The Mudgegonga Community Quilt Project
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Funding for this memorial patchwork quilt for the Mudgegonga Community was received through a grant from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund in 2013.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mudgegonga Community Quilt, constructed in 2013–2015 by a small group of committed and dedicated residents and friends, including:
   Gwilma Brown, Julie Carter, David Costa, Loretta Carroll, Pat Easterbrook, Carol Forrest, Audrey Goonan, Beth Howard, Trish Hodge, Cindy Lucas, Carol Ryan, Debbie Rigoni and Susan Youngberry.

Also a special thank you to following friends of our community:
   Vanda Bowers, Susan Campbell, Annie Dettman, Chris McCracken, Phil Macdonald, Dianne Rickard and Esther Trustrum.

Thank you to everyone, including those who contributed a quilt piece and those unnamed who supported families in the construction, who played a part, whether it was large or small, in bringing this quilt into being.
Late submissions, not in quilt.

60 Shane & Trish Murtagh
61 O’Callaghan Family
Mudgegonga Community Quilt Project

The community of Mudgegonga has always come together at a diversity of events to share friendship & support. A real sense of community continues to prevail.

All members of the Mudgegonga community were invited to represent their past and present families on the quilt.

Objectives

- This project would continue to connect residents within their communities by enhancing community hubs and recreational facilities.

- The aim is to further build on inter- community support and connectedness, which has developed since the fires.

- The community gathering spaces and facilities are the key in growing a sustainable and resilient community.

- Once completed this unique art quilt will hang in our Mudgegonga Hall and will be a historical artwork for future generations to enjoy.
Significance of the Mudgegonga Community Quilt

The Mudgegonga Community Quilt consists of 59 individual blocks which have been created by individuals and families in the Mudgegonga district.

Four shades of green fabric were chosen for the back-ground colours of the blocks. These shades represent the colours of the district: from the lively bright green of the spring grasses, through to the brownish green of the dry summer paddocks; and the subtle soft green shades of the eucalyptus trees.

There are three borders surrounding the quilt with the outer one showing eucalyptus leaves on a black background. This represents the burnt ground after the Black Saturday fires of 2009 which had a devastating effect on the Mudgegonga district. Two precious lives were lost; seventeen homes destroyed; cattle, sheds, fences, tractors, cars, gardens and plantations all destroyed.

From the midst of this devastation, a renewed and strengthened community gathered and supported each other with an out-pouring of love care, kindness and compassion. We were over-whelmed with the generosity of our community and our country.

The quilt depicts the individuality of the residents and the cohesiveness of the whole community.

The quilting on the outer border has been sewn in a light brown variegated thread and represents the leaves on the ground after the fire. In the setting triangles are more gum nuts and leaves in green to represent the living trees. The leaves through the black sashings represent the new leaves as they burst forth after the fire and the gum-nuts in the cornerstones represent the holders of the seeds of life.

The Mudgegonga Community Quilt, constructed in 2015 by a small group of committed and dedicated residents and friends, is a stunning representation of a small and vibrant community. Thank you to everyone who played a part, whether it was large or small, in bringing this quilt into being.

Contributed by Pat Easterbrook and Susan Campbell
1. **Neville Blewett**,  
Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road,  
Mudgegonga

Neville Blewett is the son of Jack and Ruth Blewett who purchased a Soldier Settlement block in 1953. A condition of the purchase was that the land had to be farmed. Jack Blewett farmed the property and built the dairy. Neville now lives in the house built on the property by his father. Neville milked cows until 2008, supplying milk to Murray Goulburn, and currently runs beef cattle.

2. **Sergio, Barbara, Ivano & Sandra Broz**,  
Myrtleford - Yackandandah Road, Barwidgee

Our patchwork block depicts the history of our family at Barwidgee Creek. The centerpiece, painted by Sandra, shows the old kiln and sheds largely lost in 2009 fire. Sergio came from a small mountain village in Trentino, Italy and has always been happy in the mountainous Myrtleford area. Barbara grew up in Aussie suburban Melbourne. She came to Myrtleford to teach at Myrtleford High School for three years, was captivated by the Italian community and has been here ever since. We have raised goats, cattle and pheasants, and grown olives and native flowers. Although both Ivano and Sandra no longer live in the district they both love to come “back home”.
3. Frank & Marilena Marotta  
Myrtleford- Yackandandah Road, Barwidgee  
This block shows tobacco farming in this valley.  
The Marotta family started growing tobacco in 1957 at Barwidgee Creek until the industry stopped in 2006. When the annual tobacco growing season began, labour was intensive, working from dawn till dusk. Sowing of seeds in August, planting in November and harvesting from late January through to late May. The green leaves were kiln dried and took a week. After drying, the tobacco leaves would be baled and sent off to be sold. There was a 5 to 6 week break, and then the season would start over again.

