



Warrandyte  
Community  
Association



**WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
Annual General Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**OVERVIEW**

Once again, it has been another busy year for the Warrandyte Community Association, with a focus on:-

- Bushfire awareness in the final year of the 'Be Ready Warrandyte' campaign;
- Planning issues on traffic gridlock and petrol station development;
- Regular meetings with Local Councils;
- A range of local issues.

The WCA website – incorporating the WCA home site and the “Be Ready Warrandyte” project – was actively maintained throughout the year; we will continue to maintain the site in response to local events and as our resources allow. It is accessible on [www.warrandyte.org.au](http://www.warrandyte.org.au).

**1. 2014-2015 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Office Bearers:**

President: Dick Davies  
Vice-President: Jonathan Upson  
Secretary: Warwick Leeson  
Treasurer: Barry Holding

**Committee Members:**

David Dyason  
Fiona Elliott  
Doug Mealy  
Lesley Ryall  
Jozica Kutin - Membership  
Meindert Withoff

**Ex Committee:**

Phil Ashfield – Bookkeeping and accounts

Our thanks to all the Committee and helpers for their contribution during the year.

**2. BUSHFIRE AWARENESS**

'Be Ready Warrandyte' continued under the guidance of the Project Management sub-committee consisting of:-

**WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.**

PO BOX 75 Warrandyte 3113 · 03 9844 5855 · [www.warrandyte.org.au](http://www.warrandyte.org.au)

ACN A0042350W Inc. 23 120 318 791

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

- WCA committee of management
- Local CFA brigades (CFA Districts 13 & 14)
- Municipal Emergency Management Officers from both Manningham and Nillumbik.
- Other community and institutional representatives attended as needed.

Our thanks to all who participated in what has become a model programme for other communities.

The campaign received financial support in the 2014/15FY:-

- \$10,000 each from Nillumbik and Manningham Councils in their annual budgets
- \$2,000 from the Warrandyte Market Committee
- \$5,000 of members' funds from the WCA
- Additional support from the Warrandyte Community Bank (Bendigo Bank).

Key outcomes for the BRW campaign included:-

- The revised and extended 'What's the Plan?' sample fire plans
- A second fire bunker tour
- A third and most successful 'Scenario Event', using modelling based on the February 2014 fire in Warrandyte and potential consequences.
- Liaison with Warrandyte High School in the production of fire-preparedness videos by students as part of their VCE syllabus (see them on our website!).
- Liaison with VicRoads on the installation of real-time webcams on Research and KG roads, expected in the new year.
- Hosting the 'Captain Koala and Friends' show at the 2015 Warrandyte Festival.

A major thrust of the 2014-15 program was our 'Heatwave' campaign. Bushfire is a high impact, episodic threat, but heat stress is a high impact, predictable and recurrent threat. Every year people die as a direct result of heat stress.

Linda Lawrie managed an extremely professional programme to:-

- Review existing State and local resources
- Develop a questionnaire survey
- Run a pilot 'Telebuddie' trial with those who may need assistance when weather gets hot.

In this we partnered with the Warrandyte Neighbourhood House and Warrandyte Housing Support Services.

Our exit strategy was to finalise the current campaign and fully document the program whilst maintaining the website as a source of local information. In the event of a local disaster, we will be in a position to re-vitalise the campaign as appropriate.

Consequently WCA has signed an 'Agreement to work in partnership to build disaster resilience in Greater Warrandyte' with the Municipal Emergency Planning Committees of both Nillumbik and Manningham Councils.

The BRW campaign has been fully documented in hard copy and online on our website as follows:

- **WCA Website:** [www.warrandyte.org.au/fire](http://www.warrandyte.org.au/fire)
- **Bushfire Survey: Key Findings Report February 2013** (hard copy and online)
- **Final Report 2012-2015 June 2015** (hard copy and online)
- **Heatwave Report June 2105** (hard copy and online)
- **Be Ready Warrandyte – Living with Bushfire Risk** (Snapfish photo and text)

The Snapfish booklet captures the essence of the campaign in pictures and text. Copies are available by request at a cost of \$50.

The Centre for Risk and Community Safety at RMIT University, a partner in the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre, advised the BRW campaign from the beginning. They have produced a Case Study and other publications which give an independent assessment of the campaign.

- **Community-Led Bushfire Preparedness in Action: The Case of Be Ready Warrandyte.** [www.bnhcrc.com.au](http://www.bnhcrc.com.au)
- **A case study for the Out of Uniform:** building community resilience through non-traditional volunteering project. (Also on our website under Final report)
- A shorter blog is also on the [www.bnh.crc.au](http://www.bnh.crc.au) website under **Views and Visions, Blythe McLennan.**

The WCA continues to be invited to present at conferences, workshops and community meetings:

- Emergency Management Victoria community workshops – ongoing.
- ANZ Disaster Management Conference, Gold Coast, April.
- Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative, July.
- Cardinia Community Resilience Forum, October
- Rotary Doncaster, November.
- WCA also made a formal presentation of results to both Manningham and Nillumbik Councils.

