

3799 Connect

Connecting our Community

Warburton Trail Fest Recap

by Chris Ord

"Showcasing the Warburton Valley as a hotspot of nature-based tourism and idyllic mountain lifestyle, this year's Warburton Trail Fest successfully produced its ninth edition on the March Labour Day long weekend, with more than 1300 runner registrations, marking its largest ever.

The Festival features a myriad of trail runs, from the Lumberjack 50km Ultra highlighting the Walk Into History trail from Powelltown, through 27km Redwoods Rush and shorter family friendly distances including a 14km, a 10km night run and multiple 4.5km runs.

This year the event attracted a clique of elite international competitors and exposure thanks to its Donna Double 22km run, which is part of the international Golden Trail National Series, linked to a high profile global competition. It saw a heated pointy end pack battle it out on a course that has runners climbing the Mount Donna Buang trail to the summit (a 1000 metre ascent in the first 8km!) before looping around the summit and bombing back down in an impressive test of downhill technique and sheer bravery.

"And while we love the racer-action at the front, we are at heart a family friendly, welcoming run event with lots of runners

lacing up for 'firsts', be that a first ever trail run, first ever half marathon or first ever ultra," says Chris Ord, a proud alumni of Warburton Kindergarten and Primary School and once-was a Burras football player. "We also have the famous Lilo Derby which this year attracted more than 200 participants - we reckon next year we'll anoint ourselves as World Lilo Championship!"

"Having grown up in town, I'm pretty passionate about it still, and love coming back to invite others to the paradise that is Warburton," says Chris, whose tour and event company produces trail run outings across Australia and overseas. "We also proudly ensure the event gives back to the community township by supporting local businesses such as The Alpine, Warburton Adventure CO., Impact Pilates and Zenith Osteopathy, along with community organisations and the primary school in particular," says Chris.

Warburton Trail Fest raised \$4,000 for the primary school, totalling nearly \$40,000 raised to date during the event's existence. It also raised \$2,000 for the local CFA and another \$2,000 for environmental charities.

"Hopefully as we grow we can entice more local businesses to get involved!"

Warburton Trail Fest will return on 6,7,8 March 2027 - www.warburtontrailfest.com

Contents

New Warburton IGA Update	2
Autumn Market Magic in Millgrove!	3
3799 Connect Reader Survey	3
Join Brushy's Toy Library at ADRA	4
Music In Our Towns	4
UpCycles - Your community bicycle workshop	5
New Adventures Launched in Warby	7
What's Good for Nature is also Good for Business	7
A New Era on the Horizon for the Waterwheel	8
Many Hands, Many Ways	9
Warburton Bowls Club Report	11
Mountain Bike Hub for Warby	11
Flavours and Favours Opens in Warburton	12
The History of the Reefton CFA	13
Lower Parking Fees in Warburton	15
ANZAC Day Events in the 3799 Area:	16



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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

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New Warburton IGA Update

Supplied by Roger Mataele, One Call Contracting P/L

A bit of an update 2025–26 - As everyone would've seen last year, we achieved a lot of progress in the first 6–8 months.

Since about October last year progress on the new IGA build has slowed down quite considerably, due to a number of reasons:

- Plan/design changed slightly, which meant council planning approval - standard 77 days, which was completed on time.
- Engineering and draftsman issues
 1. The large retaining wall
 2. Building slab design
 3. Yarra valley water - sewer issues

Heading into the end of February 2026 and beginning of March we started to get some things ticked off:

- Sleeper wall on eastern side completed
- Started excavation for slab/wall pad footings and preparation for retaining wall supports/footings
- Started building footings/pads

In the coming weeks we will see:

- New fence on the eastern boundary
- Large piling/boring machine return for pad footings, which means more concrete trucks/pumps.
- Drainage along large retaining wall completed.
- All services, power, water in ground. Looking forward to seeing the concrete wall building panels going up.

Just like every other local in town we are keen to keep this project progressing forward.





Autumn Market Magic in Millgrove!

by Kate Baselier

Mark **Saturday the 18th of April** in your calendars for the ultimate finale to the Easter school holidays with a burst of community spirit! The Millgrove Market is the ultimate destination for families, friends, and anyone looking for a golden autumn day out. Whether you're a local or visiting for a getaway, the vibe here is unmatched.

