



NEWSTEAD 2021 (N2021) FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2013

25 OCTOBER 2013 @ Newstead Community Garden

Meeting commenced 6.20 pm, chaired by Geoff Park

Meeting opening

- 1. Present:** Geoff Park, Genevieve Barlow, Gordon Dowell, Mary Park, Karly Smith, Steve Proposch, Melissa Proposch, Louise Jiricek, Margaret Rasa, Christie Nieman, David Holmes, Julia Elkins, Liz Bell, Carol Porter, Chris Johnston, Michael Redden (departed at 7.10pm), Wayne Zantuck (arrived 6.30pm) and Kate Tucker (arrived 6.30pm)
- 2. Apologies:** Patrick Kavanagh, Saide Gray, Kate Sandiford, Bronwyn Smith, Janet Trudgeon, Margot Brulotte, David Stratton, Keith Brien, Kylie Richardson, Janet Barker, Jen Dyer, Joan Campbell, Jodie Campbell, Andrew Shirres.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM:

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of Newstead 2021 held on 26 February 2013 were a true and correct record of the meeting .

4. Reports

President: Geoff Park presented report as tabled (see page 4 for full report).

Summary of formation of N2021 in 2008 and its achievements. Focus during last 12 months has been working on Newstead Community Plan that identified ten priority projects for Newstead. Special recognition for their work on the Community Plan goes to Janet Barker (and her skills in community development) and Meg Norris for her design work on the report.

N2021 continues to play a key and ongoing role in Newstead, evident in the regular role it plays auspicing groups and projects in Newstead including Accessible Newstead, submission to RAV for Railway Project and supporting the redevelopment of the Newstead Recreation Reserve pavilion. Geoff is stepping down as president of N2021 but will continue to be active in the community.

Community Garden: Mary Park presented report on previous year's activities of the fourth year of the community garden. (see page 5 for full report)

The Garden received grants from the Newstead RTC, Federal Government Volunteer Grant and Mount Alexander Shire Community Grant for tools, frames, shelving, lawn mower and tree works. The annual community dinner again raised enough money to pay for the bore water supply.

Donations and in kind support were received from Newstead Natives and Ewen & Joan Campbell. A number of workshops and events were held during the year, visits from interested groups and individuals.

The Newstead Primary School and Newstead Preschool are regular visitors.

Produce Exchange is a great connecting point. Thanks to the Bell's for organising and publicity in Echo.

Special thanks to Janet Barker for the garden blog, Echo and other press.

Accessible Newstead: Dave Stratton's report presented by Genevieve Barlow.

\$15,000 grant provided for Accessible Newstead. Audit was completed and most business premises in Newstead have ramps available.

\$1,000 remaining which will go to N2021 for administration costs.

River Project: Patrick Kavanagh's report presented by Geoff Park (see page 6 for full report)

Understory planting at confluence of Loddon River and Muckleford Creek. Good attendances at plantings and new members have joined.

Received \$10,000 from State Government for projects.

5. Treasurer's Report

Reports presented for financial year ended 30 June 2013, and current financial position at 17 September 2013 (see page 7 for summary of financial position at 17 September 2013)

It was RESOLVED to accept the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2013.

6. Election of Office Bearers

Michael Redden presided over the election of the officer bearers. All positions were declared vacant.

It was RESOLVED to appoint the following people, who were elected unopposed, to the N2021 Committee:

President – Genevieve Barlow

Vice-President – Wayne Zantuck.

Secretary & Public Officer – Karly Smith

Treasurer – Kylie Richardson

Committee members: Don Culvenor, Saide Gray, Patrick Kavanagh, Mary Park, Andrew Shirres, Dave Stratton, Kate Tucker, Geoff Park.

New President Genevieve Barlow addressed the audience and thanked outgoing President Geoff Park (and his wife Mary Park) for his time and commitment to Newstead 2021, and his beautiful style of leadership.

7. Update on Community Planning Projects

Railway Station Project: Genevieve Barlow presented update on plans for the old railway station to be transformed into office, studio and performance spaces. Discussions held with VicTrack (owners of station and buildings) with possibility of applying for *Community Vacant Use Program* funding (this will need support of Council in order to apply).

Thanks to Janet Barker for all of her work on the Regional Arts Victoria Small Towns Grant application and further work on grant opportunities.

Pedestrian Bridge: Michael Redden presented update on bridge project.

Technical design work is complete. Council will be seeking community input into design of bridge. N2021 will play a role in engaging community in contributing to design.

Newstead Bike & Skate Park: Steve Proposch presented update.

Designer has been working on first stage of park (to be located on old tennis court) to include ramps and stage. Major fundraiser set for 15 February 2014 – Newstead Festival of Gaming at NCC and Rotunda Park. Also considering crowd funding to raise funds. \$300,000 required for park.

