

Newsletter

Lois McMaster remembers

A story worth sharing

At the Community House, we have many amazing members. Some are new to town, some have lived here their whole lives. One person who has played an important role in the development of our community and our region on a whole, is Lois McMaster who worked at the Tahbilk Winery for almost 47 years, between 1971 and 2018. This, is her story.

I moved to Nagambie when Robert (Bobbo) and I were married in February 1971. I had been working in Melbourne as a stenographer/secretary and Bobbo was working on the family farm without being paid which was quite normal at that time. He was a Woolclasser and worked this trade for about 3 months of the year so what money he earned from that had to last him for the year. He later found other off farm jobs as well as worked on the farm with his father.

We had to find a place to live and were able to get accommodation in an old army hut on McDonalds Road which had been converted to basic living quarters. We had to pay rent and have living expenses so I put an advertisement in the Seymour Telegraph looking for a job. From this advertisement, Ron Verge from Verge Motors in Nagambie employed me to do his bookkeeping and serve petrol. In those days, you were not allowed to fill your car yourself - it was driveway service.

In September 1971, I received a phone call from Eric Purbrick who was the owner of Chateau Tahbilk. He had kept my advertisement from earlier in the year and as his secretary had given notice, he was looking for a new one.

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Lois McMaster standing on front of the wine cellar named in her honour, officially opened in 1994.

Nagambie Lakes Community House
363 High Street, Nagambie, VIC 3608
Phone: 5794 1487, Email: nlchouse32@gmail.com
ABN: 37 645 422 366
Open weekdays 10.00am - 3.00pm

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I remember Bobbo driving me out to Tahbilk or Chateau Tahbilk as it was called in those days for the interview and I was very surprised to see these old buildings which were in need of some TLC. It was like stepping back in time. Eric and his son, John, interviewed me and as I had all the required qualifications, shorthand, typing and bookkeeping plus good references, I got the job and started on 30th September 1971.

Shorthand was a valuable skill in those days. (You had to be able to take dictation at 100 words a minute and type at 60 words a minute with 99 percent accuracy to pass year 10 school exams.) The office was attached to the main homestead and there was only Eric and myself to do all the administrative tasks from purchasing everything required for the vineyard, winemaking, bottling, cellar door as well as sales and marketing, bookkeeping and employing staff.

In the early 1970's, Eric and his wife, Mary Purbrick, had live-in house staff who would cook, clean and garden for them. Morning and afternoon tea was bought in to the office on a tray with freshly baked biscuits and Mary would join Eric and myself for a cuppa. I got on very well with both Eric and Mary.

When I became pregnant in 1976, Eric was most put out and hardly spoke to me for a week. When he got over the shock, he and Mary were most supportive. Luckily I remained very healthy through the pregnancy and only finished work one week before I was due. Eric had asked me to stay on and come back afterwards and we were lucky enough to have a wonderful lady, Valda Martin, OAM, fill in for me while I was away and to job share when I returned for 3 days a week.

We had purchased a house

and moved in to Nagambie by this time and Melanie was about 2 weeks old when Eric was on my doorstep asking when I would return to work. I actually returned to work when she was 3 weeks old.

By this time, the Purbricks no longer had live-in staff and I was able to have a cot and changing facilities in the old staff quarters which were just across a courtyard from the office. As I fed Melanie myself for the first 12 months I had to take her to work with me. I would keep a check on her and go and feed her and put her back to sleep or bring her into the office and work while carrying her in a papoose sling. When she became a little more active, we had a playpen in the office beside my desk where she spent time playing with toys, Eric and myself or back in the cot sleeping. After she was 12 months old and drinking from a cup, I was able to have friends babysit for me.

When I next became pregnant in 1979, Eric again asked me to stay on with Valda filling in for me and job sharing. I actually had 7 weeks all told off when Anita was born. I was able to make the same arrangements to take Anita to work with me as I had with Melanie as I again fed her myself for the first 12 months. In the



Cellar Door Entrance c1970.

Continuing from Page 2.

1 970's, there were no childcare services and no maternity leave. When the girls started kindergarten and then school, and I was back working full time, I was able to bring them to work with me on most days during school holidays and have enough to keep them entertained for the day together with Mary taking them into the garden with her for some of the time.

Looking back, I was very lucky to have the opportunity to be able to take my babies to work with me. The Purbricks were family orientated and very progressive in their thinking. Or maybe they just did not want to lose me! As the company expanded and we took on more office staff and became extremely busy, I often thought that it would have been impossible for me to take them to work with me as I had done in the 1970's.

