

# YARRAMBAT FIRE FLYER

Volume 1 Spring 1999

Newsletter of the Yarrambat Fire Brigade

October 1999

## WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of this new community newsletter, an initiative of your Yarrambat Fire Brigade. It is a quarterly publication to strengthen the link between the Brigade & Yarrambat residents. We will be delivering important safety messages and seeking your feedback on community events, points of interest & ideas. We will also be interviewing local identities in each edition. For our special interview this issue see page 2.

## BURNING ISSUES

\* Brigade Life Member Keith Collins recently retired from operational duties. Keith has dedicated more than 50 years to serving the local community. He was the Brigade's 1st Lieutenant from 1965 to 1971. To maintain response time standards, the Brigade must replace people like Keith. We are particularly keen to attract women and men who are often home during the day. Caring for children need not be a barrier to helping as we may be able to assist. To find out more, please phone Ken Collins on 9436 1167.

\* As many residents would be aware, the Brigade has for many years now been raising funds for a new fire station. Final plans can now be inspected at the station and construction is expected to begin around October/November. Thanks to the many residents, and the companies listed below, the Brigade's contribution is nearing its target of \$70,000. Any family or company wishing to make a tax deductible donation to the Brigade's Building Fund will be recognised on

a donors board in the new station. Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 50 Yarrambat 3091.

\* The Brigade has upgraded its skills in combating house fires & 18 members are now accredited to use breathing apparatus in firefighting & rescues.

## SOCIAL NEWS

\* The garage sale held at the Fire Station on 4th & 5th September raised \$3100 for the new fire station. The community response to our request for donations of items to sell was magnificent as was the number of people prepared to buy.

\* The bus trip to the casino by luxury coach with an "all you can eat" buffet meal was well supported by members of the Brigade and Yarrambat residents and raised another \$500 for the new fire station.

\* A Mystery Car Drive with prizes and BYO barbeque at the finish will be held on October 31st. Entry fee \$5 per person (minimum 2 people per car) with children under 14 free. Ring June O'Sullivan on 97181167 for details. Bookings close 15/10/99.

## COMMUNITY CORNER

\*Yarrambat Primary School held a successful Art Show on 3rd & 4th September.

## YARRAMBAT FIRE BRIGADE CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



# It's all happening in Yarrambat !

Yes you guessed it. Our local identity interviewed in this edition is former Australian Cricket captain Bill Lawry.

**Sue:** *How many years have you lived here?*

**Bill:** 6 years on November the 23rd...Came here in November 1993

**Sue:** *What was it that made you move into Yarrambat area?*

**Bill:** Good question - Mainly my pigeons I think. I've always been a pigeon fancier and I was looking for somewhere with a bit more land. I was looking up at Plenty when I was younger in the 70's but never had the money. Finally we decided with our girls grown up that we'd make the move which is unusual because most people do it the other way around. We've gone smaller to bigger but Joy and I just love it here. When we came out I think this was the first two and a half acre subdivision in this area. This was just a paddock and we've sort of worked pretty hard to get a garden going. We had floods early then we had droughts for about three years, but it's lucky we haven't lost too many plants.

**Sue:** *Well we've heard all about your pigeons on the TV*

**Bill:** I fly with the Plenty Club which is affiliated with the Victorian Home Association..our headquarters is at the Montmorency Park. I race in the Plenty Pigeon club.

**Sue:** *Is that what you mainly do just race the pigeons?*

**Bill:** Yes, they are only racing pigeons, not for showing.

**Sue:** *Do the pigeons always come home?*

**Bill:** No, not always unfortunately. We have hawk problems and weather problems but generally the returns are pretty good. Pigeons will always race home to their own place.

**Sue:** *So you must spend a lot of time away from home I guess?*

**Bill:** No not much now. Still most summers I'm away for a fair time of the cricket season because we travel interstate. But since I've stopped playing the only country I go to for television is England. I don't go to any other countries because of the time away, so probably about three months of the year I'm travelling doing cricket commentary.

**Sue:** *When you read books and other articles about Bill Lawry the cricketer you are sometimes referred to as a cricket Legend. Do you mind being called a cricket Legend?*

**Bill:** Well, I don't always get called a legend. I've been involved as a player for first class cricket for 17 years and now in television for 22 years and I think the word legend is used rather freely.

I think guys like Bradman are the legends really. We are just the good players that make up the numbers. It's been very good to me cricket. I've travelled the world and played in every cricketing country so I've been very, very lucky.

