

## THE END OF A 39 YEAR ERA

Yack High Street will never be quite the same after the end of January, when Sue Ellen pulls the pin, so to speak, on the much loved Drapery Shop opposite the Fire Station.

Started in December 1981, Sue Ellen opened her shop as a replacement for the previous drapery store which had closed down earlier. It was more of an experiment at that time, with Sue Ellen deciding to see how things would go and setting herself a two year period to trial the business. During these first two years, strawberry picking helped supplement the income from the shop whilst trade wasn't too brisk and the children were at school.

Well, the experiment clearly worked as here we are seeing Sue Ellen closing the doors on her venture thirty nine years later.

A visit to Sue Ellen's is a bit like a trip back into time. Drapery shops of this sort now tend to exist only in one's imagination although they were far from rare in the past. When people made more of their own clothes, it was difficult to exist without a Sue Ellen's to provide you with everything from cotton threads to materials, knitting needles and crochet hooks to patterns and wool, and around every corner a surprise. A regular Aladdin's Cave.

At the time of printing, the contracts for the sale of the business were just going through, although we have heard that Jane and Jamie Dowsley from Yackandandah are taking on the shop.

Everyone will be agog to see what happens with this great little shop that attracts people from all over the State and beyond.

*See also pages 3 and 4 of this edition*



## YACK PRIMARY SCHOOL & A SOCIAL ENTERPRISING EXPERIMENT



If you were handed \$20 and told to use it to start up a social enterprise, how would you spend it? What business would you create? Could you make it work for just \$20? This was the task given to the senior students at Yackandandah Primary School in November, 2020, as part of the \$20 Boss program, an immersive experience aimed at teaching students about economics and entrepreneurship, as well as important real-life skills.

Using \$20 of start-up funding from the Foundation for Young Australians, 56 students set about forming their own social enterprises, some in groups, others as individuals. In the context of the program, a social enterprise is a business that aims to make a profit and have a positive impact on people or the planet. For most students, this meant running a business and committing a percentage of profits to a charity, organisation, or community group. The students came up with a range of services such as: car washing, lawn mowing, dog walking, and baby-sitting; and all manner of products such as: soap, handmade cards, Christmas crafts, dog biscuits, plants and seedlings, food and beverages, and many, many more. Students then began trading for the month of November.

*Continued on page 3*

## TOTALLY RENEWABLE YACK PULL OFF THE PREMIER'S AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

### Rewarding Community Power Generation

Most of the time TRY volunteers have their heads down, trying to fit the extra commitments of TRY's projects around work, family and having a life. They are passionate about those projects and making a difference to Yack and other towns in our region, and further afield, but the pressure that comes with juggling projects and normal life can be full on! So, it's really nice when their efforts are recognised, and trumpeted, as they were when TRY won two *Premier's Sustainability Awards* in mid-December.

*Continued on page 3*



**TRY members celebrate a win in the Premiers Sustainability Awards. Photo credit: Juliette Milbank**



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**YACKITY YAK**

Yackity Yak is a free bi-monthly publication aimed at providing news, entertainment and information to the people of Yackandandah.

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**2021/22 DEADLINES:**

Forthcoming deadline for submission of advertisements and articles for Yackity Yak are 5pm on the following days:

EDITION	DATE	DEADLINE COPY/ADS	CIRCULATION DATE
95	April/May	Friday, 19 March, 2021	Tues, 25 March
96	June/July	Friday, 14 May, 2021	Tues, 25 May
97	Aug/Sept	Friday, 16 July, 2021	Tues, 27 July
98	Oct/Nov	Friday, 17 Sept, 2021	Tues, 28th Sept
99	Dec/Jan	Friday, 19 Nov, 2021	Wed, 30 Nov

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The footpath outside Sue Ellen's - with so much for sale and to chose from

The business developed significantly over the years and at various times Sue Ellen has provided fancy dress costumes, but reluctantly gave that up because many costumes were never recovered. Plants, of course, became a firm favourite with the many customers, clothes alterations and a hairdresser's salon also provided more arrows to Sue Ellen's bow.

Interesting also, that Sue Ellen has had the same sales representative for the past 35 years after initially driving down to Melbourne and filling the car up with about \$3,000 of goods. The trip to be repeated when stocks were low!

Sue Ellen also rented half of Ralph's shop at one time, and then finally bought the current building at 6 High Street, Yack some 28 years ago. There are also a regular band of friends who always call around for a cuppa and a chat, and the sale of the business will leave a big gap with this.

So what does the immediate future hold? Some travel (interstate to start with!), spoiling of the grandchildren and to undertake some work on the house and garden.

Oh yes - clothing repairs. If the Dowsleys don't take on this service, then Sue Ellen will happily do this from her converted workshop in Bruarong.

Yackity Yak wishes Sue Ellen a long, happy and productive retirement and thanks her for providing such a great service in Yackandandah.

All best wishes to Jane and Jamie Dowsley - we look forward to the next step in the business at 6 High Street, Yack.

See also the article on page 4, and if you are at a loose end, be at Sue Ellen's at 11am on Friday, 29th January, 2021!

YACK PRIMARY SCHOOL continued from page 1

The response and level of support from the Yackandandah community and beyond was amazing. At the end of trading, the senior students collectively had donated more than \$5,400 to a range of organisations and charities such as Camp Quality, Beyond Blue, and the RSPCA and they also donated significant funds to several community groups such as: Yackandandah Community Garden, Kangaloola, Yackandandah Scouts, TRY, Staghorn Flat Wildlife Refuge, FoodShare, Friends of Yack Creek, and The Men's Shed – to name just a few.

On behalf of the students, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the community for supporting this project. It went succeeded well beyond our expectations. The students had a ball and also learned a lot about the business world and themselves as learners, while also appreciating the value of doing things to help others and our planet.

We would also like to publicly congratulate the students on their work and this marvellous achievement.

Brendan Hogan & Lauren Roberts

Year 5/6 Teachers, Yackandandah Primary School

See also Yack Library article on page 9.

TOTALLY RENEWABLE YACKANDANDAH continued from page 1

At our final committee meeting for the year, in the lovely surrounds of Osbornes Flat hall eating Gum Tree Pies and home-made salads, we discovered that we won the *Community Category* in the Premier's Sustainability Awards and the *Premier's Regional Recognition* award. The latter was a personal pick by Dan Andrews, so something besides those daily pandemic press conferences must have grabbed his attention!

After a brief moment of disbelief we cheered, and it was more like a roar when the second award was announced. It's fantastic recognition for our public Virtual Power Plant (VPP) which leverages community buildings to form a network, generating renewable power for the community, lowering running costs for community groups, and providing some resilience to crucial facilities when there's a power outage. The solar installations on the roofs of ten community buildings and batteries at three of them are a community-focussed virtual or distributed power plant, one which we intend on further expanding.

You can check out the video about the VPP on our website, [totallyrenewableyack.org.au](http://totallyrenewableyack.org.au) – just look for the news item "Sustainability Award Winners!".

After a minor flurry of interviews in the Border Mail, on Prime7 News and ABC Goulburn Murray, life has returned to normal and we are back juggling swims with the kids, visits from family, long neglected house projects, work, and TRY's many tasks. The recognition was nice – a moment of celebration and joy – but 2022 isn't far away: there is a feasibility project to steer, a community-scale battery to install (thanks Indigo Power!), extra resilience to be added to facilities, and a VPP to expand.

And we'd love to have your support. Check out the feasibility project postcards in our website news "What is 100% and how do we get there..." and tell us what you think; replace your old electric hot water system with a CO2 heat pump; shift your electricity account to Indigo Power; subscribe to our email list (via our website, Get Involved > Subscribe, or the Facebook page); or donate via website. You could even become a TRY member. Lots of options to choose from and every single one advances the 100% goal. Bring on 2022!

Juliette Milbank



The most well-known view of the building



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## **The Drapery**

**by Mark McKenzie-McHarg**

I've got an old pair of jeans at home. I bought them in Collingwood in the late 1990's. I loved them so much that when I moved to Yackandandah, they came too, even though they were getting a bit tatty by then. Good for the garden I thought.

But the trouble is, when you wear things in the garden, sometimes you have to go down the street too, for a coffee or to get the paper and stuff. And then one day Therese said "You can't wear them down the street. Chuck 'em out!" So off I went to Sue Ellen's.

When I walked in, Sue Ellen was there: I didn't know her that well then and she gave that icy stare. I said, "How much to patch up these jeans?" This was in 2000 and I was new in Yack. She had a good look at me as if she were sizing me up. Who's this bloke, where does he fit in? Then Ivy poked her head around the corner- she was sizing me up too. And there it was- that same icy stare.

Sue Ellen said, "Four dollars". I said "Ok, when can you do them?" She said "Tomorrow" and with that I left.

Anyway, the jeans were fine for another few years - but only for the garden.

Then, in about 2007 or 8, I was in the garden again and I noticed the stitching around the patch on the knee had started to come adrift. Damn... Better get them down to Sue-Ellen's.

So off I went. I said "Hey Sue Ellen, see this patch? The stitching has started to come adrift." Her eyes went straight to the patch this time - she knew me by this stage... or sort of. Ivy poked her head around again and wandered through. Not much was being said but all seemed well and so she went back to her sewing machine. That tends to be how it is at Sue Ellen's I've found. Then Sue Ellen looked up and in that cool, measured tone said, "Six dollars". I said "When?" She said "Tomorrow" and off I went.

So, fast forward to about 2015-16. I'm in the garden and the patch splits open- again!! So, it's off to Sue Ellen's. This time she says "Ten bucks". I thought "Pheww... inflation". Same number of words used through the entire transaction though.

So, I got them fixed again and I've still got the jeans. But on Christmas Eve just past I noticed the patch was doing it tough again. And I'd read that Sue Ellen was closing down after 39 years.

Problem is, now I've only got until the end of January to lodge a complaint about those dodgy patches. I've been thinking about this for a long time you see. You can't get good service these days - things just don't ever get done properly! It's disgraceful really.

So, I'm thinking I'm going right on down there and ask to see the head of the complaints department at Sue Ellen's. I reckon a good time to do it is at **11.00 am on Friday 29th of January**. I'm a bit nervous really because I'm not sure what's going to happen. I guess Ivy won't be there as she's getting on a bit. But Ros probably will be, and she sure knows how to keep you in line. I'm pretty sure it'll be busy and there won't be too many words spoken and there'll be plants and all sorts of stuff for sale out the front.

But, with a bit of luck, I might still get an icy stare. Who knows, I might even get a refund.

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## “PROUD TO REPRESENT OUR BRIGADE”

The current captain of the Yackandandah Fire Brigade, Yves Quaglio, has been a stalwart of the brigade for many years. He recalls why he joined the brigade...

“We were living in a shed and large caravan while I was building our home in Haring Lane,” says Yves who moved to Yackandandah some 31 years ago. “Then our caravan burnt down, and with it a lot of our possessions. It was an old caravan and the fire was caused by an electrical fault. Former Yack captain Mark Burbidge then invited me to join the brigade, which I did after the house was finished, in 1996.”

Yves has always been a very active brigade member. He was a lieutenant - 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> - from 2001 to 2017 before being elected Captain and Community Safety Co-Ordinator.

Of the many, many fires and incidents Yves has attended the one that sticks most in his mind is the Kilmore fire on Black Saturday, 2009. “It was the first time we were on standby at the fire station, with a full crew ready to go,” says Yves. “When we were called, we were part of a strike team that went all the way to Kilmore along the highway - Code 1. Something else I hadn’t seen before,



**Captain Yves Quaglio resting up after turning out to the Indigo Valley fire**

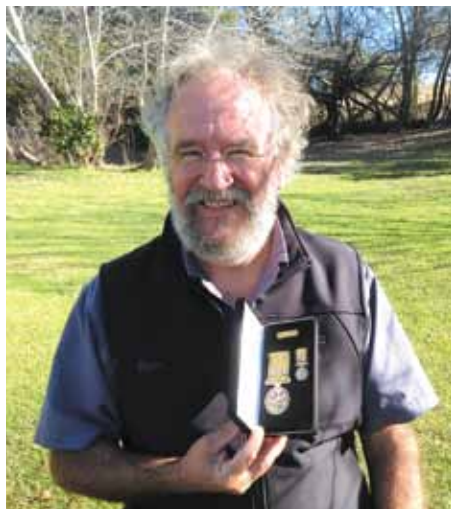
was the strike team forming up along the highway on the way.” Once they arrived at Kilmore, they were tasked immediately to fight the fires.

“What I remember the most is the aftermath,” says Yves. “It was a very, very hot fire – nothing like I’d seen before. Usually, with a fire there are patches here and there that aren’t burnt or there’s something left but with this one everything was grey, reduced to a fine white ash.”

The initial Yackandandah crew did a 12-hour shift before it was relieved by another crew from Yackandandah. The crew returned but later that day a

fire started at the Buckland Gap, near Beechworth, and the Yackandandah tanker was recalled. “So less than 12 hours later we were back on the truck again, fighting the fire at Bruarong,” says Yves.

Yves says being in the CFA has improved both his communication and management skills. There’s no mistaking Yves’ French accent. “I



**Captain Yves Quaglio was one of a number of brigade members who received a National Emergency Medal for duty during the Victorian fires, 2009**

reckon everyone else has an accent except me,” laughs Yves who was born in 1952 in Angers, France, in the Loire Valley, known for its many castles. He studied architecture at the Beaux Arts before travelling around Europe where he met his now wife Marita in Thessaloniki, Greece; the reason he migrated to Australia in 1977. Marita is from Finland but had moved to

Australia with her grandparents when she was 11 years old. The couple lived in Wodonga for 12 years where Yves worked as a draughtsman/designer and then manager of its cabinet factory for Sanyo before it closed its Wodonga factory. He then became a builder establishing Yves Quaglio Building which he still runs with his son Andre, an architect.

Over the years Yves has seen brigade membership become more diverse with more women, a broader age range, and more members that were born overseas including in America, Canada, England, Germany....

“It has improved,” says Yves. “First of all, Yackandandah is a very open-minded and welcoming brigade. But since I’ve been in Australia, I’ve seen attitudes towards migrants change in general.” He’s also seen a big improvement in the equipment firefighters have access to, and the training they undergo. While Yves acknowledges that being captain of a fire brigade is a big responsibility, it is also something he is proud to do. “I’m always very proud to represent our brigade and very thankful of all the members in the brigade,” says Yves. “I’m happy to contribute to the CFA as long as I can perform my role properly.”

