



Upper Yarra
Community Enterprise

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Newsletter 2012

April

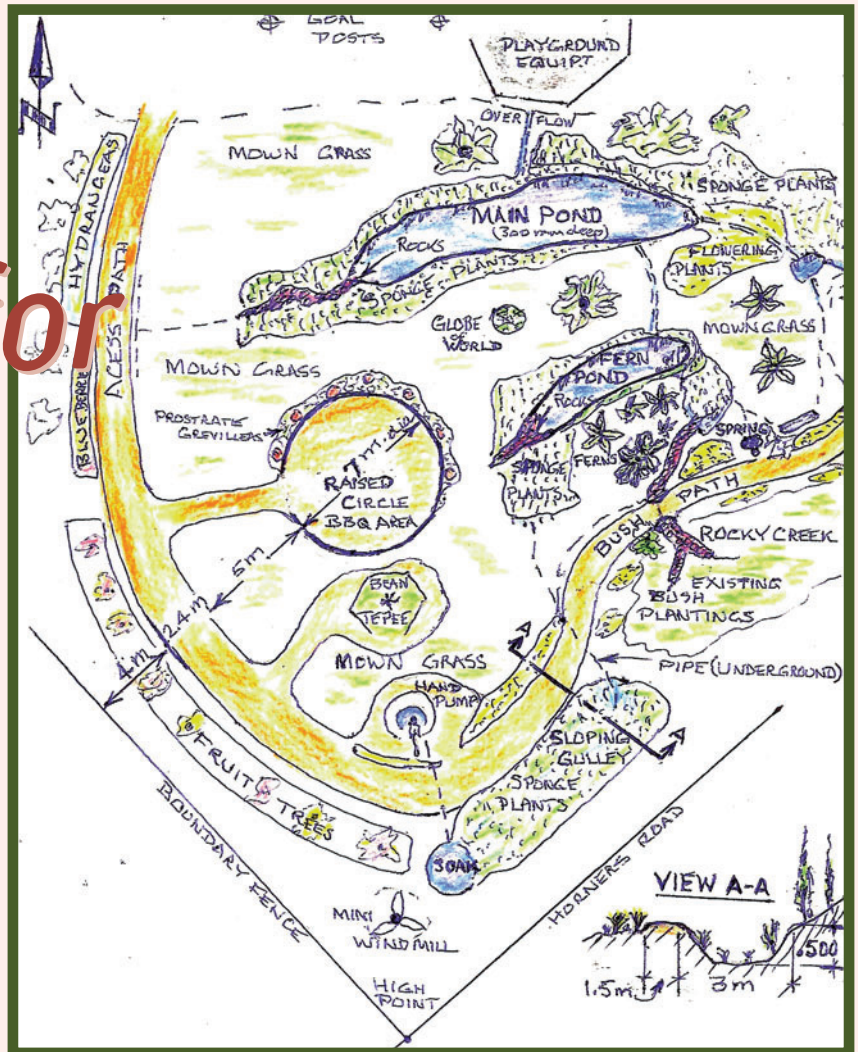
A space for everyone

An ambitious project on a modest budget is transforming a boggy area at Warburton Primary School into an interesting and inviting space – an asset which not only rehabilitates an environmentally degraded area but will benefit both students and the broader community.

Co-ordinated and driven by local community stalwart, Bruce Normand, the 'multi-purpose space' project has a series of goals:

- To collect water emerging onto the School property from the south and divert it – through a series of designed channels, drains, ponds and water features – into a shallow trench-shaped catchment pond to the north of the area (at the bottom of the slope).
- To largely eliminate the current proliferation of weeds and, with sympathetic revegetation, provide sustainable habitat for endemic species of flora and fauna.
- To create a series of tracks which will serve as a self-guided nature trail of educational benefit to students and the general public.
- To build a small amphitheatre into the gradient as a focal point, creating a useful recreational area for students and for diverse community activities.
- To minimise future maintenance and optimise access to and usage of the area.
- To establish a small, productive, semi-formal orchard to extend the School's ongoing commitment to food security, complemented by feature trees and shrubs.
- To involve students and friends of the School in all practicable stages of the project – and, likewise, the broader community.

