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WARRANDYTE diary

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No 438, February 2011 For the community, by the community

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Roundabout a river...

Emergency vehicles stand by as traffic attempts to navigate the flooded junction of Warrandyte and Harris Gully roads on Saturday morning, February 5. A few minutes later, the police 4WD towed the small blue car to safety. (Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS)

● More flood pictures on Page 10.



Bus bays go back?

Indent return being costed

By KARLY HICKMAN and CLIFF GREEN

The recently-elected state government may return bus stops along Yarra Street to their former indented design.

The changes to the bus stops in Warrandyte fuelled considerable local debate, many residents arguing that the new bus stops, requiring buses to stop on the road, are adding to bumper-to-bumper traffic at

peak times.

Ryan Smith, MP for Warrandyte and minister for the environment and climate change, has requested a full costing from the Department of Transport on returning the stops to their original indented design.

"This is clearly something that is both frustrating and a safety issue for the people of Warrandyte," Mr Smith told the *Diary*.

He claimed the original decision to change the bus stops was made by the former government "with no community consultation".

"These are real safety issues, particularly on Yarra Street, where sections of the road are so narrow,"

Mr Smith said.

Work on modifying the bus stops began around the middle of last year, when contractors started work, removing the indented nature of a number of sites along the main road, aimed at stopping buses in the traffic lane and forcing traffic to stop behind them.

The Department of Transport insisted the Warrandyte community had been consulted on this move.

At the time, a departmental spokesperson told the *Diary*: "Bus stops along Yarra Street are being upgraded to SmartBus standards as part of the Doncaster Area Rapid Transport System (DART) project.

"The upgrades are designed to give buses priority while maintaining the traffic flow through Yarra Street. Indented bus bays are removed to allow buses to stop and leave without having to merge with traffic.

"This means buses are not delayed when trying to merge into traffic. As a bus can carry more than 50 people, it helps relieve congestion on the roads.

"The owner or occupier of all properties next to a bus stop were consulted in 2009," the spokesperson claimed.

The Warrandyte Community Association argued that the new system would add to congestion.

"Our position is that we are working to reduce gridlock in Warrandyte, not increase it," WCA president Dick Davies said.

Ryan Smith said that once costings were complete, a decision would be made as to whether rebuilding the bus stops would be cost prohibitive. If not, he will consult with the community to gauge local support for the changes.

Full costings are expected in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile construction of the modified bus stops was continuing as the *Diary* went to press.

● The *Diary* is seeking community comment on this issue.

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— Oscar Wilde

WARRANDYTE diary

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PUBLISHER: Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd, (ACN 006 886 826 ABN 74 422 669 097) as trustee for the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.
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INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy/
PRODUCTION: Rachel Schroeder, 9725 6699.
PRINTING: Streamline Press Pty Ltd, 155 Johnston Street, Fitzroy.
 Published on or about the second Wednesday of each month (except January).



ADVERTISING RATES

\$6.40 a column centimetre. Colour: \$800 full page, \$530 half page, \$290 quarter page. B&W: \$660 full page, \$440 half page, \$240 quarter page. \$80 front page "ears". Preferred positions: page one 100%, page two 30%, page three 20%, other nominated pages 10%. Mini-ads: \$5.50 for four lines, then \$1 each additional line. Mini-ads pre-paid unless by prior arrangement. All rates plus 10% GST.

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Wednesday, March 9, 2011. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, February 25, 2011.

OUR NEWSPAPER

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

A SPECIAL PLACE

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



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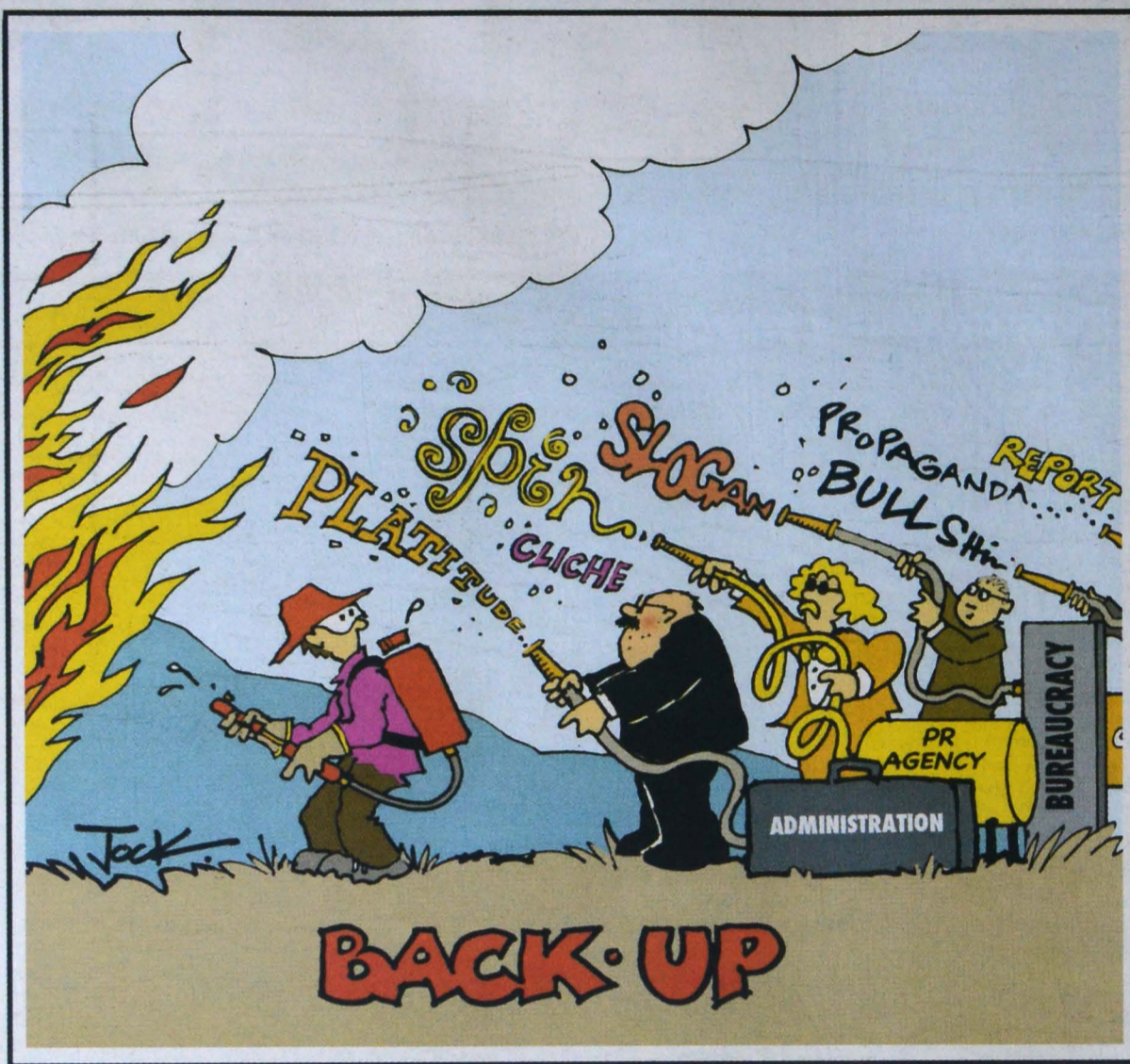
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OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



Swedish style evades Narelle

JASPER needed a new desk. "No worries," said Narelle. "I'll just pop in to IKEA and get something."

Alert readers will have immediately spotted the oxymoron in Narelle's simple solution.

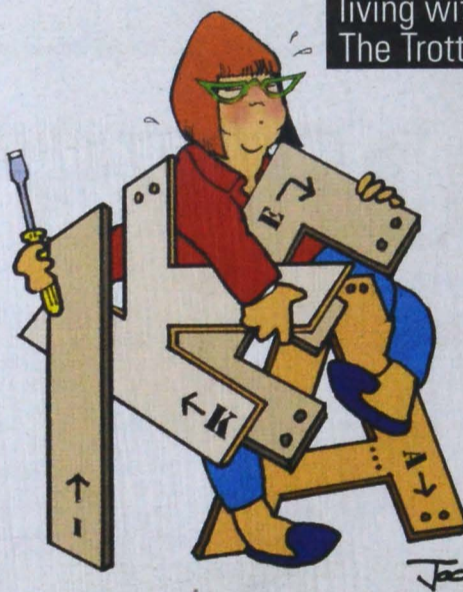
The idea of just popping in to IKEA is as inherently contradictory as Matt Preston having a light lunch. Or a brief comment from Rob Oakeshott.

But, true to her word, the next day found Narelle parking the car at Victoria Gardens, scaling the steps to the IKEA entrance and stepping boldly onto the black stripe.

If a straight line is technically defined as the shortest distance between two points, the line on the floor of IKEA is surely the longest.

And without so much as a water bottle or a pickled herring to sustain her, Narelle plunged into Sweden's answer to the Matrix to run the gamut of ready-to-assemble items with names like Boink, Slag and Fjarding.

She hurried through dinning settinnings, sofars, stjoos and storij, took a short cut through fjabriks, went back through sofars, stjoos and storij, pressed on to kabjinet, boksjelfes and warddrobs, saw one of those stjuudent lammpp that bends five ways, proceeded through gllasvsuar, kutllerii and bjatmats, de-



living with The Trotts

ecided to go back and get the stjuudent lammpp that bends five ways, retraced her steps through gllasvsuar, kutllerii and bjatmats, got lost in verkstasjons, took a deep breath in kitssens, struggled on through doar hantles, had a little lie down in matressvsjes, began to sob at tois, smashed through krokkerii, burst through kurtans, practically slid down the stairs to warehaus and ran for the check-out, collecting an old man with an armful of koatangers on the way knock-

ing everything from arsjehol to brekfasjt.

"Dikkhed!" yelled Narelle and fled for the nearest exit and out into the carpark.

