

April—May 2026

Issue No 236

Established 1976

Celebrating our 50th Year.



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Open Saturdays & Sundays

1.30—4.30 pm.

Key Diary Dates.

WHS Committee Meetings are generally held at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month, apart from January.

Occasionally due to logistics this may change. If you wish to attend please verify the details in regards to the meeting by contacting us at info@whsoc.org.au.

AEHS Conference 18th July

See Page 10.

Riverside Market.
Saturdays 8am to 1pm..

4th July.

1st August.

5th September.

3rd October.

7th November.

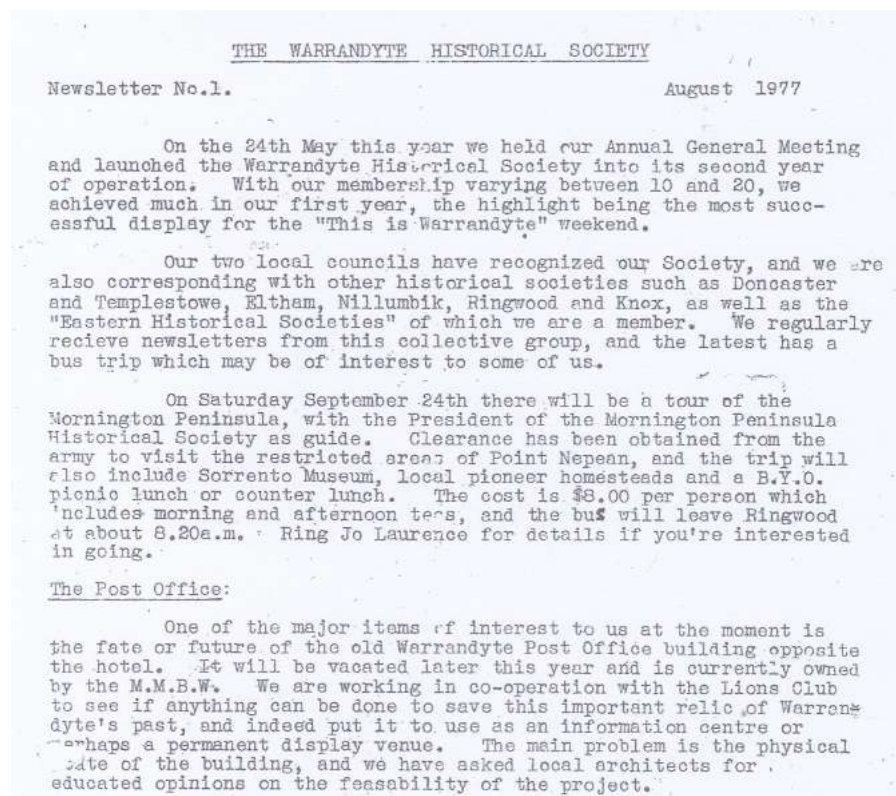
5th & 9th December.

Warrandyte Historical Society.



Our Museum Matters.

Below is an edited piece from the First Edition of the Warrandyte Historical Society Newsletter published August 1977 in our second year of operation. We welcome you to help us celebrate Our 50th Year with a Grand Get Together. See Page two for details.



Acknowledgement of Country

Warrandyte Historical Society acknowledges the Wurundjeri 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 Society

50th Anniversary Celebration

1976-2026

Join us as we celebrate a half a century of preserving and sharing Warrandyte's rich heritage.

Music and entertainment. Plentiful hearty cocktail style food and a welcome drink on arrival.



Location: The Grand Hotel, Warrandyte, Caledonia Room

Date: Friday 17th July, 2026. 7pm.



Tickets: \$45 per head. Scan the QR code to obtain your ticket from Trybooking.
Numbers are limited. Ticket sales close 2nd July.

The Hidden Gem at 2 Castle Road. North Warrandyte

This Intro is from previous Warrandyte Historical Society Newsletter 235.

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.

