

# CONNECTING COMMUNITY

## Your Communities in Action Update



Newsletter No. 2 – July 2007

### Communities In Action – Council Review Underway to Assess Program's Progress

In December 2005, Moorabool Shire Council launched its innovative *Communities In Action* pilot program. *Communities In Action* introduced a new chapter to the way Council communicates, plans and works with local communities.

Work has been done to establish community reference groups across the Shire. These groups work with Council to identify and plan implementation of key community priorities, and provide input into the way Council conducts its business to ensure the best outcomes for the Shire are achieved.

Eighteen months on, Council is embarking on a review of the pilot program to assess the program's success, ascertain its strengths and weaknesses and determine the best way to progress *Communities In Action* into the future.

Mayor of Moorabool Shire, Cr Dianne McAuliffe, said Council is committed to enhancing relationships already established through the *Communities In Action* pilot program and that it will continue to engage with communities on the future of the Shire. The Mayor went on to say that *Communities In Action* needs to evolve to ensure the program meets the requirements of the communities it represents.

"A review of the *Communities In Action* program will give community members and Council an opportunity to test the thinking and objectives behind the program, re-confirm its purpose and consider how to move the program forward."

"Working together to review *Communities in Action* will make the process more robust and representative of Moorabool communities. It will improve communications between the community and Council and will strengthen community capacity and participation."

"*Communities In Action* is an important, high priority project for Council; one that it wants to carry out properly to maximise its potential, longevity and success."

(continued overleaf...)

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### **Communities in Action – Council Review Underway to Assess Program's Progress (continued...)**

Moorabool Shire Council CEO, Robert Dobrzynski, praised those involved in the program to date for their ongoing dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to improving the Shire for all residents.

"*Communities In Action* has reiterated to Council the vast number of passionate, active people who live and work in the Shire. It is for the benefit of these and other Moorabool residents that this review be undertaken. Council wants to make sure that *Communities In Action* is as user-friendly as possible and take the necessary steps to guarantee its long-term success. "

"Evaluating the pilot phase will give Council a chance to discuss what has and has not worked so far, and by capturing the experiences of the first community clusters involved, we will have a knowledge base which other community groups can tap into and which will shape the future direction of *Communities in Action*. "

"*Communities in Action* will work best when community and Council all have input into designing the ongoing program. In undertaking a review, Council hopes to broaden the discussion and engagement to include community members who have not yet been involved."

Moorabool Shire Council enlisted the services of Clark Phillips Consultants to implement the *Communities In Action* pilot program. Over the past 18 months, Clark Phillips has worked to establish four pilot locality reference groups and seek resource options for Council which will enable the implantation of *Communities In Action* across the whole Shire.

Thanks in no small part to the way communities have embraced *Communities In Action*, and to the consultation and facilitation work undertaken by Clark Phillips, representatives from five locality reference groups have developed community priorities which have been considered as part of Council's 2007/08 Annual Planning and Budget process. Considerable work has been achieved with the communities surrounding Balliang and Rowsley, Blackwood and district, Lal Lal/ Navigators/Yendon and Gordon under the pilot phase of *Communities in Action*.

Of the pilot groups initially established by Clark Phillips:

- Blackwood/Simmons Reef/Barrys Reef is continuing to meet independently on a regular basis and is working with Council and local CFA groups to address fire and weed management issues within the area;
- Gordon/Portland Flat is keen to establish a formal representative group and address its number one priority – connecting community; and
- Lal Lal/Navigators/Elaine/Yendon has identified a project which will address weed management, tourism, heritage and walking trails and is in discussions with Council and other stakeholders on how to progress this.

During 2007, initial public meetings have also been held with:

- Beremboke, Mt Wallace, Fiskville, Yaloak;
- Dales Creek, Korobeit, Greendale, Myrniong, Pentland Hills, Hogan Flat; and
- Ballan and Ingliston.

