



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Yackandandah Community Centre



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

YCC acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the land on which we live and work and recognise their continued custodianship and connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to elder past, present and emerging.



The YCC Committee of Management would like to thank the Victorian Government through the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for continued funding which allows the organisation to work for the betterment of the Yackandandah community.

The committee would also like to thank the Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood Network, and in particular, network coordinator, Trish Curtis for continued support and guidance.



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## OUR MISSION

YCC is where our community connects and grows together.

## OUR VISION

Is to be an organisation people want to work with.

We strive to:

- develop pathways and opportunities for individuals and organisations to connect, learn and collaborate
- create a sense of place and belonging for everyone we meet
- build capacity of other not-for-profits
- seek opportunities to auspice new community groups
- develop a diverse range of affordable programs and activities depending on local need
- conduct regular community events.



## ABOUT US

### **YCC works for the betterment of our community by:**

- Providing a meeting place for community groups
- Providing a website with links to the community - Yack Pack, Shop Local, Yack Events
- Operating the Community Op Shop
- Providing an annual YCC Community Grants program to assist community organisations
- Providing an accessible “ear” to the community through the manager at the Centre
- Identifying and reacting to community needs as they arise
- Facilitating courses and workshops to meet community demand
- Assisting to create and organise with community events
- Helping to establish and assist community groups – Yack Women’s Shed, Yack Community Garden, Indigo FM, Plastic Wise Yackandandah



## STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The Yackandandah Community Centre is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

## OUR PEOPLE

### Committee of Management

Chair	<i>Karen Keegan</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Bill Dee</i>
Treasurer	<i>Phil Buerckner</i>
Secretary	<i>Sarah Caplice</i>
General member	<i>Glen Aberle</i>
General member	<i>Chantelle McConchie</i>
General member	<i>Owen Smith</i>
General member	<i>Matthew Smith</i>

### Employees

Manager	<i>David Thorpe</i>
Op Shop co-ordinator	<i>Sue Butler</i>
Admin assistant	<i>Carolyn Conlan</i>
Bookkeeper	<i>Marion Dawson-Rennie</i>



## Volunteers

Our volunteers are an essential part of our social enterprise, our organisation could not operate without them. Our volunteers have made positive impacts on the community because the work that they do in the Op Shop generates funds that are distributed back out into our community through the annual YCC community grant program.

Volunteering can give you a sense of achievement and purpose, it fosters community connection, which can lead to improved self-esteem and confidence.

Thank you to our team of volunteers we are grateful for the time you dedicate to our organisation it is a valuable community service.

## Our 2022 team of volunteers

*Libby Schmidt*

*Jan Hutchings*

*Marijke Mascas*

*Robyn Webster*

*Lee-Anne Benson*

*Trish May*

*Helen Nelder*

*Celia Hansford*

*Ian Back*

*Pauline Cook*

*Joan Peters*

*Wilma Walsh*

*Julie Methven-Kelley*

*Ruth Maddock*

*Chris Czwirom*

*Chris Pearce*

*Lyn Buerckner*

*Lyn Cameron*

*Pam Crostwaite*

*June Matthews*



## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT, prepared by Karen Keegan**

### **COMMITTEE**

I took over as Chair at the 2022 AGM, with Bill stepping back into the Vice-Chair role. Thank you to Bill for his work as Chair in the previous four years, and for his ongoing support as Vice Chair this year. Three new committee members were recruited in 2022, Sarah Caplice came on board as the Secretary with Matthew Smith and Owen Smith signing on as general members. Matthew stepped down from the committee in February this year, we now have seven committee members. All committee members and the manager should be on the lookout for future committee members, so that we can ensure succession planning at committee level.

### **COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION**

A survey initiated by YCC during COVID, to determine local knowledge and feedback on YCC highlighted a lack of information on who we are, what we do and why we do it. Quite simply, it was determined that we needed to have a more proactive approach to telling the community about ourselves, hence in the last year, several key initiatives were introduced to enhance our profile within the community. These initiatives are covered further under events/activities and the grants process.

