School Review

On Monday 17 November the school held its Review Day. The aim of the review was to engage in professional dialogue, reflecting upon the performance of Warrandyte High School over the period 2011 to 2014 and to make recommendations for continuing improvement. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) requires that all school reviews focus on student achievement, student engagement, student wellbeing, and productivity (use of resources to support student outcomes). With each school's individual Self Evaluation determining the specific areas for interrogation and development on the review day. The Review Panel consisted of Dr Stephen Parkin, Principal; Pamela Dunstall, Assistant Principal; Paul McNamara, School Council president; Lesley Ryall, School Council Vice President; Hugh Prescott and Jessie Thomas-Connor, School Captains; Victoria Triggs, Cambridge Education; Stuart Edwards, Senior Advisor DEECD, Dr Mary Cannon, Principal Canterbury Girls Secondary College. They were also assisted throughout the day by Leading teachers, Barry Carozzi, Natalie Manser, Leigh Thomson; Student Wellbeing Leader, Martin Yates; and Maths and English Discipline Leaders, Steve Griffin and Krystina McCrory. The day was a great success as members of the panel unpacked the school data and challenged each other in robust and informed conversation to plan out the next steps on the school's journey of continual improvement. The Review Report will be finalised over the next week. This then forms the basis of the school's next four year Strategic Plan which will be developed during term 1 next year.

Stephen Parkin
Principal

Best wishes to our World Challenge team who left on Saturday
School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children’s services listed on the DEECD Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter and via the Compass Parent Portal. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. This will be done via a notice on the Compass Parent Portal Newsfeed, an email to families and through the information message on our phone system.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.
- Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted bus route cancellations may affect our school.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family’s bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and by checking the Compass Parent Portal regularly. If you do not know your Compass log in please contact the General Office on 9844 2749 who will be able to assist you with this.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- Talk to your child about bushfires and your family’s bushfire survival plan.

For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Cyberbullying

Social media is more accessible than ever – with the rise of smartphones and tablets, it has never been easier to jump online.

For young people, it means being more connected
Recently, the Italian Language in the World Week has been celebrated worldwide. It was the fourteenth edition, but, to be honest, I have never heard about it. I discovered it by chance, while reading the web page of an Italian newspaper: during that week (20-25 October), the first Italian Language in the World States General was being held in Florence. The event, an initiative of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, meant to examine the state of Italian all around the world, and to explore new effective strategies for its dissemination. Tens of politicians, artists, poets, teachers and language experts thus gathered in Tuscany at the end of October.

What I discovered, then, is that Italian is nowadays the fourth most studied language in the world. And this was definitely unexpected. Even more unexpected, it is still growing, especially in Asian and Arabic countries. The demand for Italian teaching is increasing in both China and Vietnam, and in Russia Italian has recently been introduced as one of the subjects in secondary school final exams. The situation, then, turns out to be undoubtedly positive. But the question is: why? I was really surprised. Why is this the case, considering that Italian is spoken in a very small country, which has never had a colonial empire? I can only formulate some hypotheses. Maybe because the technical language used globally in music is Italian (allegro, andante, adagio...)? Or maybe because Italian communities are spread all over the world, are usually quite well integrated, and usually very noisy — so that it is difficult not to notice them? Or maybe because of the Catholic Church (being Italian the official language, and not Latin anymore), which is powerful and everywhere? Or because of the Mafia (which is also powerful and everywhere)? Or maybe because it is a working language in fashion, design, art, tourism... and, most of all, fancy cars? I simply don’t know.

What I do know is that our small humble nation involving cybersafety and young people. She was one of several experts who responded to all types of bullying. Susan McLean is Australia’s leading cybersafety expert, said even if parents have no experience with social media, by following a few basic steps, parents can effectively support their children to be safe online.

Parenting in the 21st century requires you to be able to parent in the digital space,’ Ms McLean said. ‘Technology is firmly entrenched in our lives and that of our children so we need the tools to deal with issues as they arise.

‘It’s really important that if your child is being cyberbullied, you don’t cut them off from social media and take their technology away - the vast majority of kids won’t tell a parent if they are bullied and harassed online for fear of losing access. They would much rather put up with the bad to keep the good.’

