

INDIGO SHIRE'S YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Indigo Shire Young Citizen of the Year award has been awarded to two outstanding individuals.

Seventeen-year-old Henry Rotherham from Yackandandah and Joseph Brooks, 18, from Rutherglen, will share this.

Both Henry and Joseph have been described as exemplary young leaders in their community with Henry making a difference in young people's lives through mentoring. "I find mentoring really worthwhile, and it is rewarding to see people progress. I feel I have had all these amazing experiences in my life and want to be able to give that to others," Henry said.

Mayor, Councillor Sophie Price says it is young people like Henry and Joseph living in Indigo Shire that make its future that much brighter.

"Henry and Joseph are such strong leaders at school and within the community which has made them brilliant role models for other young people. Through their leadership, other local young people will be inspired to strive to do their best and be someone that their peers can look up to." Councillor Price said.



Many congratulations to Henry Rotherham, leading by example



Members of TRY celebrate their gong for Indigo Shire's Community Organisation of the Year together with Councillor Peter Croucher

TRY TAKES OUT INDIGO SHIRE'S COMMUNITY ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

On the 26th January this year locally grown community energy advocates, Totally Renewable Yackandandah were honoured with the *Community Group of the Year 2023* Award by Indigo Shire Council.

After some solid achievements in 2022 including the completion of the 100% Feasibility Study, a solar and battery resilience installation at the SES base, and the long awaited for EV Charger installation in Windham St, it was lovely to see the acknowledgement for their work and collaborations.

The award was presented at Sir Isaac Isaacs Park in Yackandandah at a community Lions BBQ breakfast attended by a relaxed crowd.

TRY President, Clare Bishop, gave a short speech, and first acknowledged the pain that this day represents for indigenous Australians. In thanking Indigo Shire for the award, she talked of the strong relationship between TRY and Indigo Shire Council and the goal that TRY persistently aims for - 100% renewable energy and increased sustainability bringing benefits to the residents of Yackandandah.

Clare also highlighted the important support TRY has received from the Yackandandah Folk Festival over an extended number of years, along with growing collaborations with local social enterprises YCDCo and Indigo Power.

Of course, none of this is anything without the ambitious efforts of so many across the community; huge thanks to the citizens and businesses in and around the Yackandandah valley!

YACKANDANDAH'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD GOES TO Chris Zerbst!

Chris won the award for the wonderful community work she does with as many as eight Yack organisations. Her forte is with administration, so Chris is in great demand as Secretary and other roles that involve attention to detail.

Yack is so lucky to have such people such as Chris, Henry and the TRY crew in their community. Congratulations to them all and thank you very much.



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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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 Info Centre
- * Yackandandah Medical 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

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
107	April/May	Friday, 17th March, 2023	Tuesday, 28th March, 2023
108	June/July	Friday, 19th May, 2023	Tuesday, 30th May, 2023
109	Aug/Sept	Friday, 21st July, 2023	Tuesday, 1st August, 2023
110	Oct/Nov	Friday, 15th Sept, 2023	Tuesday, 26th Sept, 2023
111	Dec/Jan	Friday, 17th Nov, 2023	Tuesday, 28th Nov, 2023
112	Feb/March	Friday, 19th Jan, 2024	Tuesday, 30th Jan, 2024

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD #9 - Bill Buchanan

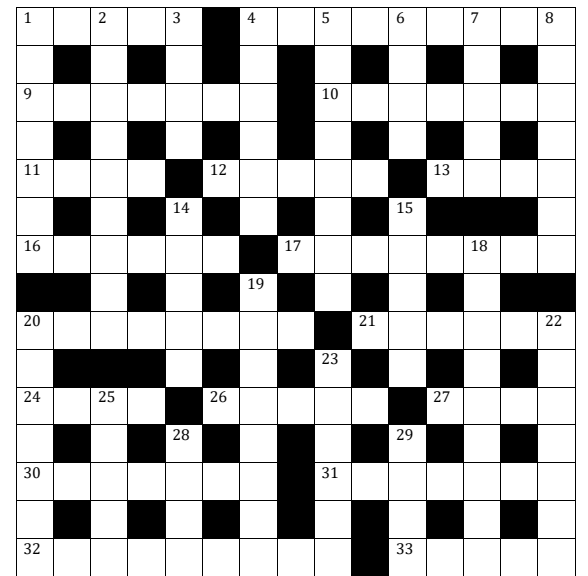
ACROSS

- 1 Former English PM was reportedly good enough for the Russian opera! (5)
- 4 Rise to start the journey smartly (2,3,4)
- 9 The trial direction leads to actor to steal the show (7)
- 10 It's on the list of nasty Scottish imports! (7)
- 11 Animal will regurgitate grass (4)
- 12 It's the French who can kick fast (5)
- 13 The backward German takes note of good horses who are well (4)
- 16 During their time on the throne, monarchs seem to have horse guides (6)
- 17 (4,4) Partially give short roadway to deity with nothing but the best!
- 20 It is wrong when a royal representative gives scriptural education to the first lady (8)
- 21 It can be rough doing an educational program (6)
- 24 A hundred demand the firkin (4)
- 26 Beer stein is broken by the favoured group (5)
- 27 Just deserts come to those who sow (4)
- 30 Shakespeare's rich oration identifies Hamlet's friend (7)
- 31 Salad days end lives, no less (7)
- 32 Ewe has birth difficulty, it seems, but may be found by this at night (9)
- 33 The medical situation improved when Sid returned and left. (5)

DOWN

- 1 What a mistake to start bringing landlubbers below! (7)
- 2 Farmers look like going backwards after planting disaster (9)
- 3 Cross a bridge to reach the health resort North of here (4)
- 4 The organ is held by a mute Russian woman (6)
- 5 With skill, slice away the magazine stories (8)
- 6 Each day is recorded at the lectern (4)
- 7 Instruction to gardener - wilt not! (5)
- 8 Surrendered at the end of May with a gross lie and apparent expiry (7)
- 14 Developing a new twitch can seem like a joke (5)
- 15 Many London factories produce this synthetically (5)
- 18 Between you and me, they belong to us, those little people! (9)
- 19 Calm air for vespers (8)
- 20 Achoo! Two students mix strong drink for cold! (7)
- 22 Former spouse sat and showed all! (7)
- 23 Give an agent specialist instruction to confess (6)
- 25 Good man takes strong drink, then tells guitarists to play (5)
- 28 And others return, but tardy (2,2)
- 29 If the French follow I'd find nothing to do (4)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD #9
Bill Buchanan



Answers to this Cryptic Crossword can be found on page 31



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As you are aware in Australia, we are currently experiencing unprecedented times in General Practice. Medicare rebates for GP consults have been frozen since 2014. The current rebate is not high enough to cover the costs of providing primary medical care. Over the last 2 years due to COVID-19 and travel restrictions we have been unable to recruit and or train overseas doctors and this has led to the current situation that many practices are facing, being a shortage of doctors as well as increasing running costs with no increases to Medicare subsidies.

Yackandandah Health has been working very hard over the past 12 months to improve the Yackandandah Medical Centre and we are pleased to advise that we now have a team of 4 experienced GPs providing 2 GPs per day 5 days per week.

Unfortunately, during this time, the costs of providing GP service has also increased and Yackandandah Medical Centre has experienced monthly losses and although continual staff cuts have been experienced, we still have not been able to eliminate the losses.

Extensive modelling has been undertaken and revealed that unless a series of initiatives are implemented during 2023, the Yackandandah Medical Centre will need to



Louise Thornton, Midwife and Dr. Tess Goodwin, GP outside the Yack Medical Centre

be closed. This is not the intent of Yackandandah Health nor in the best interests of Yackandandah Health or the Yackandandah community.

In consultation with the Yackandandah Medical Centre, the following initiatives have been recommended to be implemented from the start of February 2023:

- Consultation fees will be lifted by \$20.
- General medical procedures will be lifted by \$15.

At this stage, the Board has asked for a quarterly report to providing details of implementation of the increases & any feedback from patients & community.

We understand that these increases may seem heavy, but much deliberation has gone into these decisions, and we are hoping that in a short period of time we will see a financial turnaround which will see Yackandandah Medical Centre become sustainable by the middle of 2023.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Yackandandah Medical Centre.

LITTLE YACKS LEARNING YEARS

Welcome to a New Year at Little Yacks Learning Years. This year is proposed to be bigger and better than last year with our enrolment numbers at an all-time high with only capacity for new enrolments in our older rooms.

Our 2022 learning year closed with an amazing Christmas party



Father Christmas aboard the Harley!

with our very own Santa arriving on a Harley Davidson motorbike supported by our local CFA. A fun filled night was enjoyed by all with a BBQ dinner and face painting.

2023 has commenced with some new educators joining our team and we continue our search for another Early Childhood Teacher to deliver our Kindergarten programs.



Little Yacks enjoying Father Christmas's largesse



Lovely space for Little Yacks

Kindergarten this year is free for eligible families, and we still have some capacity for new enrolments, so please enquire to littleyacksdirector@yackhealth.com.au if you would like any more information.

Little Yacks Intergenerational Program commenced in January with our first planned excursion cooking damper with the residents. The children are ready to test out their cooking skills and love spending time with the residents. Our focused Intergenerational

Program will be running on a weekly basis with all rooms ready to be involved, plus our spontaneous engagements while exploring the Yackandandah Health grounds.

Our educational team have worked on creating enriching play spaces for the children to explore in all learning areas this year. We will focus on building our emergent programs fostered by the children's engagement and emerging interests.

We look forward to seeing what the children can achieve in 2023!



Facilities at Little Yacks



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Contact Details: 0400 224 814 • email: music@violindigo.com.au • www.violindigo.com.au • [/violindigo](https://www.facebook.com/violindigo)

EV CARS SHORTLY TO BE AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL IN YACK?!

Not content with being a flagship business in Australia selling imported second hand electric vehicles, Kilowatt cars are now looking at a car rental project in the great little township of Yackandandah.

This should give prospective buyers a relaxing time checking out the pros and cons of buying an EV without being rushed into the whole sale process. See page 25 for further details.



The New Year of 2023 has started off with a bang! The introduction of some new and the return

of some old activities in the Lifestyle Department. We have commenced our "Move in 2023" exercise program, this program is designed by a physiotherapist and is practiced to maintain current abilities and movement. We are also running a gentle exercise program daily and we have a walking group.

We have begun our Intergenerational program with Little Yacks commencing interactions from February. Little Yacks will be joining us weekly for planned programs designed to enhance the children's educational outcomes and to foster relationships



The interaction between Yack Health residents and our Little Yacks brings much joy to all parties

with the older generation of our community.

We have also been very lucky to be the recipient of a community grant through Indigo Shire. In partnership with Mark Silver and the Swinbourne University, Yackandandah Health will commence a program

with the Yackandandah Primary School this year. This program will commence in term 3 and will see us working with the Years 5 and 6 who will work with our residents with regular visits and letter writing.



Gardening is a wonderful pursuit

Sam and her therapy dog Raffi will be joining us each week. Pet Therapy has been proven to improve someone's physical, mental, and social health, so we are very excited to start our journey with a reminiscing session about our favourite pets and animals.

David Box and his ukulele will rejoin us this year for sing-alongs, and Pete Denahey is also booked in to entertain us with his beautiful music.

This month we are focusing on the re-establishment of our choir, we have some volunteers who will be joining us to play the instruments and to do some voice coaching, so watch this

space and you never know we may end up at the Opera House!

This list goes on with of course some of our old favourites like Bingo, Cards, Board games, Art & Craft and Knit & Natter, Carpet Bowls and Happy Hour.



Yack Health residents and volunteers with the Poker School. Volunteers always wanted!

We also have the visiting clergy who attend the facility three times a month to offer services for our residents.



Sam and therapy dog, Raffi, hard at work in Yack Health

Lastly, we would like to invite any interested in becoming a volunteer in the Lifestyle Department to reach out. We have some fun and exciting opportunities for volunteers over the next twelve months and beyond. As a volunteer, you have the opportunity to socialize with some fantastic individuals, to develop new friendships and to assist many people to enhance their lifestyles. We are looking for your skills and your abilities to achieve the best outcomes for our residents and for our volunteers so please reach out and contact Becky our Lifestyle Coordinator on 0438 789 071.



HERE COMES
2023

Just wanted to say thanks to everyone who found a gift for someone at Yack News this Christmas. So, um, thanks! We really appreciate your support!

We have big plans for this year as we restock and find new things that we, and hopefully you, will love.



Profile: Denis Brown

When the Brigade's pagers go off, chances are that shortly after, Denis Brown will be in the driver's seat of Yackandandah Tanker 2, responding to the



Well known Bruarong personality - Denis Brown

call out. Tanker 2, a light tanker, is housed at the Flaggy Creek satellite station at Bruarong, just a few minutes' drive from where Denis and his wife Ruth Yule, also a firefighter, live.

Denis, 74, has been a member of the Yackandandah Brigade since 1985. He may well be one of the Brigade's longest-standing members and its oldest operational member, but he is still very fit and up to the physical demands of firefighting.

"However, I have phased my involvement in the Brigade down," says Denis. "As you get older you need to phase out to make way for the younger members. When I am no longer capable of being an active firefighter, I will definitely know that and then I'll probably take more of a role as an intelligence officer/on-ground observer, driving out to see where the fire is and reporting on what is happening. And when I can't do that, I'll probably just go into the station and help from there. You don't have to be the person holding the hose; there are other roles that are equally as important."

Denis can't envisage not being involved in the CFA. "It gets in your blood; and my over-riding reason for doing it is as a community service," says Denis. Denis's connection to the CFA goes back to his childhood when he would holiday with family at Emerald in the Dandenongs. "My great uncle, Joe Ovenden, was a member of the Emerald CFA, and from about the age of 16, when I was staying there in summer and autumn, he used to take me out, chasing fires," recalls Denis. "Back then there were numerous fires... so firefighting was instilled in me at an early age."

