

The NLCH ukulele group is expanding artistically and trying on new approaches

The Community House Ukulele Group is one of the oldest running groups the House has seen. Although numbers have fluctuated over the years, an enthusiastic core group of people have always met up on Wednesday mornings at 9.00am to practice, play, sing and enjoy a cuppa together. Now, the classic and friendly group have decided to branch out and bravely try new approaches. Previously, the group has mainly included ukuleles, but are now hoping to welcome all sorts of different instruments, becoming more of a general music group. It's a fun experiment including not just other instruments but also new songs.

If you think this is something you would be interested in, please stop by the House on any Wednesday morning or contact group leader Robyn Northey on phone number 0458 147 333, or email: robynalice2004@yahoo.com.au.

If you are keen to learn how to play the ukulele but don't know how to, that's no hindrance either as beginners are offered a one on one tuition! In other words: there's nothing stopping you, come and join in on the fun!



Some of the happy Ukulele members! The group meets every Wednesday morning at the House, 9.00am. All are welcome!

Nagambie Lakes Community House Inc.

7 Prentice St. Nagambie, VIC 3608

Email: nlchouse32@gmail.com Phone: 03-5794 1487

Open weekdays between 10.00am and 3.00pm

Upcoming events

International Women's Day Breakfast

As previously announced, Strathbogie Shire Mayor Amanda McClaren will be speaking at the International Women's Day breakfast 2020. We can now also confirm the location for the breakfast, which will be Zephyrz Restaurant in Nagambie.

To book your ticket, please come see Anna at the House or pay straight into our bank account, please mark your payment "IWD Breakfast."

Menue

Fruit platter on arrival, followed by choice of:

- Eggs on Sourdough / Poached / Bacon **or**
- Corn Toast / Smashed Avocado / Tomato Salsa / Feta **or**
- Baked Swiss Brown Mushroom / Scrambled Eggs / Sautéed Spinach / Hash Brown (Gluten Free)

Friday 6th of March 2020, 8.00am

Zephyrz, Nagambie

BSB: 633 108

Account number: 163 305 592

Account Name: Nagambie Lakes Community House

Price: \$20 per person (does not include drinks.)



Community Pizza Night 6th of March

One of the most appreciated events during the NOW festival is the Community Pizza Night. Traditionally, it's been the local Tennis Club who arranges it, but this year they have kindly declined the task. The Community House has therefore been approached with the question if we would like to pick up the fallen mantle piece and our committee has gladly accepted.

Now, as some of you might already know, this is a huge undertaking which will require

all hands on deck with people helping making the pizzas, handling the oven, cutting pizzas, selling sodas etc. If you feel like this is something you would like to help with, please contact Anna.

The Youth Hub will also be setting up for a Block Party kind of experience with inflatable jumping castles etc, so we are hoping the evening will provide yet another great opportunity for people to learn about the Community House, who we are and what we do.



Photo: Judy Hoffman

Upcoming events

Welcome Group

Greetings,

Welcome everyone – we are looking forward to another happy and successful year for the Welcome Group. Our first event for 2020 is dinner at Chinaman's Bridge cafe.

From the venue's promo brochure: Located in a natural bush setting the café is nestled amongst magnificent river red gums on the bank of the Goulburn river, its two-level deck is literally right on the water. The cafe specialises in wholesome gourmet food taking advantage of locally grown produce.

Date: Monday 24th February

Time: 5.30 for 6pm – come along early to mingle and enjoy a drink in the beautiful setting.

Venue: Chinaman's Bridge Cafe within Nagambie Lakes Leisure Park

Address: 69 Loddings Lane (RH turn off Vickers Road), Nagambie.

Transport: Private vehicle

Car pool: Available – please advise when booking if you need a ride to the venue

Parking: On site with a short walk to the cafe

Menu: Rosie, the chef at the cafe, has asked that you make a prior selection from the following menu:

Main course

- Warm lamb salad
- Flathead tails served with salad and chips

Dessert

- Mini pavs with mixed berries and cream
- Fresh fruit salad with vanilla ice cream

Please let me know your selection when you make your booking. Thank you. If you have special dietary requirements (coeliac, vegetarian, etc) please let me know when you book.

Cost: \$25 per person. Please pay cafe staff on arrival and have your name checked off the list.
Community house fee: \$2.00 per person.

Name tags: Provided, collect on arrival.

Licensed: Yes, drinks at bar prices.

Disability access: There is a ramp with a single step to access ramp.

Toilet: Yes

Booking: Please, to Jeanette no later than Monday 17th February to jmurray771@bigpond.com or 5794 2115.

We encourage people during the meal, between courses, to move around and sit with different people as a way of getting to know each other. We conduct a small raffle at each Welcome Group event. It is free, the tickets are distributed and the raffle is drawn during the event. We ask the winner to provide inside a small prize (less than \$10.00) for the following month. If someone's name is drawn out more than once in the current year the raffle will be redrawn.

NEWCOMERS Please keep your eye out and invite any newcomers whom you think would like to come along and meet some new people in a friendly and informal setting. Also you are welcome to bring along friends, family and/or neighbours.

