

*Nagambie's very own singing group is coming in under the Community House Umbrella*

## WELCOME LARKS!



The Lakeside Larks is a beloved Nagambie inventory. Like the Black Caviar Statue, the water tower, Harry's cafe or the NOW festival. The friendly musical group, who has been singing up a storm for fourteen years, can be

seen at a number of different spots during the course of a year. (During non-pandemic times of course.) Some of the places they've performed are the Nagambie HealthCare, the Christmas Carols, the Top Pub for different fundraisers,

funerals and festivals. Now, the Community House has the great privilege of welcoming the group to our family. As we open up the doors to our new home on High Street, the Larks will officially be one of us.

*Continues on page 2.*

Nagambie Lakes Community House Inc.

7 Prentice St. Nagambie, VIC 3608

Email: [nlchouse32@gmail.com](mailto:nlchouse32@gmail.com) Phone: 0437 - 347 203 (Anna's phone)

Open weekdays between 10.00am and 3.00pm - Except during pandemics

Website: [nagambielakescommunityhouse.org](http://nagambielakescommunityhouse.org)

## Continuing from page 1.

On the first day of Step Three's eased restrictions, I meet up with group leader Wendy Mason at the Foxhole. I have heaps of questions, but as always, Wendy comes well prepared. She starts by telling me how the group was instigated by community volunteer extraordinaire Julie Price. "Julie is a true muse! She loves anything and everything

musical! She has a great personality, loves people and is very compassionate, but she is also cheeky and comes with a wicked sense of humour!" Wendy says.

As Julie herself both sings, plays and writes music she also had a great influence over the group. Her eclectic taste in music made for a diverse repertoire,

so when Julie decided to move to the Northern Territory back in 2016, the group wasn't quite sure how to fill her shoes. "In the end, a group of us decided to take on the informal leadership of the Larks", Wendy explains. "Russell Turner was always a huge part of the group, playing guitar, singing. Gaye Bond, Chris Ellis-Baker and I joined in as well, and lately we've been



**Why *The Larks*?** "That was a Julie's name and I'm assuming we lark around, and we sing like larks!"



joined by Sally Fyfield who can play the piano and guitar as well. We often have some ukulele players and Richard, who plays the mandolin."

Normally, the group gathers between ten and twenty people for their weekly rehearsals but there is no pressure to be there every week. "We sing words, not music, as very few can read music. So, we learn by listening to something a number of times." This approach also lowers the threshold for who is able to join the Larks. "We have had teenagers to 90 year olds", Wendy says, "so literally

everyone is welcome!"

The group not only sings a wide repertoire of songs, including folk music, country, jazz, ballads, pop, gospel and Gilbert n Sullivan, they also perform at a wide variety of places. "We regularly go to the Nagambie hostel, Wendy starts out, "and once we even visited the Kilmore Hostel, as one of our members was temporarily staying there. We also do the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal at the Top Pub, ANZAC Day commemorations at the Mechanics Hall and afterwards at the RSL. Then there's

funerals, Christmas Events, Cup Day celebrations, St. Patrick's Day and the NOW festival." The Larks are indeed a busy, and much appreciated singing group!

One of Wendy's favourite memories and performances however, took place at Colbinabbin and (secretly and discreetly) went under the headline 'Combat of the Choirs.' At the start of 2019, Julie Price was back in Victoria and was managing the Colbinabbin Country Hotel. Of course, it didn't take her long before she had also

*Continues on page 3.*

## Continuing from page 2.

started a singing group. The two groups soon decided to meet and although it wasn't so much a choir combat as a sing-a-long, the event went incredibly well. The Larks filled up a whole bus of excited Nagambie folks who sang all the way as they travelled the small country roads to Colbinabbin. When the group arrived, Julie had prepared a whole smorgasbord which they

enjoyed as well. "It was such a great event and it was fun just having an audience!" Wendy remembers.

