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PLAZA



WARRANDYTE diary

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No 463, May 2013 For the community, by the community

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Medals galore: Warrandyte's Anzac Day parade and service was bigger than ever! These little girls proudly displayed their family medals.

(Picture by STEPHEN REYNOLDS)



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— Niels Bohr

WARRANDYTE diary

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, May 31, 2013.

OUR NEWSPAPER

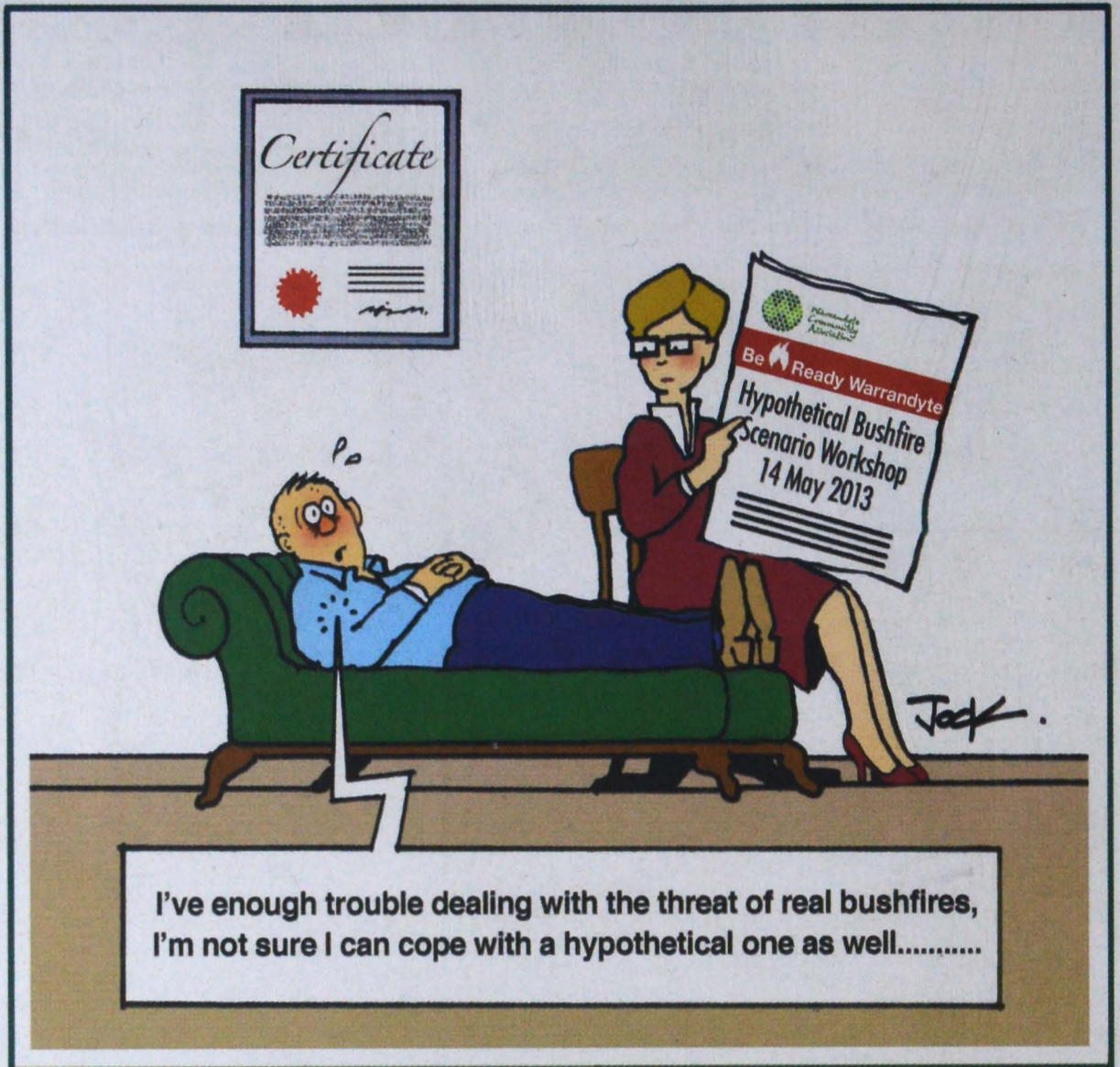
The *Warrandyte Diary* was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced mostly by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its not-for-profit,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

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



I've enough trouble dealing with the threat of real bushfires, I'm not sure I can cope with a hypothetical one as well.....

Jasper's badge of honour

As the curtain opens on this particularly moving play of love and chivalry, we see a pretty young thing stacking shelves in Aisle 12 of the local supermarket. A callow youth approaches. He is trying to look casual but his expression reveals that he is besotted with the young lady. If the actor finds besotted beyond him, a simple air of stupidity will probably do.

JASPER: Elly! Whatever are you doing here?

ELLY: (She turns to see who has hailed her but seems disappointed) I work here. You can tell by the uniform.

JASPER: (Bruised but resilient) I know you do. I mean here in... (surveys surrounding shelves)... Infant Products. You usually do checkout.

ELLY: I do shelf stacking on Saturdays, for variety. A change is as good as a holiday.

JASPER: You must go on some pretty dreadful holidays.

ELLY: It's an expression. More to the point what are you doing here, in Infant Products?

JASPER: Ah! I'm looking for herbs. For Mum. Those long green shiny ones that look like grass.

ELLY: Dill.

JASPER: Just because I don't know all the names...

ELLY: The grassy stuff. It's called dill. And you're at the completely wrong end of the supermarket. Herbs are on the other side, with the vegetables.

JASPER: How lucky I ran into you. I could have been lost in... Infant Products for ages! (Elly's supervisor approach-



living with The Trots

es them. He is dashingly handsome and almost entirely acne-free. You can tell he's a Supervisor because he's wearing a badge that says Supervisor. On second thoughts that might be a bit hard for the audience to read. There must be a better way to do this. Forget the badge.)

SUPERVISOR: Elly! As your Supervisor (much better) I need to caution you about chatting with customers.

ELLY: (Who is clearly besotted, provided she can manage it.) You're a Supervisor now? How thrilling. Do you get a badge?

(OK, he better have a badge, though I still think only people in the front row or two will be able to see. He shows it to Elly who of course is much closer, unlike... oh never mind.)

SUPERVISOR: Yes, I've just been promoted.

JASPER: It's not a very big badge, is it.

SUPERVISOR: It's not a very big promotion.

JASPER: I suppose a change is as good as a holiday.

SUPERVISOR: Why?

JASPER: It's just an expression.

(This scene seems to be getting bogged down. I've consulted the Playwright's Guide to Plot Development which recommends killing off one of the characters. It seems a bit drastic.)

JASPER: Watch out, you're about to knock over that display of Infant Products!

(Excellent idea! There is a loud thud as a large display of Huggies topples over, knocking Elly to the ground, unconscious.)

JASPER: Quick do something.

SUPERVISOR: I'll go and get the Supervisor.

JASPER: (Pointing to badge) You are the Supervisor.

SUPERVISOR: So I am. What should I do?

JASPER: Something decisive!

SUPERVISOR: Good idea. I quit.

(The Supervisor exits, throwing his badge to the ground, leaving Jasper alone with the unconscious Elly. Fortunately he is able to fall back on the First Aid badge he earned at

Scouts. He starts to loosen Elly's blouse but realises there are small children in the audience and goes with the kiss of life instead. Elly moans and wakes to find herself in Jasper's strong arms. Well in his arms, anyway.)

ELLY: What happened?

STORE MANAGER: (Approaching in great haste) What happened? You were caught in an avalanche of Huggies—

though I confess I'm at a loss to understand how this could render you unconscious. (He has a point but it's too late to change now.) Only the quick thinking of this brave young man saved the day.

(Elly goes to rise but thinks better of it and stays cradled in his strong... in his arms.)

ELLY: My hero! (This is a challenging line to deliver as there is a faint possibility of sounding trite in the wrong hands.)

STORE MANAGER: But where was the Supervisor in all of this?

JASPER: I regret to inform you at this difficult time that the Supervisor has resigned.

(My wife points out that young people these days don't actually talk like this, but I have tried to remain faithful to the genre.)

STORE MANAGER: No matter. I think we have found the ideal replacement. (He picks up the abandoned badge and pins it to Jasper's chest.)

ELLY: Oh Jasper. Now we'll be together every Saturday afternoon. Could there be a happier ending?

JASPER: How about a bigger badge!

THE END

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WARRANDYTE WARRANDYTE

Centre in all its colours

By **CLIFF GREEN**

The refurbishment of the Warrandyte Community Centre—at the corner of Yarra and Webb streets—is progressing well.

The installation of a “small town” municipal library within the centre is the principal reason for the extensive rebuilding. This much-needed facility will occupy most of the ground floor of the centre.

Manningham council has released details of colour schemes being used throughout the refurbished building.

“The architects have chosen the colour schemes using local history through local artists on the Warrandyte/Yarra Trail,” a council spokes-

person told the *Diary*.

These artists played principal roles in the establishment of a national art tradition during the late 1890s.

“The two paintings referenced in the colour schemes—“Old Bridge Warrandyte” by Walter Withers and “A Cool Corner” by Clara Southern—have been used as the inspiration for form, colour and aesthetic,” the spokesperson said.

“Both these artists worked extensively in the Warrandyte area.

“The form of the old bridge has influenced the timber strapwork that is being used for the exterior of the refurbishment works, whilst the external colours draw directly on the

bark hues from the local trees on the riverbank as well as the colours in the painting.

“Internally, the rich colours of Clara Southern’s ‘A Cool Corner’ have been used to define the palette. These draw upon the seasonal changes very evident in Warrandyte and add a rich texture to the new building,” the spokesperson said.

The colour scheme was guided and approved by council’s heritage consultant.

The following construction works have been completed or are currently underway:

● Extension to the rear of the centre;

● The library window walls have been constructed;

● A new entry is being built for the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House via Webb Street;

● Air conditioning and heating systems have been installed;

● Electrical “rough-in” has been completed;

● Plaster is being hung in the library, Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, the meeting room, corridors, toilets and upstairs;

● The lift shaft has been built.

“Construction works are on track to be completed by the end of July this year,” a council spokesperson told the *Diary*.

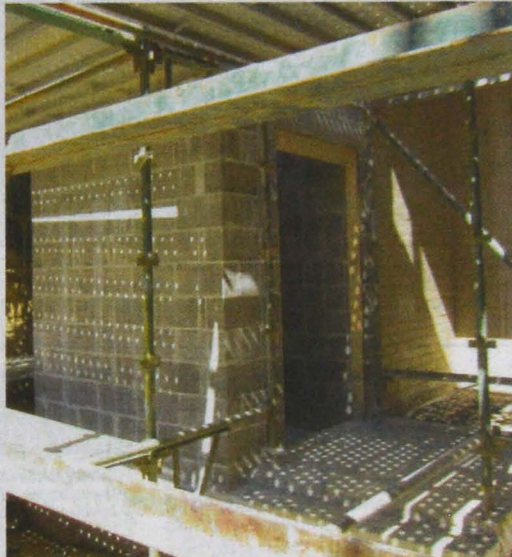
“The relocation of the Community Centre tenants back into the centre will be staged throughout August, 2013.”

The relocation plan will be discussed with the newly-established Community Centre Reference Group, consisting of the Warrandyte Bendigo Bank, Warrandyte Business Association, Warrandyte Community Association and tenants of the centre.

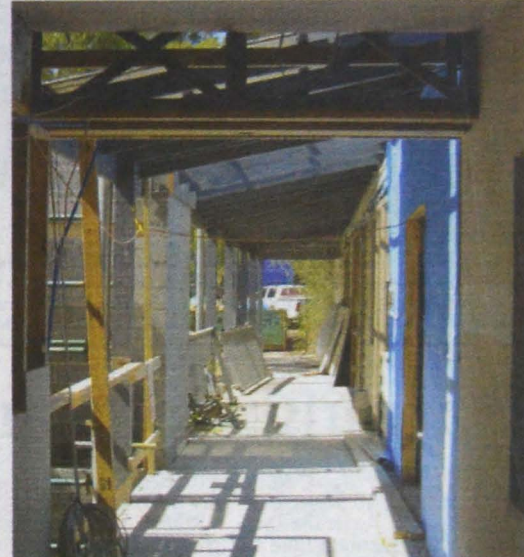
“The reference group has been established to oversee the vision for the centre, enhance relationships between the services located in the centre and other key stakeholders within the community,” the spokesperson said.



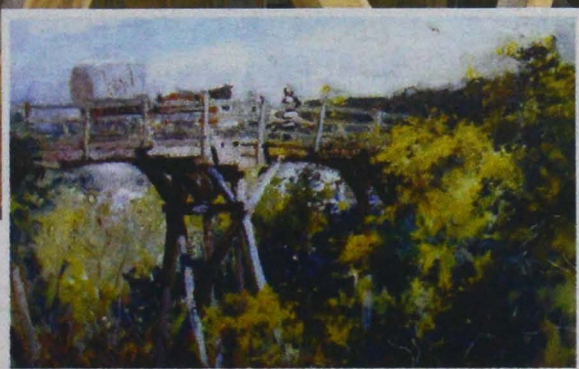
New rear extension on refurbished building.



Lift shaft is a new feature in the centre.



Balcony will serve Warrandyte Neighbourhood House.



Timber strapwork used in the building has been inspired by Walter Withers’ “Old Bridge Warrandyte” (inset).

Pictures courtesy Manningham City Council.



How our centre will look: Strapwork and timber finishes delineate new library. Colours indicative only.



Public hall off front balcony.



Rear view of refurbished centre.

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Flashback: The old crew at the pub



This picture, taken by veteran Warrandyte photographer and all-round good bloke—Bill McAuley—should stir a few memories. Bill told us: "The old crew at the pub taken in 1979. Amongst them (from memory) are Tiger Flowers, George Leek, Tom Nightingale, Gerard Osbourne, Graham Revel, Geoff Riddell, Jack Griffiths, Russell Hobday, John Chalmers, Jack Truscott, Jim Ireland, Del ????"

Council election farce

The issue which Bob Beynon brought to public attention has still not been addressed: how can an ineligible candidate be allowed to run for office and, even after his ineligibility is discovered, how can he remain on the ballot? The inadequacies of a system that requires candidates to be honest about their own eligibility have been pointed out ad infinitum by participants, observers and even by Magistrate Smith.

Magistrate Smith also asserted that, given the magnitude of the donkey vote in Manningham, had this particular ineligible candidate appeared first on the ballot, he may well have been elected. This begs the question: how many ineligible candidates went undetected (for there is still no system of checking or removal in place) and are now elected officials, all over the state? A recent comment from a VEC spokesperson that "this situation has never happened before" is hardly one they are qualified to make, given that eligibility of candidates has never been checked.

Further, Magistrate Smith contended that the democratic rights of the people who chose to vote for this particular ineligible candidate, without knowing of his ineligibility, were ignored in this process remains unchanged.

The financial cost of this protracted debacle for Mullum Mullum is

\$150,000 for an ill-conducted election plus the subsequent (unknown) cost of a legal process in which the magistrate took six months and five hearings, without additional evidence coming to light, to make a decision that has not addressed a fundamental system failure.

The areas requiring attention in the local government election process are too many to detail here but is it really so difficult to introduce mandatory police checks for all candidates?

I believe that, as ratepayers, we need to ask why we pay the VEC so much money when they are not held accountable. If the ratepayers of Mullum Mullum pay \$150,000 (our ward's share of the cost of a council election) to the Victorian Electoral Commission, surely it is not too big a stretch to assume that it will be conducted fairly and with the law in mind?

Lastly, since every voter is required to preference every candidate on the ballot, everyone in this ward voted for an ineligible candidate. This means that the true effect of this candidate's 521 primary votes, had they gone to legitimate candidates, remains unknown. This is the true cost for the Mullum Mullum electorate.

Michelle Pini
Mullum Mullum
Ward candidate

Warning: dogs and sticks

I would like to thank John Elliott and all who participated in Clean-up Australia Day and also congratulate Julie at IGA and WarrandyteCAN for making our community plastic bag free.

I would just like to express my concern about people throwing sticks rather than balls, following a frightening

experience that occurred with my beloved dog.

Rather than her catching the stick horizontally, she "caught" it vertically, the stick missing her oesophagus by a quarter of an inch.

