

**HOLD THE FRONT PAGE & STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH...**  
Yackandandah Riding Club wins the Best Regional Club Award from the Horse Riding Club Association of Victoria



**Matt Charles-Jones holding the Environmental Sustainability – Energy award at the Keep Australia Beautiful ceremony in Melbourne on 23 October**

## YACKANDANDAH PUNCHING ABOVE ITS WEIGHT AS USUAL!



### YACKANDANDAH WINS KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL VICTORIA ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

One of Australia's longest standing environmental nonprofits, Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria, has a vision of a sustainable, resilient and beautiful Victoria. Their recent awards highlighted many active and proud communities and Yack was honoured to join them, winning the *Environmental Sustainability – Energy* category on 23rd October. The award celebrated a community with programs that encouraged community involvement in renewable energy, focusing on innovative energy efficiency. TRY was extremely grateful to be recognised!

*Continued on page 14*

## YACKANDANDAH RESIDENTS RECEIVE THE LIFETIME OF ADVENTURE AWARD FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



**Dr. Glenn Singleman and Heather Swan with their Australian Geographic Society medal**

The Australian Geographic Society has proudly acknowledged Dr. Glenn Singleman and Heather Swan with the Lifetime of Adventure award as part of the 2023 Australian Geographic Society Awards. These awards, which have stood as Australia's longest-running tribute to adventure and conservation, serve as a testament to the extraordinary accomplishments of individuals who have demonstrated unwavering



**Dr. Glenn in full flight after exiting a Skyvan aircraft. PC: Heather Swan**

commitment to adventure, exploration and conservation.

Yackity Yak recently had the pleasure in meeting Glenn and Heather at Gum Tree Pies to find out a little more about why they do what they do...

*Continued on Page 7*

## 2023/24 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
112	Feb/March	Friday, 19th Jan, 2024	Tuesday, 30th Jan, 2024
113	April/May	Friday, 22 March, 2024	Tuesday, 2nd April, 2024
114	June/July	Friday, 17 May, 2024	Tuesday, 28th May, 2024
115	Aug/Sept	Friday, 19 July, 2024	Tuesday, 30th July, 2024
116	Oct/Nov	Friday, 20th Sept, 2024	Tuesday, 1st Oct, 2024
117	Dec/Jan 24/5	Friday, 15th Nov, 2024	Tuesday, 26th Nov, 2024



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We are always keen to attract advertisers for this great paper. It has a circulation of 1,600 copies & is delivered free every 2 months. It's also generally available at the following outlets:

- \* YCDCo      \* Visitor Information Centre
- \* Indigo Shire Council
- \* Yack Community Centre   \* Yack PO   \* Yack Newsagency

It's a great way to get your message across to the Yack community and doesn't cost a king's ransom. Speak with Ali if you would like to advertise & we will do our best to accommodate your wishes.

Tel. 0448 803 411 or email: [yackity\\_yak@yackandandah.com](mailto:yackity_yak@yackandandah.com)

## YACKITY YAK

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

Yackity Yak is published by YCDCo (Yackity Yak) Pty Ltd. and 1,600 copies of Yackity Yak are printed with each release with a minimum of 900 copies distributed free of charge to homes in the Yackandandah and surrounding area via Australia Post.

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## YACKANDANDAH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH – 2023

(An alcohol-free event)

**"Singles, couples, families – A lunch for everybody!"**

An open invitation to anyone from Yackandandah & surrounding communities to attend and share in Christmas Day celebrations with others

- Date:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
**Time:** 11:30am for a 12 noon sit down hot lunch  
**Venue:** Football Function Room at Butson Park, Yackandandah  
**Cost:** Gold coin donation

RSVP (if possible) for catering purposes

By Thursday 14th December 2023 to Carmel Kelley

Phone: **0418 242 105** or Email: [carmelkelley@bigpond.com](mailto:carmelkelley@bigpond.com)



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**A RAMBLE WITH  
THE EDITOR**

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD #14**

**Bill Buchanan**

Answers on Page 12

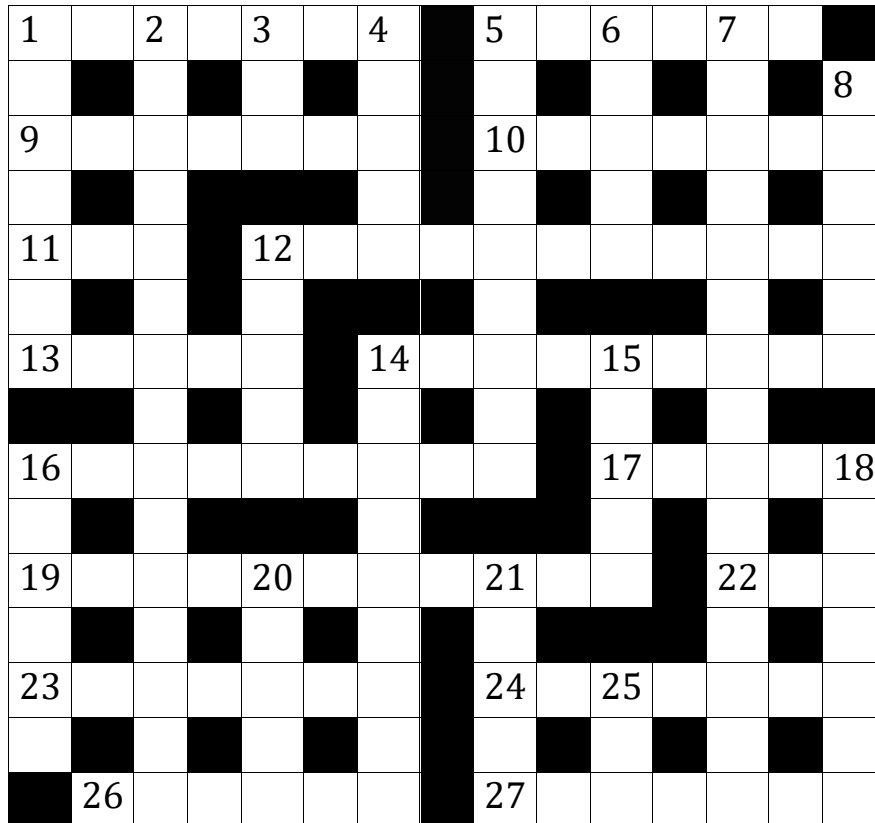
It's hard not to wax lyrical about everything that little old Yack and its residents achieve, and this edition is no different to some of the past editions where we see Yack excel!

Awards to individuals and community organisations; 20th birthday celebrations to one of the most successful (and at the time, unlikely) bids on securing a town's fuel supply are just a few of the stories in this edition. So inspiring that it's impossible to think where things might end in Yack!

The township is shortly to be deluged in mangoes following the Yack Kinder's annual Mango Drive, so there are some bits and pieces on what to do with these precious nuggets of deliciousness as we press relentlessly on towards Christmas.

I recall running an article by Lizette Salmon a few years ago, where she gave some great pointers of not necessarily joining the great race to maximum consumerism at this time of year, but to give a bit more thought about buying services or other types of useful Christmas presents that don't cost the earth, are more thoughtful and not inclined to end in landfill in January.

Food is technically stuff, but it can be eaten and shows some heart and love in the making and giving; a family heirloom passed down; audiobook or book subscriptions; event tickets - a play, a concert, a sports event; an annual subscription to an art gallery, a museum, a sporting club or a



community organisation; classes or lessons - yoga, woodworking, photography, on-line classes too; your time - a homemade coupon book is a great way to give your time. It might include cleaning, gardening or cooking or babysitting. Maybe you'll do a month's worth of freezer meals. Heaps of suggestions there that may also help our struggling bank balances.

From all at Yackity Yak, have a wonderful Christmas sharing with friends and family, and a 2024 to remember.

**Ali**

Clues

ACROSS

- 1 Reserve teams are also found, we hear (7)
- 5 See 16-across
- 9 Aristocrat starts debate over mastery of estate (7)
- 10 Work with a newspaper can overwhelm (7)
- 11 A diamond is involved in epic enterprise (3)
- 12 Mike Jagger felt this! (11)
- 13 Weariness comes from broken Nuigini treaty (5)
- 14 Mopping up needed when illegal bookie gets sick for a long time (9)
- 16 5-across Wandering bird as fast as Aussie car (9 & 6)
- 17 It turns back and forth (5)
- 19 Sam's percent share is decided on long ridges (11)
- 22 Cleopatra's personal danger is here (3)
- 23 Cut favourite, just a bit (7)
- 24 Eliot goes to embrace French composer (7)
- 26 Royal lands reveal the true manuscript (7)
- 27 He wandered, so homeless dog started eating dirt (4)

DOWN

- 1 Second class track apparently leads straight to the hive (7)
- 2 In court, the racket is exposed to attack and defence (5,3,7)
- 3 However you look at it, it's a failure (3)
- 4 It's the end of play if tea is taken, apparently (5)
- 5 Cold snap! (9)
- 6 The slope is managed with easy strides (5)
- 7 Sicilian defence is one! (7,8)
- 8 Sadie's quiet remarks (6)
- 12 Suing dramatically leads to employing (5)
- 14 They'll be your friends when steam ship is sinking (9)
- 15 Songbirds engage in fun and games (5)
- 16 Courteous legal depositions (6)
- 18 Relaxed in front of the camera again (7)
- 20 Like poles do this (5)
- 21 Tones convert to C sharp or B flat, perhaps (5)
- 25 Without it, a pub has no atmosphere (3)

**WANTED TO BUY**

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# YCDCo's 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



**Members of the Yack community listening to the informal speeches at the BBQ**

The quotation that says that the sun shines on the righteous was very true on Saturday, 25th November when the Picnic in the Park saw rain hold off until the event was safely packed away - and then the heavens opened. Nearly 30mm in half an hour...

It was terrific to see so many people out to celebrate YCDCo's 20th birthday lunch BBQ and huge thanks in no order of



**Bill Clark visiting from the USA and son, Mickey who is a YCDCo Director**

importance to Pete Denahy for his great music, to the loan of Jill and Richard Whitford's electric car which powered the music (a first for Yack), to the Lions Club for a great BBQ as usual, to the helpers who put up marquees and provided chairs, to sculptor Xavier Pinard for the lovely water sculpture and Dave McAuliffe who plumbed it in, and finally to everyone who turned up including many of the original and current board members.



**Yack's own Pete Denahy in action, and this time powered by EV! I feel a song coming on...**

The deluge of rain immediately after the event to mark the beginning of the summer was appreciated by the gardeners amongst us, but probably not the farmers.

The celebrations continued on during the Saturday evening, with a dinner at the Public Hall in Yackandandah. Shareholders, past and present directors and local community group representatives all enjoyed a delicious three course meal catered for by Jac Bayne and the Star Hotel. Many thanks



**Ian Fitzpatrick, Chair of YCDCo's voluntary Board**

known world-wide with its setting up with extremely limited outside assistance, and how it raised enough capital via a share float to save Yack's only fuel supply. YCDCo and the original board members have a pretty legendary status attached to them now, and the Board still receives a number of enquiries every year about how the company was formed and how "our community might do something similar".

Jane Murphy, manager of the Yack Community Centre was a brilliant MC for the evening at rather late notice, and the audience learnt a great deal from the two panels of guests facilitated by Jane. Firstly, David Bishop from Yack Folk Festival, David Lerch, Manager and Adrian McGrath, 2IC from YCDCo, Sue Gold an Indigo Shire Councillor and Matthew Charles-Jones from Totally Renewable Yack who gave the perspective from the employees' side of the business, the community groups with whom YCDCo have a very symbiotic relationship and Indigo Shire who were very helpful when the organisation was trying so hard to get the business off the ground.

The second panel consisted of five of the original seven board members - Mark McKenzie McHarg, James Lacey, Phil Newman, Andrew Earl and Cameron McKern. A great deal of the original history was teased out by Jane from these five present, and it was clearly quite a

to all who assisted during the evening including Kevin Poyner and Jenni Lannen who ran the bar, Arts Yack for providing glasses, Ipads and card readers etc, Mitzi Davison on the door, and Jane Murphy our MC. Thanks also to our roving photographers on the day - Dan and John Carberry, Chris Lello for light and sound and particularly to Denis Ginnivan from Events That Matter, the overall coordinator of this big day.

Many people will know why seven locals took on the fuel industry and created a legend in the annals of community business ownership, but how it was done with practically no knowledge of the industry is another matter.

Matt Pfahlert from ACRE in Beechworth gave a very illuminating talk about YCDCo and how it has become



**David Bishop, David Lerch, Adrian McGrath, Sue Gold and Matthew Charles-Jones talk about their connections with YCDCo**



**Five of the seven original board members. From L to R: Mark McKenzie McHarg, James Lacey, Phil Newman, Andrew Earl and Cameron McKern**

feat by the intrepid seven to start such a specialised business with absolutely no knowledge. Perhaps that might be part of its success - what you don't know can be less intimidating than what you do. There is a call for the history of YCDCo to be put into some form before it's lost, and current Board Chair, Ian

Fitzpatrick, confirmed that this is something being looked into.

In any event, this amazing business called Yackandandah Community Development Company has made its vigentennial and is in very good financial heart. It continues to support local community groups and projects with grant funding and partnerships, and shareholders with dividends, as per its Constitution. It provides local youngsters with their first jobs and a number of others with part and full time employment. It has its own community newspaper, which you are currently reading, and all in all, is a pretty good indication of how connected a community Yackandandah is.

Ali Pockley



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## NEW RECRUIT



**New firefighter Daniel Lopez III**

The Brigade's newest firefighter Daniel Lopez III had only lived in Yack for a few months before he made the call to join the Brigade.

Daniel, who moved to Yack with his family wife, Olivia, and son Nalu, 3, in January this

year, was taking a photograph of a fire truck outside the station one Saturday morning, when our now Captain, Chris Wingard, offered to show them the truck and station.

"I'd always said that when we moved to rural Australia, wherever that may be, I would like to join a local fire brigade, says Daniel, 43, who was born and raised in San Francisco, California. "I asked Chris if the brigade was taking volunteers, he said 'yes' and how to apply, and it's gone from there."

Daniel undertook his General Firefighting training and became an operational firefighter in mid-October. He is an enthusiastic member, keen to get as much experience as he can through training, on the fireground and engaging with the community.

"The really cool thing about being with the Yack Brigade is everywhere you look there is a teacher with so much experience," says Daniel. "The Brigade has been very welcoming which has really allowed me to settle into the community as well as the Brigade. That level of comfort helps you find your feet, feel accepted as part of the group, and ask questions that you might have felt hesitant about asking initially. I've never been in a place where literally everyone is your teacher."

Daniel's interest in firefighting goes back to when he was 18 years of age and how impressed he was with the firefighters when the adjacent house to his home caught fire. "Because it is San Francisco, there is maybe a 5cm gap between houses, so our home partially caught fire," says Daniel. "We had to evacuate, get low to the ground, smoke was coming through the hallways... and then the fire brigade came. The firefighters were just so composed, so calm, so well-rehearsed... I just thought it was one of the coolest things I'd ever seen."

As well as being interested in firefighting, and "everything it encompasses", Daniel also sees his being a volunteer firefighter as service to the community. "I think a community really thrives when we all take some sort of action or do our part to help our community," says Daniel.