4. John & Julie Carter  
Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road, Barwidgee  
At the time the quilt became a reality, we were only new comers to the area of Mudgegonga-Barwidgee Creek. Therefore, we had no history relating to the area, so we decided to depict on our block the two things that mean so much to us: our garden and the beautiful Barwidgee Creek. Taking part in this project was a way of being involved in a wonderful community who have made us feel so welcome.
5. **Shelley Hammat-Bannister**  
Pini Lane, Mudgegonga

Dban is the exclusive hallmark of jewellery designed by Don Bannister. Don died in 2012 and his silver and gold designs continue to be handmade by his wife Shelley Hammat and employees Mary Carroll and Frank Brackelow.

6. **Barry & Davina Bodsworth-Perkins,**  
**Zara and Gemma,**  
Tunnel Gap Road, Mudgegonga

We arrived in 2002 and lived in a shed whilst we built our home. Our patchwork block depicts our home on top of a hill with the big winding driveway. We have a hobby farm of 80 acre on which we run Merino sheep.
7. **Steve & Carolyn Martin**  
Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road, Barwidgee  

Our family’s favourite birds are blue wrens. Before the Black Saturday fires of 2009, we used to watch lots of them play in our garden and bird bath. After Black Saturday they were one of the first birds to return, and we are delighted to be able to watch them again.

The Martin Family  
Steven, Carolyn, Jessica and Charlotte

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8. **Sheree Webster**  
Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road, Mudgegonga  

Bellbrook  
My mailbox is significant, as it was a gift after the fires of 2009 to brighten my spirit. It is a symbol of shared emotional connection and community spirit. It reminds me everyday how lucky we are to be part of this truly tight knit community.
9. De Piazza
In 1878 Battista de Piazza and his Irish wife Catherine (O’Brien) settled in Mudgegonga. He left his home in Grosotto in Northern Italy in 1863 heading for the goldfields of North-east Victoria. He became a saw miller in Stanley before moving down the mountain. Battista and Catherine had 14 children and many descendants stayed in the area. At Orange Grove the de Piazza family grew tobacco, hops and grapes; established a dairy and a commercial citrus orchard. Their property expanded with five additional 320 acre blocks over time. On Battista’s early death Catherine managed the farm for another 30 years. (written by Mary Brewer)

10. Beverley Hicks
Hicks Road, Mudgegonga
The Hicks Family arrived in Mudgegonga in September 1938, the farm was named Greenacres by Edgar in the early fifties. The trees have helped save the house twice, in the 1968 and 2009 fires. This patchwork block was constructed by Beverley, Annette, Janine Hicks and Monique Fousketakis. This image shows the entry to the family farm. From the road you can see the Liquid Amber trees around the family home.
11. Bridget McIlroy
Veronica Pryor
Pini Lane, Mudgegonga

The Pini homestead, Myrtle-Glen was one of the first homes built in the Mudgegonga Valley by the Pini family who came to the area in the late 1800's. The homestead is surrounded by beautiful gardens and so much history. Veronica now lives at Myrtle-Glen and, as a fifth generation granddaughter, this homestead holds cherished memories for her and all her family.

12. Neil & Trish Hodge
Smith Lane, Mudgegonga

This block represents:
This block, constructed by Trish Hodge, depicts the Hodge family and family home as it is in 2015. The tree in the centre of the block represents the family. The two leaves together represent Neil and Trish; the two single leaves represent Rachel and Daniel; and three leaves together represent Jess Hodge, her partner Lee Heather, and their son Kye Heather.
The sign post with Smith Lane signifies where the family home is situated; where Neil has lived since 1989; where Jess, Rachel and Daniel, who all grew up in Mudgegonga spent their childhoods; and where Trish has lived since 2008. The leaves in the background represent the extended family, and the family’s love of nature and the bush.
13. Tom & Marie Carroll; Bernie Carroll; Bill, Trish, Jess, Jayden, & Chloe Carroll  
Carrolls Road North, Mudgegonga  
The Carroll family settled here 1876. Gold mining, sheep, dairy and beef cattle farming have enabled family members to live and work on this property throughout five generations.

14. David & Anne Costa  
Pini Lane, Mudgegonga  
COSTAS TREELAND  
1968 – 2009  
Bushland of 640 acres was purchased by Amedo Costa after the 1968 bushfires. In 1975 after Amedeo died the block transferred to brothers David & Robert Costa. They decided to plant 200 acres of pine trees for timber on the block. This eventuated to a wholesale nursery, selling farm and beautification trees mail order (one of the first nurseries to do this). Sent by train in the early days to NSW, Vic, Sth Australia. Later in 1985 the block transferred to David & Anne Costa, who continued the business selling seedlings & trees up to 4 metres until, ironically it all finished in 2009 fires.
15. Peter & Rose Mc Ilroy
Pini Lane, Mudgegonga

Gazing out our family room window at the amazing sunsets that frequent the valley, provided the inspiration to create this block for the community quilt. I was born and bred in Mudgegonga and in 1999 I moved back to this beautiful area with my family and we built our home overlooking the Mudgegonga valley. With rolling shades of purple, pinks and blues and our Angus cattle in the foreground, we are very privileged to live in this place we call home. Rose Mc Ilroy.