Before I let Wendy go, I ask her what she wishes and hopes for in the future. "I hope we continue to enjoy it!" She starts out. "In terms of being in that leadership group, it's about making sure you cater for everyone's style of music and I

hope we'll be introducing new stuff as well. It's good to listen to other types of music that you might not normally listen to... We've also been doing a bit of harmony the last couple of years so it would be wonderful to expand on that. And to have fun and enjoy each other's company!

Welcome Larks! We can't wait to listen to you sing!

### **INTERESTED IN JOINING THE LARKS?**

**CONTACT WENDY MASON ON PHONE NUMBER 0438 231 285, OR EMAIL: MASON.WENDY.M@GMAIL.COM.**

## Member contributions

### HERE ARE THE ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S TOWN QUIZ BY ROBYN NORTHEY

1. Fairly cold, oh, oh, idiot -
2. Chanced on young bovine. -
3. Toffee nose's water way -
4. In my mouth -
5. Closing up, 2.240lb -
6. Blushing levee -
7. Mr Hood & child -
8. Dance a vermin -
9. You are not right mum -
10. Home for the aching -
11. Open your eyes -
12. Plenty of men -
13. Not stolen -
14. Tired insect -
15. Happy tree -

**Koolonong  
Metcalf  
Snobs creek  
Metung  
Lockington  
Red Bank  
Robinson  
Ballarat  
Marong  
Paynesville  
Seymour  
Mangalore  
Boort  
Werribee  
Merrigum**

16. Bought poultry -
17. Ugly duck on the rise -
18. Nothing at all -
19. Observe water -
20. Part of a hat -

**Byaduck  
Swan Hill  
Nhill  
Sea Lake  
Brim**

**THANK YOU  
ROBYN FOR THAT  
BRAIN TWISTER!**





# 2020 Zoom AGM

It's rather mind-blowing to think that at our 2019 Annual General Meeting, we had absolutely no idea what the future would hold. We didn't know about lockdowns, we didn't know about face masks and we certainly didn't know a global pandemic would change the whole world and everything in it. Neither could we possibly have imagined that our 2020 Annual General Meeting would be held via an online platform called "Zoom". But here we are...

On the 16th of September, at least 36 members showed up to participate in our NLCH AGM via Zoom and YouTube, as well as representatives from the Shire and the Department of Health and Human Services. Our wonderful president Wendy Keenan read her report about the year that was and our ever clever treasurer Carmel Sidebottom reported on our financial situation.

Thanks to computer wiz and technical mastermind Sally Fyfield, we were able to conduct an online voting system, which saw the 2019 committee get re-elected for one more year. This decision was preceded by a change of the constitution which enabled the current executives to remain in their roles. After three years you are normally expected to resign but due to the general uncertainty in the world, and our upcoming move, a proposition had been



*Screenshot of some of the participants of the 2020 AGM.*

made to postpone this change till 2021.

This means, the 2020 NLCH committee looks as follows:

**Wendy Keenan, President**

**Edna James, Vice President**

**Sally Fyfield, Secretary**

**Carmel Sidebottom, Treasurer**

**Gaye Bond**

**Robert Arnold**

**Des Mason**

**Anne Turville**

**Nicola McKeown**

**Robyn Northey**

To find out more about our awesome committee members and what they want to do in their roles, please check out our small Q&A in this newsletter!

## **AGM Guest speaker**

Rhonda Robinson, who is chair person of the Presbytery Restoration committee spoke

about the beautiful 144 year old building which will soon become home to the NLCH. She shared that the building from now on will be called Kern's Centre, after the much loved first priest of the Parish who also instigated the build.

The restoration committee have undertaken an absolutely amazing task, saving the house from demolition. The renovations have all been in keeping with the architecture and era of the house, including renovations of ceiling roses, cornishes and floor boards. Today, the inside of the old Presbytery shines in all its former glory and some, as a brand new kitchen has also been installed.

The next step for the ambitious restoration committee is to start tackling the outside of the building.

