

Warrandyte Community Association Inc

(ICA No. A004 2350W)

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 29 September 2011 at 7.30pm

Warrandyte Community Church, 57 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

DRAFT MINUTES

Welcome:

Dick Davies (President) opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed all attendees. Dick also noted that this was the tenth AGM for the Warrandyte Community Association (WCA).

Present:

More than 20 WCA members were personally present to establish a quorum as required under rule 13 (2.1) of the Constitution.

Apologies:

Jozica Kutin, Val Polley, Warwick Leeson

Proxies:

Nil.

Minutes of the previous Committee Meeting

The Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held 22 July 2010 were confirmed.

Moved Bruce Davidson, Seconded David Dyason, Accepted as read

Treasurer's Report:

Balance at the WCA's Bendigo Bank account as of 30 June 2011 is \$2071.42 in credit.

This represented a net deficit of \$1286.93 compared to the same time the previous year.

The loss arose from expenditure for two non-recurrent extraordinary items, being:

- a. \$1259.33 for a new portable display system set, and
- b. \$1247.90 for website development, which was largely offset by a grant from Bendigo Bank for \$1099.00

Dick Davies thanked Bendigo Bank for their ongoing support.

The financial statement was then moved for acceptance.

Moved David Dyason, Seconded Bruce Davidson, Accepted

President's Report:

The President, Dick Davies summarised his report which had been previously circulated is appended herewith, and is available on the WCA website at <http://www.hpe.net/wca/pdf/AGMPresidentsReport2011.pdf>.

Dick noted that the report shows that the WCA has achieved much during the year, and acknowledged the support from the WCA management committee.

Highlights of the report noted are as follows:

- Key WCA recommendations made to the Bushfires Royal Commission (BRC) were adopted in the BRC final report issued in July 2011. Specific issues that the WCA is pursuing are:
 - Measures to ensure that vulnerable community residents who may need help with evacuation, e.g. elderly, disabled and very young people, would be in place. This is being followed up with both of the councils represented in Warrandyte.
 - Fuel reduction and land management activities conducted in accordance with established scientific principles.
 - A proposal for a state government “Fire Ready Communities” grant is in process of preparation.
 - Preparation of a Township Protection Plan (TPP) in consultation with the CFA.
- Transition of management for the Warrandyte Community Centre (WCC) from the volunteer supporters’ group (WCCSG) to Manningham City Council (MCC)
 - The WCCSG was wound up in August, and assets to the value of about \$2000 are in the process of ownership transfer from WCCSG to WCA. Dick acknowledged the contributions of WCCSG chairmen Jock McNeish and David Dyason, and MCC officers.
 - The WCA is pushing for the formation of a WCC citizens advisory committee to liaise between the community and MCC on management and development of the WCC. In particular, Dick noted that the WCA AGM was being held in a venue other than the WCC because the present MCC arrangements for WCC usage are too expensive and cumbersome.
- Warrandyte sewage backlog program
 - A program is in place to connect sewage to the remaining unconnected Warrandyte areas by the end of 2015.
 - WCA hosted Yarra Valley Water (YVW) engineers at the WCA tent at the 2011 Warrandyte Festival. The engineers answered many questions from interested local residents. WCA intends to maintain a liaison role with YVW, and noted that the lack of complaints passed to the WCA indicates that the community is generally satisfied with delivery of this program.
 - Dick acknowledged the consistent and effective support over several years from Nick Robinson, the WCA representative for the Manningham Sewerage Backlog Program.
- Roads and Public Transport
 - WCA supports the development of the North Eastern Arterial road along Reynolds Road that will connect with either Croydon Road or Maroondah Highway. Its purpose is to reduce traffic on Yarra Street through the Warrandyte township. This is unbudgeted at present.
 - WCA has reviewed the MCC draft strategy for substantial works on Jumping Creek Road to improve traffic safety. Given that the local community has raised no concerns against this strategy, WCA has no objections to the proposal.