"Thank ABBA!" she gasped and slumped against a pink pillar to catch her breath before heading for the car.

It wasn't there.

"Sfit!" said Narelle.

Up and down the aisles she wandered, getting more frantic by the minute. Maybe she was on the wrong floor. She headed up the ramp,

cars swerving around her in both directions, reached orange level and started again. She searched every inch, twice, before trudging on up to green. One heel was broken, her hair hung in damp strands, she was dripping with sweat and hallucinating that she was trapped on a Volvo assembly line.

Motorists honked her, shoppers swerved their trolleys to one side and mothers dragged their children out of the way of the madwoman dragging a lammpp that bent in five places crying, "Has anybody seen a car!"

Then, just when she was thinking she'd have to wait till all the other vehicles had left, there it was.

Love is not an emotion usually bestowed upon a 1996 Toyota LandCruiser but Narelle could not have embraced Brad Pitt more passionately as she threw her arms around the bullbar, the lammpp folding neatly to the side and gouging a thirty centimetre groove along the fender. She clambered in, wound her way down to the exit gate and didn't have enough change to get out.

"So," said Neville when she got home. "Did you get one?" "Get what?" moaned Narelle, sprawled across the bed like a boxer taking the count.

"A desk." "Oh krapp!" she moaned and closed her eyes.

ALAN CORNELL



FIRE NUMBERS

FIRE AND EMERGENCY: 000

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

Relay for Life relocating

The local community is disappointed that the Warrandyte Relay for Life is to be relocated to East Doncaster and will be renamed the Manningham Relay for Life.

The Warrandyte event, staged at the Warrandyte Reserve over the past three years, has become an important weekend on the local calendar.

The first relay, in 2008, raised \$15,000 for the Cancer Council, the second, in 2009, raised \$53,000. Last year the relay raised \$55,000. Many local clubs, organisations and family groups organised teams, secured sponsorships, raised finance and participated in the all-night relay in honour of survivors of cancer, their carers and friends and loved ones lost to cancer.

According to a spokesperson, "the change of venue comes in response to a number of unresolved issues surrounding the Warrandyte Reserve football oval, including participant feedback."

"Sad as it is to see the relay move from Warrandyte, this change will absolutely and totally solve so many of the

challenges we faced at our local oval," local committee member Sandi Givens told the *Diary*.

"We know the track will be safe to walk on, no matter what the weather. Tents can be pegged into the ground, we'll have wonderful rooms for both the massages and the survivors and carers function, and the toilets will cope with the extra demand," Ms Givens said.

The organisers believe that reshaping the relay to be a Manningham-wide event provides "a unique opportunity to bring the greater community together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost and fight back against cancer."

The Manningham Relay for Life is scheduled for September. More information from www.relayforlife.org.au or phone 1300 65 65 85.

● Prior to the November state elections, local MP Ryan Smith told the *Diary* that a Baillieu Liberal government, if elected, would provide \$800,000 towards a major redevelopment of the pavilion at the Warrandyte Reserve.



They ran for their lives at the 2010 Warrandyte Relay for Life. (Picture by Bill Parry)

Find fire facts

To report a fire: 000
Victorian Bushfire Information Line: ph 1800 240 667 (or 1800 122 969 for TTY)

CFA: www.cfa.vic.gov.au
CFA on mobiles: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/mobile

CFA Connect: www.cfaconnect.net.au

Online bushfire safety meetings: tinyurl.com/23cn5rb

To book a CFA property assessment: tinyurl.com/2crojxv

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cfavic

YouTube: www.youtube.com/cfatv

Twitter: twitter.com/cfa_connect

iPhone app: tinyurl.com/2dfjg2

DSE: www.dse.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology: www.bom.gov.au

Emergency broadcasters include: ABC Melbourne 774 AM, commercial AM and FM stations, Plenty Valley 88.6 FM, plus Sky News Television.

CFA District 13 (south of Yarra): ph 8739 1300

CFA District 14 (north of Yarra): ph 8746 1400



CFA brochure confuses



Local CFA volunteers stand ready. (Picture by Sandy Burgoyne)

A CFA mail-out received by many locals last month has caused some confusion in the community. It contained a brochure, specifically intended for local residents, entitled "Warrandyte/North Warrandyte Community Preparedness Guide".

The release of this brochure followed a meeting, held last November in Warrandyte, between the CFA's community safety officer for this area, members of the Warrandyte Community Association, local fireguard groups and some CFA volunteers.

"There is some praise for this brochure," Dick Davies, WCA president, told the *Diary*.

"The fire planning template, fridge magnet and overall material is a reminder to prepare in advance for the fire season.

"However, residents are critical of much of the content, some of which is downright misleading."

Mr Davies believes that fire safety officer Lorraine Kamp "conducted a very professional meeting. There was agreement on key points from all attending.

"But few of our suggestions have been incorporated by CFA management in this document.

"WCA understands that the Township Protection Plan is a work in progress, but this

is now the second document produced in two years—following community consultation—which CFA central command and control mentality has seen fit to ignore," Mr Davies said.

"There are some obvious howlers. Use of Sloan Hill as a descriptor in North Warrandyte is not particularly helpful, and describing the bridge as single lane defies the usual use of that term.

"However, more importantly, it still includes a Fire Risk Assessment map of Warrandyte and North Warrandyte that is actually a CFA operational map and could be positively dangerous if misinterpreted by residents."

All participants at the November meeting agreed that this should be removed "but it remains," Mr Davies said.

"Not everyone received a copy of the brochure, as the Department of Justice address list is limited, so alternative distribution through commercial outlets, local organisations and Community Fireguard groups is necessary.

"WCA is very supportive of the efforts of our local community safety officer to promote fire safety in the area and we hope that in future—third time lucky!—the CFA will finally get the message that local residents can contribute vital information to these plans," Mr Davies

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.

● The CFA is running two Fire Ready Victoria meetings in the Wonga Park area during February. The first is at the Wonga Park Community Hall (Mel 24G12) at 8pm on Thursday, February 10 and the second is at 7.30pm at the Yarrunga Community Centre, Croydon Hills Drive, Croydon Hills.

School starting – make use of the Education Tax Refund by keeping all relevant receipts. As from 1 July school uniforms are included. Speak to us now to ensure you are doing it right. We welcome personal and business tax enquiries.

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We know all about floods!

By VAL POLLEY

THE recent devastating floods across much of eastern Australia have focussed a great deal of attention onto flooding, especially its causes and impacts. There has been speculation on how this township would be affected in similar circumstances.

Warrandyte has certainly seen its fair share of floods over the decades. In the early days of European settlement the river flooded frequently. Heavy winter and summer rains or sudden summer storms saw water levels rise quickly with often severe flooding wiping out the infrastructure that had been built.

"The Yarra has twice risen to such a height that many families have been washed out of their houses and it has done a lot of damage to crops," so wrote Warrandyte settler Penelope Selby in November 1842. Again she wrote in November 1844: "My old friend the Yarra Yarra has overflowed beyond the calculation or remembrance of any person here and done great damage. Entire houses have been washed away."

The local Aborigines warned however that, "this one only piccaninny—big one coming".

The almost annual flooding made

mining the river and creek beds difficult. In 1851 cradles, dishes, tools and everything else were washed away causing many local miners hardship.

But it was the Great Flood of 1863 that caused much greater damage along the entire length of the river. Warrandyte was no exception, the new and expensive bridge was swept away, fences lost and roads and culverts damaged. Elsewhere there was extensive flooding and damage. After investigations into causes and effects the lower Yarra's course was altered in 1879 to alleviate flooding in the lower reaches.

No such alleviation occurred at Warrandyte however, and frequent flooding continued with detrimental effects on mining activities. Equipment was continually washed away, crushing machines were unable to work and coffer dams became submerged. In 1891 and 1901 there were record floods though not quite to 1863 levels but still causing significant damage and distress.

However it was in December 1934 that the greatest flood was recorded for the Yarra River. This flood reached unprecedented levels and caused enormous damage over the catchment. It was the most disastrous flood in the history of War-

randyite with more than 40 people made homeless and all the shops and dwellings on the riverside of Yarra Street flooded. One house (Miller's) was swept away, and eight others, a church and the post office were completely submerged or flooded.

At the time the damage was estimated at about £4000. Mr Miller's house, huge trees, dead sheep, poultry, cattle, a haystack and lots of other debris were swept down the swollen river. Pearson's footbridge at Pound Bend was also swept away and many orchards suffered damage from debris with Till's orchard losing its entire peach crop.

The water rose over the (then) wooden bridge to a depth of two feet and the sides were removed to allow for wreckage from upstream to flow over the decking, saving it from collapse. It was the largest flood ever experienced at Warrandyte. Fortunately no loss of life occurred in the township.

Across the catchment region though, more than 6000 people were made homeless and 18 people died. As with previous floods, this one resulted in a board of enquiry that recommended more planned improvements and mitigation works.

The Upper Yarra Dam was built

in 1957. Wise actions from the then Board of Works resulted in setting flood levels below which no buildings were allowed to be built. As a result there are now parklands and recreational areas all along the river that do occasionally flood, but these events usually have minimal effect on infrastructure and buildings.

The last major flood in the township, that cut roads such as Everard Drive, flooded areas such as Glynn's farm and impacted on residents was in November 1971. Some buildings located in lower lying areas such as the old dairy also flooded.

There have been several lesser flood events too since that time, when the pathways along the river have gone under water and footbridges and walkways within the State Park have been affected. However the recent long drought has seen river levels at an all-time low for some time.

The flood experiences of recent months leads to reflection on the likelihood of floods affecting the township again. There are surely lessons to be learnt from those in Queensland and Victoria and questions to be asked. There is perhaps wisdom in adhering to the flood levels set in 1934 with 100-year flood levels saying more about lev-

els than actual frequency.

