



Upper Yarra
Community Enterprise

upperyarra.net.au

Newsletter 2012

October

Another elegant Visage



One of our region's premier arts events after three years of success, *Visage* features portraits of people who live, work or play in the Upper Yarra.

The annual exhibition is organised by Upper Yarra Artisans and held at Upper Yarra Arts Centre – this year between 14 September (Opening Night) and 10 October.

As always, local artists featured prominently in the submissions, judged by 2012 Archibald Prize, Packers' Prize winner, Raelene Sharp.

Entries are welcomed in any media, with photography becoming increasingly popular, and a generous range of prizes is offered in order to encourage artists of all ages and levels of expertise.

Marion Dennis won First Prize in the Open category for her painting 'Bob'; Second Prize went to 'Daydreams' by Kate Bills and Third Prize to Di King for 'Three Score Years and Ten'.

In the Photography section, Suyin Chan ('Contemplation') and Claire Bamford ('Princess') were awarded First and Second Prizes.

The Under 21 Youth Award went to Sam Mohan's Self Portrait, judge Raelene Sharp commenting, 'Clearly this artist will go a long way in the future.'

Works by Kate Collins and Anthony Dimmock were Highly Commended; Gina Baines received the Encouragement Award, and Peter Quarry and Ella Cock were recognised with Honourable Mentions.



Acknowledgements to Kirsty Chalmers (top) and Suyin Chan for these stunning photographs, which capture some of the spirit and energy of Opening Night at Visage 2012.

Donations & Sponsorships

Rotary Club of Upper Yarra – \$3000 sponsorship of Upper Yarra Family Festival 2013



Rotary Clubs are, of course, among the longest established and most successful community service organisations in the world.

UYCE are pleased to once again support next year's Family Festival at the Wesburn Oval complex.

The event will feature static and interactive displays from a host of groups, all dedicated to serving our community.

These will include participation by the CFA, SES, DSE, CWA, Police Road Safety and Police Helicopter, Yarra Junction Scouts, Upper Yarra Landcare, the district Gem Club, local Football clubs and car clubs.

The popular billy-cart racing competition will again be a feature of the festival, as will a number of high quality stall-holders.

For further information email Club president, Paul Coleman: pksc@bigpond.net.au

Yarra Ranges Business & Tourism – \$1250 sponsorship

A not-for-profit industry organisation created to consolidate marketing by several existing groups, Yarra Ranges Business & Tourism (YRBT) provides avenues for regional businesses to take advantage of participating in an extended, growing network of operators – large and small.

Members are provided the opportunity of 'group buying' deals, 'partner-to-partner' offers, workshops and networking sessions, and a listing in the online business directory.

With the Bendigo Bank network already a preferred supplier for EFTPOS transactions within the network, UYCE have joined with our sister branches, Upwey Community Bank® and Mt Evelyn Branch, in supporting the enterprise with a contribution of \$1250.

Find out more at yrbt.com.au

Little Yarra Ensemble Concert Tour 2012 – \$3000 sponsorship

Established in 1995, Little Yarra Steiner School's Ensemble has built a reputation for wonderful musicianship which showcases the talents of local youth.

UYCE is very pleased to continue our tradition of supporting artistic excellence in our community by contributing a sponsorship of \$3000 toward the Ensemble's recent concert tour in south-east Queensland and the far north coast of New South Wales.

During September, the Little Yarra Ensemble – both students and teachers – conducted a series of workshops with five Steiner Schools in the region, each visit culminating in an evening performance concert.

On arriving back in the Valley, their eleven-day tour was capped off with a free 'Welcome Home' concert at the Upper Yarra Arts Centre Mechanics Hall on 26 September.

'These tours are only possible thanks to our many supporters in the community, in particular our generous partners like Upper Yarra Community Enterprise,' said Steiner's Anita Holman, 'and we look forward to continuing our great partnership with UYCE into the future.'

Warburton Preschool – \$10,000 contribution for play area upgrade

Small community-based bodies on very lean budgets often face financial difficulty when equipment and infrastructure gets old and worn out, or simply no longer meets changing needs and ever-increasing regulatory requirements in the modern user-pays environment.

Our funding will largely cover the cost of replacing obsolete A-frames and climbing aids in the Preschool's play area.

It will also be used to purchase shade sails, all-weather verandah protection (awnings or blinds) and a range of other equipment, including swings, balancing planks and tyres.

Have a say in the **future** of your community **Director, Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited**

Expressions of interest are invited for the position of Director of Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited, operators of Warburton and Yarra Junction **Community Bank**® Branches of Bendigo Bank.

As a volunteer Director you will act as an ambassador for our Branches, actively building their customer base. You will also provide the leadership and management skills at Board level to support and drive the Company's strategic direction, goals and objectives.

Although the position is voluntary, as a director of our Company you will have a real say in the future direction of both **Community Bank**® Branches and your community.

Further information is available from Geoff Vickers on 5966 9028. Forward your expression of interest to: UYCEL, P.O. Box 434, Warburton, VIC. 3799.



