

Toolangi-Castella Community Planning follow-up meeting notes

20 June 2019

Toolangi-Castella Community House

7.30-9pm

Eight community members, along with MSC staff Stuart Collier, Anna Paix and Julie Kirkwood, came together at the community house on Thursday night, the 20th of June. It was a great catch up, we shared our thoughts about the possibilities for inviting broader involvement from the community to develop a community plan.

1. Recap/feedback from community planning evening

Anna provided a brief summary of community planning and what it can offer to Toolangi-Castella, the value of community ownership of the plan and broad community input. Murrindindi Shire Council (MSC) is facilitating a one-year pilot project, which involves Yea and Marysville, as well as Toolangi-Castella. The current timeline aims to support the three communities to seek input, identify priorities and present some key priorities to Council by the end of the year. MSC is available to support this process.

Julie provided brief feedback regarding the Forest Discovery Centre, following advice received from DWELP. The proposed rezoning of the centre, which would allow for a broader range of activities to utilise the space, could take up to 12 months. The process will first require a letter to be sent from the responsible Minister from DWELP to the Minister for Local Government regarding commencement of the process to develop an amendment. Following this, the documentation will be released for public consultation, and will finally require parliamentary approval. Julie also advised that the State government is running a consultation process for a bushfire centre and is currently inviting public comment until 15 August. Go to: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/bushfire-centre-consultation>.

2. Next steps

- a) MSC staff members Julie and Anna will be available to support the community planning pilot process (with the key contact person for Toolangi-Castella being Julie), with some resources also available for training and activities.
- b) Ways on how to progress a plan were discussed, including utilising existing community opportunities and activities to seek broad community input, and potentially organising specific activities to invite community input. The key is to identify actions that are most suitable and complementary to the community's needs. The ideas gathered at the dinner on 30th of May identified a strong interest in improving opportunities for collaboration and efficiencies among different groups.
- c) The group asked that Julie will continue to organise future meetings and provide administrative support through this process. These meetings will be organised on an as needs basis, likely to be roughly one per month.
- d) There was widespread agreement that a list of community groups and businesses in Toolangi-Castella would be very useful, and that this could form the basis of an invitation list to invite contributions to the community planning process, including i) contributing to the

ideas lists (generated on May 30) currently on display at the community house and ii) by coming along to a dinner in August/September (date and details to be confirmed). Groups, individuals and businesses would also be encouraged to contribute in other ways that might interest them, such as coming along to one (or more) of the community planning meetings for this project.

The group also discussed the possibility of holding a broader Toolangi-Castella community dinner in September/October to progress prioritisation of the collated ideas.

The group would like to meet again. The next meeting will be determined after the broader community has had the opportunity to read the May dinner notes and contribute their own ideas. The next meeting will further discuss and progress the ideas for inviting broader community input to the community plan. The group agreed that evenings after 7pm are most suitable to enable people to attend, and also suggested trying a different day other than Thursday.

The boards with collated community input from the May dinner will be kept on display at the Toolangi-Castella District Community House until further notice, and the community will be invited to come and view them and add their contributions.

e) Other key actions from the meeting include:

Notes from the May dinner will be included as an attachment to minutes for broad distribution. Photos of the original boards with collected ideas will also be available.

Julie to email the entire Toolangi-Castella Community Planning mailing list, updating them about the outcomes of the dinner on the 30th May, the minutes from this follow-up meeting and providing a copy of the typed up ideas from the May dinner. Community members will be invited to i) get involved by adding to the ideas on display at the community house, or by getting in touch with us directly and/or ii) get involved by coming along to the next meeting.

Community members will be invited to comment on the ideas/themes via a Facebook post that the community house (and others) will post.

Discuss possibilities for developing an interactive web page to invite community input.

The meeting ended at 9pm