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WARRANDYTE

# diary

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See Page 5



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— Roy and HG

# WARRANDYTE diary

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### OUR NEWSPAPER

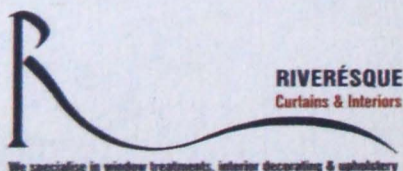
The *Warrandyte Diary* was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced mostly by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its not-for-profit, 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.



*Christmas magic is here...*



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## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



## You learn something new...

**H**“HEY Dad!” asked Jasper. “Why is it called Stiggants Reserve?”

“Well, son. A Reserve is an area of land reserved for recreation.”

Neville smiled with satisfaction. Knowing more stuff was one of the few benefits of being part of the older generation.

“I know that. I mean why is it called Stiggants?”

Now Neville was on less certain territory. Time to consult Warrandytepedia, the authoritatively dubious digital compendium of all things Warrandyte.

In the next half hour, father and son not only learned the etymology of Stiggants, but many other fascinating facts about their town.

**Stiggants Reserve:** An erroneous pronunciation of Stick Ants Reserve, named for a particular species of insect common to the area, which resembles a small twig. Locals are generally familiar with these ants, though some mistake them for small twigs.

**Bendigo Bank:** The northern embankment of the river—the one closer to Bendigo than Tasmania.

**Professors Hill:** Though Professors Hill and Lane argued at length about the theory of molecular epistemology in the context of a priori quantum empiricism, neither would give ground and continue to maintain separate positions.

**Grand Hotel:** An establishment frequented by Gran for so long they named it after her.

**Pasta Mania:** Any outdated Italian fad or craze including hula hoops, petta rocks, yo-yos, goldfish swallowing and Rubik's Acube.

**Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Darts Association:** A place for rehabilitating over-stressed auto repairers through therapy and social activities including craft, pottery and darts.

**Albatross Swimming Pools:** A venue for large seabirds who enjoy doing laps or have missed the ocean by approxi-

mately 30 kilometres.

**Folkart:** Unlike the AFL's motorised foe cart for removing injured opposition players from the arena, the Warrandyte Bloods employ a more folksy structure fashioned from a piece of canvas slung between two saplings and carried by the least inebriated spectators available.

**Alfred's Homestead:** A homestead originally inhabited by Alfred but overrun in recent years by Roy Orbison, Neil Diamond, Credence Clearwater Revival and Elvis.

**The Old Bakery Book Shop:** Makes more dough than conventional bookshops with



### living with The Trotts

popular titles including *Loaf Story*, *Catcher in the Rye*, *Bread*, *High Tin Tin*, *Oliver Twist* and *Bunfight* at the OK Corral.

**Ruby Tuesday:** Popular song composed some time between the Stone Age and last Wednesday about a girl who bought a piece of jewellery on advantageous terms, featuring the line, “Good buy, Ruby Tuesday, who could hang an amulet on you?”

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**Pound Bend Tunnel:** The sound of wombats smashing their way through the hard ground, negotiating rocky outcrops, digging relentlessly to the chant of pound, bend, tunnel, pound, bend, tunnel...

ALAN CORNELL

*All characters appearing in this work are fictitious. Any resemblance to real places or persons, living or dead, is purely affectionate.*

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# Yarra Street bus stop drama



Taped: Temporary bus stop sign

Words and pictures by SANDY BURGOYNE

The succession of strange roadworks on Yarra Street continues — apparently the bus bay into the traffic lane outside the Warrandyte Community Centre to match the bus stop on the other side of the road.

Two days after the Cup Day holiday, residents and traders were bemused to discover the bus bay in front of the Community Centre had been fenced off and workmen were enthusiastically digging it up. Trucks and machinery were parked in the bay across the frontage of the Community Centre, affecting two shop fronts and one office space — the Lions Opportunity Shop, Information Warrandyte and the Warrandyte Diary.

"It is not going to be good for business," opp shop manager, Liz Prewett told the Diary.

"People are seeing all this and they are keeping away. The stock, clothing and that, can't go out the front because

of the cement dust flying through the air.

"The noise level this morning, with the pneumatic drills and the concrete cutters was horrendous. We'd like to know what it is they are doing," she said.

A temporary bus stop for west-bound buses, which takes up most of the parking space, has been set up outside Riveresque and the former Gingko site. The bus stop sign and timetable has been taped to the fence with "bus stop" and "no parking" spray-painted on the bitumen.

The Diary noticed a VicRoads vehicle parked at the road works, but when we contacted their media unit for comment we were referred to the Department of Transport (DoT). We contacted DoT and asked them to respond, admittedly at short notice, but their media release did not reach the Diary by the time we went to press.

A Manningham council spokesman said that council

does not have any part in this joint VicRoads/DoT initiative.

"There has been regrettably only minimal consultation with council on this matter," Manningham Cr David Ellis told the Diary.

"From the few discussions that VicRoads and Department of Transport have had with myself and Manningham officers it appeared that any decision on the bus stop at the Community Centre was put on hold. The works currently being undertaken have come as an unwelcome surprise to Manningham council. This is not a smart way to introduce major changes to local traffic conditions."

Cr Ellis has strong reservations about the loss of another bus bay on Yarra Street.

"The State Department of Transport and VicRoads have rolled out their plan for in-line stops — that is, where the bus stops in the middle of the road — as a one-size-fits-all solution without considering local

conditions.

"In Yarra Street this has meant an expensive solution to a problem we didn't have. But it has created problems we certainly don't need. Traffic on this already congested thoroughfare is now regularly at a standstill — and there are daily risks to safety as motorists pull out to drive around the buses."

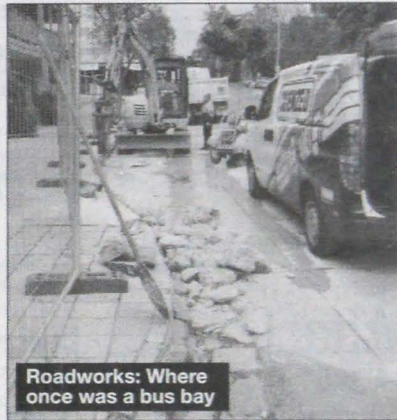
Cr Ellis, who chairs Manningham's municipal emergency planning committee, also raised concerns about emergency evacuation.

"Warrandyte's extreme vulnerability to fire has been acknowledged. In an event like Black Saturday, we need to prepare for large numbers of people leaving the area in a short space of time. With only one narrow two-lane road, and with fire and police vehicles potentially competing with hundreds of cars, we need to plan seriously for orderly and rapid evacuation. This must include planning by all relevant state authori-

ties, including in this case VicRoads and Department of Transport. Removing the bus indents seriously compounds the problem of congestion in an emergency situation," he said.

"Local MP Ryan Smith has previously been receptive to public concerns regarding a similar situation at the adjacent bus stop at Whipstick Gully, indicating he would look to use his ministerial authority to reverse (at an estimated cost of \$80,000) the changes only recently made to the indent at that location. That has yet to happen — but to be restoring one indent even while digging out another is patently absurd. Warrandyte people are entitled to ask whether our state government has any consistent plan at all for local bus services and safe traffic management in Yarra Street."

● The Diary will keep you up-to-date on this important matter.



Roadworks: Where once was a bus bay

## Reprieve for childcare

By KARLY HICKMAN

The Warrandyte Neighbourhood House Occasional Childcare Service has been granted a six months reprieve.

As reported in the June edition of the Diary, the service was set to close its doors at the end of 2011 following funding cuts from federal and state governments.

"We have gone out on a limb to facilitate our service for another six months," program coordinator Karen Throssell told the Diary.

"We would have to close in six months anyway, due to the refurbishment of the Warrandyte Community Centre scheduled to commence in June 2012," she said.

Neighbourhood House still has hopes that state and federal governments will reconsider their decision to cut funding, but according to Ms Throssell, there will be no provision for the service in the refurbished Community Centre.

"We hope that this reprieve will provide time for parents to make alternative arrangements for their children and give our staff some

much needed security," Ms Throssell said.

The reprieve will be funded through the program's own fundraising.

"Some occasional childcare services in other areas will remain open by increasing prices, but the Warrandyte service has traditionally found it difficult to run as we are one of the only programs that has to pay rent for our rooms," Ms Throssell said.

Warrandyte Community Association president Dick Davies said that while WCA has been supportive of council taking over the management of the Warrandyte Community Centre, there have been flow-on effects, such as decreased accessibility for community groups and services that need to be addressed.

Concerned WCA committee member Merilyn Evans says the closure of the Occasional Childcare Service is an "issue for the whole community" and she plans to raise the issue formally at the next WCA meeting.

## Green Wedge safe: minister

By KARLY HICKMAN

Planning minister Matthew Guy has categorically rejected any assertion that there is a threat to the Green Wedge in the Warrandyte area.

Urban Growth Boundaries and the Green Wedge were discussed at a meeting held recently between the Warrandyte Community Association, Mr Guy and Ryan Smith, minister for environment and climate change and MP for Warrandyte.

"The meeting was very fruitful, quelling some unfounded concerns among community members around changes to Urban Growth Boundaries," Mr Smith told the Diary.

"This process was never at any point about mass scale change to Urban Growth boundaries," he said.

Nillumbik council has reaffirmed their support of the Urban Growth Boundary, pledging that they will give Minister Guy a definitive answer on his invitation to council to review Urban Growth Boundary anomalies.

"Council will advise that there are no significant anomalies in the current position of the Urban Growth Boundary in the Shire of Nillumbik," Nillumbik mayor, Cr Helen Coleman

said.

"We are committed to this policy position. We recognise our responsibility in managing and protecting the Green Wedge.

"Our stance is very clear. Council's decision is consistent with the state planning policy framework, local planning policy framework and the Nillumbik Green Wedge management plan 2010-2025," Cr Coleman said.

Although Nillumbik council has specifically stated that this review was not open to general public submissions, Manningham council has invited landowner submissions regarding significant anomalies associated with the existing Urban Growth Boundary.

Before their meeting with the planning minister, the Warrandyte Community Association was concerned that Manningham council has opened its doors to vested interest development while simultaneously reaffirming its support for the location and extent of the Urban Growth Boundary, and for sustainable management and protection of Melbourne's Green Wedges.

"Astonishingly, having identified no additional areas of land suitable

for development and inclusion within the Urban Growth Boundary', following an exhaustive review, council has abandoned this position and invited anyone with a private vested interest to make their case to the minister whilst excluding any other members of the community," WCA president Dick Davies told the Diary.

However at their meeting with the planning minister, "It was made very clear that individual submissions as invited by Manningham council will not be considered. At the end of the day, Manningham council has recommended no anomalies to the Urban Growth boundary," Ryan Smith told the Diary.

WCA's understanding of Minister Guy's position is that identifications of "significant anomalies" will not result in any increase in residential land development in Manningham or Nillumbik.

"We are now far more comfortable with the commitment to the existing Urban Growth Boundaries by both councils and state government," WCA Dick Davies said.

Ryan Smith has reaffirmed his unequivocal support for the Green Wedge.

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# In defence of *Living with the Trots*

## Dismay

It was with dismay and astonishment that we read the letters of complaint from various persons pertaining to Alan Cornell's satirical take on Neighbourhood House classes in September's Trots column.

Putting aside the question of how funny one found the contents of the article (we thought it worth a chuckle) no right-minded person would not have regarded the material as anything other than absurdist satire, far removed from the real and valuable work carried out at the Neighbourhood House, as recognised by all Warrandyte locals.

No different to the light-hearted mockery of numerous other local organisations and individuals in many a Follies item. In fact, an entire raucous show was produced on taking an absurd look at Jim's Franchises (*Jim's Follies*) several years ago. On this occasion, Jim himself and a number of his most successful franchisees booked out one show and laughed their heads off—as we recall.

We fear that, if anything, the complainants may have diminished themselves through their letters, not the Trots piece.

**Darren & Birgette Bowers**  
Webb Street

## Attack

We love how anyone in the community can generally have their say in the *Warrandyte Diary*, but we also respect and admire many of your contributors, especially Alan Cornell. However, most of the feedback directed at him about September's edition of *Living with the Trots* was an attack on a man who is highly regarded in this town for his community contributions, lovely demeanour, clever wit and who tirelessly "gives" to the local arts scene.

Was it necessary for such bitterness? In our opinion, it came across as being downright nasty and over the top.

Alan is a talent. He is also a great family man and friend to many. Anyone who knows him also knows he only has good intentions, despite infusing a little cheekiness into *Living with the Trots*. Admittedly, offence was taken by "some" at Warrandyte Neighbourhood House and Alan may have slipped up a little in that he may have misjudged the sensitivities of some in his bid to entertain on this particular occasion. We personally know he was deeply embarrassed and hurt by the barrage of abuse in last month's edition of the *Diary*, but his response was dignified and sincere; something that quite clearly paints a picture of the man.

Unfortunately, it has reflected badly on Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, more so than the column and its author. *Living with the Trots* always guarantees a laugh-out-loud in our house each month, as it did back in September, but we certainly weren't laughing at particular members of Warrandyte Neighbourhood House. Our funny bones were tickled by a splash of witty humour with a dash of community spirit. Many of our friends felt the same way.

Alan Cornell's column is clever, amusing and always involves our community in

## dear diary

Letters to the *Diary* on local topics are welcome. All letters—including emails—must include the writer's full name, address and phone number, even if not intended for publication. Letters may be edited for reasons of style, length or legality. Letters can be posted to: Warrandyte Diary, PO Box 209, Warrandyte Vic 3113. They can be emailed to: warrandytediary@aapt.net.au; faxed to: 9844 4168 or left in the mail slot in the *Diary's* front door at the Warrandyte Community Centre.



## WARRANDYTE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

having a polite conversation about it. Don't hurl abuse via the local paper. This tends to reflect poorly both on you personally and on the organisation you represent.

Next month's *Diary* could be a bumper issue. If eight million New Yorkers are offended by being unfavourably compared to our beautiful town by Neville, Narelle and Gran there could be a lot of letters.

**Gail Macrae**  
The Boulevard

## Straw poll

A straw poll I recently conducted among *Diary* readers revealed many were bemused by the reaction of a small group of WNH supporter to Alan Cornell's piece.

While readers certainly learned something of the trials, tribulations and triumphs of maintaining the viability of WNH, the writers lost credibility because of the sarcastic, vehement criticism directed at the man, his talents, his craft and his motivation.

