YACKA-D-YAK

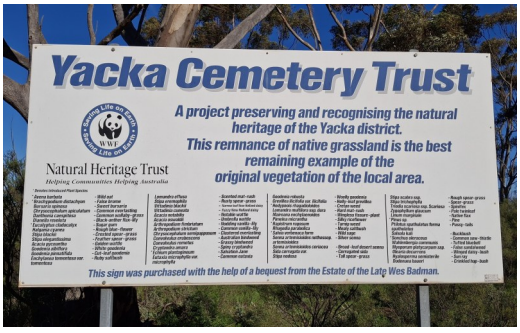
Newsletter of the Yacka Community Development Association Winter 2026 Edition

Welcome to the Winter edition of Yacka-D-Yak. As always, a big thank you to our contributors. Without you our newsletter would not be possible.

If you, dear reader have an item of community interest that you would like published in the next Yacka-D-Yak, please email it to yackadyak1@gmail.com. The deadline for the Spring edition is Friday 9 October 2026.

Please help the environment by opting to receive your copy of Yacka-D-Yak electronically. If you haven't already done so, please send your email address to yackadyak1@gmail.com

Preserving a Very Special Area in Yacka



On the south side of the Yacka Cemetery is a patch of bushland that is very important as it is the only remnant vegetation in the district. It has never been cleared or grazed. At some stage in the past there were some non indigenous eucalypts planted but most of them have now died or are dying. More importantly there are feral pines, from those growing around the outskirts of the cemetery, germinating and growing within the native area.

Now, thanks to members of the Australian Plants Society, these feral plants have been removed. Several working bees have been held in recent times with the main one held on Sunday 24 May when 15 brave Australian Plants Society Brinkworth Group members met at the Yacka Cemetery to cut down the unwanted young pine trees.

Chainsaws and loppers had a good workout cutting down dozens of pine trees from quite small to quite sizeable and up to six metres or more tall. Steve Wicks brought his trailer and more than ten loads were carted out to the adjacent paddock on the eastern side of the cemetery. Some members were busy dragging out the trees ready to be loaded onto the trailer. Some were also busy picking off the pinecones of the larger trees which were too big to be dragged out to avoid seeds being dropped where they weren't wanted.

The weather was inclement with light showers falling most of the time. The new shelter therefore was much appreciated and a great spot to have lunch and a well-earned rest for the hard working group. The cutting, dragging and loading continued until afternoon tea time when the rain seemed to be getting heavier. So much work was achieved that day with an amazing effort by everyone. Since then several smaller working bees have been held to finish off the job.

Not only are the pine trees threatening this area. There are various other feral plants invading the site, particularly bulbs which would have been flowers put on the graves and then thrown away without thinking of the damage this would do. They are spreading each year and choking the native vegetation and now there is also the pest, bridal creeper, which climbs up and around trees and shrubs and chokes them. This is a special area and local residents are encouraged to think about its preservation and the care it needs and help where able.

Marion Wicks and Heather Hancock

Yacka Community Development Association

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday 20 August at 6.30pm in the Hall Supper Room**

All members of the Yacka Community are encouraged to attend. Please come along and support your town.

There are several vacant committee positions. If you are interested in nominating you can just come along to the meeting or ring Lucy 0477265668 or Liz 0407285663 for more information.

We hope to see you there.





Yacka defeated Blyth for the coveted trophy. Sundays players were Sam Lemon, Pye Gray, Ben Sommerville, Barry Goss, Meg Weckert, Max Sommerville

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Locations in Yacka

There are three AEDs in Yacka:

* Under the verandah of the Bowling Club
* In the porch of the Hall
* Under the verandah of the Golf Club

These AEDs can be used by anyone in an Emergency situation

Yacka Golf Club

For the first time in what feels like forever, the season opened with a green course and, with rain persisting, the grass has grown with vigour! The mowers have been going almost full time. Special thanks to Buzzy Victor and Eric Weckert for the many hours they have sat on the ride-ons.

The season is now in full swing. The President's par rounds have been completed but no winner announced until season's end. The second round of Meg's red tee stableford is about to happen and two qualifying rounds for the Club Championship have been played with the third due at the end of July.

Adam Scott won the Legacy Day. Unfortunately the Glenelg play off clashes with the Yacka Farmers' Day this year so that is a disappointment.

At the end of May, the Yacka versus Blyth comp was held on Saturday at Yacka and the next day at Blyth. It ended up being a very close finish and Yacka managed to retain the trophy by less than half a point.

At the end of June two groups travelled to Quorn for the Association Pinehurst. Well done to Meg Weckert and Chris Clarke who finished third. Next year this event will be hosted by Yacka.

The Yacka Open Day has just been held. 43 players played, representing 13 clubs. This included 10 Ladies. Great to have so many attend and also to have a great band of volunteers on board to help with catering and scoring. Thanks to Pye on the barbie, Greg Burford and Buzz on the scoring table, Eric and Matthew at the bar and Koolunga's Karen, plus Heather, Fiona and Judy in the kitchen.

Zach fielding won the Men's Open Championship, playing this year for Peterborough. Ben Sommerville was the A Grade Handicap winner and Adam Scott won the B grade whilst Max Sommerville won the C Grade. Meg Weckert returned to form, winning the Ladies' Championship and hitting the longest drive. Zach had the longest drive in A grade and Max in C grade. Ben Weckert was nearest the pin on 7 and Ben Sommy on 8.

Farmers' Day was again very successful with 48 hitting off. It is a fun day which brings many mates together and certainly boosts wellbeing.

Association Pennants are at Pt Broughton Sunday July 26.

August will be full on with Championship semis and the big dance on the 29th. There's also SA Sand Greens at Pt Broughton mid-month and the Association Ambrose on the 23rd.

There will a presentation dinner in September to finish the season. What a whirlwind !!

Judy Goss



Cemetery Shelter

The Cemetery Trust have been busy in recent months installing a shelter at the cemetery.

The shelter is located on the northern aspect of the cemetery and will provide much needed shade and shelter for visitors.

The funding for the project has been provided through a very generous donation.



Yacka Community Morning Tea

The next Morning Tea will be held **in the Yacka Hall on Wednesday 26 August 2026 at 10.30 am.**

This is an informal gathering and everyone in Yacka, including past residents, is invited to attend.

Just come along. You will be most welcome and we would love to see you there.

Tea and coffee are provided. You can bring a plate of food if you wish but this is not essential.

Flinders
Mobile Library
www.flindersmobile.sa.gov.au

Town	JUly	August	September
YACKA 2.15pm – 3.35pm	Friday **24**	Friday **7, 21**	Friday **4, 18**

The Library Truck is parked out the front of the Craft Shop at these times but a Returns Box is located in the Craft Shop, so you can return items at any time.

The Library is part of the state wide LibrariesSA network and offers access to wide a range of physical and electronic services.

Libraries SA

For more information -
email: flindersmobile.library@libraries.sa.gov.au
Phone: 8662 2305



Reading aloud with your child has proven to be one of the most valuable activities you can do to set your child up for success and encourage them to have a love of reading for life.
What better way to start them out than by reading them 1001 books before they go to school?

If you read for as little as 15 minutes a day (approximately 3 picture books) it will be easy to read 1001 books in a year. Reading every day is a great habit to get into and it gives you a chance to sit down for a little while too!

After every 100 books, visit the Library to receive a special sticker for your reading record. A reward will be given at each milestone: 100, 200, 400, 600, 800, and 1001 books too.

Exploring Yacka's Back Roads and Beyond



Spalding Pub



Yackamoorundie Range



Bundaleer Station

For all our dedicated Back-roaders travel north on Horrocks Highway over the Broughton turning onto Watts Range Road (gravel). This is a scenic drive through undulating farmlands. Look for marked historical sites along the way. At the junction with the Goyder Highway (B64), turn right. The road passes by Bundaleer Homestead which sits nestled at the base of the ranges. The road climbs around Bundaleer Reservior to join up with RM Williams Way (B80) which is signposted.

