

- PRIORITY 2: STREETSCAPE

## BACKGROUND

At the community forum held on 6 November 2010, the community ranked streetscape second highest behind town planning.

The community has identified the need to:

1. Maintain the rural character and landscapes of flora and fauna of the area
2. Protect and maintain treescapes and vegetation that exist and make the area unique
3. Provide a network of pedestrian access and linkages to:
  - (a) Promote a greener environment
  - (b) Cater for the older generation providing mobility and interaction from the villages of Macedon and Mt. Macedon to the surrounding area
  - (c) Provide safe movement to and from locations for the needs of transport, shopping etc.
  - (d) Enable safe movement for school children accessing their place of education from their homes.

The community desires the MRSC, together with other stakeholders, to implement all areas identified by the Streetscape subcommittee to achieve safe movement within the villages and surrounds that is not currently available and to provide, maintain and enhance the assets that have made the Macedon/Mt. Macedon area such a unique icon of the State of Victoria.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW OF OBJECTIVES (numbered in order of priority)

The aim is for stakeholders to work together to bring about the needs identified and work to obtain and make available finances to implement the community needs. Participate and encourage community input to achieve the goals set and hold nominated stakeholders accountable for the delivery of community projects.

### 1. Traffic Management (See 'NOTE' on page 15)

The issues listed below are the minimum needs and criteria to be addressed in the Traffic Management Plan to remove a dangerous and identified unsafe situation in the Macedon shopping precinct that currently puts many pedestrians at risk of being injured.

The aim is to provide user friendly and safe interaction of the pedestrian and motorised movement within the district. The consultation planning process needs to be transparent and involve input from all stakeholders.

The identified needs are:

- a) Angle parking on the west side of Margaret St. both sides of Victoria St, for the distance that extends to the end of the business zone
- b) Angle parking on the east side of Margaret St. both sides of Victoria St, for the distance that extends to the end of the business zone
- c) Re-aligning the position (increasing the parking length) of angle parking on the south of Victoria St. between Margaret St. and Smith St. incorporating a new footpath at street level and an embankment development with a view to having an art display on the retaining wall depicting the history of Macedon. At present the existing embankment is a dangerous safety hazard for all users and is in need of urgent attention
- d) Address the location of the bus stops in Victoria and Margaret St.

NOTE: For ALL angle parking, the Streetscape subcommittee recommends that reverse angle parking should be put in place which would increase safety and traffic flow.

## 2. Network of footpaths/walking tracks (See 'NOTE' on Type A, B and C on page 16)

The network of footpaths/walking tracks is a lacking facility in the area and does not cater for the older population nor enables access to young families to teach the younger generation the benefits of exercise for providing healthier lifestyles.

The aim of this project is to encourage the use of movement within and in between the villages of Macedon and Mt. Macedon, enable access to the local facilities available to both residents and tourists and to lobby the MRSC and councillors to allocate funding in budgets adopted for expenditure.

The network of pedestrian access and linkages aim to (see map on page 18):

- (a) Promote a greener environment
- (b) Cater for the older generation providing mobility and interaction from the villages to the surrounding area (*reference: ABS Census 2006*)
- (c) Provide safe movement to and from locations for the needs of transport, shopping etc.
- (d) Safe movement for school children accessing their place of education from their homes
- (e) Promote the need for tourists to experience the beauty of our area and encourage the patronage of the local businesses and facilities.

The Streetscape subcommittee recommend the following foot paths:

Type A

- (a) Along Victoria St on the south side from Smith St to Bruce St
- (b) Along Smith St on the west side from the formal footpath at the toilet block to Ash Wednesday Park
- (c) Along the east side of Smith St From Carrington St (school) to Craven St
- (d) Along the south side of Carrington St to Margaret St
- (e) Along Smith St on the east side from existing path coming from Victoria St to Carrington St
- (f) Along Margaret St from Carrington St, around Craven St, to Smith St
- (g) Along Margaret St on both sides from Victoria St to the end of business zone only.

Type B

- (a) Along Victoria St on the north side from Bruce St to Bent St
- (b) Along Bent St on the west side from Victoria St to Carrington St to join the path on the south side of Carrington St at the Honour Ave/Bent St intersection
- (c) Along Bent St on the west side from Victoria St to Mc Bean Ave
- (d) From Ash Wednesday Park past Jubilee Hall and the Mountview theatre, on the edge of the car parking area to the school crossing
- (e) Along Nursery Rd incorporating a cantilevered walking bridge on the north side of the railway bridge from Craven St to bus stop at Nursery Rd
- (f) Along Bruce St on the east side from Mc Bean Ave. to Bruce St Kindergarten
- (g) From Bruce St Kindergarten to Carrington St
- (h) From bus stop at Black Forest Dr (outside Caravan Park) along Mc Bean Ave on the north side to Railway Pl
- (i) Along Railway Place on the west side from Mc Bean Ave to Nursery Rd, via Craven St and Greene St
- (j) Along the north side of Mc Bean Ave from Smith St to Bruce St.

