

3799 Connect

Connecting our Community



Summer Biking Warburton's Trails

by Jayne D'Arcy

Have you noticed more vehicles with bike racks parking in Warburton? Businesses are already scrambling to meet the needs of the increasing number of cyclists. With Warburton Bike Park opening additional trails early 2026 it's a great time to reflect on the myriad of biking options around Warburton town!

1. O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail (35 km). This predominantly flat gravel track is under a stunning tree canopy with great views. Best suited to gravel and mountain bikes.
2. The back road up Donna Buang (16 km). The mostly-gravel C505 route from Don Road to near Donna Buang's peak is affectionately known as Dirty Donna. Perfect for gravel or mountain bikes.
3. Warburton to Lilydale Rail Trail (40 km). The original rail trail now connects to the

Yarra Valley Trail in Lilydale which stretches to north of McIntyre Lane, so riders can make this a 100 km return adventure from Warby. Most suited to gravel or a study road bike.

4. Warburton Bike Park (30 km). #thefirst30kms of this gravity mountain bike park opened in July 2025. Definitely for mountain bikes (ideally e-bikes for the ascent).
5. Warby to Marysville to Donna Buang Loop (125 km). Head out on a scenic day-long adventure via Reefton Spur to Lake Mountain with lunch in Marysville. Good for road bikes but beware the Acheron Way gravel!

After a professionally-guided mountain biking adventure? Check out Warburton Adventure Co. They offer bike retail and hire at WAC HQ 3375 Warburton Hwy, Warburton.

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3799 Connect

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Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

by John Ridley

From all six of us who have been producing 3799 Connect, we wish you a very happy holiday season, a wonderful time with friends and family and a very relaxing break. And to those who are working through or on standby for the Fire Season – a big Thank You!

This is a combined edition for December and January. The next edition will be out at the start of February - by which time we will have had your comments through the survey.

The feedback that we have had has been very encouraging. We would certainly welcome

some additional helpers – people willing to write stories, chase advertising etc.

We are very grateful for the advertising support we are getting and urge you to give your support to our advertisers. There would be no newsletter without that support.

This journal is to help you all know more about what is going on in our area and to improve connections between people, clubs and communities.

Stay safe, be happy and look after each other!



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New Mayor and Deputy elected

by Jesse Graham

Chirnside Ward Councillor, Richard Higgins, has been elected as Mayor of the Yarra Ranges for the next 12 months, with Chandler Ward Councillor, Gareth Ward, elected as his deputy.

The two Councillors were elected on Tuesday, 11 November by their peers. Cr Higgins said he had pondered what he would say if elected, until he drove from Chirnside to Lilydale's Civic Centre for the meeting.

"I was trying to think of the words, about what it's like to be looking after this wonderful place," he said. "As I came down the hill, there was a full, complete rainbow across the Yarra Ranges. I looked down into the Yarra Valley and thought, 'how appropriate'.

"It's a fortune, it's a treasure. This place is a pot of gold. Our Councillors have different attributes and are all unique, but one thing we have in common is that we're looking after our communities where we live.

"We've got some real challenges in the Yarra Ranges. We've got urban and rural areas, we've got natural disasters that are going to come our way. But I believe that I'm up to the challenge. I'll strive to do my best, to rise to the occasion. I'm sure I'll be able to, because I'll have my fellow Councillors with me."

Cr Ward said he was looking forward to working closely with Cr Higgins over the coming year. "It's going to be a really great year ahead," he said.

"I know we share the same commitment to serving our residents with transparency, respect and a genuine drive to make our community stronger. Thank you to my fellow Councillors for placing your trust and confidence in me. I'll tackle this role with humility, hard work and integrity. I'm truly honoured and I look forward to doing my very best."

Cr Higgins and Cr Ward paid tribute to the work of former Mayor, Cr Jim Child during the last year.

"Giving guidance in the first term of a new Council is always hard – four Councillors had never done it before, five of us think we know everything, and you brought us into line," Cr Higgins said.

"Your door was always open, you've given us guidance and you've helped shape us all in different ways. Thank you, Jim."

"Over the past year, Cr Child's leadership has guided this Council through some challenging and defining moments," Cr Ward said.

"You've set a high bar in professionalism and commitment to our community, and I wanted to thank you for the example you've set for us all."