As to why he and his wife (who is an Australian) moved to Australia, Daniel says the Global Financial Crash in 2008/9 helped them decide to leave America. "We were losing hours and days of work," says Daniel who was working in supply chain for an art publisher and distributor and as a freelance musician at the time. "My wife suggested moving to Australia... and I saw that as an opportunity,

one I would regret if I didn't take it up." They moved to Sydney in November 2009 where they lived until 2018. They tried living on the NSW Central Coast for a time where their son was born but as Daniel says "we would always come to North East Victoria for holidays. We were always attracted to the mountains, the forests, and the bush."

Like many others Daniel and his wife worked from home during the COVID-19 pandemic so they knew a move to a rural area, where they could continue working from home and earning an income, was feasible. Their decision to choose Yackandandah was very much the result of serendipity.

"As soon as we rolled into Yackandandah, we just knew that this could be the place for us, and to raise children," says Daniel. "And now we are here, and we don't want to go anywhere else."

At this point in time Daniel is taking a break from his work in supply chain logistics and the corporate world, to explore other opportunities including his love of music (he played the trumpet with the Californian Youth Symphony Youth Orchestra) and composing. His wife, who works as a project manager for a childcare company, is also studying to become a herbalist. Their dream is to buy some land they can regenerate and practice permaculture.

As to the coming fire season, "I want to be as useful as I can possibly be for my peers, for the Brigade," says Daniel. "Taking a break from my regular work means I have the time to show up, to learn and to contribute."

His words to others considering joining the Brigade: "I think it's great. You are part of something that is bigger than yourself; you are surrounded by so much support and like-minded people who have the same interests and values in terms of service to community, who put the community before themselves. As a townsman I think that's part of my personal job, part of my duty, so I take it seriously."



\*Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Brigade can scan the following QR code or contact us on [cfa@yackandandah.com.au](mailto:cfa@yackandandah.com.au)



**(L to R) Brothers Dane, 10, and Frey, 8, Holden with Emily Roberts, 11 from the OSCH program.**

## BUSY PERIOD

The Brigade has had a busy time over the past couple of months responding to both local and regional requests to take part in community engagement activities and events, as well as training exercises, fuel reduction burns and a few callouts. Some of the activities we have been involved in were:

### Yackandandah Primary School

At the invite of the **Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program** run by Yackandandah Primary School, the Brigade took its pumper tanker to the school during the September school holidays on 28<sup>th</sup> September. Sixteen children had the opportunity to climb aboard and check out the truck, try their hand at coupling fire hoses and attaching

a branch, and to learn more about the Brigade and our role in the community.

Kerryn Roberts, the program's coordinator, said the idea of inviting the Brigade came from wanting to get the Yackandandah community more involved in the program.

"We are looking at trying for some grants for next year so we can run some skills sessions using local people/coaches," said Kerryn. "We are keen to trial a few new things... such as asking the Fire Brigade to come along. It's great for the kids."

Then as part of a **Yackandandah Emergency Preparedness** event, the Brigade took along its Pumper Tanker, Tanker 1 and Ultralight

to the Yackandandah Primary School on Thursday afternoon, October 19. The event was organised by the Yackandandah Community Centre and included the SES and CERT. The kids had a great time checking out the vehicles and having a go at propelling the "little fire trucks" with a fire hose.

The event at the school was followed by a Yackandandah Emergency Preparedness Session for parents and community members at the Public Hall presented by Maureen Piera and April Padbury from the CFA with input from Brigade members.

And lastly on Monday morning, October 24, two classes from Yackandandah Primary School – Foundation and Grade 1 - visited the fire station where they had the opportunity to use a fire hose to propel the little trucks, climb aboard our fire trucks, have a look around the station and ask lots of questions! In all 40 children attended along with their teachers and parent helpers.

### **NORTH EAST EMERGENCY SERVICES EXPO**

Brigade members, Karen and Gavin Mascas, and Brin O'Brien took Yackandandah Tanker 2 up to Corryong for the North East Emergency Services Expo on Saturday, October 14 from 10am to 3 pm. The expo involved a number of Emergency Services including CFA, FFMV, RFS NSW, SES, AV and others. CFA had a static display and also gave a firefighting



**Captain Chris Wingard, and daughter Bri, 19, assistant educator with the OSCH program**



**April Padbury (standing) at the Yackandandah Emergency Preparedness event**

*Continued on Page 6*



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

**000**  
**1800 668 511**  
**1800 226 226**  
**[cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)**





demonstration using one of the mobile training props. The Brigade was asked to bring along Tanker 2 so the CFA could showcase the different fire-fighting appliances available. Tanker 2 is

a great example of a light tanker of which there aren't many, if any, in the Upper Murray. "The day was well attended by residents of the Upper Murray, who were keen to thank us for coming and discussing how the various emergency services can assist the community if the need arises this summer," says Karen, the Brigade's community engagement officer.

**BOGONG GROUP EXERCISE**

As in previous years, the Yackandandah Brigade took part in a combined brigade training exercise on Sunday, October 10 for brigades that are part of Bogong Group. This year Stanley brigade hosted the event joined by members from HVP (including the Yackandandah brigade's Lauren Padbury, a forester with HVP, who passed on their specialist skills. Training drills, held in the Stanley Forest, were based around the forest and plantation fire threat, a major feature our area. "There was an excellent turnout of Brigade members, new and old," says Karen. "And thanks to the Stanley brigade for a great lunch."

**ROADSIDE BURNS**

For the first time in a number of years, conditions were right for the Brigade to conduct a roadside fuel reduction burn. The burn was done along

Racecourse Road from Longstaff to Barns Lane on Saturday, October 21. In preparation for the burn, brigade members were busy on Monday evening, October 3, raking leaf litter away from the trunks of trees we wanted to protect and identifying hazardous trees. On the Saturday we were joined by members of Allan's Flat and Wooragee brigade plus traffic controllers from Indigo Shire. It was a big but very successful effort so thanks to all who helped out and also to the Brigade's vegetation management officer Mark Burbidge for making it happen. Then on Wednesday, November 1, the Brigade assisted Allan's Flat brigade with their roadside burn on Osbornes Flat Rd.

**OPEN DAY**

The Brigade held its Open Day on a Saturday this year, Saturday, October 28, from 10am to 2pm. As well as the usual activities for the kids (colouring in, using fire hoses to propel the little wooden fire trucks along, and clambering aboard the trucks) and information brochures and booklets

for the adults, we added a few "extras" which

certainly were a big hit. Bit hard to decide which was more popular – the free barbecue sausages or the burn table demonstrations by Ben Merritt, community partnership support officer with Forest Fire Management, DEECA.

Ben gave a total of seven demonstrations during the day that

simulated how fuel loads, slope and wind affect fire behaviour to a responsive audience made up of locals and visitors. In all about 120 people attend the Open Day (including children and dogs).

What was particularly pleasing to see was a number of new residents to Yackandandah coming along, like Lisa and Steven Hutchinson, and their two children Odette, 15mths, and Henrietta, 3, and Donna Arnott and her two children Hazel, 4 and Jasper, 1. For both families it was the first time they had been to a Yackandandah Brigade Open Day. "Henrietta just loves fire trucks and sausages," says Dad.

A big thank you both to those members who helped out on the day and to those that came along to take part in the day and ask questions.

**FIRE RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE**

The Fire Danger Period for Indigo Shire will commence at **0100hrs on Monday, November 27, 2023** which means that fire restrictions come into force. You cannot light a fire in the open air unless you have a permit or comply with certain requirements. If you don't obtain a permit, you

could be breaking the law and may be prosecuted.

You can find more information about restrictions and what you can and can't do from the CFA website at <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-fire-danger-ratings/can-i-or-cant-i>

Alternatively come and visit us at the information stall we are having as part of the "Unite Indigo" musical event on **Saturday, December 2 from 2 to 7pm**. We're happy to answer your questions.



*Donna Arnott with daughter Hazel and son Jasper*



*Yackandandah newcomers, Lisa and Steven Hutchinson with their two children, Odette and Henrietta.*

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**Furthest Flight Expedition from left Dr Glenn Singleton, Heather Swan, Greg Cox, John Wallington and Sean Kavanagh**

100 acre property partly to help offset their carbon emissions on their travels. They have plans for the planting of 4,000 trees, and they are both, as they quote, “plant-powered” i.e. vegans.

The type of extreme sports that they are both involved in includes BASEjumping and the nearest thing to flying - using wingsuits (fortunately with a parachute to see them safely to ground again) with Heather being the only woman in the world who has done a Himalayan BASEjump.

A husband and wife duo and extreme sport athletes, their collective achievements span the realms of medicine, exploration, and world records. Both jointly hold the Guinness World Record for the highest BASEjump (exit altitude) and the highest wingsuit BASEjump, showcasing their indomitable spirit and passion for pushing the boundaries of human capability. With expeditions including the first to climb Mt Minto in Antarctica to ballooning over Mt Everest, Dr. Glenn Singleman is also recognised as the world’s most experienced expedition doctor.

Continued from the front page

They have been living in Yackandandah for some four years now, and whilst Glenn is the Deputy Director of the Emergency Department at Wodonga Hospital, Heather manages their farm and livestock. Their plan is to retree a large proportion of their



**Glenn and Heather in Antarctica. PC: Courtesy of Heather Swan**

was the place. Apart from his medical work, Glenn is also a film maker, and together they make a great team of inspirational speakers. You can see more of Glenn and Heather’s extraordinary photos on their website at [www.baseclimb.com](http://www.baseclimb.com) and learn exactly what makes this couple tick!

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Dr. Glenn Singleman and Heather Swan said: “We are deeply honoured to receive the Lifetime of Adventure award from the Australian Geographic Society. Adventure is about conquering the physical challenges before us and expanding our understanding of the world and human spirit. Our many expeditions symbolise our unwavering commitment to exploration and push the limits of what’s possible. We hope to inspire others to explore the world and discover the boundless potential within themselves.”

Like so many others, Heather and Glenn found an immediate rapport with the town as soon as they set foot in it, and knew that this

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## THE YACKANDANDAH LIONS CLUB NEEDS YOU BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

### DOES YACK NEED A LIONS CLUB?

This is the question that the Yackandandah Lions Club

Committee are currently asking themselves. They are now reduced to 5 committee members and 3 other members who only assist on Sunday market day. Their secretary is looking to step down with no one to take on the role.

They require a minimum of 6 new active committee members, one of which needs to take on the Treasurer role, releasing Matt Smith to pick up the Secretary's role. Meredith is currently Acting President and only prepared to continue in the role if there is a functioning committee. She has personally approached many Yack residents urging them to join the Lions Club without any success. There is only until the AGM which will be held in March/April 2024 to recruit new members, and if no new members come forward, then Yackandandah Lions Club will sadly close.

Unfortunately, if the club folds, which organisation will take on the projects that Lions Club have auspiced or funded to get over the line in recent years?

### WHAT DOES THE LIONS CLUB ACTUALLY DO?

They run the monthly Sunday market that raises money that is injected directly back into the Yackandandah community. This popular monthly market stimulates the Yackandandah economy by attracting many visitors to the town.

The Lions Club also manages Wellsford House enabling community access to groups such as the Garden Club and a visiting podiatrist.

### PROJECTS AUSPICED BY THE YACK LIONS CLUB INCLUDE:

- The Yack Men's Shed to enable eligibility for a grant towards building their shed.

- Save One Life Program for kids with a disability – managed by Lincoln Budge.
- Junior Public Speaking Schools Competition involving Osbornes Flat and Wooragee Primary Schools and for years 3-4 & 5-6.
- Australia Day awards.
- Community Come Back Events 2022 & 2023.



*The much loved and well patronised monthly Sunday Market*

### FUNDED PROJECTS:

- ✓ Yackandandah Christmas Lunch.
- ✓ Special Children's Christmas Party.
- ✓ Electronic Score Boards for Yackandandah Football & Netball Club.
- ✓ EPIC Bike Track bridge connecting to the Yackandandah township.
- ✓ Isaacs Park Accessible Toilet Block.
- ✓ Yackandandah Kindergarten Bush Kinder outdoor weather gear.
- ✓ Osbornes Flat Primary School kitchen upgrade.

The Yackandandah Lions Club fund projects that do not meet eligibility for other funding, and, importantly, cover shortfalls in project funding necessary to complete projects such as the EPIC bike track bridge.

### WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING A LIONS CLUB MEMBER?

Lions membership is associated with a strong social connection. New residents to Yackandandah would find it a great way to meet and mingle with others in the town.

Yackandandah Lions also work closely with other regional Lions groups. They recently assisted Beechworth host the Biannual Convention.

With a larger committee more social engagement can be included in the Lions' calendar. They would love to reinstate regular meeting dinners at the Bottom Pub.

They are also looking for enthusiastic members who would like to take ownership of particular projects such as State School Hearing Testing Programs.

The monthly Sunday market is a vital event attracting visitors to the town. Preservation of this market is critical for the economic viability of all weekend Yack traders. A dedicated market coordinator is a must to ensure ongoing success of the market.

### WHAT IS THE COST OF BEING A MEMBER?

There is NO cost to join the Yack Lions club. Association / membership fees are subsidised through earnings such as the YCDCo BBQ held on the 25th November, 2023 & the Yack Folk Festival BBQ in March each year.

### WHEN AND WHERE DO LIONS MEET?

The committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm at Wellsford House. Meetings are managed to 60 minutes only.

The Lions Club welcomes your personal contribution. Involvement in the club does not require much of your time, just your enthusiasm towards maintaining Yackandandah as a beautiful town to live or visit.

The township will be devastated to lose the Lions Club in Yackandandah, but this will happen if they cannot boost their ranks with new local membership.

**If you can spare a couple of hours per month then please text Meredith McIntyre on 0414 688 354.**

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# YACK WOMEN'S SHED

We have had a busy couple of months with workshops, crafting, catering and getting ourselves organised for our biggest event of the year... The Yackandandah Christmas Fair. The Fair will be held as usual in the Yackandandah Memorial Gardens on **Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 9am to 1.30pm**. This

The "Showtime" musical extravaganza held in October in the Public Hall was a great success for Arts Yack. The Women's Shed decorated and catered for over 160 guests with platters of hot and cold nibbles delivered to tables. We have had so many compliments and although it was a lot of work, the team did an outstanding job.

our friendship by inviting all members to a little **Christmas Catchup on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December from 5.30 to 8pm in the Yack Community Centre rear garden**. We would love to see everyone come along, especially those members that we don't see often, who would like to make some new friends and join us for some nibbles and a little Christmas Cheer.



*Juliana, Trish, Robyn and Janet preparing platters for the "Showtime" musical at the Public Hall*

Art classes taught by member Sue Lees, who incidentally was the winner of the People's Choice Award at the recent "Fresh and Unframed" exhibition, have been well received. Delving into different mediums has given us the chance to play, and the participants have surprised themselves by producing some great art. Contact us if you are interested in joining us on a Thursday evening once a month.

On behalf of the Yackandandah Women's Shed Committee, I would like to wish you all a joyous and safe Christmas and New Year and hope to continue growing our friendly group in 2024.

