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WARRANDYTE diary

EDITOR: Cliff Green, 9844 2096
SPORTS EDITOR: Scott Podmore, 9844 4614
PUBLISHER: Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd, (ACN 006 886 826 ABN 74 422 669 097) as trustee for the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust.
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113.
ADVERTISING & ACCOUNTS: Briony Bottarelli, 9844 0555.
CIRCULATION: Peter Norman, 9844 3268.
FAX: Editorial and Advertising, 9844 4168.
DIARY OFFICE: 168 -178 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 9844 0555
EMAIL ADDRESS: warrandytediary@aapt.net.au
EMAIL SPORT: scott@octobergrey.com
INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.vicnet.net.au/~warrandy/
PRODUCTION: Rachel Schroeder, 9725 6699.
PRINTING: Streamline Press Pty Ltd, 155 Johnston Street, Fitzroy.
Published on or about the second Wednesday of each month (except January).



ADVERTISING RATES

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

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Tuesday, February 6, 2012. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, January 27, 2012.

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.



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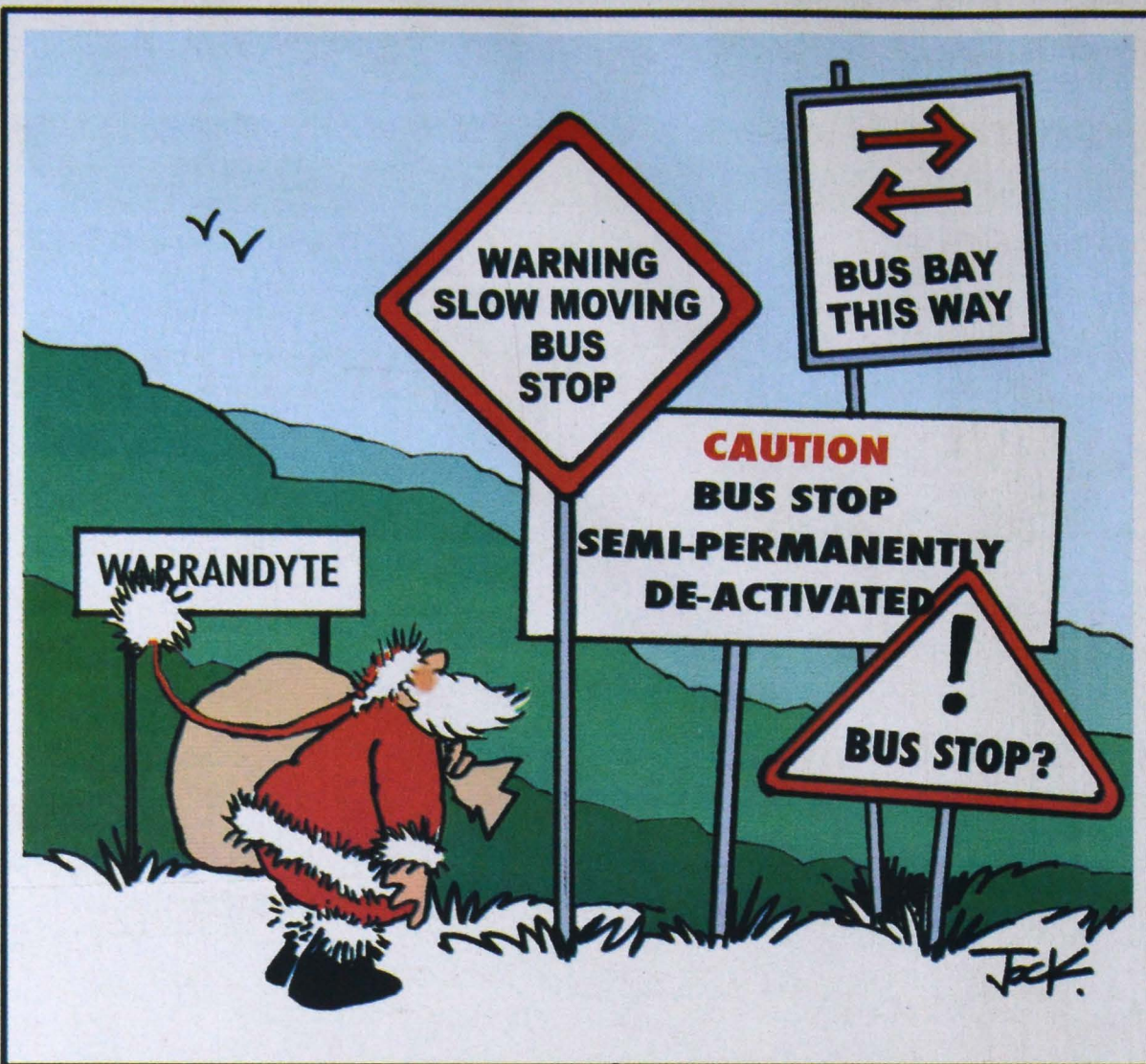
AT THE BRIDGE

FOLK ART

WARRANDYTE
WARRANDYTE

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



Who nicked Gran's pumpkin?

IT was Sergeant Walker's last day.

He stood at the window and gazed over the Community Garden he'd started a dozen years ago, where the towering weeds from his own sorry section swayed like masts in a sea of neglect. A policeman's plot is not a happy one.

And as he watched, an all-too-familiar figure emerged from the greenery, hustled up the hill and burst through the door.

"Some bastard's nicked me pumpkin!" bawled Granny Trott.

If there was one good thing about retiring it would be seeing the backside of Granny Trott. Who could miss that!

The sergeant sighed and pulled out an incident report form. Paperwork is a highly effective part of police work, particularly in keeping them off the streets.

"Can you describe the missing article?" he began.

"Like Bert Newton only orange," snapped Gran. "It's a friggin' pumpkin for Pete's sake!"

The Trots were well known to Sergeant Walker. They had their own file in the T cabinet, alongside Traffic Offenders, Trespassers, Troublemakers, Thieves, Thugs, Touts, Terrorists and Templestowe.

Neville had been warned more than once about dumping his rubbish in other people's bins, so he didn't have to drag his own bin up the

drive.

Narelle had overdue library fines dating back to last century.

Cinnamon was forever turning right out of Mitchell Avenue.

And Jasper was Keith's prime suspect for the marijuana plants found growing in the aforementioned Community Garden.

But Gran was the worst. The matriarch of Warrandyte's first family of felony.

"So it's just an ordinary pumpkin?" pursued Sergeant Walker.

"No, I'm entering in the Eurovision Pumpkin Contest.

Has your pilot light gone out or something?"

Her quaint language, of course, was a common cause of complaint. Like asking the vocalist at Giorgetto's if she was singing or giving birth. Questioning the gender of the umpires at Bloods' home matches. And calling the schoolboy who didn't surrender his seat on the bus a pantie-waisted monkey-pounder.

"There's nothing anti-social about me," she used to say. "I just don't like people."

Then there was the infamous debt collection service she cooked up with Cliff Green. If

living with The Trots

any *Diary* advertiser was slow paying their accounts, Gran would turn up in their reception area and drink stout till they paid up.

But like all unholy alliances, the two conspirators eventually fell out, when Gran accused the *Diary* of hacking her mobile phone. Then just as suddenly dropped the case, before Sergeant Walker could ever prove for certain that she'd been operating a phone sex service.

No, he wouldn't miss Granny Trott. She was as crooked as Brackenbury Street and shifter than the Community Centre bus stop.

"So what are you going to do with my pumpkin then?"

He was on the point of telling her when the door swung open again, and in marched Narelle clutching a large Tupperware container.

"What on Earth are you doing here?" snapped Gran.

"I have a farewell present for Sergeant Walker," said Narelle.

"I made him some soup."

"Don't tell me," said Sergeant Walker, closing the file on his last Warrandyte case.

"Is it pumpkin?"

"You're amazing, Sergeant," said Narelle.

"Thank you, Mrs Trott."

Thank you, Sergeant Walker.

ALAN CORNELL



FIRE NUMBERS FIRE AND EMERGENCY: 000

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

Bus stops: coming, going

By **KARLY HICKMAN** and **CLIFF GREEN**

*You put a bus stop in,
You take a bus stop out,
You put a bus stop in
And you change it all
about...*

So sang local identities Alan Cornell and Kevin O'Mara at Sgt Keith Walker's send-off function last month.

Locals have been both amused and concerned by the latest spate of roadworks underway at several bus stops along Yarra Street.

Work to remove the indented bays at a number of stops began around the middle of 2010.

The removal of the indents was intended to allow buses to stop in the traffic lane, so that they "are not delayed when they try to merge into traffic", a Transport Department spokesperson told the *Diary* at the time.

Dangerous chaos ensued,

with peak period traffic banked up behind buses all along the street and vehicles attempting to pass in the face of oncoming traffic.

Ryan Smith, local MP and Minister for Conservation, arranged an onsite meeting with the Minister for Roads and Public Transport, along with Sgt Keith Walker of Warrandyte police and a senior VicRoads staffer.

"At this meeting, the minister acknowledged the traffic concerns along Yarra Street and Sgt Walker outlined the impact the SmartBus stops will have on emergency vehicles and an evacuation situation," Mr Smith told the *Diary* in an interview from China.

"I have done everything I can to advocate the return to indented bus stops in Warrandyte," he said. He plans to follow up on the situation on his return from overseas.

It was originally intended that the indent outside the Warrandyte Community Cen-

Bus parking overflows

Another Yarra Street bus stop proposal is causing concern.

Plans are afoot to convert several of the car parking bays above the Lions tennis courts to a "bus only" zone to relieve congestion at the roundabout when more than one bus arrives at the terminus.

"Since implementation of the SmartBus route the area surrounding the existing terminus has experienced significant pressure from increased bus movements

and traffic congestion," Manningham council CEO said in a letter to the Transport Department.

Council is concerned about the lack of adequate space for buses to remain safely clear of the roundabout, inadequate parking for additional buses and the failure of the current bus stop to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Council wants the terminus relocated to the Jumping Creek/Ringwood road intersection.

tre would be removed.

The indent opposite was removed, as well as others along the street, but nothing happened to the stop immediately in front of the *Diary* office. We assumed common sense and community and po-

litical pressure had prevailed and the project had been abandoned.

Meanwhile protests were coming from another source regarding the bus stop at the Gospel carpark.

With the indent removed

and buses stopping in the traffic lane, drivers were having trouble getting to the toilet block in the Gospel Chapel car park—the first such facility on the bus journey from Melbourne. The drivers' union intervened, and a few weeks ago the jackhammers were out reinstating the indent on that site.

Almost simultaneously work began removing the indent at the Community Centre stop.

The road was chopped up and expensive paving and bluestone kerbing was being installed to bring the pavement out to the edge of the traffic lane.

Then suddenly that work stopped, leaving the "temporary" fencing and little piles of hardened cement where obviously more expensive paving was about to be laid.

"The site will be made safe but will be decommissioned," Manningham councillor David Ellis explained.

The fencing has now been

removed, the half-finished paving and bluestone kerbing remains, but the rough concrete foundation has been covered with an—apparently temporary—black bitumen seal.

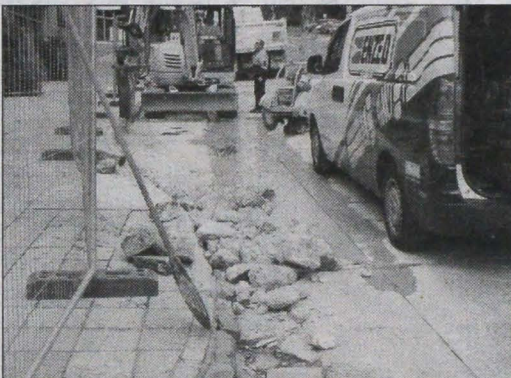
The re-located bus stop still remains outside the shops, further along Yarra Street.

"This is a classic example of how not to implement change in a sensitive area," Cr Ellis said. "Such a huge expense could have been avoided with proper government consultation."

"Warrandyte has such a beautiful streetscape that is integral to the community. It is unfortunate that this will now be marred by unfinished construction over the busy Christmas period."

The Transport Department failed to return *Diary* requests for further comment.

● As the *Diary* went to press, the bus bay at the Gospel carpark had been reinstated.



1 Workmen chop out the bus bay at the community centre.



2 Work is abandoned at the community centre.



3 A bitumen seal makes unfinished work 'safe'.



4 Workmen begin removing bus bay at the Gospel carpark.



5 Traffic is diverted as Gospel carpark work continues.



6 Work is abandoned at the Gospel bus bay.



7 Bus overload: Some parking space above Lions Park will be a 'bus only' zone.



8 Meanwhile, Eltham buses continue invading our country lanes.

We wish you all compliments of the season.

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We say farewell to the 'Sheriff of Warrandyte'



By MICHELLE PINI

Balloons, roaming entertainers, a bush band, barbecue, Scots piper and even a throne were the order of the day as Warrandyte farwelled retiring local police sergeant Keith Walker.

Police of various ranks, CFA, SES, Ambulance Victoria, Mullum Mullum ward councillors and mayor Cr Geoff Gough and MP Ryan Smith were among those who gathered to say thanks and farewell to the man dubbed the "King of Warrandyte".

However, it was the people

of Warrandyte—more than 200—who gathered to reflect on Keith's own first priority during two decades of service: the importance of community.

Accompanied by a piper, Keith was led to a royal throne, via a "walk of honour".

Many speakers followed, all praising Keith for his warm policing style, touched by good humour and tolerance, dedication, integrity and respect.

Mention was made of Keith's many achievements within the community: the Blue

Light Disco, the Police and Citizens Consultative Committee, the \$1000 raised when Keith shaved his head for the Crop-a-Cop charity campaign, and the Community Garden, where many a young transgressor was able to "work off their debt to society", thus avoiding the wrath of the justice system.

Mention was made of Keith's legendary tea and scones at the station, shared with many Warrandyte locals and such visitors as police superintendents and even former chief commissioner Christine

Nixon.

Tribute was paid to Keith's ability to "prevent problems rather than react to them". Parents thanked him for being an outstanding role model. Someone mentioned that Keith's most effective threat to young potential lawbreakers was: "I'll tell your mother!"

Local CFA chief Greg Kennedy extolled Keith's humanity, telling how he brought in his own caravan to shelter—for the duration of the search—the parents of a young man who had been lost in the river.

District police area commander, Inspector Geoff Darlinson, paid tribute to his "passion for people, for work and for the community of Warrandyte".

He acknowledged that replacing Keith would be a huge challenge. He asked Warrandyte to embrace the new person.

In reply, Keith told of his surprise when people waved to the police car as he drove through Warrandyte on his first day, in stark contrast with his previous, inner city post.

He thanked each of his fam-

ily members—especially his mother—his staff for being "community police" saying they made him "look good", commenting that his second in command at Warrandyte, Ross Timms "would easily" fill his job.

The "Sheriff of Warrandyte" then said his goodbyes, indicating he was happy to have more time with his family, but admitting he was sad to leave.

"Thank you Warrandyte—it's been a great ride," he said. There was hardly a dry eye in the house.



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS



Refreshed river still carries pollution

Recent rain has greatly increased flows in the Yarra River but increasing pollution highlights that more must be done to protect and restore our river's health.

Spokesperson for the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, Ian Penrose, said that the current state of the Yarra is a mix of good and very bad news.

"The river is currently enjoying near-natural flows, the result of recent rain and the start of environmental flow releases by Melbourne Water from Upper Yarra Reservoir," he told the *Diary*.

"The impact of improved rainfall has lifted the annual river flow from a dangerously low 92 billion litres in 2008 to 676 billion litres in the 12 months to October 2011, a sevenfold increase, which is near the estimated average 'natural' flow of 804 billion—how it would be if there were no dams or pumps on the river.

"The environmental flow releases—whilst only tiny fractions of the total flow—will restore some of the natural 'freshes' lost when the Yarra was dammed, but which are

vital trigger events for healthy aquatic life," he said.

For five years, the Riverkeeper Association campaigned vigorously for these life-giving flows, which major political parties eventually supported late last year.

"However, the Yarra continues to suffer badly from two forms of urban pollution that affect water quality and river banks," Mr Penrose said.

Firstly, recent reports by the EPA and Melbourne Water show diverse water quality for the waterways near Warrandyte. E.coli levels (a measure of public safety) of the last three years confirm that the Yarra at Warrandyte is one of the few places that are regularly—but not always—safe for swimming.

In contrast, overall water quality last year in nearby Mullum Mullum and Andersons creeks put them among the worst five waterways in Melbourne.

Mr Penrose said: "One of the pollution sources may be poorly managed septic tanks, but it is more likely that the main culprits are untreated

grey water coming from houses and stormwater runoff.

"The authorities are making some improvements, but home owners should be held to account for allowing effluent to run off their properties."

Secondly, the values associated with the Yarra are reliant on naturally vegetated banks that are vital, not just to the river's ecology, but also underlie why people love to come down to the Yarra. However, these values are being constantly degraded by encroaching suburban development.

"The construction of huge buildings along the river corridor—particularly in the inner suburbs—has reached epidemic proportions," Mr Penrose said.

