

2014

Campbells Creek Community Plan



We acknowledge the Dja Dja Warrung or Jaara People as the traditional owners of this land.

Introduction

How do we see Campbells Creek ten or twenty years into the future?

What local attributes could we make more use of?

What opportunities are there to make things better?

These are some of the questions considered by our community as we prepared this *Campbells Creek Community Plan 2014* (the Plan). This process was funded by the Mount Alexander Shire Council (the Council).

The Plan summarises these activities and the results of that process.

In the Plan we discuss the community engagement involved with creating the Plan and the overall vision for our community. We provide background — geographic, demographic and historical details about Campbells Creek and its residents. We provide a snapshot of community life in Campbells Creek. We present the themes and goals for developing Campbells Creek.



Community Planning

Funded by the Victorian government's former Department of Planning and Community Development, Mount Alexander Shire Council undertook the Mount Alexander Shire (the Shire) Local Community Planning Project. The aim was to support local community engagement across the Shire to enable distinct communities to articulate their needs and aspirations via the development of local Action Plans.

In September 2011, Council announced that Campbells Creek would be one of nine townships to participate and, finally, Campbells Creek was included in the last round. An initial community meeting and workshop was held 4 June 2014 at the Campbells Creek Bowling Club. It was attended by 40 people from across the Campbells Creek community, who singled out several points of significance and matters needing exploration: the importance of the local school; inter-generational support; identifying what was unique about Campbells Creek; the skills and strengths of local residents and community groups; and the history of Campbells Creek.

Further themes, issues and recommendations for preparing a draft plan were discussed in meetings later in June and July, and a workshop on 10 August was attended by 30 people. Community engagement events and processes included distributing a survey electronically, through the mail, and at

certain community places (such as the general store) — along with posters — so that as many residents as possible would be involved in identifying their needs and aspirations. There were 114 responses received. Details of the process and results of this first stage of engagement are in the Mount Alexander Shire Council *Campbells Creek Community Survey: Common Themes Report*.

Via a further survey, an open steering committee of Campbells Creek volunteers sought wider feedback from the Campbells Creek community on the 20 items identified — through the first stage of engagement — as most important to community members. This second survey was circulated via the internet, through an information stand at the Campbells Creek and Guilford Primary Schools Spring Fair, and through local community groups. The survey asked respondents to identify gaps within the key themes and 20 priority goals, and to express their willingness to support particular activities. We received 86 responses.

The resulting *Campbells Creek Community Plan* is a work in progress, which we will review as necessary — to reflect changing conditions, aspirations and achievements of our community.

Our Plan

Our Vision

The Plan aims to:

- express our aspirations for the Campbells Creek community into the future
- identify the inherent values and attributes of the Campbells Creek community
- identify priorities to achieve our goals.

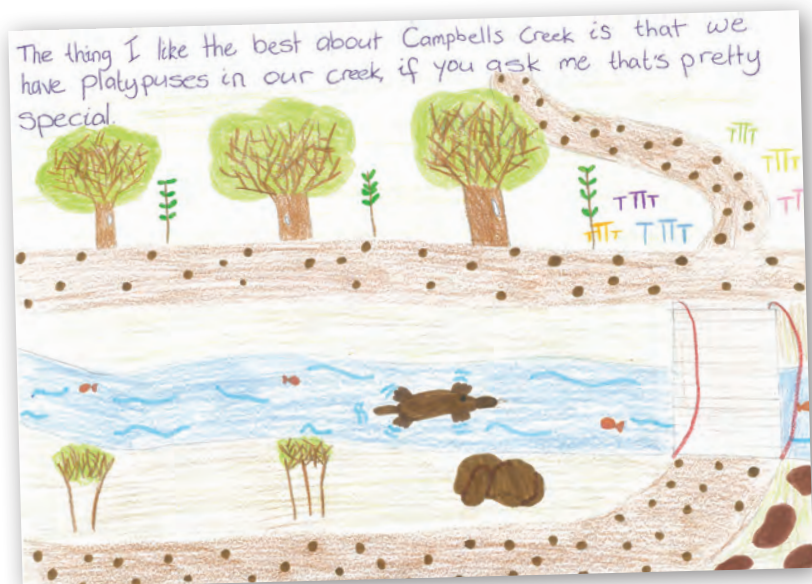
Specifically, the *Campbells Creek Community Plan* is a:

- current statement about our town and community
- benchmark against which progress can be measured
- vehicle for stimulating action with Council and other relevant stakeholders
- tool for developing grant applications.

