Yumba Yarn

3RD EDITION 2026



Robyn's resolve: a story of strength.



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Supported Independent Living: Ashley and his team



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Holly pushes to do her best as a Support Worker each day



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Fairbairn Dam Discovery: another year, another successful experience for all

A Message From The CEO



Welcome to another edition of the Yumba Yarn.

Every quarter, when I sit down with these pages before you do, I'm reminded of just how much life sits inside this magazine — not filler, but real people, real moments, real progress and real celebrations.

This edition captures that especially well. Read Ashley's story and you'll see what it looks like when a person is truly at the centre of their own life: his own home, his own routines, and a support team he chose, one relationship at a time.

Robyn's journey home, after a stroke turned her world upside down almost overnight, is the kind of story that reminds all of us why this work matters — not just the clinical milestones, but the ordinary things she fought to reclaim: a shower to herself, a wheelchair licence, a dress for her daughter's wedding.

You'll also read about our team's 800-kilometre round trip out to Tambo, Alpha and Longreach — a reminder that "thin market" isn't just a line in a funding submission, it's real distance, and a real commitment to closing it. Wherever our participants live, whatever their support needs, we intend to keep showing up.

There's a lot of joy in these pages, and none of this happens without the people who turn up for it, day in and day out. Whether it's Holly bringing her whole heart to Fridays with participants, the many other support workers named throughout these pages, our incredible administration team, or our community supporters — thank you.

I was also proud to represent Yumba Bimbi recently at the National Disability Services Insights into Action Conference in Brisbane, where disability sector leaders from right across Queensland came together to unpack the NDIS reforms and what they mean in practice for the people and communities we serve. It's no secret that participants and providers right across the country are navigating a period of real instability, with change arriving faster than the sector can plan for. At Yumba Bimbi, we choose to meet that uncertainty by staying focused on what we can control: the quality of our supports, the strength of our relationships, and the positive difference we make every single day. Conversations like these only reinforce what these stories already tell me: we are part of something genuinely good, in a sector that needs more of it. I hope you enjoy this edition as much as I have. As always, thank you for being part of the Yumba Bimbi 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.

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 Acknowledgment

We would like to thank our preferred photographer for events and corporate marketing, Joshua from 'That Emerald Photographer,' for some of the images used throughout the Yumba Yarn.

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

SPECIAL UPDATE

Our NDIS Audit Results

Every so often, someone visits us to check we are looking after people the right way, in line with the NDIS Practice Standards. Here is what they found in May 2026.

What They Looked At

They checked 9 parts of how we run Yumba Bimbi.

Meets the standard **Best practice**

Our Leaders and Board

Our Board and leaders make good, careful decisions for everyone.

Keeping People Safe

We look for risks early and act to keep people safe.

Always Improving

We keep checking our work and finding ways to make it better.

Looking After Your Information

Your personal information is kept private and safe.

Listening to You

We listen when you share feedback or a concern, and we act on it.

Learning From Mistakes

If something goes wrong, we look into it and learn from it.

Great Staff, Great Training

Our staff get lots of training, support, and check-ins.

Support Without Gaps

You keep getting support, even if your usual worker is away.

Ready for Emergencies

We plan and train so we can help you in a flood, fire, or other emergency.

In Numbers



9 / 9
areas checked, all compliant



13
participants gave feedback



0
areas for improvement identified

What People Told the Auditor

"This is the **happiest** I've ever been."

"**Everyone** is willing to help."

"Staff are fun, flexible and very **friendly**."

This great result belongs to everyone at Yumba Bimbi — our Board, our staff, our participants and their families, our community partners and supporters. Thank you for helping us be the best we can be.

Based on the NDIS Mid-term Audit Report, Against National Disability Insurance Scheme Practice Standards, conducted by IHCA Certification, 18–20 May 2026.

Yumba Bimbi in partnership with the NRL Capra's



Yumba Bimbi is proud to be partnering alongside the NRL Capra's for our All-Abilities Team. This is an all-inclusive team, and all ages are welcome. We have loved every minute learning new skills and being part of a team, and we look forward to scoring more tries with you in the future!

The Incognito art show

The Incognito Art Show is a wonderfully inclusive celebration of creativity that levels the playing field for every artist who takes part. The concept is beautifully simple - artists of all backgrounds and abilities contribute a small 20x20cm artwork, which is then displayed and sold anonymously for $100, so buyers choose a piece purely because they love it, with no idea whether it was created by a renowned professional or someone picking up a paintbrush for the very first time.

For people living with disability, this is truly powerful. It removes the labels, the comparisons, and the barriers that can so often get in the way, and replaces them with one thing that matters: the art itself. Participants with disability are not a separate category or a special mention - they are simply artists, standing shoulder to shoulder with everyone else, their work valued and celebrated on exactly the same terms.

For our community here at Yumba Bimbi, this kind of initiative speaks to something we believe deeply - that every person has something meaningful to express, and that when we create spaces where those expressions are truly equal, amazing things happen.

Visit www.incognitoartshow.com to purchase a one-of-a-kind artwork or simply be inspired by the individuality of each piece.

It’s showtime!

Yumba Bimbi’s Line Dancing group brought energy and enthusiasm to their KOPA (Kimberley Ormond Performing Arts) Midyear Showcase.

Antoinette, our talented facilitator, supported the group as they learned new dances for the concert. With songs such as Cotton Eye Joe, a favourite amongst the group, along with Fireball and Azizam, it was a successful showcase of their skills; working together, refining movements, and supporting one another as a team.

The group are already in motion, practising their moves for the end-of-year concert. Thank you, KOPA, for providing a supportive and inclusive environment. See you back on stage soon!





NAIDOC Week

Celebrating NAIDOC Week is a special time to honour the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is a chance for everyone to come together, learn, and show respect for the world’s oldest living cultures. Yumba Bimbi valued being part of such an important event here on Country in Emerald.



Yumba Bimbi's new accessibility features on our website

We are excited to share that Yumba Bimbi has implemented two new features on our website to promote more inclusive practices.

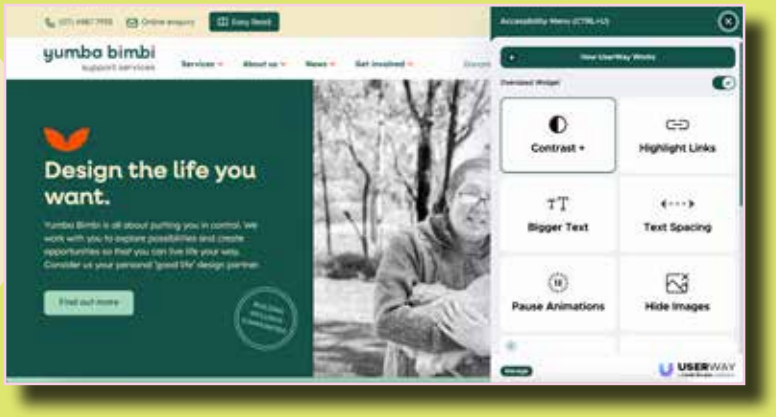
A Listen to button, which allows visitors to have page content read aloud.





An Easy Read Micro Page, designed to make key information more accessible for people who benefit from simplified text and visual supports.

You can also click on the accessibility feature button to tailor your specific support needs.



"These are positive steps forward in making our website more inclusive and easier to navigate for the people we support, their families, and our broader community. We will continue to improve our accessibility over time."