## INCIDENTS

Fortunately, it has been a much quieter and milder summer so far fire-wise than last season. Nonetheless we’ve still turned out to seven incidents including an electrical pole fire as the result of a lightning strike; support for Allan’s Flat brigade for a shed fire; and a few small grass fires.

Yves has done the numbers for the brigade, and, over the last 12 months there has been the equivalent of 511 single person turn-outs, responding to 45 incidents.

“That’s a very impressive number when you think about it,” says Yves. “While COVID-19 has made it more difficult this year and we are complying with the CFA’s restrictions, the community can rest assured that we can still respond in our usual way.”

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We weren’t able to hold an Open Day at the fire station at the end of last year like we usually do. However, we did have a presence at a combined stand outside the front of the Yackandandah Community Centre (YCC) Op Shop in High Street on 20<sup>th</sup> December. We joined forces with YCC to promote its YackChat hour on Indigo FM with the community invited to ask questions of the local gardening guru, Neil Padbury, and on fire safety of some of our members. Santa also came along and posed for a pic.....and speaking of Santa, as is usual, we helped out by giving Santa a lift to the Little Yacks Learning Years Christmas party.

We are also planning to have an information stand on home fire safety at the Lion’s Club Market on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

## BE PREPARED THIS FIRE SEASON

Being prepared for a fire season doesn’t just mean making sure your property is prepared. It also means making sure you are prepared personally. And that means having a Bushfire Safety Plan, understanding your level of risk, keeping informed, and ensuring on those high fire risk days you are well hydrated, staying cool, minimising your exercise outside, and having an “emergency kit” packed and ready to go in case you decide to leave early or need to evacuate.

So, what should be in your emergency kit this COVID year?

- Overnight bag with change of clothes and toiletries
- Medicines and first aid kit
- Important information, such as passport, will, photos, jewellery
- Mobile phone and charger
- Adequate amount of water
- Wool blankets
- Contact information for your doctor, council and power company
- Additional masks
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Check out the CFA website for more information.



**CFA firefighters, Jess Padbury (left), and Margrit Beemster (right) with Santa at the fire safety information stand**



**Santa, his “helpers” and the big red truck which was a hit with the littlies at the Little Yacks’ Christmas party**



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# THE INCREDIBLE BENEFITS OF MUSIC

My wife Bronwyn and I relocated from Melbourne to Yackandandah in April of 2019 with dreams of starting a family and re-establishing Violindigo, which was my Yackandandah-based Suzuki Violin and Piano studio that I operated until the end of 2012. Fast-forward a year and we were settling in nicely with a small number of students coming for lessons each week as well as hosting regular group classes and performance opportunities as part of the program.

Like many other businesses, COVID-19 restrictions changed much of what we could do.

Fortunately, I have had some experience with online teaching in the not too distant past. This had proven to be a good way to keep lessons going for local students after I left Yackandandah at the end of 2012. However, I never imagined a situation where I would have to do this for students who lived in my own neighbourhood! Nor had I ever given online beginner lessons to pre-schoolers until last year!

The Suzuki method relies heavily on parental involvement and listening to recordings of the music being learnt. Parents take lessons in the beginning so that they have firsthand knowledge of how to play the instrument. They attend all the lessons, taking notes that will help guide them through their home practice. I would like to think that this way of teaching and learning helped to prepare parents for this season, where they found themselves taking on this level of involvement and responsibility for all areas of their children's learning and schooling! However, I don't think anything could fully prepare anyone for being thrust into this season of juggling their own work responsibilities with their children's learning! One such parent was Louise Thornton (our local midwife), who commenced violin lessons with her then 6 year old son Miles in Term 4 of 2019. Miles is Louise and Colin's 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4 children who spent a lot more time at home than they ordinarily would during 2020!

## What were some of the rewards and challenges of home- schooling during lockdown and how did you manage it all?

I took COVID-19 very much as it presented itself. It became clear to us very early in the piece that being at home could actually be a very positive experience for our family (certainly my perspective). At that particular time in our lives, all the extracurricular activities had meant life had got a little out of hand, to say the least! The rewards were that we re-connected as a family because there were no distractions. The challenges were perhaps that meeting the kids' learning needs

(since I am no teacher!) was a bit of a hit and miss scenario. Overall, I trusted the curriculum was coming from the teachers, what I felt I could do was feed and love my kids and help where I could. The teachers are all amazing and I thank them for their commitment and communication throughout! Zoom Piano and Violin lessons were something else! We certainly had some blow-ups at lesson time trying to coordinate everyone's mood to be conducive to 1. Being able to hear the teacher and 2. For the teacher to be able to hear the student via technology and all the potential feedback (for e.g., yelling/screaming/crying to name a few...!)

## Why are music lessons so important for your family? What are the main benefits for you?

So, in our family music stems, I think, from Colin and his mum (the kids' Gran, Ros). Colin has a beautiful voice and Ros taught piano for many years while her children were young, and she has been a pivotal support and source of great encouragement.

Ros has rallied her 14 grandchildren for the past 6 years for a Thornton music concert and it is wonderful for the kids to show off their pieces, most playing piano, others dabbling in guitar, clarinet and sax.

Sadly, my piano experience was short-lived as I was more interested in darting around the netball court, but I now see such value in music in the home and am grateful that we have the opportunity to provide this for our kids. If only I had had a teacher like David, I may have stuck it out!

## How you came to know about Suzuki method and Violindigo?

Colin attended an information session in 2019 possibly soon after David and Bronwyn had arrived 'back' in Yack. Friends of ours had had the pleasure of David's teaching in his initial set-up of Violindigo and the method somewhat attracted Colin. Eila and James were already learning piano and Miles was still youngish to start on piano, but ready to go for violin. The parental involvement was obviously essential as part of the Suzuki method, and since Colin had already plenty of commitments and I was a little musically deficient, I took on the challenge. So, we started, me first, then Miles on the 'box' violin (no sound). Miles has been a very enthusiastic and diligent student and it is very obvious that he gets a lot of pleasure out of learning and being involved with what David offers. David is incredibly patient and ALWAYS waits and listens to the kids. He makes lessons fun. In his commitment to the Suzuki method, he brings a pleasure and love to learning which results in a sense of progression and accomplishment for the student, or so it seems from my perspective. Miles has already created his own 'jig' from the foundations of his learning so far (a short 12 months) and I think for Miles too, our local Pete Denahy is a real inspiration. Miles talks about a band he and his friends have formed...so watch this space YFF!

## What have been some of the highlights of learning in a Suzuki program?

In Miles' words, "David is fun and so are the lessons". "I like the group



A final group class for 2020. Great fun was clearly had by all!

lessons" and "it's good to play in the concerts" that David organises. David really emphasises the importance of 'listening, listening and listening' to the Suzuki material. When we are able to listen, I can see the positive impact it has on Miles' ability to pick up the tunes more easily. Holistically I feel this is an overall beneficial thing for kids and adults alike. It brings music into the home but it's amazing how it sticks, even little Harvey (3) just by listening and attending some of the lessons and having Miles practicing in the home has meant that Harvey is already well prepped for learning. It has now become a 'normal' part of life for him, and we intend for him to start at some stage in 2021 at his young age of 3. The highlight for me as a parent is the focus on always making learning fun and shedding a positive slant on any resistance or confrontation that can present itself when having your children practice. It has allowed me, I think, to approach learning as a happy normal part of the day and Miles, in particular, is either very dedicated or perhaps feels no pressure as a result of my learning that approach from reading the Suzuki method materials. David brings so much organic enjoyment and passion to each lesson it's very easy to be around. I highly recommend David and the Suzuki method and what a wonderful asset to have here in Yack.

Fortunately, we were able to resume face to face lessons and group classes briefly in the middle of the year and then again in term four. During the strictest of the lockdown periods, we hosted two Zoom concerts where students played solos from the comfort of their homes, using backing tracks in lieu of piano accompaniment.

At the end of 2020, we were fortunate to be able to conclude the year with a small concert in the Yackandandah Seniors Hall where each student played a solo for a small audience of no more than 20 people. Normally, I would encourage whole families to attend as well as other friends and relatives. However, the novelty of being able to have a face-to-face event of this nature outweighed any of the restrictions that were in place.

We are looking forward to being able to offer more face to face individual and group classes as well as performance opportunities for our students in 2021! What this will look like, we really don't know! The goal posts do keep changing and may keep doing so for some time to come. We will also be welcoming our first baby into our family in early February, which we are very much looking forward to! As challenging as 2020 may have been, it has brought forth great joy for us on the home front. I reminded myself at the onset of this season that the Suzuki method grew to fruition in the rural city of Matsumoto in Japan's post-war years, as a result of the dreams of one man to bring a sense of hope to young children in the aftermath of so much suffering and loss. This has always inspired me to search for ways to make great things come out of what otherwise appears to be bleak situations.

David Pietsch



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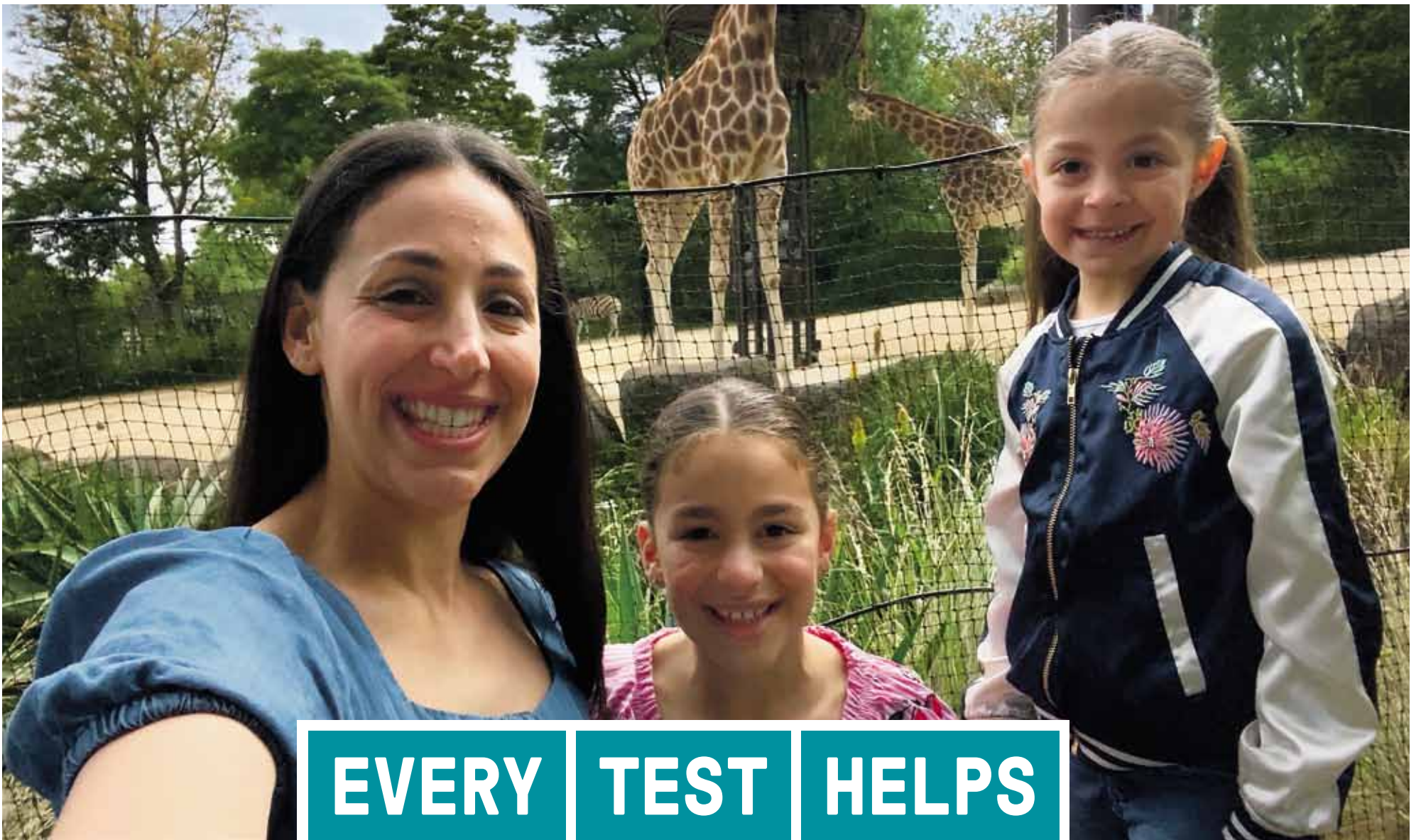


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**CONTACT** David Pietsch  
**EMAIL** music@violindigo.com.au

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## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

In early December TRY held some community consultations. The get-togethers were to tell everyone about the progress of our federally funded 100% Feasibility Study, which looks at the best combination of generation and storage technologies for Yack to be completely powered by renewable energy.

Despite pandemic challenges, over thirty people sat suitably distanced on the lawn next to the Yack Public Hall to hear Matthew Charles-Jones and Mark McKenzie McHarg give an overview of the project and the results to date. The session presented some interesting insights from an analysis of how much power the Yack township currently uses: that electric resistive hot water systems are the highest demand on our power network, and that local solar generation during the day significantly reduces our demand on the mains network.

We've presented those insights, and explanations of the generation and storage options that Yack could use to reach 100% renewables, in a series of colourful postcards – check them out on our website ([totallyrenewableyack.org.au](http://totallyrenewableyack.org.au)) in the news item "What is 100% and how do we get there...", or at a display in the Post Office very soon.

One of our other projects, research on the third microgrid in Yack, also recently produced an interesting insight: that those with a 5 kW solar system can save more money in energy costs by installing a CO2 heat pump hot water system than an 11 kWh battery. Given that the battery costs 3-6 times more than the heat pump hot water system, this makes the choice very clear for those with limited resources. Heat pump hot water systems can already save households upwards of 40%



on their hot water costs, and some households save over 70%; setting them to heat water when you're generating solar energy saves even more on costs.

These insights give us confidence that we're heading in the right direction: installing solar panels and batteries and changing to a more efficient hot water system do save significant energy costs and will definitely reduce Yack's emissions. But what if you rent or can't afford to shell out for new appliances right now?

