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Merry Christmas 2013



INSIDE



Big cat sighting in Warrandyte - P5



Community bank delivers again - P11



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— Oscar Wilde

WARRANDYTE diary

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue of the Diary will be published on Tuesday, February 11, 2014. Advertising and editorial copy closes Friday, January 31, 2014.

OUR NEWSPAPER

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

A SPECIAL PLACE

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

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OVER THE HILLS

By **JOCK MACNEISH**



"As a matter of fact, business has been very slow just lately...."

Justin Christmas time

It had been a long night. The old man was snoring in the back seat, his snowy beard covered in cookie crumbs as Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Justin raced across the night sky.

It was Justin's first flight - Blitzen had pulled a Christmas hammy the day before - and it was all very exciting. Off around the globe, bringing the world economy a Christmas-sled recovery. Going like the clappers to stay ahead of the International Dateline. Bypassing children who'd been crying and pouting. Skidding to a stop on slippery snow-covered rooves.

All great fun in the Northern Hemisphere where the snow lay round about deep and crisp and even.

But as every international traveller knows, the long haul to Australia is something else again. Sure they had in-flight movies - The Moose That Roared, Raindeerman, To Sleigh a Mockingbird, and a few stag movies.

But there was no reclining the seat so a doe could doze. No hosties bringing you a Bambi Cocktail or a Buck's Fizz.

Justin had even drawn the short straw in the starting line-up; if only he'd been behind that foxy Vixen, or that cute little Dancer with the headphones tucked behind her antlers shaking her carabooty like there was no tomorrow.

No, he was harnessed behind Donner, stuffing his face with kebabs and popping fluffies in Justin's face from hart'shole to breakfast.

But at last they were over the bush, trying to pick out



the sleepy hidden hamlet of Warrandyte where Santa knew that the only lights still on at this time of night would be the blinking fluorescents outside the ablution blocks at Crystal Brook.

So when he saw the town lit up like a Christmas tree he nearly fell out of his sleigh! There were enough fairy lights here to make the bottom of the garden look like Dubai in full glow.

"Anyone would think we're celebrating the birth of Thomas Edison!" muttered Santa. "Wayne Rankin must be having nightmares just thinking about the global emissions."

At least Warrandyte's new aura made it easier for Santa to bring his team in over Ding-

ley Dell Road for a 34-point landing.

"We're here, deer friends," he called. Ah, it was good to be back!

"Hey you!" yelled No.6. "Get off my roof! You're scratching the Colorbond!"

Santa leaned back on the Christmas joystick and moved on up the road.

"Can you keep those damned bells quiet!" called No.15. "We've just got the kids to sleep!"

"You'd better not have any of those presents in plastic bags!" put in No.38.

"A year is a long time in yuletide," thought Santa.

Justin reckoned they should give the place a miss, but Santa knew better, and a few

minutes later had his feet up on the back deck at No.48 while the reindeers got stuck into a plate of carrots and Frosted Flakes.

Except for Justin, who by now needed an elk-a-seltzer. "Spirit of Christmas?" said a voice from the dark.

"Much obliged," said Santa tossing back a shot of Glenfiddich and holding his glass out for another. "Merry Christmas, Nev."

"Merry Christmas," answered Neville. "To everyone."

ALAN CORNELL



WCA wins big time

Be Ready campaign is the one to watch

By **CHERIE MOSELEN**

WARRANDYTE Community Association has made a clean sweep of the national Fire Awareness Awards, winning three categories last week, including the big one – the RACV Insurance Award for Excellence.

The other two were the Media and Communications Award, for the WCA and Warrandyte Theatre Company's 'Do You Have A Fire Plan?' video, and the Community Preparedness Award.

"We knew we were finalists for two awards and were hoping for one, but three is just over the top," an elated WCA president Dick Davies said. "I wasn't even aware of the overall award for excellence! It's a huge tribute to Warrandyte and the ability of the community to work with the emergency services and local government on a constructive program. Well done everyone!"

Meanwhile, a new Fire Watch app on its website brings together Warrandyte-specific information from the CFA, Bureau of Meteorology and Vic Roads. The group is also working on a separate app to assist the community in coming up with a comprehensive fire plan.

At present, the WCA's online sample fire plan identifies a 'typical' Warrandyte family, but it is anticipated the user-friendly sample can be extended to include pets, children and people living alone.

When it comes to fire awareness, new apps aren't the only thing to look out for. In addition to last week's awards, the association's Be Ready Warrandyte – Living with Bushfire Risk campaign earned a Highly Commended distinction in last month's Resilient Australia Awards, in the Not for Profit category.

In line with its objective to ensure

Warrandyte residents have an effective fire plan this summer, WCA held a Bushfire Scenario workshop late last month at Anderson's Creek Primary School.

Around 300 people attended the event, which was sponsored by the Warrandyte Community Bank and ran for just over two hours.

Posing the question: "What if it's Warrandyte?" the forum staged a scenario, which tracked a simulated bushfire over a 10-hour period.

At strategic points during the theoretical chain of events, Manningham council's emergency management co-ordinator Lew Wilson invited tactical responses from representatives of the CFA, Parks Victoria, Department of Environment & Primary Industry and Victoria Police.

Facilitator Bruce Turner and Mr Wilson liaised between the audience and emergency services to test participants' movements in line with the 'impending' bushfire.

When does the CFA issue an 'Act and Watch' message? Where would individuals or groups shelter if it were too late to leave?



Winners are grinners: Lesley Ryall, Dick Davies and Jodi Clark.

The scenario explored a range of topics – traffic management points, emergency procedures for schools and home, neighbourhood safe places – in its design to stress the benefits of having a working fire plan.

Emergency Services personnel expressed concern that people should not depend solely on apps for information, advising residents to check

the environment for cues: smoke, sirens, phone friends, and so on.

Dick Davies outlined the forum's goals, encouraging participants to: prepare a plan; establish trigger points for action; be prepared to leave for days if necessary; know where to get more info; be clear about the roles of responding agencies; and think more about "what ifs"

and how they affect what you do. The WCA president said he hoped attendees would come away from the workshop with one clear message: "Prepare a fire plan."

Warrandyte South CFA captain Greg Kennedy concurred, commending an audience member who stated the importance of "making sure plans are tested, especially to ensure safety clothing still fits".

The Q&A concluded with an appeal from a representative of the Victorian Council of Churches to think about re-engagement (from the forum, or after a real fire), and to seek moral support if necessary.

Afterwards, participants were given an opportunity to test their performance under simulated stressed conditions. About 30 people took part in the useful test, which allowed them to experience the difficulty of performing a simple task in loud noise with restricted vision.

Organisers noted there were different levels of understanding during the forum with many residents having clearly moved beyond 'awareness' to wanting more specific information.

To that end, there will be a follow-up to some of the unanswered questions on the WCA website – No, it's not a good idea to shelter under the bridge!

The association's new Warrandyte Fire Watch app was featured several times throughout the presentation.

"I would urge residents to check out the app, especially as we lead into the summer," Dick Davies said. "It creates a daily snapshot of weather conditions and displays the day's fire danger rating."

Viewers can also access Vic Roads information about road closures and traffic alerts, and receive CFA warnings and incident updates."

To see the WCA's new Fire Watch app, and for information about the 'Be Ready Warrandyte – Living with Bushfire Risk' campaign, please visit the website: warrandyte.org.au

United pulls out of Yarra Street

YARRA Street residents say they are relieved that United Petroleum has withdrawn its application to develop and use the site at 44-46 Yarra St as a petrol station.

Manningham council chief executive officer Joe Carbone said a planning advocate for United requested the application be

withdrawn on December 2.

No reasons were provided for the withdrawal.

Brackenbury Street resident Rob Nabben said it was a great outcome for residents.

"United wanted the wrong development for the wrong site," Mr Nabben said. "This whole saga has reminded us that locals have to

work together if we want to keep Warrandyte unique."

Despite repeated efforts from the *Diary* to contact United since October, the petrol company has not provided any comment.

An application to use and develop the site at 1-3 Yarra St is still in the early stages of assessment.



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Scientist under microscope

Nobody wants to get that phone call. The one telling you someone in your family has been diagnosed with a serious blood disorder. After hours searching the internet for answers to some very hard questions, **CHERIE MOSELEN** found herself left with little but hope. In October, Warrandyte resident and director of the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Professor Douglas Hilton was awarded the 2013 Ramaciotti Medal for Excellence in Biomedical Research. When the Diary reporter sat down with the distinguished blood cell researcher to ask him about his work and the passion that inspired that recent honour, she discovered "hope" was a universal language.

Cherie M: To give readers an idea of what you do Professor Hilton, tell us about being part of a research team that made a crucial biomedical find in the 1980s?

Prof Hilton: We were looking to isolate a molecule that would control leukaemia cells and we identified a hormone that we called LIF (leukaemia inhibitory factor).

We were able to get the amino acid sequence of the protein, we cloned the gene and we produced it, but the amazing thing was that once we had enough to study, it only worked on one specific mouse leukaemia cell line.

But as one door shut, another opened?

Yes, science is an exciting roller coaster. A lot of the work that medical research has done in the last 30 years is to one by one delete genes and work out what they do, and one of the ways to do that is by using embryonic stem cells. LIF has become hugely useful for growing stem cells.

We published papers in *Nature*, the best journal for publishing science, and scientists talked about it all around the world. But in a way it was also unsatisfying because we were interested in blood cells and the research didn't have a lot to say about how they are controlled.

So things don't always go as planned. Still, it sounds like the thrill is in the journey?

I think sometimes the public sees science as being very technical – you tick off all the steps and get the answer – whereas to me it is much more creative, like painting or writing.

In many ways the hardest thing is to identify an interesting question, rather than set out to find an answer. A question that is unknown but tractable, because it's no point posing a question that we don't have the technology to answer.

It's very addictive, wanting to understand something that nobody has understood before. And it's that sense of wonder and curiosity that drives you.

As someone who has a relative undergoing treatment for a blood disorder, I know what it's like to hope that some researcher is passionately poring over a microscope. In your work, how conscious are you of families at the other end?

A few years ago there was the potential for the federal government

to cut the medical research budget, and there was a lot of discussion around it.

Part of being the director of the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute is that you have a stage for commenting on science policy. And one of the things that this budget crisis led me to think about is: what do we deliver for the community?

Obviously, we try to deliver better treatment for disease because of the research; the discoveries we make can be utilised here, leading to employment and manufacture, and so on.

But something I had not really considered, until I started talking to families like yours who have been touched by a particular disease, is the idea of hope.

I met a wonderful family – a mother and daughter who came to one of our rallies to support medical research. The males in their family had all died from motor neuron disease, a debilitating and remorseless disease, and I would have understood that they might have felt let down by science. But they were the most passionate supporters and still hopeful, not for themselves, but for others. That's very inspiring.

You moved to Warrandyte as a young boy. Where did you go to school and was there a particular teacher who inspired you?

My family emigrated from the UK when I was about five.

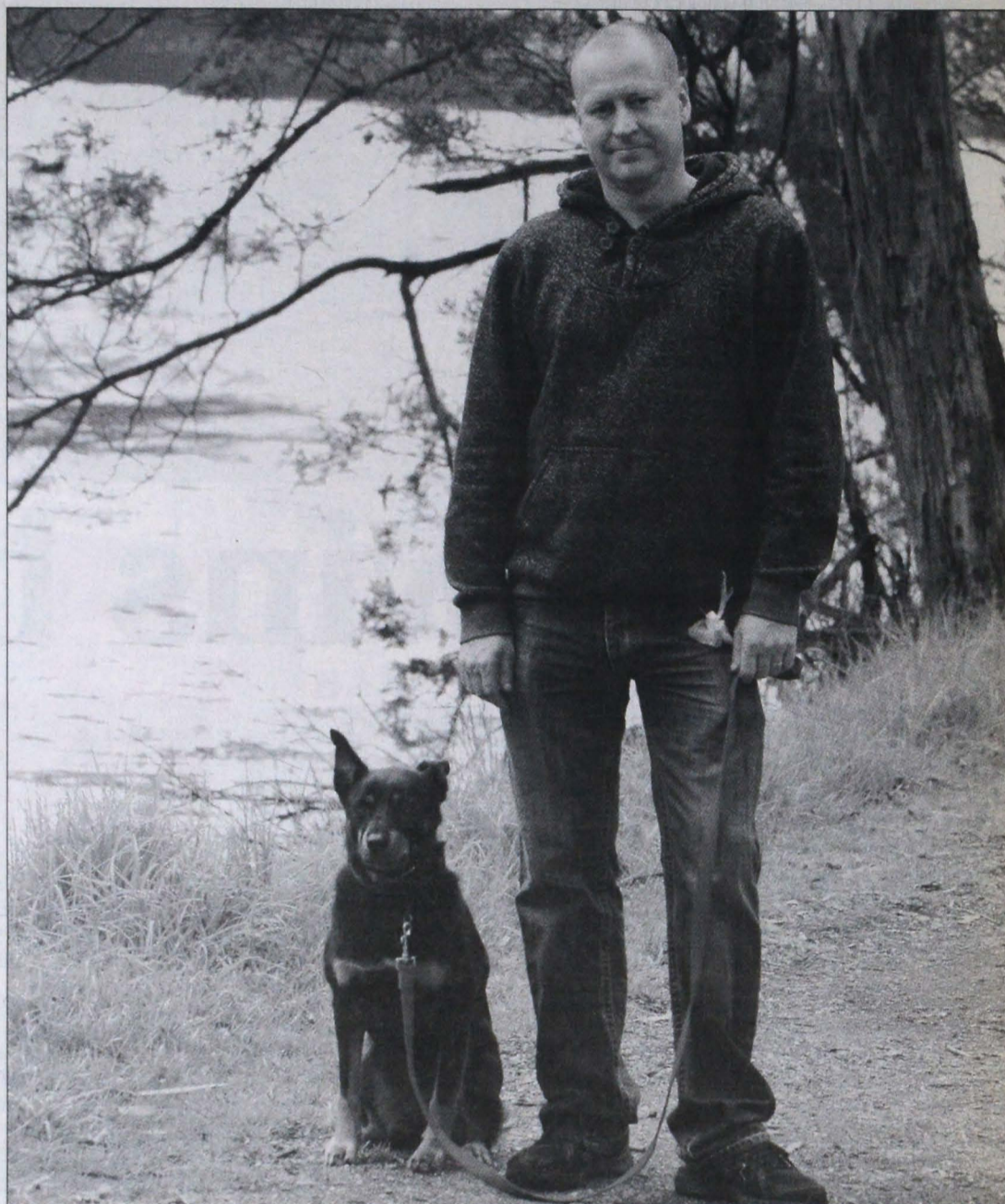
First up we lived in Webb St, and then my parents bought a block of land in North Warrandyte.

Dad grew up in Lancashire where there was no garden, and I remember on weekends he would walk around the perimeter of the property, relishing that attachment with space and land and community. Like a lot of people who live here, we still feel that.

I went to Warrandyte Primary and then to East Doncaster High. I had a fantastic biology teacher, Libby Holland, who taught me in Year 12, and we have kept in touch. I think behind every good scientist there is a great science teacher!

If you could say one thing to a student that might excite him or her about becoming a researcher, what would it be?

Someone who is just finishing school is looking at 40 to 50 years of working life. That's a long time if you feel stuck doing the same thing.



Winding down on the weekend: Professor Hilton and Jesse enjoy a walk along the Yarra.

To be able to follow my curiosity is something pretty special. I think it's an enormous privilege to be able to work with some of the smartest, most passionate people on something we feel very motivated about. So the one thing I would say is: look at it from the long term.

Is Melbourne a good city to work in, if you're into biomedical research?

Melbourne is regarded as the place in Australia to do health and medical research. It's very rich because we have universities, institutes and hospitals which all bring a different flavour to research.

And the teams within our labs are multi-disciplinary.

In my division at the institute I have researchers with a PhD majoring in cell biology/biochemistry,

people who majored in mathematics and computational science (because we need people who can understand large data sets and programs and display them in ways that are really intuitive), and clinicians who do patient care and then come across to work with us on those problems.

Part of the richness is that you can bring all these people together who look at the universe in different ways, whose skills allow you to tackle a really hard problem.

What are you working on now that might help patients in the future?

Part of my lab is working on one type of white blood cell called an eosinophil, which is very important in inflammatory and allergic diseases, but we don't know much about

how the production of those cells is regulated or how they are activated. So we are picking them apart gene-by-gene, to consider which of these genes we might target for therapy.

What do you think of the idea that science is just too complex for most people?

I think the community can understand science – it just needs to be described in a way that is accessible. Australians adopt technology really quickly, they're excited by science but they don't want to be patronised. If there is a contentious technology I think most people are very good at weighing the pros and cons.

It's not that the scientists have the answers, it's that scientists can contribute to the debate.

Time to stop one punch rot

By **KARLY HICKMAN**

PEOPLE of all ages are uniting in an effort to raise awareness and impel immediate action in response to the devastating effects fatal one punches are having on the community.

The 'STOP. One Punch Can Kill' rally will be held on Sunday (December 15) at Manningham City Square to educate people on the issue as well as lobby the Victorian Government to immediately make changes to manslaughter sentencing legislation.

"We need to stand up as a community to let the government know that Victorian laws don't do enough to stop fatal one punch crimes," rally organiser and Manningham councillor Michelle Kleinert said.

One punch assaults have killed 90 people in Australia since 2000; a figure that does not reflect the alleged

manslaughter of 22-year-old local man David Cassai on New Year's Eve last year. Cr Kleinert says it is personal connections with those affected by a fatal king hit that have urged her to take action to create a community that is aware, tolerant and respectful.

"This is a peaceful rally against street violence, fatal one punches and the serious life-changing brain injuries which all leave a devastating effect on families, friends and the whole community."

Cr Kleinert said her wish was to create awareness and encourage a positive, safe environment where young people offer an open hand of friendship rather than using their fists.

"When you hear about another fatal one punch, the law needs to provide justice. It is time to set a new standard, it's time to 'fight' for those

victims past and present who have died from these senseless crimes," Cr Kleinert said.

The movement implores the Victorian Government to follow legislative changes passed in New South Wales, Western Australia and Northern Territory to bring about far harsher penalties for one punch offenders.

Cr Kleinert hopes the rally will bring about necessary changes to community standards, the judicial system and to acknowledge and stand up for those deceased who will never be given the opportunity to defend themselves.

● **The STOP. One Punch Can Kill rally will be held at Manningham City Square, 687 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster, on Sunday, December 15, from 1.30pm-4pm. People are urged to like the Facebook page.**



Keen for change: Luisa, Georgia, Esha, Andy, Matt, Laura and Arie are taking part in the 'STOP. One Punch Can Kill' rally this Sunday.

I RECKON IT'S ABOUT TIME WE WENT OVER TO WARRANDYTE TO STIR UP THE LOCALS AGAIN.



Beast in the bush



IT was some time around Christmas last year when *Diary* staffer Jan Tindale saw the strange black animal emerging from the bush on her property in Browns Road, North Warrandyte, adjacent to the Warrandyte State Park.

Jan said: "About 10 o'clock in the morning I went out onto my balcony. I was answering the phone. Then I saw it. It was a large black animal, rolling in the grass. It was as big as a kelpie dog, but it wasn't a dog. It had a cat-like head and a bushy tail like a fox. But it wasn't a fox. It was definitely black. With a long bushy tail that it dragged along the ground.

"Suddenly it looked directly at me. We just stared at each other. There was something strange about its eyes. They were green; they almost glowed. The pupils were black slits. Suddenly I realised it was something I had never seen before.

"I went inside for my camera, and when I came back it was still there; about 30m away. It had turned around, as though it had sensed movement in the bush. It crouched, as though preparing to pounce," Jan explained.

"Quickly I took as many photos as I could, then watched it slip away into the thick bush. Later, I went down to explore where it had been. The grass had been flattened but I could find no other trace of its passing. I haven't seen any trace of it since.

"I told my family about it, but they told me I probably saw something else. So, at the time I didn't tell anyone else.

"Then nearly a year later I told former Warrandyte police sergeant Keith Walker about it. I showed him the photos. He said it looked more like a panther."

It is more than 10 years since the



Big cat or feral moggy? The creature is said to be much bigger than your average cat. (Picture Jan Tindale)

Diary followed up a *Manningham Leader* report of another strange animal seen in the Warrandyte area.

According to the *Leader* (August 27, 2003): Warrandyte residents should have an open mind and carry a camera with them at all times—just in case they see a Tasmanian Tiger, Tasmanian Tiger researcher Michael Moss says.

Mr Moss made the suggestion after Freedom of Information documents released to him revealed 63 possible sightings of the animal in Victoria in the past 25 years. Those figures included about 20 sightings—several at close range in broad daylight—at Warrandyte State Park.

"I believe they (Tasmanian Tigers) are passing through Warrandyte ... they're carnivores and they have got huge territories which they pass through when they're looking for food," Mr Moss told the *Leader*.

Taking Mr Moss at his word, the *Diary* sent staff photographer Stephen Reynolds out on assignment throughout Warrandyte with

a brief to photograph as many Thylacines (Tasmanian Tigers) as he could find. He came back with some remarkable pictures, shot at such iconic sites around Warrandyte as Pound Bend, the Grand Hotel and The Bakery.

We must now go back to the *Diary* of February 1998 to a feature story written by reporter Julie Murray to discover earlier Thylacine sightings in the Warrandyte area.

She wrote: Jacky Law, a resident who managed the canteen at the high school for many years, was picking her daughter up from a friend's place in Trezise St in 1979 when she caught a glimpse of the rear of an unknown animal.