Next steps to include working with Council to ensure the land reserved for skate park, surveying site, soil testing.

Second stage to include landscaping and physical agility park for all ages

[Michael Redden departed meeting at this point]

Volunteer Project: Kate Tucker presented update, including opportunity for N2021 members to attend a workshop led by US writer and community advocate Meg Wheatley on “engaging communities”. Workshop to be held at Abbotsford Convent on 21 November 2013 (cost for community group \$145/person).

It was RESOLVED to fund two N2021 members to attend the Abbotsford workshop (\$200 available per person to cover workshop entry and transport).

Those interested to contact Genevieve Barlow to register their interest. Those selected to attend are to report back to N2021

Local Business Strategy: Christie Nieman reported on progress of this group

About 8-10 home-based workers meet fortnightly to provide company and kinship, transfer of knowledge, technical advice.

Plans to investigate physical space for a small business hub, and how to further support and develop local businesses.

Planning a Liveable Newstead: Chris Johnston presented an update on a proposed project about a community learning exercise about fire and the bush around us. Plan to engage with community and local and state agencies to look at fire risk and develop better understanding of this. This could become a model for other communities (i.e. in terms of community-scale planning).

Seeking people interested in this project, and to develop a project plan.

Paths and Trails: Geoff Park reported on latest plans for cycle/walking track between Newstead-Guildford-Castlemaine along the rail easement. MASC has allocated \$800K for this. Geoff is a community representative on the Council Committee.

Meeting closed: 7.25 pm

REPORTS

Newstead 2021 President's Report for 2013 AGM

Geoff Park – 24th October 2013

Welcome to the 5th Annual General Meeting of Newstead 2021.

Newstead 2021 comprises citizens formed after a summit held in May 2008. The summit was organised by our local community and included a wide range of participants including farmers, self-employed business people, professionals and school children. Inspired by the then newly-elected Federal Government's 2020 Summit, we wanted to sound out ideas - social, environmental and economic - to strengthen our community. As a result of that Summit, N2021 was formed and we have since developed a community garden, established a locally available free wi-fi service, installed new play equipment in our community playground, set up a town website and established a community project to reduce our energy use and switch to renewable energy.

Our first AGM was held on the 24th May 2009. We were officially incorporated on 16th June 2009. Projects initiated as a result of the 2008 Summit continue to provide essential and valued benefits to our community and I would like to recognise and applaud the efforts of all those involved in initiating and maintaining these projects.

At our last AGM, on the 25th February this year, we were knee-deep in the development of the Newstead Community Plan. The completion of the Plan has been a substantial achievement for our small, but vibrant community and we should reflect with pride not only on the document itself, but especially in the inclusive process that underpinned its development.

The Plan identifies a range of projects and practical strategies around the key themes identified during the consultation process. It is difficult to be objective about our work, but I feel that the final document stands up as a wonderful example of grass-roots community planning. It is a practical and readable Plan. It acknowledges the values and attributes that make Newstead special. It incorporates the ideas, aspirations, hopes and dreams of a broad cross-section of residents. Importantly it looks forward to build on our strengths, through the proposal of tangible projects and strategies that will benefit all in our community. I would like to especially recognise the work of Janet Barker, who, supported by a small committee of interested locals, guided our efforts to engage with a broad cross-section of the community in an inclusive and respectful way. The final Plan is testament to Janet's skill in community development. I would also like to thank Meg Norris for her brilliant graphic design work, and the Maldon and District Community Bank for their support in enabling us to publish a wonderful document and launch it in style.

The Plan proposes a set of ten priority projects and we'll have a chance to discuss these further this evening and into the future. Already a number of these projects are well advanced, with lots of positive energy driving them. On the 6th November we will have the opportunity to present the Plan to a Mount Alexander Shire briefing, involving councilors and senior staff. At this briefing we will outline our desire to make these projects happen, in true Newstead fashion. A focus of the briefing will be to discuss how we can work productively with MAS to advance these projects in a collaborative way – to jointly seek funding, through advocacy and cooperative planning. None of the projects will happen spontaneously – they will be realised through persistence and cooperative effort. A key challenge for us as a community is to encourage and support local residents to work together on these important projects. There are exciting times ahead!

