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WARRANDYTE diary

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No 468, October 2013 For the community, by the community

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Peter's PNG pledge

By SCOTT PODMORE

ONE of the Warrandyte men who was part of the trekking group attacked in a deadly ambush in Papua New Guinea has spoken to the *Diary* about the horrors of the incident on the Black Cat Track in which he was beaten and speared through the leg.

Peter Stevens, 62, says he is "handling it well", and has plans to return to the scene of the crime to finish the trek and raise funds for the porters and families affected.

An expat tour leader Christie King, seven Australians, a New Zealander and 19 PNG porters were ambushed by up to four men while trekking along the Black Cat Track in Morobe province on September 10. Two of the porters were violently murdered with butcher knives while another died later in hospital.

Several in the group were seriously wounded and while Stevens and another Warrandyte man, Rod Clarke, are recovering, they say their biggest concern is the health and welfare of the surviving porters, the families of the dead men, and the small communities that will be forever affected.

"People are talking about the attack, the revenge attacks and the arrests, and that's understandable, but we're all really concerned about the porters," says Stevens, an ex-army major who now is a contract manager at Citywide in North Melbourne.

"We actually have a trust fund set up (Black Cat Track Porters Trust Fund, see pages 4 and 5). We'd love to see something in the *Diary* about it because, really, those guys took the brunt of it."

It's believed some of the injured porters' wounds were so bad they're not expected to walk again.

"Lives are completely ruined," Stevens told the *Diary*. "They have no social welfare system, inadequate facilities ... the hospitals are really primitive. As an example, two of the porters who needed urgent surgery were still waiting more than a week

later. One of the porters died: they were actually about to chop his leg off because he had septicemia, but he didn't make it.

"A couple of the expats were with him and they actually provided, from what I understand, CPR for about 30 minutes at the local hospital before a doctor appeared. So they're run off their feet and don't really have many resources or facilities, the kind of stuff we take for granted. I reckon our average GP office is better equipped than their hospitals."

Stevens says the communities in the area along the Black Cat Track were poor and mainly comprised subsistence farmers with very little employment opportunities. A delay due to logistics and a bad phone line

in relaying news to his wife of eight years Dee Sheffrin and stepdaughter Breanna Large, 21, meant the women endured a "sleepless night" and some anxious moments in waiting to hear the full story.

"The guy from PNG Trekking rang at 8am on the Tuesday and just told us Peter had sustained an injury to his leg with his trekking pole, so we just assumed he had a fall and were actually holding back laughter to begin with," Dee says. "But I was actually worried for him given it was the first day but assumed someone's gone downhill and they've had a bit of a fall."

But Dee and Breanna realised it was something more serious.

"Robyn Gillespie (Rod's partner)

rang me and said, 'I've had two missed calls from PNG Trekking', and we thought that was a bit strange and were guessing that perhaps Rod's taken a fall - we were conjuring up scenarios thinking there'd been a bit of a body landslide on a big incline."

"Then the guy from PNG Trekking said, 'I expect to get a call from the High Commissioner about 10 o'clock, so stand by the phone'. He said not to worry and that they were safe but then I got another call from Robyn and she had just received a call from Rod saying they'd been attacked. At that moment I became quite a bit panic-stricken."

Then a brief 10-second call came from Peter at about 11.30am, which dropped out, and every time he tried

to call he couldn't connect.

"I didn't sleep very much that night," Dee says. "We didn't really find out exactly what had happened until about halfway through Wednesday," Breanna added. "Peter rang about 3pm that afternoon and told mum everything and then it started coming out in the news - and then reporters started calling at 5.30am in the morning and camping outside the house."

With Peter back home and recovering, the Warrandyte says the experience hadn't impacted him as many would expect.

"I'm OK. I'm sleeping well, I'm not having flashbacks or anything."

See Peter's first-person account of the experience on Pages 6 and 7.

Old hats at this caper!



Warrandyte came alive to the sounds and sights of theatrical productions last month when Warrandyte High School, Andersons Creek Primary School and Warrandyte Primary School put on some stellar shows. The Warrandyte Youth Theatre Company also had a successful short season for its production, *The Real Inspector Hound*. WPS preppie Hailey May (pictured) was all smiles recently as she showed how it's done in front of a packed house. Reviews and pictures, Pages 14-15. Picture: GARETH DICKSON

FUEL TO THE FIRE

UNITED Petroleum is being investigated after a series of events recently when a large sign was installed "overnight" in Yarra St on September 26 and petrol was allegedly sold without a permit. Adding to the intrigue, Manningham council has confirmed another application for a service station in Yarra St has been received.

United we don't stand, Page 3

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"A hospital is a place where the staff have more complaints than the patients."

— P.K. Shaw

WARRANDYTE diary

EDITOR: Scott Podmore, 9844 0555

PUBLISHER: Warrandyte Diary Pty Ltd
(ACN 006 886 826 ABN 74 422 669 097)
as trustee for the Warrandyte Arts and Education Trust

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 209, Warrandyte 3113

ADVERTISING & ACCOUNTS: Briony Bottarelli, 9844 0555

CIRCULATION: Peter Norman, 9844 3268.

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FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/warrandytediary

PRODUCTION: Rachel Schroeder

PRINTING: Streamline Press Pty Ltd, 155 Johnston Street, Fitzroy

Published on or about the second Wednesday of each month (except January).



ADVERTISING RATES

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

Readers are advised that the Warrandyte Diary accepts no responsibility for financial, health or other claims published in advertising in this newspaper. Responsibility for election and referendum comment in this issue is accepted by Scott Podmore.

NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the Diary will be published on Tuesday, November 12, 2013. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, November 1, 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, Waranwood, North Ringwood, Kangaroo Ground and Research.

A SPECIAL PLACE

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

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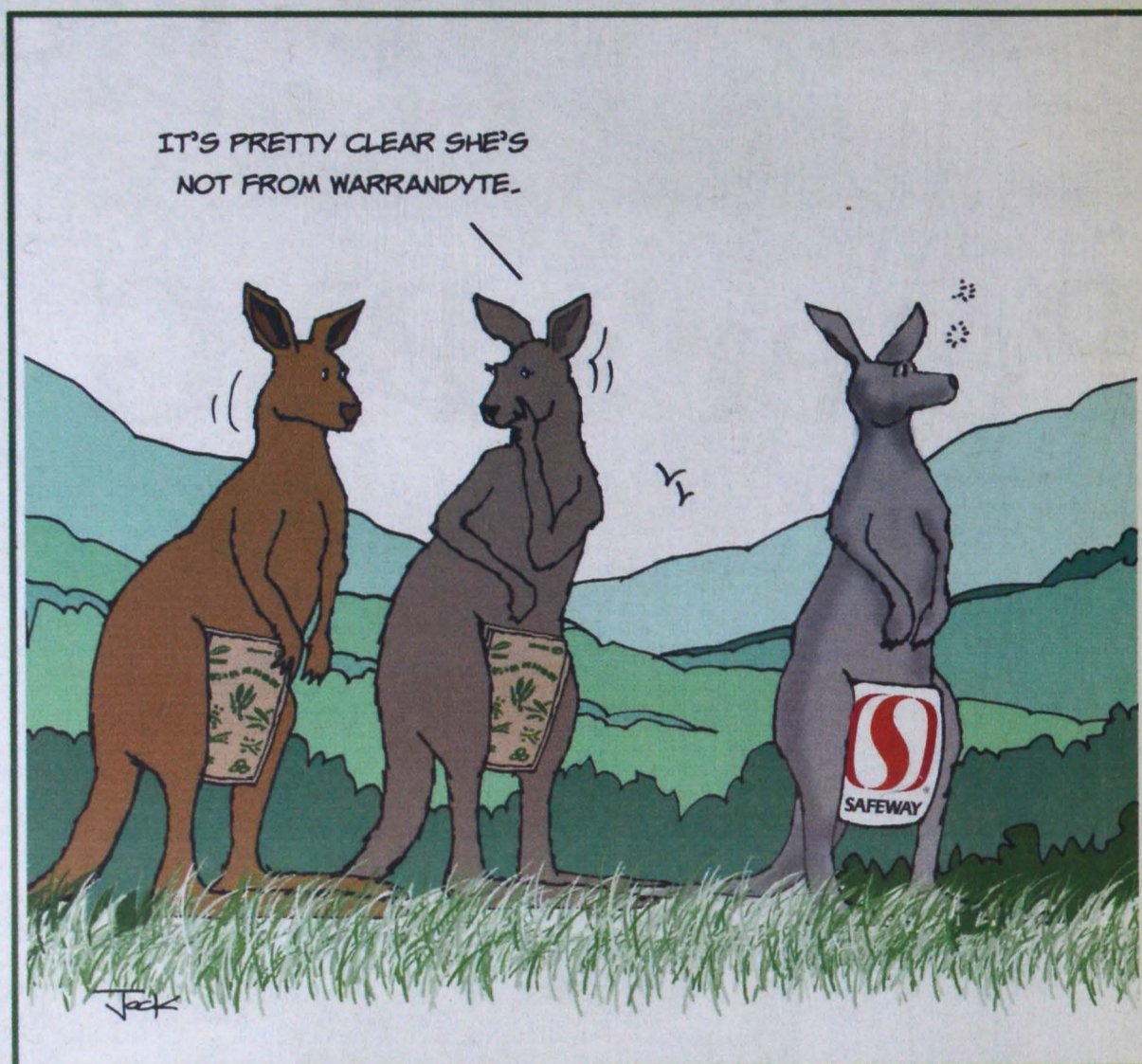
AT THE BRIDGE

FOLK ART

WARRANDYTE

OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



Five minutes of fame

AN occasional glimpse at local personalities, this month featuring Warrandyte Woggle Wonder and master of the Granny knot, Jasper Trott.

Hello Jasper. How was the Jamboree?

Good.

Where did you go.

Lara.

What was that like?

Good.

And what troop are you in?

The Gerbils.

Surely gerbils aren't really a wild animal.

They do get quite cross when you tie their tails together.

I notice you've got a scrunchie round your scarf instead of a woggle?

Emily Binsley gave it to me as a keepsake.

Did you give her something?

Did I ever.

Have you ever had to use your scarf as a bandage or a sling?

No, but sometimes I get a runny nose.

So at the Jamboree, did you sleep in cabins or under canvas?

I shared a pup tent with Tristan Dickson.

Why do they call it a pup tent?

Dicko brought his dog.

Did you earn any badges?

I tried for my Firelighters Badge but I didn't get it.

What happened?

Apparently you're not allowed to use a Bic disposable.

And how did Dicko go?

Good. He got his fire going using the fluff from his navel.

That's very clever.

I would have been cleverer if he'd taken it out of his navel before he lit it.



So no badges for you then?

Nah. I was going to try for my Advanced Swimming Badge but Skip said I'd have to start at the bottom.

Well what did you learn?

They taught us how to stay alive in the bush with a simple survival kit containing a water bottle, a packet of Ryvita and a compass. Then they took us into the middle of nowhere

living with The Trotts

and left us.

How did you go?

I lost the survival kit.

So how did you find your way back?

When I did my Hiker's Badge last year I learned how to find East just by using the sun, a stick and an iPhone. It even works in the dark without a stick.

Amazing.

You learn lot's of tricks with your Hiker's Badge. Like how to make a small fire with a magnifying glass. Or a big fire with a big magnifying glass. How chocolate gives you energy but it's better to carry a Mars Bar than a Choc Wedge. And if you wear two socks on your foot you don't get blisters. Though you do get really bad blisters on the other foot.

So what did you do in the evenings?

Oh, you know. Sat round the campfire cooking marshmallows till they melted and fell in the fire. Drank cocoa. Sang songs.

Campfire songs?

Yeah. *Ging gang goolie goolie goolie watcha. Quartermaster's store. I met a bear. Call me Mr Flintstone I can make your bed rock!* Songs like that.

So Jasper how long exactly have you been scouting?

About 13 years now.

But you're only 15!

I started when I was 8 and I've been 15 since this column started 6 years ago, so you figure it out.

Funny that. Well thanks, Jasper. And how did you find the interview?

Good.

Good.

United we don't stand

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

WARRANDYTE Community Association and Yarra St residents expect United Petroleum to face strict consequences after allegedly breaching council laws when it carried out construction work and sold petrol at its Yarra St site in what the WCA believes was without a permit in the last week of September.

News also has emerged that another application for a service station further down Yarra St, near the roundabout at Harris Gully Rd, was formally submitted around the same time of the month that United chose to carry out works and start serving petrol to customers.

Yarra St resident Deirdre Smart first overheard construction work being carried out the night of Thursday, September 26. Over the next couple of days, residents noticed pumps and a sign being installed at the 44-46 Yarra St site despite an alleged warning from Manningham council to cease operations.

Deirdre believes the works were a danger to the community, and were carried out in a "dodgy" manner.

Around noon on Friday, a truck arrived at the site to put petrol in the ground, halting traffic flowing both ways along Yarra St and almost causing an accident, according to residents who were at the scene (see inset photograph).

"There's a blind corner right outside the service station with double lines and there's just no other way to get in there," Deirdre said. "A car came around the bend and nearly ran right into the tanker and had to go onto Stiggants Reserve to avoid a collision. There are other places in Warrandyte that are more appropriate for a petrol station."

By the Saturday afternoon the



Controversial: A service station attendant with the cash register placed on top of a bin (above) and the newly constructed sign (top right) and a truck blocks traffic in Yarra St (right). Pictures supplied.

station began selling petrol to customers. Customers raised concerns about the conditions in which a service station attendant was serving people outside the site's offices with the cash register placed on top of a wheelie bin. Customer receipts also contained the address of a nearby resident.

"The point is if you've got the cash register on a wheelie bin not far from where cars are coming through you can be knocked down," Marilyn Evans from the Warrandyte

Community Association said. "Then there's a possible fire hazard if petrol spills and we don't actually know what provisions are in place, which is concerning given Warrandyte is a high fire risk area."

It is believed a council representative halted the unauthorised works and sale of fuel on the following Monday morning. WCA committee member and former Manningham councillor David Ellis told the *Diary* he believes United has breached council laws and should be met with

"the firmest possible response from council: signs removed, pumps out – no ifs or buts."

The *Diary* understands a planning permit for United's petrol station, convenience store and café at the site was first lodged in early 2012 and has been on hold as negotiations take place between the major national retailer and VicRoads.

Mr Ellis speculated that by selling petrol over the two days, United may have been trying to evoke the Existing Use Rights Act, which states



if the location is in continual use as a petrol station then that could act as a permit.

However, before the petrol was sold last month, it is believed fuel hadn't been sold at the site since 2005. Clause 63.06 of the Planning Scheme provides that a use expires if it has stopped for a continuous period of more than two years.

"The works undertaken by United would appear not only to pre-empt council's authority, but to do so in order to steal a march on a potential competitor," Mr Ellis said.

At the time the *Diary* went to print, Manningham council was still investigating the incident and United Petroleum was unable to provide a spokesperson in time to answer questions. The *Diary* hopes to have a full statement from United Petroleum and Manningham council in the next edition of the *Diary*.

Bunker business is a hot topic

FIRE Plan No.1: Leave early, bunkers are only a back-up! That was the clear message reinforced at the Bunkers or Bunkum forum in Warrandyte recently, which also attracted national media outlets including Channel 10.

CSIRO bushfire building expert Justin Leonard presented a sobering analysis of bushfire fatalities over the years together with observations for the 2009 Black Saturday fires and an update on building regulations for private bushfire bunkers.

On Black Saturday there were two fatalities inside self-built bunkers and six more in various cellars and workshops attached or built under the home and considered by the resident as safe "fire protection" areas.

Three more died who had failed to make it to a bunker only 10 metres from their house.

"These terrible fatalities reinforce the message that fire bunkers are very much a last resort – Plan C or D, not a first option," said Warrandyte Community Association president Dick Davies.

"They must be built to approved standards and residents must plan effectively in advance when to



take shelter in them.

"But the CFA message to 'leave early' is definitely the first option."

The forum was organised by the WCA's Be Ready Warrandyte – Living with Bushfire Risk campaign.

It brought together emergency

services and planning officers from CFA and local government together with bunker builders and CSIRO to consider the pros and cons of bunkers and answer questions from more than 170 residents.

In addition to residents of the Greater Warrandyte area, there

were several participants who had lost their homes or experienced the Black Saturday fires first hand.

For more info visit <http://warrandyte.org.au/be-ready/bunkers-or-bunkum> or contact Jodi Clark on 9844 5855 or email info@warrandyte.org.au

The WCA 'Be Ready Warrandyte' project is funded by the Victorian Government Fire Ready Communities Grants Program. Manningham Council, Nillumbik Council, the Warrandyte Community Bank and the Community Market Committee have also provided funding support.

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Melbourne Hill Road update

By KARLY HICKMAN

COMMUNITY members involved in the Manningham Council Community Reference Panel have proposed an alternative concept to address Melbourne Hill Rd drainage issues.

The group presented footage showing flow of water in the catchment to councillors and council engineers in early September.

"We felt we were able to prove through this consultative approach that catchment and flood affected residents are not at fault," the community reference panel member Peter Hookey said.

The community members pointed to a lack of standardised approach to the design or construction of driveway crossovers and very little council maintenance of drains as major contributors to drainage problems.

In addition, the community members proposed 10 per cent of water comes from the council-owned reserve at the top of Melbourne Hill Rd, arguing that they should not be responsible for the flow of this water.

But council claims the area of the reserve at the top of the catchment represents "about 8 per cent of the total catchment area".

"Under council's policy, council pays for the contribution that reserves make to a catchment. This is accounted for in the cost apportionments. It is not a cost that the residents bear," Manningham Council CEO Mr Carbone said.

"Any proposal to divert these flows from the natural, current catchment would need to take account of potential adverse impacts along the diversion path, which does not naturally take these flows."

One option suggested by the residents was to divert flows from this area toward Heidelberg-Warrandyte Rd, which is under VicRoads control. Council officers have approached VicRoads to investigate this option. The community members on the panel, 40 per cent of whom have been flood affected, proposed a staged approach over multiple years to address the catchment issues and believe that council needs to take responsibility for the non-standardised driveway crossovers designs as well as drainage maintenance.

