

MATDG News, 18th December

The combined MATDG/MOCA meeting held at the Black Spur Inn on Sunday 13th December was well attended with approximately 60 people at the meeting and the BBQ following.

Key points from the meeting chaired by Graeme Brown:

- The Strategic plan outlines the vision of MATDG and key projects for 2010
- Key learning (particularly from the Phoenix workshop process) is that consultation needs to be inclusive
- Moving forward there will be more of a project focus, MATDG need to ensure the projects are acceptable to the community. The meeting heard from Andrew Watt (Russell Crowe/Luke Longley foundation) in relation to the proposed performing arts centre and Frank McGuire in relation to the Global learning village concept. The challenge is how to pull these sorts of proposals together into acceptable and sustainable outcomes
- MATDG will be supporting sustainability initiatives including the Murrindindi Climate Change Network. New industries, land for a technology park and tourism marketing also need examination
- Major catalyst project (conference centre) is still not resolved. However, there are beds and businesses in the towns and we need to get the "Open for Business" message out.
- Questions are being raised about the transparency of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF) and the balance of distribution of funds. \$4000 grant for removal of trees has been extended to 28 Feb 2010 (needs confirmation)
- Donations have been received by MATDG for community projects. The two major donors are MLC and Sanitarium. The latter donation is being used to support the community nursery. The MLC donation has been used initially as seed funding for the UHF repeater stations. The balance is allocated to signage in the triangle as part of a tourism recovery initiative.
- More recently Bunnings have come to MATDG with a proposal to support owner builders and rebuilding. Details to be notified
- \$800,000 has been allocated to commencement of the bike trail
- CRC projects are underway. Money has been allocated to halls for Narbethong, Buxton and Taggerty, project managers to be appointed
- Signage is required in Marysville ("Welcome to Marysville)- MATDG to write to Vic Roads
- Fuel should be available prior to Xmas (Caltex card reader system)
- RAC building is proceeding. Views were put the proposed use as a building advisory centre may be too late, but it may be of more value for community meetings and a Visitor Information Centre. Due for completion in March.
- School is due to reopen start of second term 2010
- Volunteers are needed for the Ventou Marysville Lake Mountain Challenge on **Saturday 20 February 2010**. See the event website www.vic.cycling.org.au or contact: Mathew Hilton: (03) 8480 3055, email: mathew.hilton@cycling.org.au
- The number of permits issued is not known- however 38 buildings were underway in early December
- The year has been extremely challenging, a positive outcome has been the relationships built over the year- including a meeting with Kevin Rudd and Malcolm Turnbull
- Local politicians have been very supportive- special mentions to Fran Bailey, Ben Hardman, Peter Ryan, Bill Shorten

- The community should be proud of their recovery and resilience. MATDG as an incorporated society will continue to represent the community, including the use of special general meetings for community decision making in 2010

Merry Xmas to all. MATDG will be taking a break over Xmas/New Year. Next community meeting date to be notified

Go to www.marysvillecommunity.net for more details of coming events, notices, minutes of MATDG meetings, contact names and other information. To contact MATDG email: vmoritz@optusnet.com.au