

3799 Connect

Connecting our Community

Life in Warburton: Finding Community, Nature and Belonging

by Tayla Hansen

When I first moved to Warburton, I had the quiet sense that I wasn't just choosing a place to live. I was answering a call.

There is something about this town that draws you in long before you can put words to it. The beauty is obvious, of course. The river, the forest, the way the light moves through the valley. But it's more than that. There's an energy here that feels alive, welcoming, and deeply rooted. Once you arrive, it's surprisingly hard to leave.

For such a small town, there is so much happening. So many ways to be involved. So many people quietly doing meaningful things. What struck me most was how open and generous the community is. People introduce you to others, invite you in, offer advice, share local knowledge, and genuinely want to see you feel connected. There's no gatekeeping here, just a shared love for the place and a desire to keep it thriving.

As a mother, Warburton feels like a rare gift. A place where children can grow up close to nature, wild and free but held safely by community. Where kids can roam the markets, collect treasures, and be known by name. Where the idea that "it takes a village to raise a child" isn't just a saying, but something you can feel and experience day to day.

What I've also loved is the diversity of people. Artists, healers, makers, families, long-time locals and newcomers alike, all from different walks of life, yet connected by a shared, heart-centered way of being. There's a strong sense of care for one another and for the land, and it creates a feeling of belonging that's hard to find elsewhere.

If I had one piece of advice for anyone new to Warburton, it would be this: follow your curiosity and get involved. Seek out a community-led group, an activity, a project, or an organisation that sparks your interest. Be brave enough to show up. So much of what makes this town special exists because people continue to participate, contribute, and care.

Getting involved is how connections are made. It's how days are brightened, friendships are formed, and that deep sense of belonging grows. Warburton remains community-led because the community chooses it, again and again. I feel incredibly grateful to be here, raising my child in a place that feels so alive with heart, soul, and genuine connection.

Editor Note: If you have similar experiences with your 3799 community we would love to hear and publish your story.

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Looking Back to Look Forward: A Valley Shaped by People

by 3799 Connect Editorial Team

2025 was not a year of one big story. It was a year of many small ones. Community groups kept showing up. Sporting clubs brought people together again and again. Emergency services trained and prepared. Local businesses adapted to changing seasons, changing visitors, and changing costs. New ideas were slowly pushed uphill by volunteers who rarely get their names in bold.

If there was a theme to the year, it was persistence.

That persistence is easy to overlook. It doesn't announce itself. It looks like committee members still answering emails late at night. It looks like locals running markets in the rain. It looks like planning for emergencies no one wants to think about. It looks like volunteers turning up and helping others.

And now, 2026 is here. We want to help make it a year where we are all more connected.

Connected doesn't mean everyone agreeing. It does mean being informed. It means knowing what's happening down the road, not just on social media. It means understanding why decisions are being made, even when we don't like them. It means recognising that progress here is usually slow, negotiated, and very human.

This year, 3799 Connect wants to lean harder into that idea. Not just reporting what happened, but listening. Inviting voices from across the community. Hearing from residents, volunteers, business owners, young people, elders, organisations and council. Not to manufacture consensus, but to reflect the reality of life here: layered, sometimes messy, often generous.

We want you to tell us and all of 3799 what did 2025 bring for you or your organisation? What worked? What didn't? What are you hopeful about this year? What worries you? What do you think we should be paying more attention to?

Just thoughtful, sincere contributions from people who care about where they live.

The year ahead will bring challenges. It always does. But it will also bring chances to do things better, together. The strength of the 3799 doesn't come from grand plans or glossy strategies. It comes from people who keep showing up, keep talking, and keep believing that this place is worth the effort.

Here's to a new year grounded in the same thing that carried us through the last one: community, in practice, not just in name.



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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor, 3799 Connect,

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank the members of the Upper Yarra CFA Fire Brigades and the Upper Yarra SES for their outstanding service and dedication to our community.

Our local CFA & SES volunteers consistently demonstrate professionalism, commitment, and a strong sense of community responsibility in protecting lives, property, and our local environment. In addition to their vital work here in the Upper Yarra, many members willingly join strike teams, often travelling long distances to support fellow crews and communities in other regions during times of significant need. This level of service reflects the very best of the CFA & SES spirit.

