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dereelspokes@gmail.com

http://dereelspokes.com

 Dereel Spokes

 @dereelspokes

P.O. Box 50,
Rokewood 3330

DEREEL
SPOKES

DCHI News



Current progress on the new kitchen

This Month: Community Planning

Our focus this month is on the community planning process to plan Dereel's future. The Community Coordinators who work towards developing the town Community Plan with Council and community now sit as a working group within the DCHI framework.

The benefits of this new arrangement are many:

- insurance coverage for Community Planning meetings at the hall
- strong links to other local groups, people and activities currently within or supported by the DCHI,
- easier ability to share updates within the community using the *Dereel Spokes* newsletter, and online forums,
- more open and transparent two-way feedback enabling the wider community to get involved

All members of the community are invited to become involved in the planning process.

We begin the conversation leading up to a public forum:

- ⇒ **Mitchel Fielding** explains how you can become involved in '*Let's Start Talking*'
- ⇒ **Kim Stanley** explains the process of community planning, including achievements made by previous community coordinators on page 2 in '*The Community Planning Program*'.

Let's Start Talking

By Mitchel Fielding

It's up to us, as a whole community, to decide what we want for Dereel. It's going to take a lot of talking, exploring ideas and thinking about what is important to us. It's our town, our responsibility – and opportunity – to make of it what we will.

We are asking **YOU** to take the next step in this conversation. We would like you to interview a loved one young or old, a neighbour, or a local resident you just met and tell us what you discover.

There will be more opportunities to participate in the process, but these interviews will set the broad direction, so make sure you share your story. If you would like to join the steering group, **active participants are always welcome**, so let us know.

The plan for this community conversation is:

1. **Gather Stories:** conduct interviews across the community to give each individual a voice
2. **At Our Best:** distil a clear, informed statement of what we already do well; describe the positive foundation of our community
3. **Imagine Dereel:** focused around an open, public workshop; envision an elevated future that builds on what we have and value
4. **The Way Forward:** identify and prioritise initiatives that move in the direction of the vision; and launch projects to achieve them

We know that this is a new approach, and not the way things are typically done. But we believe that the effort will pay off many times over in building a stronger and more connected community.

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How can you get involved?

Information from these interviews is the foundation for moving towards a vision for our town and everyone deserves a say. Ask the person you are interviewing ten questions :

1. How long have you lived in the area and what brought you here?
2. What's great about living here?
3. What do you feel passionate about?
4. What do you find joy in doing?
5. What is your current pet project?
6. What community groups are you involved in and why?
7. Tell us about your best community experience.
8. How could you see more of this happening in Dereel?
9. Describe a future vision of Dereel that you would like to see.
10. What would we do as a first step to realise that dream?

Make it about them, give them time. Ask more about their answers. Keep focused on the positives. Be open. Listen closely to them. Then when it's done, turn the tables and get them to interview you.

Take notes during the interview and show your finished article to the person. Once they are happy, send us a copy. Tell us who the interviewee is and if they are willing to have their answers published, or would prefer it to be treated confidentially.

We find the face-to-face interviews very rewarding on both sides, but if for any reason this doesn't work for you, send us in your own answers anyway. Or come along to the Hub Cafe 2-4pm Saturday at the community centre and chat to us about it.

Let's make this journey together.

The Community Planning Program

By Kim Stanley

What is the Community Planning Program?

The Golden Plains Shire started the Community Planning Program in 2000. Before this, it was recognised that many communities had great difficulty in working together to agree on and implement local priorities, whether due to the lack of social networks, suitable communication skills, leadership and political issues or local capacity and support.

The program is based on three main principles:

1. Community members have both the right and responsibility to be involved in the development of their communities,
2. Community members are well placed to identify and action projects to improve their own communities, and

3. More can be achieved if Council, community members and other key stakeholders all contribute and work together in partnership.

Development of successful Community Planning processes (including local-level Community Plans) has proven to assist and strengthen communities in Golden Plains, help them to become more environmentally and socially sustainable, foster a sense of community spirit and pride, and increase residents involvement in community life.

