

THE BARWON VIEW

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

PREMIER EDITION

MAY 1994

10 Moorabool St, Geelong 3220

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Geelong's New Community Venture

The Barwon View Team has great pleasure in introducing you to the first issue of The Barwon View.

The Barwon View is Geelong's new community newspaper. The Barwon View will be distributed throughout the region to inform, empower, entertain and advocate on behalf of economically and socially disadvantaged people.

The Barwon View is auspiced by The Brotherhood of St. Laurence - Barwon Region and funded by the Department of Employment, Education and Training under the JobSkills Program.

This program has brought together a team of enthusiastic and committed people. We encourage you to become a part of this team. The Barwon View Team is very keen to receive your stories, photographs and letters. We are also looking for volunteers to help us with interviewing, writing, typing, editing, layout, distribution and advertising. If you are interested please phone 23 2327.

These are challenging times for Geelong and the region. New Local Government structures are being put in place and many essential community services are being

privatised and de-regulated. The costs and benefits of social change must be shared equitably across the whole community.

The economy is turning around, but long-term unemployment continues to plague this region. If people are going to overcome economic and social disadvantages, they must have jobs.

The number one priority of this newspaper is people and the issues that affect people.

We hope that you will enjoy and support your new community publication.

The Barwon View Team.

Child Health Changes Concern

by Penelope Naylor

Since January 1994 there have been dramatic changes to the running of Maternal and Child Health Centres. Although these changes have been widely publicised as cuts, this is not the case, according to Maternal and Child Health Nurse Karen Bennett. Speaking at an open meeting Ms Bennett said, "Funding hasn't been cut but things have changed dramatically."

State government money for the centres has been allocated very specifically for visits at particular

ages and milestones. "These are key visits" said Ms Bennett "they are designed to standardise visits and measure outcomes." The visits are timed to pick up such things as hearing loss, sight loss, dislocated hips, etc. as early as possible.

Despite the new arrangements mothers are still welcome to telephone or drop in at the open session times every week. Each centre has an open session at a different time so that if no one is available at one centre mothers can go to another. "The difference is

that these times will no longer be funded by the State government" said Ms Bennett.

Mr. Richard Metcalf the Director for Recreation, Cultural and Community Services, who is responsible for the Maternal and Child Health Centres agreed. "Parents are encouraged to drop in or ring if they have a concern" he said. "Where there is a risk to a child's health or life access will not be denied to anyone. The most

(Continued on page 5)



Ms Michelle Hagiwara and her two children, Dallas (3) and Steven (9 mths), prefer the old system.
Photographer: Artur Wydro

Evaluate Amalgamation Process says former Councillor

by Paul Desmond

"An evaluation of Geelong's Local Government amalgamation will help other regions which are debating amalgamation" said former Geelong West councillor, Mrs Virginia Todd.

"Geelong's restructure is the first in the state...Melbourne and the whole state could derive enormous benefit from having a proper evaluation of Geelong's experience" she said.

Since these comments, The Minister for Local Government, Mr Hallam, has announced a decision to delay council elections throughout Victoria until the future of the state's remaining 145 councils is determined. This announcement indicates amalgamations and the appointment of Commissioners is being considered for many of the state's municipalities.

Mrs Todd said the Local Government Board could commission an outside consulting firm to perform the evaluation. "Ideally, you would have a community committee which would act as a steering committee for the consultancy. With massive changes occurring across Victoria, we cannot afford to make mistakes",

she said.

Commissioner Jenkins however said it is too early to evaluate the effectiveness of the amalgamation.

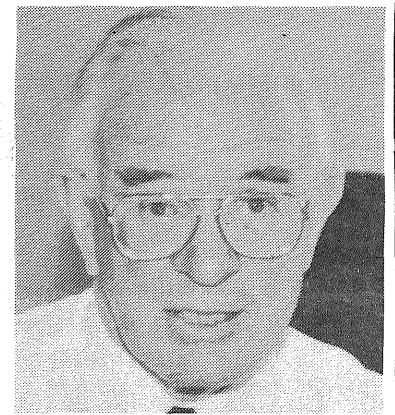
"You won't, be able to measure the effectiveness of the restructure, the new financial systems and the new management systems until they're all in place" he said.

However, Mrs Todd insists it is never too early for evaluation. "In light of the debate raging in Melbourne, it is timely to do an evaluation at this point on the process [of amalgamation] in the last year". She said that concerns about the level of community decision making and whether the community feels a democracy is in place require discussion.

Mrs Todd wants the concerns of City of Greater Geelong workers included in the evaluation. She believes "staff morale is dangerously low" because of job uncertainty. She said that the uncertainty is affecting their capacity for work and contributing to an "aura of fear."



Mrs Todd



Commissioner Jenkins

People Helping People

by Steve D.

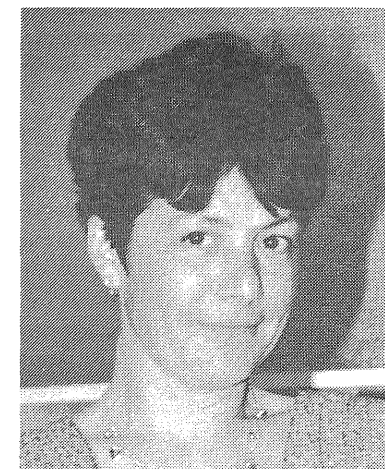
"One Day At A Time" is the suggestion printed on the notice board at the Geelong Unemployed Drop In Centre. For those whose past economic security has disappeared in "the recession we had to have," and facing the uncertain future of the jobless, the motto may be the message of hope on which to cling.

The centre, situated in Market Street, off Little Ryrie Street, is staffed by Diana Breen and several willing volunteers. It offers a haven for the unemployed to share their feelings over a cup of coffee. Fifty-five year old Joy, a regular visitor to the centre, was forced into the dole queue by the death of her husband and government policy regarding widows. She says her feelings of alienation and despair have eased since she "found" the centre.

The Centre's newly acquired computer has become the new focus of attention recently. A number of people have had the opportunity to

receive instruction on how to use it. The centre is funded until October this year by the Churches and Trade Union Committee. Sponsorship is urgently required to guarantee its survival beyond this time.

The centre is open from 10 AM to 4PM Monday to Friday and visitors are most welcome.



Ms Diana Breen

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A Shower of One's Own
Rock N' Rock Rat

Black - White Relations Success

by Roger Lewry

After a year and a half of operation, Geelong's Koori Information Centre and Narana Creations shop at 41 Yarra St. is now firmly established. Its growing range of authentic Aboriginal products make a unique contribution to tourism, and it is quietly building good will with people in the Geelong community.

Narana is a Koori word meaning, "hearing and understanding." The Narana Drop In Centre is a meeting place where Koori people and people of other cultures gather in an atmosphere of friendship to be "heard and understood".

Key figure in the success of the Koori liaison work is Vince Ross, Co-ordinator for the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress in Victoria.

Vince is assisted by Helen Brotherton, community worker, who brings a cheery and light-hearted approach to cultural

understanding.

Vince is a Koori from the Madi-Madi people along the Murrumbidgee river at Balranald. He grew up in Deniliquin, started work at Kyabram and met his wife Enid there.

