



# Connections that cross generations

## How playgroups and nursing homes find common ground

by Lindy Schneider

**C**hildren from the Warburton Christian Playgroup (affiliated with the Warburton SDA Church) spend one morning a month enjoying storytime and music at the local AdventCare Aged Care facility. Babies in arms and children up to five years old are learning about being part of the wider community and meeting older people in a new environment.

There is no doubt the residents – there are 31 at AdventCare – enjoy the young ones, and the intergenerational playgroup is a rich way of making connections.

Anita Dickson the care manager says, 'We want our residents to feel alive while living. You only need to see the smiles and the engagement between the oldest and youngest members of our community to see the benefit is mutual.'

Children learn about difference and



Alan and Ngaire Holman

**"We want our residents to feel alive while living"**

disability in a caring and non-confronting way. For many of the elderly residents whose own families have grown or are 'away', the chance to interact with toddlers is both welcome and resonant with fond memories of their own early parenting experiences.

Ngaire Holman, the playgroup co-ordinator, plans stories and songs that are popular with the children, but are also recognisable by the older generation. She says, 'Stories such as The Little Red Hen never grow old, and you see the recognition in the

residents' faces. Residents clap along and participate in the hand gestures that go with the songs much to the children's delight.' Alan Holman, Ngaire's husband and co-facilitator, dances with the children and one of his regular dance partners is 101 years of age.

'It's lovely to watch an older person cuddling a baby. Sometimes it's been years since they have done that and even if they are non-verbal and chairbound, you can see it means a great deal to them,' says Ngaire.

Every year we provide ongoing sponsorship for this and many other early intervention and playgroup services in the Upper Yarra Valley helping in a small way to ensure programs such as this bring joy and benefit to our community.



Resident Ken loves spending storytime with his great-grandson Fletcher.



Sarah Bamford

Zak Gilsenan

Brigid Peeler

Chelsea Barnard

## Scholarships

Four deserving Upper Yarra students have received financial support for their transition to tertiary education. With first semester drawing to a close, how has it been making the 'big shift' to a city university?

**Sarah Bamford:** 'The transition to

uni has been challenging at times. I've actually moved to quieter accommodation where I can study more effectively. I love my course!'

**Zak Gilsenan:** 'I have thoroughly enjoyed my transition into uni, and the scholarship has helped tremendously in transportation and academic resources.'

**Brigid Peeler:** 'I've really enjoyed my first semester at Vic Uni and have learned a lot and quickly. The scholarship has meant that instead of balancing work with school, I've been able to focus on my classes. I'm incredibly appreciative.'

**Chelsea Barnard:** 'So far I have found uni challenging, engaging and interesting. The practical facilities at ACU are amazing and bring the course to life. The scholarship helped me get equipment for my placement and to and from uni each day.'

## Sustainability

### Yarra Valley Food Network website launch

With the goal of reducing food waste and sharing produce, this website is a vital platform to share information about local food sources, seasonal produce, food events and healthy eating.

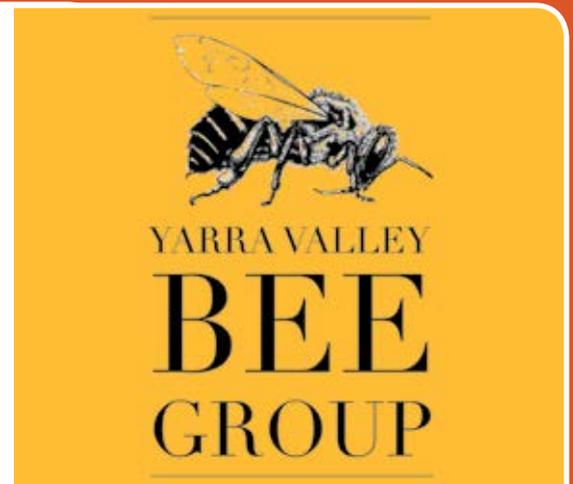
It includes an exchange platform for members (free) to buy, sell and swap local food including excess and second-grade fresh produce for everyone in the community and no cost. See [www.yvfn.com.au](http://www.yvfn.com.au) or like the Yarra Valley Food Network Facebook page.