Challenge your family or friends to a round of **FREE Giant Games** before diving into a treasure trove of small business magic. We're talking artisan bread and seasonal produce straight from the farm, plus unique finds like upcycled fashion and bags, medicinal teas, pottery, wood art, plants, soaps and handcrafted jewellery and dog treats.

Grab a hot coffee and some yummy biscuits while you browse, as this is the perfect way to support small businesses and **reduce those travel miles** by shopping local. Think of it....how good is it that stallholders come to you! The **1st Woori Yallock Scouts Group** will have the BBQ running, perfect for your lunch snack. Bring a picnic rug and stay for the community spirit; make a day of it in beautiful Millgrove.

Saturday 18 April, Saturday 16 May and Sunday 31 May (9am till 2pm)

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



3799 Connect Reader Survey

by 3799 Connect Staff

We would love to get your feedback to help us improve our 3799 Connect Newsletter and make sure it provides the type of information you would like to hear about. We have created a survey that you can access by visiting our 3799 Connect Website and clicking on the survey tab, or you can click on the QR Code here and access the survey that way.

Thanks for reading 3799 Connect and, a big THANK YOU for completing our survey! Online at www.3799connect.com.au/survey/

Reefton Hotel Trivia Night!
THURSDAYS IN APRIL
2nd, 16th & 30th
@ 7pm - Free Event
Bookings Essential, please call 03 5966 8555



REEFTON HOTEL



Join Brushy's Toy Library at ADRA

by Kate Barratt

At ADRA we are excited to share our latest community resource, Brushy's Toy Library! Following on from many years as Upper Yarra Toy Library, Brushy's offers an affordable and sustainable way to keep children engaged, learning, and having fun.

Toy libraries are growing in popularity as families look for cost-effective alternatives to constantly buying new toys. By borrowing instead of purchasing, parents can save money, reduce clutter at home, and give children access to a wide variety of toys that support different stages of development. From puzzles and educational games to imaginative play sets, toy libraries encourage creativity while promoting reuse and environmental responsibility.

Brushy's Toy Library makes participation simple and accessible. Membership costs just \$60 for 12 months or \$30 for six months, allowing families to regularly rotate toys without the expense of buying new ones.

Members can conveniently reserve toys online ahead of time or visit in person to browse the collection on Mondays and Thursdays between 11am and 12pm. For those with busy schedules, visits can also be arranged at other times by appointment.

With its flexible access and wide selection, Brushy's Toy Library is helping local families connect, save money, and make more sustainable choices—one toy at a time.

Located at ADRA Community Centre-Redwood 3505 Warburton Hwy, Warburton. Bottom level. Parking at the front, side or rear of the building.

Join up at https://brushystoylibrary.setls.com/signup_online or in person. For more information email brushystoylibrary@icloud.com



Music In Our Towns

By 3799 Connect Staff

It is always great to hear local musicians playing for the passers-by. The other Sunday a couple of local-ish (Cockatoo) youngsters, Keila and Ralph, were playing at the COG café to the delight of patrons, bikers and walkers passing by.

Discover the Magic at Brushy's Toy Library!



Join us for endless fun!

- Access a wide variety of age appropriate toys as your child grows
- Save money
- Reduce clutter at home
- Support sustainability

JOIN NOW

Open Mondays & Thursdays 11am-12pm
or outside hours by appointment

Visit us at 3505 Warburton Hwy, Warburton or email brushystoylibrary@icloud.com





UpCycles - Your community bicycle workshop

by Phil Wallens

UpCycles is a community-based not-for-profit bicycle workshop operating within the ECOSS organisation at Wesburn, Victoria. It is managed by Damian Auton, a well-known local identity in the mountain biking fraternity. He has operated his own commercial bicycle sales and maintenance businesses in the Yarra Valley over the past 20 years.

UpCycles takes donations of bicycles and bicycle parts, then dismantles and sorts to select usable items. Complete bicycles are then built and offered for sale to the public. Individuals also work on projects to restore their own bicycles. Young people are encouraged to participate and have hands-on involvement in all aspects of this work. People under the age of sixteen must have parental supervision, and those over that age often take a leadership and mentoring role as their experience develops.

UpCycles was set up four years ago. It was an initiative of The CEO of ECOSS, Chelsea McNabb who approached Damian with the suggestion. With some financial help from Sustainability Victoria, the UpCycles workshop was constructed within the ECOSS campus on the Old Warburton Road, Wesburn.

