

A spotlight on creators this Christmas

New book on the faces of Warrnambool



[dropcap style="font-size: 60px; color: #A02F2F;"] T
[/dropcap]his is **Brian Mills** and he works nights, or very early mornings, depending on how you measure 4am starts.

Brian is one of a team of people at the **Timor St Newsagency** in Warrnambool who ensure that the morning newspapers are delivered each day to the doorsteps and businesses of Warrnambool for people who still enjoy reading a physical copy

of a newspaper.

It is a job Brian has been doing for more than 25 years and this is why he – as a newspaper delivery man – has been chosen to appear in a photographic book **due to be published in the first half of next year** that will feature 30 of the iconic people and places of the Warrnambool community.

It is not a history book, nor does it include every well-known Warrnambool identity, but rather it is a personal selection of people and places that meant something to me – Carol – when I was growing up in Warrnambool in the 1970s and which are still a part of the community today, even if only a shadow of their former selves.



[dropcap style="font-size: 60px; color: #A02F2F;"] T
[/dropcap]here is a deep nostalgia and an inter-connectedness that binds the people of Warrnambool, perhaps more so than most other regional cities, or maybe that is just because other regional cities don't have a Kermonds, or a Politis fish and chip shop, or a Fletcher Jones gardens, or a Chitticks....you get the picture.

These are the names that have become a part of Warrnambool's cultural identity and trigger such strong stories and memories – especially if you are sharing them in a bar with another Warrnamboolian you have bumped into somewhere across the world.

There is also a growing awareness, however, that such icons do not last forever (the demolition of the Criterion Hotel, in Kepler St, was a stark reminder of this truth) and this is what inspired me to race around with my camera and do the best job I could to capture the faces – and some of the places – while we still have the chance.

The book is yet to be titled, but it will be limited to just 500 copies, so we will keep you up to date on when it is due to hit the shelves.

In the meantime, if you are a nostalgic Warrnambool person or ex-pat, you can join more than 2500 people just like you at the [Lost Warrnambool Facebook page](#) and share memories and some terrific old images. Be sure to let them know Bluestone Magazine sent you!

[box] Our regular Bookmarks by [Warrnambool Books](#) will return for our final edition of the year next week, with a list of great Christmas books that add a sparkle to the festive season.[/box]

Keeping the spirit of Fletcher Jones alive



Pleasant Hill in its prime in the 1970s. Image: Corangamite Regional Library Corporation. Copyright 2004.

It says a lot about the importance of the **Fletcher Jones gardens** to Warrnambool that even though the Raglan Parade factory has fallen silent and into disrepair, the gardens continue to hold on.

“Pleasant Hill” was once a major tourist attraction for the city, with busloads of visitors pulling up to the kerb and pouring out to take photographs, while locals all have their favourite memories of the beautifully landscaped gardens: the fish pond, the stepping stones, the wishing well, the sun-warmed cement turtle, the archways, the mosaic ‘basket’ garden bed, the tall man in the white trousers who advertised Fletcher Jones menswear.

The gardens were established over a period of years after Fletcher Jones first selected the site – a disused quarry – for his factory in 1948. And while they are a shadow of what they were in their prime, when up to eight full-time gardeners were employed, the fact they are maintained at all is quite incredible.



Fletcher Jones gardens volunteers: Lester Campbell (left), Philomena Headen, Don McLean and Lex Caldwell.

[dropcap style="font-size: 60px; color: #A02F2F;"] F
[/dropcap]or this we can thank our **Quiet Heroes** for the week: **Lex Caldwell**, who oversees the gardens in exchange for living in a cottage on site, and a small, rotating team of volunteers who turn up each Tuesday morning to weed, mulch, mow or do whatever else needs to be done.

When we visited, the volunteer crew included **Don McLean**, **Lester Campbell** and **Philomena Headen** who were hard at work

weeding one of the garden beds and picking up bits of broken glass.

Imagine how the place would look without them?

