



# CRESWICK WARD TOWNSHIP & DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN

2013 - 2017

***GIVING VOICE TO COMMUNITY  
ASPIRATIONS***

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**FINAL Draft January 2014**

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**Thanks**

The CWCC would like to make known its appreciation and thanks to all those who assisted with input via the feedback sheets and meeting attendance. Special thanks are due to the children at the local primary schools, where over 180 pupils contributed to the democratic process by their involvement. They are the future citizens of this area, and therefore will eventually take over the roles we all presently hold.

## **Introduction:**

This Community Plan is presented by the Creswick Ward Community Committee following extensive public consultation. All members of the Creswick Ward Community Committee (CWCC), an advisory committee to Hepburn Shire Council are volunteers. Members are appointed by Council as individuals and do not represent any particular group.

The aim of the Creswick Ward Community Committee, (CWCC) is to work with the community to review and revise the existing plan and to develop a new plan 2013 - 2017 that specifically:

- Recognises the interests and aspirations of the community
- Provides guidance for development in order to stimulate appropriate economic and social development within the community
- Identifies ways to provide improved coordination of initiatives within the community
- Provides advice and recommendations to Council about major projects, including capital works that support the outcomes of the Creswick Ward Community Plan 2013-2017.

As well as providing advice to Council for consideration on the implementation of this Community Plan, the Committee plays a strategic and facilitative role in working with community to coordinate implementation of the Plan. This Plan also names projects and initiatives identified by the community as a priority for future consideration.

*The CWCC has made a commitment to develop transparent and accessible processes to enable all individuals, groups, businesses and Council officers to communicate using a known and agreed process, to promote and advance this Plan.*

## **Profile of the Creswick Ward:**

### **Creswick A Living History**

The historic Victorian gold mining town of Creswick is a picturesque town with a resident population of more than 3,000 people. Prior to white settlement, aboriginal inhabitants were the Dja Dja wurrung.

Creswick lies at the heart of the central goldfields, just 16kms north of Ballarat and neighbouring the iconic tourism regions of Clunes, Daylesford, the Hepburn spa country, and the Macedon Ranges.

Built on the proceeds of rich gold deposits mined from the 1850's, Creswick today proudly displays fine examples of the grand architecture of the era. A stroll down the main street will reveal a

number of historic buildings including the former State Savings Bank, Post Office, Library, and Havilah Masonic Lodge.

Far from being ‘just’ a mining town, Creswick is the Australian birthplace of reforestation. John La Gerche began re-planting forest areas ravaged by mining activity in 1882. Today, much of La Gerche’s work survives around Creswick including magnificent plantings lining local streets and a 40min walk which highlights his work.

Creswick has a rich heritage and has produced some of Australia’s most influential bureaucrats, politicians and business people including John Curtin, Australia’s 14th Prime Minister, and the multi-talented Lindsay family.

### **Creswick District Today**

At the 2011 Census, there were 2,942 people in Creswick of these 48.2% were male and 51.8% were female. The median age of people in Creswick was 43 years. In the year before the Census, 26.3% of people did voluntary work through an organisation or a group.<sup>1</sup>

Creswick has a rich heritage, demographically, industrially, architecturally and naturally. Set amid large natural forests, hills and lakes, the district provides a picturesque setting for towns, villages and private properties. There are excellent aged care and health services and many community groups that cater for every interest. Many locals volunteer in the diverse range of community organisations in and around Creswick.

### **Creswick Today**

The main town of Creswick bustles with people, mostly locals but increasingly visitors who come to enjoy its natural surroundings, fine dining and genuinely warm community. Activities in the district are supported by an array of sporting and service clubs, lodges and community organisations. The main town of Creswick is serviced by trains to Ballarat and Melbourne and a frequent bus service to Ballarat.

### **The Community Consultation Process**

A series of three community workshops were held to give the community an opportunity to voice their opinions of the present Community Plan, express ideas for change and to work with the Creswick Ward Community Committee to produce a new Plan for the next 4 years.

The meetings provided a face to face forum where folk could work together, using the methods and tools provided, to demonstrate our ability to work co-operatively to achieve a common outcome – an enhancement of the town and district that we all value and love to live in. The meetings were facilitated by Ammon Beyerle and Michelle Emma James from Here Studio.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2011, Creswick State Suburbs.