- Bus services are substantially improved, although WCA is working with VicRoads to address concerns about in-line bus parking bays and the Panorama bus route along Taroona Avenue and Everard Drive. The local state government member for Warrandyte, Ryan Smith MLA, has given active assistance on these issues.
- Bicycle paths are proceeding according to the Manningham bicycle plan and walking route.
- Access for disabled people
 - WCA Committee member Meindert Withoff has been following up and advising WCA on mobility issues affecting disabled people, and people who need to use walking assistance frames or wheeled vehicles, e.g. prams, on footpaths. MCC has responded positively to date with various improved ramps and bus stops.
- Road sealing measures in Nillumbik
 - WCA has an ongoing difference with Nillumbik Shire Council (NSC) engineers over preferred road sealing measures. WCA advocates the kind of light rural seals, in contrast with NSC who holds that full kerb and channel treatment is necessary for most sites.
- North Warrandyte Gateway
 - WCA had been campaigning for some time to remove or reduce signage clutter at the northern end of the Warrandyte bridge. NSC escalated this to a significant gateway project, including a modern art sculpture. Cost estimates have grown from \$40,000 to \$150,000. NSC is now seeking philanthropic funding to address the budget shortfall.
- Goldfields Triangle re-development
 - MCC formed a subcommittee including Val Polley and Daryl Bolton to advise on re-development of this site. MCC has cleaned and tidied the area, but no further works are likely until the open issue of bus routing in the vicinity is settled.
- Vodafone Tower
 - WCA opposed the placement of the tower and base station in Warrandyte Reserve because of the potential hazard to emergency aerial services that may need to land on the oval. MCC decided at its meeting two days ago to refuse granting a site lease to Vodafone for the tower. Alternative base station sites are available in the nearby area.
- Liaison with state and local government
 - WCA continues to meet twice-yearly with MCC and NSC, and has ad-hoc meetings with state government members Ryan Smith (MLA for Warrandyte) and Danielle Green (MLA for Yan Yean).
- Other issues and events
 - WCA hosted a state government candidates forum prior to the most recent election.
 - WCA maintains its support for the Green Wedge and hence opposition to moving the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) into the Green Wedge reserves. The WCA activity is exemplified by the “Green Wedges Threat?” public meeting set to follow the AGM.

- WCA did what it could to oppose the extension of the On Luck nursing home in the Green Wedge, but this was unilaterally approved by state government planning minister Matthew Guy, against MCC recommendations and without local community consultation.
- WCA website
 - The WCA website is now functioning, and being managed by David Dyason.

The President's Report was then moved for acceptance.

Moved David Dyason, Seconded Bruce Davidson, Accepted

Election of WCA Officers and Committee Members:

Dick Davies advised that the current Committee had 15 nominees, hence there were no vacancies or contested positions. Unless there were objections to any nominees, Dick proposed that the names would be read out and voted *en bloc*.

Dick Davies then read the names of Committee members who were nominating or re-nominating for the 2011-12 Committee.

Nominated Management Committee Members

Richard Aumann
 Kerrie Boyle
 Ken Crook
 Bruce Davidson
 Dick Davies
 David Dyason
 Fiona Elliott
 David Ellis
 Marilyn Evans
 Lynda Gilbert
 Jozica Kutin
 Warwick Leeson
 Doug Mealy
 Jonathan Upson
 Meindert Withoff

Nominated Office Bearers

President :	Dick Davies
Vice President:	Jonathan Upson
Deputy Vice President & Public Officer:	Bruce Davidson
Treasurer:	Kerrie Boyle
Secretary:	Doug Mealy

That the above nominations be elected to the Management Committee of the Warrandyte Community Association for 2011-12

*Moved Bruce Davidson, Seconded David Dyason;
 Accepted*

The Annual General Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Public Meeting on the “Green Wedges Threat”

The AGM was followed by a public meeting for which Ryan Smith MLA was the scheduled keynote speaker.