"I didn't see the head," she told the *Diary*. "What stood out was the long striped tail. It was certainly not a cat's tail. It was beige-brown in colour and there was a harshness or stiffness about it. I remember the awkwardness of the rear. I had never seen anything like this before."

Julie further reported: Bob and Trish Millington of Kan-

garoo Ground have also had two independent sightings. ... Trish and her son Gareth, while walking at dusk, saw an animal crossing Pigeon Bank Rd. Their immediate reaction was to look at each other and say, "Did we just see what we just saw?"

Twelve months (before that), Bob Millington saw a similar creature crossing to Kangaroo Ground Rd from Pigeon Bank Rd during daylight hours. Their descriptions were exactly the same: "Little ears, black stripes on the rear and tapering down to a long thin tail. Bigger than a large dog with the lean look of a greyhound." (Bob Millington is a former editor of the *Diary* and a noted Melbourne journalist.)

So if you are out and about in and around Warrandyte this Christmas break, keep your eyes open ... and your camera ready. And don't drink too much.

CLIFF GREEN

● Have you seen anything? Email us at info@warrandytediary.com.au if you have anything mysterious to report.

Meet Jim, our new mayor

By MICHELLE PINI

HEIDE ward councillor Jim Grivokostopoulos has been elected Mayor of Manningham for the next 12 months following a vote at council's annual general meeting recently.



Cr Grivokostopoulos said the appointment was a privilege and an honour.

"Being Mayor will give me the rare opportunity to meet with residents from very diverse backgrounds and with a wide range of interests," the new Lord Mayor said.

As the first Manningham mayor of Greek heritage, Cr Grivokostopoulos is keen to build upon the multicultural focus of former mayor, Cr Jennifer Yang.

"Almost 35 per cent of Manningham's residents were born overseas, and come from more than 140 countries. This cultural diversity is one of our strengths and something to be celebrated," he said.

Mullum Mullum ward's Sophy Galbally is the new Deputy Mayor and said she would like to use the role as "a platform for the protection of the character of our low density zones, as well as the reduction of Manningham's carbon footprint".

"My desire is to encourage the use of solar panels and green cones for homeowners, to help reduce energy costs and landfill," Cr Galbally said.

Almost end of the road for Hill residents

By MICHELLE PINI

MELBOURNE Hill Rd residents and Manningham council are on the verge of finding a mutually acceptable solution to ongoing flooding problems in the area.

After collective ratepayer rejection of Manningham council's costly original drainage scheme, a Community Reference Panel was established and has worked cooperatively with council officers to address the problem.

The panel representatives, 40 per cent of whom are flood-affected, presented a detailed, staged implementation solution for the consideration of council at a consultative meeting in early September.

The plan represents a significant cost reduction to that of the original council proposal and has the backing of most ratepayers in the catchment. A new meeting date for further discussions was set to be announced as the *Diary* went to print.

Community concerns with council's original scheme included impact to the amenity of the catchment area, as well as the high cost to ratepayers. The panel also drew attention to omissions in council's cost estimates which could result in further costs to residents, since geo-technic and environmental impact statements had not yet been undertaken.

Spokesperson for the residents' group, Mr Peter Hookey, told the *Diary*: "We are confident our proposal delivers a more effective solution at a significantly reduced cost and have been eagerly awaiting the next meeting with council and engineers to hear their response."

Manningham's Mr Carbone said: "Council officer investigations are nearing completion and the second meeting of the reference panel has been scheduled."

Population growth concerns

Dear Editor,
The latest projections for Australia's population (The Age, November 27) made me choke on my breakfast cereal, but nothing like what the population growth will do to choke our roads and our hospital queues.

Current responses to augment transport and health infrastructure will ameliorate only a tiny part of the problem. It will do nothing to stem the depletion of "our" limited natural resources of water, clean air, fisheries, and bush land.

And what of our responsibility to share those precious resources with all the other species that depend on them?

Australia's projected population growth is a more certain threat to our way of life than climate change, and it is more within our control.

dear diary

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

The difficulty is that our governments are unashamed barackers for it. The growth in people and their consumption habits are common factors in all our environmental and many of society's challenges. Every single effort being made to reduce individual's use of resources or quantity of waste will be quickly made ineffective as the population grows.

Please stop the growth-pushers as they are the greatest threat to the lives of our children and all the other beautiful species that call Australia home.

Ian Penrose
North Warrandyte

60th anniversary

Dear Diary,
Well-known Warrandyte identities, Tom and Ruby (fondly known as Popsy) Bone, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on November 21 with family and friends. Among them were Ruby's brother and sister-in-law Roy and Joyce Wagner, her sister Iona Hartog, good friend and musician Bella Wilkie and daughter Heather Jameson.



Ruby came to live in Warrandyte in 1929 with her parents and siblings where they made a living as market gardeners and orchardists at the site now occupied by the Warrandyte State Park at Pound Bend.

Tommy arrived in Australia in 1952 as a 21-year-old from Scotland. They married in

1953 and purchased their home in Keen Avenue where they raised their three sons and daughter.

They are proud to advise they have 12 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Heather Jameson



Fundraising initiative: WCG committee members Phil Ashfield, David Dyason and John Chapman, and Jane Annois (below).

Massive subdivision

By MICHELLE PINI
Photos by CLAIRE PINI

IN a provocative and clever move, the committee of the newly incorporated Warrandyte Sporting Group (WSG) has voted to sell off prime property allotments at Warrandyte Reserve.

The 303 real estate parcels, "some with river frontage", will sell for between \$50 and \$1230 in a bid to raise capital for a scoreboard and fit-out costs for the new sporting facility at the reserve.

David Dyason, spokesperson for the group, said the allotments "were very reasonably priced, in accordance with size and location" and described the sale as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own a piece of Warrandyte.

The brainchild of fundraising organiser Dinah Ward, the "real estate allotments" are actually handcrafted tiles that will form an abstract representation of the Warrandyte township, and grace the foyer

of the new sporting facility at Warrandyte Reserve.

The new sporting complex, designed by local architect Ross Henry, is due to open in April and will house Warrandyte junior and senior football clubs as well as Warrandyte netball and cricket clubs. The facility will be managed by the volunteer-run WSG, established to oversee the operations of the new sports club centre.

Created by local ceramic artist Jane Annois and assisted by Eltham artist Mary Lou Pittard, the three-dimensional, abstract mural will be made up of individually handcrafted tiles in earthy tones and of varying sizes and depths.

"I was immediately drawn to the project as it's a Warrandyte endeavour and a wonderful facility for the community," Ms Annois said.

The artwork has been fashioned to complement the starkly modern lines of Ross Henry's building design and



was inspired by the works of acclaimed visual artists, Paul Klee and Gerhard Richter.

People will have an opportunity to support the sporting group by purchasing a tile and owning "a piece of Warrandyte" in perpetuity. Each individual tile will be

handcrafted and personalised with the purchaser's desired inscription.

The unique showpiece will measure 2.8 metres high and 2.1 metres wide over two interconnecting panels in the facility's foyer. Ms Ward explained, "The idea evolved from the concept of selling clay bricks into creating one-of-a-kind tiles designed by Jane to form a 'map' of Warrandyte."

David Dyason said: "The massive, Warrandyte subdivision real estate release is planned to coincide with the 'Run Warrandyte' fun run on February 2, 2013".

The project's completion date is aimed for the first at-home football match in early April. Mr Dyason added that the allotments are strictly limited and any further subdivision would be allowed by "permit only".

For details visit: www.warrandytesports.com.au or contact Dinah Ward on 0410 399 037.

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HOUSE WANTED Small house or cottage in Warrandyte required for a mature professional female to rent. Ex ref, Phone Liz Stilwell **0415 665 822**.

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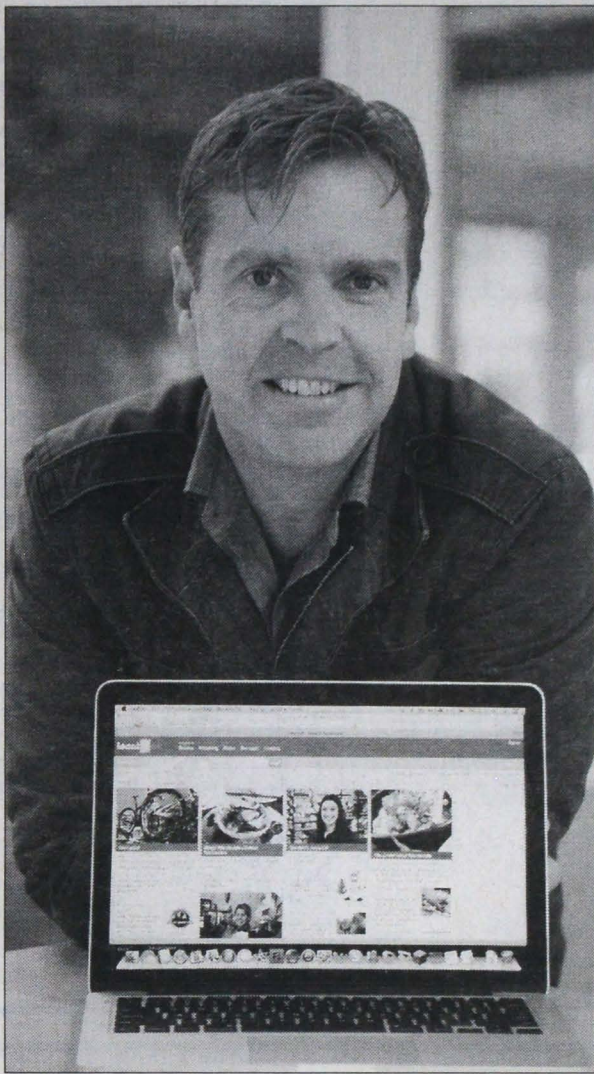
WATCHING helplessly as many small businesses in the area have struggled and closed shop inspired Warrandyte entrepreneurs Gary Birkett and Lloyd Hill to begin a new venture that provides another option for small businesses to better promote their services online.

In a world spawning a never-ending supply of marketing options and advertising avenues, Gary says LocalYak (www.localyak.com.au) is an inexpensive, simple and localised online concept that provides Warrandyte and surrounding businesses with an online marketing tool that they'll find easy to control and update.

"It's simple, really," Gary told the *Diary*. "We're trying to get members of our community to really support our local businesses. It's important because if we don't support them, we'll lose them and the character of the shops we've always had here."

LocalYak.com.au is a centralised website available to all local businesses to help improve their exposure in the community. Businesses can upload their offerings in real-time. Customers can access the site via PC, tablet or smartphone, to see what their local businesses are offering, without the legwork. Customers can also register for free allowing them to leave comments with businesses, and save and watch their favourites.

"Locally owned businesses define the unique character of our community and play a vital factor in the overall satisfaction of where we live and the value of our property. Many of these businesses



New venture: Gary Birkett has launched LocalYak.com.au

contribute to local causes by supporting our schools and local sports clubs with sponsorship and donations," Gary says.

Having run their own successful business in Warrandyte for over 10 years creating customised online training applications nationally, Gary says it is disappointing to see some of our local businesses either struggling or winding up.

"We've watched many store owners come and go in the area," Gary told the *Diary*. "Often they find it difficult to compete with the advertising from larger companies and rely heavily on foot traffic for sales. Some have websites to promote their wares but most customers don't take time to look at them."

But he believes LocalYak not only provides our local

businesses with a simple, effective and affordable online solution, but it connects well and complements local businesses that go down the more traditional avenue of advertising through the *Warrandyte Diary*.

"There is no doubt the *Diary* is a long-serving, tried and true avenue for local businesses to get results, and it's starting to do some wonderful new things in giving its advertisers and readers plenty more value. The *Diary* is about our stories, the community, and is a great traditional platform to promote everything that's going on in the local community including what businesses are offering," Gary says.

"LocalYak is complementing this with a really locally focused online promotional avenue that is affordable to all small businesses. LocalYak gives our businesses a voice in a centralised location online to let locals know exactly what they have on offer."

Gary moved to Warrandyte more than 20 years ago, back in the day when Harry Heath's opened up, he told the *Diary*.

"I helped Geoff Heath set up the original store with the shelving and stock, and worked there as the night manager for a period of time while studying programming," says Gary, who these days is involved with the local SES and is entrenched in the local community with his family. He and his wife Emma have three children, Spencer, Darcie and Fraser, and live near Anderson's Creek Primary School.

"I love Warrandyte, it's our home," Gary says. "And I'm excited that Warrandyte is the first cab off the rank for LocalYak, which we plan to do big things with beyond here for other communities. There are now more than 30 local businesses involved and getting great value from their listing. These include our supermarket, retail stores, restaurants, local cafes, tradesmen and now the *Warrandyte Diary*."

● For more information visit www.localyak.com.au or call Gary on 0417 352 399.

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Bill Brown, Willy White and Roger Red attend a Warrandyte Community Association meeting. Each wears a tie. The ties are the colours of their names but no man's tie matches his name. Bill Brown asks the man with the white tie if he has a fire plan, but Bill is deaf and can't hear the answer. What is the colour of each man's tie?

Solution next issue (February).

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CYRIL By PAUL WILLIAMS



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There's no place like home

It has been seven years since Ryan Smith was elected as our Member for Warrandyte. Diary reporter KARLY HICKMAN visited Parliament recently to chat with our local member and Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Youth Affairs as we say farewell to another year and prepare for the beginning of a new one.

KARLY: Hello Ryan. Can you tell us what Warrandyte means to you after seven years as our member?

RYAN: I can. Warrandyte is a community unlike any other in metropolitan Melbourne with its country feel. One of the many things I have said in parliament is that Warrandyte works so well because everyone speaks to one another and is willing to lend a helping hand. We need to foster this view of Warrandyte to the younger generations and new residents to ensure it continues.

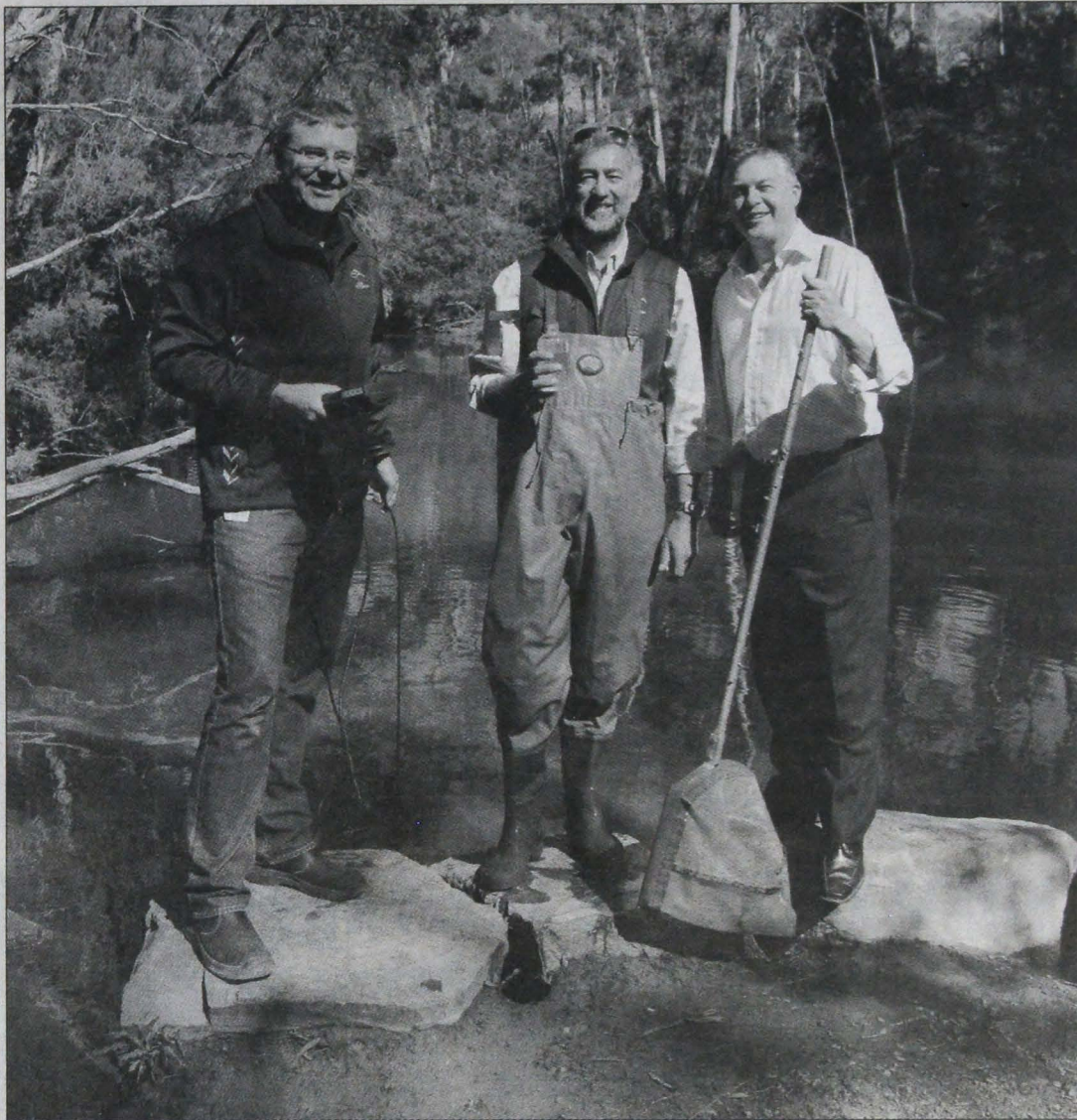
Speaking of future generations, what would you personally like to see for Warrandyte in years to come?

I think it is important to see the continuation of residents becoming part of the community through getting involved in community activities such as theatre groups, and the sports groups such as the football clubs and netball club. I also believe there is a lot of untapped potential in Warrandyte – we should embrace the unique community vibe by running more community-led events to encourage visitors and residents alike to spend time in our beautiful surrounds and support local businesses.

No one would disagree with that – we do have beautiful surrounds. So what would you say is your favourite part of Warrandyte?

There are so many aspects of Warrandyte that I love, but first to mind is the vibrancy of the main street. The hard work done by the Warrandyte Business Association has contributed to making the main street a vibrant meeting place and hub for the community. I also love the parochial Warrandyte Football Club supporters and try to get down to games as much as I can.

On a more serious note, what do



Keeping an eye on things: Member for Warrandyte Ryan Smith with John Merritt (CEO of the EPA) and scientist Leon Metzeling after recently launching the Yarra Watch program. The new program provides up-to-date information on the health of the Yarra River. For more visit www.epa.vic.gov.au/yarrawatch

you feel are the key issues facing Warrandyte?

I believe the No.1 challenge is preserving Warrandyte while enhancing its vibrancy. We will need to balance the natural beauty of Warrandyte with the concept of revitalization. As a community, we will need to make decisions that are supported by the majority to ensure that everyone is brought on the journey.

Planning changes are always a

contentious topic to Warrandytians. In your opinion, what are the most important facts every resident should know in relation to this topic?

State Government believes local government should have the principle role in determining what is appropriate for local communities. I feel I am in sync with what local councillors and the community believe the planning provisions should be. We absolutely need to

preserve our green spaces, but we also need to acknowledge the role Green Wedge private landowners play in preserving these spaces for the community. I am confident in local government understanding the needs of the environment and their local communities. As I always have been, I am committed to representing the community's values and interests into the future.

How would you say your involvement in the Warrandyte

community has shaped your role as the Minister for Environment and Climate Change?

My portfolio is broad and my intimate knowledge of the local communities I serve has helped me to make decisions that impact communities throughout the state. I look after weed and fire risk management for the State and having had events such as Black Saturday come so close to our doorstep has given me a thorough understanding of how serious issues of fuel load and bushfires are. Similarly, living so close to the Yarra and benefitting from canoeing parts of it with key Warrandyte identities Ian Penrose, Keith Walker and John Boyle has given me an intimate understanding of just how important our river's water quality is. This has helped shape my focus on the Yarra and the development of *The Cleaner Yarra River & Port Phillip Bay Action Plan*.

So what legacy would you like to leave for Warrandyte?

I have been very happy to help facilitate the development at the Warrandyte Reserve which, once finished, will be a huge achievement to all those who helped bring it all together, as well as being a great asset to the Warrandyte community. I would like to see the vibrancy of Warrandyte to continue through the great work of the Warrandyte Business Association and by people supporting and respecting their local businesses and all the hard work that they do. I will also continue to advocate for the local schools to be brought up to a higher standard.

And is it easy for Warrandyte residents to get in touch with you?

I value my role in being able to talk to people and being part of community decisions, rather than necessarily leading them. Any elected person should be active in their local community groups and clubs to make themselves aware of the issues facing residents. I feel lucky that the Warrandyte community is so engaged and work so well at keeping each other and myself informed about what matters to them.

Thanks for your time.

Thank you, and I wish the *Diary* readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Residents can contact Ryan through the contact page of his website www.ryansmith.com.au or by calling his office on 9870 7396.

● Next issue: Q&A with WCA president Dick Davies.

Winners are grinners as locals clean up at awards

By VAL POLLEY and SCOTT PODMORE

WARRANDYTE businesses, groups and community members have been racking up the awards in recent months, including CreekSide, Quinton's SUPA IGA, and born-and-raised former Warrandyte resident Chris Chapman.

CreekSide in Warrandyte has received another accolade, this time awarded the 2013 Housing Institute of Victoria's Special Purpose Housing Award. The five, two bedroom villa development located in Harris Gully Road met with the judges' highest approval. The modern kitchens and individual colour schemes leading to a clean modern finish and the external finishes creating a harmonious look came in for praise.

