



Upper Yarra
Community Enterprise

upperyarra.net.au

A walk through time

Newsletter 2009 December



Upper Yarra Living History – a small but dynamic group dedicated to documenting local history as a shared community resource – has successfully applied to UYCE for financial backing toward its latest project, a documentary entitled *A walk through Warburton's history*.

'The documentary will show, in words, sounds and images, the history of Warburton from the early gold-mining days to the middle of the Twentieth Century,' said the group's convenor, Lyn Kennedy.

The first stage of the project is already completed and includes a detailed draft script, referencing extensive audio and visual materials, which 'walks' the viewer through Warburton's Main Street from west to east.

The project's budget is \$44,000. UYCE's \$7000 contribution will help to cover the costs of: digitising a vast collection of historic still photographs; shooting new material; audio transcription and logging; voice-over recording, and the selection and editing of interview material.

'So far we have done everything ourselves, with no outside financial assistance. The Stage Two funding will pay for a range of technical inputs and ensure an excellent, professional production,' said Lyn.

'The finished product will be fully digital, available on DVD or as downloadable content – to a computer or web-capable phone or mpeg-player, for example.

'Essentially, it is designed to facilitate a self-guided tour through Warburton's rich past,' she said.

UYCEL Executive Officer, Geoff Vickers, said that the Board were very impressed with both the quality of the submission and the group's tireless and innovative efforts in preserving and sharing priceless local history.

Upper Yarra Living History began in 2004 with the mission of documenting the first-hand reports and stories of our most senior citizens – in many ways a race against time and work which remains ongoing. In due course these recordings need to be transcribed in order to be catalogued and searchable.

Over the years the group has extended its range of activities and currently works with schools, regional museums, the Shire, the local tourist information centre, local businesses, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and, of course, interested individuals.

They have established a website which members presently use for online collaborative projects and remains a work in progress. At a later stage, the site will both feature published work in a range of media formats and encourage others to participate in discussions and projects.

For more information, go to www.livinghistory.org.au



Top: Looking east over Warburton in 1901 (rail line and St Mary's in foreground). Above: a similar aspect in October 2009.

New Community Grants

The Upper Yarra community is more than \$70,000 better off after our August round of community grants approvals.

As usual, submissions were of a high standard and reinforced our confidence that locals know what needs to be done – and how to do it.

Warburton Preschool – \$2166 for storage shed and associated works

Warburton Preschool is operated by Upper Yarra Children's Services Inc., which provides both funded and unfunded kindergarten programs to about 175 children.

The Warburton site in Riverside Drive has experienced ongoing problems with safe storage of and access to equipment used as part of the children's activities and the installation of a small shed will alleviate the problem.

All Saints Pre-School, Yarra Junction – \$5000 for play equipment



Founded in 1954, All Saints is unique among kinders in the Yarra Valley insofar as it is controlled by the children's parents through a very active, hands-on committee.

The innovative 'Lunar Landscape' play equipment package (shown above) will, according to All Saints Committee President, Gail Pinchbeck, 'provide the children with a range of enjoyable and challenging physical challenges which both stimulate their imagination and encourage a sense of accomplishment.'

The playset forms part of a larger project which includes a water catchment plan, new gardens, environmental education and increased physical activity for the children.



Upper Yarra Community Environment Park – \$5000 contribution toward project: 'Community engagement through grounds development'

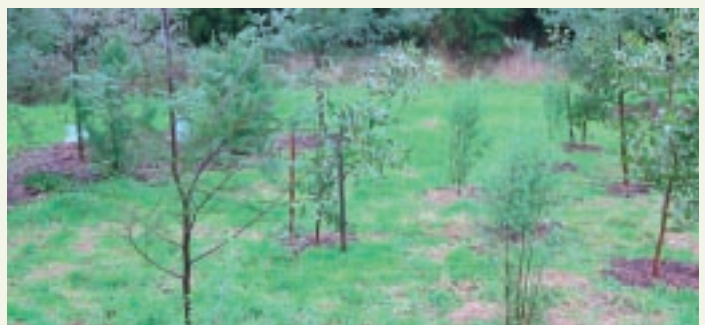


The Upper Yarra Community Environment Park (UYCEP) – in Old Warburton Road, Wesburn – is rapidly becoming a major community resource in the region.

