

MOUNT BEST COMMUNITY HALL AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN



2011

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Introduction

The Community Plan is a document that can be used as a reference for individuals or organisations wishing to understand more about the aspirations of the Mount (Mt) Best Community.

The Community Plan reflects the view of a wide cross-section of the community and contains a Vision for Mt Best for the next five years. The Plan also includes a list of projects and priorities, on which the community believes it should focus to fulfill the Vision.

Purpose of Plan

The purpose of the Mt Best Community Plan is to provide opportunity for the Community to discuss and decide the future it sees for itself.

The plan provides community members with a vision in regard to growth and development in the community, the types of services that can realistically be provided, and the opportunities that are available now and into the future. It will set priorities in areas such as infrastructure, health, sporting facilities, roads and the development of land.

This plan is owned by the community and forms the basis of discussion with other interested groups such as government and business. It is a dynamic plan which will provide us with much needed direction into future. It will be the way of mapping the future and setting a good foundation for current and future members.

About Us

Mt Best has become the home to many retirees and young families seeking a 'tree' change away from the bustle of Melbourne and suburbia. Unlike most other areas in the shire Mt Best is not village based. We comprise mostly of small farms and bush blocks where rural life style and conservation are the focus. Mt Best, like other rural communities, has the usual limitations. However we are well serviced within 15 minutes to Foster & Toora.

The hall is the only building and focal point where regular community activities are provided. Mt Best is known for its friendly active community. The Mt Best hall has a current membership of 76 adults & 24 children. The hall is managed by a strong committee, who meet monthly, with a newsletter circulated to all members and many non- members. Monthly social functions are held to maintain a cohesive community

Our Vision

Our vision for the Mt Best area is:

To create a friendly, caring community with social and artistic activities offered for all age groups, centred at the Mt Best hall.

To maintain the hall as an extremely valuable asset for interaction of the community.

To develop a plan to expand the facility in a modest way for the increasing future population.



Statement of Purpose

Mt Best Community Hall Association

To foster community involvement in activity, recreation, interaction, and to provide an adequate facility for this purpose.

To generate significant income from subscriptions, donations and participatory activities to ensure sufficient funds to cover running costs. Maintain the hall and property in good condition.



Where we are



Community Needs

Mt Best Hall extension – An application will be submitted to provide a meeting room and kitchen extension. Estimated cost \$160000
Covered bbq area
Roads – Unmade roads need more attention in the winter months. Following rains, potholes, corrugations, drains and culverts need to be attended to regularly. Regular roadside vegetation cutting & weed spraying
Telephone exchange upgrade
Mobile phone wireless internet tower improvements
Rubbish collection – No rubbish collection in the area. Disposing of own rubbish at the local transfer station is costly; suggest a free council voucher could be offered for 3 drops a year.
Digital television reception improvement
Weeds/Livestock - Weed and livestock control on properties of non-resident owners can be a problem.
Shire boundaries – The change of shire boundaries has put the Mt Best area in a small pocket with the Mirboo area, which includes non-populated mountains, excising us from close communities such as Toora and Foster.



Photos: Mount Best Hall (above) and tennis court (right)



Future Directions & Needs

Sign – ‘Welcome to Mt Best’ The “Top of the World”
Hall heating/cooling.
Women’s group to welcome new residents in the district & raise funds for the hall
To form a youth group for local youth
Resurface the Mt Best hall tennis court.
To network with other local community groups
Seek grants for large projects.
Provide 2 parking spaces at the lookout near memorial plaque for the convenience of tourists.
Develop the picnic area next to the hall.
Work with local government departments.
Review suggestions and priorities each year.



Assets & Strengths

The hall is owned by the community, and is the focal point of community activity.
Features a strong supportive community and dedicated hall committee who meet regularly & provide monthly newsletters & social functions.
Diversity of people and families.
Safe area for walking, bike and horse riding.
Strzelecki ranges lifestyle is quiet and tranquil, a natural un-spoilt environment.
School bus collects students for primary and secondary schools.
Tourist route from Foster and Toora to Mt Best, Mt Fatigue, Mt Best Lookout memorial plaque and Agnes Falls.
Resident crafts people, artists, photographers and people that enjoy the lifestyle.
Emergency services and commercial airstrip.
15 minutes to essential services, doctor, pharmacy, hospital, ambulance, police.
Local fire brigade support with emergency briefing yearly, and back up emergency water tank at the hall.
Hall neighborhood support and awareness, and a <i>'phone tree'</i> .
15 minutes drive to shops, banks, library, post office, churches, schools, kindergartens, art gallery, museum, swimming pools, golf course, bowling club, recreation reserve, Dramatic Arts Centre, cafes, hotels, motels. Beaches nearby for fishing, walks and water activities.
Concerned Residents' group meet at the hall to discuss local issues.
Regular activities at the hall include: women's group, mixed carpet bowls, table tennis, darts, hockey and quoits, plus a monthly social event. Our big event for the year is the Mt Best Easter function, which attracts 100s of visitors from all over Victoria.

A Final Word

Mt. Best is an area of great natural beauty with its green undulating hills and its rivers and creeks meandering through gullies of native bush providing protection and habitat for wildlife. This idyllic location also provides haven to people who have found peace, health and comfort in these picturesque hills of South Gippsland.

Mt. Best Hall remains as a vibrant focal point for the community, fostering fellowship, and allowing and encouraging all its residents to pursue their many and varied interests. With the support of the South Gippsland Shire Council and the Department of Community Development, the Mt. Best Hall aims to continue to foster this sense of community for the benefit of all residents and visitors.



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BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE MOUNT BEST COMMUNITY HALL
AND SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL