

Bridge Connection

Edition 66 June 2015

**Community Newspaper for the Mia Mia - Redesdale
Region Including Heathcote, Derrinal, Glenhope, Baynton, Sidonia, Barfold, Langley, Sutton
Grange, Elphinstone and Kyneton**

Beer and Wine Garden opens at the General Store

Dino and Jenny were delighted with the turn out at the opening of their licensed beer garden on May 28th. Chef, Luke Smith made a fantastic assortment of finger food nibbles and Marissa and staff of the Albion Hotel in Kyneton made a delicious display of Istra platters for the occasion. It is good to know that local residents have a place to go to socialise and by making a phonecall to the store, it is possible to arrange for the gas heaters to be put on well beforehand. The store sells a good collection of beers and local wines. If you feel like dancing, Dino has some classic music videos. Rio (pictured right serving the guests) made her famous mini spring rolls which turned out to be a favourite.



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PRESS**

This article was published in a previous edition of the Bridge Connection. Annette has since showcased her work at The Heathcote on Show Festival and will be displaying her work for sale again at the Redesdale Rocks Festival on the Melbourne Cup weekend this year alongside the Photography Exhibition.

LOCAL ARTIST SHOWCASE: ANNETTE COOMBE OF MIA MIA

At the end of the eponymously named Coombe Lane, off the Burke and Wills Track, you will find two houses built by Annette's father and grandfather. In one you will find the famous Burke and Wills Winery and in the other you will find the famous Annette Coombe and her father. Annette is well known in the district for her incredible leatherwork which she sells privately or at local markets.

It was while Annette was at Kyneton High that she was inspired by an art teacher who introduced the students to an eclectic range of art and craft work. The teacher told Annette that she had a gift for leatherwork and she took the confidence in her ability to her next schools in Echuca and Shepparton, although neither of the latter schools taught leatherwork. After leaving school, she was leafing casually through a newspaper one day and was excited to see that leather craft was offered at the local TAFE in Shepparton. There she also completed a course in sign-writing which helps her with her ability to position objects and lettering in her work.

After moving to Healesville, Annette began refining her art and style. She has an abiding interest in wildlife which is clearly reflected in her work. In her studio she is surrounded by books and magazines filled with pictures of animals and birds which she uses to stimulate her imagination. While living in Healesville, she became a Healesville Sanctuary visitor's guide and she has been dedicated to this role for the past 25 years.

Although Annette spends at least 3 hours a day on her artwork, she still manages to help with sheep farming duties, and to assist at the winery next door when necessary.

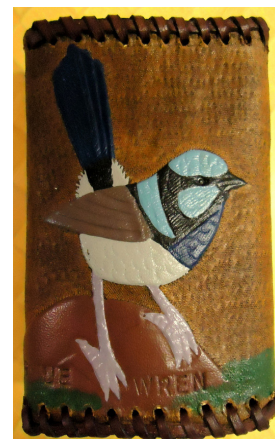
Annette's work is unique. It is beautifully crafted and completely Australian. I cannot think of a better present to give overseas visitors, or to take overseas as gifts, than a piece (or several pieces) of Annette's work. The Melway cover, pictured to the right is sturdy and good looking and can be personalised with images special to the recipient. It would last a life time. I have long admired Annette's amazing handbag with its Tazzie tigers on the back and kookaburras on the front. (right).

If you would like to speak to Annette about ordering her work, it is best to phone her in the evenings on 03 5425 5514 or see her at the Heathcote Market on the first Saturday of the month.

Kathy Hall



Annette (above) at her workbench. Clockwise from below left: Melways cover, wallet, Tazzie Tiger handbag, coasters, wall decoration, and key rings



Editorial

Great feedback again from everyone. Thank you. This month we have had the opening of the “Beer Garden” at the General Store and the ‘Heathcote On Show’ festivities which have showcased a new winery , “Stone Axe” to the area as well as a brief reopening of the pub.

An important milestone has occurred at the City of Greater Bendigo (COGB) with the release of their discussion paper regarding ‘Rural Strategy’. Given that 70% of the area managed by the COGB is rural, this is a very important policy initiative.

The Redesdale Revellers show is in mid-season as this publication goes to press. Everyone we have spoken to says that the show is better than ever!

We hope you enjoy our new serial - “Riddle in Middlevale” by our new contributor Finley Carraway. Personally we can’t wait for the next episode. Could get hooked!

We are getting so many local contributions that we are hoping to increase the pages of the paper, but to do this, we have to have more advertising. Please use your influence to ask local businesses to advertise in our paper. The advertising rates are published on this page(right). It is really very inexpensive for a wide distribution. Also consider subscribing for a postal delivery (\$25 for 10 copies for those outside our free distribution area). We really do appreciate your feedback.

Kathy Hall and Regina Bennett



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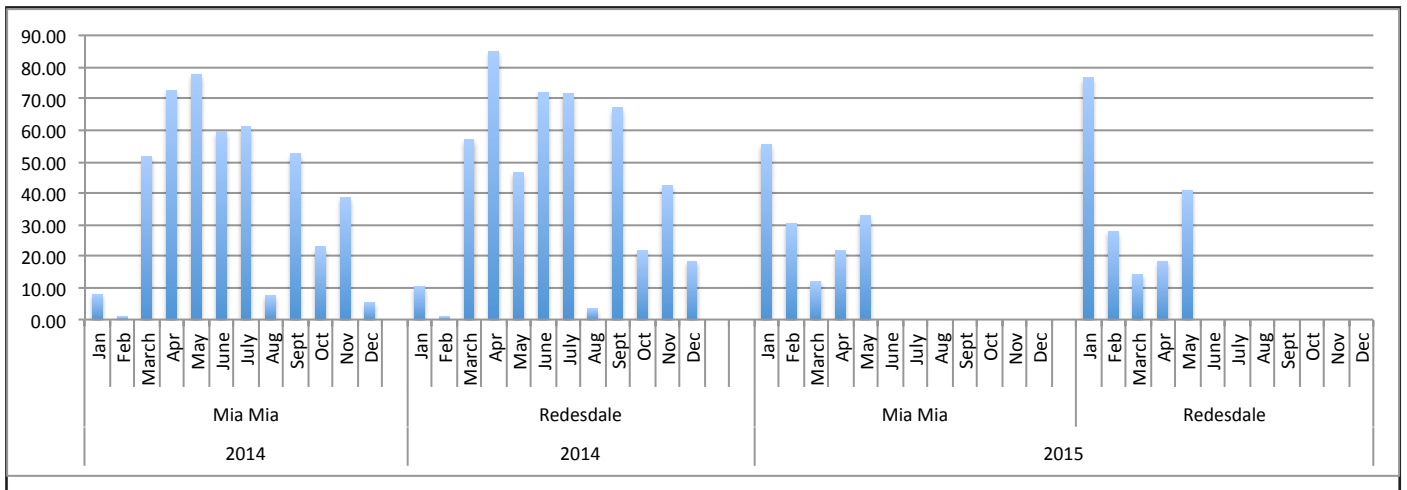
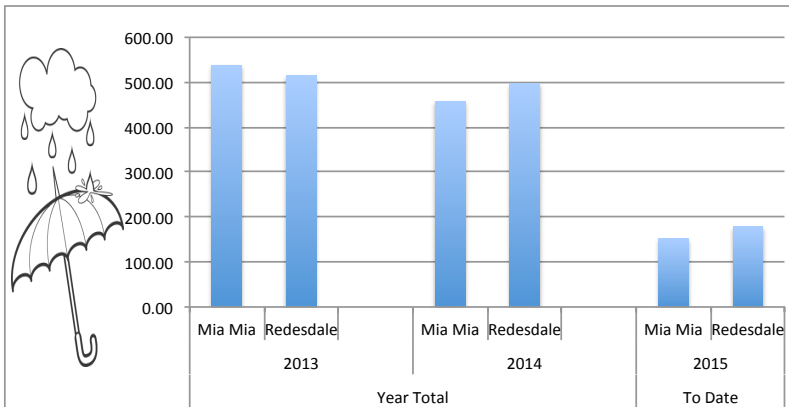
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800 printed copies of the Bridge Connection are circulated to the Redesdale Mia Mia region, taking in Barfold, Baynton, Derrinal, Elphinstone, Glenhope, Heathcote, Kyneton, Langley, Metcalfe, Sidonia, and Sutton Grange.

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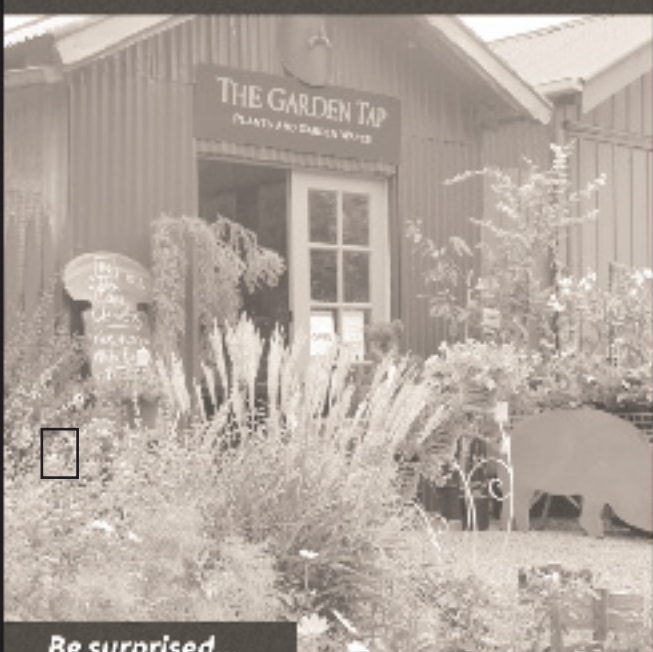

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FOCUS ON THE QUEEN

Many readers will have noticed that there are still European Wasps around, even at this cold time of year. Luckily for us, local landholder, Laurie Nicoll, has been studying the habits of the European Wasp for more than 10 years and believes many of the methods used to control them are unsuccessful. Rather than waiting for nests to be formed, Laurie believes we should instead focus on the queen.

