

In the Dja Dja Warrang Language Yandoit means

Brown Snake or



Yandoit Hills

Yandoit, Franklinton, Clydesdale &

April 2025 Also available at www.Yandoit.net

Diary Dates- What	When	Where
COMMUNITY MEETING, PLANNING GROUP AGM, & SHIRE COUNCILLORS	Saturday May 24 th at 3pm	Yandoit Hall
YANDOIT SACRED	Saturday May 17 th , 2.00pm	Yandoit Uniting Church
YANDOIT CULTURAL Barry Golding and Six Peaks Speak- Central Vic Indigenous Film Festival- Alex Tsibulski- classical guitar-	-Saturday April 26 th at 4.00pm - Sunday June 1 st at 5.00pm - Sunday June 15 th at 3.00pm	Yandoit Cultural Uniting Church Rd, Yandoit
GUILDFORD UPPER LODDON LANDCARE- AGM	Tuesday April 29 th , 7.00pm	Guildford Hall
NEWSTEAD CFA MARKET	Saturday May 17 th , 8am-1pm	Rotunda Park Newstead

SUCCESS LOVES PREPARATION AT LIMESTONE ROAD

Success loves preparation, an approximation of the Ancient Roman dictum, has served us well revegetating at scale in Yandoit. Revegetation is a long-term program with many activities, beset by the uncertainties of soil, weather, predation, and a multitude of human biases. Preparation



helps tilt the odds and tamp over-confidence. Preparation is also a willingness to systematically build on successes, listen to diverse opinions, accept help with gratitude and learn from one's mistakes.

Over the past five years, at our 28ha property on Limestone Road we've planted almost 5500 native trees and shrubs across almost 30 species, mostly indigenous to this area. More than 85% have survived and in some zones more. Some of the wattles and eucalypts are already well over six metres tall. Our intention is to keep planting at the rate of several hundred per year. We've also planted several hundred deciduous trees, including stone pine, oak, ash, elm and ginkgo. Most of them are doing well, although best with supplementary water. More than one third are connected to irrigation lines fed by a solar pumped, gravity-fed dam water system. That system, installed two years ago in wetter times, was another nod to preparation. The natives are sometimes watered in at planting, but thereafter are often left to fend for themselves.

Here's five lessons we've learned about preparation and revegetation: (1) deep ripping clay loam soil as a first step or part of your planting program makes planting easier, reduces attrition, helps the soil retain water and can help kick-start biological activity; (2) befriend your local nursery owners particularly those who know which species are proven in your area; talk to other landowners or ecologists too; (3) tree guards are another good insurance policy against attrition, but since not all tree guards are the same, and predation rates vary by area and species, try different types and see which work for you; (4) enlist, persuade and motivate friends, family and others in your community to help you: revegetation is a big job and you need a small team mobilised to do it at scale; (5) supplementary water on hand via pipe or mobile tank is essential for almost all young deciduous trees and can even be helpful to help young natives during particularly dry periods. Hasten slowly. And happy planning, collaborating and planting.

Article - John Carruthers. Photo – Peter Watt

This Video shows progress: <https://vimeo.com/677045358/a3c1404868>

COMMUNITY PLAN SUMMARIES FOR FEEDBACK

Sections of our community plan continue to be drafted, including farming and food growing, ageing in place, energy, communication, arts and culture, welcome to newcomers, protecting our biodiversity, and much more. Section summaries were shared at the previous community meeting in February, enabling feedback, as well as an opportunity for shire councillors to learn more about the hamlets of Yandoit, Clydesdale and Franklinton. Further draft summaries will be presented at the next community meeting on **Saturday May 24th at 3pm**. Drafts will soon be available on the yandoit.net website. We seek your feedback, either at the May community meeting or via yandoit.net website.

COMMUNITY MEETING WITH SHIRE COUNCILLORS AND PLANNING GROUP AGM

Join us on **Saturday May 24th at 3pm at Yandoit Hall** for a brief AGM of our Yandoit Clydesdale and Franklinton Community Planning Group followed by a community meeting with shire councillors from both Hepburn and Mt Alexander Shires. New committee members are actively encouraged. The community meeting is a chance to gather with other neighbours and our new councillors, to raise issues and concerns and to share your suggestions towards our local community plan as well as both of our shires' community plans. Be there or be square!

