

2021 LMCLP COMMUNITY PROJECTS

*Graduates
making positive
contributions
to community
through high
impact projects*



LEAD Loddon Murray
LMCLP



ARTS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Tahli Corin



Home to world class musicians, sculptors, visual artists, film makers, composers, ceramicists and even a couple of Logie award winning comedians the community of artists within the Macedon Ranges could be a collective creative force that connects community, brings tourism and enriches daily life.

From her conversations with Artists and local community groups Tahli noticed there is a gap. A gap between the knowledge of the most professional working artists per capita, and the conversations that might see those artists better integrated and utilised within local communities.

The Arts Progress Association (APA) aims to provide artists with a seat at the table. One that assists Council, Tourism Boards, Producers and the broader community in developing policy, strategy and plans that harness and celebrate this collective force.

Project Targeted Outcomes:

- Greater understanding of the needs and challenges facing MR creative community
- Social networking between creatives
- Creation of a Membership Base to maintain engagement & collaborate on advocacy policy
- Development of www.artfulranges.com web page to provide public interface between individual artists and those who are seeking to engage artists for public artworks, performances and private commissions etc.



“There isn't a part of my life that won't be influenced by what I am learning as part of the LMCLP program. As a mother, business owner, community member and creative collaborator, these new processes and skills will assist me to build better relationships, and to work more effectively with people in every aspect of my life.”

AUGMENTED REALITY HISTORY TOUR – TARNAGULLA

George Filev, Alice Rowbottom, Windsor Main & Mihaela Kovacic



In the 1850s, Tarnagulla became a destination of hope when over 13 tonnes of gold were extracted from the area. George, Alice, Windsor and Mihaela recognised that there is significant opportunity for Tarnagulla to tell the story of the town and better engage visitors and locals through immersion in the long history of the town.

The Augmented Reality History Tour application (ARHT app) will be created using augmented reality to superimpose images of the past on to the current streetscape. Story and gaming elements will be utilised to engage children and the young at heart.

Once users have downloaded the tour app onto their mobile device, they will navigate around town experiencing content accessible via QR codes.

This project is about using a fun and innovative product to access the unique stories of Tarnagulla. By introducing or reintroducing the history of Tarnagulla to residents and visitors, the aim is to provide an educational and enjoyable experience that will raise the profile of Tarnagulla as a holiday destination and a place to live.

Additionally, other towns could choose to replicate the idea in their towns, forming an augmented reality history tour trail where visitors could have a series of AR tourism experiences. The project will support other towns by documenting and sharing their experiences and key learnings so that others can build on their foundation concept.

“I think that the beauty of the skills that we have learnt, is that they are incredibly transferable, and I know that I’ll not only be able to implement them when I am volunteering within the community, but that they’ll become of great importance to me as I journey further in my career”

CONTINUING TO REIMAGINE BENDIGO CREEK

Cassandra Lewis & Callum Wright



The Bendigo Creek has the legacy of past actions and inaction and is now a degraded waterway, whose function and condition is compromised by urban development, pollution, past mining contamination, aging drainage infrastructure and other factors.

Bendigo Community Health Services will spearhead the project, which aims to unite the likes of Dja Dja Wurrung – Dhelkunya Dja, Bendigo Sustainability Group and North Central Catchment Management Authority in revitalising toxic land through effective management of resources and sharing of knowledge.



The key outputs and deliverables to be produced by this project are:

- Independently verified calculation of BCHS's environmental impact
- Remediation of toxic land and waterways
- Improved water quality
- Reduce the impacts of past mining
- Reduce flood risk
- In-stream habitat and ecosystem function

DISABILITY SPEAKS

Felicity Grosse

The Disability Speaks pilot project is one facet of the larger work designed to realise a vision of equitable inclusion for all people with disability in all communities.

The aim for this pilot project is to facilitate targeted conversations and learnings about engaging with respectful reciprocity, with all people with disability. The provision of a supported learning environment facilitated by people with lived experience of disability, caregivers and those who work in the disability field, will enable people to safely explore the development of positive interactions and relationships and also challenge hidden stereotypes and misunderstanding.

Community members, service providers, students/teachers and business owners will be able to attend a free 2-hour interactive session in a small group, facilitated by a panel of 3 (person with lived experience, caregiver, worker). Utilising a strengths-based focus, participants will be invited to share their knowledge and experience of disability and introduce the concept of Disability Literacy.



