Welcome to the first Police Point Shire Park Information Bulletin. The purpose of the Bulletin is to ensure that consistent information about planned activity on the site and within specific project components is available to all interested parties.

The development and use of the Park is complex and constantly evolving with numerous stakeholders across the community, Councillors and Shire officers.

The major project components are:
- Open Space and Capital Infrastructure
- The Arts and Culture Precinct
- The Respite Accommodation Precinct.

Management of the project is currently being streamlined, with the consolidation of an overarching Implementation Group to which the Precinct Management or Advisory Groups will report. This will ensure that the implementation of different components is coordinated and managed efficiently and there is an opportunity for input.

The Bulletin will report regularly on outcomes and future directions and become the principal communication tool of the Shire to keep the community informed.

The effort invested in planning, negotiation, design consideration and attainment of permits will bear fruit this year.

At the Open Day in December 2014, Mayor Bev Colomb spoke of the preliminary progress and the vision for the Park. In 2015 we have already seen significant progress as:
- The Artist in Residence program in the Caretaker’s Cottage commenced in May;
- The first respite bookings by carers in the former Police Attendants’ cottages are set for June; and
- Site works including the Calling Ground and landscaping will commence after July pending Heritage Victoria approval.

The critical objective of this project is to develop the Park for community enjoyment. The Shire has also sought to engage the community in its development. Our thanks go to the many groups and individuals who have contributed, and we look forward to your ongoing participation.

For any enquiries regarding overall coordination of the project, please contact Geoff Carson, Manager Libraries, Arts and Culture, telephone 5950 1713.
2. Capital Works Implementation

Purpose

To inform you of proposed development works at Police Point Shire Park for the 2015/16 financial year.

Background

The Shire has worked with a number of community advisory groups over several years on development plans for Police Point Shire Park. The Attendant Cottages (Nos 2, 3 and 4) and Gatekeeper’s Cottage (No. 5) have been refurbished and development plans produced for open space elements of the park.

A number of key planning documents have been prepared:

- Police Point Shire Park Recreation and Conservation Action Plan (including a Conservation Management Plan and Landscape Master Plan);
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP); and
- Heritage Impact Statement.

Application has been made to Heritage Victoria to undertake works on a heritage place and approval sought for the CHMP under the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

Current Status of Works Approvals

We may commence open space works when the CHMP is approved and works approval is issued by Heritage Victoria. Heritage Victoria has indicated that, while they have no issue with the proposed development plans, they do require advertising of our application for works approval on site, in daily newspapers and their website for two weeks. Expect to see the advertising sign on site in June.

2015/16 Budget

The Shire’s draft capital works budget includes the following provisions:

- Open space works $160,000;
- Superintendent’s Cottage (Cottage No.6) $100,000; and
- In addition, funds of approximately $160,000 are to be carried forward from the 2014/15 financial year for open space works.

2015/16 Works Program

The works program includes the following elements:

- Improvements to the entrance area and visitor car park;
- Installation of interpretive elements and picnic/natural play area;
- Reinstatement of the ‘calling ground’ fencing and quarantine flag post;
- Woodland walk, vegetation management and cottage garden planting;
- Preparation of design plans and specifications for refurbishment of the Superintendent’s Cottage; and
- Urgent protection works of the Superintendent’s Cottage.

The Shire has been and will continue to work closely with Mr John Dyke, Senior Heritage Consultant, from Context on the development works.

Consideration is being given to locating the picnic area and natural play area on the open grassed area north of Attendant Cottage No. 4 and east of the asphalt pathway.
Project Enquiries

If you require any additional information relating to this project, please contact:

David Hampton
Project Manager – Capital Works
Telephone 03 5950 1296
Email: david.hampton@mornpen.vic.gov.au
3. Arts and Culture (A&C) Precinct

About the Precinct

The A&C Precinct includes the Medical Superintendent and Gatekeeper Cottages and surrounds. The cottages date from 1852 and 1888 respectively and have primary heritage status. The Precinct is a project of the Libraries, Arts and Culture Unit (LAC), led by LAC Manager Geoff Carson and Southern Peninsula Arts Officer Jo Ridgeway.

Arts and Culture Advisory Panel

The Panel enables community engagement and advice in the development of the A&C Precinct and reports to Council through Jo Ridgeway.

The group has met with consultants, artists and community members on site to develop programs and ideas for the use of the precinct. It also advises on other aspects of the Park development such as landscaping and the planned play space.