Importantly, I also wish to acknowledge the families of our volunteers. Their understanding, patience, and support make this service possible. The sacrifices made by families - often at short notice and during challenging times - are an essential and valued part of the CFA & SES strength and resilience.

Together, our volunteers and their families give selflessly in service to others, and their efforts deserve recognition and sincere appreciation from the entire community.

On behalf of our community, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all members of the Upper Yarra CFA Fire Brigades, SES and their families for the invaluable role they play.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Jim Child, Councillor O'Shannassy Ward, Yarra Ranges Council



NYE Gathering – Four years in Warburton

by Kyle Bush

For the fourth year in a row a group of friends hailing from Melbourne and beyond have brought in the new year against the stunning backdrop of the Warburton hills. Each year the group gathers here over a number of days, teaming up with the Warburton Tennis Club and the Warburton RSL to put on two joyful celebrations of friendship and connection over the 30th and 31st of December.

You may have noticed them at the Warburton Tennis Club on December 30th where they hold a round robin social competition of tennis, volleyball, and table tennis. The group activates the clubhouse with a BBQ and live DJs while others picnic on the lawn or take part in the games. On the 31st of December they move on to the Warburton RSL for themed costume party – this year the theme was ‘Warburton Wrestlemania’.

The big night began with a big potluck dinner and some live music, and a ‘wig-snatching competition’. Costumed contenders paired up in a makeshift ring to try and be the first to snatch the wig from their opponent’s head as the crowd cheered on. As the sun set children and adults alike danced to music from a series of talented DJs and singers from the group, and as the clock struck midnight over 100 sparklers were lit to bring in 2026.

With an age range from 70+ right down to newborn babies, and some coming all the way from the USA, Germany, and of course interstate, it’s a truly international and family affair. Some in the group stay in Warburton for up to 7 days making the most of what this wonderful part of Victoria has to offer, because there is truly something for everyone.

While staying here over the new year period many in the group enjoyed local food from takeaway shops and restaurants, and shopping from antiques and vintage to locally made crafts and beauty products. From January 1st many lounged by the river and went on tubing tours, and even went further afield to try some of the best local hikes and new mountain biking trails. The group are excited to revisit Warburton again in December of 2026, so keep an eye out and come and say hi!

Christmas in the Park Event

by Jeff Gill

Held on December 20, it was an evening of relaxing and catching up with friends and family whilst being entertained by some very talented artists.

It started with Paige Burney and her jazz band playing some “gentle jazz” leading into 30 minutes of traditional carols, rudely interrupted by Santa arriving and throwing the night into organised chaos. After dispensing some 200 bags of lollies, ably helped by his elves, he vanished almost as quickly as he arrived. Then our MC for the night, the unflappable Andy Bennett, introduced our headline act Claymore who blew all my doubts away about such a change of tradition in the first few reels. Then the bagpipes came in to really get the crowd up and dancing, finishing off with an AC/DC classic which was heard half way around Warby. Willy the lead singer in Claymore was blown away by the beauty of our town and the ideal venue. He would love to come back next year. We are in talks with the Yarra Junction township group to avoid clashing with their Carols night, which happened this time.

These nights don’t just happen without community backing, so in no particular order a big thanks to the following; Upper Yarra Community Enterprise for part funding, Fred at the caravan park for great help with “stuff,” Mick McGivov for all his background organising, Paige and her crew for such a polished performance, Casey Junior Transport for the great stage (supplied at no cost!), Warburton Fire Brigade for supplying the fire truck to transport a Johnny Depp lookalike Santa, Millgrove CFA for First Aid support, YREC for staff parking and meeting room, Trevor for supplying the impressive sound and light show, Lang at Little Joes for yummy pizzas to keep the musos going, and the crew at Warburton Advancement League for making the night run so smoothly. Thank you all!



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A Stitch in Time: Warburton Artist Gives New Life to Forgotten Fabrics

by Kate Twohig

Celebrate sustainable fashion and creativity with Warburton artist Kate Twohig. From her teens, Kate has transformed op-shop finds into garments she loved to wear — a passion that has grown into a lifelong commitment to design, craftsmanship, and giving discarded materials a beautiful second life.

