



**Junortoun Community Action Group**

# **Report to the community 2023**

Includes financial statements for the financial year ending 30 June 2023

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**Junortoun Community Action Group Inc.**

Incorporated association: A0061568U

ABN: 39 913 173 432

## Contents

About the Junortoun Community Action Group Inc. ....	2
Report on JCAG activities.....	3
Vale – Heather Stanmore .....	6
Report from the Sense of Community Action Group.....	7
Junortoun Community Plan .....	8
Honeyeater Bushland Reserve .....	9
Planet Ark National Tree Day at Honeyeater Bushland Reserve – 30 July 2023.....	12
Splitters Creek.....	13
The Junortoun, O’Keefe Rail Trail Nest Box Project.....	15
Engagement and community connections.....	16
Communication and engagement .....	17
Secretary’s report .....	18
Financial report.....	19
2022-23 financial statements .....	20

## About the Junortoun Community Action Group Inc.

*Incorporated: 2014.*

### Statement of purposes

- To improve the community of Junortoun, Victoria by developing activities and initiatives in accordance with the wishes of those who live and work in Junortoun.
- To achieve a friendly, safe and peaceful, semi-rural environment, with a sense of community and a focus on families.

### Contact details

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Email address: [admin@junortoun.vic.au](mailto:admin@junortoun.vic.au)  
Website: [www.junortoun.vic.au](http://www.junortoun.vic.au)

### Social media

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/junortoun](https://www.facebook.com/junortoun)  
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/junortoun/](https://www.instagram.com/junortoun/)  
Twitter: [@junortoun3551](https://twitter.com/junortoun3551)

*The Junortoun Community Action Group acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung people  
as the traditional custodians of Junortoun and surrounding areas.*

## Report on JCAG activities

Colin Smith – JCAG Chair and Ian Stephens – JCAG Deputy Chair

Junortoun Community Action Group (JCAG) was formed 12 years ago as a volunteer group. When JCAG initially formed it was in response to Mclvor Highway safety issues and there were quite a few people who attended the early meetings. JCAG found that there were many community issues and interests and an initial community plan was developed. Now the new Junortoun Community Plan 2023-2027 provides a focus for our core activities.

JCAG continues to achieve more than anyone initially expected and has continued to deliver better than expected outcomes.

Unfortunately, the number of our “Executive” members have declined over time and people for many reasons (young families, moved, change in work etc.) have not been able to continue. In addition, the recent death of Heather Stanmore leaves a significant gap in our Executive team.

Like many community and Landcare groups JCAG is not alone in this quandary of how do you attract and encourage new, younger members that can/will commit to a once-a-month meeting.

We need to gain new members to ensure that JCAG stays strong and relevant to our community and continues to promote and advocate to obtain the best outcomes for Junortoun residents.

The challenge for the next year is to find new members who want to create a better Junortoun community. To do this we may have to change our paradigm of how the Executive currently meets and functions, to accommodate the possibility of attracting new members. Other organisations are currently exploring how they can do this and as they develop and change their models of how they function, JCAG will be able to investigate if it is possible to use any of these options. JCAG can use their information and knowledge to help us move forward.

We are confident that JCAG can meet the challenge and achieve this.



Our last AGM was held in February 2023 so many of the projects and activities that were reported on at that time are still in progress.

The activities that JCAG continues to support are:

- **Honeyeater Bushland Reserve** - The regular working bees at Honeyeater Bushland Reserve (HBR) have been a winner with good attendances and great work being achieved. Particular thanks to Geoff Day and Rod Symes for coordinating and leading these working bees. Junortoun Fire Brigade continues to use HBR for Fire training and JCAG is pleased to be able to support them.
- The **Interest Groups** - Book Club, Walking Group, and Gardening Group have continued to be very active.
- **Newsletters** – are produced for each season and we thank the contributors that make them interesting reading. Our website is being updated and is regularly accessed.
- **Social Media** - The JCAG Facebook page has been very active lately as Lois Symes has agreed to increase the profile and post more material. The likes and followers continue to grow. Thanks very much Lois.
- **Love your Local feature** - Honeyeater Bushland Reserve was recently profiled by PRD Real Estate in their *Love your Locals* feature. The video features some stunning new aerial drone photography. Thanks to Darren Cruickshanks from PRD

Bendigo and dedicated JCAG volunteer Rod Symes who appears in the video.

Watch the video at:

<https://www.facebook.com/PRDbendigo/videos/299659739613111/>

- **Welcome to Summer community picnics**

The 2022 Welcome to Summer gathering was held at the usual playground location in Mclvor Forest Estate and it was a fantastic success with well over 120 people (children and adults) coming along.