Ms McLean said when confronted with their child being cyberbullied, parents should follow the cyberbullying quick response checklist:

- Reassure and comfort
- Don’t respond
- Block and delete bully
- Report to the site
- Keep a copy
- Tell school (or relevant place) and seek action
- If ongoing inform police
- Support your child as they have done nothing wrong

The Department’s Bully Stoppers website has a range of advice for parents, students and teachers about how to respond to all types of bullying.

End of Year Assemblies

The dates and times for the end of year assemblies are as follows:

- Year 11 – Monday 8 December 9:30am
- Year 10 – Friday December 9:30am
- Year 9 – Friday 12 December 2:00pm
- Year 7&8 – Monday 15 December 9:30am

Year 11 and 12 (2015) Transition

Transition in the senior school has begun with Year 12 (2015) students undertaking one week of transition and Year 11 (2015) two weeks of transition. Year 10 (2015) students who will be undertaking a VCE subject next year are also taking part in this program. During this time VET classes, internal and external classes are not being run. All students will receive holiday homework to complete over the Christmas break. This will be due in the first week of school. It is essential that students who miss transition classes for any reason ensure that they catch up with their teachers via email prior to the end of the school year to get the work they may have missed.

Students will have an opportunity to change subject selections during transition and also in the first two weeks of Term 1 next year. Parental permission is required for any changes made. Students should see their Level Leader for information regarding this.

Changes to the Bus Bay and teacher’s car park

In the last couple of weeks there have been some changes to the teacher’s car park to improve the wheelchair accessibility on the school busses. A platform has been built outside the Food Technology room to enable wheelchair users to get on and off the bus more easily. To allow this to be used there will be some small changes to the direction of traffic in the top car park. The first entry on Alexander Road will now no longer be accessible to cars, only busses are able to use this entrance from this week onwards. The second entrance on Alexander Road will now be the entry and the exit point for all cars. Lines and arrows have been painted on the road and signs erected to indicate this.

Parents are reminded that this is not to be used as a drop off and pick up point for students. Students can be dropped off and picked up in the service road at the top of the school on Warrandyte Road or behind the gym in the Visitor’s car park.

School Packages

Most students at Years 7-11 should now have received their re-enrolment packages for 2015. If you have not yet received your student package please contact the General Office on 9844 2749.

If your child is not returning to Warrandyte High School in 2015 please notify the General Office by phone or on office@warrandytehigh.vic.edu.au as soon as possible so the appropriate paperwork can be completed.

Uniform for 2015

As previously mentioned in an earlier addition of the Gang there has been a small change to the boy’s school uniform from 2015. The boy’s polo top, both the VCE and 7-10 version are being phased out over the next two years in favour of the logo embroidered white shirt which is currently available and part of the uniform. The polo will still be sold until the end of 2015 (stock permitting) and may still be worn until the end of 2016. From the beginning of 2015 all Year 7 boys will only be permitted to wear the white shirt.

Although this is not a change to the uniform just a reminder that facial piercings are not part of the school uniform. Students are permitted to wear up to three studs or sleepers in each ear only.

Students are also reminded that the uniform policy stated in the student planner stipulates that extremes in hair colour and hair style are not permitted.

Finally, a reminder of the types of shoes that are appropriate for, and are permitted at Warrandyte High School is included in your child’s re-enrolment package.

Pamela Dunstall - Assistant Principal
Valedictory

On the evening of Tuesday 18 November we had the final farewell for the class of 2014 at the Karralyka Centre in Ringwood. The night was certainly one remember to with the students celebrating their achievements at Warrandyte High School. Below is an excerpt from the speech of the 2014 school captains Jessica Brincat and Jonty Rushton.

After a year of many laughs, growing friendships and struggles, we never thought that our final day would come and to be honest we really wish it hadn’t. For 6 years now, Warrandyte has been our second home and leaving this home is a scary thought for some of us, because it is the only place we know.

No longer will we have to wear school uniform, hear the 9 o’clock bell ring, and make up excuses to teachers for why we were late to class, why we didn’t do our homework and why we should be allowed to sit in the back row. Now we will have to let go of this sense of security and make our own way into the outside world.

Warrandyte High School creates a unique way of learning which has inspired us to make the best of our potential. This school has watched us grow and develop not just as people but as a group.

Year 12 has been the toughest year of our education. It has tested us not just mentally but physically. For those of you who have us on facebook, you would have seen the many status updates about the huge amounts of work we had to complete. This point is our destination, and most of us have been working hard all year to make it across the finish line. All of us had many dark times when we thought giving up was the only option. In the years leading up to our final year, we have learnt many life lessons. Some of these lessons were not taught in the classroom, but by our peers.

