



Happy 10th birthday
Yarra Junction branch

Free

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We've reinvested almost \$4 million back into our community – thanks to you.

FREE RUNNING MARTIAL ARTS

creativity, discipline and physical expression

By Lindy Schneider

Free Running Martial Arts is a new program that encourages creative physical expression by bringing together the discipline of martial arts and the physicality of free running, with a focus on strength and conditioning.

While there are many youth focused activities available through local sporting clubs and theatre groups, the lack of activities outside those areas was a gap that Brett Balding from Flux Martial Arts, and Aleksei Bondarenko, of the Yarra Centre, felt important to address.

'Research shows that young men often lack healthy physical interaction outside of sport so our aim is to foster new and accessible ways to enjoy physical expression that is natural and positive,' says Aleksei.

The weekly 90-minute sessions will be offered over 12-weeks at the Yarra Centre and while it is expected the program will be attended by young men aged between 13 and 18 years of age, it will also be an inclusive space that welcomes anyone regardless of age, ability or gender.

'Through learning the principles of free running and martial arts our youth develop the skills to not only overcome physical obstacles but also to overcome other obstacles they may encounter in life. By focusing on positive self-expression and physical training we can foster healthy interactions between participants developing robust social skills that in turn can be passed on to their peers,' says Brett.

To keep the program accessible, sessions will cost \$5 each. The funding received from the Warburton and Yarra Junction Community Bank® branches together with support from the Rotary Club of Upper Yarra makes this program possible.

For more information: contact the Yarra Centre on 5967 1675 or email coach@fluxmartialarts.com
Sessions start on Tuesday 17 April 2018 from 5 to 6.30pm.



'Our aim is to foster new and accessible ways for young people to enjoy physical expression that is natural and positive.'



Brett



Aleksei

New and Annual Events Recently Funded



Photo: Kate Baker

- The River Folk Festival March 16-18
- Girls Movement Outdoor Cinema March 23
- Ecotopia Earth Festival March 25
- Crank Up April 7-8
- Warburton Film Festival June 15-17

Tracking the trails for the future

By Lindy Schneider

The Yarra Ranges Mountain Bikers (YRMTB) is a mountain bike club that is dedicated to expanding mountain biking in the Yarra Valley. With more than 75 financial members and 1,800 online followers they are a respected club and advocacy group. YRMTB work respectfully with land managers and local authorities to develop and maintain approved trail infrastructure and provide social ride opportunities for members and the community.

Mountain bike riding is a fast growing recreational and professional sport with international exposure. The future for mountain biking in the Upper Yarra Valley is particularly exciting with plans underway to establish the Warburton Mountain Bike Hub as a world-class destination. The Warburton and Yarra Junction Community Bank® branches have pledged funds to this project. We have also funded the development of documented trail mapping material for the region (see visitwarburton.com.au/trails) including the new trail Hey Hey My My.

YRMTB have been funded to redevelop their ageing website, updating information and functionality to help build their membership base. Having a strong digital base is essential for community groups and it's great to see the proac-



tive way in which this group are building the profile of our region with many ripple on benefits for businesses and locals.

Apart from the health promoting benefits of being active in nature, cycling promises economic benefits for our towns. Initiatives such as these promote the Upper Yarra region as a key destination for cyclists and visitors.



Matt and Jim

The new website will be launched by the middle of the year.

For more information about YRMTB see the existing website and Facebook page. www.yrmtb.com.au www.facebook.com/yrmtb

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Scholarship winners

Abigail Szabo completed an International Baccalaureate in 2017. She will be studying a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) at Monash University. 'My vision is to either become a lawyer or work in a career where a law degree is applicable, such as in the corporate or human rights areas.'



Braden Taeuber completed Year 12 with SEDA College in 2017 and plans to study a Diploma of Sports Development and a Diploma of Leadership and Management at Swinburne. 'I'd like to work with the Richmond Football Club and volunteer my data analysis skills to the Club.'



Rachel Lee will be studying a Bachelor of Arts/Masters of Teaching (Secondary) at Deakin University. 'I intend to go to university to enable me to reach my ultimate goal of becoming a secondary school teacher. I have a passion for helping others, and promoting the importance of young people's engagement, voice, opinions and actions.'



Ebony Lily will be studying a Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management) at RMIT. 'In the future, I aspire to work as a human resource manager, as I feel that'll be a very good use of my abilities and skills. I hope to accomplish this through dedicating myself to my studies 100%, and embracing all opportunities that come my way.'



