

June—July 2026

Issue No 237

Established 1976

Celebrating our 50th Year.



INCORPORATION No: 13313L

ABN 55 398 927 524

David Carty. PRESIDENT

Dianne Phillips. SECRETARY

03 9844 4180

MUSEUM

111 Yarra Street, Warrandyte 3113

03 9844 4176

PO Box 67, Warrandyte 3113

EMAIL ADDRESS

info@whsoc.org.au

WEB whsoc.org.au

ISSN 0158-0493

Open Saturdays & Sundays

1.30—4.30 pm.

Key Diary Dates.

WHS. AGM 4th October

2026 Riverside Market.

Saturday 5th September.

Saturday 3rd October.

Saturday 7th November.

Saturday 5th December.

Saturday 19th December.

8 am until 1 pm.

Community Gathering & Launch of two books.

* South Warrandyte Recollections.

* South Warrandyte History.

Warrandyte South Hall

20th September 1—5 pm.

Warrandyte Historical Society.



Museum Matters.

Special Event:

Warrandyte Historical Society will hold it's AGM and a presentation by the Warrandyte Cricket Club at 2pm on the 4th of October 2026 at the Warrandyte Recreation Reserve. See Page 2 **Don't Miss this one.**

We had a recent visit to the Museum by 27 Grade 5 Children from the Eltham College.

Story and Photo's page 5.

The bakery in Yarra Street is a simple brick building thought to have been built in the late 1800s. It contained a wood fired oven manufactured by Small and Shattell, Bakery Engineers of Melbourne and was operating as a bakery in the early 1900s.

In this Issue we pay tribute to Audrey Drechsler who is forever linked to the Old Warrandyte Bakery.

We are sad to report that Audrey passed away recently in Bendigo..

Our tribute & a brief history begins on page 3.

Acknowledgement of Country

Warrandyte Historical Society acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as traditional custodians of the land on which Warrandyte resides and of the river Birrarung on which it is centred. It pays its respects to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and emerging, recognising that Indigenous people never ceded sovereignty of this country and remain strong in their enduring connection to land and culture.



Warrandyte Historical Society

**Annual General Meeting
and
Presentation by the Warrandyte Cricket Club
2pm, Sunday 4th October 2026**

**Warrandyte Recreation Reserve,
Taroona Avenue, Warrandyte**



The AGM will be followed by a presentation about the history of the Warrandyte Cricket Club, by Steve Pascoe and John Chapman.

Commencing in 1855, WCC is one of the oldest cricket clubs in Australia and you can expect a knowledgeable and interesting presentation.

