

JULY NEWSLETTER



NEXT SCREENING: HIGH GROUND

Warburton: Tues 14 July
Healesville: Tues 21 July

In Australia's Northern Territory, ex-soldier Travis (Simon Baker) is haunted by the memory of a brutal massacre. When ordered to hunt an Indigenous warrior, he joins forces with Gutjuk (Jacob Junior Nayinggul), a young tracker bound to that same violent past. Amid Arnhem Land's sweeping landscapes, their journey probes justice, vengeance, and the scars history leaves behind.

COMING UP...

AUGUST:

The Ballad of Wallis Island

SEPTEMBER:

Wolfgang (Extraordinari)

STARBOX RESULTS *for* THE BLUE CAFTAN

Warburton: 4.3
Healesville: 4.1

TELL A FRIEND

Mid-season lower rates to join YRFS:

July: 6 films for \$60 (\$50 concession)

Aug: 5 films for \$55 (\$45 concession)

Sept: 4 films for \$50 (\$40 concession)

Oct-Dec: \$45 (\$35 concession)

WARBURTON FILM FESTIVAL 2026 FESTIVAL WRAP-UP

From Rebecca Bowman, President, Yarra Ranges Film Society

The 2026 Warburton Film Festival has officially wrapped – and what a remarkable weekend it was. This year's festival was one of our most successful ever, with record attendance, an enthusiastic crowd of returning visitors, and consistently high audience ratings across the program. The atmosphere was warm, lively and unmistakably Warburton: conversations flowing across the aisles, people comparing notes on what they'd seen and what they were planning to see next, and a shared sense of celebration around film, community and creativity.

A Memorable Opening Night

As is tradition, the Yarra Ranges Film Society opened the festival with a documentary and a guest speaker. This year we were honoured to welcome **writer and director Lorin Clarke**, whose film *But Also John Clarke* launched the festival.

Lorin captivated the audience with stories from the making of the documentary – from navigating an enormous archive of family footage to reflecting on life inside a creative household with a father who was just as funny at home as he was on screen. Her generosity, humour and insight set a beautiful tone for the weekend.

A portion of Lorin's message to the community is included below:

"Thank you to the Yarra Ranges Film Society for inviting me to be part of the Warburton Film Festival and for screening my film, 'But Also John Clarke'. You've one of those rare semi-rural towns lucky enough to have benefited from decades of thoughtful advocacy by members of your community who recognised the importance of centring art and culture... I looked around the cinema on opening night and saw such a cross-section of people... and I knew we were in for a relaxed and warm reception... You have built something wonderful." — Lorin Clarke

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SHOW US YOUR SHORTS – AWARD WINNERS

This year's Show Us Your Shorts competition showcased an impressive range of talent, creativity and storytelling. Congratulations to all our filmmakers and award recipients:

Project Title	Award	Director
No Thank You	Golden Shorts Award	Georgina Haig
In The Trees	Runner-up	Andy LayClark
Metamorphosis	Youth Award	Mia Tran Van Vinh
What Shall We Do With A Drunken Sailor?	Best Animation	Nathan Robinson
The Connection Of Ants	Best Documentary	Billy Ferguson
Students of the World – Australia	Official Selection	Jonathan Schneider & Alana Rowling
Dilemma	Official Selection	Nick Kozakis
A thing of the past	Official Selection	Tobias Tarasov
A Puppet For Any Occasion	Official Selection	Trent Cliffe & Dominic Mulligan
27 Dates Gone Wrong	Official Selection	Jamie Merendino & Rachael James

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**Golden Shorts
Award winner,
Georgina Haig.**
Credit:
Vivienne Bond



Show Us Your Shorts 2026 winners and judges.

Top: Jim Bridges, Aroon Naidoo, Georgina Haig, Maggie Sails, Vicki Paris, Sarah Sloan and Nathan Robinson. Bottom: Regan Wood, Meg Urquhart.
Credit: Vivienne Bond

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STARBOX RESULTS

Our audience responded strongly to this year's program, with standout star ratings across the festival:

- But Also John Clarke — 4.7/5
- From Hilde, With Love — 4.3/5
- Touch — 4.4/5
- Goodbye Julia — 4.5/5
- I Swear — 4.8/5
- It Was Just An Accident — 4.1/5
- The Stolen Painting — 3.9/5
- Uproar — 4.2/5

Attendees told us they loved the atmosphere, enjoyed the festival dinner, and appreciated the welcoming, familiar feel that keeps them returning year after year.



Cr Jim Child.

Credit:
Wanderling Photography

Guest speaker: Writer and director Lorin Clarke.

Credit:
Wanderling Photography