Now in Warburton for 30 years, Kate explores textiles, pattern design, cloth dolls, and drawing, always guided by a deep respect for materials and a focus on reusing and reimagining fabrics.

A Stitch in Time, running throughout February 2026 at the Waterwheel Gallery, features hand-dyed and beaded bodices, shoes, garments made from rescued denim, vintage linens, lace, and bridal gowns, alongside framed artworks. Each piece celebrates the beauty and potential of up-cycling.

All items, including whimsical cloth characters and patterns, are for sale.

Follow Kate on Instagram: @kate_twohig_my_place



Vale David John Borton

by Phil Wallens

A much-loved Yarra Valley identity, David Borton, died on 20th December 2025 after a short, unexpected illness. A memorial service for him was held at Oscars on the Yarra on 8th January, 2026. His death has been a great shock - and a huge loss.

David, with his partner Sally Ahern, have lived in the Upper Yarra Valley for about fifteen years - first at Warburton, then more recently at Launching Place. They have both contributed enormously to our local community.

David was born in the United Kingdom in 1950. After studying geology, he worked extensively around the world as an exploration geologist: Africa, Scandinavia, Australia. After arriving in Cairns (Australia), he continued his career of exploring for uranium and gold throughout the country. He had a particular love of the time he spent in the Australian outback. He had a wealth of geological knowledge, willingly shared, and a worldly awareness of our small human place in the universe. He also had a keen interest in alpine trekking, which led to excursions in the Himalayas, France, the European Alps and the Canadian Rockies.

Retirement coincided with his and Sally's move to the Yarra Valley; their families and friends often visited. As well, the Valley provided many opportunities for David to further indulge his love of geology, trekking, kayaking, trail cycling, food and cooking. He explored the valley's geology with passion, sharing his observations through bush walks and well-researched presentations.

David generously provided much assistance to several community organisations - U3A, Upper Yarra Garden Club, CEDA, Upper Yarra Film Society, table tennis at Yarra Junction, Old Farts at Killara Winery and Wanderslore. His supportive attitude was exceptional and much appreciated.

Our thoughts and support go to Sally, David's two children Kim and Mark, and their families. David was a good friend to many. Our community has benefitted greatly from his presence, and we miss him very much.

R.I.P. David Borton.





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Pages from History

from Age (Melbourne, Vic. : 1854 - 1954), Saturday 20 February 1926, page 17

IN Warburton Hills. WATCHING ISOLATED FIRES,

WARBURTON, Friday.— Isolated fires are still burning in the ranges several miles east of Warburton. These are being closely watched and fought with fire breaks where there seems any likelihood of further damage to mill property.

Intending tourists or visitors to Warburton are assured that the township and immediate surroundings are free from any danger or inconvenience. A few of the beauty spots in the hills south of the town have been burnt over, and it is unwise for pedestrians to attempt to visit them owing to the possibility of falling trees. These tracks will probably be closed until the progress association can clear them again. By next spring, Nature will have begun to cover the traces of the fires.

Reconstruction work has already commenced on many of the mill sites, tramways and bridges that were damaged. This should enable most of the married men to retain employment. The Metropolitan Board of Works has offered to find relief work for about fifty men at their works on the O'Shanassy Weir, and shire council officers are busily engaged in getting a start with other relief works sanctioned by the Government.

Mr Westover, of Sharp's Hazeldene Mill, reports that only the strenuous efforts of the employer saved the mill, as the fire was right up to the cottages before they got control. Fires are still burning on the flanks of Ben Cairn, and a favourable wind would fan them into renewed activity. A heavy pall of smoke still surrounds the whole district.

Gordon Buller Lifetime Achievement Award

by John Ridley



In its Australia Day Awards, the Yarra Ranges Council has recognised Gordon Buller for a lifetime dedication to making the Yarra Ranges a better place' (Mayor Richard Higgins).

Gordon has been volunteering his time since the age of 20. He turned 84 on January 29!