Well, our 274 kWh community-scale battery, *Yack01*, has been ordered and we're looking forward to it arriving by March. Customers of Indigo Power will benefit from locally-generated energy stored in *Yack01* that they can then use during the evening. And the 100% Feasibility Study will identify what other storage and generation facilities are required for Yack to reach 100% renewables. The preliminary results from that study should be available mid-year.

And finally, you can also save on energy costs for comparatively little outlay by improving the thermal efficiency of your house or business, and we're hoping to do more work on that front in the next year. So, there is lots happening with TRY, but we'd really like to know what you think of the options to reach 100% renewables. So, if you have a moment, please take a look at the Feasibility Study postcards, online or at the

Post Office, and let us know what you think!

<https://totallyrenewableyack.org.au/2020/12/what-is-100-and-how-do-we-get-there/>

Juliette Milbank



*Yack locals at the town hall in December. Check out the project postcards (foreground) online and soon at the Yack Post Office!*



## Our new car charged up and ready to go

We are committed to both mitigating and adapting to climate change when delivering services and maintaining assets into the future, so it was with much excitement that we recently took delivery of our first electric car.

The car is just one of many steps we have taken towards our goal of zero emissions, and forms part of our overall Climate Emergency Strategic Plan.

You can read more about our completed climate change mitigation projects as well as those we have in progress, on our website - <https://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au>

In the meantime, give us a wave when you see our new car our and about around the Shire.



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2021 is shaping up to be a busy year for Indigo Power. And in Yackandandah, a lot is happening.

We now have over 150 Community Energy Hub members and the delivery of the community-owned battery is underway. With the first deposit paid, its construction is in progress. We expect site works to start in February and anticipate its completion by April.

Indigo Power is excited to partner with Totally Renewable Yackandandah to provide clean energy to members of the hub around the clock. The battery will allow renewable energy generated during the day to be stored and used by Indigo Power customers in the evening. This will be among the first community solar and battery projects of its kind in Australia and will ensure the members of the Yackandandah Hub have access to clean power when the sun isn't shining, during the early evening rush and throughout the night.

We are also working with Upper Murray Incorporated to deliver renewable energy generation and storage capability



*Ben Gilbert, from The Agency of Sculpture, will host the Yackandandah community-owned solar battery on his shed's roof*  
Photo credit: Indigo Power

to increase energy resilience across the Upper Murray, securing electricity supply. These installations will be located in critical sites for emergency response and recovery in towns across Towong Shire. The project is delivered with the support of an \$800,000 grant from Bushfire Recovery Victoria. The project borrows from the work of TRY and the Yackandandah CFA, to ensure the Yackandandah Fire Station has backup power during an emergency outage.

But project work is not the only thing happening, we are working with technology experts to improve our software. Soon, current Indigo Power customers will have further access to energy sharing information currently only available to customers with a Mondo Ubi. We are looking forward to launching the updates.

If you are still unsure about joining Indigo Power, now is a great time to do so. Following our price reduction on the 1st February, our prices have never been lower! Give Sandy a call, or email, to check your electricity prices or to compare your bill.

Tel: 1800 491 739

Email: [connect@indigopower.com.au](mailto:connect@indigopower.com.au)

**Buzzing All Hobby  
Beekeeping  
Enthusiasts**



Monthly Meetings start again in February!

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 agendas

**YACKANDANDAH LIBRARY**

**Library bags** - We have received a special delivery of Library bags made by Yackandandah Primary School children, Lily Houston and Rosie Leane, as part of their \$20 venture. These bags are so useful for children to carry their library books in so they are kept lovely and fresh. We thank Lily and Rosie very much for gifting these to the library for other children to use.

**Grab and go craft bags** - Our Grab and Go craft bags are proving to be a real hit with junior readers! Each bag contains a link to a story read to you online at Storybox Library as well as the ingredients for a craft activity. There is a new bag each week so pop in and collect one for your children or grandchildren.

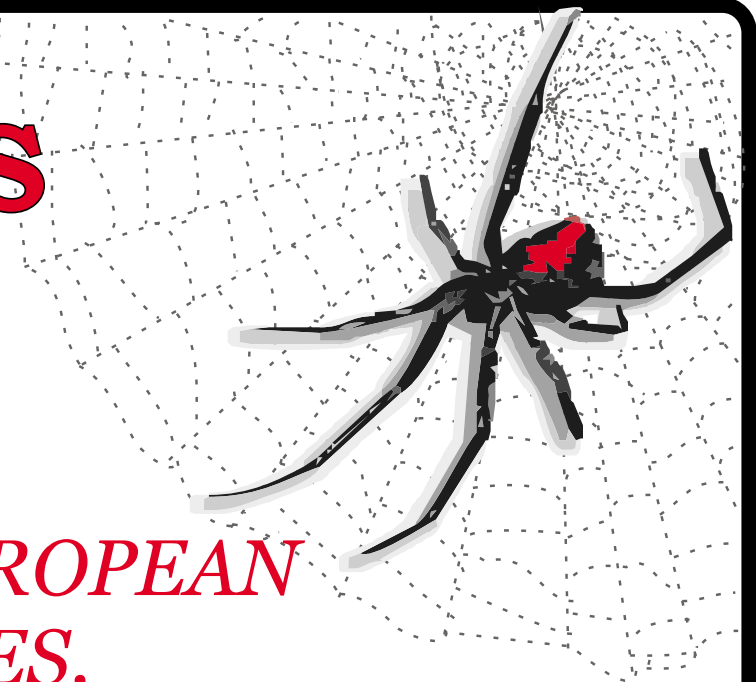
**Opening hours** - The library is currently open from 9.00am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday and from 9.30 am – 12.00 pm on Saturdays. As well as books, DVDs, magazines and audiobooks we have computers, free wifi, photocopying, printing and scanning.

Please call us on 02 6028 1180 if there is anything we can help you with.



*Lily Houston with some of the library bags she has donated to Yack Library*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Madam,

I've reached four score years and ten, so it's time to decide what epitaph to have on a gravestone.

And to think about what portrays your life philosophy for all to see is a bit daunting. A walk through the cemetery (where fourteen of my ancestors are buried) soon reveals who had faith, and perhaps where no declaration is made, might display who had no faith.

Anyway, I'll include my proposed epitaph poem, and plead my case. I'm inviting support - as well as knockers - whatever happens, I'm big enough to accommodate all takers!!

Sincerely, Rex McIntosh

### My Epitaph

Greetings to you who pass me by  
It's just my body here I lie  
My soul and spirit? Flying free  
YHVH died for me.

And who is he, my risen Lord?  
It's plainly written in His Word  
Yod (Y) means 'hand'. Hey (H) means Look,  
Vauv (V) means spike - it's in the Book.

As I am now, you soon will be  
In dying, you will be like me.  
Young or old, in pain or tear  
After death? Much more to fear.

Yeshua promised peace and rest  
Trust him, you will be blessed.  
To follow him you are not bent  
But now you know the way I went...

*(YHVH is the most common transliteration of the Hebrew name of God. The four letters, read from right to left, are yodh, he, waw, and he. While there is no consensus about the structure and etymology of the name, the form Yahweh is now accepted almost universally.*

*Yeshua - the Hebrew word for Jesus. Ed.)*

Rex McIntosh is Nelson's cousin. He is 80 years old and lives at Bruarong. His wife is Esther nee Schmidt from Back Creek Rd. They had 8 children together.

### To the great people of Yackandandah

On behalf of our team at the Yackandandah Beechworth Bakery we would like to say Thank you. The Yackandandah community has been absolutely wonderful, and we feel very fortunate to have had the support from everyone during COVID-19 restrictions.

We look forward to what 2021 will bring.

Kindest regards from your BB Manager Robyn and her team: Dasa, Andrea, Melanie, Tom, Alphy, Cameron, Lana, Celia, Sophie, Alyce, Briana, Kim, Mia & Chloe "

Dear Ali,

Thank you so very much for sending me the papers with Kev's obituary (December/January edition). Thank you also for thinking about my extended family. Much appreciated.

I have to congratulate you on what I think is the best regional paper I've ever read, and as Editor you are doing a magnificent job. I'm in my senior years, and over time have read a large amount of diverse newspapers. I really thought your layout is so well designed. It's large. Everything is very readable which is so necessary for people in their senior years, as I'm sure all your readers appreciate.

It's brilliant. It is truly a community paper. It feels like family. I so enjoyed every aspect of it. Even the ads!!

Keep up the excellent work you are doing with this very special newspaper. It really is unique.

Willi Carney (Ms)

## Heat kills more Australians than any natural disaster

Extreme heat can affect anybody. Heat can cause illnesses such as heat cramps and heat exhaustion which can lead to the life-threatening condition, heatstroke. Heatstroke is fatal in up to 80% of cases.

Those most at risk are older people, young children and people with a medical condition.

### BEFORE AND DURING A HEATWAVE

- Stay hydrated.
- Drink two to three litres of water each day, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol and caffeine.
- Dress light. Lighter clothing helps your body stay cool. Light-coloured clothing reflects heat and sunlight. Try and use cotton or linen fabrics.
- Check on family, friends and neighbours especially those most at risk such as the elderly



and young children.

- Stay out of the sun or take shelter. If you need to be out in the sun, wear a shirt, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Sunburn will affect your body's ability to cope

with the heat.

- Draw your curtains, blinds and awnings at the start of the day to keep as much sun out of your home as possible.
- Seek air conditioning. If you don't have air conditioning at home, spend the day somewhere that does such as a library, cinema or shopping centre. If you do have an air conditioner at home, make sure it has been serviced. Fans will also help you stay cool.
- Keep yourself cool by using wet towels, putting your feet in cool water and taking cool (not cold) showers.
- Make sure your pets have plenty of shade and enough cool water to last the entire day. Hose them down or put ice cubes in their bowl. Check on them regularly. A cool bath, wet towel to lie on, a place next to a fan and plenty of fresh water work just as well for animals.
- NEVER leave children or pets in parked vehicles.

### HEAT STRESS

If you or those close to you are suffering heat stress, call for help immediately.

- Symptoms of heat stress include extremely heavy sweating, headache and vomiting, confusion, swollen tongue.
- All life-threatening situations should be reported by calling triple-0
- Plan ahead
- Keep up to date with weather forecasts - watch the news daily, check the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecast online and

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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## Maintenance Carpenter

### Andrew Young

### Yackandandah

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Phone: 02 6027 1962

- read the current heat health alert on [health.vic](#).
- Cancel non-essential outings and plan essential activities for the coolest part of the day.
- Stock up on food, water and medicines so you don't have to go out in the heat.
- Visit your doctor to check if changes are needed to your medicines during extreme heat.
- Store medicines safely at the recommended temperature.
- Check that your fan or air-conditioner works well. Have your air-conditioner serviced if necessary.
- Prepare for power failures - ensure you have a torch, battery-operated radio, fully charged mobile phone or battery back-up, food items that don't require refrigeration, medications, plenty of drinking water and other essential items.
- Look at the things you can do to make your home cooler such as installing window coverings, shade cloths or external blinds on the sides of the house facing the sun.
- Check in on others - look after those most at risk in the heat – your neighbour living alone, older people, young children, people with a medical condition and don't forget your pets.
- Keep in touch with friends and family who may need help. Call or visit them at least once on any extreme heat day.
- Encourage them to drink plenty of water.
- Offer to help family, friends and neighbours who are aged over 65 or have an illness by doing shopping or other errands so they can avoid the heat.
- Take them somewhere cool for the day or have them stay the night if they are unable to stay cool in their home.
- If you observe symptoms of [heat-related illness](#), seek medical help.

## YACK COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2020 – WRAP-UP

This year we knew our lunch would be different and it was! We had our lowest number since the first lunch was held in 2016, with a total of 37 people (including volunteers) enjoying a very relaxed and casual day.

With lower numbers through the doors there was a reduction in donations on the day. However the continued generous support by local people and businesses meant that we still covered all our expenses.

We were blessed with wonderful weather on the day, the atmosphere was comfortable given the ability to spread out more, the volunteers were keen as always and the food was fantastic. For the first time the volunteers all got to sit and enjoy the company of those attending, taking the time to catch up for a chat with attendees and each other alike.

Once again "thank you" to the Yackandandah Football & Netball Club for the free use of their facilities on the day. Thanks also to the Yackandandah Lions Club for their trestles at short notice.

To all the volunteers who give up their time, either to set-up, help on the day, or to clean-up – a huge thank you. Your continued support and willingness to assist ensures the event runs smoothly.

Thanks must also go to the generosity of the following local businesses and individuals for their donations.

**Thank you to the following for their continued generous support of this community event:**

Rafferty's Catering Wodonga, 7<sup>th</sup> Pocket, John & Frances Boehm, Beechworth Newsagency, Louise Humphrey, Yack Lions Club, Yack Holiday Park, YCDCO

Hopefully we can experience another lovely lunch for 2021. See you there!

*Carmel Kelley & Volunteers*

## ASTRONOMY

### Satellite Galaxies

Our Milky Way galaxy has smaller galaxies that are gravitationally bound to it, these are called satellite galaxies. There are at least 50 of these satellite galaxies orbiting the Milky Way, this is known as the Local Group. And the largest of these Satellite galaxies is known as the Large Magellanic Cloud.

#### The Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC)

The Large Magellanic Cloud is 158,000 light years away from us and has a diameter of 14,000 light years. Roughly 1/100th the size of the Milky Way Galaxy, it also has 15 billion stars in it. The LMC has a number of fascinating objects for astronomers to observe including: the Tarantula Nebula, the Seahorse or NGC-2074, and the NGC-1835, plus 60 globular clusters, 400 planetary nebulae, and 700 open star clusters.

#### The Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC)

The Small Magellanic Cloud is 199,000 light years away from us and has a diameter of 7,000 light years. It is classified as a dwarf irregular galaxy and has approximately 7 billion stars. Some speculate that the SMC was once a barred spiral galaxy that was disrupted by the Milky Way to become somewhat irregular shaped although it still contains some of its central bar structure.

#### LMC and SMC Locations



The LMC and SMC are two of the closest galaxies to our Milky Way. In fact, they are so close to us that we can easily see them with our naked eye. They are located in the constellations Tucana and Hydrus. Start by

finding the Southern Cross, then follow the longest line of the Southern Cross in the southerly direction until you locate the SMC. They are so recognisable in the night sky that most people mistake them as small weather clouds rather than satellite galaxies.

