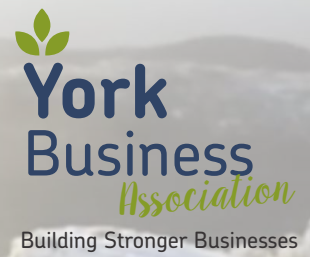


# WINTER NEWS 2022



## President's Report

Finally, a change of weather and lots of lovely rain! How long I wonder before we all start complaining about the cold?

Well, what a way to round off a year of so much increased activity by your YBA than with our first Heritage Weekend project. The idea came from discussions with the York Society as a way of exploiting York's best attractions and to focus on our history and heritage.

The date was fixed to run in conjunction with the WA Heritage Council's events but most of these were cancelled early on due to anticipation that the covid regulations would make running some events very difficult. Undaunted we decided to soldier on but to keep our events low key, avoid events where they may be a lot of people all in the same place at the same time and, hopefully, fly under the covid radar.

With very little time and even less in the way of funds we set to work and were immediately encouraged by the enthusiasm of all the people we spoke to about the idea.

We started with shop window displays along the Terrace, demonstrations, static displays, guided tours of some of our memorable buildings and to kick it all off an exciting and spooky ghost walk through town. As we put the programme together my idea was to print it in the form of an old newspaper and that is how the York and Wheatbelt Clarion came to life.

My partner in crime with planning and leg work, the (almost) ever effervescent Nola came along with my plan even though I am not sure she initially shared my vision! However, on the day we got the first proof from the printer she was ecstatic, as was I, and finally we saw the whole idea coming together. In fact, the style of the programme was a great hit, we had 1,500 printed the cost of which was covered by the Shire. They were widely distributed and snapped up eagerly, we know that lots got taken home as souvenirs to show family and friends and the few we have left will be used to promote next year's event.

The weekend met with unanimous approval and great support all round with new ideas surfacing from all quarters. The star turn were the members of the WA Historical Cycling club who put on an amazing show including on Sunday the whole team of Penny Farthings and other historical bikes making an impressive parade along the Terrace. They also engaged in animated discussions with many local enthusiasts and had a static display at the front of the old Saints Diner.

Donations from the Bendigo Bank and The York Society enabled us to get four colourful banners made that will serve for several years and they were displayed in prominent positions through the town.

All the participants have told us they want to be involved next year and we have already had discussions with the RSL the WAHCC and others and have laid down a basic plan for next year.

We will outline these plans at the AGM which will be held on Monday 20th June 6.30pm at Faversham House. There will also be a presentation regarding the long-term plans to upgrade the York CBD and an opportunity to put business community's point of view regarding improvements and upgrades.

Even if you attended the Have Your Say Day meetings at the Town Hall this will be an additional chance to put ideas forward. We want the YBA to make a strong contribution to the Shire's plans

The AGM will be an open meeting, but financial members only can vote on issues raised. If you are a financial member and would like to nominate for a position on the committee, please contact the president as soon as you can and it must be prior to the AGM, nominations from the floor won't be accepted.

Membership fees are due on the first of July but new applications, plus \$50, can be accepted before the AGM. This is a bargain for the services we are now offering and hope to continue to offer but, bear in mind that in the future they will be events organised that will be free for members but there will be a charge for non-members. So, join now and get involved!

Kurt and I attended the Destination Perth launch a few weeks ago of the new Avon Valley project which has seen 5 shires in the Avon Valley band together and each contribute towards the advertising promoting the Avon Valley as a destination. We feel it is important we promote the area jointly and encourage people to spend at least one night preferably two in the district and visit several locations. If there is a choice of activities on over a weekend this makes the trip more worthwhile and we all benefit. We need to be cognisant of other events in our area and try to enhance them with another offering in York but not try to outshine them!

I also attended the State Budget breakfast at Muresk where the details of the budget were outlined and the government's plans moving forward. Impressive but with such low unemployment numbers I am not sure where we are going to get all the people they want to train to bring these plans to fruition. I don't think the 3.4 % who are unemployed have many tradies, policemen, nurses and doctors amongst them! I could be wrong, but I doubt it!!