They have worked with Kardinia Family and Community Services in Geelong, and are active members of the Salvation Army.

"There is genuine interest throughout the state in the work of bridge-building between the Koori and the wider community that we are involved in," Vince said. The shop is a non-profit venture, with the rent and running costs donated by the Uniting Church in Australia's Synod of Victoria. Vince's salary is paid by the Uniting Church.

Narana also provides an outlet for sales of arts and crafts produced by aboriginal people from around Australia.

Vince Ross is sharing

information collected at the centre with schools and community organisations.

He hopes that Narana will provide the impetus for Kooris to take responsibility for their own lives, with less reliance on welfare, thus raising levels of self-esteem generally.

There are nearly thirty people volunteering as helpers in the shop, and others are assisting Vince and Helen with the cultural education outreach to schools, community and service groups and churches.

Vince said: "At a time when many people want to join the movement for reconciliation, the Congress is reaching out in Victoria, putting people in touch with others who need support and encouragement."

"I invite Geelong people to come in and meet us. We would love to meet you."



Vince Ross

Photo: Artur Wydro



Major - General Jock McNeil Photo: Artur Wydro

Warriors Gather in Chilwell

by Steve D. & Penelope Naylor

Veterans of several wars gathered together recently at the Chilwell Library to share their experiences before an enthralled audience.

The first speaker, Major-General Jock McNeil, (Retd) spoke of his indoctrination into the army. "We didn't have guns so we drilled with pick handles" he said "and for artillery training we had to pretend to load drawings on the ground". His ship's destination was changed at sea when it was realised that the troops were about to be dropped off to fight the Japanese without any weapons.

Corporal Ord Whitcroft (Retd) spoke of his service in Tobruk and

of the army's great reliance on the navy to provide supplies, artillery cover and to evacuate wounded soldiers. Corporal Whitcroft finished his speech with his feelings on the inevitability of war. "Wars will continue until man learns to love his neighbour" he said.

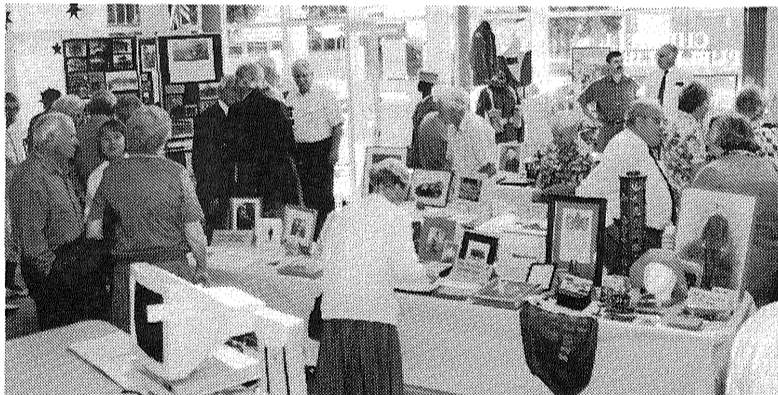
Korean war veteran Noel Slaven described the Korean war as the forgotten war. Over 18,000 Australians served in Korea yet the war is seldom mentioned in the Australian media. The North Koreans crossed into South Korea on the 25th of June 1950 and the first contingent of Australian troops was despatched only a week later.

The trench warfare experienced during battles in Korea was much like that fought during the first world war.

Alan Hughes of the Vietnam Veterans' Association told the audience that the Vietnam war was a political war. He also mentioned the political ramifications of conscription and Agent Orange. "The western nations deserted South Vietnam when they realised they could not win the war" he said. In addition to the veterans several military historians spoke including Mr. Colin Frish, author of "Heroes Denied" and singer Sydney Melbourne provided further entertainment.

The audience included many retired diggers such as Mr. Bob Moore, featured in "Heroes Denied" and Mr. Ted Leishman who contributed some of his army issue books to the display.

The morning was led by Lieutenant-Colonel Alistair Robb (Retd) and organised by Chilwell librarian Kathy Barker. "The display can be viewed until Friday the 6th of May" she said.



Chilwell Library Display Photo: Artur Wydro

JobsPlan : Awaiting White Paper Response

by Paul Desmond

Victoria's main employers' organisation says its Jobs Plan would place up to 250,000 long term unemployed Australians in full-time work.

The Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) made this claim recently, after surveying 152 of its members about Jobs Plan.

Sixty-one percent of the companies surveyed said they would consider employing a long term unemployed person under JobsPlan while only 29% would employ a person without Jobs Plan. VECCI calculated that this represents a 3.2% increase in employee numbers and extended this figure to estimate that 250,000 jobs could be created nationwide.

Under the proposal, long term unemployed people would be paid a 'transitional wage' of 75% of the award wage. The government would subsidise the wage by \$100 for the first twelve months and \$50 for the next six months. At the end of this 18 month period, further employment at the same company would be at the full award wage.

Mr Graeme Esler, Regional Manager for VECCI, said "it's a winning plan for the government, employers and long term unemployed... People want work ... what they are looking for is the self-esteem of being

back in proper, real work".

However, Geelong Trades Hall Council secretary, Mr John Kranz, says Jobs Plan is "nothing more than a grab by employers to have cheap labour".

"Why should these people accept a quarter of a wage less than others? The wage level for someone about 17 years is barely enough to survive anyway; ... if you take away a quarter of that, I don't think they can survive" Mr Kranz said.

"Wages in Australia are not a factor for high unemployment. Our answer is for the Federal Government to put about four billion dollars into the economy in the way of public infrastructure and environmental works and in assisting the nation's manufacturing industry," Mr Kranz said.

VECCI submitted Jobs Plan to "The Committee on Employment Opportunities." The Committee's response to the proposal is expected in 'The White Paper,' due to be released on May 4.

If leaks of the White Paper's content have any substance, we can expect increased training schemes which will hide the true number of unemployed without tackling the unemployment crisis.

Ed: The White Paper will be analysed and discussed in the June issue of The Barwon View.

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Celebration ...Newspaper Launch ...Archival 1940's Movies

You are invited to come to the Geelong Performing Arts Centre on Wednesday 25 May at 6.00 pm for an evening which includes the screening of three historic films, marking 60 years of the Brotherhood of St Laurence's work in Victoria, and the launch of The Barwon View community newspaper by Mr Gavan O'Connor MHR.

This is an occasion for recognising the significant impact of the Brotherhood of St Laurence in helping Geelong people who are desperately in need.

- The three films
- * Beautiful Melbourne
 - * These are our children
 - * Jail does not cure



1940's children

were made on location in the 1940's. They show the desperation and deprivation of the city's worst slum precincts. These unique films had no sound tracks. Father Gerard Tucker, founder of the Brotherhood, provided the commentary in person. Tucker was outraged by the living conditions in the slums of Melbourne. He campaigned for the abolition of slums in cities and towns all over Victoria. He demanded a response from the community.

For this special showing in Geelong, Mr David Scott, a nephew of Father Tucker, and former director of the Brotherhood, will provide commentary.

Geelong's community newspaper project provides the opportunity for twelve people to gain skills in the production, marketing and distribution of a community newspaper.

