

Violet Town Business Network

A sub-committee of Violet Town Action

MEETING NOTES Wednesday 12 November 2008



1. Present

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|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| ▪ Pat Glynn | Violet Town Thrifty Link Hardware | ▪ Christine Nunn | VTBN Coordinator |
| ▪ Luke Doidge | VT Garage and Engineering | ▪ Howard Myers | The Parish, GV Walnut Processing |
| ▪ Jo Beavis | Violet Town Hairdressing | ▪ Ron & Irene Jones | Blue Wren Lavender Farm |
| ▪ John Dunn | Rural Works | ▪ Neil Garrett | GV Walnut Processing |
| ▪ Warwick Paton | Computer Operating Systems | ▪ Bruce Cumming | Photographer and Consultant |
| ▪ Marg Block | | | |

2. Apologies

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|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| ▪ Pat Storer | Victoria Police | ▪ David Arnold | Land Planning and Contracting |
| ▪ Trish Delahey | IGA Friendly Grocer | | |

Apologies to anyone who has been missed. Thanks to everyone who replied!

Please Note:

The following is a record of discussions and agreements made by the participants and taken by the VTBN Coordinator. It is important to note that whilst the agenda has been followed in this record discussions did not necessarily occur in this order.

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3. Introductions

Participants introduced themselves and Chris welcomed all, especially new participants advised of and received apologies.

4. Violet Town and District Community Plan Theme 6 Major Roads

It was agreed at an earlier VBTN meeting to devote a significant component of a meeting to the discussion of this Theme and to this end John Dunn, who convened the working group that developed the theme and members of the working group were also invited.

Theme vision:

Enhanced roads infrastructure, road safety and amenity that will contribute to community growth.

Project Objectives:

- To increase road safety;
- To improve the road amenities of the area; and
- To enhance road development that contributes to residential and/or business growth.

All actions within the plan as well as a range of other issues raised with members of the VBTN and the VBNT Coordinator were discussed, and solutions identified and/or actions agreed.

Agreements:

Pedestrian Movement

- It is important that we have a coherent plan in relation accessibility within violet Town for all age groups and abilities including all forms of personal transport. Issues which need to be included are improvements to footpaths to ensure they are level, up-grading pedestrian crossings in Cowslip Street and provision of pedestrian refuges between Police Station and IGA and IGA and the bank building and tactile markers. However, it is also important to respond to opportunities as they present themselves whilst keeping a longer term plan in mind.
- Chris, in conjunction with John, to prepare a letter to Strathbogie Shire Council requesting that a Personal Mobility Strategy for Violet Town be developed in order to prioritise improvements to walk-ability and mobility within the town so that an

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allocation can be made in each budget according to these priorities.

- Chris to make appropriate contact with the Australian Rail Track Company who are up-grading the railway line in 2009 to request improvements to the pedestrian crossing.
- Chris, in conjunction with John, to make appropriate contact with VicRoads in relation to the pedestrian refuges.

Signage

- There is a need to ensure that all entrances to the town have a speed limit which is consistent with the 50km residential street speed. That is from outskirts the speed should go from 100km, to 80km to 50km. This is instead of the variations which occur that have some streets with a 60km speed limit as well. It is understood that both the Murchison-Violet Town and Nalinga- Violet Town Roads are the responsibility of VicRoads, however, in respect of the Nalinga- Violet Town Road, VicRoads has contracted SSC to maintain it. Chris, in conjunction with John to prepare letters to Council and VicRoads.

Vehicular Movement

- The provision of a round-a-bout on the corner High Street (Old Hume Highway) and Cowslip Street remains a priority even though VicRoads has advised earlier in 2008 that it was not a priority of theirs because they had minimal evidence of accidents at this site. It is understood that the cost would be >\$350,000
- Potential strategy to convince VicRoads and to garner support from Strathbogie Shire Council by Chris, in conjunction with John, preparing a letter that includes:
 - Provision of a plan which John Dunn has offered to draw up taking into account the size needed for B-double Semi Trailers
 - Consideration of a round-about at the corner of Cowslip Street and Orchid Street/Mcdiarmids Road
 - Thus providing an entrance and exit feature for the town
 - These would mark the point at which vehicles would be required to slow down to 50kms
- Provision of speed control mechanisms in Orchid Street and Mitchell Street as people exit from the honeysuckle creek crossing in order to slow traffic down. This mechanism would need to be designed so that people would be unable to avoid it. Chris, in conjunction with John, to write letter to council requesting this be included in budget process.