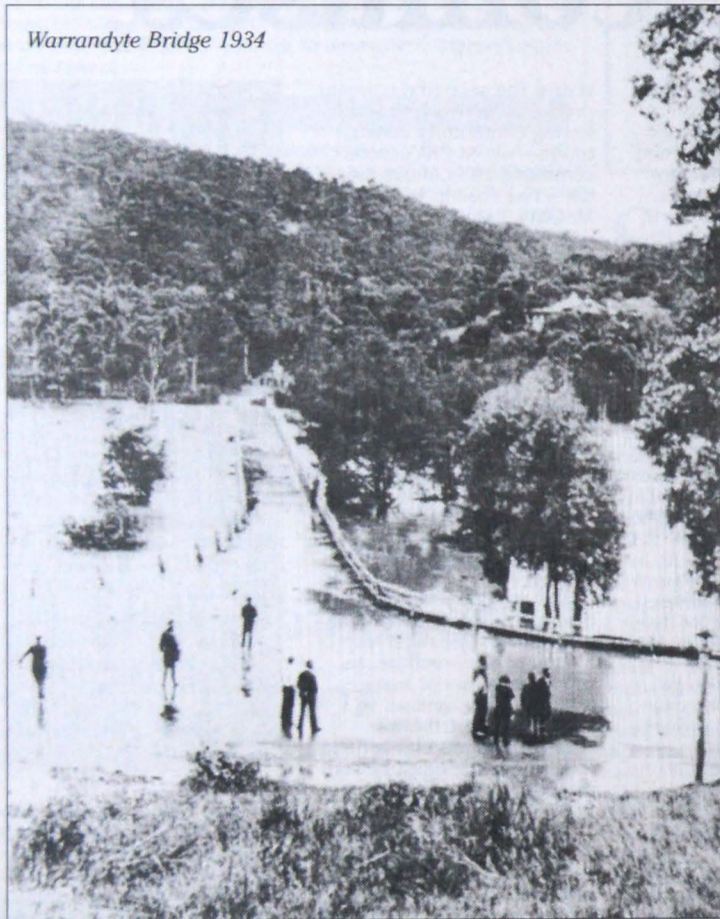
Can it ever be said that "it will never happen again" even with dams further up the catchment? Are flood plains just for flooding and not building, given that no real guarantees can be given there will be no future flood events? Do levees and diversions only move the problems elsewhere?

Can dams be the answer given those built for flood mitigation need to be empty and those for water storage full, making it unlikely one dam can fulfill both needs satisfactorily? No doubt there will be an enquiry to try to find answers to these questions but will lessons be learnt? History tends to suggest not.

One thing is for sure, there cannot be complacency. Given a similar concurrence of events as that which occurred in the north, full dams, saturated soil and an extreme rainfall event, similar flooding could occur again along the Yarra.

There are constant warnings that global warming will lead to more and more extreme events occurring at more frequent intervals. The recent switch from drought to floods has been dramatic. Warrandyte has experienced extreme floods in the past; it should remain prepared to do so again in the future.

Warrandyte Bridge 1934



Warrandyte Post office 1934



Pictures from the Warrandyte Historical Society collection

Everard Drive 1971



Presbyterian church 1934



I would urge all people considering entering the river on inappropriate devices and without proper safety gear to think again and stay off the river. —Sgt Keith Walker



River dangers

By SANDY BURGOYNE

Heavy downpours during the past couple of months brought welcome inflows to dams and water tanks, but created potentially hazardous conditions in the Yarra.

During the summer months our river is usually a friendly and inviting place to cool off — the level is low, the flow leisurely and the water relatively clear, but not this season. The Yarra is flowing more like a winter river, being higher, broader, swifter and murkier than we are accustomed to at this time of year; and it must be treated with respect.

As the *Diary* was going to press, it was announced that a young man had died in the Yarra at Eltham.

Last month two 19-year-olds floated down the river on small, inflatable toys and were lucky to escape from the swiftly flowing water. One of the teenagers lost her floatation toy and clutched hold of a tree in the middle of the river near the tunnel entrance. Concerned onlookers called 000 and local police, plus Eltham and Doncaster SES units responded.

"We had to launch one of our boats and get downstream and we loaded (the teenagers) into the boat and then powered back up the river and offloaded them onto the bank," John Allen, deputy controller SES Doncaster unit told the *Diary*.

In this case the risk-taking

teenagers were rescued, but six years earlier a similar float down the Yarra ended in tragedy. Two men in their 20s tried to cross the swollen and swiftly flowing Yarra just above the tunnel entrance on toy inflatable rafts. One man reached the other side, but the other fell from his plastic float and was swept into the tunnel. His body was found several days later five kilometres downstream from the tunnel exit.

Warrandyte police Sergeant Keith Walker recalled the aftermath of that drowning.

"I spent five days with the parents of the young man who died in the river after being dragged through the tunnel whilst the river was in flood. I don't want to have to do that again or see other parents have to go through what those people did while many people were out looking for their son. I don't want to see any other young lives taken through reckless behaviour and I would urge all people considering entering the river on inappropriate devices and without proper safety gear to think again and stay off the river."

The SES also issued a safety warning about entering a swiftly flowing watercourse.

"We have standard advice regarding flood waters, definitely when water levels are up you need to be particularly cautious and we recommend strongly that people don't enter or play in flood waters. You can be in

as little as 60cm of water and be swept off your feet," Mr Allen said.

"One of the indicators is that obviously the strength of the river is significantly higher than usual. There can be a lot of debris that's washed down as well and you may not be aware of it. Obviously the Yarra is a fairly murky river at the best of times and visibility below the top layer is pretty limited, so you don't know what's in the river, what's washing down."

Life Saving Victoria research suggests a link between the volume of water flowing into inland waterways and the drowning rate.

"Prior to the recent significant rainfall events Victoria experienced lower than average annual rainfall totals across a number of years and the average annual drowning rate for inland waters also decreased during this time," Rob Andronaco, Life Saving Victoria's senior risk consultant, said.

"With the recent heavy rainfall, localised hazards will increase dramatically. Some examples of these hazards are deeper water from greater volume, altered local topology, for example steeper banks due to erosion and submerged and floating objects from debris washed downstream and ultimately residing in the water basins."

"Waterways after large rainfall can also become increasingly turbid, reducing visibility."

Town lends a helping hand

How you can help

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

Warrandyte knows all about natural disasters, and is, as usual, providing generous aid-in-kind, as well as raising thousands of dollars to support Queensland and Victorian communities devastated by the recent floods.

Almost one-quarter of Victoria has been affected by floods, with the clean-up estimated to cost hundreds of millions of dollars. The cost of Queensland's recovery may extend well beyond \$20 billion.

Warrandyte Lions Club is supplying 400 Queensland families with mops, buckets, squeegees and other cleaning items to help the clean-up effort. One hundred Horsham families in Victoria have already received clean-up tools from the club.

Lions are putting together a fencing trailer for the Chinchilla, Condamine and Miles area in south-east Queensland, providing farmers with the tools to rebuild their fences.

Lions spokesman, Lauri Hilakari, said these results would not have been possible without the involvement of other Lions clubs in the district, the help of staff and volunteers at the Warrandyte op shop and continuing aid from the Warrandyte community.

"If we didn't have the generosity of the Warrandyte community, donating goods to the op shop and buying from there, we wouldn't be able to do this," Mr Hilakari said. "The Warrandyte community is fantastic. We couldn't do it without them."

He encouraged people to continue donating and buying goods from the op shop to raise more money for the

flood effort.

The Rotary Club of Warrandyte-Donvale is donating 14 generators to rural areas still awaiting re-connection to the power grid.

The club is holding a major fundraiser in conjunction with the Manningham, Templestowe and Doncaster clubs at the Veneto Club on Wednesday, February 16.

At \$55 a head, 200 guests will enjoy a two-course meal and live entertainment provided by well-known artists.

"It should be a great night,

with good meals and wonderful entertainment," local Rotary club president Tony Mooney told the *Diary*. "We hope to raise thousands of dollars in one night. All proceeds will go to the Victorian flood appeal and we are asking the community to donate auction items or raffle prizes for the night."

The local SES unit, based at Doncaster, has sent crews to central and western Victoria where volunteers assisted with sandbagging, rescuing people and evacuating

houses and hospitals. The SES will deploy more volunteers throughout Victoria in the coming weeks, depending upon whatever level of assistance is required.

Community support will continue to be needed for the huge recovery process ahead, deputy controller of SES Doncaster unit, John Allen, said.

"Obviously it's going to be a long clean-up for people in northern Victoria and Queensland and they will need the support of others in the community for quite

some time."

Market-goers were able to donate money to help flood victims at a donations stall at the Warrandyte Market in February.

Warrandyte Community branch of the Bendigo Bank is accepting donations to help flood victims and people can donate at any Bendigo Bank branch.

● A number of other local organisations are running fundraisers for the flood appeals. See our "Out of the inbox" column on page 18.

● The Lions Club Op Shop is at 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, on the corner of Yarra Street and Mitchell Avenue. Hours: Monday to Friday, 1030am to 4.30pm; Saturday and Sunday: 11am to 5pm.

● Anyone interested in attending or donating items for the Rotary Club fundraiser should call Tony Mooney on 0419 352 644.

● The Warrandyte Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank is situated at 144 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, phone 9844 2233.

● The next Warrandyte Community Market will be held on the riverbank below Stiggants Reserve on Saturday, March 5, between 9am and 1pm. Access from Stiggant Street, Everard Drive or Police Street

● Locals wishing to volunteer to help flood victims can contact Lions through 0419 396 816; or Rotary on 0419



Warrandyte rallies: the kids at Warrandyte High School remembered their friends at Whittlesea Secondary College, Black Saturday, 2009. (Pictures by Stephen Reynolds)

CLYDE & OCKER



"Forget the past. Ock. There's no future in it!"

