

Newsletter

A BREAKFAST SUCCESS

Close to 80 people booked in for the 2021 International Women's Day Breakfast making it our most popular IWD Breakfast ever. This year's event was facilitated by the Rowing Club who provided a magnificent three choice menu accompanied with juice, coffee and fresh fruit.

President Wendy Keenan welcomed the many guests, which included Councillor Reg Dickinson and a record breaking number of men. Edna James and Anne Turville had brought beautiful flowers and greenery to decorate the tables which made for an inviting sit-down. The much appreciated speaker was Eleanor Cronin who provided a brilliant summary of her life journey so far, including the start-up and development of Kestrel Aviation. A captivated audience was able to listen to both close encounters, tough business decisions and hard work eventually paying off.

Many participants stated afterwards that the breakfast was one of the best they had ever attended. In conclusion, this year's event will be a hard act to follow, but we love us a good challenge. A big thank you to the Nagambie Rowing Club, Eleanor Cronin and all the amazing volunteers who always make the whole operation tick.

Picture right: NLCH Coordinator Anna Close, speaker Eleanor Cronin of Kestrel Aviation, Wendy Keenan, president NLCH.

Picture below: The breakfast gathered the biggest crowd ever for an International Women's Day Breakfast.



International Women's Day Breakfast



What else is new...

'Open House' at the Nagambie Lakes Community House

Our beautiful House is growing and with more groups and people we feel like it would be wonderful to arrange a day when we can all meet up.

Gaye Bond and Anne Turville have taken the initiative to arrange an "Open House" event at the start of spring. We want to give everyone who might normally attend a group the opportunity to meet others, have fun together and celebrate. This will also give the groups an opportunity to showcase their activities and/or products.

We know it might feel a long way away, but please lock in **Saturday the 16th of October** in your calendars for an amazing day together, including music, food and friendships!

If you have any suggestions or ideas, please contact Gaye Bond on (johnbond13@hotmail.com) or Anne Turville, (anneturville@gmail.com).



Gaye Bond



Anne Turville

OPEN HOUSE DAY
SATURDAY 16TH OF OCTOBER

Making the place home - Bring your garden ideas



As some of you may have already noticed, the House can now sport a beautiful box hedge on the south side, facing Young Street. It is our excellent committee member Bob Arnold who's taken the initiative to clean up after new electricity wires were put down and he has also completed the beautiful planting. A big thank you to Bob!

We are currently also trying to come up with a design plan for our back garden. There are three aspects we would like to incorporate: a play area for children, a shaded seating area and garden beds for vegetables etc. If you have any ideas for the back garden, please don't hesitate to contact Anna.

What else is new...

IN KEEPING WITH THE ERA...

As most of you would already have noticed, the committee has worked hard to create a new home for us at Kearns Centre, which is not only functional but also beautiful and harmonises with the era of the House.

We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed with furniture, lamps, rugs, china etc., to create such a beautiful space for us all! A special mention to Koby Ashcroft who created the beautiful screen/security doors for us!



Beautiful fire screen donated by Jenny Lewis.



Beautiful screen doors made by Koby Ashcroft.

PRIMARY SCHOOL DISCO

It started as an idea from our very own Carolyn Fox, who remembered the Blue Light Discos her own children used to attend when they were young. As these discos no longer takes place, Carolyn asked if this perhaps wasn't something the Community House could organise! A brilliant idea and after some planning and organising with both schools, we are now happy to announce that a disco will take place on the 18th of June!

If you are interested in helping out in any capacity, please contact Anna! **We need help setting up, decorating, cleaning and fixing food. Our only requirement is that you have a valid Working with Children check.**

The theme for the party will be Ocean/Lake, so if you happen to have any decorations with that theme that you wouldn't mind lending out, please let Anna know.



- • • • •
- **PRIMARY SCHOOL DISCO** •
- **18th of June 2021** •
- Prep to grade 3: 5.00pm - 6.30pm •
- Grade 4 to Grade 6: 7.00pm - •
- 8.30pm •
- • • • •

What else is new...

FAMILY WALKS

In a wonderful collaboration with the Strathbogie Shire, the Community House will this year arrange a few Family Walks. Our amazing Walking Group has for many years arranged popular and appreciated walks all over our region. Now, we would like to extend this amazing opportunity to families with children: single parents, grandparents and grandkids, mums, dads and little ones.

