



21<sup>st</sup> July, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Bears Lagoon Serpentine Football Netball Club to express our support for the Yemaya Festival to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October.

As you would understand it is difficult to raise funds to support the non profit organisations within the Serpentine and surrounding community. Our sporting groups rely heavily upon those in the community to volunteer their services and to support fund raising activities each year.

Last year, BLSFNC held a BBQ, Drinks and Ice stall for the duration of the festival. All these products were purchased by the BLSFNC through local businesses – Boort IGA, Arnold Family Butchers and Bridgewater Bakehouse.

We had a variety of BLSFNC members volunteer their time to assist with the BBQ and Drinks stall. These members ages varied from 10 years old – 65 years old, all of which said they enjoyed the experience and would happily volunteer again next year if it was to go ahead. BLSFNC found the Yemaya Festival patrons were all very friendly, well mannered and polite.

BLSFNC was very fortunate last year, to raise \$20,000, outside our normal activities, through the Yemaya Festival and as a result we have been able to contribute financially to the major upgrade of facilities at Janiember Park – Serpentine Recreation Reserve.

We believe the Yemaya Festival could be a great opportunity for us to again secure some much needed funds outside of our normal fundraising activities. Local businesses, such as Arnold Family Butchers, Boort IGA and Bridgewater Bakehouse, would also benefit as BLSFNC would use them as the main suppliers of goods. Last year BLSFNC main suppliers were Arnold Family Butchers - \$8,000 of meat, Boort IGA - \$8,000 of drinks and Bridgewater Bakehouse - \$3,000 of bread/rolls.

If given the opportunity and all planning requirements are met, we would eagerly assist in any way possible and again support local businesses by purchasing goods locally.

If you have any suggestions regarding ways we could assist please give myself a call.

Regards,

Anthony Holland  
BLSFNC President

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**President – Football**  
**Anthony Holland**  
**PH:** 0428 550 611  
**Email:** [stemily2009@hotmail.com](mailto:stemily2009@hotmail.com)

**President – Netball**  
**Sarah Byrne**  
**PH:** 0458 664 427  
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# CUIUS Pty. Ltd.

ABN-21 148 914 774

Trading as

## Bridgewater Caltex Road House

1 Inglewood Road,

Bridgewater – VIC – 3516

Ph- 03 5437 3042

21st July 2017

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to support the organisers of the Yemaya festival that is scheduled to run from the 28<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 at Fernihurst, which was also held successful last year.

As an owner of local business, during this festival last year, I observed, our business volume increased about 50-60% which brought not only direct revenue to our business but it also allowed us to give more work to local staff.

I would like to support the event and event organizers whatever the way that I can.

**Best Regards,**

**Srini Mandalapu**

**0421 761 316**

**bridgewatercaltex@gmail.com**

# **Bryan Streader Plumbing**

Bryan Streader  
109 Lakeview Street  
BOORT VIC 3537  
Phone: 5455 2508

15<sup>th</sup> July 2017

To whom it may concern,

I worked as a contractor for the Yemaya Festival event that ran in Fernihurst in April of 2016.

The entire crew were a pleasure to work with and were greatly experienced and knowledgeable within their broad range of tasks around the site.

The event provided an additional income of \$1,870 that I wouldn't have received otherwise, and will be providing me with further work opportunities at the next one.

As a local resident, I strongly support the event occurring and would urge Council to approve the application.

I brought my daughter along to the last one to experience it, and felt completely safe and comfortable to do so.

The whole crowd in attendance was overwhelming kind and courteous, and made for an impressively positive experience.

I look forward to the next event and can only speak highly of the event organisers.

Regards,

Bryan Streader



10<sup>th</sup> July 2017

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the Yemaya Festival event that was held on my property over Anzac Day weekend last year.

The event provided me with revenue of over \$10,000 that was critical to the continuation of my business and also my livelihood.

As a farmer, my crop and thus my primary income have been severely impacted by the drought, and the opportunity for any financial support is not one that I can afford to dismiss.

