

# Community Leadership

LODDON MURRAY INC.

CONNECT WITH US



[Facebook.com/cllminc](https://www.facebook.com/cllminc)

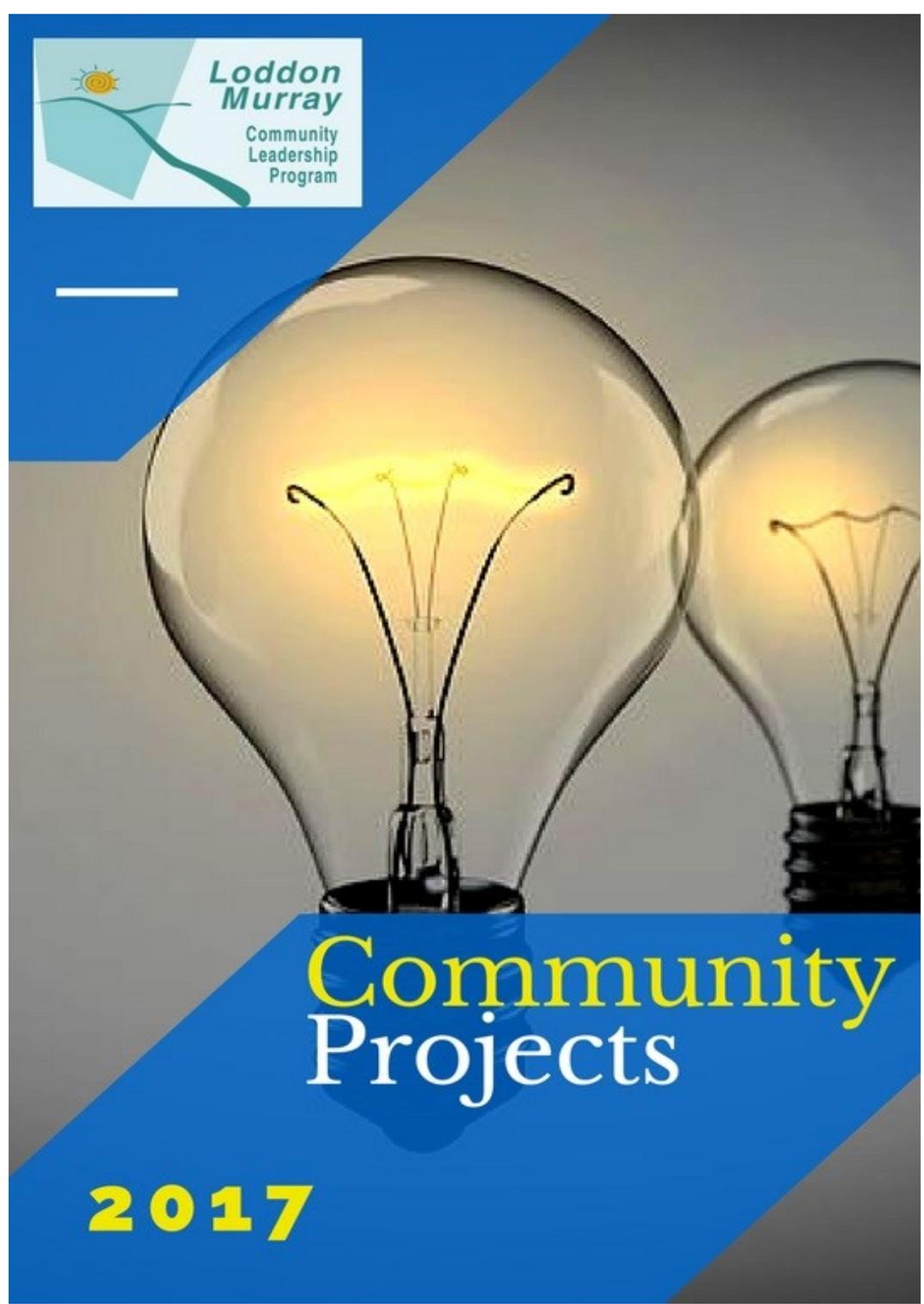
[Twitter.com/CLLMInc](https://twitter.com/CLLMInc)

[www.cllm.org.au](http://www.cllm.org.au)

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 GOLD SPONSORS



Proudly supported by Regional Development Victoria



# Community Projects

# 2017

# COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Community projects are a core part of the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program (LMCLP).