Most had not read racism, disablism, ageism or sexism into the piece, (however) two commented that "exercise for the deceased was a bit insensitive". Overall, readers viewed the tone of the letters as counterproductive to raising awareness of the value of WNH and in generating empathy or support for the writers, if that was their intention.

Finally, Alan's apology was viewed as timely, humble and sincere.

**Merilyn Evans**  
Hawkes Road

## Offended

Clearly, the "Living with the Trots" article in the September issue has offended people at WNH, but I would never have expected a full page of letters dedicated to the matter.

It is obvious that the participants have rallied together to make their point, but I think that their points were taken too far. "Heresy"? Really? "Sexist, racist and abusive of the aged and disabled population"? As for referring to Chris Lilley, as far as I'm aware, Narelle, Neville and Jasper et al are also fictitious!

I recognise that the full page of letters has given the respondents their full entitlement to free speech, but I think that a little more editing of the page may have amply made the point, as well as given the opportunity for other matters of importance to the community to be heard.

In the seven years that my family has lived here, I have had the privilege of meeting Mr Cornell on a small number of occasions and cannot think

of a more humble, peaceful, respectful, family oriented and community minded person than Mr Cornell. He is a person I admire greatly and someone I am proud to say I know.

I consider his contributions to the Follies and other artistic events as being the highlight of most occasions. I know that he gave his time freely to support the local child care centre one night a few years ago. This was a rollicking success and made a huge contribution to future generations of our village.

Yes, the monthly piece about the Trots rarely has me bent over double with laughter. It is clearly meant to be a lighthearted look at ourselves. Obviously this time it has unintentionally touched a nerve. But I believe that some of the responses were extremely personal, vitriolic and unjust, and as such should not have been so openly expressed.

**Tim Butterfield**  
Harding Road

## Out of line

I believe the objections to the Trots column were completely out of line and caused more damage to the Neighbourhood House than Alan Cornell ever could.

I find it completely offensive to suggest Alan is "sexist, racist, and abusive of the aged and disabled population". So far from the truth—ridiculous.

Don't stop entertaining us, Al, we love your work and all you do for the community.

Lighten up, ladies, your interpretation of a fictional column baffles me.

**Jaki Cornell**  
(proud daughter-in-law of Alan)  
Bradleys Lane

## Participant

Re The Trots of Dingley Dell:

As a member of the Neighbourhood House and enthusiastic participant in four weekly classes (I highly recommend the Strong Women Stay Young exercise class, the Latin Mix and the Rock 'N Roll classes), I did not take offence at Alan Cornell's column about the Trott Family, in fact I found it funny. Alan's wicked sense of humour in sending people up is what we love, and it is his reference to local people/places/activities that make his articles so unique. My husband John, (who has just joined the new Men's Exercise Classes—Tuesdays @ 11.30am with coffee after), has been referred to on many occasions in a satirical manner, but we did not take offence, because it was, a) very funny and b) done in a loving

manner.

Alan has always been a supporter of all things Warrandyte, giving his time and expertise to many, many activities and people. Not for a minute would I think he meant anything malicious in his article, in fact it should be seen as a promotion for the House.

I appreciate that the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House feels threatened about their relationship with Manningham council but I do not agree with their belief that Alan's article will have any detrimental effect on funding or class enrolments.

As an advertising man I'm sure Alan could say, "Any publicity is good publicity", and it will only go to strengthen our Neighbourhood House and all the wonderful and hard work Karen does.

**Kerrie Boyle**  
Osborne Road

## Roller

What a roller coaster ride it was as I made my way through October's *Diary*.

As always I jumped straight into my favourite column—*Living with the Trots*—and as always it didn't disappoint. I then moved to the phone tower victory article and was uplifted by the thought that a small community could stand up to and win against the power of a large multinational company. Go Warrandyte!

I flicked through further and found myself at page 16—Sgt Keith hangs up his hat. Wow, Keith, I thought. You touched my heart with your warmth, sincerity and commitment to your community. What a loss for us, but best of luck to you.

I then admired the sporting pics and made my way to the letters to the editor. I was saddened and shocked to read the attacks on Alan Cornell. Maybe not everyone gets Alan's tongue-in-cheek sense of humour, but to attack him in such a way was disappointing and very unwarranted. Alan's column in the September *Diary* gave me a giggle (as usual) but it also motivated me to go and check out the courses on offer at Warrandyte Neighbourhood House for fourth term.

Alan's column did not appear in any way to be derogatory to me. So, to Alan I would like to say, "Keep up the great work and keep the laughs coming". I love it.

I hope I survive the next issue of the *Warrandyte Diary*!

**Dee Dickson**  
(by email)

## Bewildered

Last month's page of letters to the editor concerning the *Living with the Trots* (September 2011) column left me feeling sad and bewildered.

Sad, because Alan Cornell has been a friend of mine for over 30 years and I have never known him to be deliberately hurtful in any matter related to his many volunteer community works in this town.

Bewildered, because I have since spoken to many people who read this particular column. Like me, they took it on face value as an inoffensive piece of fictional comedy and certainly felt no residual negativity about the long-standing good works of the Neighbourhood House organisation.

However, those people who sent letters of complaint obviously did not see it that way. They certainly have a right to their opinions about their individual interpretations of the content of that particular column.

In my view however, a number of them did themselves no credit with their targeted personal abuse of Alan, and I think that they "crossed the line" for what should be expected in a fair-minded community.

I believe that his published response to their concerns was appropriate and dignified.

It is a pity the same cannot be said about some of their letters.

**Ken Virtue**  
Hamilton Road

## Favourite

One of my favourite songs contains the line, "Just because you feel it, doesn't mean it's there." The six letters to the *Diary* (October) about Alan Cornell's Trots column (September) reminded me of this.

In a relatively small, friendly and well-connected community, I was amazed that so many letters were published with the same underlying theme—"I am feeling hurt, so I must publicly strike out at the person who made me feel that way".

Surely some wise heads from Warrandyte Neighbourhood House might have checked with their friend Alan about his intention, and if needed, constructed a single, well-crafted and less obvious letter on behalf of the organisation?

Instead, the unfortunate consequence is that, rather than highlight the obvious vibrancy of WNH, these letters may have done the opposite.

**David Tynan**  
(by email)

## Disgust

I write to express my disgust at the disgraceful attack on my Dad and his fictional piece based on the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House in September's *Diary*. I went online and read the column over and over, referring back to the letters of protest, trying to understand the group's complaints. I struggled.

To me, the arguments put by the WNH people were absurd. I will stand by their right to voice their opinion, but what they did went so far beyond voicing an opinion. Their letters were mean-spirited and downright nasty. Their clearly coordinated attack smacked of paranoia and a deluded sense of persecution, expressed in schoolyard-style bitchiness.

Over 30 years in Warrandyte, Dad has contributed more to this community than most, and the personal attack was unwarranted and hurtful. The correspondents claimed that the column might have done untold damage to the WNH. I suspect the only damage to the group's reputation may have been self-inflicted.

**Chris Cornell**  
Bradleys Lane

Correspondence on this topic is now closed.

More letters: Page 6

STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER...

LATEST FIRE NEWS

# Warrandyte leads in fire preparations

When it comes to bushfire preparation, Warrandyte residents are some of the most proactive in Victoria, if response to a current CFA campaign is anything to go by.

The CFA has been inundated with calls from households in the area, with more than 200 people already booking in for one-on-one visits through the home bushfire advice service.

This far outstrips the take-up for similar campaigns in other areas of the state which have a risk of bushfire.

South Warrandyte CFA captain Greg Kennedy said that the level of awareness of bushfire risk was very high around the area.

"All the brigades in what we call the greater Warrandyte area (Warrandyte, North Warrandyte, South Warrandyte and Wonga Park) have made a real effort over the past years to get people thinking about the possible impact of bushfire," he said.

"But accepting the risk is only the first step. After that you've got to do something about it—and it's great to see that happening.

"Summer is just around the corner, and here is a great service available for the next month or so that will come to your door at no cost," Mr Kennedy said.

"I'd urge everyone to call and book in an appointment if you haven't done so already, even if you live around the more urban streets around East Doncaster and Templestowe."

"People in these areas often don't think about bushfire planning but they really should—if there's a fire then they will be impacted."

Local fire safety officer Jason Amos said that the service was important because every property is different.

"It offers the chance to have a bushfire expert right there on the spot at your home. We look at

the exterior areas of your house and garden, but can also sit down with you and get you started on your bushfire plan," Mr Amos said.

CFA fire safety officers provide confidential and tailored advice concerning:

- Planning for high fire risk fire days
- Effectively managing vegetation to reduce fire risk
- Property maintenance and improvements to better protect your home.

Be quick—the home bushfire advice service is targeting Warrandyte and surrounding areas until November 12.

The service is also available on a more limited basis year-round.

● To book a free Home Bushfire Advice Visit phone 9262 8501, call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or visit the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/hbas](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/hbas).



Good advice: A local fire safety officer discusses fire risk with a Warrandyte resident on her property. (Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS)



Waterworks: CFA burn-offs help reduce bushfire risk.

## Big CFA exercise here this month: be prepared!

Warrandyte residents are reminded that fire will hit the area later this month—but only in make-believe!

As reported last month, a large-scale exercise being conducted by a number of emergency service agencies will provide residents of the Warrandyte and North Warrandyte area with an opportunity to test their preparation and fire plans.

Coordinated by the Country Fire Authority, the field exercise, to be held on Sunday, November 27 will also involve firefighting appliances from the MFB and DSE, as well as firefighting aircraft.

Victoria Police and State Emergency Service members will also be involved, as well as a number of other agencies in a supporting role.

The exercise will simulate a bushfire in the Warrandyte area and is expected to involve around 1000 emergency

service staff and volunteers.

Warrandyte CFA captain Bernard Ebzery said recent research has revealed that 75 per cent of people living in high-risk bushfire areas do not have a detailed bushfire survival plan.

"While most people have an idea of what to do, they haven't thought about what could go wrong, made a back-up plan, worked out how to communicate with family and friends or practiced what they will do. All these things are critical to survival," he said.

"It is particularly important for residents of a fire-prone area such as Warrandyte to have a well prepared and practiced bushfire survival plan and to remember that leaving early on a high-risk day is always the safest option."

CFA expects that residents of the Warrandyte and North

Warrandyte areas will be minimally impacted by the exercise. However, some road closures will be in place during the day. There will also be increased emergency services traffic in the area, which could result in some delays.

"The exercise will also provide a great opportunity for the community to enhance their self reliance and resilience when faced with an emergency," he said.

"Even though Victoria has experienced wet weather over the past 12 months, it only takes two weeks of hot, dry and windy weather to create dangerous fire conditions, which is why we're asking local residents to take this opportunity to test their bushfire survival plans."

● For more information about bushfire preparation, visit [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

## Register burn-offs, take all precautions

With the temperature rising, the Country Fire Authority is urging the community to take extra care when burning off.

They are urging people to register their burn with the CFA on 1800 668 511.

Since the beginning of September, CFA has responded to 223 burn-off related calls across the state that turned out to be false alarms.

"If people register their burn-offs, we know what is happening in that area and it really helps us," CFA state duty officer Craig Brownlie said.

"It reduces the chances of CFA being called out to a false alarm when the public calls about a fire they have seen."

"The community needs to understand that, for the most part, we're talking about volunteers who have to leave their work or spend time away from their family responding

to false alarms."

Mr Brownlie said people need to be more careful with their burn-offs as the weather heats up.

"The warmer weather over the coming days is just a preview of many more hot days to come and landowners need to take on more responsibility when burning off," he said.

"Due to favourable growing conditions across Victoria in 2011, there is an above average risk for grassfires for the upcoming fire season. "Grassfires should not be underestimated—they can be extremely dangerous and cause death, trauma or serious injury."

There are a few simple steps landowners must take when burning off:

- Be aware of your council burn-off by-laws
- Register the burn with CFA on 1800 668 511

- Check weather conditions

● Tell your neighbours when you plan to burn-off to avoid brigades being called out unnecessarily by a neighbour or passer-by

- Never leave a burn-off unattended

"You should never burn off in hot, dry, windy conditions or if these conditions are forecast within the time your burn-off is expected to take," Mr Brownlie said.

"People should also leave a three metre fire-break, free of flammable materials around any burn-off."

If your burn-off gets out of control, please call 000 immediately.

- For more information on fire restrictions and burning off, check [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or contact your CFA District headquarters.



In control: Planning is an important part of firefighting.

### 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 firefighting 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.
- Bushfire prevention information packs available from Information Warrandyte.

## Our top cop

# Julie's thanks

Val Polley's ability to capture the essence of Keith Walker's contribution to the Warrandyte community, as police sergeant for two decades, was obvious in her *Warrandyte Diary* article (October 2011).

Keith had the singular ability to share jokes with people, yet with a shrewd understanding of how to divert trouble before people became embroiled in the criminal justice system. His guidance to police officers in the handling of young people with mental illness was outstanding.

In his development of the Warrandyte Park Orchards Wonga Park Police & Community Consultative Committee, Keith showed a broad grasp of local needs. In particular the Warrandyte Housing and Support Services, led by Margory Lapworth (recently awarded the Order of Australia Medal) received total support from Keith, with the ability to solve problems without bureaucratic delay, uniquely possible in Warrandyte.

Cr David Ellis described my continued interest as, "You can take the girl out of Warrandyte, but you can't take Warrandyte out of the girl." Keith will always have Warrandyte in his heart and an interest in her future.

**Louise Joy**  
former councillor  
City of Doncaster &  
Templestowe

Thank you all.

Firstly, *Diary* staff, I would like to thank you for your wonderful support during our time of crisis with this dreadful credit card ordeal. Thank you so much for helping to get the message out to our Warrandyte community of our plight and the plight of my fellow traders here in Warrandyte.

To watch the business we have worked so hard for, literally slip between our fingers so quickly, is just heartbreaking. Our huge overheads, together with the massive and rapid plummet in sales, had us all reeling with fear that we would not survive. Had the *Warrandyte Diary* not got behind us to rally support, we may very well have been looking at our options right now.

We are very slowly climbing our way back. Our store sales have improved marginally. We have still not improved to the point where we were before the crisis hit, however, we are soldiering on and optimistic that our locals will all get behind all their community businesses to ensure their long term survival.