Juliette – General Manager Operations

A Rewarding 800km Round Trip

Yumba Bimbi's Katrina from Support Coordination and Nikki from Plan Management recently travelled west to visit new and existing participants. The days were long, but the outcome was invaluable.

High-quality, person-centred support remains central to our mission. We are committed to reducing geographical barriers and building stronger connections, trust, and advocacy. "Travelling to see participants in remote locations and seeing their way of life in the bush, and seeing how inclusive their communities are, is really rewarding," comments Katrina, Support Coordinator.

Here we showcase a few of our participants to learn how their NDIS Plan is helping them achieve their life goals.



Above: Windmill in the country

Right: Katrina, Scotty & Nikki.

TAMBO

Living in a small town of 283 people, Scotty has built genuine connections with his community. Alongside his Support Worker, Charmaine, he volunteers at the Hub (a community space) three times a week. He tends to the community vegetable garden and helps prepare for Allied Health professionals to utilise the services at the Hub. He also puts up community notices on the notice board. Scotty receives support from Charmaine with cooking and is visited by the Occupational Therapist each fortnight. On a previous 'R U OK Day?', Scotty and Charmaine delivered patty cakes to the community down the street.

Scotty has also been recognised as Tambo Citizen of the Year for his efforts in collecting 'can ends' to send to a company that turns them into wheelchairs. A great commitment to a great cause.

When speaking about our supports, Peter, Scotty's father, comments, "We can discuss things, change things around if something isn't working," demonstrating that the person holding the NDIS plan is always at the forefront of any decision-making.

Scotty plays an important role in the Tambo community which creates a genuine sense of belonging.





Katrina, Charlotte & Nikki

ALPHA

Charlotte is a proud member of her local State Emergency Service (SES) unit. “The main reason I got into it was because of my partner. It is something we can do together. I can do it anywhere in Australia,” says Charlotte. Since joining, Charlotte has completed her First Aid Course, and she is currently undertaking a heights course, building on the skills and confidence she’s gained through her training.

Charlotte has also valued the connections she has made along the way. “I have made quite a few friends from there.” With her NDIS funding, Charlotte accesses employment support to build skills and find opportunities in her community. Despite the geographical isolation, Charlotte is taking full advantage of the resources and opportunities available in her small community.





Herb engaging in art.

LONGREACH

Herb has not always had access to services that enhance his life. Thankfully, when the NDIS arrived, many positive outcomes followed. Jude, Herb’s sister, explains, “Ever since he has been on the NDIS, he has gotten what he needed. The people I talk to get things done and are all so lovely. I’m over the moon.”

Herb receives NDIS supports from Support Worker Rhonda at Live Better. Rhonda helps Herb engage in a diverse range of experiences that continue to enhance his physical mobility, such as exercise physiology sessions; promote cognitive strength, such as playing cards; and foster social connection through community engagements- and much more. Rhonda explores all areas of Herb’s wellbeing to help him succeed, and it is a pleasure to see Herb so engaged in his community.

“It is always a good feeling meeting up with those we support at Yumba Bimbi. It benefits us to see our participants face-to-face to better understand the person, their needs, and the environment and community they live in. This helps us understand their support needs. We can gain a better perspective on the challenges remote participants face and look at supports in a more holistic way,” says Nikki from Plan Management.

It is a pleasure travelling to our most western participants and their families; we will see you again soon!

Team Building Day

The morning kicked off with some seriously fun team challenges - skipping, pipeline, and a river crossing that had everyone laughing, cheering, and working together to get the job done!

After a well-earned lunch, the afternoon brought a whole new level of adventure with navigation and orienteering, canoeing and the high ropes!

It was a day full of teamwork, laughter, and a few nerves - but most importantly, it reminded us all of what makes this team so special. Whether conquering the ropes or cheering each other on from the ground, every single person brought their best to the day.



"Everything was well organised. I loved it - bring on 2027!"

- Caroline, Support Worker



"Honestly I never done anything like this before, loved it and I appreciate the experience. Thank you so much!"

- Melany, Support Worker



"It was great to see everyone, especially for some of us who work solo."

- Mutsa, Senior Support Worker





“Everything ran very well.”
- Jorgie Mitchell, Support Worker





“A huge thank you to everyone who attended and gave it their all!”
- Kelly, Acting Human Resources Coordinator









“Overall, a really fun day engaging with peers. Enjoyed the activities.”
- Hannah B, Support Worker



Insights into Action Conference: Guest Speaker

As Vice Chair of the Qld Divisional Committee for National Disability Services, Rachel, our Yumba Bimbi CEO, was invited to speak on a panel at this year's Insights into Action Conference in Brisbane.

This one-day event brought disability sector leaders together from all over Qld for practical insights, real conversations, and strategies to navigate what is changing.

Rachel's involvement reflects Yumba Bimbi's ongoing commitment to shaping the future of the disability sector, both locally and across Queensland.

NDS National Disability Services
QLD State Conference
Insights to Action

13 YARN: Depression

Feeling Real Low? Let's Yarn About Depression You Mob.

Are you or someone you know feeling real low, or carrying a heavy load? You're not on your own. When our spirit is really sad, some call it depression. It's not just small cries when times are tough. 1 in 6 Australians, including us mob, can feel it in their lives.

What is Depression?

Depression is a deep sadness that sticks around for weeks, months or even years. Sometimes, we don't realise we're carrying it, or we don't yarn about it. But always remember, like a long night, it can end. With the right support, you can begin healing your way for a better life.

Depression can look different for different people.

- Feeling sad, flat, or low most of the time (for two weeks or more)
- Losing joy in things you used to love (for two weeks or more)
- Feeling tired, no energy or motivation
- Feeling grumpy, frustrated or kicking off
- Using more grog and drugs
- Changes in your weight or how much you want to eat
- Trouble sleeping or sleeping too much

Depression is an illness that can get worse if we don't yarn about it. Scan the QR code for some helpful ways to begin.



Yumba Bimbi's Short Term Accommodation

Short Term Accommodation (STA) offers our participants a unique experience that ensures they are nurtured and cared for, with autonomy and decision-making at the forefront.

When participants access STA, they engage in experiences that support their wellbeing. These include developing greater independence across all areas, from self-care to meal preparation. STA helps our participants attend essential Allied Health appointments. Socially, our participants build friendships, experience new situations and environments, and enjoy the adventures our region offers. Our participants value the connections made at STA and the sense of achievement that comes with the stay. These experiences make STA a fulfilling and meaningful place to be.

We welcome you to join us.

Here is a snapshot of what you can experience by being part of our STA.



Above: Adventures to Blackdown Tablelands.

Right: Community participation at events.





Birthday Celebrations with family and friends, and developing greater independence.



Community Access with friends.



Accessing Allied Health Services.



Learning at the Science Club

Established in 2024, the Science Club is a hands-on, informative program that centres its learning on how our world works. Colby, the program's facilitator, is the perfect fit, bringing insight and delivering content in relatable ways that make it a highly popular choice for participants.

Across the year, the topics covered include nature, planet Earth, plants, terrariums, volcanoes, animals, reptiles, mammals, sea creatures, bees, habitats, fossils, outer space, nebulae, rockets and spacecraft, astronauts, the human body, the five senses, blood and the heart, germs and the immune system, light and the human eye, chemistry, states of matter, crystallisation, acids and bases, chemical reactions, physics, engineering, technology, computers and the internet, robotics, machine learning, and AI.

We are proud to deliver such a high-quality program, with centre-based activities that continue to support our participants' social and community outcomes.