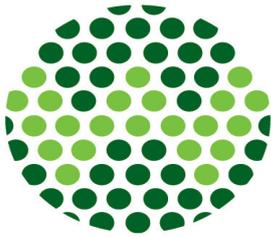
Ryan Smith advised by email dated 28th September 2011 that he had decided to withdraw because he had received advice that “interest groups from outside of the Warrandyte community have seen this meeting as an opportunity to air their grievances”.

In Ryan’s absence, the meeting became a public forum, chaired by Dick Davies.

The forum discussions, which proceeded in a manner of courtesy and respect for differing positions, were captured in an audio recording that will be summarised and compiled in a written report.

Attachment:

WCA Presidents Report AGM 29th September 2011



Warrandyte Community Association

INC. A0042350W

PO Box 75, **Warrandyte** 3113

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AGM 29TH SEPTEMBER 2011

It has been another busy year for the Warrandyte Community Association with activity on bushfire awareness, local community and planning and meetings with State and Local Government and Departments.

Our promised website is at last re-vamped and accessible on www.warrandyte.org.au to improve our communication with residents.

BUSHFIRE AWARENESS

WCA welcomed the Victorian Bushfires final report July 2011. Key issues identified in Warrandyte are covered in the Commission Recommendations. These include early warning systems, community education, land management policy, evacuation, community and personal bunkers, building codes and insurance. Some issues are more specific to Warrandyte and North Warrandyte, like access and egress and potential gridlock on the roads. Whilst Warrandyte residents take a great pride in taking personal responsibility, however WCA is particularly pleased that the Commission emphasised the safety of vulnerable people: children, the elderly and disabled.

WCA has lobbied Manningham Council to assist in compiling a register of people who may need assistance in case of an emergency. While it is beyond Council's responsibility to organise this, identification of those needing assistance and the opportunity to put them in touch with neighbours and existing networks of community groups who could assist is possible. This could be through the 'Know Your Neighbour Program' or maybe in conjunction with issuing rates notices. A register of those in need is required, to be developed in liaison with Nillumbik Council.

A shortfall in the Final Report is an apparent lack of emphasis on contacting and informing younger people. It was noticeable that at the three public meetings WCA held following the fires, younger people were very much under represented. We need to better understand the potential of social media like Twitter to get the message across.

Land management and fuel reduction were the most controversial issues in the earlier Warrandyte forum, but the Commission handled this sensitively. WCA believes that these decisions should be science based not knee-jerk media driven responses. We are monitoring current fuel reduction activity in the Warrandyte State Park closely.

Some major comments arising from a meeting with Manningham Council were:

Power line companies will be subject to new laws and increased accountability; shorter asset inspection times; training; and a targeted work program to reduce risk through a Powerline Safety taskforce.

Hazard trees outside the normal clearance zone will be pruned or removed.

Township Protection Plans are a CFA responsibility. Further funding is available and test exercises are planned.

MCC requested WCA's view on the voluntary buyback. As it is voluntary and likely to apply more to more remote areas it is not a major issue in Warrandyte. However, if it occurs, it is not clear who takes responsibility for maintaining vacant blocks.

State Government has allocated \$6 million to extend the message alert early warning system to social messaging sites, Facebook, iPhone, as well as mobile phones which should also reach young people. WCA noted that coverage of Vodafone and Optus is patchy in Warrandyte.

Funding is also available to schools at years 4, 7&9 with DVDs, mobile units, promotional material and other community education activities planned.

With respect to vulnerable people, some funding is available to assemble databases to enable these residents *to prepare and enact their own plan*. This is likely to centre on the existing Red Cross program and link in with the 'Know Your Neighbour' program. Anyone can register for the Red Cross program and will receive a phone call re high risk days. MCC is working with the other Emergency Services to promote this initiative. WCA was concerned that any such program should be 'Warrandyte Wide' – ie include North Warrandyte and Nillumbik initiatives – and that it should be well publicized through local community groups and activities. MCC maintains a very good working relationship with Nillumbik Council, and WCA is able to assist Council Officers in this activity.

