

3799 Connect

Connecting our Community

NBN Full Fibre Access

by 3799 Connect Staff

Have you received a notification from NBN about full fibre access? 3799 residents may have received a notification recently that it is now available in their area.

So what does this mean?

Currently, households access the internet via a copper-based network, also known as Fibre To The Node (FTTN) or Fibre To The Curb (FTTC). Full fibre NBN is a faster way of doing this. It is also believed to be far more reliable during things such as storms and flooding than the previous system.

Do you need to do anything?

You can stay on your current internet plan if it is working for you. Internet providers will continue supplying the service. However, if you want the fastest possible internet, there is one additional step involved. And, currently, it's free. However, if you wait more than 18 months, installation fees will apply.

Image by freepik

Fibre To The Premises vs. Fibre To The Node

Without changing your internet plan, you will have access to the current FTTN network. However, Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) is also available. To access this, residents must contact a participating internet provider to arrange for technicians to visit their premises, continue the FTTN, and enable FTTP. This is being offered by participating internet providers, usually free of charge, for 18 months after full fibre NBN becomes available in an area. However, it is best to confirm with providers that no installation fees will be incurred.

You will then need to upgrade to the provider's relevant plan, which typically costs a comparable rate or slightly more.

Typically, during installation, a fibre cable is brought from the street into the premises, and the relevant equipment (such as a modem) is installed inside the house.

Even if you are unsure whether you need FTTP, it may be worth installing it now so you have the option at no cost in the future.

Contents

Internet in the Upper Yarra	2
2026 Eastern 80 Charity Bike Ride Complete!	3
Wild Warby Adventures Feature on TV	5
Millgrove Market's small businesses	5
Running on Sunshine at Wesburn Energy Hub	6
Upper Yarra Rotary Club	7
Hello Yarra Valley Community	7
What's on 3799	8
Warburton Bowls Club	9
Edwin "Ted" Chisholm (1919 - 2012)	11
Serenading by the Yarra	11
Warburton Rifle Club Victorious	12
Handmaker's Space at the Warburton Waterwheel	12
March Photo Exhibit at The Waterwheel	14
Community in Action: A Brief History of the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail	15
March Yarra Ranges Film Society Activities	16

Signs Publishing Bookshop

Open Thursdays
1:15pm – 5pm

Gifts, Cards
Vegetarian Food
Drinks, Books

Located left side of building,
3485 Warburton Hwy
Warburton.



3799 Connect

Published by 3799 Connect Inc'

An ASIC Registered Association - Reg #A0128134P

CONTACT

PO Box 8 Warburton 3799
Phone: 0438 081 252
3799connect01@gmail.com

EDITORS:

Kevin Bargar, 3799connect01@gmail.com
John Ridley
Maureen Halit
Rachel Tsoumbakos
Gordon Buller
Jeff Gill

ADVERTISING

3799 Connect is intended to provide local information to 3799 residents and visitors. See inset for details on advertising rates and deadlines.

Reader contributions are welcome. Send letters, articles and images to Editor at: 3799connect01@gmail.com

The deadline for the April edition is 6:00 PM, March 18

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by the publisher.

EFT payments: 3799 Connect
Bendigo Bank BSB: 633 000 Account Number: 231266073
Make sure to include your company name in the payment details.
All newsletter submissions must include author's name, postal address, phone number & email address.
Post contributions to 3799 Connect PO Box 8 Warburton 3799



Internet in the Upper Yarra

by 3799 Connect Staff

Several readers approached us earlier in summer complaining about the poor quality of mobile telephone and internet connections. Not the first time this has been an issue! It seems that when visitor flows hit their max, the system can't cope? It was suggested to us that when the Holiday Park is full, the telephone system comes close to crashing.

3799 took this up with Cr Child and Council is following up with the telcos to see what they have to say and, hopefully, press for action to strengthen the network if necessary.

It is understood that Council is connecting with major carriers to seek available data on:

- Network performance and coverage during peak periods versus off-peak,
- Known capacity constraints in the Warburton area,
- Whether traffic loading from holiday accommodation, events and recreational use (including the MTB network) is contributing to congestion.

It may simply be that school holidays mean a lot more gaming going on, a notorious user of internet capacity.

Please stay tuned for a further report. In the meantime, we would welcome your comments on your own mobile and internet experience.

**TB Solutions Pty Ltd**
Thom Baselier
info@tbsolutions.com.au
0401 736 686
www.tbsolutions.com.au
www.dronevic.com.au
Computer Services – Drone Services – Web Hosting & Design



NEW TO THE YARRA VALLEY!

