

# Yumba Yarn

2ND EDITION 2026



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Pete's turn after  
a life of giving



## Page 11

Returning the gratitude:  
YB'S Breast & Prostate  
Cancer donation

## Page 12

John's dream comes  
true after 40 years!



## Page 20

Disco at the Mirror Club:  
A night to remember!



# A Message From The C.E.O



For too long, rural and remote communities have faced a heartbreaking reality—younger people with disabilities being placed in aged care facilities, not because it's appropriate, but because there simply weren't any other options.

Imagine being in your thirties or forties and finding yourself living alongside people in their eighties and nineties. Not by choice, but by necessity. Imagine being forced to leave your community, your friends, your family, and everything familiar because the only available supported accommodation was an aged care facility hours away. For too many young Australians with disability in rural and remote areas, this has been their reality.

The introduction of Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) and Supported Independent Living (SIL) through the NDIS is changing this story, and I'm proud to say that Yumba Bimbi are part of that change.

SDA and SIL are giving people with disabilities the opportunity to live in age-appropriate homes, designed specifically to meet their support needs, and in communities where they belong. For rural and remote areas like ours, SDA and SIL represent more than just housing—they represent dignity, choice, and the chance to build a life that's truly a person's own.

We're now seeing young people transition from aged care facilities into purpose-built SDA homes right here in their own communities. They're reconnecting with family and friends, participating in local activities, and living alongside peers rather than in environments designed for a completely different stage of life. The difference is profound.

There's still work to be done. We need more accommodation options in rural and remote areas. But as we celebrate the progress we've made, I'm hopeful about the future we're building—one where every person with disability has access to appropriate, quality accommodation that allows them to thrive.

This is what inclusion looks like. This is what the NDIS, at its best, can achieve. Join us to read John's story.

## Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, Yumba Bimbi Support Services acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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## Diversity Statement

Acknowledging diversity is crucial in fostering an inclusive environment where every individual feels valued and respected. By recognising and embracing the unique backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences of all members of our community, we can cultivate an atmosphere of understanding, collaboration, and innovation. Our commitment to diversity is the cornerstone of our values and informs everything we do. We recognise that diversity enriches our organisation and enables us to better serve our community. We are dedicated to promoting diversity and creating opportunities for all, ensuring that everyone has a voice and a place at the table.

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## 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.

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to receive the Yumba Yarn  
straight into your mailbox!  
Scan QR to subscribe.



# Yumba Bimbi Professional Development

“None of us is as smart as all of us.”

– Ken Blanchard



On the 5th and 6th February 2026, our team came together for two days of learning, connection and development. Topics spanned support coordination, case management, modified food, positive behaviour support planning, disaster management and more. Rounding out with a focus on staff wellbeing and building success together as a team.

## Celebrating International Women’s Day: 8th March

Courtesy of Kestrel Coal, Yumba Bimbi staff and participants, along with other local organisations and businesses, were invited to attend a luncheon in celebration of International Women’s Day. Guest speaker Kath Koschel shared her story of determination in the face of incredible personal challenges. She epitomises the anonymous saying,

“Here’s to strong women.  
May we know them.  
May we be them.  
May we raise them.”

Thank you, Kestrel Coal, for the memorable experience.



A snapshot of Yumba Bimbi staff and participant Cath, who attended the event.

# National Disability Services (NDS)

**Our CEO, Rachel Freeman, is Vice Chair of the Queensland Divisional Committee of National Disability Services – the peak body for disability services across Australia. She has served on the Committee since 2021.**

## **What does this mean for our community?**

When NDS sits down with state and federal governments, or with the NDIS Quality Safeguards Commission, someone in the room knows what disability services look like outside the capital cities. Rachel uses that seat to advocate for the rural and remote communities we serve – pushing on the issues that affect us most: workforce shortages, fair pricing, and access to services within the region.

Rachel's work is quiet, sustained, and it matters. Serving as an instrumental advocate for Qld Providers, particularly those operating in rural and remote QLD.



***“I don’t need easy;  
I just need possible.”***  
**– Bethany Hamilton**

## The Role Of A Support Coordinator

A Support Coordinator is the person who helps make your plan work. They connect you with the right providers, assist when issues arise and help build your confidence over time. The

NDIS funds different levels based on the complexity of a participant's needs. Contact YB Head Office on 4987 7933 if you would like to speak to one of our Support Coordinators.