This is the Sense of Community flagship event and it continues to be very successful.

Planning is well under way for the 2023 "Welcome to Summer" on Sunday 26 November 2023.

Huge thanks to Denise and Glenys together with other volunteers for their great work in organising this event.

We also extend our thanks to:

- Junortoun Fire Brigade for their continued support of this event with their trucks, equipment and their team.
- Bendigo Baptist Church volunteers for providing and supervising children's activities
- **Manning Reserve** – Additional tree planting has recently been completed with the help of Bendigo Senior Secondary College students and the Honeyeater Bushland Reserve working bee volunteers. Thank you to everyone.
- **Nature Network** – JCAG has supported the formation of the East Bendigo Landcare Network (now called "Nature Network") where several groups will explore the benefits of working together on certain projects with Kristie Smith as the funded coordinator. Colin Smith is a Board Member for Nature Network and will promote JCAG.
- The **"National Tree Day"** 30 July 2023 planting day sponsored by Planet Ark was held in Honeyeater Bushland Reserve (HBR). It was a hugely successful day and 600+ trees were planted. It was great to see the kids with Mums and Dads out having fun.

Tools from the grant received from CEPA (\$1,000 to purchase shovels, mattocks etc.) were put to good use on the National Tree Day, and are regularly used by the volunteers at the working bees in Honeyeater Bushland Reserve.

- **Advocacy** - JCAG made a budget bid to the City of Greater Bendigo in November 2022 requesting: a shared walking/cycling path on Trotting Terrace; identity signage on Mclvor Highway; and commencement of a structure plan for Junortoun.  
We have been advised that the highway identity signage is coming, but we were unsuccessful on the walking/cycling path. We will continue to press for this priority action.
- This year JCAG has again been successful with grant applications being approved and funded.
  - The Landcare Grant – "Splitters Creek - Using an Ecological Assessment to develop a community engagement model." \$8,682. This projects aim is to help landholders understand what currently exists along the creek (plants and animals) and how they can help with improving the creek environment and riparian zone. Thanks, Ian Stephens, for your help in supporting and managing this project.
  - Planet Ark National Tree Day tree planting grant for \$2,800.
  - Landcare Support Grant - from North Central Catchment Management Authority to assist with organisational expenses.
  - A City of Greater Bendigo Community Group Essentials grant \$1,757 which covers our public liability insurance and other essential operating expenses.

JCAG newsletters have reports from various other organisations that call Junortoun home and we thank them for their continued support.

All these activities are in addition to the normal work that it takes to keep an active community group running. My thanks and sincerest appreciation to all the members of the JCAG executive; the community volunteers who work on JCAG projects, action



groups and special interest groups; and all the members and volunteers – without you JCAG would not be able to support and respond to our Junortoun community.

## Thanks and acknowledgements

In particular we would thank:

- Ian Stephens (JCAG Deputy Chair) has again provided me (Colin) with significant help this year as I have had some medical time out during the year.
- Catherine Stephens for the onerous and often unrecognised role of minute secretary – continuing to do a fantastic job.

- Kevin de Vries (JCAG Secretary / Treasurer) for his friendship, help and guidance as well as the fantastic job that he does in this voluntary role – well done and thank you.

JCAG will continue to strive to represent the Junortoun Community and we will endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for our community. JCAG will always welcome more interested people who want to be involved in their local community. JCAG through our social media presence is always happy to receive feedback on Junortoun issues, future activities or anything that affects Junortoun.



## Vale – Heather Stanmore

*The Junortoun Community Action Group mourns the sudden loss of our dear friend and community member. Heather was a tireless champion for Junortoun, and an active organiser and supporter of community events for over 12 years.*

Heather Stanmore passed away suddenly on the 25 September 2023.

Heather was a founding member of the Junortoun Community Action Group, being present at the first Junortoun community meeting in March 2012. She was a driving force behind the JCAG motto of "OUR HOME IN THE BUSH."

We will miss Heather but will cherish our memories. JCAG extends its sincere sympathy to Brian and family.

Brian Stanmore has provided information on Heathers life history and background.



Heather hailed from a conservative, Anglican family and was married to Brian for 58 years.

In practice she was a networker and homemaker and was always looking to make the world a better place. Wherever they travelled, she made a circle of friends, many of whom remained in contact. Heather loved France and through her life Heather set up a home in 14 different locations across 4 continents. Home was where Heather was: something which was valued by Brian.

Heather worried that she had not done well at motherhood, but her three lovely children do not support this doubt.

Heather had skills with colour, style, and fabrics. For most of her life she made her own clothes, and could emerge in a stunning outfit. Heathers two daughters also benefited from her creativity (Brian apparently was a lost cause).