"The total cost of the works is distributed between the contributing parties, primarily based on land area but also takes account of the intensity of the rainfall event for which the drainage system is designed," Mr Carbone said.

Council's estimated contribution of \$1,000,000 to the project cost includes contributions for the area of the council reserve at the top of the catchment and the road reservations within the catchment. It also includes a contribution for the upgrading of pipes and infrastructure to cater for the major storm event, over and above the cost of infrastructure for the minor storm event.

But community members are concerned that no geotechnic or environmental assessments have been made on the catchment area, leading them to question how any figures have been accurately costed, especially given that residents north of the river are currently experiencing difficulties with drilling through rock for sewage connection.

Council says the final property owner contributions will be based on council's policy for Contributory Projects and will take account of the final extent of works. The original proposed costs to property owners was \$900,000 (between \$5000 and \$17,000 per property).

At this stage, council officers are working with the community to finalise the concept for the drainage upgrade.

Mr Hookey said community members were happy with the outcome of the meeting and appreciate council's consultative approach. The next panel meeting will be held this month at a date to be confirmed.

Locals survive PNG

PETER Stevens realises he is lucky to survive what he calls a "one-off type of serious incident" on the Black Cat Track in Papua New Guinea. While three porters are dead and others have sustained serious injuries that have crippled them for life, the Warrandyte local wants to return to the area and finish the trek in honour of the porters who died and raise funds for the Black Cat Track Porters Trust Fund. A modest man who is well liked in the Warrandyte community, he has experienced an ordeal you wouldn't wish upon your worst enemy. Peter was generous enough to spend more than an hour with new *Diary* editor SCOTT PODMORE and offer this first-hand account of the vicious attack that made headlines around the globe.

The *Diary* warns readers that some content is graphic and may be upsetting.

THEY say the Black Cat Track is shorter than Kokoda, but many believe it's tougher.

The Black Cat is a six-day trip and 70km and I think Kokoda is eight or nine days and about 100km.

Our guide (Christie King) said Black Cat was more technical in terms of climbing and things like that, there were a couple of occasions where you had to use some ropes, so I think it's supposed to be harder. Mind you, I did the Black Cat when I was in the army as a 20-year-old in the early 1970s.

I clearly remember that first time there was an awful lot of history laying around, a lot of memorabilia and stuff there. One of the guys actually found a US naval fighter just sitting there in the jungle with wings off. It was shot down and it was whole and complete. You'd find Japanese helmets, graves and all sorts of things.

There were two of us who actually did Kokoda about three years ago. John Hill and I both worked together at Transurban for a while. He's ex-army, I'm ex-army and out of the five of us from Melbourne on the trek, three were ex-army and one was ex-airforce, and then there was Rod Clarke, another Warrandyte man, who was drawn into the group. PNG Trekking required a minimum number of seven for the trip to happen, so we were keen to rope in as many as we could to get it up.

So the five of us were training for about nine to 12 months mostly locally. John Hill used to run at lunch times, but pretty much every week or fortnight we would meet up at Mt Dandenong and initially we did the 1000 Steps but we felt that didn't really represent what it was going to be like, so there's another track called the Glasgow Track and that's basically 1km straight up on a steep slope and we used to do that two or three times in a day. Unfortunately I injured my knee about five weeks before the trek so I basically did no training for that time leading up to it.

We needed to present doctor's certificates to say we were fit enough to do it. Christie was our tour leader who works for PNG Trekking and she is very fitness oriented - she's what you call a fast trekker, who has done the Black Cat before in 30 hours I think. But even though she'd done the Black Cat two or three times, or maybe even more, this was her first expedition as tour leader.

For the five of us from Melbourne I can speak for, we were interested in the history of this trek because of our backgrounds. That was the main drawcard for us. Plus it's a beautiful country, the trek's challenging, but the main aspect was the history. It's a good mix.

So it wasn't just about the physical challenge. I'm interested in military history and someone said to me - and I could believe it's true - that more Australians died on the Black Cat than on Kokoda in the fighting with the Japanese, but it's not very well known. The Black Cat is also an old gold mining track. A lot of those tracks in that area were surveyed and tapped by gold miners. In the Bulolo River and the Bulolo Valley there's lots of gold and they're still mining it today. Even the locals get in the rivers and find little flakes of gold. They'll work all day just to get a little handful of flakes and apparently there are lots of places where they can sell it to wholesalers.

But really, it was about the military history.

We flew over to Port Moresby on the Monday and we immediately took a transfer flight to a place called Bulolo. Then we were met by Christie and some vehicles that took us to Wau, which was where we stayed at the home of a couple. The husband worked for Morobe Mining and his wife worked at the local store, and they basically just put us up for the night in their lovely house.

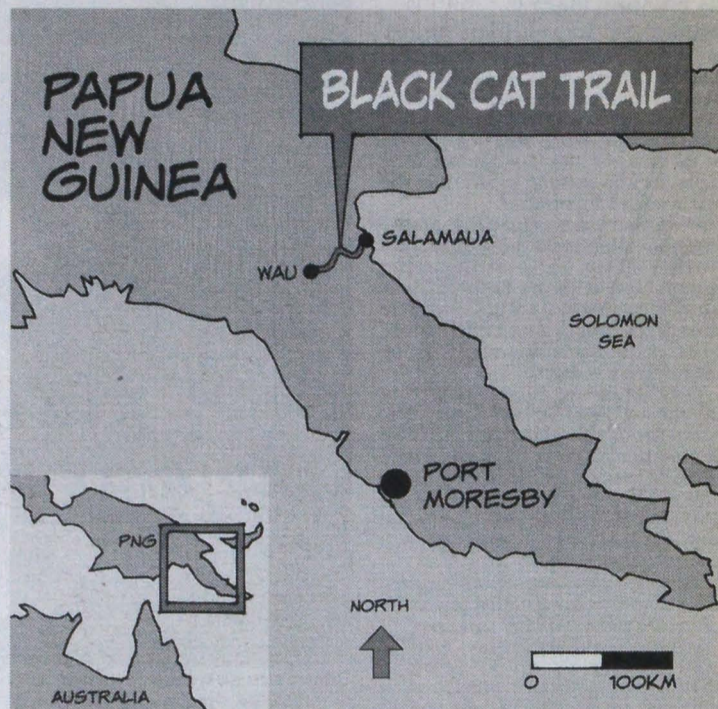
We got up early at about 5.30am, the idea being we would start just when it got light at about 6am. So we drove for about 30 or 40 minutes from Wau to the start point and the porters were gathered and ready to go.

With regards to the porters, the trekking company had tried a number of different combinations because they had to share the jobs around, because obviously over there jobs are rare, and they're fairly jealously guarded and things like that.

At one stage they'd tried recruiting all the porters from one village along the track and nobody was happy about them doing the whole track. Then they went through a process where they'd get porters from this village, then others would pick it up at the next point, and you know, logistically it was inefficient. And this time what they decided to do was the head porter, Dick, started at Salamaua and then he walked up the track picking up some porters from each village.

So by the time they got to the start point he'd assembled his team and they had come from every village along the way in order to share things.

Each of us had paid to have a porter carry our big pack - besides the fact it's pretty challenging anyway and you're still carrying a day pack, the idea was you had your porter carry your main pack for you every day. I had this guy called Lapi from Salamaua. The short time he was with me I can as-



sure you he was very good.

They're incredibly fit, strong and have heaps of endurance. You know, I was puffing getting up to the first point on the first day and he was carrying a big pack, 16kgs or so, and not looking bothered at all.

All these porters were barefooted, you could see on the steeper slopes where their toes had dug in. They were incredible. And here we were in our \$500 foot-gear and slipping and sliding all over the place.

So we basically start off in this kunai grass about waist high and spent hours just climbing up these spur lines. We stopped off about 9.30am at a bomber: there was a downed B17 flying fortress from WWII. We took a few photos, Christie gave us a little history about it.

After that we cut up to this ridge where we met this upper track where we had a bit of lunch and then we started to follow this track to our night spot, a place called Banis Donkey, which means "donkey fence" in pigeon apparently. But my understanding is in WWII there was a corral there where they had donkeys to carry supplies and things like that. It was a smallish clearing and that was where we set up for the night.

So by 2pm we had finished, Christie reckons we had gone a lot faster than she had expected compared with the average group trek. It was raining quite heavily, very cold, and porters helped us set up our tents. We were warned that if it rains it rains there, it's just the topography, basically. We were told to expect to get wet every day.

We set up camp, our tents were set up on one side of the track and then the porters cut saplings and things like that and had a couple of tarps and put up one big shelter and built a couple of fires either side. They were soaked, shivering and cold. Most of us got inside our tents to dry off and get sorted. I dried right off and put my dry clothes on which were in my pack and probably about 4pm the rain stopped.

I heard a couple of guys talking so I got out and joined them and in the end there were about five of us standing just having a chat.

ABOUT 10 minutes later three guys came screaming out of the bush with black balaclavas on, one of them had a pipe gun which was a homemade shot gun and two of them had bush knives, which are like machetes. They use them over there to cut grass and it's basically like a farm tool, you know, they chop wood with it, slash grass with it, so everybody's got them.

Nothing was really going through my mind at that stage because there is no time for emotion or

fear: you see it all, but you're stuck thinking what's actually going on here? Is this a joke? Are the boys having a bit of fun?

Then the guy with the pipe gun pointed it at us and told us to get down, so we started to squat. While this was happening, the two guys with the big bush knives had run into the shelter where the porters were and just started hacking them ... straight into them.

There was no doubt they knew what they were doing and, I guess you can surmise that there were 18 or 19 porters and if there are only three or four of these guys, well, the porters had bush knives, too, so, again I'm surmising but I'm guessing they were intent on putting potential danger to themselves out of the way. Put them out of action, basically, so they could do what they wanted to do.

One of the things I've said to people is that what it looked like to me could be described as being liked a National Geographic program on television when a lion attacks an impala herd. I can still clearly remember seeing four or five porters who were only about five metres away - they saw what was coming and they were off!

But these guys were into them before some of them got anywhere. Some of them got away into the bush, but I can still see one of our guys fall to his knees and one of them was right into him with a bush knife, hacking, just hacking him. So at that stage there were two guys dead. Obviously I didn't know they were dead at the time but when we went there later it was pretty clear two were dead.

We were squatting down and the attackers were talking in pigeon yelling out "slip, slip", which actually means "sleep", but what they meant was "lie down". But we didn't understand so then they started to attack us.

Other people say there was a fourth with a 303 rifle, but I personally only saw three. So they obviously turned on us and were trying to get us to lie down and one guy came straight over to me and raised the machete above his head and hit me (*Peter demonstrates how he had his arm up over his head in an attempt to shield himself*).

It's hard to tell exactly, but what he did was flatten the blade as he hit me, which cut my arm a little bit, and he hit me a couple of times to make me lie down so I was lying on my side. Everyone got a beating like that.

Two of the guys, as they were coming out of the tents, were clubbed over the head with a rifle, which one I don't know because I didn't actually see that happen but I could certainly hear it. They were clubbed and put down and subse-

Black Cat trek attack



Happy to be home:
Dee Sheffrin, Peter
Stevens, Breanna Large
and Barney the dog.

quently got stitches and bandages.

So we were lying there and one of the guys, Zoltan Maklary, he's also from Melbourne, hadn't actually heard anything as he was in his tent listening to his iPod and then he said he thought he heard something so took his earphones out.

He said he could hear a bit of shouting but thought the boys were just having a bit of fun and these guys had methodically gone down and slashed open the tents to rob us and Zoltan's was on the left so was one of the first to get that.

This guy slashes his tent and Zoltan looks up and this bush knife comes through so he got a fright and got a real beating mostly with the side of a machete, but he also got some serious down-to-the-bone type cuts in his arm, ended up with a compound fracture and obviously some huge bruises on his legs. He got the most continuous beating.

Then they proceeded to rob us. They were basically after anything, the passports were taken but were no good to them, nor were the credit cards, it was the money they were after mainly.

My tent wasn't actually slashed, it was basically ransacked, and when he got out I made the mistake of looking up at him because the one thing they didn't want us to do was look at them. He then grabbed one of my hiking poles and he threw it like a spear and got me there (pointing to his shin) and even though it didn't penetrate the skin at the back of my calf, there was about half an inch stretching the skin out the back so it's pretty well gone straight through.

So this hiking pole was hanging

out of my leg and the whole attack went on for about 20 minutes to half an hour. I was holding on to this pole and my leg.

The sickening part of it was they'd stop rummaging through the tents and then go back to the porters and continue hacking into them again. They were slashing them across the legs so they couldn't run away.

It was really horrible, even just the sound: it was like somebody chopping wood ... but it was bone, not wood.

The thing that really struck me was that there was no screaming. You could just hear moaning. I don't know why, but again I just suspect that if they screamed out it would only bring more attention to them.

We were all pretty convinced these attackers were high on drugs and alcohol because two of them in particular were just crazed - it was their manner, the way they were acting. It certainly wasn't normal. The one with the shot gun, he was perhaps the only one who wasn't, because each time they went back to the porters this guy was yelling out, "Enough! Enough!" But they didn't pay any attention to him.

With the pole through my leg, there was no pain. It was just numb. It's difficult to say if I thought I was feeling like I was about to die: I can say I was highly anxious, but I can't say I was shitting myself with fear or anything like that. It was more numbness, like, this is happening and it might not end right but I can't say I was consciously terrified for my life.

Yet, at the same time, rationally, I

knew how it could end.

You know, I've always been able to look after myself OK and when I was talking to my wife on the phone she assumed I must have tried to stop them. And, no, I didn't actually, because they were pointing a rifle at us and you don't really know what's happening, so nobody retaliated.

At some point during that period they wanted to know who the "boss man" was and Christie, who was our tour leader, despite people being dead and stuff, she stood up and said, "Yes, I'm the boss of the group". She told them there was money over in a tent and they didn't believe her and hit her, smacked her with the side of a bush knife and put her down.

So it was pretty much it then. **ONCE they finished robbing everyone, they took off down the track where we had come from. I could see them, they paused on the clearing and then eventually took off down the track.**

Looking back, it was obviously an ambush: they knew we were coming. One way or another they knew and whether it was when they were collecting the porters on the way up or not, I don't know.

It's small town stuff there and people talk so they would've known we were coming. Initially we were told there were three escaped convicts from Wau involved, one of whom was wanted for murder and were the major suspects and seemed to fit with the numbers I saw, but there's stuff coming out now suggesting that that may not actually be true.

But after they left everyone started to get up and check on the porters and start first aid and things like that. It was terrible. One of the dead guys had all his fingers off, a severed arm. Another one had been sleeping under the tarp and he just obviously sat up and was cleaved straight down his head so he probably died instantly. I've never seen anything like that in my life.

It was horrific. You can watch all the movies you like but to see something like that is very different, with the whole area filled with red, sticky blood congealing, open gaping wounds, you can see the bones and this sort of stuff.

The thing that really stands out in my mind was how this one man who was black had turned yellow because all the blood had drained out of him. He was lying there stiff and yellow, and that really struck me that he'd changed colour.

Some of the porters obviously escaped and went back to their villages, while two returned. Sadly one of the porters brought his son along for the adventure, I'm not sure how old he was but he would have been somewhere between 8 and 10. He saw everything, he wasn't touched but he was in the middle of it all. His dad was OK, fortunately. He was shocked and shaking, it was terrible.

Rod Clarke, the other Warrandyte guy, came over and he was trying to help by ripping this pole out of my leg but the trouble was this part here (pointing to the plastic rim section above the spike) was inside. He started to pull on it and I said, "No, no, just leave it alone now."

Christie came over to me and said, "Jeez, I don't know how we're going to get you out of here with that inside your leg." So she went away to attend to the others and I thought, well, I'd better pull it out. Doing it yourself, at least you can control it.

So I just sort of twisted it and pulled it out - it would have been a couple of minutes. The worst part of it was not knowing whether it was going to come out and I had to keep exerting extra force.

Then Christie came over and threw a triangular bandage at me and I put it on. Rod went and got some elastic tape and taped it up. And then I got up and went across to help with the porters, helping with the first aid and grabbing sleeping bags for them.

It was very cold. One of the guys I thought was on the way out had a tin of meat in his hand and I said, "Are you all right, what can I do for you?" And he said, "I'm bleeding, I need to eat meat." It's obviously something they believe helps. He said "feed me meat" so I scooped it out with my fingers and started feeding him. Then I got a water bottle and just went around to the guys and just tried to help in making them feel comfortable and settle them down.

Christie's satellite phone had been stolen but she still had a mobile and because we were only on the first day we climbed up out of the valley and there was still mobile phone coverage. So she managed to call up and get the rescue parties started down in Wau and then the decision was made that those who could walk should get out and walk to meet the rescue parties to make sure they were prepared with all the right stuff. So we went out with what we had, with Christie leading.

So basically it was hard and we had to go down the track that these attackers went down and we had about an hour of full sunlight left and half an hour of dusk, so we had about one and a half hours before it got really dark. We could see the footprints (of the attackers) and those footprints suddenly disappeared so they had gone left or right off the track.

It was after dark and then we could smell marijuana and at first

we thought they were on the track in front of us and we actually worked out it was coming down off a hill-top.

My leg was a bit sore, but the only time I really got slow (little laugh) was when we met the rescue party and they grabbed a couple of the local guys to guide us down.

You read about the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels helping the soldiers in the war and that was exactly what it was like, he was holding on to me, making sure I didn't stumble or slip and showing me exactly where to put my feet. At one stage I went to slip and he went to stop me from falling down and as Murphy's Law would have it his knee went right into my sore leg, right on top of the wound. That slowed me down a bit for a while! He felt bad of course, but he did a fantastic job. So after about five and half hours we finally got to the road where there were shitloads of people and vehicles and all I can really remember was that the locals were just so sorry.

They were really, really upset that this had happened, and they kept coming up putting their hand on your shoulder or your leg saying "I'm sorry". They were really upset.

The Morobe Mining guys met us and they had all their emergency response people and we were driven to their clinic in their compound in Wau that was very well equipped. They'd already got a doctor ready and we got really good service. We stayed at Danielle and Tim's place, the same place we stayed at in the beginning and flew out from Mulobo to Port Moresby and flights were rearranged - Qantas were fantastic and gave us food and beverages. They were terrific.

