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Facilitated by the Strategy Unit, City of Greater Bendigo



1. Welcome

Community members are best placed to plan for the future of their own communities. Identifying a vision, then planning for actions to realise the vision is a great mechanism to develop partnerships and gain support from key stakeholders to bring that vision to life.

2. Background to the Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk District Community Plan

The development of the Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk and District Community Plan continues the commitment for small townships and local communities to establish a future vision for their local areas. The Community Plan has been prepared by the Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk District and Community Enterprise after extensive consultation with the community and focuses on the community infrastructure, development and social needs to keep pace with the current and future demands of a growing, diverse and developing area.

The Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk and District Community Plan has been developed to identify the areas inherent strengths and core values.

Our Strengths

- Plenty of off street free parking in the retail precinct
- Wide open spaces including streets, from the Eaglehawk Town Hall to Avery's Road.

3. Vision

Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk and District Community Plan vision is: The area is a diverse, dynamic and inclusive community with a commitment to retaining its distinct local identity

The core values from the Plan are: Community spirit, participation and investment for the future.

4. History of the Postcode 3556 area.

The Story of Eaglehawk

Gold was first discovered in Bendigo in October 1851. The gold rush came to Eaglehawk in 1852 when a group of gold seekers found a nugget while searching for a stray horse. Legend has it that an 'eaglehawk' flying near the claim inspired the towns name¹.

Alluvial gold was largely exhausted by 1853. Following this, quartz mining continued for almost one hundred years. Three hundred tonnes of gold were

 $^{^{1}}$ http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/ncas/multimedia/gazetteer/list/eaglehawk.html and http://www.bendigolive.com/history.htm

ultimately extracted from Eaglehawk. Commonly known localities were named according to the dozens of gold and quartz mines established on hills (Virginia Hill) and in gullies (Sailors Gully, Job's Gully).

The first sale of land facing High Street took place on the 20th and 21st September 1854. By 1855 the population had reached 20,000. Declared an independent borough in 1862, Eaglehawk developed into a self-sufficient working class town with a range of industries and factories sustaining the local community.

In 1880, the Eaglehawk Borough had a population of 7500, the ratepayers numbered nearly 800 and the town, four miles from Bendigo, had its own Town Hall, money order office and telegraph office. Its hills and gullies included numerous hotels; two state schools, and eleven churches as well as three banks. The Library of the Mechanics Institute had over 1500 books for loan. In Canterbury Park, the people of Eaglehawk had open space formed and laid out with flowerbeds and shrubs.²

Some fine buildings were constructed in Eaglehawk in the nineteenth century, however it was essentially a working class area where the majority of houses were simple miners cottages. In 1888, Eaglehawk boasted forty-one hotels.³

In June 1890, the first trams ran between Sandhurst (Bendigo) and Eaglehawk, however Eaglehawk had already developed a separate and independent character. This sense of separate identity was well illustrated at the Borough Council meeting of 6th May 1874 when it was proposed to erect a tollgate at the entrance to Eaglehawk from Bendigo.²

The continued existence of mining landscapes and mullock heaps provides a link with Eaglehawk's foundations in gold mining. However, a rugged bush landscape has also survived and Eaglehawk is now in close proximity to nature reserves and parks of state and national significance.

Today, Eaglehawk is an urban village whose residents express pride in its ability to meet local needs. A strong sense of the township's history and its 19th century architectural legacy underpin the town's identity. Upon amalgamation of the Borough of Eaglehawk with other neighbouring Councils to form the City of Greater Bendigo in 1994, the community expressed fears of disenfranchisement, and were concerned that loss of the independent Borough status would lead to the town's decline. The citizens of Eaglehawk have expressed concern that Eaglehawk is considered a 'less desirable place to live' by residents from other areas, nevertheless the residents of Eaglehawk are proud of being from 'the Borough' and keen to promote its assets.

The town's vibrancy is demonstrated daily, in the busy retail centre, thriving industrial estate and dynamic school cultures. Indeed, the town's annual "Dahlia and Arts Festival" is highly successful as a result of an active local committee and patronage from locals and visitors alike. The operation of the Star Cinema in the

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² Eaglehawk & Bendigo Heritage Study, Vol 2, Page 39

³ Bendigo Historic Buildings, National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Central Victorian Branch 1997 - Butcher and Flanders

historic Eaglehawk Town Hall draws visitors to Eaglehawk, and also provides activity in the town centre at nights and on weekends. It is a reminder of past days when the Eaglehawk Town Hall was the centre of cultural activity.