My first position was as Secretary to the Managing Director, Eric Purbrick, and when I had my children, Valda and I job shared the secretarial duties for many years. In 1983 we employed a junior, Kim (Oliver) Neville who incidentally is now the Administration Manager at Tahbilk. The company expanded under the direction of Eric's grandson and John's son, Alister Purbrick, who had joined the company in 1978, and sometime in the mid 1980's I was given the position of Administration Manager. With the growth of the wine industry in the 80's and 90's, we seemed to need to employ extra staff every year or so until we eventually had 10 people working in the Admin team.

As was normal in the 1970's, 80's and 90's, all supervisors and managers were male. At Management Meetings,

I was the only female in the room with about 20 male managers and supervisors. Thankfully, it is now a much more diverse workplace. I held the Administration Manager's position for about 30 years and was also responsible for the Info Technology (IT) side of things plus whatever else needed to be done or fixed.

When I felt it was time to wind down a little we decided that the company needed to put more into its Human Resources and Work Health and Safety. So I passed over the mantle of Administration Manager to Kim and focused on upgrading our HR policies and procedures and Health and Safety actions. I then became the Tahbilk Group Human Resources Manager. The Tahbilk Group consisted of many entities including Tahbilk, AHN Vineyard, Pogue Vineyard, Sinclair Vineyard, McPherson Wines, Ozpak, Moncreiffs and The Wine Company. I was able to progressively cut back my work days and held this position until I retired in 2018.

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Lois McMaster in 1976 showing wine to a customer at the Cellar Door.

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When asked what have been some of the highlights of her career at Tahbilk and what she is the most proud of, Lois says there are many.

In 1996 Alister was negotiating an Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) with staff. Tahbilk had never been a union stronghold but several employees joined the union for their support. In the end the staff opted not to have the union involved and I was given the job of presenting the EBA to staff explaining the benefits. Subsequently it was passed by staff and ratified by the Industrial Relations Commission.

In December 1994, I was given the honour of having one of the new Buildings named

after me. The "Lois McMaster Cellar". This was Alister's idea and seconded by his father, John, as, apparently, I was the longest serving employee and one of their best performing managers at that time. What an honour that was and a permanent reminder of my time at Tahbilk.

In December 2005, I was given the honour of opening the Tahbilk Wetlands Café, now known as the Wetlands Views Restaurant, on behalf of all the Staff of Tahbilk which I am told again was Alister's idea and in his words, "testament to the high esteem in which you were held by the Purbrick Family and staff".

When I became the Tahbilk Group Human Resources Manager, I was instrumental in



Cellar Door Entrance c1960

Continuing from Page 4.

developing and training staff on behaviour policies and safety. While this opened a can of worms in some cases, it just reinforced and validated the culture that was Tahbilk and the Purbrick Family.

The most challenging period of my time at Tahbilk was when computers came into being and I had to learn how to use them. I had to transfer all the accounting records and learn to send/receive emails and several other programs. We got our first computer in the mid 1980's. This may sound rather funny to younger generations who have grown up with computers, but it was all new to us. In fact, I am one who takes things in my stride, but, one morning during this time, I woke up and could not face going to work. This is the only time in my life that I have felt like this and the only day I have ever taken off work because I could not face it. It was all so daunting and the pressure to get everything done quickly was overwhelming. However, one day off and I got back into it and learned very quickly.

Probably one of the scariest things I had to do was give presentations in my role of HR. I am no

public speaker, finding it hard to find the right words and get them out in the proper order. I was okay doing training sessions with staff, especially on the programs I had developed myself. However, I was asked by Worksafe to give a presentation at a seminar in Shepparton. I prepared the powerpoints and practiced the delivery but when I had to stand up in front of about 100 young business people and talk, I could not click the button to change the slides as I was shaking so much. Thankfully, it didn't last too long and when I got into the subject that I knew so well, I was okay.



I feel that I have been very fortunate to have worked with 4 generations of the Purbrick Family, Eric, John, Alister and Hayley and to have also worked with a lot of lovely people and the truly wonderful ladies in the Administration team at Tahbilk.

**THANK YOU LOIS FOR SHARING YOUR MEMORIES, YOUR PHOTOS AND YOUR STORY!
NAGAMBIE AND OUR COMMUNITY HOUSE IS LUCKY TO HAVE YOU!**

Backyard Update

Building in progress...



Although our backyard is far from ready, any group wanting to meet up outside is now welcome to do so! We even have our table and chairs in place. Des, Bob, and Bernie have been working on our garden shed.

Member contribution

In this life I'm a woman.
In my next life, I'd like to come back as a bear.

When you're a bear, you get to hibernate.
You do nothing but sleep for six months.
I could deal with that.

