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# WARRANDYTE diary

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No 469, November 2013 For the community, by the community

Editorial & Advertising: 9844 0555 Email: info@warrandytediary.com.au

# No United front

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

WARRANDYTE residents have voiced strong opposition to a proposed petrol station and fast food chain at United Petroleum's site on Yarra St, after construction work was carried out and petrol sold at the site in the last week of September.

It is alleged the construction work and sale of fuel was carried out without a permit and has possibly breached local planning laws.

Last month the *Diary* reported how resident Deirdre Smart overheard construction work being carried out at the site at night on September 26. Over the next couple of days, a sign and pumps were installed and a truck attempted to deliver fuel at the site but was unsuccessful and caused Yarra St traffic to come to a halt.

A station attendant sold fuel to customers over Grand Final Weekend before stopping due to orders from a

Manningham council representative on the Monday.

Rob Nabben's house is adjacent to the site and says the works undertaken in the last week of September were "irresponsible" given that Warrandyte is a designated high risk bushfire zone, with several homes surrounding the site.

He suspects that because works were allegedly carried out without a permit and the service station atten-

dant was selling petrol outside with the cash register on a wheelie bin, United didn't comply with required fire safety procedures.

"There would be loads of procedures regarding what is and isn't legal when running a petrol station because it's toxic and highly volatile. What if an accident happened and all the residents paid the consequences? If you're running a big facility then you're taking responsibility for

people's safety and you can't just run it like a pack of cowboys," Mr Nabben said.

Several residents believe that by selling fuel on Grand Final weekend, United was trying to evoke the Existing Use Rights Act. The Act states if a site is in continual use as a petrol station and fuel has been sold at the site in the last two years, then that

Continued Page 5

## Step right up



The stage is set this week for a season of *The 39 Steps* at the Mechanics Institute. Preview, Page 15  
Picture: STEPHEN REYNOLDS

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"Some people pay a compliment as if they expected a receipt."

— Kin Hubbard



# WARRANDYTE diary



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### NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the *Diary* will be published on Tuesday, December 10, 2013. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, November 29, 2013.

### OUR NEWSPAPER

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

### A SPECIAL PLACE

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

## OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY WORKING BEE

# Goodbye, Mr Green

By CINNAMON TROTT

**C**LIFF Green conceived the *Diary*. He still has the stretch marks to prove it.

He gave voice to a community, fought to preserve its uniqueness and encouraged its talent at every opportunity. Including a new generation of cub reporters, where cub stands for Carlton and United. I, Cinnamon Trott, who failed English as a second language, was one of them. How well I remember Mr Green's advice about never using two words when you can use one, something I have absolutely without fail taken on board with a passion for succinctness over like verbosity.

What a privilege, therefore, to be able to report on Mr Green's recent farewell do at the new Neighbourhood House. How pleasant to see him there, floating amidst a sea of well-wishers, tilting back red wine as if it were the last he'd ever be able to charge to *Diary* expenses.

So many people from so many clubs, committees, councils, classes, schools, service groups, sporting clubs, arts associations, theatre troupes, scout troops, societies, services and businesses, all appreciative of the opportunity to be seen and heard within their community.

As my mother herself said to Mr Green:

"We so love the *Diary*. The news, the letters to the editor, the gossip. And that cartoonist fellow, what's his name?"  
 "Jock?" suggested Mr Green.  
 "Leunig! That's the bloke. Brilliant."  
 "Leunig's in *The Age*," said Mr Green.

"Oh yes, *The Age*, that's the one we like, not the *Diary*."  
 My mother's an idiot.  
 But then again, where would the *Diary* be without idiots? Think of the headlines we

would have missed out on. VODAPHONE GETS BAD RECEPTION IN WARRANDYTE, BUS BAYS TOO SILLY TO BE TRUE and NORTH WARRANDYTE SEWERAGE PLANS IN



### living with The Trotts

DEEP SHIT.

Fortunately, Mr Green will continue to grace the *Diary* pages in an irregular column that is sure to be called something clever like Cliffhangers or Greenhouse Gasses or The Little Green Man From Another Planet. We look forward to revelations on the Great Duck Racefixing Scandal of '97, what really happened to the missing schoolgirls at Hanging Rock, and how much he owes to his various columnists and when he intends to pay them.

The new editor, Scott Podmore, made a very nice speech. Scott is a very experienced journalist from News Limited who writes lots of fascinating articles about luxury accommodation in Hawaii, the pleasures of business class flights on Emirates, and cruising in Alaska without ever leaving the bar. He spoke of the honour of succeeding Mr Green as editor and the quality of the paper he was inheriting. Though strangely made no mention of the ideas he'd discussed with me about introducing astrology, a racing guide and a Page 3 girl.

The function ended as it had begun, and frankly continued for most of the afternoon, with the raising of glasses. "Ladies and gentlemen," announced Jock, Leunig evidently being unavailable for the occasion, "please charge your glasses and be as upstanding as Cliff has been for 40 years. To Cliff Green!"

"To Cliff Green!" answers all of Warrandyte.

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WARRANDYTE WARRANDYTE



# Time to revisit fire plan

**Be Ready Warrandyte**  
Living with Bushfire Risk

By **CHERIE MOSELEN**

AS the expectation of hotter temperatures and vigilance in bushfire-prone districts increases, Warrandyte Community Association is accelerating its Be Ready Warrandyte - Living with Bushfire Risk campaign.

In its aim to ensure residents have an effective fire plan, the association is scheduling a Scenario Planning workshop for November 28 from 7pm-9pm at Anderson's Creek Primary School Performing Arts Theatre.

WCA president Dick Davies believes this unique scenario-style event is an ideal way for residents to test out fire plans without fear of making a mistake.

"People will be able to learn about the issues they may be faced with and what decisions they will need to make in a high pressure bushfire situation," Dick said.

"There will be a particular emphasis on schools and children but all residents are invited to attend and benefit from the experience."

The evening will be co-ordinated by Manningham council's emergency management co-ordinator Lew Wilson and well-known WCA facilitator Bruce Turner.

Expert advice will also be available from emergency services representatives such as CFA, Parks Victoria, Department of Environment & Primary Industry, and Victoria Police.

The staging of the event will give "Participants" the chance to sit up front and interact with facilitators and experts. "Observers" can sit back in the stands, watch the scenario unfold and listen in. Organisers have also



Hey, they're a flash mob from South Warrandyte

FOUR members from South Warrandyte CFA were part of the White Ribbon flash mob event at Eastland late last month.



planned a simulated fire experience in a separate area which attendees can take part in.

This event follows the WCA Bunkers or Bunkum forum, which recently brought together emergency services and planning officers from CFA and local government, bunker builders and CSIRO, to consider the pros and cons of bunkers and answer questions from more than 170 people.

The key message arising from the forum emphasised CFA and local council's advice for community members to "leave early!"

Bunkers were pinpointed as an individual backup option.

Guest speaker Justin Leonard, CSIRO representative, provided background information on research into fatalities as a result of fire since 1900.



Notable statistics showed that 60 per cent of deaths occurred within 100 metres of residential addresses after occupants had decided to leave too late - findings Mr Leonard expanded on in an October 13 *The Age* article, suggesting: "Leaving a structure that is

still intact is at the point of being suicidal once the effects of fire are around you."

A North Warrandyte resident and bunker owner told the *Diary* he found the forum valuable because it had made him feel "more confident" should he need to use his bunker for

family safety.

WCA president Dick Davies encouraged residents to attend the Scenario Planning event later this month.

"Like all presentations in our Be Ready Warrandyte campaign, this event is free. All it requires is a little bit of time. You never know, it could inspire new thinking around bushfire survival that just might save your life."

To reserve your place contact Jodi Clark on 9844 5855 or [info@warrandyte.org.au](mailto:info@warrandyte.org.au) and advise whether you would like to be a Participant or Observer.

For more info on Be Ready Warrandyte (also to see Bunkers or Bunkum summarised open forum questions and responses) please visit the website: [www.warrandyte.org.au](http://www.warrandyte.org.au).

Aaron Farr, Luke Summerscales, Matt Roughan and Anna Chmiel (above) joined emergency services and government agencies involved in the flash mob dancing including Victoria Police, CFA, MFB, MAV, the army, navy, and local councils. The CFA was represented by chief fire officer Euan Ferguson (an ambassador for the White Ribbon campaign).

The theme of the message was 'No Bystanders', which aimed to encourage the community to speak out about violence against women. The YouTube clip will be used in a media campaign for White Ribbon Day on November 25. See the guys in action at <http://bit.ly/1a8jd7j>

## Video continues to deliver powerful message

TWO Warrandyte Community Association projects are finalists in the 2013 Fire Awareness Awards out of a field of almost 100 entries.

The overall 'Be Ready Warrandyte - Living with Bushfire Risk' campaign is a finalist in the Community Preparedness category and the video 'Do you have a fire plan?' is in the Media and Communications category.

Aside from the award nomination, last year's clever Be Ready Warrandyte video spoof continues to receive high praise from emergency services experts and, most importantly, has become a useful tool with a powerful message about bushfire safety for other communities.

The light-hearted video 'Do you have a fire plan?' has attracted more than 8000 hits on YouTube and parodies those who don't have a solid plan. It was produced locally by Warrandyte people for the Warrandyte Community Association as part of a toolkit of activities aimed to raise awareness of the need to plan for bushfires.

Victoria's Country Fire Authority has distributed the video throughout the state and it has been rebadged by stations in the Dandenong Ranges, who have refilmed the ending using their own station captains to use in their own local communities. The video has also been embraced by the NSW Rural

Fire Service and there are several more inquiries to do similar in other communities throughout Australia.

"This is a fantastic place to live, but every summer we face bushfire risk and our research shows that only five per cent of Warrandyte residents have fire plans," South Warrandyte CFA fire captain Greg Kennedy said. He urges residents to ensure they take it very seriously and have a plan in place.

WCA president and Be Ready Warrandyte's Dick Davies says the video project has been a huge success and made special mention of Alan Cornell who scripted the spoof. *Diary* editor Scott Podmore and video producer Andrew Beck

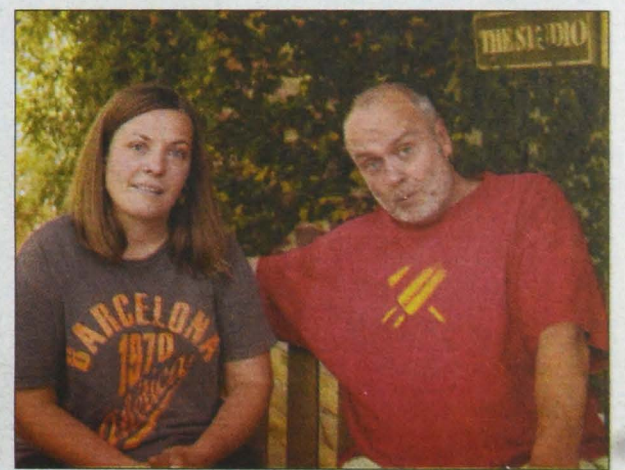
teamed up to produce it with WTC actors.

"Alan did a fantastic job scripting the video to pick up the well intentioned but half-baked intentions all of us harbour from time to time," Mr Davies said.

"It's great that Warrandyte has access to so many professionals in the community who, like Alan and friends in the Warrandyte Theatre Company, are so willing to give their time to community projects."

The 'Be Ready Warrandyte' project is funded by the Victorian Government's Fire Ready Communities Grants Program.

To see the video visit YouTube and search for Be Ready Warrandyte - Do you have a fire plan?



Top notch: The Be Ready Warrandyte video is booming.

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# Season of the snake

By RUTH BIRCH

WITH summer just around the corner, most people are looking forward to catching a few rays by the riverside. Unfortunately they aren't the only ones: the local snake population is also seeking out some sunshine.

Warrandyte resident Kass Mulvany experienced this first hand after accidentally dumping her shopping on a tiger snake earlier in the year. Needless to say, the snake wasn't impressed and Kass managed a lucky escape. Another local, David Hogg, told the *Diary* how he has an elusive brown snake somewhere in his garage.

Browns, Red-belly Blacks, Lowland Copperheads and Tiger snakes are all generally minding their own business in Warrandyte and surrounds but people should always be cautious in summer, especially near the Yarra River.

According to Jason Donnelly, an Eltham-based snake catcher, this snake season has begun relatively early and he has been busy since August with call-outs.

That basically means we can expect lots of snake activity this summer.

Jason has offered *Diary* readers a few handy tips to keep in mind.

**TIP 1:** If you want the snake to be removed for safety reasons, keep your eyes trained on it from a distance so that it can be quickly caught when the snake catcher arrives.

If you do happen to be bitten, call an ambulance immediately and if you have a phone handy, try to snap a picture to show hospital staff.

**TIP 2:** If you are bitten, the more movement, the more the venom will spread, so try to keep completely still.

It is wise to tie a tourniquet around a bitten limb but the effectiveness of sucking the venom out of a bite is a myth. Don't attempt this.

**TIP 3:** Although allowing dogs to stroll off-lead along the river is tempting, Jason says it's important to



Beware snakes: Snake catcher Jason Donnelly has received several call-outs already. Picture supplied.

keep them tethered from late August all the way through to April so as to avoid the curious canine poking its nose into danger. If your four-legged friend does happen to get bitten, rush them straight to the vet and if

possible alert them on your way so they are ready and waiting with the anti-venom.

**TIP 4:** Remember, snakes are very unlikely to bite without some sort of provocation, so always keep your

eyes peeled and be aware of your surroundings to avoid accidentally disturbing one.

● For more information call Jason Donnelly, Snake Ace, on 0418 576 715 or visit [www.snakescatcher.com.au](http://www.snakescatcher.com.au).

## Battle for Melbourne Hill continues

By MICHELLE PINI

RESIDENTS involved in the Melbourne Hill Road stormwater catchment issue are patiently awaiting advice from Manningham council after presenting an alternative plan to address drainage problems in the area.

Key concerns with Manningham Council's original plan included significant changes to the amenity of the area due to the proposed kerb and channelling solution, as well as the prohibitive cost to ratepayers. Residents also believe the proposed figure of \$1.9 million (apportioned at \$5-17,000 per household) could sky-rocket further once geo-technic and environmental impact statements are completed, as experienced by North Warrandyte residents with sewage connection issues.



The community reference panel, 40 per cent of whom are flood affected, presented an alternative staged implementation proposal to council officers in early September. Highlighting lack of standardised tunnelling and driveway crossovers, as well as poor drain maintenance as key contributors to drainage issues in the catchment, the reference panel plan focused on a process of improvements to culverts and spoon drains among other works.

The reference panel proposal's cost is estimated at or below council's original \$1 million investment to the upgrade, which would eliminate additional contributions by ratepayers. The plan has the backing of most ratepayers in the catchment and, according to reference panel spokesperson Peter Hookey, "delivers a more effective solution at a significantly reduced cost to the original council plan which was rejected by residents".

Peter Hookey (above) praised Manningham council's consultative process.

"The panel is confident that our proposal will be well received by council officers," Mr Hookey said.

## CAN's 'No plastic bags' wins award

IT has been quite a journey from inception to delivery of the 'No plastic bags for Warrandyte' project and it all culminated in the recent announcement of WarrandyteCAN being presented with the Practically Green Sustainability Award from the Nillumbik Council for the Best Community Project for 2013.

"We were thrilled to get the recognition but are also delighted to see that the support for not using plastic bags is holding up, seven months since our official launch in March this year," WarrandyteCAN's Jill Dixon said.

The WarrandyteCAN committee is constantly re-evaluating how it can act locally to reduce climate emissions and make a difference in the community as well as inform and encourage "activism" and lobbying for change in the nation's climate policy.

"In June last year we started serious work on researching the topic of a 'plastic bag free Warrandyte' and developing a plan," Jill said. "Warrandyte seemed like the right community to accept this idea which to date has actually been implemented in many towns around the world, to a lesser or greater degree."

"In Australia we have a few towns working on our model but the best some of our State Governments have achieved is to ban non-biodegradable bags, Victoria isn't among them. Biodegradables are still highly undesirable because they use fossil fuels in their manufacture and they never completely break down so still create the issues of toxicity in the animal food chain and contamination of landfill and oceans."

The WarrandyteCAN committee said it knew its partners would include Quinton's SUPA IGA and the Warrandyte Business Association (WBA) and so approached ongoing financial supporters in the Warrandyte Community Bank and Manningham council who came on board to join the project. The *Diary* was also generous with its publicity.



We CAN do it: The WarrandyteCAN team with the award for their excellent 'No plastic bags' campaign.

"We are enormously grateful to our community of businesses and residents who've shown support," Jill said. "Supa IGA's owner, Julie Quinton was already moving to biodegradable plastics and starting to offer some reusable carry bags in line with a trend seen in other environmentally aware retailers."

WarrandyteCAN had only just announced its intention to embark on the project and to its good fortune a group of Swinburne students looking for an environmental project, some of whom were local, came forward asking to be involved. One of those was Emma Edmonds who led the project in the field for CAN. Emma has joined the CAN committee and also manages Warrandyte's Neighbourhood House.

One of the committee's early co-op-

erative ventures with Quinton's SUPA IGA was to conduct a research study outside the supermarket which showed an overwhelming 90 per cent of locals were keen to see a plastic bag free Warrandyte shopping environment. That confirmed an earlier similar survey the supermarket had conducted.

A major part of the success of the project was identifying and accessing the most sustainable reusable carry bag to give away to residents as an incentive to get involved.

This turned out to be a carry bag made of jute, or hessian, preferred for its minimal use of non-renewable resources in production and the ability to source it from a country where workers were being paid a fair price for their labour and where freedom from child labour exploitation was

guaranteed. Quinton's SUPA IGA and the WBA helped fund the bags and other supporters assisted with the advertising and promotion of the campaign.

CAN is now focusing on the Warrandyte Market with signs and asking traders to avoid plastic, encourage people to bring their own reusable bags and even put a small price on plastic bags. The committee is also exploring new projects that might benefit our local environment while reducing fossil fuel usage.

Jill says CAN's greatest need is for more people of all ages to join the team.

"It's fun and rewarding and you really do make a difference, so leave a message at the Facebook page (WarrandyteCAN) or call Jill on 0404 024 449," she said.

## Three in the hunt for awards

THREE Warrandyte businesses are finalists in the inaugural Manningham Business Excellence Awards which will announce winners at a gala evening this Thursday night (November 14).

Quinton's SUPA IGA is in the Contribution to the Community category up against Pines Learning and Graceland Café Restaurant in Doncaster East. Interiors By Riveresque is a finalist in the Small Business award along with six others, while Warrandyte's other big chance is Rush and Hampshire Barristers and Solicitors, who are up for the Innovation Award along with three other businesses.

The awards are a joint initiative of Rotary Clubs of Manningham, Bendigo Bank, the Manningham Business Network and Manningham council. Each of the five category award winners will receive a cash prize of \$2000. The Manningham Business of the Year will receive a further cash prize of \$3000. The prizes include registration at a three-day residential Young Achievers Program valued at \$2600.



# All quiet on the United front

From Page 1

could act as a permit for United to develop and use the site.

It's believed that before that weekend, fuel hadn't been sold there since 2005.

Mr Nabben said this, along with the fact that the tanker delivering petrol on Friday, September 27, was unable to reverse into the site, led him to believe the petrol sold that weekend "was old fuel".

United Petroleum has not responded to repeated calls from the *Diary* for comment.

