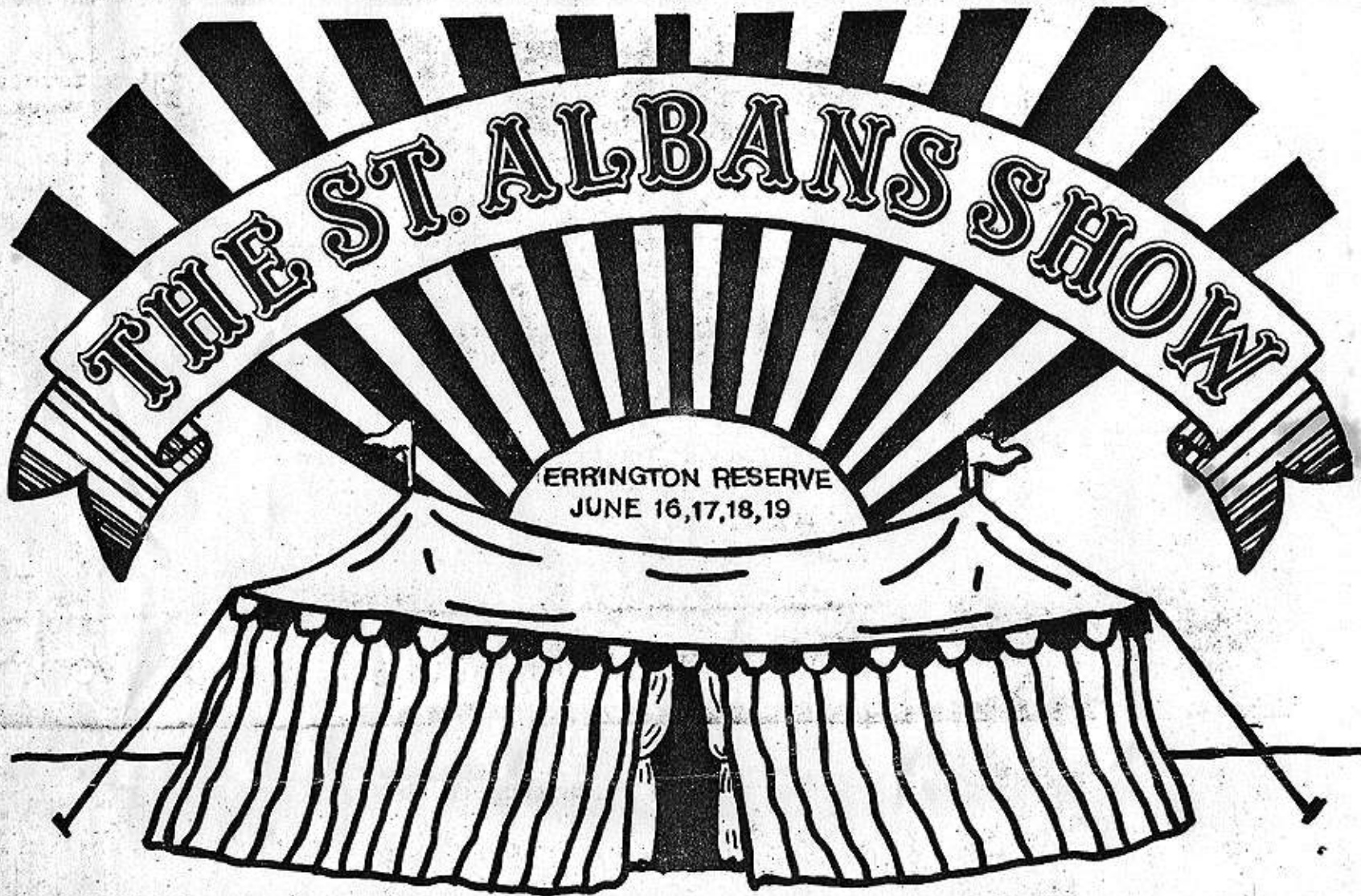


St. ALBANS BRIDGE

Free

SOVENIR ISSUE



ST. ALBANS IN A CIRCUS TENT

St. Albans people have created a unique show about themselves. One hundred and fifty local people will perform the epic story on four consecutive nights from Wednesday June 16. A circus tent is being erected on Errington Reserve for the show.

The show is the brain-wave of the very active group of women who run the St. Albans Youth Club. "We want to celebrate the good things about St. Albans," said Lorna Cameron, "and to let a few people see how they can make it better." They asked the West Theatre Company to help them.

Jan McDonald, West's Director, said, "We are a professional group of performers who work with people in the west to produce shows about their lives and their struggles."

West have put together a full-time team of fourteen to assist with the show. There are six actors, a composer, a puppeteer, a costume and set designer, two visual artists, an administrator, a researcher and an artistic Director.

The Artistic Director for the show is Neil Cameron who we are assured is no relation of Lornas. Neil and costume designer Lyndsay Mason, are visiting Australia as part of a study of Community Theatre. They hail from Scotland where they have become internationally recognised for their large scale community shows. Neil and Lyndsay have been specially funded to work in St. Albans by the Australian Council.