In creating the Plan, we also established a vision for our community.

Our vision is to develop Campbells Creek and its community to:

- be a safe and comfortable place to live in
- provide opportunities for residents to develop and prosper
- have easy access to retail outlets, services, education and entertainment
- recognise and cherish its unique goldfields history and heritage
- enhance and maintain the attractive streetscape and ambience of Campbells Creek
- be better connected to Castlemaine by improved roads and public transport
- be prepared for extreme events such as bushfire and flood
- recognise the amenity of our nearby parkland and forest and its benefit to our lifestyle.



Themes and Goals

Our Built Environment

- Work together with Council and our sporting and community groups to plan, promote and develop the Campbells Creek Recreation Reserve as a first class, multiple-use recreation and sporting facility for the whole of the Mount Alexander Shire and to build better public facilities on the Reserve, including public toilets
- Identify and prioritise works to improve the amenity of roads, footpaths and streetscapes in consultation with Council and VicRoads
- Lobby the appropriate authorities for improved drainage and flood control planning measures
- Collaborate with Council to plan and construct more appropriate town entrance signage to better identify and promote Campbells Creek.

Our Natural Environment

- Lobby to improve the various parcels of public land in Campbells Creek including Creek frontage, Recreation Reserve, the Park and the Cemetery
- Liaise with Council, DEPI, CFA and Parks Victoria to enable the participation of this community in the development of planned fire protection measures to reduce fire risk
- Complete the development of shared pathways on Campbells Creek water frontage from Castlemaine to Campbells Creek (to get rid of 'the gap')

- Encourage community participation in Landcare activities including maintenance of wildlife movement corridors.

Our Community Life

- Encourage and promote community events, celebrations, and activities, such as our sporting events, School Fair, Truck Show, Friends of Campbells Creek Community Day and Lawn Mower Racing
- Foster improved partnerships between our school (Campbells Creek Primary School) and our community
- Establish and maintain a community notice board, newsletter, website and Facebook page
- Encourage better 'reach' of public transport and bike paths into Campbells Creek
- Promote community meeting place(s) such as the Community Centre, playground and the old Shire Building
- Encourage community participation in the establishment of a Community Garden.

Our Economic Environment

- Facilitate community support for new and existing businesses
- Promote tourism in Campbells Creek, including history and nature walks
- Encourage new commercial businesses such as a supermarket.



Our History and Heritage

- Display and promote the heritage of Campbells Creek
- Encourage further research into the history and heritage of Campbells Creek
- Form a history group and encourage community participation.



What Now?

We are in the process of establishing a member-based incorporated association, 'Campbells Creek Community Inc.', to formally exist as a legal entity.

This Association will act to support other community groups, seek grants as appropriate, strengthen community engagement and social connectivity following the Plan's vision and goals.

Partnerships with other local groups should allow raising of funds and achievement of meaningful outcomes for our community.

Campbells Creek has a bright future!



Background to Campbells Creek

The community of Campbells Creek is already recognised as being friendly, diverse and inclusive. We have numbers of well established and recently formed community groups, organisations and facilities.

