

Advance Heathcote Inc was established in January 2015 following the review and redevelopment of the 2014-2017 Heathcote & District Community Plan. Our fifth Newsletter reports on achievements across the six Goals driving our Community Plan.

Heathcote Township Plan

The Heathcote Township Plan at looks at how Heathcote can grow into the future and what services, facilities and infrastructure is required to support that growth. In May, the Township Plan will be presented to Council for adoption. Draft Township Plan recommendations include improvements to High Street, various planning scheme changes, establishing a network of cycling and walking paths and preparation of an investment prospectus for new and existing businesses. It is also recommended an Implementation Committee be established to oversee the implementation of the Heathcote Township Plan. In addition to this, the Committee will also provide a conduit for sharing information and providing local input into various projects happening in Heathcote. For more information on the Heathcote Township Plan go www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/heathcotetp or call Senior Strategic Planner, Andrew Cockerall at the City of Greater Bendigo on 5434 6292.

Dementia Village

In June 2018 Bridge Advisory Group was engaged by Heathcote Health on behalf of the Heathcote Dementia Village Steering Committee to undertake a 'proof of concept' feasibility study for the Heathcote Dementia Village Proposal. The feasibility study has included analyses of current industry trends, design trends, market, clinical services planning, community network and green care infrastructure. Bridge Advisory Group has finalised their study and have concluded that there is a feasible and sustainable business case for the development of the Heathcote Dementia Village and associated training, education and accommodation facilities. The Heathcote Dementia Village Steering Committee is now considering the next steps.

Heathcote Health Access & Support Hub

The main reception area of Heathcote Health has been redesigned to provide a more welcoming 'front door' for our local community seeking access to cancer, aged care, disability, health and wellbeing, mental health services and supports. Drop in for information on support services.



Local Heroes Awards

Advance Heathcote Inc launched the *Local Heroes Award* for service to community at their AGM in October 2018. The Local Heroes Awards are presented to individuals or groups who help build pride and capacity in the Heathcote community. The inaugural Award recipients were:

- The Heathcote Community Pool Project Inc
- Heathcote Community Children's Services Assoc Inc
- Never Give Up Group
- Boyd Zimmerman
- Andre Booyzen, Mandalay Resources-Costerfield



Public & Community Transport

The Community Plan has highlighted the need for increased access to public and community transport in Heathcote. The increase in the frequency of public transport bus trips between Heathcote and Bendigo has been very well received by the Heathcote and district community and by people from Bendigo coming to Heathcote on day trips. The Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria 'Community Transport Pilot' has also been well supported, with over 200 registered clients; providing an average of 18 transports per day during February 2019. Heathcote Health and Advance Heathcote Inc. have each been successful in obtaining Transport for Victoria

grants through their Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program. Heathcote Health is partnering with Bendigo TAFE and other local stakeholders to grow the volunteer base for community transport projects in the Loddon Mallee Region. Advance Heathcote Inc. is leading an initiative to develop information and publicity on local transport options to promote greater use, improved signage, seating and shelter at bus stops.

Heathcote Integrated Civic Precinct

The focus of this project is the rejuvenation of the Municipal Office, former Courthouse and Mechanics Institute buildings as well as the adjoining open space, to ensure these City assets continue to meet current and future community needs. One of the primary considerations for the Precinct is facilitating the co-location of government and community services to improve public access and outcomes. The first Draft Concept plan has been released and community comment is being sought until late April. Project Bulletins providing more information on the Precinct along with details on how to provide feedback are available from the Heathcote Municipal Office.

Bunbunarik Children's Hub

Bunbunarik Children's Hub is a wonderful example of Heathcote's *can-do-mojo!* In November 2017, a local community not-for-profit organisation, Heathcote Community Services Association Inc. (HCCSA Inc) was formed to steer the establishment of the childcare centre. HCCSA Inc had to raise considerable funds so they formed a tri-partnership-consisting of not-for-profit/for profit/public organisations. This partnership was highly successful and secured the funds required for the project. In less than 15 months, HCCSA Inc has been able to achieve what was thought to be impossible – a \$1.8m 'state of the art' children's facility. The Project had extraordinary support from a huge group of dedicated and committed volunteers who worked tirelessly and contributed in excess of 1200 hours, equating to \$50,000 (ABS calculation). This flagship Project will be the catalyst for Heathcote's future development, not only will it provide much needed childcare and free children and family services but will also be an economic stimulus to our community.



Bunbunarik Child Care Centre – outdoor play area

The facility houses a 76-placement childcare centre, plus a Children's Services Hub to facilitate access to local and responsive early childhood services for early years education,

health and wellbeing services in a safe and secure environment. The community space has been designed to facilitate a range of activities from workshops, education and training, playgroups, including intergenerational play. It is also the first facility in Heathcote to install a major solar power system, 25KVA (90 panels) which will help HCCSA Inc generate a small income to offset operational costs. To find out more about the range of early education, health and well-being services and programs, visit the website: www.bunbunarik.com.au.

Bunbunarik is an example of how small rural communities can overcome insurmountable challenges to reach the end goal of community childcare services which was listed in the initial Heathcote Community Plan in 2007! Congratulations - an exceptional achievement by a dedicated HCCSA Inc.

Town Infra-Structure Update

Many of these projects originated in the first Heathcote & District Community Plan developed in 2007. Persistence and advocacy pay off!

Heathcote Community Pool: Stage 2 Solar Project – Works to construct a new shade shelter and solar heating system have commenced at the Pool and are expected to be completed by the end of June, well in time for the 2019/2020 swimming season. The Solar Project involves construction of a shelter over the toddler's pool and the installation of more solar tubing to heat the main pool to provide a warmer water temperature throughout the summer swimming season. The Heathcote Community Pool Project raised \$99,000 specifically for the Stage 2 Solar Project! A great fundraising effort!

Barrack Stadium Re-Development – This project is finally completed with the installation of a new netball court. The facility was re-designed to incorporate *a whole of community* approach for multiple usage. It is a great facility for sporting activities, meetings, events, conferences, weddings, wakes and celebrations.

Visitor Information Centre Public Toilet Renewal – This project was funded \$300,000 in the City of Greater Bendigo 2017-2018 Budget. The tender for the Project has recently been closed and the contractor is about to be awarded so hopefully works will commence in May.

Chauncey Street Footbridge – The footbridge is currently being installed. A new footpath will be linked to the footbridge from High Street.

High Street Beautification – The Township Plan highlighted this local issue and lists recommendations for comprehensive improvements to the High Street precinct for beautification: including tree planting, seating, cycle and walking paths, extension of 50kph past IGA and traffic management.

Keep in touch with Advance Heathcote Inc:
Meets third Wednesday @ 10am-12 noon in Barrack Stadium
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