**Sue:** *What would be some of your most memorable moments in your cricketing career?*

**Bill:** I think probably my first memorable moment was back in 1961 when we went away with Richie Benaud's side to England. The cricket was exciting but we went by ship in those days - 21 days going there and 21 days coming back and that was the last tour where the sides went to England and back by ship. Now of course they fly over in 27 hours - so that was very exciting for a guy coming from Thornbury and had never been out of the country, travelling on a first class ship with some great players for 21 days. It really opened my eyes to the different ways people live I guess.

**Sue:** *It must have been a pretty exciting moment when you made 130 in the second test in your first tour of England in 61?*

**Bill:** Well at the time it was but I think that every hundred you make is exciting when you make them. I think that individual things are very important but I think that winning a series or winning a particular test match is what players strive for. Steve Waugh and what he has just been through winning the World Cup - that is something he will cherish for the rest of his life.

**Sue:** *I was reading that you got a bad injury when you played in South Africa when Pollock was bowling?*

**Bill:** I had my eye split open twice, once by Laurie Main in WA and by Peter Pollock in South Africa when I had 14 stitches and 16 stitches. I broke a finger in the tour of England in 68. Generally it's off an edge or you get hit in the face but now they wear helmets and those injuries have virtually disappeared. I think the less skilled you are the more chance of injury. I imagine it's like fire fighting or anything if you're green you are more likely to make a mistake than when you've been around a while.

**Sue:** *You must have gone to some scary places*

**Bill:** Oh no, I think they were different cultures but none of them were scary. They are generally very friendly people, overpowering from some points of view. It's probably better to tour there now because when we toured the hotel accommodation wasn't so good and now they've got the modern hotels and you can drink the water. South Africa is a fascinating country. I toured there twice. West Indies is different,

all small islands and very laid back people, but very competitive cricket side. But England is probably the tour that most cricketers look forward to in this country because they play more cricket and the travel is not as extensive.

**Sue:** *We wondered how you got the nickname 'The Phantom'.*

**Bill:** It's when I was a 15 or 16 year old picked to play for Victoria in the seconds and we went by train to Adelaide. I was the youngest guy on the train and the captain, Dick Maddocks, said go down and buy some pies and some newspapers and whatever. As I handed the money to the lady at the kiosk the train was starting to pull out so I sort of panicked so I grabbed a few things off the counter and took off without the change. On top of it was a phantom comic so that's how it started. I had read the phantom, although I think most kids read the phantom. Then it became sort of a bit of a joke – that's how it happened.

**Sue:** *And with the newspapers – did you ever have trouble with people in the media?*

**Bill:** When you play sport, as when you run a fire brigade, you're going to be criticised when you make mistakes and praised when you succeed. I'd have to say overall the media are pretty good so you've just got to balance it out. You can't be guided by what they say you've just got to do your own thing and have enough confidence in your own ability that what you are doing is right for you and the team. But the media is very important, without the media we don't get the exposure. They don't get people to the ground and they don't have the tours. I think the media today is much more professional than what it was 30 years ago.

**Sue:** *Have you only gone to England commentating on the cricket?*

**Bill:** The only countries where I've commentated are Australia and England, I don't go to the sub continent or South Africa mainly because of the time.

**Sue:** *Now what about Tony Greig?*

**Bill:** Tony Greig is a very good friend of mine.

**Sue:** *He seems to pick on you a lot...*

**Bill:** Well, probably because we're mates I suppose and I pick on him. I've been very lucky because I started with Channel 9 when World Series cricket started in 1977 with Richie Benaud and Keith Stackpole and myself, Fred Trueman and Tony Cozier were the first commentators. So since then Ian Chappell and Tony Greig have joined permanently. So it's been good fun - we're all different.

**Sue:** *There's got to be somebody to pick on I suppose...It's a good ploy really isn't it? Well its good to find out that you are good friends. The changes in cricket...you must have seen a lot of changes.*

**Bill:** Yes I have. I've been very lucky really to play in the normal area of what we call traditional cricket and be very much part of the change in 1977 when Packer took over and had the World Series cricket for 2 years.

The next emerging countries are certainly India and the sub continent. That's where the growth is going to be in cricket and where the fanatical enthusiasm for the game is. Since South Africa has come back after a 20 year spell they have played very well and now we've got emerging sides like Kenya, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh all adding to the colour. It's going to be good for cricket and of course Sri Lanka winning the World Cup previously to Australia has been good.