Each year our program participants undertake a community project as part of their LMCLP commitment in order to put into practice the skills, knowledge, confidence and networks they are obtaining as part of the program. Also to give back to the communities and industries who so generously open their doors to us and support us during the year.

We hope you enjoy reading about this year's community projects and the ripple effect they are creating across the Loddon Murray region.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2017

## TESSA LAING GOLDEN SQUARE

### HARMONISE

Through LMCLP, I became involved with Young People for Refugees, where there was an alignment between me wanting to sing again, and starting a social arts program through YPR. The concept was to start a choir for people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, creating a safe, positive and accepting environment for participants to bond and form friendships with each other and with members of the local community. The singing rehearsals will work through songs of varying difficulty which require no previous experience, skills or prior knowledge. The choir will be targeted at people of all cultural backgrounds and all walks of life, coming together to engage in fun and creative projects cuts across cultural, linguistic, religious, generational and socioeconomic barriers and it makes integration into the new culture and community more natural, faster and easier.

Other benefits include:

- Opportunities to form friendships and connect with other members of the community;
- Learning and practicing English within a relaxed and friendly environment;
- Building self-esteem, confidence and new skills;
- Overcoming isolation and consequent disadvantages by community inclusion and connection;
- Promoting multiculturalism as a valuable and enriching reality.

## JENNIFER HURRELL STRATHFIELDSAYE

### SANTHA TRAILL SEMINAR

My project is to organise a health professional seminar in central Victoria covering key information about managing breastfeeding in the primary health care system.

The vast majority of women giving birth in central Victoria families in overcoming any challenges is often their General Practitioner (GP). Access to GP—specific health education is limited, an issue about which Dr Santha Traill was passionate. Before Santha's death in late 2014, Jennifer and Santha had been exploring rolling out education across the region. As a volunteer Breastfeeding Counsellor with the Australian Breastfeeding Association, Jennifer worked alongside Santha in supporting breastfeeding families, and also works as an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant.

Jennifer believes that the lack of readily accessible ongoing professional development for GPs create additional challenges in the Primary Care sector. In memory of Santha, I intend to launch the inaugural seminar in 2018, and I am currently gathering funding and support for the project. It is intended that the session be free to attend, offered after usual clinic hours, with refreshments provide for participants. It is also hoped that the session will be recorded, and available to access online for health professionals across the Murray Primary Health Network.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2017

## DONNA FEARNE TARADALE

### GOLF COURSE REVIVAL

The Taradale golf course operated from 1935 to 1958 at Barkly Park under the now State heritage listed Taradale Viaduct. Since that time Barkly Park has been managed by light grazing and the land has been largely unavailable to the public.

The Taradale golf course revival plan seeks to create more opportunities for locals and visitors to engage and connect with Taradale by activating this public land with appropriate development according to the uses permitted by DEWLP as the managing authority.

Groups that are actively supporting the project include the Barkly Park Management Committee, Taradale Landcare, Taradale Arts Group, Taradale Historical Group and the Taradale Primary School.

Barkly Park is a declared streamside reserve and is home to many mature indigenous plantings as well as significant remnant European plantings. Back Creek passes through the land which also adjoins the Coliban River and Landcare are keen to undertake planting on the site, particularly along the creek to improve this vegetation corridor between the Fryers Ridge and Taradale Nature Conservation Reserves.

Stories related to the park can be contributed to the site interpretation by residents and the Taradale Historical Group. Interpretation of the site will also be informed by the local arts group, community forum hub and extensive community consultation.

The Taradale Golf Course will be part of a green recreation belt that runs alongside Back Creek as it passes through Taradale and it is envisaged that further projects will be undertaken within and connecting to this green belt as part of this intention to create an active, accessible place for people to connect and engage with their local environment and each other.



## 2017 LMCLP GRADUATES

Moustafa Al-Rawi

Charlotte Aves

Dawn Bamforth

Wayne Bell

Matthew Bennett

Brendan Cossens

Jan Farrell

Donna Fearne

Joshua Greene

Djallarna Hamilton

Tayla Hansen

Jennifer Hurrell

Lynette Kelson

Tessa Laing

Marilyn Lozada-Fernandez

Narelle Lyle

Adam Mckie

Natasha Miles

Wendy Murphy

Sarah O'Brien

Aileen O'Sullivan

Rajiv Patney

Travis Price

Lauren Randle

Nicki Renfrey

Angela Roney

Louise Scott

Jac Torres-Gomez

COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2017

COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2017

## MOUSTAFA AL-RAWI JUNOURTOUN

### HOMELESS RESOURCES

The issue of homelessness is not an issue I had ever thought about before, however all that changed when I had the opportunity to see first hand what some homeless people go through in their daily lives.