PHONE ADAM 0407 007 245
SHED 4 - 21 WOODS POINT ROAD, WARBURTON

**TRADITIONAL SIGNWRITING
HONOUR BOARDS
VINYL LETTERING
FLURO WINDOW SIGNS**

**BANNERS
MURALS**

**A FRAME SIGNS
VEHICLE SIGNAGE
MAGNETIC SIGNS
SHOP FRONTS**

 adams_freshly_baked_ideas



2026 Eastern 80 Charity Bike Ride Complete!

by Norm Orr

The Eastern 80 Charity Bike Ride completed its 11th year on February 21 with over 50 participants riding and walking this year to raise money for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. The event started in 2016 and the first year raised \$9035 which was just short of the \$10,000 we were aiming for but we were ecstatic with the amount of interest in the local community.

The idea came about after noticing that Warburton rarely had any money on the Appeal Board until late in the night and I felt that it was a bad look. The CFA always does their collections on Good Friday but then had to count the money which would go a little way into the night and then it would finally go on the board. Our aim was to take the pressure off the CFA by doing some earlier fundraising and get it to the Appeal so that Warburton would have an amount on the board from the start of the Good Friday Appeal.

Since the 2017 event we have had an "Ambassador" which basically is a community member, young and old, that have had dealings with the Royal Children's Hospital and all they have to do is share their story about their time spent with the hospital. All of our Ambassadors have a local connection and have included children from Bacchus Marsh, Mildura, Albury and of course locals.

The Upper Yarra Mail newspaper has fully supported our event and happily does stories on our ambassadors to not only publicise the Eastern 80 but to encourage family and friends to join the Eastern 80 family and to raise funds for the Appeal.



Over the years we have had a core of riders/walkers that have attended almost every event from Bacchus Marsh, Melbourne and some locals also. The Event has also evolved with new sections added, including walking, and in 2026 a Mountain Bike section.

The event couldn't happen without an intrepid band of volunteers manning the registration tables in the early morning, the food stops at Seville and Mt Evelyn, and selling raffle tickets. Our current Federal Member Aaron Violi has seen the riders/walkers off for the last 5 years and I think it would be safe to say it's one of his favourite tasks.

The organisers of the event are very proud of the fact that we have raised an average of \$10,000 each year. A significant milestone was reached in 2025, the event's 10th year, in which a massive \$23,000 was raised boosting the event's 10-year total to over \$115,000.

Early results from the 2026 Eastern 80 are in and so far over \$9,000 has been received. Another pleasing aspect is the support of local traders with 43 local businesses supplying prizes for the popular raffle.

We believe our event is unique, and it is doubtful that there would be another small one-day event that is able to raise our average amount as consistently.

stay your way*

*River swims optional.

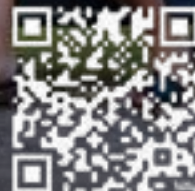
Warburton Holiday Park

📍 30 Woods Point Rd,
Warburton, Yarra Valley VIC
03 5966 2277

 **Hampshire**
HOLIDAYS



Book Online:
hampshireholidays.com.au/warburton





EXPLORE **WARBURTON**

We've got your summer covered!

GROUP TOURS



RIVER TUBING



CAVING



MTB



ABSEILING

ADVENTURES FROM

\$55

FULL DAY BIKE HIRE

FROM \$45

View our website or come visit us in store for more details.



Getting ready for caving! Image Ash Koek

Wild Warby Adventures Feature on TV

by Jayne D'Arcy

A few locals may have noticed that Warburton Adventure Co. was featured on TV in January. WAC's co-founder Liesel (a Warburton local) and WAC Adventure Guide Zec (a Millgrove local), were filmed as they helped a family explore the Britannia Creek cave system in an episode of reality TV project The Yes Project (broadcast on 10 and on demand on 10 Play).

In The Yes Project, kids tell their parents what adventures they want to go on, and their parents have to say yes! Of course they can say no, however, in this episode, featured mum Rachel was happy to say yes to her two young boys' request to go caving! They loved the nature-focussed experience just out of Warby, especially seeing glow worms.

WAC loved hosting the family and TV crew on one of their amazing family-friendly adventures (which is suitable for children aged 5 and above). You can watch the Season 3, ep 9 Yarra Valley The Yes Experiment adventure anytime on YouTube – the link is on WAC's website's blog (www.warburtonadventure.com.au).

It's not the first time WAC has brought media in to show off Warburton! Co-owner Sam Maddock featured surfing river sleds on Sunrise; and took 9Now's Drive presenter abseiling down the breathtaking Seven Acre Rock near Warburton.

We love it when TV crews come out and profile the adventures possible in the Yarra Ranges and Warburton in particular! Ever thought about caving or abseiling in this wonderful region? Check out WAC's website to book your spot and see what all the fuss is about!