**The afternoon will conclude with afternoon tea and a chat.
Please bring a plate of food to share.**

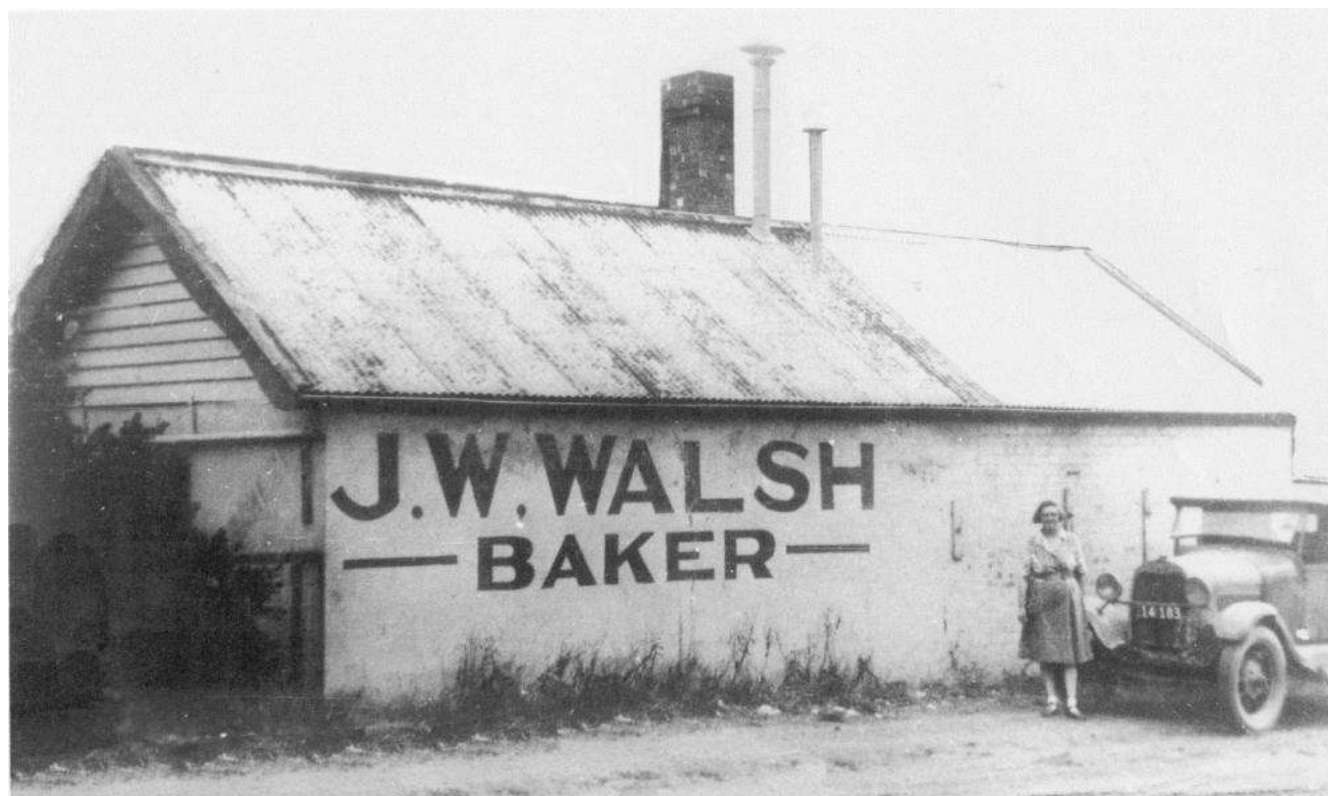
Email: info@whsoc.org.au Phone: 9844 4176 Website: whsoc.org.au

Honours for three more local women.

By SANDI MILLER and VAL POLLEY

Warrandyte Diary – October 2019.

Mrs Audrey Drechsler who received an OAM for service to agriculture and the community. Although she now lives in Sedgewick, in northern Victoria, she was a longtime resident of Warrandyte and former owner of the Warrandyte Bakery. She was the daughter of James and Ida Walsh who ran the bakery during the years of the depression and WW2 and up to 1951. She enjoyed her childhood and attended the old stone Warrandyte State School No 12. She has a fund of stories about growing up in Warrandyte, exploring the bush, falling down mines, camping and canoeing on the river. When the family moved away due to her father's ill health, Audrey went too. She worked and travelled widely both in Australia and overseas. After her father died in 1966, she and her mother returned to their Warrandyte residence. She then stood for the legislative seat of Evelyn which included North Warrandyte. While campaigning she met the DLP candidate for Bendigo, Bill Drechsler whom she married. She moved to his sheep property at Sedgewick where she has lived ever since. Audrey continued to own and lease the Warrandyte bakehouse and residence, which gave her funds to undertake tasks around the property including restoration of the 1856 homestead. Audrey undertook a lot of work on the Sedgewick farm, raising vealers, acting as rouse about and running the business affairs of the enterprise. She was involved in many community and agricultural activities in the district such as the Country Women's Association, school councils and Landcare. Audrey still keeps in touch with Warrandyte. She visits when she can, participates in school reunions, attends Historical Society events and reads Warrandyte Diary. She retains a keen interest in it all. At 86 she is a wonderful example of those earlier residents who contributed so much to the community well-being of the town.



Audrey Drechsler.

June 3rd 1933—28th May 2026

Audrey Drechsler (Nee Walsh) may not be known to most people in Warrandyte but she had a very deep connection to it. Audrey grew up in Warrandyte, the daughter of James and Ida Walsh. James Walsh ran the woodfire bakery known as Walsh's Bakery. James purchased the bakery in 1928. Audrey has owned the bakery for most of her life. She sold it in recent times to a member of her family on her father's side. The bakery has been in her family since 1928 and it still is. Her father had to leave the Bakery in 1951 because of health problems.