Neil, Lyndsay and Jan have been working under Lorna's direction since April 26. The St. Albans story took three weeks to research. More than sixty people contributed ideas.

"Alf, Dot, Spiro, Rudi, Mary, Rose, George and Lorna were the final editors," said Neil, "St. Albans is their community, and they know its heart and soul."

West gained support for the St. Albans show from the Australia Council, Victorian Ministry for the Arts, Arts Access, The Lance Reichstein Foundation, Sunshine Council and Keilor Council. Two hundred local people have watched this contribution with enthusiasm and effort. Seven schools, the St. Albans Youth Club, C.Y.S.S., EPUY, the Community Centre, Malta Star of the Sea, the Community Health Centre, the Keilor Library, the Catholic Church and the Church of England are assisting with preparation for the show. Twenty-five local organisations are making this show roll.

CONTINUE PAGE 8

ST ALBANS PULLS TOGETHER

Like their parents, second and third generation St. Albanites are working hard to make it. St. Albans people are battlers. They know how to make the most of what they have.

Young unemployed people have started their own job creation project at "The Garage". Local musicians are writing many songs, some of which is being used in the St. Albans show. Visual artists at the local schools are showing their talents by making giant puppets and paper cut-outs for the show.



Community spirit is very strong. Support for the show has been outstanding. When St. Albans people decide to back a project they go all the way. Two hundred people have become directly involved in the show in four weeks.

The fortnight attitude of the settlers of the 1950's permeates the schools, the clubs and the local shops. Parental involvement in local schools is extremely high. People are very committed to their cultural heritage. Shopping in Alfreda street or at the Saturday Market is living example of many different people living cooperatively. The St. Albans show is a celebration of hope and inspiration by St. Albans people.

The League Of Nations That Has Worked

People from many lands have formed a strong community in St. Albans. The population during the 1930's was around three hundred. Most people then lived on small farmlets of about three acres. Today, there are more than 60,000 people living in St. Albans. After the Second World War the population doubled each year for five years.

"When I walk down Alfreda street, I walk around the world. Why, I might even bump into a Canadian Eskimo."

"Where do you come from?" asked one member of the team. "Ah, I'm from Bitalonia," was the reply from a man who arrived in St. Albans thirty years ago. "Bitalonia, where is Bitalonia?" asked the startled actor. "It is a piece of seven European countries. Between my mother's family and my father's family they had ties all over Europe. I lived in four parts of Europe." came the reply.

There is a strong community spirit which has been cemented by the mutual assistance given during the early days of settling into a new land and a new home. People arrived looking for and believing in the Golden land. The Aussies who were already there suddenly found themselves part of a new culture. Building materials were short but the desire to build a home was abundant. Neighbour helped neighbour to build. By building houses together, people have built a community.



JOBLESS RIGHTS

UNEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS CORNER

by Steve Einfeld.

October 1982 will bring one of the most important changes in the rights of unemployed people for a long time. In October the Federal government will introduce the FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

After October, we will be able to see most personal files kept on us by the government. For people getting Pensions and Benefits this will mean access to your Social Security file and your CES file. If information on the file is incorrect you will be able to have it corrected. As well as personal information you will have access to all rules, instructions, etc. that Government Departments operate under. The Department of Social Security operates under the Social Services Act plus a number of Manuals of Instructions and other regulations. All of

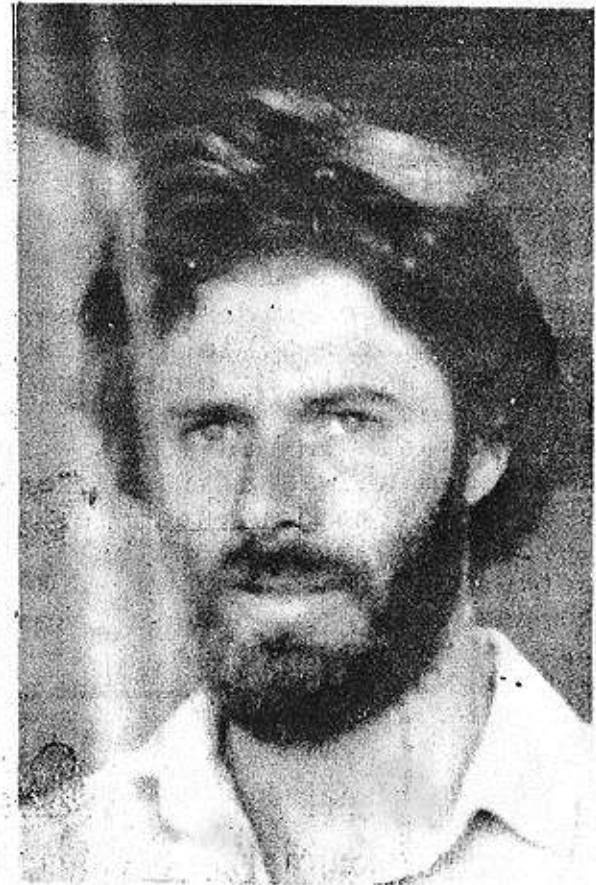
these will for the first time be available on request at Social Security offices.

