

**GOLDFIELDS
PLAZA**



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Footy flag feast



The end of the 2026 footy season is one for the Warrandyte history books. Eleven years after their triple-flag victory, the Bloods have done it again with all three Men's teams winning their Grand Final. With all three Finals taking place on the same day at East Ringwood Reserve, the club was able to celebrate in style. But the men do not get all the glory, the U18 Girls also walked away with the 2026 Flag in their Division 1 battle against Camberwell in the YJFL, with some of the players securing a six-peat in the Junior competition. See Pages 29-31 for our full coverage.

Photo: TREWELLA SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

INSIDE

- Get Fire Ready
— Pages 5-7
- Talking about dementia
— Page 8
- Birds in focus
— Pages 16-17
- Running for good
— Pages 25-26

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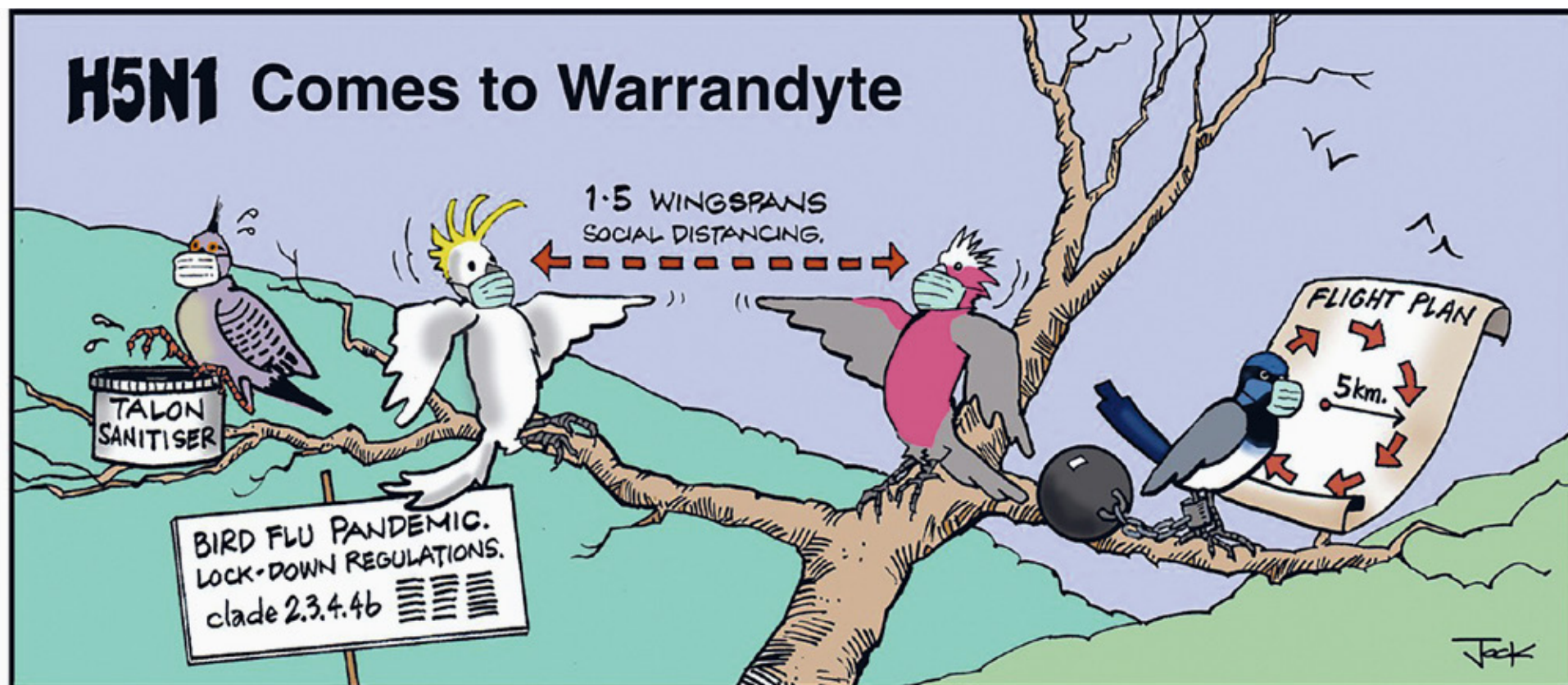
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OVER THE HILLS

By JOCK MACNEISH



THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

THE WARRANDYTE Diary

We return to our roots and sift through the *Warrandyte Diary* archives to find out how Warrandyte has changed (or hasn't at all) over the past 50 years.

October 1976, Page 1

Opening day — it's good news for shoppers

Warrandyte's new West End shopping centre will open this month. And it is good news for the town's long-suffering shoppers. West End Centre, which is expected to open on October 25, 1976, will contain,

among other things, a hardware store and a greengrocery.

In a community survey conducted last year, shoppers voted these two businesses the most urgently needed in Warrandyte.

Other businesses at the centre will be a take-away food shop, a saddlery, a full-time solicitor, a mixed business, and an art-craft supply shop.

Occupancy of the take-away and mixed businesses had not been finalised when this edition of the *Diary* went to press.

The hardware store, greengrocery, and art-craft shop will be operated by local business people.

The saddlery will be run by a Templestowe family.

West End Centre, set back off the corner of Warrandyte and Melbourne Hill Roads, was built for Mr Les Hodgson, of South Warrandyte.

Page 8

WOMEN STAR AS CRICKET STARTS

It has been a promising start to the season for Warrandyte's Senior cricketers — particularly the women. The top men's team have played two one-day matches for a win and a loss in the B-grade competition.

The women have a 100 per cent record so far — a two-day game against Moorabbin for an outright win in B1 grade.

Jenny Chapman has already given notice of an outstanding season ahead with an incredible match tally of 14 wickets for 47 runs against Moorabbin.

She also made an unbeaten 26 in Warrandyte's first innings.

The men bounced back from a most disappointing performance against

Croydon North in their first one-day game to beat Scoresby by four runs.

Alan Vitoritti, who took 3/38 against Croydon North, was again in fine form against Scoresby, taking 2/29 and top-scoring with 34 not out in Warrandyte's 7/106.

The men's F-grade side have yet to open their winning account, and the Under-16s have lost their only match so far.

The Under-14s began the season brilliantly, Brian Chapman contributing 63 not out to Warrandyte's 1/109 in an effortless win over Wonga Park.

They won their second match on forfeit by Ringwood Footballers.

The respective captains this season are: B-grade: John Chapman (c.); Tony: Hulme (v-c.); F-grade: Ian World, Graham Lawrence; Under-16: Stephen Andrew, Stuart Knight;

Under-14: Brian Chapman, Jeff Woolcock; Under-12: Farrington, Adrian Manser; women: Suzanne Chapman, Jenny Chapman.

Page 3

Wanted: A name

Got an imagination and a flair for names?

If so, the West Warrandyte primary school's interim committee would like to hear from you.

The committee is looking for a name with local significance for the new school, which the Education Department has called simply "West Warrandyte Primary".

It has discussed the possibility of renaming it and is looking for suggestions.

If you have any ideas, tell the *Diary*, and they'll be passed on.

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OUR NEWSPAPER

The *Warrandyte Diary* was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced mostly by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its not-for-profit, non-commercial status and its independent voice. The *Diary* carries a strong editorial bias towards the people, environment and character of the place it serves. Its monthly circulation is 3,500 copies and it is available in Warrandyte, North Warrandyte, South Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Wonga Park, Waranwood, North Ringwood, Kangaroo Ground and Research.



A SPECIAL PLACE

Warrandyte (approximate population 8,000) is situated on the Yarra River, some 27km from Melbourne. For countless ages a well-stocked hunting ground of the Wurundjeri people, in 1851 Warrandyte became the site of the first official gold discovery in Victoria. It soon established its character as a small, self-sustaining community set in a beautiful river valley. Around 1900, the miners, orchardists and tradespeople were joined by a number of young painters who were founding the Australian nationalist arts tradition. Now a commuter suburb of Melbourne, the natural beauty, community spirit and sense of independence of Warrandyte has been largely retained. This newspaper is the voice and true expression of that spirit.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of reconciliation the *Warrandyte Diary* acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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Local news in a digital age



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Manningham votes against glass kerbside service

By JAMES POYNER

MANNINGHAM Council has voted not to proceed with a separate kerbside glass recycling service, citing significant costs, uncertainty around requirements, and strong community opposition to the proposal.

A growing number of Victorian Councils have been campaigning against the four-bin system (Red, Yellow, Green, Purple) for a number of months, with more than half of the 79 municipalities stating they will not implement the scheme, which is mandated as per the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*.

Pre-sorted glass for recycling, as in sorted and separated by residents, must be implemented by July 1, 2027.

The "Let's be clear on glass" campaign, and its associated survey, gave councils the "people power" they needed to fight the glass bin rollout.

Almost 25,000 Victorians participated in a survey in April and May 2026.

In Manningham, 88 per cent of respondents opposed the introduction

of a glass-only kerbside recycling service.

Manningham Mayor Jim Grivas has been leading a passionate campaign against the glass-only bin.

He said Council's decision to formally reject the glass-only bin, under the current legislation, was carefully considered, and Council is still committed to improving recycling and resource recovery outcomes.

"We carefully considered the financial implications, community feedback and the lack of finalised State Government requirements before reaching this decision," Cr Grivas said.

"Our community has made it clear they do not support the introduction of a separate glass recycling bin, and we believe it would be premature to commit significant resources before the State Government releases the service standards and supporting regulations."

As we go to print, Councils are still waiting to see the State Government's business case, which outlines the actual cost of adding an additional bin, as well as the necessary regulations

regarding how the service is expected to operate.

As previously, all Councils can currently do is base their decisions on estimated costings.

"We estimate that introducing a separate glass kerbside collection service would require an upfront investment of approximately \$2.66 million, in addition to ongoing annual operating costs of around \$193,000," Cr Grivas said.

"We want to continue delivering practical and cost-effective waste and recycling services for our community. That said, local governments should have the flexibility to deliver services that best meet the needs of their communities while achieving environmental objectives."

As Victorians prepare for the November 2026 State Election, it is clear the introduction of the glass recycling bin will form part of the political battle lines.

In July 2026, the Victorian Coalition said it would scrap the fourth bin mandate if elected.



Photo: MANNINGHAM COUNCIL

Can a data centre be sustainable, beautiful, and good for Australia?

By TEGAN DeCLARK

DATA CENTRES have become essential infrastructure in Australia, with both domestic and international organisations reliant on them.

While these buildings are not new, and function as a critical part of modern digital communication, their function and necessity in relation to the development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) have thrust these buildings into the headlines.

In the first part of a series of articles exploring the ecology of modern technology and AI, we will unpack just what a data centre is, and break down the myths of having data centres in Australia.

Let's start with a definition

What is a data centre?

In its simplest terms, it is a purpose-built physical building which houses large numbers of computers, which operate 24 hours a day, all year round.

These buildings range from the size of a room in your house to several football stadiums.

They provide security and resources, and organisations use these computing and storage facilities to support our everyday online world and deliver shared applications and data, including both cloud and AI.

They are not new to Australia.

The first Tier 3 data centre was opened in Australia in 2000 by Macquarie Telecom Group, and since then we have had significant investment in Australia's digital infrastructure, with 162 data centres across Australia, 50 of which are in Victoria, as of March 2026.

What are the benefits?

Data centres in Australia and globally are an industry in and of themselves, but they have also attracted incredible capital investment to build and maintain.

In 2024 alone, for example, Australia attracted \$10 billion in data centre investment, making it the second-largest destination globally in 2024 after the United States.

The law

We have an expectation from organisations that we do business with, which hold our data and our sensitive information, that our data should remain in Australia, in what we call data sovereignty.

This is not always the case.

However, we do have some legal protections around how our data is used.

For example, the *Privacy Act 1988* does not ban offshore storage, but the Australian Privacy Principles within the Act generally require organisations to take reasonable steps to ensure overseas recipients handle personal information in accordance with Australian privacy requirements.

In many circumstances, organisations remain accountable if the data is mishandled overseas, although there are some exceptions.

As a result, many organisations choose to keep it onshore in domestic data centres as the lower-risk option.

Additionally, under the *My Health Records Act 2012*, it states that data must be stored and processed only within Australia and is one of the clearest mandates regarding data sovereignty in Australian law.

This mandate ensures our health data is stored and processed here, stays within our borders, and is governed by Australian law.

The environment

With data demand forecast to grow tenfold by 2035, it is essential to put in guardrails and expectations of best-practice sustainability across the design, construction, and operation of data centres.

The Green Building Council of Australia partnered with the industry association Data Centres Australia to launch the Sustainable Data Centres program, which they describe as a "collaborative initiative to define best-practice sustainability outcomes across the design, construction, and operation of data centres in Australia".

Davina Rooney, who is the CEO

Photo: CHARLIE FONG



The data centre of CNPC in Changping district, China

of the Green Building Council of Australia, commented that "If we want data centres that are resilient, resource-efficient, and consider their community, we need to have a review grounded in evidence, shaped by industry and considering the realities of operating in Australia."

A forecast report from earlier this year claims that at least 90 additional data centres are in various stages of planning, approval, and construction in Australia.

Resources

When discussing data centres, the drain on resources always comes up.

Figures from the 2025 *Mandala Data Centres as Enabling Infrastructure* report indicate that currently Australian data centres use 5.5 gigalitres (GL), or 0.04 per cent, of potable water nationally.

This is seven times less water than Australia's public swimming pools use annually, and in the Melbourne and Geelong networks, data centres draw less than 1 per cent of potable drinking water.

Further to that, in Greater Western Water's service area, 13 of 15 facilities used 33 megalitres combined over the past year.

Compare that with estimates that an average Australian golf course can consume roughly 16 megalitres of potable drinking water per year.

Many of the existing data centres tend to use open-loop or evaporative-type cooling, equivalent to opening your windows when it's hot inside, which can be quite demanding on water resources, but less so on power.

However, many modern data centres use closed-loop water systems, which can significantly reduce ongoing water requirements as the water is recycled, although energy use can vary depending on the system and conditions.

There is an argument that although some of these data centres may rely on more power than their predecessors, with the push for renewable energy, they may be able to strike the right balance between electricity and water usage.

Aesthetics

But aren't they an eyesore?

In some cases, yes.

But some would argue they can be beautiful.

In 2021, London's Roca Gallery hosted an exhibition on some of the world's most attractive data centres.

It was called Power House: The Architecture of Data Centres.

There is perhaps a consideration that while in Victoria data centres cannot be built in residential areas and there are quite a few restrictions in rural areas, these buildings, which hold and process so much data, don't have to be nondescript, windowless buildings in an industrial area, but could perhaps work with the landscape and might even be considered a landmark one day.

Here to stay

The fact is, we cannot live without data centres.

They are a part of our lives.

The only way not to have data centres is to completely rethink how we interact with the digital world.

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Better basketball facilities for Warrandyte

Words & Pictures
By JAMES POYNER

WARRANDYTE Basketball Association (WBA) is proposing to develop the Warrandyte Sports Centre into a four-court basketball stadium.

WBA has been working on the proposal since the beginning of the year.

The project is still in the very early stages and subject to a feasibility study.

The club has a long history of fighting for better facilities.

When Warrandyte High School was built in 1987, WBA had, for the first time, access to a local, indoor court, but by 1991 it was apparent that WBA and its expanding junior program needed their own facility, not a shared court.

For nearly a decade, WBA and the parents and guardians of the junior players campaigned for a dedicated stadium in Warrandyte.

In 1996, a member of the Andersons Creek Primary School Council suggested some vacant land in the school grounds would be ideal for a new sports stadium.

As reported in the *Diary*, school council representative Jim Pasinis said: “We have land we can’t use at the moment because of security reasons, and we want to see a better use for it.

“Our school council is committed to

using its resources fully, not for profit-making.”

Warrandyte Sports Centre was officially opened in October 1999.

In October 2025, history felt like it was beginning to repeat itself.

WBA representatives attended a Manningham Council Meeting to request more access to Mullum Mullum Stadium as the single court at the Warrandyte Sports Centre was no longer able to sustain the club’s training and competition schedule.

In response to the request, Director of Connected Communities, Lee Robson, said, “We are seeing high demand across basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton, and table tennis, amongst others.

“Our stadiums are operating at capacity during peak hours.”

The club was told access would be reviewed as part of Council’s Indoor Sports Facility Plan, which would take about 12 months.

WBA’s President, Darren McGinty, told Councillors, “Warrandyte can’t really wait 12 months for the release of the plan.

“This is an existential issue for our 3,000 members; we literally cannot perform properly at the levels we perform at with the lack of facilities that we have.

“We are literally shut out, and the

inertia has to change,” he said

Citing continuing difficulties gaining access to Mullum Mullum Stadium and the deteriorating condition of the current court in the Sports Complex, WBA engaged CO.OP studios to prepare concept plans to expand the existing Sports Complex into a four-court stadium with 100-120 car parking spaces under the stadium.

A WBA representative told the *Diary* there is still a lot of work to do, including whether or not the current site is appropriate for a four-court stadium complex.

“The next step, currently being pursued, is to undertake several feasibility studies to determine site feasibility. These include traffic analysis, bushfire management, cultural heritage, and feature surveys — including services detection.”

The club reports “very constructive” meetings with State and Federal Members, Manningham Council, and representatives from Andersons Creek Primary School and Basketball Victoria.

The club is looking to secure 50:50 grant funding through Basketball Victoria’s \$250,000 Facility Planning Grant Program.

Member for North Eastern



Warrandyte Sports Centre, 2026

Metropolitan, Sonja Terpstra, also announced during the 2026/267 State Budget that \$100,000 had been allocated to assist WBA in planning for the stadium upgrade.

The club plans to use this money to lay the groundwork for a proposal ahead of the next Federal Election for a

Federal co-contribution to help get the estimated \$36 million stadium built.

WBA says the new stadium would also include new adjoining school classrooms to offset the loss of the existing ACPS prep classrooms and art room.

Fifty Years of the Environmental Living Zone

By DON MacRAE

THE ENVIRONMENTAL Living Zone (ELZ) at the Bend of Islands was created fifty years ago this month.

Today it is known as “Special Use Zone, Schedule 2, Environmental Living”, in Nillumbik’s *Planning Scheme*, but the conditions of the zone, which include a prohibition on domestic animals, fences and the destruction of habitat, have been upheld to this day, through planning scheme changes and changes to local government boundaries.

The creation of the ELZ was community-driven, and a committed community has been a vital component in the success of the zone ever since.

It is community members who work to actively conserve the zone, resisting threats and promoting biodiversity — with the support of Local and State Governments.

In 1966 the artist Neil Douglas purchased land in the area and persuaded others to do the same, with a view to living in and conserving the indigenous bush.

The Bend of Islands Conservation Association was formed in that year as a community and organisational focus, and the project to establish the concept in law gathered momentum, and friends.