Our very first walk will take us to the Tahbilk Wetlands where a brand new Aboriginal walking track has recently been opened. The track is a collaboration between the Taungurung Land and Waters Council, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and Tahbilk Winery.

The trail is two kilometres long, (approximately 30 minutes of walking time) and features twelve highlighted native species and follows the existing short wetlands walking track. There will be informative signs and artwork by uncle Mick Harding and Tahbilk-based artist Rosa Purbrick.

We are aiming at also provide a barbecue in conjunction with the event and ask people to book in to secure a spot at this free event. More information and details will follow shortly, but if you want to secure a spot already, book in with Anna at the House.



FAMILY WALK
Indigenous Flora Walking Trail
19th of June 2021, 10.00am Tahbilk Winery

NLCH RECEIVING PROGRAMMING MONEY TO PURCHASE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR GARDEN

The NLCH committee is very excited to announce that we will be receiving funds to purchase some playground equipment for our back garden. We want our house to be a place open to everyone and we are thrilled about the opportunity to enable young parents to participate in our groups/courses as well as offering a safe space for them to meet!



What else is new...

COUNTRY AND WESTERN PARTY AND GARDEN FUNDRAISER

Who doesn't like a good country tune? And what if we made them plural, added some wholesome cooking, dancing, great performances and a boatload of fun with friends? Sounds pretty irresistible doesn't it? Especially after the dreadful challenges 2020 brought along, we need some crazy fun to enjoy together. That's why the NLCH committee has decided to throw a big Country and Western themed party which will also serve as a fundraiser for our new back garden. (Because let's be honest here, the garden really needs some TLC!)

The date is set for the **28th of August** so there's plenty of time to get excited and organised! (And find a suitable outfit!)

If you are someone who loves to party, loves country music, dancing, cooking, volunteering, decorating or even know a business or two who would like to contribute to our raffle, please contact Anna at the House. This is what we need so far:

- ***Farming props/items to use as decorations.*** (We already have hay.)
- ***Volunteers wanting to help with set up/cleaning/cooking/food serving.***

- ***Donations for the raffle.***
- ***Donations for the auction.***

The auction we are thinking of doing has got somewhat of a twist. We are not necessarily looking at auctioning off items, but also services and experiences. Are you a great cook? Would you be willing to auction off cooking a two course meal at someone's house? Do you own horses? Would you be willing to auction off a family fun day where kids would have the opportunity to ride? Do you have a boat? Would you be willing to auction out a sunset cruise? Dream away! It's all for a good cause and whatever money we have left after expenses are covered will go straight to our Community House Garden. (If you have items that would be suitable for an auction, we would love them too of course!)

We will be selling tickets to the event closer to the date, but would just love for this to be a night where all of Nagambie comes together; all age groups and all kinds of people. We belong to such a beautiful community and after the many challenges 2020 brought along, I reckon we deserve having some fun together! Spread the news!



Google image.



Google image.

What else is new...



Valma Crerar, Edna James and Carmel Sidebottom.



A VISIT TO VALMA

Many Community House members would know Valma Crerar. She has not only been an appreciated member of the House but also a highly respected leader of the Art Group. Her 'back-to-front' garden is also held in high regard by everyone who has had the privilege to visit.

Valma has very generously agreed to donate both some of her hand painted china and a display cabinet to the House. If you've recently visited you might have also noticed a small garden statue, temporarily on display in the hallway. The piece was gifted Valma's husband by the last parish priest and has now generously been returned to its original home. (Later it will take its place in the back garden.) Thank you Valma!

Expressions of interest

Want to make your own goats milk soap, lip balm or bees wax cream? Here is your chance!

Community House friend June Hay is now offering to run three different workshops where you can make your own goats milk soap, lip balm or bees wax cream.

Does any of this sound interesting to you? Please contact Anna at the House and if we gather enough interest we will be looking at arranging the workshops sometime after Easter.



Accredited Level 2 First Aid Course

The Community House has been in contact with a provider who would be able to come and arrange an accredited Level 2 First Aid Course. For a one day course, with an online pre requisite, it would cost \$149.