There are a few things which are not available under Freedom of Information ie. They are "exempt". However it is unlikely that these things will effect most people. They concern information about national security, cabinet

documents and papers concerning Federal State Government relationships.

Every Social Security office will have someone whose job it is to make sure you have your freedom of information rights.

The St Albans Unemployment Rights Centre can also explain how this system works and help you find out what you want to know in relation to your personal file. The centre is at 27 Alfrieda Street, St Albans. Phone Number 367 3447.



Spanish school to open

Como iniciativa de la Señora Ilda Giacometti, residente de St Albans, y junto a un grupo de familias del mismo área, han organizado para los sábados por la mañana clases de Español para los niños en la Escuela St Albans South, Lister Street, St Albans de 10 de la mañana a 12 hs.

Los niños tendrán la oportunidad de cultivar el lenguaje español a través de la lectura y escritura y al mismo tiempo entender a cerca de la cultura Española y Sudamericana.

El Señor John Barlow, Principal de la Escuela St Albans South, muy generosamente, se ha ofrecido para dictar clases de Inglés a los padres de los niños que atienden las clases de Español. La Comisión recientemente formada y los padres desean expresar su gratitud por esta gran ayuda. La Comisión extiende además este agradecimiento a la Señorita Gidia Timmerman, Trabajadora Social del Centro de Salud de St Albans por su gran ayuda a la Comunidad de Habla Hispana.

Esta Comisión de Padres está integrado por las siguientes personas y de quienes se pueden obtener más información,

o después de horas de trabajo llamando a la Señora Giacometti al siguiente número - 366 8949

Comisión de Padres

1. Presidente - Sr. Bernardo Paez
2. Secretario - Sr. Oram Muzo
3. Tesorera - Sra. Mirian Caminos

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

At the initiative of local resident Mrs. Ilda Giacometti, a group of local South American people in St Albans have formed a Saturday morning Spanish school for children. This is to start at the St Albans South Primary School, Lister Street, St Albans at 10.00 o'clock on Saturday 29-5-82 1982. Children will be able to learn to read and write Spanish and also get a greater understanding of the Spanish and South American Culture.

Mr John Barlow, Principal of St Albans South Primary School has donated his Saturday mornings to teaching English to the parents of the children attending the Spanish classes

and the committee members and parents wish to express their gratitude for his great assistance.

The committee also wishes to thank Miss Gidia Timmerman, Grant In Aid Social Worker at the St Albans Health Centre for her assistance.

A parents committee was recently formed and further details of the Spanish School can be gained from committee members.

All enrolments for the school taken after hours by Mrs. Giacometti on 366 8949.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

SUBSCRIBE TO ST.ALBANS BRIDGE!

"WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT"

Subscription Rates:

*Individual: \$10 a year.

*Groups: 20 copies.....\$15/year
50-100 copies...\$20/year
100-200copies...\$30/year
200-300copies...\$40/year

Send to:

ST.ALBANS BRIDGE COLLECTIVE
C/O MR.CHRIS.CAMMERLARI
27 ALFREIDA ST. ST.ALBANS, 3021.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

A lot of misleading information is being handed out on unemployment. High rates of employment are considered to be a measure of successful government policies, so it is natural for the government of the day to show employment rates, in the most favourable way possible. This can be done quite simply, by picking on the most impressive period, and then comparing another less favourable period. Short term comparisons are liable to cause distortion.

Rather than consider one year at a time, the Table from 1971 to 1981, should be considered as the result of a decade of changes. In mid 1973 unemployment was at its lowest and part time job vacancies were considered as optional, rather than a necessity, as happened in more recent years.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?



SOURCE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

Year	Full time	Part time	Unemployed	Workforce
Aug 1971	..4,939,600	+ 576,100	+ 92,700	= 5,608,400
Dec 1981	..5,459,500	+ 1,013,100	+ 433,300	= 6,905,900
Increase	519,900	+ 437,000	+ 340,600	= 1,297,500

The workforce is defined as those who are working full time, plus those who work part time, and those who are unemployed and actively seeking work.