In the years since it began with five pioneering towns (Dereel was one of these) the program now supports 22 concurrently active Plans covering 29 localities. As the program has progressed, more communities are seeking to become involved as they observe the wide range of innovative new events and community infrastructure being achieved, tourism and investment opportunities, and ongoing improvements to local capacity and natural environments in participating localities.

What are Community Plans?

A Community Plan is a document that outlines the communities' priority projects over three years. When the old plan is nearing an end, local volunteer Community Coordinators and independent Facilitators employed by Council develop a new Community Plan for the next three years.

Whilst every community will undertake a slightly different process to develop a community plan, in summary it usually involves;

- The Community Coordinators gather other community members ideas to improve their town by survey, conducting interviews, discussion forums etc.
- The information is analysed and presented at a community meeting where everyone is invited. At the meeting the priority projects identified are voted on, project teams are nominated and new Community Coordinators can step up.
- Then SEED funding is allocated to support key projects and the actual plan is written up, adopted and presented to Councillors and Council staff

This process takes between 4-6 months.

So, what about Dereel?

Dereel was one of the first towns involved, and have now had five Community Plans. The old one is in the process of finishing (only 1 project left – thanks to Julie Lee for the update of the Kuruk-u-ruc trail project in February *Dereel Spokes* edition) and the new Plan will be gradually developed in coming months.

Some of the previous success stories that have come out of the Dereel Community Planning

process have included the current redevelopment of the hall and public toilets, the 'What's On' sign on the main road/Ferrers Road corner, supporting events and activities (such as Captain Cats Theatre, Awareness and Safety Expos, Kids Discos and the first Spring Festival) supporting the development of a Mens Shed building, improving mobile and NBN coverage, the building of the Community Centre, the cricket practice net and many more.

Projects resulting from Community Plans in other communities include the Cape Clear Lighthouse and pirate ship playground; the Bundjil Lookout at Maude, the Linton bike path and Primary School playground; the Visitor Centre at Meredith; the Corindhap Avenue of Honour; Cambridge Street boardwalk in Inverleigh; Turtle Bend and many events at Teesdale; a whole range of markets, community events, festivals; tourism maps; signage; and continuous improvements to public transport and health across the whole Shire.

Sounds interesting – what is happening now?

With the close of the old Community Plan, the new Plan begins, new Community Coordinators are coming together, and early stages of finding out what the community would like to do are already happening. A range of surveys, questions, meetings and discussions will be happening in coming months around town on many different forums to try and provide as many ways as possible for locals to get involved and have a say.

Have a great idea? Want to join a project group? Want to become a Community Coordinator? There are many ways to get involved depending on you, your skills, interests and availability.

So keep an ear open for updates and opportunities in the *Dereel Spokes* newsletter and website, on Facebook, in your letterbox, at the Saturday Hub Café, in your local group meetings, on the local noticeboards, chat over the fence with your neighbours, and many other ways to tap into what is happening in your community.



The Hall ceiling has been stripped back.

Update: Dereel Projects

Photographs in this issue are supplied by Golden Plains Shire who also sent through updates on the current Dereel projects. The full article is on our website: DereelSpokes.com

DCHI News

The Hub Café will run every Saturday in April from 2pm to 4pm. Coffee, chai and hot chocolate are available. Come for a chat or the weekly activities.

2nd April—Adult Colouring

9th April—Dereel Camera Crew

You don't need to be a DCHI Member to attend .

Do You Have Gardening Expertise?

Our new Dereel Green-thumbs session has interested members in need of a leader.

Cancelled: Browns Toadlet Survey

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Julie Lee is unable to run the Browns Toadlet Survey, originally scheduled for Saturday 2nd April at the Hub Cafe in the Dereel Community Centre.

Spring Festival Planning

We are setting up a closed Facebook group for people interested in providing feedback and ideas for the Spring Festival. If you would like to be included, please contact us through email or by a private message on Facebook.