The *Diary* understands lawyers representing United have been in contact with Manningham council and that the company intends to pursue its application to use and develop the land at 44-46 Yarra St for a service station and fast food chain outlet.

Manningham council is currently assessing United Petroleum's application.

In a letter written to Manningham's CEO Joe Carbone in October, Warrandyte Community Association president Dick Davies said on council to "respond with the full force of council's authority and resources ... to ensure that this application does not gain a planning benefit as a result of deliberately flouting planning law and the rights of others".

However, in a statement provided to the *Diary*, acting chief executive officer Rob Spargo said: "Council has not issued a fine with respect to the allegations, as the sales ceased when the operator was requested



Community voice: Some Warrandyte residents are unhappy with recent activity at the United site in Yarra Street.

to do so."

When asked about the conclusions of council's investigation into the alleged breach of local planning laws, Mr Spargo said: "Council's investigation identified a number of matters that may require planning permission."

"At this time council are not satisfied that an 'existing use right' exists on the land to use the land for a service station," he said.

Last month Warrandyte Community Association committee member David Ellis told the *Diary* he believed United's actions appeared to be

an "attempt to steal a march on a potential competitor", as a separate application for a petrol station near the roundabout at Harris Gully Rd had been lodged around the same time.

Resident Christine Nicholl said it would be "grossly unfair" if United

was given a warning and no sanctions.

"After what has occurred we can't help but wonder what else United is capable of. It just seemed very sneaky to do it on Grand Final Day when people were out and doing other things. I don't trust United to uphold council law in the future, that's for sure," she said.

Resident Petra Young said while she wasn't opposed to a petrol station in Warrandyte, she believes the United site "isn't an appropriate location".

"It's too residential and if more cars are pulling in and out of the petrol station, which is right on the corner of a blind spot, there will be more accidents," she said.

Meanwhile, Brackenbury St resident Hanh Truong said the proposed development would be an eyesore. She is also concerned about the safety of the increasing number of children who would cross the road near the blind spot to buy food from the proposed fast food store.

Jock Macneish said a small meeting took place on November 1 between WCA representatives, interested parties and the architect of the proposed service station off Harris Gully Rd. They discussed ideas and issues associated with the alternative proposal and it's believed residents will be consulted in coming months.

Did you purchase fuel from the United petrol station in Warrandyte on Grand Final weekend? Let the *Diary* know by emailing [info@warrandytediary.com.au](mailto:info@warrandytediary.com.au) or calling 9844 0555.

## They came, they saw, they celebrated!

By **CHERIE MOSELEN**

WARRANDYTE Community Centre threw open its doors last month, hosting a Community Open Day that gave visitors a first rate look at its recently refurbished space.

Around 1800 people took up the invitation to celebrate the centre's new lease of life on Saturday October 19, perusing the library and scouting out tenants such as the Neighbourhood House and Warrandyte *Diary*.

The weather came out to play and so did the Teskey Brothers, who delivered their talented blend of blues, funk and soul street-side while locals purchased some shade at the Lion's sausage stand.

A jumping castle and car park petting zoo took care of the kids, giving parents the opportunity to sit back and relax with busker Peter Lockie.

When busy hands had enough of flashing the lights on Warrandyte CFA's mini truck "Little Lex", they moved indoors to make paper mosaics or stained glass.

Community art facilitators

from Butterfly Studio (Christmas Hills, right) - who also painted oodles of faces with colourful designs along with Fab Faces' Anne Edsell - ran these activities from the centre's new function and activity space, the Victory Room.

Alongside, artists from the Stonehouse Gallery and others including Syd Tunn and Ona Henderson (Creek House Studios) showcased their unique creations.

Warrandyte's Neighbourhood House complemented their space with crafts, kids activities and tutor demonstrations from course favourites - yoga, watercolour and mosaics.

Seamlessly co-ordinated by event organiser Elissa Pachacz from Manningham council's cultural services team, the open day celebration spread itself over four hours and was described by one local as "a fun and inviting way to access the building and discover what it has to offer the community".

Pictures: **STEPHEN REYNOLDS**





# Resident's dismay at works near property

Dear Diary,  
Our family has been living in Warrandyte for some 24 years and our home in Wattleblossom Road backs on to the section of the Warrandyte State Park between Webb St and the properties on the south side of Wattleblossom Road.

We had waited for many years for the promised fire break to be prepared along the rear of our property and two years ago we were thrilled to witness the first section bordering our property being essentially cleared by hand as the contractor claimed he was unable to bring his equipment on to the steep slope. We were concerned that

the clearing of the area on a 30 per cent incline sloping down to our property whilst improving our fire protection, nevertheless had exposed our property to increased runoff from the parkland during heavy storms.

We did in fact experience an inundation of the lower level of our home and erosion of our garden beds from the heavy run off following the clearing of that vegetation.

Earlier this year we were witness to the completion of the firebreak and sensibly, this time the contractors brought in machinery capable of smashing all the vegetation and converting it to coarse

mulch that was spread over the cleared area to assist in the prevention of erosion and to act as a retardant to the inevitable storm water runoff.

Some months ago we awoke to the sound of a heavy earthmover clearing a wide track curving uphill through the bush behind our property. Initially we thought it was a new fire access track but later in the day we were delighted to witness its conversion into a storm water drain connecting to the existing drain that collects runoff from the fire trail bordering the trail running from Webb St to the top of Russell Rd.

At last we felt the risk of

inundation from storm water runoff had finally been addressed with a truly effective solution.

Can you imagine our dismay and disbelief last week when the same heavy earthmover arrived and commenced filling in the storm water drain that they, the same contractors, had so expertly formed up only a few months earlier? Our taxes paying for digging a drain and then paying again for it to be filled in! Shades of the bus stop fiasco all over again!

Even the plant operator found it hard to believe that they should be directed by Parks Victoria and be paid

again to fill in the drain and smooth over the previously cleared area.

Now, of course, this extensive cleared area is now exposed to erosion and the source of even greater storm water runoff than ever before.

Why on earth are they doing this, I asked?

The operator responded, saying, only because the original work creating the drain "was not authorized". Can you believe this?

Watch this space for further developments!

**Brian Spurrell**  
Wattleblossom Rd,  
Warrandyte

# Need for more Lions

Dear Sir,  
As a charter member of Warrandyte Lions I am deeply concerned at the inability of the club to attract new members from the Warrandyte community.

At Charter, some 40 years ago, we had a group of mainly Warrandyte residents, some 30 in number prepared to give time for the benefit of the community, and of those 30, only three came from outside Warrandyte.

Today we have less than 40 per cent of members from Warrandyte.

We disperse something in the order of \$120,000 per year to the local community and to national projects and decisions relating to these funds should be being made by Warrandyte people, who over the years have generously supported our Opportunity Shop.

Just recently we have had to reject the offer of a further fund raising activity for the want of active members.

That the club continues to function must be of importance to the community, but we do need an infusion of new members willing to work for the community.

**Ian Abell**  
Secretary, Lions Club of Warrandyte

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** You're right, Mr Abell, and thanks for the letter. Our community is very fortunate to have a Lions club. Hopefully a few Warrandyte people will answer your call. Anyone interested in joining Warrandyte Lions should contact Mr Abell via email at [secretary@lionsclubwarrandyte.org.au](mailto:secretary@lionsclubwarrandyte.org.au) or phone 9879 4367.

# In support of asylum seekers

Dear Diary,  
I have been visiting the Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation centre in Broadmeadows to offer friendship and support to the asylum seekers who live there in detention.

I have heard many memorable stories of suffering and courage from those people who have fled from danger in various parts of the world. In the centre there is a small library that I want to enlarge so that the people there can improve their English language skills.

The library is run by two volunteer asylum seekers. I am collecting books for the MITA library and have had particular requests for books about Jesus, about Australian history and also books for children of all age groups.

If any Diary readers would like to donate books to the MITA library please contact me at [clen@tpg.com.au](mailto:clen@tpg.com.au)

**Stephen Clendinnen**

# A friend and fan of Folkart building

Dear Diary,  
I am relieved that the Folkart building opposite the bridge will be loved and restored.

Growing up in Warrandyte I remember when Gert and Bert Robertson lived above the milk bar run by Les Gilhorne.

An ancient grapevine (recently hacked back) grew across the front veranda... a relic from the building's days as a wine bar. Les had a large 3D ice-cream above the shop door.

On weekends hordes of day "trippers" came for ice-creams, and boiling water for their billy tea.

As a teenager in the 1960s, I worked behind the milk bar counter on weekends. Gert Robertson's piano was in the sitting room directly above the shop. Les and I often enjoyed listening to Gert 'vamping' away above our heads.

Gert had a collection of sparkling beaded tops which she would wear when playing the piano at celebrations in



the local hall.

I remember her coming to the primary school in a sparkly outfit and playing for the children.

People on both sides of the river knew when the afternoon bus from Melbourne was due... with Bert on board.

Just before the bus appeared around the corner the Robertson's cockatoo would cry 'Where's Bert!'

The building has seen many happy times.

**Alexandra Copeland**  
(Hipwell)

**dear diary**

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

**2014 NILLUMBIK AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS**

*Nominate now!*

*Ordinary people doing extraordinary things*

Nominations are now open for the 2014 Australia Day Awards in the following categories:

- Nillumbik Citizen of the Year
- Nillumbik Young Citizen of the Year
- Nillumbik Senior Citizen of the Year
- Nillumbik Community Group of the Year
- Nillumbik Volunteer of the Year.

Nomination forms can be downloaded or completed online at [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au) alternatively you can pick up a form from Council information stands or the Civic Centre, Civic Drive Greensborough. Nominations close 5pm Friday 13 December 2013.

**Interested in growing your own veggies?**

*Harvest Month*

Register as a volunteer to grow and supply the produce for the Home Harvest Feast in March 2014.

No matter how green your thumb is, everyone is invited to take part and get growing for the Harvest Feast. Plenty of advice and support will be provided to help along the way.

All growers are invited to celebrate in the Harvest Feast and the joys of local food by sharing a delicious community meal created using your home grown produce. Find out more and register as a Grower at [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/HomeHarvest](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/HomeHarvest).

*Nillumbik Tales*

*Voices of our elders*

Calling all Nillumbik residents aged 55 and over!

Nillumbik Shire Council is producing a collection of stories based around living in Nillumbik. Whether you are an experienced writer, keen to start or just have some great stories to tell; we want to hear from you!

Submit a piece of writing (fiction, poetry, non-fiction) up to 1000 words or attend a free facilitated writing session/s to work on your writing and/or record your story.

Maybe it's about:

- the worst storm you have experienced
- how Nillumbik's main streets used to look
- achievements of a loved or lost friend
- tales of a local identity
- a vivid memory from your childhood.

All these and more will form a rich collection of uniquely Nillumbik tales. Entries open on Monday 21 October 2013 and close Friday 28 February 2014. The published collection will be launched during Seniors Week in October 2014.

**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 opportunities 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.



# Facebook frenzy

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

THE *Warrandyte Diary* is booming on the social media scene after launching its Facebook page last month.

The newspaper has also received news from the Warrandyte Community Bank that it was successful in receiving a grant to help revamp the *Diary* website in 2014.

The *Diary's* Facebook page soared past 350 likes within the first 24 hours of posting its first status on October 1, announcing it wasn't "just a mere little country paper" any more with a mission to connect with people globally through social media.

Just over a week after launching the page it had received 700 likes and a lot of positive feedback from followers. The people of Warrandyte were happy to share their enthusiasm with the team, too, immediately posting reviews and comments on the Facebook page.

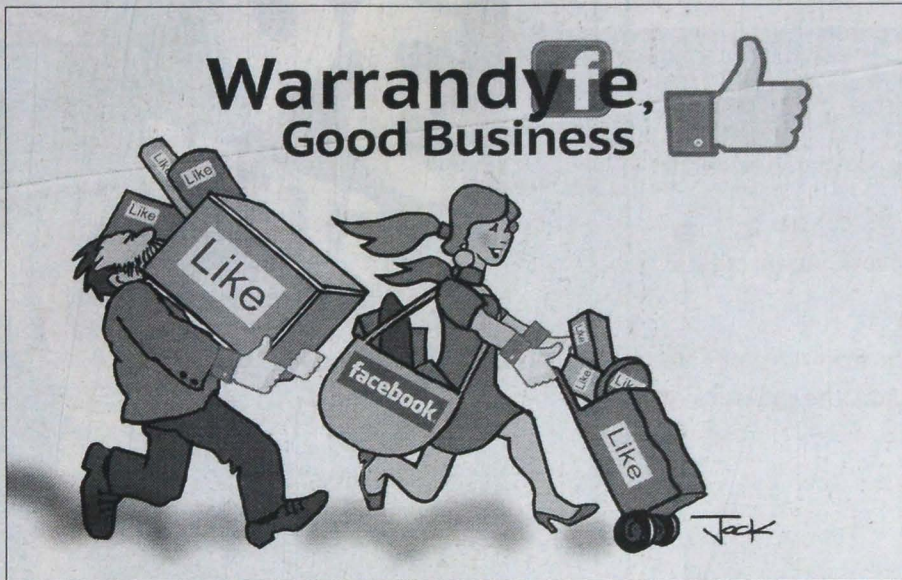
"I was part of the young team who first folded this paper hot off the press in its beginning days. I loved it then and I love it now," Jo Pearson said.

"It's the heart of a fantastic community. Well read. A great contribution," Terry Pieper added, and Julie Quinton said: "Our Warrandyte *Diary* is the glue that binds our fabulous community together."

Editor Scott Podmore says it's an exciting time for the *Diary*, with the page now closing in on 1000 followers.

"It just goes to show how much the locals love the *Diary* - this newspaper really is the communication hub of the area, and now we can offer so much more in the digital landscape with a social presence. Instead of being only a monthly fix, *Diary* followers can be involved every week online, sometimes every day."

"Best of all, we're only scratching the surface with what we can achieve on both Facebook and the revamped website in coming months - we have some fantastic ideas bubbling away, and they are ideas from the entire *Diary* team of contributors and the locals, not just me. It's a 'community' mission that is really important in how it all



takes shape. There are some really clever suggestions coming in and we'll definitely be rolling a lot of them out over time.

*Diary* readers can visit the page for news updates as well as quirky extras such as giveaways and polls. All people need to do is simply 'like' the page to be a part of it all.

Scott says it's also an added bonus for businesses who advertise with the *Diary*.

"Obviously our loyal advertisers will reap the rewards with some extra benefits on our Facebook page, so they get some extra bang for their buck straight away. Already our Five For Friday blast, when we offer five great ideas for things to do on the weekend around town, has been really popular," he said.

"It really is another extension of the newspaper from where we can provide useful updates and 'live' news.

"We're also more than happy to link up with other pages from the Greater Warrandyte region to help cross promote activities, events and interesting news.

There are so many other terrific locally driven Facebook pages and groups, such as the Warrandyte Second-hand Page, where there's always a great secondhand bargain and even freebies. Also sports groups such as the Warrandyte senior and junior football clubs, the cricket clubs, the pub, the CFAs, Neighbourhood House, the Warrandyte Historical Society, local cafes and business pages.

"Then there are pages such as the Ringwood/Warrandyte Nostalgia Society where there's always a great story about days gone by as well as some terrific photos. We're getting some ripper ideas for the paper from those guys."

The *Diary* will soon commence with plans to introduce a more elaborate website at [www.warrandytediary.com.au](http://www.warrandytediary.com.au) including an updated online reader tool to peruse the monthly paper, blogs, photo galleries, videos, and other exciting new features in 2014.

"We're bringing the *Diary* into the 21st Century which is exciting, but it's important to let readers know we are very committed to retaining the *Diary's* traditional charms and values as a printed newspaper as well," the editor said.

"A lot of newspapers are abandoning the print versions and going digital only, but that will never happen to the *Diary* - we love it too much, it's a real community newspaper in a traditional sense and that's why it will survive. All we're doing really is allowing it to spread its wings a little."

Scott said the *Diary's* Facebook presence would only get better and encourages people to 'like' the page at [www.facebook.com/warrandytediary](http://www.facebook.com/warrandytediary)



**Clyde's Conundrum**

Geoff from Abingdon Estate and winemaker Danny are blending wines. They have a 228-litre barrel of good wine with a tap at the bottom but they need exactly one litre from it. They only have a 3-litre container and a 5-litre container. How do they measure out exactly one litre of wine?

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**Friday, November 29, 7-9pm (free event)**  
Evelyn Room (enter through back car park)  
Warrandyte Community Centre, 168-178 Yarra St, Warrandyte

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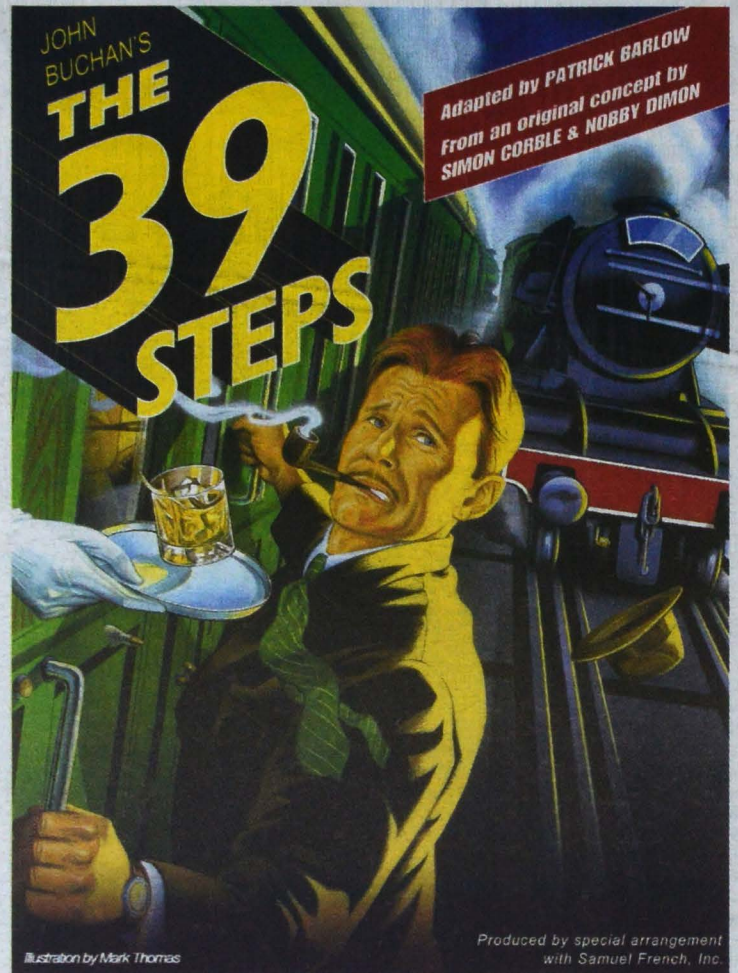
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Warrandyte Mechanics Institute & Arts Association

Matinee 2pm 30 November

Tickets \$22 (Concession \$20)



Be Ready Warrandyte  
Living with Bushfire Risk

**WHAT IF IT'S  
Warrandyte?**

**Are You Ready?  
Bushfire Scenario Planning Event**

**Thursday 28th November 7-9 pm**  
**Andersons Creek Primary School**  
**Bookings: 9844 5855 [warrandyte.org.au](http://warrandyte.org.au)**

Be Ready Warrandyte thanks our sponsors:



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- Sewer connections





# Making a positive change

By RUTH BIRCH

**SELFISH.** Lazy. Spoilt. These are just a few of the words commonly thrown about when describing Gen Y, but whichever side of the fence you sit, these two young men sure don't fit that mould.

