

Advance Heathcote Inc was established in January 2015 following the review and development of the 2014-2017 Heathcote & District Community Plan. The fourth Newsletter reports on the five Theme Group activities/projects listed in our Community Plan.

INVITATION to 2018-2021 Community Plan Development Meetings

The current 2014-2017 Heathcote & District Community Plan has concluded and Advance Heathcote Inc is running two community meetings, inviting you to come along to *"have your say"* and tell us what you think needs to be in our next Plan. The first meeting will be held at **Barrack Reserve Stadium on Tuesday, 17th October 2017**. There will be two sessions you can attend: 2.00pm – 4.30pm or 6.00–8.30pm. A second meeting will follow to present the Draft 2017-2021 Heathcote Community Plan before presenting it to Council. Contact: Sherrie Coote on 0417 598 460 for information.

CHILDCARE Services in Heathcote, One Step Closer

Earlier this year Mandalay Resources appointed Sandra Slatter to assist kick-starting the momentum to investigate a suite of childcare options for Heathcote. Prior to Sandra's appointment, substantial community effort had already gone into a feasibility study and surveying local needs. Following extensive business planning, site selection and service provider discussions, a hybrid children's community hub including a community managed long day care model is now one step closer. In addition, thanks to the commitment of local schools, after-hours care and an early literacy intervention Supported Playgroup are also in the advanced planning stages. In the meantime, expressions of interest from suitably credentialed community members to assist with foundation governance are welcome. Please contact Sandra Slatter: sdslatter@gmail.com to register your interest.

Arts, Culture, History & Events Update

Advance Heathcote Inc hosted a community meeting to see if there was interest in a new event in town – a Heathcote Mini-Writers' Festival. Fifteen people attended the meeting and were very enthusiastic about the development of a writing event. It was agreed to start small in Spring 2018 and grow the event. A Working Group has been formed and will report back with options and developments. If you are interested, contact Vanessa Wiltshire on: vanessa.wiltshire@yahoo.com.au.

The RSL Hall has been receiving positive feedback on its new *warmth* and *lighting* while attending events over Winter as well as enjoyment using the new crockery and cutlery. The walls of the main Hall will soon be decorated with 10 large format photographs of iconic Heathcote locations. This project has been supported by Mandalay Resources, Heathcote Tourism & Development and the Community Bank. Also, the City of Greater Bendigo have allocated resources to design and cost the refurbishment of the toilets and works will hopefully be undertaken in 2018-2019.

Built & Natural Environment Theme Update

Since the last Newsletter, a lot has occurred regarding Heathcote's natural environment. An enthusiastic and committed group of local volunteers have formed the Heathcote Landcare Group with Pat Armstrong as the co-ordinator. Their initial plan is to concentrate on cleaning up and making more accessible the banks of the Mclvor Creek within the town precinct. The Landcare Group was formed with the assistance of the Northern Central Catchment Authority who provided some initial funding. The group would welcome

volunteers to this work with them on this worthy community project. Get involved, contact Kevin on 0457 070 160



Walking & bike trail to the Valley of the Liquid Ambers parklands

The first two Trails, Pink Cliffs and The Valley of the Liquid Ambers (part of the planned Heathcote Spur Trail Walking & Riding Network) are soon to become reality with the support from the Community Bank, Heathcote Tourism and the City of Greater Bendigo. Both Trails commence from the Visitors Information Centre; Pink Cliffs Trail uses parts of the O'Keefe Trail, then does a loop passing the historic cemetery, onto the Pink Cliffs then returns to town. The second short Trail from the Visitors Information Centre takes people to the Valley of the Liquid Ambers - an ideal place for a pleasant break, picnic or stroll to other walks.

The longer 20 kms Winery Trail (that will finalise the Spur Trail Project) has been incorporated into the planning for a full trail network from Murchison to Heathcote covering both bush trails, tracks and the winery trail. Heathcote will offer a cycling

and walking hub, a junction point with the O'Keefe Trail and these proposed trails. It is early days but the concept has the attention of State planning bodies.

Employment, Education & Training Theme Update

Current activities include:

- The Heathcote Community Capacity Builders (HCCB), auspiced through the Heathcote Community House is holding a **"Strengthening Volunteering in Heathcote"** lunch for volunteers in local community groups on Wednesday, 11th October, 12 noon at the Heathcote RSL Hall. RSVP on: 5431 0930.
- The Heathcote Community Games, now auspiced by the Heathcote Community House is a series of community events throughout the year promoting healthy and active living. Next event is planned for November 2017.
- A range of education and industry training courses are offered through the Community House.
- Ongoing development of the Community Garden and food swap program.
Contact: www.heathcotecommunityhouse.org

Health & Wellbeing Theme Group Update

This Newsletter provides the opportunity to highlight significant achievements of our Community Plan:

- Securing funding of \$150,000 for Stage 1 of the Feasibility Study for a Dementia Village to be established in Heathcote.
- Construction of the \$3 million Primary Care Centre at Heathcote Health resulting in increased access to GP and allied health services; significant refurbishment of the Heathcote Health aged care facilities enhancing common areas, disability access, fire safety and clinical support.
- Completion of the three-year *'Improving the Health of Communities Through Participation'* action research study in Heathcote led by La Trobe University and Heathcote Health.
- Establishment of a locally-based Home Care Packages program for Heathcote and District residents; securing ongoing and additional funding for a broad range of home and community care services.
- Establishment of the annual O'Keefe Rail Trail Marathon, now known as The O'Keefe Challenge.
- Holding a range of events, forums and training programs in Heathcote to enhance local capacity to promote good mental health and improve access to mental health services.

If you are interested in joining the Health & Wellbeing Group, or simply attending a Theme Group Meeting, contact our Theme Champion, Dan Douglass at Heathcote Health: 5431 0900.

Infrastructure & Economic Development Theme Update

Barrack Stadium Re-Development – This project has been completed and the Stadium will have its official opening in November. It is a great resource for the community and a space to think about for community meetings or functions.



Recently re-developed Barrack Reserve Stadium

Natural Gas - The Brookfield Regional Networks Natural Gas installation continues with a significant part of the network already installed; completion and connection anticipated by the end of 2017.

Coliban Water & Sewerage Extension - This project has experienced some delays and is now scheduled for completion in the first half of 2018.

Signage - The Draft Signage Strategy has been completed and is now with VIC Roads and the City of Greater Bendigo for inclusion in appropriate budgets. As soon as these are finalised, they will be available for viewing. This Draft Report covers both Regional signage as well as in-town directional signage for services and facilities.

Footpaths - The City of Greater Bendigo has agreed to undertake a review of all footpaths as part of the Township Plan and report back to the community regarding budget allocation and schedule for the completion of works.

Visitor Centre Public Toilet - This has been a long-standing community issue and the City of Greater Bendigo Council have acknowledged that it is in need of attention and allocated \$300,000.00 for works this financial year. Discussion on timing and extent of works is still to be established.

Chauncey Street Footbridge - Council agreed the Chauncey Street Lyall Bridge poses pedestrian safety issues and have allocated \$40,000 to undertake the footbridge design and costings resulting in a revised plan which will be considerably cheaper than previous proposed solutions. We are working with the relevant parties to get a solution for the community.

Street Beautification - The four corners adjacent to the Visitor Information Centre have been landscaped and planted. On 23rd September, the banner poles were replaced in High Street and new banners will fly providing some colour and movement in the town. Community groups will be able to use the banner poles to promote community events.

Keep in touch with Advance Heathcote Inc on:
info@advanceheathcote.com
www.advanceheathcote.com