
CHARLTON PARK COMMUNITY BANK COMPLEX HISTORY

HISTORY OF CHARLTON PARK 2020 INC

Formation of the committee

On Monday 5th June 2006 a public meeting was held with Mr Collin Brady from the Strathfieldsaye Recreation precinct project as guest speaker. The meeting was called by the Charlton & District Community Bank® and its chairman Peter Whykes in conjunction with the Charlton Park committee of management.

There were 32 people present: P. Watts, G. Gretgrix, J. Storey, J. Harley, F. McGrath, R. Thompson, W. Russell, C. Fitzpatrick, D. McKee, B. McKenzie, N. Wright, G. Wright, G. Judd, A. Judd, L. Paterson, R. Hannigan, L. Cole, P. Whykes, P. Rogan, C. Brady, D. Shepherd, R. Good, L. Good, L. McGurk, G. McGurk, T. McGurk, K. Blanchard, S. Peck, M. Donaldson, E. Donaldson, K. Round, I. Addlem.

A motion was moved at the end of the meeting to form a steering committee of Greg McGurk, John Harley and Anthony Judd with power to add to a committee of 5 or 6 people. Their role was to set up a structured proposal to present to the community.

History of the 2020 committee

The committee set up by the Charlton Park Committee of Management was called the Charlton Park 2020 Committee. The first meeting was held on July 17th 2006. The original members of the committee were: John Harley (convenor), Frank McGrath, Rick Walklate, Anthony Judd, Greg McGurk, David Shepherd, Robin McRae, and Peter Whykes. Shortly after Angela Best and Kim Thompson were added to the committee.

Over the years a number of other people have joined (and some left) the committee: Brett Schofield (2008), Doug Finlay, Kirk Boyle, Luke Zagame, Marie Byrne (2010), Adam Soulsby, Trista Wright, Shane Fitzpatrick, Matthew McGurk and Amy Nicolson (2013), John Tormey (2016), Kaylene Cossar and Murray McLean were added in 2017 via the Fundraising sub-committee.

The 2020 committee at the completion of the new building consisted of: John Harley (Chairman), Peter Whykes (Vice Chairman), Kim Thompson (Secretary), Adam Soulsby (Treasurer), Greg McGurk, Kirk Boyle, Luke Zagame, Marie Byrne, Shane Fitzpatrick, Matthew McGurk, Amy Nicolson, John Tormey, Kaylene Cossar and Murray McLean.

Development of the project

- A feasibility study was funded from a State Government grant sourced by the Buloke Shire in 2008. The consultant firm who completed this study was Insight Leisure Planning (Jayson Moran) and in 2009, after community consultation the study recommended a Multi-purpose facility be developed at Charlton Park incorporating a new gymnasium.
- The project was then accepted by Charlton Forum as part of the community plan and then by the Buloke Shire.
- Of course we know that in January 2011 all of the existing facilities were inundated by floods.
- In 2011 funding was made available by the State Government, and administered by the Shire for the design phase of the project and from September 2011 to April 2012 the design of new facility was managed by architects, Baade Harbour with much consultation and input from Charlton Park users. The costing for this double storey facility was to be \$6.8 million.
- In April 2012 the initial design for the building was adopted by the Shire.
- Prior to that in November 2011 the first application was made to Regional Development Australia for Federal funding.
- In June 2012 a major forum was conducted with local stakeholders, politicians, local government and state representatives of peak sporting bodies to progress the project.
- In June 2012 – Charlton Park 2020 Incorporated was established as a “not for profit” organisation with an ABN.
- October 2012 an application to Regional Development Victoria for matching 1:1 \$100,000 grant to see the proposed Charlton Park 2020 Multi-Purpose Facility proceed to full tender with construction designs and

specifications so that the project was “shovel ready”. This was announced in February 2013. Henderson & Lodge won the contract and this work was completed in August 2014.

- In 2013 the Charlton Park 2020 project was then approved by two foundations: the Australian Sports Foundation and the Bendigo Bank's Community Enterprise Foundation to provide tax deductibility for donations to the project.
- The major fundraising launch was held in Charlton with David Parkin as keynote speaker on May 1st 2013. The major fundraising campaign was chaired by our Vice President Mr Peter Whykes.
- The target announced at the launch was \$1 million and at that meeting the Charlton & District Community Bank® announced that it would commit \$500,000 to the local contribution.

State Government – meetings held with Ministers in 2015-16

Many meetings were held with State Government ministers to progress the project.

- Much discussion with Hon Jaala Pulford – Minister for Regional Development. John and Peter met with her.
- Meeting in December 2015 with Hon Jacinta Allan to progress the project. John and Peter again present.
- Meeting with Hon Martin Pakula and Charlton Park 2020 and Charlton Harness Racing Club held in March 2016. (John, Peter, John Tormey and Joe Thompson)
- Meetings with local Federal member, Hon Andrew Broad were also held during this period.
- Prior to State Government funding being achieved, the committee had great support from Mr Stan Liacos who was the Regional Manager in Bendigo of Regional Development Victoria. Stan was instrumental in arguing our case with Government for the funding to be granted.

Fundraising Program

- The fundraising campaign commenced in earnest in 2017 and was again a focus in 2019, once the building had commenced.
- The major donor is the Charlton & District Community Bank® with its contribution of \$500,000.
- The combined contributions of the Football, Netball, Cricket, Hockey and Harness Racing Clubs as well as the Ladies Auxiliary, Football/Netball/Hockey Social Club and the A & P Society total \$145,000.
- The OASIS Club have contributed \$30,000, Rotary \$10,000 and Lions Club \$5,000. The Neighbourhood House donated \$10,000 and The Charlton CFA - \$30,000, North West Ag provided \$10,000 and GrainCorp \$5,000.
- Community Banks around Australia contributed \$35,000 including \$25,000 from the East Malvern Community Bank who have been a wonderful supporter to Charlton since the 2011 floods.
- Individual members of the community and former residents contributed generously including one contribution of \$100,000.
- The total local contribution was in excess of \$1.25 million, an incredible amount from a small community and probably the biggest per capita local contribution to a community project in Australia.

Government contributions

- Buloke Shire - \$500,000
- Federal Government - \$800,000
- State Government funding was finally announced on 27th October 2017. \$1.5 million of funding from the Regional Infrastructure Fund (\$1.1 million) and Victorian Racing Industry Fund (\$400,000) was announced by Minister for Regional Development Jaala Pulford. Buloke Shire Council CEO Lucy Roffey also announced June 2019 as the targeted completion date for the project.
- A further \$350,000 was donated by the Victorian Government during the 2018 state election.

The final stages – building the facility

- Tenders were called in March 2018.
- The 5 tenders received were all in excess of \$5.5 million – well over the \$4.2 million allocated for the building and so the project was suddenly in grave doubt.
- After much discussion and consideration the Shire decided to call for expressions of interest from builders to undertake a different process called “Design and Construct”. MKM Constructions from Ballarat won the contract to do this work and redesign and build a facility to a certain price. The first meeting with MKM was held on July 6th 2018 and after much consultation with Jim Neill (MKM architect) a new design was finalised. Work started in October 2018 and was completed by mid-July 2019.
- The Charlton Park 2020 then used \$106,000 of the fundraised money to completely fit-out the new building with new fittings, furniture etc.

This project completes 3 major infrastructure projects for Charlton following the 2011 floods:

- the new hospital
- the new Trade Training centre
- the Multi-purpose Charlton Park Community Bank Complex