His long-term interest has been protecting the Yarra River (Birrarrung) and he has been the chairman of the Upper Yarra River Reserve Committee of Management for 50 years! He was a councillor on the Upper Yarra Shire from 1981 to 1993. He is currently a Justice of the Peace, a director of the Upper Yarra Community Enterprise (Bendigo Bank) and a member of the Warburton Emergency Planning Groups for 13 years to date.

And he is one of the founders of 3799 Connect.

His love of Warburton and its traditions is not surprising as his family were amongst the first settlers in the Upper Yarra area in the late 1870's.

Bravo Gordon! Keep it up.

Seeing Home Through Visitor's Eyes: Appreciating Our River

by Laura Jayne

"How do we get down to the river?"

You'd be surprised how often I'm asked this question by tourists whilst working on Warby's main street, and at first, I was surprised that they felt the need to ask at all. It seemed a strange question to me, with the answer so obvious – take practically any path, any alleyway down between the shops, and you'll find yourself right on the banks of Birrarung, the Yarra River. And thanks to Ted Chisolm and the Warby River Crew, beautiful fern-lined paths wind beside the river on either side, undulating in conversation with the waters of the Yarra. Our thanks must also go to the Upper Yarra River Reserve management committee who, with the help of D.E.E.C.A, Melbourne Water, and local volunteers, keep these paths maintained all year round, so that it's a matter of seconds to go from browsing the high street, to finding yourself walking along these peaceful pathways as you take in the wildlife, the shading trees, the fresh and cooling sound of water.

Hence, when someone first asked me for directions to the river, my confusion. 'What do you mean – it's just over there,' I wanted to say. But the more I'm asked this question – and believe me, it happens regularly – the more I thought about it, asked myself why it was such a surprise to visitors that the river bank was right in front of them, and I realised that, just as their question to me had an obvious answer, so did mine.

It is unusual for a town to be so close, so entwined with such a clean and welcoming river as ours. The latest man to ask me how difficult it is to find a place to swim (a delivery driver this time) was enchanted when I explained that the gentle banks and plentiful pathways mean that you can get in pretty much anywhere you like. 'And is it far to walk to? I'm just thinking of the kids,' he asked. I took him to the window and pointed, and he was delighted to find out what keeps surprising people: the river is right here. Visitors simply aren't expecting to find the river so close by, so free to walk and swim and lounge beside. No fences to climb, no thick bushes to push through. Those of us who are used to the way the towns of Warburton and Millgrove cohabit the land with the Yarra perhaps take for granted just how lucky we are – to turn from the door of a coffeshop and before we're three sips deep into a flat white, be at the riverside.

We have the riotous summer fun of lilos and paddling and water fights, and we have the calming evening flow of a peaceful river to walk by at sunset – and we have them right by our door.

No wonder visitors come from far and wide.

My patience for the question "can you tell us how to get to the river?" has grown enormously since I realised this. I welcome all the fellow swimmers who bring their bathers down from Melbourne, because maybe the banks get a little crowded, but it makes me happy to see how far people will come to visit the life I get to live each day. (And besides – for those who've been here a while, there's always the secret little spots we know about where we can go for some peace and quiet).

Our little stretch of the Yarra seems to appear as a surprise luxury to out-of-towners. And they're right. So, if you haven't lately, I encourage you to brave the heat and take a walk along these well-kept paths, or dip under the chilled water and feel the relief of being cool again. We know how to get down to the river – let's not take that for granted.

Article Sponsored by The Warburton Bakery

Waterwheel Hub

by Nikki Murray

"Community is much more than belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter."
—Brian Solis

Our regional Upper Yarra Valley ethos has a value system imbedded in connection to the land and the Yarra River that flows. We recognise cultural traditions and truth telling. We reflect on current and historical choices and great feats of architecture and struggle. We are a resilient community. We have heart, as seen in the recent outpour of gifts to those in the Longwood (and surrounding) fires. We are a people that not only belong to something by ourselves, but we also come together in our towns and beyond to volunteer and make life better for each of us in this landscape.

Since March 2025, a group of generous-hearted volunteers have been meeting together to find a way forward for the Waterwheel building in the Warburton township, to remain in the hands of the Upper Yarra Valley community.