The objectives of UpCycles are: to help reduce the amount of waste going to land fill whilst producing quality cost-effective bicycles; to involve young people in the process and thereby teach them some useful life skills; to help foster parent/child relationships by involving them together in the Up Cycles processes.

In the four years since start-up, the team has UpCycled 375 bikes and saved 9.1 tonnes from landfill.



Damian has a very watchful eye on the quality of the finished product, and insists on only the best possible parts being used. He and his young team know that they are offering a safe, high-quality product to anybody buying from them.

It is obvious that the community involvement aspect to this venture is important to both ECOSS and Damian Auton, as are the spin-off advantages that it brings to the young people involved. So, what do they observe in terms of those objectives?

Whilst young people are learning skills in a particular mechanical process, they are also developing a range of non-physical skills that will be transportable to other parts of their life. The importance of quality, planning, time management and budgeting all come into the process at UpCycles, and will be of value in the future to all those involved in this innovative development.

UpCycles is open for business at the ECOSS site, 711 Old Warburton Road, Wesburn Fridays 3pm-6pm, Saturdays 10am-4pm





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www.warburtonadventure.com.au



Sean explaining the local trees in Warburton to some onlookers
(photo by Jayne D_Arcy)

New Adventures Launched in Warby

by Jayne D'Arcy

Warburton is one of the most versatile holiday spots in Australia. Come summer, the Birrarung/Yarra River welcomes people into its coolness as they river tube or sled down. Winter sees people swap sleds for toboggans and head up to the top of Mount Donna Buang for snow play and to gather around a campfire to keep warm. The local forests change with the seasons too, inviting a different kind of cool calm.

Warburton Adventure Co. (WAC) loves bringing people in from all around Victoria and the world to showcase the best of the Yarra Valley, taking note of the changes each season brings.

Being a Warburton-based adventure operator, WAC is always looking for ways to collaborate locally, and has been working with Andrew Haughton (aka The Local Bike Coach) and Sean Marler to road test some brand new activities.

Gravity MTB Camp, launching these Easter school holidays from 13-15 April, is a 3-day full mountain bike immersion for kids aged 12+. It's all about progression, big excitement, safe skill development, and hanging out with like-minded kids.

Sean Marler is showcasing his expertise in Warburton's natural environment with Forest Foraging with Sean. Anyone who knows Sean knows his boundless enthusiasm for nature, and his engaging ways of passing valuable information on. Book in for his next session on 18 April: you won't look at the forest in the same way again!

These new activities have been designed by WAC to be more than an 'adventure': they're learning experiences, for life. Book online at warburtonadventure.com.au, or pop into WAC HQ 3375 Warburton Hwy, Warburton, to find out more!



What's Good for Nature is also Good for Business

by Heather Potter

With its breathtaking views, waterfalls and mountain trails, the Upper Yarra is a potent lure for people wanting to escape the urban sprawl. But for Jane Stormer (pictured), the challenge is how to keep local businesses thriving while protecting the very natural wonders tourists have come to enjoy.

A keen walker herself, Ms Stormer is Chair of The Walking Economy Innovation Working Group, supported by Yarra Ranges Council and DEECA to revitalise business and employment following the end of commercial timber harvesting on public land. She said the task was a delicate balancing act.

"We want people to enjoy this place but also leave no trace," she said.

"It's about attracting the right crowds to ensure sustainability. We want 'sticky stay' people who will be here for more than one day and engage in our culture and heritage while they're here. People who will walk or cycle in, or leave their cars at their accommodation to minimise car chaos in the main street."

She said the working group has applied for funding to do an economic feasibility study that will detail considerations such as trail network mapping and infrastructure assessment, user demand and usage analysis. The project aims to create a continuous long distance walking trail that establishes the Upper Yarra as a premier walking destination, starting with the enhancement of the 51km Walk into History Trail.

"Walking is the best thing you can do for physical and psychological health. And with our unique environment, people are going to come here whether we like it or not," she said.

"Our goal is to look at how we can enhance our walking tracks for the local community and the broader community, and protect them for the future."

The Walking Economy Working Group is one of five community-led initiatives aiming to bolster businesses and employment in the region. To find out more or get involved in one of the working groups, contact Julian Guess j.guess@yarraranges.vic.gov.au.

