

February—March 2026

Issue No 235

Established 1976

Celebrating our 50th Year.



INCORPORATION NO: 13313L

ABN 55 398 927 524

David Carty. PRESIDENT

Dianne Phillips. SECRETARY

03 9844 4180

MUSEUM

111 Yarra Street, Warrandyte 3113

03 9844 4176

PO Box 67, Warrandyte 3113

EMAIL ADDRESS

info@whsoc.org.au

WEB whsoc.org.au

ISSN 0158-0493

Open Saturdays & Sundays

1.30—4.30 pm.

Complete List of WHS Committee Meetings for 2026 *** all 7:30 pm.

Wednesday March 18th.

Wednesday April 15th

Wednesday May 20th

Wednesday June 17th

Wednesday July 17th

Wednesday August 19th

Wednesday September 16th

Wednesday October 21st

Wednesday November 18th

Wednesday December 9th or 16th

You are welcome to attend and offer your support to YOUR Museum.

Warrandyte Historical Society.



WHS—Slab Hut—Open Day.

Warrandyte Historical Society - Festival celebrations.

Open Day for the Slab Hut Saturday 28th March from 1.30 - 3.30pm.

There is a gem in Warrandyte that isn't generally known about. The gem is a circa 1890s slab hut located at 2 Castle Road, North Warrandyte. Warrandyte Historical Society will open the site for the public to visit on the afternoon of the Festival from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

The hut is a rare example of a slab building with a bark roof and an unusual sapling and pug lining and is believed to be a small miner's cottage. It is also a rare example of a framed tent converted into a permanent dwelling, which was a characteristic Australian practice.

The slab hut was discovered in 1984, when a local builder, was demolishing the old house on a recently purchased block of land. The builder discovered a small intact miner's hut incorporated into the building he was demolishing.

It was offered to Warrandyte Historical Society if they could remove it from the site. The building proved too fragile to move. Ultimately the Shire of Eltham and the City of Doncaster and Templestowe provided funding to purchase the property and then it was vested to the National Trust who then authorized Warrandyte Historical Society to hold working bees and Open Days.

The hut is now under a protective shelter to reduce deterioration of the building.

Come along to view this circa 1890s gem, and wonder at the labour required obtaining the materials to build the hut.

Parking is limited at the Castle Road site. Preferably park at Yarra River Bridge car park and walk across the bridge, there is no wheelchair access.

There will be signs to direct you.

Dianne Phillips,

Warrandyte Historical Society

Warrandyte Historical Society acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as traditional custodians of the land on which Warrandyte resides and of the river Birrarung on which it is centred. It pays its respects to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and emerging, recognising that Indigenous people never ceded sovereignty of this country and remain strong in their enduring connection to land and culture.

The Warrandyte Community Facilities Review Report, which outlines opportunities for improving community facilities in Warrandyte, has now been released. Over the past 18 months, we've consulted with more than 30 stakeholders including community groups and facility users. Thank you to everyone who has shared their feedback which has helped inform this report. The review was a key recommendation of the Manningham Community Infrastructure Plan, which was released in 2023. In addition to meeting with key stakeholders, the review has included detailed needs analysis and building condition assessments to better understand community needs and ensure future works result in fit for purpose facilities. The review aimed to identify priorities for Warrandyte community infrastructure and ensure facilities deliver maximum benefit to the community. No decisions have been made yet. Each opportunity will be further investigated with the Warrandyte community and there will be more consultation with user groups.

Opportunities included in the report include:

- Expanding and upgrading the **Warrandyte Community Hall** in Warrandyte Reserve to allow for Increased use, such as relocating the Warrandyte Scouts and Men's Shed to this site.
- Advocating to the Victorian Government to relocate the Warrandyte Kindergarten to a new purpose-built facility at one of the two primary schools in the township.
- Subject to the successful relocation of **Warrandyte Kindergarten**, consider moving the **Warrandyte Childcare and Preschool** to a new purpose-built facility on the Taroon Ave site.
- Progressively improving the **Warrandyte Reserve sporting facilities** and looking at options to increase pavilion use.
- Exploring opportunities to accommodate additional users or services in the Warrandyte Community Centre.
- **Addressing the long-term needs of the Warrandyte Historical Museum**, with the preferred option to firstly explore the potential to update the current building.
- Exploring options at **Colman Park** for increased use including the main pavilion and sports ground, tennis facilities and the horse and pony grounds.