In the past few months I have started a conversation with haven home safe in Bendigo. I really loved how they managed to provide one of the most important essentials which a shelter to people who are homeless. However this made me think that there is more that needs to be done.

I believe there is a role in building community awareness - to reach out to people like me, who don't really understand the issue of homelessness. I feel a lot of people have an opinion on the issue but they are not ready to take action to fix it or even help address the causes behind homelessness. It really worries me that some homeless people are drowning under the stress of their lives, and their children are drowning along with them.

As result of that, we have come up with the idea of starting a reference group, but more importantly we would start a resource bank. Whereby people who would like to be involved can list their availability and skill/ contribution etc. this will allow us to tap into these resources. My ultimate aims from this project is to achieve the following:

1. Equip people who are in difficult position to gain some ideas/confidence/ skills to try and get themselves out of the life situation they are currently in.
2. Build a bridge between those who 'have' and those without resources and skills. The people who 'have' would be able to appreciate the difficulties and barriers faced by people who are homeless and in a difficult position, which might motivate those who
3. Provide some tutoring to the children of people who are going through hardship, to equip the children with the skills needed to do well at school and break the cycle of disadvantage.
4. Create a flexible volunteer system 'have' to help more. Also it might where volunteers don't need to commit to long-term volunteer roles. Volunteers would be able to opt in and out of projects based on their availability, skills and level of interest.

## TAYLA HANSEN BENDIGO

### LET'S MAKE TOGETHER

Let's Make Together (LMT) is an Arts and Crafts workshop for English as an Additional Language (EAL) students attending the Bendigo Kangan Institute (BKI) of TAFE.. Launched on Harmony Day in 2017, LMT is the first support service offered by not-for-profit organisation Young People for Refugees (YPR), it is run by YPR volunteers at BKI's City Campus.

LMT provides a safe and open space for people from refugee and migrant backgrounds to explore their creativity, grow their confidence, learn new skills, and create works of art.

Participants work with a range of mediums to create their artworks, form new relationships with fellow participants and volunteers and practise their English in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Seven months into the program, a review was conducted. As a result, a partnership has been formed with BKI's Student Retention and Experience Team to allow for the program to be funded in 2018. Securing this funding will allow more EAL students to participate in the workshops, as well as creating opportunities for other BKI students to volunteer alongside YPR in facilitating the workshops.



## NICKI RENFREY CASTLEMAINE

### WOMEN'S CRICKET

Women's Social Cricket Match. To be held in February 2018 once cricket resumes in the district. It's great to see girls being encouraged to play team sports, and particularly male-dominated sports. However, I think it is time that adult women had a go too. With funding received recently for "female-friendly" facilities at my local (Barkers Creek) cricket club, it seemed an appropriate time to push the envelope and have some conversations about club culture, female participation (at all levels, not just playing, but in leadership, at social functions, in support roles), barriers to female participation and addressing some of those.

As part of a larger project being rolled out by the Mount Alexander Family Violence Prevention Network (Batting for Gender Equity), my smaller piece of the project will be to run a women's social cricket match on a Friday evening during the season. BBQ tea, some kids entertainment, hopefully a cricketing VIP that understands the correct messaging and a (maybe modified) game at the historic Barkers Creek Cricket Ground. This club wants to be considered the "club of choice" in the district and is keen to work towards minimising sexist behaviour, challenging stereotypical gender-based roles and having a family-friendly culture.

## NATASHA MILES SEBASTIAN

### MORE VOLUNTEERS

The Marong State Emergency Service unit has worked hard and long towards being a road crash rescue certified unit. The only thing that stopped the unit from being able to pass the accreditation process was the number of volunteer members available within a fast response distance from the unit's location.

Therefore, my community project was, and still is, being involved in the Marong unit's recruitment drive seeking new members that are able to reach the unit within a quick response time in the surrounding area.

There has been a series of 'come and try nights' held at the unit and the best efforts made to promote and advertise within the local areas community. The drive has already been quite successful with 6 new volunteers already in the process of becoming newly trained members. The drive is still continuing as the unit works towards becoming a road crash certified unit.