My wife has been hospitalised for a serious condition for an extended period of time, placing tremendous emotional and financial strain on myself and my entire family.

The Yemaya Festival event provided me with not only a significant financial influx, but also the opportunity to experience something I could never imagine in my wildest dreams, and to gain a connection to the heritage and history of my own land.

The event was managed professionally from start to finish, with a level of safety, commitment, and attention to detail that I can only praise.

When the event permit was denied earlier this year, beyond costing the organisers an obscene amount of money, it also cost me the site hire fee that had enabled me to sustain through a very difficult period in 2016. Lacking that income this year has had a serious impact on my livelihood, to the point that I've spent most of the year trying to avoid having my tractor repossessed.

I would urge Council to accept the festival as a blessing to this struggling community, and to work with Eugene to maximise the benefit to the whole of the shire.

Regards,

Ken Pattison  
Managing Director

Cathcart Corporation Pty Ltd  
03 5494 7324 – 0427 534 158  
56 Pattison Rd, Fernihurst VIC 3518



Stephanie Tzanetis  
Harm Reduction Victoria's (HRV) DanceWize Program Coordinator  
PO Box 12720 A'Beckett Street  
VIC 8006

Ms Alexandra Jefferies  
Planning Officer  
Loddon Shire Council  
41 High Street  
Wedderburn, VIC 3518

### **Re. DanceWize services confirmed for Yemaya Festival**

Dear Ms Jefferies

I am aware Loddon Shire Council is in the process of considering the planning documents for the proposed Yemaya Festival, 28 September-1 October 2017. Please accept this letter as part of that event planning process.

DanceWize is a health promotion and harm reduction education and support program funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. DanceWize services were delivered at Yemaya Festival 2014 (inaugural), 2015, and 2016. I can confirm DanceWize services have been formally engaged by the Festival Directors for 2017 too. Based on the services delivered in 2016, we plan to operate from 20:00 Friday 28 September until 20:00 Monday 1 October, unless otherwise advised.

To engage our service, we require festival organisers ensure appropriate First Aid and/or medical provisions are available onsite and that the DanceWize chill space is proximate to the health provider. Please note, DanceWize team members undergo senior first aid training (ie. HLTAID003 or they already hold higher healthcare qualifications), but it is not our program's objective to deliver such services. I understand St Johns Ambulance is the health provider that has been offered this tender, which is consistent with 2016's services. DanceWize frequently works as an auxiliary health and wellbeing service at events with St Johns Ambulance. They are a reputable and well-trusted service that have developed standard operating procedures for medical emergency management for such an event format: multi-day regional festivals.

In 2016, and in addition to the onsite health provider, Ambulance Victoria (AV) was onsite, which was a step-up in term of the provisions offered in 2014 and 2015. As you're aware, when AV is engaged by an event, statutory provision identifies that agency as responsible for designating a Health Commander and developed the Health Emergency Management Plan (HEMP). We encourage all event organisers to notify AV of their event's brief as a minimum standard and, ideally, formally engage AV. While there were no alcohol or other drug-related transports in 2016, we commend such service provisions being in place.



If we consider concerning drug trends in Victoria, we note the following high-risk behaviours as causing the greatest harm: problematic drinking; methamphetamine dependency; and pharmaceutical misuse. Based on the service trends DanceWize recorded and observed over the past 3 years, we can attest that festival's patronage, overwhelming, has not exhibited signs of such behaviour. In 2016 DanceWize provided support for 72 individuals; none of those presentations indicated any such concerning trends, and not one person disclosed or presented signs as being under the influence of methamphetamine or any other amphetamine-type substance. Anecdotally, the level of intoxication was significantly lower than what is observed at other (what may be described as) more commercial events that our service attends.

We also acknowledge Yemaya festival is quite unique in that they have developed their own 'No GHB or Methamphetamine' policy. Be assured this policy is in addition to, not instead of, a no illicit substances policy, as they choose target those two higher risk substances in order to reduce the likelihood of certain kinds of harm. While, on its face, such a policy goes against harm reduction philosophy and practice, premised on a biopsychosocial model, because it risks encouraging stigmatisation and lateral violence. After highlighting and discussing this with the Directors, we acknowledge it is up to their discretion and they exercised reasonable consideration in creating their policy, used wording to mitigate the likelihood of stigma, and it appears to have been an effective policy for this specific setting.