When discussing what had happened with the vet, he told me he had treated many dogs over his long career under

the same circumstance, many cases ending in tragedy. So far as he was concerned, sticks were out.

Perhaps someone has an alternative idea for entertaining our dogs that won't impact on the environment?

Marie Van Hoof
Fossickers Way

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: info@warrandytediary.com.au; or left at the *Diary* office in St Stephen's Hall, Stiggant Street.

No wind turbines


I'm afraid I can't agree with WarrandyteCAN on their support for wind turbines. These monsters create enormous visual pollution, which we, as a nation, will grow to regret in years to come. There are other ways to create clean energy.

What stance would we take if the government proposed to allow wind turbine towers on

every hill in Warrandyte and Nillumbik? What would be the reaction of our communities? We can't impose these towers on other communities but not be prepared to accept them ourselves.

And I certainly would oppose them being built here.

Michael Hubbert
Warrandyte South



ALISTAIR KNOX PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

New playground equipment is being installed at Alistair Knox Park in Eltham.

The playground will be fenced-off and closed for approximately six weeks during the upgrade. Works are planned to start mid-May and be complete by late June.

The design for the new playground has a focus on imaginative play, with natural features and sound elements that aim to link the playground to the landscape and cultural characteristics of Eltham.

For further information on the playground please contact Council on 9433 3111.

GROWING YOUR CLUB WORKSHOP

Nillumbik sports clubs, coaches and volunteers are invited to a free workshop to explore how to grow your club by becoming more inclusive and accessible.


When: Wednesday 29 May
Time: 6pm–8.30pm (registration from 5.30pm)
Where: Hall 2, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham
RSVP: by 5pm Wednesday 22 May to Hanna on 9433 3136 or hanna.phillips@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

Places are limited. Please advise if you have any dietary or accessibility requirements or if you need an Auslan interpreter.

PRESCHOOL OPEN DAY SATURDAY 25 MAY, 10AM-1PM

Come and see the quality preschool programs available in Nillumbik while your children take part in a range of fun activities!

Participating preschools are listed at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/preschoolopenday. For more information contact Rachel Birrell on 9433 3190 or Rachel.Birrell@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.



HURSTBRIDGE FARMERS' MARKET


WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE HURSTBRIDGE FARMERS' MARKET REFERENCE GROUP?

The Hurstbridge Farmers' Market operates on the first Sunday of each month (except January).

The Market Coordinator works with a Reference Group made up of Council staff, stall holders, interested community members and local traders and tourism representatives to ensure the successful running of each market.

The Reference Group meets four times a year and also provides advice to the Market Coordinator via email on issues such as stallholder selection, operating guidelines and marketing ideas.


If you are interested in nominating yourself for membership of this group, or would like a copy of the draft Terms of Reference, please email Christine Gibbins, Business Development and Tourism Officer at christine.gibbins@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.



THE FUTURE OF BELL STREET

Council has adopted a draft masterplan for 2 Bell Street Eltham and is now inviting the community to provide feedback.

Have your say online at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bellstreet or send your feedback to Mark Noonan, Manager People and Place, Nillumbik Shire Council, PO Box 476, Greensborough 3088. The closing date for feedback is 2 June 2013.



HURSTBRIDGE FARMERS' MARKET

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For more information on what can go into your kerbside recycling bin please visit www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au or www.getitrightonbinnight.vic.gov.au.

New webpage will warn of fire emergencies



Launching the new Warrandyte Fire Watch webpage. (Picture by Jock Macneish)

Thanks to Random Hacks of Kindness (RHoK), Warrandyte is the first township in Australia to have a dedicated bushfire warning webpage.

The unique Warrandyte Fire Watch, consolidates local fire warnings, alerts, traffic and weather information and has been created for the Warrandyte Community Association's Be Ready Warrandyte project by the international organisation Random Hacks of Kindness.

Be Ready Warrandyte project manager Jodi Clark and website designer Cameron Boyle, launched the page at a RHoK showcase event in Melbourne and received very positive feedback.

Ms Clark said the site brings together information from the

CFA, Bureau of Meteorology and VicRoads, already refined to the Greater Warrandyte area.

"Warrandyte Fire Watch also has a twitter feed where the community can let others know quickly what is happening and where.

"It might be a road blockage due to a fallen tree, or traffic accident which will take time to come through the regular channels.

"The great thing about this technology is that it can be adopted by any other local township or area and update features will be added over time as the site is refined," Ms Clark said.

RHoK organiser Pete Cohen said that through Jodi and Cam they had actual repre-

sentatives from the Warrandyte community which helped them to understand the problems and to make decisions.

"Our motto is 'hacking for humanity' and that is what our volunteers do—use their technology skills for social good.

"RHoK's purpose is to bring together people who are experts in technology with those who are experts in natural disasters.

"Jodi was an engaged problem owner who was quick to answer questions, do research, use her contacts and brainstorm features," Mr Cohen said.

● Warrandyte Fire Watch can be accessed at www.warrandyte.org.au/fire-watch

Council community cash is available for the asking

By KARLY HICKMAN

Warrandyte community groups are urged to take up the opportunity to apply for local government grants for projects that benefit the community.

Community grants offered by both Nillumbik and Manningham councils help local groups deliver programs that contribute to building community connectedness and resilience.

"The (community) fund provides community groups with the resources to strengthen and enhance their local area," Nillumbik mayor Cr Peter Perkins said.

Nillumbik council has launched their Nillumbik Community Fund, where community groups are invited to apply for up to \$3000 for projects that benefit the community.

Nillumbik's 2013-14 funding program closes on Thursday, May 23 and successful applications will be announced in

early August.

Cr Perkins said community groups considering this funding opportunity could take inspiration from previous grant recipients.

Last year, Warrandyte's own Yarra Warra Pre-School received a grant to build a Bush Kinder for their four-year-old group.

Council provided \$2850 in funding which was used for landscaping materials such as rocks, mulch, sleepers, sand and soil.

The pre-school held a two-day working bee which saw 35 families come together to build a sandpit, digging pit, dry river bed, garden beds and a seating area complete with planting.

Council grants can be the critical difference needed to turn fantastic community initiatives into reality.

"Yarra Warra's project is a great example of an initiative that brought the community

together to carry out a successful project that will benefit the community for years to come," Cr Perkins said.

Manningham council's Small Grants Program offers grants of up to \$4000 for Manningham-based incorporated, not-for-profit community organisations and groups for one-off projects and equipment purchases that occur within the City of Manningham and improve the quality of life of Manningham residents.

Manningham's Small Grants Program runs year-round and applications will be accepted at any time throughout the year until all funding has been allocated.

● More information on Nillumbik's Community Grants can be found at www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au or call 9433-3111.

● More information on Manningham's Community Grants can be found at www.manningham.vic.gov.au or call 9840-9333.



WARRANDYTE - LIVING WITH RISK



The Bush Kinder at Yarra Warra Pre-School was made possible with a Community Fund grant from Nillumbik council.

Scenario workshop will explore fire options

What will you do when a bushfire hits Warrandyte?

That's the question for the Bushfire Scenario Planning Workshop to be held in Warrandyte on Tuesday, May 14.

As part of the Warrandyte Community Association's "Be Ready Warrandyte" campaign, the workshop will explore a hypothetical fire event to challenge assumptions and inform participants to prepare better fire plans.

"Fifty invited participants have been asked to bring a copy of their fire plan if they have one, pen and paper and an open mind," WCA president Dick Davies said.

"We emphasise that this is a pilot event, part of the learning process and development of the Warrandyte bushfire planning 'toolkit'.

"In the WCA Bushfire

Survey last year, we asked if respondents wanted further information, and 170 replied.

"We have invited them to participate in this workshop which will be the first of several.

"It filled up very quickly and we already have a waiting list for the next."

WCA has liaised with local emergency services, CFA, council, Parks Victoria, DSE and Police, who will participate in the workshop.

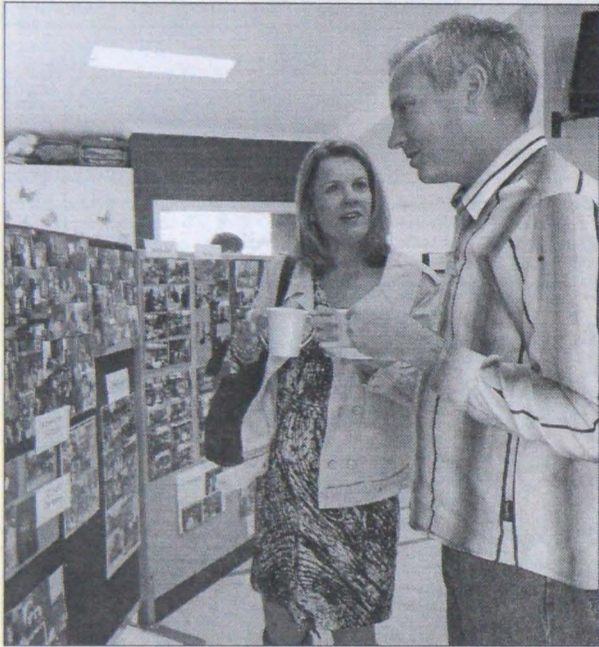
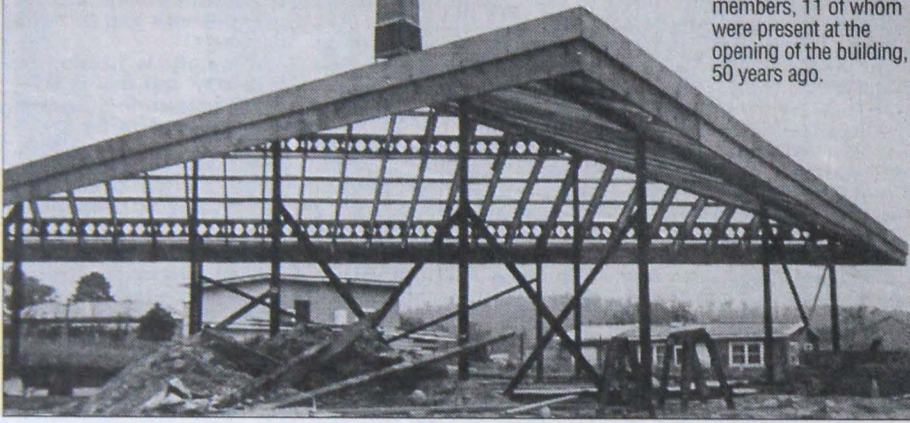
The CFA will present the fire scenario and it will be facilitated by local resident Bruce Turner, who has convened previous very successful WCA forums.

Mr Davies said that future scenario planning workshops would be open to all who wished to attend and would be advertised on the WCA website www.warrandyte.org.au/fire.



Risen from the ashes

The 50th anniversary of the Warrandyte Uniting Church was celebrated late last month. Built in 1963, this building replaced one burnt in the bushfire that swept through much of Warrandyte in 1962. Designed by local architect John Hipwell, the building was designated of "regional interest" by the National Trust. More than 150 people attended the celebration, including 60 past members, 11 of whom were present at the opening of the building, 50 years ago.



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

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Melbourne Hill drain on locals

By **BRIANNA PIAZZA & MICHELLE PINI**

Residents are angry Manningham councillors have decided to push ahead with a council proposal to install a kerbing and channeling drainage system in Melbourne Hill Road despite residents' strong opposition to the scheme.

The March council meeting saw councillors pass the controversial proposal, despite a council-initiated survey indicating the vast majority of residents in the catchment do not approve the scheme, plus a community petition opposing the drainage proposal in its current form.

At an earlier community information meeting, council engineers told residents they estimated the cost would total \$1.9 million and require each household in the catchment to pay between \$5000 and \$15,000.

Council officers had also advised affected ratepayers that as council was funding more than 50 per cent of the

cost, they did not require resident support to proceed with the scheme. Property owners labelled the process "notification" rather than consultation.

Lorraine Avenue resident Peter Hookey shared his concerns with the *Diary* that property owners had been left in the dark since the March council meeting. They fear the wishes of the majority may not be heeded.

"Council is just not listening to us," he said. They don't get us. They expected to go ahead with the whole plan and steam-roller it through."

Chief among resident concerns is the fact that flood-affected properties (numbering six in total), despite being below the flood-line, were built with council approval and without appropriate measures being taken to counteract flooding. They believe that property owners—112 of whom are unaffected by flooding and many of whom are pensioners—are now being asked to fund council's

short-sightedness.

Residents are also concerned about the proposed kerbing and channeling option (common in the more built-up areas of Doncaster and Templestowe) saying this will irreparably affect the amenity of the area.

Resident Catherine Watts said, "I appreciate something has to be done for the flood-affected homes, but kerbing and channeling in Melbourne Hill Road is abhorrent."

Many believe that council has not properly maintained the drains and is now imposing what residents consider to be an expensive and inappropriate solution.

Adding to neighborhood unrest is the fact that ratepayers in adjacent streets such as Drysdale Road and Lorraine Avenue, have already contributed to an earlier council scheme which applied kerbing and channeling on one side of their streets. They are now being expected to pay again.

Residents say they want to know what other solutions have been explored and are awaiting notification of the next council meeting to discuss the future of the Melbourne Hill Road drainage proposal.

Manningham CEO Joe Carbone said, "Officers have been investigating the issues raised by residents about the initial drainage proposal and are in the process of arranging another public meeting." He added that the first stage of the survey is nearing completion and that affected residents would be informed about the next meeting once a date is set.

Melbourne Hill Road resident Andrea de Boer commented: "It seems incongruous that council had identified this problem long before it was raised with residents, invested significant ratepayer funds into investigating solutions, but did not allocate sufficient funds to address the solution."

Council 'debacle' case closed

By **CHERIE MOSELEN**

Speculation of a possible by-election for Manningham council's Mullum Mullum Ward has come to an end after the Municipal Electoral Tribunal handed down its decision last month in the case of Bob Beynon v Victorian Electoral Commission.

Melbourne magistrate Michael Smith overturned Mr Beynon's objection, declaring the original ballot count for the ward would stand after a recount by the VEC failed to change Mullum Mullum's election outcome.

The VEC was ordered to recalculate the ballot, excluding 521 votes for disqualified candidate David Muscat, after an earlier hearing ruled his votes informal.

The magistrate stated that a by-election would only be called if the recount changed the result.



Bob Beynon

Cr Meg Downie

Michelle Pini

The court proceedings followed a claim by former Manningham mayor Bob Beynon that allowing opposing candidate David Muscat to contest the election breached the Local Government Act.

Mr Muscat was convicted in 2011 of assault charges that carried a penalty of five years or more imprisonment, precluding him from standing for local council elections for a period of seven years.

The elected positions of Mullum Mullum ward councillors Paul McLeish, Sophie Galbally and Meg Downie remained unchanged after the second count.

Cr Downie told the *Diary* she was very happy with the result.

"It's a great win for the community. A by-election could have left the ward without council representation for up to three months."

Warrandyte resident candidate Michelle Pini, who had supported Mr Beynon's complaint, believed the result failed to address shortcomings, which enabled David Muscat's "illegal" nomination.

"The cost of this ill-conducted election to Mullum Mullum ratepayers was around \$150,000," Ms Pini said.

"Add to that legal costs for an inquiry which took five months and five hearings, resulting in a decision that still does not address a fundamental system failure, and I have to ask why we pay the Victo-

rian Electoral Commission so much if they can't ensure a lawful process?"

In speaking with the *Diary*, Bob Beynon said his motivation in bringing the objection was to uphold voters' rights to a fair election.

"I am disappointed that in the final wash-up, Mullum Mullum Ward records will continue to reflect David Muscat's 521 ineligible votes.

"However, my objection did draw attention to flaws in the Local Government Act which allowed this candidate to appear on the ballot in spite of his criminal convictions."

Mr Beynon pointed out that magistrate Michael Smith had made recommendations to state government for changes to Local Government Act (1989) after the last two elections.

He said he would not appeal the magistrate's decision but was hopeful that "measures would be taken in future to prohibit a repeat of these circumstances".

Clyde's Conundrum

Peter lives mid way along our 906 bus route from Warrandyte to the city. He has two girlfriends, wicked Wendy in Warrandyte and crabby Cindy in the city. Not knowing which to visit each day he decides to wander into the street at a different random time and take the first bus that comes along. He figures that since there are as many buses to Warrandyte as to the city he stands an even chance of visiting either one. At the end of a month he has visited Wendy 20 times but Cindy only 3 times. Was he just lucky? Might it be the other way round next month?