"Clark Phillips Consultants has played a significant and important role in encouraging community participation in *Communities In Action* to date," Mr Dobrzynski commented. "The work they have undertaken sets the foundation for establishing a long-term, two-way partnership between Council and the community that will provide benefits for everyone."

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### **Communities in Action – Council Review Underway to Assess Program's Progress (continued...)**

"Clark Phillips has now completed its contract with Council. Moorabool Shire Council acknowledges the important role Clark Phillips has played in the *Communities In Action* pilot program and thanks the organisation for its hard work."

"As Council moves into the evaluation phase of the program, it has recruited the expertise of Equal Say Australia to carry out the review process," Mr Dobrzynski said.

Equal Say Australia endeavors to establish a set of common values and develop a shared vision of Moorabool's future throughout the review process. It will work with Council and *Communities In Action* community groups to achieve this.

Mayor McAuliffe assured Moorabool residents that regular updates of the review will be communicated.

"Upcoming *Communities in Action* meetings and updates on the review will be advised via the local media, Council's website, the Moorabool Online website, mail outs to *Communities In Action* participants, in Council's community newsletter, Moorabool Matters, and in the new bi-monthly Connecting Community – your *Communities In Action* Update newsletter. "

"Council invites residents to become involved with the *Communities In Action* review. Residents wishing to find out more should contact Customer Service on 5366 7100."

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## **Sustainability and Environment**

### **Mapping Moorabool's Biodiversity**

Moorabool Shire Council is conducting a biodiversity survey of the Shire to find and document its precious flora and fauna assets.

Biodiversity mapping will record parcels of land which contain indigenous (local native) vegetation communities, rare or endangered species, native wildlife or habitat values of national, state, regional, municipal or local significance.

To gain a thorough understanding of the significant biodiversity values in Moorabool, Council wants to include private property in this study.

Local residents, or those with an interest in the native flora and fauna of the area, are invited to share their knowledge of the special places of environmental significance within the Shire with Council. Information contributed by residents will assist in the development of a comprehensive database of the Shire's natural resources.

This will enable Council to provide protection for threatened species and plant communities, and will help inform land care groups and the general community about their natural environment and the best locations for the great variety of indigenous plants that exist or have existed in the past.

The information developed and contained on the maps will also feed into biodiversity action planning, where measures for restoration, protection and enhancement can be planned as well as being a valuable tool in implementing Catchment Management Authority native vegetation plans at a local level.

If you would like to view the maps, or would like to register your interest in participating in the biodiversity mapping process, please contact Michelle Hanslow, Biodiversity Mapping and Project Officer, on 5366 7100.

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### **Sport and Recreation**

#### **Moorabool receives over \$150,000 funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria**

Moorabool Shire Council has been successful in securing more than \$150,000 funding from the State Government to undertake projects to improve sporting facilities within the Shire.

Accompanied with funding from Council, the community, in kind support and/or other funding bodies, this funding will contribute toward the undertaking of eight projects in 2007/08.

Sporting clubs across the Shire will benefit from works undertaken as a result of the funding grants. These projects include redeveloping the existing tennis courts in Ballan, a junior baseball diamond at Mason's Lane Recreation Reserve, a motorised pool blanket at Bacchus Marsh public pool and improvements to Bacchus Marsh Racecourse, Gordon, Bungaree and Wallace recreation reserves.

Through the Sport and Recreation Victoria Community Facility Funding Program (CFFP), three projects have received funding and will be implemented during 2007/08:

- **Ballan Tennis Court Redevelopment**

Council will work with the Ballan Tennis Club and Ballan Committee of Management during 2007/08 to successfully redevelop the Ballan Tennis Courts to a condition that meets court standards and services the needs of the community.

Funding consists of \$29,400 from the CFFP; \$10,700 contribution from Council and in kind/community contribution of \$3,900.

- **Bacchus Marsh Baseball Club Junior Baseball Diamond**

Council will work with the Bacchus Marsh Baseball Club and Mason's Lane Committee of Management throughout 2007/08 to construct a junior baseball diamond at Mason's Lane Recreation Reserve.