### **STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers for the Op Shop have reduced, and it has been a struggle, in particular, to have the Op Shop open over the weekend. We thank the volunteers for their time and efforts. Key priority for the committee and manager is to develop a plan to increase our volunteer numbers. Sue and Carolyn remain in their jobs, a thanks to both of them for the support they have given to David, and to the committee.

David resigned from the Manager position in late March, our new Manager, Jane Murphy is now on board. YCC has benefited from the steady and professional work by David, during his tenure as Manager. In particular, he guided us, the Committee in a professional and knowledgeable manner throughout. It is noted that the error in the managers payrate that had been detected by our auditors has been fixed and payment made to correct the mistake.

The post COVID environment has seen a downturn in volunteers across all walks of life, the YCC is no different. Our volunteers are vital to the ongoing future of YCC, this is an area which we will require us to focus our energy and ideas, to ensure we continue to provide a service to our community, by way of the Op Shop.





## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

In addition to the day-to-day operation of the YCC, there were several events which YCC participated in or organized for our community. These were:

- Committee decided to hold a “YCC Open House’ in Nov 2022. The purpose of this event was to encourage the community to visit YCC, for us to demonstrate first hand what we do, to show what we do and to particularly highlight the work of the Op Shop and the annual grant process, which flows from the success of the Op Shop.
- YCC hosted three events conducted by the Red Cross, as part of the ongoing resilience project work. The outcomes of these workshops will inform and guide our future work on this project.

## YCC GRANTS

The 2022 grants were decided prior to the 2022 AGM, but a follow up social event for all grant recipients was held, hosted by YCC. Primary purpose was to ensure that we maximized publicity surrounding the grant process to the recipients and more generally to the community. This approach was decided to be an annual activity, after the grants had been decided and advised to the community.

## SOLAR/BATTERY

As part of a \$300k TRY grant, YCC has received \$32,784.58 for a 13.26kW solar system and a 16.56kW battery storage system. There is also \$10,000 in the TRY funding to pay for a researcher to conduct a study into resilience in regional towns, there have been initial discussions as to how this research will be done, and by whom. This is a key project that will require further work by the manager and committee.

## PROJECTS

- RESILIENCE

The post-COVID resilience project is ongoing. A sub group consisting of myself, Bill Dee and the YCC manager have been researching and gathering information to inform the committee on a way ahead with this project. Several updates have been provided at general meetings. We are now at the stage of engaging in significant discussions with the Indigo Shire, post our Red Cross workshops, to determine how YCC might proceed with this project. A comprehensive discussion is yet to be held with the new manager, to properly establish a way forward with this project. Once completed this will be brought back to the committee for ratification.



- DEFIB

This is an ongoing project which is being led by YCC, in collaboration with YCDCo and other community groups, where the intention is to ensure that Yackandandah has adequate defibs, accessible to the public and clearly signposted in each individual area and more generally, across the community. The manager will report more fully on this project as it progresses.

## POLICIES & PROCEDURES

A review of our policy and procedures is required, this was commenced by David, but is not yet complete. Chair to work with manager to complete this process. Once reviewed, all policies and procedures will be provided to the committee for ratification.

## GENERAL

Overall the work of YCC has been 'business as usual', the biggest challenge we face is to ensure we have adequate volunteers to staff the Op Shop regularly. The Op Shop provides a significant financial resource to YCC, which in turn we provide back to our community by way of the grant process. Additionally, we must be open to partnering and collaborating with other groups in our community, to seize opportunities to auspice where possible and take every opportunity to lift the profile of the YCC within our community.



## **Manager's Report, prepared by David Thorpe**

2022 has been a year of building on the initiatives, projects and community development work that has become a major part of our work in the community.

The renewed Strategic Plan has refocussed attention on the direction YCC takes towards working with the Yackandandah community- setting a broader community development agenda.

To that end, the Resilience Project we have underway is working to build community resilience and connection. Collaboration with Totally Renewable Yackandandah will see additional solar generation capacity and the installation of a storage battery in the early part of 2023. With this YCC will be better able to support our community, especially in times of emergency. The collaboration with The Australian Red Cross and the launch of its RediCommunities program, the Baseline Assessment workshop held in November, and the Mapping workshop and Emergency Services Panel to be conducted in 2023, will help guide the Resilience Project to ensure the Yackandandah community is better informed, better resourced, and more self-reliant in times of emergency. By working with a broad range of Yackandandah-based community groups, individuals, and the community in general, we are well on the way to enabling Yackandandah to be prepared for, survive and recover from emergencies more effectively.