If you don't have a computer or are not using Facebook, come to the Hub Café on Saturday's between 2pm and 4pm and chat to a member of the Spring Festival organising committee.

DCHI Office Bearers Update

Following the resignation of Inaugural President, Caroline Everett, a call for nominations to the position of President was distributed to DCHI Members in February. The election was conducted in the meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016.

DCHI Member Julie Lee also resigned from the DCHI Committee of Management and the role of Assistant Secretary due to personal reasons.

Our current Office Bearers are:

President:	Richard Emery
Vice President:	Pam Bailey
Secretary:	Lisa Hunter
Treasurer:	Mitchel Fielding
Assistant Treasurer:	Carolyn Moyse

The position of Assistant Secretary was not filled.



Dereel People

Rob MacLean

By Michel Fielding

1. How long have you lived in the area?

I bought my block in 1987 for \$9,000. I was living and working in Melbourne but the company I was working for was bought out and I was made redundant. We sold up and moved here in 1989. It took me 5 years to build my mud brick house. I moved to Sydney for work in 2000 and returned to Dereel in 2010.

2. What's great about living here?

The peace and quiet. I love to watch the birds, the kangaroos. Nature fascinates me.

3. What do you feel passionate about?

I've always liked writing, humorous stories, stories with a twist. I have written short stories published in the Rokewood Newsletter. If I get an idea for a story I can't sleep until I've written it in my head.

4. What do you find joy in doing?

Gardening, swimming; I go to the Ballarat swimming centre. I used to like walking, but it's getting harder now on the knees. I read a lot, mostly crime and mystery thrillers.

5. What is your current pet project?

Painting the bungalow, it's been going for a while. Last year I got the fascias and spouting done.

6. What community groups are you involved in and why?

Men's Shed- for the company, and to share my skills with others. I'm serving as Vice President.

7. Tell us about your best community experience.

That would be the Captain Cat's musical theatre show that was run in the hall a couple of years ago. It was great how it got people together to enjoy a night out, and to have a good feed. The audience enjoyed it, the performers enjoyed it, it was just fabulous to be part of the whole event.

8. How could you see more of this happening in Dereel?

It comes down to more community involvement. Getting the community groups working together.

9. Describe a future vision of Dereel that you would like to see.

I'd like to see the roadsides maintained as well as they are in neighbouring towns. When the hall and skate park are completed I'd like to see CERT, the

Hall, Community Centre, CFA and the Men's Shed connected by decent landscaping and gardens.

10. What would we do as a first step to realise that dream?

The community has to really work together as one rather than in isolated groups. We need to advertise more by signs and the use of 3BA who broadcast community events. Not everyone is online. E.g. I know there is a community auction coming up in Rokewood but I don't know which group will be at the coffee club this week.

Publication Archive

To make it easier to share news with your friends and family, we have posted each of our printed newsletters on the website in PDF format. Find the archive here:

<http://dereelspokes.com/publication-archive/>

Acknowledgements

The Dereel Community Hub Inc. would like to thank CentaCare for paying our first year Public Liability Insurance and also for covering the cost of printing the Dereel Spokes newsletter for our first year.

Submission Guidelines

Dereel Spokes is the communication arm of the Dereel Community Hub Inc. Along with news of events, we would like to publish items of interest to the Dereel community. You don't need to be a member of the Dereel Community Hub to submit an item to our newsletter.

We accept photographs and articles related to community announcements, local events, light news items, local flora and fauna, local community groups, schools, sporting clubs, agricultural organisations and any other items in the spirit of bringing the community together.

You must own copyright for any photograph you submit. Please include signed permission to publish if your photo includes a person.

Note:

We will not publish jokes, political comments or advertising. We reserve the right not to publish items we consider are offensive to the community.

Lisa Hunter
Editor
Dereel Spokes.

Email: dereelspokes@gmail.com

Mail: P.O. Box 50, Rokewood, 3330