Kynan Lupieri of Warrandyte and Oli Moraes of Croydon North, both 21, are the founders of a youth-orientated volunteer network that aims to promote awareness and involvement in tackling social issues.

After completing an internship during which he helped open a children's library in Johannesburg, Oli was inspired to launch Making Change.

Following much brainstorming the two men have created a place where young people can get involved in volunteering, but without the pressures and commitments of larger organisations or religious aspects that non-profit charities are often affiliated with.

Some of their projects include sending donated children's books to South Africa, collecting clothing and blankets for the homeless, as well as running fundraising trivia nights and early morning market stalls.

After getting to know the locals at the Croydon soup kitchen where they regularly distribute clothes, their motivations became clear.

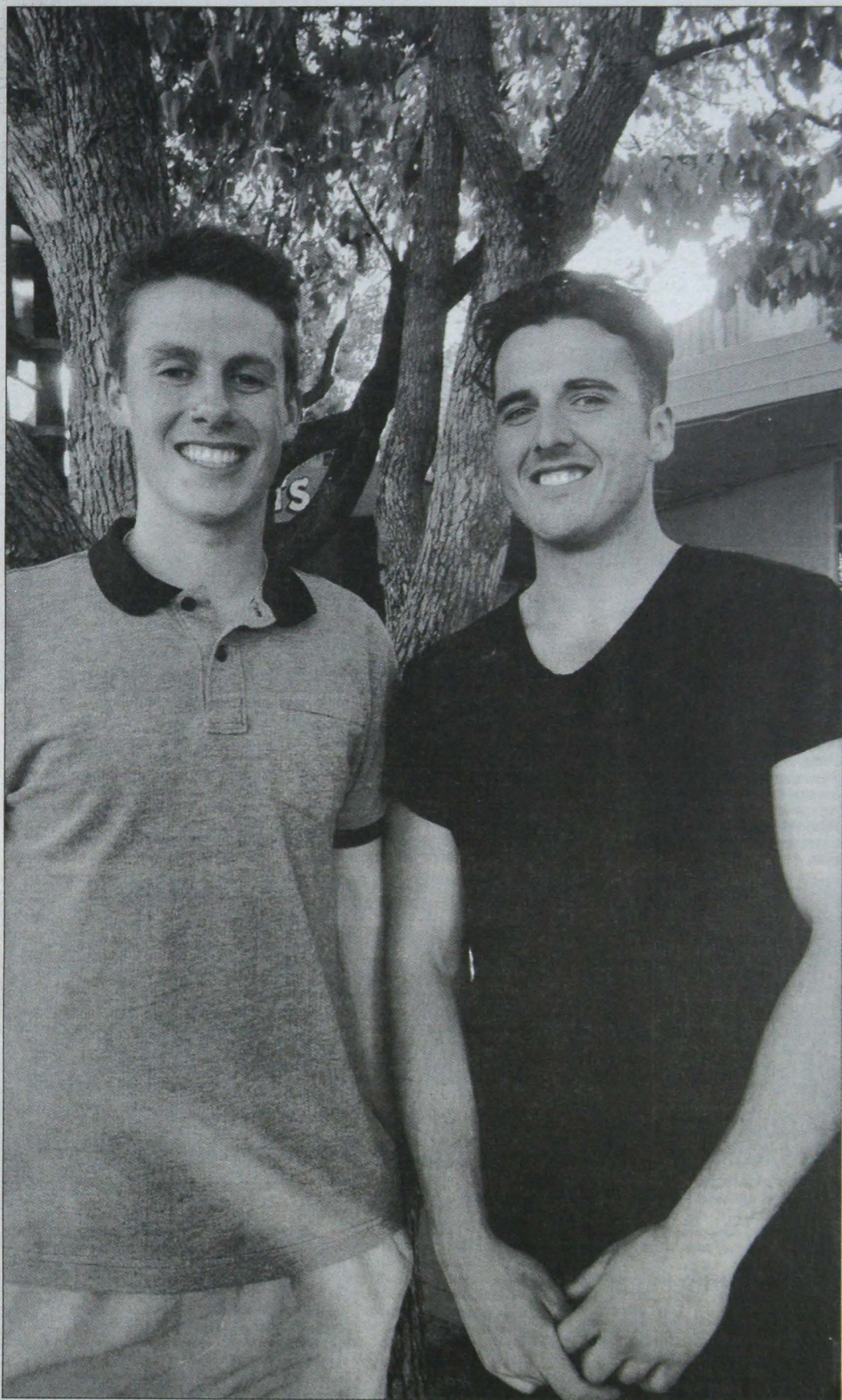
"We are pretty lucky as far as the friends and family networks we have, but these people have nothing," says Oli.

"That must be such a hard thing. I just can't fathom it," Kynan adds.

It is that position of acknowledged privilege that drives them to help those who have not had it so easy. The two men have plans for the future, including providing a laptop and internet access as well as assistance with resume writing at the soup kitchen and eventually aim to move into environmental pursuits. One thing they definitely are already doing, however, is shunning the Gen Y stereotype.

For more information on upcoming Making Change events, to share your volunteering ideas or to simply donate clothing or children's books, 'like' the making Change Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/makingchange2013](http://www.facebook.com/makingchange2013).

**Making a difference:**  
Oli Moraes and Kynan Lupieri.



## Home is where the heart is as MICH helps out

By MICHELLE PINI

WARREN O'Brien is a gifted artist. His paintings often feature abstract views through motifs of arched windows.

His works are described as "complex and rhythmic, with layers of radiant colour and illusions of depth and texture". They feature regularly at the Melbourne Arts Fair and adorn signal boxes within Manningham. The Doncaster East resident is also intellectually disabled.

Although he lives an active life and contributes to our community, Warren lives with his parents and is dependent on the support structures available within the city of Manningham. He is highly social and enjoys the friendships he has formed close to home.

As he is unable to be entirely self-sufficient, his mother Anita is worried about what will happen to Warren as his parents age. It is likely he would have to be placed in community housing wherever it becomes available, leaving behind the support networks and familiarity of home. History has shown that intellectually disabled people who live well-functioning lives surrounded by friends, experience high levels of trauma when removed from support networks.

The future of Warren and others like him are at the core of an ambitious new organisation, Manningham Inclusive Community Housing (MICH), a not-for-profit initiative run by volunteers, which is trying to address the housing issue.

"We believe that a 'home' is not just a house in which you live. A home includes the people with whom you live and the community within which you have chosen to live," says committee member Gail Dick.

But for intellectually disabled residents of Manningham, accessible accommodation is hard to come by.

"We want to offer intellectually disabled people the same opportunities for sustainable accommodation that are available to typical citizens," says Gail.

MICH was formed to try and provide appropriate, inclusive housing for Manningham residents with an intellectual disability, and with varying degrees of disability. It is founded on the premise that "a sense of belonging can be found when home is in a community where you find connection to people and places, and are able to participate and contribute".



The MICH model is intended to provide assisted accommodation for people requiring varied levels of support. Shared housing would include room for attendant carers and would reflect the level of disability, as well as common interests of housemates.

"Intellectually disabled young adults want the same things as other young adults: to feel comfortable in their surroundings and enjoy a sense of belonging among other people with similar interests," explains Gail.

MICH is aiming high and exploring avenues for community partnerships with Manningham council, community housing providers, support service providers, government agencies and other organizations with a view to accommodate individual needs for the intellectually disabled among us. With over 40 people currently identified as "urgently requiring accommodation", the MICH committee already has its hands full trying to meet the demand.

Gail says: "We believe we will have some exciting and innovative projects which meet the criteria. The principal challenge now is to secure funding."

With appropriate community housing identified within Manningham, MICH is actively looking for sponsors to make the ideal of young, intellectually disabled people, living in an environment surrounded by their friends, a reality.

For further information or to make a donation contact Anita O'Brien on 0416 064 045 or email [anita.obrien@optusnet.com.au](mailto:anita.obrien@optusnet.com.au)

## Meet Nillumbik shire's new mayor

**COUNCILLOR Michael Young is the new mayor of Nillumbik Shire following an election last month at a special council meeting.**

An experienced councillor, Cr Young has served previously as mayor in 2011-2012 and as chair of the council's planning committee.

Cr Young lives and works in Eltham as a designer/builder, and says he has a passion for ensuring Nillumbik has appropriate development to enhance the unique character and environmental values of the area.

"I'm delighted to have the opportunity to be council's spokesperson again, and I will work hard to make sure my position is representative of the great coun-

cil it is.

"My aim is to ensure our policies and projects reflect the will, and passion, of the people who reside in this wonderful Green Wedge," Cr Young said.

In his acceptance of the role of mayor, Cr Young thanked outgoing mayor Cr Peter Perkins for his hard work and dedication to the position over the past year.

Cr Bronnie Hattam, who has a long and extensive family history in the Nillumbik region, has been elected deputy mayor.

Cr Hattam has a keen interest in Nillumbik's vibrant artistic community, and is a strong campaigner in the preservation of Nillumbik's cultural heritage and natural environment.





# Thank you very mulch



By **CHERIE MOSELEN**

NO entity (except maybe the Seekers) experiences the turning of the seasons more keenly than our garden.

According to those in the horticultural know, the word of this season is "mulch" and if you want to prepare your garden for warmer weather, best start spreading the word.

Two Birds and a Barrow, a small local team providing a personalised garden maintenance service, are doing exactly that. Plus landscaping, cleaning up houses for sale, rejuvenating bush, and taking care of backyards whose owners are just too busy.

It's been almost 12 months since "two birds" Jenny Drummond and Libby Annand picked up a barrow together after first sharing the idea of teaming up six years ago.

Like many creative seeds, this one required some nurturing before it grew into the Warrandyte-based service operating today.

"Libby and I met at Warrandyte Primary School in 2007 when our children started prep. We talked then about how a gardening business would give us flexibility so we could pick up our kids from school," said Jenny. "But I worked overseas so it didn't happen right away."



Two Birds and a Barrow: Jenny Drummond and Libby Annand.

With a background rooted in the sciences (BSc including Botany at Melbourne University), Jenny worked in a laboratory as a research assistant in genetics at Cambridge University.

Experience that is particularly useful, she told the *Diary*, when it comes to using fertilizers and her-

bicides.

"Some weeds can be eradicated using a long-term 'paper and mulch' approach, others need aggressive management and sometimes herbicides are the solution," Jenny said.

"If we have to spray, we are very careful to do so appropriately and

economically. My background allows us to cover both natural systems and individual plant requirements."

Growing up in what is arguably Warrandyte's most spectacular garden (alongside Mum and talented landscape designer Bev Hanson), Jenny also managed the proper-

ty's plant nursery for three years, deepening her affinity with natural Australian gardens.

Like her partner Jenny, Libby also has green fingers.

"I spent time in my early twenties travelling around New Zealand budding and grafting kiwi fruit and pears, so it's no surprise that I've ended up working as a gardener," Libby said.

Bringing strengths from a diverse background (which spans a vocational bridge stretching from offices to cattle stations), the self-confessed jack-of-all-trades said she loves living and working in Warrandyte.

"We've personalised our service to include ongoing task lists, and our clients receive seasonal reviews of their garden," Libby said. "At busy times we employ other local mums and students, which means we can support our community and have the resources to tailor garden care to meet our clients' needs."

And their top five tips for preparing gardens ahead of summer?

Fertilise to improve plant health. Prune away dead material, especially if it is close to buildings.

Hold off planting in spring, as it requires more water. (Better to plant in autumn).

And if you haven't guessed already... MULCH!

Mulch to improve water retention. Mulch to improve soil quality. Mulch to assist with weed suppression. And mulch... just because it looks good!

"One last suggestion, which doesn't take huge effort but makes a big difference to those who need it," Libby said, "is to leave bowls of water out for animals and birds."

● For more information about Two Birds and a Barrow email [2birdsandabarrow@gmail.com](mailto:2birdsandabarrow@gmail.com) or phone 0488 994 669 or 9844 3906.

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By **CHERIE MOSELEN**

AN innovative concept to create a Biodynamic Community Garden and Education Centre in Warranwood has been given the go ahead by Maroondah council.

Tucked away in a suburban street, just a stone's throw from the neighbourhood's Rudolph Steiner School, is a patch of land ready for construction.

The proposed facility is the incentive of homeopath and home economics teacher Celia Cornick, who has been teaching biodynamics at the site's Michael Centre for the past four years.

A charity that provides the location for Steiner-run teacher training courses, the Michael Centre has donated almost three acres of its land to support her biodynamic vision.

It is fitting the garden will take shape on land dedicated to the teachings of philosopher Rudolph Steiner, who founded the agricultural wisdom.

A sustainable method of agriculture that takes into consideration macrocosmic influences and shuns the use of chemicals and insecticides, biodynamic practices are renowned for producing food that is superior in quality and quantity.

"We have come up with a communal plan to create a space that can be enjoyed by everyone," Celia told the *Diary*. "This concept shares similarities with other community gardens, however all our gardeners will be members who work together using biodynamic principles."

A first of its kind in Melbourne, comprising fruit and veggie plots specifically for growing produce to feed the disadvantaged, an annual membership will cost \$12.

The community garden aims to provide a place where people can visit, work and learn about biodynamics and to that end its design favours a hybrid of areas.

Alongside food donation beds, members without gardens who wish to grow their own produce can take up a community allotment for an extra \$50 per year.

Plots will be available for experimental purposes for students enrolled in the centre's biodynamic courses. And areas will also be set

## A garden with a biodynamic difference



An earthy approach: Water provides an important element in Celia Cornick's Biodynamic Community Garden.

aside to create beautiful gardens with paths and quiet spaces to sit, extending community engagement and interest.

The facility plans to open twice a week, with members expected to commit their time twice yearly to making improvements.

"Biodynamic principles are fundamentally influenced by planetary activity and they incorporate the vital elements of earth, air, warmth and water," Celia said.

The landscape concept promises

a sensory experience to embrace these components: bees and butterflies provide the flow of movement, bringing the element of 'air'; a wooded area in the 'earth' garden will ground visitors who sit amongst its boulders; 'water' from a dam forms an oasis for frogs and dragonflies; and an eating area in the picnic shelter creates 'warmth' and a focus for community gathering.

A dozen people turned up to last month's working bee to lend a hand moving mulch, shifting a shed and

preparing garden beds.

The project will apply for council funding, but will also rely on fundraising, donations and the application of successful community development grants.

Celia is optimistic the garden may eventually form a prototype for further like-minded developments around Australia.

"Biodynamics is really like homeopathy for the soil," said Celia. "Farmers have been using these wonderful growing practices for years. Our

concept will create an opportunity for others to learn more about them."

● A workshop in bee keeping, December 1 from 10am to 3pm at the Michael Centre. Entry is \$40 and bookings are essential. For more info about the project or courses including the upcoming workshop, visit [www.biodynamiccommunitygarden.com.au](http://www.biodynamiccommunitygarden.com.au) or contact Celia Cornick at [info@biodynamiccommunitygarden.com.au](mailto:info@biodynamiccommunitygarden.com.au)

## Green team unites for new monthly market



IN a bid to "make recycling easy" in Warrandyte a new monthly Green Sunday Market will begin at Anderson's Creek Primary School on November 24 and continue to be held on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Students who are part of ACPS's Green Thumb project will join organiser and Manningham councillor Sophy Galbally, her son Zac Galbally and Emma Blummer at the Green Sunday Market, which also acts as a collection point for techno waste such as computers, printers and mobiles. The market runs from 9am to 2pm.

"Also, any unsold household goods from our car-boot stalls can be left with us and we will distribute to local charity shops by

arrangement," Cr Galbally said. "We are offering a solution to street 'dumping' and to reduce waste transport and reduce landfill."

Cr Galbally says the market will feature some "great artistic stalls including handmade, pre-loved, up-cycled and green products and services".

A sausage sizzle will be run by parents of ACPS. Entertainment includes live music, face painting, a jumping castle and children can enjoy the equipment at the playground.

"We encourage people to wear something green on the day," Cr Galbally said.

For stallholder inquiries call 0409 417 369 or 0400 004 183.

## Celebrating twenty years of green care

TO celebrate the great greening achievement of caring for a lovely river-wrapped corner of Warrandyte for the past 20 years, the North Warrandyte-Osborne Peninsula Landcare Group held a convivial "meet your neighbours" gathering on a grassy slope in Hamilton Road on October 27.

Some 80 Osborne Peninsula residents, both from the past and the present, were joined by Parks Victoria and Nillumbik officers to celebrate the significant achievements of the volunteer group who have done so much practical and hands-on work to restore, replant and replenish not only their common

backyard, but an environment that supports so many wild native birds, reptiles and mammals.

A welcome to country performed by Wurundjeri elder, Ron Jones, opened proceedings and reinforced our respect for the deeper cultural heritage of the land.

Entertainment was provided by a choral performance by the Chocolate Lillies and was followed by a snake awareness session by Snakehandler.

Residents of Osborne Peninsula left with a refreshed sense of local connection and purpose and with a show bag of goodies including native plants grown in the local community nursery.



In tune: The local community choir, the Chocolate Lillies, perform for Osborne Peninsula residents.





# WARRANDYTE

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Warrandyte is ready for **YOU** this Christmas!

## Christmas shopping in Warrandyte!

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Produced by Warrandyte Business Association - [www.warrandyte.com](http://www.warrandyte.com)

## Find the 9 SILVER Christmas Gnomes!

List the 9 Shops where the Christmas Gnomes are hiding. Win one of 3 - Christmas Hampers - OVER \$500 worth of goodies!

**Collect your entry form at the local shops** **1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE Hamper** Value over \$250

Fill in the form to WIN! Entry forms to be placed in GOLD envelopes located in Warrandyte Shops.

**Entries Close 5th Dec at 5pm.**

**Drawn at IGA 6th Dec at 6pm.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE Hamper** Value over \$150

**3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE Hamper** Value over \$100

## IGA Christmas Party

IGA and lots of other businesses are inviting everyone to a **Community Christmas Party** in the car park on **Friday 6th December 2pm - 7pm.**

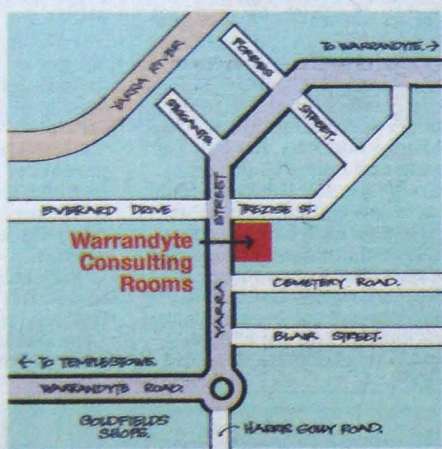
- come along and join in the fun!

## Traders Light Up Warrandyte!

Visit the shops between the **15th Nov to 24th Dec** to view the Christmas lights on display in the shop windows!

## Warrandyte Consulting Rooms

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**IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING THIS FIRE SEASON**

## Learn about YOUR bushfire risk in North Warrandyte

There are a number of meetings to get you FireReady this season.

### FIRE READY VICTORIA MEETING

Tuesday 3 December 2013, 7pm

North Warrandyte Fire Station, Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte

Wednesday 5 February 2014, 7pm

North Warrandyte Fire Station, Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte

### BUSHFIRE PLANNING WORKSHOP

Tuesday 10 December 2013, 7pm

North Warrandyte Family Centre, 184 Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte

Wednesday 12 February 2014, 7pm

North Warrandyte Family Centre, 184 Research-Warrandyte Road, North Warrandyte

#### Fire Ready Victoria Meeting:

Learn about Bushfire risk in your local area, Fire Danger Ratings, Warnings and much more.

