

Seven Creeks Neighbourhood



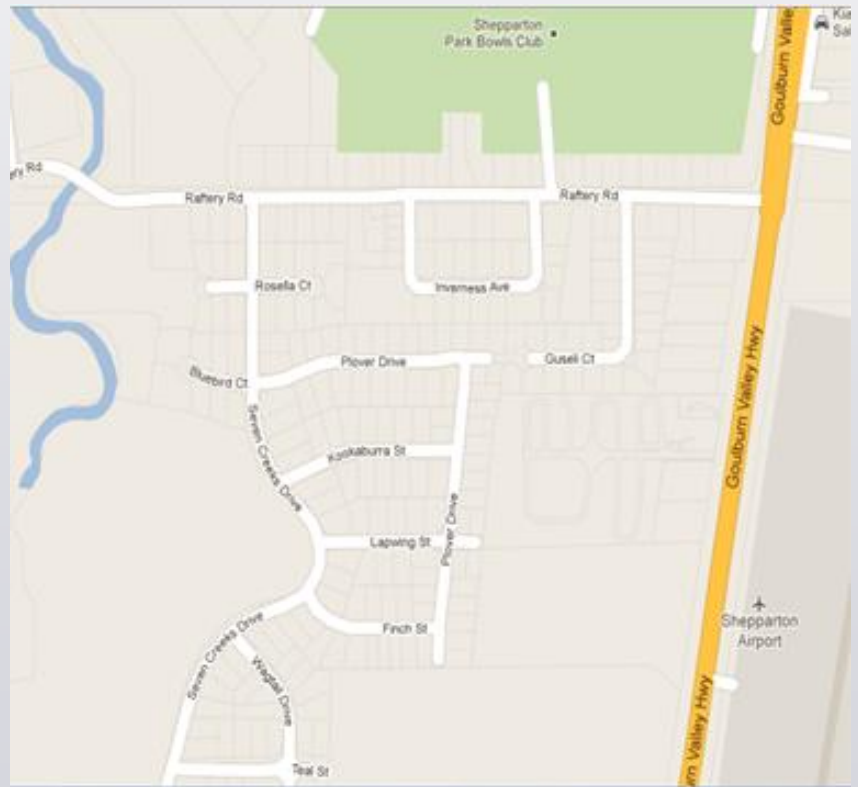
Community
Plan



INTRODUCTION

The Seven Creeks Estate is home to a steadily expanding community of families, couples and individuals who enjoy the very best of both country and city living. Nestled on the southern edge of Shepparton in northern Victoria, this neighbourhood incorporates the established Raftery Road and Elizabeth Estate area and the newer Seven Creeks Estate which abut the Sevens Creek just prior to its connection with the Goulburn River. Raftery Road provides the main thoroughfare to and from the Goulburn Valley Highway and allows direct access to the Kialla Park recreation reserve whilst the main road through the new estate, Seven Creeks Drive, follows the form of the creek and overlooks wetlands and a grassy plain, with remnant and regrowth red gums.

SEVEN CREEKS



The Seven Creeks Estate arguably contains the potential for the greatest physical asset of any neighbourhood in Greater Shepparton, with high quality sporting and recreation facilities and the combination of natural and man-made wetlands as a centerpiece of the estate, backed by the Sevens Creek, a natural connecting pathway between Kialla, the Goulburn River and Shepparton.



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

The concept of this neighbourhood plan revolves around bringing together residents to determine common aspirations for the future community led development of the Seven Creeks Estate and Raftery Road area in Kialla.

The development of this plan focuses on the needs and aspirations of the residents in this area. Whilst external resources will need to be identified to achieve aspects of the plan, the primary focus is on what the community is able to achieve and sustain for itself, with the ultimate goal being a connected and engaged community.

AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY – the aims

- Developing a true sense of community by providing opportunities for neighbours to get together in work, play and celebration, in what is otherwise a 'commuting suburb'.
- Ensuring genuine community ownership and pride of the neighbourhood, creating an environment where residents actively participate in the development and maintenance of community infrastructure and programs.
- Creating a safe and supportive community atmosphere to allow local children to play and explore throughout the neighbourhood securely.





NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Achieving these aims will ensure we have an engaged and connected community, leading to healthier individuals, stronger families, supporting neighbours and a beautiful location that will be the model neighbourhood of the municipality.

THE PROCESS

In order to progress these aims, a small number of residents worked together to facilitate a community planning day.

Sponsorship was sought and received from Mawsons Construction (developers of the Seven Creeks Estate) and from Young's and Co Real Estate (agents for the Seven Creeks Estate). This meant more than just a meeting; a BBQ was held to encourage social interaction prior to the planning component of the day.