Before you hibernate, you're supposed to eat yourself stupid.
I could deal with that, too.

When you're a girl bear, you birth your children (who are the size of walnuts) while you are sleeping and wake to partially grown, cute, cuddly cubs.
I could definitely deal with that.

If you're a mama bear, everyone knows you mean business.
You swat anyone who bothers your cubs.
If your cubs get out of line, you swat them too.
I could deal with that.

If you're a bear, your mate EXPECTS you to wake up growling. He EXPECTS that you will have hairy legs and excess body fat.
Yup, I'm definitely gonna be a bear!



Thank you Robyn Northey for the funny text! :-)

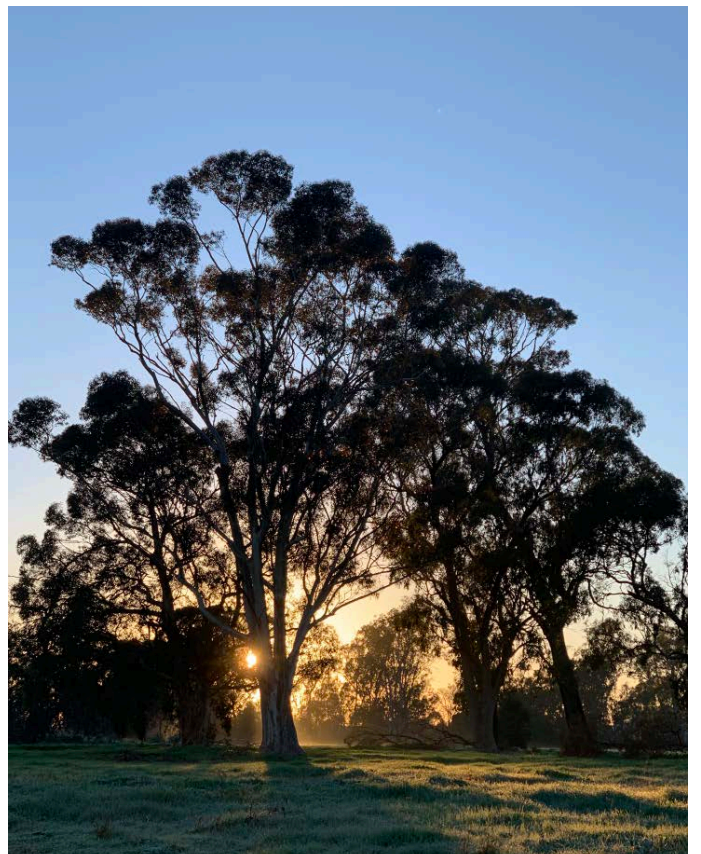
Spring Photos



Robyn and Bill's beautiful cat basking in the sun.



Gaye Bond's beautiful orchids.



From a walk around the lake...

Meet our new committee

At our Annual General Meeting, held via Zoom on the 1st of September, a new committee was elected. Here is your chance to get to know them a little bit better! If you have any questions, suggestions, thoughts or ideas, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of them.



EDNA JAMES
PRESIDENT

Recently I spent some time browsing through past newsletters and I was reminded of the many amazing activities that the NLCH have coordinated and successfully implemented. I trust that in my new role as president, I can continue to work with our great members and once again, post Covid-19, get back to doing what we love - sharing friendships, experiences and happy times at NLCH.



BOB ARNOLD
VICE PRESIDENT

"My wife Mel and I moved to Kirwans Bridge 12 years ago. I retired from work in 2012 and joined the Community House Committee in 2020. I am particularly looking forward to assisting members to complete the establishment, of both the front and back gardens, of our new beautiful Community House premises."



CARMEL SIDEBOTTOM
TREASURER

"My background is in finance with companies Australian General Electric, Qantas Airways and the Victoria Racing Club at Flemington. I have been involved with the Community House in some capacity since its inception 10 years ago."



SALLY FYFIELD
SECRETARY

"Family, people, computers, bird watching and riding my bike are the things that say something about me."

Meet our new committee

Our committee normally meets every third Wednesday of the month at 1.00pm. Normally these are open to all our members, but due to Covid restrictions and density rules, we now ask that anyone wanting to attend first book in.



ERICA BOSTOCK
COMMITTEE MEMBER

"I moved to Nagambie four years ago and enjoy the community feel of the town. My career commenced as a Registered Nurse and evolved through education and experience to include education, management, aged care and dementia care. My primary reason to join the committee was to support the excellent work the NLCH undertake and secondly to see if I can support people with dementia and their careers with activities at NLCH."