But what’s for sure is there is something much stronger and more valuable than any formula we could ever have learnt in Maths. And that is the friendships we have made through high school. We have seen many new friendships change and evolve and if it weren’t for you guys out there high school could have been a different story.

You guys have helped us through the toughest of times and were always there for us during our ups and downs. And we thank you for that.

Through Warrandyte’s embrace, we have been rewarded for our talent and endurance in not only our academic life, but in our sporting and performing lives. As individuals we have become more compassionate and understanding and we will continue to carry these values with us along our journeys into the future.

The future for all of us looks bright. Some of us will pursue future careers in trades, teaching, sports, health and retail. Others are prepared to put themselves on the front line with the Australian Defence Force or on the Formula 1 race track. But one thing is for sure, that whatever we decide to do, we will be successful.

This year has taught us a lot about relationships with friends, peers, teachers and parents. Year 12 is the most important year to make sure that you have good people around you. It is these relationships that have been the mortar that has held us together through this tough year. We would like to thank all of our teachers for their passion and guidance throughout not only this year but all our previous years at Warrandyte.

You have pushed us to our limits because you can see what we are really capable of even if, sometimes, we are unable to see it.

Your devotion has been instrumental in helping us to achieve our goals by responding to worried emails, giving us cups of tea and sympathy when we were feeling down and by creating classes revolving around Harry Potter.

We thank you for the endless laughs and competitive games of UNO and bingo.

We appreciate all of the kind verses that were created by Barry and his famous ukulele and Ms Rayner’s constant passion, dedication and commitment to ensure all her students achieved their best, not just in the classroom but out on the field as well.

We apologise for side tracking all teachers for long periods of time during class, so that we didn’t get into trouble for not having done work. In particular, we apologise to Mr Griffin. We actually think your mullet was a real fashion statement.

We express our utmost gratitude to Ms Lamb for being a mother figure to the year 12s and for her words of wisdom each time we had a problem. But we do NOT thank her for confiscating countless hoodies over the years.

We have learnt pretty interesting things about teachers that we hadn’t realised. For example, that technology is not Mr Sunjo’s strength however teaching self-defence is. And that some teachers keep their talents hidden. Such as the outstanding performance of Vanilla Ice revealing Mr Ashmole’s rapping career.

And most of all we are grateful for Ms Silipo’s period 0 ‘morning song’ to get our brains active.

Throughout this year our parents have helped us through thick and thin. We would like to thank you for your unconditional support and for putting up with our constant mood swings, our whinging and all round attitude over this year. If it weren’t for you guys we wouldn’t have made it to where we are.

But what we really need to thank you for is being our 7 o’clock alarm, packing our lunches and making sure that we got to school on time every day. It is the little things that mean so much to us.

For each and every one of us, school had a different meaning. For some people school was about handling every piece of work in on time, getting the highest SAC mark, highest ATAR score possible and getting into their dream university course or job.

For others the best thing about school was hearing the bell for recess and lunch, seeing who could kick the footy into the bin the most and ultimately creating as much mischief as they could.

Next February, we won’t be coming together for the first day of school, as we have done year after year. We won’t be excited to see our new schedules and meet our new teachers.

As we end one glorious chapter of our lives, a new one begins. We have a fresh blank page ahead of us. It is up to us to grab our pens and write our own stories.

We each chose a path and, whether it begins tomorrow or in March, things will never be the same again. We have made bonds between friends that will never be broken and memories that will last a lifetime.

To all of the Year 12s as you go forth now, fight for your dreams and use your imagination. Don’t be scared to aim high. Be yourself and face every situation with courage. The people you are sitting next to today have defined who you are and will be behind you every step of the way. Thankyou.*

Jessica Brincat and Jonty Rushton
School Captains 2014
The year 9 students are coming to the end of their Taking The Challenge Program. It has been a joy to watch the students grow and develop in confidence and independence throughout the year. We have been on many adventures together both in school and out as we explored our city of Melbourne.

Recently the students completed their exams and next week will be doing an introduction to year 10. Next year the students move into the senior school and many will be undertaking a VCE subject so we will look at time management and study skills. Students will also participate in a workshop on discrimination and tolerance as well as watch a film in preparation for their Year10 English study of Romeo and Juliet.

