

***Mission Statement:***

***To support and develop a sustainable, thriving and resilient community  
through leadership and partnership***

**HELD:** Tuesday 8 March 2011

**LOCATION:** Yackandandah Sports Park

**NUMBER OF RESIDENTS: 26**

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Senior Managers</b>	<b>Community members</b>
Cr Ali Pockley Cr Barb Murdoch Cr Peter Croucher Cr Larry Goldsworthy	CEO Brendan McGrath GM Sustainable Communities Mark Florence Acting GM Major Projects & Programs Jamie Heritage Manager Communications Roberta Baker Community Strengthening Project Officer Scott Landells	Janice Hinderaker Glen Mildren Jim Levens Rachelle Levens Pam Glass Trevor Glass Ron Boulton Helen Boulton Leo Moore Peter Glass Sonja Wolf Merle Bray Jane Donaldson Regina Welsh Ian Welsh Matt Charles-Jones Karen Young Helen Kelley

		Susan Reynolds Nico VanNouhuys Neil Burbidge Mark Burbidge Michael Glass John Boehm Don Nevin
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ITEM NO	ITEM	ACTION
1.0	<b>Welcome:</b> Mayor Cr Ali Pockley	
2.0	<b>Apologies:</b> Cr Bernard Gaffney, Cr Peter Graham, Cr Vic Issell	
3.0	<b>Yackandandah Public Hall update</b>	
	<p>Jamie Heritage: Work on the entry and exit road for the Yackandandah Public Hall will be done in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Mark Florence: Clarified the situation with the checkerboard colour of the side wall of the Yackandandah Public Hall. There is a budget of \$10,000 which does not allow for a redesign of the wall, just a change of the colour. Options for different colours have been on display in the Yackandandah community at 13 different sites. The responses will be collated and a second round of options will be put out for public input. If the community wanted to change the awning/verandah Council could work with the community on in the future.</p> <p>Cr Pockley said some residents had commented that the money would be better spent on the inside of the hall, in particular the acoustics.</p> <p>Merle Bray commented that when it rains it is difficult to hear what is going on inside the hall.</p> <p>Cr Pockley suggested people who felt the money would be better spent on the inside of the hall should contact Mark Florence.</p>	

4.0	<b>Flood damage and repair work</b>	
	<p>Jamie Heritage said rain and flood damage over the past few months was close to \$.35 million. The Garvey Road bridge will be completed in a few weeks. It was let to contractors and Council can claim the cost back from the government. With other work Council needs to apply for funds first. Council's first priority is road safety.</p> <p>Cr Pockley said she would be meeting with Minister Peter Ryan this week and would be pushing the case for funding applications to be hurried along.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Helen Boulton asked about repairs to Racecourse Road. Jamie Heritage said there was some work to be done there and that there were over 200 sites that needed attention. He will get back to her with further information.</li> <li>2. Jane Donaldson said advance signs were needed on Sanitarium Road.</li> <li>3. Ian Welsh, Indigo Valley, spoke about a problem in and around the back roads of Indigo valley.</li> </ol> <p>Jim Levens raised concern about the Osbornes Flat Road area where there is significant washaway near the bridge.</p>	<p><b>Jamie Heritage, 1,2,3,4</b></p>
5.0	<b>Community Strengthening Project - Yackandandah</b>	
	<p>Scott Landells outlined the Yackandandah Community Strengthening draft Community Plan. There have been two meetings, with 30 people at both; different groups of people, which was a sign of the strength of the Yackandandah community. Copies of the plan were available at the forum, and the plan will be emailed to people for comment on until 1 April.</p> <p>This is a community-owned plan and the plan goes to Council for endorsement. Working parties are being set up to work on priorities. Emphasis is on the sustainable nature of projects. Staff work with groups. If you want to join one of those groups, let Community Strengthening staff know.</p> <p>Therese Glass commented on suggestions for walking track near Sir Isaac Isaacs park.</p> <p>Karen Glass said safety was an issue.</p> <p>Matthew Charles-Jones spoke about the need to resolve two aspects – a promotional plan for the town and community food. A promotional plan would be about working out what the assets are and promoting those. Should a promotional plan be worked out first, then decide what we work on?</p> <p>Scott Landells said a promotional plan would involve tourism, economic development, media, communication, assets. The community still has to determine what actions are taken.</p> <p>Mark Burbidge said he thought the feeling of those people promoting the walking, riding, cycling track was that this could be a benefit to tourists and current residents, whereas the promotional aspect was more a commercial approach to the town. A lot of people saw there was benefit in promoting the town and the food aspect was one that would benefit the community rather than tourists.</p> <p>Cr Murdoch said Chiltern was the 'first cab off the rank' with the Community Strengthening Project and it was working well in</p>	

