

Traders question Streetscape plan

By RENE ROBINSON

DRAFT plans for the Daylesford Streetscape Revitalisation Strategy were available for community feedback last Saturday.

The plans included the potential relocation of the war memorial directly across the road, a Town Hall square, raised pedestrian crossings, bike lanes, and the potential loss of almost half of the parking spaces in Vincent Street.

The draft plan was produced by Melbourne consultants Village Well and completed the first stage of the revitalisation strategy, which focused on community consultation.

Stage two, which was scheduled for April 2012, will be the implementation of the revitalisation strategy. Two Vincent Street traders have questioned the lack of consultation with businesses on the main street.

Owner of the Vincent Street newsagency, Les Faulkhead, said he attended the meeting on Saturday but there were only about 10 to 15 people there at the time.

"I still don't think the proposed plans are out there enough," he said. "The discussions with the

community seem to be all about asking people what they want, but nothing about what they could possibly lose."

He said concept four of the draft plans would mean that Vincent Street parking spaces were reduced from 106 spaces to about 56 spaces.

"I'm also concerned about one of the proposals to remove an access street between Albert and Howe streets," he said.

"I was told I should be making more contact with the local Business and Tourism Association to find out more, but not all of us are members of that organisation."

Jenkin and Thomas Retravision/Mitre 10 owner Russell Jenkin, said he didn't feel they'd properly consulted with traders.

"They haven't taken the traders with them, or the shoppers," he said. "We are the major stakeholders."

"My major concern is the lack of parking. It's the biggest issue with our customers. What a lot of people have been saying is fix the road and pavement first. Take care of grassroots stuff first."

He said his other concern was the lack of a proper economic survey

on the impact of this project.

"The reality is it will affect people's incomes. Eight families rely on our business for income," he said.

Mr Jenkin said a report prepared by Essential Economics, which was included in the strategy, would affect his business because it mentioned that any revitalisation of the street shouldn't encourage national brands.

The draft economic report's executive summary, available on the Hepburn Shire website, recommended that Hepburn Shire Council "prepare and implement a set of guidelines which show the preferred type of business signage that should be encouraged on buildings in the town centre, and give emphasis to signs with strong local appeal..."

"To me it feels like a fait accompli," Mr Jenkin said.

"I have a feeling Saturday was the final episode of consultation and then it will go to council, where council will accept one of the proposals."

Stage three, the construction stage of the project, was scheduled to start in the second half of 2012.

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Seeking submissions

An opportunity exists for Hepburn Shire residents to contribute text, words or poetry to the Bushfire Memorial.



The Bushfire Memorial will be located in Daylesford Community Reserve. The commissioned artwork provides a small amount of space for local residents to contribute text, words or poetry.

The text should respond to the themes contributed by residents, which were documented in the Hepburn Shire Bushfire Memorial Consultation Report. The report can be found on Council's website www.hepburn.vic.gov.au

The successful submissions will be laser cut into the Bushfire Memorial, a permanent functional public work of art.

The Bushfire memorial will include up to six successful submissions.

- Submissions should demonstrate and will be assessed by the following criteria:
- submissions should respond to the issues and themes outlined in the report or demonstrate a personal response to 2009 bushfires
- submissions will be evaluated on their quality and ability to engage and connect with the general public
- submissions should be a maximum length of 25 words

Submissions must be the original work of a Hepburn Shire resident.

Successful submissions will receive a payment or prize to the value of \$150.

Submissions should be submitted to Hepburn Shire Council, PO Box 21 Daylesford, 3460 or emailed to tlang@hepburn.vic.gov.au by 5pm Tuesday 29 May 2012. The submission should include a cover sheet with all appropriate contact details and include the age of the author.

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SIPPING FOR A CAUSE: From left, Val Porter and Fae Wilson share a cuppa with Lyn and Doug Strates in preparation for the Biggest Morning Tea.

Fundraiser brewing

PLAYLUNCH will be swapped for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at The Old School Gallery and Café at Glenlyon this Monday.

Owner Donna Kelly said the event would raise money for the Cancer Council to use to continue its work in cancer research, prevention, education and support services.

"This is a great cause and an opportunity to give to a fantastic organisation which works tirelessly to hopefully one day beat this disease," she said.

Ms Kelly said she did not know of anyone who had not been affected by cancer, whether it was themselves, their family, their friends or their colleagues.

"All we can do is help support

Submissions closed for Hepburn Shire budget

THE submission period for the proposed 2012-13 budget has closed. Council will hear all public submissions at a special meeting on Tuesday, May 29 to be held at the Daylesford Senior Citizens Room, from 6pm to 8.30pm.

Interim deputy mayor Jonathan Barrrell said Hepburn Shire consistently received a high number of budget submissions from the public.

"We have a very active and interested community which is fantastic," Cr Barrrell said.

"Council is committed to hearing from all those who have indicated in their written submission that they would like to speak to their budget submission."

"My colleagues and I believe in effective community consultation and we are looking forward to hearing the ideas for projects and amendments that have been put forward."

The meeting will be open to the public.

All community members who have requested to speak to their budget submission will be notified in writing.

people through their battle, although I know from a personal perspective it can be difficult knowing what to do to help, and hope that a cure can be found through research," she said.

Ms Kelly said The Old School Gallery and Café, at 17 Barkly Street, Glenlyon, would offer tea and coffee in exchange for a gold coin donation, "or whatever people can give", from 10am to noon on Monday, May 28.

The event is also supported by Castlemaine's Coffee Basics.

Last year, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea events held across the country raised more than \$11.2 million for the Cancer Council.

The full list of speakers will be available at www.hepburnshire.com.au from Friday, May 25.

"When developing the budget, council and council officers consider existing documents such as community plans and advisory committee recommendations as well as face-to-face feedback," Cr Barrrell said.

"While we are confident that we've captured the fundamental priority projects in our proposed budget document, we are keen to hear about things we may not have been aware of but are important to the community."

Once all submissions have been heard, council will consider all budget submissions at a briefing session with officers.

Council will formally adopt the budget at the June ordinary council meeting.

For further information contact Hepburn Shire manager of finance Anthea Lyons on 5321 6410.