

Yumba Yarn

Summer 2026

Celebrating
25
YEARS



**Celebrating 25 Years
Of Building Inclusive
Communities**

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Our Yumba Bimbi team. The people helping our participants to live their best lives.

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If there is a will, there is a way. James' first employment opportunity.

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Cathy's garden is mirroring her successes in life.

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Overcoming boundaries to become Bree the creative.

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International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

A Message From The C.E.O

Year in Review

Our mission to “strengthen choice and life opportunities in an open and inclusive community” continues to guide every aspect of our work.

Yumba Bimbi is proud to report strong financial performance for the 2025 financial year. Financial sustainability remains a cornerstone of our strategic approach, particularly as we navigate the evolving NDIS landscape. We have continued to reinvest strategically in organisational capacity, ensuring that responsible financial stewardship translates directly into improved participant experiences and outcomes.

Our ongoing commitment to operational excellence and data protection has driven continued investment in technology infrastructure. These enhancements strengthen cybersecurity, improve operational efficiency, and support more informed decision-making across the organisation.

Last year we celebrated 25 years of disability service provision across Central Queensland. As we move forward into the next exciting phase of our organisation’s development, we are excited to mark the occasion with a community event on Saturday, 27 June 2026. Please join us for a fun night out at Disco at the Mirror Club!

As an employer of choice, we remain steadfast advocates for the employment and development of people with disability. Our commitment to workplace diversity is reflected throughout our organisation, with a significant proportion of our workforce and Board identifying as people living with disability.



Esmond Street Development: A Transformative Milestone

The 2025 financial year has marked a pivotal chapter in Yumba Bimbi’s evolution. Following the land acquisition at 89 Esmond Street, we have progressed toward realising our vision for purpose-built infrastructure. This new facility will be transformative for our organisation. Designed to be fit-for-purpose, technologically advanced, and fully accessible, it will consolidate services currently dispersed across Anakie Street, Theresa Street, Opal Street, and various community venues. Beyond serving our operational needs, the development has been conceived as a genuine community asset, a welcoming hub and meeting place that will generate positive social impact extending well beyond our immediate participants.



We are excited for what is to come!

“My disability exists not because I use a wheelchair but because the broader environment isn’t accessible”

– Stella Young.

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Yumba Bimbi Support Services acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we meet, work and learn. We pay respect to the First Nation's peoples, their elders, past and present. We value cultural diversity in our region and view Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and heritage as integral in a shared national identity. We have a strong commitment to building inclusive and vibrant communities. We are committed to providing services and opportunities that are respectful and accessible to all members of the community.

Celebrating 25 Years Of Building Inclusive Communities

**25 Years of growth. 25 Years of commitment.
25 Years of collaboration.**

Yumba Bimbi began when a group of dedicated parents gathered to establish a respite service for children living with disability. The founding members included Mary Anderson, Gareth Munro, Paul Bettinzoli, Di Alexander, Peter Williamson, John Homan, and, Leanne & Steven Thompson. As Leanne explains, “There was a real need in the community and all around.”

What began as weekend-only respite for people living with disability, Yumba Bimbi has now evolved to offer Community Access, In-home support, Accommodation Services, Transport, Employment Support, Short-Term Respite, Plan Management, and Support Coordination. Yumba Bimbi’s contribution, the gentle beat of a drum, if you will, is a constant presence, and at Yumba Bimbi, we are proud to take on this role in the communities in which we work.

Establishing Yumba Bimbi required the help of the local government and Kestrel Mines. Leanne states, “We had the local member of parliament lobbying for us. He was really good and helpful in getting the funding to pay for wages, and Kestrel Mines donated the house and helped with the fitting out for accessibility.” There were years of selling raffle tickets to cover wages and to purchase the resources and equipment needed to support individuals in the house. “It was a lot of effort, but worthwhile,” comments Steven.

The first time Melissa, Steven and Leanne’s daughter accessed respite, Steven says with laughter, “It felt like something was wrong, the house was quiet! I thought, what

is this relaxing business.” Steven continues to explain the valuable resource respite became during a time of need. “It gave us a chance to breathe, to reinvigorate ourselves.” 25 years ago there was little to no support for individuals with disability and their families. There were fewer professionals, little understanding of the needs of people with disability, and social isolation. Leanne describes the moment Yumba Bimbi was established: “Yumba Bimbi was a saviour.”

Jennie, a parent of Yumba Bimbi has previously shared her feelings towards her son Bruce accessing respite in the early years and beyond. “Knowing that our loved ones are lovingly cared for, safe, and treated with respect is of the utmost importance, and Yumba Bimbi families are so blessed in this way.”

Di Alexander played an influential role in many people’s lives. “Di gave a lot of support to a lot of people,” says Steven. Leanne adds, “She would travel all around the region visiting families who had children with disability.”

Connie, who was employed by Juliette states, “We made it feel like a home and prided ourselves in customer service. Juliette would make her homemade fresh sausage rolls, cut flowers, and we would have the lighting right. We created something very special.” Highlighting the genuine desire to make Yumba Bimbi a real ‘home away from home.’