In 1972 that momentum built in response to an external threat: the Government was proposing to dam the Yarra with a wall from Wonga Park to the Bend of Islands.

The vast dam would extend as far as Yarra Glen, flooding large numbers of properties, farms, and orchards, as well as destroying access to the Yarra.

Water would be pumped from the new dam to a second new dam, Sugarloaf.

Following a committed community campaign against, in 1974 the Yarra Brae dam proposal was dropped, and only Sugarloaf was subsequently built.

A significant event in the progress of the project was a symposium run in 1974 by the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Chaired by ACF President Geoff Mosley, the topic was “the possibilities for residential conservation in areas of private bush within the influence of metropolitan Melbourne”.

The Bend of Islands was the principal reference case study.

Speakers included Neil Douglas and Dr Tim Ealey, one of the Bend residents and the academic who established Environmental Science as a discipline at Monash University.

Other speakers were Dr R.G. Downes,

the Victorian Director of Conservation, Mr J.A. Hepburn, MMBW Chief Planner, and Cr Alistair Knox, noted architect and Eltham Shire President.

Dr Downes spoke of what he said was a fundamental issue facing Victoria: the difficulty of managing all the land to be preserved in a rural state.

He said that his ministry would actively support what he referred to as a Residential Conservation Zone.

The publication following the seminar was entitled “Residential Conservation”, sub-titled “Proposal for a New Zoning Category and Management Concept for Privately Owned Land”.

Then, in October 1976 the Environmental Living Zone was created as part of an Interim *Development Order* by the then Shire of Healesville.

The following 50 years have seen a practical realisation of the original vision: the active conservation of a significant swathe of bushland 30km from the CBD, by residents, with the support of governments, and government bodies such as Melbourne Water, and Parks Victoria.

A factor critical to the success of the conservation effort has been the local community, whose commitment to the values of the ELZ has been maintained through two generations since the beginning of the project.

In 2013 the Bend of Islands Conservation Association commissioned a comprehensive *Land Management Plan* covering the entire Bend area, which identified “environmental priorities for the future management of the Bend of Islands”.

This report continues to be a reference for environmental improvement projects to the present day.

The Bend is part of the only area not immediately adjacent to the river to be included in the *Yarra Strategic Plan*, reflecting its significance as a part of the Kinglake-Warrandyte Habitat Link.

Lyrebirds have travelled from Kinglake to recolonise in the Bend and to venture across the river to Warrandyte State Park.

Lyrebird breeding, with the fledging of a chick, has been documented and there is evidence of breeding activity in the Bend since 2015.

White-throated Nightjars have been monitored since 2007, and the Bend is the breeding area closest to Melbourne on record — yet another example of the Bend of Islands as a biodiversity success story.

At the time the ELZ was created it was thought possible, even likely, that the formula would be applied

in suitable areas elsewhere in the State, but this has not happened — so the ELZ at the Bend of Islands in the Shire of Nillumbik is today the sole application of the Residential Conservation concept.

The ELZ is within Nillumbik’s Green Wedge.

Within the ELZ “dwelling” is a discretionary use, just as it is in the green wedge zones.

Within the green wedges there is a background tension between conservation purposes and the “right” to build a dwelling, which shows up in the number of permit applications which end up at VCAT.

Within the ELZ this tension is in important ways resolved by the Residential Conservation principle, which provides a context which emphasises conservation.

In an age of accelerating biodiversity decline, 50 years of operation of the Environmental Living Zone have resulted in a reversal of direction, something worth celebrating.

It is also a great time to acknowledge the contributions not only of the local community as it has developed and renewed over those 50 years, but also the ongoing role of local government, State government and related bodies.



Brush-tailed phascogale



Superb Lyrebird nestling



Superb Lyrebird

Photos: FRANK PIERCE

Community begins to Get Fire Ready

BY JAMES POYNER

SPRING IN THE Warrandyte Hills means it is time to start preparing for the 2026/27 Fire Danger Period (FDP). With Wellington Shire and East Gippsland Shire both commencing their FDP on Monday, October 5, the CFA has declared the Victorian fire season has “officially begun”.

Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said the beginning of the fire season should serve as a reminder to everyone that now is the time to get prepared.

“This year’s fire season comes two weeks earlier than the beginning of the 2025/26 fire season.

“Conditions are exceptionally dry, and CFA is preparing for another challenging fire season.

“As predicted in the AFAC Spring Outlook, East Gippsland has an above-average risk for fires, so it’s important to start these restrictions now.”

CFA Deputy Chief Officer for the South East Region, Trevor Owen, said the early introduction of the FDP was partly due to an increase in escaped private burn-off activity.

“We have already seen a large fire recently in Seacombe, which serves as a good reminder not to become complacent; a fire can happen anywhere.

“There are very high fuel loads in these areas along with very low soil moisture, which means the landscape is primed for fire.

“We know people might be seeing green grass in the area; however, this is superficial due to overnight dew and light rain.

“There has been a significant rain deficit in the region, which has significantly added to the fire risk.”

For the first time in many years, the northeast suburbs and the surrounding ranges only carry an average risk of fire in the Seasonal Outlook, but residents should still prepare their properties and make a bushfire plan.

Prepare now

In nearby Olinda, CFA member Scott Allison shares his experience about preparing his property for the fire season and making sure his neighbours are also prepared.

Each year, Scott enlists help from his son to clean up around their 1920s renovated farmhouse to prepare their

property for the fire season.

“Together we clean the gutters, move wood away from the house, cut back the trees that are close-by, and make sure any highly flammable materials are in the bottom shed further away from the house, not the top shed,” Mr Allison said.

“We also test the fire pump to make sure it is working and relocate it closer to the pool.

“It can reach all around the house.”

While Scott has the hose prepared, his bushfire plan with his family has always been to leave early and get off the mountain on hot, windy days.

“I’m not going to be staying and defending my own house, as I will be out responding with my fire brigade; however, for the last 20 years, leaving the mountain in the morning has always been the plan for my family.

“While I’ve got a fire pump and hose, the reality is, I’m not there to use it, and I wouldn’t want to leave a family member to use it.

“It’s our last resort.”

Surrounded by dense bush within the Dandenong Ranges, Scott works with his back neighbour to conduct their burning-off activities when the conditions allow.

“Our neighbour is a little bit older, so we always help him with his yearly burn-off.

“He waits eagerly for ours too, so he can come along and put some twigs on.

“But we generally take it on together and get it done.”

Mr Allison also provides tips and advice.

“My number one tip for people would be to firstly move their firewood away from their house, as it is the most easily flammable from a fire spark.

“Cleaning your gutters is probably sitting at number one too, but on a really hot day, please move your gas bottles!”

Get Fire Ready

Following the success of its Get Fire Ready campaign in 2025, CFA is running it again.

Get Fire Ready Open Days are a great way to not only get you and your family familiar with who the local CFA are and what they do, but also provide an opportunity to make sure you and your family know the risks associated with



living in a bushfire-prone area.

North Warrandyte held its Open Day event on October 3.

Warrandyte is having its event on Sunday, October 18, at their station, 2 Harris Gully Road.

CFA has also launched a new Fire Safety section on its website, making it easier for the community to access clear and practical advice.

Replacing the previous Plan and Prepare section, the project has been three years in the making, informed by member and community feedback, website analytics, and exploring digital trends and expert advice.

This research helped CFA gain a better understanding of how people search for, access, and use CFA’s fire safety information online.

The new page designs, navigation features and layout cater to a range of different needs, making important information easier to find while still providing more comprehensive advice to those who want it.

Deputy Chief Officer Alen Slijepcevic said ultimately these improvements strengthen CFA’s role as a trusted source of fire safety information for both members and the wider community.

“When communities have questions about fire safety, reducing fire risk, or preparing their homes, they often turn to their local CFA for advice and information.

“It was an important project for us to ensure we’re providing the most up-to-date information that is easy to access, understand and put into action.”

The scale of the project has been significant.

Alongside rewriting content, more than 1,200 images, videos, illustrations and resources were developed or updated to help explain fire safety information in practical and engaging ways.

The Fire Safety and Resources sections have expanded from around 120 pages to almost 200 pages, bringing important information out of PDF documents and onto webpages.

This not only improves the user experience but also helps search engines such as Google to connect people to the information they’re looking for.

“Finding information will also become easier thanks to a redesigned navigation structure and updated page names that better reflect the words and phrases people use when searching for content,” Deputy Chief Officer Slijepcevic said.

“With more users accessing information via phones and tablets, the website has also been optimised for mobile devices, ensuring a seamless experience and making information available whether at home or out and about.”

A new Resources section will replace the Schools section and be a central hub for publications, fact sheets, checklists, and other community education materials.

Schools content will be found in both the Resources and Fire Safety sections.

Visit cfa.vic.gov.au/fire-safety to explore the new page.



Get prepared, stay connected at Nillumbik’s free Bushfire and Community Safety Expo

BY SUSAN FOREMAN

NILLUMBİK COUNCIL is hosting its free, annual Bushfire and Community Safety Expo at Alistair Knox Park, in Eltham, on Sunday, October 18.

At their family-friendly event, visitors will get the chance to speak with representatives from emergency services, community organisations, business, and government agencies about safety, preparedness and community resilience.

This year’s event has expanded to include a broader range of topics reflecting the many issues that can impact our community’s safety.

Topics include bushfire preparedness and severe weather, e-bike safety, bird flu information, emergency planning,

and community wellbeing.

The event will also feature displays, demonstrations, fun and free children’s activities, community stalls, food, and emergency service vehicles.

Nillumbik Mayor Naomi Joiner said the Expo is about making sure the community is prepared for any emergency.

“Being prepared isn’t just about responding to emergencies.

“It’s about building knowledge, confidence and strong community connections so we can look out for one another when challenges arise.

“I encourage you to come along, have a chat with the experts, enjoy the activities on offer and take home practical information that could make a real difference for your family and

your neighbours.”

Attending organisations and services include:

- CFA
- Victoria Police
- SES
- Ambulance Victoria
- Fire Rescue Victoria
- Australian Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Bureau of Meteorology
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Emergency Responders Network
- Plenty Valley FM
- AusNet

The event will take place between 10am and 2pm at Alistair Knox Park, 829 Main Road, Eltham.



Our CFA volunteers deserve better

State Member update

By **NICOLE WERNER**
Member for Warrandyte

RECENTLY I SPOKE in the Victorian Parliament during debate on the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee report into the 2026-27 Budget Estimates.

I was speaking about the ageing emergency services vehicle fleet and the need for the Government to properly fund replacements.

As the Member for Warrandyte, in representing our local area that has a serious bushfire risk, this matters.

Warrandyte is home to Warrandyte State Park.

Every summer, we know the risks that come with hot, dry and windy conditions.

Many people in our community remember Black Saturday and how close those fires came.

The wind changed that day.

If it had not, Warrandyte could have been facing a very different situation.

Our schools know the risks too.

Anderson Creek Primary School, Warrandyte Primary School and Warrandyte High School have all had to relocate students during periods of high bushfire risk.

The people protecting this community are our local CFA volunteers.

That is why the age of the Warrandyte

CFA pumper concerns me.

It is now 22 years old.

The truck was the best available option when it was purchased in 2004.

A lot has changed since then.

Our volunteers are still relying on that same appliance to respond when people in our community need them.

The Warrandyte CFA needs a replacement pumper.

With another hot and dry fire season ahead, I believe it needs to happen soon.

This is something that I have spoken with Warrandyte CFA's leadership about frequently — and raised in Parliament many times.

Another one of our local brigades, Wonga Park CFA, is entirely staffed by local volunteers and responds to around 60 emergency incidents each year.

Those incidents include house fires, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous materials incidents, and grass and forest fires.

One of those volunteers is John Greenwood-Smith, who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia after 50 years of service with Wonga Park CFA.

Fifty years of volunteering for your community is an extraordinary contribution.

What I find particularly frustrating is that across our local area, CFA volunteers from all our brigades have to fundraise for the vital equipment they need.



Nicole Werner MP with Warrandyte CFA volunteers

They are getting into their trucks and delivering letters, asking local residents for donations, or running sausage sizzles so they can update and upgrade their equipment.

These are selfless volunteer who already give up their time to train, respond to fires, attend road accidents and deal with hazardous materials incidents.

They should not also have to carry the responsibility of raising money for the basic equipment they need to do that work.

That is something I raised directly in Parliament, and I will continue to raise it with the Government.

They are there for us when we need them.

We need to make sure they have the equipment they need to do their job safely.

Our volunteers have done their part for 22 years and, in many cases, for much longer.

The Government needs to do its part. And if the Coalition are fortunate enough to be elected to Government this November, you have my commitment that I will fight for our fair share for our local CFAs.

To every CFA volunteer across our community, thank you for everything you do.

I will continue to do my job and fight for you in Victorian Parliament.

ABOUT NICOLE

Nicole Werner is the Member for Warrandyte in the Legislative Assembly.

Visit nicolewerner.com.au to find out more about what she is doing in the community and how to contact her. The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and may not reflect the position of the Editorial team.

Authorised by Nicole Werner, Suite 2, 1020 Doncaster Road, Doncaster East VIC 3109

Bring your flavour to the Warrandyte Festival 2027

By **TULIKA CHATTERJEE**

THE WARRANDYTE Festival is turning 50, and the whole community is invited to help make this milestone celebration one to remember.

Expressions of Interest are now open for community, food, and market stalls at the 2027 Warrandyte Festival, to be held on March 19 and 20, 2027 at Stiggant Reserve.

With the aptly named theme "Celebrating 50 Years: Let's Party!", it promises to be an extra-special weekend filled with local creativity, delicious food, community connection, and plenty of Warrandyte spirit.

For half a century, the festival has brought generations of locals together beside the Yarra River.

Since its beginnings in 1977, this volunteer-run celebration has championed handmade creativity, local talent, and grassroots community participation.

From homemade treats and colourful market stalls to live music, the street parade, billycart derby and wonderfully wacky races, it is the people of Warrandyte and the surrounding areas who give the festival its unique character.

Now is your opportunity to become part of that story.

Are you a local maker, artist, designer, grower, or small business owner?

Perhaps you create jewellery, ceramics, clothing, homewares, artwork, plants, natural products, or one-of-a-kind gifts.

A market stall is a wonderful way to showcase your work, meet new customers, and share your creativity with thousands of Festival visitors.

Expressions of interest for market

stalls close on November 1, 2026.

If food is your passion, the Festival Committee would also love to hear from you.

Whether you serve family favourites, international flavours, sweet treats, fresh local produce, or something deliciously different, your food stall could help create the vibrant tastes and aromas that make Festival weekend so memorable.

Expressions of interest for food stalls close on November 9, 2026.

Local schools, sporting clubs, service organisations, environmental groups, charities, and other community groups are warmly encouraged to apply too.

The festival is an ideal place to raise awareness, welcome new members, fundraise, demonstrate an activity, or simply let the community know about the valuable work you do.

You do not need to be a large or established organisation to participate.

Over the last 50 years, the festival has built community involvement, and every stall contributes something special.

Thoughtful presentation, friendly faces, quality products, and a genuine connection to community are what bring these two days of festivity to life.

Participating means meeting neighbours, supporting local enterprise, celebrating creativity, and contributing to a tradition that has connected Warrandyte for 50 years.

Interested stallholders should complete the online Expression of Interest form and review the festival's policies, code of conduct, waiver, and participation guidelines before applying.

Visit warrandytefestival.org for more information.



Photos: WARRANDYTE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE



Nillumbik Ward Report: Sugarloaf

council notes



By **CR KIM COPE**

SPRING IS HERE!

It's a great time to get out and visit somewhere new in Nillumbik and our ward, for example, the Sugarloaf Reservoir area for a walk, hike, or picnic.

Fun fact: The dam has a volume of almost 100 billion litres of water, pumped from sources including the Yarra River.

Blessing of the local CFA Fleet

It was beaut to attend the local CFA Fleet event at Kangaroo Ground Command Centre.

The annual ceremony brings brigades, volunteers, and the community together ahead of the fire season.

It is Council's opportunity to recognise and thank the dedicated CFA volunteers who help keep Nillumbik safe.

Led by Reverend Mohit Sampson, CFA District 14 Chaplain, the ceremony acknowledged the courage and dedication of our local firefighters and wished them a safe season ahead.

Council contributed \$49,000 to support the ongoing work of Nillumbik's CFA brigades and groups.

Thank you to our many committed local volunteers who give so much of



their time and stand ready when we need them most.

Getting fire season ready

With fire season approaching, now is the time for all of us to get prepared.

Why not join us at the Bushfire and Community Safety Expo on Sunday, October 18?

Experts will be on hand with information on everything from bushfire preparedness and severe weather to e-bike safety and emergency planning.

Get practical advice while enjoying a day out.

With children's activities and food stalls, there's something for everyone at this family-friendly event.

Find out more at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bushfire-expo.

Have you started preparing your property for the upcoming bushfire season?

More information at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/prepare-your-property.

34th Rob Roy Historic and Classic Hillclimb

The MG Car Club Victoria will be running the 34th Rob Roy Historic and Classic Hillclimb on Sunday, November 22, at the iconic Rob Roy Hillclimb venue.

The Rob Roy event in Smiths Gully is the second-oldest purpose-built, bitumen-sealed hillclimb track in the world, with only one older venue in the UK.

Sausage Sizzle and tuckshop catering will be available throughout the day, provided by the local Pantom Hill CFA, with all catering profits helping support their important community work.

Be a citizen scientist this spring

The Spring Outdoors program is on now until the end of November, with



over 50 nature-filled events across Nillumbik, Banyule, and Manningham municipalities.

A key focus of this year's program is supporting citizen science in Nillumbik.

Citizen scientists are everyday people who contribute valuable information about the local environment by recording their observations, such as counting birds, taking photos of wildflowers, or capturing frog calls.

Every sighting counts!

During Spring Outdoors, join in citizen science events, including a bird spotting walk at Yarramie Park Reserve for Aussie Bird Count (October 19 to 25).

Bookings essential.

Reserve your spot at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/spring-outdoors.

For more local citizen science opportunities, head to nillumbik.vic.gov.au/citizen-science.

Dance into Seniors Festival with the Nilli-Billi Bushdance

The Victorian Seniors Festival is a major state-wide festival that runs throughout October.

In Nillumbik, the Festival calendar is packed, with over 30 free and low-cost local events for over 50s.

Council is hosting the first-ever Nilli-Billi Bushdance on October 13, a chance to enjoy fantastic live music at the Slovenian Club ballroom in Research.

No experience necessary!

Book your spots at nillumbik.vic.gov.au/seniors-festival.

ABOUT KIM COPE

Cr Kim Cope is the Ward Councillor for Sugarloaf Ward in Nillumbik. Views of opinions expressed in this article may not reflect the position of the editorial team.

Nillumbik Shire Council News

Pet Expo

Come along for displays and demonstrations, nutritional and grooming advice, obedience training, education, and much more.

