



MIA MIA

COMMUNITY PLAN 2018-2023



CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO



Keeping our community plan current

In May 2018 the Mia Mia community was invited to a planning session and bonfire to identify events and activities that would lead to improved community wellbeing, better communication and more social events. The items listed in the community plan are a summary of what that planning session recommended. However, this is a living plan which means that we should revisit it each year and determine if what we identified as important remains significant. This means that we can update the plan each year, replacing some items with ones not yet dreamed of.

Some volunteers identified at our planning session things they would like to work on. We welcome any offer of assistance from any community members who would like to volunteer their time to help improve our community. Please send an email with your contact details to us at miamiasocial@gmail.com and we'll be in touch.

Improving communication

Some community members included "more communication" in their responses to the community survey that preceded our community planning session. Mia Mia Mechanics' Institute produces a free newsletter "Mia Mia Messenger" which is distributed electronically. It is available to anyone who requests it. If you do not already receive it, please email us at miamiasocial@gmail.com and ask to be added to our email list. If you do not have internet access perhaps you have a neighbour or friend with internet access who could pass the newsletter on to you? You can set up an email address and access the internet at libraries and other outlets.

We need to receive information from those in and around Mia Mia who are involved with events and other items of interest. Unless we know about them, then we cannot pass on the information. If you know of a local event or activity please email the details to us and we'll include it in the next newsletter.

Acknowledging our supporters

Many Mia Mia community members volunteer to support local activities, particularly the high quality catering at Mia Mia Hall and the Recreation Reserve (The Flat) events. Feedback such as "your volunteers are always so welcoming and friendly" is frequent. Without our volunteers there is no way we could deliver events such as the Twilight Opera, Big Sing and the Flower Show. We acknowledge all our volunteers as well as the support of groups such as Melbourne's Souffle Sisters, Bendigo's Women of Note and Melbourne's Homebrew Singers who contribute their time and their talent to raise funds for the Mia Mia Fire Brigade.

It would be beyond our means to deliver all the events we offer without ongoing support in the form of community grants from City of Greater Bendigo and the Heathcote and District Community Bank. Sponsors, including the Alice Amy McDonald Opera Scholarship Trust, Alan and Christina Weiss, John Saines, local winery Rowanston on the Track, and the volunteer work of many community members, enable us to deliver events that are highly valued by our community members and visitors.





What we plan to do	With support from
Continue to provide annual events such as the Flower Show, Twilight Opera, Big Sing, Australia Day Breakfast at the Mia Mia Hall and Dog Trials at the Recreation Reserve. Explore the possibility of gardeners in the community exchanging plant cuttings at the Flower Show.	City of Greater Bendigo, Heathcote and District Community Bank, the Alice Amy McDonald Opera Scholarship Trust, other sponsors, lots of local volunteers and The Mclvor Times.
Provide additional informal social opportunities for the community to interact. Suggested activities include regular get togethers with shared plates and drinks, trivia nights, and card games.	Any community member is welcome to organise events that bring community members together. One example is a soup evening where people bring along soups for tasting and the attendees vote on the "best" soup.
Increase community awareness of the resources and activities of the CFA, encourage the development of emergency procedures such as multiple fire escape routes if fire threatens, and encourage collaboration on fire plans with neighbours.	Mia Mia Fire Brigade, Country Fire Authority and Redesdale Mia Mia School.
Develop a "Welcome Kit" for new residents that includes information on local service providers including meals on wheels, transport options and fire safety.	Request the assistance of City of Greater Bendigo and Mitchell Shire in getting the welcome kit printed and distributed to all residents initially and then to new residents on arrival.
Ensure that the Mia Mia Hall is well maintained so that it continues to be a place where the community can interact while enjoying a range of cultural, social and informal activities.	City of Greater Bendigo, Victorian and Australian Governments, Heathcote and District Community Bank, any other provider of funding available to maintain and preserve critical community owned infrastructure.
Seek ways of enriching the content of Mia Mia Messenger and our website at miamiavic.com with stories from community members.	Community members are invited to submit content by emailing it to miamiasocial@gmail.com



What we plan to do	With support from
Investigate the development of walking/cycling paths around Mia Mia, using roads such as Old Ford Rd or along the river. Work with Redesdale on Campaspe River walk.	Redesdale and Mia Mia community members, owners of land involved, experts on bike paths, trails, signage.
Investigate launching a sculpture competition with a flight theme to recognise the Duigan flight's role in Mia Mia history.	Seek advice and support from The Sculptors Society and the Association of Sculptors of Victoria and other such bodies.
Explore the viability of a horse arena at a suitable location near the Mia Mia Recreation Reserve or alongside the Burke & Wills Track.	Horse owners in the community, The Flat Committee, City of Greater Bendigo, Mitchell Shire, and VicRoads.
Commission a map showing the boundaries of Mia Mia that is also a work of art to be sold for display in people's homes.	Local art groups and district artists.
Explore the viability of an annual Burke & Wills Festival with a cultural event, horses and/or camels, bush tucker, music, art, bush poets.	Burke & Wills Society, CSIRO, Royal Society, Melbourne University History Department, local bush poets and artists.
Explore better signage options to promote current and future events at the Mia Mia Hall and Recreation Reserve.	VicRoads, City of Greater Bendigo and Mitchell shire.
Explore the viability of an annual or biennial cultural event with local artists.	Local artist groups across Central Victoria.
Encourage more external use of The Flat.	DWELP, The Flat Committee, City of Greater Bendigo and landowners near The Flat.
Encourage community members to participate in local landcare and other environmental projects in the district.	Baynton Sidonia Landcare, North Central Catchment Authority, Campaspe Landcare.
Develop content for storyboards at the Mia Mia Inn ruins, Mia Mia Hall, the Recreation Reserve and the Church.	The City of Greater Bendigo and Heathcote Tourism and Development.

