

small town, bright future

SEBASTIAN & District



Community Plan

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Welcome

The Sebastian Community warmly welcome you to our 25+ Plan. We hope you enjoy sharing our past and will support our growing present and future plans of our Community.

Background to the Sebastian +25 Plan

The following plan establishes a future view for Sebastian and District resulting from the development of the 2005 Greater Bendigo Plan titled Greater Bendigo Community Plan - Bendigo + 25.

All towns and areas within the Bendigo area were encouraged to develop a local community plan. Each plan is unique to that location created as a result of local input and thinking.

*‘Engaging the community and
working towards our future’*



The Sebastian + 25 Plan Process

The aim of this document is to provide the whole community with the opportunity and scope to share in the development and enactment of a vision for the future of Sebastian & District. Residents are encouraged to not only contribute, but get involved with delivering the plan.

The Plan is a Community Plan and represents aspirations and wishes established through workshops, survey results and consultation with residents.

The Sebastian Progress Association and other local clubs and associations will coordinate the implementation of the Plan.



History of Sebastian

Gold at the Seven Mile Hut

Alluvial gold was first discovered in the area known as the Seven Mile Hut in 1862 when some wood-splitters came across some rich finds.

They proceeded to mark out their claims, but were quickly depossessed when they were told that the land they were on was not Crown Land, but owned by the squatter Mr. Hugh Glass. About the same time a German, by the name of Sebastian Schmidt, and his party had sunk in the gully below the reef and discovered a payable deposit of alluvial gold. In honour of his discovery, the area was given the name Sebastian. Glass then allowed the alluvial miners to work 60 square feet claims at a payment of two pounds.

In less than a fortnight 2000-3000 miners were encamped at the Sebastian diggings, Payable gold was traced for some 800 yards westward toward Myers Creek, where there was a sudden drop of 30 feet to 100 feet and so work was abandoned.

The last party to take out a tribute on the mine consisted of J. Cornwell (Underground Manager), H. Musty, G. Cornwell and Rogers, and in the first fortnight they each made a mere 30/- a week. Eventually in 1914 the Frederick the Great Mine was closed.



Cyaniding

In 1899 a Cyanide Plant was erected to obtain gold from the sand out of the Frederick the Great mine. The three 50-ton vats can be seen at their original site. Some 20-30 men and eight horses and drays worked the plant.

The Early Township

The early township of Sebastian was situated around the Frederick the Great Mine. This early settlement did not remain long, however, as it was on private land, owned by Mr. Glass. The south side where the School and Churches were was called Sebastian, the west side which is now the main street was called Yarraberb. Eventually, the whole township was to be called Sebastian.

General Points of Interest

The Railway Line was opened for traffic to Raywood on December 15th 1882. A platform was built at Sebastian and opened in late 1883.

The Railway Station was very busy in the early days. The Stationmaster was kept busy as they loaded wheat, hay cattle and sheep. Up to a dozen trucks of wood were loaded a week. When Mr Wilson was Stationmaster he took first prize for the best Railway garden in the area for several years.



Myer's Creek which runs through Sebastian was a path the Aborigines followed and remains of their ovens can be seen today.

The Frederick the Great Mine had a mill of 60 stamps, which had an output of 6000 tons per month.

Terry Reilly (better known as Terry Gunn in the area) attended the Sebastian State School for 12 months. Terry later went on to become very well known in the Boxing world and today is Australia's top Boxing Referee.

The Bendigo "Advertiser" reported a big fire at Sebastian on November 5th, 1874. John Engleby's boarding house was burnt down. The estimated cost was £700 and the building was not insured. It was supposedly started by Chinese crackers celebrating Guy Fawkes Day.

The gold from the Frederick the Great was worth about £3/12/10 per ounce, which differed from the product from all the other big mines in the district, with an average value of about £4 an ounce.

Sebastian Today

Sebastian these days has quite a range of facilities, groups and clubs to become involved with.