Recently, the Waterwheel Working Group and the newly incorporated association, Waterwheel Hub inc. (WHinc) has made some inroads to acquiring a lease for the building. We are currently working with Council to finalise a lease and we have also recently received \$9k through the recent Bendigo Bank grant, thanks to MRAG for supporting us.

We are also interested to know of any local Warburton group who are planning to go for the Tiny Towns Grant—as per application it would be beneficial to work together to access the funds we all need to make Warburton better.

Anybody who is interested in joining or one-off helping the Waterwheel Working Group, please contact the Hub through the email below.

If you haven't been into the Waterwheel Art Gallery or the hand maker space, I invite you to visit and see for yourselves. This building, officially opening in early 1998, comprises of an authoritative Visitor Information Centre, an expansive Art Gallery space and a shop, showcasing the unique talent of the hand makers in the Upper Yarra Valley hinterland.

... Let us not forget the namesake—a replica of McVeigh's Waterwheel which hopefully may one day turn again. Let's get a working group on that!

Have a great day!



Councillor Jim Child JP

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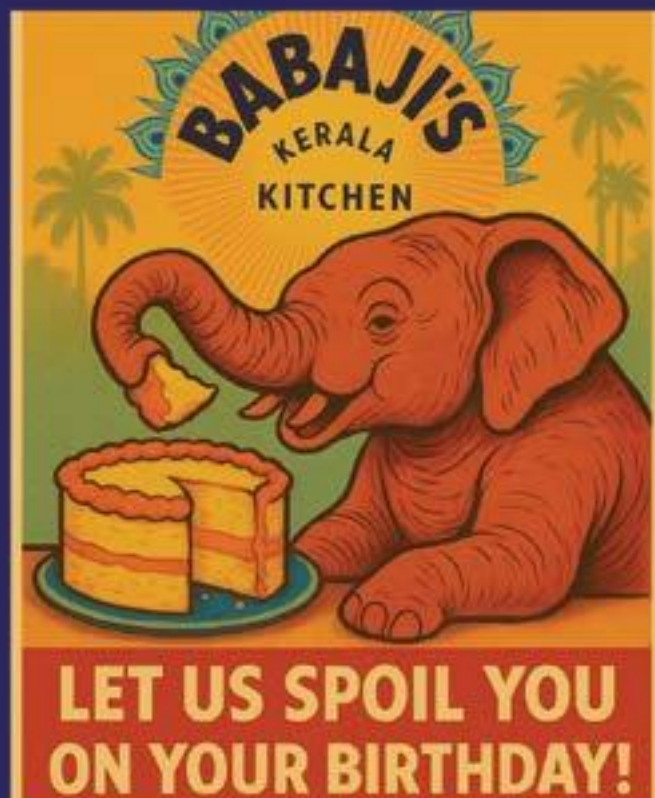
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Warburton Bowls Club

by Garry Lewis

The Warburton Bowls Club (the Burras) have started the new Summer Pennant season with several mixed and positive results.

At the time of writing this report, the weekend Warburton 1 Side in Division 2 Section 6 are in seventh place on the ladder, with three wins, five losses and one draw. The weekend Warburton 2 Side in Division 5 Section 6 are in sixth place on the ladder, with three wins, four losses and two draws. The Midweek Warburton 1 Side in Division 2 Section 5 are in second place on the ladder, with five wins, three losses and one draw.

The most positive result continues to be the experience being gained by all the new players across all teams.

Intra Club Competitions are in full force with most nearing the finals stage. Events include Mens & Ladies Singles Club Championships, Pairs, 100 Up, Minor Club Championship and President's Handicap.

The Annual Trade Woods Triples Tournament to be held on January 10th, was unfortunately cancelled due to the recent Total Fire Ban and Extreme weather conditions leading up to the event.

The Warburton Bowls Club sincerely thanks all the competitors for their support and understanding as they look forward to next year's event.

All the food that was to be provided throughout the day was donated to the local C.F.A. in support of their wonderful voluntary work protecting and controlling the recent bushfire situation in our local area.

The Annual Pink Ribbon Triples Tournament will be held on Sunday February 1st, from 12 midday. Female and Male Entries accepted of all abilities, including Beginners. \$10 per head (\$30 per team.) 3 games. Raffle & Prizes. BBQ Sausage Sizzle.