The Defibrillator Project we have been working on with YCDCo will ensure that Yack residents and visitors have ready access to Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) across our town. It will also ensure the locations of the units are well known and that community members know how to use them.

These two projects demonstrate how a small organisation, with limited resources, can work to create significant benefits for the community. I would like to thank the YCC committee for their support and efforts in helping get these projects underway, it is a pleasure to work with a group of people so dedicated to helping their community. These are projects which have captured the attention of other centres in the UMRNHN as well as the Shire Council.

YCC Strategic Plan - The YCC Strategic Plan, which was renewed in 2021, was launched on November 4th with an Open House held at YCC. The new plan outlines YCC objectives and sets the direction for how YCC interacts and serves the community.

The event attracted about 80 community members. It gave us the opportunity to bring the community into the building, promote the projects and initiatives we are developing, and show people what is available at YCC, including the new equipment in the Meeting Room.



Thanks goes to the Lions Club for the provision of the BBQ trailer, as well as the committee members who did the cooking and serving.

**Resilience Project** - YCC worked with the Australian Red Cross to conduct its Baseline Assessment workshop in November. It is the first in a three-part series of workshops which make up the Red Cross RediCommunities project. It will provide a snapshot of the Yackandandah community's resilience and preparedness for disaster. Twenty-three community members took part in the workshop which explored thoughts and knowledge on the towns infrastructure, both presently available and what might be needed, as well as the strengths and weaknesses in community resilience.

Results showed that community members feel well-connected, proactive and have a good sense of wellbeing. A common theme through responses was that we welcome new people and we are active in getting things done. There is also strong support for community groups, activities, outdoor and sporting activities.

There is strong trust in the quality of Yackandandah's local Emergency Services. However, there was a perception of a lack of security around the disaster prone/high fire risk areas of many dwellings.

Participants highlighted communication as an opportunity, promoting "coordinated responses" for disaster preparedness, and ensuring that there is a community level response. Results from this workshop will help guide our Resilience Project and enable our community to build resilience.

Thanks to Karen Keegan and Bill Dee for their time and effort in meeting with Mt Beauty Neighbourhood House and Indigo Shire, resilience officer, Kate O'Toole. The work that Mt Beauty NH has done, post fires in that area, gives us some valuable information for setting the direction of how the Yackandandah community prepares for and responds to an emergency. And ongoing collaboration with Kate O'Toole will ensure our work around resilience ties in with the responsibilities of the Shire and other Emergency Services.

**Defibrillator Project-** The project is well under way. The location and accessibility of existing automated external defibrillators (AED's) is now known. Working in collaboration with YCDCo committee member, Rex Little and Indigo Shire, three locations have been identified for new AED's, and stands, with the view of providing easy access from all points of the township. These locations are outside the Public Hall, outside YCC and outside the Yackandandah Pool. Council will not allow the devices to be mounted to the walls of these locations but will allow the devices to be mounted to the footpath on suitable plinths.



St John Ambulance has been determined as the most appropriate supplier of the units and stands. Present cost is \$2300 for a fully automated AED and \$730 for all-weather stand. This setup will provide good public access as well as high visibility.

YCDCo has offered to fund the purchase of three new AED's and stands, on receipt of a funding application from YCC.

Ultimately the project will ensure there are AED's readily accessible from all areas of the town. Additional work will be needed to educate the community on the location of the devices. It is envisaged that signage could be developed to promote locations of devices as well as providing information through Facebook and Yackity Yak.

Ambulance Victoria has agreed to provide education opportunities for the community, this could be another avenue for promoting the location and availability of AED's in Yack.

**Grants 2022** - 10 organisations applied for YCC Community Grants in 2022 with nine receiving funding.

A total of \$17,445 was contributed to this year's grants.

