

# NEWLYN/ROCKLYN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

December 2009



A community strengthening project supported and facilitated by Hepburn Shire Council.



## **Development of the Newlyn/Rocklyn Community Action Plan**

The Newlyn/Rocklyn community met in October 2009 to develop a Community Action Plan to identify community priorities and explore opportunities for action and positive change to enhance the well-being of the community.

The Newlyn/Rocklyn Community Action Plan will be used as a key document to assist the community to achieve identified goals.

### **What is Community Planning?**

The Hepburn Shire Council supports communities in the Hepburn Shire who wish to develop their own Community Plans. Community Planning is a process that is 'owned' by the community with Council available to play a facilitation role. Community Plans provided valuable input into Local, State and Federal Government planning.

A community meeting was held at Newlyn on 12 October at the Bells Water Gardens Café. Residents and non-resident ratepayers were invited to attend.

More than 50 residents attended along with six Hepburn Shire Council officers and the two Ward Councillors who assisted facilitate the meeting. Creswick resident Wendy Ohlsen also attended as a guest speaker to talk about the success of the Creswick Community Plan.

Residents broke into groups to record a list of priorities for the town/area and what is was they liked about Newlyn/Rocklyn. Key aspects identified that people valued included the natural environment, the community spirit and the sporting facilities and community centre.

Residents voted on the priorities to decide what they would most like to see implemented, and were asked to volunteer to form focus groups for projects they were interested in becoming involved with. A number of residents volunteered for focus groups. The priorities formed the Action Plan to be implemented by the community and key partners.

### **The Newlyn/Rocklyn Community Planning Group**

Eight residents volunteered to form a Community Planning Group to progress the Community Action Plan: Richard Bell, Paul Newton, Casey Pilcher, Dick Campbell, Lindsay Miller, Fiona Bellingham, Jeremy Britten and Julie Moten

The Newlyn/Rocklyn **Community Planning Group** will:

- Focus on and work on the priority projects that were voted by residents as a priority
- Pull focus groups together in a cooperative way, and
- Provide feedback to the community on the progress.

The Action Plan will be reviewed in 12 months time. All residents of Newlyn and surrounds are invited to participate in focus groups throughout the 12 months.

## **HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED**

**To enquire about becoming involved in the Newlyn/Rocklyn Community Planning Group or Action Plan or any of the projects contact Hepburn Shire Council Community Planning Liaison Officer Sue Moses on 5345 8399 or 0437 482 309 or [smoses@hepburn.vic.gov.au](mailto:smoses@hepburn.vic.gov.au) or contact Planning Group members: Richard Bell, Paul Newton, Casey Pilcher, Dick Campbell, Lindsay Miller, Fiona Bellingham, Jeremy Britten and Julie Moten.**

## **Newlyn/Rocklyn history and information**

Newlyn in the Hepburn Shire is located 25 km's northeast of Ballarat and 132 km's northwest of Melbourne. It is 452 metres above sea level.

The closest main town is Creswick with smaller townships and communities nearby including Allendale, Blampied, Smeaton, Broomfield, Kingston, Dean, Langdons Hill and Rocklyn.

Newlyn is ideally located for commuters to Ballarat and other surrounding towns including Daylesford.

Newlyn and Rocklyn area are small but active communities. Historically the area is known as a farming community producing potatoes, other crops as well as the grazing of sheep and cattle. Prior to white settlement aboriginal inhabitants included the Djadja Wurrung and the Wemba-Wemba people.

Notable landmarks include the Newlyn Reservoir and Andersons Lagoon. The area is known for its open spaces and natural features and friendly yet 'can-do' communities.

The Newlyn Primary School has provided education to the children of the community since 1858.

Newlyn has a strong community and groups include a Football/Netball Club, playgroup, Fire Brigade and churches. Infrastructure includes the Community and Sporting Complex at which a number of the groups base their activities.

Businesses include a hotel, plant nursery and shop/café, antique shop, various trades and tourism businesses and farms. Businesses at Rocklyn include a yoga retreat and various farming properties.

Overall the Shire's economic base is in agriculture, forestry, manufacturing and tourism. Other areas of employment in the Shire include service industries, retailing, education and health and community services.

## **PRIORITY PROJECTS** *identified by residents at the October 2009 planning session*

1. **Improved communication including noticeboards, phone directory, community newsletter, on-line newsletter/community website.**
2. **Rest/toilet/picnic spot for tourists/locals – improve public toilets.**
3. **Greater community involvement in community complex/develop as a hub with phone, bus and village atmosphere.**
4. **Rubbish collection by Council including kerbside rubbish and recycling collection.**
5. **Footpath extension and crossing.**
6. **Growth/expansion of township zone including smaller blocks.**
7. **Extend the low speed limit through town.**
8. **Sewerage.**
9. **Bullarook Creek to be cleaned up and wildlife protected.**
10. **Roundabout and public spaces maintained and beautified.**
11. **Form the Newlyn District Committee. This group to run events such as annual garage sale, street parties and farmers and craft markets.**
12. **Improve and expand recreation facilities/opportunities for young people.**
13. **Lights and resurface tennis courts.**
14. **Keep school open.**
15. **Roadside maintenance including weeds and safer walking.**
16. **Improve recreation facilities at reservoir including toilets.**
17. **Improve infrastructure including roads.**
18. **Water quality improvement.**
19. **Community fire meetings.**
20. **Support of local businesses including trades and wineries.**
21. **Walking tracks.**
22. **Improve public transport to Creswick.**
23. **Restore avenue of Honour.**