**Jo - Support Coordinator.**



# After a lifetime of giving to his community, Peter Bailey is now at the receiving end of much-needed support.

**Pete has been involved in many groups throughout his years in Emerald, and now, Pete is part of our YB organisation, not as a volunteer, but as a participant. By talking to Pete, we learn about his connections to the Emerald community and how he is using his Parkinson's diagnosis as a platform for advocacy.**

## **The NDIS**

Prior to the NDIS rollout, Pete was in a role with CentacareCQ. He was aware the NDIS was coming, and as he humorously explains, "I didn't want anything to do with it!" It seemed too complex to try to navigate in his role. Pete says, "Like many people at the time, the notion of the NDIS was daunting and overwhelming. It was like an octopus with multiple tentacles." The irony of avoiding anything NDIS-related came full circle when Pete found himself requiring their services.

Pete was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2019. Being under the age of sixty-five, he qualified for support under the NDIS. "Fortunately, there was an advocate through the NDIS, and she led me to Yumba Bimbi."



**Katrina Smith Support Coordinator**

## **Katrina's role as Support Coordinator**

Pete now has Katrina, a YB Support Coordinator, guiding him along the way. "Without the support of YB, there is no way I could have done this on my own. When I first got accepted under the NDIS, I looked at all the numbers (budget), and I didn't know what to do with it," comments Pete.

Katrina's role is to learn about Pete's needs, identify the supports he can receive, and advocate on his behalf. These include funding for home modifications, such as a ramp, mobility aids, and a new electric bed. Along with seeking support from other Allied Health professionals, such as dietitians, exercise physiologists, and speech pathologists. As Pete comments, receiving the support from a variety of professionals, as well as the necessary equipment, "Is empowering and keeps people's independence." Pete continues, "Katrina provides a wonderful, personalised service. Anything I need, she says, Leave it with me." Pete explains his gratitude for the support he receives, "I'm appreciative, and I don't take it lightly," says Pete.



Pete receiving his Emerald Citizen of the Year Award with Australia Day Ambassador John Lazarou and Mayor Janice Moriarty.



Pete volunteering his time with Rotary to drive the train for children.



Talking to ABC Capricornia live broadcast with Jeremy Jones about support for the golf club.

## Community work

Pete is highly active in the Emerald community; he participates in the Emerald Golf Club's weekly events and is a long-serving Rotary member. Pete helps to drive the children's train for birthday parties and has made significant contributions to their fundraising efforts over the years, with the current focus on the Rotary patient transfer Hub at Emerald airport.

Advocacy work is part of Pete's week. He established a successful local Parkinson's support group in Emerald, with the highest attendance of thirty-two people; reflecting the need for such a group. He has organised a plethora of guest speakers, including Dental hygienists, Podiatrists, Pharmacists, Dieticians, Ambulance officers, and Exercise physiologists, and, has established connections with James Cook University, whose members have also presented. Speaking on the radio and actively promoting the support group is ongoing. You will notice Pete proudly wearing his Parkinson's t-shirt, which was funded by Eaglesham's clothing store in town.

## Pete's attitude

Pete says, "With bad news, the worst you can do is sit on the couch; you need to keep moving." Reinforcing this positive outlook is Pete's neurologist, who has said to him, "I wish when I give someone bad news, they go and do what you do, Pete." A clear testament to his optimism and perseverance. Pete is proactive; he utilises his support network to stay physically active and keeps himself up to date with all things Parkinson's-related by joining webinars. He is taking control over what has been a life-changing diagnosis.

When community members around Pete began to learn about his diagnosis, he says, "People came up to me and gave me money for morning tea. It blows me away the generosity of people." Pete's philosophy is expressed in his own words, "What you give comes back." This was recognised recently when Pete was awarded Emerald Citizen of the Year, a humbling experience for him. When speaking with Pete, it is apparent that community means a great deal to him. At Yumba Bimbi, we are using our expertise to enrich the life of someone who has dedicated his life to helping others. It is a privilege be alongside Pete in his Parkinson's journey.



Pete with his wife Robyn.



Emerald Rotary Club and Parkinsons Support Group.



Pete playing golf.

## What is Parkinson's?

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that occurs when brain cells, specifically those producing dopamine, die or stop functioning properly. It primarily affects movement, causing tremors (often "pill-rolling"), rigidity (stiffness), slowness (bradykinesia), and balance issues. While primarily a motor disorder, it also leads to non-motor symptoms like depression, sleep disorders, and cognitive changes.

The risk increases with age, but genetics and environmental factors also play a role. Symptoms vary and progress differently for each person.

Parkinson's is the fastest-growing neurological condition in the world, with an estimated 10 million people currently affected, according to the World Health Organisation. It can affect anyone, male or female, at any age, although it is more common in older age.