A New Era on the Horizon for the Waterwheel

by the Warburton Waterwheel Ltd Board

The Warburton Waterwheel Visitor Information Centre, Gallery and Handmade Gift Shop is poised to launch into a new era filled with exciting possibilities and great new energy. Following a community meeting held by the current Warburton Waterwheel Ltd Board in March 2025, interested locals have come together to form a not-for-profit incorporated association – Waterwheel Hub Inc (WHInc) – that is set to take over operating the Waterwheel business on 1 June 2026.

The Waterwheel in its current form has existed since 2011, when Upper Yarra Community Enterprise (UYCE) and the Warburton Valley Community Economic Development Association (CEDA) stepped up to form a not-for-profit company (Warburton Waterwheel Ltd) and board to manage the business. Since that time, UYCE has invested significantly to keep this important local icon operating, with the desire that it would one day be self-sustaining. Great strides have been made toward that goal such that the Waterwheel has been operating independently since July 2025.

With the Waterwheel's building lease from Yarra Ranges Council expiring 31 May 2026, the current Board realised it was the perfect time to place the business into new community hands. Rather than hand over a company structure that had been unable to apply for grants and other funding sources, the current Board has opted to cease operations on 31 May. It will then turn over all assets to the newly formed not-for-profit Waterwheel Hub Inc,

which is acquiring a new lease and will be responsible for running the business from 1 June onwards.

Already WHInc is applying for grants and other funding to support its vision for the Waterwheel. Visitor information and local handmade arts and crafts will remain at its heart, with many great new ideas in the works to expand its offerings.

Key to its ongoing success will remain the volunteer support that has kept its doors open all these years. The outgoing Waterwheel Board offers its heartfelt thanks to the many people who have helped make the centre what it is today. They are also excited to see where the new WHInc Committee will take the business moving forward.

Check out 3799 Connect next month to find out more about where the Waterwheel is headed and how you too can be part of this exciting future. Questions? Don't hesitate to contact current Waterwheel Coordinator Michele Osterhoudt at wwcoordinator@upperyarra.net.au



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From all the Directors of the Waterwheel's current Board...

THANK YOU!

To all those who have helped make the Waterwheel the local icon it is today, and to the new Waterwheel Hub Inc preparing to take the helm on June 1st, we say Thank You! The past has been amazing and the future looks bright!

Community Led, Volunteer Run
Open Daily – 10am to 4pm



Many Hands, Many Ways

by Senia Kazar

From April 3 we have a collaborative artist exhibition at The Waterwheel in Warburton.

Since 1989, the Waterwheel has been the art centre of the Warburton area, built by the Upper Yarra Council and community. This space has always seen collaborative effort as being front and centre to any development in town. It has been run by an engaging volunteer group that meet, greet and inform any person that passes through its doors.

We as artists of this upcoming exhibition wish to strengthen this bond with visitors and community.

Our 7-artist collective is sharing a long history of time spent in and around Warburton. Each artist is expressing their personal vision of our beautiful landscapes and wildlife via our own medium of collage, photography, painting, tactile fibre, ceramics and music.

Workshops will be held throughout the month – see The Waterwheel website or talk to the volunteers at the information desk for details.

We warmly invite you to come and chat, exchange ideas and share stories of this marvellous hinterland which we all love to visit, where we find solace, meditate, create and for the lucky ones... live. We look forward to sharing space, time, creativity and the joy of making with you all.

See you in April!