## LYN KELSON HEPBURN

### SOIL CELEBRATION

Soil health is fundamental to productive farming. There is growing interest in ways to farm that maximise soil health, but the pathways for learning about these are not easy to identify.

Stepping outside of conventional ways of doing things is never easy, but is maybe harder when long established practices have been in place, and the knowledge of how to do things differently is hard to find. This dinner will be a celebration of the tenacity of farmers who have sought knowledge to guide their innovative practices, as well as the beneficial outcomes to their productivity, their farms, their families and their communities.

It will also be a great opportunity to link like minded farmers in a broader community to facilitate camaraderie amongst innovative farmers, sharing experiences and knowledge, and build networks with longer term potential for market leverage.

This event is possible because of the generous support of NCCMA Farming for Sustainable Soils program.

A two day soil conference was planned by Phil Dyson (NCCMA), and the opportunity to have a dinner between the two days was identified and acted upon. The theme of celebrating regenerative land managers, and a focus on highlighting soil health, fitted well with the conference content. A key note speaker will be a highlight of the dinner.

## WENDY MURPHY KURTING

### HERITAGE 3517

During History Week, the Inglewood and District Historical Society held a free week long display of famous Inglewood residents at the Town Hall Hub, with an opening launch on the evening of October 16th.

Racquel Kerr, a Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owner was the guest speaker conducting a Welcome to Country and speaking about some of the impacts the gold rush had on the indigenous population. A photo competition was held where people submitted photos of heritage in the 3517 postcode, to be voted on by those visiting the event. Two day and one night cemetery walks were conducted.

The Inglewood & Districts Community Bank Branch provided sponsorship. Prizes for the competition winners were donated by the Empire State Hotel in Inglewood, Serpentine Hotel and Four Posts Hotel in Jarklin. All photos entered in the photo competition will be collated by the end of 2017 into a booklet with funding from Holsworth Local Heritage Trust as a record of the event.

The aim of the Heritage 3517 event was to build the profile of the Inglewood & District Historical Society but to also highlight that small towns can produce people who become leaders in their trade or business. It is planned to make this an annual event during History Week, but with different themes.



## LOUISE SCOTT STRATHFIELDSAYE

### WELLBEING IN EMERGENCY

Victoria (and Australia) is experiencing more, and more unpredictable natural disasters as a result of more extreme climates. Whilst emergency managers generally choose to work or volunteer in the field to protect the community for a sense of fulfillment and for personal satisfaction, the work can often come with a personal toll.

My aim (for this project and well into the future) was to educate emergency managers about the potential mental health and wellbeing challenges and risks, and to prepare them for these by providing them with knowledge and tools to perform their role whilst safeguarding their wellbeing. I am also passionate about, and have been informing agencies and communities about the psychosocial impacts of disasters and raising awareness of increased incidences of family violence after natural disasters.

This project included:

- A keynote presentation at the “Living with Bushfire Community Conference” in Ballarat
- Presentations internally within Department of Environment Land Water and Planning/Forest Fire Management Victoria
- Conversations (with a range of people) - including DELWP Secretary, Murray Primary Health Network, Psychologists, Red Cross, CFA- and many others!
- Article on LinkedIn and social media

## TRAVIS PRICE ECHUCA

### WASTE WATER DAM

My project was to play a leading part in the relocation of a proposed waste water storage dam.

An application for a waste water storage dam was proposed to council by a large food manufacturing company in Echuca. This dam was to be located at the edge of town and would have been on land surrounded by up to 70 properties.

Residents had many concerns including the smell, devaluation of their homes, mosquitos, seepage into the sub base, health, and many more, so it was important to us to find a better location for this project and achieve a win/win result for all parties involved.

The aim was not to stop the factory putting in a waste water storage dam, but was for them to understand the effects on the locals within the proposed area and consider a more suitable location. We were all in agreement that the factory is important to Echuca and continues to be a major employer. We also understood that the factory had already conducted major upgrades to their factory in anticipation of this storage dam.

We had meetings with the local councillors and the factory representatives and ended up in a council meeting where the objection to the proposed site was passed. The local council were very good to deal with and have offered to work with the factory to find a more suitable location for their storage dam.

## JAC TORRES-GOMEZ LONG GULLY

### #BIKEBENDIGOLTU

The main goal of this project is to improve the biking culture of the entire university community in Bendigo through small projects that support and celebrate staff, students and their families and friends to cycle as a part of their university experience.