Newstead 2021 continues to play a key and ongoing role within our community. We are an incorporated body with our own ABN, and regularly act as an auspice for groups and projects in the Newstead community. Over the past year we have supported a great initiative, 'Accessible Newstead', led by Dave Stratton, a submission to Regional Arts Victoria to reincarnate the Newstead Railway Station as a vibrant arts hub and continued to support the Newstead Community Garden and a range of other groups and

projects. We have also been active in the planning and fund-seeking for the redevelopment of the Newstead Recreation Reserve Pavilion. Seeing this new facility built over the next 6 months will be very satisfying and the culmination of a number of years work by dedicated volunteers.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the work of our Treasurer, Kylie Richardson, Karly Smith and Genevieve Barlow and all our committee members. I would also like to thank Cr. Michael Redden for his work as both Loddon Ward councillor and Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire. Michael works very hard for our community and has always been prepared to listen and take our concerns forward into what is often a challenging decision making environment.

I have decided it's time to step aside as President of Newstead 2021, but intend to remain just as active in local community life. One of the big challenges facing our community into the future is to maintain the strong culture of volunteerism and community involvement and personally I'd like to commit some time to think and work with other interested folks on this matter.

Newstead is a wonderful community and it's a privilege to work with you all and other local groups in enriching our community life.

Community Garden and Produce Exchange Report for N2021 AGM 2013

The Community Garden has entered its fourth year of operation and continues to thrive. There are currently 44 members (ploholders and diggers) and we have many visitors, both local and from far afield.

Grants

We gratefully acknowledge financial assistance received in the form of grants.

With funds from Newstead RTC we have been able to get basic hand tools (eg hammer, pliers, pruning saw), weed matting and support frames for the berries and grapes. Thanks to Ewen and Joan Campbell for constructing the frames.

A Federal Government Volunteers Grant enabled us to purchase shelving for the hothouse, a lawnmower, watering equipment and some larger tools.

Tree maintenance work was funded from a Mount Alexander Shire Community Grant.

Fundraising

Another successful dinner was held in March - co-ordinated by Julie Patey & Georgina Duckett, with chef Charlotte Duckett, styling by Sally Roadknight, bookings via Liz Bell and lots of help from gardeners, friends and families. Special thanks to all concerned. Each year the dinner has raised enough funds to secure the bore water supply that is essential to the success of the garden. (Photos of the dinner, taken by supporter Mark Hennessy, can be viewed on the garden's blog.)

Funds have also come from membership fees, donations to the monthly Produce Exchange, donations from visiting groups and presenters' fees.

Activities

Feb - Chook keeping workshop; March - Moroccan dinner; April - garlic planting day & pizza lunch; May - 3rd birthday & Compost making workshop. Thanks to Janet Barker for facilitating this workshop, held in conjunction with Mount Alexander Shire; August - working bee & lunch shared with Church community. Many thanks to Frances Cincotta of Newstead Natives who generously donated plants and assistance to set out & plant them. September - children's event as part of Castlemaine Children's Literature Festival. Thanks to all who participated once again. Special thanks for an anonymous donation that funded a performance by local Hunky Dory puppeteers.

Visits/Presentations:

We continue to host visits from interested groups - Maryborough Garden Club, Eltham College permaculture students, Maldon Garden Club, Castlemaine U3A - and individuals involved in planning community gardens - eg Ballan and Guildford.

Many tourists and casual visitors to Newstead also visit the garden.

Newstead Pre-school children visit the garden each fortnight, have been propagating seeds at the Kinder and planting in one of our raised beds.

Newstead Primary School students planted one of the plots and grew vegetables as part of the Buda Schools Harvest project. They were congratulated for providing an abundance of quality produce for the Harvest Dinner.

Papers

Zack Grumont has been helping at the garden, and talking with members, as part of his studies at LaTrobe University. He is currently writing a paper for his project.

Saide Gray's paper on our garden was published in the Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Project, a global initiative.

Produce Exchange

The Produce Exchange continues on the first Saturday of each month and is a fixture on Newstead's calendar. It provides a great connecting point for visitors, newcomers and old friends as well as for sharing food, news and information. Many thanks to Liz and Doug Bell who organise the Exchange and its Echo reports so successfully and without fuss.

Blog: <http://newsteadgarden.wordpress.com/>

Janet Barker continues to look after the garden's blog, sharing wonderful advice and information. She also submits great articles to the Echo each month and contributes press articles co-ordinated by Castlemaine Community House. Thanks again, Janet.

Coming Up:

November 10th – Anthony Santamaria will present a seasonal cooking workshop conducted by Mount Alexander Shire and Growing Abundance.

November – assessment for participation in 2014 Castlemaine Festival of Gardens.

Gardening

After a dry first-half of the year and a cold winter we now have great Spring growing conditions. As well as the native plantings, we have put in blueberries and some new trees – lemons, bay, nectarine and plums. Margot Brulotte, a Digger member, is trying to ensure the future of older varieties of tomatoes. She has propagated about 75 varieties and will give us at least one of each to grow. Watering rosters will commence shortly.