Millgrove Market's small businesses

by Kate Baselier

Small family businesses are the heart of Millgrove Market. Each week, hardworking stallholders bring fresh bread, cheese, seasonal fruit and vegetables, homemade cakes and biscuits, great coffee, hot food, honey, doughnuts, soap, upcycled clothing and handbags, aprons, spice blends, medicinal teas, art & craft, plants, dog treats, jewellery and much more straight from their kitchens, farms and workshops.

Unlike large supermarkets and department stores, these families prepare their food in small batches, using traditional recipes and locally sourced ingredients. Artists source local products that are converted into masterful creations.

When locals choose to buy from them, they are not just purchasing food and products, they are supporting dreams, livelihoods, and generations of skill. Money spent at the market stays within the community, helping families grow and thrive. By shopping locally, residents keep their market vibrant, personal, and full of fresh, delicious and creative choices. Find connectedness through community.

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 March,
Sunday 29 March and 18 April.

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



Running on Sunshine at Wesburn Energy Hub

by Heather Potter

A proposed Local Energy Hub at Wesburn has potential to produce cheaper power for local community groups, according to working group member Robert Hay. The project aims to construct a small solar farm on top of the capped landfill site and deliver a host of benefits.

“The solar farm will feed power into a battery which will deliver power to EV chargers that will be located in Wesburn Park and will be available to locals and visitors that need to charge their vehicles,” Mr Hay said.

“We anticipate It will also provide cheaper power for the local community groups and sporting clubs that use the facilities in Wesburn Park.

“Wesburn Park is used as a staging ground during emergencies, so if there’s a serious weather or fire event and the grid is out, the hub will continue to be able to supply power to Park facilities to support the emergency service crews until the grid is back up.”

Mr Hay said the installation of a battery would enable storage and management of the electricity generated by the solar farm through potential commercial partnerships. One aim is to encourage greater adoption of renewable energy and energy-saving measures that will also save people money.

Mr Hay is a pioneer of sustainability initiatives in Victoria,



including innovative trials in Eltham that led to transformation of Victoria’s waste management. He said in addition to the tangible day-to-day benefits, the Wesburn Local Energy Hub had enormous potential to reduce the local community’s vulnerability during grid outages.

The project is one of five community-led initiatives supported by Yarra Ranges Council and DEECA as part of the Upper Yarra Local Development Strategy to diversify the local economy and to include social and environmental benefits. To find out more or get involved in one of the working groups, contact Julian Guess j.guess@yarraranges.vic.gov.au.

‘A COMMUNITY INVITATION’

From Babajis

We warmly invite our Warburton community to join us for a biriyani feast to mark the end of Ramadan.

**Babaji’s Warburton
3305 Warburton Hwy.**

**Monday 23 March | 5-7pm
(or until we’ve emptied the Biryani pot)**

We’ll be cooking a traditional wood-fired chicken biryani - just as we would back home in Kerala.

A dish to be shared.

A chance to come together, slow down, eat together, and reflect on what we’re grateful for: Community, Kindness and calling Warburton home.

Food has a beautiful way of bringing people together - and our table is open to all.



★ No Charge

★ Just bring your good vibes

★ Everyone is welcome

★ Vegetarian option available

★ Spice level - medium.

RSVPs not necessary but helpful so we can cater accordingly.



b a b a j i s k i t c h e n . c o m . a u



Upper Yarra Rotary Club

by Jan Burney

The Upper Yarra Rotary is a service club with a long history of contributing in and around the Yarra Valley. The club has a strong emphasis on supporting and sponsorship youth in education and wellbeing opportunities.

A friendly and welcoming group who meets on the first and third Monday of the month at the Yarra Junction CFA building, 6:30 for 7:00pm.

Rotary is one of the largest service groups in the world. When you become a Rotarian, you are in a global network, where people unite and take action to create lasting change.

If you are interested in service above self, whilst having fun with like minded people and making a positive difference, please consider joining the Upper Yarra Rotary Club.

Contact: rotaryclubofupperyarra@gmail.com OR:
(M) 0409 936 701



Hello Yarra Valley Community

by Sioux Dollman

I'm Sioux Dollman, a resident artist in Warburton, and I'm delighted to share an update on my creative work.



For over 20 years, I've been involved in mosaic and ferro-cement community projects, commissions and workshops across the valley and beyond. Recently, I collaborated on ferro-cement sculptural walls with mosaic animal designs for the new Waterhole Trail at Werribee Open Range Zoo, where I also paint signs and murals.

One special local project is the *Rainbow Bird at Platypus Bend*, created with contributions from community members and children during open studio sessions. After several repairs to the beak, the sculpture will soon be reinforced and restored. Thank you for your patience and support.

My home, garden and creative practice continue to evolve, inspired by nature and themes of patience, healing, and magic. Lately, I've been focusing on slower, gentler practices - painting, meditation and drawing - which bring me peace and joy. Painting has become a deeply healing and heart-led process for me.

