



**EUROA
COMMUNITY
ACTION GROUP**

**ACTION
SUMMARY**

OCTOBER 2023- OCTOBER 2024



We acknowledge that we are on Taungurung country.

We hereby express our respect for the Taungurung people, who are the traditional owners of the land on which we are based.

We pay our respects to their leaders and elders past, present, and emerging, for they hold forever the memories, traditions, culture, and hopes of all Taungurung people.

We express our gratitude for the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing, and our hope that we can walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of reconciliation.

VISION

**For a connected
community
where everyone is
empowered and inspired
to act for Euroa.**

MISSION

**To build our community
through projects, events
and spaces.**



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the volunteers who have contributed their time to the Euroa Community Action Group (ECAG) and other local organisations, helping to make Euroa a vibrant place to live.

This year, our focus was on enhancing the Yiiro Community Garden and fostering connections through community events. We are especially proud of the mosaic art project, which has played a pivotal role in building local partnerships.

Collaborating with Euroa Kindergarten, Euroa Health, St. John's Primary School, and Euroa Men's Shed, we created over 30 pieces of art that will form a community trail, showcasing our collective creativity.

The garden has become a hub for positive collaboration, reinforcing the importance of arts and culture in our community. Our partnership with Taungurung artist Aimee McCartney for murals on our wicking beds has further enriched this effort and opened doors for additional projects with local groups.

In addition to our arts initiatives, Yiiro Community Garden continues to thrive as a place for community members to enjoy fresh produce and connect with one another. We held 12 monthly working bees, partnered with Community Learning Euroa to promote healthy eating, and hosted the Spring Festival, highlighting gardening's role in wellbeing.

We also installed a shade sail, a garden bed for vines, and new seating to enhance the space. Our fully functional garden shed is now stocked with essential tools.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited to continue building local partnerships and enriching our community, particularly through ongoing projects like the mosaic trail and the Yiiro Community Garden.

2023/24 Executive Committee

Laura Baker (President)

Loretta York (Vice President)

Wendy McDonald (Treasurer)

Leanne Baker (Secretary)

YIIRO COMMUNITY GARDEN

2023/24 Action:

Continue to create community events and add more art into the space

This year, ECAG focused on improving the community garden, growing fresh vegetables, and fostering connections among community members through events.

Key Achievements:

- Harvested and maintained three crops of vegetables and perennial herbs for the community.
- Held 12 monthly working bees to engage community members.
- Collaborated with Taungurung artist Aimee McCartney to create murals for six wicking beds.
- Partnered with Community Learning Euroa to promote healthy eating and the garden's use.
- Over 20 people attended the Yiiro Community Garden Spring Festival, highlighting gardening's role in wellbeing.
- Yiiro served as a hub for events like Clean Up Australia Day and Mosaic project workshops, school excursions, enhancing community ties.
- Installed a shade sail, a garden bed for vines, and added two permanent benches along with six mobile ones.
- The garden shed is now fully functional with essential tools.



MOSAIC ARTS PROJECT

2023/24 Action:

Partner with local community groups to deliver mosaic art project

ECAG was awarded a grant from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal for the Mosaic Project, aimed at strengthening community ties through positive partnerships. The project was to develop a series of mosaic art pieces that depicted 'nature, food and community' which are core to ECAG and Yiiro community garden.

We planned to use the art pieces to bring more local public art to Yiiro, and to develop a walking trail between the big Magpie in Sevens Creek Park and the Blue Wren at Yiiro. With support from The Men's Shed, St Johns Primary School, Euroa Kindergarten, Granite Hill residents, and mosaic artist Margie Young, we brought our vision to life. The grant funded materials which were shared among partners.

Margie facilitated 2 workshops with over 15 community members who contributed 9 tiles. The Men's Shed crafted the tiny houses, decorated with tiles and paint by students from St Johns and Euroa Kindergarten, who used recycled materials from the Regional Immunisation clinic.

Each St Johns student designed their own mosaic tile, now showcased in the garden. In total, there were over 30 art pieces created.

We also commissioned Margie Young to create a bird bath featuring a kookaburra, known as garrngarrng in Taungurung language.