Funding consists of \$17,835 from the CCFP and \$5,700 from in kind/community contributions.

- **Indoor Pool Feasibility Study**

Council will undertake a feasibility study on the establishment of an indoor heated pool aquatic centre within Moorabool Shire. The study will determine the viability of this type of asset within the Shire, the most appropriate location for the facility and to ascertain social, financial and environmental expectations. An indoor pool facility has been identified by the community in two key Council studies – the Leisure Services Best Value Report and the Moorabool Shire Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2007.

Successful funding applications submitted to the State Government's Sport and Recreation Victoria Drought Relief for Country Sports Program (DRCSP) 2007 include:

- **Gordon Recreation Reserve**

Council will sink a bore to feed into the existing dam at the Gordon Recreation Reserve. Power will be connected and a bore pump and irrigation pump will be installed.

Funding consists of \$25,000 from the DRCSP, Council contribution of \$12,500 (pending adoption of 2007/08 budget), and in-kind/community contributions of \$7,300.

- **Bacchus Marsh Public Swimming Pool**

Council will use this funding to purchase a motorised blanket for the pool.

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Funding from DRCSP of \$20,000 and Council contribution of \$10,000 pending adoption of 2007/08 budget.

- **Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Reserve**

Council will sink a bore to feed into the existing dam at the Racecourse Reserve.

Funding from DRCSP of \$25,000; in kind/community contribution of \$8,400 and other, unconfirmed external funding of \$18,300.

- **Bungaree Recreation Reserve**

Council will sink a bore, install a bore pump, an irrigation pump and a water tank, and erect a fence at Bungaree Recreation Reserve.

Funding from DRCSP - \$10,000; Council contribution (pending adoption of Budget) - \$5,000; In kind/community contribution - \$19,600

- **Wallace Recreation Reserve**

Council will install a tank, erect a security fence and install a small pressure pump at the netball shed to supply water to the toilets. A mobile pump to irrigate the oval will also be purchased.

Funding - DRCSP - \$10,000; Council contribution (pending adoption of Budget) - \$1,400; In kind/community contribution - \$3,600

## Grants Finder

The **Australia Post Community Development Grant** is now **OPEN**.

**Region:** National     **Amounts:** \$3,300     **Closing Date:** Friday, 14 September 2007

**Purpose:** To help enhance the capacity of community groups to undertake landcare and other environmental projects.

**Short Overview:**

This program is a joint initiative of Australia Post and Landcare Australia. It provides funds of up to \$3,300 (including GST) for local community projects across Australia. The funds help enhance the capacity of community groups to undertake landcare and other environmental projects. The grants can support groups undertaking environmental community projects, such as:

- Workshops, field days or volunteer days
- Tools and equipment
- Project promotion to encourage community involvement
- Projects that support the group to involve the wider community to meet an environmental need (for example, action on erosion, water quality or weed issues)

**Who can apply:** Any community group undertaking strategic projects to care for the environment, including Landcare groups, youth groups and indigenous groups.

**Contact Details:**

**Phone:** (02) 9412 1040

**Email:** [inquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:inquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au)

**Website Info:**

[http://www.landcareonline.com/funding\\_opportunity\\_details.asp?fo\\_id=9](http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=9)

*(Information brought to you by [ourcommunity.com.au](http://ourcommunity.com.au)).*

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### Blackwood, Barry's Reef, Simmons Reef

**Contacts:** Laurie Byers (Chair – 5368 6701)  
Susie Deeble (Secretary – 5368 6638)

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 11 September from 7.30pm at the  
CFA Rooms, Blackwood

#### Current Projects:

- Fire and Weed Management - The group continues to meet independently on a regular basis and are working with Council, DSE and local CFA groups to address fire and weed management issues within the area.
- Small Towns Sewering Project – Central Highlands Water. Landcare is assisting residents to investigate less expensive and better options for sewerage in Blackwood.
- The lack of youth services for Blackwood and district communities is of concern – the group have suggested working with Council and Ballan and District Health on a booklet outlining services available to youth within the area.
- Blackwood Easter Woodchop 2008. This is a fantastic day on the Moorabool Events Calendar and one which brings newcomers and money into the town. Planning for next year's event is underway and assistance from locals is being sought.