The mission statement of The Barwon View outlines the paper's aim to advocate, inform and entertain, with an emphasis on the needs of the socially and economically disadvantaged people of Geelong.

The Barwon View team will be present at the evening, to tell the

story so far, and to encourage community support for this grass roots information resource.

Tickets for the evening are available for a \$ 2 0 contribution from the Brotherhood of St Laurence at 143 Princess Hwy, Norlane, phone 741966, and at the office of The Barwon View, 10 Moorabool St. Geelong, Phone 232327.



Photo: Artur Wydro

The Barwon View Team

Migrant Aspirations

by Suzi Jazbinsek

The aspirations of migrants in the Geelong region have changed significantly in the past decade. Their dreams and aspirations have altered with the downturn in the economy, and life in Australia is a different to what they had experienced before. In recent decades we have had more Asian migrants. They left turmoil in their own countries and had expectations of a better life in Australia.

European migrants formed a great part of Australia's workforce in the 50's. The nation grew in wealth from their sweat and toil. Asian and European migrants have one thing in common - a desire for a better life. However, after their arrival they often found their new home was not how they had pictured it.

Many people from Europe and Asia came to Australia to escape from unjust systems. Mr Hoa An Nguyen, for example, was a Vietnam refugee who arrived in this country twelve years ago. His wife has been here for 8 years. They hoped to build a new life. Mr and Mrs An Nguyen married here and have 2 children. The couple now run a thriving nursery in Corio. Although they miss their country of origin, the An Nguyen's now have a secure life in Australia with freedom and equality being what they cherish most.

Another migrant success story is that of Mr Patrick Cryan. He and his wife came to Australia 10 years ago hoping for a better future. Mrs Cryan was an Australian visiting Ireland when she met Patrick from the village of Ballintubber, where he worked as a welder and carpenter before coming to Australia. As their was no work in Ireland and the cost of living was too high they decided to move. "It took a while to get used to Australia but I found Australians easy going and friendly and besides, it rains a lot in Ireland." Mr Cryan has found coming to Australia a good move and now has a secure job at Clonard College working as a carpenter.

Lack of information has been a significant barrier for migrants not familiar with English. This is recognised by the co-ordinator of the Geelong Migrant Resource Centre, Mr Jordan Mavros. "The Geelong Migrant Resource Centre offers information and translation services, assistance in completing forms, letters, referrals and counselling for migrants who have problems with accessing services," he said.

Help is available from the Centre on 21 6044 or through the free telephone interpreter service on (008) 11 2477.



Mr. Patrick Cryan



Mr. Hoa An Nguyen

A Family Coping with Deafness

by Rodney Jordan

Steven and Karen Ring are both deaf. They are married and have two young sons, James 10 yrs and Adam 4 yrs. Both boys are able to hear well.

Karen was born deaf, after her mother caught Rubella during pregnancy. Steven became deaf after he developed meningitis when he was 17 months old. Steven communicates well and is able to mix with other people fairly easily.

"I taught myself to talk with help from teachers at the Glendonald School for the Deaf," Karen said.

"I attended the school for ten years and used to stay at the boarding house during the week and go home at the weekends.

But I always felt lonely at home because of my deafness, and my parents kept forgetting about me, due to the fact that I was not home on week days and because I had a lot of trouble communicating with other

members of my family," she said.

Steven went to Glendonald for four years and an ordinary school until year 12 and on to a TAFE College where he completed a plumbing apprenticeship.

It took Karen and Steven a long time to improve their speech and learn to lip read.

"We choose to communicate orally, as we don't see many of our deaf friends any more," Steven said.

"We used to see a lot of our friends when they attended the Deaf Social Club in Newtown but that was years ago, before our children were born.

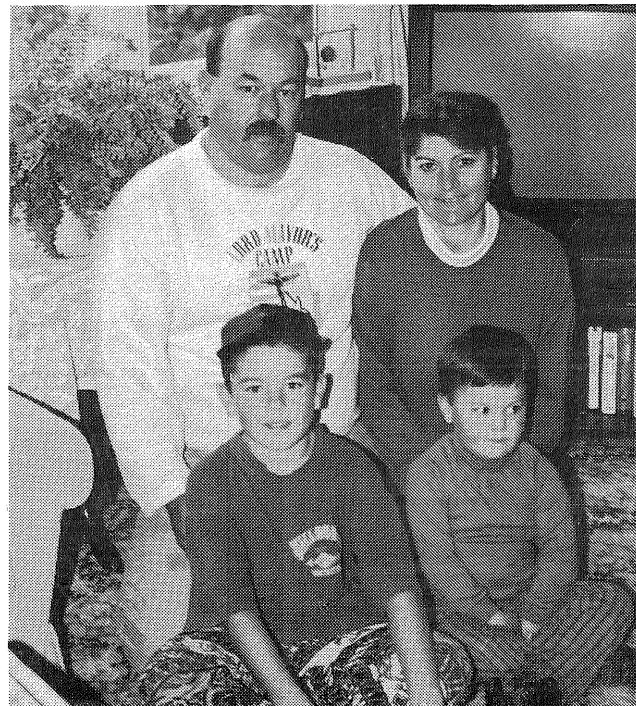
"These days we don't have much spare time because we have to look after James and Adam and run the household, and I am also working a lot of overtime," he said.

Karen uses sign language with most deaf people. Steven, however, has difficulty with the signs. James

often interprets conversations for Karen by speaking slowly and clearly so she can read his lips.

"Sometimes it's confusing and frustrating when a deaf person is not sure what someone is saying to them and it can be extremely difficult, when a lot of people are talking at once," said Karen.

Steven and Karen wear hearing aids. This helps them to hear loud noises and some conversation. Stephen and Karen's house has a flashing light instead of a door bell to alert them when visitors call. When James and Adam were babies, Stephen and Karen had a microphone with a flashing light attached to the children's cots so they could see when the children were awake or crying. The family also has a television with a teletext that displays subtitles. The Ring family are able to lead happy and fulfilling lives because they are adaptable and resourceful people.



Steven and Karen Ring with James and Adam



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History of Geelong Mural



Public opposition is mounting against a State Government proposal to create office spaces in the foyer of Geelong's State Government building at the corner of Fenwick and Lt. Malop Streets.

If allowed to proceed, planned refurbishments to space in the building will obscure a large, historic

mural in the ground floor foyer.

Local Historians and art experts have united in their criticism of the State Government plan, calling it "artistic vandalism", "totally obnoxious" and "disappointing" for the people of Geelong.

Covering the full wall at the rear of the building's foyer the mosaic

mural depicts colorful aspects of Geelong' history and lifestyle. The mural was produced by noted State artist, Mr Harold Freedman, closely assisted by another noted artist, Mr David Jack. Nearly two tonnes of glass tiles were used to complete the 30 metre long work.

Geelong Historical Society president, Mr Peter Alsop, warned

that the work's "aesthetical integrity" would be destroyed if it was obscured.