# 2020 Zoom AGM

Rhonda continued to share with the captivated audience that the old presbytery was built in 1881 for around 800 - 1000 pounds, and to even think such an iconic building wouldn't be standing today if it weren't for this dedicated group! Rhonda Robinson,

like previously mentioned, has been the chairperson, and some additional people on the committee have been Terry O'Dwyer, Sissy Hoskins and Chrissy Beresford, just to mention a few.

Rhonda's speech has since the

AGM been accessible via our very own YouTube channel, set up by secretary Sally Fyfield. It has currently had 47 views and if you are interested you can still check it out on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNXubyE3a0E>



*Presbytery and St.Malachy's Roman Catholic Church, c1920's*

## **A new future and a new home**

Ever since the start of the pandemic lockdown, the Community House executives have worked tirelessly to secure a new home for our extended family. Today we feel incredibly

grateful and happy this will now be at the former Presbytery, from here on referred to as *Kearns Centre*. There has been quite a few practical details to work out, but Rhonda and her committee have been nothing

but absolutely amazing in helping us, supporting us and cheering us on. We feel privileged to be part of the history **and** the future of Nagambie.

# Get to know your committee

**M**any of you may already know most of the committee members who lead our wonderful organisation throughout the year, then again, some of you may not! Even if you do go **way back**; grew up on the same street and went to school together, you might not fully know them in their Community House roles. Well, here's to trying to change all that! Below are their answers to four different questions:

- 1. What is your name and favourite drink?*
- 2. What is your vision or dream for the future of the Community House?*
- 3. What interests or passions do you bring to the committee and its work?*
- 4. How would you like to contribute to the future of the Community House?*



**WENDY KEENAN**  
**PRESIDENT**

- 1.** Beryl Sparkles (Vodka infused raspberries topped up with sparkling wine)
- 2.** My vision for the House is to see it continue to grow in its beautiful new home, building on the commitment of the many volunteers to date, and being of service to people of all ages through group activities, learning opportunities and enjoyable events.
- 3.** I am interested in people and this welcoming community of Nagambie. I have a passion for justice, equality of opportunity, inclusion, community involvement and hope these and a willingness to listen have been of use to the committee. I also have a passion for languages.... and getting rid of apostrophes where there shouldn't be one!!!
- 4.** When my time as President is over, I will retire from the committee leaving clear air for my successor. However I intend to maintain close contact with the House, being of service wherever I can and enjoying group activities and events. I would miss Anna, my friends on the committee and everyone if I didn't!



**EDNA JAMES**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**

- 1.** Lemon, lime and bitters.
- 2.** Community House to continue growing and being a welcoming place for all to meet and learn.
- 3.** Finding new and challenging craft ideas to share.
- 4.** Being available to participate positively in whatever we are doing.



# Get to know your committee



**CARMEL SIDEBOTTOM**  
**TREASURER**

1. Water plus a wine now and then.
2. The future of NLCH is looking strong with our membership base increasing significantly with the arrival of our co-ordinator Anna Close.
3. My interests are mainly to do with the financial wellbeing of the house, I also try to have a positive input to the many varied ideas floated by the committee on future activities.
4. I would like to think that I will continue in some form to assist with the running of the Community House and I am very excited with the move to the new building which will give us greater opportunities to create even more programs and activities.



**SALLY FYFIELD**  
**SECRETARY**

1. Water
2. I'd like our new House to be a beautiful, historical place where people feel welcome and want to invite their friends to come and share the friendship, the new surrounds and the activities we offer.
3. My interests relate to IT and sharing this with others who might need a hand.
4. I look forward to helping our Community House become an even bigger part of the wonderful town of Nagambie.



**BOB ARNOLD**  
**COMMITTEE MEMBER**

My name is Bob Arnold and my favourite drinks are coffee & red wine. I am a very keen Australian Rules Football follower, in particular a Geelong Cats supporter. I have attended all their grand final appearances from 1963.

My other major interests are gardening, walking, fishing, kayaking and bird watching.

Since retiring and after being an active Rotarian for 20 years, I now feel the need to be once again involved in Community life.