These are:-

The Progress Association

The Recreation Committee

Fishing Club

Harness Club

Little Sebastian Hotel

The Recreation area includes:-

A BMX Track

Basketball Court

BBQ Area

Public Toilets

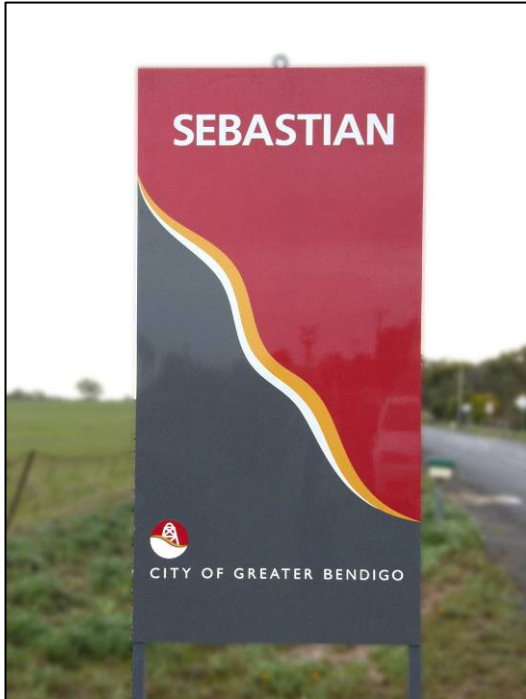
A Children's Playground

Seating



*'A golden
history and a
golden future'*

Sebastian Demographics

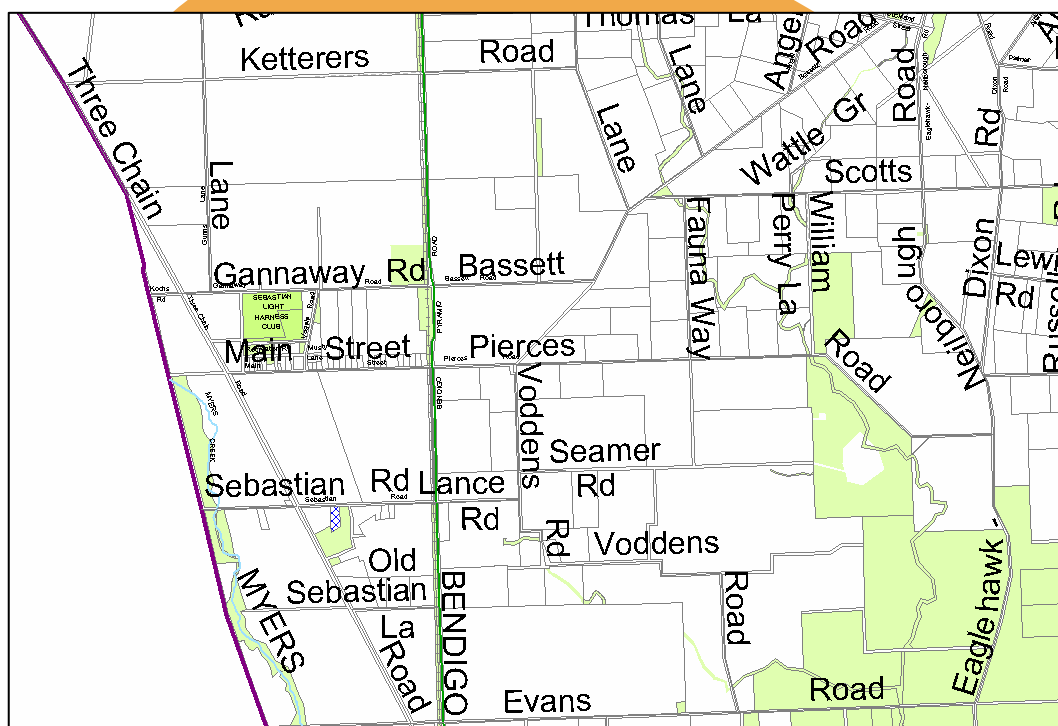


In 2008 there were 104 rateable properties in Sebastian. As part of the wider community in and around Sebastian and according to 2006 Census results, the population was 52.5% male and 47.5% female. Of the total population in Sebastian, 1.1% was Indigenous persons, compared with 2.3% Indigenous persons in Australia.

