



Edition 5: March 2016

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<http://dereelspokes.com>



DCHI News

Dereel Community Hub Incorporated

Open Letter to 'Concerned Dereel Community Members'

An anonymous letter addressed to DCHI was received in response to the February edition of *Dereel Spokes*, sent 'on behalf of a group of concerned Dereel Residents'. We are grateful that these concerns have been aired and thank the author for sharing them with us.

From our reading, there are two essential concerns expressed:

1. That the *Dereel Spokes* newsletter should be for community news and not self promotion.
2. That community building happens in everyday mutual support but it isn't very visible

On the first point, we assume that the concerns arise from the '*Dereel People*' series, so we would like to explain what they are about. These articles will be a regular feature both in the print and online publications. The information is collected in face-to-face interviews which are intended to reflect the individual's deeper motivations and aspirations.

We appreciate the courage people demonstrate in sharing these inner views with the broader community.

There are two primary reasons behind these articles.

- To give a direct voice to people in the community. Often we don't know people outside our immediate networks very well, so the articles try to give deeper insight that we

may better understand where we are each coming from.

- To gather actual data on experiences, values and aspirations as a community. Throughout this year we will be opening discussion, running workshops etc to start building a shared vision of where the community wants to take Dereel. This will be used to guide such matters as community planning and where we choose to focus activities.

To begin with, we have conducted these interviews with DCHI members, but the intention is very much to reach further out. If you are willing to share your experiences, etc, we would love you to contact *Dereel Spokes* to arrange a time to meet – whether or not you choose to publish the results.

Regarding the second concern, we absolutely agree; our community is made up of a social web of both informal networks and visible community groups.

A key motivation in setting up *Dereel Spokes* is to share the different ways we each experience community. We would love to be able to share your experiences of community, such as the ways you help each other out. Tell us – that's why we are here.

DCHI unequivocally stands against personal attacks intended to hurt; they diminish us all and there are much more effective ways to work through differences. Irrespective of how long any of us have been in this community, we are here now, and here together. Our aim is to contribute to making this a welcoming place for **all** community members

In this spirit, we introduce the second of the '*Dereel People*' articles on page 2.



Dereel People Caroline Everett

By Michel Fielding

1. How long have you lived in the area?

Most of my life. I grew up here and have been here ever since except for about 15 years. Just before I turned 18, I moved to Melbourne for a little over a year to work, then to Ballarat and Maryborough. In 1996 I moved to Queensland for a couple of years and finally decided to come back home. (You can take the girl out of Victoria but you can't take Victoria out of the girl!).

2. What's great about living here?

The sunsets, the people and the fresh air.

3. What do you feel passionate about?

Painting, drawing, photography, the environment, home-grown vegies. Being creative. And of course, my partner!

4. What do you find joy in doing?

Experimenting with my camera and drawing – it's difficult to choose which one to do on any given day! Spending time with my partner, socialising and volunteering with the CFA team.

5. What is your current pet project?

Preparing for the Golden Plains Arts Trail; getting enough work together to display.

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

Dereel Community Hub Inc. – I'm very keen to see community development in the area.

Although no longer involved due to health reasons, I was a founding member of **CERT** and I loved it. I was involved because I saw the need for a medical emergency service in the area.

CFA – I have been involved for 20 years and they have become a second family to me.

There was a house fire at my parents' home when I was 15 and I saw what a great job they did. I wanted to contribute. I joined the Dereel Brigade before I moved to Queensland and re-joined upon my return. The CFA do an amazing job and I like the feeling of being able to do something useful in the community.

7. Tell us about your best community experience.

There were a couple of events – firstly, when I was joint proprietor of the Dereel shop and it burnt

down, and then after the 2013 fire. The way the community rallied together was breathtakingly beautiful, I still get choked up thinking about it. Just by providing basic needs and moral support, looking out for each other, and caring, people were no longer strangers and friendships grew.

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

Through people maintaining social contact rather than waiting for a crisis, so that it becomes a habit rather than a one-off. That way, the level of compassion remains, and we get a better understanding of each other in everyday interaction. That would sustain positive and beautiful outcomes within the community.

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

I would like to see a place where people feel safe, contented, happy and comfortable – and no-one feels alone or left out. Where positive energy is with everyone. I'd like to see the village environment I remember as a child, where we didn't even have to ask for help because people knew you and knew what was needed.

It will need a strong support system, that happens by default – I would like to see it as "just the way things are done" and not only as an emergency response. People helping and supporting people, because they are all people.

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

The starting point is getting together on a regular basis, with community events where everyone is welcome. Food is a great basis to bring people together. When we share food we talk. This enables people to share ideas and get to know each other better. It's an easy way to connect. This would go a long way towards establishing a level of comfort and safety. Through this experience, people could feel it's OK to say what they need to say, and just sit back when they need to, and not feel threatened or nervous about what others might think or say because we would all know each other much better.

Acknowledgements

The Dereel Community Hub Incorporated 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.