School banking star wins a zoo adventure

Congratulations to Elijah Dewree (Little Yarra Steiner School) who was the lucky winner of our School Community Banking competition for 2017. Elijah, his sister Mali (pictured) and family will be spending a weekend 'glamping' at the Werribee Open Range Zoo, going on safari, meeting the animals and enjoying campfire cooking and entertainment in a once-of-a-lifetime experience. Children from all primary schools in the Upper Yarra Valley were entered in the draw to win this prize every time they made a school banking deposit. We wish Elijah a great trip to the Werribee Zoo and congratulate him on establishing great saving habits.



Welcome (back) Rodney McKail

Welcome back Rodney McKail to the UYCE Board and to the role of Chairman. Rodney has lived in our community for more than 55 years. He was employed in Local Government for over 40 years at both Upper Yarra Shire & Lilydale Shire (now Yarra Ranges) and Knox City Council. He is currently contracting to Local Government as a governance advisor.



Rodney has been involved with many community groups including Warburton Primary School Council, Warburton Golf Club, Warburton Millgrove Cricket Club, Warburton Millgrove Sports Club and Wesburn Junior Football Club (where he is a life member). He is currently president of the Warburton Bowls Club and has spent many years coaching junior football and cricket teams at Warburton and Wesburn. He is also a Justice of the Peace.

LocalLife newsletter

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The Community Bank® story

Supporting your Community Bank®

Since 2000, the Warburton and Yarra Junction Community Bank® branches have been operated under franchise by the Upper Yarra Community Enterprise (UYCE) with the core purpose of advancing the Upper Yarra community.

Almost \$4 million has been invested in worthy local community-based projects through the allocation of sponsorship funding that is generated via the profit-for-purpose business model. The Community Bank® prospers because local people do their everyday banking at the Warburton or Yarra Junction branches.

Funds are distributed 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.

Sponsorship is the purchase of an association with an event, entrant, activity or organisation. Applications are accepted based on their ability to increase Community Bank® awareness and patronage, and communicate key messages regarding community development.

Find helpful information and application forms on our website www.upperyarra.net.au.

Connecting community

STORIES

Our Sponsorships program is the way our community lets us know the priorities they have for projects, services and activities they'd most like supported. Every quarter, we review and allocate thousands of dollars to Sponsorship requests and it all adds up. In fact, almost \$4 million has been invested in our community and we know this has many positive flow-on effects for our customers, residents and businesses in the Upper Yarra region.

At our quarterly Presentation Night, successful funding recipients share an evening of celebration and networking with other community groups. Executive Officer Geoff Vickers provides an overview of the Community Banking model and why it is so important to support the Warburton and Yarra Junction Community Bank® branches, and then each group has the opportunity to talk about the project they are sponsored for. This not only lets others know what is coming up in the community but also enables rich connections to be developed.

And it doesn't end there. In addition to our Sponsorship and Donations program, we also make major contributions to significant community infrastructure such as the Warburton Community Hydro Project and, in the future, the Warburton Mountain Bike Hub. In fact the support UYCE provides to these types of endeavors is often a big part of the reason they can go ahead.

The support we have received from the Warburton and Yarra Junction Community Bank® branches has allowed us to plan an inclusive, accessible and fun night out for the local community in the form of our 'Cinema Under the Stars' on March 23rd. Our organisation is in the very early stages and this support is invaluable in helping us get on our feet and show the local community what we have to offer.

Teri McIntyre, The Girls Movement.

This support assists us in creating a professional event benefitting our many local artists, businesses and the local community as a whole. The funds will be used to promote Open Studios in quality publications, design and print quality brochures and include an exhibition of the Warburton area artists at The Waterwheel Gallery.'

Reggie Clark, President, Yarra Valley Arts



Presentation Night March 2018



Sally and Bea

With this generous support, the Warburton Film Society is able to compile and produce a comprehensive booklet for the Warburton Film Festival. This is to inform, provide events and accommodation details in Warburton to the Upper Yarra and wider communities for this upcoming event.

**Sally Ahern, Director,
Warburton Film Society**

Latest Sponsorships February Quarter 2018

- Yarra Ranges Mountain Bikers for New Website
- Upper Yarra Valley Historical Society for Crank Up 41
- Country Fire Authority for Warburton Fire Brigade Fire power
- Rotary Club of Upper Yarra for Free Running Martial Arts
- Yarra Ranges Film Society for Warburton Film Festival 2018
- The Girls Movement for Cinema Under The Stars
- Yarra Valley Arts for Open Studios 2018
- Mange Management Inc. to tackle mange in the Upper Yarra region
- Cire Services Inc. for Prams to Go
- Yarra Junction Bowling Club Inc for bowling green completion

Total this quarter: \$38,271

TOTAL since 2000: Almost \$4 million

Next Sponsorship Round closes 13 May 2018

Apply online: www.upperyarra.net.au/sponsorships