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Christmas in the Park

Saturday 20th December 2025
on the grass next to Water World
Free shuttle bus running continuously from Foxy (and picking up any where) and return starting 5.30 pm.

Kicks off with Jazz on the lawn at 6.10 with Paige Burney Quartet,
Santa appearance around 6.50, Carols 7.00 - 7.20
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Roxys is a wonderful puppy friendly, family owned cafe at the local end of Warby, next to the Hardware store.

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Everything is freshly made inhouse where you can enjoy all your favourite cakes, slices and sweet treats just like nana used to make.

We have a fabulous ALL DAY menu that caters for everyone with lots of daily specials to choose from. Be sure to check our range of Gluten Free options.

Enjoy a fresh Brew of our Coco Blend coffee by Gigate exclusive to Roxys as a take away... or stay a while and enjoy in our cosy little cafe. or on a nice sunny day out on our deck.



Birrarung Bathers

by Jenny Scammell

We are a group of cold water swimmers who enjoy a refreshing dip every Wednesday at 7 am in the Birrarung/Yarra behind the Redwood Centre in Warburton. This group has been going for many years now and is open to all. New members are always welcome. We finish with a hot drink and chat at Roxy's Kitchen, where Brenda takes good care of us all.

The most asked question is "Why do we do it?" The simple answer is that it makes us feel good! In recent years, significant research has examined the benefits of cold water swimming. There is evidence suggesting improved circulation, better moods and sleep, reduced stress, a strengthened immune system and an anti-inflammatory effect. I have been swimming for two years now, and I can definitely vouch for all of these benefits.

Group activities also offer significant mental health benefits. Connection to others provides a sense of belonging, support, purpose and can increase resilience to life's challenges. If you want to connect with people in your community, feel great and be healthier, come and join us on a Wednesday morning.

We also have a Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1076463307740347>



Cerini Centre Social & Affordable Housing Project

by David Pratt

A major community-led housing initiative in Warburton is gathering momentum, with the Cerini Centre Social & Affordable Housing project progressing toward delivering much-needed affordable homes in the district.

The plan aims to build 12 social and affordable homes on the Cerini Centre site, as well as repurpose the long-vacant building for short-term crisis accommodation for families in urgent need. The project is being led by the Warburton Advancement League, with CatholicCare Victoria Housing expected to manage the development.

Key steps have already been taken, including in-principle support from the Victorian School Building Authority and the Catholic Archdiocese for the use of surplus land.

This comes despite the project no longer directly appearing in the Yarra Ranges Council's Advocacy Priorities 2025–2027, as it did in the 2024 advocacy agenda. However, the League's Social Housing Working Group remains confident that the project continues to have the support of Council, particularly from Cr Jim Child, who has strongly backed the initiative since it began.

The project aims to respond to the urgent housing challenges identified in the Yarra Ranges Housing Strategy 2024 and aligns with both Federal and State housing strategies to increase the supply of affordable and supported accommodation for families, which is critically needed, especially in the Upper Yarra region.

Seville Burras Warby

by Finn Saurine

The Seville Burras Cricket Club are excited to senior cricket return to Mac Sparke Oval in Warburton for the first time this season as our Fourth XI take on Chirnside Park. Over the next few months all four of our senior sides will play games back at Warburton as they continue their charge towards finals with all sides currently in finals places. Since the merge between Seville, Gruyere and Warburton Cricket Clubs in 2020, the club has continued to honour the historical connection to one of the best places to play cricket by playing games here each season. The Burras also have two junior teams playing all home games at Mac Sparke in the u/10's and u/12's formats in addition to other age groups based at the Seville precinct. If you have any kids keen to come out and give cricket a go get in touch with us, all ages and abilities welcome.

In an ongoing tradition, the Burras will also be hosting the annual Christmas Party at the Warburton clubrooms on Saturday 13th December at 6pm, this is following our second XI playing at the ground earlier in the day vs Bayswater Park. Come and celebrate the holidays with dinner, ice cream and a visit from Santa himself!