Brochures were designed and circulated to all residents of Raftery Road, Elizabeth and Seven Creeks Estates. In an effort to ensure the greatest amount of buy in, as much as possible the brochures were delivered by door knocking and generally talking up the opportunity with neighbours and then via a letter box drop. In all approximately 240 brochures were delivered.

The day itself resulted in approximately 100 residents (adults and children) arriving to enjoy a BBQ and then brainstorm ideas which have ended up in this plan. The final component of the afternoon was consultation with Council Planning and Development staff on draft concept plans for Raftery Road.

IDEAS

Brainstorming “post it” note exercise

PRIORITISING

Dot democracy



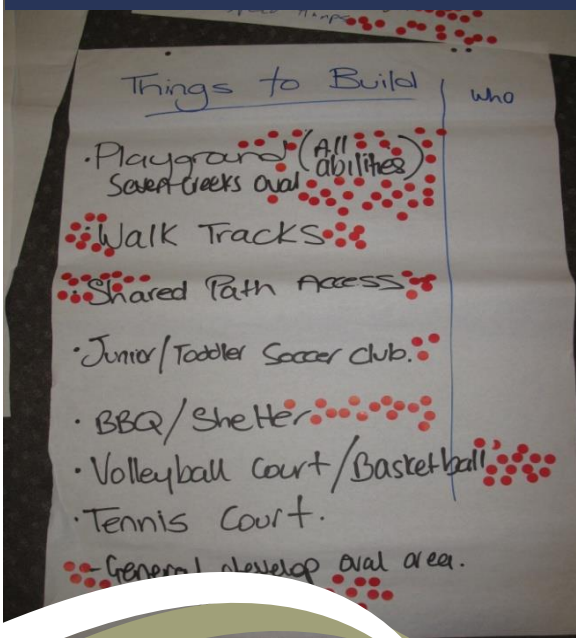
THE COMMUNITY PLANNING DAY – Sunday 20 November 2011

THE RESULTS....

During the planning session some common themes emerged as to what the community would like to see develop. There was support for the creation of a Seven Creeks committee to facilitate the progression of the ideas of the participants from this planning day.

For ease of structuring and reviewing this plan these ideas have been grouped into the following categories:

1. Recreation Space
2. Passive Open Space
3. Road works
4. Neighbourhood Safety
5. Social connections
6. Other group suggestions





1. RECREATION SPACE AROUND THE OVAL (Seven Creeks Estate)

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

1. Provision of a playground located in the vicinity of the sports oval.
 - Some comments requesting all ability access, fencing and shade sails.
2. Provision of BBQ, seating, shade and bins adjacent to oval and playground
3. Additional seating around wetlands
4. Goals to be installed on oval

ACTIONS AHEAD

- Establish in principle support from developer and/or Council to construct playground, BBQ etc.
- Seven Creeks committee to work with Council and community to develop plans for a playground
- Liaise with developer in relation to level of support for funding a playground
- Approach Council to support balance of funding required to build a playground and remaining infrastructure - Encourage community involvement in construction to allow access to matching grants

WHAT WE HAVE

- Immediate access to the Seven Creeks Estate
- Informal irrigated oval
- Minimally developed natural parkland
- Initial seating at oval and near wetlands
- Remnant Red gums with some native plantings

WHAT WE HAVE

- Natural setting including Seven Creeks and Wetlands
- Some sections of shared path (non joining)
- Informal irrigated oval
- Large grassy tracts



2. PASSIVE OPEN SPACE

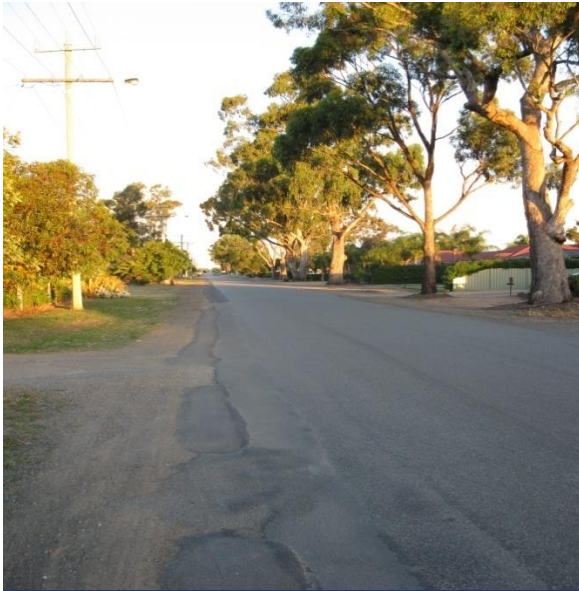
COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

1. Gravel walking tracks around perimeter of Seven Creeks wetlands and to creek
2. Connect the Seven Creeks Estate and Raftery Road to the Shepparton shared path network
3. Re-vegetation of creek line
4. Removal of noxious plants in wetlands and re-vegetate with indigenous natives.