See you soon,
Jeanette Murray

Upcoming events

Coffin Club - Expressions of interest

A little while ago a lovely NLCH member sent coordinator Anna a BBC video clip featuring a group on New Zealand called **The Coffin Club**. It's made up of a group of people who get together every week to make their own coffins. It's an idea that's spread around the world, with coffin clubs springing up across the UK, the US and other countries beyond.

The member asked if this was something the Community House would consider facilitating. The committee will meet to discuss this

wonderfully morbid concept at their next committee meeting which is set to take place on the 19th of February. However, if you think this is a particularly interesting idea you wouldn't mind exploring, please let Anna know so she can pass it along to the discussions on the 19th.

If you are interested in checking out the BBC clip, which is also where the pictures are taken from, please go to: www.bbc.com/news/av/world-51110266/the-coffin-club-people-meeting-to-make-their-own-coffins



This lady obviously loves cats, so she's decorated her coffin accordingly.



This gentleman's great passion is car racing, so he made a checker coffin.

Boomerang Bags are Back

Got no plans for Valentines Day? No problem! Drop by the Community House for this year's very first Boomerang Bag workshop, 14th of February, 9.30am - 12.30. The next one after that will be Monday the 24th of February 6.30pm - 9.30 pm.

It doesn't matter if you know how to sew or not, you can come and cut and iron and just spread some love and joy!

For any questions, please contact Group leader Moya Stewart on 0425 - 796 297 or boomerangbagsnagambie@gmail.com.



Upcoming events

Walking Group

First walk of the year is just around the corner!

Our first walk for 2020 will be the last Friday in February, which is the 28th.

Historically the first walk of the year is a Nagambie town walk; someone who was born in Nagambie, tells us stories as we walk. Ailee Mc Donald, an octogenarian who was born at Kirwans Bridge and lived in Nagambie, was our 2019 guide and spruiker. She did a wonderful job and we did so enjoy her stories!

To ensure everyone has the opportunity of inputting where we walk this year, you can send me an email. What places you would like to visit, if you're prepared to guide a walk, how far

you like to walk or how far you prefer to travel from Nagambie before we walk, walks you'd like repeated etc.

Other suggestions have been a weekend walk at Cape Schank/Port Nepean/Cranbourne Botanic Gardens and another suggestion was Sherbrooke Forest on Mt. Dandenong!? Another was a family walk during a weekend or school holidays.

So please, email me your comments at mason.wendy.m@gmail.com

Cheers Wendy Mason



Writing Group

Next week is our first formal meeting for 2020 - Tuesday 11th Feb, 10.00 - 12.00 at the Community House. Arrive a bit earlier if you would like to make a cuppa or have a chat.

The topic set for this month was 'The Next Big Thing'.

Also, I would appreciate it if everyone had a think about things they would like to do in the group this year. If everyone

could email me just one idea for an exercise we could do, that would be great.

Looking forward to hearing your ideas!

Vonnie Deering

Reports and Recaps

Belle Miners Vocal and Songwriting Workshop

After having held a much appreciated concert at Le Penelope's, the trio group Belle Miners offered to arrange a vocal and songwriting workshop at the Community House. A small group of seven people, including both Community House veterans and first timers, showed up to participate and learn from the best.

Afterwards, the feedback was very positive: "Inspiring!", "Awesome!" and "Brilliant" was some of the comments from those who attended. What a lovely opportunity for our small town!



Tow n Yarn planning their next adventure



The Tow 'n' Yarn group always attracts an enthusiastic number of people ready to plan their next camping adventure.

On Thursday the 6th of February they met up at the House to discuss where their March adventure should take them. After some discussions, the group decided on Bright,

partly to support an area that's been affected by the fires. If you are keen to join in on the fun, don't hesitate to contact Max Dunstone on phone number 03 5794 1868.

The dates for the next camping trip will be **11th - 17th of March**. Everyone is welcome!

Community House

Art Group

Meets Saturdays at Nagambie Primary School Art Room. From 1.00pm - 4.00pm. Contact: Valma Crerar, nlchouse32@gmail.com, 5794 1631.

Better Ageing In 2020 the Better Ageing Podcast sessions will combine with the Computer Group. Come to the Community House and listen to 30 minute talks/podcasts on all things related to living better as we age. Contact: Sally Fyfield, 0408 141 969 or srfyfield@bigpond.com

Boomerang Bags

Meets every second Friday morning (9.30am - 12.30pm) and every fourth Monday evening (6.30pm - 9.30pm) of the month. 14th of February 9.30am, and 24th of February 6.30pm. Contact: Moya Stewart, 0425 - 796 297 or boomerangbagsnagambie@gmail.com

Breast Cancer

Support group The Group meets regularly at the Community House. Contact Di Proud: 5794 1520.

