

In the Dja Dja Warrang Language Yandoit means

Brown Snake or



Yandoit Hills

of Yandoit, Franklinford, Clydesdale &

December 2023 Also available at www.Yandoit.net

Diary Dates- What	When	Where
YANDOIT SCHOOL CONCERT	Friday December 8 th , 5pm	Yandoit Hall
BUSHFIRE READY WORKSHOP	Sunday December 10 th , 2pm	Yandoit Hall
YANDOIT FAITH COMMUNITY DREAMING/VISIONING SESSION	Thursday December 14 th , 4.30pm	Uniting Church, Yandoit
YANDOIT CULTURAL PLANNING SESSION FOR 2024	Tuesday December 19 th , 4.30pm	Yandoit Cultural, Uniting Church Rd, Yandoit
CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND PEACE CHOIR	Thursday December 21 st , 7pm	Yandoit Uniting Church

YANDOIT SCHOOL- END OF YEAR CONCERT, FUNDRAISING AND ENROLMENTS FOR 2024

Come and celebrate our local school including the work and creativity of children, teachers and parent during this past year. The concert will be held at Yandoit Hall on Friday December 8th from 5pm, followed by supper. There's also a whisper that Santa Clause may arrive.

Yandoit's recent community market raised around \$1,100 for the school via coffee, tea, cakes, as well as sausage sizzle and plant sale. Moneys will go towards books for the library, decodable readers and a literacy software package for early years' children. As a small local school, Yandoit is growing with enrolments for next year increasing to 18-20 children, including a few new preps. Yandoit school is a an asset to our community with excellent, committed teachers coupled with the active involvement of parents.

REPORT ON 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF YANDOIT HALL AND COMMUNITY MARKET

The 140th Anniversary of Yandoit Hall, combined with the community market, was a huge success. School fundraising via the fabulous little 'Cafe Hub', along with the School's Sausage Sizzle, was a great success. Thanks to all who donated cakes etc. for the cause and to Ros as Barista Extraordinaire. In addition to the usual array of stalls,



Robert and Nick Morrison's steam engine creation was a wonder for all to behold, especially when pizza's came out of the steam oven! The Hall's Anniversary speeches by Don

Morrison, Carlene Sartori and Andrew Kimpton met with a receptive and interested audience. Don thanked Hepburn shire, especially previous councillor Kate Redwood, for the \$30,000 grant which enabled much needed repairs to be undertaken. The repair work was diligently coordinated by Carlene, secretary/treasurer of the hall. Carlene provided a brief history of the hall, which opened in November 1883 as a Mechanics Institute and public library.

Overseas newspapers were available, keeping residents from diverse cultural backgrounds informed about their home countries. Books were available to be read and borrowed and to assist with training and further education.



Electricity was connected in 1955 and then, in January 1969, fire swept through Yandoit burning down the hall – all that remained standing were the 4 brick external walls. The hall was rebuilt, with the addition of kitchen and toilets, and then re-opened in 1974. Don's participation as an active member of the hall committee since 1954 was acknowledged, and Don, now

aged 92, is bowing out from those responsibilities. Carlene pointed out the lettering on top of the hall, touched up and painted by Andrew Kimpton, another hall committee member. So now we can all appreciate the longevity of this precious community facility.

FUTURE OF YANDOIT CULTURAL

The Community Planning Group recently received good news that Yandoit Cultural's lease with the Uniting Church has been extended for another 12 months. This extension is supported by Castlemaine's Uniting Church minister and church council, also by regional presbytery who have advocated for this extension with Synod, the state-wide body responsible for all church property. As part of the extension agreement, we are creating a faith community- an open concept which interested locals are invited to develop. So our old church in the bush will have two streams: Yandoit Cultural plus Yandoit Faith community. Essentially they will be two separate activities, although there's possibility for some cross-over around particular events. Yandoit Cultural is holding a planning session for 2024. After a remarkably active 2022 and 2023 with music, song, story, open mics, local history and local weddings we welcome everyone's ideas as we plan for the year ahead. Our planning session will be held on Tuesday 19th December, 4.30pm at the Uniting church.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND CASTLEMAINE PEACE CHOIR

The wonderful Castlemaine Peace Choir, led by Jane Thompson and James Rigby will be joining us for Christmas carols at Yandoit Uniting Church on Thursday December 21st at 7pm. A joyful family friendly occasion, including the Christmas story, plenty of singing and a visit from Santa Claus, followed by supper under the eucalypts. Contributions towards supper are welcomed.