The immediate priority will be undertaking a feasibility study in 2026 for the potential future expansion and upgrade of the Warrandyte Community Hall.

Community members can provide feedback until 5:00pm, Thursday 18 December 2025. By registering to provide your feedback, we can keep you updated about this project. If you have any troubles with registering, please contact yoursay@manningham.vic.gov.au

Please Note: The above Article has been edited due to space limitations, the Original can be found on the Manningham City Council Website.

There is an Excellent Article with Photo's by Sandi Miller in the December Issue of the Warrandyte Diary which dissects the Facilities Review. Very interesting reading.

On **Page 3** of this Newsletter we present an edited submission addressed to **Andrew Day, CEO Manningham City Council** expressing the concerns of **Warrandyte Historical Society**.

WHS Abbreviated Response.



Warrandyte
Historical Society

Museum: 111 Yarra Street, Warrandyte 3113
PO Box 67, Warrandyte 3113
Email: info@whsoc.org.au
Phone: 9844 4176
Website: whsoc.org.au

8 February 2026

Andrew Day, CEO
Manningham City Council
699 Doncaster Road
Doncaster
Victoria 3108

CC: Cr Carli Lange

Dear Andrew,

Warrandyte Community Facilities Review – Warrandyte Historical Society & Museum

We write to you and Councilor Lange in response to the Warrandyte Facilities Review Report released in December 2025.

As you are aware the Community Response to the findings and options outlined in the report has been significant. Each Community Organization/Group has very specific needs.

In the following pages we have set out our considered response and justification for the Society and the 'Old Post Office' Museum remaining in its current location and working with Council to address some of the challenges that this Historically significant Building presents.

We agree with the strong sentiment of all Community Organisations' that the level of engagement and consultation to date has lacked meaningful dialogue and genuine needs based assessment.

We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with Council to develop modest, well-planned upgrade program to address the issues that the Museum would benefit from.

We look forward to Council's feedback in this regard.

Yours sincerely,
Warrandyte Historical Society

David Carty President.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of COUNTRY

Warrandyte Historical Society acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as traditional custodians of the land on which Warrandyte resides and of the river Birrarung on which it is centred. It pays its respects to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and emerging, recognising that Indigenous people never ceded sovereignty of this country and remain strong in their enduring connection to land and culture.



Warrandyte Historical Slab Hut Open Day

Saturday 28th March, 2026
1:30 – 3:30pm



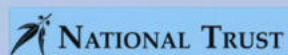
Address: 2 Castle Rd.
North Warrandyte.

Discovered in 1984 and saved from demolition, the circa 1900 wattle and daub hut is a unique example of a single roomed miner's cottage.

Come and visit a heritage listed Warrandyte jewel.



Limited parking. Please park at Yarra River car park and walk across the bridge.
No wheelchair access.



Please Note: The Slab Hut will also be open on Saturday the 2nd of May during the Australian Heritage Month. Opening is at 11 am and it will be open until 1:30 pm. Please see the National Trust Website for other scheduled activities.

February has been a busy month for the Museum.

We had a visit from Labour Federal member for Menzies, Mr. Gabriel Ng and 14 Year 11 and 12 students from Billanook College. Mr Ng visited on Thursday 13th February with his Personal Assistant Emily. They arrived at 11.30 and spent more than an hour looking, listening and asking questions about the displays and how they relate to the changes to Warrandyte and our First Nations People since European settlement. Our President David Carty, members of the committee and an archiver were available to answer the many questions and to promote the importance of the Old Post Office Museum to the Warrandyte community. Mr Ng suggested we keep our eyes open to possible grants which would enable us to continue the work we do at the Museum. We finished the visit with morning tea and freshly baked muffins.



