

## TESTING TIMES FOR THE YACK COMMUNITY

With an ever-changing series of messages from the Federal Government, it has been very difficult to keep abreast of the mammoth social changes that are sweeping across townships like Yackandandah.

There will be massive repercussions as the COVID-19 virus spreads its tentacles around Australia despite all the best intentions and stringent precautions that communities are taking, often voluntarily but more widely as dictated to by the Government.

It can be very difficult to see any positive aspects as workplace after workplace is either locked down or banned from trading altogether, and the amount of people without work rises exponentially. So, Yackity Yak is trying to extract all the positives that we possibly can from being restricted to living at home and having limited contact with people other than immediate family.

Below are some activities to consider undertaking while access is generally restricted:

- Get out into that garden. Perfect weather for it, and if you can get the seed then get some veggies up and growing. "During 1942 food shortages began to have an impact on the Australian home front. The agricultural industry was struggling with massive labour shortages, a severe and prolonged drought, and major shortfalls in imports of seed stock and fertiliser. There was a growing realisation that unless agriculture became a focus of the war effort, food shortages would be imminent. In January 1942 the Prime Minister, John Curtin, launched Dig for Victory. Many Australians were already keen home vegetable gardeners, being self-sufficient, with fruit and vegetables and a chook shed down the back. Others took to the idea afresh and turned over their whole front and back gardens to vegetable production. Some people formed neighbourhood gardening groups as a means of feeding their families." Sounds familiar?
- Brassicacea family - now's the time to plant your cabbage plants.
- Taking cuttings of your favourite plants. They make great gifts and there's masses of info on how to do it on-line. Your friendly local servo will have everything you need, or can get it for you.
- Make a note on paper of where your bulbs are growing and prepare to transplant them when they are dormant if they need separating.
- Look at some those household jobs/chores that get put off time and time again - mending clothes, sewing on that missing button, darning that sock and patching those jeans. Make and mend. This also applies to the menfolk - that

dripping tap, the sticking door - there will be a hundred and one jobs for everyone to fix AT LAST!

- Cleaning the bathroom grouting properly at last. Something that generally gets put off until the mould is unbearable.
- Have some fun with the kids. Teach them some card games. Dig out that jigsaw. Get the drawing and painting equipment out and get them to write to their grandparents, their cousins and encourage them to read some books.
- Sort out your wardrobe, your bookcases, your cupboards - get ready to be able to donate goods to your local op shops when they re-open (please don't leave donations now...)
- Clean your windows (or do a jigsaw!)
- Teach your kids to cook - baking, pies, biscuits, cakes. Learn a few new recipes yourself.
- Clean out your kitchen cupboards and see what you can utilise in your new recipes!
- Look at making some preserves, particularly if you are growing your own produce. There are many recipes on the interweb, and they are great gifts for friends and relatives.
- Look at taking up a new hobby - something that doesn't take up too many resources. Origami is a great one for the kids and everyone has paper at hand at home.
- Teach your kids to knit or crotchet, how to sew on a button. Be creative. Get them to make some clothes for their teddy or doll out of some old outgrown clothing.
- ZOOM - a great way to keep in touch with multiple members of family on-line at once. Very easy to use.
- Bird watching - we have some great birds in this area, and it's a wonderful way to learn more about them.
- Drag out the vinyl records - let your kids



**Buster the Burmese assisting with the most difficult jigsaw ever invented**

discover what sort of music you were brought up on - may be a bit of a curate's egg!

- Sort out those photos on your computer - and don't tell me you haven't got some that need weeding out.
- Embroidery - dig out those old projects that your mother or grandmother passed on down to you.
- Poetry writing - you will likely have lots of quiet time for reflection and it's a perfect time to get those thoughts on paper.
- Make a collage out of autumn leaves. A great project for the kids once the leaves

start to turn colour and fall. You can also get them to identify what tree they came from.

(Thanks to Rhonda Kirkland for some of these inspiring ideas on how to keep you and the family occupied.)

\*\*\*\*\*

And some salient thoughts from Bill Gates -

This virus is reminding us that we are all equal, regardless of our culture, religion, occupation, financial situation or how famous we are. It treats us all equally, perhaps we should too. If you don't believe me, just ask Tom Hanks.

It is reminding us that we are all connected and something that affects one person has an effect on another. It is reminding us that the false borders that we have put up have little value as this virus does not need a passport. It is reminding us, by oppressing us for a short time, of those in this world whose whole life is spent in oppression.

It is reminding us of the shortness of life and of what is most important for us to do, which is to help each other, especially those who are old or sick. Our purpose is not to buy toilet roll.

It is reminding us of how materialistic our society has become and how, when in times of difficulty, we remember that it's

the essentials that we need (food, water, medicine) as opposed to the luxuries that we sometimes unnecessarily give value to.

It is reminding us of how important our family and home life is and how much we have neglected this. It is forcing us back into our houses so we can rebuild them into our home and to strengthen our family unit.

It is reminding us that our true work is not our job. That is what we do, not what we were created to do. Our true work is to look after each other, to protect each other and to be of benefit to one another.

It is reminding us to keep our egos in check. It is reminding us that no matter how great we think we are or how great others think we are, a virus can bring our world to a standstill.

It is reminding us that the power of freewill is in our hands. We can choose to cooperate and help each other, to share, to give, to help and to support each other or we can choose to be selfish, to hoard, to look after only our self. Indeed, it is difficulties that bring out our true colours.

It is reminding us that this can either be an end or a new beginning. This can be a time of reflection and understanding, where we learn from our mistakes, or it can be the start of a cycle which will continue until we finally learn the lesson we are meant to.

It is reminding us that this Earth is sick. It is reminding us that we need to look at the rate of deforestation just as urgently as we look at the speed at which toilet rolls are disappearing off shelves. We are sick because our home is sick.

Whereas many see the Corona/ Covid-19 virus as a great disaster, I prefer to see it as a \*great corrector\*.

It is sent to remind us of the important lessons that we seem to have forgotten and it is up to us if we will learn them or not.

Bill Gates

Yackity Yak would like to thank our advertisers - we would not be publishing this paper without them, and already there are instances of smaller regional papers being unable to carry on as advertising falls away and businesses are forced to temporarily close.

Please note that opening hours to some businesses advertised within this paper will have changed due to Government restrictions, so please check with them first before visiting.

Please be kind to everyone, think about whom you might help in any sort of way and keep well and healthy.



**YACKANDANDAH HEALTH ACTIONS  
REGARDING CORONAVIRUS**

At Yackandandah Health we strive to be proactive in our response to infection control, particularly given the upcoming influenza season and the ongoing concerns with Coronavirus. In response the Victorian Governments declaration of a State of Emergency with Influenza A and COVID-19 virus, as of Wednesday 18th March Yackandandah Health has taken proactive measures and has applied visitor restrictions - 'lockdown' - on all visits to our aged care facility. This will be reviewed in 14 days.

This will mean that only essential staff members will be in attendance to carry out the day to day operations of the facility. Day to day work will remain as per normal. The Department of Health have identified aged care facility residents as being particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 Virus. We want to do everything in our

power to protect our residents.

We have strongly advised all residents to:

- wash hands frequently with soap and water, before and after eating, and after going to the toilet
- cover coughs and sneeze, dispose of tissues, and use alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- if unwell, avoid contact with others (stay more than 1.5 metres from people).

To minimize the risk of becoming exposed to potential infection from the



**The CARE barn**

general community, we have strongly recommended residents do not attend any activities outside the facility or socialize / interact with any members of the community.

We appreciate your understanding and

vigilance with the implementation of these infection control measures. Please do not hesitate to speak to staff or management at Yackandandah Health should anyone have any questions or concerns.

**UPDATE ON  
YACKANDANDAH CARE  
SANCTUARY**

Progress continues with our planning and development phase to improve wellbeing through positive engagement with animals, gardens and education. We have refurbished two of the four concrete water tanks on site converting them into the CARE Barn facility where residents and community members can interact with animals out of the weather. Paul Scannell, who was the curator at Albury Botanic Gardens for over 30 years, has provided project management/labour for the landscaping in-kind.

A 'Garden Party' in early December was held to invite the community to help start the CARE Sanctuary productive garden.

The majority of the Sanctuary infrastructure is now in place. However, there are still elements that need to be completed such as various landscaping, outdoor furniture and some bench seating inside the barn.

Two new very enthusiastic staff members, Carol and Maddie, have commenced with us and will be researching and planning the scope of future programs required. This will include the ongoing evaluation of the programs once they commence to ascertain how they assist in community well being.

We are confident that the animals and garden at the CARE Sanctuary will assist in bringing people together and hope to see an increase in positive intergenerational engagement and empathy building within the community. Providing a beautiful space at Yack Health will also encourage family members/friends to visit the residents. These are all factors that will assist in community wellbeing and harmony.

We hope that this initiative improves the wellbeing of the residents and will have many flow on effects for the community. We also hope that providing a beautiful space at Yack



**Club Connection - Yackandandah  
Beechworth Health Service**

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays  
From 10am-3 pm

Enjoy a range of activities, light exercise and outings, guest speakers

Morning Tea/Lunch provided

**Please phone Intake at Beechworth Health:  
03 5728 0200 for further information**

Health will increase visitation to the residents at Yack Health.

The Sanctuary environment (the gardens and the animals) and programs through the Sanctuary will encourage residents to spend time outdoors in increase physical activity which will also be very beneficial for their wellbeing.



**'Sunny Bunny' the mini pony testing out the barn facility and receiving many pats from Yack Health residents, Hannah Trembl & Cecelia Glass, Little Yacks youngster Sebastien Quaglio and project manager, Dr Tijana Simic.**

The project has also shown to really bring people together. The garden party was a wonderful example of bringing people of all ages together to participate in garden related activities.

The community has been very supportive and people have been keen to donate time and participate in any way they can. All further donations, sponsorship or others of support would be gratefully received!

For any donation enquiries please contact Tijana Simic (Project Manager) on 0416 9304 11 or email [caresanctuary@yackhealth.com.au](mailto:caresanctuary@yackhealth.com.au)

Please contact our reception at Yackandandah Health for any further information on (02) 6028 0100.



**BECHWORTH BAKERY**  
"WORTH THE DRIVE"

**We're here for you  
seven days a week  
7:30am - 6pm**

**SMICKERDOODLE  
BEESTING  
MED KELLY PIE**

20 High Street Yackandandah  
 1300 BEESTING (1300 233 784)  
 [beechworthbakery.com.au](http://beechworthbakery.com.au)  
 /Beechworth.Bakery

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Just a quick note to thank you very much for including the article and photos of Alex and Alyssa's New Orleans wedding in the February/ March edition of YY.

They were thrilled, really, really chuffed that the article was there. It was great for us too, as it shared our good news with our wonderful town.

*Jenny Gordon*

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS**

**Drum Lessons with Cat Leahy**

Private, personalized, at-home or online drum lessons with the contemporary trained, international touring drummer of This Way North and Sal Kimber & The Rollin' Wheel.  
Contact: [catty.leahy@gmail.com](mailto:catty.leahy@gmail.com)

**Yackandandah Branch Amnesty International**

Amnesty International (AI), Australia is a section of the AI network promoting and defending human rights and dignity. It searches out facts about human right abuses and lobbies for justice for those abused

The Yackandandah branch of Amnesty International meets every fourth Thursday of the month at the Yack Community Centre at 7 pm. The meetings are very low key, scheduled to finish by 8:30 pm and aimed at co coordinating our letter writing responses and appeals for justice and clemency for international human rights abuse victims.

Planning is underway for a film and information night to be held in Yack later in the year. We also conduct an awareness stall over a number of Springtime Saturday mornings in Yack, to highlight Amnesty International's aims and ideals.

We are always seeking new members for our small but enthusiastic band and would welcome anyone interested in joining, to run the slide rule over us at one of our meetings to see if it is for them. There is no formal structure to our meetings, and it's fair to say our relaxed style is very inclusive, open and friendly. It could even be said that we have been known to wander away from point under discussion if the conversation develops along an interesting tangent. But, what the heck! We wind up by 8:30 pm anyway.

For further information please contact, Dick and Alison Wellard on 02 6043 9539 or Clare Cunnington on 0477 445 454.



At YCDco's AGM last year, a dividend was announced for all shareholders. This year will be the last year that we are able to provide this by cheque. From 2021 onwards, we will only be able to pay dividends by direct debit. As you can imagine, this is a pretty big job to get everyone's banking details, and you can help us by filling in the cut-out slip at the bottom of this page, and dropping it up to YCDco at the servo into the special box provided.

**Yackandandah Community Centre**

The doors to the Yackandandah Community Centre and Op Shop in High St Yackandandah are closed for the time being to comply with Federal Government Stage 2 restrictions aimed at containing the spread of Coronavirus. But the Committee of Management is working behind the scenes to find ways to support the Yackandandah community.

We are living in unprecedented times and as you will be aware there are going to be a host of changes within our community in the coming weeks and months.

Over recent years the Yackandandah community has shown remarkable creativity and capacity to develop cutting edge initiatives which are at the forefront of social development. With that in mind YCC is keen to work with the organisations or individuals to ensure people's needs are being met. The committee is developing strategies to link the Yackandandah community with services and programs that will help us all navigate through what is expected to be trying times ahead.

Updates about YCC activities will be posted on our website, [ycc.org.au](http://ycc.org.au), the Yackandandah Community Facebook site and the YCC Facebook site.

We are encouraging ideas and thoughts which will lead to positive community initiatives, please feel free to contribute or get in contact with manager, David Thorpe via email, [manager@ycc.org.au](mailto:manager@ycc.org.au) or phone 02 6027 1743.

**COMMUNITY GRANTS**

Did you know that YCDco puts a percentage of its profits every year into community projects? You can apply at any time of the year, and details and an application form can be found on our website at <https://ycdco.com.au/community/community-commitment/> Please make sure you read the sponsorship criteria thoroughly. YCDco have provided over \$165,000 in sponsorship since its inception in 2008.

**SHARES FOR SALE**

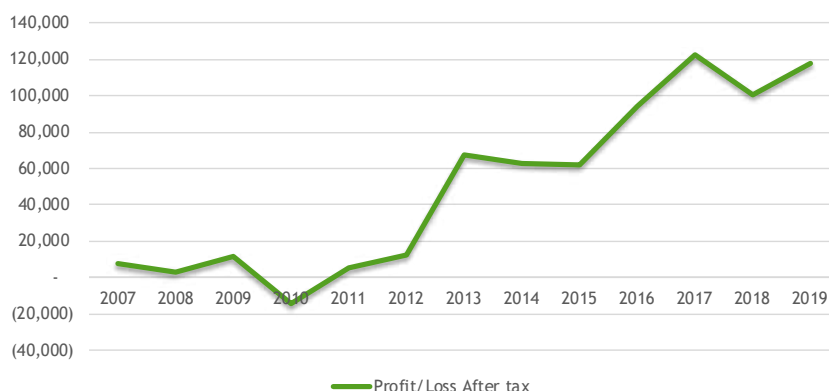
There are a number of shares for sale at present. Details on how to purchase these are set out at our website: <https://ycdco.com.au/shareholders/shares/> They are currently worth \$228.76 each.