Drive into Spalding. This town was made up of two original townships, the other being Trelyn. In the early days Spalding's population grew quickly with the influx of workers from the Bundaleer Reservoir project. After completion a large percentage of workers moved away and from here on the town grew at a much slower pace. On the Main Street you will drive passed the historic Spalding Hotel formally known as the Barbwire Pub. From the outskirts of town on Belalie East road (gravel) follow all the way to the Wilkins Highway (B78).

There are 2 options here. You can turn left into Jamestown — an attractive traditional country town. Jamestown has a huge advantage over many smaller settlements because it is on Belalie Creek—a permanent water source on which early development depended. It has all the facilities a traveller needs. The Tourist Information Centre is situated in the Historic Railway Station Museum. Retrace your steps on Willkins Highway.

The second option is to continue right towards Hallett. In Hallett, the Willogoleche Hotel is built on the early northern stock route long before Hallett was surveyed in 1870.Today the town maintains reduced services and amenities for locals and travellers.

From Hallett follow the Barrier Highway (A32) to Mt Bryan—a former railway town. Mt Bryan's population never grew any larger, with the loss of the railway and with Burra being nearby. Several points of interest are the Hotel, the Big Blade and the disused Railway Station.

Two kms passed the B64 junction, turn right at the Mid Night Oil House onto Leighton Road (gravel). On this road you will see the historic site — the Leighton Hall. The road becomes Camel Hump Road with the historic sites of Baldry Chapel and School House.

Drive passed the early eucalypt plantation of Leighton Forest. At the next cross roads, turn right onto Kimbo Road. Stay on to the junction with Pipeline Road. Follow this road then go left at the junction of Andrews Road which becomes Andrews West Road. The settlement of Andrews is a former railway siding. Only scattered buildings remain.

Bear left on RM Williams Way (B80). Travel only a short distance to the former Geralka Rural Farm site founded 1972. Turn right here onto Cas Hawker Road (gravel) then Yacka Andrews Road through the scenic Yackamoorundie Ranges with panoramic views over the surrounding hills. Return to Yacka.

Always carry water, first aid kit, digital or hard copy maps, camera and a great sense of adventure! Don't forget to check your spare tyre.

Steve Hyde

Yackamoorundie Crafts

Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11am – 4 pm

We have a vast array of locally produced items and great gift ideas

EFTPOS facilities for purchases



Komatsu dozer



Bugatti Ralley



Rock Crusher



Hello from Yacka Motor Garage

Cold? yes!.. The very welcomed rain is needed around the Mid North. On the other hand fuel prices, combined with cold winter days has turned travellers away. Visitor numbers were down slightly during this years History Festival. Allowing me plenty of useable spare time to accomplish all those repetitive chores. I am only too pleased to welcome more and more locals keen to learn and appreciate Yacka's interesting past. For me, that's what it's all about!

I often sit here in one of the very comfortable lounges, contemplating life!! How it may have been 100 years back when the garage was first built. It would have been freezing cold in winter with a pot belly stove for warmth and extremely hot in summer. In summer the doors would have been open at both ends allowing cool breezes to flow through. Then, occasionally, contending with those blustering winds and rain that passed over the town. How things have changed in workshops of today.

Traffic constantly passes through Yacka. heading to the Flinders Ranges, Melrose and further north. There are caravaners for destinations unknown. Particularly noticeable are the ever increasing numbers of large prime movers transporting massive machines of all descriptions around the country. Occasionally they stop in Yacka. Several of which were caught on camera.

As soon as the weather clears and the grass dries out, myself, the mower/slasher and hedge trimmer are in for a massive workout!