Written by: Dianne Phillips

Nearly 100 visitors have visited the Slab Hut at 2 Castle Road on two very successful occasions

As part of the Warrandyte Festival nearly 60 people very interested in Warrandyte's history walked along the track above Kangaroo Ground Road, to see the hand cut timber and daub miner's hut (National Trust listed) at 2 Castle Road on the afternoon of Saturday March 28th. The highlight of the afternoon was the arrival of Matt Jeffery, a local and a conservation carpenter. Matt demonstrated how the different axes were once used and are still used to cut different timbers found in this type of construction. Matt had done conservation work on the hut in 2017 and was able to answer many questions particularly about the hut and its construction. Jock Macneish, local artist/cartoonist, had created an image depicting the inside of the hut as it had once been the bedroom of Mrs Florence Cashmore who owned the property from 1956 - 1982. There were nearly 40 visitors to the Slab Hut when it was opened again on Saturday 2nd May as part of the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival which runs from April 18th - May 18th. Again people were interested in the hut's construction and the tools used.



Matt Jeffery has the many visitors to the Slab Hut enthralled. Note the roof built over the hut for protection.



The Slab Hut openings have provoked an interest in this community asset. It's a marvel that the building is still standing and is so close to the city. There is much that can be done to improve the life of the hut, there is also a need to improve the sleeper path surrounding it. Matt Jeffery has suggested what could be done to further conserve the building and we have started a conversation with the National Trust regarding the possibility that further conservation work could be done on this gem that is Warrandyte's Slab Hut.

Opening the Slab Hut has proven such a success that the Historical Society is considering making it an annual event during the Warrandyte Festival.

LANDFALL

15 CASTLE ROAD
WARRANDYTE NORTH



Why it is important.

Landfall is one of just a few Large Architect designed houses in Warrandyte built before the great bushfires of 26 January 1939 decimated the area. It is built on a grand scale with large living rooms featuring local stone fireplaces, timber panelling and many period features. The house is situated in a commanding position, taking advantage of extensive views over the Yarra River valley to the distant mountains. A succession of owners over the years have been highly active in the local arts scene and the house has been a gathering point for the community since it was first built until the present day.

The Aron Family.

Aaron Aarons (later known as James Aron) was born to a Jewish family of tailors at Brick Lane in the East end of London in 1860. Together with his father Philip Aarons and mother Jael (nee Saltiel, formerly married to Coleman Levy), he arrived in Melbourne on the Patterdale in 1871. James was believed to be in Kalgoorlie during the gold rush of the 1880's, before returning to Melbourne where he operated successfully as a Pawnbroker.

James Aron (53 years) married Helen Mary Gumley (23 years) on 26th June 1913 in Melbourne. The family lived in a rented house in Vautier Street, Elwood until a new house was built at 50 St. Kilda Street, Elwood. There were 4 children from the marriage. Beatrice 1914, Mimi 1917, David 1923 and Nanette 1925. James owned several properties and by 1930 had added a further 6 new homes for rental in Burnley Street, Richmond.



James Aron, 1860—1938

While James operated a highly successful business as a financier and property developer, he had also attended the National Gallery Art School, although he never pursued art seriously as a career. He mixed with fellow students of the day, including Norman Lindsay and Alex Sass, and encouraged his eldest daughter Beatrice to enroll at the Gallery School.



In the early 1930s the family started to take holidays in Warrandyte and Mimi Fry (nee Aron) recalled staying with a group of school friends at the Penleigh Boyd Studio in Warrandyte in the early 1930s. Helen Aron later acquired a cottage in Yarra Street, planting a garden, remnants of which still exist to this day in the forecourt of the shopping centre at 242 Yarra Street Warrandyte. The family would either drive to Warrandyte by car, or the young ones would catch the train to Box Hill or another station on that line and then ride horses to Warrandyte.