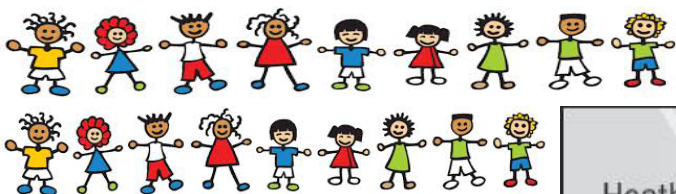
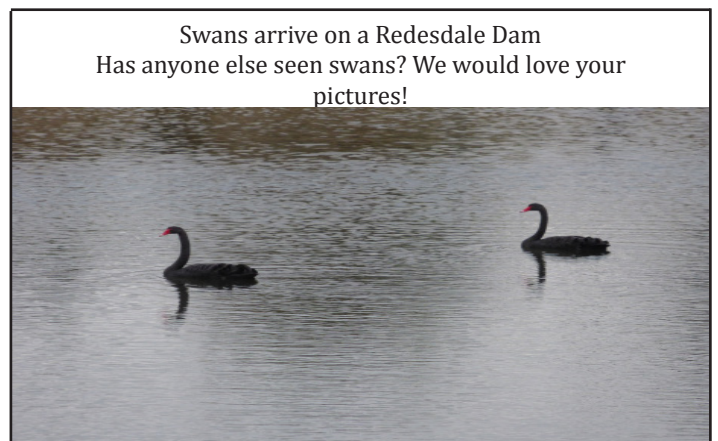
He has developed a method to catch the queen before she makes a nest. His idea is cheap, environmentally friendly, recyclable and safe, easy to make and most household will have ingredients for bait.

For this idea to work it needs people power. If every household put out four traps the number of nests formed would be reduced greatly. In 2013, Laurie caught 174 queen wasps with this method and similar numbers during a four-year trial period. The queen comes out of hibernation in spring with two priorities in mind, one to build a nest and, two, to feed herself until she has workers to take over.

Laurie's control method uses a 1.25 litre soft drink bottle with three one-centimetre holes about 10cm from the base of bottle. The bottle is filled with bait made from honey, water and a little pure vanilla essence which ferments in sun. The traps need a little tending until January, whereby once they are full removing the catch, reusing and topping-up bait, and replacing the cap. Laurie is keen for other landholders to start using this method. For further information please contact Laurie Nicoll on 03 5423 2412 or email laurie@shamp.com.au.

Laurie will be holding a meeting to explain his method on

30 Aug in Metcalfe hall at 10-30 am



REDESDALE PLAYGROUP

As there has been no-one attending the Playgroup on Fridays at the school this term, it has been decided not to continue with the playgroup at this time. If another day or time suits you better, can you please let the school know, and we will try to organise the playgroup at a time that is more suitable.

Community Engagement Meetings

Mia Mia
Tues 13 October 7.30pm – 9pm
Mia Mia Mechanics Institute Hall

Redesdale
Monday 19 October 7.30 – 9pm
Redesdale Hall

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Session

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Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Heathcote RSL Hall

RSVP: Heathcote & District

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Riddle in Middlevale

by Finley Carraway



Have you ever noticed that people act differently when they know they are being watched? Everyone wants to make the right impression. Even your pet cat will probably look a little sheepish if he's been caught checking out your budgerigar.

Jim Stevens, you could say, has not figured this out. This is a problem, because he is a photographer, and worse, a press photographer. He is always missing the real story because he will manage to act inappropriately at the crucial moment and spoil the shot. Oh, how he dreamed of politics or crime, a war photographer on the front line, breaking the exclusive stories. Even getting sneaky shots of celebrities would have worked for him. His editors, however, know him better than he does himself, and they wisely steered him to assignments he really couldn't get wrong. Like sports. Jim gets by though, he really is skilled at photography. He lives a simple life in a little one bedroom flat in St. Kilda which his aunty passed on to him when she died. That really upset Jim, but that's a different story. He has a few friends who think he's a bit strange, and he sees them from time to time, but it has to be said that Jim is pretty secluded and lonely in his existence. No one can remember the last time he had a girlfriend. In fact, Melissa, his friend and workmate actually snorted when Josephine asked her about him. Suffice to say Josephine did not get her man.

Poor Jim Stevens. What a tragic man. His real problem though, is that things are about to get even worse. He's been called into his editor's office. Bruce Jones wants a little word, and the news is not good.

Jones tries to explain the situation as calmly as possible with the greatest care, "Mate, the boys upstairs, they're under pressure, circulation's down, the bloody internet is ruining everything. I'm afraid we've got to cut costs." Jim looks pale, he may be a bit of a social dunce, but he's not an idiot. He interjects, "You got my coverage of the footy though right, I thought they were great!"