You can contact us at: [yackwomensshed@gmail.com](mailto:yackwomensshed@gmail.com) or visit our web page at [Yackwomensshed.org](http://Yackwomensshed.org)

Wild Weaving workshops led by member Susan Cole has had us creating baskets of all shapes and sizes using grasses and branches from the local area. What a great way to spend a couple of hours chatting and learning new skills.

We have been able to offer our members a variety of workshops this year including Mosaics led by our own Zinna Davis, Ceramics, and Zentangling with some new surprise classes being considered for next year.

year we have some different stall holders as well as our old favourites, all selling a stunning range of handmade wares just in time for you to stock up on Christmas gifts! There will be lots of kid-friendly activities like facepainting, craft tables, roaming performers and even a visit from Santa. We have a great raffle with some very generous contributions donated by local businesses and stallholders. Invite your family and friends for a fun morning at the Fair and then perhaps sample some great food and do a bit more shopping in town.

There was a "Fire Preparedness" talk recently by the CFA and YCC followed by a BBQ and drinks at Nicky and Glen's stunning new home in Twist Creek, which made for a very informative and friendly afternoon.



*'Planting' the poppies in the Memorial Gardens for Remembrance Day*

Remembrance Day this year saw the Women's Shed plant up the Memorial Gardens with almost 900 hand knitted and crocheted scarlet poppies. Many hours went into creating this display and we were very proud to be able to commemorate our war heroes in this way.

As we come to the end of 2023, we will celebrate



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## Yackandandah Real Estate Market Update

Contributor: Jamie Horne – Principal - Indigo Real Estate

As the annual race towards the end of the year commences, and 'by Christmas' once again being set by many as a target date for jobs to be completed, homes to be advertised for sale or rent, and buyers and renters wanting to secure homes; experience, patience, and acceptance, delivers three important reminders:



1. From on or around the 15<sup>th</sup> December, until the 10<sup>th</sup> January, the majority of genuine potential buyers and renters, shift their focus to holidays, Christmas, and New Years celebrations.
2. Many solicitors and conveyancers, essential for the completion of any property sale, will be closed over the holiday season, this year we expect that to be between 20<sup>th</sup> December through to 15<sup>th</sup> January.
3. Most real estate agencies will be closed, operating with only limited staff, during the week of Christmas to New Years. Please don't be the buyer to ring on Christmas Day requesting an inspection that afternoon... yes, amazingly there is always at least one! The world of real estate is assured of continuing strongly up to Christmas and into 2024.

To surmise the last 12 months to date, our key local comparative markets of Yackandandah, Beechworth, and Wooragee have seen consistent price growth on low sales listing volumes.

Key Numbers	Yackandandah	Wooragee	Beechworth
Median Sale Price	\$785,000	\$1,150,000	\$855,500
Median Price Growth	8.50%	40.90%	23.10%
Highest Priced Sale	\$2,375,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,550,000
Lowest Priced Sale	\$515,000	\$880,000	\$500,000
Recorded Sales	23	4	44
Average Days on Market	65	88	71

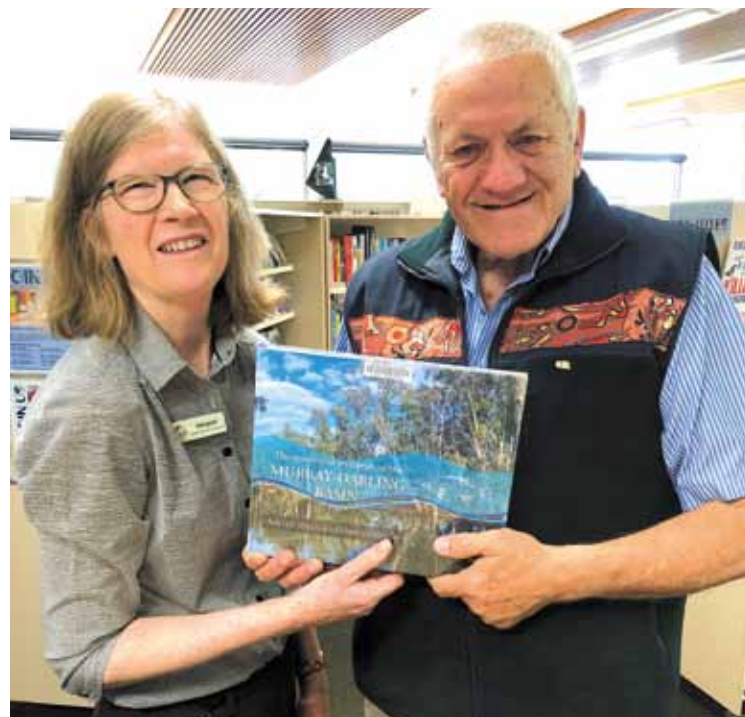
Yackandandah and Wooragee in particular, have experienced a surge in buyers for lifestyle and acreage properties with homes requiring little or no renovations. There are also a number of potential active buyers seeking vacant lifestyle land, upon which to build their dream homes.

Whilst buyers and renters remain active, we have noted the dynamics have narrowed. Long-term renters are notably more conscious of their budgets and financial capacity, and are more selectively applying for rentals. There remain many active buyers from within our region, and those relocating from metro areas, with strong budgets, who have often already sold their previous home, or are finance approved and ready to purchase.

Finally, I would like to indulge and personally wish you all a safe, joyous, and relaxing Christmas and festive season. I hope you find time to reflect on all the good of the past year, your achievements and challenges overcome, the new arrivals, and good memories of those that have passed.

This article is for informational purposes only, you should not construe anything in this article as legal, tax, investment, financial, or other advice.

## YACK LIBRARY NEWS



Librarian, Margaret Citreon and author, Adrian Wells with the donated book

### Local author presents new book to the library

Leneva resident, Adrian Wells, is the co-author of the new book "The Rivers and Wetlands of the Murray-Darling Basin" Although written for primary students, the information and scope has broad community appeal. The book brings together stories, paintings, poetry and photographs which demonstrate how communities, businesses and governments are working together to protect and improve the basin's environment, cultural resources, productive farms and local areas. This book is now available for borrowing at the Yackandandah Library.

### Jelena Dokic author talk in Beechworth on Saturday 9 December

A former world number 4, popular tennis commentator and best-selling author of her autobiography 'Unbreakable', Jelena Dokic's story of survival is nothing short of remarkable, both on and off the court. With the release of her new book "Fearless : finding the power to thrive" Jelena talks about reclaiming life when all is lost, speaking up and the power of sharing our stories to help others who may be suffering. Jelena will be in conversation at the Beechworth Servicemen's Memorial Hall on **Saturday 9 December at 10.30am**. Bookings are essential at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/in-conversation-with-jelena-dokic-tickets-758351829737> or contact the library.

### The BIG Summer Read and the BSR launch party

The BIG Summer Read is back for 2023-2024! The BIG Summer Read aims to encourage children to keep reading through the summer holiday break. Sign up on the Beanstack app or collect a paper Reading Journal at Yack Library and be part of the fun. Achieve the challenge of reading 10 books and be in the draw to win one of the prizes offered at each library branch. BSR launch party - To get everyone excited about The BIG Summer Read we are having a BSR Launch party at Yackandandah Library on **Tuesday 5 December from 3.45 - 4.45pm**. Come along and find out all about the BSR and how you can take part. There will also be some fun activities for you to do.

### Holiday opening hours

Yackandandah Library will close on Friday 22 December at 2.00pm and reopen at 9.00 am on Tuesday 2 January 2024. During the break you can still access our online resources, order items on the library catalogue, read or listen to books on Borrowbox or uLibrary, browse some magazines online on Borrowbox, view some kids' books on Storybox Library or watch an indie film on Beamafilm. This is all free with your library membership!

You can contact Yackandandah Library on 02 6028 1180 or [yackandandahlibrary@indigoshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:yackandandahlibrary@indigoshire.vic.gov.au)

## RECIPE OF THE SEASON

### Spice-crusted ham with mango salsa

Recipe from Australian Gourmet Traveller PC: Ben Dearnley

#### Ingredients

1 leg ham, bone in (about 8kg)

#### Spice rub

1 onion, coarsely grated  
5 garlic cloves coarsely chopped  
135 gm brown sugar  
15 gm (1½ tbsp) sea salt flakes  
1 tsp freshly ground black pepper  
1½ tsp cayenne  
1 tsp sweet paprika



#### Mango Salsa

1 cup (firmly packed) coriander, coarsely chopped  
3 mangoes, finely diced  
1 small Spanish onion, finely chopped  
3 limes, juice only  
1-2 green jalepeño chillies, or to taste  
1 tbsp olive oil

#### Method

1. Preheat oven to 180C. Remove skin from ham and score a diamond pattern across the fat with a small sharp knife. Place in a large roasting pan, add some water to the pan to prevent scorching and set aside.
2. For spice rub, process onion and garlic in a food processor until finely chopped, transfer to a bowl, add remaining ingredients and stir to combine well. Spread over scored part of ham and roast until deep-golden and crusty (1-1½ hours).
3. Meanwhile, for mango salsa, combine ingredients in a bowl, season well with sea salt and refrigerate until required.
4. Serve ham with mango salsa and coleslaw, if you like.



## TINY ART BUT A HUGE RESPONSE!



Yackandandah Library put out a call to arms for an exhibition of "Tiny Art" earlier this year. This was not limited to our younger citizens, but had a fantastic response from all ages across the Shire.

The criteria was that the artwork had to be no

bigger than 4" x 4" and saw an incredible range of mediums and subjects. It was just too big a job to pick out winners from across the age groups, so there were lucky draw prizes at each of the libraries that housed the exhibition.

There was such a great response that it

seems inevitable that this will run again in 2024.

Many thanks to the Shire's Library Staff for putting it on and having the energy to trot it around and hang it in the four libraries of Yack, Chiltern, Rutherglen and Beechworth.

*Osbornes Flat Hall  
Xmas Get-Together*

The Hall Committee extends an invitation to all members of the Osbornes Flat community to come along to our

**~ Christmas Picnic ~  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December,  
from 5.00 pm**

Please bring along a plate to share (savoury or sweet) & your own refreshments.  
BBQ, meat and Vegetarian option will be supplied.

*There will be some games set up to keep the kids entertained 😊*

We especially welcome anyone new to the area – a great opportunity to meet your neighbours and catch up on local happenings ☺

At Osbornes Flat Hall

Call Tiffany on 0403 640 155 or Lisa on 0439 855 297 if you have any questions  
*We look forward to seeing you there! 😊*

Answers to BILL BUCHANAN'S Cryptic Crossword \$14

### ACROSS

1 Besides; 5 Falcon; 9 Earldom. 10 Oppress; 11 Ice; 12 Unsatisfied; 13 Ennui; 14 Spillages; 16 Peregrine; 17 Rotor; 19 Escarpments; 22 Asp; 23 Snippet; 24 Travels; 26 Realms; 27 Strayed.

### DOWN

1 Beeline; 2 Serve and receive; 3 Dud; 4 Sumps; 5 Frostbite; 6 Lopes; 7 Opening strategy; 8 Asides; 12 Using; 14 Shipmates; 15 Larks; 16 Please; 18 Reposed; 20 Repel; 21 Notes; 25 Air.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ali,

I wish to thank, first and foremost, Andea O'Neill, Doug Westland, Tim Evans, Heather Maddock, William Dee and Ben Evans. Also thanks to Patten Bridge, Margo Northey, Di Shephard and Fabian Burder, for their excellent work keeping the Yackandandah Health Residents informed about our future care.

Regards,

Helen Kelley

Dear Madam,

### Regarding the recent Australian Red Cross Albury Branch Yackandandah Gardens Fundraiser

A big thank you to Jill and Richard Whitford and Chris and Phil Bremmer for opening their beautiful gardens to raise funds for the Red Cross Disaster Response and Recovery Fund. We would like to thank The Reedy Creek Jazz Band for donating their time and adding so much enjoyment to the day. The gardens provided a wonderful variety of native as well as stunning roses and cottage style planting. With seating throughout the gardens along with morning and afternoon tea, whilst listening to the band made this fundraising event a very relaxed enjoyable affair.

The amount of \$4,400 was raised on the day and has been deposited into the Red Cross Disaster Response and Recovery Fund. The summer is approaching and with fires already happening around the country all funds are gratefully accepted by the Red Cross Disaster Response and Recovery teams. To the people of Yackandandah and surrounds a big thank you for your patronage on the day and upholding the Red Cross ethos of people helping people.

Australian Red Cross Albury Branch  
President Chris Mooney



Well, what a wonderful year it has been for Yackandandah Playgroup. Our young children have spent valuable time together exploring through play, building oral language skills, and making strong connections and friendships.

Thanks to those families who have come along to our sweet little room out at Osbornes Flat Primary and thank you for your

generous monetary donations and your commitment to building connections in your community and supporting



*Our great Playgroup space at Osbornes Flat Primary School*

your child's development.

A big thanks must also go to Alisha Watson (Principal) and her team at Osbornes Flat Primary School. The school have been incredibly supportive and flexible in allowing Playgroup to meet week in week out on their premises. We really appreciate it.

As Stace Hogan says goodbye to Yackandandah Playgroup and the organisation of group activities, the group warmly welcomes Lisa Hutchinson to the organiser role. Lisa lives in Yack with her young family, and you can expect to see her running group sessions beginning Term 1, 2024. We have no doubt Lisa will do a fabulous job running Playgroup, drawing on her knowledge and skills as an educator. Stay tuned in future Yackity Yaks for 2024 playgroup information or follow us on Facebook.

The new contact now for Yack PG is Lisa Hutchinson. Her contact email is [yackandandah.playgroup@gmail.com](mailto:yackandandah.playgroup@gmail.com)

*'Time spent playing with children is never time wasted.'*



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Having a team with different backgrounds isn't just a feather in our cap—it's a strategic advantage. It means we can genuinely listen, connect, and care in a way that transcends borders. It's about more than communication; it's about creating a space where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

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Continued from front page...

These stood alongside the inspired efforts of Yack people, with Postie pioneering local e-bike mail delivery, the Cemetery Trust establishing electric-powered grounds maintenance (much quieter for the residents!), sculptor Ben Gilbert's generous and formative hosting of *Yack01*, local business Kilowatt Cars importing and selling second-hand EVs, households adopting heat pump hot water, solar and battery systems, and hall committees' willingness and vision to try something new. All contributed to Yack's profile as an innovative, active town pursuing sustainable initiatives.

Congratulations also to Beechworth who won the major KAB Victoria *Tidy Town of the Year 2023* award!! A monumental achievement and the fifth time they have won the State award.

TRY would like to thank the following amazing organisations for their support and commitment to doing energy differently in Yackandandah: Indigo Power, Indigo Shire Council, Agency of Sculpture, Yackandandah Folk Festival, YCDCo, Yackity Yak, Yackandandah Community Centre, Yackandandah CFA, FRRR, Australian Ethical Foundation, Australian Communities Foundation and the Reichstein Foundation.

Juliette Milbank

### Yack moving towards a power of resilience

Yackandandah is now one step closer to having a back-up power supply on key buildings via TRY's Yackandandah Emergency Readiness project. In early November TRY ordered two trailer-mounted generators and confirmed with Council a plan to upgrade the power inlets at the Public Hall and Senior Citizens Centre.