The family decided to move permanently to Warrandyte around 1935 and rented "The Castle" in Castle road. The Aron family enjoyed life in Warrandyte and soon became friendly with local artists including Adrian Lawlor, Jimmy Flett and Jo Sweatman. Helen collected the works of many Warrandyte artists, either as direct purchases or through the exhibitions mounted at the Penleigh Boyd Studio by Connie Smith, the wife of a local real estate agent.



Helen became closely involved with the Koornong School and its founder Clive Nield. Two of her children attended the school and David, the elder of these, also later taught Mathematics at the school. It was through Koornong that the family formed a close relationship with the modernist émigré artist Danila Vassilieff and acquired a number of his paintings, including one that was obtained in exchange for a new battery for his car! Vassilieff had built his eccentric stone cottage Stonygrad on land next to the school, upriver from Landfall.



Helen also purchased properties for her children in the area – including one for her daughter Beatrice (Betty) in Brackenberry Street next to the Warrandyte RSL, which has a garage designed by Alexa Goyder – another of her friends.

While Helen took great pride in her new home, a number of converging issues made life difficult. The great fire of 1939 had spared the house but devastated the immediate surroundings. As a widow with a family to support, the large house and grounds required considerable work and the coming of war soon after the fires complicated matters further. Her daughter Beatrice had married a fellow student from the Gallery School and within two years her second daughter Mimi also married and moved away. With David at University, Helen was at home alone with her youngest daughter Nanette. With considerable reluctance she decided to sell Landfall in January 1941 and moved to Caulfield where she lived until her death in 1948

Ongoing Relationship between Landfall and the Warrandyte Arts Scene

With Helen Aron's departure, Arthur Watkin Wynne, son of prominent Sydney newspaper proprietor Watkin Wynne, acquired Landfall. Wynne had followed his father into the newspaper business and held the position of manager at the Melbourne Herald. It was in fact the children of Arthur Wynne who first suggested the name Landfall -



When approaching Warrandyte from Melbourne the house stood out on top of the hill, which the children thought made it look like Noah's Ark on its Landfall. [see photograph bottom left] The Wynne family remained at Landfall for ten years, before selling the property to Henry Beecham in 1951. Beecham retained the property for 17 years, selling on 27 March 1968 to Evelyn Fine Arts Pty Ltd, the business entity behind prominent Melbourne artist Ernest Buckmaster. The Archibald Prize-winning artist, a great favourite of conservative Melbourne art lovers, unfortunately died later that year, living at the house for just six months before his death on 17 October of that year. Buckmaster's family retained the house until 1972 and, after passing briefly through the hands of a third party, it returned to the Beecham family when it was purchased by Henry Beecham's son, Henry Croll Beecham, and his wife Marjorie. Marge was a daughter of the prominent Pizzey family, which included a number of notable members such as Dorothy Pizzey, headmistress of St Catherine's Girls School, Toorak and Graham Pizzey, popular writer and naturalist. Majorie and Henry made Landfall a focus for the arts in Warrandyte, especially ceramics, the field in which Marjorie had excelled since her early career as an occupational therapist at the Repatriation Hospital at Heidelberg. Henry Beecham died in 2000 and Marjorie lived at Landfall until her death in November 2017, bringing to an end the Beecham family's 62 year association with the property.

LANDFALL



WARRANDYTE FETE
 In the beautiful grounds at Landfall, Warrandyte, the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Watkin Wynne, a fete will be held on Saturday, 4th November, to aid the Warrandyte Red Cross. Buses leave Box Hill at 2 p.m. The opportunity is thus provided to have an enjoyable outing and at the same time assist a worthy cause.

This interesting small item above, not part of the submitted Article was found in the Box Hill Reporter from Friday the 27th of October in 1944.

LANDFALL



The Property

Landfall is situated on top of a hill at the junction of Castle Road and Lewis Road, Warrandyte North.