I've gone through the story a lot of times already and I think it does me good to talk about it, to be honest, but really it's all about the porters now as far as we're concerned.

The fact is nothing happens over there without money. For example, their hospital in Lae is called the Lae International Hospital which is there to treat expats and people like that, I guess, and it's a very, very expensive exercise and if you don't have money you don't get treated.

So for the porters there'll be no follow up with such things as physiotherapy. They'll basically be stitched up, patched up and sent home and at risk of infection and so on.

A couple of the families obviously no longer have their breadwinner, or husband or father, and not only are those families impacted but the local economy is impacted. There will be a lot of people cancelling trips and that sort of thing. Not all the guys have decided but some of us, for that reason, we'll go back and finish the trek to try to raise some money for the porters and help the local economy.

I don't know when but that's the plan. People really need to understand this was really a one-off event.

I'm pleased to be home, that's for sure. I'm doing all right, I'm actually doing far better than I thought.

We've had some great support.

Donations for the PNG porters



Donations to assist the families of those porters killed and seriously injured can be made to: **THE BLACK CAT PORTERS TRUST FUND, COMMONWEALTH BANK, BSB: 063124, ACCOUNT NUMBER: 10692436.** The fund also has a Facebook page.

A special thanks to our Cliff

My introduction to Cliff came through the unlikely medium of a fire-breathing bunyip onboard a derelict riverboat.

I was eight at the time, and Cliff's novel *The Incredible Steam-Driven Adventures of Riverboat Bill* was one of my favourite reads, not least because I'd heard the author was a local. (That sense of community pride comes early to us born-and-bred in Warrandyte.)

Yet it was not till I was at the ripe age (though not mature) of 19 that I met Cliff in person. Having started a journalism course at RMIT, I was looking for some experience on a newspaper, and Cliff had plenty of experience to offer.

My first articles concerned the most momentous of local events, the Warrandyte Festival. Cliff and Judy had been anointed festival King and Queen, for which they received the honour of being driven through the parade in the back of a vintage car – a greater privilege even than that of riding on the back of the fire engine.

I remember it was a vintage car because in my article I had described it as a "hot rod", to which Cliff gave me the first of several frank but useful lessons: #1 get your facts straight. The *Diary* newsroom was no place for fiction (regardless of the editor's pedigree in bunyip lore): if people wanted erroneous stories, they could read another paper.

Cliff was a wonderful role model for a young journo like me: softly-spoken yet sure of his convictions, unwavering in his support for the community, and unafraid to pursue unscrupulous property developers, local councillors



Reminiscing: Cliff Green with Val Polley in the Diary office.



council officer had unwittingly suggested the "children can just play with sticks instead" (or words to that effect), a quote that earned a prominent position on the *Diary*'s front page.

This incident was memorable to more than just me. About two years later I found myself trapped on the same chairlift as the officer in question. She also clearly remembered the incident; albeit far less fondly.

Cliff was an amazing force and source of energy on the *Diary*, and his presence will undoubtedly be missed. But through his work he has built the *Diary* to be a resolute voice for the community of Warrandyte; one that is not only heard, but listened to and admired.

In short, he may be shy, he's definitely retiring, but thanks to the *Diary*, his presence will continue to reverberate for many years to come.

Sam Davies

Dear Cliff,

Your retirement has come to my notice and I feel it would be remiss of me if I let this event escape without comment.

From the very start of Lions Warrandyte, when early members used to attend your home to collate the *Diary*, through its columns and most recently the defense of our right as a tenant in the reconstructed Community Centre, your help and friendship has been greatly appreciated.

I would hope that you will remain in Warrandyte and from time to time, you and Judy may be in a position to accept invitations to our functions.

May you both enjoy a long and happy retirement.

David Dobbs
President

Warrandyte Lions Club Inc

Hi Cliff,

Looks like you and I both have the idea of retiring, although your service to Warrandyte has been much longer than mine. What an honour and privilege it's been to work for the people of Warrandyte, and what an amazing ride. Wouldn't have missed it for quids. You will be greatly missed, but you have the satisfaction of knowing that your baby will go on in loving and safe hands for the benefit of the Warrandyte community.

It's been a pleasure knowing you and the crew. A big thank you and toast to you all.

Robyn Jones
Earth Harmony

Dear Cliff,

Thank you and farewell.

This is a brief note to thank you for all that you've done to support the Warrandyte CFA.

dear diary

Letters to the *Diary* on local topics are welcome. They may be edited for reasons of style, length or legality.

Over the past couple of years our brigade has been involved in a number of events – some of them happy, some of them unfortunate. You, together with your team, have helped raised the profile of the brigade as well as helped the community learn about safety.

On behalf of the brigade, I'd like to wish you a successful retirement.

Lynda Hamilton
Warrandyte CFA

Dear Cliff,

I would like to wish you well in your 'retirement' from *The Diary* although I suspect you will never quite let it go and I look forward to seeing some articles from you.

In about 1996 you visited Box Hill TAFE to speak to a group of 'would be' writers who were part of the Professional Writing and Editing Course. I was part of that class. I've been a keen supporter of *The Diary* over the years and I would like to thank you for your ongoing dedication and commitment and personally for your publication of my poetry and articles over the years.

I feel extremely lucky to be both a writer and a Warrandyte resident.

We have a special and unique community and thanks to you, a special and unique newspaper.

Best wishes, Cliff.

Corinne Fenton



Not happy with library holding fee

I have just joined the new Warrandyte Library.

The library is obviously based on a distributed model where resources transfer between the many branches. The shelves have a very, very limited range but I was told I could get books transferred from any of their branches (same as any other library).

I was stunned to discover that each book reservation or hold costs \$2.20 per book.

If I was to use the web based interface to request a transfer or hold on a book I would be charged \$2.20 per book for the transfer...but wait!

If I ring the library and ask them to do the transfer, it is free – the cost seems only to apply to using the internet. I was told that the library had to recoup the technology costs.

This begs the question why implement a technology that imposes a charge that will directly impact on the future usability of the facility.

Ah well, back to Eltham or Ringwood where there is a zero cost for this service and they have a much wider range of books on the shelves.

Mary Frost
Warrandyte

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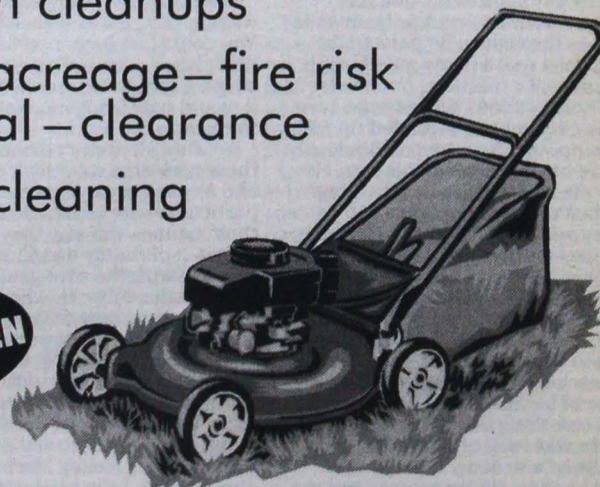
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IGA weathers storm



Home ground advantage

By MICHELLE PINI

COMPETITION in the grocery game is fierce with major chains Coles and Woolworths often locked in price wars and, more recently, with German entrant Aldi entering the field.

Warrandyte's local Quinton's IGA, although not immune to big box national advertising campaigns, has managed to carve out a niche within the village ambience of Warrandyte.

Now, new rival American giant retail chain Costco has emerged as another big challenge for the local supermarket, but IGA proprietor Julie Quinton tells the *Diary* she is up for the challenge and believes the benefits of shopping locally generally outweigh reasons to shop elsewhere.

The competition is getting tougher as one of her staff members observed "Costco actively campaigning outside our store, trying to get people to sign up to their club".

Quinton's has had its share of obstacles in recent years including the passing of founder and Julie's husband Brian Quinton, embezzlement of funds by a staff member, and even credit card fraud. On top of that, recent power outages imposed by SP AusNet's maintenance works, of which there have been five so far, have necessitated the hire of a generator at a cost of \$5,500 per day.



Up for the challenge: Julie Quinton of Quinton's IGA.

Julie says the arrival of Costco on Warrandyte's doorstep, which she describes as "unwelcome", does not deter her store from "doing what we do best".

"Costco is a very different shopping experience to the community atmosphere of Quinton's IGA," she said.

Julie, who had no prior retail experience, says she was "thrown in" to the job six years ago after her husband's death. She admits there were times when she didn't think the local IGA would survive. The supermarket endured, however, and has thrived under her management.

The store recently underwent a facelift with an extended product range including more local produce, deli, organics and gourmet items as well as enhanced layout and decor.

"Warrandyte shoppers know what they want so we are concentrating on meeting their needs with quality and service," Julie says.

The store's refurbishment has prompted IGA buying group Metcash to consider presenting Quinton's IGA as a benchmark for other independent supermarkets.

Julie says she is proud of the way the store has evolved but also acknowledges that the margins are tighter and shrinking.

"Times are tough in retail," Julie says. This view is supported by ABS statistics that show a negligible increase despite population growth and inflation in recent times.

So, how does IGA stack up when comparing shopping receipts?

"It's difficult to compete with the major supermarkets, particularly on specials but we have found little difference overall," Julie says.

She said Quinton's IGA conducts regular price comparisons with rival supermarkets, Coles and Woolworths.

"We compare a trolley-load of everyday items which are not on special such as CSR sugar, Twinings teabags or Nescafe Coffee and prices over a whole trolley load vary by \$4 to \$5 - often in our favour and sometimes in favour of the chain stores. Of course, that does not factor in travel costs."

Apart from convenience, current research suggests that supporting local businesses has a cascading effect for communities.

Extra dollars are put into

other local businesses, service providers and producers, rather than extracted by multi-nationals. They provide more jobs, local investment and support for non-profit organisations such as schools, sporting clubs and charities.

It is also known to be the best way to ensure diversity of range and lower prices over the long term, as products are based on local needs rather than national sales plans.

Local businesses contribute to neighbourhood character and atmosphere and it is more sustainable to shop near home as this reduces urban sprawl, car use and pollution.

Quinton's IGA employs 93 staff; only 11 don't live in the immediate Warrandyte area. It has also contributed \$25,000 in donations to the Warrandyte community in the last financial year.

Warrandyte resident Melinda Blaser lists that community support as a key factor to why she shops at Quinton's IGA.

"I shop there because they have a great range of organic meats and local produce, and are always happy to support the local community," Melinda says.

Shopper Robyn Curry reiterates that view: "It's convenient, I really like the friendly staff and the way IGA supports the local community. Plus it's a very social experience - I often drop down to grab something and run into friends."

As a tenant of the Goldfields shopping centre, Julie plans to continue as long as possible and says she would like to purchase the building one day.

"I love this community and would hate to think that one of the chains could come in and erode away the character of Warrandyte," Julie says.

Post Office on the move to site of old library

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

WARRANDYTE'S Post Office is on the move about 50 metres around the corner and will have more than double its floor space.

On the first weekend in November, Warrandyte Post Office will be moved to 100

Melbourne Hill Road, where the library previously existed.

Marg Agius told the *Diary* the move would be better for both customers and staff, as more space was needed for parcel delivery.

"Nobody will have to dodge

parcels on the shop floor anymore because we will have better storage facilities," Mrs Agius said.

Changes will mainly affect post box owners, who will no longer be able to receive their mail over-the-counter. Instead, the new premises

will enable key-holding post box owners to collect their mail from the re-located post boxes independently via a street front entrance.

While the move takes place over Melbourne Cup weekend, customers won't have access to their post box.

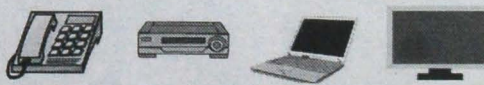


Clyde's Conundrum

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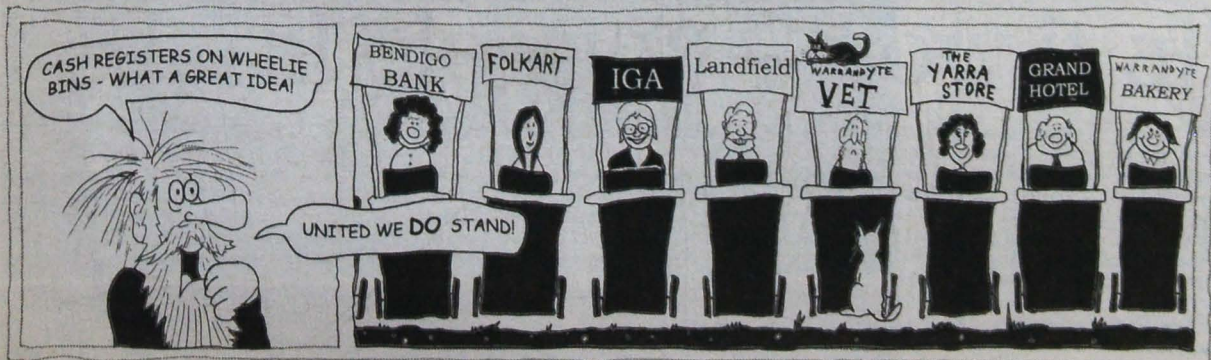
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Yarra protection plan continues

By **KARLY HICKMAN**

MEMBER for Warrandyte Ryan Smith has welcomed news that the Planning Minister has implemented Stage 2 of the Victorian Coalition Government's commitment to protect Melbourne's iconic rivers.

For the first time in its history, the Yarra River from Camberwell to Warrandyte will be comprehensively reviewed and planning controls strengthened.

"The Yarra is at the heart of the Warrandyte community, and these protections will benefit the whole community," said Mr Smith.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy said local planning controls along

the Yarra River between Burke Road, Ivanhoe and Warrandyte would be introduced in partnership with local councils to ensure development does not adversely impact upon the Yarra River.

"We are pleased that Minister Guy acknowledges the importance of protecting the Yarra from encroaching development and is extending tighter planning controls to the section of river between Burke Road and Warrandyte," Yarra River Keeper Ian Penrose said.

But Mr Penrose stressed that until the Planning Department's current Middle Yarra Study is completed and details of any tighter controls

are released "it is not possible to say whether they will be adequate".

The Yarra River Keeper's Association advocates for the Yarra and its environs to be a continuous corridor of public green space and unbroken wildlife habitat.

"We are concerned that modest changes to the controls would still permit developers to exploit the lucrative views of the river by erecting taller and more intrusive buildings," Mr Penrose said. "The reduction in water quality from pollution is reversible, but when the river banks are buried under concrete the change is effectively permanent."

"To genuinely protect what re-

mains of the Yarra's green environs the planning system should ensure that any new building on a property within sight of the river is no bigger or closer to the water than what is currently on the site. To do otherwise is to condone the ongoing destruction of our precious river-scape."

Mr Smith said: "The Coalition Government introduced the toughest environmental reforms in Victoria's history to protect Melbourne's two key inland waterways and this is another step towards securing Melbourne's rivers for future generations. The Yarra is the greatest natural asset of Melbourne's eastern suburbs."

Mr Guy said the Coalition Government was committed to preserving the environmental, cultural and recreational values of both the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers.

"We will continue to work with local councils and Melbourne Water to deliver consistent planning controls to protect both rivers," Mr Guy said.

The Victorian Coalition Government has committed \$1 billion worth of works over four years across the state's waterways to improve the health of the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay through the A Cleaner Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay plan, as well as funds to clean up the Maribyrnong River.

Warrandyte Community Centre Open Day

By **MICHELLE PINI**

THE new-look Warrandyte Community Centre has opened for business to a warm reception and everyone is invited to an official Open Day on Saturday, October 19.

From 11am to 3pm there will be children's activities, arts and crafts, information displays, food stalls, guided tours, and entertainment provided by local talent including the Teskey Brothers.

The community has embraced the revamped facility, particularly the library which experienced an amazing flow of traffic and 1968 loans in its first week.

The \$2.6 million overhaul includes the library as well as updated offices for the Lions Op Shop, Neighbourhood House, Information Warrandyte and the *Diary*. There are also newly created community function and meeting rooms.

Manningham Council officially opened the centre with a cocktail event last month.

"It's an outstanding result," Manningham mayor Jennifer Yang said. "Like the residents, I watched with interest how the development changed in form and waited patiently for it to open, and I can honestly say it was worth the wait."

State MP Ryan Smith congratulated all those involved as well as Manningham Council's inclusive approach in "having so much community input into the design".

"Warrandyte people have very high expectations of new structures in their community," Mr Smith said, acknowledging the architects for meeting community expectations and achieving an outcome that was in keeping with the surrounds.

Addressing former *Diary* editor Cliff Green, who had been instrumental in supporting the development, Mr Smith said: "Cliff, I think you'll be glad you're not the only one who is rapt to have a new library in Warrandyte that you were so keen on."

"It's a fantastic outcome. I look forward to us getting together and continuing to develop the fellowship we have here in Warrandyte."

Ms Yang described the community centre as having been very important over the past 22 years and referred to the completed project as "the spiritual heart of the community".

WCC Open Day, Saturday, October 19 from 11am-3pm. For more information visit www.manningham.vic.gov.au.



Manningham council mayor Jennifer Yang and state MP Ryan Smith at the official opening of the revamped Warrandyte Community Centre (top) and guests at the event. Pictures: Stephen Reynolds.



Historic building sold

By **MICHELLE PINI**

WARRANDYTE'S old wine hall and the freehold property which houses retail store Folkart has been sold. The landmark building has had only two owners in its 123-year history.

New owners Hazel and Robert Celotti plan to renovate and live in the historic property.

Hazel, who spent her teenage years in Warrandyte, told the *Diary* she was very excited about the move.

"My mother was a teacher at Anderson's Creek Primary School and we loved living in Warrandyte. I've always wanted to come back here to live," Hazel said.

When Hazel and husband Robert, a builder, decided to downsize their Pantom Hill property they were "instantly drawn" to the iconic Yarra Street building.

"I just love the location and the views and Robert wanted a new project. I have faith that he will do the building justice," she said.

The property is listed with Heritage Victoria and is subject to environmental and heritage overlays which apply to both the structure and the landscape setting. The new owners have already applied for the necessary permits with Heritage Victoria as well as Manningham Council and are consulting with a heritage advisor for restoration advice. They have been in contact with the Warrandyte Historical Society to track down photographs of the original look and paint colours.