Artist in Residence Program (AiR)

The AiR pilot program at the Gatekeeper’s Cottage provides artists and cultural practitioners with a dedicated facility to be fully immersed in their practice.

Artists and Council will work collaboratively to ensure optimum use of the site. Development of the ongoing residency program will meet international and national standards for AiR programs, and it is expected to draw significant artists and cultural practitioners to the Park for the benefit of the local community.

The Gatekeeper’s Cottage has been refurbished and furnished and a number of local artists invited to submit proposals for residencies.

The program pilot has commenced with artists from a range of disciplines including writers and directors, painters, ceramicists and sculptors.

Artists include:

- Carole Patulla and Jayne Bayley - theatre
- Susie and Wayne Dee - writers/directors
- Rosie Weiss - painting and arts talk
- Brigit Thomas - painter
- Studio 13 Workshop - ceramics
- Gidja Walker and Christine Park - painters
- John Middleton - Public Arts Program on the Green
Precinct and Program Promotion

The presentation and marketing of the precinct to the arts and broader communities is critical, and work is proceeding on suitable naming and branding. Design and production of materials for use across a range of platforms (including a website and social media) is proceeding.

Upcoming Events

Several events are planned, including a launch and naming of the precinct, the AiR program and Arts Stream Funding opportunities.

Others events being planned are:

- Public Arts projects on the Green
- Visual Arts Exhibition (September)
- A community Event (Sept – Nov)
- Raku workshop and demonstration
- Arts Talks

Capital and site works scheduled for the 2015/16 financial year will bring an exciting focus on the precinct.

Most importantly, the design and development of the Superintendent’s Cottage will commence. This work will be vital in establishing the precinct as a premier public Arts and Culture site in Victoria and nationally.

Project Enquiries:

For information, contact Jo Ridgeway, Southern Peninsula Arts Officer on:

Telephone: 0488 337 253 or

Email: jo.ridgeway@mornpen.vic.gov.au
4. Respite Accommodation Project

The Respite Precinct and Project

At the entrance to the Park there are four cottages built in 1916 and 1921 for the Quarantine Station Police Attendants. Council decided in 2012 that they would be used for affordable respite, principally for carers who are Peninsula residents.

Since then, the Respite Project has been developed by Social Planning and Community Development, managed by acting Coordinator Peter Sibly and Project Officer Ken Dyson.

Extensive external timber and window repairs were undertaken, ducted heating and cooling installed, and exteriors painted. Rotary has organized an electronic booking system, assisted in the upgrading of furniture and contributed in various ways to improve the amenity of the cottages and the site.

Karingal has been active in the design of the model. The Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula donated their expertise and labour to the restoration of a heritage shed and laundry for an on-site operational base.

Pilot Model

Given the unique nature of this project, it will commence as a pilot for a period of up to twelve months, to be evaluated prior to end of 2015.

During 2013 and 2014, the Shire sought community partners to assist in the pilot development and implementation. Sorrento Rotary is our major partner and we have invited Karingal Konnections to assist with their knowledge of carers and disability support.

An MPS and Rotary Agreement and a tripartite MOU were signed in December 2014, spelling out respective roles and responsibilities.

Karingal will assist carers to make bookings, and Rotary will manage occupancy include cleaning and being a local point of contact to assist carers if required. The Shire retains ownership and is responsible for project and asset management.

The pilot will run with two cottages and one referring agency (Karingal). A third cottage and additional referral organisations will be brought on line once there is confidence that the system is working smoothly. Pilot agreements will allow tweaking of the model as required.
Future work

The project aims to be financially self-sufficient, with any surplus funds used to improve the amenity of the cottages and the precinct. Visitors will see the grounds improve in the near future through a kitchen garden, picking garden, fruit trees and a barbeque. We will also upgrade furniture and equipment as funding allows. The landscaping is eagerly awaited.

The focus of the project partners has been to get the pilot operational. We will however, continue to contribute effort and ideas to the remainder of the site. The aim is to provide genuine respite, and to that end the bushland walk, installation of historical features and interpretive signage, and the ongoing development of the Arts and Culture precinct will add significantly to the respite experience.

Finally, the long term project is to renovate the currently unusable Cottage 1 to full Disability Access standards. Funding is not available at this time, but the exploration of opportunities will continue.

Project Enquires

Ken Dyson, Community Projects Officer
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Signing of the agreement between the Shire, Sorrento Rotary and Karingal Konnections, a disability support agency, on 16 December 2015 to pilot the use of Police Point cottages as carer respite accommodation.