

3799 Connect

Connecting our Community

The Warburton duck

by John Ridley

Nobody knows how it happened.

At the end of January, a young duck, still with its juvenile feathers, visited The Bakery and was immediately distinguished by its boldness. It showed no fear of people. On the contrary, it would follow walkers around the river tracks. It would visit the cafes and confront customers. It was a fussy eater.

The Bakery was really its base camp. Thea Letts did a charming poster of her which is displayed in the Bakery window. (below left poster by Thea)

Initially thought to be male and named 'Greg', it proved to be female and was renamed 'Gregoriana' by Chelsea at the Bakery. Once Greg (he/him) was correctly identified (she/her), she went regularly to training with the Warburton Wesburn Senior Ladies' Football Team! There is a lovely video of her at training which you can see on the Burras website (<https://burras.com.au/our-gallery/>)

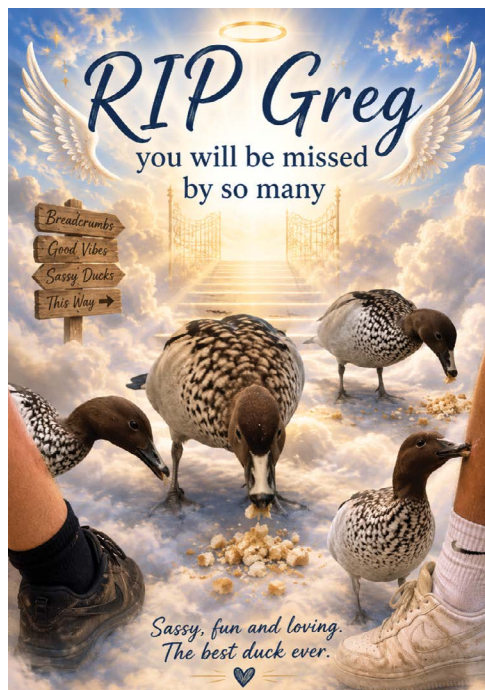


Image by Heather Potter

Gregoriana quickly became an icon for the town and was often photographed. She showed that she was in charge!

Very sadly, all this came to an end on May 27. She was hit by a car which did not stop. Rob Eva was nearby and he picked her up but she died in his arms.

Another poster was prepared by Tayah Humphrey to commemorate her and her 'sassyness'. We may not see her like again.



Warburton On-Line

by 3799 Connect Staff

This excellent service has been moved out of its space (The Supper Room) under the Mechanics Hall and has relocated to the ADRA Redwood Centre as from Monday 29 June.

3799 has been told that their former space will be available for meetings and functions at a charge depending on the nature of the organisation.

Council has advised that:

All contact details for On-Line will be updated in the Community Directory (by the time you are reading this report). The Supper Room will be available as a bookable space from 1 August. The space is being refreshed and more information will be available ahead of the launch.

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3799 Connect

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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

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

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Your Voice!

by 3799 Connect Staff

3799 Connect welcomes news, reports, letters, photographs and comments from local residents, community groups, clubs and organisations.

We are keen to help our community connect. We want to reflect the life, interests and concerns of our community. We encourage contributions about local people, events, achievements, issues and ideas.

To help us publish your contribution, please:

- Include your name and contact details
- Keep articles to no more than 300 words
- Tell us who, what, when and where for events and activities
- Include captions and names of people shown in photographs – make sure you have their permission!
- Submit material by the 18th of each month.

Contributions should be respectful, accurate and suitable for publication in a community newspaper. The editors reserve the right to edit, shorten or decline material, if it is offensive, defamatory, misleading, inaccurate or unfair to individuals or groups.

Please send contributions to: 3799connect01@gmail.com

Help us tell the stories of our 3799 community!

Apology

Our June issue contained a report from the Garden Club but due to our error, it was wrongly attributed. We apologise to the actual author, Janet Sowden.

Please ensure that the author's name is at the foot of any copy submitted.

Community battery planned for Warburton Golf Club

by Indigo Power

Warburton is set to host a new community battery later this year, with Indigo Power working alongside the Warburton Golf Club on a proposed installation at the Club's Dammans Road site. The battery will be co located with the Warburton Community Hydro System already operating at the location. Installation is expected to begin in late August, with the system planned to be fully operational by November.

The project is part of Indigo Power's broader community battery program, supported by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA). The program will support the installation of seven community batteries across North East Victoria and southern New South Wales to help strengthen local energy resilience.

The proposed Warburton system is a 250 kilowatt / 780 kilowatt hour battery. It would be installed near the Golf Club's main switchboard and connected to the existing electrical infrastructure at the site.

Community batteries store electricity so it can be used later, shared locally, or used to support the wider electricity network. In Warburton, the battery is designed to operate alongside the existing 100-kilowatt hydro facility managed by Upper Yarra Community Power.