Denis began working as a geologist in 1969, and wherever he was -- Tasmania, Queensland, Western Australia or New Zealand -- he would get involved "officially or unofficially" with the local fire brigades and help fight fires. He moved to Harrierville in

1977 and again was "unofficially" involved in the Harrierville Fire Brigade until 1980. He and Ruth then lived at Myrtleford before buying their rural property at Bruarong where these days Denis is a self-employed sawmiller/ timber merchant.

"Two weeks after moving here, [the late] Maurie Smith, who was my neighbour and captain at the time, got me into the Yackandandah Rural Fire Brigade," says Denis who was a 4th lieutenant from 1995 to 1997, 1st lieutenant for 1997 to 2001 and Brigade chairperson from 1999 to 2017. Denis was instrumental in the successful merger of the Yackandandah Rural and Yackandandah Urban Brigades which occurred in 1999; one of the first such amalgamations in the state.

The merger coincided with the introduction of the first Pumper Tankers to the CFA – tankers that are suitable for fighting both urban and bush fires - and the Brigade took delivery of its first Pumper



Denis and Ruth ready for action with Yack Tanker 2

Tanker a few years later. "It just massively enhanced the Brigade's firefighting capacity," says Denis who was involved in the tanker's design.

While Denis can tell many a story from his years in the Brigade, particular incidents that stand out for him including the 2003 and 2009 fires, and the Barnawartha fire in 2015. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the 2003 Alpine Region and north-eastern Victoria bushfires when about 2 million hectares of land was burnt throughout the Australian Alps in Victoria, NSW and ACT. The fires started on January 8, a day of Total Fire Ban, when lightning ignited 87 fires in the North-East and East Gippsland regions. Eight of these fires joined together to form the largest fire in Victoria since the Black Friday fires in 1939.

"Yackandandah was under threat from a fire which started at Buckland Gap, went up and over through Stanley and then came barrelling down the Yack Creek under a south westerly," says Denis. "The fire came right to the top of Haring Lane and then spotted into Osbornes Flat. It was full on."

Denis, who was at the top of Haring Lane with fellow firefighter Denise Burbidge with just a trailer unit at the time, tells of how a strike team

from the Shepparton area came to their aid and stopped the fire going down Haring Lane. "2003 was Yackandandah's closest moment and we learnt a great deal," says Denis.

The next major incident was the 2009 Black Saturday fires which started on February 7, 2009. Approximately 400 fires were recorded across Victoria, affecting 78 communities. A total of 173 people died in the fires, and over 2,000 houses were lost. A number of communities suffered extensive loss of life and/or property damage as a result of major fires, including near Yackandandah.

On that day a fire started south of Beechworth in the later afternoon and went down through Barwidgee Creek, Mudgegonga, Rosewhite and Kancoona. The following morning, after a south westerly wind change, Denis went with the trailer unit to the aid of a friend in Brown's Lane, Mudgegonga with the fire spotting and dividing

into three fronts. "The fire burnt over us and the house and then kept going up towards Martin's Lane before dividing with one front headed towards Bruarong and the other two towards Mt Big Ben and Mt Jack," recalls Denis. "Just by chance, by my being there, I was able to give Cameron [Cameron McKern who was Brigade captain at the time] warning that the fire was coming his way. And then the firefight really began from Yackandandah's perspective. Once the fire was contained, we were patrolling and blacking out for the next five days."

The Barnawartha fire burnt about 6,600

hectares severely affecting communities along the Indigo Creek and Indigo Valley into Barnawartha. Three homes and twenty nine cars were destroyed, with water being assessed as unusable for domestic purposes. The fire also impacted agriculture with extensive losses to livestock, stock feed, agriculture and fencing. At one stage, before a cool wind change, the fire threatened the township of Yackandandah.

Denis, who was driving the Brigade's first Yackandandah Tanker 2 (known as the 'Yack Kid' after the late Bill Newton who bequeathed funding towards the tanker's purchase), recalls how the tanker's agility and size meant it was able to access lightly timbered country and narrow roads that were inaccessible to the heavier tankers.

"We were diving in and out everywhere, doing a great job," says Denis who purchased and built that first light tanker.

Denis says one of highlights of his time with the CFA was having Tanker 2 turn out to "quite an incident with a highly skilled all female crew in 2020." The crew included Ruth who joined the Brigade in 2014. "Having Ruth become a firefighter has transformed how we will protect our own



To report a fire:
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Vic Emergency Hot Line
CFA Website:

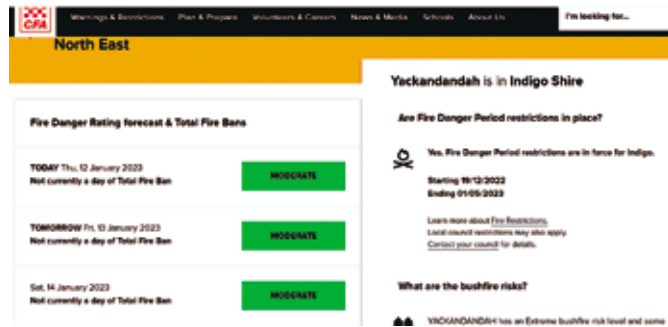
000
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cfa.vic.gov.au



place,” says Denis. “Ruth now has all the skills and confidence to fight a fire on a personal level if our own place is threatened. And when we are on the tanker together, it works well as we know each other’s strengths and weaknesses.”

Other highlights of his time with the Brigade include “seeing men come through and gain skills they haven’t had before”; an increase in the number of women joining the Brigade; and the filming of the CFA training scene on Denis and Ruth’s property for the movie *Strange Bedfellows*, for which the Brigade received a donation of \$10,000.

LOCAL INFORMATION



Want to find out information relevant to Yackandandah on the CFA’s web site? Check out the CFA’s local information pages at <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/home/local-information> to find out specific information such as:

- Fire Danger Rating four day forecast & Total Fire Bans
- Are Fire Danger Period restrictions in place? *Yes, they are.*
- What are the bushfire risks? *Yackandandah has an Extreme bushfire risk level and some High bushfire risk level as well.*

If you click on the link “learn more about Bushfire risk in your area” this takes you to a very useful page that describes five different types of fire risk

environments to help you work out which one you live in. By recognising and understanding your risk environment this will also help you to start preparing your property for fire and know what to do. For the different fire risk environments there is information on what to expect, and then what to do.

For example, if you live in an area close to, or among grass and paddocks, and there is a fire, grass more than 10cm tall will have a higher flame height and intensity; the fire will be faster burning (grass fires can travel up to 25km per hour) than one burning through forest; fires can start early in the day; and radiant heat (the heat created by a fire).



Plenty of long grass about.

“What to do” includes information on preparing your property (by creating and maintaining fuel breaks around your property) and ensuring you are not caught out in the open during a grassfire.

This year, with all the growth we’ve had from last year’s wet year, the main concern is the risk of grass fires. However, all forest or woodland can also present a bushfire risk.

THE BIG RED FIRE TRUCK

The tradition of Santa arriving on the big red fire truck continued last year with the fire truck (and Santa) turning out

to both the Yackandandah Kindergarten and Little Yacks’ respective Christmas parties last December... only for the Little Yacks’ one Santa turned up on his motorbike, with the truck following.



Santa is always a drawcard


COMMUNITY FIREGUARD GROUPS

Community Fireguard Groups (CFGs) are a great way of getting to know your neighbours, and learning more about the fire risks in your local area and how to prepare both yourself and your property in case of fire. There are a number of CFGs in the Yackandandah area including the Haring Lane CFG which held its annual get together on Friday, January 20, attended by 20 people.

If you are interested in finding out more about CFGs, contact Maureen Piera Community Fireguard Co-ordinator for the CFA’s North-East Region on 0427 214 855, or email M.Piera@cfa.vic.gov.au




Attendees at the Haring Lane CFG meeting



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CHANGE AHEAD FOR HALLIDAY SOLICITORS AND HELEN MCGOWAN

After forty years in the profession, Helen McGowan is stepping back from the daily practise of law, and Matt Grogan is now the Principal Legal Director of Halliday Solicitors.

Matt and Helen have practiced together in Yack as Halliday Solicitors since 2014.

Helen said that while she was looking forward to the change of pace, she will maintain a keen interest in Halliday's.

"Often in legal practice you develop close relationships with clients at an important moment of their lives. As the practice transitions into this new phase, I'm keen to ensure that the clients I have worked closely with are still supported with quality legal advice," Helen said.

In addition to the Yack Office, which is located at "Ardsville", Halliday Solicitors also has offices in Beechworth and Myrtleford.

The Myrtleford office is another new development, with Halliday Solicitors taking over ACM Conveyancing in January 2023. Fortunately, all of ACM's staff have stayed with Halliday Solicitors, with ACM's former principal conveyancer, Alanna McLees set to complete her legal traineeship alongside Matt.

Amidst all this change, one constant is that Halliday Solicitors continue to provide quality, affordable legal solutions. Matt will operate from Yack on Tuesdays, and at other times by appointment.



'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

The family of Mrs Sheila Rose McIntosh (nee Collins) wish to announce her passing away at the Townsville Hospital on Wednesday, 12th January, 2023 at the age of 105 years and 7 months.

Sheila, one of nine siblings grew up on Dederang Rd with their parents Anthony and Flora Collins. After finishing her school years at Albury High School, she helped with teaching at her old school at Back Creek Primary School. She married William Frederick "Bill" McIntosh, a Yackandandah Shire grader driver, local mechanic, contractor, and farmer and proceeded to rear her five children while helping to milk the cows and deliver milk around the town of Yack in the back of a B4 Ford tourer with the back dickie seat removed so that a few cans of raw milk could be carried there. Together they found the time to go to the square dancing at the Ritz in Albury while the younger kids went to the pictures. When the kids were finished with school, the family went to a new adventure at Bourke in NSW. Mother soon had a circle of friends there and enjoyed lots of crafts and gardening. Fifteen years after her husband Bill passed away, she moved back into her old home at Twist Creek Rd Yack that is still in family hands, and created a new garden from the neglected area. When she became less independent, she moved to new digs with Rex's family not far along Dederang Rd from where she started. From there she went to the home of daughter Vivienne's family in Townsville.

After a fall which broke her leg

two years ago, our mother became immobile and quickly declined from the vibrant person she had been until then. She began to long for her release from this world.

It was the year 1958 while she and her husband, William Frederick "Bill" McIntosh were farming on Twist Creek Road, that she responded to the message of Jesus Christ and was baptised by the Gospel Hall Christians in the Yackandandah Creek. For Mother, her death was simply her last journey - the journey through the valley of death's shadow into the presence of Jesus Christ whom she trusted as the Son of God sent by the Father as the remedy for the defilement of our sins. In his presence she now lives for ever.

The brothers, Laurie, Rex, Malcolm, and Stephen, with their wives, wish to give honour to and acknowledge their deep gratitude, for their sister, Vivienne, and her husband Andy Murphy, who, with their family in Queensland, have loved and cared for Mother in the last years of her life.

A memorial service for our mother was held at Discovery Camp, 95 Schmidt Lane, YACKANDANDAH on the afternoon of Friday 27th January, beginning at 2:00 P.M. and her ashes were interred in the Yackandandah cemetery in the grave of her mother, Flora, Mrs Tony Collins, after the service.

We were glad to welcome all who wished to join with us in celebrating the life of Mother, Granny Mac, Aunty Sheila, Mrs McIntosh.



YACKANDANDAH'S

STREET FEST

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY

Friday, 17th February, 2023
5:00 – 8:00 PM
Wellsford Street

A FREE Community event with mouth-watering food, music, entertainment for the kids and a chance to find out more about our community groups.

Resilient communities are connected communities. Come alone to make new friends or strengthen the community connections you already have.

Proudly supported by YCDCo, Yackandandah Community Centre, Yackandandah Lions Club and Indigo Shire Council

ASYLUM SEEKER SUPPORT IN YACKANDANDAH - PUB CHOIR AND SO MUCH MORE!

On 15 August, 2021, Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul was captured by the Taliban after a major insurgent offensive that began in May 2021. Thousands of people were forced to flee the city and their country, and as a result many vulnerable people, mostly women and children, were left fearing for their lives.

Fast forward a month later to Yackandandah where one phone call has had a rippling effect across our small, safe, rural community. That phone call was from an Afghan Australian resident who lives and works in Sydney who started



Chris McGorlick, Candice McCloud and Frances Higgins leading the Pub Choir December, 2022.

a foundation to support Afghan refugees. Through a contact in Yackandandah, he made a plea for Australian citizens to sponsor the most at-risk Afghans and propose them for visas to Australia under the Refugee and Special Humanitarian Program.

A call went out to Yackandandah residents and the response was overwhelming. Together more than 30 asylum seekers have been sponsored by local residents. Some are members of the one family, many are women and children. Some held responsible positions within pre-Taliban Afghan government. Some are single women; some are unaccompanied minors. All are at risk and are in



The Pub Choir in full magnificent voice

hiding from the Taliban regime.

Due to the strength of the response, it was decided to start a chapter of Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) and begin fundraising immediately in the hope that some of the applications should prove successful. As sponsorship includes being responsible for funding airfares and providing accommodation and settlement costs, the commitment is significant. With the new Labour Government there has been an increase in application processing, and we are now seeing results that is translating to action on the ground.

In the last month a number of the applicants have had the encouraging news that their applications have moved forward in the queue and have undertaken interviews with Home Affairs. This news is exciting but daunting! We are now faced with the reality of raising as much as we can to bring people to Australia and provide them with the foundations for future success for their resettlement.