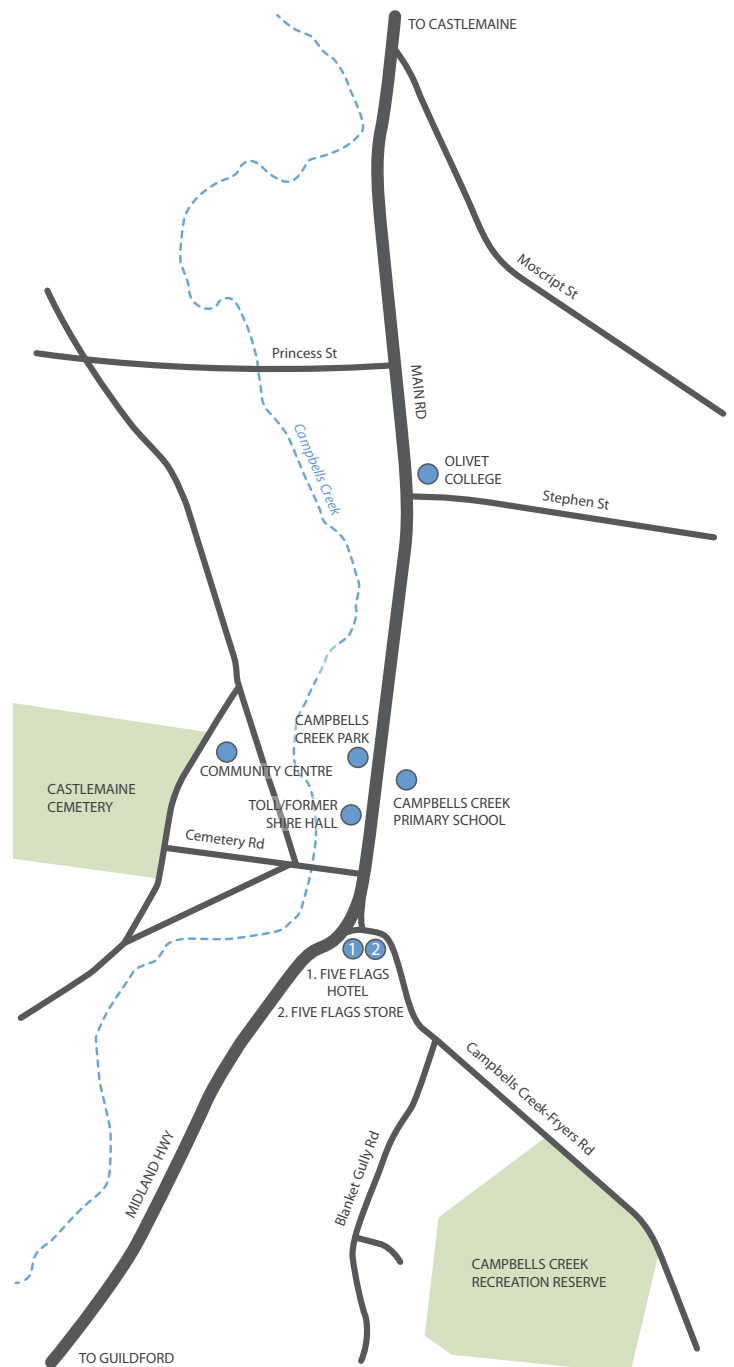
Campbells Creek has a unique sense of identity and is a great place to live.

We aspire to be a healthy, connected, thriving, safe and caring community living in a healthy natural environment always making Campbells Creek a better place to live.

Location

The township of Campbells Creek (see map) is 120 km northwest of Melbourne and 40 km south of Bendigo. It is part of the Mount Alexander Shire, which is in the Loddon Mallee Region. The town shares its name with a line of billabongs flowing south towards the nearby Loddon River. The town is on the southern outskirts of Castlemaine on the Midland Highway (Main Road). Campbells Creek depends on Castlemaine for many of its services.

Originally managed by the Shire of Newstead, which was amalgamated into the Mount Alexander Shire, Campbells Creek covers 24 km² of mainly rural land and includes the township of Campbells Creek. The Mount Alexander Shire covers approximately 1530 km² and comprises several small towns and communities of national, historic and environmental significance.



Transport

Castlemaine Bus Lines travel from Campbells Creek to the Castlemaine Railway Station several times on weekdays where trains and buses depart to Melbourne, Bendigo, Ballarat, Mildura and Maryborough. Weekend services are reduced and some are not provided on Sundays. A long disused Castlemaine to Maryborough via Newstead railway line still runs through the town.

Demographics

According to the 2011 Census, the population of Campbells Creek was 1,510 in 2011 (51.7% female, 48.3% male), with 0.62 residents per hectare. The population increased by 184 people from 2006 to 2011 — an average annual population increase of 2.63 per cent per annum. The average age was 40 years with 8.8 per cent (132) born outside Australia. The most common countries of birth were the United Kingdom (49) and New Zealand (23). Compared to the rest of the Shire, Campbells Creek had a smaller proportion of people born overseas and was home to a higher proportion of couple families with a child or children; 9.2 per cent were one-parent families, compared with 10.4 per cent for the Mount Alexander Shire. In 2011, there were 674 households in Campbells Creek. In terms of religion, 48.1 per cent of Campbells Creek residents described themselves as having a faith, with the highest proportion (14.6%) being Anglican.

Local Economy

Campbells Creek supports a licensed post office, hotel, general store and cafe, a hardware store and numerous businesses, such as B&Bs, a beauty therapist, a bookshop, engineering and earthmoving businesses, mechanics, a transport firm and swimming school.