Solution next month.

CYRIL By **PAUL WILLIAMS**



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Splendid heritage: Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall

Hall is part of our heritage

By PAT ANDERSON

THE theme for the 2013 National Trust Heritage Festival is "Community Milestones".

In keeping with this theme, the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association will help celebrate the 2013 Heritage Festival with an exhibition and open day on Sunday, May 19.

The Warrandyte Mechanics' Institute has played a significant role in the community since its original establishment in 1882 in the old school-house.

When mechanics' institutes subsequently started to build halls, one was built in Warrandyte on the river side of Yarra Street and was opened in 1890.

This became a centre for community functions, some of which were fund-raisers to help pay off its creditors.

As the community grew, the original hall became too small

so it was sold in 1925 to help finance a new, larger hall on the corner of Yarra Street and Mitchell Avenue, its current position. From its opening in 1928 to the 1950s, the new hall was a venue for weddings, meetings, balls, weekly moving pictures, bushfire relief and tennis club fundraising euchre parties. The headquarters for the Warrandyte Fire Brigade were built on hall land in 1965.

From the 1960s onwards, the hall trustees found it increasingly difficult to maintain the hall as its regular use declined. The hall's salvation was the Warrandyte Arts Association, which had formed in the mid 1950s.

The association promoted theatrical productions, concerts and exhibitions of arts and crafts in the hall. Some members lent sums of money to help maintain the hall, as

the original hall trustees had done for the first hall.

The final milestone came in 1986 when the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and the Warrandyte Arts Association were formally amalgamated at a public meeting, with the combined goals of fostering the arts in the community and maintaining the hall for the community.

Since then, major restoration has been undertaken, with re-stumping, re-plastering, re-roofing, re-painting inside and outside, ramp access through a garden dedicated to a key volunteer, the late Pi Beecham, re-development of the toilet facilities, the addition of water tanks and a rear deck, heating and cooling and stage improvement.

The list goes on as work continues and the cost of utilities and insurance continues to grow.

None of this would have been possible without the fundraising efforts of the various groups of WMI&AA, fund-raising concerts, productions and, in particular, the money raised annually by the Theatre Company from its immensely popular Festival Follies.

Some of these projects have also been assisted by grants from the Bendigo Bank, Manningham council and the Victorian government community fund.

Everyone is invited to celebrate Heritage Week and community milestones in Warrandyte when the hall doors open on Sunday, May 19 from 10am to 4pm, for an exhibition of paintings, pottery and craft from current members and a small exhibition of the history of WMI&AA. Entry is free and many items on display will be available for sale.

Kids work for Fairtrade

Manningham council is appealing to local kids to train their parents to choose Fairtrade goods when they go shopping.

This initiative is part of Fairtrade Fortnight, running until May 19. Young people are being asked to encourage their parents to swap a product for a Fairtrade one, snap a photo and send it to council.

"Ten Village Cinema Gold Class tickets are up for grabs for just proving that your parent has swapped to at least one Fairtrade product," a council spokesperson told the *Diary*. "It could be anything from coffee to chocolate."

The competition is open for young people aged 13 to 18 who either live or attend school in Manningham. The photo will be uploaded to Manningham council's Facebook page.

"The use of Fairtrade products helps to ensure that small-scale farmers and plantation workers across the world have safe working conditions, receive a fair price for their crops and labour and are helped to develop the skills they need to create a sustainable business environment," the spokesperson said. "Fairtrade agriculture is also considered to be a more ecologically sustainable form of production."

Manningham mayor, Cr Jennifer Yang said, "We know that many students are keen to ensure that they are making socially responsible decisions when it comes to buying products and so getting involved in Fairtrade Fortnight is a great way to demonstrate their commitment."

"Parents, however, are most likely to be making the weekly purchases and so we need the help of our younger residents to keep the momentum going in the Fairtrade campaign by 'training' their parents to choose Fairtrade products."

"In this year, 2013, we hope to encourage 200 residents to pledge to choosing Fairtrade products; for 10 new businesses to start selling Fairtrade products and for three community organisations to sign up and offer the choice of Fairtrade products within their organisation's activities."

"Council is pleased to play our part in promoting the importance of Fairtrade products and also equality and fairness in international trading structures."

"So take your photo, jump online, submit it and vote for your favourite."

"Every person who supports the campaign will help our community become accredited by Fairtrade."

School cash boost

Primary schools in Warrandyte will receive \$263,000 from the state government for urgently needed maintenance work.

This was announced by Education Minister Martin Dixon and MP for Warrandyte Ryan Smith recently. Andersons Creek Primary School will receive \$104,272 and Warrandyte Primary will receive \$158,767.

Mr Dixon said a comprehensive maintenance audit of more than 27,000 school buildings was carried out last year, fulfilling an election promise.

"The government is committed to better building management in all of the 1539 government schools," Mr Dixon said.

"The independent maintenance audit has given us a clear and consistent picture of school maintenance requirements so that funding is allocated to schools most in need of repair or rebuilding."

"All Victorian government schools will achieve a higher standard of buildings and infrastructure, ensuring a quality educational environment for children in metropolitan and regional Victoria."

"The government is developing a long-term project pipeline and a more transparent funding process so schools have more certainty when

planning their infrastructure investments."

Ryan Smith said the funding announcement is of great benefit to the community of Warrandyte. "This is money that will directly benefit the students and teachers in Warrandyte's primary schools."

This is the first time additional state government funding for maintenance has been awarded to Andersons Creek Primary School since 2004-05. Warrandyte Primary School has not received additional maintenance funding since the 1990s.

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Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

Anzac Day: Warrandyte remembers those who made supreme sacrifice

By MITCHELL HALL

ANZAC Day is a time of remembrance, one of gratitude to the many who served and especially in memory of those who didn't return.

It is an emotional time for all those involved in services throughout Australia. Yet, as was evident in Warrandyte on the day, it was also a happy occasion, one celebrated for what we as a nation gained, not just mourned for what we lost.

Friends and family welcomed each other with fond greetings and warm embraces. In recent years, the weather has proved unsympathetic to both those who march and onlookers alike. This year however, it turned out to be a rather warm and sunny day, which reflected the general mood.

It was encouraging to see so

many young people marching. It gives a sense of reassurance that the tradition will be carried on for future generations.

Bill Matthewson, there with the Bellbird Singers, said: "It spans the generations... There's a real mixture of ages, that's what's so great about it."

Bill said that the most important part of Anzac Day was singing "Advance Australia Fair", as it reminds us what we were fighting for, not just that we fought. It also emphasises the homage we pay to those who fell in service for their country.

The service is an emotional event, one where songs are performed by the Bellbird Singers, John Byrne leads the prayer and tears are shed.

But remembrance isn't always so sorrowful, as demonstrated at

the RSL clubrooms later. Remembrance is also expressed with celebration, friends getting together and sharing a laugh over drinks. It is a celebration of life and of pride, the pride that the diggers felt when they answered the call.

We come together to remember what they risked for our happiness and our security, and what they gave, so that we would have the opportunity to laugh and celebrate and spend time with our family and friends.

I was lucky enough to speak to Ben Jones at the RSL, one of Warrandyte's favourite veterans, and he was also happy to see so many young people marching.

"I'm pleased to see so many kids turn up. I sell the poppies, and it's surprising to see how many young folks buy them." He also commented on the number of people attend-

ing this year, "I tell you, there's a bigger crowd each time."

When asked to comment on the most important part of the service, Ben said, "The minute of silence," as it gives us that important moment to reflect on the actions, service and sacrifice so many made to ensure the safety of their home and all the friends and family they left behind when they shipped out, all in an effort to stop the conflict from ever reaching our shores.

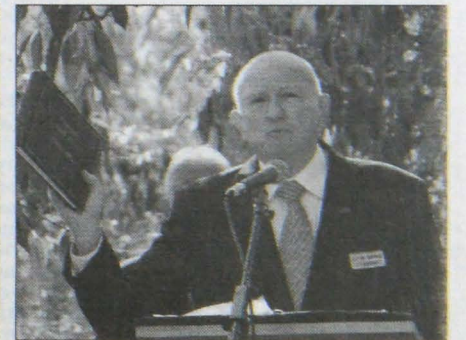
Ben also told me about his family, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who alternately march alongside him.

"They take it in turns to march with me. They have to toss a coin, saying 'it's your turn', or 'it's my turn,' you know."

Taking it in turns has become a necessity, as his family could well make up half the procession if they

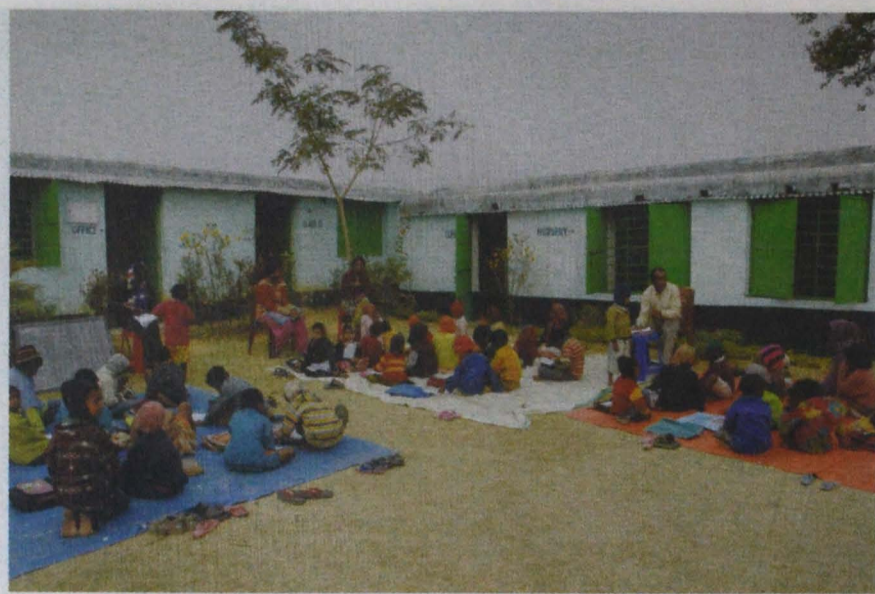
all marched with Ben at once. "One day, I had 39 of them!"







A glimpse of village life. (Pictures by Cherie Moselen)



Junior tuition centre, Dabar Village.



Robin Atkinson, Tinku from Prabhat Alloi Foundation, Maxine Chapman and Cherie Moselen.

Warrandyte women in West Bengal

By **CHERIE MOSELEN**

OVER a decade of close involvement with Warrandyte's Neighbourhood House has afforded me a number of community-focused opportunities, however I never thought it would lead me to a small village in India!

As part of its aspiration to define community globally as well as locally, WNH periodically raises funds in support of Prabhat Alloi Inc., a charitable organisation that aids a foundation dedicated to improving lives in several villages in West Bengal.

The organisation's director, Melbourne woman Shivanii Cameron, has been taking people to this very poor part of the world, giving them an opportunity to volunteer with the foundation.

Earlier this year, three local women—Maxine Chapman, Robin Atkinson and myself—travelled to West Bengal for a cultural exchange that took us by boat to an island in the Sundarbans, north to the temple town of Bodh Gaya and ultimately to the village of Dabar for almost a month.

This journey begins with our arrival in Kolkata (Calcutta).

However, one doesn't land in West Bengal's capital city. With an urban agglomeration of just over 15 million people, Calcutta lands on top of you—like an avalanche.

Bodies, beggars, bikes, stinking rubbish and starving dogs, its streets are not for the faint-hearted, or the cleanliness obsessed.

Yet for the open-minded, Calcutta's dirty sidewalks are a kaleidoscopic delight.

Pomegranates like fat pink jewels, lime and chilli good luck charms dangling above mustard-covered steps. Like watching colours materialise from a magician's hanky trick, it's impossible not to be mesmerised as a first-time tourist in India.

Each morning, loudspeakers—the early muezzin call to prayer—ushered in the waking sounds of this well-worn city to our hotel rooms, and the chaotic tempo of motorcycle horns and rickshaw bells carried us

through our daily sightseeing.

A visit to the Kali Temple almost set us back \$45 each (the minimum "donation" apparently for a few blessings from a spiritual guide); needless to say, we might hail from a small town but didn't come down in the last shower!

Really, a rickshaw wallah—arguably doing one of the most physically demanding jobs available—earns only a couple of dollars on a good day.

Travel is an adjustment of both the physical and the emotional. We were warned that beds in Indian hotels are hard, but seriously, mine must have been a chopping board in a previous life.

Because comfort food is to a traveller what a chiropractor is to a bad back, most Westerners find their way pretty quickly to Sudder Street and Calcutta's version of tea and toast. Banana bread with chia—a culinary oasis amongst curried everything, and a bargain at 25 rupees (less than 50 cents).

We picked up Bengali for words like "slowly" (in the hope that our taxi drivers might respond) and slowly got over dropping our used teacups on the ground, powerless to do much other than add to Calcutta's waste-challenged environment.

A bigger test for me centred on not letting any tiny but possibly malaria-charged mosquitoes, and India's overt patriarchy, get under my skin.

West Bengal's ruling political alliance currently has a female chief minister—India had a female prime minister as early as 1966—yet gender inequality is endemic.

Men will cut in front of women to be served preferentially and push an already seated female out into the aisle on a six-hour train journey. I know because I sat behind her.

No surprise that a 2011 Reuters global poll considered India the "fourth most dangerous place" in the world for women, if the impulse to protect is linked to gender respect.

Seeing so many outstretched hands, in the face of my decision not to put money into them, was also

tough going.

There's powerful pressure emotionally to participate in the culture of begging that many consider cloaks India in shame. And the sobering presence of one frail old woman wrapped in a thin blanket... Well, let's just say I gave away those early convictions along with several rupees more than once.

Ms Cameron recommends a period of "cultural awakening" before volunteering in the village. When it comes to having one's eyes opened it doesn't get any more real than West Bengal.

A cramp of bodies fights for survival against the backdrop of dust, drought, and socio-economic stagnation that typically defines India's third poorest state.

Prabhat Alloi Foundation assists several villages in the state's Purulia district, with a focus on giving them a hand up, rather than a handout.

Our base, and comfortable home, was a three-storey house in Dabar—pronounced "da-boar". (This phonic deviation proved to be the wrecking ball in our attempts to construct a coherent sentence in Bengali!)

Mostly living in mud huts, around 700 villagers hand-thresh rice and fetch their cows and goats in at night as they have done for hundreds of years.

For three weeks, our host Tinku and his family wove us into the narrative of their daily lives.

We ate one-handed, danced at a festival, witnessed a funeral and received blessings from snake charmers using deadly snakes!

Headman of three villages and the foundation's creator, Tinku's hospitality and commitment to our daily care was extraordinary.

He produced a tin of baked beans when I was desperate for a taste of home and even booked facials for us at a men's hair salon in town—the "Lucky Saloon". (Although, it was a bit "wild-west" climbing into a barber's chair for a beauty treatment, as evidenced by photos of us that rival zombie close-ups!)

During the voluntary week, I spent

my time conducting interviews for the purpose of writing about Prabhat Alloi Inc., its support of the foundation in India, and the vision this partnership is committed to fulfilling.

As a blueprint for "making a difference" the participatory ethos of the work is inspiring.

It was particularly gratifying to see the finished prosthetics factory—the concrete result of Warrandyte Neighbourhood House's targeted fundraising.

Of the many worthwhile projects, like support for a leprosy village, children's home, brickworks, village bank and medical centre, one stands out particularly: the tuition centre for junior students.

Education is the Holy Grail in West Bengal, as indeed all impoverished nations, because it is the key to transforming opportunities.

Built several years ago, the tuition centre in Dabar provides necessary curriculum support to around 180 children, six days a week.

Both Robin and Maxine volunteered at the centre as English language facilitators.

"Our first group contained 24 very enthusiastic eight to nine-year old boys," Maxine Chapman said.

"Written English is taught to some degree at nearby government schools but there is virtually no opportunity to speak it, so we designed activities that were simple and fun.

"Playing Bingo with a language barrier meant that our pleas to 'stop' and 'wait' had little effect! But after a while, once we arranged smaller groups, the children made significant advances not only in speaking English but most importantly in confidence to have a go."

Robin Atkinson found the children delightful—especially the eight boys and girls from the Children's Home—their friendship, inquisitiveness and exuberance for life, refreshing.

"I had the privilege of being part of a wonderful trip to see the work of the Prabhat Alloi Foundation.

"Maxine and I loved the cute little school, just a short walk through the

village, but it was the leprosy village that touched my heart," Robin said.

"Leprosy has now been eradicated, but 48 men and women still live alone in a village, largely uncared for. That has changed with the foundation's involvement and they can live out their last days in peace and dignity without having to beg."

"Rice is bought for them by a sponsor in Australia and they now grow their own vegetables—a project where a small amount of money makes a huge difference to many."

Like West Bengal itself, the trip was intense—measured in part by difficulties associated with grumbling tummies—but when it comes to rating an authentic travel experience we all agreed with Robin: "We wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Even though we almost got fleeced at the Kali Temple, the Bengali spirit of generosity is irresistible—a contradiction, but that's India for you!

Many of the villagers we came to know, both men and women, were shy or suspicious and hardened by their existence. However, they fed us, shared intimate family stories and handed over their babies for a cuddle.

Like the lotus floating in Purulia's muddy ponds, this willingness to open up to three strangers from Warrandyte, despite a large cultural divide, was a beautiful thing.

As one would expect, we came home with incredible photos. But the image that sticks with me isn't the iconic Indian beauty in her glamorous sari, or the suffering beggar on the street. It's a tee shirt slogan that murders the Queen's English in the most endearing way.

"See you later, isn't it?" West Bengal proved amusing, amazing and above all, unforgettable.

● For enquiries about Prabhat Alloi, please visit the website www.prabhatalloi.org/

● To hear more about the trip, "Warrandyte Women in West Bengal" will be the topic of Warrandyte Neighbourhood House's Tuesday Lunch Group on June 4. Please contact WNH on 9844 1839 for further details.

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Anderson's Creek Primary School

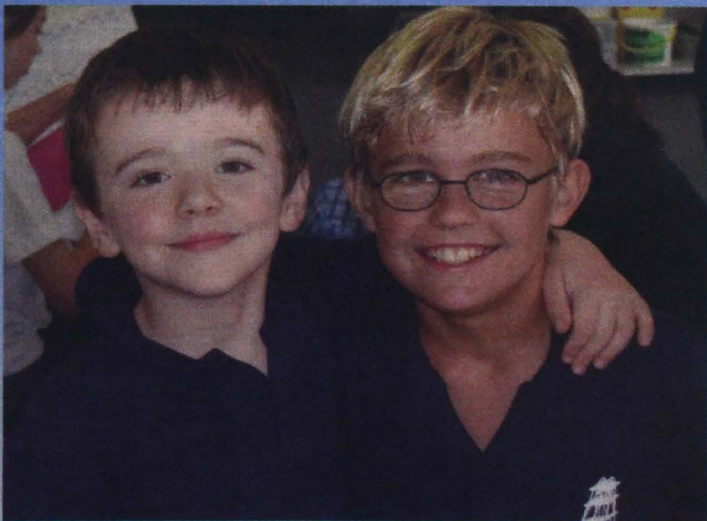
Wednesday 22 May

Open Day 9am–12.30pm

Open Night 6pm–7.30pm

School Tours 10am, 2.30pm

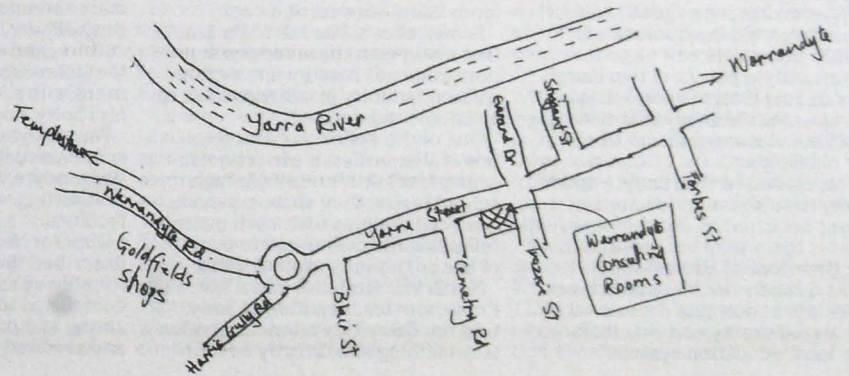
Prep 2014 Information Session 6.30pm



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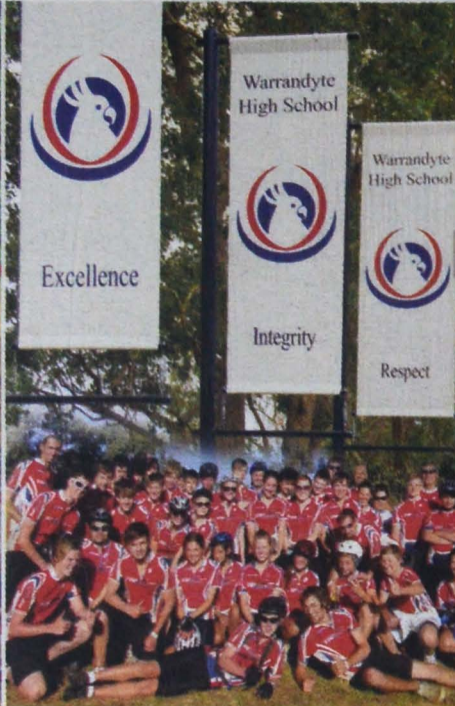
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EDUCATION WEEK FEATURE



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

We explore: Going to

The Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will be promoting public education across the state during Education Week, held in 2013 from May 19 to 25. *Diary* reporter CHERIE MOSELEN gets ahead of the curve and looks at education through a local lens that covers three tiers of schooling in Warrandyte.

AS parents and guardians of our children's futures we are faced with numerous considerations, the question of schooling being one of the most deliberated.

What makes for a "good" school? Which one will best unlock our child's potential?

Warrandyte parent of two daughters in Year 8 and Grade 5, David Parkin, told the *Diary* that choosing a school was a significant decision for his family.

"We moved to Warrandyte specifically to raise our kids here and it never occurred to us that we would export them to other communities for their formal education.

"As a family, we feel that the best interests of our girls are served by their community and that includes the local education system."

Educational institutions deliver variable outcomes depending on things like socio-economic makeup, budget, quality of teaching, and the degree to which their visions for learning—whether favouring a known pathway or one of trending innovation—are carried out.

Some believe, like David Parkin, that along with these factors support from and healthy interaction with community is indispensable to a school's success.

One of the defining characteristics of Warrandyte's pre-schools, primary schools and single high school is that they share cooperative relationships with each other, reflecting the collaborative quality of the community around them.

North Warrandyte's Yarra Warra Pre-school teacher, Connie Solty, told the *Diary* this inter-connection is something she directly encour-

ages.

"We share a 'back to kinder' day with Andersons Creek Primary and Warrandyte High School. Kids come and kick the footy with our little ones."

"We visit both primary schools, buy an icy pole along the way and walk along the river. These excursions promote a sense of belonging as the children progress."

Recently achieving an overall rating of "Exceeding" National Quality Frameworks, Yarra Warra is seen as one of the "lighthouse" pre-schools in the state.

Mrs Solty credits the community-based program, which features the Yarra, local landmarks and schools and families, as playing a vital role in this outcome.

"The children explore native animals and mini-beasts through our Bush Kinder, indigenous art and culture, and sustainable living, so that learning at Yarra Warra resonates with the surrounding area," Mrs Solty said.

Warrandyte and District Pre-school, situated in the heart of Warrandyte, is also part of a natural setting with well-resourced facilities.

Director Veronica Pedersen described the pre-school as "a friendly, community-based group committed to providing a warm, caring and positive experience," and credited it with having offered

a high quality educational program for over 70 years.

"We have embedded the Victorian Early Learning and Development Framework in our program, which emphasises and develops a child's sense of belonging and connectedness, beginning with family, then community and flowing on through pre-school and beyond," said Mrs Pedersen.

"Our passionate and dedicated educators, who network closely with local child care centres, pre-schools and primary schools, help our children become happy, confident, eager learners ready to embrace the challenges of school life."

Recently celebrating its 150th anniversary, Warrandyte Primary School values the active role it plays within the community, encouraging strong partnerships between parents and staff with a high level of parent participation on school council.

The school espouses the motto "a rich past, a school of the future", and advocates that the "rich" part doesn't just include an impressive historic legacy.

"We place a strong emphasis on the richness of the arts, and our students are involved in choirs, bush bands, instrumental groups, and community visual art events," said principal Gill Binger.

"Warrandyte Primary School promotes high student engagement

and positive behaviours by embedding values of CARE—creativity, achievement, respect and encouragement—in its curriculum."

Today, school curriculums are extensive, offering young people learning choices that broaden their interests in community and global citizenship. Topics like sustainability now feature prominently in many school programs.

Warrandyte Primary commits to sustainable goals in biodiversity, water, waste and energy, with an aim of increasing indigenous flora corridors within school grounds. Its sustainability centre hosts hens, a worm farm, and herb and vegetable gardens.

"As a government school we offer a balanced curriculum that keeps up with changing dynamics in information and communication technology. We use computers, iPads and interactive whiteboards," Principal Binger said.

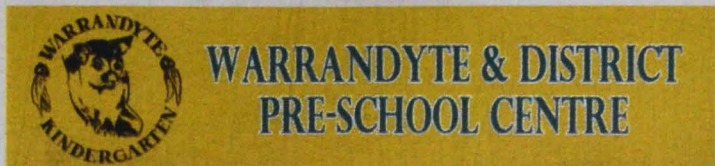
She emphasised that along with technology comes responsibility and cited "cyber-safety" as one of the school's focuses for the year, adding that all students participate in safety programs.

Like its counterpart, Andersons Creek Primary School (ACPS) also teaches and encourages sustainability.

Many grade 4-6 children have become part of Anderson Creek Primary's sustainability leadership



EDUCATION WEEK FEATURE



WARRANDYTE & DISTRICT PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE



school in Warrandyte

team, a group that meet regularly to discuss initiatives including: solar panels, rubbish-free lunch day, recycling, tree planting and water saving.

ANDERSONS Creek school has a veggie garden, maintained by Grade 1 and 2 children, its produce is distributed through the classroom, school canteen and cooking club.

But the biggest impact, an ACPS spokesperson told the *Diary*, has come through a successful grant application to the National Solar Schools Program, which secured a solar power system.

After analysis of recent electricity bills, the school has lessened its reliance on the electricity grid by 86 per cent, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and its carbon footprint.

Just as curriculum has broadened, so too has the role of educators. Twenty-first century teachers require strengths as facilitators, also acting as chaperones for family values.

At Andersons Creek, values are built around respect, optimism, responsibility and honesty. Principal Trevor Gibbs emphasised the importance of skilled teaching when he spoke to the *Diary* about the responsibility of focusing on key areas like literacy and numeracy, without losing sight of the school's

undertaking to celebrate what is unique and special about individual children.

"Andersons Creek along with Warrandyte Primary, are fortunate to have two assistant principals who have worked extensively within the Manningham network as teaching and learning coaches," said Mr Gibbs.

"The collegiality that exists between them is typical of the collaboration between Warrandyte's schooling groups, to the point where parents are encouraged at open days for both primary schools, to go and check out the other one!"

"Naturally, we value our teachers, but ultimately schools are about children. We encourage leadership groups and student voice here at Andersons Creek because I believe the school truly belongs to its students."

As the only secondary school in Warrandyte, principal Dr Stephen Parkin realises the responsibility he has in leading a school charged with helping young adolescents—in partnership with their parents—to develop into tomorrow's quality citizens and leaders.

He spoke to the *Diary* about the school's focus, recent innovations and past successes, and the mutual relationship Warrandyte High School enjoys with its community.

"They say 'it takes a village to

raise a child'—in the case of Warrandyte, a community—so I cannot overstate the importance of the role that pre-school and primary education plays in the development of our students," Dr Parkin said. "And you can add to that the contribution of sporting clubs, youth and service clubs, and community groups."

Warrandyte High develops partnerships with local primary schools and pre-schools and provides facilities for local theatre groups, sporting clubs and special interest groups. In 2012/2013 all these facilities—theatre, gymnasium, oval—underwent major upgrades.

Dr Parkin described the school's focus as "achieving the best educational outcomes for all students", and said that the school needs to know all its students and how they learn. Just as it needs to understand the world in which they live and the future needs of the world in which they will work.

To facilitate this, he advocates that teachers challenge themselves and improve their practice through innovation and the development of professional partnerships.

One recent partnership involves a project called "Big History".

"We are a pilot school in The Big History Project which was started by Bill Gates of Microsoft fame, and David Christian, Macquarie Univer-

sity, to enable the global teaching of big history," he said.

It is a course that covers history from the big bang through to the present in an interdisciplinary way. The Big History Project "is dedicated to fostering a greater love and capacity for learning among high school students".

Warrandyte High has recently re-structured its senior school to provide Year 10 students full access to VCE and VET studies.

According to Dr Parkin, this exciting innovation has led to all Year 10 students taking up at least one VCE or VET subject with a significant number taking two subjects.

Dr Parkin commented on the success enjoyed by senior students in the field of Interactive Digital-Media and said that later in the year the school expects to complete the building of a video and audio editing suite, which will imbue this technology throughout the curriculum at all year levels.

Looking back, the principal spoke of the school's consistency in achieving excellent VCE results and mentioned its record of individual excellence awards in Top Designs, Top Arts, National Vocational and Training and Perfect Scores of 50, among others.

Looking to the future, Dr Parkin expressed his determination that Warrandyte High would continue to contribute to the richness of War-

randyte and to play a part, where possible, in the development of all Warrandyte youth, whether they attend the high school or not.

As platforms for learning change with advances in technology, the debate about schooling will diversify. But what won't change are the serious hours parents will continue to spend considering educational choices for their children.

"As a parent in Warrandyte I am proud of local education," said David Parkin. "Sure, things aren't always perfect, but Warrandyte schools are producing fine young people."

"Sometimes the things you are looking for are right there in front of you."

(Before going to press, Warrandyte Child Care Centre and Pre-school had been contacted about contributing to this article.)

● As part of Education Week, Warrandyte Primary Open Day will be held on Wednesday, May 22 from 9am to 3.30 pm, Open Night from 6.30 to 8.30 pm. A 2014 Prep information evening will be held on May 15 from 7 to 8 pm.

● Andersons Creek Primary School Open Day will be held on Wednesday, May 22 from 9am to 12.30pm. Open Night from 6 to 7.30 pm, including a 2014 Prep information evening.



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Something for Everyone....

Jack

The rough and smooth on a relaxing cruise

“ARE we really old enough?”
“Probably, but I can’t see myself enjoying all that ‘enforced jollity’.”
“But I would like to see what it’s like to be ‘at sea’. We missed that six week trip to England when we were young and this is the closest I’ll get to knowing what it’s like to be on the high seas.”

“Well I don’t know if this is the answer but I’m definitely past roughing it in a two-man tent!”
And so the conversations ranged over several years. Eventually, however, a decision was reached when our good neighbours said they were going and would we like to join them. It took us a night to think it over but by the morning we had decided that it was now or never.

The cruise around New Zealand, we decided, was a gentle way into “cruising”. Thirteen days isn’t too long and if we absolutely hated it, it would be over soon enough. Also it is dead easy. The ship leaves from Station Pier, sails around both islands, stopping at six ports for a day’s sightseeing in each and the day before setting off back to Station Pier is spent cruising through five fiords, the last being Milford. Also, it is very reasonably priced.

The night before embarking, we slept in Mont Albert so all we had to do the following day was walk 200 metres to White-



kibbled

“We hit the end of Cyclone Sandra and our two-day crossing, despite the 90 per cent improvement thanks to the stabilisers, was bloody rough...”

horse Road to catch the 109 tram that took us all the way to Station Pier. Another 200 metres to drop off our cases at the luggage truck and another 200 to get through Customs and Immigration and we were on board. So far it was a hell of a lot better than the difficult and costly taxi ride to Tullamarine with three hours of waiting before being jammed into a pressurised flying cigar.
Now Herself and I are not accustomed to luxury, either at home or on holiday so when we entered the ship it

was a bit of a shock. Perhaps I need say no more than this. The ship was designed and made in Italy and there must be several Italian marble quarries, quarried out in order to decorate our ship. Stained glass, gold railings, floating, spiral staircases, etched glass balustrades, elaborately geometric light fittings and plush carpets all contributed to the Art Deco style of the ship. At first we were overwhelmed and a bit shocked but after a few days, I began to feel that sometimes fantasy is fun.