WARBURTON HOME GAMES			
FIRST XI	SECOND XI	THIRD XI	FOURTH XI
ROUND 11 v HEATHWOOD 17 JAN	ROUND 8 v BAYSWATER PARK 13 DEC	ROUND 13 v WANTIRNA SOUTH 31 JAN	ROUND 8 v CHIRNSIDE PARK 29 NOV
		ROUND 17 v MONTROSE 28 FEB	ROUND 15 v 5TH WARRANDYTE 14 FEB



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**MURRAY
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20TH DEC
6:00 PM

**STEPHEN
MCCULLOCH**



27TH DEC
6:00 PM

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NEW YEARS DAY



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**LOUISE
MACGREGOR**



3RD JAN
6:00 PM

**JOSHUA
BATTEN**



10TH JAN
6:00 PM

**FRONT
PORCH**

5P BAND

17TH DEC
6:00 PM



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Santa to Visit the Millgrove Market

by Kate Baselier

Santa is bringing festive cheer to Millgrove offering FREE photo opportunities (with your own camera or phone) at the Wesburn Millgrove CFA Fire Station from 10am to 2pm on Millgrove Market day, 20th of December. It will be a Saturday packed with fun. After memorable photos have been taken, the market offers a great shopping opportunity for Christmas gifts.

Stallholders bring a wide selection of artisan goods and crafts to the market, so visitors can find unique and locally made treasures while supporting small businesses. Coffee & hot food, baked goods, health food, art & craft, soap & candles, clothing & jewellery, herbs & spices, toys, plants, dog treats and of course the traditional Sausage Sizzle.

Recently a mini food court has been created around the popular FREE Family Games set up. A lovely area to sit down and enjoy the good vibes of community coming together.

The Millgrove Market is organised by MRAG - Millgrove Residents' Action Group and runs year-round, including January (except on Total Fire Ban days).

Next markets: Saturday 20 December, 17 January, 21 February.

Inquiries: market@mrage.net.au 0494 325 638



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*Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
Please stay safe over
the festive season*

Cr Jim Child JP,
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crjimchild@yarraranges.vic.gov.au



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Warburton Bowls Club

by Garry Lewis

The Warburton Bowls Club (the Burras) have started the new Summer Pennant season with a mixed bag of results.

At the time of writing this report, the weekend Warburton 1 Side in Division 2 Section 6 are in third place on the ladder, with two wins, one loss and one draw. The weekend Warburton 2 Side in Division 5 Section 6 are in sixth place on the ladder, with one win, two losses and one draw. The Midweek Warburton 1 Side in Division 2 Section 5 are in fifth place on the ladder, with one win, one loss and one draw.

The most positive result is the experience being gained by all the new players across all teams.

The popular Wednesday Night Jack Attack Triples Competition has started with 16 Teams participating from November through to March, with a break over the festive season.

The teams from the local community include La La's, Thomos, Can't Remember, Gunners, Bowl Movement, Wessie Wonders, Sheep Assist, Pensioners, Bowls to the Wall, Hit the Jack, Giddy Gout, Stirling Effort, Bowl Controllers, Lawn Rangers, Bowled & the Beautiful and T.B.C.

FREE Bare foot Bowls Evenings will be held on Fridays from 6pm to 9pm over the summer period, commencing November 21st. All equipment, music and coaching provided. A wonderful opportunity for community members, families and friends of all ages and abilities. A sausage sizzle and raffles will be held at a small cost. The Bar is open for drinks.

Bowls is an enjoyable game for all ages, and new players and beginners are encouraged to come along and give it a try. Social Bowls is held every Monday from 12 midday while Pennant Practice is on Thursdays from 4.30pm. FREE Coaching is available.

Membership categories include the Friends of Warburton BC, Non- Pennant and the Pennant categories for New Members, Family Membership and Full Members.

The club is situated at 3455- 3457 Warburton Highway Warburton at the Warburton Recreation Reserve.

If people are interested, they can contact the Club at warbbowls@outlook.com or check out the website at www.warburtonbowls.bowls.com.au or the Facebook Page @warburtonbowls.

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Chris Lord: *A Local you can Trust*

"Real estate isn't just about property, it's about people, relationships and community."

Raised in Warburton, **Chris Lord**, knows the area and its people like no one else. Since joining the team at Professionals Yarra Valley in 2005, he has become one of the region's most respected and ethical agents. Chris is now based at our Warburton office – the only real estate office in the 3799 region, ensuring families across the Upper Yarra Valley have access to expert, local guidance.