**Saturday
11 October,
10am to 4pm
Marngrook Oval,
Diamond Creek**

Find out more:

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/pet-expo

FREE family event

Bring your furry family members!



Book now for Term 4

Try something new this spring at Living & Learning Nillumbik. Our brand-new activities include Indonesian for beginners in Diamond Creek and Yoga at Pantom Hill. Bookings are now open!

livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au

Installing solar at home

Get expert insights to help you make an informed decision on whether solar is right for you and your home.

Thursday 29 October, 6.30pm to 8pm
Eltham Library

Book your spot and find more sustainability workshops at:

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/rethink

Children's Week

Plenty of fun for all ages.

Wednesday 28 October, 10am to 2pm
Edendale Community Environment Farm

For more information:

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/childrens-week



FREE ENTRY

Bushfire & Community Safety Expo

Get practical advice and resources, while enjoying a day out, with children's activities and food stalls.

From bushfire preparedness and severe weather to e-bike safety, bird flu information, emergency planning and community wellbeing.

**Sunday 18 October, 10am to 2pm
Alistair Knox Park,
829 Main Road, Eltham**

Find out more:

nillumbik.vic.gov.au/bushfire-expo

Get all the latest news straight to your inbox



Talking about dementia to reduce stigma



DEMENTIA IS Australia's leading cause of death, but according to new research released today by Dementia Australia, seven in 10 respondents say it is a topic not discussed openly enough.

The YouGov research, commissioned by Dementia Australia and released to coincide with Dementia Action Week and World Alzheimer's Day, also found that more than half of respondents report having little to no knowledge about dementia, and, while close to all respondents are aware of dementia, only one in 10 say they know a lot about it.

Dementia Australia Chief Executive Officer Professor Tanya Buchanan said these findings highlight the critical need for a national conversation about dementia to increase understanding, whilst reducing the stigma that still surrounds the condition.

"Dementia is the leading cause of death in Australia, and, with close to half a million Australians living with dementia and this number on the rise, now is absolutely the time to talk about dementia," Professor Buchanan said.

"When dementia stays out of the national conversation, the cost impacts more than the individual.

"It leaves people alone when they need connection most.

"Care standards stagnate.

"The systems that should support people don't keep pace.

"Policy attention, research, funding — all of it follows where the national conversation goes.

"Our research found that skin cancer and sun safety, mental health and heart health are all discussed more openly than dementia.

"As a nation, we have done a good job in having these really important conversations about skin cancer, with national campaigns like slip slop slap seek and slide, we ask each other if we are ok, and we have long talked about heart health — as we should. These conversations have made a real difference.

But with dementia, we're not there yet, and now is the time to start talking.

"The research also found that eight in 10 respondents who had a personal connection to dementia say that they or someone they know has experienced stigma, exclusion disrespect or unequal treatment; including assumptions

Photo: JAMES POYNER



Christine Bolt from Dementia Australia talks to community newspapers about reporting on dementia

being made about what someone can or cannot do, or being left out of social activities.

"Through conversations, such as those we're asking you to have, we can work to dismantle this stigma and instead create a more welcoming and inclusive dementia-friendly Australia."

Dementia Australia Dementia Advocate Gina Callan, who lives with dementia, said conversations about dementia don't have to be grounded

in expertise to be meaningful and valuable.

"Curiosity encourages conversations," Gina said.

"Asking questions, listening and being open to different experiences can help build understanding and reduces the stigma that surrounds dementia.

Spending time with people who live with dementia can help others understand what we want them to know and can help answer the

questions they might be too afraid to ask directly."

Dementia Australia is asking everyone to join the conversation.

Everyone has a voice and a role to play, and every conversation will make a difference to people living with dementia, their families and carers.

For dementia information and support contact the National Dementia Helpline anytime on 1800 100 500 or visit dementia.org.au.

Warrandyte Arts presents a dementia care workshop

By DAVID TYNAN

HOW DO YOU communicate with your loved one when memory, logic and reality no longer align?

Australia is ageing faster than its care systems can adapt.

Dementia sits at the centre of that pressure: a condition that reshapes how a person perceives, remembers and communicates, often long before physical care needs become obvious.

Yet most people who spend time

with someone living with dementia have never been taught how to communicate when memory, reasoning and perception no longer operate in expected ways.

The result is predictable: frustration, escalation, and disconnection for everyone involved.

Warrandyte Arts is delighted to host a three-hour workshop for those who care for people with dementia.

Developed and led by Melbourne-

based experiential learning specialist Trudi Boatwright, the workshop applies techniques from applied improvisation to the everyday, unpredictable realities of dementia care.

Previous participants have spoken very highly of the workshop, including Events Organiser, Rethink Change:

"We've had Trudi back time and time again. She doesn't just present; she transforms."

APAC Events Organiser, Accenture said:

"Wow — Trudi brought so much to the session.

The science, the way to enact it.

So much learning to absorb.

Very powerful."

"Dementia care is often filled with moments of confusion, frustration and emotional strain," Boatwright said.

"What improvisation offers is a way

to meet those moments differently, not by correcting or controlling, but by connecting.

We're seeing carers shift and improve their relationships in real time."

Workshop places are strictly limited, so reserve yours at trybooking.com/DPXNC.

This workshop is proudly brought to you by The Silver Space the-silver-space.com and Warrandyte Arts Association warrandytearts.org.au.

BRINGING YOU THE FRESHEST PRODUCTS EVERY DAY



Shape the future of recreation in Manningham



MANNINGHAM Council invites the community members to have their say on the development of a new Recreation Strategy, which will guide recreation planning and investment across Manningham for the next 10 years.

The strategy will provide a roadmap for future recreation facilities, programs, activities, and outdoor spaces, ensuring residents of all ages and abilities have opportunities to be active, healthy and connected.

Council wants to hear from people with a wide range of experiences and activity levels, from those who

regularly participate in active living and recreation to those who face barriers to being active.

Community members are encouraged to complete a short survey and share their views on recreation opportunities in Manningham.

Whether you walk, run or cycle, play organised sport, attend the gym, use local recreation facilities, enjoy parks and trails, or are not currently active, all input is welcome.

Feedback gathered through the survey will help Council:

- understand community needs and priorities
- identify barriers and gaps in recreation opportunities
- improve access to sport, recreation and physical activity

Photo: PIXABAY.COM



- plan future facilities, programs and services.

Manningham Mayor Jim Grivas said the survey gave the community a chance to have their say.

"Staying active looks different for everyone.

"You might play sport, walk with

friends, exercise at a local facility or simply enjoy being outdoors.

"Whatever your experience, we want to hear from you.

"Take our short survey and tell us how we can make it easier for you and your family to be active, healthy and connected in Manningham," Cr

Grivas said.

The Recreation Strategy survey closes at 4pm on Monday, October 19.

For more information and to complete the survey, visit **yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/recreation-strategy**.

Protecting Powerful Owls in the wilds of Warrandyte



WHILE WE SLEEP, one of Australia's most powerful predators — the Powerful Owl — takes flight above us.

Across bushland.

Over roads.

Hunting through the night around our homes and gardens.

We are lucky to have Powerful Owls living so close.

But these magnificent birds are vulnerable.

Their future is closely tied to the future of places like Warrandyte.

They need old-growth trees, connected bushland, and healthy populations of the animals they hunt — the very things that make our local area such a remarkable environment and a very special place to live.

As our landscape changes and

development puts increasing pressure on habitat, protecting these extraordinary predators means protecting the living web of country we share with them.

Join Warrandyte Community Association members and friends at a free evening event — the first in a new community environment series presented in partnership with Manningham Council — to discover how we can all help support real conservation outcomes for Powerful Owls and urban biodiversity.

Featuring an engaging presentation by experienced ecologist and Powerful Owl specialist Dr Nick Carter, this event is for everyone — whether you're a citizen scientist, bird watcher, night-sky lover, or simply nature curious.

Using GPS tracking data collected from Powerful Owls across Victoria's urban, rural, and forest landscapes (including Warrandyte), Nick will

share highlights from his fascinating research into how Powerful Owls are navigating an increasingly fragmented habitat, uncovering how they interact with human-modified landscapes and roads, and revealing an unexpected new chemical threat impacting the species.

Come curious.

Leave connected.

Love Warrandyte.

When: Thursday, October 29, 7pm-8:30pm.

Where: Warrandyte Community Church, 57 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

Info: Free, bookings essential via Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/WCAowl>.

Keep exploring our local wild side

Want to take the conversation outdoors?

For an opportunity to explore our birdlife in the field and discover more about the species that share our local environment, join Dr Nick Carter for a

guided bird walk.

When: Friday, October 30, 9:30am-12pm

Where: Westerfolds Park (Porter Street Picnic Area), Templestowe

Info: Free, bookings essential via Eventbrite: **GuidedBirdWalk.eventbrite.com.au**

About the presenter

Dr Nick Carter is an experienced ecologist and researcher who has spent years studying these elusive apex predators as part of Deakin University's Powerful Owl Research Team.

His research has been published in peer-reviewed journals including *Landscape and Urban Planning*, *Science of the Total Environment* and *Global Ecology and Conservation*.

He has presented his research at conservation forums around Australia and at the 2025 Raptor Research Foundation conference in Costa Rica.



Manningham Council News

Green waste days

Sunday 8 November and Sunday 6 December, 8 am to 4 pm

Live in a bushfire prone area? Book your free garden waste drop off and prepare for fire season. Drop off one car boot, ute, station wagon or level trailer load at Mullum Mullum Reserve. Bookings essential.

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/garden-waste-disposal-days

Manningham Girls Can

Get active this November with Manningham Girls Can. Discover free and low-cost activities designed to help women and girls build confidence, try something new and have fun. From walking and dancing to sport and recreation, there's something for everyone.

Explore the activity guide at our website.

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/manningham-girls-can

Celebrate Seniors Month with us

Explore our Seniors Month Local Activity Guide, showcasing a range of free and low-cost activities across Manningham for older adults in October. Pick up a copy at community venues or visit our website for all the details.

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/seniors-month

Waste drop off day

Saturday 16 October, 8 am to 4 pm

Stuck with household items that can't be placed in your bins? We'll recycle items like small electronic waste, discs, paint tins and x-rays for you. Limits apply and bookings are essential.

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/waste-drop-off-day

Help shape a more active Manningham

Do you play sport, walk, cycle, visit parks or enjoy being active? Share your experiences and help shape our new Recreation Strategy that will guide facilities, programs, activities and outdoor spaces across Manningham for the next 10 years. Complete our short survey by Monday 19 October.

🔗 yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/recreation-strategy

Don't miss Birrarung Riverfest

We are proud to support Birrarung Riverfest, which continues until Sunday 18 October. With more than 70 free events across Melbourne, the festival offers opportunities to explore local waterways through nature walks, wildlife experiences, educational talks, art, music and community tree planting activities.

🔗 riverfest.org.au



Young artists help tell the Birrarung's story

Warrandyte Primary School students helped showcase upcoming riverbank recovery works along the Birrarung through artwork displayed at the September Warrandyte Riverside Market. The artwork helped share the story of Melbourne Water's riverbank recovery project, which will help protect the Birrarung for future generations.

🔗 melbournewater.com.au/services/projects/warrandyte-riverbank-recovery-works



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📞 9840 9333 🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au



Landcare Grant recipients announced

By JAMES POYNER

RECIPIENTS for the 2026 Victorian Government Landcare Grants program have been announced.

Of the \$3.58 million, 243 will receive up to \$20,000 each for on-ground works, education, and community projects, while an additional 263 groups will receive \$500 towards administrative costs.

“Landcare is powered by Victorians who roll up their sleeves to care for their communities and the environment — and we’re backing them to keep making a difference,” said Minister for Environment Jaclyn Symes.

“From young people planting their first native garden to volunteers who have cared for their local environment for decades, these grants support practical action right across Victoria.

“For 40 years Landcare has brought Victorians together, and we’re making sure the next generation can continue that proud legacy.”

Around Warrandyte, Friends of Park Orchards Reserves and North Warrandyte (Osborne Peninsula) Landcare Group each received funding for a local project.

Friends of Park Orchards received \$20,000 for revegetation works in the

100 Acres, and the Osborne Peninsula Landcare Group received \$17,290 for a community engagement and environment project.

The *Diary* spoke with both local groups to learn more about their project.

Friends of Park Orchards Reserves

Angelika Koplin, President of Friends of Park Orchards Reserves, talked about the aims of the project.

“[WE] aim to restore the wet gully area (headwaters stream of Andersons Creek south) and Valley Grassy Forest from the Berringa Road entry to the Brown Dam.

“The reserve is of significant environmental value and is managed by Manningham Council as a bushland reserve and has been supported by our group for several years.

“The grant will go towards addressing the current weed infestation and revegetation using tube stock of local provenance.”

The 100-acre reserve is home to a number of indigenous animals including Krefft’s gliders, swamp wallabies, echidnas, frogs, reptiles, microbats, and many bird species including Gang-gang Cockatoos and powerful owls.

Ms Koplin said the Reservers were very excited about the project.

“We are very excited to be able to increase and enhance the existing biodiversity, including key native flora species and look forward to working closely with Manningham Council, who are providing their support for this project.”

North Warrandyte (Osborne Peninsula) Landcare Group

Tucked away in North Warrandyte, the Osborne Peninsula is one of the area’s great environmental treasures.

The peninsula boasts three kilometres of public land on the edge of the Yarra River.

Not only is it a great place for walking or swimming, but it also forms part of the wildlife corridor extending from the Yarra River in Warrandyte to Kinglake.

North Warrandyte (Osborne Peninsula) Landcare Group President Helen Andrews says the grant will go towards a new program of community events and environmental activities focused on one of the region’s most significant natural areas.

This program will include free, family-friendly nature walks, citizen science activities, land restoration days

and community newsletters sharing local environmental stories, wildlife, and opportunities to get involved,” said Ms Andrews.

“This project gives us the opportunity to share its stories, wildlife and cultural significance with the wider community, while encouraging more people to become actively involved in caring for it.”

The new project builds on more than 30 years of conservation work by Osborne Peninsula Landcare.

The group began in 1993, when three local residents decided to take action to protect the bushland around them.

Within six months, 20 local families had joined the effort to tackle serious weed infestations threatening native vegetation.

Since then, volunteers have restored habitat, controlled weeds, established indigenous vegetation, supported local landholders and delivered environmental education programs.

“At the heart of this work is the group’s volunteer-run community nursery, established in 1996.

“Each year, the nursery produces more than 2,000 locally indigenous grasses, sedges, groundcovers, shrubs and trees for revegetation projects

across the peninsula.

“The nursery is more than a source of plants.

“It has become a valued community hub where people can meet, learn and develop practical skills in plant propagation, seed collection and environmental restoration.”

Over the coming years, the grant project is expected to strengthen local environmental stewardship, increase community participation in Landcare activities, support biodiversity conservation and foster a more resilient and environmentally engaged community.

Get involved

The strength of our local Landcare and Friends of groups is in their volunteers.

If you are interested in learning more about Friends of Park Orchards Reserves, find them on Facebook at facebook.com/p/FOPOR-Friends-of-Park-Orchards-reserves-61556634044967.

Anyone interested in upcoming events or volunteering with Osborne Peninsula Landcare can find out more at nillumbiklandcare.org/osborne-peninsula.



Photos: SUPPLIED

FRIENDS OF PARK ORCHARDS RESERVES



Photos: SUPPLIED

NORTH WARRANDYTE (OSBORNE PENINSULA) LANDCARE GROUP



Jazz in the Park returns to Warrandyte



JAZZ IN THE Park returns to Stiggant Reserve on Sunday, November 15, bringing six hours of free live music and community activity to the heart of Warrandyte.

Presented by Community Music and Performances Inc (CMap Inc), Jazz in the Park is about more than music.

CMap runs free and low-cost music events to support community wellbeing — creating opportunities for people to come together, connect with others and enjoy a shared experience in their local community.

Five bands will perform throughout the afternoon and evening: Arandù, Simple Syncopation, Pipes, DR Big Band, and Pippa Wilson & Stuart Cardell — Caught In The Act!, together with young performers appearing as part of the event's Youth Spotlight.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a

chair or picnic rug, gather family and friends, and settle in for an afternoon of live music in Stiggant Reserve.

Food, coffee, beer, and wine will be available, together with community stalls and children's activities.

Jazz in the Park has been bringing people together in Warrandyte through free live music since 2023.

The relaxed outdoor setting is an important part of the idea: people can come for an hour or stay for the afternoon, catch up with friends and neighbours, meet new people, and enjoy live music without cost being a barrier.

This year's return has particular significance after the 2025 event was cancelled on the day because of severe storms.

A four-year partnership with Community Grants Manningham now gives CMap the opportunity to build Jazz in the Park into an established part of Warrandyte's community calendar.

It also allows the volunteer-run organisation to develop the event

from year to year and strengthen connections between local residents, musicians, businesses, and community organisations.

CMap would also like to see more Warrandyte residents become involved.

Local people with an interest in music and the arts who would like to help create events that contribute to community wellbeing are encouraged to get in touch.

Jazz in the Park is presented by CMap Inc in partnership with Community Grants Manningham and sponsored by Community Bank Warrandyte, with additional support from Nicole Werner MP, the Victorian Jazz Club, McAdams Wine Bar, and Jazz Notes.

Their support helps CMap keep Jazz in the Park free, support live music and local businesses, and continue developing an event that belongs to the Warrandyte community.

Jazz in the Park runs from 2pm to 8pm on Sunday, November 15, at Stiggant Reserve, Warrandyte.



Simple Syncopation — Doncaster Christian College youth band



Manningham Concert Band

Photos: MARION BLAZE



Anja & Hamish — Spotlight Acts



The *Warrandyte Diary* is a community newspaper for Warrandyte. Guided by the philosophy “For the community — By the community”, our small editorial team encourages the residents, businesses, organisations, and community groups of the township to let us and our readership know what the people of Warrandyte want to celebrate, commiserate, praise, and protest. We'll cover the hard news, but if your club, group, or organisation has an issue they want to share, or a milestone or event to celebrate, then send us a story (and some photos) to editor@warrandytediary.com.au.

Youth Festival a big hit



Photos: EMMA HATLEY

(L-R) Organisers Buddy, Finn, and Angus

By JAMES POYNER

THREE FRIENDS have mixed their love of art with a need for community connection to create a youth festival.

Buddy Appleby from Warrandyte, with his friends Angus and Finn, created "Shrimp Piddle", which took place at the Central Ringwood Community Centre in September.

"The main purpose of the Shrimp Piddle Festival was a mix of my dream to always put on a big event, the likes normally seen in the city, but in a much more outer area," Buddy told the *Diary*.

"Along with mixing my dreams in content creation, puppet making and community building."

Buddy said getting from the idea to an actual event was challenging, but rewarding.

