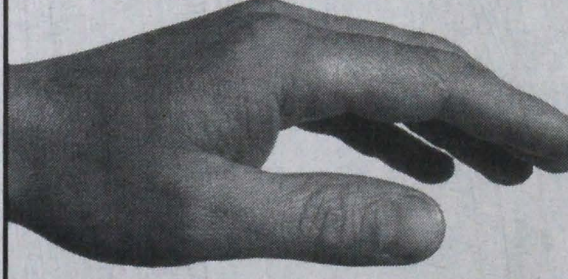
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# Could we get out of town?

By SANDY BURGOYNE

On Bushfire Awareness Day last month CFA chief officer Russell Rees was a guest on ABC radio 774. Presenter Jon Faine asked him how a township of about 4000 residents, such as Warrandyte, with one road in and out would be evacuated during a fire emergency.

"I don't know," Russell Rees replied. "That's the honest answer. It is an incredibly difficult thing to do."

"The fact is the road network at Warrandyte will not have the capacity to do what it needs to do. There is no freeway in Warrandyte and it will be very difficult for people to move in that environment," he added.

The combined population of Warrandyte and North Warrandyte is more than 8000, suggesting that the operation would be even more difficult.

"Our assumption is that major fire risk would come from the north meaning that Warrandyte would be log-jammed with cars if everyone attempted late evacuation," Dick Davies, Warrandyte Community Association president told the *Diary*.

It seems that the official stance on "stay and defend" is changing.

"If the circumstances are that you're in a high risk area and you are not 100 per cent—and I would even say 110 per cent—confident that you can defend and stay alive then the safest option is not to be there and you should leave. And we are saying on those catastrophic days you should leave either the day before or in the early hours of the morning," Mr Rees said on ABC 774.

The page on the CFA website that dealt with the decision to stay or leave one's home now carries the message: "This section is currently under review and we will be back up shortly with new information". However, the web pages on leaving your property and leaving early are still online.

The community must now take notice of new fire danger ratings. The six levels are: Low-moderate, High, Very High, Severe, Extreme and Code Red—Catastrophic (See advertisement Page 9.) ABC local radio will broadcast these warnings, as will around 30 Victorian commercial stations.

The CFA website recommends that

people in bushfire prone districts should leave early on days designated Very High to Code Red. This could see Warrandyte and district residents evacuating their properties many times during the season.

"According to the weather averages collected by the Bureau of Meteorology over the past seven years that would mean getting out on 21 days. People will quickly tire of evacuating if there is no fire," WCA president Dick Davies told the *Diary*.

WCA considers that other decisions and arrangements need to be made.

"This means that warnings need to be a lot clearer than at present, people need to know when to go and some will need to know where to go. Whilst many will make their own arrangements, some more vulnerable groups will need assistance—elderly people and disabled in particular. Many people will not leave their pets behind. Community groups and councils will have to collaborate to assist some people to leave who may need a lift with car pooling or community bussing (there is no Manningham community bus in Warrandyte)," Mr Davies said.

Recent talk-back callers to ABC radio 774 pointed out that many people do not have friends or relatives they can stay with if they do go early, particularly if they leave the day before.

Jon Faine's on-air observation that Warrandyte has one road in and out is close to the truth. Yarra Street continues towards Templestowe as Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road and to North Ringwood as Warrandyte-Ringwood Road. North Warrandyte has Kangaroo Ground and Research-Warrandyte roads that head north to T-junctions with different sections of Main Road. However, at their southern end both empty on to Warrandyte's sole vehicular bridge across the Yarra River. During peak times a great deal of through traffic uses both KG and Research roads—in some cases making it difficult for residents to exit their driveways.

Widening Warrandyte bridge and installation of a concrete ford across the river have been suggested as ways to free up traffic movements.

"It is clear that widening the bridge alone would achieve nothing other

than moving traffic jams 50 metres further on. The issue is two lanes of traffic from North Warrandyte going into single lanes along an already busy Warrandyte-Ringwood Road. An overall traffic management plan is required that could include alternative river crossings and re-routing main road traffic out of Warrandyte along Reynolds Road and Fitzsimmons Lane," Mr Davies said.

North Warrandyte's Kangaroo Ground and Research-Warrandyte roads already experience traffic jams at the bridge during the morning peak hour. Many drivers simultaneously taking to the road to evacuate from a fire threat would produce a similar, or worse, result.

The state government has decided that Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSPs) should be set up in high risk districts as a last resort in a fire emergency. These spaces are deemed to be safer than a risky last minute evacuation and are intended for those whose bushfire survival plans cannot be implemented or have failed.

The CFA is charged with assisting municipal councils to identify and establish these spaces of last resort. A key requirement for an NSP is that an open space should be a minimum of 310 metres from a fire hazard, or 140 metres if a building.

"There are so far no designated Neighbourhood Safer Places in Warrandyte although places like the oval and West End shopping precinct have been mooted," Mr Davies said.

Nillumbik council's web site defines what NSPs are but does not list any for the municipality.

Apparently some councils are concerned about possible legal liability if a fire goes through an NSP where people are sheltering.

Rob Spence, chief executive of the Municipal Association of Victoria, is reported as saying that the state government is working on legislation to allay these fears. However, the new laws won't be passed until mid-December.

As the Warrandyte community moves into the fire season we all need to work out what our personal safety plan should be for the fire emergencies that are likely this summer.



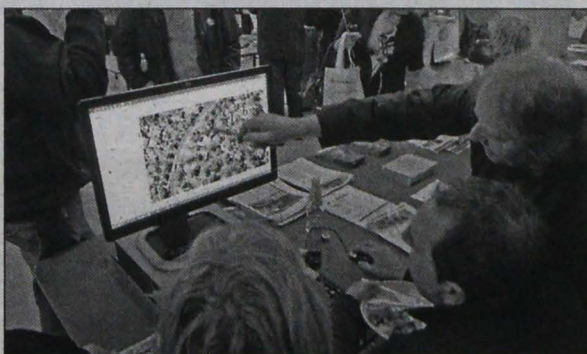
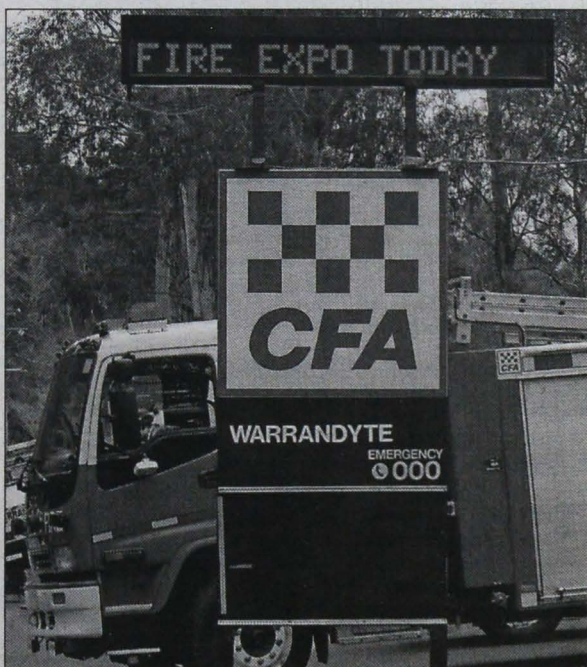
## Don't panic: local CFA brigades are simply practising

A major wildfire training exercise is being held in the Warrandyte area on Sunday, November 15, between 9am and 2pm.

"The exercise will simulate a scrub fire and will involve crews from a number of emergency agencies," a CFA spokesperson told the *Diary*. "The exercise will assist with preparations for the current fire season, with crews having to perform a number of tasks designed to reflect fire-fighting duties at various locations. The following agencies

have been invited to participate: CFA, MFB, Parks Victoria, DSE, Warrandyte and Eltham police, Salvation Army, St John Ambulance, State Aircraft Unit and Manningham and Nillumbik councils.

"Residents of North Warrandyte and Warrandyte will be minimally impacted by this exercise," the spokesperson said. "There will be increased emergency services traffic in the area and some minor road closures. Impact will be intermittent during the exercise."





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To assist with preparing your property for summer Council is providing residents with a number of opportunities to dispose garden green waste.

Please note: this free green waste service is for tree prunings, garden clippings and leaf litter only. Commercial loads and food waste will not be accepted. Residents will need to show either a rates notice or their driver's licence as proof of residency within the Shire.

**Free garden green waste drop-off days at Nillumbik's Recycling and Recovery Centre**

The Recycling and Recovery Centre at 290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty (Melway 11 D1)  
Operating hours: 8am-4pm.  
Garden green waste will be accepted free of charge during the month of January 2010 and over selected weekends in November and December 2009 and February 2010.

Month	Date
November 2009	Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November
December 2009	Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 December
January 2010	Every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday in January
February 2010	Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 February

**Free garden waste drop-off days at Kangaroo Ground**

Municipal site, Graham Road, Kangaroo Ground (Melway 271 B10)  
Operating hours: 8am-4pm.  
Garden green waste will be accepted free of charge on three weekends over spring 2009 - summer 2010.

Month	Date
November 2009	Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November
December 2009	Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 December
February 2010	Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 February

If you have any enquiries, please contact Council on 9433 3555.

www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au  
9433 3111



Good riddance: T-flashing sign turned off. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

## Bad sign gone. A good sign.

It's gone. Hooray. That terrible radar-operated sign on Research Road, just before KG Road, which sometimes flashed a message about the T-intersection ahead. It was so unnecessary, out of local character, and must have wasted tens of thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money. Even when first installed it never worked in the

evening when the sun was shining on it. More recently its LEDs started to fail until it was only flashing half a message. Then a few weeks ago it was leaning at an angle. Now it's gone. Please, VicRoads, don't bring it back.

David Hogg  
Research Road

## How will you evacuate?

After attending recent fire meetings, it is clear that many Warrandyte residents will evacuate when the fire rating reaches catastrophic, extreme or even high risk. People are being advised to leave early rather than later when roads could be clogged.

Safer areas in Warrandyte—if there are any—should only be used as a last resort. Shopping centres out of town could be clogged and some close at 5.30pm.

One suggestion is for people to contact someone out of town in their club, church, organisation, or a relative, to see if they could evacuate there.

John Hanson  
Tunnel Street  
Fireguard Group

## It's a dog's life

Off-lead dogs by the river are among life's great joys!

Every morning we head off to school walking over the bridge and along the road with our lovely kelpie dog Tuppy. She waits for our commands to cross the roads and then sits by Kevin at the school crossing waiting for the sound of the whistle to cross.

Then we head along the river to meet and play with all Tuppy's friends. As we amble along she is excited to see her mates. They swim, chase balls and run and play with such joy. She checks her "pee-mails"—special messages and smells left for her to catch up on all the latest news.