BERNIE HIGGINS
COMMITTEE MEMBER

"I was born in Nagambie and when it became time to semi-retire and care for my folks I bought in Kirwans Bridge. Initially my contact with N.L.C.H. was the Walking Group but I soon realised that not only was it a friendly and well run organisation but that it was a great value to Nagambie. Covid thwarted travel, social, learning and volunteering plans so I became more locally focused. I was flattered when asked to stand for the Committee and look forward to being able to contribute."



ALICE LONG
COMMITTEE MEMBER

"I joined the committee this year because I had been a member of several different groups and decided I would give back something to the house in appreciation for the great asset the NLCH is to our community."



DES MASON
COMMITTEE MEMBER

"Born at old Nagambie Hospital, 1948. Have returned to Nagambie as a lifestyle retirement choice. Have joined NLCH committee as time now permits me to help build the opportunities for others to enjoy from all the activities the House has to offer."

Meet our new committee



ROBYN NORTHEY COMMITTEE MEMBER

"I've been involved with the House since 2010 when Jeanette Murray suggested Bill and I form a group called Tow & Yarn, which we ran for about 4-5 years. I'd been asked to go on the committee along the way, but as we wanted to travel during winter, did not want to be tied down.

Two years ago I became a committee member and have enjoyed being able to contribute in one way or another, not always "going with the flow" but still agreeing with the majority. It's been fun!"



CAROL WALLIS COMMITTEE MEMBER

"My personal connection with Nagambie has been lifelong: my paternal grandfather, a farmer, settled in the Nagambie area in the late 1920s! I believe in the ability of a strong, united community to achieve great things. I'm proud to be an active member of the Nagambie community and commend those who have served on the NLCH committee prior to me. I am looking forward to making a positive contribution to the further development of NLCH.

My interests centre around the welfare of my family, the environment (I am a keen gardener), golf, pursuit of a healthy life style (walking, mindfulness practice, bike riding), volunteering and I am a parishioner at St Malachy's."

PAINTING WORKSHOP IS HAPPENING!

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 is happy to facilitate this event! We are looking at five two hour lessons. Limited number of spots, so book in now with Anna.

- Cost:** Based on seven participants, the cost will be \$50 per person.
- Time:** October 12th, 19th, 26th, November 9th, 16th. 1.00pm to 3.00pm.
- Material:** You will be purchasing the material yourself and have have been told you can find it at the Busy Bee and Robyn Glasson in Nagambie. If you want to participate, you will need the following material:
- **A3 or A4 Art Diary that has good quality cartridge paper.**
 - **A 2B and a 4B pencil.**
 - **A plastic Stanley knife. A putty (or kneadable) eraser.**
 - **A clear plastic ruler.**

(Further Material List will be presented at the first session.)



A painting by Amanda Hocking.

Coming up

Sewing Workshop is happening! Sign up now!

A little while ago we asked for expressions of interest for our sewing workshop. It is now starting and you still have a chance to join in on the fun!

A first meeting has been planned for Tuesday the 5th of October when Judy Hoffman will meet with those who are interested in coming along. There will be no need to bring your sewing machine as the group will only discuss what day and time suits everyone to meet, as well as what they would like to learn/sew. A t-shirt, a Christmas present or something else? The sky is the limit.

Due to a generous donation we will be having different fabrics available.

TUESDAY, 5TH OF OCTOBER

10.00AM

AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE



Call, Push, Shock Session Coming in October

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 in 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 to provide a shorter workshop called "Call, Push, Shock". The Session will be run via Zoom, so you can participate from the comfort and safety of your own home.

Tentatively we are now looking at Friday the 15th of October but we will be locking in a date soon, so keep your ears to the ground, or social media... ;-)



Paramedic Noriuell Kinross has previously arranged much appreciated workshops at the Community House and will be the one arranging the online Call, Push, Shock workshop via Zoom. Here she is pictured with Lois McMaster.

Did you see us in the Voice?

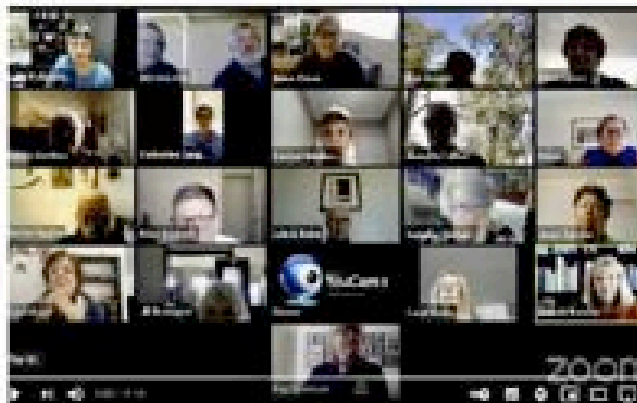
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A Year of Beating The Odds Nagambie Lakes Community House AGM

On the first of September, twenty five people gathered via Zoom to partake in the Nagambie Lakes Community House Annual General Meeting.