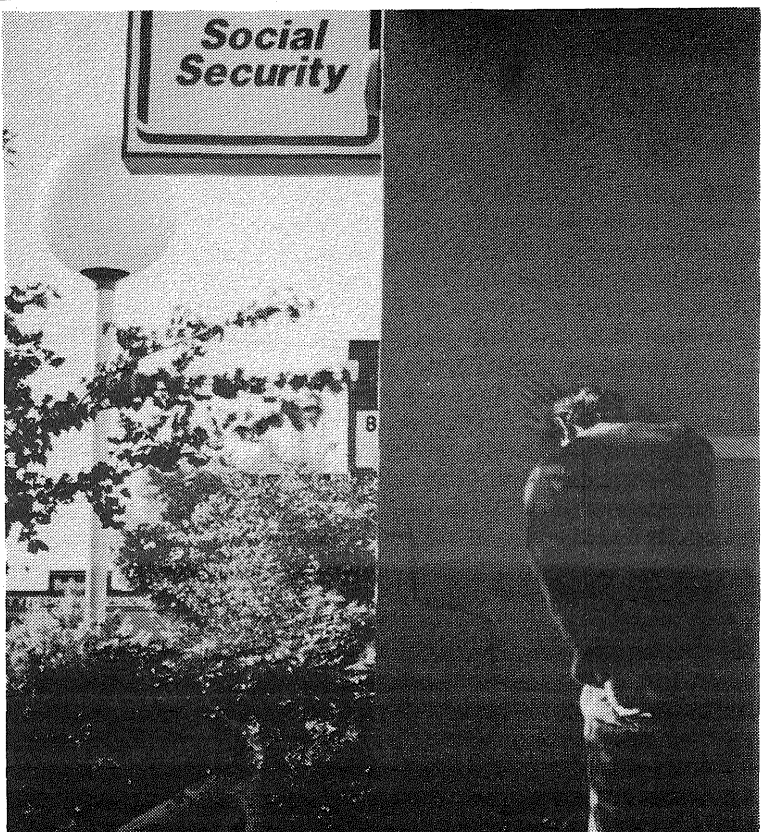
He said Geelong Historical Society members consulted with the artists over an eight year period to ensure aspects of Geelong's past were accurately portrayed.

Mr Freedman includes among his

works the famous 400 square metre transport mural at Melbourne's Spencer Street railway station. While the Melbourne mural is seen by tens of thousands of commuters daily, Mr Jack said Mr Freedman considered the Geelong mural his best work.

Geelong Art Gallery Director, Ms

(Continued on page 5)



A Long Way To Go

Photo: Artur Wydro

Middle-Aged Unemployment Crisis

by Darrell Blackman

Geelong is facing a middle - aged unemployment crisis. With "Restructuring", "Economic Rationalisation" and the slow growth out of "Recession", the over forties are on the end of a long line of groups trying to find work in the region.

The long - term unemployed are losing morale, self - esteem and feelings of self - worth. Long term inactivity leads to all sorts of emotional and physical problems. Many middle - aged Australians are attending Skillshare training courses to help find employment but unfortunately, a large number of these people are not finding any work after they finish this training.

Joan is a middle - aged widow who hasn't worked for three years. Joan says "The computer training course that I was on totally traumatised me. I experienced a tight

chest and felt physically sick from the intense training. I would have felt better if I had received more attention from the teacher. At least I finished the course but I don't feel any better for having done it. Many of the older people who did the course dropped out."

Gary is an unemployed middle - aged man who has been out of work for two years. Gary lives on \$140 per week (approx.). He has sold all his possessions and he can't afford to run his car. He now lives in a cheap boarding house trying to make ends meet.

"I survive the best way I can, op - shop clothes and free meals at charities. I am trying to keep enough money aside for a trip to see my family in Canberra." he said.

"I am a positive thinker but I hope the Government can do something for the unemployed very soon, otherwise

I will not have a future."

Some middle - aged unemployed people are able to cope better than others. A few have started their own businesses but others have fallen into the welfare net.

"In my view, people want nothing more than a worthwhile existence: an honest days work, for an honest days pay" said Gary.

The figures show that middle - age unemployment is a significant problem. State and Federal Government programs such as "JobSkills", "The Western Older Workers Project", "Geelong Business Placements" are an excellent beginning. However, there is still a long way to go.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor

Geelong Community Radio (3YYR-FM) was started in February 1985 by a group of local residents in order to fulfil a community need in Geelong. This need was not only for the volunteers who worked together to achieve something they all believed in, but to also give the community local news and special interest programmes.

The aim was to have something called Geelong's own.

3YYR conducts training courses in order to develop broadcasting skills and in turn offers the opportunity for trained presenters to air their opinions on public radio. This gives the non-working people in our community opportunities to maintain or develop their skills and regain self-confidence, especially in these times of great uncertainty.

3YYR's main income derives from subscriptions, donations, fundraising and sponsorship-all of which are given by you - the community.

3YYR is not funded by the government, however, a grant is received to assist with 3YYR's Ethnic Programmes, which make up a third of their programming format.

In these times of recession, it is

difficult for anyone to sustain financial commitments on a long term basis and all businesses expect value for money and results from their advertising and sponsorship campaigns, which of course is understandable.

However, sponsorship on Community Radio will not only target a variety of people not generally listening to other media, but will give the businesses an opportunity to align themselves with their local Community right here in Geelong.

The next time you listen to radio, tune in to 100.3 FM and listen to a variety of programmes presented by volunteers in the community of Geelong. Remember, when you plan your advertising campaigns, please consider a budget not only for better business opportunities for yourselves, but be recognised as a supporter of your local community and help Geelong to grow.

Barbara Godlewski

To Our Correspondents, Letters should be no more than 300 words, signed, with name and address. Letters may be edited for reasons of space. Address them to the Editor, Barwon View.

Kennett Bill Hits Students Hard

by Gian Bhogal

Services will be cut and staff will be retrenched under the State Government's proposed Voluntary Student Unionism Bill. The Bill removes any compulsory requirement for students at Deakin Geelong to be members of a Student Union or Association. "We will be sacking staff and cutting services" a Student Representative said yesterday. "Basically what this Bill means, is that we will have to tender

for student services. ...At this stage, I don't see how we are going to compete. ...We don't have enough staff now to adequately look after students needs. If funding is withdrawn, it will be an absolute disaster for this organization. We don't have the economies of scale that larger institutions have. Students will continue to be charged compulsory fees when they enrol. It is extremely unlikely that these fees

will be reduced. Furthermore, we may even have to introduce new fees. One thing is for sure, from 1995 there will be less services and less representation". For further information contact Grant Carroll President of the Burnley Student Association on 03 - 818 0416 or Penny Sharpe at the National Union of Students on 03 - 326 7000.