Bruce looks a little mollified, this is going to be tough, "Jim, mate, its not about your work, that's great! Always! But..." Bruce is putting on a brave face, which is good, because Jim is shrinking in his seat fast and someone will need to send a rescue team down there soon. Bruce continues, "... there's no easy way to say this, Jim, I'm sorry. We're going to have to let you go. We need people who can do all the rounds, and you know what happened with..."

Jim, mortified, cuts him off, "Oh don't you... isn't there anything you can do?". "I'm afraid not, mate, hands are tied. I'm really sorry. There's no need for you to hang around here today..."

Jim nods sadly, and gets up slowly. Bruce comes round his desk and pats him on the back and shows him out of his office. Turning the wrong way to his desk at first, a sullen and lost Jim Stevens goes to his desk and arranges his meagre belongings into his worn old camera bag. Melissa, standing up like a meerkat at her cubicle looks to say something, but can't find the words. She looks like she might cry. Jim avoids her eyes and walks, moribund, out of the office and takes the lift down to the street.

Later that day, the door bell buzzes in Jim's flat, waking him from a fitful afternoon slumber on his couch. He looks around, blinking, and checks his watch and mutters to himself. He fell asleep on his couch after watching bad afternoon TV and drowning his sorrows in two bags of chips and a bar of chocolate. Getting up through a mess of chip bags, wrappers and crumbs he answers the call. Melissa's voice crackles through the ageing intercom, "Hi Jim, can I come up?"

"Sure, yep." He presses the security button and sniffs, then looks at the state of lounge room and then himself in the mirror; "Christ!" He wipes his face and shakes his head. A knock at the door is Melissa. She hugs him warmly.

"Hi Jim. I want to know you're OK. You're OK, right?"

"Yeah, thanks Mel, I'll be alright I guess. Dunno what I'm going to do though." He turns sadly. Melissa puts a hand on his arm and Jim smiles weakly, "Well" he turns towards the kitchen, "Drink?" "Thanks."

"Here." He hands her a beer, and opens one himself.

They sip their drinks silently for a moment. Melissa is trying to find the right timing.

"Jim, I got a call from an old family friend today. They're up in Middlevale, you know, near Castlemaine. It's on the Campaspe River."

"Oh yeah, nice part of the world."

"Apparently one of the locals there has a prize ram he wants photographed... I know, right?"

Jim stares at Melissa incredulously, then laughs loudly. He calms down when he sees that Melissa hasn't finished.

"It's paid. I recommended you. My friend passed on your name and stuff and he's keen. It's just a couple of days, but free accommodation and meals..."

"So I go to the country to photograph a sheep and that's it? And they'll pay?"

"It's a ram, Jim, a male sheep. Spectacular by all accounts." She flashes a cheeky grin. "But, yes, that's the speed of it. Interested?" "Could be worse I guess. Fresh air, get me out of this godforsaken city with its stupid editors! Why not? It's just a sheep... ram... easy pickings!"

"I thought you'd like that. I'll let my friend know and get the details to you. Can you head up tomorrow? It's only a couple of hours."

"Yeah, sure. 'nother drink?" Melissa nods, and they have a few more and chat into the evening. Melissa, still having a real job, leaves after four beers, her 'school night' limit, and leaves Jim actually looking happy. He packs up his clothes and camera gear and prepares a plan of attack for this ram.

To be continued...

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finley.g.carraway@gmail.com

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Redesdale Photographic Competition



As part of the REDESDALE ROCKS Festival (Oct 30th - Nov 1st) a photographic exhibition will be held at the Redesdale Hotel which will be open for the occasion.

This year, the exhibition will also be a COMPETITION to be judged by famous Australian photographer, Simon Griffiths. The results will be announced at the festival opening at the Redesdale Hall on Friday October 30th. The prizemoney has been donated via a grant from the Bendigo Bank Heathcote branch which has a long history of generosity to this community.

The first prize is \$200, and the second prize is \$100. To encourage younger entrants, there will be a special prize for those aged 25 years and younger of \$200.

The subject of the photos will be "Rocks" to be interpreted as loosely as anyone likes! The Redesdale Festival this year has the theme, "Redesdale Rocks".

All photographs must be for sale and be well framed. (For assistance with framing, please contact the organisers by July 31st 2015). Entrance fee for photographers will be \$5 per photograph. Entries close on Oct 16th. Entries must be delivered to the Redesdale Hotel on Friday 23rd October from 4-6 pm.



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Cnr High & Forest Streets, Woodend -
0487 444 090 Sharon Kittson

Kyneton Farmers' Market -
Sat 11th July
St Pauls Park, Piper Street, Kyneton -
54 221 025 Veronica Manifold

Riddells Creek Farmers' Market -
Sat 18th July
Riddells Creek Primary School, Riddells Creek -
0408254626 Ali Bant

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Redesdale and District Association Update

The Annual General Meeting of the Redesdale and District Association will be held on August 20th at the Redesdale Hall at 7 pm. All local residents are invited.