There is a wonderful community along the river walk with all the local dogs and their owners. It is really one of life's pleasures. There's even a book, *Canine Characters of Warrandyte*, a beautiful pictorial of the many well cared for local dogs (see report Page 8). I have made many friends through our dogs, conversations beginning as we observe their joyful play. There are groups that meet for coffee and walk their dogs together, building long-standing friendships and community support.

The dogs I see regularly are well-behaved and locals always have plastic bags ready to pick up droppings, or quickly restrain the dogs if necessary. The off-lead river track is a great part of local Warrandyte life. If you've never known what it is to feel this joy, come and join me and I'll happily introduce you to the local characters.

Lisa Young  
Somers Road

## Thanks from Ben's family

Bunter, Debbie, Sarah and Wes, Jessica and Samantha McLean would like to thank family, and friends in Warrandyte, for their overwhelming kindness and generosity in supporting Ben following his terrible accident on Tuesday, October 6.

Thank you for all the cards, gifts, flowers and meals dropped off during the past few weeks. They have helped us and brightened Ben's recovery time.

He is currently doing fantastically well in rehabilitation and will make a full recovery.

The McLean Family  
The Boulevard

dear diary

## Punish poo dog owners, not the dogs

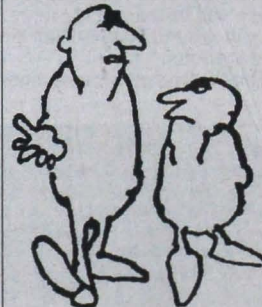
We agree that irresponsible dog owners in Warrandyte are interfering with walking along the river in Warrandyte, but new regulations eliminating leash-free areas will not solve the problem. Irresponsible dog owners will ignore new regulations just like they ignore the existing ones. Irresponsible dog owners are in every municipality. They leave their dog faeces on our streets, beaches, parks and walking trails.

Surely disciplining offenders is a more appropriate action than eliminating leash-free areas and punishing all those responsible dog owners who regularly walk their dogs along the river.

What is needed is a community attitude of zero tolerance. We need to demand more council rangers policing and fining offenders, and we need concerned citizens to speak to dog owners failing to pick up their dog's faeces. Actions such as these will prevent dogs from interfering with the freedom of other walkers without the complete elimination of a valuable exercising area for dogs and responsible owners.

Nancy Reid  
Warranwood

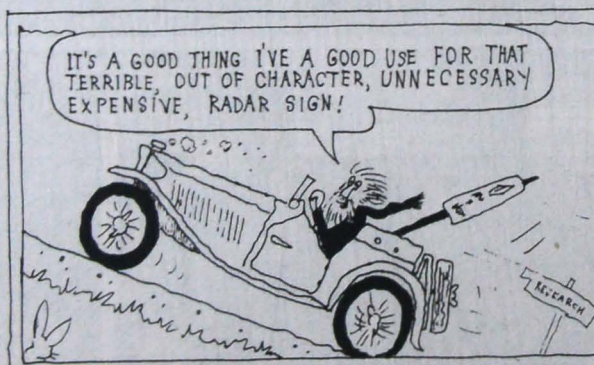
## CLYDE & OCKER



"Told you the dogs were taking over, Ock. Now they've brought out a book!"

## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



## FIRE NUMBERS

FIRE AND EMERGENCY: 000

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



# More locals are getting on the buses

By **TRISTAN MADDOCKS**

Improvements to the 578 and 579 bus services between Warrandyte and Eltham have led to a significant increase in the number of weekend passengers but only a marginal rise in weekday patronage. Panorama Coaches is contracted to run the two services, which are the backbone of public transport options for North Warrandyte residents. Expansion of 578 and 579 last November included better connections with trains at Eltham Station, longer operating hours and far greater frequency of services. Panorama Coaches operations manager John Griffiths said the two services are currently carrying between 4500 and 5000 weekday passengers during a normal school term. "This is approximately a five per cent increase on loadings previous to the upgrades to these services which commenced November 2008," he

told the *Diary*. But the department of transport claims the increase in patronage of 578 and 579 by weekend travellers had been much higher. "The Warrandyte bus upgrades focused on boosting weekend bus services, with 70 extra bus services each weekend," department of transport spokesperson Chris Veraa said. "Since boosting services, weekend bus patronage on Routes 578 and 579 has grown by 85 per cent." Warrandyte Community Association president Dick Davies questioned the amount of effort that has gone into encouraging passengers to make use of the improved 578 and 579 services. "WCA has succeeded in getting coordinated bus timetables to improve public transport," Mr Davies said. "But incredibly, the bus companies are

paid by the state to travel the routes, not to pick up passengers, and do not see it as their role to publicise these services or market their product! Consequently the buses are often empty." Mr Veraa told the *Diary* a number of initiatives had been used to promote the updated timetable when it came into effect late last year. "When the improved bus services were launched last year, the department of transport widely advertised the improvements and mailed information, including a bus timetable, to every affected resident," he said. Mr Griffiths said it was "quite possible" that promotion of the two bus services could be improved. "But the best advertising for (the two routes) is the fact that they are out there on the road, from 6am to 9pm, ready to pick up passengers."



Year 9 students with Jane Annois (right) and Heather Dale and one of the ceramic panels. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

# 'Creekside' villas closer

Although a number of issues have conspired to delay the construction of five retirement housing villas in Harris Gully Road, things appear to be progressing once more. The complex, entitled "Creekside", is the first project undertaken by the Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Co-operative and is specifically aimed at local needs. "Unfortunately, the process has been much slower than the co-op's board anticipated, with some unexpected delays slowing down the project," chairman Dick Davies reported in a recent newsletter. "For instance, final approval on some easement and engineering details has been delayed by the fire at Manningham council offices. However, tender documents have now been sent out to a number of builders and the board is currently waiting for their responses. Once these are received and evaluated, final planning and costings can occur." The villas will be available "off the plan". Once costings and lease documentation are finalised, an information package will be sent to all prospective occupants—those who have placed their name on a waiting list—enabling them to evaluate the development.

"Be assured this will occur at the earliest opportunity," Mr Davies said. "But this is a complex matter and every step requires expert advice and checks." More than 20 names are on a waiting list for the five units, and a further number of residents have asked to be kept informed, but feel they are not yet ready to make a move into retirement housing. "The board is working on a set of eligibility criteria that will help determine priority, should there be an excess of definite applicants willing to pay deposits and make commitments for the five villas," Mr Davies said. "The board wishes to ensure that the process is open and transparent. Occupancy contracts must be signed for each villa before actual construction can commence." "The board wishes to emphasise that this is a community project, initiated by community need and which will benefit the community into the future." "The co-operative is a not-for-profit community organisation." "The six directors do not, and will not, receive any remuneration for their work as board members. As the villas will be available on a lifetime lease model, the land will stay vested within community ownership," Mr Davies said.

## Definitely not graffiti...

A major outdoor artwork has just been completed at Warrandyte High School. Under the direction of local potter Jane Annois and art teacher Heather Dale, 20 Year 9 ceramics students have created four panels that will make up a mural on the wall of the clubroom at the Lions tennis courts near the bridge. The students designed and made the numerous individual tiles.

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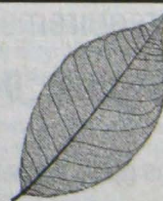
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# Local dogs have a tail to tell

By **KARLY HICKMAN**

Warrandyte has its very own Walk of Fame for those canines who regularly parade down the Yarra river path and are well versed in sniffing out the best tree or training their human counterparts to give up the last bite of that tasty bakery pie.

Warrandyte resident Denise Illing has etched these pooches into the pages of history with her new book, *Canine Characters of Warrandyte*, a photographic tribute to the dogs of Warrandyte.

"The river path is great because it's an off-lead area, where dogs can play together and people can relax in a peaceful and beautiful location," Ms Illing said.

It all started when Denise Illing began regularly walking her two dogs along the river, meeting all kinds of personalities, canine and human alike.

"I started photographing dogs and making bookmarks

to give to their owners as presents," Ms Illing said.

She decided to compile her photographs into a book, with all proceeds going to the Blue Cross Animal Shelter in Wonga Park.

It seems Warrandyte is in vogue for any discerning pooch who likes a good run around and the opportunity to meet like-minded canines. "People come from all over to walk the path," Ms Illing said. She has met dogs and their human companions from surrounding areas like Templestowe, Croydon, Park Orchards, Donvale and Wonga Park.

*Canine Characters of Warrandyte* is on sale at the Warrandyte Post Office for \$30, with all proceeds going to Blue Cross.

Denise Illing will have a stall at the Warrandyte market leading up to Christmas. Bring Fido down to say hello. He might be a celebrity already!



Welcome to Dog City: the cover of Denise Illing's new book.



## Young riders bring honour to their club



Pony Club members (from left) Minnipa Griggs, Natasha Dickson, Jazzmin Borg, Eliza Wilson Hall and Emily Elsworth are proud winners of C certificates. Inset: Jessica Stevens and Stephanie Caffin achieved the award of merit.

A number of young riders at the Wyena Horse and Pony Club in South Warrandyte were honoured at an awards ceremony last month.

Pony Club Association of Vic official Jim Page presented the association's award of merit to Jessica Stevens and Stephanie Caffin.

This high award is made in recognition of pony club members, aged over 19, making notable contributions to their club, its members and the wider community.

Mr Page also awarded C certificates, marking the reaching of a certain level of equestrian ability, to five young members.

These certificates went to Minnipa Griggs, Natasha Dickson, Jazzmin Borg, Eliza Wilson Hall and Emily Elsworth.

## They had a fairy good time!



Cassie and Max (pictured) will be preps at Warrandyte Primary School in 2010.

They enjoyed a special moment when she visited the school last month. These younger children are part of a special program designed to ease transition to primary school for local kinder kids. "They visit, join in activities and become more familiar with the school environment," principal Gill Binger told the Diary. "They enjoy stories read by older students and meet others from neighbourhood preschool centres."

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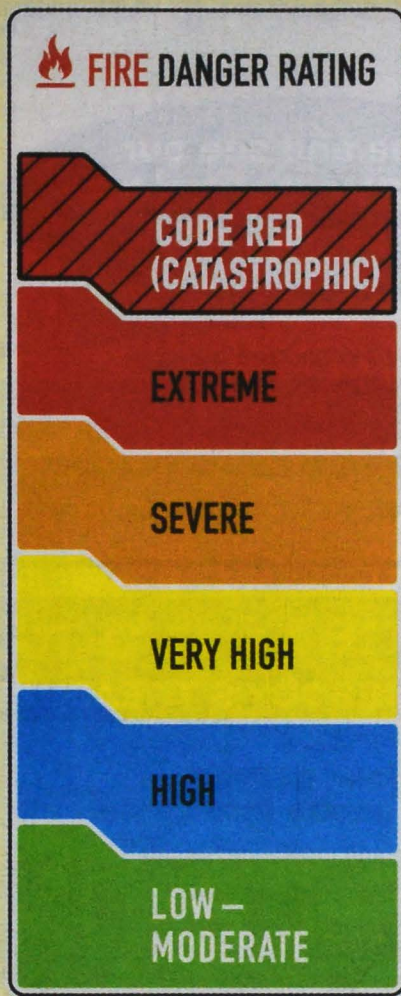
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- ▶ The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.
- ▶ If you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave, the safest option is to leave at the beginning of the day.
- ▶ Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.
- ▶ Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.