#### Bushfire Planning Workshop:

Practical assistance to help develop your Bushfire Survival Plan (it is advisable to attend a Fire Ready Victoria meeting first).

If you belong to a community group or club, talk to us about arranging a customised session.

Please note that CFA postpones all community meetings when the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, Extreme or Severe.



[cfa.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/meetings)



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## Congratulations Warrandyte!

WarrandyteCAN wins the 2013 Sustainable Community Organisation Award at the Nillumbik Council Practically Green Sustainability Awards



### “Chef’s on the move”

After 12 months as head chef at the Grand Hotel Warrandyte, Sam Pinzone is moving on to new challenges after finishing on October 27.

“I’d like to thank the locals of Warrandyte for all their support over the past 12 months and I hope they continue to support their local pub,” Sam says.

To the Residents, the Supa IGA Supermarket and the Warrandyte Business Association.

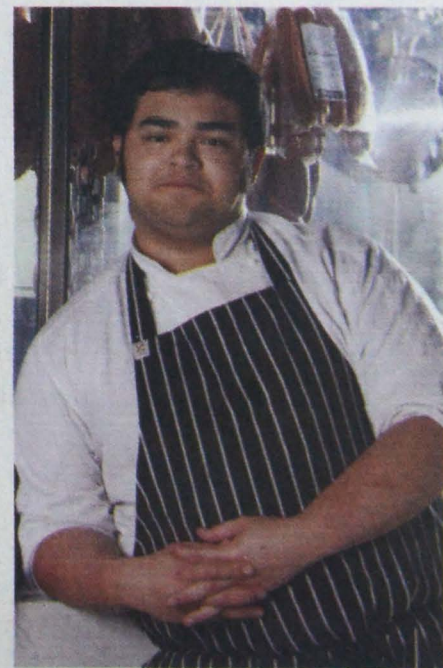
You are to be congratulated for supporting the “No Plastic Bags for Warrandyte” Campaign.

For more information: [warrandytecan.com.au](http://warrandytecan.com.au)

THIS COMMUNITY INITIATIVE ENDORSED AND SPONSORED BY:



## “Chef on the move”



After 12 months as head chef at the Grand Hotel Warrandyte, Sam Pinzone is moving on to new challenges after finishing on October 27.

“I’d like to thank the locals of Warrandyte for all their support over the past 12 months and I hope they continue to support their local pub,” Sam says.



# Safety is the key message



**SAFETY** was the key message during last month's Community Safety Month and one of the main activities in Manningham was the Warrandyte Police Station Open Day.

Families spent the first Saturday of October at the station, where Victoria Police Highway Patrol, CFA, SES and Manningham Neighbourhood Watch spoke to families and answered questions about safety.

Warrandyte/Donvale Rotary Club cooked up a storm of sausages for the visitors who received free child seat fittings and learnt what they should do in a fire or storm.

"It was a great opportunity to meet with the public in a friendly relaxed environment where peo-

ple can ask questions that they would probably never think to ask," Sergeant Stewart Henderson told the *Diary*.

Children also got a close up look at the different emergency services vehicles and even had their pictures taken while dressed up in police uniforms.

Sgt Henderson told the *Diary* that speaking to children about safety in a fun and inviting environment is an effective way to spread safety messages through the community.

"We aim a lot of the messages at the children because we find they are the best way to get the messages into the household and they are great at keeping other family members accountable in terms of safety."



## Riverkeepers commended

THE Yarra Riverkeeper Association has been praised at Environment Victoria's 2013 Community Environmental Recognition Awards with the riverkeepers among 10 groups and individuals who were commended for their commitment to protecting Victoria's natural surroundings through community action.

Environment Victoria CEO Kelly O'Shanassy said: "They are true champions. Speaking up for our environment can be a tough and often thankless task. Yet strong community voices have been fundamental to every major environmental outcome ever achieved in Victoria."

The Riverkeepers' successes include:

- Providing on-the-water guided tours for officials and politicians, resulting in improved policies and regulations affecting the river.

- Being instrumental in the decision by the Victorian government to limit the amount of water extracted from the Yarra, and launching (with Environment Victoria) a campaign to provide environmental flows to the Yarra.

- Tirelessly campaigning to stop development intruding onto the Yarra's surrounds, resulting in stricter height controls for planning regulations around the river

- Educational presentations and events promoting the river to 25,000 people and maintaining their role as the 'voice' for the Yarra.

Local riverkeeper Ian Penrose, spokesperson for the group, was thrilled with the award.

"The award recognises the wonderful contribution of our members and supporters and is an acknowledgment that the Yarra River is Melbourne's most important natural asset," Mr Penrose said.

"My hope is that all Melburnians come to appreciate fully our vital connection with the river, which literally flows in our veins, and that we all become, in effect, Yarra Riverkeepers."

# Our IGA closes... imagine!

By BRIONY (GIBSON) BOTTARELLI

AFTER not only reading the article about Quinton's IGA in the October edition of the *Diary*, but also being privy to the interview between Julie Quinton and Michelle Pini, it got me thinking about life in Warrandyte when I was little and how difficult it was without basic facilities for my parents, but Mum in particular.

We lived high up in Melbourne Hill Rd. The only source of food supplies were from Charlie Jones's vegetable garden (the Community Church now sits over his vegie patch) and Jack Moore for flour, sugar, dried foods and saddlery. Jack's shop was a wooden structure situated where the car park now is, opposite the pub. I can still remember the wonderful smells of wood and leather as you entered. And there was the butcher, where Riveresque is now.

There were no doctors, no dentists, no chemists and the nearest hospital was Box Hill. The milkman delivered the milk - in nice glass bottles - and the postie delivered mail on horseback. There were no banks and when they finally came, they didn't stay. Thanks to locals, the Warrandyte Community Bank came to our rescue: another establishment that gives so much back to the community, but also requires ongoing support.

Mum would set off with me in the green pram, then later Joanne, followed by Jacqueline - and head off down the street to shop. The paths aren't the greatest now, so heaven only knows what they were like then. There were buses, but so infrequent. Dad purchased his first car, a lovely old Chevrolet off Cyril Arden, when I was five. Mum didn't get her driver's licence until I was in my twenties. Well after I had acquired mine!

Later on, I can't remember when,



Jack Moore's store, said to be built in the 1930s to 1940 on the south side of Yarra St. Picture supplied by Warrandyte Historical Society.

there was the Golden Gate cafe and store. A small white building with a golden gate hanging over the door, listing what was available inside - and again this was limited and understandably expensive. George and Voila Leek owned this business for many years and when I was 15 I

worked there on Saturdays. One job for one teenager. Julie now employs their grand-daughters, Jodi and Jenna, who are counted among the 82 other Warrandytians she employs.

I am not sure what would be the worse of two evils. No supermarket at all, or one owned by Coles or

Woolworths. They would, of course, still employ locals, but as huge businesses the community connection wouldn't be there and I am sure they wouldn't extend the generosity of spirit or finances as Julie does.

If we didn't have a supermarket at all, it would in turn affect all the

other surrounding businesses and Warrandyte could end up back where we started. We all have very busy lives and have to do what is most convenient to make our lives run smoothly. However, it is worth a few extra minutes spent to keep our wonderful community humming.



# AJ's in tune with the uke

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

SOME of the *Diary's* readers may not know that Warrandyte is home to one of Australia's top ukulele players. AJ Leonard has lived in Warrandyte for 10 years and is regarded as one of the best ukulele players in the world and is highly respected in Hawaii, considered the home of the instrument.

The multi-instrumentalist first learnt to play the ukulele in the 1970s when his dad's friend decided to teach him the difference between playing a ukulele and a guitar.

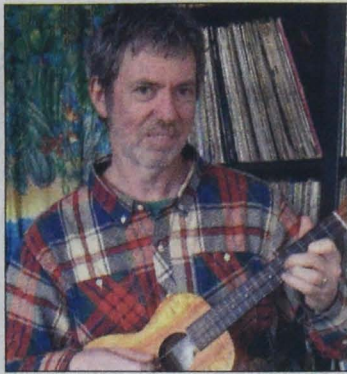
Yet it wasn't until he travelled to Hawaii and bought a new ukulele in 2006 that it became more than just a hobby. It became his passion and he has since decided to learn more about the ukulele's fascinating history and the culture that comes with it.

"Every instrument creates its own unique sound and feeling and generally the ukulele has that ability to relax people. There's a certain soothing quality to it," AJ told the *Diary*.

"I have listened to a lot of great players and I really appreciate what they do and we all sound different, just like we all have different personalities. It's amazing how many possibilities there are."

While he insists playing a ukulele is different to playing a guitar, with the strumming on a ukulele tending to be a bit more ornate, he says he does use some guitar techniques when playing songs on the ukulele.

Since becoming enchanted by the instrument, AJ has released several albums in the past few years with the ukulele, including his Australian-made *Australian Songbook* with David Billings, which includes music he grew up with from the 1960s and '70s. His most recent album is the classically inspired *12 Seasons*, containing instrumental music written in every key.



His partner, Jenny, is also a musician. She plays the cello and together they have played around the world at festivals and events from New York and North Carolina to Australia and Hawaii.

AJ says his interest in Hawaiian and Polynesian music goes back to when he was a child travelling to Washington DC with his family for his dad's work. On the way to the United States the ship docked at Hawaii and we had a look around the island.

"I don't have much memory of it but I think that was when I got my first taste of the culture. I think it's kind of like a seed was planted and it was 30 years later when I went back," AJ said.

The existence of the instrument today is all thanks to three Portuguese cabinet makers who emigrated to Hawaii to work in the sugarcane fields in the late 19th Century.

They opened up a shop in Honolulu, selling furniture along with ukuleles. The small instrument very quickly assimilated into Hawaiian culture, with members of the Hawaiian royal family even picking it up and ukulele lessons in most schools

now a mandatory subject.

Today, AJ says he is still learning more about the instrument's history, and reads up on it whenever he has the time.

"It has taken me a while to realise that the rise of the ukulele in modern culture is really linked to the rise of technology. In the old days you had to go to a venue or hall and hear an orchestra or chamber group perform. That's how you heard music. There were no iPods, cassette players, CD players or anything like that," he said.

"I never thought at the time when I was playing it in the '70s that I could go so far with it as it was a fairly discreet and obscure instrument. However, things have changed a lot in the past 10 years or so with the Internet and YouTube, so I'm lucky that I decided to take it up professionally when I did because it's really only in the last 10 years or so that the instrument has taken off again."

Now AJ passes onto his students the same skills and techniques that his father's friend passed onto him all those years ago – and he's confident that the ukulele will continue to grow in popularity in Australia.

He has just returned from his fourth trip to Hawaii, where he taught workshops for a four-day ukulele retreat. His plans include recording more albums and continuing with teaching people how to play the ukulele in Australia and overseas.

"The plan is to basically keep doing what I'm doing but try and travel a bit more. I have always played music but I haven't always been happy or satisfied with the direction I was heading in. At the moment I'm quite happy with where I am and I feel like I have to spread the word about the ukulele!"

● Visit [www.ajleonard.com](http://www.ajleonard.com)



Sweet music: AJ strums a tune for a loyal fan.



## The stage is set for WTC's The 39 Steps

WARRANDYTE Theatre Company's highly anticipated *The 39 Steps* has finally arrived with opening night this Friday at the Mechanics Institute Hall.

The play runs until the end of November.

Directed by Adrian Rice and Alan Cornell, *The 39 Steps* is described as a hilarious "tribute" to and faithful reproduction of the original story

depicting the Hitchcock film in its entirety on stage.

"This is a challenging piece to present but rewarding because of the intricacies of involving actors and crew to create a cohesive and entertaining play," co-director Rice says.

Performed by the minimum of actors, the company's Facebook page says it includes spies, beautiful women, more beautiful women, heavies

and other villains, cops, sheep and a plane crash. "Film noir and melodrama, love and non-stop action. Jolly good all-round entertainment."

Warrandyte's version "of a play of a film of a book" has undergone various changes that might confound the author of the original book, John Buchan.

What directors Rice and Cornell are presenting is "new and fresh with additional quirkiness and clever bits".

In a nutshell, the play is fast, furious, funny and involves a handful of actors playing many roles as the audience is taken from London to Scotland and back via the Forth Bridge, a Crofter's cottage, some desolate Scottish moors, an old country house and a family run hotel.

"It's a rollicking yarn packed with physical comedy and high-energy spy-jinx that never pauses to catch its

breath," co-director Cornell says. "Only a brilliant cast like ours could pull it off!"

● Performance dates are 15, 16, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 November at the Warrandyte Mechanics Hall, also with a matinee at 2pm on Saturday, November 30. Tickets can be booked online at [www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au/tickets](http://www.warrandytehallarts.asn.au/tickets).



# Behind the scenes along our beautiful river



SCENES on the Yarra came to life last month, a massive art project devised by Jeminah Aili Reidy celebrating the place of the Yarra river in the life of Melbourne.

Jeminah's 'stage' extends from Warburton to the city, and displays the work of about 200 artists in 10 separate locations. Last month it was Warrandyte's turn and many locals and visitors turned out for the event.

Eighteen local artists created an interdisciplinary walking exhibition on the banks of the river from the Stonehouse Gallery to the Warrandyte Bridge.

The work included sculpture, song, music, dance, theatre, painting, storytelling and installations.

From the dreamtime to the present, the artists expressed our relationship with the river that divides our village and unites our community.

The audience of 200 were enthralled, bemused and delighted by the show that ran for two hours.

Melbourne Water and Manningham council sponsored the event which was hosted by Warrandyte's Neighbourhood House, where the artists worked for five days to put the show together.

Manager Emma Edmonds greatly enjoyed the life and energy that the artists brought to the House, and thought the show was wonderful.

"I was enchanted by seeing a magical place that was familiar yet somehow very different," Emma told the *Diary*.

Another audience member, who described the show as "fabulous", said: "Walking my dog the following day, I saw the river in a new light. There was a sense of connection to the place that was inspiring and refreshing."

Congratulations to everyone involved.

For more about the project and details of those involved visit [www.scenesontheyarra.weebly.com](http://www.scenesontheyarra.weebly.com)

Pictures: STEPHEN REYNOLDS



Picture: SALLYANNE HARTNELL



## Fright night in Warrandyte as trick or treaters take to streets for sweets

HALLOWEEN produced a spooky kind of experience late last month when the children of Warrandyte invaded the streets with a mission to fill their bags and baskets.

The hallowed evening was a "really spookarific" affair, according to Francesca Longfield of Warrandyte Treats & Lollies, which was party central throwing a few more surprises into the mix with bags of treats given out as well as "lolly money" vouchers. The Warrandyte Fire Brigade also brought down a fire truck for the children to explore.

Francesca told the *Diary* more than 400 children turned out as witches,

warlocks, monsters, vampires and all sorts of ghoulish-looking characters who took to the streets.

"It was lots of fun," the lolly queen said. "Anne Edsell face-painted with her amazing finesse, a local street entertainer thrilled the crowd, the kids had a play in the park, there was trick or treating in Yarra St - it all made for a successful evening in downtown Warrandyte."

The action also continued all over town and a few clever residents came up with the idea of asking households to place a balloon on their letterbox to let trick or treaters know they were happy to be a part of all the fun.





# SAVE THE DATE

Friday 6th December 2013

2.00pm - 7.00pm



## CHRISTMAS AT *Quinton's* SUPA IGA

Performances by Anderson's Creek Primary  
and Warrandyte Guitar Studio.

Jumping Castle, Santa Claus,  
Sausage Sizzle, Face Painting,  
Food Tastings, Raffles and Showbags

Live Music 4pm-7pm with  
Gary Young from Scarecrow

### IT'S ALL FREE!

WHY? Julie and her team would like to thank  
Quinton's customers for all of their  
support throughout 2013.

**Quinton's - GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY**

1/402 Warrandyte Rd, Warrandyte - Friday 6th December 2013





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Warrandyte **Community Bank**® Branch



*Going to Uni for the first time in 2014?*

Warrandyte **Community Bank**® 2014

# Scholarship

coming soon

Applications are invited from eligible students in the local district attending university for the first time in 2014.

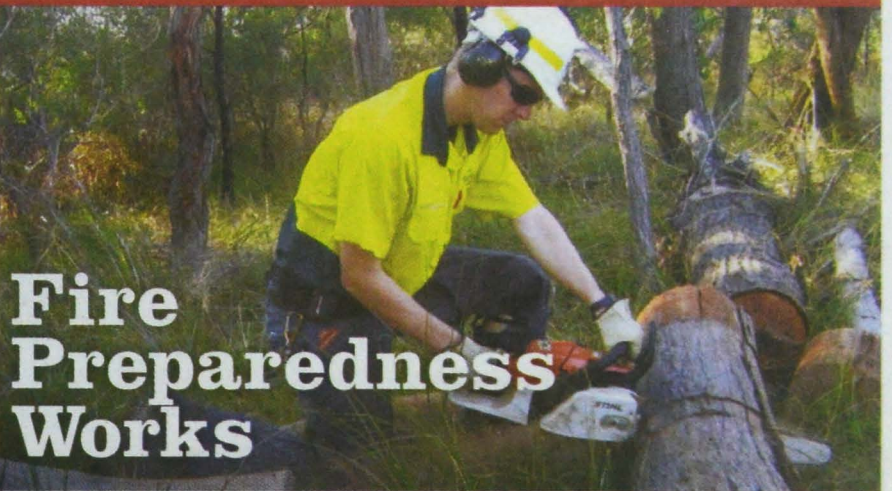
Please speak to our friendly branch staff for further information.



The Warrandyte Community Grants Program is a management account of Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 302 049 968 The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550, 45196-2 (193737\_v2) (30/08/2013)

[www.bendigodelaide.com.au/scholarships](http://www.bendigodelaide.com.au/scholarships)

## Making Victoria FireReady:



# Fire Preparedness Works

**Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries advise that fire preparedness activities will be carried out in local parks and reserves until June 2014.**

This includes the creation and maintenance of fuelbreaks and fire access tracks, slashing and weed management, as well as preparing for and carrying out planned burning activities. Some vegetation and weeds will be cleared and some trees will be selectively removed as part of these works.

With crews and machinery working onsite some park areas will be closed for public safety while works are underway.

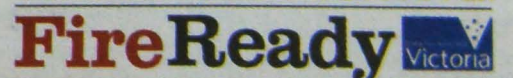
These works are part of a plan to reduce bushfire risk to communities, property and the environment. While they will not stop a major bushfire, they will improve access for firefighters, provide a buffer for nearby homes and reduce the intensity of fires.

For more information on fuelbreaks go to [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) under the Fire Management section of each park's page, or for information about planned burning activities go to [www.depi.vic.gov.au](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au)

For more information contact  
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# Homemade wines on show this Sunday

By MICHELLE PINI

MELBOURNE'S migrant communities have long produced homemade wines in Australia with the first wave of immigration from Southern European nations in the 1950s.

Those "new Australians" brought their skills and passion for homemade plonk, as well as a desire to maintain the traditions of their ancestors and so an amateur winemaking culture began.

Winemaking offers the personal satisfaction of producing something that requires patience and skill, and the process itself can be a tactile and rewarding experience. Soon, the lure of wine production in suburban garages and sheds extended beyond those with ancestral winemaking roots, creating a cult following and a surge in amateur winemaking clubs.