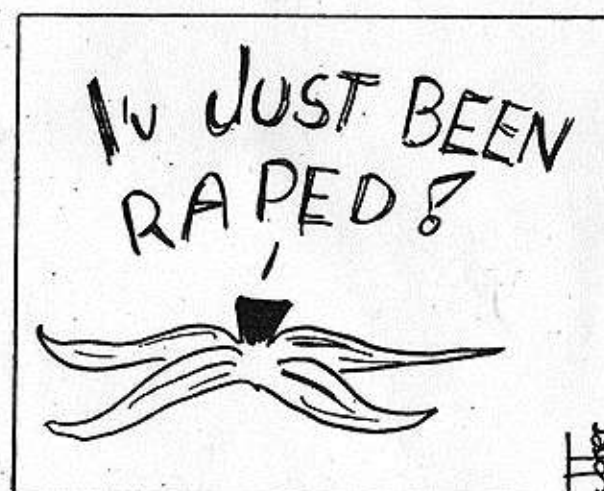
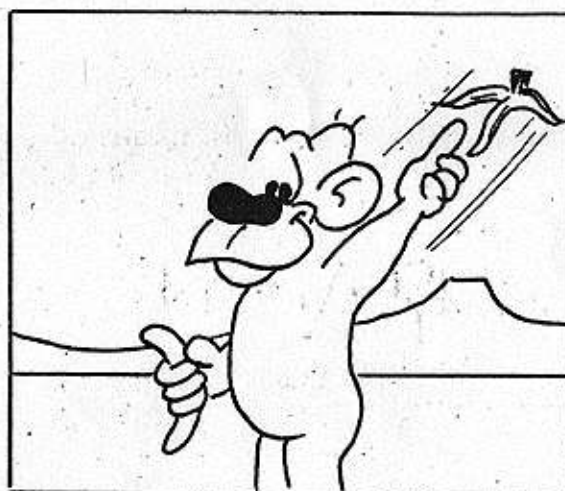
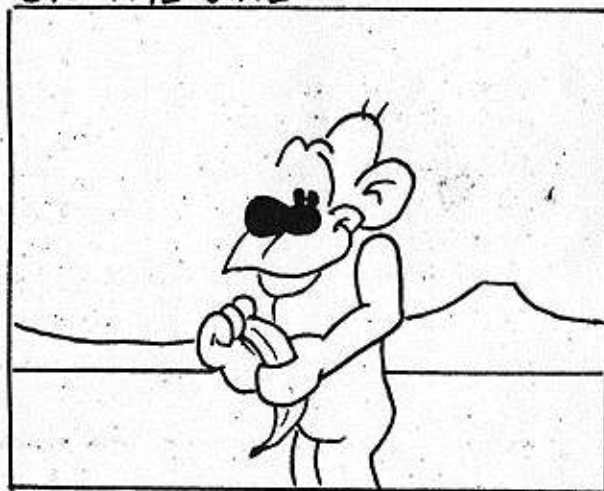
The total of 1,297,500 in the workforce increase, may be

expressed in different ways. As percentages of the increase only 40.06% found themselves employed full time

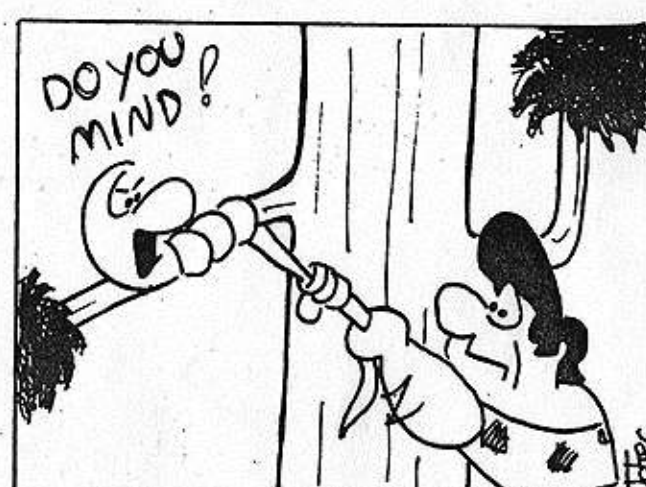
Another way of looking at increase is, that an average of only an additional 51,000 (approx) found a full time job,

when taken as an annual average. It is time many parents realised the full extent of missing job opportunities, before laying blame on their sons or daughters.

ON THE VINE



ON THE VINE



EDITORIAL

\$36 A WEEK

"\$36 a week is not enough to live on!"

Unemployment benefits for those under 18 years is \$36.00 per week. It has not increased since 1975 despite rampant inflation. Australia is in the middle of a recession in which the main sufferers are young people.

St. Albans has one of the highest populations of unemployed youth in Australia. When you're paying rent or board, trying to keep up appearances and paying high public transport fares to job interviews there isn't a great

deal of change left out of \$36. For most St Albans young people \$36 is far too little to live on.

Of course there will be people who suggest that an increase in the under 18 dole would encourage young people to leave home or avoid work or both. However this is rarely the view of people who have looked closely at these things. Most homeless youth finding their way to youth refuges have left a home where there is profound emotional conflict or major financial problems or both.

The evidence on unemployed is that there are simply not

enough jobs. Keeping unemployed people poor is like throwing a drowning person a concrete lifebuoy.

Let us hope that unemployed people are remembered in the August Federal Budget. Let us fight to make sure they are.

KEEP THOSE LETTERS COMING

Thanks to all those who sent us letters. Sorry we couldn't print them all. We want to print as many letters as possible. So please keep them short and punchy.