## **COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2010**

### **Infrastructure**

- Rest/toilet/picnic spot for tourists/locals – improve public toilets
- Rubbish collection by Council including kerbside rubbish and recycling collection
- Footpath *extension/crossing*
- Growth/expansion of township zone including smaller blocks.
- Extend the low speed limit through town
- Sewerage
- Drinking water quality improvement
- Walking tracks
- Improve infrastructure including roads

### **Communication**

- Community noticeboard
- Phone directory
- Community newsletter
- On-line newsletter.

### **Environment**

- Roundabout and public spaces maintained and beautified
- Bullarook Creek to be cleaned up and wildlife protected
- Roadside maintenance including weeds and safer walking
- Restore avenue of Honour

### **Recreation**

- Improve and expand recreation facilities for young people.
- Lights and resurface tennis courts
- Improve recreation facilities at reservoir including toilets

### **Business/Economic**

- Keep school open
- Support of local businesses including trades and wineries
- Improve public transport to Creswick

### **Social**

- Greater community involvement in community complex/develop as a hub with phone, bus and village atmosphere
- Form the Newlyn District Committee to run events
- Community fire meetings

## PROJECT VOTING AND VOLUNTEER DETAILS

- 1. Communication: Noticeboard, phone directory, community newsletter (perhaps expand school newsletter or combine with Dean newsletter, on-line newsletter).**  
*21 votes.*  
*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project:* Rebecca Grigg, Dick Campbell, Dominic Prendergast, Fiona Williams, Jill Shaw, Julie Moten, Rachelle Tippett, Darryl Williams, Casey Pilcher.
- 2. Rest/toilet/picnic spot for tourists/locals – improve public toilets**  
*13 votes*  
*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project:* Jill Shaw, Fiona Bellingham, Fiona Williams, David Rose.
- 3. Greater community involvement in community complex/develop as a hub with phone, bus and village atmosphere**  
*12 votes*  
*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project:* Rhonda Smith, Kerry Leishman, Colleen Stephens, Lou Tippett, Greg May.
- 4. Rubbish collection by Council including kerbside rubbish and recycling collection**  
*12 votes*  
*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project:* Julie Moten, Casey Pilcher
- 5. Footpath extension/crossing**  
*11 votes*  
*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project:* Paul Newton, Becky Newton, Jeremy Britten, Richard Bell, Casey Pilcher, Sally Bell.
- 6. Growth/expansion of township zone including smaller block.**  
*10 votes*  
*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project:* Dick Campbell, Dom Stephens, Lindsay Miller.
- 7. Extend the low speed limit through town**  
*Eight votes*  
*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project:* Beccy Newton, Jeremy Britten, Sally Bell.
- 8. Sewerage**  
*Seven votes*  
*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project:* John Hungerford
- 9. Bullarook Creek to be cleaned up and wildlife protected**  
*Six votes*  
*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project:* Audrey Winther, Hamish McMartin, Janet Bruce, John Hungerford, Sally Bell.
- 10. Roundabout and public spaces maintained and beautified**  
*Six votes*  
*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project:* Rebecca Grigg, Colleen Stephens

**11. Form the Newlyn District Committee. This group to run events such as annual garage sale, street parties and farmers and craft markets.**

*Five votes*

*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: Julie Moten*

**12. Improve and expand recreation facilities for young people.**

*Four votes.*

*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: Jenny Jolliffe*

**13. Lights and resurface tennis courts**

*Four votes*

*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: Jenny Jolliffe*

**14. Keep school open**

*Four votes*

*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: Jill Shaw*

**15. Community fire meetings**

*Two votes*

*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: Janet Weatley*

**16. Roadside maintenance including weeds and safer walking**

*Three votes, Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: No names.*

**17. Improve recreation facilities at reservoir including toilets**

*Five votes*

*Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: No names*

**18. Restore avenue of Honour**

*No votes Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: No names.*

**19. Water quality improvement**

*Three votes. Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: No names*

**20. Support of local businesses including trades and wineries**

*Two votes. Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: No names*

**21. Walking tracks**

*No votes. Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: No names*

**22. Improve public transport to Creswick**

*No votes. Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: No names*

**23. Improve infrastructure including roads**

*Four votes. Residents volunteering to become involved with this project: No names*