## Community

### Yarra Valley Bee group

The Yarra Valley Bee group is a not-for-profit community group with an emphasis on sustainable and natural beekeeping. They support local beekeepers by facilitating monthly educational talks, workshops, mentor programs, book and equipment libraries and the Yarra Valley honey co-op. They also run educational programs for schools and other community groups. Membership is \$30 a year. Please email [yvbeegroup@gmail.com](mailto:yvbeegroup@gmail.com) for more information.



## History

### Restoring the Powelltown Public Hall

A dedicated group of Powelltown residents and friends have commenced a major project in restoring their local hall. A significant piece of local history, the hall will be returned over several years to a functional community asset with such works as restumping and re-flooring, rewiring and repainting. Get involved by attending a fundraiser or by contacting Dawn on 5966 7431.



## Community resources

### Brand your next event

Sponsorship recipients are invited to borrow our Warburton and Yarra Junction Community Bank® branches banners, marquees and other items for their event or activity. These items are great ways of further promoting your sponsorship while adding colour, shade and community benefit to your day. Please call 5966 9028 to discuss what is available and for bookings.



# A Wellspring for community health and wellbeing

By Lindy Schneider

Warburton is set to reignite its reputation as a destination for wellness and health. And our fresh air, healthy lifestyle and abundance of the great outdoors is just the beginning.

Belinda Lloyd and her committee of twelve local health practitioners, students, teachers and clients, recently formed Warburton Health Spaces Inc, a not-for-profit organisation that will bring a new level of accessibility to health promotion services and treatments.



The former CFA building on the main street in Warburton is set to undergo a major refurbishment and become a dedicated, central point for wellness for every member of our community.

Belinda says, 'The Wellspring will offer a diverse range of affordable health services, work closely with existing service providers and bring more wellness support into the heart of our town, and our lives. On a practical level it will also provide a much needed indoor facility (with large studio, common area and counselling rooms) and help people of all ages, physical abilities and states of health to get the support they need without having to go down the line or wait long periods of time.'



Belinda Lloyd and an artist impression of building

## 'We want to help build well communities'

With a philosophy that encourages all people to be 'as well as they can be', The Wellspring practitioners will offer a full timetable of classes including yoga and mindfulness, provide local employment and support more than 15 local practitioners in private and community-based practice across a range of activities to support not only physical, but also mental, emotional and spiritual health. 'We know our region is considered lower socio-economic and with that can come an increased risk, for example, of mental health issues and isolation. We are putting measures in place to increase

access and affordability wherever possible,' says Belinda. 'We want to help build well communities.'

And through our Sponsorships program we are proud to play a part in the redevelopment of the space knowing that the community benefit will be both widespread for our towns, and valuable to every individual, especially those in need.

With its opening anticipated in Spring 2016, see [www.wellspringwarburton.com.au](http://www.wellspringwarburton.com.au) for updates.

## We rate our home loans.

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customers are rated among the most satisfied in Australia.\*

Drop into your nearest branch at 3399 Warburton Highway, Warburton - 5966 2122 or 2452 Warburton Highway, Yarra Junction - 5967 1919 to find out more.

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# Upper Yarra Connected

## Website:

We'll soon be launching a brand new website at [upperyarra.net.au](http://upperyarra.net.au) – your dedicated resource for news about community activities, sponsorships and all the ways we can help. The new website will show the world what a difference the partnership between our Community Bank® branches and sponsorship recipients makes and provide you with a dynamic, contemporary and easy to navigate platform to access all the information you need. (And don't forget all your personal banking needs can be accessed via [bendigobank.com.au](http://bendigobank.com.au) or via the Bendigo Bank App.)

[www.upperyarra.net.au/](http://www.upperyarra.net.au/)

## Facebook

Like our page on Facebook and we promise we'll only share good news with you! Like great success stories from our community, advance notice of events you'll want to know about, all the information you'll need for sponsorships applications and insights from real life people you'll recognise.



Facebook page - Warburton and Yarra Junction Community Bank Branches

## Convenient banking

We're proud of our 'real life' presence in our towns. Our branches are open Monday to Saturday to offer you convenient banking when you need it and our staff are part of our community. We can help you with all your banking needs – from home loans to personal loans, saving and investments to insurance, financial planning and a range of competitive products. If you haven't yet made the switch to local banking that counts, then make a time to come in and see how we can help. You know where we are, but here are the details anyway:

Warburton Community Bank®  
3399 Warburton Highway, Warburton Tel 5966 2122

Warburton  
Yarra Junction

Community Bank® branches



Yarra Junction Community Bank®  
Shop 1, 2452 Warburton Highway,  
Yarra Junction Tel 5967 1919



Sculpture by local artist Cliff Sampson - Quirkymetal

## The Community Bank® story

# Supporting your Community Bank®

The Warburton and Yarra Junction Community Bank® branches are operated by the community and for the community under franchise by the Upper Yarra Community Enterprise (UYCE).