From May 2026, I'll be offering a six-week series of weekly classes combining meditation and acrylic painting, along with additional day workshops and retreats. Full details and bookings are available on my website.

In 2024, I met Natja Wunsch, an experienced yoga teacher and retreat organiser. Together, we're excited to present "Filling Your Heart - A Magical Creative Art Retreat", a healing blend of guided painting, meditation, yoga and music.

- **Day Retreat:** Sunday 22 February 2026, Wellspring, Warburton
- **Bali Retreat:** September 2026 - seven nights, five days of painting in a peaceful Bali location

All experiences are open to everyone-no prior experience needed.

For more information or bookings:
Sioux Dollman: www.sioxdollman.com
Natja Wunsch: www.yogaloka.com.au



**DISCOVER YARRA VALLEY
ONE GLASS AT A TIME**

Yarra Valley Wine Co. is your local
wine store and bar in the heart of
Warburton.

Pouring exclusively Yarra Valley
wines by the glass and bottle.

Local beers. Regional produce.
Grazing worth staying for.

Cosy Bar | Deck | Backyard
& Balcony with River Views!

www.yarravalleywineco.com.au
3371 Warburton Highway

What's on 3799

by Cr Jim Child

I'm pleased to share that the next stage of the Warburton Bike Park will open on 4 April, with shuttle services ready to take riders to the best spots across the trail network. This project has been many years in the making, and it's been fantastic to see locals and visitors already embracing the first 30 kilometres of trails. I'm looking forward to the positive flow-on effects this next stage will bring to the region, as even more people come to get active and enjoy our stunning natural environment.

As the main tourist season winds down, we're still expecting strong visitation through the autumn months. A reminder that there are plenty of parking spots available – including behind Warburton Hardware – and we encourage locals and visitors



Councillor Jim Child JP

'Open Door'
Yarra Junction Community Link
Yarra Junction
Mondays 9am – 12noon

Drop in or Call 9294 6106 to make an appointment.

Available to witness documents and certify them as true copies of the original, act as an independent witness to statutory declarations, affidavits and certifying a person's identity.

Contact Details
arjimchild@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
0438 079 227



to familiarise themselves with all the parking available around town, especially during busy periods.

Speaking of parking, our Warburton Paid Parking Pilot Project will be reviewed in the coming months. We'll be looking at how it has helped with traffic management and identify any improvements before we return to the community with recommendations. Thank you to everyone who signed up for a permit, and to our visitors whose parking fees will continue to be reinvested locally.

Council's Design and Delivery Team has commenced construction of a new car park located on land adjacent to the Wesburn Park Pump Track.

This project was initiated to create an overflow car parking facility at Wesburn Park. This new car park will help accommodate visitors during peak periods, especially with the anticipated increase in visitation due to the Warburton Bike Park.



**HANDSON
TREE SERVICES**

TROY HANSEN
Mob: 0401 327149

PRUNING
TREE REMOVAL
MULCHING SERVICE
24 HOUR EMERGENCY
FULLY INSURED
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

The Wellspring
HERBOTICA

A growing home for wellness, healing & community

The Wellspring Warburton is coming to life as a welcoming space for movement, care, & community wellbeing

The Wellspring Apothecary & Herbs in a Hurry

Open to community
Thurs 9:30am-1pm
Fri 2-4pm
Sat 10am-4pm
Mon & Wed by appointment

Small-batch, local herbal medicine, ritual tools & earth-led remedies.

Herbs in a Hurry consults from \$60

Practical, personalised herbal support for anxiety, menopause, UTIs, sleep, hormones and more.



Healing Saturdays

Each Saturday offers a rotating mix of gentle therapies, movement, & reflective practices.

Meditation, energy healing, 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.

Pop-in and see what's on offer each week.



Check out our new Website, book sessions or classes and shop the Apothecary online.

Follow along on socials
@wellspringwarburton
or email
info@wellspringwarburton.com
for more info.



Warburton Bowls Club

by Garry Lewis

The Warburton Bowls Club have completed the 2025/26 Summer Pennant season with several positive results.

The Weekend Warburton 1 Side finished in 6th place on the ladder to ensure they remain in Division 2 for next season.

The Weekend Warburton 2 Side finished in fourth place and the Midweek Side finished in second place to ensure they both play finals.

Intra Club Competitions resulted in Chris Lord and Aimee Dostie defending their achievements from last season over Steve Freestone and Michelle Foord respectively in the Men's and Ladies Singles Club Championships.

The Greenlow Vote Counting Night resulted in Steven Lord winning the Weekend Warburton 1 M.V.P. Award and the overall Pennant Player of the Year Award. Past winner, Chris Neale was Runner- Up.

Peter Summers was awarded the Weekend Warburton 2 M.V.P. Award with Darren Nisbet Runner- Up.