Nearby amateur winemaking club, the Eltham Wine Guild, has been operating since 1969 and is hosting the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Eltham Wine Show at the Eltham Community Centre this Sunday and provides an opportunity to sample the best on offer from around 60 exhibitors, 400 wine entries and 38 classes.

The show itself has come a long way since its humble beginnings when, according to the Guild's website, it was "held on a rickety trestle table out the back".

The event showcases wines made from traditional grape varieties as well as categories such as "hybrid wines", which are wines made from grapes mixed with things such as rose petals, beetroot or stinging nettles. There is even a category for country wines, which are defined as wines made from a variety of fruits, vegetables, roots, herbs, grains and even leaves.

According to Eltham Wine Guild member and Warrandyte show entrants, Geoff Neagle and winemaker Danny Cappellani, all entries are non-commercial but "competition is fierce and all strive to achieve



Next Grange? Doug Seymour (left) and David Hogg (right) put Geoff Neagle's latest offering to the test, and so can you at this Sunday's Eltham Wine Show.

a high standard". Geoff himself is very proud that his 2009 Cabernet won a gold medal at the show three years ago.

Geoff says he didn't really drink wine until his son Richard, now a

professional viticulturist, first studied at Charles Sturt University. Under his son's guidance, Geoff planted fabled Wynns Coonawarra Cabernet clones at his Warrandyte property and the love affair with home wine-

making began. Fourteen vintages later, Geoff says the amateur group is "all a bit of fun, but also helps people strive to produce a better wine".

The 2013 Eltham Wine Show is on Sunday (November 17) between

11am and 3pm at the Eltham Community Centre. Entry is \$15 plus \$5 for a catalogue, BYO tasting glass or purchase one at the door for an additional \$5. For further information visit [www.amateurwine.org.au](http://www.amateurwine.org.au)

# Inner city chic comes to Warrandyte

review

By MICHELLE PINI

TUCKED away in Yarra Street, new restaurant Altair brings city sophistication to Warrandyte. With a comfortable intimate interior, friendly staff, exciting wine list and adventurous, grown-up food, it is set to become a Yarra Valley favourite.

Chef Kelvin Shaw does not make boring food.

"I love to redefine classic dishes with a modern slant," he says. "People cook more now which means they expect more from restaurant food. We like to give them something a little different."

He describes his style as worldly, although it would also fit Modern Australian. It is multi-influenced flavours teamed with great Australian produce and handled with care. Every dish on the menu comes with an optional wine accompaniment, matched to showcase the innovative flavours.

"Using local, seasonal produce takes advantage of the best flavours and it's also more sustainable. Warrandyte has such great spring and summer produce," Kelvin says.

Try the seared scallops with almond crumble, Jerusalem artichoke and blue cheese veloute with a glass of 2011 Yeringberg Viognier - the spicy silky palate and fresh acidity of the wine providing the perfect foil for the explosion of flavours in the dish.

Or dip fragrant, five spice roasted quail into a perfectly poached egg and toasted seeds with the voluptuous, Burgundian style 2011 Erath Estate Pinot Noir.

Other standouts include melt-in-the-mouth, slow cooked lamb belly with beetroot, black garlic, and rosemary and lavender jus - the



black garlic adding an inspired twist. This dish has two suggested wines: Henschke 2010 Keyneton Estate Euphonium Shiraz Cabernet Merlot for perfectly balanced refinement or the Grant Burge 2011 Filsell Shiraz for those who like a traditional, meatier red.

For dessert, the Poire William baba with pear and saffron ice-cream served with Yering Station Cold Pressed Pinot Gris is a beau-

tifully presented and delicately flavoured ending to a memorable meal.

Michelle Shaw is Kelvin's partner, restaurant manager and, according to Kelvin, "the boss". Together their attention to detail is evident throughout - from the water glasses which echo the green tones of the Warrandyte aspect to the artful presentation of each dish.

Altair is not pretentious but refined and considered. As Kelvin says: "When we were planning Altair, we wanted a place for the locals as well as the tourists but it needed to feel like Warrandyte."

Altair Restaurant is open Wednesday through Friday for lunch and dinner and Saturday and Sunday from breakfast to dinner. For more information, visit [www.altairrestaurant.com.au](http://www.altairrestaurant.com.au)

## Diary bites

with Basil Fettucine

The Warrandyte café scene is abuzz with changes as we say farewell to our friends at Blue Tongue Café and Casa Tia Maria at Goldfields, and say hello to The White Owl. Terry, Sue and Lee from Blue Tongue are moving on to other ventures (you'll find Lee churning out some beaut coffees and hot choccies at Cocoa Moon), while The White Owl has launched at the former site of Casa - and what dazzling revamp it is that former ACPS teachers Meredith Thornton and Nieta Manser have achieved! The girls are opening early to catch the tradies market, so expect all sorts of scrumptious food, including brekkies. No doubt they'll receive plenty of support from the school mums, too.

XXX

Every time you walk into Cocoa Moon lately there's something new, or so it seems. Andreas and the team have been doing some seriously snazzy renovations of late and locals should stay tuned for more as the venue prepares to move on up from a restaurant licence to a general one in order to effectively become a bar by night.

XXX

Yarralicious is another newbie on the scene in South Warrandyte scoring some attention with its delicious gluten-free goodies and Melbourne-roasted coffee.

XXX

The Grand Hotel Warrandyte is shaking things up, too. A changing of the guard on the chef front, a new courtesy bus and some great entertainment is lined up leading up to Christmas.





# Diary goes global

THE Diary has been spreading the news and making its way around the planet in recent months. Obviously we were popular with the Sheik and his team at the Dubai Centre for Cultural Understanding (left).

As the Diary launches a new travel page, we encourage readers to pack a copy of our beloved newspaper in your suitcase and help us take it global, just as our editor has been during his travels to Canada, Sweden and the United Emirates (and keep an eye on our Facebook page for some super pics).

Even our Warrandyte High School kids and teachers got in on the act (below) while travelling through Italy recently.

Stay tuned for some great prizes on offer for those who submit anything for our "Diary Goes Global" segment - who knows, you may even win a weekend away. Also keep your eye out for our travel page to evolve in 2014 with features on all sorts of getaways nearby and afar from the perspective of our readers.

## Warrandyte High's Italian adventure

Local high school students and teachers recently visited Italy for a study trip. Year 10 student MORGAN STOREY is the Diary's roving reporter this month.

**O**UR journey started in Rome after two plane trips lasting a total of about 19 hours and a stopover in Dubai for four hours. Thank goodness for inflight entertainment!

From the time we landed to the time we all dragged our suitcases up Hotel Dina's stairs and settled into our rooms, we could see that Italy was going to be very different from Australia.

In Rome we saw the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona and Campo de' Fiori where we had most of our lunches in the market. We also discovered the Vatican, St Peter's Basilica, the Colosseum and the Roman Forum with the help of our tour guide Lorenzo. For a bit of a history lesson we stopped at the 'Time Elevator', which I found really enjoyable. Overall, Rome was beautiful in a way that can't be explained.

On the way to the Il Grande Prato in Tuscany we stopped at Siena for an hour or so to look around and have lunch. When we arrived at Il

Grande Prato I knew it was one of my favourites. It was a simple house up on top of a hill far away from the business of the city and on the way to the city of Florence.

While we were in Florence we saw and went along the Ponte Vecchio, we used the Piazza del Duomo as our meeting point, saw David in all his glory, and walked all the way to San Marco's Church. We also had our Italian lessons there, at the ABC Learning Centre.

Next stop was Venice. I think I loved Venice the most because there were no cars, scooters, motorbikes and not even a push bike. I would love to get lost in the streets there but our group only got lost once... or twice. We saw Piazza San Marco including the church and museum, travelled the Grand Canal, wandered the Rialto Bridge, viewed the Doges Palace and stuck out our hands in the Bridge of Sighs.

Italy was a magical place and I wish upon heaven and earth that I can go back there one day. Thank you to the school for this wonderful opportunity.



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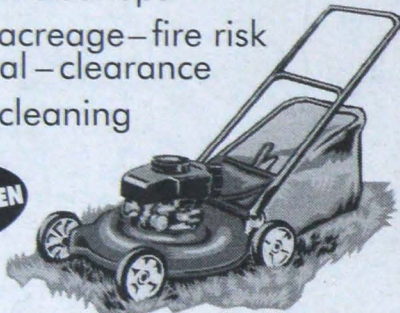


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**MIDDLE YARRA RIVER CORRIDOR STUDY HAVE YOUR SAY!**

Manningham is participating in a joint study with Nillumbik Shire, Banyule City Council and Melbourne Water.

The study is being led by the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI) and aims to strengthen planning controls and provide greater guidance for development along the Middle Yarra River to ensure that the river's environmental, aesthetic, cultural and recreational values are maintained.

A Community Drop-In Session has been scheduled for 16 November at Westerfolds Park to provide the opportunity to view the material prepared as part of the Draft Background and Analysis Report and share your thoughts and ideas for the Middle Yarra River Corridor.

The Draft Report and information regarding the Drop-In Session can be accessed by visiting the project website: [www.dtpli.vic.gov/middleyarrastudy](http://www.dtpli.vic.gov/middleyarrastudy).

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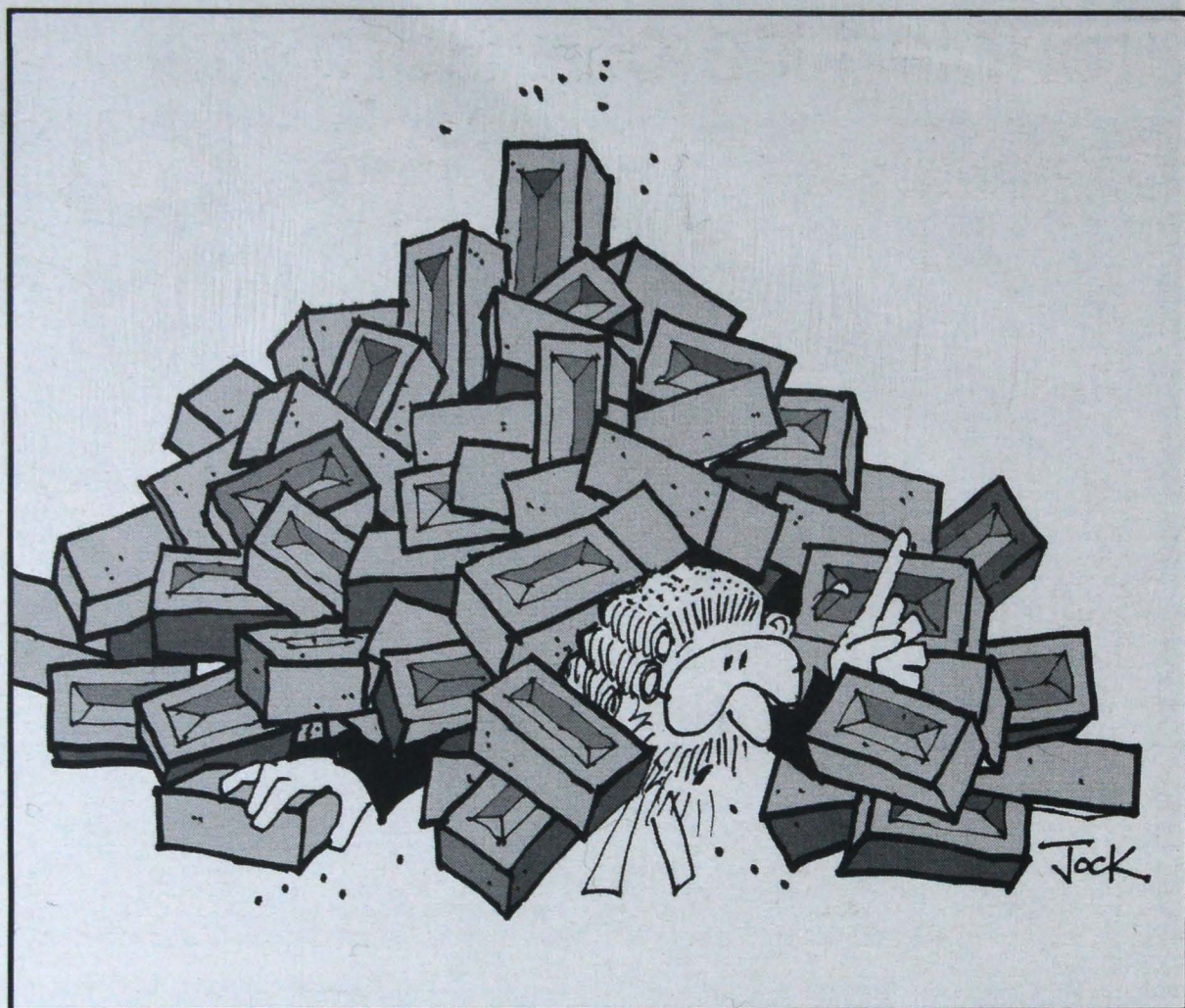
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## Mind your language or you may be in a ton of trouble

**B**UT what is 'a ton of bricks' doing in a court room? And wouldn't

they hurt falling on him?

"Well, yes, they would hurt but the bricks didn't really exist. It's just a way of making the idea of the barrister being cross with him a little clearer.

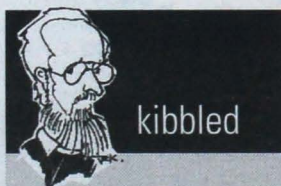
"And what is a 'cross' doing in the story?"

I was sitting in a migrant English class and the adult students were working through a newspaper article about a domestic dispute. The report was about how a good barrister can influence the jury, almost more so than the facts.

"You know how heavy a brick is; well just imagine how hard it would be to have a ton of them fall on you. The writer is trying to explain that the barrister attacked the man with so much negative information about his crime that the man was unable to reply. He was trapped under all that attacking."

The students nodded in befuddled agreement and it reinforced for me how much language uses slang, idioms and irony. English is inconsistent and difficult enough to learn without including curve balls. (Were we talking about baseball?)

Which got me thinking about my own childhood and how some sayings that were perfectly normal and part of everyday speech, have now become obsolete and many may only be intelligible to most of today's youngsters



**"Until the sixties and seventies, kids could ask questions and parents were at liberty to fob them off with 'and that's for you to ask and me to know'..."**

after a quick Google search.

Until the the 1960s and '70s, kids could ask questions and parents were quite at liberty to fob them off with, "...and that's for you to ask and me to know" or "That's something for you to worry about when you're older!" Happy to be given any answer and not have an ear tweaked or a clip around the ears for being too inquisitive or insolent, we skipped off to fill in the hours between breakfast and lunch. I'm not convinced that this would satisfy a youngster to

day. How gullible or accepting we were. When I was a young tacker, I well remember what used to happen if I dared to pester my mother as to why I couldn't go or have something.

After my first one or two querulous, "Why nots?", I would be told, "Because Y's a crooked letter and you can't make it straight." Game over. There was no possible reply so once again I slunk off to do what I was told; "to wait until I was much older". If I didn't do that and, after a day's brooding I returned to pump Mum for a more reasoned answer, it was just as likely that I'd be told that "Curiosity killed the cat!" And that would be that!

Then came the '60s and '70s: decades when we threw out all the old 'conservative' ways in favour of openness, honesty, respect for authority (except our own) and discretion. No more 'Uncle' Bob or 'Aunty' Jane. Now it was Bob and Jane and Mum and Dad became friends on first name terms with their children. Children were not 'children' but small 'adult equals'. From birth, they were assumed to have all the life skills, education and rationality to contribute substantially to the family's financial, emotional and social decisions. Children were to be told the truth and not be fobbed off with superstition, outdated ideology or cant, unless it was our ideology, belief system or cant.

Before we muddied the water during Flower Power, life was wonderfully uncomplac-

ed. A broken arm was "... not as bad as a shipwreck" and if you were "full up to pussy's bow" you had to wait until everyone had finished before you could 'leave the table'."

And where did the term, "I've bagged it!" come from? No idea, but in my youth, every other kid knew that it was yours by bagsing right. And when confronted by imminent defeat or by being caught, all you had to do was call, "Barley!" Not 'wheat' or 'rice' but 'barley'.

The 'game lawyers' were always suspicious of the kid who yelled "Barley!" too often as this was usually a sure sign that s/he was destined to become a politician in later life, the sort who would go back on election promises or would scam their travel entitlements.

Maybe some idioms developed because we lived closer to nature. It made little sense, however, for kids to stop fighting and cooperate when told by a distraught mother that "little birds in their nest should all agree!"

And it was because we lived closer to nature that we saw the folly of this saying. It's usually the survival of the fittest in nests and that's just what we practised in our games. "Just wait 'til your dad gets home!" was far more effective as a warning.

And if you don't 'get' the point of this article then it's sort of like "a wigwam for a goose's bridle."

ROGER KIBELL



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# Troubled life of a Burgan

nature

By PAT COUPAR

**M**ALLACOOTA. Armed with my post-box red secateurs, I squat down beside a low growing shrub. Despite a concerning lack of rain, the plant has grown vigorously over the autumn months. Gathering together its unruly growth, I give it a trim. The result is satisfying. Over several months, this once tall shrub has been reduced to a ground cover – or rather a ground mound – that is playing an important role in my newly emerging Mallacoota garden.



Burgan tamed with a pair of bright red secateurs. Photo: Mike Coupar

Whilst snipping away, my thoughts return to Warrandyte where this local indigenous species is far less welcome. The plant is Burgan, or to give it its current scientific name *Kunzea ericoides*. In many places, particularly in riparian areas of Warrandyte State Park, but on drier sites as well, Burgan has become an over dominant understory shrub, excluding many other shrubs and ground covers. In addition, there are associated problems with Burgan, Bellbirds and eucalypt dieback. Burgan control has been a park management issues for decades.

Burgan has led a troubled existence from the time early botanists first recorded the species. There is no denying its heritage as a member of the Myrtaceae family and as such its relation to eucalypts, bottlebrush, paperbarks and tea trees, in fact many people simply refer to the plant as tea tree. The species is, however, a misfit locked into an uncertain existence, as misunderstood as a troubled teenager.

Burgan's taxonomic history

has been chequered to say the least. Originally placed in the genus *Leptospermum* (tea trees) as far back as 1832 and given the species name of *ericoides*, it underwent two name changes before the turn of the century. In 1843 it became *Baeckea phylloides*, but this didn't last long, as in 1855 it was renamed *Kunzea peduncularis*. This name lasted 88 years until 1943 when Burgan was returned to its original genus of *Leptospermum* but given the species name (once more) of *phylloides*. Then in 1983 both genus and species names were dumped and botanists decided that in fact the Burgan should be classified as a *Kunzea* after all and gave it back its original species name of *ericoides*.

And it doesn't end there! There is speculation that Burgan may even be an import from New Zealand. The diffi-

culty that confronts botanists is that Burgan is extremely variable in shape, size and growth habit. The most likely theory is that Burgan – best to stick with its Koorie name – is not a single species. In fact six distinct species have been identified in Victoria alone and two occur in Warrandyte. One of these tends to grow in riparian habitats and is generally single-trunked, while the other prefers drier habitats and had lighter green, less pendulous branches. Smell and oil content of the leaves are also different. Just to add to the confusion, the two species also form hybrids.