I am happy to be contacted if you have any queries.

Yours Sincerely

Stephanie Tzanetis  
Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm PH 9329 1500 or 0433 981 604



# Dr Christian ROWAN MP

## Member for Moggill

*Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and  
Shadow Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef*



25 July 2017

Cr Neil Beattie  
Lodden Shire Council  
PO Box 21  
WEDDERBURN VIC 3518

Dear Cr Beattie

I have been advised that Eugene Apter has submitted an application to the Lodden Shire Council to hold his annual Yemaya Festival in the Shire in September, 2017.

This festival has been running successfully for the past three years and the Lodden Shire was home to this festival in 2016.

The Yemaya Festival is ranked in the top three festivals in Victoria and has also been recognised in a list of the top 300 festivals in the world.

I have been advised that during the festival in 2016, some 5000 people attended and enjoyed the many opportunities that this festival provides in both a safe and family friendly environment.

Many local businesses benefit from the Yemaya Festival by being stall holders selling food and clothing. The security and maintenance services are also provided by local businesses. Locals are employed to set-up and dismantle and clean the site at the end of the festival.

I request that the Lodden Shire Council support this festival and approve Mr Apter's application to once again hold the Yemaya Festival in the Lodden Shire in September 2017.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Christian A.C. Rowan MP**  
State Member for Moggill  
Shadow Minister for the Environment & Heritage Protection  
Shadow Minister for National Parks & the Great Barrier Reef



# George Tallis Hardware

142 Godfrey St, Boort, Victoria 3537

Phone **03 5455 2244**

[gtallis@bigblue.net.au](mailto:gtallis@bigblue.net.au)

ABN 78729419458

15<sup>th</sup> July 2017

To whom it may concern,

I would like to state my support for the Yemaya Festival event and urge the Councillors to approve the current application.

The event is of great value to the community, and brings in a large amount of spending that wouldn't occur otherwise.

In 2016, the event organisers spent over \$4,500 at my store on construction materials alone, with further spending on tools and miscellaneous supplies.

The crew from the event were all kind and courteous, and I look forward to receiving them again in September.

Regards,  
George Tallis

**Hon. Heidi Victoria MP**

Shadow Minister for the The Arts and Culture  
Shadow Minister for Tourism and Major Events  
Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
Member for Bayswater District

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20<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Hello Eugene,

Thanks so much for your emails.

I have to admit that I have not previously heard of your festival, but have now watched the 'Bloom' trailer and video.

May I congratulate you and your team for your dedication to staging a festival that appears to promote the most wonderful of ideals.

It also gives a multitude of opportunities to artists across all spheres of the visual and performing arts.

I wish you all the very best for this year's festival, and beyond.

Regards

*Heidi*



Michelle and Grant Lopes  
83 Cahill Rd, Wedderburn, VIC 3518  
PO Box 265, Wedderburn, VIC 3518  
Telephone: 0459 056 707

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017

To whom it may concern,

As a small business operating in the Loddon Shire, the opportunity to supply and work with Yemaya Festival 2016 was a challenge we embraced.

The organisation and management was far above what we had expected, with a level of professionalism that one would expect from a major corporation.

Spending a lot of hours on site, at no stage did we experience or witness any behaviour that would have made us doubt the ability of the management team to host and control the event, with all spoken to stating their intentions to return to future Yemaya events because of the peaceful nature of the event, and its location within the Loddon Shire.

For the footy clubs and other local suppliers, events like Yemaya are a major source of income, and its importance to the survival and futures of the above cannot be understated.

For us personally, the event was a huge support as we received approximately \$10,000 of income that we wouldn't have received otherwise. The impact of this sort of revenue in one weekend to a small business such as ours is tremendous to say the least.