The work includes celebrating and supporting some existing initiatives with our partners and colleagues such as our monthly ‘bikers breakfast’ to meet other bikers and *Ride to Work* day, while also advocating for the continued development of facilities and spaces that encourage the community to ride and walk.

Under the auspice of Bike Bendigo and with the generous support of Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), this project has been funded to \$30,000 for twelve months.

## LAUREN RANDLE CASTLEMAINE

### MUSIC FUNDRAISER

My community project will be a music fundraiser for Hope Assistance for Local Tradies (HALT) at the Theatre Royal, in Castlemaine. This community event will be an all ages event incorporating music with mental health awareness speakers. We plan to run this event annually with the aim to break down the barriers around mental health awareness and suicide. The funds raised from ticket sales will go towards providing other community events and mental health promotions in the region.

The hopeful outcome from this event is creating conversation around mental health and suicide prevention. It will involve an inclusive theme as well as connecting people with music while providing helpful information on local/ National support services.



## AILEEN O'SULLIVAN GOORNONG

### CAMPASPE PALINS WOMEN'S GROUP

The issue that I hope to tackle is to address the isolation felt by many agricultural women who live and work on and off farm in the Campaspe plains geographical area. Many women are involved in Agriculture who do not have an opportunity to meet, talk and learn from each other. I have taken the opportunity over many years to connect with many Agricultural groups and have personally benefited from the experience.

I hope to provide an opportunity for rural women to engage in fellowship and learning in a relaxed environment on a regular basis. A low cost evening dinner would be the best time to allow those who are working during the day to attend.

The project idea was sparked after hearing about the "Kooroora Group" in the Loddon Shire. My mentor for LMCLP, Cr Colleen Condliffe leads this group. Her advice and support has been inspirational and invaluable.

The benefit to the community will be to enable rural women to have fun getting off the farm and connecting with like minded people without having to organise the event or have to make food to take. By attending, the women will enjoy the companionship and professional development offered at the gatherings. They will learn from each other by listening to Government and Industry speakers, the women will hear about events, grants and opportunities for professional and personal development. There will be an invaluable flow on for the well being of the communities in which the women live. I aim to hold the first meeting on International Women's Day in March 2018.

## SARAH O'BRIEN DONALD

### MATES—DONALD COMMUNITY

**Mates-** Donald Community is a new one-to-one mentoring program in Donald High School, involving the local community and Year 10 students. The program aims to create greater connectedness between the students and local community members. Mentors were selected on their experiences and interests and mindfully linked with students in Year 10 who opted into the program

**Mates** aims to broaden opportunities for young people by keeping in regular contact with an older, more experienced local adult who can encourage them through their final years at school and help develop their strengths, skills and goals for the future. Mentors are committed to supporting a young person for 12 months, with the option of continuing their link until the young person completes Year 12.

Most mentors and their linked young person have been catching up at least once a month with a few meetings on a regular weekly basis. In addition there have been group activity sessions organised to help with getting to know each other and allowing them to catch up in non-confronting, supportive environment.

This current program will come to completion in June 2018. Donald High School has given approval to support the running of the program next year with the new cohort of Year 10s.

In a changing world, schools and parents cannot do it alone! Young people have a variety of talents and challenges which need to be nourished and supported in order to reach their full potential.

## RAJIV PATNEY SWAN HILL

### REHABILITATION RESOURCE

To establish a de-addiction and rehabilitation centre in conjunction with existing healthcare and mental health infrastructure and resources in Swan Hill.

The project is currently ongoing and at its first stage of establishing the necessity of such a facility based on statistics from the past years available with health care providers.

It is a long term project and will take a few years to come to fruition

## ADAM MCKIE MACEDON RANGES

### GET ON BOARD

My community project was to provide an opportunity and pathway to becoming a volunteer director or community leader in the Macedon Ranges. The plan is to see more community minded people involved in grassroots projects and/or groom them to consider joining a local board.

This will be achieved by having an individual participate in professional development via the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program (LMCLP) 2018 thanks to the generous support of the Gisborne & District Community Bank. My community project was to negotiate and support this sponsorship and ensuing process.



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

Margaret Mead

## CHARLOTTE AVES GISBORNE

### WORKING TOGETHER

More is achieved when we work together than when we work as individuals. By bringing people together, having a shared vision and working collaboratively towards a common goal we are more likely to succeed.