The judges' comments included: "Although the site had quite a fall, this was overcome by clever excavation and use of retaining walls... with the ageing population, it is refreshing to see a development like this one positioned in a well-established area. The individual design of each unit has adequately addressed the needs of the end user – single-level, low maintenance and open plan living."

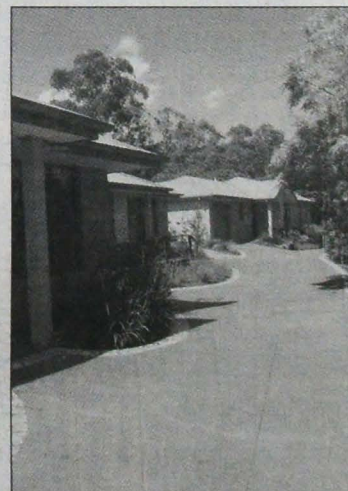
The residents and the board of the Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Cooperative say they are delighted to receive the award. A



Big winner: Julie Quinton.

community project by the Coop over several years, they say it is gratifying that the work by local architect Adie Courtney, landscape designer Bev Hanson and board members, as well as the high quality building work by Costas Constructions, has been acknowledged yet again.

The board considers the award particularly prestigious as it recognises the special purpose component of



High praise: Creekside's villas.

the development. "The outcome has exceeded all our expectations," board chairman Andrew Yen says. "Not only with the development, but also the strong sense of community amongst the residents." As the Victorian finalist, the project will go on to compete against similar projects in the 2014 HIA Australian Housing Awards in Queensland next year. The project is



Sales gun: Chris Chapman.

also showcased in the current HIA's *Top Homes* magazine of 2013-14.

The board says the project would not have succeeded without broad community support and assistance from the Warrandyte Community Bank, Lions Club, Manningham council and others. The board says it has been made aware there is still demand for retirement housing within the community. How to meet this

need remains a challenge.

Elsewhere, Julie Quinton's IGA team was the big winner at the inaugural Manningham Business Excellence Awards held on November 14.

Quinton's SUPA IGA first scored a win in the Contribution to Community Business of the Year Award but then achieved the biggest honour of the evening, the Business of the Year award.

"We were so shocked to be awarded Manningham's Business of the Year 2013. Never expected that one," Julie told the *Diary*.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have acknowledgement of all the hard work we are doing."

Warrandyte was well represented on the night with Janelle Wareham's Riveresque being a finalist in the Small Business of the Year and Rush and Hampshire Barristers and Solicitors a finalist in the Innovation Business of the Year category.

Meanwhile, the name Chapman is as big as they come in Warrandyte and Fletcher's real estate agent Chris Chapman put the family name in lights on a grand scale recently when presented with the prestigious honour of being announced Residential Salesperson of the Year (non-principal) at the REIV Awards For Excellence 2013 at the Palladium Room, Crown.

Having a ball at the festival

By **CHERIE MOSELEN**

WARRANDYTE'S biggest event is back on the horizon – it will be marvellous, it will be mayhem, and as usual it will be March.

The 2014 annual village festival will be held across the weekend of March 21-23 under the banner, 'Let's have a ball: celebrating good sports'.

In Australia, where devotion to ball sports is comparable to religious fervor in many households, plenty of family weekends are spent on somewhat hallowed grounds.

However, this festival theme isn't just about celebrating players on our footy fields and tennis courts. It is also a shout-out to the caring and kindhearted, the "good sports" in our community.

Organisers have invited representatives from six Warrandyte sporting clubs to head up next year's Grand Parade as festival monarchs. They will come from the Warrandyte Basketball Association, as well as Warrandyte's football, junior football, cricket, netball and tennis clubs.

Once again, live music will feature fast and furious when the Friday night Battle of the Bands kicks off the entertainment at Siggants Reserve on March 21. Food, soft drink and water will be available on the night and the event is free.

Young local talent who want to test out the sound gear and possibly win the top prize – a recording studio session – should contact co-ordinator Ben Dennis at music@warrandytefestival.org.

Throughout the weekend, both the main and riverbank stages are geared to feature a mix of live acts that will keep audiences entertained through to final performances on Sunday evening.

Local bands such as The Scrimshaw Four and Mother are back, and the buzz is around that eight-piece band Eagle and the Worm, and Echo Drama will add to the talented lineup.

Festival food is always a highlight, and each year a different taste temptation awaits.

Ever bought coconut ice cream from a man on a solar-powered zebra bicycle before?

Next year's event promises new delights in a range of flavours as well as healthy options that include meat and vegetarian paellas.

Each year the Warrandyte Festival Art and Craft Market offers a unique array of home grown, home sewn, hand made art and craft goods for sale in a friendly and colourful atmosphere. The market supports artists and crafts people who create their own items, produce and art in Australia.

Costs to hold a stall are \$80 for both days, and \$50 for Saturday or Sunday only. Application forms are available online at www.warrandytefestival.org. If more info is required email:



CELEBRATING GOOD SPORTS

market@warrandytefestival.org. Applications close Friday, February 28, 2014.

To reflect the character of its community, the Warrandyte Festival deliberately steers away from mechanical rides, instead choosing the charm of events such as the waterslide and ever-popular billycart race.

However, that doesn't mean organisers are behind the times.

A festival iPhone app designed by Warrandyte resident Chris Padgham will be launched next February.

"The app will feature program information and outline who's who on stage at any given time," festival president Adie Courtney told the *Diary*. "It will be free and we recommend it be downloaded prior to

festival weekend so that it's ready to go when people arrive."

Ms Courtney also thanked those who bought a festival sausage at Quinton's SUPA IGA lately.

"Proceeds from our two sausage sizzles will go towards bringing back the Dreaming Space, which was one of last year's most popular festival events," she said. "So we are grateful to all our festival friends in the community for their continued support."

A mix of family entertainment that includes all-day circus play, magic acts and story telling, Adie said she was hopeful the free activity would be returning.

● For information on all things Warrandyte Festival visit www.warrandytefestival.org.



CFA Open Day success

THE Warrandyte CFA opened its doors to the community and other local fire brigades for its annual Open Day last month. Despite the weather, several locals turned out for a chance to talk about their fire plans and fire safety with brigade members.

The South Warrandyte CFA tanker was there to run through a burn-over drill, North Warrandyte CFA had its lighting unit on display and many children enjoyed a go on the fire hose and climbing around the fire trucks and checking out the equipment.

MASSIVE WARRANDYTE SUBDIVISION NOW SELLING! 303 BLOCKS, SOME WITH RIVER FRONTAGE

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This unique ceramic mural, to be created by local artists, will adorn the entrance of the new Warrandyte Sporting Pavilion. Any of these coloured tiles can be yours and will show your support of Warrandyte Sports.

Each coloured tile represents an opportunity to stamp your family's name permanently into the fabric of our sporting culture. Reserve yours now. Numbers are limited.

Support your club at

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Merry Christmas from the Diary

ANOTHER year down and big changes are taking place at the *Warrandyte Diary*. I feel very privileged and honoured as editor to have been handed the baton by Cliff Green.

Moving forward, it's important to let readers know that our (real) community newspaper is the longest running paper of its kind. We plan to retain its traditional charms, yet slowly but surely weave through some fresh ideas and concepts to attract a broader audience.

One of my missions is to make sure everyone in Warrandyte, and surrounding towns, wants to read it whether you're 8 or 88. Thankfully that has already begun: last month was our equal biggest edition in the newspaper's history, matched by the 32-pager you have in your hands right now.

Advertising is strong. Our readership is growing. On the content front, we will continue to "carry a strong editorial bias towards the people, environment and character of the place we serve".

Coincidentally, the *Diary* is 43 years old this year, the same age as me. It already feels like an old friend.

I often tell people that this is a newspaper with genuine character, plenty of support from the community and advertisers to stand up in a volatile time of transition in the media industry when papers are either folding, ditching print editions for digital only, or being clever enough to survive with digital and print.

Our aim is to do both, and that has been given a large boost thanks to a grant by the Warrandyte Community Bank last month (see right) and we have plans to revamp our website early next year to have a more live presence online. We will delve deeper into cyberspace where we can spread our wings in lots of exciting ways whether it be blogs, newflashes, video, an online shop and more. We're open to ideas, too, so feel free to email me. The inbox is always open.

Of course, the minute we clicked the "create page" button on Facebook we burst out with almost 1000 likes.

But in looking forward, we should remember to look back to ensure we're still on the right track in serving our purpose as a community newspaper.

Sitting in the *Diary* office, I couldn't help but notice a framed front page from the first edition on December 1, 1970, hanging on the wall. The words in that first ever Page 1 story are so relevant today. Written by our paper's founding father, Cliff Green, it reads...

"Warrandyte is a special place. That is why we live here. There are easier places in which to live. Places served by better transport, places without the annual threat of bushfires. But we have chosen Warrandyte.

"A sense of belonging to a different type of community may be one of the many reasons why we made the choice. But this community is growing larger day-by-day. Too large for news to pass by word of mouth. Even the 'bush telegraph' is not reaching everyone. Hence the need for a local newspaper, a focal point, tying together the many varied activities and interests of the 'village'. If Warrandyte is a special place, then it has need for a special kind of paper. A paper that is close to, and part of, its community. All we ask for is your assistance, your support – and your patience."

Thanks, Cliff. Long live the *Diary*.

Until the next edition in February 2014, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SCOTT PODMORE

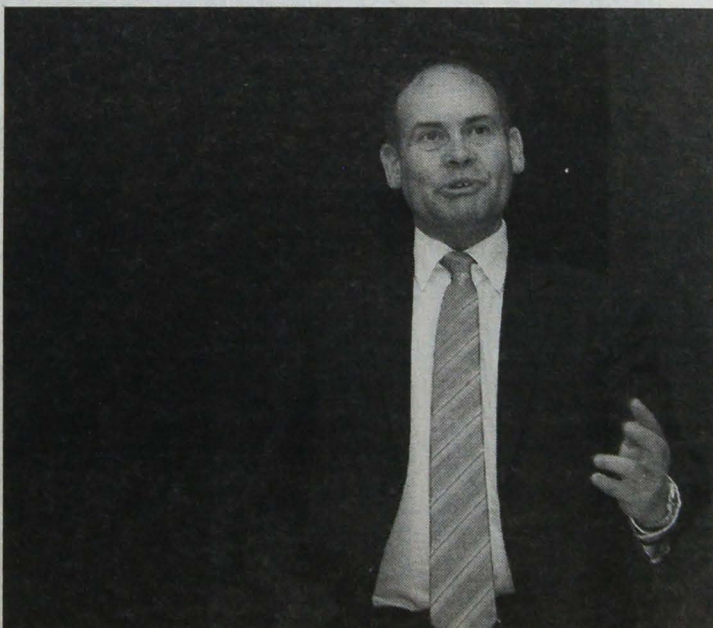


Everyone's a winner: Warrandyte Community Bank staff, directors, shareholders and grant recipients at the Annual General Meeting recently.

'Our' bank delivers again



Grateful: Warrandyte Community Bank scholarship recipients Elsha Cottier, Gabrielle Mitchell and Victoria Downie with chairman Sarah Wrigley.



Another great year: Warrandyte Community Bank manager Mark Challen.

WARRANDYTE Community Bank has again delivered vital cash injections to more than 60 community groups in presenting more than \$350,000 in grants and scholarships at its annual general meeting at the Mechanics Institute last month.

Warrandyte's only bank has now returned more than \$1.35million to the greater Warrandyte area, with almost \$0.5 million in dividends returned to local shareholders, an achievement rewarded with rapturous applause when announced to the audience of grant recipients and shareholders in the packed hall.

Chairman Sarah Wrigley said community grants and sponsorships have made a significant difference to several local organisations, including the first instalment to the Warrandyte Sporting Precinct for the construction of the new pavilion (total \$150,000) and sponsorship of the redevelopment of the Warrandyte Community Centre (total funding of \$120,000 over four years).

The *Warrandyte Diary* was a big winner on the night when presented with a \$9900 cheque to go towards website redevelopment and social media integration, while several schools, sports organisations, charities and emergency services groups benefited enormously as well.

"But these examples are only indicative of the larger grants in this past year," Sarah said. "They represent a range of organisations covering a wide variety of different groups – from Manningham YMCA's Sundays with Steve program aimed at the 10-15 age group, to bus hire for the Warrandyte Senior Citizens' outings. It's truly a bank that supports the community."

Sarah went on to say that this financial year, Warrandyte Community Bank's profits improved over last year to be just under \$300,000 before tax.

"We maintained our current level of dividend at 12 cents per share fully franked, bringing our dividend return to shareholders to 73 cents per original \$1 share," Sarah explained.

Other major projects to receive a community grant or sponsorship included funding for an alternative draughting point at Stiggants Reserve in Warrandyte for local CFAs. As Warrandyte CFA Captain Adrian Mullens explained: "The current draughting point near the bridge can be difficult to access during an emergency due to traffic congestion, so having an alternative fill point for CFA trucks is vital. It can mean the

difference between life and death, so everyone will benefit from this project and we are very grateful to Warrandyte Community Bank for this funding."

The Wonga Park community also benefited from this round of grants. After a community consultation hosted by Warrandyte Community Bank in Wonga Park earlier this year, it became evident that there was an increasing need for more family-friendly and accessible community spaces. Two strategic projects – the refurbishment of the Wonga Park Tennis Club pavilion, and Phase 1 of the gymnasium project at Wonga Park Primary School – were highlighted on the night and financially committed to by the Warrandyte Community Bank.

Similarly, Park Orchards has been identified as part of the Warrandyte Community Bank's five-year strategic plan to help develop Domeney Reserve and the future redevelopment of Park Orchards Tennis Club pavilion.

Also in attendance were the bank's scholarship recipients, Elsha Cottier and Victoria Downie (2012) and Gabrielle Mitchell (2013). Victoria said that the \$10,000 scholarship had helped her enormously in her first two years at University.

"At Melbourne University, there are many privileged students who take everyday costs like bus fares for granted," Victoria said. "The scholarship has been able to help me with these everyday costs and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity."

Helene Butterworth from Warrandyte High School later said the three scholarship recipients were "lovely former students" of Warrandyte High and reiterated the value of the scholarship program to local students.

An interesting point on the night came from Bendigo Bank regional manager Michael Petering, who explained what a difference choosing to bank locally makes to a community like Warrandyte. He shared current Bendigo and Adelaide Bank figures that indicated 4% of current home loans for Warrandyte are held with Warrandyte Community Bank.

"If this figure could be doubled – that is, 8% of home loans in Warrandyte held at Warrandyte Community Bank – the total going back to the community would double as well. So that \$1.35 million would become \$2.7 million just from people deciding to switch."

Christmas in the carpark

Quinton's SUPA IGA puts on a party for the community



QUINTON'S SUPA IGA's team were spreading the Christmas spirit with the Warrandyte community last week by sharing the joy of giving at their annual Christmas party in the carpark.

Thousands of locals flocked to the party which had loads of raffles, giveaways, some great entertainment and even Santa turned up to hand out a few early Christmas gifts to the kids.

For a community Christmas party, the entertainment was sizzling, with Gary Young and Russell Robertson rocking proceedings as the main act, along with Warrandyte's very own Sideglance and Anderson's Creek Primary School students.

Stalls were run by Quinton's IGA staff, with the supermarket's suppliers offering free tastings of their products.

Some of the other Warrandyte traders and organisations who jumped on board with a

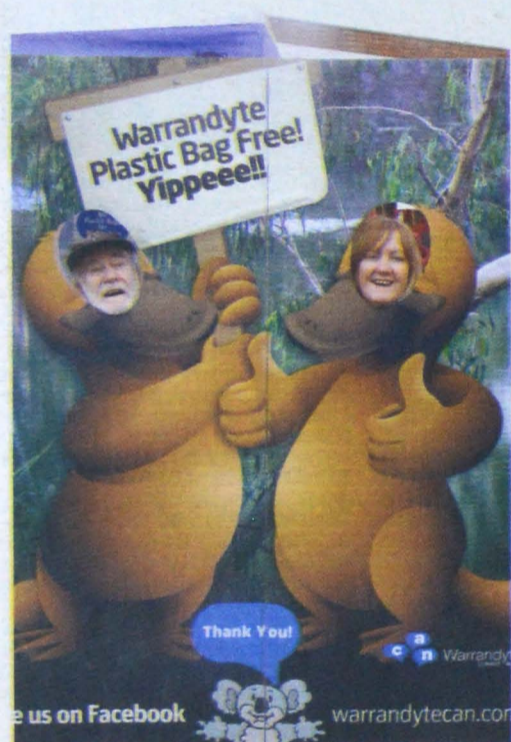
stall this year included Interiors by Riveresque, Indian Affair (the butter chicken is a smash hit every year), Warrandyte Cruise and Travel, The Stonehouse Gallery, Ruby Tuesday Jewellery, Warrandyte CFA, Warrandyte Rotary, and Warrandyte CAN.

The Retreat and Thyme on the Terrace also made generous donations.

A cheque was handed to Anderson's Creek Primary for \$500 for their excellent Christmas decorations at Quinton's IGA, and \$3,663.30 was presented to Warrandyte CFA by Julie Quinton on the day.

The \$3,663.30 has been raised from the 10c charge on plastic bags at Quinton's between March 23 and the end of November.

"This is the third community Christmas party held by Quinton's and by far the biggest, but in no way is it the last," Julie told the *Diary*.



THE GRAND  WARRANDYTE



NEW

**NEW CHEF
GREAT VALUE MENU**

We're proud to announce our new head chef Brad Hawker. Brad and his team of passionate chefs have created a great range of dining options to suit everyone.

BOOK

**XMAS & END OF
YEAR FUNCTIONS**

Now taking bookings for Xmas and End of Year functions. We are flexible with options and will work with you to make your next function a memorable one.

NEW

**COURTESY
SHUTTLE BUS**

We have a brand new 12 seater courtesy bus operating within a 8km radius of the pub. Come down for a good night and we'll make sure you make it home safely.

NEW

**CHILDREN'S
PLAYROOM**

The Grand is a community pub and we understand the need to cater for families of all sizes. Our new playroom will keep the kids busy.

110 YARRA ST, WARRANDYTE T (03) 9844 3202 INFO@GRANDHOTELWARRANDYTE.COM.AU WWW.GRANDHOTELWARRANDYTE.COM.AU



*Vanilla
Orchid*
THAI RESTAURANT

188 Yarra Street, Warrandyte (opposite the Bakery) Phone 9844 5778

Vanilla Orchid wishes you all a happy Christmas and safe and joyful New Year.

WE ARE CLOSED ON:
Monday 23 December
Tuesday 24 December
Wednesday 25 December
Thursday 26 December
Tuesday 31 December and
Wednesday 1 January



OPEN
Tuesday to Saturday, 5.30pm to 10pm
Sunday, 11am to 10pm
Dine In and Takeaway
Licensed and BYO (wine only)
www.vanillaorchid.com.au

Grand plans one year on

By **BRIANNA PIAZZA**

OFFICIALLY one year down the road and the Grand Hotel team says the iconic pub is going through an exciting period of change as Christmas and the New Year approaches.

Last year Steve Graham and son Matthew joined forces with South Warrandyte CFA brigade captain Greg Kennedy to take ownership of the pub, and while it has been a solid first year following some extensive renovations and changes, general manager Peter Appleby says the Grand has "listened to the locals" by introducing a new menu, ramping up live entertainment and providing a new courtesy bus to ensure customers get home safely.

With a changing of the guard in the kitchen, Peter says the pub took the opportunity to "change things up". New head chef Brad Hawker says the new menu is big on featuring a range of locally sourced meat and cheeses from the Yarra Valley region. It's also less high-end than it has been in the past on the cost front with a focus to tap back into attracting families and more budget-conscious diners.

"It's a family friendly and budget friendly menu without compromising on quality," Peter says. "We've got a traditional pub menu with things like burgers and fish and chips as well as a separate lunch menu, which consists of licensed style offerings and salads."

Peter admits the Grand endured a couple of teething problems over the past year when it came to settling in on the restaurant scene, "as most new changeovers do", but pointed out the only disappointing thing was when "some of the punters chose to sound off on social media rather than let us know of any inconveniences or preferences".

"It's important that locals realise we're here with an open door, and we certainly don't bite. We're keen to listen to customers and what the people of Warrandyte want and we believe the new menu reflects that. It's an exciting time and we're moving forward in a very positive manner."

"You just have to see how much busier we are already. We have a great mix of food to suit all tastes, and as always we have an absolute top range of wines in the restaurant and the bottle shop."



Loving our local: New head chef Brad Hawker and manager Peter Appleby. Below: Ladies Day was a big success.



Peter says the past few weeks have been exciting, with the pub's workers still over the moon about a glowing review they received from Tony Leonard on 3AW, where the Grand was featured as the 'pub of the week'.

"Tony really enjoyed our food and service and he also said the pub looked great. The staff were just buzzing with excitement - we were all crowded around the radio at 11.45am in the morning listening to the show to see what he thought," he said with a laugh.

Peter also says locals could expect

the live entertainment, which has been popular with patrons, to keep coming every Friday night from 8.30pm.

"We had around 850 people in here the other Friday night and there were 23-year-olds dancing on the footpath outside while people in their 40s and 50s were dancing inside. It's fantastic to see that and it's great that people don't have to go all the way into the city to have a good night out," Peter said.

"We're also big on giving back to the community, and really want people to know that. Recently

we hosted a fantastic Ladies Day, which was part of the Spring Racing Carnival, and we had more than 80 women turn up and have an absolute ball," Peter said. "From that we donated more than \$1200 back to the Warrandyte Sporting Group. We also make contributions and donations to other community groups and the schools."