Reflecting on this momentous time



Juliette, who, after a 7-year absence living in different parts of Queensland and now serving as General Manager of Operations, was interviewed and appointed by the Board, becoming the first employee of Yumba Bimbi. However, our organisation was not always called Yumba Bimbi. Juliette explains, “There was a need to call the house by a name”.

Emerald State high-school launched a competition to come up with a name. Ultimately, Denise Hewitt, a local First Nations parent whose son began using Yumba Bimbi’s services, named the house. The name Yumba Bimbi translates in the Indigenous language of this region as “Good Home”. As we celebrate 25 years of this incredible organisation, the name ‘Good Home’ continues to resonate deeply. It is familiar. It comforts. It guides.

- Juliette McCorley General Manager Operations

“What I am most proud of is the way we have built something truly special — not just a service, but a community. I’m proud of our culture, the kindness, the respect, the teamwork, and the unwavering belief in people’s potential. And I’m incredibly proud of the reputation we’ve created, where our name is spoken with such high regard throughout the community. It reflects the heart of our work, the compassion of our team, and the genuine impact we have every single day.

- Kerri Downie General Manager Client Service



“As I reflect on Yumba Bimbi’s 25 years of serving our community, I am deeply proud of the meaningful difference we have made together. What fills me with the greatest sense of purpose is witnessing the genuine connections we have fostered between participants and their communities, between families and support networks, and between dreams and real opportunities. We have had the privilege of walking alongside hundreds of people with disabilities living across the rural and remote communities of Central Qld. Every milestone celebrated, many barriers overcome, and every life enriched reminds me why we do this work. Our roots in this community run deep, and that local connection has allowed us to truly understand and respond to what people need to live their best lives. I am incredibly grateful to our dedicated Board, team, our participants and the families who have trusted us to be part of their journey”

- Rachel Freerman CEO

Our Board



From very early on, Yumba Bimbi has been privileged with outstanding board leadership. The Yumba Bimbi board is made up of seven highly-skilled and experienced individuals who are elected by financial members of the organisation.



Renee Barlow • Board Chair

Renee brings over 15 years' experience across the not-for-profit and health sectors and is Owner and Manager of Paragon Health Solutions. Former CEO of Central Highlands Healthcare, she has led GP and primary health services with a strong focus on sustainable community impact. Renee joined Yumba Bimbi in 2021, was appointed Chair in 2023, and also chairs the Compliance and Risk Subcommittee. She combines strategic expertise with a people-centred leadership approach to drive strong governance and organisational growth.



Simone Parker • Board Treasurer

Simone joined the Yumba Bimbi Board in 2022 and serves as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Subcommittee. A seasonal agricultural consultant with Bush AgriBusiness, she supports grazing businesses to strengthen culture, strategy, and performance. Simone also sits on the board of Rural Solutions Queensland, ensuring strong financial alignment with purpose. Her passion for collaboration, financial stewardship, and community service extends to managing a lifestyle block in Gindie.



Kate Isles • Board Member

Kate joined the Yumba Bimbi Support Services Board in 2025 and brings 25 years of experience across the public and private sectors. A business owner and community leader, she has led major projects in community recovery, urban planning, and regional development. Kate is co-founder of Infinitum Partners and was named Australian Planner of the Year in 2017. She contributes strong strategic planning expertise, community engagement skills, and a passion for inclusive, high-performing teams.



Carmel Marshall • Board Member

Carmel is Executive Officer Planning and Development and Company Secretary at CatholicCare Central Queensland, leading regional strategic planning across Central Queensland. With over 15 years' experience in sustainable regional development, she brings strong governance expertise and a commitment to community-led decision-making. Carmel previously served on the Yumba Bimbi Board from 2018 to 2024 and returns to support its growth and long-term sustainability. She is a strong advocate for person-centred culture and quality outcomes for vulnerable people.



Bradley Whittington • Board Member

Bradley has been part of the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) regional service team since 2014, supporting primary producers across the region. He previously spent 18 years at Emerald Agricultural College, training students in crop production, irrigation management, and property development. Bradley brings strong agricultural and regional development expertise to the Yumba Bimbi Board. He is keen to contribute his knowledge in support of the organisation's mission.



Leisa Donlan • Board Member (Leave of Absence)

Leisa joined the Yumba Bimbi Board in 2023 and serves on the Finance and Assets and Infrastructure subcommittees. She brings over 30 years of leadership experience across industry, international not-for-profit, local government, and advocacy roles. Former CEO of a global industry association, Leisa also held senior local government leadership positions and was named Australian Association Executive of the Year in 1999. She continues to contribute strong governance expertise and a deep commitment to community development.



Rosemarie Price • Board Member

With over 30 years of experience across diverse areas of finance, taxation, university lecturing, and the energy industry, Rosemarie brings a wealth of knowledge in credit, financial hardship, vulnerability, and dispute management. Her extensive background has fostered a deep understanding of the importance of education and support for essential services, particularly for vulnerable community members.

YUMBA BREW



The opening of Yumba Brew

The creation of Yumba Brew is one of our proudest achievements in turning vision into reality. While supporting people to build skills and confidence, we recognised that genuine employment opportunities for people with disability in our region were limited. In partnership with Emerald Medical Group, we saw an opportunity to create a real workplace where people could gain meaningful employment, develop hospitality skills, and contribute to the community.