**GENERALLY**

YCDco sales are trending very well as at March 2020, and we are looking at continuing our healthy growth in sales thanks to our loyal customers. There's no doubt that YCDco/Yfuel/Yfarm is living up to its expectations in providing very reasonably priced fuel, which is competitively priced, and making available a great range of farm produce, fencing equipment and a wide range of hardware for our Yack and district residents and for visitors that come from far and wide.

Thank you for your custom - it's much appreciated!

Profit/Loss After Tax



**Stuart Rudolph Plumbing & The Water Tank Cleaning Company**

VIC Lic. 28713 NSW Lic. L14444

**Ph: 0418 698 371**

- Plumbing Maintenance
- Renovation Work
- Gas Fitting
- Wood Heaters
- Sewers & Septic Tanks
- Roofing/Metal Fascia & Gutter
- Water Tank Cleaning & Repairs
- High Pressure Drain Jetting Machine
- Mini-Excavator
- Scaffold Hire



*In Yackandandah since 1989*



I am a shareholder with Yackandandah Community Development Company and wish to have my dividends paid by direct debit.

Name .....

Address .....

Bank Name ..... BSB .....

Account Name .....

Account Number .....

Signature .....

Please use capital letters / print details. Drop this off at the servo.



*Yackandandah tanker*

**The rest of summer** - After a very busy start to our fire season, things finally started to quieten down on the fire front thanks to some good rain events.

Once the Buffalo Valley and Mt Buffalo fires were under control, the next event Yack Brigade was asked to help out with was blacking out following a fire started by lightning strike near Diffy Rd, Beechworth on 5<sup>th</sup> February. The fire had shot up the Murrumgee escarpment before it was contained. Working alongside us were crews from the local Brigades, Forest Fire Management Victoria (DWELP) and some of the French Canadian firefighters who had come over to give Australia a hand. Full credit to those

members of our brigade who slogged up and down that very steep slope all day!

Other turnouts over the last two months included a fire originally started by lightning near Basin Creek Rd, a fire in the bush near Twist Creek Rd and a small grass fire off Basin Creek Rd.



*Burnt ground on the Murrumgee escarpment*

In respect to the fire near Twist Creek Rd, as the Captain Yves Quaglio said, "The fuel reduction burn, which the Yackandandah Brigade assisted Forest Fire Management Victoria with in 2018, certainly made that fire easier to contain

with the new access tracks that were put in."

**A big thank you** - The brigade would like to thank all those members of the community, local businesses, and community organisations, who have made cash and other donations to the Brigade, organised fund-raising events and generally just made us all feel very appreciated!

**Community engagement** - The Yackandandah Community Garden held a workshop "Protecting your home from bushfire" on 15<sup>th</sup> February which was attended by 21 people. The day was presented by Maureen Piera, Community



*People learning about the "new type" of bushfire season.  
Photo credit: J. Padbury*

Fire Guard co-ordinator for CFA's North East Region, was ably assisted by brigade member and former captain Neil Padbury who also happens to be president of the Community Garden.

**New truck** - The Brigade is the recipient of another new truck! This time it's a new Heavy tanker which



*Blacking out on the side of the escarpment*

replaces our previous tanker that was 15 years old. The Brigade now has an ultra light, a new light tanker, a pumper tanker and a heavy tanker.

The new tanker certainly has plenty of features. It is constant 4WD, semi-automatic, a front mounted remote control water cannon that can reach 30 metres and more, a 4000 litre water tank, a Fall Over Protections System (FOPS) which gives extra protection in case a tree falls on the cabin and a fixed suction line for drafting from dams and creeks.

"We are very pleased to have the new tanker," said Captain Yves Quaglio. "We've had it for training purposes for about four weeks. It will have a full maintenance overhaul before it becomes operational."

The new tanker came into service on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

### Impact of Coronavirus

In light of the current situation with the Coronavirus crisis, the CFA's Chief Officer has directed that CFA brigades cancel or post-pone any non essential meetings and gatherings which we are complying with.

The brigade is also putting in measures to try and keep the station as virus free as possible which includes restricting public access to the fire station.

However, the community can be assured that it will be "business as usual" when it comes to responding to fire or other emergencies.



*Training with the new heavy tanker*



*Our new heavy tanker with firefighters Brin O'Brien (on the deck) and Kim O'Brien*



To report a fire:  
Burn-off Notification  
Vic Emergency Hot Line  
CFA Website:

000  
1800 668 511  
1800 226 226  
cfa.vic.gov.au



## Yackandandah Cemetary Trust

### FUNERALS AND BURIALS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In light of the rapidly changing advice regarding closures and social distancing, it is very important that people contact their local place of worship and funeral director to determine what will be possible for a funeral.

Funerals are being held as a private ceremony with live streaming being offered. Memorials are being held at a later date as a cremation.

We are waiting on advice regarding graveside funerals and the numbers allowed, and will update this on the Yack Community Facebook site.

*Anna Hession, Chair*

When the COVID-19 virus is becoming a bit too much, reflect on this:



#### ON LIFE

This is my creed: For man the vast marvel is to be alive. For man as for flower and beast and bird the supreme triumph is to be most vividly, most perfectly alive. Whatever the unborn and the dead may know they cannot know the beauty, the marvel of being alive in the flesh.

The dead may look after the afterwards. But the magnificent here and now of life in the flesh is ours alone, and ours only for a time. We ought to dance with rapture that we should be alive and in the flesh and part of the living incarnate cosmos.

*D.H. Lawrence  
English Novelist (1885-1930)*

## Jed's Country Contracting

Providing friendly rural services to North East Victorians

- Farm management/general labour hire
- Rural and back yard fencing
- Cattle, horse and sheep husbandry
- Cattle pregnancy testing
- Stress free livestock handling and mentoring
- Hoof trimming and shoeing

**0429 108 203**

**PO Box 198 Yackandandah**

## CAMELS AND THE ART OF THANKFULNESS

Recently in Yackandandah, we were treated to the spectacle of seeing a fully loaded camel train arrive in town. A young couple and their dog travelling with four camels decided to make a stop in Yack and some of us were fortunate enough to see it. I've seen a few unusual things in the High Street, but I've never seen camels!

It was great to see them proceeding at such a relaxed pace. Two excited groups of schoolchildren were glad to have their classes interrupted and came out for a quick look. There were 3 full-grown camels and one younger, smaller one. Awww... Now that would be memorable learning experience for the children.



Its good to have something positive to think about, especially in today's climate of fear and worry. As you know, there there is plenty of talk of drama and crisis at the moment, along with bizarre behaviour reported at the larger, city supermarkets.

We now have new words like 'social distancing' and 'self-isolation' in regular use. Our parents and grandparents also had a lot to deal with during the wars and other disasters, so we have to keep things in perspective and resist being too negative or 'catastrophising' (amplifying our dramas). It may be hard to remain positive all the time but its good remind ourselves that these thing will pass...

To help us stay positive here are a few suggestions-

- ACCEPT that life has lots of challenges.
- ADMIT the feelings this causes, then...
- Choose to RESPOND with a positive, friendly attitude.

Experts say that having a positive attitude (or an 'attitude of gratitude') can really help, even in difficult times.

#### A CHALLENGE.

We know we live in a beautiful part of the world and enjoy freedoms and luxuries that

people in other countries could only dream of. Take for instance, clean air and fresh water, to name just two. But, what if we took time to think about the many other benefits we enjoy.

What are **YOU** grateful for?

Take time now and start a list of things you are grateful or thankful for. You may be surprised at the number of good things around you – and how good it makes you feel when you take your eyes off the dramas and consider the things we are all very grateful for - like friends, coffee shops and camels in the High Street.

*Richard Pearce*

#### CATS AND DOGS

Cats are the ultimate narcissists. You can tell this because of all the time they spend on personal grooming. Dogs aren't like this. A dog's idea of personal grooming is to roll on a dead fish.

*James Gorman  
American Columnist for the New York Times (1949-)*



## Halliday

SOLICITORS

### 'With you in change'

Local lawyers Helen McGowan and Matt Grogan are here for you.

Please contact us to have a chat about any issues that have a legal component.

We are available during Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (1 to 5 pm) and at other times by appointment.

"Ardsville", 32 High Street,  
Yackandandah VIC 3749  
Phone: 02 6027 0553

Email: [helen@hallidaysolicitors.com.au](mailto:helen@hallidaysolicitors.com.au) and  
[matt@hallidaysolicitors.com.au](mailto:matt@hallidaysolicitors.com.au)



As your local Member of Parliament, I am working with all levels of government to support our community through what is a very challenging and rapidly changing time. It is important in the face of COVID-19 that we all remain well informed and measured in our response, but also highly responsive to changes in the situation in order to minimise the risk to all of us.

The latest advice is that the risk to the general Victorian population from COVID-19 is low, with the majority of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Victoria in returned travellers. Many people who contract COVID-19 will suffer only mild symptoms. However, indications are that the elderly and people with pre-existing medical conditions are more at risk of experiencing more severe symptoms.

Additional cases and outbreaks are expected around Victoria as this illness continues to spread, therefore it is important to remain vigilant and monitor your health and well-being appropriately. The most common symptoms reported include: fever (a temperature in excess of 38°C), breathing difficulties, cough, sore throat and fatigue or tiredness.

If you suspect that you or someone you know may have the coronavirus, please call the hotline on **1800 675 398**. The [Victorian Department of Health and Human Services](https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-department-of-health-and-human-services) website offers a host of information. Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only.

Remember, when you do need to shop, be reasonable about what you need and please shop locally; our local traders need you now more than ever.

If I can be of any assistance, email me directly at [bill.tilley@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:bill.tilley@parliament.vic.gov.au) or call my office on (02) 6009 0808.

## Angela Bishop Authorised Marriage Celebrant

Weddings &  
Other Life Ceremonies

Phone; 0416 17 14 88

Website; [www.magicalceremonies.com.au](http://www.magicalceremonies.com.au)



**SIDOTI ELECTRICAL SERVICE**  
**YACKANDANDAH**

Vic REC 15340 - NSW REC 108615C

**MICHAEL SIDOTI**  
Electrical Contractor

PO Box 201 Yackandandah, Victoria 3749

Telephone: 02 6027 1950 Mobile: 0410 543 377

## BRUARONG COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Bruarong Community Centre held its regular quarterly dinner on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March. At the dinner, local community member Greg Porter enlightened



March Community Dinner

and entertained the audience on the colourful ancestors of the Twist Creek settlement in the hills just up from Yackandandah.

Community dinners occur quarterly and invitations are mailed to local Bruarong community residents. These dinners provide an opportunity to share wholesome home cooked meals and a create a sense of community connectiveness. If you are in the Bruarong area and have not been receiving your invitation, please notify Ruth Yule (President) on 0423 335 580.



Greg Porter entertains Bruarong residents at the March meeting

### Community Centre bookings

The Community Centre is available for hire and consists of:

- 50 sq. metre internal communal area.
- Large fully appointed kitchen.
- Large timber deck area.
- Split system heating and cooling.
- Male/ female and wheelchair accessible toilets.

The facility includes partially landscaped grounds and gardens.

### HIRE FEES:

**Local Community Groups (Bruarong area as per parish plan):**

\$5 per hour, and must clean up.

**Non local, Not for Profit Non-Community Groups:**

\$10 per hour hire fee, plus Cleaning Bond of \$100.

### Private events:

\$150 plus \$50 for a set up day and \$50 for each additional day. Plus \$500 bond and \$100 cleaning bond.

For bookings, please contact Jocelyn McAlister on 0407 071 338.

**Amanda Walker, Treasurer**

### Buzzing All Hobby Beekeeping Enthusiasts



Monthly Meetings now on!  
Where: Yack Men's Shed, 24 Isaacs Ave  
When: First Thursday of the Month  
What Time: 7.30pm  
Need More Info? Phone Debbie on  
0417 244 495  
Or check our Facebook page 'YackaBees'  
For meeting updates

## Indigo Power Roadshow update

What a momentous year we're having. Due to first the bushfires and now the corona virus outbreak, the Community Energy Hub Roadshow was first delayed and has now been converted to webinar events for the immediate future.



However, the launch in the King Valley on March 12 went ahead as planned, and the Yackandandah Investor launch proceeded in a modified format on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

TRY and Indigo Power hosted the Yackandandah Investor launch (following on from the Community Energy Hub launch last November), with a shortened format with no supper, to minimise time and contact between participants. A dedicated 35 people turned out to find out more about buying shares in our home grown energy retailer.

As well as webinars for specific towns, there are presentations for:

- Whole north-east region, 1 April
- Shareholder info #1, 22 April
- Shareholder info #2, 30 April



*Ben McGowan, a Director of Indigo Power, talks with King Valley residents at a Community Energy Hub Roadshow, Photo Credit: Indigo Power*

However, with the ongoing escalation of measures to prevent corona virus spread, it was clear that we needed to cancel the public version of the Roadshow. This is obviously disappointing, and puts pressure on our plans, but we know

communities in our region will be ready to support projects that create local benefit once the recovery begins.

If you were thinking of attending the roadshow or would like to hear more about joining Indigo Power as a customer, or the opportunity to become a shareholder, you can find information on the webinars on the Indigo Power Roadshow page: <http://indigopower.com.au/roadshow>.

RSVP on the Roadshow page or for general information, go to <http://indigopower.com.au>.

So far there are 154 shareholder expressions of interest, with many selecting a minimum share purchase of \$100. The low minimum amount means that you don't need a big income to participate. It is hoped to reach 300 expressions of interest before the offer closes by the Easter long weekend.



*Matt Grogan presents to interested King Valley people*

In another milestone, Yackandandah is approaching the magical number of 100 residents that have signed up as customers for Indigo Power!

*Ben McGowan/Juliette Milbank*



**All Electrical Repairs, Installations, Telephone Points, Ovens, Hot Water, Switchboards, Rewires. Split system Air Conditioning**

**Fully Insured - Fully Licensed**

**0428 270 969**

Vic Lic 16813 NSW Lic 169737C

### YACK LIONS CLUB MARKETS

The Yack Lions Club's famous weekend markets will hopefully be held from 9 am - 1 pm on the following Sundays in 2020.

19th April	
17th May	21st June
19th July	16th August
20th September	18th October
15th November	20th December

The Lions Club happily donate a free site to a Yack community group at each market. So if you're a community group wanting to do a fundraiser - this is a great way to do it.

Please check what's happening via their **Web page: [yackandandah.vic.lions.org.au](http://yackandandah.vic.lions.org.au)**

# G & C KELLEY

(Jack and Carmel)

## CONCRETING

**Mobile: 0407 638 335**

\* INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC \*  
\* RETAINING WALLS \* REPAIR WORK \*  
\* TILT PANELS & RAFT SLABS \* EXPOSED AGGREGATE \*

**Over 30 years local experience**

Po Box 45, Yackandandah VIC 3749  
**Email: [carmelkelley@bigpond.com](mailto:carmelkelley@bigpond.com)**

**Personal.** The way travel should be 

Thinking of a holiday? With over 35 years' experience in the travel industry, I'd love to help you plan and book your next holiday.

**Ian Greenwood**  
Personal Travel Manager

**0404 841 038**  
[ian.greenwood@travelmanagers.com.au](mailto:ian.greenwood@travelmanagers.com.au)  
[travelmanagers.com.au/IanGreenwood](http://travelmanagers.com.au/IanGreenwood)



**TravelManagers**  
As individual as you are

Part of the House of Travel Group ACN: 113 085 626 Member: IATA, AFTA, CLIA



## YACK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Museum will only be open on Friday, Saturday and Sundays, 10:30am to 3:30pm until further notice. The Committee will keep these times under review.

