



Y SERVICE CLUBS - WOMEN

AUSTRALIAN REGION

Regional Director – Michelle Janssen

14 Waterford Drive, Strathfieldsaye, 3551

msjanssen@bigpond.com

NEWSLETTER NO. 1

As I sit to write this, the weather is certainly proving to be quite unpredictable. Soaring temperatures one day and thunderstorms the next!!! What will be in store for our Christmas celebrations this year??

I thought I would begin my maiden newsletter with a little biography about me. A 'get to know me', if you please.

I am the daughter of Peter and Shirley Unmack, long serving Y Service Club members, and grew up with Y's dom in my veins. I spent many an Easter helping at the Book Fair in the old 'Y' building in Mundy Street or selling lucky envelopes at the street stalls around 'the block' also during Easter. Each year I would attend the conventions as a y'sling, wondering what my parents actually did in there all day while we young ones were having fun together. In 1989 when I was 16, I spent a year as a YEOP exchange student in Viborg, Denmark. A wonderful experience which truly changed me to the person I am today.

I am the mother of 4 wonderful boys, Bayley, Callum, Markus and Hunter, and a wife of 24yrs to Ben. We own our own business – The Zone Fun Park in East Bendigo, which keeps us quite busy. Bayley, 22yrs, has just completed university studies with First Class honours in Civil Engineering while Callum, 21yrs, has completed his 2nd year at La Trobe Uni studying Primary Teaching. Markus, nearly 13, is off to secondary school next year, Catherine McAuley College, and Hunter, nearly 11, will be going into Year 5 at St Francis of the Fields PS. Currently we are also a host family to a Rotary exchange student – Pol Gascon from Barcelona, Spain. (I always thought I would return the favour in some way, some day!!!)

I work 3 days a week (often more!!!) in the office at St Francis of the Fields PS as one of the Administration Officers, as well as working behind the scenes for our own business. Originally I studied and worked as a Registered Nurse but after having all my children, I didn't return to this. Currently, I am heavily involved as part of a committee with the organisation and running of the St Francis Debutante Balls of which we hold 4 balls each year and have 80 couples participate.

Since joining my club over 10 years ago, I have held almost all positions on the executive during my time of membership. Regional Director just felt like a natural progression! I am grateful for the opportunity to represent you all as your Regional Director and thank you for placing such faith in me to do so.

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## What have I been up to....

Thank you to the Ararat Y's Menettes for inviting me to be their Guest of Honour at the first of their 2018 Deb Balls on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. It was a wonderful privilege to stand on stage and receive the beautiful debutantes and their partners and see their hard work pay off on the dance floor. Congratulations to the Ararat girls for such a beautiful night.



The following day, Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Oct, I attended the Y's Men's Asia Pacific Australian Region AGM which was held at the Kangaroo Flat Y Service Club Hall in Kangaroo Flat. Highlights of the meeting included a power-point presentation from visiting Area President Hiroyuki Tanaka and also the induction of Doug Turnbull as Regional Director Elect.



Healthy discussion relating to a motion regarding the future of Australian Y Service Clubs and their relevance in the International movement occupied the latter half of the meeting. Another motion was penned and sent to clubs for approval. On behalf of the Australian Y's Menettes as your present delegate, I voted in favour for the following motion:

*A committee be appointed to investigate the Future Direction of YMI Australian Region and report back to the executive by 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.*

I look forward to joining the Kangaroo Flat ladies for their Christmas meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec and the Bendigo ladies the next evening for their Christmas meeting also. I look forward to seeing many members at the annual picnic in January to be hosted by Eaglehawk and let's not forget the Weekend Away in May to be hosted by Bendigo at Camp Wyuna.

## In our thoughts...

These past couple of months has delivered some sad news for several of our members. The Bendigo club was saddened with the passing of their much loved and respected member and Past Regional Director, Muriel Miller.

Thoughts are with two Eaglehawk members, Noelene Wild and Dot Thomson, after the loss of their husbands Ian and Keith.

On a personal note, Shirley and I were devastated with the sudden passing of her youngest sister and my aunty, Heather. May they all Rest in Peace.

*With Sympathy*

## News from the International Project Coordinator

I share with you all, the latest report from our International Project Coordinator, Joy McNamara.

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It is my pleasant task to give everyone an update on the Y's Menettes International Project.

Our Project for 2018 -2020 is –

### **The coaching for Youth Employment and Starting of Social Business in Tirana, Albania.**

The director of the YMCA Tirana, Eglalula is managing the project.

Gurli Holm, the Past Y's Menettes International Project Coordinator, was fortunate enough to be able to visit the Tirana YMCA and meet Eglalula, as well as some volunteers who work at the YMCA and two of the young people who are going to participate in the project.

Eglalula has advised that the training will be available for two groups of 10 young people and that the first group has started their training meetings. The aim is to coach these young people to enable them to gain positions in different work places. Each young person shared their hopes on what they would achieve by being part of our program and explained what they wanted to become professionally. Each training meeting is opened with an opening game / exercise to make the young ones feel comfortable. The meetings then continue with a thematic related to business market, labour market, opportunities and challenges. The day ends with a closing game / exercise and evaluation of the day. Eglalula was very happy to report that when doing the first evaluation they did it by drawing the weather – sun, clouds and rain and all signed the sun.

**I would like to thank all Y's Menettes Clubs who support our International Project and encourage any Clubs who haven't donated to please consider it. We make a difference!**

Below are some photos of the happy participants.



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May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours;  
And may the coming year be filled with happiness

Kind Regards,  
Michelle Janssen RD