If this is something you would be interested in completing, please let Anna know as we need a minimum of ten people to be able to arrange the course.

\$149

COMMUNITY HOUSE

ART GROUP

Meet Saturdays at the Nagambie Primary School. 1.00pm - 4.00/4.30pm
(Tea break at 2.30 for critique and business discussions.)

Contact: Sonia Aspinall, nlchouse32@gmail.com, 0427 679 180.

BOOMERANG BAGS

Have not started meeting up again.
Contact: Moya Stewart, 0425 - 796 297
or boomerangbagsnagambie@gmail.com

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Have not started meeting up again. Contact
Di Proud: 5794 1520.

CHESS/GAMES GROUP

Meets most Monday afternoons. For more information on next get together, please contact Jeanette Murray on jmurray771@bigpond.com.

COMPUTER SUPPORT

Upcoming meetings: 16th and 30th of April and 7th of May. 10.00 - 12.00. Book in with Sally and bring your laptop or phone.
Contact Sally Fyfield: 0408 141 969 or srfyfield@bigpond.com

CRAFT GROUP

Meets Mondays, 10:00am - 12:00pm. (Will not meet Easter Monday.) Contact Beryl Dukes: 5794 2829 or bgdukes@bigpond.com

GARDEN GROUP

Meets Mondays between 10.00am and 12.00 at 7 Prentice Street. Contact Robyn Northey for more information 0458 147 333.

LAKESIDE LARKS

Meets Thursdays between 6.00pm and 7.00pm. All welcome! For more information, please contact Wendy Mason on: mason.wendy.m@gmail.com.

GROUPS TO JOIN

MATILDAS

Next cultural adventure: A Taste of Ireland, 4th of June, 7.30 - 9.25. To book in and for more information, contact Group leader: Illona King on ilonaking2948@gmail.com

PATCHWORK AND QUILTING

Meets Thursdays at Kearns Centre.
10:00am - 3:00pm. Contact: Anne Turville, anneturville@gmail.com.

SHARED TABLE

Meets every third Wednesday evening of the month, sharing a theme inspired meal. Next date, 21st of April, theme: "Belated Easter treat, with seafood and chocolate" Contact: Elizabeth Branagan, emmeng@hotmail.com

TOW 'N' YARN

Next group meeting, Friday 23rd of April at the Community Hosue. Contact Max Dunstone: 5794 1868.

UKULELE GROUP

Meets Wednesday mornings at 9.30am at the Community House. Contact Robyn Northey: robynalice2004@yahoo.com.au

WALKING GROUP

Next walk will be in Hughes Creek Hill Reerve, Friday 30th of April. Leave from the Community House at 8.30. Contact: Wendy Mason, mason.wendy.m@gmail.com, 0438 231 285.

WELCOME GROUP

For new and old friends. Next excursion Thursday 22nd April, to Sunnymeade Garden. Contact Jeanette: 5794 2115 or nagambiewelcomegroup@gmail.com

WRITING GROUP

Meets every second Tuesday of the Month. 10:00am - 12.00pm. Contact Vonnie Deering: vonnie.deering@bigpond.com

GNEACC Cluster meeting in Nagambie

As described in our March newsletter, the NLCH is part of both a local network of Neighbourhood Houses and also the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria umbrella organisation. Friday the 26th of March, we had the privilege of hosting a local conference which was attended not only by the managers/coordinators within our network, but also by guests from Neighbourhood Houses Victoria and the new Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. This was in fact the first time ever a manager from the department visited one of our conferences. In total, approximately 40 people attended.

Coordinator Anna Close spoke about the journey the NLCH has undertaken from being a non funded to funded House, as did Lee Collier from Lower Hume Primary Care Partnership, Tony Triado from the Department of Families Fairness and Housing, Nicole Battle and Cameron McRae from Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.

Our committee did an absolutely amazing job cleaning, setting up, decorating and serving everyone food. Some guests stayed behind after the conference had finished and enjoyed a tour of our new facilities at Kearns Centre. Many of them expressed how beautiful our new home is and congratulated us on our move.