Gabriel Ng. Visit



Billanook College Visit



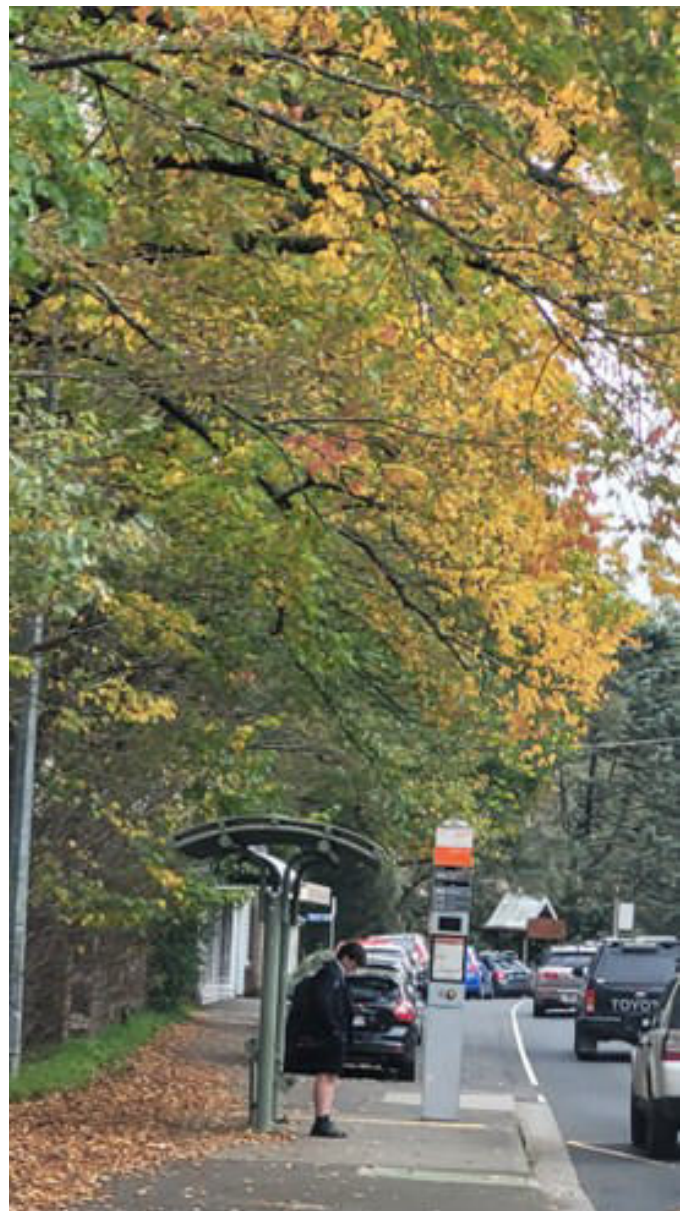
Billanook College Year 11 and 12 students visited the Museum on Thursday 26th February. Prior to arrival they had been to Pound Bend, to learn and find out about the Wurundjeri woi Wurrung people. Pound Bend had once been their hunting grounds and meeting place but from 1850 to 1851 their land became an Aboriginal Reserve. The discovery of gold in Warrandyte in 1851 changed that and the Wurundjeri were moved to Coranderrk, Healesville. The students with their teachers arrived at 12.30pm and left around 2pm after listening, asking questions and looking at the displays which told the story of the changes to the environment and the lands of Wurundjeri woi wurrung people pre and post Federation. The story of the Potato War involving John Anderson, his potato crop and the calling of troopers to arrest a group of Wurundjeri men who had dug up some potatoes 'whiteman's yams' was highlighted. The Wurundjeri men managed to defend themselves and successfully escape into the bush near Yering Station. After their visit to the Museum the students walked up to their school bus which was parked outside the local sweet shop which I'm sure many of them visited before hopping on to their bus.