Audrey was a few days short of turning 93. She had a very successful life forging womens' voices in agriculture. In 2019 she received an Order of Australia (OAM) for services to agriculture and the community.

Audrey trained in secretarial work and developed a friendship which led to her love of farming so in 1963 she worked on farms in Ireland, Denmark and the USA.

Later she stood for the DLP (Democratic Labour Party) for the seat of Evelyn in 1967 and met a Bendigo candidate Bill Drechsler, a sheep farmer from Sedgewick near Bendigo.

Audrey was involved and very active in the movement to achieve recognition, a voice and education for women as farmers in their own right.

1994 - A member of the committee organizing the first International Women in Agriculture Conference. 1997 and 2010 - an organiser of Women on Farms Gatherings.

Audrey was widowed in 1989 and the farm was passed to her son. She secured 125 acres (approximately 50.5 hectares) and did a 6 month farm mechanics course, borrowed on her bakery to build a mudbrick house on the property. Audrey was a successful producer of prime vealers.

Audrey's niece Martine Taylor used Audrey's words in her eulogy; 'Warrandyte was her geological womb' and the 'Soul of the river called her home.'

PS Walsh's Bakery ledger is on display in the Museum

References: Australian Women's Register, National Library, Youtube, Manningham Council 'Our Community Heritage'

DRECHSLER, Audrey Louise

1933-2026

DRECHSLER (nee Walsh)

Audrey Louise

Passed peacefully at Benatas Aged Care, Bendigo

Aged 92 years

Loved Wife of Bill (dec) of "Eden Vale" Sedgwick.

Caring Mother of Luke, and fond Nana to

Kade and David.

Now at rest, after a life well lived.

Published in the Bendigo Advertiser.

Submitted by Di Phillips & Melodie Heland.

Visit by students from Eltham College June 18th 2026

Warrandyte is a very interesting place. Its history of gold discovery, it being a town on the Yarra River (Birrarung), and once been an orchard area and a place for many artists to live.

27 Grade 5 children from Eltham College arrived at 9.30 to visit Warrandyte and the Museum on June 18th to investigate and develop an understanding of the effects of colonization. how the gold rush impacted on the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, the environment and the local economy. Basically, how did people live in the early days of settlement.

One group of children did a street walk locating old buildings and the other half of the children visited the museum. After each group had visited the Museum, done their street walk they headed to Pound Bend for further investigations.

The children in the Museum started in the Gold Room to see the different mining techniques and to look at the land before the arrival of miners. They moved to the Aboriginal room which tells the story of the Wurundjeri and the type of tools they used. There was an interest in the seasonal Wurundjeri calendar...our season was Winter and the Wurundjeri seasonal calendar was Wombat time. The children were very interested in the Domestic Room especially the ice chest, the dial phone on the wall. Outside in the garden were many things of interest. There were the Blacksmith's Hut and his tools and the red telephone box. There was great interest in the telephone box especially seeing how many Grade 5 children could fit it at a time.

A special thank-you to the Grade 5 children and their teachers from Eltham College. We hope you left with a greater understanding of the effect of change in an environment.

Di Phillips entertains the
Students from Eltham
College.



Eltham College students
enjoy our Outdoor
Exhibits.



August You will see wattles and hardenbergas in flower. Look out for leopard orchards on Fourth Hill.	4th Auust 1851 20th August 1851 1851 1857 1859 13th August 1875 4th August 1914 1915 1918 24th August 1934 16th August 1975	Argus newspaper: Messrs Michel and Habberlin returned to town bringing with them specimens of gold which they had obtained from the same locality as they had previously visited. About 200 men were in the Victoria Diggings which extended along and around Anderson's Creek for some 3 miles (approx 5 kms). A Crown Bailiff and 4 constables came to preserve law and order. A Post office was opened in Ewen Cameron's store. Miners Moore and Geraghty had completed a the open cut and tramway on Fourth Hill. Anderson's Creek Primary school opened for classes. Mr James E. Walker as Head Teacher. Australia declares War. Young Warrandyte men Messrs Crawford, Jones, Murphy, Ayton, Weeks, Sloan, Goodwin and Ernest and George Clarke enlisted. A visit of returned soldiers from Gallipoli. Lunch at Warrandyte Hotel. Welcome Home social held at the Hall which was decorated with flags and wattle. Warrandyte Quarry Disaster Appeal began Centenary Warrandyte Primary School.
September You will see wattles and hardenbergas in flower. Look out for leopard orchards on Fourth Hill.	1851	Gold licences issued Miners in Victoria in the 1850s were required to pay a licence fee to the government for the right to dig for gold. Miner's licences were first issued on 1 September 1851 and cost 30 shillings a month (later reduced to £1 a month or £8 a year). The licence fees were supposed to cover the cost of maintaining the police force on the goldfields. However the fees collected were inadequate for this purpose. This led to increased licence charges.