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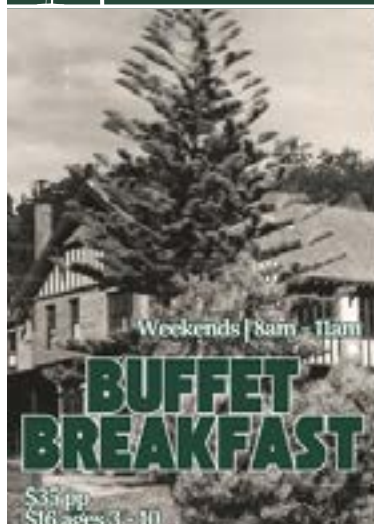
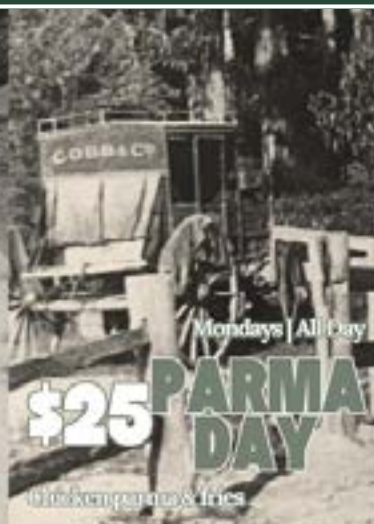
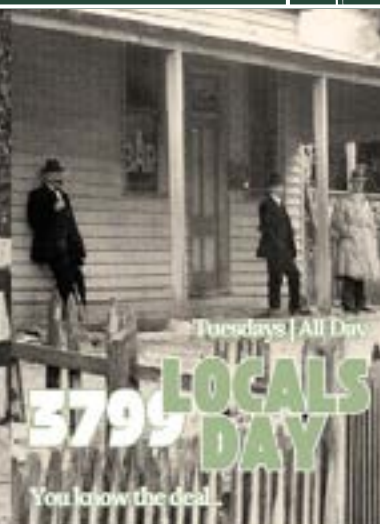
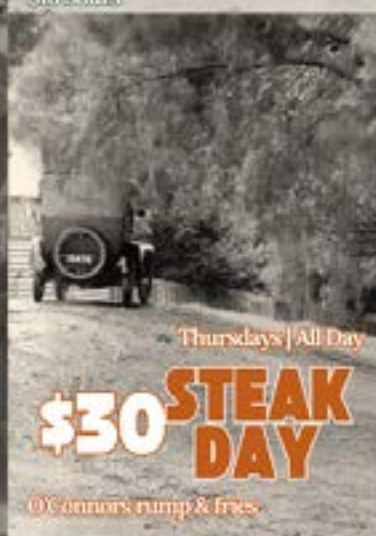




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Weekend

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

Warburton Bowls Club Report

by Garry Lewis

The Warburton Bowls Club (the Burras) completed the 2025/ 26 Summer Pennant Season with the Midweek Side winning their Division 2 Sectional Premiership with a win over Ferntree Gully 1. As a result, the side will be promoted to Division 1 next season.

The Weekend Warburton 1 Side will remain in Division 2 for next season and the Weekend Warburton 2 Side will remain in Division 5 for next season after losing their Sectional Semi Final against Monbulk 2 recently.

The Presentation Night was held on March 13th at the clubrooms. Congratulations to the following members for their achievements throughout the year!

2025 Winter Intra Club Competition:

- *Singles 21 Up Winner- Fred Wagenaar
- *Pairs- Mat Stoessiger & Mark Smith

2025/ 26 Summer Intra Club Competitions:

- *George Saker 100 Up- Aimee Dostie
- *President's Handicap- Michelle Foord
- *Minor Champion- Mat Stoessiger
- *Club Pairs Champions- Rodney McKail & Chris Neale
- *Ladies' Singles Champion- Aimee Dostie
- *Men's Singles Champion- Christopher Lord.
- *Most Improved Bowler- Michelle Foord
- *Special mention to Max Reynolds for being awarded the 'Best Club Person Award' in recognition of his continued outstanding contribution around the club.

Aimee Dostie followed up from winning the Club Ladies' Singles Championship to reach the Quarter Finals in the Eastern Ranges Bowls Region Champion of Champions. A fine effort overall!

The popular Wednesday Night Jack Attack Triples Competition concluded on March 4th with an exciting Finals' evening.

The Top Eight Section was won by 'Can't Remember' with team members Carole Andueza, Julie & Kevin Robinson.

The Lower Eight Section was won by 'Thomos' with team members Chris Thomas, Jeremy Crunden & Steve Fitzgerald.

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.

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.

The Clubrooms are also available for hire for Private Functions, including Barefoot Bowls. Several local people, local community groups and businesses have taken up this offer in the past and continue to do so.



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!



Mountain Bike Hub for Warby

by 3799 Connect Staff

The works underway on the vacant block in the main street opposite the tennis courts is to be an MTB hub. Council has confirmed this will be the major hub in Warburton.

This is good news for the shops in Warburton as the riders will be coming off the trails into town to get the shuttle bus back to Wesburn or to another ride – after they have had a refreshing drink or meal. This was very much in Council's mind in selecting the location.

The positive impact from the bike trails on shops in 3799 is already being felt and the opening of the new trails early in April will increase that. Shopkeepers are also thinking about the 'non-riders' in a family group – younger kids and parents – who are going to the Waterwheel, cafes and shops, or taking a gentle stroll along the Yarra.

We hope there will be an information sign to tell riders about eateries and attractions nearby?

Welcome to all!