The Grand says it has also received a lot of positive feedback after purchasing a 12-seater vehicle and starting its courtesy shuttle bus service last month.

The free service runs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and drops people home if they live within a reasonable driving distance from the pub. However, Peter says the service is flexible and he encouraged groups interested in using the service to call the pub a few days beforehand on 9844 3202 so a driver could be arranged.

He says the Grand will be open as usual on Christmas Eve and everyone is looking forward to catching up with the hundreds of locals who always turn up for a few festive drinks and some live music.

Stay up to date with what's happening at the Grand at www.facebook.com/pages/Grand-Hotel-Warrandyte

Diary bites

with Basil Fettucine



Chin Chin book launch

Warrandyte's Ben Cooper (pictured with wife Fiona) held a special Sunday afternoon launch at the Grand Hotel recently celebrating the release of Chin Chin, the book bearing the same name as the restaurant where he is head chef in the city. Family, friends and many fans of both Ben and the restaurant turned up to buy a signed copy (\$49.99) of the book that is packed with all sorts of scrumptious recipes. Get it now online at www.chinchinrestaurant.com.au or at the restaurant, which is open from 11am until late seven days of the week.

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Chance to WIN

Among the glut of cook book authors in Warrandyte and surrounds is a ripper put together by local woman Suzanna Paxton titled Allergy Safe Family Food which features 185 easy and delicious allergy-safe recipes. Can you believe one in 20 of our Aussie kids suffer symptoms ranging from hives and facial swelling to anaphylaxis and even death? Suzanna, whose own children have food allergies, set about the task of collecting suitable recipes and came up with this fantastic book. The Diary has two copies to giveaway to lucky readers. Quite simply send an email to info@warrandytediary.com.au with ALLERGY SAFE in the subject line and your name and address. Winners will be announced on the Diary's Facebook page.

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Sweet-tooth Bloods

Rumour or fact? Word is going around Warrandyte Junior Football Club next year's Under 12s may be breaking tradition with the regular snake lollies handed out at three-quarter time being replaced by... wait for it... delicious cupcakes! Could Under 12 Bloods coach Sean Smith and his wife Donna be cooking up a cunning plan? Everyone in town knows Donna can bake a mean cupcake (Mother Duck Cakes), but we're all a little worried the sight of our Bloods munching on colourful cupcakes in the huddle may ruin their reputation for being one of the more fearsome and tough footy teams in the comp.

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Grape expectations

Local wine makers Geoff Neagle and Danny Cappellani stood up among the local crop of amateur participants at the well attended 44th Eltham Wine Show last month. In fact, Danny proved to have the golden touch in scoring major awards including Best Grape Winemaker and the Jo Ilian Trophy for his Shiraz/Cabernet, but he also won an award for the Best Cabernet Sauv Franc previous vintage. The tastings on the day included more than 400 entries made up of grape, fruit, vegetable and herb concoctions. For more visit www.amateurwine.org.au



A touch of Thailand in Warrandyte

review

By **MICHELLE PINI**

ALREADY a Warrandyte institution, it's hard to believe Warrandyte's Vanilla Orchid has only been open three and a half years. Following in the footsteps of long-established sister restaurant River Kwai, the eatery offers authentic, Eastern-region Thai cuisine with a few surprises such as Burmese-influenced dishes and French desserts with a Thai twist.

Owner Duncan Robertson describes the food as a blend of his technique and wife Julia's native Korat flavours. The emphasis is on fresh and authentic, with everything from sauces to Roti and curry pastes made in house. Together with Julia, they have toured Thailand extensively and explored regional flavours for both restaurants.

Duncan's food industry pedigree is impressive. Having grown up in McLaren Vale with both parents involved in food and wine, he helped out in the family coffee shop and picked grapes at Wirra Wirra before training under internationally acclaimed chef, Chong Liew. Duncan has tried every facet of cooking from executive chef to food coordinator to teacher.

He has worked at Hilton on the Park, Cicciolina and the Salopian Inn, Melbourne Bakehouse, David Jones and Spotless Catering. He has



trained award-winning chefs at NMIT and worked alongside celebrity chefs including Curtis Stone and Gordon Ramsey.

A Lalb Neur (Char-Grilled Beef Salad) decorated with fresh orchids is vividly coloured, aromatic and fiery, with dry-roasted spices and a good

hit of chili. The beef is smoky and tender within, and texture is provided from toasted rice and super-fresh oriental cabbage.

The Chho Chee Guong (King Prawn Curry) offers perfectly cooked, glossy prawns tossed with kaffir lime and Thai basil, awash in a brightly

coloured, velvety curry sauce - lively, smooth and perfectly balanced.

Great desserts and Thai cuisine do not usually appear in the same sentence but here Vanilla Orchid excels. An experienced pastry chef, Duncan's imaginative fusions of French desserts featuring Thai flavours provide a 'wow' factor. The Garfair Booraan Parfait is an explosive delight to the senses. Inspired by a regional Thai coffee beverage (a thick and sweet layered concoction of coffee and condensed milk), this dish is velvety smooth and satisfying with an invigorating, crispy topping of chocolate, coffee and satay dust.

The wine list doesn't offer a lot to write about, but luckily Vanilla Orchid is BYO as well as licensed and corkage is only \$6.

With award-winning "mother-ship restaurant" River Kwai a continuing success, Duncan says he and Julia opened Vanilla Orchid with the objective of "offering consistent, good food in Warrandyte, but we also wanted to give something back" - profits from the restaurant go to charitable causes in Julia's hometown community in Thailand.

According to Duncan, staff at both restaurants keep them "running like clockwork". He explains, "We have fantastic, mainly local staff and most of them have been with us since we opened."

Vanilla Orchid is open 5.30pm until 10pm Tues-Sat and 11am until 10pm Sun. Visit www.vanillaorchid.com.au

Romance was in the air in Cairns three years ago when Hayley Farrugia, a familiar face at our local supermarket, met the love of her life Diego Menegalli. Three years later the couple took the plunge and spent three months living in Sardinia, Italy, where Diego grew up. It was a heavenly experience, as Hayley tells the Diary ...

DIEGO and I were lucky enough earlier this year to spend three months with his family and friends in Sardinia, Italy, who he hadn't seen in almost four years.

I had never travelled to Europe and, to be honest, had never heard of Sardinia. We set off at the end of May and had a wonderful flight with Emirates, flying Melbourne to Singapore to Dubai to Rome to Olbia. (I'm never doing three stop-overs again, however!)

The second we walked through the doors at the airport we were greeted by Diego's mother, Elisabeth, stepfather, Aldo, grandmother, Selma, and three of his closest friends, Mario, Alessandro and Regina.

Having never met them, and almost never spoken to them due to the language barrier, there I was crying my eyes out in the middle of Olbia Airport. I felt so overwhelmed to finally meet the family behind the boy I'd been with for three years ... maybe it was also a little to do with the fact I hadn't slept in over 50 hours.

It's difficult to describe Sardinia: it's unlike anything I had ever seen. The landscape is full of rocky mountains and gorgeous old concrete houses that seemingly blend into hills.

The sea was phenomenal with the most inviting water imaginable, and it quickly became obvious why it was known as the Emerald Coast (Costa Smeralda).

Diego worked almost every afternoon with Aldo and his step-brother Emanuele at their Jetty in Cannigione, assisting tourists who had brought their own boats to the island.

I was lucky enough to have Aldo's electric blue 50cc Piaggio for the entire three months we were in Sardinia.

Every day I packed a towel, goggles, fins and walking shoes, and set off to explore new beaches or archaeology sites throughout the north east of the island, such as the Giant's Tomb (Tomba dei Giganti) that is dated back to 1900BC - certainly a vastly different sense of history to our own Geraghty's mine in Warrandyte (1856).

We stayed with Elisabeth and Aldo on their 14-hectare property just out of Arzachena. The house, built by them, was beautiful and was what I imagined a house in Tuscany would look like: a won-



derful burnt orange colour with boston ivy growing over the walls.

I know there are stories about how Italian families like living close to each other and that really is no joke. Diego's grandparents had their house on the same property as Elisabeth and Aldo and there was also Diego's house, which after three years was a bit run down for us to be staying in.

In the mornings we would take Aldo's boat out and explore the islands of La Maddalena where we walked through the ruins of WWI and WWII that included writings on the walls from Mussolini himself. Spargi had some of the most beautiful beaches and just 45 minutes later we were in Corsica, in the town of Bonifacio, the most amazing French Island that was built on cliff faces about 70m above the ocean.

Though I won't go into the region's food, the fact that I came back 8kg heavier should tell you how brilliant it was. I'm still having withdrawals from the fresh seafood we were eating on almost a daily basis.

After our time in Sardinia, we spent one day travelling around Rome with Diego's mum, but to be honest, I think I experienced more history and more culture living on this small island where there weren't as many tourists.

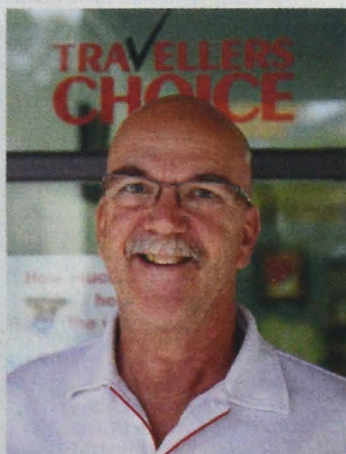
Diego's grandparents, Selma and Cesare, and his mum stole my heart. It was difficult to watch him walk away from the family he loves so dearly.

Our plan now is to return every year for at least one month.



Diary goes global

The Diary has been on the move yet again, this time seen in the picturesque Banff Fairmont when a Scenic Tours team of Aussies flew the flag for us. Don't forget to send in your 'Diary goes global' photograph for a chance to win a free weekend winter escape in a cabin at Crystal Brook Tourist Park.



Travel tips from a bloke in the know...

So who do you go to when looking for some last minute holiday ideas? The local travel agent, of course, and Warrandyte Travel and Cruise head honcho Paul van Loon was happy to share with *Diary* readers three summer holiday suggestions.

Holiday No.1: Ski in Canada
This one's a beauty if you're looking for a White Christmas. Starting from \$905 per person it includes seven nights twin share in a premium room at Banff Aspen Lodge, daily continental brekky, 7-day tri-area lift pass and is valid at Sunshine, Mt Norquay and Lake Louise.

Holiday No.2: South Pacific Cruise
OK, so we're stepping it up a notch, but for an all inclusive 16 days/15 nights

cruise from \$2,295 it's a great chance to cruise into the new year aboard the Rhapsody of the Seas from Sydney. Includes all meals and entertainment, onboard port charges, gratuities and government fees. It's a fantastic experience.

Holiday No.3: Nearby weekend escape
From \$306 per night for a minimum two night stay (would you want any less?) try this great two-bedroom stay and special at Mantra Lorne. A great option for families, this room style consists of interconnecting one bedroom apartment and resort room. Fully equipped modern kitchen and most have a spa bath.

For more info visit Paul at 2 Webb St or phone 9844 2477.

LOOKING FOR A GREAT ESCAPE CLOSE TO HOME?



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Ella gets her groove on

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

FEW 24-year-olds can say they have toured with some of Australia's big names in music such as Paul Kelly and Renee Geyer.

But that's exactly what rising star Ella Thompson has done. If her history is anything to go by, then we're bound to hear more of her on the radio.

Ella moved from New South Wales to Warrandyte with her family when she was four years old and spent the rest of her childhood and teenage years here.

She started playing piano when she was about five and, unlike most kids growing up today, she was listening to and inspired by the great Jazz and blues musicians such as Etta James, Muddy Waters and Nina Simone.

At 12, Ella already had her first proper singing gig and attended the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School in Warranwood where she further developed her talent.

When she was 16 and studying at the Victorian College of the Arts, a big break came when she toured nationally with Renee Geyer and sister vocal duo Vika and Linda Bull for the 'Voice Tour'.

"I had always written bits and pieces throughout high school and I started off mainly singing blues and soul, but I was definitely influenced by Renee and what she had sung on the tour," Ella told the Diary.

"It wasn't until near the end of high school that I really started getting into the songwriting, production and composition side of things."

Ella joined popular Melbourne funk and soul band The Bamboos as a vocalist about two years ago. The band recently kicked off their national Fever in the Road tour around Australia.

On top of playing at the Meredith Music Festival in Victoria, which runs over the weekend of December 13-15, the Bamboos are also heading overseas next year to play in Japan, Europe and the west coast of America.

Ella has her own music studio in Fitzroy and since releasing her solo EP Elysium in May, she is working with producer John Castle on her new solo album, due for release mid-2014.

"Playing Meredith has always been a big dream because it's one of the



'unspoiled' festivals—it's all about the music there," Ella says. "My goal once the album comes out is to be able to tour overseas and also play all these festivals that I've played with other bands but do it with my own thing."

The highlights of her career so far include playing with Tim Rogers, vocalist and guitarist from Australian alternative rock band You Am I.

... I get to play these massive festivals which I wouldn't be able to do right now on my own.

"It was really great performing with him and we've been able to play some pretty awesome shows around the country to big audiences because of it," Ella says.

"We played WOMAD in Adelaide where there were thousands of people. It even feels really good when we are at our own shows and we have at least a thousand people who have come to see us."

The promising young artist says she's also gaining invaluable insight into the publishing and publicity side of the music business as a finalist in the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award,

where three professionals in the industry are mentoring her.

"My mentors have been great and really reassuring that if you keep at it then people will notice you. Also, these days as an artist you have to be aware of the business side of things and marketing and all that stuff and it's really helping me with how to get to the next stage and how to put your music out into the world."

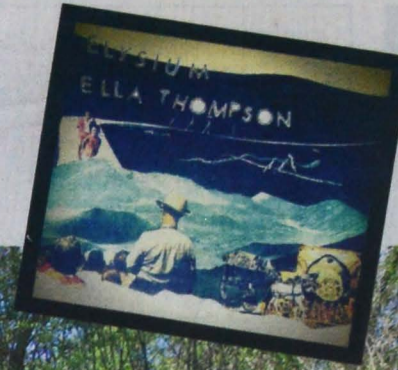
Ella's even done a bit of mentoring of her own while studying, having given singing lessons to Angie McMahon, the 19-year-old who just won the Telstra Road to Discovery Music Awards. As a result she will perform as the opening act for Bon Jovi's 'Because I Can' Australia tour this month.

Although she's living in Fitzroy these days and heading overseas on tours, Ella still visits Warrandyte every week. Her mum, Jane Annois, still lives in the area and is known around town for her artistic talents, especially in pottery.

As for advice for other younger up-and-coming musicians in Warrandyte, Ella says the most important things are to write your own music to help develop your own sound and not to listen to false expectations.

"It takes a lot longer than you think but then again it never turns out exactly how you expected," she says. "I mean, I really love playing with The Bamboos and I just went that way. It meant I got to jump a few steps because they were already more established and I get to play these massive festivals which I wouldn't be able to do right now on my own."

Visit ellathompsonmusic.tumblr.com



Local kids are rockin' the house

A PACKED house was entertained last month by more than 100 rocking primary-aged students who took part in the third annual Wonnies Battle of the Bands event at Anderson's Creek Primary School.

There were six schools represented including Anderson's Creek, Croydon Hills, Donvale, Eastwood, Kalinda and Vermont primary schools.

Each band performed two contrasting pieces for the 400+ audience. The music that we heard was of rock, r n b and contemporary style music that would only be heard on the radio today. A real crowd pleaser.

Wonnies director Scott van Gestel said "each band performed incredibly

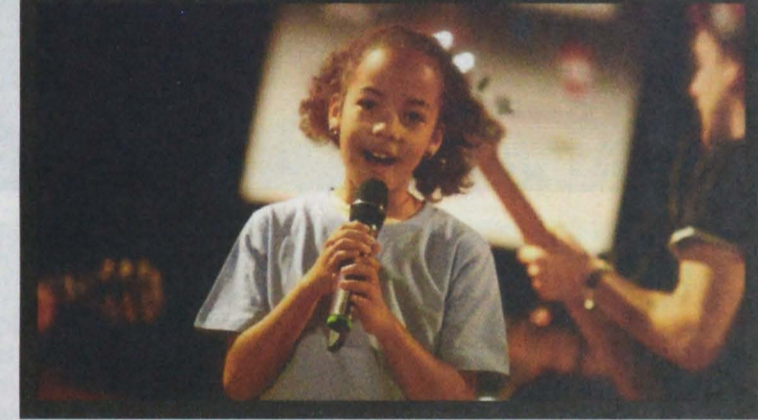
well, each performing two contrasting pieces for the 400-strong crowd."

But in the end, there could only be one winner. The champions for 2013 were Vermont Primary School, although it was an extremely closely fought battle.

Scott told the Diary the event will be held on the last Sunday of November each year. An event he expects to keep growing.

Wonnies offer instrumental music lessons throughout the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

For more information contact Scott at scott@wonnies.com.au or 9812 2568 or visit www.wonnies.com.au



The 39 Steps... in the right direction

Pictures: GARETH DICKSON



HE says ... WOW. And wow, again. Opening night of The 39 Steps was fantastic.

There were only five actors playing various roles with multiple accents. The minimal sets complemented the clever nonsense being created by the excellent actors.

While travelling on a train (being boxes on the stage), the actors managed to create the movement of chugging along while trying to move around and past each other. Anyone who has had to walk along the passage of a moving train would be able to relate to this – it was just brilliant.

There was changing of hats, the changing of costumes, even sex changes occurring right before our very eyes and all in a matter of seconds – and with such effect. And with costume changes often came a change of accent, from frightfully camp English to frighteningly German German. Not to mention the Scottish accent so amazingly executed by a man playing a woman, and a woman playing a man.

All the actors were wonderful. Michael Fenimore Cocks, making his first Warrandyte appearance, played a middle class Englishman (as only someone with a name like his could). Felicity Emselle played two very different women: a saucy German sophisticate and a frightfully proper Englishwoman. Deborah Silva portrayed many characters, all small parts, but very convincing in their transformations. Rehearsals

AT THE THEATRE



WITH HOGGY AND BB

must have been both exhausting and hilarious.

However, the show-stealers were real life couple, Simone Kiefer and David Tynan, and the numerous characters they portrayed. Hilarious. You couldn't wait for them to come back on stage as we wondered who, or what, they would return as.

The Kiefer/Tynan household must have been a very interesting place while rehearsing this production. Neither of them would know who was going to walk in the door each night, or what nationality they would be. Hopefully, though, they never forgot who they really were – no doubt it would be quite off-putting if Simone were to jump into bed with one of her moustaches on!

Acting aside, the directing was incredible. The conciseness and professionalism of Adrian Rice, mixed with the distinctive humour of Alan Cornell, was superb, while all the

hard work backstage, front of house, lighting and sound was marvellous.

They say things can only get better, but with this production it is hard to imagine. Amateur? I don't think so. Can't wait for the next show. Well done, everyone.

HE says ... THIS play is a comic melodrama of the 1935 Hitchcock film based on the original John Buchan novel.

Richard Hannay, a James Bond type character, is brilliantly performed by Michael Fenimore Cocks, around whom revolve a myriad of whacky characters played by the other four actors. That formula of an outsider supported by the local company works well here, as it has in the past.

Enter Annabella Schmidt, a sultry German-accented counter-spy portrayed wonderfully by Felicity Emselle. Annoyingly, Hannay seems to have no sex drive. The first of the many clever visual gags involving a blind, two spies and a lamp post, keep us rocking with mirth.

The train scene showcased the versatile talents of Kiefer and Tynan playing multiple parts with quick changes of hats and accents. The crofter's house scene with young wife Margaret (Deborah Silva) introduced us to broad Scottish accents. Arch-villain Professor Jordan was cleverly portrayed by David Tynan in true Frank Thring manner, and we loved the synchronisation of the



BRIONY BOTTARELLI & DAVID HOGG

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Great ride, Warrandyte High



WARRANDYTE High School had 36 students participating in the 2013 Great Victorian Bike Ride with the school's contingent of cyclists being overseen by three Warrandyte High staff members, Dr Stephen Parkin (principal) and teachers Ante Sunjo and Clare Rayner, along with six parents as support crew.

The ride started in South Australia on a wet day last month at Mount Gambier with a 42km ride to Nelson on the Glenelg River just inside the Victorian border.

On Day 2, the weather was no better while riders negotiated both the hills through pine and eucalypt plantations along with the driving wind and rain coming off Discovery Bay during the 74km stretch to Portland.

Day 3 proved an easier ride from

Portland through relatively flat country via Tyrendarra and Besiebelle when the sun finally came out and the students completed the 95km to Port Fairy.

The longest sector occurred on Day 4 when the intrepid red liveried Team Warrandyte High attempted the 107km diverse terrain to Port Campbell on the Great Ocean Road via Koroit (Tower Hill) and Warnambool then onto the Shipwreck Coast via Peterborough.

Finally, a rest day on the Wednesday at Port Campbell and the Twelve Apostles allowed respite for weary riders and aching muscles before attempting the 81km horror stretch on Day 7 through the Otways' lush countryside through Laver's Hill and Gellibrand to Birregurra.

Day 8 saw the riders heading back to the coast for an 82km ride to Torquay before the final run to Geelong on the Sunday to complete the total distance of 610km.

The military organisation of the event, the plentiful meals and the great reception by the local townspeople clearly made up for some of the appalling weather conditions that all competitors had to endure.

As with all the previous Great Victorian Bike rides the Warrandyte High School has competed in (sometimes with almost 50 students), it is always a great experience to end the year both with the camaraderie of the team and backup crew plus the challenge of the nine day event which this year celebrated its 30th anniversary with over 5200 cyclists competing,

according to principal Dr Parkin.