"We had never held anything like this before, and so the beginning was a lot of throwing around ideas, with no clue how to execute it."

The best way I could describe it was biting off more than we could chew, and then figuring out how to chew it. Angus spent the majority of the first few months in contact with the Maroondah Council, attempting to get a spot at Ringwood Lake.

This was quite a hassle, especially for three teenage boys who had no experience.

The majority of the people we spoke

to about this did not really believe we had it in us to get this done, and it was hard not to feel like they were trying to let us down gently.

Unfortunately, just as the insurance was about to be paid, and we were given the go-ahead, we were informed that the Council would not even consider the festival if it was not run by a business or our school.

It was at this point that we fully believed the festival would not be able to go ahead.

However, after a long email to the Central Ringwood Community Centre, we were welcomed in with open arms."

Buddy explained that a Shrimp Piddle is not a real animal; it is a metaphysical concept — a joke that anyone can interpret and get around.

This meant their comedic, arty, festival could be anything and everything, and — as Buddy says — allowed him to create a sense of community for the youth around Ringwood.

"The beauty of the Shrimp Piddle was it allowed every single person to make up their own joke about it, and that was now lore!"

"Having something on this scale, in an area like that, was truly inspired by growing up in Warrandyte, a place rich with community."

It only felt right to offer that same experience to a place like Ringwood."

Buddy said the event was an unexpected success.

"Throughout the entire planning sequence, we expected as low as 60, and a maximum of 100.

When around 200 people showed up, it felt like we had truly made it.

We had games, a magician, colouring, a free sausage sizzle, shirts, and the best bit of all was all of the people.

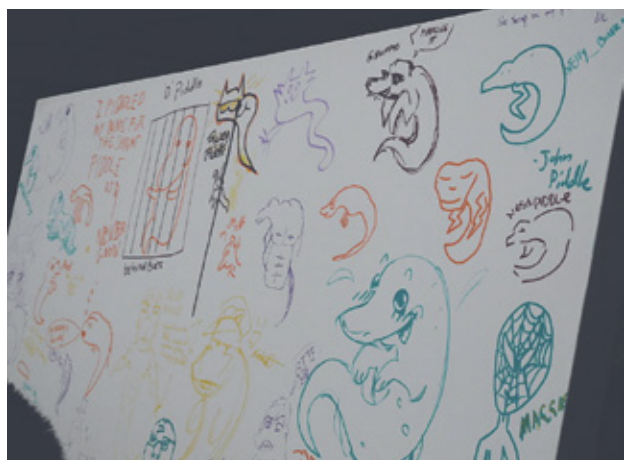
Not one person showed up to cause a ruckus; it was the most amazing group of people, with an atmosphere that can only be described as a huge friendship hangout.

All of the scheduled events were themed around jokes in and of themselves; this included my friend doing a kickflip and a piddle parade around the lake."

Buddy said the community has asked if Shrimp Piddle will return in 2027.

"Well, I'm glad to say there are plans to do another!"

"Obviously, by the time of September 19 next year, it is unknown how busy the team as a whole will be, but we hope that now we have all the knowledge of what to do, along with the support of the community centre, it will hopefully be a lot easier."



AI and its impacts on young people



By NATALIE RINEHART (B.A.Sci (Psych); Grad.Dip.App.Psych)

I THINK ALL of us are feeling a little taken over by all the AI news right now.

AI company CEOs and staff are saying we need controls and guardrails.

I watched the news in shock when it suggested it could take over the internet in 6-12 months.

A big part of the discussion today is whether we let the current AI birth the next generation of AI rather than human beings.

It's some pretty scary stuff if I'm honest.

But how is this technology impacting our young people?

From the people I see in my practice and in the community, there are two main camps of thought for young people.

1. It's great!
I can save time, and it will do the hard work.
If I don't like a particular assignment, it can do the work for me.
I can come up with ideas about how to start a business, run a social media campaign, or even get fit.
2. This thing is the devil.
It will strip us of our resources environmentally; it's stealing from creatives; it will replace a huge number of jobs.
I've been building a life with certain goals, and now they could be stripped away because of world shifts due to AI.

In all reality, both these camps are correct.

But there are even more possible negative impacts of AI on our young, as I see it.

Don't get me wrong — I think as a tool it has its uses.

But I wouldn't have wanted to grow up with this tool available to me whilst I was forming myself.

For starters, AI can produce a lot of false information or twists to the truth.

It scrapes information available to it, and that information is not always accurate.

It can create fake videos, pictures, or screenshots, so we don't know what is real anymore.

Is that screenshot actually from a friend's Snapchat, or did someone make it up to play a trick or bully me?

A big part of growing up with low anxiety is predictability, feeling like we are walking on solid ground.

AI and social media are eroding this experience.

AI doesn't have "ethics" as we understand them, it doesn't have an intrinsic understanding of social constructs.

It may have certain rules like don't tell someone how to make a bomb, but there are workarounds.

I recently read a story about an Australian university researcher who said they had gotten an AI "drunk", and it broke its own standards of disclosure.

When young people go to it for advice, it can lead them to think certain behaviours are acceptable.

Equally, it can further isolate them as it often takes their side.

This makes it difficult to see where they may have made a social error they should apologise for.

How we learn is a big problem.

For myself, I can use AI to scrape some ideas, but I use my own critical thinking and previous learning to decide if I agree with what it's saying and then add my own thoughts.

I will look for the source material



Photo: KATHY BUGAJSKY / PIXABAY.COM

and decide if I believe it's adequate and reliable.

Our young people don't have that comparison in their heads.

Most will assume it is correct, not look to challenge what they have been told or even check the AI's source for trustworthiness.

There are also concerns about how this impacts young people's ability to deeply focus and develop critical thinking skills.

When we research and genuinely consider topics, we gain these skills.

When AI generates answers so quickly, why would we take the time to produce something from scratch?

But it's that journey they are missing out on, and therefore the skill to analyse or create for themselves.

I think of it a little like cooking.

We can buy a frozen dinner, or we can choose to buy fresh ingredients and make a meal from scratch.

While both meals have nutritional

value, the home cooked meal provides a much more enriching experience.

Generic AI slop, as it's called, is everywhere.

Although the broader questions around AI at a macro-level across the world are deeply concerning, knowing how it can impact this next generation requires our attention.

Many of us grew up biking around with our mates till sunset, writing essays from scratch on books we didn't like, and feeling a level of trust in what we saw on our news screens.

There was fun, hard work and security in our lives.

For this younger generation, we are asking them to control themselves around addictive screens and AI, still do the labour when many around them are not, and all the while wonder what is true and what is fake.

No wonder they are feeling lost and anxious.

What is the answer?

Like many of us, I am still trying to determine what this is for our youth.

How can we keep the tool for its usefulness but avoid the pits we are falling into?

And we need to move faster than the AI or slow the AI down.

But I do know that, as a community, we need to be aware of the deeper implications for our young people and try to mitigate them where possible.

Until next time, folks!

ABOUT NATALIE

Natalie Rinehart is a Young Person & Family Counsellor, Life Coach, and Author.

She is also the founder of Launch Collective, a platform that uses community to help our young people. Find out more at launchcollective.com.au.

The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and may not reflect the position of the Editorial team.

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Walter Jasinskas turns 100

Words & Pictures
By **BILL MCAULEY**

NORTH WARRANDYTE resident Walter Jasinskas is turning 100 years of age on October 8.

Elona, his daughter, is delighted her father is about to reach such a significant milestone.

"Life has been such a struggle for him, he's led an austere life but in so many ways it's also been a life well lived," she said.

"He has kept himself fit and kept a lot of people occupied and happy with his role as a television technician."

Born in Lithuania in 1926, Walter endured many hardships and adventures before settling in Australia.

During World War II, he put his age up from 16 to 18 years and joined the resistance against the Nazi regime.

He was captured in Berlin by the Gestapo and sent to a concentration camp where he survived the situation with his prowess at playing soccer and his ability to speak seven languages.

The Germans also gave him the nerve-racking job of digging up unexploded bombs from the streets of war-torn Berlin.

After escaping from Berlin, Walter was received by the Americans and started work for them as an interpreter.

Walter arrived on the shores of Australia when he arrived at Freemantle in 1946.

He worked doing pick and shovel work on the railways in South Australia for three years.

During this time, he met the Queen when she was visiting Australia.

"After shaking my hand," Walter said, "She whispered into my ear you should meet my sister."

Referring to Walter's "rather good looks" he possessed as a young man!

After coming to Melbourne, Walter put himself through technical school to train as a television technician.

In 1962 he married his sweetheart Wolmet and began building his family home in Glynn's Road, North Warrandyte.

They welcomed their first child Grant into the world in 1963 and their second child Elona in 1965.

It seemed that life was going to be happier and more settled then, but unfortunately, more tragedy and heartache was to sweep into Walter's world.

In 1968, his wife Wolmet took her own life.

Walter managed to keep his spirits up by bringing up his two children and concentrating on his work.

Elona remembers this time well.

"Our North Warrandyte neighbours rallied and gave us tremendous support after mum died", she said.

"They helped shape me into the person I am today."

Unbelievably, more tragedy and heartache came crashing into the family's lives.

Walter's son Grant took his own life in 2000.

Despite the unimaginable sorrow, Walter has managed to stay in the world at his Warrandyte property and now reaches an incredibly significant milestone, his 100th birthday.

"I've loved living in Warrandyte," Walter says.

"I have many beautiful birds coming to visit me here, Cockatoos, Kookaburras and Crimson Rosellas."

"They eat from my hand and they love me!" he says with a proud smile.



Walter and Elona in North Warrandyte

Walter's son Grant in around 1990



Young Walter, aged 17 (SUPPLIED)



epigram

A short, pithy saying, usually in verse, often with a quick, satirical twist at the end.

Actor's Lament

I have played Gandhi, King Tut,
gangster, giant, elf,

but a lifetime of lifetimes
destroyed my mental health;

if you're all things to all men,
you're no one to yourself.

Photo: ULLI PAEGE

— Damian Balassone

eye spy

JOHN ZACK, Master Metallurgist and Scout Leader, is showing Warrandyte Scout, Indi, how a metal foundry casts molten aluminium.

John said, "It is great how young people can learn these skills at Scouts

"Indi was very invested in mastering some of the more complex techniques, and I was happy to pass on some of my decades of experience"

A patrol of Warrandyte Scouts recently spent the weekend learning from experts about mechanics, welding, blacksmithing, and metal foundry at nearby Clifford Park.

Polly stripped a 4-stroke engine and put it back together, and Kevin got to weld up a Billy holder for his next camping trip.

All the Scouts shared stories around the campfire at night.

These sort of practical activities are hard to do at school.

Warrandyte Scouts are glad that experts like John give up their time and share their secrets.



Understanding climate science



By **JEFF CRANSTON**
Menzies for Climate

EACH MONTH, Menzies for Climate runs a Community Café event.

Held at Persian Flavours in Forest Hill on the first Monday of the month (except Public Holidays), the events feature a communal dinner, followed by a presentation from an invited expert.

In August, the speaker was Dr Tim Davis.

Dr Davis begins his presentation: *The Science Behind Climate Change* with a rogues’ gallery of climate deniers — photos of Tony Abbott, Andrew Bolt, Donald Trump, and US physicist John Clauser.

He decries the false information being spread about climate change — including by the above-named — and says he wants to explain the true situation based on the science.

As Dr Davis makes clear, he is a physicist, not a climate scientist; but his previous work at the CSIRO included research into global warming, and he readily demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the science of climate change.

What follows is an outline of two key aspects of his analysis — namely, how we know the Earth is getting warmer and what is causing global warming.

How we know the Earth is getting warmer

The rise in average air temperature is demonstrated by increases in what is called the *global surface temperature anomaly* since the early last century.

This is basically the local temperature variations averaged across the globe.

Until about 1910, the anomaly was roughly constant: recorded temperatures greater and lesser than the long-term average were about even, resulting in an anomaly of around zero.

But since then, there has been a shift in the anomaly, whereby temperatures in excess of the long-term average have generally predominated as compared with lower-than-average temperatures.

This has meant an increase in the average global temperature of about 1.3°C since 1900, which is corroborated by the following key indicators based on scientific observations:

- We have seen a similar rise in the sea surface temperature anomaly since the early last century.
- NASA satellites have detected reductions in the mass of ice in Antarctica and the Greenland ice sheets, which shows the ice is melting.
- 99 per cent of the world’s glaciers are in decline due to melting ice, the rate of melting having doubled in recent years.
- Sea levels are rising, with the average rise since 1900 being about 20 centimetres.

The scientific evidence indicates that our planet is warming.

The cause of global warming

For the Earth to maintain a stable temperature, there must be the right balance between the processes of heating and cooling the planet.

These processes may be outlined as follows:

- Some solar radiation is absorbed by atmospheric gases, some is reflected by gases and clouds, and some is reflected by the Earth’s surface.

- Around 47 per cent is absorbed by the surface. This is gradually emitted over time through what is known as thermal radiation.
- About 90 per cent of thermal radiation is reflected by the atmosphere back to the ground, while about 10 per cent escapes into space through what is called the atmospheric window, which corresponds to a region of the thermal radiation spectrum that is not absorbed by gases in the atmosphere.
- It is this 10 per cent loss of thermal radiation that enables cooling of the Earth’s surface.

However, we know the Earth is warming, indicating an imbalance between the above processes, and that something is affecting the atmospheric window and the rate of cooling.

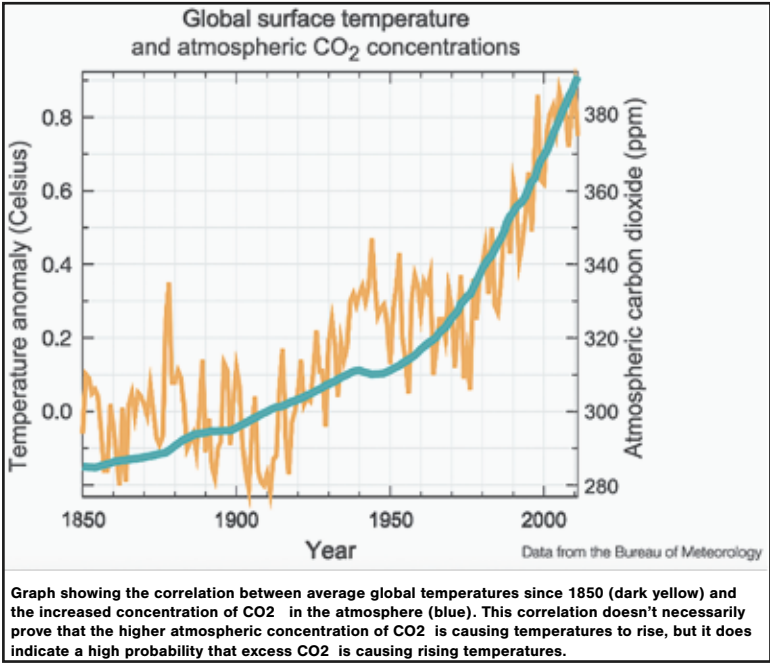
By contrast, with gases making up the atmospheric window, certain other gases absorb and reflect heat, notably water vapour and carbon dioxide (CO₂), as well as oxygen to a lesser extent.

The concentration of these gases in the atmosphere affects how much heat is reflected to the ground rather than lost through the atmospheric window.

The scientific evidence points to a reduced concentration of oxygen in the atmosphere since about 1990, which should have caused the Earth to cool slightly.

But the evidence also shows the concentrations of water vapour and CO₂ have increased in recent decades.

While water vapour concentration has only risen by about 1 per cent over the last 50 years, the concentration of CO₂ since about 1990 — predominantly from burning fossil fuels — increased



by over 19 per cent to 424.6 parts per million for the year 2024 — a significant increase.

Moreover, measurements of CO₂ levels in the atmosphere over the last 100 years point to an increase in its concentration of over 30 per cent.

Calculations of the effect of the increased level of CO₂ in the atmosphere predict an increase in the average global temperature, which is consistent with actual measurements.

Accordingly, it is now very clear that excess CO₂ in the atmosphere is causing global warming.

Dr Davis’s presentation also deals with some of the adverse impacts of climate change, which will worsen in future as temperatures continue to rise,

leading him to conclude:

“To avert catastrophe we need to stop emitting CO₂ into the atmosphere. This means an end to burning fossil fuels.”

ABOUT JEFF

Jeff Cranston is a member of Menzies for Climate, a non-partisan community group committed to stronger climate action, a faster transition to renewable energy, and protecting the natural environment. Visit menziesforclimate.org to find out more about the group, including its monthly Community Café events. The content in this article is the opinion of the author and may not represent the position of the Editors.

Investments keeping native animals and infrastructure safe

BY **JAMES POYNER**

FOR MANY living in Melbourne’s bushy fringes, wildlife encounters are almost a daily occurrence.

While often this can be through a happy encounter with a platypus in the river, or seeing kangaroos and wombats in the State Park, modern life is pockmarked with incidents where wildlife does not interface well with humanity.

Animal injury and death on our roads and energy infrastructure are an ongoing concern for communities, local councils, and government bodies, but new technologies have been developed to reduce the number of occurrences.

Possum power

As tree-climbing, tree-living marsupials, using powerlines and the roofs as highways and homes in our urban environments makes sense, but possums using powerlines can also result in power outages.

AusNet have reported that more than 10 per cent of outages across the network are caused by animals.

In 2019 and 2020, Warrandyte and surrounds suffered a spate of power outages; many at the time were attributed to possums.

A story, *Warrandyte power failures explained*, in the March 2020 *Warrandyte Diary* (Page 4) included a statement from AusNet about the success of possum guards to reduce outages caused by possums.

“From January 2019 to July 2019 there were 20 faults and following the installation of possum discs in July/August, this decreased to three faults from July 2019 to December 2019.”

In 2026, AusNet has just announced the completion of a \$1.8 million wildlife protection program.

The program has delivered animal-proofing upgrades at 260 sites across Belgrave, Montrose, Warrandyte, Nilma, and Upwey, targeting one of the leading causes of electricity outages on AusNet’s network.

AusNet Head of Fault Delivery,

Michael Walton, said the sites were identified through analysis of areas experiencing higher-than-average levels of animal-related faults.

“By targeting these high-impact locations, we’re improving reliability and reducing outages for customers in communities most affected by animal-related faults.

“These incidents can damage equipment and often require extensive repairs before power can be safely restored,” said Mr Walton.

The program included:

- Protective plastic guards to prevent animals accessing powerlines.
- Rotating spinners that stop animals gaining a foothold on powerlines.
- New transformer equipment designed to discourage possums from nesting.

“This activity highlighted how smart infrastructure investments can benefit customers and create a safer environment for one of Victoria’s most recognisable native species,” he said.

AusNet has said it will continue monitoring network performance to measure the long-term impact of the upgrades on reliability and wildlife safety.

Mitigating road strikes

Wildlife road strikes can be devastating for both road users and animals.