Neighbourhood Safer Places: An additional NSP is planned for Wonga Park, probably the Primary school. WCA observed that the signage and terminology needs to be clearer but this is mandated by State Government. NSP Sites will be shown on Township Protection Plans.

Following our bushfire meetings, WCA was approached by Durwin Dharmaraj, Senior Consultant (*Landscape Architecture & Spatial*) Sinclair Knight Merz, regarding provision of assistance to the Warrandyte community by way of mapping or spatial analysis to better plan for evacuation, education...etc. He thought that these services could be a good will gesture as part of SKM's. However, so far Councils have declined this offer.

WCA notes that North Warrandyte has been allocated to CFA District 14 (Northern and Western Metropolitan Region Headquarters), while the remainder of Warrandyte is in CFA District 13 (Eastern Metropolitan Region Headquarters). The CFA Regional HQ for District 13 is in Lilydale, while that for District 14 is in Melton. WCA has concerns of potential dysfunction arising from

splitting a community across two different fire-service administrations, particularly when the administrative offices are so far apart.

N.B: The Yarra River separates the two districts. Refer to: http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about/documents/cfa_brigade_locations.pdf.

In November last year there was a meeting with the CFA to coordinate the Township Protection Plan for the whole Warrandyte area, which will be organized by District 13. The WCA and members of local Community Fireguard Groups participated.

The purpose of the meeting was to comment on a draft Community Preparedness Guide as part of the Township Protection Plan. The first point to note is that the TPP is a work in progress, to be progressively improved and updated with community input. However, all TPPs are produced according to a common template following the '*Prepare. Act. Survive*' message now promoted by the CFA.

Having participated in a very productive meeting at local level, WCA was subsequently disappointed to note that few of the specific local recommendations were adopted by CFA management.

Nillumbik Council have allocated \$1.3 million for fire prevention including \$650K for roadside management, and are working with the CFA to finalise roadside management plans. Proposed burns will be publicised before the fire season.

Nillumbik is a member of The Eastern Region Coordination Group which includes all emergency services and MCC. Action plans will be prioritised and endorsed by Council.

'Leave Early' awareness is top of the agenda. WCA members and Warrandyte Elderly Citizens have strongly expressed concern that 'vulnerable' people, particularly elderly and disabled are targeted in awareness programmes in as many ways as possible such as Nillumbik News; via meals on wheels; Community Fireguard Groups; and a register of vulnerable people.

WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The WCA supported Manningham City Council efforts to update the building and increase its relevance and role in our community contingent upon the following three conditions being met:

1. That permanent (24 hour) tenants operating out of the WCC must not be 'for profit' enterprises
2. That should a regional community hub such as the one currently being discussed to service Park Orchards, Wonga Park and/or Warrandyte come into being, that the MCC will neither close, nor reduce its financial commitment to, the WCC

3. That any WCC advisory committee appointed to assist in the management of the WCC should be comprised of no less than 2/3 local Warrandyte residents and should also approve the appointment of permanent tenants.

WCA welcomed the decision of the Warrandyte Community Centre Supporters Group to dispose of its assets to the WCA following the decision to wind-up at a Special General Meeting on 11 August.

The WCA was originally formed as a partner of the WCCSG with a broader mandate to promote all aspects of community life and it is appropriate, now that the primary objective of the WCCSG has been achieved, that the WCA maintains that role of representing community interests in relation to the Centre.

Many thanks are due to the various WCCSG committee members over the past ten years who have kept the Centre alive and in particular to Jock MacNeish and David Dyason as Chairmen who carried a major load. We should also thank the Manningham CEO and Council Officers, Lydia Wilson, Celia Haddock, Jan Loughman and Di Haskins for their efforts in resolving the situation.

At this stage, WCA is unclear as to how Manningham Council wishes to proceed in managing the Centre, particularly in relation to establishing a community advisory committee.

WCA would hope to be a partner in that, but in any case will always maintain a vigilant role in protecting community interests.

It is expected that MCC will establish a new library in the Community Centre in about 18 months. However, recent news media items about state government cuts to public library funding cast some doubt over this.

