



**9 June 2014**

### **'Be Ready Warrandyte' 'Inspirational' say conference delegates**

'Be Ready Warrandyte!' was a hit in Wollongong at the recent three day Australian Community Engagement and Fire Awareness Conference 2014, a National event hosted by the Rural Fire Service, NSW, in Wollongong.

Warrandyte South CFA Captain, Greg Kennedy, and 'Be Ready' Project Manager, Jodi Clark, were invited to present at a plenary session to more than 430 attendees from all over Australia and New Zealand.

"All seats were taken and there were around 20-30 people standing up the back," Jodi said.

The Warrandyte Community Association presentation was on how the project got started and the partnerships with council, agencies and community.

Manningham and Nillumbik Councils help fund the project and their Emergency Management Officers are key members of the organising committee.

"We demonstrated some of our 'tools' developed in the Warrandyte program, including the 'Do you have a fire plan' video, Jodi said.

"We received very positive feedback and were mobbed at the next break by people wanting to know more!

"We continued to be approached by many delegates wanting more information or simply just to thank us for our presentation."

The WCA was the only community group invited to present at the conference, an acknowledgement of the State and National recognition it has achieved.

The project has also been highlighted at several other recent events: the Victorian Council of Social Services and Municipal Association of Victoria Emergency Management Forum; the ANZ Disaster and Emergency Management Conference and the Mount Macedon emergency management training course 'Community in Emergency Management' and the IBM 'Solutions Connect' Conference.

WCA President Dick Davies said that the programme is supporting Council's obligations to undertake emergency prevention, preparedness and education activities in the community.

**WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.**

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ACN A0042350W ABN 23 120 318 791

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



"The Be Ready Warrandyte partnership has created inroads and leverage into the community with the fire message to greatly enhance the efforts of individual emergency officers.

"Council has far exceeded its possible penetration into the community in a short time frame to deliver a strong fire ready message and educational opportunities."

There was plenty of positive activity on Twitter both during and after the Be Ready Warrandyte presentation at Wollongong.

Group Manager, Corporate Communications at NSW RFS, Anthony Clark, tweeted that 'Be Ready Warrandyte' was "sharing a great locally developed and run community program".

Dr Christine Eriksen, University of Wollongong & Bushfire CRC, tweeted that our presentation was "inspiring" and "so true."

"The conference gave us the opportunity to learn how other agencies and organisations go about their community engagement, both here in Australia and in New Zealand" Jodi said.

More information is available on [www.warrandyte.org.au/fire](http://www.warrandyte.org.au/fire) .

Be Ready Warrandyte is supported by Manningham Council, Nillumbik Council, The Warrandyte Market Committee and the Bendigo Bank Community Fund.

**Further information: Jodi Clark 9844 5855 or 0409 619 515  
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