16. Ray Blewett
Blacks Flat Road, Mudgegonga

(son of Jack & Ruth & older brother of Neville Blewett).

This block represents the Blewett’s paddock, of 1957, cropped for chaff & hay, cut & stacked in paddock as seen from Yackandandah/Myrtleford Road.
17. Tim Fisher & Judy Brewer
Pini Lane, Mudgegonga
In 1992, Judy Brewer married Tim Fischer from Boree Creek, a former army officer, diplomat and parliamentarian. They live and farm the original de Piazza block at Orange Grove and Grossotto and run a commercial beef herd. Tim is of Dutch-German descent and is an author. Judy manages the property and livestock, and also works in autism research. They have two sons, Harrison and Dominic. Harrison has a great interest in aviation, hence the aeroplane shown in the quilt block. Dom is very creative and helped design the family’s quilting blocks, which were sewn by his grandmother, Mary Brewer.

18. Phil & Jan Hawkins
Switchback Road, Mudgegonga
This block shows some of our menagerie, and was made with sewing things received from bushfire donations and my mum’s old embroidery yarns.
19. John & Sue Wilson
Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road, Mudgegonga

The hills ring out with the voices of our lost loved ones.
John and Sue

Our love always
The Family.

Follow your dreams.

This block, made by their neighbor Pat Easterbrook, remembers John and Sue Wilson.

Commencing from the left, the first triangle shows John and Sue’s beautiful garden; the next black strip depicts the dreadful night of Black Saturday in 2009; the bright pink strip reflects the colour of the Bella Donna lilies which were one of the first plants to bloom after the fire – the bright pink in stark contrast to the blackness.

The next strip shows the black scorched earth, with the gold lines depicting the faint glimmer of life returning; the next strip shows the blackness retreating as the green of the valley slowly came back; and the final triangle again shows the land as it was before the fire.

Stronger but with unbearable sadness.

20. Julian, Sally & Frankie Carroll
Young Lane, Mudgegonga

The Carrolls of Ellen Hill
Julian Carroll bought the property belonging to Peter and Penny Dawkins in the aftermath of the Black Saturday bushfires of 2009. The property was first owned by Julian’s great grandfather and was renamed Ellen Hill after one of the original title-holders (and Julian’s great aunt).

In 2015 Julian, Sally and Frankie are leading a very happy life at Ellen Hill. The quilt block depicts beautiful green rolling hills and Angus calves playing in the sunset. A new baby is due at the end of August 2015. This will be the start of an exciting new chapter, hence the “…” on our quilt block.
21. John (Chook) Fowler  
Pini Lane, Mudgegonga  
This block was designed and sewn by the Fowler family, as a tribute to a pioneer pilgrim Fowler resting quietly in Beechworth, and to a faithful companion who shared our 2009 experiences.

22. De Piazza – Murtagh  
De Piazzas Lane, Mudgegonga  
The de Piazzas came to Mudgegonga in 1878. Bert de Piazza moved to Carinya in 1942 and in 1947, George Murtagh married Mary de Piazza. This block, constructed by Kerry Murtagh, shows a farm scene with the creek running through the farm, looking towards Mount Jack in the background. Aboriginal Rock Art is shown in the corners of the block.
23. Amanda Shepherd  
Blacks Flat Road, Mudgegonga  
This block was constructed by Mandy Shepherd, and shows our love of the view, the garden and cars.

24. Lindsay & Pat Easterbrook  
Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road, Mudgegonga  
In 1983 Lindsay and Pat Easterbrook moved into their new home in Mudgegonga with their son Ky. Built on 25 acres, their home was designed on passive solar principles by Ross Beaver. Their property is situated at 1159 Yackandandah Road and the northern boundary is the Barwidgee Creek. Surrounded by beautiful views and wonderful neighbours, Lindsay and Pat love living in Mudgegonga. Their son Ky and wife Magdalena live in Melbourne and love coming home to visit. 
The Easterbrook block depicts the fiery red hills on the night of the 2009 Black Saturday fires. The black represents the destruction of our property with the gold leaves showing glimmers of hope for the future. The central green leaf shows the strength and love of our family; whilst the other leaves show the re-birth of our property.
25. Christopher Salmon, Susan Youngberry & Aubrey Dean
Blacks Flat Road, Mudgongga

This block was constructed by Susan Youngberry and shows the “things we love.” The piano and drum for the music we love to listen to and play. The octagon is the shape of our home. The trees for those we have planted - successful and not so successful.