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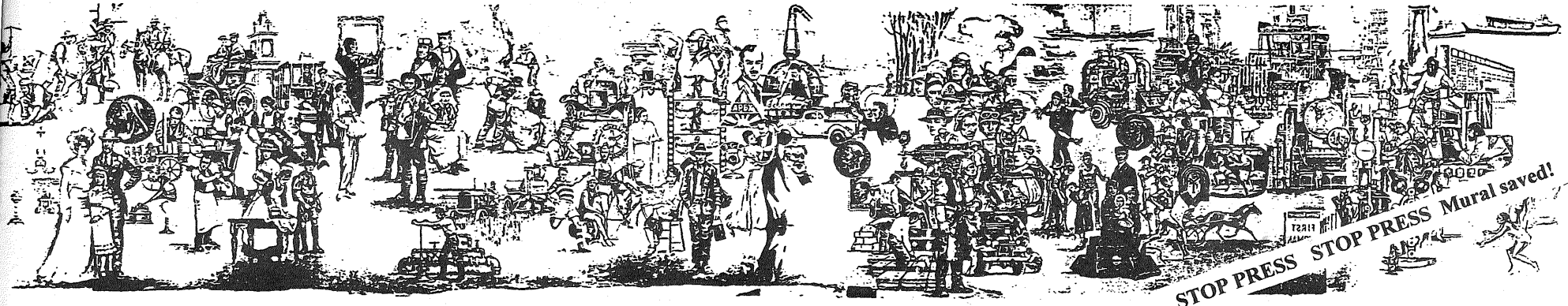


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It May Go In Cover Up



Susie Shears, said she received many inquiries by visitors wanting to view the mural.

"Many people would be disappointed if the mural was obscured," she said. "It is certainly not what the artist would have intended."

Geelong Historic Records Centre

co-ordinator, Mr Norman Houghton, described the mural as an important statement on Geelong's history.

"For the Hamer Government to put up the money and get a competent artist indicates it had faith in the mural, and now to cover it up smacks of vandalism by the current State Government," he said.

The State Government offices were built for \$10 million and opened in 1979 by the then Premier, Sir Rupert Hamer.

The mosaic was only partially completed at the time of the opening, but it was later unveiled as a work of art destined to become "one of the city's proudest historical monuments."

Educational materials were produced and distributed to local schools. The materials were sponsored by the Geelong Chamber of Commerce and members of the wider Geelong community.

"Not only will the mural history give pleasure as a work of art, but it will be of great value in the education of our children for many years to

come," Sir Rupert said at the mural's unveiling.

STOP PRESS: State Finance Minister, Mr Smith, has guaranteed that Geelong's historic mural will remain "fully visible" despite plans to go ahead with a major refit of the State Government offices complex.

Geelong's Historic Aqueduct - The Committee's View:

The saga of the Geelong Aqueduct continues. Mr. Dick van der Molen, Mr. Randall Bell and Mr. Peter Alsop are Co - Chairpersons of the Geelong Aqueduct Committee. Mr. Bell and Mr. Alsop have expressed support for the following letter. This letter has been condensed for publication.

Neil Tolliday
Editor Barwon View

Dear Editor,

Re: Restoration of Aqueduct.

Barwon Water has claimed on a number of occasions that the aqueduct will cost \$ 8 million to restore. This estimate includes the cost of a 30 year maintenance program. The estimates for the actual restoration work are approx. \$ 5. 6 to \$ 5. 8 million depending on repair methods.

I have made an estimate of the work allowing for the fact that this project would be eligible for an employment development program. My estimate came to \$ 3. 5 million. Mr. Ian Godson of Remedial Engineering Pty. Ltd. has stated that he would be prepared to take on the work for \$ 4 million using cathodic protection. The work would be done by about 15 - 20 people and would take about five years.

Mr. Godson and I agree that concrete restoration procedures are

available which would eliminate the necessity for periodic maintenance after completion of the restoration. If we take the estimate at \$ 3. 75 million and subtract the \$ 540, 000 contribution Barwon Water would make, we finish up with a cost of approx. \$ 650, 000 annually over five years.

Some people in the community are arguing that the aqueduct is a public safety hazard. Firstly, it has been claimed that pieces of concrete are falling off the structure and secondly that one span or the whole structure may collapse.

In my opinion, the first claim can be dealt with by employing a small crew to go along the aqueduct and remove all bits of concrete that are likely to fall off. The cost of this would be negligible.

The problem of total collapse is highly unlikely because each pair of trusses and their support towers are independent of their neighbours. This means that a domino - type collapse of the whole structure is impossible.

According to the Taywood - Maunsell report, "... most members have a significant reserve of strength and can sustain a substantial loss of strength prior to failure ". The critical members are the vertical compression members nearest to the towers. These members can lose up to 20 % of their reinforcing steel before failing. The Taywood - Maunsell report disregarded all cover concrete on the assumption that it had no residual strength. These findings

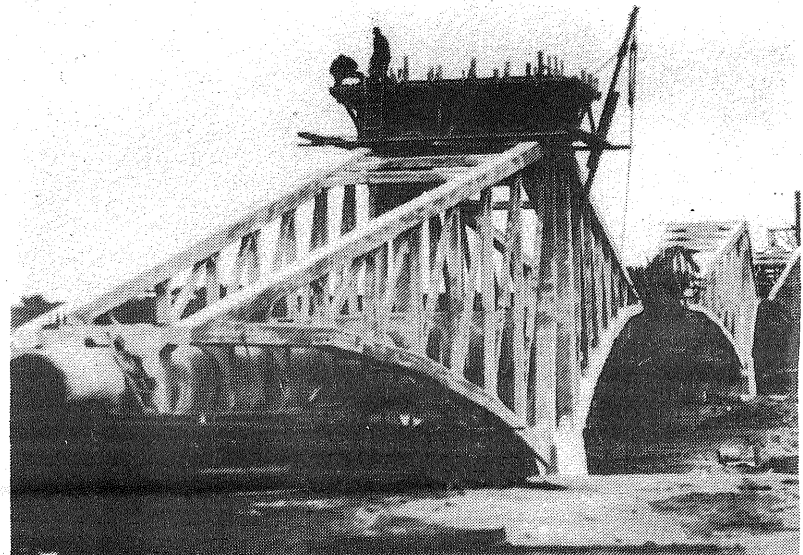
support the view that the structure is perfectly safe.

Barwon Water is a corporate citizen as well as the statutory water supply authority for this region. As a corporate citizen Barwon Water has a number of statutory duties as well as rights. One of its duties as the owner of a structure which is on the Register of the Historical Buildings Council of Victoria is to maintain the aqueduct in good order and condition.

Barwon Water has failed in its obligation to keep the structure in reasonably good order. Proper maintenance has not been carried out since the decision was made to de - commission the aqueduct. In fact, the current public safety problems are a direct result of a lack of maintenance by Barwon Water.

The aqueduct is a national asset and as such local rate payers should not have to bear the total cost of restoration. The cost should be shared between Barwon Water and the State and Federal Governments. However, Barwon Water is the owner. The owner, who should bear the ultimate responsibility.