Currently in our region we have multiple rural women's organisations working independently, with no communication or collaboration. The organisations: Australian Women in Agriculture, Central Victoria Rural Women's Network and the Victorian Rural Women's Network all have common visions and goals. By opening up communication between the organisations and enabling the development of a framework for collaboration all organisations, we should be able to reach bigger audiences, to work smarter not harder to achieve goals and provide value to all but most importantly to the rural women they represent.

In November representatives of all three organisations met to discuss how we can work towards a more collaborative approach. Outcomes included a greater understanding of what different organisations are doing and we identified information sharing as key to assisting all organisation be more effective. There are also a number of upcoming events where the opportunity of collaboration or value adding exists. A draft report of outcomes will be shared between the participants in the next few weeks and once approved will be disseminated further.

## DJALLARNA HAMILTON SWAN HILL

### KOORI YOUTH GIRLS GROUP

The aim of this group is to apply targeted support to the Aboriginal youth girls of Swan Hill and surrounds. Currently, unlike the boys who have Clontarf, the Aboriginal Youth Girls don't have a specific program targeted towards supporting them to succeed in the education system and strengthen their health and wellbeing.

The program that we would like to introduce will be focused on supporting the individual needs of the participants as well as have a focus on the overall outcomes of the group.

The plan is for the program to be continuous, and be adapted as needed.

The program will start in school but then be taken out of school times so not to interrupt classes, with the option of still having in-school sessions on alternating weeks.

We will be partnering with Department of Justice, Koori Court, Murray Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (MMLLEN), MDAS, Swan Hill College, Swan Hill Flo Campus, Youth Inc. & Headspace in order to provide a holistic program for our girls to ensure they succeed in the education system, reach their goals and live stronger, longer, healthier lives.

## BRENDAN COSSENS MALDON

### RURAL WOMEN SYMPOSIUM

Water is crucial for the irrigation communities in the Loddon and Campaspe catchments.

As a hydrogeologist with Goulburn-Murray Water I work with community groups in water management, but these groups generally lack diversity in their membership. Research shows that diversity improves business performance and productivity and enhances innovation and creative thinking.

To counter this lack of diversity, I'm proposing to hold a Rural Women Water Symposium to empower women to have a greater voice in the water sector.

The symposium seeks to take advantage of reinvigorated Victorian Rural Women's Network to provide knowledge, networks and pathways to greater participation in the water industry.

The Rural Women Water Symposium will provide information on: who manages water and how; the indigenous, environmental and recreational values of water; and how to access water for productive use and how carryover and trading rules apply.

The anticipated outcome from the Rural Women Water Symposium is increased participation from women in water management and the benefits that increased diversity brings.

## WAYNE BELL LOCKWOOD

### IT GUIDE

Not-For-Profit organisations (NFPs) often do not have access to expert IT advice or resources due to limited funds or knowledge loss from transient membership.

My community project is an IT guide that aims to give NFPs access to an IT information resource to provide the following:

- Advice on technologies such as websites, search optimisation and cloud services;
- Provide links to valuable resources (cheap software licencing, free online tools);
- Ideas for using technology more effectively;
- Information security for NFPs that store personal information;

I intend to make the guide with simple language and relevant to the size of the organisation. I am seeking IT professionals as partners to help me to put the guide together. I will need to get around different NFPs to distribute and promote. I also plan to use connections with the Northern Mallee Leadership Program in Mildura to deliver the guide in that region.

## MARILYN LOZADA- FERNANDEZ PYRAMID HILL

### COMMUNITY GET TOGETHERS

My Community Project was a small Bingo event in Pyramid Hill. The opportunity I wanted to focus on was for the Filipino Community to participate in the event.

The key outcome was to have as many people as possible come along. The Bingo evening was held a couple of months ago and there were 3 prizes given to the winners.

It was a fantastic day and I am looking forward to doing more of this in the near future. This event turned out well because it builds an organisation and social element for the Filipino community. In my role as Vice President external I am able to communicate and participate in organising other events.

My future insight is to build friendships during the event and understand beliefs and culture of one another which could also improve the people in the community to get together more often because there is barely an event like this in Pyramid Hill.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2017

## JAN FARRELL KERANG

### INDIGENOUS FOOTBALL

My community project is at the planning stage, and will involve assisting Macorna Football Netball Club (MFNC) to increase knowledge and awareness of Indigenous history at Macorna, culminating in an Indigenous round of football in 2018. This celebration may involve specially designed jumpers and netball warm up tops, with a ceremony at half time of the seniors football match.