Last year TRY received \$304,000 from Emergency Recovery Victoria to boost options for emergency power supplies at suitable buildings in town. Since then, an extra 12 kWh battery has been added to the Public Hall and a 13 kW solar system and 16 kWh battery at YCC. Both have the capability to operate when the electricity supply is out of action.

Engineering assessments have now determined the generator sizing for eight buildings across town and chosen generators that can be trailer-mounted and deployed to provide support at community facilities. Two mobile generators have now been ordered to power the Senior Citizens Centre and the Public Hall, whilst further

assessments continue at the School and Supermarket.

Yackandandah residents should always follow the advice of emergency services, and commonly leaving town early before an emergency event (fire, flood, storm, major heat wave) is the best action.

But if it remains safe to stay in Yackandandah, we will soon have expanded, pre-planned options for accessible power in town, so people can charge devices, cool down or warm up, shelter from the weather and access toilets.

Big thanks to the Public Hall Committee, YCC, YCDCo and Indigo Shire Council, plus a few skilled

local people for contributing to an advisory panel. Public announcements will occur when the generators are operational – we expect mid-January.

Matt Charles-Jones



Chantelle McConchie, YCC General Committee Member (L) with some of the TRY committee outside the recent solar and battery installation at the Yack Community Centre. PC: Noble Photographic



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From "To Horse" by Mike Peyton



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**SOME OF YACKANDANDAH'S  
BEAUTIFUL BIRD LIFE**

Here are some photos taken from our front garden over the year - these are some of our regular feathered visitors the company of which we have been enjoying.

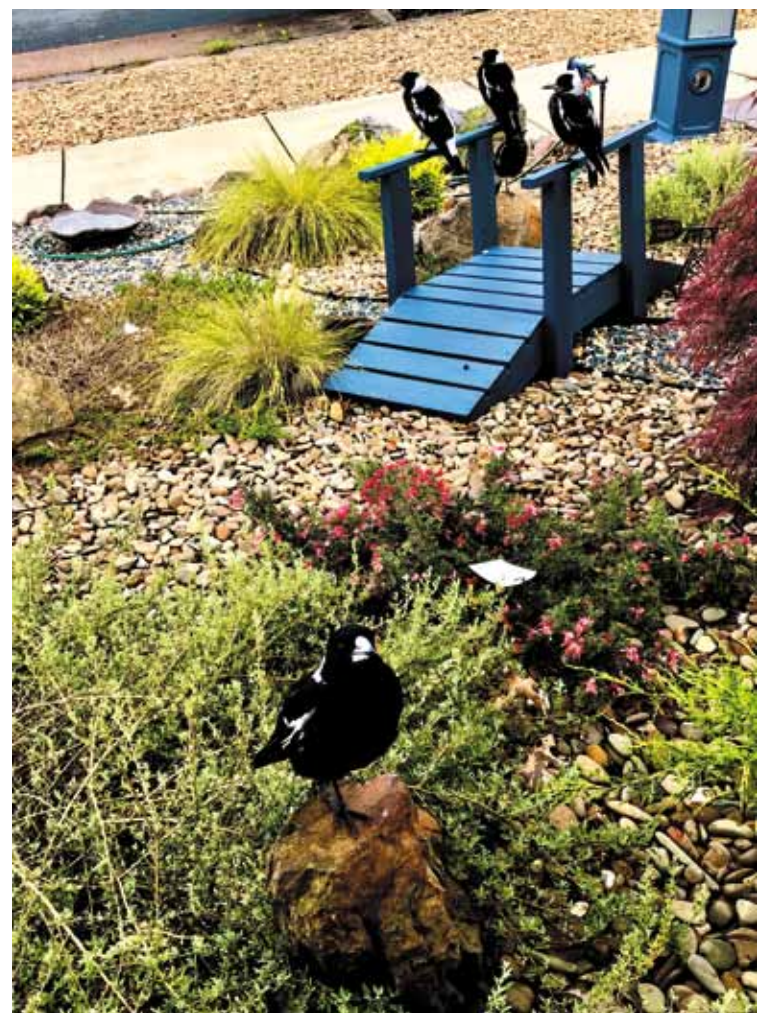
On the left is 'Bright Eyes', our regular King Parrot, who has been visiting us since we first moved here in September 2019. He happily lands on our heads, arms or hands for a feed and even lets me scratch his head every now and then. We often have ten or more pay us a visit in the afternoons.

On the right is Harrier, so named because he looks like a harrier jet swooping down from his nest in the big gum tree at the top of our street. He's our 'daddy' Magpie, showing off three of his offspring from three different years of hatchlings. He's been coming to visit us since we first started building and usually drops by each day to say 'hello' and grab some tucker. Each year, the older 'babies' help to feed the newest lot, and it's so adorable

watching them try to outdo one another in being first to satisfy each baby's cravings.

The third photo shows Harrier in full flight with a mouthful of food for the latest babies still on the nest with 'Noisy', his oldest offspring from the 2019 batch, sitting on our ornamental bridge waiting for his turn to feed them.

*Jeni Robinson*



  
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Monthly Meetings are on-going.

Where: Yack Men's Shed,  
24 Isaacs Avenue, Yackandandah  
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 & 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 SNAKE

Slithering through the clover, sliding through  
the rye,

The snake went out a-hunting, as warmer  
days were nigh.

Past were the days of Winter, with temperatures so  
cold,

When reptile minds were drowsy, but now! Alert and bold.

So beware you footloose people, where danger lurks unseen

In wait for careless trippers, in grass of brown or green.

Heed you this dire warning, if through the bush you roam,

Keep your eyes wide open, for snakes are there at home.



*John McIntyre*

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# YACKANDANDAH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

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9.00AM - 1.30PM

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COMMUNITY CENTRE

## Yackandandah Community Gears Up for a Spectacular Christmas Fair 2023

The Yackandandah Women's Shed is thrilled to announce the return of the much-anticipated Yackandandah Community Christmas Fair, set to take place from 9am on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, at the Soldiers Memorial Park, corner of High & Wellsford Streets, Yackandandah. This joyous event promises a day filled with festive cheer, delightful entertainment and a vibrant showcase of local talent and craftsmanship.

The Yackandandah Community Christmas Fair is a celebration that unites our community, bringing together residents, visitors, and vendors for a day of merry-making. Attendees can expect a myriad of activities for all ages, including:

- A bustling market featuring unique artisanal crafts and delicious treats.
- Music and roaming entertainment to set the festive mood.
- Fun-filled activities for children.
- The arrival of Santa at 10am
- A raffle filled with exciting prizes donated by stall holders & YCDCo.

The Yackandandah Women's Shed is delighted to bring back the Yackandandah Community Christmas Fair for another year of celebration and togetherness, said Fair organiser Chris Zerbst. "This event is a fantastic opportunity for the community to unite, support local businesses and enjoy the festive spirit. We're excited to welcome everyone for a day of joy and holiday cheer."

The Yackandandah Community Christmas Fair is made possible by the hard work of dedicated volunteers, the support of our major sponsor Bank WAW and the Yackandandah community's enthusiasm.

Join us for a day of festive fun and community spirit at the Yackandandah Community Christmas Fair. Save the date and be part of this heartwarming celebration!

Yackandandah Women's Shed is dedicated to fostering community engagement and supporting local initiatives that unite people. We strive to create events and opportunities that celebrate the diversity and talent within our community.

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## HATCHES AND MATCHES



**Cecilia Jane Musso**, daughter of Clare Bishop and Nicholas Musso, was welcomed into the world on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. Mother, baby and father all doing well.

The 11<sup>th</sup> of November will definitely be a date to remember for Olivia Rootsey and Justin Kennett, who celebrated their country wedding and reception at the Wool Press, Granya on this day with 100 of their close friends and family. The wedding was conducted by local celebrant Angela Bishop.

Congratulations to the newlyweds, Olivia and Justin!



## Delivering for our community

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**Helen  
Haines MP**



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## Hello from the friendly team at Yackandandah Folk Festival

As the event continues to grow each year, we now find ourselves needing to recruit some new people to help us in both in the lead up to, during and in some cases, after the festival to assist us in covering some very important roles as detailed below. Some of the larger roles may suit a job share arrangement between friends or couples.

Even if you have zero prior experience, don't let this put you off applying as one of our very knowledgeable members will be happy to assist you and equip you with the necessary information to make your time over the weekend enjoyable. We



should clarify that you don't need to be a member of the organising committee to do these jobs, although we would welcome new members who live locally.

If you would like

to find out further information, please complete the volunteer form on our website at [www.yackfolkfestival.com/join-in/volunteer/](http://www.yackfolkfestival.com/join-in/volunteer/). We would like to have these roles filled by January 2024, if possible.

Volunteering is loads of fun and in most cases, you get to hear and see a lot of performances over the weekend. You may even end up with free tickets to the Festival, depending on how much time you give us! If you've wondered what it's like to see YFF from behind the scenes, then this is your chance.

Don't miss out, apply today.

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

- Event Logistics Manager
- Equipment Booking Officer
- Duty Logistics Managers x 3
- Camping Logistics and Parking Coordinator
- Set-Up Coordinator
- Pack Down Coordinator
- Health and Safety Officer
- Council Liaison



- Venues Coordinator
- Head Venue/Managers / Co-Managers
- Signage Coordinator
- Main Street/ Street Stage Manager
- Food and Beverage Assistant Manager
- Green Team Coordinators x 2

These positions all come with varying benefits to give the volunteers time to enjoy the Festival whilst participating in a wonderful, well-known and respected event in the folk calendar.

## MAREE ROBERTS –CAKES BY MAREE

It's always great to catch up with Maree - nothing is ever too much of a problem and that lovely smile could be the hallmark of her business! She spared me a portion of one of her endlessly busy days, and sat down for nearly the whole interview with only one swift leap to the stove to stop something from boiling over. Her energy is extraordinary and in hearing her story about how she set up her catering business, I felt exhausted by the end of the interview.

With a view to stepping back and having a bit more time for herself, Maree confessed that her fantastic business, Marobe Cakes, is busier than it has been for quite a while! At the time of the interview (mid September) the workload wasn't so much planned as she had six cakes to make before heading off to the UK for a well earned break. This seems to be Maree's pattern of work - her cakes are so good that she is always in great demand.

Marobe Cakes has been in operation for fourteen years. It started purely as a hobby up at Keeble's Timber Gallery Café in Back Creek Road which opened in 2006 and closed five years later. After that, Maree was working with Gum Tree Pies, Sticky Tarts and also her own business, where she sold her goods at local markets. Maree mused on the struggle she had, juggling so many part time jobs. She also worked at Yackandandah Hospital, as it was then, cooking in the kitchen for the residents for around sixteen months, and then back to work with Seb at Gum Tree Pies.

For a business that started as a hobby, it soon became a full time job. Maree started cooking in her domestic kitchen which was duly registered for food production. She bought a commercial oven but realised that an extension for her work was long overdue and would free up the house which was rapidly being overtaken by the Marobe Cake business. Husband Steve, suggested that they turned one of the bedrooms into a kitchen. One of the sons converted the bedroom into the kitchen, and the business has blossomed since, completely overtaking Maree's expectations. Markets that Maree has sold produce at include Wangaratta, Oxley, Beechworth, Wagga and the Causeway at Albury-Wodonga. Maree also used to travel to the Craft Alive markets at Wodonga, Bendigo, Shepparton and Ballarat. So much time was spent travelling and the costs of that plus accommodation really saw the death knell to visiting markets for limited income. Maree now only attends the Yack Christmas market now run by the redoubtable Yackandandah Women's Shed.

Catering and cooking is clearly something that runs in Maree's genes. Maree's mother, Shirley Keeble, also cooked at Yack Health as well as at the Church Camp off Back Creek Road. Maree reflected very fondly on how her grandmother was a great cook as well, and produced huge amounts of food for fundraisers at Yackandandah Hospital. She said that there was always a piece of cake or a biscuit or two at her grandmother's home, waiting for hungry family members' visits. A

recent quote from father, Les was *"Grandma and Auntie Alice would be shining down on you, Maree. They would be so proud of you."*

The Keeble family have a long and happy history in North East Victoria. They moved up to the Yack area some sixty six years ago into Back Creek Road, leasing a farm, and then briefly to Ovens for tobacco picking. Les Keeble, Maree's father, has been on many committees locally, he has been a District Scout Commissioner, Chair of the Yackandandah Community Centre Committee of Management, as well as being a taxi driver and gas deliverer when they bought the Newton Store in the Yack High Street.



Maree has 4 sons and a patient husband! They have now been in Keeble Way for 23 years, after Maree & family moved from Albury in 1990. Son Josh was involved at Yack Newsagency for over 20 years, and the other boys have all been involved in the local community. The catering gene does seem to have passed over most of the boys as none of them other than Josh have been involved with the industry! Josh's brothers started off as brickies, but have since diversified into a carpenter, a roof plumber and a boiler maker/sales person at Lucas Mills and all very busy people, - three of them living locally and one in QLD. Maree and Steve have six grandchildren - one grandson and 5 granddaughters.

And the plans from 2024 onwards?

There are a few bookings for next year, including a booking for a wedding cake. Maree confessed to getting very nervous particularly doing wedding cakes where there is little room for disasters! She also works closely with Jenn Wright of Juniper and Stone Florist who does the flower arrangements for some of the cakes. Juniper and Stone is based in the old ANZ Bank near Gum Tree Pies.

Maree and Jenn work brilliantly as a team - Maree gives Jenn the cake and Jenn does the floral decorations. Another wish for 2024 is to have more time to experiment on further recipes for cakes.

I asked Maree if she was a keen cafe visitor. She said that she always checks out the cafes that she visits with a view to identifying new lines of product. She will experiment and changes ingredients sometimes - small tweaks just to improve a recipe. Her grandmother has passed on some recipes which are used to great acclaim, and she has plans to get the family cookbook from her uncle sometime to check out other recipes.

So the plan is to do just the cakes for a while, with perhaps a bit of catering, take some time to look after her parents with the assistance of other family members and planning a bit of travel. I suspect there won't be much sitting around!

Ali Pockley

If you have an interest in the future of health care in our community, we invite you to join the newly formed “Yackandandah Community Association Inc” and to consider participating in our next community meeting at 6pm on Wednesday, 6th December, 2023 in the Public Hall.

Our community health services are in transition. We need people and ideas to design and deliver direction for our future. *Can you help?*

Yackandandah Health Limited continues to be the employer of 140 employees and the provider of our local Aged Care, Independent Living Units, Medical Centre and Little Yacks. However, the control of Yack Health has passed to the Apollo Care Alliance who hold three of the five director positions on the board of the Yackandandah Health Limited Company. The remaining two director positions are held by Yackandandah community representatives.

Our community needs a process to engage with the Apollo Care Alliance, and to nominate the two directors to the Yackandandah Health Limited Board.