Our staffing levels have been cut back slightly to enable us to meet our financial obligations until we can recover somewhat, so we ask our

customers for their patience should they need to wait a little longer for service during peak times. However, we are still endeavouring to provide our Warrandyte community with the wonderful, prompt service they have come to expect from their local supermarket. We employ almost 90 staff, most of them are Warrandyte residents and many of them rely on this business as their sole family income. That is my motivation to keep going!

I am proud of what this business represents and provides for our Warrandyte community. Since losing my husband Brian, this business has become my lifeline and my staff are like an extension to our family. We have some beautiful staff who have shown us incredible strength and loyalty during the height of this crisis. I am so proud of all of them.

Finally, to the people of Warrandyte who have shown your love, understanding and support to myself and my wonderful staff with your cards, hugs, words of encouragement and gifts. My heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of you. There truly are some beautiful people in Warrandyte.

**Julie Quinton**  
(by email)



Julie Quinton. (Picture by Alana Phillips)

## Warrandyte—without an IGA supermarket?

dear diary

## Good luck

Good luck and God's blessing on Megan Curliis-Gibson, who starts on November 9 as vicar of St Stephen's Anglican Church, Warrandyte, thus securing the parish's future. The eucalypts and the river say welcome, and the people of Warrandyte say Amen.

**Alan Nichols**  
former minister  
St Stephen's

Have you thought about Warrandyte without the IGA? Here are some possibilities:

The site could be vacant for a long time, just like Ginko's. Without a strong retail anchor, smaller businesses at the West End might struggle or fail. Without a healthy flow of people, the music of community-buzz and sausage-sizzle aromas would yield to a derelict asphalt void, possibly decorated with the odd syringe.

Then again, one of the larger supermarket chains might pick up the site. Instead of a warm smile from someone familiar at the check-out,

you could be pushing virtual buttons on a robot register, and be thanked by a cyber voice. Or you could spend half an hour queuing for the solitary check-out just to buy a few onions.

Contributions that once went to community activities would enrich distant institutional shareholders and fatten megabuck executive salaries.

How about a jolly junk-food joint? 24/7 drive-thru super-size polypacked cholesterol catastrophes!

Or one of those minimal cost, minimal service, zero-charm booze-barns could put down stumps. You'll have to drive to The Pines for a bag of

spuds, but in a short walk you'll be spoiled for choice on 6-packs.

Or, why didn't I think of it first? A petrol station, perfectly positioned for hoons to gas-up for a few laps up the main drag and then slaloming on the return stretch down Harris Gully Road!


Wouldn't any of the above outcomes be about as bad as a phone tower on the oval? Think how much easier it is to keep IGA in than it was to keep the tower out. All you need to do is shop there.

**Doug Mealy**  
Pound Road

## IGA support

I write in to support our local IGA. It is a wonderful supermarket and I wouldn't shop anywhere else. I value the help they give to community groups and the staff are cheerful and helpful to me. Anyone who blames them for the card skimming business needs to get their facts straight. I have been caught in the scam like other Warrandyte people.

**Shirley Rotherham**  
Tills Drive

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# Locals promise a great shopping experience

By MICHELLE PINI

Warrandyte is set to come alive with light and sound as the festive season approaches. Local traders will be adorning their windows with Christmas lights, choirs and musical ensembles will be meandering through the three shopping strips—Warrandyte Village, the Bridge End, Goldfields Plaza—and tiny golden gnomes will be hiding amongst the Christmas finery.

It's all part of the Warrandyte Business Association's plan to breathe new life and sparkle into Warrandyte's local trade. Shoppers will be treated to an array of musical performances as well as free face painting and a visual spectacle as local traders "light up" and "raise their voices" to welcome Christmas.

Shops will be encouraged to shine with an added incentive of a \$500 cash prize for the most shimmering display and patrons will be asked to list where the nine Christmas gnomes are hiding to win one of three hampers with more than \$1000 in prizes.

The Warrandyte Business Association (WBA) has been promoting the uniqueness of the Warrandyte business community for many years, but never before have the traders needed more assistance. The global financial crisis, retail figures at an all-time low and on-line competition are some of the factors influencing all shopping precincts, but Warrandyte's recent credit card scam has added another



Jeni Lee of Homing Instincts completes her Christmas shop window display. (Pictures by Michelle Pini)

dimension to the troubles besetting our local traders.

Luckily, a much-needed injection of energy has materialised in the form of association president, Janelle Wareham. Janelle's enthusiasm for Warrandyte is palpable and her determination to see the traders overcome and surpass the challenges appears limitless.

"Warrandyte has so much

to offer," she said. "We have the river, the unique charm of our historic past, a wealth of artistic talent and a community like no other. Add to this the fabulous range of goods and services on offer and you have a neat little package right at our back door."

Janelle, of Riveresque, a local trader herself for more than 14 years, recognises that small trading precincts are under increasing pressure to keep up with on-line shopping promotions, large retail campaigns and changing trends, but says bemoaning such things is non-productive.

"We need to step up and embrace changing shopper trends, interpret and keep up with consumer needs and continue to lift our game."

Which is where recently appointed marketing manager Linda Carroll comes in. Linda is bursting with ideas. She admits there are always improvements to be made, but cites the recent Father's Day musical street performances as proof that people genuinely want to support their local community.

"We're working closely with Manningham council to come up with initiatives, training and information to aid Warrandyte's small business owners," Linda said. She is actively pursuing government grants and other assistance schemes for beautification, art promotion and education.

"We need to explore all available initiatives which promote and attract more people to Warrandyte, both within and beyond the community," she said.

"We all know how unique Warrandyte is but there are so many exciting and new things going on, from the exquisite hand-made chocolates of Cocoa Moon, to the sweet delights of Warrandyte Lollies & Treats, the amazing new range of products at IGA, fresh fish at Warrandyte Quality Meats and stunning jewellery pieces at Ruby Tuesday."

Fortunately, Australian consumer trends are indicating a surge in buying local. More people are becoming aware that by shopping locally they are helping their community, the economy and the environment and making serious inroads into a more sustainable future.

Buying local encourages a greater sense of community, provides greater customer service, creates more local jobs, reduces environmental impact, increases local character and property values and contributes to a more self-sufficient economy.

Local businesses are also known to donate more to local good causes, place less strain on the environment and on public services and create greater competition and diversity in the marketplace, leading to increased consumer choice and lower prices.

WBA believes that by "being parochial" this Christmas and taking advantage of Warrandyte's shops and eateries, we are not only avoiding the chaos of shopping malls, we can also feel secure in the knowledge that we are helping our economy and the environment. That's a great shopping experience.



Janelle Evans of the Warrandyte Business Association and Al Vivado of Cocoa Moon discuss Christmas decorations. (Clue: Find the golden gnomes!)

## CYRIL

By PAUL WILLIAMS



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# Jinglefest, jinglefest, jinglefest time...

Christmas is just around the corner and Andersons Creek Primary School is celebrating with a "Jinglefest" concert and movie night.

"There will be a range of food stalls and Christmas activities for everyone to enjoy, including a visit from Santa himself," a committee member told the *Diary*.

Jinglefest kicks off at 4pm on Saturday, November 12 at the school.

Face-painting, jumping castles and a bungee run are just a few of the huge range of activities children can participate in before the movie feature screens at 7.30pm.

"Following the success of the school's recent stage production, the kids are looking forward to Jinglefest, with many of them signing up for 'Andersons Creek's



Got Talent'."

The movie feature, Santa Claus 2—The Escape Clause, will be shown on a large outdoor screen and all the families in the community are invited to attend.

School principal Trevor Gibbs believes Jinglefest will be a great family event. "We would love for families in the Warrandyte community to attend and join in the Christmas spirit," he said.

● Tickets cost \$6 and are available at the school office, or can be purchased on the night. Children 4 years and under are free.

Fest: These kids are all cranked up for the Jinglefest at Andersons Creek Primary School on November 12. (Picture by ALANA PHILLIPS)



To market, to market: Park Orchards Farmers Market is a busy community event.

## Birthday event at Park Orchards market

The Park Orchards Farmers Market is celebrating its first birthday this month.

A combined effort by the Park Orchards Ratepayers Association and the Park Orchards Lions Club, the market brings 30 farmers and food producers to the parking area at the village shops each month.

As well as fresh food and produce—all grown in Victoria—the market features entertainment from local performers. The Lions donate all proceeds back to those in need in the community. (They recently supplied a disabled youth with a motorised wheelchair.)

Their first birthday—on Saturday, November 19 between 9am 1pm—will be celebrated with balloons and a clown, face-painting and more live music than ever.

● The market is held at the corner of Park and Hopetoun roads, Park Orchards. More information from Sophy on 0409 417 369.

# Locals prepare garden for special event status

The 2012 Australian Open Garden scheme has given the North Warrandyte garden of Pat and John Anderson "Special Event Status" when it opens to the public on March 17 and 18 next year.

"This category should attract additional visitors and while some profits come from the admission charge, most of the final funds come as a result of the hard work of local volunteers," John Anderson told the *Diary*.

The two previous garden openings in 2008 and 2010 raised a combined total of nearly \$26,000 for the North Warrandyte CFA.

The *Diary* will publish further details of this special local event in our February 2012 issue.



Green fingers: Working in the Anderson garden. (Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS)



# New vicar and new mum at St Stephen's



Megan Curlis-Gibson and baby Phoebe.

St Stephen's Anglican Church has a new vicar. Rev Megan Curlis-Gibson was commissioned by the bishop of the eastern region as priest-in-charge at the Stiggant Street church on November 9.

She lives in Research, is married to Phil and they have a one-year-old daughter Phoebe.

Rev Curlis-Gibson grew up in Kew, studied at the Ridley Theological College in Parkville and was ordained at St Paul's Cathedral five years ago.

Having worked at two of Melbourne's largest Anglican churches over the last five years, followed by a period of maternity leave, she is now looking forward to working in a smaller parish and spending time to

get to know people in the community, "as a mum and a priest".

"Warrandyte has such a clear sense of its community and identity, the river itself providing a focal point for everything that happens," Rev Curlis-Gibson told the *Diary*. "We look forward to diving into that community, enjoying it and serving its people."

She is planning a new monthly service on Sunday afternoons "that will be open to all ages but will focus on a more interactive and modern style of worship."

"Named The River because of its vision to be a refreshing and life-giving experience of faith for young and old, it will begin at 3pm on November 13 and continue on the second Sunday of each month."

# Local bank offers scholarships

The Warrandyte Community Bank branch is offering higher education scholarships for two local students.

The scholarship program, opening in December, is designed to support two local students to further their tertiary studies.

The scholarship scheme will support disadvantaged local students with tertiary-related study costs.

"Family circumstances such as unemployment, illness and debt can have a significant

impact on a young person's ability to further their education," branch chairman Sarah Wrigley told the *Diary*.

"Faced with the huge costs of university education, some local young people may never get the chance to achieve their academic dreams."

Successful applicants will receive initial funding for one year, and depending on academic performance, the scholarship may be renewed to assist the second year of study.

Ms Wrigley said the scheme is part of the bank's "commitment to building stronger communities".

"Since our branch opened its doors in 2003, we have assisted local children and youth to get the most out of living in our community, including assisting the occasional childcare centre for a number of years and supporting all local schools, kindergartens and many sporting clubs with annual grants and sponsorships.

"The Warrandyte branch scholarships are part of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank scholarship program, with some 40 community branches and other partners taking part across Australia," Ms Wrigley said.

Applications will open on Thursday, December 1 and will be assessed in early 2012.

Further information from the Warrandyte Community Bank Branch or visit [www.bendigoadelaide.com.au/scholarships](http://www.bendigoadelaide.com.au/scholarships).

# Neighbours fundraise for India

By **CHERIE MOSELYN**

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is stretching out a helping hand to aid a vulnerable community in western India and is planning a fundraising function later this month.

An Australian woman, Shivani Cameron, is working to improve conditions in an "untouchable" village.

Inspired by Shivani's solo work and commitment, WNH has formed its own support group, aiming to raise \$3000 to help build a prosthetics factory and supply equipment for it. The factory will make limbs for a nearby leprosy village.

"We chose to target our fundraising effort towards the building of a factory because it ties in with our principles of supporting community in a co-operative way," WNH coordinator Karen Throssell told the *Diary*. "The factory will employ local people to build and work in it."

"Because of our personal contact with Shivani, we also

have a direct line to the village itself," she said. "So it will be fantastic to see the development of the factory when Shivani brings back photos from her regular visits."

A former teacher and documentary filmmaker, Shivani Cameron first went to India to make a short DVD about a health project. She currently works with the Prabhat Alloi Foundation.

On seeing the destitution in these villages she was inspired to raise money back in Australia. Twelve houses have been built, a free medical service has been developed, and a new well and dam have been provided for this village.

WNH is holding a silent auction and presentation of dance performances, upstairs at the Warrandyte Community Centre, from 7.30pm on Saturday, November 19. Local artists and businesses are providing all the goods and services being offered for the silent auction. Entry is \$10, BYO supper and drinks.



Shivani Cameron talks with children attending the new village school, a Prabhat Alloi Foundation project.

# Finding your way around Goldfields shopping

You probably won't get lost at Goldfields Shopping Centre, but just in case, Manningham council has recently installed five new heritage-themed pedestrian "way-finding" signs.

The new signs were installed as part of improvement works at the centre that were recommended in the Manningham activity centre strategy 2005.

Made of corten steel, the signs display information on the shopping centre, including a map detailing each shop and directional arrows to the area's major pedestrian attractions and community facilities.

"The way-finding signs will improve

the visibility of the centre, encourage pedestrian movement around the centre and improve connections with the adjacent Andersons Creek Primary School and Warrandyte Reserve," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

A working group, comprising a mix of Goldfields business and property owners, representatives from the Warrandyte Community Association, council officers and councillors, developed the priorities for the improvement works.

The design of the five new signs is in line with the Yarra Street and Warrandyte River Reserve signs.

For more information on the Manningham activity centre strategy 2005 visit [www.manningham.vic.gov.au](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au).



Which way: One of the new signs at Goldfields Shopping Centre. (Picture by Alana Phillips)

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## Kids visit garden

Grades 1 and 2 children from Andersons Creek Primary School visited the Warrandyte Community Garden recently, prior to the school setting up its own vegetable garden. The children weeded, and planted both seeds and seedlings. All children were able to plant their own seedling to take home and help sow some seeds that they will eventually be able to transplant to the school garden. Community gardeners commented how well behaved and enthusiastic the children were as they explored the garden finding worms and insects and learning to recognise the vegetables and see how they grow. JAN TINDALE was there and took these pictures.