Successful applicants included

- Yack Golf Club - Tables - \$585
- Yack Community Garden - upgraded pathway - \$2460
- Osbornes Flat School - defibrillator at hall - \$3000
- Yack Riding Club - electrical upgrade - \$1650
- Yack Cricket Club - Irrigation upgrade - \$2600
- Indigo FM - computer for Yack station - \$2150
- Yack Cemetery Trust - electric Garden equipment - \$700
- Yack Historical Society - electric garden equipment - \$1800
- Yack Scouts Group - Fire pit and parade ground - \$2500

The list of grant recipients is displayed proudly in the Op Shop and on the YCC website.

This year we brought the successful organisations together for a celebration. Held at YCC the event gave us the opportunity to meet with representatives from each of the organisations, promote the broader context of the YCC Grants scheme and hear more about what each of



the groups intend to do with received funding, how it will benefit their organisation and the Yack community.

**Auspice** - The Yackandandah Women's Shed has developed into a dynamic organisation which creates fantastic opportunities for connection and skills development. A very enthusiastic committee has helped develop a broad range of workshops as well as taking on an array of projects that benefit the community. The group took over the organisation for the annual craft fair that has been run by YCC for many years. The fair, held in December, was a terrific success. With a very enthusiastic and skilled membership, YWS was able to reimagine and reinvigorate the event ensuring its ongoing success.

YWS made YCC home-base this year, using the Meeting Room regularly for meetings and activities. The group also purchased and erected a storage shed in the garden at the rear of YCC. See Appendix A for the YWS Annual Report prepared by Nicky Carr.

The Yackandandah Community Garden continues to be a valuable resource for the community, offering opportunity for connection and learning. The produce swap table continues to be very popular with the community.

**Meeting Room** - the installation of new audio-visual equipment in July gives YCC the best equipped meeting room in town. The room has seen increased usage with many community groups and private organisations making use of the increased connectivity and features to run meetings and workshops.

**Employment** - employment contracts for manager, David Thorpe, Op Shop coordinator, Sue Butler and administration assistant, Carolyn Conlan have been updated.

**Op Shop** - thanks to the efforts of Op Shop coordinator, Sue Butler and the assistance of our wonderful volunteers, sales figures are up more than \$9000 on the previous year. Op Shop profits are the basis of funds for the YCC Community Grants Program, so it is fantastic that we can continue to contribute to our community so effectively and reliably.

The contract which Indigo Shire had with the NDIS for the rent of the small meeting room finished in June. YCC share of rental income was \$728.77 per month. Expanding the Op Shop into this space has contributed to the increase in annual revenue, offsetting the loss of rental income nicely. The additional space allows us to display a greater variety of stock and give shoppers greater choice.

Thanks must go to the efforts of our Op Shop volunteers. They play a huge role in the success of the Op Shop, their dedication and connection with locals and visitors ensures the continued success of the venture.



**Solar/battery project-** Totally Renewable Yackandandah has applied for funding to provide increased solar and battery capacity for several buildings in Yackandandah, YCC is one of those buildings. If approved funding will be allocated in 2023. If successful YCC will receive about \$30,000 for the installation of a 13.26kw solar system and 16kWh storage battery. This will boost YCC's capacity as a resource for the community, giving us increased capacity to provide services in the event of an emergency or power outage.

**Alpine Valleys Alpine Valleys Community Leadership** - Disaster Recovery and Climate Change Adaptation Leadership program. YCC staff and committee members attended the first of eight sessions which will be held as part of the program. The event, held at the Old Priory in Beechworth, gave us a great introduction to the program and the other participants. Future events will include tours to other regions. Involvement in this program will build a greater awareness of key factors which will build community resilience with an eye on the future changes in the environment and will help guide development of programs and activities in the YCC Resilience Project.

**Acknowledgement of Country-** the committee has finalised an YCC Acknowledgement of Country which will be stated at the beginning of committee meetings and formal occasions. A hard copy of the document is displayed in the Op Shop, YCC foyer and Meeting Room.

**Indigo U3A-** the centre manager attended the Indigo U3A information session in January to brief attendees on the YCC/U3A collaboration. Successful outcomes from that arrangement have been an electric bike workshop, Be Connected sessions and several sessions of Gerry Engwerda's, Our World briefings, all of which have been well attended. The collaboration appears to be worthwhile for both organisations so plans are in place to expand activities. Proposed future activities include history sessions and a regular board-games session, which has proven popular in the Beechworth community.