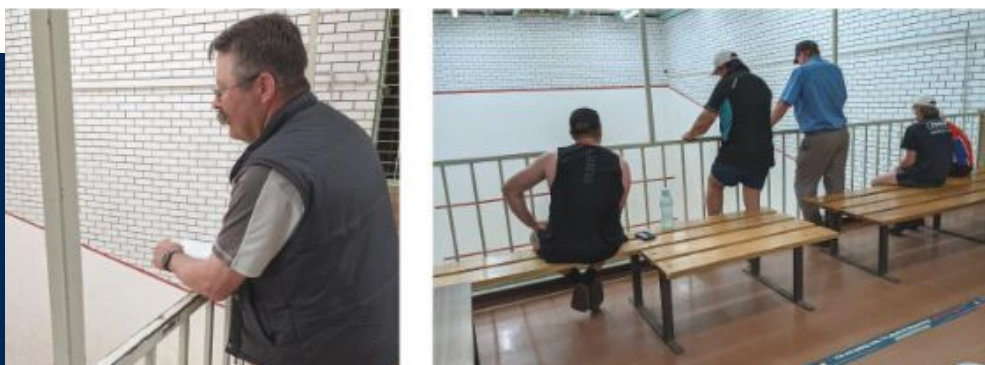
DONALD SQUASH REVITALISATION

Rebecca Postlthwaite

The Donald Squash club was formed in 1978 and has had a relatively consistent membership base throughout its time. Housed in the Donald Stadium, the two courts are a hive of activity during competition season, with everyone making the most of the opportunity to meet and speculate when the next rain is coming. The membership base is mainly farming families, with most players also connected to the local Lawn Tennis Club.

In the past 5 years, the number of players has been limited to those with a pre-existing connection to the club, usually through family who are already members. The strategic plan for the club is a simple one – they want to be more sustainable in the way that their membership base exists, as well as how the committee is formed.

The challenges that face the club have only been further enhanced as a result of COVID and being unable to play for almost 2 years. The Donald Squash Club helps the community of Donald and surrounds become more active, as well as providing opportunities for community connection. This aligns very closely with Buloke Shire Council's strategic plans; the annual plan, the 2030 plan and the Inclusiveness plan, as the operation of the squash club supports Community Health and Wellbeing, a key theme across all these plans.



DON'T WIPE US OUT

Andrew Smyth

The “Don’t Wipe us out” project is a youth advocacy pilot program that is intended to raise awareness a simple way to contribute towards being environmentally conscious; changing to using recycled toilet paper in the home.

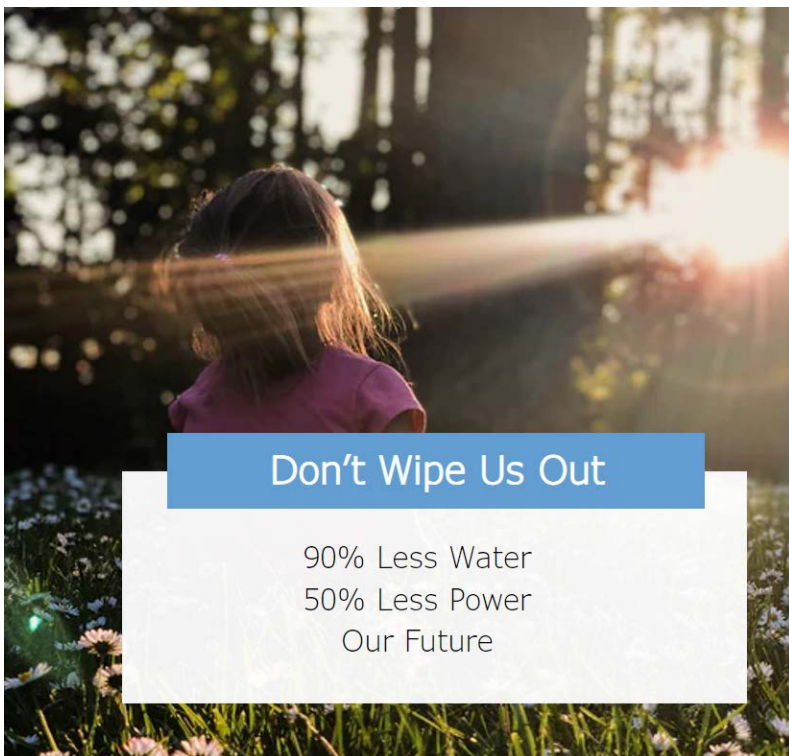
As District Leader of Scouts, Andrew aims to engage through the local Scout Groups to engage them in rolling out this project.

The expected outcome of the project is the successful delivery of 14 sessions across seven towns within the Macedon Range Shire Council area.

Each session will involve a presentation by Youth advocates, demonstrating that water and energy savings can be made with the simple switch to recycled toilet paper.

Project Targeted Outcomes

1. Increase awareness of the impacts Macedon Ranges Shire Council residents can make on their environment
2. Deliver a model of youth advocacy that can be replicated around Scouts Groups nation wide.
3. 350 families signed up within 90 days of Pilot Launch would equal 773,000 Litres of water saved in manufacture in 1 year.
4. Publication of environmental charters for replication of the project around more Victorian communities.