I am very excited about the potential of our new Community House premises and look forward to having a positive impact into the establishment set-up and its ongoing future development and Inevitable success.

# Get to know your committee



**GAYE BOND**  
**COMMITTEE MEMBER**

As I sip on my Baileys, I consider what an exciting time it is to be on the NLCH committee as we commence moving into our new home, the Kearns Centre. Previous committees have done an outstanding job getting the NLCH to where it is today!

In our new, larger abode, I see the possibilities as endless as we can have many new and existing groups meeting at the same time. My vision for NLCH in the future is to expand further to cater for more diverse age groups and interests. Some ideas could include short courses for adults, after school activities for children, cooking classes for all ages, more music groups, morning tea fundraisers, link up with GVH to support where needed. I'm happy to assist in any way. I'm needed. Being more of a "hands on" person, (I'm not a fan of meetings which I endure) I'd rather help out at BBQ's, Christmas wreath making etc.

I encourage anyone with new ideas for NLCH to discuss them with me or other committee members in the spirit of further sharing friendship, knowledge and skills.



**DES MASON**  
**COMMITTEE MEMBER**

1. I'm a beer drinker I suppose with an occasional wine.
2. To make it a purposeful place for the community to use. To assist the community in any way.
3. Problems! Nah, Wendy always says if someone says yes, I say no. Jokes aside, I suppose I always try to look at the opposite sides of things. It's not necessarily that I don't agree, but I just think it's important to consider all aspects. I'm not really the administrative type, I'm more hands on, a heavy load worker. Like recently, when Bob (Arnold) and I went and cleaned up all that overgrown wisteria at the Old Presbytery.
4. I would like to contribute constructively. To alongside others create a place where people want to come and can get the maximum benefit from all that the Community House offers. For people to enjoy the fruits of the labour.



Robyn relaxing on her  
and Bill's mini holiday in  
Clunes

**ROBYN NORTHEY**  
**COMMITTEE MEMBER**

1. A drop or two of Sauvignon Blanc, in moderation of course!
2. To see it grow from strength to strength as it has in the past 12 months. To be a venue for government departments such as Centrelink/Medicare etc. plus domestic violence counselors and other agencies.
3. Representing the interests of the groups I am involved in such as the garden group and ukulele family.
4. Be involved in decision making about the new venue (Presbytery), minor role as a committee member and assist with the moving process when it finally happens. Seeing our Community House grow from strength to strength in the coming years!



# Get to know your committee



**NICOLA MCKEOWN**  
**COMMITTEE MEMBER**

1. Good coffee in the morning, After hours – Tar & Roses Pinot Grigio
2. To host a range of groups and events which represent the diversity of our community and their interests. Access for all, a welcoming environment, and a health promoting environment.
3. Health promotion, a love of locally grown, organic food, and improved access to inclusive physical activity options for all. Connection with and improved access/use of the beautiful natural environment of Nagambie and surrounds.
4. New ideas and energy...



**ANNE TURVILLE**  
**COMMITTEE MEMBER**

1. I do like a Brandy and ginger ale.
2. I would like to see an increased number of members and also more diversity in what we offer; to listen to what people need and want. I would also like to help inject some enthusiasm within the groups we already have; strengthening them and increase their numbers. This can be done by word of mouth and by just inviting people to come along.
3. I like to consider different aspects and consequences of a decision, like risk and accessibility for instance. I also think it is important to “keep things rolling” and strengthening the groups and activities which are already in place. I don’t mind helping out with different events such as the pizza nights or the wreath making workshop.
4. So many of the activities we have are terrific, therefore I would like to encourage members to explore other areas or groups of the house which they might not yet have been in contact with. I would like for both leaders and members to just check different groups out and ask others to join. Some people might feel hesitant responding to just an email invitation, but if we ask someone, “hey, I’m going there next Saturday, want to come with me? I can pick you up,” there is a much greater chance that they will do so. We need to personalise it and sometimes that simply means having someone to go with and to nurture them through the night. In other words, when you bring someone, introduce them to other people and make sure they are comfortable.