VALE RIC HIGGINS

Derek "Ric" Higgins was born on the 6 of August 1926 in Kerang hospital to his mother Annie (nee Morgan) and his father Charles Higgins. He was



the eighth child of Charles (whose first wife died when the baby, Franklin (Frank) was about 18 months old and was raised with the Morrison family). Ric was Annie's first child, she was 45 at the time! Charles had been the local baker with the bakery located near Steeles Reef Mine, but had decided to make a new life at Mead with Annie and son Clemo. Sadly Charles died when Ric was about 7 years old so he moved to Yandoit to stay with the Morgan family while his mother made new arrangements and finalised the sale of the Mead property. They went to live in Malvern and Ric

went to school there while his mother struggled as a widow to provide an income taking in boarders to provide a home and income. Ric joined the RAF and was an instrument maker and about to start overseas duty in New Guinea when the bombs were dropped in Japan.

He then started working in the SECV (State Electricity Commission of Victoria) where he met his favourite boss, Lindsay Corben, who

introduced him to his sister Bethany, carpooling during a railway strike. Married in 1953, they had 4 children, Ian, Robyn Joanne and Erica. Ric took early retirement to pursue his dream of being a farmer having bought the family farm from his Aunts. In 1983 he and Beth moved permanently to Yandoit to the old cottage before renovating and finally extending the old garden rooms at the farm. Ric loved his cattle farming and Beth her sheep flock and they became passionate Landcarers planting many trees on their property and on public land as well as struggling with weed eradication. Ric had an enduring love of British motorcycles and old cars & continued his love of riding until a minor accident ended his riding at aged 91. He loved his wife of 71 years, his children, 10 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren, and in his last days was surrounded by family: sharing stories, wisdom and enjoying the company of those he loved. He died on January 31 and was buried in a natural burial at Franklindale, close to his mother, aunts and uncles. He is missed by family, friends and community but has left a legacy of inspiration for many.



Gang Gang Cockatoos at Jill and Terry's in Franklindale

REPLACEMENT MANAGER- YANDOIT.NET WEBSITE

John Ross, who administers the Yandoit.net website is interested in a younger person taking over management of the website including site editing, hosting and domain name registration. This is about succession planning – 'I'm not getting any younger!' says John, 'If I fell under a bus, it would all, eventually, disappear!'

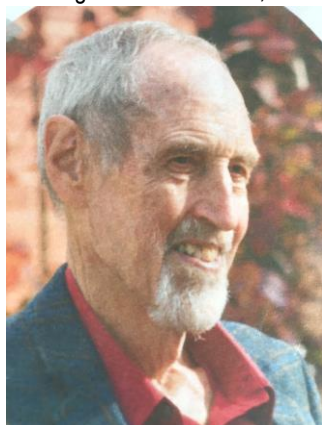
SEEKING NEW PEOPLE TO PREPARE AND EDIT THE CHRONICLE

The Chronicle now has a group of locals preparing sections for each edition. plus a dedicated team distributing to letter boxes as well as the email list. Bill O'Donnell initiated the Chronicle in the 1980's and edited this local newsletter for many years. Nikki has produced and edited the Chronicle for the past 13 years, but she is standing down from this role. So we need one or two others to step in- and there's lots of skills and generosity in our community to enable these roles to be shared around. Nikki can show you the ropes.

VALE JIM ROBERTS

Jim Roberts was born in Red Cliffs, Mildura and grew up in Talbingo, NSW. The youngest to 6 children, he lived alongside his cousins and grandparents fishing in the Tumut river, shooting rabbits and foxes, and attending primary and High school in Tumut.

Jim practiced and taught law. He had the mind, focus and attention to detail for law. He ran an evaluation and research business with his wife Kate. Jim and Kate moved to Castlemaine in 2017 and shortly after to Yandoit. Jim helped Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation and the Newstead Arts Hub become incorporated and shepherded directors through what was needed legally. He was loved by everyone he worked with. Jim was an environmental and social justice activist. He and Kate took part in a lot of demonstrations and Jim wrote a lot of letters. Jim was an artist who had a deep commitment to both the desert and the Alps and his sculptures reflect that. Jim had 9 solo shows, his last in Newstead in 2024. Each show was almost a complete sell out.