To date the Yackandandah chapter of RAR has had a Community Curry dinner and two Pub Choir events, as well as many generous individual donations, and fundraising is well on the way. But we need more, and we are seeking your help! Over the next few months there will be a number of fundraising activities including Pub Choirs, Trivia nights, a Disco and much, much more. So, please keep your eyes peeled and support us wherever you can!

If you would like to donate or get involved by hosting a fundraiser please contact me : wabisabi@netc.net.au. Or direct deposit into our bank account:

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Thanks again, Yackandandah!

Kirsten Coates



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And thanks to Jill Whitford for this appropriate blessing

A Four-Fold Benedictine Blessing

May God bless you with a restless discomfort
At easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger
At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and
To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done
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Yackandandah Women's Shed is looking forward to welcoming back our present members and hopefully generate some new interest from other women in our community. Last year was a hugely successful one with paid membership of 60 wonderful women, lots of interesting workshops and good fun with us assisting in many community events.

We are planning lots more of the same, plus a few surprises for the coming year. We will kickstart the year with a free welcome drink and barbeque in the rear garden of the Yackandandah Community Centre commencing at **6pm on THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY** when we will be discussing activities, including workshops, social outings and informative talks. If you have considered joining the Women's Shed, please come along and let us know what interests you so we can do our best to present a variety of options. Please RSVP for catering purposes to yackwomensshed@gmail.com

Some of our highlights for 2022 include

starting a ceramics group, crocheting poppies for Remembrance Day, Mandala drawing, wet-felting and basket weaving workshops, the continuation of our Mosaics group, organising and creating craft items for the Christmas Fair, catering for four Arts Yack productions, manning (or should that be 'womaning') a few Lions Sunday Market barbeques and two Wodonga Bunnings Sausage Sizzles, a few local morning teas at Stockroom and Pantry, lunch and shopping in Myrtleford, woodworking demonstrations, a trip to the movies, erecting a storage shed... all achieved with much fun and laughter and even a few hugs of support when needed.

As a group we have many aims for the coming year. We will continue to fundraise as we really want a 'home of our own' down the track, but fundraising is definitely not as important as creating a safe, friendly place for women to play, learn and share. We have been gifted many tools and a priority is to find somewhere to set these up so we

can access them easily. Starting a 'Woodies' group is high on the list for this coming year. We have many ladies very keen to do woodworking projects and we need a place in town to get started. We are always keen to hear your ideas so come along to our first meeting on the 9th February and have your say. Yearly membership is now up for renewal and can be paid on the night or by contacting the committee by email.

On behalf of the Yackandandah Women's Shed Committee, we hope to see many ladies participating in some way this year. Our motto is "STRONG TOGETHER" and we feel we have proved this to be true with many beautiful friendships having been formed.

Email: yackwomensshed@gmail.com

webpage: yackwomensshed.org

Proud to be under the auspice of Yackandandah Community Centre

Lynne Davies



KANGALOOA KEEPS KEEPING ON...

This big fella kangaroo could stand, but not hop. Both his legs were bound together with fencing wire and another big loop went around his thigh and body. These are the perils of fencing wire left lying around. Without urgent help, his future was bleak. Once we were aware of his condition, we were able to sedate him and remove the wire. Luckily, the wounds were superficial and he was soon on his way.

Kangaloola is 100% funded by the generosity of people who love wildlife and the work we do.

The perils of leaving "stuff" around that wildlife can get caught up is only too obvious when you see photos like these. This bloke was lucky to have been found otherwise he would have had a horrible long drawn out death. Pick it up and dispose of it sensibly... It's not difficult. Ed.

Angela Bishop Authorised Marriage Celebrant

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If you are not venturing out much then there are plenty of ways the library can help you! You can keep reading online with Borrow Box. Borrow Box is our portal to free eBooks and eAudiobooks and we are constantly updating our selection. It is very easy to download the app then log in with your library card number and PIN and off you go.



Beamafilm is another free feature the library offers. Beamafilm allows you to watch award winning movies and series at home through your library membership.

If this is a good time to start some family history research, the library offers free access to Ancestry Library edition with your library membership. There are also upcoming monthly talks on various family history resources. Contact the library for more information.



Keep the kids happy with some online stories through Storybox Library. Wonderful storytellers read some of the best stories out loud getting kids excited about reading and improving their literacy skills. There is an ever-growing library of stories suitable for pre-school and primary aged children. Log in with your library card number.

If you are interested in books and reading, then you will enjoy our online subscription to Good Reading available for free via the Indigo Shire Libraries' Homepage.



Want some free training in an area of interest? You need to access LinkedIn where there are over 16,000 courses in business, software, technology and creative skills to help you reach your personal and professional goals. Available through your library membership.

For help with accessing any of these great features you can contact Yackandandah Library on 02 6027 1511. We are open Monday-Friday from 9.00am – 5.00 pm and on Saturdays from 9.30am -12.00pm

YACKATOON RETIREMENT VILLAGE

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO RON

Ron Furze, who has been on the Board of Yackatoon Retirement Village since its inception, has now retired after giving forty nine years of dedicated service. How fortunate has Yackatoon been to have had such an amazing member of the community. Ron has been at the forefront of Yackatoon with just short of fifty years of wisdom and service - an achievement for which the Board recently offered their gratitude and thanks.



Ron and Evelyn Furze who have both had a long and celebrated connection with Yackatoon Retirement Village

There have been many who have contributed along the way to the development of the Village over the years, but success at the end of the day has come down to leadership. Ron was the Chairman from 1973 to 2016, and continued to be a valued Board Member up until Yackatoon's last AGM in October 2022.

A special luncheon was arranged for 25th November and around 35 people attended. In appreciation for Ron's service, a plaque has been placed in the Yackatoon Hall. A framed Certificate of Appreciation from the Diocese was presented to Ron and a lovely bouquet of flowers was presented to Evelyn, Ron's wife, for her contribution to many functions over the years. Evelyn's help and her expertise in catering especially with many a plum pudding for the Christmas gatherings held, has been a real feature of Yackatoon's parties and functions. Special thanks go to Maree Roberts of Marobe Cakes for catering for the luncheon and to Lindy Smith-Allen of the 7th Pocket for the beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Yackatoon Village as we know it today, is a greatly valued asset in the Yackandandah and wider community. Not only have we thirty one residents but we also have over thirty people on our waiting list.

We are planning to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Yackatoon Retirement Village in due course. The Board for Yackatoon was formed about four years prior to the actual buildings being built, however if there is everyone in the community with early photographs or stories of Yackatoon, perhaps details of relatives that were the first residents to move in, then please let us know.

You can email us at yackatoonvillage@outlook.com or please phone Lyn Cameron on 0448 427 094.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GIVING BACK TO THE GREAT COMMUNITY OF YACKANDANDAH?

Board & committee members are always wanted. They are the driving force behind so many successful community groups and organisations. It is a great thing to be involved, and you will gain a huge amount of experience, many new skills and make new friends along the way. What's not to enjoy about it? Check it out - contact an organisation today and offer your services...



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COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2022 – THAT’S A WRAP

Our 2022 Christmas Lunch – what can I say but WOW! A simple request on the Yack Community Facebook page seeking donations from individuals and/or businesses for this year’s event received a massive, and almost immediate response. I was overwhelmed by the generous donations received, both financial and physical goods. There was a huge variety of gifts with a lot of thought given to the items supplied as well. The guys fared better this year than in the past. I can’t thank everyone enough for their generosity. I don’t have contact details for everyone either, so please accept this as my heartfelt thanks for your support.

This was our seventh lunch and our numbers again sat around the 65 attendees (including volunteers) which is about our average number. We welcomed quite a few new faces this year, along with our regular group of locals. We also had a family of ex-residents from Queensland join us to share the day with their relatives.

Each year the Yackandandah Lions Club donate the individual Christmas Cakes that were included in the table settings along with a small bag of treats to take home.

As always “thank you” to the Yackandandah Football & Netball Club for the free use of their facilities on the day. It was certainly a bit warmer this year and some patrons were longing for the new clubrooms in anticipation of being air-conditioned. We can only hope for one day!

To my regular group of volunteers – Sam & Jono from Rafferty’s, Denise & Wayne Maybury, Fiona Greiner, Jenny Anthony & Jack Kelley – thank you for your continued support and willingness to assist to ensure the event runs smoothly. To all the other volunteers who give up their time to help on the day and to clean-up – a huge thank you. Once again everyone pitched in to help pack up at the end of the lunch, making very short work of the task.

Thank you to the following for their generous support of this community event (in no particular order):

Shaun of Rafferty’s Catering, Ros Ridgeway, Priscilla Wingard (Kaori Australia), John & Frances Boehm, Fiona Greiner, Gary Hayward, Yack Holiday Park, Greg Saffon, Yack Hotel, Yackity Yak, Yack News, Yack Post Office, Cathy McGowan, Simone Engdahl, Yack Women’s Shed, Yack Constructions, Susan Campbell, Solar Integrity, Brenda O’Keefe, Vicki Lyons, John & Jenny Donnelly, Mary Groth, Charity Watkins, Brigadier Daniel Schmidt, Linda Mason, Helen Haines, Yack Lions Club, Julie Methven Kelley, Yack Pharmacy, Brendan & Stacey Hogan, Jess Williamson, Jenni Lannen, Marobe Cakes, Jo Beer, Sam Dominguez, Jane Murphy, Paula Munro

We look forward to hosting this event again in 2023.

Carmel Kelley & volunteers

YACK PLAYGROUP

Yack Playgroup is up and running for its first term of 2023 and we have settled nicely into our play space at Osbornes Flat Primary School.

As was mentioned in the last Yackity Yak, Sam has passed the organiser baton over to Stacey Hogan. Yack Playgroup would like to thank Sam for all of her organisation and caretaking of the group.

Stacey Hogan is a local teacher at Yack Primary School, and mum to two young boys. She hopes to bring some of her skills in education to the role and continue to create a playgroup environment that is safe, inclusive and most importantly - fun!

Each week, we will explore a concept related to the theme for the term. Can you guess the theme for this term using these two clues?

- You see them everywhere in our environment.
- Some of them make up a rainbow.

If you have preschool-aged children, you’re most welcome to come and play at Yack Playgroup. There is also a Facebook group called Yackandandah Playgroup, where announcements are made. Feel free to join at any time.

Where: Osbornes Flat Primary School
When: Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am
What to bring: Hat, drink bottle, morning tea

There is no cost for Play group, but you will need to be registered with Playgroup Victoria and be linked to our group. Stacey can assist with this process during your first few sessions.

Contact email: contact.minimindfuls@gmail.com



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RECIPE OF THE SEASON

The Mothership Tomato Salad by Jamie Oliver



INGREDIENTS

- 1 kg mixed ripe tomatoes, different shapes and colours
- Sea salt & freshly ground black pepper
- A good pinch of dried oregano
- Red wine or balsamic vinegar
- Extra virgin olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and grated
- 1 fresh red chilli, seeded and chopped

DIRECTIONS

This is an incredible tomato salad but there are two things to remember if you want to wow your guests with something so simple. The first is that you should try to get a mixture of different,

tasty, home grown (if possible) tomatoes in all different shapes, sizes and colours. Second, the flavour is brought out by salting the tomatoes, so don't skip this bit. Some people get worried about putting this much salt on their food, but the bulk of it will drip off, leaving you with really beautiful, intensely flavoured tomatoes.

If you can get hold of some dried flowering oregano then do, as it has the most heavenly flavour. Oregano is dead easy to grow in the garden and dry.

Depending on the size of your tomatoes, slice some in half, some into quarters and others into uneven chunks. Straightaway this will give you the beginnings of a tomato salad that's really brave & exciting to look at and eat. Put the tomatoes into a colander & season with a good pinch of sea salt.

1. Give them a toss, season again and give a couple more tosses. The salt won't be drawn into the tomatoes; instead, it will draw any excess

moisture out, concentrating all the lovely flavours. Leave the tomatoes in the colander on top of a bowl to stand for around 15 minutes, then discard any juice that has come out of them.

2. Transfer the tomatoes to a large bowl and sprinkle over the oregano. Make a dressing using 1 part vinegar to 3 parts oil, the garlic and the chili. Drizzle the tomatoes with enough dressing to coat everything nicely.

This is a fantastic tomato salad, which is totally delicious to eat on its own. It's also great served with some balls of mozzarella or some nice, grilled ciabatta bread.

Yackity Yak only puts tried and tested recipes in this section, so you can be pretty certain they will work out, but stick to the measurements given or you may have the odd failure!



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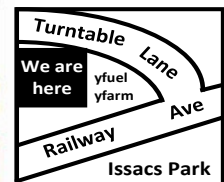
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Yackandandah Community Centre



Vice President Pam Noble, Committee member Nancy Penney and Office Manager Phil Buerckner enjoying the benefits of a Yack Community Centre grant for new garden equipment

The Yackandandah Historical Society is keeping its gardens trim and terrific, thanks to a Community Grant from the Yackandandah Community Centre. The Museum was one of nine Yack organisations which received YCC Community Grants totalling more than \$17,000 in 2022.

This year's grants scheme is now open, so if your community group could use some help with funds for improvements or projects, jump onto the Yackandandah Community Centre website and register an Expression of

Interest. Register at www.ycc.org.au. Grants are awarded to community groups for projects or improvements to their facilities which will ultimately benefit the Yackandandah community.

Interest. Register at www.ycc.org.au. Grants are awarded to community groups for projects or improvements to their facilities which will ultimately benefit the Yackandandah community.

The Historical Society received \$1,800 last year to help it replace ageing, petrol-driven garden maintenance equipment with modern, electric equipment. Vice president, Pam Noble, said the new equipment would benefit the organisation, volunteers and the wider community. "All the garden maintenance is done by volunteers so it is terrific to have some new, safer, smaller equipment," Pam said. "Our other equipment was very old and we didn't have a lot of things that we needed, such as a wheel barrow and pruners. Our garden equipment is now more environmentally friendly and complies with our environmental and sustainability policies."