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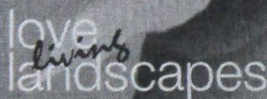


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**FRIDAY NOV 25 - JAZZ CLUB**  
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**WEDNESDAY NOV 23 - INTRODUCTION TO SHAMANISM**  
Workshop with Eilyn Rosenthal and Rosemary Beam. 7pm-9pm \$25

**SUNDAY NOV 27 - TAROT 101** Introduction to Tarot 1pm-4.30pm

**WEDNESDAY NOV 30 - DYING CONSCIOUSLY**  
Workshop with Eilyn Rosenthal and Rosemary Beam. 9am-5pm \$150

**FRIDAY DEC 2 - CHRISTMAS SHOP PARTY 20%-30% OFF SALE**  
Music Café with the NQR Quartet - Mike, Neil, Mark & John - from 6pm.  
So fly on in and grab beautiful Chrissy pressies from our range of welcome gifts and also enter our \$100 shop voucher draw. A very happy shop and café party indeed!

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**bush backyard**

**Snakes alive!**

Adrian Rice of David Road sent us this picture of a Brown Snake, writing: "I had a feeling this coming summer might prove a busy time for snakes, with the good summer 2010 rains, and an increase in the numbers of insects, frogs and skinks. This brown was sunning itself on the raised garden bed above the stone wall where it clearly has a home—that's where it disappeared to when tired of posing."



**Possum magic:** Jacqui Ward saw these three possums on their property at 76 Webb Street at 7am one morning. They were going home to bed for the day! Mum carried them from shrub to bush to gum tree. She carried them through the ivy around the gum tree, emerged out of the top of the ivy and continued her way up high until they were out of sight.



**then & now**

An occasional series by ALANA PHILLIPS

When Ed Date visited Warrandyte in 1960, Yarra Street boasted a petrol station and a butcher's shop (above). Our main street has changed in the last 50 years, with our busy Neighbourhood House and Community Centre hosting a number of community activities, our wide footpaths and our ever-changing bus stops (right). Blue cars are still popular, though!



**THEN:** Picture by Ed Date, courtesy of James McAuley  
**NOW:** Picture by Alana Phillips

Carols by Candlelight

STIGGANTS RESERVE

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Entertainment will be provided from 7.30pm

If postponed because of bad weather, it will be held the following night  
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## We have changed our name

We have changed the name of our supermarket to honour the memory of our late Brian Quinton.

Brian purchased Warrandyte's IGA Supermarket in January 2000. He had so many dreams and plans for this business but those plans were stopped suddenly short in 2007 when Brian was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer. He passed away 4½ months later aged 49.

This business is symbolic to our family. It represents the achievements, the hardships, the goals and the risks Brian took in his life. It represents his principles, his dreams, his energy and his beautiful spirit. It embodies his friendliness, generosity and warmth, his sense of community and his love of family. Everything our IGA is to Warrandyte.

Brian helped so many people in his life in so many ways. He was loved and respected by his staff and all who knew him.

It is a Legacy to continue forward in loving memory of Brian; for his children and the grandchildren he would never meet and for the people of Warrandyte.

This saying best represents the way Brian lived his life. It is now the mantra used by our family to live our lives the way he encouraged us to...

“Shoot for the moon because even if you miss it, you'll still land amongst the stars”



**Brian John Quinton**  
27/3/58 – 5/7/07

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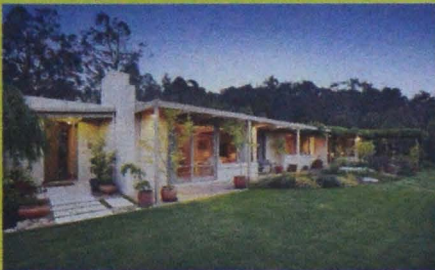
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Vanilla Orchid is now open Sunday lunch for coffee and food from 10.30am. Enjoy outdoor dining with the warmer weather and relax with Vanilla Orchid's delicious Thai fare.

Vanilla Orchid and its sister restaurant River Kwai are both proud to be finalists in this year's restaurant and catering awards for Best Thai Restaurant in Victoria.

We would like to thank our customers for their valued support.

We also wish to advise that we are now closed on Monday nights. We apologise for any inconvenience caused to our Monday customers.

Kind regards  
Vanilla Orchid team

Opening Hours: Monday closed,  
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[www.vanillaorchid.com.au](http://www.vanillaorchid.com.au)

Warrandyte Business Association Presents

# Traders Light Up Warrandyte

## Join us for some exciting Christmas family fun!



Visit the Christmas Lights!

Raise your Voice with Christmas Songs!

Find the 9 Christmas Gnomes!

Christmas Shopping!



WIN 1 of 3 HAMPERS

over \$1000 worth of goodies



Drawn: Sat 10th Dec at 3pm

### Traders Light Up Warrandyte!

Visit the shops between the **12th Nov thru till 24th Dec** to view the Christmas Lights on display!

### Find the 9 Christmas Gnomes!

List the 9 Shops where the Christmas Gnomes are hiding. Win one of 3 - Christmas Hampers - OVER \$1000 of goodies. **Collect your entry form at the local shops** Fill in the form to WIN! Entry forms to be placed in **GOLD** envelopes located at ALL Warrandyte Stores. **Drawn Saturday 10th Dec at 3pm.** Bridge End on grass area in front of shops.

**1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE Hamper** Value over \$500

**2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE Hamper** Value over \$300

**3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE Hamper** Value over \$200

### Warrandyte Raises it's Voice for Christmas!

**Saturday 10th Dec, 2pm-5pm**

Local Performances by Andersons Creek Primary School, Mia Mia Harmonic Choir, Rust, Richard Costello plus The Roving Carollers, Miss Chrissy and Children's Face Painting [near the Bakery].

Raise your Voices will spread Christmas cheer over all 3 shopping areas the Goldfields, The Village and Bridge End. **Ho! Ho! Ho!**

*It is a Merry Warrandyte Christmas!*

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# Honouring our Keith

## out of the inbox

By JUDY GREEN

A farewell for Sgt Keith Walker will be held on Sunday, November 13 from 11am to 3pm at Andersons Creek Primary School. The community is invited to come along to say thank you and farewell to Keith while enjoying free music, barbecues and kids' entertainment.

## Blessing

On Sunday, November 13, the Catholic parish of St Gerard and St Anne will conduct a "Blessing of the Graves" ceremony at the Warrandyte cemetery. Mass will be celebrated at 5pm at St Gerard's church in Brackenbury Street, Warrandyte. At the conclusion of the Mass, Father Shibu Joseph, parish priest, will lead a procession through the cemetery, where he will perform the blessing of the graves. All are welcome to join in.

## Indigenous

Friends of Warrandyte State Park indigenous nursery is open to the public every Thursday from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Stock includes native grasses, wildflowers, water plants, shrubs and trees. It is also open on the first Saturday of each month from 9am to 1pm and the first Sunday from 2pm to 4pm. The nursery is adjacent to the park office in Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte.

## Choir

You are invited to join singer-songwriter and choir leader, Kavisha Mazzella and her Manningham Arts Centre based community choir "United Nations of Song" at the Manningham Cultural Festival on Saturday, November 12. People with all levels of ability are welcome, just turn up on the day. Established choirs wishing to participate should call 9840 9246. The event runs from 1pm to 4.15pm including workshop time, free afternoon/relaxation and performance on stage. It



Keith Walker: Sending him off in style (Picture by Val Polley)

will take place at the United Nations for Song marquee at Ruffey Park Lake, George Street, Doncaster.

## AGM

The 2011 annual general meeting of the Friends of Warrandyte State Park will be held on Tuesday, November 15 at 6pm in the nursery folly adjacent to the park office in Pound Bend Road, Warrandyte. The meeting will be followed by a barbecue (BYO everything) and a slide show on "Wild Africa" by Pat and Mike Coupar

## Market

Warrandyte Uniting Church is holding a Sustainable Twilight Market at their church, corner Taroon Avenue and West End Road, Warrandyte on Friday, December 9 from 7pm to 9pm. You can light a candle for peace and buy your Christmas gifts from the sustainable fair-trade stalls in front of the Peace Wall. Funds will go to the Riverflow project.

## Quartet

Earth Harmony Friday Night Jazz Club will present the Michelle Nicolle Quartet in concert on Friday, November 25, at 8pm in their Lotus Room, 246-250 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Cost is \$25 prepay (\$22

concession) or \$28 pay at the door. Bookings are essential. Call 9844 5155.

## Extravaganza

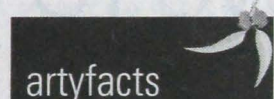
Warrandyte Community Church is holding a Christmas Extravaganza on Friday, November 11. This is a social get-together designed to take the stress out of Christmas. Among the activities will be gingerbread cookie decorating, card making, sharing of recipes and decoration ideas. The event will run from 7.30pm to 10pm and will cost \$5. Dr Diane Grocott, a medical doctor specialising in psychiatry, will give some tips on taking the stress out of Christmas. The event is organised by the Warrandyte Community Church ladies ministry. You can RSVP to Wendy Barnett-Harris on 9844 4148 or email office@wcc.org.au

## Seminar

The next Manningham environment seminar will be held at the Warrandyte Community Centre, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte at 7.30pm on Wednesday, December 7. The topic will be "Mistletoes: indicators of ecosystem health and diversity," with Anna Burns. These seminars are free. No booking is required.

## Citizens

Nominations are now open for Manningham Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. Nominees do not need to live in Manningham, however they must be Australian citizens and should have made a noteworthy contribution during the past year, or provided outstanding service to the Manningham community over a number of years. Nominations close on Monday, November 28. Further information from council's Events Administration Officer on 9840 9259.



## Open

Past *Diary* cartoonists Syd Tunn and Ona Henderson are opening their studio on November 19, 20, 26 and 27 from 12noon to 5pm each day. The studio is situated at the corner of Henley and Oxley Roads, Bend of Islands. Appointments to visit can also be made by calling 9712 0393.

## Sale

Starting from November 5, The Tin Shed Gallery will be holding a sale of works by Fiona Fisher and Jo Kline. If you have had your eye on a painting or would just like to see what the gallery offers, they would love you to visit. The gallery is adjacent to the roundabout at the Warrandyte Bridge. Opening hours are Friday 11am to 3pm and Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm.

## Exhibition

Works by students of studio arts, design technology, visual communication and design media from Warrandyte High School will be exhibited at the Doig Learning Centre at the school in Alexander Road on Monday, November 14, opening at 7.30pm.

## Tapestry

Manningham Gallery is currently staging an exhibition of contemporary, hand-woven tapestry artworks from the Australian Tapestry Workshop. They have been designed by some of Australia's leading artists. The gallery is at the Manningham Civic Centre, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster and is open Tuesday to Friday 11am to 5pm and Saturday 2pm to 5pm. Admission free.

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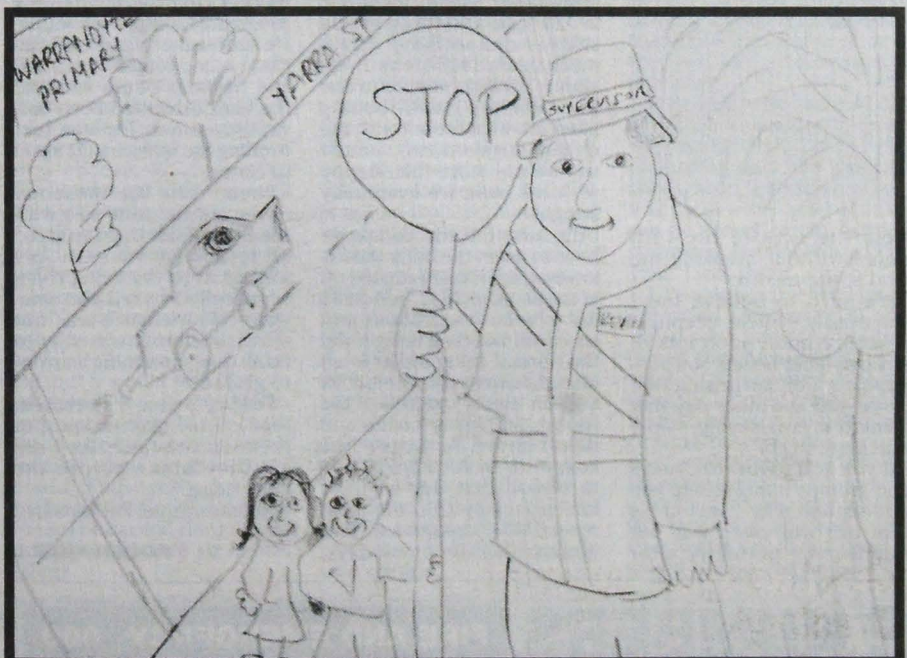
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## Quest for guest cartoonists



This entry in our quest for new cartoons for this spot has been contributed by Michelle Parker of Hawkes Road. She describes the subject as "Warrandyte's Kevin '11—our wonderful crossing supervisor!" Got an idea for a *Diary* cartoon? We'd love to see it! Keep the subject local, make sure it can be "scaled down" to fit this space (12cm wide x 9cm deep); email it to warrandytediary@aapt.net.au, by post to PO Box 209 Warrandyte 3113, or drop it through the slot in our office front door at the Warrandyte Community Centre.



**FREE garden green waste drop off days 2011-12**

To assist with preparing your property for the fire season Council is providing residents with series of dates for disposing of garden green waste.

Please note that the only materials that will be accepted are tree prunings, garden clippings and leaf litter. Residents will need to show either a rates notice or their driver's licence as proof of residency within the Shire. Please note that commercial loads and food waste will not be accepted.

Free garden green waste at Nillumbik's Recycling and Recovery Centre for 2011- 2012

The Recycling and Recovery Centre at 290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty will accept garden green waste free of charge on the following dates.

Free Garden Green Waste drop off day opening hours are 8.00am-4.00pm.

Dates	Location	Operating Hours
Sunday 13 November 2011	Recycling & Recovery Centre 290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty Melway 11 D1	8am - 4pm
Sunday 11 December 2011		
Sunday 8 January 2012		
Sunday 12 February 2012		
Sunday 11 March 2012		

For any queries please contact Council on 9433 3555.