ACTIONS AHEAD

- Gravel walking path around perimeter of wetlands and creek line (Council)
- Connect already existing shared path in Seven Creeks estate to network via Raftery Road (Council)
- Remove noxious weeds in wetlands
- Revegetate creek line and wetlands with indigenous natives (Residents/Landcare)
- Committee to initiate contact with Landcare to establish local group to work in conjunction with Council and the Catchment Management Authority





3. RAFTERY ROAD

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

1. Upgrade of Raftery Road

- Road surfacing
- Footpaths/shared pathways
- Drainage
- Improve entrance to Kialla Park
- Improve signage to Kialla Park
- Improved street lighting
- Formalise entrance to Seven Creeks Drive

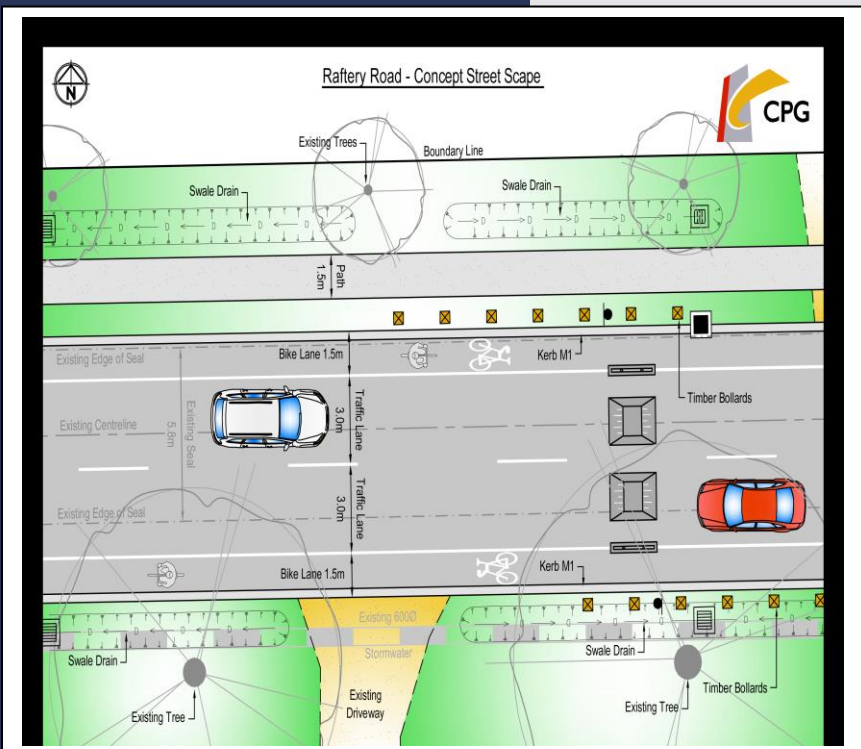
ACTIONS AHEAD

- Committee to seek commitment from Council to retain budget funding of 2011/2012 of \$300,000 and provide additional funding in Budget 2012/2013

WHAT WE HAVE

- Main thoroughfare - Raftery Road
- Access to Kialla Park

- Committee to facilitate specific feedback on Raftery Road related issues to Council.
- Committee to incorporate feedback from planning day including preference for no speed bumps, no special charge scheme and community preferences in handling the trees on the southern side.



WHAT WE HAVE

- Established residences along Raftery Road, Elizabeth and Seven Creeks Estates
- Residents generally interested in the development of this community
- A natural environment that provides space for children and young people to play and explore



4. NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- Establishment of Neighbourhood watch program
- Signage in Estate – Children playing
- Safe travel routes for children along Raftery Road and within estate areas

ACTIONS AHEAD

- Establish a Neighbourhood Watch committee to develop Seven Creek's community program
- Investigate with Council possibility of street signage for children playing
- Progress Raftery Road shared pathway





5. SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

1. General get togethers for specific celebrations such as Christmas
2. Increase use of facilities at Kialla Sports Club for community events, such as craft days or twilight cinema etc
3. Provide opportunities for children to play together

WHAT WE HAVE

- Community infrastructure
 - Kialla Sports Club buildings and associated grounds
 - Informal oval along Seven Creeks Drive

ACTIONS AHEAD

- Establish a social committee of interested residents to gather ideas and facilitate get togethers, children's activities etc.
- Seek residents input into further developing these activities
- Utilise other opportunities in this plan to form social connections, ie, working bees