The full history of the property is outlined below:

Vol. 3884 Fol. 727 - William Llewellyn Lewis of Healesville Hotel Keeper
£58 - Seventeenth day of April 1912

Two acres, two roods, thirty-seven perches and seven tenths of a perch

This title passed to James Aron on the 27th March 1936

Instrument 1608226 - £150

Allotments 42,43, 44 & 45, Section eight A in the Township of Warrandyte North Parish of Nillumbik County of Evelyn

Vol. 3807 Fol. 203

Charles George Morgan of 250 Collins Street Melbourne Tailor and Mercer

£12, Three roods and 35 perches

Allotment 46, Section eight A in the Township of Warrandyte North Parish of Nillumbik County of Evelyn

This title passed to James Aron on the 9th of September 1936

Instrument 1624374: £30

All subsequent transfers for both titles occurred on the same date.

On the 10th January 1938 the tiles were transferred passed to Helen Aron for "Love & Affection". James Aron was terminally ill with TB at this time and died on 24th March 1938

Helen Aron constructed the house, later known as "Landfall" and the property then passed to

Arthur Watkin Wynne, Journalist, on 20 January 1941

Instrument 1801670: £1,500

Henry Guy Beecham, Managing Director on 1 August 1951

Evelyn Fine Arts Propriety Limited, (Ernest Buckmaster – Artist) on the 27th of March 1968

Maxwell Bruce Watson Shire Secretary and Dorothy May Watson on the 18th February 1972

Henry Croll Beecham Marketing Manager and Marjorie Jean Beecham on the 18th February 1972

The House - Architect

Designed by Harry J. Little F.V.S.A. 239 Collins Street Melbourne

Chosen by Helen Aron as she liked a block of flats designed by Little that was built opposite the Aron home at 4-6 Kingsley Street in Elwood.

Other buildings designed by Harry Little include the Collingwood United Masonic Temple in Gipps Street Collingwood, entrance foyer and Lower Town Hall at Maryborough and possibly Temple Court in Collins Street Melbourne

The builder is not known.

To Be Continued.

Part two of this Article will appear in Our Next Newsletter.

AUSTRALIAN BUSH INVENTIONS

By A. THORNTON

IT is a remarkable fact that many of the common articles used throughout the world today are the original inventions of Australian bushmen, and patent rights were not taken out* for them. Many of these inventions have not only made life more pleasant but have saved the lives of many people. The humble billycan has already been described in *Walkabout*, but another Australian invention just as universally used and just as valuable to men in all walks of life is the canvas water-bag.

Credit for inventing the canvas water-bag is given to Major Mitchell. He really invented the first water-bag in 1846 while on his last expedition in south-west Queensland. Carrying water over the long dry stretches so frequently encountered had always been a problem with explorers. Mitchell sewed pieces of canvas together to form a bag. It was then thoroughly greased with mutton tallow and found to be waterproof. This proved a very handy method of carrying water, and the water thus carried was kept delightfully cool even on the hottest day. Thus the first water-bag as we know it today was born.

Of course there have been many improvements since the day Mitchell made his first canvas water-bag. It was soon discovered that it was not necessary to grease the canvas with tallow; thus the water was much more pleasant to drink. No doubt Mitchell got the idea of his canvas water-bag from the aborigines, who, even long before the white man invaded his territory, carried water in the skins of kangaroos and wallabies.

Today, the canvas water-bag is found hanging on the verandah of the wealthy squatter, under a shady tree at a navvies' camp, from an expensive motor car, and from the back of a bullock waggon. In fact you will find it in use wherever you find human beings, even in the front line.

Of course the majority of canvas water-bags are manufactured in modern factories in a great variety of shapes and sizes, but I once knew a swagman who

roamed about the country making them to order. He carried a roll of canvas and the necessary tools for making the water-bags. For a neck he merely broke the top off a beer bottle.