We celebrated the completion of the 3-year BRW campaign by presenting certificates of appreciation to many important contributors at a public event on 3 June 2015. A list of all the BRW activities and events over that time is attached.

### **3. WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL**

Our very successful contribution to the 2015 Festival was to collect comments on a 'Writers' Wall' under the heading: "I Want Warrandyte To Be..."

The Writer's Wall was a fun, contemporary and inclusive way for the WCA to continue its ongoing conversation with the Warrandyte Community. We were blown away by the response (over 500 comments on the actual Wall, many more on its virtual counterpart via social media), not only the aspirations that were left on the wall but the discussions that they generated.

Major themes were:-

- To preserve the unique quality of Warrandyte: its environmental, heritage, cultural and sporting aspects.
- Traffic management
- Fire safety.

Together with the regular input from our members, the content will help the WCA to confirm and in some cases to challenge our understanding of the community's priorities for the future of Warrandyte. We will use them in our regular discussions with Councils.

We're really excited at the opportunity this gives us to develop a collective vision for Warrandyte that we can share, support and implement, in partnership with all those who help to make this a very special place.

#### **4. STATE PLANNING ISSUES**

##### **The Bridge!**

Gridlock at times on the Bridge has remained a hot topic with no action to relieve congestion since WCA first raised the issue in a 2005 Forum. Whilst many concerned individuals have proposed various solutions to the problem, some most detailed engineering concepts, there remains a lack of the basic data – how many are going from where to where at what time. VicRoads is undertaking a traffic survey and initial results in relation to Emergency Management will be discussed with local EM officers soon. WCA believes that it is essential to link day to day problems with emergency plans in order to prioritise any proposed solution. We are hoping that VicRoads will update this situation at the EM Forum following the AGM.

##### **Middle Yarra River Corridor Study**

In a submission on our website, [www.warrandyte.org.au](http://www.warrandyte.org.au) (click Resources), WCA argued for maintenance of the environmental aspects of the river especially as viewed from the river, which unfortunately, appeared to have been largely neglected in the draft report. The WCA continues to work with the State Government and their consultant on improving the final report. Public exhibition of the plan is expected before controls are adopted.

##### **Webb Street Land**

With support from Ryan Smith MP and other local groups, we lobbied State government to purchase Webb Street land adjacent to the State Park, however our bid was unsuccessful.

#### **5. TOWN PLANNING**

##### **Proposed Petrol Station Development for 1, 3-5 Yarra Street**

A petrol station facility, proposed for the old 'Bird Engineering' site at 1-3 & 5 Yarra Street near the roundabout, has proved very controversial.

WCA has lodged an objection on the grounds of:

1. Proposed vegetation removal, six mature yellow box, from the roadside reserve.
2. Difficulty of managing and enforcing compliance with replanting and landscaping at service station sites where high visibility is a commercial preference.
3. Difficulty of ingress and egress at the Heidelberg Road / Harris Gully Road roundabout.
4. Non-specific detail relating to signage, lighting and hours of operation.
5. The Association's opposition to the establishment of a fast food outlet at this site.
6. Having regard to the close proximity to Anderson's Creek, the Association is not satisfied that adequate facilities are incorporated into the design to manage contaminated run-off in all weather.

In a populist 'Polldaddy' online poll on the WCA website, 73% were against the proposal and 27% for, with 299 votes cast. A similar Diary poll was consistent with 70% against the development.

There is however about 30% support for a fuel facility in Warrandyte. Whilst WCA supports the re-installation of fuel pumps, we have opposed both the United and Roundabout proposals as being excessive developments, inconsistent with the character of the Township.

WCA made a detailed submission to Manningham Council in July and will present at a later VCAT hearing. Our thanks to Doug Seymour for his detailed appraisal and submissions on this proposal.

## **6. CAT POLICY**

Following a survey, much discussion and feedback, the WCA adopted a responsible pet ownership policy, and in particular endorsed the RSPCA policy that encourages containment of cats within the owners' property boundaries. (The full statement of this policy is available on the [RSPCA Website](#).)

The WCA policy can be read on the website - <http://warrandyte.org.au/cat-curfew-vote-now/> . This policy has been communicated to both Councils.

The WCA conducted an online 'Polldaddy' poll on its website to assess the level of support or otherwise for a cat curfew in Warrandyte. The 'Yes/No' poll asked the simple question: Should there be a cat curfew 'Yes, at all times', 'Yes, from dawn to dusk' or 'No'? It also included an option to comment.

Whilst there are obvious limitations to this sort of 'Straw Poll', eighty percent of the respondents voted either for a complete curfew or for a dawn to dusk cat curfew. Over 1000 people had voted on the Warrandyte Community Association website when the poll closed at the end of March. Final figures were 46% voted for a complete curfew, 34% for a dawn to dusk curfew and 20% voted for no curfew.

Nillumbik Shire Council has an order under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 which requires cat owners to keep their pets securely confined between the curfew times of 7.30pm and 6am. Although there is no curfew in place in Manningham, Council strongly recommends cats be confined to owners properties.