Yemaya Festival embraces the Loddon Shire motto "a great place to live, work, and play" and the Council's ethos of accepting diversity in all its forms.

As a business we have found UE and his team to be open and honest and have no hesitation in writing this testimonial.

Regards,

Grant and Michelle Lopes  
IC Water



17 July 2017

Hi Eugene,

I am looking forward to the Yemaya Festival returning in September. The festival generated a welcomed sales boost last year over the Anzac Day long weekend.

There was a noticeable increase in sales from the 21<sup>st</sup> April to the 25<sup>th</sup> April. We have estimated the festival generated an additional \$8,000 to \$10,000 of income over the 4 to 5 days.

There was no problem with patrons in our shop during the festival period which was very pleasing.

I would like to offer our full support of the festival and hope it continues to become a local event that will benefit the entire area.

Regards,

Peter Moore  
Inglewood Store Owner/Manager  
36 Brooke St  
Inglewood 3517



**Tel:** 03 5431 7300  
**Mobile:** 0427505842  
**Email:** [peterm@bmsbendigo.com.au](mailto:peterm@bmsbendigo.com.au)  
**Web:** <http://www.championsiga.com.au>

Lightbearer Reiki  
0406 582 201  
Wedderburn-Brenanah Rd  
Wehla VIC 3518

Dear Sirs,

I am writing a letter of support for the organisers of the Yemaya festival that is scheduled to run from the 28<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 at Fernihurst, the same venue that held the very successful festival last year.

I am of the understanding that there is a possibility that this event won't be taking place and I feel that this is such a shame, not only for the organisers but more importantly for the Loddon Shire. There is a real opportunity for a large cash injection into the businesses in the Shire and community groups that choose to have food stalls. In a Shire that demographically is so diverse and untapped, it seems rather odd that this festival hasn't been welcomed with open arms.

Yemaya organisers are ethically on point and have always been more than happy to work with local government to create the best, most positive experience for all concerned.

In times of uncertain economics this well run, honest, and ethical event is a boon to the Shire and the people of Loddon.

Festival goers are not just from Victoria, but national and international. Yemaya draws diversity to its events and the knock on effect throughout the Shire is untapped and infinite.

In finishing, as a rate payer in the Loddon Shire, I would encourage you to be long-sighted, work with the organisers to resolve any issues, and work together to make the Loddon Shire the home of Yemaya, to reap the economic benefits and create what could be a partnership of mutual benefit for many years to come.

In closing, I would urge the members of the aging department to work with the organisers of Yemaya and make this festival the best experience for all.

Jacqueline Stallinga  
Loddon Shire Resident

Ric Raftis  
1 St Arnaud Road  
Wedderburn, Vic., 3518

Email: [ric@bushsong.com.au](mailto:ric@bushsong.com.au)  
Phone: 0407 412100

18<sup>th</sup> July 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Yemaya Festival

I am writing in support of the Yemaya Festival been granted a permit to hold the festival at Fernihurst within the Loddon Shire.

Events such as this that provide the opportunity to come together in a festival environment and enjoy music and each other's company are of great social value to those participating. I see music festivals such as this no different to football games, albeit the scale and number of participants is obviously somewhat different.

I have viewed the documentation involved with this event. I have not read it all, nor do I intend to, but I did read the letter from Victoria Police. I did so given the consistent comments earlier about a "damning police report" that to my knowledge wasn't made public. Consequently, the term "damning" is a subjective one. I did speak with the Sergeant at Wedderburn Police Station last year after the festival and found his attitude to be quite negative and that concerned me.

All the comments around this festival that I hear seem to be about "drugs" and their usage. People will always take drugs and this has been the case throughout history. I am a supporter of safe rooms and testing stations to at least ensure that if people persist in exercising their free will to take drugs, that they are at least not taking drain cleaner.

That said it is a minor percentage of the population and as usual it would seem we have people trying to punish the vast majority for the actions of the small minority. This would seem grossly unfair.