We thank the year 9 students for a great year and wish them all the best for 2015.

Taking the Challenge Team

Year 10 Mind Matters

Getting a Good Night’s Sleep

When you sleep, you may be relaxed and in a paralyzed state but that doesn't mean your brain is not active. When you dream your brain has the same activity levels as when you are awake. There are four different brain waves when you sleep. Alpha is one, these occur when you are in deep relaxation: heightened imagination, visualization, memory, learning and concentration is usually what is happening in these brain waves. Beta is another, this occurs when you are awake. There are four different brain waves when you sleep. Alpha is one, these occur when you are in deep relaxation: heightened imagination, visualization, memory, learning and concentration is usually what is happening in these brain waves. Beta is another, this occurs when you are awake. There are four different brain waves when you sleep. Alpha is one, these occur when you are in deep relaxation: heightened imagination, visualization, memory, learning and concentration is usually what is happening in these brain waves. Beta is another, this occurs when you are awake.

Without enough sleep, or too much sleep, this can result in fatigue, learning and concentration difficulties. Sometimes medication, stress, illness and/or work, also personal choice, can lead to sleep deprivation. Some symptoms of lack of sleep are moodiness, having problems concentrating, short-term memory, paranoia and hallucinations. You should seek a sleep doctor if any of these signs are noticeable; falling asleep at inappropriate times, persistent daytime sleepiness or fatigue, frequent morning headaches, not being able to fall asleep easily and having unrefreshing sleeps.

Getting a good night sleep will leave you feeling refreshed, brighter and feeling more energized.

Here are some ways to help you get a good night's sleep:

- Get the appropriate amount of sleep by going to bed and waking at the same times (teens need 9-10 hours' sleep and adults need 7 hours sleep)
  - Make sure your bed and pillow are comfortable
  - A light snack before bed, not a heavy meal
  - Have a relaxing bed time routine
  - Regular exercise
  - Healthy eating

A good night sleep is what is best for the brain and body, so it is essential that you have an appropriate sleep.

Hayley Wilson-Rowell
Year 10 Student

Katie Cook
PE/Health Leader
Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria's neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents.

Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools’ core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Warrandyte High School will not be receiving funding in 2015.

Families experiencing financial hardship can ask the school about how to access assistance from State Schools’ Relief Committee for clothing and uniforms.

The end of the EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs.

Schoolkids Bonus

Helps with education costs and is automatically paid in January and July to eligible families and students. There is no need to make a claim.

Important update about the Schoolkids Bonus

Legislation has passed to phase out Schoolkids Bonus payments. The Schoolkids Bonus will continue until the end of 2016. This will allow families time to adjust to the change. The last instalment will be paid in July 2016.

The legislative change introduces an income test starting on 1 January 2015.

Eligible families

To be eligible, you must be a parent or carer who gets Family Tax Benefit Part A for a dependent child attending primary or secondary education.

Your child may be eligible in their own right if they are in receipt of a payment from us and undertaking primary or secondary education.

Schoolkids Bonus may also be payable where the child is undertaking an ‘eligible activity’ such as being home schooled, overseas study or special education.

From 1 January 2015, you also need to satisfy an income test.

Eligible students

The Schoolkids Bonus will be paid to primary and secondary students if they satisfy the income test and are:

- turning 19 years of age or younger in the calendar year, and receiving:
  - Youth Allowance
  - ABSTUDY (Living Allowance)
  - Disability Support Pension
  - Carer Payment
  - Parenting Payment
  - Special Benefit

The Schoolkids Bonus will be paid to secondary students receiving Pensioner Education Supplement if they satisfy the income test and are:

- turning 19 years of age or younger in the calendar year, and
- receiving:
  - Disability Support Pension
  - Carer Payment
  - Parenting Payment, or
  - Special Benefit

Income test

From 1 January 2015, an income test will apply. Eligible families and young people with an adjusted taxable income of $100,000 or less will be paid Schoolkids Bonus.

Eligibility for Schoolkids Bonus will be based on the income information you have already provided to Centrelink.

There are some exemptions to the income test. For example, people receiving certain veterans’ education allowance payments or Disability Support Pension for those who are permanently blind.

If you claim Family Tax Benefit as a lump sum at the end of the financial year we will assess income to see if you are eligible for Schoolkids Bonus.