Whilst the WCA notes that a clear majority would prefer a curfew, it noted that this is not a vote against cats but a vote for responsible cat ownership.

## **7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

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

### **Mens' Shed**

Following the suggestion from a member that MCC purchase the United Petrol site as a Mens' Shed, Manningham Council is considering developing an existing, disused facility in South Warrandyte. Liaison with Warrandyte LIONS continues on this issue.

### **Council Guidelines Sub-Committee**

Following a members meeting in February, Bev Hanson is leading a sub-committee to develop guidelines to assist Council in planning for Warrandyte.

Bev Hanson related recent examples of Manningham Council activities that have legitimate community benefit but the planned implementation is often inconsistent with the neighbourhood environmental character. Bev has begun discussions with Council officers on issues such as the development of a 'Fire Garden' around the Taffy Jones memorial site.

**Dick Davies**

**President, WCA Inc.  
12th November 2015**

## ATTACHMENT

### The 'Be Ready Warrandyte – Living with Bushfire Risk' Campaign 2012-15

#### Aim

The aim of the WCA 'Be Ready Warrandyte- Living with Bushfire Risk' campaign from 2012-2015 was to ensure that every household in the 'Greater Warrandyte' area had an *effective* bushfire plan.

#### Committee

The project management committee consisted of WCA members, local Community Fire Guard Leaders, Regional and Volunteer CFA Officers and local Government Emergency Management Officers. Other members of the community and Emergency Services with specialist skills have been co-opted as needed. Analysis of an initial survey and final conclusions has been by the RMIT's Centre for Risk and Community Safety. Project management was by the local 'The Good Work Group'.

#### Activities

Since its establishment WCA's BRW campaign has undertaken the following:-

- **SURVEY:** conducted a statistically significant Bushfire Survey of Warrandyte households to determine levels of awareness – produced a quality report in hard copy and online. Results were published in a 'Key Findings Report' analysed by RMIT Centre for Risk and Community Safety.
- **WEBSITE:** developed a website [www.warrandyte.org.au/fire](http://www.warrandyte.org.au/fire) with Facebook and Twitter social media sites well populated with current material and activities. It includes a unique 'Warrandyte Fire Watch' App. VicRoads plans to install two webcams on Research and Kangaroo ground Roads to monitor traffic gridlock which will feed live into the site.
- **FORUMS:** held a community leaders forum to discuss involvement of other Warrandyte groups and many meetings with neighbouring communities to discuss sharing programmes and information. We also liaised with local businesses in fire preparation activities.
- **FIRE PLANS:** drafted a 'sample' fire plan for a 'typical' Warrandyte family. Recently updated with 'What's the Plan' interactive pro-forma plans for four different situations. We launched a light hearted video 'Do you have a Fire Plan?' which went viral and has been taken up or copied by several other local CFA communities and distributed throughout the state by the CFA. It is also being used as a training tool by the NSW Rural Fire Service. It stimulated the production of student fire preparation videos at Warrandyte High School.
- **MEDIA CAMPAIGN:** produced a range of informative and well designed pamphlets and other media as part of a constant 'awareness raising' publicity campaign. We have featured on commercial and ABC Radio and Channel 10 news as well as in the Age and all local media
- **FESTIVAL:** surveyed responses to two local fires at successive Warrandyte Festivals and introduced the 'Captain Koala and Friends' show to children and their parents at the Festival

- **BIG PUBLIC MEETINGS:** we held a well attended 'Bunkers or Bunkum?' forum with CSIRO, followed up with two successful 'Local Fire Bunker' tours. We also organised three well attended 'Bushfire Scenario Planning' events with local emergency services personnel.
- **STATE SERVICES:** we liaised closely with local and State Emergency Services and Emergency Management Victoria on community fire issues and were invited to participate in State Government workshops on fire related issues
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** we formally reported at intervals back to local Councils who were very supportive of our activities.
- **CONFERENCES:** Gave a keynote presentation at the 2013 CFA Community Engagement & Fire Awareness Forum. 'Be Ready Warrandyte!' was a hit at the Australian Community Engagement and Fire Awareness Conference in May 2014, a National event hosted by the Rural Fire Service, NSW, in Wollongong. We have been invited to present at the 2015 ANZ Disaster Management Conference.
- **AWARDS:** Awarded three 'Fire Awareness Awards' in 2013 including the overall RACV Award for Excellence and received a 'High Commendation' in the 2013 Resilient Australia Awards.
- **HEATWAVE:** we conducted a 'Heatwave' campaign to survey responses to heatwave messaging and conditions irrespective of bushfires, interviewed residents and ran a pilot 'Telebuddy' trial over the summer of 2014/15.

## **Funding**

The campaign formally began on 1 June 2012 under the auspices of a Victorian Government 'Fire Ready Communities Grant'. Additional sponsorship has been from Manningham and Nillumbik Councils, the Bendigo Bank Community Fund and the Warrandyte Community Market Committee. Further funding, sought under the Federal Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme and the Victorian Resilient Community Programme, has been unsuccessful. The campaign formally ended in June 2015.