PRIDE IN OUR LOCAL HISTORY

The story of Mia Mia

Our early explorers

Mia Mia was settled by pastoralists who arrived in Central Victoria after Major Mitchell wrote a glowing report on the farming potential he had passed through on his return to Sydney from his third expedition. This land later became part of the State of Victoria. Mitchell's small team travelled along what later became McDonalds Road and Branding Yard Lane and continued on their way to Nagambie, along what became known as The Major's Line.



By the time Burke & Wills passed through Mia Mia in 1860 the Mia Mia Inn was the hub of Mia Mia township. On arrival at Mia Mia Burke sent a telegram to the Exploration Committee which said, "The exploring party arrived here last night. We halt here today (Sunday) and proceed on tomorrow. The roads are very bad. Fuller report by post today. R O'Hara Burke." Fast forward to 2018 and the Burke & Wills Track is still very bad.

The expedition ended up staying two nights at Mia Mia. Most of the expedition members camped with their horses and camels on the Mia Mia Recreation Reserve, while the officers stayed two nights at the Mia Mia Inn. Burke spent those two nights in the relative luxury of one of the pastoralist's homes in what is now Baynton. The stone ruins of the Mia Mia Inn, and of the Mia Mia Post Office adjacent to it, can be seen in Valley Road, just past the turn off from the Heathcote-Redesdale Road, on the left hand side of the road.

The explorers are credited with having, as they left Mia Mia, unwittingly carried out one of the recommendations from the Royal Society, that they should sow seeds as they went to mark their route. Artichoke thistles, which had not been seen in the district before that time, appeared soon after they had left and became firmly established in the locality, the first seeds, it is thought, having been brought in the fodder consumed by the camels.



The McIvor gold escort robbery at Mia Mia

One widely known district story is the great gold robbery at Mia Mia. This story received wide newspaper coverage in 1853, not only in Victoria but across Australia and around the world. What was interesting about researching this event was the stories told by locals about the gold never being recovered and no-one ever arrested for the robbery. Yet in reality there was a well reported trial and three of the robbers were found guilty. They were hanged soon after the crime took place, the last public hanging held outside the prison walls of the Melbourne gaol. But one robber escaped, and it was his story that occupied papers over the next few years. Even as late as the 1930s, nearly 80 years after the robbery, there was speculation about what really happened.

The full story of the gold robbery is included in the book "Mia Mia - The Place and its People", published by Mia Mia Mechanics' Institute in 2014 as one of its community plan items. The book sold out in 2014 but is available through libraries. You can obtain an electronic version of the book by sending an email to miamiasocial@gmail.com

An Australian first at Mia Mia

The Duigan brothers, at their family property at Spring Plains, designed and built the first Australian made aeroplane. If you drive along the Burke & Wills Track between Lancefield and Mia Mia, about 7 kilometres south of Mia Mia you will find a pylon with an aeroplane propellor and a plaque with

more information. The plane made a very short flight at Spring Plains on July 17, 1910. After many improvements its first official flight was at Bendigo racecourse on May 11, 1911, with 600 spectators.



Constructing Lake Eppalock

Many farmers fought against the building of a weir on the Campaspe River. They knew it would lead to the loss of their river flats, their best grazing land. When the weir was approved, the local farmers convinced the government that any resulting lake would silt up very quickly, as had happened with similar dam building projects. They won that battle as the funding to build the weir and create what would become Lake Eppalock was made conditional on getting the cooperation of the local farmers to take part in soil conservation activities prior to the construction of the weir. The farmers in the wider catchment area around Mia Mia got benefits from the associated soil conservation project. The resulting pastures led to a trebling of stock carrying capacity for many farmers.

What is community planning?

Community planning is a process undertaken by a community where they work together to explore and document what is important to them about their locality and its future. A Community Plan is a document that sets out these priorities. Periodically a Community Plan will need revision as community priorities change or when the community decides.

The City of Greater Bendigo supports and assists communities across the municipality who wish to develop and revise their own Community Plan. The views and priorities in each plan are those of community members who took part in its development.

Community Plans are a valuable source of advice about local priorities used by Local, State and Federal government and other organisations.

For more information email miamiasocial@gmail.com