Left to right: Tony Triado, Manager Population Health & Community Wellbeing, Goulburn Area East Division, Department of Families Fairness and Housing, Edna James, Anna Close, Sally Fyfield and Paul Sladdin, Networker for GNEACC, Goulburn North East Association Community Centres

A big thank you to the committee for all their hard work in preparing food, setting up, taking photos, cleaning, decorating the tables, providing items for the gift bags and just about charming everyone who came. A big shout out also to the Strathbogie Shire for providing the bags and Go Nagambie for providing wine for the give aways.



Gaye Bond, Sally Fyfield, Edna James, Carmel Sidebottom and Anne Turville.



Jan Phillips, Mooroopna Community House and Lee Collier from Lower Hume Primary Care Partnership



Right to left: Deb Fowler, Numurkah Community House, Sue Sedelis, Alexandria Community House, Leanne Button, Tatura Community House.



Madeleine Finnigan, Rose O'Sullivan, Justine, Gabi Nowicki, Bonnie Doon Community House



Tony Triado, Department of Families Fairness and Housing, Carlie Underhill and Natalie Fulford, Yea Community House.



Linda Davidson from Mooroopna Community House and our very own Anne Turville.

Walking Group

Avenel 26th of March

Twenty walkers trekked through Avenel, led by both a local and NLCH walking group member, Jen Arnold.

Beside Hughes Creek we passed under Historic Hughes Creek Bridge learning of Avenel's heritage, its historic architecture, its beautiful natural places and Stewart Park with its glorious stands of river red gums. Then last but not least was Lovers Hill. What views from the top of that hill!

We were so fortunate to have historian Dave Willis speak to us about The Coach House/ Royal Mail Hotel, which he and his partner recently purchased. The Coach House will be open to the general public later this year, during History Week. Our group strongly recommends the opportunity to visit.

Big thank yous to Jen and to Dave.

Wendy Mason
Group Leader, Walking Group



Walking Group

Avenel 26th of March



NEXT WALK

- Our next walk will be on
- Friday, 30th April, meeting at
- the Community House, ready
- to depart at 8.30.
- Bobbo will be leading the
- walk at Hughes Creek Hill
- Reserve, only 5km south of
- Nagambie town.

Ukulele Group

Our wonderful Ukulele Group meets every Wednesday morning at 9.30. On the 30th of March however, it looked slightly different as many of the members brought in a plethora of different instruments. How many of them do you recognise and do you know what they are called?



Bev Kilpatrick



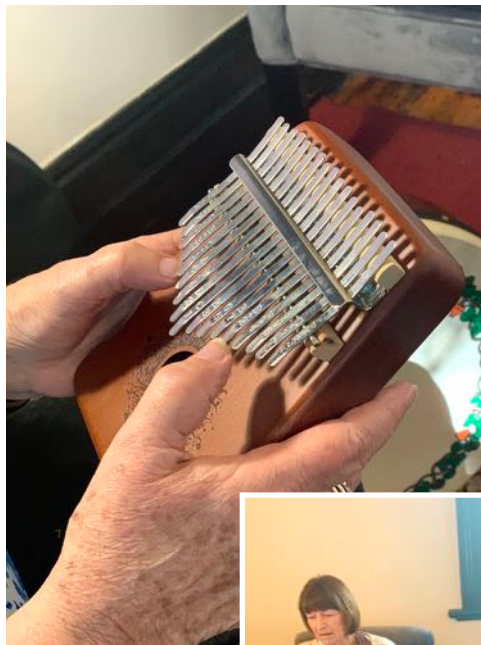
Lyn Miller



Robyn Northey.



Bev Fielden



What is this thing Bev is holding?



Freda Norris, Donna Keenan and Bardy McLeod.

Come and join in on the fun! Bring any instrument or your voice.
Wednesdays
9.30am at the Community House

Welcome Group

Welcome news - Visit Sunnymeade Garden

Sunnymeade is the Disneyland of gardens but is much much more sophisticated and inspirational. Hidden away in the Strathbogies the garden is the creation of Craig Irving. With an extensive knowledge of plants and garden design Craig has spent 20 years developing an enchanting display. He researches widely and is influenced by worldwide plant trends and garden design.