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House

TERM 1 2011

Connecting You to Your Community

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>MONDAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong Women Stay Young Walking Group Children's Drawing Yoga Chocolate Lilies Community Choir <p>TUESDAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Busy Needles Craft Group Film Club Strong Women Stay Young Rock 'n' Roll Aerobics Tuesday Lunch (monthly) Children's Drawing Mediterranean Cooking Tai Chi Creative Writing <p>WEDNESDAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Photography (starts Feb 23) Latin-mix Aerobics Gentle Exercise for Older Adults FREE French Club Poetry Pilates - Beginners Pilates - Ongoing | <p>THURSDAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Fitball Computers for Card Holders Rock 'n' Roll Aerobics Discover the Regions of France * Book Club * Body Image Workshops * Sing Your Heart Out Community Choir <p>FRIDAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong Women Stay Young Pre-School Dance and Music <p>SATURDAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Planning Your Winter Veggie Garden (at the Community Gardens) * Drumming * You Say Tomatoes—I Say Sauce First Aid |
|--|---|

TERM 1
February 1 – March 31

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* NEW this term

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House gratefully acknowledges funding from the following organisations: Manningham City Council, Department of Human Services and Doncare.



www.warrandyteneighbourhoodhouse.org.au



"Yellow Peril": An accident waiting to happen.
Inset: How motorists see it.



Unsafe safety barrier

dear diary

Manningham council and/or VicRoads (I'm not sure which) are installing safety barriers along the Warrandyte-Ringwood Road.

This seems a good idea—cars do occasionally roll off the edge, particularly on bends.

But it's not always such a good idea as it might seem.

The roadside "safety" barrier at the intersection of Warrandyte-Ringwood Road and Johansons Road in South Warrandyte has made it impossible to see oncoming traffic when turning into the main road.

Visibility may be alright for 4WD drivers, but in a normal sedan car (Toyota Camry in my case), when turning north from Johansons Road

into Warrandyte-Ringwood Road, it is absolutely impossible to see oncoming traffic travelling north because the barrier and its yellow end totally obstructs vision.

When turning south, the obstruction of vision of south-bound traffic is almost as bad.

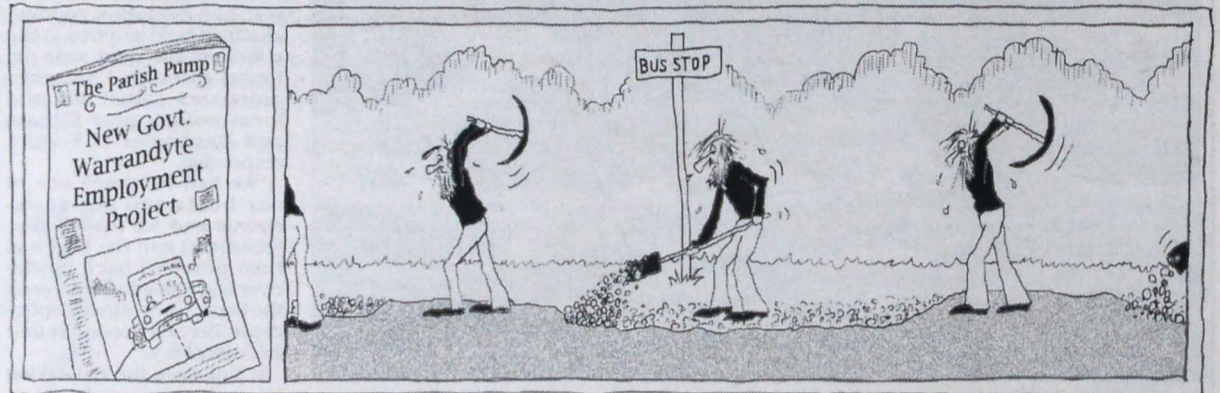
There is going to be a serious accident there some time soon.

Both ends of the barrier should be modified before that accident happens. Anyone involved in an accident would quite possibly have a good case against those responsible for installing the "safety" barrier.

Michael Hubbert
Anzac Road

CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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Australia Day honours for local volunteers

Four local residents were honoured at the Menzies Community Australia Day Awards, presented at the Manningham Function Centre in Doncaster on Australia Day, January 26. The awards are sponsored by Kevin Andrews, federal MP for the Menzies electorate.

Referring to the candidates for the award as a "group of individuals who have distinguished themselves by their active community service," Mr Andrews said, "It is with great pleasure that I congratulate each of the award recipients and thank them for the inspiring work they do for our local community."

Award recipients included Mrs Michelle

Hughes, Ms Ann Ley and Mr Peter Monahan of Warrandyte, and Mr Anthony Wallace of Park Orchards.

Mr Andrews also presented an Australian flag—that was flown at Parliament House, Canberra—to the Warrandyte CFA brigade in recognition of the valuable service they provide for the residents of the Warrandyte area.

● Brother Sean Keefe, chaplain at Whitefriars College, has been named Manningham Citizen of the Year, and Stephanie Youseff, recently a student at Koonung Secondary College, is Young Citizen of the Year.

MICHELLE HUGHES

Nominated by the Pound Road Community Fireguard Group, Michelle has provided critical administrative support to the Pound Road Fireguard Group since it was founded in 1996. The group provides local families with practical information and assistance in bushfire survival planning strategies, skills and activities.

Michelle's involvement includes the distribution of informative newsletters to members, arranging survival strategy and planning functions and maintenance of the bushfire warning telephone tree system.

In addition to her duties as a full-time kindergarten teacher

and mother of three, Michelle is always prepared to cheerfully donate time and effort to the community.

PETER MONAHAN

Peter was nominated for a Menzies Award by Information Warrandyte, where he has been a loyal volunteer for 10 years. His contribution is much appreciated by the committee and the other volunteers.

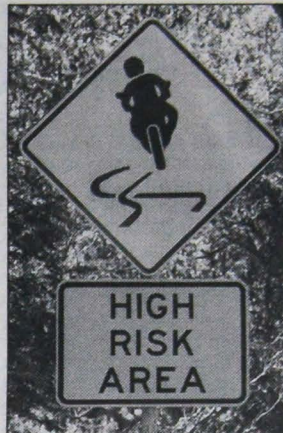
ANN LEY

A long-time resident of Warrandyte, Ann was nominated by Information Warrandyte where she has been an invaluable vol-

unteer over the past 10 years. Among other roles, she has been a co-ordinator of Information Warrandyte and has served on the committee for a number of years.

ANTHONY WALLACE

Nominated by the Park Orchards Primary School, Anthony has been a parent at the school for 10 years. He served on the school council for six years, including four years as treasurer and two as president. He is a member of the master plan sub-committee and has been instrumental in developing and implementing many improvements to the school's facilities.



Safety for motorbikes

By SANDY BURGOYNE

VicRoads will start remedial work on two major roads linking North Warrandyte with Research and Kangaroo Ground this month.

"A total of \$623,000 will be invested to improve motorcycle safety on Kangaroo Ground-Warrandyte Road and on Research-Warrandyte Road. VicRoads will complete works including new guardfence, road sealing, additional signage and removal of hazards," Julian Lyngcoln, VicRoads director of safer roads told the *Diary*.

This work is part of the VicRoads "blacklengths" project to identify motorcycle high risk long routes and carry out remedial work on those roads.

The aim is to make conditions on these long routes consistent along the length of the road and include clear warnings and road markings. The solution involves cost-effective road treatments applied along the whole length of the road.

Typical treatments to help prevent riders losing control include: clearer delineation, warning and advisory signs, removal of obstructions to rider visibility, smoother road surfaces, improved edge-lines and removal of debris.

"These works are being conducted under Victoria's motorcycle safety program, funded by the TAC and delivered by VicRoads. The works will commence in February 2011 and are expected to be complete by June 2011," Mr Lyngcoln said.

He said that the motorcycle safety levy, which is included as part of the TAC premium on new motorcycle registrations and registration renewals, has made this investment in motorcycle blacklengths possible.

Since 2002 Victorian motorcyclists have paid this compulsory levy on registration of motorcycles of over 125cc capacity. The motorcycle safety levy has been set at \$61.60 per registration for the current year.

"The levy funds a range of initiatives that address the key issues causing motorcycle trauma. Currently \$42.7 million has been approved for motorcycle safety initiatives across Victoria," Mr Lyngcoln said.

The upgrades will be progressively carried out on Kangaroo Ground-Warrandyte Road from Warrandyte bridge to Eltham-Yarra Glen Road in Kangaroo Ground, and on Research-Warrandyte Road from the intersection with Kangaroo Ground-Warrandyte Road to Main Road at Research.

"The works are expected to cause minor traffic delays in the area while they are being completed. VicRoads encourages motorists to plan their journey in advance while the works are being completed," Mr Lyngcoln said.

WarrandyteCAN expo on again this April



The Warrandyte Sustainability Expo, organised by WarrandyteCAN (Climate Action Now), returns in early April.

"Warrandyte's community has a strong sense of climate change awareness," CAN president Wayne Rankin told the *Diary*.

"Since 2007, the annual expos have drawn up to 1000 people, eager to learn more about specific solutions to carbon emission re-

duction in their homes and businesses and to discover new ways to live sustainably."

This year, WarrandyteCAN is planning to work more closely, across many of its activities, with other like-minded community groups and local schools.

The theme of the 2011 expo is "The Sounds of Change".

"We have invited primary schools to present small

items of music or drama as well as contributing to a sculpture competition," Mr Rankin said.

● The WarrandyteCAN Sustainability Expo will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre, corner of Yarra and Webb streets Warrandyte on Saturday, April 2. Further information from Wayne Rankin on 9844 4438.

Pictured: the town turned out for last year's expo.