As part of their submission to the *Inquiry into wildlife road strikes in Victoria*, Wildlife Victoria estimated that over 10 million native animals die on Australia’s roads each year, and that between 2018 and 2023, Wildlife Victoria responded to 50,000 reports of wildlife being injured or killed on Victorian roads.

Virtual fencing was seen as a possible solution to this issue, but the results have been mixed.

Wildlife volunteers conducting a trial in Anglesea, along a 12.4-kilometre stretch of road, reported that 250 kangaroos and wallabies were killed each year on the roads near Anglesea

and that the trial halved that number, but a three-year trial on Phillip Island between 2019 and 2022 was reported to have had no significant impact.

As part of the Jumping Creek Road upgrade, Manningham Council installed virtual fencing between Nelson Drive and the entrance to Jumping Creek Reserve.

A Council spokesperson told the *Diary*:

“During the Jumping Creek Road upgrade, we’ve installed 20 virtual fences and six wildlife crossings.

“These help animals move safely through the area and reduce the risk of wildlife collisions.

“Every wildlife collision prevented is a better outcome for both our native animals and the people travelling on Jumping Creek Road,” they said.

Manningham Council provided data to the *Diary* about the number of wildlife collisions reported on Jumping Creek Road since 2016.

Since 2016, the number of collisions has been generally increasing year-on-year, peaking at 31 in 2025.

But in 2026, year to date, there have only been eight reported wildlife collisions.

While roadworks connected to the Jumping Creek Road upgrade may have impacted traffic volume, the significant reduction in collisions is promising.

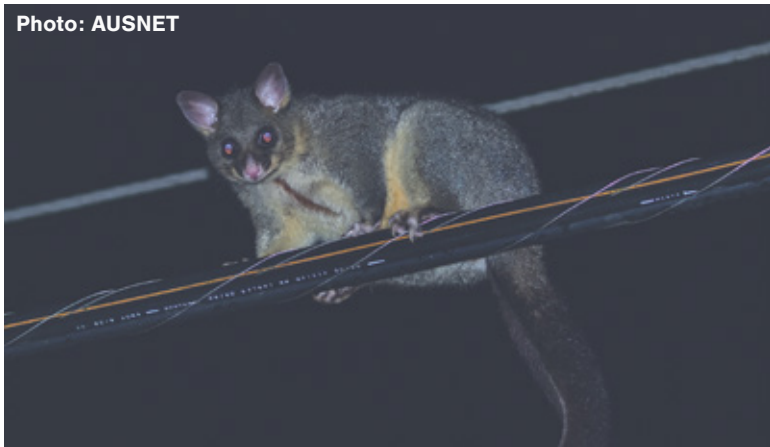
Across the river, Sugarloaf Ward Councillor Kim Cope has also been advocating for virtual fencing on Nillumbik’s roads.

While Manningham’s data may support the effectiveness of this technology, the recommendations from a State Government Inquiry say otherwise.

Inquiry recommendations

The final report from the *Inquiry into wildlife road strikes in Victoria* was tabled in November 2025 with 18 recommendations which included:

- Making reporting of wildlife road strikes mandatory and having a single, state-wide phone number.
- A nominal voluntary contribution



— via vehicle registration payments — to support wildlife volunteers.

- Better support for wildlife volunteers through funding/ reimbursement, training, and a Code of Practice.
- Roadside safety protocols.
- Centralised, publicly accessible database for wildlife road strike information.
- Better planning controls to protect wildlife habitats and corridors.
- A program of major wildlife crossings.
- The State Government to develop a Wildlife Roadstrike Strategy.
- Research and trials of innovative animal detection systems, including the use of machine learning and AI tools.
- Investigate variable speed zones in known high-risk areas.
- A public education campaign on wildlife road strikes and behaviours to reduce the risk.

Of note was the recommendation not to continue the virtual fencing program — or that it be tied to the emergence of “new, more viable technologies”.

Leading wildlife rescue organisations like Wildlife Victoria, RSPCA Victoria, and the Invasive Species Council welcome the recommendations of

mandatory reporting of wildlife road strikes.

The RSPCA in a statement released in July 2026 said:

“Under Victoria’s Road Safety Act 1986, motorists are required to stop and render assistance to owned animals including domestic pets and agricultural livestock, but the legislation does not extend to native wildlife or invasive animal species. Mandatory reporting of wildlife road strikes would significantly improve outcomes for injured animals, reduce preventable wildlife deaths, provide a clearer picture of where interventions are needed, and help track and manage the impact of invasive animal species like deer on road users. Comprehensive data collection from reporting would also support road safety outcomes for all users by helping government agencies and road managers identify high-risk locations and invest in targeted solutions that protect both wildlife and motorists.

The data could also be used to identify invasive species hotspots and help state and local governments and other land managers reduce their impact.”

The State Government has not yet responded to the Inquiry’s recommendations.

Turn your eyes to the skies

Get your binoculars out for the Aussie Bird Count

By SANDI MILLER

THE AUSSIE BIRD Count is back for 2026, BirdLife Australia’s national snapshot of how our feathered friends are faring across the country. Last year, 64,000 people counted more than five million birds — now it’s time to do it again. BirdLife Australia want your help to make this year’s Count the biggest yet. From October 19 to 25, you can spend 20 minutes watching, counting, and enjoying the birds in your favourite outdoor spot. Warrandyte and surrounds have some great spots to birdwatch, from the

banks of the Yarra River, the slopes of Mt Lofty, Westerfolds, Warrandyte State Park and along the Mullum Mullum Trail, to school grounds, backyards, balconies, and parks. Sean Dooley, BirdLife Australia’s self-proclaimed Chief Bird Nerd, said it’s a great way to discover your local birds, connect with nature, and feel great knowing your sightings are contributing to citizen science. Register today and start getting ready to count! Spend some time getting to know the birds in your area and invite your friends and family to join in so you have

more eyes (and ears) helping you spot birds during Count week. “You don’t need to be a bird expert to join the Count — it’s fun, easy, and for everyone!” said Sean. The Aussie Bird Count App provides an easy way to register your sightings, and even has a built-in bird identification guide. “Our free app will guide you every step of the way, so all you need is 20 minutes and a little curiosity. “You’ll discover the birds around you, connect with nature and feel great knowing your sightings are contributing to citizen science,” he said.

Sean said this year’s Count is occurring at a challenging time for Australia’s birds as many face the new threat of H5 bird flu. “Our birds need a bird-loving community now more than ever. “We need them too, because watching birds brings us joy and gives us hope, which we all need right now. “We can all play our part by being mindful of the signs of H5 bird flu, especially in waterbirds, seabirds and birds of prey.” If you do find a sick bird, make sure to avoid any contact, record the location and details, and report what you’ve

seen to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888. Head to aussiebirdcount.org.au to download the app and get some birdwatching tips. **Warrandyte’s wonderful birdlife** To help you prepare for the bird count, and to let you know what’s out there, the *Diary* asked the talented photographers on the Warrandyte Nature Page to send in their best bird snaps. As you can see, there is a lot more out there than Noisy Miners and Cockatoos.



Sacred Kingfisher (MEL CASEY)



Tawny Frogmouth and chick (MEL CASEY)



Pacific Black Duck (KRIS BELL)



Kookaburra (SHIRLEY BENDLE)

Gang

Rainbow



Gang Cockatoos (KRIS BELL)



Rose Robin (SUSAN HUMPHRIES)



Cockatoos (TRUDY BRENTNALL)



Powerful Owl chick (KRIS BELL)



Olive backed Oriole (KATJA GUTWEIN)



New Lorikeet (MEL CASEY)



Pied Currawong (SANDI MILLER)

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Event: I am Woman — Celebrating World Menopause Day Fundraiser When: Friday, October 9, 10am, and Thursday, October 15, 7pm Where: Templestowe Bowling Club 1 Swilk Street Templestowe Info: Be motivated by Susan Gianevsky, a respected health practitioner and educator for more than 30 years. This practical talk will inspire you to feel healthy, focused, strong and beautiful. Learn ways to restore your skin, hormones, weight and sleep. This event is a donation directly to Doncare. Give what this education is worth to you. It's tax deductible. Visit trybooking.com/DPDWX to book your seat. Walk-ins welcome.	Event: Run for the Firies When: Sunday, October 25, 7am–11am Where: Eltham North Adventure Playground Reserve Wattletree Road Eltham North Info: By signing up to Run For The Firies, every step supports those who protect our community. This is a chance to show up for the people who show up for us — in fires, emergencies, and the moments no one else can step into. Funds raised help support equipment, training, and vital resources for our local Research CFA and Kangaroo Ground CFA firefighters. Registrations open: runforthefiries.com.au. Get involved, get moving, and help us make a real difference.
Event: Try Bowls When: Sunday, October 11 and Monday October 19, 2pm–4pm Where: Donvale Bowls Club Corner Reynolds and Springvale Roads Donvale Info: Bowls is a game for all community members regardless of your ability. Come along for an opportunity to understand why it is such a great game and so much enjoyed by all who play.	Event: Line Dancing to Italian Pop Music at the Women's Circle When: Tuesday, November 10, 7pm–9:30pm Where: Veneto Club 191 Bulleen Road Bulleen Info: Celebrate a fabulous year of Women's Circle events with an Italian line-dancing night. Enjoy beloved songs, easy steps for all abilities, laughter and sparkle as Signore Fagiolo leads the fun. Maestro or two left feet, everyone is welcome to share Italian culture, music and connection. \$20 includes Brown Brothers wine tastings and a light supper. RSVP:trybooking.com/DPALC.
Event: Supporting our community through different stages of life — Retirement When: Monday, October 12, 11:30am–1pm Where: Warrandyte Neighbourhood House 1/168 Yarra Street Warrandyte Info: Retirement is a major life transition and creates a shift in identity, purpose, routine and social connection. Many people discover that “just stopping” doesn't feel right; humans need meaning, structure, and community engagement to stay mentally well. Explore the emotional adjustment to a new rhythm and ways to rediscover purpose. \$5 — registrations at wnh.org.au.	Event: Jazz in the Park When: Sunday, November 15, 2pm–8pm Where: Stiggant Reserve Warrandyte Info: Enjoy five live bands, food trucks, local vendors, beer & wine, coffee, cold drinks, and kids' activities. Bring a picnic rug. Family-friendly and all welcome. In partnership with Community Grants Manningham and sponsored by Community Bank Warrandyte.
Event: Come and Try Pickleball When: Sunday, October 18 and Sunday, October 25, 1pm–5pm Where: Panton Hill Tennis & Pickleball Club 20 Bishops Road Panton Hill Info: Want to try the fastest-growing sport in the world? No experience necessary! Social tennis is also available. Pickleball equipment is supplied. Light refreshments will be available. We are an inclusive, social club and welcome all new players and members. Contact Janice: 0458 910 396	Event: Concert: <i>Echoes of Antiquity</i> When: Sunday, November 15, 2pm–3:15pm Where: Warrandyte Community Hall 2-8, Taroona Avenue Warrandyte Info: The Courtly Arts Performers aim to show the enduring influence of the ancient world through Renaissance and Baroque music and dance. Performed in period costume and on historical instruments, <i>Echoes of Antiquity</i> brings to life the mythology, ideals and imagery of Ancient Greece and Rome. Tickets: \$30 or \$25 senior/student/concession Booking essential: trybooking.com/DPVEJ.

Community Chest

Lions Club of Warrandyte
2nd Tuesday of each month, 7pm–9pm
Warrandyte Neighbourhood House
168 Yarra Street
Warrandyte

We are the local branch of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest volunteer service organisation. We raise funds via our Op Shop and the Warrandyte Riverside Market. These funds are used to support local community groups. We are keen for new members to join us to continue this valuable work. You are welcome to come to one of our meetings or contact Chewy on 0418 340 246.

Men's Shed of Warrandyte
Every Wednesday 10am–12pm
Warrandyte Scout Hall
45 Yarra Street
Warrandyte

Men's Shed (currently still in the process of establishing an actual shed) is a place for men to chat, enjoy a cuppa and some food. It is a good place to solve the worlds problems and discuss the latest knee replacement. It's not hard to join, just show up or chat to Chewy on 0418 340 246. In conjunction with Sunsmart Victoria, we will be running a skin health awareness marquee at November Warrandyte Riverside Market. Supported by Bendigo Bank and Manningham Council.

Warrandyte Repair Café
1st Sunday of each month, 10:30am–12:30pm
Warrandyte Mechanics' Institute Hall
Corner Mitchell Avenue and Yarra Street
Warrandyte

Warrandyte Repair Café is a welcoming place to bring along your well loved but imperfect things for us to help you repair. We have a small army of repair experts for garments, electric and electronic devices, computers, and mechanical stuff. No need to book — just turn up with the item. If you need to contact us, do so via email at warrandyterepairecafe@gmail.com or on our Facebook page facebook.com/groups/warrandyterepairecafe.

Warrandyte Probus Club
Tuesday, October 27, 10am–12pm
Warrandyte Mechanics' Institute Hall
Corner Mitchell Avenue and Yarra Street
Warrandyte

The speaker for the meeting is Bill McAuley, Warrandyte local and well renowned photographer. Bill has won the coveted Australian Press Photographer of The Year Award and received the Eltham Arts Council Award for Outstanding Service to the Arts, and the Camberwell Art Show Social Justice Prize. The National Portrait Gallery in Canberra has acquired nine of Bill's portraits for its collection.



- ### Local markets
- Warrandyte Riverside Market**
Saturday, November 7, 8am–1pm, Stiggant Reserve
 - Tunstall Square Market**
Sunday, October 25, 8am–1pm, Tunstall Square Centre
 - Park Orchards Market**
Saturday, October 17, 10am–2pm, Park Orchards Primary
 - St Andrews Community Market**
Saturdays, 9am–2pm, St Andrews township

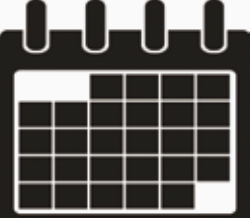
Local VIEW clubs

VIEW (Voice, Interests, and Education of Women) meet monthly to help women from all walks of life establish lasting friendships, while helping disadvantaged Australian children thought supporting the work of children's charity The Smith Family.
Visit thesmithfamily.com.au/view-clubs for more information.

Doncaster
3rd Tuesday of each month, 10:30am for 11am, Manningham Club, Bulleen, 0414 185 709

Blackburn
2nd Thursday of each month, 11:30am for 12pm, Club Ringwood, Ringwood, 0407 845 292

Yarra Valley
Last Tuesday of each month, 12pm, Chirnside Park Country Club, Chirnside Park, 0412 196 411



Want to see your event in What's Happening?

The *Warrandyte Diary* What's Happening Guide is your chance to tell our readers about your community event or celebration. Scan the QR code or visit warrandytediary.com.au/submit-a-story to get your event in our next edition.

All entries appearing in this guide are subject to approval by the *Warrandyte Diary* team and submission of an event does not guarantee publication. Entries appearing in this edition are correct at time of publication and may be subject to change. Always confirm details with the event host before booking/attendance.



Cliffy closing soon: Last chance to tell your story

By JAMES POYNER

ENTRIES for the 2026 Cliffy short story writing competition are closing soon.

Named after the *Diary's* founding editor, Cliff Green, the *Warrandyte Diary* has a proud tradition of supporting and celebrating local writers and so is delighted to again be holding this competition to shine a light on the best of our literary talent.

This year, we are also pleased to include two levels of youth categories, Primary and Secondary school-aged,

to double down on our support for our community's young writers.

In keeping with this community's focus, we are opening this year's competition with the theme "Environment."

All entrants will be invited to a special presentation ceremony, where authors of shortlisted entries will be invited to read their submissions, and prizes will be awarded.

There are three categories in the 2026 Cliffy: our Primary School Aged

category for under-12s, our Secondary School Aged category for 12-16s, and our Open category for those aged 17 and up.

Open category prize is \$500.

The Secondary category, one winner will receive a \$200 cash prize, and in the Primary category, one winner will receive a \$100 cash prize.

Open Category stories need to be between 1,000 and 1,500 words.

Junior Category stories need to be between 500 and 1,000 words.

Primary Category stories need to be between 250-500 words.

So, it's time to ponder the idea of "environment" and what it means to you — and start writing.

Winning entries will also be published in the December *Diary*.

Please make sure the language is appropriate for unedited publication.

Entries are open until 5pm on Friday, October 30, 2026.

Those shortlisted will be invited to attend a presentation event at

Warrandyte Library in November.

To enter, visit warrandytediary.com.au/cliffy where you can download the entry form.

Entry is free, but you can only enter one story.

All entries must be **typed** and submitted as a Word document (.doc) with a completed entry form (filled out and sent as a jpeg or pdf) and sent to editor@warrandytediary.com.au

Good luck writing; we look forward to reading your stories of "Environment".

One day, one house — before it is gone forever

By REBECCA ANDERSON

IN 2021, AN earthquake saw the buildings at the former Warrandyte Cafe condemned.

Now one of the buildings is being used for an art project and documentary prior to its demolition.

After six weeks of being transformed room by room by Melbourne artist Kat Tillman, the house on Yarra Street, Warrandyte will open its doors to the public for one final day before it is demolished.

The cottage is the centrepiece of *Side Quest Stories*, a feature documentary directed by Emily Medbury and produced by Nice Film Co, which follows Kat as she transforms the property into a living art installation.

On Saturday, October 17, the completed installation at 61-63 Yarra Street, Warrandyte, on the grounds of the former Warrandyte Café, will be open to the community from 10am to 4pm, giving visitors the opportunity to walk through the house, see Kat's work in its completed form and experience the space before it disappears.

The exhibition will feature the painted exterior and every room inside the house, alongside furniture,

Photos: SUPPLIED



objects and artworks created as part of the installation.

Visitors will also be able to see a garden installation of metal flowers, with the painted flowers representing women killed by a current or former partner in Australia during the making of the documentary.

The exhibition is also part of the documentary's wider impact campaign.

Selected pieces from the installation will be available for purchase, with proceeds supporting the completion

of the documentary and domestic violence support organisations.

The evening will continue with a ticketed fundraiser from 6pm to 9pm, featuring speakers, drinks and a live auction of painted furniture and objects from the installation.

The house will close to the public at 9pm.

For Warrandyte, the exhibition offers the community a chance to step inside a house that has been part of the local landscape for decades, and viewed its transformation throughout the making

of the documentary and experience its final form before it is gone.

Side Quest Stories is supported by Dulux Australia, Respect Legal, You Matter, and Designteam, and is produced under Documentary Australia's framework.

Exhibition details

Side Quest Stories Exhibition

Saturday, October 17,
61-63 Yarra Street,
Warrandyte

Daytime exhibition: 10am-4pm \$10
entry | Children free

Evening fundraiser: 6pm-9pm \$50
entry | 18+ only

Tickets are available via Eventbrite.
eventbrite.com.au/e/side-quest-stories-exhibition-and-fundraiser-tickets-1998457142109

Editor's note: The Diary understands that, the building is the site of the former Warrandyte Wax Works Museum and is within the Township Heritage Precinct, however, according to the Victorian Heritage Council, it does not provide contributory elements to the heritage overlay.