Heather was a cat lover but Heather's main love was music – the ABC classic station was playing from dawn till dusk. She would go to the piano to soothe a troubled spirit. Heather maintained a sure and steadfast faith. She drew inspiration from the night sky, and could not understand why those who viewed it would not conclude that "The heavens declare the glory of God." She treasured the Persian proverb "The day reveals the world, but the night reveals a universe."

In Junortoun Heather revelled in the freedom of designing her own house, and to develop the large grounds with native trees and shrubs, which attract a multitude of different bird species.

A bientôt, Heather.



## Report from the Sense of Community Action Group

The *Sense of Community* group operates to involve and bring together members of the Junortoun community through events and activities.

While the global coronavirus pandemic continued to impact on the activities of the Sense of Community group, it has been a pleasure to resume community activities in Junortoun.

Highlights of the past year.

- Bus trip to Crosbie – September 2022
- State election day BBQ – November 2022
- Welcome to Summer – November 2022
- Australia Day BBQ – January 2023

To contact the Sense of Community group, to help out or to get involved in community activities please email: [admin@junortoun.vic.au](mailto:admin@junortoun.vic.au).

## Interest groups

Three Interest Groups were established in 2019 and operated on and off during the year as lockdown restrictions permitted.

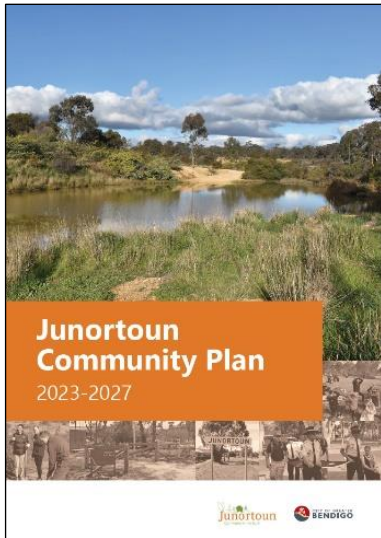
The schedule of these interest groups is:

- **Garden Club**-meets on the first Tuesday of the month and the contact person is Denise Johns.  
Email: [garden@junortoun.vic.au](mailto:garden@junortoun.vic.au)
- **Walking Club**-meets every Thursday at 9:00 a.m.  
The contact person is Glenys Rahill.  
Email: [walk@junortoun.vic.au](mailto:walk@junortoun.vic.au)
- **Book Club**-meets on the last Tuesday of the month at the Farmers Arms at 6:00 p.m. and the contact person is Diana Devlin.  
Email: [books@junortoun.vic.au](mailto:books@junortoun.vic.au)



Australia Day breakfast 2023

## Junortoun Community Plan



The activities of the Junortoun Community Action Group are guided by the objectives established in the **Junortoun Community Plan**. The plan reflects the priorities of the community, established through surveys, social media interaction, public meetings and community committee representation.

There have been three community plans, the first was developed in 2012, the second plan was launched in 2017.

A highlight of the year for JCAG has been the development of a new Junortoun Community Plan which will guide the activities of the group and the Junortoun community from 2023 to 2027. The plan contains 63 projects or campaigns we wish to pursue, including 12 priority actions.

A copy of the community plan may be viewed at the JCAG website.

[www.junortoun.vic.au/community-plan/](http://www.junortoun.vic.au/community-plan/)

### Priority actions from the Junortoun Community Plan

- Advocate for a structure plan to be commissioned for Junortoun to guide future development. No major project should be approved by Council until a structure plan is completed.
- Install identity signage for Junortoun along McIvor Highway
- Construct a separated walking and cycling path along the south side McIvor Highway from Harley Street to the O'Keefe Rail Trail
- Advocate for construction of an underpass where the O'Keefe Rail Trail crosses McIvor Highway
- Undertake drainage works on St Vincents Road where it crosses Splitters Creek to prevent flooding during heavy rain, to ensure emergency vehicle and community access, and allow volunteer fire fighters to respond to call-outs
- Provide safe cycling connections from Homebush Estate to the Strathfieldsaye bicycle network to support children cycling to/from school in Strathfieldsaye
- Produce a 'newcomers pack' to welcome new residents to Junortoun
- Install a shared cycling and walking path on Trotting Terrace between McIvor Forest Estate and La Valla Court
- Continued safety improvements for McIvor Highway through Junortoun, particularly at the intersections of St Vincents Road, Somerset Park Road and Bennetts Road
- Continue to deliver the objectives and projects of the Honeyeater Bushland Reserve Management Plan
- Install wayfinding signage along the O'Keefe Rail Trail and key routes to support their use



## Honeyeater Bushland Reserve

Colin Smith, Geoff Day, Rod Symes

Preserving and restoring Honeyeater Bushland Reserve (HBR) and revegetating it is a long-term project of the Junortoun Community Action Group. that will require decades of work, that will benefit Junortoun and other community residents for generations to come.