26. Bernard Carroll
Carrolls Road North, Mudgongga

This block shows images of daily life on a dairy farm. Cows must be milked through good times and bad, twice a day, 365 days a year.
27. Beth, Tim, Huon & Miah Howard
O’Callaghan Lane, Mudgegonga

Both Beth and Tim grew up in and around the Wangaratta region. After completing university and establishing careers in Melbourne they decided to return to NE Victoria when their son, Huon, was due to commence primary school. Their daughter, Miah, was eight months old when they settled in Mudgegonga. Both children attended the Dederang Primary School in the first years of their primary education before transferring to Albury schools. Tim’s work is based in Mt Beauty on the hydroelectric scheme whilst Beth has her own business and works from home. In 2015 the Howards purchased and relocated to Staghorn Flat to be closer to Huon and Miah’s school. Their quilt block represents the view of Mt Buffalo from their Mudgegonga home together with their much loved chickens and rescue cow, Flossy, which were acquired soon after the fires.

28. The Kirk Family. Margaret, Tony, Erica, Rebecca, Lachlan, Zachary, Paul, Fiona, Ruben & Hudson
All residents in Mudgegonga.

“Sherwood Rise” is the name of our property originally owned by Frank and Veronica Kirk. The horse represents the Australian Registered Stock-horse breed (ASH) that we currently have on our property. This is now the fourth generation of Kirks on this land. This block constructed by Erica Kirk.
29. Cindy Lucas & Trevor Smith
Pini Lane, Mudgegonga
Trevor and I moved to Mudgegonga in 2007 after falling in love with the views of the valley and the mix of native bush, boulders and sheltered paddocks on the property. We were both FIFO miners until the 2009 bushfires when I ‘retired’ to the farm and began my new career as a calf rearer for local dairy farmers, along with retaining our small herd of breeding cows. Our three dogs are our special babies and they also love the Mudgegonga life!

30. Miles & Carol Ryan
Pini Lane, Mudgegonga.
This block shows the view from our front door.
31. John Panlook & Mandy Shepherd
Blacks Flat Road, Mudgegonga
This block, constructed by Mandy Shepherd represents the Shepherd family, past and present: Ross, June, Amanda (Mandy), Sally and Robert. The block shows the family tree at Bellbrook.

32. John, Julie & Julian Carroll
Switchback Road, Mudgegonga
Round Hill
The couple in the pictures on our quilt block are John and Margaret (Cooke) Carroll who migrated from County Limerick, Ireland with members of their respective families. They married 1877 and settled in Mudgegonga producing 10 children. Land was open for selection (poor man’s selection) and eventually they purchased land from Queen Victoria for one pound an acre. Now six generations later, many of the descendants are living and farming the same land in Mudgegonga.
John Carroll (1844) was well known and respected and nick named Blue Peter Carroll after his champion thoroughbred (Blue Peter) who sired many foals in the NE.
33. Paul Carroll & Coral Love
Carrolls Road, Mudgegonga
We established our home here in 2005 on part of the family farm. Within the restful setting of the mountains and valleys, we enjoy helping on the farm, tinkering in the workshop, creating our garden, playing music, writing and capturing moments on film. The vistas are superb as we walk in the sunshine or sip coffee on the patio. Local wine and food, accompanied by music from the stereo or jamming session, go hand in hand when together or socialising (good for the heart and soul). The block represents the enjoyment of living in Mudgegonga, sharing the landscape with family and friends.

34. Alan & Shirley Johnston
Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road
Mudgegonga
John Wood migrated to Australia from Scotland in 1858. He was followed a year later by his wife, Margaret and three young children. John worked as a mine manager in Bright before selecting the farm at Barwidgee Creek. A feature of the property is the water race running through it that was associated with the Gold stamper for the Waterloo mine. After John’s death the farm was worked by his son Robert and wife Sarah. Following Robert’s death the farm was worked by his daughter Jean and her husband Len Johnston. Their son Alan, who lives in Myrtleford with his wife Shirley, took over the farm in 1976 and has been farming the property since then. Throughout the years the farm has produced tobacco, hops, dairy and recently beef cattle. Events occurring in this time included a new house in 1949, and in the Black Saturday bushfires of 2009, everything except the house was destroyed.
35. Mary Carroll
Carrolls Road, Mudgegonga

Martilla Sport Horses was established in 1999 after the purchase of a Warmblood stallion, Freedoms Fellows. The stud moved to the current location on Carrolls Road in 2005 when I inherited 137 acres from my uncle’s estate which, I’m proud to say, makes me the fourth generation Carroll to farm this land. This block depicts the animals on the farm and horses I’ve bred, including my current stallion Martilla Barabas, (center picture), and two of his sons. Also there are the Angus cows bred on farm, enjoying a dip in the dam on a particularly hot day; the Maremma dogs bred to protect the hens from foxes; and Merlo the cat, a great companion and the best mouser ever.

