



Behind the scenes

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River Folk Festival 2019 musical magic for everyone

By Lindy Schneider

With more than 30 acts and 80 plus hours of programming across five Warburton venues, the second annual River Folk Festival from the 15 to 17 March 2019 will be a celebration of our local talent, and an opportunity to see national and international artists right here in our home town – including celebrated international performers Scott Cook and Dana Sipos from Canada, and internationally acclaimed Michigan folk duo, Red Tail Ring.

Venues include the Warburton Arts Centre with wonderful spaces for bigger crowds and high energy music, and St Mary's Church, a perfect location for smaller intimate gatherings. Outdoor spaces will be activated with two pop-up venues, one on the village green and one by the river at BT Dubs.

One of the organisers Sam Watson says, 'Through the River Folk Festival, we aim to develop, strengthen and promote the cultural identity of our local community as a vibrant cultural hub. The festival is a community led, community developed festival that holds the highest ethical, environmental sustainability and cultural inclusivity standards.'

Behind the scenes the festival is also providing new opportunities for local youth to gain valuable hands-on experience in high end quality programming and event management. The team of festival volunteers develop new friendships and ties across the community that are forged in the joy of sharing in the creative development process.

'People genuinely feel they are part of the festival and value that we don't compromise on quality, so they can't wait to come back. We involve our community at every level so there is a sense of ownership. Having an event like this in town is good for everyone – artists, support people, businesses, young people, locals and visitors alike. There's so much talent here in the valley.'

River Folk Festival has its heart in the centre of the community and is a celebration of collaboration, great music and a great town. It's a festival everyone can enjoy. Let the music flow!

For information on the event and Early Bird tickets: www.facebook.com/events/303548040395088/



YOUTH INITIATIVE AWARD



Teri McIntyre and board member Elizabeth Fox

Congratulations to Teri McIntyre who has been awarded our annual Ian De La Rue Youth Initiative Award. Teri set up 'The Girls Movement' which focuses on developing programs and initiatives to engage and empower young women and girls in the Upper Yarra Valley. What a wonderful contribution she is making to our community. Thank you Teri.

On the move with AdventCare

With the arrival of the new AdventCare bus there's no stopping residents from getting out and about, and engaging with new and interesting experiences in the world around them. Manager Coleen Hilbert says the new 12 seater bus has opened up all sorts of possibilities for residents. 'They really enjoy going on an outing for coffee or to see a movie, and love shopping trips to Chirnside Park, where they can have the independence to buy their own clothes, snacks, or treats for their grandchildren. We've also been able to take the residents on impromptu drives for fresh air in the mountains and recently they went to a local rose garden. They talked about this outing and all the beautiful roses they had seen for weeks! The bus has given us all the freedom to engage in activities that are stimulating and enjoyable.' The AdventCare bus was made possible through Sponsorship support of \$36,300 'It's all about quality of life, and we're so appreciative for the support,' says Coleen, the team and residents.



From left: Adam Whitworth, Manager of Warburton and Yarra Junction Community Bank® branches; Warburton AdventCare Manager, Coleen Hilbert; David Reece, CEO of AdventCare; Rodney McKail, UYCE Chair, and activities coordinator; Antoinette Bretelet.

In the spirit of generosity, cheer and charity

Whether you're in Warburton or Yarra Junction, your Community Bank® is more than just a local branch, it's a team of people that are part of your community and there to celebrate the successes and to support you during the challenges. We share your excitement over travel plans when you come in for foreign exchange, or to open your child's first account, your successful week in business, and your stories. We love that our customers are

also the people that 'do things' in the community through our Sponsorships program! These 'moments' have made the year truly memorable for us.



Christmas message from Chairperson Rodney McKail

'As we approach the 2018 Christmas period, on behalf of the Board and Staff, I would like to wish all of our shareholders and customers best wishes. Thank you all for your support in the past and we look forward to your ongoing support into the future as we continue to build this amazing community-based partnership. With the scrutiny in the banking sector we know there are challenges ahead, we look forward to meeting them in conjunction with our major business partner Bendigo Bank®.'



Christmas is about spending time with family and friends. May you experience lots of love, laughter and joy this Christmas and have a very happy and safe New Year as well. Merry Christmas to all.'



'Polarity in Paradise'

Our team members aren't able to enter our annual calendar competition, but we thought this beautiful photo by Lisa Dalboni from our Yarra Junction branch warranted a special mention in Local Life.

Lisa says, 'I was driving back from Lilydale and could see the storm coming. Usually the weather comes from the north-west but this came from the south-east. I took a detour up Allsops Road in Woori Yallock, looking over the mountains towards Warby and took the photo. We had two solid days of rain after that!'