Our goal was to create a place where great coffee and genuine inclusion come together, challenging outdated perceptions about what people with disabilities can achieve. We are grateful to Emerald Medical Group and more recently Direct Chemist Outlet for sharing our vision and helping us build a social enterprise that shows what is possible when we invest in real opportunities for people to shine.



Direct Chemist Outlet Central Highlands: Our Community Champions

We welcome you to the Yumba Brew

We asked Ryan, the pharmacist (who is also, now a Managing Partner of Direct Chemist Outlet Central Highlands) a few questions to get to know him better, after all, Yumba Bimbi will be having a lot more coffee with Ryan over the coming years!

What is your role in the pharmacy and how long have you been part of the pharmacy?

I am one of the pharmacists in our amazing team that serves our community and have been part of this particular pharmacy, Direct Chemist Outlet Central Highlands, for 2-3 years now. I have now had the opportunity to partner in the business for just about a year, which has been very exciting, nerve-racking and plenty of learning all at the same time.

How long have you been part of the Emerald community?

I came to Emerald towards the end of 2009 as a trainee following my university studies, with the thought of being here for a couple years. Fast forward now, and we are in 2025! 16 years working as a pharmacist in the Central Highlands and I'm still here and loving it!

What do you like about our community?

I love the people. The genuine connection and relationship you get to make with people is something special. The receptivity I felt when I first came to the community was what made me stay year after year and now, it is home!

How did the collaboration between YB and the pharmacy commence?

Our vision is to improve health, inspire wellbeing and connect our community. We want to inspire, educate, connect and support our team and our community. Partnering with YB is, therefore, not only a core part of what we believe in but an obvious option if the opportunity were ever to present itself. We have been partnering with YB for as long as I can remember. Many of our team members are Yumba clients, who we love having as part of our team.

What does being inclusive mean to you?

Being inclusive to me means that every person has the opportunity to have a meaningful impact in our world, to have their whole self and their contribution genuinely valued and celebrated. That we create and encourage opportunity in our workforce and in our community to foster a sense of belonging, and celebrate the diversity, uniqueness and value that each person brings.

What excites you about having the Yumba Brew within the premises?

The fact that Yumba Brew is willing to partner with us tells us they see and understand our values. The thought of adding value to what we believe is an amazing organisation and supporting our community is exciting for me. Also, we get coffee on call? What is there not to be excited about!

Be sure to grab a coffee at Yumba Brew

Open Monday to Friday from 8.30am-12.30pm at 1 Yamala street, Emerald

Yumba Bimbi's future



Our vision for the next 25 years is both ambitious and grounded in our commitment to the people we serve.

We see Yumba Bimbi continuing to be a trusted partner in the lives of people with disability across the rural and remote communities of Central Queensland. We're committed to building an organisation that remains locally rooted while embracing innovation. This means investing in our workforce, developing new service delivery models that work for rural and remote contexts, and ensuring financial sustainability so we can continue to create a more inclusive region where everyone has the opportunity to pursue their goals and live meaningful lives. Our vision is simple: to be here, doing this work with excellence and compassion, for another 25 years and beyond.

The disability sector is experiencing significant transformation right now, and staying ahead of these trends is critical for organisations like Yumba Bimbi. The regulatory environment is becoming more complex which places immense pressure on organisations to adapt and respond. We're also watching the rollout of foundational supports, changes to assessment processes, Participant funding models and ongoing pricing pressures. Adapting to NDIS policy changes designed primarily with urban contexts in mind requires constant creativity and problem-solving from our team. For regional providers, these changes create both challenges and opportunities—we need to be more efficient while maintaining the personal, responsive approach that defines rural service delivery.

My confidence comes from several fundamental strengths that position Yumba Bimbi for long-term sustainability. First and foremost, we have incredibly strong governance. Our board brings diverse expertise, deep community connections, and clear strategic thinking.



They understand both the disability sector and the unique dynamics of regional Queensland, and they're committed to sustainable growth rather than unsustainable expansion.

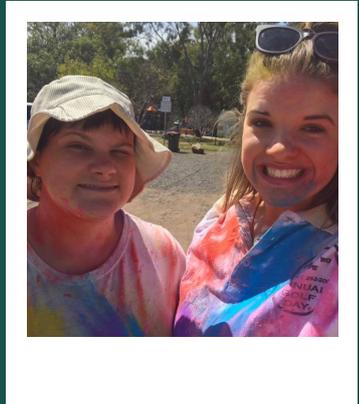
Our financial management has always been prudent. We've built reserves, diversified our service offerings, maintained careful cost control, and invested strategically in areas that strengthen our core business.

Our HR and recruitment processes have matured significantly. We've developed clear values-based recruitment, comprehensive induction programs, ongoing professional development, and retention strategies that recognise the unique challenges of rural practice. We invest in our staff because we know that quality services depend entirely on quality people. Our staff turnover is lower than sector averages, which speaks to our workplace culture and our commitment to supporting our team.

Perhaps most importantly, we have trust and credibility in our communities. We've been here for 25 years, we employ local people, we understand local contexts, and we've built relationships that can't be replicated by fly-in-fly-out metropolitan providers. That deep community connection is our competitive advantage and our greatest asset. People know Yumba Bimbi, they trust us, and they choose us not because we're the only option but because we genuinely deliver quality, responsive, person-centred support.