Since Eaglehawk's gold era heyday, many changes have occurred to make way for progress. Changes such as removal of tram infrastructure, demolition of original verandahs, and replacement of bluestone and brick kerbing with concrete kerb and channel have all altered the appearance of Eaglehawk. Concerns that Eaglehawks character and heritage places could still be lost were frequently raised in the plan's consultation process.

Today it is understood that a balance between old and new is required. The need to keep, protect and conserve things from the past must be balanced by an appreciation that the needs and wants of the community have changed and that sensitive new development should also be allowed.

The Story of California Gully

California Gully is usually regarded as that small township that one passes through between Long Gully and Eaglehawk – just another part of Bendigo's urban sprawl. But California Gully has a fabulous past. Gold was found here in 1852 at the same time that it was discovered in Eaglehawk, a few months after the initial gold find at Bendigo. It is presumed that California Gully as named after miners who came from California and worked in the gully searching for alluvial gold.

In the 1850s both California Gully and Eaglehawk became established townships. Eaglehawk became a centre of local government when it was created a Municipality in 1862, then a Borough in 1863. A town hall was built in Eaglehawk, and banks opened there, making Eaglehawk the central area of the Borough of Eaglehawk. California Gully, part of the borough, continued to look after its locals, having all facilitates except a bank.

As surface or alluvial gold became scarce, reef mining developed to get gold from the underground quartz. The mines were to here to stay and the shopping centres became permanent. Gold mining was the mainstay of California Gully, Eaglehawk, Sailors Gully and indeed the Bendigo area.

Over the years the California Gully community has weathered depressions, the decline in goldmining, the deprivations of war years, and little housing development as people moved to the newer suburbs which didn't have those great grey dusty sand heaps.

In the 1960s much land was opened up for housing bringing a slow but steady increase of new families to the area. The housing boom of the late 1990s and the first few years of the $21^{\rm st}$ Century has changed the face of the old California Gully landscape. Mining waste lands of grey slum sand, mullock and bull-rushes are giving way to new streets and houses.⁴

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⁴ Extract from California Gully author Noelene Wild, November 2009.

The Story of Long Gully

The area of Long Gully was well known for alluvial mining and later quartz reef mining and had the heaviest concentration of deep quartz mines and shafts on the Bendigo field.

Long Gully with its dominant church buildings, its small miners cottages and its mixture of larger buildings and remnant commercial land uses reflect the identity of the scattered mining hamlets of the nineteenth century.

In 1862 Long Gully was included in the Borough of Sandhurst. In the mid nineteenth century businesses (blacksmith, butcher, drapers and engineers) and hotels were established in the area and as roads became an issue in 1877 this was a mark of urbanisation for the area. In 1865 the Long Gully Methodist Church was constructed and further signalled urban growth along with gas main connection to the area in 1866. The Mechanic's Institute was built in 1878.

It became apparent that civilisation to the area was becoming abundant so Long Gully received one of the new government schools in 1873. ⁵

5. Aim of this Process

The Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk and District Community Plan Working Group has undertaken surveys and a community workshop to discover and document the community vision and the actions needed to achieve this vision for the future of the Postcode 3556 community.

- Survey/Workshops A survey of both residents and students was conducted as well as two community workshops to gain feedback from locals about their aspirations and ideas for the future development of Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk District.
- Priority Identification The Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk District Community Enterprise Group used the community workshop feedback to identify the top priorities.

The aim of this document is to provide the whole community the opportunity to participate and share in the development and ownership of a vision for the future of Postcode 3556.

The Community Plan represents the future needs and wishes established through workshops and wide consultation.

The survey information and community feedback from the workshops were collated and clustered into the following themes:

- 1. Health and Wellbeing / Community Resilience / Support Services
- 2. Education and Training

 $^{^{5}}$ Eaglehawk and Bendigo heritage Study Vol 3 p.23-24

- 3. Sport and Recreation / Public Building and Open Spaces
- 4. Entertainment, Arts and Culture
- 5. Industrial/Commercial/Shopping/Retail/Jobs
- 6. Transport and Movement
- 7. Township Appearance and Structure
- 8. Natural Environment / Sustainability, Water and Climate Change

These themes will provide the key considerations of how Postcode 3556 will grow and develop.

The 3556 Working Group will provide the on-going governance to progress the initiatives of the Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk and District Community Plan and will call upon community members to take part on sub-committees to progress the initiatives.

The Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk and District Community Plan will be governed by the 3556 Working Group and the plan will be continually updated and reviewed every 2 years by the Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk and District community to ensure on-going relevance.

We have an outstanding number of volunteers in Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk and District and together we can make this plan become a reality.