At the moment, preparations are well underway for the second "Dinner and Talk" to be held at the Redesdale Hall on Friday July 17th. This will feature a talk from the Otis Foundation who are currently building a house (Kez's Hideaway) on land generously donated by the Campbell family. The house will act as a holiday refuge for families coping with their mother's breast cancer. All the money raised from raffles and silent auctions on the night will go to the Otis Foundation.

Preparations for the "Redesdale Rocks" festival are well underway. This year, there will also be music on the oval on the Saturday of the Melbourne Cup Weekend. The Art Show and the Photo Competition as well as sculptures and open studios will also be happening that weekend. It is hoped another cricket match will be staged at the oval on the Sunday (Nov 1st). Another area of endeavour has been the planning of a submission for a walking/cycling track which is covered extensively in this publication.

From now on, the Association will be meeting every other month due to a number of other voluntary commitments of the committee.

A more thorough update of this year's activities will be available at the AGM. More information about Redesdale events can always be found on the website ; www.redesdale.net

Kath Hall
Secretary



The Redesdale Revellers are now in their 27th year. Their latest show, which will still be running as this newsletter goes to press, rejoices in the name of "Morning Glories." Many regular attendees believe this is the best show ever. The last show is on Saturday July 4th. The show title doesn't reflect what you are thinking! It refers to the songs that the audience is encouraged to sing along to such as "Caroline in the Morning", "California here I come" and "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning!" Absolute classics.



This entertainment group exists for one purpose only and that is to assist the Redesdale Hall Committee to raise funds to equip, run, maintain and improve the Redesdale Hall.

The group get together once a year to plan and rehearse the show, and usually perform five or six times. The aim is to have fun and ensure that the audience has fun too.

On show nights it is easy to put the focus on the performers, but events require input from many people. The committee has help from local people who come to assist with tasks like

serving, washing-up, clearing and cleaning. Some have done this for many years, others not so long, and they are pretty much anonymous but appreciated nonetheless.



The Revellers shows form the major part of the Hall Committee fundraising events which include the Country/Bush Market, Art Show, and the very popular Tea Dances. The committee doesn't stop at raising money for the hall; The Worlds Biggest Morning Tea event is run to benefit the Anti-Cancer Council, and when there is a need at times of bushfire, the hall provides a rest and recovery area for the firefighters, with the committee organising and providing meals (they are renowned for their breakfasts) and sandwiches, tea and coffee etc.

The result of all this activity is there for all to see, a warm inviting well-equipped hall for community use such as school concerts, and for the use of other groups in the town for their own fundraising events such as the school trivia nights.



This year, Arnold Jenkins and Dennis Perry led a terrific cast; Leigh-Anne Rogers, Wilma Brentnall, Val Ford, Doratheia Kriewaldt, Phyllis Barling, Pip Elston, John Barker and Nicola Turner. Rexine Perry was welcomed back to the fold and all were accompanied by a huge orchestra consisting of pianist, Marry Potton.

What a fabulous effort!



Sunday Midday Meal

At a recent Redesdale hall committee meeting, the possibility of running a Sunday midday meal (in the style of a senior citizens lunch at minimal cost) was discussed. The aim is to give community members a chance to get together over a meal (cooked by someone else), have a chat, relax, and maybe listen to some nice piano music. Churchgoers could come straight from church and it is hoped tht transport could be arranged for those needing it. Good home cooking would be the style of the menu with soup, main course and dessert. Roasts, stews and casseroles for winter and salads for summer, with apple pie, queen pudding, bread and butter custard for winter and fruit salad, trifle and pavlova for summer. these are examples only - the menus have not been fully discussed. The lunch would possibly be held every three months.

To enable the proposal to be taken further, an indication of likely support is needed. The committee would like to know of your interest, by the 31st July 2015. Please contact Norma Barker on 5425 3174 or email: Verada@onaustralia.com.au or by mail at PO, Redesdale.



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Redesdale Hall Activities

Meetings:

The second Tuesday of each month,
1.00 pm - Hall Comm. Meetings.

The second Tuesday of each month,
7.30 pm - Rec. Reserve Meetings.

First Monday of each month,
10am or 4.15pm, Bridge Connection Committee meeting.

Events:

Sat 4th July-Revellers.

Friday, 17th July - Otis Foundation/RaDA Dinner & Talk.

Sunday, 20th September, 2015 - Afternoon Tea Dance.

Monday, 19th October - 7.30 pm: Community District Engagement Meeting.

Friday, 30th Oct., Sat 31st Oct., Sun. 1st Nov. - Art Show.

Clear
Fire hazards
Away

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Redesdale Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc. Chairman's Monthly Report

Hi Redesdalian's,

This month some fruitful and exciting things have occurred.

The wood raffle on the long weekend raised \$450-00 thanks to the generous donation of the wood by Andrew & Lisa Campbell. Many thanks go to Dino & Jenny [General Store] & Liz & Shane [Rural Cafe] for the selling of tickets. It was great to see a local - Ms Liz Hartland win.