36. John & Debbi Rigoni
Smith Lane, Mudgegonga

C. Rigoni & Sons purchased Grandview in 1980 from the Smith Family. We started living at 37 Smith Lane, Mudgegonga in 1982 with our children, Britt, Shaun & Dale. We breed Angus cattle on 202 acres (81.7 hectares). Our block represents our property, Angus cattle and the Californian Redwoods that we planted since we’ve been there.
37. Mary Brewer
Orange Grove, Pini Lane, Mudgegonga

One of Battista and Catherine de Piazza’s daughters, Annie, married Sidney Brewer who was born in Cornwall and they continued to farm at Orange Grove Mudgegonga. Sid Brewer was a well-known builder who left a lasting legacy through the construction of many local homesteads and public buildings, including St John’s Church Mudgegonga. As time passed, their son Harry and his wife Mary (McGowan) followed in the family footsteps and expanded the farm. They ran a commercial Poll Hereford cattle breeding enterprise and had three children, Rose Mary, Henry and Judy. Henry and Judy continue to farm the respective Osmettis and Orange Grove blocks today and the fifth generation are now joining in.

38. Hugh & Carol Forrest
Bambara Amaroo
Switchback Road, Mudgegonga

From the city we came in 2003, much later we discovered ancestor William Forlonge had squatted on this land in 1838-52. Bambara, forest land, Amaroo, a beautiful place, 250 acres. We lived in a caravan, experiencing the seasons for two years. Family and friends visited, much laughter and red wine in evenings after constructing fences, water points and planting 6000 trees. Our quilt block represents love of environment, our flowers, vegetables and orchard. The black represents the aftermath of the 2009 fires. The renewal of the trees and land depicts the resilience and growth of a shocked community. Our daughter’s wedding in our garden in October 2009, our hay carted with our trusty Ford tractor and Red Ute. Our dogs romp through the paddocks, crossbred cows and Limousin bulls grow vealers for market. The grey is the roof of our environmentally beautiful home and the stunningly beautiful night skies. We are blessed, as now grandchildren run with us on this land.
39. Fredrick & Margerita (nee de Piazza) Jones, and children Hubert (Bert) Jones; John and Monica (nee Blexer) Jones, & grandchild John (Jack) Jones.

Lee Anne Francis currently lives at the old family house in Blacks Flat Road. The quilt block depicts, the letter box 2420, home and property farmed by the Jones family.

40. Lochie & Carol Fraser
Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road. Mudgegonga

This is a picture of Lochie’s house in Mudgegonga (Reg and Jess Fraser). Lochie and Carol Fraser live there now. The house was built in 1937 and Lochie renovated it in 1989. Lochie has 550 acres and grows Poll Hereford cows and first cross ewes.
41. Bill, Dianne, Casey & Chantal Kelty
Blacks Flat Road, Mudgegonga

We moved to Mudgegonga in 1997 from Perth.
We purchased and moved the little cottage to its final resting place. We feel blessed to live in the most beautiful valley in the country.
It’s a soul feeling of home.
The leaf block represents our grandchildren and the absolute delight they have around Autumn ‘crunch leaf time’ and the collection of coloured leaves.

42. Anita & Tim Toner
Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road, Barwidgee

Pat Toner always declared that Barwidgee Creek, was, without a doubt, the best place in the world, and travel to USA and Asia didn’t alter his opinion.
Anita and Pat Toner settled not far from the family home. Pat’s four brothers settled nearby.
Pat’s parents, Charlie and Nell, (nee Carroll) ran a Friesian herd and Wessex Saddle pig stud. Pat commenced growing tobacco on the family farm and continued until the demise of the industry in 2006. Growing vegetables continues to be the forte of all the Toner family. Pat’s great grandparents, Patrick and Sarah (nee Prendergast) settled here about 1858. Pat’s grandparents, Dennis and May (nee Pini) also lived at Barwidgee, in the same location. Years ago the Barwidgee Creek area was known as Waterloo.
43. James (Jim) & Sheila Carroll  
Carroll's Road, Mudgegonga  
James and Sheila Carroll live on the land selected in the 1870’s by James’ grandfather, John Carroll. The picture of Mt Buffalo covered in snow (taken from near the house) is one of the many beautiful views enjoyed by four generations of the Carroll family.

44. Neville Blewett, (son of Jack & Ruth) & partner Donna Reardon.  
Mudgegonga  
The attic shed (note high door in front) stood in the Blewett paddock for 90 years. Bundles of chaff and hay were loaded through the high door and sent down the chaff cutter in the middle of the shed for cattle feed. The windy weather of summer 2014/15 finally blew the shed over on a lean.
45. Maurice & Audrey Goonan & their children, Chantel, Bradley, Ryan & Grant
Carrolls Road North, Mudgegonga
We moved to Mudgegonga in 1979. The patchwork block represents our farm. Hereford cows, horses, pet geese and our pet cockatoo “Stanley” who we rescued in 2003.