According to the 2011 Census, Campbells Creek has a low level of disadvantage, in fact the lowest in the Shire: the median weekly household income was \$1025 (compared with \$838 for the Shire). Similarly, at 2.9 per cent, unemployment in Campbells Creek was significantly lower than the statewide average of 5.4 per cent. A higher proportion of residents of Campbells Creek held formal qualifications compared to the Shire and a lower proportion of the population were 60+ years of age.

History

The Dja Dja Wurrung or Jaara People are the traditional owners of the land upon which the township of Campbells Creek is situated. The Dja Dja Wurrung people have been living on this land for 40,000 years. Interestingly one of their local legends talks of seeing a mountain of fire which, according to Castlemaine geologist Dr Julian Hollis, refers to a volcanic eruption north east of Mt Franklin approximately 500 years ago.

Early squatters moved into the area in the 1840s with their flocks of sheep, thus

*“ The best thing about Campbells Creek
is nice people living in Campbells Creek.”*

displacing the indigenous people. There were many clashes between the two groups, some fatal, with the local people spearing the sheep for food as their usual food sources were adversely affected by the newcomers.

In order to protect the Aboriginal population in Victoria, the Colonial Government in England appointed a Chief Protector and four deputies to “watch over the rights and interests of Natives, to protect them from any encroachments on their property.” One of these deputies, Edward Stone Parker, was responsible for a large area of eastern Victoria, including the Campbells Creek area, known as the Loddon Protectorate.

When the Protectorate closed in 1848, some Dja Dja Wurrung remained and could still be seen in the bush and in the towns. Their numbers were small and overtaken by new settlers, the pastoral Chinese, ahead of the gold rush of the early 1850s. There are still Aboriginal people living in the vicinity.

Our town is named after a tributary of the Loddon River, namely Campbells Creek, which flows through our township. Dr Barker and William (later Sir William) Campbell were early squatters in this area. Campbell had been employed by the Macarthur family on land near Sydney and then established the Strathloddon run, the boundaries of which encompassed the entire creek valley. Campbell became a leader and spokesman

for squatters across Victoria and, in 1851, was elected to represent the Loddon electorate in the first Victorian Legislative Council.

Alex and Margaret Kennedy took over their relative William Campbell’s lease in the 1840s. Their child Jessie became the first non-aboriginal child born in the Castlemaine area, at a site at the southern entrance to Campbells Creek that is now a rest stop for travellers exploring the heritage gold fields trail.

After gold was discovered in 1851, a canvas-tent shanty town emerged. By 1853 it was estimated that 3000 people, from all walks of life and countries, were living along Campbells Creek. There were numerous hotels, a brewery, houses of worship belonging to the Primitive Methodists and Presbyterians, and a denominational school. By 1858 the roads had improved, and stone and brick dwellings and stores appeared. There was a huge corrugated iron store, a wooden wheelwright’s shop, a drapery, a general store, the Phoenix Brewery, several hotels and some substantial brick dwellings.

In the second half of the 1850s a huge Chinese camp of more than 3000 people emerged along Campbells Creek and Guildford. Gathering together for safety, as hostility to the Chinese was overt and overwhelming, there were numerous local conflicts, some of considerable proportions. Calico tents were the main domiciles, lining narrow

“What I like about Campbells Creek
is nice Houses.”

thoroughfares dotted with joss temples, tea-houses, tailors, apothecaries, gambling establishments, opium dens, herbalists and barbers. The Chinese tended to work not so much as individuals, but in a type of co-operative, utilising a system of open-cast alluvial mining. A fire swept away the Chinese camp at Campbells Creek on Australia Day 1875 destroying most of a little Canton but saving the Five Flags Hotel (which remains today).

This rapid growth into the late 1800s declined as gold supplies waned and mines closed. Bucket dredging was employed early in the 20th century to extract the last remnants of gold. After the Victorian Gold Rush era, orchards, vineyards, breweries and farms sustained the settlement.

The Campbells Creek Soldiers Memorial records locals in all the Australian Services who died in both World Wars, in theatres such as France (many at Villers-Bretonneux), Libya, Egypt, Thailand and the Pacific. Many served in infantry battalions during World War I.

Historic Buildings

As you travel from Castlemaine through Campbells Creek, the Main Road is lined with many historical buildings.