Flavours and Favours Opens in Warburton

by Adrian Timmermans

Warburton has recently welcomed a new small gift store, *Flavours and Favours*, run by local residents Adrian and Cherie Timmermans.

Adrian and Cherie live locally with their five children and the shop is very much a family venture. The idea grew from an appreciation for thoughtful gifts, good food, and the many talented makers and producers found throughout the Yarra Valley and beyond.

Flavours and Favours offers a range of gifts, gourmet foods, locally sourced products and gift hampers. While the focus is on supporting local makers and showcasing products from the Yarra Valley and surrounding areas, the shelves also include a selection of well-loved specialty items from other parts of Australia.

Adrian and Cherie hope the shop will become a small place where locals and visitors can discover interesting products and enjoy the creativity of regional makers in the heart of Warburton.

Located at 3407 Warburton Highway, Warburton 3799
Email: shop@flavoursandfavours.com.au



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The History of the Reefton CFA

by Michelle Fisher

How I love the Reefton CFA. When I first moved up here 18 years ago, they invited my family to the Annual Easter egg hunt held every Easter Sunday. I gathered my kids and we met outside the CFA building. We then followed a couple of cars up the road towards the dam then they turned down a dirt track. We drove for a while until the convoy stopped and we got out and gathered around the mouth of a mine shaft leading to dark black hole that disappeared into the side of a hill. The kids gathered outside in excitement and once the magic words "Ready. Set. Go!" were called, they eagerly disappeared into the dark chasm in the side of the hill, torches in hand, like there was some invisible Pied Piper drawing them in. As I watched a cloud (yes that's the official collective noun if they are flying) of startled bats fled the tunnel over the heads of excited kids, I knew I had found my place. Not sure what that says about me as a parent...

A couple of years later we had the Black Saturday fires. I had left three of my four kids playing in the river in Warburton with a friend while I went up to help my husband put out embers and burning branches that were falling from the sky caused by the fire's freak ability to create its own storm. When I heard that Warburton was being evacuated, I was frantically trying to decide whether to go get my kids, as McMahons creek sounded safer than Warburton or let them go with my friend to Melbourne. I drove up the Reefton CFA to ask them. Captain Dan and few others were standing outside the station on high alert. I asked them if they were getting any back up - he told me "Nope this is it". There they all were, bravely ready to defend our little town.

The weeks after that dreadful day, we were all on edge, sometimes needing to leave, sometimes staying. The CFA asked us to leave something on our letterbox (I forgot what it was) to say if we were home or not. It was very reassuring to have our own little CFA looking out for us during such a stressful time, so I thought I would do a story about the Reefton CFA - (Actually let's call it a "scoop" so I can live out my fantasy of being a hard-hitting journalist!).

I asked around and was directed to one Rosco Minifie, whose grandfather, Vern Minifie started the Reefton CFA. I should also mention that Rosco is Reefton's longest living resident. He was born at Warburton hospital in 1961 and except for the first couple of months of his life has lived here ever since! "So Rosco," I ask wishing I had a little cassette deck with a tiny mic attached to really get into the vibe, "How did the Reefton CFA start?" It was a good question to ask because the answer is pretty cool. Before Ash Wednesday they didn't have a fire brigade. However, the locals did take it on themselves to do the burn offs. It seems they did quite a good job of it. Every two years, the locals would wait for the right conditions and Rosco's Dad, Ted Minifie would drop a heap of kids off along the road with a box of matches each and telling where to set fire to the undergrowth. The burn off would smoulder for weeks till the fires burnt themselves out. Every two years they chose a different place to burn off.

Around the mid-70s the locals were paid a visit by Forestry and told in no uncertain terms that they would face heavy fines if they continued with their renegade burn offs. The locals then decided to put an emphasis on keeping their own properties clean. "When the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires came, explained Rosco, it roared through up here but only one house out of all the permanent residents burnt down and that was because the council wouldn't let them clear around their house!"