The National Drug Household Survey of 2016 presents some interesting data. In fact, it states that younger people under the age of 30 were smoking less, drinking less and using fewer illicit drugs in 2016 than in 2001. (Refer <http://www.aihw.gov.au/alcohol-and-other-drugs/data-sources/ndshs-2016/key-findings/>)

So, the usage of drugs, both illicit and licit is decreasing but some people seem to focus on the minority. In turn, they punish the majority. Let us not forget that alcohol is also a drug. As a teacher of Mental Health First Aid, the statistics we have is that 80% of Australians

between the ages of 14 and 80 use alcohol in a year. This is just as big an issue over time as illicit drugs.

Apart from the overrated drug issue, I find governments today, including our council, are perceived as places that look for reasons not to do something instead of making it happen. Let's me more positive about the benefits that such a festival brings to our Shire and region.

1. Our towns are dying. A firsthand experience with both the Loddon Shire and its residents can only have a positive effect on people coming into our area. We have an enormous amount to offer prospective travellers and prospective residents.
2. Often as I travel and mix with different business people, I am asked where Wedderburn is located. My first response is always, "at the centre of the Universe", but of course I go on to explain in more detail. None of the people attending the Yemaya festival will ever have to be told where Inglewood, Boort, Serpentine or even Fernihust are as it will be indelibly printed on their mind's map.
3. Such a festival is a great win for the Shire if it can be established here on an ongoing basis. It provides us with a significant event on an annual basis and allows us to build other events around the dates it is held. We have a great opportunity to attract people attending the Yemaya event to these other events. I am confident that the promoter of Yemaya would happily advertise these events on their website to help Loddon capitalise on Yemaya. **Let's work with people and not against them!**
4. I am loathe to mention the economic benefit that flows to the people and businesses of Loddon as a result of this event. The reason for this is that from the public's perspective, from what I see, the main reason for not having the event is because it's some sort of "drug fest". To mention the economic benefit almost makes it look like you are prepared to prostitute yourself and put up with the drugs in order to make a dollar. If we stop focussing on the drugs, which as has been said, is an issue for a minor percentage of the participants in the festival, then yes, the event provides a great economic opportunity for the region.

I hope that the Festival is held, not only this year, but that it becomes a regular event on the Shire's calendar.

It would seem there is a lot of emotional debate about the festival. This needs to be removed and we need to look at the facts. I am more than happy to debate the contents of my letter with anyone.

In closing, I would like to encourage decision makers to examine the facts alone of all the benefits of holding this festival in Loddon. Don't be swayed by emotional arguments without substance. This festival will be of benefit in so many ways to a great number of people and deserves to go ahead.

Thank you,

Ric Raftis

12<sup>th</sup> July 2017

To whom it may concern,

I have been involved with Eugene Apter and the crew behind Yemaya Festival for some time and can only speak highly of their character and intentions.

I personally presented the Welcome to Country during the opening ceremony of the previous events in 2015 and 2016, and was very impressed with the efforts made to conduct the event consciously and respectfully.

The event is conducted with great respect and consideration towards traditional land-owners and all natural features of the land.

In my position as an elder of the Dja Dja Warrung Clan, I give my consent for the event to be hosted on traditional Dja Dja Warrung land.

Yours respectfully,

Ricky Nelson  
Cultural Advisor  
Dja Dja Warrung Clan  
Castlemaine, VIC  
0422 123 768



# Scott Emerson MP

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPIILLY

20 July 2017

Cr Neil Beattie  
Lodden Shire Council  
PO Box 21  
WEDDERBURN VIC 3518

Dear Cr Beattie

**RE: EUGENE APTER and YEMAYA FESTIVAL**

I understand that Eugene Apter has submitted an application to the Lodden Shire Council to again hold his Yemaya Festival in the Shire in September of this year.

I believe the festival has been running successfully for three years with the Lodden Shire being home to the festival since last year. The festival is ranked in the top three festivals in Victoria and has been recognised in a list of the top 300 festivals in the world.