[www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au)  
9433 3111

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**Three bad jinxes and we're still counting...**

**J**UST recently I read the stats on the percentages of Australians who believe in all types of contentious issues. I must say that some of the figures surprised me. Those about belief in God, evolution, climate change and UFOs were to be expected but what did surprise me were those on witches, the devil, fairies and ghosts.

The figures were in the positive 30 and 40 percentages. This is a staggeringly high number of folk, so in any typical busload of commuters to Melbourne it is prudent to remember that the guy opposite may not be staring at you but at the devil and the fairies fighting a pitched battle above your head.

I know that all cultures have beliefs and superstitions. We toured Hong Kong Island and on the far side discovered an enormous, high-rise complex spread across the mountain slope. In the middle of the building was a gigantic hole many storeys in radius. This, we were told was the result of an adverse feng shui reading. The hole was to allow the correct flow of the spirits down the mountain. Whether they were good or bad I can't remember. Without the hole, however, it would have been nigh on impossible to get tenants for the building.

We all have our favourite lucky or unlucky numbers. Even the Dark One has pinched 666. We all know why 13 is unlucky and therefore why, in some older buildings, the lift miraculously travels



**"...the guy opposite may be staring at the devil and the fairies fighting a pitched battle above your head..."**

from the 12th to the 14th floors without breaking the land speed record.

It's hard to believe but I am a fairly cynical, sceptical person. I pooh pooh lots of strongly held beliefs so I suppose it's a bit surprising that it was just the other day that I found myself saying, "Only one more to go!"

If you add "tight" to cynical and grumpy it might help you understand why I was cross that our wall oven was not functioning perfectly after

15 years. It was not heating quickly enough and when we eventually got out "the man", he informed us that the door hinges were shot and the thermostat was wildly inaccurate; 10 degrees in the lower register and up to 30 around 200. In order to fix the beast we would be paying close to half the cost of a new oven so ....

Have you realised how dominating fashion is? Every appliance in our kitchen is white and failing changing everything to brushed steel, we had to find a white replacement. Whereas there were trillions of steel brands and models, there were a mere three or four who still dabbled in white. Once we eliminated those not made in Australia and those whose shelves did not have safety mechanism that stops them sliding straight out onto the floor complete with boiling roast fat, we were left with the choice between two. I must say we are more than happy with the oven we eventually bought.

But why did the computer have to go on the blink the following day? Having started up in the usual fashion, suddenly the screen went black and we could not do a thing. I did the normal thing under such circumstances; I turned it off and on again, I checked the router, all power cords and then I swore. As I rang "the computer man", I spluttered to myself that this was not fair, especially after the most recent VISA experience. Two disasters within a few days.

Something was not right. Of course, when "the man" came he was jolly. He had lots of stories to tell about how viruses can totally destroy systems. He sounded remarkably like our computer trained son whose only advice to us whenever we ring about a computer problem is, "Have you read the manual?" or "You have been backing up haven't you!"

It was no reassurance to hear from "the man" that they don't bother with anti-virus systems as they are only as useful as the last reported virus. All I wanted was my computer back intact and preferably with all files in place.

When I rang the other day to check on the computer's progress, he was even jollier. He enthusiastically told me that he had found 14 viruses and he wasn't sure whether the hard drive had been corrupted or not. He was just running the malware (?) again to check!

Phone calls like those are never cheap, so it was with a sinking heart that I trudged off to lick my wounds. As I walked in to the living room I counselled myself that computer maintenance was not unreasonable. It was silly to think that something was out to get me.

Feeling better, I stretched, took off my glasses and put them on the table. As I did so, they broke across the nose ridge.

Number three! Perhaps ....

**ROGER KIBELL**



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9722 1463

**VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE: 1800 240 667**



# Stumpy: which end is which?

nature  
By LINDA ROGAN

WHAT a joy it is to be able to stroll in Victoria's bush in October.

Mid-month found us in Langi Ghiran State Park, about 20km east of Ballarat with just time for lunch and a leg stretch.

Driving along the eastern track, we passed great boulder slopes, reddened by the buds of Fringed Honey-myrtle.

We ate lunch quickly at the picnic area as I was keen to find what else would be blooming nearby. Not far along the track, I called a stop to look at a large group of purple Wax-lip Orchids. From there on it was one flower after another.

Low growing Tea-tree shrubs were covered with white blossoms in large patches like miniature apple orchards in full bloom. At my feet were bright yellow Goodenia, white Common Rice-flowers stood proudly amongst them. Pea flowers in bright orange-red and yellow reminded me of the diversity of this group. Sprinkled about were Pink Fingers (orchids), Bulbine Lilies and tiny Fringe Lilies. The day was cool so the Sun Orchid buds stayed tightly closed although blue pink and yellow buds promised to make a show with only a little encouragement from the sun.

No wonder I was distracted and nearly stepped on a large Stumpy-tail or Shingleback Lizard. From a distance the mottled scales shaded from dark brown to pale grey, I could easily have mistaken it for a lichen-covered stick nestled in the sundew and other small green plants.

As I stepped backward, I



Back-to-front: Stumpy-tail's tail looks like a head! (Picture by Linda Rogan)

was struck by how flattened this lizard was from shoulders to tail, almost as if I had stepped on it. It plumped up again when I stopped to take a photograph; I figured it had been trying to absorb as much warmth from the sunlight as possible. It moved away very slowly. I guess it hadn't absorbed enough yet.

One remarkable thing about this coarsely scaled lizard is the way its tail nearly matches its head in size and shape. This tail acts as a fat storage for the summer season when little is left for it to eat. This means that if the lizard drops its tail in defence, as it can do in dire circumstances, it comes at great cost. The present individual's tail was not as plump as some I have seen. It would be anxious to resume its feeding as soon

as its temperature was high enough for action.

Although Stumpy-tails are closely related to the Blue Tongue Lizards sometimes found in Warrandyte, they are common only in the drier west and north of Victoria. Both are large members of the skink family.

In general Stumpy-tails are omnivorous and will eat herbs and seedlings as well as any blossoms and fruit it may come across; they are also fond of snails, insects and will eat carrion. In fact they will eat almost anything "edible" they come across. This may be why they can be found near picnic tables in the summer-time.

Like many of our unique Australian creatures, the more I learn about them, the more amazed I am. A David Attenborough clip from *Life in Cold*

*Blood*, showed a live birth of two fully formed Stumpy-tails that together equalled about 1/3 the mother's weight; equivalent to a human carrying a two year-old child. David also pointed out that couples are mainly monogamous and may meet up annually for 20 or more years.

Should one of the pair be killed, as often happens when they wander onto the highway for food or warmth, the partner may stay with it for long periods occasionally giving it a hopeful nudge. David suggested, "One might even say mourning".

My husband said, "It makes me especially anxious to avoid hitting one on the road."

And yes, we did return to Langi Ghiran a few days later, but that's the start of a story for another time.

# Going backward, going forward

AS everybody knows, there are two sorts of people in this world:

1. People who barrack for Collingwood and people who don't. This distinction is so marked that a particular friend of mine recently excused herself for being a Magpie supporter on the grounds that she feels safer on the train when she dresses for the part. QED!

2. People who can smoothly reverse a trailer anywhere they choose, as opposed to those who go with the variable jack-knife option.

3. People who get large purchases delivered to their house, as opposed to those who ask somebody else to haul a trailer into the inner suburbs to collect their stuff. Now I really don't mind helping, but it would be a distinct advantage to have a well-developed mirror-image facility in the car-manoeuving reflexes of my brain so that I could confidently reverse-park a trailer. Even being able to see the darned thing would help. If only I were six inches taller!

4. People who claim modern cars are designed to suit small people, versus people who think they're designed by tall men to suit themselves. Indeed, there is no logic at all to the design of some cars. To get in and out of our car without hitting your head you need to be under about 5 foot 7, but to see a trailer out the rear window when reversing you need to be over 6 foot. Putting a cushion on the driver's seat automatically renders your noggin vulnerable to unwanted collisions with the doorframe. And this is not an isolated instance of inconsistent car layout. I've driven other popular models in which it's almost impossible to comfortably operate the steering wheel and the pedals at the same time, or to have both the handbrake and the steering wheel within easy reach. I wouldn't have thought I was terribly far off normal size. What on earth do car-designers have in mind for the physique of the average driver? Maybe different people design different components according to their own criteria.

5. People who blame car design for their inability to reverse a trailer, as opposed to people who happily admit they just haven't had enough practice!

6. People who wear socks with their sandals, and those who don't. Now before you go leaping onto the barefoot bandwagon, let me point out that socks worn under sandals can be a very catchy fashion statement. Helsinki circa 1987. True. I was there.

7. People who've been on an extended canoeing trip and those who haven't. I've just joined the "have-beens", and what an eye-opener! It was a fantastic journey, but included almost no picture-postcard drifting downstream. Actual hard work is involved. Did you know that, even 50 kilometres upstream from a river mouth, the incoming tide can push river water uphill at a greater speed than it can flow down-

hill? That even heavily loaded canoes and kayaks are blown backwards by headwinds? That you can sink knee-deep in black mud on the river bank even when you're *not* shouldering a canoe or a heavy water-tight barrel? I don't think my toenails are ever going to come clean again. If the sun comes out any time soon, well ... dinky Helsinki, here I come!

8. Canoeists who wear their parka *under* their life jacket, as opposed to canoeists who wear it *over*. No hard-and-fast rules about this, I don't think, it's more of a forecasting issue: some hope the drizzle will clear up, while others believe it won't. Dozens of swallows were skimming the water for insects, a sure sign of rain, so I joined the "under" brigade.

So if you spot a rather dishevelled character wearing odd socks and a muddy PFD over a blue parka, a character who is carefully reversing a trailer into a hairpin for reasons that are entirely unclear, then do please stop and say hello. It might not be a Magpie fan—it might be ME!

our place  
By MARILYN MOORE



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# What did you do in the war, Daddy?



With Remembrance Day being commemorated this month, local writer LAWRIE SAFSTROM has contributed this evocative, thought-provoking piece...

OUR six year-old, sleepy-eyed daughter was cuddled up in the bed waiting for her bedtime stories. Her school had marked Remembrance Day with a meaningful service. Some servicemen were there in their smart uniforms, speeches by ex-servicemen, a soulful playing of the Last Post and then the Reveille. And, of course, some popular World War 1 tunes. Story time I said. What's it to be? From the blankets, a small voice replied, "What did you do in the war, Daddy?" Wow! What do I tell my little girl? What will I tell her? Well, my mates and I enlisted in the early years of the 1914-18 War. All of us were young. Blokes full of fun and excitement, we were going to see the world! Firstly we went to the Broad-

meadows recruitment camp and the sergeant majors taught us marching, and saluting and saying yes sir to all the officers. Fun and games followed on, football, long route marches to toughen us up, even the task of peeling tons of potatoes for the cooks, all the time learning good comradeship. "But what did you do in the war, Daddy?" Oh, we left Port Melbourne in a troopship to steam across to Albany in Western Australia. Parades in the city, thousands of cheering people as we marched with fixed bayonets with bands playing and people cheering. Then a long boat trip to Colombo to fill the coal bunkers for the journey to England. Coolies carried buckets of coal up the steel ladders and tipped the coal into the ship to the chant of their overseers. "But what did you do in the war, Daddy?" Well, we were unloaded at the Suez Canal and marched out to the training camp, practicing rifle shooting and trench warfare. We rode camels and donkeys to see the Pyramids. Then we sailed on to London and marched down Pic-

cadilly to the sound of many brass bands, thousand and thousands cheering and singing *Waltzing Matilda* and other Aussie songs. Out then to Salisbury Plain, more training in trench warfare, and on days off, walking to the local villages to have fun with the local girls. "But what did you do in the war, Daddy?" We were on watch all night, waiting orders to go over the top and attack the enemy, gunfire and explosions lighting up the whole sky... And then I saw she was asleep, with a dreamy little smile on her face, her eyes now closed. But I went on. I could go on now, no-one was listening. That terrible night, the whole world exploding around us, cries of the wounded and dying and the order to go over the top and charge the enemy—drilled into us. It's either you or them. Hours of hell. Please God never let it happen again. So sleep on my little one, man's inhumanity to man must cease. I am glad I never asked my father, "But what did you do in the war, Daddy?"

# Project to remember our First People

By MICK WOIWOD

OVER recent months a small group of local people have been meeting informally to discuss the possibility of siting commemorative rocks and plaques on two locations north and south of the Yarra to mark the former 1908 acre Warrandyte Aboriginal Reserve of 1852. The plan is to place the first of these two rocks and plaques on Parks Victoria land close to the confluence of Stony Creek and the Yarra; the second on Parks Victoria land close to the confluence of Anderson's Creek and the Yarra.

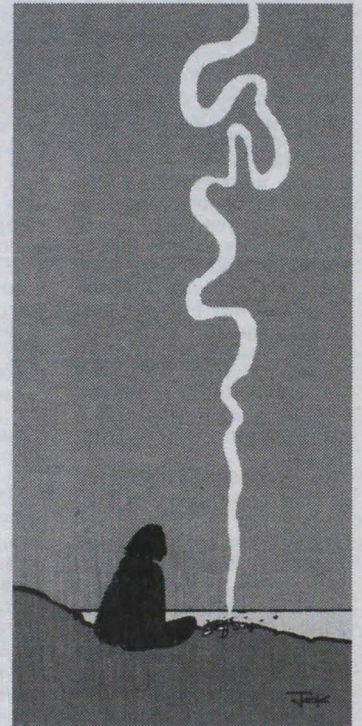
Hopefully, funding for the project will be made available through the Robert Bridgford Indigenous Trust administered by the Shire of Nillumbik. In addition to the two rocks and plaques, the plan is to fashion a number of marker trees as had once been the Aboriginal custom back in pre-European settlement times on sites of special significance. This, in each instance, would involve the planting of carefully chosen eucalypts in pairs so that, as they grow taller, their uppermost branches may be interwoven to form a distinctive type of natural archway.

The above two sites have been chosen to sensitively reflect the Aboriginal belief that the meeting of streams once held immense spiritual significance to them in the light of the mists, that occasionally appear close to the surface at confluences, are the spirits of children waiting to be born.