J. L. van der Molen
M. Eng. Sc., MIE Aust. MASCE.
Melbourne University Parkville.

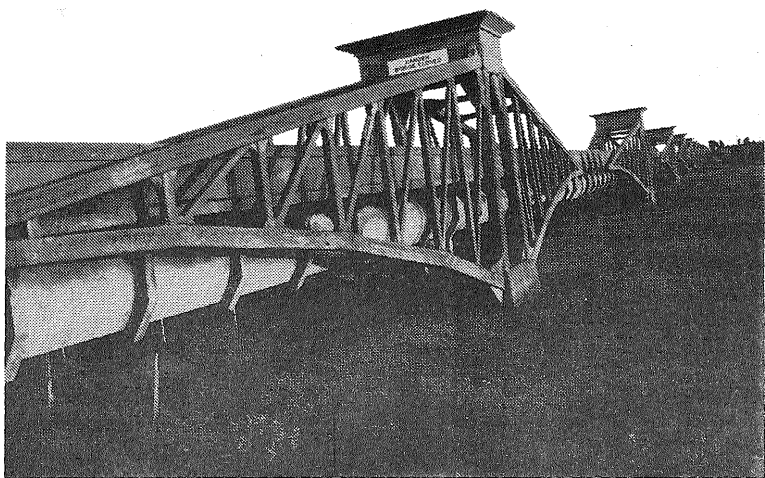


The Aqueduct circa 1913

The Barwon Water Chairperson's View:

Mr. Frank De Stefano, Chairperson of Barwon Water told the Barwon View "We have decided to apply for a demolition permit but we won't act on it for 12 months. We gave 12 months grace. We expect that all salvaging options will be explored during that time. We understand the heritage significance of the aqueduct. It's a matter of who should carry the responsibility for restoration and the future maintenance. Whilst the figures are disputed, the great majority of that money would have to be found beyond Barwon Water. I don't see that it's the responsibility of Barwon Water and the Geelong community alone. Every ratepayer would be asked to pay \$ 100 per property to foot the bill. The

aqueduct has been decommissioned and it has not been used for 2 years. It's our view that it's outside our core activity as a water authority. Water authorities must set priorities. We must concentrate on our core activities. This doesn't include decommissioned aqueducts." Mr. De Stefano said "We are more than happy and willing to co-operate with the Options Working Party. We have earmarked \$ 500, 000 for demolition. We would make it available so that the ongoing authority would be responsible for it. The problem is our legal advisers have identified a safety problem. Therefore we can't allow the safety risk to increase. River users are at risk".



The Aqueduct today (photo Mark Trengove)



Mr Metcalf

(Continued from page 1)
difficult part of the transition period has been that people think they can't use the service unless the yellow book says so. This is not the case. Indeed, extra visits are available to families who need them."

"Other changes do include cuts to services" admitted Mr. Metcalf. "Hospital visits have stopped unless specifically requested by hospital staff. Health assessments in kindergartens have been stopped and assessments in schools have been greatly reduced. Therefore, it is very important that each child has the final assessment between 3 and 4 years of age which is intended to take the place of the kindergarten assessment" said Mr. Metcalf.

The changes have met with a mixed

response from the community. Many mothers do not like the changes and have started lobby groups to pressure the State government to return to the original way of funding the centres. However, other mothers have particularly welcomed the change to appointments, which offer increased privacy as a move into the 20th Century.

One mother who does not like the new system is Ms. Michelle Hagiwara who has 2 children; Dallas who is 3 years old and Steven who is 9 months. "I preferred the old system" she said. "I would have used the centre a lot more with Steven if I had still felt free to drop in."

Attempts were made to contact lobby groups in Geelong but spokespeople were not available for comment.

The Equestrian Connection

by Rodney Jordan, Suzi Jazbinsek & Jeanette Greve

We enjoyed a visit to the Australian Equestrian Academy and Stud at Marcus Hill recently, where we met Dirk and Sicca Dijkstra, the Academy's proprietors.

While we were there, Carol kindly showed us around the place. First of all, we watched Brad, a beautiful Thoroughbred gelding while he was being worked on a lunge rope, in the school's outdoor arena. Brad who is at Preliminary Level Dressage, is a very quick learner, intelligent, quiet to ride and a pleasure to watch.

Carol then escorted us into the Academy's indoor arena, where four children were learning to ride on school ponies, named Alpha, Logan, Calypso and Beaumont.

The young riders were steadily gaining confidence, while learning the art of how to ride and control a horse. They all showed a great deal

of promise as riders, by getting acquainted with the fine techniques of dressage (controlled horse riding), under Jane's expert instruction.

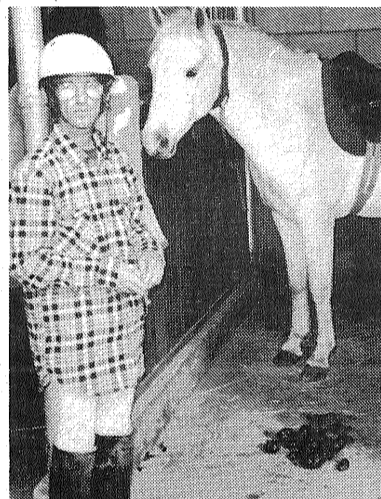
Instructors at the AEA also teach show jumping and advanced dressage, along with general theory and horse care. The academy caters for all grades of riders, of any age, either riding on their own, or a school horse. Beginners are welcome, and if a person has never ridden before, they'll be given a quiet school pony to learn on.

Carol maintains that all the horses at the AEA have been,

"trained with kindness", and are very well disciplined. Each horse has its own special stable, and when being brought in from the paddock, goes directly into the assigned stall, without being led. "They never go into the wrong stall", laughs Carol.



Ginger with Jeanette and Doris



Sonny with Rodney

Escaping on the Dance Floor

by Les Black

It hasn't disappeared. In fact it's back in vogue as never before.

People are flocking to dance venues in droves, dancing their troubles away all over the Geelong region.

Old people, young people, people who haven't danced for years, are dancing to modern and well known music of yesterday.

The Fox -Trot, Modern

Waltz, Charmaine, Evening-Three-Step are again popular.

Formal wear is out, casual clothes, and a good pair of leather shoes are in.

Dancing is a low-cost form of entertainment. A panacea for hard times is hard to find. Dancing helps.

Improvement is guaranteed with perseverance.

To quote one dance teacher in Geelong with twenty - three years

teaching experience: "To dance is to enjoy an inexpensive form of entertainment, exercise and socialising all at the same time."

So most nights of the week in a local hall, individuals and couples are getting ready for more dancing. With spirits high and troubles far away, dancing on a polished floor to the sounds of bands and recorded music, inhibitions disappear.



Graham and Miriam on the dance floor



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Pink Faces

by Steve D.



Dave Hanson, Comedian Photo: Artur Wydro

Staff of The Barwon View visited the 3YYR Pink Faces talent quest at the Norlane Hotel recently and found themselves in the judge's chairs.

Having no artistic talent whatsoever, I relished the chance to be a Red Symons for the night. My colleague, Jeanette Greve, held more sympathetic opinions of the performers and would apologise for my critique if she could. However I got to the typewriter first, so here it is.

Vocal duo Pauline and Lyn forgot to turn one of their microphones on. Perhaps they should have left them both off!

Comedian Dave Hanson appeared on stage with his suitcase of prized celebrity underwear. This included Michael Jackson's jockettes and several smaller items belonging to Michael Jackson's little friends. Dave

had my vote, but I was overruled by Jeanette.

Kevin Hay's rendition of the La Bamba was fortunately drowned out by the audience. Belinda Julian sang "Going South of the Border down Mexico Way" and this judge wished her all speed in getting there.

Scott Donaldson's didgeridoo eventually won the night. At least he refused to do an encore. My earlier judgement of Dave Hanson was confirmed, when the audience voted him as their winner.