IN DEFENCE

OF MYSELF

IN DEFENSE OF MYSELF AND OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

In reply to the "apology" concerning the poem "Reality" printed in the May issue of "St Albans Bridge". I think it was unnecessary, uncalled for and unjustified. It was not "smut" as one cleric pronounced but a piece of literature, which I not only defend but am extremely proud of.

The poem "Reality", as the title suggests, deals with life - in particular the alienation and frustration experienced by many of the young people in our community. Four-letter words are a part of the English language and when used correctly and in context can be powerfully expressive, as the poem proves. These such words are also a strong part of the youth sub-culture in St. Albans, the attitudes of which the poem tried to and does capture.

I feel that the poem did not, in any way whatsoever detract from the "high quality" of the newspaper. It reflected the attitudes of the majority of the young, unemployed personages in our own community and society in general, many of whom are dissatisfied with school - in particular with an irrelevant school curriculum, life and the establishment.

"Reality" deals with the more repulsive and oppressive aspects of life. The language captures

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

After reading the recent article on school uniform in your paper, I strongly disagree with the writer. Although it can be a pain in the neck, we have a number of variations such as desert boots or black shoes, windcheaters or jumpers and blue and grey shirt.

R. Chafer Scipa St Albans Tech.

Dear Editor

I do agree with

the recent article on school uniforms because some people would feel embarrassed wearing the dull grey uniform. Another reason is, because we have to wear it day in day out five days a week. Another reason is, because if you fall accidentally in a mud puddle your mum has to wash your uniform that night, and if she can't, we get into trouble by the principle and get put on detention.

By Micheal Gilpin

this and is used as a poetic device. The four-letter words were not intended to shock and horrify the self-righteous moral majority. Frankly I see no reason why the collective should be forced to ban the use of four letter words in the paper, the use of which can in many cases be justified.

The "St Albans Bridge" is a community newspaper and as such the youth in the community should be able to have access to an avenue that allows them to express their deep, often bitter intensity of feeling towards society and the world in general. The paper should not be censored. It should remain a free vehicle for individual expression- no matter how radical.

Marina Perkovich
Disillusioned poet.

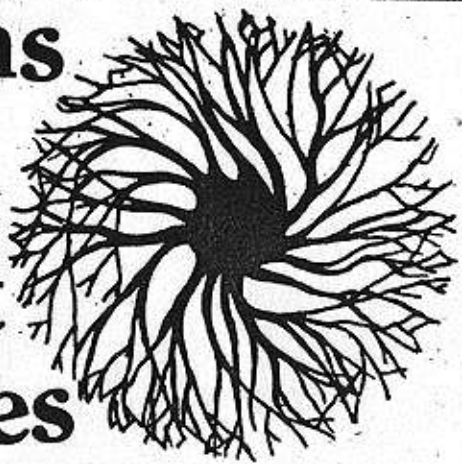
PS. May I add that the poem was in fact heavily censored- by myself. The original is much better, much longer and much more "offensive"

PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE BRIDGE

These people made the Bridge possible:

Glenn Huxley, Maria Karpik, Mrs Giaocommetti, John Shone, Ranjit Das, Francis Sweeney, Chris Cook, Marina Perkovich, Robert Chafer, Michael Gilpin, Steve Einfield, Andred Hale, Dan Stringnell, Nick Majstorovic, Mario Coleiro, Jane Borg, Chris Camilleri, Dorothy Soderiou, Jozica Curtin, Jim Sarris, Christine Soderiou, Trish Bergin and students at the St. Albans Tech, Catholic Regional College and members of West Theatre. The next meeting of the St. Albans Bridge Collective is Tuesday 22nd June 5.30 pm at 27 Alfrieda Street, St. Albans.

Poems & Short Stories



OLD REVEREND SPOONER

The Old Reverend Spooner
Looked up from the table
He glanced all around us
And read from the label

"The Lord is my shepherd
My great Showing Leopard
No fear when you're with Him
Or through Him or in Him"

Leer not the Ford
And always obey
Dont fight the liars
In the forest today

Hark these words now
If they didn't come sooner
Listen today
To your great Reverend Spooner

Now the Reverend walked out
With his head full of knowledge
He was once the head
Of a great Oxford College

He went down the path
And looked all around
His well boiled icicle
Was not to be found

Where is my bicycle?
The Reverend yearned
In one full swoop
I will get it returned

One man came back
And the Reverend awoke
"We've found everything,
Reverend
Cept for one little spoke"

Why I know this fellow
Who has stolen my bike
He'll feel a bit mellow
With police and the like.