Learning about bees





Science experiments







Rockets and spacecraft










Colby as the facilitator.

"It is fun. I like learning stuff from Colby!" - Nan

Maps







In these photos the group learnt about maps, including different types and their purposes. They chose to create either a satellite map or an aerial map. Each participant hid something and marked it on their map with an 'X.' They swapped maps and went off to find what everyone had hidden. They used clues such as trees, the basketball court, or labelled items. Everyone found their treasure!

Robyn's Journey Back Home

The day Robyn's life changed

Robyn was living life to the fullest - active, content, and without a single health concern. Then, in September 2022, whilst home alone, she suddenly felt excruciating leg pain. "It was the first time I ever needed an ambulance called," she says.

What followed was a long journey that would test every part of Robyn. But one thing is clear in her story: Robyn has never stopped moving forward, maintaining her optimism and sense of humour through every adversity she faced.



Son-in-law Tristan, daughter Laura, John, Robyn, grandaughter Charlotte, daughter Sarah, son-in-law Jeff and grandson Wyatt.



Robyn with her daughters Laura and Sarah.



Robyn and husband John.

The waiting game

At 11.30 pm, with Pilot, Doctor, and another Care Person, Robyn was strapped into her bed, wearing a crash helmet. She found herself being flown by helicopter from Emerald to Rockhampton Base Hospital - still without answers.

Robyn was then transferred from Rockhampton Base Hospital to Brisbane, along with two other patients, each assigned to their own ambulance and sent to a different hospital. She waited one and a half hours in a queue of ambulances to gain admittance. “There were six ambulances in front of me,” recalls Robyn, signifying the high volume of patients needing medical treatment.



Robyn being airlifted out of Emerald Hospital.

Over several weeks at The Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, Robyn underwent seven MRIs, CT scans, a lumbar puncture, and extensive heart and neurological testing. “I was kept in the stroke ward because they did not know exactly where to put me,” comments Robyn. After four weeks, doctors finally made an official diagnosis. Robyn had suffered an Ischaemic Thoracic Stroke, a type of stroke that fewer than 1% of the population ever experiences.

From there, Robyn moved to Brighton Rehabilitation Centre in Redcliffe, a unit specialising in rehabilitation, before her longest stay of three months at The Princess Alexandra Hospital. Each transfer brought new challenges and a future that remained very much unknown.

The road to rehabilitation

Robyn explains, “Nothing moved for four months. Then all I could move was my big toe on my right foot.”

The magnitude of Robyn’s circumstances was evident in this moment. Rather than feeling defeated, Robyn was prepared for progress. She understood, however, that in the interim she would need support from every angle, from personal care to meal preparation and all the daily duties in between. This dramatic shift was symbolised by Robyn needing to cut her signature long hair. “I couldn’t even tie it on my own,” said Robyn.

A dedicated team of therapists surrounded Robyn throughout every rehabilitation session, motivating her through each small but significant milestone. “The spinal cord unit was great; I couldn’t fault them,” she says.

Every piece of equipment was carefully considered and customised. Robyn describes the meticulous process of finding the right wheelchair: “The OT (Occupational Therapist) and Physiotherapist helped bring together a customised chair that suits your capabilities. It needs to be the right width, whether you want manual or automatic, and even the type of cushion. Pressure sores are a big deal. You would spend a day trying out a wheelchair to see if it suited you. You even tried different mattresses based on where you are hurt. Some are too soft or too hard,” comments Robyn.

The journey also involved perspective. Robyn's Social Worker arranged for her to visit another woman who had experienced a stroke. Robyn comments, "She had a home specially designed for her. She was 62, and I was 58 when it happened. It was good for me to see her."

Robyn's friends and family kept showing up for her. Close friends who lived nearby visited often, bringing takeaway meals and familiar warmth. Simple gestures made a real difference in easing Robyn's physical and mental load. She explains, "My very good friend Cris collected my washing from the hospital. Every Sunday at 4 pm, I had my friend Merle phone me from Emerald."

Conversations and well wishes from those around her maintained Robyn's optimism. "My immediate family - husband John; children Sarah and Laura; their spouses Jeff and Tristan; and our grandchildren helped, as did my extended family: my mum Val, sister Dell and brothers John and Mark, and their families, friends, and Parish family. My husband has been amazing throughout all of this. He is definitely my life partner and has taken it all in his stride," comments Robyn.



Robyn with her mum Val, sister Dell and brother John.

The power of the mind

Through it all, Robyn's mindset was quietly leading the way. "I still had my own voice; it didn't affect my brain. I was blessed in that way," she reflects. This positive attitude contributed not only to her recovery but also to her acceptance of her new life. With purpose, she made an early decision. Robyn states, "I didn't want to become angry."

Robyn shares the impact that having the Rehabilitation unit by the sea had on her mental health. "It saved my soul to watch people on the water along the esplanade," says Robyn.

When it was time to take her first steps, a therapist asked Robyn which song she would like to listen to. Her response was, "I Will Survive," by Gloria Gaynor. Robyn has always lived with gratitude, but as she explains, a life-altering event puts things into perspective. "This experience reinforces my belief in not going to bed angry - just be kind," she says.



Left: Robyn taking her first steps with the team of allied health professionals.

Below: The view from Brighton Rehabilitation Centre.



Proving it to herself: the tests

Robyn was determined to regain her independence, testing her abilities across multiple areas.

The wheelchair licence. Before Robyn could leave her hospital room unsupported, she had to demonstrate competence in wheelchair navigation. Robyn had to learn to use her upper-body strength and transfer herself in and out of the wheelchair independently; she passed with flying colours.

Swimming. “I loved going to the pool in Emerald, and I have always been a swimmer. I wondered if I could swim again,” comments Robyn. And, typical of Robyn, she describes this moment with eagerness and self-belief. “I had the OT at the hospital with me in the pool, and away I went. It came as an enormous relief,” says Robyn.

Driving was another challenge Robyn faced. After an eye test, a questionnaire, and a simulated driving assessment, she encountered the real thing: navigating Brisbane’s multi-lane roads, roundabouts, hill starts, give way signs, reverse and parallel parking, and a three-point turn in a school zone. “I have lived in Emerald for most of my life - for any country person, that would have been a big deal!” she laughs.

Then it started to rain. Robyn glanced at the sky, turned to her instructor, Ivor, and said, “I’m from the bush. It is going to hail. I could tell the sky was a terrible green.” She finished her test just in time. Pea-sized hail began to fall the moment she stepped out of the car. Once again, Robyn succeeded in the challenge and had approval to drive independently.

The shops. “I wanted a steak!” Robyn says, with great emphasis. More than that, she wanted to do it entirely alone. Navigating the grand size of the shopping complex with the many outlets, lifts, food stalls, and people was a challenge Robyn was seeking. “I didn’t want a soul with me. I ended up getting blisters from wheeling the chair. I was told I may have to do this for the rest of my life, so I wanted to prove to myself I could.”

Motivated by this thought, Robyn searched all day for a dress for her daughter’s wedding. With her daughter on the other end of the phone via FaceTime Messenger, her daughter gave a nod of approval, and the perfect dress was found, including the bridal shower Barbie-themed dress!