September	3rd September 1939 Closed 1947	 Koornong School opened – Founders Clive and Janet Nield. 'A new school for young citizens of the modern world.' Danila Vassielief was the art teacher.
October Look out for more orchids on Fourth Hill Chocolate lilies can be seen. Rainbow lorikeets, Crimson and Eastern Rosellas can be found.	October 1856 1912 1933 1961	First public transport connection began with a 4 horse coach from Melbourne. Warrandyte connected to Melbourne Telephone Exchange. First Lilac Time Ball at the Mechanics Institute. The balls continued until the late 1950's. It was organized by the Warrandyte Auxillary for the Women's Hospital. Town connected to reticulated water system.
November	9th November 1971 Flooding	Gold Memorial cairn unveiled by Louis Michel's son-in-law.  The Yarra River broke its banks. Flooding Harris Gully Rd & Yarra Street. Also Everard Drive and Taroona

November		
	1986	The Post Office Preservation Group committee had raised \$30,000 in funds and with donations from Doncaster Templestowe and Eltham Councils and other grants were able to begin restoration of the old building.
December	5 th December 1890	The Evelyn Observer recorded that a permanent new Mechanics Institute and Free Library was complete. It opened its doors on the corner of Webb and Yarra Street.
	Thurs 7th 1933	Warrandyte Annual School Picnic to Mordiallic. Adult bus fare & 2 meals 4/- (Ref:BN091d)
	1934	Yarra River broke its banks and the river flooded.

Extra information with a date but no month.

- 1856 Tent school established.
Miner's Court established.
- 1857 First land sales of town lots were held.
Postmaster appointed.
Ewan Hugh Cameron appointed Deputy Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- 1859 Anderson's Creek School No.12 opened.
Cemetery established.
- 1866 Cemetery opened
- 1912 Warrandyte was connected to the Melbourne telephone exchange.
- 1934 20th July The Quarry disaster. 2 men killed at quarry at Bill Hussey's property in Hussey's Lane.

1939 3rd September Clive and Janet Neild founded Koonung School.

School closed 1946

1944 A fire station was built.

1973 Establishment of Warrandyte State Park

References Used

Warrandyte Historical Society. Wandering Through Warrandyte's History. n.d.

SLV site re Gold Licences.

*Bence, Bruce. Fire. The story of a community's fight against fire. Maryborough, Vic. Oakdale printing Pty Ltd. 1989. P.86

** Bence, Bruce. The Historic Post office at Warrandyte 1876 ~ 1988.

Warrandyte, Warrandyte Historical Society. 1989. P 13.

Landfall - Part two.

Submitted by Peter & Gavin Fry.



Part One of this article appeared in Our previous Newsletter Issue No 236.

We are pleased to present the Second part of this article and thank Peter & Gavin.

An index of all Photo's appears on page 10 of this issue.

Top. Landfall - Garden.



Bot. Peter Fry & Marjorie Beecham in the garden at Landfall c 2010.





LANDFALL

House design - Exterior

The house has two stories of timber frame construction with weatherboard cladding on the ground floor and fibro cement sheeting on the first floor. The roof is of Marseilles patterned tiles.

The house takes advantage of the sloping terrain with a double garage at lower ground level. The provision of this feature would be rare at the time as few families had a single car, let alone two [Helen Aron drove a Vauxhall Saloon while her daughter Mimi had a Morris 8/40].

On the North West side twin chimneys of fully exposed rough-hewn local stone are flanked on both sides by pairs of French doors. This provides a unique and symmetrical appearance which is sheltered by a pergola. The original pergola was of rustic design made from natural pieces of timber.