"Today the world is facing many more environmental challenges than when Scouting started; therefore it is crucial to ensure that Scouts are a positive force for change"



FIRST AID FOR THE MIND

Paul Harrison & Matthew Gromadzki

You have no health without your mental health!

Managing our daily mental wellness before it becomes mental illness - is as important as daily physical wellness and being.

When we injure ourselves physically, we quickly render first aid, whether it's a band aid or bandage or a sling to support a broken limb.

So why wouldn't we render first aid to our mental wellness and wellbeing if we felt something wasn't right and needed attention.

We would like to see a change in how we manage our mental wellness and render assistance in early intervention.

"First Aid for the Mind" is a workshop-based self-management approach to the effects of major stresses and trauma related injuries so that you not only know what to expect in the days, weeks, or months post event, but you learn effective techniques to help manage yourself."



FACILITATING FINANCIAL STABILITY

Hannah Cook

Through her employment as a credit manager, Hannah Cook has become passionate about financial Vulnerability Management in her field. Together with Recoveriescorp, a third party debt collection agency, Hannah aims to start a discussion with consumers around debt management.

"I am starting a Social Sustainability Forum. It will be nationwide; to understand the needs and values of communities all over Australia. Recoveriescorp and I want to gain insights that lead to positive engagement with the organisation and importantly; affordable payments plans for clients."

Community groups will be surveyed to contribute their insights and real-life stories.

Project targeted outcomes:

- Customers feeling confident to manage conversations around debt and receiving support from Recoveriescorp.
- It is expected that with a better understanding of customers needs, processes will become more efficient, customer experience will improve and so will staff experience at Recoveriescorp.



FLUORIDE COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Elizabeth Semmens

Tooth decay is one of the most common health problems in Australia. It can cause pain, difficulty eating and sleeping, and may make people feel unhappy about their appearance. As a previous resident of the Shire of Campaspe, Libby Semmens is particularly interested in how oral health is communicated in the community of Rochester. Through her research, Libby discovered disparities between metropolitan dental health and regional dental health.

As a part of her community project, Libby is working with LaTrobe University and Campaspe Shire Council to conduct a community survey within the town of Rochester. The survey will assess residents' understanding of oral hygiene and identify gaps in knowledge.

Project targeted outcomes:

- The benefits will be an increased awareness that the town does not have access to fluoride and the steps that should be taken to prevent tooth decay.
- More discussion around how poor oral health can impact the community.
- Connection with the community for input around health priorities.
- Identify barriers in the community to achieve oral health outcomes

"Spread yourself thick – focus on things that are truly important to you, and you will achieve great things."



HEALTHIER, HAPPIER LODDON RAIL TRAIL

Suzi Birthisel & Tarryn Smith



The townships of Bridgewater and Inglewood are situated approximately 8km apart along the Calder Highway, within the Loddon Shire. The towns have been historical sporting rivals over many years, with community members associating with either Bridgewater or Inglewood, with very little overlap.

This project involves linking the two towns via a rail trail.

The key outputs and deliverables to be produced by phase one of this project is a community survey to assess the interest in progressing a Rail Trail between Bridgewater and Inglewood. The survey will be developed in consultation with the Loddon Shire Council and distributed locally and via social media platforms.

Once the survey responses have been collected, the data will be analysed and fed back to the Loddon Shire Council, key stakeholders, and the community.

Project targeted outcomes:

- Increased options for physical activity in the Loddon Shire. Outdoor exercise, such as trails, have been demonstrated to increase health, improve mood, and restore attention, while decreasing depression and stress.
- A healthy and safe option to walk, run or cycle between the two towns.
- Promotion of tourism to our district, providing another reason to visit Loddon.
- Creation of a tangible link between the communities – beyond simply the trail – to pave the way for future partnerships and closer community connection.

*"By joining forces, and
working more
collaboratively, the
communities of
Bridgewater and
Inglewood can be
stronger, more
successful, and
sustainable into the
future"*

LAKE BOGA SILO ART

Brittany Bickford, Jonathon Haw & Natalie Eckert



Silo Art is popping up all over Regional Victoria, dazzling locals and attracting tourists to regional towns. Lake Boga is another small town with large unused silos. Located in North West Victoria, the township is supported by a local community group paving the way for silo art in their community. When Brittany, Jonathan and Natalie were introduced to Lake Boga Inc. they were inspired to add to the community initiative.

"When we were introduced to Lake Boga Inc., we faced the dilemma that they had already pre-empted what should be painted. This lack of community consultation was a red flag to us and after communicating with Lake Boga Inc., they entrusted us to initiate a consultation with community members."