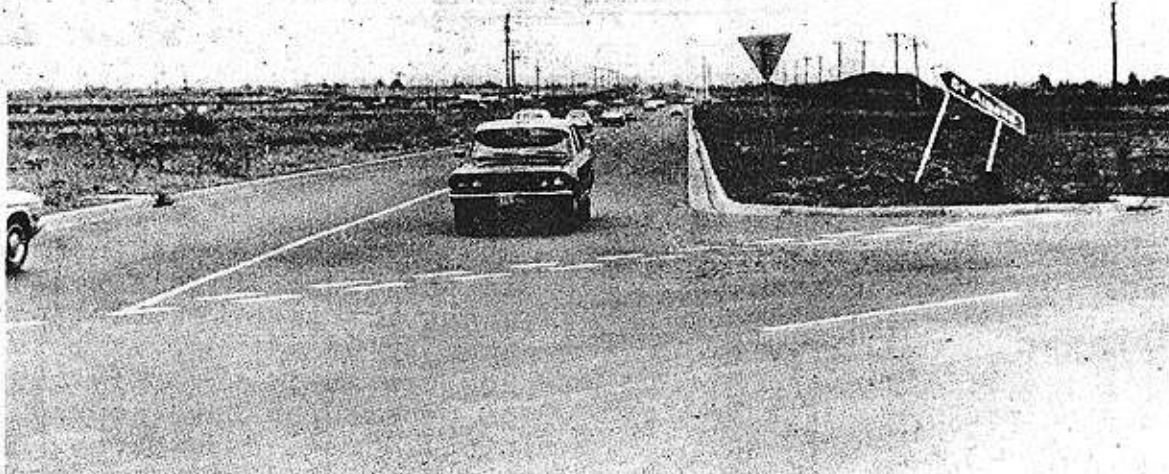
Sir kindly stop coughing
And spreading your germs
I taught you at school
But you tasted the worms

The man stood defiant
Amidst all the rows
I'll get you back Reverend
With cruel, blushing crows

Did you hear what I said?
Oh! how greatly absurd
I've picked up his habit
And "Spoonered" a word!

"Mardon me, Padan, this pie is
occupied. May I sew you to
another sheet, or would you
rather take the next town drain?
Ah, when the boys come back
from the trenches, we'll have
the bags flung out!"

TAKE IT EASY!



This picture, nearly a rerun
from our page 1 story last
edition ("Motorists Beware")
begs the caption: someone
does not read the St. Albans
Bridge!
The crumpled St. Albans sign
was apparently run down by
an unwary motorist at the
Sunshine Avenue- McIntyre
Road intersection at North
Sunshine.

The intersection can be
dangerous as we explained
last issue. Not all motorists
follow the general flow of
traffic to and from St. Albans,
e.g. they may continue along
McIntyre Road which crosses
the general flow of traffic.
Now, road signs and vehicles
are replaceable but not limbs
or lives, so take it easy, eh?

FOOTY

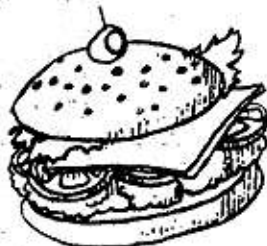
I was in the stand
It looked so grand
When Magro kicked the ball
As I ate my pie
I got kicked in the eye
And the pie went over the floor
The pies are hard to beat
But mine's on my seat
And also all over the floor
When the siren went off
I hit the great toff
And it landed fair square on
his jaw.

By Nic Majstorovic
9A

FOOD

There once was a man
who sat on a can
And did not have nothing to eat
He found a snail
and bit it's tail
And now he doesn't eat meat.

by 9A student



AN APPLE

An apple is round
But where is it found?
It hangs from a tree
and gets picked with glee
Its juice is delicious
and very nutritious
So an apple a day
Keeps the doctor away