CoGB have allocated 5 new park bench seats together with 10 mature yellow box trees. We will use these trees for shade behind the bench seats. The committee is responsible for the supply of boxing for the concrete slabs and concrete will be supplied by CoGB, to fix the seats to. Any offer of assistance with labour or boxing materials would be greatly appreciated.

Heather and Anthony Carmody-Baird have kindly donated enough sliding glass windows to bring the pavilion up to lockup stage once planning & building permits have been granted. A big thankyou to Heather & Anthony from the committee for their generous donation.

Our working bee on the 14th June was very successful, but it was a little disappointing that more of the community didn't take the opportunity to come and participate and meet members of the committee at the BBQ. A big thankyou to all those who did attend, and hope to see you all at the next working bee.

With hard work and determination we can further beautify our little town into something for us to enjoy and also be welcoming to outsiders.

Les Pocock
Redesdale Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc.

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Telecommunications in Redesdale

The District Association recently received the following communication from Steph Ryan, State Member for Euroa. She had written to the Telstra Country Wide Customer Service Team on behalf of Redesdale residents as follows:

"In January I met with representatives of the redesdale area. Of particular concern was the "patchy" to non-existent mobile phone access. Similarly they advised that internet access is variable. I would greatly appreciate an update from your perspective on the concerns as raised.

I note that Redesdale is listed as being nominated as a black spot area as part of the Federal Department of Communications Mobile Black Spot Program. I understand that mobile network operators and infrastructure providers can apply for funding to improve mobile coverage in nominated areas until 16th April 2015. Rest assured, I will also pursue the new Victorian State Govt. to ensure the \$40 million that the Victorian Coalition allocated to addressing blackspots in last year's State Budget is not redirected elsewhere."

Please note that this was written prior to the stated deadline of April 16th.

CLARIFICATION

On page 13 of the Bridge Connection (April 2015) a plan titled "proposed Ground Floor Plan for a Recreation Reserve Pavilion" was published. The Redesdale Recreation Reserve Committee (RRRC) wishes to emphasise that this plan is presently nothing more than "wishful thinking" and is a possible representation of how the reserve pavilion might ultimately be redeveloped subject, of course, to the outcome of the present feasibility study. In the foreseeable future, the RRRC wishes to achieve no more than "lock-up" status for the pavilion. In essence this involves putting in basic decking and flooring and installing windows along the front opening consistent with the planning permit application lodged with the City of Greater Bendigo on April 29th 2015.

Redesdale cycle/rail development concept



Context and purpose

A small subcommittee of the Redesdale and District Association (RaDA) has been working on the concept of a walking/biking trail incorporating Redesdale as a destination. One of its strategic objectives is to drive linkages between Redesdale and its broader community for the ongoing well-being of its community and to attract more visitors to the town. A key tactical plank of this objective is the development of a walking/cycle trail that connects Redesdale with the broader Bendigo community (Redesdale Community Plan 2013.)

This strategy is consistent with the Greater Bendigo Council's objectives (Priority 2: Foster the use of public spaces). It is also consistent with the Council's business plan which includes ensuring the region is a drawcard for visitors. Finally, it is consistent with the Council's 2015 planning strategies (3.1 Public infrastructure across Greater Bendigo facilitates positive well-being and a good quality of life 3.2 Greater Bendigo is a place of great places that celebrates peoples artistic, cultural, sporting and social lives). The proposal links directly with the Heathcote Tourism and Development Feasibility Study that concluded trails in the area will generate (just for Heathcote) over \$750K from increased visitors to the area.

The subcommittee has put together a submission for council which is largely reproduced in this article. The City of Greater Bendigo planning department is currently preparing maps to go with this submission. Its purpose is to propose that a feasibility study be undertaken on a 'rail trail' i.e. a walking/biking trail that in the longer term links Kyneton, Redesdale and Bendigo through a network of new and existing trails linking Redesdale with the (extending) O'Keefe rail trail and the Major Mitchell trail.

In the shorter term, there are two distinct options for progressing both the Council's and the Redesdale community's objectives.

The first is to more directly link Kyneton to Redesdale through the development of a trail for day cyclists and walkers using existing roads.

The second is to focus on the existing work to build on/extend the Heathcote-based trails now being investigated as a result of the Heathcote Tourism and Development Feasibility Study.

We think that the Council is best placed to decide which option is the best one to pursue, in consultation with Redesdale residents.

Why pursue this idea?

It is believed that this project will contribute both to Redesdale's sustainability and to the enhancement of the broader region by connecting other regional trails with Redesdale.

Like all country regions in Victoria and indeed Australia, the strategic challenge for a town is to build distinctive advantage and infrastructure that captures the essence of the region(s) and that provides tangible economic and social benefits. The District Association believes strongly that vibrant communities are increasingly built on the strength of their links with adjoining communities. That is, we live in an increasingly joined up world and the idea of regions/communities operating in isolation from their neighbours has become less tenable in terms of sustainability.