Chris remains deeply connected to the community. He is an active member of the **Warburton Bowls Club**, organising "Barefoot Bowls" fundraisers for the NBCF, and a passionate supporter and past player of the **Warburton Millgrove Football Netball Club**. He now coaches his daughter's team at the **Warburton Junior Netball Club**, while his twin sons play football for the **Wesburn Junior Football Club**, keeping the family strongly involved in local sport.



Known for his honesty, integrity and excellent communication, Chris's clients appreciate his guidance and care. One shared:

“ *Chris is a fantastic local agent who had the task of selling a very unique property for us. He maintained excellent communication, updates and advice ... he provided guidance to ensure we made educated decisions in our best interest* **”**



Since 2005, Chris has continued to help families across the Upper Yarra Valley find their place to call home — with honesty, heart, and hometown pride.

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Upgrade To Furniture Along the River Edges

by Robert Hay

Over the past year the Upper Yarra River Reserves Committee of Management with assistance from D.E.E.C.A., have upgraded most of the furniture along the river edges within Warburton. Whilst evaluating the old furniture, it was discovered that the two large slab type picnic settings in Thomas Avenue were in bad shape. One was at risk of collapse, and the other needed some serious TLC.

Members of the Committee were aware that Peter Byers had made the two original settings and contacted him. Peter happily offered to make a new setting to replace the worst one, and spruce up the one that needed lots of TLC. He used some timber from the old table that was replaced, and new timber from Millgrove Sawmill to create two safe large picnic settings for everyone to enjoy.

Peter is a born and bred local identity who is an asset to our community in the assistance he willingly offers to the town.

Our Committee would like to thank Peter for the professional way he completed this project.



Local Boy Makes Good!

by Berni Stanley

The Artrageous Group in Warburton, which meets every Thursday to create and share art, enjoyed a truly inspiring demonstration today from internationally renowned artist **Jason Roberts**.

Jason grew up in Yarra Junction and attended Upper Yarra High before embarking on a remarkable artistic journey that has taken him across the globe for more than 30 years. His work has been exhibited in **New York, Tokyo, India and London**, and he has been commissioned by distinguished patrons including the **Sultan of Oman** and the **Maharaja of Jodhpur**.

Despite his world travels, Jason maintains a deep affection for the Yarra Valley—and a special fondness for Warburton local **Maggie Sail**, who he says quite literally kick-started his art career.

The Artrageous Group was honoured to host Jason and hopes his visit will inspire many more creative Thursdays to come.

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Reefton McMahons Creek Action Group

by Amber Barton

RMAG aka The Reefton McMahons Creek Action Group, is a small group of individuals from the area who came together around 7 years ago.

They have proudly and successfully aided in the organization and push to see the new bridge constructed in McMahons creek and are mainly focused on providing community engagement activities and workshops.

Some of the past events and achievements include

- Beautiful indigenous paintings on local water tanks.
- Paint n sip evening
- Writing classes
- Film nights for adults and children
- Chainsaw safety and maintenance workshops
- Defibrillator installation
- First aid courses and CFA preparation training
- Snake awareness and wildlife interaction
- Community Christmas events

Members even released some wonderful newsletters which included local news and history. These days the member numbers have decreased but there is a way you can get involved. The group are planning to catch up at 6pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month. All are welcome as are any suggestions for community activities and events they could potentially assist with in the future. The next meeting will be held on the 18th of December and is located at the Reefton Hotel.

An event to look forward to in December is the Community Christmas eve party featuring the wonderful crew from Black Snake Productions and the jolly man himself Santa! (please see the flyer included for more details).

Thank so much to 3799 Connect for giving us another way to communicate and engage with our amazing locals.

21 Years Of Lotus Flowers

by Peter Cochrane

On Boxing Day, the Blue Lotus Water Garden at Yarra Junction will mark an important milestone. It will open for its 21st summer of lotus flowers, family fun and beautiful tropical gardens.

Years ago, some locals may even remember, the property used to be a Chinese cabbage farm. For decades Geoff Cochrane and his family grew a range of different Asian and other vegetables. It wasn't until the early 2000s the property was transformed into the wonderful display garden and tourist attraction it is today.

If you haven't visited the gardens before, I'm sure you won't be disappointed. They also offer a great deal for locals on annual season passes.



YOU ARE INVITED TO A
**COMMUNITY
Christmas Eve
PARTY**

RMAG is hosting an afternoon of fun for us all to enjoy! Black snake productions will be entertaining and educating us with a wildlife demonstration and our special guest Santa will be arriving on the firetruck! This is a free event for all ages and to celebrate our wonderful community!