Entries need to be in by January 24th. Contact Michelle 0437566238 or the Club 59662391. Sponsored by Yarra Valley Professionals Real Estate. All proceeds go towards Breast Cancer Research.

The popular Wednesday Night Jack Attack Triples Competition has started with 16 local community teams participating from November through to March. It is also sponsored by Yarra Valley Professionals Real Estate.

The ladder order at the halfway mark is as follows: Can't Remember, Pensioners, Gunners, Bowls to the Wall, Wessie Wonders, Bowl Movement, Thomos, La La's, Giddy Gout, Stirling Effort, Sheep Assist, Lawn Rangers, Hit the Jack, Bowl Controllers, T.B.C and Bowled & the Beautiful.

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.

GO BURRAS!

Cr Jim Child OAM

by 3799 Connect Staff



We warmly congratulate Cr Jim Child who was awarded the OAM in the Australia Day Honours List, a richly deserved recognition of his exceptional public service.

"Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division"
Mr James Christopher Child, Wesburn VIC 3799

For service to local government, and to the community of the Yarra Ranges.

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Shire of Upper Yarra • President, 1985. • Councillor, 1982-1986.

Municipal Association of Victoria • Member, Emergency Management Committee, 2017-2019. • Member, Professional Development Reference Group, 2017-2019.

Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning • Board Member, National Parks Advisory Council, 2013-2016. • Member, Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee, 2015-2019.

Fire and Emergency • Volunteer, Yarra Junction Fire Brigade, since 1981. • Secretary, Upper Yarra Fire Brigades Group, 1983-1984.

Community • Justice of the Peace, current. • Chair, Your Library, 2023-2024. • Director, Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Ltd (Bendigo Community Bank), 2009-2017.

Other • Auditor, Cooling Tower System Risk Management Plans, Gippsland and Yarra Valley Food Safety Auditors - Gladysdale Bakery Pty Ltd, since 2003. • Member, Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum, 2015-2022."



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Keen riders members of 'Girls for Gravity', the club at Lysterfield who have made the MTB their 'home'!! (Photo JSR)

Mountain Bike Trails Update

by Matt Harrington

Since opening #thefirst30, World Trail have been busy developing the next stage of trails up on Mt Tugwell. With bigger terrain, rocky outcrops and stunning natural scenery they have a great canvass to work with in applying their "Blended Earth" style to create inspiring trails that mimic the natural shapes of the landscape.

The Blended Earth style features multiple line choice for riders, providing a range of experiences on the same trail. Progression, predictability and drainage keep the trails both safe and sustainable. The new trails up on Mt Tugwell will be more aimed toward intermediate to advanced riders, but there will also be something pretty special for newer riders.

Works are progressing on schedule and we anticipate an additional 30+ km to be opened in April. But as always, a range of unpredictable factors, such as weather, will dictate exactly what can be opened. Stay tuned to our website and socials for updates as we get closer.

Raising Money for Fire Affected Crafter

by Rachel Tsoumbakos

When fires rush through an area, it can be overwhelming afterwards for those who want to offer help. With the Longwood fires coming close to our region recently, many residents found themselves wondering what they could do to make a difference for those who had suffered extreme loss.

During the reporting of the event, a chord was struck with one Warburton local in particular. Because of this, a local Warburton craft group has found a small way to help a woman who lost everything during the recent Longwood fires.

Jennifer Penny is in her late 80s and lost her home of some 50 years when the fire ripped through Terip Terip. Along with this devastating loss of her home came the realisation that years' worth of her handmade embroidery and quilts were also burned.

Donna Fowler, who hosts the monthly Sunday Circle craft group, decided that while she couldn't individually change things on a large scale, she could make a small difference to one person during this trying time. After hearing about the heartrending story in an ABC interview, Donna decided to see if the members of her local craft group would chip in to buy Jennifer new supplies so she could start afresh and, hopefully, take her mind off the devastating recent event by diving into a new craft project.