The joy of Sunnymeade is that while it is stunning in its beauty and design it is not overwhelming; keen gardeners will come away inspired. Different garden 'rooms' are themed featuring different countries and inspirations. They feature abundant swirls of colour and verdant texture. Ideas abound, the garden is constantly evolving and changing. Old style roses, perennials, peonies, hedges, intriguing topiary, and espaliered pears are just some of the enchanting displays. A pool, a stone moon archway, a wisteria-laden arbour, and a lacy iron gazebo are imaginative architectural features.

Do not miss the opportunity to see this world famous garden. All are welcome to join the group. Details of the Welcome Group trip follow:

DATE: Thursday 22nd April
TIME: 1.30pm, I suggest you leave Nagambie at 12noon
ADDRESS: 213 Boundary Road, Kithbrook, 70k from Nagambie via Euroa.
COST: \$25.00 per person (includes Devonshire Tea), plus \$2.00 NLCH fee
TRANSPORT: Private vehicle. Please car share if possible. If you need a ride please let Jeanette know.
PARKING: On site at Sunnymeade
BOOKING: To Jeanette 5694 2115 or nagambiewelcomegroup@gmail.com by Thursday 15th April. Absolutely no late bookings please.

Unfortunately due to steps and narrow gravel paths there is no wheelchair access to the garden.

SINCERELY,
JEANETTE MURRAY



Photo: sunnymeade.com.au

Craft Group

Do you enjoy knitting, crocheting, talking or are just looking for a place to meet and hang out? Then don't miss our wonderful craft group! They meet Mondays at 10.00am at the House.



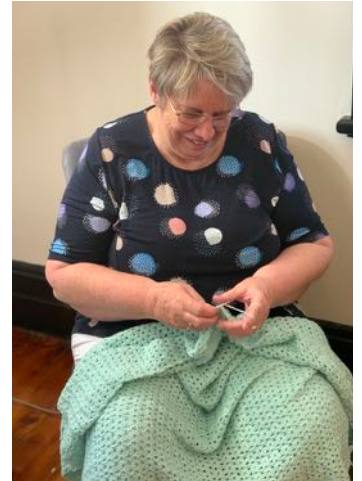
Anne Short



Jackie Strapps



Beryl Dukes



Barbara Horsburgh



Suzanne Sinclair, Barbara Horsburgh, Beryl Dukes, Denise Smith and Anne Short.

On the note of crafting...

Our amazing craft tables located in the music room, can now be moved with much greater ease! Committee member Anne Turville has taken the initiative to purchase wheels which can also be locked. Thank you Anne!



Writing Group

Socks of Ages

By Rosie Cornelious

Snowy white socks, tiny and bright baby socks for sweet dear little feet, all wrapped snugly in a bunny rug fast asleep.

Chubby, cuddly kicking socks, bright eyes and happy feet, smiling riding in a pram socks... Oops! I see a tiny sock drop on the street.

Scrampering grubby sock, climb all day socks, digging in the sand, full of sand socks, in ducks and teddy bear play socks. Then wash and scrub them clean and start all over again socks.

Smart grey or brown school socks, studying and learning socks, looking just right... left right left right marching into class socks.

Working tuff all day socks, hurry catch the tram socks, rain and cold end of day socks, splashing puddle cold and wet socks. Hurryin scurrying home socks, toasty fireside warm socks. Sleepy favourite soft, well warn socks... dreaming of a warmer day.

Comfy home and garden socks, home all day socks, socks for keeping busy feed socks, then comes therapeutic socks to care for those busy, tired, sore feet.

Ahaa!!! Slowing down socks, watch the world go by socks and putting up your feet socks while knitting a pair of tiny socks for baby's sweet, dear little feet.

Do you like to write? Would you want to learn how to get better at writing in the company of some great, encouraging friends? Then the NLCH Writing Group can be your safe, inspiring and fun place!

The group meets every third Wednesday of the month at the Community House. Come and check it out! (It's the only NLCH group coordinator Anna Close will provide a "laughing guaranteed" stamp for. ;-)

Topic for the April homework, write about "The Plague"

For more information, please contact group leader Vonnie Deering on vonniedeering@bigpond.com or 0428 866 643.



Rosie Cornelious

Art Group

The members of the Art Group are having a wonderful time together, and rumour has it some are even forgetting their 3.15 nana nap!