First experience of barriers in society

Despite many successes during her time in rehabilitation, Robyn also faced moments of despair. Upon leaving one of her appointments, Robyn waited over three hours for a taxi because none were wheelchair accessible. “It was the only time I was nervous in a wheelchair. It was my first time alone.” It was late, and Robyn felt vulnerable. She explains that she cried only three times during this ordeal, and this was one of them. A wheelchair is an extension of a person and should not be a barrier to getting home safely and promptly. Ultimately, says Robyn, “When the taxi finally arrived, the man was lovely and said he would personally take me back to the spinal unit.”

Coming home - with the right support

The next challenge came from the confronting journey of leaving hospital. Megan, Robyn's Royal Brisbane Hospital Social Worker, declared, "You will eventually have to go home - and you will have a disability."

Preparing for that reality required navigating an entirely new system. Donna, from Yumba Bimbi's Support Coordination team, played a pivotal role. Robyn recalls the NDIS telehealth meeting: a room full of professionals, including Doctors, Nurses, OTs, Physiotherapists, and Social Workers. "All the professionals were very clinical, and it was not an easy room to be in. Donna spoke about all the services Emerald could offer; she could answer everything. She was more than up to the task of talking to all the professionals in the room. She was amazing," says Robyn.

With an NDIS Plan, confidence in the supports she needed, and just shy of five months since the incident, Robyn was on her way home to Emerald. "As I was looking out the window of the plane whilst circling above Emerald, I had tears flowing down," recalls Robyn.

But as the emotion settled, so did reality. "I was home. But I still wasn't home-home." The family home had not yet been modified to meet her needs, so temporary arrangements had to be made. What helped Robyn through this transition was the welcome awaiting her, a sign from her grandchildren that read: "Welcome home, Grammy." It was what she needed in that moment.







Top: Waiting for Grammy.

Middle: A heartfelt and long awaited embrace at the airport.

Bottom: The welcome home Grammy sign.



Robyns first outing in Emerald.

Almost there - a community embrace

Without an accessible home, Robyn turned to her community. She phoned Kerry Deakin at the Emerald Palms Motel and explained her situation. Kerry offered an accessible room that allowed Robyn to spend her days in the family home and return to the Motel each night to shower and sleep safely.

It was the first time since leaving Emerald five months earlier that Robyn had a shower entirely to herself. Robyn explains, “No one came into the shower that I had to myself - it was so good!” Regaining this dignity meant a lot to Robyn.

On the day of her arrival at the Motel, Robyn says her friend Jenny had flowers, candles, creams, and lotions waiting for her. “Within a day or so, I had my lovely friend Maria pick me up and take me to the pub. I was radiant; I was just so happy to be home.” Robyn felt held by her community, even though the road back to her own front door still had a few steps left… another fourteen months, in fact.

Building strength - supports that matter

Returning home wasn’t just about walls and ramps - it meant rebuilding a whole team of people around her. Each week, the Get Out, Get Active program brings Robyn together with Facilitator Patty, whose energy fills every session. “I introduced the music to the oldies, and they love it; it keeps them on the beat. Our oldest person is 91,” she says warmly. On the day Yumba Bimbi visited, thirty-seven people attended - a testament to just how valuable the program is to the community.

Robyn’s positive mindset shines through once again. She explains, “There was no guarantee that I would walk again, and I am lucky my nerves recovered in a good way. My goal was to walk, and now it is to maintain strength and mobility.” That ongoing goal is shared by Construct Health Physiotherapy’s Zac and You Move Health & Rehab's Grant, both funded through her NDIS Plan. “Both Zac and Grant are wonderful,” she says. “We are so lucky to have such fantastic Allied Health professionals in Emerald.”

Robyn’s home required renovating. Glen, from Lifestyle Therapies and Training Solutions (LTTS), completed a home assessment identifying the modifications Robyn would need to return to the family home - the bathroom, laundry, and a safer entrance with handrails and a ramp are now complete, with the kitchen still to come. “I feel very fortunate to have Glen and his team of OTs,” she comments.

And behind it all is the person Robyn relies on daily. “My Support Worker is amazing, patient, kind and dedicated. She is my connection to everything I do when out and about.”



Above: Robyn with Grant from You Move Health and Rehab.

Below: Robyn with Zac from Construct Health Physiotherapy.



Standing tall

Still working steadily to rebuild her strength and mobility, Robyn reached another milestone: wearing the wedding dress she braved the shops alone to find, blisters and all, for her daughter's wedding. "Exactly one year and one day after my stroke, I was able to stand in the outfit," Robyn says proudly.

With Robyn's characteristic humour, she recalls the moment professional family photos were being taken: "John is holding me, and I am holding Laura… and my wheelchair is out of shot!" Rising to stand at her daughter's wedding was a profound moment, signifying the triumph of the effort required to reach this point.



Robyn with husband John, daughter Laura and son-in-law Tristan.

Home-Home

Easter 2024. The moment Robyn had been working toward since that helicopter flight from Emerald almost two years before. It was her last step. She was back in her own home, with her family. The mental and physical load lifted in a way only home can provide.

As Robyn reflects on her experiences, she shares her gratitude for those around her. "All of the different arms of Yumba Bimbi have truly made my journey in returning home to Emerald less daunting. I have appreciated all the wonderful support and effort they have contributed to help me navigate my future. I sincerely wish to thank you all personally on behalf of myself, my husband John, Sarah, Jeff, Charlotte, Wyatt, Laura, Tristan, and baby James (who has recently turned one)," comments Robyn.

And then, with the kind of quiet certainty and humour that has defined her throughout this entire journey, Robyn says, "I've been carried out once. I'm not being carried out again. I love Emerald. I am not going anywhere!"

Donna's testimonial

I have been given the privilege of writing a Testimonial for Donna Oliver, one of the remarkable Disability Support Coordinators at Yumba Bimbi.

Donna is personable, caring, approachable, and always willing to advocate for those of us who can't advocate for ourselves. Nothing is ever too much effort, and she is tenacious in making sure that my needs are met.

I can clearly remember my first meeting with Donna. It was via Zoom; I was still an 'inpatient' at The Spinal Unit at The Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane. The room I was in contained a Doctor, Physiotherapists, a Social Worker, a Clinical Nurse, and one scared, uninformed, overwhelmed spinal injury patient … me. Donna was outstanding; she was more than a match for the assembled professionals. Her ability to both understand information and read between the lines, and to troubleshoot services required for me to return to a regional area that certainly did not have the luxuries of the hospital's Spinal Unit. All this without ever forgetting there was a person who needed care, not just a patient with problems and needs.

In conclusion, to sum Donna up in just three words: Compassionate, Committed, and Resolute.

Thank you, Donna, for being my lifeboat in a sea of uncertainty - Robyn Brosnan



Donna - Coordinator of Plan Management and Support Coordination.

The annual NDIS Conference

The NDIS Conference is an important event on Yumba Bimbi's calendar. With some staff attending face-to-face and others online, the 2-day event offers attendees a wealth of knowledge.

Presentations centred around economic reform, strategic planning, sector challenges, housing, innovation, and capacity building. Learning more about these areas within the NDIS allows us to reflect on our service delivery and how we can continue to strive for excellence.



Curried Sausages

INGREDIENTS

6 beef sausages
Tin diced tomatoes
2 Tbsp curry powder
1 cup of beef stock
1 tin coconut cream
2 carrots
3 small potatoes
1 small onion
Olive oil
2 tsp garlic
½ cup frozen peas
2 cups cooked basmati rice

DIRECTIONS

1. Start cooking your rice as per the instructions on the packet.
2. Dice up carrots, onion and potatoes. Slice sausages.
3. Heat oil in a saucepan on medium heat. Add onion, garlic and sausages to saucepan, cooking until sausages are brown.
4. Add diced vegetables and simmer on low to soften.
5. Combine curry powder with one cup of beef stock. Add tin tomatoes and curry mix into pan.
7. Shake can and add the coconut cream to pan. Simmer until a thicker consistency.
8. Serve with rice.