The Annual Pink Ribbon Triples Tournament was held on Sunday February 1st. The event was sponsored by Yarra Valley Professionals Real Estate. Over \$1100 was raised throughout the day with all proceeds going towards Breast Cancer Research.

Thank you to all the local businesses which provided prizes for the raffle! The winning team members were Mark & Michelle Furness and Jack Glossop.

The popular Wednesday Night Jack Attack Triples Competition is near the conclusion with 16 local community teams participating from November through to March. The Finals are to be held on March 4th, with all teams participating in two divisions.

If you are interested in entering a team for the next season, please contact the club accordingly.

Following the finish of the Wednesday Night Jack Attack Triples Competition, the Warburton Bowls Club will be hosting four Bingo Nights from Wednesday March 11th to Wednesday April 1st. 6.30pm for a 7pm start at the clubrooms. \$10 per head. Drinks available from the Bar. Prizes galore!

Families and friends of all ages are encouraged to attend.

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 during the Summer Season. FREE Coaching is available.

The Clubrooms are also available for hire for Private Functions, including Barefoot Bowls.

Interested people 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!



THE ALPINE HOTEL

est. 1885

Weekends | 8am - 11am

\$35pp
\$16 ages 3-10

BUFFET BREAKFAST

Weekdays | 3pm - 5pm

\$10

HAPPY HOUR

\$10 Pints, wines & spirits
\$15 Spritz

Mondays | From 5pm

\$25

PARMA NIGHT

6th/20th parma & fries

Tuesdays | From 5pm

\$37.99

LOCALS NIGHT

80% off all meals

Wednesdays | From 5pm

\$25

BURGER NIGHT

Burger, fries & pot

Thursdays | From 5pm

\$30

STEAK NIGHT

O'Connors rump & fries

Fridays | From 5pm

\$25

PIZZA NIGHT

Includes all pizzas

Every Saturday

LIVE MUSIC

From 6:00pm

Weekend

Buffet Breakfast

The all-you-can-eat weekend buffet breakfast has arrived at the Alpine Hotel! Indulge in an endless gourmet morning spread, featuring seasonal fruits, hot classics, fresh pastries, and premium selections. Includes Yarra Valley juices, tea, and Silva's specialty drip coffee.

\$35_{PP}

\$16_{KIDS 3-10}

All Welcome

3340 Warburton Highway | alpineretreat.com.au | Ph: 03 5966 2411
Accommodation | Dining | Weekend Buffet Breakfast | Functions & Events | Music



Edwin “Ted” Chisholm (1919 - 2012)

by Jenny Scammell

Anyone visiting Warburton will find Chisholm Park, next to Brisbane Bridge on Damman Road. It was named after Ted Chisholm, a legendary local, who was passionate about his town and river. He was born in the family home next to the Presbyterian Church in Warburton, and grew up with 4 siblings. He considered himself a “La La man”. A reference to La La Falls at the east end of Warburton. A student of the local school, he left at 14 to work locally, which he did for his whole life.

In 1939, when the Black Friday bushfires threatened the town, he rushed from the Warburton Garage, where he was working as a mechanic, to fight them, helping to save the Warburton Chalet, a tourist resort, 500m from the town. Warburton was also saved.

On 23 Mar 1941, Ted enlisted and started training at Seymour until he was called up for full-time duty on 17 Dec 1941. As a mechanic, he was part of the 11 Works & Parks Coy. He stayed in Victoria until being mobbed out to Darwin in early 1943. He completed courses and was promoted to S Sgt on 1 Apr 1945. In early June, he embarked from Brisbane for Morotai in Indonesia. At the end of July, he was in Balikpapan in Borneo, where he remained until demobbed on 29 Dec 1945.

In March 1942, Ted was given a week's leave to marry Peg. He built a house on Gibsons Parade, Warburton, and they raised 4 children. Community involvement was always part of his life. In the 1950s, he was involved in the construction of both the swimming pool and the Cerini Centre. In the early 1970s, he joined the Warburton Advancement League (WAL).

With retirement, his drive to improve the town occupied much of his time. Through WAL, the River Crew was formed with Ted Chisholm as its leader. Ted's River Crew transformed the banks of the Yarra River with pathways, seating and parks. Ted was known for his dislike of red tape, and he never had a permit for any work he and the crew did along the river. All the trees he planted were natives; he just didn't specify to which country! The River Crew continues today in his memory, maintaining what he started all those years ago.

For all his work in the community, he accumulated many awards. In 2000, he was the Yarra Ranges Citizen of the Year and received the John Howard Prime Minister Award.

In 2007, Ted was presented with the Mayor's Lifetime Award at the Yarra Ranges Australia Day Awards. He was also made a life member of the Warburton Advancement League. He is honoured on one of the 52 Historic Murals of Warburton. A very special, community-minded man indeed.