# New Fire Danger Ratings. Look for them, act on them.

Victoria has adopted the new national Fire Danger Rating scale to help individuals and communities understand the level of fire danger on any given day.

The new ratings recognise the significant increase in severe bushfire conditions over the past decade and the greater level of danger to the community, as experienced on Saturday 7 February 2009.

It's important for all Victorians to be aware of the ratings, which will feature on weather forecasts, in newspapers, websites, radio and TV.

The new ratings provide a clear prediction of likely fire behaviour, including how difficult it would be to put a fire out once it has started. They provide information on:

- The sort of bushfire behaviour that could be experienced on that day.
- The type of threat a bushfire may pose to life and property on that day.

Be aware of the Fire Danger Rating every day during the fire season, and be prepared to take the appropriate actions. For more information go to [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

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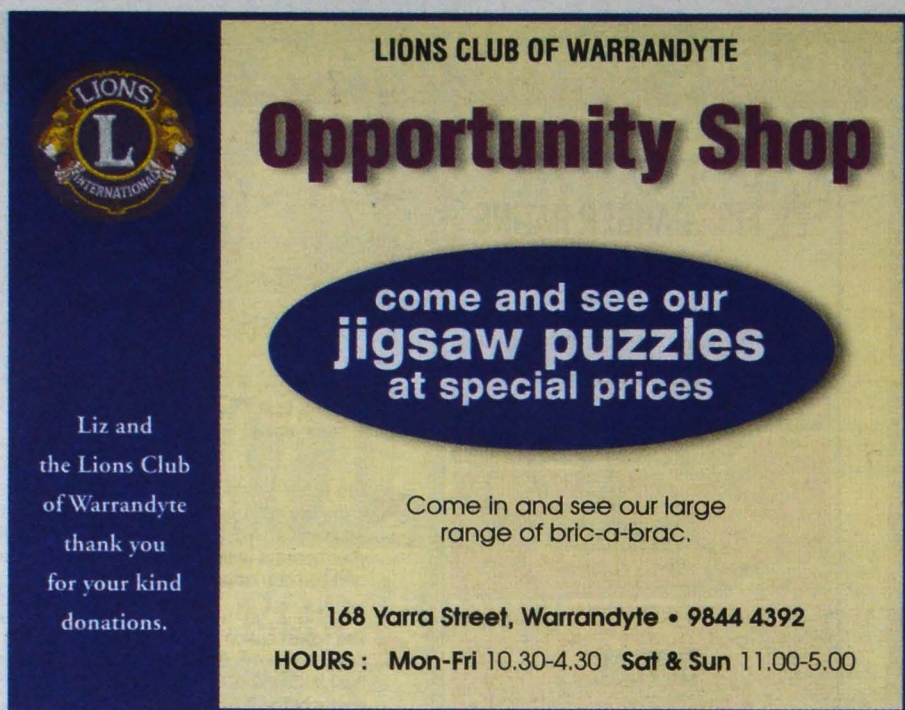
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private sale

warrandyte (sms: REN652)

private sale \$450k

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private sale

warrandyte north (sms: REN649)

buyer enquiry range \$480k-\$520k

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 polished 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: REN650)

buyer enquiry range \$510k-\$560k

With a spa, outdoor pizza oven & spacious covered deck for all weather outdoor entertaining, your family could host the ultimate Christmas celebrations! Situated on more than 1/3 acre this 4BR home features lounge with ofp & adjacent formal dining area. Spacious open plan renovated kitchen & family living area. Large retreat with external access - suit 5th BR or 3rd living area. Terraced rear gardens, double carport, ample parking & workshop.



tender closes 5pm 24 november

warrandyte north (sms: REN658)

buyer enquiry range \$620k-\$680k

Renovated to provide the ultimate in family entertaining, this 4 double BR family home on 1/3 acre offers 3 expansive living areas. You'll love the huge formal lounge with gas log fire. Formal dining opening to an elevated balcony. Gourmet kitchen with SS appliances. Adjacent family meals area. Separate downstairs rumpus leading to a paved terrace/deck with built-in bbq. Fully fenced rear gardens. Ducted heating & vacuum. Plus ample off street parking.



auction 11am 5 dec unless sold prior

warrandyte (sms: REN659)

buyer enquiry range \$620k-\$670k

'Elmswood'. With a french provincial feel & picture storybook presentation, this gracious 4BR weatherboard family home is soaked in light. Situated on a near level 1/3 acre, highlights include open plan lounge/dining with large bay window. Adjacent kitchen/meals. Separate upstairs living area. 4 double BRs, main with ensuite & WIR. Spacious rear deck & terrace overlooking lawn for children to play. Studio - suit home office. Single garage, ample parking. Walk to river, school, shops & transport.

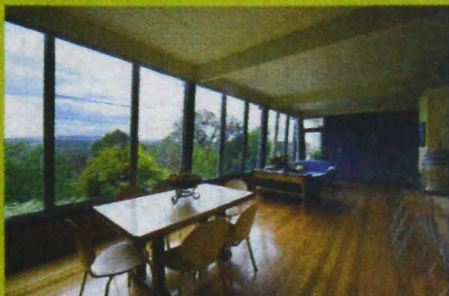


auction 11am 21 nov unless sold prior

warrandyte (sms: REN661)

buyer enquiry range \$630k-\$680k

Newly built & blending beautifully with its tranquil treed environment, this 4BR family home on 1/3 acre of mature gardens is 5 star energy rated. Highlights include open plan kitchen/meals & family living area leading to large elevated deck. Designer kitchen with garden outlook to watch children play. Separate family living area with garden access. 4BRs, main with ensuite & WIR. Open plan study. Double carport plus ample parking. Walk to river, shops & transport.



private sale

warrandyte north (sms: REN654)

buyer enquiry range \$640k-\$700k

This stunning architect designed 4BR home offers some of Warrandyte's most breathtaking views, stretching from the Yarra Valley to the Dandenong Ranges. Crowning more than 3/4 acre of mature gardens with a flexible floorplan including 3 living areas. Open plan lounge/dining with polished boards. Rumpus with external access (suit 5th BR or home office). Sep. sitting room. Renovated kitchen. Deck for entertaining. 4BRs, 3 with balcony access. Double carport & ample parking.



private sale

warrandyte north (sms: REN655)

buyer enquiry range \$670k-\$730k

Breathtaking 4BR Alistair Knox mudbrick home on 1/2 acre offering the ultimate Warrandyte family lifestyle! Lovingly maintained, highlights include a grand open plan family living & dining domain with soaring cathedral ceiling, clerestory windows & feature open fireplace. Separate family living area. Kitchen with SS appliances. Solar heated IG pool & spa with sun deck & paved patio. Large lawn area for children to play. Ample parking plus transport at your doorstep.



private sale

warrandyte north (sms: REN647)

buyer enquiry range \$690k-\$770k

A Bradley's Lane address is within your reach! Situated on 1.25 approx acres this solid brick 3BR family home has an warm & inviting artistic feel. Features spacious north facing open plan kitchen/meals & family living area. Separate formal lounge/dining. Full length front & rear verandahs with paved terrace & large rear gardens. 3 water tanks. Double carport. Plus the river at the bottom of your garden!



artist's impression

tender closes 5pm tues 17 nov unless sold prior

kangaroo ground (sms: REN642)

buyer enquiry range \$800k-\$880k

Crafted with uncompromising attention to quality & designed to provide the ultimate in family living, this partially constructed grand 65 square home is situated on 19 acres (approx) & offers stunning views, 5BRs & 5 living areas. Highlights include open plan kitchen/meals/family opening to a central courtyard with IG pool. Formal lounge & separate 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.



private sale

warrandyte (sms: REN660)

buyer enquiry range \$1.15m-\$1.25m

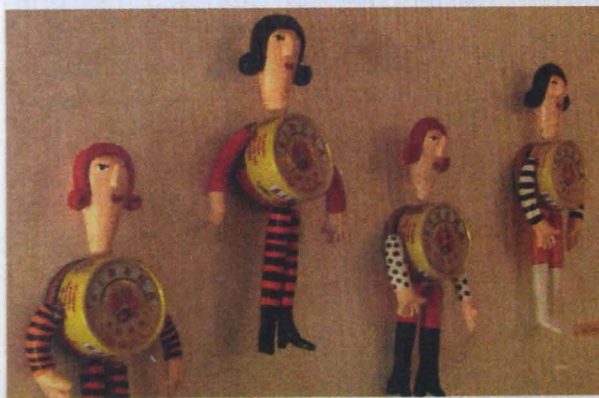
Bordering Jumping Creek with environmental design considerations including indigenous gardens, 150,000L water tank & formal dam, this north facing 4 double BR family home on 10 acres includes scope to agist horses. Designed to bring the best of nature indoors, highlights include huge lounge/dining with cathedral ceiling & gleaming polished boards. Open plan kitchen with SS appliances. Second informal living area. Elevated deck for outdoor entertaining. Generous workshop/shed. Double carport & ample parking.



# Recycled junk and clay blend

Warrandyte artist AnnMaree Gentile's background is in ceramics. Her pieces often incorporate old tuna cans, teacups, plastic toys and various found objects. "My artwork has a strong pop influence, with many recurring themes. I specialise in joyful, whimsical sculptures—but I do like to dabble in other mediums," she said. AnnMaree recently opened her new studio-gallery at the roundabout opposite the Warrandyte bridge.

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



# Fun galore at the fete

Warrandyte Primary School is holding a fete on Saturday, November 14. It will run from 10am to 4pm at the school in Forbes Street, Warrandyte. There will be lots to do with amusement rides, games, petting zoo, pony rides and art and craft activities. There will be a wide variety of stalls including food, drinks, plants, produce, Christmas gifts, pre-loved books and toys along with show bags and face painting. A silent auction will be run or you can have a massage or admire some classic cars. There'll be plenty of live music and entertainment. To order pre-paid amusement ride wristbands, contact the school on 9844 3537. These will cost \$20 and are only available prior to the fete (pony rides not included).

## Anglicans

The Rev Alan Nicholls has been appointed minister at St Stephens Anglican Church in Warrandyte (9844 2193) for the duration of 2010. Two locums are continuing up until this time.

## Retirement

Father Alan Nithan has retired from his role at the Catholic Church. Father Eugene San and Father Leenus have been appointed in his place. Services have now resumed in Warrandyte on the second Sunday of each month at 5pm.

## Open

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 will see an Open Day at Government House. All citizens of Victoria and visitors to the state are invited to attend. Visitors will be able to tour the house and visitors in the grounds and there will be refreshments available for purchase. Gates will be open from 10am to 3pm.