We're also committed to continuous improvement and innovation. We listen to feedback, we adapt our practices, we embrace appropriate technology, and we're not afraid to try new approaches when current ones aren't working. This combination of stability and adaptability gives me tremendous confidence that we'll not only survive but thrive in the decades ahead.

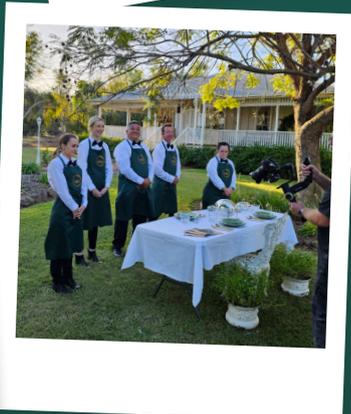




A Snap Shot Of 25 Years

Building inclusive communities since 2000, we were founded on a vision to support people to live good lives within their communities. Over the years, we have welcomed many wonderful participants and families, supported by an incredible team. We have proudly shared our mission, supported national awareness days, given back to our community, and celebrated the growth and achievements of our participants.

Our journey has been filled with fun, travel, community events, team building, and award-winning impact.



2000

Yumba Bimbi was founded and Yumba Bimbi officially opens its first service.

2007

YB launches 'Respite Support for Older Parent Carers' project.

2013

Three YB participants move into independent living.

2018

The 'Yumba Yarn' is launched with its first edition.

2021

Finalist in the Central Highland's Business Excellence Awards.
- People's Choice Award

2024

- Launch of new YB brand and website.
- YB acquires a new block of land to house expanding facilities.

2002

Incorporation status.

2009

YB's first round of school-based Trainees complete their Certificate III in Community Services.

2017

- YB rebrands.
- YB receives the deeds to 23 Park Avenue.

2019

65 Anakie Street purchased.

2023

- Gala in the Garden' community awareness event held at Aggrow, Emerald.
- Yumba Bimbi launches 'Yumba Brew' initiative.
- Winner of the Central Highland's Business Excellence Awards.
- Finalist in the People's Choice Award.

2025

- Yumba Bimbi Support Service Celebrates 25 Years.
- Land acquisition at 89 Esmond Street.



Employee Spotlight

Heidi is a valued member of the Yumba Bimbi team. We spoke with Heidi to learn what drives her success as a Support Worker.



Explain a typical day in the life of your job.

A typical day for me is arriving at Park Avenue around 7.45am to be greeted by my colleagues, and the most important reason that I get up each morning is looking forward to receiving the best morning greetings from the individuals who call Park Avenue their second home.

Every day is a little different; each day is filled with fun activities and outings. We plan to suit the individual's needs. These activities are not only fun but also a learning experience for our number ones - our clients. We are always focused on reaching individuals' goals.

Some days you can see us at the pool, strolling through the Botanical Gardens, out for lunch, just to name a few. After our day's outing/activities, it's then home time, or if the clients are sleeping over, we start supporting them with their personal care, then dinner.

What drives you to get up and do this work each day?

I love how I have built relationships within the Yumba Bimbi family. When you have been working with the same client for 5 years, you soon become attached as you have learnt so much about them, their loves and hates, and how they like their eggs cooked. So, for me going to work each day

does not actually feel like I am going to work. Even though some days can be quite challenging, knowing that my clients for the day are depending on me to turn up is what drives me to do the best for my clients every day, making their life a little better a day at a time, which is what keeps me going each day.

What has been a challenge?

A challenge for me is when I have a new client, the first time supporting them, getting to know them, and working out what will make their life easier, while helping them achieve their goals, which in turn will make them feel happy and proud.

What are your triumphs/ successes?

I feel that I have succeeded when my clients have reached a certain goal that they have set for themselves, and they show their appreciation in their own unique way.

Last words

I have worked at Yumba Bimbi since leaving school in 2021. I have learnt so much along the way. From cooking evening meals to attending speech therapy appointments with clients, building relationships not only with clients but also with their families. I would like to thank all my colleagues and the behind-the-scenes team who have supported me whenever needed.



Heidi is deeply passionate about supporting our participants. She always goes above and beyond, advocating strongly for their wellbeing.

An inspirational passage from Linda- YB Participant

Strength is the ability to get through the next day. To awaken when the sun is rising. To never give up hope, but continue with each and every day. To never give up faith in seeing the next day. We will all get through it if we have faith in the Lord Jesus. We will do it.

**Signed
– Radiant Angel**

Persistence Pays Off

James proudly enters the workforce.

James was determined to get a job at McDonald's. Through his enthusiasm and initiative, he can now call himself a McDonald's employee, a position he proudly holds and a company we now welcome as a Community Champion.

Tash, a shift manager, recounts how James joined McDonald's. She says, "James put in an application to apply for a job. He was so excited. I didn't want to deter him from getting a job. I wanted him to get a start to learn new skills." This one 'yes' from Tash has introduced James to a whole new set of skills. James has been working at McDonald's for three months with a one 3-hour shift per week.