In Sebastian 22.8% of the population were children aged between 0-14 years, and 22.6% were persons aged 55 years and over. The median age of persons in Sebastian was 40 years, compared with 37 years for persons in Australia.

In the 2006 Census, the most common industries of employment for persons aged 15 years and over usually resident in Sebastian were Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain Farming 8.1%, School Education 4.9%, Hospitals 4.7%, Supermarket and Grocery Stores 3.2% and Other Livestock Farming 2.7%.

In Sebastian 34.5% of occupied private dwellings were fully owned, 51.1% were being purchased and 6.8% were rented.



Community Projects

Short Term Focus (Immediate – 3 years)

AIM	PARTNERS
Support community initiatives to improve broadband and mobile phone services e.g. petitions, deputations, media etc.	CoGB and the Woodvale, Raywood and Neilborough Communities
Improvement of Sebastian township including main street through planting more trees and general landscape and presentation of town facilities	CoGB, Dept. Sustainability and Environment
Support and encourage activities for older residents (walking club; strength training classes etc)	CoGB, Bendigo Community Health and local community centres
Support and encourage community events, creating a welcoming community such as developing a community service directory	CoGB, the Woodvale, Raywood and Neilborough Communities and local businesses
Continue efforts to influence Coliban Water to invest in future infrastructure	CoGB, Coliban Water
Town Water – Secure potable supply of water for existing users and for future residents	Coliban Water
Lobby for mobile library stopping at Sebastian	CoGB and Central Goldfields Library
Encourage use of the Public Transport (bus/train) system to secure future services	CoGB, V-Line
Build a united community spirit and work together to enable Sebastian to be a place for all residents to be proud to live in	CoGB, local Councillor, local residents, other neighbouring communities
Engaging more of the community into progressing Sebastian	CoGB, local Councillor, local residents, other neighbouring communities

‘A sustainable rural lifestyle’

Medium Term Focus (3 years – 8 years)

AIM	PARTNERS
Investigate opportunities for more activities for youth (sporting activities) such as pony club, scouts, cricket, BMX track	CoGB, Dept. Sustainability and Environment, Dept. Planning and Community Development, Harness Racing & Pony Clubs
Visiting Health Services such as Maternal Nurse or work through bush nurse at Dingee for services	Dept. Human Services, Bendigo Community Health, Eaglehawk Community Health, local councillor
Develop Welcome Kit for new residents to area - this may include other neighbouring communities	CoGB, neighbouring communities
Investigate funding and planning options for building a community hall, then proceed with building a hall	CoGB, Dept. Sustainability and Environment
Investigate opportunities to establish a cooperative or convenience store	CoGB, neighbouring communities
Improve facilities and maintain Sebastian Recreation Reserve by upgrading area according to the Master Plan report	CoGB, Dept. Sustainability and Environment





Long Term Focus (8 years and beyond)

AIM	PARTNERS
Town Water and Sewerage/Bio-Cycle (rebates from Council)	CoGB, Coliban Water
Lobby and investigate progress of connecting natural gas	CoGB, gas company, neighbouring communities
Sealed roads (for high traffic volume roads), maintenance of roads	CoGB, VicRoads
Support community to grow community and business	CoGB, local businesses, neighbouring communities
Continue networking with neighbouring communities to ensure achievement of goals in community plans	CoGB, neighbouring communities
Fix 100 km signpost- Pierces Road – getting it reduced to 60 km signs	CoGB, VicRoads
Commence activities at community hall	CoGB, neighbouring communities



Where to from here?

A major aspect of the +25 planning process is the high level of community input into the process resulting in the final plan. The Sebastian and District Community Plan is built around the redevelopment of the Sebastian Progress Association with a view to having that body co-ordinate and continue the work of the initial Sebastian +25 Committee.

All members of the Sebastian community are encouraged to get involved with implementing the community plan.

The Sebastian Progress Association can be contacted by emailing: sebas.progress@gmail.com

‘A golden rural lifestyle’

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