Local stonework is also featured on the kitchen stove, pillars beside the garage doors and the pillars for the pergola on the front terrace.

House design - interior

The ground floor is entirely devoted to family activities with all bedrooms on the first floor. The major rooms are unusually large and include a billiard room as well as a lounge room (Helen Aron was a very good billiards player, to the extent that her husband refused to play against her).

Both rooms are dominated by very large fireplaces, above which there is a timber mantle piece and timber paneling. The ceilings are 10 ft. [3 metres] high, with stained timber paneling and timber framed windows extending up to a substantial picture rail at a height of 7 ft [2.1 metres]. Above this is the finish is plaster with a patterned cornice to the ceiling. Floors are timber.

Unusual also is the provision of 2 toilets side by side – both with water closets so a septic tank system was installed. One toilet is externally accessible and the other internal with an airlock. A bathroom and externally accessible laundry were also provided.

Later Modifications

Sunroom built over the garage in a sympathetic style

Self-contained flat added upstairs to North West Corner

Upstairs sleeping porch on North West corner converted to a bathroom. upstairs sleeping porch on Eastern end converted to a dressing room and retreat. Carpet in the main rooms and hallway. The kitchen and dining area have a slate floor.

Sewerage arrived in Castle Road in 2019



LANDFALL

House design - Exterior

The house has two stories of timber frame construction with weatherboard cladding on the ground floor and fibro cement sheeting on the first floor. The roof is of Marseilles patterned tiles.

The house takes advantage of the sloping terrain with a double garage at lower ground level. The provision of this feature would be rare at the time as few families had a single car, let alone two [Helen Aron drove a Vauxhall Saloon while her daughter Mimi had a Morris 8/40].

On the North West side twin chimneys of fully exposed rough-hewn local stone are flanked on both sides by pairs of French doors. This provides a unique and symmetrical appearance which is sheltered by a pergola. The original pergola was of rustic design made from natural pieces of timber.

Local stonework is also featured on the kitchen stove, pillars beside the garage doors and the pillars for the pergola on the front terrace.

House design - interior

The ground floor is entirely devoted to family activities with all bedrooms on the first floor. The major rooms are unusually large and include a billiard room as well as a lounge room (Helen Aron was a very good billiards player, to the extent that her husband refused to play against her).

Both rooms are dominated by very large fireplaces, above which there is a timber mantle piece and timber paneling. The ceilings are 10 ft [3 metres] high, with stained timber paneling and timber framed windows extending up to a substantial picture rail at a height of 7 ft [2.1 metres]. Above this is the finish is plaster with a patterned cornice to the ceiling. Floors are timber.

Unusual also is the provision of 2 toilets side by side – both with water closets so a septic tank system was installed. One toilet is externally accessible and the other internal with an airlock. A bathroom and externally accessible laundry were also provided.