## Reascent

The Reascent Centre is holding a North Warrandyte neighbours' party on December 13 at 129 Research Road. Please bring a plate to share (preferably vegetarian).

## Orienteering

The twilight season of street and park orienteering is now in full swing and will continue every week until the end of daylight saving. The Eastern series on Wednesday evenings includes courses at Ringwood and Bulleen. Thursday's Northern series includes Eltham North and Doncaster.

## out of the box

By JUDY GREEN

Drop your news in the letterbox in the front door of our office at the Community Centre, email it to warrandytediary@aapt.net.au, fax it to 9844 4168, or post it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113 by the last Friday in the month.

Events run from 7pm to 8pm and include courses for runners and walkers of all abilities. For further information call Ian Stirling (9876 3643) for Eastern series or Geoff Hudson (9888 8121) for Northern series or visit <http://street.orienteering.com.au>.

## Moving

Pastor Peter Keep of the Warrandyte Community Church (9844 4148) will be leaving at the end of the year after 18 years in this position. He will be doing mission and training work. A new pastor will be appointed.

## Youth

Celia Fairley has been appointed the new youth worker at the Warrandyte Uniting Church (9844 3476). Rev Lynette Dungan has now completed her first year.

## Spring

A Manningham Spring Festival will take place on Sunday, November 15 from 12noon to 6pm at Ruffey Lake Park in Doncaster. You can pick up your Festival Passport at one of the information tents. Site maps and directions to all stage programs and activities across the day will be available. There will be a "come and try" arena where you can have a go at a wide variety of physical activities, a youth stage, main stage, food court and art and craft market.

## Environment

The Manningham City Council Environment Seminar at the South Warrandyte Hall in Hall Road, South Warrandyte on Wednesday December 2 will feature the "Bell Miner and Associated Eucalyptus Dieback". It will be conducted by Dr Amanda Dare and commence at 7.30pm.

## Newsletters

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



Warrandyte Theatre Company is presenting their original pantomime, "Princess Gorgeous in Neverland". Written by Keryn Wood, with music and lyrics by Jack Stringer, the panto will feature a cast of pirates, wenches, Peter Pan, the Ugly Sisters, Tinkerbell, Big Bertha and King Elvis and—of course—Princess Gorgeous herself! It will run at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall on Friday, November 27 at 8pm, Saturday, November 28 at 2pm and 8pm, Friday, December 4 at 8pm and Saturday, December 5 at 2pm and 8pm. Bookings at the Bakery Cottage Bookshop: 9844 1744.



Young artist Scott Nye, pictured working on location, is well known in Warrandyte for his artistic skills and his quirky character. He is staging another exhibition of his drawings and paintings here in the town. The exhibition will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre across the weekend of November 20, 21 and 22.



## Open

Diary cartoonists Syd Tunn and Ona Henderson will open their Creek House Studios to the public on November 21, 22, 28 and 29. The studios are at the corner of Henley and Oxley Roads in the Bend of Isles and will be open from 12noon to 5pm on these days. Works will include paintings, drawings, prints and art cards.

## Watercolours

The watercolour works of Warrandyte artist Tony Northover will be on show at Volumes, 70 Commercial Place, Eltham, between Tuesday, December 1 and Thursday, December 24. Phone 9844 2077 or 0418 397 246 for more information.

## Stonehouse

The Stonehouse Christmas preview exhibition will showcase the talents of many of our local artists. There will be pottery, textiles, jewellery, glass and wood works, paintings and toys. The gallery is open daily at 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte.

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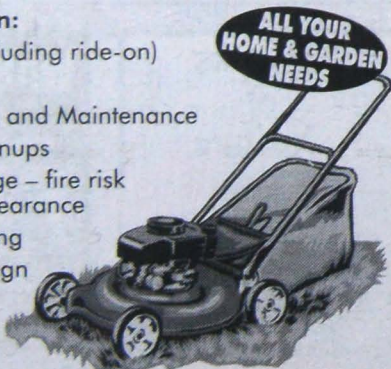
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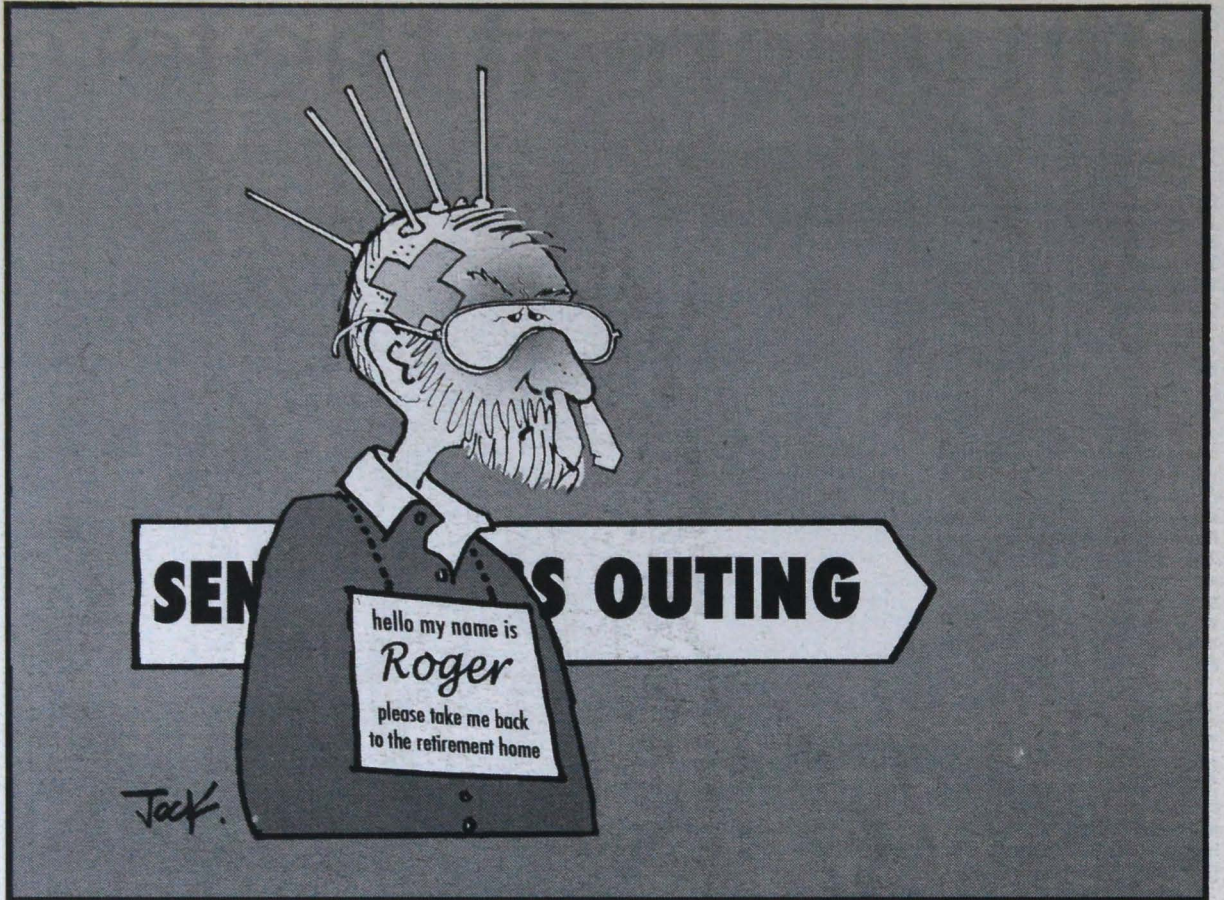
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# A complicated tale of outings and innings

**E**ACH month a group of about 20 of us heads off in a minibus to explore the many great gardens and parks in and around Melbourne. This month, however, I wasn't able to go.

Now in the past, going or not going on the tour would not even rate a second thought and I would never have considered writing about it for this column, however it seems that to others close to us, the nature of their perception of these trips has changed. In past years, we were "going out for the day" but now we seem to have reached the age where instead, we are assumed to be "going on an outing".

Language, we all know is highly nuanced. A teenager can call something good "wicked" but if I tried it, I'd be thought "embarrassing". Similarly, even ordinary events are described differently for different decades. For example, as you get older you don't "fall over" any more, instead you "have a fall".

"Oh dear, poor Mum had a fall in the shower last week," is very different from, "Mum slipped in the shower last week." A younger person can be uncoordinated, make a terrible misjudgement, fail to judge the distance correctly, fail to notice the fallen soap and as a consequence fall and break every bone in his body and it is all passed off as a terrible yet slightly amusing accident. However, if



**"I lose my balance after tripping over my shower safety stool. I'm regarded as a candidate for 24 hour medical monitoring..."**

I momentarily lose my balance after tripping over one the extendable legs of my shower safety stool, I'm regarded as a candidate for 24 hour medical monitoring.

So, feeling slightly sensitive to the wording of questions nowadays, it is with some chagrin last week that we were asked by our daughter, not "Were there any interesting plants?" or "Did you get any ideas for your garden?" but "Did you have a good outing?"

Somehow an "outing" is a lesser beast than "going out

for a visit" or going on "a trip to somewhere". The destination or activity seems to be irrelevant. Instead, the joy the questioner has is in seeing that we are still not past enjoying the company of our peers even if, no doubt, we can't remember what we saw.

So Herself is off on "an outing" and I'm writing my column. I decided not to go with her for two reasons. The first is that I wasn't very interested in this month's garden and the second is that I really couldn't go.

Well perhaps "couldn't" is too strong a word for it. I suffer from hay fever. The plane trees that line our street have what can only be described as "bombs" of fine, silk-like strands of sinus-blocking and aggravating seed filaments that they broadcast everywhere at this time of the year. It took me ages to isolate the cause but eventually, after the filter on our water tank clogged with an impermeable matting of these seeds did I twig that they might have been doing the same thing to my sinuses all these years.

Once I adopted the very stylish habit of wearing a disposable facemask or, if I didn't have one of those, the opposing corners of a twisted Kleenex tissue shoved up both nostrils when I was working outside, did I find that my headaches, runny nose and sandpaper throat subsided. As an added precaution, however, I begin taking hay fever

tablets at the beginning of the season and only stop when I can no longer spy evidence of "plane tree menace". So with the season at its height, it seemed imprudent to risk an unwanted attack just for an "outing".

The second reason is that I've just had plastic surgery and I don't want to run the risk of infection or splitting the stitches. I call it "plastic surgery" instead of a "minor procedure" because that's what it cost. Like many others I had a BCC (basal cell carcinoma) on my temple. It took a doctor's visit, then a visit to a dermatologist who confirmed the doctor's diagnosis (but did a biopsy anyway) and told me that it was too big for him to excise so he sent me to a plastic surgeon, who on the visit did nothing but confirm what had already been decided and make an appointment to cut it out. So several hundreds of dollars later I sat and had a cut and lift, resulting in 40 neat stitches and an eyeliner that looks decidedly younger than its partner.