The core purpose of our Community Bank® is the advancement of the Upper Yarra community. This is achieved through the allocation of sponsorship funding that is generated via a profit-for-purpose business model. The Community Bank® prospers because of the support of local people doing their everyday banking at the Warburton or Yarra Junction branches. Staying local is essential to our local economy.

More than \$3.1 million has been invested in worthy local community-based projects and organisations since our Community Bank® was established in February 2000.

# Supporting your community through Sponsorships

Your Community Bank®, in conjunction with UYCE, distributes funds to community projects through Sponsorships and Donations. Every year, important investments are made in areas as diverse as sports and recreation, education, arts and culture and civic organisations that support the successful operation and growth of essential community initiatives.

Applications for sponsorships and donations are accepted four times a year. Submission dates for the remainder of 2016 are **August 24** and **November 23**.

Sponsorship is the purchase of an association with an event, activity or organisation. Applications are accepted based on their ability to increase Community Bank® awareness and patronage, and communicate key messages regarding community development. They must also benefit the community in some way. Proposals cannot be submitted for past events.

For friendly assistance with your sponsorship proposal, please call in to one of our Community Bank® branches or phone 5966 9028.

You can support the continued prosperity of your community everyday by simply doing your banking at your Community Bank® in Warburton or Yarra Junction.

More information:  
[upperyarra.net.au](http://upperyarra.net.au)

# Social cinema helps communities engage



By Lindy Schneider

**F**rom its beginnings in the early 1980s – ten people replied to an advertisement in the local newspaper calling for interested film lovers! – to its growing dual town membership base today, the Yarra Ranges Film Society (YRFS) has become an integral part of not only the arts community in the Upper Yarra Valley, but also an essential part of the social fabric of our towns.

With more than 200 members attending monthly film screenings in either Warburton or Healesville, the role cinema plays in contributing to an engaged community cannot be underestimated.

Maggie Sail was part of the founding committee and is proud of the endurance of the Society, which continues to be popular even with the rise of DVDs and online streaming. 'We choose films that chal-

lenge people, that aren't easily accessible and give people something to talk about that matters to the community.'

Laurie Hastings joined the YRFS when he moved to Warburton fifteen years ago. 'As a newcomer, I wanted to meet people and as I had a love for film, the Film Society was a wonderful way to get to know my community.'

Warburton Film Festival, 17-19 June 2016, is a significant achievement of the Society. Now entering its 33rd year, the festival sells more than 1000 session tickets, and three quarters of attendees are visitors to Warburton. The festival is one of the last remaining regional film festivals in Victoria. Short film makers are also involved through the 'Show us your Shorts' competition, and highly regarded director Paul Cox is the patron for the Society and a regular attendee at the festival. A recent mini-film festival held in Healesville



Maggie Sail and Laurie Hastings

showcased a trilogy of Australian films by acclaimed director Rolf de Heer who attended and participated in a Q&A with the audience.

Your Community Bank® and the YRFS have partnered together to fund the Film Festival and other activities for almost a decade and we acknowledge the dedication of this unique group of local people.

'You don't have to be a film buff and everyone is welcome,' says Maggie. 'Film can make us better people.'

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



## Community Thanks

Ben and Ruth are wonderful community assets. Every morning they spend time picking up rubbish – no-one asked them to, they just decided it was their way of contributing to local life. 'We've seen a reduction in rubbish of 75% since we started ten years ago – that's good for our town, our wildlife and waterways and great for all the people who enjoy Warburton and the Yarra River,' says Ruth.

'People are more likely to keep a clean place clean,' says Ben. 'We are proud to play our part.' Thank you Ben and Ruth – your community values you.

# Sponsorships

Our quarterly Presentation Nights are a great way for our successful sponsorship applicants to gather and share information about their projects. Valuable connections are made as local people are able to mutually promote each others events and celebrate achievements. It's also a chance to share why and how the Community Bank® model in Warburton and Yarra Junction is successful and two key points always make an impact:

- 80% of profits are reinvested in our community – yes 80%!
- Sponsorship makes a difference to

everyone in our community.