The Committee regrets that we have had to postpone our progressive dinner, 'From Top to Bottom', that was planned for the end of March. We will hold this event later in the year and all ticket holders have been notified. All these decisions are based on guidance from the Federation of Historical Societies, Canberra.

We have plenty of jams, pickles and sauces in stock which were made ready for our usual Folk Festival stall. Please visit and support us by picking up a jar!



We have a new supply of jigsaw puzzles and plenty of books in stock to keep you occupied.

CONTACT US: [museum@yackandandah.com](mailto:museum@yackandandah.com). Phone: 02 6027 0627

NEW OPENING HOURS: FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 10:30am – 3:30pm

## GIVING LOCAL HISTORY A HELPING HAND



From military memorabilia through to important art works, Burke Museum staff are giving a helping hand to local community groups as part of a new program to help preserve cultural heritage in Indigo Shire. Indigo Shire Mayor Cr Jenny O'Connor said the Collections Assistance Program would make a real difference to the preservation of our historic objects and stories. "Indigo Shire is fortunate to have many community groups such as museums, historical societies, RSLs and clubs that house historically significant collections and stories.

"We value our cultural heritage and the work these community groups do to preserve it. We also understand that many of the collections are managed by volunteers who are short on time and resources to undertake projects, so it is vital we are able to offer this assistance," said Cr O'Connor.

Burke Museum and Cultural Heritage Manager Cameron Auty said the program recently kicked off with visits to the Beechworth RSL sub-branch and Chiltern Athenaeum. "At Beechworth RSL we helped President John Eldrid and volunteers to photograph and catalogue a collection of peacekeeping memorabilia related to Beechworth's veterans. It's now available to the public on Victorian Collections, a free, publicly accessible collections website for anyone to look at. We also trained volunteers in exhibition skills and filmed an oral history interview with John about the importance of the RSL.

"At Chiltern Athenaeum we worked with volunteers to clean and refresh their art exhibition, which features important works by AW Eustace and Henry Handel Richardson. We also helped the committee to draft new policies and procedures, building a more sustainable and professional organisation.

"It's so important to be able to preserve this history for generations to come. We're looking forward to getting out over the next 18 months and visiting museums and community groups across the shire to provide support on projects such as exhibitions, digitisation and conservation." said Mr Auty.

Nine museums and community groups were chosen through an expression of interest process in 2019: Beechworth RSL, Chiltern Athenaeum, Yackandandah Museum, Rutherglen Historical Society, Stanley Athenaeum, Chiltern Courthouse, Tangambalanga History Group, Rutherglen RSL and Wahgunyah History Group.

For more information go to [www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/culturalheritage](http://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/culturalheritage). Organisations interested in taking part in this program in future should email [burke\\_museum@indigoshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:burke_museum@indigoshire.vic.gov.au)

### Indigo Myotherapy and Massage

Soft tissue treatment for muscle pain and dysfunction.

Treatments include massage, cupping, dry needling and myofascial release.

Pre and post-natal massage also available.

Please contact Susannah Schmidt on 0428 719 298  
Allans Flat

Registered member of Myotherapy Association Australia  
Health Fund approved



## SQUARE AZ

ABN 15 435 34 020

Maintenance Carpenter



Andrew Young  
Yackandandah

Mobile: 0419 908 688  
Phone: 02 6027 1962

## OSBORNES FLAT HALL

Hire Me – a great country venue with charm and atmosphere!

We offer a fully functional kitchen, heating and cooling and a large area outside that works well set up for weddings and bigger gatherings. With a reasonable full day/night hire charge of \$150, the hall is a great size (can seat up to 80 comfortably), is close to town and is a popular venue for parties, family events, weddings etc. We also have a small meeting room available to community groups.

For all enquiries please contact either Andrea on 6027 1991 or Lisa on 0439 855 297



Yackandandah & District Historical Society Inc.

21 High St Yackandandah 3749 P:02 6027 0627

[museum@yackandandah.com](mailto:museum@yackandandah.com)

Blog: [yackandandahmuseum.wordpress.com](http://yackandandahmuseum.wordpress.com)

Open 10:30am – 3:30pm Wednesday – Sunday  
7 days per week during Vic school holidays

Entry by donation

- YACKANDANDAH STORIES
- EVENTS & DISPLAYS
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
- PUBLICATIONS
- RESEARCH SERVICE

SEE US ON FACEBOOK



## GARDENING AUSTRALIA

Costa Georgiadis's introduction to the ABC Gardening Australia program on Friday 7 February 2020 was as poignant as it was appropriate. This is what he said:

*"We wanted to take a moment to recognize the very devastating summer that's been experienced by so many of Australia's landscapes and the communities that call them home. We know that many of you are under pressures not felt before and that the path to recovery will be a slow one. But, as gardeners, you are nurturers, not just of the physical landscape, but of each other. We know that you will share seeds and cuttings, lend some knowledge, a tool, or an extra pair of hands. You are needed now, more than ever before, and we want you to know that the entire Gardening Australia community is right there with you."*

**GARDEN AS HABITAT** - While much of the country despairs at the devastation inflicted by bushfires wiping out vegetation and native animals, not much has been said about destruction of the ecosystem. Koalas and kangaroos are obvious and heart-wrenching examples of suffering, but what of the birds, butterflies, insects, spiders and frogs, the myriad creatures that inhabited the undergrowth. Their numbers are beyond counting – and the implications for regrowth, pollination and reproduction are deeply troubling. Even more disturbing is the demand to continue logging, or extracting coal and gas, lest the economy suffer. There is no economy on a diminished planet.

Left alone, nature will heal itself in time. The greatest challenges are for us to change our land management practices, together with broad-acre irrigation farming, the heavy use of pesticides and the diversion of precious water resources for unsustainable projects. Those are all issues for responsible government, but in the meantime there is much we can do at the domestic level. The first step is to be aware. Bees, for example, on which our agriculture relies and which are under threat worldwide, need a food source. A first step is dandelion pollen, but if farmers spray it as a weed, the bees will die – both from the poison and the lack of food. It's not just about honey, but bio-diversity.

Thankfully, opportunity exists for us to do some good in our domestic gardens, no matter how extravagant or modest.

"Whether you live in an urban apartment or a rural homestead, your outdoor area is more than just a private space. Ecologically, a garden is another jigsaw piece in the landscape. Whatever their size, gardens can contribute to natural functions and processes in the local area, such as regulating water drainage, buffering the damaging effects of strong winds, or providing food and shelter for native wildlife.

Many wildlife species survive in urban areas, but their presence and persistence depend on how specific their food and shelter needs are, how they respond to disturbances, and the quality and quantity of other green spaces in the landscape.

For larger animals, such as birds and mammals, a home garden could become a stepping stone across an otherwise hostile urban landscape. For smaller animals, such as insects, it could be the centre of their home range. In urban areas, where space

is often limited, gardening with pollinators in mind is a simple way to encourage biodiversity in the backyard. And, depending on the surrounding landscape, habitat for pollinators will also be habitat for other animals."

*(Manu Saunders, Post-doctoral Research Fellow (Ecology), Charles Sturt University. Manu Saunders is affiliated with the Institute for Land Water & Society and is co-founder of the Wild Pollinator Count.)*

**A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT** - It has not just been the summer that has challenged us, but now a new and existential threat has engulfed the world - COVID-19. Its impact is widespread and media coverage is both exhaustive and exhausting. Unfortunately, the Coronavirus is not just injurious to health, but to our sanity and morality. We have seen behaviours that do not reflect well on our humanity.

What many find difficult is the paradox that on the one hand we rely on our connectivity as a community while, at the same time, we are being asked to distance ourselves and become isolated to protect our health and that of others.

The impact of this has been to shut down many community events for which there have been countless hours of preparation and vast amounts of resources. For the Garden Club, this has meant **the cancellation of the MOYLES GARDEN & COMMUNITY DAY**. Even the ceremonial tree planting that was to have taken place with a small group of people in the afternoon has been postponed.

Given that the situation regarding public gatherings, social distancing and self-isolation is changing constantly, planning for future events is compromised. However, where we are able, supporting our local community by participating where we feel comfortable is important.

### LIONS MARKET DAY (Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020) -

There is the only slimmest of possibilities that this event will happen, but if it does, the following will apply:

Our location is on the verandah of Wellsford Cottage (Lions Club headquarters in Wellsford St)

In lieu of Moyles Community Day being cancelled, we are selling Garden Club members plants that they have been nurturing for the past six months.

We are having a trash & treasure stall, many and varied items.

A knife and garden tools sharpener will be included

Anglican ladies scones/cakes

Tickets on sale for 1st prize \$360 Foodworks and 2nd \$150 at YCDCo. Drawn on the day.

Sue Moyle and Wes Somerville will be under the scissors for 'Shave for a Cure'... off comes Wes's ponytail and beard. Come along and sponsor these two brave hearts... money raised will be donated to the Wig Shop at Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre.



## EVENTS THAT HAPPENED

### Come and See My Garden (22/2/2020), Jan & Merve Copper, 24 Howards Court Baranduda

Besides the extraordinary and well-maintained garden, Phil Bell gave a presentation on how to get the best out of your camera and explore your creativity in a variety of



*The beautiful Copper garden at Baranduda*

contexts. Having a vision grows a deeper appreciation of life. A club like ours grows friendship, generosity and a garden as well - and we thank Jan and Merve for the opportunity to share their place.

### Markwood Garden (Sunday 15/3/2010). 20 Ward's Lane, Markwood

Nano and Riki proved to be wonderfully gracious hosts to a group of 30 Club members who enjoyed a really good day in an exceptionally diverse and productive garden. Perhaps even more remarkable is the fact that they also have a range of edible birds – you read that correctly – yes, our winged and feathered friends: pheasant, partridge, quail and turkey.

The garden features both ornamental and edible plants, a vegetable patch, an orchard with 20 species of apples, 10 varieties of pears and a cactus hothouse with edible cacti; besides the fruit trees of banana, mango, avocado and pomegranate. Dug into the hillside and built from local stone is a tool room – with a pond on top!

If that wasn't enough, members enjoyed lunch at



*The view across the pond at Markwood. (Photo: Chris Zerbst)*

the Everton pub, doubtless tipsy enough after the extravagances of a stunning garden with glorious views.

Planning for future events and community gatherings is now on hold indefinitely.

### Next Meeting (for those able to make it)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020 @ 7pm, Wellsford House.

It's interesting to note that there are many gardeners, and farmers, who are now seriously attending to growing whatever crops and vegetables will keep their families independent and fed in the coming months. Sometimes it takes a crisis to sharpen our focus – but one would hope it embraces all our fellow earthlings.

Take care and stay well.

*Michael Metzger  
Communications & Media Secretary*

Crews from FFMVic work alongside the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to carry out a fuel management program, in Victoria's public parks and forests and on private land, to reduce the risk of bushfire to people, property and the environment. Fuel management is one of the most effective ways to reduce the impact of bushfire - it includes works such as planned burning, slashing and constructing fire breaks. These works help to reduce fuel (flammable vegetation) which reduces the risk of a bushfire.

If a bushfire does occur in an area where fuel management has occurred these works can help reduce the bushfire's intensity and impact.

**When will these planned burns happen?**

Each burn is part of the Joint Fuel Management Program outlining where FFMVic and CFA intend to carry out fuel management works [ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp](http://ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp)

Although burns are scheduled to take place in a certain year and season, this can change depending on weather and local conditions.

FFMVic is unable to give you an exact date when this burn will go ahead - the final decision to proceed can only be made on the day of the burn, following monitoring of weather conditions and local fuel moisture levels.

**Planned burns - what can you expect to see?**

Before the burn takes place, crews will prepare the site. This can include trimming or removing hazardous trees and clearing control lines around the burn edge.

On the day of the planned burn you may see smoke and flames. Some roads and tracks may close or have speed restrictions. Fire fighting vehicles and crews will be in the area.

**How can I find out about a burn near me?**

Stay informed about when burns may occur.

- Visit [ffm.vic.gov.au/plannedburn](http://ffm.vic.gov.au/plannedburn)
- Call VicEmergency Hotline **1800 226 226**
- Download **VicEmergency App**
- Register Planned Burns Victoria [plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au](http://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au)



We encourage you to sign up for the Planned Burns Victoria – you can set up automated SMS and email notifications about any upcoming FFMVic and CFA planned burns on public and private land. There is no charge to register or to receive messages.

For further information about planned burning, please contact your local FFMVic office on (03) 5731 1222 or [ovens.plannedburning@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:ovens.plannedburning@delwp.vic.gov.au). Thank you for your patience and understanding while we do this important work to better protect communities, property and the environment from the impacts of bushfire.

## Yackandandah Handyman Services

- Painting inside and out
- Doors and locks
- All tiling jobs/ wall and floor
- Bathroom renovations
- Small concrete jobs
- Decks constructed
- General maintenance
- Small retaining walls
- Leaking taps



And all those small jobs you need undertaken and much, much more...



30 years experience  
Fully insured

PAUL ENDERS

0438 350 688

44 Isaac Avenue, Yackandandah



## Lester & Son

Funeral Directors

A tradition of personal, professional care since 1907



Cherie, Tony, John

49 Thomas Mitchell Dr  
Wodonga  
02 6056 1700

[www.lesterandson.com.au](http://www.lesterandson.com.au)

All Hours • All Areas • Pre-planned Funerals Available

# SPECIAL YACK CREEK

Yackandandah Creek, its name of Aboriginal derivation, is not as it was, but is still special; it is the essence of 'Special Yack'.

Tens of millions of years of land movements created major local topographical features. Energised by their elevation, and climate, 'Special Yack Creek' inscribed its personality on this landscape, eroding, transporting and depositing sediment to shape its valley. Flora and fauna evolved in reciprocal relationship. The creek attracted people who changed it: Aboriginal people seasonally over the ages, then squatters, gold miners, farmers and urban settlers.

Publications of the past decade suggest this pre-European environment was not 'natural', but was farmed by Aboriginal people who inhabited the continent for perhaps 60,000 years. Using firesticks, they methodically encouraged plants and animals favouring human survival and lifestyles. Crops were grown. Locally, they fished, hunted (dug for wombats, for instance), used and consumed plant products. These first people intimately understood their land, were at one with it. A totemic system basic to their social organisation conserved species.

Over thousands of years, regular slow burns probably produced fire-dependent ecosystems, unlocking carbon but compensating with regrowth. Had it not occurred, would Australia's environment now be more adapted and resistant to wildfire? Is it remotely possible that forest along Yackandandah Creek did not change significantly during those millennia of planned burning, that species did not disappear, that no food chains were disrupted? Surely, like today, campfires and 'controlled' burns escaped occasionally, and these and lightning strikes caused fierce bushfires, though less often. Perhaps they even recharged ecosystems, as is said to occur in Montana, USA.