The festival is an opportunity for artisans, performers, DJs and musicians to share their creativity. I have been informed that many businesses benefit from the festival, including local businesses, by being stall holders selling food and clothing, providing services such as security, maintenance, etc., and also renting sound and lighting equipment, tents, and the like. As well, 20+ locals are employed to set-up the festival and clear and clean the site afterwards. I also understand a local landholder happily rents his property to Mr Apter for the purposes of holding the festival.

I have been advised that last year, some 5000 people attended the festival and enjoyed the opportunity to explore, create, connect, and dance in a safe and family friendly environment.

I ask that you and the Lodden Shire Council support this endeavour and approve Mr Apter's application to hold the Yemaya Festival in the Lodden Shire in September 2017.

Yours sincerely

**Scott Emerson MP**  
**Member for Indooroopilly**  
**Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Small Business**

Suite 1, 49 Station Road, Indooroopilly Qld 4068 P 07 3737 4100

E [indooroopilly@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:indooroopilly@parliament.qld.gov.au) W [scottemerson.com.au](http://scottemerson.com.au) f [ScottEmerson](https://www.facebook.com/ScottEmerson) t [@scottemerson](https://twitter.com/scottemerson) i [scottemersonmp](https://www.instagram.com/scottemersonmp)

**Your hard working local MP**

CookieCook Pty Ltd

Lot 3 Loddon Valley Highway Serpentine VIC 3517

PH: 03 5437 8385

To whom it may concern,

My name is Stephen Cook, I am the proprietor of the Serpentine Roadhouse. I am writing this letter to show my support for the "Yemaya Festival" that is hopefully going ahead this year.

On a business owner's perspective. This festival will bring a lot more customers to my front door and to other local businesses. The last Yemaya festival raised my weekend takings by \$15000 + on previous years at the same time. With increases like this on a number of times throughout the year, by this and other long weekends only help keep mine and other businesses viable and gives job security to my employees.

I previously have owned another Roadhouse at Charlton, and the year that their festival was allowed to run, the town had a major cash injection to all struggling businesses that were having a hard time dealing with a long running drought. The following year their festival was declined and this had a very detrimental effect on all the business owners in the town, I sold my business and I know of at least three others that were put on the market and a couple that closed completely, as it was getting to much of a struggle to stay afloat.

On a Personal perspective. I feel that there is not enough for the "alternative" life style people to do. I ride a motor bike and I go to motorcycle rallies on a regular basis, but because ignorant people that do not know what they are talking about have shown their disapproval along with insurance and police hassles, some of these rallies have been cancelled and more and more are getting cancelled by the day. What people have to understand is that a lot of people do not like going out to a pub or night club to relax, they would prefer to go to a festival or rally where they are surrounded by likeminded people.

Kind Regards

**Stephen Cook**

Director/Manager

***SERPENTINE ROADHOUSE***

*COOKIECOOK PTY LTD*

PH: 03 5437 8385

0447 378 383





A Proud Community  
Growing Together  
Cr Sophie Ramsey  
**MAYOR**



20/07/2017

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my support for the Yemaya Festival event and encourage the presiding authority to approve the permit application.

Such events bring tremendous benefit to a local community in terms of financial stimulus and tourism development, and the opportunities should only be fostered in close collaboration with event organisers.

Yemaya Festival in particular represents admirable and considered ideals which seem to ripple through the event itself.

The depth of artistic endeavours and cultural acknowledgement is a rarity amongst the industry and worthy of commendation.

While objections from neighbouring resident should be greatly considered, this consideration should occur in the context of the greater good.

I would strongly urge the Councillors to seize the potential before them and ensure the event goes ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Sophie Ramsey  
Mayor  
City of Melton

# STEEL'S BUTCHERS

77 High Street  
Wedderburn, VIC 3518

July 20, 2017

To whom it may concern,

I, Tammy Martin, write on behalf of Steel's Butchers in the support of the Yemaya Festival held at Fernihurst.

Living in a small rural town can be tough and quite tough as business owners. Events like these are great! We were one of many businesses and organizations that gained from having such event in the Loddon shire.