Source: Parkinson's Foundation & Parkinson's Australia website



Australians Diagnosed with Parkinson's

● Men ● Woman

## Parkinson's Facts



FROM THE ECOSYSTEM OF PARKINSON'S IN AUSTRALIA REPORTS (MELLICK, 2024)

# Our Top 6 Disability Podcasts

Greater awareness of people living with disability leads to more inclusive communities. Take some time out of your day to listen to a podcast or two, and let's learn more together.



## 1. ListenABLE

This is a podcast for everyone - disabled or abled, and hopes to break down stigmas, change perceptions, and to challenge what you think it's like to live with disability. Hosted by Dylan Alcott and Angus O'Loughlin.



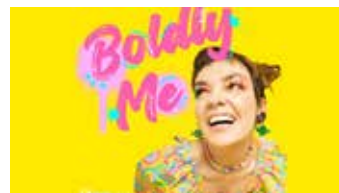
## 2. Have The Nerve

Have The Nerve is a podcast brought to you by Spinal Cord Injuries Australia and funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.



## 3. Just A Spoonful

Features conversations with people living with chronic illness. The consequences and challenges of chronic illness often go unseen by others, which is why Just a Spoonful is so valuable. Hosted by Kaitlyn Blythe, it is worth the listen.



## 4. Boldly Me

Chloe Hayden, who is autistic and stars in the Netflix series Heartbreak High, hosts Boldly Me, a podcast all about embracing yourself, no matter who you are. In each episode, Chloe breaks down the barriers of living with disability, and how what people think makes you different is what makes you special.



## 5. Disability Done Different: Candid Conversations

Join DSC's podcast series with hosts, Roland and Evie Naufal as they chat with interesting guests who have carved their own path in the disability sector - revealing battle scars, imparting wisdom and talking straight about their journeys.



## 6. Yarning Disability

Yarning Disability is a podcast by The First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN) hosted by FPDN Advocate Bernard Namok.

# \$1,000 donation to our local Breast and Prostate Cancer committee



**Yumba Bimbi had the opportunity to meet with Tiffany Pulford, one of Emerald's dedicated Breast and Prostate Cancer committee members, to hand over a \$1,000 cheque raised on behalf of Yumba Bimbi. We are so proud to be part of an incredibly impactful community.**

*"The Emerald Committee of the Breast and Prostate Cancer Association of Queensland (BPCAQ) has proudly supported the Central Highlands community for more than 20 years. We are the longest-standing and one of the most active committees within BPCAQ, with a strong and ongoing commitment to improving outcomes for those affected by breast and prostate cancer in our region.*

*Our committee provides direct financial assistance to patients, as well as ongoing support, education, and career development opportunities for local cancer nurses. Over the years, we have funded education and professional development for more than eight nurses in the region, and we hope the knowledge and skills gained continue to benefit patients today.*

*In addition, the Emerald Committee supported the wages of local cancer nurses for 13 years prior to Queensland Health making an ongoing commitment to these vital roles.*

*Through the generosity of the Central Highlands community and its businesses, our committee has raised over \$500,000 to support hundreds of local patients and strengthen cancer care services in our region. Our success is entirely due to this incredible local support, and every donation truly makes a meaningful difference.*

*We sincerely thank Yumba Bimbi for their generous donation and ongoing support. Contributions such as yours allow us to continue our work and ensure patients and healthcare professionals in the Central Highlands receive the care, support, and resources they deserve." - Tiffany Pulford.*



# Years In The Making

From the outside, moving into a home may seem straightforward. However, if you have a disability and need home modifications and 24-hour care, the likelihood of living in your own home in a rural area is significantly reduced. This is why, after a horse-riding accident at 20, it has taken John over 40 years for his dream to come true. Without the NDIS, this would not have been possible.



John with Antoinette relaxing.



John at the BBQ.



Playing Jenga with Julianne from Kuremara Care.

## Young People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC)

The first step was for Donna, our Yumba Bimbi Support Coordinator, to advocate for John and get SDA (Specialist Disability Accommodation) funding, which was introduced into the scheme in July 2021. This funding assists individuals under the age of 65 who reside in aged care to relocate to their own home in their chosen community.

The next step involved finding an investor and project manager who believed in the project and was willing to purchase the land and secure a builder for the job.

Sourcing Kuremara Care to provide 24-hour care was the last link in the chain. The supports John receives from Kuremara Care fall under a different funding stream called SIL (Supported Independent Living), which Donna also initiated on John's behalf.

A comprehensive assessment by Glen from LTTS (Lifestyle Therapies and Training Solutions) was conducted, with recommendations for assistive technology and home modifications to ensure that John and his flatmate, Paul, could live comfortably and safely in their home. "Working really closely with the LTTS team in collecting the evidence was a really positive experience and also in getting things done in a timely manner for a move-in date," says Donna.