*Zac Davis*



### AIIM Choices supporting locals to gain NDIS funding

Jason was involved in a car crash on a local country road while on his way to school. The 18-year-old now has permanent injuries affecting his ability to carry out many everyday tasks. After 5 months in hospital, AIIM Choices helped Jason to apply to become a Participant in the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme).

To be eligible to access the scheme and gain NDIS funding, AIIM Choices supported Jason through the application process. This included organising supporting evidence of his disability and how it impacts his daily life, and filling out the required application documentation.

The evidence was collected from his GP that had been with Jason his whole life and a physiotherapist and occupational therapist he has been working closely with since his accident. They each provided a report confirming his disability and the impact it is having on different areas of his life – his inability to shower independently, the difficulties he has using kitchen utensils and preparing his own meals, the times he has to say 'no' to getting together with mates because he now relies on others to drive him places.

The health professionals also described in their reports the treatments they have prescribed and worked through with Jason, as well as the outcomes. Jason's funding was approved allowing Jason to progress and grow to achieve his independence.



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## COVID STRATEGY FOR SMALLER COMMUNITIES

While we have low to zero numbers of COVID-19 cases at present, experience shows us that an outbreak can occur anywhere any time. A vaccine is on the way, but it will be a long time before the whole country is safe. In the meantime, we need to be prepared to act if need be.

First the facts regarding COVID-19 should be reviewed. It has been clearly seen from overseas in particular but also in Australia, that the faster the response, the faster and better the clearance rate. Taiwan, in particular, has a very enviable position in spite of being on China's doorstep. WA has been clear for a long time and has normal travel, shopping, work etc. Any delays in preventative action means the inevitable spread of the virus further into the community.

Victoria's health system is very centralised, as has been commented on by several very well qualified experts. Essentially it appears that the system was centralised in the capital, Melbourne, which is where parliament and senior public servants live. The idea of regional Victoria to most of them is Geelong or Dandenong! The issue of local testing is very important, currently if someone around here thinks they may have COVID-19, they have to travel to Wodonga for testing.

I checked with the local health centre and was advised by them that any possibly infected person has to be taken to Wodonga and back for testing (and be isolated until the results are back, difficult when you are in a car with a driver bringing you home!). I can't think of a better way of spreading the virus than to be cooped up in a car for an hour or more with an infected person. By comparison, while it is hard to count them from here, there seems to be over 40 testing spots in Melbourne, far less distance to travel, especially in the inner areas.

Currently any health response has to be directed from Melbourne. In the past this has taken far too long. Where the virus has spread to smaller regional town in the past, it has taken days in some cases to get a coved team in place, during which the virus had spread further within the community and as a result of the delay, become more difficult to control and eradicate.

We in smaller towns simply cannot afford to depend on a slow Melbourne-centric response. So, it is essential to have decentralised response mechanisms which can respond virtually immediately to any virus threat. Such an approach will be resisted strongly by "head office" who will demand that everyone follow their systems and most importantly maintain "head office's" control over everyone and everything regardless of the consequences. More cases are of secondary importance compared to maintaining control and power to some people.

### So how could a decentralised fast response system be achieved?

The Government is very reliant on the original nasal swab test, this is reasonably reliable but not 100%. It requires that health workers "poke a chop stick" up the patient's nose and test the resulting swab sample in a pathology lab. This technique is slow, cumbersome, and expensive. As a result of being slow in clearing or quarantining patients, it leads to the unnecessary lockdown of people while waiting for the results. In the case of the nasal swab test, the health worker is directly in front of and close to the patient who is breathing on them and who is also likely to sneeze or cough due to nasal irritation, so the health worker has to have a very high standard personal protection equipment.

But technology has moved on, although the bureaucracy has generally not. They are very reluctant indeed to adopt more up to date techniques. There is no longer a need to do a nasal swab, along with its inherent danger to the operator. A spit test into the old-fashioned sterile containers used by pathology collection points everywhere is almost as accurate as the nasal swabs (the Victorian Government had an independent University lab do comparison tests). These tests can be rolled out extremely quickly when needed, all it needs is a good supply of the already available sterile containers. If needed, volunteers such as ex nurses, ambos, etc. could help the pathology staff hand out bottles, label them etc., a far less hazardous procedure than a nasal swab.

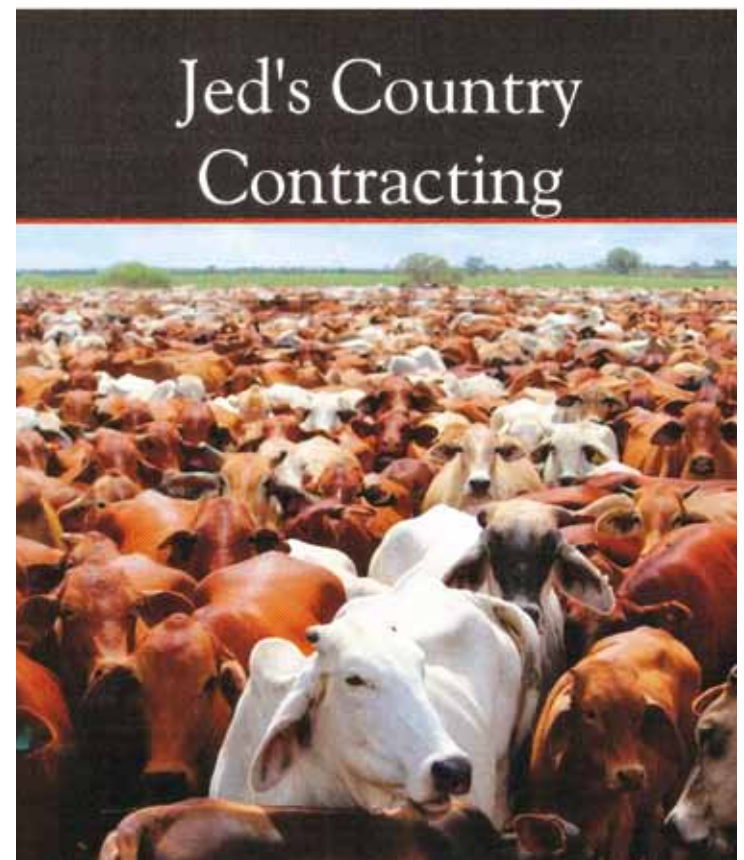
Since then, a Queensland research group has developed an "on the spot test" that takes only minutes to produce results, so that uninfected people can be separated from infective ones on the spot. Millions of these test kits are being exported to the USA and soon to Britain and to Europe, yet they are not approved for use in Australia. The only reason I can think of for effectively banning them in their country of origin is a refusal to relinquish centralised control and power. The developers have stated publicly that the on the spot test kits are about \$30. I have been unable to get a cost of the current nasal test, but given the need for extreme personal safety systems, the need for skilled, trained staff, testing the samples in a central lab etc., the current costs must far exceed \$30.

Give the large number of tests currently being done every day in Victoria alone, testing everyone in, say, Yack is minuscule by comparison. If the whole town were tested immediately, there would be no need at all for expensive infection tracing teams. Test again after say a week and any infected people who were exposed originally but had not yet got to the stage of passing on

the virus would be captured at the second test. Very quickly the town could be virus free and everyone able to get on with life. Kids' footy matches, concerts, community get togethers etc. would all be safe again. All that is needed is a stockpile of test kits located throughout the regional towns which are, able to be accessed immediately and independently, along with a local group of volunteers if needed to oversee the tests and record the results. Not a big ask when we already have such groups for fires, floods etc. The local councils are almost entirely under the control of the state government via their regulations, so we cannot look to them to take up any such challenge against the wishes of the centralised bureaucracy, this will need to be a grass roots initiative, in the past Yack has proven to be very capable of just such grass roots responses to problems, this is just another.

Epidemiologists had been warning governments for years that an epidemic is due any time but were largely ignored. Hence, we were short of all sorts of essentials when the inevitable happened. Now we need to learn the lessons from this situation and make sure we don't get caught unprepared again. Having a small, independent, local group in every town who can immediately spring into action in the future, when the need arises would be an essential part of solving any future problems, as well as dealing with the need for fast testing in the present situation.

Arthur Davies



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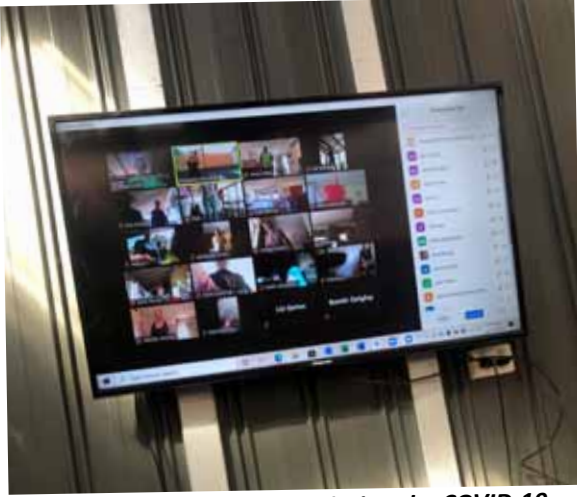
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## Looking 'COVID' Good

What a year for the Looking Good Ladies Exercise Group. We started the year strong. Up to 30 plus ladies, twice a week working to build their strength, lung capacity, endurance, and most importantly, their critiquing of coffee brewed by Yackandandah's local baristas.



Remotely exercising during the COVID-19 pandemic

But apparently the world needed a shake up, and the pandemic that we are sick of hearing about hit calling for us to adapt. And adapt we did.

2020 saw 20 spritely ladies learn new skills. Zoom was downloaded to iPads, phones, laptops and with a quick distribution of equipment we were back in action. A little different as many of you who have been using Zoom for your work or your social connections with family as we moved from 20 conversations in one room to one instructor-led session with 20 people on mute. A quieter session all round with conversations only being held before and after each class.

2020 saw the addition of some men to the group. Husbands and friends of husbands took to Zoom training alongside their wives or in separate rooms if need be to continue their own health journey in what was to be the norm for most of the year.



Enjoying each other's company - at last!

2020 saw the expansion of our group from Yackandandah to 3 states (Victoria, NSW and QLD). Who would have ever guessed that this little group from Yack could have such impact outside the North East?

This was not the end for our 2020 year. Whilst the majority of the Looking Good Group continues to train online, the easing of restrictions saw some who were unable or reluctant to join Zoom re-join classes face to face in a hybrid style session.

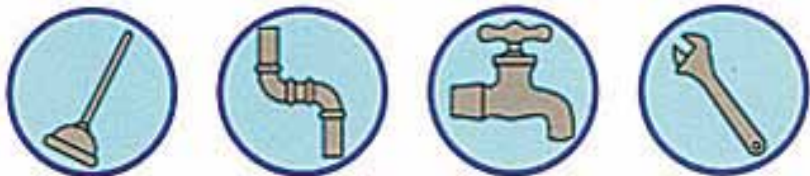
So many firsts for the group, all which were taken in our stride, allowing us to continue to connect, engage, keep fit and have something to look forward to outside the bigger issues affecting the world.

Finishing off the year, we were able to host our annual Christmas catch up and reflect on the year that was, before having a break ready to do some of it all over again in 2021.

Suzanne McIntosh  
0411 234 277



A face-to-face catch up at Christmas



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What a year 2020 was! We started the year off with full training plans, new prospective members and training courses booked. Of course, that had all changed by March...

Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you to all our essential workers. Doctors, nurses, teachers, industry

workers, food essential services and emergency workers, thank you for continuing to work and adapt to the new conditions that came with COVID-19 and 2020. We would also like to acknowledge the Yackandandah local businesses that kept us all going. From the amazing staff at Foodworks to each and every retail and café in the main street - thank you!

We would like to thank Pete, Reggie and the staff at the Yackandandah Hotel for hosting our annual Christmas party in December 2020. How great is it to support local businesses!

Last year we welcomed two new members, both of whom unfortunately did not get to attend many face-to-face training sessions but who both managed to pass their truck licences mid-pandemic! Well done to you both. We also assisted police in a

search that required 4WD and some newly learnt skills in social distancing. We assisted in the early 2020 fires around the region, and throughout the year we attended our regular tree jobs.

Last year we began trialling a new alert system – SAS (Supplementary Alerting Service). As this is still in the first stages of its roll out within the SES, we do ask for your patience regarding attendance to jobs. Yackandandah SES Unit is primarily a flood, storm and water emergency response unit, meaning that we do not get dispatched to road crash emergencies as a primary response. If we are in attendance, it is to support our neighbouring units or police, as needed.



Practicing social distancing

The weather is heating up and heating up fast, although we have had a few days of cooler weather and rainfall. The rapid changes in temperature can cause tree limbs to dry out inside and drop, so watch for limbs that look unsafe and if you are worried, call the appropriate contractor. The Yackandandah SES will respond to a **132 500** call when a tree has fallen and is blocking a road, or posing a potential threat.

Flash flooding is a serious issue with the sporadic moments of rain that we have been occasionally getting. To prepare for a flood, create a home emergency kit or 'go bag' so that you can rest easy knowing that you will have the necessities, should you have to leave. In this kit you should have: your emergency plan (where you are going), radio or phone and chargers to ensure that you stay informed, a torch, spare batteries, important documents, a first aid kit



that includes your regular medications, long life food as well as pet food if you have animals that you will take with you, safe drinking water and gloves.

With the unpredictable weather that we have been getting, remember to check your pets, livestock and their water. Make sure that it is accessible and if possible, in a shady area so that it doesn't heat up during the sunny day. The rising heat and face masks also don't go together very



well, so make sure that you check on your family members, older members of the community and neighbours throughout the week.

Welcome to the year 2021. This year we at Yackandandah SES Unit cannot wait to resume face-to-face training, when it is safe to do so. Stay connected and stay safe.

Louise Rietmann  
Training Officer

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**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT FROM OUR COMMUNITY FOR A DEDICATED BUSH KINDER PROGRAM DAY OFFERED BY YACKANDANDAH KINDERGARTEN IN 2021.**

Yackandandah Kindergarten is considering offering a dedicated bush kinder program day to 3yo and 4yo children in our community in 2021, subject to public interest.

The program model currently being investigated is a 7.5-hour day offered on a Tuesday between the hours of 8.30am – 4.00pm; with the children active in the bush setting between 9.00am – 2.00pm. The program would be delivered by a Bachelor-trained Educator with considerable experience in classroom and bush kinder program delivery. The program cost would be \$656 per term.

