

November
2020

Newsletter

Community Bank · Warrandyte

Community support initiative

What a year! As 2020 unfolded, COVID-19 and its associated restrictions saw Community Bank Warrandyte proactively adapt and modify its service. We watched closely as the situation evolved, staying in touch with Bendigo Bank, our staff, customers and community partners to ensure we were able to continue our service and support customers safely.

Behind the scenes we were working closely with our not-for-profit partners to understand the needs of locals. What was the short term impact and need? How might things look down the track?

As a result we contributed \$2,000 to 'Now and Not Yet' for the provision of emergency food parcels for local people and families in need. We reached out to Doncare and provided \$1,000 toward the distribution of food parcels and \$4,000 was provided to the Rotary Op Shop Food Bank to ensure they remained well stocked with non-perishables for their food bank and able to provide financial support for essential items such as school uniforms and utility bills.

We remain in close contact with our community support organisations, monitoring and being prepared for any further requests for support as they arise.

Anyone in need can be directed to:

- Now and Not Yet: 148 – 150 Yarra Street, Warrandyte – for food and support
- Rotary Op Shop: 264 Yarra Street, Warrandyte (behind the street front shops) - for food (non-perishables on site), food orders (purchased by op shop volunteers) and essential needs.



- Doncare: Manningham City Square, Suite 4, Level 1, 687 Doncaster Road, Doncaster – for food and crisis intervention
- Pettet Family Foundation – Park Orchards - Crisis intervention and inclusion services for children and their family, 'an immediate charity'. Contact Geoff Parkes email Geoff.parkes@bigpond.com mobile 0418 392 748.

Being part of the community for 17 years, Community Bank Warrandyte has been committed to the care of our locals and the groups of which they are members, especially when things get tough. If you need assistance our branch staff are here to help navigate these uncertain financial times. The branch is open Monday - Friday from 9.30am - 5.00pm or our staff can be contacted on 9844 2233.

Chairman's report



Chairman Aaron Farr

Whilst we have all been impacted in some way, be it big or small, by the lockdown restrictions placed on Victoria this year our branch staff have soldiered on, modified their systems and maintained normal trading hours. We thank Linda, Jess, Stewart, Cam, Chris and David who have kept the branch open and committed to our purpose and mission – to provide essential banking services to our community. We are very grateful to our team for their dedication and adaptability this year.

We have had a couple of new additions and a departure in staff this year with David Burdett as Acting Branch Manager appointed in March. In August, David moved onto another position within the Community Bank network to be closer to home. We thank David for the diligence he applied to his role and wish him well in his new position.

Midyear Cameron Mackay was welcomed to the team in the role of Mobile Relationship Manager. Affably known as Cam; our man who should have been getting around town, was temporarily grounded and directed to work from home, making his introduction to locals a 'Zoom' affair. He is looking forward to meeting everyone in person now that COVID-19 restrictions are lifting. In his spare time, Cam is a volunteer CFA member with the South Warrandyte Fire Brigade.

More recently we were pleased to appoint Chris Haggarty as our Branch Manager. Chris joins us after working 22 years behind the scenes with Bendigo Bank and brings with him a wealth of knowledge. We welcome Chris' experience in producing positive commercial outcomes and the development of customer retention programs for the branch. He is passionate about the Community Bank model and is looking forward to getting to know our many customers and community groups over the coming months. Chris is also coincidentally a volunteer CFA member and is currently Chairperson of the South Warrandyte Fire Brigade.

Despite the unsettling and significant modifications made to the way we live and work this year, I am thrilled that we have been able to run our Community Investment Program, contributing \$300,000 in grants and sponsorships to 45 community groups and not-for-profit organisations. This is a great result given the extreme difficulties and challenges we have all experienced since December 2019!

We love to celebrate our partnerships at our Community Investment Program presentation night, normally held alongside our Annual General Meeting in early November every year. Due to COVID-19 restrictions unfortunately it wasn't possible this year.

It doesn't take away from the fact we are immensely proud of our capacity to support and deliver great locally driven initiatives and contribute to the prosperity of our community.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, support and branch staff we wish you a very happy Christmas and sincerely hope you enjoy a prosperous, bright and lighter 2021.

Aaron Farr
Chairman

Branch Manager's report



Branch Manager
Chris Haggarty

Community Bank Warrandyte – the Better Big Bank! I am very pleased to be a part of an amazing organisation, not only located in the heart of Warrandyte but also with a big heart beating hard for our community.