"Although it will need significant modernising, especially re-stumping and plumbing, we want to preserve the character of the building," Hazel said.

The couple also hopes to retain the building's long-established retail tenant Folkart.

"Folkart is a part of Warrandyte - it's been there forever and I told my husband that I will have my favourite dress shop at my doorstep," Hazel said.

Folkart proprietor Pamela Hipwell confirmed she plans to stay on.

"I feel so involved with both the business and building and it's such a wonderful outcome. I look forward to enjoying the building with the new owners and seeing it blossom," Pamela said.

Federal election – how it all panned out

By **KARLY HICKMAN**

THE federal election was a close race in the safe Labor seat Jagajaga, with a nine per cent swing against ALP candidate Jenny Macklin.

Macklin managed to retain her seat despite the swing against her in first preference votes. The seat of Jagajaga incorporates Warrandyte North, Kangaroo Ground, Research, Eltham and surrounding areas. Liberal can-

didate Nick McGowan won 41.94 per cent of first preference votes as opposed to Ms Macklin's 38 per cent.

But Macklin was able to claw her way back to re-election with 53.12 per cent of the two candidate preferred vote, as compared with 46.88 per cent for Mr McGowan. Macklin worked for state and federal ministers before entering federal parliament in 1996. She served as Labor

deputy leader through three changes of Labor leadership between 2001 and 2006 and has served as families and indigenous affairs minister under Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard.

Since the election, Macklin has come up in support of Anthony Albanese to be the leader of the federal parliamentary Labor Party.

"Australians need Labor governments to deliver big reforms and look

out for the most vulnerable people in our society. Anthony is the right person to get us there," she said.

In Menzies, voters in Warrandyte, Warrandyte South, Park Orchards and Wonga Park re-elected Liberal member Kevin Andrews.

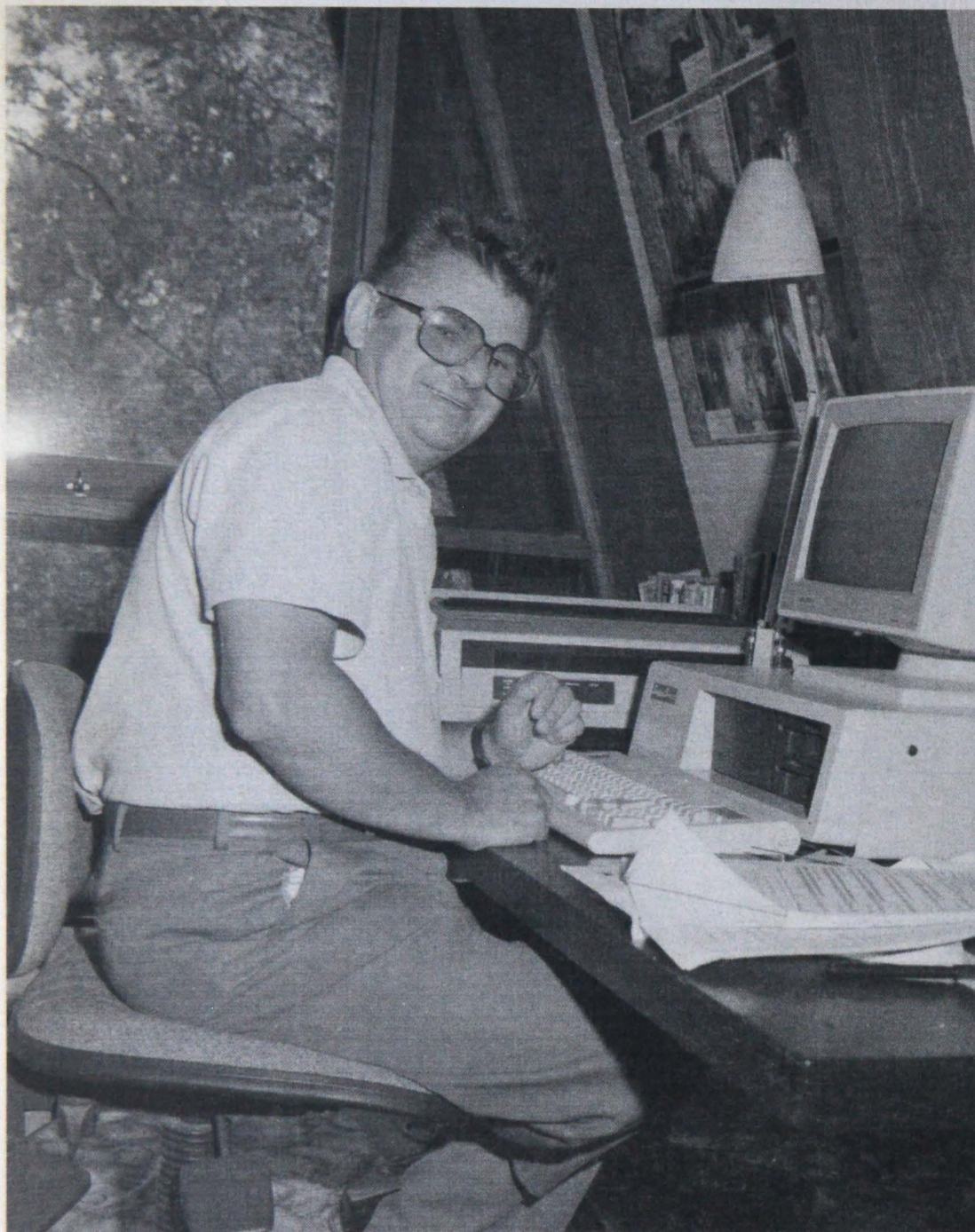
Andrews won 52,290, or 58 per cent of the first preference votes, a 5.33 per cent swing towards him.

In two candidate preferred votes,

Andrews won 64.44 per cent against ALP candidate Manoj Jumar with 35.56 per cent of the vote. Andrews was first elected in the division of Menzies in 1991. He has now been named minister for social services, under prime minister-elect Tony Abbott's cabinet.

This places most of the control of the not-for-profit sector into minister Andrews' portfolio.

In the Green room



He's cut and polished one of Warrandyte's most precious assets for just over four decades. **CHERIE MOSELEN** looks back with screenwriter and recently retired *Diary* editor **Cliff Green** on his illustrious career.

TO accompany this story, I went looking for photos of the *Warrandyte Diary* founder. Hoping to find pictures from the "back when the *Diary* first started" days of the seventies.

I tried the obvious places – the office, historical society, *Diary* photographer Stephen Reynolds. The meagre results shouldn't have surprised me.

As I have come to learn, the *Diary*'s modest front man is happier behind the scenes.

One photo turned up, which I shared with a family member who posed this curious question: Cliff Green or 1930s bank robber Baby Face Nelson?

I jumped on the internet and sure enough... the same good crop of hair, the youthful, boyish face. I could have used a photo of the notorious gangster and most wouldn't be the wiser!

Both men "made headlines" too, (although only one inspired a series of wanted posters.)

Thankfully, the other man started a newspaper. He started small.

Some 40 years later his contribution to the local community as an editor, and to the wider community as an Australian screenwriter, has been anything but.

Already creating little sketches from the age of 10, Cliff Green knew he wanted to be a writer. However, he originally trained as a compositor, earning a Diploma of Printing at RMIT.

He didn't enter the publishing trade after all – "too many highly qualified graphic designers about" – but went instead into primary teaching.

A bush romantic, Cliff longed for a rural posting. He soon got one, moving to a small town in the Mallee with wife Judy. He recalls those 10 years in the country as some of the happiest of their lives. The change also set the stage for his headway into writing.

"It was the 1950s and I was teaching at a tiny school in Rainbow – less than 10 kids. I wrote an end of year play, *Christmas at Boggy Creek*," Cliff

said, "and showed it to a writer friend, David Martin, who suggested it was good enough for the ABC."

"I thought he meant radio – we didn't have TV out there. So I adapted it and sent it off."

A letter came back that it was unsuitable for radio, too visual, and would he like to adapt it for television instead.

With the help of the BBC's *How to Write for Television*, (or "how NOT to write for television" as Cliff fondly remembers it) he adapted his script and the ABC produced it as a secular Christmas story.

The fact that it was at least 40 minutes long also qualified him to join the newly minted (six-month old) Australian Writers Guild.

Many years later, the soon to be 'ex' primary school teacher would become a vice-president and life member of the organisation, receiving the Richard Lane Award for 'service and dedication to the Guild' in 1990.

In 1969, the Greens (now a young family) transferred to Warrandyte, ostensibly for Cliff to take up a teaching position.

However, he had been pinpointed earlier by the Education Department and ABC collaboration "Schools Broadcasting" as a teacher with writing experience. Cliff created 13 20-minute dramas and social studies documentaries for their production team. It would bring him a step closer to becoming a full-time writer.

"One of the producers, Jonathon Dawson, had gone across to Crawford Productions in Melbourne. He called me one day and said they were looking for writers. He wanted to send me out an audition kit," Cliff said.

"I had to write a few scenes and an episode of *Homicide*. It must have gone alright because soon after Hector Crawford hired me as a staff writer."

Cliff began contributing episodes to police dramas *Homicide* and *Matlock*. He describes his three years with Crawford as "the best way to learn the trade" and respectfully refers to

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"You worked with everyone there, the camera crew, the production team. If needed, you rewrote on the spot. We were doing three cop shows a week, 48 weeks of the year, and every six weeks one of your episodes went to air," he said.

Given the six-week turnaround, Cliff began working a lot from home.

It gave him the flexibility to respond to an appeal by the Warrandyte Community Youth Club for a newsletter. He decided to expand the format and in 1970 *Warrandyte Diary* was born.

"I don't know how I managed both jobs, but teaching helped provide me with the necessary discipline. I edited the first four *Diary* issues on my own and then experienced journalist Peter Lovett helped out," he said.

(Age columnist Bob Millington would also step in to help, managing the paper for seven years.) However, in 1974 when Cliff and *Herald* journalist Lee Tindale joined forces, the little paper struck gold.

"We were great colleagues. Lee was managing editor and co-editor at times, and sports editor right up until 2006 when he sadly passed away," Cliff said.

"He was our Page 2 columnist and a marvelous sports writer. He would work and re-work each story until it shone like a polished gem."

The *Diary* is financed solely through advertising. Paid only as recently as the last few years, Cliff managed the paper alongside his scriptwriting work.

Some might be surprised to learn the extent of his reputation within the Australian film and television industry.

After going freelance at the end of 1971, Cliff wrote for such distinguished TV series as *Rush*, *Power Without Glory* and *I Can Jump Puddles*.

In 1975, he agreed to help out overcommitted playwright David Williamson who had been signed to write the screenplay of *Picnic at Hanging Rock* but couldn't do it.

His haunting adaptation of Joan Lindsay's novel went on to make cinematic history, anchoring the drama in the harbour of popularity as one of Australia's top 10 movies of all time.

The landmark Australian film earned Cliff Green an Australian Writers' Guild Award for Best Screenplay and a Best Writer nomination, US Science Fiction Film Awards, bringing him international recognition.

In the film and television world where only one in 10 projects ever get made, Cliff's screenwriting star blazed like a supernova.

His credits include TV drama series such as *Homicide*, *Matlock*, *Rush*, *Against The Wind*, *A Country Practice*, *The Flying Doctors*, *Mission: Impossible*, *Embassy*, *Stingers*, *Something In*

The Air, *Blue Heelers* and *Marshall Law*, among others.

He created two well-known TV mini-series: *Marion* and *The Petrov Affair*.

And adapted for television the work of Australian authors such as Henry Lawson, Alan Marshall, Frank Hardy and Norman Lindsay. Later work includes the original screenplay for the prize-winning children's TV film *Boy Soldiers*, and award-winning episodes of the highly successful ABC-TV series *Phoenix* and *Janus*.

In 1995 he created the critically acclaimed ABC-TV series *Mercury*.

A literary all rounder, his stage play *Cop Out!* was first presented by the Melbourne Theatre Company, and was the Western Australian Theatre Company's contribution to the Festival of Perth. He also published three children's books in his *Riverboat Bill* series, a novel *Break Of Day*, and a collection of short stories.

During his recollections, Cliff salutes others who shared his writer's journey.

"I left Crawford after a blue I had with Hector. He wanted me to take up a training role, but I'd left teaching to write, so I said 'no', and essentially sacked myself."

"Still, Hector remained a great supporter over the years. He'd ring me up whenever I had something on the ABC. 'Good stuff fellow! Keep it up' he would say."

HE warmly recalls a meeting with media personality David Frost (licensee of the English network, London Weekend) to discuss the making of *Power Without Glory*.

"I had suggested the book to the ABC, who started negotiations with Frank Hardy for the rights. David Frost was coming here to make *Frost Over Australia*. He didn't know anything about Australia. So he bought a paperback at the airport because it had a map of Australia on it! That book was *Power Without Glory*. By the time he'd finished it, he was asking for the rights," Cliff said.

"So now two outfits wanted it. But Frank was clever, rather than creating a conflict he suggested a co-production."

"ABC writer Howard Griffiths and I met David Frost at a pub somewhere in Melbourne. He was terrific. 'Just send me the drafts, otherwise it's your project'."

"Howard and I brought on more writers and it ended up with the best rating the ABC had ever had for drama, possibly for anything up to that point."

Not once in our three-hour interview does Cliff mention the awards he has received. I cite some of them here, not least because they reflect the tremendous variety within his work.

His TV quartet *Marion* and the plays *End of Summer* and *Burn the Butterflies* won a total of 17 industry awards.

He received the Australian Writers Guild major AWGIE for *Marion* in 1974 (eight AWGIE's

throughout his career). A Best Writer nomination followed at the 1978 Science Fiction Film Awards in Hollywood, and AFI nominations in 1992 and 1995.

Boy Soldiers won the Liv Ullman Peace Prize at the 1990 Chicago International Festival of Children's Films and was a finalist in the International Emmy Awards in 1991 (the first Australian drama to receive an Emmy nomination.)

And his *Janus* episode 'Fit To Plead' won a 1995 Australian Human Rights Award.

Clearly, Cliff Green is a fine writer. However, donning the cap of a newspaper editor requires something more.

Meeting his editorial responsibilities sincerely (but not always submissively!) Cliff has mapped the *Diary* into a landscape that reflects Warrandyte's strong community character.

Of course, he didn't do it alone. Numerous volunteer editors, writers, photographers, artists and advertising managers helped him.

He also had a North Star. Cliff credits wife Judy as being the *Diary*'s moral compass.

"Judy does more than manage 'out of the inbox'. Sometimes I'd get a bit excited about a story and she would caution me against publishing it!" he said.

CONSEQUENTLY, *Diary* readers have witnessed the celebration of their town through an editorship underpinned by solid community principles. It has enabled the independent paper to embrace a leadership role.

"Protector of Warrandyte's Village Identity?"

Cliff is far too modest to assume this tag on the paper's behalf. But as someone who appreciates Warrandyte's unique flavour and the solidarity of its community in trying to preserve it, I believe the *Diary* wears it well.

He does acknowledge the paper is "a part of Warrandyte". The attachment is stronger than that. In fact, many locals think of the *Diary* a bit like the next-door neighbour who you can invite over for a cuppa. One of Cliff's subtle strengths as managing editor has been to foster this sense of accessibility, binding the paper to the community.

For a small-town, largely voluntary effort, the *Diary* is peerless in its sophistication. Typically, Cliff plays down its many accolades, but says he is particularly proud of a Fire Awareness award bestowed by Radio ABC Gippsland during a bad bushfire year.

He is also proud of the *Diary*'s role in nurturing journalist cadets: Clinton Grybas, Georgi Stickels and Sam Davies, among others.

In 2001, shortly before retiring from screenwriting, Cliff Green received a Centenary Medal 'for service to the community'.

He accepted an OAM in 2009 for "service to the Australian film and television industry as a screenwriter and educator". (The 'educator' component refers to teaching screenwriting for institutions like the Victorian College of the Arts and RMIT University.)

And did I mention he was a founding member of the board of Film Victoria and founding vice-president of the Melbourne Writers Theatre? He must have spent 50 years fuelled up on coffee.

Today, aged 79, the talented (and remarkably still baby faced!) writer says he is not busy. Although with four children, 11 grandchildren, and his incredible work ethic, I'm not sure I believe him.

He may have signed off but that doesn't mean he won't be having the last word in a *Diary* column now and again. With 467 editions in his rear view mirror Cliff knows a lot of good stuff about Warrandyte.

Meanwhile, he says he looks forward to spending time in the town's new library. It would be fitting after 40 years of lobbying for the facility, if he has his own comfortable chair there!

In last month's edition Cliff thanked the community, particularly those people who have worked for and supported the *Diary* over many years. He also acknowledged the *Diary*'s generations of loyal readers.

As a *Diary* contributor, I offer thanks to Cliff Green for giving local writers a voice in their community. Not to mention the occasion to hone their craft in a newspaper of the highest standard.

And on a personal note, I thank him for teaching me the economy of "not using seven words when three will do".

We'll miss you.

● A community thank you to Cliff Green will be held in recognition of his contribution to the community and involvement with the *Warrandyte Diary* on Sunday November 10, from 12pm to 3pm. The venue is Warrandyte Neighbourhood House at the Community Centre.



Behind every great man...

By MICHELLE PINI

JUDY Green is a softly spoken woman who is well known for her many community activities. She is also the wife of former *Diary* editor Cliff Green.

A qualified laboratory technologist, she has followed Cliff to the end of the rainbow – literally – to the small town of Rainbow in the Mallee district before moving to Torrumbarry near Echuca. The couple then settled in Warrandyte where they have remained.

In their 54 years together, Judy has supported and assisted Cliff not only as a devoted wife, but also as a secretary, researcher and "sounding board" while also running a home and raising four children along the way. Together they have 11 grandchildren.

Soon after they were married, Cliff took a job as a primary teacher in a one-teacher school in Rainbow. Judy, who grew up in Sandringham, describes living in the bush in 1959 as "quite tough".

"We didn't have electricity, only a small generator, and I did feel isolated," Judy says upon reflection.

But the couple did get a taste of country life where the locals were supportive.

There was no work for a laboratory technologist so Judy worked "odd jobs", including cleaning the primary school and although not a qualified teacher she even taught maths and science at Rainbow High School which was short on teachers.