Burgan is widespread and common mostly in the eastern half of Victoria, it also occurs in New South Wales, Queensland and the ACT and of course New Zealand. In the Craoingolong National Park that cradles the small

township of Mallacoota, Burgan is in balance as a natural component of the understory, but does not dominate it. However, at the fringes of the bush, along roadsides and in areas that have been cleared – like my garden – Burgan is doing its 'Warrandyte thing' and taking over.

There is absolutely no doubt that the Burgan in my Mallacoota garden is the multiple trunked variety which lends itself perfectly to this extreme pruning regime. With so much space to fill it saves me time and money to cultivate the Burgan. Of course it will never flower, but that's OK – the dense mounds of tiny bottle green leaves are colour enough. I am pleased to have finally found a place for this troublesome plant with the identity crisis and even tamed it with a pair of bright red secateurs.

# Poetry in motion – all the way down

**M**T Lafayette, New Hampshire. We'd set out to hike up to the summit then southwards along the spectacular Franconia Ridge. In clear weather, there are fabulous views across the Pemigewasset Wilderness from the narrow razorback that forms part of the Appalachian Trail. In bad weather, we had almost no view at all. Heavy cloud draped the entire range, icy snow impeded the rocky scramble up the spur, then a sudden silent snowfall obliterated almost everything in sight.

After more than two-thirds of the 1200-metre climb, we decided to bail out at a hiking hut that marked the geographical transition from stunted conifer forest to exposed alpine conditions. Even wearing crampons for safety, there would be no point in venturing further up the mountain in these conditions.

Like most things, getting down was a fair bit trickier than climbing up.

My arthritic knees have grown too accustomed to Warrandyte's benign slopes.

Age might have something to do with it, too.

Whilst my beloved and I carefully lowered ourselves down something akin to an endless rocky waterfall, our offspring scampered blithely ahead, hands in pockets, making up poetry as they sprang from rock to rock.

It's the middle of the hunting season here in New Hampshire – bear, deer and moose are, quite sensibly, nowhere to be seen. (I'm more concerned about the possibility of stray bullets than being mauled by a bear.) The topic of the impromptu verses, naturally, turned towards the absent wildlife.

"Ken the moose stood on the edge of a cliff, his antlers all aflutter, in his youth he was renowned for his courage. Today it'd turned to butter."

When we finally caught up with them, our offspring were cooling their heels on a snowy log some way down the mountain. A busy little squirrel had been doing a bit of last-minute bark collection before winter's hard chill freezes the forest completely.

It's minus something de-

our place

By MARILYN MOORE

grees, still snowing, with a discernible wind chill factor, but No.1 son still wore shorts.

The Ballad of Kenny the Moose was fast becoming an epic.

"... Her name was Peaches. Her looks could kill, and she'd broken the hearts of many. Although she was a narcissistic punk, she still had a soft spot for Kenny. He knew he could woo her. He still had the gift. She would answer his call. But first he must cross an old rope swing bridge, and he was rather afraid he might fall."

I was starting to feel quite miffed that we hadn't seen any large wildlife. There were a few signs, such as elm trees with slabs of bark ripped off (bear or moose?) and under one large low-leaning tree trunk, a worn spot where something large had made itself a comfy bed. Oh well, the sight of a few squirrels scampering about would have to do. At least there were plenty of those.

Weary knees trudged the last mile or so down to the carpark at the trail head. It had grown surprisingly dark for so early in the afternoon, and the odd snow shower still drifted down from the heavy grey cloud grazing the forest just above us. Kenny's knees were also feeling the pinch, apparently:

"Eeeerrrrngh", he cried, to grab her attention, so that she might glimpse his valour. But his shaking knees gave him away, and there was no mistaking his pallor..."

To invent an epic ballad whilst descending a challenging slope at full speed is on a par with adding up a column of figures whilst playing a Bach fugue, I reckon – a feat long considered nigh-impossible. It'd require a chair, table, pencil and at least 20 sheets of paper in my case. And (possibly) a sustaining beverage.

The old moose's exploits, naturally, finished somewhat unfortunately; ours, happily, finished with well-deserved wood-fired "flatbreads" washed down with a couple of bottles of locally made Woodchuck cider. I could quite get to like this place!

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# Snap up a Christmas bargain

The Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association Painting Group members are holding a Christmas Bargain Sale on Sunday, November 24 from 10am to 4pm in the Mechanics Hall, Cnr Yarra Street and Mitchell Avenue. Paintings framed and unframed, all mediums. A chance to acquire that special gift. Contact Pauline Cross 9439 1775 or 0428 554 834.

## Theatre

John Buchan's *The 39 Steps*. Spiffing adventure and side-splitting fun! Book early at warrandytehallarts.asn.au/tickets. November 15, 16, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30. Matinee, November 30 at 2pm.

## Fundraiser

Join us for a spicy night of Indian and Western food, fine wines and entertainment for Simple Souls Blessings, a school near Bangladesh. Please call Candice on 0438 202 361 to purchase tickets.

## Green market

Stalls wanted. Pre-loved, vintage, up-cycled, handmade, buskers. Sell on and reduce landfill. Anderson's Creek Primary School, November 24. Call Sophie on 9876 3552 or 0409 417 369, email info@greensundaymarkets.com.au or visit their website: www.greensundaymarkets.com.au.

## Library

Pick-up your Yarra Plenty regional library booklet from the Warrandyte Library, for what's on at the local libraries.

## Grand gigs

Electric Intent, Friday, November 15. Simon Hynes, Friday, November 22. Threeza Crowd, Friday, November 29. Long Gone Daddy's Band, Friday, December 6. Playing at the Grand Hotel Warrandyte, 110 Yarra Street. For more information phone 9844 3202.

## Toy market

To celebrate national recycling week, Warrandyte Neighbourhood House is hosting a toy swap 'n' sell market. Update your child's toy box cheaply (or for free), and clear space in their bedroom. A great way to get ready for Christmas and stop toys going to landfill. All welcome. Families wishing to swap 'n' sell must pre-register. Sunday, November 17 at 10.30am-12.30pm. Call Warrandyte Neighbourhood House 9844 1839.

## Enviro Art

Nests and magical walking sticks with Jemimah Reidy, Sunday, November 24, 9.30am-12.30pm. A morning



## Catch Catfish Voodoo at the RSL

Live music sessions Sunday November 25, 4-8pm, **Catfish Voodoo, playing the Blues as only they can!** Friday December 13, from 8pm. Rust with Jo Pearson, playing **Roots 'n' Blues.** Inquiries: RSL Club Rooms, 9844 3567 (open from 4pm daily). 113 Brackenbury Street (enter from Mitchell Ave). Entry: Band donation.

## 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.

of art play. Make nests, magical walking sticks, and sculptures from natural materials. Jemimah recently produced the enchanting *Scenes on the Yarra* riverside performance and to complement the production is holding a workshop for primary aged children. \$15 per child. Call Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, 9844 1839.

## Christmas Crafts

Wednesdays, November 20, from 4.30-5.30pm. Over three weeks, children will make fabric Christmas decorations. Great for their own tree or as handmade presents to be loved forever. Cost \$45. Call Warrandyte Neighbourhood House, 9844 1839.

## Paint wanted

My partner and I have taken to painting over any graffiti we see in Warrandyte. The ongoing purchasing of paint and cleaner is becoming an expensive exercise. Has anyone got any paint they could donate to this cause? Please contact Lindy on 9844 0106.

## CFA auction

Mission Australia is hosting Fitting in, a silent auction of artworks and furniture at

the Engine Room Gallery, 2 Civic Place, Ringwood, on November 28 from 5pm-7pm. Celebrate the achievements of some remarkable local artists who have created a variety of artworks to be auctioned to raise money for Warrandyte CFA. Mission Australia wishes to promote awareness of the personal achievements the artists have experienced and some key outcomes, enhancing our unemployed jobseekers, increasing their opportunities to reduce the unemployment rate in our local community. Each artist will be presented with a certificate of achievement.

## 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.

## CFA Sunday

Warrandyte Fire Station is opening its doors to the community for CFA Sunday on November 24 from 11am-3pm. It's a chance to meet your local firefighters with a fun-filled day for the whole family. There'll be a sausage sizzle, amazing prizes, a colouring competition, lollies, a visit from Captain Koala—and maybe a squirt from the fire hose!

## Tell us

The *Diary* is your newspaper and we're always ready to publish details of your forthcoming events. Put us on your mailing list. PO Box 209, Warrandyte 3113 or email info@warrandytediary.com.au.

## JOIN US ON facebook

The Warrandyte Diary is now on Facebook. Like us as we storm towards 1000 likes! Visit facebook.com/warrandytediary



## artyfacts

## Ona and Syd

Our 31st year! November 16, 17 & 23, 24 & 30. December 1, 12-5pm. Ona and Syd welcome you for a drink and a browse. Cnr Henley and Oxley Road, Bends of Islands, Melway 24 F1.

## Open studios

Visit local artists in their studios over open weekends of November 23 and 24, November 30 and December 1. For more information call 1300 660 072 or visit www.artistsopenstudios.com.au

## 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.

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## Do yourself a favour – Join Rotary

**ROTARY** is some 1.2 million service-minded men and women belonging to more than 32,000 Rotary Clubs in virtually every nation in the world. Locally members of the Rotary Club of Warrandyte Donvale work hard to raise funds. You will see us at work in our Warrandyte Rotary OP SHOP; monthly Tunstall Square Market or our annual Rotary Warrandyte Artshow, one of the largest in Victoria.

### We distribute \$100,000 annually to support our programs

**Locally** for example we provide the Miners Cottage office for Warrandyte Housing Support Services; contribute to the Food Bank to put food on the table for the needy. Much of our focus is in developing our youth to take leadership roles. Local schools are supported and students financed to attend Rotary New Generation programs such as National Youth Science Forum; Model United Nations Assembly; 4 Way Speech Contest; Rotary Youth Leadership; Youth Enrichment; Youth Exchange; Camp Awakenings.

**Nationally** we support indigenous programs in Central and Western Australia and disaster aid for flood and fire.

**Internationally** we support literacy and health programs in Fiji, Africa, Asia & Sth America. In association with the Gates Foundation Rotary has almost eradicated the world of Polio.

Rotary Club of  
Warrandyte Donvale



[warrandytedonvalerotary.org.au](http://warrandytedonvalerotary.org.au)

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# A tribute to Gwen Colman Fitzgerald

**O**n a mild and misty September evening, some friends and family of one of Warrandyte's pioneering families waited expectantly as the Police Chopper and SES searched up and down the river for 88-year-old Gwen Colman Fitzgerald.

Her family first noticed her missing late that afternoon when her grandson came to collect her from her home in East Ringwood. Piecing together her day, family discovered she had called a taxi at lunchtime and had been dropped off at the Warrandyte Bakery. Police later located her handbag along the riverside walking track between the bridge and the Stonehouse.

Gwen often returned to Warrandyte - to tend the family graves, sip a coffee at the bakery then walk along the river, remembering her pioneering forebears. She was passionate about her family connections to the district and was a keen contributor to Warrandyte's history. And the river was her solace.

For Gwen's family, the Yarra had been their lifeblood.

"Penny" Colman was born in Ringwood on June 5, 1925, the youngest of Kate and Jack's daughters. She grew up in a close-knit family with her older sisters Jessie and Joyce on her family orchard when horse and cart was still the main mode of transport. They were deeply connected to the land and to Warrandyte. Her maternal and paternal grandfathers had both worked the goldmines. With 18 aunts and uncles intermarrying, many familiar Warrandyte names - Sloan, Thomas, Till, Chapman, Jones, Holloway, Reid and Cargill - were proudly added to her extended family.

Gwen's maternal grandparents, John and Freda Jones, lived in a bark hut along Yarra St, close to where the Warrandyte Community Church now stands. Clothes were boiled up in a 44-gallon drum on the river bank and household water was carried up to the hut by the kids - a yoke and buckets strung across their shoulders.

This photo taken in 1895, shows Freda with six of her eight children and expecting Gwen's mother, Kate. Sadly Kate never met her father as he died three weeks before her birth. Freda quickly remarried and another three children were born to Edwin Holloway.

It was around 1900 when

the Colman family purchased land and established an orchard at South Warrandyte. Gwen's grandmother, Mary Jane Colman, housed the first South Warrandyte Primary School and Gwen's father carried on the family tradition of working tirelessly to build a strong, united and spirited community at South Warrandyte.

For over 25 years he represented the Warrandyte Riding as a councillor on the Doncaster and Templestowe Shire (now Manningham) while still working the orchard full-time and finding time to enjoy a weekend game of cricket at Warrandyte. He eventually garnered council support and helped build South Warrandyte's own picturesque ground which bears his name: Colman Park.

In fact, such was Jack's commitment to the community that on Black Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 1939, when fire swept through the Warrandyte district, he was out saving other people's properties. Sadly, their home, orchard, machinery, possessions and notably their livelihood, were all lost. Thirteen-year-old Gwen often recalled the fear of being sent with an elderly neighbour to search through the sickly smoke on the Warrandyte hills for a house cow. It was the river that saved them that day when they finally made their way down to its banks.

Gwen was schooled entirely at South Warrandyte but her education was disrupted when their school was also burnt to the ground. Soon



The early days: Freda with her children Mary, Frede, Tom, Ben, Bill and Rachel (Charlie & Winifred were absent)

after, she began training as a stenographer and for four years she rode her bike a number of miles each day to connect with the Warrandyte bus at Pigtail Hill for the long trip in to the city.

After meeting and marrying a 'Ringwood boy', Cashen Fitzgerald, during the war years, they settled at South Warrandyte on the edge of the family orchard and went on to raise six children. Gwen continued

in her father's footsteps with her dedication to community - at first with mothers clubs and community hall fundraising, then with the church, St. Gerard's Parish. Those who knew Gwen would remember her as a warm and a friendly person who had a smile for everyone. She had a strong sense of social justice and would not tolerate any form of discrimination.

She was a woman committed to the care of all others - not just her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren but other family members, neighbours and friends. She drew them all into her net of extended family, including nourishing them.

After almost 70 years of deep connection to the district, she moved to a unit in East Ringwood when Cashen died. With an incredibly positive attitude she was able to accept what life dealt without complaint and found pleasure again in the simple things - the joy of creating a new garden and the pleasure of helping family and friends.

Some might wonder about an 88-year-old wandering the

river alone. However, Gwen's strong and determined nature inherited from a long line of pioneering women, gave her the strength and capability to continue her independent lifestyle. We are proud to remember her as a central figure in our extended family.

What happened in her final hours is known only to the spirits of the land. What we do know is that our Mum was gently carried by the river to rest peacefully near the bridge until found by Police and SES later that night. It was the river that had nurtured and sustained her throughout her life and it was the river to which she returned.

Gwen Colman Fitzgerald will rest forever with her forebears in the Andersons Creek Pioneer Cemetery. As one Warrandyte resident said: "Warrandyte didn't forget your Mum that night - there were many of us who left our outside lights on for her."

Thank you to the SES, the Victorian Police and to the people of Warrandyte for your caring.

**THE FITZGERALD FAMILY**



Gwen's family (from left): Jack, Kate, Jessie (standing) Gwen and Joyce.

## There's something in the wood shed

There's something in the wood shed,  
I thought I heard it growl,  
I thought I heard it slither,  
I thought I heard it howl.

There's something in the wood shed,  
I've heard it day  
... and night.  
I've heard it chase the neighbour's cat,  
And it gave our dog a fright!

There's something in the wood shed,  
I've seen its shining eyes  
Watching for the moon to wake,  
And light the darkened sky.

There's something in the wood shed,  
And when the moon is bright,  
I've seen it make a shadow  
Upon the shed at night.

There's something in the wood shed,  
So I crept in there to peek,  
And hiding right behind a log  
Was a barn owl...  
fast asleep.



CORINNE KING





# Scouts on a roll



Key contributor: Carmen Jansen with her award.

WARRANDYTE Scouts has grown by 30 per cent and more than doubled over the past five years in both members and sections, according to group leader Iain Jansen.

Warrandyte Scouts now has four sections including Joeys (age 6-8), Cubs (8-11), Scouts (11-15) and Venturers (15-18). "These sections have all grown this year, continuing the momentum from previous years," Mr Jansen said. "This is what has continued to ensure a strong and viable group offering quality scouting experiences to the Warrandyte community."

In recognition of these results, the group has been awarded the 2013 Development Award in the Manningham district for achieving growth in all sections. The group also received two other awards (the Quality Scouting Award and the Chief Commissioner's Award).

They were presented by the chief commissioner of Scouts Australia, Bob Taylor AM, to Mr Jansen at a recent Manningham district function.

Warrandyte Scouts have also recently achieved two more scout medallions, being

awarded to Rhys Newbury and Ben Sproat.

Previous recipients are Struan Jansen, Zera Gordon and Callum Chapman.

"When one considers that this is the highest achievement in the scouts section, and that only the top percentiles in scouting across the country achieve this level, it is evidence of the quality of scouting at Warrandyte and the group is justifiably proud to be able to say that it has achieved five scout medallions in five years," Mr Jansen said.

One of the key contributors to this success over the past few years has been Carmen Jansen, the scout section leader, who recently received the Silver Arrowhead Award from Scouts Australia for her contribution to Warrandyte Scouts.

She has been with the group from when it had less than 40 members some years ago until today where it has become the second largest group in the Manningham district with just under 100 members.

Asked what had inspired her to be involved with Warrandyte Scouts, Carmen said:



All smiles: Rhys Newbury is presented with a certificate.

"I have loved to be involved in the community from the beginning and see the youth growing up through the ranks in Scouts. That in itself is reward enough."

When asked what the key to Warrandyte's scouting success was over the past few years, group leader Iain Jansen said: "Warrandyte Scouts leaders and the committee have been the key to our success over this last five year journey.

"We have also received great

support from the Warrandyte community and the Manningham district commissioner.

"It is thanks to these people that we are now seeing evidence that Warrandyte Scouts may produce Queen Scouts (the highest award in the Venturer section) in the next year or two, and this would be the first time in over a decade."

If you are interested in finding out more about Warrandyte Scouts visit our website at <http://scouts.warrandyte.org>

# There's no place like home while away

By VAL POLLEY

A LONG holiday away from home can be rather unsettling. Of course some things do not change. The headlines were all about James Hird and the Essendon drugs scandal when we (husband and I) left on an overseas trip and they were still all about James Hird and the Essendon drug scandal on our return some twelve weeks later. Elsewhere though there can be dramatic change – we left with one prime minister in charge of the country, came back to another and changed to a third within a few weeks. Things can indeed be somewhat disconcerting.

However travel can provide a wonderful antidote to taking one's home for granted. Enjoying the best northern summer for many years was enviable, savouring the many and varied cuisines delectable and enjoying the many and varied activities, museums and galleries delightful. Yet always there remained the comparison with Melbourne and Warrandyte and there would often be a conversation about 'would this work back home' or 'why don't they...'. While some ideas could translate perhaps others just remained to be admired.

Take airport connections. Melbourne airport travel alternatives do not compare well with the quick and efficient rail travel from Heathrow, Geneva and Zurich airports to their respective city centres. As tourists we were very impressed with the ease of travel to and from our overseas airports. As Warrandyte residents we found The Pines to Melbourne Airport bus journey slow but economical when leaving but too difficult to manage on our return due to extra luggage. How overseas tourists cope with finding their way we cannot imagine.