Laughter was a great part of the house in which Jim grew up and he brought that with him to his own family. He also loved an argument on politics and world affairs. Jim was a sports man, playing cricket and Union football. He was a runner and skied with the rhythm of the wind. Jim brought a lot of love to his family, his siblings and nieces and nephews. He loved his wife Kate, his children - Richard (who also lives in Yandoit) and Ellen and Clare, their partners and his 2 grandchildren.

Both Jim & Kate have been active contributors to our community including Committee members of the Yandoit Clydesdale and Franklindale Community Planning Group, where Jim also served as treasurer. Jim died on March 27th. He was a rare gem and will be greatly missed.

YANDOIT SACRED

Our April Yandoit Sacred gathering commenced with a meditation followed by deep reflections on what the sacred means to each of us. Our next gathering is **Saturday May 17th at 2pm** at Yandoit Uniting Church. For more information contact Alison on 0415 555 081 or Nikki on 0432 232 073 or <http://yandoitcultural.org/yandoit-sacred/>

YANDOIT CULTURAL- REPORT & UPCOMING EVENTS

Yandoit Cultural has had an entertaining start to 2025. We have laughed, sung, and danced with/to the infectious energy of *The Bedridden*. We have shared a beautiful afternoon of story-telling with Vasko Drogriski accompanied by *Band Without Borders*, who filled the church with the music and songs of Macedonia. Most recently, we were deeply moved by Rosemary Hodgson's exquisite Lute performance. We are delighted to present local writer **Barry Golding in conversation about his new book *Six Peaks Speak: Unsettling Legacies in Southern Dja Dja Wurrung Country***- on **Saturday 26 April at 4pm**. Yandoit Cultural together with Yandoit Sacred is hosting the film **Contact as part of this year's central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival on Sunday June 1st at 5pm**.

Contact is constructed around one of the most extraordinary pieces of footage in Australian history; the moment in 1964 where a group of 20 Martu women and children walked out of the Great Sandy Desert into a new universe of European modernity. The event was only captured on film because scientists were testing the Blue Streak Rocket in the desert at the time. Many of the players on both sides are alive to recreate and tell their story. The co-director Bentley Dean will be present at the screening for Q&A after the film. **On Sunday June 15th at 3pm Classical Guitarist Alex Tsibulski** will return to Yandoit Cultural for another fabulous concert. Yandoit Cultural would like to thank those who have supported us and our talented musicians and story tellers this year. Contact Nikki (0432 232 073) or Alison (0415 555 081) if you would like to help us with events. If you want to know more about upcoming events subscribe via *Yandoit Cultural's* website: <https://yandoitcultural.org/>

FIRE DANGER PERIOD CONTINUES

As we move through Autumn, the Fire Danger Period will soon be declared over but with the extremely dry conditions the danger period is far from over in our area. With high fuel loads and low rainfall, extreme caution must be taken as there is still a clear and present risk, as evidenced by a number of recent bushfires in our area. Fire restrictions end on April 22nd in Mt Alexander shire and on May 1st in Hepburn Shire. Our local CFA are worried about the potential for bushfires once restrictions are ended so, if you need to burn off, make sure the burn area is safe, that it's a low wind day, and that you have water close by.

GUILDFORD AND UPPER LODDON LANDCARE – AGM

The AGM will be held on **Tuesday April 29th, 7pm at Guildford hall**- everyone is invited. The meeting will include election of some new committee members- the group is seeking people with interest in the environment to represent views and needs of our Yandoit community, as well as office bearers. There'll be supper after the meeting, please bring a plate to share. For more info contact Stephen Glenn (0427 047 616) or Gendrie Klein-Breteler (0428 732 561)

Next edition of the Chronicle – June 2025- Contact Nikki -0432 232 073/nikki.marshall@mmnet.com.au, or John at *yandoit.net* with any info.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS EDITION Nikki Marshall, Noel & Dan Richards, Alison King, Stephen Glenn, Gendrie Klein-Breteler, Jill Williams, Erica Higgins, John Ross, John Carruthers, Richard Johnston.