



28 March 2014

Fire Message Cutting Through

Three times as many people left Warrandyte during the recent fire on 9 February than stayed according to an informal poll taken at the Festival by the 'Be Ready Warrandyte' campaign.

This has reversed the situation last year when two thirds stayed during a grass fire on 11 January 2013.

Warrandyte Community association President, Dick Davies, said visitors to the WCA/Be Ready tent at the festival were asked to put a coloured dot on a map if they stayed or left.

'Whilst the poll of 181 residents is not comprehensive, the magnitude of the shift does suggest that the fire message is cutting through' Dick Davies said.

WCA also received several suggestions from residents to improve emergency management and traffic flow.

One potential engineering solution is to more than double the capacity of the Yarra crossing during the bushfire season by erecting a demountable "Bayley" bridge on each side of the existing bridge & removing them once the summer season is over. This was previously canvassed last year in the Diary (see letters Oct 2 2012).

This of course does not address the problem of gridlock on the roads on either side of the river.

Another detailed proposal is to build a causeway backing up 4.2 kilometres of river at Pound Bend before the exit of the Tunnel. As there is a three metre drop, this would deepen the water supply available in the river and enable alternative access to the State Park on the other side.

According to another suggestion from a long time resident, traffic congestion generally would be relieved by access to the Ring Road by building a link along Springvale, over Mullum Mullum Creek connecting with Orchard Grove and Alexander Roads.

Mr Davies said that whilst not advocating any particular proposal on behalf of WCA, he would refer the suggestions to the Municipal Emergency Management Committee.

However, the major recommendation if fire threatens will always be to leave early.

'Be Ready Warrandyte' is supported by Manningham and Nillumbik Councils.

Dick Davies
President WCA
Chair Be Ready Warrandyte

WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

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

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