by Andrew Hale 9A

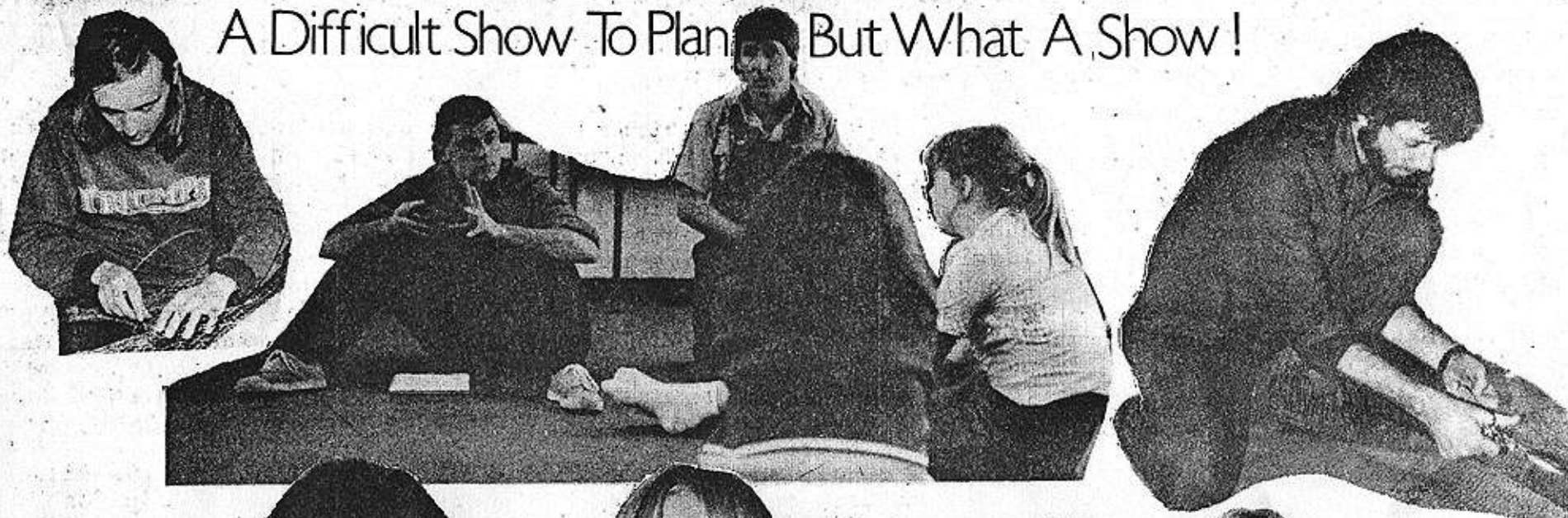
ST ALBANS HORSE RIDERS

The St Albans horse riders are
a gang of expert riders who
anually meet at the Big street
river on the outskirts of
Kealba.

My name is Mario, I joined
the riders two and a half
years ago. At times there
are up to sixty riders. We
sometimes go camping at Gisborne
up in the hills and we sleep
under the panoply of stars with
our horses tethered nearby.
At night we sing and joke
by the camp fire, and cook up
a damper. In the summer months
we camp on the beaches. Its
a great feeling galloping your
horse along the sandy beach
and watching the waves roll
in and crash against the rocks.
I myself would never give up
horse riding because theres
no greater thrill than sitting
on a four legged piece of
dynamite. Most of the riders
in the St Albans area are
splendidly mounted usually on
a retired race horse, an Arab-
ian, or a Quarter horse. These
horses are very well bred and
are capable of covering great
distances in short times.
Another thing thats good about
horses is that after owning the
same horse for a few months a
love grows between horse and
rider. Thats why I just laugh
when people drive past me in
them hotted up cars, because
theres no love between man and
machine. A horse is a living
thing and I love riding and
looking after them.

By Mario the horse
rider

A Difficult Show To Plan But What A Show!



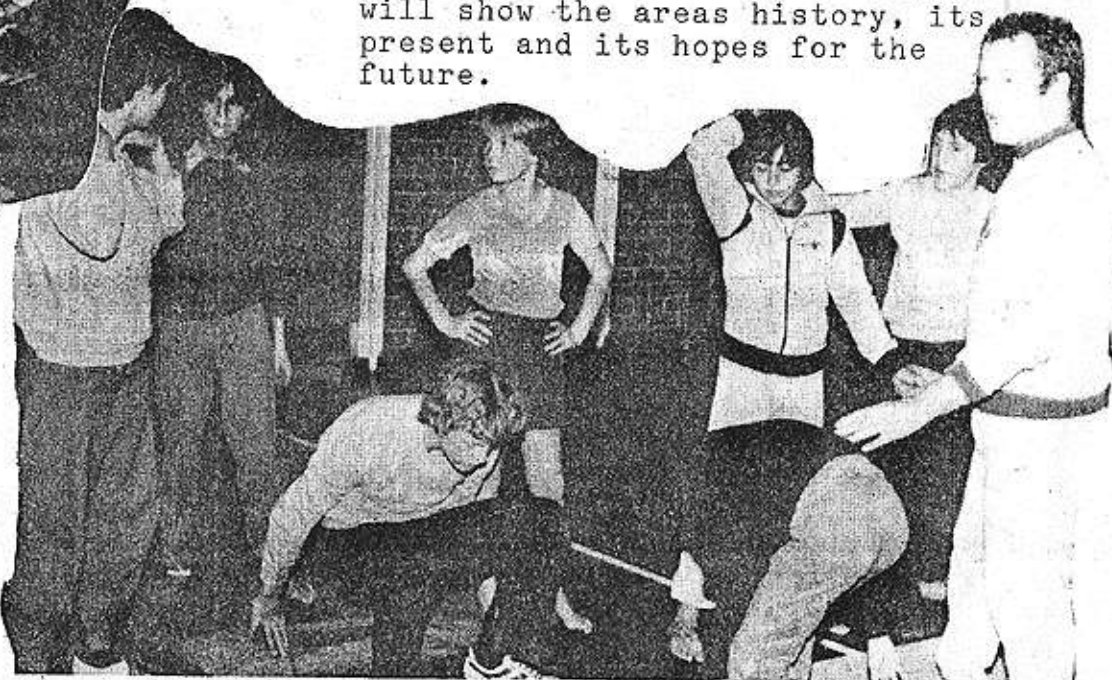
The St. Albans Show has been difficult to plan," said Neil Cameron. "St. Albans has more than thirty-two communities, with over seventy languages/dialects. Eighty-nine percent of the people come from non English speaking countries." "St. Albans is unique" said Jan McDonald, "So many different cultures living together in the one community."