When Cliff took a job as a scriptwriter with Crawford Productions in Melbourne in 1969, Judy says they chose to live in Warrandyte because it was "lovely and green and away from the city".

She also believes their time spent in the country had instilled a sense of community and they both became immersed in Warrandyte life. Although she was too busy to return to her work as a laboratory technologist, she says she only missed it occasionally over the years.

"Funnily enough, it was whenever I saw someone in a lab coat on TV," Judy says.

Cliff, whose career is well chronicled (left), contributed much to the Warrandyte community as well as being involved with various writing organisations.

"Judy put up with all of it," Cliff says. "She was my sounding board and a great backstop to me all the time. If Judy raised doubts about anything, I'd usually say, 'I'm not changing that'. But once I went away and thought about what she'd said, I always would."

Judy also "loved to be involved" especially with the tennis club where she was junior convenor for several years. She now volunteers at the Warrandyte Historical Society, Warrandyte Community Garden and Friends of Warrandyte State Park. She continues to play tennis and regularly minds her grandchildren.

Although Judy insists she is not a writer, she co-wrote *Rallies by the River: a History of Warrandyte Tennis Club* together with Keith Wilson, which is archived in the National Library of Australia. She has also contributed to the *Diary* compiling the informative and popular 'Out of the inbox' section.

Though Cliff spent some time away from editing the *Diary* at stages, he was always heavily involved.

"It was his hobby and the *Diary*, as well as all the organisations and people around it, were very much part of our daily life – especially in the past 10 years," Judy says, something which resulted in a few broken sleeps according to her husband.

"I would keep Judy up at night," Cliff explains.

"When *Diary* deadlines loomed, I would wake her at 3am to sound out ideas. I liked to tell people that I earned my living for 40 years as a fiction writer to which Judy would say, 'Stop saying that – people will think you make everything up'. She was really a cross between a censor and a conscience."

Judy has very fond memories of the *Diary* but admits it encroached on their social life.

"We could never plan to do anything at the end of the month and everything revolved around deadlines," Judy says.

She also acknowledges that it was a huge time commitment that equalled "one extra script a year".

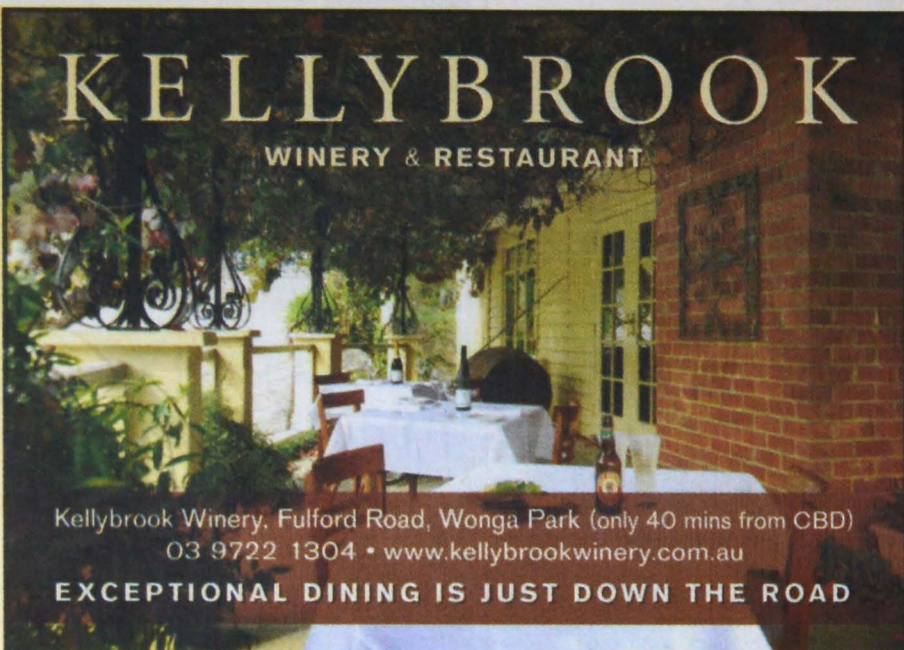
Happy they brought their kids up in Warrandyte, two of whom also settled here, Judy says she never felt isolated in Warrandyte and believes that although there have been changes: "It has retained its rural quality and community. There is just something about Warrandyte – Warrandyte changes people rather than the other way around."

Judy says the *Diary* was always Cliff's passion but in recent years, it was harder to produce each month. Referring to Cliff's retirement as *Diary* editor as "bittersweet", Judy says "it got too much but we will both miss it". She adds Cliff is confident in handing the reins to Scott Podmore "who will rejuvenate it while keeping the community focus".

"Cliff will just be walking down to the office earlier each month to get a copy now," she adds.

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WARRANDYTE schools were in full swing with theatrical flair last month as Warrandyte Primary School and Andersons Creek Primary School joined Warrandyte High in performing their popular productions for family, friends and interested theatre-goers.

Warrandyte Primary students presented *Our Old School Yard*, a song-and-dance celebration of the school's 150-year anniversary. The audience was taken on an entertaining musical journey through time, from the school's founding in 1863 up to the current day, as seen through the eyes of the students and the Warrandyte community.

This original school production included class items from every grade, was narrated and led by the talented graduating Year 6 students, and featured the school's State School Spectacular dancers, the junior and senior choirs, and a tribute to 30 wonderful years of their unique Bush Band.

The performance celebrated Warrandyte Primary's fascinating history,



and particularly how song and dance have always been part of the life-blood of the Warrandyte community.

MEANWHILE, over on the Anderson's Creek Primary stage, the school production kicked off with an un-

expected dance by the teachers in a cleverly choreographed number to the Michael Jackson hit, *Bad*. The staff secretly rehearsed in their lunchtimes with choreographer, Michele Gander, and surprised the students and parents with their playful performance.

The Preps were up next with a magical mini musical, *Jungle Drums*, while an adaption of the *Lion King* by the Grade 1s and 2s was full of energy, vibrant dances and fantastic costumes.

The Grade 3s and 4s performed a witty and humorous adaption of Roald Dahl's *Revolting Rhyme Musical*, *Cinderella*. Most impressive was their spectacular finale dance, *The Jam Man*, with almost 100 students on stage. The main event was the Grade 5 and 6 musical performance of *Ye Ha*. A fantastic western comedy that showcased a talented cast of actors and dancers, there was no shortage of talent as almost 100 children entertained the audience with a feast of song and dance and a comical plot.



Pictures: Scott Podmore, Gareth Dickson, Stephen Reynolds and supplied.



Over 55s prepare for global fun

The Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club is welcoming bookings for its upcoming shows, which will bring together music and songs from more than 20 countries.

The Club is celebrating 51 years of its music branch with a concert and cabaret, to be held over two nights in November at the Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club Hall.

The performances will showcase a variety of singing, dancing, instrumental and comedy acts.

The first concert will be held on Saturday November 16 at 1pm, with afternoon tea provided after the performance (\$14 donation).

On Friday November 22 at 7.15pm a cabaret containing several additional items will be presented with tea and coffee supplied - BYO everything else along with a \$10 donation.

All ages are welcome. For bookings phone Allan on 9877 1077.



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat



Warrandyte Youth Theatre Company comes of age

By JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

THE Real Inspector Hound was performed over a short season last month by Lawrence Phelan's brainchild, the Warrandyte Youth Theatre Company. Tom Stoppard's 1968 play opens with portraits of theatre critics Moon (Joe Italiano) and Birdboot (Dylan Houston). Italiano's Moon is a nervy twat with a serious inferiority complex, given to lengthy self-validating raves. Houston plays a confident deceiver, who uses his reviews as keys to the bedrooms of selected leading ladies. The critics sit on high, stage left. Their verbose, gossip-laced, pre-performance discussion quietens as critics and audience alike are drawn into a play within a play.

Enter Mrs Drudge (Tegan Wright), housekeeper at Muldoon Manor. As she dusts, her melodic tones become the narration. While Tegan does not quite pull off the requisite cockney accent, her sing-song delivery somehow suits the farcical nature of what is to come. Her monologue is mixed with intermittent police radio warnings, and wolf howls from the foggy marsh beyond. In this Christie-esque lair, Mrs D sets up the classic elements of a whodunnit house of cards.

Simon (Lawrence Phelan) plays a handsome stranger who wanders from the garden in through the French windows, self consciously stroking his long tie. He projects a menacing air. Bouncing after him his latest conquest, Felicity (Ruby Moxey-Fithall), tennis racket in hand, chasing a tennis ball onto the stage. Raw, lithe and vulnerable in her crisp white tennis frock, she calls a belated 'Out'. With the help of Stoppard's economic, punchy dialogue, Ruby quickly establishes this stereotypical character. We know her well - she's the one dimensional, emotionally driven, indulged daughter of the late(?) Lord Albert.



Pictures: Geoffrey Fithall.

The critics have almost finished their review now, they're putting their notepads away but wait, there's more than a few surprises in store.

Georgia Topp plays Lady Cynthia - the matriarch, the grieving widow, the jilted lover. Amongst a cast bubbling with youthful enthusiasm and playful energy, Georgia lords it over the lot of them. While her delivery is a little forced at times, she nevertheless projects a range of emotion and physicality that could mature into a powerful acting capacity with practice.

Next we meet Major Magnus (Jarrod Black), the eccentric half brother to the (supposedly) deceased Lord Albert. He is wheelchair bound, but through the use of a number of clown-like devices, manages to take the comic lead in a play loaded with

wit and nonsense. Upon his fan-fared entry, Magnus bowls Simon over as he hurtles into the drawing room - "How long have you been a pedestrian?" he blubbers. "Since I started walking," replies Simon. And so on...

It now comes to our attention that there has been a dead body on stage all this time. It's the appearance of Inspector Hound (Patrick Kelly) that helps bring the murder to light, but in no other way does the inspector progress the plot. Meanwhile, Moon and Birdboot revisit their assumptions - perhaps this play is not going to develop as they thought it would. They take more notes, discuss plot and character, until at length they become characters in the play they have been observing.

Stoppard not only questions the motives and capacities of theatre

reviewers, but also builds a play that, from this point on, is virtually review proof. It defies convention by repeatedly breaking down the 'invisible line' between audience and actor and killing off established characters, then replacing them with clones. So intent is he on satirising the accepted plot structures of the period that he builds an exaggerated number of twists into the ending, making it extremely difficult to précis. This is to take nothing away from the fine performances that build to the climax, notably that of Italiano's Moon. Moon virtually melts before our eyes as the plot confounds even him. And then he is shot.

Hats off to David Tynan and Lou Phelan who corralled this sizeable cast into a productive troupe. Nieta Manser, local primary school teach-

er, produced the show. The actors clearly survived rehearsals with the enjoyment of their characters and respect for Stoppard's script focused and strong.

It is ironic that what in its day was such groundbreaking theatre is here juxtaposed against a traditional, highly finished backdrop, complete with French doors and painted garden. It looked great - well done Denise Farran, Bill Connolly and Ken Virtue.

Along with contemporaries Bob Dylan, Allen Ginsberg, even our own John Romeril, Stoppard's has been a persistent voice for individual freedom and social justice into the 21st Century. It was Stoppard amongst others who fomented the revolution in theatre, that in turn energised local repertory around Melbourne, in the 1960s and 70s - influencing the activities and direction of the Warrandyte Theatre Company. It is fitting, then, that the newly formed Warrandyte Youth Theatre Company should come of age through a performance of a Tom Stoppard play.

Find out more about the Warrandyte Youth Theatre Company on Facebook.



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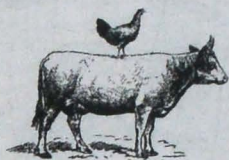


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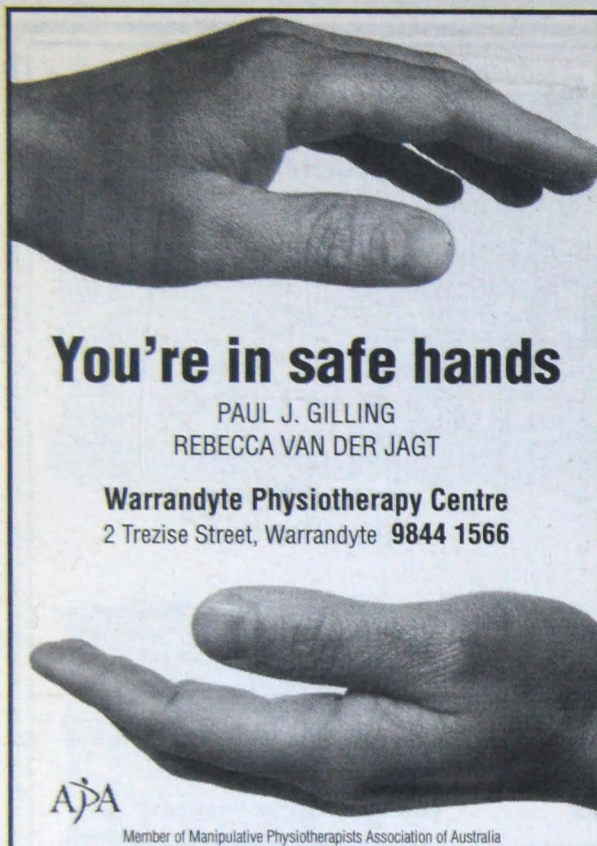
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No matter how much you read into it, golf is a whacker's game

FOR years I've understood that golf was "a good walk spoiled". Recently I've been playing a bit and I think the quote should read "a good walk frustratingly spoiled".

Inherently, there's nothing difficult about the concept of the game. You take a bent stick and use it to whack a small ball along a patch of ground until you hit it into a nominated rabbit burrow. In case you have missed something illuminatingly Zen on the first hole, you try a few more paddocks to see if peace and enlightenment follow. To make life a bit more interesting, you count how many whacks it takes you to get around a few paddocks and the player who manages not to lose the ball and actually completes the stipulated number of paddocks, using the least whacks, gets to buy the other whackers a drink at the local.

No doubt, when the pastime was invented and played by the locals, the 'game' would have been accompanied by a few "Och ays!" a lot of spirits drinking and some occasional breaks in the proceedings to attend to the Highland cattle and sheep. In the way of all good ideas, however, a good concept is never worth leaving alone and the marketing men got involved and made 'improvements'. A game that doesn't make money is, by definition, a bad game so the decision was made to 'value add'. The most lucrative starting point was with the bent



kibbled

"After each game I would go home, infuriated, with a high BP and a frightening degree of self-loathing..."

sticks. So, instead of just one, good sturdy branch that could be used for all shots, not to mention killing the occasional adder, the 'men' decided to introduce 'improved' sticks, each slightly different and decidedly 'better'.

After the money making potential was realised, the advertising men got in on the act and insisted that the sticks be high tech and numbered with each having a description about how and when it should be used. Naturally, the more expensive the new stick was, the better would become the whacker's game. This increasing expense meant that only the lairds could afford the many 'crafted' sticks re-

quired so, as was their right, they commandeered the noble game whilst the peasants had to go back to swearing, getting drunk and to 'tending' their sheep.

Soon it became obvious that the sheep, cattle and drunken peasants on the paddocks were game impediments, so the lairds decided to hive off parts of their estates, get rid of the animals, including the serfs, and develop a really 'nice' club where the newest equipment could be shown off. And to make sure outsiders would remain outsiders, they did what all privileged classes do, they invented so many rules, arcane rituals, terminology and fashion that only wealthy PLU (people like us) could become involved. Memberships and armed guards on the gates reinforced the impression that the game was far too esoteric for the average yobbo.

Well this remained like this for generations until the marketing men took time off from rearranging their sock drawers and decided it was time to make some more easy money. It was worth more than their expensive and exclusive membership at their private golf club for them to suggest opening up those clubs so there was only one other solution; 'public' golf courses. Which is where I come in. And at a very late stage of my life!

The first time I tried golf, I hired some clubs and was completely intimidated by the equipment for sale and the 'stuff' many players had. I

did a lot of swinging, missing and picking up the ball and walking out of sight of anyone else on the course. Eventually I reached the stage where I could joke my way around nine holes, without scoring.

As I got a little better but still frustrated, I was convinced by my mates that I would never improve until I had some 'decent' clubs. I got some and obviously they weren't decent enough because my stroke making didn't seem to get much better. Then I got the buggy but that only made storing and transporting my golf equipment even more difficult. I was now spending money like a laird but I still didn't have the correct clothing, patter or golf impedimenta to ensure a good game. After each game I would go home, infuriated, with a high BP and a frightening degree of self-loathing. And why? The game is supposed to be relaxing and fun!

Then I did some reading. And presto! The solution.

Evidently there are three fail-proof golfing rules that will ensure success.

One: When teeing off, the golf ball's tradename or number should face up.

Two: All numbered balls over four are really bad luck, and

Three: It's bad luck to use the word 'socket' on a course.

So that's why, I badly sliced a drive the other day and heard myself yell "Socket!" Or something sounding like that.

ROGER KIBELL



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Dawson's burrowing bees

nature

By LINDA ROGAN



Extraordinary: Dawson's Burrowing Bees of WA. Males lurk as white-furred female emerges.

SOMETHING was moving on the sandy track ahead. Peter stopped the 4WD exclaiming, "It's THEM!"

Excitement was mixed with disbelief as we jumped from the car and walked amongst hundreds, maybe thousands, of low flying insects filling the air ahead. These Christmas Beetle-sized insects were male native bees, stingless and therefore harmless to humans. They had only just emerged, since we had checked this track the day before. I had read everything I could to find about these bees. They are related to our Blue Banded Bees but much larger. Now was my chance to experience the adult part of their amazing life cycle at close quarters.

I knew that the males always emerge first and the track was peppered with their burrows. The golden brown males, searching for soon-to-emerge females, were excitedly checking each hole, often stopping to peer inside or sometimes entering briefly before backing out again.

We watched on that first day and glimpsed a furry white-faced female, peeking nervously out while a single male fanned his wings frantically, perhaps in greeting. Typically, as soon as she emerged, she was mobbed by several males, each fighting the others for access to the female. When only one male prevailed, the female ran to the nearby cover with the male on her back. He nearly obscured her so it looked like one huge bee running.