Yumba Bimbi's Destination Dinner Program produces hearty meals for all the family to enjoy. Recently, participants made curried sausages, which were a hit for all. Happy Cooking!

NDIS Plan Management

What is Plan Management?

Think of us as the ones handling the paperwork behind the scenes! As your plan manager, we take care of paying your provider invoices, keeping track of your budget, helping you understand how you can use this money in line with the NDIS guidelines, and sending you easy-to-read statements - all so you're free to choose any providers you like, registered or not, without the admin headache.

Track Your Plan with Care View Advantage

Want an easy way to keep an eye on your budget and invoices? Our Care View Advantage app makes it simple to track everything in real time, right from your phone. Just let us know if you'd like us to set you up with access!

Support Understanding Your Plan and Budget

NDIS plans can feel like a lot to take in, so if you'd like a hand understanding yours or working out a budget that makes the most of your supports, we're happy to help. Just reach out and we'll set up a time to chat.

Getting in Touch

Got a question, big or small? We're only ever a message or call away. Our business hours are Monday to Friday 9:00am till 3:00pm for all face-to-face meetings please arrange a time with our Administrations officer. We are here to help.



Nikki & Tara, Yumba Bimbi Plan Managers.

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

I will walk a thousand miles, and I will walk a thousand more miles on the path that Jesus walked with love, faith, kindness, caring, compassion and forgiveness. The walk will be hard, but the Lord Jesus Christ will be with us every step of the way. If it is walking up a mountain or walking in the rain, the Lord Jesus will walk with me. I will not stumble, and I will not fall, for the Lord Jesus will hold me up and give me strength every step of the way. Forever and ever, Amen.

Signed – Radiant Angel



Creating roles with purpose

Here at Yumba Bimbi, we believe that the right people in the right roles make all the difference. The Client Services Administration Officer is a new and important addition to our team - one designed to make a real, positive difference to the processes of our organisation. We sat down with Debbie to find out more about what this role means for our staff and participants.

How long have you been part of YB?
I have been with Yumba Bimbi over 9 years.

Can you explain why we introduced this new role and what it entails?
This new role was introduced because of the rapid growth in the number of YB participants and the sheer number of documents that each participant requires both during the intake process and on an ongoing basis.

When did this role commence?
The beginning of August 2024.

What ways is this role making a difference to our organisation?

I believe that the intake process is now more streamlined, and my role has "freed" up other administrative staff to focus more on other important processes. Apart from the intake documentation (Personal Information, Consent Agreement, Service Agreements, Disaster Management Plans and Clarification of Medication), I check and chase up on Epilepsy, Bowel, Asthma and Mealtime Management Plans.

My role also involves the preparation of Participant Risk Assessments, Individual Activity Risk Assessments and Group Program Risk Assessments. I do Comprehensive Disaster Management Plans for our participants who need these over and above their normal Emergency Disaster Management Plans. (In consultation with their parents/carers) I conduct In Home Risk Assessments annually. I am also in for ensuring that all participant goals are recorded in Supportability.

My role also involves uploading any Allied Health handovers which are emailed through. Twice a month I send out Confirmation of STA (Short Term

Accommodation) emails to participants who access STA. I also capture all intake information onto Supportability.

We have recently started a new system known as “Group Program Facilitator Supervision” whereby I attend our group programs and mentor facilitators when necessary. Each group program is supervised twice annually.

I do participant Goal Strategies Acknowledgements, and this is completed quarterly. I also complete Individual and Client Support and File Audits every six months.

Last words...
I absolutely LOVE my administrative role. I am lucky enough to get to meet new participants when I complete the intake process and our long-standing participants often pop into the office to say “hi”. The in-home risk assessments mean that I get to see them, and now that I attend group programs, I get to see even more of their smiling faces!

Debbie quietly works in the background to ensure Yumba Bimbi continues to deliver high-quality, person-centred supports. We appreciate her wealth of experience and attention to detail in all that she does. Thank you Debbie!



Technology for Social Justice Conference

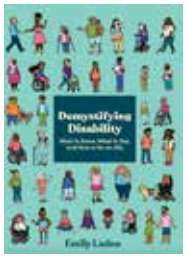
Juliette and Sandy recently attended the Infoxchange Technology for Social Justice Conference in Melbourne - a national gathering bringing together community sector organisations to explore how technology can drive social change. The conference focused on practical innovations in digital tools, data, and service delivery to better support vulnerable people across Australia.

“Attending the conference was a fantastic opportunity to connect with like-minded organisations and bring fresh ideas back to Yumba Bimbi — it’s always valuable to see how technology can help us better serve our community.”

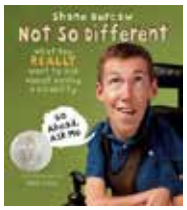
– Sandy, Information Technology & Communication Coordinator.

6 Disability Books to Read

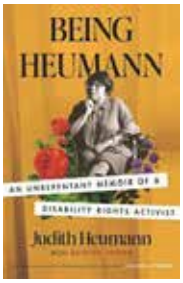
Greater awareness of people living with disability leads to more inclusive communities. Take some time out of your day to listen to a podcast or two, and let's learn more together.



Demystifying Disability by Emily Ladau - A friendly, easy-to-follow guide that helps people understand disability better - the right words to use, what to avoid, and how to be a genuine ally. Great for anyone who wants to learn, whether they're new to disability or have lived with it their whole life.



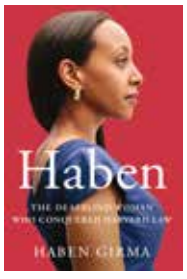
Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a Disability by Shane Burcaw - Written especially for younger readers, Shane answers the honest (and sometimes cheeky) questions kids ask about his disability. It's a warm, funny read that helps break down awkwardness and build understanding between disabled and non-disabled kids.



Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist by Judith Heumann - The powerful life story of one of the world's most important disability rights leaders. Judith shares her journey from childhood through decades of activism that helped change laws and attitudes - a must-read for anyone proud of the disability community's history.



Sitting Pretty: The View From My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body by Rebekah Taussig - A collection of honest, funny, and heartfelt stories from Rebekah about life as a wheelchair user - navigating everyday moments, relationships, and how the world sees (or overlooks) disabled bodies. Relatable and real.



Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law by Haben Girma - The inspiring true story of Haben, the first deafblind person to graduate from Harvard Law School. From her childhood in Oakland to visiting family in Eritrea, this memoir is all about persistence, family, and finding new ways to do things.



Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's by John Elder Robison - John shares what it was like growing up with undiagnosed Asperger's, long before he understood why he saw the world differently. It's an honest and often funny look at his unusual path - including designing guitar effects for the band KISS - before finding out who he really was.

Connecting with community, industry and services across Central and Western Qld



AgGrow Emerald is a large trade show and community event held in Emerald, Central Queensland. Businesses come to show and sell their products and services to people in the farming and mining industries across Central and Western Queensland.

“Participation in community expos and events is essential for Yumba Bimbi as it provides valuable opportunities to connect with the people we support, showcase our services and values, strengthen partnerships, and actively contribute to creating a more inclusive and informed community. These events help build trust, increase accessibility to supports, and ensure Yumba Bimbi remains visible, engaged, and responsive to community needs.” – Kerri, General Manager of Client Services

Thanks for a great event, AgGrow. See you next year!