The consultation will be delivered by a social media drive, plus an in person drop-in session to enable community members near and far to have their say via a survey.

The desired outcome of the project is to engage a community that feels they were consulted prior to artwork being completed on Lake Boga silos. Plus increase traffic through the town and add to the local economy.

"What is most important about this project is that we are not the drivers, we are facilitating and filling a skills gap amongst an established committee. This is a learning we have gained from our LMCLP journey - to work to one's strengths and to tell an authentic story of place."

LINGER LONGER IN LOCKINGTON

Alison Stewart

"What do you think is Lockington's most under utilised community asset?"

Alison Stewart posed this question to a group of her peers at a bi monthly meeting held by Lockington Planning Group. As active members of their community, group members share insights, ideas and plans with Campaspe Shire to promote the region.

The answer to Alison's question was none other than the Lockington Heritage Complex that sits at the southern end of Market Street in the town. Lockington Planning Group recognised the heritage complex as a rich source of history that is currently located away from the rest of the town. As a part of her community project for LMCLP, Alison aims to create a meandering pathway from Traveller's Rest toward the Heritage Complex. The project will employ local builders and artists to create a relaxing, pleasant environment by featuring water wheels used in the town's long history of agriculture.

Project targeted outcomes:

- Increase tourism in the Lockington town centre
- Strength the region's connection to Country by showcasing Dja Dja Wurrung artwork
- Create a sense of pride and comradere for Lockington residents

Water Wheel Project



"The pathway would consist of rendered channel banks where the district can showcase the collection of different water wheels that were used in the region since the establishment of irrigation."



SMALL FARM FIELD DAYS

Madelaine Scott

Madelaine Scott is a passionate organic egg farmer, who started her business, Madelaine's Eggs, when she was only 8 years old. Through Young Farmers Connect Madelaine aims to empower, educate and inspire other young people to begin their own small-scale farms.

The Small Farm Field Day is proposed as a full-day, face-to-face event held at Huntly Organics, a 30-acre farm in Bendigo, Victoria. Young Farmers Connect will be inviting all growers of food crops in the region.

The day will be focused on networking and forming a cohesive and action-based membership of growers in regional Victoria. The day will consist of a farm tour of Huntly Organics market garden, plus tool and technique demonstration and discussion. Moreover, there will be availability of advice from several local independent agronomists, educators and soil experts and a roundtable discussion. Then the day will move on to a presentation from other local support networks, including council and local food interests, all while establishing an official network of growers and industry stakeholders in regional Victoria that is entirely localised, practical and grower initiated.

The event is intended as a catalyst to kick start other farm tours, online collaboration and provide a support network for new growers.

Project targeted outcomes:

- Reduce general public perceptions of difficulty regarding small scale farming in Victoria.
- Transfer knowledge from one farming generation to the next.
Note: the average age for a farmer is 58.8 years old.
- Increase public engagement with small scale farming in regional Victoria
- Create a support network for new growers



"This project is an attempt to connect small farmers, farming communities and interested persons together in their area to learn and share practical skills"



THOROUGHbred HEREOS

Jessica Liston

Jessica Liston's life has been centred around supporting children, youth, and adults to regulate their emotions and live a congruent heart centred life using an approach where participants spend time in nature with a herd of horses.

Horses do not care how much money people have in their bank account, how well one can spell or what type of house they live in, they simply care about how people show up in the moment and how safe they feel in their presence. The mindfulness skills required to gain the trust and respect of horses also translate to all other aspects of the person's life. Through embodying such skills people can enhance their emotional intelligence thus allowing them to navigate the challenges of life with a steadier heart rhythm, congruent actions, and a clearer less chaotic mind.



WOODEND FIVE MILE CREEK

Krista Patterson-Majoer

The Five Mile Creek runs through the centre of the Woodend township and is a significant open space for the community of Woodend. The creek and its catchment support a range of threatened flora, fauna and vegetation; in particular the endangered Black Gum. Woodend Landcare have been working along Five Mile Creek for over 20 years, primarily on woody weed control and revegetation. The group have recently received a Council community grant to develop a masterplan to determine what is next for this vital community and environmental asset.

In her role with Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Krista will work with Woodend Landcare to develop a master plan for Five Mile Creek. The purpose of a masterplan is outlined as follows:

- Help Woodend Landcare and Council work together to enhance Woodend Five Mile Creek over the next ten years or more.
- Guide habitat restoration projects, support grant applications and inform infrastructure needs to improve the passive recreation and access to the creek for a broad range of users.
- Ensure future actions have the best ecological outcome for the creek and its surrounds and are supported by the local community.



"I am looking forward to applying many of the tools I learnt during my LMCLP journey in the roll out of this community project."



LEAD Loddon Murray

Principal Partner



Proudly supported by Regional Development Victoria

Scholarship Partners