Koha Community Café – \$21,120 sponsorship of Warburton Community Space

Over recent years, a large number of community groups in Warburton and surrounding areas have experienced increasing challenges in securing appropriate, affordable public venues in which to hold meetings and activities ... or simply to get together informally.

UYCE's extended community consultation process, held earlier in 2012, found that the lack of such amenities was considered one of the 'Top Five' infrastructure problems at this end of the Yarra Valley – many people making do with the generous hospitality of local cafés, for example.

A working group, auspiced by Koha Community Café, has been working for several months to secure a lease over premises in central Warburton in order to provide for this proven need and, recognising the matter as a priority, UYCE have guaranteed to cover rent for the first twelve months.

A series of established local groups have thrown their weight behind the proposal and negotiations are continuing.

When this vision is accomplished, the Community Space will accommodate a broad range of user bases and activities, including shared, low-cost space for meetings, classes, project work and – importantly – socialising; a community noticeboard and, potentially, a recording studio for use by musicians and other performers.

MISFIT Theatre – \$2577 contribution toward administrative costs and meals for cast members

Now approaching its fourth year of existence, MISFIT Theatre – based at Upper Yarra Arts Centre with the generous support of Yarra Ranges Council staff – provides opportunities, skills training and an inclusive environment to local youth.

UYCE's contribution will help cover the costs of insurance, phone calls and printing consumables for administrative staff, plus the ongoing provision of wholesome meals on performance nights.

ECOSS – \$9870 contribution toward equipment and materials

In keeping with its mission of ecological and social sustainability, management at ECOSS in Wesburn expects that, by 2015, its Community Farm Enterprise and related activities will financially support the entire organisation.

A key element of this plan is to ensure the success of its nursery, which currently employs four people.

Our latest grant will help pay for production infrastructure and materials, a utility and a trailer.

Ben's Shed ... a treasured community asset

For several years now, Ben's Shed in Yarra Junction has provided a popular focal point for community activities in the Upper Yarra.

Since they were first formally established in Australia during the late 1990s, 'men's sheds' have repeatedly shown that men, of all ages, backgrounds and values, derive a series of benefits from spending regular 'quality time' with others in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Although men's sheds are structured around shared activities – making and repairing furniture or equipment, for example – the majority attend for the opportunity to participate in social interaction: sharing experiences and wisdom, offering support to others... or just having a good chin-wag.

Ben's Shed has not only provided a space for adult men, some with mild intellectual disabilities: it regularly hosts more than 60 primary school students in the Upper Yarra who are facing challenges of their own, such as behavioural problems and learning difficulties.

'Among our many activities – such as sausage sizzles, garage sales and computer classes – we also assist at the Upper Yarra Museum and are involved in the proposed Little Yarra Community Garden,' said Treasurer, David Leslie.

Being driven by values, ahead of turning a dollar, means that Ben's Shed is often struggling to cover costs.

As always, UYCE recognises the tremendous merit of such projects which help underpin both our values and our society; this year, we are proud to provide sponsorships to Ben's Shed totalling \$22,000.

Our funding will cover some urgent expenses in the short term (such as insurance, electricity and other operational expenses), as well as helping to ensure the Shed's viability into the future by locking in a long-term lease.

'Thanks to the generous support of Upper Yarra Community Enterprise and Yarra Ranges Council our tenancy is now secure,' said David, 'and all our members are, of course delighted.'





In brief ...

The Gawler Foundation – \$3000 sponsorship of ‘Eat Well – Be Well’ Day

A key activity of the locally-based Gawler Foundation is sharing practical knowledge on preventative health, including how to maintain a healthy diet.

‘Eat Well – Be Well’, to be held on Saturday, 27 October, will be a free event offering a range of information and activities – but pre-registration is essential.

Email: info@gawler.org

Upper Yarra Valley Historical Society – \$15,000 contribution toward restoration works

Rehabilitation of the former Yarra Junction railway station buildings (now the home of Upper Yarra Museum) are proceeding on target.

UYCE funding will enable interior restoration of the building’s three original rooms, comprising Stage Five of a comprehensive Conservation Plan for what will become a ‘Community and Cultural Precinct’ under government guidelines.

Anglicare – \$600 sponsorship of Upper Yarra Family Expo 2012

Now in its fourth year, the Family Expo hosts a range of organisations – such as local agencies, support groups and program providers – providing them an opportunity to showcase their range of services to the local community.

Our contribution was used to fund the successful ‘Healthy Lunches’ activity, providing food and free containers for participants to keep.

Karinya Retirement Village – \$15,000 contribution for residents’ community rotunda

Managed by a volunteer committee, this low-cost, not-for-profit facility for retirees in Yarra Junction sorely lacked a space where residents could get together as a group and entertain visiting family members.

Chairman Rick Houlihan expects that UYCE’s donation will fully cover the cost of the structure, with any shortfall covered by the Karinya Committee.