Sample photo of similar battery.

For the Golf Club, the battery is expected to provide backup power to the clubhouse during an outage and support more stable electricity costs over time. For the wider community, the project is intended to make more locally generated renewable energy available through Indigo Power's community energy sharing model.

Community batteries are still new in Australia, especially in regional towns. This project is an opportunity to show how locally hosted energy storage can support community resilience, make better use of renewable energy, and create practical benefits for local organisations.

Indigo Power is continuing to finalise the technical details for the project. More information will be shared with the Warburton community as the project progresses.



Warburton Film Festival 2026

by Meg Urquhart

The 2026 Warburton Film Festival has concluded on a high note, with record attendance, enthusiastic audiences and some of the highest film ratings in the festival's history.

The festival opened with a memorable screening of *But Also John Clarke*, introduced by writer and director Lorin Clarke, daughter of the late John Clarke. Lorin's engaging and insightful Q&A session gave audiences a fascinating glimpse into the making of the documentary, the vast archive of family footage behind it, and what it was like growing up in one of Australia's most creative families.

Audience response throughout the weekend was overwhelmingly positive. Festival-goers praised the welcoming atmosphere, the quality of the films, and the opportunity to gather with fellow film lovers from across the region. Many returning visitors commented that the festival remains one of the highlights of their year.

Lorin Clarke later reflected on her experience in Warburton, saying: "You've built something wonderful. Having witnessed it first hand, I must confess to sitting down the next day in Silvas, next to a latte I could have done laps in, and scribbling with a biro on a napkin a dastardly plan to return and sit in the dark with the locals once again."

The festival program featured an outstanding selection of international and Australian cinema. Audience favourites included *I Swear* (4.8/5), *But Also John Clarke* (4.7/5), *Goodbye Julia* (4.5/5), *Touch* (4.4/5), and *From Hilde, With Love* (4.3/5). Other highly regarded films included *Uproar* (4.2/5), *It Was Just An Accident* (4.1/5), and *The Stolen Painting* (3.9/5).

A highlight of the festival was the annual Show Us Your Shorts competition, which showcased the creativity and talent of emerging filmmakers. Award winners were:

- **Golden Shorts Award:** *No Thank You* – Georgina Haig
- **Runner-Up:** *In The Trees* – Andy Lay Clark
- **Youth Award:** *Metamorphosis* – Mia Tran Van Vinh
- **Best Animation:** *What Shall We Do With A Drunken Sailor?* – Nathan Robinson
- **Best Documentary:** *The Connection of Ants* – Billy Ferguson

The Yarra Ranges Film Society extends its thanks to everyone who contributed to the festival's success, including volunteers, sponsors, filmmakers, guests and audiences. Special thanks go to Jeff Gill and the Warburton Advancement League for organising and providing the shuttle bus service, which was greatly appreciated by patrons throughout the festival.

Join the Yarra Ranges Film Society

There's still plenty of great cinema ahead in 2026, and new members can take advantage of reduced half-season membership rates:

Joining Month	Films Remaining	Full Membership	Concession
July	6 films	\$60	\$50
August	5 films	\$55	\$45
September	4 films	\$50	\$40
October–December	Final films of season	\$45	\$35

Recent member screenings have also been exceptionally well received, with *The Blue Cofan* receiving audience ratings of 4.3/5 in Warburton and 4.1/5 in Healesville.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2026 Warburton Film Festival such a success. We look forward to welcoming audiences back for another year of outstanding cinema and community connection.



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Garden Club Notes

by Janet Sowden

NEWS FROM OUR JUNE MEETING: The speaker at this month's meeting was the mycologist Jeremy Hegge. He gave a Zoom presentation about mushrooms and other fungi.

The total number of different fungal species is unknown, but it is vast. New species are still being discovered.

Fungi are everywhere: in the air, the soil, water; on plants and animals; on other fungi, on insects and parasites and even on bacteria.

Fungi consist of almost invisible thread-like hyphae, which spread and branch to form a mycelium. The mycelium in some species can extend for many kilometres underground and can form the largest living organisms on earth. A honey mushroom fungus in Oregon (USA) is estimated to be about 10,000 years old and covers more than 2000 acres.

The mycelium absorbs nutrients and also sends up fruiting bodies, such as the familiar mushrooms and toadstools, whose sole function is to reproduce by means of spores – billions or even trillions of them.

Spores are very long-lived, many surviving desiccation, radiation and prolonged dormancy. When conditions are right, the spores germinate, forming new hyphae, and the cycle starts again.

Fungi are very important for plant growth. The mycelium forms a symbiotic relationship with plant roots and is a means by which plants can "communicate" with each other. The plant receives phosphorus and nitrogen from the fungus, and the fungus receives sugars from the plant roots.