At Yackandandah Bush Kinder we will explore the natural environment, discover bugs and other creatures, and research their names. We will

explore the relationship between plants and animals, explore water and mud, make art from what we find, build cubbies or humpies and explore the indigenous heritage of the area in a child led play-based setting. Communication & literacy, maths & numeracy and science education whilst also learning about sustainability, are all happening whilst the children explore and play.

**Why do we think this program day would be beneficial?**

- Growing evidence shows that Bush Kinder helps children's emotional and social development.
- Bush Kinder encourages children to use and develop their creativity and imagination, increases their physical skills, and helps them develop a deep understanding of nature.
- Differing from classroom learning, this dedicated outdoor learning day can offer a relaxed introduction to kindergarten as a stand-alone day or can complement the 3yo/4yo funded kinder program days already offered.

If you would be interested in enrolling your child for such a program, we ask that you please email the kinder at [yackandandah.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:yackandandah.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au) or leave a message on the Kinder Office phone 02 6027 1560 ASAP.



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## WHAT ABOUT A WOMEN'S SHED?

The wheels are turning and the Yackandandah Women's Shed is starting to become a reality!

There has been so much interest from the women in our community and as this article goes to print, an interim committee is being formed and discussions are taking place. We are on our way to becoming an Incorporated Body. We are planning and talking to members from other Women's Sheds and Community Houses in the hope of getting it right before we open the doors.

The Yackandandah Men's Shed has been very helpful and accommodating, and in my initial meeting with some of the committee back in November, it was agreed that our Women's group would be auspiced by the Men's group. They have offered us the use of their Meeting Room, undercover verandah and kitchen on a day that is not being used by them. What a generous offer! We are to become a separate identity with their initial support.

Before I go any further, I would like to reassure the members of the Men's Shed that the women have no wish or need to enter their workshop area. All of our activities will be carried out in the areas we have been allocated. In fact, the men won't even know we have been there, except that maybe the kitchen sink will be a little shinier!

The aims of both sheds are the same. We are a Not-For-Profit organisation offering members a welcoming space where they can pursue a variety of recreational activities, try new things, upskill and share their strengths, in a safe and non-threatening environment which nurtures them physically, mentally and socially. We see the Women's Shed as a place to work on our own craft projects,

ask advice, listen to various guest speakers from all walks of life, take the occasional mini workshop in something that interests you, maybe it could be a place to step out of your comfort zone and try new things or an opportunity to work on community projects or simply a fun place to converse with friends over a cuppa. There could be opportunities to sell our craft items at local markets where goods are made and donated. The list is endless and we will be so happy to listen to your ideas.

We understand that people will have different expectations of how a Women's Shed should be organised. There are over one hundred sheds in Australia, each differs from the others in varying degrees.

The women who have put their hands up to form the first committee come with a wealth of skills and knowledge. It will be their job to put in place rules, organise insurance, source teachers, speakers and activities and liaise with the Yack Men's Shed Committee who have so kindly offered guidance. Our committee will be a temporary one until we can organise our AGM.

We are planning on holding an Information Night in the near future where we can let you know more about the Shed, listen to your needs and suggestions and really get things happening. Start thinking about activities you may like to participate in, perhaps you have a skill you could share, or volunteer for a small job requiring minimal effort. As the old saying goes... many hands make light work. More information will be available soon so keep a lookout.

When women support each other, incredible things happen.

Lynne Davies

## A RAMBLE WITH THE EDITOR

So much happening. Even with COVID-19 still nipping at our heels Yack & district people carry on regardless, and there are some rather fun things happening again. Well done to the Yack Community Centre for their musical picnics happening over the next three months at the Community Garden. Check out the details on pages 26 and 27 and get the dates in your diaries.

The weather, too, has been pretty amazing compared with 2019/20 when we fried under those endless hot days with no rain. Some of the old timers have said "we used to have a summer in those (far off halcyon) days, not a bushfire season..." Let's hope we can get to the end of summer without too many of those over 40 degree days.

All the animals have had it much easier with these cooler days. Our striated pardalotes are on their third brood of babies as I write this. Last year they didn't manage to rear a single one. They started much earlier this year, and October 2020 saw them investigating the bird boxes we have dotted around our house.

And on birdwatching, I am very pleased to finally have seen a photo of our favourite Yack twitcher, Kelvin Schultz, who is also clearly a demon golfer too! Always nice to put a face to a name, particularly a person who is so gifted with his bird photography.

Yackity Yak is lucky with their amazing advertisers - a huge thank you to each and every one of you. We keep afloat only by our advertising revenue, and so each advert is very important to our bottom line! We seem to attract one or two new advertisers each issue, so please - when you use a service that you see in your local community newspaper - let them know where you saw their advert. It is very important that Yackity Yak is doing its job as a conduit between businesses and their customers.

It's great to hear that our community groups are being allowed to get back together and the collaboration between the existing Men's Shed (the Yack Shack) and the embryonic Women's Shed is another great example of Yack people working together. Well done to everyone involved. We look forward to hearing how things progress with this over the next couple of months.

Take care everyone. We are still not completely out of the woods yet, but it is encouraging that people are being so responsible and that we are avoiding the scenarios happening in the Northern hemisphere. A time for being grateful for small mercies.

Ali

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





# Naming rules for places in Victoria Review 2020

Under the **Geographic Place Names Act 1998** (the Act) there is a legislative requirement to review the Naming rules for places in Victoria 2016 (naming rules) at least once every five years. The review

process will incorporate feedback from stakeholders and reflect community interests as far as reasonable within the scope of the document and within the policies and procedures of Geographic Names Victoria (GNV).

The Naming rules for places in Victoria 2016 will be reviewed over 2020-21 under the **Geographic Place Names Act 1998**

## Project Benefits

Place naming is integral to land administration and planning processes in Victoria. As place naming embeds community identity into our landscape, the naming rules form an important statutory instrument for GNV, naming authorities and the community. Revision of the naming rules will reflect the Registrar of Geographic Names (the Registrar) concerns about some aspects of the current naming rules. Stakeholder and community feedback will be considered in the revision process.

The naming rules also offer advice to the community, naming authorities and other stakeholders about how to ensure compliance, lodge proposals, undertake consultation, how to deal with submissions and appeals and how GNV will deal with naming proposals.

## How to Participate

Participants in the review will influence the outcome of the review process, including having the opportunity to guide the direction and focus of Geographic Names Victoria. For example, supporting promotion and adoption of Indigenous languages and names, promoting and supporting gender equality in naming, streamlining naming processes and commemorating prominent Victorians. In addition, users of the naming rules and participants in the review can identify issues and gaps, and propose enhancements.

With that in mind we must note that there are international, national and State principles and procedures which must be maintained to ensure communities are protected and our Victorian cultural history is preserved.

## Virtual Workshops

In February 2021, three virtual workshops will be held which will provide an opportunity to hear directly from stakeholders. The primary focus will be for industry stakeholders to discuss possible enhancements and raise issues directly with the project team, anyone is welcome to attend.

The following dates have been scheduled for virtual workshops.

- Tuesday 9 February 10 – 12 pm, Monday 15 February 10 – 12 pm, Friday 19 February 1 - 3 pm

If you would like to attend please email [geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:geo.names@delwp.vic.gov.au) with your preferred date.

For more information and to answer a short survey, check out <https://engage.vic.gov.au/naming-rules-places-victoria-review-2020>



So very good to hear that Helen Kelley is making a good recovery so far and has been moved to Wodonga Hospital.

Yackity Yak wishes Helen all the very best in her march back to health. We look forward to seeing her around the traps again.

Found a new hobby in 2020? Need more space?

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# YACK GARDEN CLUB

## SUMMER

Country gardens, especially larger areas, tend to reveal and respond to the seasons more than their smaller city counterparts. An Australian summer asks more of us in terms of care if we wish to preserve the flush and blush of spring. Heat and dry winds take their toll on

both established trees and newly planted seedlings. Previous summers have shown us how harsh and cruel a summer can be with many gardens suffering significant losses of established trees and struggling shrubs and flower beds.



Trip to the Humming Garden and Out of Town Nursery

So far, we've been lucky. The first week of January has provided more than one and a half times all of last year's January rainfall, but the promise of continuing rain is still doubtful and there are still a couple of months to go. We can hope for a repeat of last year's generous March and April autumn rains, but in the meantime, there's work to be done. The most obvious is, of course, watering and mulch.

### Tips and reminders

Water on its own is not enough. Ideally, long and deep watering followed by a feed of liquid fertiliser or seaweed is far superior to daily light watering. Penetration to the roots is vital. Preserving that water from evaporation is the job of mulch – not so heavy as to impede the water, but heavy enough to protect the plant. Strategic soaking is preferable to sprinkling.

If ever there was a time to install zoned watering systems with timers on taps, it was yesterday – or it's now.

Camellias are susceptible to dropping buds and flowers, so will need special attention. Likewise, hydrangeas are thirsty and will need both water and shade.

Pots are vulnerable, especially terracotta pots that dry out more quickly because they're porous. Moving potted plants into the shade wherever possible will help, as will checking them every second or third day. To keep them moist, you can stand them in a dish of water, but that provides a breeding place for mosquitos.

To avoid the problem, the dish can be filled with wet sand.

Watering is best during the cool of the day to both minimize evaporation and to stop the water boiling on the leaves. Around fruit trees, and especially citrus, watering in potash will keep the soil slightly acidic and help the plant.

Many gardeners don't try to keep their grass or lawns green over summer, accepting that they will recover later. However, best to keep what lawn there is longer by raising the mower height so the grass can better retain what moisture there might be.

Some shrubs, together with pots that can't be readily moved, may need a temporary shadecloth for protection, making sure there is still enough air flow, and the cloth is clear of foliage.

Equally important, a water supply for birds and wildlife should be kept topped up and fresh. Not only did our echidna come looking for water, but birds are constantly drinking and bathing in any of the five shallow bowls. Even a kangaroo thought he was a bird and knocked the big birdbath off its pedestal in his eagerness for a drink. (Creek and dam water evidently not clean enough!)

### Out of Town Nursery and Humming Garden (From Jill)

A very pleasant morning was spent on 12<sup>th</sup> December at the Humming Garden and Out of Town nursery on Mt Pilot. Our gracious hosts, Tina and Gavin gave us an entertaining talk on their efforts and trials in this haven on the side of Mt Pilot. For almost 40 years they have battled rocky soil, drought, bushfires and wildlife to establish a veritable oasis of serenity and beauty with a surprise at every turn in this, their "Humming Garden" so named because it is humming with life. Eastern spinebills sip nectar from the diverse flora while

very casual chooks dust themselves as you pass. The nursery is full of unusual and rare plants. As Gavin said, a garden is the ultimate artform and this is proven with the different plants and aspects presented there. It was good to have a cuppa and a catch up with members.

### Cemetery Roses

A good turn up at the cemetery on 5th December 2020 saw the roses dead-headed in record time. We had conducted an experiment this year, with one block being pruned heavily right to the ground. These had regrown much the same as the conventionally pruned ones, maybe a little less, but all had bloomed well. Thanks to those who attended, many hands make light work.



Rose pruning at the Yack Cemetery - trying a new method

### Club Business

The AGM was held at Wellsford House on 16/1/2021 at 10am accompanied by morning tea.

Fees / subs deferred until June 2021 for the 2021/22 year.

All positions were reviewed.

### Calendar of Events

Tuesday 2/2/2021	Streetscape
Thursday 4/2/2021	4.40pm Executive meeting (all welcome) Wellsford House
Thursday 11/4/21	General meeting at Wellsford House, 7pm. Guest speaker: Shiralee Fish talking about salvias.
Tuesday 23/2/2021	10am Helping Hands @ Yack Health
Tuesday 2/3/2021	Streetscape

Michael Metzger  
(Communications & Media Secretary)

**STOP PRESS: the Yackandandah Garden Club will be acknowledged for our contribution to the community at the Australia Day Community Breakfast in Sir Isaacs Park, Isaacs Avenue Yackandandah, on 26 January 2021.**



One of the Humming Garden residents

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# YACK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

With the Christmas holiday season over for another year, we are now looking to the future to keep the Museum open five days a week. With the closure through much of 2020, we unfortunately have found that our volunteer base has depleted and if we are to continue opening Wednesday to Sunday

## WE NEED YOU

You will learn about the history of the Bank of Victoria, the Manager's cottage, and discover what we have in our collection of over 11,000 items. As an Attendant you will greet visitors, keep the cottage and bank building tidy and assist with opening and closing procedures. There will also be opportunities to become involved in creating our displays, doing research or working with our collections team.

What next? Drop in or contact us to arrange a time when you could spend an hour or so with the volunteer on duty to discover first-hand what the duties entail.

If you decide to come on board, full training will be given. Rostered days are optional and the amount of time you have to give is your decision. Please see below for contact details.

Visitor numbers over January have been very high, mainly due to the influx of Victorian's holidaying in the north east due to the Victorian border closure. The Museum offers visitors a rare glimpse into our historic past with the cottage being

a star attraction. The current exhibition "From Top to Bottom" also offers a wonderful insight into the workings of the Star Hotel, the Yackandandah Hotel and the Bridge Hotel. One visitor commented to our staff that 'his faith in Museums has been restored'.



Volunteer Chris Zerbst assists Andrea Dunlop, a visitor to the Museum

We feel privileged to offer such authentic and well-preserved history.

The Y&DHS held their AGM in November with a good turnout of Members. Congratulations must be given to the re-elected and new members of the Committee:

President: Sue Bell  
Vice President: Pam Noble  
Secretary: Linton Lethlean  
Minutes Secretary: Nancy Penny  
Treasurer: Trevor Matthews  
Committee members: Thelma Buchanan, Mark Grealy, Michelle Walsh and Brett Rochow.

Mention must be made of two of our retiring Committee members:

Catherine Crameri for her tireless work on the Committee and in particular for her work in researching and designing the panels for many of the displays, her creative ideas and the projects she provided to the Y&DHS over a considerable number of years.

We would like to acknowledge Peter Adams, retiring Vice President, for his willingness to campaign and represent the society at many community events.

We would also like to publicly thank Pam Noble who has retired as our Treasurer after many years at the helm. Pam is remaining on as Vice President.