"Working in the space of Young People in Aged Care where you get a designated planner to assist was really useful, especially with the amount of assistive technology required for both John and Paul. Bec and Michael from the NDIS understood the SDA process, guided me through the project's rules and regulations from an NDIS perspective, and ensured the lads received the funding they needed. This was a huge project to undertake, especially when I had

no experience in this before – I learnt along the way," comments Donna.

Janet, John's sister, says, "Donna has been very good from the paperwork through to the first concrete pour and build. Donna has kept in touch throughout the entire process, sending photos and emails, keeping Paul's relatives, me, and our family informed."

"The opportunity for both Paul and John to live their best lives with endless choice and control of what they want, and need was the driving force behind the motivation to ensure this was successful," says Donna.

## The move

As Janet explains, "John and I come originally from west of Longreach. He doesn't have any family members in Emerald. I wanted him to feel positive, so I flew up from Sydney. It could have been quite a daunting move as he was in aged care for so long. I wanted to give him moral support. You are going into the unknown and being vulnerable." It meant a great deal for John to have his sister with him.

Janet says being able to add unique touches to his home has been gratifying. "Suddenly, I can help with things that I know John would like, like buying outdoor furniture so the guys can have friends over for a BBQ. I can buy plants that I know he will remember from back home. I feel empowered myself, too."

Working alongside John for some time, Yumba Bimbi's support worker, Antoinette, had an in-depth knowledge of John's needs, which aided in a successful transition. "Antoinette was vital in the transition process. I think just the clear love and respect Antoinette has for John is evident and a joy to observe. She has always wanted the best for him and assisted in getting any little tasks completed to assist in the process," says Donna.

## A comprehensive team of supports

John has a cohort of exceptional supports. This is an example of a successful NDIS Plan that truly meets an individual's needs and creates life-changing results.

In addition to the 24-hour supports from Kuremara Care and Community Access, Plan Management & Support Coordination from our team, John also receives the necessary Allied Health services funded by NDIS. From Podiatry, Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, Speech pathology, Exercise physiologists, and yard maintenance. These supports are crucial to ensure John can maintain his physical strength to remain as independent as possible.

***“Dear Donna and Team,  
Thank you so much! You’ve  
been true pathfinders  
bringing John’s dream to  
life. The house is lovely and  
full of promise.”  
- Janet Parker.***



Janet with John watching the sunset.

## Kuremara Care

Kuremara Care provides meal prep, personal and nursing services for John. Samika from Kuremara Care says, “I feel very happy and joyful working here with John. I like to cook the food, and whatever he likes to eat, I like to make it.” When speaking to John, the conversation turned to a delicious, sweet recipe. Within minutes, the recipe was exchanged with John, who passed it on to Samika. Samika nodded and said, “Yes, I can make this for you.” This autonomy over meal choices and the instant ‘Yes’ is a newfound freedom for John, one he is grateful to have regained after all these years.

Donna says that John often comments on the smell of real, cooked food with flavour. As Janet elaborates, “The main difference here is it is fresh, with wonderful cooks like Rosa, Sheetal and Josephine.” Another reason why this arrangement should not be just for the privileged but a right for all.

Unlike previously in aged care, Wi-Fi is now permanently available to John. Video and social media contact with John’s family is much easier. John can call his sister at any time, for as long as he wishes.

Personalised, interest-based experiences are now also a regular part of John’s routine, with Kuremara staff engaging in one-on-one activities such as print-making or playing Jenga. These activities strengthen John’s cognitive skills and dexterity.

Kuremara team leader Sheetal often sends photos and videos of John’s daily life to his sister, Janet. This reduces the geographical barrier by creating more opportunities to communicate with his family. “I receive the photos, and it makes me feel joyful and more connected with John,” says Janet.



**Antoinette dancing with John practising for the end of year concert.**

## Yumba Bimbi Supports

When discussing with John the people who made all of this happen, he mentioned Yumba Bimbi and his sister Janet, then pointed to Antoinette, John's Support Worker. John says, "They made it all possible."

It was also noted that Antoinette won the Yumba Bimbi "Living Our Values" award, recognising her invaluable contribution to our organisation. Antoinette has been part of John's support team for 5 years and has a special relationship with him. John states, "The award was well deserved."

For Janet, knowing that John is where he wants to be and receiving genuine care is reassuring. "It is hard being a family member so far away to be effective. I feel very happy that Yumba Bimbi are continuing to help John, along with Kuremara Care. I rely a lot on Yumba Bimbi to be in my corner, and now I have Kuremara Care too. There is a good balance," says Janet.