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

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Warrandyte Arts

Meet the Powerful Owl

Environment Seminar
Dr. Nick Carter
presents
Meet our apex predator, The Powerful Owl

Thursday, 29th October, 2026
7:00-8:30pm
Warrandyte Community Church
57 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

Tickets Free
<https://bit.ly/WCAowl>
Co-sponsor: Manningham Council

Warrandyte Community Association

and

Maintaining biodiversity and habitat in the face of urban development

Vicky Shukuroglo, an inspiring local environmental activist, author, artist and educator, will share her experience of improving biodiversity locally
Tickets Free.

Thursday 15th October, 2026 at 7:30-9:00pm.
The Community Hall, Neighbourhood House,
Warrandyte Community Centre,
168-178 Yarra Street, Warrandyte.

<https://wca2026.eventbrite.com.au/>

Volunteering: kicking goals in Warrandyte

By **DON HUGHES**
Warrandyte Volunteer Alliance (WAVA)

VOLUNTEERS kick goals. Underpinning recent Warrandyte sporting and community successes, lays an often-invisible backbone of dedicated volunteers. You know them: the hard-working parent who carries the water or provides essential first aid, the retired yet passionate sportsperson who assists the trainers or coach, or the extended family member or friend, who willingly helps with the sausage sizzle or a myriad of other governance or administration tasks. These volunteers, provide the heart and soul of many of our sporting teams and other community groups. Kicking goals is what Warrandyte volunteers excel at! This was decidedly showcased with the recent unrivalled sporting premierships won by the Warrandyte Football/Netball Clubs. The critical importance of volunteers supporting our talented players, on the field or court, was powerfully displayed. Sincere congratulations to our victorious sporting teams, and their volunteers.

It's not just kicking goals

Similarly, across Warrandyte's plethora of community groups and organisations, volunteers always provide that magical thread needed for success. For example, the volunteers who manage and conduct the popular and profitable Warrandyte Riverside Market are finalists in the Manningham Business Awards. This prestigious award recognises businesses and business groups that have supported the Manningham Community through volunteering, sponsorship and sustainable practices,

all whilst creating positive community benefits. Our market has been providing these positive benefits for decades. Also nominated for the Manningham Business Awards is Warrandyte's Bramleigh Estate, who have supported some incredible causes over many years — particularly our CFA firefighters with the Fireball series of gala balls, and most recently, our SES rescuers with Thunderball, as well as the Pink Ladies and their work with the McGrath Foundation for Cancer Care Nurses. Our nurses and emergency volunteers save lives: Bramleigh Estate helps them do this, along with the Pink Ladies, and the Fireball and Thunderball committee volunteers. At the recent Manningham Community Awards the Lions Club of Warrandyte Opportunity Shop was recognised with the Manningham Community Excellence Award. The Lions "Op Shop" volunteers have been providing this passionate community service for over 50 years. In the Active Community category of the Manningham Community Awards, the Warrandyte Mountain Bike Club were finalists for this much contested award. Hearty congratulations to all our mountain bikers. Warrandyte's own Sandi Miller was a finalist in the Doreen Stoves Excellence in Volunteering Award, recognising individuals who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to volunteerism. Warrandyte Donvale Rotary member, Sanadrajane Vincent-Cory, was the universally respected recipient of this prestigious award acknowledging her dedicated, selfless and impactful leadership of the Park Orchards Community Pantry. Overall, well done to all the finalists and winners of these recent and significant awards.

Higher recognition

Federally, Rotary Club stalwart, Rob Edwards, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his tireless volunteer commitment over many years. Warrandyte Riverside Market volunteer, Rosanne Gay, was recognised with a Federal Electorate of Menzies Volunteer Award for her work with the market carparking operation. Our beloved Pink Ladies, who have excelled at both the local and national level with fundraising for various diseases and cancers, and have won numerous awards and accolades, recently visited the home of our Governor General as guests of honour. The Pink Ladies have pioneered an incredible pathway forward for volunteerism in Warrandyte.

Moving forward

Our amazing Warrandyte Festival team of volunteer organisers, coupled with this year's Festival Monarchs, are busily preparing for a wonderful Golden Anniversary in 2027. This 50th celebration will be a significant event for Warrandyte. Volunteering is at the very heart and soul of our community. It connects those community groups that contribute so much to our way life. Not only does volunteering provide very real and practical solutions for issues facing our community, but it also gives individuals a wonderful injection of wellbeing, self-esteem, and great satisfaction. Just ask a volunteer from one of our recent successful sporting teams! **Volunteering in Warrandyte** Volunteering extends across numerous community endeavours including the arts, education, emergency services, sports, environment, health, aged care, all abilities, and community welfare.

Photo: GAVIN ANDREW



Festival volunteers Kate Khazour, Millie Wells, and Sharni Pearce

The Warrandyte Volunteer Alliance (WAVA) helps connect these volunteer community groups and is dedicated to nurturing and strengthening volunteering capability in Warrandyte. The working group has several initiatives underway and often comes together to share larger or more complex issues affecting the broader township.

Our councillor for Yarra Ward, Carli Lange, was the special guest at the WAVA September meeting. WAVA understands there are many who render amazing volunteer service in our community. We would love to hear about our amazing volunteers. Please write to the Editor of the *Warrandyte Diary*.

CHECK YOUR SKIN FOR UV DAMAGE AT NOVEMBER WARRANDYTE RIVERSIDE MARKET

Your skin health matters!

Visit the Sunsmart team at the Men's Shed Marquee at November Warrandyte Riverside Market. Use the UV damage viewer to reveal hidden skin damage and receive helpful advice on staying safe this summer.

Early detection can make all the difference!

Located next to the Scout Sausage Sizzle,
No booking required



Free sun safe hat for first 100 people.



Weaving First Nations history through learning

By **CLAIRE LAMBERT**

THIS TERM, the students in Grades 1 and 2 at Warrandyte Primary School have been learning about history — learning about what things have changed, and what has stayed the same over the decades.

Students have loved learning how daily life has changed, including things in people's homes, cars, the foods eaten, and inventions used.

Local Taungurung man and WPS parent Warwick Padgham was invited to show the students some First Nations objects to help them understand how First Nations people lived and the things they used in daily life.

Taungurung land is located in central Victoria, and includes areas like Mansfield, Yea, and Eildon.

Warwick is a Research Fellow at Melbourne University, working in

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

Warwick began by explaining one of the ways in which some First Nations People caught food, using boulders and rocks to modify creeks and rivers, and then using woven traps to catch short-finned eels.

He brought a hand-woven eel trap to show the children, who were able to take a close look and touch the artefact to get a clear understanding of how this was used.

The next item Warwick taught the children about was a daanak (coolamon), which is made from wood and was used to carry everything from water to food and even, when lined with possum skins, babies!

This was beautifully decorated with designs burnt onto the surface.

Warwick also showed a bullroarer, which was used for communicating

over distances.

This is a wooden, oval-shaped item, connected to a string, which would be swung around quickly in the air, creating a sound that travelled through the air to communicate with others.

Finally, the students saw a traditional possum skin cloak up close.

They learned that First Nations People would keep the same cloak throughout their lives, adding panels to it as they grew and needed to make it larger.

They saw the intricate designs burnt into the cloak's skin, used to tell stories and record life events.

The students asked questions to deepen their understanding and appreciation of these First Nations artefacts.

Moments like these don't just teach students about the past; they bring it to life.



Possum skin cloak

Photos: SUPPLIED



Eel trap

Creating connection — Grade 3–6 camp at WPS

By **MAY JAMO**

AS SPRING is felt in the air and Term 3 concluded, the Grade 3–6s at Warrandyte Primary School headed to camp.

Camp this year was set at the secluded YMCA camp at Lake Dewar, near Myrniong.

A beautiful bush setting near a clean lake supporting birdlife and fish.

This year's camp mantra was to be kind, be connected, try new things, and make new friends.

This mantra was woven into the three-day adventure camp where kids were supported by WPS staff, parents, and YMCA leaders.

Students engaged in eight separate

activities.

The challenges included canoeing, orienteering, kick bikes, an escape room, radio mics, hut building, and an amazing race.

By far, the most loved activity was the flying fox, situated 80 metres above the stunning sights of Werribee Gorge and 300 metres long.

Students were encouraged to set their own challenge.

Maybe it was getting a harness on, maybe it was climbing onto the platform and then heading down again, or maybe it was jumping off the platform backwards and playing rock, paper, scissors with their flying fox buddy.

Students experienced the true reward

for setting their own challenge.

Brave is pushing a little past your comfort zone and trying something new.

Brave is also setting a challenge and stopping when it's no longer fun or feeling right for you, even if your friends are making a different choice.

Brave in both instances was celebrated.

Both carry important life lessons for adolescence and beyond.

It's impossible to celebrate the success of a camp without speaking to the incredible work of the school staff.

All the staff were compassionate, child-focused, organised, and went above and beyond to make it work for each child.



Photos: SUPPLIED



First school swimming program for prep students

By AMANDA CALLAWAY

THERE ARE many firsts for prep students in their first year of school.

From learning new concepts in the classroom to navigating changing social situations in the playground, students are continually exposed to new experiences.

One of the biggest firsts this year has been the students' experience of their first school swimming program.

The anticipation of going on a bus each day to an unknown pool, with new swim teachers and the knowledge that they would need to change themselves, was overwhelming for most students.

However, with the support of family and classroom teachers, Andersons Creek Primary School students have shown incredible resolve and resilience.

The teachers were impressed by how the children approached the new challenge and worked with their swim teachers to make the most of

the lessons.

During the program, prep students practised blowing bubbles, floated on their backs like starfish, safely entered and exited the pool, and swam with kickboards.

A highlight for some was jumping off the dive board on the last day of the program.

These activities align closely with the early childhood goals of the Australian Curriculum, which emphasises movement sequences and body awareness.

School swimming programs add an extra layer of learning to children's regular external swimming lessons.

The shared experience promotes bonding amongst peers and can have a positive influence on students when they see each other learning new skills.

Watching a friend put their face in the water can be just what is needed to give another student the confidence to give it a go.

Not only are students practising their

swimming skills, but they are also balancing their attention between their swim teacher and the distractions of friends in their group.

Ultimately, it sets the scene for swimming in a social setting where students need to be focused on their personal safety in the water while interacting with friends.

Students continued to build their personal skills when they got out of the pool.

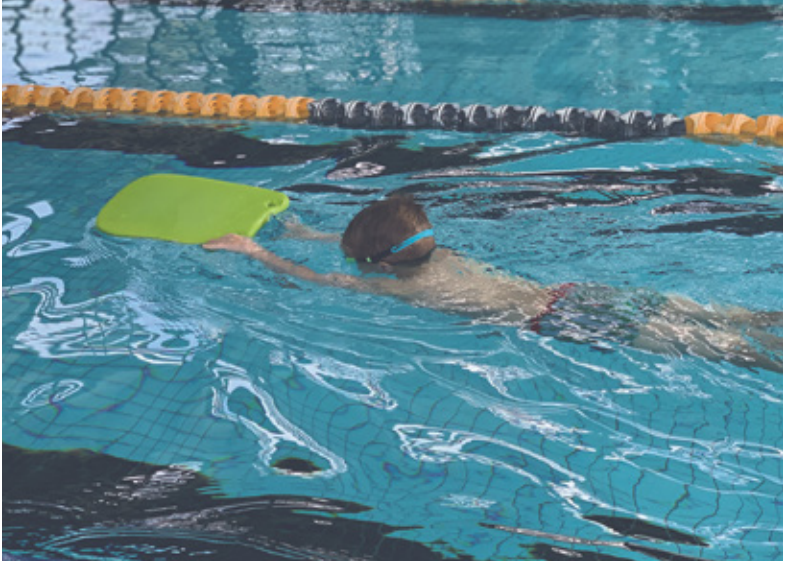
With minimal assistance, they developed the confidence to manage their own belongings and change themselves to return to school.

The prep students may have started the program with nervous anticipation, but they've now grown in confidence and will hopefully look forward to embracing new challenges.

The importance of this swimming experience extends to other water-based settings as we lead into the warmer weather.



Photos: SUPPLIED



Sun's out, head out!

gardening

Words & Pictures
By KATHY GARDINER

WINDING DOWN into Warrandyte on Tindals/Harris Gully Road, you pass the fabulous Aumanns Orchard Deli.

And to the left, the lovely old homestead — “Harry’s House”, I believe it used to be called.

What I love about Harry’s House at this time of the year is the side fence that is groaning under the weight of a stunning Wisteria.

I always pull over to the side of the road and just breathe it in.

The heady fragrance makes me smile — spring on steroids.

At this time of year, I am surrounded by twisting, climbing, and tumbling spring vines with flowers.

Along the front of my place is native clematis — among other names, it’s called “Old Man’s Beard” — with delicate yellow flowers; it curtains everything, even the old peppercorn.

On the side of the property is pink jasmine and chocolate vine.

Down in the bush, the purple mounds of Hardenbergia.

And down the back, the inevitable blackberries — a scrambling, tangle of canes and thorns that stretch for metres if left unattended.

The number of small plants that pop up this time of year is alarming.

You must, we all must, keep on top of these.

And Sweet Pittosporum — sigh.

Wisteria

I recently visited Montsalvat for the annual explosion of purple blooms.

The wisteria is well over 80 years old and was planted in the 1930s near the

Long Hall, beside the swimming pool.

Alowny Gardens near Yarra Glen — which has a great little nursery and café, as well as seven acres of Display Gardens to wander around — has a gorgeous Japanese Wisteria Arbour Walk, which was established in 1999.

I am suitably inspired and frantically looking for a plant.

I do have a 30+ wisteria in the garden, but I don’t think I have ever had a flower on it.

The ringtail possums love it so much.

Wisterias like full sun and well-drained soil — not a problem in Warrandyte.

If the position is too shady, then you will get lots of leaves but not many buds and therefore flowers.

They will need watering over hot summers and, obviously, a strong support trellis or arbour to handle the weight of the prolific blooms.

Spring is for flowers

Hardenbergia grows wild down the back of my property, as you will find in many places throughout Warrandyte.

Along Knees Road and Husseys Lane, it tumbles down the embankment.

This time of year, there are also white and pink native heaths and the “peas” are starting to flower too.

Jasmine comes in wide varieties too.

Chinese Star Jasmine has a beautiful fragrance on a strong vine with dark green leaves; the leaves bronze off over winter, and it blooms with masses of white flowers that look like pinwheels with pink buds.

It loves full sun to semi-shade and copes with hot summers and cold winters.

A beautiful cut vine to bring inside as a natural air freshener.

Pink Jasmine also has pink buds that open to star-shaped white flowers.

Sweet Jasmine is an Australian Native well worth the hunt if you want to keep your garden in keeping with surrounding flora.

All Jasmines will attract bees to your garden (yay), but be careful as they are toxic to cats and dogs if ingested.

Reaching

I have mentioned before that I love the tendrils that all these climbers send out in the hunt for something to cling on to.

Like a small child on monkey bars... reaching for the next bar.

“Thigmotropism” is the term to describe the action of a plant when it changes the direction of its growth in response to touch or physical contact.

A plant’s tendrils or roots will change direction in response to a touch stimulus.

Simply, the tendril on the side that touches the support pauses and grows more slowly, while the opposite side grows faster.

This makes the opposite tendril bend and wrap around the support to reach for the sunlight.

I find this fascinating. I wish I could sit for longer and watch it happen in slow motion.

I suppose we all reach out at times for support and strength from those around us.

We are all striving to reach the sunlight.

ABOUT KATHY

Kathy Gardiner is a passionate gardener who provides insights and advice into practical ways to manage your outdoor spaces.

The views in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the editorial team.



Estate planning when you have no next of kin

legal

By MELISA SLOAN

IN A WORLD where it is increasingly common to grow up with no siblings and a small extended family, or a family in which you may not have a close connection or are estranged, we are seeing the emergence of people struggling to determine who to leave their assets to upon their death, and who to appoint to important roles in their Will and Power of Attorney documents.

Here, we look at some options that may provide some clarification if you too find yourself in this situation.

Appointing an executor

The role of executor is an important role in your Will, as they will be entrusted with obtaining a Grant of Probate of your Will from the Supreme Court and the distribution of your assets to the beneficiaries listed in your Will.

Often, older people are reluctant to

appoint a sibling or friend of the same age to this role.

In this situation, a trusted niece or nephew or perhaps a younger friend may be able to take on the responsibility.

Alternatively, you could look to a trustee company, such as Equity Trustees, to undertake the role of your executor and the administration of your estate.

If a trustee company seems like your best option, make sure you familiarise yourself with the associated fees.

Deciding who gets your assets

Clients often comment, “I don’t have a partner, siblings or children, so I am not sure who to leave my assets to”.

In these instances, it is a good idea to reflect on the people who are most important in your life.

For many, close friends become their chosen family.

Godchildren or the children of close friends are another option, together with extended family members, such as cousins, that you have a relationship with.

Often, for those without an immediate family, gifts to a charity that is important to them are an important part of their legacy.

These charities or organisations may be a not-for-profit organisation for a cause close to your heart, an animal shelter, sporting organisation, educational, or research organisation.

You have the discretion to leave your wealth to one person in its entirety, or to distribute it amongst a number of beneficiaries in varying proportions; perhaps you may choose to leave some to close friends with whom you have close, meaningful relationships, some to extended family members, and the balance to charities.

This is an important decision, and you should give it careful thought.

Finding someone to take care of you whilst you are still here

For many, it can be daunting to consider who you would like to look after you should you become incapacitated, either through an accident, medical episode, or dementia, and who you would like to

make financial, legal, guardianship, and medical decisions for you in such instances.

As hard as it is to decide who to appoint for these significant roles, it is important that you do appoint someone to undertake the role of your attorney in respect to your Enduring Power of Attorney and your medical treatment decision maker in respect to your Appointment of Medical Treatment Decision Maker documents.

Take the time to review your networks and extended family and friendship groups to consider if there are any viable options for who you would feel comfortable appointing to these roles.

Always remember that you are not alone, that there are other people in the same position as you, and you may find one of your connections is experiencing the same dilemmas as you.

Chat with them about this, and feel encouraged to reach out and chat to someone who you think would be a prospective option to appoint as your attorney or medical treatment decision maker.

If you feel that there is no one that you trust to undertake the role of your attorney, you may give consideration to appointing a trustee company as your attorney in respect to your Enduring Power of Attorney.

Legal peace of mind regardless of how big your network is

There are a number of options available to you to leave your wealth upon your death, together with options available to put in place the appropriate people to care for you should you become incapacitated.