Until we hit the Tasman Sea! Now a friend, who is a master mariner, nodded wisely when we mentioned that it was rough.

“Rough is normal but often it gets bloody rough!”
We hit the end of Cyclone Sandra and our two-day crossing, despite the 90 per cent improvement thanks to the stabilisers, was “bloody rough”. Four hundred passengers needed sea-sick injections and five flew home as soon as we reached Auckland. Thereafter, however, we had calm, warm and sunny weather for the rest of the trip.

You don’t get much of an opportunity to explore each city but we’d been on a car tour of NZ so that wasn’t a problem. That said, it’s amazing how much you can get done in the eight or nine hours you have. We went on organised tours, hired cars twice and walked around other cities. And let’s face it, Napier is not New York. The cities are very manage-

able. The biggest problem is remembering where you are. You go to bed in Akaroa (near Christchurch) and wake up in Dunedin. All sailing between ports is at night so getting your head around where you are can be challenging.

We were worried about the dreaded “entertainment” but we were staggered at how professional and enjoyable it was. There is that cliché, “something for everyone” and as much as I hate to say it, it’s true. You would be a difficult person not to be able to find something to see, do or hear on the cruise. There are two professional theatres on board each complete with whizzbang sound, lighting and hydraulic staging.

We didn’t get to the nightclub, the casino or the spa resort. After a day of activity either on board or on land, most of the passengers were in their cabins, sorry, state-rooms, by 23.00. The average age was my age and you would need to do the Caribbean or the islands’ cruise to meet a younger age group.

Would we do it again? We had a wonderful time but probably not. Perhaps a smaller, interest-focused cruise through the Baltic or parts of the Med or Asia but we were lucky with weather and crowd and I’d like to keep the memory golden.

And the highlight? The free tram ride, Saturday going and Good Friday coming home.

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Gift a splash with the birds

MY husband's nature makes him "a hard to buy for" person. Generally, if he wants something he gets it himself. But one gift, several years ago, hit the spot.

It was just a shallow pottery dish with a sturdy metal stand, supported by a spike driven into the ground; a birdbath, and we placed it close to a Melaleuca tree outside our dining room window.

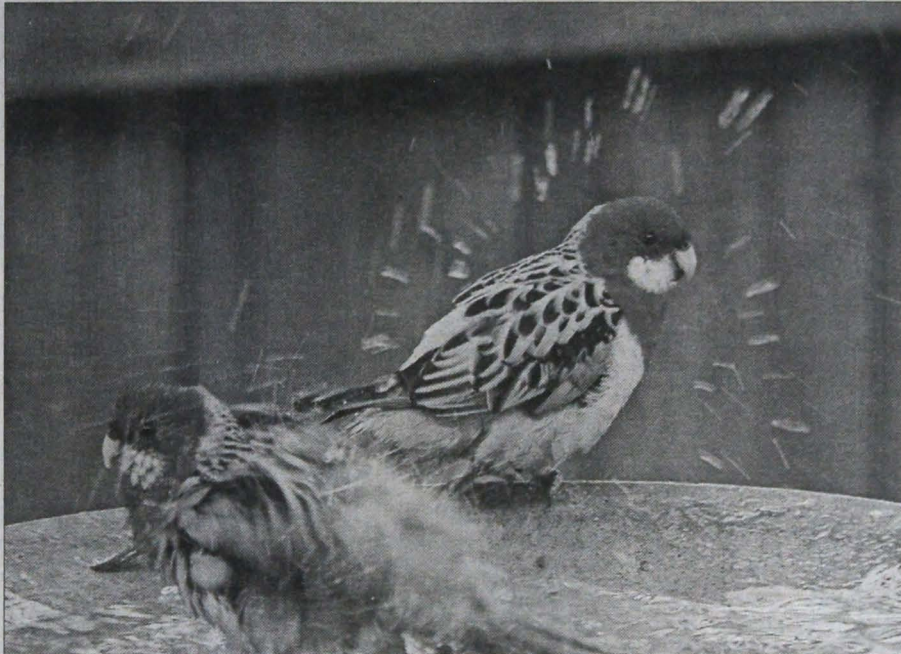
It took some time for local birds to find their way to this simple spa. Early arrivals were Noisy Miners. While plain looking and a bit bossy, their antics were entertaining. There were also crows, more properly called Australian Ravens.

They were not so welcome as they came carrying slices of stale bread in their beaks. They had picked them up from the garden of a well-meaning, but misguided, neighbour who thought leaving bread out for the birds was a good thing.

The birds would dip their bread in the water to soften it before eating and the water was inevitably fouled with big doughy blobs while chunks of bread were scattered round about. This human food not only encourages many of the less desirable birds such as Indian Mynahs, but is not a healthy food for our native birds.

The biggest birds to visit are Currawongs, that thrash about and leave an empty dish. The smallest were beautiful Pardalotes that visited the birdbath and also nested in holes in our eaves. They were a real joy to watch. Sadly they have not been seen since a neighbourhood cat started appearing in our garden.

Our most recent welcome guests have been Rosellas. Rosellas are part of the broad tailed parrot group. In fact their genus Platycercus



Eastern Rosellas share the bath. (Picture by Linda Rogan)



By LINDA ROGAN

means flat or broad tailed (as in Platypus).

First we saw the bright red and blue colours of local Crimson Rosellas. These are the most widely spread of the blue-cheeked rosellas, with their distribution in south-eastern South Australia, Victoria, coastal New South Wales and into south-eastern Queensland. Other colour forms are found along the Murray and near Adelaide. Although they seem to prefer to live in older, wetter forests, they are also found near human habitation from the tree line to the coast.

They now seem fairly common in our suburban area and are bold enough in our

birdbath to allow close observation and also to chase off the noisy miners.

Our favourite bather has definitely been the Eastern Rosella. It's glorious red face, white cheeks and green, blue and black patterned body is striking in its beauty. In real life this upstages the creature on the sauce bottle. Unexpectedly, these vivid colours and their broken pattern are quite effective camouflage when the birds feed amongst the grasses. They mainly feed on seeds, fruits, buds, flowers and insects.

Cautious at our birdbath, they arrive near the top of the Melaleuca, usually two but occasionally three. One, often the female, works its way down through the twigs to a spot above the bath then stops to have a good look around.

If either of them detect any

movement by us as we watch, they quickly fly away. Once they are satisfied, one jumps into the bath, has another look around, then ducks its head and becomes a blur of feathers and water. It may repeat this action several times before giving way to its companion.

On one recent occasion I was able to grab my camera and creep up military-style without disturbing them. With patience (something I have in limited supply in this computer driven age) I was rewarded with photos of not one bather but a couple, male and female. I've read that Eastern Rosellas mate for life. Young are distinguished by their yellow or orange beak colour that changes to off-white when mature. They are beautiful in all their stages.

This birdbath has been a gift that keeps on giving.

Gnocchi and exploding duck

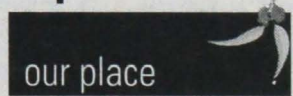
THERE are two kinds of people in this world: those who've made gnocchi, and those who haven't. Until last night I was most definitely a "have not". For years, the idea had merely hovered—after all, fresh gnocchi is a frequent choice when I eat out—but it's never hard to think up something quicker and easier to make at home.

This morning I awoke to find myself firmly in the other camp. Somewhat surprising, then, that I found the kitchen sparkling clean. The memory of scrubbing it—first from top to bottom then again from wall to wall—must've been erased overnight. Post-gnocchi, it'd resembled a battle zone, and no doubt it was that aspect that had dominated my dreams. To quote Barry Humphries, it had been "a picture no artist could paint!"

A sink piled high with large potato-infested saucapans; potato-smear colanders; a layer of flour thickly coating the draining board; tomato-coloured splats flung far and wide by an enthusiasti-

cally simmering pot of Napoli sauce; a little food processor, disembowelled, every orifice jammed with potato of every consistency (and all of it rapidly turning to concrete); flour-coated stirring spoons, kitchen knives, nutmeg-grater ... there were even little blobs of shredded potato on the windowpane. Like nearly everything else, including me, the taps were shrouded by a thick coating of sticky goo. I'd had to appeal to my good man for urgent assistance with the flour canister, the measuring cup, the egg ...

I have heard of worse messes, but I don't think I've ever seen one. A case that immediately pops into mind is that of the Warrandyte teenager who, about 20 years ago in the absence of his parents, burnt down half the house while "heating up a meat pie". It was considered something of a neighbourhood PB at the time, but not one that anybody wanted to compete with. Another memorable episode that nobody wishes to replicate is that of the Exploding Peking Duck, reported in *The Age* about 30 years ago.



By MARILYN MOORE

A Chinese chef somewhere in Little Bourke Street who, having access to a 100psi compressed air outlet, decided to take a short cut during the traditionally time-consuming preparation of a Peking Duck. Instead of gently inserting a straw between the skin and flesh of the duck, and blowing delicately to create a pocket of air beneath the skin, he poked the compressed air nozzle somewhere into the region of the parson's nose then held on grimly while somebody turned on the valve. Ducks are fatty beasts, so his grip remained tenuous at best, certainly not adequate to restrain the duck for very long.

Owing to the industrial-strength character of the air influx, it turned out to be quite long enough, however, for the slippery carcass to become seriously inflated. The rest of the saga has entered the halls of culinary legend. The chef's last contact with

the duck was, as I recall, to give it one last desperate squeeze before it shot out from under his armpit, emitting a long-drawn-out curdled quack reminiscent of sick bagpipes. The entire kitchen had to be scraped clean and re-painted—there was simply no other way to deal with the mess. I don't think I've ever laughed so much at an item of daily news.

And I laughed last night too. What else could I do? That thick sticky goo just went completely viral, replicating itself every time I turned around.

The gnocchi was fantastic, by the way. In every sense of the word. Made from seriously formidable Pink Viking spuds, its appearance could be safely termed "unique". In fact, I'd not have backed anybody to identify my egg-sized raw-mince-coloured dumplings as gnocchi at all. Never mind, what it lacked in finesse, it more than made up for in sheer melt-in-the-mouth flavour. Delicious, if you didn't look at it. Now I just have to find an appetising way to serve up the leftovers!

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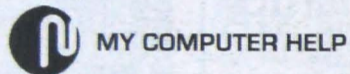
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Warrandyte Community Market

Under the gum trees, beside the Yarra on Stiggants Reserve, Yarra Street, Warrandyte First Saturday of each month - except January, 9am-1pm.

Come and join in! Hand-crafted gifts of all kinds, toys, art works, pottery, plants, clothing, gift cards, leatherwork, cakes, jams, honey, fruit, produce.

Ample parking. Light refreshments available.

Bring along your family and friends.

Enquiries: 9844 4495



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

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

FOR ADVERTISING CALL 9844 0555

Live bands by the bridge

The next Warrandyte RSL's Bands by the Bridge live music will be on Sunday, May 26. It will feature "Rodeo Clowns" playing classic pub rock. Doors are open from 4.30 to 8pm with a sausage sizzle on the deck at 6pm. Entry is Band Bucket Donation. Enquiries to the RSL clubrooms on 9844 3567. The RSL is at 113 Brackenbury Street, Warrandyte.

Music

A music program for 0-5 year olds is held every Wednesday at the Uniting Church in Tarroona Avenue, Warrandyte. Sessions of singing, dancing, instruments and relaxation with a professional music therapist commence at 9.45am and run for 45 minutes. Morning tea follows. Cost is \$12.50 per session. Call Robyn on 0438 804 381.

Volunteers

St Stephens Anglican Church in Stiggant Street, Warrandyte invites volunteers and organisations to "Thank God for Volunteers", a thanksgiving service on Sunday, May 26 at 10am. The purpose of the service is to acknowledge the work done by volunteers in and around the church in particular and the community of Warrandyte in general. It will be followed by a barbecue at 11.30am as a way of showing the community's appreciation for its devoted, talented and hard-working volunteers. All are welcome. RSVP to Ann Ley on 9844 3543 or 0418 279 395.

Walk

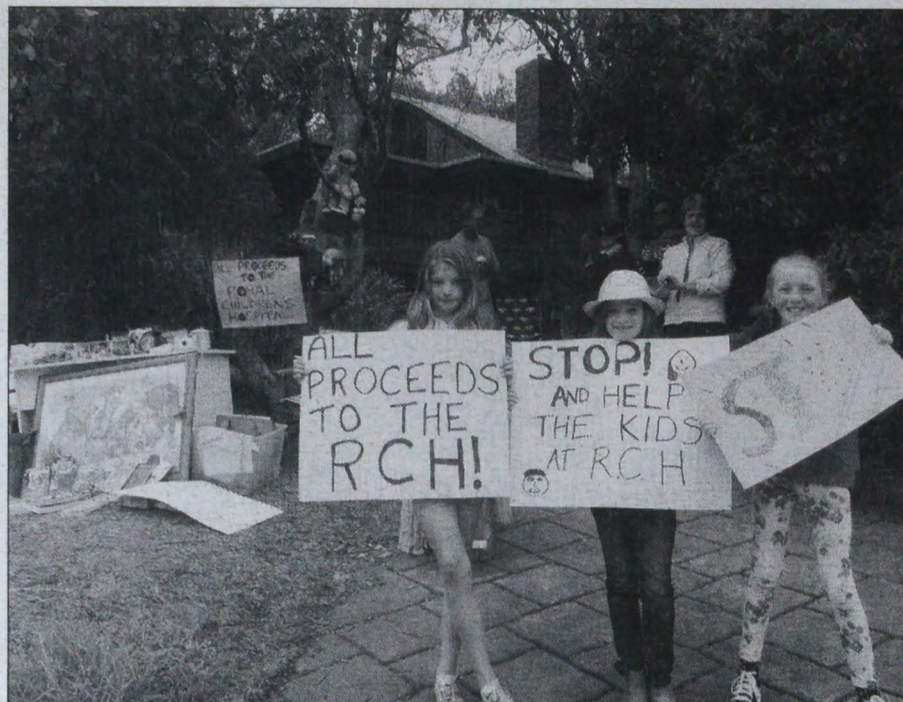
Local historian and author, Jim Poulter is conducting a "Warrandyte Waterfront Walk" on Wednesday, May 15 as part of Heritage Week. The walk begins at the rear of The Bakery, near Warrandyte Bridge at 10.30am. It will be accompanied by Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Bill Nicholson and Aboriginal Ranger Hayden Heta.

Movie

WarrandyteCAN is presenting the movie "Thin Ice", the inside story of climate science, on Friday, May 24 at 7.30pm in the Mechanics Institute Hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. Entry \$5. (Further information on Page 13.)

Birthday

In the first week of June, the Warrandyte Community Bank



Kids back Good Friday Appeal

"This year, for the Good Friday Appeal, Kimberley Gilling, Ruby Chatman and Alice Wise sold some of their old toys out the front of Kimberley's Yarra Street house. Last year we raised \$157 and this year's grand total was \$309. We are so thankful to everyone that bought something from the stall or donated. Every little bit counts for the children at the Royal Children's Hospital. We hope next year we can beat this total of \$309." See you next year.

—Kimberley Gilling.

out of the inbox

By JUDY GREEN

Publicise your coming events. Items for Out of the Inbox are welcome. Include full details of date, place and time and post to: Warrandyte Diary, PO Box 209, Warrandyte Vic 3113; emailed to: info@warrandytediary.com.au; or left in the mail box at St Stephen's Anglican Church, 5-7 Stiggant Street, Warrandyte.

will be celebrating its 10th birthday. Everyone is invited to drop in for cake and balloons during the week of June 3 to June 7.

Watch

The next Neighbourhood Watch meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11 at 7.30pm at the Warrandyte Police Station, Police Street, Warrandyte

Performance

On Friday July 19 there will be an hilarious performance by Marney McQueen of "Rosa and the Russian Beautician"

fame in the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute Hall. Money raised will go to both a development project in India and to the hall fund. Cost is \$30 per head with supper provided and wine for sale.