Yarra Riverkeepers urge those who care about our wonderful Yarra, "to join us in lobbying the government to fix the planning system, which is meant to conserve our natural heritage and protect our precious river".

● Further information from 0409 510 766 or info@yarrariver.org.au.



Whoopie! Riverkeeper Ian Penrose celebrates a refreshed river, despite serious reservations. (Picture by CHARLES STREET)

Grassfire danger real Council is checking

The Country Fire Authority is once again warning residents in fire-prone areas that recent rain, far from diminishing the risk of bushfire, has actually increased the danger.

The risk of grassfires is especially high. In Warrandyte and surrounding areas we tend to concentrate on the dangers of scrub and forest fires, but there are many areas of open grassland in the district.

Speaking on the eve of summer, Chief Officer Euan Ferguson said the massive growth in grass and other vegetation—thanks to recent rains—was quickly drying out and becoming fuel for fires.

"It only takes a few days of hot, dry weather to create a grassfire risk," Mr Ferguson said. "Grassfires can claim lives and property as we saw in the horrific fire at Lara in January 1969. They start quickly and spread rapidly, travelling at speeds of more than 20km per hour. They produce large amounts of radiant heat that can kill anyone caught out in the open, includ-

ing those travelling on roads."

Mr Ferguson said residents in high-risk areas need a written and practiced bushfire survival plan to protect themselves and their family.

"When preparing your plan consider the needs of children, the elderly, people with special needs or disability, pets and livestock," he said.

"Fires don't arrive at convenient times. Think about what you will do if fire threatens on a work day, during school holidays, when you are away from home. When will you leave your home, where will you go, what will you do if your plan fails?"

"You can protect your home and property from grassfire now by slashing, mowing, grazing, spraying and using herbicide and creating fuel breaks by removing all fuel, including vegetation, down to the soil," Mr Ferguson said.

● More information from: www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

If you live in Nillumbik be warned: council is checking all 23,267 properties in the shire and will notify owners if fire prevention works need to be undertaken on their property.

"Our fire prevention officers are now out and about, checking every property to see that their home and land is being managed the right way," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*. "Officers are using a sophisticated GPS mapping system to identify exact locations so that a notice can be sent to the correct landowner.

"Properties need to be looked after and people need to take steps now to help reduce the possible impact any embers from a bushfire could have on their home.

"Even in urban areas, you need to remember that embers can travel as far as 30km," the spokesperson said.

Officers will be looking for uncut grass, fallen leaves, branches and

twigs and piles of wood and rubbish.

If vegetation is not being managed correctly, a notice will be issued to the owner, giving them the opportunity to clean up. The property will be visited again after 21 days, and if no work has been done, council will undertake the work and charge the owner a minimum of \$240

To date, the maximum clean-up cost charged to a property owner is \$3000.

"We don't want to issue any notices this year, so we are urging owners to manage their property responsibly—for their own safety, as well as that of their neighbours," the spokesperson said. "Anyone who is concerned about the condition of neighbouring properties can call council."

● Free garden waste disposals for Nillumbik residents will be held on Sundays: January 8, February 12 and March 11.

Parcels crisis at post office

By KARLY HICKMAN

Warrandyte Post Office is struggling to provide space for an increasing number of parcels, leaving Warrandyte residents no choice but to travel the 20 minute journey to Croydon Post Office to pick up their mail.

A representative from the Warrandyte Post Office has confirmed that the premises simply cannot keep up with the ever-increasing volume of parcels.

"I'm not happy about this and I'm sure the majority of Warrandyte residents won't be either," Warrandyte business owner Gillian Schwab told the *Diary*.

"Surely Australia Post has a duty to the residents of Warrandyte to be able to pick up their parcels within their own postcode," Ms Schwab said.

A spokesperson for Australia Post has pointed to a "huge growth in online shopping" for the continued rise in the volume of parcels reaching the Warrandyte Post Office.

"We have been working closely with the Warrandyte Post Office to address any parcel storage concerns and have implemented a number of alternative solutions to manage the volume of parcels, including storing carded articles at other nearby post offices," the spokesperson said.

Australia Post has introduced a number of locations with extended hours for customers to collect their parcels outside normal business hours.

Currently Warrandyte Post Office only redirects parcels on days when their store-room is full. "At this stage it's usually on Mondays when we receive triple our normal amount of mail, but we anticipate an increase over the Christmas period," a spokesperson from Warrandyte Post Office said.



Bushfire checklist

- Plan to leave early.
- Reduce fuel around the home—long grass, leaves, bark and twigs should be removed.
- Gutters should be cleaned.
- Move firewood away from the walls of your home.
- Cover vents and crevices with fine wire to prevent sparks and embers entering.
- Make sure under the home is clear of combustible material.
- Ensure access to adequate static water supplies.
- Check and have your fire-fighting equipment serviced.
- Most importantly—make sure you have a practical bushfire plan in place. Consider who will be home and when. More than one plan may be needed to account for different scenarios.

Open day at our CFA

By MICHELLE PINI

The Warrandyte community took an opportunity to further acquaint themselves with fire emergency preparations when they visited the CFA Fire Station in Harris Gully Road one Sunday late last month. The open day was part of an inaugural state-wide initiative by the CFA.

Firefighting equipment on display was not limited to the Warrandyte brigade. Available for inspection was the Wonga Park "Big Fill", North Warrandyte's lighting truck, a South Warrandyte tanker, a high-rise ladder platform from the Dandenong brigade, as well as Warrandyte's fleet.

Warrandyte CFA has two support vehicles (rapid response tankers valued at about \$40,000 each) completely funded by community donations. Brigade captain Bernie Ebzery said the open day was a great opportunity for the community to see the results of their generous contributions.

He said the main purpose of the open day was to "raise community awareness and say thanks to the volunteers". He emphasised that while the risk profile has changed due to changed weather conditions, Warrandyte is still in the top 50 most fire-prone areas in Victoria. He stressed the importance of fire plans.

The possibility of a major fire striking Warrandyte was not far from people's minds, but the mood was relaxed as they wandered through the station, ate sausages and muffins and drank homemade lemonade, climbed over the vehicles and observed some of the equipment in action. There were also balloons, lollies, a colouring competition and

other activities for the kids.

There are 48 active volunteers in Warrandyte CFA and one part-time paid support officer. They receive about 250 calls for assistance each year. South Warrandyte receives about 180 calls, Wonga Park about 100 and North Warrandyte responds to approximately 60 calls.

Incidents include bush fires, rescues, grass and scrub fires, hazardous material incidents, house fires and industrial fires as well as motor vehicle accidents. The Warrandyte brigades also support the Doncaster Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Time commitment by volunteers is anywhere between four and 20 hours per week of unpaid work including intensive, ongoing training.

The official part of the day was brief but poignant. CFA Deputy Chief Officer Steve Warrington gave a short address in which he said that the 2009 bushfires were "etched in the memories of so many CFA members, many of whom lost family members, friends and homes." Explaining that awards had not been presented until now in order to give time to grieve and heal because of the sensitivity attached, he then stated: "The time is now right to thank the brigades for their dedication and sacrifice. In particular, for events during 2009."

Plaques reading: "In sincere appreciation to officers, members, families and supporters for selfless contribution and team work which has earned the respect of a grateful community", were awarded to Wonga Park, Badger Creek, Coldstream, Dixons Creek, Lilydale and Mt Evelyn brigades as well as to Warrandyte and South Warrandyte brigades.



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS



Santa is coming with the CFA



WONGA PARK (CROYDON HILLS)

Saturday 17th December from 12pm

WARRANDYTE (DONCASTER EAST, TEMPLESTOWE)

Sunday 18th December from 9.30am



SOUTH WARRANDYTE (PARK ORCHARDS, DONVALE, NORTH RINGWOOD & WARRANWOOD)

Sunday 18th December from 9am

NORTH WARRANDYTE

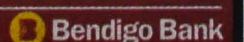
Sunday 18th December from 9.30am

For information regarding bushfires in your area call Victorian Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667

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When fire and fury came to Warrandyte (only kidding!)

Words and pictures by **STEPHEN REYNOLDS**

The town awoke to the roar of emergency helicopters criss-crossing the sky above as a mammoth bushfire-fighting incident began one Sunday late last month.

Most residents of Warrandyte and surrounding areas would have been aware—through seeing traffic signs, reading the *Diary*, receiving letterbox drops or hearing radio broadcasts—that the din heralded the beginning of a major combined emergency services rehearsal titled “Exercise Suafter”.

With more than eight months planning and involving nearly 1000 personnel from Vic-

toria Police (both regional and traffic operations), CFA, Metropolitan Fire Brigade, State Emergency Service, Department of Sustainability & Environment, Parks Victoria, First Response paramedics, earth moving equipment and associated ancillary services, it was a major logistical and strategic challenge.

The exercise covered Warrandyte, North and South Warrandyte, Research, Wonga Park and adjoining suburbs and created realistic incidents covering amongst others: house fires (including use of breathing apparatus and the rescue of occupants), vehicle accidents (and extraction of injured passengers), spot

fires, containment/control lines, fallen trees, grass fires and pinpointed helicopter water bombings.

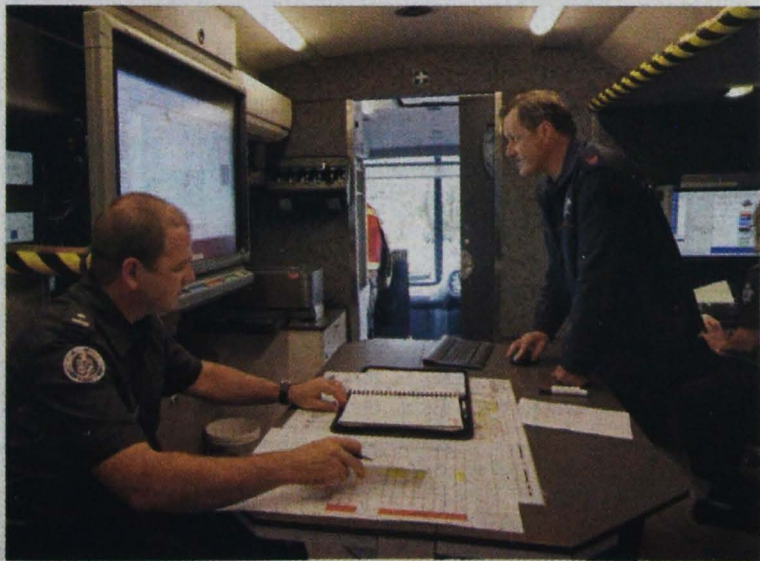
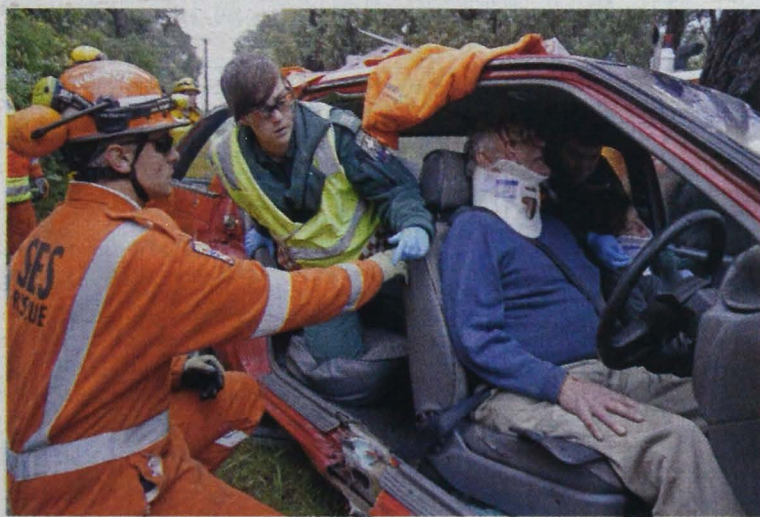
Actors from Eltham Little Theatre were used to reinforce to emergency personnel the stress, trauma and hazards of working with injured and disoriented members of the public caught in burning homes or seriously injured and trapped in car accidents during a devastating bushfire incident.

The exercise was coordinated from the North Warrandyte CFA station, utilising communications vehicles from MFB and Ambulance Victoria.

Aerial operations involved four helicopters during the

day, including the Police, CFA spotter/reconnaissance and two water bombers (Elvis and Helitak 333). Additionally, a fixed wing observation plane also provided tactical input. CFA crews and vehicles came from many areas including the west and north of Melbourne, the Yarra Valley, Westernport, Geelong and Mornington Peninsula. The Salvation Army provided catering services on the day.

The day proved a success, with the objectives of the exercise fulfilled. Crews and personnel received an invaluable opportunity to work together and practice their skills ahead of the upcoming fire season.



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.

Special thanks, IGA

We read the November edition of the *Diary* and note the article on Julie Quinton, the owner of IGA. As a regular shopper at IGA and even though being a victim of the credit card scam, we have not taken our business elsewhere.

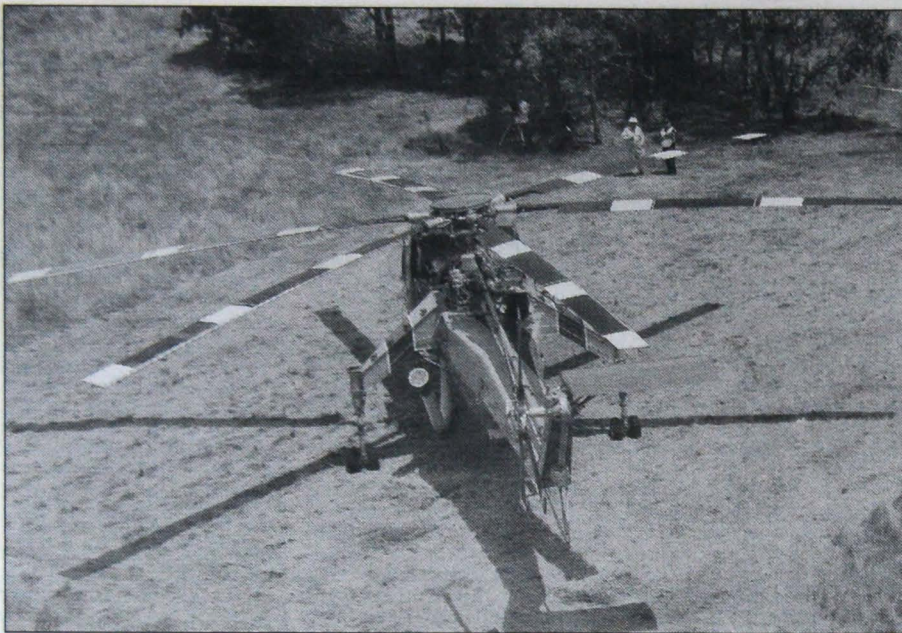
The IGA at Goldfields is not only a valuable facility in Warrandyte, it is also a competitive and viable supermarket.

While the two big supermarkets have attractive offers, we find that shopping at IGA never generally makes a lot of difference. We therefore kept our allegiance, our bank refunded our loss and we are not out of pocket.

We love the convenience of such a supermarket situated where it is. We think people of Warrandyte should take Julie Quinton's apology to heart.

The IGA may have changed names, but to us it is still "Harry's IGA". Long may it stay the same.

Trevor & Jill Hince
(by email)



The roar of helicopters may signal an emergency, but perhaps too late. Should the warning sirens be brought back? (Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS)

Bring back the siren

Few Warrandyte residents will have been aware of the bush-fire threatening the township on the morning of Sunday, November 27, when a grass and scrub fire in Colan Road fanned by strong hot northerly winds rapidly gained momentum and swept southward. Fortunately this was just an exercise, invaluable to the many emergency services personnel who took part. But the tragedy is that few residents knew the detail of what was happening.

In previous years we would have been alerted to the fact that there was an incident by the siren sounding from the old North Warrandyte station as the brigade were called out, followed by the sirens of the fire trucks as they sped past.

But with the relocation of the fire station the siren has been de-commissioned and the trucks no longer come past us on their way north. So we remain in blissful ignorance of the danger approaching.

The CFA advise that the siren was never intended to alert the residents; it was there to call out the brigade personnel, and is now superseded by pagers and text messaging. That's as it may be, but the fact is that responsible residents came to depend on this alert. It would wake us at night or alert us during the day and we would always, in the summer season, go outside to check for approaching danger and look at the CFA website to see where and what the incident was.

CFA advise that if it is necessary to alert the community, this is now done by a system of automated telephone calls to every fixed and mobile telephone in the area. But has this system been tested? What is required is a full test of such a system involving the whole community, to check that the system works to every phone irrespective of phone company and including those mobile phones belonging to people just visiting the area. And there is some doubt as to whether such a system would be activated in time for us to prepare to defend.

But best of all, please reinstate the siren.

David Hogg
Research Road

Residents express their gratitude

As residents of the Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Co-operative's five villa units at "Creekside", 26 Harris Gully Road, we wish to place on public record our appreciation of the work of the shareholders and directors of the Co-operative.