YCC manager, David Thorpe said the annual grants scheme offered community organisations funds to improve their services or facilities. "Last year we had a terrific diversity of organisations and projects which YCC Grants went towards," he said. "The Golf Club purchased new tables for the clubhouse, the Riding Club upgraded electrical systems in its clubhouse, the Community Garden resurfaced paths, the Cricket Club improved the irrigation system at the Sports Park, Indigo FM got a new computer for the Yack studio, Osbornes Flat Hall installed a defibrillator, the Cemetery Trust bought new electric garden equipment and the 1st Yack Scouts group received funds for a fire pit and parade ground.

"It's great to be able to offer so many organisations a bit of help with improving things for their members and the wider community." He said funds

for grants came from proceeds of sales through the YCC Op Shop in the High Street.

"I think this is a terrific cyclic system, we are selling items donated by Yack locals to help raise funds which go back into helping local community groups make this a better place to live for everyone in our community," he said. "But the program is only possible through the efforts of our wonderful Op Shop volunteers and coordinator. They help raise the funds throughout the year, without their help the grants wouldn't be possible. And of course, thanks must go to the Yack community for donated items to the shop, as well as coming in and buying from us."

Pam Noble said the funds received from YCC had enabled the Museum to replace old equipment earlier than it would have otherwise been able to. "Having our gardens looking good makes a big difference when you are looking in from the street, so in many ways it is helping the town," she said. "Our thanks go to the YCC Committee for the generous grant awarded to us last year under their Community Grants program. I would encourage any group with a project in mind to apply for funding under this year's grants."



The beautiful grounds of Yack Museum enjoyed by Phil Buerckner and Nancy Penney

YCC prioritises projects which aim to create ongoing benefits to Yackandandah, build community capacity and create positive change for the Yackandandah community.

Yackandandah community-based groups may apply for funding for projects which:

- Make a significant contribution to the Yackandandah community
- Create opportunities for innovation and new ways of doing things
- Encourage inclusion and provide equal opportunities for all
- Enhance community self-reliance and resilience
- Improve community well-being
- Offer learning opportunities
- Are based on current climate science

Expressions of Interest must be registered with the Yackandandah Community Centre by Tuesday, 11th April, 2023.

For more information please phone the manager, David Thorpe on 02 6027 1743 or email manager@ycc.org.au.



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YACKANDANDAH COMMUNITY CENTRE

PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF ITS
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We invite Yackandandah community groups to submit an Expression of Interest.

Grants of up to \$3,000 will be awarded to projects or improvements to facilities which will benefit the group and the wider community.

Find an Expression of Interest form on the YCC website at www.ycc.org.au.

Expressions of Interest must be received by
Tuesday, 11th April, 2023 to be considered

Please phone manager, David Thorpe on 02 6027 1743 or email manager@ycc.org.au



Hattie 'n' Jaala's Keychains



Ty Boddenberg of Yack Football and Netball Club receiving Tom and Harry's fundraising



Yack's hardworking SES brigade were the recipients of Sally's labours



Oliver's Sweet Lemonade



Aliya



Jack's tilt at Tamworth



Busking at YPS



Max with some familiar faces of the Yack Lycra Brigade!

Towards the end of 2022, many of you would have seen many students from the 5/6 classes at Yackandandah Primary School spruiking their wares and services. This was all part of '\$20 Boss', a program designed to teach students about entrepreneurship through hands-on experience.

The program provided students with \$20 of start-up capital and guided them through the process of designing, creating, and managing a business. While the program was grounded in the curriculum areas of economics and financial literacy, its goal was not to make all young people entrepreneurs, but rather to promote the understanding of how the skills and mindsets developed through entrepreneurship can be transferable to other areas of life. By participating in the program, students developed valuable skills such as creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking, which can help them confidently manage diverse challenges in the future, whether it's in work or other aspects of their lives.

As a part of the program, each business was also required to donate at least 50% of their profits to a local community group, organisation or charity, again fostering important skills such as looking beyond your own circumstances and giving back to a community. The program was a terrific success; the students donated more than \$5,600 within the community and beyond.

On behalf of all the students involved, I would like to pass on a sincere thank you to the many people who supported the students in their endeavours.

Brendan Hogan
Year 5/6 teacher, Yackandandah Primary School

What a great way to benefit so many parts of the Yack community. Here are some of the projects that benefitted Yack organisations. Well done to all involved - a great thing to do!



Flynn with Andrew Lockett of Yack Cricket Club



Ed with Jo Mitlehner from Staghorn Wildlife Shelter

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Pancakes Rock!

Yack Primary School becomes the biggest donor of renewable, local energy in 2022. At the end of 2022, two Yack Primary students generously donated to the efforts of Totally Renewable Yack which supports the Yack valley to 100% renewable energy. Amazing. And I am so thrilled to report this donation as it was also my great fortune to attend Yackandandah Primary right through my early schooling.

In December 2022, I met two school lads with an infectious entrepreneurial spirit that outstripped my abysmal attempt at 'Earn and Learn,' a program which was running when I was at school. Indeed, my feeble efforts were far outstripped by their remarkable contribution to TRY of \$158.



Clare Bishop of TRY with Pancake Entrepreneurs Jack and Angus. PC: Matthew Charles-Jones

In the same week we also received an extremely chunky donation of \$200 from local 12 year old businesswoman, Edi McNerney - who rocks!

The '\$20.00 Boss' program supports Grade 5 students to establish a short-term enterprise of their choosing, to boost problem solving, business planning and communication skills. Students then pass on proceeds to a favoured community group!

Students Jack and Angus worked together on a 'Perfect Pancakes' business – providing the ingredients to make

a pancake and donated the funds to TRY. Meanwhile, Edi founded 'Edi's Rocks!' The enterprise sold pallets of granite rocks (standard or large) for pick up or local delivery. There were many other great businesses to come out of this program, from plants to home-made cordial.

We are pretty excited to see so many kids wanting to support renewable energy initiatives.

Ultimately, it will be their generation and those that follow them that bears the brunt of the burden when it comes to climate change. We would therefore like to extend an offer for any ideas about how TRY can serve the young people of Yack on a specific energy related project.

Is there anything we can do for you or anything you'd be excited to see TRY do just for kids? Please feel free to get in touch with us at info@totallyrenewableyack.org.au.

We are so appreciative of the program offered by Yack Primary School and the enormous efforts of Edi, Jack and Angus! Thank you so much to these star kids who have donated to TRY. We are so excited to see what you all do next. Another round of pancakes would be greatly appreciated (no pressure...)!



**Edi absolutely rocks!
Edi and Matthew Charles-Jones.
PC: Paul McInerney**

Following on from the front page article, this new award is yet another notch on the belt of this formidable community group. If it were possible to calculate the benefit that TRY has brought to Yackandandah and districts, it would run into many bazillions of dollars and a corresponding amount of volunteer hours. There are very few groups that could match this incomparable record.

Yack has such an amazing reputation for pulling extraordinary events and groups together, and is fast acquiring an international standing for the way it punches so far above its weight for a small town of just over 2,000 peeps (2021 census).

Indigo Shire Council said this about the winners of the award:

"TRY was awarded Community Organisation of the Year. It is a voluntary organisation with a focus on a sustainable future at every level. TRY has been successful in building a local, state and national profile as a leader in community-led sustainability initiatives and in its years of operation has supported Yackandandah to achieve 60% renewable status, the establishment of Indigo Power, launched one of Australia's first community batteries and is working toward a second.

"TRY has established itself as a true leader in working towards a truly sustainable future. The team's ability to bring the community along on this important journey and dedication to achieving tangible and practical progress in energy transition is truly inspirational." Mayor Sophie Price said."

Clare Bishop, Chair, TRY



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New Zealand has embraced the idea of cycling tourism, not just multi day rides but trails that can be undertaken in a day or a few energetic hours. I know many Yackandandah cyclists are making the trip to New Zealand to experience these trails. In September of last year we did just that. One of the standout rides was Alps2Ocean which starts at Mt Cook and finishes on the east coast of New Zealand at Oamaru.

We completed this beautiful and varied ride in two parts, firstly in late September 2022 after we arrived in NZ, and four weeks later after completing the Otago Central Rail Trail and numerous day bike rides and hikes further south. Frequent shuttle services with a company called Cycle Journeys made it possible for us to complete a recommended section and have Chris picked up at the end of each riding day and taken back to retrieve our hired van. We enjoyed spectacular and varied scenery and rode our leg powered bikes over many and varied surfaces: sealed road sections, rough and rocky tracks but mainly smooth shingle.

Day 1 & 2 (late September 2022)

Officially, Alps2Ocean starts at Mt Cook. After a short ride, a helicopter takes bikes and riders over the Tasman River and deposits them at Rotten Tommy. The rough shingle road then heads down the valley hugging the glacial expanse of Lake Pukaki to the start of a dedicated cycle trail to the Lake Pukaki lookout. We skipped the helicopter section but cycled a section of this rough road on our first day after a night at a lakeside freedom camp. Mt Cook, which had been under cloud when we started riding, was unveiled as we rode. A spectacular view and a great start to our version of Alps2Ocean.

The next morning, we tackled the off road trail around the lake to the Lake Pukaki lookout. Mt Cook, a mountain of many moods, was veiled by cloud and the lake was slate grey rather than the glacial blue of yesterday. Still beautiful

though. In the afternoon we rode the section to the town of Twizel and back across the flat grassy expanse of Pukaki Flats. Mountain views were our backdrop.

Day 3 & 4 (October 29 & 30, 2022)

Four weeks later we returned ready to complete the journey to the ocean. With a shuttle organised, we left our van at Twizel with the intention of staying a night at Lake Ohau Lodge and being picked up the next day in Omarama. All went to plan. The sun shone as we rode the sealed road section besides two canals before reaching Lake Ohau and cycling on a gravel path beside the lake. Unfortunately the sun had disappeared by the time we reached the lake and the mountain views were obscured by cloud. The last stretch to the lodge



Chris at Lake Pukaki

was on a sealed road again with mist over the mountains at the head of the lake.

Dinner, bed and breakfast was included in the package and, as a change from the van, we had a bed to sleep in and the company of other cyclists. We woke early next morning to clear skies and a stunning view of Lake Ohau and distant mountains. After leaving the lodge, we began the climb up to the highest point of the trail at 900 metres. The ascent was steady, at times precipitous but what made it difficult was the large loose rocks that formed the trail's surface. We bumped and bounced for over two hours. The ride was saved by rest stops to

absorb the view. This was the most difficult ascent of the entire Alps2Ocean. The reward was 27 kms of downhill, initially on a rough track, then a shingle and crunchy grey gravel road. We hardly pedalled all the way to Omarama.

Days 5 & 6 – (October 31 & November 1, 2022) Omarama to Otematata then Kurow

The next two days involved riding around the edge of two huge dams, Lake Benmore and Lake Aviemore. These vast bodies of water have been created by the construction of huge dams. After starting out from Omarama, the trail runs down the Waitaki River Valley before connecting with Lake Benmore. Lambing season was in full swing and frolicking lambs, many of them twins, were a distraction as we rode through the farmland beside Lake Benmore. The path was benign until a point called Sailors Cutting. From the cutting, the trail was rockier and more precipitous. It was steep but spectacular riding though with views over bays and peninsulas and slab-like rock walls plunging into the water. Day 6, the day we rode over the Aviemore Dam Wall, was the only day we rode in rain!

Day 7 & 8 (November 2 & 3) Kurow to Duntroon then to Oamaru

Back to sunshine and a tailwind to push us down the valley. No roads today, a dedicated cycle path all the way. Mainly flat riding past a vineyard, through lush farmland and avenues of riverside vegetation. Closer to Duntroon, the trail wound through a sculptured wetland. Duntroon offered another pub, so we lashed out on an evening meal.

Our last day dawned bright sunny and windless. This was to be our longest day with 54 kms to go to Oamaru and the ocean. It turned out to be a varied day, mainly off road, with a visit to the appropriately named Elephant Rocks after an easy 7 km. Often the trail meandered through paddocks with some uphill sections providing great views. There was even a railway tunnel at the end of a gravel road descent. Finally, Oamaru and the ocean harbour, the end of the trail. On our version of the Alps2Ocean we rode about 300 kms over eight days.

Bev and Chris Lello are keen cyclists, hikers and travellers. If you want to read more about the joys of cycling and hiking in New Zealand and other parts of the world you can visit Bev's blog: beverylello.wordpress.com



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Find out what's in your soil with our new citizen science program.

Waste and chemicals that pollute our air, soil and water can persist in the environment. Most chemicals enter our environment through sewage, waste, accidental discharge, or can be by-products from industrial activity. Historical contamination sources, like lead paint and leaded gasoline have also impacted urban soil quality.

Contamination can affect soil quality and impact how our veggies grow. It may also have human health implications from eating garden produce or working in the garden if contaminants are present at high concentrations.

GardenSafe is a soil testing program run by Citizen Science team at Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria. The one-year pilot aims to equip community with the knowledge and resources they need to understand backyard soil quality.

GardenSafe invites Victorians to send 3 garden soil samples for screening. We will assess your sample for:

- Garden soil quality indicators, including soil composition, organic carbon, and soil nutrients phosphorus and potassium
- Trace elements, including lead, arsenic and chromium

The findings from GardenSafe will help to build EPA's understanding of contamination, especially in urban areas.