The craft group has already raised \$200 and is still open to donations before they gift Jennifer the full amount. Those interested in helping Jennifer get on her way to crafting a new stash of handmade goods can do so by dropping off cash donations to Donna at Warburton Wellbeing.



O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail Dee Slip Bridge Project

by Parks Victoria

Repairs to Dee Slip Bridge started on 24 November. Works have progressed well, with the site set up, safety fencing installed, engineer inspections completed, unsalvageable bridge structures removed, and drilling started for new bridge abutments. Construction paused over the holiday period from Friday 19 December to 12 January 2026.

The repairs will keep to the original design of the bridge and retain as much of the existing timber as possible.

Due to the construction activity, there is no access along the O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail between Dee Road to the west in Millgrove and Sussex Street to the east in Warburton until the bridge is repaired and reopened in late March 2026.

The Dee Slip Bridge is a timber trestle bridge spanning a section of the O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail in the Yarra Ranges National Park. The bridge was constructed in 1947 after the aqueduct collapsed and the force of the water flow created a large hole in the side of the embankment. For many years the bridge was used as access to both the aqueduct and the walking trail.



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Warburton Film Fest

Film, Festivals and Community: 2025 with YRFS

by Robert Hay

The Yarra Ranges Film Society enjoyed a fabulous year in 2025, with a wide variety of films screened at our monthly member sessions. These screenings provided plenty to discuss over supper after each film and continued to foster a strong sense of community among film lovers. Highlights of the year included the Healesville Mini Film Festival: *Best of Scandinavia 2.0* in March and the 40th Warburton Film Festival in June, both of which were well attended by members and non-members travelling from near and far. A standout celebration was the 50th anniversary of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, marked with a fantastic dress-up night at both venues that was thoroughly enjoyed by all! The year concluded with a relaxed and enjoyable Christmas break-up and dinner, providing a lovely opportunity for members to connect and celebrate together.

Looking ahead, our 2026 program is shaping up to be another exciting year of cinema. Full program details are available on our website, and we encourage members to renew their 2026 memberships to continue enjoying our screenings and special events. Our first film for the year will be *EL 47* (Spain, 2024), screening in Warburton on Tuesday 10 February, followed by a screening at the Memo in Healesville on Tuesday 17 February. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and event information, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another great year of film!



Warburton Film Fest Committee wrap-up



A Place for Rest, Rhythm, and Real Healing

Something quiet, grounded, and meaningful is taking shape in Warburton.

by Tayla Hansen and Andre Melnychenko

The Wellspring Warburton is being shaped as a place where people can return to relationship with their bodies, their breath, and their own natural rhythm—away from urgency, pressure, and the idea that healing should be fast, polished, or performative.

At the heart of the space are André and Tayla, two practitioners with different but deeply complementary paths. Together, they are stewarding The Wellspring as a home for real, embodied healing—welcoming a range of modalities, practitioners, and ways of arriving. Whether someone comes for yoga, hands-on bodywork, herbal support, meditation, or simply curiosity, there is room to enter without needing to be “fixed.”

The Wellspring isn't about bypassing discomfort or chasing constant positivity. It's about removing what blocks life force from moving freely—the tension, stagnation, and overload that dull joy, creativity, passion, and vitality over time. When the body settles and the nervous system finds safety, people often reconnect naturally with what lights them up, what matters to them, and the direction their life is actually asking to take.

This work supports people not by telling them who to become, but by clearing the ground so their own truth can emerge. From there, clarity, enthusiasm, creativity, and a sense of purpose can return—not forced, but felt.

- As The Wellspring continues to unfold, the intention remains simple:
- A place that feels safe and human.
- A place that supports real healing and endless possibilities.
- A place where people can reconnect with joy, creativity, and the life they are here to live.

The Wellspring is open, evolving, and listening — much like the community it serves. If you find yourself curious, pass by when the doors are open. Come say hello.

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What's On!
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WARBURTON

A growing home for movement, healing & community

The Wellspring Warburton is quietly coming to life as a welcoming space for movement, care, & community wellbeing. There's much unfolding as we move into February, with regular offerings, special events, & space to simply pause & reconnect.