The project emerged from a need identified by the Warrandyte Community Association in late 2006. From the initial concept to the occupation in September 2011 a lot of work by the shareholders—Simon Kearney, Richard Aumann, Valerie Polley, Andrew Yen, Richard Davies, Sarah Wrigley, David Ellis, Doug Seymour and Ivan Fulton—was required for the design and construction of the five units.

We particularly appreciate the vision of the board and the architect, Adie Courtney, in creating openness within the site consistent with the character of Warrandyte.

The villas, each 115 square metres plus garage have many features for the retiree: wide doorways, large shower in a large bathroom, support handles in toilets and showers, hot water in bathrooms at a lower temperature to kitchen.

Many features of construction minimise energy usage: double glazed windows, insu-

lated walls and ceilings, solar hot water systems, hydronic heating by radiators in the rooms with heat from the gas supply. One air conditioning unit is provided for the living room.

The water usage in each villa has been minimised as each villa collects rainwater for toilets and clothes washing with a separate rainwater system for the communal areas and landscaping designed with drought tolerant plants by Bev Hanson.

The builder engaged by the Board was Costas Construction. They won the Master Builder Association "Excellence in Housing Award" for multi unit development 4-12 units in 2008 and 2010 and the national award in 2010. These villas have class fittings and are built to a high standard as could be expected of a winner of these awards.

We the residents—Karen Renfrey, Joy Braybrook, Barry and Gloria Holding, Beth Gallagher and Faye Corrigan congratulate and thank all those who participated in the concept and construction for a job very well done and especially for making retirement in Warrandyte for local residents possible.

Barry Holding
Harris Gully Road

Yvonne thanks you all

Heartfelt thanks from me and from my family for the wonderful messages of love and respect for Irving and sadness at his leaving us, and for the messages and acts of kindness for us in our bereavement which have flowed from so many over the weeks.

We are trying to acknowledge each one individually and meanwhile would like as many people as possible to know how much we have been comforted by you all. Thank you again!

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New signs mark town's 'gates'

Two new sculptural town entry signs have been erected, one on the grass verge near the West End traffic lights, the other adjacent to the corner of Ringwood Road and Tills Drive.

Created by well-known local sculptor Malcom Laurence, sponsored by Manningham council, the signs are an initiative of the Warrandyte Business Association, supported by the Warrandyte Community Association.

Made from twisted metal flat bar, the design represents the

fluidity of the river and embodies the beauty of nature. The galvanised finish will dull to a light grey and stabilise the metal.

Malcolm Laurence is a third generation Warrandytian with a strong bond to the local community. His parents, Jo and Brian, were both active supporters of the artists, environment and history of Warrandyte.

Malcolm has worked as a sculptural blacksmith for more than 18 years and was awarded the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award in 1996.



Welcome: The sculptural town entry sign at the West End. (Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS)

Local talent celebrated at Warrandyte Festival

By **CHERIE MOSELYN**

As a salute to their work and dedication, three "Fiery Kings" will be crowned at next year's Warrandyte Village Festival, to be held across the weekend of March 23, 24 and 25.

CFA chiefs Bernie Ebzery (Warrandyte CFA), Rowan Thornton (North Warrandyte CFA) and Greg Kennedy (South Warrandyte CFA) will be honoured in recognition of this year's theme "To Dream and Inspire: A Celebration of Talent".

"From the CFA chiefs who represent hundreds of hard-working CFA volunteers and staff, to the potters, poets, artists and actors who contribute to Warrandyte and its wider society, there is a wealth of local talent to be grateful for," said Festival Committee president, Adie Courtney.

"As well as those who make artistic contributions, we feel it's important to acknowledge people who reach the top of their fields in other endeavours, whether they be leaders in academic pursuits, sustainability businesses, not-for-profit or charity or-

ganisations. All these gifted and capable members of our community serve to mentor and inspire our younger generation, so the theme is both a tribute to them and hopefully an inspiration to others to follow their own dreams."

As usual, live music will be a major player at the Festival with a Battle of the Bands taking place on Friday night at 6.30pm at the Warrandyte Community Centre. This year, local Warrandyte High students will be involved in helping to program the evening and as always, entry will be free. Local youth bands are encouraged to contact organisers about playing on the night by emailing: contact@warrandytefestival.org.

Friday night will also see the opening of another much loved Festival tradition, the Rotary Art Show. Located in the Warrandyte Community Church in Yarra Street, the exhibition will continue throughout the weekend.

The Main Stage will showcase all the Festival favourites—school bands, dance ensembles, world music and an array of blues, rock and

soul bands.

Following the success of its debut last year, the Acoustic Lounge Tent returns with all its pre-loved couch splendour. The focus for Saturday will be performance-based around the music of Harry Smith, an American musicologist of the 1930s. Glen Jameson, musical spokesperson for the Festival Committee, describes the day as a tribute to the musician and his outstanding anthology of American Folk music.

"Harry Smith was a major influence in his day and his work became the musical bible for the folk set during the 1950s and 60s, especially in New York," Mr Jameson said. "The idea is to listen to some of Harry's anthology and tell bits of his story, as well as having live sessions that present this music. It will be a great mix, covering a wide range of genres—gospel, old-timey, Arcadian, jug band, blues—which gives local musicians plenty of choices to get involved."

"I envisage a core group of string players and singers, complimented by other instruments like harmonicas,

organ, clarinets," he said. "We would make it accessible for anyone to join in with chord charts and words displayed on a screen, and I think the jug band music could be great fun for kids, who can choose to play along on a jug or a kazoo."

All ideas are welcome. If you would like to participate (or donate your old serviceable couch to the tent instead of throwing it out) please contact Glen Jameson at jameson@bigblue.net.au or on mobile 0405 147 683.

Once again the market stalls will be lined up to offer a generous selection of produce along with home-sewn and hand-made crafts. Please email Maydeena at: market@warrandytefestival.org to make a booking. One-day sites are available for \$45 and two days for \$75. Static stalls, information sites and other services will be located along the Stiggants Riverbank.

● Festival weekend—March 23, 24 and 25—promises a splendid mix of music, art and family entertainment. Check out the festival website at: www.warrandytefestival.org for further details.



Wildflowers: Council welcomes your comments. (Picture by JAN TINDALE)

Your say on Reserve

Tindals Wildflower Reserve, at the corner of Tindals Road and Warrandyte Road, is one of Warrandyte's "secret places".

Established many years ago, the 2.4 hectare reserve comprises important biodiversity values and has been identified as being of state conservation significance.

Manningham council is asking the community to have their say on the future of the reserve.

"The project is in its initial phase, which includes asking the local community about how they use the reserve and

for their comments, opinions and ideas for its future," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

As part of this first stage phase of the management plan, council is also assessing the flora and fauna of the reserve "to ensure that the biodiversity values continue to be improved".

Once prepared, the draft management plan will be placed on exhibition for further community comment.

● Residents are encouraged to take part in the survey. Please phone 9840 9138 for further details.

CYRIL

By **PAUL WILLIAMS**



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Take a bow, Diary crew!

By CLIFF GREEN

Another year has rolled off the presses at Streamline and it's again time to thank all those sterling volunteers who have kept your monthly "Diary fix" coming.

News reporters are the backbone of any newspaper, and this year we've relied upon Sandy Burgoyne, Karly Hickman, Cliff Green, Cherie Moselyn, Brianna Piazza and Michelle Pini. Feature stories were contributed by Val Polley, Jeremy Loftus-Hills, Alana Phillips, Prudence Truby King and Stephen Reynolds.

Diary images—black and white and colour—are windows on our local world. Photographers have included Stephen Reynolds, Sandy Burgoyne, Alana Phillips, Scott Podmore, Jan Tindale, Jeremy Loftus-Hills, Ross Snowball, Matt Allan, Gareth Dickson and Brianna Piazza. No other local paper can boast a team of artists like Jock Macneish, Paul Williams, Syd Tunn, Ona Henderson and Wayne Rankin.

Columnists in a newspaper are the old friends we meet again each issue. Alan Cornell, Marilyn Moore, Roger Kibell, Linda Rogan, Joan Broadberry and Judy Green were familiar names this year. Karen Throssell was our celebrated resident poet.

Our sports pages might be at the back, but many of our readers turn to them first. Scott Podmore, Ryan Hoi-berg, Chris Chapman, Tony Oliver, Ed Munks, Brianna Piazza, Lance Nilsson, Frans Brouwer, Ross Snowball and

Buzz Lawson followed the challenges and reported the matches through the seasons.

Someone has to decide what goes in, where it goes, and how it's presented. Editors Cliff Green and Scott Podmore accept full blame.

Of equal value are all those folk who labour behind the scenes to bring you your paper each month.

Rachel Schroeder set the type, designed the ads and supervised production. Mark Schroeder stood by, attending to all our technical glitches and problems. The skilled tradespeople at Streamline Press took pride in printing our paper each month.

Briony Bottarelli has managed our advertising and accounts, weathering all our storms with a laugh. Penny Munks and Ed Munks and Peter Norman and Joyce Norman continue delivering to our far-flung distribution points. They also deserve our special thanks.

We especially appreciate our esteemed and valued advertisers. We have no other source for the vital finance that keeps the paper going and the issues coming.

Finally, it is to you, our loyal and enthusiastic readers that we offer our special heartfelt thanks, especially to those among you who have contributed to our Dear Diary page.

● This is our last issue for 2011. No *Diary* in January, but we'll see you again on Tuesday, February 6, 2012. Copy closes on Friday, January 27.

diary WARRANDYTE DECEMBER 2011

Bus bays go back?

Incident return being costed

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diary WARRANDYTE DECEMBER 2011

Our library closer

\$2.38m promised in 2012/13 budget

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diary WARRANDYTE DECEMBER 2011

Green Wedge fear

The future of Green Wedges could be decided on the vote of a single councillor

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diary WARRANDYTE DECEMBER 2011

Library is 'a goer'

Incident in an upgraded community centre

Warrandyte says NO! Optus Vodafone Tower

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diary WARRANDYTE DECEMBER 2011

Wedge concerns

Minister will speak at local event

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diary WARRANDYTE DECEMBER 2011

Credit card fraud

Local store 'at risk'

NEW LIFE FOR YOUR CAR OR TRUCK

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CHARACTER BUILDING

peter gardiner

HOLD THE FRONT PAGE!

As these front pages testify, this year the *Diary* has supported the community, campaigning for the Green Wedge, the return of bus bays, a municipal library, and a bulk-buy power deal. We have campaigned against a mobile phone tower at Warrandyte

and good causes, published a laugh or two each month as well as a regular series of fascinating historical features. As a not-for-profit community newspaper we have survived through the financial support of our advertisers and the undying loyalty of our local readers.

Reserve, threatened closure of the Occasional Child Care Centre, buses in narrow side streets and many other issues. Our Dear Diary letters page has alerted us to all sorts of concerns and successes in our community. We have celebrated local sports—especially for young people—promoted local events

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Yasmin's singing trip



Yasmin Slinger-Van Der Zee in her choir uniform. (Picture by Sallyanne Hartnell)

Yasmin Slinger-Van Der Zee of Warrandyte is off to Singapore this month, singing in her school choir. But she's done it the hard way.

Yasmin enrolled at Eltham College in 2010, and according to her mum Debi Slinger, "immediately found her love of music ignited within the school's music department".

Choir members were invited to travel to Singapore to sing, "and Yasmin got herself a job delivering papers around Warrandyte to pay for the trip. It took nine months, delivering in rain, hail and sunshine, but she saved the \$2000 towards her trip.

"Along with weekly early morning and after school rehearsals, Yasmin has attended music camps to refine her singing skills," Debi Slinger said.

Biodiversity strategy

Working to protect the shire's fauna and wildlife—some of it unique—Nillumbik council has adopted a draft biodiversity strategy, which is now available for public comment.

The strategy provides strategic direction for biodiversity management across the shire.

Nillumbik residents are invited to comment on the draft strategy, which will inform biodiversity programs, standards and targets.

"Council is committed to protecting, maintaining and enhancing the many significant flora and fauna species that constitute the biodiversity of Nillumbik," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"Our shire is home to more than 1000 indigenous flora species. Sixty-four are of conservation significance and some are species not found anywhere else. This provides habitat for some 342 indigenous

fauna species, of which 63 are listed as significant, including the brush-tailed Phascogale, Sugar Glider and the rare Eltham Copper Butterfly.

"The draft strategy will be used as a guide to council to implement conservation programs, target program funding and budget for cost-effective on-ground works programs," the spokesperson said.

"Everyone is encouraged to have their say on the draft strategy, which will ensure the long-term protection of biodiversity in the Green Wedge shire for generations to come."

● The draft biodiversity strategy and background material can be viewed at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au or phone 9433 3216. Submissions, to Donna. Stoddart@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or PO Box 476, Greensborough 3088, must reach council by Friday, February 10.

Council seeks a 'picture'

CLYDE & OCKER



"What are you doing about your carbon footprint, Ock?"
"Going barefoot, Clyde!"

Shop locally this Christmas

If you live in Nillumbik and would like to have some influence on the shire's future, council is starting "a conversation with community members to find out what they most value about their townships and neighbourhoods, what their priorities are for their communities and what vision they have for Nillumbik's future".

Feedback gained through the project, titled "Picture Nillumbik", will help shape council's community planning and identify how council can work better with residents.

"The conversation is about telling your story, your way," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*. "So share your ideas in any form you wish—take a photo that shows how you feel, draw a picture, write a poem or story or create a piece of art that will move people—you could even record video or audio to tell

your story."

What is unique about your town or neighbourhood? What are you proud of? What brings you happiness? What are you working on? What are the connections, characters and experiences that give your place life? What are the possibilities and untapped potential that can create a better place for all? How can your community be better prepared for tomorrow?

Contribute your ideas and be in the draw for \$250 of gift vouchers to spend in your local area. But you'll have to be quick. Your submission will form part of the "Picture Nillumbik" exhibition from mid-December, 2011.

● Email your submission to community@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or submit it in person at the Civic Centre in Civic Drive, Greensborough. Further information on www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Carols at Stiggants

The combined churches of Warrandyte and Park Orchards will present the Warrandyte Community Carols by Candlelight at Stiggants Reserve on Saturday, December 17 at 8pm. It will be a varied program of popular Christmas songs and traditional carols, with something for everyone, of all ages and musical tastes.

Our local Warrandyte choir, the Bellbird Singers, will lead the singing, accompanied by the 40 piece Eltham Concert Band. Kevin O'Mara and the Warrandyte Primary Bush Band will open the program, joined by choirs from Kangaroo Ground and Andersons Creek primary schools.

Tenor Raymond Khong will sing some popular jazz and classical Christmas pieces, accompanied by his wife May Gavin on the piano. Ray has sung with The Australian Opera and the Victorian

State Opera, and has thrilled the crowds at the carols for the past few years with his powerful rendition of inspiring songs.

The special featured artist this year is Cindy V, a gospel folk singer, poet and songwriter who will perform a melodic blend of folk and rhythmic blues.

Come early with your picnic tea, or food and drinks can be bought on the night, and pre-entertainment will be provided from 7.30pm. Glo sticks and candles will be available for purchase, and donations will be accepted during the performance for the annual Christmas Bowl Appeal.

If the program is postponed due to bad weather, it will be held the following night, Sunday, December 18.

● Enquiries can be made through the Warrandyte Community Church on 9844 4148.





Manningham Environment Events

www.manningham.vic.gov.au

Thank you to everyone who has attended our seminars, nature walks and events and those that have participated in our Local Environmental Assistance Fund program during 2011. We look forward to seeing you again in 2012.

Local Environmental Assistance Fund

The Local Environmental Assistance Fund grant offers dollar for dollar funding to Manningham residents with properties in the Rural Conservation Zone. Grants are available for the control of weeds or rabbits, revegetation projects, protection of remnant vegetation and assistance with sustainable pasture management.

Enquiries: www.manningham.vic.gov.au/LEAF or phone 9840 9326

Environment Seminar: Kangaroo Ecology with Brian Walters, Ecoplan Ecologist

Wednesday 1 February, 7.30 pm

Warrandyte Community Centre, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

Enquiries: 9840 9124

Nature Walks

Nature walks will be run on the morning of the fourth Thursday of each month in 2012, with the first walk, Currawong Bush Park and Mullum Mullum Creek, to be held on Thursday 24 February. There will be no walk on Thursday 26 January (Australia Day).

Enquiries: 9840 9124

Test Ride an Electric Bicycle

Saturday 17 December, 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Ruffey Lake Park, The Boulevard car park, Doncaster

Manningham Council is offering residents an opportunity to purchase an electric bike through the Delivering Clean Energy Solutions program.

