
The 25/26 Committee was elected at the AGM on 12th November 2025 at the community Centre.

The 25/26 Committee

President	Richard Gill
Vice President	Sharon Mountain
Treasurer	Leonie Holl
Secretary	Roger Hawkins
Special Member	Graham Mountain
Special Member	Janine Honing
Special Member	Neryl Hunt
Special Member	Ian Williams
Special Member	Barry Hunt
Special Member	Genele Edgerton
Special Member	Brian Birley

Our First major event this year (25/26) was the 2026 Australia Day BBQ with the Introduction of the Initial Andree Nowatka Award. The two recipients were Leonie Holl and Ian Williams.

NARRA is greatly appreciative of the input of Leonie and Ian. The support to the Committee and NARRA has been immense. The Awards were presented by Andree's Daughter Jeane-Claude Strong who flew down from Sydney to present the awards on a magnificent perfect day at the Community Centre. NARRA received a \$500 Grant from Council to Fund the Australia Day event.

Leonie and Ian are well known to most and shows all the qualities of wonderful Newlands Arm residents. This was the first event where kids were able to use the Basketball/Netball Court as it was finished on Thursday 22nd January.

The Christmas in July was held at the hall on Saturday 25th July. It was a sellout for the third year, with 79 guests. The event was a great success due to the wonderful support of the committee and the exceptional work and organisational skills of Vice-President Sharon Mountain. The Strategy to make this a great night has now been "perfected". The event allowed NARRA to raise funds and is a major contributor to our ability to provide other facilities and activities.

The Monster Garage Sale was held on Sunday 12th October where we raised \$2056.15.

It was a Great Success with 30 houses and 1 trailer at the community centre, very similar to the previous year. Thanks to the major support we had from members of Newlands Arm Landcare Coastcare Group who assisted on the day, even being able to offer a book stall for the 100 or so books placed at the hall door prior to the day.

The next Monster Garage Sale will be on Sunday October 18th starting at 8am.

Community Enhancements Actions

NARRA replaced the existing dilapidated Shadesail over the BBQ Area and also had a new Shadesail installed to extend the Shaded area for people to sit in comfort out of the sun.

We have continued to support the Little Balls Food Truck on every 2nd Friday evenings during the cooler months this started from the May and continues up to now. Weather permitting Little Balls Food Truck will be at Dawsons Cove for the rest of the Summer and Autumn. Please continue to support their efforts as it has become a unique feature of Friday nights in the Arm, with people coming from nearby areas to enjoy the food and camaraderie.

A special mention to Sandi Crawford who runs the Crafters group for the opportunity to have an arts and craft day at the Hall from 10am on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. This type of event is community based and fits in with our objective to support and use the Hall for any Community Activity. We encourage any group to come to us to determine what can be done for you. Any event that supports our community is more than welcome at the Hall.

Newlands Arm Resident Kathy Clayden introduced the card game "Bridge" to Newlands Arm with 10 sessions at the Hall on Thursday night. This was for 10 weeks with an expert trainer John Haylock from Paynesville.

Our relationship with other Associations/Organisations in Newlands Arm has been enhanced and I am happy to say we are all now working together to support our community as best we can. Many thanks to Andrew Kleinert at NA Mens Social Club, Norman Munns and Susan Lee at NA Indoor Social Bowls Association and Sandi Evans at NA Landcare Coastcare. All of whom use the hall for events and meetings.

A special thanks goes out to NA Landcare Coastcare who had done marvellous work around the Hall with the planting of a Firewise Garden and other plantings to achieve improved presentation at the hall for all. The establishment of a feature garden in the boat is a wonderful outcome.

Grants

Following on from our successful grant applications, including \$5000 from Paynesville Op Shop (8 Wellington St, Paynesville) in September 2025 and the Paynesville Bendigo Bank Community

Bank Grant Program with \$16,500 in November 2025. We have been able to install the basketball/netball court.

The basketball/netball court was first started with the laying of the concrete slab in December 2026. With the respective poles installed in Mid January 2026. Thanks to Ian Williams, who devised a wetting strategy to keep the slab wet while it cured. It is wonderful to see kids, and even bigger kids, using the court.

You will see the Bendigo Bank Community Bank Paynesville and District advertising displayed at the Hall and on our signage. Please support the Bendigo Bank in Paynesville. All Profits go back to the community, including our community.

NARRA applied for Grants to convert our toilet complex into a secure indoor/outdoor public toilet system. Grants included the East Gippsland Shire Council Impact Grants for our toilet upgrade, we were successful with \$4000 granted. The tiny Towns Grant from the Victorian Government Dept . of Regional Development which initially requested \$10,000 was upgraded and awarded to NARRA, \$50,000. As this is a State Government program, the amount is required to be 80% of the expenditure on a grander Toilet project with an extensive outdoor toilet. The remaining portion is supplied by NARRA Funds. Hence the total budget is \$62,500. This will support our families and kids who come to the hall to partake of the sporting facilities and playground. The toilet will have an autolocking door so that it will be available from 7am to 7pm daily.

NARRA has again applied to the Bendigo Bank Community Bank Paynesville and District Grants program to Upgrade the Playground at the Hall. We have applied to the Bendigo Bank for \$25,000 (plus GST). To support this project we have also applied for \$5000 provided by the new Impact grants program from the East Gippsland Shire Council. This is to show that we are prepared to ask for multiple funding lines to give the Community a better chance to win a grant overall and Fund the Playground. NARRA has committed to supply \$5230. The total budget is \$35,230 Plus GST.

Another grant request to the EGS Council was for WiFi internet at the hall. This would allow continuous information and communication during a crisis and the ability to hold events with streaming and Zoom type forums at the Hall, bringing us into the internet age.

The Grant was cancelled by the EGS council and on our behalf the council contacted a Federal Government program "The Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters" **(STAND)** program. This is an Australian government initiative designed to improve the availability and reliability of telecommunications during emergencies. SkyMuster Satellite NBN with WiFi was installed at the Hall free of cost to NARRA in May 2026.

NARRA was very fortunate to receive an Upright Grand Piano supplied by Sam Dwyer.

Sam is a Local, a Professional Piano Tuner and Piano Restorer. NARRA thanks Sam for this magnificent donation to our community.

Overall, NARRA has decided to be proactive and generate income so that we can assist the community, one priority has been kids' health and fitness. We are welcome to talk to anyone regarding ideas to enhance our community further.

Thank you to all who have taken part and who support our efforts, with Fund raising and physical help. The Committee has done a fantastic job with many suffering health issues, enduring family events, or required social activities during year. Please congratulate our departing committee with a round of applause, especially Ian Williams who is not standing for the new committee.

I am especially indebted to Leonie Holl, our retiring Treasurer, who has made a huge contribution to the Community, NARRA, our social activities and Landcare over many Years.

Leonie will be missed but is not "retiring". She has been an incredible support to myself and Sharon Mountain and all the committee.

Richard Gill - President

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