At the foot of Norwood Hill, just before the Campbells Creek sign, are two small cottages with gables: on the right hand side is Vermont Villa (131), which dates

from 1861, and, on the other side of the road, Jubilee Cottage (c. 1860).

A little further along, on the left, is a second-hand bookstore, which had been the Standard Hotel, built in 1854 as the Bath Arms, and purchased by the Standard Brewery in 1869.

Just beyond, on the left, is the two-storey verandah facade of the Diggers' Store constructed in 1857. In 1864 it was renamed the Vine Hotel, after its grape vines, which still grow there. It was rebuilt in 1876 after a fire and is now a B&B. On the other side of the road, behind a hedged picket fence, is a gracious Federation house that originally belonged to the owner of the Campbells Creek Brewery which had stood behind the impressive home.

A little further along Main Road are two former churches: the first (Methodist) built in 1862 and now belonging to the Olivet Christian College; the second, 'Church of the Holy Trinity', has been used as an antique shop but is now a private residence. On the other side of the road is a wattle-and-daub building which was once a cordial factory.

On the same side of the road is the independent Order of Rechabites Temperance Hall. Membership was open to all who would sign a pledge to completely abstain from alcohol. Members gained death and sickness benefits.

Continuing south, just past the Campbells Creek Park, is a small weatherboard 'Shire of Mount Alexander Ex Shire of Newstead' Hall. This was originally a toll collecting office that was moved from outside the Five Flags Hotel. This hall was later used as the town hall from 1860–1915 when the Mount Alexander Shire amalgamated with the Shire of Newstead.

Perhaps the most notable historical building in Campbells Creek is the Five Flags Hotel, which opened on 1 June 1855, or the Five Flags Store/Cafe, which is older still. The area surrounding them was known as Five Flags after the many nationalities that worked the goldfields hereabouts.



Community Life

The facilities, schools and organisations are listed in alphabetical order.

Community Facilities



Campbells Creek Cemetery Trust

Campbells Creek is home to the historical Castlemaine Cemetery, which was moved from Templeton Street, Castlemaine to Cemetery Road, Campbells Creek, in 1853. Most of the burials in the original cemetery were re-interred and the new cemetery was still called Castlemaine Cemetery. The first burial noted in the new cemetery register was on 3 March 1853. Since then, there have been approximately 20,500 burials registered. The surprisingly large cemetery features a soldiers' memorial and an historic two-tiered Chinese funeral burner, which served as a safe place for the ritualised burning of spiritual tributes.



Campbells Creek Community Centre

The Campbells Creek Community Centre was opened in 21 November 1993 as an initiative of the Newstead Shire Council. It was built after many years of lobbying various government departments. This

lobbying was mainly done by George Shill who had a strong vision for a Campbells Creek community centre. Prior to, and during the construction of, the centre the three riding councillors for Campbells Creek were George Shill, Wendy Droney and Jock McWilliam.

Our community centre in Elizabeth Street is managed by the Campbells Creek Community Centre Committee of Management. Wendy Droney is President and Paul Jenkins is Secretary.

A recent safety upgrade carried out by Council means that the centre can be used as a Neighbourhood Safe Place/Relief Centre in times of emergencies such as fires and floods. A grant of \$40,000 — half provided by the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner and matched by Council — has improved disability access to toilets, external lighting to parking and the main access area, and funded the installation of a generator for emergency power and lighting.

In addition to the safety upgrades, Council arranged for the relocation of the old playground from the Campbells Creek Park to the Campbells Creek Community Centre.



Campbells Creek Park

This Main Road Park is almost opposite the Campbells Creek Primary School. It provides the community with a central meeting place for socialising, learning and playing.

In 2009, the Mount Alexander Shire Council decommissioned the local swimming pool due to the poor quality of the shell and pipe work, and high operating costs. The council was committed to redeveloping the site in two stages.

Stage 1 involved installing irrigation and drainage, a central path from the front entrance through the park to the Campbells Creek walking track at the rear, development of a village square/bocce courts, grassed amphitheatre, arborist works and soft landscaping. Stage 1 was completed in 2011 and cost \$137,698.

Detailed consultation has been attempted to ensure that the community will be happy with future developments in Stage 2. Regional Development Victoria allocated Campbells Creek Recreation Park Stage 2 \$142,500 (2012–2013) and council allocated \$235,300 to instal new play facilities, historical signage and local art works (still to be completed), and to construct public toilets, a picnic shelter with barbeque

facilities and a shade sail off the existing amphitheatre.