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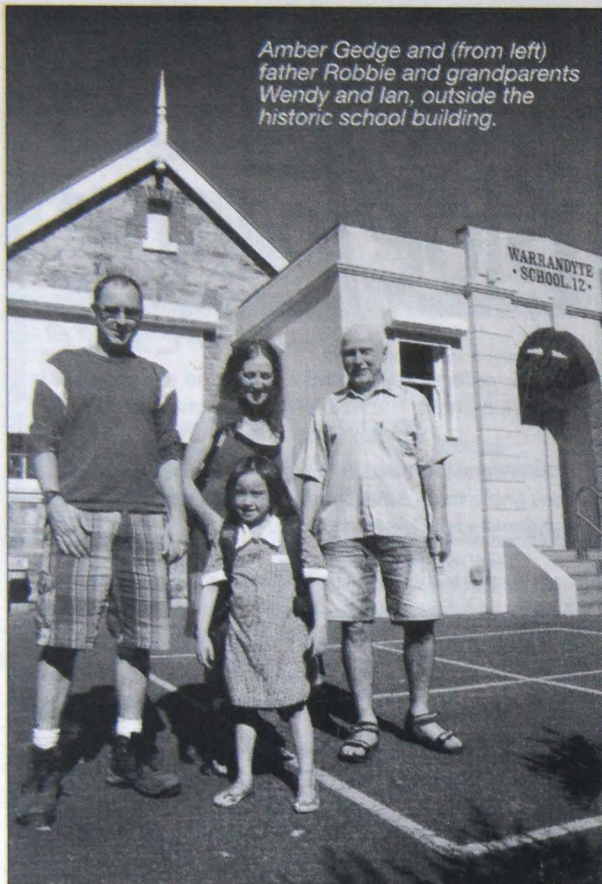
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Amber Gedge and (from left) father Robbie and grandparents Wendy and Ian, outside the historic school building.

Let's do lunch!

Most of us have picnicked beside the river at some time or other, sitting on the grass, eating a few sangers, or perhaps fish and chips from a box.

But for the third time in Warrandyte, you can book for the World's Longest Lunch, to be held on the Warrandyte Riverwalk, on the riverbank at the bottom of Webb Street (Melway 23/E11), commencing at 12 noon on Friday, March 4.

Organised by the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, in conjunction with Manningham council, the Warrandyte Longest Lunch will feature a three-course meal prepared by Box Hill Institute chefs and cookery students, and served by hospitality students.

Wines will come from Kellybrook Winery in Wonga Park.

"Last year's Longest Lunch event was a big success," Manningham CEO Lydia Wilson told the *Diary*. "This is a chance to sample some of our best local wines, fresh produce and gourmet food."

But it will cost you rather more than a sandwich or a box of chips. Tickets are \$105 per person and include the three-course meal, wine and a "complimentary seated massage". Bookings close on Friday, February 25 and can be made through www.manninghambusiness.com.au or by phoning Fiona Khor at 9840 9310.

Longest Lunch: Sandy Burgoyne images from previous events.



Following in their footsteps

Little Amber Gedge, commencing her schooling at Warrandyte Primary School this month, is the third generation of her family to attend the school.

Her father Robbie Gedge attended the school in the 1970s, and her grandparents—Ian and Wendy (formerly Cole) Gedge—were students during the 1950s when most of their primary schooling took place in the old stone building.

Amber's great grandfather—Ken Gedge—was Warrandyte's pharmacist for many years, operating out of the shop on the north side of Yarra Street, most recently occupied by Carter Real Estate. Ken and Dulcie Gedge and their family lived in the residence behind. The pharmacy served as a first aid post during bushfire emergencies.

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It's farewell Rob, hello Scott!

The *Diary* has a new sports editor. After five years of ensuring every sport in the town was given a great run on our pages, Robert White has succumbed to pressure of work in his busy publishing business and regretfully given up his role on the *Diary*. But not before we found a suitable and willing replacement.

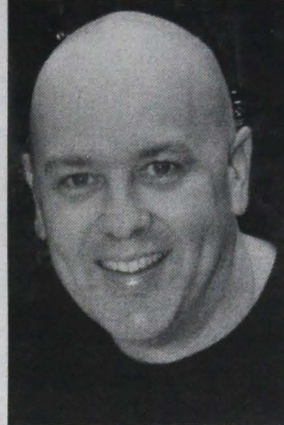
Rob White took over as sports editor on a moment's notice when prostate cancer finally forced beloved, long-time *Diary* co-editor Lee Tindale (aka Smokey Joe) to retire.

As a reporter and ultimately executive on a local newspaper chain, and former editor of the *AFL Football Record*, Rob brought a wealth of experience to this newspaper.



Robert White

We thank him for his outstanding commitment each month, producing such lively and informative pages. His replacement also



Scott Podmore

comes to us with outstanding credentials. Raised in the Murray River town of Echuca, Scott Podmore gained a cadetship at the

Riverine Herald, rising to sports editor of that newspaper. He is resigning after 15 years working for News Ltd to run his own small media company and has agreed to take over the role of sports editor of the *Warrandyte Diary*.

Scott and his sports-loving family—wife Kerry and kids Billy (8) and Lou (6)—have lived in Warrandyte only three years, but they have slipped easily into the community life of this wonderful place. Scott is looking forward to the friendships and new insights that working on the *Diary* brings.

CLIFF GREEN

Scott Podmore can be contacted at: scott@octobergrey.com. Phone 9844 4614.

Duck race at risk

Challenge for new president

By **CHERIE MOSELYN**

One of Warrandyte Festival's most popular and long-running events, the duck race, may have to be suspended from this year's program unless an alternative approach can be found to release the plastic ducks into the Yarra.

Usual practice has been to suspend an SES volunteer from a cable, manoeuvre the sack of ducks into the middle of the river and unhook them. However, opening the bag can be a complex operation and in the interest of ensuring maximum safety, the SES has suggested organisers adopt another method.

Helping overcome this hurdle is just one of many tasks new committee president Adie Courtney will oversee during the lead-up to the festival.

"Co-ordinating the entry of the ducks can be quite tricky," said Ms Courtney, "I know first-hand having been a 'Duck Lady' in the past. The race is hugely popular, especially with the children, so the committee will do everything to make sure it goes ahead. To that end, we would welcome any ideas that would enable a suitably spectacular launch. We're after maximum fanfare, with minimum complication!"

Ms Courtney took on the role of festival president after John Boyle retired in February last year. Her capabilities encompass several years of managing diverse events at the festival and a familiarity with planning on a large scale that comes from being an architect. She credits the authentic village feel of the festival itself as the impetus that led to a shift from the suburban fringe of Melbourne to



Ducks ahoy: an SES man liberating ducks at last year's festival.

Warrandyte 12 years ago.

"Our family experienced the community of Warrandyte for the first time when we fell across the festival one year, and afterwards I just couldn't get the place out of my mind. The solid local commitment that gave the festival its atmosphere epitomised everything I was looking for in a neighbourhood."

With two children eventually attending Warrandyte Primary School, Ms Courtney met local parents, several of whom were on the Festival Committee. An invitation to a post-festival wash-up dinner sparked her initial involvement.

"Before I knew it I was sucked into the vortex of the committee and found myself helping to organise the pre-festival cocktail party for the following year. I

had never done anything like this before but everybody was so inclusive and helpful that it made the transition easy," she said.

One of the strengths of the organising committee appears to be a willingness to invite its volunteers to try their hand at different projects, so for the last two years Ms Courtney has managed the music on the River Stage together with Maree Burns.

"The committee is very fluid, people collaborate and swap jobs, and this is why it works so well. One year, I redecorated the van even though I have no experience as an artist. That's the great thing about a true grass-roots community effort—whatever your level of skill, there is real encouragement to run with something and just have a go."

The festival is organised by a group of 40-plus volunteers who are committed to safeguarding its community focus via a non-commercial approach, a tradition that Adie Courtney says she will continue to embrace.

"Following in the footsteps of John Boyle, who has spent 28 years nurturing the festival into the success it is today, is a bit daunting," she told the *Diary*, "but thankfully John will still be an active member of the committee and his support will be invaluable."

In terms of what the public can look forward to this year, Ms Courtney added, "The weekend will still feature many of the usual events. The most constant feedback we get is how much people value the dynamic energy and slightly topsy-turvy nature of our festival compared to other more homogenised council-run affairs."

"So I agree with Mr Boyle, that the eclectic charm of the festival should be retained as much as possible. Yes, there will be some new things on the menu, but don't expect any merry-go-rounds any time soon!"

The Follies go to town

The Follies are going to town!

No, that doesn't mean one of Warrandyte Festival's

most celebrated features is pulling up stumps, abandoning its home at the Mechanics Institute Hall and

heading for Crown Casino.

But the Follies folk will be donning their high hats, pulling on their dancing shoes and climbing into whatever they need to bring you a great evening of entertainment.

This year's Follies have been described as "seven great little comedies in one fun-filled show". Dancing, music, fun and saucy frolic—guaranteed!

The most popular event in the Warrandyte year, the Follies are always booked solid. So begin rounding up your theatre party and get ready for your big night out.

● Bookings—on 0488 333 575—will be open from Tuesday, March 1. More Follies news next issue!



Last year the Follies folk looked to their wardrobe for inspiration. This year—who knows?

CLYDE & OCKER



"Daughter married a bloke from North Warrandyte, Ock."
"Don't believe in mixed marriages meself, Clyde!"

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Pots along the river

One of Warrandyte's most eagerly anticipated arts events, the Pottery Expo, will be held across the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, February 26 and 27.

Held beside the Yarra River, at the bottom of Webb Street, this expo—now in its 11th year—will feature the work of some 50 ceramic artists from around Victoria, New South Wales, France and China.

"Our honoured guest artists this year will be from China," expo organiser Jane Annois told the *Diary*. "Their visit combines with an exhibition at Manningham Gallery in March. The artists will be at the expo to meet visitors and show examples of their work.