Healing Saturdays

Each Saturday offers a rotating mix of gentle therapies, movement, & reflective practices – from meditation, massage & acupressure to herbalism, Qi Gong, Plum Blossom kung fu, tarot & more.

We are here to take the pressure off, connect you to what you need & help you feel supported.

Contact **Andre** on
0423 422 464 for more info



The Wellspring Apothecary & Herbs in a Hurry

Our apothecary & resident Herbalist Tayla from **Cosh Alchemy** are open to community
Friday's 2:00-4:00pm &
Saturday's 10:00am-4:00pm

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Contact **Tayla** 0408 995 348 for more info

Nervous System Reset Sunday 15th February & Saturday 28th February

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Walk-ins welcome



Day Retreat — Sunday 22 February 2026

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Bookings & details:

Sioux Dollman

www.siouxdollman.com

0475 783 664

Natja Wüsch

www.yogaloka.com.au

0402 322 145

Yoga Schedule

Crystal Tan Yoga
Tuesday 9:30-10:30am

Sandra Rosa Yoga
Friday 9:30-10:30am

Weekend Hatha Yoga with Kath
Saturday 8:00-9:00am &
Sunday 5:15-6:15pm

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Family Fun at Millgrove Market

by Kate Baselier

The first Millgrove Market of the year has already drawn a crowd—and with 15 more to come, the buzz is only growing. Locals and visitors alike are flocking in for great coffee, hot food, baked treats, art and craft, plants, toys, dog treats and, of course, the classic sausage sizzle, all while supporting small businesses.

But it's the FREE family games that steal the show. Set beneath shady trees on a beautiful lawn, it's the perfect spot to roll out a picnic rug and soak up the community vibe. From Quoits and Connect 4 to Bubble Ball, Hopscotch and even Sumo Suits, there is fun for all ages.

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

Next markets: Saturday 21 February, 21 March and Sunday 29 March.

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



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Late-Night Shopping Success

by Tate Jerrems

On December 13th 2025, Warburton traders ran their first ever Late-Night Christmas Shopping experience for the community.

The event was a spontaneous trial after some creative discussions sparked up amongst a few key traders. The initiative aimed to bring well-needed strength and cohesion to the Warburton Main Street economy, focusing on our unique local offerings and something fun for the community.

It was great to see the township bright and alive on a Saturday night.

Red Mud Hut delighted with their home-made traditional Christmas pudding; Charley Horse offered a door-affle and discounts; Treehouse Nature & Healing held a crystal & wall-art flash sale, with complimentary drinks; plus more!

It was an exciting night for traders to try something fresh and new, bringing us back to the feeling of Warburton in its heyday.

With lots of support from locals and visitors alike, the night was a smashing success, and will pave the way for future events.

The next Late-Night Christmas Shopping event has lots of potential, with traders aiming to collaborate with local bodies such as CFA, UYCE and UYRRCoM with fundraising BBQ and promo sessions to spark interest for volunteers, to help boost funding for their work across the area, and to celebrate annual achievements. Let's get together!

Traders want to thank everyone who brought this event to life by attending the evening for some last-minute shopping, having a rewarding Christmas catchup, and supporting local.

Gratitude from all of us, and watch this space.

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3799 Connect Community Calendar

Feb 1	Organics Pop-up Fresh Veg & Pantry at the Wellspring (8:00am - 10:30am)
Feb 15	Organics Pop-up Fresh Veg & Pantry at the Wellspring (8:00am - 10:30am)
Feb 15	Wellspring Nervous System Reset (10:00am - 4:00pm)
Feb 21	Millgrove Market (9:00am - 2:00pm)
Feb 22	Retreat Day by Sioux Dollman and Natja Wünc at the Wellspring
Feb 28	Wellspring Nervous System Reset (10:00am - 4:00pm)

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 – 10:30am
Every Friday night	Free Friday Soup Night – Redwood Centre Warburton – from 5:30pm
Every Saturday	Summer Yoga with Kath at the Wellspring – 8:00 – 9:00am
Every Sunday	Warburton CFA training – 9:30am – 11:30am
3 rd Sun of month	Sunday Circle (Mend, Make & Bake) 10:00am – 2:00pm

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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) – 131 444
Crime Stoppers – 1800 333 000