

# MALCOLM SANDERS

PYRENEES COMMUNITY HOUSE

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*I am passionate about equity and access for our regional areas and feel that working at this grass roots level I can affect change, and hopefully make a difference.*

**MY SUPERPOWERS:** Team building and developing positive interpersonal relationships- I am deeply passionate about access and inclusion of all, and advocating for voices less heard. I know what makes a good funding application and can help someone sharpen their grant!

**ABOUT ME:** I was born in Western Victoria (Stawell) and grew up in Cobram on the Murray River. At 18, I left for Melbourne vowing never to return to the country- but 15 years ago I took a work opportunity and returned to my regional roots. I could not imagine ever living in a major city again.

I began work as a Drama teacher in the western suburbs, and working with young people has remained one of my greatest passions. I have always been particularly interested in working with young and emerging artists, supporting them in the development of their creative career paths.

The opportunity to get back to working directly with community after four years of sitting in my home office after the Pandemic was one of the key drivers of applying for this job. Having grown up in small regional communities and now currently living in a town with a population of 500, I am acutely aware of the importance of an empowered community that actively works for itself to ensure its sustainability.

I have been learning Italian for over twenty years (but lack of practice has affected my fluency recently), paint in watercolour and love to travel. My last overseas trip was to Japan for three months at the end of 2023 while on Long Service Leave.

## NH SECTOR EXPERIENCE:

Currently working with council to deliver

- Bushfire Recovery in small communities
- Food Insecurity and Access

## NH INITIATIVES:

**NEW DIRECTIONS:** I am passionate about the power of a connected community. I am working across the shire to build the visibility of the Community House, and gather information about the kinds of programs and training needed across the community.

## TOP SKILL AREAS:

- Adult Education
- Advocacy
- Arts Engagement
- Building Partnerships
- CALD Communities
- Community Capacity Building
- Community Consultation and Engagement
- Governance
- Grant Writing
- LGBTQI+
- Youth Engagement

## BEYOND THE HOUSE...

For many years I worked as a director of musical theatre for companies across Melbourne, including in 2000 a production of Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* starring Nancye Hayes and John O'May at Crown Casino. I was nominated for two Music Theatre Guild of Victoria awards for direction of *Hair* in 1996 and *Godspell* in 1997.

I sit on the on the advisory committee for Deakin University's Arts and Cultural Management courses, am the Chair of the Arts, Crafts and Cookery Committee of the Melbourne Royal Show, where I am also one of the Photography judges and a Steward of the competition. This year I am also also volunteering at the Beaufort Show in November, where I will be judging the Photography and Craft, and corralling the cookery entries. I serve on the Board of the Lake Bolac Bush Nursing Centre.

Museums and art galleries are my happy place.