Which is why I'm missing out on this month's "outing". By next month the plane tree will have lost interest, my natural beauty will not only have been restored but enhanced and the posties will have stopped having to use Blu Tack to stick straws to the top of their helmets to deter attacks from Kamikaze magpies.

ROGER KIBELL

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# 'Foxes' fly, feed the forest

nature

By JOAN BROADBERRY



Flying-foxes: the only mammal that gives birth upside down!

MY daughter asked me why I was reading a book upside down. I explained that I was researching for an article and had turned a photo of the European Fox around to see whether its face resembled its namesake the Flying-fox. It didn't, or only superficially. The Flying-fox's muzzle and ears are much shorter than that of the Fox, its eyes rounder and its face and ears grey. However, it does have a collar of fox-like, golden-orange fur. The Grey-headed Flying-fox is the largest of the five species of mega-bats native to Australia. Its wingspan reaches a metre. Only one breeding colony exists in Victoria and it is in the heart of Melbourne.

In 1986 Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens became home to a permanent camp of Grey-headed Flying-foxes. In the summer of 2002 their numbers peaked at 30,000. Their appearance in the Fern Gully was in response to the loss of food sources through land clearing in northern Australia. The Flying-foxes, always a migratory species, were moving into better watered urban areas in search of food. Colonies also exist in downtown Brisbane and Sydney. In March 2003 the Fern Gully colony was successfully relocated to Yarra Bend Park.

I, and many others, enjoyed watching the Botanic Gardens Flying-foxes, but I bonded with Flying-foxes long ago while on holiday in Cairns. We visited a tiny zoo and were allowed to go into the bats' enclosure and feed them banana. I immediately fell for their endearing, upside-down, dog-like faces.

In 1994, late one night, I heard strange noises in my Templestowe garden. Creeping outside with a torch I experienced one of those unforgettable moments of delight that naturalists are prone to. The realisation dawned that Flying-foxes were feeding in my backyard, attracted

by the nectar and pollen of the flowering gums. As they can forage 30 kilometres or more from their camp in Fairfield, Flying-foxes easily reach Templestowe and Warrandyte. I love seeing all native wildlife, and I love the fact that I can go down to the Bellbird Picnic Ground, just off the Boulevard at Yarra Bend, (Melway 2D K6), and enjoy the presence of these gentle animals resting during the day, or their spectacular fly-out after sunset.

Flying-foxes get more criticism than most Australian native animals. Their droppings make a mess, but hey, what animals doesn't? Fruit-bats can damage trees, as, to survive, they must live in large groups. However, they don't chop down whole forests as humans do, and bat-damaged trees will regenerate. Damage to crops could be an issue. But crops must also be protected from birds, and can be netted or safeguarded in other ways. The most sensitive area is that Flying-fox colonies may harbour *Lyssa-virus*. Thankfully this does not seem to be a problem in southern Australia. The very low risk from this virus should be kept in perspective, as should the danger

from snakes or sharks. And you have to respect the only mammal that can fly and that gives birth upside down!

Against this must be set the overwhelming truth that our hardwood and rainforests have evolved over millions of years alongside Flying-foxes and depend on them. The bats pollinate as they feed, and disperse seeds from the fruit and berries they consume. It is estimated that a single Flying-fox can disperse up to 60,000 seeds in one night. This vital role helps to replenish food sources for all creatures. No species is an island. Flying-foxes depend on the forest but the forest, in turn, needs Flying-foxes.

Grey-headed Flying-foxes are a state and federally protected species, yet their numbers have decreased so much since European settlement, that they are listed as vulnerable. The heat of last summer resulted in the death of a quarter of the Yarra Bend colony.

I believe the survival of the Flying-fox is important in itself, but they are part of the web of life and the very future of the forest may depend on their continued existence.

## Spreading good rubbish around

OH, NO! I've gone and done it again! At the pool I discovered I had two pairs of black trousers instead of one trouser and one top. Fortunately a little pink blouse covers a multitude of sins. Well, almost.

Thus it was, decked out in an unwonted shade of hot pink, that I joined the commuter club on Eltham station, balancing a scalding hot Long Black courtesy of the ever-chatty coffee vendor, and basked in the morning sunshine to while away the time till the next train. Corellas clowning around on the gantry screeched upside down, drowning out the easy-listening music designed to discourage loiterers under the age of 30. Or 50. Fortunately the stationmaster doesn't like Perry Como, or there'd be no passengers at all.

The sunshine had a surprising amount of sting already. Getting ahead of itself, I thought. Never was there a season more fervently spring-like. Even the scraggiest red box sapling is dripping with blossom. The grand old trees are bowed by the weight of

experience; many of them pre-date the wholesale clearing that denuded these hills in the 1920s when suburbs like Glen Iris were still developing and the grimy city had to search farther afield for its firewood. These old gums remember well how to make the most of a surprise burst of rainfall.

What with one thing and another it's been a community-oriented long weekend. You could even say festive. Temporarily putting aside chainsaws and brushcutters, Nillumbik's Sugarloaf community enthusiastically piled mountains of no-longer-viable household goods onto their newly mown nature strips. Shire authorities should be gratified—never did such a brief missive to householders result in so much dedicated action.

How fascinating these junk piles have been! You never know what luck will deliver as you walk your dog, or drive by in your handy 4WD. Sometimes the gems are obvious, like our old kettle barbecue. Somebody nicked that almost before it had touched the ground; certainly before my beloved got halfway back

### our place

By MARILYN MOORE

to the house from carting it down the hill. We'd never used it—it had been scrounged from my in-law's garage during a previous clean-up, as it seemed the sort of thing variety-nephews and nieces might find useful. It wasn't—it seems they already have "proper" barbecues. (And here was I thinking our little arrangement of bricks and grill was the real McCoy!)

Most things that people take are truly inexplicable. In the space of a few hours we lost two burnt-out old motors, an irreparably split toilet seat (minus fittings), and an elderly TV (*sans* picture tube). We didn't acquire anything, but did note that one neighbour must have a new heater and another a new refrigerator. The rubbish display certainly helps fill in some neighbourhood conversation blanks.

Kerbside cruising is rife. The boldest collectors park unashamedly in the middle of the road, engine running,

while they sort through each rubbish pile. Not deigning to speak, or even glance my way, they remind me of the scarecrow-man who trawls the bins at Westgarth station—hardened scroungers. Cheekiest of all was the small white tip-truck that stopped-started all the way down our street at nightfall, heaping more and more metal goods into his well-stacked tray. I wish he'd taken our old empty oil tank! Fingers crossed that the Shire collectors will have a bit more muscle, especially after the energy we expended somersaulting the rotten thing all the way down the hill to the roadside. Whew!

I'm jolted out of my reverie, and the corellas are dislodged from their high wire, by the arrival of the 10.21am train to Flinders Street. The stationmaster briskly walks the length of the platform with the all-important Loop, and passengers lazily board the graffiti-decorated carriages. By the time I get home again, I expect the council will have cleaned up the dregs of our annual Festival of Hard Rubbish, and November will have returned to normal.



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# Warrandyte's special houses

By VAL POLLEY

**W**ARRANDYTE'S heritage buildings from its gold era are well known and highly valued by today's residents, visitors and tourists. But how many of them know that there was another major period when Warrandyte provided inspiration for many young architects and builders—the decades following World War 2. They came with progressive ideas in architecture resulting in a concentration of remarkable buildings, many of which still exist, though alas others have vanished due to change and bushfires.

Warrandyte was one of several artistic communities established around Melbourne's north-eastern rural fringe in the early decades of the 20th century. The township and river had been a focus for artists since Clara Southern and other Heidelberg School landscape painters found it a favourite location for their art. Penleigh Boyd joined the thriving artists' community in 1914 and built his romantic house and studio "The Robins". By the 1930s the community had expanded to include sculptor Danila Vasilieff, artists Frank Crozier, Nutter Buzzacott, Harry Hudson, Adrian Lawler and James Wigley as well as art patron Connie Smith. Then in the 1930s two more creative communities were established, the first grew up round Jorge Jorgensen's "Montsalvat" in Eltham and then John and Sunday Read founded an artistic community around their property "Heide" in the Yarra Valley at Bulleen.

These communities comprised not only artists but also writers, potters and intellectuals. They held to strong ideals and their work often focused on the Australian landscape and its relationship to an Australian cultural identity. Young architects of the time were attracted to these artistic communities and it is not surprising to find their ideas were

influenced by the vision of living harmoniously within and as part of the local landscape.

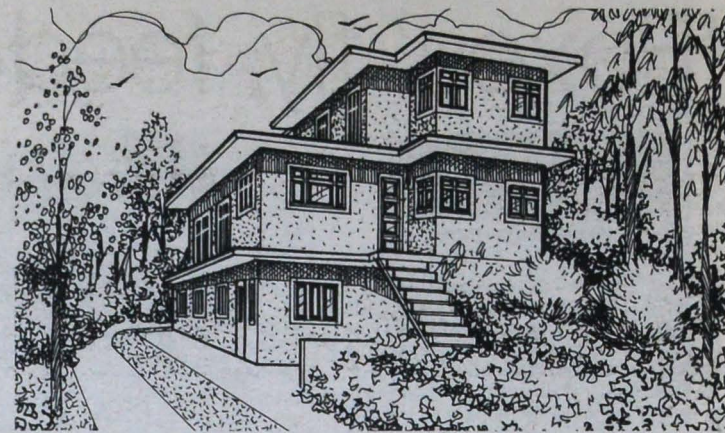
Modern architecture in the 1930s and 1940s in Australia was highly influenced by work overseas in Europe and America and took two parallel forms. The first was the functional international style, epitomised by buildings of the Bauhaus and de Stijl movements and architects such as Mies van der Rohe and Walter Gropius. This style was initially employed in Australia by many European architects who fled Europe to escape war and sought to continue their work in their new country. The second more organic form was mostly credited to Frank Lloyd Wright and Walter Burley Griffin and represented by houses constructed from natural materials, typically set in bushland, and demonstrating an affinity with nature. Both styles gave rise to a third regionalised form in Warrandyte, particularly in domestic architecture, where often the two became fused in a distinctive architectural style that took elements from both and responded more fully to the local environment, climate and landscape.

One of the earlier influences and proponents of what came to be known as "Warrandyte Style" was Alexa Goyder who came to live in Warrandyte in 1925. A friend of Clara Southern and the local artistic community she built a house of random rubble design with locally quarried sandstone with a flat steel deck roof and white painted vertically proportioned windows. It suffered during the 1939 fires and was largely rebuilt. Goyder built several houses providing a unique and creative contribution to Warrandyte's built environment.