Type C

- (a) Along Bent St on the east side from Carrington St to the end, across the existing footbridge to Tony Clarke reserve
- (b) Along Waterfalls Rd on the west side from Honour Ave to Tony Clarke and construct a footbridge at the creek
- (c) Along Carrington St/Honour Ave on the south Side from Margaret Street to Mt Macedon Road and Centennial Park Toilets
- (d) Along Honour Ave on the north side from Bent St to Waterfalls Rd
- (e) Along Mt. Macedon Rd on the west side from Honour Ave to Mc Bean Ave
- (f) Along Mc Bean Ave on the north side from Mt Macedon Rd to Bruce St
- (g) Pedestrian separation at the railway bridge in Mc Bean Ave (the Streetscape subcommittee recommends and suggests a tunnel).

NOTE: Walking path types A, B and C (refer to map on page 18)

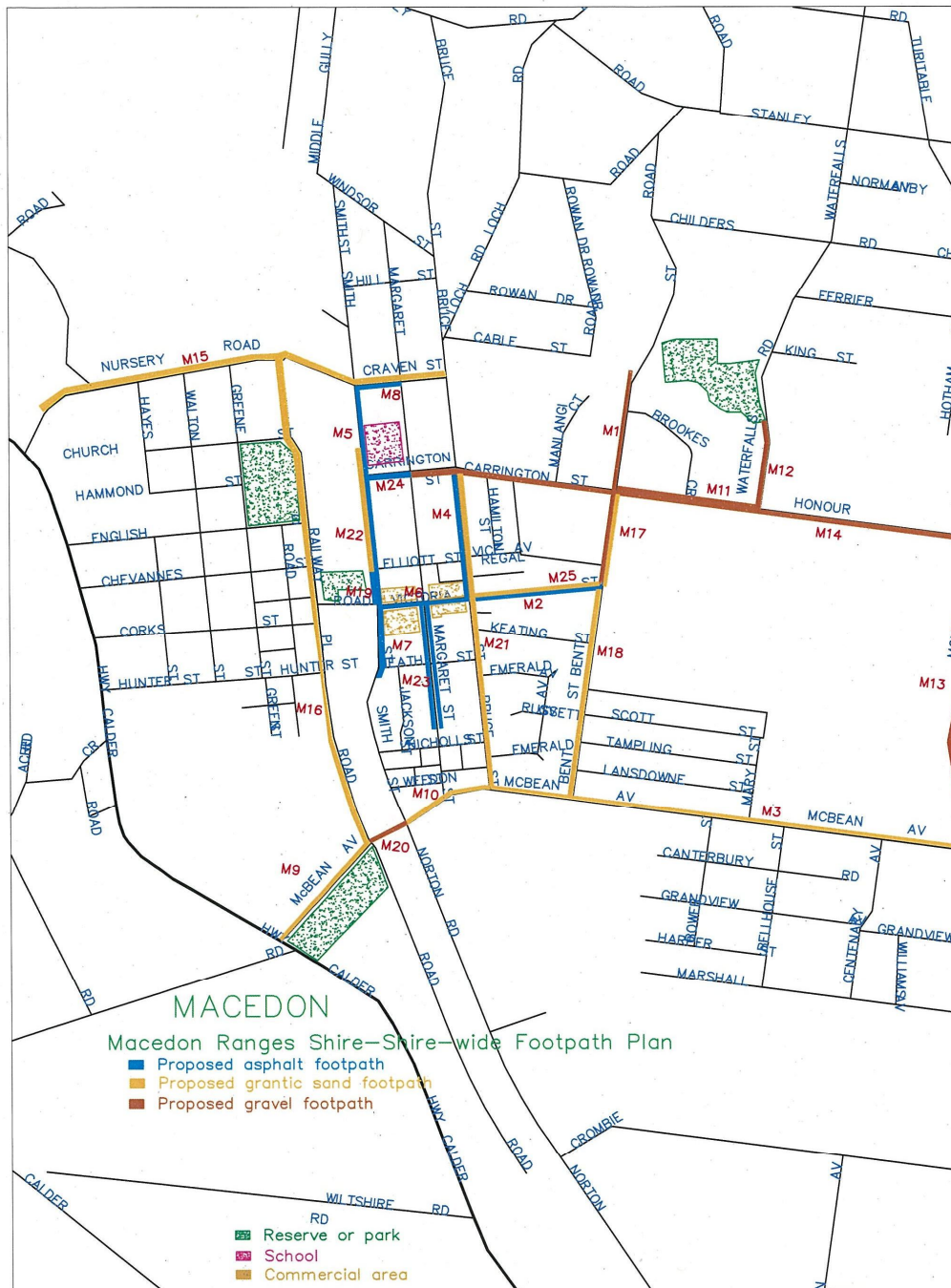
Type 'A' is a sealed path and is constructed of asphalt (coloured GREEN on the map).

Type 'B' is a formed and compacted granitic sand that meanders through the existing trees (similar to the Romsey to Lancefield walking track and is coloured BLUE on the map).