Pink Faces is co-ordinated by Di Kovaks of 3YYR coffee shop fame. I warn you that Pink Faces is presented every second Wednesday night at the Norlane Hotel.

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Inner View

Introduction

The Greek philosopher Aristotle, wrote that poetry expresses the universal. Indeed, poetry can evoke the miracles of nature, express the qualities of love, or explore the mysteries of birth and death.

The first edition of the **Barwon View**, introduces **Inner View**, a column of poetry and prose. I am incorporating **Inner View**, with the creative literature program **Word Waves**, heard on 3YYR every Thursday at 1pm.

Inner View, introducing the work of local writers, proudly published for your reading pleasure.

Jeanette Greve

Snapshots

The white sun blazed from the blue skies;
silver clouds shimmered in the dazzling light.
A soft warm breeze sighed ...

Barefooted toddlers frolicked on the edge of the beach,
giggling with delight.
Their tiny fingers sifting grains of sand
with plastic spades and buckets.

A lone woman paddled,
lifting her skirt to the sides of her hips.
Slowly, she sinks - cool relief.
She wore a big white hat.

As for me,
I found serenity, on a bench,
under the shade of a tree - sipping an ice cold coke.

The body of a youth flashed past,
dripping with wet.
And a seagull squawked in loud protest
against this human intrusion.

A golden haired man cast his rod from the rocks,
while his dog looked on -
tilting his head from side to side,
in curious anticipation of the hoped for catch!

Out on the bay, the odd boat sailed across the glistening waters.
The overall picture - a poet's delight,
human beings and the environment -
living in harmony.

I smiled to myself, and gave silent thanks,
for a beautiful summer's day.
Nothing stays the same, they say.

Deep in the heavens, a storm lingers.

J. O'Neill

DREAMS

The dream child moving through a land,
Of wonders wild and new.
In friendly chat with bird or beast,
And half believe it true.

Eager eye and willing ear,
Lovingly shall nestle near.
In a wonderland they lie,
Dreaming as the days go by.

Dreaming as the Summers die,
Ever drifting down the stream.
Lingering in the Golden Gleam,
Life, what is it?
But a dream.

Rodney Jordan

The Sheep-Like Line

In the traumatic time, I tread the line,
somewhere between hope and despair,
forever grappling with my mind,
and trying desperately to care.

I'm here again, in a sheep-like line,
with sullen eyes and aimless stare.
I look around, unhappy souls,
do they really care ?

The line moves slowly,
we all feel low.
My turn next,
place the form there.

Hurrying scurrying, to avoid the eyes?
Head bent down, my gait is fast.
Hope no one sees me here.
I reach for my car, off I drive, relief at last.

Spirits lift, hope returns
until that day, in a fortnight's time's
when back I drive, with welfare shame.
I'm here again in a sheep-like line.
Am I to blame ?

A Shower of One's Own

by Steve D. & Jeanette

Imagine someone so desperate, use the bathroom facilities, that they have to sneak into a hospital to "steal" the simple necessity of taking a shower!

Could this be a scene from the Great Depression of the 1930's, or is it taking place in some far off Third World country ? You might be surprised to know that this was actually happening right here in Geelong in the 1990s. But now people who have no shower of their own can take one without resorting to "theft".

With funding from Geelong Lion's Club, Red Cross Geelong has converted a cleaner's cupboard into a shower recess, and provided a washing machine for persons requiring these facilities.

Most mornings there are people waiting outside the Red Cross Centre in Bellarine St., Geelong, wishing to

use the bathroom facilities, according to Franciszka Pomaranska, who is the dedicated Co-ordinator for the Red Cross in Geelong.

Red Cross operates OPIC (The Older Persons Information Centre), which provides confidential, impartial caring advice for older people over the phone. For further information telephone (03) 685 9850 or toll free on 008 807 887.

Donations can be sent to:

Red Cross
Geelong/Barwon Regional Centre
64 Bellarine Street,
GEELONG VIC 3220

If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer worker with the Red Cross, inquires can be made by calling (052) 291564

Rock 'n' Roll

Rat

by Darrell Blackman



Ben A. Rat

A local band, Cosmic Love Bus, is beating out a well known 70's classic. Here's a chance for a new generation to discover 60's and 70's music, an exciting period in rock and roll history.

Good music lasts with the years, and timeless rock classics have their place in the halls of great composers. Cosmic Love Bus do great versions of Stones, Beatles, Dylan, Hendrix and many more.

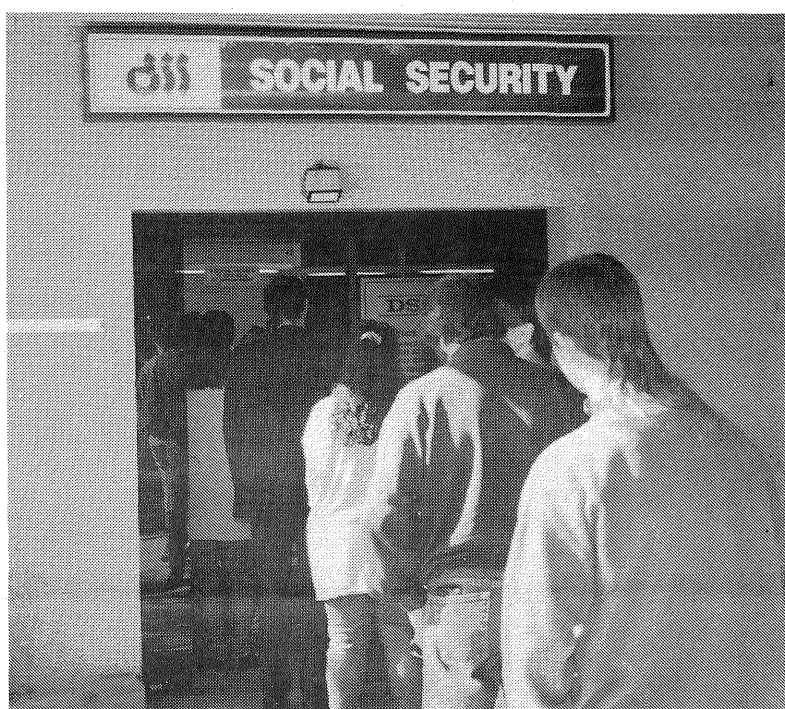
The band's reliving past glories of three decades ago - banging heads, closing eyes, swaying bodies, pulsating bass sounds, and great guitar riffs.

The Cosmic Love Bus consists of Mick (vocals and bass), Steve (guitar, vocals), Jason (percussion), and their docile rodent named Ben, a rock and rollin' rat, who travels with them.

The band is making a living, and they appear at the Platinum, De La Ville and National Hotels. They have played all over Victoria and the Riverina.

"Doing something we love, keeps the heart pumping, with plenty of vigour", says Mick.

Cosmic Love Bus have cut a cassette, and it's available for sale, wherever they play. Keep it up Ben and the boys from Cosmic Love Bus.



The Sheep-Like Line

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Brotherhood of St. Laurence Big Bin

The Material Aid Service of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence operates from a shop at 96 Fyans Street South Geelong (close to the Yarra St. corner). The Service provides **FREE** clothing, linen, household goods and furniture and is available to people on pensions, benefits and low incomes.