In June, just before the AGM Nola and I are off to the Perth RCCI annual conference and we will give a full report at the AGM. We will be full members for the coming financial year and this will mean we can offer an extended range of services to our members. (All for \$50)!



Peter and Chris who have bought the old Australia Bank building and kindly loaned us the downstairs for our static display of sewing and textiles for heritage Weekend.

Dan and Annette who have bought the Monger's Store and who provided an informative tour of their project during the Heritage Weekend.

Sean Butler who owns several units at Settlers.

Andrea who owns and runs the Pantechnica Gallery on the Terrace.

Brett and Vicky of 'chokkie' fame. Their name will be on everyone's 'hips.

Welcome to our team, great to have you on board. We are starting to become a sizeable representation of local businesses which is good when we approach council regarding issues that affect trading etc.

## York talk

As usual some changes along the Terrace.

Judy from Simply Useful has left her shop next to Jules, mainly for health reasons, we wish her well but know she will still be involved with the RSL and she has offered to help with next year's Heritage Festival. Thanks Judy.

Pantechnica has some interesting collaborations with local crafts people which is making the Gallery a great destination for treasures to keep or to gift to that special someone.

The closing of the garden centre and the transfer of everything to the Mitre 10 store has taken place, let's hope it is not too long before they get the stock sorted so we don't all have to keep going to that other hardware shop for even the basic purchases!

What will happen to the old building, wouldn't it be great if we could turn it into something like the Williams Wool Store? Any takers, please don't let it be just another empty space or carpark at what is a really great location.

Change of ownership of Spooky Hall accommodation happening soon which is good as we can't afford to lose any rooms in town when we are busy! Good luck and hopefully give the place a bit of a face lift? Remember the well-used expression, 'You only get one go at making a first impression'!

'Gather' moving to the Mill has been great for Amber and Fi and has hopefully helped the other traders there. Still trying to get the Emporium onboard to be part of the YBA so we can include them in all our promotions and bring them in with the town and encourage more visitors to this great old building to browse and part with a few dollars.

Seems Mike Bryant was not satisfied with just the penny farthing bicycle as he has now purchased a vintage motor vehicle as well. He has exciting plans for tours and such that we are looking forward to learning more about very soon. Ghost tours by car? That sounds like fun.

I have decided to close the Innovation showroom at the end of June but will still be available working from a studio at home. I say studio but there may be a bit to do to justify that title but I am working on it. This will enable me to be more flexible with time for people rather than just being in the shop for a couple of days and I do have some other plans as well, so, watch this space!

Don't forget we are nearing Festival Time in September and there is also a great opportunity to have some events in October that we could make into a Spring Festival. All ideas welcome. There is a German Car festival coming to Northam at the end of October so we could also make a bit more of Octoberfest! I'll drink to that!

Make a note the next Forum will be in July/August and the theme will be along the lines of 'Living in a Festival Town' more details soon!

So, Happy trading to all and see you at the AGM and remember "The only source of knowledge is experience" and "The only two things that are infinite are the Universe and Stupidity", Einstein.



Lately I have been reading a book about Stockholm Syndrome, I didn't really like it at the beginning but towards the end I was really quite taken with the whole idea!

To the optimist the glass is half full, to the pessimist it is half empty, to an engineer the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.



So you think politicians know more about medicine than Dr. Fauci? Well then, Zeb here from the town council, will be doing your colonoscopy.

After being married for 30 years, a wife asked her husband to describe her, He looked at her for a while, then said, "You're an alphabet wife ..... A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K."  
She asks .... "What the hell does that mean?"  
He said, "Adorable, Beautiful, Cute, Delightful, Elegant, Fabulous, Gorgeous and Hot".  
She smiled happily and said ... "Oh, that's so lovely, but what about I, J, K?"  
He said, "I'm Just Kidding!"  
Memorial Service will be held Tuesday afternoon.