Campbells Creek Recreation Reserve

Set in a picturesque location, the trees were originally selected by Baron Von Mueller, the famed botanist who designed the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens. The Fryer Road Reserve is the sport and recreation hub for the local community and includes clubrooms, an oval, netball and tennis courts, cricket training nets and a children's playground.

The Mount Alexander Shire Council is responsible for the management of the land via the Campbells Creek Recreation Reserve Committee of Management. This group of hard working and dedicated local volunteers works tirelessly to manage and maintain the reserve. The Committee of Management members are all actively involved with the various sporting groups that use the clubrooms, ground and trotting track and are always striving to bring out the best in their facility.

The Recreation Reserve hosts a range of events each year, including the Rotary Castlemaine Truck Show, the pre-eminent truck show in Australia, attracting participants from all parts of the country. This show, held each November, generates tens of thousands of dollars each year, all of which goes to Rotary to assist with valuable community causes. Other events include the KR Don Christmas party, Castlemaine Lawn Mower Racing and local school athletic days. Cricket and football

teams also proudly call Campbells Creek Recreation Reserve home.

The Committee of Management look forward to a strong future.

Walking/Cycling Tracks

Campbells Creek has a significant walking and cycling track, which extends from Forest Street Castlemaine, near the corner of Camp Reserve and finishes at the Campbells Creek Park. Except for a small gap, which presently causes a long detour, the track follows the beds of the creek connecting Castlemaine with the length of Campbells Creek. There are many scenic seats along the route to take in the billabongs and flood plains covered in Australian plants and birdlife.

To the east runs the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, Australia's first national heritage park, which includes mines and ruins from the Victorian Gold Rush that yielded up fortunes. The park retains much of its gold-rush character and boasts Spring wildflowers, scenic drives, bushwalking, cycling, camping and gold fossicking among its highlights.

Schools

Campbells Creek is home to two schools.

Campbells Creek Primary School

Campbells Creek Primary School still has an historic building from its establishment in 1853, including the original brick building and the Campbell's Creek School War Memorial.

Campbells Creek Primary School aims to inspire students to learn, laugh and lead. It works to inspire students to be curious, be brilliant and be the change they want to see in the world — developing students who are active and contributing members of their local community and global society.

Technology is a central part of learning at the school, with students and teachers using IT to enhance learning opportunities for students beyond the classroom walls.

Campbells Creek has a rich history of individual and team sporting success, including leading the Mount Alexander network of schools in sports such as football, cricket, basketball and netball.

The school promotes and supports strong community engagement in all its activities.

Olivet College

Olivet Christian College was established in 1979 to provide an inter-denominational Christian College. In 1982, it moved to the former Methodist Church on Main Road, Campbells Creek.

The College currently has 90 students drawn from a diverse area, including nearby towns. It caters for students from Foundation to Year 10. The College has a caring family atmosphere and places a strong emphasis on developing character.

“ The best thing about Campbells Creek is there is a lot of land to ride your motorbikes and bike.”

Community and Leisure Groups



Campbells Creek Bowling Club

Campbells Creek Bowling Club currently has 53 playing members and 20 social members. New members are always welcome. The club is located next to Campbells Creek Park and almost opposite Campbells Creek Primary School. This land was purchased in 1960 by a community organisation. Subsequently, it was decided to form the Campbells Creek Bowling Club, which now leases the land. After a great deal of voluntary work by club members, they gained a new lawn green. Club rooms erected over the past 55 years have continually improved the facility. Since devastation by a flood in 2011, new synthetic greens have been laid and flood mitigation works undertaken. There are plans to purchase solar panels to reduce costs.

The club is at 100 Main Road Campbells Creek VIC 3451. Telephone: 5472 1934.

Campbells Creek Community Garden Group

Our Campbells Creek Community Garden Group first met in August 2014 to discuss where and how to develop a community garden. We envisage a garden that is open to everyone, a garden that is in a

central space, and used for both social engagement and to learn together. Our group welcomes all ages and abilities and our community garden will cater for those unable to garden at home. Our members aim to share tasks and produce, and to demonstrate local gardening methods.

Telephone: 0426 766 755 (Anitra) or 0404 477 257 (Janet).