"Speaking of the Ash Wednesday fires, "I asked with typical journalistic zeal "What are your memories of this?" (Another great question) "Well my wife was pregnant and we were both down at the 'huff and puff' (or better known as the maternal health centre) in Yarra Junction when someone called in and said that they were closing the road from Millgrove soon. We quickly left and went back to our home in Reefton. The next day I went back down to talk to the Country Road Board about learning to drive their trucks for a new job I was starting. We then heard that the fire that was heading to Powelltown had changed direction and was heading towards Reefton." "I drove up to Reefton but when he got to Starvation Creek there were flames along the road. There was a Country Road Board patrol car driving with him but they decided to turn back at that point. I went ahead driving through flames and around burning fallen trees. Once I got to Peninsula tunnel, I could see the fire coming up behind me. I rushed home to my wife and packed some things before heading out to the Upper Yarra Dam. Along with eight other families that were living in Reefton and McMahons Creek at the time and we sheltered there for around three days. To protect the children from smoke we put them in the tunnel that runs under the dam while the adults stayed in the cars to keep a look out. We would get food dropped in by people living further down the line. Launch pub even did a beer run for us!"

Statistics on houses that survived the Ash Wednesday fire in Reefton and McMahons Creek: Of the 34 permanent homes only one was burnt down. Of the 71 holiday houses, 37 were burnt down.

Two months after Ash Wednesday the community got together to put in a submission to apply for its own CFA. A group of locals met at the Reefton bridge and a committee of 10 were elected. They then put a 12-page submission together. Rosco was kind enough to lend me a copy of the original submission which makes for interesting reading. There is this great little map that shows how each house fared in the fires.

This document pointed out there were a number of issues during Ash Wednesday's fires that could have been avoided if Reefton had its own CFA. "Lack of equipment and direction caused confusion and concern among the residents and confusion and mistakes on the part of the firefighters." There were 42 members of the community who had pledged to join the Reefton CFA once it was formed. HOWEVER, these 42 members are no longer available (for obvious reasons) and the crew of the Reefton CFA is only a shadow of its former glory. So, if you would like be part of this fine institution and stand in the bulky safety boots of the people who sent their kids into the bush with a box of matches to conduct burn offs this could be your Rubicon moment!

So now you have the history of Reefton Fire Brigade and whilst things are done a little differently nowadays let's bring you up to date. We are now a small band of merry people supporting our communities and we are growing, but we need to continue to grow our membership to be able to maintain our service to our communities. We have a great team, work well together and respect one another and we need you to come and join our merry team. If you don't want to be a firefighter that's perfectly fine, we have jobs for you too. You can join by using the attached link or email me to make a time to have a chat Reefton.capt@cfa.vic.gov.au I look forward to hearing from you!

Sue, Captain Reefton Fire Brigade

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Lower Parking Fees in Warburton

by Yarra Ranges Council

Changes to Warburton Paid Parking Pilot - Weekends & Public Holidays.

This project was introduced in May 2025, and is a pilot project running until July 2026. Following this, the project will be reviewed.

Parking is free for Yarra Ranges Residents by applying for a permit anytime online or over the phone, or during business hours at Council Community Links.

Following Warburton Highway trader engagement (by direct phone calls) in February 2026 a proposal was put to Yarra Ranges Council to adjust the fee structure for parking on Warburton Highway. The majority of consulted traders expressed a preference to trial a simplified hourly rate rather than the current system of first hour free. At the meeting on 10 March Council agreed to test this alternative structure as part of the Paid Parking Pilot. The updated fee structure for paid parking on Warburton Highway will be changed from Saturday, 14th of March.

What's changing?

The current arrangement of first hour free and \$6.00 for the second hour will be replaced with a flat rate of \$3.00 per hour. This change will:

- Reduce fee to \$3 an hour
- Simplify the system for visitors
- Remove confusion about registration for the first free hour and potential fines
- Simplify road signage

"Please note, changes are only impacting fees on Warburton highway – no changes to other parking areas will be implemented at this stage. Importantly, this change does not represent a final decision on the long-term parking model. The Warburton Paid Parking Pilot will continue to be monitored, and Council will prepare a comprehensive evaluation report later this year (est. August-September) with recommendations." - Quote attributable to Cr Jim Child, Councillor O'Shannassy Ward.



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
crjimchild@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
0438 079 227



stay your way*

*River swims optional.

Warburton Holiday Park

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



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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 & 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
3 rd Sat & 5 th Sun of month	Millgrove Market – 9:00am – 2:00pm
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



ANZAC Day Events in the 3799 Area:

Time	Event	Location
~5:45 am	Dawn Service	Yarra Junction Cenotaph
~5:45–6 am	Dawn Service	Millgrove memorial
10:15 am	Assemble for parade	Warburton RSL
10:35 am	ANZAC Parade	Warburton
10:50 am	Commemorative Service	Warburton Cenotaph