Epilepsy training

Recently, Yumba Bimbi invited staff and the wider community to attend epilepsy training delivered by Allie from Epilepsy Queensland. Allie later commented on how impressed she was with the group's insight, empathy, and motivation. These are exactly the attributes we aspire to hold in the allied health and disability space.

Thank you Epilepsy Qld for sharing this vital knowledge with us.



Yumba Bimbi staff and local community organisations coming together to learn about epilepsy.

Inclusive Language

Why does this matter?

When we use the right words, we show people with disability - and their families - that they are seen, respected, and valued as whole people. It also helps build a community where everyone belongs.

Everyday examples — what to say and why

Instead of saying someone "suffers from autism", say they "are autistic" or "have autism." The word "suffers" suggests their life is painful or difficult, which is not how many autistic people see themselves.

Instead of "wheelchair-bound", say "wheelchair user." A wheelchair gives someone freedom and independence — it is not something that traps them.

Instead of "mentally ill", say someone "lives with a mental health condition" or "has mental health challenges." This recognises that mental health is just one part of who a person is.

Focusing on strengths

Strengths-based language is about recognising what a person can do, rather than focusing on limitations. Here are some real-life examples:

"Sarah is blind and uses screen-reading software at work."

"James has an intellectual disability and finds Easy Read documents helpful."

"Michael shares his preferences using a communication device and Key Word Signing."

A simple guide to remember

- Follow the person's lead - use the words they prefer.
- Focus on abilities, not limitations.
- When in doubt, it is often okay to politely ask.

Inclusive language is about listening, respecting people's choices, choosing words with care, and making sure everyone feels they belong.

Source: families.qld.gov.au website

Cairns Disability Support Worker Conference

Yumba Bimbi Employees attended an all-inclusive paid trip to the Cairns Disability Support Worker Conference to gain further insights into the topics that impact participants and their families in the disability sector. These conferences create opportunities to reflect on our work and put new learnings into action.

Here, Caleb reflects on his biggest takeaways from the conference.

“One of my favourite moments from the DSW Conference in Cairns was when a disabled gentleman from the audience, who uses a motorised wheelchair, shared his story of how Community Access Supports changed his life.

It all started with his tight-knit team of support workers who took the time to get to know him and his interests. From there, they identified a deep appreciation for the ocean and through Community Access Supports, were able to transport him to see and experience it. On top of a marked increase in his quality of life and general enjoyment, he was able to discover a new passion- photography.

Following this passion led him to create an Instagram account showcasing his photos, which over time not only exposed his work to people across the world, but eventually led to a job offer in the photography space and the creation of his own personal income stream.

This wouldn't have been possible for him without Community Access Supports and the genuine interest his support workers showed in him. This really drives home the importance of these types of supports, and the far-reaching impact that support workers can have on someone's life when they really take the time to get to know their participants as whole people-and not just their "primary" disability.

I also have to say that spending a few days with Hannah, Heidi, and Minnie-three very passionate and capable support workers, really reignited my own passion for what we do at Yumba Bimbi. Those three ladies have so much to offer, care deeply about their participants, and are just so...impressive. I feel honoured to know them and our participants are served well whenever any of those three are on shift.” – Caleb



Caleb, Hannah W, Louise and Heidi heading to the Cairns Disability Conference.



Employee Spotlight

Holly is a valued member of the Yumba Bimbi team. Here, we learn more about what drives Holly to do her best as a Support Worker each day.

Name

Holly or I call myself Lolly for the kids.

How long have you been part of YB?

I have been lucky enough to be a part of the Yumba Bimbi family for 3 years now.

Explain a typical day in the life of your job.

My days consist of so many different, fun, and sometimes challenging activities and situations! One day I could be meal prepping with participants, another day I could be taking one of my smaller participants to the park and engaging in some bubble play, another day could be taking participants shopping and ensuring they get to appointments, and other days could consist of ensuring our participants have a space where they can be heard and understood on their roughest days.

Although I love every day and all my participants I support, Fridays are my absolute favourite days! Fridays consist of running 2 programs. A Heart-Full Journey, 9-11 and Destination Dinner 11-2. A Heart-Full Journey is all about filling our hearts with activities and knowledge to float through emotions and turbulent times in our lives by sparking up our own fire of creativity. Filled with vulnerability, creativity, and expansive knowledge. Then Destination Dinner is a cooking program to assist in teaching participants how to prep and cook healthier dinner options.





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

My biggest motivation to get up and do this work each day is knowing I'm helping people. I love knowing that I get to go out and make a real difference in people's lives even through the smallest moments. I love helping people to not only achieve their goals but instill the belief that they CAN achieve their goals. My motivation is being not only a cheerleader for our participants, but an advocate for our participants. I'm motivated by the fact that one conversation, one person's belief in you, and one person's kind words can leave the biggest impact. To see the smile on their faces when they achieve something they've set their hearts on. They are all things that motivate me to get up and continue the work that I do.

What are your triumphs/ successes?

I would say my biggest success as a support worker would be building the strong relationships with participants and watching them grow and thrive over time with the right guidance and support. Seeing a participant that never liked leaving the house and struggled with social anxiety, getting a job. Seeing a participant that was super quiet and didn't engage much, to now being unable to get in a word as they talk so much, haha. Hearing from participants just how big of an impact that not only I have had on them, but the whole of Yumba has had on their emotional worlds is truly the greatest!

Any Last words?

I'm also super excited to be studying my first year of Nursing at James Cook University. I'm looking forward to all the extra skills that this next step in my career can bring to not only myself, but the participants and team at Yumba Bimbi!





"Holly creates a happy environment to be in, she's fun, patient and understanding with all participants as well as other support workers. It's always a good day when we get to see Holly."

– Pamela, Support Worker

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Ashley: In His own Home, with His own Team

The Road To His Forever Home

When Ashley moved into his own home, it marked a major triumph in his journey toward independence. As shared previously in an article in the Yumba Yarn, the road to get here was not without its challenges - but with the steadfast advocacy of Donna, his Yumba Bimbi Support Coordinator, it happened. Now, three years on, we revisit Ashley to see what life is like in his own home, and to celebrate the remarkable team he has welcomed into it.

The Night Ashley Decided

At first, support workers gently guided Ashley as he became aware of his new surroundings, though he was not yet ready to call the place home. His mother, Julie, thoughtfully furnished it with familiar pieces from the family home that she knew would resonate with him. For months, Ashley regularly travelled from Yumba Bimbi's Short Term Accommodation (STA) service to spend time there before returning to STA. This patient and considered transition respected Ashley's need to move at his own pace.

And then came the moment.

As support worker Tyrone recalls, "After having spent some time at his new home, Ashley ate dinner at STA and began pacing outside. He put on his shoes, said 'Come on Tyrone,' and began walking down the street." With the remaining participants safely in the care of other support workers at STA, Tyrone followed Ashley's lead and phoned Niamh from Yumba Bimbi, who soon arrived to walk alongside Ashley. Amanda, also from Yumba Bimbi then joined them, driving slowly behind Ashley and Niamh while on the phone to Ashley's mother, Julie, giving her updates on where Ashley was heading.

It was the afternoon, the sun was piercing down on Ashley, yet he was determined to reach his destination. Having never walked the route independently, Ashley had quietly memorised every step. He walked to his home, entered, had a shower, and has not left since.