In 1939 Clive and Janet Neild established an educationally radical school in North Warrandyte on land purchased from the old Frencham estate, based on the belief that learning environments are integral to a child's development. The Neilds

chose the firm of Best Overend to design modern buildings for their new Koornong school. The buildings were designed with vernacular style timber walls with flat skillion roofs, exposed stud framing lined internally with stained boards and stone chimneys. These buildings, randomly set amongst the bushland surrounds, caused a great deal of interest receiving many accolades as well as denigration by some who did not appreciate the style. The school closed in 1947 and only the Headmaster's House survives today. However its influence continued through its art teacher, the Russian migrant sculptor and artist Danila Vasilieff who built his own house "Stonygrad" using only local materials, rock and timber, a remarkable rugged building that still stands.

Fritz Janeba who came to Australia in the early 1940s, worked with Best Overend at the time of the Koornong School. It was perhaps as a result of this work that he and wife potter Kathe moved to Warrandyte, initially renting Penleigh Boyd's studio in 1941. Janeba had trained in Vienna and became a significant participant in the Melbourne field of architecture. He received several local commissions including the Warrandyte Infant Welfare Centre (located in Yarra Street but now demolished) and the houses for artists James Wigley and Nutter Buzzacott. Both the Janebas became part of the local art scene and this appears to have influenced his work which combines elements of the modern combined with local vernacular. In his 1944 design for artist James Wigley the house sits in the bush landscape on solid walls of rugged local rock with skillion roof and a fully glazed south-east elevation to take in the far views. The Janeba's built their own house after the war with vertical boards and large windows overlooking bushland. It featured in *Better Homes and Gardens* at the time. Photos of the Warrandyte Infant Welfare Centre (1946) shows



Merv Naughton's house, 1949

a flat roofed rectangular building with stepped back doorway and overhanging white porch, simple perpendicular glazed windows with white detailing and flat local stone-work walls.

In the mid-1940s local gunsmith Merv Naughton commenced work on his solid concrete house, presumably designed by himself. He was said to have admired the work of the Dutch de Stijl group and the house shows this influence. It reflects a European modernism of white flat walled architecture with cuboid and rectangular forms, overhanging eaves, flat roof and decks and corner metal glazing. Naughton however set the house into a bush landscape overlooking a bend in the Yarra River below and acknowledged the harsh summer climate with overhanging eaves and careful siting to its northerly aspect. The international style design was perhaps also influenced by the home of artist Adrian Lawler. Lawler admired Gropius and the Bauhaus and his house featured cubist forms, white painted walls and simple tubular handrails.

The talented architect and prolific writer, Robin Boyd, provided strong support for regional modernism through his writings and *The Age Small Home Service*. Although his family had left Warrandyte when he was very young he retained a strong connection designing several houses for Warrandyte families during the 1950s and 1960s. Most of these are still in existence with two still in original ownership. The King house is an intact, simple, early Boyd design for a working sculptor and printmaker. The Arnold house was built following the 1962 fires. The original Wright house lost in the bushfire was rebuilt by Boyd in 1963. It reflects its artist/potter owners' interest in things Japanese with strong masonry walls, open flowing spaces, shoji screens and large glazed windows opening up to a bushland setting. Boyd published the book *Australia's Home* in 1952 in

which he discusses architecture in terms of total environment. It is in this book he noted the development of a "Warrandyte Style".

Another builder with a sympathetic approach to building in the Australian landscape was Alistair Knox from Eltham who was part of the Montsalvat community in the 1940s and who became an iconic environmental builder mainly in mudbrick, utilising recycled and second hand materials such as bricks, slate and stone. He was actively building in the Warrandyte area from the 1950s onwards and several of his houses still remain in the township on both sides of the river. Over time he developed an indigenous style of Australian architecture. His houses were sited in the ground with flowing spaces, full-height doors and windows to allow free passage between inside and out and a communal open hearth and fireplace. His mudbrick buildings were approved by Eltham council and became a feature of that area but other councils were not so accepting and so Knox also built in brick while retaining his other notable features. These affectionately named "Knox Boxes" were, and remain, highly prized.

The significance of the work of these architect/builders cannot be underestimated. At a time when cream brick or triple-fronted brick veneer homes with pitched tile roof were marching across the suburbs, they produced distinctive, workable, stylish houses in tune with the environment and their times. Immediately after the war they had to contend with shortage of materials and other difficulties. They tended away from European style gardens preferring indigenous plantings to complement their buildings. Their work has inspired later generations of architects and designers to the benefit of all.

Val and Austin Polley live in Merv Naughton's iconic solid concrete house.

## Missing

There's this assumption that people who write about cats (especially cats called Piewackett) are mad old women who live with lots of them.

Yes, and they probably sit them on the end of broomsticks streaking through full-moon nights (and also wear tall black hats and stir strange things in pots).

It is said that they prefer them to humans. Well why not?

They make the same demands—food and a warm bed the right kind of strokes at just the right time (or all the time).

True, they often take more than they give. So what's different? But they need you and tell you and that's constant. And when they do give it's not unconditional like dogs "kick me again and I'll lick your foot", but it's uncomplicated.

They give with their presence waiting by the gate emerging through the fence—small striped shape imperious voice, demanding a ride on your shoulders where they curl and keep your neck warm, don't want to get off even when you're inside trying to cook tea.

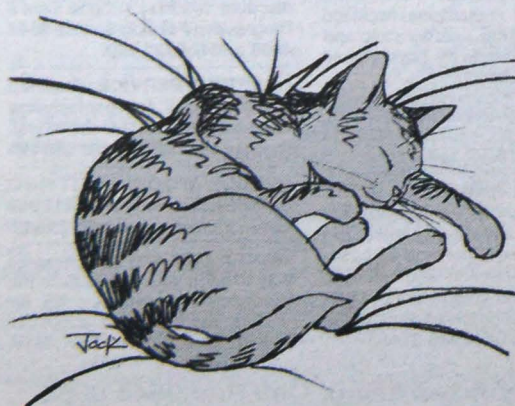
Keep you company while you're weeding rolling joyously in the dirt coming grumpily with you on long walks little bleated complaints if they get their feet wet quite happy to be carried home.

Piewackett slept on your bed from about 5.00 when you were awake otherwise her purring would stop you sleeping. Except on the coldest nights when she was allowed under the covers—a soft furry water bottle trying to creep near your face so you could hear her talking to you in "purr".

And when they leave you they who outlast children and lovers (their need more constant) you hope it's just that cussed streak—going bush for bit and you expect them home skinny and hungry lured with promises sent on the wind:

endless shoulder rides down stairs even in summer when claws get through clothes; open slather on the bed at night even before 5.00—never again to be thrown off because you purr too loudly; and barbecued chicken every day.

She's waiting for you Piewackett—broom ready by the door.



KAREN THROSSELL



Warrandyte basketball round-up with Tony Oliver

# Big talent pool for Big V men

The 2010 Big V season draws closer and the Men's side under new senior men's coach Kelvin Bowers is coming together well.

There was a tremendous turn out on day one of training/selection trials when 42 talented players come through the door.

"I was blown away - they just kept walking in. We are going to be competitive in whatever Division they put us in Big V," said Bowers.

"The commitment and hard work these guys have displayed over the past few weeks provides the confi-

dence we have the foundation of something really special."

The focus at the moment has been on defence where the Venom will have to make their mark early. The team will be very athletic and quick, which should be able to shut teams down on defence which will spark a lot of the offence.

"I am convinced if we can keep teams to the 70-80 points per game we will have success" said Bowers.

"We will have an up tempo game that the fans will sure to enjoy. We have

some skilled players that can light it up and with our quickness we will definitely be a difficult team to defend. against"

● The Big V Women's side will be fronting up for their fourth season and have started non-compulsory training before the start of the formal pre season training.

"It is non compulsory but we all know that the earlier we start the fitter we will be and the more enjoyable will be the formal training sessions" said key player, Chelsea Ransom.



Key players on court for the Venom Women's team, but mid week, they play on opposite sides. Chelsea Ransom, left and guard Janelle Jucas.

# Death of long time member

Members of the Warrandyte Basketball Association are deeply saddened by the passing of Kevin Ratcliffe, aged 53, on Friday 30 October 2009.

Kevin, a long time member, joined the club when his eldest son began playing in Under 8's in 1996.

In the 13 years since, Kevin has shared the ups and the downs of hundreds of games on Friday nights and Saturday's with his four boys, Jake, Troy, Matt and Zac.

All the parents and boys who have shared those ups and downs knew Kevin as a quiet but passionate football and basketball fan who was immensely proud of his sons' achievements, both on and off the court.

He strongly supported his wife Mandy, a life member of our Association, in her roles as coach, administrator, secretary and referee.

The Warrandyte basketball community extends its sincerest condolences and wishes to Mandy, Jake, Troy, Matt and Zac and to Kevin's extended family.

# Win keeps Venom in finals contention

Round 5 of the Wednesday night senior basketball was completed with the Warrandyte Venom girls scoring a good win over Maccabi by 36-27.

The first quarter was tight with neither side being able to get the ball into the ring. The Venom girls turned with a 7-2 lead as Ash Zuccolo scored close to the quarter time siren.

The second quarter was all Maccabi, easily winning

the quarter to take 17-12 lead into the long break.

A three point success to Penny Beaton and a late goal to Chelsea Ransom from an impossible position under the basket gave the Venom some hope.

Warrandyte paid dearly for some ill-discipline in defence but the break allowed the Venom to regroup and they were more disciplined in the third quarter.

Centre Julie Davis capped a strong game with eight points for the quarter with some skilful work under the basket.

The Venom's lead was only seven points, a small margin in this standard of basketball. Early goals to Ash Zuccolo and Nicole Dadswell put the game beyond Maccabi's reach and the Venom took the points in a highly defensive game.

Caitlin Murphy and Emma Collins were significant contributors to the result.

This was the Venom's second win of the summer 2009/10 season and keeps the girls in touch with the leaders.

● On the men's side, it was an unfortunate ending to last season where the boys missed the grand final by one game.

This season the team has come out firing and

Warrandyte has been performing well over the past four weeks, defeating Darebin (58 - 44), Pakenham (53-30), Coburg (67-69) and Waverly (65-60).