## Complete list of project ideas prior to voting

- A village with little shops/ A village precinct
- Things for young people to stay for and enjoy
- Playground
- Planning - no higgledypiggledy development
- Bus stop
- Phone booth
- School to stay open
- BBQ facilities/rotunda at reservoir
- Reservoir Infrastructure including toilet facilities with access via road, signage to res on road and sign near entrance.
- Community fire guard group in Rocklyn
- The hotel is under utilized
- Access to broadband via landline
- Self guided walk and brochure of history
- Street lighting, main street and res road
- Welcome package for new residents including local directory and community information
- Better water quality
- Community fire prevention meetings
- Community noticeboard, relocate from school or additional one provided (to another location such as shop).
- Extend footpath/pedestrian crossing
- Reduce speed limit, extend the 80kmh zone.
- Post office, PO boxes
- Garbage collection, rubbish and recycling
- Newsletter
- Better roads, more sealed roads
- Road safety signage especially for children
- Combined primary school and kindergarten and out of school hours care
- Pedestrian crossing
- Historical notations/information including railway
- Bicycle path routes,
- Better roadside maintenance
- Walking paths on roadsides
- Community gatherings
- New Years Eve party
- Community phone directory
- Skate park and other places for young people
- Scenic and safe walks
- Better town planning for growth and expansion of township zone
- Roadside weed program
- Smaller more affordable blocks
- Improve public transport, especially to Creswick
- Lights and resurface tennis courts.
- Protect Newlyn Reservoir
- Protect countryside and farms
- Bus service
- Future growth



- Carols night
- Not too much change, don't want to end up like Daylesford)
- Improve road infrastructure and maintenance
- Environmental enhancement including roundabout planting
- Attract business to keep people and families in the town
- Assist farmers to redevelop their farms for tourism
- More diverse activities such as reading and craft
- List of club and interest groups
- Need a stopping/rest spot of locals and visitors.
- Public toilets need a freshen up.
- Bus stop shelter
- Define the town boundary in the planning scheme.
- Giant annual community garage sale.
- Community newsletter and for it to be on line.
- Better methods of communication
- Meet your neighbor street parties.
- Streamline the planning permit system for ease of residents.
- Improved water quality
- Remove more willows from the creek
- Improved biodiversity
- Health and well-being group to include an organized guest at meetings, ploughing groups, community planting activities, guerilla gardening and other activities.
- Develop use of community hall/ install a large sign.
- Make information on community available
- Develop reservoir as a community friendly facility
- Shift playground away from main road
- Social groups that are also inclusive of children
- Craft group
- Farmers market
- Greater community involvement with local artists, producers and farmers and hold markets.
- Plant out the roundabout with drought resistant plant eg sunshine daisies.
- Book documenting local history
- Greater community involvement in community complex.
- Rubbish collection
- Local meeting places
- Improve the pub. Better community relations.
- Support for local shops, businesses and tradesman.
- Use reservoir for boating and recreation activities.
- Street lighting including for Midlands, Shea and Yelland roads.
- 60km zone from school to 100km zone.
- Raise awareness of Newlyn in Melbourne to attract visitors.
- Sewerage
- Clean up Bullarook Creek
- Avenue of honour from Newlyn to Bells Road. Restoration of Oaks.
- Establishment of memorial for ex-servicemen.
- Greater police presence especially for speeding drivers.
- Agency in shop to pay bills.

## WHAT RESIDENTS SAID WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY LIKE ABOUT LIVING IN NEWLYN/ROCKLYN

- Quiet
- No pollution
- Friendly
- No bush
- Best of both worlds – country and close to Daylesford, Ballarat and Melbourne and Western Hwy
- Good soil
- Can hear the birds and animals
- Strong community spirit
- Beautiful
- Friendly neighbours
- Larger blocks
- Near the bush
- Primary school
- Community/recreation facility
- Reservoir
- New bus service
- Great dividing trail
- Local organic veges
- Wild flowers
- Ashram
- Good place to ride a bike
- Rural/residential blend
- Active with landcare
- Relief/recovery facility
- Affordable housing
- Mix of old and new people
- Country side
- It's part of our heritage (5<sup>th</sup> generation)
- Small community – sense of connectedness.
- Friends and mates live in the area
- Football/netball club involves the whole area
- Cricket and tennis club
- Climate
- Quiet lifestyle, great to get home
- Fairly drought resistant
- Everyone helps each other out, very supportive
- Community growth, new buildings and homes
- Great sporting facilities and community centre
- Community has good reputation for being a 'can-do'community
- Neat and tidy town – civic pride
- Local shop is fantastic
- Community atmosphere

- Good for families- safe
  - Good transport/road access
  - Natural features and openness
  - Café
  - History
  - Fire – safer area.
  - Like the area as it is
  - Friendly
  - Family ties
  - Sporting amenity
  - Newlyn welcomes new residents
  - Bells Water Gardens
  - Scenery and peaceful roadsides
  - Community spirit- willingness to help one another
  - Not commercial
  - Community support in difficult times
  - The climate – four season.
  - Local institutions drawing people into football, tennis, CFA, playgroup, primary school, cricket, netball, churches.
  - Diversity of people
  - CFA
  - Small business
  - Good country suppers
-