This story demonstrates the beauty of Ashley making the decision to move into his own home entirely on his own terms. It is also comforting to know how much trust he placed in his support workers - confident they would be ready to respond to his request. It was a moment the whole team had worked towards, and Ashley made that choice in his own time.

Ashley's Team — Chosen by Him

What has unfolded since is genuine. The team that works alongside Ashley in his home has not simply been assigned to him - Ashley has chosen them. Through trust built over time, through consistency, patience, and genuine care, each support worker has earned their place. Here, we hear from the people lucky enough to be part of Ashley's world.

Tyrone

Tyrone has worked alongside Ashley for eight years and describes the relationship with quiet pride. “Ash and I have developed a good relationship,” he says. “Each team member works on their own strengths to support Ash,” - a philosophy that runs through everything the team does.

Tyrone has played a key role in helping Ashley connect with his peers. With support from his team, Ashley now hosts a fortnightly BBQ - an important milestone. “At first, he stayed in his room, but now he comes out, high-fives everyone and makes jokes,” says Tyrone. When his peers host and Ashley is not ready to attend in person, he joins via Zoom on his iPad. “Ashley laughs and chats with them,” Tyrone explains with a smile.

The little things matter too. Tyrone knows that if the vacuum is coming out, Ashley needs a heads-up. "It is common sense, really - if you know someone doesn't like loud noises, you let them know." On days when Ashley prefers the comfort of his room, Tyrone puts on Ashley's favourite show, ‘Friends’, in both his room and the living room. “It might encourage him to come out (to the living room). It also keeps the connection.”

Tyrone also speaks warmly about the joy of watching Ashley's family relationships flourish in his own space. Julie, Ashley's mother, can focus on being a parent rather than administrative and caregiving tasks. “It is nice to see that relationship,” comments Tyrone. It is also endearing to see Ashley interacting with his nieces and nephews when they visit. Tyrone explains, “One day Ashley was calling out from the window to his nieces and nephews playing in the street like a proud parental figure.” These are the moments that matter. “When people visit, you can tell he really enjoys seeing them,” comments Tyrone.

Mutsa

Mutsa is, in Tyrone's words, “Just the best with Ash. She has a way of getting through to him. He has a lot of trust in her.” That trust has been built through consistency, warmth, and an unwavering belief in Ashley's capability.

Central to Mutsa's approach is always providing choice and keeping Ashley informed of what is about to happen - giving him space to process his surroundings and feel in control of his world. Mutsa explains, “We encourage Ashley to make choices - what he wants for breakfast, choosing his clothing, etc.” More recently, with gentle encouragement, Ashley has been taking clothes off the line, ironing, hanging his clothes, helping with cooking, and taking out the trash. “We thank him for his assistance,” states Mutsa. These are life skills that take time and patience to nurture, but as Mutsa notes, “The satisfaction from Ashley when achieved is visible.”

"We have an amazing team, and I am so grateful," she says.



Tyrone.

Quini

Quini brings with her twenty years of nursing experience and time working in the mines. "I am recharged like a battery in this role," she says, expressing that she gains more from working alongside Ashley than anything else.

Now in her third year with Yumba Bimbi, and her first year working solely with Ashley, Quini's approach is guided by a simple but powerful principle: “I do to others what I would want others to do to me. There is no problem at all - we adapt.” Implying that there is always a way to best support Ashley to meet his needs.

Quini continues, “We try different things to see what works.” This thinking led to one of Ashley's recent highlights: collecting his own pizza. “He knows that Friday we are having pizza for dinner. We watch Tipping Point together, then he puts his shoes on. I ask if he would like Meat lovers or Chicken Supreme, and we make the order. I show him the phone when it is ready and say, ‘I'm hungry!’ He then comes with me. He presses the button at the lights and stops. He was so excited to get pizza for the first time.” Quini beams, “I love it - nothing is impossible to achieve.”

There was also the moment Ashley surprised his parents at a local restaurant as they celebrated a milestone - a reminder of just how much his world continues to expand.

Mark

And then there is Mark - a familiar, patient, and deeply valued presence who has been part of the Yumba Bimbi family for over 14 years. Mark's long history with Ashley, and the memory bank they share, help encourage Ashley out of his comfort zone and into moments of pure joy.

"Ashley has one of the biggest characters, and there's almost no better feeling when he comes into his own," says Mark, whether that’s a round of backyard mini golf, a game, or a BBQ with peers. "I think Ashley lights up the place with his laughter, and when he's digging it, he's really digging it! You know about it through his laughter, cheeky grin, and no-nonsense encouragement to those around him," comments Mark.

Mini golf mornings are a weekly highlight. "Ash gets his trusty, lucky pitching wedge, his thongs, puts his hat on (sometimes reluctantly), and we head out to an Ashley-inspired golf course of hula hoop holes and cardboard box obstacles. We record our scores. I don't believe Ash has lost a game yet!" Mark laughs.





Left: Ashley with flowers, gift and card for his parents.

Above: Ashley with Mutsa, Mark and Carey.

Amanda, Client Services Coordinator of Accommodation, delves deeper into the specific ways Ashley is supported.

Communication methods

The team uses a range of communication methods to ensure Ashley's home runs smoothly and to provide consistent, high-quality support. These include the communication book, team emails, detailed shift handovers, and regular team and case management meetings. These communication channels ensure important information is shared promptly, support strategies remain consistent, and any changes to Ashley's needs are communicated effectively across the team. Mutsa also prepares a quarterly newsletter for Julie and Ashley's family. The newsletter highlights Ashley's achievements, activities, and experiences over the previous few months, giving the family a positive overview of what Ashley and his support team have been doing together and helping them stay connected to his progress.



Ashley serving freshly made cookies to his friend Carey.

Collaboration within the team

All of the above are essential. Knowing Ashley well is the key to providing consistent, high-quality support. The entire team must be on the same page to ensure consistency, harmony in the home, and positive outcomes for Ashley. Supporting Ashley to achieve his goals, particularly around community access and social participation, requires a genuine team approach. Mutsa provides strong leadership within the team. We regularly touch base to discuss ideas, problem-solve, and consider suggestions raised by other team members to continually improve the support Ashley receives. This collaborative approach ensures everyone feels heard and that supports remain person-centred. Ashley also enjoys a regular fortnightly BBQ with his mates, which has become an important social event. Julie generously provides the sausages, while Ashley's friends contribute by bringing a plate to share. One of our favourite photos captures Ashley proudly cooking the BBQ for his friends, highlighting his growing confidence and independence. Support workers also encourage Ashley to stay active and engaged in the community. For example, Mark often brings his golf clubs so they can spend time outdoors together, along with other activities that promote exercise, social connection, and enjoyment.



Quini & Mutsa.

Ashley's communication style

Since moving into his home on 1 February 2023, Ashley's ability to communicate his needs, preferences, and choices has continued to develop. Through consistent support, patience, strong rapport-building, and the implementation of communication cards and other visual strategies, his communication has improved significantly. Ashley clearly demonstrates when he is comfortable with his support workers. He values consistency and responds best to a regular team and predictable roster, becoming very familiar with who is supporting him and when. To support this, Ashley has a visual board displaying photos of his support workers, so he can see who will support him on upcoming shifts. This helps reduce anxiety, promotes predictability, and supports his sense of choice and control. When onboarding new support workers, we take time to introduce them gradually, ensuring Ashley has opportunities to build trust and become familiar with them at his own pace. We closely observe and respect his responses, engagement, and comfort levels, ensuring his preferences remain central to decisions about who provides his support. This person-centred approach promotes positive relationships and enables Ashley to feel safe, comfortable, and confident with the people supporting him.