**A BIG ‘THANK YOU’ TO OUR AMAZING COMMITTEE AND ALL THEY DO TO KEEP THE OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE RUNNING SMOOTHLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!**



# A blast from the past

## Nagambie Hub - New Community Centre

by Diane Grant

*In many country communities the local community house is a Hub or centre for community happenings to branch out from. Many Community Centres or Neighbourhood Houses offer a wide variety of interesting courses, social get togethers, and networking in small communities.*

Nagambie over the past year has seen the establishment of the Hub-the Nagambie Lakes Community House. A band of hard working folk got together and created an integral group from which volunteer people have formed a committee, and offer many interests for locals to learn, enjoy, and to share in. The Hub has begun its humble beginnings in the old Nagambie Maternal and Child Health Centre (M&CHC) building in Prentice Street, Nagambie. The Hub was fortunate to obtain some furniture and equipment from the Euroa Community Education Centre and Kyabram Community Learning Centre to start their operation.

At present the old M&CHC building is undergoing renovations to make it accessible for wheelchairs and disabled patrons, and upgrading some of its facilities. So for the next few weeks, the Hub meetings and courses are meeting at the Nagambie Library. The Hub community house received a grant from the Strathbogie Shire Council and this will enable them to upgrade their equipment so they can have their own computer, printer, Broadband usage and a phone system. The group are able to lease the building from the Shire which has given them a place to call home.

On Thursday, September 16, the Hub held their first annual meeting, and the outgoing committee who worked so hard for their first year were thanked most heartily for contributing to the establishment of the community house. A good attendance of local people turned up to support the new group for the coming year. The new committee under the leadership of new President, Kimm Kennedy, are looking forward to the year ahead, and hope to run

successful projects and programs in the Hub building. Kimm will be supported by a very capable committee of ladies. The Vice President is Maureen Collins-Binsol, Secretary Carmel Sidebottom, Treasurer Beryl Dukes, and committee members Jeanette Murray, Jenny Gurr, Mel Arnold and Hill McEwen.

On Friday, October 8, there is a trip to the Goldfields revegetation nursery at Mandurang. BYO picnic lunch, and cost for the bus fare is \$20. Bookings by 30 September please.

The Hub is offering introductory computer courses, Self help groups, painting, Sew 'N' Yarn, Write Now-Creative Writers, Genealogy and family history sessions and coming soon the "Tow and Yarn" Caravanners Club, Handcrafted Christmas cards, first aid, and much, much more.

Several people have indicated they would like to be part of a walking group. Please leave your name and contact details at the Hub they will endeavour to match you up with others keen to walk in the area. Similar ideas for a Bushwalking group. Let the Hub folk know.

To enrol for a course those interested are requested to call in at the Hub (at the library for a couple of weeks) or at the centre when it is back to full operation again.

Phone details can be obtained through calling 0448 528 269 (and leave a message and Hub folk will respond as soon as possible.) The Hub Community House is open Monday 10am-2pm and Thursday 10am-noon. Please enter the library building from the car park not the library front door.

Thanks to our ever clever secretary Sally Fyfield, we are now storing precious memories and clippings on Dropbox. This little gem popped up as a memory, confirming it is now over ten years ago since our Community House was founded! How many of the people on the photo can you recognise without cheating and looking at the names!



The New Team for the Nagambie Hub Community House for 2010-2011.

Back row: Carmel Sidebottom (new secretary), Mel Arnold, Kimm Kennedy (new president), Jenny Gurr, Maureen Collins-Binsol, Jill McEwen. Front row: Jeanette Murray and Beryl Dukes. (new treasurer)

Big thank you to Maureen Collins-Binsol for these historical newspaper clippings Sally was able to scan.

## Nagambie Lakes Community House Art Group



Jillian Harrison working on her painting.



Mel Arnold shows Maureen Collins-Binsol her latest art work.



Pictured above: L/R, Back: Evelyn Donders, Mel Arnold, Jillian Harrison, and Bob Eaton. Front: Valma Carera and Maureen Collins-Binsol.