We continue to provide supports to John through Community Access funding. Whether it be part of our programs, such as The Science Club, or Line Dancing, or heading out to his favourite cafés, John has an active social life around town.

## Paul: John's flatmate

John and Paul were in the same situation, both under 65, in the same aged care facility, and wanting a different place to call home. Paul also accessed services through Yumba Bimbi, so naturally, Donna assisted in transitioning both men at the same time, as they required similar support needs.

"Paul is a strong, independent personality. He likes to take the lead in his own life and make decisions for himself. Paul absolutely loves being outdoors, whether it is exploring new places, simply spending time in nature, or watching footy. Paul and John make a great match as housemates because their personalities and preferences naturally complement each other. Both are quiet, calm, and they value a peaceful home environment," says Antoinette.

***"To Donna and your team at Yumba Bimbi. This house means so much to Paul. So does this:- 'thank you' for all the work that has been done to bring it to fruition. With all the words on this card, we thank you so very much!!"***

***- Bernie (Paul's sister), Joe (Paul's brother) ...and as they say 'mostly Paul himself.'***



**Paul, Donna, John and Saru (Chief Operating Officer at Kuremara Care).**

## John's outlook

When asked how he feels about living in his own home, John says, "Unreal." He explains that the support, guidance, and encouragement of his sister and Yumba Bimbi have made a big difference throughout the journey.

"John leaves a real impression on everyone around him. He is incredibly knowledgeable, and there have been plenty of times when he has taught me things. He loves to share what he knows and does so in such a genuine and engaging way that you can't help but appreciate it. What really stands out about John is the warmth and positivity he brings. He's thoughtful, observant and has a great sense of humour, which makes spending time with him enjoyable and meaningful. He is truly valued and appreciated not just for what he knows, but for the kind, unique and authentic person he is," says Antoinette.

## The impact

With 24-hour high-quality support, John no longer has to wait to receive help with simple tasks; he can choose when to sleep, shower, or leave home for a coffee up the road. It is an ability and a freedom he had before his accident that he has now resumed.

Antoinette explains how the move has made both Paul and John more relaxed and able to enjoy the freedom that comes with having their own home. "Even though there were challenges, every step brought John closer to the goal of helping him move out of aged care and into his own home. I was very emotional when I heard the plans, knowing that moving into his own place from aged care was his lifelong dream. I look forward to seeing both Paul and John continue to grow and become more independent in their own homes.

I hope to witness them enjoying the freedom to continue making choices, explore new opportunities, and develop their daily lives in ways that bring them

happiness and fulfilment. Seeing them flourish, feel secure and fully embrace the independence of their home is something I'm really looking forward to in the future," explains Antoinette.

"It's a big thing this accommodation. When I visit John, it feels a lot less medicalised, even though the quality of John's medical care is still just as high. John's already had quite a few friends and family drop in. The relaxed, homelike atmosphere makes it feel like a nice place to be," says Janet. It is this genuine home environment that John values most.

## Paving the way for future people living with disability

This type of development is the first of its kind in Emerald. It was 4 years in the planning, with 6 months of intensive organisation by Donna.

Donna says, "Working with families who support these gentlemen and the overwhelming feeling they felt with this opportunity for them to leave an environment they did not love being in made it rewarding. The moment they went into their new home for the first time brought tears to my eyes and the great satisfaction of this coming into fruition after 4 years of trying," says Donna.

Janet expresses, "I was happy that in a regional town, John was the pioneer and was testing it for other people. It is well managed. It is very visible and well-integrated into the community. It is all positive. It is likely that the standard of care will remain high. It feels fantastic that John has his own place. There has been so much effort from so many people."

Ultimately, this is both a metaphor and a literal representation of building inclusive communities. Everyone has the right to live in the comfort and safety of their own home; to have full autonomy over choice and decision-making; and to have dignity in their care. As Janet states, "It is the NDIS in its best self!"



John with Kuremara Care staff left to right - Josephine, Sheetal, Michelle, Bob and Saru.



John at the end of year dance concert with Ngaire from YBs Line Dancing Program.



Samika from Kuremara care meal prepping.



The house completed.

**“These sorts of projects need an army, and I can’t thank Glen from LTTS in particular, Saru from Kuremara Care, Danny from Leben Homes, Chris from HWC Building Projects, Freya from Inhab, the NDIS planners, and the team at YBSS to make this work and be what it is today for not only Paul and John, but for those who may come after them to access this wonderful home.” - Donna**

# Employee Spotlight

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



## **How long have you been part of YB?**

I have been with Yumba Bimbi for 5 years.