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Let's Tuck In

by Darrell Blackman

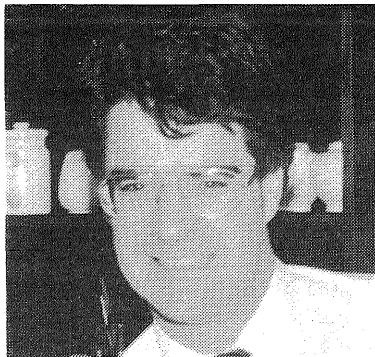
When you think that food has got the better of you, when you can't be bothered cooking or costs prove prohibitive or everything tastes bland.

How about some expert advice? Food can become enjoyable again.

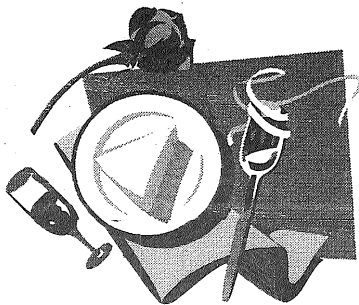
New experiences, regained enthusiasm and all within a budget. It doesn't have to be fancy *Ala Carte Cuisine*.

Well this is the column for you.

Our celebrity restaurant is The Truffleduck with the owner Hugh Palmer and the chef Andreas Martz. Here are two tried and true recipes from the Truffleduck:



Hugh Palmer



SEAFOOD CREPES

100G wholemeal flour, 1 egg, 300ml milk, yabbies, or any fish.

CREPE METHOD

Blend ingredients, except fish until smooth. Pour in hot oiled pan until just brown.

WHITE SAUCE

1/2 cup milk, 1/2 cup fish stock, pepper, 1 tsp butter.

METHOD

In small saucepan, add fish stock, butter, pepper. When boiling reduce heat, add milk mixed with cornflour, stir until thick and smooth. Add fish to white sauce.

Place over hot crepe and serve with side salad.



by Darrell Blackman & Suzi Jabinsek

Autumn in the garden. The end of those Summer vegetables. The beginning of the time for hardier frost resistant plants.

There is still plenty of work to do, and less daylight to do it in.

Dig in that compost, pull out those tomatoes and cucumbers. Use the summer flowers for compost, and prepare a vegetable garden for these colder months, and the hardier of the flowers.

Plant peas, broad beans, turnips, cabbage and other members of the brassica family, (broccoli, cauliflower) celery and silverbeet. Flowers for winter include Poppy, Marigolds SnapDragons, Hollyhock, Stock, Carnations, Daisies, Sweet Peas.

Change of seasons, also means

change of beds and locations. Change plants so that they aren't in the same position as they were 12 months ago. Fumigate and clean seed boxes and pots, to remove the old residues. All in all, this is a more relaxing time, with the germination progress slowing down - just as we should in the colder months.

Growing Bulbs is a good way of filling your garden with colour. There are many to choose from, for all seasons of the year. And they can be lifted out after flowering, and stored in a well ventilated, dark cool place. When preparing the soil for planting, incorporate large amounts of cow, horse or poultry manure.

Victoria, and especially the Barwon Region is most suitable for the English type plants. They



Desmond at Eastern Gardens

Photo: Artur Wydro

People for Public Housing

by Tom Morrison,

A lobby group of 12 people from the Barwon Region have just returned from Canberra where they joined with groups from other states to ask Federal Politicians, including Mr. Gavin O'Connor member for Corio, for an increase in public housing.

The Barwon delegation raised issues of concern about future housing needs in this region.

Each member of the delegation raised an issue which had directly affected their particular tenant group or someone they knew. The issues were well received by Mr. O'Connor.

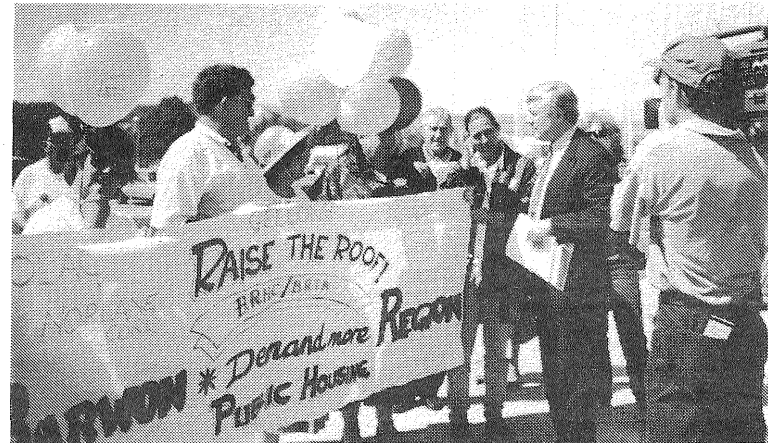
Most of the discussion was about the need to increase spending on public housing to make more flats and houses available. Although Mr. O'Connor was reminded that the government had said that it wanted to help provide more public housing he refused to commit himself to a figure. He promised to investigate a suggestion that rents for public housing should not be more than 20% of the income of each individual family and to look at having unfair ways of setting rent removed.

Mr. O'Connor promised to support the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) and

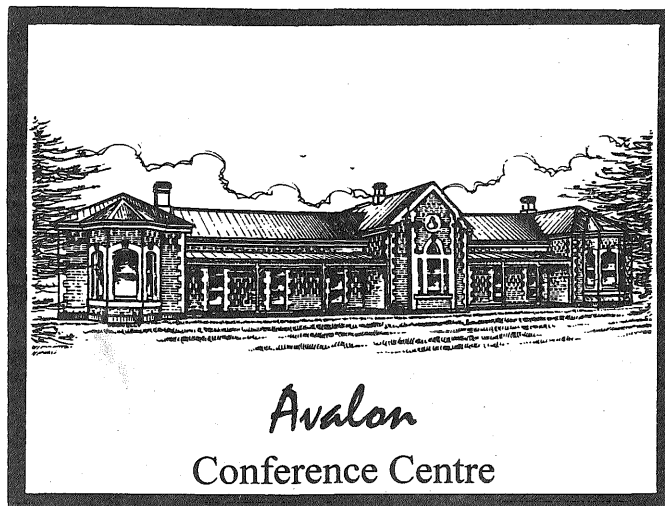
grants to the states specifically for public housing. He said that he is already committed to the development of the Community Housing Program (CHP) but agreed that money provided for it should be separate from money provided for the CSHA. Mr. O'Connor also agreed that State/Territory governments should be required to meet public housing targets and said that they ought to be more accountable to the Commonwealth.

The Barwon delegation was led by Ms. Chris Couzens of the Barwon Region Housing Council. It included housing workers, representatives of the Barwon Region Tenants Association, and public tenants. In between delegations the group went on sightseeing ventures. I must say Canberra is a wonderful place to visit, and I now know where our taxes go, and believe me they don't worry about expense when it comes to the comforts of home. (Not my home - their home!)

Ed.: Tom Morrison is a Community Tenancy Worker at the Barwon Region Housing Council.



Barwon Delegation with Gavan O'Connor MHR for Corio.



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