Fungi also have an important ecological role in breaking down plant matter and releasing nutrients. They are the world's major decomposers.

It is a myth that fungi are harmful to touch.

The identification of edible fungi is a specialist's job, and is based on touch, colour, texture, gill structure, shape, size, smell and microscopic spore structure. Best not to eat wild fungi; instead buy only cultivated fungi from the supermarket!

GARDEN TASKS FOR JUNE IN THE UPPER YARRA VALLEY:

- Prune fruit trees and remove all dead or diseased branches
- Take hardwood cuttings
- Transplant dormant trees and shrubs

Flowers to plant:

- Arctotis
- Calendula
- Hyacinth
- Lupin
- Oriental poppy
- Shasta daisy
- Sweet pea
- Tulips

Vegetables to plant:

- Asparagus crowns
- Onions
- Early potatoes
- Peas
- Spinach
- Peas
- Radish
- Spinach

Farm-to-table values inspire innovative local initiative

by Heather Potter

Kinder farming, local sustainable meat options and opportunities for young farmers are the key goals of the abattoir working group, according to local farmer Michelle Fisher. The group is part of a community-led initiative supported by Yarra Ranges Council and DEECA. It is intended to revitalise business and employment following the end of commercial timber harvesting on public land.

"A lot of us do paddock to plate farming, so that's selling direct to clients. It's about being self-sufficient, so the animals travel less miles and it's kinder for the animals," Ms Fisher said.

"Unfortunately, abattoirs are being taken over by bigger companies and they're not accepting smaller clients. That means some local farms are having to transport their animals long distances - even interstate."

The group has a vision for a sustainable multi-species abattoir that not only supports smaller farms at a nearby location, but also operates on the values of no-waste and kindness.

"There's particular ways you can design an abattoir so it's less stressful for the animals, like holding paddocks and curved walkways for cows," Ms Fisher said.

"We also want to open it up for hunters to bring locally shot deer and use the byproducts to make fertiliser."

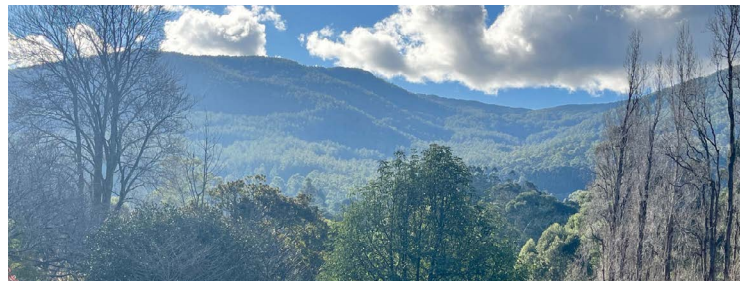
Ms Fisher said an operation like this also presented opportunities for local farmers who wanted to retire and mentor younger generations to farm their land; as well as lifestyle owners who had a larger property and could make it available for others to farm.

"Hopefully there will also be a butcher shop attached to it so people can come and get their week or month's supply and put it in the freezer."

Yarra Ranges Council has received funding from DEECA for a 'foundational project' that will assess suitable locations and the financial feasibility of the community owning and operating the abattoir.

The Abattoir 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.

Michelle Fisher michelle@massagebytheriver.com.au 0428 842 243



Keeping Italian Alive in Warburton — One Conversation at a Time

by Diana Karambalis

La Chiacchierata — a relaxed weekly Italian conversation catch-up that's reconnecting Warburton's scattered Italian community and giving language-learners a friendly place to practise.

Some participants grew up hearing Italian at home, others learned it years ago and want to dust it off, and a few are just beginning their language journey. What they all share is the joy of speaking, listening, laughing, and rediscovering a piece of culture that feels both familiar and new.

There's no pressure, no formal lessons, and no expectations. Just conversation, community, and the comfort of knowing you're among friends. And of course, there's always good coffee and something delicious from the Al Trancio kitchen to keep the words flowing.

La Chiacchierata runs every Wednesday from 11am at Al Trancio, Warburton. Everyone is welcome — whether you're fluent, rusty, or simply curious. Sometimes all it takes is a chat to feel connected again.



Winter in the Garden: What to do in July

by 3799 Connect Staff

July can feel like the quietest month in the garden. The days are short, the soil is cold, and in the 3799 area we can see plenty of misty mornings, frosts, soggy lawns and slow growth.

But winter is not wasted time in the garden. In many ways, July is the month for setting things up properly. A little effort now can make spring far easier, healthier and more productive.

The first job is observation. Walk around the garden after rain and take note of where water sits. These wet spots can tell you a lot about drainage, soil compaction and where future garden beds may struggle. Winter is also a good time to notice where the sun actually reaches. A spot that seemed sunny in summer may be shaded for most of the day in July.