Type 'C' is a slightly compacted crushed rock that has no formal edging and meanders through existing trees (coloured PINK on the map).

Where there are low sections that allow for natural drainage, then 'boardwalks' should be created at these locations so that the path is safe and not a muddy hole.

## MAP: Macedon Ranges Shire Shire-wide Footpath Plan



**Please note:**

While every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Councillors and Employees make no representation nor warranties concerning the accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability of the data for any particular purpose and disclaim all responsibility and all liability including without limitation, liability in negligence for all expenses, losses, damages or injury (including indirect or consequential) and costs which may be incurred as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for whatever reason. No person or organisation should rely solely upon this data for the purpose of making business, investment or real estate decisions.

### 3. Newsagent shopping car park

Meetings already held with MRSC representatives and the local business organisation has concluded the need to remove the dangerous and unsafe situation that exists.

The authority for compliance rests with the stakeholders, as identified below:

- (a) MRSC to follow up and talk with shops body corporate to address compliance of planning permits issued and safety issues at the car park provided for patrons parking
- (b) MRSC to lobby the power company to replace and relocate power pole at the parking area to address the safety of vehicles and pedestrians. When the pole is removed, the power to affected businesses could be from the pole in Margaret St close to at the rear of the shops or from another new pole at the garden bed outside the shops on the corner of Margaret and Victoria Sts (see also the 'Underground power' in section 4 below).

### 4. Underground power

The need for these works and program of undergrounding power lines is obvious and evident from the 2009 Bushfire Royal Commission Recommendation, together with the identified needs and promises made after the 'Ash Wednesday' bushfires.

The responsibility remains entirely with the power company and governments to provide funding and action.

The community and local authorities need to lobby these authorities to achieve the outcomes.

The authorities, like any business, should have budgeted for this expenditure after the devastation of the Ash Wednesday fires caused by 'faulty power lines'.

An important outcome is that the risk to treescapes and the vegetation of the area would be reduced.

The replacement programs should at minimum include the following:

- (a) Replace over head power lines with underground services in Victoria St from Smith St to Bent St
- (b) Replace overhead power lines with underground services in Mt. Macedon Rd from Centennial Park to the shops at the Mt. Macedon

Shopping Village (this was promised to be done after the Ash Wednesday Bushfires)

- (c) Long term to have the whole area being serviced by underground power through maintenance/replacement program.

#### 5. Trees and landscaping

The protection of the treescapes and landscapes of the area need to be maintained to ensure the continuance of the unique rural village environment character continues.

The outcomes will ensure that the action put in place protect special and significant landscapes that have been recognised by not only state authorities but also conservation consultants.

The enhancement of shopping village intersections and other dangerous situations will provide community, tourists, children and indeed all users with comfort and a safe environment.

Implementing the needs listed below also provide the opportunity to showcase the area and its special, unique, quality assets and history by way of a mural or artworks that would be depicting history for our future generations.

Stakeholders would work together and bring together the many other varied stakeholders that could be sought to assist and provide not only ideas, but also funding needed.

The below actions would be a starting point for actions to be initiated and commenced:

- (a) Replanting of trees to be replaced 'like for like' when any tree is removed and/or take advice from experts as to the species to be replanted as to suitability
- (b) Retaining the wild life corridor
- (c) Replant and landscape intersections, including a new retaining embankment on the south side of Victoria St, between Smith St and Margaret St, with suitable low planting to maintain visibility and safety of vehicles, pedestrians and tourists
- (d) Intersection of Margaret and Victoria St with suitable low planting to improve and increase visibility at the intersection
- (e) A Conservation Management Plan for the Honour Ave trees that are a significant historic landscape not only in Macedon, but also Victoria. This plan could be extended for other significant species, such as elm trees etc.

- (f) Provide low height floral landscaping outside toilet blocks in Smith St and Centennial Park and provide adequate signage for emergency contacts and other toilet locations
- (g) Provide a new street level foot path on the south side of Victoria St. from Smith St to Margaret St, and landscape the new embankment after the alignment
- (h) Integrate a mural depicting the town's evolution/history within the new embankment.

#### STAKEHOLDERS REQUIRED

Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC)

Councillors

State Government

CFA

Power company (distributor)

Transport – Bus companies

Macedon/Mt Macedon businesses

Macedon/ Mt Macedon Community and Streetscape subcommittee

#### WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN FIRST

- (a) Ensure that the community has been fully informed and the process is compliant with the wishes and needs identified at the community forum on 6 November, 2010
- (b) Present the plan to the MRSC for acceptance prior to budget approvals in June 2012
- (c) Achieve a working partnership with the appropriate authorities so that the Streetscape subcommittee is kept informed at all times and allowed to have input in all the developments that occur or are proposed in the Macedon/Mt. Macedon towns. For example: the community hub, neighbourhood centre, railway car park development and the Settlement Strategy
- (d) Advocate that the MRSC redirect the \$40,000 community art project funding for the Mt. Macedon Rd/Black Forest Dr roundabout to projects identified in the plan, as prioritised by the community.