## CONTACT:

Email: [museum@yackandandah.com](mailto:museum@yackandandah.com)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/yackandandah.museum.9](https://www.facebook.com/yackandandah.museum.9)  
Web: [Yackandandahmuseum.wordpress.com](http://Yackandandahmuseum.wordpress.com)  
Phone: 02 6027 0627

## MOSAICS, MUSEUMS AND MUSIC

*Mosaics, museums* and even *music* share a common ancestry in old-time religion. They are called after the sacred Muses, Zeus' daughters, who were the goddesses of inspiration. Nine altogether, each of them presided over one specific form of art or knowledge, such as comedy, tragedy, choral and religious dance, lyric and amorous poetry, history and astronomy.

All the word *music* indicates is that the art it names "belongs to the Muses", the very etymological source of a *mosaic* as well. A museum, meaning 'the home of the Muses', originally was a shrine or grove dedicated to them.

The first museum which was more than a place of worship was established in 280 BC by Ptolemy I Soter. It was situated in Alexandria, Egypt, then a world centre of scholarship and research. Though still built in honour of the Muses – like a temple to them – it also served persons of learning as a kind of university.

It contained as well a large library and – the first example of a museum's modern use – displayed a collection of rare specimens of animals and plants that Ptolemy had gathered from all over the then known world.

From "The Book of Beginnings" by Dr. R. & L. Brasch



Photo Credit: Yackandandah Museum

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# YACKANDANDAH FISHING CLUB

Yackandandah Fishing Club held their AGM in November 2020. Thank you to all members who attended. Committee elections were held:

**President:** Mick Ellis  
**Vice President:** Andrew Schultz  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Cindy Chalmers



Ash weighing in her catch and release

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 13<sup>th</sup> Yackaranga Cup – Yackandandah vs Dederang Fishing Club. Please let Mick or Cindy know if you would like to attend for catering purposes.

March – Myrtleford and District Fishing Club Competition to be held at Lake Buffalo. If you would like details, please speak to Mick or Cindy.

July 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> – Khancoban Trip - More details to follow.

September/October – Jindabyne Trip- More details to follow.

December 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> – Cod Classic – Lake Mulwala. Talk to Mick or Cindy about details.

During 2020 not many events were held. The Club attended the Cod Classic held in Lake Mulwala which was limited to only 500 entrants. Congratulations to all members for attending.

Molly Schultz took out 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest Junior Cod, with a whooping 61cm Murray Cod. Lilly Schultz won 10<sup>th</sup> prize in junior cod entry raffle. Well done girls. Mick Ellis won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the adult cod entry raffle.

If you would like any information about the Club, please email the Yackandandah Fishing Club at [yackfishingclub@gmail.com](mailto:yackfishingclub@gmail.com) or contact Mick Ellis on 0427 075 303 or Cindy Chalmers on 0439 475 536

Tight lines!



Prize winners Molly and Lilly Schultz either side of Mick Ellis at the Cod Classic, Lake Mulwala



Well, with the new bowzers installed, the building gussied up with new paintwork, aircon keeping staff and customers alike cool, electric doors to keep the coolth in - your community fuel station, farm and hardware store is going gangbusters.

We have applied for permission to change our opening hours so that we can provide additional service to our local tradies and those leaving for work early.

Our hours are now:

**Monday - Friday: 6.00 am to 7.00 pm**

**Saturday: 7.00 am to 5.00 pm**

**Sunday: 8.30 am to 5.00 pm**

Thanks to everyone that completed our recent surveys. The results will feed into our plans for the Company and your time and effort is very much appreciated. We hope to have some more exciting developments at the servo before too long.

Remember that shares are always available in your Community Development Company. Hop onto the internet and you can find all the details at:

<https://ycdco.com.au/shareholders/shares/>

We will also be making some significant changes to our website this year to bring it smack up to date and to reflect its importance in the Yack Community. It's always a big job doing a re-brand, but an exciting one and we look forward to showing this off later on in the year.

Keep safe during another challenging year.

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## Indi Stronger Communities Programme Round 6 – Open for Expressions of Interest

I am delighted to advise you that expressions of interest can now be lodged for grants of between \$2,500 and \$20,000 from the Stronger Communities Programme Round 6. A total of \$150,000 is available to incorporated, not-for-profit organisations, local government and trustees of community assets, for projects that build participation and contribute to the vibrancy and sustainability of your community.

Round 6 funding is designed to support Australia's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Grant funding for each project will be up to 100 per cent of eligible project costs, except for local government where funding will be available for 50 per cent of the project costs. This is a change from previous rounds where applicants were expected to contribute in-kind or cash contributions to the total project cost.

There is always very strong interest in these grants and I receive many wonderful community proposals. I will be working alongside a committee of representatives from local government and community groups, to assess the expressions of interest. With the input of this group, I will nominate a total of \$150,000 projects. Successful proponents will then be invited to apply for a grant. The final decision on successful applications will be made by a delegate of the government.

I look forward to receiving your expression of interest for eligible, small capital projects between **Tuesday 19 January and 5.00 p.m. Friday 26 February**. Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you would like further information. It is important to carefully read the [information and guidelines](#) and ensure that your project meets the eligibility criteria. You can utilise this expression of interest form and read more information about the process in Indi.

You can also visit my website (<https://www.helenhaines.org/media/indi-150000-stronger-communities-grant-round-opens>) for information about applying for this particular grant. I have provided a suite of informative videos and useful tools to help you in your expression of interest for a Stronger Communities Programme grant.

Kind regards

Helen Haines MP

Independent Federal Member for Indi



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group

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03 5728 0200 for further information



Photo credit: 1 Million Women

## THE LAST AUCTION

In the name of Free Trade, the auctioneer cried, I'm offering this vast stretch of land

To you many keen overseas buyers, all Australians and patriots banned.

To those patrimonial or even 'true blue', there's no place here for you at this sale.

Though you've toiled all your life midst drought, flood and strife, common practice as bureaucrats fail.

No interrupting you people, while we're selling you off along with the culture you always held dear,

We are selling all real estate, water and ports. Could be the next is your beer.

We are selling your future and heritage too, our agents keep travelling the world.

Like as not I'll predict for tomorrow, you'll see a strange flag then unfurled.

We've sold the freedom of speech along with the press, political correctness has stings like the bees,

The aged feel ashamed of their country, while the bleeding hearts, cultural cringe on their knees.

Seems we've lost all our "Made in Australia", what we found and died for turned sour.

We will wake up one morning for certain to find this nation no longer is ours.

In the cause of Fair Trade, the auctioneer cried, we are trading this vast stretch of land.

Bid up all you overseas vultures, 'tis no more the bird in their hand.

We are seeking out foreign investment; who we sell to, there isn't a law,

Be prepared to seek out asylum because this country no longer is "yours".

Bill Whitham  
Tallangatta



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0409705038

Yackandandah 3749  
vispaint@gmail.com

Little Johnny was in the garden filling in a hole when his neighbour peered over the fence. Interested in what the cheeky-faced youngster was up to, he politely asked, "What are you up to there Johnny?" "My goldfish died" replied Johnny tearfully without looking up, "and I've just buried him." The neighbour was concerned. "That's an awfully big hole for a goldfish isn't it?" he said. Johnny patted down the last shovel full of earth then replied, "That's because he's inside your blooming cat."

Thank you Reg of the Rain Report.

## NATURAL DISASTERS AND THE YACKANDANDAH COMMUNITY - A CALL TO ACTION

I'm wondering how we can best prepare our community to recover from natural disasters. We live in the most fire-prone state in Australia, and Yackandandah itself has been threatened 3 times in the last 20 years. What can we learn from the experiences of the Upper Murray last summer?

The blaze that swept through from Jingellic, Cudgewa, Colac Colac on New Year's Eve 2019 then continued to attack the town of Corryong and surrounds on various fronts over the next few days, is a fairly familiar fire story. An inferno after several years of dry or drought. The wind and speed of the fire and the pyrocumulonimbus forces brought a new ferocity. The survivors had no power, water, limited phone, hundreds of burnt and suffering animals and, for some, no homes left standing, traumatised by the horror they had lived through.

I've had this thought rolling around my head for some months after hearing some of the experiences of a school friend in Corryong last summer. It's an idea - up to the Yack community if they think it worthwhile - but I can easily see the scenario being repeated here. It does appear that the tendency during fires is for the authorities to shut down access to areas until the environment is safe for humans. Stock and wildlife suffering seem to be ignored. My friend said the bellowing of animals in pain during the first few nights was seared into her brain.

But it was the struggle to get water that was the biggest issue. People mobilised and sent in food, clothing, the Army provided generators in the town to keep essentials going. Blaze Aid helped repair fencing to keep stock that survived off the roads. Those who lived outside the town perimeter with dams empty from drought or remaining water sucked dry to fight fire, had to access water from special tanks in town. Millions of dollars was donated to charities to help the survivors. Then a fortnight later, 5 inches of rain fell on the burnt out areas in a massive thunderstorm, washing out the new fences and sludging up the waterways with ash, burnt timber, fire retardant and the remains of dead animals. It took close to two months to restore power in some outlying areas. Water had to be collected from town 10-20 litres at a time. Fuel was scarce and time and energy to collect water daily a huge ask. During January and part of February 2020, access to the outside world was very limited due to road damage and the continuing danger of falling trees.

A friend of mine tried to access money —\$6,000 - from various charities, including the Red Cross, to pay for 1000 litre water containers from Bunnings to give water to the 11 households along Green Wattle Road where the fire burnt

south from Colac Colac. Unable to access help from charities, a \$4,000 grant from a local fund was obtained, and with a generous donation from Bunnings, she was able to ensure the delivery of water to these households once a week for months. The Upper Murray people are proud, resilient, independent people who are used to helping their own. The lack of cash to buy what was needed for the individual survivors, knowing how much had been donated by generous people, did a lot of damage to their mental health and resilience.

How can we prepare our Community in case of a similar scenario?

I'm wondering if each community— i.e. Yack and District, Kiewa Valley, Tawonga /Mt Beauty, Beechworth, Tallangatta and Upper Murray should establish their own emergency fighting fund, get a tax deductible donation accreditation and have it administrated by leaders in their community? Gracious, Yack is well supplied with leading responsible citizens. People who know their community well, know those who need help and can distribute funds to meet emergency requirements. CFA and SES volunteers will be busy, but the Yack Men's Shed, Lions Club, Yack Community Centre leaders or local ministers are all some possibilities.

The aim is to have a locally run emergency fighting fund, with its own webpage where donations can be processed and tax deductible receipts issued, allowing people to direct their donations to individual areas to provide support when it is needed most. A small committee who can spring into action when need arises and is 100% accountable to the local community. Look at what the Yack community achieved building its own petrol station and hardware store? A city-based organisation has no "on the ground" adaptability or accountability.

It is disgraceful that so many fire victims from the small communities along the east coast of Australia are still homeless or struggling to get water supply or power to their caravans, surrounded by reminders of the devastation they endured.

What does the Yack Community think?

Marg Hewson

Well – what does Yack think about this? Yackity Yak would be happy to field people's comments on this. Send them to [yackity\\_yak@yackandandah.com](mailto:yackity_yak@yackandandah.com) and we can start the debate.

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# HotHouse

## Welcome to a new year!

As COVID-19 case numbers drop, we look forward to a 2021 when we can welcome you back home to the Butter Factory Theatre.

We are putting the finishing touches to our 2021 season, working through the changes that come from ensuring a COVID-Safe place for you as audiences and for our artists. Plus, we have a shiny, new online Box Office System!

Our **SEASON 2021** will be released in two parts. We will be mailing out information and updating the website with all the information in the first week of February. Our first show is scheduled for March and we can't wait to have an audience in the theatre again.

In 2021 there will be two ways to subscribe.

We recommend that you take out a Full Subscription where you choose your dates at the time of purchase.

As a subscriber you can always swap them, subject to availability and notice. OR

If you love the flexibility of our current system, you can purchase a Flexi-Sub where you pay a small \$10 admin fee and can choose your dates as you go.

Both subscriptions offer great savings off our full-ticket-price and come with a range of additional benefits such as discounts at The Essential Ingredient, La Maison, and of course Bobby's Bar at the Butter Factory Theatre.

Some other changes for 2021 include:

**Allocated Seating.** To ensure social distancing in the theatre we are introducing allocated seating. This means you will have to choose your seat before you attend the show. Seating will be allocated on a "first come,

first served" basis, and subscribers will have first access to seats. This also means you may not always be able to sit with your friends unless you book your

maintain social distancing in the theatre, and to meet the capacity cap imposed to meet COVID-Safe venue limits, our small intimate theatre will be able to have less people than usual. This means that shows will sell out. Another good reason to subscribe early to secure your seat.

In these different times the Arts and Entertainment industries have been significantly affected by the pandemic.

If you are able to continue your support of HotHouse Theatre, it will be gratefully received.

When you donate to HotHouse you support:

- the development of local artists through professional development opportunities;
- the telling of local stories through the creation of new works;
- the development of Australian work through our residency program; and
- the presentation of Australian made theatre from around the country.

Our donation program has several levels. You can choose to be publicly acknowledged or remain anonymous. Either way, you will be helping HotHouse build a stronger, more creative community.

In line with current Victorian regulations, some HotHouse staff are working out of the office. During this time the office will be open to the public as shown below. If you come to the office you will be asked to sign in with a QR code.

**Monday to Friday 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM**  
You can always book online, or call us on 02 6021 7433.



Hot House Theatre - the alternative view

seats together.

**Q-R Codes.** You will be asked to sign into the Butter Factory Theatre using the Victorian Government Q-R Code. By using this code it enables us to have more people in the building. If you don't have your phone with you, or can't make the technology work, our staff will be there to help you. You only have to provide your first name and phone number and processes like these greatly assist contact tracers.

**Restricted Numbers.** To ensure that we can

## PASSION FRUIT SOUFFLE - From Jane Grigson's Fruit Book

Even taking into account the main recipe on page 28, we still have buckets of eggs, and now an avalanche of passion fruit. So this following recipe will be guaranteed to use up some of the surplus of both. Souffles are really dead easy; if you can whisk an egg white, you can make a souffle and this is one of the best.

3 egg yolks  
200g caster sugar  
150ml passion fruit juice  
6 egg whites  
5g butter & 2 teaspoons sugar for the dish  
Icing sugar  
Whipped cream

### SAUCE

20g sugar  
Juice of half a lemon  
1 teaspoon cornflour

Beat together the yolks, half the caster sugar and 2/3rds of the passion fruit juice, sieved free of seeds before measuring.