In the veggie patch, growth will be slower, but there is still plenty to do. Hardy winter crops such as broad beans, peas, spinach, silverbeet, garlic, onions, lettuce, radish and some Asian greens can still be planted or maintained. If your garden beds are too wet, raised beds, pots and tubs can be a better option for winter planting.

July is also a great month for feeding the soil rather than pushing plants too hard. Add compost, aged manure, leaf mulch or straw around garden beds, keeping mulch away from the stems of young plants. This helps protect soil from heavy rain, reduces weeds and slowly improves soil structure before spring arrives.

Pruning is another key winter job. Many deciduous fruit trees, roses and grapevines can be pruned while dormant. Remove dead, damaged or crossing branches, and open up the centre of trees to allow better airflow. If you are unsure, prune lightly rather than heavily. A careful tidy-up is often better than a dramatic haircut.

Winter weeds are also worth staying on top of. They may not look like much now, but they can take off quickly once the weather warms. Pulling weeds after rain is much easier, and removing them before they seed can save a lot of work later. For lawns, July is more about patience than action. Avoid heavy foot traffic on soggy areas, rake up fallen leaves, and wait until growth resumes before fertilising heavily. If moss is appearing, it may be a sign of shade, moisture or compacted soil rather than a simple lawn problem.

It is also a good time to clean tools, sharpen secateurs, repair garden edging, wash pots, tidy the greenhouse or potting bench, and plan spring projects. Garden centres often have bare-rooted fruit trees, roses and ornamental trees available in winter, making July a good month to plant larger permanent additions.

Most importantly, do not be discouraged by a garden that looks a little tired in July. Winter gardens are supposed to be quieter. Beneath the surface, roots are settling, soil is improving, bulbs are emerging and the next season is already underway. A good July garden does not need to look perfect. It just needs a little attention, a little planning, and a little patience.



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Warburton Sports Centre Committee – 50 years of supporting Warburton

by Chris Thomas

In June 1975 local newsagent Mary Morton was the driving force in a Public Meeting for the formation of a local group that had the goal of building a gymnasium and squash courts in Warburton. The group was called the Warburton Sports Centre Committee.

Mary and her husband Bob Morton were also instrumental in the raising of funds to build the former Olympic swimming pool at the caravan park, later called the Bob & Mary Morton Pool. Among the members of the Warburton Sports Centre Committee were, Ken & Greta Miller, Sue Buller, Yvonne Duck, Roy Bartlett, Norm Tyack, Chris Thomas, John & Rhonda Thexton, and Stan & Mavis Ling.

The Committee started to raise funds by collecting bottles and papers in an era before Councils had a formal recycling program. The depot was behind the Mechanics Hall and people dropped them off, or the Committee went around on weekends collecting them. The papers were bundled up and were taken to the APM Paper Mills at Fairfield by Gordon Buller with his trucking company, free of charge.

The bottles were sorted and soft-drink, beer & wine bottles were cashed in and any other bottles were broken into drums and sold as broken glass. This continued for many years until their depot was burnt down by a vandal and subsequently Council commenced a recycling program.

The Committee in the interim for many years organized and ran the Easter Carnivals at Warburton on the Football oval with the help of many locals. Who could forget the tent pegging by the Victorian Mounted Police galloping at full speed down the oval with their long lances held out striking the timber pegs in the ground with the sharp points.

There was wood chopping, both on the standing block and climbing the poles with planks and chopping the tops off. Some of the competitors included the O'Tooles, who were wood-chopping royalty. Both of these events were organized by Keith "Bones" Poynton through his contacts in the Police Force and timber industry. Amongst other attractions were side shows, various stalls, "Ducky's Donuts" run by Yvonne Duck, pony rides, mini golf and other events.

The Committee also ran an annual "Mountain Marathon" from Powelltown to Warburton running over Mount Bride, challenging to say the least. Other fund raisers included fun-runs, walkathons and bikeathons.

In the late 70's/early 80's the current Mechanics Hall was in very poor condition and basically unused. The Committee identified it as a potential site for a sporting complex. Many residents living in Warburton now would not realize it, but on the Melbourne side of the Mechanics Hall there was previously an old weatherboard shop that had been a Sporting Store run by Mrs. Robinson. On her retirement it came on the market For Sale and it was bought by the Committee as a future site to develop their sports complex on.

On the Melbourne side of the old shop and between the Picture Theatre was a lane that went to the rear of the then Wattle Bakery, later the K G Thomas Real Estate Agency.

The Committee kept raising money with the aim to build a complex there, until it was approached by the then Shire of Upper Yarra who wanted to close the lane and redevelop the Picture Theatre, and take



Sue Buller, Greta Miller and Chris Thomas handing over cheque to WAL committee members at recent meeting

over the old shop bought by the Committee and link it into the retained Mechanics Hall as a single complex after a local "Save the Hall" campaign, to create the current Warburton Arts Centre.