In the meantime, the MCC process of booking space in the Community Centre remains problematic, to the point where alternative arrangements are often made.

WARRANTYTE BACKLOG SEWERAGE PROGRAMME

Nick Robinson has represented WCA the Yarra Valley Water/Manningham Sewerage Backlog Stakeholder Panel for the last few years and it reached a critical stage with the roll out in Warrandyte this year.

WCA hosted Yarra Valley Water Engineers in the WCA tent at the Warrandyte Festival to facilitate communication with residents about the Warrandyte backlog sewerage programme. It was a very successful endeavour with many residents, particularly from North Warrandyte, making enquiries. Whilst Manningham residents had received more communication by letter and YVW website, Nillumbik residents had been in the dark. Plans are to extend the sewerage to areas in North Warrandyte between 2013 and 2015. WCA hopes that Nillumbik will establish a similar consultative committee in the near future.

WCA acknowledges that whilst sewerage will improve water quality and the run off into the river environment, there are some concerns. Principally the financial considerations are plumbing connection costs, any possible rate increase and opt-out provisions for those with existing treatment systems. However, the major political impact may be to increase the pressure for subdivision on larger blocks. WCA will oppose any such proposals.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ROADS

Transport Plan for Warrandyte & North Eastern Arterial

To relieve traffic congestion, WCA are focusing attention on developing the North Eastern Arterial Road along Reynolds Road to connect with either Croydon Road or Maroondah Highway. Whilst VicRoads are committed to the concept it is not currently planned or budgeted. However land will be secured if development is proposed on the route. WCA has urged Manningham Council to push hard to advance the project and to include Yarra Street in VicRoads modelling. WCA met with MCC and VicRoads to discuss this in May.

Jumping Creek Road Strategy

WCA has been asked to review the Jumping Creek Road draft strategy. MCC has offered to meet with WCA representatives.

Bus Services

Warrandyte residents expressed concern over removal of busbays and the lack of consultation with VicRoads. WCA has long campaigned for better bus services. The DART bus services now provide more reliable schedules and faster services. WCA suggest that the 906, one hour to city centre service be extended to Jumping Creek Road.

WCA has assisted residents of Taroona Avenue and Everard Drive who object to the re-routing of Panorama bus services along unsuitable sideroads. A meeting of VicRoads, Panorama and Manningham Council earlier in the year conspicuously omitted to consult with residents. Alternatives are being canvassed such as bus priority lights or a roundabout. At this stage VicRoads is unwilling to foot the bill for any such improvements. Minister Ryan Smith has intervened on behalf of residents who are hoping for a satisfactory outcome.

Bicycle paths

The Manningham 'Bicycle Plan and Walking Strategy' will address Warrandyte issues which WCA has raised in meetings with Council in the past – specifically a route from Warrandyte to Beasley's to connect with the Westerfolds bike path.

Disabled access

Following representation from WCA, disabled access has been improved at various ramp sites and bus stops on Yarra Street.

However, north of the river in Nillumbik is not amenable to wheelchairs. This contrasted with the positive response by Manningham, which has developed a plan for disabled access. There are few footpaths, so wheelchairs are forced to

occupy road space intended for motor vehicles. WCA Committee Member Meindert Withoff has suggested that, in the absence of footpaths, roads should be augmented with wide enough shoulders to accommodate pedestrians, prams and wheelchairs with relatively more safety than the present arrangements allow.

Road Sealing Policy

The current Nillumbik policy for full kerb and guttering on roads is unsuitable for much of North Warrandyte. A light seal without extensive kerbing and guttering is preferable because it fits the 'Warrandyte landscape' feel of the place, is much cheaper, and has already been satisfactorily applied to many roads in Warrandyte including in Manningham. Nillumbik Engineering Department intransigence on this has led to no work being done on many roads and severe erosion resulting. WCA rejects the argument that a light seal increases erosion and run off.