The group starts their painting together at 1.00pm and continues to paint until 4.00/4.30pm. (With a tea break at 2.30 for critique and business discussions.)

After Easter the group has been invited to hold a "paint out" at a covered area at Bumble Bee on High St. A member of the group has suggested they all wear black berets for the event, to really look the part, so now we all have our hopes up! We can't wait!

More information on what date and time the "paint out" will take place to follow shortly!



Painting by Bob Eaton.

Computer Support

Do you need help with your computer, tablet or phone? Or would you like to learn how to use it for a specific purpose? Don't miss our computer support group run by the excellent Sally Fyfield. Book in to secure a time slot or take a chance and just show up. You can reach Sally on phone number: 0408 141 969 or email: srfyfield@bigpond.com

Please remember to bring your device AND cords and passwords! Following dates are available:

**16th of April
30th of April
7th of May
10.00 - 12.00**



Larks

At the start of the year, the Community House was very pleased to welcome the Lakeside Larks under our umbrella. Since then, they have met several times and are now settled into their new home. Larks leaders Wendy Mason enthusiastically shared that the acoustics at Kearns Centre are wonderful. It has also been very beneficial for the group to not have to cart their music and equipment every week, but instead store it at the House. Welcome Larks, so happy to have you with us!



The Larks also sang at the Good Friday Appeal, which was traditionally held at the Royal Mail Hotel. Close to \$6000 dollars was raised for the Royal Children's Hospital.

A big thank you to NLCH member Pat Moroney for organising the event and to Paul and Emilia at the Top Pub for once again being its generous hosts!



good
Friday
appeal

THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

From the Coordinator's desk

You may or may not have heard the expression "This is where the magic happens". In pop culture, the saying originated from a show on Mtv called "Cribs". The concept is fairly simple. A camera crew knocks on the door of a celebrity's home, and then they do a walk-around of their often ridiculously luxurious apartment or house. I'm not sure which celebrity first said it, but soon enough every single one jokingly stated the same thing as the doors to the master bedroom was opened: "And this is where the magic happens".

It's a funny little comment, but lately I've come to think of the expression in a slightly different context. I think of the Community House as the location and home of the unexplainable, the amazing and impressive. **That's** where the magic happens. Please let me explain...

When you've been in a certain situation or context for a while, it's easy to stop noticing things. When I lived in Stockholm, I hardly saw the beautiful, old architecture anymore. When I moved to Los Angeles, the ocean soon enough became just as common to me as my cereal breakfast. Living in Kenya, the different colour greens I was constantly surrounded by soon ceased to sparkle the same way they did when I first arrived. I suppose you get used to things. You stop paying attention.

After over two years of working at the NLCH, I wouldn't exactly say my job has become ordinary, but the past few weeks I have been able to experience and see both our amazing building and our hard working volunteers through the eyes of other people. It has reminded me of who we are and it has made me more grateful. The big GNEACC conference we hosted at the end of March gave us an opportunity to showcase our home and our people to a wider audience made up of other Neighbourhood houses, representatives from NHVIC and the Department of Families Fairness and Housing.

As I was asked to speak about us, tell some of our stories and share what we have done, I felt so very proud. Watching our Committee of Management run around and do everything from setting up to

cleaning, decorating tables, fixing food and think on their feet, I was in awe.

See, what truly makes us special is the sum of us. It's the fact that we have since long understood that if we really want to make a difference, we have to do it together. We're not about one single person's many skills or talents, we're about what everyone can bring to the table. We need each other. We make each other better. We serve one another, because whether articulated or not, we've somehow understood that's what true leadership is all about.

I look around the House and I see groups meeting, laughing, loving, helping, supporting, listening and encouraging. I see people offering up their time, their skills, their experiences and their vulnerability in a counter cultural, almost revolutionary way. In a society where so much is about "me, me, me", we have created a space where the chorus goes the complete opposite direction:

"Lean on me, when you're not strong, and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on. For it won't be long, till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on. Please swallow your pride, if I have things you need to borrow. For no one can fill those of your needs that you won't let show. You just call on me brother when you need a hand. We all need somebody to lean on. I just might have a problem that you'll understand. We all need somebody to lean on."

And that's, when the magic happens.

**At your service,
Anna Close**



Photo: Love by Lou Photography