46. John & Marjorie Van der Starr
Myrtleford-Stanley Road, Mudgegonga
We arrived in 2010 onto a horse property. We totally re-vegetated five acres in native plants: blue gums, hakeas, bottlebrush, she-oaks and live in the best place on earth. Just sold to move into Myrtleford.
47. Paula Pipan, Radley Steel, Natalie & Samantha Steel
Carrolls Road, Mudgegonga
This block was constructed by Paula Pipan and symbolises the growth of our vineyard, planted by the whole family; the steep slope of the block; the grapes we harvest; and a splash of orange for the orange walls of our home.

48. Terry Karis
Pini Lane, Mudgegonga
This block was constructed by Terry Karis and represents the environment, sky, trees, greenery, water and the transition.
49. Les & Gwilma Brown
Brown Road, Mudgegonga

Our quilt block shows the enormous change in farming practices over the eighteen-hundreds, nineteen-hundreds, and two-thousands since the Brown family started farming in Mudgegonga. Firstly, horses were used to clear and cultivate the land for farming. Then came the Massey Ferguson tractor, pictured here with William (Bill) Brown and son Les (as a child), who now runs the farm. Lastly, the modern tractor of today with enclosed cabin, air conditioning and all the new technology that is available in the present day.

50. John & Marjory Van der Starr
Myrtleford-Stanley Road, Mudgegonga

Vanderosa is the property name of John & Marjory Van der Starr. See #46.
51. Alan & Margaret Crisp  
(Jack and Annie Hardy)  
Carrolls Road, Mudgegonga

In 1877 the earliest Hardy pioneer arrived in Mudgegonga (Barwidgee). The significance of this block: the shamrock represents our Irish roots (Hardy); the Scottish Thistle flower represents our Scottish roots (Haig); the red, white and black colours represent football and netball.

52. Tony & Debbie Geddes  
41 Hardy’s Lane, Mudgegonga

Ercildoon.  
The Geddes family moved to Mudgegonga in 2011. Debbie returned to her family farm and is now the sixth generation of the Hardy family. The block represents a wool bale with the family having strong ties to the sheep industry and Tony also starting his career as a shearer. The farm breeds Angus cattle, fat lambs and the children all have horses to ride with loyal dogs to follow. A beautiful place to live and to watch your family grow.
53. Andrew Cross & Jacky Kelly  
Pini Lane, Mudgegonga  
This block represents the property, Mt Jack, and the Southern Cross Limousin stud.

54. Mick & Edith Rogers and daughters, Leah & Serena  
Blacks Flat Road, Mudgegonga  
While working as a primary school teacher, Edith visited the Aboriginal Rock Art in Mudgegonga and fell in love with the area. Mick and Edith bought their 10 acres in 1989, (land is agisted) and built and moved into their home in 1999.
55. Bill, Maureen, Jason & Bridget Culhane  
Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road, Mudgegonga  
Our block represents horses and gardens. In 2006 we renovated the old Mudgegonga School on a 2.8 acres, and moved into our home in 2007.

56. Terry Pierce (Tex) & Kim Mc Conville  
Woodside Lane, Mudgegonga  
Home is where the heart is. Tex is a new-comer to this area and arrived a couple of years ago with his herd of beef cattle from the Upper Murray region. Along with his partner Kim, who is a born and bred Myrtleford girl, they have started a new life here in the Mudgegonga valley, hence “home is where the heart is”. 
57. Shelley Hammat representing her parents, Keith & Barbara Hammat and siblings, Jennifer, Joanne, Mark, Shelley & Simon

Keith and Barbara Hammat moved to Mudgegonga in 1963, from Mt Isa, Queensland. They bought 34 acres of crown land, and supplied eggs and poultry throughout North-east Victoria.

58. Loretta Carroll & Kyle Gubbin

Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road, Mudgegonga

The property was named The Laurels describing ‘bringing home the laurels’ when Great Grandfather John Carroll purchased thoroughbred stallion, Blue Peter in 1875 for around 340 guineas. The horse won trophies for best stud Stock Stallion, subsequently assisting to fund the purchase of his selection around 1880. The quilt block displays a wedding photo of the youngest son John Carroll and Mary Arter and members of their family. Eldest son Jim riding Captain; granddaughter Loretta riding Elenora. Family from left Jim, Pat, Brian, Anne Atwell, Verna, Mary Groucht, Grandma (Mary), Margaret and Roma, and great grandson Max Oppy playing violin on the north ridge after the 2009 fires.
59. Ellen & Laurie (died 2013) Batson
Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road, Barwidgee
Ellen came from Geelong to 635 Yackandandah Road in 1993. She had family close by. Ellen went to Mass at Mudgegonga and has many happy memories in the old church. She played music in the Mudgegonga Hall, before it was renovated after the 2009 fires. There were many local gatherings on their 1.5 acre block. The house was old and at night there were noises in the walls. She saw snakes, lizards, echidnas, a platypus and rabbits. Ellen has now retired into Myrtleford with happy memories.