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### Time is running out to have your town featured in the 2008 Community Calendar

*Would you like your town to be promoted to the entire Moorabool Shire?*

*Does your town have special people or places other people don't yet know about?*

Have your town showcased in the Community Calendar for 2008!

Representatives from hamlets and towns across the Shire are encouraged to get their registration in fast to ensure their town can be featured in the 2008 Community Calendar.

**Spaces are filling quickly, so registration is a must!**

Council is looking for enthusiastic people to join a combined working group to produce next year's Community Calendar, which will showcase 12 of Moorabool's communities. Each community will have their own page to highlight their individual towns, people and sights.

To register your interest in joining the Community Calendar working group, please call Customer Service on 5366 7100 or email [info@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moorabool.vic.gov.au)

**Registrations close Tuesday 31 July 2007.**



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### Lal Lal, Navigators, Yendon, Elaine

#### Your Community Priorities

Throughout the *Communities in Action* consultation process, residents from Lal Lal, Yendon and Navigators have identified the following key issue areas:

- Weed management and pest animals
- Community heritage and tourism
- Railway and road safety and quality
- Land use, planning and water catchments
- Communication with Council
- Telecommunications
- Community development



Winter wonderland at the newly upgraded Navigators Hall

#### Current Projects

##### Emergency Water for Navigators

A community meeting to discuss emergency water for Navigators in the form of a metered hydrant was held at the Navigators Hall on 5 July 2007.

At this meeting, the following was determined:

- there is still community demand for a metered hydrant;
- there is a preference for a system which is administered within the Navigators community;
- a sub-committee of residents to address issues around entitlement for usage, fees, and access points was established; and
- Council would follow up with Central Highlands Water to obtain formal approval for the metered hydrant.

The sub-committee are meeting again on 17 July 2007 at the Navigators Hall to continue work on this project.

##### Weed Management/Walking Trail/Recognising Our Heritage Project

One of the issues identified and addressed by *Communities in Action* in this area has been weed management, in particular, gorse control along the railway from Navigators to Lal Lal.

In the short term, the gorse is under control thanks to a successful partnering of the communities involvement, Council's Environmental Management unit and DSE.

But it got the community thinking what if...?

- What if there was a way of continuing the cleaning up of vegetation along the railway through the development of a walking trail from Navigators through Lal Lal to Elaine?
- What if Heritage and Tourism information could be included along the walking trail?
- What if volunteers within the community could be found to get the project running?

Council is working with the residents who asked these questions to explore ways of progressing these ideas.

# **CONNECTING COMMUNITY**

## **Your Communities in Action Update**

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### **Lal Lal, Navigators, Yendon, Elaine (continued...)**

#### **Open for Business!**

Gerald Mullane Reserve at Navigators has undergone a facelift with funding secured from Council in the 2006/07 financial year and the combined efforts of the Committee of Management, residents and Ballarat Regional Industries (BRI) – Work for the Dole Scheme.

As part of the revamp, full refurbishment of the hall interior and Tennis Club Room has been undertaken. During paint-stripping of the hall, original stencils were uncovered and have been recreated as part of the new, traditional colour scheme. The Navigators Community Centre Committee of Management oversaw the project and directed savings towards upgrading the heater, adding storage cupboards and installing more efficient lighting.

Landscaping works to the grounds have been completed by BRI – Work for the Dole participants over the past six months. The project has provided participants with multiple trade skills, experience in working as a team and connecting community. The addition of two picnic tables (with wheelchair access) in the grounds has made this community area more accessible for everyone.

Congratulations to the Committee of Management and residents for the revitalisation of this central meeting point within the Navigators community.