Thanks to UYCE sponsorship, major earthworks were completed in February and ongoing plantings through to Winter this year will complete Stage 1 of the project.



The balance of UYCE's funding of \$1250 will be invested in fruit trees, feature trees and sundry items such as stakes and fertiliser.

Several drains and pools now have been excavated and most of the walking track is formed; nearly all unwanted vegetation has been removed; a variety of ferns and other site-appropriate species have been purchased (or salvaged) and transferred to their final locations.

The School has allocated \$1000 of its own to purchase a range of endemic grasses, sedges, rushes, etc., plus further sundry materials.

'It is very satisfying to see a relatively small budget go so far to create what will be a very beautiful, functional and productive area,' said Co-Principal, Neil Jorgensen.

'Without this magnificent contribution by Bruce – over more than a year – and the generosity of Upper Yarra Community Enterprise, this wonderful space could never have happened.'

Donations & Sponsorships

Catprint Productions – \$2383 contribution toward ‘Theatre for the Masses’ project

Locally-based theatre group, Catprint Productions, are planning to present a series of performances this year – three different, full length productions comprising a comedy, a mystery thriller and a social satire.

The scale of this enterprise is demonstrated by the numbers involved: a total of 20 performances at two venues, featuring 19 performers and a crew of twelve.

‘Using the magnificent facilities of the Upper Yarra Arts Centre in Warburton and Burrinja in Upwey, two different directors will head different production crews,’ said organiser, Claire Bamford.

‘While we have been self-funded to date – generating our own income to pay for props, costuming and advertising – UYCE’s generosity will cover the costs of performance rights, scripts and makeup for the duration of the season,’ Claire said, ‘and we expect that proceeds from ticket sales will help fund the 2013 program.’

Given the amount of community support and goodwill they have already received from the general public, the two venues and other theatre groups, Catprint Productions are very confident that the project will soon become largely self-financing.

If anyone is interested in getting involved, contact Catprint at: evelynsgh@aapt.net.au

UYCH Community College – \$5000 contribution to ‘Girl Power’ Project

Continuing its long, strong record in delivering education and opportunities to young people, UYCH Community College developed the ‘Girl Power’ project to assist teenage girls in building friendships, self-confidence and a range of skills.

A two-day camp in Wesburn, held last November, offered a range of structured activities – from a ropes course to a series of guest speakers – plus plenty of opportunities for fun: games, ‘comfort food’ sessions, personal styling and much more.

Following on from the camp, a Girl Power Group will strengthen the bonds formed between these young women and extend social networking and support to others in the community.

‘The camp enabled the girls to have a fun filled experience while connecting with local service providers ... and we had a lot of fun along the way,’ said program leader, Jodie Kinsmore.

Warburton Tennis Club – \$1500 sponsorship for two events

One of Warburton’s most dynamic and active community groups, the Tennis Club organises and hosts two tournaments during February and March.

The Junior Club Championship, held in February, offers two fun days of tennis for young players – and some great prizes – plus opportunities for parents and families to get together and socialise over a barbeque meal.

During March the Club hosts the Warburton Tennis Cup, an annual event approved and promoted by Tennis Victoria.

Competitors come from near and far to participate in an atmosphere of fun and good sportsmanship and numbers continue to build, year by year.

‘We have been involved with the Tennis Club for several years now,’ said UYCE Executive Officer, Geoff Vickers, ‘and regard our partnership as extremely valuable, both ways, in promoting healthy, inclusive activity to a broad spread of the community and providing excellent exposure for our banking services.’

If you’d like to know more about Warburton Tennis Club, send an email to: christian.nielsen@livelearn.org

Upper Yarra Valley Historical Society – \$3000 sponsorship of Crank-up Woodchop Competition

The Historical Society’s recent machinery ‘Crank-up’ at Yarra Junction Museum celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of this widely-known event, popular with locals and visitors alike.