As part of the transition arrangements, Apollo Care have committed to:

- Work with a newly formed “Yackandandah Community Association Inc” to ensure they are informed about the community needs;
- Reserve two director positions from “Yackandandah Community Association Inc” to the Yackandandah Health Limited Board;
- Invite one “Yackandandah Community Association Inc” representative to participate on the Apollo Care Community Advisory Board;
- Transfer a community endowment of \$200,000 to the Yackandandah Community Association;
- Reimburse “Yackandandah Community Association Inc” operational costs up to \$10,000 for five years, and

**PLEASE COME TO OUR MEETING**  
**6.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, 6th DECEMBER, 2023 AT**  
**YACKANDANDAH PUBLIC HALL.**  
**PLEASE JOIN OUR NEW “YACKANDANDAH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.”**  
**WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WITH IDEAS FOR THIS NEXT STAGE OF**  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE**

- Issue Class O securities to the value of **\$800,000** to “Yackandandah Community Association Inc”

A working group of five locals (Phil Newman, Margo Northey, Fabian Burder, Mickey Clark and Helen McGowan) have established the new “Yackandandah Community Association Inc” and developed a ‘statement of purpose’ to give the new Association direction. to ensure our local community health services are designed and delivered appropriately.

We have a broad view of ‘health’ which includes proactive and preventative approaches to wellbeing, and we are keen to support community initiatives by cultivating a culture of volunteerism.

If you have views, we want to hear from you. Please:

- Consider participating in the new “Yackandandah Community Association Inc” by becoming a member (see below) and
- Participate at our community meeting on Wednesday, 6th December, 2023 at 6.00pm in the Yackandandah Public Hall.

**To receive a copy of the Membership Application form and links to the Yackandandah Community Association’s Statement of Purposes and Rules of the Association, please contact the organisation via email to:**  
**[yackcommunityassociation@gmail.com](mailto:yackcommunityassociation@gmail.com)**



### Energy Savings

With rising energy prices around the world, people are increasingly turning to wood stoves as a sustainable solution for heating throughout the colder months. With the high efficiency of a Euro Fireplace, you will use substantially less wood than a traditional fan forced heater, and will save on your overall energy bills.

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In Australia, Emissions are tested in grams per kilogram of wood burned. At Euro Fireplaces, the popular Andorra range operates at just 0.8g and the Ribe at 0.4g – industry leading in Australia, and are a testament to the high efficiency and quality of our products.

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# Fun at the Post Office

We have had some exciting times recently at Yackandandah Post Office, and not just because Christmas is looming and the Garden Club and Kel's Bird Calendars

are leaping off the shelves!



On Tuesday 14 November we had visits from two groups of children from the Foundation Class at Yackandandah Primary School. They had a great time exploring the Post Office, and learning how everyone's parcels and letters start out, how they are sorted and stored, and how they are delivered.

Each of them had written a letter to their family, which they put a stamp on and posted. While we were busy sorting and delivering these letters, the kids were back at school drawing pictures and writing 'thankyou' letters, which the teachers assembled into a beautiful book and gave to us. We have selected one of these lovely letters to share with you.

Have a great Christmas – from Chris, Kim, Mel and Amy



Thank you very much for letting us look at everything at the Post Office.  
I wish we could come back again and see more things.  
Thank you Kim and Chris.  
Thanks for letting me scan a box.

## Community Home Support

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### Home support for you or a family member

As we get older or a life event such as injury or illness occurs, everyday tasks can become more difficult. We can offer assistance to help keep you or your family member remain independent at home with our quality community home support services.

### Our services

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Home Care Packages

NDIS

### Costs

Services may be funded privately or by the Australian Government depending on your needs and circumstances.

### How to connect to our services in Indigo

If you are aged over 65 My Aged Care is the starting point for accessing all Australian Government funded services. Contact them on this number 1800 200 422.

If you are aged under 65 or have NDIS funding please call or email us directly on the contact details below.

If you believe you or a family member could benefit from a home care package please call or email directly on the contact details below.

### Contact us

03 5751 9422

service.coordination@alpinehealth.org.au

www.alpinehealth.org.au

### What community home support services are available?

#### Meals on Wheels

To help you continue to eat well.

#### Centre Based Meals

Meal & social interaction at a centre.

#### Personal Care Assistance

To help you maintain your personal hygiene and grooming standards, and food preparation.

#### Domestic Assistance

To help you keep your home clean and livable, and to help with shopping.

#### Home Modifications/Maintenance

To help you keep your home and garden in a safe and accessible condition

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To help you get to appointments and community activities.

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To support you and your carer by giving you both a break.

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# UNITE INDIGO

OUR COMMUNITY AS ONE  
A free and inclusive all-ages music event

TEENAGE JOANS  
FIRE OPAL ANOX  
DARCY JOHAN  
MIEKE BOSLAND  
SAMARA BRIGHT

WHEN Saturday 2 December 2023, 2 to 7 pm

WHERE Public Hall, Yackandandah

Get your tix



This event will be smoke, alcohol and drug free and has been proudly funded through Indigo's Future Proof, Freeza and Engage projects.

Supported by



Get ready to groove at the Unite Indigo music festival, an event brought to you by the local young people of the Indigo Future Proof Action Group! Join us for an incredible music extravaganza at the Yackandandah Public Hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 2pm.

Head to the Indigo Shire website to get your FREE tickets!

<https://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/Community/Community-support/Young-people/Unite-Indigo-music-festival-739920541257>

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE DRAFT YACKANDANDAH SPORTS PARK MASTER PLAN

There is still a small amount of time to provide your feedback on the draft master plan for the Yackandandah Sports Park.

Head to our website to view the draft plan and proposed improvements and provide your input by completing our survey or by leaving your ideas on our virtual ideas board.

[www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/yacksportspark](http://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/yacksportspark)

Feedback closes 5pm Friday 1 December, 2023.

## BOOKING THE PUBLIC HALL OR COURTHOUSE?

Yack has some amazing venues for concerts - the Public Hall and the Courthouse 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)

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.

Jenni Lannen, the Booking Officer can be contacted by email at: [publichall@yackandandah.com](mailto:publichall@yackandandah.com) or by mobile on 0459 271 801.



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# SOLAR INTEGRITY



*Oration at the gravesite of John Charles McDermott, being read by a decedent, Mick McDermott*



*The grave of Mr. Ray Riddington*

It was a fine Spring day when the Historical Society conducted their 16<sup>th</sup> Cemetery Walk. To coincide with the current exhibition "A Walk in High Street",



*Mr. Ray Riddington*

on view in the Museum bank building, the grave sites chosen were shop keepers from years gone by. Visitors who attended on the day learnt about Ellen & Francis Stiles who once ran a Newsagency, and Charles Bismark Reichhardt, a saddler whose shops stood on the site now occupied by *A Bear's Old Wares* and *The Golden Tricycle* stores. In total ten sites were visited, including Ray Riddingtons whose 'Premier Store' is now Klimt; Jack Sealy who

had a saddlery where Grace's Place now stands and Dixie Dean, owner of a grocery store which today is the site of Ralph's Old Wares store. It is fascinating to learn of the lives of past Yackandandah residents and the Cemetery Walks are an intuitive way to share these tales. If you missed out on this walk, the Museum has a brochure relating the stories that were read at the gravesites.

## WHAT'S ON AT THE MUSEUM

The current exhibition 'A Walk in High Street' is worth a visit! View items that were used by store owners in another century.

## THINKING OF VOLUNTEERING WITH THE YACKANDANDAH MUSEUM? HAVE A FEW HOURS UP YOUR SLEEVE?

Please let us know! We would love to see you and have a chat about it.

P: (02) 6027 0627

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

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/yackandandah.museum.9](http://www.facebook.com/yackandandah.museum.9)

OPEN: 10:30 am – 3:30 pm Wednesday – Sunday (Vic school holidays – every day)

## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Christmas is coming and volunteers and members of the YDHS are putting together a raffle that will be well worth buying a ticket in! As we have done in previous years, we will have three hampers, comprising 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> prize. Tickets will be on sale at the Museum, and out the front of the newsagency on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & again on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, when the lucky winners will be phoned. The raffle is one of the major fund-raising events for the Historical Society which relies of volunteers, donations and the sale of produce to keep

the doors open and the support of our local community is much appreciated.

## MEMBERSHIP of YDHS

Membership is open to everyone; \$20 single or \$35 family. Being a member means you can enter the museum for free, participate in the Society's organised activities, receive our bi-monthly newsletter 'Yackandandah Times' and vote at our Annual General Meeting. Members are also covered by insurance when participating in an activity run by the Society. If you would like to join, our contact details are listed at the end of this article.



*Ellen Stiles out the front of her Newsagency*

## ON SALE AT THE MUSEUM

- Jams and sauces, made by our volunteers from local produce
- Published books and booklets on the history of Yackandandah, past residents, and events
- Second-hand books and CDs of every genre, including stories for children
- Hand-made craft items such as bookmarks & lavender bags
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## HOGGY'S FARM SERVICE

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# Yackandandah Community Centre



2023 has been a year of significant change at YCC, with David Thorpe, our manager, resigning and moving away, and then welcoming our new manager, Jane Murphy. As we move toward the end of 2023, it is timely to look back at THE highlights

coordinates an annual inspection of these machines including providing feedback to the owners, ensuring that they are kept in good working order. We offered CPR and defibrillator training, partnering with Ambulance Victoria, and seeing 80 community members participate in these training workshops.

volunteers to help us in 2024.



Some of 2023 grant recipients with members of the YCC Committee

of our year and to set out some of our aims and activities for 2024.

- Upgrade of our solar panels and battery system thanks to a grant organised by TRY, installed by Solar Integrity, will allow YCC to generate and store power to use in the event of a power outage, adding to the energy resilience of our proactive town.
- Community resilience work, partnering with the Indigo Shire Council and the CFA to host emergency preparedness sessions (120 people attending), with the focus on having a household plan and knowing your options to make good decisions in a crisis. We also attended



Some of our wonderful volunteers enjoy a lunch together

First up, 2023:

- Delivery of our grants program, \$15,030 to 11 different community groups. Our grant recipient gathering was a humbling experience as we saw community members show their appreciation for the grant money and share the ups and downs of running a community group.
- The Town Defibrillator project was completed in collaboration with YCDCo and the Yack Men's Shed. This saw 14 town defibrillators documented and displayed on a map, that is now available to all Yack residents. YCC now



Members from our great Men's Shed installing the defibrillator outside the Public Hall

workshops to assist TRY with Yackandandah Readiness Risks research and energy resilience projects in respect of portable generators.

- We organised a variety of workshops and community activities including; First Aid & CPR training, Tai Chi, Kids world cup soccer event, Pregnancy Expo, Planning a Funeral, Scam Awareness and Emergency Preparedness to name a few.
- Recruiting & celebrating our volunteers - like most community run organisations, volunteers are the backbone of our Op Shop operations, a thank you to our volunteers and a 'shout out' for more

Community Garden.

- Exploring the idea of hosting a youth space for the youth of Yackandandah.
- Facilitating a cultural connection program, where we as a community can learn about the generations before us, encouraging connection through storytelling, arts, language & dance.

If you would like to get involved or require more information about our programs, please call (02) 6027 1743 or email [manager@ycc.org.au](mailto:manager@ycc.org.au).

And from me, thank you to our committee and staff, who are always prepared to help out, who give their time and energy to ensure that YCC connects and grows with our community.

And to the wonderful community of Yackandandah - thanks for your support...

Please note that the YCC office will be closed between 20th December to 15th January, 2024.

Karen Keegan  
Chair, YCC Committee of Management

## Hammond Design Tiling

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Email: [chd@writeme.com](mailto:chd@writeme.com)

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[www.yackandandahautomotive.bapnet.com.au](http://www.yackandandahautomotive.bapnet.com.au)

## BRUARONG COMMUNITY CENTRE - SALUTING THEIR SERVICE

A wonderful Remembrance Day Service and celebration of completion of the Saluting Their Service Project occurred at the Bruarong Community Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am with 80 people present.



From left: H Hillas, A Leitch, S Sutherland, R Martin, H Nelder and Cr. P Croucher.  
PC: Simon Dallinger

The beautiful WWI and WWII Honour Boards restored by professionals at the Grimwade Centre, University of Melbourne were displayed during the ceremony. Stan Sutherland led the service supported by the Army School of Trades from Bandiana with the Catafalque Party thus

providing a strong military presence. Peter Croucher, Indigo Shire Councillor shared his thoughts about the war service contribution that Bruarong servicemen and families gave. He laid a wreath, Helen Nelder and Arthur Leitch who both have descendants on the WWI and WWII honour boards laid a wreath and an RSL wreath was laid with pride by Zoe Richter and Max Murphy. A moving ceremony with time for poignant reflection was had by those present.

Following the ceremony, a delicious morning tea was enjoyed whilst people viewed the individual military histories of Bruarong service persons, family stories and the new interpretative panel designed by Daisy Searls and the volunteer working group. This panel completes our collection of history panels.

Simon Dallinger captured images during the day which will contribute to our Bruarong History book due for completion by June 2024. We plan to have a book opening in late November 2024 after printing is complete. This is very exciting and will be the culmination of five years work with many contributions from our history working group, families and community.

Over the past twelve months, the volunteer working group of Arthur Leitch, Helen Nelder, Ross Martin, Stan Sutherland and Heather Hillas have invested many hours to achieve this special occasion. Stan has provided valuable



Zoe Richter and Max Murphy laying the RSL Wreath. PC: Simon Dallinger

expertise, education and guidance on military protocol - thank you, Stan. Appreciation is given to contributors who provided research - Thelma Buchanan, Annette Bowers and the Military Research Centre in Canberra. Thank you to the Bruarong Community Centre Committee and community who gave time and generously helped, as well as the Yackandandah Men's Shed members who helped rebuild the school flagpole. A great team effort all round.

The determination and work were recognised of those community members who, in the mid 1970's, fought hard for a replacement building of the Bruarong Primary School. Their foresight brings us the Bruarong Community Centre setting of which we are the current custodians, and a wonderful asset for future community members of Bruarong to enjoy.

Heather Hillas

## The Lott to open in Yack

Locals will no longer have to leave town to seek their fortune following The Lott approving a new franchise here in Yackandandah.

The opening date is yet to be confirmed, but it is expected that the new outlet will open inside Yackandandah Newsagency before Christmas.

The new outlet continues the growth of our local shopping centre and, along with the expansion and relocation of the Pharmacy and Gum Tree Pies, shows how our local businesses have the confidence to invest and offer improved services to locals and the surrounding district. It's very much a two-way street, where locals shopping locally supports our small businesses and allows them to expand the range of products available here in Yack.

Although lotto will be new to Yack News, it's not the









first time the owner of Yack News will be selling lottery tickets:

"I had Lotto in my previous business in Elwood for nearly thirty years, so I've got a bit of experience there", said David Lacey, the owner of Yack News. "It's exciting to be starting it off again and, hopefully, it won't take too long to build on the six first divisions we sold there. A \$100 million winner would be nice. I guess there will be a bit of a competition between Julie and me to see who can sell a big prize first."


Yack News will offer the full range of lotteries products, including the big lotteries jackpot games, instant scratchies and house syndicates alongside its traditional newsagency lines and expanding giftware and book ranges.

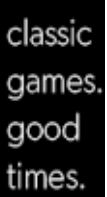




Laying Wreath: Helen Nelder and Arthur Leitch with the honour boards and Military supports.  
PC: Simon Dallinger

We've got something for almost everyone  
this Christmas right here in Yack!







# YACK GARDEN CLUB



The Garden Club strongly associates with a quiet community group in Yackandandah, one that works behind the scenes and which you seldom see in public. I am speaking of the Cemetery Trust. Jim Ralston, our Streetscape Coordinator, and I visited the Cemetery and talked to Ian Jenkins, who acts as the Treasurer and

Sexton and has volunteered on the Trust for twenty three years! I asked Ian about the history and ongoing management and care of our Cemetery's approximate ten acres.