**Newsagent board** - signage, which promotes YCC, has been designed and installed in a notice board at the front of the Yack Newsagent. Thanks to Bill Dee for approaching the new owner of the business with the idea of using the board to promote YCC. It gives us another avenue to get information to the community, especially those people who have limited access to technology and the internet.

**Air purifiers** – three air-purifiers, one each for the meeting room, op shop and the sorting room have been purchased. Total \$5115 included shipping and sufficient replacement filters to enable us to operate the units for at least 12 months before more filters are required. The units are Australian made by the InnovAir company. They have been designed for use in clinical environments, primarily for the removal of aerosol-based viral and bacterial contaminants.





**Indigo FM** – the provision of studio space continues to be a valuable asset to both organisations and the community. The station has begun trials of live streaming of its programs from the YCC studio. Once systems are in place and working well the station plans to expand the service to its stations in other towns.

## **Workshops**

**Startup Shakeup** - YCC collaborated with the Indigo Shire to conduct this 6- week course in digital literacy for small business.

**Drumming Circle** - a pilot workshop was held in December. Nine community members attended and were keen to see regular sessions take place in 2023.

**First Aid** - two accredited First Aid courses were conducted by Regional Emergency Training during 2022. These continue to be popular workshops which give community ready access to necessary qualifications.

**Appreciation** - I would like to thank the committee for their support and the work they have put into YCC during 2022. It has been a year of reconfiguring how we support our community through the implementation of the new YCC Strategic Plan.

The changes we have made to the centre will ensure that YCC is very much a place where our community connects and grows together.





## **Treasurer's report, prepared by Phil Buerckner**

I have examined the Book keepers Reports as attached and I have that they appear to be all correct. The figures show that for the year to 31st December 2022 we have made a loss of \$20,115.30. This figure reflects the amount of back pay paid to bring our managers wage into line with other Neighbourhood house Manager determinations.

The amount of funds raised by the women's shed being \$15,187.17 and the Community Garden being \$3,851.69 must be included in our operating Profit and Loss.

The true figure of our operating loss for the year ending 31/12/22 is \$31115.13.

I have prepared a budget for 2023 (excluding income and expenditure from the Community Garden and the Women's Shed). The budget figures have been calculated on 2022 figures with adjustments of 3% being made for increases in Salary and 1% Superannuation for that year.

I have reduced the anticipated sales amount from the op shop to \$45,000 (down \$5,313.21) to cover a possible reduction in sales.

It is hoped that a profit of \$6,763.11 will be made for the year ended 31st December 2023. Our spending will have to be closely monitored to realise the predicted profit.

I have also prepared a budget based on 2018 figures as the current Victorian Government has indicated in pre-Budget discussions that there may be cuts to funding for organisations such as ours. It has been suggested that funding will be similar to 2018 funding. If this is the case then the profit for the year would be \$6,054 if we reduce the amount spent on community grants to \$10,000.

Bank Balances as of the close of trade on 31st December 2022 are attached.

Our total Equity for the 2022 year is a healthy \$432,104.03 less the amount held on behalf of the women's shed which is \$12,368.63 which brings our equity back to \$419,735.40.

Our Term Deposit box has a balance of \$265,697.08, gaining 4% interest, due for release in March 2024.

Budget papers herewith for your perusal.



## 2022 Income and 2023 forecast

ITEMS	2021 Budget	2022	To 31/12	Budget 2023	Budget Based
<b>INCOME</b>					on 2018
NHC Grant	94179.0	92580.1	92580.1	92580.1	90000.0
Asset maintenance	1240.0	1240.0	1264.0	1264.0	1264.0
Micellaneous Income			629.1	629.1	0.0
Course income	200.0	2000.0	2731.8	2000.0	1000.0
Printing/ Photp Copy	500.0	1620.0	888.7	800.0	800.0
Laminating	100.0	100.0			
Projector hire	300.0				
Room rental	9084.0	4342.5	4556.9		600.0
Tea & coffee	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0
Membership	280.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Op shop sales	16000.0	45000.0	50313.2	45000.0	47000.0
Op Shop Donations			38.8		0.0
Interest received	1000.0	1950.0	612.2	2000.0	0.0
Seed Funding Concerts	4500.0	0.0			
Wage subsidy	10000.0	0.0			
Board Room Hire	500.0	360.0	211.4	250.0	250.0
Rag Sales Op Shop	300.0	130.0		130.0	130.0
<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>138283.0</b>	<b>149422.6</b>	<b>153826.2</b>	<b>144752.1</b>	<b>141044.0</b>