When asking Tash what she first focused on when employing James, she says, "The first thing was to find out what his abilities were." This is a vital step when employing a person with a disability - recognising their diverse abilities and leveraging them as strengths. Tash continues, "I wanted him to learn to be independent too. As time goes on, his confidence continues to increase, and he will be able to work more autonomously. He might even be able to do more hours."

James was able to start work with support from his Yumba Bimbi Support Worker Fay. Fay explains how James' job came about when his older sister was looking for work. James was involved in the discussions Fay had with his sister about the different types of jobs people have in society and the skills needed for various roles. Fay told the siblings, "There is a job for everyone." It sparked an idea for James, and he asked to also get a job. James took the initiative, and it paid off.

Fay explained that entering the workforce had its challenges for James. "First, we needed a birth certificate to obtain a bank account. Then we also needed a Medicare card, which I helped James get for himself." Part of Fay's role as a Yumba Bimbi Support Worker is to empower James to make decisions. James was encouraged to choose which bank he wanted to go to. "After an initial change of bank, we went to the Commonwealth Bank, which has been very supportive," comments Fay.

To succeed in his role, James follows a list of tasks. He chooses which task on the list to complete first. Fay has a great way of introducing workplace-related language in a manner James understands. This broadens



his understanding of employment. Fay explains to James why performing well in a workplace is important, so if he ever needs or wants to develop his skills elsewhere, he will have a strong reference.

James is also learning to use a tablet. For now, Fay is guiding him on how to open emails and understand his pay check. When he feels more confident, James will be able to take his tablet home and use it independently. The skills James has learned at McDonald's have carried over into the home, where he's now responsible for taking out the rubbish and feeding his cat. Still at school, James has used his newly learned hospitality skills in the classroom. His teacher from school rang James' sister-in-law to explain how helpful he's been with tidying up the hospitality area. These experiences have increased James' self-esteem and his contribution to the world around him.

Fay explains that a work colleague of James' recently said to him, "I know when you are working as the dining room is always so clean." Fay also comments, "James' schoolmates will come to McDonald's and give him a high 5." This encouragement continues to motivate



James. When asked how he feels about having a job, James replies, "It is very cool." Fay says, "James has learned to address the manager when he arrives, log on, then address the manager when he logs off and say goodbye." James feels incredibly proud to get the chance to do so.

Yumba Bimbi are pleased to have McDonald's contributing to our mission of building inclusive communities.



From Strength To Strength, Cathy Proves That With The Right Support, Anything Is Possible.

Three years ago, Cathy accessed her first NDIS Plan. Today, she's thriving—healthier, more confident, and achieving goals she once thought impossible. With the support of Yumba Bimbi and her dedicated team, Cathy has transformed her life and is now aiming for paid employment in 2026.



Challenge accepted

This is Cathy's outlook on her life. She has a list, and she's ticking it off every day. With guidance from her Yumba Bimbi Support Workers, led by Joanne and supported by a team of experts in allied health, Cathy is demonstrating that any goal is achievable with the right people around her. "Everyone combined has contributed to her success," Joanne explains.

Professional Supports

Under her NDIS Plan, Cathy also receives assistance from Grant at You Move, Psychological support from Natalie at Complete Psychological Care, and dietary recommendations from Annette at Highlands Nutrition. Over time, Cathy has built mental resilience, adopted healthier eating habits, lost weight and undergone essential medical treatment. She continues to thrive, embracing every challenge.

Strategies that worked

In addition to the professional support received, Joanne says, "We started with simple challenges like parking as far away as we could from a place so that we could get incidental steps in. When it came to savings, we did the 'Coke Bottle Challenge', which is where you put \$2.00 coins in the Coke bottle and save money this way."

Cathy recognised she also needed support with decluttering her home. Joanne explains, "We set a plan to tackle one room at a time. We took the Marie Kondo approach and have donated over 300 bags." When asked how she feels about having a more functional home, Cathy replies, "It feels good." Joanne states that, based on the professional advice Cathy has received, "She has learned better strategies for coping in life."

Cathy's garden is mirroring her successes in life.

Cathy's garden reflects her. She tends to it, and it rewards her greatly. She has thriving plants and has recently grown pumpkins. With Joanne's help, Cathy is going to attempt to produce a giant pumpkin ready to be entered into the 2026 Emerald Show. It is evident that Cathy and Joanne enjoy each other's company, and as Joanne explains, "As I have been helping Cathy with her goals, she has also helped motivate me in return."

Unwavering support

Cathy praised the Yumba Bimbi team. She explains that Donna, her Support Coordinator, has consistently helped her maintain a positive mindset. "She is a legend. She gives me pep talks when I am down and says, I believe in you." Joanne agrees, "Donna really is a standout."

A life full of purpose

Cathy's life is busier than ever. She is very artistic, making ceramics, painting and engaging in other creative outlets. She has strong ties to the local Salvation Army, attending Camps and volunteering at the local Neighbourhood Centre. With her physical fitness improved and greater mental fortitude, she can assist her elderly mother with her needs, and is financially secure after learning budgeting from Joanne. Cathy is more empowered and determined than ever to continue succeeding.

Next on the list is paid employment, a goal she has set for 2026. We are confident Cathy will accomplish this goal, as Joanne says, "Everything that is on Cathy's list, she has just nailed it." This is a direct result of her NDIS Plan and a committed team of Support.