Taking the time to implement this will give you peace of mind and comfort that all is in place.

ABOUT MELISA

Melisa Sloan is an Estate Planning Lawyer based in Park Orchards. The advice in this column is of a general nature, and readers should consult a professional for bespoke guidance.

The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and may not reflect the position of the Editorial team.

200km swing for our kids’ hospital care

By MICHELLE CHAN

IF YOU HAVE ever spent time in hospital with a child, whether your own, a grandchild, or a young family friend, you will know how small they seem, how tightly they hold your hand, and how much you wish you could take away their pain, fear, and anxiety.

That is exactly what Emma-Rose Parsons wants to do, and she is one of our own.

Emma-Rose grew up in North Warrandyte and still lives locally with her husband and two boys.

She is a familiar face around the area, partly through her volunteer work in local schools, running workshops for parents and teachers on neurodivergence, anxiety, and supporting young people.

As a trained psychologist who has worked with so many children, she knows how overwhelming hospitals can be for a child.

That is why she set up Mountain to Melbourne, running ultramarathons to raise awareness and funds for our local paediatric units at Eastern Health.

The need is great.

Last year, Box Hill Hospital cared for 11,160 children, the Angliss 10,414, and Maroondah 10,221, plus 4,000 outpatients, with a new baby arriving every two hours.

Yet, these units miss out on most major fundraising appeals.

They need everything from coloured pencils for kids waiting for surgery, to ultrasound machines that help find tiny veins, to sensory kits that currently have no funding at all.

“We have the technology to give our kids excellent medical care here in our own backyards,” Emma-Rose says.

“We have medical staff who are passionate and knowledgeable and desperate to help children when they are so vulnerable.

“But we are missing the funds to

provide the medical teams with the resources they need to reduce pain, fear, and anxiety in our children.”

Emma-Rose started running to raise money for these three hospitals.

In April 2024, she ran 180km, setting off at night from Lake Mountain and finishing at Federation Square, passing each hospital along the way.

Last year, she ran more than 100km in a single day from Healesville Hospital to Eastland.

Together, those runs raised \$110,000, and this year’s total has already passed \$50,000.

The money raised has bought virtual reality goggles that transport worried children to another world during procedures, an ultrasound machine that means fewer needles and fewer tears, sensory carts, and toys for waiting rooms.

One parent shared how a Maroondah Hospital nurse noticed her daughter was frightened, gently talked her through her procedure and offered a VR headset to help her feel calm.

Donations help make moments like these possible.

In recognition of its impact, Mountain to Melbourne was named Maroondah’s Community Event of the Year.

A new challenge for 2026

On October 15 and 16, Emma-Rose takes on a new challenge: 200km, with Ringwood Mazda providing crew cars to keep her supplied along the way.

Hidden in her route is something special.

Designed by @GPSartGuru, her GPS track will form a child on a tree swing when drawn on the map, a reminder of what this is all about.

“Our kids need to get back to playing with their mates, learning, playing sport, finger painting at kindy.

“Our kids deserve excellent health care, right here in our own backyards.”

To celebrate this year’s run, the



community is invited to cheer Emma-Rose home on Friday, October 16, at Eastland Town Square, where Eastland is hosting a free finish line party from 4pm to 8pm.

There’ll be a DJ, fairy floss, face painting, stalls, and a teddy bear hospital for favourite toys.

Emma-Rose hopes to cross the line between 5:30pm and 6pm, and after 200km, she’ll need every cheer we can give.

You can support Emma-Rose and Eastern Health by donating at mountaintomelbourne.com.au.

Every gift, big or small, makes hospital visits gentler for children in our neighbourhood.

“Now is the time to donate to this local cause,” Emma-Rose says.

“I’ll run 200 km in a tutu to make that happen.

“So please join me on this important mission.”





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The Grand would like to say a huge thank you to our incredible community for helping us raise over \$20,200 for the Protect a Legend campaign, with every dollar donated to the Australian Prostate Centre.

We couldn’t have achieved this without the incredible support of the Warrandyte Pink Ladies and everyone who donated, contributed and helped spread the word.

A special thank you to Katie Talbert for your tireless efforts in raising awareness for all types of cancer.

We wish you all the very best in your next venture.



Thank you also to Gabriel Ng Member for Menzies and Nicole Werner MP for Warrandyte for your generous support of the campaign.

'Twas the night before football



By KATRINA BENNETT

*"We are the champions, my friend.
And we'll keep on fighting 'till the end"*

FATHER'S DAY 2026 was one for the history books.

For more reasons than one.

It turned out to be the most perfectly executed celebration since the long-suffering father of all my offspring became a contributor to expanding the gene pool of the Australian population well over two decades ago.

Why was it such a success?

I had nothing to do with it.

I mean, sure I tried.

The day before there was the typical slowly dawning realisation that a Hallmark holiday was just around the corner.

Thankfully, Amazon's lightning-quick 12-hour delivery service ensured some presents were secured.

With the culinary skills of a raccoon on crack, it was definitively not on the cards for me to provide a wealth of edible treats.

So, an extensive period of time was spent both online — and on the phone — trying to obtain a breakfast/brunch/lunch/dinner or even a midnight snack, which was never ruled out.

For my optimism is inversely proportional to my smoke detector tester style of cooking.

Just as the internet was about to run out of edible options for a family of five, the patriarch, completely oblivious to the impending grave disappointment he was unknowingly facing, approached with a beaming smile and proclaimed he couldn't wait for the next day.

Oh, sweet baby cheeses.

Then he uttered the magic words.

"Yeah, I reckon the boys have a great chance in the Grand Final."

All the cogs started whirring and clacking away, the echo deafening in the great expanse of my apparently increasingly empty skull.

Of course, our youngest was playing in the U19s Grand Final.

The almighty Warrandyte Bloods were going for the three-peat, with the Reserves and Seniors vying for premierships as well.

And just like that, all my problems were solved.

No need to round up all the troops, or book a fancy meal anywhere.

I mean, let's face it, that ship had long sailed; it had passed through the Heads and was on its way to the Cape of Good Hope.

Sure, it was no longer football, meat pies, kangaroos, and Holden cars.

But there were EVs galore, designer dogs in scarves, beanies, bacon and egg rolls, and most certainly football.

Boy, was there football.

As someone who has attended all their children's games from U8s



through to Seniors, I've never really watched the sport.

It's just not interested me.

But I've been happy to be on the sidelines to "support" them.

And socialise.

What a great way to catch up with all my local friends.

I was locked in.

This was a big game.

A shiny medal and a big flag were on the line.

If there was any query about my heart and whether I need to participate in any over-50s health checks, fear not.

I survived the stress test.

In a match that was closer than bark to a tree, with the lead changing more times than Taylor Swift has written a song about an ex-boyfriend, the siren unexpectedly rang, and the U19 Bloods were 2026 Premiers by two points.

Adrenaline depleted, I thought it was time to depart, but nope, apparently, we had to stay for the Reserves and Seniors games.

Able to chill out more for these matches, I was as entertained by the crowd as the football.

In particular, I loved the audience participation.

The completely biased one-liners zinging around, directed to the apparently Specsavers-deprived umpires, with no real cohesion within the spectatorship.

The passion and self-righteous delusions were aspirational.

No clue what they meant, nor do

I ever care to find out, but some of my favourites included "Baaaaaalllll", "He's been at it all day ump" (not two minutes into the game), "Baaacckkkk", "Too Far", "Deliberate" and "High".

Footy game or childcare centre.

Same, same but different.

Eventually, the final siren of the final game sounded.

Wazza D was three from three.

A day on the paddock to remember.

The sire of my children had had the best day ever, and I had gotten away with forgetting yet another key celebration... until his next birthday.

May I never have to watch a bunch of people chase a hand-stitched cowhide ball lined with an Italian cotton-and-latex canvas around an oval ever again.

*"We are the champions
No time for losers
Cause we are the champions...
Of Div 4"*

ABOUT KATRINA

Taking the minutiae of everyday living and throwing it through the blender, Katrina's mishaps and misadventures show that the modern slice of life is anything but mundane.

Details in this column may have been altered, masked, or even completely fabricated to protect the identities of those involved, and all musings should be read as a complete work of fiction, loosely based on real life.

The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and may not reflect the position of the Editorial team.

Run/walk to end the Coward Punch

By SUSAN FOREMAN

THERE IS A history of tragedy from the "Coward Punch" in this part of Melbourne.

In 2012, 22-year-old David Cassia, a former student at Warrandyte High School, died from a coward punch in Rye, during a New Year's Eve celebration.

Fast forward to 2016, and 19-year-old Patrick Cronin died from a coward punch outside a Hotel in Diamond Creek as he tried to pull his friend out of a fight.

That same year, the Pat Cronin Foundation was established, and for more than a decade has been educating Primary and Secondary School students about the dangers of the coward punch, reducing violence, and improving the wellbeing of Australian youth with their Be Wise program.

The Foundation also has a Play Wise Live Wise presentation for Sporting Clubs that not only shares Pat's story, but demonstrates to players, coaches, parents and communities how to create safer, more supportive environments in sport and beyond.

Support for the Foundation happens through fundraising, and there are a number of fundraising events which have contributed to the Pat Cronin Foundation.

Manningham residents will remember Manningham's 2026 Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year, Ben Duffy, who ran 52 marathons in 52 weeks, raising \$34,000 for the Foundation.

Your chance to run/walk

For the last nine years, the Eltham Fun Run and Walk has been proudly

supporting the Pat Cronin Foundation.

Event organisers Aligned Leisure say over the last nine years, they have raised over \$90,000 and hope to reach \$100,000 in 2026.

They can only meet this thorough community participation so need everyone who can run or walk to register and join in.

Starting and finishing at Eltham Leisure Centre, and utilising the Diamond Creek and Main Yarra Trail, the 5km and 10km distances are on offer.

The 5km event takes participants along the Diamond Creek Trail and around Lower Eltham Park, and walkers can stroll with their pram or their four-legged friend.

For those looking for something more challenging, the 10km event crosses the Yarra for a short loop around Westerfolds before heading back along the Main Yarra Trail.

With coffee vans, food stalls, and representatives from local groups and businesses at the Start/Finish, and registrations between \$30 and \$40 — Sunday, November 15 is looking to be a great morning to improve not just your own health and wellbeing, but those of young Australians.

Warrandyte Diary and Manningham & Nillumbik Bulletin editor, James Poyner, will be taking on the 10km distance this year.

Visit bit.ly/4rKFOUK to register, and we'll see you on the start line.

Call out for local sponsors and stallholders

If you own a local business and are interested in sponsoring the event or having a stall in the event village, email eltham@alignedleisure.com.au for more information



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An inspiring way to start your week!
Experience Catholic Mass in the peace and beauty of Warrandyte or Park Orchards.

Record tennis numbers for summer teams

By CRAIG HASLAM

WARRANDYTE Tennis Club (WTC) is becoming the place to be for Junior (and Senior) competition tennis. A record 15 Junior teams are competing in the Eastern Region Tennis tournament this summer. The teams range from modified Orange Ball competition with kids aged 7-10 all the way to the elite Rubbers competition with the kids playing best-of-three-set singles “rubbers”. The recently finished Winter season saw six of the 12 teams make finals, with three teams progressing to their respective grand finals.

WTC Junior Club Champs

Warrandyte Tennis has celebrated another great annual Junior Club Championships. This year’s event was a raging success with enthusiastic participation at all levels from ages eight to 18. In the Juniors, we have an energetic and competitive crop of quality players coming up through the ranks. They continue to challenge each other and, more importantly, play with an amazing demeanour and sportsmanship. They always say you can judge the success of a club by its Junior program,

and based on the effort of our current crop of 12&U players, in particular, the future looks bright. In the 12&U event, there were 10 competitors, and most of them were in contention to win the title. They played a round-robin Singles and Doubles format over three hours. Eventually, the Singles championship came down to two players, with Sean Peng defeating Dylan Andreas 6-2 for the title. In the Doubles, Louie Gao and Lucas Wang finished ahead of Isaac Tsui and Olivia Shen for the title. In the 18&U Boys, it was a similarly open field, with Adam Filardo defeating Clarence Liu 6-3 for his first Club Championship title. In the 18&U Girls, it was Annabelle Tan winning her 6th Club Championship over Maryrose Kalunga 8-3. In the Open 18&U Doubles, Christopher Pollock and Kousei Yau defeated Callum Dudgeon and Adam Filardo, 6-3. Overall, it was a fantastic event, and hopefully it will be even bigger and better in 2027. If you have kids who are interested in joining the competitions at WTC, email Craig Haslam at info@thetennissguru.com.au.



OR11 Premiers



Junior Club Champs 18&U Doubles



Junior Club Champs 18&U Girls



Junior Club Champs 12&U

A season to celebrate at Warrandyte Tennis Club

By MICHAEL ASHFIELD

THERE HAS BEEN plenty to cheer about at Warrandyte Tennis Club (WTC), with a premiership, some strong finals appearances, and a Club Championship tournament that served up both quality tennis and healthy competition.

Premiership honours for Warrandyte

Warrandyte’s Senior competition teams gave it their all this season. WTC’s Grade 10 pennant team, captained by Michael Ashfield, narrowly missed out on finals after a competitive campaign this winter. Of the three Eastern Region teams, two reached the semi-finals, with both Singles and Doubles Section 3 teams finishing in the top two spots on the ladder. Having Warrandyte sitting first and second was a terrific result, and made for a little friendly rivalry around the club. The second-placed side bowed out in a close Semi-Final, while the ladder leaders went all the way. Led by club coach Alistair, they capped off their season with a commanding Grand Final victory to claim the Premiership.

Congratulations to the Premiers, and a big thank you to everyone who represented Warrandyte throughout the season. With summer competition just around the corner, there won’t be long to wait before it’s time to do it all again. Familiar faces and a new champion — Senior Club Championships 2026 The Senior Club Championships attracted WTC’s strongest Singles entry numbers in several years. Players began in groups of four, competing for places in the knockout draw across several nights during the week. The tennis was competitive, the spirit was excellent, and there was no shortage of worthwhile watching. The Men’s Singles Final between Michael Ashfield and Daniel Mitzi delivered a particularly entertaining contest. Michael made a strong start, taking the opening set 6-2, before Daniel produced a serving masterclass. With first serves seemingly landing at will, Daniel claimed the second set 6-4 to send the match into a decider. Michael responded with an early break and a 2-0 lead, then kept his foot down to secure the title 6-2, 4-6, 6-0.

The win continued his unbeaten record in Club Championship Singles Finals, claiming his 8th title. The Women’s Singles Final reunited last year’s finalists, Annabelle Tan and Susan Kamau. This time, Susan turned the tables with an outstanding 6-0, 6-1 victory, claiming her first senior club championship after Annabelle’s run of titles in recent years. A huge congratulations to Susan on a memorable breakthrough. The Senior Doubles also drew a strong field, with plenty of quality partnerships contesting the knockout rounds. After facing each other in the Singles Final, Michael and Daniel joined forces to take on coach Alistair and William Yang in the Doubles decider. Apparently, playing against each other was excellent preparation for playing together. Michael and Daniel proved too strong on the day, taking the title 6-0, 6-2. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the championships such an enjoyable event. Between the team success and the individual performances, there’s plenty to celebrate, and plenty to look forward to this summer.



Senior Club Champs Singles Winners and Runners Up

Draft hopes for Tate Hodgson

Cricket season begins

By PATRICK McALARY

WITH THE local footy season, as well as the men's AFL season, now wrapped up, you would be forgiven for thinking the locals' interest in footy has come to a close.

This could not be further from the truth.

October holds the trade period, with the national draft taking place on October 19 and 20.

One highly talented local, Tate Hodgson, will be watching with great interest, hoping his name is called.

Tate Hodgson, a 197cm key defender, has had a remarkable journey to date.

He began his journey in his early years at the Warrandyte Junior Football Club before moving to Park Orchards.

As the youngest of four sport-obsessed children, he quickly learned he had to be competitive and fearless to succeed.

He grew up admiring match winners such as Dustin Martin, as well as idolising some of the game's great defenders such as Alex Rance and, in more recent years, Harris Andrews and Connor O'Sullivan.

In 2024, Tate joined Talent League side Northern Knights in the Under-16s level, where he impressed so much that he was given the chance to play some Under-18s games as well.

That season, Tate was named in the Back-Pocket of the U16s All Australian Team.

The following year proved challenging, as a stress fracture kept him out for the entirety of the season.

Despite this, he was still named to join the AFL National Academy for the 2026 season, describing it as his "biggest achievement" in his footy so far.

During the 2026 season, across 12 Talent League games, the Key defender put together an impressive stat line.

Averaging 15.8 disposals and 3.8 marks a game.

When he was playing for Vic Metro, he looked just as good, if not better, as he averaged 15.5 disposals and 4.8 marks across the four games.

His best game for Vic Metro came against South Australia, as he pulled together 19 disposals at 90 per cent efficiency, eight intercepts and seven marks.

Tate stated getting to represent Victoria was a "special moment" for his season.

Not just for what it represents, but because it gave him the opportunity to play with and against the nation's best young talent.

Every player who reaches an elite level needs a weapon that sets them apart.

Tate was open and honest with what he believes are his biggest strengths.

"Definitely my aerial ability, to impact contests in the air, and my ability to mark to go along with that.

"I have also gone to work on my ball use this year, wanting to break lines from the back half".

Getting the chance to play in the AFL would be an absolute dream for Tate, as he said that after joining Collingwood for a week in their pre-season, it lit a fire for his future aspirations.

"I was lucky enough to do a week there; it was very eye-opening — their attention to detail with their craft.

"Being around the big names, such as the Daicos brothers, seeing the work they put in, and the standards the AFL players set, it certainly made me a lot hungrier to chase that goal."

After an amazing season, Tate was a crucial part of the Northern Knights finishing on top of the ladder at the end of the home-and-away season.

He was also a pivotal part of Vic Metro's undefeated National Championship campaign.

Come draft night, the name Tate Hodgson will certainly be one to look out for.

Photo: SUPPLIED



Tate playing with Northern Knights

By PATRICK McALARY

THE WARRANDYTE Cricket Club (WCC) has been getting back into the swing of things.

As well as a number of practice games, players from the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd XI recently attended a training camp in Sale.

It was a full weekend of cricket and team-building exercises.

The cricket started early in the morning as the group headed to the local cricket club to train.

"The Warrandyte Cricket Club wants to say a huge thank you to the Bundalaguah Cricket Club for allowing our players to use their grounds and facilities for the weekend," a club representative told the *Diary*.

"Players had the opportunity to show their skill in an early net session, before playing an intra-club game.

"Strong performances with the bat and ball for the club's first opportunity to play since March.

"The following day also consisted of a strong net session as well as a fielding session to finish off," they said.

September saw practice games

against Plenty and Wantirna South, giving Ones Captain, Ayrton Dehmel, an opportunity to see how the 1st XI could look going into the new season.