Then there's public transport which was really good. We found the Oyster card on the London Underground



and the New York subway swipe tickets great – easy to buy, load and use. Why has Myki been so problematic and why does it have an expiry date? We found bus lanes that stayed bus lanes all day with lots of buses and patronage because they were quick and efficient. Why do our buses have to compete with cars at non-rush hours? Many of the overseas buses were hybrid 'green' buses too which added to their appeal – something we are waiting to see on our roads here. It is gratifying though to see the local buses are becoming better patronized and that cars are being parked at local bus stops while their occupants travel on public transport. If the journey time could be reduced it may attract more commuters and help reduce traffic congestion.

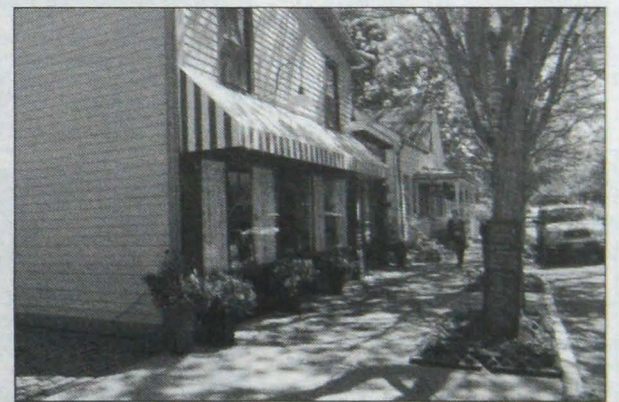
We travelled on some pretty good trains in Europe too with a Eurail pass. They invariably left on time and were staffed with conductors who checked all the tickets during the journey. The intercity train service was fast

too (sometimes at speeds of 165kms). Lifts up (or down) to platforms or stairs with special travelators for suitcases were really good for those who have trouble hefting suitcases around. It seems to be a perception here that public transport is a second class option. It was encouraging to travel on first class, well patronised systems that vied with private car travel in a real and meaningful way.

Then there's car travel. We enjoyed travel on motorway systems that actually interconnected and without abrupt ends such as that on the Eastern Freeway with its resultant congestion at peak times. The solution to Melbourne's traffic woes requires a dual approach of both improving public transport and completing freeway connections. We noted that in Europe most major roads were for traffic not parking – it's really noticeable how slow traffic is in Melbourne along two or three lane roads where one lane is taken up with parking even at busy times.

Warrandyte, with its busy through road and three separate shopping areas, does not lend itself to the pedestrianisation of its shopping precincts such as those we enjoyed overseas. However some towns overseas with similar historic streetscapes have sought to maximize their appeal through plantings, flowers, colour schemes and signage to create an appealing overall setting. A solution to the traffic congestion in Yarra Street didn't present itself though. It causes huge frustration to those caught up in it every day but appears unsolvable at present.

LOVED that bikes appeared popular everywhere. The fact helmets are non compulsory practically everywhere other than Australia and New Zealand and motorists overseas appear more comfortable with sharing their road space with cyclists means bikes are a more common form of transport. Well signposted bike tracks helped enormously of course. It would be great to see the bike



track from Warrandyte to Beasley's nursery completed so connections could be made into other bike tracks. However it doesn't look as though that will happen any time soon according to the latest bike plan. Yet having a well patronized bike track connection can make a great difference to a town bringing in visitors to patronize shops and businesses.

It's good to be back in Warrandyte and to note the changes. The Community Centre refurbishment was completed with its new facade and the Grand Hotel has had a facelift. Bushfire preparedness is still at the forefront of discussion, planning issues and the North Warrandyte sewerage debate continue but the biggest news for me was that Cliff Green has given up the editorship of the *Diary*. Cliff has been a friend since we

first met with the formation of the Warrandyte Environment League way back in the 1960s. He has been at the forefront of every major issue facing the community since then whether protesting against a dam on the Yarra or dual occupancy in the town, and so forth or supporting the Green Wedge and the push for a high school, a library, retirement housing and more. The Warrandyte Diary has played a major role in Warrandyte life for over four decades with Cliff as the foremost player for most of that time. He has mentored many young reporters and encouraged many other locals like me in our writings for the paper. He is a man of many achievements; the *Warrandyte Diary* is an outstanding legacy for the town. Thank you Cliff, I wish you all the very best for a well deserved retirement.



# Venom's Big V challenge

By **TONY OLIVER** and  
**CHRIS WILLIAMS**

IN what has been a big year for the Warrandyte Big V Women's programs, winning both the Division 1 Championship and the Youth League 1 Championship in season 2013, the journey continues with exciting news that the Senior Women will be playing in the State Championship division of Big V from next season.

This is the top echelon of Big V basketball and Warrandyte Basketball is thrilled with the step up.

Senior Women's coach Nicole Howard believes that after many successful years in Division 1 with Justin Nelson at the helm, this next chapter "is exciting for all involved".

"We have a young side with many Warrandyte juniors in our women's team and many more progressing through our youth program," Nicole said. "To be elevated to state championship level presents an exciting challenge to our current senior players and an enhanced pathway for our Venom juniors. The players are ready and raring to go having stepped back into training this month.

"It seems the success of last season has spurred us all on and the lure of a new challenge has the players working hard to emulate the heights experienced at Division 1 and Youth League 1."

Training is now in full swing and will continue until mid-December.

"We will take a break till late January, to allow for everyone to have a break, to catch up on Christmas and family - often the things that take second place during the competitive season," Nicole said.

Also settling into new challenges is the new Youth League Men's coach Beau Bentley with assistant Matt Lane. Try-outs are underway and the final squad of 16 is set.

"This was a very difficult task as we have had 34 high quality players wanting to try out," said Beau at the final selection session.

For two hours on a Sunday, the hopefuls went through a series of drills and skills disciplines to impress the selectors.

"We will also have training players and a development squad. The objective is to give as many as possible the opportunity to develop with the ultimate aim of playing senior basketball," Beau added. "We were the best defensive team in 2013 and we want to keep it that way. If you get the D right, the offence follows."



Redbacks rampage: Ava McShanag takes off with support from teammates. Picture: GARETH DICKSON

## Friday night Venom comp

THE representative Venom sides for the 2013/14 season have been announced and the association will field 33 teams in yet another strong showing.

The first inter-club practice games were held with the Venom taking on McKinnon.

The Under 16 boys sides will be strong and competitive. Justin Nelson, continuing his involvement with the club, takes charge of the top side.

Both teams started brightly with scoring at both ends. The first quarter settled down with McKinnon doing slightly the better. Jordan Hallett slipped a successful two point shot on the buzzer at the first break to leave the margin at three to McKinnon.

As the game progressed, the Venom were able to establish dominance ending up with a comfortable 47-35 win. Leading points scorers were Jordan Hallett (16), Tyler Robertson (11) and two three pointers swished from Matt Baynon.

Coach Nelson's comments after the game reflected his view of the

performance.

"You have the skills; my job is to teach you basketball smarts," Nelson said.

Earlier, Matt Lane's Under 16-2 Boys went down to McKinnon by 40-29. The Venom started well taking the points in the first quarter by three. McKinnon, however, had all the height which ultimately gave it the edge. It was to Warrandyte's credit it was highly competitive during the game.

"This was their first game together, so it was a good hit out," Lane said. "The first half was very good in patches so they will need to maintain that focus during whole time. They are rated 50 slots higher than us and we were more than competitive."

Tall Centre Dean Watson was the top scorer for the Venom with 11 with four coming from Rowan Turner and Anthony Hantzipavlis.

Jessie Atchison's Under 16-3 Boys were last on court. The fact that this was the first formal hit out was evident but the boys will improve as their skills develop and as they learn each other's game. Despite that, they

recorded a good win holding on to win 30-28. Brayden scored nine, with five to both Harrison Schwab and Carthew to be the leading scorers.

The club reports Matt Lane is developing into an excellent coach as assistant to Beau Bentley in the Youth League Men's side as well as his Friday night Venom and Saturday Redbacks commitments.

"I have been involved at WBA since the age of five and since then I have played all the way through Redbacks and junior Venom programs with great success," Matt said.

"I have had many great coaches and having made many friends throughout my playing career. I played in the Youth Men's team for a season in 2012 and have since then taken on the role of assistant coach for that same team. Coaching for me started at the age of 13 through the Redbacks program. This led me to take the next step in coaching a Venom team (2009) of which I have continued to do.

"I enjoy being able to pass on and teach the juniors of the club everything I have been taught throughout

my years of playing and coaching. I still believe there is nothing more rewarding than a team or a player at the beginning, middle or end of their basketball careers improving and learning about the game. Knowing that I was involved in teaching and adding to their knowledge is such a reward and a good feeling."

Matt twice won the Daryl Valentine Award for his contribution to the association.

## Saturday basketball

ROSE Trealor reports that in their third grading game, the U12/3 Girls played their best game yet.

The girls came in as the smaller team playing against Koonung but made up for that in vigour and skill. The speed and agility displayed by Ruby Rock and Kaylah Young was always evident in their ability to steal the ball and keep the opposition at bay.

Karli Edgcumbe was dominant in defence with her strong rebounding which often ended in points for her team. New player Ella Mullet-Trealor scored the first basket and is reading the game well. Matilda Hartley was consistent with her pace down the court and her speedy drives into the key to score impressive shots.

Eden Carruthers is a constant support for teammates at the basket, keeping up with the play and rebounding and shooting well. All this wonderful play ended with a convincing win and a great display of talent. Warrandyte finished victors over Koonung 39-19.

Meanwhile, grading continues in the EDJBA (Saturday) basketball summer competition.

Both Under 16 Redbacks teams had wins but perhaps with different messages for the coaches.

The girls took on Collingwood at Croydon Hills, winning 33-27. Warrandyte controlled the game with a 20-7 half-time lead, but relaxed late in the game when Collingwood made a strong charge. Scoring was shared around with Ebony a standout with 13 points.

Beau Bentley's Under 16 Boys took on Eltham and did just enough to get the points 23-19.

Liam Evans scored 11, Campbell Graham (6) and Tyson Noyes (4).

In the younger age groups, Under 10 WR1 Boys went down to Collingwood 29-14 with Zac Wheatley doing most of the scoring for Warrandyte with 10 points.

## Craig really is our guru of the tennis world

WARRANDYTE Tennis Club head coach Craig Haslam has been named the Tennis Coaches of Victoria's Club Coach of the Year.

This is a great honour for Craig who was also recently a finalist in the Tennis Victoria's Club Coach of the Year category.

The award is voted on by industry peers and former legends of Victorian coaching.

"Winning this award is exciting for the coaching program and Warrandyte Tennis Club and I am very honoured," Craig says.

"It is recognition of hard work over many years and while I will continue with my efforts, it shows that I am on the right track. I must also thank my coaching staff who have been great supporters of the tennis programs evolution over the past five years."

Craig will be presented with his award later this month at the TCAV Awards night held at Kooyong Tennis Club.

Meanwhile, in what turned out to be hot conditions at the Tarorna Avenue courts for the annual Warrandyte Tennis Club Championships recently, some very close matches decided both junior and senior titles.



Nowhere was the competition more intense than in the Girls Under 18 title which produced an enthralling final between Lauren Szigeti and Katie Waugh, after a series of round robin qualifiers.

After a strong start, Lauren seemed to be cruising to an easy win, but as is so often seen in tennis finals, her opponent Katie dug deep and fought back. A very relieved Lauren eventually closed out the match 8-6 to take the title, but with several girls narrowly missing out on a finals berth, next year's

championships should be just as well contested.

Joint competition organiser and junior convenor Tony Honeyborne had nothing but praise for those who took up the challenge and participated in this important day in the club calendar.

"Many of the players out there today are used to playing alongside each other as part of a team in competition with other clubs, so it's a bit surreal for me to see them battling it out against each other," Tony said.

Club champions for WTC in 2013: Juniors, Cameron Do and Lauren Szigeti; men's singles, Joel Compagnino, men's doubles, Scott Brimelow and Rod Knowles; women's singles, Adriana Juan, women's doubles, Karen and Elise Northover; mixed doubles, Adriana Juan and Michael Holloway.

See [www.warrandytetennisclub.org.au](http://www.warrandytetennisclub.org.au) for more information.

## Future looks bright

THE future of Warrandyte Tennis Club looks bright with the Under

10s event in the recent club championships well contested. The kids entertained the crowd with some fantastic shot making, strategic awareness and excellent sportsmanship.

Some of the participants had already competed in the JDC inter-club tennis earlier in the day. They were not fazed by the heat and played four matches each - and had a ball in the process.

Gold medals: Paige Harpur, Nick Felicissimo, Mathew Quick; Silver medals: Isabella De Cesare, Blake Haslam, Antonio Felicissimo; Bronze medals: Daniel Mizzi, Ethan Specchio.

## Open Day in February

WARRANDYTE Tennis Club is holding an Open Day on Sunday, February 2 next year to give people the chance to check out the club, have some fun and try their hand at tennis for free.

The day will feature free activities for all ages including hot shots, social play, cardio tennis, targets, a radar gun, as well as entertainment, a barbecue and refreshments. The club also urges interested people to receive regular updates at [www.warrandyte.tennisclub.org.au](http://www.warrandyte.tennisclub.org.au).



# Nicole hurdles to nationals

YOUNG Warrandyte hurdler Nicole Reynolds will represent Victoria at the Australian All Schools Championships after strong performances at state level late last month.

Nicole competed in the Under 15 200m hurdles and 90m hurdles at the Victorian All Schools competition where she was representing Yarra Valley Grammar.

In the 90m hurdles, Nicole finished third with a personal best time of 13.91 seconds, an improvement of 0.39 seconds on her heat time. She then backed up and ran the 200m hurdles and finished fifth in a time of 31.82 seconds, again an improvement of 0.4 seconds on her heat time.

An excited Nicole now goes on to represent Victoria at the Australian All Schools Championships to be held in Townsville in December this year.

Another local runner, Emily Sharpe, representing Luther College, competed in the 800m where she finished a creditable ninth in what was considered "hot competition" according to local athletics coaches.

The weekly East Doncaster Athletics Club competition has commenced and the following results were achieved:

Lachlan Gruber, in his first major competition in the Under 6 division,



Warrandyte's rising stars: Nicole Reynolds and Emily Sharpe.

finished sixth in the 100m with a time of 22.68secs.

In the Under 8s, Emily Gruber scored a fifth with a 2.43m leap in the long jump, Shane Mills came 12th in the triple jump with 3.90m and Rhianna Cummings claimed a fantastic first in the 100m with a time of 18.93secs. In other news, Holly Hansen was strong in triple jump

with a 4.40m effort which scored her a third placing, Isaac Rakuscek finished sixth in the triple jump with 4.38m, and Chloe Woollard blitzed the field in discus with an enormous throw of 8.15m to claim first place.

Under 9 athlete Hannah Castagna ran third in the 400m in 1.35mins, with Under 10 star Grace Boyd getting a fourth in high jump with 1.05m, Patrick Ward a 10th in 400m in 1.46mins and Harrison Gruber 10th in the boys high jump with 0.95m.

In the Under 11s, Matthew Mills came 11th in the 1500m with a run of 6.47mins, Christopher Rakuscek finished fifth in the 800m in 3.04m, Nick Sharpe came second in shotput with 7.69m and Ashlyn Krakouer notched a first in discus with a throw of 13.41m.

In Under 12s, Callum Bowers was first in the long jump with a 4.42m jump and Owen Kelly came ninth in the 800m with a time of 4.26mins. Ben Munks ran hard to get a third in the 1500m of Under 13s while Eilish Kelly scored a third in the Under 15s 300m hurdles in 57.57mins and Emily Sharpe came first in 1500m with a time of 5.36mins.

For more details on Little Athletics contact Margaret Kelly on 0447 693 561 or coaching and education director Peter Sharpe on 0413 777 107.



## What a Gem of an athlete

ANDERSON'S Creek Primary School Grade Sixer Gemma Potter (above) recently scored a nice little collection of red and blue ribbons, as well as a couple of medals, on her way to the Victorian Primary Schools State Championships last month.

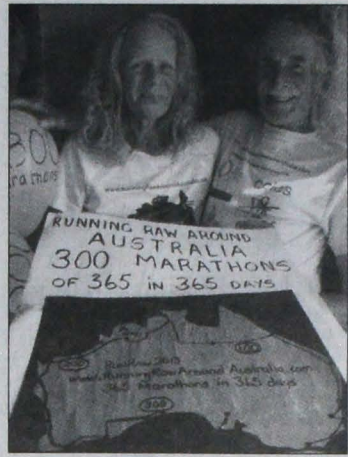
Despite having no formal athletics training, Gemma's successful journey to compete against Victoria's best triple jumpers and 200m runners in her age group suggests she has a big future in athletics.

It all started when she came first in both 200m and triple jump at the District schools athletics competition at Rieschiecks Reserve in mid-September, before coming first in triple jump and second in 200m at the Manningham division athletics carnival at East Burwood Reserve on October 10.

Next up was the Eastern region athletics championships when Gemma finished second in both her events, including a best jump of 8.72m in the triple jump.

Coming up against Victoria's best on October 28, Gemma can be proud of finishing ninth in the triple jump with a best jump of 8.26m in a field of 17 of the state's best competitors.

The speedster then came fourth in the heat of the 200m with a time of 29.60secs to qualify for the final where she finished a very impressive seventh with a time of 29.58secs. In what was a very close event, Gemma was only one second away from first place.



## Murrays on home stretch

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

THE Warrandyte couple running around Australia for charity is on the home stretch and due to arrive in Melbourne next month.

Already more than two-thirds of the way through their year-long run around the country, Alan and Janette are making their way through South Australia.

While running through the Nullarbor region, Janette spoke to the *Diary* and said they were looking forward to coming home.

"We are really missing Warrandyte. It's tough and it's not easy but we are enjoying this opportunity to see the country and we are meeting all these amazing people along the way," Janette said.

"There are so many people we have met who are supporting us and we have certainly achieved what we've set out to do - and that's to inspire a lot of people."

Those inspired include the thousands of people they have met on the road and in the towns they have passed through, along with a surprise donation from a man who had been following their progress. His \$2000 donation meant they could afford to buy tickets to enter Tasmania to complete the 15,500km run.

They say they have been busy receiving donations out on the road, while truck drivers and campers along the way have been spreading the word about them through their travels.

While running through the Nullarbor they said the temperatures ranged from 4 degrees in the morning to a scorching 35 degrees in the afternoon.

"When we arrived in Perth, some people there decided to sponsor us for food and it has been absolutely crucial that we have enough organic food to get us across the Nullarbor," Janette said. "We were told there's absolutely nothing out there and they were right! On the map a lot of these places look like towns but when you arrive it turns out there's only a little roadhouse if you're lucky and sometimes the only thing the shop has is a can of beans that somebody else has already bought."

After reaching Adelaide, the couple will have only 42 days of running 42km a day left before they break the world record for most consecutive marathons.

They're hoping for more donations in the final leg of their journey. They will arrive at Federation Square on the afternoon of December 31.

Alan and Janette will then make their final record-breaking run on New Year's Day from Federation Square to Warrandyte. They welcome anybody to join them for all or part of their run along the Yarra Trail as they make their way home to Warrandyte.

"We're looking forward to a nice run along the waterfront and we're really hoping to get a huge amount of people coming with us and supporting us," Alan said.

More information on how people can join them will be on their Facebook page 'Running Raw Around Australia' closer to the time.

Also visit their website [www.runningrawaroundaustralia.com](http://www.runningrawaroundaustralia.com)



Leap of faith: Under 15 Girls star Nicole Reynolds at the Lakeside oval in the hurdles.

## Nicolette's long run for a great cause

By SAM QUINN

WARRANDYTE'S Nicolette Prior will run in the Upstream 50km Challenge from Docklands to Donvale this Saturday to raise money for the organisation Disability Sport and Recreation.