**Workers, Support Coordinator and allied health professionals.
As Cathy puts it, "Thank God for Jo and the NDIS."**

Turning Creativity Into Opportunity For Greater Independence And Income



Bree was determined to find a source of income. While living in Harvey Bay, after facing multiple setbacks from businesses concerned about workplace safety, Bree's mother suggested that she use her creative skills to make and sell products.

We sit down with Bree to discuss how her business "BB's made with love" started. Bree explains, "I was trying to get a job, and I went to lots of agencies, but there were safety issues. I was getting upset about why I can't get a job, as I should be given a chance.

Mum said there is something I can do, and we will find it." In 2023, following her mum's advice, Bree's collection of bracelets and key rings was established. In 2025, the range now includes bracelets, pens, scrunchies, key rings, and newly added gift boxes.

Bree leads an active life in Emerald, going to the gym, participating in the Hearty and Healthy cooking program run by Yumba Bimbi, and using the accommodation services at Yumba Bimbi's Short Term Respite. She says, "It feels really good" to be back in Emerald.

Returning to Emerald has enabled Bree to expand into the monthly Sunday markets sector. In Harvey Bay, her challenge was transporting the gazebo, chairs, and stock because her Support Workers didn't have a sufficiently large car, and the markets were too distant for Bree to attend. Now, with markets closer by and her parents able to assist, along with a private Emerald Support Worker, Bree has the chance to grow her business.

Part of Bree's NDIS plan is to live more independently, seek opportunities for social engagement, and feel more comfortable and confident within the community. The opportunity arising from her business enables Bree to practise this. It helps Bree re-familiarise herself with Emerald and, most importantly, continue focusing on her abilities. She is excited to participate in the Emerald Markets, especially during the festive season. "Usually the markets get about 400 people, but the first market I went to in Emerald the other week, there were 600 people," says Bree.

Bree is enthusiastic and accommodating with her product range. "I can make any colour or any type of key ring. I have a business card, or people can Facebook me or email me, it is up to them." Bree has a visual impairment; by using the speech feature on her phone, Bree can independently converse with anyone who messages or emails her about her products. Bree's range suits children to adults. Her business helps her achieve greater fulfilment and autonomy, and Bree is loving every moment.

Follow Bree's Facebook page "BB's made with love," or visit the local markets in Emerald for your next gift idea. By doing so, you help create jobs for people living with disability, promoting a more inclusive community.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



On October 30th 2025 we gathered for a special morning tea.

This year's morning tea was especially meaningful as our very own Juliette, General Manager of Operations at YB, continues her breast cancer recovery. Juliette's openness towards her early detection, and the process she has undergone to return to health, reminds us, the rest of the community... her community, that Breast Cancer awareness and education are crucial in saving lives.

As Juliette explains, "It was just a regular checkup every year. I didn't feel unwell, I couldn't feel it but I had breast cancer."

Juliette has demonstrated resilience and optimism in the face of adversity, and she is grateful to the people surrounding her. "I've had incredible support, had meals prepared for me, flowers, lots of different colouring in books and activities, lots of phone calls or messaging. Yumba Bimbi, and all of you, and all my, you know, close colleagues here in the office supported me."

Thanks to a successful morning tea, Yumba Bimbi is proud to have raised \$1,000 for the local Prostate and Breast Cancer Association, which Juliette says has supported her greatly.



International Day of People With Disability

We are proud to champion inclusion every day!

On December 3, Yumba Bimbi hosted a shared breakfast for participants, families, staff, and the wider community – a wonderful celebration of our diverse community.



Mutsa (S.W) & Peta (Accounts Officer)



Amanda (Client Services Coordinator of Accommodation) & Tayla (Human Resources Manager)

“Having a dedicated International Day of People with Disability is an important reminder to celebrate the strengths and achievements of the people we support, while also recognising the importance of true inclusion. It encourages us to pause, reflect, and recommit to creating environments where people with disability are heard, valued, and supported to live the life they choose every single day.”

- Amanda

“Everyone is accepted here, and it makes me happy and it feels good”

- Bec

Jasmin (Participant) Rachel (CEO) Hannah (S.W) Bec (Participant) Steph (S.S.W) and Lou (Participant)





Sandy (I.T and Communications Coordinator, Brad (S.W), Carey (participant), Susie (S.W)



Kelly (H.R Officer) & Vicky (participant).

“For me, this day is about coming together as family and friends, including people of all abilities. Sharing stories, laughing, and creating moments that matter. It’s about respecting everyone equally, recognising their worth, and advocating for those who don’t always receive the respect they deserve. This week reminds me of how important it is to lift each other and ensure every person feels valued, included, and celebrated. There are so many chances to learn, and when we put that learning into action, we can help even more — because the more we know, the more awesome we can be for others!”

- Kelly



Yumba Bimbi Team Day

What an awesome day of learning, teamwork and a whole lot of laughs! Our team came together to build skills, share ideas and stay inspired as we continue doing what we love — supporting our community. We look forward to more days of learning, connection and creating good lives together!



Our Group Programs

Meaningful, fun and goal-focused community participation codedesigned for you, by you.