The last in our series of Informative Articles and Beautiful Photos Celebrating Warrandyte's Historic Trees as the theme for the Warrandyte Festival in 2025.

English Elms.

A copse of English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) occupies the roadside embankment between Webb Street and shops on the north ern side of Yarra Street opposite the Mechanics Institute. The group of trees appear to be mainly suckers from two parent trees and require active management to keep their spread under control and in a healthy condition. These trees have been part of the streetscape for many decades. The trees, when seen together with a rustic wooden fence, provide a rural aspect to the streetscape in this part of the township. The changing seasons provide various foliage colours which adds another level of interest to the streetscape. The autumn colours are particularly valued by the local community. The trees are considered to be of local interest as a significant landscape element of the township. However the elms have not received any planning control protection.

© Warrandyte Historical Society, Valerie Polley 2025



On Behalf of WHS I thank Val Polley for submitting this wonderful series of Articles & Photo's of Warrandyte's Historic Trees.

As you will discover upon reading these Articles—Patsy Adam Smith was proudly promoted as a Guest Speaker at the Warrandyte Museum way back in October 1982.

I recently discovered an Article in the Weekly Times Series on “100 Greatest Australians” which I thought may be of interest.. Both articles are presented here.

WHS Newsletter No 27 ISSN 10058

October 1st 1982

Our October meeting promises to be the most exciting one for this year with guest speaker, Patsy Adam—Smith, well known Australian writer who is an inspiration to everyone interested in folk history or oral history. Miss Adam—Smith spent her childhood at isolated railway sidings in North—West Victoria, served on the First Australian Orthopaedic Unit during the 2nd World War, spent six years as the first woman articled on a coastal trader on the Tasmanian waters, was the first Manuscripts Field Officer for the State Library of Victoria and has researched in every State archives and reference library in Australia and in many overseas. She has travelled around Australia several times, camped with nomadic Aboriginal groups and has recently returned from a trip to Iceland. Her adventurous life and her interest in oral history as well as written history has inspired her prolific pen. She has written over 300 feature articles for national magazines, as well as radio serials for Children, and over 20 published books.



Born May 31st 1924—Died September 21st 2001.

The Article and Photo Below are taken from The WEEKLY TIMES
100 Greatest Australians Series—Part 2 Numbers 80 to 61

PATSY ADAM-SMITH

1924-2001

WRITER, HISTORIAN

68

The daughter of country rail workers, Patsy Adam-Smith was a prolific writer, renowned historian and servicewoman, whose descriptions of everything from childhood frolics to wartime horrors have moved, amused and educated generations of Australians.

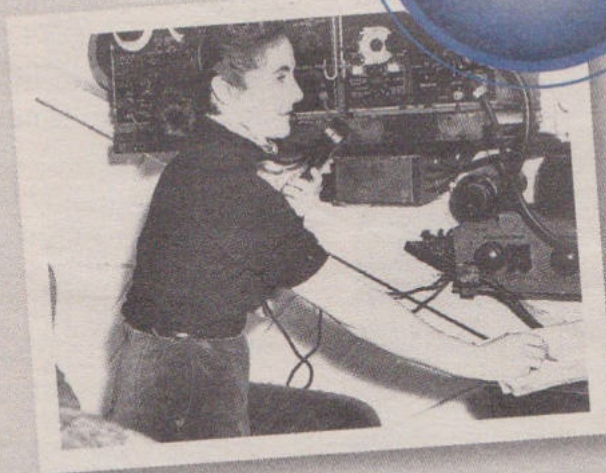
Born Patricia Smith in Nowingi, south of Mildura in 1924, Adam-Smith spent her youth in Victorian railway towns from the Mallee and the Western District to Gippsland.

A keen learner, by her teenage years she was “bookkeeping, studying piano and violin, learning Latin, taking six school subjects, and playing in a dance band”.