Once the couple were amongst the sticks at roadside, few males seemed to notice them and mating pro-

ceeded.

Two sorts of males are found and at first it appeared that the large males would be the only ones able to have a chance to mate, but a few hours of watching revealed a strategy used by the small males. They didn't appear to engage in the fighting but were always hanging close behind the brawling mob. Every so often, a female would slip away from the fighting ball of bees unnoticed by the combatants and she would scurry toward cover.

This was the small male's opportunity as females usually only mate once. At times, males were killed in the fighting and sometimes even a female was beheaded by accident.

On one occasion that we observed, after a mating, the female attached herself by her jaws to a twig and began a careful process of rubbing her

legs over all of her body, looking like cleaning. I wondered whether she was actually changing her scent so that she would no longer be harassed by the males. Females seen out feeding from the flowers of the rough bluebell were ignored by males feeding on the same shrub. Later we noticed females engaged in digging out their burrows in preparation for the series of brood cells she would build and provision with a mix of pollen and nectar.

These females didn't appear to be noticed by the males that were still milling around in large, if slightly reduced, numbers.

This colony, on a well-used fishing track, has persisted since at least 1998 and likely long before. When we last visited the site, about four days after the emergence, a few females were busily renovating holes and building

turrets to help keep dirt out. These turrets can reach a few centimetres high but none we observed were more than 1cm. This may have been because it was still early in the nesting cycle but I wondered whether traffic on the road would disrupt this turret building.

Having driven over 5000km to reach locations where the bees were known to occur and finding that recent rains had delayed their emergence, I rejoiced when they finally emerged near Carnarvon, WA. We extended our stay there by three days. I was somewhat chagrined when, on our return, I heard that travelling friends observed the bees, totally by chance, while camping at the Kennedy Ranges.

Thanks to Joan Broadberry for providing fascinating and pertinent articles in August and September.

Sniffing out a train of thought

HAPPILY we are, generally speaking, reasonably germ-resistant at our place. Despite daily doses of germ stew (courtesy of overcrowded and overheated railway carriages) winter's ailments usually pass us by. I put it down to healthy food and being able to indulge in refreshing sleep with the window wide open, allowing our lungs to absorb plenty of Warrandyte's bracing air.

Maybe we've gradually inoculated ourselves by regular exposure to the hacking coughs and explosive sneezes of fellow passengers. Inconsiderate, ignorant, selfish or just plain got their priorities wrong - whoever invented the phrase "soldiering on" ought to be taken out and shot - maybe these filthy beggars are actually doing us a favour. Even so, I squirm in irritation when one of the phlegm-infested blighters comes and sits next to me on the train, emitting deep juicy sepulchrous barks reminiscent of the tuberculosis ward in one

of the more grisly 19th Century sanatoriums. Ugghhh!

I guess it's no real surprise that our run of good luck has ended and we have finally succumbed to some flu-type lurgi. So much for being germ-resistant!

This last week has dragged by almost unbearably. I am not a good patient. I am not patient full stop. I hate not being able to sleep properly, I hate not being able to jump out of bed and get on with stuff. It took me a couple of days to cave in completely, but then there's nothing one can do except wait for the antibodies to take charge.

To cap it all off, I'm covered in spots. Cripes. Can you be allergic to a virus? I had a memorable dose of measles when I was four or five, so it can't be that. It's not a great look.

Impatience exacerbates the agony. It's not as though you can enjoy all the extra time in bed. Everything hurts. Your hands hurt, the pillow feels like it's stuffed with bricks, your legs ache, your back muscles are crying out, there's no way to get com-

our place
By MARILYN MOORE

fortable, sweating one minute and shivering the next, your nose runs, your sinuses ache, your teeth ache, your throat is almost too sore to swallow, there's a splitting pain in your head that tears at the back of your eyeballs, making your eyes smart even when they're shut. If you stand up, your knees wobble, you feel crook and you have to lie down again rather quickly. If takes at least three hours to sleep off the exertion of making a cup of tea. Days and nights become blurred as the passing of time loses all its normal landmarks. Bright light hurts your eyes, so it's easiest just to keep them shut. Meals become even more ramshackle than usual, mostly consisting of random, stumbling little sorties to the refrigerator to see if there's anything cool and gentle in there that can be swallowed easily with little or no preparation. Paracetamol and cups

of tea gradually become the staple diet. The outside world fades to a distant memory. Unrelenting pain cleaves ceaselessly at your exhausted brain. Dying starts to look like an agreeable option.

Gosh, when people take a couple of days off work with "the flu", are they really *this* sick?

Very Manly Hopkins (aka John Clarke), one of Australia's most underrated poets, hits the nail on the head, even though I think he's describing a hangover: "... Oh Lord I'm not well: a vision brindled bottles ... Light a blast of whiteness headache nature's fury strobing ... Inside noise leaping brainwards jangle jostle! / Man adjacent eating toast with amplifier up nostril / Woman knits jazz-needed piercing jagged deafening / Scream of braking shatters system winces standing / Up when blindness striking tragic arms outstretching / Sit when sight regained and egress tunnelwise effected / Glory be to God for bottled things. Use as directed."

Amen to that!

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Entertainment on the river

A live walking performance along the banks of the Yarra in Warrandyte featuring local artists, writers, musicians, physical performers, dancers and sculptures. A free event on Sunday, October 27 at 6.45pm. Meet at the information map and bus stop next to the Stonehouse Gallery, 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte.

Festival

The Practically Green Festival will be held at Edendale Community Farm in Eltham on Sunday October 20. The festival includes 30 sustainable building and living exhibitors, demonstrations and activities. There will be live music and fun for the kids. Take along your plans, sketches and ideas for advice on new and existing homes. This advice is free, but a booking is required on: www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/PGFestival.

Pet expo

Sunday October 27, 10am-4pm, Mangrook Oval, Diamond Creek. A free event for families and their pets. Event dog obedience displays, pet competitions, animal nursery, snake handling and a chance to meet rangers and vets to have all your pet questions answered.

Poetry

You are invited to an afternoon of bush poetry – Lawson and Paterson – on picturesque Herring Island on Sunday October 20, 2pm-5pm. Tickets \$25. For more information contact Ian Penrose, Riverkeeper on 0409 510 766.

Walks

Friends of Warrandyte State Parks meet for a walk on Thursday, October 24 at 9.30am at the Common Circuit, a watershed between Jumping Creek and Parsons Gully catchment with views towards Mt St Leonard, a distance of three kilometers. Bookings: 9840 9124.

Gig

At the Grand – Indigo Paw – Friday November 15.

RSL

The Scrimshaw Four, great bluegrass/jazz band. Sunday October 27 from 4.30-8pm. Sausage sizzle. Band donation appreciated. Enquiries: 9844 3567 (daily after 4pm).



Sizzling up some super sausages

NORTH Warrandyte CFA fired up the barbecue on a perfect day for a snag with sauce last month with the weather "not too cold for the workers and not too hot for eaters of these finely sizzled sausages and onions" according to the enthusiastic team who manned the hot plates. It was all for a good cause, of course, and for those who missed North Warrandyte

CFA Auxiliary's third fundraising sizzle, you can catch the next one on December 14 at the front of Quinton's IGA. The NWCFA is also hosting a Family Movie Night on October 19, \$5 per person or \$20 per family, at the North Warrandyte Community Centre in Research Rd.

A barbecue kicks off at 5pm and the movie is on at 7pm.

out of the inbox

By BRIONY BOTTARELLI

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 or emailed to: briony@warrandytediary.com.au.

Markets

Stallholders are invited to the first two markets to be held at Tunstall Square, Doncaster East on Sunday November 10 and Andersons Creek Primary School on Sunday November 24. Garage sale stores including antique/vintage, and handcraft items, also plants, herbs and organic vegetables. For further enquiries call: 9876 3552 or email info@greensundaymarkets.com.au.

Bazaar

Warrandyte's St Stephen's Anglican Church is having a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday November 23, 9am-2pm. Free games for kids, morning teas and BBQ. Trash and treasure, books, cakes, jams, plants,

crafts, children's clothes and toys.

Tell us

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



artyfacts

Exhibition

The Continuing Streams exhibition will be opened by art historian Andrew MacKenzie on October 9, from 6pm-8pm at the Manningham Art Gallery. The exhibition comprises the work of 17 artists, many from Warrandyte, and will run until 9 November. It brings together a selection of glasswork, jewellery, painting, drawing, ceramics, textiles and gold gilding work. Join the exhibiting artists on a tour of the studios of Warrandyte, Saturday 12 and Saturday 26 October, 1pm-5pm. Bookings essential, phone 9840 9367.

Stonehouse

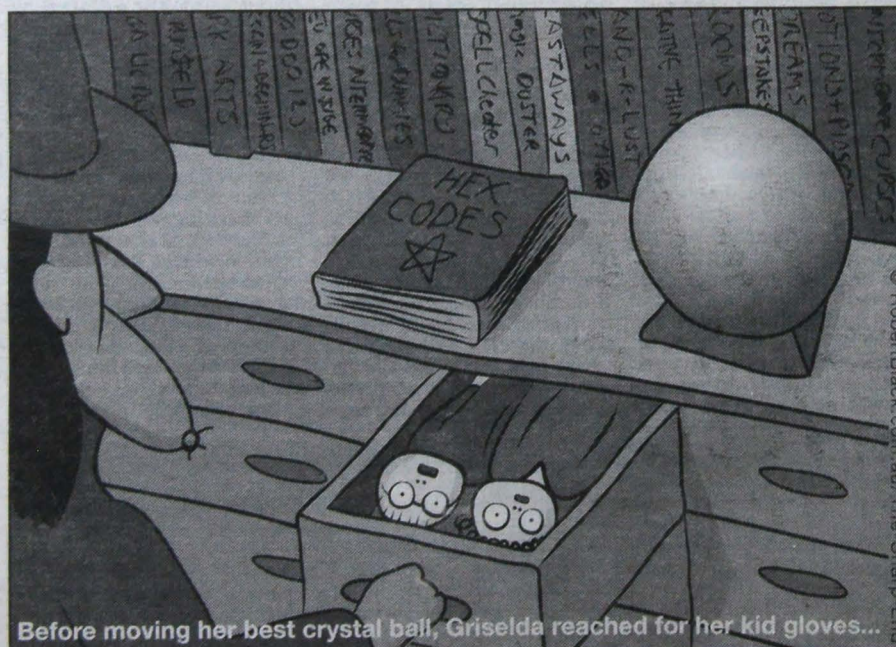
Stonehouse Gallery October exhibition "On the Wall" features watercolour, oil, acrylic, linocut, textile and pen & ink sketching, will be featured techniques. Also, two well known artists, Cherry Manders and photographer Sue Trevillian will have displays. Jenny John's works have been influenced by her trip to France, while Michelle Mischkulnig will feature more of her colourful textile wall art. Open daily at 103 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, 9844 3629.

Arts

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

THE SHARP END...

By ROBERT BLACK



Before moving her best crystal ball, Griselda reached for her kid gloves...

KNOW YOUR LOCAL



Chris & Alex

Warrandyte Pharmacy 9844 2029

Chris (pictured) & Alex have been pharmacists in Warrandyte since 1989. They focus on maternal health care, beauty therapy, naturopathy, pharmacy supplies, nutrition and vitamins, Kodak express (on site photos) and pharmacist advice. Chris loves the community feel of Warrandyte, and loves the drive into town every day. Customers are generally relaxed and good natured and like to support local businesses. Chris has observed that within this tight knit community, locals will move house within but rarely move away. Combined with the Rex Medical Clinic next door – all health and medical needs are well catered for in the Goldfields Plaza.



Craig

Warrandyte Retreat 9844 0325

Craig (pictured right) loves being part of the community of Warrandyte. He has been at The Retreat for the past two years while The Retreat has been operating for 9 years. The cuisine is described as modern Australian and it is a family friendly restaurant offering something for everyone. Craig would like to invite you to enjoy the newly renovated deck for some summer alfresco dining. The Retreat is open 6 days a week from 10am weekdays until late (excluding Mondays) and gam till late on weekends.



Josie

Rivadonna 9844 1040

Josie aims to create a serene and peaceful shopping environment with personal customer service. Rivadonna is a retail shop filled with interesting giftware including vases, himalayan salt lamps, essential oils, candleholders, incense, inspirational plaques and words, costume jewellery, handbags and scarves. Come and see the new stock arriving all the time with great prices. Josie finds that people are beautiful and she provides a relaxed shopping experience for the repeat customers and the locals who frequent her store. She says this is her home away from home! Rivadonna has been located at Yarra Street, for the last 10 years. Josie enjoyed working at the business so much, that four years ago she became the owner. Josie's favourite quote: "let no-one come to you and leave without feeling better and happier".



WARRANDYTE

eat • shop • explore • enjoy



Vanilla Orchid
THAI RESTAURANT

188 Yarra Street, Warrandyte
(opposite the Bakery)

Phone 9844 5778

Vanilla Orchid offers great food in a friendly and relaxing environment.

New desserts recently added to menu, including pandan crème brûlée served with mangosteen icecream and Thai-style coffee parfait with spiced chocolate satay dust.

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Sunday, 11am to 10pm

Dine In and Takeaway

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www.vanillaorchid.com.au

Farewell to a big-hearted man

By THOM COOKES

WARRANDYTE is certainly a magical place to live, but it's not just because of the physical beauty ... it's also the collection of fascinating, big-hearted people who've chosen to make it their home. Sadly, one of those people is no longer with us. Tony Cookes fought a brave battle with pancreatic cancer, but finally succumbed on Friday, September 13.

Tony had a complicated upbringing. Born in 1938 in England, his family left a turbulent Europe for South Africa, and he was halfway across the ocean to Capetown when war broke out in September 1939. He spent most of the war years living on a sugarcane plantation in Durban, then in 1944 sailed on to India after his parents divorced, going to school in Calcutta and holidaying in the mountains at Darjeeling. In the time-honoured (and now incomprehensible) tradition of the British Raj, he was packed off to boarding school in England at the age of eight, while his mother and step-father lived in Rawalpindi (now Pakistan). His strained relationship with his own parents is something that shaped an enormous value for the family and friends he later established himself.

After school, he became an aeronautical engineering apprentice at Bristol Aircraft Company, gained a degree in maths and computing, and worked on BAC's first computer (which was only the third ever built in the UK). He was part of the design team for the Concorde, and worked on the very first aircraft simulators ever built, as well as the Bloodhound surface to air missile.

It's hard to appreciate now, but in



the mid-sixties the shadow of war still hung over the UK (my mother Wendy, Tony's wife, remembers bombed-out buildings and craters from 20 years after the end of the war). In 1965, newly married, Tony and Wendy emigrated to Australia, a place overflowing with sunshine and opportunity. Tony landed on his feet, designing and building the first analog computer to be produced in Australia, and in 1971 accepted a job

with Hewlett Packard in Melbourne. He had the enormous foresight to move his family to Warrandyte shortly after, something we are all eternally grateful for.

Tony lived in several close and extraordinary communities in his life, and gave back as much as he received to help to make them special places, but I think his heart was always in Warrandyte.

Once my brother and I settled at

school (Warrandyte Primary still had a horse paddock and hitching rail then), Tony quickly threw himself into things; at the Youth Club, he convinced an Olympic archer who worked for him to come and give lessons, and organised hay-bail rides through town on the back of his beloved Fergie tractor. Together with Wendy he was heavily involved in the *Warrandyte Diary*, looking after the advertising, with great help from

Wally Cornhill and his extraordinary printing press. When Tony first arrived in Warrandyte, Getson's Motors was still selling Holdens, and after it closed he was one of the prime movers in pushing the redevelopment of the site into the Community Centre. Along with Ted and Shirley Rotherham, Jo Lawrence and Alan Alder, Tony and Wendy founded the Warrandyte Historical Society, and helped both the Warrandyte Market and the Warrandyte Festival get off the ground. And there were some cracker parties at the house in Timbertop Ridge. It wasn't unusual for several hundred people to materialise on New Year's Eve, drawn by the lights and music on top of the hill.

Tony and Wendy moved on to Wonga Park, and Coldstream. The sea was always a great love, and once retired, they eventually settled in Apollo Bay, another extraordinary community. True to form, Tony mentored students at the local school, and helped run learn to sail days. And surrounded by family and friends, this is where he finally lost the battle with cancer.

He provided us with many lessons. He had enormous generosity of spirit, and is perhaps the most honourable person I've ever known; despite how hard or inconvenient it might have been, he always did the right thing, and all my life I never heard him speak ill of anybody, even (and especially) when they might have deserved it. And he instilled a deep, visceral love for Warrandyte in his sons. After much travelling, we have both come back to raise our own families (Richard is now the President of the Warrandyte Basketball Club).

If you knew him, raise a glass and spare a smile for his memory.

Wonderful wall hanging is an Oscar-winning event!



By BRIONY BOTTARELLI

LIKE a good novel picked up off the shelf by a producer, mulled over for a decade or two and then made into a wonderful film, so it has been with the Wall Hanging in the Neighbourhood House.

The producer was Jean Chapman, but many years later it was a conversation between Jan Tindale and Karen Throssell that finally got it off and running. Enter co-producer, Karen Throssell. A screenwriter was now needed or, in this case, a graphic designer.

Who could have been more appropriate for the job than Jock Macneish? Although the script changed a little, he was very happy with the outcome. Then there were the actors to find. The crafty ladies of Warrandyte put up their hands in



droves and wove with silks and satins, cottons and cords, wool, beads and feathers, to put together an Oscar-winning spectacle!

Directing the event was the ever-contributing artiste Denise Farran and her co-director Agnes Stuyfbergen (main picture), who made sure everything came together at the end. Financial backing for the production came from Manningham council.

The unveiling was overseen by Warrandyte's new star, Emma Edmonds (left, with Jock Macneish), manager of Warrandyte Neighbourhood House. And, as with all good productions, things didn't always go quite to plan. However, the end result made all involved, happy and justifiably proud.

Unfortunately, Jean Chapman was unable to attend the event and Karen Throssell was in France to oversee another important production: the arrival of her second grandchild!

But special thanks go out to these two ladies for following through with a lovely idea that will become part of Warrandyte's strong community history.

The wall hanging is on display at Neighbourhood House at the Warrandyte Community Centre.