DECEMBER
WEDNESDAY 24 At 1.30pm

REEFTON HOTEL
1600 WOODS POINT ROAD,
MCMAHONS CREEK VIC 3799

REEFTON HOTEL. BLACK SNAKE PRODUCTIONS CFA



Gee n' Tees

We are a fully licenced Wine Bar Showcasing Wines, Beer, Ciders and Spirits from around the Yarra Valley.

Our Menu offers a classic cheese boards, upscale small plates of arancini balls, croquettes. You can also share items like flatbreads and sliders, or more substantial dishes like steak frites as well as our very popular Goulash. Soup are always on the menu as well as our popular homemade cakes.

We do private functions for birthdays, Christmas parties etc. As well as catering for that special event.

Sundays at 2 pm we have live acoustic music showcasing local artists.

We are at 3383B Warburton Highway, Warburton

**Our contact details are: 0461 274706
gee4tee.pl@gmail.com**



*Kids
under 16
FREE
Conditions
Apply*

Blue Lotus *Water Garden*

*Celebrating
our
21st
Birthday
in 2026*

*Ask us about
our
Locals
Season Pass
Conditions
Apply*

*Thousands
of
Flowers
and acres of
Family Fun
everyday*

*Open daily from
26th December
tickets available at the gate
or online
www.bluelotus.com.au
Tel (03) 5967 2061*

3799 Connect Community Calendar

Dec 2	Intuitive Flow Yoga by Crystal Tan at the Wellspring (9:30 to 10:30am)
Dec 4	Yin Yoga at the Wellspring (6:30 to 7:30pm)
Dec 7	Labyrinth Organics Pop-up Fresh Veg & Pantry at the Wellspring
Dec 9	Intuitive Flow Yoga by Crystal Tan at the Wellspring (9:30 to 10:30am)
Dec 13	Incense Making Workshop at the Wellspring (10am to 12pm)
Dec 13	Nervous System Reset Multibed Healing (10am to 3pm)
Dec 20	Millgrove Market (9am-2pm)
Dec 21	Labyrinth Organics Pop-up Fresh Veg & Pantry at the Wellspring
Dec 24	Reefton Hotel Community Christmas Eve party, 1pm
Jan 17	Millgrove Market (9am-2pm)

3799 Connect Noticeboard

1 st Sun of month	Warburton Valley Market – 11:00am – 3:00pm
Every Monday	Free Chair Pilates – Redwood Centre Warburton – 12:30pm – 1:20pm
Every Monday	Warby Walkers – meet at Redwood Centre front entrance – 2:00pm
2 nd Tues of month	Yarra Ranges Film Society – 7:30pm at The Arts Centre Warburton
3 rd Wed of month	Warburton Advancement League meeting – 7:30pm at YREC
Every Wednesday	Warburton CFA training – 7:30pm – 9:00pm
Last Wed of month	River Valley Church – Free Dinner – 6:00pm
Every Thursday	Koha Community Café – Community Dinner from 6:00pm – by donation
1 st Thurs of month	Warburton Emergency Planning Group meeting – 7:00pm at YREC
Every Friday	Yoga with Sandra Rosa at the Wellspring – 9:30 to 10:30am
Every Friday night	Free Friday Soup Night – Redwood Centre Warburton – from 5:30pm
Every Saturday	Summer Yoga with Kath at the Wellspring – 8 to 9am
3 rd Sat / 5 th Sun of month	Millgrove Market – 9:00am – 2:00pm
Every Sunday	Warburton CFA training – 9:30am – 11:30am

Emergency Contacts

In an Emergency – Call 000

Beyond Blue – 1300 224 636

Electricity Fault Line – AusNet Services – 131 799

EPA – 1300 372 842

Lifeline – 131 114

Red Cross Emergency – 1800 232 969

SES Flood/Storm Emergency – 132 500

Vic Emergency Hotline – 1800 226 226

Wildlife Victoria (Injured wildlife) – (03) 8400 7300

Yarra Ranges Council – 1300 368 333

VicRoads (For information on updated road closures) – 131 170

Victoria Police (Non urgent matters only) – 131 444 Crime Stoppers – 1800 333 000