History

The Warrandyte Historical Society would like to remind you that its Buried Treasure exhibition will be running at the museum, 111 Yarra Street, Warrandyte from Saturday, May 11 to Sunday, May 19 from 1pm to 4pm. There will also be a cemetery tour on Saturday, May 18 from 1.30 to 3pm. Bookings to 9844 4176 or email whs.secretary@hotmail.net.au

Prayer

Warrandyte churches are combining for a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to be held at the Uniting Church in Tarroona Avenue on Sunday, May 19 at 7.30pm.

Park

Friends of Warrandyte State Park will be holding a Week-

end Activity Group on Sunday, May 26 from 1pm to 4pm. It will involve planting and maintaining an area in Pound Road. Everyone is welcome to come along and give nature a hand. No experience is needed, just sturdy footwear and weather appropriate clothing. The group will meet at the north end of the Pound Bend Tunnel car park. Please RSVP to 0439 612 571.

Walks

The next FOWSP/Manningham nature walk will be at Yarra Brae on Thursday, May 23 at 9.30am. The walk will follow the Yarra downstream through one of the most remote and least accessible parts of the Warrandyte Gorge. Rated difficult, it involves a creek crossing and offtrack walking. Distance is 8kms over 5 hours. Bring lunch and ample water.

Library

The Nilumbik-Eltham library has a variety of activities scheduled for the coming period. Go to www.yprl.vic.gov.au for information.

Quilt

Warrandyte Neighborhood House reminds all those who still have a square/patch for the quilt to be returned, to please do so ASAP. They would love to see them returned by May 30. The quilt is looking fantastic and just needs the last few squares to complete it. If you are experiencing any difficulties or problems, call WNH on 9844 1839.

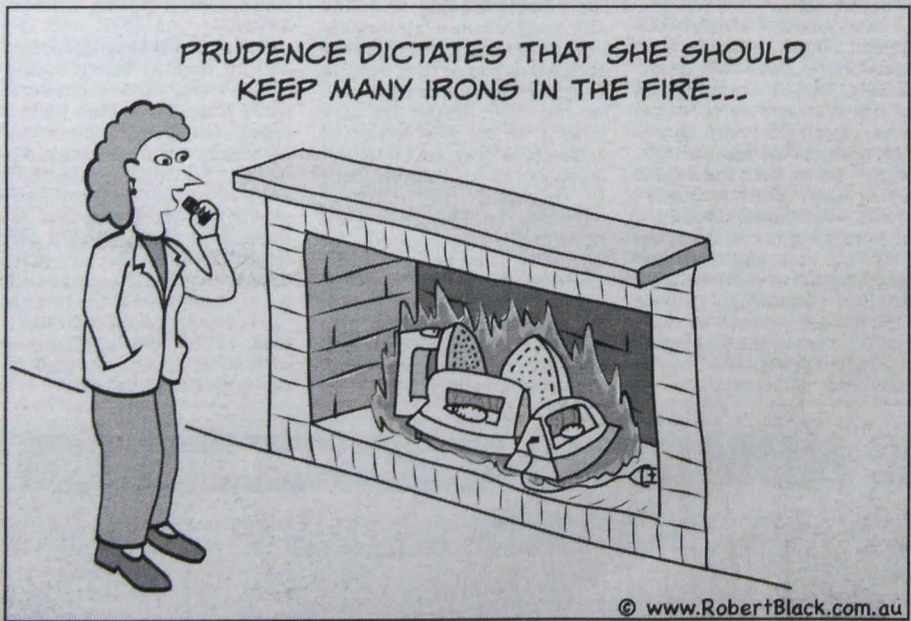
Tell us

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 in the mailbox at the Anglican Church, post it to PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113 or email info@warrandytediary.com.au.

Newsletters

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

SOMEWHERE IN WARRANDYTE... By ROBERT BLACK



© www.RobertBlack.com.au

Fantasy Follies found favour with fun-loving fans

THIS year's Follies was directed by Lisa Upson and Caroline Shaw and written by 11 contributors. With script editing by Alan Cornell, and musical direction by Richard Pengelley, 18 actors, 10 crew, a multitude of friends and family help to bring this production to the stage. It runs for two hours 10 minutes, with 25 skits and eight musical items. United under the theme "fantasy", it evolved over eight weeks of rehearsals, during which the directors melded its many unique parts into an entertaining whole.

The show opens front-of-house, with Pengelley's anthemic song *Warrandyte*, dissolving effortlessly into a series of onstage skits that introduce wizards, trolls, ogres, mythical heroes and villains, mixing with local identities and immersing themselves in local issues.

In true Follies tradition the satirical targets range from social mores, (mis)communication and information technology to politics and lifestyle. The skits are integrated via the use of a running gag in which an increasingly disoriented Bilbo Baggins (David Tynon) searches for the one true ring.

The dress is often practical thespian black with masks, colourful head-dress, and glittering costumes punctuating both acts. The set is impressive—Middle Earth never looked so oriental and demure as it does in Fantasy Follies. The design features projections onto the backdrop, notably a looped video depicting a fairy tale waterfall.

The cast comprises 11 women and seven men, but the script calls for more than 100 parts. Therefore the actors busy themselves each night, perpetually metamorphosing from one character into another, while stage manager (Jan-Louise Godfrey) executes seamless scene transitions and timely cues.

Two and three-handers continue to be the mainstay of the show. To succeed these need a strong script with a funny gag line, solid performances with intuitive comic timing and, hopefully, that intangible

theatre
By JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

chemical spark between actors.

The first act gets off to a busy start with wizards Gandalf and Arthur outbragging each other. Then we are drowned in a sea of clichés as two friends (played by Noeline Cooper and Joy Flannagan) indulge in five minutes of intense conversation, saying nothing to each other. Later there is a comment on the modern networked society in which a young couple (played by Larry Phelan and Ruby Moxey-Fithall) breaks up, then each establishes a new relationship, all via mobile phone.

A three-hander that I think worked really well can be found at the end of the first act—Valley of the Doll. Three dolls, Barbie (Ruby Moxey-Fithall), Cabbage Patch (Simone Kiefer) and Baby Alive (Sarah Dempster), sit in costume on a bench. With great discipline each stays in character throughout, delivering a lively and concise script in which Sarah somehow gets hefty laughs from her one repeated line "I wet myself".

Another example features Simone and Peter in the recurrent skit 50 Shades of Shite. She and Peter establish character quickly, and embellish each moment with professional ease. Final Frontier, in which Bill Connolly and Tony Clayton play Captain Kirk and Dr Spock respectively, with Kristina Papadopoulos as Gina Rhinehart, succeeds for the most part, but would have been strengthened with a gagline punchier than "beam me up Scottie".

There is one monologue, French Nursery Rhymes. It comes at the start of the second act. It features Darren Bowers reciting rhymes with a strong European accent, while phonetically twisted text and drawings (by Jock Macneish), are projected onto a screen.

There are about half-a-dozen ensemble items, with four or more

parts. Of these the one of the *The Game of Thrones* is most promising. It has a cast of seven and contains the strongest political satire of the entire show. For whatever reason, and it maybe as simple as a lack of familiarity with the TV series upon which it is based, it fails to punch home its biting social commentary, while some of the jokes are lost in the busyness of the script. The musical anthology *Lucy and Jude* (based nostalgically on Beatles songs) succeeds without qualification, and proves that the Follies can create pathos as well as comedy.

It is always encouraging to see young people engaging with vaudeville traditions, and this year we were treated to delightful contributions both on stage (Ruby, Larry Phelan) with Matt Wallace on piano and Ben Bellato on lights.

Fantasy Follies will be remembered for all these things and more. Notably this is the year that the theme is taken seriously, with Gollum and Bilbo never far offstage. There is even a resolution to the plot in the last scene, where Bilbo takes possession of something resembling a gold bar.

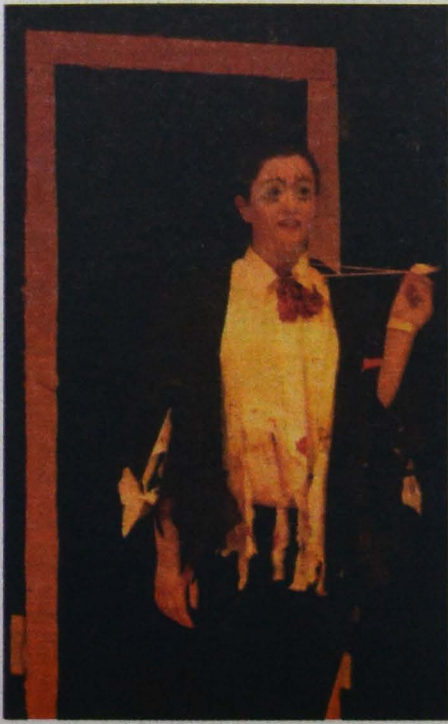
The introduction of Richard Pengelley as musical director shows just how important is this role. Richard's confident electric guitar mixes with Matt's lilting piano to give the Follies a new sound. It made a difference too, to have female directors. They softened the edges of a tradition that is proudly bawdy, brassy and bold, pulling back at times when a different director might have been less subtle.

One senses a loosening of the mysterious bonds that have kept the Follies true to a tradition rooted in the 1970s. While it might only be a slight rustling in the hedgerow this year, there may be within it the sound of something new. Eventually a new generation must make its own unique, Warrandytian imprint on this quirky theatrical event. What better basis could there be than a voyage into that tiny corner of our collective psyche—the world of myth and imagination popularly known as fantasy.



Pictures by DEBORAH SILVA

High school kids tell an 'absurd' fateful tale



theatre

WARRANDYTE High School VCE theatre studies students—under the guidance of teacher Niki na Meadhra—performed Australian playwright Matt Cameron's "Tear from a Glass Eye" in late April at the revamped school theatre.

Titus is found unconscious and sunburnt in a desert and has no identification or memory. The same day a burned woman waits at the beach for a plane to explode overhead and fall into the sea. Titus is listed as a passenger on the flight.

"Tear From a Glass Eye" is an absurd tale of random fate, the inevitable crash and human debris, where the search is on for a black box to account for just what went wrong," a school spokesperson told the *Diary*. "This is an intriguing journey into the soul of a man seeking to defy emotion, told with great humour and originality by a perceptive and highly imaginative writer."

Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

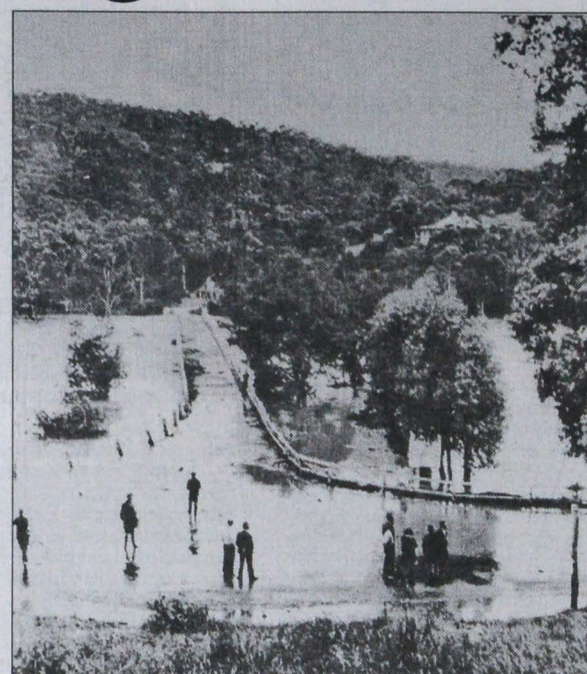
Of droughts and flooding rains...



The Great Flood of 1934 at Warrandyte



Helitak at Warrandyte, February 1991



Warrandyte Bridge, 1934

By VAL POLLEY

It seemed such a long, hot and dry summer this year and this has been confirmed by the statistics. The over 40 degree days in January followed by the record breaking heatwave of nine consecutive days over 35 degrees in March tested everyone's tolerance. Our local bushland and garden are still suffering both from heat and lack of rain.

Our rain gauge did not record any rain in January and our particular patch of Warrandyte appeared to miss out on many of the later heavy but very localised rain events. When a thunderstorm dumped over 50mm on much of Warrandyte, our rain gauge recorded a measly 5mm. Following on from a dry spring last year, this year so far sees our rainfall well down on the average and we worry about a return of drought. It does not bode well for next year's fire season unless we get some really good winter rains.

Warrandyte has always had its share of drought and floods. While drought was earlier considered exceptional it is now acknowledged as a part of natural systems in Australia. Sometimes their impact and severity has been exacerbated by environmental practices. There have been major droughts in Victoria over decades, often with unexpected consequences.

The impact of the major drought of 1895-1902 was made worse by the economic depression at the time. 1937-1945 saw the devastating bushfires of 1939 erupt across the state. In 1967-68 I had just moved to Warrandyte and had to manage

one small baby through days of unrelenting heat that melted candles and warped vinyl records in the house. Warrandyte's water was pumped from the river and the intake pool had to be sandbagged to ensure enough water at the intake pipe.

The 1982-83 drought saw the 1983 great February dust storm envelop Melbourne and Ash Wednesday bushfires decimate vast areas of the state. The Yarra River levels were low enough to take chairs into the cool of the Pound Bend tunnel and the river became a series of pools divided by rock bars.

The most recent drought lasted 13 years only ending in 2010 and oversaw the introduction of severe water restrictions. However each drought has led to efforts at mitigation by governments and individuals for the consequences of the next one.

New dams, more efficient appliances, water tanks and storm water capture—each time there have been positive efforts made to lessen the impact of the next drought event with varying results.

Warrandyte has faced its share of floods too. Historically it was always the river that flooded. The benchmark flood of 1934 topped the bridge and flooded many homes. Now with so many more dams and off-river storage it is the summer storms and heavy downpours that now flood the creek valleys and result in overland flow and flash flooding. The latter tend to be the problem on the township's steep slopes. The Christmas 2011 wild storms with enormous hailstorms and heavy rain caused hav-

oc for many Warrandyte residents and a resulting cleanup bill.

The experts and pundits believe that climate change is already adversely affecting Australians and are warning that these extreme weather events are set to become more frequent and more catastrophic. Extreme weather events dominated the summer news across the continent reporting on record-breaking heat, severe bushfires, heavy rainfall and severe flooding.

Given the impact on people, property, communities and the environment it must be said there are serious consequences if we fail to adequately address the issue of climate change. Insurance is one area of concern and small mitigation solutions may no longer provide the answer either. If there is no rain, water tanks do not refill and gardens do not grow.

It has been a difficult summer for our veggie garden thanks to lack of rain. If we want a sustainable future then it would seem to be time to prepare for the consequences of increasingly severe and more frequent extreme weather. If we continue planning on current terms then we are planning for a future that does not exist. Isn't it time for communities like Warrandyte to look at the possible consequences and plan to meet it?

It seems the hotter drier weather across south-eastern Australia will lead to an increase in the frequency and severity of bushfires. Warrandyte is a well-known bushfire prone area so this is a major threat along with drought and flooding. There are three phases in planning

approaches for disruptive climate conditions—preparing for an event, adjusting to it and recovering from its effects. All are important and already Warrandyte Community Association, WarrandyteCAN and Warrandyte Neighbourhood House have undertaken some of this key planning. Many individuals too have taken steps to offset any impact such as fire refuges, solar panels, water tanks, insulation and so forth.

However it takes concerted cooperative action by governments, organisations and individuals to bring about widespread change. Planning changes to manage development in bushfire prone areas, flood mitigation and energy and water harvesting are beyond the scope of individuals.

Like other communities who are actively working towards a future shaped by climate change, Warrandyte is a creative community with a robust local identity and strong community groups so is equally well placed to follow suit.

My view is that if we are to remain a resilient community able to deal with the effects of any climate change, Warrandyte needs to consider changes to the status quo given the warnings of disruptive climate conditions ahead. While past decades saw a change from open paddocks and denuded hillsides to heavily treed areas often to the walls of houses, some compromises may be required in the future to allow people to live in heavily bushed areas. Further planning to alleviate the risk of more extensive flooding of creeks and waterways is needed even given the tightly

managed water regime for the Yarra River.

All possible threats are perhaps not so obviously apparent. The impact of damage to, or closure of the bridge across the Yarra River, (one of only three in this section of the river and a major crossing point), due to fire, river flood or traffic accident needs to be addressed. The health issues arising from hotter temperatures particularly for the young and old can be severe. The drain on power supplies due to the need for airconditioning of houses will provide future governments and power companies with something of a challenge, not to mention the cost to householders.