Serenading by the Yarra

by John Ridley

You find some wonderful things when you stroll along our river trails. The other day I was out for an evening walk when I heard a beautiful, soft serenade. I stopped to hear more and discovered I was listening to a successful singer of Sri Lankan origin but living in Darwin, Akshy Athukorala – known as Akshy Athu. You can hear him and see his videos singing in both English and Sinhala. He was being filmed, for the promotion of a new release, serenading a delightful young lady. It was a very pleasant interlude. We are such a cosmopolitan region!

Little Joe
dine in - take away



Breakfast, wood fired pizza, coffee, wine & beer
3416 Warburton Hwy, Warburton 03 5966 5635

Holiday season Opening Hours

Monday-Friday 10am - late

Saturday-Sunday 9am - late

Open Public Holidays

www.facebook.com/warburtonlittlejoe

THOMAS
INSURANCE SERVICES

TRUSTED INSURANCE
SOLUTIONS SINCE 1919



- ▶ TAILORED ADVICE FOR YOUR BUSINESS
- ▶ EXPERT CLAIMS SUPPORT
- ▶ LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, PERSONAL SERVICE
- ▶ NO OBLIGATION REVIEWS AND QUOTES

1/3395 Warburton Highway, Warburton
hello@thomasinsuranceservices.com.au
(03) 5968 2222



Team members from left to right: Bob Reed, Rob Bevis, Mary Rankin and Colin Rankin

Warburton Rifle Club Victorious

by Chris Thomas

The Warburton Small Bore Rifle Club had success recently in the Victorian Target Rifle 2025/26 20 metre Benchrest Postal Pennant competing against other Small Bore Rifle Clubs throughout Victoria.

Small Bore rifle shooting is with a .22 calibre single shot rifle.

The Club fielded 3 teams each of 4 shooters in the Postal Pennant competition, which has 8 separate Grades.

Warburton A Team competed in the C Grade section, and at the end of the Pennant season they were tied with Traralgon B, both on 32 points resulting in a Shoot Off to decide the winner of the Pennant.

The results of the Shoot Off were Warburton A – 594.15 out of 600 and Traralgon B was 593.13 out of 600 with Warburton B narrowly declared the successful winners by 1 point and receiver of the Pennant flag.

The Warburton B Team competed in D Grade and came 3rd, while the Warburton C Team competed in H Grade and came 5th

The Rifle Club has been operating continuously since 1952 and over the years has batted above its weight with members that have competed at State & Olympic level.

The Club shoots every Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 7:30pm to 10:00pm and any members of the public are very welcome to attend to give it a go.

It is a friendly, welcoming group of people, both men, women and younger people who are all more than happy to encourage and coach new shooters.

Target shooting is a very equal sport with members from 12 years old and women, all of whom compete on the same footing. In fact Mary, in the photo, puts her husband and son to shame at times.

For any information please call the Chairman of the Club, Chris Thomas on 0407 560 237.



Handmaker's Space at the Warburton Waterwheel

by Julie Hanman and Rebecca Bowman

"We love to buy our gifts locally at the Waterwheel in Warburton township. It supports our local

artists and shows the creative spirit of the Upper Yarra Valley!" The Handmaker's Space is a dedicated area within the Waterwheel. The space provides an ideal platform for emerging artists, crafters, and small-scale producers reaching for a wider audience to promote and sell their unique products.

Who can participate? The Handmaker's Space is available to local people in the Upper Yarra region who want to promote or sell their handmade products.

This includes:

- Artists looking to exhibit their work
- Crafters and makers of handmade goods
- Small-scale producers of local products
- Anyone with a creative passion and a desire to share it with others

What kind of products are sold?

You'll find a diverse range of unique items, including:

- Handmade crafts perfect for gifting
- Artwork, paintings, and prints
- Pottery, ceramics, and glassware
- Local produce, jams, and preserves
- Woodwork, textiles, and more

Benefits of participating

- Showcase your work to a wider audience
- Connect with other local creatives and like-minded people
- Gain exposure and build your customer base
- Sell your products in a supportive and encouraging environment

How to get involved If you're interested in participating in the Handmaker's Space, reach out to the newly forming committee at the Waterwheel to inquire about availability, guidelines and costings. They'll be happy to help. Contact Nikki Murray on 0425 754 493.

Whether you're a local or just visiting, be sure to drop by and explore the fantastic products on offer!

Working Group - Waterwheel in Warburton





Professionals



Your Local **3799** Real Estate Experts

Discover what's happening in your local property market today.

 mcmath.com.au

Professionals Yarra Valley

Yarra Junction - 03 5967 1800
2460 Warburton Hwy, Yarra Junction VIC 3797

Warburton - 03 5966 2800
3414 Warburton Highway, Warburton

March Photo Exhibit at The Waterwheel

by Rachel Tsoumbakos

Local photographer, Anders McDonald, is opening his first solo exhibition at the Warburton Waterwheel this month.