A local community-based organisation, UYCEP's mission is to develop a vibrant and innovative community environment park which supports and demonstrates sustainable living solutions in the Yarra Valley.

The Park is a priority project of the State Government supported Upper Yarra Community Building Initiative. It is partnered by the Shire of Yarra Ranges and Upper Yarra Community House, and strongly supported by State MP for Gembrook, Tammy Lobato, Swinburne University and CERES CEP in Brunswick.

This project will deliver a significant part of Stage One of the site's Master Plan, which UYCEL helped to fund last year.



Our grant will help cover the costs of redeveloping the grounds and gardens at the entrance to the Park, around the house and art space, and around the proposed picnic area.

Equally important, however, is the 'community engagement' aspect of the project, which will largely depend on volunteer involvement. Participants will not only have the opportunity to share their skills and build new ones: they will be encouraged to make new friends and feel a sense of ownership of the site.



Warburton Christian Playgroup – \$3200 contribution toward program costs for 2010



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 and currently has 46 families enrolled.

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.

It works closely with the Shire through the 'Best Start' program, with local kindergartens and with a wide range of organisations and community groups.

Upper Yarra State Emergency Service – \$2266 for new equipment

VICSES is a volunteer-based emergency service that supports regional communities in the event of floods, severe storms, earthquakes, road accidents and search and rescue situations.

It also performs an invaluable role in supporting other emergency service agencies such as Victoria Police.

UYCEL and the SES have enjoyed a strong partnership over several years. The Board were delighted to fund the purchase of a new wire rope assembly, two power pruner box units and two hands-free mobile phone car kits.

Upper Yarra Community House and Upper Yarra Historical Society – \$10,000 contribution toward shared access toilet

Several bodies have collaborated in developing a proposal for a new toilet facility in Yarra Junction – on the shared boundary between the Museum and the former 'Lands Department' site – and accessible from both sides.

Educational and social programs and activities are conducted on the sites by organisations as diverse as the Upper Yarra Historical Society, Careforce, the Shire of Yarra Ranges and Upper Yarra Community House Inc.

The 'First Flush' project will, when completed, replace a 'portable', which no longer fully meets the needs of ever-increasing numbers of site users, with a modern unisex toilet offering access for the disabled.

Children's Whole Health Foundation – \$7500 to establish a food garden at Millwarra Primary School



The Children's Whole Health Foundation is dedicated to educating and supporting children and families through the provision of resource materials, educational opportunities and personal support, so they can live the happiest and healthiest lifestyle possible.

The Foundation, established in 2004, has a membership of 53 and all activity is purely voluntary.


The fully-fenced food garden will be established at Millwarra's Millgrove campus and will be complemented by a greenhouse, a toolshed, compost bins and ample equipment for ongoing maintenance by students, parents and teachers.

It will become an important focal point of school life – not only ensuring access to affordable, top-quality produce via the school canteen but encouraging families to take an interest in the processes involved in growing and preparing fresh food.

Eastern Access Community Health – \$9997.40 for Strength Based Training Community Project

This funding will support the continuation of a program, funded by UYCE in 2007, which provides heavily-discounted gymnasium and pool memberships at the Yarra Centre for individuals with mental health issues.

According to information provided by Eastern Access Community Health, individuals with a mental illness are at



least three times more likely to have physical health problems than others in the community.

Current Strength Based Training (SBT) project participants were surveyed and a number of benefits identified, including weight loss, increased fitness, improvements in mental health, some reduction in medication requirements, improved confidence and self-esteem, better social interaction with peers and within the broader community.

Furthermore, since all program participants undergo a routine health screen in order to qualify for SBT, other medical issues are more likely to be identified and addressed, leading to better health outcomes.