**For hall bookings please contact  
Marita Austin on 5334 7032**

**R to L:**

Mark Ryan, President of Navigators Community Centre, Cr Pat Toohey, and Laurie Mullane at the re-opening

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## **Easing the Effect of Drought for Moorabool's Elderly Community**

Leaking taps, dripping showers and trickling toilets – all of these problems around the home can impact on water storages. But elderly Home and Aged Care (HACC) eligible residents in Moorabool Shire's stage four water restriction areas (Central Highlands water areas) – including Gordon, Ballan, Bungaree, Mt Egerton and Wallace – can breathe a sigh of relief.

Help is at hand thanks to \$10,000 funding received from Department of Human Services (DHS) to assist existing and eligible HACC clients to drought-proof their homes and promote safe water saving practices. Council will pay for a professional to assess their homes and drought-proof them. Where required, Council will fund the replacement of

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### **Easing the Effect of Drought for Moorabool's Elderly Community** *(continued...)*

washers in leaking taps, will install water efficient shower heads in showers, redirect grey water to gardens and provide useful, safe water saving tips.

This will not only assist elderly people with water conservation but will have a flow-on effect in reducing water bill expenses.

This special offer is open to all existing HACC clients and eligible HACC clients. Funding is limited, so people are encouraged to enquire about the offer quickly. Elderly residents in the western part of the Shire should contact Council's HACC Coordination Unit on 5366 7100 to find out more.

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# Thank You

...to everyone who contributed to this edition of **CONNECTING COMMUNITY – Your Communities in Action Update** and to those of you who called / emailed to give your feedback.

We're always looking for community stories and ideas on how we can improve. If you'd like to contribute to our next edition (due out mid-September) please contact Tamsin Luke on 5366 7100 or email: [cia@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:cia@moorabool.vic.gov.au) by Tuesday 4 September 2007.

Our distribution list is growing...

**CONNECTING COMMUNITY** is now available from MC Online, individual town websites and Council's website. If you would like to register for our e-mailing list (saves trees and you can forward to your friends) please send your details to:

[cia@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:cia@moorabool.vic.gov.au)

**DO YOU WANT YOUR BUSINESS TO THRIVE IN THE E-AGE?**

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**A Victorian Government Initiative**

**Receive Grant Subsidy Support from the Victorian Government**

**Valued @ \$2,200, it will cost you only \$199 to improve e-Commerce in your business**



**Designed for small to medium businesses, this subsidised program will e-Change the way you do business.**

The Program consists of four practical and informative workshops with a small group of 12 like-minded businesses. You will learn how you can use e-Commerce, online Internet Marketing, cost effective Internet systems and software, and marketing techniques to achieve an excellent mix of online and offline marketing and communication outcomes that retains, maintains and gains customers. All participants receive an eChange Workbook.

You also receive nine (9) hours consulting from Competitive Edge, a professional marketing, strategy, multimedia/ e-Commerce organisation, to work with you on a specific project for your business. Examples of projects you could choose are:

- § **New website development &/or renovation**
- § **Corporate profiles & product & service brochures**
- § **Promotional, brochures, leaflets**
- § **Optimisation of websites & online business structuring**
- § **Payment gateways to enable you to sell online**
- § **Online surveys – e.g. customer satisfaction surveys**
- § **E-Office & e-Commerce in-house workshops/ consultation**

Your chosen project will utilise online e-Change activities to complement your existing business promotion, management style and marketing activities.

**REGISTRATION - [www.comedge.com.au/echange](http://www.comedge.com.au/echange)**

**Moorabool Shire Council**

Simon Jackson

Phone: (03) 5366 7100

Email: [sjackson@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:sjackson@moorabool.vic.gov.au)

**WORKSHOP DATES & TIMING**

**July 24, 31, Aug 07 & Sep 04**

**6 pm - 9 pm**

or contact

**Competitive Edge**

Tel: (03) 9853 1899

Email: [comedge@comedge.com.au](mailto:comedge@comedge.com.au)

**VENUE**

**Supper Room,**

**213, Main Street, Bacchus Marsh**