The students who participated in this year's event were: Keagan Alfond, Jeremy Alfond, Declan Barton, Harrison Bebbington, Kyle Bennetto, Adam Chellow, Jarrad Cook, Jakeb Cullen-Hall, Trevor Edwards, Hamish Ensor, Liam Foster, Shamus Geraghty, Amanda Griffiths, Declan Hepburn, Darcy Hunt, Coco Hunt, Joshua Kennedy, Caitlin Khaw, Maverick Knight, Daniel Larner, Joseph Livesey, Soren Maryasin, Damon Moorfoot, Harry Morley, Helena North, Lachlan Poznanski, Ben Poznanski, Jackson Price, James Puls-Welsh, Ryan Seini, Dale Smith, Erin Theodore, Robert Wainwright, Jaydan Weeks, Tristan West and Sophie Maudsley.

Words and images courtesy of Dr Parkin and WHS.



Yarra Warra fundraiser

By MITCHELL HALL

TEN years ago the Yarra Warra Pre-school was the target of a senseless arson attack, leaving the staff and enrolled families devastated.

Every year since, the Yarra Warra kinder has held a fundraiser dubbed 'The Hot October Night', in reference to the night the kinder was burnt down.

This year the children of Yarra Warra Pre-school have again worked together in making several canvases that they believe best represent Warrandyte and our community. The children made four in total, one by each group: the two three-year-old groups and the two four-year-old groups. It took about eight weeks to complete the canvases.

The artworks were put up for auction including other items for the silent auctions.

"The art auction was incredibly successful," said Simone Spence, president of the kinder.

"With the support of parents, we made a significant profit thanks to the children's artworks, the silent auctions and the raffle.

"The evening raised a whopping \$6700. The paintings themselves went on average for more than \$500 each."

All proceeds raised go towards the maintenance of the pre-school.

Arts and science – it's all in year's work at WPS



WARRANDYTE Primary School students put their creativity on show recently, displaying artworks in the art show early last month as well as one writing piece.

The writing piece was based on each student's favourite memory of Warrandyte Primary School.

The evening was opened by writing guru, Lisa Keskinen, who has been working closely with the schoolchildren for two years.

Throughout the evening students shared their writing as part of "Authors Chair Share Time". It was a great way to showcase the impressive writing the students have been doing all year, as well as demonstrating parts of the writing program that happen on a daily basis at the local school.

This year's festival was particularly special as WPS is celebrating

150 years. Students were inspired to write about their favourite memories by reading written pieces, from past students, that were found in the school's archives.

Meanwhile, as part of the Science Specialist Program at Warrandyte Primary, students participated in a Cosmetic Science Day run by science teacher, Jenny McDonnell.

Students had the opportunity to make lip balm, bath bombs, deodorant, soap, bath milk and shampoo. Teachers told the *Diary* it was a great opportunity for students to understand that science is part of their daily lives through products that we use every day.

Grade 5 students paired up with students from the younger grades to support them through each of the activities.



ACPS kids remember and raise funds for less fortunate



ON a lovely Spring day last month, Anderson's Creek Primary School held a ceremony outdoors by the flagpole for Remembrance Day on November 11.

"We had a small group of parents attend for the morning tea at 8.15am with a larger group of parents and grandparents attending at 10.45am," ACPS principal Trevor Gibbs said.

Warrandyte's last surviving digger Ben Jones and Marjory Lapworth were special guests on the day (pictured left).

Ben, who served in World War II but who is also well known in town for selling poppies and Anzac Day badges for almost 25 years, said Remembrance Day means a lot to him and he was proud to be a guest of ACPS.

"The students were very well behaved and very respectful," he said.



The service was followed by a morning tea served for visitors in the Performing Arts Theatre foyer.

"Following a very moving service and the amount of interest shown, we will be inviting uniformed officers from the armed services to be part of this ceremony in 2014," Mr Gibbs said.

In other ACPS news, the junior school council held a fundraising pyjama day, or "Onesie Day", to help assist with a charity called Orph Fund.

"Orph Fund aids poor nations in Asia and Africa to implement and deliver educational programs,"

according to junior school council co-ordinator Maja Rizzotto.

"Part of their programs include helping develop new schools, teacher training programs, and generally improved educational standards in those nations.

"We did really well and raised \$480."



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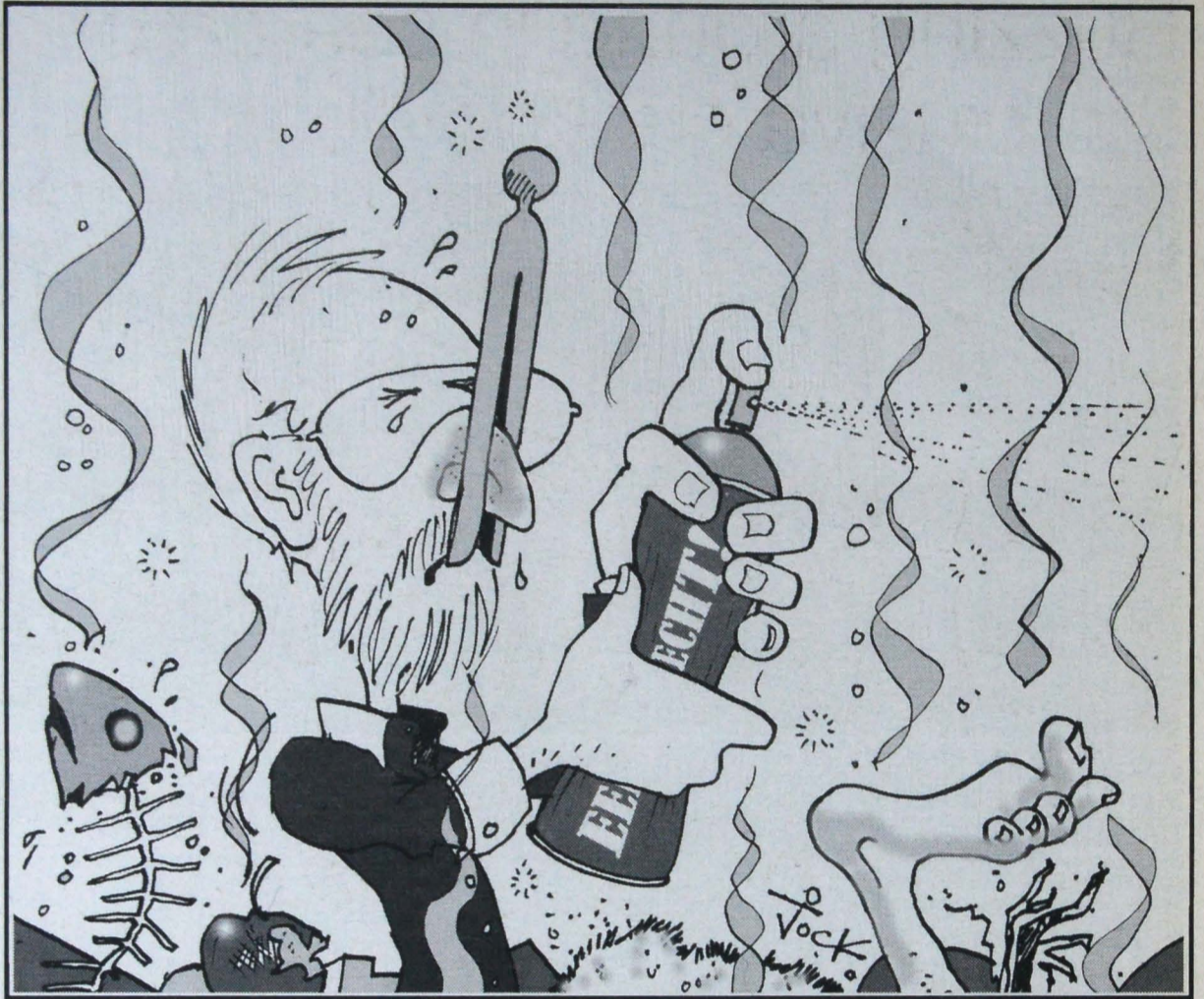
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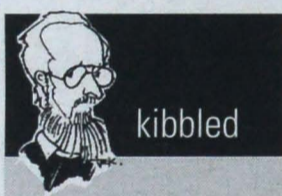


Stinks and pongs and farts and smells and one steaming disaster

WE, as humans, seem to be programmed from birth to react to certain smells. Or to put it another way, it seems, from birth, that we immediately know which smells are pleasant and which smells stink. Even the term "stink" has sub sets.

I remember when Boy Wonder was a mid-adolescent. His bedroom continuously stank. It was a mixture of unwashed jock strap, rancid honey and BO that had defeated the testers at Rexona. Now, although it was an offensive stink, it was not a panic or instant vomiting type of stink. Instead it was a "for heaven's sake will you change your socks and shower more often!" type of odour. He complained bitterly that he couldn't do anything about it and it was to our eternal mortification that we learnt that the poor lad had a weeping, diseased appendix and the toxins were, in part, secreted through his skin pores. Once he'd had the operation, his bedroom reverted to an acceptable weekly-rather-than-daily rant level state.

Another type of smell is also human and is the "don't come too close and definitely wash your hands after touching me" type of stink. These stinks are the in-built health warning signs. Smelly farts are the precursors; advance warnings that, soon, a good book, an exhaust fan and privacy will be required. Babies are less concerned about social niceties and indicate, by the violence of their odour, which



kibbled

"As I entered the kitchen I noticed the smell was even more acrid and Herself was hunched over the sink 'doing something'..."

foods they would rather not have in the future.

And then there is the "DANGER!" type of stink, usually associated with fire of some sort. Smoking brake drums, a burnt out electrical motor, plastic in a fireplace and burning treated pine all indicate without much need of explanation that danger is at hand. Ironically, wood smoke from a camp fire is relaxing and comforting whereas if the same smoke smell comes in a large mass over the horizon, it's "bells and whistles" time.

Which is why I was anxious when I became aware of the pong of burnt wood coming from our kitchen. We don't

have an AGA, the oven is electric and the cook top uses gas. As I entered the kitchen I noticed the smell was even more acrid and Herself was hunched over the sink "doing something". After some discreet wife-questioning, I discovered we had learnt something interesting about the newly purchased Chinese bamboo steamer; it doesn't enjoy the water source beneath it boiling dry.

The steamer perfectly fitted the frying pan so it seemed sensible to use it as the water source. This would have been without trouble had either Herself or I been around the kitchen during the steaming process. Unfortunately, I was outside attending to the needs of the estate and Herself was occupied in the East Wing doing five or six things at the same time, a skill, evidently, women have a gene for.

By the time help reached the bamboo steamer it was a nano second away from bursting into flames. Underneath was charred black as were some of the sides. The chicken that was supposed to be steaming to succulence and only manageable in a steamer, was looking like used hockey pucks. But what was almost worse was the resultant stink. By comparison, Boy Wonder's bedroom, at its worst, was fragrant. And to make matters worse, the stink seemed to attach itself to every surface, crevice and fabric.

If you Google 'How to get rid of a smoke smell in a room', it's a bit of a worry. Evidently, most of the stinks I mentioned

earlier in the article are able to be neutralised with deodorant spray et al but smoke smells are 'particulate', which means they are actual little bits of burnt stuff that stick around ponging until they get washed off or out of the wall paint, curtains, furniture upholstery, clothing, floor and carpets.

After reading the advice on Google, I had a reasoned and calm discussion with Herself about the fact that I didn't want to repaint the interior of the house, change all the furniture, carpets, curtains and clothing and the only possible solution was that we would have to sell the house, all because she couldn't manage six things at once. Things went quiet for a while after that.

You'll be reassured to know that we have not shifted house. Instead, I did what any male would do under the circumstances. I sprayed deodorisers until the house smelt like an artificial flower section of a department store. I lit enough perfumed candles to start a shrine and the doors were left open, allowing Antarctic gusts through the house. I also succumbed to washing the kitchen walls with the recommended solution.

For a week after Armageddon I went around the house sniffing and grumbling. Fortunately, after about 10 days, we were back to normal.

So, be careful when using a bamboo steamer. Read the instructions.

I wish we had!
ROGER KIBELL

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Buzzing around in search of the elusive cuckoo bees

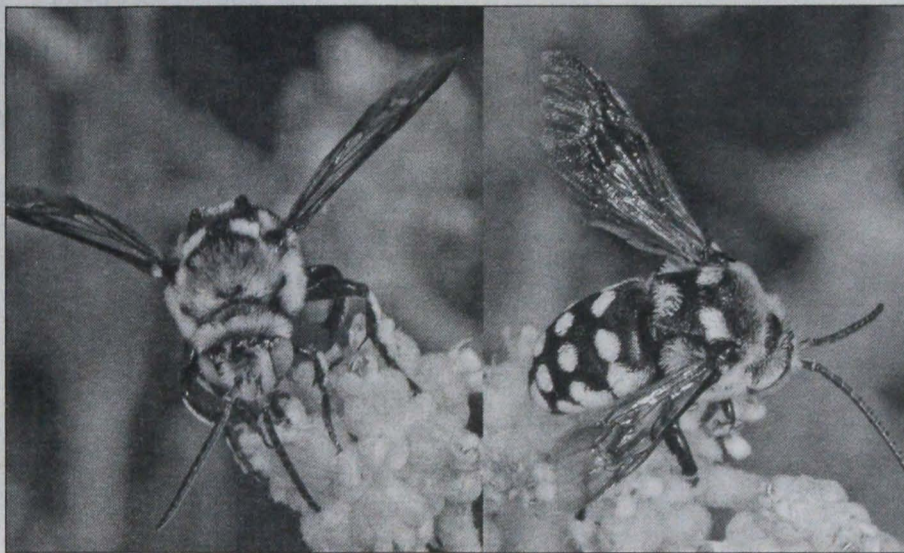
nature
By LINDA ROGAN

HOT? It was nearly unbearable, and dry in early November in Central Australia – consumed water seemed to escape through my skin without leaving a trace of moisture.

Yet five keen nature photographers and one essential supportive spouse (mine) emerged from our dusty vehicles wherever the late spring wildflowers looked promising for insects. A haze of hoverflies and flower wasps hung over shrubs as we approached. The native bees we sought were a bit more elusive but present in numbers and varieties that enticed us out again and again and finally yielded the group many photos of at least 35 species. Not a bad 12-day effort.

I received a lovely letter from a retired gentleman in response to my recent story about the Dawson's Burrowing Bees. I am reminded that for most Australians, our nearly 2000 native bee species fly under the radar. Indeed they did for me until 2008. A common mistake is to assume that the feral honeybees, often taking up residence in tree hollows, are "native bees". This has stimulated me to write more about our beautiful bees as I observe them.

The cuckoo bee in the photograph is intriguing. Shiny black with furry white spots and delicately veined wings tinged with brown, I find it beautiful. I have photographed it in Western, South and central Australia but it



Two views of the Waroona Cuckoo Bee near Alice Springs on blooming *Dicrastylis beveridgei* (no known common name).

can be found in Victoria as well.

This is the native Waroona Cuckoo Bee, apparently first noted from a small town in WA. I've heard it called the domino bee, but there is more than one species that could be given that name. The critical part of the name is "cuckoo" as this is one of a few bees in Australia that steal the food supply and pinch the brood cell of other species of bees; in this case a similar sized, long-tongued bee from the Blue Banded group.

The term for this life style is cleptoparasitism. These cuckoo bees hang about flowering shrubs watching for the female Blue Banded Bee (BBB) collecting pollen and nectar for brood cells. Cuckoo follows BBB home, in this case a hole in the ground, and when the BBB leaves her nest, the cuckoo enters the burrow and

lays an egg on the food stored. When hatched, the larva of the cuckoo may kill the host larva; sometimes they only steal the food and both bees emerge, in which case the BBB is quarter-sized. The numbers of the host bees exceed the numbers of the cuckoo so both species continue to survive.

It was a warm November day when we returned home. I was greeted by a very special bee-related surprise. When I first stepped out into my semi-indigenous garden, I noticed a heavily blooming Borgan sprinkled with tiny beetles and surrounded by hover flies.

While walking around the bush, contemplating which insects to photograph, I noticed a few twigs that appeared thick, black and with something shiny. This was a real attention-grabber for me as I realised these were not only

insects but small native bees. I lost count around 75. About 8mm, these were black with reddish reflections on the wings and long antennae curving outward at the tips. Closer examination also revealed 4mm bees with long yellow antennae and yellow masks, roosting as well; definitely male masked bees.

I was able to get good enough photos for the species to be confirmed on the new website BowerBird. After travelling all the way to Alice Springs in late spring heat, two new species of bees just out my back door was a special treat. A treat that was short lived as markedly cooler weather hit and the bee numbers dwindled and were gone three days later.

Roosting male native bees are a story for another time.

Thanks to Pat Coupar for her Borgan article in November's *Diary*.

Stunned mullets in the lobster kennel

IT suddenly seemed like the olden days once more with the four of us reunited: Dad driving, Mum navigating and the kiddies giving cheek from the back.

Only we weren't cruising around Warrandyte; we were cruising around Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, looking for somewhere to park.

No.1 son had just stepped off a bumpy flight from Halifax and was an odd shade of green – clearly in need of fortification. It was well past midday and biting cold. A stiff 80kph breeze was recklessly sandblasting stone buildings, lifting skirts and creating flurries of autumn leaves, doing its best to scour the landscape of untethered objects, including people. And with considerable success.

Friday lunchtime, yet the streets were deserted. Most shops seemed to have closed for the season. We peered through blank windows into dim interiors. Some large drops of rain scudded past, gathered momentum, then a drenching wall of water obliterated the empty streetscape. The prospect of lunch was

looking bleak.

Fortunately one store in Victoria Row had remained open and it was cosy inside. Here, local knitters sold their best Aran jumpers, cloaks, scarves, hats, gloves and socks; two young women busily produced intricately patterned fabric on knitting machines clackety-clacking out the back. Hand-dyed skeins of all colours filled pigeon-holes along one wall. Knitting heaven!

The girl behind the counter obligingly pointed us in the direction of her favourite pub. And what a pub! The Hunters' Arms did a roaring trade in seriously good seafood chowder, and the hot home-baked molasses brown bread that accompanied it was pretty sensational, too. I'm going to get the hang of making that bread, if it's the last thing I do.

A few days later we had an even more memorable lunchtime experience. Now lobster rolls are Nova Scotia's staple food – you simply have to have one or you haven't been there. So when my beloved, who is rather partial to lobster in any guise, spotted a tourist trap that was not only

our place

By MARILYN MOORE

open but proclaimed "Lobster Rolls", we found ourselves pulling into the carpark next to a huge blue fibreglass lobster, only slightly busted, supposedly a replica of the legendary 197-pound monster caught off the coast here some decades ago.

We approached it curiously ... when suddenly from the main building erupted an oddly dressed person yelling, shouting and leaping and waving his arms about. "O-Y-Y-Y!! HA-L-L-O-O-O!!" He bounded across the carpark. What the ...? We sort of backed into the lobster kennel as, amidst a hail of renewed shouting, came the unexpected sound of artillery – EEEEE—C-R-R-R-A-C-K!!! God Almighty! He'd let off a whopping firecracker at us.

Like stunned mullets, we were quickly herded into his trash heap of a shop. Talking non-stop, he shoved assorted unsaleable items into our reluctant hands: bogan caps, lurid T-shirts, free rulers, hor-

rible pens, stickers, key rings ... every imaginable species of junk crowded the crumbling interior. The only edible thing in the shop was a bag of apples, one of which was pressed into our bemused son's hand. "Take this! And this!"

While I distracted the madman by purchasing a giant lobster fridge magnet, the rest of the family discreetly divested themselves of the paraphernalia they'd been loaded up with, although I'd have paid almost anything to get away from the place. Edging towards the door, I handed over some cash and we made a hurried escape, along with an apple, a handful of old postcards (circa 1960, showing off a faded cream-brick nurses' home at an unspecified hospital) and a couple of unwieldy placemats thrust on us in lieu of change for the fridge magnet.

Back in the safety of the car, we all burst out laughing. The choice of dining establishment would, henceforth, be left to the more discerning members of the family.

So enjoy your Christmas dinner, folks. You never know what fun and games might be around the corner!

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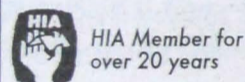
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By BRIONY BOTTARELLI

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.

LOCAL churches will be holding their Christmas services for 2013 as follows. **Anglican Church** – Christmas Eve family service at 5pm. Communion service at 11pm. Christmas Day service at 9.30am. Contact: 9844 2193. **Uniting Church** – Christmas Eve family service at 7.30pm. Communion Service at 11.30pm and Christmas Day service at 9am. Contact: 9844 0674. **Community Church** – Christmas Eve service at 7pm and Christmas Day service at 9am. Contact: 9844 4148. **Catholic Church** – Christmas Eve family service at 6pm in Park Orchards with a 9pm mass at Warrandyte. Christmas Day mass at 9am in Park Orchards. Contact: 9876 1509.

Carols

This year's Carols will be held on December 21 at 8pm at Stiggants Reserve. If weather is bad, they will be held at ACPs, parking available at football oval. Special guest artists will be Silvie Pladino and Raymond Khong accompanied by his wife May Gavin.

Grand gigs

Electric Intent, Friday December 13 and 20, 8.30pm till late. Live music will also be playing on Christmas Eve.

RSL gigs

Rust and guests, Friday December 13, 7.30pm till late. Put on your dancing shoes for the last music session of 2013. Drinks at bar prices, BYO food platter. RSL club rooms in Brackenbury Street. Contact: 9844 3567 (Open from 4pm daily). Entry: Band donation.