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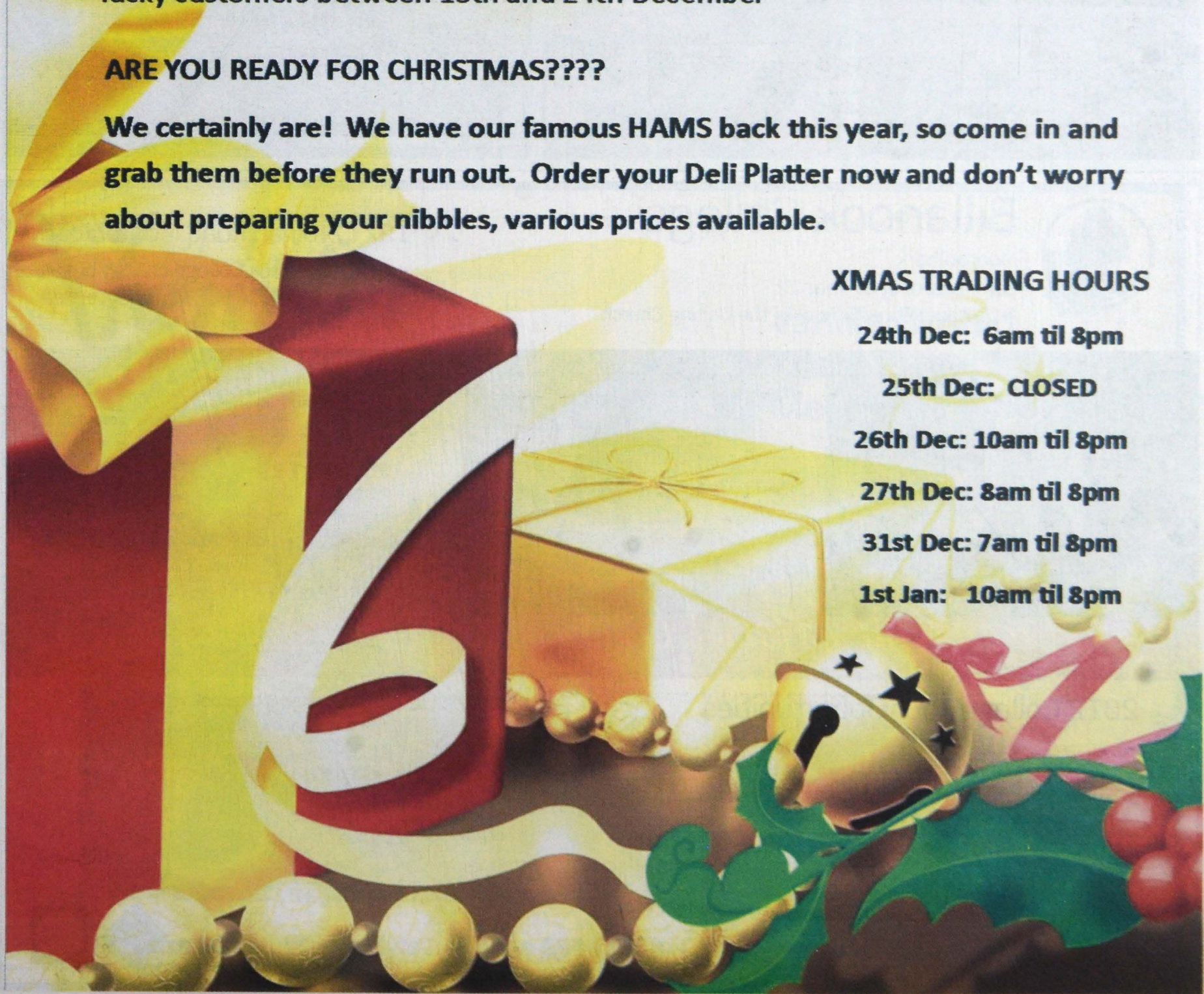
25th Dec: CLOSED

26th Dec: 10am til 8pm

27th Dec: 8am til 8pm

31st Dec: 7am til 8pm

1st Jan: 10am til 8pm



Art show at High School

A WIDE range of artistic talents of the students completing their VCE visual art and design course at Warrandyte High School were on show last month.

Displayed were installations, sculptural pieces, digital images, black and white photography, realistic and abstract paintings, movies, graphic design, jewellery, wooden tables and lamps.

Art teacher Anita Petrik described the exhibition as "inspirational".

"Teachers have the opportunity of working each day with enthusiastic and imaginative students," she said. "Alternatively, students have the opportunity to heighten their artistic awareness and finely tune their techniques and processes."

The show was opened by ex-student, Kathleen Kopietz, who was accepted into the Top Arts course at the National Gallery of Victoria and is currently studying architecture.



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS



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Christmas comes to Andersons Creek. (Picture by ALANA PHILLIPS)

Creek kids celebrate with Jinglefest movie nite

Christmas came early to Andersons Creek Primary School last month when kids, parents and teachers celebrated Jinglefest, a combined festive season celebration and twilight family movie evening.

More than 700 locals turned up and the kids enjoyed jumping castles, face-painting and a bungee run.

"The audience was treated to a wonderful ACPS Got Talent quest, which highlighted some great talent among our students," a school spokesperson told the *Diary*.

"The arrival of Santa on a CFA fire truck was a definite highlight for the children." Money raised will assist with the cost of resurfacing outdoor basketball courts at the school.

Gecko replaces 'fire risk' garden

Warrandyte High School has been forced to remove all of the previously landscaped areas adjoining classrooms and office areas. This follows an Education Department directive that all combustible vegetation must be removed from around schools. Pebbles, gravel and other non-combustible materials have replaced the previous green areas that many felt gave the school its character. Drought resistant and low fire-risk—primarily low and prostate plants—have been prescribed. To soften the stark effect, the school has commissioned the construction of a large spotted gecko sculpture that also doubles as a seat near the main entrance.



He won't burn! The fireproof spotted gecko sculpture at Warrandyte High School. (Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS)



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Christmas services

out of the inbox

By JUDY GREEN

Celebrate at your local church this Christmas



Local churches will be holding their Christmas services for 2011 as follows: Anglican (9844 2193) — Christmas Eve 11pm, Christmas Day 9am. Community Church (9844 4148) — Christmas Day 9am. Uniting Church (9844 0674) — Christmas Eve 7.30pm, Christmas Day 9am. Catholic 9876 1509) — Christmas Eve 6pm outdoor family mass at Park Orchards, 9pm Warrandyte, Christmas Day 9am at Park Orchards.

Carols

Carols for the community will be held at Stiggants Reserve at 8pm on Saturday, December 17. If postponed due to bad weather it will be held on Sunday 18. The program is sponsored by the churches of Warrandyte and Park Orchards. A collection will be taken up for the Christmas Bowl appeal. Further information from the Community Church: 9844 4148.

Fundraiser

Warrandyte Neighbourhood House's recent fundraiser "From one Community to Another" was a silent auction and dance performance. It raised almost \$4000 to build a rammed earth building in India and equip it as a prosthetics factory. Neighbourhood House and the "Snake Village" would like to give a huge thank you to all who donated goods and money and those who worked hard to run the event. Construction is expected to start on the building in the New Year.

Sponsors

The Warrandyte Theatre Company, part of the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association, is seeking sponsors for their 2012 season of productions. Benefits of spon-



There will be a Farmers Market at Park Orchards on Saturday, December 17 from 9am to 1pm with stalls providing a great range of fresh farmers' produce. There will be live music and Santa will be there.

sorship include: advertising space on WTC programs, logo on WTC promotional material, audience exceeding 2000 annually, complementary tickets to all WTC productions. For more information please call Naomi on 0427 171 975.

Concert

Earth Harmony will be presenting the Stiletto Sisters in concert on Friday, December 16 at their centre 246-250 Yarra Street, Warrandyte. Cost is \$25 prepay (concession \$22). Pay at the door is \$29. The Lotus Room café will be open for drinks and snacks from 7.30pm. Hope Csutoros, Judy Gunson and Jo To will play a lively program of gypsy, European and Latin American music.

Harmony

Dates of Earth Harmony programs in the New Year are as follows: Friday, January 20, Jazz Club Café; Saturday, January 28, Drum Meditation Circle; Sunday, January 22 and 29, Reiki 2; Sunday, February 19 and 26, Reiki 1; Friday, February 17, Nick Charles in concert.

Jazz

The Manningham Arts Centre Join a Jazz Band will be performing an end-of-year concert with Bob Sedergreen and Friends at the Manningham Function Centre on Friday, December 16 at 7.30pm. Adults \$18, concession \$12.

Tell us

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

Newsletters

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

Shop locally this Christmas



Creche kids enjoy our Community Garden...

The Warrandyte Community Garden was alive with young voices one day last month when children from the Warrandyte Child Care and Pre-School Centre visited. The children came by bus from the centre, visiting the Police Station on the way. They enjoyed their time looking for worms, lizards and snails, playing in the cubby house and sand pit and planting flowers. They showed their artistic talents making potato men and funny broad bean animals. The teachers described the day as a great success. (Picture by JAN TINDALE)

artyfacts

Exhibition

The Beauty of Nature is the title of an exhibition of paintings and lino prints by Warrandyte artist, Pam Wilkie being held at the Warrandyte Café until March 31, 2012. The café is at the corner of Yarra and Police Streets, Warrandyte. This is Pam's first solo exhibition.

Impressions

Staff and students of the Manningham Arts Centre are holding their annual exhibition "Showing Off" until Saturday, December 17 at the Manningham Gallery. The gallery, at 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster is open Tuesday to Friday 11am to 5pm and Saturday from 2pm to 5pm.

Showcase

Fifty-one artists from Living and Learning Nillumbik will be showcasing their 2011 artwork until December 19 at the Eltham Library Community Gallery, Panther Place, Eltham. Works in a variety of mediums have been produced by artists ranging from beginner to accomplished practitioners.

Gallery

Potter Adriana Christianson has joined painters Jo Kline and Fiona Fisher at the Tin Shed Gallery, overlooking the bridge roundabout in Yarra Street. The gallery—featuring local artwork and ceramics—is open between 10am and 3pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Arts

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

Need to know

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



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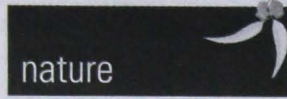
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Glynns: bursting with life



By LINDA ROGAN



Glynns Reserve near the Yarra. (Montage by LINDA ROGAN)

BETWEEN showers this November, Peter and I had a chance to visit Glynns Reserve in North Warrandyte. It was bursting with life.

The car park is near the hilltop. Access is possible by climbing over the locked gate.

Just over the gate the hilltop is an open area where once a farmhouse stood and a few exotic trees remain. Usually I would pass quickly through this area and head downhill. This November the open space provided a flyway for a number of creatures. Large metallic black flies with gold and brown wings were the first thing I noticed; perhaps some sort of Bee Fly? I barely had time to photograph the flies before butterflies caught my attention. With a little stealth I was able to photograph a Dainty Swallowtail, a Caper White Butterfly on shrubs and small orange and brown skippers on flowering ground weeds. Large Dragonflies hovered and darted like military helicopters; a harder subject to capture.

I could have continued to make discoveries on the hilltop but headed downhill to the grassy meadows. Here we flushed a resident mob of kangaroos, at least 20. Most were quickly out of sight but two large males paused to give us the once-over before continuing leisurely on their way.

Within minutes, I was on my knees, photographing the beautiful blue-mauve open wings of a Varied Dusky Blue Butterfly. When their wings are closed, these butterflies are a dull grey with

two identifying spots on their forewing. More were found feeding nearby where a large patch of Austral Stork's-bill offered clusters of pink and crimson flowers in full bloom. Also feeding on these flowers were the Montane Ochre and the Common Grass Blue butterflies.

My favourite part of this reserve is the wetland area along the Yarra. At this point we are opposite the Pound Bend Tunnel area. This year it is glorious with several of the ponds carpeted with deep red Azolla, a free-floating fern with roots dangling in the water. There are few places nearby where this can be seen.

As always the wildlife was plentiful here. I was aware of bird song of various sorts that would have had my birdo friends scrambling for binocu-

lars and calling out bird names. I fear I was too distracted by masses of Soldier Beetles with narrow grey-green wings and a bright orange strip across the thorax, nearly as numerous as the blooms on the Kunzea. Other shrubs were covered with an insect with a large orange abdomen. I first thought this was a beetle but a closer look revealed this was a tiny headed fly; the female, I discovered, of a Bibio fly. I found a mating pair; the male was smaller, black and with a larger head.

Hundreds of male Common Brown butterflies fluttered everywhere we walked. Why is it mostly the males that can be seen this time of year? Where are the females? According to Michael Braby's *Butterflies of Australia*, near Melbourne the females generally emerge

in November or December about one week after the males. They mate quickly after emerging and then find a cool place to stay quietly over summer. It is usual for them to stay dormant and not lay their eggs until the weather cools to less than 20 degrees and days are shorter. So the females are out there now, just very hard to see. Look for more females in March.

There is so much more: the Echidna tucked under the boardwalk, native bees on Kunzea, my first adult Imperial Blue butterfly for the season, the golden pea flowers of the Native Broom in the wetland and the Victorian Christmas Bush, the background for my composite photo above.

How lucky we are to have access to such a beautiful piece of nature.

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Shopping locally for Christmas!

WHAT a crazy time of year this is! Even though I've minimised seasonal madness to the barest minimum, deadlines and events still crowd in on top of each other. Crazy! Crazy! Krazee!

No matter how the advertisers try to lighten the message with loopy mis-spellings, mere words cannot conceal the awfulness of shopping centres at this time of year. Normally I just keep right away.

Sadly, however, my watchband snapped and I had to dash out and buy a new one.

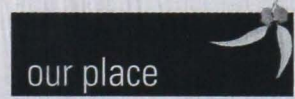
Nothing for it but to venture inside one of those vast ear-dinning concrete tomb-like edifices reverberating with noise, people, pushers, trolleys, kids and shops piled high with enough glittery stuff to last a hundred lifetimes. Don't you think they're rather like a modern day version of one of Egypt's kingly pyramids? I certainly do. Right down to the slaves and the claustrophobia!

The 15 minutes I waited for my watch just about did my head in. By then I'd well

and truly had my annual fix of canned carols, Christmas deals, being told I had the skin of a 90-year-old and wouldn't I just love to try some of this extra special \$550 moisturiser that guarantees instant rejuvenation, and being disoriented, as the interior of the shopping centre had been completely redesigned since my last visit.

I strolled through the crowd feeling strangely isolated, mulling over a few of the retorts I could have made to the cheeky young thing who'd tried to coax me into buying over-priced cosmetics. Retorts like: "No thanks dear, next time I want to gamble away that sort of cash, I'll have a day at the races", or "No thank you, I already use your products and as you've so kindly pointed out, they haven't done much good, have they?"

To be fair, I could see that there were lots of nice things in some of the shops. So many lovely clothes! But when on earth do normal people wear them? I could buy a whole new set of kitchen appliances, too, in matching tones of cherry red, but my old stuff works



By MARILYN MOORE

just fine, thank you, except perhaps a favourite wooden spoon that's starting to look as though it might split.

The design of several household gadgets has changed so much (since my trusty vacuum cleaner was born, for example) that the new ones are barely recognisable. And I do love bookshops—only, of course, the ones I frequent aren't in shopping plazas. I also love plant nurseries, wineries, fabrics and haberdashery, hand spun knitting wool, pottery and art supplies. Couldn't you just gaze longingly at textured papers and coloured pencils all day? I think there's some sort of deep-seated complex at work here, probably arising from everybody's childhood dream of owning a set of Derwents.

Whew! Finally! One bright blue watchband later, I'm out of the brain-deadening noise-box and heading for home. And starting to think

about Christmas—I'll admit the marketing gurus had a small win there. However I won't be going back inside their chamber of horrors any time soon. I'll be doing all my shopping locally.

2011 might even turn out to be the Year of the Home-made Christmas Cake, as that's a present guaranteed to please even the most difficult-to-buy-for males. Good! Glad that's sorted.

Now I just have to rewrite this year's rather dull milestones into something a bit more punchy for our Christmas missive: "Smart Meter Installation for Dummies" by SPAusnet; "The Plague of Peter Rabbit" by Correa Killer IX; "Tips on Publishing Family History: how to avoid getting bogged down" by Quagmire & Stuckfast ... you know the sort of thing.

Obviously 2011 was a reasonable year for us: no insurmountable dramas and thankfully we are all hale, hearty and happily employed. Best of all, we awake every morning to a glorious cacophony of birdsong. You can't ask Santa for anything better than that!

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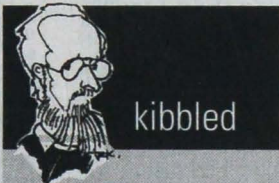
There's a story behind every Christmas dinner

FEEL swamped by narrative!

There was a time when you could read the real estate pages, decipher a restaurant menu, look at a building and even buy a car without having to think about the main plot and the subplots. But not today. Today everything is open to interpretation.

I don't suppose it's a new thing but cars have always been used to type and rank people. How often have we heard the dismissive claim that it's a "girl's car" or that it's the sort that would only be driven by a little old lady? Apparently, this means that the car in question doesn't have "balls" as, invariably the comment is made by a man who is desperate to prove that his are adequate for the job. I can only assume that the V8 was designed for those with undescended tackle.