## **Explain a typical day in the life of your job.**

A typical day in regard to my role as a Support Worker is to ensure I am well prepared to best support my participant, whether it be in-home/SIL or out in the community (appointments, family events, recreational activities/ social engagements).

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

I personally believe that it is vitally important to front up at the very start of the support shift wearing a smile and a happy demeanour and to contribute my best efforts to the person I am supporting.

The key motivational force that keeps me focused on what I do, is the belief that I can and I am, making a positive difference in the quality of life of the participants I support. To me, this not just a privilege but also an honour as well.

## **What has been a challenge?**

For myself personally, I find the most challenging aspect of working with various participants, is that each participant has their unique identities, personalities, behavioural issues and idiosyncrasies.

On occasions, these challenges can be difficult to navigate and manage. However, as a Yumba Bimbi Support Worker, I am fortunate enough to have a professional leadership team and awesome work colleagues within the organisation, to lean on when needed most.

## **What are your triumphs/ successes?**

I believe one major triumph is fostering a solid foundation of trust, integrity and a person-centred approach with each of the participants I have supported over the past 5 years.

## **Any Last words?**

I believe I have grown exponentially as a person, experiencing numerous feel-good moments during this time. Every day on the job presents itself as a dynamic learning curve. Even though our lives and work environments are always changing; knowledge, kindness and respect for one another should remain as a constant.



**Thank you Brad, you really do make an incredible difference to not only the individuals you support, but also the team you are surrounded by.**

**“Blessed with the best! Brad has been an amazing support to me during my time at SIL (Supported Independent Living), but what I love most is the genuine and positive relationship he has with participants. Brad supports them with nothing but consistent kindness, the best sense of humour and professionalism. Thank you for all that you do, the endless laughs, and your valuable contribution to YB’s best team!!! Love your work.”**

**– Jo Senior Support Worker.**

# Disco At The Mirror Club

A photograph of a disco event at the Mirror Club. The room is filled with colorful balloons in shades of green, yellow, and red, along with long strands of tinsel hanging from the ceiling. In the background, a DJ is visible behind a counter, and a large screen displays a bright image. The foreground shows the silhouettes of people sitting at tables, and the floor is reflective, showing the lights from the stage.

Yumba Bimbi's Disco at the Mirror Club was a fantastic success, bringing our community together for an unforgettable evening of music, dancing and celebration as we marked our 25th anniversary. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended, to our valued sponsors, entertainers, volunteers and all those who worked behind the scenes to make the event possible. Your incredible support helped create a memorable night while contributing to Yumba Bimbi's ongoing work supporting people in our community. Thank you for helping make the celebration one to remember.









# Thank You To Our Sponsors

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## Want to be part of the 2027 Disco?

We're looking for local businesses to join us as sponsors and help bring next year's biggest night to life. It's a great way to put your brand in front of the local community while supporting Yumba Bimbi and the work we do.

Interested in partnering with us?  
Get in touch to find out more.

# Yumba Bimbi Celebrates Easter!

Yumba Bimbi welcomed participants, families and the Board to our Easter Breakfast, which included a visit from the Easter Bunny. After a hearty breakfast, we went on an Easter Egg Hunt and raced against the Easter Bunny! It was a delightful morning filled with the laughter of our little ones.





# The Baking Program



**Yumba Bimbi's Baking program is about far more than making delicious food. With Senior Support Worker Steph who is a qualified Baker/ Pastry Chef guiding the way, our participants develop essential skills including money handling, decision-making, fine motor skills, memory, hygiene practices and health and safety awareness.**

It's no wonder the Baking program is so popular, with participants building on their skills year after year. In 2026, an exciting new element was added. As Steph, one of the program facilitators explains, there is a basic recipe provided, and participants choose a partner. Throughout the month, they plan what they'd like to incorporate into their creation. On baking day, each pair has a recipe card and individual ingredients ready. These steps help grow communication, teamwork, forward thinking, independence, confidence, and so much more!"

There's a buzz in the air as participants gather at their stations with their peers, excited to create unique biscuit blends. The group eagerly shows the recipe cards they've prepared. Our YB Support Workers move methodically from station to station, guiding participants along the way. Long gone are the days of a single shared recipe, with everyone taking turns. At these stations, everyone is responsible for their own recipe. As Colby, YB Support Worker comments, "This is a much bigger operation."

The introduction of multiple high-quality stainless-steel tables a few years ago has significantly improved participants' independence and access to resources. This program sets the benchmark for genuine autonomy.

