

Newsletter



Sonia Aspinall in front of the beautiful fireplace cover she painted. Her goal was to create a stained glass window effect and how well did she succeed?!



Valma Crerar painted a fireguard covered in beautiful wattle. Valma has also generously donated the figurines on top of the mantelpiece.

These photos were taken before lockdown was put in place.

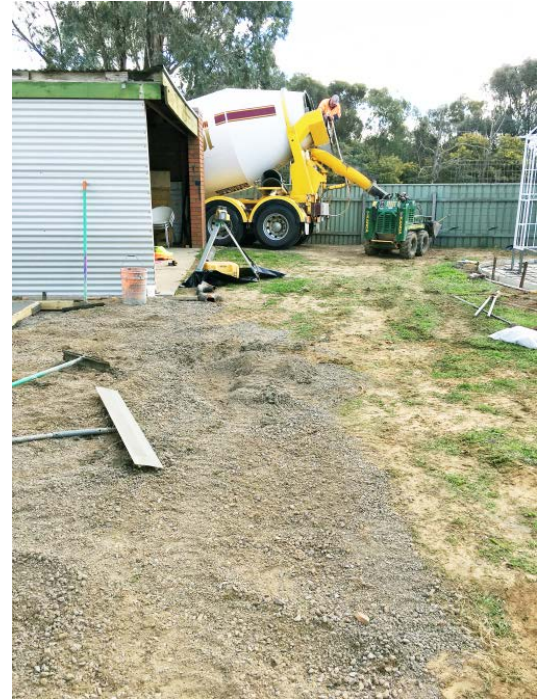
FIREPLACE SUCCESSES

It can hardly have passed any of our members or visitors by how our lovely downstairs fireplace now has what seems to be a crackling fire. The beautiful and deceptive artwork has been completed by our current and former Art Group leaders Sonia Aspinall and Valma Crerar. Now, they have also completed two absolutely stunning art pieces for the two upstairs fireplaces located in the Board Room and the Library.

It is a real legacy they are leaving behind and we are thankful beyond words for the many, many hours they have put in creating the paintings. Sonia's being a stained glass imitation, and Valma's a wattle fireguard. How lucky are we to have these, (and so many other) incredibly talented painters in our midst. On behalf of our whole committee: Thank you!

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Backyard Update



Backyard Update

In the extensive online survey we completed a couple of months ago, our members clearly communicated they wanted the completion of our backyard to be one of our priorities. We are therefore happy to report that great progress is under way! Three people deserve a special mention: Bob Arnold, Edna James and Des Mason. They have worked tirelessly, both practically but also by means of organising and coordinating, to ensure our backyard becomes just as amazing as it possibly can.

Here you can see some of the photos of how our garden and gazebo is coming together with concrete foundations being poured for both a gazebo and a garden shed. We are also happy to report that the current backyard will be extended towards the oval approximately four metres and a new fence will be erected. Again Bob, Edna and Des; we could not have done this without you!



GAZEBO ABOVE, FOUNDATION FOR GARDEN SHED TO THE RIGHT. IT IS GOING TO LOOK INCREDIBLE ONCE IT IS FINISHED!

Coming up

Do you or someone you know want to learn how to sew?

Have you ever dreamt about being able to sew? Or perhaps just given it a fleeting thought but then thought life is too busy or where would you even start? Would you want to learn how to mend your own clothes or perhaps even put together something creative and beautiful for yourself, friends or family members? Here is your chance to realise that dream!

Community House member Judy Hoffman is offering to run a workshop for those who wish to learn how to sew! All you need is a machine of your own and the interest to learn!

If you think this is something you would like to do, please let coordinator Anna Close know and once we've beat this current Covid outbreak we'll start looking at arranging it.



Painting workshop? Looking for expressions of interest!

Amanda Hocking is a local artist from Kialla West and she would like to give first time and experienced artists an opportunity to develop their artistic endeavours whilst meeting like minded people in a social atmosphere. The Community House would happily facilitate this event if we can get enough people expressing interest in participating! We would need a minimum of seven participants.

Cost for five two hour lessons would be approximately \$70 per person and include a basic drawing kit.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:
AMANDA HOCKING HAS WORKED AS AN ART TUTOR FOR TEN YEARS. IN 2021 SHE WAS A FINALIST IN THE CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS OF VICTORIA ART SHOW AND WAS ALSO HIGHLY COMMENDED AND NOTED AT THE VIOLET TOWN ART SHOW.



A couple of examples of Amanda Hocking's painting styles.