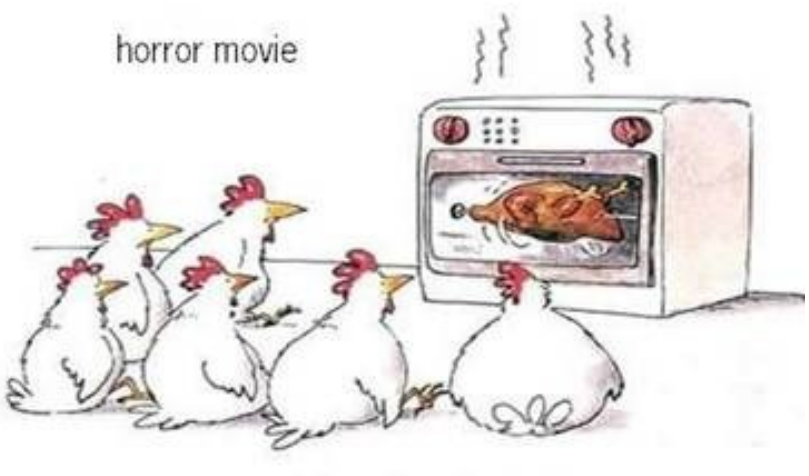
Away from the garage we attended the Great Australian Bugatti Rally through the Mid North. We caught up with the club in Laura for one of their stop-overs at the "Little Blessings Brewery", formerly the Baptist Church. Here the cars parked up for a spectacular public display.

As a member of PADARC, our presentation dinner for the second year running was held in the renovated Commercial Hotel Jamestown - enjoyable times, great venue.

As usual, call in for a chat while browsing over more new photos, you are always welcome! If you have a story to tell.. or any old photographs to share, I would love to see them! Free Entry!

Steve Hyde

Comedy Corner





From Marion's Kitchen

Cauliflower and Green Pea Curry

600g cauliflower florets
2 tblespns ghee
1 medium brown onion finely chopped
2 cloves garlic crushed
2cm piece fresh ginger grated
1/4 cup hot curry paste
2 large tomatoes chopped coarsely
1 cup frozen peas
1 cup yoghurt
1/4 cup cream
3 hard boiled eggs sliced
1/4 cup chopped coriander

Cook cauliflower until just tender. Heat ghee in a large pan and cook onion, garlic and ginger stirring until onion softens. Add paste and cook, stirring until fragrant. Add cream to pan, bring to boil then reduce. Add cauliflower and tomatoes. Simmer 5 minutes. Add peas and yoghurt and stir over low heat until peas are cooked.

Serve curry sprinkled with coriander and eggs.

Enjoy!

Follow the Yacka Bowling Club Facebook page for any updates on what's happening at the Club

Gladstone Art Exhibition

Tick, tick, tick.....the time is running out to get your entry forms in for the Gladstone Art Exhibition. Entry forms need to be sent to PO Box 1, Gladstone SA 5473 by Friday 28th August.

Forms can be downloaded for printing from the Gladstone SA annual art exhibition Facebook page or collected from the Southern Flinders Discovery Centre.

This year you can find your niche in one of 14 categories which includes:

- junior fine art (for under 18) -
- land or waterscape
- still life
- abstract
- human or animal portrait
- photography (as taken with a camera)
- digital art (2D images made with illustrative software or digitally manipulated photography)
- sculpture
- applied art
- fibre art
- fabric art
- jewellery
- paper art
- themed category which this year is 'dogs'. Entries in this category can take any form and medium.

Each category may be awarded a $200 prize as selected by the judges but the people will choose the overall winner for a $500 prize. So come along and you be the judge!

The exhibition will be open daily in the Gladstone Town Hall at 10am - 4pm from Saturday 12th September to Thursday 8th October, 2026.

When visiting the Gladstone Art Exhibition, there will be an art swap table set up so you can "make something and take something". The table will have a variety of art making materials with which you can make a small piece of art to share with other visitors, because art is at the heart of all human culture and it brings joy into our lives.

There will also be raffle tickets available for a chance to win some great prizes. Proceeds raised from the raffle and exhibition will go towards retrofitting the information bay area on the main street so it is a light and bright outdoor art exhibition space for visitors and locals to enjoy. Also for future planned art events. Watch this space!

