



# REDESDALE

*Community plan*  
2024 – 2029 vo.1



# Introduction

The township of Redesdale is located at the junction of roads leading to Lake Eppalock, Bendigo, Kyneton, and via Heathcote to Echuca. It is connected to its nearest neighbour, Mia Mia, by a historic iron lattice-truss bridge. This bridge, constructed in 1868, has a fascinating history involving trusses salvaged from a shipwreck in the Yarra River.

It is significant that Redesdale and Mia Mia are serviced by four local councils: the City of Greater Bendigo (central Redesdale), Mitchell Shire, Mount Alexander Shire, and Macedon Ranges. It lies between the twin rivers, the Coliban and the Campaspe, which flow into Lake Eppalock and continue as the Campaspe to the Murray River.

The rolling landscape around the area is dotted with granite outcrops and flat, basalt-strewn hills noted by Major Mitchell when he crossed the Coliban in 1836. The main industries are sheep farming, vineyards, and olive groves.

Redesdale has an active, growing community. It has a monthly newsletter, website ([www.redesdale.net](http://www.redesdale.net)), Facebook, and Instagram accounts.

The Redesdale and District Association is now in its twelfth year. There are 9 committee members, 26 voting members and 119 members who receive regular emails.

The association has the following purposes:

- To develop, facilitate, and review the Redesdale Community Plan
- To act as a central point of contact for residents, local government, and other groups wishing to communicate with Redesdale residents
- To provide a common communication point for representatives of existing groups and committees
- To develop and maintain a community website
- To encourage community cohesion through activities and the improvement of facilities

The association developed their first community plan in 2013, and the summary read: ***Redesdale residents aim to achieve a town which is safe, invitingly landscaped, welcoming to tourists, clean and tidy, and where people of all ages work and socialise well together. They require good, functional facilities for activities and meetings and easy access to necessary services.*** These purposes and aspirations continue.







## THEME 1

# Community connection and collaboration

### 1.1 Build stronger connections between community members and groups

- Maintain communication efforts using a range of tools, including print and online media
- Support the development of community meeting facilities as part of the Redesdale Community Precinct development
- Continue to facilitate collaboration between community groups
- Promote stronger ties with Mia Mia through sharing information and collaboration

### 1.2 Emergency preparedness

- Continue advocacy for improved access to digital media and mobile phone coverage
- Maintain collaboration with CFA and assist, where possible, the CFA's effort to increase the preparedness of local residents for emergencies







## THEME 2

# Activities and events

### 2.1 Plan collaboratively for successful offering of regular events and facilities

Continue to support successful previous Community Plan initiatives such as:

- Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea (fundraiser)
- Clean Up Australia Day roadside rubbish collection annual event
- Movie nights
- Family BBQs
- Craft classes – knitting, crocheting, watercolour painting
- Community book exchange in the Redesdale Reserve, behind the Community noticeboard

### 2.2 Trial some informal gatherings as a means of welcoming and connecting community members

New community suggestions include:

- Cooking classes
- Soup nights
- Christmas gatherings: Santa in summer, and Puddings in winter
- Book club monthly
- Sewing/patchwork club monthly
- Mothers group
- Woodworking/pottery classes

### 2.3 Foster opportunities for organisations and businesses to offer events in local settings

Continue to work with the City on City-supported events. Community suggestions include:

- Food, wine, arts and music events in partnership with local people and enterprises
- Tai chi and/or exercise classes
- Farmers market (alternate weekend to Castlemaine)
- Support allied health visiting services

### 2.4 Support local philanthropy

Convene or support fundraising and other efforts as agreed.








## THEME 3

# New initiatives requiring advocacy



### 3.1 Progress further development of the Redesdale Community Precinct

- Wide community engagement to finalise the design and ensure the priorities of different user groups are accommodated
- Adequate facilities for allied health visitors to the Redesdale Hall
- New facilities for campers



### 3.2 New opportunities to encourage visitation to the area

- Pedestrian link between Redesdale and Mia Mia
- Partner with Mia Mia to investigate the feasibility of increased off-road activities such as cycling, walking, orienteering and horse-riding
- Advocate for improved signage to Redesdale in designated locations
- Create opportunities to document, store and display local, historical artefacts in places of historical significance
- Continue to pursue the development of a heritage walk at the Stone Reserve
- Investigate opportunity to repair historic stone wall that boundaries the Redesdale Reserve

### 3.3 Improve service provision for young families

- City-funded kindergarten to enable parents to access early learning funding
- Suitable childcare services that enable young parents to re-enter the workforce





## THEME 4

# Infrastructure and services requiring ongoing advocacy

### 4.1 Road and traffic services, safety and upgrades

- Public transport opportunities and other community-based transport initiatives
- Speed limitations
- Pedestrian and cycle safety
- More pathways to provide wellbeing opportunities for walkers, dog walkers, runners, strollers and walking-aids

### 4.2 Protection of native flora and fauna

- Partnership with relevant agencies to increase community and visitor awareness
- Opportunities for revegetation
- Collaboration with relevant partners increase awareness about responsibility for and management of noxious weeds

### 4.3 Local indigenous recognition

### 4.4 Small business support

Support and encourage local businesses, such as:

- Horticultural, livestock and crop farming, e.g. skill sharing workshops
- Hospitality
- Visiting professional classes, e.g. yoga



### 4.5 Upgrades to recreational and sporting facilities

Identify specific priorities based on expressed need and advocate accordingly. Community suggestions include:

- Updated playground with improved shaded areas
- Upgraded tennis pavilion
- Tennis rebound wall
- Off-leash area for dogs and provision of poo-bags
- Cricket practice net
- Skate park
- Fitness playground or outdoor fitness stations
- Outdoor gym near playground for parents
- Non-mountain-bike cycling path
- Basketball practice rings

### 4.6 Increase the attractiveness of town entrances and roadsides

Beautify the roundabout on Lyell Road.