Later Modifications

Sunroom built over the garage in a sympathetic style

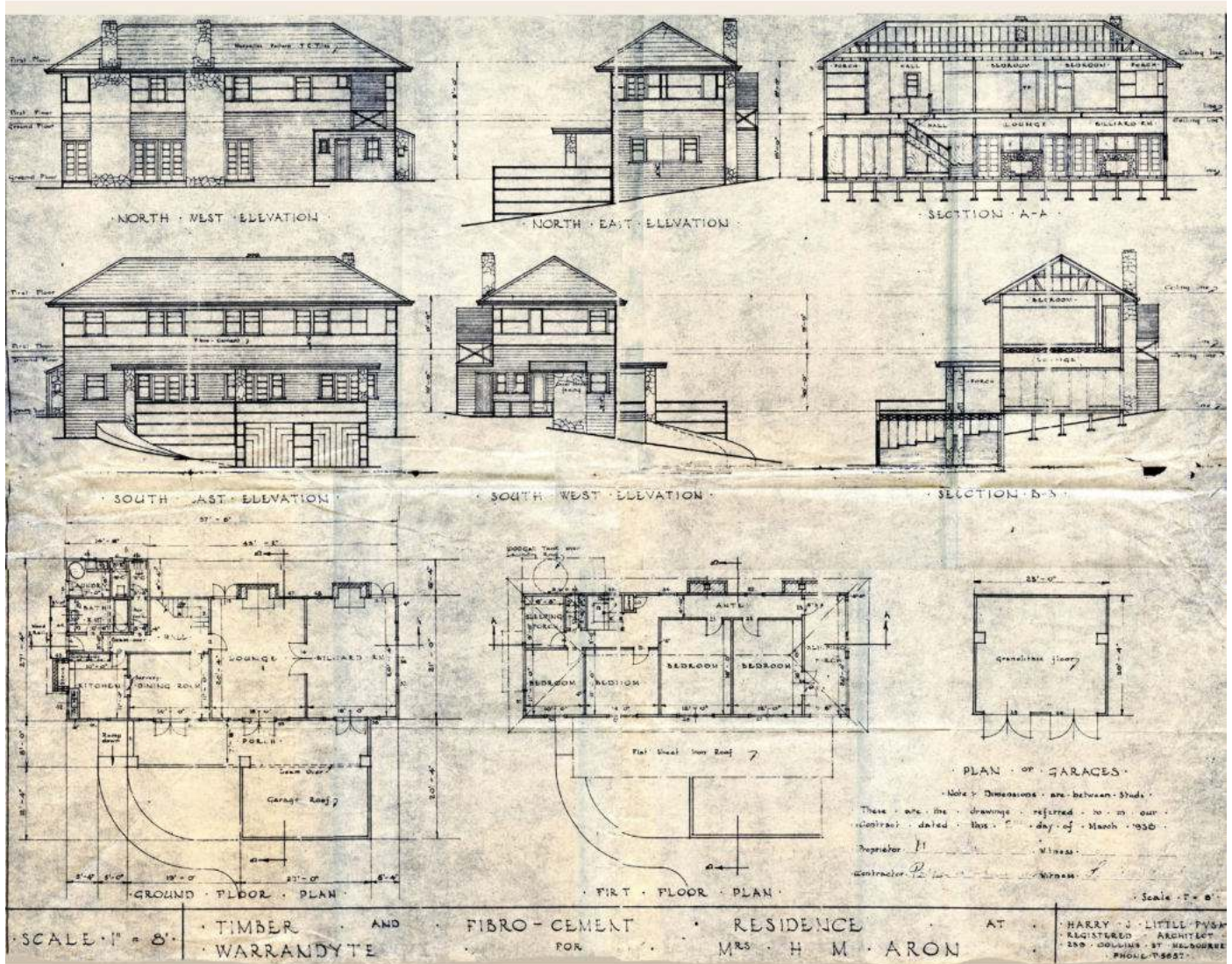
Self-contained flat added upstairs to North West Corner

Upstairs sleeping porch on North West corner converted to a bathroom. upstairs sleeping porch on Eastern end converted to a dressing room and retreat. Carpet in the main rooms and hallway. The kitchen and dining area have a slate floor.

Sewerage arrived in Castle Road in 2019



LANDFALL



Index of Photographs presented in this article, identified post publication of Part One.

Issue 236

- Page 4. 1. Landfall - Castle Road Warrandyte.
 2. James Aron 1860 - 1938.
- Page 5. 1. Helen Aron on the Terrace at Landfall circa 1940.
 2. Mimi Aron (RHS) with horse riders at Landfall.
 3. Mimi Aron with horse. (Victory)
 4. Landfall at top of Castle Road from Warrandyte Main Street.
- Page 6. 1. Mimi Aron playing tennis on the court at Landfall.
 2. Landfall—When first built circa 1939.
- Page 7. 1, 2 & 3. 3 Photo's of views from Landfall circa 2010.

Issue 237

- Page 5 1 Landfall Garden
 2 Peter Fry & Marjorie Beecham in Landfall Garden c 2010
- Page 6. 1 & 2. 2 Birds Eye Views of Landfall Property Boundaries.
- Page 7. 1 & 2. 2 Photos—Exterior of Landfall circa 2010.
 3. View, Lounge Room through to Billiard Room.
 4. View, Billiard Room through to Lounge Room.
- Page 8. 1,2 & 3. 3 Photo's of the Landfall Garden circa 2010.
- Page 9. 1. The Stone Fireplace at Landfall.
 2. Plans for Timber & Fibro Cement house for Mrs H M Aron.

A Seniors Version of Facebook. Author Unknown.

