
Urban design talks

from Julie Foletta

The Draft Urban Design Framework (UDF) for the Marysville and Triangle area is on display and open for comment until Saturday 10 October. Community and stakeholder input is a vital part of the consultation process.

Last Sunday 20 September Murrindindi Shire Council staff, Victorian Bushfire Recovery and Reconstruction Authority (VBRRA) staff and members of the design team were available at the Marysville marquee to discuss the proposal.

That evening the community consultation process continued with a briefing at the Marysville and Triangle Development Group community meeting at the Marysville Golf Club.

VBRRA's Kerry O'Neill acknowledged the contribution made by the 600 people who had already contributed to the plan.

Kerry described the UDF as being, not a blue print or a recipe, but a set of guidelines or objectives to give Marysville the best chance to rebuild.

She said it was up to the council to decide whether the objectives of the guidelines were met in any planning permit application submitted to them, and encouraged people to continue submitting their plans now.

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First discussions on Marysville urban design

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Roberts Day planning consultant, Zac said their team had been working furiously to assemble a document that represented the initial aspirations that came out of the Celebration Day of 3 May and subsequent events.

The UDF vision is for a safer more sustainable Marysville which grows into a memorable place for people to visit.

The UDF will also provide a framework to assist with decision-making for funding of projects.

Zac added that, in dollar terms, the pro bono contribution made by the Boston Consulting Group would amount to more than \$1 million.

University of Melbourne Masters of Architecture students have also been working on designs, especially of the community buildings.

Zac said that part two of the draft UDF document contained the most relevant information for the Murrindindi Shire's planning scheme and that a shared trail to link towns in the triangle was seen as important.

With regard to the town's character, he believed important components were: to retain the Steavenson River corridor, use the existing traffic movement routes, that the centre (heart) of the town is the area between Christ Church and the emergency services complex and the series of trails out of the town needed connection within the town. The plan for a second river crossing needed further investigation, but would principally provide a second access and egress from the town, especially for emergency vehicles.

Plans include the retention of a green theme Murchison Street, with separate buildings with landscaped setbacks.

Design and development work of the public place in the heart of Marysville needs progressing, but ideas include a brewery, café and outdoor spaces running through to Gallipoli Park.

The planners envisage at least one conference facility on the Keppels Hotel, Cumberland or Koorunga sites, not piecemeal development.

The community hub would be one viable facility comprising the kindergarten, school and medical centre, with a shared element and used over different times of the day. The general store could be in the area of the garage with a link through to Darwin Street, which will be upgraded.

There are a few private properties on Murchison Street which may be appropriate sites for the police station or it could be at the front of the Telstra site.

Catalyst projects include the town heart, a conference centre and Gallipoli Park from Bruno's sculpture garden to land on the other side of Murchison Street

Zac said that in the immediate future the property owners and the government need to work together. The community consultation process with conclude as an amendment to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.

Submissions will be received until 10 October. The final UDF document should be ready for presentation to council by 22 October. Once approved by council, it will go through the processes to

become an amendment to the planning scheme.

Community concerns

In question time the following concerns were expressed: that there was little correlation between Marysville and the Marysville Golf Club; that businesses out of town would have to wait for inclusion in the plans; people with smaller accommodation facilities were still wondering whether they should rebuild; the absence of the owners of the former conference centres at these meetings; that small business owners needed emotional and financial support and that 'part timers' needed the confidence to rebuild.

In response, Zac said a conference centre brings with it employment and needs to be walking distance to the town, private dwellings will have the right to rebuild on Murchison Street, current planning applications should continue, out of town business should put their concerns to VBR-RA or the council staff, Marysville has the best chance of rebuilding from its centre and the swimming pool is a drawcard and will be enhanced.

This briefing will be repeated at the next Marysville One Community Association (MOCA) meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23 September

at Mason Sier Turnbull, 315 Ferntree Gully Road, Mt Waverley.

Further briefings for Murchison Street businesses and owners will be held at Crossways Inn on Thursday 24 September between 6pm and 7.30pm. Those interested in the Marysville retirement village should meet at Crossways at 3.30pm on Tuesday 29 September. The Marysville and Triangle Community Recovery Committee will next meet at 5.30pm on Tuesday 29 September.

Written submissions to: Marysville and Triangle Draft Urban Design Framework, Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra Victoria 3714 or via email msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or UDFfeedback@dpc.vic.gov.au If you wish to discuss this proposal further, please contact a member of the Murrindindi Shire Council's planning department on 5772 0317.

You can view the draft UDF at the Buxton and Taggerty general stores, Narbethong Community Hub, Marysville Bakery, Marysville Community Hub, Marysville Marquee in Murchison Street, Murrindindi Shire Council offices in Alexandra and on the web at www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au and www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au.

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