Coming up



**Safe Seats
Safe Kids**

**IS YOUR CHILD
TRAVELLING SAFELY?**

**FREE CHILD CAR RESTRAINT FITTINGS
& SAFETY CHECKS**

Nagambie Lakes Community House are hosting at
Buckley Park Parking, Blayney Lane, Nagambie on
Monday 13 September 2021 between 9.00am and 1.00pm
To book go to: www.safeseatssafekids.com.au



find out more at www.safeseatssafekids.com.au



This amazing opportunity is free of charge but you have to book via the link above. (All pending covid restrictions of course!)

First Aid Refresher Course Looking for expressions of interest

At the Community House we quite recently arranged an accredited Level 2 First Aid course. However, we believe there might be more members of the House, and our extended community who would be interested in a not so in depth, yet useful first aid workshop.

That's why we are teaming up with our local Ambulance Station in the hope of providing a shorter workshop which will include the following elements and more:

- Stroke
- Collapse
- Shortness of breath,
- Fall
- Anaphylaxis
- Snake bite
- Coaching technique / reassurance



Paramedic Jessie Richardsson has previously arranged much appreciated workshops at the Community House. However, she might not be the one to represent Nagambie Ambulance at the next occasion.

Accolades

THANK YOU NAGAMBIE IGA

The Community House would like to extend a very heartfelt 'thank you' to our local Champions IGA. They have very generously decided to donate some money to our organisation. In essence this says more about the generosity and grace of IGA than it does the greatness of the Community House.

Especially in the kind of troublesome times we find ourselves today, does it warm our hearts to know others are still taking care of and looking out for their community. The money generously donated will be used towards buying food vouchers at IGA for those who visit our NLCH pantry.



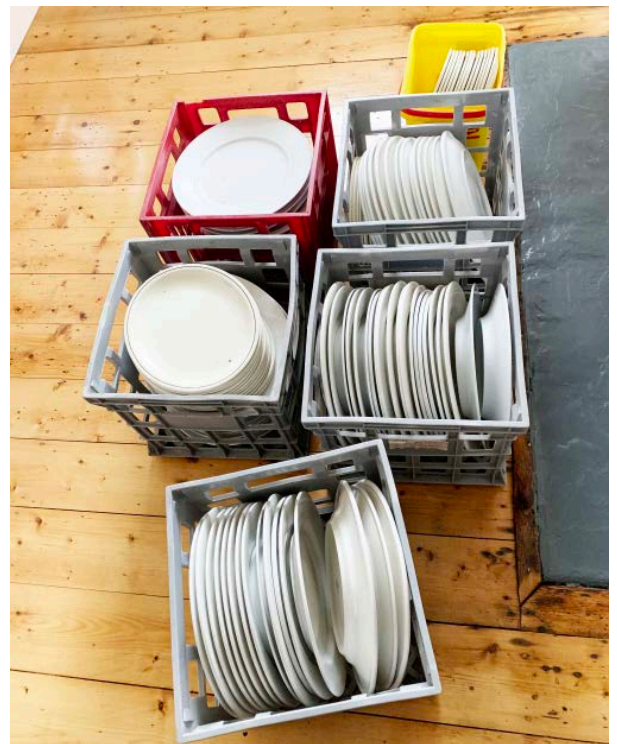
Photo: GoNagambie

THANK YOU PAUL AND EMILIA GOLDING

As many of you may already know, Paul and Emilia are relinquishing ownership of the Royal Mail Hotel to concentrate on their Murchison East Hotel. The Top Pub has under the leadership of the Golding couple, been a much appreciated part of our extended community. Countless are the number of events, clubs and fundraisers Paul and Emilia have supported over the years. Regardless of who you were or what you needed, Paul and Emilia were there, willing to lend a hand.

Undoubtedly busy in their preparations to leave at the start of October, they still found time to arrange one last donation to the Community House. We are now the thankful recipients of a number of high quality plates to use for any NLCH event. (Once we've beaten Covid and can get back to life as we know it.)

We would like to extend a big 'thank you' and 'good luck' to Paul and Emilia as they embark on their next journey.



The plates donated to us from Paul and Emilia.

Online Trivia Night

WHAT A FUN EVENING WE HAD TOGETHER!

Big thank you to the approximately 40 people who joined in on our Online Trivia Night last Friday. We had so much fun hanging out with you all! And a big congratulations to the winners: Hannah and Leah!



Financial advice

COULD YOU DO WITH A HELPING HAND?

