



Warrandyte
Community
Association



WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting – 12th October 2016 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OVERVIEW

It has been another busy year for the Warrandyte Community Association, with particular focus on:-

- Sustaining the bushfire awareness 'Be Ready Warrandyte' campaign;
- Planning issues on the bridge, traffic gridlock and petrol station development;
- New management for the Warrandyte Community Market;
- Regular meetings with Local Councils on planning issues;
- A range of local issues.

The WCA website – incorporating the WCA home site and the “Be Ready Warrandyte” project – has been renewed with assistance from Manningham Council and the Bendigo Bank Foundation. It now contains a direct link to webcams monitoring traffic on Kangaroo Ground and Research Roads. We will continue to maintain the site in response to local events and as our resources allow. It is accessible on www.warrandyte.org.au.

Australian Honours: We are delighted to report that WCA members Jock Macneish and Pat Anderson were awarded Order of Australia Medals (OAM) during the year in acknowledgement of their huge and continuing contributions to the community of Warrandyte!

1. 2015-2016 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Office Bearers:

President: Dick Davies
Vice-President: Jonathan Upson
Secretary: Warwick Leeson
Treasurer: Barry Holding

Committee Members:

Fiona Elliott
Doug Mealy
Lesley Ryall
Meindert Withoff
Robert Nabben
Jozica Kutin - Membership Secretary

Jozica resigned during the year and was replaced by Lyn McDonald.
Rob Nabben undertook the role of Membership Secretary.

WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

PO BOX 75 Warrandyte 3113 · 03 9844 5855 · www.warrandyte.org.au

ACN A0042350W Inc. 23 120 318 791

Be Ready Warrandyte – Living with Bushfire Risk is a project of Warrandyte Community Association Inc.

Ex Committee:

Phil Ashfield – Bookkeeping and accounts

Our special thanks to all the Committee and helpers for their contributions during the year.

2. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

There are currently 123 financial members and 320 unfinancial members of the Association. Rob Nabben is following up lapsed subscriptions. We are introducing five year membership to help overcome renewal problems.

3. BUSHFIRE AWARENESS

At the AGM in November 2015, we staged an 'Emergency Management' Forum with Emergency Management Victoria Commissioner Craig Lapsley as guest speaker and local Emergency Management officers updating on the forthcoming fire season. VicRoads representatives also presented plans to widen the Warrandyte Bridge (see item 5.1 below).

We maintained 'Be Ready Warrandyte' with WCA representation on the Manningham Council Emergency Management Resilience Sub-Committee. Together with both Councils, CFA and the SES we launched a 'Winter Clean-Up' campaign.

To develop guidelines to assist Manningham Council in planning, our WCA sub-committee, convened by Bev Hanson, liaised with Council in creating a 'Fire Garden' at the Taffy Jones memorial site.

We also liaised with the Park Orchards Residents Association in a very successful Scenario Event in 2015. We are staging another in Warrandyte end October 2016. We continue to collaborate with EMV in developing an 'experiential/immersive' bushfire experience as a community awareness tool. Dick Davies gave two BRW presentations to the Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative forum. BRW continues to be a model for EM in other States.

4. WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL

We continued our very successful contribution to the 2015 Festival by once again collecting comments on a 'Writers' Wall' under the heading: "I Want Warrandyte To Be".

Key messages were:

Yes please!

- ✓ Very high value on the strength of the local community, and
- ✓ Existing natural and built environments;
- ✓ Retain the village character of Warrandyte through all infrastructure and development,
- ✓ Widely expressed support for more bike paths and pedestrian access.

Get on with it!

- Reduce traffic through Warrandyte by completing major road works:
- Ring Road, Reynolds Road and/or alternative bypass

No thanks!

- X No support for widening the bridge
- X A strong "no" to traffic lights
- X No support for the proposed petrol station

See <http://warrandyte.org.au/2016/03/31/wca-writers-wall-at-the-2016-warrandyte-festival/>

As before, the content will help the WCA to confirm and in some cases to challenge our understanding of the community's priorities for the future of Warrandyte.

5. STATE PLANNING ISSUES

The Bridge!