At the completion of the festival, festival organizers came to Wedderburn and purchased about \$700-800 worth of roast meats to cook for all the workers/helpers for the event and proceeded to the local supermarket (Randall's Foodworks) to buy the rest of their supplies. While also getting these they also visited the local café and wandered Wedderburn.

People and events like these keep our little towns alive.

Not only were we lucky in Wedderburn to pick up trade, towns such as Serpentine, Bridgewater and Boort picked up trade as well, not just businesses but sporting clubs too.

I hope you can see the economic effect it has for us and choose the right decision because if we don't support events like these, what will our little town survive on? Our towns get recognized, people begin to visit and we thrive and expand.

Tammy Martin

Owner/Operator  
Steel's Butchers



# Wedderburn Goldseeker Motel

03 5494 3002

03 5494 3642

43-49 High St, Wedderburn VIC 3518

[wedderburnmotel@gmail.com](mailto:wedderburnmotel@gmail.com)

[www.wedderburnmotel.com.au](http://www.wedderburnmotel.com.au)

20<sup>th</sup> July 2017

To whom it may concern,

As an owner operator of both the Wedderburn Goldseeker Motel and the Wedderburn Hotel we would like to voice our support for UE Industries event that has been staged in our region.

Not only has it allowed us to have all our local staff work but I have heard nothing but good feedback from the ambulance workers that stayed with us.

The event brings in direct revenue to our business and those within the region that simply would not occur otherwise, and the opportunity for tourism growth should be encouraged and supported.

All events like this have the mocker that it's just the nature of the beast, so as a promoter of live music and entertainment I would love to help these guys however I can.

I have been in the live music industry nearly all my life so anything I can do to promote this type of thing has to be positive.

Regards,  
Gary Crawley.

To Loddon Shire Council regarding Planning Application 5289, Yemaya Festival 2017.

I would like to officially support the application for a permit by the Yemaya Festival organisers.

I attended the 2016 festival and thought I would be able to locate the site by ear but after parking twice with my engine off, I could not hear music or any other noise indicating the direction. I was less than half a kilometre away coming from Borung side.

I enjoyed my first visit so much I went back out to the festival the next day. On both visits I did not witness any aggression or 'bad' behaviour. Every-one I encountered was friendly, helpful and polite. The energy was very positive and quite peaceful. A friend accompanied me and we took her 12yr old daughter with us on the last day.

As a mother with adult children I had never been to a 'bush-doo' so I was pleasantly surprised to see how well organised the festival was. From entry to the site, dust suppression in high foot traffic areas and dance spaces, to the way the on-site camping was organised, on-site toilets and drinking water facilities were central and easy to access. First-aiders and Security were visibly patrolling the whole site.

Many years ago I co-ordinated four annual art festivals for Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service in Hastings. A day of free art, craft, music and play for local children, with hot soup, bread and sausages to feed them.

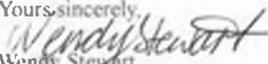
I liaised with local artists and musicians – not international acts. I had to feed around 100 hungry mouths – not 1000's. I spent 12 months negotiating with the Hastings Shire, West Park Primary School and the local community, Westernport College, local businesses etc. Our festival was minute compared to Yemaya but it does give me an insight. I can genuinely appreciate the amount of time, effort, thought and planning involved in organising a festival like Yemaya.

The benefits our Shire gained by allowing this incredible experience last year was both financial and cultural. The diverse market and various food choices were astonishing. The live stage music was wonderful. I sat on the ground for hours and had the absolute pleasure of experiencing African and South American musicians performing traditional songs in their language with traditional instruments. A fantastic and unique experience right here in North Central Victoria.

I spoke with the Bears Lagoon sporting clubs on the last day – they were hosting a traditional barbecue – and were extremely happy with the money raised for their clubs.

Our Shire should welcome this type of initiative and not make it difficult. Our local community and schools pay enormous amounts of money for our young adults to go away from the Loddon Shire to experience 'Culture' – Yemaya offers to bring an experience of World Culture to our community.

Yours sincerely,

  
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