The first burial recorded was fourteen-month-old Ellen Anderson on 7th Sept. 1859; up to now, there are over 3,811 interments. The Cemetery's layout consists of four main sections: Memorial, Lawn, Rose Garden and the new Nature section, which is for non-traditional burials. There is also a Chinese section

Island Strawberry tree 'Arbutus Canariensis' and a Lawson Cypress' *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*'. Thought to have been planted in the 1870s, they can be recognised by the brass plaques identifying them. There is also a diverse range of native grasses, herbs, orchids and lilies. The notice board at the main gates of the Cemetery lists nine varieties, including Sun Orchids, Bulbine Lily, Grass-Trigger Plant, Purple Coral Pea, Black-Antherer Flax, Native Geranium, Grey Guinea-Flower and Kangaroo Grass.

On a recent walk around the Cemetery, which the Historical Society organised as part of their Cemetery Walks program, I was delighted to find some of the various orchids and grasses less visible in gardens today. This insight inspired our collaborative chat with Ian, and I hope it may inspire readers to wander through our historic, significant, and well-cared-for plot on the outskirts of town.

Chrissie Zerbst

## SAPLINGS CORNER GARDENING FOR CHILDREN



Children, gardening and Christmas can form a heartwarming tapestry of tradition, growth and wonder. It is a time of joy and giving, creating a perfect backdrop for promoting the connection between children and gardening. Tending to plants, watching them grow, and experiencing the beauty of nature's cycles can be a valuable life lesson they can share.

If your child has nurtured a plant over the past few months, talk to them about gifting it or simply picking a flower from it to give to a loved one. In this relationship, children learn the joy of tending to living things and giving them from the heart, making Christmas a truly magical experience.

### GARDENING TIPS – for a hot summer

Good preparation is critical for your garden to survive the predicted hot summer. Here are some tips to help you and your plants survive the heat:

- Water early. If you water in the afternoon, allow enough time for foliage to dry out, which will help to avert mildew.

- Add soluble nutrients to the water.
- Keep the lawn long and lush. Longer turf wears better and helps prevent weeds from taking over. A trick to keeping lawns lush is to apply a handful of poultry manure per/sq metre each season.
- Do the more challenging jobs in the cool of the day. Drink regularly, wear sunscreen, a hat and protective layering of clothes.
- Take care of budding plants such as camellias. Mulch and water deeply once or twice weekly.
- Morning and early evenings are the best time to sow your new plants. Shelter them with shade cloth, mulching or even leafy branches.
- Fruit and vegetables will ripen quickly under a hot sun; pick them regularly to avoid missing out.
- Help pots to stay cool by adding light layers of mulch and positioning them out of the western sun. If they dry out, soak them in a bucket of water for half an hour and let them drain.
- Thin your crops; it will prevent undersized veggies and fruit when it comes to harvest.
- If you are going away, prepare your garden beds. Re-mulch, liquid feed, knock up some shade cloth tents, hook up an automated watering system, and ask a friend or neighbour to drop in and water if that's not possible.

## CHRISTMAS BEETLES - We found this story in an old Burke's Backyard magazine.

*"Where have all the Christmas beetles gone? Well, we have cleared away their habitat to build our towns, and for another thing, our bright outside lights aren't helpful. Christmas beetle larvae feed on the roots of native grasses, so won't trouble your lawn. But if a vacant lot or grassy woodland gets built on, there go your chances of seeing any true Christmas beetles in summer. Adult beetles feed mainly on eucalyptus leaves, but without the grubs, there cannot be any adults. The problem for the beetles can be our overuse of outside lights. Night-flying insects use the distant light of the moon and stars to navigate by, and by keeping the distant light striking their backs at a certain angle, they fly in a straight line. Artificial lighting is far brighter and closer, so they fly in a spiral to keep the angle to the light correct- and as a result, they end up trapped in the light. If they survive, bashing themselves senseless until dawn, they are then at the mercy of the birds and ants as they lie on the ground, too exhausted to hide. Suppose they somehow manage to survive even this ordeal the following evening. In that case, the outdoor lights return, and they're still trapped in their insect 'Hotel California' situation where they can never leave. So, please turn off your outdoor lights when you don't need them and help the beetles to survive at Christmas."*

### COMING UP

Our much-anticipated GARDEN EXPO is on our calendar for next year. Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> May – SAVE THE DATE!

### FOR SALE

We still have a small stock of our Yackandandah Garden Club calendar. Check out the Newsagents, the PostOffice and YCDCo for your copy; they make a fantastic Christmas present - don't miss out!

### CONTACT US

**Meetings:** 'Wellsford House', Wellsford St, Yackandandah, 7 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, bi-monthly (beginning 8<sup>th</sup> Feb.) If you are interested in joining the Club or coming to a meeting, don't hesitate to contact us. (Membership is not required to attend a meeting.)

**Email:** yack.garden.club@outlook.com

**Phone:** 0428 116 562, President Cheryl Frawley

**Post:** P.O. Box 178, Yackandandah Vic 3749



Jim Ralston (YGC Streetscape Coordinator) with Ian Jenkins of the Cemetery Trust

where the Chinese burial footstones are apparent and a Trustees Ground section. The Rose Garden, which members of the Garden Club prune twice yearly, is for the interment of cremated remains and is non-denominational.

Maintenance of the Cemetery is based chiefly on volunteer commitment to keeping the grounds neat and safe. However, the Trust employs a person on a needs basis to assist with basic tasks. Occasional assistance comes from teams from the Beechworth Correctional Centre, the Community Work Group from Shepparton, and the Garden Club, which maintains the Rose Garden.

**The Trust conducts an annual working bee on the first Saturday in December, which is coming up on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. All community members are invited to come along and help on the day.**

Ian explained the Trust enjoys excellent relationships with various bodies and services. These include funeral directors, monumental masons, gravediggers and local community groups, including the Yackandandah Garden Club, the CFA and the Historical Society.

The Cemetery boasts three trees, listed as significant by the National Trust (Victoria) – An Irish Strawberry tree 'Arbutus Unedo', a Canary



Garden Club members working in the Rose Garden

# THE ARTS IN YACKANDANDAH



You are invited to the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition at the Pottery  
**November 25<sup>th</sup> to December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

This year there will be some wonderful surfaces in Terra Sigillata and salt glazed pots as well as gift lines for that special occasion

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## YACKANDANDAH'S YOUNG VIRTUOSOS HIT THE RIGHT NOTES AT THE ALBURY WODONGA EISTEDDFOD!

Cue the applause for our talented junior maestros from Yackandandah! Fela Gilbert, Amelia Grenfell, Miles Thornton, Eila Thornton, James Thornton and Harvey Thornton took centre stage and wowed the crowd at this year's local Eisteddfod in Albury.

The solo piano category twinkled in the spotlight, boasting the highest number of participants in many years. Imagine over 40 mini Mozarts tinkling away on the ivories, showcasing their skills in the bronze instrumental category (up to level 3 AMEB). It was a musical extravaganza!

Adding to the magic was the esteemed Melissa Buchholz, who graced us as the adjudicator. With 25 years of adjudication experience and 30 years of teaching various instruments up to diploma level, Melissa brought a wealth of musical wisdom to the event. Her feedback was not just insightful; it was a melody of encouragement.

Melissa had some musical gems to share about our local talents. Miles's rendition of Bach's Minuet no. 2

was hailed for its 'confidence' and revealed a 'talented violinist.' Harvey's performance of the traditional May Song showcased 'great intonation' and a 'confident and musical' touch. Eila's fluency in Grieg's Notturmo earned her commendation for 'effective contrasts,' while James's Für Elise performance was praised for being 'musical,' with an encouraging

nudge to 'keep working hard.' Amelia, our multi-instrumental virtuoso, received praises for her 'polished performance' of Suzuki's Perpetual Motion and her 'excellent shaping and balance' on the piano with London Bridge. Fela, our stylish pianist was

musical magic at Yackandandah Primary School, taking 185 children on an unforgettable musical adventure. As we bid farewell to David, we thank him for filling our lives with beautiful melodies and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Bravo, Yackandandah! Let the music play on!

### Awards:

#### Piano Bronze Instrumental Solos:

Fela Gilbert: Pre-1900: Silver for *Arietta (Mozart)*, Post-1900: Highly Commended for *Picnic Hop (Norton)*, Open Choice: Silver for *Minuet in G minor (Bach)*

Amelia Grenfell: Open Choice: Highly Commended for *London Bridge (traditional)*

James Thornton: Pre-1900: Highly Commended for *Für Elise (Beethoven)*

#### Piano Silver Instrumental Solos

Eila Thornton: Pre-1900: Bronze for *Notturmo (Grieg)*

#### Violin Bronze Instrumental Solo:

Amelia Grenfell: Pre-1900: Silver for *Minuet no. 1 (Bach)*, Post-1900: Silver for *Perpetual Motion (Suzuki)*,

Own Choice: Silver for *Jingle Bells (traditional)*,

Harvey Thornton:

Post-1900: Highly Commended for *May Song (Traditional)*,

Miles Thornton:

Pre-1900: Gold for *Minuet no. 2 (Bach)*, Post-1900:

Highly Commended for *Etude (Suzuki)*,

**Junior instrumental duet:**

Harvey and Miles

Thornton (violin): Gold for *Song of the wind (Suzuki)*



David Pietsch with Amelia Grenfell and Fela Gilbert at the Eisteddfod

applauded for his 'flair' in Norton's Picnic Hop Blues, his 'musicality' and 'sensitive approach' in Bach's Minuet in G minor and 'stylistic playing' of Mozart's Arietta earned him well-deserved commendations.

What makes this musical achievement even more special is that Amelia, Fela, Miles, and Harvey are all proud products of Yackandandah's local Suzuki program led by the legendary David Pietsch. David's departure to Melbourne leaves a musical void in our community. His dedication, musicality, humour and nurturing approach to guiding his students on their musical journeys will be greatly missed.

For the past 12 months, David has also been weaving



Fela and Amelia celebrate their awards



Harvey and Miles Thornton with their Eisteddfod medals

Tijana Simic



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## UKE-N-DANDAH



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

Monday night sessions are back!

7 - 8.30 pm on Monday evenings at the Courthouse.

Please come and join us.

To keep in the loop or for further details, please contact Chris via email - [chris.zerbst@gmail.com](mailto:chris.zerbst@gmail.com)



Our local and much-loved art exhibition, Fresh and Unframed, returned to the Yackandandah Courthouse during the recent Cup Day long

weekend. Once again, it was a great success and attracted lots of artists and visitors. The range of media and subject matter was testament to the rich talent and vision of our local arts community. Many visitors and artists commented on the very high standard of the artworks and how well they were curated by Kirsten Coates.

The exhibition was open to the public from the opening night on Friday 3 November to Tuesday 7 November. The opening night was attended by an enthusiastic crowd who enjoyed the balmy evening and the artworks.

49 artists entered 135 artworks in a variety of media.

Helen Hill, a well-known artist from Wangaratta, judged the artwork and awarded the Hal Slatter Memorial Award of \$500 to Lynne Davies for her pastel *Hot Cross Buns*. Helen gave careful and expert consideration to the artworks and provided positive feedback not only to the winner but also a number of other artists.



*"Hot Cross Buns" by Lynne Davies, the winner of the Hal Slatter Memorial Award*

The People's Choice Award of \$250 went to Susannah Lees for her *Snow Brumbies*. Both winning artworks were widely admired.

Fresh and Unframed wouldn't have been possible without the support of many people. The committee, Kirsten Coates, Jenny Poyner and Helen MacCalman, would

like to say a big thank you to:

- Arts Yackandandah and the Public Hall Committee for supporting the purchase of eight very smart display screens which greatly enhanced the artwork and were much easier to set up
- President of Arts Yackandandah, Chris McGorlick, for opening the exhibition

## FRESH AND UNFRAMED 2023

- Glen Aberle for working his magic on the keyboard at the opening
- Mitzi Davison for assistance with financial and many other matters
- Verily Slatter for her social media promotion and for helping to keep Hal's contribution to the visual arts in Yackandandah alive



*Kirsten Coates presenting Lynne Davies with the Hal Slatter Memorial Award*

- Richard Nunn and Kevin Poyner for helping to set up and take down the exhibition
- Jill Whitford for the gorgeous flowers
- All the artist volunteers
- The residents at Yackandandah Health for sharing their beautiful artwork

Last but not least, a huge thank you to the Yackandandah community without whose support Fresh and Unframed would not have been the success it was.

The Committee would welcome any feedback on this year's Fresh and Unframed.

Please email to [helenmaccalman@gmail.com](mailto:helenmaccalman@gmail.com)



*"Snow Brumbies" by Susannah Lees, winner of the People's Choice Award*

## The Guard // Yack Station Precinct // 6 Turntable Lane, Yackandandah December 7, January 11 & February 8 // Open Stage: 7pm - 9pm

Over three evenings in Summer, local coffee traders, The Guard, will partner up with Arts Yackandandah to stage Yackandandah's first all ages & abilities Open Mic Night. Bringing the community together through a nourishing combination of the Arts and good food, these evenings are open to emerging artists, poets, musicians & comedians of all ages to share their creations in a fun, safe, inclusive and supportive space.

With the first Open Mic Night to kick off on **Thursday, 7th December from 7 pm**, local business owner of The Guard, Gary Menzies-Browne, speaks to how The Guard has gone from coffee traders to stage creators for these events. "Although by day I make a good brew, I am also an artist of sorts: musician, photographer and poet. Mostly closeted! These events were inspired by my deep love and appreciation of the Arts and tending to a need to find a judgement-free space. Instead of finding this space, we're creating this space, where passionate artists of *all* ages and abilities are given the support and encouragement they need to feel whole and free in their expression."

Local songwriter and Arts Yackandandah volunteer, Candice McLeod, has been working closely alongside The Guard to bring this community event to life. With a history of community music work amongst the youth of Central Australia, Candice shares how and why an all-ages open stage feels important for the community.

"When community of all ages and generations gather for the same purpose, magic can happen. Then, like an onion, the layers begin to peel back. All of a sudden, we're given the permission to express ourselves freely, because the person next to us just jumped up on stage and did it first! Inhibitions and insecurities are felt by **all** humans, regardless of our age. These open mic nights are a reminder of our vast diversity, but also of our simple, sweet same-ness."

Arts Yackandandah is a not-for-profit, community-run organisation, aiming to support and foster the Arts within the community. From 7pm, a complimentary communal supper will be provided by The Guard, supported by Arts Yackandandah. This event is a safe and inclusive event, aiming to empower performers of all ages. Gary adds, "Every day, I am so thankful for music! For me, it is the only art form that can both reduce me to tears, and fill my heart with joy. I'm so excited to share space with my community of people beyond the coffee machine, who are brave enough to create and share something powerful, simply out of a collection of sounds and feelings."

Children under 15 years must be accompanied by an adult.

For all enquiries, including tech requirements, please contact [candicemcleodmusic@gmail.com](mailto:candicemcleodmusic@gmail.com).