Thank you

Stephen Clendinnen and family, would like to thank the Warrandyte Community for books donated last month to the asylum seeker detention centre library at MITA Broomeadows. They were all very much appreciated.



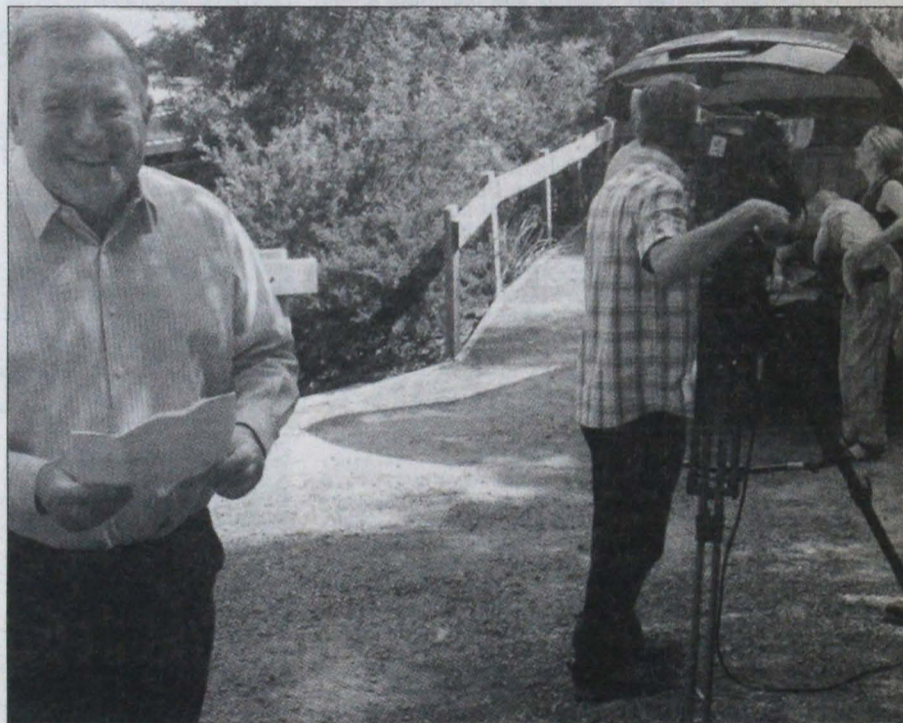
Festive spirit: Penny and Ed Munks check out the bargains at the Green Sunday market.

Green Sunday market

A special Christmas chance to find a great range of unique and quality hand made gifts. Fun atmosphere with a great variety of recycle and upcycle stalls. Food stalls, healthy smoothies, live music and jumping castle for kids. Win \$100 in a free Christmas

special raffle to be drawn at 12 noon, in music tent. Raffle tickets available at main entrance. Sunday December 22, 9am-2pm at Andersons Creek Primary School. For further details contact Sophy on 9876 3552 or 0409 417 369.

Nine gang pay us a visit



PETER Hitchener and the Nine News crew snuck into Warrandyte last month to film a bushfire safety message ahead of summer.

They spent part of the day at one of Warrandyte's reserves near the river, filming a brief video that is expected to air before the end of the year.

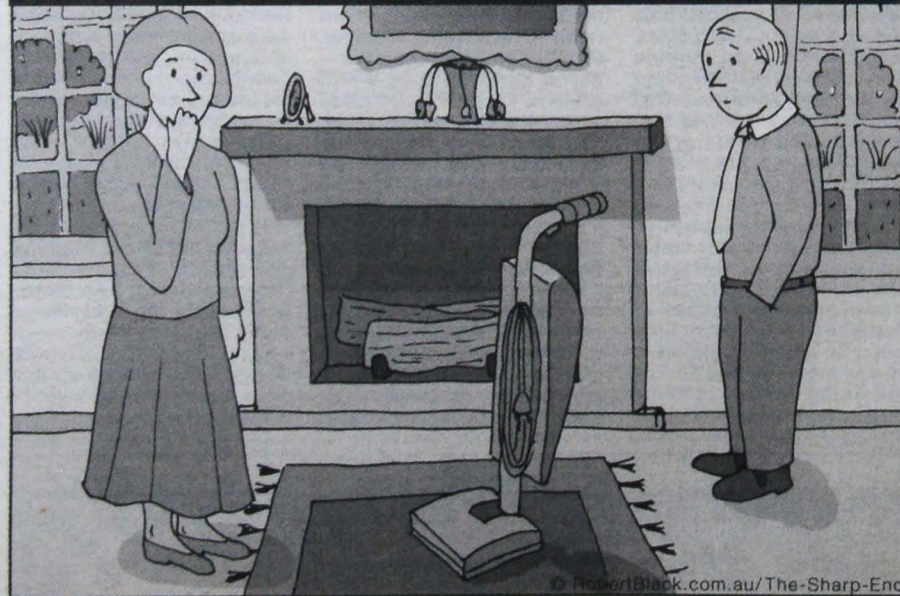
"We want to make sure people are careful and prepared for summer. It's really important that everybody spreads that message so we can avoid another tragedy like the one that occurred on Black Saturday," Peter told the *Diary*.

Unfortunately, the Nine team was forced into a few takes – they weren't expecting Yarra St to have an endless stream of noisy trucks and buses from the minute they started recording.

Peter, who is mentoring *Diary* reporter Brianna Piazza for the Warrandyte Youth Arts Award, said he loved Warrandyte for its beauty and is looking forward to his next visit.

THE SHARP END...

By ROBERT BLACK



The death of their cheerful cleaning lady left an unexpected vacuum in William and Camilla's life.

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Big turnout at the Village Green



By BRIONY BOTTARELLI

HUNDREDS of people turned out last month for Cliff Green's official community thank you in recognition of his contribution to the community and involvement in our wonderful newspaper.

And while it may have been Cliff's official farewell as editor of the *Warrandyte Diary*, as you would have seen on Page 5 he will continue to be a guest columnist from time to time.

Cliff said he thoroughly enjoyed himself and, along with a couple of celebratory red wines, he soaked up all the well-deserved accolades.

Member for Warrandyte Ryan Smith spoke of Cliff's fairness and even-handedness when reporting politically sensitive issues. Dick Davies spoke of Cliff's career in general, from schoolteacher to scriptwriter, and of course his 43 years of dedication to his beloved *Diary* that he founded back in 1970.

Scott Podmore, the *Diary's* new editor, expressed how touched and appreciative he was of being given the trust and opportunity to take on the editorship of this wonderful community paper moving into the future.

Alan Cornell dragged himself away from rehearsals of the spectacular production he directed, *The 39 Steps*, to sing one of his

clever and humorous compositions (apparently he wrote it on his way from the Mechanics Institute Hall to the Community Centre!)

Jeff Adair spoke of how pleased he was to be not only Cliff and Judy's next-door neighbour, but also their friend. Ian Abell from the Lions Club gave an emotional thank you to Cliff for his support of the Lions over many years.

Jock Macneish was the entertaining MC for the occasion and the walls were graced with his talented artistry, along with photographs and mock newspaper articles courtesy of the *Diary's* brilliant photographer Stephen Reynolds.

Local band Indigo Paw provided entertainment and members of the Rotary Club busied themselves sizzling sausages under the guidance of former police sergeant Keith Walker. These were served up with some yummy salads provided by Jan Tindale, Val Polley and Bev Hanson, who had previously arranged some of her native flora around the room.

Most importantly, Denise Farran kept the drinks flowing. Another of her art forms no doubt garnered from many years of keeping the WTC lubricated.

A very big thank you to all concerned on behalf of the *Warrandyte Diary* team.



Green machines: Wayne Rankin and Cliff Green (top left), Alan Cornell sings a clever ditty (above), Jock Macneish says some kind words (below) while the guest of honour took time out to say thank you. Pictures: Stephen Reynolds



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Warrandyte farewells a wonderful woman

Janet Fitzwater

(Jan 15, 1937 – Oct 31, 2013)

Janet Fitzwater's (nee Wimpole) love of the bush began in the 1940s during school holidays on her grandfather's farm at Bunyip.

So when we married in 1960, our decision to settle in Warrandyte seemed natural. The house we chose began life as a packing case for a Ford motor car in the 1920s, and by 1960 had become a comfortable five-room home, set on a hillside off Research Rd where Bill, the postman in his pith helmet, delivered the mail on horse-back.

Bell birds and the kookaburras laughing at their own jokes greeted

obituary

us each day.

In Warrandyte, Janet's passion for the natural world burgeoned. Her garden grew, veggies popped up, chooks clucked and laid, and Roderick, a boisterous Labrador, cavorted; and there was the Book Club. When Virginia arrived, the first of our four children, she was soon sitting in a cardboard box watching Janet dig and weed and plant. We added a few more rooms to the house, a short-lived pleasure

destroyed in the January 1962 bushfires.

Janet and I decided to stay, rent nearby and rebuild. Then Will was born. Jeremy and Fergus followed a few years later. Her four children are testimony to the love and care she put into their development and education, particularly in their formative years in Warrandyte.

Always an active community member, Janet played in the tennis group, helped at the Pony Club with Virginia's horse, York, even took to orienteering, inspired by Jeremy and Fergus. A Warrandyte Arts Association production of Alice in Wonderland saw Janet on

stage with Judy Irving and friends. She joined the campaign to protect Professors Hill when a large-scale sub-division was proposed. The community won out and their efforts succeeded ... so far.

Janet often recalled her Warrandyte years with great warmth and affection. Her sudden illness and death is mourned by her family and her many friends.

She will be remembered for her energy and interest in her community. Her spirit lives on in her four children on whom she devoted so much love and nurturing care.

Vale Janet.

Bill Fitzwater



All the comforts of home

By VAL POLLEY

IT'S that time of year again.

Christmas songs and tinsel in the stores, book sales and Father Christmas photos in the malls. It can all get pretty frenetic. Especially for those for whom Christmas = holidays = camping.

On top of all the Christmas preparations it means making sure the camping gear is still all usable, air beds blow up, gas stoves operate and the tent hasn't gone mouldy because it was packed away a bit damp.

It's a family tradition. Halfway through January our family packs up and heads off down the peninsula to our favoured camping place. It started back in the 1970s when a sister and I found ourselves with six young children under 10 years old. That was a time when the menfolk took their main holidays over Christmas and returned to work halfway through January, leaving some two to three weeks for mothers to entertain children before school and kinder started. It's well known that all kids like sand, water and sunshine, so there we were – two women, six children and basic camping gear, and we had a wonderful time.

Mind you, I wonder now what we're thinking. We had one car between us, my youngest was just three months old, the nearest centre was some 20km away and the road network was not brilliant.

However, the camp store supplied basic needs and those were the days when the ice man (no fridges, only Eskys), a butcher, a baker and even a greengrocer's van came to the site. Everyone learned to cope with fetching water, somewhat primitive shower and toilet facilities and the vagaries of the weather.

To phone home meant queuing at the pay phone near the store with lots of 20 cent pieces at the ready. However, it must have been good because sisters and brother and their families plus the parents joined in later years. The kids learnt to sail, to snorkel, to surf. The camping gear got better and better with some family members graduating to camper trailers or campervans. The



facilities improved, the road network advanced, shopping malls sprang up and deliveries to the site ceased.

Each year brings new changes but the tradition persists and some of those original children, their families (and us) will be there again this coming January.

In our earlier days, camping had all seemed a bit primitive. Our first Australian camping experience had been an Easter camp with borrowed gear at Porepunkah, near Bright. A long tedious traffic jam up the Hume Highway (single lane only up and over Pretty Sally hill) and then putting up a strange large flappy white auto tent in a raging thunderstorm at midnight under whispered instruction from friends. We loved the camping, though, despite uncomfortable camp stretchers and inadequate sleeping bags, and soon graduated to better equipment and a smart new French framed tent and took off to Queensland for a holiday - we were hooked.

No matter how primitive we thought our camping could be, it cannot compare to the challenges the early settlers and miners faced. When early pioneer Penelope Selby settled in a wooden hut with her husband and two young sons on their station on the Yarra River (close to modern

day Tills Drive) she found life could be hard, especially for women. Her letters to her family in England reveal some of the setbacks they faced. Her home would have been far less comfortable than our tent with its built in floor and fly screened bedroom so no mosquitoes.

Whereas our camp supplies came courtesy of local businesses, the Selbys had to grow their own vegetables and get milk and make butter from their small herd of cattle. For variety they shot and ate local animals such as kangaroo and possum. She complained of bird life being scarce on their run, which is hardly surprising as they shot and killed many of the species, especially the Bronzewing pigeon.

She found the hot weather tiring and it is hard for us with our lightweight clothing and styles to imagine how the early women coped on very hot days with their long hair and long skirts, often facing the heat of cooking on open fires. Penelope Selby wrote to her sisters during one hot spell in January 1841. *Would you like to know my dress just now, 4 o'clock pm, the thermometer 98 in the shade (last week one day it was 107). It consists of shoes, stockings, shift and cotton gown.* While her existing children flourished in the new coun-

try the family suffered numerous setbacks and eventually moved to Port Fairy in 1844.

When gold was discovered at Anderson's Creek in July 1851, there was an immediate rush of miners to the site. Getting to the diggings was reported as difficult, one road via Hodgson's Punt described as 'execrable' while the one across the new bridge at Richmond was thought bad at the beginning and end but fair in the middle section. Despite that, many made it to the diggings where rain and damp made conditions uncomfortable but within days there were many tents and rough bark dwellings along the creek.

Many miners did not even bring the basics essential for living in the bush or for finding gold but a woodcutter Mr Ginger opened a tent store and supplied tea, sugar and flour as well as stabling for horses. From all the reports at the time, life on this gold field was not easy and when more accessible gold was reported elsewhere, the early miners deserted the field. By 1855, however, there were once again tents along the creek valleys. The diggers with their families were reported to be tented in a beautiful valley, with the tents for the most part looking new and of a superior quality. The place

was said to have the air of a thriving village with a population of 1000 people with several tented stores servicing their needs. As the township later developed, some tents would probably have been modified into more permanent dwellings with a fireplace and chimney, slab walls and calico roof.

The diggings came with hazards, however, waterlogged shafts and holes, mullock heaps, equipment and of course the river must have presented mothers of the day with worries about their children's safety. Indeed on January 12, 1871, six-year-old Caroline Hastings drowned in the Yarra River after being sent by her miner father to fetch water.

Compared to those early pioneer women our camping lives are easy. Our tenure is brief, our supplies guaranteed. We have excellent gas stoves and lighting, mobile phones, comfortable bedding and adequate shelter. Our exposure to the extremes of the elements may be similar, cold and wet sometimes or extremely hot and dry at others. However, whereas we can always find warm fleeces or Goretex coats for the former and lightweight summer gear for the latter, our pioneer women and children were wearing long encompassing garments that would have become muddy, heavy and wet in bad weather and been stifling hot in a heatwave situation. We have had heavy rain rip a tent roof; winds blow away equipment, fire burn out nearby bush and shivered through unseasonal cold snaps. Yet if things became really bad we could always pack up and go home to enjoy some comfort unlike those early pioneers who had to face whatever was thrown at them.

Our pioneer forebears would no doubt think us mad to camp by choice but it's still a lovely way to get back in touch with the outdoors. So January will find us all once again under canvas (or rather under the high tech fabric that replaced it) enjoying the comforts of modern day camping, the sun, the sea and the sand. Happy camping to all like-minded readers and happy holidays to all.

Anticipating summer

Tired of grey wet-blanket days,
the sog, bog and bundle of it.
Sick of stodge, stews,
morning wrench from
warm cocoon.
We're even allowing ourselves
to whinge about the rain
(quietly to friends)
adding, of course we need it.

as we drape more wet washing
round the room.
So that first dozy day
when there's the kiss
of warm breeze
and you realise you're
padding about shoeless,
a surge of joy –
Summer's coming!

To feel sun-sting on bare skin –
long sleeves preferably wool.
Watch the green-spread of new life –
can't water – need to keep tank full.
Lamb chops on the barbie, smoky juice running –
horses screaming, das bottles exploding.
To drift in the hammock between two huge gums –
trees like blow torches tossed in the air.

KAREN THROSSELL



Tess's Top End mission is worth 1000 smiles

By RUTH BIRCH

TESS Keam has brought the creative expression of photography to indigenous children in the Top End and the young Warrandyte woman says it was only possible thanks to the generous support of the Warrandyte Uniting Church.

In the remote town of Aurukun, Cape York, 40 young people have relished the chance to show off their photographic skills through the 1 Camera, 1000 Smiles project, in which they were encouraged to express how they see their surrounds and document everyday life through the lens of a camera.

The program ran over the September school holidays and in that time each member was given a camera of their own to use as their tool to capture moments of family life, friendships, nature and their general surrounds.

The group was also lucky enough to participate in several photography classes run by professional photographer Ric Piscioneri. The sessions focused on using knowledge and skills learnt about photography such as light, composition and exposure to accurately document home life and environment from their viewpoint.

"There isn't much structured entertainment or recreation in Aurukun," Tess told the *Diary*.

"The kids here don't have the options of sports or music lessons like kids in larger towns or cities do, so when I heard about the 1 Camera 1000 Smiles program I thought it would be a fantastic opportunity to give the kids something to engage in on their holidays.

"Not many people in Aurukun (out of a population of 1200) have cameras themselves. Some have smart phones, but they are a small minority, so it's still a huge novelty for people to take or be in photos."

The results of the project were so successful that the Aurukun Wik



Tess and the Warrandyte Uniting Church were instrumental in getting the project off the ground, collecting and donating unused cameras and memory cards. When the program expanded and all the cameras were eagerly snapped up, the church generously donated another five brand new ones to the program.

Tess says she will encourage the participants to continue with their artistic expression by taking them on photography excursions and developing and printing their pictures for them to keep.

A book made up of carefully selected shots from each of the young contributors is underway, and once published it will be distributed to families, supporters and the local community.

1 Camera 1000 Smiles is a not for profit organisation that runs photography workshops and relies on donations to encourage creativity and expression in young people. To learn more, visit the website: <http://1camera1000smiles.com.au/>

To donate unused cameras, (don't forget the chargers), please drop them off at the Warrandyte Uniting Church during open hours.

and Kugu Arts Centre hosted an exhibition in which all of the work was displayed for viewing by the families of the participants and the local community.

Dev Lengjel, manager of Wik and Kugu, says photography is such a

great new media to introduce them to, as it is a wonderful way to show people not only how they see their surrounds, but also how they see themselves in their surrounds.

"There is a shift in cultural development in many indigenous commu-

nities and many of them are actually embracing this new media," Dev says. "Now it is so much easier, with the digital trend there is instant gratification. For kids especially, it has to be instant and with this program, it's a matter of, click click, ahh look!"

Festive spirit is alive and well

CHRISTMAS is well and truly in the air as the Warrandyte region lights up with colourful decorations and festive lights while many people swing into carolling mode as we count down the days to December 25.

Take a look around town and through various streets to see some impressive Christmas lights and decorations on several homes, trees and shopfronts, including Cocoa Moon Café, the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte Travel and Cruise, and Ruby Tuesday Jewellery where a singing challenge awaits those game enough to put their voice to the test and be in the running for a super prize.

There has also been a lot of talk about how the Warrandyte Bridge suddenly became adorned with Christmas lights "seemingly overnight", as one local explained, yet councils on both sides of the Yarra are mystified as to how the lighting spectacular has happened. A *Diary* source, who declined to be named, said last week: "It's clearly the work of the Warrandyte Night Ninjas."

But the biggest event on the festive season calendar is the combined churches of Warrandyte and Park Orchards hosting the Warrandyte Community Carols by Candlelight at Stiggants Reserve on Saturday, December 21, at 8pm.

The special guest artist this year is Silvie Paladino, who has established herself as one of our country's most versatile and talented entertainers performing throughout Australia.

Silvie is a regular featured artist at Carols by Candlelight at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, wowing audiences with her crystal clear vocals. She will be joined by our local tenor, Raymond Khong, who



will sing some popular jazz and classical Christmas pieces, accompanied by his wife May Gavin on the piano. Ray has sung with The Australian Opera and the Victorian State Opera, and has thrilled the crowds at the carols for the past few years with his powerful renditions of inspiring songs.

The community will also be entertained by the local gospel singers led by Cath Rutten, in a reprise performance of their outstanding gospel set in the acoustic lounge at the Warrandyte Festival. The Warrandyte Community Church Jazz Band will also perform.

Local choir, the Bellbird Singers, will lead the singing and are being accompanied by the 40-piece Eltham Concert Band. Kevin O'Mara and the Warrandyte Primary Bush

Band will open the program and will be joined by choirs from Kangaroo Ground and Anderson's Creek primary schools.

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

If the program is postponed due to bad weather, fortunately there is a contingency plan in place - Anderson's Creek Primary School Performing Arts Centre, Drysdale Rd, with parking at the football oval. Inquiries can be made through the Warrandyte Community Church on 9844 4148.

Warrandyte Carols by Candlelight

Stiggants Reserve, Yarra Street with Silvie Paladino

Saturday
21st December
7:30 pm

Warrandyte Community Church

57 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve
Tuesday 24th Dec 7:00 pm

Christmas Day
Wednesday 25th Dec 9:00am

Time to run, Warrandyte

Signing off for clubs

REGISTRATIONS are now open for Run Warrandyte, which returns to our streets on Sunday, February 2, when people of all ages take to the track.

Warrandyte Community Bank has again agreed to support the event which will raise funds for the Warrandyte Junior Football Club, Warrandyte Football Club, Warrandyte Netball Club and Warrandyte Cricket Club.