Titled “A Gamut,” the exhibition will explore gender ambiguity and how the space between the binaries shapes how we see each other.

McDonald released the following statement regarding his upcoming photography showcase.

“The subjects in this exhibition exist beyond easy categorisation. Their presence resists the reflex to define, label, or resolve. In photographing them, I am not attempting to answer the question of who they are, but rather to dwell in the complexity of how they are seen. Each portrait invites the viewer to confront their own assumptions about masculinity, femininity, and the visual cues we rely on to make meaning of bodies.

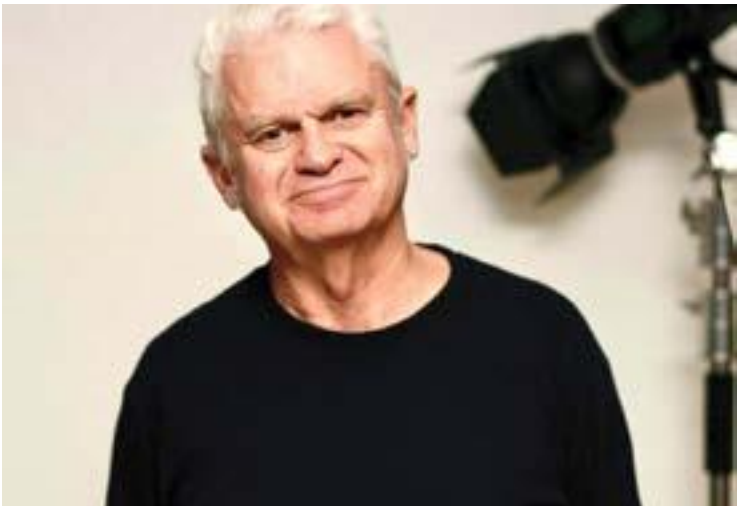
The camera, often used as a tool of classification, becomes here a tool of suspension. Styling, posture, light, and environment are intentionally composed to destabilise certainty. Strength coexists with softness. Vulnerability holds authority. Beauty refuses a single direction.

These images are not about androgyny as novelty, nor about erasing identity. They are about multiplicity. They honour individuals who embody fluidity—not as performance, but as lived reality. In their presentation to you and their gaze, there is both intimacy and defiance: an insistence that identity is not a problem to be solved.

Ultimately, this exhibition asks viewers to slow down. To sit with ambiguity. To allow discomfort to soften into curiosity. And to recognise that the space between categories is not empty—it is expansive, human, and deeply alive.”

Anders moved to Warburton over five years ago, seeking a place to practise his creative art in an environment renowned for nurturing and supporting artists.

A Gamut opens at the Warburton Waterwheel on March 3 and runs through to March 31, with the opening on Sunday, 8th March at 1:00 pm.



YARRA VALLEY LEGAL

WILLS & ESTATES

WHAT WE DO:

PROPERTY LAW
&
CONVEYANCING

Sales
Purchases
Change in the Manner
of Holding
Section 32 & Contract
of Sale Preparation
Contract Reviews
Caveats

WILLS
&
ESTATES

Wills
Powers of Attorney
Probate & Letters of
Administration
Contesting Estates
Guardianship &
Administration

We come to you!

CONTACT US TODAY!

03 5929 7010 info@yarravalleylegal.com.au

FREE WILLS & ESTATES ONLINE SEMINAR

24 March 2026 - 12:30pm

SCAN TO REGISTER!



Community in Action: A Brief History of the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail

By Megan Wallens - 18.02.2026

(Editor's Note: This article will be presented over two consecutive 3799 Connect issues – March and April 2026)

As the name implies, the 35km Trail is on the alignment of the former Lilydale to Warburton broad gauge railway line. Opened in 1901, the year of Federation, the last train ran in 1965. It was a lifeline for the Upper Yarra. On a Friday evening there would be several trains bringing large numbers of visitors to the numerous guest houses to enjoy the clean air, wonderful scenery and good food. Within days of the last train, the tracks were taken up, the railway reserve was abandoned; some parts were sold off or leased. Today, when we enjoy our beautiful rail trail, it's hard to imagine the rich heritage of steam trains puffing up and down belching out smoke and whistles, delivering locals and visitors, collecting timber and agricultural products to go down to the city.

After 20 years of neglect, in 1984 V/Line notified local authorities and communities of its intention to dispose of the Lilydale-Warburton Railway Reserve Land. The community reacted vehemently against this, making strong representation in support of the land's retention for recreational purposes. Subsequently, and happily for us today, it was agreed that the land in question would be transferred to and managed by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Land; Joan Kirner was the Minister. In July 1985, Mrs Kirner appointed a steering committee drawn from community, local government (Upper Yarra and Lilydale Shires) and government agencies, to oversee the preparation of a Management Plan. This was done to ensure public consultation throughout the process, with the Plan being released in 1988.