For those of my generation who do not, and can not, comprehend why Facebook exists:

I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principals.

Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers by what I have eaten., how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom.

I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day.

I also listen to their conversations, give them a “Thumbs Up” and tell them I “Like” them.

And it works just like Facebook.

I already have 4 people following me: 2 Police Officers, a Private Investigator and a Psychiatrist.

Submitted by Alan Davis.

Membership Application Form

I/we wish to become a member of the Warrandyte Historical Society (WHS) for 2025 year.

I/we support the purposes of the WHS. I/we agree to comply with the Rules of the WHS.

Name Phone:.....

Family Members (Associates).....

Address.....

.....P/code.....

Email address:.....

Membership Type: Member (\$25 Single, \$35 Family - allows for one voting member)/
Community Organisation (\$35), Business Sponsor (\$150). (Circle the appropriate category.)

I wish to pay by cheque/EFT (Please circle)

NB: New memberships are subject to Committee approval.

If paying by EFT; first email your completed form/details to
secretary@whsoc.org.au or mail to PO Box 67, Warrandyte 3113. Please include your surname online as the reference for your payment.

Name: Warrandyte Historical Society Inc.

If you pay by cheque, mail payment and completed form to:

Warrandyte Historical Society
PO Box 67, Warrandyte, 3113

Please ensure email addresses are correct.

Please encourage friends and family to join and

Warrandyte Historical Society

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/warrandytehistoricalsociety



Other contacts:

Treasurer: David Carty 03 9844 1920

*Group Visits: Museum answering machine.
03 9844 4176*

Archiving: Gina Bevan-Jones 039812 2357

Newsletter: ajd94@outlook.com

*General enquiries and messages can be left on the
museum answering machine or fax.*

Phone: 9844 4176

email: info@whsoc.org.au

Seeking Historical Articles of Interest.

Warrandyte has a rich tapestry of untold stories relating to it's history.

Many of today's Warrandyte families have connections to the earliest inhabitants of this area. Much information of Indigenous occupation is still to be discovered.

Warrandyte was Founded on Gold, we have a wealth of information on Miners, Mining, Gold and Equipment used in our Goldfields. It is by no means complete.

Warrandyte also featured prominently, and still does, in the Arts, with Local Painters, Potters, Writers, Photographers, Musicians and many other skills.

Orchards and Farms were numerous in Warrandyte from the Early days of settlement, remnants of these early properties can be still found today. Some with connections to those historical properties are still operating. The Blacksmiths skills were required by all of the above.

The Warrandyte Historical Society Newsletter seeks and publishes Local Articles relating YOUR stories to an interested audience of Society Members and Friends.

If you have any Stories of Family History or Warrandyte History you would like to see published please contact Alan, email: ajd94@outlook.com. Your story should be told.



42K Media
www.42kmedia.com.au
hello@42kmedia.com.au



CREATIVE
graphic design

Phone: 0409 233 318
info@bcreative.net.au
http://budgetwebsites.melbourne/



RAINBOW
Plumbing & Civil

Rainbow Plumbing & Civil
23 Station Street, Diamond Creek
9438 2100

JellisCraig
Chris Chapman
Director & Auctioneer
Jellis Craig North East Group
ChrisChapman@jellisicraig.com.au
Phone: 03 9431 1222
Mobile: 0421 736 592



Quinton's Supa IGA
402 Heidelberg/Warrandyte Road,
9844 3089



Traditional Folk Arts
42 Stony Creek Rd, 9844 2036



Ruby Tuesday
Handmade Jewellery
90 Melbourne Hill Road
9844 4600



WARRANDYTE
diary
for the community by the community



Warrandyte Quality Meats
"Quality Meats, Friendly Service."
Goldfields Plaza, 9844 1563

**Thanks to Nillumbik Shire and Manningham City Councils,
Warrandyte Riverside Market and Warrandyte Community Bank
for ongoing support**







THE GRAND  WARRANDYTE

The Grand Hotel
110-120 Yarra Street
9844 3202



Dog Dayz Boarding Kennels
Tills Drive
9844 3292

**CLANCY'S GARDEN
AND TREE CARE**

0411 311 824

Warrandyte Historical Society
thanks Our Wonderful Business
Partners who continue to support
Our Museum, please help by
supporting them.