

Stringybark Creek Redevelopment Project

Newsletter No. 1

June 2008

Stringybark Creek Site Improvement Project

Welcome to the first Stringybark Creek Redevelopment Project newsletter. Updates will be produced throughout the life of the project to keep the community informed of the project's progress.

The Project

Not many subjects can incite as much passion as the legend of Ned Kelly. Home of the Kelly Tree, marking the area of the shootout between Kelly and his gang and Police, Stringybark Creek is popular with a range of visitors. It is also one of the key destinations on the Ned Kelly Touring Route and an important local historical site.



The redevelopment of Stringybark Creek Recreation Reserve is being jointly managed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Benalla Rural City (BRC) and assisted by a Stakeholder Reference Group representing a broad variety of organisations and interest groups.

Consultants, Green and Dale Associates have been appointed to develop a concept plan for the area. A draft plan has been developed, incorporating a carpark, walking tracks to key historic features, improvements to the day visitor and camp ground layout and directional and interpretive sign locations and general themes.

The Stakeholder Reference Group met onsite to review the current facilities and to provide feedback on the draft designs. The revised plans were put on display for public viewing and comment. This process has concluded and the layout will now be finalised.

The first works to be undertaken will be the carpark on Stringybark Creek Road. This will provide parking for various sized vehicles across from the recreation site. Other planned improvements will be undertaken in a staged approach as resources become available. The concept plan will enable both DSE and Benalla Rural City to apply for grants and access funds to complete remaining improvements.

The SRG

A Stakeholder Reference Group made up of representatives from a range of organisations has been convened to provide advice during the life of the project.

The Stakeholder Reference Group for the project consists of representatives from:

- Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Mansfield Historical Society Corporation
- Ned Kelly Touring Route Steering Committee
- Benalla and District Historical Society Inc
- Victoria Police Museum and Police Historic Unit
- Kelly historian
- Community Members (2)
- DSE - Historic Places
- Victoria Police (Benalla)

The contact details of the two community representatives are provided below. Please provide your comments, views and suggestions through either representative.

1. Kevin Hogarth

03) 5440 1211 hogartk@bridgesweb.com.au

2. Greg Kirk

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Stakeholder Reference Group reviewing draft plans on site at Stringybark Creek

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The Site

The shootout at Stringybark Creek saw the Kelly Gang become the most wanted outlaws in Australia in the late 19th century after Mansfield Police Constables Lonigan, Scanlan and Kennedy were shot and killed.

The site has significant historical and natural values. Not only was the area the site of the tragic historic event, but also has a rich timber harvesting and mining history. Interestingly the area was freehold land at the turn of the century and an important potato farming locality. A lack of rail transport increased the difficulties experienced by farmers and in the 1950's the land was compulsory acquired for water catchment purposes.

New and detailed interpretive signage will enable appreciation of the site's varied and colourful story

Project Information

If you have any queries regarding this project, please contact

Project Manager

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The Kelly Tree



The Police Plaque

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