6. Demographic Profile for Postcode 3556

The Population and demographic are based on the 2006 Australian Bureau Statistics (ABS) Community Census.

PERSON CHARACTERISTICS

According to the 2006 Australia Bureau of Statistic Census undertaken in 2006 10,338 people lived in the postcode 3556 area. Of this 47.5% were males and 52.5% females with 1.8% people having a indigenous or Torres Strait Islander background. This is compared to 48.3%, 51.7% and 1.1% respectively for the City of Greater Bendigo.

	Postcode 3556	City of Greater Bendigo
0-4 years	6.60%	6.20%
5-9 years	7.29%	6.82%
10-14 years	8.01%	7.44%
15-19 years	7.14%	7.52%
20-24 years	5.76%	6.92%
25-29 years	5.73%	5.52%
30-34 years	5.73%	5.97%
35-39 years	6.22%	6.47%
40-44 years	6.92%	7.08%
45-49 years	6.95%	7.27%
50-54 years	6.86%	6.86%

	Postcode 3556	City of Greater Bendigo
55-59 years	6.55%	6.32%
60-64 years	4.91%	4.79%
65-69 years	4.47%	4.08%
70-74 years	3.89%	3.46%
75-79 years	3.11%	3.09%
80 years and over	3.88%	4.21%

Of the person 15 years and over

Martial Status: 45.6% were married, 32.5% never married, 14.6% separated or divorced and 7.3% widowed. This is compared to City of Greater Bendigo 48.7%, 32.8%, 11.9% and 6.6% respectively.

Labour Force: 55.3% employed full-time, 30.0% employed part-time and 8.4% were unemployed. Compared to City of Greater Bendigo 55.9%, 31.2% and 6.5% respectively.

Occupation:	Postcode 3556	City of Greater
		Bendigo
Technicians and trades Workers	18.6%	15.3%
Labourers	16.3%	12.3%
Sales Workers	12.7%	11.6%
Professionals	12.6%	17.9%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	11.9%	13.7%

Industry of Employment:	Postcode 3556	City of Greater
		Bendigo
Hospitals,	5.6%	5.9%
Supermarket and Grocery Stores	4.1%	3.4%
School Education	3.9%	5.2%
Cafés, Restaurants, and Takeaway Food	3.3%	3.7%
Services		

Income: Median Individual Income \$360 compared to City of Greater Bendigo \$403, Median household Income \$685 compared to City of Greater Bendigo \$833 and Median Family Income \$889 compared to City of Greater Bendigo \$1,044.

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

There were 2,796 families residing in Postcode 3556, 39.7% couple families with children, 35.5% couple without children, 23.7% one parent families and 1.4% other families. Compared to City of Greater Bendigo 42.3%, 38.2%, 18.0% and 1.5% respectively.

DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS

Postcode 3556 has 4,063 occupied private dwellings

Dwellings	Postcode 3556	City of Greater
		Bendigo
Separate houses	89.2%	87.0%

Semi detached, row or terrace houses, townhouses etc	5.5%	5.4%
Flats, units or apartments	4.6%	6.2%
Other dwellings	0.7%	1.4%

The median weekly rent was \$140 compared to \$160 for Greater Bendigo, The median monthly housing loan repayments was \$867, compared to \$997 in Greater Bendigo. The average household size was 2.5 and average the average number of person per bedroom was 1.1.

Dwellings	Postcode	City of Greater
	3556	Bendigo
Fully owned	35.0%	35.2%
Being purchased	34.9%	34.3%
Rented	25.1%	21.1%
Households		
Family household	67.9%	67.3%
Lone person households	27.0%	25.1%
Group households	2.6%	4.1%
Rental		
Rented from real estate agents	36.2%	47.0%
Rented from State of Territory housing authority	27.8%	16.5%
Rented from other landlord types	34.3%	34.1%

7. Themes, Goals and Actions

The Themes, Goals and Actions have been collated from a community workshop meeting held in July 2010. The following Tables outline the Goals and Actions within each of the 8 broad themes:

7.1 Community Resilience

GOAL 1: Produce a local Directory of all the services, activities, clubs, etc.			
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS	
Develop a stand alone website for Postcode 3556.	March 2011	City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB) Local Businesses, Local Clubs, organisations and service providers.	
Seek funding/grant from City of Greater Bendigo (COGB) to assist with development of a public touch screen information site.		Empowering Eaglehawk Inc (EEI)	