Amanda Thompson is the daughter of Karyn Thompson, one of our NLCH members and the group leader of our Writing Group. In the wake of the pandemic, Amanda is offering to help people with their finances, businesses or life challenges - free of charge. Check out the message from her below and if you are interested, go visit her webpage. :-)

"Given so many of us are navigating the life that is Covid lockdowns, I want to be able to give back to my community, so the September Issue will include an offer for me to help you (no charge) in business, finance or life. Hopefully you or someone close to you may benefit."

xx

Amanda

1. Head to my website www.amandathompson.com.au
2. Send me an email - info@amandathompson.com.au
3. Send me a PM"



Amanda Thompson

Walking Group

Such a beautiful day and so many signs that Spring is here!

However, Covid is still here and numbers are growing, so our Dookie walk scheduled for the 27th of August was cancelled. However there is canola growing around Nagambie, (like at Dookie,) and we can probably see it on our daily walks!

For those with good memories, there was a walking group weekend of walking, at Point Nepean, planned for next month. Due to regulations, this will not occur.

BUT, when we are permitted to walk as a group again, there will be more walks organized by our group with an increase in frequency.

It's the best of times to be walking with wildflowers, birds in abundance and gorgeous gardens. So, we can continue walking close to home with one other and enjoy springtime.

Cheers Wendy

P.S. Some photos for reminiscing.... 2016 Spring Photos from Heathcote NP and from Dookie Railtrail.



Enjoying a nice meal after the walk.

Walking Group

June DeBono finding a beautiful flower on one of the walks arranged by the NLCH Walking Group.



From two resigning committee members

A greeting from Wendy Keenan

Dear Members,
It is with mixed emotions that I write this final letter to you as President of NLCH. Of course there is some relief that I will no longer be as busy as I have been over the past six years - two as Treasurer and four as President, but there is also sadness that I won't be in the thick of things anymore.

It has been such a privilege to work with committed and talented people on the Committee of Management whose main aim is to foster a Community House that is welcoming, financially viable, vibrant, inclusive and lives up to our motto of 'Sharing friendship, knowledge and skills'. In so doing we hope to serve our wonderful community of Nagambie well.

It has also been a joy to work with our amazing Coordinator, Anna. She has taken the House to another level while always being cognisant of the wonderful contribution of the volunteers who inaugurated and developed the House over the ten years prior to our getting Government funding. Our volunteer Group Leaders of course continue to do a marvellous job in running their activities and sharing their expertise.

We take pride in our beautiful new home, increased membership, new groups under our umbrella, fun events and educational courses that are reaching a wider demographic.

Lastly, thank you to you, the members, for your continued involvement in the House. You are the reason for our existence. I will always be passionate about this organisation and continue to be involved in its activities. I know the 21/22 Committee of Management will do a great job and I wish it and you all every success and happiness in the future.

***Yours in friendship
Wendy Keenan***



NLCH Member Wendy Keenan

A greeting from Gaye Bond



***Gaye working hard at our Community
Pizza Night.***

It's hard to believe that my 4 year term on the NLCH committee has come to an end. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the committee members for all the fun and friendship I've experienced working with you during a period when amazing outcomes have been achieved, often during difficult and unprecedented times. Every one of you should be extremely proud of these achievements.

A highlight of my term was moving from Prentice St to the Kearns centre under the guidance of our President Wendy Keenan and our coordinator Anna Close. Much fun was had decorating the pizza oven at Prentice st with mosaics and our community pizza nights now seem a distant memory.

As friends, we've supported each other through illness, family problems and more recently, the trials of COVID.

The current committee has continued the good work of previous committees by making the NLCH a vibrant meeting place for people to share friendship, knowledge and skills. I wish the new committee all the best for the future as continue this tradition.

Gaye Bond

Spring Photos



Picnic point near Kirwans Bridge 21/8, 11.00am in the morning. Photo by Alice Cahill.



Sunset by Danielle Church.



Spring flowers by Judy McDonald.



*Hardenbergias outside our old home on 7 Prentice Street.
By Edna James.*



7 Prentice Street. By Edna James.

Welcome Group

The Welcome Group is in recess at the moment due to the COVID restrictions. It is difficult to forward plan events but as soon as some get-togethers are organised (probably in the style of Friendly Fridays) I'll let you know.

In the meantime take you time while you're at home to do some things you really like: reading, sewing, gardening, cooking, couch surfing, resting, walking (as per COVID rules), etc.

Take care, stay warm (or enjoy the infrequent sun) and stay safe.

Jeanette Murray



Patchwork and Quilting

During lockdown, none of our groups will be meeting of course, but here's a little window into how our amazing Patchwork and Quilting Group was meeting up before increased restrictions were put in place.