North Warrandyte 'Gateway' Project

WCA has campaigned to reduce the clutter of signage at the intersection of Kangaroo Ground and Research Roads. The Nillumbik Tourism Association, in a submission to Vic Roads, also supports the notion of 'de-cluttering'. Subsequently, Nillumbik Council purchased a Deborah Halpern sculpture to enhance the 'Gateway' aspect of the intersection in association with redesigning signage. However, current engineering calculations for design and ground works on the site to support the sculpture have blown out from an original estimate of \$40K to \$150K, the additional amount being unbudgeted. Council is seeking philanthropic finance. If insufficient, it will be proposed for the 2012-13 capital works budget. Signage requires a permit from Vic Roads to conform with their signage policy. Earthworks have started for the Portal site on the north side of the bridge.

TOWN PLANNING

Goldfield triangle development

Val Polley & Daryl Bolton represent WCA on a sub-committee to consider various options for redevelopment of the 'Goldfield triangle' at the West End. The area has been cleaned up and tidied. MCC has not arranged any community meetings on its future use or development. The space is too small for any building. Any further development is unlikely until road circulation issues in the vicinity, e.g. bus routing, are settled.

Old Warrandyte Post Office Site Development

Architectural drawings of the proposed building development of the former post office site at East End are unlikely to be compatible with heritage overlays.

Ginko Site Development

WCA is not currently aware of what is planned for this development.

Streetscape improvements

WCA continues to urge Manningham Council to implement their streetscape strategy. The number and location of A-frame signs should be regulated. It is noted that MCC does not fund substitute signage.

Vodafone Tower proposed for Warrandyte Reserve

WCA has opposed the siting of a Mobile Phone Base Station at the Warrandyte Reserve on the basis of impeding access for emergency helicopter landing. Manningham Council is compiling a report summarising submissions on the tower development from Manningham residents. A four-councillor committee will make a recommendation on whether to grant a lease for the tower in time for the full council meeting in October.

WCA is advised that Vodafone can achieve its network coverage goal by leasing accommodation for antennae on the Telstra-owned site on a nearby high-tension electrical pylon. The attractiveness of the Warrandyte Reserve site is its relatively low cost. The tower as designed is significantly over-engineered for the mechanical load of the disclosed antennae, indicating that it is likely to be loaded up with substantial additional equipment over its expected operational life. Such growth in infrastructure capacity carries the danger of increased pressure for development in the Warrandyte Green Wedge zone.

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WCA continues to meet formally on a twice yearly basis with Councillors and Officers of Manningham and Nillumbik Councils.

Election Candidates Forum

Prior to the State Election last year, WCA hosted a Candidates Forum at the North Warrandyte Community Centre which was well attended by all Candidates and some of their vociferous supporters.

Urban Growth Boundary:

State Government will consider requests from Councils to include some land currently not within the UGB. Nillumbik Council has adopted a Green Wedge Management Plan and supports the existing Urban Growth Boundaries and will not be proposing any changes. However, whilst recognising the 'neighbourhood character' of the area, Council supports 'responsible tourism' and potentially easing restrictions on ancillary uses such as a café in conjunction with a small vineyard. The key issue is Green Wedge (GW) zone management. Council are considering limited changes to current planning constraints on development, e.g. by allowing a second dwelling on some GW properties of less than 40 acres. Strong representations are being made from the Nillumbik Ratepayers Association for subdivision permission.

Council needs to clarify what the criteria may be.

Funding for Parks:

Current funding arrangements are untenable as 50% goes elsewhere. Significant changes are mooted by the State Government - \$9.5m extra for Parks funding to address weeds, feral animals etc. We hope to see a substantial chunk of that in Warrandyte.

On Luck Nursing Home Development

WCA continues to oppose this development in Tindals Road. Since adequate sites for potential nursing homes exist in the Manningham jurisdiction, there is no need to make further incursions into the Green Wedge. WCA is to investigate opportunities to improve landscaping and native bush on the site.

Dick Davies**President****29 September 2011**

WCA gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Warrandyte Community Branch, Bendigo Bank.