GOAL 2: Produce a local newspaper or newsletter			
ACTION Cot all the organisations to	30 th December	PARTNERS Business outlets with paid	
Get all the organisations to		advertising	
participate in the production of a local	2010	Our Place	
newsletter. Many already produce		Eaglehawk Neighborhood House	
their own newsletters, so we simply		Local Schools, Churches,	
ask them to email their newsletters to		Service Clubs, EEI, Sporting	
a central point where the information		Clubs, Star Cinema, COGB and	
is collated and reproduced into a		Youth Foundation.	
single publication on a monthly basis.			
GOAL 3: Provide a welcome pack to ne			
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS	
Business outlets to fund the packs	30 th June 2011	COGB Business Outlets	
and also the production of a welcome		Bendigo Newcomers Group	
card inserted in the local newsletter		Bendigo Newcomers Group	
which invites new residents to all into			
selected outlets to pick up their free			
welcome kit. The welcome kit would			
include a Service & Activities Guide			
as planned in Goal 1.			
GOAL 4: Ensure adequate and affordable housing is available for all residents.			
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS	
Promote potential sites for affordable	ASAP Report in	CoGB & Department of Health	
housing.	12 mths	(DHS)	
Identify needs of older persons	Commence in	CoGB, Fed Govt & DHS	
accommodation	12 mths -		
	Report in 24		
	mths		
Investigate the potential and possible	24 months	CoGB Parks Victoria,	
uses of vacant crown land within the		Department of Sustainability	
Postcode 3556 area for housing		and Environment (DSE)	
options.			
Work with DHS to investigate public	24 months	DHS & CoGB	
housing options in the Postcode 3556			
area including 'home ownership			
schemes/options'.			
serieriies, options i			

7.2 Education and Training

GOAL 1: Retain Child Care services			
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS	
Investigate current and future Child	31/12/2011	YMCA, Eaglehawk Primary	
Care options, needs and locations.		School, COGB, Community	
care options, needs and recations		Health Centre.	
GOAL 2: Retain a State Government Primary School in Eaglehawk			
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS	
Ensure a State Government Primary	ASAP	State Government, Community	
School facility is retained, developed		Group and CoGB	
and maintained in central Eaglehawk.			
Increase student enrolments at the	By 31st	Eaglehawk Primary School	
	,	Council, Community Reference	

	l	0 411 11 51	
Eaglehawk Primary School by gaining greater support from the local community.	December 2011	Group. All other Primary Schools in Western Bendigo. Bright Street & Neangar Kindergartens.	
GOAL 3: Support and retain youth			
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS	
Investigate options for youth support service(s) in Eaglehawk.	Commence in 6 months	State Government and EEI and CoGB	
Provide wider range of educational programs for students who may leave school at an early age.	December 2011	Local schools, CVGT, Future Employment Opportunities (FEO), St Lukes.	
Increase training opportunities for all ages throughout the 3556 area by getting major organisations together.	Hold meeting by November 2011	FEO, CVGT, YMCA, Bendigo Stadium, Eaglehawk Secondary College, Library, Star Cinema, Youth groups and EEI.	
GOAL 4: Improve and develop community facilities and infrastructure.			
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS	
Extend the Eaglehawk Library hours and services to include more education options including a technology centre.	Meeting above	CoGB, Central Victorian Goldfields Library and Eaglehawk Cultural and Heritage Group.	
Upgrade Broadband in the 3556 area to be more efficient and cost competitive.	June 30th 2011	Telstra, CoGB, Bendigo Community Telco.	
GOAL 5: Improve adult learning opportunities			
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS	
Provide more opportunities for adult learning.	December 2011	YMCA, FEO, CVGT	

7.3 Sport and Recreation

GOAL 1: Improve the Canterbury Gardens area			
TIMELINE	PARTNERS		
12 months	CoGB and Eaglehawk Open		
Ongoing	Space Precinct Master Plan		
	Project Group		
6 months	CoGB, EEI		
GOAL 2: Improve Recreation facilities throughout 3556 Area.			
TIMELINE	PARTNERS		
12 months	Eaglehawk Soccer Club		
	Eaglehawk Rotary		
	CoGB		
40 11	Cristat Club		
12 months	Cricket Club		
	Community House CoGB		
C 11			
6 months	Long Gully Neighbourhood		
	House		
	Sporting Groups Men's Shed Group		
	CoGB		
	COGD		
	TIMELINE 12 months Ongoing 6 months hroughout 3556		

Organise a meeting of all groups that use the Albert Roy Reserve Precinct to develop a long term plan for the area	12 months	Cricket, Baseball, BMX, Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton and Play groups
Maintain the Peter Krenz Leisure Centre as the major indoor activity centre in the area.	Ongoing	YMCA CoGB Eaglehawk Swimming Club