BUSHFIRE READY WORKSHOP



This 2 hour workshop, on Sunday December 10th at 2pm at Yandoit Hall, will help locals pull together a bushfire survival plan that ticks all the boxes. You'll be able to work through your plan with guidance from a CFA specialist. BYO pen. To assist with bushfire preparedness the CFA recommends the following actions: Move your winter woodpile away from house or sheds; Prune tree branches so they're not

overhanging roof or touching walls; Clear your gutters; Keep grass shorter than 10cm; Remove leaves and twigs from around your property; Test anything that is part of your fire plan such as sprinklers, pumps and generators; Check that your home & contents insurance is current and includes a level of cover in line with current building standards and regulations. Make sure your household has a Bushfire Survival Plan. For more information go to this website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/bushfireplan

REPORT ON COMMUNITY MEETING AND PLANNING GROUP AGM

Our Yandoit Clydesdale and Franklindford Community Planning Group AGM and community meeting, held on November 12th, was well attended with residents from across all hamlets. Two ward councillors- Jen Bray (Hepburn Shire) and Matthew Driscoll (Mt Alexander shire)- presented reports and listened to issues and concerns raised by locals. Discussion included the recent tragedy in Daylesford and where support is available (Central Highlands Rural Health) ; reminders that the fire danger period is starting; free green waste at both Daylesford and Castlemaine transfer stations; road side slashing; nominating locals for Australia/Survival day awards plus Heather Mutimer Honour roll; activities around housing affordability across both shires, including greater permit flexibility for tiny homes as well as connecting spare rooms with tenants; heavy vehicles on narrow local roads; encouraging our biodiversity and managing kangaroos, pigs, deer, and endemic weeds; and agricultural structure plans. Hepburn shire seeks feedback on their arts and culture strategy. Community grants (between \$2-5,00) are open three times per year;; Both Hepburn and Mt Alexander shires have community newsletters and invite participation around future plans/strategies etc. Here are the links:

<https://participate.hepburn.vic.gov.au/>

<https://shape.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/>

If you've got questions and suggestions contact committee members, or *the Chronicle*- (see contact details below) and come along to the next community meeting scheduled for March 2024- more details in the next *Chronicle*.

Our resident authority on **VNI west Transition Lines**, Richard Johnston, gave an update to the meeting: At the moment our area looks to be off the hook in terms of a new powerline corridor, but it's watch this space. We will include another update in the next edition of the *Chronicle*.

Most existing Community Planning Group committee members agreed to continue for a second term: Erica Higgins (Chair) Jessica Bleechmore (Deputy Chair) Jim Roberts (Treasurer), Nikki Marshall (Secretary), plus Jill Williams, Matthew Spaccatore and Kate Roberts. Copies of the Annual report and Treasurers report were tabled. If you'd like a copy contact Nikki – see email and mobile below.

Some priorities identified by our Community Planning Group for the next 12 months include: finalising our 5 year community plan and implementing some initiatives from the plan; managing weed and pests workshops; positive ageing initiatives; supporting Yandoit school; developing and strengthening relationships towards reconciliation with Djarra/ Dja Dja Wurrung people; continuing and expanding *Yandoit Cultural*. Also, responding to community issues as they arise.

YANDOIT FAITH COMMUNITY DREAMING - VISIONING SESSION

As mentioned above in the report on *Yandoit Cultural*, the Yandoit faith community is in the process of being established. A dreaming/visioning session will be held on Thursday December 14th, 4.30pm at the church. Everyone is encouraged to come along and share ideas.

A GENERAL STORE FOR YANDOIT?

With Yandoit's old general store in High St up for sale, there's some interest in the possibility of a new general store. I live on top of a hill with my head in the clouds. I daydream about Yandoit re-opening its General Store. An enormous project of course. Costly and time consuming!! If anyone is interested in exploring some ideas around a co-op, please send me your thoughts- Alison King. (alisonking239@yahoo.com.au)

FRANKLINFORD HALL

Now that the tree danger around Franklindford Hall has been addressed, a directive from DELWP/DEECA requires that a Committee of Management for the Franklindford Community Centre be re-elected for a 3 year term. A general meeting will be announced in the New Year. Watch this space for election notification and think about whether you would like to join the Franklindford Hall committee.

OUR SWISS-ITALIAN FESTIVAL- REPORT

As a contribution to Hepburn's Swiss-Italian Festa, *Yandoit Cultural* hosted an event bringing together descendants from some of the early settlers – a group of walking, talking local historians. Many thanks to those who generously shared stories, memories and factual information handed down through the generations- Carlene Sartori, Maurie Gervasoni, Eric Sartori, Lawrence Righetti, Joan Sartori, Laurel Vanzetta, Kevin Sartori and more. There were plenty of additional contributions and questions from those present in the room and much additional sharing over cuppas and cake at the end.

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NEXT EDITION OF THE CHRONICLE – February 2024.

Contact Nikki -0432 232 073/ nikki.marshall@mmnet.com.au, or Bill- 0439 398 488, or John at yandoit.net with info & stories.