The Coolgardie safe is another Australian invention which originated on the West Australian goldfields, as the name indicates. Ice was unknown in those parts, but soon the miners made a crude safe in which food could be kept cool and fresh. The principle was sound but simple. A tray of water on top of the food container was connected with a drip tray beneath the food container by means of strips of hessian. This kept the hessian sides damp, and as the safe was placed in a current of air the process of evaporation lowered the temperature inside the safe. It was only necessary to keep water in the top tray in order to keep food in the safe cool and fresh. Of course the first Coolgardie safe was a crude affair, but it was rapidly improved and today many people prefer it to the modern ice-chest. In those places where ice is not readily available the Coolgardie safe is a real blessing. These bush "ice-chests" in a variety of designs are manufactured extensively today, but many bush folk still make their own to suit their own particular requirements.

I BELIEVE the tucker-box is also a purely Australian invention. Every bushman who travelled in a vehicle of any sort, from the sulky to the big waggon, carried a tucker-box in which all the food was placed. A gin-case made an ideal tucker-box. Small holes were cut in the ends, and these were covered with fine gauze wire to allow air to circulate in the tucker-box but to keep flies out. The lid had to be carefully fitted, too. When the food was taken out and spread before the fire for the bush meal, the tucker-box served as a seat. The tucker-box has its place in Australian literature; in fact, many city people know a tucker-box merely as something that a dog once sat on nine miles from Gundagai. Today there is a monument five miles from Gundagai, showing that dog sitting on the tucker-box.

Bowyangs* are another useful Australian invention, but they seem to have gone out of fashion. I could never understand just why a man wore bowyangs. Some said it was to keep the dust from getting right up the wearer's pants; one man reckoned it was to keep the ants out, and still another told me that he always wore them because his trousers were a bit too long without them. At one time a man didn't look like a navvy without bowyangs; in fact, bowyangs were considered part of the navvy's uniform. One navvy told me that he didn't feel decently dressed without his bowyangs.

Australian bushmen cannot claim the

*Bowyangs are trousers tied below the knee with a strap or string.

Stump Jump Plough 1876

Coolgardie Safe 19th Century

credit for inventing blankets and rugs, but they can claim credit for inventing the Murrumbidgee blanket and the Wagga rug. These bush blankets are still popular in the outback, both in bush camps and in outback homes. A good Wagga rug or a Murrumbidgee blanket is just as warm as the most expensive woollen blanket, though they do not look as attractive.

It has also been claimed that the first wire mattress was the invention of an Australian bushman. The first bush wire mattress was merely a frame of saplings with holes bored in them so that fencing wire could be interlaced to form a platform on which gum leaves or dry grass was placed to form a comfortable bed.

Other Australian inventions can still be seen in use in the outback, and amongst these might be mentioned the slide made from a forked stick. It is a vehicle suited to country where no wheeled vehicle could be used. However, this is one invention which didn't take on outside the bush. The Australian bushman is a born inventor, and men who have fought in both this war and the last will tell you that these diggers from the bush even invented some of their own types of ammunition and original methods of getting things done.

Although this article is not Warrandyte History, I am certain some readers will have found it most interesting. I am equally sure that many of Our earliest prospectors and settlers who decided to make their homes in Anderson's Creek - Warrandyte will have found a use for most, if not all of these inventions and more. There is no doubt these "Bushies" made their own implements to improve their lot, making life easier for themselves, the "Missus" and the family. Improvisation is still a huge factor in life today.



The Association of Eastern Historical Societies
presents

Local History: Thinking outside the archival box

2026 Conference



Sat 18 July 2026
9:00 am – 4:00 pm



Yarra Ranges Civic Centre
(Council Offices)
15 Anderson Street, Lilydale

Speakers:

KEYNOTE: Professor Sarah Baker, Griffith University

Thinking outside the archival box to create sustainable futures for community heritage organisations.