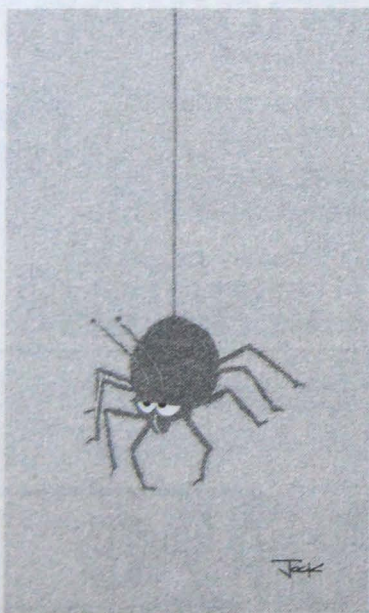
Members of the informal committee would greatly appreciate feed-

back from the local community as to whether or not it sees worth in this initiative designed to generate wider interest in the former reserve and associated aspects of the region's local Indigenous story.

Further information from: Andrew McIntosh, 3 Jennifer Court, Warrandyte, 9844 1550; Mick Woivod, 142 Glen Park Road, Eltham North, 9439 5679.



# Being the spider



I wonder if she ever wants just to give up? Quivering remnants, again. *Stuff this, can't do it any more.*

All that intense creation. Her whole being absorbed in life's fragile filigree. Then Some Oaf stumbles—Tatters.

Just like that. So long in the spinning. Destroyed, in a random stumble. But next moment she's at it again, slivers of needles, re-knitting, repairing.

Stronger than the finest steel, faster and faster the spinnerets flow, then—destruction, again. Swipe, shreds, rebuild again. Crash, threads, rebuild. Again.

Does she ever despair? *It's just no use.* Just want to curl up and... But she knows if she does she will die.

So of course she just starts again—part of life. Build, destroyed, rebuild again. Sometimes it will last long enough to

snare a meal, lure a mate, maybe even have some sticky spider fun. Maybe even both simultaneously.

But we're not spiders, there is no one step back. We build, build, grow, grow, climbing ladders not water spouts. School, job, money, house.

School, job, money, house, bar, deck, pool, spa. Upward, forward, onward. Children don't die, houses don't burn. And we don't just shrug and start again.

Our houses are life-times full of shadows, memories or glowing rosy tomorrows. We just can't shrug and start again.

But depends if we're Job and like the spider we're stoic. We sigh, start again, just part of life. What else can we do?

But if we're not bloody Job And we've just had enough: Why me? What have I done to deserve this? This is not part of life—it's the end.

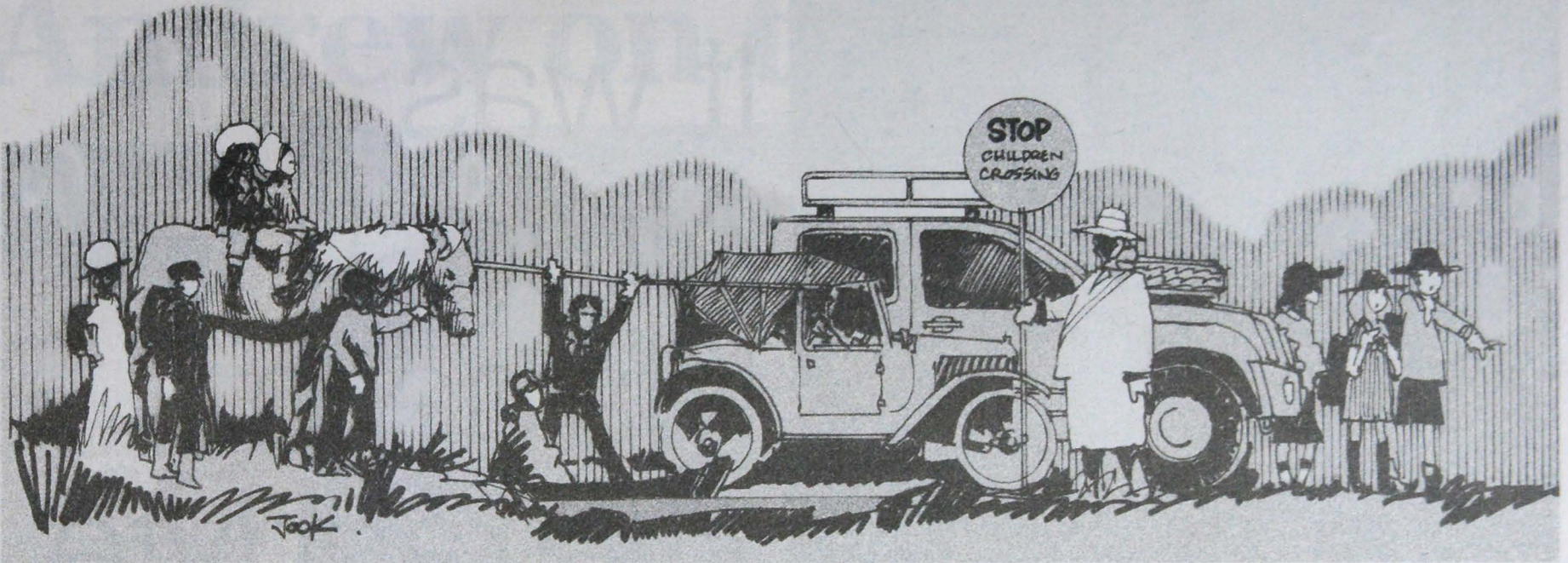
But the dark cloud can lift. A determined sun can melt our ice cloak and help us *feel* a small patch of warm, calm.

Then we see the spinning—re-knitting, re-pairing—just part of life. She's frenzy and languor—abseiling on silk. Her feather-soft castle catches the light, shivering crystals, and we catch our breath,

take it in deep. This feels good—sweet air into lungs. Breathing, contented. We want to do this. Be like the spider—bounce back.

Again.

KAREN THROSSELL



# On the way to school...

By VAL POLLEY

**S**TUCK in a line of Warrandyte traffic during the time of a recent afternoon pick-up run for the local primary schools, there was time to speculate on why so few young children are able to walk or bike to school these days.

Those modern complaints of time constraints, increased traffic and parent anxiety seem to be responsible for the decrease in the numbers getting to school by foot or bike. Yet if one starts to reminisce with parents about times past it seems everyone has some memories of their journey to school—fond or otherwise.

Children attending an early tent school in the fledgling Andersons Creek township around 1856 must have faced considerable difficulties getting to school. Unmade roads, unbridged creeks and rivers and the distances they needed to travel must have been unsurmountable at times.

Schooling in the early days of the colony was based on the British system. The government set up its schools with strict guidelines as to curriculum, behaviour and activities. However attendance was not compulsory and often children were required to help their parents eke out a living. Absenteeism could be high and children often only learnt the rudiments of reading, writing and arithmetic. Compulsory education was introduced in the 1870s but even so attendance proved difficult to enforce.

It appears from a report that even

after the tent school was replaced and classes, taught firstly in the old Courthouse then, in a split slab building by a Mrs Pretty; about 40 of the local children were managing to attend classes. Access would still appear to have presented difficulties however.

Her son George Pretty described many years later how an old yellow box tree, three foot in diameter, was felled to make a bridge for his mother to cross the creek to get to the school. In 1863 the Board of Education declared Andersons Creek Common School twelfth on its alphabetical list, but by 1874 it was reported that the slab school (built by a Mr Hunter of Templestowe) had become increasingly dilapidated and needed substantial repair. It was said children were running wild in the district, their parents being reluctant to send them to a cold and draughty school especially during the winter months. The resulting pressure and demands of parents and residents of Andersons Creek led to a new stone school being built of local material in 1875 located in a commanding position, with views over the river.

A new bridge was also erected across the Yarra about the same time and these two new developments must have made both the journey to school, and the time within it, much more enjoyable, particularly for those children from the northern side of the river.

In 1908 as the township grew and developed, it and the school were renamed Warrandyte.

The journey to school no doubt improved as roads were built and

both public and private transport became more established. In the 1930s it was reported in a local paper that the word "SCHOOL" was being painted on the main road near the school by the Country Roads Board. This was seen to be better than having signs on poles as it was thought it would cause car drivers to be careful and keep their eyes on the road. A suggestion was also made that a speed limit would be beneficial as there were so many turns along the road.

Many residents can tell stories of how hard it could be to get to school even in the middle years of the 20th century. One such story recounts how a young family from North Warrandyte would walk down to the Yarra to be ferried by their mother over the river on an old punt using a rope slung across the water. With river water levels susceptible to considerable rises and falls after rain, this could become fraught as it meant sometimes being at full stretch to reach the rope, yet at others battling to manage in high, fast flows. Even then, once on the southern bank they still had to walk the rest of the way to school.

Other children rode horses, some walked long distances. Students who lived further out of the township, such as those from Alexander Road, had to walk up to the main road to catch a bus, then walk up Forbes Street to get to school. Not for them a swift ride in a comfortable car. But over the decades, as cars became more prevalent, came concern about the danger to those children who walked to school.

Enter school crossings in the 1960s with flags but little or no supervision.

In the late 1970s a new school, Andersons Creek Primary, was opened at the west end of the township. Now there were two schools whose students had to cross the main road and wind their way through the streets to access their schools. Due to difficult access and lack of parking at both venues, the schools tried to discourage parents from driving their cars right to the school gates.

With the appointment of crossing supervisors in the 1980s and three local residents, Leonie Horne, Elaine Wilson and Shirley Rotherham putting up their hands to become the "lollypop ladies" on the three school crossings in the town, some relief was possible.

Parents became more willing to drop off their children close to the crossings knowing that they would be safely escorted across the busy roads. The supervisors came to know the children who used their crossings very well, over time becoming part of the school landscape. They provided security and protection; Leonie recalled even escorting children past a nesting site in magpie swooping season.

Many of the older primary school children formed informal walking groups, collecting various friends along their route to school. This very informal system worked rather like the "walking buses" being promoted today and meant fewer car journeys were required. These groups provided a great opportunity for socialising out of school, though many parents professed

amazement that the moment the children arrived home they would be on the phone to those very same friends they had just left.

About the same time of the crossing supervisors' appointments, a Safety House Program was launched to promote community assistance and safety awareness for children walking to school. Safety houses could be a shop, cafe, police station or private residence and once identified were designated by a special sticker. The program was designed to help children who felt threatened in any way on their walks, proved successful and continues today.

Changing times though bring changing habits and perhaps it is a sign of how much things have altered that there now is an annual "Victoria Walk to School Day", designed to promote more walking to keep children healthy, connect with friends and neighbours, reduce traffic congestion, save money and help the environment.

The car may have overcome the difficulties posed by Warrandyte's hilly roads and lack of footpaths, but it creates a dilemma for parents. It is good to see that there are still some primary-aged students who walk or ride bikes to the schools. While it is hard to see a return to the past, or indeed predict the future, it would be beneficial to see those numbers increase. With the development of better footpaths and more bike tracks who knows—one day perhaps it may just be possible for more children to embrace an old fashioned way of getting to school.



## Pat was our champion

### obituary

By MARGORY LAPWORTH

**T**HE Warrandyte community is mourning the death last month of Patricia (Pat)

Young (pictured) who represented the Mullum Mullum Ward of Manningham municipality as a councillor from 1997 until 2008.

She was mayor of Manningham in 2004 and again in 2005/06.

The Mullum Mullum Ward

includes Warrandyte, Park Orchards and Wonga Park.

Paying tribute to her memory, current Manningham mayor, Cr Geoff Gough said: "Pat was a very warm and colourful personality who always looked after the best interests of the community and in particular residents in the Mullum Mullum Ward."

Pat lived in Doncaster from 1960 and in Warrandyte from 1986.

She will always be remembered by voluntary groups in Warrandyte for her generosity and her dedication to "making things happen".

She always made sure War-

randyte was seen as "the best place to live".

She loved the bush, open spaces, river and Warrandyte's history. She believed a community should value all people, both young and old.

Through her work, Pat influenced the lives of many people.

She was actively involved in council's Senior Citizens Reference Group, Heritage Advisory Committee, Municipal Emergency Committee and the Manningham Fire Prevention Committee.

Pat worked as development manager of Paraquad

Victoria.

She enjoyed gardening and dancing. She was a classic car enthusiast and faithfully followed AFL football.

Pat involved herself in many activities and organisations within Warrandyte, including the Historical Society.

She worked for the formation of childcare facilities and her interest in the arts expressed itself through her active work with the Warrandyte Festival, the Rotary Art Show and many others.

Pat is survived by her three adult children and her five grandchildren.



Pictures by JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS



# It was Almost, Maine in Warrandyte

**J**OHN CARIANI'S *Almost, Maine* consists of a prologue, epilogue, and nine vignettes. Each focuses on a turning point in the relationship between couples. They are both comic and tragic, but the characters come and go so quickly that neither laughter nor tears strike very deeply. The net effect is a light entertaining play, with some oddball characters and a pervading sense of being in between, almost alone, or almost in love.

The set features a beautiful three-dimensional cyclorama, bathed in cool blue light with inset bud lights that twinkle in the night sky. Silhouetted pine trees line the horizon. On either side a country house abuts the expanse, small snowdrifts lie on the ground. A cello plays wistfully. Pete (Sean Entwistle) and his girlfriend (Debbie Govarcin) sit centre stage. Uncertainty abounds. She tells him she loves him, he responds in kind. She snuggles up to him, loving being close. This could be a romantic moment, but Pete's intellect gets in the way: "If you assume the world is round like a snowball. The farthest you can be away from someone is if you're sitting right next to them," she exits stage right in search of Pete's idea of closeness.

The prologue is brief, with only a few lines of dialogue. The characters are intriguing, the sense of romance palpable, the moment is anticlimactic. In this way writer John Cariani sets the tone for what is to come. Together the vignettes explore that mysterious realm between desperate isolation and resolute romance, the certainty of being in the mainstream and the circumspection of life on the periphery. At key points a moment of truth is revealed, the Northern Lights shimmer, heavenly music plays, many words are spoken but next to nothing is resolved.

In the wrong hands this play could come across as superficial and, in the words of one reviewer, "excessively cute". However, director Phil Swindley's deft hand ensures that the Warrandyte production is entirely credible, and the characters are authentic in their eccentricity and familiar in their ordinariness. Cariani's great strength is in character portrait. For example he establishes a complex mix of motivations

## theatre

By JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

and emotions in the opening vignette *Her Heart*.