Discussion and feedback papers were circulated and available for people attending the consultation meetings, and also for those unable to attend. In addition, the input of schoolchildren was also canvassed by a CWCC member. The feedback provided valuable insight into what the community priorities were. ( A summary of workshop outcomes and survey results are available in the Background Report)

### **Main Themes & Aspirations - what our community says:**

- That the processes of communication between Council, individuals and groups will better enable maintenance and improvement of the natural and cultural values within the district;
- We need to enhance the health and welfare of the whole community while maintaining the character of the area, both environmentally and sustainably;
- We should have a raised public profile where our arts, history, heritage streetscapes, and environment are enhanced as we strive to improve employment, health and recreational opportunities for all members of our community;
- We want to have an attractive district with a vibrant business centre, restored historical buildings, attractive youth facilities and industries that support employment;
- That the Creswick district is known as a vibrant, creative, caring and united community, successful in promoting and completing innovative and sustainable projects with consultation and community participation.

### **Our Vision:**

Creswick Ward is a creative, vibrant community, united in achieving a sustainable, caring and passionate future where all things thrive and are valued.<sup>2</sup>

### **Our guiding principles:**

The CWCC has endorsed the following principles as a means of working co-operatively together in a partnership between the Council and the Community. We will:

- Promote good communication that is inclusive and readily accessed.
- Work together, collaborating at all levels, reviewing and assisting continuously.
- Be inclusive – of age, gender, race, religion, and sexual preference.
- Practise sustainable environmental protection and development.
- Practise sustainable heritage protection and enhancement.
- Show respect to all - “look and listen and share” co-operation, consensus and compromise.

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<sup>2</sup> Developed by community members at a community consultation evening

## **Goals for 2013– 2017**

### **Goal 1: Develop and promote Community Participation and Partnerships,**

**We aim to:**

1. Encourage the community to work together and provide greater opportunities for participation and partnerships in community initiatives
2. Develop an endorsed framework for projects to provide consistency of approach, and enable regular feedback in a two-way process between Council Officers and Groups/Organisations and the CWCC

**This will be achieved by:**

- A      Enabling networks and partnerships to work together, sharing ideas and resources in an open, positive manner
- B      Encouraging participation to enrich community arts, employment, recreation, buildings, industries and tourism

### **Goal 2: Create and improve the liveability of Creswick District for all people**

**We aim to:**

1. Provide an environment that is safe, with facilities and services to support a healthy growing community.
2. Enable key community stakeholders to share ideas and opinions via the CWCC for support and endorsement.

**This will be achieved by:**

- A      Exploring ideas and projects which enhance the liveability of the town and district and seek endorsement from stakeholders
- B      Encouraging recreational and leisure facilities suitable for all ages and capacities to promote healthy living in our valued natural environment

### **Goal 3 : Support sustainable economic development**

**We aim to:**

1. Improve the economic prosperity of the Creswick district through the development of business, employment, education, environmental and residential opportunities.

2. Develop positive relationships with adjacent communities of interest. In order to leverage greater momentum for shared and economic benefit.

**This will be achieved by:**

A Giving priority to projects that advance educational, environmental, employment, recreational and tourism opportunities

B Encouraging business and employment opportunities so that the local community is encouraged to use and support local goods and services.

**Goal 4: Develop and enhance Arts, Heritage and Culture.**

**We aim to:**

1. Preserve, maintain and enhance our environmental and built heritage assets including the arts and cultural assets of Creswick and district
2. Increase awareness, accessibility and use of our environmental and built heritage assets.

**This will be achieved by:**

A Using the Creswick branding – “Creswick A Living History” – and visual logo to celebrate the diversity and potential of Creswick

B Promoting festivals and events that highlight the importance of History and Heritage, Arts and Culture to our identity and place

**Goal 5 : Promote Environmental Sustainability**

**We aim to:**

1. Preserve, maintain and enhance the natural environment of Creswick and District.
2. Minimise wastefulness, secure our future water requirements and inform and educate our community.

**This will be achieved by:**

A Encouraging good environmental practices, increase recycling efforts and endorse projects that will support this goal.

B Promoting a collective ‘working together’ approach to meet environmental challenges that face us and build the resilience needed to deal with them.

## **How we will work together:**

The responsibility for the success of this Community Plan rests with everyone in our community.

To achieve these stated aspirations needs the engagement, commitment and partnerships between the many community groups, agencies, government, individuals and business.

To support the success of this plan, the CWCC will work with Council to encourage networking and positive relationship building. The resourcing of skill development in the area of project implementation and preparation will assist more effective project management leading to longer term success.

*~~Good things happen when people share their skills and knowledge and work together~~*

## **How we will evaluate and communicate**

As a community we need to measure our progress to ensure we are on the track to achieving our stated aims. The use of regular reporting and review against the milestones, as set within the scope of the project, will maintain momentum and enable a better outcome. Where community funds are given for projects, there is a level of governance expected. A review and reporting template will be considered as an aid to evaluation and reporting via this process. The CWCC, together with Council officers, will establish this template after the acceptance and endorsement of the Plan.