"Expo visitors can discuss TAFE college courses and meet students and Clay-works will present a range of clays, tools and books. They will also be sharing a tent with Manningham pottery classes, where visitors—young and old—can get their hands into clay, decorating a tile or creating their own mini artwork," Ms Annois said.

The expo will be open from 10am to 5.30pm each day during the weekend.

● Further information from Jane Annois on 0422 942 216 or jane@potteryexpo.com; www.potteryexpo.com.



Bridge? What bridge?

On Saturday morning, February 5, one of Warrandyte's most flood-prone areas — the point where Andersons Creek flows beneath Everard Drive — flooded, inundating the bridge and blocking the road.

Pictures by **STEPHEN REYNOLDS**



Victory



Warrandyte

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- Warrandyte Football Club — Junior and Senior
- Warrandyte Netball Club
- Warrandyte Basketball Clubs
- St Annes Primary School

- Warrandyte Church
- Lions Club of Warrandyte
- Warrandyte's Longest Lunch
- Rotary Club of Warrandyte
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- Kangaroo Ground Pre School
- Warrandyte CFA
- North Warrandyte CFA
- Pettet Family Foundation
- Warrandyte Housing & Support Service
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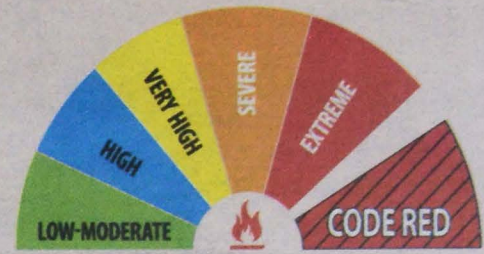
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If you live in a high risk bushfire area, you need a Trigger to Act. And that trigger should be the Fire Danger Rating.

- The Fire Danger Rating predicts how a fire will behave if one starts and how difficult it would be to put out, so you need to stay constantly aware of the rating throughout the fire season.
- The trigger should be a part of a written Bushfire Survival Plan. The Plan should be understood by everyone in your household and take account of different situations, like days when kids are at school.
- If there's a chance of a fire, listen to ABC or commercial radio for updates, and put your Bushfire Survival Plan into action.
- If a Code Red is declared, the safest option is to leave the night before or early in the day. If you leave too late, you could die.

Don't wait to see what happens and don't wait for someone else to tell you what to do. Decide now what you will do on fire risk days - it could save your life. For more information, call 1800 240 667 or go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

FireReady 

For more information contact: 1800 240 667 www.cfa.vic.gov.au

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KELLYBROOK
WINERY



MANNINGHAM

Warrandyte Community Centre

After a decade of dedicated management by the Warrandyte Community Centre Supporters Group, the management of the Warrandyte Community Centre was returned to Manningham City Council on 31 December 2010.

Council would like to thank and acknowledge the valuable work the Warrandyte Community Centre Supporters Group has undertaken on its behalf over that period of time.

Council also appreciates the support provided by both the Warrandyte Community Centre Supporters Group and the tenants in ensuring a smooth transition to Council management.



Billanook College Twilight Tour



+ SENIOR SCHOOL

+ MIDDLE SCHOOL

+ PRIMARY SCHOOL

+ EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

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Tours available between
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Come along and experience the true spirit
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School at Work Tours

- Thursday 10 March
commencing 10.30am

- Wednesday 18 May
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EXPLORE
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THAI RESTAURANT

Vanilla Orchid wishes to thank the people of Warrandyte and surrounding suburbs for your wonderful support and kindness. We have been delighted by the warmth, laughter and energy that you all bring to the restaurant..

We look forward to seeing you again for dine or take away.

Kop Kun Ka
(Thank You)

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(opposite the Bakery)

Phone 9844 5778

www.vanillaorchid.com.au

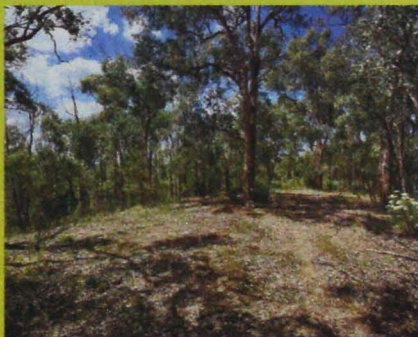
gardiner mcinnes

Looking for the right people to answer your real estate questions?
It's all in the stars!

Let us share with you three simple ways to maximise your home's sale price in 2011.
Call us today on 9844 0052 or pop in and say hello – we're open 7 days!



make your good move...a great move!



warrandyte north (sms: REN739)

As you pass through the front gate to access this elevated cluster of homes you can already feel the pressures of the city melt away... Spanning more than an acre (4404sqm approx), this north-facing vacant allotment has views towards Kangaroo Ground and a quarter-acre (approx) building envelope – so you'll have plenty of room to build your ideal family home (stca). Gas, water and electricity available. And all just a gentle stroll to the Yarra River!

private sale




vacant land



warrandyte north (sms: REN741)

Impeccably renovated with an eye for great design, this elegant four-bedroom home on 1095sqm of family-friendly gardens features a split-level lounge/dining with polished boards, gleaming kitchen with SS appliances, open-plan meals area overlooking a private merbau deck for entertaining. Four double-bedrooms, main with luxurious ensuite. Pristine family bathroom. Workshop, double-carport & ample parking.

private sale






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warrandyte north (sms: REN733)

Within walking distance of the Yarra River and framed by cottage gardens, this spacious four-bedroom + study + studio home on 3/4 acre (approx) has tranquil treetop views and a relaxed country atmosphere – there's even potential for a pony paddock! Features open-plan kitchen/meals, separate lounge opening to wide balcony. Single secure carport plus ample parking.

private sale






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warrandyte north (sms: REN742)

With its French provincial feel, this four-bedroom home on 13.8 acres (approx) of pastureland is as elegant today as when it graced the cover of *Home Beautiful* in 1985. Features vast open-plan casual living and dining room with ofp. Country kitchen and family meals area. Separate rumpus/formal lounge. Parents' suite with private balcony. IG pool, terrace and tennis court. Double carport and 40' x 20' garage/workshop.

private sale

4  | 1  | 2  | 2  | 2 

To request a call back and receive our latest open-for-inspection times simply SMS the property code to: 0427 873 639 (standard sms rates apply)

thank you!

Thank you to everyone who visited us at IGA to donate to our annual Christmas Food for Thoughtfulness food appeal. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.





So far we have given more than \$500,000 back to the local community.

At Warrandyte **Community Bank**® Branch we're just as concerned with our community's future as our own. That's why we return a portion of our profits back to the local community. Since we opened over 7 years ago, we've contributed more than \$500,000 in local community grants,

and it won't stop there either. A large portion of the branch's profits will be shared with the Warrandyte and surrounding communities. So why not bank locally and help us build a better community. Visit the branch at 144 Yarra Street, Warrandyte or phone 9844 2233.

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited, The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo, VIC 3550. ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL 237879. (S32718) (01/11)



Warrandyte **Community Bank**® Branch

Warrandyte Sustainability Expo

'The Sounds of Change'

FREE ENTRY!

Saturday April 2
10am-4.30pm

Put this date in your Diary!

• With songs from Anderson's Creek Primary School. • Learn the most efficient way to cut your food and power costs
Plus much more in sustainable living See-Ask-Learn from experts

Warrandyte Community Centre, Yarra Street Warrandyte
Exhibitors of sustainable living products and services for the home and business, includes short presentations, music, sausage sizzle, coffee and more.

Want to know more? Want to join WarrandyteCAN and help make a difference locally? For further information: Wayne Rankin : 9844 4438



WarrandyteCAN make a Difference!



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Support your community



WCA works for you. We depend upon your membership.

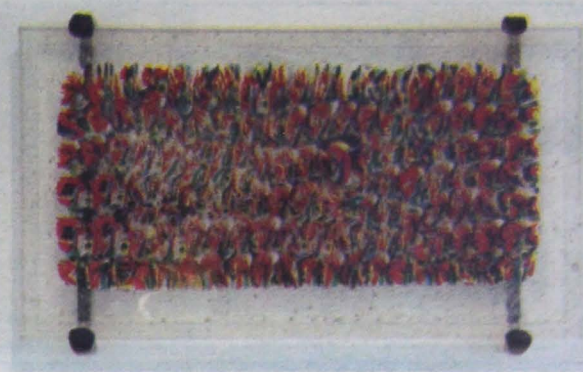
Warrandyte's special character has always brought forward champions to work for its conservation and enhancement. That's what the Warrandyte Community Association does best.