Dr Aleryk (Al) Fricker, Deakin University

Dr Sophie Couchman, Professional historian & curator

Dr Mike Jones, Professional historian & archivist

Lyndel Wischer, Ziebell's Farmhouse – Museum & Heritage Garden

Dr Sarah Sato, Community Heritage Officer, Yarra Ranges Council

Michelle Fracaro, AMaGA Victoria

Dr Steven Cooke, Royal Historical Society of Victoria



Full program: <https://aehs.org.au/index.php/2026conference/>



\$ 45.00

includes
lunch, morning &
afternoon tea

To register :



trybooking.com/DLLAE



For more information:

associationofeasternhistorical@gmail.com

This Calendar – Part One - is presented in two parts because of space limitations.

Part two will follow in the Next WHS Newsletter – Issue 237

The original text has been retained to preserve it's original character.

January	1855 Jan 12th 1855 1855 1856 Fri 13th 1939 1962 1974	John Hutchinson arrived in Warrandyte in 1854 & became Pound Keeper on January 12th 1855 a position held until Feb 11th 1872. Saw miners returning back to Anderson's Creek to work Whipstick Gully and Thompsons. A report in the Argus counted 11 tented stores, about 200 diggers and a population calculated to be between 600 – 700. Walter Charles Brackenbury appointed Gold Warden 'Black Friday' bushfires caused wide destruction of the town. **The Post Office was again threatened by a bush fire. All valuable items in the building were sealed in mail bags and put in the hotel cellar until the danger had passed. *Fighting Fires - Kirk Ritchie, who was captain of South Warrandyte Brigade, piloted the initial fire spotting patrol of the Lower Yarra Air Wing.
February It is high fire danger still. Candle bark, have shed their bark, It is time for young platypus to emerge from riverbank nests for the first time since hatching in October or	1851 1882 Thurs 28th 1935	First major bushfire. Lecture at the State School – Saturday February 4th. Subject: 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'. (Ref: 1882 BN41). Warrandyte Annual School Picnic to Mordiallic. (Ref: BNo91a)

March	1852 21st March 1867 1878 March 21st 1907 1977 1984	Corroboree of the Kulin nation held at Pound Bend First burial recorded at Andersons' Creek Cemetery (Rose Mary Petty). Mechanics Institute established with 3 Trustees. The Warrandyte Tennis Club was founded. First Warrandyte Festival. GoldTown Open tournaments were held at the tennis courts. 
April	1925 25th April	Warrandyte Hotel burnt down. The ANZAC day march and commemorative ceremony is always held on April 25th.
May	May 1856 Saturday 23rd 1987	Government Surveyor Clement Hodgkinson surveyed the town. Designated a site for a punt and set aside 3 chains of public land each side of the river. The restored Old Post Office was officially opened

June	1851 1854 1934 June 27th 1942 June 13th 1982 June 10th	Gold was found in Warrandyte by Louis J Michel and party. The Pound was established – a small fenced off area where wandering stock could be impounded. Warrandyte Quarry Disaster – 2 men were killed and one seriously injured. ‘A night on the Ranch’ at Warrandyte Hall with the Hill Billy Boys. M.C. E. Houghton. The old Post Office was almost burnt down in very suspicious circumstances.
July	1980	The Diary ran a front page article about the plight of the old Post Office. Indicating the possibility of the demolition of the building for road widening.
		Our Perpetual Calendar presented here will be continued in Our next Newsletter. It was originally a set of Posters developed for and displayed in our Warrandyte Museum.

Membership Application Form

I/we wish to become a member of the Warrandyte Historical Society (WHS) for 2025 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

Still Seeking Historical Articles of Interest.

Warrandyte—Warranwood district has a rich tapestry of untold stories relating to it's history. Please write them down or record them before it's too late. Many of today's local families have connections to the earliest inhabitants of this area.

Much information of Indigenous occupation is still to be discovered. Can you help.

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 & Warranwood 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 Local Family History History you would like to see published please contact Alan, email: ajd94@outlook.com. Your story should be told.



42K Media
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hello@42kmedia.com.au



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
90 Melbourne Hill Road
9844 4600



"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



Warrandyte
Community Bank* Branch
 **Bendigo Bank**

Dogdayz
Country Clubs

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.