Advertisers capitalise on this insecurity and snobbery and goad us into believing that our car will tell the story of how successful and important we are. The car with the same ordinary design can be viewed quite differently if it sports the correct badge. If it comes from our near neighbours, it's seen as a solid, reliable unspectacular family vehicle but if it's European-badged, it suggests that the owner is a cut above the rest and that the car has, not only an engine and gets you from A to B efficiently but, more importantly, it has mystical powers that can transform the yobbo into a cultured



"I don't suppose it's a new thing but cars have always been used to type and rank people. Advertisers capitalise on this insecurity and snobbery..."

and sophisticated mover and shaker with just the turn of an ignition key.

Similarly, we have been conned by clothes designers into advertising for them because we want our clothes to tell the right story about us. Why else, apart from vanity and insecurity, would we choose to wear the labels on the outside? Not surprisingly, you don't see Mr Trendy sporting a t-shirt advertising that it's from one of our mega stores.

I'm as much of a sucker as

the next man and don't buck the system too much, even if I feel disposed to do so on many occasions. Social pressure is very strong as our teenage years will remind us. I kept wearing my still-perfectly-good, flared tracksuit for years until both my children and close friends completely disowned me. They loved me in the 1970s but suddenly had fallen out of love in the 1980s. I hadn't changed but something had!

Each week, I dread the arrival of our real estate porn magazines. Continually, I am reminded that my house is the equivalent of my old tracksuit. For some reason, every outside photo is taken just after a shower of glistening rain and the photographer is never able to photograph the house in daytime. I assume that's why all the lights in the house are on. Also, rooms are furnished by "Bland Interiors" and all vestiges of family have been erased by some intelligence agency. Once again, the story we're being told is that, in comparison, what we've got just doesn't cut the mustard.

Our sense of paranoia is exacerbated by the "Large Vision" type architecture programs on TV. The clients invariably end up disagreeing with the presenter who, to camera, agonises over the possibility that the outline of the building will present jarring competition with the environment or that the owners have made the wrong decision about the colour of the knobs in the kitchen. Immediately

we look around our house and wince.

A while back we had "nouvelle cuisine" which translated meant "a kid's portion of food arranged by an interior decorator". Most of the meals should have come with a magnifying glass in order to appreciate the sliver of ox cheek, the finely grated teaspoonful of celeriac, the smear of porcini infused coulis and the one or two drops of organic wasabi. Utterly, defeated, you left the restaurant and headed straight for the fish and chip shop.

Today, fortunately, we have moved on to adult portions of food but they just can't help fiddling with the plate. Now we have everything come in "stacks" but not just to fit more on the plate but to tell a story.

"How do you think the roti speaks to the pan seared echo of the Mediterranean?"

"What?"

"Do you feel the chef is playing games in his juxtaposition of the two stacks? Is it a reference to 10/11?"

Even when I turn up my hearing aid, I can't hear a thing. To me, it's just food on a plate.

So, to Christmas dinner. Ours will be traditional, without stacks but I do know that our family will all sit around the table and on looking at the plates of food before us, the message being conveyed won't be about our inadequacies but will be a reaffirmation of our love, respect, thankfulness and joy.

ROGER KIBELL

FREE garden green waste drop off days 2011-12

To assist with preparing your property for the fire season, Council is providing a number of dates for Nillumbik residents to drop off garden waste free of charge.

Free Garden Green Waste drop off dates

Dates	Location	Operating Hours
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For auld lang syne...

By VAL POLLEY

Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne?

SCOTLAND'S eminent poet Robbie Burns would no doubt have been amazed to know the words he penned in 1788 and set to an old Scottish tune would, one day, reverberate around the world.

Auld Lang Syne is sung today at weddings, funerals, football matches, as a farewell or wherever there is a gathering and a need to link arms and sing (though the words can vary and, if in the original, not be well understood). I recently heard it played (somewhat unrecognisably) on traditional instruments at the end of dance performances while in each of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

There is a long and rich heritage in Scotland around celebrating the incoming New Year. For centuries Christmas celebrations were banned as popish by the Scottish Protestant Church. This however left Hogmanay as Scotland's main celebration. This is a festival long celebrated over New Year and thought to date back to Viking times. The underlying belief is to clear out the vestiges of the

old year and welcome in a young new one and an integral part of Hogmanay is welcoming friends and strangers with warm hospitality. There are many old traditions such as "first footing" (the first foot entering the house after midnight preferably belongs to a dark, male person bearing gifts of whisky and shortbread) to ensure good luck for the house or the singing of Auld Lang Syne at the stroke of midnight.

For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne, we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne.

With the scattering of the Scots to all corners of the globe it is not too surprising that many of their traditions travelled with them.

Celebrating New Year was certainly a custom in the early colonial days. In the 1880s the Andersons Creek community initially celebrated their New Year with a picnic for the State School children. This event gradually grew into a more general affair for all ages incorporating music, dancing, sporting events, cricket matches, balls and concerts. Local reports show these events were usually very well attended and that it was not unusual for five to six hundred people to be present enjoying the activities.

By the early 1900s in Warrandyte,

the New Year was being heralded in with guns, explosions and fireworks being set off and the main street crowded with residents and visitors. New Year was now being celebrated with a variety of activities such as balls, sports, a swimming carnival and other activities.

By the 1930s a crowd would regularly gather at the bridge over the Yarra on New Year's Eve to see in the New Year and this became the meeting place for local residents and visitors alike over a considerable number of years. Christmas carols, old songs and of course Auld Lang Syne all were part of the celebrations. It was reported in 1936 that the usual annual gathering at the bridge to welcome the New Year was attended by over 1000 people with fireworks, musical instruments, and "Scotty" with bagpipes in evidence.

The bridge continued to be a focal point for New Year's Eve celebrations and it seemed everyone had a story about it. As one local resident Joyce Bellingham described it in a Historical Society's newsletter in 1999, everyone knew everyone—there was a close community spirit. She remembered there were always bagpipes playing and how for a few years her mother's piano would be lifted down

from the second storey of the (current) Folk Art building so her mother could play for the sing-a-long and dancing. Then at the stroke of midnight the gelignite would go off with a bang (though who actually set it off remained a mystery).

As the years went by it was always back to the bridge to see the old year out. Whether at a dance or ball locally or even when at events outside Warrandyte, every effort would be made to be on the bridge at the stroke of midnight.

Then sadly the tradition slowly died away. While some local individuals such as Dr Ken McKenzie kept up the tradition of sounding the bagpipes well into the 1970s; overall it would seem celebrations became either more centralised, with local councils putting on ever more grandiose fireworks displays, or privatised, retreating into people's homes.

However with the end of the 20th century and the coming of the new millennium, some local residents decided to revisit the old tradition once more and revive the bridge party. It was decided to hold a grand party and entertainment in the Mechanics Institute Hall, to be followed by a fireworks display on the bridge. A commemorative medal designed by local artist Jock

Macneish was presented to all the participants. I was there with three-year-old grandson and it was a memorable occasion. Earlier in the evening the hall party was well entertained by artists such as ex-Paradiddle member Mark Leehy who sang Warrandyte's very own song, Home among the Gum Trees. Then just before midnight, local musician Barry McKimm, playing his trumpet, led the throng from the hall to the bridge for a spectacular finale. There were fireworks, kisses, laughter, singing, dancing and yes, Auld Lang Syne.

Perhaps this New Year's Eve it will be apt to reflect on times past and acknowledge the pleasure of such gatherings. As a correspondent in the Evelyn Observer expressed it in November 1884 "...such a day tends to cement friendship and there is nothing like commencing a New Year with general good feeling and love". Just remember though, if you are a true Scot you will not join hands until you sing the very last verse of Auld Lang Syne:

And there's a hand my trusty friend, Gi'e us a hand o' thine! And we'll tak' a right good-will drink, for auld lang syne.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Honk if you love Australia

Australia Day, 2011

One need not love it
the hot dry shrill
but the heat suck
seeps into your soul
despite you're wilting.

One need not love it
but there's always something
magpies, sprinklers
shorts and long socks
at friendly airports.

One need not love it
and in fact sometimes
you burn with shame
at Ozzie flags wrapped like armour
flag-flavoured war paint
on stone-white skins.

One need not love it
but they say they do
and what does that mean?
Do they love Henry Lawson;
the sunburnt country;

silent macho horsemen
who probably beat their wives;
kelpies rounding up sheep;
and the sheep's back
don't forget that.

Or is it the politics?
How we won the eight-hour day;
had the first Labor PM;
and votes for women
way before the "old country"?

No sirs or madams here
we laugh at toffs and bluebloods.
Ah, kookaburras—
iconoclasts, larrikins
they make *me* "love my country".

And these kids with their handmade sign—
Honk if you love Australia
joyful innocence, or flag as fence?
Like a US bumper sticker
"Your country—love it or leave it."

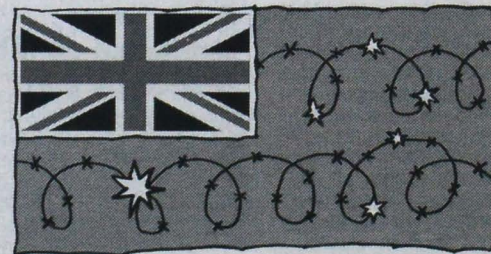
Is the message not to us
but to those on boats—this is *mine*?
Me with my pink skin, blue eyes,
my parents, the *original* invaders
arriving on other boats.

But am I being churlish
and they're just fresh-faced Ozzie kids?
Growing up with beach-house summers,
Dad's a plumber who drives a Merc,
Why wouldn't they love Australia?

One need not love it, this flag and trappings
to "love your country".
After all—not really ours
Flag of motherland (not our mother)
Flag of yobbos—"Keep Out. Mine."

Tell that to the blackfellas.

KAREN THROSSELL



Remembering our Renaissance man

Irving Reid, one of Warrandyte's special people, died on October 25, 2011. He was almost 74 years of age. YVONNE LYNTON REID has contributed these memories.

IRVING JOHN REID was born on November 9, 1937. He spent his childhood in St Kilda. As a small boy he went to one of the few remaining one-teacher "dame schools", which he always recalled as "Dickensian but kind" and he finished his primary education at Haileybury College.

His parents separated when he was two years old, so the family consisted of his mother Gretta, his 11 year-old sister and himself. At three, where other children will usually draw stick figures, he could draw anatomically convincing horses and people. At 12, at the instigation of his mother's friend, Professor W A Osborne, he began giving readings at the Melbourne Shakespeare Society. That same year he coached 16 year-old Zoe Caldwell in her first Shakespearian performance.

After matriculating at Geelong Grammar, Irving was among the first to receive a scholarship to NIDA, though he didn't take it up as it would have meant going to Sydney, leaving his then ill mother in Melbourne. He did two years of medicine, but found himself troubled by it all and switched to the philosophy department. He helped build Timbertop chapel and taught there for a year or so.

Irving and I first met when he was 19 and I was 16, at the famous Cottages belonging to Alistair Knox. They were our adolescent retreat and the scene of much creative endeavour at the end of the 1950s. I remember he came down to farewell the Fairsky, the ship that was to take Gaby Knox and me off on our Grand Tour of Europe and the UK.

I didn't see him again until towards the end 1961 when he was the editor of the *Melbourne University Magazine* and working on his Masters in philosophy while tutoring in the department. After my Warrandyte family home burned down in the great fires of January 1962, I moved into a student share

house with Irving in Carlton. We became engaged and married at the end of that year at St Stephen's in Warrandyte. After a short stint living in St Kilda, we both decided Warrandyte was the place and we moved up to live here.

Of course Irving took the role of father very seriously. For all his gentleness he was a disciplinarian in matters of honour and wanted his children's behaviour to reflect those values, but his sense of humour scarcely wavered completely. In Irving there was always that gentle humour. There was also a wacky, exuberant one which surfaced mostly in particular company, where the other could be partner or foil to his splendid idiocy. This included mimicry. His "Hitler" was both spine-chilling and hilarious, as was his "Basil Fawlty". We all said he and my brother David Mitchell should take their side-splitting duo somewhere, but it never got to grace the Warrandyte stage, as had so many of their other brilliant triumphs. Of special memory is his brilliant performance on the Mechanics Institute stage—with Richard Morton—in Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*.

There was some professional acting work in the television series of the day, with *Homicide* and *Division Four*, but once again he would never leave reliable teaching to try for full-time, even though his friend Bud Tingwell did try to persuade him.

In the early days both of us were naïve about money because we believed when young and idealistic that we were above it all, but in his later years, Irving became fascinated by the workings of stock exchanges and wrestled with his conscience over the ethics involved. Eventually the pure fascination of the logician and mathematician won out. He studied it all in great depth and learned to do paper trades, which had they been real, would have earned him

millions, because as well as understanding the rules of it all, he seemed to have an uncanny intuition and would exclaim with quiet glee when his predictions beat the pundits. Unfortunately we never had enough capital to really make something of it.

Irving may, over the years, have wrestled with the great questions of an interventionist god and the problem of evil. But his faith and love for the ways of Jesus never wavered. He told me a few days before he died that he did not want to leave us, but that he was prepared and that he felt close to Jesus.

During these last difficult weeks, our family members have supported each other with great love. We have had the lovely people who dedicate themselves to palliative care. And to the wonderful neighbours, relatives and friends who have fed us and offered their love and support, I can never thank enough. Troy Lowther has been a phenomenal organiser and provider of all necessary things—no wonder he can organise those huge CFA exercises! Since Lynton has been back here with us he has been a tower of strength as have Duc and Than, each in their own ways.

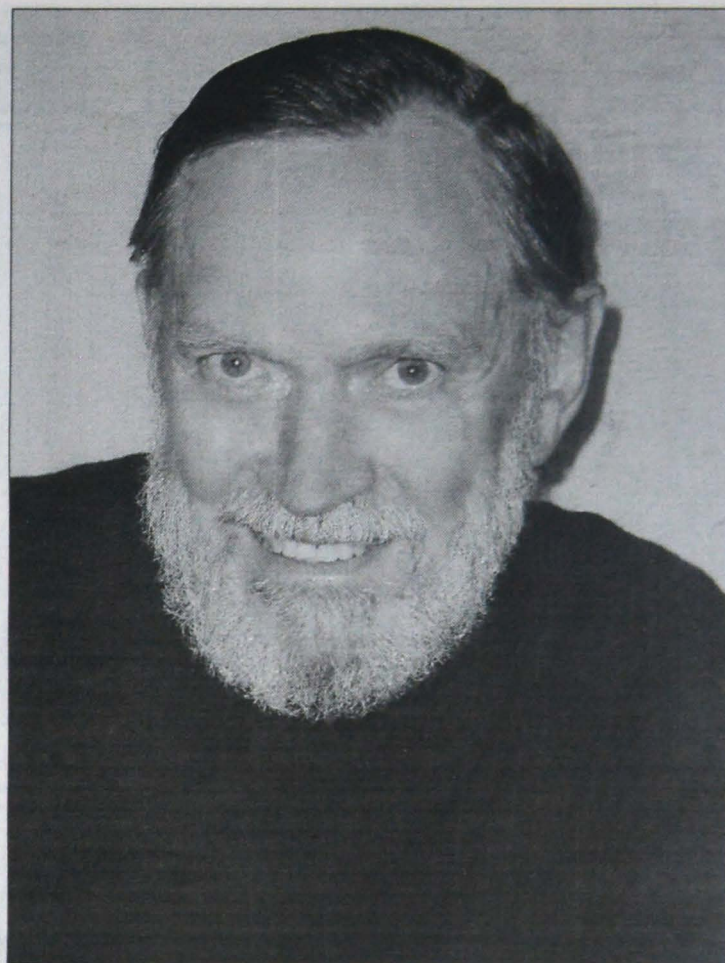
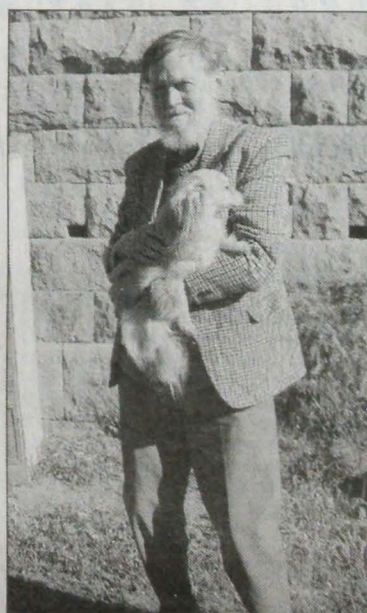
For eight and a half weeks Irving and I have had Sasha by our sides as she followed every possible lead that might in some way make her beloved dad's burden lighter, or mine. She has shared the nursing with me, she has carefully developed a whole range of little practices that helped so much in keeping Irving where he wanted to be—at home with those he loved.

We were all with Irving in the last days and witnessed the quiet joy with which he greeted the marriages of two of his four children, there in the room in front of him: Sasha to her wonderful Troy and Duc to his precious Shelley, mother of their two children, our grandchildren Kyle and Jada, who were each able to have moments of love with their dear Puppa, which they will treasure.

(This obituary has been adapted from a eulogy delivered at Irving's funeral. The following brief extracts are from tributes delivered by other mourners.)