Born and raised in Warrandyte, the 21-year-old has taken part in running events since the age of nine, and after recently completing the 100km Surf Coast Century run in Anglesea with a time of 13 hours, five minutes and 31 seconds, she now looks forward to a new challenge which supports the opportunity for people with a disability to participate in sport and recreation.

"All my previous runs were for my own benefit and achieving my own personal goal," Nicolette said. "So I wanted to do an event that goes towards something and which raises money for someone who may be less privileged."

After a year of studying exercise and sport science at the Australian Catholic University, Nicolette decided university wasn't for her at the time and pursued a career in fitness. After gaining her certificates in fitness, she now works full time as a personal trainer and gets up at 4am on week days to run to Ringwood North, where she spends all day working before running home again at the end of the day.

Nicolette still finds the time to juggle her work and train for her running events.

"People think of marathons as just the distance on the day (of the run), but it's actually the months and months set aside to train for the event," she said. "I did find it quite hard to train for it all, as it was such a physical job."

Coming from such an athletic family, it is perhaps little surprise Nicolette has chosen a lifestyle of fitness and running. Her father Tracy Prior passed away when Nicolette was only four, and is remembered fondly in Warrandyte.

Tracy, nicknamed "Snowy", used to play for the Warrandyte Football Club after moving to Warrandyte with Nicolette's mother Deidre Prior at the age of 21. Eventually his illness prevented him from playing any longer, however, he remained a loyal figure at the club and the clubman's award was named The Tracy Snowy Prior Clubman Award in honour of him.

Also in honour of his memory, Nicolette ran the 100km Surf Coast Century run last September.

"I knew my Dad was a very good runner," Nicolette said. "I knew that if he had been alive he would have helped me with my training and things like that."

It could not have been a more fitting scenario, as Nicolette's participant number for the marathon was 126 and her father's birthday just happened to be 12<sup>th</sup> of June.

"It was meant to be," Nicolette's mother Deidre said with a smile.



Ready to go: Nicolette Prior.

Having completed such a long run, it was a moment Nicolette will never forget.

"The experience was amazing," she said. "I was a little disappointed with my time, but I wouldn't have changed anything that I did. Every single stage of the race was really different, from sand to single tracks, climbing over rocks and going through bushes."

"Finishing was emotional. I'm glad that I can say I've done it. It was definitely an experience which will stick with me forever, as not only did it push my physical boundaries, but my mental boundaries as well."

With the next challenge just around the corner, Nicolette is now focussing her attention on the Upstream 50km Challenge from Docklands to Donvale. As part of the Upstream Foundation, the donations go towards various charity organisations including the Isabella and Marcus Fund, Disability Sport and Recreation, FareShare and Leprosy Mission Australia.

All runners choose which organisation they will run on behalf of and gain sponsors whose donations will go directly to that organisation. The Upstream Foundation is a non-profit charity organisation and accordingly 100 per cent of the profit will go to the charities.

Nicolette is keenly awaiting the opportunity to do what she loves while raising money for Disability Sport and Recreation at the same time.

"I just want to go and enjoy it," she said. "I suppose that's why I run because I love it and I suppose with this one I can give back to someone else. It's going towards a good cause and I think it will be a great day."

Visit <http://upstreamfoundation.org> for more info.



# Big changes for WFC

By MICHAEL DI PETTA

THE Warrandyte Football Club has turned to old friends to lead them forward and change the fortunes of the Bloods in season 2014 as the club faces the humiliation of moving into Division 4.

The club has announced the return of Michael Tout as senior coach, a new president in Stephen Bell, and the return of former AFL star Glenn Archer. There are also whispers of another former AFL sharp-shooter lining up in the red and white at some stage throughout season 2014, whose name the club is keeping under wraps in their mission to land him.

The appointment of Tout, affectionately known as "Touty", is seen as a big win for the club. He returns as senior coach after holding positions at Donvale and Greensborough.

"I think next year's going to be great, the support here has been terrific, and we've got loads of people coming in," Tout says.

One of those, of course, is former Kangaroo and Shinboner of the Century, Archer, downplayed by Tout as "just another mate who's come back to help out as much as he can". Archer returns as assistant coach, a position he held in 2010, to help support his friend as they attempt to rebuild the club on and off the field.

Not only a respected figure who will provide leadership and help develop and inspire the younger players, "Arch" is expected to pull on the jumper himself and will no doubt spark community interest, a major aim of the club in approaching the 2014 season.

"I'd like to play as many games as I possibly can," Archer told the *Diary*. "I'm really looking forward to lining up for the Bloods again."

Tout says he hopes the community

## Archer, Tout return and new president announced



New blood: Coach Michael Tout, Glenn Archer, new president Stephen Bell and Josh Barrett are ready for 2014.

comes together to help the Bloods in their aim to rise again.

"We really want the community to get behind us and help out, and be a part of something that could be really special. New rooms and facilities won't bring us wins, but the community support will," Tout says.

Coaching staff aside, significant changes and plans are being made in other areas of the club with the new clubrooms taking shape and the Bloods hoping they will be completed by Round 4 next season. Additionally, an influx of new players will give Tout plenty of extra talent

to work with.

Bloods' fans should be particularly excited to hear about the return of former Colts and Juniors player, Josh Barrett, who is rejoining Warrandyte after starring with North Ringwood earlier this year. Described by Tout as a "solid midfielder with great

skills from whom we can expect big things", Barrett is expected to add some big-bodied toughness to the Bloods' line-up.

"I played Colts and Juniors, and I was looking for a change of scenery after winning the flag with North Ringwood, so I've come back to play here again," says Barrett.

While Barrett will no doubt add some strength to the team list, the Bloods refuse to be complacent and are making a concerted effort to lure other high-class players, according to new club president Bell.

"As far as the recruitment process goes, we are most definitely on the hunt and we want to bring more star talent down here," Bell says.

As mentioned earlier, also in the works is the club's bid to attract another former AFL footballer to line up when the new clubrooms are completed. He will hopefully play in a special twilight game at Warrandyte Reserve. It will be an occasion the club hopes will attract a big crowd.

"We are really focusing on restoring the confidence in our club in the community, and we want to establish the winning culture that we have had previously. All the work we are doing is going towards this goal," Bell says.

With all the changes in the off-season, spirits are high around Warrandyte. Club members have a genuine belief of success going into 2014.

"We want to make finals and just build the club again. We've got new players, new staff and we are really just starting again," Tout says.

"We are going to act like a second division club from Day 1, put in the hard work early and conduct ourselves properly," he added.

## Dee is Warrandyte's golden girl of the water

what's  
your  
story!

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

"WHEN I was in my twenties I used to get up at 5am and run between lampposts so nobody could see me!" Dee Sheffrin laughed as she told the *Diary* about the days when she was living in England and training for a half marathon.

It ended up taking her three months to recover from the event but today Dee's physical abilities are a completely different story.

Last year saw Dee break five national records in short course and long course masters swimming – that's after already achieving outstanding results since 2008, when she came in the top 10 in the world for five events in her age group at the FINA World Masters Games.

This year it looks like Dee's only getting better with each passing day. In October she competed in six events at the Australian Masters Games in Geelong, bringing home six gold medals.

"I know when you get to your fifties it's harder because you have things against you. People are on medications that make their metabolism or heart rate slow down, some have blood pressure problems, women go through menopause," Dee said.

"But you can't make that an excuse because while those things don't help with your weight, you can get around those things. I mean, last year my times improved so much that I'm swimming better now than I was in my thirties!"

It's something she says was achievable by setting small goals, even if it only meant breaking her personal record by .1 of a second.



Dee was eight years old when she started learning to swim and she was already competing by the age of 10. She reached nationals in England at 17.

She says attending her first major competition, the Maccabiah Games in Israel, when she was just 15 years old was a big learning curve.

"To me it was like going to Olympics but I think I was too immature to compete in such a competition at that stage. The day before the main event I went horseback riding on the beach and I could hardly get on the blocks the next day! I didn't win any medals, of course, so I wasn't very happy with myself."

Soon after the Maccabiah Games, Dee stopped swimming competitively to begin her career in nursing. She had also found her swimming results

had stopped improving, but as she would find out years later, this was because she fell on concrete at the pool during training and broke her collarbone, causing her to develop a bad swimming technique over the years.

She took up running to keep fit while working as a nurse, often getting up at the crack of dawn to improve her running so she could enter marathons.

By the time she arrived in Australia in 1986 and started working at the Alfred Hospital, Dee had become a "crazy triathlete". She says this was the result of entering a triathlon in England just before she emigrated. She struggled with the cycling component of the race and come out of it determined to improve her cycling.

For two years Dee would cycle

through traffic from Carnegie to get to the hospital for her eight hour shift before running home afterwards – some days she would even cycle to training after work.

It's just one example of her dedication to training and her determination to achieve her sporting goals. It's a trait she demonstrated even as a little girl who was learning to swim in England.

"I remember training in the pools and they were all Victorian 25 metre baths and cockroaches would come out of the pipes. We didn't have goggles back then so I'd swim past the pipes as fast as I could with my eyes shut and mouth closed except for when I had to take a breath. It really made me tough and I think that's where I got my determination from."

Dee's next goal is to beat her 400m



national breaststroke record before heading to the National Masters Swimming Championships in April next year.

However, when she's not in the pool training, Dee is helping other Warrandyte locals achieve their fitness goals.

The Warrandyte local has been running her local business 'Dee-termination Health and Fitness' for three years, where she works with people generally aged between 40 and 60 to improve their fitness and recover from injuries.

She incorporates pilates and low impact exercise routines into her classes to help clients build necessary strength and prevent injuries as they age.

The qualified wellness and health coach says she finds her job extremely rewarding.

"I thought I could put all my knowledge from nursing to good use and help others get fit and feel empowered. My classes don't only teach them how to make goals for weight loss and fitness which are achievable but also how to deal with setbacks, which are always inevitable – I know all about those!"

For more information about Dee and her classes, visit [www.deetermination.com.au](http://www.deetermination.com.au)





# Bloods start season with key victories

By RYAN HOIBERG

WARRANDYTE has started the cricket season strongly, with a brilliant outright victory reinforcing the key developments the club is looking to put in place on and off the field.

Led by reinstated captain Adam White following some tough decisions made by a new board, Warrandyte completely overwhelmed Wonga Park in the second game of the season.

Key to the victory were the efforts by members of the team missing from last year. Arynnton Dehmel announced his return in impressive fashion, knocking Wonga Park's bowlers all over the park to quickly lead Warrandyte to a strong first innings lead with an emphatic 113 not out. Alex McIntosh started the ball rolling for Warrandyte with sensational figures of 5/16, ensuring the Wonga Park batting line up resembled the recently destroyed club facilities.

Jack Ellis, also on return after a hiatus from the red and white, chipped in with a classy 50 before Warrandyte declared early on Day 2, challenging the Wonga Park batsmen to defy them again. Despite a fighting performance from the opposition in the second innings, Warrandyte soon took all 16 points home, with White taking the ball himself and spinning the team to victory.

Warrandyte's Second XI has also had a big change in personnel with Cam Day returning to the helm after a few years away from the spotlight.

The returning captain almost led the squad to a flag three years ago, and has started in fine form with three wins already recorded. With the start of the fixture now dedicated to promoting the one-day format, Dale Landers has taken a clear liking to the fresh start of the year, falling just short of a maiden ton, and backing that up with another half-century. Clearly pushing to regain the gloves in the First XI, the keeper/batsman is



Ton of talent: Tulloch Greve blasted a ton for the Bloods' Thirds recently.

ensuring his hot form continues into the longer formats.

The Third XI has also had a lot of names return with Steward Smead rejoining the squad he captained two years ago. Despite Smead winning both the batting and bowling awards last year for the Second XI, he will now have a chance to really push for the Steve Pascoe Medal that he so desperately wants.

Handing in a man of the match per-

formance will help his early season total, but Josh McKellar and Tulloch Greve have played some exceptionally strong cricket to match Smead's efforts. McKellar blasted Warrandyte to a win in the first match of the season, and when Greve displayed clear disdain for the Eastfield bowling on his way to his sixth century, Warrandyte's Thirds will have to be hot favourites all season.

Warrandyte's Fourth XI have hit

a bit of a road block in comparison with the other squads. Working with the normal rotating door that is the Fourth XI, Brendan Baker has been the rock at the top of the order, putting up some strong resistance in the first few rounds. A clear highlight has been veteran Brett Klein taking to the field to continue his amazing record with the club, capping it off by becoming the top run scorer in the club's history in Round 2.

## Big numbers at WCC juniors

WARRANDYTE Cricket Club's junior teams are up and running in season 2013-2014 and the club's junior co-ordinator Chris Jackson is happy to report that 33 new players have donned the red and white this season.

"Yes, the season is away and running and we've had an influx of new players which is terrific," Jackson told the *Diary*.

"The kids' enthusiasm has been contagious with the coaches, team managers and parents joining in to what has been a successful and sometimes eventful season opening. Off field there has been plenty of work done and it's good to see everything coming to fruition."

The annual Young Guns versus Veteran all stars match was recently held and this year it was the long awaited turn for the Veterans to shine with a hard-fought victory.

"The kids have vowed to return next season and teach us 'old buggers' a real lesson, but let's see about that," Jackson says.

The club also held its first big joint social function for the year on the weekend with Bogan Bingo at the Mechanics Institute Hall which brought the juniors, seniors and veterans closer together.

Jackson said the club is this year fielding two Under 10s teams, two Under 12s, an Under 14s and Under 16s who have all had solid starts to the season.

Check the *Diary's* December sports pages for a wrap of how the teams have performed.

## Hawks positive in early rounds of season

By FRANS BROUWER

AFTER much analysis, planning and preparation, the Hawks made a generally positive start to season 2013/14 in all age groups. Apart from a washed out first round for the Veterans, the weather has been unusually kind so far.

The First XI won its first match and lost its second. It is well-placed in this round at 2/54 (Josh Barrett 30 not out) chasing 108 by Chirnside Park. In a very welcome return to the Hawks while he continues his recovery from injury at Premier Club Richmond, Steve Garrett took 4/38.

Josh is the form batsman with 98no in Round 1 and 48 in Round 2. Steve

Lindsay leads the bowling with seven wickets, followed by Captain Ben Neagle with six and newcomer Sam Beagley with five.

The Second XI won its first three matches, but lost the last two. Sean McMahon scored 71 in the first match, including 24 off one over. Scores of 60no and 42 saw Al Price promoted to the Firsts. In D Grade, the Thirds are 2-3. Robbie Cutler has a 67 and 47, Adam Johnson a 44 and James Fasan a 40. The bowling highlight was 6/19 off 5.2 overs by Lucas Williams in Round 2.

The Fourth XI sits atop the F Grade ladder after five wins. A 100no to Cam Head and 50no and 40 to Ryan

Cullen were the batting highlights, and Peter Nettlebeck has eight wickets in four matches. Noteworthy are seven run outs in the five matches, including three in Round 3. It is a different story with the Fifths, who have given up two forfeits and struggled in other matches due to a lack of numbers.

In Veterans, the season started with a washout. In Round 2, the two O40s teams won. Tim Rule has started well in Masters 1 with 43 retired and 2/14. In Masters 2, Brad Driscoll has 40 retired and 2/6. Playing in Box Hill Legends B, the O50s lost against North Balwyn, with Steve Russell taking 3/27 and James Price and

Chris Hartrup scoring 33 and 35no respectively.

The Junior teams have started well. The U16-2 team is on two wins and a loss. Josh Exley leads the way in batting with 36, 0 and 45. The best bowling figures are held by Darcy Harris with 6/13 in Round 2, and Adam Johnson with 4/10 in Round 3. The U14-3 team (combined with North Ringwood) is also on 2-1 in the win-loss ratio stakes. The U12-1 team is on 1-1. Declan Mulqueen has scores of 18 and 13, and Nick Walker has four wickets. The U12-4s had a tough introduction in Round 1, but were not far away in the second match with Kane Church and Will

Fasan both scoring 16, and Ky Sofarnos taking 2/5 to go with his 1/13 in the first round.

Teena Hartrup pioneered Ladies' Day last season, and this year it returned bigger and better. Lots of ladies and their partners hung around until the wee hours to hear the dulcet tones of Juniors parent Matt Fasan. Pencil in the Christmas Party on Sunday, December 1, and look out for other social functions before Christmas.

Ending on a sombre note, the Club extends its condolences to the Reilly family (life member Peter and daughters Tennille and Kendall) upon the sudden passing of Hilary last week.

## Advertising deadline for next edition November 28

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## NORTH WARRANDYTE

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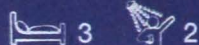
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## WARRANDYTE

*Interior – Alfresco Haven!*

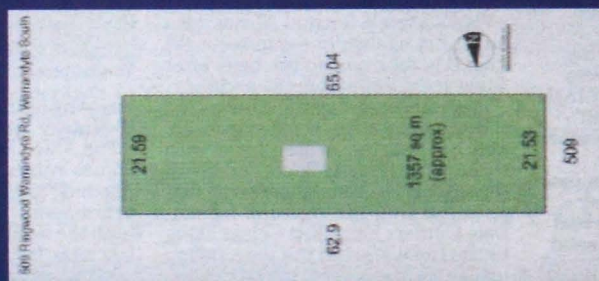
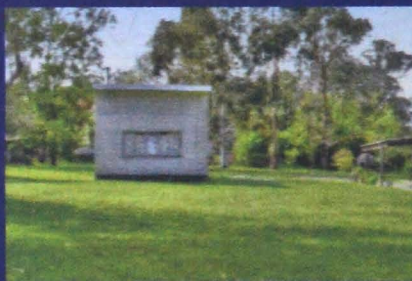
This home is all about enjoyment-relaxation-unwinding. Welcoming interior: generous living-dining room, well designed kitchen-dining area, main/ensuite, spa bathroom. Downstairs you'll discover the large rumpus room (B.I. bar) integrating with the huge covered alfresco retreat enclosed by bistro blinds overlooking the private garden. (Attractive elevated allotment approx. 925m2) Appointments: GDH, B.I. air conditioners, under-house storage. Walk to Anderson Creek Primary and Goldfields Plaza.



## WARRANDYTE

*A Rare Find!*

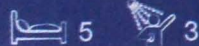
On the high side, flat, builder-friendly huge allotment, occupying approx. 1357m2. This block is your canvas to construct your new dwelling (STCA), to your specific requirements.



## WARRANDYTE

*The Talk of Warrandyte*

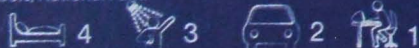
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## WARRANDYTE

*Style, Space, Views in Abundance!*

Immediately appealing—solid clinker, approx 1100m2. Panoramic Mt Dandenong/Yarra Valley views, quality court, entertain family and friends by the impressive lounge/dining, OFP, wide balcony reveals magnificent outlook! Well equipped Blackwood kitchen/meals/family area. Study, 3 robed bedrooms including main/modern ensuite/WIR, bathroom, 2 powder rooms. Down stairs independent accommodation, living room/2nd main bedroom-ensuite. Quality inclusions. Near Goldfields Plaza, schools, National Park.



## Lions Club of Warrandyte Inc.

Meets Bi-monthly

**Support Lions!** Lions are about giving back to their communities and supporting medical research, people with disabilities, emergency relief and leadership development through its projects and activities. But we cannot do it alone - we need you to help. Visit our web site to learn more.

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