Warrandyte Community Association

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

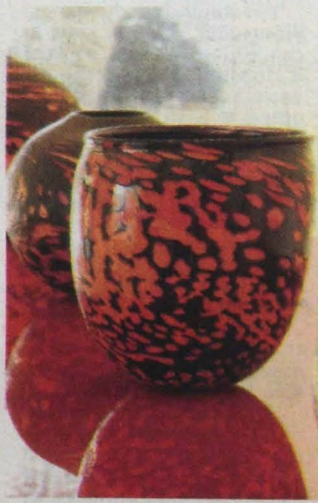
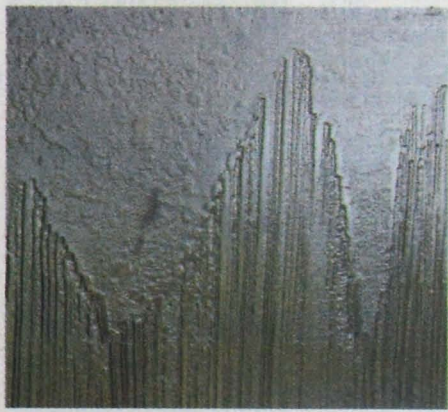
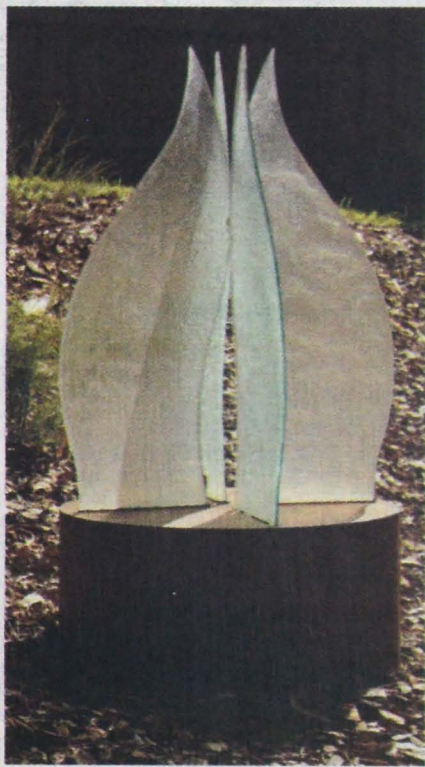
Warrandyte Community Association • PO Box 75, Warrandyte 3113 • 9844 1436





Through glass —brilliantly

Trained as a chef, David Corstorphan decided to follow a more creative path and transfer from the heat of the kitchen to that of the glass studio. He completed three years at RMIT then worked for seven years at Peerless Glass in Preston. Last year he opened his own studio/gallery in Brackenbury Street, Warrandyte where he now concentrates on a broad range of architectural and decorative glass fabrication, including feature walls, plates, windows, doors, corporate logos and splashbacks. This is the 12th in an occasional series on local artists by photographer STEPHEN REYNOLDS.



A wonderful dog's life



By **DOREEN BURGE**

THE black coat is still glossy, showing very little grey to betray her 13 years. Her dark eyes watch us as we move around her, then close into a peaceful sleep. Thank heavens it's a peaceful sleep. We're waiting for the vet to arrive to ease our Beetle from her life—a life which suddenly, just this morning, became too hard for her or us to endure.

On the last day of December, a 38 degree north wind day, she spent a couple of hours doing what she loved best—retrieving tennis balls in the big dam on our property at Harcourt North, trembling with the anticipation of a swim and retrieve.

She was exhausted that night. Too tired to eat, just needing sleep for her ancient body to gain some recovery from her excitement and exertion. But the innate greed of labradors soon got the better of her and her dinner was devoured between periods of deep sleep.

On the first day of 2011, she was remarkably recovered. She went for a walk down the driveway, lay in the mild sunshine flat on her back, and even managed a bow-legged canter to greet my sister and me as we returned from a long walk with

Buzzie and Beanz. She joined in with the children as they wandered around the house, and waited eagerly for her share of dog treats.

That night Beetle wanted to sleep in our bedroom, but I returned her to her bed in the sitting room. I wish I'd let her stay. She was deeply asleep soon after daylight, but just after 8am we found her unable to get up, splayed uncomfortably, and panting. On lifting her to her feet, we discovered she was unable to take her weight at all, and her legs folded under her. This was the sign we'd dreaded, yet hoped for.

How do you decide when a loved old dog should be helped on its way? We've faced this four times before. If only they could tell us how they're feeling, but our old dogs have been so stoic, so keen to be involved in their routines, always hungry, and still engaged in their familiar lives. It didn't matter if their legs hardly worked, if their joints were swollen and rock-hard, their hearing and sight failing. Food was there to eat, tennis balls to swim after, younger dogs to discipline, humans to love. But to us it's no longer right when a dog can't stand, can't follow the house-training that's been so firmly instilled since puppyhood and take itself

outside, when it can't engage with its dog family, and barely engage with its humans.

Beetle has lived with daily medication for epilepsy, has endured three cancer operations, has nearly died from eating compost, has had her neck ripped open by another dog, has suffered severe arthritis in her elbows due to our stupidity in throwing balls for her on hard ground ... but she's always remained devoted to us, hungry, keen for her daily walk, excited to meet new people and dogs, content and, most of all, boss of the household canine pack.

Being newcomers to Harcourt/Castlemaine, we haven't seen a local vet yet. Derek and Stuart in Warrandyte have taken such excellent care of our dogs, but here we are 150 kilometres away from them on a Sunday. Our neighbours give us phone numbers and we find a vet on emergency call. She has plenty of animals to visit and Beetle is triaged down the list. That's OK with us. Graham digs the grave in the unfamiliar granitic sandy soil, a welcome change from the clay and mudstone of four Warrandyte dog graves.

We choose a spot that looks to the loved dam, the front gate and

the driveway near the house. Somehow it seems right for Beetle to be here, despite her familiarity with our Warrandyte home and the river she's swum in all her life. She's loved her visits up here over the last six months. The still water of the dam suited her aged legs better than the flowing Yarra, there were no stairs for old unreliable legs to struggle up and down, the grass for rolling and sun-baking on was just a step out the door, and the smell of rabbits was enticing.

So we sit with her tearfully for the kindest injection of all. Such an easy quick death—it brings home the massive issues surrounding the human euthanasia debate. No, we could never drop her at the vet for this final journey. She deserves our presence and comfort, just as she has given us for so long. We sit with her after the vet has gone, noticing the warmth ebbing so quickly from her feet and lips, smelling her familiar doggy smell, trying to accustom ourselves to her loss before putting her in the ground.

Buzzie and Beanz come in. Gentle, bottom-of-the-pecking-order Buzzie sniffs her then moves away. Bouncing young Beanz, who had spent most of the day lying close to Beetle, nearly walks on her in her

excitement at seeing us at ground level. Then she pauses and holds her nose against Beetle's mouth for a few seconds. It's a reaction I've seen before. Buzzie creeps to my side reluctantly, then lies quietly with me while Beanz parades the room with a stuffed toy in her mouth.

Do they both realise the order of things now? With Beetle gone, the dominant one will now be the younger Beanz—not what we would like, but it's not up to us.

What to do with three chicken wings for two dogs' dinners? Beetle's must go in her grave with her, along with a banana (she loved salad and fruit), flowers and the old stuffed toy. I carry the 28 kilo dog out of the house and across the lawn.

We lower her into the grave and two black heads peer over the edge. Their puzzlement gives way to indignation when the chicken wing goes in too. They sniff around until all the soil is replaced and we place yellow roses on the top. I curse myself for having forgotten to put a tennis ball in with Beetle—her favourite object with which she could construct endless games to amuse herself. But I'm sure she won't mind.

Waiting

New Year's Eve 2009

It seems these days that summers are for waiting—with dread for that Code Red day, with damp desperation for the Cool Change.

So, this night, we were waiting—for the new year, for respite from heaving heat, whilst the rest in the city waited for fireworks.

But tonight our waiting is an active state—eager, expectant, not like the other kind—passive, uncertain. We could see it coming.

From the verandah we watched the Change, the rain, the new year all rolling in. We sat with our drinks escaping one kind of chaos, part of another.

Promising grey band stretches, darkens across the horizon. Like time-lapse photography it blossoms, swells towards us.

First, just a lighter line above the dark forming a great grey curve which rolls and builds—and rolls towards us. A creeping wave—slow, inexorable, full of promise, and menace.

The air so hot, so still sticks, sucks. Trees poised, waiting. And then our light show—the first pink flash striping distant hills.

Then, more light, more sky. Horizon's eerie golden gleam pulsing—like the distant threat of Mordor. Stark contrast with the creeping black. Dark threat shows its teeth.

A new stage then, swords—quick slip/slash through the gloom. White knife rips exposes for a moment the world in frozen light. Pink flashes now look friendly.

Again, slash, again. The trees exposed are concerned. From the stillness, their nervous murmurs. For us a waft of sweet, cool air. And so the cliché the calm before...

And we watch the great rolling sky bear down as the trees now warned: distressed, toss their great heads, scatter unwanted chattels.

Our waft of cool turns its back—strokes us cold as small branches fly down. A few fat plops hiss on warm ground deciding still whether to or not.

Then, decision made—that creeping wave's upon us, splitting open over our heads plummeting, pummeling. At last beaten we retreat inside where

furious, it thunders on our shelter. Our sturdy tin roof not at all fazed. Our great cloud howls and hurls, stamps its feet.

Then—gone. Suddenly it's midnight and fireworks. Distant city's showers of green, sparking pink splinters, look tired, tawdry.

We waited, and she came. She came for us. For us, lightning stripped its hot skin. We were personally drenched, and the earth sighed—thanks. And after all that hot wait—

the rain.
A new year.

KAREN THROSSELL

Jack

Who wants to be a hot shot?

WHILE Australian tennis stars may have lucked out at the recent Australian Open, the next generation of champions may emerge from the Warrandyte Tennis Club with Tennis Australia's official children's starter program MLC Tennis Hot Shots launching this month.