Easton lives with his wife in *Almost*, he is excitable and lonely. Glory is a hiker from Down South who has set up her tent in Easton's garden. She feels guilty over the death of her partner, and brings some new age whimsy to bear on the relationship between the Northern Lights and the souls of the recently departed. He would have her move on but is swayed by her sweet nature. He declares his love for her, she retreats, being "not here for that". She has a broken heart that she carries in a red velvet bag. He has the wherewithal to fix it—he is a repairman. The material sails close to the wind at times, and could evoke a tiresome sigh, but it is so well delivered that we laugh, reflect, regret, hope and enthuse along with this unlikely pair.

If *Her Heart* it is about love found, the second vignette, *This Hurts*, is about love lost. Jimmy is drinking by himself out back of the Moose Paddy saloon when he catches sight of Marie on her way to the bathroom. They are locals, ex-lovers of sorts. She is out with the girls on her bachelorette (hens') party—she's getting married next day. He is drowning his loneliness in Bud Lager. He tries to bring her back into his world, but she resists to the end, and returns to her group "out front". Alone again, hope arrives for Jimmy in the form of an empathetic, zealous waitress (Lisa Upson).

Like a fly on the wall, we watch as six more vignettes introduce characters almost together or almost alone. We engage with each for a decisive moment, and then they are gone. Some scenes are down to earth and real, others are metaphorical and abstract. Each deals with the particular forms and phases of romance. Perhaps the saddest is *Story of Hope* where young love interrupted is awakened again in old age. *They Fell* (featuring Matt Purnell and Sean Entwistle) is about a homosexual relationship. It is arguably the weakest of the nine, dependent upon a corny metaphor for its effect (when you fall

in love you fall—physically — and they do!).

The play closes with the epilogue in which Pete's girlfriend enters from stage left, having circumnavigated the snowball to find her partner again, this time for sure.

Cariani establishes a bevy of interesting characters in the first act and then does nothing with them in the second. If it was a conventional play it would fail on these grounds alone. But it's not a conventional play. It is a pastiche, which in the tradition of the Canterbury Tales, paints portraits of people rather than tells a story.

One could ask why then a play? Would it be more effective as an essay or short story? The fact that it failed on Broadway suggest the answer is yes. But as it finds new audiences in small repertory groups like Warrandyte's, perhaps its value is being proven in a different way.

Written by an actor, in the style of audition pieces, *Almost, Maine* provides an excellent vehicle for actors to test their range. In Warrandyte this means striking deep into our rich vein of talent. Eight actors play 20 parts, with great multi-character performances from Debbie Govarcin, David Tynon, Simone Kiefer and Naomi Oosting. The decision to use American accents this time works well, and art director Phil Swindley uses the full depth and width of the stage to deliver a unique look and a memorably graphic image for each vignette. The lighting design captures the contrast between the cold outdoors and warm internal settings. The sound design features neat little intros and out-ros for each vignette, although some of the sound effects are a little distracting.

You'll have to be quick to catch this production. It closes on Saturday, November 12. Being "almost" is something we Warrandytians are normally quite good at. So it's fun to immerse oneself in what that means from a variety of perspectives, then leave that makebelieve world in favour of the sweet night air of our own river valley. Look up, look south, you might just see those dancing lights and hear the song of the sirens, as you find stillness, in this place, this moment; not almost anywhere but here right now.

# Andrew on the board

## what's your story!

Playing for Victoria and winning the Ryder Medal are two highlights in Andrew Wildsmith's long and successful innings as a cricketer. He talks with BRIANNA PIAZZA

**BP: Hi Andrew, tell us about your background and what you do with yourself these days.**

**AW:** I grew up in Heidelberg and played all my junior days at Rosanna and then I went to the district club in Northcote when I was about 16. I played there until I was about 29 and then I played sub-district cricket at Ivanhoe. A lot of my mates were there and I had been at Northcote for about 15 years, so it was time for a change. Teaching was always what I had thought about doing when I was younger and now I am a primary teacher, and I teach sport.

**BP: What are some of your achievements as a cricketer?**

**AW:** I played about four or five games for Victoria. We won a premiership at Northcote in 1986/87 and I won the Ryder Medal in 1984/85. After that I played sub-district cricket at Ivanhoe where I won the Hatch Medal in 1988/89. When my boys were little I gave it away for about five years and then went back and played sub-district cricket in 1999 - we won another premiership. After that I played in the local association at Wonga Park for about five years and really enjoyed that. I've also done a little bit of coaching locally and at school.

**Do you have any favorite memories or highlights?**

Probably the premierships at Northcote and Ivanhoe were the highlights. They were great, particularly for the people who had been around the clubs for long periods of time and experienced a lot of success. I really enjoyed that.

**At what age did you realise you had a talent for cricket and would likely play professionally?**



Medal man: Warrandyte's Andrew Wildsmith enjoyed a successful cricket career that including a Ryder Medal.

I never really expected it, so I don't think it was ever mapped out or anything. I suppose as a junior I was OK at it and then I think the opportunity just presented itself. My uncle played at Northcote, so I went and played for him and it all just took off from there.

**Did your parents encourage you**

**to play sport?**

Yes, my Dad had always been into cricket and baseball. My Dad played in the Victorian baseball team and my uncle played state cricket. So I was always around sporting clubs and that sort of thing when I was little. So I was encouraged to get into sport. I also played baseball for 30 years, since

I was about eight years old. When I was younger, I would play baseball in the winter and cricket in the summer.

**How does it feel to be one of the very few people who have won both the Hatch and Ryder Medals?**

I was lucky enough to have a cou-

ple of good years. It doesn't happen all the time but I think I was just lucky those two years. When I was at Wonga Park I also won the Bill Dean Medal, which was the best player in Chandler. I think that was a bit of a fluke, really, but I don't measure my success by the awards. I think you should measure sporting success by doing and being the best you possibly can.

**You were a left-hand batsman and a right-hand bowler. Are you ambidextrous?**

I'm exactly the same as my Dad - anything I do with one hand I use my right hand and anything I use two hands for I do left-handed. So I play golf left-handed and I play tennis right-handed. It's a bit of a weird mixture. I've always been like that since I was little and my uncle is the exact opposite! Everything he does one-handed he does left hand and everything he does with two hands he uses his right hand. So I don't know where all that mixture comes from.

**How did you come to live in Warrandyte and what do you love about it here?**

I just love the community feel about living here. I just think it's a fantastic community. We came across it by accident really and we've been here for just over 25 years now.

**Do you have any advice for young readers who would like to play sport professionally, particularly cricket?**

I think just keep persisting and keep trying as hard as you can and train as hard as you can. Then the rest takes care of itself. So long as you have prepared enough, you can't do much more.

## NETBALL A GREAT GOAL FOR OUR GIRLS

GETTING up early, donning a uniform and following rules sounds like a school kid's weekday curse, but for many young Warrandyte girls it's something they can't wait to do again on the weekend.

Saturday morning U11s netball has attracted three teams this season, the girls drawn to the game as a way of catching up with friends, making new ones, learning ball skills, enjoying the thrill of competition and the importance of team bonding.

The U11s group is made up of experienced players and beginners. Girls are placed in similar ability groups and are encouraged to play in many positions to understand the game better. They train each Thursday and are supported by coaches and helpers. For many, this is the first year that they have played netball and experienced the fun of playing a team sport. Winning is the aim, but regardless of the final score the girls come off the court smiling and congratulating each other.

This season's coaches are Caroline and Corrin Mueller (The Wrens), Michelle Murray (The Bluebirds) and Teresa Knott and Maddie Cook (The Gliders). For more information contact Sue Rodwell (Warrandyte Netball Club) at [warrandytenetball@y7mail.com](mailto:warrandytenetball@y7mail.com).



# Brett tops the list

By RYAN HOIBERG

BRETT Kline has become the longest serving active player in Warrandyte Cricket Club history when he notched up 325 games last month and passed all other 232 players who have played for the club.

Kline equaled Gerald Walshe's record in the final game of last season, but now has moved past all who have come before him. This milestone was matched by a personal achievement for the Kline family when Brett's son Jarrod became the 233rd player to play cricket for Warrandyte on the same day and in the same team as his father. This was the first time the father and son duo have played for the club.

Kline's influence at the club is enormous, with the club appointing him to the position of Fourth XI skipper for this season and adding to Kline's long list of achievements at the club, including: club champion 1999/2000, First XI premierships 1981/82, Second XI premierships 1990/91 and Third XI premierships 2009/10. Brett was appointed a life member in 1998 and became a club legend in 1995. To add to his impressive list of attributes Brett has also won the Second XI batting awards in 1994/95, 2004/05 and Third XI batting awards in 1999/2000. He has also won two bowling awards in the Second XI in seasons 2001/02 and 2003/04.

President Ben Taylor says Brett is highly respected around the club, acting as a great leader for many junior members of the squad. Taylor says Kline should be "proud of his fantastic achievement" and the club looks forward to having Kline play for many more seasons.

## Season starts with a flurry

Cricket has finally re-emerged from the cold depths of winter and with a new season comes opportunities for glory. Warrandyte's First XI has quickly set out to put the defeat in the Grand Final of last season behind it, starting with two wins from two starts. Though the lower grades are struggling to get back into the swing of it, Warrandyte's cricketers are sure to soon blow off the winter shackles and fight their way up the respective ladders.

Skipper Campbell Holland, recently promoted within the club to coach as well, started his second season at the helm of the First XI in fine form, leading the lads to a win over Chirnside Park in the first match of the season. Holland is coming off a stellar season in 2010/11, after taking home the Gerald Walshe Medal (the First XI Best and Fairest) and the Steve Pascoe Medal (awarded to the best player in the Wilkins Cup). Holland had fought to keep his squad together and although there have been a lot of changes, Holland should be congratulated for the maturity already shown by such a young list.

After losing the toss and being asked to field first, Warrandyte's pace attack was able to pin back the Chirnside Park batters, with Holland



Onya Dad: Brett Kline in his record-breaking game with his son Jarrod. Photo: GREG WARREN.

taking the first wicket of the game. However, the Chirnside Park top order looked to take advantage of their home setting, scoring slowly but surely. But Alex McIntosh, who produced a man-of-the-match performance with his eight overs (1/12), a spell including four maidens and a vital wicket, later backed up with a blistering unbeaten 35 runs to ensure Chirnside Park's attack was slowly pegged back. Consistent wickets, including two to debutant Mitchell Gaffney, resulted in Chirnside Park being dismissed for 126 with Holland (4/26) devastating the lower order, his final wickets rattling the furniture.

Warrandyte was able to chase down the total with relative ease, despite losing wickets consistently. When Holland departed for seven, and fellow opener Ben Taylor followed for just three, Warrandyte was looking shaky at 2/21. But a solid middle-order display highlighted by Dave Mooney (19) and some big hitting by McIntosh (35), including a six to win the match, meant Warrandyte was able to score its first victory.

Warrandyte hosted Olinda in the second match of the season. Holland won the toss and took the oppor-

tunity to bat in the two-day game. Warrandyte's openers Tyson Rees and Taylor looked to settle in for the day with a solid opening partnership of 35, but it all suddenly came undone when both departed in quick succession. However, first drop Blake Morgan was able to find some fine, producing 39 runs and working well with his fellow batsmen to put the Bloods in a commanding position.

Again, it was captain Holland who delivered the goods for the Bloods with a knock of 50 while young Daniel Barry's 36 helped Warrandyte post 227 runs from 69 overs, despite a late collapse. The Bloods took full advantage of the overs left in the first day of play, taking both opener's wickets and giving the locals a big advantage the following week. Olinda's remaining top order initially provided some fight, but when a couple of wickets fell Warrandyte quickly ran through the remaining batsmen with Holland devastating again with the ball taking 6/33 from his 13 overs.

Warrandyte's Second XI have had a poor start to the season, losing their first game in a tight contest. The following week the result was even worse for the squad after it capitulated to a rare outright defeat.

Warrandyte's Third XI is being led by new skipper Stewart Smead who notched up his first win for the team in the first round, thanks to some great performances by some of the more experienced members of the squad. The Bloods were unable to find the form from the first game and lost their second match by 20 runs.

Warrandyte's Fourth XI has also run into a tough start to the season losing both matches, even after Grant Hartmann produced a fantastic 74 in a recent match.

## RESULTS

**First XI - Round 1:** Warrandyte 7/129 (McIntosh 35) def Chirnside Park 126 (Holland 4/26, Gaffney 2/25). Round 2: Warrandyte 227 (Holland 50, Morgan 39, D Barry 36) def Olinda 103 (Holland 6/33, Gaffney 2/6).

**Second XI - Round 1:** Warrandyte 9/138 (Wellesley 24) def Eastfield 4/140 (Lincoln 2/18). Round 2: Warrandyte 52 (Wellesley 19) and 151 (Wellesley 28) def by Scoresby/Ferndale 7/262 (Lincoln 2/31, Warren 2/50).

**Third XI - Round 1:** Warrandyte 6/144 (McKellar 30) def Wonga Park 6/141 (Smead 3/17, Creber 2/29). Round 2: Warrandyte 114 (Smead 38) def by Wantirna 137 (Stafford 3/14, Smead 3/31).

**Fourth XI - Round 1:** Warrandyte 147 (Thomas 30) def by Wantirna 150 (Warren 3/33). Round 2: Warrandyte 9/262 (Hartmann 74, Rojiwadia 43) def by Norwood 319 (Gordon 3/43, Oremek 3/52).

# Wet start for the Warrandyte South Hawks

By FRANS BROUWER

THREE wins including two to the Fifts and one to the Seconds, a bye, five washouts, seven losses and two forfeits conceded was the Hawks' senior output in the first three rounds of the RDCA season.

A lack of numbers resulted in the club forfeiting the first two games for the Sixth XI, but several other clubs also seem to be having problems early on.

The First XI has lost both games against teams that have won both their matches. The next match away against Croydon Ranges (8th with one win) was washed out and became a one-dayer. The Second XI had a washout and a loss, with a win against neighbours Wonga Park coming on the stroke of 7pm with a wicket to Sean McMahon (who top-scored

for the match with 45). The Third and Fourth XIs have all suffered losses and washouts.

The Fifth XI played the first two games, although the boys were forced to transfer both matches from a boggy Brice Avenue in Mooroolbark to other grounds. On the opening day of the season Veterans player Tim Rule gave a fine all round performance with 78 not out and 4/13. Round 2 saw another terrific all round effort by Richard Cutler (30 and 3/6), and a fine father-son debut by Ryan Paterson (55 not out) followed by his father Derek's 3/25. The first nine Eastfield wickets were all bowled, and the last wicket was a run out by supersub Ken Morton.