Careforce Community Services – \$5000 contribution toward emergency relief services

Under criteria such as employment rates and household incomes, parts of the Upper Yarra have long been identified as severely disadvantaged.

River Valley Careworks – a part of our community since 2001 – focuses on providing both immediate relief to families undergoing financial crises plus ongoing, targeted support, through case management, to empower people and help them break free of the poverty cycle.

Cash for emergency relief, however, is always in short supply and places extra strain on the organisation's ability to resource the delivery of case management services to help families get back on their feet.

UYCEL's grant will assist in providing cash support for such basic needs as food and travel vouchers and, further, will help to fund River Valley's 'Christmas Outreach' program.

Self Help Addiction Resource Centre (SHARC) – \$3200 funding for two programs

SHARC is a Victorian community-based, not-for-profit organisation which was established in 1997 to support people impacted by drug and alcohol use.

Following the success of its first, unfunded program in the Upper Yarra, we are pleased to support them in offering the service a second time.

Our grant will also help maintain an ongoing support group for participants; this meets fortnightly in Yarra Junction.

The local service is targeted toward individuals and families living between Seville East and Reefton.

Call 9573 1777 for further information.

Wesburn Primary School – \$10,000 donation for a Multi-Sensory Play-stage area



Our children develop best in a 'fun' environment. In other words, learning should be enjoyable.

Wesburn Primary School has developed a proposal that combines the best of both worlds and we are delighted to support them.

The 'multi-sensory play-stage' will stimulate children to use and combine their existing skills and imagination – and, at the same time, to engage with others in solving a range of challenges, developing new skills along the way.

The play-stage area will include activities to stimulate all the senses and encourage physical interaction – for example, a 'thong-a-phone', wind toys and chimes, a sensory garden and a climbing wall.

Students and parents (and community volunteers) will be actively involved in this exciting project.

UYCEL Sponsorships

We allocate Community Grants funds on the merit of each application in how it addresses broader community needs. In supporting some projects, however, the Board requires a commercial return for investment – generally in the form of visual branding for our Branches.

The following initiative falls into this category.

Upper Yarra Pony Club and Upper Yarra Adult Riders Club – \$5000 for a trailer

These two clubs have been relying on a small, increasingly unroadworthy truck in order to transport horse jumps, poles and other equipment for their monthly rallies.

With the old truck long past its 'use by' date, UYCE is sponsoring a new tandem trailer to enable the clubs to carry their gear safely and efficiently.

The trailer will feature Community Bank colours and signage, serving as a valuable marketing display to the wider community.

Birthday celebrations ahead!

Our first 10 years

Free Family Fun Day next February

It's been a sensational ride.

After opening as Australia's 20th **Community Bank**® on 25 February, 2000 – there are now 237 Branches across Australia – Warburton Branch is presently gearing up for its 10th Birthday Celebrations on Saturday 27 February, 2010.

Join us on the lawn behind the Community Bank Building along Thomas Avenue for a jam-packed day of activities and fun ...

- celebrating the success of Upper Yarra Community Enterprise;
- celebrating the return of our first \$1 Million back to the community;
- celebrating the 10th Birthday of our Bank – owned by locals, run by locals, supported by locals.

Local musicians will perform all day on the stage behind the Community Bank.

Roving musicians and entertainers will perform throughout Warburton.

A horse and cart will offer rides around town.

There'll be loads of activities specially for kids too, of course, including ...

- a jumping castle
- an animal farm
- face painting

... and much more!

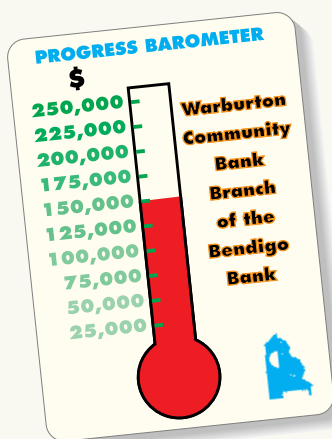
So join us in celebrating 10 years of successful community banking that directly supports all of the community – and help us make the next decade even more successful!