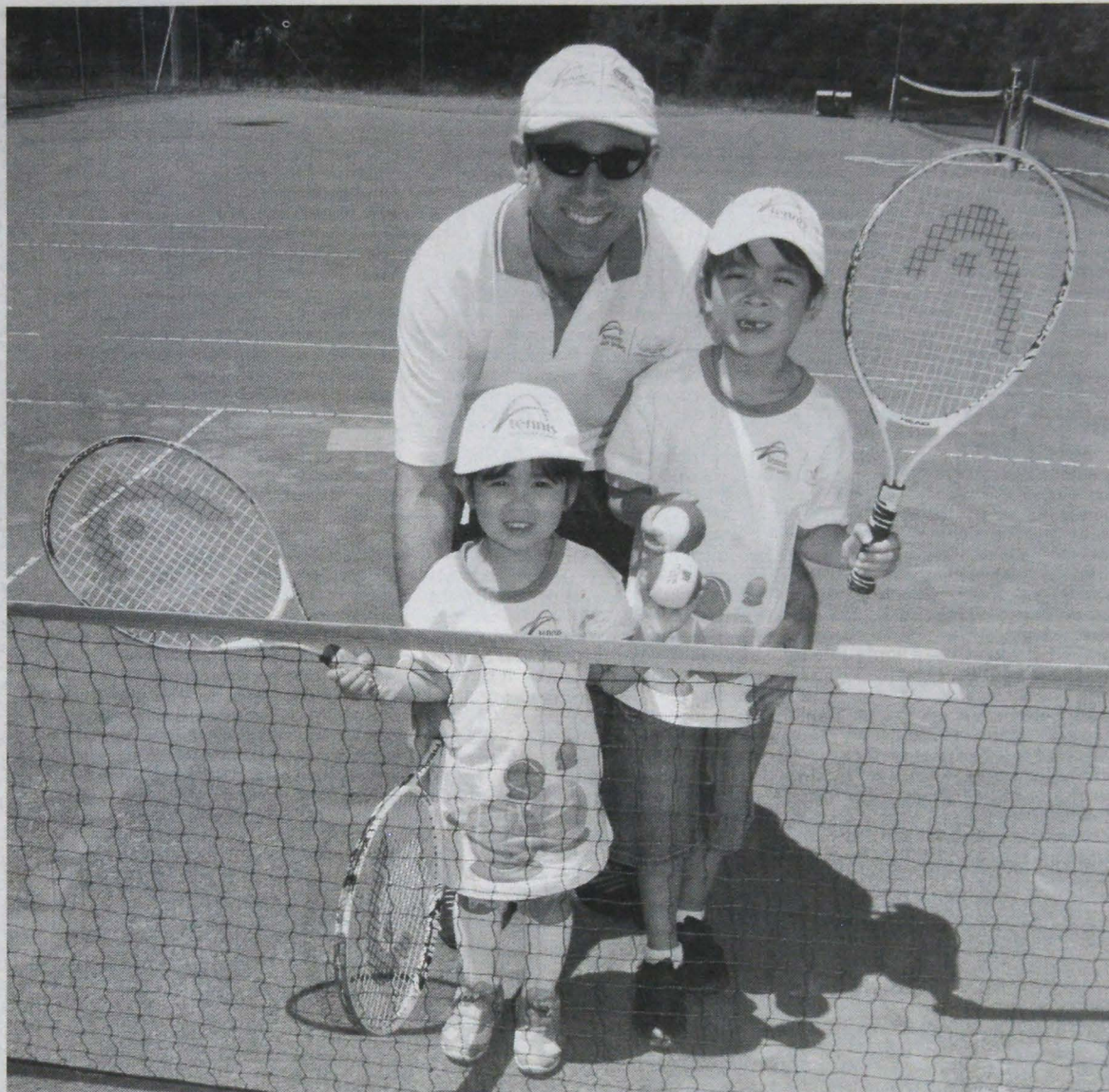
The MLC Tennis Hot Shots program runs weekdays from 4pm to 6.15pm and is for children aged up to age 12. The Tennis Guru's Craig Haslam, pictured with budding hot shots Blake, 6, and Farrah, 3, says the program "provides a fun, friendly environment where children can get involved in tennis and emulate their favourite stars".

"It's a great way to introduce kids to tennis"

And he's not the only one who thinks so. Former world No.8 and Australian favourite Alicia Molik has thrown her support behind the MLC Tennis Hot Shots program.

"Using the modified equipment makes it easier for beginners to start playing the game and it's a great way to introduce kids to tennis," Molik says.

For more information contact The Tennis Guru on 0488 722 538, info@thetennismaster.com.au or visit www.tennis.com.au/play-tennis/mlc-tennis-hot-shots.



WILL he play or won't he? That's the big question doing the rounds regarding last year's Warrandyte Football Club boom recruit, Glenn Archer, the former Kangaroos champ and "Shinboner of the century". Word is Archer has retired, but some around the club haven't given up hope just yet of the champ pulling the boots on again for one last tilt with the Bloods.

THE Strawberry Fair Fun Run is on again on Saturday, March 6, at St Anne's Primary School in Park Orchards. Registration is from 7.30am and the run starts at 8.30am sharp. Distances are 2.5km and 5km and entries are open to individuals and family groups. The course is at St Anne's Domeny Sporting Ground and 100 Acre Reserve. Entry is only \$5 and medals will be awarded to the first in each category and a trophy for the first family to complete the 2.5km run. St Anne's Fun Run is the curtain raiser for the Strawberry Fair, so get your runners on and start training. Phone Catherine on 0412 368 803 for more information.

CARDIO Tennis is a fun group activity starting up at Warrandyte Tennis Club and includes a warm-up, cardio workout and cool down featuring tennis drills and games to give players of all abilities an ultimate, high energy workout. Taught by a teaching professional, Cardio Tennis is designed for anybody regardless of tennis skill level. Locals looking to lose weight may find Cardio Tennis to be a great way to get in shape and have fun doing it. For more info call 0488 722 538 or visit www.cardiotennis.com.



Warrandyte Cricket Club

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their support in season 20010-11

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- Supersoil Garden Centre 9844 3329
- The Bakery Warrandyte 9844 1809
- Warrandyte Extensions & Renovations 0411 114 012
- Warrandyte Glass - 0418 369 294
- Warrandyte Hot Bread - 9844 1432
- Warrandyte Osteopathy - 9844 2465
- Warrandyte Retreat Restaurant 9844 0325



The Warrandyte Cricket Club would like to thank the above listed sponsors for their contribution towards the development of cricketers in the district.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to important safety issues, the 2011 Warrandyte Cricket Club Business Directory will not be home delivered this year.

It will be available for collection at: Warrandyte Post Office, Warrandyte IGA, Warrandyte Information Centre, Landfield Real Estate, Gardiner McInness Real Estate.

Please support the businesses that support your local club

LANDFIELD

183 – 187 YARRA STREET, WARRANDYTE

Phone: (03) 9844 3085 Fax: (03) 9844 2228 Email: admin@landfield.com.au

Make a Donation



Help them out!

For every property sold during the months of February and March Landfield will donate \$500 to the flood victims.

WARRANDYTE

A home to warm your heart

Space and harmony welcomes you to a light and picturesque property, with 3 bedrooms plus potential for a 4th. Featuring caesar stone benches in the kitchen and a movable bench, open fire place in lounge and spacious theatre. Also equipped with inground pool, separate spa, double carport, large cubby house and two 9000 litre water tanks.



WARRANDYTE NORTH

Hidden Treasure

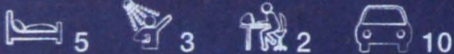
A truly magnificent property on just under two acres offers the kind of lifestyle that we can only dream of. Featuring fabulous open plan living with extensive balconies to soak up enviable views of the surrounding bush, this 4 bedroom plus office home is perfect for a growing family or a home business owner as the vast spaces offered will suit nearly any need. This home will fulfil an entertainer's fantasy with full stainless steel commercial kitchen and vast pantry area.



WARRANDYTE

One of a kind

A truly wondrous property on an extensive 18 acres, this amazing family home really does have it all...Not only will this 5 bedroom Victorian inspired home be sure to impress, this income producing property lends itself to a plethora of uses, including viticulture, orchards, trucks or trades, agistment, riding school, trout farm, home workshop or hobby farm, the choice is yours.



WARRANDYTE

The epitome of Warrandyte living

Let this haven amongst the trees be your next place to unwind, relax, and simply enjoy the lifestyle that this weatherboard/mudbrick home has to offer. Featuring three spacious bedrooms and rumpus downstairs, the versatility of this property will suit practically any buyer looking to find a perfect retreat. With freshly renovated bathroom and ensuite, modern conveniences are highlighted to make everyday life comfortable.



WARRANDYTE

Positional, Practical and Picturesque

Set in a peacefully quiet street yet boasting an enviable Warrandyte locale, this charming 3 bedroom home offers a unique and relaxed style of living with gorgeous cathedral ceilings and double brick exposed walls. The outdoor solar heated pool is a perfect spot to spend warm summer nights whilst entertaining on the covered outdoor decking. Also, features 3 office complex.



WARRANDYTE

Build your dream

In the heart of Warrandyte with stamped plans and permits available for an impressive 3 bedroom plus study north facing family home, with spectacular private balconies. See beyond the crushed rock driveway to the near level building site. All services available; sewerage included. Plans can be changed to your own dream home, STCA and use the already approved building envelope.

LAND SIZE: 1/4 acre (approx)



KANGAROO GROUND

The hills are alive...

Hear the land singing out for you to create your very own dream on this fantastic blank canvas... Take full advantage of the 360 degree views of Melbourne on an easily accessible and highly sought after piece of land. Situated within walking distance to Kangaroo Ground Primary, General Store, Tennis Club and Community Oval, the convenience is unbeatable!

LAND SIZE: 32.5 acres (approx.)



KANGAROO GROUND

Where eagles dare

Once you have absorbed the breathtaking 360 degree views of the fantastic hilltop, let your creative mind start to envisage the amazing home that could evolve on such a desirable piece of land. With a choice of three building envelopes on two separate titles, the possibilities are endless. Lot 2 holds an already established hay shed which can be renovated or utilised as extra storage, STCA.

LAND SIZE: 2 x 20 acre lots — 1 x 33 acre lot (approx)



Have you been looking for Glenn?

We welcome our newest addition to the Landfield team...

Glenn has just joined our company, as most of you will know he has been selling and listing properties here in Warrandyte for 39 years. His reputation, knowledge and experience in the Real Estate Industry has always been of great value to both buyers and sellers in Warrandyte and surrounding areas. He is looking forward to continuing his real estate career at Landfield Real Estate and will, as always, give straightforward, honest advice to all his clients.



Lions Club of Warrandyte Inc.

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday

Disaster Relief Made Possible by Lions.

When disasters strike, Lions are often first on the scene to provide immediate relief and the last to leave. Each year, Lions Clubs' International Foundation awards nearly US\$2 million in funds to support both immediate and long-term relief.

www.lionsclubwarrandyte.org.au