Chess/Games Group

Meets Mondays after Garden Group. Please book in first! Contact Mike Thomas: 0438 180 163 or michaelthomas12@bigpond.com

Computer Group

Computer group will run the first and third Friday of the month, 10.00am - 12.00pm, except during school holidays. Just arrive with your laptop or device. Contact Sally Fyfield: 0408 141 969 or srfyfield@bigpond.com

Craft Group

Meets Mondays, 10:00am - 12:00pm. Contact Beryl Dukes: 5794 2829 or bgdukes@bigpond.com

Garden Group

Meets Mondays between 10.00am and 12.00. Contact Mike Thomas for more information 0438 180 163 or michaelthomas12@bigpond.com

groups to join

Matildas

The next outing will be to see the ballet Sleeping Beauty. 23rd of April, 7.30pm at Riverlinks Westside, Mooroopna. Contact: Anna Close, 0437 347 203 or coordinatornlch@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Next meeting 29th of March, 12.00pm. Contact: Jana, pprygodicz@gmail.com

Patchwork and Quilting

Meets Thursdays at the Tennis Club rooms. 10:00am - 3:00pm. Contact: Pat Moroney, gmoroney3@bigpond.com

Photography Group

More information to follow. Contact: Judy Hoffman: 0427 973 228 or judyhoff@bigpond.com

Shared Table

Meets every third Wednesday evening of the month, sharing a theme inspired meal. Contact: Elizabeth Branagan, emmeng@hotmail.com

Tow 'n' Yarn

Next camp will go to Bright. 11th - 17th of March. For anyone interested in camping and good company. Contact Max Dunstone: 5794 1868.

Ukulele Group

Meets Wednesday mornings at 9.00am at the Community House. Contact Robyn Northey: robynalice2004@yahoo.com.au

Walking Group

First 2020 walk will be on the 28th of February. (Local Nagambie Walk.) Meet 8.30am at the House. Contact: Wendy Mason, mason.wendy.m@gmail.com.

Welcome Group

Next meeting on the 24th of February at Chinaman's Bridge Cafe. Contact Jeanette: 5794 2115 or jmmurray771@bigpond.com

Writing Group

Meets every second Tuesday of the Month. First 2020 get together is on the 11th of February. 10:00am - 12.00pm. Contact Vonnie Deering: vonnie.deering@bigpond.com

From the Coordinator's desk

Have you ever thought about how you greet people? If you shake someone's hand and say your name, or perhaps do an elegant wave, like the Queen, followed by an informal "howyadoin?" A little while back, this seemingly harmless topic caused a massive debate on the Swedish public arena. You see, a Muslim lady had been fired from her job for refusing to shake the hand of a person of the opposite sex. (Instead she had opted to look the person in the eye and place her hand on her heart, as was her custom.) In Sweden, the whole hand shaking procedure is considered pretty standard, and some argued that regardless of this woman's faith, she needed to adjust to what was the social norm of the society she was living in.

I followed the debate from a bit of a distance, but couldn't help but find it a bit surreal. Since I was 19 and first moved to Africa, I have had the privilege of living, and travelling in many different countries. I've encountered so many different people, cultures, religions and ways of life it's difficult to even keep track. In the old town of Jerusalem I was demonstratively ignored by the orthodox Jewish men who turned their faces away from me when we walked past each other on the street. In downtown Los Angeles, the Hispanic and African-American population used to greet me with either a fist bump or a laid back "Hola chica, que paso?" ('Hello girl, what's up?') To which I responded: "De nada", (Nothing much). In Nagambie on the other hand, a greeting is rarely just a simple 'hello' but quite often also a chat about how the kids are doing, how my house is coming along and what Christmas was like. When I've gone out for a bite to eat with my Swedish Muslim friends, they've often worn a hijab and made sure there's no pork in their food. Times I've joined my Catholic friends for mass, I have not been allowed to partake in communion, being protestant and all...

And you know what, I think all this is perfectly fine. I love how we are different, have different traditions and cultural preferences and the simple fact people do things differently to me does not make me feel discriminated against or threatened. Living back home, I never got offended by immigrants not knowing how to speak my native tongue, instead I simply admired anyone who dared trying. (Including my very own dear husband, bless his

heart!) When I studied theology I remember having a lengthy discussion with a friend of mine on whether or not Muslims should be allowed to build mosques and make calls to prayer. She argued "absolutely not", as this was not part of Swedish tradition. I just couldn't seem to figure out why she at the same time would demand and expect traditionally Muslim or Hindu countries to allow Christian missionaries to build churches and preach the gospel...

Contrary to what some of you may now think, I too have personal convictions. There are certain truths I believe are irrefutable, but perhaps that's also the reason it is so seemingly easy for me to respect the fact that others do to? Or to quote Rick Warren: "Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate."

I so like that: "You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate." And if I may add: You don't have to compromise convictions to respect other people's differences or belief systems. Or like I heard someone explain it a long time ago: the only time you see fields of same coloured tulips is if nature's been manipulated by humans; on its own, nature is colourful, different, wild and free.

Alas, if I could wish anything for you all today, it would be the inner assurance that you can be just as different, colourful, wild and free as you like to be

***At your service,
Anna Close***