By 1992, supporters of the Trail saw the need to be properly organised to ensure its maintenance. Subsequently, a Friend's Group was formed in May 1994. Its first working bee began the process of removing large amounts of rubbish, including dumped car bodies. Local contractors gave their time and equipment to dig drains and lay pipes supplied by a generous manufacturer.

But also in 1994, despite the undertaking ten years earlier, the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) decided to dispose of significant 'surplus' portions of the reserve. This caused public outrage, and the PTC backed down. Procedures were put in place to have the reserve declared Crown Land Reserve. 1996 was definitive for the Trail. The reserve became Crown Land Reserve. In July, under the recently formed Victorian Government Rail Trails Program, a Committee of Management was appointed by the Minister for Conservation, Environment and Planning.

Last train from Warburton, Aug 1, 1965



Supplied Pic: Kerry Nicholas, Patrick O'Shaughnessy and Phil Wallens of the Friends Committee at Warburton station.

vation and Land Management, Marie Tehan: the Warburton Rail Trail Committee of Management. This was made up of volunteer representatives from the Friends Group, Government and the two local governments. At a ceremony on 11 August 1996, the Minister officially handed over the reserve to the Committee of Management. And also in August 1996, the Inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Warburton Trail was held.

The new Committee of Management oversaw much excellent work along the Trail. Bridges were reconstructed with much help from the local CFAs and Rotary members. In November 1998, the section between Killara and Launching Place was formally opened. A program of revegetation with thousands of plants commenced along the Trail's length, along with pleasing general improvement of the surface. All that remained now was for a bridge to be built across the Maroondah Highway in Lilydale, and for the section from the highway to Lilydale Railway Station to be completed. It took some years and much effort to achieve this, because part of this section had been leased to the Sisters of Mercy for use by the Mt Lilydale College. There was a huge public campaign to have the trail remain on its original alignment - demonstrations and a protest march. Eventually, work was done to take the Trail around the College (away from the alignment), while lobbying for a bridge across the highway continued.

The long-awaited bridge was completed and officially opened in 2011, amidst much excitement. The 90m steel construction cost \$3.5 million - funded by VicRoads, Parks Victoria and Yarra Ranges Council.

The Friends Group became redundant, when the Yarra Ranges Council took over responsibility of the Trail's management. 125 years since the first train travelled on it, the Trail is a great recreation facility for locals and a key tourist attraction in the region with thousands of cyclists, walkers and horse-riders enjoying the delights that it offers. It is one of the most enjoyed rail-trails in Victoria. Footnote: We would like to identify more of the people who made this wonderful trail possible. If you can help, please write to 3799!

S. & J. PHOTOGRAPHY

Freelance Photography & Visual Design

Shontelle & Jack

Contact: 0407 248 174

Email : thirdeyevsuals7@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook & Instagram

3799 Connect

Community Calendar

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
1 st and 3 rd Mon of month	Upper Yarra Rotary Meeting - 7:00pm at Yarra Junction CFA
3 rd Mon of month	Upper Yarra Valley Garden Club - 7:00pm at Oscar's
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

Your Community Group, Organisation or Sporting Club activities can be listed here

March Yarra Ranges Film Society Activities

by Meg Urquhart

The Yarra Ranges Film Society has had a fantastic start to 2026, with a wonderful response from members for our first film of the year, *El 47*. It was so lovely to see a mix of familiar faces and new members across both our Warburton and Healesville venues.

We're still hoping to boost our membership numbers for 2026, so please invite your friends, neighbours and fellow film-lovers to come along. Join us for a sherry beforehand — it's a great way to connect with friends and film lovers!

Our next film is **Phantom Thread**, a beautifully crafted drama directed by Paul Thomas Anderson and starring Daniel Day-Lewis. Set in 1950s London, the film follows renowned dressmaker Reynolds Woodcock and the unexpected relationship that develops when a young woman, Alma, becomes his muse. It's an elegant and intriguing story exploring love, control and the delicate threads that bind relationships together.

Time: 7.30pm

Warburton: Tuesday 10 February

Healesville: Tuesday 17 February



And don't forget the **Healesville Mini Film Festival** on Sunday 29 March — a wonderful celebration of the best of British cinema. Tickets are available via the Yarra Ranges Council website or at The Memo and Arts Centre Warburton.

The committee are also busily selecting films for the Warburton Film Festival weekend in June — stay tuned for more details.

Be sure to follow Yarra Ranges Film Society on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with upcoming screenings, special events and festival announcements.

Annual membership fees - 2026

Full membership	\$80.00
Concession	\$70.00
Youth (under 25)	\$35.00