To enable this Arts Centre project to proceed the Committee gave the freehold title of the shop to the Council, and in return were promised the site to the east of the new tennis courts at the Caravan Park for their Sports Centre project.

As time went on potential construction costs escalated and the Committee kept raising funds until it became apparent it was just not feasible.

Over the years they contributed money to various local clubs and also to the Warburton Advancement League specifically for the use of Mr. Ted Chisholm's track works around the river frontage at Warburton and some of the viewing platforms when that construction work was underway.

Over the following years the Committee has kept meeting and invested the money it had raised however as time has gone by it became apparent that times had changed and the original Squash Courts purpose for the fundraising was no longer appropriate.

As over 50 years have transpired since formation of the Committee the remaining members made a decision to wind up the group.

An amount of \$ 120,000 was pledged and paid to the Yarra Ranges Council as part of the local contribution to leverage Government Funding for the Warburton Water Park project to proceed.

The remaining balance of funds has now been presented to the Warburton Advancement League at their recent meeting for the specific purposes of, being committed in Warburton for:

- 1) buying equipment for the ongoing maintenance of the walking tracks and,
- 2) a substantial contribution towards the purchase of quality Christmas decorations for Warburton that hopefully will brighten the town annually for many years to come.

Over the years every single cent raised by this Group has gone back into Warburton.



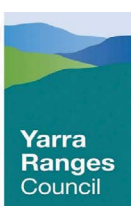
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Local Winter Walks: A Simple Way to Reset

by 3799 Connect Staff

July can be cold and grey, but it is also one of the most beautiful times of year to get outside in the Upper Yarra.

A winter walk does not need to be long or difficult. Even a slow 20-minute walk can help clear the head, warm the body and break up the heaviness that can come with short days and cold weather.

Warburton, Millgrove, Wesburn, Yarra Junction and the surrounding areas are full of simple walking options. The rail trail is always a reliable choice, especially for families, prams, dogs and anyone wanting a flat surface. The river walks are also beautiful in winter, with mist through the trees, running water and plenty of birdlife.

The trick is to make it easy. Keep a jacket, beanie and walking shoes near the door. Go between showers. Take a warm drink. Walk with a friend, or enjoy the quiet on your own.

Winter often makes us want to stay inside, but getting outside is one of the best ways to enjoy where we live. The 3799 area does winter well — misty mornings, mountain views, wood smoke, wet forests and quiet streets.

Sometimes the simplest local outing is the one that does the most good.

Photo by Doncoombe on Unsplash



A step in the right direction!

by 3799 Connect Staff

Recent weeks have seen quite a bit of work by Council on footpaths in 3799. Building new ones and repairing others. We have been waiting quite a while for this and it is excellent to see it happening.

In Wesburn, a new concrete path has been built on both sides of the highway so that residents no longer need to trudge through the mud to get to the shops and The West!

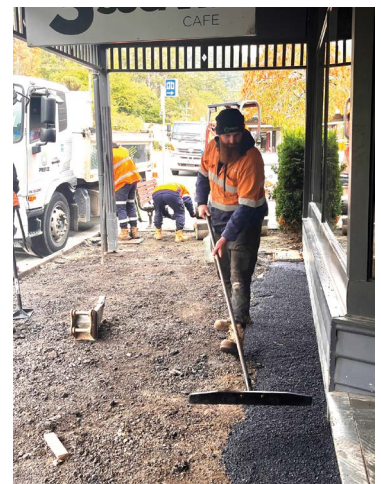


In Warburton, the cracked and irregular bitumen path on the South side of the highway has been substantially removed and re-laid making shopping a much less risky undertaking. Ask Gordon Buller!

On the Rail Trail from Warburton to Millgrove, the fence has been rebuilt to match the original with treated pine and wire making it safer for the many pedestrians and cyclists who use it.

Council is not flush with funds and it is good to see that these works have been budgeted for this year.

What do you have to add to the Council footpath shopping list?



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Winter Warmth at the Millgrove Market

by Kate Baselier

The second half of the year is underway, and July is usually considered the coldest month in the Upper Yarra. Fortunately, that doesn't stop locals and visitors from getting out and about.

The last Millgrove Market may have been a little wet, but as an all-weather market, it continued to attract enthusiastic visitors armed with umbrellas, raincoats and gumboots to support local family businesses. The SES Upper Yarra Unit was still able to attend after an early morning call-out and Steph from Follow the Robin kept spirits high throughout the day with her beautiful music and songs.

This month the market will be held on **Saturday 18 July**, with winter trading hours from **10am to 2pm**. Visitors can browse a wonderful range of stalls offering fresh bread, cheese, homemade cakes and biscuits, great coffee, chai and hot chocolate, hot food, gözleme, doughnuts, honey, upcycled clothing and handbags, aprons, warm woolly jumpers and beanies, spice blends, medicinal teas and tinctures, vegan skin care, art & craft, sensory toys, pottery, plants, dog treats and much more!