Adult Riding Club of Upper Yarra – \$6963 contribution toward toilet facility

Sharing the Wesburn Recreation Reserve complex with a number of other user groups, the Adult Riding Club operates in a location remote from the existing toilet block, so they decided to build their own.

Having achieved two-thirds of the required \$22,000 through their own efforts, the Club approached UYCE for top-up funding to cover external plumbing.

Who is Upper Yarra Community Enterprise?

Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited is a community-owned company whose core purpose is the advancement of the Upper Yarra Community.

During its relatively short life since February 2000 UYCEL has provided more than \$1.5 million to local community based projects and organisations.

How can I support my community and UYCEL?

By simply doing an everyday activity, your banking.

UYCEL earns its income by operating the franchises of Warburton and Yarra Junction **Community Bank**[®] branches of Bendigo Bank. A cornerstone of the **Community Bank**[®] model is the distribution of profits to the community.

How can my community group access funding from UYCEL?

Upper Yarra Community Enterprise distributes funds to worthy community projects through Sponsorships and Donations.

Applications for Sponsorships and Donations are received four times a year, closing on the following dates: 14 October, 14 February, 13 April, and 14 June. Normally, you can expect a response within six weeks of submission.

Sponsorship is defined as: The purchase of association with an event, entrant, activity or organisation which results in increased brand awareness, communication of key messages and increased customer base.

Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Ltd owns and operates the Warburton and Yarra Junction **Community Bank**[®] branches.

Sponsorships will be assessed on their capacity to promote these brands.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website – upperyarra.net.au – where you will also find further helpful information (click on the ‘Community Sponsorships’ link).

For personal assistance with your application – or regarding any other queries about UYCEL – please call in to either of our **Community Bank**[®] branches or phone 5966 9028.

SHARES AVAILABLE

There are currently interested parties looking to sell shares in Upper Yarra Community Enterprise Limited through the company’s low volume market.

To register your interest in purchasing shares please contact Geoff Vickers on 5966 9028.



All-weather Education

One of the school's drawcards for many years, Upper Yarra Secondary College's Outdoor Education Program includes a wide range of activities such as hiking, indoor and outdoor climbing, canoeing and rafting, surfing, alpine ski touring and downhill skiing.

Our equipment sponsorship will cover the cost of heavy duty, all-weather tents and waterproof clothing – jackets and pants – which will serve the needs of the Program for many years to come.

In turn, this will help ensure fees for participants will remain affordable.

'Reefton ROCS' 2012

An established community event and major fundraiser for Reefton CFA, this year's Reefton ROCS will be held on Saturday, 24 November at Reefton Hotel.



Now in its fourth successful year, Reefton ROCS offers a unique mix of entertainment to both locals and visitors: live music, fire awareness presentations and environmental education activities, plus opportunities for locals to display their many artistic talents or promote their services.

'In addition to raising much needed dollars to support our CFA's ongoing equipment needs, Reefton ROCS serves an important role in bringing our community together,' said Secretary, Jane Abbott.

Other Upper Yarra based community groups are invited to participate in order to promote their activities.

'As longstanding partners of UYCE, we value their ongoing support and generosity,' said Jane

For further information, email: janebennett6@bigpond.com

It's Springfest time again!

Established several years ago, Warburton Primary School's major annual fundraiser, Springfest, will be held on Sunday, 4 November (Cup Day long weekend).

As in 2011, Springfest will be celebrated at the Redwood Centre on the Warburton Highway.

Always packed with activities and entertainment for both young and not-so-young, much of it free, Springfest captures the real character of traditional community festivals: up to 3000 people have attended in the past, many repeat visitors travelling from far afield, in an atmosphere of celebration and inclusiveness.

UYCE sponsorship of \$2950 will help cover costs for several children's activities – in the past, these have included a jumping castle and a climbing wall – as well as a tent for conducting craft workshops.

Stallholders are once again invited to participate in Springfest: rates remain affordable at \$25 for individuals and businesses and \$10 for community groups.

Enquiries can be directed to the School on 5966 2010 (during school hours) or to warburton.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au



Turbo fun for local kids



These five-day school holiday camps, run by ADANAC CYC (Christian Youth Camps Limited) in Yarra Junction, offer healthy, activity-based fun for local children and teenagers in a supportive environment reinforced by strong role models.

'Although ADANAC has been running many different programs over its 46-year history, more recently we have identified the growing need for affordable and accessible school holiday camps for local kids,' said manager, Marcel Edmonds.

'With the ongoing support of UYCE we have seen demand for the camps increase to the point where we are now offering three camps next January: two for children aged eight to twelve and one for young people aged from twelve to sixteen.'

UYCE sponsorship of \$1600 is being used for marketing the camp in our region: printed materials (fliers, posters and banners), flier distribution and the development of their website.

Since they frequently have a waiting list, ADANAC encourages families to book early to avoid disappointment – and an 'early-bird' discount applies.

Find out more at their website: turbo.cyc.org.au

Any enquiries can be directed to Marcel on 5967 1594, or via email to marcel@cyc.org.au