WHAT WE HAVE

- Residents who want to get involved



6. OTHER GROUP SUGGESTIONS

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- Establishment of Seven Creeks Committee
- Enforcement of land owners to maintain vacant blocks
- Maintenance of footpaths to allow clear access
- Increased maintenance of roundabouts within the Seven Creeks estate

ACTIONS AHEAD

- At the time of releasing this plan, call for residents interested to gather at a designated time to form the Seven Creeks Neighbourhood Committee
- The Committee to formally present the plan to Council
- Request Council to enforce maintenance of vacant blocks
- Raise general maintenance requests with Council as arising
- Seek approval for Neighbours to participate in gardening of roundabouts





APPENDIX A – POST-IT NOTE BRAINSTORMING EXERCISE - Unedited

1. Develop Recreation space around the oval
 - Fix sprinkler system on oval (no pressure)
 - Develop the oval to attract more activity
 - Basketball Court
 - Goal posts on the oval
 - Playground at oval area in Seven Creeks Estate
 - BBQ with shelter at oval / wetlands area
 - More seating and picnic tables at oval area in Seven Creeks Estate
 - Picnic facilities at wetlands
 - Irrigated grass as per original plans
 - Tennis court where you don't have to be a member of the club
 - Volleyball court
 - Junior/toddler soccer club for the kids
 - Skate Park

2. Passive Open Space
 - Bins (around paths and oval)
 - Fenced off dog park area, dogs of leashes area
 - Maintenance of public areas
 - Shared path access into town centre
 - Re-vegetation of open space
 - Community Garden
 - Wetlands to be cleaned up and re-vegetated
 - Landcare – Re-vegetate creek area
 - Maintenance of weeds
 - Gravel walking tracks around perimeter of wetlands and Seven Creek area
 - Walking track along creek
 - Bike tracks
 - Landscape gardener
 - Council to control noxious weeds e.g. Paterson's curse
 - More regular mowing of undeveloped park

APPENDIX A Cont... POST IT NOTE BRAINSTORMING EXERCISE – Unedited

3. Raftery Road

- Raftery Road – Footpaths and drains on both sides of road
- Road repairs – Widened and repairs
- No through road sign at Guseli Court
- Speed traps
- No Speed humps (refer Council concept plan)
- A few less Speed humps (refer Council concept plan)
- Clean Raftery Road drains and under drive pipes to permit better storm drainage
- Make drain inputs in Raftery Road safe (some are big enough for kids to fall into)
- Drainage on Kialla Park needs maintaining
- Second road build before commencing work on Raftery Road (at least unsealed if stage 11 not completed)

4. Neighbourhood Safety

- Raftery Road footpath – very unsafe for young kids
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Pedestrian crossing down near Seven Creeks Drive
- Caution children playing in street signs
- Permanent speed Camera's
- Speed humps around Seven Creek's Estate
- Better street lighting (Raftery Rd)





APPENDIX A Cont... POST IT NOTE BRAINSTORMING EXERCISE – Unedited

5. Social Activities

- Use of Kialla Sports Club facilities for craft days – kids and adults.
- Use of Kialla Sports Club and large TV screen for family film nights
- Disco
- Clowns
- Community Christmas Party/Picnic
- Carols by candlelight in the street
- Street/area social events i.e. Christmas party etc
- Neighbourhood get togethers
- Informal Friday night drinks on oval
- Annual picnic
- Twilight cinema
- Community functions at Kialla Sports Club facilities
- Old blokes - kick to kick and circle work

6. Other

- Develop a Seven Creeks Community Committee
- Landscaped entrances into the estate
- Enforced maintenance of vacant blocks
- Maintenance of footpaths to allow clear access
- State school bus into Seven Creeks Estate
- Clear rubbish from Kialla Park (near dam)
- Enforce Telstra maintain their garden/yard as agreed to in sale of land
- Weed / maintain roundabout (cnr Teal St and Wagtail drive)
- Bush's to high on roundabout at Plover and Seven Creeks Drive

WITH THANKS:

TO ALL THE SEVEN CREEKS
COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO
PARTICIPATED.

TO GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY
COUNCIL FOR ATTENDING TO
DISCUSS CONCEPT PLANS FOR
RAFTERY ROAD
REDEVELOPMENT.

TO THE KIALLA SPORTS CLUB
FOR PROVIDING THE VENUE

AND

TO MAWSON CONSTRUCTIONS
AND YOUNGS AND CO REAL
ESTATE FOR SPONSORING THE
BBQ.



2011

SEVEN CREEKS NEIGHBOURHOOD

<http://www.sevencreeks.weebly.com/>

Email: sevencreeks@gmx.com