	that town.	
	<b>Annual Community Survey/Business signage guidelines survey</b>	
	<p>Roberta Baker gave an update on the community survey, which has received more than 600 responses to date, a fantastic response. The initial survey in 2009-10 attracted 1300 responses, and was done in conjunction with community meetings to provide residents' with a chance to have input into the Council Plan. Last year, the process involved just a survey, to measure progress against the Council Plan. The response was 276. This year, the survey was included in the mail-out of the <i>Indigo Informer</i> newsletter and the response has been very strong. Initial trends indicate residents prefer communication with Council in the form of the <i>Informer</i> newsletter and community forums, and Council has improved its response times and waste management. The survey is on the website and copies are available at Council offices. The survey is open until 18 March.</p> <p>Business signage guidelines survey: Council is reviewing these guidelines in response to community concerns. There have been about 70 responses to date. If anyone wants to respond the survey is on the website and at Council's offices.</p>	
	<b>Solar Hubs project</b>	
	<p>Mark Florence advised that Council is in a partnership with a number of other councils in a Solar Hub project, which aims to provide 2000 homes across the seven shires with access to low interest loans so they can have solar panels installed. A website was launched last week – <a href="http://solarnortheast.com.au">solarnortheast.com.au</a>. People are urged to go to the site and register their interest. When a project manager is in place, staff will then contact those who have registered.</p>	



- Council's own trial using local biodiesel in our heavy machinery, blend less dependent on rise and fall of oil prices
- downsize passenger fleet - 4 cylinders
- fleet manager – tallest staff member, smallest car, most economical.
- Greenhouse Action Plan – Council to cut emissions by 20% on 2005 figures, by 2016
- Environment Advisory Committee, - Matthew is a member
- Greenhouse Alliance membership.

Cr Pockley said it was important to preserve our local agricultural land to grow our own food, rather than have it shipped in from outside. She referred to the draft Rural Land Use Strategy which Council had that day agreed to put out for community comment.

Matthew stressed the issue was about the availability of a scarce resource. Cr Pockley said that with oil prices 'going north' in the Middle East, this was an important issue and one that will touch on our work in a major way.

Scott Landells spoke about a Transition Towns workshop with the MAV (Municipal Association of Victoria) last year. Other communities in the shire are probably looking at aspects of this ie. farmers markets, growing own veggies. He mentioned the need for integrated planning and gave the example of the Chiltern Tourism and Traders Group merging and overseeing a Community Strengthening Project. He suggested the Yackandandah community could look at this model.

Nico VanNouguys asked to what point do departments of the Council support sustainability with the public. He is in building design and has had difficulty with some departments in Council, with decisions mainly based on what we have done in the last 100 years.

Mark Florence responded that it can be hard to shift local government in quick time. He said sustainability was more than the 'green stuff'. If a community does not have community groups, community strengthening, volunteers groups then they are not sustainable. How do we develop some strong sustainability principles that we can apply across our organization, not just in planning but in economic development, community planning, service provision, meals on wheels delivery – when you count up the amount of miles Council does, it is a bit contradictory.

Mark explained that Council was trying to instill in staff the need for their first question to be 'how can we help with this?' rather than just stating what cannot be. His message is for staff to be flexible and still operate under the Act.

Jane Donaldson mentioned damage to a levy bank and waterhole and said various people had been in touch with Goulburn

Murray Water and could not get an answer on who was responsible for the levy bank.

Jamie Heritage said he thought Council's road reserve stopped just before the levy bank, that there was an unofficial road in there. He said the Catchment Management Authority had a role. He will look into this and get back to Jane.

Mark Burbidge, for Kiewa and Yackandandah fire brigades, urged Council to give serious consideration to the feedback from the community on the roadside management plan as there were serious concerns about how it will be implemented. Township Protection Plans are still not finalized.

Lettering has peeled off some rural road signs making them hard to read and a problem in an emergency.

Permits to burn in town – to discourage burning. Brigade has written to Council re increasing access to green waste –but has had an unsatisfactory response.

Brendan McGrath said staff would look carefully at the roadside management plan and would build a response to Council on feedback.

In relation to rural signs, these have been ordered and will progressively be replaced.

With permits for burning off, the fee is about minimizing the cost to Council and therefore the community. Sometimes there is a site visit needed.

The Yackandandah Township Protection Plan is still under development.. There will be a Briefing for Council in the next few weeks on where those plans are up to.

Green waste is an alternative to burning. Council has free green waste weekend for two weeks on either side of summer. If we get consistent feedback we would look at more. Mark suggested across the year would be better.

A question was asked of the CEO on the number of staff Council employed and if 'we have any pride in our town'. In Railway Avenue, past the swimming pool there were rocks near the pool and they were a road hazard and they needed to be removed.

Brendan McGrath said Council received numerous calls every day – when is that road shoulder being fixed up, that road graded? He said Council did not pay for flood repair work, the State Government does through a special disaster assistance fund. But Council has to apply for the funding and except for matters for safety issues, Council needs to go to outside contractors.

Comment was made that it would take one man with a shovel and a broom to fix the problem.

Brendan said he would take that on board and get it fixed.

**Jamie Heritage**

**Ron Sneddon**