Squatters, miners, farmers and urban people certainly impacted 'Special Yack Creek'. So have fires. In 1853 the Howitts saw evidence along upper Yackandandah Creek of ferocious fires from many years past. In 1849 the lower valley, at least, was burnt. On February 2 1851 smoke from other Victorian fires turned day to night in David Reid's Mill Park home. Stanley Plateau forest, much drier than 150 or more years ago when it locally recycled moisture and sustained more diverse fauna, now experiences more frequent catastrophic bushfires, states a Beechworth researcher, and Rutherglen's grapes, smoke-affected in five or six of the years since the 2003 fires, would seem to support that.

In January 1853 William Howitt overlooked Yackandandah Creek near the present village, '... the stream hidden in the bottom of a considerable valley, amidst a dense green shroud of wattle and tea-tree, scrub and fallen timber, and bordered outside these with great swamps and jungles...' Aboriginal people had left, he noted. Fifteen years earlier, George Kinchington observed their firestick legacy along the same valley: 'As far as the eye could reach stretched a great park, covered with large timber and under-growths of luxuriant grass. The creek itself could be seen for miles, and wound along in a wide and continuous bed of reeds and raspberry briars, with here and there a lake, in which were immense flocks of wild duck, widgeon (dabbling ducks), teal, black swan and pelicans.

The water, too, was beautifully clear and abounded with fish... The country was very open. With the exception of some native hop, grass trees, geebung, a little ti-tree, and some wild cherries, the land

been diverted for irrigation, and caters for increasing recreation and tourism demands. In 2009, the year after a decade of below average rainfall led to publication of a Northern Region Sustainable



Yackandandah Creek, immediately below the Gorge. 6/2/2002

was quite devoid of scrub.' About that time, the Osbornes and Kinchingtons interacted with local Aborigines. Fourteen years before, in 1824, the valley was smoky when Hume and Hovell passed nearby. They saw Aboriginal women, their children playing.

But this quickly changed. The burning ceased, scrub invaded – nature trying to reclaim. After a month here, Howitt wrote in 1853 of the Nine Mile and Yackandandah Creek swarming with diggers, the valley studded with tents, trees felled by the thousands, tea-tree and scrub cut down, and long stretches opened up. Carts and bullock drays travelled to and fro with stores along a beaten road. By 1856 the course of the creek on Whiskey Flat could not be discerned. Conflict and competition arose over water: in December 1865 Yackandandah Creek was almost dry and a fund was raised to contest the water question with the Nine Mile. The next month it flowed only late in the day 'as a miserable stream through sun-dried mud' because of upstream workings and diversions. Sludge from higher workings caused conflict with miners lower down. By 1896 14 feet of sediment covered Rowdy Flat, a reporter wrote, and it gradually deepened to 30 feet at Osbornes Flat. Gold barges (which bequeathed us Allans Flat Lake) began in the early 1890s, bucket dredges were yet to arrive, and sludge from Fletcher's 'jet' on Whiskey Flat would fill the lake Wallace constructed to power his 'Rowdy Jane' barge, creating Butson Park sporting oval. A 1914 Inquiry reported that the Lower Staghorn surface was 'several feet above the original' as a result of earlier deposits.

Yackandandah Creek has been dammed to supply water for milling of flour and timber, for mining, to provide urban water, and recycled after treatment for sludge and sewage. It has

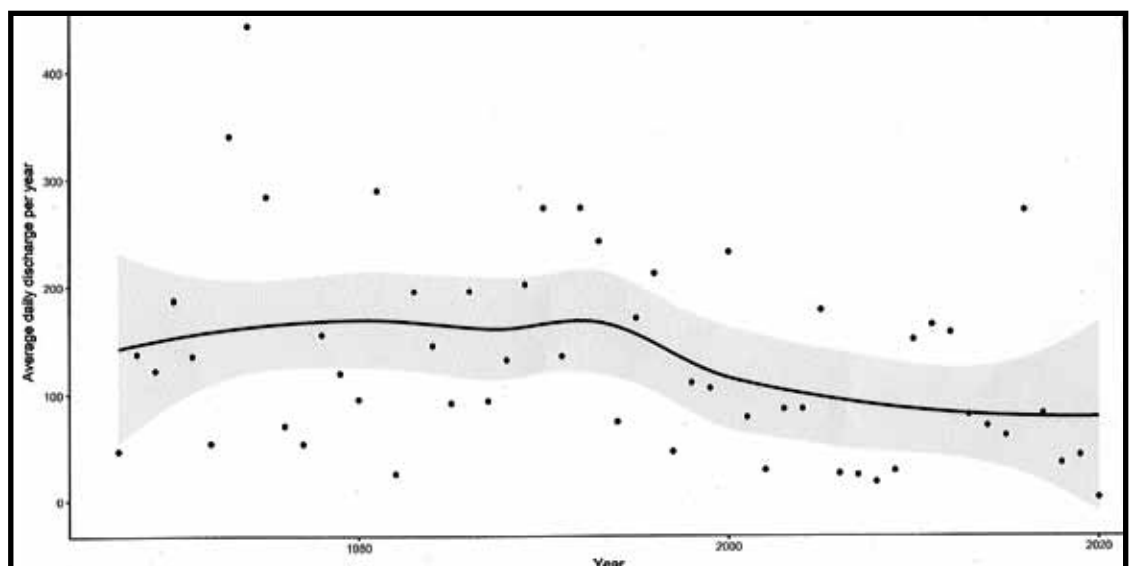
Water Strategy discussion paper, a local Water Action Plan considered Yackandandah options: a new dam or piping in water from Wodonga (via Baranduda) or Kiewa. These ideas had their forebears: the Pioneer Ditch scheme from 1858 to tap the Kiewa River (got as far as Running Creek), government reservoirs on Back Creek in 1861, Lake Harvey fed by Kinchington Creek in the mid-1860s (and 'Gilbert Power's Scheme' of 1868 to greatly enlarge it), two large dams on lower Basin Creek at Osbornes Flat, and Fletcher's dams – these were all for mining – also, the 1914-15 Commissioners Creek Dam for town supply.

Along Whiskey Flat a few remnants of former Yackandandah Creek remain: adjacent to The Gorge, its old meandering channel etched

into granite, and adjoining rock slopes polished by untold years of cascading water; and, near the township, rocky spurs where once it meandered. But little of the rest is natural: The Gorge (former Premier tailrace) and nearby rock walls (remnants of an early dam), the abnormally straight, confined channel, entrenched and cutting through a spur the stream once created near the present Sports Park oval, unconsolidated gravels and stones further up choking it and actively eroding, and the high embankments carved by sluicing. Flora and fauna comprise a mixture of wanted and unwanted, of native and exotic.

But Special Yack Creek's greatest new challenge is the old one of water supply, though the cause, within a larger scene, is very different from the mid-1860s.

Yackandandah Creek discharge is measured at Osbornes Flat, and includes contributions from Kinchington and Back Creeks, and of Commissioners and Twist Creeks. Of these, only the latter tributary adds stream flow past the Sports Park to attract many walkers, bike riders and young families, and all enter below Yackandandah's urban water supply takeoff. For 18 years, from 1971 to 1988, Yackandandah Creek discharge was also measured at Kirbys Flat, upstream from Yackandandah village and Twist Creek. Based on 10-year (1971-80) samples from both gauging stations, Yackandandah Creek at Kirbys Flat contributes just over a quarter (29.07%) of the creek's annual flow as measured at Osbornes Flat.



Yackandandah Creek Average Daily Discharge per Year (0-c450 ML/day, 1960-2020).

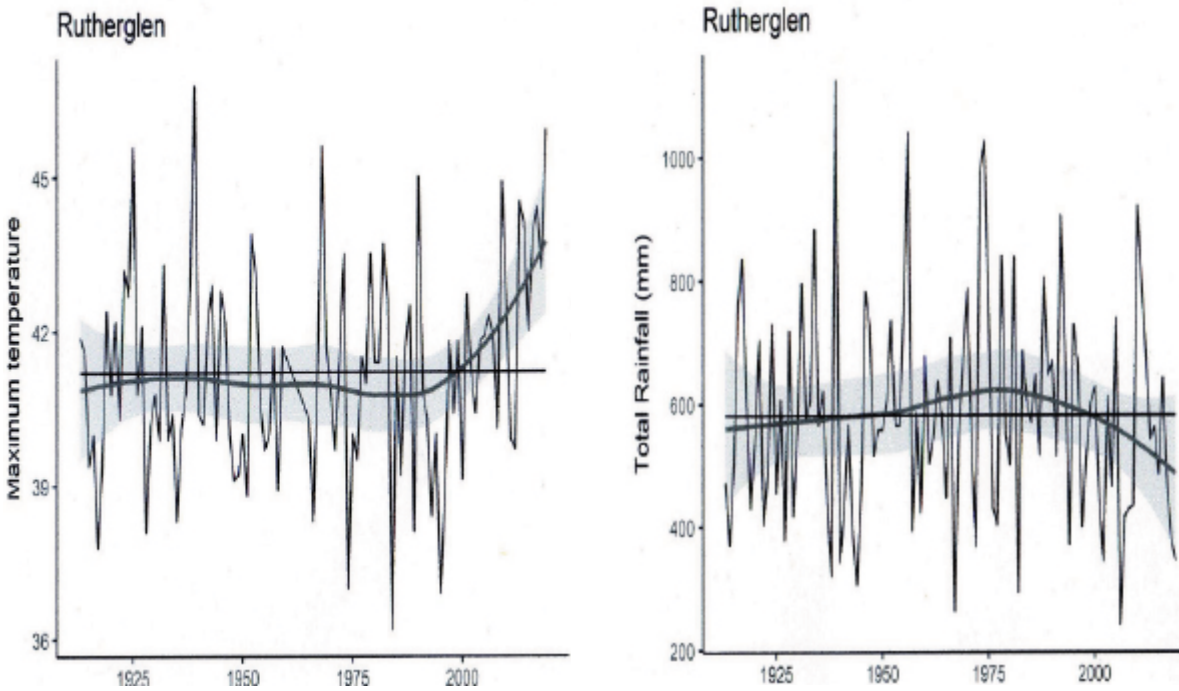
Source: Victorian Water Data Warehouse

# SPECIAL YACK CREEK

Notable in the following 1960-2020 hydrograph (for Osbornes Flat) is the change during the past quarter-century – and the question it poses: why?

Yackandandah Creek forms part of the Murray Darling Basin, across which temperature increases reflect the national upward trend (above 1C since 1910), with annual mean temperatures continuing to increase above the long term average, year after year – particularly evident over the past 20 years. Global climate models have limitations, but for the southern Basin two such models predict declines of available surface water by 11% and 2-22% respectively by 2030, the likelihood of lower rainfall, and continuing reduction in water availability. Wasteful extraction has also contributed to falling water levels in the Great Artesian Basin.

In Rutherglen vineyards, how well do anecdotal evidence and meteorological data concur when comparing horticultural practice with climate trends? At Pfeiffer’s Winery, vines once planted north-south to maximise exposure to light now have to be shaded from heat on their western sides, and future plantings will all be east-west.



**Rutherglen Rainfall and Temperature, 1910-2020. Source: Bureau of Meteorology.**

In 1914-1918 (5 years) Rutherglen Research Station recorded >40C on 3 days, in 2014-18, 32 days.

More irrigation is now required, mainly to keep vines cool. Harvesting begins about four weeks earlier than was the case some four decades ago, and an observed trend towards more summer and autumn rain with greater humidity is raising problems with disease. Rutherglen’s climate graphs are instructive regarding its wine industry.

Half that distance away, in Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park, the understorey has ‘suffered terribly’ during recent years. Is this part of an extended weather cycle, or is it more than that?

Closer to home, the coincidence of Rutherglen temperature and precipitation change with Yackandandah Creek’s flow is clear. Meteorological data and other information support this correlation. Yackandandah’s precipitation data, officially kept since 1886, and Albury temperature data, kept since 1994 (source for both unless otherwise indicated, Bureau of Meteorology), reveal the following:

**Yackandandah Average (Mean) Annual Precipitation**

1886-2019	(but only when 12 months are present): 944.7mm
1989-2018	(30 years): 935.7mm (includes 6 years containing some months of “unofficial” records)
1999-2018	(20 years): 897.4mm (official records)

**Yackandandah: Mean (seasonal averages) Precipitation in mm & % of Annual**

	1886-2019	1958/59-1987/88	1988/89-2017/18
	N/A		
Dec-Feb (mm)		151.93	185.74
(%)		16.55	19.78
June-Aug (mm)		334.50	322.43
(%)		34.16	35.33

**Albury temperature recordings 1994-2018**

1994-2018 (25 years) (only when 12 months present)	1994-2006 (13 years)	2007-2018 (12 years)
Mean min. (C) 9.20	8.85	9.49
Mean max (C) 22.50	22.20	22.80

**Yackandandah Precipitation and Albury Temperature. Source: Bureau of Meteorology**

Yackandandah’s mean annual precipitation has declined over recent years, and seasonality appears to be changing, with relatively more northerly rainfall in summer months (as synoptic charts for early 2020 illustrate) when it is less effective due to higher evaporation. Temperature records kept at Albury, but only for the past 25 years, are fairly inconclusive, although both minimum and maximum averages have been higher for the past 12 years than for the entire time.

Relevant also, are water supply, and consumption for various uses. Stream flow measurements were mentioned above, also the very considerable creek use at Yackandandah for recreation. Community environmental appreciation and leisure benefits are highly important.

Regarding township use, upstream from the Yackandandah supply intake, water is also diverted to Beechworth via Lake Kerferd (holds ‘several months’ supply, which temporally allows more diversion to Yackandandah, as in dry 2009). Nine Mile Creek is its major contributor.

Population data is an indicator of increasing multi-use demand being placed on Yackandandah Creek. According to the 2011 census, Beechworth’s population was 2,789, Yackandandah’s 950. These, by the 2016 census, had grown respectively to 3,859 and 1,811, that is, by over 38% and 90%. What will the 2021 census reveal?

While not all new households draw on the town supply at Yackandandah, the proposed extensive housing subdivision adjoining the northern edge of the village must increase water extraction. Even house tanks intercept potential ground or creek water, while water mining at Stanley decreases the aquifer supply.

Yackandandah and Beechworth, with Indigo Council support, have community groups pursuing renewable energy and carbon capture, and water conservation and recycling are high priorities for North East Water. But evidence indicates that Yackandandah Creek catchment contributes to the major problem facing much of the Murray-Darling Basin – water scarcity caused by declining input and excessive demand.

Though we tend to take its use and enjoyment for granted, our creek is drying up. Historical records show this; recent and current observation suggests it. Day after day, from late 2019 into 2020, the automatic gauging station at Osbornes Flat recorded zero flow. As a Staghorn Flat resident commented in the previous *Yackity Yak* (Feb-Mar 2020): ‘Has anyone taken a good look at the Creek downstream from Yack? Having no running surface water has become a regular occurrence, happening earlier and lasting longer.’

On February 2 2009, Yackandandah Creek ceased to flow near Yackandandah, began to trickle again, but scarcely, then stopped on February 10 when it became a series of stagnant pools, and dead fish lay on its muddy creek bed adjacent to the Sports Park tennis courts. At the time, only a dry sandy bed existed downstream at Rowdy Flat.

Perhaps more than any other local feature, ‘Special Yack Creek’ gives Yackandandah unique character and a priceless resource. Conserving the stream by curbing population growth at Yackandandah and Beechworth and water mining at Stanley could help extend its viable future, as might tighter restrictions and higher water prices. Such an outcome would also make a relatively small but immensely appropriate contribution to the entire Murray-Darling Basin – to one seventh of Australia.