Twos Captain Ben Taylor also got to see how his team performs in an intra-club match.

The club has also named its Captains for the Threes and Fours.

Brad Valentine will helm the 3rd XI, while Banjo Smyth has been named Captain for the Fours.

The WCC has been putting in the hard yards early this off-season, as the club aims to set itself up for more success.

The premier grades have a strong balance of experience and talent across all areas of the game.

Due to the weather, the Opening Round of the 2026/27 Season was cancelled.

The season will hopefully open during Round 2 on October 10.

While the Firsts will be away at Lilydale, the 2nd, 3rd, 6th, and 8th XI will be playing at home.

As well as eight Senior sides, WCC has a strong Women's program, as well as Veterans and Junior teams.

New Cricketers are always welcome.

Photo: BAILEY DIXON



Gabriel Ng MP
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Premiership glory for the U18 Girls



Back: Zara (Rem), Taya, Holly, Scarlet, Zara (Teags), Emer, Zara (Vitts), Darcy, Milla, Lucy, Issy, Sashie, Ashling, Charlotte, Madee
Front: Mia, Jas, Gabby, Eden, Marley, Saraya, Sienna

UNDER-18 YOUTH GIRLS

By **JAMES POYNER** and **DALE VITIRITTI**

FRIENDS, Family, and supporters of the Warrandyte Junior Football Club descended on Ford Park, Ivanhoe, on Sunday, September 6 to witness a Grand Final for the history books.

Warrandyte's U18 Youth Girls (1) took on Camberwell in the hunt for Premiership glory.

While most footy players never get to play in a grand final or win

a premiership, the efforts and achievements of this group have been quite remarkable.

They have dominated Division 1 of the Yarra Junior Football League Girls' competition, with many players having four or five premierships under their belt, and are looking to make 2026 a six-peat.

Warrandyte had met the Sharks twice in the home-and-away season, winning one apiece.

Camberwell came out strongly in the first quarter, moving the ball well and getting the ball deep into their forward line.

Despite strong defending from Marley and Emer, Camberwell kicked the only two goals of the quarter.

Camberwell again started strongly in the second quarter, but some strong marking by Jas stopped any scoring.

Midway through the quarter, Warrandyte started winning the stoppages through the ruck work of Rem and the strong work of Milla.

Eventually, after a few repeat forward entries, Taya was able to take a strong mark and converted for the goal.

The third quarter was a bit of an arm wrestle with neither side able to score.

Vitts and Eden continued to work

hard to keep the ball moving towards the Warrandyte end, and then a strong tackle by Taya resulted in a goal.

Unfortunately for Warrandyte, a quick reply from Camberwell saw the Sharks leading by nine points at three-quarter time.

At the final huddle, the girls spoke about all the hard work they had put in during the year, often having to play without a bench and how they were determined to finish the game strongly.

With their usual ruck injured, Lucy and Issy stepped into the role and performed strongly, allowing

Warrandyte to get the ball forward continuously.

Mia was rewarded for playing in front, and converted a goal and then, with three minutes remaining, Teags swept onto a loose ball, kicking the goal to put Warrandyte in front for the first time of the game.

Camberwell had the ball in their forward line at the end, but strong defending meant they were unable to score, and as the siren sounded, Warrandyte were the one-point winners.

Player spotlight: Eden Ferguson and Zara Vitiritti

THE *WARRANDYTE* Diary spoke with Eden Ferguson (EF) and Zara Vitiritti (ZV) about their time at Warrandyte Junior Football Club, as well as their future sporting prospects.

Q: Tell us about your experience playing at Warrandyte Junior Football Club.

EF: I started in Auskick at Warrandyte, then went into the Under-10s program at Warrandyte also.

We had some great coaches, and throughout that I really found my love for footy.

Highlights include making good friendships along the way, and we were lucky enough to win a number of premierships as well.

ZV: Being the first group of girls for the club to play all the way from the bottom age groups until the transition to Seniors felt like such a memorable

achievement for all the girls.

It really showcased how far female football has come within Warrandyte, I've been fortunate enough to have many highlights of my Junior Football times, but my favourite would have to be my first Premiership in U15.

Q: How was the 2026 season?

EF: Coming into the start of the season, we had lost a few of our important players, so we knew it may be a tough season.

And it had its moments, but overall our group, coaching staff, and volunteers helped us to secure another flag.

ZV: It was a very fun but challenging year.

There was a bit of pressure coming in from being premiers the year prior, but we had a solid effort throughout the year, winning all but two games throughout the season.

Q: What was your experience of the Grand Final?

EF: It was a bit of a rollercoaster.

Coming into the day, playing on Ford Park with hardly any bench naturally created its doubts, as well as throughout the game, but luckily enough, we pulled through to secure the flag, so I was super stoked and proud of the girls for that.

ZV: It was a bit of a different experience to other years, knowing it would be my last game of Junior Football ever.

It was very exciting, yet you could feel the nerves in the room.

Q: What did you enjoy most about being part of Warrandyte Junior Football Club?

EF: Honestly, just playing football surrounded by the girls, including some of whom I've played with since I was nine.

Also being coached by good coaches who led us to premierships, one of them being my dad.

ZF: I enjoyed the sense of community most within the club.

I was lucky enough to play with such a great group of people and the friendships I have with those girls over my nine years of football.

Q: Will you join the Senior Women's team at Warrandyte, or go professional?

EF: I have been playing footy at Warrandyte my whole life.

It has given me so many opportunities and good memories, so I am planning on continuing to transition into the Senior club for sure.

ZV: Next year, I'm planning on playing for Warrandyte in the Senior Women's, which will be a new challenge that I'm looking forward to.

I was fortunate to play a few games for them this year, and I'm looking forward to playing with some of the same girls, as well as some new people.

Q: If you could go back in time and give your younger self any advice or encouragement, what would it be?

EF: Try not to put any pressure on yourself.

We play it because we love it, and to remember to always focus on that.

ZV: Get involved in everything there is to be offered, especially within a smaller community.

Being involved in the WJFC has provided me with many opportunities to build friendships, showcase leadership, and even provide work opportunities.



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ORTHODONTICS

Back-to-back Bloods complete invincible season

RESERVES

BY JOSH HUNTLY

A PERFECT SEASON deserved a perfect finish.

And that's exactly what the Bloods Reserves delivered.

Warrandyte defended its twos crown with a two-goal victory over Kilsyth, completing what is believed to be the first undefeated Reserves season in the club's history.

The Bloods' 18th and final win of the 2026 campaign delivered back-to-back premierships for the all-conquering squad, with a low-scoring thriller, going goal-for-goal for the majority of the game, and the result still up in the air with a minute to go.

The sealer would eventually fall on the boot of a retiring club great — but it was one of the rising stars who broke the contested deadlock of the first quarter at East Ringwood Reserve.

Only Kilsyth had managed a score in the first eight minutes of the game — a behind — from a series of probing entries as the Bloods back-six staged a trademark repelling act, before Noah Kendal's spearing pass inside-50 to Angus Boell ended with the young gun's booming set shot conversion from the arc.

Tim Caldwell and Luke Saunders were influential in the first term, but only another behind could be mustered on the scoreboard as the buffer at quarter-time sat at a goal Warrandyte's way.

It was another lengthy scrap before Kilsyth drew level, but a marvellous link-up play down the wing ended in the hands of Jack Bradford, who snapped on the run from 40 metres to hand the Bloods back the lead.

The Cougars wouldn't be dissuaded with a return major, but Jarrah Aitken took his moment when presented with a strong contested mark and a set shot that sailed true, also from the arc, to show the Bloods had brought their kicking boots.

At half-time, the scoreboard read 20-14, going the way of Warrandyte — the Bloods had taken their moments, but could they find another gear against an improved Kilsyth?

The Cougars brought the pressure early but again, as they have done all season, a backline spearheaded on the day by Ryan Paterson and Ayden Sukkel was able to intercept and rebound effectively.

After an earlier miss at goal, Jack Wilson lased in on the sticks from 50 metres to get Warrandyte out to a game-high two-goal lead, and with Caldwell and Bradford continuing to have a big say in the middle, the ball remained parked in the front half of the ground for the Bloods.

But a goal on the siren of three-quarter-time saw Kilsyth back within seven points at the final change, setting up a thrilling run to the line.

From here, the nucleus of the Bloods Premiership win was built in moments. Warrandyte quickly went inside 50, and in a goal-square scramble Josh Meyers's snap on goal sailed



Photos: TREWELLA SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

through the middle to fire up the Bloods supporters and get the margin back out to two goals.

The joy was short-lived as Kilsyth again managed to get a replying goal, and with 19 minutes gone there was still only a goal in between the two rampaging teams.

Enter Luke Dunn.

A spilled ball in attack was deftly gathered, snapped and converted by the veteran Bloods star, the sealing goal of the 2026 premiership triumph, with the siren sounding shortly after to confirm an unbeaten season.

It was a flag with stars on every line; Tim Caldwell's unbroken run and carry was vital, Aden Hood was a force in

the ruck, and Ryan Paterson, Ayden Sukkel, and Michael Cullum all played a key role.

But for his undented intercepting ability and composure across half-back, best-on-ground honours were deservedly bestowed on Luke Saunders.

Last-gasp efforts deliver Warrandyte Under-19 glory

UNDER-19S

BY JOSH HUNTLY

TASKED WITH opening Warrandyte's Grand Final Day three-peat bid on a winning note, the Bloods Under-19s delivered a classic.

A pulsating back-and-forth clash went right down to the final few seconds of the season, a far cry from Warrandyte's 44-point defeat of minor premier and grand final opponent Bulleen-Templestowe in the second Semi-Final.

But in hindsight, the nature of the young Bloods' victory may have paved the way for the teams to come.

It took five minutes into the game for Warrandyte to slot the first goal of the game on a calm East Ringwood day, but it was a belter to start: Archie Woods'

checkside dribble was an immediate highlight to get the Bloods away early.

The Bullants replied with three unanswered goals, but backman Lou Callan was steadfast on multiple occasions, helping the Bloods avoid further damage.

Eight points in arrears at quarter-time, the combination of Sam Ohlen, Charlie Hovey, and Archie Rogan began to influence through the midfield, and electric forward Jamie Guymmer's goal on the run helped Warrandyte snare the first of the second term.

The Bullants bit back as the Bloods failed to capitalise at the other end, booting 2.7 before ruckman Toby Potter's dominance at the contest translated on the scoreboard, a deadeye snap shot bringing Warrandyte back within two points.

A goal on the stroke of half-time

helped Bulleen-Templestowe hold an eight-point gap at the main break, but the Bloods pressure cooker was dialled up to 11 to get back within striking distance.

Guymmer's second goal of the day, early in the third stanza, drew the Bloods back within a solitary point, and it was Ohlsen, mirroring Warrandyte's pressure footy game, with a holding the ball and converted set shot to get his side back into the lead.

A wicked bounce of the ball helped the Ants earn an immediate six-point reply, but key forward Sam Pollock, an ever-present threat without taking full advantage so far, found his range at just the right time to extend the Bloods out again.

The difference was only two points at the final break, and suspicions of a close-run barn burner came to fruition

in a nail-biting fourth quarter.

Potter continued to provide both first use out of the ruck and a solid aerial target, while Pollock and Mason Scott-Bomert lifted their own output.

It was Guymmer, however, who broke through for the all-important first goal of the fourth term, with a sublime link-up through the corridor involving Tom Collins and Hovey, with the latter's spot-up kick allowing Guymmer to slot his third.

The Ants weren't through — a long-range effort returned the margin to two points with 12 minutes to play.

It was the last goal of the game as the race to the siren boiled down to moments in defence.

Collins, Callan, and Jayden Lynch stood up down back as the Ants made desperate lunges, while strong contested grabs from Potter down the

line prevented any further advances.

There was one last bite from the Ants, however, as a footrace into Bulleen-Templestowe's forward 50 with seconds to go saw Lynch and Lucas Cardetta play the last line of defence.

It was a footrace they won to see the ball shepherd over the boundary line, and with the ball stuck in a contest on the outer flank, the siren sounded, and the Bloods erupted in celebration of a two-point grand final win that had everyone on the edge of their seats.

There were heroes everywhere for the Bloods, but there was no denying a dominant day out from Toby Potter, who was rightfully adjudged best-on-ground.

It was the Under-19s first flag since 2023, and as it turns out, the perfect curtain-raiser for what was to come.

Photos: TREWELLA SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY



Day of the Dyte

Photos: TREWELLA SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY



SENIORS

By JOSH HUNTLY

“BRING IT HOME” adorned Warrandyte’s Senior banner as captain Oscar Hodgson led his side out onto the East Ringwood Reserve with a steely resolve and the Bloods faithful at full voice.

That’s because the two sides before them, the Reserves and Under-19s, had already tasted premiership glory, setting up the club’s first stab at a clean sweep since the all-conquering 2015 campaign.

This was to be the final act of Warrandyte’s three-part grand final bonanza, one that could deliver the Bloods their first Seniors flag in 11 years and promotion back to Division 3 of the Eastern Football League.

Their opponent on September 6 was Bulleen-Templestowe, a side the Bloods had beaten by eight and five points, respectively, in their previous two encounters.

But Grand Final Day has a way of levelling the playing field, and despite the Bloods dropping just one game all season, nobody in red and white was about to underestimate the Bullants.

However, Warrandyte came in highly billed for a reason.

Josh Beasley, man-of-the-match in the qualifying final, started as he finished that game, impeded off the ball inside-50 and duly converting his set shot to hand Warrandyte the perfect start.

The Bloods’ pressure was up early, and a costly corridor turnover for Bulleen resulted in Darcy Blakely launching from 50 to make it a quick-fire double.

It was Kyle Appleby who then ran into an open goal to make it three unanswered goals before the Bullants had even scored.

Blakely continued to create havoc in midfield, and the one-two combination of Beasley and Koby Gilmour kept the Bullants on their toes.

But they soon found their range, and despite Hunter Hodgson and Will Nelson holding it down in the backline, Bulleen snapped its goalless drought 20 minutes into the first quarter.

The Ants pulled closer with a long-range bomb within the first minute of the second quarter, but Taylor Hayton’s dominance in the ruck proved telling, with Will Grybas the beneficiary by finding Gabriel Stumpf, the Bloods’ leading goalkicker, who booted his one and only goal for the day.

But his aerial presence, regardless, proved the benefit of those at his feet, with Charlie Sizer’s exquisite left-foot checkside helping Warrandyte to their second goal of the term.

An ice-cool Jack Grybas then made it on three on the spin with his first major of the day, as Nelson and Sharpe made some crucial intercepts at the other end.

Beasley continued to threaten forward of square, bringing the ball to ground and to the advantage of Harry Taylor, whose snap on goal caused brief confusion as umpires attempted

to ascertain whether or not it made the distance.

It did, and Warrandyte was out to a game-high, 31-point lead.

But the Bloods’ dominance around the footy was swiftly undone in time on, with the Ants coming from the clouds to boot four goals on the eve of half-time.

With the margin now a solitary goal in the blink of an eye, the Ants exposed Warrandyte’s Achilles heel at the resumption with another major kicked in the first minute, and remarkably a point shortly after saw them claim the lead for the first time in the Grand Final.

Under assault early in the third quarter, it took more Taylor brilliance to break the shackles — he flew high for what appeared to be the mark of the day until it was revealed Beasley had been impinged next to him, coolly converting a set shot for his second of the day.

Warrandyte’s pressure game returned, and Kyle Appleby best represented that, trapping his opponent holding the ball for his second goal to calm the red and white faithful.

Oscar Hodgson and Will Grybas lifted their output around the ball as the intensity rose, with a blistering stalemate occurring between the arcs and the Ants pushing into attack often.

But it was Beasley again against the flow of play who won a footrace inside the Bloods’ 50, caught his man holding the ball, and slotted his third major to establish another buffer for a resurgent Warrandyte.

It was in stark contrast to Bulleen-Templestowe, who had booted 1.7 for the quarter.

With a two-goal buffer and one quarter left to play in their season, Bloods coach Jake Whiting gathered his group and called for one final push.

And an end-to-end barnburner soon answered the question of whether they would provide it.

The Bloods found Appleby in front of goal once more, and the renowned workhorse steadied in open play to slot his third goal.

Still, Bulleen-Templestowe had another gear, and with three unanswered goals managed to steal the lead in what was evolving into a classic Division Four decider.

So, who would lift in Warrandyte’s hour of need?

In Bloods folklore, it will read that Koby Gilmour answered the call.

Quiet since the opening term, the young Bloods forward presented strongly down the line and, from 50 metres out on a slight angle, pummelled a memorable set shot through the middle to retake the lead.

Hayton’s elite tap work at the stoppage then proved telling, and a tumbling ball from an influential skipper in Oscar Hodgson once again found the towering Gilmour.

This time closer to goal, he made no mistake to get Warrandyte out to 11 points with 19 minutes played, a chant of “Koby” going up from a frenzied Bloods supporter base behind the goals.

Beasley continued to apply forward

pressure as Nelson, Sharpe, and Hunter Hodgson in defence worked hard to ensure no comeback was forthcoming.

And when Will Grybas sauntered inside 50, sailed for home, and saw his kick split the middle, he confirmed none did, sealing the flag.

The ball was fittingly in Gilmour’s hands as the final siren sounded, prompting a red and white wave to invade the ground and confirming the Bloods’ first senior flag since 2015.

Hayton’s completed a near-unstoppable year in the ruck with a rousing performance on Grand Final Day, while Taylor and Blakely were lively in the midfield battle.

Nelson and Sharpe down back were exemplary.

But one man had saved his best footy for finals — Josh Beasley’s three goals and tireless contested work saw him judged best-on-ground, backing up his man of the match billing from the previous final.

With the changerooms reaching fever pitch as Warrandyte sung one of the more raucous songs in recent memory, it was decided that wasn’t enough — all and sundry were invited on to the ground to belt out the famous Bloods tune.

We are Warrandyte boomed across the suburb of East Ringwood as all three teams, support staff, and supporters joined in, bookending a perfect day for those privileged enough to wear the colours.

It was the second time in club history Warrandyte has swept Grand Final Day.



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Jellis Craig welcomes David Green

Jellis Craig North East is delighted to welcome David Green to the team as a Senior Sales Consultant.

A lifelong Warrandyte / North Warrandyte resident, David brings a wealth of residential sales experience and local knowledge to the role, having enjoyed a long and successful career with Carter Real Estate before joining the Jellis Craig Manningham & Maroondah sales team in 2018.

Since then, David has gained valuable experience across a range of sectors, including property development and automotive sales, further developing his skills in client relationships and negotiation.

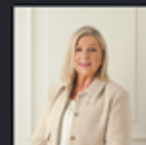
Now returning to residential real estate, David is excited to reconnect with the industry and bring his experience and knowledge back to where he is most passionate.

We're thrilled to have David joining the Jellis Craig team.

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