MRAG (Millgrove Residents' Action Group) will once again provide the popular **FREE Giant Family Games**. In the centre of the market visitors can relax in the mini courtyard area and enjoy a cuppa and delicious treats from the food stalls.

Come along, make a day of it and enjoy Winter in Millgrove with family, friends and the local community.

Millgrove Market is organised by MRAG volunteers and runs year-round.

Next markets: Saturday 18 July, 15 August and Sunday 30 August (10am till 2pm)

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



ADCare Op Shop Assists Local Family in Time of Need

by Kathy Kearns

Warburton's ADCare Op Shop received the following letter of thanks after they were able to help a local family with a life changing event. ADCare received a significant donation to forward to The Bambridges for baby Maybel by a lady named Jenny. Three weeks ago, Jenny listened to a sermon viewed on Youtube from the Seventh Day Adventists church. In this sermon the minister presented the four outreaches to the community that function each week. Nursing Home, ADCare, Soup Kitchen and the Redwood Centre.

"When our beautiful Maybel Duanne was born, we immediately knew something wasn't quite right. She spent the first 4-5 weeks of her life in the NICU at Monash Children's Hospital.

On 14 February 2026, Maybel went into severe metabolic acidosis, and we were unsure whether she would recover. From there, we endured countless biopsies, procedures, and tests before finally receiving answers through genetic testing.

The results confirmed that Maybel has Microvillus Inclusion Disease. An extremely rare genetic condition affecting less than 200 people worldwide.

This means that she is unable to absorb nutrients, fluids, or water through her digestive system and will live with severe chronic diarrhoea. When we received her diagnosis, we were terrified about what the future might hold for our little girl.

We knew we would be spending the following months in hospital learning how to manage TPN (Maybel's intravenous nutrition, which keeps her alive), and that life would look very different for our family. Even simple things, such as setting up Maybel's room and adapting our home to meet her needs, suddenly became overwhelming tasks.

During this incredibly challenging time, we were surrounded by an amazing community of support. The kindness we received from so many people carried us through some of our darkest days.

This wonderful op shop generously donated \$2,500 to help renovate Maybel's room and make it suitable for her complex medical needs, as well as assisting us with our laundry setup to cope with the extensive washing that her condition requires.

On 7 June, after four long months in hospital, we were finally able to bring Maybel home to a freshly renovated house, with so much of the stress already lifted thanks to your generosity. Being able to focus on settling our daughter into her new home, rather than worrying about how we would afford the changes we needed to make, was an incredible gift.

Today, Maybel is absolutely thriving, and we cannot adequately express how grateful we are for your support, kindness, and generosity. Your contribution has made a genuine difference to our family's life and has helped give our daughter the very best start at home.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Love, The Bambridges xxx."



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This month we start what will be a regular series introducing you to the people behind the counter in the businesses of 3799. We start with the Millgrove Dairy Cheese Shop and the Flying Apron in Wesburn. Please let us know who you would like to meet next!



Anna and Theo at the Flying Apron in Wesburn

From Vietnam to the Yarra Valley: Anna's Growing Business Story

by 3799 Connect Staff

When Anna arrived in Australia from Vietnam in 2012 as an international student, she could hardly have imagined that one day she would be running two successful food businesses in the Upper Yarra.

After living in Sydney for ten years and Western Australia for two, Anna moved to the Yarra Valley and took over the Gladysdale Bakery. She had previously operated an Asian restaurant in Jurien Bay in WA and was looking for a new challenge. The bakery opportunity appeared unexpectedly online, but Anna says she immediately felt the area was right for her.

"Everything happens for a reason," she says. "People here are very friendly here and very supportive of small business."

The Gladysdale Bakery has been a success, and after two years Anna has expanded by purchasing the Flying Apron café business. She had seen The Flying Apron in Wesburn but did not know who owned it. Anna approached Cleo Silva, her coffee supplier to ask who owned the business. Cleo laughed and explained she had only just taken it over. A few months later, however, Cleo decided to move on and remembered Anna's interest.

Anna says the Upper Yarra's strong community spirit was a major reason for investing again locally. She also sees enormous potential in the mountain bike trails and the growing number of visitors cycling through the region.

She remains interested in future opportunities and hopes to continue expanding within the valley. In particular, she would like to explore possibilities at the vacant Launching Place 'General Store' if Council would make it available.

At the Flying Apron, customers can expect some exciting additions. While keeping popular favourites such as the café's Silvas' coffee, Anna is introducing some Vietnamese inspired food. Freshly baked bánh-mì rolls and daily-made rice paper rolls will become features of the menu.

"Australia is the best country for me," Anna says. "It has given me opportunities in education, lifestyle and business. And the people of the Upper Yarra are so friendly."