Register for the program to get involved at <https://www.360dustanalysis.com/get-started/soil/australia/victoria>



ON THE TRACK TO CORRYONG

Born to rugged ranges where seldom seeks the sun
Dark foreboding rising ramparts that decide where rivers run.
Khancoban to the Geehi, Swampy Plain, Mt. Shanahan.
Old realms and lost dominions of the mountain cattleman.
Silent are the heelers, mute the crack of thong,
No more we'll spy the leaders on their way to Corryong.
Through the timber walk the cattle, dappled shadows print a gown
Flash of spur or stirrup when they brought the big mobs down.

We envision down the reaches, spook-eyed stores come feeding past,
Hint of mountain wildness from the leaders to the last.
Brush those tears and curse the changes as only drovers can
Raise a glass and pray survival for the mountain cattlemen.
Hear the snapping bark of heelers, a stockman's lonely song
As he rides to turn the leaders on their way to Corryong.
Glimpse a thousand white face bullocks string across a treacherous brow
Knowing well the mountain horsemen will bring the cattle down.

Aged minds that live with fancy, old stockmen ride behind
Stretching lines of packs and horses on their way from Jindabyne.
They yard in fondest mateship as their coals of life die down
Concerning cattle, dogs and horses, some wild women back in town.
Will they hear the bark of heelers, crack of whip and thong
Once again to ply the stock routes on the track to Corryong?
Midst the bawling of the breeders, while a haze hangs like a gown
Ride again, the mountain drovers, when they bring the cattle down.

Bill Whitham, Tallangatta

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The Pond - An insight into the characters of Yackandandah - Hayden Rochow - with Rebecca Gibblie

Hayden has lived in Yackandandah since 1953 after being born in Albury's Borrt-Koi Private Hospital to parents Marjorie and Edgar Rochow in 1944. The Rochow family, including Hayden's elder sister lived in Ebdon Street while Edgar worked at Younghusband's wool stores. Marjorie provided the care and love Hayden remembered, as a full-time mother.

Hayden's formal education began at Lavington Public School, and it didn't take long for Hayden to decide that school wasn't for him.

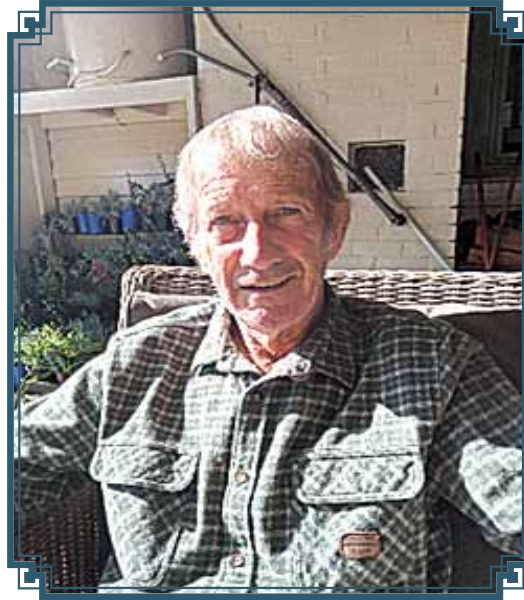
Just prior to Christmas in 1953, the family moved to their newly acquired farm on Bell's Flat Road. Life on the 180 acres in Yackandandah suited Hayden. Hayden recalled his parents using a branch of pine to fashion a Christmas tree after the first few days on the farm. A wonderfully memorable first Christmas in Yackandandah.

He was enrolled at Yackandandah Primary School under the care of Charlie McMaster, remembered as a stern and extremely strict headmaster. Sparing the rod was not a part of McMaster's brief which added to Hayden's desire to exit school at the first opportunity. A memory of Hayden's schooldays was catching the train out of Yackandandah to Benalla to see the Queen. Although Her Majesty was briefly seen, the day was marred with badly torn shorts, thanks to Mc Master attempting to assist him over a barbed wire fence. The resulting torn shorts revealing his bare posterior. Humiliated, he spent the day disguising his embarrassment.

Unlike shopping in Albury or Wodonga, 'Denny's', the current post office, and 'Dean's', Ralph's shop, delivered groceries to the farm. Ernie Smith visited the day before to take orders. Toby Britton ran the bread cart delivering freshly baked produce to farms from Damm's Bakery, located where the current Beechworth bakery is.

Edgar and Marjorie took charge of raising the

kids and milking the 50 cows and making a real go of their new enterprise. The two children were always well supported and adored. Hayden's visiting friends were fed and spoiled when visiting. Even though money was always tight, neither of the children missed out. Generosity, love, and affection were the hallmarks of Hayden's childhood.



Just before his fourteenth birthday, Hayden left school to help on the farm after his dad suffered recurring health issues. By the time he turned 19, he was working full time at Permezel's freezer works, located on the site of the current Yackandandah Motel. Ice was sold and rabbits collected. Rabbits were in such abundance and demand, portable freezers were owned by Permezel's in Tallangatta, Beechworth, Kiewa, and Mongan's Bridge. Hayden's elder sister worked at Wishart's store, the site of Sue-Ellen's old drapery. Hayden handled 9,000 pairs of rabbits a week as well as selling farm equipment. By the time Hayden turned 21 he had enough of rabbit wrangling and began work for Yackandandah

Shire, labouring, and truck driving.

Coming of age meant social activities which included the Saturday night dance at the public hall when Yackandandah football club played at home. Movies too were shown on a Friday night at the public hall. Westerns were always popular among the young men. The annual Mardi Gras on New Year's Eve was a major social event in town with dancing until dawn. The Mardi Gras included spinning wheels, live music, and a procession in town. The visiting 'Deaf and Dumb' and 'Blind' troupes performed during the year always adding to the festivities with comedy, singing and acrobatics.

Characters such as Freddie Reid, a relic from the mining era lived in a 'Bag Hut' on Bell's Flat Road. Wheat bag or hessian walls and a tin chimney made up his cottage in the late 50s and early 60s. He held a mining lease and plied his trade as one of the last true Yackandandah miners. Cars were scarce and the town was not seen as a tourist destination as it is now.

In April 1967, Hayden married Jill Draper, very much a local girl and they made their home in Windham St in May of that year with the generous assistance of his parents. The home is known as the neatest house in the street containing an abundant vegetable garden.

Three children followed, Brett, Craig and Michelle, the boys still living locally.

Hayden retired from the Indigo Shire in 2004 to pursue his interests in gardening, the Uniting Church, and Club Connection through Beechworth Health. Hayden added that Yackandandah has always been a unique community because of the honesty and integrity of its people. No one can argue with him on that!

A special thanks to Hayden and Jill Rochow for agreeing to share some of their story for the Yackandandah community.

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Happy New Year to our Yack community. The number of visitors that came through our doors in 2022 reached 5,025 in total, including 664 children and 495 members. The comments left in our visitor's book reflect the appreciation of the work done by the Historical Society and the joy it brings visitors.

"Wow! Fantastic to see the living history.

Thank you for the work protecting our precious heritage".

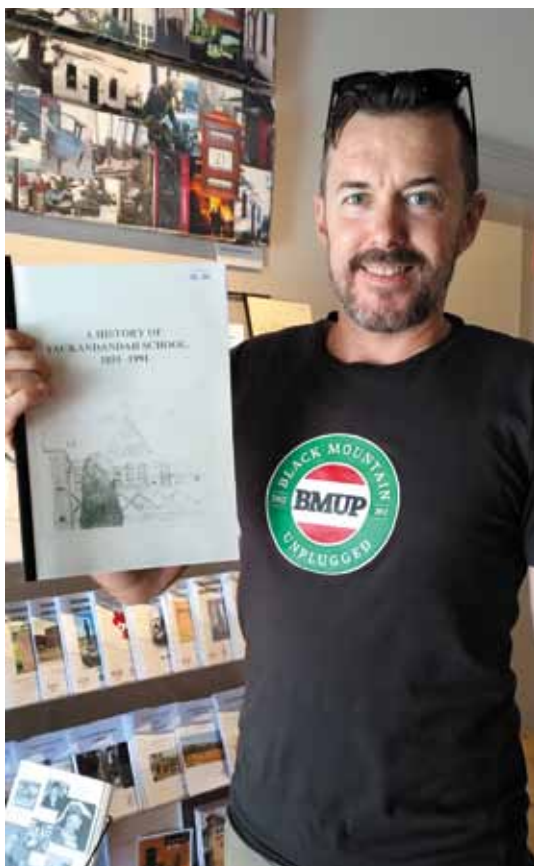
"A fascinating museum – the best I have seen. Such an interesting history that I didn't appreciate previously. Thank you for all the hard work by volunteers. Thank you for looking after the memories".

"Very cool - loved the cabin. Well pleased. Fantastic!"

From one of the children who visited and took part in the treasure hunt – "The hardest one was the iron, I love it here."

Perhaps one visitor summed it up in a single word – "Breathtaking".

There was a surprise in store for both the Museum and Marty Dryden Brown when he dropped in to visit. Recognising his artwork on our



Marty Dryden Brown rediscovers his illustration

publication 'History of Yackandandah School 1855-1991', Marty explained he drew the covering sketch as a 13 yr old student at Yack Primary, he had no idea it was part of our history. What goes around ...

We know we couldn't keep our doors open without the donations we receive, which come in many forms; visitor's donation box, the jams, and chutneys we sell, often made by produce donated by locals, and the books and plants we sell which are all donated by our generous community. We do produce our own publications and sell Colin Barnard's nine volumes on the history of Yackandandah, (we are currently waiting on the reprints of Volumes 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5, 6 & 7). We also produce small pamphlets and have accounts of the School, sporting clubs and past historical events and people.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:

Our raffle comprised of three hampers full of Christmas treats. We would like to thank the YDHS members and business owners who made donations towards the raffle: Beechworth Bakery, Peter and Leonie Adams, Nancy Penney, Karen Glass, Sue Bell, Vintage Alley, 7th Pocket, Lyn and Phil Buerckner,

Chris Zerbst, Yackandandah Lions Club, Leonie Humphrey, Helen MacCalman, Pam Noble, Peter Barnes, Klimt & Vivienne Cate.

The lucky winners were- **1st: Tim Evans, 2nd: Sally Williams & 3rd: Lachlan Pinder**

For our present-day readers to enjoy, we have a small titbit from the past! (The author used 1000 words to wittily describe the event, going into great detail, but here is a summary of his amusing account with some quotes from the original article.)

Ovens and Murray Advertiser (Beechworth : 1855 - 1955), Saturday, 2 December 1876, page 5

NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AT PETTIFORD'S HILL, NEAR YACKANDANDAH. (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The new Catholic Church was almost complete on Pettiford's Hill when it hosted the celebration of its new building. Calico across the window spaces proved a wise move as it was a gusty night – the windows that were supplied were too small.

The crowd of 350 men, women and children were entertained by a number of amateur singers who were generally okay. However, he did comment sweetly about one of the singers "she



St. Mary's Church, Pettiford Hill, Osbornes Flat

exceeded her first effort, having gained a little more confidence: and I may here observe that the unfinished state of the building, windows out, &c., rendered its acoustic properties most unfavourable and trying for amateurs.

A male singer, described as having a pleasant baritone voice, presented two songs "in a capital and appropriate nonchalant style, which almost elicited an encore, but throughout the evening the audience judiciously avoided this."

"The room was then cleared for dancing



Hand drawn by an Osbornes Flat resident from her memories. St Mary's Church, Pettiford's Hill

which was kept up till daylight, the room being double banked all round in spite of the sets of dancers on the floor. Messrs Fortescue and Downs manipulated and vocipulated (fine words) their respective instruments till broad daylight, and all went away thoroughly sated with the evening's enjoyment."

FURTHER SUPPORT FROM YACKANDANDAH MEN'S SHED

Last week members of the Men's Shed completed the realignment of our rear gate which has been constantly damaged by vehicles reversing in the car park. We appreciate all the repairs and services they have provided to the museum, so our sincere thanks to all at the Men's Shed.

ON SALE

- 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.
- Plants.
- Souvenir mugs.

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In the last edition of Yackity Yak, Vinnie the Lagotto Romagnolo, Italy's adorable 'truffle dog,' made his inaugural appearance on the Ben Gilbert sculpture outside the Yackandandah Museum.

We quoted from the American Kennel Club website that:

"Lagotti stand under 20 inches and weigh no more than 2.5kg."

Vinnie's owner, Vera Mills, when she read the article came back to us and said "I just reread the article and our Lagotto owners said that I must have starved Vinnie. The article said Lagotti weigh 2.5 kg. I must tell you that the average weight for Lagotti is actually 12 -15 kg! We all had a chuckle. Hopefully if anyone wants to get a Lagotto they won't be expecting a teeny tiny dog!"

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CANINE PHRASES

Dog-eared - dog eared pages are so called because the reader, lacking a proper bookmark, has turned down the corner which looks much like a dog's ear, flopping over.

Dog in the Manger - whoever begrudges another's pleasure of something which is useless to himself, and stops them from enjoying it, is contemptuously called 'a dog in the manger'. The description is borrowed from one of Aesop's fables. This tells of a dog who took up position near a manger full of hay. It did so to viciously prevent cattle and horses from getting near it. As the dog did not eat hay, it did not want others to enjoy it either.

From the Book of Beginnings by Dr. R and L Brasch

AUSLAN COURSE
AUSTRALIAN SIGN LANGUAGE

In this introduction to Auslan class, learn the basics of sign language in a fun relaxed group with local Auslan teacher, Diana Nobbs. Participants leave knowing the Auslan alphabet, colours, numbers and casual conversation such as asking and answering simple questions - What is your name? Where do you live? and describing their families. Auslan can also be used for communication with non-verbal or autistic children or adults.

Thursday February 23rd 6.30pm - 9pm
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Quality And Reliability

With the continued closure of Indigo Creek Road, the Indigo Valley Brigade with District 24 have from the time of closure put in a temporary turnout note for the Upper Valley area.

We will still be paged and need to respond to callouts/incidents for the Upper Valley area; however, we will have additional support from Leneva, Yackandandah and Wooragee brigades.