Campbells Creek Colts Cricket Club

Campbells Creek Colts Cricket Club was established in 1967/68 in the Castlemaine District Cricket Association with a B grade side. The club found its first success in the season of 1974/75 winning the B grade premiership. In 1994, with the greatly appreciated assistance of club legend Peter Holden, a C Grade side started and was entered into the CDCA Junior competition. Peter's vision and persistence has put our club in the very strong position that it is in now.

Our club exists to give local players the opportunity to experience the game of cricket in a friendly and welcoming environment. We aim to raise funds through sponsorship, fundraising and grants to enable us to keep the costs as low as possible for our players and

“What I like about Campbells Creek is the wonderful football club and playing with my mates.”

members. Our committee works tirelessly to improve the club and facilities. We welcome the ideas and suggestions of all players and supporters and encourage everyone to get involved.

We are located at the Campbells Creek Recreation Reserve, Fryers Road.

Campbells Creek Fire Brigade

The Country Fire Authority Brigade has been protecting the local community since 1882. Its fire station is at 39 Brigade Avenue Campbells Creek.

It has forty-one members and attends approximately 85 call-outs annually. The Brigade is equipped with two tankers and a support vehicle.

Telephone: 0418 622 281 (Malcolm).

Campbells Creek Football/Netball Club

Campbells Creek Football Club (the Magpies) was established in 1864 and was originally affiliated with the Castlemaine District Football Association. In 1952 it was decided that it was time to join the Maryborough District Football League, which is now known as the Maryborough Castlemaine District Football Netball League.

The Club started off with only one senior side, winning premierships in 1919, 1922, 1926 and 1953 — the last time the club has won a senior premiership and that was under Coach Perce Perry, who took on the role in 1947. In 1962 the club fielded an Under 18s side winning premierships in 1971 and 1989. In 1981 the club had enough interested young boys to field a

side in the Under 16s. These boys were very successful under coach Noel Gaulton coming runners up in their first season and going on to win all of the Premierships 1982–1987.

This club holds the record for the highest ever score in a senior game of Australian Rules football, 100.34 (634), defeating Primrose 3.0 (18) in a match in 1990. In 2007 the club missed a season due to a player shortage but made a comeback in 2008. Dustin Martin (AFL Richmond Midfielder) started his career as a junior player for Campbells Creek Football Club. In 2014 the club celebrated its 150th anniversary.

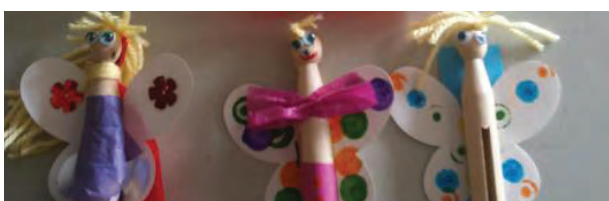
We currently affiliate a Senior & Reserves side and, in 2015, the seniors will be lead by new coach Shaun Boag, with the assistance of his brother James. We will also affiliate an U17.5s under new coach Kelvin Stevens and, under the new junior club structure, in 2015 we will have U14.5s to be coached by Jason Anderson. (A review by the league this year will see the junior structure change to U14.5s and U11.5s in 2015, instead of U15s and U12s.)

In 1987 the League introduced Netball into the competition, starting off with A and B grades until 2003, when they introduced an Under 17s side and, in 2009, a C grade. We currently affiliate six sides: A, B, C, U17s, U15s and, more recently, U13s. We are currently looking for a senior netball coach for our A, B and C grades but are very happy to say that our juniors will

once again be coached by highly respected coach and player Genine Peeler.

Both Football and Netball start pre-season training in Spring to ensure their fitness is of a high standard when they kick off the 2015 season. We hope that next season a fresh new approach will be just as successful as 2014 with both of the senior sides making the finals for the first time in 15 years and the U15s making it as far as the preliminary final. This is a great achievement for all and shows what great talent we have within the club, especially our up and coming juniors. New members are very welcome to the club.

The club plays and trains at the Campbells Creek Recreational Reserve, Fryers Road Campbells Creek.
Postal: PO Box 331 Castlemaine VIC 3450.
Telephone: (03) 5472 3438.



Campbells Creek Playgroup

Campbells Creek Playgroup meets every Tuesday, from 9:30–11:30am, during the school term — at the Campbells Creek Community Centre. It costs \$4 per week per family. Families are asked to bring along a piece of fruit to share.