Her entrepreneurial energy and enthusiasm suggest this latest venture is only the next chapter in a remarkable story.

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Mill Grove Dairy: From a Taste of Home to a Thriving Business

by 3799 Connect Staff

How It Started

Mill Grove Dairy began in an unexpected combination of travel, romance and a longing for good cheese. Dutch-born Pieter was travelling in Australia when he met Nicky, a Melbourne local who had spent more than 30 years working as a geriatric nurse. Originally, Pieter had no intention of settling in Australia, but after meeting Nicky he decided to stay.

After moving here, Pieter found there was one thing he missed from home: Dutch cheese. Rather than paying high prices for imported Gouda, the couple decided to try making their own. Neither had any professional experience in cheesemaking, although Pieter's family in the Netherlands had connections with the industry. What started as a hobby soon became a passion. The pair attended cheesemaking courses in Lilydale, experimented at home and gradually developed the skills and confidence needed to turn their interest into a business. Their Millgrove property provided the ideal location for a small-scale cheese factory.

Government Hurdles

Starting the business proved far more complicated than making the cheese.

While the local council was generally supportive and helped them work through home-business requirements, obtaining the necessary dairy licences was a much greater challenge. As a very



Nicky and Pieter with customers Esther and Ben

small producer, Mill Grove Dairy often found itself dealing with regulations designed for much larger operations.

Pieter and Nicky found it difficult to obtain clear guidance and were frequently directed to consultants for advice. Despite producing only a fraction of the volume of major dairy companies, they were required to pay the same registration and licensing fees as some of Australia's largest manufacturers. In the end, support from experienced cheesemakers proved invaluable in helping them navigate the regulatory process.

How They Do Business Today

Today, Mill Grove Dairy has grown well beyond its hobby beginnings. The business operates a retail outlet and sells through markets (particularly Millgrove Market), restaurants and specialist food retailers. While many customers come from the Yarra Valley, more than half the sales are made outside the region, helping introduce a wider audience to locally produced artisan cheese.

What began with Pieter's search for authentic Dutch cheese has become a successful local enterprise and a valued part of the Yarra Valley's growing food culture.

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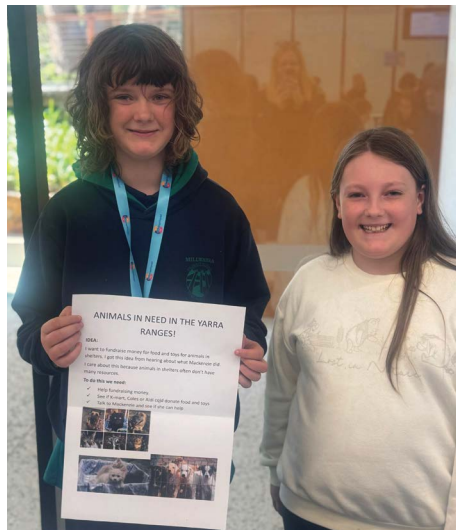
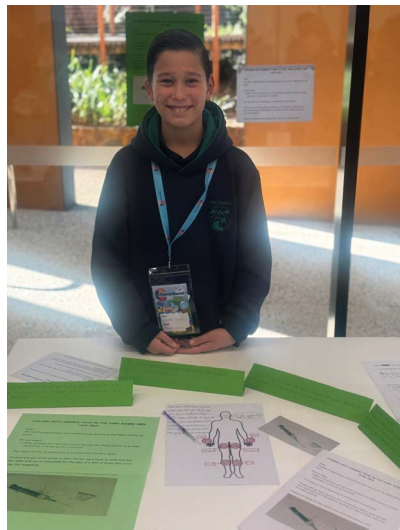
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Milwarra Primary School in Change Squad Pitch Event

by Melanie Hancock

Our Year 5/6 students recently had the exciting opportunity to participate in the Change Squad Pitch Event run through Yarra Ranges Council, where they proudly presented their ideas for creating positive change within our community.

We are thrilled to share that one of our students has been selected to work alongside a Change Squad mentor to bring her idea to life. Several other students will also have the opportunity to pursue their projects thanks to the generous support received.

A huge thank you to Maureen Halit for her generous \$100 donation, as well as Yarra Ranges Council for their incredible \$2,000

contribution. These funds will help turn their innovative ideas into meaningful projects that benefit our school and wider community.

We are incredibly proud of the passion, creativity and leadership our students demonstrated throughout the program and look forward to sharing updates as their projects begin to come to life.



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Harvest Café 1485

by Kelly Frost

Harvest Café 1485 is Warburton Primary School's very own sustainable garden program. The Harvest Café program is motto SOW. GROW. EAT. REPEAT!