Ian Burgess
Indigo Valley CFA Captain.

At the time of going to press, the temporary crossing of the failed culvert some 5kms heading north along Indigo Creek Road, is apparently due to be completed by the middle of February. There has been no date given for the complete replacement of the culvert. Ed.

Indigo
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YACK CEMETERY TRUST

Working Bee – Trustees of the Yackandandah Cemetery would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the community -minded helpers who participated in last December's working bee. There were over twenty helpers assisting at the working bee, which is several more than the last few years. With so many helpers we were able to complete mowing, weeding, and edging across the entire grounds. The cemetery was looking its very best for the Christmas holidays - a special time that brings many visitors to the cemetery.

New Chairperson – The Trust welcomes David Lerch to the role of Chairperson. David has been a trustee for many years, holding the position of Deputy Chair for a good portion of that. David takes over the role of Chairperson from Anna Hession, who remains a trustee, but is taking a well-earned rest from the chair position for a while. The Trust is forever grateful for the tireless work Anna has put into the Chairperson role and we acknowledge her years of community leadership.

Nature Section – In the last addition of the Yackity Yack we announced our new policy for the Nature Section. We are pleased to say the article has prompted a lot of interest. The Trustees thought it appropriate to share the founding principles from which the Nature Section Policy was developed.

Nature Section Founding Policy Principles

1. The Nature Section will be designated as a non-denominational area of land within the Yackandandah Cemetery and will accept approved interments of Human Remains (cremated ashes or bodily remains) from all

faiths, cultures, and ethnicities;

2. The Nature Section will accept both Traditional and Natural Burials. Natural burials will encourage the nutrients in a body to return to the earth in the most environmentally friendly way possible;
3. The Nature Section will be defined by a unique approach to natural stone memorials, vegetation use and management, and the characteristics of natural landscape features and outlook;
4. The Places of Interment will not chart traditional horizontal grid placement, and grave sites will meander the natural curves of the landscape in accordance with the Yackandandah Cemetery Trusts design;
5. The Place of Interment will have no artificial headstone, tombstone or gravesite features, and will integrate vegetation plantings from a species selection approved by the Yackandandah Cemetery Trust; and
6. Place of Interments within the Nature Section will be allocated to the Rights holder based on the next available plot. Reservation of a Place of Interment will not be available in the Nature Section.

If you would like to know more about the Nature Section of the Yackandandah Cemetery, please don't hesitate to contact the Cemetery via email at cemetery.secretary@yackandandah.com. A printed copy of the Nature Section policy can also be reviewed at the Yackandandah Museum.

MEMENTOES AND TRIBUTE POLICY

The Yackandandah Cemetery trustees recently ratified changes to its Memento and Tribute Policy.

The following four principles were established by the Trust to support its approach to governing mementos and tributes. These overarching principles guided policy changes and have helped define items that are approved for placement as a graveside memento, floral and ornamental tribute across the different interment sections.

Memento and Tribute Policy Principles

1. The Trust will prioritise the importance of maintaining an environment that is attractive, tidy and safe for all visitors, contractors, and volunteers.
2. The Trust will recognise the importance of graveside mementos, floral and ornamental tributes, and the need for families to offer and maintain fitting tributes to their lost loved ones.
3. The Trust will acknowledge the significant cultural, historical, and environmental values held by the cemetery and the need for staff to maintain the cemetery grounds to a high standard.
4. The Trust will appreciate the diverse nature of families that visit, and the difficulty in defining policy that meets individual needs, and therefore will seek to provide fair guidelines that apply uniformly to everyone.

If you would like to review a copy of the Memento and Tribute Policy, please don't hesitate to contact the Cemetery via email at cemetery.secretary@yackandandah.com

Paul Anderson



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Phone: 0423 075 385

A project is afoot to photograph all the grave sites, whether appearing occupied or not, as a resource for the Yackandandah Cemetery Trust. As you can imagine, this is likely to be a big project. If you have a digital camera, an eye for detail and a few hours to spare from time to time, please contact the Organiser, on 0448 803 411 to discuss your involvement!


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BOOKING THE PUBLIC HALL OR COURTHOUSE?

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

publichall.yackandandah.com

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** or by mobile on 0459 271 801.

2022	Millimetres	Days of Rain
January	212.2	7
February	3.0	1
March	80.4	5
April	46.0	10
May	96.6	12
June	126.8	19
July	48.0	8
August	176.6	16
September	163.2	14
October	258.8	17
November	204.2	12
December	39.2	8
TOTAL 2022	1455.0	129
2023 to 19 Jan	51.6	5
2020	905.6	122
2021	1141.2	114

Previous highest yearly rain - 1972 - 1422.0 mm
2020 - 1314.0 mm

Reg's Rain Report



A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory

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Victoria 3747
Local Call: 1300 365 003



JOIN ENGAGED INDIGO

Engaged Indigo is our online Community Engagement Group.

Open to all Indigo Shire residents, Engaged Indigo is your opportunity to participate in a range of engagement opportunities and have direct input into issues that matter most to you.

By registering, you'll receive notification of new engagement opportunities direct to your email inbox and you can opt in or out of specific engagement topics based on your interest or involvement in the subject matter.

If you would like to join this group, simply click on the link below to register and find out more.

www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au/engagedindigo

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

Home Care

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

Transport

To help you get to appointments and community activities.

Respite

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

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Client directed care and case management.

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Buzzing All Hobby Beekeeping Enthusiasts



Monthly Meetings have started.

Where: Yack Men's Shed, 24 Isaacs Ave

When: First Thursday of the Month

What Time: 7.30pm

Need More Info? Phone Debbie on 0417 244 495

Or check our Facebook page 'YackaBees' For meeting agendas

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YACK GARDEN CLUB



BEGUILING BONSAI

When you say 'horticulture and art', most will imagine lush flower or veggie garden beds, full of colour, fresh food, buzzing bees and watering systems, and perhaps somewhere in the midst of all of this gift of nature, will be a stunning art piece. The garden itself can well be described as 'art', as it involves creative or imaginative talent, it can exude beauty and evoke emotional power. Come on, not many of you immediately thought of the beguiling gift of bonsai when you read 'horticulture and art'. Bonsai is the Japanese art of growing and training miniature trees in pots, this is a very simplified explanation, but not so easy to achieve.

Many gardeners are in awe of the art of bonsai, but resist from taking it up as an artistic pursuit. It does take a special kind of creative person to put the time and effort into learning, growing and creating the magic of bonsai. Here is some food for thought about bonsai, it just might urge you to find out more and maybe indulge yourself with your first bonsai. The big upside of bonsai is that they are portable, so if you rent or have regular moves, then you can always take your precious plants with you.

You can start with a big tree and cut it down, or you can plant, grow and create this way. Almost any tree or shrub can be turned into a bonsai; the key is to prune the roots and the foliage so the plant remains dwarfed. The Trident Maple has great characteristics for bonsai purposes, it is very vigorous and can develop a fat trunk and strong root system. Junipers, Port Jackson Figs, Banksias, Bottle Brush and Casuarina are other species to consider. The other key point to remember is that bonsai is a long-term endeavour. It takes time to cultivate, shape and tend to the bonsai which provides a creative journey rather than a destination. Bonsai doesn't need brute strength nor hours of labour in the sun, so it might be a more sedate horticultural and artistic activity for you, where you can still get dirt on your hands and enjoy the gift of nature. Over to you, if you want to take this journey.

If you have any interest in bonsai, then here are several links that you might like to check out.

www.ausbonsai.com.au , www.shibuibonsai.com.au, Facebook: *Albury Wodonga Bonsai*

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

The Committee meeting to set the calendar for 2023 has taken place and we encourage you to watch this space for exciting events planned for this year.

SAPLINGS CORNER Gardening for Children

The love of gardening can start at any age and members of the YGC hope to inspire this fun, healthy and skill development activity in our young community. We will bring children tips that will help them develop the skills required to plant, tend, use tools and appreciate the vegetables and plants they sow.



Getting Started

- ☼ Mums and Dads - give your child their own garden space. It doesn't have to be big; you can even start with a large container e.g. an old suitcase or large pot.

- ☼ Involve the family in the planning and design of the garden.
- ☼ Are the tools right for your child, not too heavy and easy to handle? Owning and caring for their own tools could start a life-time appreciation to look after what belongs to them. Garden tools should be washed after each session, dried and stored in a given space.
- ☼ Grow from seedlings or seed (instructions must be explained and followed). Choose plants that are seasonal e.g., micro lettuce, or parsley will grow quickly and they can eat it!
- ☼ Add to the veggie garden by planting a flower; many varieties of marigolds will grow easily and be a delightful surprise to encourage their appreciation of the beauty of flowers.

THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS is centuries old...

In Victorian days flowers created a silent dialogue, being primarily used to deliver messages without a word being spoken, and often used by a suitor. How they were presented and in what condition was important, even how the ribbon was tied gave a message e.g. tied to the left, the flowers' symbolism applied to the giver, whereas tied to the right, the sentiment was in reference to the recipient. They were given to express feelings; a rose declaring "devotion", or an apple blossom showing "preference". A "Yes" answer came in the form of flowers handed over with the right hand, if the left hand was used the answer was "No", or if the unfortunate gentleman received a yellow carnation, which symbolised "disdain", he was definitely on the outer! We can appreciate the meaning of flowers being given today, inevitably to show love, appreciation, care and celebration. There is still an appreciation of the language of flowers in today's modern world and it is a blessing we no longer need to anticipate receiving a wilted bouquet delivered upside down - expression of an obvious message.

From a book written in 1913, *The Language of Flowers*, spelling the word 'flower', we are given:

- Fern – sincerity
- Lilac (white) – youthful, innocence
- Orange flowers - chastity
- Wistaria – I cling to thee
- Elder - jealousy
- Rose (white) – I am worthy of you

A GARDENING TIP to extend the life of cut flowers

- Pick flowers just before the bloom peak.
- Harvest in the cooler part of the day
- Put stems into cool clean water as you harvest
- Use a clean vessel or vase to display flowers
- Recut stems as you arrange them in vessel or vase
- Cut stems on a 45 degree angle
- Keep the water topped up in the vase and change weekly
- Remove any early fading blooms

(*Diggers Heirloom Seed Annual 2020-2021*)

CONTACT US

Meetings: 'Wellsford House', Wellsford St, Yackandandah, 7 pm on the second Thursday, bi-monthly (beginning February.) If you are interested in joining the club or coming to a meeting, don't hesitate to contact us by email or phone. Membership is not required to attend a meeting.

- Email:** yack.garden.club@outlook.com
- Phone:** President Cheryl Frawley 0428 116 562,
- Post:** P.O. Box 178, Yackandandah VIC 3749



The Good Neighbour
pet care solutions

Are you going away and need care for your pets or property?

The Good Neighbour Team has been serving the community since 2012. We care for all animals from horses, stock, poultry, dogs and cats through to pocket pets.

For more information head to our website at:
www.thegoodneighbour.com.au

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Leanne de Hennin
leanne@thegoodneighbour.com.au



Garden of Eden

Many attempts have been made to identify the exact geographical location of the garden of Eden, the traditional site of paradise. The biblical account, indicating that rivers were in the region, suggests that its site was part of the area of the former Mesopotamia, present-day Iraq. "Eden" is not a Hebrew name but is Sumerian, and designates a fertile plain, a further pointer to its approximate location. The name of Eden has also been linked with the Old Persian word for a garden which, three millenia ago, was specifically applied to a walled garden, enjoyed as a place of retreat. Whatever the linguistic root of its name, paradisaical Eden is seen as an abode of bliss and supreme happiness.

Taken from *The Book of Beginnings* by Dr. R and L Brasch



YCDCo held its twentieth AGM on Wednesday, 25th January and there was a good community turnout to hear what the

Directors of the Board had to say about the 2021-22 financial year.

The servo sold 3,032,460 litres of fuel over that financial year having been hovering around that figure, but not quite cracking the 3 million litres sold over the couple of previous Covid-19 years. This will ultimately leave the business with a dilemma as there is a rapid push to transition away from fossil fuels to a more electric future for our transport.

At our annual Strategic Planning session in August 2022 the Board have started to look at what this will look for YCDCo's business and how to ensure that our turnover remains buoyant. There is a lot to discuss and debate, but YCDCo should start to have an outline plan for the shareholders to look at during the next AGM.

We routinely have a small turnover with Directors, and this year Barry Maginness and Michael Bell have both sadly resigned, after many years of loyal and excellent service to the Board and we are all very sorry to see them go. It is largely only by the voluntary work by many people in organisations and businesses that keep the show on the road, and it is sometimes hard to recruit new people to step up.

Please do consider sitting on a Board or Committee. It can be immensely rewarding from many points and new skills can be learned and

friendships made.

We have a section on our website for prospective Board members - so please hop onto this link and check us out. <https://www.ycdco.com.au/board-of-directors>

It was a very good AGM and after a kick off at 6.00 pm, the conversation and networking was still carrying on at 9.00 pm - always a sign of a successful event!

Many thanks to the Cricket Club and the Yack Sports Park for the venue. It is so beautiful and peaceful there, with the sun setting over the magnificent oaks on the edge of the cricket ground - lucky, lucky Yack!

YCDCo have funds always available for Community Grants, subject to Board approval. Over \$36,000 was given to local organisations in the 2021-22 financial year, and it is part of YCDCo's constitution to do this. What great forethought the original Board of YCDCo had. There is an

application form to be completed, so look at the website at <https://www.ycdco.com.au/community> and get cracking! There's nothing to be lost except a small amount of time completing the form.