The event starts at Taroona Ave at 8am and organiser Rob Clark says it is "a great way to kick off the day in a social and healthy way, and all for a great cause".

The fun run has events for the whole family which include a challenging 12km run supported by Warran Glen Garden Centre and Cafe, an 8km run supported by AusCrane Hire Services, a 4km run/walk supported by Ruby Tuesday Jewellery, a 2.25km run/walk supported by Quinton's Supa IGA and the kids' Oval Dash.

Electronic timing will provide improved accuracy this year, faster posting of results which includes male and female listings, all thanks to the sponsorship of several local businesses.

"T-shirts can be purchased online as a part of your registration for less than the recommended retail price. These are strictly limited, so partici-



pants are advised to order early and collect with your race kit," Rob says. This year has seen the collaboration of Run Warrandyte and the Warrandyte Sports Group who are providing support including the use of their new website - www.warrandytesports.com.au. Check out the website for all the latest news on Run

Warrandyte, the progress of the new clubhouse, sports club links and other information about the WSG. "There are still some sponsorship packages available for Run Warrandyte," Rob says. "If you would like to become a sponsor or donate your time on the day as a volunteer we would love to hear from you. Email

us at runwarrandyte@gmail.com." The event will also provide a unique opportunity for families to become foundation supporters of the new clubrooms. WSG has a limited number of handmade tiles for purchase and they will form part of an impressive ceramic art wall in the entrance to the new clubrooms.

By MICHELLE PINI

MANNINGHAM council CEO Joe Carbone says there has not been any change to the controversial new policy which requires sporting clubs in "environmentally sensitive locations" to remove sponsorship advertising signs, except during matches.

The banner policy, passed by the previous council in August last year, requires local sporting clubs to erect and remove sponsorship signs every match day and does not allow signs to be displayed at other times.

According to a council media statement, the move aims to benefit "the many people who visit the reserve on a regular basis to enjoy the landscape uninterrupted". It will impact clubs in Husseys Lane, Domeney, Bulleen, Buck and Warrandyte Reserves.

Mullum Mullum ward councillor Paul McLeish is a strong supporter of the new council banner policy.

Impacted clubs have questioned this reasoning, however, explaining that since most people visit the reserve on weekends while sports are being played, the amenity of the area will be unchanged for the vast majority of visitors.

A spokesperson for the Warrandyte Football Club told the *Diary*: "We struggle for sponsorship in any form but the banners displayed around the oval are seen by sponsors as community recognition of the goodwill they show the club. If they are only to be displayed on match days, sponsors would see this as a significantly diminished return on their investment."

Deputy Mayor Sophy Galbally echoed these sentiments, saying that far from detracting from the amenity of the area, sponsorship signs served to strengthen community spirit by showcasing local business support for the community.

"It makes it difficult for local clubs to compete for sponsorship when other rural and city clubs don't have to comply with such restrictions," she said.

Member for Warrandyte Ryan Smith supports that view. "Sponsorship advertising is an important revenue component for all sporting clubs. This policy jeopardises support for local clubs," he said.

Affected clubs have also indicated the laborious nature of the policy will create an additional burden on already overworked volunteers. Warrandyte Tennis Club's Neil Sproat described the move as "impractical" and "just another imposition on the ever shrinking band of volunteers".

Despite a further council report intended to "give consideration to issues that have been raised by the community", council is persisting with the move.

"An audit of reserve signage has commenced and is identifying the signs that do not comply with the policy," Mr Carbone said, adding there would be a "consultative approach" with regard to the policy's implementation.

New stadium at Mullum Mullum

WARRANDYTE Basketball is looking to secure the rights to use basketball courts at a proposed highball facility which will be located at Mullum Mullum Reserve.

The stadium is still in the early stages of development and is set to feature five to seven courts along with 500 seats, which will be a handy addition to the rapidly growing basketball club that is in need of more space. Redeveloping Mullum Mullum Reserve has been one of the council's major focuses after acknowledging the demand for highball facilities. Manningham council plans to have the draft management plan completed by the middle of 2014. To help develop the management plan the council is asking the community to provide feedback.



Three flags for our girls

WARRANDYTE'S netballers took to grand final day last weekend with nine teams battling it out and three bringing home premierships in hot conditions at the Templestowe courts.

The Warrandyte Under 15/2 Cobras (below right), the Open B Warrandyte Tigers (top left) and the Open C Warrandyte Hawks (far left) all had magnificent victories.

Results: U13/2: Warrandyte Stingers 18 lost to Donvale Dingoes 19. U13/1: Warrandyte Wasps 19 lost to Donvale Dragonflies 31. U15/2: Warrandyte Cobras 23 def. East Doncaster Meteors 22. U15/1: Warrandyte Pythons 29 lost to Deep Creek Gems 30. U17/2: Warrandyte Leopards 9 lost to NYC Pumas 47. Open C: Warrandyte Hawks 58 def East Doncaster 8. Open B: Warrandyte Tigers 30 def Warrandyte Eagles 18. Open A: Warrandyte Falcons 18 lost to Deep Creek Diamonds 31.

"Well done to our coaches, players and team managers on a wonderful season," president Sue Rodwell said. "At this stage our selection/registration day will be held on Sunday, February 2."

Dynamic duo in the home straight

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

WARRANDYTE super duo Alan Murray and wife Janette have almost finished their year-long run for charity around Australia.

They have crossed over to Victoria from South Australia and have less than 30 marathons to complete before they break the world record for running the most consecutive marathons in a year.

This month, Alan and Janette will make their way towards Melbourne through Western Victoria before heading to Tasmania for the final leg of their journey.

They say they're looking forward to seeing Tasmania - but not as much as coming home to Warrandyte after a year away from home.

"Coming home is really exciting but when we think about it too much, it gets kind of emotional," Janette said.

Running through the Adelaide Hills has been one of their recent highlights, after running on mostly flat landscapes since hitting the Barkly region in the Northern Territory.

"It's actually one of the nicest runs we've had. It was so lovely to get hills again after running along flat land for so long.



"We really enjoyed it, we hadn't been there before and it's such a pretty area. Adelaide was fantastic too and we had a great welcome there."

In the final stages of their run, they're hoping to ramp up donations for the four charity organisations they've been raising money for this year: the Gawler Foundation, Kids Under Cover, An-

imals Australia and the Australian Paralympic Committee.

They're also asking people to join them for their record-breaking run from Federation Square to Warrandyte on New Year's Day.

People are welcome to run alongside them from Studley Park and Westerfolds Park as they make their way along the Yarra Trail to Stiggants Reserve.

Alan and Janette are expecting to arrive there around 3pm or 4pm in the afternoon and everybody in Warrandyte is welcome to come along with some fruit to celebrate their achievement.

More details about the event and a friendly reminder will be on the *Diary's* Facebook page later this month: www.facebook.com/warrandytediary

Bloods top of the table

By RYAN HOIBERG

DESPITE dropping a game early in the season, Warrandyte is top of the table in the Bill Wilkins Cup thanks to some dominating outright results in Round 2 and 3.

Those outright victories have ensured Warrandyte is above another undefeated team, relying on its strong batting order to constantly provide tough competition for the opposition, and a brutal bowling attack to make it impossible to chase down.

Warrandyte currently has the highest runs scored in the competition, with Ayrton Dehmel (average of 85), Chris Barry (47), Adam White (44) and Alex McIntosh (41) all with impressive averages. All players have missed only one match this season, and with two of them recently returning to the club it highlights a distinct difference in the prospects for season 2013/14 compared with last year for Warrandyte Cricket Club.

Most recently, Warrandyte hosted East Ringwood at the Warrandyte Cricket Ground, and when the home team posted 383 on the first day it became the first time in history that a team had six batsmen score 40 or more. It was the fourth highest First

XI score in history, and the fourth best score ever at the ground.

It is rare that a team will make 280 on the Warrandyte oval and walk off to realise they have lost by more than 100 runs, but this was the case for East. Admittedly, the boys should have done more to snuff out any hope for East Ringwood and shut the match down, but the total was enough to ensure there would be no real issues.

The week before, McIntosh and Holland were fearsome with their brutal pace, rattling Croydon Ranges at home. Warrandyte bowled out Croydon early on Day 1, and had locked away the points before the close of play. With a strategic declaration, Warrandyte did the job again on Day 2, with McIntosh bowling some serious heat to rattle the normally strong Croydon line-up.

Warrandyte's Second XI also tops the ladder in the A Grade competition, which is a great result for the club. This season it is imperative that the Second XI returns to a higher grade to continue to support the growth of the club's talent.

Again equal on points with the second team, Warrandyte's miserly bowlers have the best record of keeping opposition batting line-ups

to the least among of runs.

Matched by strong contributions regularly by two to three batsmen per match, Brenton Styles and Hayden Miles have been strong additions to the squad, with 13 and 12 wickets each.

Supported by the young fast bowlers Luke Killey and Brandon Stafford, the Second XI's bowling line-up is looking as strong as it ever has. Despite that, they did drop their last game at Wonga Park in adverse conditions, and will be looking to amend this going into the post-Christmas break.

Warrandyte's Third XI sits a game adrift of top spot, sitting below Kilsyth in the Don Smith Shield.

Warrandyte's encounter with Kilsyth brought the team back down to an even level with the competition, realising that the season will not be as easy as was being suggested at club level.

With an extremely strong presence of players who have all at some point played First XI cricket, and with Stewart Smead continuing to lead from the front with both bat and ball, the team is confident of continued success.

However, what happens off the paper and on the pitch is a different

story, and the team is yet to find their full potential.

Victories so far have been delivered with standout performances from one or two players, but then a lack of form from the other men means Warrandyte will be looking to find a click going into Christmas.

Warrandyte's Fourth XI is the only team currently sitting outside the top two across the club.

This is a fair reflection on a team that is often salvaged for players from higher grades when attendance hurts, and will be looking to gain some security going into the end of the year.

Captained by Greg Warren, head of the selection committee, they have called upon 20 players already in five games. Warrandyte will look to veterans Brendan Baker, Brett Kline, Nathan Croft to mix in well with the youthful members who include Nicholas Oremek and Bailey Dixon.

First XI:

Round 3: Warrandyte 4/105(dec) (Gamble 34) and 2/70 (Dehmel 49 not out) def. Croydon Ranges 103 (Holland 5/26) and 69 (McIntosh 4/16, Holland 4/35)
Round 4: Warrandyte 7/383 (Barry 88, Holland 61 not out) def. East Ringwood 280 (Holland 3/96, White 2/21)

Second XI

Round 4: Warrandyte 6/148 (Miles 31) def. Wantirna South 8/134 (Miles 3/29)
Round 5: Warrandyte 8/135 (Styles 37) def. South Warrandyte 9/115 (Styles 3/21)
Round 6: Warrandyte 7/93 def Wonga Park 88 (Taylor 6/23)
Round 7: Warrandyte 242 (Cleaves 80, Lander 68) lost to Wonga Park 9/258 (Styles 3/77)

Third XI

Round 4: Warrandyte 6/182 (Goddard 42, Smead 42) def. North Ringwood 8/114 (Warr 4/14)
Round 5: Warrandyte 3/143 (Khatry 43) def. Bayswater Park 9/132 (Weatherley 4/25)
Round 6: Warrandyte drew with Montrose (Game Abandoned)
Round 7: Warrandyte 9/245 (Hoiberg 54, Prangley 48 not out) def. Montrose 193 (Beardall 2/29, Prangley 2/29)

Fourth XI

Round 4: Warrandyte 8/155 (Khatry 50) lost to Scoresby/Ferndale 6/161 (Hartmann 2/18)
Round 5: Warrandyte 6/150 (Baker 50) lost to Wonga Park 7/157 (Thomas 3/15)
Round 6: Warrandyte 88 lost to Warranwood 3/99 (Khatry 2/14)
Round 7: Warrandyte 149 (Carusi 3/27) lost to Wonga Park 9/223 (Kline 2/12)

RDCA 20/20 Saxon Sports Competition

Round 1: Warrandyte 116 (Taylor 60) def Wonga Park 94 (Mooney 5/13)
Round 2: Warrandyte 109 (Ellis 23) lost to Norwood 6/110 (Styles 2/17)

No gongs, but WTC talk of town

By TRICIA BARRETT

IF you are a finalist in two out of three categories at an awards night, you arrive with confidence and respect, according to local tennis coach Craig Haslam.

"However, if you happen to walk away without an award from those two nominations you become the talking point of the evening," he told the *Diary* with a smile.

"More people were talking about the fact that I didn't win with two nominations than the winners themselves," Craig added, after coming so close at the tennis night of nights, The Newcombe Awards.

But the Warrandyte Tennis Club coaches (right with Rod Laver) certainly made quite an impression on the night, apparently. Whether dancing the night away with Bec Hewitt, Jess Mauboy and friends, or giving words of wisdom to some of the greatest players of all time, the "Warrandyte assistant coaches were certainly the life of the party" according to Craig.

Craig says his assistant coaches and committee members who attended the evening function are determined to raise the bar at Warrandyte Tennis Club and bring home a gong next year.

Double flags for Juniors

For the first time since their return to the Friday evening Diamond Valley Junior Tennis Competition in Autumn 2012, the Warrandyte Tennis Club now have two new flags hanging in the clubhouse.

At the end of the home and away season, Warrandyte was second placed in Section 2, and top of the ladder in Section 6. After both teams survived hard fought semi-finals, gaining a crucial week off, the stage was set for a big evening at Taroona Avenue on November 29.

Against Section 2 opponents Kangaroo Ground and Section 6 opponents Plenty Blue, the early going was tough but both teams eventually powered home to win 47 games to 21 and 43 games to 22 respectively.

Despite the cool weather the balcony of the clubhouse was well populated with support from parents, family, friends and coaches from home and away teams.

"It's almost as busy here as Bourke St before Christmas," quipped Junior Convenor Tony Honeyborne, who also had nothing but praise for all those who had participated not just in the grand final but throughout the season.



The champs: Section 2 team members (top) James Buckley, Brandon Stafford, Donata Honeyborne, Campbell Prior, Cameron Do and (bottom) Section 6 members Katie Waugh, Zoe Stafford, Imogen Maillardet, Kelsey Horton, Leo Garrick (foreground).

Midweek Ladies

This season has been an eventful one for the Section 3 Thursday Ladies. Mandy Bence tells the *Diary*: "We have been injury riddled, and feel lucky and surprised to end the season in second on the ladder."

The winning team for the semi-final consisted of Lynne Thomas, Nicole Hogan, Anita Dinon and Di Dempsey. They won by two games with three sets each and paid tribute to their "wonderful emergencies to keep the team going". Section 6 also made it to the semi-finals after moving up a couple of sections from last season, but unfortunately lost on the day.

Open Day fun

Meanwhile, Warrandyte Tennis Club invites locals to its free community Open Day on Sunday, February 2, from 9.30am-noon. The community Open Day is free for all ages and abilities, and will feature hot shots, social play, cardio tennis, mini-nets, targets, barbecue, bar, and entertainment.

"Last year our first Open Day was brimming with energy, with six courts full of people enjoying fun activities and challenges," Craig says.

For more information about Warrandyte tennis, visit warrandyte.tennisclub.org.au

Hawks looking good

By FRANS BROUWER

A MONTH further into the RDCA season and several Hawks sides have realistic prospects for finals. Only one team has no chance, and that is only due to a lack of numbers.

As reported in the November *Diary*, the First XI (Wilkins Cup) was 2/54 chasing a meagre 108 by Chirnside Park. The team was cruising on the following Saturday, but then the wheels fell off.

Three wickets fell at 83, a further four between 89 and 91, and the last at 102. In its second innings, Chirnside Park reached 11, but promptly lost three wickets. It then reached 18 before losing its last seven wickets for three runs. Its total of 21 (Garrett 8/6) left the Hawks requiring only 28 runs off 31 overs. David Hill (22 n/o) and Michael Crosbie (2 n/o) knocked it over in a very swift 2.4 overs.

Round 4 started with a collapse and it was 4/38 before a fightback from Steve Lindsay (46), Dave Cutler (21) and Steve Garrett (25) pushed the score to 160. In reply, Montrose collapsed to 3/17 before a rain interruption. A 134-run partnership then took the match away. With two wins and two losses, the Hawks are a game outside the top four.

The Seconds (A Grade) are third with a win-loss ratio of 5-2 and two matches clear of fifth. In Round 6, the Hawks reached 3/189 (Matt Manuell 56) and held Chirnside to 8/136 (Jacob Janssen 4/31). In a Round 7 two-dayer, the same team struggled to be all out for 108, and the Hawks replied with 5/118 (Manuell 32no, Robbie Bowen 47).

The Thirds (D Grade) are fourth and one match clear of its nearest rival. A win in Round 6 against Bayswater Park (Robbie Cutler 68) was followed by another win against the same team (Liam James 38, Daniel Wigney 25no and 3/28).

The Fourth XI (F Grade) suffered its only hiccup in Round 6 and lies second, only behind top on percentage and a half-game clear of third. Lachlan McMahon (6/52) was the star with the ball in Round 7, with Olinda reduced to 94 all out.

At the end of the first day, the Hawks were 1/43 and seemingly well on the way.

The loss of six wickets for just 20 runs reduced the Hawks to 7/66. A wicket at 86 left the result in doubt, but captain Tom Chrisfield and promoted Fifth XI captain McMahon steered the side home.

The Fifth XI unfortunately is struggling to find players. Its most notable game was Round 5 in which Bayswater Park took until its second-last over to pass a target of 5/135.

Round 1 of Veterans was washed

out and was to be played last week at the time the *Diary* went to print. The O40-1 team is second with two wins and a loss. A win against Kilsyth (Paul Foley 42 retired, Brett Careedy 41 retired) was followed by an 80-run loss to Montrose (Tim Rule 3/14, Paul Foley 29).

With two wins and a loss, the Over 40-4s are also second, level with third and fourth-placed, and one game behind the top team. A score of 9/130 (Rob Little 41 retired) in Round 3 was not enough against Croydon Ranges' 3/132. Round 4 was better with Warrandyte's 10/82 no match for the Hawks' 2/91 (Chris Jose 3/7, Wayne Wilson 43 retired).

The Over 50s team has not won yet, but was close in Round 3, losing in the last over (Peter Reilly 40 retired, Joe Ross 2/18). In Round four, 10 players (nine for part of the match) lost by 99 runs to Wonga Park (Peter Reilly 2/22 and 32, Ian Jones 3/28).

The U16-2s are 2nd on 4-1 (only loss to unbeaten Croydon North). Round 3 was a win vs Montrose (Adam Johnson 4/10, Josh Exley 2/12 and 45, Pat Harris 32). Round 4 was also a win - against Ainslie Park (Josh Exley 49, Jakeb Cullen 44, Mikey Gibbons 4/12).

In Round 5, the team rolled Warrandyte for 35 (Darcy Harris 4/6, Nikoda Brooking 3/6, Mikey Gibbons 2/8) and was already in front at 1/37 after day one. Batting on to a declaration at 5/117 (James Sandison 26no, Jack Sims 25, Ryan Paterson 25, Brooking 8no), the bowlers knocked over Warrandyte for 42 (Brooking 3/8).

U14/3 (combined with North Ringwood) is also on 4-1, with their only loss to undefeated Lilydale, and are placed second on the ladder.

After a win in Round 1, the U12-1 Hawks lost their next three. In Round 3, Jackson Braunthal's 23 and Nick Walker's 17 and 2/4 were highlights.

In Round 4, the strong North Ringwood team was 6/174 (Declan Mulqueen 2/16, Ky Sofarnos 2/19), which was too much for the Hawks who managed 10/91 (Walker 26 retired, Braunthal 23).

U12-4 is working its way into the season, with three losses and a bye. Round 4 against top of the table Croydon North was very competitive, with a score of 6/111 (Will Crosbie 17) against 9/164 (Will Fasan 2/8, Kane Church 2/11).

On the social front, the Junior Wrap of the Round is back, with well-attended functions on November 16 and 30, and another to come this weekend (December 14).

An U12 T20 competition is planned for December 21, while a poker night is scheduled for January 18, and Pink Stumps Day (date to be confirmed).

Beam me up, Scotty

By SAM QUINN

NINETEEN-year-old snowboarder Scotty James from Warrandyte is set to compete at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia next February.

At just 15 years of age, James competed at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and in doing so, became the youngest male athlete from anywhere in the world to compete at a Winter Olympics for the past 50 years.

James excelled in snowboarding and hit the world stage in 2010, when he was rushed into the Australian Olympic team trials as a replacement following an injury to teammate Nate Johnstone and headed off to Stoneham, Canada. Needing to finish at least 19th to make the Winter Olympics, James finished in a very respectable 15th place despite battling a broken wrist, and set off to compete at his first Olympics, an experience he says will stay with him forever.

"It was pretty awesome," he said. "A lot of people have asked me about it but I just didn't have the words to describe the feeling. I didn't really know how to feel at the time because I was so young. It was pretty amazing because I had worked so hard to get there and there were a lot of ups and downs along the way with the snowboarding and also mentally, so it was awesome just to get out there."

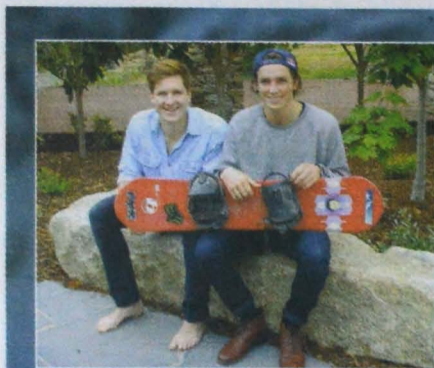
"I was able to take a big breath when I got there and just say to myself, 'I've done it'. I always think back to it now; I had such a good time."