All this leads to the easy conclusion that banking with your Warburton or Yarra Junction Community Bank® branch is simply part of belonging to a great community.

### Fast Facts:

**Sponsorship Budget this year:**

**\$375,000**

**February round: \$87,000**

**Since 2000: \$3.138 million**

**In the last 4 years: \$1.5 million**

Can you think of any other organisation that has contributed this much to our towns?

## CEDA - How membership makes things happen in this town

One of our most effective partnerships is with the Warburton Valley Community Economic Development Association (CEDA). In fact, we share a common mission – that of advancing the economic prosperity of our towns. Community Economic Development is at the forefront of bringing about long term strategic advantage, not only for business but also for communities. CEDA advocates and facilitates ways of connecting communities and businesses, and embraces progress that has the community's interests and needs as a driving force.



CEDA may be the new frontier when it comes to chambers of commerce but already there are significant achievements that have brought enormous value to our towns. The website VisitWarburton.com.au and the Waterwheel precinct are made possible by CEDA with membership fees helping to fund ongoing operations. CEDA has also been an effective voice in bringing a range of exciting national cycling events (and people) to our towns and represents our community's best interests on major projects such as the Mountain Bike Hub and the Warburton Recreation Precinct, and as a representative with Yarra Ranges Tourism. There is no doubt that CEDA contributes to big picture prosperity that benefits everyone and becoming a member is a great way to show your support. [www.visitwarburton.com.au/ceda](http://www.visitwarburton.com.au/ceda)

## LocalLife newsletter

Do you have a story to share? A cause to promote? Local Life is delivered twice a year to more than 6000 residents in our community as a way of saying thank you for all the wonderful work done by those who use sponsorship funds to create Local Life.

Customers of the Community Bank know their community benefits most when profits are shared locally to build vibrant, sustainable local economies.



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[upperyarra.net.au](http://upperyarra.net.au)



[geoff@upperyarra.net.au](mailto:geoff@upperyarra.net.au)



To subscribe to our electronic newsletter, visit our website



@UpperYarraCommE

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Design: Shlomit Moria – Yarra Ranges Design

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## Sponsorships February 2016

- Upper Yarra Community House for ongoing sponsorship of Playgroup Network \$16,000
- Cancer Council for Sponsorship of UYCE Team Members Walk to End Cancer \$900
- Warburton Primary school for Eastern Regional Library Festival \$500
- Warburton Advancement League Inc for Warburton Annual Easter Fundraiser \$4,000
- Yarra Valley Community School for Outdoor Education 2016 \$2,500
- Yarra Valley ECOSS for Ecotopia Festival 2016 \$3,000
- Yarra Ranges Film Society for Warburton Film Festival 2016 \$2,500
- Powelltown Public Hall Reserve Inc. for Restoration of the Powelltown Hall \$16,000
- Upper Yarra Valley Historical Society for Crank-up 2016 \$3,000
- Upper Yarra Access Ministries Chaplaincy Support Group for Brekkie@Buses \$1,200
- Yarra Valley Bee Group Inc for Additions to Equipment and Library \$2,000
- MISFIT Theatre for backbone support \$4,435
- The MISFIT project for Yarra Valley young writers' workshops \$2,401
- Transforming Writers Inc for 'From This Place - Inspiring Women Artists of the Upper Yarra Valley' - Book and Exhibition \$3,000
- Yarra Junction Bowling Club Inc for new green \$26,000

### DECEMBER 2015

- Catprint Theatre for Productions \$4,930
- Interchange Outer East Youth Dive In Theatre \$4,780
- Koha Community Café for the Yarra Valley Food Network website \$2,290
- LinC Yarra Valley for transport and admin support \$14,181
- Permaculture Yarra Valley for Earthbag Seating for Community Garden \$2,320
- U3A Upper Yarra for office computer \$1,191
- Yarra Junction Football Netball Club for equipment and uniforms \$2,250
- Yarra Ranges Council for L2P Program \$5,540
- Upper Yarra Basketball Association for Aussie Hoops Program \$1,200
- Yarra Junction Table Tennis Club for equipment \$2,500

**TOTAL since 2000 \$3.138 million**

Request more copies of **LocalLife** at your Community Bank® branch.