Payment rates for the Schoolkids Bonus

From 1 January 2015, eligible families will receive Schoolkids Bonus in:

- 2 instalments of $211 for each child in primary school - a total of $422 each year
- 2 instalments of $421 for each child in secondary school - a total of $842 each year

If you share the care of your child with another person, you will receive a percentage of this payment. This will be based on the percentage of Family Tax Benefit you receive for the child.

Jill Treeby
Business Manager
SECOND HAND BOOK SALE SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

Books to Sell Must Be Submitted For Sale by Friday 28 November

Selling your old text books and buying next year’s second hand through Warrandyte High School not only saves you money but contributes to the fundraising for the school. A list of all books accepted for resale follows in this leaflet. Books submitted in poor condition, the wrong edition, workbooks with writing in them or with offensive drawings will not be returned to you. Prices quoted are the price at which we sell books in good condition. Sellers receive 75% and the school retains the remainder.

SELLING BOOKS:
Current Year 7, 8 and 9 Students: Make sure you have all books you wish to sell at school on Friday 28 November. Each class will have a time allocated during that morning to hand them in. If students are not going to be at school on this day for any reason, their books may be left in the box at the office before this date. Place the below form and your books in a plastic bag.

Current Year 10, 11 & 12 Students: Place the below form and your books in a plastic bag and put them in the box AT THE OFFICE. This can be done any time after exams finish up until Friday 28 November.

BUYING BOOKS:
Saturday 6 December from 12noon to 2:30pm in the Theatre, & Monday 8 December from 5pm to 7pm (Year 7 Information Night)

COLLECTION OF UNSOLD BOOKS:
10 December 3.00pm – 6.00pm is your only opportunity to collect unsold books. Uncollected books will be considered a donation to the school and used for families experiencing financial difficulty.

Parent Association

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The below form must be submitted with books for sale

Student Name: __________________________ Current Year Level: ________
Parent or Guardian email address for notifications: __________________________

Proceeds of Sales (Please tick the box of your choice)
[ ] Donated to the school  [ ] Paid to school fees  [ ] Direct Deposit to account

(Account please complete your account information if Direct Deposit is required)

Account Name: __________________________ BSB: ________ Account No: ________

Signature of Parent or Guardian to acknowledge these conditions of sale

Signature: __________________________ Name of Parent: __________________________ Date: ________

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YEAR 7 TEXTS FOR 2015

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<td>Holes (P/B). Sachar</td>
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<td>HUMANITIES</td>
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<td>MATHS</td>
<td>Pearson Maths AC 7 Student Book</td>
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<td>MUSIC</td>
<td>Musicship &amp; Aural Training 1 Student Book (2nd edn)</td>
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<td>SCIENCE</td>
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YEAR 8 TEXTS FOR 2015

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<td>Parvana (P/B). Ellis</td>
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<td>Tomorrow When The War Began (Tomorrow Srs #1) (Marsden)</td>
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<td>MATHS</td>
<td>Person Maths AC 8 Student Book</td>
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<td>Love Ghosts &amp; Nose Hair (P/B)</td>
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<td>Students are required to purchase one of the following novels:</td>
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<td>Trash (P/B) (Corgi)</td>
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<td>Heroes Of Tobruk (Mulligan)</td>
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### YEAR 10 TEXTS FOR 2015

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### YEAR 11 TEXTS FOR 2015

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### YEAR 12 TEXTS FOR 2015

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Girls are welcome to join the 2015 season
Registration Day is on Sunday 30 November at 1pm at Plenty Park, corner of Yan Yean Road and Memorial Drive Plenty
Scott 0419 173 911 Sarah 0430 383 462

SAFEMinds Comes to Town!

headspace - the National Youth Mental Health Foundation will be presenting a session in Know for parents to learn about early detection and support for young people through the SAFEMinds mental health training currently being introduced for schools and families across Victoria.

Time: 7pm to 9pm
Date: Monday 24th November 2014
Venue: headspace Know, Westfield Knox Centre
Shop 3027, 2 Capital City Boulevard
509 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South Vic 3152

Parents interested in attending can register via www.eventbrite.com.au/o/safeminds-7552791023
BUSHFIRE EXPO
WARRANDYTE FIRE STATION

Saturday 6th December
10am - 4pm

Trade Stands
Fire Information
Kids Activities
Free Sausage Sizzle
& More

*CFA does not endorse any products advertised or available on the day
**The Expo will be cancelled on a day of Total Fire Ban