Green thumbs and keen inquirers

A new generation of green thumbs is emerging at Anderson's Creek Primary School after students recently took part in National Tree Day.

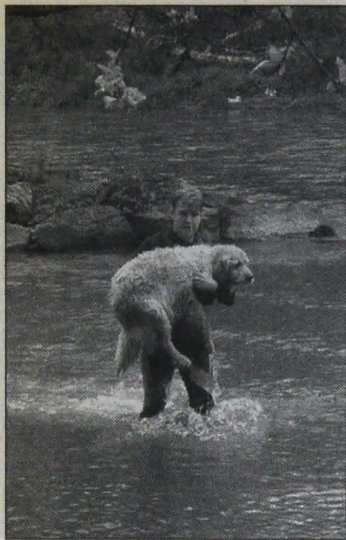
Schoolchildren from Prep, Grade 3 and Grade 4 planted new trees (above) near the school's boundary along Harris Gully Road.

Teachers told the *Diary* an enjoyable time was had by all and paid special thanks to Manningham City Council who organised the event.

Meanwhile, Level 1 and 2 at Warrandyte Primary School had been researching information about inventors and their creations last term as a part of the school's Inquiry Unit. Former WPS student Ben McKinnon and his father Alan McKinnon showed students and teachers (below) their beloved cars made by Henry Ford.

The students found many differences between the classic cars and modern cars as well as acknowledging similarities and modifications.





SES comes to the rescue

WARRANDYTE Police Station's Sgt Stewart Henderson sent in a good news story via email to the *Diary* this week.

"With the river being somewhat up at the moment, a woman was walking her dog along the river between the bakery and police station and her golden retriever swam after a duck and got caught in the current and was washed down on to the island," Sgt Henderson said. "The dog was stuck and unable to pull itself out of the river, so the owner called the police station who in turn called the local SES."

Local SES member, Gary Birkett then turned up in his gear and waded into the river and onto the island.

"He had to literally get into the water and push the dog up onto the island," Sgt Henderson said.

"The tired dog was a little reluctant to get back in the water and was then carried back to the shore and handed back to the appreciative owner."

By **CHERIE MOSELEN**

WARRANDYTE is no stranger to artistic expression, but this month it will host a production of a different nature.

Scenes on the Yarra, a site-specific performance that creates a river-based storyline, is an imaginative creation that engages its audience outdoors.

An initiative of Victoria College of the Arts theatre graduate Jeminah Reidy, Warrandyte will feature as one of 10 performance locations being combined to honour the Yarra from the headwaters to the sea.

In partnership with Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, Jeminah is bringing together a group of local artists, writers, dancers and musicians over five days, to shape an inter-disciplinary walking performance.

Built on the back of a series of workshops (to be held at the Neighbourhood House), this event will take place on Sunday, October 27, at 6.45pm.

Workshopping will consist of presentations to the artists by local specialists, environmentalists, storytellers and keepers of Indigenous knowledge, who have been invited to share their understanding of and connection with the Yarra.

Artists and performers will then choose a site on the riverbank to create an individual element for Sunday evening's presentation.

Earlier this year, Jeminah put together the first of her "Scenes" in Warburton.

"I grew up near the Yarra in Warburton, so it's very close to my heart," Jeminah told the *Diary*. "I've sought to combine my love of the river with my passion for theatre and performance art, and the result has been this sequence of spectacular events."



"Scenes on the Yarra" artists creating a storyline along the riverbank at Yarra Flats Billabong, Yarra Glen. Photos by Mark Emmett.

"What I enjoy most is the opportunity to learn about the Yarra from site to site – stories that tell of its historical import, its rich biodiversity, who cares for it – and then share that knowledge in a unique way with local audiences."

The artists and Jeminah give their time for free. Small funding grants from bodies such as Melbourne Water and Manningham council will enable the organiser to cater and provide materials for the ensemble. The Warburton performance –

enjoyed by an audience of over 250 people – consisted of 25 installations, vignettes and scenes that included a water dance, comical picnic performance, mime and singing.

Jeminah described the evening as "visually mesmerising, moving, even funny at times" and said it was "everything you could hope for in a collaborative performance".

Yarra Glen (Yarra Flats Billabong to be precise) was the site chosen for the second "Scenes" event, performed in April.

"It was raining but we still had an audience of around 100 people," Jeminah said. "The events cover different mediums, so there are physical performers, singers, sculptors. I think that's the reason they have been so successful, because there's something for everyone."

On Sunday October 27 at 6.45pm, locals can meet at the information map and bus stop carpark (next to the Stonehouse Gallery), 103 Yarra St, Warrandyte (Melway 23:E11).

The ninety-minute performance will begin with a Welcome To Country, after which audience members will be guided along the riverbank. The event is Free.

Ms Reidy said Warrandyte "Scenes" will go ahead rain or shine, and would only be cancelled in the event of thunderstorms and lightning.

For enquiries about the upcoming local performance, please contact Warrandyte Neighbourhood House Director Emma Edmonds on 9844 1839.

A following "Scenes" event is scheduled to occur at Federation Square, as part of the Sustainable Living Festival in February 2014.

For general information about "Scenes on the Yarra", go to the website www.jeminahallreidy.com or call Jeminah Reidy on 0414 419 182.

Nillumbik PET EXPO

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER • 10AM TO 4PM

MARNGROOK OVAL
MAIN HURSTBRIDGE ROAD, DIAMOND CREEK

Dog obedience displays, pet competitions, an animal nursery, snake handling display and a chance to meet Council's rangers and local vets to have all your pet questions answered.



'On the Hill' Panton Hill Festival

Sunday 27 October | 11am-6pm
Panton Hill Township

The *On the Hill* Festival is great day out filled with live music, entertainment and the opportunity to indulge in locally produced foods.

The *Made on the Hill* competition will have a bugs, butterflies and bees theme.

More information: 9433 3799
living.learning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Upcoming Environmental Events

- **Saturday 12 October**
Vegetable Seedling Propagation
- **Friday 18 October**
Spotlighting Walk at Yirrip Reserve
- **Saturday 23 November**
Solar, Smart Meters and Energy Web Portals

For more information or bookings visit
www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/EnviroEvents
or call 9433 3316.

RABBIT CONTROL FIELD DAY

Saturday 9 November, 2pm-4pm
Presented by Banyule and Nillumbik Councils

Are rabbits a problem on your property? This practical and informative workshop will provide landowners with the tools to develop an effective rabbit control program. Learn about: rabbit behaviour; lifecycle and impact; identify options for control and how to plan an integrated control program and see practical demonstrations of control methods.

Cost: Free
Where: Edmund Rice Centre, 'Amberley' 7 Amberley Way, Lower Plenty
Bookings: 9433 3316
environmental.events@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



POSITIVE AGEING: HOUSING AND DOWNSIZING WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

A person's home is vital to a healthy and happy life. If you are interested in learning more about the housing options for the aging community within Nillumbik join us at this free workshop.

Date: Tuesday 22 October
Time: 10am-2.30pm
Venue: Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham (wheelchair accessible)
Cost: Free (includes morning tea and light lunch)

Nillumbik Council officers, Council of the Aged, Housing for the Aged Action Group and managers of local residential care and retirement villages will be on hand to answer any questions or concerns. For more information or to RSVP contact Daniella Tarle on 9433 3157 or email Daniella.Tarle@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

FREE GARDEN GREEN WASTE DROP OFF DAYS 2013-2014

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

The only materials that will be accepted are tree prunings, garden clippings and leaf litter.

Residents will need to show either a rates notice or their driver's licence as proof of residency within the Shire. Commercial loads and food waste will not be accepted.

Date: Sunday 24 November 2013, 8am-4pm
Sunday 2 February 2014, 8am-4pm

Where: The Recycling and Recovery Centre at 290 Yan Yean Road, Plenty

For queries please contact Council on 9433 3555.

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

MAJKA (pronounced Mike-ah) proves age is no barrier when it comes to chasing your dreams.

Every now and then you might find Majka Kaszubski exercising at the gym or enjoying a nice meal at one of Warrandyte's cafes.

What you may not know is that she loves to sprint and she recently returned from the World Masters Games in Torino, Italy.

The Masters is the most significant world sporting event for sportspeople aged over 30. Majka competed in the Over 65s athletics category and brought home two bronze medals for 100m and 80m hurdles.

Majka, who was born in Poland but has lived in Australia since 1981, said she was thrilled to win the medals. However, she said they were merely a bonus – the real prize being the fact she achieved her goal to participate in and finish all of her events.

"Two years ago I went to Poland and met some of my friends. Some of them were in their 60s and 70s and they're still involved in sport and they told me that I'm quite fit and I should take part in the Masters – I thought, 'No I'm not really that fit'," she said.

But her grandchildren Dominic, Chloe Lee and Sebastian did athletics and encouraged her to give it a try.

However, it was definitely no easy journey. Majka received injuries along the way – including her achilles and hamstring. She said she was even in a lot of pain when completing her events – especially hurdles – but she said the support and encouragement she had received from her children, grandchildren and her husband, Andrew, who coached her during the Games, inspired her to keep going.

She told the *Diary* she wouldn't have been able to compete without the moral support from Dominic and Chloe Lee, who came to Europe with her and urged her to push through the pain.

"Even when I got injured and told myself not to run the 80m hurdles my grandson Dominic told me 'babcia' (Polish for 'grandmother') just try it, please do your best'. I was in excruciating pain when I finished but it was absolutely worth it."

Because of Dominic's encouragement she gave him her medal she won for 80m hurdles because "it definitely belonged to him". Dominic, 12, has a special place in his room for her medal.

Majka said the atmosphere of the



Games was fantastic, with competitors who she was running against in the same race being friendly, encouraging and supportive of each other.

One of the main reasons Majka wanted to compete, despite not running in such an event for 45 years, was because she wanted to relive the memories of her youth.

Her father, who was quite sporty, noticed his young daughter was very gifted at athletics and encouraged her to continue in her teenage years. As a young adult, Majka went on to run for the Polish national academic team.

They didn't travel much internationally back then, as Poland was a

communist country, but the team travelled to various cities within Poland to compete in different championships and competitions.

"I always loved athletics. There weren't too many ladies my age there at the Masters but I still enjoy running."

"It was beautiful to refresh my memories of how it felt to be on the track again, just a fantastic experience. I'll tell you, I absolutely loved it!"

Majka was born in Wroclaw – a historic Polish city close to the German border.

She lived with her husband and young children in Iraq and Germany

before deciding to start a new life far away from communism and moving to Melbourne in 1981.

Since coming to Australia, Majka was a PE teacher at Upper Yarra Secondary College and although retiring from teaching full time five years ago, she still does some emergency teaching for Norwood Secondary College and supervises VCE language exams.

Majka's next goal is to run as fast as she did when she was in her 20s. She intends to join a local athletics club and return to the next summer Masters Games in New Zealand in four years to improve her results.

She hopes she will be able to take the whole family over to compete –

including her daughter, Alex, who is good at a range of sports and her son, Andrew, who is "mad about cycling".

Majka said she felt it was extremely important for her to stay healthy and active and encourage her family to do the same. She also encouraged others to realise it's never too late to give sport another try and said it would be fantastic to see even more Australians at the next Masters.

"People should try something if they have a passion for it – it doesn't matter if you have sore joints or muscles. We all have some discomfort, naturally, but if you try it you might be surprised at what you achieve," Majka said.

Warrandyte team toughs it out

THREE Warrandyte residents recently competed in the daunting XPD, an expedition adventure race through the spectacular South Australian Flinders Ranges.

As a team of four, Karina Vitiritti, Angus Rodwell and Paul Gruber were part of team PHAROS and raced against 30 other Australian and international teams. Over 12 legs, they were required to trek 200km, mountain bike 460km and kayak 87km using only a compass and maps over 700km of tough and mostly desolate terrain.

Once the race started, teams had to manage their own sleep, which, for Team PHAROS over five and a half days was only about eight hours.

"The race is physically and mentally tough and we knew we had to push our bodies to their limits both day and night," Gruber said. "There are so many factors that can go wrong, being it mechanical issues, navigation or injury so our primary goal was just to finish."

The race began at Arkaroola Station in the northern Flinders Ranges. One of the stages was a 51km trek across Lake Froome, a huge inland salt lake where they trekked through the night, and then the entire next day. They also trekked around Wilpena Pound and climbed then abseiled a 100m rock wall at Moonarie. Strong winds caused the cancellation of the final leg, an 87km paddle in the Spencer Gulf.

"We battled through the race against sleep deprivation, heat exhaustion and blistered feet," Rodwell said. "We had expected that it could be hot, but there were 38-degree temperature days during the race, which



Team PHAROS:
Paul Gruber, Angus
Rodwell, Karina
Vitiritti, Michael
Kolody.

made it tough to keep hydrated."

The final kayak leg was cancelled due to strong winds.

"I wasn't too disappointed," said Vitiritti. "The winds were so strong,

we can understand the decision as any emergency situations would have been impossible to respond to."

The team finished fifth in the Premier Mixed category and were the

third Australian team across the finish line. Their plans are to spend some well-earned time resting and recovering with family and friends before planning their next adventure.

Take up the Upstream challenge

UPSTREAM Foundation founder and chairman Gordon Hoen, a long-time Warrandyte resident and eight-time Upstream 50km Challenge participant, is urging more local businesses, corporate bodies and the local community to get behind the Upstream 50km Challenge on November 16.

"We raised over \$200,000 last year and with more people than ever supporting the Upstream 50km Challenge, we expect to raise well over that figure this year," Gordon says. "It's a great day out for people of all fitness levels to meet new people, complete an individual challenge, enjoy a team building exercise or just enjoy a walk with family and friends."

Over 800 participants are expected to walk and run in the Upstream 50km Challenge on November 16 in support of three worthy charities. The journey will begin at Waterfront City, Docklands and participants will follow the Yarra River upstream, walking 50km of trails to finish at Donvale.

Although the event is both physically and mentally demanding, participants are challenged prior to the event to raise funds for the beneficiaries supported by the Upstream Foundation.

For more information or to register for the Upstream 50km Challenge go to www.upstream-foundation.org or contact Paul Gruber on 0411049780.

Cricket returns for 2013-14

WITH spring in the air and the footy finished, cricket has returned to Warrandyte for the 2013-14 season.

While the AFL Hawks beat Fremantle in a close contest following a VFL grand final win the previous week by its affiliate Box Hill Hawks, the South Warrandyte Hawks players are hoping those footy results are an omen for the upcoming cricket season according to *Diary* correspondent Frans Brouwer.

Frans says the First XI is determined to fight its way back to Trollope Shield, while the other four senior teams "want to do better than just making finals - they want to win some".

This season signals the resumption of old rivalries, too, as the two senior Warrandyte teams - Warrandyte Bloods and Warrandyte Hawks - will face off.

The Hawks recently made a number of appointments with Bob Neagle as batting coach, while Steve Lindsay is lending his vast experience as bowling coach. Ben Neagle is again club captain (Wilkins Shield), the other senior captains are Dave McBride (Second XI - A Grade), Darren Johnson (Thirds - D Grade), Tom Chrisfield (Fourth - F Grade) and Lachlan McMahon (Fifths - I Grade). Training moved outdoors at the end of last month.

The club is fielding an U16 team (coach Darcy Price), U14 (Sean McMahon), U12 (Stuart Batten) and U10 junior teams, plus Milo Cricket with Warranwood Primary School (co-ordinator Liam James). There is an outside chance of one more team.

Two Over 40 teams will play in the RDCA competition (Masters 1 and 4), and one O50 team will play in the Box Hill veterans competition (11 Box Hill teams and 5 RDCA teams split into two divisions, with the Hawks in Legends B). All three will play on October 13 - Masters 1 at home at Croydon Hills PS, Masters 2 home



Ready for action: Warrandyte South Hawks captains Ben "Nangers" Neagle (club captain), Darren "Zep" Johnson (Thirds), Tom "Plugga" Chrisfield (Fourth) and Steve "Sleek" Lindsay are set to go in season 2013-14.

at Colman, and Legends B away at Forest Hill.

Grounds have been a major problem leading up to the season.

Stintons Reserve is unavailable for cricket for a second straight season, affecting ground allocations at the Warrandyte No.2 ground previously used by the club. Now Mooroolbark CC has taken over Brice Avenue Mooroolbark (which was being used

by the Hawks' Fifths team) due to resurfacing works at its main ground. However, in a stroke of good fortune, the much closer Croydon Hills Primary School ground was available. A working bee has leveled the uneven surface around the pitch and cleaned it ready for use by senior Fourths and Fifths, and by Masters 1 and 4.

Two other working bees have transformed the Colman Park home

ground and clubrooms. New chairs and refurbished table-tops have also been purchased, along with a supper sopper that the RDCA requires all clubs to have available at their main grounds.

MEANWHILE, Warrandyte Cricket Club may have a "home without a home" due to the pavilion being constructed, the Bloods' heart and soul will take to the field as they

hope to launch season 2013/14 with a bang, their cricket correspondent Ryan Hoiberg says.

Warrandyte has had a change in captaincy as well as headquarters, and while the WCG will still be home for the Firsts, Seconds and junior squads, the members will be using the senior citizens centre to host all functions and post-training discussions.

Back to back premierships

THE ERT Girls Section 7 Winter 2013 team won their home grand final beating Blackburn by 5 sets to 1 at the end of August.

This makes it back-to-back premierships for the team who took out the Section 9 summer 2012-13 flag. The girls will be playing on next season for three in a row.

Team member Erin Theodore said: "We had a really enjoyable season. The finals were tough and Blackburn gave us a really good game in the final. We're looking forward to next season."

The Warrandyte OS7 team

also won the ERT grand final.

In other news, the third season of the Hot Shots tennis competitions has come to an end at Warrandyte Tennis Club and the South Warrandyte Annexe.

This was a coming-of-age season for many of the competitors as they will be mixing their Hot Shots tennis with inter-club tennis representing Warrandyte Tennis Club. Winners were Isabella De Cesare (Friday Orange Ball), Christopher Milburn-Clark (Friday Green Ball) and Ramiro Luuna (Saturday morning Orange Ball).



Winner: Megan Wiltshire

School holidays netball clinic



Hello possum: Warrandyte's Under 9 Possums are ready for action. Picture: Lara McKinley.

