

Time to revisit fire plan



By **CHERIE MOSELEN**

AS the expectation of hotter temperatures and vigilance in bushfire-prone districts increases, Warrandyte Community Association is accelerating its Be Ready Warrandyte – Living with Bushfire Risk campaign.

In its aim to ensure residents have an effective fire plan, the association is scheduling a Scenario Planning workshop for November 28 from 7pm-9pm at Anderson's Creek Primary School Performing Arts Theatre.

WCA president Dick Davies believes this unique scenario-style event is an ideal way for residents to test out fire plans without fear of making a mistake.

"People will be able to learn about the issues they may be faced with and what decisions they will need to make in a high pressure bushfire situation," Dick said.

"There will be a particular emphasis on schools and children but all residents are invited to attend and benefit from the experience."

The evening will be co-ordinated by Manningham council's emergency management co-ordinator Lew Wilson and well-known WCA facilitator Bruce Turner.

Expert advice will also be available from emergency services representatives such as CFA, Parks Victoria, Department of Environment & Primary Industry, and Victoria Police.

The staging of the event will give "Participants" the chance to sit up front and interact with facilitators and experts. "Observers" can sit back in the stands, watch the scenario unfold and listen in. Organisers have also



Hey, they're a flash mob from South Warrandyte

FOUR members from South Warrandyte CFA were part of the White Ribbon flash mob event at Eastland late last month.



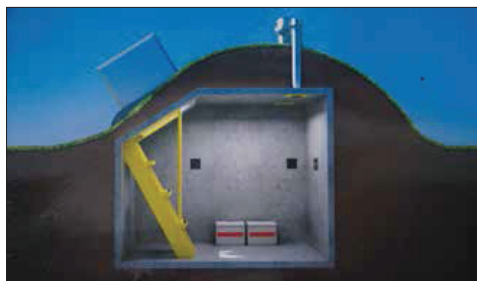
planned a simulated fire experience in a separate area which attendees can take part in.

This event follows the WCA Bunkers or Bunkum forum, which recently brought together emergency services and planning officers from CFA and local government, bunker builders and CSIRO, to consider the pros and cons of bunkers and answer questions from more than 170 people.

The key message arising from the forum emphasised CFA and local council's advice for community members to "leave early!"

Bunkers were pinpointed as an individual backup option.

Guest speaker Justin Leonard, CSIRO representative, provided background information on research into fatalities as a result of fire since 1900.



Notable statistics showed that 60 per cent of deaths occurred within 100 metres of residential addresses after occupants had decided to leave too late – findings Mr Leonard expanded on in an October 13 *The Age* article, suggesting: "Leaving a structure that is

still intact is at the point of being suicidal once the effects of fire are around you."

A North Warrandyte resident and bunker owner told the *Diary* he found the forum valuable because it had made him feel "more confident" should he need to use his bunker for

family safety.

WCA president Dick Davies encouraged residents to attend the Scenario Planning event later this month.

"Like all presentations in our Be Ready Warrandyte campaign, this event is free. All it requires is a little bit of time. You never know, it could inspire new thinking around bushfire survival that just might save your life."

To reserve your place contact Jodi Clark on 9844 5855 or info@warrandyte.org.au and advise whether you would like to be a Participant or Observer.

For more info on Be Ready Warrandyte (also to see Bunkers or Bunkum summarised open forum questions and responses) please visit the website: www.warrandyte.org.au.

Aaron Farr, Luke Summerscales, Matt Roughan and Anna Chmiel (above) joined emergency services and government agencies involved in the flash mob dancing including Victoria Police, CFA, MFB, MAV, the army, navy, and local councils. The CFA was represented by chief fire officer Euan Ferguson (an ambassador for the White Ribbon campaign).

The theme of the message was "No Bystanders", which aimed to encourage the community to speak out about violence against women. The YouTube clip will be used in a media campaign for White Ribbon Day on November 25. See the guys in action at <http://bit.ly/1a8jd7j>

Video continues to deliver powerful message

TWO Warrandyte Community Association projects are finalists in the 2013 Fire Awareness Awards out of a field of almost 100 entries.

The overall 'Be Ready Warrandyte – Living with Bushfire Risk' campaign is a finalist in the Community Preparedness category and the video 'Do you have a fire plan?' is in the Media and Communications category.

Aside from the award nomination, last year's clever Be Ready Warrandyte video spoof continues to receive high praise from emergency services experts and, most importantly, has become a useful tool with a powerful message about bushfire safety for other communities.

The light-hearted video 'Do you have a fire plan?' has attracted more than 8000 hits on YouTube and parodies those who don't have a solid plan. It was produced locally by Warrandyte people for the Warrandyte Community Association as part of a toolkit of activities aimed to raise awareness of the need to plan for bushfires.

Victoria's Country Fire Authority has distributed the video throughout the state and it has been rebadged by stations in the Dandenong Ranges, who have refilmed the ending using their own station captains to use in their own local communities. The video has also been embraced by the NSW Rural

Fire Service and there are several more inquiries to do similar in other communities throughout Australia.

"This is a fantastic place to live, but every summer we face bushfire risk and our research shows that only five per cent of Warrandyte residents have fire plans," South Warrandyte CFA fire captain Greg Kennedy said. He urges residents to ensure they take it very seriously and have a plan in place.

WCA president and Be Ready Warrandyte's Dick Davies says the video project has been a huge success and made special mention of Alan Cornell who scripted the spoof. *Diary* editor Scott Podmore and video producer Andrew Beck

teamed up to produce it with WTC actors.

"Alan did a fantastic job scripting the video to pick up the well intentioned but half-baked intentions all of us harbour from time to time," Mr Davies said.

"It's great that Warrandyte has access to so many professionals in the community who, like Alan and friends in the Warrandyte Theatre Company, are so willing to give their time to community projects."

The 'Be Ready Warrandyte' project is funded by the Victorian Government's Fire Ready Communities Grants Program.

To see the video visit YouTube and search for Be Ready Warrandyte – Do you have a fire plan?



Top notch: The Be Ready Warrandyte video is booming.

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