

Beryl's 100 candles

By Wendy Williamson

The Yarra Valley Over-50s Friendship Club held a very special celebration on Monday 14 August.

The occasion was the 100th birthday of Beryl Medhurst, although the sprightly Beryl insisted it was "just another day". As per usual, she participated in some games of indoor carpet bowls, before tucking into some birthday cake.

Beryl, who turned 100 on 12 August, is a founding and very popular member of the club, which has been going strong for 25 years at the Coldstream Community Centre. She attends regularly, travelling by taxi from her Croydon home.

Beryl attributes her robust health to drinking nothing but hot water and eating greens every day - often from the large veggie garden she maintained for many years, and now tended by her son, Les.

As well as a keen gardener, Beryl was for many years a dab hand in the kitchen. She began cooking for her family at 12 and went on to cook professionally.

Her vanilla slices and sponges were particularly popular, according to Les, who has only recently taken over the kitchen, now that his mother's eyesight is failing.

Beryl has a large family, including five great, great-grandchildren. They came from all over Australia



Even at 100 Beryl Medhurst is still a keen bowler. 171768
Picture: WENDY WILLIAMSON

for her weekend birthday celebrations. Local MPs and the Governor-General sent best wishes.

Born in Wangaratta, Beryl grew up on a farm at Whitfield. It was Kelly country, and Beryl's forebears had connections to the famous bush-ranger's gang. She recently contributed a chapter to a book about Ned Kelly.

"Nana is quite the celebrity," said Beryl's proud granddaughter Leanne fondly. "She is having her portrait painted by some local high school students, and she has an invitation to attend Government House in September to celebrate this year's centenarians."



Beryl Medhurst celebrates her 100th birthday at the Yarra Valley Over 50s Friendship Club.

In brief

Horse stuck in float

A horse stuck in a float was part of an ongoing rescue mission in Gruyere on Sunday 20 August.

The CFA received a call around 10.20am Sunday morning to attend to an unusual incident on Victoria Road.

CFA fire services controller Glenn Thompson said the horse put its leg through the floor of the float and got caught in some steel work.

"We used specialist harness and lifting equipment from Macclesfield to rescue the horse," Mr Thompson said.

"We'll support the horse, lift it and then cut the steel away from the horse's foot."

There were a total of five trucks at the scene including one vet and there was also a rescue appliance from Wandin.

The float was packed with hay when the horse got stuck, and the owner Ms Ladanyi, stated on Facebook that her horse jumped over the tailgate at the back and got its legs caught inside just after 10am.

"My pony jumped 1.75m to get in over the tailgate. For hay! He is a very lucky boy," said Ms Ladanyi on a Facebook post, thanking the Seville Fire Brigade.

The horse had to be sedated and CFA crews used the Jaws of Life before it was eventually freed from the float.

While the horse had no major injuries it did have a large gash on its hind leg which is now being treated.

In her Facebook post, Ladanyi was incredibly thankful for the support of the Wandin, Macclesfield and Seville CFA brigades, her friends and local vet.

Missing teen

Police are appealing for public assistance to help locate missing teenager Myrah Fitzgerald.

The 15-year-old was last seen on Thursday, 10 August, about 1pm at Yarraman railway station in Noble Park.

Myrah is described as being about 155cm tall, with a thin build, hazel eyes and dark brown hair.

She was last seen wearing blue acid-washed jeans, a tie-dye T-shirt, blue and white Nike runners and a white cap.

Investigators believe she frequents the Mount Evelyn and Frankston CBD areas.

Anyone who sights Myrah is urged to contact Mornington police station on 5970 4900.

Pets caught in crossfire in the break-up

By Wendy Williamson

Women and children fleeing family violence will have some of their concerns about their pets allayed under a new program being developed by Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS).

The program is called 'A Place for Indi' after a dog named Indi who needed to find a new home after her owner fled to a refuge.

Research shows that 53 per cent of women in violent relationships who have pets reported their pets had also been abused or threatened.

Consequently, the presence of a pet

can compromise a woman's decision to leave a violent situation for fear of what may happen to her four-legged friend.

"Pets play an important role within families, with their welfare often being of prime importance for women and children facing family violence and making decisions to try and leave," EDVOS executive director Jenny Jackson said.

"Many women delay such decisions due to concerns about the fate of their pets and the lack of opportunity to take their pets with them."

Now, in recognition of the significance of pets in family violence situa-

tion, EDVOS has established 'A Place for Indi.'

"There are very few women's refuges in Australia which accommodate animals," explained Ms Jackson. "Under 'A Place for Indi' we are working with a refuge in this region which has a strong interest in being able to accept small animals. It will be one of the first in Victoria. It's very exciting."

The new program will also expand the skills and capacity of the EDVOS workforce so that staff members know to ask questions and give women options if they are concerned about family pets.

"A Place for Indi is an expansion of

the Pets in Peril program, where EDVOS worked with animal shelters to provide crisis accommodation for pets. This is still one option," Ms Jackson said.

"The take-home message is that if women are thinking about leaving and have issues around their pets, they can ring us and we'll help them with a range of options."

Women who are at immediate risk should call police on triple-zero. Otherwise, the 24-hour crisis number for the Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre is 1800 015 188. EDVOS hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm. Phone 9259 4200.

Time to have their say for Eastern Region Assembly

The State Government is encouraging residents of Yarra Ranges to have their say as community consultation kicks off in the lead-up to the first Eastern Region Assembly on 31 August.

The assembly will give an opportunity for local people to talk directly to decision makers about the future needs of Yarra Ranges Shire.

Minister for Suburban Development Lily D'Ambrosio said it was important

for local people to come together as a community and advise the government on priorities and opportunities in their local community.

"Our suburbs are growing, and it's vital that community groups and all levels of government are involved in keeping our city liveable and sustainable," she said.

The Metropolitan Partnership will help ensure that all Yarra Ranges resi-

dents have reliable and affordable access to jobs, services and infrastructure.

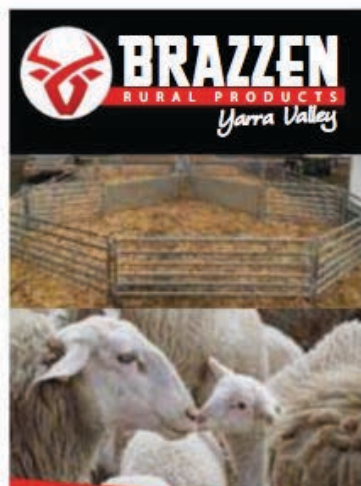
Following the Assembly, The Partnership will then advise government on actions that can make a real difference to the liveability of the Yarra Ranges, and other government areas including Maroondah and Knox.

Eastern Partnership chair Robin Whyte wants everyone from the Eastern Region to

engage in the assembly.

"I encourage everyone living and working in the Eastern Region to take the opportunity to engage with this process and join the discussion," Ms Whyte said.

To register interest in attending, or join the conversation online, visit <https://engage.vic.gov.au/eastern-metropolitan-partnership>.



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