What's Happening?

DCHI News

March is shaping up to be a busy month for us. If you would like more information on any of these items, please email: dereelspokes@gmail.com

Call for Nominations

With regret, the DCHI Committee of Management accepted the resignation of our inaugural President, Caroline Everett due to ill health and changed personal circumstances. We are pleased to know that Caroline will remain an active member of DCHI.

Accordingly, a call for nominations for President of DCHI was sent to Members in February.

The meeting to elect our new President will be held on Monday 7th March at 7:30pm in the Dereel Community Centre.

Should the role of President be filled by a current Office Bearer, nominations to fill the vacated position will be called for during the meeting.

All DCHI Members are invited to attend the meeting to nominate a candidate or to vote.

RAV Small Town Transitions EOI

DCHI has been consulting with Golden Plains Shire and local groups such as the Men's Shed, the CFA, CERT and the Walking Group to put together an expression of interest application for the Regional Arts Victoria Small Town Transitions grant.

Further information will be provided later on if we are successful in moving through to the next stage.

Hub Café Activities

The first couple of Hub Café events have been successful, with people we had not previously met coming along to join in each time.

In March we have a few more activities which may interest you.

Come along and join in the fun. You don't need to be a DCHI Member to attend these sessions.

Adult Colouring In Day with Guest Glynis Bryden

By Carol Moyse

I'm pleased to announce our first **Adult Colouring In** day has been planned for **Saturday 5th March** as part of the Dereel Hub Cafe between 2-4pm.

This is something I've been doing for a couple of months now, and I find it very relaxing. I'm not the most artistic person around so this really suits me. I am sure there are many others out there that would enjoy it too.

We are also privileged to have **Glynis Bryden** join us. Glynis has published her own adult colouring book and she will talk to us about the process involved. She may have some other tips to help us.

I'm really looking forward to this, and I hope we have a good turnout. If we do it will be something we can organise on a regular basis.

Dereel Camera Crew

In the first meeting of local photographers, Paul Shire led us through shutter speed, aperture and ISO, challenging us to work with the manual settings on our cameras.

Our homework is to find the settings which best work for our own camera and report back to the second meeting, which is on Saturday 12th March from 2pm to 4pm in the Dereel Community Centre.

Paul is away for this meeting, so we will be discussing our interests in photography and making a list of things we would like to do with the Dereel Camera Crew—the name we chose for ourselves.

If you're interested in photography, we would love to see you.

Coffee 101

By Richard Emery

Coffee 101 will provide you with an introduction to specialty coffee. We will cover a basic history of coffee and how it came from Africa to the world—from Ethiopia to Yemen to Europe, to India and Java then to the Caribbean.

We will move to harvesting and preparation and then roasting which is where the magic happens.

Of course we will also be tasting coffee during the afternoon so come prepared for fun and games on **Saturday 19th March from 2pm.**

Spring Festival Planning

Although we are just about to shift from Summer into Autumn, it's time to begin planning the 2016 Spring Festival.

If you have ideas and you would like to contribute, we would love to hear from you. The more people we have working on the planning, the more we can achieve on the day.



Apply now for a spot on the Street Art team!



Make your mark with the Dereel Skate Park Paint Project

The Dereel skate park is about to get a new lease on life (and a splash of colour!) and we need your help!

Golden Plains Shire Council is excited to work with local young people and Ballarat artist Stuart Walsh to develop four murals within skate parks in Dereel, Enfield, Haddon and Lethbridge.

The initiative is part of the Skate Park Graffiti Prevention Project and funded by the Victorian Government's Community Crime Prevention Program.

So come along and get involved! All interested community members (especially young people) are

encouraged to participate and work with Stuart to create the design and be involved in the paint workshops. Participants will learn about street art design, the history of street art and the harms and consequences of illegal graffiti and vandalism.

Community members are also invited to get involved in the Enfield project. All materials and catering will be supplied.

	Design Workshops	Paint Workshops
Dereel Skate Park	10:00am – 11:30am Tuesday 29 March	10:00am – 3:00pm Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 April
Enfield Skate Park	2:00pm – 3:30pm Tuesday 29 March	10:00m – 3:00pm Thursday 7 and Friday 8 April

For more information:

Please contact the Youth Development officer on julie.drechsler@gplains.vic.gov.au or 5220 7106.

Free Subscription

We want to be responsible with paper, and with our financial resources. So the first few printed editions will go to every household in Dereel to let you know we exist, and to ask for your support. In the future, the printed version will only be delivered to residents who request it.

If you would like to continue getting a printed copy of the newsletter in your letterbox, please let us know by filling in this form. It won't cost you anything and we can be sure we are only delivering it to the people who want to read it.

Yes, I would like to continue receiving the print edition of *Dereel Spokes*.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return this form to:
2857 Colac-Ballarat Road, Dereel

Submission Guidelines

Dereel Spokes is the communication arm of the newly formed 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 to be offensive to the community.

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