At playgroup we do a range of different things from making playdough, arts and

crafts, dress ups, making pizzas and cupcakes, decorating biscuits, colouring, walks to the park and more.



Campbells Creek Senior Citizens Club

The Campbells Creek Senior Citizens Club has existed for almost 50 years, catering for residents of Campbells Creek and the wider Mount Alexander Shire. Membership is a mere \$2 per annum.

Club members meet Thursday each week at the Campbells Creek Community Centre, in Elizabeth Street, with the exception of a five or six weeks' break around Christmas time. Club members enjoy a three course lunch, for \$10, followed by an activity, such as carpet bowls, bingo or hoy, with the occasional guest speaker. Club members also enjoy occasional bus trips to an area or activity of interest.

Telephone: 5472 1864 (Barry).

Campbells Creek Tennis Club

Campbells Creek Tennis Club has two courts close to the Campbells Creek Community Centre, on Cemetery Road in Campbells Creek. Social club members are welcome. President is Peter Grant, Secretary is Raelene Hall, Treasurer is Tanya Fleeton.

Telephone: 5472 4648.

“What I like about Campbells Creek is the beautiful walks you can go on in the bush. I love walking with my family.”

Campbells Creek Trotting Club

The Campbells Creek Trotting Club has a history spanning more than 100 years, starting with a one-mile track, then, in the later years, moving to a half-mile track. In the early years, they held race meetings at the track where the horses were ridden. Nowadays it is a registered training track. Although the numbers have fallen away — once over 100 horses per day were worked on the track — trainers and drivers still work with the same enthusiasm. Two of our past members, who have passed away, have races named in their honour at the largest trotting carnival in country Victoria. Over the years many top performers have been conditioned on this track.

The club can be found at the Campbells Creek Recreational Reserve in Fryers Road, Campbells Creek. New members, both active and social, are welcome.

Friends of Campbells Creek Landcare Group

Friends of Campbells Creek was started in 2000, after a spill of untreated sewage into the waterway brought hundreds of outraged residents to a public meeting. A group was formed to ensure the waterway was better cared for. Since then local volunteers have worked to make the creek and its surrounds a community asset of which we can be proud.

The group's initial focus has been to protect and improve the environment in the area from the Castlemaine football

ground to Campbells Creek township. In recognition of the group's goals, different government agencies have granted approximately \$15,000 per year to help eliminate weeds, re-establish indigenous vegetation, publicise the area and improve access for everyone's enjoyment, recreation and education.

The group has brought about a remarkable transformation of public land that used to be inaccessible, weed infested, and used for private grazing and rubbish dumping. The area now has a walking and cycling trail through most of it. It is almost totally free of blackberry and gorse, and has wildlife returning as the indigenous plantings mature into good habitat.

The Friends of Campbells Creek welcome new members or anyone who just wants to join in. They assist people wanting help to look after their part of the creek. You can find out more about Friends of Campbells Creek and its regular meetings, activities and working bees — with morning tea or a barbeque — at the group's site (<http://www.focc.org.au>), on their Facebook page, or on notices along the creek trail.

History Group

The History Group was formed early in July 2014 as an adjunct to the Community Plan Steering Committee process. The group's purpose is to record and collect the history of the early pioneers of the Campbells Creek district and the infrastructure that they were instrumental in creating.

Initially two projects have been identified as being of high priority, namely: 1) researching and preparing a pamphlet on the significant buildings and sites along Main Road, Campbells Creek, as a guide to new residents and visitors to the area; 2) collecting the oral histories of the folk in town whose families have lived in Campbells Creek for numbers of generations.

Both projects have started but new members with an interest in local history and research are invited to join. Telephone: 5472 5372 (Pam).

Liberty Christian Life Centre

This church has been operating in Campbells Creek for around 15 years. In 2013 it relocated to its present premises in a new purpose-built facility in Blanket Gully Road, Campbells Creek.

Members are of all ages and come from Campbells Creek, Castlemaine and surrounding areas. In addition to church services, activities are provided for school age children (including after school activities), young people (18–30 years), men, women, and mature singles, and a craft group is run especially for women.

Telephone: 5472 4660 (Pastor Paul).



Sources & Acknowledgements

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Latest information on ongoing activities and events is regularly posted online on our community website (<http://campbells creek.org>), and Facebook group Campbells Creek Matters.

The background on our community was developed using the following references:

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