60. Shane & Trish Murtagh
Tunnel Gap Road, Mudgegonga
Shane Murtagh, grandson of Humberto and Catherine De Piazza (Bert) and son of George and Mary Murtagh married Trish Atley in 1980. They lived in Benalla for 12 months before resettling in Mudgegonga. With three children they purchased a property in Glen Creek and developed it before selling and purchasing the property they now own. The property was known as Poplars but they renamed it Clover Flat.
Family is very important to Shane and Trish, and they have three wonderful children who enjoyed country life in Glen Creek, Mudgegonga and schooling in Myrtleford. Their children have moved to be successful in their lives and blessed them with four grandchildren. Horses, dairy (share farming with Glenda and earlier Gordon Rowe) and beef cattle (moving from horned to polled) have given satisfaction, challenges, tears, laughter and a passion to succeed. Mudgegonga is lucky to experience four seasons. The beauty of Autumn is caught in the photo of the poplars. This is part of our life captured in the quilt block. Not in quilt, late entry.
61. O’Callaghan Family,
O’Callaghan Lane, Mudgegonga
and Myrtleford-Yackandandah
Road, Mudgegonga

Patrick and Johanna
O’Callaghan settled in the
beautiful Mudgegonga valley in
the early 1880’s, after moving
from the goldfields in the
in the Mt. Stanley region.
One of their sons, William,
moved Annie Ivers from
Dederang and they had four
children: Ena, Eric, Cliff and
Ivor. Ivor married Margaret
Shaw, from Melbourne and they
eventually occupied the farm
and became dairy farmers and
breeders of stud Jersey cattle,
which became well known
throughout Australia.
Ivor and Margaret had four
children: Patricia, Margo, Kevin
and Brian. The farm is run by
Brian and his family and is now
raising beef cattle.

Not in quilt. Submitted by Pat
McPherson (nee O’Callaghan).
Right: July 13th 2013 at Mudgegonga Hall

Carol Forrest, Beth Howard, (at back,) Carol Ryan, Pat Easterbrook and Gwilma Brown, discussing and suggesting options for design, and pooling ideas.

Below: Pat Easterbrook, Julie Carter, Audrey Goonan and Carol Ryan

Photos by courtesy of Audrey Goonan
At left: Pat Eaterbrook, Carol Forrest and Esther Trustrum.
All the collected pieces ready for sorting and placing.
Below: June 2015 Carol Forrest, Pat Easterbrook, Susan Youngberry, Vanda Bowers and Dianne Rickard put final finishing stitches on the Mudgegonga community quilt.

Photo by courtesy of Myrtleford Times
Above: On 19th June 2015, all district projects completed and acknowledged at Rosewhite Hall, Happy Valley. Carol Forrest outlined the vision of connectedness, creativity and community and Pat Easterbrook explained the significance of the Quilt and Quilting as written on page 5 of this book. Photo: Paul Carroll

Below: 21st June 2015, completion of Mudgegonga community Quilt Project, High Tea celebrations at Mudgegonga Hall, from left, Susan Youngberry, member for Indi, Cathy McGowan AO, MP, Pat Easterbrook, Julie Carter and Carol Forrest. Photo: Paul Carroll
Contributors to the Quilt