## 2022 Expenses

EXPENSES ITEMS	2021 Budget	2022	To 31/12	Budget 2023	Budget Based on 2018
YCC Grants	12000.0	12000.0	20304.8	12000.0	10000.0
Accountant/ Bookeeper	2800.0	2800.0	3250.0	2800.0	3000.0
Catering	500.0	500.0	1257.1	1257.0	1000.0
Cleaning	1500.0	1500.0	146.6	150.0	200.0
Compute Software			1345.4	1350.0	1350.0
Computer Repairs/Main	500.0	500.0	75.0	100.0	200.0
Course expenditure	500.0	500.0	2670.9	2000.0	1000.0
Depreciation					
Op Shop Tip Fees	600.0	300.0		200.0	0.0
Op Shop Expenses	1400.0	1000.0	539.8	600.0	300.0
Insurance	800.0	1500.0	1963.6	2000.0	2000.0
Marketing Web Site Pub	400.0	450.0	163.6	180.0	180.0
Advertising	400.0	500.0	619.4	600.0	600.0
Centre Open Days			239.6		
Legal fees	350.0	300.0			
Internet Web Host		181.6	181.6	190.0	200.0
Internet Costs	560.0	750.2	750.2	800.0	800.0
Music			207.1		
Maintenance	750.0	1000.0	962.5	1000.0	1000.0
Office Stationary	2200.0	2500.0	760.4	800.0	800.0
Photocopier	728.0	728.0	728.7		300.0
Postage	300.0	300.0	109.9	150.0	150.0
Printing costs	800.0	850.0	12.1	50.0	100.0
Membership/Subs		1108.6	1108.6	1110.0	1110.0
Miscellaneous Expenses	430.0	430.0	511.4	600.0	500.0
Professional dev	600.0	650.0			500.0
Staff Amenities	1000.0	1000.0	957.3	1000.0	1000.0
Superannuation Expense	8400.0	8600.0	12632.7	12800.0	12000.0
Work Cover	424.0	485.0	563.5	600.0	600.0
Wages & Salaries	84000.0	86000.0	127147.8	94000.0	94000.0
Electricity	1000.0	900.0			
Conference exp	1000.0	500.0		500.0	500.0
Seed Expenses	600.0	500.0			
Telephone	600.0	1152.0	1152.7	1152.0	1150.0
Tutors	1700.0	1800.0			
Annual Totals					
	125842.0	147357.0	159532.4	137989.0	134540.0
Budgeted Profit/loss					
Total Expenditure	125842.0	121300.0	159532.4	137989.0	134540.0
Total income	138283.0	149422.6	153826.2	144752.1	141044.0
Total Profit/Loss	12441.0	28122.6	-5706.3	6763.1	6504.0



## APPENDIX A –

### **Yackandandah Women's Shed Annual Report, prepared by Nicky Carr**

It is with pleasure that I can report on the following activities undertaken by the Yackandandah Women's Shed members, from our last report in August 2022 to the current date, 12 t h April 2023.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Current financial members total 42, representing a net decrease since the last report. Our renewal for subs fell due in January and it was noted that 25 existing members did not renew. This represents a substantial loss of existing members, and as a result those members who did not renew will be asked to complete a short exit survey to help us determine how we can meet the needs of all members into the future. Despite the net loss, we still attracted 7 new members this year to date.

Our Yackandandah Women's Shed Facebook site has 337 members, an increase of 79 members from the last report. A challenge for the Women's Shed is to translate Facebook members into financial members.