[box]The FJ gardens crew will receive a coffee and cake voucher from [Lozzar's Lounge Cafe, 52a Kepler St Warrnambool](#). Thankyou to owners Loretta and Phil for supporting this week's Quiet Heroes.[/box]



Meet some of our other quiet heroes...

[Tackling a hidden terror: Pat McLaren](#)

[A life-changing adventure: Schoolies with a Cause](#)

[A winner for Woodford: Tania Ferris](#)

[United we stand – Wbool Uniting Church](#)

[Kylie Thulborn – pushing boundaries](#)

The purrfect Christmas kitty



[dropcap style="font-size: 60px; color: #A99E90;"] 0
[/dropcap]ccasionally, we post an item from Gumtree – the online sell/trade/swap site – that is odd, unusual, funny or just plain weird.

This week: the purrfect alternative to a real kitten for Christmas. This one doesn't even require a litter tray!

[box] Kitten. Real fur. White in colour. It Purrs Scratches & Meows. \$10[/box]

Find more Gumtree gems here...

Out with the George Foreman grill...and in with the steamer

Cheapest house ever?

Couch with an ouch

All I need is the air that I breathe

Always check the auto-correct!

Too short for this Hill's Hoist

Riding a wave of success with surf wax



Members of the (surf) board: Teenagers Jade McCreddan (left), Mick Slockwitch and Isaak Jagoe have come up with their own surf wax recipe and are finding plenty of customers keen to try their product.

[dropcap style="font-size: 60px; color: #A02F2F;"] E
[/dropcap]ach member of the “board” is only 13 years old, but don’t for a moment think that the team behind a new, home-made surfing wax is not absolutely serious about making their product a winner.

[Emmanuel College](#) school buddies and surfing mates **Jade McCreddan**, from Yambuk, **Isaak Jagoe**, from Warrnambool and **Mick Slockwitch**, also from Warrnambool, spent most of last Saturday down at the [Made by Me Market](#), at The Pavilion, in Warrnambool, where they put their surf wax – **Stuck Wax** – on sale for the first time.

While most boys their age would be heads-down playing with smartphones, Jade, Isaak and later Mick (who had to first compete in a surf lifesaving competition) chatted enthusiastically with customers about why their surf wax was better than the others. They also demonstrated its sticky superiority by leaving a lump attached to one of two surfboards they had brought in for display.

“We wanted to come up with our own recipe for a surf wax, so we started by looking around on the internet,” says Isaak.

Jade’s mother had some experience with wax through making beeswax candles, so the boys also sought her advice as they continued to experiment with various ingredients.

“I reckon we had about 12 different attempts until we worked out how we could make it really sticky,” Isaak says, “because that’s what you are looking for: something you can trust when you stand up on your board”.

“It is also eco-friendly and all natural ingredients,” Jade adds.



The Stuck Wax crew went public with their product for the first time at the weekend, with a stall at the Made by Me Market.

[dropcap style="font-size: 60px; color: #A02F2F;"] T
[/dropcap]he product was put to the test in the surf off Warrnambool and Port Fairy, where the boys have spent countless hours through last summer and winter since becoming “hooked” on the sport about a year ago.

Having nailed the winning formula, which, of course, they are keeping a closely guarded secret, the boys turned to marketing and package design.

“I must admit we spent a lot of time in our maths class at school drawing different designs and sharing ideas,” Jade says.

Somehow, we can’t imagine the teacher would mind.

Isaak’s father prints their package design on A4 paper that they then use to wrap each of the 70g wax cakes that are made

in bulk in muffin trays in Isaak's family kitchen.

"We put foil down everywhere," he says, reassuringly.

About 60 bars were on sale for \$4 a pop at the weekend and all were sold out by 4pm, but the boys are not counting their profits just yet.

"Well, first I owe Mum and Dad some money and then we have to buy more ingredients, and then, if we have anything left over, we will split it three ways," Isaac explains.

With this sort of business acumen, Stuck Wax sounds like it will be sticking around.

[box type="bio"] Depending on the surf over summer, the boys may be at other local markets, but in the meantime, you can buy Stuck Wax by emailing them at Stuck_Wax_Enterprises@hotmail.com[/box]



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