Whip the egg whites, add the rest of the sugar, and beat until creamy. Fold into the yolks. Butter the souffle dish, sprinkle with sugar and tip out surplus. Pour in the mixture. Poach in a water bath (bain marie) with barely simmering water for 7-8 minutes, then take the dish from the water, put into the pre-heated oven at gas 3-4, 170-180C for 25-30 minutes. Sieve icing sugar over the top and serve. The sauce can be made in advance, or while the souffle cooks. It should be served warm, rather than hot. Heat the last of the passion fruit juice with the

sugar, lemon juice and about 4 tablespoons of water. Mix the cornflour with another 2 tablespoons of water and stir into the passion fruit liquid. Stir over the heat until it clears and thickens very slightly. Add extra water to taste, but the sauce should be strong in flavour and



short in quantity, but in no way gluey from the cornflour. Serve as well with whipped cream.

This is enough for 4 people. Should you wish to make it for a party of 6-8 people, bake two souffles rather than one, putting the second one into the oven as you take the first one out. You can turn the oven up a bit if you want to serve the second one fairly rapidly.

To serve the souffle, put two spoons at an angle into the dish, so that each person gets a fair share of the crisp outside and the creamy centre.

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**Welcome to 2021!**

As I type this there are several exciting developments

taking place at Indigo FM in Yackandandah.

We have begun looking into live streaming our Yackandandah site. Some of this work is research and theoretical at this stage - working out what accounts to set-up online, what software/plugin we will need as well as the technical items (cables, switches, connectors etc.). Then getting hands-on practical and "having a crack" - seeing if it actually works and that's going to be a journey of discovery, I am sure. We will be pleasantly surprised if it runs smoothly that's for sure, but we're excited by the challenge. Significant updates will go to both our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/indigofmradio](http://www.facebook.com/indigofmradio) as well as the Yackandandah Community Facebook Group.

We have been in discussion with the very innovative team at Yackandandah Theatre Company since mid-late 2020 regarding the recording, airing and podcasting of "From Here to There" - 5 x 20 minute episodes that capture the stories of Yackandandah residents who are now deceased and buried in the local Cemetery. Their stories are voiced by members of the Theatre Company. These will be put to air at 7pm each weeknight from Monday, 8 February, so tune in on 88.0 Indigo FM.



**Daniel Champagne - an old Folk Festival campaigner is back in Yack in 2021**

music concert at Yackandandah Public Hall on Friday, 26 February featuring the sensational virtuoso talents of Daniel Champagne. This event is COVID-safe hence restricted to 120 attendees and is a sell-out. At the time of writing Daniel has performed 248 daily live streams on his Facebook page since lock down, which is not only a terrific feat of endurance but demonstrates Daniel's commitment to connect with his many fans around the world via whatever options technology allows.

Our regular programs will have resumed by the time that you read this - Yack Chat (Mon-Fri 10-11am); Horn Chowder with Chris (Wed 8:30-9:30am); Musical Mash with Spencer (Wed 12-2pm); Everyone Deserves Music with Scott (Sat 10am-12noon) and Asleep at The Wheel with Harvey (Sun 2-4pm). Yack Primary School will be back again with at least one slot 4-5pm slot on either a Monday or Wednesday. To view the current program schedule head to [www.indigofmradio.com/listen/program-guide/yackandandah/](http://www.indigofmradio.com/listen/program-guide/yackandandah/)

There's plenty of room for new programs too - and it's very accessible and easy to host your own radio show so if it's something you'd like to find out more information on, send us an email on [indigofmradioyack@gmail.com](mailto:indigofmradioyack@gmail.com).

The final exciting development is that we are rapt to be co-presenting a live

Enjoy tuning in in 2021 on 88.0 Indigo FM.

## Cradle of civilisation

Cradle of civilisation

Longest continuously inhabited city in the world

Invention of astronomy

What do they cradle now?

They cradle the dead

In the white powder of ruins

Rubble of palaces

House ringing with laughter of the mad

Traders thriving as ghosts

Wondrous markets obliterated to dust

Once the crossroads of continents

Caravans from afar

State funeral for a war criminal

An act of war

*Casus belli* where there was none

A pack of lies

Lies upon lies, knowingly, intentionally

And the living are cursed

The phyrnic victories of the accursed

Exodus of their own

Leaving an abandoned wasteland for the victors

With poisoned wells of the future.

*Stephen Masters*

## ARTS YACKANDANDAH TURNS "TWENTY-ONE" IN MAY 2021 – COME CELEBRATE WITH US

Dear Yackandandah folk,

After a year of responding to crisis, staying apart, and putting almost a whole years' worth of creative content on hold, the Yackandandah arts community is bursting to roll out a program of concerts, performances, films, radio plays, and a whole lot more in 2021.

In the spirit of all this creative energy, I would like to invite you, on behalf of the Arts Yackandandah committee and the wider arts community, to renew your membership of Arts Yackandandah. You can do so online by visiting <https://arts.yackandandah.com/Members/>

For a mere \$20, or \$30 for your whole family, you get:

- FREE entry to all Flickside screenings, Yackandandah's own film club,
- Membership to all of Arts Yackandandah's subgroups, such as Yack Theatre group, Yack Writers group, Uke-N-Dandah, Yack Community Choir, etc (some may charge additional fees),
- Discounted tickets to ALL Arts Yackandandah-hosted concerts, events and productions,
- To hear about all upcoming arts related events in and around Yackandandah FIRST, via the Arts Yack newsletter,
- The opportunity to shape the local creative culture and scene, by participating and voting at the Arts Yack AGM,
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are actively building a resilient and dynamic creative culture within your own community!

With your support, Arts Yackandandah will continue to:

- Support local arts groups, including Yackandandah theatre, writers, music and visual arts groups,
- Attract and stage visiting artistic performances, including the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, travelling theatre productions, touring musicians,
- Provide platforms for upcoming and emerging talent within our community,
- Ensure our community remains vibrant, diverse, and creative.

On behalf of the entire committee, I would like to thank you for your past support and ask you one more time to make an investment in the creative future of our beautiful village. It's going to be a great year, and with your help, it will be a little better still.

Creatively yours,

*Chris McGorlick, President, Arts Yackandandah*



# THE ARTS IN YACKANDANDAH

## A Brief History of Arts Yackandandah

Arts Yackandandah was formed as an incorporated body in May 2000. The initial stimulus had been to support the newly formed Yackandandah Folk Festival by providing an incorporated body. In the end, the Folk Festival secured its own separate incorporation and did not become part of Arts Yackandandah.



Artworks at Fresh and Unframed

Our logo was designed by local artist, Haldane Slatter.

Our mission statement was *Arts for everyone. Arts Yackandandah is committed to provide access to all forms of art through organised activities for the Yackandandah community. All people of Yackandandah, whether they are artists or not, are to be encouraged to participate in art activities organised by Arts Yackandandah.*

Our first event was a small photographic exhibition called 'Snow Snaps' with photos taken by Yack locals of the freak snow fall in May 2000.

Next was an 'Arty Party' with an accompanying exhibition, called 'Fresh and Unframed'.

The next group to come on board were locals with an interest in theatre. They staged their first production of two plays *Scones* and *Stars* in 2001, written by a local playwright Noel Wingad.



Uke-N-Dandah playing at the Fresh and Unframed Exhibition in 2014

Initially, Arts Yackandandah had a small nuclear committee that provided support to 'Fresh and Unframed' and the Yackandandah Theatre Company, as well as organising touring productions and applying for grants. For example, the Yackandandah Theatre Company began life with nothing in the bank. They were then helped along by two small Shire grants until they began to pay their way with ticket sale money covering production costs, and some profit being put back into future productions.

An early fundraiser – a salsa dance party with a live 10-piece Latin band, Son Candela, with over 300 people attending in the public hall, demonstrated that Arts Yackandandah was destined to be a well-supported group by the community.

With the RAV (Regional Arts Victoria) GAL (Guarantee Against Loss) Arts Yack began to host a variety of touring shows, including the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow events, Hothouse Theatre productions and many Co-opera touring productions: *Die Fledermaus*, *Così Fan Tutti*, *Madame Butterfly* and *Carmen*. The cessation of the GAL program has meant these events are no longer possible. However, we have managed to

independently host a Melbourne Chamber Orchestra performance annually since 2013. (Except 2020 of course.)

Because Arts Yackandandah was incorporated with a President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer, other groups were able to tuck themselves under the larger umbrella group and get on with what they were good at doing. So, in addition to the Theatre Company, we welcomed the community choir, the film society (Flickside), the ukulele group (Uke-N-Dandah), a poetry group and a writing group.



Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, 2016  
A firm favourite with Yack locals

The committee facilitates and underwrites touring productions, such as the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, that involve a higher cost factor.

In December 2019 Arts Yackandandah, in conjunction with Yackandandah Community Centre

(YCC), organised an arts festival. We hoped that this could be repeated in 2020 however...

The Coronavirus meant cancelling many of our planned events. Hopefully, we will be able to offer a range of performances and "art related" activities again in 2021.

Bev Lello  
Secretary

(With thanks to Linda Fish and Geoff Cummins for the historical information.)



"Dead Men Talking" at Yackandandah Courthouse in 2017



Some of the Yack Theatre Company cast of "Così", performed in 2003 at the Athenaeum



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### 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 when we are able to.

For further details, contact Frances on  
0417 292 917

# THE ARTS IN YACKANDANDAH

Bev Lello has a spot on an online panel as part of 'For the Love of Writing Festival' to be held from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February and run by the Society of Women Writers Victoria. Her session is *For the Love of the Stage* on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 12.15 to 1.15pm.



Bev was Production Manager of the Yackandandah Theatre Company for fifteen years and also wrote, acted in and directed a number of plays for the company. She continues to be

involved with YTC, mainly as a writer and encouraging others to write for pleasure and performance.

Bev recently won the Society of Women Writers Vic, Margaret Hazzard Short Story Award 2020, for her story *Three Red Rosettes* as judged by award-winning short story writer, Josephine Rowe.

Her short story collections, *Tailwind* and *Borrowed Spaces* can be purchased from Yackandandah Books.

## The Colour Distribution in a Packet of Coloured Chocolate Beans

Red for my lips  
Which I smudge

Yellow for the giraffe  
Strutting high above

Down they all go  
Chomped crackly bits  
And smooth chocolate  
All crunched up  
Into my tum

They are in slippery packets  
Hard for my small fingers  
Fumbling feebly to open

Once torn open spilt everywhere  
Devoured without mercy  
Gobbled down

*I said with no mercy*  
The unshared fruits of pure greed  
Into my tum

The colours being all the same to me.

Stephen Masters

## Three Red Rosettes

On my first outpatient visit the receptionist says, 'I like your helmet.'

I say, 'I've been given the gift of life.'

I'd decorated the blue bicycle helmet – a Christmas gift from my children after their father vanished into the far north – with three red fabric roses. A thoughtful neighbour had left a bunch of flowers on the verandah while I was in hospital. The flowers were wilted and sad, but the three red rosettes attached to the wrapping were bright and cheerful. I grabbed a tube of glue from the kitchen drawer and stuck the rosettes to the front of the helmet.

As helmets go, it's ancient, but I love it. When I wear it, memories of all the places I've ridden jostle and swirl happily around my brain. The helmet's been a lifesaver in a couple of falls and several spring magpie swoopings, but it couldn't save me from the stone inside my head.

Worried about a few nasty headaches, I visited the doctor. She sent me off for a CAT scan. The neurosurgeon, peering at an image of the results over the top of his reading glasses, declared, 'See this small dark patch here? It's a pea sized-tumour. It's possibly benign, but we can't have it getting any larger. I'd advise we operate immediately.'

'Immediately,' I echoed, as my heart did its best to take me out before the tumour could win the race.

'As immediate as Monday,' he said.

I'm on the other side of all that now. Six weeks of convalescing and I'm ready to get back on my bike. Napier Street in Fitzroy is my patch. I'm shaky, but confident I can navigate the familiar old territory. I know every crack and twist in the footpath, the broken gutter, the crooked gate on the house opposite, trees city-lopped to accommodate overhead wires. Also familiar are the people who shuffle in and out of the houses, bang doors, push prams along the path, jog, park their cars askew and ride

past on their bicycles.

On the day I venture out, though, nothing seems the same. A shiny new gate has replaced the crooked one; the blue car, always parked out the front of the house next-door, is now white; the young mum pushing the pram has blonde hair in a high bouncy ponytail, no longer short and dark. I shrug my shoulders, buckle on my decorated blue helmet and decide on a warm-up loop around the Fitzroy Gardens.

The route takes me past the toilet block in the corner of the gardens, where five or six men sleep rough. They're always up with the first growl of traffic, their alarm clocks the staccato bleep of the crossing lights. They're usually rolling up their sleeping bags when I go out for an early morning ride. One might wave and call out, 'Go, granny!'

The brick block is deserted now, the entrance dark, casting a shadow over my mood.

I'm short of breath when I return from this excursion. My daughter Renee, who arrived from Adelaide to do a brisk and competent job of guiding me through my convalescence, did say before she left that I should take it easy, perhaps think about learning to knit. I could get on board with this advice! I lug the bike up the steps of the verandah, manoeuvre both wheels inside the doorway and close the front door. Knitting's not for me, but I'm ever-mindful that an older woman living on her own can never be too careful.....

Bev Lello

This is the opening of Bev's award-winning story. If you would like a copy of the full story email her and request one – she will be happy to oblige: [beverley.ello@gmail.com](mailto:beverley.ello@gmail.com)

Bev is also the contact for Yackandandah Writers. The group meets in the Yackandandah Courthouse on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm.



### 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)

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# THE ARTS IN YACKANDANDAH

## Listening to live music and a picnic in the garden, what better way to spend a summers evening?

Yackandandah musicians will be the feature of a series of music events and Community Picnics to be held at the Yackandandah Community Garden in William Street, next door to the Yack Swimming Pool. The events will kick off at **5.30pm on Friday, 5th February** with multi-Golden Guitar winner, Pete Denahy headlining, followed by other Yack talent, Vivox and Julian James.

Further Community Picnics in March and April will showcase a host of other Yack musicians.

The events have been developed by the Yackandandah Community Centre as part of the Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House Network "Behind the Scenes at the Neighbourhood House" project. The program is funded and supported by the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation through the Prevention Partnership Program. The Behind the Scenes project aims to reduce gambling related harm by creating opportunities for people to connect and participate in community activity.