Consistent with this belief, the community has, as part of its plan, the development of a cycle/walking/rail trail. Redesdale has been doing its best to build infrastructure through the development of the hall and recreation area and, more recently, a project to install historic signs in the town. Redesdale has already achieved a number of its goals cited on the 2013 Community Plan including solar energy at the hall, a footpath from the primary school to the store, closing off a potentially hazardous short cut past the school and the provision of a turning circle for the school bus.

The next phase of development is to make a bold move and develop some infrastructure that draws people to the town and the surrounding areas.

The evidence in other parts of Victoria, Australia and around the world is clear. Trails generate visitors. Even more clear is the evidence that if a town/city can build a significant event around its infrastructure, the dollars and people flow.

In Redesdale's case, the event that potentially will put the town and surrounds on the map is a **'Loop the (Eppalock) Lake'** half-triathlon.



What's the evidence that this idea will work?

Discussions have been held with a significant number of potential stakeholders. These include:

The RaDA Committee, a broader Redesdale group that met with local State Member the Honourable Stephanie Ryan, Andrew Plant (CoGB), Peter Harding (Kyneton Cycling Group), Gary Long (Bendigo-Kilmore Rail Trail group), Peter Maine (President Heathcote Tourism and Development)), various Mia Mia residents and the Kyneton Progress Association.

In addition, RaDA has also sought input from individual cyclists (~15 views have been sought). The general theme is that cyclists evaluate routes on the basis of quality and quantity. The quality relates to the climbs/descents and the lack of danger from drivers of cars, and the quantity relates to the distance of the route.

Discussions have also been held with a number of owners of wineries and accommodation in the local area. Without exception, all are excited about the concept and would undoubtedly make bikers and walkers especially welcome.

In 2013, Redesdale held its first festival which was attended by visitors from as far away as Echuca, Melbourne and Geelong. A second festival is planned for later in 2015. There is an annual Bush Market which attracts hundreds of visitors. A distinct advantage for tourism in Redesdale is that most visitors to Heathcote and to Lake Eppalock pass through Redesdale on their way. The breakthrough idea is that, while locals are enthusiastic, the fact is that it is a small village with very little infrastructure and a small population. So the local population cannot generate enough usage of the proposed trail. Regional cyclists and walkers would create incremental but welcome added activity and business. The additional way to approach regional growth is to think about what would attract a significant event to the area and 'put Redesdale on the map'.

Our belief is that, in the way of the Pier to Pier swim at Lorne, The Heathcote on Show event on the Queen's birthday weekend and the Mt Lofty off-road bike race, a triathlon '**Loop the Lake**' is a realistic ambition if there is a sign-posted trail in place. The triathlon concept involves circling Lake Eppalock as well as the proposed connecting trail from the Kyneton or the Heathcote direction.

It's easy to imagine an annual event that attracts hundreds of people to the Greater Bendigo area. The '**Loop The Lake**' concept fits the bill.

Proposed route

Whichever route is decided as optimal, the evidence is that wayside stops should be incorporated pointing out particular historical, geological, botanical and zoological features. In both Europe and North America these are very popular and Australian evidence from feedback on walking trails confirms the European data.

Route options

Our consideration is, since Heathcote does not have a railway line and the Knowsley to Derrinal section is not complete- and has no known plan for completion- linking Redesdale eastwards toward the Major Mitchell trail and the O'Keefe trail is likely to garner the most local support and to be the most viable. However, cyclists and walkers need to get to Redesdale.

Practically going west to Kyneton may be the optimal solution given the Kyneton infrastructure (train line) and the rich history that exists between the two towns.

Option A:

Cyclists get their bikes to Kyneton on the train, cycle to Redesdale, Axedale and Bendigo, then catch the train back.

The suggested routes to cycle to Redesdale are on the Kyneton-Metcalf Rd, then the Metcalf-Redesdale Rd. Alternatively there is the Ridge Track that connects with Goldfields Rd then Dalliston Rd, then Siddles Rd, Campbell's Rd then McNiffs Rd to Redesdale.

These options follow existing roads and only need the installation of a cycle path, as distinct from traversing farming land.

Option B:

(following the original rail trail from Kyneton to Redesdale) The second option runs from Kyneton, to Degraives Mill (Old Quarry Rd), then to Boundary Rd then Metcalf/Kyneton Rd to Minogues Rd to Hodges Rd to Shillidale Rd to Morgans Rd to the Heathcote/Kyneton Rd. Redesdale-Kyneton – going along the main road to Barfold to Barfold Station behind the hall.

The trail would then go west to Morgans Rd across Old School Rd and then along Morgan's Rd. That would lead to the next historic station (Emmerton), which is clearly marked. The train used to go through a cutting that is now filled with water and is now on private property. It then went through open country. It would then go to Shilliday Rd, then to East Metcalf-Langley Rd, Hodges Rd, Boundary Rd, Metcalf-Kyneton. Then to Malmsbury-Kyneton Rd and on to Redesdale.

There would be a proposed optional road off to Turpins Falls, a beautiful geological and picnicking site.

The third option is from Kyneton to Redesdale on the rail trail – Kyneton station to Redesdale Junction (near Degraives Mill on Calder Highway north).