Above: Irving shared top billing with a chook in a 1962 Drama Group production. Right: Irving and his dog Saffy.



Irving Reid as we remember him.

Fond tributes...

I remember Dad trying to help me understand Einstein's special and general relativity theory. I was only just in my teens—maybe even just before. For sure it fascinated me and I could understand the really simple bits (basic bits, like there is no up or down in space). I would struggle and struggle and then gravity would be mentioned, and my eyes would light up. Of course Dad would be happy, even if I had only made the connection that gravity may make my billycart go faster—or maybe I had moved on to pushbikes by them.

LYNTON REID

To talk with Irving was to understand why he was such a successful teacher. He was patient and courteous, he had a sympathetic ear and gave you the impression that what you were saying was worth listening to—perhaps he did suffer fools a little too gladly—but he was able to explain complexities clearly, and he presented his own views without ever sounding dogmatic.

JOHN BARNES

Bruce and I met Irving and Yvonne when we first came to St Stephen's. It's hard to believe that was less than two years ago. I guess our friendship has been one of quality not quantity. Over that time, Irving and Yvonne have had a variety of heartaches to live through. It has been a difficult time for them and this has meant that our conversations tended to be about the things that really matter. We went deep pretty quickly.

MELINDA TURNER

I would like to mention a dream I had in the early hours of yesterday morning. I was at a function in the Mechanics Institute. It was a wake, Irving's wake and he was there. I was talking to him. The details are sketchy but I remember him saying, "It's all right, the family know I'm here." That's Irving, he will always be with us. I'll always remember my brother-in-law, Irving Reid. A truly decent man.

DAVID MITCHELL

The Leonardo da Vinci of Warrandyte, Irving Reid had aspirations to be an architect and built a castle of Heathcote stone in North Warrandyte. He dipped into medicine, then cared for birds and animals. His studies in maths and philosophy led him to a career in teaching, a kindly Mr Chips. He played leading Shakespearean roles with the Warrandyte Drama Group, equally at home in comedy and tragedy. He acted with Bud Tingwell, whose portrait he painted.

LOUISE JOY

I don't like the way we save talking about our love for someone when they have gone. In those last few weeks, I wanted my Dad to know how much he meant to people. I wanted him to know that he was loved and that his life meant something. And to this end I made for him a book of letters, a photo book charting his life, and a photomontage.

SASHA REID

Thoughts on Irving's cricket days... Irving did not always play with the Warrandyte Firsts. On joining the homeless North Warrandyte Cricket Club as our fast bowler, Irving became affectionately known as "Irwin". He is better remembered for all his arms and legs windmill action than for accuracy and wickets taken.

GEOFF DAY

Two weeks before he died, I made my last visit to Irving in the wonderful mud-brick and stone manor house in Banning Road. On a cold day, a four-foot high fire blazed in the fireplace, Irving's portrait of Bud Tingwell looked benignly down on us, the dogs gathered around. I greeted him with: "I am not here as a priest to talk about dying; I am here as a friend to talk about living. For you are not going to die." But I knew this was not true; so did Yvonne; so did Irving. The end came with surprising speed.

CANON ALAN NICHOLS

Once they picnicked —now they live here

then & now
By ALANA PHILLIPS



Picnics are a favourite family activity in Warrandyte, and this family has been enjoying Warrandyte's great outdoors for almost a century! In 1913, the Wilson family had a camping sojourn in Warrandyte; a rather formal affair for Mr and Mrs Jeremiah Wilson (left) with their son Percy Wilson (far right), his wife

Lucy and their older children Dot (in front) and Eric (on his father's lap). Cute little Eric Wilson with his lace collars grew up to be the father of Warrandyte local Bev Hanson!

Then picture: Warrandyte Historical Society. Now picture: Alana Phillips.



John and Bev Hanson are well known in the Warrandyte community for their natural garden, indigenous nursery and their community involvements. Warrandyte residents will also recognise their son Peter Hanson (far right) as not only one of our town's police officers, but also as the president of the Warrandyte

Historical Society. Their daughter Jenny Drummond and her son William Drummond also live in Warrandyte. Thank you to the Hansons for humouring the *Diary* by recreating this picnic scene depicting their grandparents (and Will's great-great-grandparents!), complete with the ladies' handbags!

Readers share their wildlife adventures

bush backyard



Denise Illing of Oakland Drive took this photo near the Warrandyte Bridge. "It shows a darter with what I think is plastic around its beak. Luckily, from observing the bird, the plastic appears to be just around the top half of the beak. (It was still catching fish.)"



These wallabies—one obviously a mother feeding her young—were caught "off the hop" by *Diary* staffer Jan Tindale on her property in Browns Road. Whilst kangaroos are often sighted in different locations around Warrandyte, wallabies are much more elusive and solitary.

WARRANDYTE DIARY • PRICELESS

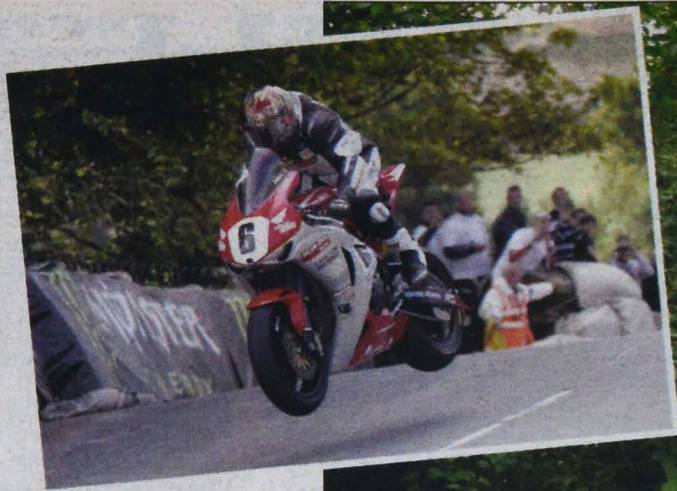
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what's your story!



Right from childhood, Cameron Donald always wanted to spin two wheels as fast as he could at home in Pound Bend. Now he gets to travel the planet racing against the world's best. He talks with BRIANNA PIAZZA

BP: Hi Cameron, how did you get into motorcycling?

CD: Ever since I was a little kid all I wanted to do was race motorbikes. It all started in Warrandyte when I was about six. My family had a large property down in Pound Bend in Warrandyte so I'd always be riding on the mini-bikes as a kid. My mates and I would ride around down near the river on our BMX bikes making motorbike noises. My brothers and my Dad raced at club and state level so I sort of followed in their footsteps. All my early bikes and riding gear were all hand-me-downs from my older brothers.

BP: Tell us about some of your achievements.

CD: I guess the standouts would be my first state championship. I went to senior level of dirt track racing when I was 15 and I finished second in state championships and then I won state dirt track championships at 16. From there I was winning state championships for road racing and my first major overseas win was the Macau Street Grand Prix in China in 2001 and again in 2003. Then in 2003 and 2004 I finished second in the Asian Pacific Road Racing Championship. I have also raced in the UK and Europe and had success at a lot of other races.

BP: What has been the highlight of your career?

CD: The highlight of my racing career by far would be my first Isle of Man TT win in 2008. It's the oldest motorcycle race in the world and I was the first Australian to win a superbike race there since 1976 so I'm quite proud of that. It's so hard to finish a race at the Isle of Man. It's a public road course with 250 corners. It's kind of funny when I look back on it because in 2007 my family and friends made the effort to come over but a week before the race I crashed and broke my collarbone. Then when I won in 2008 I had gone there on my own because everyone had come the year before when I didn't end up racing. It's kind of ironic that everyone was there in 2007 and not 2008.

BP: What model bike do you have now?

CD: I have many motorbikes now because I love motorcycling. I have

about half a dozen different bikes. I would say my favorite bike at the moment is a Honda CBR1000RR.

BP: How does Warrandyte rate compared to other places in the world you've visited?

CD: I think of Warrandyte a lot when I'm overseas. It is a really friendly town and the more I travel the more I appreciate that. There's no place quite like Warrandyte. We're very fortunate because we have such great roads right on our doorstep. Kangaroo Ground, Yarra Glen, Yarra Valley and King Lake all have great roads. I've got friends from all over Melbourne who come out this way just to ride these great roads and see the amazing scenery.

BP: What do you think is the most important skill a professional motorcyclist must have?

CD: Dedication and commitment. It's also about approaching the race in the right mental frame of

mind, especially with the real road racing where you ride on closed public roads. The danger level is enormous compared to a normal circuit race and there's very little room for error. You need to concentrate because if you make a mistake you risk injury or worse.

BP: Do you think we will see more motorcyclists on the roads in the years to come?

CD: I think people have been a bit scared off by motorbikes but I think more people should give motorbikes a chance and not just see them as immediate danger. I think there's a stigma in Australia and after travelling around the world I've noticed that stigma is not as bad in other parts of the world.

BP: Are there any good places where people can go to ride?

CD: I still take my motorbike down to my family's property a bit and I sneak out down there and try not

to make too much noise. Now there aren't too many vacant blocks like there used to be. I think it's a lot harder for kids now who want to ride their motorbikes because even in a place like Warrandyte there are just not the areas that there used to be. I think joining a club is the best thing. There are several clubs within a half-hour's drive of Melbourne.

BP: Do you plan to continue with racing?

CD: It's hard on my body - the injuries catch up with you. I've had plenty of injuries along the way but I guess if I was that easily deterred I wouldn't have achieved what I have. But I'm still fit and I still enjoy it so next year I plan to go back and race the Isle of Man TT and go to the World Endurance Championship again.

If you know of any local sports legends email scott@octobergrey.com.

Cam's the wheel deal

Heading upstream for a worthy challenge

MORE than 640 people, including several from Warrandyte, walked and ran in the Upstream 50km Challenge last month in wet conditions to raise funds for Camp Quality, Entrust Foundation, Disability Sports and Recreation and Leprosy Mission.

After an early start at Docklands, the participants followed 50km of trails beside the Yarra River to finish at Donvale Christian College.

Upstream Foundation coordinator Sharon Hoen said more than \$200,000 was raised, which has taken the total funds raised over the event's seven-year history to over \$1million.

"We are extremely proud of this achievement and equally happy to have been able to ensure 100 per cent of the funds raised went directly to the projects due to the support provided by Upstream Print Solutions and many other event supporters including Saward Dawson and Aumann Family Orchards who both have strong Warrandyte con-

By PAUL GRUBER

nections," Miss Hoen said. "It's a great day out for people of all fitness levels to meet new people, complete an individual challenge, enjoy a team building exercise or just enjoy a walk with family and friends."

Daniel Langelaan ran the course in 3 hours 47 minutes, while others finished in the dark after being on the trail for more than 12 hours. There was even a marriage proposal on the trail for one competitor.

Warrandyteans Gareth Dickson, Deanne Dickson, Matt Allen, Nikki Harris-Allen, Debbie Moran and Craig Robison (pictured) all finished strongly again this year. Catherine McDonald and Dan Thomas were also well prepared and achieved their goal and Emma, Veronica and Mandy Bence didn't let the rain dampen their enthusiasm. Gordon Hoen was only one of a few amazing participants who has now finished all

seven Upstream Challenges. Other locals were Sonia Licciadi, Peter McDonald and Catherine Gerhardt.

Although the event is both physically and mentally demanding, participants are challenged before the event to raise funds for the beneficiaries who the Upstream Foundation support.

The Upstream 50km Challenge participants do not pay an entry fee, but are required to raise a minimum of \$200. Participants can elect to have their donations given to one or all of the beneficiaries: **Camp Quality** - camps for children with cancer and their families; **Disability Sports and Recreation**, providing equipment for their sports equipment library; **Entrust Foundation**, building a Dalit school in India; and **Leprosy Mission**, for programs to empower people affected.

For more information go to www.upstreamfoundation.org or contact Sharon Hoen on 9272 2334.



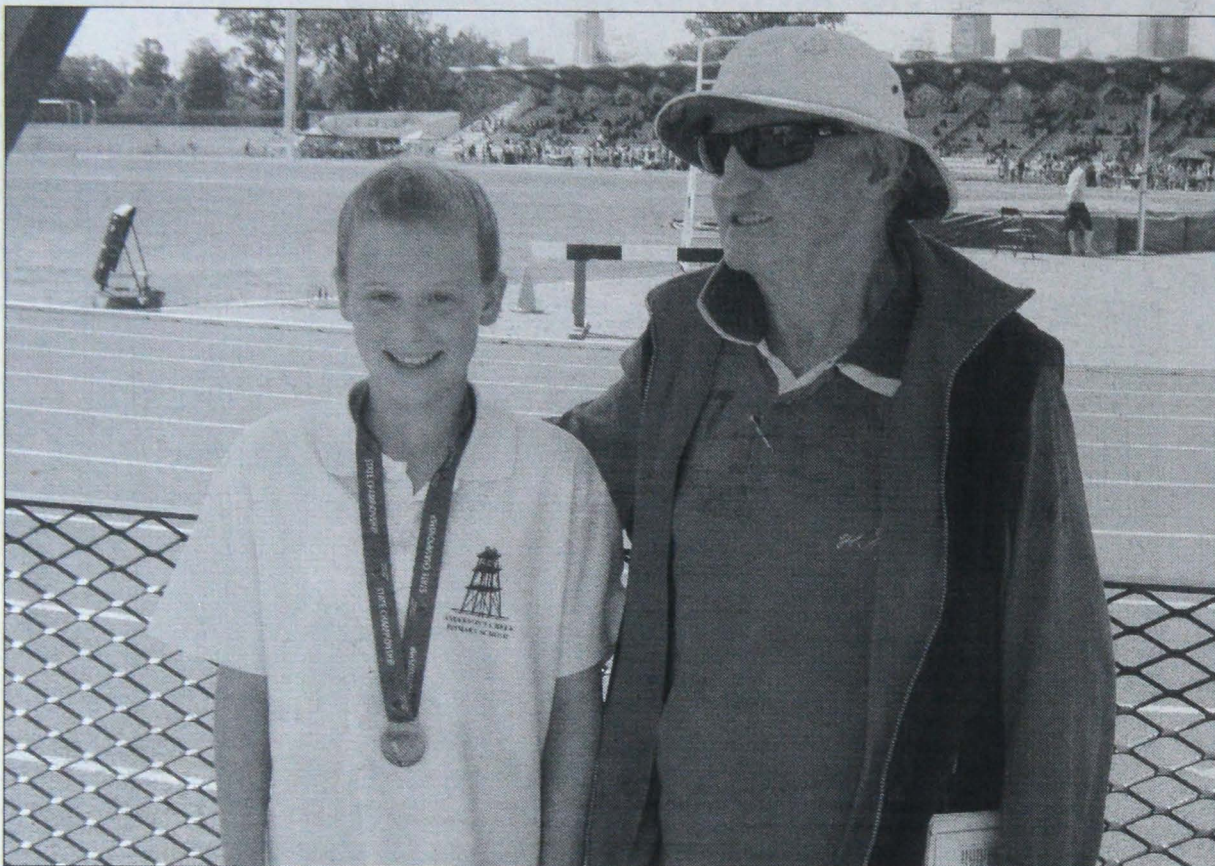
Nicole blitzes the field

Natasha strikes Silver in karate

WARRANDYTE'S Natasha Wright (below) scored a silver medal in GKR Karate's Australian National Championships for Kata division (35-44 years).

The event was held in Liverpool in NSW last month and Natasha competed against the best GKR students from across Australia for the title of National Champion.

To qualify, Natasha competed and won medals for Kata and Kumite in several Victorian GKR Karate tournaments throughout the year. She started training with Sensei David at the GKR Warrandyte dojo only a few years ago and hopes to inspire others who are interested in taking up karate, any age, to call her on 0400 897 899 to find out more about local GKR Karate classes. Visit www.gkrkarate.com for more information.



By ED MUNKS

WARRANDYTE speedster Nicole Reynolds has run the race of her life in the Under 13 Girls hurdles to win a gold medal recently at the Victorian Primary Schools Sports Association (VPSSA) state championships held at the new Lakeside Oval Track in South Melbourne.

Nicole reached the state championships after a series of qualifying competitions including the Eastern Region qualifier at Knox. She did just enough to win her heat, save some energy and qualify third-fastest for the final.

As soon as the gun went off, all nerves disappeared and she won in a great time of 12.97 seconds, 0.02secs off her PB (personal best).

Nicole is a member of the mighty East Doncaster Dragons Little Athletics Club and is coached by the legendary Tom Kelly.

Meanwhile, in a rare rain-interrupted start to the season, there have only been six interclub meets, however, the achievements by athletes from Warrandyte and surrounds has been encouraging with several recording personal bests.

Local athletes also competed at the Box Hill invitational Relay Day which is the lead-up event to the Eastern Metropolitan Relay Championships. Shaely Pynt won a bronze medal in the U15s 4x100m, Nicole Reynolds a bronze in the U13 4x100m, Emily Sharpe and Ruby McDowell fourth in the final of the 4x100m, Adam Bardrick, Ben Munks and Sam Martini made the finals of the U11s 4x200m for sixth, and came seventh in the 800m medley. In the U9s Nick Sharpe scored a fifth in the 4x200m.