Excited about the new individualised approach, Kirra explains, "I feel very inventive." Courtney adds, "There is choice and decision-making on what we want to put in the recipe."

Peer friendships are a major focus of the group. Kayla says, "I like the baking group because I like seeing my support workers helping me and my friends out" and "being with my friends because it is fun!" Eddie adds, "I like seeing my friends and getting to cook food with different people."

There is no doubt the Baking group will continue to excel. Its success reflects the support workers' belief in the capabilities of all individuals involved. We are excited to see what this highly motivated group achieves next.





## Basic Biscuit Recipe

### INGREDIENTS (30 servings)

- 250g Butter (or dairy-free spread or coconut oil)
- 1 cup Sugar (white, brown, raw or coconut sugar)
- 1 Egg
- 2 cups SR Flour (or 280g gluten-free self-raising flour)

**Steph's Tip:** Add a handful of chocolate chips or dried fruit to sweeten them up.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 190 degrees. Prepare baking tray with cooking oil spray and baking paper.
2. Cream butter and sugar (in your kitchen mixer or with beaters) until it is light and fluffy.
3. Beat in egg.
4. Mix in self-raising flour slowly (using dough attachment or by hand).
5. Roll small balls of dough in your hand and place on baking tray. Flatten with fork.
6. Bake for 12-15 minutes.

# YB'S Mixed Bag Program: Exploring Our Community

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!

Some of our recent activities:



PennyPegasus FarmLife day



Colour run fun day!



Adventures at Pat's Gem

# Expanding our knowledge at the Human Resources Summit.

## HR Reimagined: Leading the New Era of Work.

Kelly, Tayla and Juliette from our Yumba Bimbi team travelled to Sydney for the National HR Summit. Topics included Embedding Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Across the Employee Journey; Proactive Strategies for Psychosocial Hazards and Workplace Wellbeing, and Leadership Capability and Development: Building Agile and Resilient Leaders. There was a plethora of thought-provoking, and insightful information that will be brought back to Yumba Bimbi to continue striving for excellence within the organisation.



NRL All Abilities Day



Making a splash at Emerald Aquatic Centre



Staying fit with F45 Emerald



# Our Yumba Bimbi logos and colour palettes

**Have you ever wondered about the reason for our logo and its colours? Our new logo honours our heritage while embracing the future. We've retained the iconic "YB" and circular design that our community knows and loves, while giving it a fresh, contemporary feel that reflects where we're heading as an organisation.**

Working closely with our marketing team, we've developed a versatile brand system that puts "Building Inclusive Communities" at the heart of everything we do. The updated design is cleaner, more modern, and works beautifully across all our communications

Our new colour palette draws inspiration from the natural beauty of the Central Highlands and Western Queensland, with nature-inspired tones like Eucalyptus and Bush mint. These colours feel warm, accessible, and community-focused - exactly what Yumba Bimbi represents.

The refresh also includes flexible logo variations to suit different applications, ensuring our brand looks sharp and professional whether it's on a business card, our website, or out in the community. This is more than just a new look - it's a visual expression of our commitment to growth, innovation, and continuing to provide exceptional support services to our participants across the region. -Juliette McCorley, General Manager Operations

yumba bimbi  
support services

# Understanding Disability

**A person who qualifies for the NDIS may have one or more of these eight (broad) definitions of disability. These include;**

## **Physical disability**

Impacts mobility or dexterity

## **Intellectual disability**

Impacts the ability to learn or process information

## **Mental illness**

Impacts thinking processes

## **Sensory disability**

Impacts the ability to hear or see

## **Neurological disability**

Impacts the brain and central nervous system

## **Physical disfigurement**

Impacts physical appearance

## **Immunological disability**

Impact due to the presence of organisms causing disease in the body

## **Learning disability**

Impacts organisation, retention, and understanding of information



## A passage from the thoughts of Linda, a YB participant.

I have found  
paradise or  
paradise has found  
me. I looked up and  
have seen heaven;  
it is not seen but it  
is felt in our heart.

A feeling full of  
love and kindness.  
A love that goes on  
forever. A feeling  
that is sent from  
God, Jesus Christ  
and the Holy Spirit.  
You will know the  
feeling when Jesus  
calls you home. For  
you will have found  
paradise as I have  
found paradise.

Signed  
– Radiant Angel

## Kestrel Coal

When flooding kept Kestrel Coal employees from their worksites, they turned their downtime into community time — lending their skills and expertise to get things done across our Yumba Bimbi sites. A huge thank you to the Kestrel Coal team for your generous support!



# 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 Australia's national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crisis support line. It is run by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, providing culturally safe, confidential support without judgement or shame. Developed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and mental health experts, 13YARN connects people with someone who understands and can help them access ongoing support if needed.