But, these are as interim adaptive measures only. Without more national and global climate action now, eventually little opportunity to adapt will remain.

Colin Barnard  
21st February, 2020

Please note: sources may be provided for specific requests

# HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL TRESTLE BRIDGES



## Protection of Heritage Trestle Bridges in the Upper Murray

Tallangatta High Country Rail Trail Advisory Group and Parklands Albury Wodonga acknowledges the recent work of the American firefighters who were deployed to the Upper Murray region to assist local DELWP staff to manage the suppression of the bushfires in our region.

To protect the wooden trestle bridges from the

impact of fire, the crews worked for several days to put in a rake-hoe line to clear and clean the vegetation from around the wooden pylons of the heritage trestle bridges at Boggy Creek, Koetong and



others around Beetoomba and Shelley.

While the protection of lives, livelihoods and private property is paramount and takes precedence, we do acknowledge and appreciate the efforts the crews and thank DELWP whole heartedly for their dedication to protecting the these valuable assets .

*Kerry Love, Tallangatta Rail Trail Advisory Group*

The safety of our communities, customers and employees is our top priority. We are monitoring developments relating to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) daily, and assessing any potential impact on our services and events.

In line with the precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Indigo Shire Council has decided to suspend all Library events and programs as of Wednesday, 18 March.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Story time
- School Holiday programs
- School visits
- Adult author talks
- Readers café
- Lego Club

The following activities have been postponed:

- Drawing on Nature – adults and children
- Social Seniors

We are happy to extend loans on items by phone or email, and you can access our e-resources anytime. Please ask us if you need help accessing these services.

We ask that everyone in our community follows the advice of the **Department of Health and Human Services** for the most reliable information, updates and advice about the outbreak of COVID-19.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Regards,

**Library Staff**  
Indigo Shire Libraries

**Indigo Shire Council**  
Local Call: **1300 365 003**  
E: [beechworthlibrary@indigoshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:beechworthlibrary@indigoshire.vic.gov.au)  
Web: <http://www.indigoshirelibraries.vic.gov.au>



## Marobé Cakes

**MADE TO ORDER**  
Cakes, Truffles, Biscuits, Slices,  
Tarts and more!

Phone Maree on:  
**0417 254 781**  
E: [marobecakes@yahoo.com.au](mailto:marobecakes@yahoo.com.au)  
FB: [facebook.com/Marobe-Cakes-136559209780880](https://facebook.com/Marobe-Cakes-136559209780880)





**John Rodda's**

**YACK**

**MOWER**

**SHED**

**REPAIRS & SERVICING**  
Ride-Ons, Pumps,  
Chainsaws, ATV's etc.  
**0419 133 046**  
68 Back Creek Road  
Yackandandah



At the time of going to print, Indigo FM is able to continue transmission during the COVID-19 pandemic - largely because the nature of a small local radio station is that the environment is self-isolating and very low risk. We will of course monitor the situation and comply with advice from health authorities, Yackandandah Community Centre and Indigo Shire to ensure that public safety is our number 1 priority.

We are still able to provide **training of new presenters**, so if you would like to explore an interest in doing your own radio show, please make contact via email [indigofmradioinfo@gmail.com](mailto:indigofmradioinfo@gmail.com) or send us a message via our Facebook page. Your show can be about any topic and may or may not include music. Feel free to drop us a line if you'd like to discuss an idea and we can help develop it into a show with you as the host!

We are excited to announce that 5 very enthusiastic new presenters from Yackandandah Primary School are being trained up as we speak. Mary, Stella, Mia, Irena and Hayley are the students and they've already decided to form two groups and do alternate shifts each Wednesday from 4-5pm from early Term 2 onwards. Mary and Stella will be known as the "Rainbow Hippopotamus" and Hayley, Mia and Irena are "Triple Trouble".

**Indigo FM celebrates 10 years of operation in 2020** which is a big achievement. We're especially grateful to those members from the initial first couple of years who helped establish Indigo FM. A few of our plans to celebrate in a social sense will be postponed to the latter half of 2020, however, we can celebrate the occasion on air. One of these is a concert slated for late June featuring Daniel Champagne. Once we have a new date, we will let everyone know through Yackity Yak and various other social networks.

One of the things we are very proud of is our **support for the local independent music scene in North-East Victoria** and throughout Australia. A significant percentage of the music on our playlists comes from this sector which includes virtually all of the Australian artists who play each Yackandandah Folk Festival.

It also includes those artists who play at nearby Festivals at Mount Beauty (MBMF), Eldorado (FRL), Albury (By The Banks).

In line with our 10 Year Birthday Celebration and our commitment to Australian Music, we are conducting a poll and countdown in coming months of our listeners favourite Australian songs from the past decade. We'll have more details on that in coming weeks.

This year, each Saturday from 2pm onwards until 2pm Sunday, we are dusting off some **treasures from our archives** and switching to a Playlist that is purely shows, interviews, specials etc from the past 10 years. There are some real treasures in there so feel free to check it out.

As I type this, it is the **Yackandandah Folk Festival** weekend and what a tragedy that COVID-19 forced the cancellation of what was to be the 23rd event, just one week out. At Indigo FM we are incredibly grateful to this Festival Committee for the huge task they undertake each year and their generosity of spirit. Each year the Committee makes available to us the music from all the artists who entered applications including those who missed out. It's a rich resource and this year we were able to fashion that into some unique programming that meant that the magnificent program that was curated did not go entirely to waste as it did go out on the airwaves over the Festival weekend

and throughout the following week. We extend our thanks to Craig, Sally, Brydie, Chris, David, Dan and the many other members of the Committee who poured in hundreds of hours and would have been heartbroken, but who nonetheless made a decision that is in line with Government direction.

Opportunities at our Yackandandah site  
All enquiries to: [indigofmradioinfo@gmail.com](mailto:indigofmradioinfo@gmail.com) or call Scott on 0481 267 269

That's all for now. Remember to keep tuning in on 88.0 Indigo FM and above all stay safe and look out for each other as we face the future.

**Who's doing what around the traps? Has your family been busy?**

**What have YOU been up to? Please let us know - don't be shy..**

**Yack readers are loving reading about what is happening, who is doing what and now is your chance to let us know.**

**Send your photos and copy in NOW...**

**Yackandandah**  
**Hire Car**  
*Be driven anywhere, any time*

TO BOOK, PLEASE CALL  
**0407 100 111**  
Dennis and Pauline Cook

**THE WANDERING CFO**

FINANCIAL SMARTS & CONTROL  
FOR TRADES AND SMALL BUSINESS

Control Your Books  
Improve Your Profit  
Grow Your Business

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ CPA accountant</li> <li>✓ Xero expert</li> <li>✓ BAS agent</li> <li>✓ Bookkeeper &amp; CFO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Automate bookkeeping</li> <li>✓ Know your numbers</li> <li>✓ Boost your cash flow</li> <li>✓ Plan for the future</li> </ul>
--	--

Luke McLennan | 0432 053 609  
[luke@thewanderingcfo.com.au](mailto:luke@thewanderingcfo.com.au)  
[www.thewanderingcfo.com.au](http://www.thewanderingcfo.com.au)  
@Avenue: 9 High St, Yackandandah



**THE SAVING OF HARRIET**

This story about a juvenile Wedge-tailed Eagle came from Jo Mitlehner of Staghorn Wildlife Shelter via Eileen Collins. The story starts on the 29th December, 2019.

Deb from Harrietville Wildlife lives beside the Harrietville Cemetery. She had been observing a young Wedge-tailed Eagle which was hanging around water. Food was placed nearby and Deb observed the bird to see if any adults came to feed it.

After observing photos sent to her, Jo, from Staghorn Flat Wildlife Shelter, travelled to Harrietville to catch the bird. Juvenile Wedge tails are known to be on the ground after leaving the nest, taking a few days or even a week to learn to fly and become airborne. Fledglings will be fully grown but wing and tail feathers may continue to grow. The older the bird the darker it gets and by 8 years old will be mostly black with a white beak.

She was very easy to catch as she was very slow and weak. She turned out to be a juvenile, not a fledgling and should have been out on her own. Jo hand fed her small strips of meat with fluids (also subcutaneous fluids) and after discussions with Rohan Goyne of the Melrose Animal Hospital, Wodonga, she was prescribed oral antibiotics. Thank you to Kiewa Veterinary Clinic for the use of their scales - Harriet weighed 2.45 kg. The average female weighs between 3 and 5.8 kg so she was very under-weight.

Harriet had no energy to even perch but with the help of the antibiotics for a week and being fed small meals she started improving. By the 8th January her strength had built up so she could perch on the first level perch by climbing up the pole. By the 12th January Harriet was flying between the top two perches with ease.

Jo is a registered wildlife carer. Her dedication to the survival of Harriet is to be admired.

**RANGER'S REPORT - BRIAN PRITCHARD**

Our staff are mostly back on normal business after extended fire duties. Crews are checking and clearing trees throughout the park.

We have commenced a pig control program in Mt Pilot section and have released some biological control agents for wheel cactus infestations near Eldorado.

**Rainfall** - For December: 19 mm. Total for 2019: 448 mm (65% of average rainfall) which is the 9th driest in 134 years.

In 2018 we had 457 mm (66% of average rainfall). Our last year with more than the average of 689 mm was in 2016 when 968 mm was recorded.

*President : Neville Bartlett*

*neville@nrbartlett.com.au Ph: 0412 399 239*

**HARRIET'S STORY CONTINUES...**



*A final selfie for Harriet and carer, Jo Mitlehner*

Making such a good recovery, Harriet was released back at the Harrietville Cemetery on Friday, 13th March. Her progress had continued apace and she was feeding very well and up to a reasonable weight. Jo was very pleased with her progress and a small group of admirers gathered at the Cemetery to see Harriet make her maiden flight of 2020.

Of course, every magpie and raven took great exception to Harriet's release. It's normal to see the Wedge-tailed eagle mobbed by birds when it's in the air and this day was no exception. It took a while for Harriet to get enough air space to get properly airborne due to these pesky mobbers.

The Wedge-tailed eagle is Australia's largest raptor and as such, is the avian apex predator. It has been continually vilified since European occupation by people who think the bird is a killer of the first order. In Western Australia, the animals were declared vermin under government legislation and 147,237 eagles were killed in WA alone between 1928 and 1968. In fact, it is far more of a scavenger than a killer.



*Harriet, in rehab at the the Staghorn Flat Wildlife Shelter*  
*Photo credit: Jo Mitlehner*

Natural Resources Northern and Yorke landscapes ranger Wayne Mitchell said the protected bird was often unfairly blamed for lamb deaths. "Research has shown the Wedge-tailed eagle's effect on healthy lamb survival is minimal. They prefer instead to prey on sick, dying or dead animals," he said. "Wedge-tailed eagles provide great benefits to farmers and the landscape by helping to control pest animals and dispose of carcasses, including roadkill, through their scavenging. Eagles control rabbit numbers which can improve the availability of pasture for stock. They are also one of the few predators to kill feral cats. This helps to control toxoplasmosis and its effects on sheep flocks."

Now, the status of the wedge-tailed eagle has gone from being one of the most persecuted in the world to a protected species. In Victoria, anyone caught killing a wedge-tailed eagle faces a fine of up to \$8,000 or up to six month's imprisonment. Each additional eagle killed carries a penalty of \$800.



*Harriet's Release - back from where she started. L to R Eileen Collins, Amy Daeche, Deb Stoddart, Ali Pockley, Jenny Bleakey and Jan Palmer before the release. Photo Credit : Jo Mitlehner*

\*\*\*\*\*

Gateway Health is looking to put together information for the community of where emergency food can be sought in our region.

Megan Hunt is looking for your help with any information that you may have or are aware of any organisations that are supporting the community with food relief in any capacity, including delivery / grab and go / takeaway options. This includes any businesses as well as not for profit organisations.

Any information, including contact details, that could be provided on these groups and businesses operating for community members to obtain emergency food would be gratefully received. This could be in light of parcels of food items, pre-prepared meals, food from any community/market garden etc, anything that is out there. They are doing the same for Myrtleford, Wangaratta and surrounds. Please phone Megan on 6055 3056.

**WODONGA LOCAL FOOD NETWORK**

**Megan Hunt**  
Health Promotion Co-ordinator  
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

ph: (02) 4655 3056 e: info@wlfn.com.au

155 High St, Wodonga, Victoria 3696

www.wlfn.com.au



Yackity Yak will be interviewing Jo Mitlehner for a future edition of the paper to find out a bit more about the Staghorn Wildlife Centre, and Jo's amazing work with our local birds and fauna. It was a privilege to see Harriet take to her wings again, and all of us there for the launch wishes her well.



*Harriet takes to the air again*  
*Photo credit: Jan Palmer*



Bushfire recovery remains a key focus for me and my office. And now COVID 19 brings a new set of circumstances that we must all adjust to.

On Friday March 13, I spent the day in Wodonga and

Myrtleford with Major General Andrew Hocking, Deputy Co-ordinator of the National Bushfire Recovery Agency. The NBRA was set up by the federal government on January 6 to lead and co-ordinate the national response to rebuilding communities deeply affected by our 'Black Summer' of devastating bushfires.

Major General Hocking wanted to understand the scale of the effort and challenges facing our emergency services during the Upper Murray Walwa-Corryong and Upper Ovens and King Valleys, Abbeyard-Hotham Heights fires. We were briefed by Wodonga and Ovens Incident Control Centre leaders who had charge of the response on the ground and in the air during the emergency.

But I also took the opportunity of Major General Hocking's keen ear to tell him about the ongoing challenges in our communities - those directly and indirectly affected by the January fires. I continue to be particularly concerned that we're doing everything to ensure the support and skills of mental health clinicians are delivered rapidly - and consistently - to those who need them. This has to be our priority, as the smaller health services indicate clearly to me that this need is very real. I welcomed the Victorian Government's \$23.4 million mental health and community support package announced on March 11, and I've written again to federal Health Minister Greg Hunt MP asking him to confirm the roll-out of

# Helen Haines MP

INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI



commitments he made at a meeting with Corryong Health on January 15.

**Small business impacts** - The impact of the bushfires on agriculture and small business is profound across several of our shires. I have been closely communicating with Federal Agriculture, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management Minister David Littleproud MP, and Victorian Emergency Services Minister Lisa Neville MP, about support for small business, tourism, forestry and farm sectors.

This work has also ensured that our most affected local government areas have received funding support for key projects in the recovery phase. Towong and Alpine Shire Councils have each received an immediate grant of \$1 million. Drought funding has also been approved for Benalla and Wangaratta councils.

Concessional loans of up to \$500,000 are now available for bushfire-affected business, farmers and not-for-profit organisations in Alpine, Indigo, Mansfield, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta and Wodonga local government areas and Mount Buller, Mount Hotham, and Falls Creek Alpine Resorts.

**COVID 19** - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a serious global public health emergency. Naturally we are anxious and uncertain about what to do. It's really important that we work together to help stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep our most vulnerable people safe. We need to

think about our healthcare workers, too, and the enormous pressure they are under.

Please use the most trusted sources for your information. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert> is a link to the Australian Government Department of Health which is regularly updated and very informative.