Meeting the expectations of Ashley's family

Julie has developed a strong and trusting relationship with Ashley's support team, particularly with Mutsa. Over time, we have built open and honest communication, where everyone feels comfortable discussing what is working well for Ashley and identifying opportunities to improve his supports. We work alongside Julie by listening to her knowledge of Ashley, valuing her input, and responding to her requests and concerns in a timely and respectful manner. I feel that, particularly over the past year, Julie has gained increased confidence in the team's ability to support Ashley in line with his needs and her expectations. This trust has been built through consistency, transparent communication, and the team's commitment to continually adapting supports to meet Ashley's changing needs.



The next steps for Ashley

I am excited to see Ashley continue building his confidence and independence, particularly in accessing the community and strengthening his social connections. One of our goals is to support him to become more involved in community activities, with the possibility of participating in group programs or even volunteering in the future. Ashley genuinely enjoys spending time with his friends, and we are seeing his confidence in social situations grow.

It has been incredibly rewarding to see Ashley's progress. Recently, with support from his support worker, Ashley selected items he wanted from a grocery catalogue by circling them and then walked to the shops to purchase them. While this may seem like a small achievement, it represents significant growth in his confidence, communication, and decision-making. Six months ago, Ashley would not have considered doing this.

I look forward to seeing what the next 12 months bring as Ashley continues to build on these successes, increase his confidence, and achieve even more of the goals that matter to him.

- Amanda

Positivity beyond his home

Ashley's move into his own home has made a significant difference for Julie and Graham, Ashley's parents, and their family. Julie explains, "Having Ashley move into his own home has helped us a lot. It has enabled us to do many different things that we couldn't do before. Now we can just hop into the car, drive into town and go out for dinner, and we even went overseas for 6 weeks. We are looking forward to going away again. It has given us a lot more independence. My relationship with Ashley has greatly improved. The change has been huge."

Julie continues, "The support workers are all very thoughtful. I am comfortable with all of them. They give him options and help him maintain his home. Mutsa has done some fabulous stuff, all for the benefit of Ashley. I have seen so much growth in Mutsa. She does so much for him and us. Having Mark back on board is brilliant and Quini has been able to get him out of the home. Their heart is in the right place. They are all fabulous."

Ashley And His Team

The team that surrounds Ashley are dedicated to his continued success - however that looks for him on any given day. They complement each other beautifully, each drawing on their own strengths, cohesive in their commitment and united in their respect for who Ashley is. That respect is returned in full - through Ashley's words, his actions, and the simple but profound act of opening his home to each of them.

For Yumba Bimbi, nothing is more rewarding than witnessing the genuine partnerships that form between a participant and their support workers. Ashley has shown us who he wants in his circle. And we think he has chosen exceptionally well.



Ashley making pancakes with Hannah.



Ashley suprising his parents at the local restaurant.



Ashley with Carey and Mark playing backyard golf.

Yumba Bimbi's Dam Discovery – Independent Living & Outdoors Skills Experience

Our annual, all-inclusive Dam Discovery was a huge success! Participants came together to build on a range of skills in a safe, supportive environment, where they could step outside their comfort zone, challenge themselves, and grow in confidence, collaboration, and connection through teamwork. Most of all, it was a lot of fun!

Here is what some of our participants had to say about their favourite part of their experience.

Slingshot



"The tennis ball sling shot and the canoe"
- Louise



"The canoeing because I could feel the water with my hands"
- Vicky







Book your spot for next year!
28th to 30th April 2027

Rock Climbing











"The motor boat because it was fast."

- Mikayla

High Ropes







"My favourite time of the day was when we were doing the bean bags and morning tea."

- Melissa

Canoeing

"Canoeing. I am going to miss everyone tomorrow"

- Scotty









"Being on the speed boat; the wind blows my hair, my beautiful locks"

- Mika





"Canoeing and the boats."

- Jasmin









R U OK? Day

We marked R U OK? Day by coming together to share a meal in the sunshine, taking a moment to reflect on the power of a simple question: "R U OK?" This day matters to us because mental health does not discriminate — at any point in our lives, any one of us can experience a wide range of emotions that make us feel down. That includes people living with disability, who deserve to be asked, listened to, and supported just as much as anyone else. Listening is a skill worth practising every day, and we were proud to be part of the conversation this R U OK? Day.





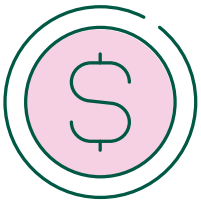






Get Involved & Make An Impact

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

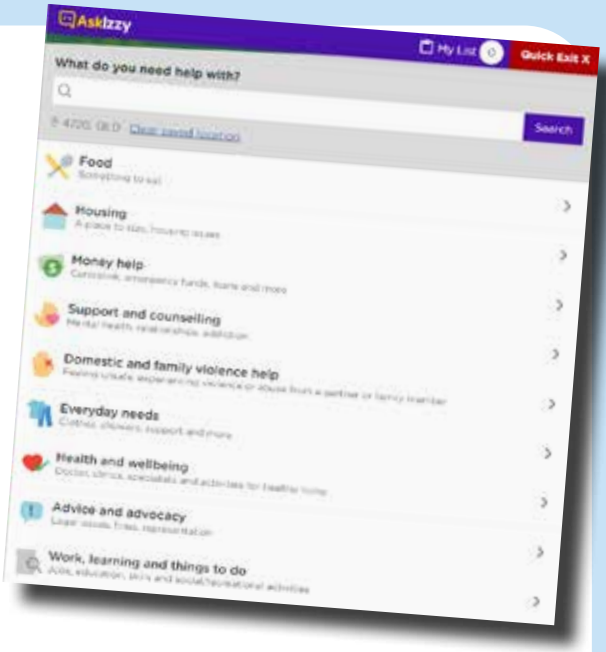
More than a job, a career with Yumba Bimbi is an enriched and rewarding life experience. Regarded as the regional leader in service provision, we offer dynamic and progressive career options. Head to the career page on our website to see current roles available.

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.

Ask Lizzy

Ask Izzy is a website that connects people in need with housing, a meal, money help, family violence support, counselling and much more.

It is free and anonymous, with thousands of services listed across Australia. And if you're on the Telstra or Vodafone mobile networks, you can access Ask Izzy on your phone even if you don't have credit or access to wifi.



Service providers use Ask Izzy too

Ask Izzy is used by service providers, government agencies and corporate hardship teams across Australia to help clients find support.

Ask Izzy takes the hard work out of finding relevant, up-to-date and local support services for your clients, so you don't get bogged down in admin or referral dead ends.



Visit **askizzy.org.au** to find out more







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

Our Group Programs

Meaningful, fun and goal-focused community participation codesigned 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	The Press Club 9am - 11am	Line Dancing 12pm - 3pm
Tuesday	Brush and Bloom 9am - 12pm	Science Club 1pm - 3pm
Wednesday	Mixed Bag Program 10am - 12pm	Fitness / Swimming Club 1pm - 3pm
Thursday	Women's Group 2026 1pm - 3pm	
Friday	Destination Dinner 11am - 2pm	A Heart-full Journey 9am - 11am

Mixed Bag Fun Days Out













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

yumba bimbi

support services

BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

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