



Warrandyte Community Association
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Be Ready Warrandyte

Media Release

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Be Ready Warrandyte at Warrandyte Festival

'Be Ready Warrandyte' was the focus of the Warrandyte Community Association (WCA) display at the recent Warrandyte Festival.

Residents visiting the WCA display were invited to mark up a large street map of Warrandyte to indicate whether they stayed or left on Friday 11 January when a serious grass fire started near Yeoman's Road and headed towards Kangaroo Ground.

Red dots on the map meant people stayed and purple dots meant people left.

WCA President Dick Davies said the exercise showed about two thirds of residents stayed.said.

"Some participants also left a comment. Of those who stayed, many in North Warrandyte were watching the progress of the fire as it headed away from Warrandyte towards Kangaroo Ground. Those further away in Warrandyte or South Warrandyte did not feel so threatened, although some did leave.

"Many visitors to the display said did not see the point of writing down their fire plan , although most conceded that they hadn't really thought it through, after a few pertinent questions from WCA.

"Whilst the sample size is much too small to draw any conclusions it is instructive in raising awareness," Mr Davies said.

The WCA video parodying similar attitudes to fire planning was also shown extensively at the festival as part of the display. Emergency Services have welcomed this approach as a different and innovative way of engaging the community.

"WCA will be planning more community awareness exercises like this, in the future," Mr Davies said.

The video, '*Do you have a fire plan?*' was produced by the WCA and the Warrandyte Theatre Company as part of a programme of six activities designed to raise awareness of the vital importance of bushfire planning.

Well-known local identities from the Follies, and other Warrandyte theatre productions, parody the half-baked plans many of us have without having really thought them through. Their humour is followed by a very serious message from Greg Kennedy, a local CFA Captain.

The CFA has made WCA's new video available statewide, through the CFA website.

View the video on the Be Ready Warrandyte website www.warrandyte.org.au/fire

The 'Be Ready Warrandyte' project is funded by a Victorian Government's Fire Ready Communities Grants Program. Manningham Council, Nillumbik Council, the Warrandyte Community Bank and the Community Market Committee have also provided funding support.

Dick Davies

President

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