#### SHED ACHIEVEMENTS

- For the second year in a row the Women's Shed organised the Christmas Fun Fair in the memorial gardens. It was estimated that over 1500 people attended the Fair, taking advantage of the goods offered by 32 stall holders. Funding was secured from the Indigo Shire Community Events Grant program to support the Fair, specifically to support the costs of providing the popular children's activities. Extremely positive feedback was received about the quality and variety of market stalls and the positive community feel provided.
- We established a dynamic, informative website for The Women's Shed at [yackwomensshed.org](http://yackwomensshed.org) which is updated monthly. The site features a News section which documents Women's Shed activities, as well as information about forthcoming workshops and social events, as well as sections about the Women's Shed and its purpose and membership application area. We continue to communicate with our members via our Facebook page and emails to our members.
- In 2022 we started organising more social events – morning coffee and cake sessions locally in Yackandandah as well as lunch outings to Myrtleford. These events proved to be valuable social outings for some of our more socially isolated members.



- The YWS coordinated the collection of goods as part of the Albury Wodonga Women's Centre for Health and Wellbeing clothing and toiletries drive to support victims of domestic violence. We had an overwhelming level of support from the local community and were able to donate a considerable quantity of goods to support this cause.
- Bunnings donated a selection of protective gear to our Women Shed early in April - disposable ear plugs and ear muffs, gloves, protective face masks, eye protection for those who do and don't wear glasses. This collection has been added to our existing collection of donated tools.
- We completed the installation of a small storage shed on the grounds of the YCC building, with support from the Indigo Shire (which owns the land) and the YCC which helped us order the shed. Members and their partners erected the shed. It is now used to store many of the craft supplies used frequently by the YWS members, as well as decorations we have created for various community events, BBQ supplies and donated materials.
- In mid 2022 the YWS relocated its main activities to the YCC building in the heart of Yackandandah. This has been a highly positive move and we are grateful to the YCC for the use of their space to house our craft activities. However, it is not a suitable location for some of our 'messier' activities and work continued throughout 2022 to secure a medium-term solution for where to store our substantial tool collection.
- Fundraising: We continue to fundraise by performing activities such as the Lions BBQ, and a Bunning's BBQ. We have also ventured into catering for morning and afternoon teas for events organised by Arts Yack, such as the ANZAC Day Singalong, the drama production and the Christmas Singalong. We also catered for the YCC/Red Cross initial resilience meeting.
- The Women's Shed held a stall at the Yackandandah Community Comeback event in February 2022. Interest in the stall was strong and we generated 12 membership enquiries on the day.
- We continued to offer regular meet up sessions at the YCC rooms on the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month. These sessions are not highly attended, however for the members who do attend they prove of immense value. For some of our members, these get togethers provide an important opportunity to connect with other women in the community. For some, this is the only social interactions they have with members of the community. These sessions also provide opportunities for members to work on community projects together, such as creating poppies, decorations for Arts Yack events etc.



Looking forward the following activities have been planned for 2023:

#### Community projects

- Remembrance Day poppies. Following on from the success of the poppies project in 2022, the Women's Shed once again will be busy creating poppies (knitted and crocheted) in time for Remembrance Day in November. This year's poppies will create a field of poppies.
- Dignity Bibs. If Yack Health agree, we plan to sew dignity bibs for the residents at Yack Health
- Boomerang Bags. We have commenced making Boomerang Bags for the local supermarket and other retail outlets in Yackandandah, using much of the donated fabrics we have received.
- PADSIP – Members of the Women's Shed have been active in the design and will be involved in the implementation of this multi-generational digital storytelling project

#### WORKSHOPS

Workshops in 2022 included the following.

- Working with Tools (x 3 workshops, x 2 groups, 14 members)
- Wet Felting (x 2 workshops, 10 participants)
- Mandala (x 2 workshops, 12 participants)
- Ceramics (x 3 workshops, 5 participants)
- Basket weaving (x 1 workshop, 6 participants)

Workshops planned to date for 2023 include

- Ceramics
- Mandala
- Worm farming
- Introduction to drawing
- Basket weaving
- Working with tools
- Wood carving

The YWS has moved to an interest group model, with groups meeting regularly to pursue common interests. Interest groups for 2023 include Mandala, Mosaics, Woodworking and Ceramics. Basket weaving is likely to form another interest group. Whilst not formal workshops, these sessions provide opportunities for members to share their skills and knowledge with each other.



End of report.