I have worked in banking and finance for 35 years, the last

22 working in Bendigo Bank Head office as a Sales Coach, Marketing Manager and Retention Manager.

I have been fortunate enough, throughout my career to work across numerous Community Bank businesses. Along the way I have attended a number of Grants evenings witnessing first-hand, the benefits of the Community Bank model and thanks to our customers, seeing banking profits reinvested in many different community groups.

Community Bank Warrandyte provides us all the opportunity to support our local community groups by simply bringing your banking to our branch. The more you can bank with us the more we can support local community projects and build into the prosperity of this wonderful area.

COVID-19 has taught us all that change is possible and we believe that 'now is the time' for that change when it comes to your banking and finance.

As we all start to emerge after the COVID-19 lockdown, we invite you to come down to the branch and together review your accounts and financial goals.

If you have thought about making the change and not come down or are unsure about what is involved, we would love you to contact us so we can take you through the process.

In my spare time I am a volunteer fire fighter for the South Warrandyte CFA. I have enjoyed more than 20 years' service with the brigade and currently hold the position of Brigade Chairperson.

I am very lucky and grateful to be involved with our organisation and I very much look forward to the time, with further easing of COVID-19 restrictions; meeting with you and hearing what is important to you, your banking needs and what makes you passionate about the Greater Warrandyte area.

Chris Haggarty
Branch Manager



Making good things happen

When you bank with us, profits pour into the community. \$3.85 million so far. Here's who we're supporting in 2020/21:

Big Roast for Cystic Fibrosis	\$2,000	Warrandyte Festival Inc.	\$5,000
Be Ready Warrandyte - presented by WCA	\$2,420	Warrandyte Football Club	\$7,500
Clifford Park Activity Centre	\$1,520	Warrandyte High School	\$11,925
Greater Warrandyte CFA's - Santa Run	\$3,500	Warrandyte Historical Society	\$2,000
CFA - Warrandyte Fire Brigade	\$40,000	Warrandyte Junior Football Club	\$5,000
Fireball	\$5,000	Warrandyte Kindergarten	\$4,350
Friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc	\$3,657	Warrandyte Neighbourhood House	\$4,940
Harrison Pennicott - Shine Bright Gala	\$2,000	Warrandyte Primary School	\$11,350
Hops and Vine - Men's Events	\$2,000	Warrandyte Returned and Services League Sub - Branch	\$2,761
Park Orchards BMX Club	\$10,000	Warrandyte Scout Group	\$2,000
Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre	\$5,275	Warrandyte Senior Citizens Club	\$1,800
Park Orchards Cricket Club	\$1,700	Warrandyte Sports Group	\$12,500
Park Orchards Football Netball Club	\$35,000	Warrandyte Tennis Club Inc.	\$25,000
Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club	\$5,000	Wonga Park Community Cottage (WPCC)	\$3,398
Park Orchards Netball Club	\$3,000	Wonga Park History Group auspiced by WPCC	\$3,500
Pottery Expo Inc.	\$3,000	Wonga Park Netball Club	\$1,800
Riding for the Disabled Warrandyte	\$1,000	Wonga Park Tennis Club	\$2,000
Rotary Club of Warrandyte Donvale	\$2,000	Wyena Horse and Pony Club Inc	\$4,000
Run Warrandyte	\$6,000	Yarra Warra Preschool	\$1,587
Sports Chaplaincy Australia	\$8,500	Defib Your Community Program	\$5,138
Victoria Police Golf Club - Police Legacy	\$5,000		
Warrandyte Basketball Association	\$10,000		
Warrandyte Community Church	\$4,400		
Warrandyte Community Garden	\$3,775		
Warrandyte Cricket Club	\$3,000		

Find out more. Drop into the branch at 144 Yarra Street, Warrandyte or call us on phone 9844 2233

Community investment – \$300,000 for 2020/21

You may not think who you bank with matters, but it does! Simply by banking with us, our customers are making a real difference within our community.

Every day customers help provide facilities, resources, community programs and change lives simply by banking with our Community Bank Warrandyte. Their home loans are refurbishing pre-schools and supporting our CFAs, creating sporting facilities and providing classroom resources. Personal loans, business banking and credit cards are funding rescue boats, conserving and rehabilitating native bushland, supporting the arts, festivals, Christmas Carols, the aged and relieving the hardships of those in need.

Everyday banking is providing all this and more.

Thanks to our customers we have been able to invest in 45 exciting projects and activities via our Community Investment Program this year. Here's a sample!