Above: **Friday 25 February, 2000 ...**

Russell Jenkins (Bendigo Bank) and Don Vickers (our first Board's Secretary) join hands in triumph; a celebratory crowd of hundreds required a temporary closure of the Highway; the host of entertainment included local favourites, Diamontes Circus.

Left: a snapshot from 21 April, 1999. These 'barometer' posters kept the community informed on our progress toward the 'pledge target', eventually exceeded by \$100,000. Note the 'Streetlife' logo – our **Community Bank**® campaign started life as a Streetlife project, funded by the State government.



A sign of sustainability ...

The Trail Bike Project

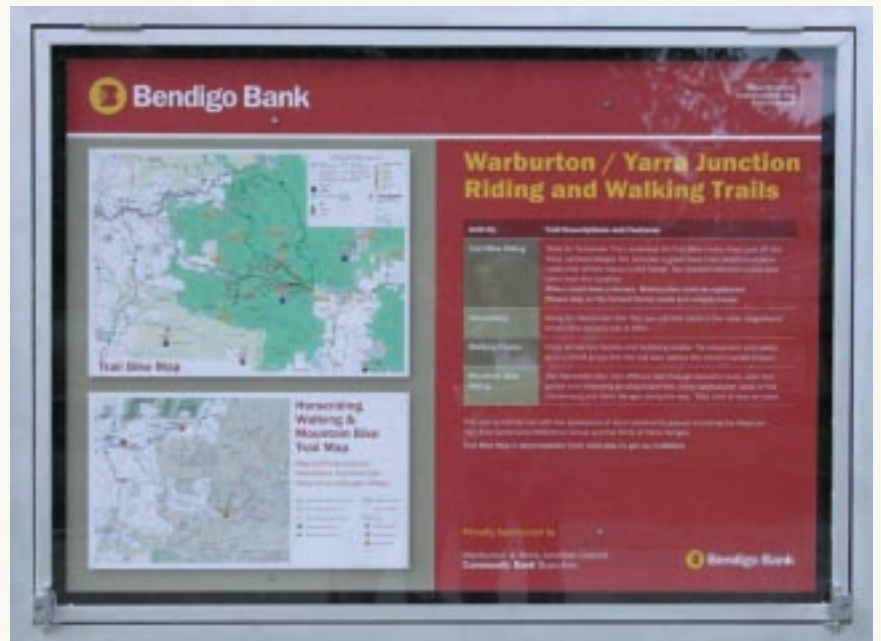
As announced in our April newsletter, UYCEL was pleased to sponsor a local 'community noticeboard' for the Trail Bike Project – a Statewide initiative, co-ordinated by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, to help ensure trail bike riders can continue to enjoy using our State forests without disrupting residents' rights to enjoy living nearby.

The noticeboard – recently installed in Yarra Junction in the gravelled carpark used for the monthly market – informs riders of the legal track network in the local forests and encourages them to use purpose-built facilities at Limberlost Road (between Powelltown and Noojee), rather than unloading and starting their rides close to residential properties in Yarra Junction, Wesburn and Warburton.

DSE Project Officer, Joy Harte, is excited about the project's potential.

'We have worked closely with locals via a Community Reference Group to try and solve some of the issues with sharing the use of forest areas,' she said.

'By providing readily accessible information in the township of Yarra Junction – the gateway to many of our



State forests – riders will be able to make an informed decision on the best places to ride without annoying the locals.'

The Trail Bike Project has already invested \$150,000 in the Trail Bike Visitor Area near Powelltown, with further funding spent on rehabilitation works at the Wesburn 'Log Dump' – to be renamed Cemetery Junction.

UYCEL Executive Officer, Geoff Vickers, expressed the Board's satisfaction at the 'win-win' outcome from our contribution of \$3627 for the noticeboard.

'There are several important stakeholders in the Trail Bike Project,' he said, 'and it's great to see so many bodies, including our Community Banks, working together to achieve more sustainable use of our natural assets while maintaining amenity for residents.'



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. Please forward your expression of interest to: UYCEL, P.O. Box 434, Warburton, VIC. 3799.