Living in Penshurst in the Western District, she described the cavalier lives of young shearers.

“We knew who rung the sheds, who were the guns, who had blown his cheque and who hadn’t, and who had left the girls weeping from Hughenden (Queensland) down through the eastern states on the grand shearing route back to Penshurst in the centre of the Western District,” she wrote.

In 1943, at age 18, she enlisted as a nurse in the army and, in the 1950s, became the first female radio officer on an Australian merchant ship. In 1970,



she became the Victorian State Library’s manuscripts field officer, a position she held for 12 years. She visited 60 countries conducting interviews and collecting manuscripts, and her work marks the greatest expansion of the library’s archival collection. It was in this role that she was able to complete many of her famous writings on Australian folklore and history.

Adam-Smith wrote more than 30 books including *The Anzacs* in 1978, *Australian Women at War* in 1984 and *Prisoners of War* in 1992. *The Anzacs* was made into a 13-part TV series.

Her autobiography was published in two parts: *Hear The Train Blow* and the award-winning *Good-bye Girlie*. She was awarded an AO and an OBE for service to community history and literature.

Warrandyte is almost unique in its maintenance of the identity of the village that emerged from the original mining settlement. Ongoing preservation of Warrandyte history is an essential community activity. The Warrandyte Historical Society, established 20th May 1976, is a small band of volunteers dedicated to preserving and displaying the history of Warrandyte. This year marks our 50th Anniversary and we are planning an event for the 22nd of May honour the occasion. All life Members and Current Members will be invited. More details will be announced as soon as possible.

Warrandyte Historical Society has taken the decision not to oppose the application for demolition of a damaged log hut at No 6 Castle Road. This particular hut is on Private Land, not visible from the street, and already in a state of advanced demolition. See Article Below.

Warrandyte Festival 27th and 28th March.

WHS will participate in the Warrandyte Festival Parade. The theme is "It Takes a Village" Celebrating Volunteers. The Museum will be open from 10 am until 4:30 pm.

April 18th until May 18th is Heritage Month, National Trust/RHSV. The Theme is "Change"

Old Slab Hut Demolition. Di Phillips.

Warrandyte Historical Society
111 Yarra Street,
Warrandyte, 3113

Application Number: 872/2025/05P

Warrandyte Historical Society is disappointed about the fact that the log cabin at 6 Castle Road is in need of demolition and an application for a permit to do so has been submitted.

There has been ongoing neglect of the log hut building. A branch from a nearby eucalypt fell onto the cabin and damaged the roof. The extent of the original damage caused by the falling branch is not known. Clearance works had been subsequently undertaken at some time to remove most of the logs elsewhere on the property. This caused more damage to the building and this work was carried out presumably without notification or approval by Council.

Historically, the cabin is a log and daub construction. The interior was lined with calico or canvas and then sealed with paint or varnish. The remaining structure shows horizontal logs notched at the corners; building techniques used in the late 1800s to the early 1900s.

The date of its construction is unknown to Warrandyte Historical Society.

It is known the house at 6 Castle Road was constructed in the early 1900s, that could be an indicator of its age.

It is interesting that there is also a wattle and daub, slab hut on Castle Road that it is believed to be constructed around 1880s. This building is under the management of the National Trust. The site at 6 Castle Road has a Heritage Overlay which requires a permit for any construction or demolition.

Warrandyte Historical Society contacted Nillumbik and spoke to the Principal Statutory m Planner, Karen, to discuss the application to demolish the log cabin. The Society was informed that though the property was under a Heritage Overlay the log cabin wasn't specifically listed; the other buildings on the property were - including the storage shed, the carport and covered shelter and the self-contained studio/bungalow.

This is an irregularity and an oversight which has implications for the outcome of the building.

Warrandyte Historical Society express their great disappointment that there is a request for the demolition of the log cabin. It requests that the relevant heritage guidelines be considered and adhered to when considering the outcome of the permit application.