Although we wished we could have met in person, the meeting was a wonderful reminder of all the amazing things we have achieved in the past year. It also gave us inspiration to set course for 2023 with a new president and vice-president at the helm. Ideas, ideas and Bob's your uncle. Guest speaker was Catherine Langston from the Nagambie Library who generously shared stories from her exciting life so far.



When the Community House a year ago held the AGM online, few people, if any, would have guessed meeting much would be different. 12 months later, here we were again, looking at each other via the screen and our virtual living rooms. Thanks to our very own IT whiz, committee secretary Sally Pyfield, the technical aspects of the meeting went without a glitch.

Empowering Residents Wendy Korman reported on

all the wonderful changes which have taken place in the past year, particularly in regards to our relocating to the former Centre. Treasurer Corinne Giddens conclusively shared the House financial report, pre-coordinator Anna Chase gave a brief account of what we have done and achieved in regards to activities, events, groups and pandemic responses.

Although the meeting was short and finished in under an hour, a few aspects stood out as particularly impressive. In spite of the many difficult challenges the pandemic has brought along, we have lived all circumstances with empathy, flexibility and resilience. The House has offered practical and emotional support for the extended community suffering from the hardships of the pandemic.

We have arranged several different workshops and runs as well as other events. We have successfully secured funding from the former National Health Clinic on 7 Pioneer Street in The Centre Centre on High Street.

Our new driven different groups have suffered no disadvantage in the new changing rules and regulations starting when, how and where they can meet.

A few sets of email newsletters are our Family Walk in April, our Health Aging Day International Women's Day Breakfast, our first bus trip and movie night to Euroa for teenagers, (arranged alongside the first Movie Store) and the facilitation of our network conference which was attended by representatives from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

In January of 2023, we were also the fortunate recipients of the Statewide House Award "Community Organisation of the Year".

Remembering the success and the resilience we've shown over the past year is however not possible without the mentoring of our new outgoing president Wendy Korman.

Wendy served as the facilitator, yet inclusive and caring leader of the Community House for five years. During her time, our organisation has gone from being just a small, struggling in a small house, to receiving full department financial support, and now operating out of one of Nagambie's most iconic buildings, the former post office on High Street.

Wendy was instrumental in hiring the coordinator and has managed several different challenges over the course of the year. In fact, Wendy never settles with just managing what is difficult, she sees it and turns it into very fruitful and progress results.

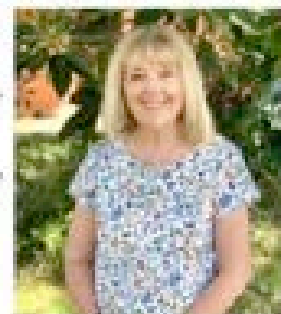
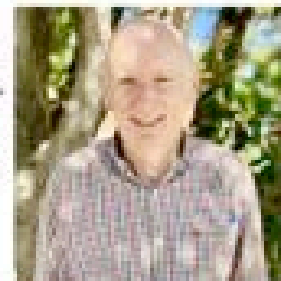
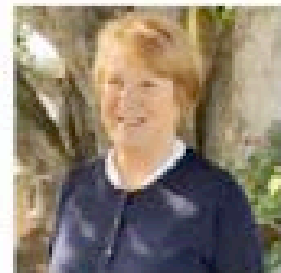
One way our former President does this is by using people and recognising that everyone has something to bring or share.

Whether in the skills, ideas, resources, inspiration, wisdom, knowledge or laughter, everyone counts and has a seat at Wendy's Community House table.

As Wendy alongside her gradually sharing husband Terry now set out for new adventures, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to her for all she has provided and shared with us. We are all better for it.

For highlights of the AGM, please visit our YouTube channel where you can listen to Catherine Langston speak and Wendy Korman's and Anna Chase's reports.

Richard Day is returning
New President Edna Jones
New Vice President Bob Atwood
Former President Wendy Korman



COMMUNITY HOUSE

ART GROUP

Meets 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

Next meeting: Thursday 7 October 1.00pm
at the Community House. Contact Di Proud: 5794 1520.

SCRABBLE/GAMES GROUP

Meets Monday afternoons at the Community House. For more information, please contact Jeanette Murray on jmurray771@bigpond.com.