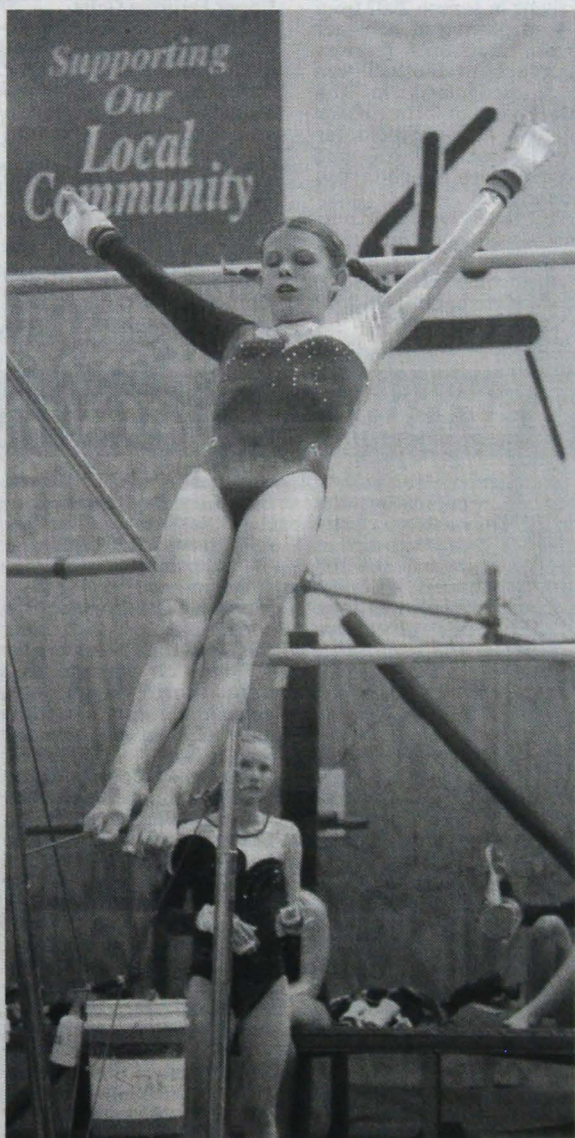
Consistently performing well in offence are Josh Collins, Matt Clough, Ryan Holloway, Chris Vanderzaag and new addition to the team, Mitch Hawley. There is also strong defensive pressure from Shane Holloway and Matt Belgiovane.

# Sarah's a real high flyer

North Warrandyte teenager, Sarah Geary was a member of a gold medal winning team at the Victorian Gymnastics Championships held in Geelong last month.

Sarah and her team mates were competing in the State Level 5 division for Ringwood's Eclipse Gymnastics.

They have also qualified to compete in the finals for the individual competition to be held this month which is restricted to the top 30 gymnasts in each division.



Sarah Geary is head over heels about her recent success as a member of the Ringwood Eclipse Gymnastics team.



Winner of Warrandyte's Club Person of the Year, Helen Milner, left, is presented with her award by tennis club secretary, Wendy Synnot.

# Helen rewarded for club service

Warrandyte Tennis Club's Keith Wilson Club Person of the Year trophy for 2009 has been awarded to Helen Milner.

Helen has been actively involved in the club for many years and her role is the administration of the membership records.

In announcing the award, club president Neil Sproat said: "When anything needs to be done Helen is always there".

Club secretary Wendy Synnot presented Helen with the perpetual trophy which has been given annually since 1984

# Naughtin is the Bloods' best

By CHRIS CHAPMAN

Warrandyte captain Tom Naughtin was named Best and Fairest for season 2009 at the Manningham Function Centre last month.

Naughtin, 24, polled 37 votes, nine votes ahead of his nearest teammate, to cap off a sensational season for the Bloods.

Since breaking his jaw early in 2006, then returning to play an integral part in the premiership later that year, Naughtin has been hampered by niggling knee injuries until finally playing an injury-free season in 2009.

Naughtin was also awarded the John O'Brien Award for overall Club Champion for season 2009.

In second place, with 28 votes, was the 2008 best and fairest winner, Grant McAdam who had another impressive season as a key member of the Warrandyte back line.

After taking a break after finishing junior football, McAdam has been with the senior club since 2005. He was also part of the 2006 premiership side.

McAdam was also recognised by team mates with the Player's Award for 2009.

In third place was Luke Naughtin, the older of the Naughtin brothers, who polled 27 votes in his best season for the Bloods since arriving in season 2007 from a stint playing at a higher level. Naughtin's fearless approach to football was also recognised in the awarding of the Gary 'Madge' Allsop Shield for the Most Courageous Player, which Naughtin also won in 2008.

Fourth in the senior best and fairest count, polling 24 votes, was another important member of the solid Warrandyte backline in 2009 in Adam Tsapatsaris.

Joining the club from

Eltham Panthers in 2007, Tsapatsaris struggled to string games together in his first two years at the club due to a recurring ankle injury.

After finally succumbing to reconstructive surgery late last year, Tsapatsaris played every game in 2009 including both finals.

The Darryl Valentine Memorial Shield for the Most Determined Player in the senior side was awarded to Dave Hand.

Another Eltham Panthers recruit, Hand joined the club for the 2008 season as an inexperienced player keen to learn. This determination saw him cement his position in the senior side in 2009 and develop into a valuable ruckman.

Best First Year Player was awarded to Matt Feben, who arrived at the Bloods in 2009 not having played any football since finishing school in 2004.

In a remarkable achievement, after impressing coaches in pre-season training and practice matches Feben went on to play 19 senior games for the year, mostly at full back.

The award for Best Senior Player in Finals went to Vincent Jones, recognised for standout performances in the Bloods' Semi Final win against Whitehorse and the Preliminary Final loss to Upper Ferntree Gully.

Full forward Mick Morello was also recognised for leading the goal kicking for the club with 82 goals for the year; the sixth year in succession that he was won the Ron Wilson Medal.

Presentation night is also an opportunity to recognise the important work that occurs off the field to keep the club operating.

This year the Tracy 'Snowy' Prior Best Clubperson award was given to Kaylene Bowen.

Kaylene's three sons play at the club, and this year she took on the role of team manager for the Reserves side, while also helping to organise successful events such as the Ladies Luncheon.

The President's Award went to Dale Falkingham, whose son Matt played a key role in the success of the Under 18s this year.

Dale assisted greatly as team manager of the Under 18 side, while also volunteering to help with media and newsletters and was always offering to assist the committee with other jobs.

## RESERVES AWARDS

Cal Haskings was rewarded for a dominant season in the two's midfield, winning the Reserves Best and Fairest award with 32 votes.

Haskings was an important physical presence for the young Warrandyte Reserves side this year, polling in 14 of a possible 18 games in his most consistent year so far since making the step up to senior football.

Second Best and Fairest for the Reserves was Daniel Bryant, polling 19 votes in his first year playing for Warrandyte after moving from Perth in 2008.

Bryant also spent most of the year playing in the midfield, and also experienced senior football with two senior games midyear. Bryant was also recognised by his teammates with the Reserves Players Award.

Finishing third with 18 votes was Ryan Cullen, who was also a new addition to the Bloods in 2009. Cullen was one of the more experienced players in the Reserves side, and provided some much needed leadership particularly leading into what was a first finals series for the majority of the side.

The Geoff Darby Mem-

orial Shield for the Most Determined Reserves player went to Jake Bentley, in his first year of senior football after making the step up from Under 18s, while Flynn Jarvis was awarded the Most Courageous Player award for 2009 after spending most of the year battling in the ruck against much bigger opponents.

The award for Best Reserves Finals Player went to Glen Carle, capping off an excellent season with two sensational games in the semi final win against Mitcham, and the Preliminary Final loss to Boronia.

Reserves full forward Campbell Holland was also recognised for winning the Reserves goal kicking award with 54 goals, not just leading the Warrandyte Football Club but across the entire EFL Division Three Reserves competition.

## UNDER 18 AWARDS

Jacob Buhagiar was awarded the Under 18s Best and Fairest with 26 votes after polling in all but a handful of games over the course of the season.

Quick off the mark and a prodigious ball winner, Buhagiar should be a valuable addition to the senior sides in years to come.

Buhagiar was also awarded the John McCartin Memorial Shield for the Most Consistent Player in the Under 18s.

Second Best and Fairest was awarded to Caleb Atkinson with 23 votes, while finishing equal third on 22 votes were Shane Biggs, Justin Khouri and Liam Whitfield.

Most Improved Player for the Under 18s was Ben Jackson, while the Lee Tindale Most Determined Player award went to Matt Falkingham. The award for Best Colts Finals Player went to Chris Ryan.



Newly names Warrandyte Tennis Club life member, Michelle Gilling, left, with fellow life members, Barb McBain and Mark Bence.

## Life award for Michelle

Michelle Gilling was awarded life membership of the Warrandyte Tennis Club at the Oktoberfest held at the club last month.

Michelle had already served the club in a number of areas before taking on the role of Junior Convenor in 2001. She held this position for eight years, resigning earlier this year.

During this period she instigated the Supersmashers program, an annual event for young beginner players.

This program which has run for the past six years has been very successful introducing new players to the club and to the sport of tennis. The format has been used as an example by other clubs.

Club president, Neil Sproat presented the award and said that life membership was reserved for members who had made a very substantial contribution to the club.

"In its 100 year history there have only been 12 life members", he said. "Michelle is now the 13th."

## Jack is Most Improved

Junior tennis player, Jack Eadie was presented with the club's annual Oriander Trophy for the Most Improved Junior at the club's recent presentation night.

Jack, who plays Eastern Region junior competition on Saturday mornings won the Under 13 Junior Masters at the club earlier this year.

Junior convenor Tina Mifsud said: "Jack has been a consistent player who is now becoming more confident".



Jack Eadie

## Andrew wins coach's prize

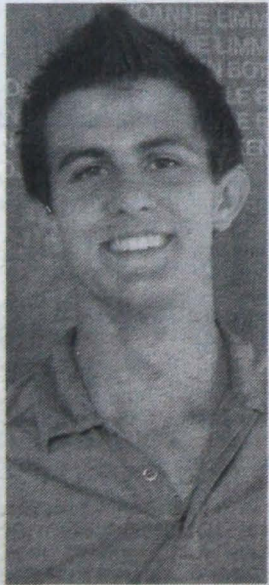
The 2009 Coaches Award for Warrandyte Tennis Club junior players has been won by 16-year-old Andrew Matotek.

In making his selection, club coach Craig Haslam said: "Andrew always gives his best as a competitor and his behaviour on court is as close to perfect as you can get."

As well as playing in junior competition Andrew has just played his first season with the seniors.

During the year he helped with coaching in the Supersmashers event and played in an exhibition match at the opening of the South Warrandyte Annexe clubhouse.

Craig said Andrew was a pleasure to be involved with in coaching.



Andrew Matotek

## Warrandyte junior athletes in top form

A number of Warrandyte athletes representing the East Doncaster Little Athletics club competed at the recent annual Box Hill invitational relay competition and performed well.

Local Under 10 boys

Nicholas Ward and Callum Pynt were key members of the 4 x 100m and medley relay teams that both won the gold medals.

The boys are aiming to go for gold at this year's state championships. Last year they won the silver medal.

Others to perform well were Shaely Pynt who won gold in the girls Under 13 4x100m. She also reached the finals of the 4x200m and the 800m medley events.

Others competing on the day were Ben Munks in the Under 9 boys, Jake Stewart in the Under 12 boys and Shaun Bowers in the Under 14 boys teams.

In the recently held VPSSA finals, local athletes from the East Doncaster Little Athletics club representing Andersons Creek Primary School performed well. Nicole Reynolds finished third in the zone for 10 years old triple jump and qualified through to the state finals for the 80m hurdles where she ran a personal best time of 14.55 seconds to claim the gold medal.