**Let Your Guard Down**  
AT THE **GUARD**  
YACKANDANDAH  
Open stage from 7pm

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Toasties & Lemon  
Slice Supper!  
\*Sticks included!

**December 7**  
**January 11**  
**February 8**

*a safe, inclusive all-ages space to share your art in an intimate, playful & acoustic setting.*

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Candice (Arts Yack)  
0434 596 195

poetry music comedy

linktr.ee/artsyackandandah  
https://arts.yackandandah.com

Arts  
\*BYO picnic rug  
\*Under 15's must be accompanied by adult



The spirit of Christmas looked and smelt very special towards the end of Term 4, when the pre-kindergarten class took an excursion

to Jenn Wright's *Juniper & Stone Florist* in Yackandandah's Main Street. When Jenn invited us for a Christmas excursion, we were thrilled for the opportunity to soak in the floral extravaganza that is her new store. Jenn is a Kinder parent and her creative talents are hugely appreciated, particularly in her curation of our annual end of year Art Show.

This visit offered the perfect extension to our learning surrounding seed growth, flowers, pollination etc. Jenn ran some floral art-based experiences with the



**Christmas wreath by our 3 year olds - watch out Jenn - we can see some competition!!**

children, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The end result was a most stunning large floral wreath which now proudly hangs on our door at Kinder.

Well, our little ones are ready to move on to bigger and better things in 2024.

Term Four was very busy as the kindergarten program children focussed on making the transition to Primary School – experiencing increased social engagement through primary school teacher visits to the Kinder, school students visiting the service and orientation/transition days. Our Kindergarten families embraced the transition programs organised by their chosen primary schools and the children would return to Kinder very excited about 'big school' and their buddies. For staff, it was a joy to support them to engage in their self-help routines to promote their independence and self-confidence during that exciting period of change and transition.

We have taken some time to look back at all the achievements and progress our Kindergarten program children have made and celebrate their journey over the past few years. Some of our soon-to-be primary school children have been with the Kinder for 3 or more years – starting with one day in Bush Kinder Program and then progressing through the pre-kindergarten and then kindergarten rooms. In the final weeks of Term 4, the children progressed in leaps and bounds in their communication and



**Christmas excursion for our 3 year olds**

emergent literacy development – extra interest and effort was shown in learning more about print and developing their alphabet and word knowledge. The joy of clearly writing their own name produced infectious smiles and self-pride. It also produced some tears of pride from staff too!

Now, our 2023 pre-kindergarten children are more than ready to step up into Kindergarten program – they will become the 'big fish' in our little pond and like other classes before them, they will be the ones to take the younger children's hands and show them "their" Kinder; the best places to play, where you'll find the chooks hiding, the fairy garden, the favourite climbing tree, how to climb the turtle and ride the rock spinner. In 2024 their learning and development journey will continue as they discover, create, improvise, and imagine. Extending upon their 2023 pre-kinder year, we know they will enjoy rich inquiry-based learning where their curiosity will encourage them to explore the natural world and ask questions. A wonderful range of program activities will engage them in open-ended challenges and stimulate their thinking and they'll find themselves achieving so much more.

We are looking forward enormously to welcoming our new families to Kinder in 2024. We have huge interest in our pre-kindergarten program and once again, we will be operating not one but two pre-kinder rooms so our community doesn't miss out on funded places. This,

together with two kindergarten rooms, a kindergarten school readiness program and 2 Bush Kinder session days is going to make for a busy, rewarding year. We are happy to confirm that the on-site After Kinder Care Program will again be available Monday – Thursday. Booking enquiries can be made through the Yackandandah Primary School via email at [yack.ps.oshc@outlook.com](mailto:yack.ps.oshc@outlook.com)

We would like to take this opportunity to again thank the Kinder Committee of

Management and all the Kinder families for their support of the service over the year. We appreciate how well parents, caregivers and children have handled the ups and downs of the past few years and are keen to see everyone embracing everything our wonderful Kinder can offer. We are also grateful for the excellent collaborative partnerships we have with the Yack Primary School, Yack Men's Shed, local apiarists and local businesses whose support enables us to dream big and continue growing our learning opportunities for the children.

Enrolment enquiries are always welcome. Contact us at *Yackandandah*. [kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

We wish our community a wonderful Christmas and New Year, full to the brim with family, love and laughter. Stay safe and be kind!

*Yackandandah Kindergarten Staff*

**MANGO ORDER UPDATE**



Thank you everyone for your generous support of our Mango Fundraiser. Delivery is estimated in **the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> December** and the Yack pick-up location will either be the Yack Public Hall in the High Street or the Courthouse (as well as a drop off point at Beechworth Health). The Mango Co-Ordinator, Sarah Crispin ([yackmangos@outlook.com](mailto:yackmangos@outlook.com)) will keep customers informed by email of the exact delivery date.



**Halliday**  
SOLICITORS

**'With you in change'**

**Local lawyer Matt Grogan is here for you.**

We help with Property Law (conveyancing), Wills, Estates and Business and Commercial Law.

Please phone us for a chat.

We are here most Tuesdays, and at other times by appointment.

"Ardsville", 32 High Street,  
Yackandandah VIC 3749  
Phone: 03 5728 1866

Email: [admin@hallidaysolicitors.com.au](mailto:admin@hallidaysolicitors.com.au)



**BEECHWORTH HEALTH SERVICE**

**Club Connection - Yackandandah Beechworth Health Service Seniors program**

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays  
From 10am-3 pm

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

Morning Tea/Lunch provided

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

# YACK CEMETERY TRUST

Welcome to Summer at the Yackandandah Cemetery. The remnant grasses that cover the cemetery grounds have started to seed and the native wildflowers and orchids have finished flowering. It's now time to prepare the aesthetics of the cemetery for the peak visitor period of Christmas. The annual working bee is scheduled for **Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December** and the Cemetery Trust is calling on all community volunteers to contribute a few hours to help attend to a range of ground maintenance activities. Start time is 8am, and we usually see people leaving around 11am, but some stay until its finished. We are grateful for any time given from volunteers, 1 hour or 3, all is helpful. The working bee is also a good time for descendants to attend to the memorials of their loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you with a refreshing cold drink - please remember to bring a hat, gloves, and sunscreen.

The Cemetery Trust would like to acknowledge Master Felix Anderson for his ongoing service to the Yackandandah community by volunteering at the Cemetery. Felix has been a regular volunteer at the Cemetery for over a year now, and first volunteered to earn his 'Creating a Better World' badge from the 1<sup>st</sup> Yackandandah Scout Group. Felix enjoyed it so much he has returned on an ongoing basis to help with a range of maintenance tasks. As our youngest volunteer, Felix has completed his safety induction and equipment orientation, and under supervision, is regularly seen mowing, weeding, and putting the bins out on collection day. The Trust is extremely grateful for his enthusiasm and ongoing support. Trustee Ian Jenkins remarked; *"Felix is a fantastic helper and the Trust is most grateful for his willing attitude"*. As our youngest volunteer, Mr Jenkins also commented that *"It is heartening to see our*



**Felix Anderson – Yackandandah's youngest Cemetery Volunteer**

*younger generation actively supporting the community, and it's a real tribute to the values instilled in Felix by his family and the wider community"*. We asked Felix what he enjoyed most about helping at the cemetery: *"being with Dad is fun, and I really like how neat the grass looks when we are finished"*. Well done Felix!

The Trust would also like to acknowledge the hard work of Trustee and local historian, Thelma Buchanan, for the many hours of research undertaken to plan the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Cemetery Walk. Thelma is both a Cemetery Trustee and a member of the Yackandandah & District Historical Society, and she made an invaluable contribution to planning, researching, and collating information to support the Walk, which was held on 29<sup>th</sup> October. The Walk was themed "A Walk in High Street" and featured a historical narrative of the lives of over a dozen different store holders that held businesses in High street between 1850 and 1950. Well done Thelma and the rest of the Historical Society members for another very successful event. (See also page 22.)

Work undertaken by Mr. Graham Schmitt to install a further section of underground stormwater drainage is now complete. This work involved the removal of existing above ground concrete swale drains and replacing this infrastructure with a suitably sized subterranean reticulated network of stormwater pipes, noting that better stormwater management was needed to reduce safety hazards, and reduce the risk of damage to cemetery infrastructure.

**Working Bee Reminder – Scheduled for Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 8am.** Please bring a hat and any equipment you are able to and help us ready the cemetery for the Christmas period, when the Cemetery receives hundreds of local and interstate visitors.

Paul Anderson

## THE ART OF DROWNING

I wonder how it all got started, this business about seeing your life flash before your eyes while you drown, as if panic, or the act of submergence, could startle time into such compression, crushing decades in the vice of your desperate, final seconds.

After falling off a steamship or being swept away in a rush of floodwaters, wouldn't you hope for a more leisurely review, an invisible hand turning the pages of an album of photographs - you up on a pony or blowing out candles in a conic hat.

How about a short animated film, a slide presentation? Your life expressed in an essay, or in one model photograph? Wouldn't any form be better than this sudden flash? Your whole existence going off in your face in an eyebrow-singeing explosion of biography - nothing like the three large volumes you envisioned.

Survivors would have us believe in a brilliance here, some bolt of truth forking across the water, an ultimate Light before all the lights go out, dawning on you with all its megalithic tonnage. But if something does flash before your eyes as you go under, it will probably be a fish,

a quick blur of curved silver darting away, having nothing to do with your life or your death. The tide will take you, or the lake will accept it all as you sink toward the weedy disarray of the bottom, leaving behind what you have already forgotten, the surface, now overrun with the high travel of clouds.

Billy Collins  
(1941 - )

# Have you ever thought about becoming a Lifeline Volunteer Crisis Supporter

Attend an Information Session to find out more

**Tuesday 23rd January : 6pm - 7.30pm in person**

**Thursday 1st February : 6pm - 7.30pm online**

**Saturday 3rd February: 10.30am - 12 noon in person**

*In person sessions will be held at Live Better, Townsend St, Albury*

Register to attend at:

[www.lifelinealburywodonga.org.au](http://www.lifelinealburywodonga.org.au)

Or call: (02) 6021 1077



*"I gain a great sense of achievement from giving back to my community."*

Volunteer Crisis Supporter



The training of new Crisis Supporters is proudly sponsored by the employees of Zauner Construction.  
Lifeline Australia RTO 88036



# Yackandandah & Kiewa Anglican Church

Website: [www.yka.org.au](http://www.yka.org.au) Phone: 0438 224 986

Email: [anglicanyackandandahkiewa@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanyackandandahkiewa@gmail.com)

## CHRISTMAS 2023

**Monday, 11 December**

7.30pm Traditional Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

@ Holy Trinity, Yackandandah with the Murray Conservatorium Choir

**Sunday 24 December CHRISTMAS EVE**

5.00pm Holy Communion & Carols @ St Aidan's, Tawonga

5.00pm Holy Communion & Carols @ St Mark's, Tangambalanga

7.00pm Holy Communion & Carols @ St Andrew's, Dederang

7.00pm Family Communion & Carols @ Holy Trinity, Yackandandah

**Monday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY**

9.00am Holy Communion & Carols @ St Paul's, Allans Flat

### REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES 2024

9.00am Holy Trinity, Yackandandah	Every Sunday
9.00am St Paul's, Allans Flat	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>
10.30am St Mark's, Tangambalanga	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>
11.00am St Andrew's, Dederang	2 <sup>nd</sup>
11.00am St Aidan's, Tawonga	4 <sup>th</sup>

*May you know the blessing of hope*

*and the peace of God's love*

*this Christmas and throughout 2024*

**WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE**



Having fun at the OFPS Bush Dance

Great to know that the Osbornes Flat Primary School Bush Dance is going to be an annual event! Such good fun to go to.



Yack Creek Distillery is situated on acreage with the Yackandandah creek at the back door of the distillery, the natural bushland provides an inviting and relaxing environment beyond the Cellar doors.

**Champion Victorian Distiller  
2022**

Champion Victorian Distillery 2020

Champion Australian Micro Batch Spirit 2020



Gold -  
Whisky & Rum



Silver -  
Whisky  
& Gin



Bronze -  
Whisky, Rum  
& Gin

**WHISKY - RUM - VODKA  
GIN - CRAFT BEER**



Distillery

**YACK CREEK**

[www.yackcreekdistillery.com.au](http://www.yackcreekdistillery.com.au)  
231 Bells Flat Road Yackandandah

# OSBORNES FLAT PRIMARY SCHOOL

## BUSH DANCE

Did you attend our first community bush dance? If you did, you would know how much fun, laughter and joy the local community experienced. It was so wonderful to see so many



local community members supporting our school, but also the happiness experienced by all. We had the support of Wooragee Primary School, Yackandandah Kindergarten and Yackandandah Scouts who all ran a food stall on the day. Kids participated in bush dancing, face painting, guessing the lollies in the jar and could even get a hair feather.

If you missed out, don't worry... it will be an annual event.

## AUSLAN AT OFPS

In 2024 School will be implementing AUSLAN as their Language Other Than English (LOTE). Students have been having a taste test of what is to come, and they are thoroughly enjoying it and demonstrating immense engagement. Here



and agency alongside a committed School Council.

## MATHS AT OFPS

Our staff have been building their capacity to

is a photo of them signing colours through the rainbow song, do you know your colours in sign language? The kids at Osbornes Flat Primary School do.

## OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

As an evolving school that is forever continuing to be their best, our proactive School Council has been working to update our school logo to demonstrate the inclusive approach OFPS has towards education. Our new logo shows students evolving and thriving as inclusive learners. You may have noticed our new school signs as you drive past. If not, come and get a buzz whilst you observe our new signs created with student voice



The old school signage



New signage for our great school

engage students through open-ended maths tasks that enable students to justify their strategies that they are using in Maths rather than focusing on the answer. Our students are getting better at using multiple strategies to solve a task and justify the reasons for choosing a particular strategy.

Below is an example of a task:

Can you put the numbers 1 to 8 in the square to make it true?

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \bigcirc \div \bigcirc = \bigcirc \\
 - \bigcirc \quad \quad \quad \times \\
 = \bigcirc \\
 \bigcirc + \bigcirc = \bigcirc
 \end{array}$$

ALISHA WATSON  
Acting Principal

## What can I do with too many mangoes? Or is that an oxymoron?

With Yack to be afloat with mangoes shortly, we thought it would be a good idea to have some out of the box tips on all things mango - see also our Recipe of the Season on page 11.



- Basically mix chopped mango with anything. Things like finely diced onion, chilli, coriander, garlic, lime juice, pineapple, capsicum, avocado or tomato and serve with grilled seafood, fish or chicken. Pureeing mango on its own and freezing can save them for later if you're too inundated with them!
- Can mango be frozen? Stock up on mangoes while they're in season (October to March), then freeze them so you can enjoy them for longer. To freeze, remove the cheeks and peel. Wrap each cheek in plastic wrap and place, in a single layer, on a baking tray. Place in the freezer. Frozen mango is also pre-cleaned and pre-chopped. Better still, mango holds its texture so well while frozen that you won't even know the difference once it's thawed.
- Freeze mangos whole if they're too soft to cut open and slice. If you have a mango that is getting a little over-ripe but you're not ready to use it yet, try freezing it before it starts to go bad. Simply place the entire mango into a freezer-safe bag, label it with the date, and slide it into the freezer.
- Unripe mangoes must not be refrigerated as cooling slows down their ripening. It also makes the mangoes hard in texture. It is advisable to store only ripened mangoes in a refrigerator for that keeps them firm, sweet and fresh. Whole, ripe mangos may be stored for up to five days in the refrigerator.
- But you know what makes it even better? A squeeze of lime juice! Adding a little lime juice to freshly cut mango slices will bring out the flavour of the fruit, highlighting its sweetness and making it an even more delectable treat.
- Did you know? That the tree is evergreen, often reaching 15–18 metres (50–60 feet) in height and attaining great age.
- Worldwide, hundreds of mango cultivars are known.