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Warburton and Yarra Junction District **Community Bank®** branches

Scholarships 2019

Applications for our 2019 Scholarship program are now open and can be submitted until the closing date of 29 January 2019. See our website for FAQ, Selection Criteria, and to download an application form. Last year we awarded four scholarships supporting local students to fulfil their tertiary education dreams. Application and information here www.upperyarra.net.au/youth/scholarships/

WARBURTON COMMUNITY HYDRO

Warburton is now generating its own hydro power! The Warburton Community Hydro was officially opened on 29 October at the Warburton Golf Club (where the plant is located) by Shaun Leane, MLC for Eastern Metropolitan and Parliamentary Speaker for Infrastructure (on behalf of MPs Jaclyn Symes and Lily D'Ambrosio).

It's wonderful to see this long-standing and progressive project become a reality and we acknowledge the dedication of the steering committee of Upper Yarra Community Power. Profits from the hydro project will be returned to the community through our Sponsorships program. You can learn more about Warburton Hydro at our information boards at The Waterwheel and at the golf clubhouse. Read more on the Facebook page. www.facebook.com/WarburtonCommunityHydro/

The Powerhouse is named in honour of UYCE former Chair Mr Peter Kimberley. (family pictured)



RSL PEACE GARDEN

Earlier this year we sponsored the Warburton RSL Peace Garden in honour of the Centenary of Armistice Day on 11 November 2018. There are 47 metal laser cut "Birds of Peace" representing each serviceman from the Warburton region lost in WWI. There is also a plaque and an olive tree to honour Australian Peacekeepers since 1947. You can visit this wonderful garden anytime. Thank you Warburton RSL.



MILLGROVE MURALS

Have you noticed the new murals on the public conveniences in Millgrove? The artwork has been refreshed with new images depicting the history of the town and the pride of the community. It's great to see our Sponsorship in action!



LocalLife newsletter

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To subscribe to our electronic newsletter, visit our website

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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, 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.



Looking back, looking forward – seed funding breeds success

Last September, Warburton Community Space (WCS) quietly celebrated five years of operation. A recipient of Sponsorship funding from the Community Bank® in 2013, the WCS was established on Thomas Ave as a 'go-to' place for the community that was affordable, accessible and welcoming. Over the five years it has hosted more than 60 different community groups, often for only a gold coin donation, and become a much loved part of the Warburton township. Every Monday, a 'pay-what-you-can-afford' lunch is offered, and many other activities occur during the week/month including Friday art group, Open Mic, ReMakery and the Warburton Summer Produce Market. Several small local businesses have been able to make a start through hiring the commercial kitchen and the outdoor area is the home of a free book exchange and place to seed swap and share produce. The WCS has evolved to meet the changing needs of the community and has often had to have creative responses to the challenges of keeping the 'Space' sustainable. With seed funding allowing the initial lease of the premises, the ongoing expenses of operation have been met through fundraising, space hire and donations. Warburton's Big Day Out was a great community event with proceeds going to WCS, and local businesses have also been supportive. So what is the key to longevity for community groups and initiatives such as this? Committee members say it hasn't always been easy, and being proactive and establishing strong ties in the community has been vital. 'You need to be able to ask for help, know where to seek grant



Monday lunches with Nina

TOP 5 TIPS

for a sustainable committee

- Learn how to write great grant applications
- Spread the load – beyond the committee to volunteers and project teams
- Find creative ways to fundraise
- Engage fully with other community groups for synergies
- Seek out committee members that can contribute skills you need



funding and write applications!' says the committee. While there have been ups and downs, the WCS is excited for the future and grateful for the community's ongoing support.

Suyin Chan, the Community Development Worker at Upper Yarra Community Enterprise is available to chat to all community groups seeking funding or support with ongoing operations.

Latest Sponsorships November 2018

- Catprint Warburton Theatre Productions – for two 2019 productions
- Woods Point Gun Club Inc for The Future Is Bright project
- Upper Yarra State Emergency Service for Refurbishing
- ADRA Redwood Community Centre for Friday Fitness
- Tour de Trails for Warburton Trail Fest
- Yarra Valley ECOSSE for Ecotopia Earth Festival 2019
- ADANAC CYC for Community Kids Camp
- St Vincent Christmas hampers

Total this quarter - Sponsorships: \$16,893
TOTAL since 2000: almost \$4 million

Next Sponsorship Round closes at midnight on 10 February 2019.

In 2019 Sponsorships will be distributed in three rounds in February, June and October.

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

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – DIRECTORS UYCE

Want to contribute more to our community? Become a board member for the Upper Yarra Community Enterprise (UYCE).

Desirable key competencies include: formal board training or previous experience in finance, governance, audit, commercial business insight and community capacity building.

If you are community minded, have a close connection to the Upper Yarra Valley and can volunteer 6-8 hours per month for a three-year term this may be for you.

The UYCE mission is: 'To resource, encourage and promote opportunities essential to sustaining a vibrant community through banking and beyond'.

To apply, send your EOI and CV to Rodney McKail, Chairperson at rnmckail@outlook.com or call 0437 373 752.