

Upbicycle Program Expands to Kyabram

December 2025

Vivid's innovative *UPbicycle Program* is expanding to Kyabram, thanks to a meaningful and environmentally-friendly collaboration with Kyabram's St Augustine's College and the Kyabram Community and Learning Centre (KCLC).

With support from a \$10,000 *Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) grant*, Vivid will have the opportunity to grow from its High Street Echuca workshop and rescue more bikes from landfill that can be repaired and rehomed across the community, including in Kyabram.

Affectionately known as the 'Bike Shop', this facility has become a hub for collection, repairing and skill sharing since it opened over five years ago. Headed by Vivid's Nathaniel Smith, program participants are given the opportunity to learn skills that involve repairing and preparing bikes for sale, and to conduct a delivery service each Friday.

Vivid Learning Manager Sue Green said the *UPbicycle Program* provides a wonderful opportunity for learning and growth, as well as connecting to the local community.

"The guys really love it. And there are many skills needed, including hand-eye coordination, as well as the social interaction in a proper workshop environment," Sue said.

"The ultimate aim of this program is to help embed people with a disability into their local communities and this is a program that truly fits the mould by getting people out into the community and learning skills. It really does tick all the boxes!

"This program also allows Vivid to give back, as well as offering important connections and feeling part of the community," she said.

Integral to the program in Echuca is the support by local police and the Campaspe Transfer Centre, who supply unclaimed and discarded bikes to Vivid for repair and sale. Locals can also donate bikes they no longer need, which is a wonderful way to include community families and foster upcycling and giving.

Members of the Kyabram community had been travelling to Echuca to be involved in the program for some time, but the December 2025 expansion means they can continue this involvement in their very own community.

The expansion of the *UPbicycle Program* to Kyabram has been underpinned by the important collaboration between two key local organisations, and according to KCLC spokesperson Claire Perrella "it is about far more than refurbished bikes".

"This program is restoring independence, dignity and joy. By providing safe, reliable bicycles to families and individuals in our community who might otherwise go without, we're helping people reconnect with their community, improve their wellbeing, and experience the simple freedom that a bike brings," Claire said.

"Especially around Christmas, when financial pressures can weigh heavily, this project delivers hope and happiness right where it's needed most. It's a powerful reminder of what our community can achieve when we look out for one another."

Vivid and KCLC's collaboration comes on the back of a strong partnership through a local *Community Meal Program*, which brings people together and supports inclusion across the Kyabram region.

"The *UPbicycle* project builds beautifully on that relationship and takes it in a new direction, one that's practical, empowering and full of heart," Claire said.

St Augustine's VCE Vocational Major students have been given the chance to satisfy a curriculum requirement for community involvement through the *UPbicycle Program*, however Learning Leader Peter Fawcett says the program offers much more to both the students and the school than simply meeting an obligation.

"It's great to have a program based in Kyabram that can benefit multiple organisations over a long period of time, including Vivid clients and staff, KCLC, community volunteers and our students – not to mention the community recipients of refurbished bikes," Peter said.

"This initiative will provide students with a meaningful hands-on learning experience while contributing to their education outcomes. It will also provide students the opportunity to engage with clients of Vivid, hopefully allowing them to develop new friendships.

"In the long-term, the local community will have the opportunity to purchase a second-hand bicycle at a very reasonable price and we know this could help many families who are looking for children's gifts or a means of alternative town-based transport," he said.

Vivid is calling on the communities of Echuca and Kyabram to get involved with the *UPbicycle Program* by either donating their old or second hand bikes, as well as spare bike parts to support an initiative that benefits so many.

"In the past we've received some valued donations of bike parts and any donation to the program allows us to put it back into the repairing and selling of our bikes," Sue said.

"As a not-for-profit, any surplus goes towards buying new tools, unsaleable bikes are pulled apart for reuse or recycle and we can also sell any scrap metal back to the Campaspe Transfer Station - it's a full circular economy."

The Vivid *UPbicycle Program* opens for business in Kyabram on Friday December 12 - just in time for Christmas. You can visit the Echuca based 'Bike Shop' from Monday to Thursday between 9.30am and 3.30pm at 288 High Street.