Yumba Bimbi is hard at work building inclusive communities and our community access and social participation services are part of our master plan. Tailored so that you can tackle your goals head-on, our team will assist you in the co-design of a program that promotes inclusion, independence, enjoyment and personal development.

We offer both individual and group support, at our day service or in the community to access social and recreational activities, to join community clubs and groups, to learn new skills and much more. So what are you waiting for? Choose your own adventure with us!

Yumba Bimbi offer a wide range of group programs for a variety of ages some of which include:

Monday	Walkers Club 6:45am - 8:45am	The Press Club 9am - 11am	Line Dancing 12pm - 3pm
Tuesday	Brush and Bloom 9am - 12pm	Science Club 1pm - 3pm	
Wednesday	Mixed Bag Fun 10am - 12pm	Fitness / Swimming Club 1pm - 3pm	Social Club - 4pm - 7pm
Thursday	Baking 9am - 12pm	Women's Group 1pm - 3pm	
Friday	A Heart-full Journey 9am - 11am		
Saturday	Social Saturday is held monthly (9am - 3pm)		



Get Involved & Make An Impact

Here's how you can help build inclusive communities with us!



Donate

Your donations directly fund initiatives that help people live their best lives, including the creation and implementation of meaningful skill building programs, capacity building initiatives, assistance with employment opportunities, and access to assistive technology that is not funded by the NDIS.



Become a YB Champion

Our YB Community Champions are a pretty special breed. Offering up employment opportunities, funding or volunteering time and services, our YB champs are working hard to build inclusive communities. Their involvement provides real opportunities for collaboration and growth for you and your entire team.



Volunteer with us

Whether you have a lot of time or just a little, we offer a variety of volunteer roles to suit your availability. Contact us today and discover how you can make a real difference.



Come and work with us

More than a job, a career with Yumba Bimbi is an enriched and rewarding life experience. Regarded as the regional leader in service provision, we offer dynamic and progressive career options. Head to the career page on our website to see current roles available.

We have shared many stories over the years of the people who have made Yumba Bimbi who we are. Scan the QR code to read some of our favourite editions and stories from the past.



Pesto & Cheese Christmas Tree

The Yumba Bimbi Baking program made these delicious Pesto & Cheese Christmas Trees. Here are some photos of their pastries made during their program. Give this recipe a try!

Ingredients

- 50g Ready-rolled puff pastry
- 80g Pesto
- Cheddar, grated
- 1 Egg, beaten
- 2 tsp Sesame Seeds, optional
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste



Try This
Recipe



1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan and line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.
2. Lay the two sheets of puff pastry one on top of the other on the lined baking tray, taking care not to allow them to stick together. Cut into a long triangle shape. Cut a little stump for the end of your tree at the wider end, remove and reserve any scraps of pastry covered in the fridge.
3. Carefully peel the top layer of pastry off the 'tree' and set to one side.
4. Spread the pesto over the base and sprinkle with the cheese before sandwiching the base with the reserved layer of pastry to cover.
5. Starting at the pointed end, using a sharp knife, cut evenly spaced lines on each side that get longer towards the base of the tree. Make sure to leave a gap running up the middle as the trunk of the tree.
6. Starting on one side, take two of the strips and twist them together. Repeat on both sides.
7. Remove any scraps from the fridge and, using a cutter (or just with a knife freehand) cut decorative stars, placing a large one at the top of the tree and smaller ones along the middle.
8. Brush with beaten egg all over, season to taste with salt and pepper and sprinkle with the sesame seeds, if using.
9. Bake in the oven for 20 minutes. Allow to cool slightly before serving. Dust with icing sugar for a festive touch.



Living Our Values Award

Yumba Bimbi is proud to celebrate the Living Our Values Award 2025, an award that recognises employees and board members who go above and beyond to bring our Vision, Mission, and Values to life every day. This award honours those who truly embody respect, integrity, quality, and community spirit, and who make a meaningful difference through their passion, commitment, and example.

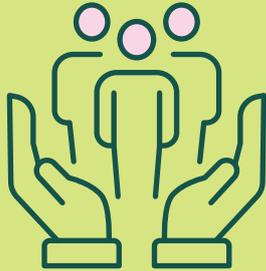
We are thrilled to announce Antoinette Lilje as the winner of the Living Our Values Award 2025. Congratulations, Antoinette—your dedication and the way you live our values continue to inspire us all. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all our incredible finalists. Each of you represents the spirit of Yumba Bimbi, and we are immensely proud to work alongside such outstanding people who bring our mission to life every single day.

Emerald Neighbourhood Centre's - Linking Arms Appeal

Yumba Bimbi staff, participants, and families helped fill the baskets to support others this Christmas. Thank you to everyone who donated food and resources to those in need for Christmas. A little kindness goes a long way. Yumba Bimbi loves to support amazing local businesses and organisations.

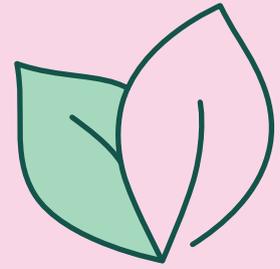


A Snap Shot Of Yumba Bimbi



We currently support 246 individuals to help them live their best lives.

We have allocated 18,455 shifts for 2025, this equates to 54,794 hours of support for 2025.