Thanks to N2021 for continuing to auspice garden projects and to other community groups for their support, particularly the Swimming Pool, Men's Shed and All Saints Anglican Church.

Mary Park 23/10/2013

THE RAILWAY STATION PROJECT

Janet Barker 0439 003 469; Horse 0401 316 371

It's been pretty quiet on the station front.

The vision for the station is to establish a space for local artists to work, exhibit, network and create in Newstead, that is a gateway to the township from the west/southwest and that provides linkages with the wider community. The space could encompass art activities, from artist in residency, workshops, through to fully equipped studio spaces where artists could work and share their skills (e.g. with young people, retirees, emerging artists), gathering and performance spaces (inc. the Memorial Park and station surrounds) for new and existing community-wide events. The

space could provide a platform for artistic possibility that includes the wider community (and the pedestrian bridge over the Loddon).

In the process of developing the earlier Small Town Transformation (RAV) application, a list of around 60 local artists, from those practicing full time to those who “dabble” or consider it an alternative pursuit to other work, have expressed an interest and varying support for the project.

Update:

VicTrack have appointed Jean Parsons to administer the Community Vacant Use Program. The program was unstaffed and in limbo for almost 12 months awaiting the government’s decision on its future as well as the feasibility study of the Castlemaine- Maryborough rail line to be carried out. It turns out that although we were told by VicTrack’s David Dollings that the Newstead Station was on a “list for restoration” under the scheme, there is no guarantees that we would be included in the CVU because a formal nomination form is required to be submitted and the \$10 million program finishes at the end of 2014 with four other stations already selected for inclusion before the program was frozen.

The good news is that if we can submit a nomination form asap, we still may be considered for the current funding. Jean is also trying to establish a business case for extending the program post 2015. She suggests the station may also qualify under VicTrack’s Community Leasing Scheme, if the price of restoration is not too costly for VicTrack to consider, however this scheme would not have the financial bonus and benefits the CVU offers.

Some points about the CVU, from Jean Parsons, VicTrack:

- VicTrack’s preference is for Council to accept the head leasing with subleasing to community groups and providing \$20M public liability insurance. It is important to note that the head lease needs to be signed before building works can commence with the lease taking effect at the completion of works.
- The community lease cost range from \$250 - \$1250 and depends on the nature of the use, the scope of the building upgrade and the nature of proposed user groups in terms of capacity to pay. Generally we are looking at a \$500 annual fee.
- The Nomination asks for a viable and sustainable community proposal to be developed identifying anticipated revenue streams to ensure that operating costs and maintenance requirements can be met. This is to meet the program requirements and should alleviate any burden on Council as well. Revenue raising should not detract from local businesses. Most of the community proposals that I have received are responding to a local community need or gap in current offerings and many are perceived as adding value to the townships, attracting visitors and enhancing local businesses. You have talked about the Newstead developing as a gateway site which again is not a common theme.
- The Community Use program will fund operating costs in the start up phase but only until June 2015 when the program expires eg: utilities and other initial operating costs.

Suggested Next Steps:

- A draft application for the CVU Nomination is being developed. This needs more work (see above) and consultation with both MAS and Artists/Friends of Newstead Station to submit to VicTrack

- A Rocket Science Session and/or visits to/from other stations to look at case studies for using station buildings for enterprise and community/business functions
- Any other ideas/interest?

River Project Report (Patrick Kavanagh)

We have continued planting understory species under the big River Red Gums at the confluence of the Muckleford and the Loddon. Some new participants have been coming to the plantings and attendances have been good. Newstead Landcare received a \$10000 state government grant part of which will fund our works at the river for the next year.

Issues have been grazing of plants in individual guards by either sheep or wallabies, so we have changed to small fenced enclosures which have addressed the problem. Other small concerns include some trail bike riding around the plantings and the return of Cape Broom, previously wiped out by the floods. The latter should be easily dealt with by early cutting and painting.

Summary of Financial Position at 17/9/2013

| | \$ |
|---|----------|
| Water fund | 24.78 |
| Administration (Accessible Newstead) | 958.96 |
| Central Victorian Solar City | 46.40 |
| Community garden fees | 54.67 |
| Community garden fundraising (includes savings for annual water bill) | 3812.15 |
| Playground project | 20.83 |
| Kids Thrive (philanthropy/Men's Shed - garden) | 150.00 |
| Federal Volunteers Grant (Community Garden) | 2125.63 |
| Newstead RTC grant (bird netting/berry frames - garden) | 745.80 |
| Accessible Newstead | 12672.55 |
| N2021 Skate Park Inc (Maldon & District Community Bank Grant) | 1000.00 |