The Nagambie Lakes Community House Art Group was formed in September 2010 after holding a meeting of interested local artists.

The group presently has ten members from varying backgrounds who meet every Saturday afternoon for painting. The group are quite diverse in the medium and subject matter that they use. According to spokesperson Valma Carera the group support and encourage each other and also help with constructive critique of each others work on a regular basis. This works very well and makes for a very friendly and harmonious group. Most of their critiquing is done over a cuppa and generally some nice home made delights.

This is a very friendly self help group and always welcomes new members (email enquiries to nich@bigpond.com)

Several members of the group will be exhibiting their work at this year's Gals with h/Art Art Exhibition at the Euroa Butcher Factory on 1 and 2 September 2012 from 10am -4.00pm at the butter factory. The garden cafe will be open for breakfast and lunch both days.

With over 90 entries from 23 artists, and with seven artists entering their work for the first time, the exhibition will be well worth a visit. You will be supporting a great cause at the same time.

## Euroa Forlonge CWA

The August meeting was held at the RSL Clubrooms. When the business part was dealt with the Dutch Auction was held of wrapped parcels for Association Day.

Three members attended the Group Conference at Alexandra on the Thursday after the meeting and heard the CEO of the Mansfield Aquatic Centre speak (a report of this will be given at the September meeting on 3 September).

International Officer Heather Hunt read another interesting article in the Country of Study, Cambodia, regarding their religion, language and literacy.

A letter of thanks was received from the Cancer Council of Victoria for the box of Cancer Caps that were sent to them.

The club entry for the local Show was discussed and members allotted their items to make.

Craft this month was an Angel Novity made by the members attending. Competition winners this month were Pat Holder - G Hahall, B Lewitz, M Smith and Bloom - G Hahall, B Lewitz, M Smith as well.

At the meeting on 3 September the report of the group Conference will be heard and competition items will be decorative candle and bloom. As well as these items the members will allocate the money from the funds. Subs are due also \$55.00.



Below: Valma Carera puts the finishing touches to one of her paintings.

...Followed by this little treasure from 2012.



# Reports and Recaps



## Thank you for the face-masks Strathbogie Shire!

**W**e'd hate to dampen anyone's spirit, but at this point it looks like we will be wearing fancy face coverings for quite a while longer. The Strathbogie Shire has been in contact with the Community House and dropped off a big box of face-masks which come in three sizes and colours. (See picture to the left.)

If you or anyone you know needs a mask, please don't hesitate to contact coordinator Anna Close, either via phone or email. If you can not meet up at the House (still 7 Prentice Street) for any reason, Anna can also come to you and drop them off. Currently limiting the number of masks to two per person. (coordinatornlch@gmail.com, 0437 347 203.)

## Thank you anonymous donor for helping us print our newsletter!

**A**s some of you might remember, we recently reached out and asked if anyone would be interested in making a donation towards the printing costs of our newsletters. This is the reason and background... Since the start of the pandemic we have been printing many more newsletters as a way of keeping in touch with our members, this as we can not meet in person. We send everyone with an email-address an electronic copy, but we think it is just as important, if not more, to stay in touch with those without Internet access.

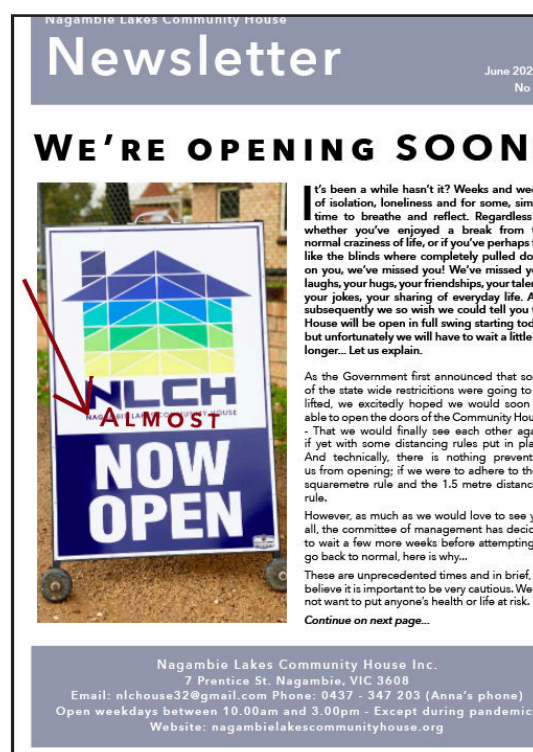
Therefore, we also print copies which Sally and Wendy do an amazing job hand-delivering. (A few copies are also posted out.) In addition, we print a significant number which we leave at IGA. To our surprise, the copies at IGA are often gone within days and as excited as we are about this,