The CWCC will establish an annual Community Consultation Workshop on the Community Plan. The purpose of this workshop is to enable all projects to report back to the CWCC and community. This will enable the community to have greater knowledge about the Projects and to offer feedback and assistance as required.

All priority projects in the Plan will report on achievements, with a brief presentation at the Annual Community Consultation Meeting. This will enable groups to bring any problems forward during the year, providing an avenue of flexibility and support. Other initiatives, not as yet funded, can also be brought before this public meeting in order to harness support and feedback.

The outcome of this public consultation meeting will be advised to the community via the Hepburn Shire Council page on line and within the Advocate Newspaper together with a short article in the Town Newsletter, the Creswick District News.

## Appendix

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Objectives/Projects named in the Community Consultation Meetings**

In alphabetical order

Arts and Food Hub

Creswick – Centre for Hepburn Shire Administration

Daylesford the Show Place of the Shires

Affordable Housing

By-pass for heavy transport

Community Children's Farm established

Freight train facilities services promoted and used

Heritage buildings maintained – with visible plaques

High School / TAFE /Training Centre

Industrial Estate

Mineral Waters in Township capped

Old Hospital to be visible again from the Main Street

Population not to exceed 4000

Re-construction of Lindsay Old Home

Re-creation of the fernery at Park Lake

Responsible Planning Schemes (retaining character of township)

Streetscape in Albert Street

Township flood-proofed

Tree Landscaping at the Cemetery

Vibrant Lindsay Arts Trail & Magic Pudding Playground

Waterslide and Café

**Projects selected at Workshop #1**

In alphabetical order.

Aquatic Centre for Creswick and District

Arts Hub

By-Pass for Trucks

Heritage Buildings and Environment (Heritage)

Improved public transport

Local Employment

Local Food Produce/Shopping

Protection of Environment (Natural)

Walking/ Cycling Trails

**Projects ADDED in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop.**

100th Anniversary ANZAC 2015

Creative Creswick

Creswick of the Lindsay Art Trail/Magic Pudding Playground

Development of Park Lake

Fruits of the Forest Festival

## **Appendix 2**

### **Longer term projects (2017 onwards)**

These projects are not endorsed, but are amongst those identified from feedback sheets and at the Community Meetings. Other long-term projects are not excluded, and can be proposed, aligned with the Goals and Objectives of our Community Plan, and brought to the CWCC for consideration. Template forms will be available if requested. These projects may be able to be staged so that two or more smaller projects build upon each other over time.

Aquatic Centre

Creative Creswick – arts hub

Native reforestation of pine plantations

Post – primary school (K-10 or secondary college)

Traffic management (by-pass and ring road)

Light industrial estate

### **Potential Years 1 - 4 Projects**

It is important to choose projects which are achievable within the timeframe and budget and involve the participation of all members of the Community.

#### **Festivals**

e.g. fruits of the forest, 4 seasons festival

#### **Streetscape improvements (more trees, restoration of heritage buildings)**

#### **Lindsay Arts Trail and Magic Pudding Playground**

#### **Local food and markets**

community gardens & markets

availability of local food and wines, organic produce

#### **Environmental protection:**

- Flood mitigation
- Planning overlays
- Community disaster plan

## **Annual youth leadership program**

## **Vocational training (including hospitality)**

### **Walking/cycling tracks/paths**

- Promotion
- Creswick Trails (mountain bike)
- Linked pathways

## **Better facilities at St Georges Lake**

### **Traffic management**

advocacy for re-routing trucks via Dean & Gilles Rd

### **Public transport**

- Advocacy for increased train and bus services

### **Light industry**

- Strategic Planning for light industrial land

### **Economic development – business opportunities**

- Promote small business opportunities

### **Heritage**

- Quality presentation of Gold history
- Heritage buildings restoration and improvement
- Town Hall upgrade

### **Environmental Sustainability**

- Renewable energy (solar panels, bio-energy, recycled water treatment)

### **Positive Ageing**

- Alternative options for independent living
- Age friendly communities (footpaths, seats, shade)

### **Arts Hub**

### **Appendix 3**

## **Previous Members Creswick Ward Community Committee**

(Term expired June 2013)

9 members / 2 Councillors / 1 Manager Community Services    *11 members*

1. Audrey Winther
2. Barry Coveney
3. Brian Turville
4. Cr Don Henderson
5. Cr Greg May
6. John Edwards
7. Judy Henderson
8. Maggie Robson
9. Margaret Giles
10. Michael Veal
11. Kathleen Brannigan