## Reg's Rain Report

2023	Millimetres	Days of Rain
January	100.2	8
February	24.0	5
March	114.8	12
April	74.8	9
May	73.0	14
June	156.4	17
July	85.8	14
August	72.4	12
September	15.4	5
October	97.4	7
Nov to 16th	28.0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>842.2</b>	<b>104</b>
To 17/11/21	934.0	107
To 17/11/22	1359.6	116



**THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS HURT YOU, BUT IT'S STILL ON MY LIST...**



# Yackandandah SES Update

Victoria State Emergency Service

## What we've been up to



Yackandandah SES has received a loan truck. We are very excited. It is a custom-made truck, specifically built for our exact needs. We have been having lots of fun filling it with our specific equipment. Yackandandah SES is not a specialized RCR (Road Crash Rescue) Unit, so we unfortunately don't have any road crash gear on the truck. That is why you don't normally see the Yackandandah SES at road crashes in or around

Yackandandah. Our fantastic neighbouring units, Myrtleford and Wodonga are the Road Crash Accredited Units and they are the units that attend. If you do see us, it is in a supportive capacity as we do have a handful of members accredited with this skill set.

Our new truck has a light mast too, so we are back to night time capacity. This is extremely exciting for the community as without the truck,



we have been limited to mostly daytime jobs due to safety. Having a light mast not only means we can see what we are doing in the dark, but you can see us and we can stay safe.



**Outdoor Event Centre**  
Weddings, Parties, Corporate Meetings, Anniversaries

Open from 10am - 12pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between September and March

[www.anniesretreat.com](http://www.anniesretreat.com) +61 414 228 132  
31 Nichol Rd, Allan's Flat, Victoria 3691

### Some history on VICSES for those interested in joining

SES was originally established to act as a volunteer based Civil Defence Agency that could be activated promptly in the event of a war or large scale event. In the 1960s, this role was enhanced to include management of peacetime disasters and natural disasters. In the 1970s, the Commonwealth shifted its focus from Civil Defence to more general disaster management, including storms and floods. The Victoria Civil Defence Organisation was renamed the Victoria State Emergency Service in 1975 to conduct as a general emergency management agency.

Today, the SES functions as a volunteer based emergency service across the State of Victoria. There are more than 5,500 committed and dedicated volunteers around the state who provide these services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. VICSES undertakes a wide variety of roles including flood response, severe storms, earthquakes, road accident rescue as well as search and rescue.

### Yackandandah Unit is currently recruiting

Yes! We want you!

We have recently recruited two new members which is so exciting as we haven't recruited in a number of years. We'd love to be able to train a group of new members at the same time so if you're interested, please come and see us. We train Wednesday nights, weekly. If you see our sign out on High Street (near the CFA building), we are in and ready to meet you.

Come down for a chat, watch or join our training. For more information and to register your interest in joining please see <https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/join-us/volunteer> or send us a message on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/YackandandahSES> to arrange a time to meet.

## YACK LIONS CLUB MARKETS



Yack Lions Club's famous weekend markets will be held from 9 am - 1 pm on the following Sundays in 2023/24:

17th December

- 21st January
- 17th March
- 19th May
- 21st July
- 15th September
- 17th November

- 18th February
- 21st April
- 16th June
- 18th August
- 20th October
- 15th 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)



# YACK TENNIS CLUB

We're in the thick of the KTDTA competition season now and the new sand surface is settling in so nicely on two courts. It is amazing to think we are at this point with the recent improvements to the Tennis Club infrastructure, with long term projects coming to fruition. The Club is extremely grateful to the funding received from Tennis Victoria's Bushfire Community Development Fund, YCDCo and Indigo Council in making this project a reality.

It was great sight to see our four junior teams in Yack across Sections 3 & 4 play each other, making a full house on Saturday morning. Add the after-school Hot Shots program by Lou Thornton and junior coaching by Paul Sykes and you will see that Junior tennis is thriving in Yackandandah.

A reminder that Club membership was due in October and there are many different membership options available. Members can renew their membership on the Yackandandah Tennis Club website: <https://play.tennis.com.au/yackandandahtennisclub/Membership/Join>

Tuesday night tennis continues but Thursday night social tennis will be changing to a more casual Fast-4 game in which players turn up and play against whoever is keen for a game. Please come at 7pm on Thursday and have a hit. It is very relaxed and there is usually plenty of room on the courts, so no need to book. We would like to see members make full use of the new courts and the daylight savings makes evening tennis very enjoyable.

Please come have a hit!

## HOLD THE PRESS!

Another great day at the McKimmie Junior Tournament held at the Wodonga Tennis courts on Sunday 19th November. It was wonderful to see so many Yack players amongst the 60 juniors competing across the four age divisions in both singles and doubles events. Lots of smiling faces and a few medals won.

Congratulations to: Harry Frankel - runner up in U15 boys singles and doubles.

Oscar Bayne - winner U17 boys singles

Oscar Bayne and Zoë Stamp - winners U17 boys doubles.



## 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!



## YACK COMMUNITY BOWLS CLUB

CELEBRATING WITH WSM GOLD SPONSORS AT THE BOTTOM PUB

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE 2024

FESTIVE SEASON



*A thank you dinner for our major sponsors, WSM. Frank Artis makes a presentation to Peter and Sue Russell at the Bottom Pub*

Bowls Club members enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Bottom Pub with our long term Gold Sponsors Peter and Sue Russell (WSM).

Peter and Sue were presented with life membership to the Club in recognition of their substantial ongoing commitment. A huge thanks to Peter and his team at the Bottom Pub for a great night with excellent food.

Our annual Community Challenge starts on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 7pm. This 8 week challenge tournament is very popular and great fun for all. Teams compete for top spot on the ladder, best dressed or the triumph associated with winning an end against the Police.

The competition involves 16 teams of 3 players. Most teams consist of 4 or more players who alternate. If you are interested in registering a team, please text Meredith on 0414 688 354

### COME AND PLAY

Sunday Social Bowls every week 10.30am – 12.30pm subject to dry weather. Beginners, Intermediate and experienced bowlers all welcome. Come along and join in the fun.

Our festive season of events kicked off on Saturday evening 18<sup>th</sup> November with an extended family birthday celebration including BareFoot Bowls involving 70 visitors to Yackandandah. Family groups were booked into the caravan park and local motels contributing to a busy weekend for the town.

### DO YOU NEED TO BOOK A VENUE OR PLANNING YOUR CHRISTMAS WORK PARTY?

The Bowling Club is ideal for large or small, events, with a large kitchen, fully stocked bar, indoor and outdoor seating for 100+ people and modern toilet facilities. We can assist with catering if you need. Throw in some barefoot bowling for lots of fun and laughter.

Contact Trish Tobin – 0418 419 270



*A family party enjoying Barefoot Bowls*

## HORSES FOR COURSES

### GRAND FINAL WEEKEND

I headed down to Cathkin in the Yea district for a social weekend and a bit of riding. I've ridden with my dear friend, Nicky, at all sorts of social get togethers, fundraising events etc. over many years. Their new place has three smallish period houses in an almost botanical garden setting. Top stuff. Fabricated steel sits in the paddock for an undercover horse arena.



*Steve and Archie*

Across the road to hit the bakery. We rode a fair way with Dom astride one of his three imported South American horses. A rare thing to have an imported riding horse.

The Grand Final was on the TV. What – no Geelong??! I needed a kip in my float and then up for a swim, pizza for thirty and party. New day, a brisk group walk and then home, sweet home.

I have been thinking of going to Buttercup



*The 100 metre long bridge - always a challenge for horses with the echo and the narrow space to ride down - not much room for errors or panicking horses!*

We rode along the rail trail to the recently re-opened Molesworth Pub. The trail cut through beautiful wetlands, past a couple of serious horse operations. Archie led us across the Goulburn River on a bridge, 100 metres approximately. All in all, I was a bit disappointed with his performance over the weekend. A few areas I need to work on!

Dozens of horses were put in holding yards or tied to trees whilst thirty of us hooked into a counter feed at the pub.

Next day we rode to Yarck passing other horse riders and cyclists. The horses were left in a small holding paddock with hitching rails and water troughs at the local church!

Creek in the Mansfield district or to Blowering Dam. Instead, I've spent a couple of weeks riding in the Baranduda Range as a result of a fan blade fatiguing and going through my F100's radiator. Mama Mia!!

*Steve Pearce Staghorn Flat*



*On the way to the pub*

**WOMEN'S CHARITY DAY FOR FIGHT PARKINSON'S**

The Yack Golf Club was absolutely overwhelmed by the huge support for the Women's Charity Day held in stellar conditions on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November. It was a natural choice for the women to choose the Fight Parkinson's Charity Day as it was so important to long standing Club member, Pam Crosthwaite, who died in June.

We had 14 Women's and Mixed teams play, coming from clubs around the region including Beechworth, Howlong, Thurgoona, Albury plus of course, our own members and nearly three teams from the Crosthwaite family and friends connections. That's 56 players which is pretty much capacity on the course. Plus, we had many Yack members who, although didn't play, were instrumental to the success of the day helping in the background, putting on an amazing lunch, running a very popular raffle etc. Our thanks also to Don Crosthwaite for his support in the organisation of the day.

The Scramble format was a lot of fun and the end scores were extremely close. The very deserving, winning 4-person team on the day was: Stuart Crosthwaite, Scotty MacKillop, James MacCalman and Glenda Stacey. The Runner's Up team was the combined Yack "Silver Bullets" team of Keith Hunter and Johnny Gequillana and Thurgoona members Joan Pryor and Rawina Smithenbecker.

There were several side competitions on the day, the most hotly contested being the 'Straightest Drive' on the two Par 5 holes as a tribute to Pam's golfing style of play being straight down the middle. Well done to two Yack members, Leanne Andrews and Helen Eyre, for taking the honours.

From the day, our small Club raised \$2,400 for Fight Parkinson's which we think is an outstanding effort and the support, attendance and atmosphere a testament to how much Pam was loved and respected.

We received the following message from Georgia Brissenden at Fight Parkinson's:

*"Firstly – thank you so much for choosing to support Fight Parkinson's (Formerly Parkinson's Victoria). We are so grateful for the community's support; it is absolutely incredible. Please extend our appreciation to all Yack members who participated and honoured the beautiful legacy of Pam."*

**OTHER CLUB NEWS**

October/November are quite busy months as the golfing season winds down but there is no slowing down at Yack, not just yet anyway. The women held their Annual Tournament 2023 on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October which was a very successful day attended by 57 women golfers who enjoyed a High Tea following their game. Well done to all the winners.

Winner Jan Clark Memorial Trophy - Glenda Marshall, Beechworth - congratulations!

Winner of the Yack Bowl was also Beechworth, the team consisting of Glenda Marshall, Deb Tully, Coral Ward and Gail Smith.

The NEDGA Men's District Sandgreen Championships were also held on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> November at Yackandandah which incorporated the Yack Men's Annual Tournament. Again, another packed field saw 52 players compete and Yack finished with some excellent results.

Phil Conway from NEDGA reported on the competition as follows:

*"With the course presented in great condition, the results would prove what a great course we were playing on. After a tight battle over 18 holes, Vaughan Saunders and Darren Edwards, both from Beechworth, were tied on 72 gross. This resulted in a playoff with Vaughan triumphing on the second playoff hole over Darren. Congratulations to Vaughan on his amazing win. Also, congratulations go to Liam Finn from Yackandandah upon winning the best nett score overall on the day."*

We congratulate the following Yack members on their excellent results, enjoying the home ground advantage.

- B Grade Scratch Winner – Brendan Jones – Yackandandah 79
- B Grade Scratch Runner Up – Leo Glass – Yackandandah 82
- C Grade Scratch Runner Up – Mark Boehm – Yackandandah 90
- A Grade Handicap Winner – Andrew Lawson – Yackandandah 65 nett
- A Grade Handicap Runner Up – Peter Colee – Yackandandah 68 nett
- B Grade Handicap Winner – Mark Chamberlain – Yackandandah 70 Nett
- B Grade Handicap Runner Up – Joe Finn – Yackandandah 71 Nett
- C Grade Handicap Winner – Liam Finn – Yackandandah 59 Nett
- C Grade Handicap Runner Up – Ethan Gray – Yackandandah 69 Nett

NTP 6 – Leo Glass, 13 – Ben Glass, 15 – Don Crosthwaite

*Libby M'Crystal  
(Women's Captain)*

For more membership information or to enquire, please visit:

**Website:** <https://golfclub.yackandandah.com/> / **FB:** Yackandandah Golf Club / **Email:** [yackgolfclub@gmail.com](mailto:yackgolfclub@gmail.com) / **Women:** [ygcwomenscaptain@gmail.com](mailto:ygcwomenscaptain@gmail.com)





**KEEP YOUR CRITTERS AT HOME!**

There's nothing worse than straying stock, so we have everything you need to keep sheep, cattle, horses, goats and pigs safely at home - with either electric or conventional fencing equipment. Plus the tools you will need to start and finish the job.



Give us a ring for a quote or call round to see what we have to help you.



Ever got caught short with a low tank of fuel? Did you know that petrol and diesel is available in Yackandandah 24 hours a day/7 days a week? If you have a valid credit card, you can access fuel at the servo 365 days a year. You can also apply for an AMPOL card at the desk at YCDCo.

The machine is dead easy to use and you will never get caught short again! Located by the front doors next to the Defibrillator.



**FIRE SEASON IS ALWAYS A WORRYING TIME OF YEAR AND THIS YEAR LOOKS TO BE NO EXCEPTION**

Make sure you have the equipment handy to protect your property from fire. You never know when it might strike, so **BE PREPARED...**

Our friendly knowledgeable staff are able to advise you

on the best products in your own community owned servo, farm and produce store. Our great Yack CFA are always happy to discuss property safety too.



Phone: 02 6027 1901 Website: [ycdco.com.au](http://ycdco.com.au)

**Summer Opening Hours**

Mon-Friday: 6 am to 7 pm

Saturday: 7 am to 5 pm

Sunday: 8.30 am to 5 pm

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**WE SELL WATER TANKS...**

- Our suppliers are Clark Tanks and Polymaster.
- They are strong, affordable, heavy duty, premium quality, UV-protected and made by Australian companies. They come in a range of colours, sizes and styles. So pop in and get some information on these important pieces of infra-structure.



Now more than ever, it's vital to be in control of your own water supply, so don't delay - buy today.



sodastream

SWAP YOUR EMPTY CYLINDER OR BUY A SPARE

AVAILABLE IN STORE

**YCDCO**

**AMPOL CARD ACCEPTED HERE**

Your Local Community Owned and Operated

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



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