it has added to our printing cost.

In our latest newsletter edition, we reached out and asked if anyone would be interested in sponsoring us, and two anonymous donors gave \$50 each which covered ALL the printing costs for the October edition you are now reading. Although the donors wish to remain anonymous, we would like to extend a HUGE thank you to them for their generosity!

Especially in times like these do we need to stay connected, informed and 'close' to one another. This newsletter helps do just that!

If you would like to donate towards the printing cost of the newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact coordinator Anna Close, either via email or phone. coordinatornlch@gmail.com or 0437 347 203.





# Member contributions



Photo: Jennifer Mordaunt.



## BEAUTIFUL LAKE NAGAMBIE!

We are always happy to receive photos of our beautiful town to put into our newsletter! Do you enjoy taking pictures with your phone or camera, please don't hesitate to send them our way. This beautiful pair of photos were taken by Jennifer Mordaunt.

## Update on the YouTube Advent Calendar

As some of you might remember from our last newsletter, the Community House is part of a committee creating a YouTube Advent Calendar. As we will not be able to have a regular Carols event this year, we're hoping this can serve as a bit of a substitute...

The idea is that several different community groups and people all contribute with a talent or activity, which is pre-recorded and then edited into an episode. Each day leading up to Christmas, starting on

the first of Advent, one episode will be released via the Community House YouTube Channel.

We already have several different groups and people telling us they are more than happy to contribute and we are hoping the Calendar can be a way of helping us stay together; connecting us and raising the Christmas spirit.

The NLCH committee has several great ideas of what our contribution will be, so keep your eyes and ears open for more information!



# Looking towards the future

**Y**ou are absolutely right! It does feel like this pandemic has been going on for ages! The tricky part is we do not know when things will be going back to normal again, or at least something close to normal. What we can do however, is start preparing for that future. Thinking about it and planning for it, so once we can open our (new!) doors again we won't just stand there in the bright light, confused about what happens next!

Below is a list of the different groups and some of the events/workshops we had running before the pandemic forced us to shut down, have a look at it. What are you really interested in? It might be the same thing as six months ago, but your interests and your curiosity might also have changed slightly. Perhaps you would like to try something new? Bravely branch out and learn a new skill, meet new people? If there's one thing this pandemic has taught us it is that tomorrow is not promised, so why not make the most of today!

Another option could be for you to start up your own group, or run a workshop on a topic you are interested in. It could be anything from French to archeology, after school program or genealogy. Anything and everything is welcome! You have crazy ideas or dreams, we want to hear them! As we're still a little while away before our grand opening, have a think about it and if you feel like you need to bounce your ideas off someone, coordinator Anna Close is always excited to support and cheer on in whatever way she can. Email or call her on [coordinatornlch@gmail.com](mailto:coordinatornlch@gmail.com), 0437 347 203.