YCDCo also offers great casual employment opportunities for locals. Pop in and pick up an application form or download from

<https://www.ycdco.com.au/employment>. Have a chat with our Manager,

David Lerch, about any current vacancies and what the job entails. Many young Yackites have cut their teeth at job experience at YCDCo. It's a great introduction to interesting and more importantly, local work. Our great supermarket, Foodworks, also offers part-time and casual work.

The YCDCo share price continues to steadily rise and is now \$306 a share to buy. We also have a long waiting list for shares. Considering they started off at \$100/share 20 years ago, they have been an exceptional investment for our lucky shareholders.

Congratulations to Totally Renewable Yack for their award from Indigo Shire. YCDCo has been delighted to be involved in the setting up of the first electric vehicle charging station in Yack together with TRY, Indigo Power, Halliday Solicitors and Indigo Shire. We look forward to hopefully partnering in other projects over the next twelve months.



Yackandandah & District Historical Society Inc.

21 High St Yackandandah 3749 P:02 6027 0627

museum@yackandandah.com

Blog: yackandandahmuseum.wordpress.com

Open 10:30am – 3:30pm Wednesday – Sunday

7 days per week during Vic school holidays

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In a lovely shade of grey, this 2018 40kwh Leaf is an "X" model, meaning it sits in the middle of the high end and lower end specifications. But, to be honest, they're all really well appointed. Naturally it has cruise control, push button start, heated front seats as well as a heated steering wheel (heated steering wheels in winter are SO good!), one pedal driving via e-pedal, eco mode, Apple Carplay/Android Auto and many other little niceties.

The trim, in black with blue highlights is a pleasure to behold and the interior presents extremely well. Condition is very good, drives so well (It's a Nissan Leaf, so of course it drives well!), with relatively low kms. We supply a 10amp portable EV charger with the vehicle. VIN:ZE1-022804

* * * * *

For a bit of news, we would like to say that Kilowatt Cars is planning on having an EV rental vehicle in Yackandandah over the next few months now we have a charger (many thanks to TRY, YCDCo, Indigo Power, Indigo Shire & Halliday Solicitors!). People will be able to rent an EV and see how they like it.

We see this as providing a risk-free way of trying an EV over a longer period of time rather than just going for a test drive, and it will provide a great way for people who wish to enjoy the benefits that an EV brings without having to own one. Low running costs, the benefit to the environment and so on.

Please visit our website. We now have more than 25 cars available for sale, with more landing in the next week or two. Something for everyone. <https://kilowattcars.com.au/>

Please call Russell Klose on 0427 562 144 to have a talk, test drive a car, or just to find out more about EVs.

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A new membership year for Arts Yackandandah

Membership of Arts Yackandandah runs for a calendar year and can be purchased via the Arts Yackandandah website for yourself, or your family. You can also add membership of the Folk Festival Community Choir as part of the same transaction. Membership entitles you to:

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

With your support, Arts Yackandandah will continue to:

- support local arts groups, including Yackandandah theatre, writers, music and visual arts groups,
- attract and stage visiting artistic performances, including the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, travelling theatre productions, touring musicians,
- provide platforms for upcoming and

emerging talent within our community and

- ensure our community remains vibrant, diverse, and creative.

Plans are underway for all the following in 2023:

- A full season of independent, arthouse, or interesting film screenings thanks to Flickside Local pianist, Miriam Briggs in recital,
- Two stage productions by the Yackandandah Theatre Company,
- Two themed community sing-a-long productions,
- John Flanagan and his band in performance,
- A chamber recital by members of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra,
- The 2023 Big Bike Film Night screening,
- The 2023 Fresh and Unframed art exhibition,
- Regular gatherings of Uke-N-Dandah, and the Yackandandah Writers Group and
- Many more touring and local performances that crop up throughout the year.

Registrations are open for the Yackandandah Folk Festival Community Choir!

The Yackandandah Folk Festival Community Choir is making a much-anticipated return this year and with our start date for rehearsals being **Sunday February 5th**, it is time to sign up through the Arts Yackandandah site at <https://arts.yackandandah.com/community-choir/>. This link gives you more information, including our Sunday afternoon rehearsal dates. This year's leader is the talented and well-loved Leonie O'Brien, who will be supported by Chris Mcgorlick. We welcome people of all ages, including kids. No singing experience is required. This is a fabulous way to connect with our community in a fun and inclusive environment. Please send all email enquiries to arts@yackandandah.com.

We hope to see you there.



Calling everyone with an interest in theatre!

If you have an interest in acting, set or costume design, lighting, sound engineering or any other aspect of stage production, we want your input into what the 2023 season for the Yackandandah Theatre Company will look like. Come along to a gathering in the Courthouse on **Sunday, February 12 at 10.30am** to meet fellow thespians and theatre enthusiasts, and to toss around ideas for this year's season.

RSVP to Margie Gleeson via margie56@bigpond.net.au, or by calling 0419 271 058.

Eleanor loved to walk

Eleanor loved to walk. Up into the bush behind her house, always, but also amongst the trees on the golf course and along the path by the creek.

She preferred to walk alone. 'If I walk with a friend, or you,' she told her husband, 'the chatter would be a distraction. I want to hear the birds, the burbling of the creek.' There were risks in this solo walking. She might trip and fall, break a bone. Snakes were a threat too. Cardiac arrest a possibility. She laughed. None of these was a deterrent.

Autumn was her favourite time to walk: the colours, the crunch of leaves, the sharpness of the air. Recently, however, her favourite creek path had been 'improved'. Cyclists had discovered

it. A new sound had been added to her walk, the crunch of tyres on gravel, the clang of a warning bell. Her peace was shattered. A level of anxiety was introduced into her walks. She felt compelled to glance behind, to hug the edge of the path.

It was almost a relief when she collided with a cyclist whizzing around a sharp corner, 'far too fast', she complained to her husband when she limped home with a bloodied knee, ripped jeans and a simmering anger.

Eleanor no longer loved to walk but she had found a new and consuming interest. Her frequent letters of complaint to the council about cyclists taking over the town walking paths became notorious.

Bev Lello

This piece was published in *Convergence 2022*, the annual publication of the Yackandandah Writers.

The Yackandandah Writers meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Yackandandah Courthouse. New members are welcome but please contact Bev first at beverley.lello@gmail.com

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

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"ALL THE SHINING LIGHTS"

In November I had the privilege of seeing a play I had been working on for several years, 'All The Shining Lights' finally come to life on the HotHouse stage. This show was incredibly well-supported by the Yackandandah community, and although I tried to thank as many people as I could personally, I know that there are plenty that I missed. Please take this as my warm and sincere thanks for seeing the show and not just supporting my work, but locally-produced and performed theatre.

Brendan Hogan



**STANLEY ARTISTS' EXHIBITION 2023
STANLEY MEMORIAL HALL**

EXHIBITION March 11th to 19th 11.00am to 5.00pm	OFFICIAL OPENING Saturday 11 March, 3.00pm to 4.30pm
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ARTWORKS FOR PURCHASE



Indigo FM 88.0 news

The big news from last year is that our local 100% volunteer run radio station is now on the global airwaves following the successful launch of our live internet streaming service! You can now tune into IndigoFM Yackandandah and enjoy the great local sounds and shows at any time and in any place via this link <http://yackandandahstream.indigofm.au/stream/yackandandahfm88> or head to the streaming page on our website <https://indigofmradio.com/listen/streaming/>



Joel Havea performing in NE Victoria in February 2022

During the holiday season, Indigo FM listeners have been enjoying new tunes on a recently updated playlist with a strong focus on independent and Australian artists, which includes a large variety of Indigenous content, courtesy of more than 70 different first nations artists.

Our regular presenters are now back on air with fantastic weekly shows such as "Just Press Play" with Gary (Mon 1:30-3:30pm), "Asleep at the Wheel" with Harvey (Sun 2-4pm), "The Blurred Crusade" with Dean (Sun 7-10pm) and "Everyone Deserves Music" with Scott (Sun 12-2pm). Bron and Ange continue to produce a monthly show called "Radio Theme Time" with different music topics as their theme for the month. To view Indigo FM programs, you can check out the Yackandandah Program

Guide at www.indigofmradio.com/listen/program-guide/yackandandah/

If you would like to catch up with any shows that have gone to air recently from any of the IndigoFM presenters, just head to the site www.podomatic.com/podcasts/indigofmradio or through the Indigo FM website.



Bron and Funno man the Indigo FM stall at the Christmas Fair market

Indigo FM also keeps you up to date with live music shows in our area. The IndigoFM gig guide on Facebook is updated weekly so check it out to see live music

events advertised in and around Yack.

IndigoFM is excited to have the opportunity to co-host two shows in February featuring the exceptional storytelling and songs of Joel Havea. Joel is performing at Kergunyah Memorial Hall on Saturday evening, 4 February (6pm start); and at Rutherglen Convent on Sunday afternoon, 5 February (3:15pm start). Although based in Germany for the past 12 years, Joel has a strong local connection with Yackandandah and

will be supported by an incredibly talented young Staghorn Flat country singer/songwriter, Jack Gregory who has just returned from a successful time at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. Check out the IndigoFM website for ticket details for these events.

Are you interested in joining us at Indigo FM? We would like to offer the opportunity to members of the community to join IndigoFM to add their show ideas to our evolving schedule. Getting your own radio show on the airwaves is super easy. It's free to be trained as we like to keep it accessible to all. Shows don't have to be just music specific, you can promote your interest group or community group, share information, promote upcoming events.

All ideas are welcome. If you are interested, just email us at indigofmradioyack@gmail.com to find out more.

Enjoy listening in to our unique local radio station; 88.0 FM Yackandandah, now from anywhere in the world!

Dreams in the Bushland

The trace of a smile came over her face, as slowly she rose to go,
But first she gently offered her hand; oh, the pain that my heart did know.
For the love that I felt for this charming girl was strong, and my heart was full
Of warmth and emotion, 'twas in a whirl, then I saw her eyes were brimming pools,
As were mine, but she had to go.

'Tis three long years since our parting there, by the slip-rails in the dawn,
Three long years since our saddened wave in the dust, ere she was gone.
But I know each day, as with aching eyes I gaze up that dusty track,
That the day she'll return is getting nigh, for the pull of the bush will bring her back
To these loving arms so warm.

And when she returns from greener fields which beckoned her long ago,
Once more we'll go riding side by side to the billabong down the road.
Then with horses tethered to Boxwood boughs, we'll lie by that quiet lagoon,
And dream our way through the drifting hours from the rising sun to the warmth of noon,
As our souls in harmony grow.

We'll plan a wedding a short time hence, and a bungalow real rough hewn,
A wild briar rose by a bush bough fence, with a Wagtail's restless tune,
The smoke from our chimney will drift away as our children's laughter sweet
Enhances the dawning of each new day in the world of our bush-land love replete,
But, oh, firstly, she must return.

John McIntyre

Whenever you go out to paint, try to forget what objects you have in front of you - a tree, a house, a field or whatever. Merely think, here is a little squeeze of blue, here an oblong of pink, here a streak of yellow & paint it just as it looks to you, until it gives your own naive impression of the scene in front of you.

Claude Monet, French Artist (1840-1926)

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Trish: 0418 965 725
reconnect@wodongatafe.edu.au
www.wodongatafe.edu.au/reconnect**

*Eligibility criteria applies. RTO 9097 | The Reconnect Program is supported by the Victorian Government. All funding for the Reconnect Program is through the Victorian Government. All information is correct at time of publication and is subject to change.



YACKANDANDAH TENNIS CLUB

On Thursday 19th January, Tennis Australia welcomed 750 kids from across Victoria to Tennis Hot Shots Day at Melbourne Park. This is an annual event in the Australian Open (AO) calendar. The day is designed to inspire and encourage the next generation of Australian players.

Yackandandah Tennis Club (YTC) were amongst some of the regional clubs running a Hot Shots program invited to attend, along with other clubs including Tangambalanga, Whorouly, Wangaratta and Benalla.

Given the short notice and holiday period, YTC were able to gather a total of 11 kids and 4 adults to enjoy the day.

A big thanks to Cam Govan of Tennis Victoria who contacted Hots Shots Community Coach Louise Thornton to offer this fun opportunity at the AO, with an arranged bus from Wangaratta. It was a BIG day for the kids, waking at 3.30am for a 5am bus departure from Wangaratta! On arrival at Melbourne Park, we were intercepted by Channel 9 for an interview as coming all the way from the country was a really, big deal. We featured on Channel 9 news that evening at 6pm.

AO did not disappoint. The grounds were set up for tennis fun, fun, fun! There were loads of activities for the Hot Shots kids including mini tennis courts, opportunities for seeing and even meeting lower seeded players, interactive tennis technologies, ball pits, water slides, ping pong ball competitions, exclusive viewing of the Grand Slam Trophies and lots more.

The kids had a great time, watching tennis, getting involved with other Hot Shot kids on the day, photo shoots with the paparazzi and generally being amongst the fun at the AO.

A huge thank you goes to Louise Thornton for her contribution to the club and the Hots Shots tennis program. We appreciate her organising a fantastic trip for the kids and a big thank you to the parents involved for their time and support. On behalf of all the Hot Shots crew – thanks Lou for a truly memorable day!

If you are keen to get involved either with Yackandandah Tennis Club or your child is keen to come and try Hot Shots, please contact Louise on 0425 707 346.



YACK FOOTBALL AND NETBALL CLUB

While it may be the “off-season” there is plenty happening in preparation for what is set to be an exciting 2023 season! Our draw has been released and we will kick off Saturday 1st April with an away game at Thurgoona. Our blue and white army is bigger than ever and we always welcome fresh faces. Come join us!

COMMITTEE NEWS

At our AGM, held on 5th December, 2022 our new committee was formed:

President - Andrew Lawson
Vice President - Lachie McKeeman
Secretary - Trevor Matthews
Treasurer- Chris Kenny & Mel Crothers
Football Operations - Sam Pan
Netball Operations - Linda Fraser & Alyce Pritchard
Welfare - Chris Telford
Communications - Emma Maslen
Events - Emily Walker

As the new committee takes shape we need to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of those members stepping down.