CFAs: In line with our yearly commitment to support the Greater Warrandyte Fire Brigades, this year was no exception.

Warrandyte CFA

Project: Field Command Vehicle Replacement Program
Grant: \$40,000

The Warrandyte Fire Brigade will be replacing its ageing Field Command Vehicle (FCV) thanks to our \$40,000 contribution. Rapidly declining in value the old FCV was no longer covered by a manufacture warranty and was outdated in functionality offered by new technology and enhancements.

The recently purchased vehicle has been painstakingly fitted out by brigade volunteers, to be fit for purpose and has the potential to be deployed anywhere in Australia as a command vehicle supporting incident management at fires and other emergencies. Locally, the FCV is a core component of response and support to the Warrandyte and surrounding communities and allows the brigade and volunteers to undertake general duties.

The FCV is used regularly at local community events in several different capacities such as supporting displays, traffic management, involved in the Warrandyte Festival parade, the ANZAC Day parade and is a critical component of the very popular Greater Warrandyte Brigade's Santa Run.



Captain Adrian Mullens and members, Jeff and Tony are very pleased with the brigades new Forward Control Vehicle.



The fifty volunteer members of the Warrandyte Brigade will benefit from the enhancements to safety and new technology incorporated in the vehicle and the wider Warrandyte community will be the beneficiary of the FCV and the fire and emergency management enhancement it provides to manage fire and emergency incidents.



Warrandyte Tennis Club

Project: Accessible Community Toilet and Kitchenette Facility

Challenge Grant: \$25,000

The facilities (including clubroom, kitchenette, toilets and bar area) at Warrandyte's Tennis Club Pavilion are elevated at first floor level and can only be accessed by stairs.

The Accessible Community Toilet and Kitchenette Facility project aims to convert two ground level storage spaces into accessible toilets and kitchenette facilities for all members of the community.

The tennis club has a letter of support for the project from Manningham City Council and it is envisaged our seed funding will be the catalyst for works to be approved. We look forward to a positive response from council and seeing the building being brought up to standard with accessible facilities for all in the very near future.

Friends of Warrandyte State Park

Project: Repair damaged plant igloos

Grant: \$3,657

Many locals will remember the damaging hailstorm earlier this year in which two igloos used by the Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) nursery, were badly broken. The igloos are a vital asset to the group providing heated beds and a protected environment to grow new seedlings and cuttings. Each igloo contains around 5,000 plants.

The group's successful submission for a grant of \$3,657 will ensure both covers for the igloos can be replaced. ▶



FOWSP'S Lynda Gilbert is thankful for the many grants we have approved over the years – seen here at last year's AGM.

◀ Community investment – \$300,000 for 2020/21 (continued)

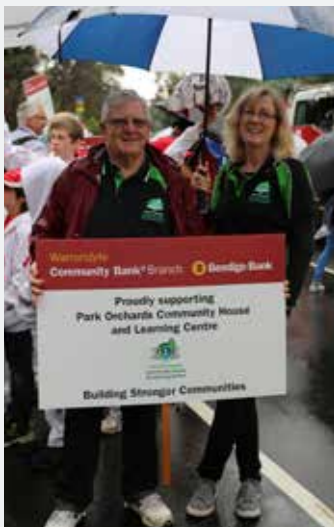
This has come at a fortuitous time for the nursery as the COVID-19 pandemic has restricted sales of plants since March this year and therefore income to carry out much needed repairs has been significantly impacted.

FOWSP volunteers intend to carry out repair works with the grant funding as soon as restrictions are lifted and trades are permitted back on site. Group spokesperson Lynda Gilbert said, "We are truly grateful for the consideration given to our request for funding from Community Bank Warrandyte and their continuing generosity towards our environmental endeavours. We have been given grants for a range of requests including educational activities, a 30,000-litre water tank, an AED unit, new roofing over the potting shed, an irrigation structure and our latest grant - new covers for the igloos."

Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre

Project: Laptops for disadvantaged learners

Grant: \$5,275



Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre (POCHI) have been able to purchase laptops to provide the opportunity for disadvantaged learners to continue learning thanks to our grant of \$5,275.

The centre has a set of laptops available for loan to participants, enabling them to study. The older model devices didn't have cameras making them unsuitable for Zoom, Skype and other online

learning platforms which have been so essential this year. The new laptops have opened up options for learners, allowing them to complete their studies and stay connected to the organisation in a productive, positive way.

Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre's Pauline Fyffe was thrilled to hear about our grant for their project. "This is wonderful news. I am thrilled that you are able to help us out this year again. Your support is invaluable to the work we do and especially this year when trying to keep our community engaged and connected. Thank you all so much," she said.

Park Orchards Football Netball Club

Challenge Grant: \$30,000

A dedicated group of Park Orchards Football Netball Club volunteers have been working with Manningham City Council and the State Government to develop Domeney Reserve. Park Orchards does not have any other facility to hold functions, and expansion of the social space area has become essential to accommodate more people and cater for the growing numbers who use the community hub.

The project will provide the facility with the space to hold approx 150 people for functions.

As a small 'country type setting' the local community are engaged and involved and are looking forward to the opportunities the expanded facility will offer. The group were thrilled to hear news of our \$30,000 contribution to the project and we look forward to seeing it come to life.

Warrandyte Primary School

Project: Reconciliation Action Plan Support

Grant: \$11,350

There is a lot of interesting information involved in the Warrandyte Primary School (WPS) application and as such we have included quite a bit of it from the original application.

Warrandyte Primary School has committed to

the development and approval of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in 2020. The RAP is a formal statement of the schools commitment to reconciliation. The RAP involves working together with Department of Education and Training, Reconciliation Victoria, Reconciliation Australia and our local community to detail the specific actions to be undertaken to promote reconciliation. Once the RAP is finalised it will be submitted for approval to Reconciliation Australia via Narragunnawali.

A number of activities have already been initiated by the school including Reconciliation Day activities, class research tasks and establishing a YouTube channel with local historical content. Specifically, funding was sought for:

1. **Three New Flag Poles.** WPS currently has one flagpole and alternates between the Australian and Aboriginal flags. Three flag poles (and the purchase of a Torres Strait Islander flag) would mean the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags could be displayed concurrently.

2. **Artwork on Water Tank.** WPS recently had a 30,000 litre concrete water tank installed for firefighting access at the front of the school. It provides the perfect canvas for creating a prominent piece of art by a local Aboriginal artist and WPS students.

3. **Launch Event.** Once the RAP is endorsed Friends Of Warrandyte Primary School would like to hold a celebratory launch for the school and local community. The launch would include a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony conducted by Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung.

4. **Culturally Significant Activities** specific to the Warrandyte area include, engaging the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to take



WPS school captains Lily and Zara proudly display the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags that will soon fly alongside the Australian flag a top three individual flagpoles.



◀ Community investment – \$300,000 for 2020/21 (continued)

students on a guided walk through their own backyard: Pound Bend. Further information: narragunnawali.org.au

Objectives

The RAP is a framework for promoting higher level knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions. It does this through providing a clear vision for reconciliation and a supported framework of ideas, activities and actions. Reconciliation is the responsibility of all Australians and for WPS this is a student-led initiative. It was instigated by students who are passionate in their desire to learn about and show respect for our First Nations people. To date, although there are hundreds of schools across Australia with a RAP, there are less than ten primary schools in Victoria. WPS wants to change this and show other schools that this is a worthwhile process for students and the community.

Defib your community

Together with the support of Defib For Life – a not-for-profit organisation we are very pleased to continue to offer Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) as an adjunct to our Community Investment Program.

Defib For Life's founder Sue Buckman knows all too well the heartache of losing a loved one to Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) after her 19-year-old son Stephen, collapsed and died ten years ago, while at football training. It was this heartbreaking tragedy that now fuels her mission to minimise tragic and unnecessary deaths and drastically improve the chances of survival for people like Stephen.

"If a Defib is applied within the first five minutes following a SCA there is an 85% better outcome for the patient and their

survival. For every minute a patient in cardiac arrest does not receive CPR or defibrillation, their chance of survival decreases by 10%," Sue said.

"The only thing that will revert the heart back into a normal rhythm is an AED."

Knowing the facts and statistics is one thing. Taking action is another and action is something our team takes very seriously.

By increasing the number of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) out in our communities, we have the power to change the outcome.

We have now added another two AED's to our local armory, one at Warrandyte Tennis Club and one at the Rotary Op Shop. These are in addition to ones already positioned external to buildings at: Anderson's Creek Primary School, Warrandyte Football Club, St Stephens Anglican Church, Community Bank Warrandyte, Warrandyte RSL, Warrandyte Childcare Centre, Riding for the Disabled – Warrandyte, Park Orchards Community House, Wyena Horse and Pony Club and Wonga Park CFA.

If you believe there is a gap in our placement of AED's please contact us.



Left: Chairman Aaron checking on the AED located at our branch on Yarra Street.