COMPUTER SUPPORT

Friday the 8th, 15th, 22th and 29th of October. 10am to 12 noon. Book in with Sally and bring your laptop, tablet or phone. Contact Sally Fyfield: 0408 141 969 or srffyfield@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 at 7 Prentice Street. Contact Robyn Northey for more information 0458 147 333.

LAKESIDE LARKS

Meets Thursdays between 5.30pm and 6.30pm. (Changes may apply depending on pandemic regulations.) All welcome! For more information, please contact Wendy Mason on: mason.wendy.m@gmail.com.

GROUPS TO JOIN

MATILDAS

Next cultural adventure has been postponed due to Covid regulations. For more information, contact Group leader: Illona King on ilonaking2948@gmail.com

PATCHWORK AND QUILTING

Meets Thursdays at the Community House. 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 and theme has not yet been decided. For more information and to book in, contact: Elizabeth Branagan, emmeng@hotmail.com

TOW 'N' YARN

For people who enjoy camping, friendship and travelling. Contact Max Dunstone: 5794 1868.

UKULELE GROUP

Meets Wednesday mornings at 9.30am at the Community House. (Changes may apply depending on pandemic regulations.) Contact Robyn Northey: robynalice2004@yahoo.com.au

WALKING GROUP

Walking with friends on the last Friday of the month. Leaves 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 not yet determined. Contact Jeanette: 5794 2115 or nagambiewelcomegroup@gmail.com

WRITING GROUP

Meets every second Tuesday of the Month. 10:00am - 12.00pm. Contact Karyn Thompson: karynthompson1952@gmail.com

Garden Group

PLANTS FOR SALE!

Keen to get your hands in the dirt and start growing some food of your own? Or perhaps just wanting to pretty up your garden? The NLCH garden group has some very reasonably priced plants you can now get your hands on!

EDIBLE PLANTS for sale as follows:

Bay Trees, Lemon grass, Oregano, Mint, Parsley, Rosemary, Thyme, Silver beet and a "plethora" of strawberries. Our tomato seedlings are coming along nicely too, not quite ready to plant yet but we will save you some if you like. Grown from saved local seeds just right for our region!

NON EDIBLES include:

Bromeliads, Succulent's, big and small, dozens of choices.
Comfrey, a great ground soil & compost conditioner.

WHEN: Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings from 9.30 am until 12 midday for sales.

WHERE: 7 Prentice Street, Nagambie.

OR by arrangement phoning Robyn on 0458 147333, or Yvonne on 0438 372304.

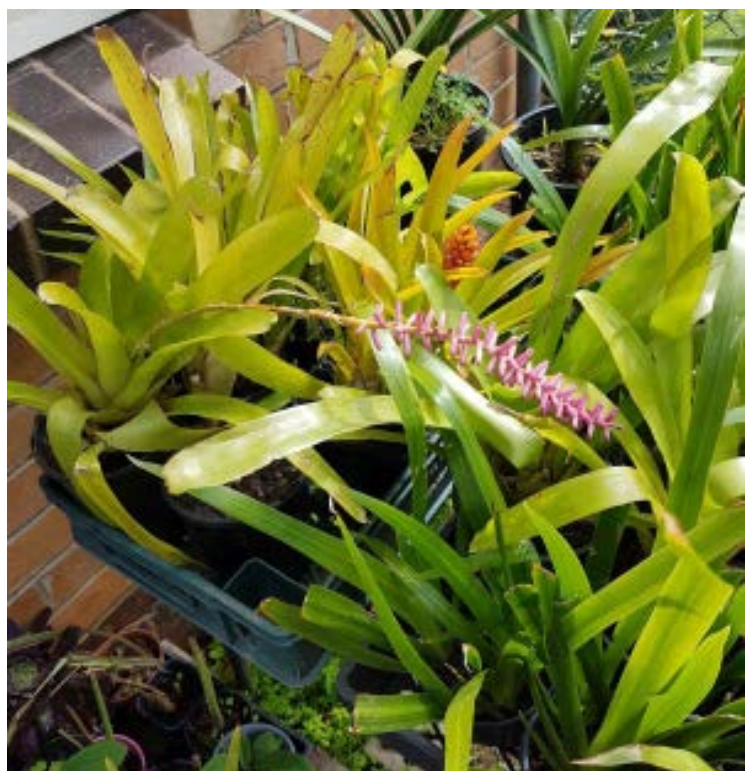


JOIN THE GARDEN GROUP

Are you wanting to learn more about gardening? Think vegetables, worm farms, composting and non toxic companion planting? Combined with volunteering for the benefit of the community?

Here is your chance to get in as spring has just started charming us.