Planning changes could be designed now to ensure compulsory design and orientation elements for future houses that would minimise this need. Schemes to provide incentives for retrofitting with insulation, double glazing and energy efficient tools would provide encouragement to individuals to undertake works on older houses. While all this may appear somewhat simplistic and are just my random thoughts, should we not now be having the conversation about how Warrandyte should look in 2030, 2040 or 2050?

If we are to have a hotter drier future with more frequent and disruptive weather events then we should adopt the precautionary principle and plan for that future now so that our grandchildren and future generations can continue to live happily in the world we bequeath them.

(Pictures courtesy Warrandyte Historical Society.)

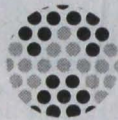
Eighteen ways to see a swing

An empty swing says—lonely
 An adult on a swing becomes a child
 Are swinging voters more child-like than stationary ones?
 Do you trust everyone who pushes you?
 The seat saves the swing from the noose
 Swings are not friends with roundabouts
 The ground beneath a swing gets dizzy
 Swings hanging like stoic plaits
 Swings in the noughties—crash helmets and risk management strategies
 Trembling swings itching for action
 In the swinging sixties we were all pushed too high
 Swinging is like sex—you need a slow build-up
 Swings have nightmares about nooses
 The childless swing is like an empty pram
 Moon-splashed swings slyly beckon
 Swings slyly pinch large adult bottoms
 A clever swing can reach the sun.

KAREN THROSSELL



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WCA has an active committee of management elected annually by the membership. It meets monthly and holds public meetings and forums. We encourage members to participate and be active in community affairs.

Warrandyte Community Association

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



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

Warrandyte Community Association

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New Membership Renewal (tick one)

To become a WCA member/s please fill out this form and send with your payment (\$10.00 pa) per person. Membership falls due after the 1st July.

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Address: Address:

Tel: Tel:

Email: Email:

Please forward completed form to: Warrandyte Community Association
P.O. Box 75, Warrandyte 3113

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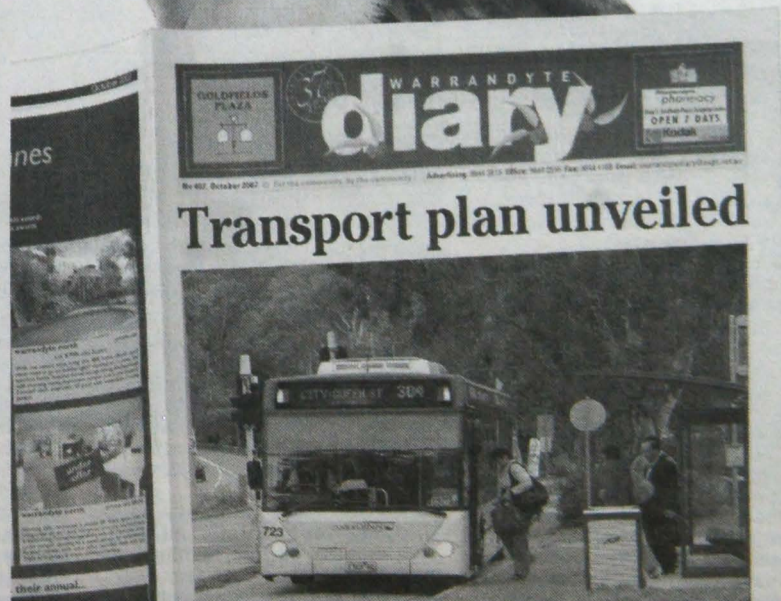
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Come and try BMX

Park Orchards BMX Club is holding a girls only Come & Try BMX Racing day at their club on Commercial Road on Saturday, May 18, from 9am-11am. On the day you will learn all about BMX racing while qualified coaches teach you the basic skills required for the sport, including using the start gate and start hill, and how to ride berms (corners), jumps and rhythm sections. For more info visit www.popbmx.com.au or phone 0418 555 365.

Cricket AGM

The Warrandyte Senior Cricket Club's Annual General Meeting will be held on May 29 at 7pm at the Senior Citizens Centre. The club believes this will be a great opportunity to understand and contribute to the direction and operations of one of Australia's oldest cricket clubs. The club asks anyone who wishes to attend to come on the night. As the club looks forward to Warrandyte soon having access to some fantastic new facilities, it encourages any eager cricketers who may have itchy feet during the winter months to get in contact with the club as well and get information on some pre-season training. All players are welcome.

Spirited start for juniors

THE Warrandyte Junior Football Club's teams have started the 2013 season in the Yarra Junior Football League with mixed results and all coaches report there is improvement ahead so watch out for the Bloods as the year progresses.

Here's what the coaching departments have had to say about most of the teams.

Tackers

The season for the Tackers is off to a cracking start. Robbie Cook has featured heavily in the goal kicking so far with Thomas Curnow showing early promise with mark of the year. Max Morley is showing great courage under opposition tackling and Campbell Reid has demonstrated his silky skills. The fourth Poole boy to come through the club, Oscar, doesn't let his size get in the way of taking on the biggest players in a contest for the ball. The training sessions have featured plenty of running to get the boys fit for playing the full game. Coach Travis is also benefiting from the fitness regime. With several away matches in a row, the junior Bloods look forward to playing a home game to get all the local supporters on the boundary line.

Under 10

A perfect start for Round 1 and all of the Under 10s are eager to get things going - they have really given their all in the first three games. They have used all of their skills learnt during the pre-season and at training and have shown great sportsmanship and a high skill level. New recruits include Conal, Joshua, Seb, Luke, Dante, Benjamin, Ollie and Jack, and they have made us all very proud. Each and every one of the team have been playing with passion.

Under 11s

Having been grand finalists last season in Blue Division, the Under 11s have found themselves right at home in the higher Green Division and have begun the season with a bang. Their two wins from the first two games were emphatic, starting with a 10-goal smashing of Macleod backed up by a spirited, come-from-behind 10-point win away against Beverley Hills. A Round 3 30-point loss to St Mary's brought the boys back to earth, but they are certainly competitive at this level and look set for a good season. New additions to the side Bailey Trevorror, Noah Kendall, Lachie Pollock, Ethan Glawitch and Harry Brown have slotted in



From the top: Hawks top gun Luke Hodge helped out the Bloods on Sunday. Middle: War veteran Ben Jones joined our Colts on ANZAC Day weekend, while some Tackers take time out (middle right). Above: Alan and Michael are Club Captain and Vice Captain respectively, while Kieran and Octavian are part of the leadership group.

well with the core group from last season, adding some extra class around the ground. The early season focus has been on rotating the boys around the ground to give them experience in a number of positions and to increase their learning of the game.

Under 14s

The Under 14s have returned with a big squad of players, highlighting the bond that this group has. Facing last year's reigning premiers in Round 1, the boys played disciplined footy to record a comfortable win. Round 2 was a challenge

against a well drilled side that we matched in all areas of the ground bar the scoreboard. We went into Round 3 confident despite a high list of unavailable players and went down by four points with a kick after the siren. Mark Trewella has continued to offer extra training nights for these boys to help with their skill development, and this will no doubt show results as the season progresses.

Colts

After a good start to pre-season we are now starting to see the team working as one. They have com-

peted competitively and it is now important that we apply what we have learned at training and take it out on the ground and to work as one unit. Congratulations to the elected Captains Octavian (captain), Jimmy (Vice Captain) and Sid (deputy vice captain). I believe that we have the nucleus of a good team but there will be ongoing development. After the disappointing loss in our first game, the return of several of the top age players saw us get our first win under our belts and we are now looking to capitalize on this momentum if we are to continue be successful.

Tiger tough Auskickers



Warrandyte's Auskick program is alive and well with about 100 locals heading down to Warrandyte Reserve on Saturday mornings, including these wild Tiger cubs!

Records are breaking

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

ALAN and Janette Murray, the Warrandyte couple murrning around Australia for charity, have already broken several world records during their year-long challenge.

On April 10 the raw vegans finished their 100th marathon near Hughenden, Queensland, making them the first couple to run 100 consecutive marathons.

They also broke the record of becoming the first female and first male over 65 as well as the first raw vegans to run 100 marathons in 100 days.

The couple runs about 43km each day and since starting their adventure from Melbourne on January 1 have covered more than 5000km.

Currently in the Northern Territory, they are making their way towards Darwin before heading down the Western Australian coast, through South Australia and then to Tasmania.

They expect to be back in Warrandyte in December and hope their campaign will raise money for selected charities and inspire people to make more environmentally conscious decisions.

To stay up to date with Alan and Janette's progress as they face the tropical north and dry outback, visit their Facebook page 'Running Raw around Australia 2013'.

Bloods' sweet & sour start

By MICHAEL DI PETTA

IN the long awaited first game at home for the 2013 EFL season, the Warrandyte Bloods were unable to mark the occasion with a victory, losing by 35 points to Doncaster at Warrandyte Reserve recently.

It was a game that ebbed and flowed before falling to the way of the visitors. Despite the loss, there were positives to take away from the day, particularly the atmosphere around the ground and the strength of the support. Even with the grandstand under renovation, plenty of families and die-hard fans attended to cheer on the Bloods, a pleasing sign for the committee which is attempting to make Warrandyte footy club more family oriented.

After the loss and at the time the *Diary* went to print, the Bloods had suffered consecutive defeats after winning in Round 1 and were sitting in eighth place on the EFL ladder.

On a warm day with excellent conditions for playing football, the match began as a real arm wrestle with both sides contesting the footy hard. Doncaster was first to apply any real forward pressure, but the Warrandyte defence played solid footy and was able to repel most of the attacks. Doncaster's ferocious pressure meant the Bloods were unable to use any run and carry through the middle of the ground, but excellent efforts by ruckman Dave Hand and midfielder Nick Clapham, and hard earned goals for captain Tom Naughtin and Luke Dunn, meant the Bloods stayed within reach. At the first change Doncaster held a seven-point lead.

The second quarter began positively for Warrandyte with an early goal and although the Bloods fought hard in the middle, it was Doncaster who finally gained the ascendancy and began to move the ball through the corridor to good effect. The Bloods' defence looked a little shaky and at times undermined as Doncaster added to their margin, hitting targets inside 50 with pinpoint accuracy.

In contrast, the Bloods were unable to make use of possession in their forward half as no forwards were able to take marks in goal scoring positions.



Looking the goods: Warrandyte Reserves rev up at the three quarter time break on their way to victory over Doncaster recently.

On a more positive note, Nick Clapham continued to be a ball magnet in the middle, and hard work by Ben Taylor and Luke Saunders ensured that the margin didn't become unmanageable. At the long break Doncaster 7.7.49 led Warrandyte 4.6.30.

The Bloods were dealt a blow as the second half began with Ben Taylor being forced from the game with an ankle injury. In spite of this, the home team appeared determined to hang tough, and a quick goal to Mick Morello gave Warrandyte a spark. Morello added to his goal by winning the ball around the stoppages, and

although Doncaster replied with a major, Luke Dunn kicked his second minutes later to respond as the game became an end-to end affair. However, momentum suddenly turned in favour of Doncaster, as the Cats kicked goals in quick succession to get the scoreboard ticking over.

The Bloods had no answer to their long kick inside 50, with former AFL forward Nathan Thompson beginning to make his mark and booting a handful of goals to put Doncaster up by 43 points at the final change.

The fourth quarter began with the Bloods pumped up after a rousing speech by coach John O'Brien in the

huddle and looked ready to mount a comeback after kicking two goals in rapid succession to cut the margin. Dave Hand continued to battle on as the lone ruckman and Luke Saunders began to have a real impact in the middle.

Unfortunately, the Bloods were never really able to take enough of a stranglehold on the game, and Thompson punished them at the other end finishing the game with eight majors to ensure Doncaster 16.15.111 defeated Warrandyte 11.10.76.

Before the loss to Doncaster, the Bloods secured a victory in Round

1 with a tight win over Chirside Park before losing to The Basin in an exciting game in Round 2, in which the Bloods were never really out of it.

The Warrandyte Reserves have also started the season in positive form with wins against Chirside Park and Doncaster, with a slight dip against The Basin and plenty of players showing excellent promise and pushing for a place in the senior side.

Furthermore, the Under 19s have also got off to an excellent start, with huge wins over Chirside Park and Doncaster in rounds 1 and 3, while also falling to The Basin in the second round.

Countdown is on for our new-look sports precinct

SPORTS communities can start counting down the days before they can enjoy brand new facilities at the Warrandyte Recreational Reserve after work began on a new sporting pavilion late last month.

Member for Warrandyte Ryan Smith was joined by Manningham Mayor Cr Jennifer Yang and local sports club representatives to turn the first sod in the building works.

The works are being jointly funded by Manningham Council, fundraising by local sporting clubs, contributions by the Warrandyte Community Bank, as well as an \$800,000 grant from the Victorian Coalition State Government.

"I take a great deal of personal satisfaction that, through working in partnership with the local community over the last four years, we have been able to make this project a reality," Mr Smith told the *Diary*, also pointing out the vital role sporting clubs have in providing activities and role models for local young people.

"The new building will be of enormous benefit to the members of the Warrandyte Cricket Club, Warrandyte Football Club, Warrandyte Junior Football Club and Warrandyte Netball Club," Mr Smith said. "They have all made significant contributions to the project."

Warrandyte Community Bank's Sarah Wrigley said there's much excitement in the air with the new facilities on the way and the local bank was proud to support the development of the sporting



Member for Warrandyte Ryan Smith and Manningham Mayor Cr Jennifer Yang with Sue Rodwell, Phil Treeby, Phil Ashfield, Mark Challen, David Dyason, Matthew Chapman, Lance Ward and Sarah Wrigley.

precinct. "The bank is putting in \$150,000 over two years in addition to the \$50,000 in sponsorships we have provided the four clubs over the 10 years," Ms Wrigley said.

"It has been absolutely fantastic seeing this plan finally come to

fruition after almost five years of hard work by a large number of people. It's a great example of a community really working together to achieve a fantastic outcome for everyone."

The redevelopment is part of council's Warrandyte Reserve

Management Plan and should be completed within 12 months.

MEANWHILE, the Warrandyte Junior Football Club and the Warrandyte Netball Club joined forces last month to enjoy a Family Night that included the Warrandyte

Community Bank presenting both club presidents, Sue Rodwell and Ross Snowball, with a cheque for \$75,000 – the first half of the \$150,000 going towards the soon-to-be-constructed Warrandyte Pavilion.





Bravehearts rise to the challenge

By SCOTT PODMORE

LAST month three courageous Warrandyte teams and their support crew overcame much adversity and many challenges to conquer the grueling OXFAM Trailwalker event, arguably the planet's toughest team challenge. Importantly, they also raised thousands of dollars for charity in the fight against poverty and injustice around the world.

The teams tackled 100km of Australian bush within 48 hours as a foursome starting from Jells Park at 7am on a crisp morning and working through a mix of flat sections and plenty of hills through the Dandenong Ranges with the "serious stuff beginning at the 1000 steps Kokoda Trail Memorial", according to one of the teams. The event concluded at Wesburn.

Team 135, RunMFAO, was made up of four super fit Warrandyte women who included Dee Dickson, Charissa May, Debbie Moran and Georgie Jorgensen. The girls ran/walked an incredibly impressive time of 18 hours and 25 minutes over the 100km course, placing them in the top five percent of the race that included more than 750 teams.

RunMFAO was the second team finishing for women over the age of 40 and sixth out of 197 for women of all ages.

"It also placed us equal 36th with a male team we had been criss-crossing all day and night," Dee Dickson told the *Diary*.

"Carrying injuries, we were exhausted at the finish line but satisfied in knowing we had given it our all physically and mentally."

Team RunMFAO said they were extremely proud to have raised almost \$4500 for such a worthwhile cause.

Dee, who with the other girls in the team had taken part in a previous OXFAM Trailwalker challenge, said in comparison to the last time they ran the course was changed in a couple of sections but "Checkpoint 3-4 was completely different".

"It incorporated the 1000 steps and was very challenging in its ascent and short but steep descents," Dee said. "It meant that we experienced fatigued and stressed bodies much earlier, thus it required a significantly greater mental strength than last time to continue on despite the pain. We beat our time by 1 hour and 40 minutes. We are pretty pleased with our effort."