During this time, you should practice careful personal hygiene and monitor your health closely. If you develop symptoms including a fever and cough, you should seek medical advice, remembering to call ahead. All events around the region have been cancelled. This is, of course, necessary but nevertheless terribly disappointing for the hard-working organisers and for the small businesses and communities involved.

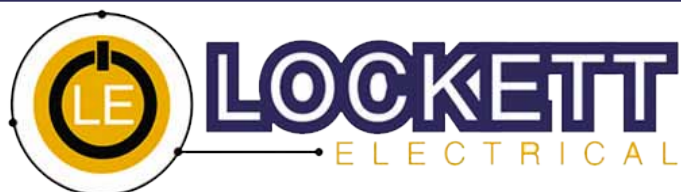
Likewise, many parliamentary activities are being postponed. The workings of Parliament will be adapted to keep people safe while ensuring that the business of government works efficiently. My office is open at the usual hours, but in the interests of reducing non-urgent public contact I will be offering phone meetings to constituents as an alternative to face to face meetings.

**Indi grants** - My community engagement team has published the first edition of Indi Grants. It will become a regular newsletter detailing grant opportunities available to Indi communities and

organisations. These grants can help your group to carry on work, keep volunteers empowered, and maintain and extend the crucial role you make to community well-being and vibrancy. Bushfire support and recovery initiatives are key features of many current opportunities yet grants in other fields are also available.

I'm keen to make sure this newsletter reaches all people and organisations that can benefit from grants. You can view Indi Grants at <https://admin.helenhaines.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/200123-Indi-Grants-newsletter-1-V3.pdf>

Keep in touch - As always, I welcome your enquiries, ideas and feedback. I encourage you to contact me or my office on 03 5721 7077 or 02 6024 6284, or by mail at [helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au)



## Professional Reliable & Cost Effective Services

All aspects of Electrical Domestic, Commercial, Industrial and Rural Installations & Maintenance

- New & Luxury Homes
- Extensions & Renovations
- TV/Phone
- Lighting & Design
- Safety switches
- Pumps/motors
- Smoke alarms
- Power points
- Switchboard & main upgrades
- Fault finding
- 24/7 Emergency response
- Hot water repairs
- Ceiling Fans
- Appliance installation and repairs
- Pre purchase Electrical Inspections
- Solar panel cleaning

Call 0499 551 422

[www.lockettelectrical.com.au](http://www.lockettelectrical.com.au)

email: [lockelec2091@outlook.com](mailto:lockelec2091@outlook.com)

NSW 266937C VIC REC 23548

### STILL RUNNING SHORT OF LAVATORY PAPER?

We do have some old back editions of Yackity Yak if push comes to shove, so to speak. Let us know if we can oblige you...



# THE ANNUAL KERFERD ORATION

Former independent Member for Indi, academic and rural consultant, Cathy McGowan AO, will deliver the 2020 George Briscoe Kerferd Oration in July in Beechworth.



Oration Chair, Karenne Thistleton, said she was delighted that Ms McGowan had agreed to deliver the Oration.

*"In 2006, Cathy delivered a very successful Oration which showed that communities could enrich their communities through strong community engagement and participation. In 2020, she will consider 'the Australia we want', with a focus on the engagement of young people across Indigo Shire in the lead up to the Oration".*



Ms Thistleton said the organising committee will engage a project officer for three months in the lead up to the Oration, to develop a participatory governance model through which young people can actively engage in decision making about the things which matter to them most.

The George Briscoe Kerferd Oration was first held in 2003 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the naming of Beechworth. The annual Oration is a free community event sponsored by Indigo Shire Council, La Trobe University, WAW Credit Union and Quercus Beechworth.

The 2020 Kerferd Oration will be held on Sunday 26 July, 11.00am at The George Kerferd Hotel, Mayday Hills, Beechworth.

Further information: [www.facebook.com/kerferdoration](https://www.facebook.com/kerferdoration) or [www.kerferdoration.org](http://www.kerferdoration.org)

## Kindness is catching

In times of Coronavirus, there are people in our communities who are feeling afraid, unsure and overwhelmed. Strong communities and support networks are needed now, more than ever. *We can all do something to spread kindness.*

- ♥**Connect**  
Phone home, call friends and neighbours. Talk, listen, reassure.
- ♥**CookUp**  
Prepare extra food, drop off a dish and share excess supplies.
- ♥**BeSocial**  
Use your social to check-in, share good ideas and positive news.
- ♥**StayKind**  
Check-in on the elderly, disabled and carers. Offer to assist with shopping, errands and daily jobs.
- ♥**Lead**  
Don't wait for others to act - take the lead!

#CaringisContagious  
#COVID19Aus  
#GenerosityisCatching

#RandomactsofKindness  
#BeKind  
#BestofHumanity  
#DoGood

## Habits we should all keep after Covid-19

- ★ Supporting small local businesses.
- ★ Making "concern for our most vulnerable" an urgent priority. All caring about it.
- ★ Slowing down.
- ★ Checking in on people.
- ★ Singing from our balconies, together.
- ★ Thinking about what REALLY matters.
- ★ RESTING.
- ★ Realising that we're all in this together.

@ECOwithEM

## About the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has been set up by the Federal Government to provide support for people with a permanent and significant disability.

A permanent disability means your disability is likely to be lifelong.

A significant disability has a substantial impact on your ability to complete everyday activities.

The NDIS provides funding for supports and services to assistance, or products that help a person in their daily life and help them participate in the community and reach their goals.

## Plan Management Service

AIIM Choices Plan Management Service is about having your own accountant service to take care of paying the bills for care provided under your NDIS plan. We pay supplier invoices for the services you receive under your plan. Processing of invoices is timely ensuring that your support services are continued.

Our professional Plan Management team focuses on saving the participant's time and relieves the stress that can be associated with managing and claiming payments through the NDIS MyPlace Portal.

This gives you more time to get the most from your NDIS funding.

## AIIM Choices

AIIM Choices is regarded as a leader in the NDIS community specialising in Plan Management Services. Based in Wodonga, we pride ourselves in bringing our country values of service and support to help participants achieve their goals.

AIIM Choices approach is to provide services that empower people to develop their potential supported by the NDIS.



# aiimCHOICES

📞 02 6056 6900

✉ reception@aiim.com.au

🌐 aiimchoices.com.au

📍 level 2, 111-113 Hume St, Wodonga VIC 3690



# SCOOP!



## The Taste of Things To Come

Every newspaper likes a scoop, and even better when it's shared with the whole of Yackandandah and district!

SCOOP21 is the brainchild of Stefan Heintjes, who is a relative newcomer to Yack, when he moved to the area to join his partner, Jessee. Stefan opened his new ice cream outlet and café on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Stefan's new venture is designed to help and employ disabled young people of the district on his own terms, rather than that which is generally available through other work outlets. An advertisement in the shop window in Yack's High Street, saw Stefan overwhelmed with applicants and he had an enjoyable time meeting and interviewing for the positions vacant. Up to eight people from the Yackandandah, Wodonga, Wooragee and Leneva areas have been lucky to find employment with SCOOP21. He wants to see his young

staff paid proper wages and not just disability rates, so his desire to see these youngsters shine has been one of his guiding lights.

Stefan, who trained as a physiotherapist in Holland, has a great desire to help people, and who better than often marginalized young people with learning and other difficulties. His staff vary in age from 16 to 30 years, with varying degrees of learning disabilities, but Stefan has found that with training, his staff are able to do far more than most people would imagine. They have been helping with cooking, front of house, till work and serving customers, all with minimum supervision which gives them a great deal of self-confidence and pride in their work.

With the current issues with COVID-19 virus, Stefan has had his hand forced to temporarily lay his new staff off, but he is determined to remain open as long as permitted, and to ensure that his new brainchild business comes back better than before, when times permit.

In the meantime, make sure that you visit SCOOP 21. The ice cream served in SCOOP21 is the famous Gundwring Ice Cream, and sorbet by Topolino. Delicious flavours of course, plus coffees, teas, slushies and milk shakes – the real deal! Breakfast, lunch and cakes (all beautifully home cooked) are served between 9 am and 5pm from Wednesday to Sunday. The lunch special when I called in was pasta with slow roasted tomatoes, zucchini and white anchovies – yum!

SCOOP21 is located at 10 High Street, Yack opposite Grace's Place and Gum Tree Pies. Tel: 0474 577 768.



**aiimCHOICES**  
Empowering people to develop their potential

## NDIS Plan Management Service



02 6056 6900



reception@aiim.com.au



aiimchoices.com.au



Level 2, 111-113 Hume St, Wodonga



## THE ARTS IN YACKANDANDAH

### Black summer 2019 - 2020 by Gregory Dale

When the vapour on the horizon whipped the wind up into dust  
The farmers became uncertain of what lay ahead  
They were checking the Bureau for signs of relief on its way  
And the townsfolk had a sense of impending dread

What followed the dust was lightning, the country all ablaze  
Terror ensued in young and old amongst the smoke  
As commanders and the captains scrambled strike teams onto trucks  
The firefighters breathing hazards, in courage, but all a choke

There were fires in the hundreds with the community on its knees  
"What's the cause?", a confusion beginning to unfold  
Dark skies at midday, stay or leave, defend or flee  
And for thousands a horror yet unuttered, their stories yet untold

Fire spread and crept up gullies. It crowned and roared up hills  
Flaming forests spotting and merging into one mega-blaze  
A world in shock, as it paused in numb, mute sadness  
Our south eastern Australia, blanketed in a thick acrid haze

The death of native fauna said to be one billion with many scarred and burned  
This crisis was predicted, denied by leaders, now in shame  
With a blackened earth ten million hectares spreading fast  
And an angry suffering mob, garnered numbers, ready to blame

Some say unpredicted this national disaster, split opinions into two  
Narrow reasoning, denying science, delivered this fateful grief  
Many in trauma with their lives stopped dead, now in loss  
We all hoped for a sensible leader to emerge, and give relief

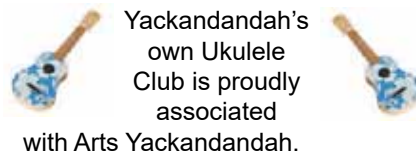
Deeply troubled by collective heartbreak with emotions an ocean dark  
Determined not to be adrift, disabled in a state of fright  
We reconnect to those around us, in an attempt to reconcile  
Family and friends remind us gladly of a future bright

As the crisis led to recovery with the grind of work ahead  
How do we sustain life without the agony of repeat?  
The fatigue of millions without rest and in silence quietly tasking  
A glimmered goal of aching hardship without defeat

As we watch the bush recover quenched by relief of rain  
Repair of us internally, we feel mirrored at nature's pace  
New shoots of life and colour, growing slowly amongst the ash  
The solution to this saddened grief, needs science, to lead the race

*Gregory Dale is a resident in Indigo Valley, a psychologist and firefighter in the CFA Peer Support Program*

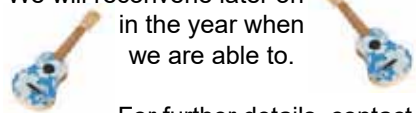
### UKE-N-DANDAH



Yackandandah's own Ukulele Club is proudly associated with Arts Yackandandah.

Unfortunately, we are having to take an extended break from our Monday night sessions while the COVID-19 virus is causing concern.

We will reconvene later on in the year when we are able to.



For further details, contact Frances on 0417 292 917

### UNFORTUNATELY DUE TO COVID-19 VIRUS

Many of the usual events happening in Yack are having to be temporarily cancelled.

The Poetry Group which meets at the Yack Community Centre on the 1st Sunday of each month, will close until further notice.

Uke-N-Dandah which has regular Monday night rehearsals at the Court House is taking an enforced break as well.

If in doubt, phone first to see what's happening.

### ON STUPIDITY

Flaubert discovered stupidity. I daresay this is the greatest discovery of a century so proud of its scientific thought... more important for the future of the world than the most startling ideas of Marx or Freud. For we can imagine the world without the class struggle or psychoanalysis, but not without the irresistible flood of received ideas that - programmed into computers, propagated by the mass media - threaten soon to become a force that will crush all original and individual thought.

MILAN KUNDERA  
Czech-born French Novelist (1929 -)

### VIOLINDIGO ONLINE LESSONS

## Learn Violin or Piano

Due to the unique challenges that we all face in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak, all Violindigo lessons will be conducted online until further notice.

We are committed to helping our students to keep the music alive, especially in these trying times.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact David Pietsch  
0400 224 814

music@violindigo.com.au

f /violindigo

www.violindigo.com.au



violindigo  
SUZUKI VIOLIN & PIANO



### JOHN DERMER KIRBY'S FLAT POTTERY

Unique durable porcelain oven & tableware as well as exhibition pieces for that very special gift.

OPEN EACH WEEKEND,  
MOST SCHOOL  
HOLIDAYS AND BY  
APPOINTMENT.

FROM 10.30 am - 5.00 pm  
Tel: 02 6027 1416 johndermer.com.au

## YACKANDANDAH WRITERS – ON FIRE

At our final meeting in December 2019, the Yackandandah Writers decided to craft a piece of writing on an incident or event that we personally experienced during the 'summer holidays'. At that point, we didn't know the extent to which the bushfires would impact on our summer. The following piece, *A Climate of Fire*, is Michael Metzger's response to a January that seemed to just go up in flames...

### A Climate of Fire

I didn't wait for summer; I came early. The conditions were right – apathy, carelessness, greed. You prepared a place for me, even when I warned you I was coming.

You thought only the tourists would arrive, families with their caravans, their children and their pets, ready to share their conviviality in the pristine, sun-filled days of campsites in the bush or by the sea. This is what they did every year, a tradition of holidays and laughter, night skies lit only by the stars. Some of you thought to slip away overseas, even when you knew I was waiting among you, hungry for the drama and excitement and fear.

The land was waiting – dry, thirsty, the rivers parched. The water that fed the streams, that filled the artesian wells and spilled its plenty in times of flood had been siphoned into corporate lakes and private dams, inaccessible to those who really needed it. The green had shrivelled, the fish had died, the mud flats cracked, and pastures turned to barren earth. Your wide brown land barely fed the sheep or cattle you grazed. Heartache alone flowered in the heat and dust.

Lightning is my friend, my arsonist. It brings me in a dry thunderstorm, crackling shafts that strike the tinder dry brush and suddenly I'm there feeding on the fuel you left for me. Even rainforests you thought I would never touch couldn't withstand your greed for coal and cash, your thirst for resources that kept them cool and moist. Now they're mine, together with everything you think you own. Do you think I care? My appetite is indiscriminate, omnivorous, capricious. I'll take your home and leave you a trampoline.

I've watched some of you prepare – clean your gutters, rake the leaves, attach your hoses and hope to your god that I pass you by. Insurance might save you, or the brave souls who have fought me before. I can take them at my will; whip a firestorm that creates its own irresistible energy; that will flicker over the sea to suck the oxygen from the water. Your night sky will be filled with sparking stars and smoke that lights the dark with an orange glow to strike fear into your sobbing heart.