Following successful demonstrations by axemen last year, the Society decided to include woodchopping competitions from 2012 in order to encourage even broader participation during the Crank-up weekend and re-establish the Upper Yarra district’s close historical links with woodchop events.

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.



Warburton Primary School – \$450 contribution toward Zoo Trip Learning Project

School excursions form a valuable part of our children's education, but unfortunately some families cannot afford the extra costs involved and, as a consequence, many students miss out.

UYCE's small grant to Warburton Primary will top up funding provided by Zoos Victoria's 'Access for All' initiative, enabling 32 students to attend a learning program at Melbourne Zoo.

Warburton Christian Playgroup – \$2600 donation to fund 2012 program

Operating from the Redwood Centre (formerly the Warburton Christian School) since 2005, Warburton Christian Playgroup is a whole-community open program which welcomes children from newborns up to age five.

The Playgroup has a strong emphasis on safe, structured activities which are focussed on the needs of individual children – and also assists parents who attend the sessions, for example by offering access to a free lending library.

Our contribution will fund a small wage for the program facilitator, two mornings a week.

Not only does the Playgroup provide an inclusive and much-needed service to the Upper Yarra, it reaches out to the broader community.

For example, last year it raised \$200 for a severely disabled child in order to provide some play equipment and hosted a barbeque to raise money for a village clinic in rural Cambodia

Zephlyn Neilsen and Carol Seppings – \$2200 sponsorship of 'Wooly Wilderness' Project

The Wooly Wilderness Project, held between January and March this year, encouraged members of the local community to participate in a series of outdoor workshops and create sculptural pieces from knitted, crocheted and felted wool, which were then combined to form part of a larger exhibition around the theme of 'The Forest'.

The exhibition, launched for the recent Harmony Festival, has been on public display at the Upper Yarra Arts Centre and at ECOSS in Wesburn.

Warburton Highway Tourism – \$2500 sponsorship of Easter Fundraiser 2012

Following last year's successful event, which generated funds for several important community organisations and projects, UYCE partnered Warburton Highway Tourism in its Easter fundraiser, held at Warburton Caravan Park on Sunday, 8 April.

Our contribution of \$2500 covered the costs of hiring two bands, other performers and equipment, and will supplement donations from a series of local businesses.

Profits from the 2012 event will be shared between our community radio station, Yarra Valley FM, and 'Ted's Track Keepers', who maintain Warburton's famous six kilometres of river walks and their surrounds.

Friends of the Rail Trail – \$2450 sponsorship for equipment

The Friends of the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail perform a vital community service in helping Yarra Ranges Council maintain one of our most extensive pieces of infrastructure ... and what has become, over recent years, an important social and economic resource.

During 2011, the Friends held 16 advertised working bees – and several unofficial get-togethers – along the Trail, mostly using equipment supplied by members.

The UYCE sponsorship will pay for a brushcutter, a mower, protective equipment and A-frame signage boards, to alert Trail users of maintenance activities.

For more information on Friends activities, contact Phil Wallens: pwallens@bigpond.com

Yarra Valley Youth Theatre Group – \$5342 sponsorship of musical 'Seussical JR'

One of the Valley's longest established – now in its twelfth year – the Youth Theatre Group provides training and skills in all aspects of theatre to young people aged between six and twenty-six.

Working with a director, the students perform two productions a year to the local community, at the same time offering participants a supportive environment and opportunities to build self-esteem and new friendships.

Our contribution of \$5342.64 will cover the costs of directors fees and performance rights for what will be a fairly major production.



Valley Productions Theatre Company – \$4000 sponsorship of the stage musical ‘Oliver’

One sign of an energetic and dynamic community is its willingness to engage with the performing arts at all levels.

Judging by the wealth of performances currently being organised in the Upper Yarra local theatre is enjoying a true Renaissance and UYCE is very proud to be involved in several of these.