Another local crew who pushed through the mammoth challenge was Team BAMPS, made up of local men Peter Sharpe and Ben Cooper, who joined Amanda Griggs From Wonga Park and Matt Elliott. They got through the physical and mentally draining walk in under 28 hours. Their aim was to go less than 24 hours, but as with challenges this



A ton of courage: Top left, Team BAMPS power on to the finish line, while top right The Creekers celebrate their fantastic achievement and, above, Team RunMFAO were exhausted but all smiles after their mighty efforts.

unpredictable it was "blisters and stiffness" that slowed them down, according to the foursome.

Ben Cooper said: "Yep, we got there in the end. Got some bad blisters from the 25km and walked through. My knees are very sore but it was a fantastic experience."

"...we were exhausted at the finish line but satisfied in knowing we had given it our all"

From more than 750 teams of four only 50 percent reportedly finished as a full team, so team BAMPS was understandably proud to hold firm and finish arm in arm at the end.

Peter Sharpe said Team BAMPS "couldn't have done it" without their support crew, a bunch of devoted teammates who were "always there to make sure we had a cuppa, a foot rub and any treat requested at any time of the night".

He said the team was particularly

proud of all the sponsorship support.

"We thought we may get about \$2000 together, but it looks like we will have in excess of \$5000," Peter said. "We really tried to be part of something worthwhile and provide meaningful support to a wonderful cause."

Last but not least, The Creekers – comprising Sally Ferguson, Leanne Brew, Anna Clarkson and Karina Vitritti – and their support crew which included Sally's husband Trent hiring a Winnebago from Bendigo just prior to the event, also are to be commended for their amazing efforts in soldiering on to the finish line.

They also raised \$4500, bringing the total raised by the three Warrandyte teams to \$14,000.

The girls finished in an impressive 23 hours and 36 minutes placing them 87th overall for teams who finished with all four members, and 143rd among those who finished with 1-4 members.

They were also the 17th girls team who finished with all four members and the 21st girls team who finished with 1-4 members.

Karina said highlights included "smashing our fundraising target, walking together as a happy team, the many laughs, hot jam donuts and the Winnebago".

"The support crew husbands were exceptional, surprising us at all of the night checkpoints, we had an open fire at Olinda, party lights on the Winnebago at Mt Evelyn and best of all was hot jam donuts at Woori Yallock," Karina added.

So, would The Creekers do it again? The girls offered a mixed response.

"That's a difficult question to answer," Karina said. "We achieved what we set out to achieve, in a time which was faster than expected and had so much fun and laughs doing it," she said. "So to do it again in a walking team we would only do to relive such a fantastic experience."

Anna chimed in: "You betcha! We had so much fun, so why not relive the experience. Would consider running, only if this team wasn't up for it again."

"I think I would," Lee said, while Sally said she wasn't so sure: "Who knows, we might have a new adventure on the horizon."

Roadside perspective

Comprehending such a challenging, selfless mission is difficult. But the following transcript is a Facebook post by RunMFAO team member Georgie's close friend Nicolette Thain, who witnessed the girls' mighty efforts.

The *Diary* thanks Nicolette for giving us permission to publish it.

The team believes her post "captures the day brilliantly – a true and accurate account" of the 100km journey.

Nicolette's Facebook post:

The girls started their journey on Friday at 7am. Written words can't adequately explain how profound and emotional it was to see their journey in person as a member of their support crew. I had no idea what I was in for or what to expect. 18 hours and 25 minutes later I witnessed how the human spirit cannot just defy the odds, but overcome the impossible. The overwhelming emotion of supporting these girls was an experience I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Two of them stood at the starting line with foot and knee injuries from training for the event. They are all mothers, Charissa has 5 kids, Deanne has 4, Debbie has 3 and Georgie has twins. They are married and it was fabulous to see the love and support of their husbands, everyone was on the same page, to encourage and assist these girls to get across the finish line. The men drove to each checkpoint, set up the gear and did whatever it took to prepare those girls to complete the next leg of their journey. They had to keep their emotions in check and stay focused as they watched the pain the girls were in increase through the day. All these girls are around the 40 mark and they are not professional athletes, yet they were asking their bodies to suffer the agony of running and walking 100km through bushland and up and down mountains non-stop in under 20 hours.

The girls arrived at the last checkpoint 7km before the finish line having just run 21km in complete darkness and freezing temperatures through the mountains. They were destroyed with exhaustion, the girls limped and hobbled stiffly, every step was a marathon. They needed help to stand up and walk to the checkpoint sign-in desk. Hands so swollen, stiff and numb from the cold, I had to put the painkillers in Georgie's mouth for her. Ten minutes later they headed into the darkness to finish what they started, side by side.

It's impossible to understand or share fully the journey these girls experienced without being there and seeing it from start to finish with your own eyes. I'll never forget it.

Redbacks' record numbers

ON the back of a record 26 Redbacks teams playing in the EDJBA summer season grand finals, Warrandyte's popular junior domestic basketball club has registered 50 teams for the winter season, a club record and one which general manager Justin Nelson says is due to several beginners taking up the game.

"Each term we attract about 30 new players into the Aussie Hoops program and the next step for those players is into a Redbacks team, so no doubt that is where the growth is coming from," Nelson says.

The popularity of the game in the Warrandyte region now sees about 1000 players of all ages participating across the club's expansive programs with Redbacks making up a little over one third of those numbers.

"Numbers continue to grow without question, however, it's the sustainability of those numbers that is exciting given the high number of primary school children playing the game," Nelson says.

"We are very fortunate to have a young demographic in this region and basketball is immensely popular amongst the kids and their parents. I think you'll see that team record of 50 teams be broken again in the near future."

The winter season commenced at the start of Term 2 and is in the process of grading teams with all Redbacks teams settling in well.

Youth leading the way

The Big V season is moving into the middle stages and leading the way for Warrandyte Basketball are the club's two Youth teams, the Eastside Mitsubishi Youth Men and the Porter Davis Youth Women, with both teams among the leading pack of their respective divisions.

Having started the season with a club record 6-0 winning streak, the Youth Men are firing on all cylinders under second-year coach Brent Reid and look odds-on for a finals berth this year after finishing last on the ladder in 2012.

No doubt the spark has been both the increased maturity of the players and a better understanding of the competition, both important attributes that is now seeing the Venom playing consistent basketball every time they hit the floor.

The same can be said for the Youth Women's team, now in its third year of Big V basketball and no doubt on track for finals given a strong 4-1 start. Coach Nicole Howard has developed a team playing with intensity and a burning desire to win, which is always evident and clearly has them as a frontrunner in 2013.

While both Venom youth teams are enjoying much success, the start to the 2013 season has been a frustrating one for the club's two senior teams with multiple injuries proving to be significant headaches for coaches Arnold Giffening and Justin Nelson.

The loss of keys players due to soft tissue, ankle and knee injuries has seen both teams play inconsistently



over the first six weeks, but both coaches know that at full strength there will be a vast improvement.

"Injuries are a part of the game and unfortunately both teams have had a few more than we would have liked, but we're hanging in there and hopefully the tide soon turns and we will see both teams back at full strength and winning games consistently," Nelson says.

One of the players on the sidelines is women's import Stefany Thomas who is recovering from a knee injury and she should be back on the court later this month.

"Stef copped a knock to the knee and all up will miss about five games. Though it's not ideal, it means others have to step up and get the job done. In a recent game against Geelong we had eight of our 10 players aged under 21, so that all goes well for

the future.

"Arnie has also had to shuffle his team around a bit with some of the older players suffering some niggles. Again, it's not ideal this early in the season, but we're dealing with it and others are getting an opportunity, which will hopefully benefit the program for many years to come."

Another positive over the first third of the season has been the growing crowd numbers at games, a clear sign that the region's young basketball players are connected to the senior pathway in place at the club. Many home games have already seen the Warrandyte Sports Complex at full capacity.

"To be honest, we wish we could fit another couple of rows of seats in to cater for everyone," the GM says.

For those wanting to get along and see the Venom teams in Big V action,

games still to come in May include: May 11 - Senior Men v Blackburn, May 12 - Youth and Senior Women v Altona, May 19 - Senior Women v Camberwell and Senior Men v Warrnambool, May 25 - Youth Men v Craigieburn.

New stadium a big win

If basketball wasn't already growing at a massive rate, it will surely increase numbers further in coming years with a mooted five-court stadium planned for the Mullum Mullum Reserve set to be included in the coming Manningham Council budget.

The stadium will include a show court with more than 1500 seats, meeting rooms, offices, change rooms and all associated amenities, all designed to meet the growing

needs of indoor sports throughout the region, including basketball.

Warrandyte Basketball general manager Justin Nelson welcomed the plans and said the three-to-five-year timeline can't come quick enough.

"A staggering 46 percent of players in Australia play in Victoria and the Manningham region is arguably home to the largest numbers, so it goes without saying that basketball desperately needs a big, central home and this news is most welcome," Nelson says.

"It's great to see that the council has acknowledged the need for more courts and is now planning accordingly to bring this showpiece to life. The next generation of players in Manningham will be playing in state-of-the-art facilities and will truly have a place to call home.

"The venue is central for players and residents, it is easily accessed and is a big site that already has sporting facilities on it."

Nelson also believes the timing of the new venue could coincide with Manningham's basketball clubs becoming more closely aligned and working together to create an even bigger presence in Victorian basketball.

"Personally I'd like to see Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Bulleen and Doncaster basketball clubs come together and work on a joint plan that may potentially create a bigger, single entity for basketball in Manningham, housed and administered out of the new Mullum Mullum Stadium," says Nelson. "But that's a personal view and for now I think too many would go into protection mode rather than thinking about future generations.

"The Manningham region is home to thousands of players and basketball families, not forgetting coaches, referees and administrators. The four clubs cover domestic basketball for juniors and seniors, representative levels in the VJBL and Big V, and in Bulleen's case a WNBL team on the national stage. We have a real opportunity here to take a real leap forward in Manningham."

Given his vision, Nelson is also quick to acknowledge that such grand plans aren't always easy to convert into reality.

"Unfortunately in sport far too many people are protective and don't see the big picture, they look after their own back yard and are content, but right now basketball needs to do something special, work together and do something that really sets it apart from other sports. While we have a chance to do that in Manningham, I'm only one voice and change isn't an easy thing for everyone to get their head around.

"Maybe the Mullum Mullum Stadium will see a more collaborative approach in future years, we'll have to wait and see, but there's no doubt this new stadium is overdue and I'm really pleased to see the Manningham Council stepping up and doing something for basketball and other indoor sports.

"It's a much needed step in the right direction."

WARRANDYTE NETBALL GIRLS ARE RUNNING HOT

By DEBRA WALTERS

AFTER a two-week break for Easter, Warrandyte's netball teams hit the ground running with over half the teams winning their matches in the first weeks back into the winter season.

The size of the Under 9s this season belies their determination and skill level, helped on by their amazing coaches Sean Dixon (yes, guys can coach netball!) and Leeanne Sawers. Both teams have played well, with the Warrandyte Joeys sitting on top of the ladder having won every game this season at the time the *Diary* went to print.

In Under 11s the Wrens are fighting well in Level 1 with two wins and only one loss. In the Under 13s the Level 1 Warrandyte Wasps are sitting on

top of the ladder and Level 2 team Stingers are clawing their way to the top with some great wins.

This month we give you a quarterly play by play on the match between our U13 Stingers and Deep Creek Moonstones.

First quarter: Very tight contest, goal for goal. Deep Creek 5 was leading Warrandyte 4.

Second quarter: Great defence by Heidi (GD) and Ashlea (GK) kept Deep Creek to only one goal. Warrandyte forced a lot of errors by Deep Creek. Olivia C and Livia teamed up for three goals in a game being played on a very windy day. Deep Creek 1, Warrandyte 3.

Third quarter: A sloppy quarter by both teams with a lot of turnovers and overthrows due to tiredness.

Deep Creek 0, Warrandyte 1.

Fourth quarter: Warrandyte finished off nicely with some great movement around the court, great running by Kara (WD), Giorgi (C) and some excellent defensive play again by Heidi and Ashlea who kept tight and stuck to their players. There was some great shooting and teamwork by Olivia C and Zhara to shoot six goals.

Deep Creek 4, Warrandyte 6.

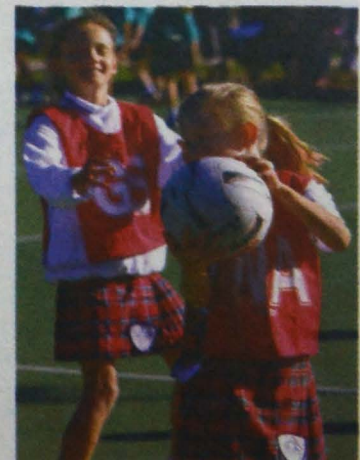
Final score: Warrandyte 14 d Deep Creek 10.

The Under 15s are also doing well with the Cobras winning their match against Donvale 28 to 6. Under 17s team Eagles are also at the top of the ladder with three wins from three games. In the Open A league Warrandyte's Tigers are neck and neck with

the Deep Creek Diamonds with only a few percentage points between them. The girls are all standouts especially Jess Dusting (captain), Ysabel Galley (vice captian), Megan Seymour, Zoe Van Gulick, Gabby Ryan, Jessica Allwood, Erika Dyason, not to forget Jasmine Woods and Kennedy Price who is filling in this season.

Net Set Go also started again for the winter season, providing a chance for the next generation of netballers to learn basic netball skills before testing them out on the court.

These classes are held at the Templestowe courts on Saturday mornings at 8.40am and are great fun as well as providing our younger girls with essential skills to play well in netball.



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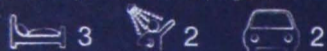
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WARRANDYTE

Home With a Heart!

"Serendip" on approx 6357m2 private serene expansive bushland views. Original owners designed the double brick home to reflect the warmth of cedar beams, brick walls, slate flooring and leadlight windows creating individuality, uniqueness and charm. Generous lounge warmed by an OFP (zoned slab heating), dining room, kitchen-meals-family room, zoned main robed BR, character-laden ensuite, light-filled bathroom. Delightful northerly alfresco under pergola, double carport, 2 car spaces.



WARRANDYTE

Home and Alfresco Sanctuary

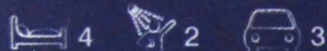
Exceptional combination – fabulous family home complemented by outstanding alfresco living. Recently renovated comprising multi-function open living room, contemporary S/S and bamboo benches kitchen-dining, zoned master suite/retreat/WIR/upgraded/5th bedroom. Private entertaining sanctuary features views, large IG pool/spa/decking, storage, GDH, Ilve appliances, Tas oak floors, bamboo terrace, S/S balustrades, workshop, new fencing. Roof sprinklers and pump. Bitumen OSP Useable allotment approx. 2005m2.



WARRANDYTE

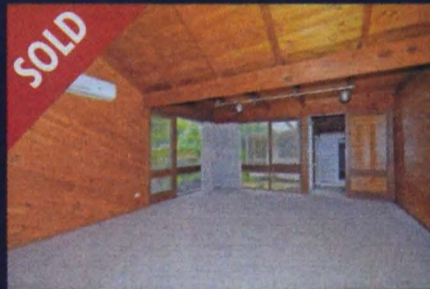
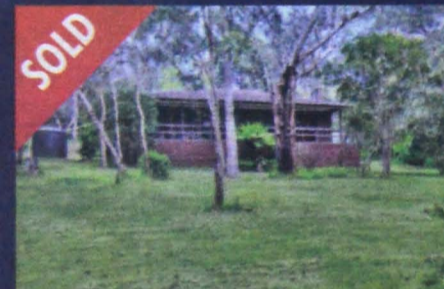
Position, Presentation and Price! Perfect!

There is no denying the power of position and this property is a winner! Elevated block 1004m2 (approx.). This 3 bedroom home offers a newly renovated interior comprising new kitchen-living room, 2 bathrooms, casual alfresco area overlooks the generous backyard, workshop plus double carport. Stroll to the township, cafes and Goldfields Plaza.



WARRANDYTE

Demolish and Develop
Sloping allotment of 1130m2 (approx.) with a small, old home that requires being ripped up and starting again. Is such a wreck, is it worth restoring? I don't think so. Land value only!



Dominic Cruz
0409 410 161



Glenn Martin
0427 852 806

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