For those of you waiting at the fringes, I will make you think like never before. What should you take with you when you can't take it all? The precious treasures you collected over a lifetime? The valuable painting, the antique clock, the precious books or family silver? You think a bucket and a garden hose will save them? Instead you take a photograph, a child's

drawing – perhaps the pet canary or goldfish in its bowl. And then, in the descending dark, the power goes out and the phone connection is lost. I see your flickering torch as you stumble up the path in the smoky dark with bags and boxes to the waiting car. You don't know yet that burning trees will have fallen across your path and you have to turn back, face the flames and hope you make it through. Some of you, gasping for breath in the unbearable heat, will die in the attempt.

If you make it to a safe haven, you will sit there watching the emergency reports, your heart in your mouth, wondering what you will find when you return. Did I leave you anything? What will happen to the sheep and cattle, the horses braying in terror as the flames lick the dry grass from under them? If you stand at the fringes, you can see the kangaroos bounding away from the fire that would consume them, the flames that will suck the air from their lungs, the embers that will lodge in their fur. Koalas clinging to the tree that will burst into towering candles and consume them. And when the roar of the inferno has passed, you will stump across the blackened paddock to the sheep gasping in the ash, the fat cooked beneath their wool, and out of mercy you will shoot them. It is a grim task that chokes your tears. Each life you take takes away your livelihood. Then you will try to count the losses – the vast expanses of blackened bush, areas the size of foreign lands; the creatures that have perished. But you will know nothing of them, all the lizards and frogs, the beetles, birds and butterflies, the creatures that lived in the underbrush, the micro-organisms that fed the ecosystem that in the end feeds you all, whether you know it or not.

Out of this blackened carnage, there are some things you will learn. You will know that for all your blindness there is good among you: those who will gather around you, offer support, shelter, food, clothing and tears. Some will even offer their thoughts and prayers in the blithe belief I care. There are some who will lay down their life for you – and you will know they were the ones who did care. But there are not tears enough to quench me, not while so many of you remain sightless to my appetite – and I will visit you again no matter where you hide, in whatever hemisphere, under whatever constellation, for I can make my own. While you continue to plunder the earth, I will pillage your treasures and consume your life.

I am the beast – and I have arrived.

© Michael Metzger January 2020

**The Yackandandah Writers meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Yackandandah Courthouse. If you are interested in joining the group, contact Bev Lello: [beverley.ello@gmail.com](mailto:beverley.ello@gmail.com) or 0437 913 0123.**

### The 2020 Yackandandah Folk Festival and Covid-19

Friday, 13th March 2020 would prove a momentous and sad day in the 23 year history of YFF. As each hour passed, the Festival committee became more apprehensive about the rapidly evolving consequences of Covid-19 and its effects on local communities all over Australia and, indeed, the world.

Once the Chief Medical Officer announced his recommendations that non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people outdoors should be cancelled, the future of the 2020 Festival was in jeopardy. It was with very heavy hearts that committee members attended an emergency meeting at the Yack Community

Centre that evening. One of our greatest concerns centred around the negative effect cancellation would have on the many local businesses, community groups and sporting clubs who run food stalls and bars and rely on the income derived from trading during the Festival weekend. We were also mindful that our contractors and performers may also take a heavy financial hit.

Various alternative measures were discussed including running at a much-reduced venue capacity, but we considered the fact that some of our volunteers and performers had already started cancelling. One of our members is in the medical industry and he warned that more restrictions were bound to be forthcoming. This proved prophetic when our

PM announced bans on outdoor gatherings of more than 100 people and other countermeasures the following Wednesday.

The decision to cancel the 2020 Festival became our only option. All of our contractors, venue owners, clubs, performers and others were notified of our decision as soon as we could, and a notice of cancellation was placed on the Festival's website and social media pages that evening.

In the end, we decided that the risk of infection to our local community would have been far too high and that it would be totally irresponsible for us to stage the Festival in any format. We met again two days later to begin putting into place the necessary framework required to issue refunds to ticket holders, sponsors etc. The

generosity of some sponsors to donate their funding and numerous ticket holders their fees, will help the Festival to some extent help those who have suffered a significant loss. Our sincere thanks go out to them.

We have had an enormous number of people who have sent supporting messages and again sincerely thank everyone who has done so.

We should emphasize – it's on for 2021! The Yackandandah Folk Festival will be back better than ever with everything you've enjoyed about our first 22 years. We hope to see you then!

*Craig Ramsay, Secretary  
for and on behalf of the Yackandandah  
Folk Festival Organising Committee*

## BOOKING THE PUBLIC HALL OR COURT HOUSE?

Yack has some amazing venues for concerts - the Public Hall and the Court House are the standouts. They are tried and tested venues, and to make booking easier, these Yack venues have their own website at:

[publichall.yackandandah.com](http://publichall.yackandandah.com)

Information about both the Public Hall and the Court House can be found here. Each venue has a calendar showing details of existing tentative and confirmed bookings and allows you to make your own booking on-line.

The hire rates are extremely reasonable and haven't been increased for a number of years. If you are looking at putting on a concert, theatre production or wedding, you won't go far wrong by booking the Public Hall. The Court House is a smaller, more intimate venue.

Ali Pockley, the Booking Officer can be contacted by email at:

[publichall@yackandandah.com](mailto:publichall@yackandandah.com) or by mobile on 0448 803 411

**Chris Lello, Treasurer, Yackandandah Public Halls Committee of Management**

## Reg's Rain Report



2020	Millimetres	Days of Rain
January	31.4	7
February	28.8	5
March to 19th	147.8	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>208.0</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>2018 to 19/3</b>	<b>102.0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>2017 to 19/3</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>16</b>

You will never plough a field if you only turn it over in your mind..

## OLD FRIENDS

Two elderly gentlemen had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is."

His friend glared at him. For at least three minutes he just stared and glared at him. Finally he said, "How soon do you need to know?"

Thanks Reg!

## "SANDY", THE WAR HORSE

He responded to the bugles' call  
Nostrils flaring wide  
The big bay primed for battle  
For no other flanked his side.  
'Midst the smoke and rapid firing,  
Scent of death's vile sickening stench.  
Spasmodic sting from shrapnel  
As he cleared a blown up trench.

A life and time of "Sandy"  
Famous War Horse, long ago.  
He charged into the history books,  
Faced onslaughts, blow by blow.  
Being born in rugged ranges,  
To leave behind the mountain runs,  
Facing sand, death and cordite  
And those merciless battery guns.

We'll not forget you, "Sandy",  
As cruel nightmares marred your dreams.  
So rest in peace now, "Sandy".  
Absent from horse and human screams.  
Graze again your mountain meadows  
Those quiet valleys where you roamed,  
Because, two thousand bold and bravest Walers  
Never made it home.

*Bill Whitham, Tallangatta*

**Locally Owned and Operated**

- 🔧 All Mechanical repairs
- 🔧 Service and repairs to all makes and models
- 🔧 Manufacturer log book servicing
- 🔧 Brake and clutch repairs
- 🔧 Automotive air conditioning specialist
- 🔧 Transmission servicing
- 🔧 Vic Roadworthy Certificates, NSW Rego checks
- 🔧 Trailer repairs
- 🔧 Batteries, spare parts and accessories
- 🔧 Ironman suspension and 4x4 accessories
- 🔧 Tyre sales, fitting and balancing
- 🔧 Puncture repairs
- 🔧 Courtesy car

**YACKANDANDAH AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES**  
*Service is our priority*

**3 Turntable Lane, Yackandandah**  
E: [yackauto@bigpond.com](mailto:yackauto@bigpond.com) PH: **6027 0508**

Like us on Facebook

**Dave McAuliffe Plumbing**

**Servicing Yackandandah & District**

- All Maintenance
- New Homes
- Drain Cleaning Machine

**☎ 0428 271 547**  
**A/H 6027 1547**  
**WOORAGEE**

# YACK KINDERGARTEN

## LEARNING TO CONNECT WITH AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR WORLD

### Lucy the Jersey calf visits Kinder

Jack and his parents brought in their 2-week old Jersey heifer calf from their dairy



farm, for the 4yo program children to meet. She was very gentle and friendly, and each child was invited to have a turn feeding Lucy her morning milk. Jack proudly talked about his family's daily life on their farm and answered the children's questions about how



cows are milked and the milk treatment process from farm to shelf. Everyone was very gentle and quiet approaching Lucy, helping her to feel safe and comfortable during her visit to Kinder.

### BUSH KINDER EXPLORATIONS



Our bush kinder continues to enthrall our children and their recent foray into our little wilderness on a nature walk led to marvellous discoveries. This walk extended from our recent discussion and research about tree sap. The children discovered some wattle sap, giving them the opportunity to see it in its natural en-

vironment and prompted further discussion about why and when trees ooze sap. During the walk, the children collected interesting and natural items, which were brought back



into Kinder and presented during group time. Wonderful things like tree sap, stones, gum nuts, feathers, half-nibbled leaves and a witchetty grub skin! This experience encouraged their enquiry-based learning and prompted the children to build on their own interests.

### IMAGINATIVE PLAY WITH OUR 3YO CHILDREN

What a wonderful term our 3yo children have enjoyed, exploring and expressing themselves creatively through language and play.

To develop their fine and gross motor skills, we constructed an obstacle course in the outside play area with stepping stones, balancing boards and a tunnel.



In our outdoor experience we are adding natural materials such as bark, sticks, flowers and gum nuts to our mud kitchen to extend the children's cooking with water and sand. And then when everyone has worn themselves out, we like to enjoy our morning tea in



the garden and sit with friends and eat our favourite foods.

Next term promises to be an exciting and activity-filled one.

Staff wish parents and children a lovely holiday break and look forward to welcoming everyone back to kinder in Term 2.

For information on our kinder and 2020/2021 enrolment enquiries, visit our website [www.yackandandahkinder.com.au](http://www.yackandandahkinder.com.au)

## Selling, Buying or Renting in Yackandandah, Wooragee, Beechworth & Surrounds?



*We've got  
you covered.*

**Call us today.**



**Sharon Boys**  
Office Coordinator  
**03 5728 3295**



**Jamie Horne**  
Principal & Sales  
**0438 280 867**



**Jaqui Ward**  
Property Manager & Sales  
**0457 883 295**

      [www.indigorealestate.com.au](http://www.indigorealestate.com.au)

03 5728 3295 | 29B Camp Street, Beechworth VIC 3747

Beechworth • Chiltern • Eldorado • Myrtleford • Stanley • Tarrawingee • Wooragee • Yackandandah

*Your local, trusted and independent real estate agency*

# OSBORNE'S FLAT PRIMARY SCHOOL

As Term 1 draws to a close amidst the uncertainty of whether schools will return for Term 2, we look back on a very busy 8 weeks at Osbornes Flat Primary School. At this time of year we are normally in full swing preparations for our famous Baked Potato stall at the Yack Folk Festival, which is a fantastic fundraiser for us. Like many local organisations and businesses, we will miss these significant funds which assist us to purchase resources and make upgrades to equipment. Our students did some amazing work in Art to produce Modroc Flying Pigs and beautiful wings to wear in the Folk Festival parade. We will have to have a special parade when we return to school to show off their amazing work.



Folk Festival art work - sadly not utilised in 2020

that develops, improves and entrenches the personal and social capabilities of students.

The students have also been producing some amazing pieces of creative writing this term, so we look forward to watching the improvement they will make over the remainder of the year. We are also participating in Australia Post's Pen Pals program with our senior students corresponding with students from Brookdale Primary School in Western Australia, and the juniors with students at Manifold Public School in remote NSW.

We have participated in activities as part of Safer Internet Day. The whole school completed activities about how to use the internet safely and all students signed a code of conduct agreeing to safe and responsible technology use at school.

This term we obtained Sporting in Schools funding to implement a gymnastics program, which the students loved and was delivered by Erin at Indigo Gymnastics in Beechworth. We were also successful in obtaining a 'Music



Well, we all hope that pigs will fly!

in Schools' grant. This initiative includes a teaching artist delivering a music education program in our school one day a week over approximately 10 weeks next term. Teachers also receive active in-class mentoring, access to digital music education resources and access to a professional learning workshops and we will receive \$5,000 to support the purchase of classroom music resources, such as musical instruments.

School council is currently working on a number of facility upgrades across the school, with the main one being the gutting and refurbishing of our toilet block and development plans for the playground area, drainage and levelling of the sports oval are in the process of being put together. We had an excellent turn out for our playground maintenance working bee, with the end result being a safer play area and equipment for our students to use.

We head into an unknown future at this point in time but hope our families, friends & community stay safe & well.

This year we welcomed 5 new students & families to our school, all of whom have settled in well and are enjoying our beautiful school. We also welcomed back several teachers from maternity leave and have been able to add Specialist Science to our curriculum offering. This term, the integrated studies lessons have been used to implement the Play is the Way program. This is a practical methodology for teaching social and emotional skills using guided play, classroom activities and an empowering language. It is a process

## An Imagined Letter from Covid-19 to Humans

Stop. Just stop.

It is no longer a request. It is a mandate.

We will help you.

We will bring the supersonic, high speed merry-go-round to a halt

We will stop

the planes

the trains

the schools

the malls

the meetings

the frenetic, furied rush of illusions and "obligations" that keep you from hearing our single and shared beating heart, the way we breathe together, in unison.

Our obligation is to each other, as it has always been, even if, even though, you have forgotten.

We will interrupt this broadcast, the endless cacophonous broadcast of divisions and distractions, to bring you this long-breaking news:

We are not well.

None of us; all of us are suffering.

Last year, the firestorms that scorched the lungs of the earth did not give you pause.

Nor the typhoons in Africa, China, Japan.

Nor the fevered climates in Japan and India.

You have not been listening.

It is hard to listen when you are so busy all the time, hustling to uphold the comforts and conveniences that scaffold your lives.

But the foundation is giving way, buckling under the weight of your needs and desires.

We will help you.

We will bring the firestorms to your body

We will bring the fever to your body

We will bring the burning, searing, and flooding to your lungs that you might hear:

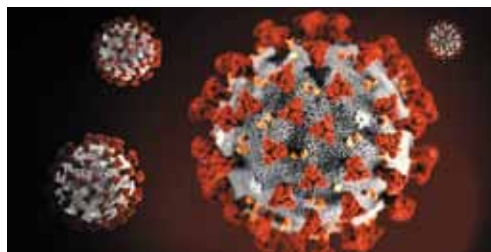
We are not well.

Despite what you might think or feel, we are not the enemy.

We are Messenger. We are Ally. We are a balancing force.

We are asking you:

To stop, to be still, to listen;



To move beyond your individual concerns and consider the concerns of all;

To be with your ignorance, to find your humility, to relinquish your thinking minds and travel deep into the mind of the heart;

To look up into the sky, streaked with fewer planes, and see it, to notice its condition: clear, smoky, smoggy, rainy? How much do you need it to be healthy so that you may also be healthy?

To look at a tree, and see it, to notice its condition: how does its health contribute to the health of the sky, to the air you need to be healthy?

To visit a river, and see it, to notice its condition: clear, clean, murky, polluted? How much do you need it to be healthy so that you may also be healthy? How does its health contribute to the health of the tree, who contributes to the health of the sky, so that you may also be healthy?

Many are afraid now.

Do not demonize your fear, and also, do not let it rule you. Instead, let it speak to you—in your stillness, listen for its wisdom.

What might it be telling you about what is at work, at issue, at risk, beyond the threats of personal inconvenience and illness?

As the health of a tree, a river, the sky tells you about quality of your own health, what might the quality of your health tell you about the health of the rivers, the trees, the sky, and all of us who share this planet with you?