NB: following the meeting (February) John advised that *"VicRoads are presently calling for submissions for Grey Spot funding. This is for identified potential crash sites without a current record. To gain this funding a Traffic Impact Safety Assessment is required that identifies the risks or dangers at the site. As a first step the Council should be encouraged to arrange such a report."*

5. Tour of Goulburn Valley Walnut Processing Plant

Neil and Howard lead us on a very informative tour of the Walnut Processing Plant, as well as sharing some of the product – THANK YOU

6. Buy Local Christmas Promotion

Chris indicated that the response to the buy local promotion was coming along and we were on target to have product and/or service at least to the value achieved in 2007 (i.e. \$3,000).

Lisa Norman from Strathbogie Shire has advised that the allocation of funds to VTAG for Christmas promotion and decorations will be \$1,200.

The Christmas carols will not be held on 21 December as originally planned because of a clash with the high school

Discussion occurred around the decorations in Cowslip Street.

Agreements:

- Chris to purchase bows for the trees
- Luke to arrange purchase of mini-orb or appropriate alternative in consultation with Pat

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- Decorations to be in the Street by 1 December
- Chris to distribute entry forms, instructions etc by 20 November

7. VTAG Budget

Chris presented a draft of the budget format

Agreements:

- *Chris and Pat to finalise*

8. Electricity Co-generation

Howard advised the group that he had attended an information session regarding the Victorian government funding which is available for electricity generation and that an application is due to be completed by 12 December. The proposal will include building a geo-pressure turbine which enables access to natural gas and using the conversion process to create electricity which can be sold to the national grid and using the heat by-product in a range of ways such as heating for the hospital, independent living units and potentially main street businesses such as the IGA and hydroponics. (further information is available in previous minutes)

9. Promoting local businesses

Bruce sought input into the list of services in Violet Town and district that will be included in the next Village Voice.

Chris advised that in discussions with Darryl regarding promotion on the website, Darryl had suggested that a business could be promoted using a moving banner add, he suggested that the business might offer say a 10% discount for those that mention the banner or have access to a particular special not available to others. Discussion occurred about the value of this and ways of choosing businesses to be promoted. These included: asking via email for expressions of interest in order to set up a roster and work out how many days/weeks businesses can have a banner or whether more than one business will need to be included in banners etc.

Discussion also occurred about ensuring how services and facilities are identified in products such as "Melways" and GPS products such as Navman and Tom Tom.

Agreements:

- *Chris to find out from Darryl how many hits there are on the site, prior to establishing this*
- *Chris to bring Melways pages to next meeting for discussion.*
- *Chris to identify how information is up-loaded in software of GPS products and advise at next meeting.*

10. Closure of the Op-Shop

Pat advised of surprise that the Op-Shop was being closed. Discussion about the impact of this occurred.

Agreements:

- *Need to thank Jane Murphy for her contribution to the town over many years*
- *Interest in securing the building as a community asset as this will be the only way that government funds would be released for up-grading*
- *Need to find out whether this is a possibility – Chris to investigate.*

11. Funding

Chris advised that an application had been submitted to SP AusNet for funds to continue up-grading Cowslip Street

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12. VTAG Christmas Break-up

Pat and Howard invited all to the VTAG Christmas break-up which is to be held Saturday 6 December at The Parish commencing at 7.30pm

13. NEXT MEETING

The next Business Network meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 February 2009 at
The Violet Town Café Cowslip Street Violet Town
commencing at 6.30pm

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14. Meeting Closed 8.30 pm