HOW THE VICTORY UNFOLDED...

With the permission of her parents and Andersons Creek Primary School, Nicole has kindly recounted the day's events leading up to her mighty win.

On November 7, 2011, I represented Andersons Creek Primary School at the Victorian State Athletics Championships. In the morning I was very nervous and I barely ate anything. I competed in the 80m hurdles and came first in my heat, with a time of 13.59 seconds.

I wasn't going flat out but I was going hard enough to win. I then qualified for the State finals. On the sheet my time was the third-fastest. Coming into the race was very stressful but I wasn't as stressed when I was doing my warm-up. When we were in the starting blocks, that was when all of the pressure came.

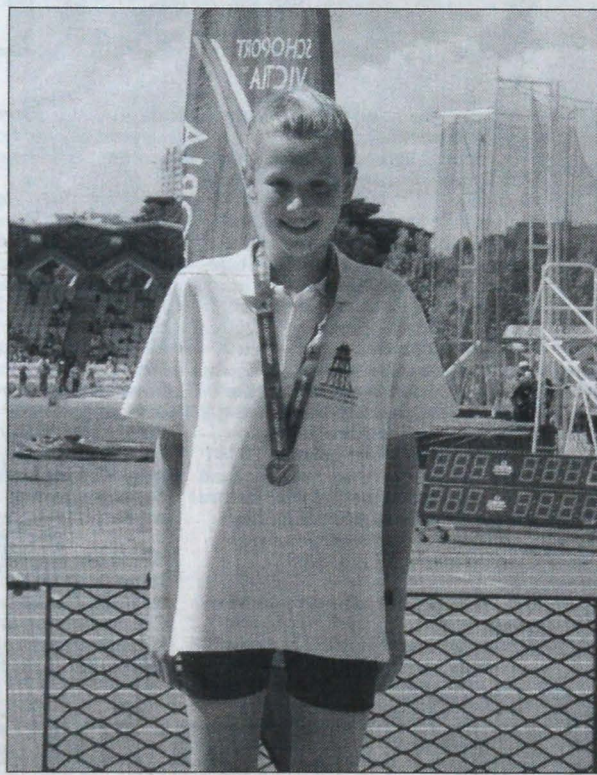
On Your marks ... Set ... BANG, and we were out and I was striding to the first hurdle. I could see another girl next to me and that was when I knew

I had to pick up the pace to win. When I ran through the finish line I had a huge grin on my face. I thought to myself, "I did it, I'm the state champion in the 80m hurdles".

Getting up on that podium again made me so happy. I could see the smiles on my parents' faces as well as on my coach's face. My time was 12.97 seconds. My Mum and Dad were absolutely stoked with my result. Straight after receiving my medal, my coach Tom Kelly (above) came over and said, "Well done, I have to get a photo with you", so we got a photo.

My coach has trained Olympians and is Irish. Shortly after I started athletics at Doncaster, which was three years ago, I started my training with Tom. I would like to thank my family for encouraging me and giving me all of the support I needed. I would also like to thank Tom Kelly for coming to my races and giving me the coaching I needed.

NICOLE REYNOLDS



RESULTS: Under 6s - Chloe Woolard sixth in 100m in 24.06s and Holly Hansen ninth in the 100m with a PB of 25.25. Under 7s - Marlo Katis ninth in 100 in 23.43, Chanelle Vitirriti sixth in Shot Put with 2.84m, Sebastian Lee fifth in Long Jump in 2.16m, Alice Glover sixth in 100m in 22.10. Under 8s - Patrick Ward 13th in 400 in 1.42min, Harrison Gruber 14th in 1.43. Under 9s - Olivia Whittia 11th in Triple Jump 4.63m, Sophia McDowell ninth in 100m in 19.53s, Chloe Lee fifth in 70m in 12.85s and Harriette Glover 17th in 200m in 44.51s. Under 10s - Callum Bowers eighth in 70m with 11.37s, Michael Paul 17th in 100m in 18.94s, Breeana Southward 21st in 800m in 4.10mins. U11s - Nick Alexander fifth in 200m 34.81s, Emma Whittia 11th in 200m with 36.37s, Sebastian Katis 10th in 200m in 38.30s, Shea Wischusen-Gibbons eighth in 200 in 37.59s, Dominic Lee third in 200m 33.13s, Blake Reardon fourth 800m in 2.56min. Under 12s Lelya Arnykova 14th in 70m in 13.87s. Under 13s Sam McAuley fourth in 1500m with 6.10mins, Shaun Young 10th in Javelin with 12.48m and Eilish Kelly seventh in Shot Put with 5.58m. Under 14s Fergus Ward fourth in Long Jump in 4.67m.

WARRANDYTE TENNIS CLUB

SUPERSMASHERS

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By BRIANNA PIAZZA

KAREN Paine never intended to buy a riding school, but the unexpected happened when she stumbled upon Tandivale Equestrian Centre while looking for property in Warrandyte.

"I actually wasn't looking to buy a riding school," Karen says with a smile. "I was looking to buy a property for my own personal use to keep horses on so at first I was put off. But I kept coming back and after seeing how many kids came to Tandivale, how it operates and how great the atmosphere was, I decided I just couldn't close the doors."

Since taking over the riding school in August this year, Karen says she has spent every spare minute of her free time working out what she can do to improve it.

After only four months at Tandivale, Karen has already organised new equipment and six new horses for the school. Students and staff say they love the friendly atmosphere of the riding school where many students come to socialise on weekends.

"The place has a really good vibe to it. All the students get along very well," Karen says. "There's even one girl here who says her friends aren't at school, they're here at Tandivale. This is where she comes and hangs out, where she can find other people who share a common interest in horses."

Many of the students say they are always excited to come to Tandivale, which they describe as being like a second home.

"I love that it's like a little family and everyone is there for each other," points out Selby, 16. "We're always here so it's like a little home away from home."

About 100 students attend Tandivale weekly with most students attending classes on Saturday. Tandivale runs several different programs for people of all ages and levels of experience.

Midweek, Saturday and Sunday classes run during the term while the school holidays opens the door for many new students who visit the school to learn to ride or build on previous experience.

Tandivale also offers trail rides, birthday parties as well as adult group classes. Theory is also incorporated into the lessons where students are taught horse health and other horse management skills.

"The theory aspect is about safety they have to know what they



Tandivale riding high

can and can't do around horses and they have to be able to read a horse's expression to figure out is the horse angry, happy or confused," Karen explains.

"Anyone can get on and ride a horse but if you really want to understand enough to be able to get something more out of it rather than just an adrenaline rush, you really need to understand how they think and how you train them."

Karen says there is one distinct difference that sets Tandivale apart

from other riding schools – her excellent team of staff.

"The staff here is incredibly dedicated. They love the horses and they love teaching and they're very empathetic."

"I'd say we're a relaxed place – very down to earth and honest. This place is definitely not snobby and the instructors are firm but fair."

Riding instructor Michelle Rasool, known affectionately as 'Mitch', began lessons at Tandivale

about 12 years ago and has been instructing there for the past five years.

"I've never left because I've never felt the need ... I love seeing students progress through the levels and achieving their equestrian goals - sometimes even going on to own their own horse," the 21-year-old says.

"The school represents such an integral part of life for so many people, and being able to provide that is truly humbling."

Tandivale opened in 1976 and is one of Melbourne's longest running riding schools.

Karen's plans for Tandivale's future include more horses and more midweek classes.

She says so long as students continue to come to the school, Tandivale's doors will happily remain open.

Anybody interested in attending Tandivale can call 9844 3882 or email Karen at tandivale@hotmail.com.

Warrandyte young guns finish on top



WARRANDYTE'S U11/1 netballers have topped off an awesome year by finishing on top of the ladder.

The team coached by Carolyn Mueller and her daughter Corrin is made up of (pictured from left) Jessica Graf, Amy Potter, Carolyn (coach), Loukita Aston-Boyle, Jamie Dyason, Nikki Link, Corrin (coach). Front row: Jessica Rodwell, Natalia Czarnecki, Alana Fenton and Elise Mueller. The coaches agreed the girls improved immensely as a team throughout the season and were also chosen to play representative netball for Doncaster this year. The Warrandyte Netball Club is extremely proud of their efforts.

Speaking of U11s, Amie Dusting was recently recognized for her achievement of having played over 300 games for the club – and it all started when she first started playing netball in Warrandyte as an U11 player. She now joins her sister Natalie who is also in the 300 games club.

The club also was thrilled for Ysabel Galley who was presented with the highest award presented to a Warrandyte Netball Club member, the Warrandyte Community Bank Best Club Person. Ysabel started playing as an U11 player (at the age of 8), she was a buddy coach for five years and this year coached an U13/1 team on her own. Ysabel has also been a representative player for Doncaster and Districts.



Top stuff: The U11s finished on top of the ladder. Ysabel Galley with Chris Hyde (top left).



Karina toughs it out for a big victory

WARRANDYTE'S Karina Vitiritti (right) teamed up with Dimity Gannon from Richmond last month to claim victory in the women's section of the highly regarded Kathmandu Adventure Series. The dynamic duo blitzed the opposition thanks to their impressive time of 3 hours and 16 minutes in an event that featured more than 300 adventurers in the two-person team race considered to be one of the most extreme races in the Southern Hemisphere. Contestants braved a grueling 40km course comprising kayaking, mountain biking, off-road running and orienteering through bush land and steep terrain.

Soggy start for Hawks

Merry Xmas from the sports team

By FRANS BROUWER

ALREADY this year's cricket season seems a repeat of last year with several days lost to rain in the lead up to Christmas.

Hawks teams on balance have had their chances to win matches before untimely downpours drove players back to the clubrooms. If anything, the Juniors have been most affected by washouts and soggy training sessions.

The Firsts played North Ringwood and Wantirna South in their opening matches. They lost both games against opponents currently second and first respectively, but had their chances. Since then they have won two games and had the better of a washout against Mooroolbark.

After a string of good all-rounder performances, including 53 and 3/70, 77, and 21 and 2/17, in Rounds 2, 4 and 5, Steve Garrett was rewarded with a place in the RDCA T20 representative team. Another player

performing well is Robbie Bowen with 3/35, 22no, 14no and 3/29 in Rounds 1, 3 and 5.

The Second XI is much improved from last season thanks to some fine individual performances. Paul Milne is batting well in his past two innings after a stuttering start, with 94 (not out) and 108 (not out). All other Senior and Veterans sides remain in contention for finals.

The social functions are continuing at the start of each month with the Night at the Races another success despite its timing during Cup Week, and the Junior Christmas Party. Other social events are: Villains and Heroes (February 4), Trivia Night (March 3) and the Presentation Night (March 30).

There was a large turnout of Hawks players and their families at Croydon's Fred Geale Oval last month for the annual Relay for Life held "to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost and fight back against

cancer". Unfortunately several club members have been touched by cancer in recent years.

Trollope Shield: Rd 3 - Hawks 7/189 (Ben Neagle 38no) d Croydon Ranges 5/185; Rd 4 - Hawks 164 (Garrett 77, Barrett 35) washed out vs Mooroolbark 1/19 (Mock 1/0); Rd 5 - Hawks 7/156 (Barrett 28) d Wonga Park 10/136 (Bowen 3/29, Barrett 2/29).

A Grade: Rd 4 - Hawks 6/174 (Milne 94no, Ben Hartrup 32) It Croydon Ranges 8/177 (Mock 3/32); Rd 5 - Hawks 2/50 (Owen 26) washed out vs Wantirna 10/126 (Janssen 3/29); Rd 6 - Hawks 4/267 (Robbie Cutler 47, Ryan 72no, Milne 108no) d Wonga Park 8/155.

D Grade: Rd 4 - Hawks 4/185 (Owen 38, Robb 60no, Darcy Price 30) lost to Wonga Park 6/205; Rd 5 - Hawks 5/25 washed out vs Olinda 10/105 (Falkingham 5/29); Hawks Rd 6 - Hawks 10/133 (Shane Hansen 29) lost to Warrandyte 5/180.

H Grade: Rd 4 - Hawks 4/152 (McIlroy 76no) d Wantirna 9/134; Rd 5 - Hawks 3/30 washed out vs Croydon Nth 151 (Adams 4/39, Sam Cleary 3/33); Rd 6 - Hawks 3/100 (Adams 38) d Warrandyte 7/85.

J Grade (2nd): Rd 4 - Hawks 6/132 (John Cleary 61no) lost to Wantirna Sth 4/136; Rd 5 - Hawks 7/193 (Bird 56, Sweeney 38no) drew Wonga Park 202; Rd 6 Hawks 8/171 (Darcy Price 29, Jake Cullen 51 retired, Ryan Cullen 33) d Croydon Ranges 7/128.

U16-2: Rd 3 - Hawks 10/69 lost to Wonga Park 4/117; Rd 4 - Hawks 9/168 (Sammartino 43) washed out vs Mooroolbark 3/47; Rd 5 - Hawks 6/189 d Ringwood 7/98.

U14-2: Rd 3 - Hawks 5/103 (Hollins 36no, Hansen 25no) lost to Boronia 4/113; Rd 4 - Hawks 4/62 washed out vs Ainslie Park 7/176; Rd 5 - Hawks 9/82 d Templeton 7/79.

U12-1: Rd 3 - Hawks 5/59 (Mulqueen 23) lost to Croydon Ranges 0/121; Rd 4 - Hawks 9/88 (Hatton 16no) washed out vs Templeton 2/43; Rd 5 - Hawks 10/23 lost to Mooroolbark 5/92 (Stephens 2/11).

U16-1 T20: Rd 2 Hawks 8/73 (Chappell 18) lost to North Ringwood 3/80; Rd 3 - Hawks 5/87 (Sofarnos 24) lost to Croydon North 8/89.

U14-1 T20: Rd 2 - Hawks 8/75 lost to Mooroolbark 6/107; Rd 3 - Hawks 6/110 (Rae 26, Gibbons 28) tied Warrandyte 4/110.

Masters 1: Rd 3 - Hawks 10/115 (Brasher 36) lost to Wonga Park 6/117 (Brasher 2/34); Rd 4 - Hawks 5/134 (Owen 41 retired) d South Croydon 9/133 (Owen 3/18, Marra Smith 3/29).

Masters 3: Rd 3 - Hawks 8/142 (Owen 41 retired, Paterson 30) lost to Mt Evelyn 6/187 (Smith 3/34); Rd 4 - Hawks 5/174 (Cleary 44 retired, Stokes 43 retired, Ellard 40 retired) d North Ringwood 5/169 (Goetz 2/14).

Legends: Rd 3 - Hawks 6/190 (Garner 32, Reilly 43 retired) lost to Ainslie Park 6/210; Rd 4 - Hawks 10/108 (Garner 24) lost to Warrandyte 3/111.



By SCOTT PODMORE

THERE'S a saying that goes something like "a community is like a ship; and everyone ought to take the helm". And I'm proud to be part of a community like ours, a place with such a strong sense of community.

So many people "take the helm" in so many ways, especially in our local sports community where there's a lot going on including footy, cricket, athletics, basketball, tennis, netball, orienteering, running, school sports, motor sports, BMX racing, equestrian, soccer, martial arts and others, but I'll stop before I lose my breath.

With all of that sport, there are Warrandyteans who donate their time and effort in some way, great or small. It's a giving community.

If you haven't noticed already, as sports editor (and a parent) I'm big on the mix of children and sport. I apologise to grown-ups if the kids have hogged the limelight in the sports pages this year. But, let's face it, sport is one of life's great teachers for physical, psychological, mental and social development. It also improves health, fitness and coordination, improves academic performance and is even known to reduce crime. Most importantly, it brings the community together. It brings our kids together regardless of what school they go to and helps shape them as great people.

Sport in Warrandyte provides the backbone of our community spirit for many. I've noticed a lot since moving to Warrandyte in recent years, from Ed Munks giving so much of his time to Little Aths and Auskick, or ringing me up late at night to tell me about a good sports yarn, to Sue Rodwell's tireless work on the local netball scene, or locals like Craig Haslam, Neil Sproat and Angela Knight flying the flag for tennis.

The local footy club is such a great place in winter. It's a place where families and friends congregate to cheer our Bloods on. Senior team captain Tom Naughtin not only puts his body on the line on the field in the name of the Red & White, but he's doubling as club treasurer and often is the last bloke to leave on a Saturday after later on working behind the bar or sweeping out the rooms. Chris Chapman's there, too, providing updates on Facebook during the games or sitting down to write another ripper monthly match report for the Diary sports section after a hard day at work. They do it for the love of sport and the community.

There are several others. Dale and Jenny Leeson, who spend half their lives at the basketball stadium "giving" and teaching kids how to play the game and work together as a team. Tony Oliver and Justin Nelson put their heads together every month to ensure they send in loads of great basketball news and reports. Brianna Piazza gives up her time in her bid to carve out a career in journalism with compelling 'What's Your Story' Q&As with local sports legends.