With five shows under its belt already, Valley Productions Theatre Company is planning to produce eight performances of the famous stage musical, Oliver, during the September school holidays.

Our contribution will help cover performance rights and assist with marketing and printing costs.

The Company is always interested in hearing from people who are interested in participating – as cast members or to work behind the scenes.

For more information, contact Sally Kellerman:
salsmagic8@gmail.com

Gladysdale Primary School – \$8637 for ‘Strengthening Ties’

Beyond their defined role of delivering formal academic skills, schools have always played a crucial role in helping our children develop into healthy, practical, well-rounded and confident young adults.

UYCE’s sponsorship will assist Gladysdale Primary to meet the costs of a series of programs and projects over the current school year: ongoing student participation at Ben’s Shed (funding will cover materials and transport costs); new singlets for the school’s basketball teams; ‘top up’ funding for its chaplaincy program, and costs associated with the production of the school’s annual yearbook.

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.

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.

Warburton Bowls Club – \$35,000 sponsorship of bowling green refurbishment

Major moves are afoot in Warburton's traditional sports hub at the Warburton Recreation Reserve!

As part of a significant initiative driven by our Bowls, Football, Cricket and Netball Clubs, in partnership with Yarra Ranges Council, a \$255,000 redevelopment has already seen the Bowls Club hand over its 'top green' for conversion into a netball court; this has been completed, as have new practice nets for the Cricket Club.

UYCE's contribution, complementing \$120,000 of Club funds and a grant of \$100,000 from the Shire, will cover the cost of completely replacing the remaining green and providing proper drainage, new concrete surrounds and new shelters.

'It was a big decision for us to give our top green and [second] clubhouse away, which in turn has resulted in excellent relations being developed between all of our clubs,' said Bowls Club representative, Steve Freestone.

MISFIT Theatre – \$3180 sponsorship of a documentary project

MISFIT Theatre is a highly regarded and successful local youth theatre group, established in 2009 to perform an original show written by Sarah Ward, 'While Your Lips Are Still Red'.

In Sarah's own words, it is 'a story about difference, which along the way gathered together a group of people with differences in religion and social standing, people who have physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities and mental illness ... the shy and the outgoing ...'

As part of the Theatre's vision to build their skills and secure their future, they plan to document the creation and performance of a reworked version of Sarah's original piece, currently being prepared for National Youth Week 2012 with solid support from Yarra Ranges Council.

The professionally produced documentary – featuring interviews with performers and crew, as well as extracts from rehearsals and the live show – will serve more than one purpose.

Not only will it be used to educate people about MISFIT and why it means so much to the young participants, it will also be used to promote the group when seeking further opportunities to develop and grow; for example, MISFIT is planning to seek State and Federal funding to work with Red Stitch Theatre – a professional, actor run company based in Melbourne – for a period of six months.

SES Upper Yarra – \$1,603 contribution for Community Education Project

Like the local CFA brigades, our SES volunteers are among the quietest of 'quiet achievers' in our community.

Rarely in the public spotlight or receiving acclaim, they just turn up during an emergency – which can be anything from traffic accidents to search and rescue to natural disasters – and get on with the job, quickly and efficiently.

Over the past couple of years, community education has become a major focus for SES Upper Yarra: striving to increase our knowledge about how to be better prepared and more resilient when facing emergency situations.

Our contribution will pay for a marquee, a PA system, presentation software and furniture.

'UYCE is once again proud to provide funds to support the invaluable work being performed by our local SES,' said Executive Officer, Geoff Vickers.

Woods Point Gun Club – \$3000 major sponsorship

With a membership of 99 – adults and juniors – Woods Point Gun Club is one of the largest registered clubs in our region.

It provides a safe and supervised environment for people to participate in clay target shooting – at several grades – and offers opportunities for members to compete at State or even national levels.

Our 'naming rights' sponsorship will help cover the Club's running costs and some marketing support, as well as funding workshops and clinics for junior level shooters.