7.4 Entertainment, Arts and Culture

GOAL 1: Promote Arts, Culture and Heritage Activities		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Support the strategic direction of the Eaglehawk Cultural and Heritage Precinct Committee of Management which takes in the Town Hall, Mechanics Institute, Court House and Brassey Square.	6 months	Cultural and Heritage Precinct Management Group
Promote the activities of the Eaglehawk Heritage Society, Star Cinema and Library	12 months	CoGB Eaglehawk Heritage Society Star Goldfields Library Corp

7.5 Industrial, Commercial and Retail

GOAL 1: Develop Business Networks		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Develop a strong business organisation covering the whole of the	12 months	Eaglehawk Business Network, EEI and CoGB.
3556 area.		
Support the Business Network in	12 months -	Business Network, EEI and
partnership with Empowering	ongoing	CoGB.
Eaglehawk Inc to promote Postcode		
3556.		
GOAL 2: Build a prosperous Retail Sector		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Identify available land for retail and	12 months	EBN and CoGB.
commercial expansion and once		
identified plan to increase the variety		
of shopping opportunities in		
Eaglehawk and also provide the		
opportunities for increased		
employment in the 3556 area.		
GOAL 3: Increase availability of Industr		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Undertake a review/survey of potential	12 months	EBN, EEI and CoGB
Industrial sites and if necessary		
advocate to have them rezoned/		
developed.		
Ensure that appropriate long term		
strategic planning is carried out in the		
3556 area.		

7.6 Transport and Movement

GOAL 1: Improve and increase public transport options			
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS	
Establish trials of extended public	Commence	Vline, bus operators, State govt	
transport services	within 12	& Council	
·	mths and trial		
	for 12 mths		
Advocate for increased train services	December	Vic Track, V Line, Group who	
to and from the Eaglehawk Railway	2012	took up petition, Local State	
Station.		Members, City of Greater	
		Bendigo	
GOAL 2: Consider options for Heavy Vehicle			
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS	
Determine if there are options for	Completed	CoGB, VicRoads, IGA, Mawsons	
diverting heavy vehicles from the	within 12	& McKerns transport.	
centre of Eaglehawk	mths		
GOAL 3: Consider ways to improve both pedestrian and vehicle movement in			
Eaglehawk.			
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS	
Review options for safer pedestrian	12 months	CoGB & VicRoads	
crossing and vehicle turning in Victoria			
Street, Eaglehawk			

7.7 Township Appearance and Structure

GOAL 1: Enhance and develop the township centre in Eaglehawk, California Gully &		
Long Gully		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Plan and develop a streetscape design that is useable and people friendly in the shopping areas of Eaglehawk,	Completed within 12 mths	CoGB, VicRoads and EBN
California Gully and Long Gully.		
Complete upgrade to the Eaglehawk Shopping Centre that was designed in the 2002 Eaglehawk Township Plan	12 months	CoGB, Vic Roads and EBN
Ensure ongoing maintenance and improvements to streetscapes in Residential areas (tree planting, footpaths and drainage).	Ongoing	CoGB

7.8 Natural Environment, Sustainability, Water and Climate Change.

GOAL 1: Increase cycling and walking opportunities in the area.		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Provide a bicycle/walking track from Lake Neangar to Lake Weeroona	December 2012	CoGB, Cyclists & Gopher users. Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE).
Provide interpretation board for	December	CoGB, DSE.

Whipstick as part of Town Hall Precinct	2012	
Reinstate Mulga Bill Walking/Bicycle	12 months	CoGB
track between Lake Neanger and		Local Service Clubs
Lightening Hill.		
GOAL 2: Improve and maintain the natural environment.		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Rehabilitate Eaglehawk landfill with	Commence by	CoGB, EPA.
trees.	December	
	2010	
Plant appropriate trees in residential	Commence	CoGB.
and fire prone areas	immediately	

8. Where to from here?

Once the Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk and District Community Plan is approved, the 3556 Working Group will coordinate the progress of the plan overall. The Group will provide the overarching governance framework, whilst specialised sub-committees will be formed to progress the actions outlined in each of the themes. These sub-committees will be the most important component of ensuring this Community Plan achieves the objectives and actions outlined. We therefore will be seeking people who have an interest under any theme to help formulate relevant sub-committees.

The Plan will be launched at the Community Breakfast at 7.30 a.m. on Friday 29 October at Our Shed 14 Sailors Gully Road, Eaglehawk.

We need continued effort to achieve this Plan's numerous objectives for the betterment of Postcode 3556 Eaglehawk and District Community. We look forward to encouraging all sectors of the community to take ownership of this Plan and to working positively and cooperatively to achieve these objectives.