The above options make particular sense because they use the existing train service to bring people to the region.



Longer term concept

Over time, the concept is that, as Councils join up to strengthen regional development, the proposition would be to join Kyneton, Redesdale (and similar small towns) with the bigger site of Bendigo.

Redesdale - Heathcote

Option 1: Head to Mangan's Lane via Lyell Bridge. This then goes to Kurrang Point Rd then Old Forest Rd, Twin Rivers Rd, then Lyell Rd to Kimbolten/Axedale junction which picks up the O'Keefe Trail.

Option 2: Via the Major Mitchell trail which starts at Mia Mia, along Burke and Wills, left into McDonald's Lane through to the Heathcote/Baynton Rd to Argyle across Spring Plains track to Heathcote

Or - get to Mangan's Lane (access other than via the main road is a challenge), then via Twin Rivers Rd, then maybe through the multitude of tracks that run around the lake through the State Forest. These tracks would need to be sign-posted.


Looping the lake

In terms of infrastructure, this concept is a practical, minimal option, simply involving signposting. The value of it lies in potentially creating a significant cycle/triathlon event for Victoria (and beyond) that generates profile for the area and economic advantage.

Redesdale to Mia Mia, Native Dog Creek Rd, Derrinal Rd, Knowsley then Knowsley/Lake Eppalock Rd to the Spillway, then to Kimbolten/Axedale Rd, then Lyell Rd.

The challenge with this concept is to solve the access route from Redesdale to Mia Mia.

Heather Carmody



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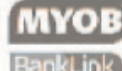
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Recipe of the Month Icky Sticky Toffee Puddings

310 mls water
170 gms dates, pitted and chopped
1 tsp bicarb soda
170 gms caster sugar
60 gms butter
2 eggs
170 gms self-raising flour
1/2 tsp vanilla essence

Sauce

200 gms soft dark brown sugar
115 gms butter
3/4 cup cream
30 gms pecan nuts, chopped

Pour the water over the dates in a pan and bring to boil. Remove from heat and add the bicarb and leave to stand. Cream butter and sugar in a processor. Add eggs one at a time and beat well adding the vanilla essence. Drop the flour on top of the mixture and process. Add the dates with their liquid and process again until all are incorporated.

Pour the mixture into 8 or 9 lightly oiled ramikins and bake in the centre of the oven at 180°C for 25 mins. When cooked, turn out onto a tray. Make the sauce by combining all ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to boil and simmer for 3 minutes.

To serve, pour some sauce over each of the puddings and put them under the griller (5 inches from the grill) for about 5 minutes.

Serve on a flat plate, surrounded by the remaining sauce and drizzle cream across in a zigzag pattern. Very impressive!

LOG FIRES AND GOOD WINES

The Queens Birthday Weekend was freezing cold but this didn't deter a number of visitors taking part in the Heathcote on Show festival which showcased local wineries. The Redesdale Hotel opened temporarily for an art exhibition and wine tasting event. Outside, members of the Recreation Reserve Committee shivered as they sold raffle tickets for the firewood ably and generously collected by Andrew Campbell (pictured right).

Stone Axe Winery in North Redesdale Road is a new winery recently built and opened by Anthony Baird (below left) and Heather Carmody (below, middle). They had a very successful weekend with over 150 visitors over two days who enjoyed an a la carte menu at their winery along with wine tasting and cellar door sales of their oil, wine and farm produce. Simon Webb, enthusiastic caterer for community events (below right) and Heather prepared some delicious gourmet accompaniments from an a la carte menu.

Heather commented, "The great thing was how excited visitors were to discover the local enthusiasm for food and wine ...and so many of them commented on the fantastic views and landscapes in our area".



40k POP UP RESTAURANT AT BARFOLD

This is the second year Barfold has held this event and it has been a great success. Barfold Hall was transformed into a classy restaurant with amazing attention to detail. The tables were beautifully set, the room cosy and the lights low. Even the "rest rooms" were subtly decorated, candle lit and perfumed. The restaurant was opened for two nights on Friday and Saturday June 19th and 20th. The restaurant concept focused on local sustainability and showcased ingredients, produce and entertainment from within a 40k radius of Barfold.

Local chef Roland Schaedle crafted a specialty menu that championed the region's finest produce, from award-winning olives and cheeses to forest-picked mushrooms and locally bred angus beef. Sandra Aitken (founder of Barfold Estate) curated a matching wine list to accompany the menu.

The music was just right. Local cabaret jazz artist Meryl Leppard supported by Nicolas Lyon may come from within 40k of Barfold but they contributed a distinctly international flavour to the night. At times you felt you could have been in New York where Meryl has recently spent a lot of time.

Mount Alexander Shire sponsored the entertainment and the profits from the night will go to the local fire brigade.

Congratulations to the Barfold Hall Committee!



Top left: Meryl Leppard and Nicolas Lyon play very cool jazz..

Above: Chef - Roland Schaedle, well-known in the region for his wonderful local cuisine.

Left: Peg Higginbottom and Sandra Aitken of the Barfold Hall Committee.



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