The initial outline of the project includes working closely with the Indigenous Elders (Barapa Barapa people) to increase knowledge and awareness of our Indigenous history at Macorna. MFNC would like to recognize the tribe as the original holders of this land. A physical representation of this recognition may be a sign or artistic sculpture at the entrance to the Recreation Reserve.

## JOSHUA GREENE FLORA HILL

### FOODSHARE

Food is a way of bringing people together. This core concept is at the heart of the Heathcote Foodshare whose mission is to: "Uplift Community wellbeing and inclusion while reducing food wastage."

The Heathcote Foodshare provides balanced meals and a safe space, in the form of a café, to come together. The positive impact on the community has seen the enterprise grow at a phenomenal rate to now preparing over 200 meals and serving café-style to 350 people each week. As my community project, I am involved in the group to aid and advise as it continues to grow from the grass-roots. The goal is to cement the Foodshare as a permanent community-led enterprise, ensuring its life and community changing work can continue.

The first step, a workshop delivered by Kerry Anderson, has already developed the knowledge and skills of the volunteers and led to constructive conversations.

The second stage of my project will be developing a general guiding framework that can be used to explore any further steps that build the solid foundations for the Heathcote Foodshare, as well be a transferable document to inspire other regional communities to come together through food.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2017

## ANGELA ROONEY KERANG

### EVERYONE BELONGS

My community project is to facilitate a National Harmony Day event in the Gannawarra Shire. Harmony Day theme is "Everyone Belongs".

I have been interested social inclusion and celebrating Diversity since I attended a Rural Social inclusion Conference in Kerang in 2011. I heard Jonathan Welsh present on the Choir of Hard knocks and I was inspired to be involved in an inclusive project involving music. I have also worked in the Health promotion space with Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership using the Rural Social Inclusion Framework. Being a participant in Loddon Murray Community Leadership program 2017 has given me the courage to take that step into community. I currently work as a Diabetes Nurse Educator with Northern District Community Health and my health service is supportive of this project.

The notion that music is a great leveller and brings people together is the idea for Harmony day.

A working group will come together next month to plan broader community engagement around Harmony Day.

There are many event idea options, planning prompts and comprehensive ideas and resources on the Harmony Day website, however the actual event will be based on community input and support.

## NARELLE LYLE GOORNONG

### TABLE OF 8

My community does not have a progress association or any other means of disseminating general community news, ideas, projects. When I talk to people individually they have ideas but no platform to get things happening, and no support networks to tap into.

My community project is to establish a "Table of 8" women's group to fill this gap. We are going to become the key movers and shakers in the community to communicate with the broader community key ideas and projects and engage the community to come on board and help facilitate positive change in the community

The group will meet regularly and share ideas, nominate projects to support and help facilitate positive change in the community by leading by example.

The first step is to facilitate the inaugural Table of 8 meeting, inviting people who are not usually involved in committees. The group will meet regularly and aim for 8 people to attend

The community will be activated, ideas and projects will get supported and done and the communication in the community will be improved.

## DAWN BAMFORTH TYLDEN

### FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS

In the beginning was an idea, then a vision, then a conversation, then a stumbling block! Then another!... Too expensive, too soon, too early in the week, no funding. Fast forward two years and it's good value, good timing and great dates. Thanks to our continued effort and persistence, the support of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Tylden Hall Committee and Woodfordia Inc., we now have a small, but significant folk music festival coming to Tylden Hall. Small, to suit the size of our hall, pockets and population (535 residents), but large and grand enough to suit our big-hearted, generous community. Around 26% of the population of Tylden volunteer in some capacity or other compared to the Australian average of 19%. Tylden is a town in the centre of things, quite literally, at the junction of three regional towns and three major Victorian cities. renown on our doorstep.

It is worth celebrating that there is such an event of national and international We will be represented by our own local musical talent on the night and individuals and community groups in Tylden will run the associated music and events, food etc... across the day in the lead up and it will be a fully co-operative and collaborative event in town.

The Festival of Small Halls will provide one national and one international artist associated with the much larger Port Fairy and Canberra Folk Festivals. This concert and festival will provide us, our town and the hall with great local and regional exposure and recognition as part of the touring show. We hope this will also encourage artists and musicians to consider Tylden for future concerts and entertainment.

Tylden FOSH is scheduled for April 2018.