A bye in Round 3 allowed most of the Fifth XI to play Sixths (K Grade) against Norwood. Despite a sound

batting performance of 6/142 (with Ryan Cullen 46 on debut and son Jake 32), a poor bowling performance with 43 extras (despite lenient rules in the three lowest RDCA grades) cost any chance of a win. Andrew Walker's 3/23 were the best bowling figures.

The three junior teams are also struggling with wet grounds. However, the U14-2s had a great win in Round 2 against South Croydon (Tristan Hansen 3/5 and 51, Condon 4/5).

In contrast, the three Veterans teams have achieved three wins, a bye and two losses.

## RESULTS

**Trolope Shield:** Rd 1 - Hawks 9/126 (Barratt 21, Lindsay 26no) lost to Nth Ringwood 10/135 (Lindsay 3/13, Bowen 3/35); Rd 2 - Hawks 10/155 (Willoughby 25, Garrett 53)

lost to Wantirna South 8/232 (Garrett 3/70, Ben Neagle 3/70); Rd 3 - washout v Croydon Ranges, and become a one-dayer (results next edition of the Diary).

**A Grade:** Rd 1 - washed out vs Croydon North; Rd 2 - Hawks 128 (McBride 51) lost to Ainslie Park 246 (Jeremy Neagle 3/37, McBride 3/38); Rd 3 - Hawks 9/196 (Sean McMahon 45, Ben Harttrup 28) d Wonga Park 159.

**D Grade:** Rd 1 - washed out vs Eastfield; Rd 2 - Hawks 10/147 (Ryan 45, Sam Williams 23) lost to Warranwood 3/173 (Szenis 2/26); Rd 3 - washed out vs Warrandyte.

**H Grade:** Rd 1 - Hawks 7/113 lost to Templeton 3/189; Rd 2 - Hawks washout vs Wantirna South 5/210; Rd 3 - Hawks 177 lost to Warrandyte 7/178 (Ollie Hansen 4/42).

**J Grade:** Rd 1 Hawks 2/128 (Rule 78no, Batten 23) d Knox City 8/119 (Rule 4/13); Rd 2 - Hawks 6/177 (Tucker 28, Richard Cutler 30, Ryan Paterson 55no) d Eastfield 10/107 (Derek Paterson 3/25, Cutler 3/6); Rd 3 - bye.

**K Grade:** Rds 1 and 2 - forfeits given; Rd 3 - Hawks 6/142 (Ryan Cullen 46, Jakeb Cullen 32)



## Milo and cricket a great mix

The Warrandyte Cricket Club MILO in2Cricket program was represented by senior players Steve Pascoe, Ian Sharpe and Barry Johnson together with Adam Pattison from Cricket Australia in what was a fantastic cricket clinic for Anderson's Creek Primary School's Grade 3 and 4 students last month. The students all enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about cricket and were "very enthusiastic" according to spectators. The Clinic was structured so that every child was active for the whole period. "This is a great example of how schools and local clubs can link and work together," APSC's Meredith Thornton says.

## Family day at the tennis

Warrandyte Tennis Club is hosting a Family Day on Sunday, November 27, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, immediately after the finale of the Supersmashers program which has had 45 children participating. The Family Day is open to anyone interested in playing tennis at arguably one of the best clubs in suburban Melbourne. Free activities include tennis coaching classes, cardio tennis, a Red Ball challenge open to all ages, jumping castle for the kids and a sausage sizzle. WTC is also offering a saving to all new members who join on the day. Click into [www.tennis.com.au/warrandyte/files/2011/09/WTC-Family-Fun-Day.pdf](http://www.tennis.com.au/warrandyte/files/2011/09/WTC-Family-Fun-Day.pdf) for more information.

## Youth League Men's tryouts

Tryouts for Warrandyte's first Youth League Men's team started recently under the watchful eye of coach Brent Reid. Warrandyte will have a team in both the senior and youth league of the men's and women's competition for the 2012 season, which completes the amazing expansion of the club which had its first Big V team in the 2007 season.

lost to Norwood 7/151 (Andrew Walker 3/23).

**U16-2:** Rd 1 - Hawks 10/53 and 3/146 (Chappell 47no, Williams 40) lost to Templeton 3/99 dec; Rd 2 - Hawks vs Ainslie Park washed out.

**U14-2:** Rd 1 - Hawks 9/82 (Hollins 29no) lost to Wonga Park 8/152 (Hollins 3/14); Rd 2 - Hawks 5/159 (Hansen 51, Wright 30no, Hollins 26) d South Croydon 7/33 (Hansen 3/5) and 7/24 (Condon 4/5).

**U12-1:** Rd 1 - Hawks 79 lost to Scoresby/Ferndale 8/111; Rd 2 - Hawks vs North Ringwood 3/113 washed out.

**Masters Div 1:** Rd 1 - Hawks 5/210 (Tennant 41no, Foley 40no, Weeks 35, Rule 33, Johnson 27) d Templeton 9/135; Rd 2 - Hawks 9/190 (Campbell 45, Williams 38no, Rule 30, Smith 27) lost to Croydon 6/255.

**Masters Div 3:** Rd 1 - Hawks 7/193 (Campbell 37, Milne 34, Smith 29, Owen 27, Mulqueer 26no) d Olinda 4/144; Rd 2 - Hawks 133 (Erwin 25) lost to Yarra Junction 9/143.

**Legends:** Rd 1 - bye; Rd 2 - Hawks 6/160 (Morton 43, Reilly 40, Garner 27) d Croydon 6/140 (Morton 2/13).

# Venom runs at record strength

By TONY OLIVER

WARRANDYTE Venom's junior basketball program has attracted 113 new players ahead of the 2011/12 season, a record 30 per cent growth rate.

In recent weeks 31 junior teams have been selected, placing the Venom inside the top 10 biggest representative basketball programs in Victoria. The club has also been told that its fourth senior team, a youth men's outfit, has been accepted into the senior Big V competition.

Warrandyte Basketball general manager Justin Nelson says it's been a hectic few weeks for the club.

"The junior Venom tryouts were conducted and completed inside seven days, so it made for some long hours, but between Gerard Leonard, Tiff Hodgson and all of our coaches I'm really pleased with the result," Nelson says.

"Tryouts for rep-ball are always a stressful time, especially when you have more than 300 players to look at, but the kids were brilliant, they all just focused on doing their best and we were thrilled with their efforts."

The club has also welcomed new coaches to cater for its growing ranks.

"Though some people think a magical coaches tree is growing out the back of the stadium, I can assure you a lot of hours goes into recruiting coaches to the club," Nelson says.

At senior level, the club has had tryouts for its youth men's team and with booming numbers hitting the court, coach Brent Reid has had a busy month of selections.

"It's exciting", Nelson says. "These young guys have a pathway into senior basketball. Obviously, we won't be able to fit everyone in, but with a selection policy that all players must be current or former Warrandyte players, just like with our youth women's team, we are building the local program and many of these young players will be future stars at the club. The youth men's team is the culmination of a vision we had five years ago. It is mind-blowing what we have achieved."

Meanwhile, Warrandyte Basketball has announced its award winners for 2011 and celebrated its senior team awards at the club's annual social night. Awards were presented to Casey Taylor, Jo Metcalfe, Jenny Leeson and Kristy Moore for their services during the year, while Justin Nelson was presented with Life Membership.

The senior awards were capped off by Tron Smith and Meg Dargan picking up the MVP trophies.

Nelson says he was "very humbled to be presented with such an award".

"I put in at the club because I love the club, it's such a unique part of the basketball fraternity and I'm really pleased that over the past six years I've been able to share my experiences with so many people," Nelson says. "Though the award is a form of recognition, I still feel like I've got a lot more to give. I know I won't be at the club forever, but I'm very focused on making sure we continue



All smiles: Cassy Hamilton's Under 14s. (Back) Phoebe Joy, Abbie Archer, Tara Weeks, Elise Mortimer, Ellie Caruana, Cassy Hamilton, (front) Grace Rignell, Livia Sheather, Tahnee Parris, Katia Dodds.

this momentum. On the court we are pushing forward, now we need the facilities to accommodate the numbers, that's the next priority.

"I'm starting to liken the club to the movie *Field of Dreams* - we have worked our backsides off to build it, and they are coming. The growth has been amazing. I look at guys like Ian Wood and he is a true icon of this club. I was stoked to be made a Life Member, but for me a bloke like Woody is where I hope to get to one day, I have great admiration for everything he has done at the club over the last 30 years."

### VENOM GIRLS WARM UP

WITH the first of the grading phases held on November 4, the weekend before the Melbourne Cup was the last opportunity for match practice for the Friday Night teams.

Warrandyte and Ringwood took part in interclub games at Park Orchards. In the second of the night, Cassy Hamilton's Under 14s had a good practice hit-out against Ringwood in a high standard game.

Warrandyte won 22-11 but in these games the scores are not important - it is more about the chance to develop teamwork and skills. For the record, Tara Weeks contributed six with Katia Dodds and Elsie Mortimer scoring four. Emma Hoehne is enjoying her first year of coaching Friday night basketball and her Under 14 girls were pipped in the last minute after leading all match.

## BMX riders called to 'hit the dirt'



Want to see Panthers on wheels? For more than 25 years Park Orchards BMX Club has been organising training and race events for anyone wanting to get into BMX racing. The "panthers" club at Stinton's Reserve is family-friendly with male and female members, from ages 4 to 50-plus. Affiliated with Bicycle Motocross Australia (via BMX Victoria), club members are able to compete in the many open competition race meetings held throughout Victoria or the rest of Australia. The club holds race days and coaching sessions at the track every second and fourth Saturday of the month. Club president Corey Gibson has invited anyone wanting to learn some new skills, or just watch the club in action, to attend a race day. For more info visit [www.pobmx.com.au](http://www.pobmx.com.au)

Photo: ROSS SNOWBALL

## Happy APSC feet hit the school trail



Photo: DAVID WIERZBOWSKI

MORE than 200 members of the Andersons Creek Primary School community walked the walk and talked the talk on October 19 for "Walk to School" morning. From their meeting point at 8am school children, as well as dogs on leads, babies in prams, parents and grandparents, made the journey in the morning sunshine to promote the benefits of ditching the car and using leg power instead.

# LANDFIELD

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*Come On Home...*

Brimming with features plus a tranquil location on just over the classic 1/4 acre block makes for relaxed and enjoyable family living! The light-infused rooms are generous offering a living-dining room, separate family room, kitchen/meals, 4 robed BRs incl zoned main BR (ensuite), bathroom, downstairs spacious rumpus room. Inclusions: pine floorboards, exposed beams, OFP, large carport.



### WARRANDYTE

*5 Star Views and Lifestyle*

Dynamic 4BR family home approaching 5 years old, elevated allotment approx 1176sqm, brilliant views towards Mt Dandenong. Designer kitchen/living/dining, rumpus, study, 4 bedrooms, master with contemporary spa ensuite and WIR, deluxe bathroom. Alarm, air cons, wood-burning heater, butler's pantry, alfresco, water tank, double carport, studio.



### WARRANDYTE

*Views, Creatively Different, Rather Unique!*

Glorious views, distinctive construction, alfresco decks plus outdoor spa all combine to create individuality/character to this 4 bedroom home. Block measures approx 4112m<sup>2</sup> comprising separate lounge and dining rooms, kitchen/family, includes spa bath, WIR to main bedroom, second bathroom, 3 car accommodation.



### WARRANDYTE

*Ideal Bush Setting*

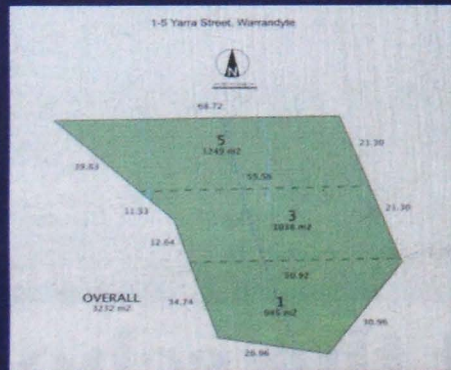
This attractive 5126m<sup>2</sup> lightly treed allotment is fully fenced with water, gas, electricity and telephone all available. With a generous building envelope of 562m<sup>2</sup> this could very well be the property to build your dream home on. Situated only a short drive to the centre of town, the Yarra River, wood-fire bakery, various restaurants, the new lollies and treats shop and all that Warrandyte has to offer.



### WARRANDYTE

*3 Large NEW Blocks*

The streetscape of Warrandyte is changing... this well known high profile industrial site established in 1946 is having a new lease of life with 3 large prestige residential allotments for sale. Lot 1 approx 945sqm, Lot 3 approx 1038sqm and Lot 5 approx 1249sqm. Exciting opportunity exists to build your new home to your exact specifications (STCA) and lifestyle requirements in a premium location. Position perfect at the roundabout near IGA and the fire station on Andersons Creek, metres from the river, stroll to Goldfields Plaza, buses, primary school, near Yarra Street shops, short drive to the Pines and Eastland.



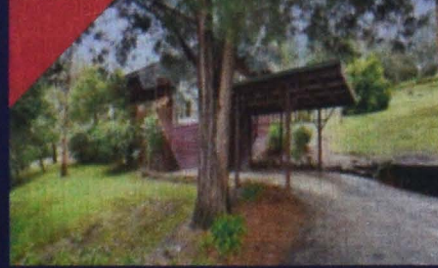
### WARRANDYTE

*A Sleeping Beauty!*

"Brigadoon" poised on a serene allotment 3302m<sup>2</sup>—the proportions of this home are generous, light infused and radiate immense character and individuality. Visually captivating with timber and stone throughout. An original kitchen-dining-lounge-family area, sunroom, study, 3 BRs/3 ensuites incl main BR opening onto parents' retreat. Appointments: GDH, split system air con, stone OFP, polished timber flooring, dble carport, rear patio overlooking huge backyard. Yarra River opposite, near State Park, handy to primary school/township/buses.



**AUCTION**  
NOV 12  
11.30am



## Lions Club of Warrandyte Inc.

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday

Since 1947, Lions have been part of the Australian community serving without promise of reward. Lions are people just like you! Joining is by invitation for men and women in the community over 18 years of age and of good moral character and reputation.

Call Jenni on 0401 963 583 for more information or visit our web site at:

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