There's a lot of competition for cricket. Cricket is aware of the challenges and I think one-day cricket is going to give them the good balance with the test cricket and the one day games and the success of the World Cups, the number of people watching it worldwide, particularly on the sub continent where there were phenomenal figures. Just to see the crowds in England where most of them were either Pakistanis or Indians or Bangladeshians who came across for the World Cup. It was just amazing to see the people that followed. We're a long way away from where the action is so we basically need one-day cricket to be successful here. Eventually grounds like the Docklands, if it's covered, may in the future be used for a tournament mid winter. I don't know – that's one of the things that could happen.. So there are a lot of doors opening for cricket worldwide.

**Sue:** *Well I think its pretty positive because you hear a lot of people talking about the World Cup.*

**Bill:** Well that's good – it is the showpiece of world cricket coz it's the only time we can get all the teams together over a six week period and we couldn't do that with test cricket. The World Cup is the marketing and financial arm of cricket and one-day cricket and I think it was badly needed and just arrived at the right time. Interestingly it has been going for 22 years now and we're still talking about it.

**Sue:** *Have you ever had the need to have our brigade come to your assistance?*

**Bill:** We haven't had the need but when we first came here we asked them about where to plant our trees and what to do. Even though the trees have grown a bit they said that if a fire comes just sit back and watch. We've kept all the trees away from the house and all the wood away from the house...We've got no rubbish around at all. We went to one of the fire brigade meetings early on and they came around and did an inspection for us. They gave us advice on keeping the grass well cut and said that if a fire was going to come it would come up from the Golf Club. (Bill also has smoke alarms installed in his home).

**Sue:** *If there was a fire and you only had a minute to get out what would be the first thing other than your family that you would grab?*

**Bill:** I'd let my pigeons out. I probably couldn't grab them in a minute but I'd let them out. They'd probably be killed by the heat anyway but hopefully they might get off and get away.

Yarrambat Fire Brigade wishes to thank Bill for his generosity in making the time available on short notice for this interview.

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## TRIVIA QUIZ

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\*What book by Ray Bradbury has the same title as the temperature at which paper ignites? The first correct answer opened will win a fire blanket. Leave entries at Yarrambat post office in the special container by 31/10/99

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## JUST A THOUGHT

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\* Is your street number correct & fully visible day & night in case of an emergency?

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

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Wal Stutchbery was the Captain of Yarrambat Fire Brigade for 22 years and can still be found turning out to fires and other incidents as a brigade member despite his 61 years of age. Wal is married to Vi and they have 2 girls, 4 grandkids & 2 more expected. Wal is a well known local identity whose life outside the Fire Brigade will be featured in depth in a later edition. He joined the CFA in 1958 after being "press ganged" as a volunteer to fight a fire in the local area and served as Lieutenant from 1961 to 1963, Vice Chairman to 1965 and Captain from 1965 to 1987.



Wal fought major fires in the Dandenongs in the '60s and as Captain of Yarrambat was in charge of firefighting operations in the last two major wild fires in the Plenty Gorge in 1963 & 1981. Following the death of one of Yarrambat's firefighters in a road accident while turning out to an incident, Wal led the statewide fight which finally achieved workers compensation for volunteer firefighters.

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## DID YOU KNOW ?

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\*Melbourne's first recorded fire was on 28 April 1838, in the wattle and daub guard room just off Collins Street. The fire was started by Aboriginal prisoners as a novel means of escape.

\*Yarrambat was originally known in the 1860's as Tanck's Corner after a woodcarter named Frederick Tanck. In 1920 notice was given to change to Hilton but the name didn't catch on.

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## CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

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### FOR SALE

**Kitchen Table** - 6 seater 175cm x 90cm, black woodgrain laminate VGC \$200 ONO. Call Darren on 94369324.

**Aluminium Windows** - 2 x 205H x 180W. 4 panel - 1 sliding tinted glass \$250 pair. Call Darren on 94369324.

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## CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

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Doors a- plenty	Reservoir
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Insulation Solutions	Dandenong
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Reece Pty Ltd	Diamond Creek
Reece Pty Ltd	Montmorency
Transfield Maintenance Melbourne	
Advent Security	Thomastown

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Thank you for taking the time to read our first newsletter, and remember to contact the editor if you have any interesting stories, classified ads or suggestions for our paper.

From the editorial team  
Sue, Jim and Paul

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**For classified advertisements, social news and items of interest contact the editor:  
Sue Mountain ( 9436 1169 )**

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