The St. Albans Show came from much story telling by local people over the past four weeks. The team from WEST have been lead deep into the heart of St. Albans. The show has grown with each rehearsal. The final script will emerge as people work with the team.



The Show about St. Albans performed by the people of St. Albans, and the final result will show the areas history, its present and its hopes for the future.



MORE THAN 150
PEOPLE INVOLVED

ST. ALBANS IN A CIRCUS TENT...

Continued from page 1.

The show is to be performed in a circus tent. A venue had to be found which was visible and close to public transport, provided ample parking, and public toilets, and had facilities for a cast of one hundred and fifty people. Errington Reserve was the only choice. The St. Albans and Avondale Football Clubs rallied to the support of the two hundred people helping with the show.

"The Sunshine Council took some convincing," said Lorna, "But they eventually saw how important this show is to us all in St. Albans. They also gave us \$500 towards our costs. Keilor Council have chipped in by giving us the use of the public hall for rehearsals at no charge."

A circus tent is being transported from Sydney by three men who are bringing a circus monkey. The St. Albans

Technical School Orchestra, local musicians, the St. Albans South Primary School Choir are ready to sound the opening chorus. Dancers, acrobats, jugglers and actors have been recruited from schools, youth groups and CYSS. St. Albans West Primary School grade two pupils are performing a Thistle Dance; whilst a circus toupe has been formed at St. Albans East Primary. Adults are helping as actors, story tellers, costume makers and organisers. Twenty students from Kings Park High School are making giant puppets. Another thirty from the Catholic College are decorating the tent with paper cutouts and streamers.

An exciting documentary is being produced about the St. Albans show. Community Theatre on such a large scale, in such a short time, is unique

for Australia. St. Albans is the first community to take on such a challenge. The Federal Government's Australia Council and the Victorian Ministry for the arts are both funding the project because of its possibilities for inspiring other areas. The Reichstein Foundation is paying for the entire process to be researched and documented.

The ghost of St. Albans will open the show at 7.30pm on Wednesday June 16 and continue for the next three nights. Tickets are \$10 for families (two adults and 2 children), \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for children and pensioners. Unemployed people can obtain concession tickets from CYSS for \$2.50. Bookings can be made at the St. Albans Community Centre - 366-0844; St. Albans Youth Club - 366-4302.



SHOW GAINS

CULTURAL FESTIVAL GRANT

In 1975 the Schools Commission granted St. Albans money to run a Cultural Festival. For two years schools and community groups organised concerts and ethnic art displays. Many of the people involved wanted to put on a big show about the cultural richness of the area.

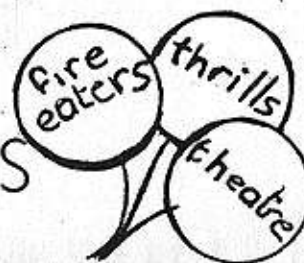
"It is finally happening in 1982," said Jo DuBarry, one of the original organisers and Principal at St. Albans East Primary School. "The St. Albans Show is a great finale for our project. We have always wanted to perform a St. Albans story when people were ready to get involved."

The balance of the Schools Commission grant has been put towards the St. Albans Show.

"Presenting peoples' culture and feelings on stage is a very sensitive process," said St. Albans Show Director, Neil Cameron. "Timing is important, and it is often better to wait than to rush ahead. We are so excited to be able to provide new energy for the cultural festival idea."

Professor Owen obtained the original grant for the festival, what a shame he is not here to see it all happening. He now resides in South Africa.

THE ST ALBANS SHOW



ERRINGTON RESERVE
JUNE 16, 17, 18, 19

THE MOST SPECTACULAR COMMUNITY SHOW IN AUSTRALIA EVER.....

BOOK NOW.....
THE BEST SEATS SELL EARLY

PHONE BOOKINGS:.....

ST ALBANS COMMUNITY CENTRE
Tel 366 0844

WEST THEATRE COMPANY
Tel 370 7034

COST:.....
Adults \$4.00 Children 2.50
Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) \$10.00

GET YOUR TICKETS AT:.....

St Albans Community Centre
27 Alfreda St

St Albans Community Youth Club
Main Road East

St Albans East Primary
Station Avenue.

West Theatre Company
The Strand, Moonee Ponds.

BOOK EARLY..GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

THE ST. ALBANS SHOW

150 LOCAL PERFORMERS JOIN ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S LEADING COMMUNITY THEATRE COMPANIES, WEST COMMUNITY THEATRE COMPANY acrobatics

30 piece orchestra jugglers! acrobatics
clown-walkers
clowns!
dancer!

14 original songs
IN PRESENTING THE MOST UNIQUE SPECTACULAR IN AUSTRALIA. SEE THE THEATRE STORY OF ST ALBANS - PAST? PRESENT? THRILLS! AND FUTURE UNFOLD BEFORE YOUR EYES.

adults \$4-00 pens; unemp; child; \$2-50 family; \$10-00 fire-eaters

BOOK NOW PHONE 370 7034 or 366 0844
ERRINGTON RESERVE

JUNE 16, 17, 18, 19