Community spirit alive and well in Greater Warrandyte

Now in its fourth year, the Community Spirit Award has again proven to highlight the depth and breadth of volunteerism within our community. Generous spirited people that often don't make the limelight but truly shine.

What is the Community Spirit Award?

The Community Spirit Award is open to a volunteer or volunteer organisation who, either by individual endeavour or organisational teamwork, has made a significant contribution and real impact within our local community (Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Wonga Park and nearby surrounding suburbs).

The Community Spirit Award is to acknowledge and celebrate volunteers who demonstrate the values of community spirit.

What constitutes community spirit?

The values of community spirit include, but are not limited to, the work or activities of a volunteer or volunteer organisation that demonstrate:

- Generosity in volunteer time and commitment
- Vision and high or transformative impact
- Effectiveness and achievements such as funds raised and effective use such as infrastructure (i.e. buildings) and equipment (vehicles), community safety, educational impact or contributing to community wellness and welfare
- Activity occurring over a sustained period



- Belief in the value of volunteering
- Leadership in the community (i.e. the volunteers themselves have developed and gained experience) or demonstrated effectiveness as a team
- Ability to inspire others (especially towards volunteering)
- Innovation and creativity in design and approach
- Reliability, flexibility, professionalism, initiative and fairness.

Seven nominations were put forward for the 2020 Community Spirit Award this year. All very worthy volunteers, from a diverse field of community organisations and all united in their passion for what they do.

With such an impressive list it is difficult to narrow down to one person or group so we think it fitting to showcase all (in the words of their nominators) before announcing the recipient of the award. ▶

◀ Community spirit alive and well in Greater Warrandyte

Claire Jones

Volunteering for 5 – 10 years

Ineligible due to role as Director with the Bank

Claire Jones is a tireless supporter and advocate of our unique and extraordinary Warrandyte community.

Understanding Claire could not be nominated for the Community Spirit Award given her position at Community Bank Warrandyte, her nominator felt it important to publically recognise and thank Claire for her “unwavering dedication and hard work in supporting many community programs and initiatives”.

Over the past ten years Claire has been involved in the following volunteer activities:

- Community Bank Warrandyte - current Board member
- Run Warrandyte - event, advertising, fund-raising coordinator over three consecutive years
- Anderson Creek Primary School - Class Rep Coordinator over many years
- CFA FireGuard founder, host and organiser for Third Street, Warrandyte and surrounding streets
- Various local fundraising initiatives for Great Strides and Cystic Fibrosis
- Warrandyte Toy Library - committee member.

Claire brings such warmth, humour, ideas, positive energy and a beautiful intensity to all her volunteering. Although she is not always in the spotlight, she is the backbone of each and every event and cause she is involved in.

Claire’s contribution to others and the Warrandyte community becomes all the more impressive when considering the many personal challenges that she has faced over the years.

“So Claire, you are a remarkable person with a big heart for others and our community. On behalf of our beloved Warrandyte community, I offer my deepest, sincerest, heartfelt thanks for all your gorgeous passion, hard work and passion that you bring to all your volunteering,” her nominator said.

Dick Davies

Volunteering for more than ten years

Dick Davies has contributed countless hours over many years in numerous roles to benefit the local community.

To name just a few:

- Prime mover for the award winning ‘Be Ready Warrandyte’ forums to educate and enhance the community’s readiness for summer bushfire threats
- Prime mover for the Creekside and more recently Riverside retirement housing developments
- Member of the Market Committee running the Riverside Market
- Engaging with both Manningham and Nillumbik Councils on various community issues over many years through the Warrandyte Community Association.

“Dick has been an outstanding and inspirational community leader in Warrandyte for many decades. He has worked selflessly on many projects which have provided continuing benefit to the community, from the Be Ready Warrandyte fire preparedness program through to the establishment of the Retirement Housing Co-operative and the Community Market. It is hard to think of anyone who has made a greater long-lasting contribution to the community,” his nominator said.

Martin Rakuscek

Volunteering for five – ten years

According to his nominator, Martin is an ideal candidate for the Community Spirit Award. He is a volunteer with both the Warrandyte Cricket Club (WCC) and the Warrandyte Junior Footy Club (WJFC).

Martin is described as an outstanding club member and an extremely valuable contributor to the Warrandyte Cricket Club. Starting as a team manager for one of the junior teams, Martin has moved through the various age levels and last season was team manager of the Under 18’s.