We started with 3 employees, now we have 91 amazing staff members.

Completion of the first purpose built SDA Accommodation in Emerald.



Our services have broadened to include

- Community Access
- Short Term-Respite
- In-home Support
- Accommodation Services
- Transportation
- Employment Support
- Plan Management
- Support Coordination
- Supported Independent Living



Our reach is far and wide

Emerald, Gemfields, Capella, Clermont, Springsure Comet, Yeppoon, Rockhampton, Moura, Biloela, Tambo Blackall, Barcaldine, Longreach, Warwick, Gracemere Blackwater, Tieri and Duaringa.

Do you need a chat with 13YARN?

13YARN [Thirteen YARN] is the first national crisis support line for mob who are feeling overwhelmed or having difficulty coping. We offer a confidential one-on-one yarning opportunity with a Lifeline-trained Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter who can provide crisis support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 13YARN empowers our community with the opportunity to yarn without judgement and provide a culturally safe space to speak about their needs, worries or concerns.

If you, or someone you know, are feeling worried or no good, we encourage you to connect with 13YARN on 13 92 76 (24 hours/7 days) and talk with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter.

This is your story; your journey and we will take the time to listen. No shame, no judgement, safe place to yarn. We're here for you.



About 13YARN

13YARN is an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander crisis support line funded by the Australian Government with the support of Lifeline and developed in collaboration with Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia. It is run by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We have co-designed this line using Lifeline expertise with several Aboriginal mental health professionals including NACCHO, Black Dog Institute Aboriginal Lived Experience team and the Centre for Excellence in Suicide Prevention along with input from Torres Strait Islander, remote, regional, and urban peoples with lived experience. We work to explore options for ongoing support and community members will always be reassured they will be connected to another Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person who will understand where they are coming from and value knowing HOW to listen, without judgement or shame.

We Want To Say Thank You



Special thanks from Rachel Freeman C.E.O

Yumba Bimbi Team

Our people remain our greatest strength. I extend my sincere thanks to every team member who has contributed to Yumba Bimbi's success. The combination of diverse skills, rich experience, and shared commitment to our mission has driven exceptional performance and reinforced our ability to create meaningful choice and life opportunities for people with disability.

Board Members

Strong governance is essential to organisational success. I thank Board Chair Renee Barlow, Treasurer Simone Parker, and all Board members for their strategic leadership throughout 2025. Their vision and commitment ensures Yumba Bimbi has the governance framework and strategic direction needed to thrive well into the future.

I would particularly like to acknowledge departing Board members Evan Munroe and Fiona Hardgrave. We express our deepest gratitude for your invaluable contributions and dedicated service to Yumba Bimbi. Your wisdom, commitment, and leadership have been instrumental in shaping our success and guiding us through significant transformation. The legacy you leave will continue to inspire us as we pursue our mission.

Senior Leadership Team

I acknowledge our Senior Leadership Team, whose collaborative approach and professional expertise have been instrumental in delivering our strategic and operational objectives. Their dedication, diverse capabilities, and collegial spirit create the synergy that drives our success. I am deeply grateful for their continued commitment to organisational excellence.

Partners, Donors and Supporters

To our partners, donors, and supporters—your generosity and commitment make an immeasurable difference. Your ongoing support enables Yumba Bimbi to expand our impact and enhance the lives of people with disabilities across our community.

As Yumba Bimbi celebrates its 25th year of operation, we look forward with optimism and purpose. We remain committed to serving our participants and community, continuously seeking opportunities to strengthen choice and life opportunities in an open and inclusive community.

Photo Acknowledgments

We would like to thank our preferred photographer for events and corporate marketing, Joshua from 'That Emerald Photographer', for the image supplied on our Yumba Yarn front cover and for images used throughout the Yumba Yarn.

Thank You To Our Donors

We would also like to thank our members of the community for their contributions to our donation boxes across our region. All monies received go towards our mission of building inclusive communities.



Mary Anderson



Disco

at the
MIRROR CLUB

Saturday
June 27th

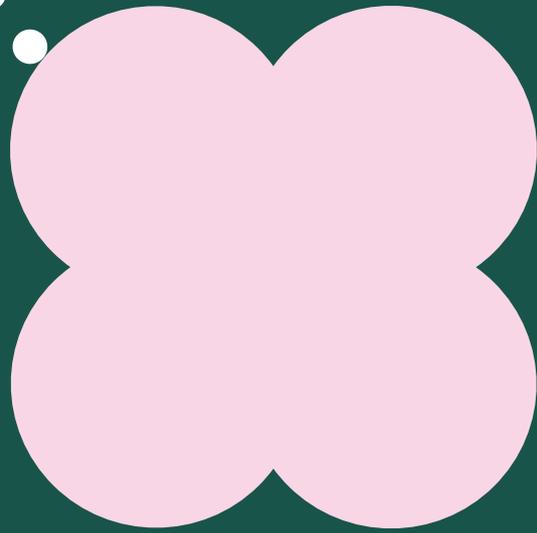
FOOD INCLUDED | LIVE BAND
GRAND PRIZES | DRINK ON ARRIVAL

6PM-11PM



Tickets on sale now

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(07) 4987 7933
admin@yumbabimbi.com.au

 **yumba_bimbi**

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