James's passion for snowboarding originated from family members who share the same interest. "Our family was pretty passionate about snow sports," James says. "My Dad was the first snowboarder in the family so I guess you could say it started from him. We started here in the local mountains like Mount Buller and Mount Hotham and just kept going ever since."

At the age of four, James's father Phil bought him a \$10 display snowboard the size of a skateboard as it was the only one small enough for him to ride at the time.

"It was a tiny little thing," said James's brother Tim. "It was only a shop display board which wasn't designed to be ridden. But he (Phil) explained he had a four-year-old son back at home who was into snowboarding and they agreed to give it to us for 10 bucks."

Since that time, James began competing in junior snowboarding competitions and world championships with great success against competitors who were older than him.



"In 2007 I started to look at it more seriously," James said. "I did my first junior world tour and pretty much just won all the competitions, and after that I thought I could really make a career out of it. So I kept going and eventually the opportunity to go to Vancouver (the 2010 Winter Olympics) came up which was even more eye opening."

James's older brother Tim helps him train and has been a big part of the teen's development as a professional athlete.

"We're all super proud of him," Tim said. "Going to the Olympics and watching any athlete is pretty special, but to watch your brother is even more special."

While the lifestyle of a professional athlete is very rewarding, it comes with plenty of personal sacrifice.

"Ever since I was 13 I've been travelling away from home," James said. "There are definitely a lot of sacrifices involved, especially leaving family and friends. At times it sucks but it makes you appreciate what you have back at home. There are lots of lessons learnt from starting at such a young age. I've chosen to give up partying during these 12 months prior to the Olympics, but a lot of sacrifices I've chosen for myself are necessary in order to succeed and reach the goals I've set for myself."

With the upcoming Winter Olympics just around the corner, it has been a year of hard work and preparation for James. He was forced to postpone his high school studies as during the year he would have been in Year 12, he was at home for about only three months.

"My attendance probably wasn't going to be high enough!" he said with a laugh. "I'll start back up again with school next year."

For someone of his age, it is a rare luxury to be able to head off to the Olympic Games with the experience of having already been before. However, it is a luxury James is not taking for granted. "There's a lot I can take into it this time round," he said. "I didn't really know what to expect the first time. I wasn't going there to win a medal or anything, I was going for the experience. There are a lot of things I've learnt from Vancouver which I can take into Russia, I'm looking forward to it."

In contrast to attending the Vancouver Winter Olympics as a 15-year-old more or less for the experience, James hopes this time round he can

bring home a medal.

"My main aim is to just go out there and leave nothing on the table; do absolutely everything that I've worked for on the day and give it my best," said James. "I've always had the goal to be a medal contender for these Games. There will be a lot of nerves and adrenalin and I need to make the most of those to get me going and push me that little bit further. Hopefully I can win a medal but if not there are heaps more Olympics to look forward to and I'll just keep pushing myself until I get one."

The 2014 Winter Olympics commence on February 7 and people can keep up to date with Scotty James's experiences throughout the Olympics via his website scottyjames.com.au, or via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Venom fires up in Frankston tournament

By CHRIS WILLIAMS

The Southern Peninsula Basketball Tournament was held in late November and featured some thrilling games and great results for many of the Venom rep teams.

A close game on Saturday evening saw Justin Nelson's Under 16.1 Boys take on the Whittlesea Pacers at Frankston.

With great defensive pressure, Warrandyte was able to start the game on a 14-0 run and Whittlesea looked like it would never recover from the deficit.

Jackson Lowe starred in the first quarter with several steals and important baskets to keep the Venom ahead. After switching to a zone defence, Whittlesea was able to claw its way back into the game and by the end of the third quarter the scores were 30-22, with the Venom clinging onto an eight-point lead.

The Pacers kept fighting right until the very end but some timely offensive rebounds and made shots from Jordy Hallet finished off the Pacers to give Warrandyte the 37-33 win.

"Our defence was fantastic, we just need to work on finishing shots," Nelson said after the game.

In semi-finals action, Danny Black's Under 14.2 Boys went down to the very talented Korumburra. The first half featured an impressive display



of defensive pressure by Korumburra who forced Warrandyte into unwanted turnovers.

Both teams missed plenty of easy shots in the first half and Korumburra went into half-time with a 13-6 lead. Warrandyte looked a lot better in the second half and made some fantastic defensive plays, however Korumburra was determined to not miss the same sort of shots that it did in the first half. The final scores were 26-13. Jordan Hansen top scored with 6 and Joshua Carstens had 4.

Despite the loss, Black was incredibly happy with the outcome of the tournament.

"They are improving every game and that's all I want," Black said.

A total of six Venom teams progressed into the grand final, however, only one team came out victorious. The Under 12.1 Boys coached by Dale Leeson not only went undefeated throughout the entire tournament, they finished things off with a sensational 23-15 win in the grand final.

USA tour

In exciting news at the club the Warrandyte Venom USA tour group recently departed and will spend the next three weeks travelling across six states throughout America. The 28 travellers will visit New York City, Los Angeles, Dallas, Cincinnati and Louisville.

The trip will include playing more than 20 games of basketball, visiting five theme parks, watching several NBA and NCAA games, going to an NFL game, an ice hockey game and many more exciting activities.

This year's tour will feature both a boys team coached by Justin Nelson and for the first time ever a girls team led by Nicole Howard.

"This is our third straight tour and each year we find a way to pack more into the schedule," Nelson said. "As we learn more about the areas we visit and the things available to us, we find a way of fitting a little more into each day."

"This year's schedule is amazing and for the 19 players and nine adults going, it certainly will be a trip to remember."

"As much fun as this trip will be, there's no doubt that come the new year we will be busy working on the 2014 USA Tour with the next group of players and parents who want to experience a tour, so stay tuned!"

Saturday basketball

As grading concludes, the beginning of the regular season has begun with some brilliant games that featured a showdown between Warrandyte 1 and Warrandyte 2 Under 18 Girls. In what was a competitive game, Warrandyte 1 came out on top taking the win 41-17.

In U10 Girls action, Warrandyte 3 went down to Eltham 12 in a closely contested game. The final scores were 9-8 with Eltham just holding on for the win. Warrandyte 4 was able to get one back on Eltham 9 in yet another close game, pulling out an impressive 13-12 win on Eltham's home court.

In the boys competition, Beau Bentley's U16.1s lost a tough game against Eltham 1 who ran away with a 47-35 victory.

New president announced

After two years at the helm, Richard Cookes has decided to step down as president of the Warrandyte Basketball Association. The club recently sent out a thank you message to Cookes for his significant contribution throughout his term as president. The search for a new president didn't take long as former club secretary Bruce De Lacy was happy to take on the challenge. De Lacy has been at the club for 17 years and recently became a life member.

Sporteka comes to Warrandyte

SPORTEKA has arrived at the Warrandyte Community Centre and gives young children a chance to learn the fundamentals of 11 different sports including tennis, basketball, soccer, netball, hockey, golf, cricket, badminton, Australian footy, T-Ball and athletics.

"With the Australian Open coming in January, many children will be inspired to have a go at tennis. If you think your child has what it takes to be the next Hewitt, Nadal or Federer, or simply love the game so much that you want your son or daughter to enjoy it too, why not try Sporteka," says the company's Fatima Tawfek.

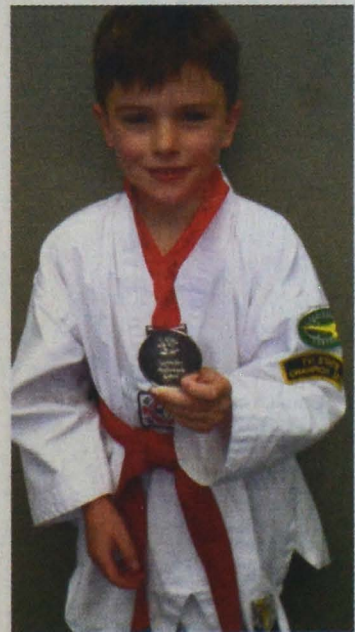
Sporteka specialises in teaching sport to the youngest beginners at convenient local indoor sports centres.

"Starting with our multisport program, Sporteka introduces preschoolers as young as two-years-old to the perceptual motor skills necessary to be a good athlete," says Fatima, a Tennis Australia qualified coach and developer of Sporteka, who has been helping children gain a love for sport over the past 20 years.

"Sporteka is about the coach, mums, dads, grandparents and carers connecting to help every kid achieve."

Sporteka is already gearing up for another successful and fun sporty year in 2014 with enrolment now open for both Multisport and MLC classes at a number of locations in Manningham including the newly refurbished Warrandyte Community Centre. Bring your preschoolers to a free trial class before Christmas and get ready for an active and healthy new year.

Details are on www.sportekakids.com.au or contact Fatima on 0431 211 444 or email sporteka@bigpond.net.au



Mighty Max oh-so close

WARRANDYTE karate kid Max Morely came home with a silver from the Australian National in the Australian Taekwondo national championships where his skills will be tested against the best from around Australia.

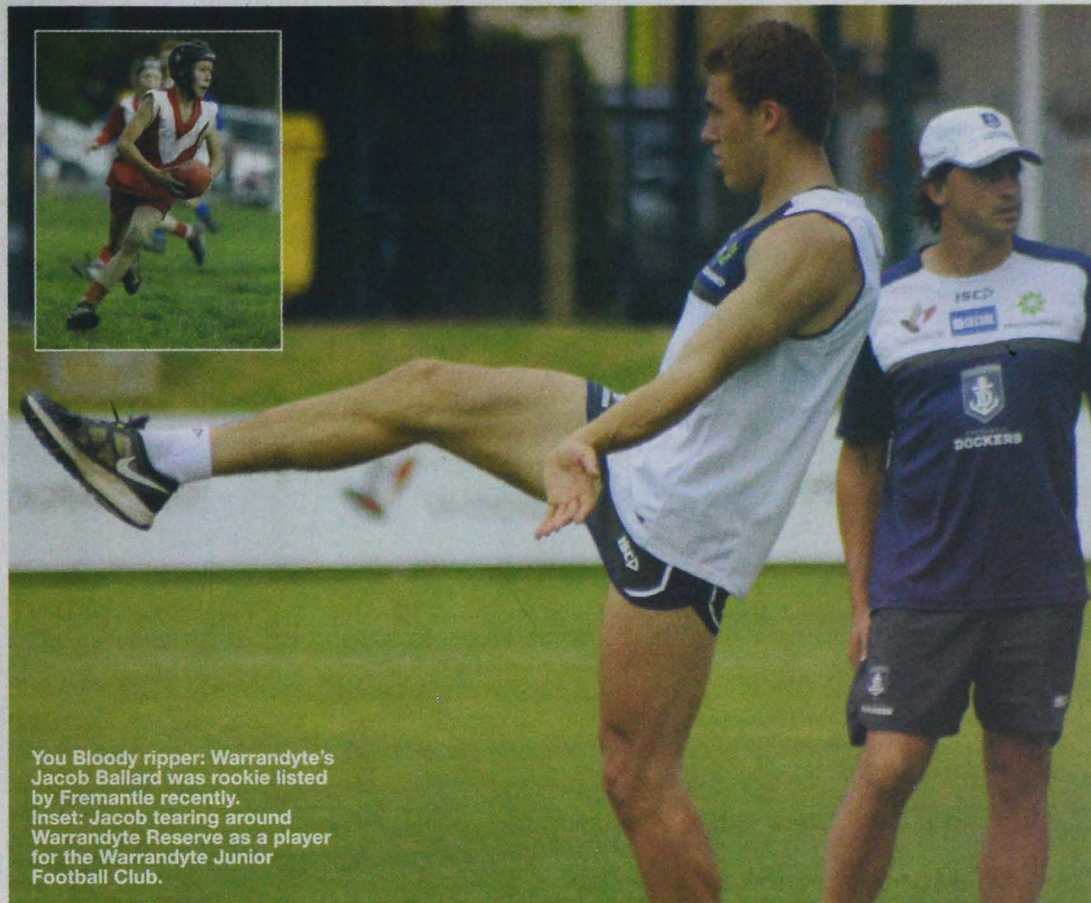
Max performed admirably and courageously to win two out of his three fights, losing by one controversial point, according to his Dad Mark.

"In the third fight, it was a close fight that ended up coming down to what is called a golden point, when whoever makes first contact wins," he said.

"Unfortunately for Max the judge saw the opposition's kick first. Regardless of the outcome, Max is still a champion and we couldn't be more proud of him. This is just the begging for what is going to be a bright future."

Jacob docks in

From little things, big things grow



You Bloody ripper: Warrandyte's Jacob Ballard was rookie listed by Fremantle recently. Inset: Jacob tearing around Warrandyte Reserve as a player for the Warrandyte Junior Football Club.

By MICHAEL DI PETTA

A FORTNIGHT ago, Warrandyte's Jacob Ballard, 19, was doing landscaping jobs and working behind the bar at the Grand Hotel Warrandyte. Then everything changed with a phone call confirming something most young footy players can only dream about: selection in the AFL rookie draft.

First believing his mates were pulling his leg when reading texts on his lunch break, Jacob realised his dream had become a reality after a call to his manager.

Chosen by Fremantle with pick No.47, Ballard, a tall midfielder with excellent stamina and a knack for winning the hard ball, was stunned.

"I'm just over the moon, it's been a dream of mine since I was a little kid. It still hasn't even sunk in yet," Jacob told the *Diary*.

The opportunity is sweeter for Ballard than most, who, unlucky not to be drafted as an 18-year-old after stellar performances playing with the Northern Knights in 2012, used the setback to mature and motivate himself further in his goal of playing professional football.

"To finally get the chance to play AFL footy, at a club like this, I still can't really believe it," he said.

Focusing on improving his speed and quickness, Jacob joined Carlton's VFL side, the Northern Blues, in 2013 and caught the eye of Freo with his tough, in and under style of play.

Only days after the surprise selection, Jacob was flying to Perth and he has already taken the first step in his AFL journey, beginning pre-season training and learning what it takes to be a professional athlete with the Dockers as the club looks to mount another grand final charge.

"I had my first day down at the club on Thursday and my first actual session on Friday," Jacob said. "Then over the weekend I had the induction process, and now we are back into regular training with the guys."

Importantly, Jacob remains grounded, as he realises the shift in commitment and quality needed for AFL.

"Being on the rookie list there's obviously still a long way to go, I'll probably be playing a lot of footy in the WAFL side The Peel Thunder, but the goal is to play as well as I can and see what happens," he said.

In combination with the enormous step up from local to professional footy Ballard must make, he also faces the reality of moving to a completely different state, a significant change for someone so young.

"Perth is really different to Melbourne," he said. "It's right on the coast so it feels like a bit of a holiday, it's really hot and slightly more old-fashioned."

However, Jacob hasn't forgotten his roots, being a part of the Warrandyte community and certainly coming through the ranks at the Warrandyte Junior Football Club, and the Colts in more recent years.

"In playing for the Bloods I got to take part in three grand finals, we lost the first two which was really tough, but we managed to win the third one which was really fantastic," he said.

Community support for Jacob throughout his time playing junior and club football for the Northern Knights and Blues respectively has been nothing short of excellent, and the Warrandyte Pub in particular (where Jacob worked part time) has been a keen supporter of the Warrandyte and Northern footy clubs, and also Jacob himself.

Pub staff were excellent with Jacob, and all chipped in to help him raise over \$1000 dollars in the World's Greatest Shave to aid cancer research.

No longer just a kid with a dream, Ballard has the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of many Fremantle stars who made their name off the rookie list, including Aaron Sandilands, Tendai Mzungu and Michael Barlow, and establish himself as a fully-fledged AFL footballer.

Bloods back to business

Despite the off-season having barely begun, it's all systems go down at Warrandyte Football Club with players returning to Warrandyte Reserve to begin the rigorous training program required to change the fortunes of the club's on-field success.

With an average of 40 players attending pre-season training sessions per night, including Glenn Archer, Warrandyte's new assistant coach, a sense of purpose and drive can be felt around the club.

The influence of returning figures such as coach Michael Tout, Archer and new president Stephen Bell is evident, even in the early stages of the holiday season, with a heightened level of commitment noticeable in players, a remarkable surge of community interest and assistance regarding the affairs and progression of Warrandyte football, and crucially, a positive atmosphere and a thrilling hype around the club.

That hype, in combination with an aggressive recruiting campaign, has seen the club attract several



high quality local players as well as the homecoming of some former Bloods, with at least 12 new boys having made their presence felt at pre-Christmas training. Young guns Tom Appleby and Sam

Tansley, senior players throughout the 2012 season, return after brief stints away, and the addition of star midfielder Josh Barrett means Warrandyte has added more proven quality players.

Others include Ross Ansaldi, who makes the switch from Division 1 club Lilydale, and Trent Parker, who arrives from old rivals Doncaster to help the cause.

In addition to the frenzied on-field news involving training and recruitment, further off-field announcements and promises have been made regarding the 2014 EFL draw, and to the relief of all, the construction of the Bloods' new clubrooms.

After being dealt a three game span away from home to begin the season, Warrandyte's official home opener is scheduled for May 3, and with the council giving a commitment that the new rooms will be fully operational by April 1, the club can plan the occasion and function surrounding the first game down at Warrandyte Reserve with confidence.

Athletes shine at relay championships

THE Eastern Metropolitan Region Relay Championships were held recently at the Yarra Ranges track at Mt Evelyn, and young Warrandyte athletes representing the Doncaster centre had outstanding results in Victoria's largest and strongest Little Athletics regional competition.

Leading the way was the strong U15 team of Nicole Reynolds, who picked up three gold medals, Emily Sharpe, two gold and one silver, Eilish Kelly, one silver medal, and Ben Macri with two gold medals.

The other teams performed well with Under 14 track star Mervyn Tan winning a gold in the 800m sprint medley and a silver medal, Under 13 athletes Adam Bardrick a silver medal in the 4x100m and Ben Munks scored a fourth in the 800m sprint medley and a fifth in the 200m final.



Emerging Under 12 sprint stars Callum Bowers and Jayden Bardrick both were bronze medalists in the 800m sprint medley, with Callum winning a well deserved gold medal in the 4x200m, while first time relay athlete Owen Kelly ran in two finals races with a fourth in the mixed age

800m sprint medley and an eighth in the 4x100m finals.

The Under 11s all made finals with Nick Sharpe fourth in the 800m sprint final, Ashlyn Krakouer teaming with Chloe Lee in an exciting fast-finishing sixth in the 800 sprint medley final and an eighth position in the 4x100m final. Chloe also claimed a fifth place in the mixed sex 4x100m and the diminutive Harriette Glover claimed a bronze medal in the 800m sprint medley and a fourth place in the 4x100m final. Younger sister Alice made 3 finals in the 4x100m, 800m sprint medley and a sixth in the 4x200m final in the Under 9s.

The state championships are being held at the Lakeside oval this weekend and the qualifying relay athletes are in with strong chances to win medals.



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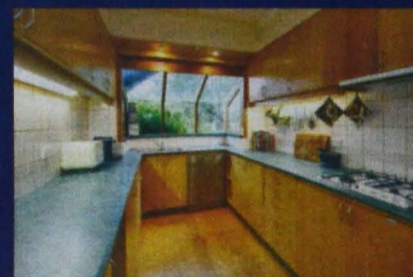
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WARRANDYTE

Treetops

WB charm, alfresco spaces, multiple living areas, GDH-split system airconditioning, elevated views, tranquil lifestyle. Spacious living-dining room, adjoining family room. Kitchen features S/S dishwasher and garden window, 2 robed bedrooms, spa bathroom. Upstairs 3rd bedroom, large 3rd living area with a deck enjoying treetop views (allotment approx 1059m²). Outdoor entertaining focuses on the large paved area and smaller cosy spot. Wood heater, ceiling fans, polished floorboards, watertank. Near schools and shops.

3 1 2



WARRANDYTE

Appeal, Serenity, Outlook

High side of the hill – views to Kangaroo Ground, WB appeal, alfresco spaces, large decking and an interior that will satisfy your wishlist requirements. Sleek contemporary kitchen-dining-living area. Four bedrooms – two up, two down, modern spa bathroom, powder room. Polished floorboards, OFP, split system airconditioning, 32,700L water tank, north-facing backyard (approx 2000m²), large 6x11m (approx) shed.

4 1



WARRANDYTE

Home and Alfresco Sanctuary

Exceptional combination – fabulous family home with outstanding alfresco living. Everything completed, comprising multi-function open living room, contemporary S/S and bamboo benches, cook's kitchen-dining, zoned master suite/retreat/WIR/upgraded ensuite, refurbished bathroom; 30m² office, rumpus/5th BR. Private entertaining sanctuary features views, large IG pool/spa/decking/storage. GDH, llve appliances, Tas Oak floors, bamboo terrace, S/S balustrades, workshop, new fencing, roof sprinklers and pump. Bitumen OSP. Useable allotment appr 2005m².

4 2 2



WARRANDYTE

Natural Setting, Harmonious Living

Privacy, individuality and environmentally respectful describes this unique architect-designed family home just over 2 natural acres (approx 8316.70m²). Living room (OFP), corner bar embracing the outlook. Wonderful conservatory, dining room, timber kitchen, generous family room, French doors onto significant decking. Mezzanine study, zoned master ensuite, staircase connecting generous office/5th bedroom, decks (separate entry), GDH, ducted vacuum, slate flooring, intercom, WI pantry, IG pool, watertanks, studio.

4 3 2



Lions Club of Warrandyte Inc.

Meets Bi-monthly

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