



The Helensvale Community Forum update.

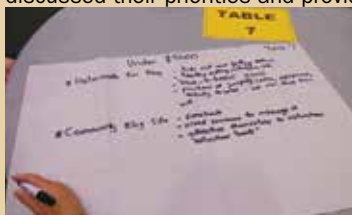


It is almost two years since we first approached members of the community to attend the Helensvale Community Forum, hosted by Helensvale **Community Bank**[®] Branch. We were delighted to see that over 60 local representatives have such a great interest in our community.

The **Community Bank**[®] model which Helensvale **Community Bank**[®] Branch is based on, is a very

unique model where the branch not only provides all the banking products and services you expect from a big bank, but it also allows support for the community with sponsorships, grants, community involvement and more.

This is made possible, as a portion of the branch's profits is returned to the community and the Helensvale Community Forum was one way we could help support the community. The Community Forum allowed those that attended, an opportunity to let us know what they considered were the needs of the Helensvale community. Whether it was a big or small project or even a one off initiative, we were keen to hear about their ideas. In round table discussions, community representatives of government, clubs, businesses and organisations, discussed their priorities and provided ideas for projects under



\$5,000 and those over \$5,000.

These ideas were presented and voted on by all the groups at the forum. A list of ideas were then considered and investigated by a committee.

The committee, The Helensvale

Community Forum Working Group which consisted of local community representatives, worked very hard on making some of the ideas into reality over a two year period.



Together with the support from Division 2 Councillor William Owen-Jones and Helensvale **Community Bank**[®] Branch, we are pleased to have achieved several outcomes for the benefit of the Helensvale community. Although the Helensvale Community Forum Working Group has now ceased, it is with intention and hope that the community spirit continues with contributions from other members of the community to help make it a better place to live, work and play. Thank you to all who were involved in making the Community Forum such a success.

Robert Knight
Chairman

Helensvale Community App.

One of the top three ideas from the list of projects over \$5,000 was providing an easily accessible platform where local residents and visitors had access to information on all things under postcode 4212. After reviewing various options, a mobile friendly App was considered the best option and the most cost effective. We invited businesses, clubs and organisations to register on the App and together with the help of Helensvale High School students uploading the information, the App became a reality. The Helensvale Community App was officially launched at the inaugural Racing The Vale Fun Run in October 2015, which was organised by Division 2 Councillor William Owen-Jones. The App has over 150 entries registered and over 1,000 visitors per month. We continue to promote the App at every opportunity and encourage various entities to register and download the App. A facebook page was also established to help reach out to the community via social media.



The App is free to register and free to download. For more information please contact Maris Dirks on 0421 215 596 or email helensvalemailbox@bendigodelaide.com.au

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Community assets and equipment.

The Community Forum revealed that clubs and organisations were in need of various items to assist with their promotional events, such as marquees, BBQ, tables and chairs. Thanks to Division 2 Cr. William Owen-

Jones, the wider Helensvale community now has access to a BBQ which is easily transportable on a trailer and other items such as marquees, tables and chairs, TV & DVD system plus much more. Thank you also to State Member, Michael Crandon MP who has available for the community, various items including marquees, tables and chairs, bottled water and more. For more information see The Helensvale Community App under the category of 'Community'.



Community event/health and fitness activities.



Another idea for projects under \$5,000 was a community event which promoted kids getting out and being active. The inaugural Racing The Vale was held in October 2015 and proudly supported by Division 2, City of Gold Coast. The event encouraged participants of all ages and abilities to walk or run the 5km

distance starting from Helensvale State High School and ending at the Helensvale Library & Cultural Centre. Participants had to weave through the streets of Helensvale and stop at various locations to obtain a wrist band from stalls representing community clubs and groups in Helensvale including Helensvale Hornets, Helensvale Golf Club, Helensvale/Pacific Pines Cricket Club amongst others. The event also helped support two local families who experienced tragic circumstances with their young sons. Prizes were awarded to those who collected all the wrist bands and downloaded the App. Racing The Vale was a huge success and it looks like it will be bigger and better for 2016. Watch out for the date on The Helensvale Community App.

Assistance for groups.

Helensvale **Community Bank**[®] Branch was pleased to support two local groups; Helensvale Joey Scouts and Compassion Services with sponsorship and donations for their needs. Helensvale Joey Scouts benefited from a sponsorship to allow the Scouts to attend a circus sleep out. Compassion services received funds to assist kids in therapy by purchasing much needed equipment and toys.



Improvements to existing park.

Lions Park on Discovery Drive, Helensvale is undergoing a major improvement with new playground equipment being installed. The playground which is expected to be completed by the end of June, includes a climbing frame, tunnel slide, seating and much more play equipment. One of the ideas from the forum was to improve current playgrounds and install shading. Shading for the Lions Park is not included in this plan however there are a number of shady trees which provides ample shade during certain times of the day. Council may give consideration to other shading in future budgets if deemed necessary.



This is a sample image only and may not reflect the actual outcome of the improvements to the park.

Existing facilities and services.

The Helensvale Community Forum Working Group reviewed each and every idea from the forum and were able to identify that some suggested ideas and projects were already in existence in the community. Some of the ideas included community buses, dog parks and non-sporting activity programs. We obtained a wealth of information by talking with other community groups and from feedback received from attendees of the forum. Here are some of those outcomes.



- Community buses – The community bus was one of the top three ideas for projects over \$5,000 which was identified as a need of the Helensvale community. With further investigation by the Working Group, it was revealed that various community groups and retirement villages had their own community bus which transported passengers for shopping and medical appointments. Some of these buses are available for use by the community. A list of these buses will be compiled and listed on The Helensvale Community App.
- Dog parks – Discovery Park Helensvale offers many facilities including a BBQ, playground and toilets as well as an off leash dog park for the community, to enjoy an outing with their furry friend.
- Non-sporting activity programs/after school activities/health and fitness activities – If you haven't done so lately take a moment to visit the Helensvale Library and you will find there is a wealth of information, workshops and activities for all ages, interests and abilities. The Calendar of Events handbook is filled with great ideas including lots of non-sporting activities such as the Teen Filmmakers Club and Getting Loud in the Library.

You can also visit the online Calendar of Events at www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/library/calendar-of-events-11041.html

Helensvale Community Bank[®] Branch

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Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm

Website: www.bendigobank.com.au/helensvale facebook.com/bendigobank twitter.com/bendigobank



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