Rotary Club of Upper Yarra – \$3000 sponsorship of Family Festival 2012

Rotary and the Wesburn community combined to host the inaugural Upper Yarra Community Family Festival last month.

Held at the popular and historic Wesburn Reserve, the event was instigated to bring the immediate community together, to promote the township and to raise funds for a playground at the reserve.

Among a range of activities, the Festival featured live music, a car display, an historical display, road safety information and a range of market stalls, while several local organisations and activities were also on display.

Yarra Valley Community Health – \$2000 contribution toward ‘You & I’ initiative

We are very pleased to join a partnership between Yarra Valley Community Health, Ranges Community Health and Yarra Ranges Council in delivering an innovative, regional approach to educating our youth in understanding the value of developing equal, respectful relationships.

Using a process called ‘photovoice’, participants use photographs to record and reflect their own – and their community’s – strengths and challenges: these are then critiqued and discussed within groups before being shared with the broader community.

Locally, students from Upper Yarra Secondary College will work with an experienced community artist over several sessions to develop deeper understanding of their relationships through this creative media project, which also offers a series of extra benefits: increased awareness of the harmful effects of violence and bullying; skills development in critical thinking, photography and project management, and enhanced engagement with the local community.

Upper Yarra Community House – \$20,000 sponsorship of ‘First Flush’ facility

Instigated by UYCH (a co-tenant at the former DSE depot on the Rail Trail in Yarra Junction) and Upper Yarra Museum, ‘First Flush’ is a shared toilet on the boundary between the two sites.

The unisex, disabled-friendly facility was delayed for almost three years due to a couple of planning challenges: its proposed location on Crown land is also subject to a ‘heritage overlay’.

Our substantial contribution complements funding from the Department of Planning and Community Development and Yarra Ranges Council.

Assisted by CareForce volunteers (the second tenant of the former DSE site) contractors recently completed the toilet, which will prove a massive relief to all stakeholders!

Yarra Junction Football and Netball Club – \$5000 sponsorship

Our partnership with Yarra Junction Football and Netball Club continues into 2012 with renewed sponsorship of team uniforms and signage at the Eagles home ground, representing the second instalment of a three-year branding package.

Upper Yarra Community House – \$50,000 sponsorship of Community Work Skills Centre

As we move further into the twenty-first century the ‘trades skills shortage’ in the Australian workforce is becoming a matter of increasing concern.

Upper Yarra Community House (UYCH) is determined to play a role in reversing this decline by offering appropriate, accredited training within the local community by developing state of the art facilities at two sites in Yarra Junction.

Between them, the sites will offer training programs in engineering and woodwork – including construction – as part of vocational training packages (for example, pre-apprenticeship programs such as Certificate II in Construction).

Students from local secondary schools also will have access to these facilities, as well as UYCH Community College students and the broader community; for example, hobby and lifestyle courses and ‘Men’s Shed’ activities.

UYCE’s substantial contribution will pay for the construction of three industry-standard welding cubicles at one of the sites and, at the other, will provide tools and equipment needed for carpentry and woodwork.

‘Multi-skilling is a key to successful job acquisition nowadays,’ said UYCH CEO, Sally Brennan.

‘Between them, the two sites will offer training that will help equip the individual with a variety of industry relevant skills.’

Warburton Advancement League – \$1500 for Community Bus refurbishment

A common sight up and down the highway since 2008, the district bus – purchased by the League with UYCE funding – has become an important resource to the Upper Yarra community.

Being available to community groups for outings and tours, as well as for private functions, at an affordable rate – \$30 per hour, plus fuel – means that the popular 21-seater requires frequent maintenance and the occasional upgrade.

Our current contribution will cover the costs of repairs to surface rust, reupholstering the driver’s seat and the installation of a reversing camera.

If you would like more information about using the bus, call League President, Jeff Gill, on 5966 2373 – or visit upperyarra.net.au and click on the Community Bus link.

Advance bookings are essential.