Happy quilters! (They're all smiling behind the masks!)



A beautiful quilt in turquoise and brown, being completed by Wendy Cook.

Matildas

Hello everyone,
Hope you are all keeping well. There were a few activities organised for this year, BUT, Covid came and changed all our lives

We had WORLD OF MUSICALS booked for the 7th of June, then rescheduled to 23rd of September, then Rescheduled for the 11th of July 2022 I have now cancelled this show and will perhaps look at booking it early next year.

We had a TASTE OF IRELAND booked for the 26th July, now rescheduled to 2nd of April 2022.

Then we had HUMAN NATURE booked for 13th of June, which has also been rescheduled twice and is now set for the 11th of May 2022.

Then we had QUEEN FOREVER booked for 28th August rescheduled to 18th November 2021

As you can all see It definitely has not been boring. I would like to send out a big thank you to everyone booked for some or all shows , for your patience and understanding.

Ilona King
Group Leader Matildas



On behalf of the Community House, coordinator Anna Close would just like to extend a HUGE thank you to Ilona for the countless hours of work she has put into booking and endlessly rebooking shows and events. Her patience and committment is both humbling and inspiring. Thank you Ilona!

Craft Group



A pair of socks done by Beryl Dukes.

COVID-19 EXPLAINED IN CRAFT TERMS.

You and 9 friends are crafting.
1 person is using glitter.

*How many projects now have
glitter on them?*

TEACHITCO

Join our Facebook Craft Group!

Sitting at home wondering what to do? Thinking of picking up that knitting but need some inspiration or help? Why not join our Facebook Craft Group, run by the ever inspiring and fun Beryl Dukes! Everyone is welcome!

From the Coordinator's desk

Some of you may or may not have seen me quote Ernest Hemingway on Facebook the other day. When I went to high school, I used to devour every Hemingway book I could get my hands on. There was just something about his restrained and understated way of writing that captured me. The quote I mentioned? - **"Courage is grace under pressure."** And there it is again, Hemingway's incomparable ability to say so much, using so few words.

See, I think most of us can keep it together and be civil when everything is going our way. We can smile at the neighbour, greet the person behind the cash register and perhaps even do a good deed if needed. But the true litmus test of our character is how we treat people under pressure. At times when we are scared, suffering or unsure of what our future holds.

The nasty reactions we know all too well; how racism blames financial shortcomings and crime on those with a different colour skin. How fear of the unknown makes us shy away from or judge those different to us.

Lately, we have collectively been facing a huge amount of pressure. First, in the form of a global pandemic with reoccurring lockdowns. We have been prevented from seeing friends and family members for a long period of time and others still, have suffered financial blows due to the current state of things. The past couple of weeks, an extra layer of pressure has been added by a large Covid-19 outbreak in our extended community. And the results have been... well... the kind of stuff you write books about.

In Shepparton, Sikhs at the Gurduara Sahib temple have cooked and delivered 100 meals to those in need. Students at Orrvale Primary School, some of the first to be forced into isolation, have been writing letters to the community. One note read:

"Dear nurses and doctors. I just wanted to say thank you so much for helping our community, risking getting Covid for our community's health and well-being."

A Shepparton Thai restaurant has offered to cook and deliver free meals to those in isolation, and the local *Pizza Place* is also giving out free pizzas

to people experiencing hardships. Members of the Iraqi, Afghan and Congolese communities are banding together to help peers not fluent in English to understand the regulations in regards to testing and isolation. The Shepparton Lighthouse Project is coordinating donations from the community to help isolated people in need of milk, nappies, medicine and more.

I don't know much about Australian politics I'm afraid, but when I heard Premier Daniel Andrews summarise what is happening right in our very own backyard, I couldn't help but tear up:

"It's a strong and proud community. They're doing everything that needs to be done and businesses in Shepparton are reaching out and supporting their fellow Goulburn Valley residents. It's the best of Victoria on display and they should be proud of that and we're proud of them."

As I'm writing this, I do not yet know to what extent Nagambie will be affected. I know of some families who are in isolation due to having visited exposure sites, and most importantly, I know that all who have reached out asking for help have received a plethora of offers of support. Because that's who we are. That's our community. Under pressure we don't start blaming or pointing fingers, under pressure we show grace. We share, we give, we love and we extend a hand.

I know we all wish for this to be over already, but when I one day will finally be able to look back at these couple of years, I will do it with a smile, because I will not just remember the pain, I will also remember the beauty.

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



Photo: Love by Lou Photography