Justin Maybury has been a dedicated, long-serving Vice President- an incredible feat whilst still playing football, coordinating AusKick with his wife Kiera, and continually upgrading our facilities.

Matt Lane has creatively fulfilled our Communications role for a number of years. His efforts establishing our social media presence, creating newsletters and promotions are mostly behind the scenes, but go a long way in connecting our community and certainly have not gone unnoticed!

Both men have worked tirelessly in their roles and it is little wonder that both have previously been awarded Life Membership. Whilst both remain active members in our club, their input exceeds expectations and we cannot thank them enough!

We also thank Melissa Rowland, Michael Bell and Jane Moore for their contributions during the 2022 season.

COACHING APPOINTMENTS 2023

Coaching the Seniors again this year will be Darren Holmes. After a couple of seasons of Covid/injuries interruptions. Homer is keen to get things started, with both Seniors and Reserves having already started training. John Walker will again coach the Reserves. Having gone so close this year, John is keen to ensure his team continues to improve and continue to play finals. Stepping up from Under 14s to coach the Under 17s is Steven Murphy. Murph has had success with the Under 14s age group and is keen to develop our Under 17s to be future champions of our club. Ty Boddenberg will also make a step up, from coaching the Under 12s to next year be coaching the Under 14s. With many of the boys following Ty from Under 12s, Ty will ensure continuous development and improvement. Coaching the Under 12s this year will be Laurie



Daren Holmes - Football Coach

Farrugia. Laurie is passionate about developing kids in sport, having experience in coaching basketball teams from Under 12s through to Under 18s as well as representative sides. Our Under 12s will be in great hands.

Thank you to all coaches for your continued support and we wish you well for the upcoming season.

NETBALL

It is an exciting time to be a Yack Netballer with the appointment of our 2023 coaching teams! We are filled with excitement to welcome Anna Beirs (pictured), who will lead our A Grade side in 2023. Anna is a Corryong girl who brings a wealth of experience, including time playing State League Netball in WA. More recently, Anna has played and coached at Cudgewa FNC and was named the Upper Murray Leagues Coach of the Year in 2020.



Anna Beirs - A Grade Netball leader

Denita James-Hillier and Samara Leslie radiate passion for developing young netballers and will combine to coach our U17s. Having successfully led multiple junior teams previously, we know they will not only strengthen their teams' netball skills, but instill values of sportsmanship, inclusion and team work.

Jo Beer will return to junior coaching this season, leading our U15s side. Bringing many years of coaching experience, Jo's focus and precision in establishing strong fundamental skills and good technique will undoubtedly see this side grow even

further.

Our U13s will be led by Ellie O'Neill and Mel Crothers. Having coached our U17s side previously, Ellie's strong game sense, versatility as a player and creativity in creating engaging training sessions will compliment Mel's warmth, infectious enthusiasm and club spirit. Mel has also previously coached U11s, and together with Ellie will provide a solid start for our young guns.

Ange Turnbull takes on our U11s role this season with the assistance of Tash Schultz. Ange is already an active volunteer within our club who is now lunging into coaching with many years of playing experience.

Our NET SET GO Program will once again be coordinated by Alyce Pritchard who has teamed up with Jess Weir to deliver a fun, energetic program that focuses on ingraining key skills and developing a love of the game.

FOOTY FLASHBACKS

We are looking for images of past football and netball players as well as our members. Do you have images of current senior players as juniors? Past or current volunteers or life-members in action? Our many premierships? We'd love to include some footy flashbacks in our socials during the off season! Please send via message to our club Facebook page!

For more club news and upcoming events, jump on our Facebook page - Yackandandah Football Netball Club!



HORSES FOR COURSES

Mt. Lawson State Forest and Park – an hour from Staghorn Flat, and just shy of Koetong. I've ridden there with various friends, camped on the southern edge near the trestle bridge, but have not really explored the northern end of the park due to a lack of suitable campsites.

I've spoken to DWELP about Koetong Creek (beautiful), and that the 2nd Grandmother's



Yack's delightful Kate Doughty at Koetong Creek

Track (bit tricky as two Grandmother's tracks leave Mt. Lawson Road and converge) is always very boggy due to massive springs and is impacted by 4WDs. After a positive initial response from the Department, it's slipped onto a “track upgrade” into the “obviously not gunna happen” out-basket.

A lovely late spring day, I drive along Mt. Lawson Road and park at the 1st Grandmother's Track, a bit deeper into the bush than I'd generally park, alone on a day ride. Not really afraid of the boogie man, just mechanical issues or an exit blocked by falling trees. I have a proposed route on the dashboard and also carry an EPIRB (emergency locator beacon). Nice ride down Mt.

Lawson Road, soon pass the tough Firebrace Track (possibly going on an organised river over there in February) that runs over to Mt. Granya (via private land). Skirt a massive spring that's opened up in the middle of the road, turning into the 2nd Grandmother's

Track. Wow!! Huge splashes of colour from the native flora radiating along the lower creek flats – a result from our abundant rainfall this year? Across the old farmland, back uphill on the track, skirt a large fallen tree where it's wetter than it looks and Sal flounders a bit. Ahead an old log crossover, damaged by flooding leaving a big ugly bog hole. A gentle tap with my heels, a quiet “come on” as Sal carefully but confidently crosses the narrow remains. “Good girl!” almost under my breath and a soft stroke of her neck as we reach solid ground - a bit more demanding than I'd planned. Three and a half hours, not a soul to be seen, just me and my horse of near 20 years chilling out and having time to smell the flowers!

I certainly hope that the infrastructure is replaced on lesser used tracks after these weather events! I know the list is long, money tight and bushmen scarce...

Steve Pearce



Boggy Creek trestle bridge

YACK COMMUNITY BOWLING CLUB

VALE – Ray Melbourne

Ray Melbourne was a giant hearted member of the Yackandandah Bowling Club for 25 years.

In his early days at the Club, Ray and his wife Vicky, took care of the Club gardens and Ray also assisted with the greens. From 2003-2014, Ray was the full-time greenkeeper responsible for initiating a much needed upgrade to greens management. Ray kept detailed records on all aspects of green-keeping sharing his extensive knowledge



and experience with others.

Ray also served as Secretary to the Club from 2000-2002 and was a very good bowler. He was runner up in the 2004 Club Men's Singles Championship and winner in the Men's Pairs championship in 2009. In recognition for Ray's exemplary role in greens management and overall commitment to the Club, Ray was awarded a life membership to the Club in 2022.

He will be greatly missed by members.

the early 1980s as an inaugural member of the Wodonga County Golf Club inspired by her dad's love for the game. Full-time work commitments thereafter pulled her away from the sport until 2004 when she joined the Yack Bowls Club as a social bowler. It took retirement from work in 2012 to finally be able to start playing Pennant and be considered eligible to play Club Championship matches. Since 2015 Trish has been runner up Ladies Club Champion six times.

Congratulations to Wayne and Trish on their achievements, in both cases evidence that perseverance, determination and love for the game wins out in the end.

YACK COMMUNITY BOWLS COMPETITION

The Yackandandah Community Bowls Competition runs for 8 playing weeks commenced on Thursday 19th January at 7pm. We have 16 teams fighting out for the 2023 title. This year we are delighted to welcome two new teams to the competition and lots of new players. Team Staggering Iguanas won the competition in 2022, but have some serious competition for the title this year!

The team List consists of AF CFA, Ben Valley, REOWLECA, Queen, Gutter Trash, Swamp Rats,



2023 Community Bowls Competition is off and running

JackHi, 8Left Feet, Malarkas, Skittles, Hole in One, Gold Diggers, Police, Staggering Iguanas, Team Star and Sidewinders

DO YOU NEED TO BOOK A VENUE?

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.

Please contact Wayne Furze on 0417 685 886.

ANNOUNCING CLUB SINGLES CHAMPIONS!

Both our 2022/2023 Club Singles Champions are long term Bowls Club members and big contributors to the activities of the club.



Wayne Furze
- Men's Singles Club Champion
- Wayne joined the Yackandandah Bowls Club in 1990, bowling socially on Tuesday evenings. In 2004 he won his first Club Men's Singles Championship. In the intervening years he has won titles in the 21up handicap event and men's pairs. He is delighted to win his second Club Singles Men's Championship after 18 years, in a tight match.

Trish Tobin
- Ladies Singles Club Champion
- Trish started playing bowls in

Congratulations to Club Champions Trish Tobin and Wayne Furze

YACK LIONS CLUB MARKETS



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

19th February

19th March
21st May
16th July
17th September
19th November

16th April
18th June
20th August
15th October
17th 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

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

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!



VALE NOEL ASHMAN

All members of Yackandandah Golf Club were greatly saddened by the recent passing of our much-loved member Noel. We will miss him tremendously for his enjoyment of the sport and banter around the Golf Club. It was a heartbreaking end to the summer, but Noel died playing a game he loved while playing with his son on Sunday, 15th January. We extend our sincere condolences to the Ashman family.



Results for Chadfest 2023

1st 55: Leo Glass, Mick Ellis, Hugh M'Crystal
 2nd 57 2/3: Keith Hunter, Dr Johnny, Mick Scazzo
 3rd 58 5/6: Richard Ashman, Noel Ashman, Wally Cameron
 NTP 4th - Richard Stamp, 6th - Brian Lannen, 13th - Alex V, 15th - Mark Eyre
 Longest Drive Women: Chris Zerbst. Men: Mick Ellis

The continuation of the 'Chadition', which included a Women's and Mixed competition, resulted in a near record matching field for Chadfest. The renown of Chadfest brought 78 players from near and afar vying for bragging rights of the 3-ball Ambrose. The course was perfect thanks to all the volunteers who got it up to scratch, and the breakfast and lunch provided by volunteers was also greatly appreciated.

The Club would like to acknowledge the effort of two members, Libby M'Crystal and Robyn Davies who completed their "Longest Day of Golf" challenge in perfect summer conditions on Friday, 6th January, 2023. The Longest Day is a fundraiser for the Cancer Council in which players attempt to complete four rounds of golf in a single day, which is no mean feat considering 18 holes can take anywhere between 3 to 4 hours.



Libby M'Crystal and Robyn Davies happy to have "9 to go" out of 72 holes from their Longest Day golf challenge

Arriving at the Yack golf course at Silly O'Clock, they began their first round just after dawn. Setting a cracking pace, it was certainly a case of "A fast game is a good game" for the duo. The Longest Day has been running since 2013 and this year 3,845 players Australia-wide across 218 Clubs participated.

Precious time was saved by having two eagle-eyed "spotters", Cath & David Bishop, who helped find the

wayward balls that "occasionally" strayed off the fairway. Plus, the loan of carts by fellow members, Frances Boehm and Pam & Don Crosthwaite for the day was invaluable. Members from Beechworth, Myrtleford and Yackandandah Golf Clubs came along to provide company, moral support, fun, and delish snacks, lunch and beverages to keep the pair going.

Fortunately, the weather could not have been any better for the day. Sunny, but not overly hot or humid conditions meant the four rounds were fully completed by 5pm. The course also supported the challenge with the ball



A dawn start for Robyn and Libby

running so well, that the pair saved their best golf for the final round.

It was an excellent day for the "Yack Attack Against Cancer" team who have been overwhelmed by the generous support of donations for their Longest Day challenge. They exceeded their fundraising target and at time of writing, have raised \$4,640 for the Cancer Council. The funds raised help the Cancer Council research and education programs and services.

The Yack Golf Club 2023 season has started and it is time for walkers to start watching out for flying golf balls! For readers who are not familiar with the competition days; the men play on Sundays, from 10 am, and the women play on Wednesdays from 9 am. There is also golf played late on Wednesday afternoon (the Chook Run) and Friday mornings (Social).

The official opening day for the 2023 season is a combined Mens'/Women's day on **Sunday, 5th March**. The women will then begin their season with the annual Yackandandah/Beechworth Challenge, held this year at Yackandandah. We wish them and this year's NEDGA Pennant teams the best of luck.

For more membership information or to make inquiries, visit:

<https://golfclub.yackandandah.com> / FB: Yackandandah Golf Club

Email: yackgolfclub@gmail.com / ygcwomenscaptain@gmail.com

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD #9 By Bill Buchanan

ANSWERS
ACROSS

1 Boris; 4 Up and away; 9 Upstage; 10 Thistle; 11 Deer; 12 Quick; 13 Bred; 16 Reigns; 17 Very good; 20 Aggrieve; 21 Coarse; 24 Cask; 26 Inset; 27 Reap; 30 Horatio; 31 Endives; 32 Lamplight; 33 Eased

DOWN

1 Blunder; 2 Reseeding; 3 Span; 4 Uterus; 5 Articles; 6 Dais; 7 Water; 8 Yielded; 14 Antic; 15 Nylon; 18 Ourselves; 19 Evensong; 20 Alcohol; 22 Exposed; 23 Repent; 25 Strum; 28 Et al; 29 Idle.

YACK CRICKET CLUB

DID YOU KNOW??

That Yackandandah Cricket Club is again holding a Pink Stumps day combining with past players and a Sponsors's Day. On the back of a very successful event in 2022, YCC was one of the top 10 fundraisers in the country!

So get on down to Yack's lovely Sports Park and enjoy some first class cricket from 2 to 6 pm!

Book your tickets at:

<https://www.ticketebo.com.au/yackandandah-cricket-club/yack-cricket-club-day>

All proceeds will go to the McGrath Foundation.



FIRE SEASON IS ALWAYS A WORRYING TIME OF YEAR

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

WE SELL WATER TANKS...

Our suppliers are Clark Tanks and Polymaster.



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