WARRANDYTE Netball Club captains Erika Dyson and Jessica Dusting ran a school holiday skills clinic for the club's Under 9 and Under 11 players recently.

The clinic was a huge success and would not have been possible without the help of Alyssa Rodwell, Nikki Link and Jessica Rodwell,

according to the club. The young players who attended the clinic had a great day and are looking forward to being able to put their new skills into action when the season re-commenced on October 12.

The plan for the club is to hold at least one of these clinics each year for our young players.

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For more than 40 years the Diary has been the true voice of Warrandyte.

We have reported the news, celebrated the sport, publicised the events and championed the causes of this special place.

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WARRANDYTE DIARY • PRICELESS

Venom juggernaut rolls on

By TONY OLIVER

WARRANDYTE Venom's junior program success again came to the fore last month with the Under 20 Girls winning the Victorian championship, marking the club's first ever junior state title.

The Venom capped an unbeaten season with a 51-43 win against Sandringham to put coach Angela Heigh and her team in the club's history books.

Sandringham was competitive for the entire game forcing the Venom to dig deep.

Big V senior guard Mollie Burke won the Most Valuable Player award for the game, hitting 17 points and providing the perfect finish to her junior career.

The win was the third championship for the Venom's junior program this season, joining the U18.1 Girls and U16.1 Boys.

The Under 18 Girls finished top after the home and away season but lost their semi-final and needed to reach the grand final via the preliminary final. In a low-scoring defensive game, stand-in coach Nicole Howard guided the Venom to the 28-21 win. The girls' regular coach, Bec McKay, had major shoulder surgery the day before and couldn't be present.

In another tight game Beau Bentley's Under 16 Metro 1 Boys held off a determined Whittlesea (52-41).

While the Under 16 Boys were doing the job for Warrandyte, unfortunately the Under 20 Boys went down in their grand final against Eltham (52-49). Games between the sides had been close during the season with honours shared but Eltham was able to hit the key points on the night to take the blue flag.

The Venom's Under 18 Regional Boys went down in their grand final against Ringwood 37-28. The Under 14 Eastern Boys made the Bronze Medal game against Eltham. Each side had recorded a win during the regular season by a point but it was Eltham who took the honours (47-32).

The focus now turns to the 2013/14 season with tryouts currently taking place.

Big V awards bonanza

Warrandyte Venom's record-breaking Big V season has come to a close on the back of players and coaches winning multiple awards at the annual Big V awards night.

On the back of championships to Youth and Senior Women's teams, the Venom collected a swag of trophies, including the two prized Championship trophies. Other award winners on the night included Stefany Thomas (MVP, All Star 5, Golden Hands), Rachael Wansbrough (Leading Rebounder), Nicole Howard (Coach of the Year) and Breanna Waugh (All Star 5, Defensive Player of the Year).

Saturday action

The EDJBA winter season concluded with Warrandyte well represented on grand final day.

Warrandyte is one of the smaller associations in the EDJBA but proportionally had more teams represented than many other associations.

Both Under 17 A Grade Girls and Boys teams took out blue flags.

The girls took on Eltham at Templestowe with only five fully fit players and a few backing up from Friday night competition.

At half-time the Redbacks led 20-6, but Eltham surged at the start of the second half. Warrandyte settled to win the game 35-18 at the final whistle and give Casey Taylor her premiership coach flag.

Taylor Padfield with 10 and Courtney Howes with 9 were the main contributors on the scoreboard.

Guard Zoe McDonald picked up the Most Determined Award with a strong game at both ends of the court. Sara Deacon, with an injured back, made an appearance in the final seconds.

Ryan's Under 17 A Boys defeated Koonung (50-44) with Zeph Hilton picking up the MDP award. Holloway also took charge of the U17 AR Boys who went down in a close game to Eltham by 54-50.



Photos: Gareth Dickson and Tony Oliver



In possibly his last game coaching for Warrandyte, Grant King was directing the Redback U17 B Boys in their final against Bulleen. The Redbacks were leading for most of the game but Bulleen proved better in the final minutes. The game went into overtime and the heavy foul count against Warrandyte restricted their game and Bulleen the points (37-29).

Earlier on court, Matt Lane's Under 19 AR Boys had a controlled win over Balwyn by 44-27. Jack Cousens (15 points, including three from outside the circle) picked up the MDP, but this was very much a team effort.

At the other end of their basketball careers, the Under 9 B1 Girls coached by Dale Leeson went down to Bulleen (32-21).

It was a slow start to Warrandyte trailing 20-3 at the long break. The Redbacks won the second half but the margin was too much.

Scoring was shared with two goals each to Laura Beckett, Sarah Dickson, Jemma Pinder and Rebeckah Sinclair-Vanunen.

Dale had more success with the Under 11 AR-2 Grand Final also against Bulleen.

"That was not one I expected to

win," he confessed after the 33-26 win. "The boys really lifted the whole game at both ends of the court - very impressive."

Warrandyte dominated the first half with good defensive pressure and success offense. The gap narrowed in the second half and Bulleen came back but the Redbacks took the points, with Lachlan Ralph collecting the MDP award.

Marcus Green top-scored with 11 for Warrandyte, with eight to Lachlan and six each to Bailey Laurie and Ben McShanag.

The Under 13 A Boys played Eltham in the Friday night competition preliminary final and had gone down 51-40. On Saturday they needed to play the same side in the A Grade final.

The game could not have been closer with overtime required to separate the sides. But Warrandyte took the points (42-37).

Club award winners

Warrandyte's club awards were recently announced for both the Venom and Redbacks teams.

Bruce DeLacy was recognised for his significant and wide-ranging support for the association with a Life Membership.

Peter Anderson was awarded the

2013 Club Award.

The 2103 Daryl Valentine Memorial Award, which recognises the contributions of a junior to the association, went to Chris Dodds.

Winners:

Life Member Badge, Bruce De Lacy; 2013 Club Award, Peter Anderson; Ross McLellan Memorial Award, John Mokaraka; Daryl Valentine Memorial Award, Chris Dodds; 2013 Tom Hay Memorial Award, Catherine MacDonald; Coach of the Year Award (two awards), Nicole Howard, Justin Nelson.

Big V Senior Men: MVP, Vashon Weaver; Defensive Player of the Year, Brenton Charles; Offensive Player of the Year, James Hicks; Coach's Award, Andrew Oliver.

Big V Youth Men: MVP, Jake Lugg; Defensive Player of the Year, Chris Williams; Players' Player of the Year, Jake Lugg; Coach's Award, Jamie Langley; Rising Star, Joel Rimes.

Big V Senior Women: MVP, Rachael Wansbrough; Defensive Player of the Year, Amanda Hederics; Offensive Player of the Year, Stefany Thomas; Coach's Award, Meg Dargan; Rising Star, Casey Taylor.

Big V Youth Women: MVP, Margaret Kershaw; MVP, Breanna Waugh;

Defensive Player of the Year, Ellen Pattison; Rising Star, Maddison Taylor; Coach's Award, Amber Saunders.

Junior co-ordinators announced

Warrandyte Basketball is pleased to announce its age group co-ordinators. The role of the age group co-ordinator will be to assist the coaching director during team selections, along with coaching one of the teams in the age group. All other junior Venom coaches will be announced shortly.

Venom program manager Jenni James is looking forward to another successful season for the program.

"Coupled with the appointments of new coaching directors, Ross Charles and Nicole Howard, the Venom program is extremely well positioned to continue its extraordinary growth and ongoing success in the Victorian Junior Basketball League," James said.

Venom Girls: U12, Emma Adams (nee Collins); U14, Craig Pattison; U16, Stefany Thomas (Nicole Howard to facilitate tryouts); U18, Jodie Murphy; U20, Casey Taylor.

Venom Boys: U12, Dale Leeson; U14, Gerry Pearce; U16, Justin Nelson; U18, Beau Bentley; U20, Ryan Holloway.

Sign of the times for clubs

By MICHELLE PINI

MANNINGHAM council's policy to ban sponsorship advertising from sporting venues in "visually sensitive locations", except during matches, will be subject to a further report according to council's chief executive officer Joe Carbone.

The banner policy, passed by the previous council in August last year, requires local sporting clubs to assemble and remove sponsorship signs every match day, and would impact clubs in Husesys Lane, Domeney, Bulleen, Buck and Warrandyte Reserves.

Mr Carbone said the move would benefit "the many people who visit the reserve on a regular basis to enjoy the landscape uninterrupted". The clubs have questioned this, however, explaining that most people visit the reserve on weekends while sports are being played.

Local sporting clubs say the policy, which would be enforced next year, will jeopardise sponsorships and place additional demands on volunteers who would be responsible for the laborious task of erecting and removing signs at the start and finish of every match.

Warrandyte MP Ryan Smith agrees and says he considers sponsorship an important revenue component for sporting clubs and says he hopes "logic will prevail".

Part of the newly elected Manningham council Cr Sophy Galbally told the *Diary*: "I hope that we can stop the proposed tight regulations on signage at our ovals and other community based sports venues."

Cr Galbally said far from detracting from the amenity of the area, sponsorship signs provided a snapshot of local businesses that support the community. She also pointed out it made it difficult for local clubs to compete when other rural and city clubs don't have such regulations on signage.

"A further report has been requested to outline the implementation approach and give consideration to issues that have been raised by the community," Mr Carbone said.



Tryouts for Little Aths

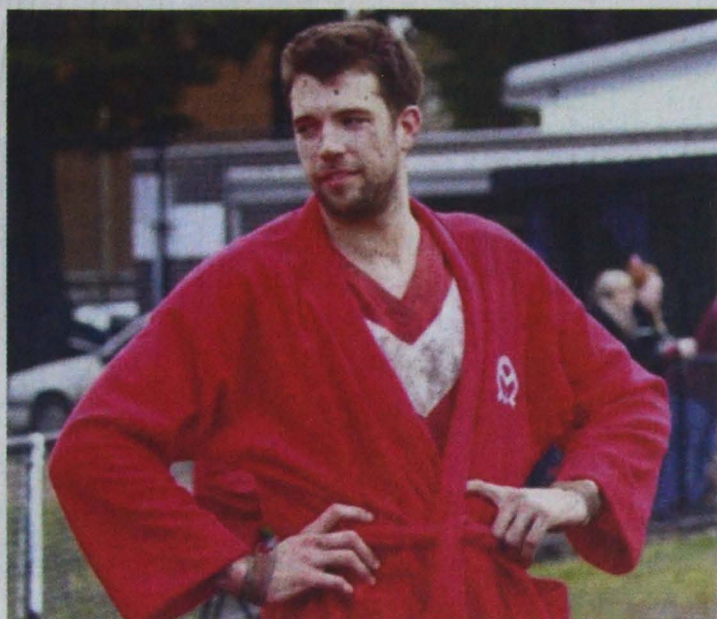
Warrandyte and district children are encouraged to head down to the Rieshiecks Reserve in George Street, Doncaster, to try out for the East Doncaster Little Athletics Club. Competition commenced last week and is open for children of all abilities aged 5 to 15. For more info visit the DLAC website www.doncasterlac.org.au, or contact Margaret Kelly on 0447 693 561 or Peter Sharpe on 0413 777 107.

Sorry, Anne Marie

Whoops! We accidentally spelt Canadian Death Race conqueror Anne Marie Reid's name incorrectly last month. The *Diary* apologises to Anne Marie, her family, friends, and fans.



Bloods reward best



Best of the Bloods: Senior footballer David Hand won the best and fairest.

By MICHAEL DI PETTA

THE Warrandyte Football Club has brought season 2013 to an official close with the annual presentation night, and is also on the brink of announcing a new senior coach for 2014.

The presentations were held at the Manningham Function Centre on September 20 where the club's best and fairest winners for Under 19s, the Reserves and Seniors were announced and other prestigious awards for players and community members.

Always a highlight on Warrandyte's calendar, the event didn't disappoint, providing a relaxed and good spirited environment that was perfect for celebrating another season.

It was an especially memorable night for senior players David Hand and Daniel Large. Hand capped off a stellar individual year playing in the ruck and winning the coveted Best & Fairest Award, and Large picked up the Players Award and the title of John O'Brien Club Champion, finishing runner-up to Hand in the vote count. Most Courageous and Most

Determined accolades went to Josh Eyre and Luke Saunders respectively.

With many players performing well all year long, the Reserves faced some headaches when selecting recipients. Cal Haskings received just reward for a superb year, finishing the night with the Players Award and tied for third place in the Best and Fairest. Paul Burgoyne, one of the side's most consistent performers was named club Best and Fairest after another fine season.

Young gun Ryan Tester took home the Best and Fairest after an excellent year in the Under 19s and he looks sure to threaten for a place in the senior side before too long.

Finally, in recognition of efforts around the club, Ian Wood received the President's Award, and the Tracey Prior Award for best club person was given to the Beasley family. Also noteworthy was the retention of the Ron Wilson medal for Mick Morello as the club's leading goal kicker, the fourth straight year he has received this honour, proving once again his value and consistency as a member of the Bloods.

Mighty Max Morley is state champ

By SAM QUINN

WHEN it comes to Taekwondo, the sky's the limit for young Max Morley.

The nine year old from Warrandyte has recently been crowned state champion of his age group after three wins from three fights in the martial art Taekwondo. Having accomplished such an achievement already, Max now heads off to Queensland to challenge for the national title. If he is successful, he's off to America to compete against the best from around the world.

Max took up the Korean-originated martial art at the age of five and this year has been training under head instructor Mark Nolasco at the Melbourne Taekwondo Centre in Eltham. After narrowly losing his first competitive fight, Max was given a second chance and took it in his stride, winning three out of three fights against boys who had been practicing Taekwondo for much longer than himself.

"My parents got me into Taekwondo to protect myself," Max said. "Unfortunately I lost my first fight but after that I trained harder and I've won every fight since then."

After Max's parents introduced him to the defence-based martial art, they weren't expecting the level of success that was soon to follow.

"We're very proud of him," Max's father Mark Morley said. "We were a bit worried after his first fight because he was a bit upset, but after that he began working very hard and there was just no stopping him."

Mark also paid special tribute to Max's trainer, "I would like to thank Mark (Nolasco), he's worked so



Taekwondo star: Max Morley with his father Mark.

hard and committed so much of his time towards Max's development," he said.

So far 2013 has been an eventful and successful year for Max. Before recently grading to Red Belt (the second highest degree belt before Black Belt), he competed at the Victorian Open and took out the Bronze Medal. Max then continued his successful run by taking out the Gold Medal at the following Victorian selections.

"Max has had a great year," his trainer Mark Nolasco said. "He took up [competitive] Taekwondo this year and has had great results in a short period of time, fighting against kids who have been Red Belt a lot longer than he has. One

of the boys he fought and beat was only one grading away from Black Belt. I'm looking forward to him testing his skills against Australia's best."

While Max's success has been a remarkable achievement, such talent has been a frequent feature within his family tree. His uncle was a significant figure in Taekwondo in Canada, while his grandfather, Tony Ferel, was crowned Victorian Champion Boxer, holding the title for four years.

Max describes his grandfather as his biggest role model and uses his great success as inspiration for his own ambitions, while he also looks up to famous figures such as Hong Kong American martial artist and

actor Bruce Lee, Brazilian martial artist Jorge Gurgel (often referred to as J.G.) and local Taekwondo fighter Jonathan Goddard.

Around the corner waits a once in a lifetime experience of excitement and challenges for Max. Early in October, he will use put all his hard work and training to use as he heads up to Brisbane for the National Taekwondo Championship, where his skills will be tested against the best from around Australia. If successful in his three fights in Brisbane, Max will head to America and compete for the World Championship. Max heads off with the confidence and determination to do his family, community and himself proud.

Junior Bloods reward their little champs

THE Warrandyte Junior Football Club held its annual trophy presentations recently and decided best and fairest awards.

First, second and third best and fairest winners were:

U10: Zac Wheatley, Thomas Jackson and Sebastian Nitschinsk; U11: Lewis Downie, Bailey Trevorrow and Austin Humphris; U12: Callum Bowers, Leo Garrick, Aaron Castagna and Blake Reardon; U13: Darcy Poole, Quinn Clark and Ben Vermeulen-Brown; U14: Steven Garrick, Ari Kakris and Alex Royal; U15: Daniel Thevos, Nick Mustafa and Francesco Lepore; Colts: James Appleby, Scott Ternes and Sean Bowers; Youth Girls: Louise Ferriggi, DeAnne Weller and Micaela Bumpstead.

Invitations have been sent to

selected players for the Dynamic Fitness Skills Elite Summer Training Program.

The Warrandyte Junior Football Club in conjunction with DFS have identified several players from the WJFC who are believed to possess "ability and passion" and who would benefit from an intense off-season training program. We wish those players fortunate enough to be invited all the best and trust you get the most out of the experience.

The club previously scheduled an Annual General Meeting and Registration Day for Sunday, October 13, but this will now be held on Sunday, November 10 from 11am. More details can be found at the club website www.warrandytejfc.org

WJFC has started plans for next

season and put the call out for applicants for all coaching positions.

"It is club policy that existing coaches need to re-apply for the position each season and we also call on any other individuals who are interested in coaching to throw your hat into the ring," president Ross Snowball said.

To apply potential coaches are asked to complete the coaching application form which can be found on the WJFC website homepage. Nominations will close on Friday, October 17, and interviews for each position will be conducted on October 21 and 22.

The club expects to notify coaching candidates of their successful application or otherwise by Friday October 25.



U11 Top Blood: Lewis Downie.

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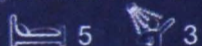
945m² (approx) of prime land with active plans and planning permits and includes an artist's retreat. Inspection a must, situated a short stroll to the West End shopping centre, the Yarra River, football ground, Andersons Creek Primary School, restaurants and the IGA supermarket.

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**WARRANDYTE***The Talk of Warrandyte*

You too will be excited by this professionally renovated stone and timber home. Everything has been done for you, just move in and enjoy living in Warrandyte. This property has all the ingredients to suit your busy lifestyle or home business. It features 5BRs over two levels, 3 bathrooms and two light and spacious living areas. Add to this two separate entrances, two driveways and fully landscaped gardens. The blackwood kitchen features Caesar stone bench tops, S/S appliances and a wonderful outlook. It opens to a delightful sundeck overlooking the terraced gardens and paved outdoor entertaining area.



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