



THE SOURCE

The Lyonville Newsletter

Half Year Report

Community and the Council

It must be a thankless task being a local councillor! Never enough funding to do what you promise, always multiple viewpoints to balance.

I have always found Hepburn Shire Council to be responsive and helpful. It's understandable that recruiting and retaining staff is difficult and with a small ratepayer pool and a cap on rates, it is hard to balance the budget and respond to all demands.

Lyonville is a small township in the shire and although we'd like to see more Council funding spent locally, this must be balanced against services and facilities that are provided across the shire and that we may also access.

So next time we think we are not getting our fair share, let's think about what we receive from Council in other areas (libraries, waste services, parks, community facilities etc).

And let's keep advocating for Lyonville as well!

Vicki, The Editor

June 2023



Goodies on sale at the Real Gardens of Lyonville day

Lyonville Community Planning Update

The Lyonville Community Planning Group Inc is an incorporated, not for profit association tasked with implementing the Lyonville Community Plan 2021-2024. LCPG Inc has five volunteer members, with others involved in three working groups. Whilst the initial community planning process received some Council funding to run the consultation process and to pay for public liability insurance for the first year, there are no ongoing Council funds available to the group to use for projects. The community must therefore do its own fundraising to cover projects and modest operating costs via events or grant applications.

With the help of the Garden Club and the Hall Committee, the group raised around \$8,000 from the open garden day in March. This will be used for projects in Lyonville in line with the community plan action list (see <https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/residents/documents/lyonville-community-plan.pdf> for a copy of the Lyonville Community Plan).

The first planned project is to beautify the western entrance to Lyonville, next to the CFA tank. We plan to tidy the area, plant a low rise garden and spruce up the tank. We also hope to do more street tree planting and provide more prominent signage at the township entrances on the main road.

LCPG Inc is also working to improve road safety but is not getting much response from Regional Roads Victoria. In conjunction with a student group from The University of Melbourne, we are working to develop a web site or app to host information on Lyonville.

Whilst the group would love to be able to do more and get results quickly, we are a small group of volunteers and have to work within available resources. Council resources are also currently limited and we have been advised that the focus on local community planning has lessened in recent times. Whilst this is disappointing, the group will continue to try to implement items included in our plan.

We could do much more if we had more people able to participate. The plan has many goals that were suggested by our community and to realise them, we need more hands. Come along to our AGM at the hall at 7pm on 12 July to find out more. If you'd like to get involved before then, please contact Vicki: vickicj102@gmail.com or Shelley: shelley@healthfutures.org.au



Lyonville roadsides ripe for beautification?



Dates for your diary (all events at Lyonville Hall)

Wednesday 12 July at 7pm: Lyonville Community Planning Group Inc Annual General Meeting. This is an open meeting where you can hear a report on activities and finances.

Sunday 22 October: The Lyonville Bake Off—our popular event returns for another toothsome test of our bakers.

Wednesday 15 November at 7pm: Hall Committee AGM. This is an open meeting where you can hear a report on activities and finances.



Woodchop review

The 50th anniversary of the Lyonville Woodchop was held on 25 February, having been delayed due to problems getting suitable wood. The event, attended by local politicians Hon Catherine King, Hon Mary Thomas and Hepburn Shire Mayor Cr Brian Hood, was another great success. This event is organised by the Hall Committee and all proceeds go to the maintenance and development of the hall. This year we made a surplus of over \$10,000. Thanks to Anne and George Bremner who have organised this event for many years, and to our many volunteers and generous sponsors without whom we could not manage such a big event. Thanks also to the Axemen's Association who organise the competition. We await advice on whether the recent decision by the Victorian Government to close native forests to logging will affect our ability to hold a wood chop in future.



Ladies' nail drive (above) and spinning wheel (left) at the 2023 Woodchop

The Real Gardens of Lyonville review

The first Real Gardens of Lyonville (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088472648631>) event was held on 26 March. This successful event was organised by a coalition of local groups: the Garden Club, the Lyonville Community Planning Group Inc and the Hall Committee. The event received a \$2,000 Community Grant from Hepburn Shire Council. Around 170 visitors strolled through nine local gardens. Volunteers and host gardeners were invited to a feedback session to put forward suggestions for future years and feedback from visitors was very positive. The event made a surplus of over \$8,000. All proceeds will be used to fund projects included in the Lyonville Community Plan. Thanks to all who helped organise and host this event.



Volunteers and visitors at the registration desk (left) and happy customers enjoying morning tea at the Real Gardens of Lyonville day (right)



Hall Committee Update

It's been pleasing to see a steady stream of private bookings at the hall in recent months. Word is out and the pizza oven is a definite drawcard.

The Sunday café remains popular despite the wintery weather and the end of the strawberry season. The café will take a winter break, closing from 21 August to 23 September inclusive. Thanks to all our volunteer baristas and bakers who provide this excellent community service.

Improvements and additions continue to take place at the hall. Since our last newsletter, the Committee has:

- Purchased and installed a good quality piano—feel free to tickle the ivories at the next café!
- Installed a generator so that if there is a prolonged power cut, we can provide the community with access to power and heating at the hall. This was made possible by a grant from the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.
- Installed an EFTPOS machine so we can take electronic payments at the café and events.

We've been advised that Council has budgeted for some improvements to the toilets in the next financial year. Council has also recently provided funding to enable affordable access to the hall. If you would like to use the hall for your community meetings or activities, contact the booking manager to see if any reduced rates are available.

The covered area for the pizza oven is still a high priority but did not secure any funding commitment from Council in the 2023-4 budget round. We are rethinking the scope of the project so we can build it more affordably. Thanks to Committee member Gary George for his patient and persistent work on this project.

Events at the Lyonville Hall

For more information on hall events, or to organise your own event at the hall, contact Vicki on 0438 178 150. The hall and the pizza oven are available for hire from \$120–\$200 per day for the hall, \$50 for use of the pizza oven only.

Lyonville Newsletter and FaceBook page

The newsletter is published periodically. Send newsletter content to lyonvillecommunity@gmail.com or call Vicki Jackson on 0438 178 150. The newsletter is distributed by email, delivered and is available at the Radio Springs Hotel. Please email us with your email address. Lyonville community Facebook group page [@LyonvilleSnippets](https://www.facebook.com/LyonvilleSnippets), Instagram [@LyonvilleSnippets](https://www.instagram.com/LyonvilleSnippets)