**Meet at 7 Prentice Street in
Nagambie
Mondays 9.30am
Or contact Robyn Northey on
0458 147333**



Breast Cancer Support Group

Next gathering

By Di Proud

The Nagambie Breast Cancer Support Group will be meeting for afternoon tea on Thursday 7 October at Nagambie Lakes Community House in High Street at 1.00 pm. Please bring \$2.00 and something to share with a cuppa and a chat. Michelle Parish the Breast Care Nurse from GVHealth will be present.

The support group is for those people who have been diagnosed with breast cancer at any stage of their life. It doesn't matter whether it was two, five, ten, twenty or thirty years ago! If you are interested in being part of this social support group please contact me on 5794 1520.



Computer support for members

Computer support is a wonderful opportunity for our members to receive help with their phones, computers or tablets. Sally thoroughly enjoys the different challenges you bring to her on the Fridays she spends at our Community House. The normal \$2 fee applies for members.

How many of you keep a watch on our website or have "liked" our Facebook page? It's a great way to keep in touch:

nagambielakescommunityhouse.org

facebook.com/NLCHouse

In Sally's own words: "I also love that some of our members bring their devices to the House to do their updates using our NBN internet. Another wonderful thing our Community House offers its members. If you need a hand sorting something out on your phone, tablet or computer, or want to learn a new skill, remember to send me an email or ring Anna at the House so we can make a time."

Sally: srfyfield@bigpond.com

Anna: 03 5794 1487

Dates available for for October are:

Friday the 8th, 15th, 22th, 29th.

10am to 12 noon



Walking Group

Mulana nin iyoga - Mt. Major Walk - 25/09/2021

Eight Walking Club Members headed to Dookie on a beautiful spring morning. The drive from Shepparton to Dookie passed by many wheat and canola fields with a couple of faba beans paddocks as well.

The new walk (2020) from the north side of Mt. Major commenced at a car park about 2 km from Dookie. On the first part of the walk which was a fenced pathway with interpretative boards, we saw several kangaroos grazing on the hillside. The path then ascended over some rocky terrain with viewing platforms at various stages and more interpretative boards.

The scenery was a tapestry of colour and quite breathtaking. The canola fields were a stunning yellow. After some more rock climbing we

came upon a Yellow Box and grass Woodland which was quite sheltered and a nice break from the windy climb.

Through the woodland and it was upwards to the peak after passing by the radio towers. The wind was quite ferocious. We had to take off or hold on to our hats.

At the top there were stunning 360 degree views, to the south over Dookie College, with Mt. Buller to the East and the patchwork of canola and wheat fields for as far as the eye could see.

After we descended by the same route, we made our way to the township of Dookie where we had a very relaxing lunch at the very eccentric Emporium.



Walking Group

Left to right: Bobo McMaster, Reg Dickinson, Lois McMaster, Pat, Margaret Hurren, Bev Moss and Mel Arnold.



Welcome Group

Greetings,
Aren't we all sick of not being able to catch up with each other, and it doesn't look like it's going to get better any time soon. Here is the current information from the government's proposed Roadmap. Of course, these guidelines could change.

Phase B (70% double dose), indicative date 26th October, pubs, clubs and entertainment centers are open indoors to 30 fully vaccinated people.

Phase C (80% double dose), indicative date 5th November allows 150 people to gather in a public place (pubs, restaurants, and cafes can open for seated service only) looks like the first opportunity the Welcome Group can get together.

So, it looks like we may be able to gather either in late October or mid November, however, it will depend on what restrictions the various venues have to meet.

I will keep you posted.

**Seeya soon,
Jeanette Murray
Nagambie Welcome Group, Tel: 5794 2115**



Covid update

There is a never ceasing stream of changes happening and as a Community House it can sometimes be difficult trying to keep up with the current regulations. Below is a short summary of current restrictions, and also of the preliminary roadmap ahead. Please note this information is indicative only. Dates and settings are subject to Public Health consideration of epidemiology at the time, and more definite directions will be provided at the appropriate time.

REGIONAL VICTORIA SETTINGS (EXCLUDING CITY OF BALLARAT, CITY OF GREATER GEELONG, THE SURF COAST AND MITCHELL SHIRE)

From 11.59pm Sunday 19th September

- Open with maximum of 20 people per facility (this cap does not include staff or children in childcare/kinder)
- Childcare/kinder: open for regional Victorian children, open to children of metropolitan Melbourne authorised workers, single parents and vulnerable children
- Adult community education: Closed, remote learning only
- Indoor physical recreation: Allowed with up to 10 people and a trainer
- Outdoor physical recreation: Allowed with up to 20 people and a trainer
- Outdoor playgrounds: Open
- Work: 25 per cent return or up to 10 people if total workplace is 40 or less, density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies
- Face masks must be worn at all times



Covid update

REGIONAL VICTORIA:

**80% of 16+ with a
single dose**

**Indicative date:
26 September 2021**

**70% of 16+ fully
vaccinated**

**Indicative date:
26 October 2021**

**80% of 16+ fully
vaccinated**

**Indicative date:
5 November 2021**

Community facilities including Neighbourhood Houses

- Allowed with up to 20 persons per facility. DQ4

- Fully vaccinated indoors DQ4 and 30 cap, outdoors DQ2 and 100 cap
- Unknown vaccination: no change from previously.