Every month locals like Gareth Dickson, Ross Snowball and Alana Phillips send me an endless supply of photographs to use (for free) and many of them blinders, as you would have noticed.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my first year as sports editor of the Warrandyte Diary and I'd like to take this opportunity by signing off 2011 by sincerely thanking all the wonderful sports contributors from the various sporting bodies who have made my job easy and enjoyable.

Last but not least, the most important thank you is to editor Cliff Green whose commitment and passion to this newspaper is inspiring. For more than four decades, there hasn't been a better man to take the helm of what is a great ship that sails smoothly every month.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mixed bag for Warrandyte Bloods

By RYAN HOIBERG

WARRANTYTE has survived a controversial bowl off against Wonga Park to book a place in the quarter final against Montrose.

Warrandyte and Wonga Park could not be separated after 20 overs and entered into the first 'bowl-off' in the shorter format, with Daniel Barry the only bowler from either teams to successfully knock over the stumps and stamp Warrandyte's ticket into the next round.

Warrandyte had previously beaten South Warrandyte in their other pool match, with Chris Barry slamming 61 runs, including three sixes, and guiding Warrandyte home in a run chase with six overs remaining. Warrandyte had bowled out the opposition with an over to spare, continued pressure and consistent bowling from all members ensuring South Warrandyte was restricted in its attempts to get on top at the Warrandyte Cricket Ground. A strong partnership between Chris Barry and Ayrton Dehmel made sure Warrandyte would not be troubled by the smaller total and sent a strong warning to the rest of the competition with an easy win.

Facing Wonga Park, Warrandyte again bowled first and Wonga Park was able to build a strong total of 131 off their 20 overs, with Alex McIntosh doing the damage with the ball taking 3/18 from his four overs. Warrandyte's chase started with a glitch when Stewart Smead departed for six, but reached 3/84 after 10 overs thanks to captain Campbell Holland smashing three sixes in his total of 30 and Warrandyte looked to be in a secure position.

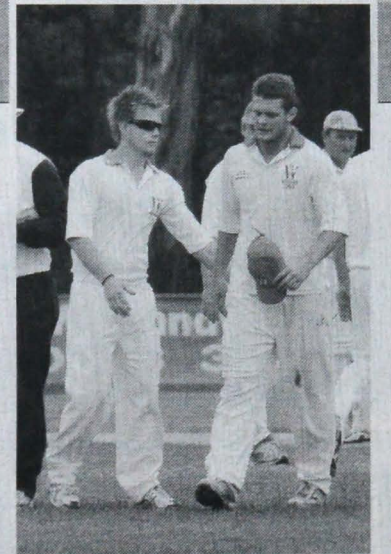
But after collapsing to 9/120, despite McIntosh's four sixes from his 30, Warrandyte faced a stinging defeat. However, Daniel Barry and young Luke Warren helped push the total upwards and Warrandyte drew level after another three sixes were hit by Barry, before Warren was run out going for the final run with three balls remaining. Luckily for Warrandyte, it was able to pass through the group stages with a fantastic win in the bowl off, securing the all-important four points.

In the longer format of the game, Warrandyte's First XI has slipped out of the top four in the Wilkins Cup after suffering their first two defeats for the season in the last two matches. After being in what seemed a commanding position after victory over Mooroolbark, highlighted by a commanding innings by Chris Barry (43) and Dave Mooney (46) to set 170 for their bowlers to defend, Alex McIntosh reminded the competition what true raw pace can do in this grade by grabbing 7/33 from 21 overs in an impressive display of speed, accuracy and durability, gifting Warrandyte a 25-run win.

But after such an emphatic win, Warrandyte's grasp on a final spot going into the Christmas break was



Hot form: Alex McIntosh is encouraged by teammate Chris Barry (below right) after delivering another tight over while Justin Cleaves (main) sends down another delivery for the Warrandyte Bloods. Below left, Warrandyte's youngest team, the Under 10s, are enjoying a great season.



threatened with successive losses to Ainslie Park and Lilydale.

In a recent game, Warrandyte suffered a rare First XI defeat at home, with Ainslie Park winning in a rain-affected one dayer. Batting second Warrandyte failed to chase down the 168 set by the opposition off their 40 overs, with Cleaves (63 not out) batting through the innings. One highlight for the match was Luke Warren becoming the No. 431 First XI player, making his well-deserved debut and capturing the second wicket of the Ainslie Park innings.

In Warrandyte's lower grades, the Second XI is anchored to the bottom of the Newey Plate and are yet to break through for their maiden win of the season. Despite having the strongest team for the year in for the

latest match, Adam Beardall's men are still fighting an uphill battle, with Tom Ellis the pick of the bowlers.

The Third XI is just sitting within the top four of D Grade, with Captain Smead's 114 against South Warrandyte a fantastic show of leadership.

The Fourth XI continues to fight its own battles as well, as the mixture of youth and age makes for a competitive brand of cricket. Grant Hartmann continues to deliver runs and wickets for his skipper, while younger members like Jarryd Lane have continued to produce.

First XI: Round 3 - Warrandyte 170 (Mooney 46, C Barry 43) d Mooroolbark 145 (McIntosh 7/33). Round 4 - Warrandyte 107 (Mooney 42) d by Lilydale (Holland 3/30, Lincoln 3/34). Round 5 - Warrandyte 7/145 (Cleaves 63 not out) d by Ainslie Park (Warren 1/17).

Second XI: Round 3 - Warrandyte 157 (Gidley 33, Haworth 28) d by Wonga Park 271 (Beardall 3/34, Ellis 3/55). Round 4 - No result. Round 5 - Warrandyte 116 (White 33) d by Heathmont Baptist 9/132 (Gordon 3/23, Ellis 2/26).

Third XI: Round 3 - No result. Round 4 - Warrandyte 164 (Revell 42) d by Eastfield 6/169 (Stafford 4/46). Round 5 - Warrandyte 6/52 (Brent 13) drew with Ainslie Park 96 (Prangley 5/23, McKellar 3/15). Round 6 - Warrandyte 5/180 (Smead 114) d South Warrandyte 133 (McKellar 2/9, Smead 2/30).

Fourth XI: Round 3 - Warrandyte 7/178 (Hartmann 46, Hanson 32) d South Warrandyte 177 (Lane 4/27). Round 4 - Warrandyte 101 (Bowen 24) d by Templeton 6/190 (Bowen 2/13). Round 5 - Warrandyte 5/74 (Hartmann 26) drew with South Croydon 110 (Thomas 3/16, Lane 3/24). Round 6 - Warrandyte 7/85 (Croft 39) d by South Warrandyte 3/100 (Hartmann 2/16).

Twenty20: Round 1 - Warrandyte 4/125 (C Barry 61 not out, Dehmel 30) d South Warrandyte 124 (McIntosh 2/22). Round 2 - Warrandyte 131 (Holland 30, McIntosh 30) d Wonga Park 5/131 (McIntosh 3/18, C Barry 18) (Warrandyte won Bowl Off 1-0).

Venom lads on tour in US



By TONY OLIVER

AFTER a year of preparations, Warrandyte Basketball's first ever USA tour teams have departed for 18 days of games and sightseeing across Washington, Oregon and California.

The 15-player squad will be coached by Gerard Leonard and Justin Nelson in 16 games, a heavy playing schedule that the boys are looking forward to. Suitably dressed in a new-style black Venom uniform adorned with the names of sponsors, the teams were presented with a recognition award by Manningham Council in late November before jetting off to Los Angeles on December 4.

"Thankfully all the preparation is now over," said Nelson just before flying out, adding, "I think the guys just want to get over there now and start playing. The build up has been enormous, it's a very exciting time for the players and the whole club."

Though the first tour has only just commenced, Nelson believes annual tours by Venom teams are a real possibility.

"I have no doubt that many more players at the club would like to do similar tours in the future and as a club we definitely would like to see a tour group assembled each year, hopefully we can make that happen. I think once this group returns and talks about their experience the whole tour focus will go up another notch."

The Venom teams will play against high school teams in Seattle, Longview and Portland, along with days out at college games, theme parks and popular tourist spots.

"We have a packed schedule," Nelson said. "These guys won't be stopping for 18 days and will probably need the Christmas holidays to catch up on some rest."

DREAM WEAVERS STRENGTHEN VENOM

Warrandyte Venom has welcomed the experienced duo of Vashon and Carmen Weaver for 2012, enhancing each team's stocks in preparation for what coaches Arnold Giffening and Justin Nelson hope will excite the club's passionate fans.

Following long stints at both Latrobe City and Waverley, the Weavers have hit the early pre-season sessions with plenty of energy and fitted in seamlessly with the club.

"Vashon is a quality person of the highest standing, a great competitor with a strong work ethic and a dynamic positive attitude," said DIM coach Giffening.

"He's versatile, athletic and will bring scoring power, rebounding and strong defence to our playing group, I have no doubt that Vashon will also be a positive influence for our young, up and coming Venom representative teams. We believe Vashon ticks all the right boxes and will be a wonderful addition to our club".

Nelson is just as enthusiastic about Carmen and can see the Weavers enjoying a lengthy stint with the Venom.

"Warrandyte is an infectious place and when new players land here they embrace what we are all about very quickly. Carmen has been an outstanding player in the Big V for many years, she is a multiple MVP winner and brings plenty of experience and knowledge to the team," said Nelson.

"We have been very particular with our recruiting for 2012 and together with Carmen I think we have added three quality people including Rachael Wansbrough and Lee Wilkins. Now it's about putting it together out on court."

Looking ahead to a successful



Hey Jade, don't you just love this game?

The Grybas name has been associated with Warrandyte Basketball for more than two decades with brothers Ash and Clinton having always been involved in playing, refereeing or coaching, and this season sees the Grybas name back bouncing around on court with the mighty Redbacks as five-year-old Jade Grybas suits up for her first year. "It's great to have Jade out on court, no doubt father Ash is very proud and her uncle Clinton would be smiling from above," said club general manager Justin Nelson. (Picture: Gareth Dickson)



American dreaming: Warrandyte's top Venom boys have headed to the United States for an 18-day tour.

season in Venom colours, Carmen Weaver is enthusiastic about her new surrounds.

"A new start is always a challenge, but I'm pleased with the decision to come to Warrandyte," said Carmen.

"Leaving Waverley was really out of mine and my former teammates hands, and I'll really miss playing basketball with those girls, but at the same time being at Warrandyte is a role I'm looking forward to.

"The club has been really welcoming from day one, the girls have been fantastic and we are training hard. There is a good feeling amongst the team and we will be giving it our best shot in 2012," she added.

Entering his 11th season in the Big V, Vashon Weaver knows that his new role will involve as much leadership as it will playing experience.

"I'm pleased with the decision to come to Warrandyte. It was hard to

leave the Falcons after two successive championships, but I'm looking forward to helping the Venom land similar results," said Vashon.

"I've fitted in really well, the guys are focused on doing the hard yards, we have the nucleus of a great team moving forward and I want to help be a part of that success," he added.

The Venom will announce further signings in the new year.

Firing up for Friday b'ball

THE first round of grading for Friday night basketball is finished and the next stage continues in the New Year as Warrandyte Venom fields 28 teams including three boys and two girls teams in the top Pool 1 competition.

Warrandyte's Pool 4 U12 girls recorded their first win, with somewhat of an upset 21-20 win over the previously undefeated Diamond Valley team at Warrandyte Community Sports Centre recently.

Warrandyte opened strongly and when Hannah Ronan-Black scored just before the break, the girls broke away to a comfortable 13-4 lead.

The second half was more competitive with Diamond Valley slowly coming back into the game.

With three minutes to go the gap narrowed to three points and despite the final shot in the game being a basket to Diamond Valley, the Venom girls held on for a one-point win, much to the delight of coaches Alice Williamson and Ash Collins.

Top scorer for Warrandyte was Kyla Morrow with 14, with support from Alicia Callahan (5 points).

Next on court was the U16 Pool 4 clash between Warrandyte Venom and Kilsyth. The Venom won easily, 45-17, to finish second in their group.

In the Under 16 Boys, Pool 1, Warrandyte, coached by Beau Bentley, went down 57-42 to Kilsyth.

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WARRANDYTE

Expect the Unexpected

"To expect the unexpected shows a thoroughly modern intellect," said Oscar Wilde. With 2 living areas separated by a walkway gallery, here's the perfect family zoning to give parents and kids their own space. Up front, a light-filled kitchen with dishwasher, meals area, gas-heated lounge, 3 spacious bedrooms and main bathroom. At the rear of the property, a family and rumpus room with dramatic cathedral ceilings, leading to master bedroom with ensuite and WIR. Other features include: 2 courtyards, polished floorboards, aircon & gas-fired hydronic floor heating.



WARRANDYTE

Hidden Family Treasure

An idyllic location in a serene private setting, step inside to fully appreciate the inviting and spacious nature of this terrific family home. Choice of 3 living spaces – the informal zone offering an eye-catching dining room awash with natural light flowing into the family room and kitchen; the living room is nearby. Covered alfresco is accessed from these 2 zones overlooking the terraced garden (approx 1303m²). 3 BRs and contemporary bathroom, downstairs large rumpus/4th BR/home office and 2nd bathroom. GDH, BI aircon, duct vacuum, slate floors, workshop, tandem car accom, osp



WARRANDYTE

Design and Alfresco Acre Statement

A lifestyle to savour and packed with features best describes this near level tranquil acre property with the rare white Mt Gambier stone construction. Showcasing an imposing living-dining room (cathedral ceilings, beams, stone OFP), Tasmanian oak kitchen (granite benchtops/splashbacks, S/S appliances, gourmet cooker), informal meals/family, both spilling out onto a covered alfresco deck. 5 BRs (main with ensuite) plus contemporary spa bathroom. Highlights: GDH, evap. ducted cooling, security system, polished boards, gazebo, 4-car accom and laneway to the Yarra River.



WARRANDYTE

Tapestry of Textures

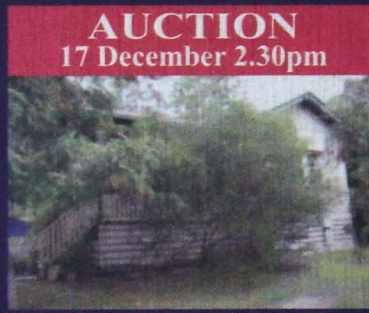
Everything about this serene elevated acre property is extremely visual...rarity of the blue stone exterior, rambling colourful garden, character filled interior showcasing the exposed stone walls, handmade bricks, timber lined ceilings/beams, slate flooring plus stained glass features. Providing a foyer, lounge (woodburning heater), kitchen/breakfast bar/dining, separate family room, 4 bedrooms including zoned master bedroom (WIR, ensuite) and bathroom. Includes r/c heating-cooling, gas heater, covered deck, mudbrick studio, 3 water tanks, 4-car accommodation.



WARRANDYTE

Prized Position Meets Potential

There's no denying the power of position and this property is a winner! Substantial elevated block measuring approx 1004m² is prime real estate highly sought after and rarely available in this location. The three bedroom home offers a basic interior comprising kitchen – living room, central bathroom, casual alfresco overlooks the generous backyard, there's a studio plus a double carport. Calling all DIYers and home renovators as TLC and improvement is certainly required! Great opportunity to rejuvenate and re-energise this home...What are you waiting for?



AUCTION
17 December 2.30pm

WARRANDYTE

Serene Acre Family Sanctuary

The acre lifestyle is alive and well, with the strong family focus displayed in this enticing and generous home offering 2 distinct living and dining zones, exceptional comfort and delightful garden views. The light-infused interior abounds with character offering an entry foyer, breakfast room, kitchen, dining area, lounge, sep family room with wood-burning heater, French doors open onto a decked and brick-paved alfresco retreat, 3BRs (BIRs) and 2 bathrooms. GDH, r/c aircon, WI pantry, water tank and 3-car accomm. This serene and private extensive garden, including a variety of fruit trees, adjoins the bank of the Yarra.



SOLD

WARRANDYTE

Ideal Bush Setting

This attractive 5126m² lightly treed allotment is fully fenced with water, gas, electricity and telephone all available. With a generous building envelope of 562m² 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.

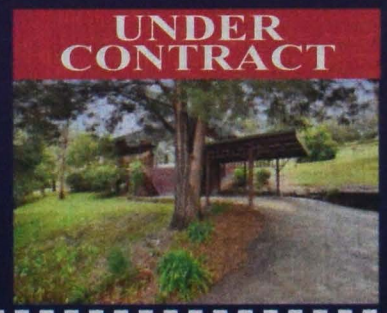


SOLD

WARRANDYTE

A Sleeping Beauty!

"Brigadoon" poised on a serene allotment approx 3302m²—the proportions of this home are generous, light infused and radiate immense character and individuality. Visually captivating and unique with timber and stone showcased throughout. An original kitchen-dining-lounge-family area, sunroom, study, 3 BRs/3 ensuites incl main BR opening onto parents' retreat. 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.



UNDER CONTRACT

Lions Club of Warrandyte Inc. Seasons Greetings

The Lions Club wishes our community and our supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

www.lionsclubwarrandyte.org.au