YCC manager, David Thorpe said he was thrilled that Yackandandah musicians had an opportunity to perform and showcase their talents. "We have some fantastic musicians in Yack, it's great to be able to hold events where the community gets to share in their talent," he said.

"2020 was such a difficult year for performers, most venues were closed and COVID restrictions meant they were not able to perform in public for much of the year. So, musicians are really keen to get out and play to an audience again. It will be a terrific opportunity for the community to come together, reconnect and have a terrific evening out, abiding by any COVID restrictions in place at the time, of course."



Candice McLeod, Event Co-ordinator with 2IC, son Aninda,

Event coordinator, Candice McLeod has been working to organise musicians, food and equipment and she will also take to the stage as one of the featured performers. "Connecting community together through music and food seems essential at the best of times, let alone during times like these," Candice said.

"How lucky are we to have the opportunity to nourish our souls amongst the herbs and open sky?"

David said the events were family-focussed and had come together with the help of many people in the Yackandandah community.

"I'd like to thank the Yack Community Garden for allowing us to use their space as well as their wood-fired pizza oven," he said.

"Scoop 21 has really helped out with food as well, and Arts Yackandandah are on board to run the bar. There are also many volunteers who are helping to make this possible, we couldn't do it without their help. And what more could we ask for than to have such talented musicians and performers help create a fantastic, family-focussed event. The events will be a terrific mix of music, food, community and fun."


For more information call the Yackandandah Community Centre on 02 6027 1743 or email [candicemcleodmusic@gmail.com](mailto:candicemcleodmusic@gmail.com)

### Reg's Rain Report



2020	Millimetres	Days of Rain
January	31.4	7
February	28.8	5
March	155.0	6
April	173.0	15
May	53.0	10
June	86.2	12
July	55	11
Aug	85.8	16
Sept	75.2	13
Oct	88.4	13
Nov	28.0	6
Dec	45.8	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>905.6</b>	<b>122</b>
2018	732.8	96
2019	639.6	95
<b>2021 TO 14/1</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>4</b>


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## YACK LIONS CLUB MARKETS

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

21st February

21st March  
16th May  
18th July  
19th September  
21st November

18th April  
20th June  
15th August  
17th October  
19th 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)

## RECIPE OF THE SEASON

With an embarrassment of eggs from our chooks which are laying like birds possessed, and with our beautiful tomatoes just ripening, this recipe cuts straight to the chase. It's a lovely recipe which slips down delightfully on these warm summer nights. It's a bit decadent, but when you have so much of two ingredients, too much of a good thing can NEVER be enough!



SHAKER TOMATO CUSTARD - from Jane Grigson's "Vegetable Book"

1kg ripe tomatoes  
4 large eggs beaten  
125ml milk  
About 3 tablespoons sugar  
Salt  
Grated nutmeg

Quarter, stew and sieve the tomatoes - add no water. Cool and add the remaining ingredients, adjusting the last three to taste. Pour into six buttered pots or ramekins. Set them in a baking tin of hot water and bake at 180C/Gas Mark 4 until the centre is barely firm (they continue to cook as they cool). Serve warm or chilled, with or without cream.

Jane Grigson wrote: "This is a recipe from a cookery book of the American Shakers, that puritanical sect born of the Quaker movement two centuries ago. The collection of favourite dishes is the serene opposite of what might have been expected from these Shaking Quakers, with their ecstatic song and dancing rituals, their gift of tongues, their strong Puritanism.

'If we find a good thing, we stick to it' was a Shaker principle. So they were still using European 18th century recipes when they had been forgotten in their original countries. Sometimes a European recipe was adapted to a New World ingredient, as with this tomato custard, a living fossil of the kind one often comes across in American food."

## 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.

Currently, with COVID-19 restrictions changing frequently, please call the Booking Officer to discuss current numbers allowed in each venue. Social distancing and other regulations must be adhered to during the hire of these venues.

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



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**0407 533 802**

**CHRISTMAS WITH PETE DENAHY**

We enjoyed a fantastic Christmas party on the lawn of YH in December. The weather could not

have been more perfect on the day enabling us to enjoy the market stall, lucky door prizes, chocolate wheel and sausage sizzle lunch, all whilst



*Residents enjoying the Christmas Party*

listening to the amazingly talented Pete Denahy. It was a lovely, relaxing, social afternoon that was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance – well done to our amazing volunteers, board members and staff that all worked together to present this fantastic party.

**MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC**

Usually in the lead up to Christmas YH has a number of visits from schools and choirs for a good old-fashioned singalong, but unfortunately with the COVID-19 restrictions this was not a possibility this year, however we were thrilled to take part in an online event “The Big Christmas Sing-A-Long” with our extremely talented Men’s choir recording and submitting a song “You are the sunshine of



*Well known resident, Doug Westland, and enthusiastic singer*

my life”. Talented artists such as Johnny Young, Normie Rowe, Kamahl and Ernie Dingo joined the Singalong, but for us the headlining act was undoubtedly our YH Men’s Choir. We were extremely proud to see them up on the big screen – amazing!

**LIFESTYLE AT YACK HEALTH**

The Tovertafel is proving to be very popular in Poppy Place. The Tovertafel creates treasured moments for clients and care professionals. The care innovation has proven to be effective at physical, cognitive, social and sensory levels. The Tovertafel games conquer apathy by stimulating physical activity and social interaction. The games also strengthen the relationship between care professionals and their clients. Together, we can improve the quality of life for people with a cognitive challenge. Whether it is relaxing watching the flowers grow, popping the bubbles, sweeping

the leaves to find the lady beetles hiding or a high energy game of beach ball tennis, there is something to appeal to all.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HAZEL**

Yackandandah’s eldest resident, Hazel Fox has enjoyed her 106th birthday at St Issacs Isaac’s Park with her family and friends.



*Hazel at 106*

Hazel was one of 6 and grew up at Tumbarumba on a 52,000-acre farm called “Hickory Grove”. In those days, education was steered towards the boys as women were expected to stay at home and raise their families. Education wasn’t considered important for girls, however Hazel picked up enough by listening in on her brothers tutoring sessions to dux the school.

Hazel was never afraid of a challenge, even if it meant riding her horse that despised her school bag to school each morning. She tried to strap it to the saddle, but the horse would buck every time she tried to put her school bag on before eventually dumping it in a blackberry bush. Hazel often joined her father droving sheep over the mountain from Tumbarumba to Rosewood.



*Hazel aged 26 with friend*

Hazel moved to Albury where she took on work housekeeping, then worked at Bandiana during

WWII. She then married and had her daughter, Lesley.

Hazel enjoyed babysitting as she grew older and worked for a babysitting agency in Melbourne. She loves children, and they love her. At one stage, Hazel moved to France to be a nanny for a family, even though she did not know a word of French. This worked in her favour at times. Once the children were playing at a park and they were told to move off the grass, but Hazel didn’t want to interrupt the children’s fun so she pretended not to understand – just to give them more play time.

Hazel is an organised lady who at 106 has a plan set out for her day. She loves rocks, gardening and travelling. Hazel has been lucky enough to have travelled the world many times and has been on



*Hazel aged 85 on a Pearl Harbour cruise*



*Hazel celebrating her 106th birthday*

countless cruises which have provided her with amazing memories to reflect on. There is more of Hazel’s story on our website at <https://www.yackandandahhealth.com.au/living-memory.html>.

**LITTLE YACKS LEARNING YEARS**

Yackandandah Health grounds offers a long day early learning service known as Little Yacks Learning Years (LYLY). LYLY caters for children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age and is the only long day early learning service in Yackandandah. Our service operates from 7.30 am – 6.00 pm, 5 days a week except for public holidays.

In addition to our long day service, LYLY has enhanced the educational program to provide our community with a 3-year-old funded kindergarten program which caters for a small cohort of children. The Victorian Government’s Free Kindergarten initiative for 2021 means that children will be able to attend these allocated 15 hours free of charge. Added to this, LYLY offers extended hours of education to meet the needs of families.

This year LYLY will introduce an innovative and COVID-19 friendly Intergenerational Program that aligns with the State and National Guidelines.

This program aims to engage children and the on-site aged-care residents in a variety of ways to achieve positive outcomes for all involved.

For further information please email us at

[littleyacksdirector@yackhealth.com.au](mailto:littleyacksdirector@yackhealth.com.au)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Because of the uncertainty caused by COVID-19, the Board has resolved that this year’s Annual General Meeting will be held virtually online and not physically in person.

The date set for the meeting is **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm.**

Link details to the online meeting will be available on the website <https://www.yackandandahhealth.com.au/> nearer to the time.



*Little Yacks - happy customers!*

# YACK TENNIS CLUB

The Yackandandah Tennis Club's vision is to provide a community tennis experience that seeks to maximise participation in tennis for all ages and abilities and to promote the growth, prosperity and development of the Yackandandah Tennis Club.

Our mission is to:

***maintain and incrementally improve our facilities, promote and encourage the playing and enjoyment of tennis for all ages, abilities and backgrounds to the population of Yackandandah and district, ensure we are financially sustainable, and foster the skill development of our players.***

Our objectives are to:

***develop and maintain high quality club facilities, develop a strong sense of club identity and ownership and encourage greater participation in tennis in Yackandandah and district, ensure good governance and financial security for the club, and ensure that all stakeholders receive timely, accurate and useful information regarding the activities of the club.***



Tuesday night tennis - end of year break-up

Tennis is a very affordable sport that can improve your overall health and wellbeing. Our current membership rates per annum are:

- Family - \$130
- Adult/ Full - \$50
- Junior/ comp - \$40
- Junior/ coaching - \$10

Membership enables you to access the courts all year round for casual play. For further details or to become a member, contact Geoff Simmons (Secretary) on 0427 271 742 or via email: [gsimmons3@bigpond.com](mailto:gsimmons3@bigpond.com).

In October 2020, our two plexipave courts were repainted by Yackandandah Committee Club members who volunteered their time over several weekends. Thank you to all those involved in the planning, administration and court repainting works. It was a huge effort that has resulted in a much-improved playing experience.

Tuesday night social doubles tennis held their end of year break up on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020. A fun contest was had by all on the night, followed by a debrief session at the nearby Star Hotel.

Tuesday night social doubles tennis (intermediate to advanced level) runs 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 Amanda Walker on 0418 170 835.

Coaching is available through our professional tennis coach, Paul Sykes who can be contacted on 0447 359 023.

Like us on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/YackandandahTennisClub](http://www.facebook.com/YackandandahTennisClub)

*Amanda Walker, Treasurer*



Tennis court re-surfacing works



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# SOLAR INTEGRITY

## YACK GOLF CLUB

In early December 2020, the AGM saw a good turnout of members with a positive response to the election of the 2021 Committee:

**President:** Terry Glass  
**Vice President:** Marian Barnard



*Kelvin Shultz, Men's B grade champion and retiring Secretary. Thank you Kel for your energy & commitment.*

**Secretary:** Luke Wakefield (taking over the reins from retiring Secretary Kelvin Schultz)  
**Treasurer:** Andrew Lawson  
**YGC Club Captain:** Leo Glass  
**Ladies Co-Captains:** Chris Zerbst / Ros Revell  
**General Committee:** Pam Crosthwaite, Jenny Pretty, Peter Townsend, Michael Rogers, Richard Ashman (new), Margo Northey (new)

The inaugural Members Golf & Presentation Day in December saw the



*Robyn Davies being presented with the inaugural Dot Martin Match Play trophy, by Ross Martin.*

With the start of the 2021 golf season to begin in Mar/April (date TBC), members of the community are invited to join the YGC or just to come along for a social hit. Membership has been kept at the low cost of \$160 full, \$120 social and \$200 family (conditions apply), green fees \$15. If you would prefer to hone your skills in a friendly, social atmosphere, rather than start competition rounds, please contact us to arrange a meeting.

ladies and men's presentation to Club Champions held as one event. It was a fun day with 18- or 9-hole Ambrose golf played, followed by light refreshments. Special guests Ross and Pam Martin presented the new trophy, named in honour of Ross's mother Dorothy (Dot) Martin, to the lady Match Play Champion, Robyn Davies, who was also the lady A grade champion.



*Winner of Pip Beatty Shield - Murray Fraser with C Grade Winner, Don Crosthwaite*

For more information visit YGC webpage – <https://golfclub.yackandandah.com>

**Email:** [yackgolfclub@gmail.com](mailto:yackgolfclub@gmail.com).

**Find us on FB:** Yackandandah Golf Club

## YACK COMMUNITY BOWLING CLUB

Members of Yackandandah Community Bowling Club gathered for our Christmas Dinner on the Friday before Christmas. A very enjoyable evening of fine dining and fun was had by all.

On the greens our A2 team scored a win in the last game before the break for Christmas. It has been a battle for all teams due to illness and injury suffered by some of our members. On behalf of the Club, I extend best wishes to you all.

Our Annual Community Challenge sponsored once again by WSM will have commenced by the date of publication of Yackity Yak. We thank all sponsors



*Some of the bowlers participating in our recent tournament*

and members of the community for your support. If any individual is interested, please contact Wayne on 0417 685 886 to list your name as we sometimes require fill ins.

On Thursday, 7 January, 2021 we hosted our first tournament for the season. There were in excess of 60 bowlers present on the day. The catering staff did a wonderful job and all in all, we had a great day.

As luck would have it, the hot weather returned and our first scheduled game for Mid-Week Pennant was called off.

*Anne Corcoran*



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## 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!**

**Summer Opening Hours**  
 Mon-Friday: 6 am to 7 pm  
 Saturday: 7 am to 5 pm  
 Sunday: 8.30 am to 5 pm

**Summer - time of watering that garden and keeping the green oasis around your house looking good**

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Make sure you are ready this summer.



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**TIME TO RENEW SOME FENCING?**

For all your fencing needs, drop into YCDCo and have a chat with us. We can supply everything you need.

Don't waste time chasing into town. Give us a buzz and we can get everything you want to complete that job, from fencing tools, spinners, strainers, star pickets, staples, wire - plain and barbed, to gates and gateposts.



YCDCo recently carried out two surveys on the needs of our customers. The winner of \$100 worth of fuel was drawn at the servo by Liz McInerney. Yack local, Gerry Engwerda was the lucky winner.

**Your Local Community Owned and Operated**  
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Thank you to everyone who contributed to the surveys - they will go a long way to identifying changes for your local fuel, farm and hardware store.