

MEDIA RELEASE

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MEMBER FOR NORTHERN VICTORIA

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NEW YARRAWONGA COMMUNITY HUB OFFICIALLY OPEN

Yarrawonga's new community hub was officially opened today by Deputy Premier, James Merlino, and local Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes.

The new multi-purpose gallery, an exhibition and meeting space is in the Yarrawonga's 127 year old station building, which was recently refurbished thanks to a \$600,000 State Government investment.

The restoration included repairs of the roof, walls, and floors, and the installation of accessible toilet facilities and a kitchenette.

The new community centre will be used by a range of local groups including Yarrawonga/Mulwala Artists Association Inc., Lake Mulwala Quilters, Yarrawonga Urban Landcare Group, Yarrawonga Mulwala Historical Society Inc., Save our Station, Yarrawonga Mulwala Historical Society and the Yarrawonga Community Garden.

The transformation of the Yarrawonga Station building is part of the Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program, which provides funding to transform disused rail buildings into affordable, usable spaces for local communities.

"This project has revitalised Yarrawonga's historic station, making it part of the everyday life of the community once again," Ms Symes said.

"The restored building will be a community and cultural centre, with meeting, exhibition and activity spaces for local groups to use and enjoy."

Deputy Leader James Merlino said: "This new community centre is a celebration of Yarrawonga's historic past and its bright future."

"The Andrews Labor Government wants to see country communities thriving, which is what this \$600,000 investment is all about."

Yarrawonga is the fifth project completed under the Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program. Other completed projects are at Yarragon, Beaufort, Chiltern and Inglewood.

The Program is being managed by VicTrack, owners of Victoria's rail land and assets, on behalf of Public Transport Victoria.

For more information visit www.victrack.com.au.