Membership Application Form

I/we wish to become a member of the Warrandyte Historical Society (WHS) for 2026 year.

I/we support the purposes of the WHS. I/we agree to comply with the Rules of the WHS.

Name Phone:.....

Family Members (Associates).....

Address.....

.....P/code.....

Email address:.....

Membership Type: Member (\$25 Single, \$35 Family - allows for one voting member)/
Community Organisation (\$35), Business Sponsor (\$150). (Circle the appropriate category.)

I wish to pay by cheque/EFT (Please circle)

NB: New memberships are subject to Committee approval.

If paying by EFT; first email your completed form/details to
secretary@whsoc.org.au or mail to PO Box 67, Warrandyte 3113. Please include your surname online as the reference for your payment.

Name: Warrandyte Historical Society Inc.

If you pay by cheque, mail payment and completed form to:

Warrandyte Historical Society
PO Box 67, Warrandyte, 3113

Please ensure email addresses are correct.

Please encourage friends and family to join and

Warrandyte Historical Society

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/warrandytehistoricalsociety



Other contacts:

Treasurer: David Carty 03 9844 1920

*Group Visits: Museum answering machine.
03 9844 4176*

Archiving: Gina Bevan-Jones 039812 2357

Newsletter: ajd94@outlook.com

*General enquiries and messages can be left on the
museum answering machine or fax.*

Phone: 9844 4176

email: info@whsoc.org.au

Seeking Historical Articles of Interest.

Warrandyte has a rich tapestry of untold stories relating to it's history.

Many of today's Warrandyte families have connections to the earliest inhabitants of this area. Much information of Indigenous occupation is still to be discovered.

Warrandyte was Founded on Gold, we have a wealth of information on Miners, Mining, Gold and Equipment used in our Goldfields. It is by no means complete.

Warrandyte also featured prominently, and still does, in the Arts, with Local Painters, Potters, Writers, Photographers, Musicians and many other skills.

Orchards and Farms were numerous in Warrandyte from the Early days of settlement, remnants of these early properties can be still found today. Some with connections to those historical properties are still operating. The Blacksmiths skills were required by all of the above.

The Warrandyte Historical Society Newsletter seeks and publishes Local Articles relating YOUR stories to an interested audience of Society Members and Friends.

If you have any Stories of Family History or Warrandyte History you would like to see published please contact Alan, email: ajd94@outlook.com. Your story should be told.



42K Media
www.42kmedia.com.au
hello@42kmedia.com.au



CREATIVE
graphic design

Phone: 0409 233 318
info@bcreative.net.au
http://budgetwebsites.melbourne/



RAINBOW
Plumbing & Civil

Rainbow Plumbing & Civil
23 Station Street, Diamond Creek
9438 2100

JellisCraig
Chris Chapman
Director & Auctioneer
Jellis Craig North East Group
ChrisChapman@jellisicraig.com.au
Phone: 03 9431 1222
Mobile: 0421 736 592



Quinton's Supa IGA
402 Heidelberg/Warrandyte Road,
9844 3089



Traditional Folk Arts
42 Stony Creek Rd, 9844 2036



Ruby Tuesday
Handmade Jewellery
90 Melbourne Hill Road
9844 4600



WARRANDYTE
diary
for the community by the community



"Quality Meats. Friendly Service."
Warrandyte Quality Meats
Goldfields Plaza, 9844 1563

*Thanks to Nillumbik Shire and Manningham City Councils,
Warrandyte Riverside Market and Warrandyte Community Bank
for ongoing support*







THE GRAND  WARRANDYTE

The Grand Hotel
110-120 Yarra Street
9844 3202



Dog Dayz Boarding Kennels
Tills Drive
9844 3292

**CLANCY'S GARDEN
AND TREE CARE**

0411 311 824

Warrandyte Historical Society
thanks Our Wonderful Business
Partners who continue to support
Our Museum, please help by
supporting them.