Alana Vitols capped off a

good day for the school in coming fifth in the state final of the girls 100 metres.

East Doncaster Little Athletics club is also supported and sponsored by the Warrandyte branch of the Bendigo Bank.

For more information on Little Athletics please contact Andrew Pynt on 0410 478 333 or Liz Phillips on 0416 187 140.



Shaun Bowers



Nicole Reynolds



Shaely Pynt

## Cricket

# Skipper leads 'Dytes to 3-0 season start

By RYAN HOIBERG

First XI captain Adam White has stamped his name into Warrandyte Cricket Club history, smashing the third highest score of 158 at the Warrandyte cricket ground to lead the team to a resounding victory over St. Andrews.

White, currently the leading batsmen in the RDCA for the Wilkins Cup, followed this massive score the following round against Templeton with 79 to have the First XI equal first after three rounds.

White's current average of 90 is one of many highlights for the club, with all five senior teams recording a win in the latest round.

White's 158 was recorded in the second round of the season against St Andrews at home, after St Andrews elected to bat first.

Matthew Sazenis (5/39 off 25 overs) ran through the St Andrews line up, joined by Gerald Walshe (3/31 from 14 overs).

St Andrews lost early wickets but were consolidating as they headed into tea, before Sazenis's spin snared a wicket just before the break.

St Andrews' position of 4/107 at tea was precarious enough, and with Campbell Holland (2/57 from

21 overs) and Sazenis bowling well in tandem the visitors were reeling at 7/127, 17 overs after tea. After a late stand, St Andrews were eventually all out for 179 from 73 overs.

Warrandyte's innings started shakily at 2/33, but when White joined Jack Ellis (57) at the crease, the 'Dytes didn't look back.

White and Ellis batted superbly together, with Ellis holding down his end, while White went to town on the St Andrews' attack.

When Ellis fell after a partnership of 155 the game had been won with the score on 3/188. Warrandyte didn't let up though and White was joined by new recruit Brett Montgomery (52 not out) and the pair went on to add a further 80 runs together till White fell for a memorable 158.

Warrandyte went on to finish at 4/324, sending a clear message to the rest of the competition.

This performance was followed up the next week against Templeton, however it was a much closer affair.

Warrandyte lost the toss and were asked to bat first, and following another top order collapse, White joined Ben Taylor (23) at 2/15.

Taylor and White steadied the innings till Taylor departed, then

was followed into the sheds by Mooney soon after. White was joined by Steve Glenk (32), and after being 4/98 at tea, the pair rectified the innings, putting Warrandyte in a position to build towards a strong total.

However when White fell for 79 and Glenk followed, Warrandyte collapsed, losing their last six wickets for 30 to be all out for 187.

Sazenis (4/29 from 16 overs) was able to grab a late wicket on day one, putting Templeton on the back foot early.

When Warrandyte returned the next week they needed a good return from a strong bowling attack, and Sazenis and Walshe (3/38) delivered again helped along by Steve Warr (2/21).

White applauded his bowlers' ability to grab crucial wickets when the team really needed them, and praised Walshe's efforts, along with Sazenis haul.

Warrandyte ended up bowling Templeton out for 117 and had another bat late in the day to finish 1/45. This places Warrandyte second on the ladder, with only percentage keeping them from top spot.

In the lower grades, the Second XI have had a mixed result, soundly beaten by the Olinda, but then

bouncing back to defeat Scoresby at home thanks to 47 from Tim Hookey and Daniel Barry returning after injury to capture 4/36.

The Third XI turned around two poor results against Croydon Ranges and St Andrews this week to beat Montose, while the Fourth XI remain undefeated thanks to a fantastic bowling attack.

The Fifth XI have also won their last two games, highlighted by Rakesh Khattry's 72 not out.

Scores:

**First XI** - Round 2: Warrandyte 4/324 (White 158, Ellis 57, Montgomery 52 n.o.) d. St Andrews 179 (Sazenis 5/39, Walshe 3/31)

Round 3: Warrandyte 187 (White 79, Glenk 35) and 1/45 (Taylor 23 n.o.) d. Templeton 117 (Sazenis 4/29, Walshe 3/38)

**Second XI** - Round 2: Warrandyte 73 (Beardall 23 n.o.) and 6/103 (Cleaves 46 n.o. Howarth 31) lost to Olinda 8/160 dec. (Warr 3/43, Gaffney 2/38)

Round 3: Warrandyte 175 (Hookey 47) d. Scoresby 145 (Barry 4/36) and 6/143 (Gaffney 2/14, Beardall 2/26)

**Third XI** - Round 3: Warrandyte 7/145 (Smead 31 n.o) lost to Croydon Ranges 1/197

Round 4: Warrandyte 112 (Canty 34) lost to St. Andrews 9/114 (Prangley 2/14, L. Warren 2/20)

Round 5: Warrandyte 196 (Day 48, Greve 37) d. Montrose 9/156 (Wright 2/10, Gidley 2/20)

**Fourth XI** - Round 3: Warrandyte 2/226 (Greve 115 n.o., Zach 51) d. Montrose 5/184 (Roji 2/28)

Round 4: Warrandyte 7/167



Warrandyte captain, Adam White scored 158 against St Andrews and followed up with 79 against Templeton.

(McKellar 41, Mulhall 41) d. Templeton 9/117 (Croft 3/17, McKellar 2/8, Rees 2/12)

Round 5: Warrandyte 135 (Lockie 23) d. North Ringwood 125 (Rees 4/15)

**Fifth XI** - Round 3: Warrandyte d. Boronia (forfeit)

Round 4: Warrandyte 2/133 (Khattry 72 n.o.) d. Warranwood 7/123 (Hartman 4/17, G. Warren 2/10)

Round 5: Warrandyte 4/201 (Revell 57, Aly 55) d. Montrose 110 (Lane 5/23)

## Hawks get a pass mark for October efforts

By FRANS BROUWER

South Warrandyte Hawks' senior cricket teams leave October with a pass mark.

The season got off to a good start for three of the Hawks' six senior sides which are in the top half of their ladders, but the other three teams are by no means out of the running.

A highlight of the last day of October was three players taking five wickets, including the Garrett brothers Steve and Paul.

Following a loss to Mooroolbark in Round 1, it was a different story in Round 2 (a one-dayer after week 1 was washed out).

The Hawks' batting improved to 5/196 (Josh Barrett 89 n.o. and Steve Garrett 43 in a partnership of 99 for the fifth wicket), but the bowlers (Steve Lindsay 4/26 and Steve Garrett 2/27) and fielders (keeper John Eldridge 3 catches, three run outs) restricted Templeton to 119.

In Round 3, the Hawks' bowlers did their bit as Croydon Ranges scored 188 (Steve Garrett 5/43), and Josh Barrett (109 n.o.) led the team to a convincing win as the Hawks scored 9-299 in reply.

In A Grade, 7/189 (Shane Biggs 51) was not enough against Montrose 7/201 (Ben Hartrup 3/29) and neither was 7/224 (Cam Head 104) against St Andrews 3/250.

But 6/227 (Paul Milne 91, Dale Owen 46) in Round 3 was enough against Bayswater's 168 (Matt Cowen 4/19), but 6/228 (Cam Head 109, Robbie Bowen 45) could not compete against Croydon Ranges 5/256.

The Hawks are lying sixth, but their three losses were against the top three sides.

D Grade is in a similar position. A one-run win in Round 2 (Nathan Willoughby 65no), and three losses leaves them in seventh place.

The other highlights were Jack Hall 48 and Alex Cattanaach 3/31 in Round 3, and Hayden Matthys 4/28 in Round 4.

By contrast, I Grade is third, with its only loss to top team Wonga Park by 16 runs in Round 3.

The noteworthy performances were Stuart Batten 51no in Round 1, Scott Adams 40, Bernie Sewell 35, Tom Hall 3/14 in Round 2, Matt Sharrock 3/20 and James Bowen 3/23 in Round 3, and Jake Robb 45, Paul Garratt 5/23 in Round 4.

K Grade lies second with three wins. Lincoln Mofatt's 67 and Lachlan McMahon's 43 in Round 2, plus Josh Bird's 66 in Round 3 were the batting highlights, and Phil Soars' 4/51 in Round 3 and Luke McDonald's 5/26 in Round 4 were outstanding.

This team's strengths are the spread of wicket-takers and the number of batsmen reaching double figures each match, and it keeps winning despite constantly losing its best performing players to fill gaps in teams above it.

Even the absence of Captain John Cleary went unnoticed last week during a 60-run win against Warranwood.

Dads' Army slipped to fourth after its first loss in M Grade. With five players over 50 and three others not much younger (the usual Cup Week selection difficulties), it was left to three juniors to chase leather in the outfield.

A rapid unbeaten 28 from Under 16 player Ollie Hansen steadied the ship towards the end, avoiding the need for two oldtimers to bat (including this correspondent).

The six junior sides are all travelling well.

In Under 18s, a 56-run loss (McMahon 28, Matthys 25, Richards 3/22) was followed by a bye. In Round 3, the tail, led by Joel Amesbury, wagged from 7/86

to 10/146 (McMahon 34, Amesbury 26), which should be competitive.

Under 16/2 won its first two games thanks to Willoughby 51, Williams 35, McDonald 30no, and Hansen 3/3 in Round 1 and (Willoughby 53no) in Round 2 (by four runs).

A score of 208 (Willoughby 72, Holewa 44, Cattanaach 31) is more than competitive in Round 3.

South Warrandyte has a proud history of forming combined junior sides with other clubs. They are often last-minute creations, and it takes time for a team to "gel" under such conditions.

It took just two innings for the Hawks/Croydon Ranges combined side - 9/43 in the first innings, restricting Wonga Park to 95, and then a second innings of 141 (Price 38). Round 2 wasn't bad either, with 9/120 not enough against Olinda's 6/159.

Defending 9/126 (Williams 40) in Round 3 will be a challenge.

The Under 14/2 team started with a big win against a Norwood/Hawks combined side (Holewa 51 retired and 3/9, King 51 retired, Chappell 44, Sammartino 3/11), followed by a 13 run loss (Sammartino 3/14, King 26 and 2/12), but 4/211 (Holewa 55no, King 47) vs Lilydale should return them to the winner's list.

Under 14/2 was a little hot for the combine, and it already looks more comfortable in Under 14/3 with a score of 7/162 (Van Rensburg 40no, Mehta 34).

For the Under 12/1s, a forgettable Round 1 (Exley 26no and 2/8 the highlights) was followed by a gutsy 18 run loss in Round 2 (Exley 30no and 3/11).

The RDCA resisted the temptation to regrade, and restricting Ringwood to 9/131 suggests this team deserves to be in the top Under 12 grade.

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AUCTION  
Saturday 14th November 2009, 12:30pm



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Wander through this 13-acre site of natural bushland and you can see the potential for yourself: hilltop views from Kangaroo Ground to Warranwood, flat useable land across the ridgeline 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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