We would like to thank our leaders Melinda Watson from St Johns, Kelsie Parkinson from Euroa Kindergarten and Jess Broughton from Granite Hill (Euroa Health) for their support for this project. Thank you also to the team at the Men's Shed and to Margie Young for their contributions. Lastly, a huge thank you to Wendy McDonald and Barb Watters from ECAG who drove this project. Without all these people pitching in this project would not have been completed. This project brought together all ages and has contributed to enhancing the space at Yairo. It has given the children and adults some new skills and will see the mini houses form a trail in the future from the large Magpie to this space.



A message from St. John's Primary School

'We have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the mosaic project. The whole school visited the garden in their art lesson, so they can pick some veggies, explore the site and check out the art work. We then completed a series of art activities around the garden, which made the art very real and engaging. The students were jumping at the chance to make the mini houses and stepping stones. It was a 'real life'; art project that the students were thoroughly engaged in. Students worked like a team in small groups to decide on their design, what tiles they were going to use and how to complete the design. I have had students come to me and say they participated in the working bees with the ECAG, or they visited the garden with their family or they saw some new art in the garden as they walked past. It has generated a lot of excitement. We appreciate the opportunity! Thank you.'

Melinda Watson, St. John's Primary School



St. John's students working on mosaic tiles and tiny houses.

A Message from Granite Hill'

Residents were thrilled when they learnt they had the opportunity to be part of the Euroa community action groups mosaic art project. Together they ran many ideas passed each other, Having many discussions on how they could represent the local community under the theme of Nature, community, and food, to create their tiny houses and stepping stones Four Tiny house was designed and created with Brighton beach bathing boxes in mind, many joked they could be nicknames the Binney Street bathing Boxes using many colours and patterns to bring their ideas to life, one tiny house however was created with "Craigs Hut" in mind as this bought back a lot of memories for the residents of days adventuring with their families.

Our stepping stones used Balmattum Hill, local farms, Ned Kelly, and Spring as inspiration to create the stepping stones. Granite Hill residents looked forward to this project weekly and were pleased when out on a recent bus trip that they could see where their creations were displayed for the community to use and enjoy.'

Jess Broughton, Granite Hill



Granite Hill residents working on their mosaic tiles

CHATTY CAFE

2023/24 Action:

Trial Chatty Café in partnership with local groups to build a regular opportunity for local people to connect.

The group launched on 27 March 2024 and meets at Euroa Library on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. The Euroa Library has kindly provided a seating area for our Chatty Café, where we can engage with passersby and invite new members. Though attendance ranges from 3 to 8 people, we have a growing number of attendees who drop in when they can.

Our regulars are strong advocates for the café, spreading the word through Facebook, the library, the Visitor Information Centre, and word of mouth. They appreciate the opportunity to meet new people, combat isolation, and enjoy a casual, no-commitment environment. Many are also interested in getting involved with ECAG, especially regarding the community garden.

Conversations often revolve around family stories and travel experiences, with a focus on uplifting each other. Most attendees are retired women, with a few men joining the lively discussions.

The library staff supports us and encourages more patrons to participate, noting that many members have been recruited through their outreach.



EUROA BRANDING PROJECT

2023/24 Action:

ECAG have partnered with the Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce on many projects including the Euroa Branding project.

ECAG is pleased to be collaborating with the Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce on an innovative branding project for the town of Euroa.

This joint initiative aims to develop a distinctive and compelling brand identity that captures the essence of Euroa, showcasing its unique character and attractions.

To ensure the most effective outcome, we have partnered with an experienced advertising company, PACE who are experienced in developing branding strategies for rural and regional centres.

PACE have completed extensive community consultation and creative brainstorming sessions working towards a brand that resonates with both residents and visitors alike. The new brand identity aims to enhance Euroa's visibility, attract tourism, and foster a stronger sense of community pride.

We look forward to sharing details of the brand that truly represents Euroa's spirit and potential, positioning our town for future growth and prosperity.

The project is being funded through grants from the Strathbogie Shire Council.



GET INVOLVED

We would love you to share your ideas and get involved in our upcoming projects and events.

The Euroa Community Action Group meets monthly to discuss upcoming projects, and to hear from other local groups.

We also have a range of events happening throughout the year.

Contact us at euroacommunityactiongroup@gmail.com

You can join our **Facebook** group by searching 'Euroa Community Action Group' or via the QR code below



You can join our **mailing list** via the QR code below





Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the Euroa Community Action Group.

We look forward to seeing you at more events, initiatives, and community gardening days at Yiiro Community Garden and other spaces in the future.