Following on from the VicRoads presentation in November 2015 of preliminary options to improve traffic flow for emergency evacuation and address gridlock on the Warrandyte Bridge, VicRoads collected comments in December at the WCA/WHS Xmas function and later at the Festival in March. This however was upstaged by a Ministerial announcement in March that work would commence in April! This did not happen and community outcry lead VicRoads to convene a forum in July which was well attended, with much technical input for individual discussion but poorly received as a 'consultative' venture. WCA consequently has organised a follow up 'Community Forum' for 13 October 2016.

See <http://warrandyte.org.au/2016/09/27/warrandyte-bridge-community-forum/>

Middle Yarra River Corridor Study

WCA argued for maintenance of the environmental aspects of the river especially as viewed from the river. See <http://warrandyte.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/131129-WCA-Middle-Yarra-Submission.pdf>
We are told that it is not a priority for the State Government.

Environmental Significance Overlays

WCA continues to support the broad thrust of Environmental Significance Overlays whilst acknowledging that there are issues to be addressed.

Amendment C101

This controversial Amendment in Nillumbik has been referred to a Panel hearing, deferred until after the Council Elections.

See <http://warrandyte.org.au/2016/09/14/submission-to-planning-panels-victoria-in-relation-to-nillumbik-shire-councils-proposed-amendment-c101/>

Native Vegetation Review

Bev Hanson and Lesley Ryall and Doug Seymour made complementary submissions on behalf of WCA.

See: **xxxx to be lodged on our website 4 & 9 May 2016**

6. TOWN PLANNING

Warrandyte Market

The Warrandyte Community Market has been re-convened as the Warrandyte Riverside Market by Manningham Council with a management committee under the auspice of

Warrandyte Donvale Rotary and consisting of the WCA, Warrandyte LIONS, CFA and the Warrandyte Community Church. WCA members are encouraged to volunteer time on the first Saturday of the month to assist with organisation. WCA has received a \$5000 grant from the market committee to assist in our community activities.

Proposed Petrol Station Development for 1, 3-5 Yarra Street

A petrol station facility, proposed for the old 'Bird Engineering' site at 1-3 & 5 Yarra Street near the roundabout, has been rejected by VCAT after the developer appealed a Manningham Council decision against the proposal.

WCA lodged an objection on the grounds of:

1. Proposed vegetation removal, six mature yellow box, from the roadside reserve.
2. Difficulty of managing and enforcing compliance with replanting and landscaping at service station sites where high visibility is a commercial preference.
3. Difficulty of ingress and egress at the Heidelberg Road / Harris Gully Road roundabout.
4. Non-specific detail relating to signage, lighting and hours of operation.
5. The Association's opposition to the establishment of a fast food outlet at this site.
6. Having regard to the close proximity to Anderson's Creek, the Association is not satisfied that adequate facilities are incorporated into the design to manage contaminated run-off in all weather.

Our special thanks to Doug Seymour for his detailed appraisal and submissions to VCAT on this proposal.

For details on the final decision see <http://warrandyte.org.au/2016/09/14/no-servo-vcat-decision/>

Jumping Creek Road Upgrade

Thanks to Fiona Elliot who made a detailed submission on behalf of WCA to Manningham Council on a proposed upgrade to Jumping Creek Road. WCA will be invited to participate in a Community Reference Group in Nov/Dec 2016.

See <http://warrandyte.org.au/2016/06/23/submission-from-the-wca-on-the-draft-jumping-creek-road-development-framework>

Cat Policy

Last year, the WCA adopted a responsible pet ownership policy, and in particular endorsed the RSPCA policy that encourages containment of cats within the owners' property boundaries.

See - <http://warrandyte.org.au/cat-curfew-vote-now/> .

As a result, Manningham Council are developing a discussion paper incorporating WCA concerns to be released in the new year.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WCA continued to meet formally on a twice yearly basis with Councillors and Officers of Manningham and Nillumbik Councils. We thank the Councils for the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual concern.

Manningham Council have kindly granted WCA free storage area in the Warrandyte Community Hall (formerly Elderly Citizens Hall).

8. NBN

Fiona Elliott met with Kevin Andrews MP to discuss NBN proposals and coverage particularly in Warrandyte South.

Financial Support: WCA gratefully acknowledges financial support from Manningham and Nillumbik Councils, the Warrandyte Bendigo Bank Foundation and the Warrandyte Riverside Market.

Dick Davies

**President, WCA Inc.
12th November 2016**