Stop.

Notice if you are resisting.

Notice what you are resisting.

Ask why.

Stop. Just stop.

Be still.

Listen.

Ask us what we might teach you about illness and healing, about what might be required so that all may be well.

We will help you, if you listen.

William Scalia



## DAMIEN BEER EARTHMOVING

Bus: 0400307672 AH: 02 60271571



\*Excavations \* Dams dug & Cleaned  
\*Driveways Graded \*Horse Arenas \*Trees removed  
\*Shed & House sites leveled  
\*Float Hire \*Site Clean ups  
**No Job too big or too small!**



26 Isaacs Ave,  
YACKANDANDAH,



*The ultimate funeral care for  
your loved one*

Ph: 02 6041 3855 • 435 Wilson St, Albury  
[www.hossackfunerals.com.au](http://www.hossackfunerals.com.au)



SOMMERS

# FLOORING XTRA

Largest display of all your  
flooring needs!

*Carpets, Carpet Tiles, Vinyl Planks, Floating Timber Floors,  
Laminate Floors, Waterproof Hybrid Planks.*

*Supply and installation of Plantation Shutters available.*

*Aluminium reinforced polymer that won't split or warp.*

*Termite resistant, hypo-allergenic and providing  
70% more insulation than timber.*

338 Wagga Road  
ALBURY

Call us on 6040 2644 and we will come to  
your house for an in-home consultation to  
discuss your flooring requirements.

## YACK TENNIS CLUB

Yackandandah's Kiewa and Talgarno District Tennis Association Section 1 team enjoyed a comprehensive win over Tangambalanga (9 set to 0) in the Grand Final. Well done to all players on the day and to other players who contributed their efforts throughout the season – fantastic result! Our section 2 team finished 5th in a season that developed the skills of young emerging and senior players and our section 3 and 4 junior teams made it through to the semi-finals. So, well done on a great season all round.



*Yackandandah's Kiewa and Talgarno District Tennis Association Section 1 team enjoying their grand final win*

Thursday night social doubles tennis competition is set to finish at the end of March, so watch out for the winners in the next edition of Yackity Yak.

Tuesday night social doubles tennis (intermediate to advanced level) continues to run throughout the year. Play when you want, no need to commit to play every week. Doubles format. Starts at 7.00pm. \$10 per player, per night. For further details, contact Duane Washington on 0418 578 860.

Coaching is available through our professional tennis coach – Paul Sykes on 0447 359 023. Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/YackandandahTennisClub](http://www.facebook.com/YackandandahTennisClub)

*Amanda Walker, President*

## A RAMBLE WITH THE EDITOR

And just when you thought you'd get away without the Editor's rambles! Sorry - just had a small space to fill and here we are...

Unprecedented times, they say and they are not wrong. We are seeing some extraordinary measures put in place to curb the spreading of the COVID-19 virus, but it is clear that these may not completely eliminate it at this point. One plus point has been seeing how the Yack community has pulled together and how people are clearly keeping an eye on and helping neighbours and friends and relatives. These sort of disasters, such as the recent bushfires, can bring out the best in people & communities. But it is interesting to see that as COVID-19 sweeps through Australia, that the bushfires have largely been left behind and swept under a carpet so to speak, and the Government is doubtless breathing a sort of sigh of relief as the attention from the fires and climate change now move on to another national crisis.

It's not helpful to draw conclusions from items in the media and social internet sites, but it would be interesting to see if there is a link between our hard pushed world climates and this virus. There's no doubt that like the Spanish flu in 1918-20, which was driven by mass travel over the world following the end of the First World War, and the same has clearly been seen in 2020. All living organisms are closely connected and it is very likely that the links between the environment and our own health are being severed. There will doubtless be more information to come on this as research is carried out to hopefully prevent more pandemics.

In the meantime, as every single social event in Yack has been closed down for the time being, it's up to families and people to entertain themselves - something we haven't had to do for a long time! We were talking last night about what would happen if for some reason the electricity was to fail. We did in fact have a power outage in the Indigo Valley yesterday, so had an opportunity to have a few hours without the internet, and boy - it felt very strange and uneasy to be out of contact with the world entirely for the whole day. Let us hope and pray that that never happens or we will indeed be up against it...

## YACK RIDING CLUB

### Yack Riding Club Sees the Light!



*Chris Chambeyron, Merv Hooper, Tracey Martin and Glenn Davies laying the cable*

After twenty years of operation, the Yackandandah Riding Club is delighted to have power installed to our club rooms at the Sports Park.

This has been many years in the planning and would not have been possible without the support of the

Sports Park Committee of Management who not only arranged the works, but also donated a huge number of volunteer hours to the project.

We are also indebted to Mick Cheshire of MITRA Drilling and Wodonga Sand and Soil,



*Mick Cheshire instructing Tania Russell on the finer details of trenching. Fortunately he did not have to use the crop in his hand!*



*Despite a busy day - we did squeeze in a lunch break. Ros Hooper, Chris Chambeyron, Mick and Ben Sidoti.*

Wodonga. Mick donated materials, machinery and a huge amount of time to the project. This was all done with a happy smile and a little bit of training in machinery operation for one of our members on the side.

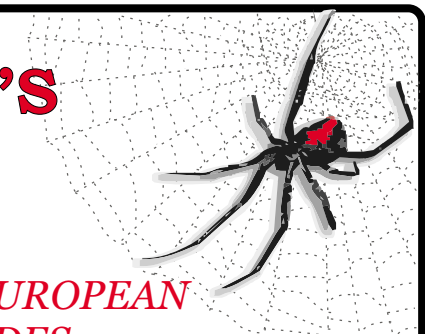
The club is also grateful to the small, but willing band of hard workers who turned up to lay the cable and water pipe. This project would not have been possible without the club having received funds from the Indigo Shire Community Grants Program, Yackandandah Community Centre Grants Program and the Yackandandah Folk Festival Committee. We would also like to thank Mick and Ben Sidoti who juggled their weekend schedules to make themselves available on the day.

Another exciting aspect of the project was the laying of a water pipe which will allow us to install a toilet and shower in the future. With over 80 members, and being one of the largest Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria Clubs in Victoria, this has been a long term goal which is now a little closer.

*Ros Hooper*

## GARY ROBINSON'S PEST CONTROL

*SPIDERS, RODENTS, BEES, EUROPEAN WASPS, TERMITES, MILLIPEDES, EARWIGS, ETC AND BAITING SYSTEMS*



**MOBILE 0417 664 266**

3586 MYRTLEFORD RD YACKANDANDAH

Ph: 02 60271120

We've also heard that some of the smaller regional papers have lost their advertising revenue due to closing businesses, and have had to close. A huge thanks goes to our Yackity Yak advertisers who have the option of buying advertising at a 12.5% discount in advance for the whole year. This has enabled us to have enough revenue to print the paper for the rest of 2020. Make sure you give our local businesses your custom please, so we can keep these important parts of our community fabric viable.

Take care of yourselves, your neighbours and your families.

Ali

## YACK GOLF CLUB



**Winners on the Day:**  
**Angela Bishop, James Bishop, Glenda Marshall**

The Club held its Opening Day for the 2020 season on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March. The weather was perfect, and the course had greened up for the three-ball Ambrose competition. Thirty-six players entered with nine lady members participating. Winners on the day: A Bishop, J Bishop & G Marshall - 57.4. Runners up: T Britton, J McMaugh, D Hoamer - 60.2. Longest drive: Men - J Bishop, Ladies - G Marshall. Nearest the pin for a winner 'take all pot' - Glenda Stacey.



**Ladies enjoying their golf on International Women's Day**



**The Graham family and pet hounds are regular visitors to the Golf Course**

While our scenic course attracts many golfers, it is also a public recreation reserve, open to all with many locals traversing the grounds. The Graham family - Kelly, Geordie, Pippa, Lenny, Flynn and their two dogs, Rooley & Smudge are regular visitors. Geordie explained they have a YGC family membership; however, in their house 'social dog walking' takes



**The Bishops & friend Teddy enjoy a walk**

precedence over social golf!

Cath and David Bishop, nearby residents, often enjoy an early morning walk, whilst 'Teddy' is off chasing sticks.

For tree lovers. These photos taken by Belinda Kelly, were shot when the smoke from the January fires was hanging thickly in the air. The delights of nature right on our doorstep.



The YGC is responsible for maintaining the course, an agreement that goes back many years. We have in place a dedicated team of volunteers

who donate hours of their time mowing, cleaning up and doing general maintenance. Their work ensures that the golf course/reserve remains one of the most delightful parklands in our region. Thanks go out publicly to our groundsmen - Terry Glass, Don Crosthwaite, Jeff Ryan & Richard Ashman.

Dog walkers, please don't forget your doggy bag and all walkers, please be mindful of flying white balls, always best to give way to the golfers! Competition days are Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Golf Club will consider advice given by the government and medical experts in relation to making any changes to our program in light of the effects of KOVID-19 on the community. All changes will be made public on the YGC website: [golfclub.yackandandah.com](http://golfclub.yackandandah.com)

Chris Zerbst, P: 0403 484 944

E: [chris.zerbst@gmail.com](mailto:chris.zerbst@gmail.com)

## LOOKING FOR A VENUE??



The Yack Sports Park is a great venue for weddings, 21st parties, engagements parties, reunions, trivia nights, club presentations, deb balls, music events, funerals, meetings and sporting events. With its beautiful views, heating and cooling, it makes the perfect place for just about anything.

So, the next time you are looking for a venue to hire, consider the Yackandandah Sports Park. More information can be found on our **website**: <https://sportspark.yackandandah.com/> **email**: [sportspark@yackandandah.com](mailto:sportspark@yackandandah.com)

**Contact the Booking Manager on 0439 849 785 to arrange a time to inspect this great venue in fantastic surroundings, and find out about their very reasonable prices!**

## RECIPE OF THE SEASON

Literally The Best Bread Recipe Ever - *Danielle Luttrell*

1/2 cup warm water  
2 cups of warm milk  
2 tablespoons melted unsalted butter  
1-3 tablespoons of sugar (add more if you like sweeter bread)  
3 tablespoons of active dry yeast (conservative side)  
6 cups of whole wheat flour (or 3 cups whole wheat & 3 cups all-purpose flour)  
2 teaspoons of salt  
1 teaspoon of baking powder



Grab a big bowl, and stir the 1/2 cup of warm water, 1 (or more) tablespoons of sugar, 3 tablespoons of yeast. Wait for 5 minutes (no longer - mine went all over the place the first time!) - it should be frothy on the top. While you're waiting, warm 2 cups of milk and 2 Tbsp of butter.

Next, add milk and butter to yeast mixture. Using a standing mixer slowly add the 6 cups of flour, the salt, and baking powder. Mix and knead the dough. (I used dough hook once I had incorporated most of the flour for about 5 minutes then kneaded by hand for another 5-7 minutes.)

Line your slow cooker with baking paper and place in your round ball of dough. It will rise in the slow cooker as it heats through. Cook on High power for 2- 2.5 hours. Start checking at every 7-10 minutes until top is spongy but springs back and there is no moisture on the top. The bottom should be a nice brown colour as well as sides. I put my loaf in the oven on grill for less than 5 minutes to get a nice crusty top too!

You can use a tea towel on top if you want to avoid condensation dripping in down on the loaf. I haven't tried this.

Slice and enjoy as whole grain toast or sandwich bread! Use UNSALTED butter or adjust extra salt added! Add MORE sugar if you want a sweet bread.

If you can't or are not skilled/practiced at kneading try the 50:50 ratio with whole wheat flour and all purpose flour, otherwise you will end up with a very dense loaf.

Make sure it is completely cooked through - my loaf took 2 1/2 hours!!

## YACK COMMUNITY BOWLING CLUB



**Opening of the renovated Club Rooms - Helen Kelley, Ted Hurse, Ron and Evelyn Furze**

Yackandandah Community Bowling Club are proud to announce that we have had a wonderful start to 2020. The renovations to our clubhouse were officially opened on 19<sup>th</sup> January by a group of club stalwarts. They were Helen Kelley, Ted Hurse and Ron and Evelyn Furze.

Our President, Frank Artis, welcomed all and expressed his thanks to all

involved, with a special mention to Bruce Paton for his time and work involved in getting the job done.

In March, both our Saturday A3 team and Midweek A3 team were successful in our respective Grand Finals. A big thank you to all those involved.

In addition, the club has successfully hosted in excess of 60 social bowlers in our



**Saturday A3 team - Grand Final Winners**

annual Community Challenge over a period of eight weeks. This year, this event was taken out by a team named Gutter Trash consisting of Dave, Josh, Craig and Ben. YCBC sincerely thank WSM for their continued sponsorship of this event and thanks to all those who supported the Yackandandah Community Bowling Club in this undertaking.



**Midweek A3 team - Grand Final Winners**

Special thanks go to the following for the weekly raffle prizes: Gum Tree Pies, Yackandandah Hotel, Klimt, Rusty Bike Café, Yackandandah Pharmacy, Star Hotel, Robinsons Pest Control, Tim Roberts from Powersafe, Beechworth Bakery - Yackandandah and by no means last, Ben Quick - Reconnect.

**Anne Corcoran**, Secretary

**Daylight Saving Opening Hours (from 5/4/20)**

Mon-Friday: 7 am to 6 pm

Saturday: 8 am to 5 pm

Sunday: 8.30 am to 5 pm

## ***Autumn means get out into that Garden, and start to get ready for the Woodburner!***

Come into YCDCo today to get all your gardening requirements, and everything to keep you and yours toasty warm over the Autumn and Winter!



### **Meet the Servo Staff - Lara Johnson**

#### **SAILING, SHE IS SAILING...**

Lara is the latest Yfuel recruit to talk to Yackity Yak.

She is a local lass living about 3 minutes from her place of work, and when we spoke, she was on an early mark from Catholic College due to the COVID-19 virus.

Lara has been working with Yfuel since September 2019, and regularly carries out her two shifts a week at the servo. She has thoroughly enjoyed her work there learning a lot about the different aspects of the store and products, and being able to help people. Customers have become well known to her and she prides herself in giving good service.

When not working or at school, Lara is a keen hockey player playing for Beechworth and District Hockey Club, or going to Hotham and Falls Creek with her father, to do some downhill skiing.

Sailing is one of Lara's particular interests, and she is a member of the Albury-Wodonga Yacht Club which operates from the Hume Weir. As a junior, Lara was a state and national winner in the Optimist class, but now does mainly social sailing in a Laser 4.7 dinghy. She mentioned the steep hill from the club house to the water, and the big job it



is hauling the dinghies back to land! Her hobbies will be sadly curtailed while the virus does its rounds, but Lara will be very happy to help customers at Yfuel and Yfarm during her shifts. Thank you Lara!!

### ***Chook chook chook!***

**We are supplying wonderful chooks for those great backyard eggs. Don't put up with second best... grow your own!**

**Order your point of lay pullets at YfuelYfarm for delivery once a month.**



**Your Local Community Owned and Operated**

**\*FUEL \* HARDWARE \* PRODUCE & FARM SUPPLIES**

Phone: 02 6027 1901

Website: [yfuelfarm.com](http://yfuelfarm.com)



[facebook.com/yfarmfuel](https://facebook.com/yfarmfuel)