Each week the students from prep to year 6 students are involved in a variety of tasks to promote sustainability and cross-curricular learning. Some of these tasks include: sowing, collecting and saving seeds, weeding and pruning, preserving produce by making jam, chutney, relish or cordials, planting, designing and building, and of course harvesting plenty of fresh produce from The Patch, the Sweet & Sour orchard or the many other garden rooms around the school.

The mini-master chefs prepare a dish of the day to be shared and enjoyed by the whole class. At the conclusion of each session the class gathers at the community table in Harvest Café to sit down and share the meal.

Harvest Café is SO much more than just a kitchen garden program.

- It's fun when we get to be a mini-master chef and put on the apron and hat – Hugo & Lexie, prep.
- I love being a mini-master chef and cooking – Tarkwin, year 1.
- I enjoy planting seeds, plants and improving The Patch – Dakota, year 1.
- I like that every time we go to Harvest Café – I feel welcome and being a garden designer – Emmet, year 2.
- We get to make yummy things to eat and spend time outside in the garden – Wren, year 3.
- My favourite thing in Harvest Café is being a mini-master chef. We harvest what we need from The Patch and use the recipe – Eve, year 4.
- I like working with my team to achieve our task and that it's a joined effort, we all make a difference – Lexie, year 4.
- I like using the tools and wheelbarrows to mulch in the garden – Ari, year 5.
- The Muffin Mayhem cooking challenge is the best! We get to create a muffin that is delicious and present it beautifully on a serving plate, it's tasty fun! – Tobias, year 6.



Warburton Emergency Planning Group Receives Recognition

by Kevin Bargar

The Warburton Emergency Planning Group (WEPG) was very pleased to accept the inaugural Ripple Makers Community Group of the Year recognition from The Resilience Canopy in a presentation on Tuesday June 9. The Resilience Canopy is a community-led resilience building movement, creating a ripple effect of transformation embedded in communities across Australia for many generations to come. In presenting this award The Resilience Canopy's Executive Director Brett Ellis stated...

"WEPG, you were selected because of the way you've evolved to a more holistic understanding of resilience, and for your inclusive workshops and comprehensive surveys that capture what matters most to community members, culminating in your community Resilience Plan. In doing so, your group demonstrates what is possible when a community builds from its strengths, centres local knowledge, and commits to shaping a resilient future together. Keep up the amazing work!"

After receiving resident's feedback during our Community Resilience meeting on May 26, we are incorporating this information into our Warburton Community Resilience Plan and are planning future events in the next couple of months to share our action plans. Everyone is invited to get involved in bring these actions to life! Email us at: warburtonepg@gmail.com for more details.

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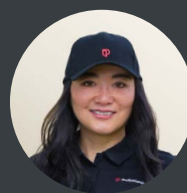
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Warburton Bowls Club

by Garry Lewis

Over the Winter months, the Warburton Bowls Club continues to operate with Intra Club Competitions and Social Functions.

A big thank you to all the local people who attended and supported the recent Local Producers Showcase Evening and the Comedy Night both held at the Warburton Bowls Club. These events were proudly funded by the Yarra Ranges Council through the 2026 Grants for 'Community Arts & Community Series'.

The Intra Club Winter Competitions are currently running in both Singles and Pairs involving all interested Club Members.

Also, a Quicka Bowls Competition is currently being held between four local clubs including Healesville, Warburton, Yarra Glen and Yarra Junction. Held over four weeks, each round sees the four clubs play each other at the same venue. Each Club enjoys one home fixture.

Each club fields three sides of triples (9 players per round) and the matches comprise three games of 8 ends (2 bowl triples format). Players of each side rotate positions so that each player plays lead, second and skip during the match. Points are awarded for rink wins and are accumulated each week to give an overall winner at the end of the competition. Certainly, a most enjoyable way to play bowls.

Following the first round on June 13th at Yarra Junction, the results were as follows:

Yarra Glen- 13 Points + 56 shots
Yarra Junction- 13 Points +19 shots
Warburton- 10 Points -3 shots
Healesville- 0 Points -77 shots



Bowls is an enjoyable game for all ages, and new players and beginners are encouraged to come along and give it a try.

To find out more about the Warburton Bowls Club, feel free to drop in at any time or contact the club accordingly.

Social Bowls is held every Monday throughout the year 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!

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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
Every Wed and Sat	Upper Yarra Museum (Yarra Junction) 10:00am – 4:00pm
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 Redwood Centre
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 Friday night	Yarra Valley ECOSS Market (711 Old Warburton Rd Wesburn) – 3:30pm – 6:00pm
2 nd Friday of month	Yarra Valley Spoken Word (ECOSS Dome) – 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Every Saturday	Summer Yoga with Kath at the Wellspring – 8:00 – 9:00am
3 rd Sat & 5 th Sun of month	Millgrove Market - 10:00am - 2:00pm (winter trading hours)
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



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