## GROUPS

- 
- **Art group**
  - **Better Ageing**
  - **Boomerang Bags**
  - **Breast Cancer Support Group**
  - **Chess Mates**
  - **Computer Group**
  - **Craft Group**
  - **Garden Group**
  - **Matildas**
  - **Neighbourhood Watch**
  - **Patchwork and Quilting**
  - **Shared Table**
  - **Tow 'n' Yarn**
  - **Ukulele Group**
  - **Walking Group**
  - **Welcome Group**
  - **Writing Group**

## WORKSHOPS/EVENTS

- 
- **Music and Drama for children**
  - **Self Defence for Seniors**
  - **Sourdough Breadmaking**
  - **CPR and AED**
  - **Boat licence course**
  - **Community Pizza Night**
  - **Responsible Service of Alcohol course**
  - **Wreath Making**
  - **Mosaics Class**
  - **Block Party**
  - **Asthma and allergy course**
  - **Drum circle**
  - **International Women's Day Breakfast**
  - **Men's Breakfast**
  - **Craft session for primary school children**



# Reports and Recaps

Craft Group



*Moya Stewart is responsible for this awesome restoration job!*



*Beryl made herself a wonderful orange sweater!*



*Denise Smith made another beautiful "granny blanket", as she calls them!*

No world wide pandemic can put a stop to our ever creative craft group who are sewing, crocheting and knitting with remarkable result. If you're the handy type or just want to admire their work, you are welcome to join the NLCH Craft Group on Facebook. It is run by the ever amazing Beryl Dukes who does a great job administrating the group. Contact coordinator Anna Close and she'll help you get connected!



*Marg StLeone made this colourful baby blanket for a friend's first grand-child!*



# From the Coordinator's desk

Lately I've been thinking about intentions. You know, the reason or ambition hovering behind the things we say and do. The 'why', simply put. When we are amongst friends or family, people we feel comfortable with, we might never really reflect on this. We simply trust that they know us and therefore interpret our actions through the framework of our character. Say, if I'm walking down High Street and someone yells out: "Hello Anna, how are you today?", and I don't respond, my friends would know I am completely deaf on my left ear and conclude I probably didn't hear their greeting. Someone who doesn't know me however, might assume that I'm a terribly stuck up person who deems herself too busy or important to take time for a 'hello'.

It's a silly example, I know, but it highlights a dimension I think we often overlook. In the past I have been misunderstood simply because the person didn't know me, perhaps you have similar experiences? Apart from the whole ordeal potentially being rather hurtful, it can also create a bit of a barrier difficult to move on from. Because now, there is this framework or interpretation of who you are which taints everything that happens onwards. You forget to text back; 'you're rude and inconsiderate'. You've had a sleepless night and a bad day; 'you're self-centered and ungrateful'. You feel strongly about injustice, and now 'you're opinionated and condemning'.

And truth is, even with those we are close to, we seldom have the whole story. We never fully know the depths of someone's heart or intentions. That's why one of my favourite passages from my favourite book is also one that cuts straight through me like a hot knife through butter. It reads: "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself". It sets the bar pretty high doesn't it? Where I might have naturally put my standard at trying not to badmouth anyone, this text is challenging me to also think highly of others. Ouch!

So, what would that look like in real life? Well, perhaps we shouldn't jump to conclusions when

we don't understand someone? Perhaps we shouldn't be so quick to judge if someone does something we disagree with? Perhaps we should even choose to imagine good intentions, rather than bad? Or like my dad once told me many, many years ago... If you don't have the full story, you might think a woman running away with two children is a kidnapper, when in fact it's a single mother trying to protect her kids from an abusive relationship. Basically, don't judge if you don't have all the facts.

Another situation where I think we need to remember to look at intentions is when someone is trying to do good. In different countries and settings I've noticed how both intelligent and well educated people sometime choose to criticise those who are trying to contribute to a positive change. "I didn't ask for that!" "They just want to show off". "He is doing it the wrong way". "She isn't culturally aware." "Is he saying I can't do it right?!" Are some of the responses I've listened to. In all honesty, it does confuse me bit how someone trying to do good can cause such an uprising and so many angered feelings. Why not just... smile? And perhaps even say thank you? They might not have said it the right way, they might not have done it the right way, but they meant well! Their intentions were good.

So friends,  
here's to intentions!  
Here's to thinking  
highly of others and  
here's to assuming  
the best,  
even when we don't  
understand.

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