Of course, to make any community event run it needs volunteers. If you can spare a morning or afternoon during the open times for the Gladstone Art Exhibition please add your name to the roster calendar currently at the Southern Flinders Discovery Centre or at the exhibition once it has opened.

Finally, there will be an opening night celebration at 7pm on Friday 11th September. Entry for this event is $10 at the door.

Susan Greentree



The Reid/Pilkington family
on their visit to Yacka



Mr John Reid, Postmaster from 1948-52



Cast iron cylinder head found at the garage

Yacka History Group

On Saturday 15th June we had a visit from 15 members of the Reid-Pilkington families. Trevor Reid arranged the visit as he spent several years in Yacka as a child when his father, John Reid, was made Postmaster in 1948.

John Reid became Postmaster when the original Postmaster, Henry Harrison died. The Reids were in the Post Office from 1948 -1952 and Trevor attended the Yacka School from 1952 to 1953 when the family was transferred to Hahndorf. Mrs Reid also performed a significant role in Yacka when she ran swimming classes in the Broughton River assisted by a bank clerk of the time.

The Pilkington side of the family lived at White Cliffs and knew Yacka well.

The Group were first given light refreshments followed by a tour of the Yacka Institute which they found most interesting. This was followed by a visit to the History Rooms where Trevor was able to see his school attendance records. There were also displays of photographs of how Yacka used to be as well as other records.

The family were most appreciative of what had been done for them and generously made a donation to assist in the preservation of Yacka's colourful past.

Dennis Dale

Have You Dug Up Anything Of Interest Lately?

If you dig up something interesting that relates to Yacka (eg in your backyard or elsewhere), please send in a brief article about it… there are lots of people interested in old Yacka objects. Items for the next newsletter can be sent to: yackadyak1@gmail.com by Friday 9 October 2026.

Thanks to Steve for contributing his recent find to this edition of Yacka-D-Yak.

Steve's Find

Returning to those "Olden Days" and being deemed unrepairable at the time, a cast iron cylinder head was discarded to the scrap heap at the rear of the garage. Over the following decades it became entombed, only to be resurrected during one of my many block clearing episodes, 70 years on.

I dug it up, washed it down and cleaned it off ready to join the ever growing "Rusty Relic" collection. The information I have is that it is from the N Series Fordson, a cheap light tractor from the mid to late 1940s. These tractors were well positioned in the market place and in high demand with farmers post World War II. This model is still very popular with collectors and restorers of today!

Steve Hyde



Please... help keep Yacka beautiful



What's on in Yacka

There is a lot happening in Yacka over the remainder of Winter.

It's the time of year for Annual General Meetings. The Community Development Association will hold their meeting on Thursday 23 August at 6.30pm (See the ad. on page 1). The Yackamoorundie Craft Association will hold their AGM on Sunday 23 August at 4.15pm in the Craft Shop. Other organisations will be having AGMs also. Keep an eye on their Facebook pages for details.

If Craft is your thing, a Craft and Hobby Group meet on the second Thursday of the month at 1.00pm – 4.00pm in the Hall. We would love to have more participants. Bring along your projects to work on while enjoying the company of other crafters. Tea and Coffee is supplied.

The Table Tennis group is still getting together on Wednesday evenings at 6.00pm in the Hall. The games are purely social and we always welcome new people – you will be guaranteed of a few laughs!. You can always come along and try it out. We stay for a cuppa and a chat afterwards.

There is also Morning Tea held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10.30am (See ad. on page 3).

Then of course there are our local sporting groups—golf and bowls which are very active and welcoming to new people .

All of the above activities are a great way of getting to know other members of the community. If you have any queries about any of these activities you can email us at Yack-D-Yak and we will steer you in the right direction.

NORTHERN AREAS COUNCIL

BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER

Doggie Doo.....do the right thing!

There are health risks associated with dog droppings in public areas.

It is your legal responsibility to immediately clean up after your dog.

Please note: Fines may apply