## Anxiety in Mob

Anxiety can affect anyone, in any community, in different ways. This fact sheet shares some types of things that might make us worry or feel 'anxious' and ways that respect our culture for dealing with these worries and feelings. It is important to remember the things that can make us feel this way and use ways from our culture to feel better. (Source: [www.13yarn.org.au/](http://www.13yarn.org.au/))



# Short Term Respite At Yumba Bimbi

Spend time with friends, enjoy the activities you love, and work towards goals that matter to you. Short-term respite at Yumba Bimbi is also a meaningful stepping stone for participants building independence and developing new life skills.

Our warm, welcoming home provides a positive environment where our team goes above and beyond to support you every step of the way.

What's included:

- 24/7 support from skilled, passionate, and friendly staff
- Highly skilled, passionate, and friendly staff
- All meals provided
- 5 beautifully appointed bedrooms
- Fully air-conditioned home
- Outdoor entertainment and BBQ area
- Community access and recreational activities of your choice



Scan the QR code  
to get in touch or  
phone Head Office  
on 4987 7933

# Child Safe Organisation

## Our commitment to keep you safe and happy

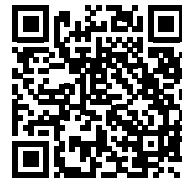
At Yumba Bimbi, the safety and wellbeing of children and young people always comes first. We are committed to creating an environment where every child feels safe, respected and valued.

## What being child safe means

For us, being a child safe organisation means more than having policies in place. It means creating a culture where children's rights and voices guide everything we do. We welcome feedback and we act on concerns with respect and transparency. Creating a child safe culture is ongoing, and we are dedicated to learning, improving and listening so that children can thrive.



Survey for  
children



Survey for carers  
and parents

## Little Pharmacist Day at Direct Chemist outlet Emerald

An opportunity for pharmacists to connect with our local community, educate and inspire the next generation of young pharmacists.



“What an honour it was to have the community engaged and enjoying the day. We received so many delightful and fantastic comments about how their little ones loved the experience. It was so great to have the Yumba crew with us. Having the sausage sizzle there and the cafe open was such a win for the event! Abbie the incredible face painter was so skilled and did such an outstanding job too.”

– Ryan, Pharmacist.

# 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.



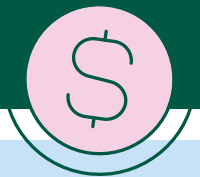


# Donation boxes

**We are continually grateful to the many people who contribute to our donation boxes, and we appreciate our local businesses' support in hosting them.**

**Our donation boxes are located at the following places:**

Direct Chemist Outlet Emerald • Direct Chemist Outlet Central Highlands •  
Cracked Pepper • Crave • Emerald Office Supplies • Fair Dinkum Meats •  
Gloria Jeans • Hoopers • IGA • Post Office • Theos • Yolo Shoes



## Getting "No Caller ID" calls from the NDIS?

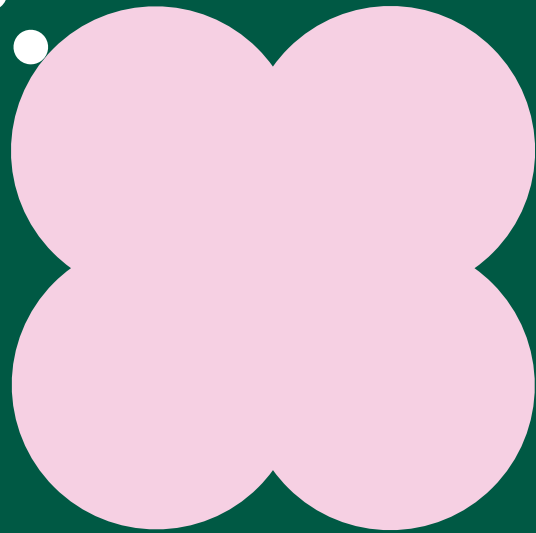
Know your rights. If you're not ready to take the call, you can ask to reschedule, have a trusted support person join, or request a reassessment in the format that suits you (phone, online or face-to-face). Always verify who's calling before sharing personal information. If you're unsure, ask them to email you or call the NDIS directly on 1800 800 110. Stay safe—it's always okay to question and double-check.

## Emergency plus app

An essential app for all. Do you have an emergency app on your smartphone? It can tell emergency services your exact location even if you do not know where you are. You can also call emergency services directly from the app.



Join our mailing list to  
receive the Yumba Yarn  
straight into your mailbox!  
Scan QR to subscribe.



yumba bimbi  
support services



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