

MATDG UPDATE

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Report to members 2010

In the past year MATDG has continued to successfully represent the communities of Marysville, Narbethong, Granton, Buxton and Taggerty, towns decimated by the events of 7th February 2009 and now rebuilding.

Formed to provide a community forum and voice following this event, MATDG has continued work in 2009/2010 with the following achievements

- Liaison with VBRRRA /DHS, all levels of Government and other bodies to ensure community involvement in the reconstruction effort
- Supporting the community to ensure all views are heard during the reconstruction. Contact Graeme Brown if you have an issue that needs to be raised (0418 149912)
- Supporting Plantaid- the community nursery
- Sponsoring the community website- www.marysvillecommunity.net to ensure our widely spread community can keep in touch
- Developing the heritage trail, supported by funds from MLC
- Working with philanthropic groups and donors such as the Australian Childrens trust (ACT), Russell Crowe, Luc Longley, Coffs Harbour Bushfire Relief Fund , MLC
- Worked with ACT and others on the temporary village and orchestrated its development to what it is today.
- MATDG have a major role in information gathering and sharing. Communication mechanisms included:
 - The community website, now being

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run by Jamie Fiske. This will continue for another year.

- Monthly community meetings
- Working with VBRRRA and other bodies to ensure community input and information for key projects
- Publication of information in the Triangle, Standard and other media
- Provision of information on offers made to the community. This includes the performing arts centre, global learning village and bushfire education centre.
- Community wellbeing continued as a major focus. Initiatives in this area included:
 - Organisation and funding of 2 dinner groups for bereaved families
 - Meeting held with government agencies with focus on mental health issues and assistance levels
 - Lobbying of government agencies to gain gap payments for psychiatry
 - Lobbying to determine if VBAF grants can be made available for part time residents
 - Lobbying to ensure the community is heard on issues such as public housing and positioning of the proposed skatepark
- Support to numerous community events such as the Marathon, bike race, Wayne Bissett footy match etc

- Worked with Regional Arts Victoria to secure and support the Federation square “big screen”
- Worked with VBRRRA to enable the Phoenix workshop and the Urban Design Framework outcome
- Promotion of the Triangle Bike trail project– feasibility study underway
- Supported a catalyst project to create jobs, bring tourists and re–install confidence
- Delegations to Canberra and Victorian parliament
- Supporting the Arts community and their desire to have a performing arts facility in Marysville.

MATDG Objectives for 2010/2011

MATDG members are invited to review these objectives at the AGM. Do they meet your needs?

- MATDG is the only group with a focus across the whole triangle. Committee has consisted of representatives of community groups from all triangle towns, and this needs to continue as a tool for networking across the community
- A role for MATDG is to seek out and develop future community leaders
- A shift in direction from advisory groups to a project focus is needed.
- Current projects include Plantaid and the heritage trail.
- A major role is information gathering and sharing. Communication mechanisms to continue:
 - Community website
 - Monthly community meetings
 - Working with VBRRRA and other bodies to ensure community input and information for key projects
 - Publication of information in the Triangle, Standard and other media

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Dr Lachlan Fraser presenting cheques from the Marathon fund raiser to CFE/SES and Kirribilli Wildlife at the February meeting

- Provision of facilitation and help, not direction and control
- Advocacy and support for community members when requested
- To provide a focus for philanthropic groups and donations outside the bureaucratic government framework
- Promote a “bottom up” community focus
- To sit between the community and governing structures to ensure the community voice is heard

What can you do to help?

Due to the retirement of some members from committee, MATDG is looking for people wanting to assist with development of the community through participation, commitment and growth

Does this interest you? If so, please consider nominating to join the committee of this worthwhile association