- Fully vaccinated indoors DQ4 and 150 cap, outdoors DQ2 and 500 cap

Physical recreation

- Outdoor personal training with up to 10 people/trainer
- Community sport: outside only, training only. Minimum number required for the sport, no spectators
- Community recreation facilities, outdoors only 20ppl per facility
- Caps do not apply if 50 metres distance can be maintained between groups outdoors, (e.g. golf)
- Indoor physical recreation open (gyms), with 10 persons per facility indoors, 20 per facility outdoors, DQ4

- Fully vaccinated indoors DQ4 and 30 cap, outdoors DQ2 and 100 cap
- Community sport: outdoor only, training only. Minimum number required for the sport, spectators public gathering limits apply.
- Unknown vaccination: no change from previous.

- Fully vaccinated: Indoors DQ4 and 150 cap, outdoors DQ2, 500 cap

• DQ2 = TWO PEOPLE PER SQUARE METRE •
• DQ4 = FOUR PEOPLE PER SQUARE METRE •

From the Coordinator's desk

Today was my husband's birthday. He turned 42 and is now officially only three years younger than I am. When we first got together, we joked about that a lot. Phil used to say I was **four** years older and basically a cougar, all the while I claimed the difference was only three years and that we, just for the record, were born in the same decade. We were, needless to say, both right and now I've stopped counting. (It may have helped that one of my nieces didn't believe me when she first heard about the age difference and confusingly exclaimed "but Phil doesn't have any hair!".)

What has however remained a bit of an issue over the course of the years is my inability to buy Phil the right kind of birthday present. And trust me, it's not due to lack of trying. I basically think about his birthday all year around. It's like this little annoying strain of hair in the back of my brain that I can never seem to get rid of. I see an ad in the newspaper, I hear about what someone else got their partner or stumble across some weird Men's gadget webpage but it's all for naught. Not one single time, that I can recall, have I managed to buy my husband something that he was honestly excited about. There's the Ipad cover which looked like an amplifier which made Phil sourly state: "It's a **guitar** amplifier". (Needless to say he's a keyboard player.) Then there was the autobiography of some pop star I thought he might find interesting, only to be informed he's only ever read two books in his life, of which one was the Bible. I've bought him gift vouchers both for local massages and white water rafting in the Mitta Mitta river; neither were ever cashed in.

I'm sure you get the picture. In spite of, or perhaps *due* to these seemingly dreadful failures, there is one thing I've learnt, and have additionally tried to apply to other areas of my life: **Intention matters.**

Sure, I might never have gotten Phil's present **just right**, but it is not because I didn't care or didn't try my hardest. And in his kindness and grace, Phil has appreciated my intention and ambition much more than he's appreciated the present itself. He knows that my heart's been in the right place and somehow that means much more to him than the gift itself. See, for him it's not about the money

spent or my ability of ticking exactly the right materialistic boxes, it's about heart, and that I have a lot of.

As a general approach in life, I think we could use more appreciation for intention. For what drives, motivates and inspires a person. For instance, I try and remember intention when my daughter picks flowers from random garden beds to give me. I try and remember intention when my oldest son makes his sister scream her lungs out for taking the iPad away from her and I try and remember intention when the dog wees inside out of excitement for seeing me come home from work.

It's inevitable for people to let us down and hurt us. It happens all the time. Sometimes however, they do it unintentionally. Sometimes not even those closest to us know about the massive wound which has caused us to be extra sensitive in one way or another. A wound which at the slightest poke causes us to want to retreat back into our little shells, licking our wounds.

If and when that happens, I think it might be better to take a deep breath and attempt to explain, or better yet, ask the person in question what they meant when they upset you. Chances are they have absolutely no idea their actions caused grief or pain... Chances are their intentions were actually good, not evil.

As for the birthday presents, I'll keep trying. But in the meantime I'm really happy my husband is gracious enough to not only recognise, but also love me for my well meant heart.

**At your service,
Anna Close**



Photo: Love by Lou Photography