



Warrandyte Community Association

Caring for the Community - WCA Ten Year Anniversary

'Caring for the Community' was the banner on the Warrandyte Community Association gazebo as the WCA celebrated its tenth birthday at the Warrandyte Festival.

A crowded public meeting at the end of 2001 saw the genesis of the WCA and it was formally incorporated in March 2012.

"I remember Diary Editor Cliff Green getting up and saying that that the 'Township had gone to sleep' on community issues and it was time to get mobilised before Doncaster Council privatised all the assets – at the time the Community Centre was being put out to contract management," recalled WCA President Dick Davies.

(Cliff your recall of this will be better than mine – alter as you see fit!)

The Association was formed at that meeting with a mandate to:

- Promote all aspects of community life in Warrandyte
- Defend the character and heritage of the Township
- Protect the environment and encourage restoration and regeneration of native flora and fauna
- Protect the Green Wedge (Non-urban areas)
- Promote sporting, educational, recreational and cultural activities
- Defend and enhance community assets.

"The WCA is now an active resident community group and has a membership of about 350 residents on its books in Warrandyte and North Warrandyte," Dick Davies told the Diary...

"We engage in regular meetings with residents and Councils on local politics, planning, environmental and similar community issues.

"For example, we are cooperating with Manningham and Nillumbik Councils and Yarra Valley Water in a sewerage backlog roll-out; we conducted a statistically significant survey of residents on public transport needs; we have contributed submissions to the local Council 'Green Wedge Management Plans'", Mr Davies said.

A sub-committee of WCA was subsequently established as the independent Warrandyte Community Retirement Housing Cooperative, which has just opened the five residences 'Creeside' retirement complex in Warrandyte.

Following the bushfires, WCA organised a 'Bushfire Forum' in May attended by 280 people who worked with professional convenors to voice their concerns and issues. This provided the basis for a comprehensive submission to the '2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission'. Over 700 people attended a subsequent meeting addressed by bushfire scientist Dr Kevin Tolhurst. WCA has continued to work with the CFA and local councils in developing 'Bushfire Awareness'.

'CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY'
Major WCA Achievements 2002-2012

1. **Bushfire Awareness:** In this, the single issue that affects all residents, WCA made a comprehensive, formal submission to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission based on a professionally facilitated forum and very well attended public meetings; contributed to developing a CFA Township Protection Plan for Warrandyte; and has applied for an ambitious 'Fire Ready Communities Grant'. WCA lobbied against location of the Vodafone tower as impeding helicopter emergency access to the Reserve.
2. **Protecting the Green Wedge:** WCA has campaigned against development outside the Urban Growth Boundary; made formal submission to local council 'Green Wedge Management Plans'; supported funding for the State Park and campaigned vigorously to preserve the essential nature of the Warrandyte environment.
3. **Public Transport and Roads:** WCA supported a 50kph township speed limit in 2004; held a professionally facilitated public 'Traffic Forum' in 2005 followed by a statistically significant survey in 2007 to develop better roads and public transport. WCA was instrumental in obtaining much improved bus services to Eltham, and also lobbied for better bicycle paths and disabled access in Warrandyte and the surrounding areas. We continue to lobby for a North East Arterial road to relieve peak-hour gridlock and contributed submissions on local road improvements such as the Jumping Creek strategy.
4. **Retirement Housing:** Following a public forum on retirement accommodation in Warrandyte in 2006, a WCA sub-committee became the 'Warrandyte Retirement Housing Cooperative' which recently successfully completed the 'Creekside' development of five units.
5. **Local and State Government:** The association meets regularly with Local and State Government on a wide variety of local issues. WCA has hosted many well attended public meetings and 'Meet the Pollies' forums particularly at election times. The 2004-5 'Pride of Place' grant resulted from a WCA initiative, and in 2007 we helped develop 'Township Heritage Guidelines' to maintain a visually consistent streetscape. The WCA has consistently supported improved facilities in the Warrandyte Community Centre.
6. **Planning and Development:** WCA monitors and engages on local planning initiatives to ensure that Warrandyte retains its character and heritage including Potters, Cemetery Trust, Helipad, Carwash, East End, Goldfields, inappropriate subdivisions, VCAT tribunal hearings, residential zoning, the C15 signage amendment, and other environmental issues.
7. **Sewerage:** WCA is an active participant in the Yarra Valley Water stakeholder panel on the Warrandyte and North Warrandyte Sewerage Backlog Program, liaising with YVW to represent community views and concerns.
8. **Youth:** WCA contributed to the Manningham 2007 Youth Support Study and campaigned for better facilities for the Warrandyte Netball Club.

Dick Davies
President
29 March 2012