- BANNISTER 5. Shelley Hammat/Bannister, Pini Lane, Mdg
- BATSON 59. Ellen & (Laurie, died 2013) Batson, Myrtleford–Yackandandah Road, Bar
- BLEWETT 1. Neville Blewett, Myrtleford–Yackandandah Rd, Mdg
- BLEWETT 44. Neville Blewett, (son of Jack & Ruth) partner Donna Reardon. Mdg
- BODSWORTH 6. Barry & Davina Bodsworth /Perkins, Zara & Gemma, Tunnel Gap Road
- BREWER 37. Mary Brewer “Orange Grove” Pini Lane, Mdg.
- BROWN 49. Les & Gwila Brown, Brown Road, Mdg.
- BROZ 2. Sergio, Barbara, Ivano & Sandra Broz Myrtleford–Yackandandah Rd / Bar
- CANDER STARR 50. John & Marjory Vander Starr, Myrtleford–Yackandandah Road, St (see number 46)
- CARROLL 13. Tom & Marie Carroll, Bernie, Bill & Trish, Jess, Jayden, & Chloe. Carrolls Rd North, Mdg
- CARROLL 20. Julian & Sally & Frankie Carroll, Young Lane, Mdg
- CARROLL 26. Bernard Carroll, Carrolls Road North, Mdg
- CARROLL 32. John & Julie & Julian Carroll, Switchback Road, Mdg
- CARROLL 33. Paul Carroll & Coral Love, Carroll's Road, Mdg
- CARROLL 35. Mary Carroll, Carrolls Road, Mdg.
- CARROLL 43. James (Jim) and Shelia Carroll, Carrolls Road, Mdg
- CARROLL 58. Loretta Carroll, & Kyle Gubbin, Myrtleford–Yackandandah Road, Mdg
- COSTA 14. David & Anne Costa, Pini Lane, Mdg
- CRISP 51. Alan & Margaret Crisp (Jack & Annie Hardy) Carrolls Road, Mdg
- CROS 53. Andrew Cross & Jacky, Pini Lane, Mdg
- CULHANE 55. Bill & Maureen, Jason, Bridget Culfane, Myrtleford–Yackandandah Road, Mdg
- DE PIAZZA 9. De Piazza
- DEPIAZZA 22. DePiazza / Murtagh
- EASTERBROOK 24. Lindsay & Pat Easterbrook, Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road, Mdg
- FISCHER 17. Tim & Judy Fischer, Pini Lane, Mdg
- FORREST 38. Hugh & Carol Forrest, Bambara Amaroo, Switchback Road, Mdg
- FOWLER 21. John (Chook) Fowler, Pini Lane, Mdg
- FRASER 40. Lochie and Carol Fraser, Myrtleford–Yackandandah Road. Mdg
- GEDDES 52. Tony and Debbie Geddes, 41 Hardy's Lane, Mdg
- GOONAN 45. Maurice & Audrey Goonan, Carrolls Road North, Mdg, and their children, Chantel, Bradley, Ryan & Grant
- HAMMAT 57. Shelley Hammat representing her parents, Keith & Barbara Hammat, & siblings, Jennifer, Joanne, Mark, Shelley & Simon.
- HAWKINS 18. Phil and Jan Hawkins, Switchback Rd, Mdg
- HICKS 10. Beverley Hicks, Hicks Road, Mdg
- HODGE 12. Neil & Trish Hodge, Smith Lane, Mdg
- HOWARD 27. Beth, Tim, Huon & Miah Howard, O’Callaghan Lane, Mdg
- JOHNSTON 34. Alan & Shirley Johnston, Myrtleford–Yackandandah Road, Mdg
- JONES 39. Fredrick & Margerita (nee De Piazza) Jones, & children Hubert (Bert) Jones and John & wife Monica (nee Blexer) Jones, & grandchild John (Jack) Jones.
- KARIS 48. Terry Karis, Pini Lane, Mdg
- KELTY 41. Bill, Dianne, Casey & Chantal Kelty, Black’s Flat Road, Mdg
- MAROTTA 3. Frank & Marilena Marotta, Myrtleford–Yackandandah Rd, Bar
- MARTIN 7. Steve and Carolyn Martin, Myrtleford–Yackandandah Road.
- MCILROY 11. Bridget McIlroy / Veronica Pryor, Pini Lane, Mdg
- MCILROY 15. Peter & Rose McIlroy, Pini Lane, Mdg
- MURTAGH 60. Shane & Trish Murtagh, Tunnel Gap Road, Mdg
- O’CALLAGHAN 61. O’Callaghan Family, O’Callaghan Lane, Mdg and Yackandandah–Myrtleford Rd, Mdg
- PANLOOK 31. Panlook, John and Mandy, Black’s Flat Road, constructed by Mandy Shepherd.
- PIERCE 56. Terry Pierce (Tex) & Kim McConvile, Woodside Lane, Mdg
- PRYOR 11. Bridget McIlroy / Veronica Pryor, Pini Lane, Mdg
- RIGONI 36. John and Debbi Rigoni, Smith Lane, Mdg
- ROGERS 54. Mick & Edith and daughters, Leah and Seren Rogers, Black’s Flat Road, Mdg
- RYAN 30. Miles & Carol Ryan, Pini Lane, Mdg
- SHEPHERD 23. Amanda Shepherd, Black’s Flat Road, Mdg “the Shepherd family”, past and present, Ross, June, Amanda (Mand), Sally and Robert
- SMITH 29. Cindy Lucas & Trevor Smith, Pini Lane, Mdg
- STEEL 47. Paula Pipan, Radley Steel, Natalie & Samantha Steel. Carrolls Road, Mdg.
- TONER 42. Anita and Tim Toner, Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road, Bar
- VANDER STARR 46. John & Marjorie Vander Starr, Myrtleford–Stanley Road
- WEBSTER 8. Sheree Webster, Myrtleford /Yackandandah Road, Mdg
- WILSON 19. John and Sue Wilson, Myrtleford–Yackandandah Road, Mdg
- YOUNGBERRY 25. Christopher Salmon & Susan Youngberry & Aubrey Dean. Black’s Flat Road.