Martin has also been part of the WCC committee for many years, is the current Junior Coordinator and has been instrumental in the club achieving record junior participation levels in recent times. Previous to this, Martin was the WCC Member Protection Officer and played a key role in ensuring the club provided a safe and friendly environment for all members and guests.

“Martin is always willing to assist or help any other club member and is a “go to person” if anyone needs support, has an issue or an idea.

Martin is extremely well liked and respected throughout the club and the broader community. He sets a tremendous example for all club members and his involvement at WCC has ensured that the club continues to grow, play sport in the right spirit and gain respect in the community. “The WCC is extremely fortunate to have Martin as part of the team and we have no hesitation in nominating Martin for the Community Spirit Award,” his nominator said.

Tim Dawson

Volunteering for five – ten years

Tim Dawson is the volunteer Sports Chaplain and committee member for the Park Orchards Football Netball Club. During his time there he has supported and provided welfare to the club’s players, club officials and supporters with great care and commitment.

Tim was described as dedicated, caring and committed.

Lisa Ryan

Volunteering for five – ten years

Her nominator described Lisa as follows:

- Lisa shows virtue of good citizenship
- Lisa has touched and enriched the lives of others, particularly those who are vulnerable or less able to help themselves
- Lisa has shown ongoing initiative, leadership and dedication
- Lisa has devoted herself to sustained and selfless voluntary service
- Lisa is determined, conscientious and resourceful; she has earned the respect of her peers and become a great role model to other volunteers.

James Harris

Volunteering for three - five years

James Harris has been the Anderson’s Creek Primary School (ACPS), School Council President for four years. Having worked with many Presidents over the years, his nominator said, “James certainly gives above and beyond the expected role and continues to both support and lead many school activities. Through his positivity, enthusiasm and leadership skills he continues to inspire, lead and promote community and connectedness within and beyond the ACPS school community.”

James was also described as enthusiastic, driven and innovative.





We missed the festival this year but have fond memories of attending many. Here's an image from our archives.

Talk to us today

Community Bank

Warrandyte

144 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

P 9844 2233

E warrandytemailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

bendigobank.com.au/warrandyte

 /WarrandyteCommunityBankBranch

We're open:

9.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Directors

Aaron Farr (Chairman), John Provan, Darren Ryding, Monica Piery, Cliff Dawson, Lance Ward, Claire Jones and Leanne Whitmore

Warrandyte Community Financial Services Limited

144 Yarra Street, Warrandyte VIC 3113

ABN 70 102 635 147

Community spirit alive and well in Greater Warrandyte

Warrandyte Festival Committee

Volunteering for more than ten years

Many people will argue that nothing brings more community spirit to the Warrandyte community than the Warrandyte Festival.

The festival has been running for more than 40 years, solely by an active, enthusiastic, talented group of some 50 volunteers who do it for nothing more than the love of their community.

The committee is very inclusive, with all welcome to join and comprising members with a varied, wide range of skills and talents. The committee collectively puts in a conservatively estimated 7,500 to 8,000 hours of their time, every year,

arguably a very significant commitment and contribution. Many committee members have been involved for more than ten years.

The Warrandyte Festival aims to benefit the whole community. Activities and programs target all ages, genders, ethnicities and social demographics. The committee is also committed to including those with mobility issues which has been a dedicated focus over recent years (despite challenging topography on the site).

Local kindergartens, schools, churches and a wide range of community groups all benefit from the festival.

Local schools' curriculum is tailored towards participation in the parade (decorations, costumes etc.) and performing on the main stage. School and kindergartens also benefit by being able to fundraise in various ways throughout the festival.

Community groups can use the festival as a platform to attract volunteers or participants; being able to promote the benefit of group membership to others and the ability to seek feedback or educate the community on various issues.

The festival also provides a fundraising opportunity for not-for-profit organisations.

Most importantly the festival which attracts thousands of people who visit our local iconic event each year, benefit enormously in terms of social connectedness, health and wellbeing, celebration of our community and cultural heritage.

"Warrandyte festival is a safe, sustainable, accessible, inclusive and most importantly fun event for all to enjoy and none of this would be possible without the sustained efforts of a fantastic, professional, dedicated organising committee," the group's nominator said.

Our Board was again, very impressed with the calibre of nominees this year. Thanks to their commitment, drive, dedication and persistence they are all making a difference in and for our community. The recipient; for their longevity, impact, creativity, inclusiveness and connectedness to community is the Warrandyte Festival Committee. We wish to congratulate and thank all the nominees and the recipient of this year's Community Spirit Award.