JCAG is the committee of management for the Reserve and has been working since 2019 to rehabilitate the site.



The 17-hectare site was previously a quarry and has been unused for 25 years. In that time, it has been a disposal site for many things but generally excess earth fill.

### Objectives

The Junortoun Community Action Group has agreed on the following objectives for Honeyeater Bushland Reserve.

- Objective 1: Preserve, protect and rehabilitate the natural environment.
- Objective 2: Develop the reserve as a place that people enjoy and value.

The achievements on the ground at HBR since March 2020 have been substantial; and in 2022 and 2023 the pace of works has continued. While contractors are used at HBR for major earthworks, many many hours of volunteer labour contribute to the management and revegetation of the reserve, either through direct works 'on the ground' or for careful supervision of works.

## Achievements to date at the Reserve

- Establishment and maintenance of rim walking track
- Removal of substantial volumes of waste
- Dam repair
- Tree planting, over 3,000 trees to date
- Establishment of wetlands area
- Installation of over nestboxes for mammals and birds
- Installation of seats for comfort of visitors.



## Projects completed in 2022-23

Major works undertaken at the Reserve in the past 12-24 months include:

### Management of sodic soils

The south face of the former quarry had revealed a large area of sodic soils which was prone to erosion and would not support plant growth. The slope was stabilised by covering it with better non-sodic soil. This soil was then shaped appropriately, and ripped for planting.

### Wetlands

The HBR wetlands is the home of our rare and endangered frog – the Bibron's Toadlet. 2022 provided excellent rainfall which resulted in the wetlands spilling over. Learning from last year, the bank of the wetlands was made more substantial and a trickle-pipe installed which should support the wetlands and its plants and animals through both wet years and dry.

### ***Spreading topsoil***

At several places around the reserve mounds of topsoil had been piled. These mounds represented a hazard, including from growth of grasses and weeds and as a breeding environment for rabbits. Meanwhile other flatter areas of the reserve contained ruts and undulations from previous heavy machinery. In 2023 these piles of topsoil were redistributed, and areas of undulation were graded. This reduces risks to visitors, provides more enjoyable areas for future picnic and play areas and allows for future management of fire risk of dry grass by allowing the use of slashing.

### ***Volunteers and the Community***

Many hundreds of hours have been spent by JCAG volunteers, advisory committee and friends of the Reserve on implementing these actions. The grant

from CEPA that was used to provide tools used by the working bee volunteers is very much appreciated and JCAG thanks them for their generous contribution.

JCAG thanks you all for your help and contribution to HBR. When you look back so much has been achieved in such a short time.

HBR needed the community to **value it and use it** and they have certainly done that with lots of people using it every day.

Preserving the reserve and revegetating HBR is a long-term project that will require decades of work, that will benefit Junortoun residents for generations to come.



## Finance report: Honeyeater Bushland Reserve

### 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

The budget and operations year for works at Honeyeater Bushland Reserve runs from April to March. This coincides with timing of rental income received from NBNCo and allows JCAG to plan works and planting at the reserve for when the weather is more favourable.

	\$ (excl GST)
<b>Income</b>	
Carried forward from 2021-22 operations	4,249.80
Grants	755.00
Donations	250.00
NBNCo rental	12,000.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>17,254.80</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Earthworks – cover sodic soils	4,925.00
Earthworks – rim track drainage and maintenance	470.00
Earthworks – grading and leveling topsoil	1,140.00
Fencing (incl. gates)	24.71
Revegetation	1,355.00
Seating and amenities	4,010.48
General expenses	227.11
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$12,152.30</b>
<b>Carried forward to 2023-24 operations year</b>	<b>\$5,102.50</b>



## Planet Ark National Tree Day at Honeyeater Bushland Reserve – 30 July 2023



This year we were earlier and better organised for our annual tree planting day, and we achieved more extensive publicity through radio, print, local signage and social media. This resulted in our highest participation numbers ever.



To prepare for planting, areas of sodic soil had been covered with at least 0.75 metres of soil, the sites had been ripped and the area covered with a coarse mulch that had been donated.

The promotional giveaways of hats and gloves together with stakes and guards had been collected from Bendigo Toyota (thanks Gabe Richards and Toyota) and the BBQ booked ready for the big day. Central Victorian Meat provided 150 sausages and heaps of onions for the free sausage sizzle and Junortoun Community Action Group (JCAG) were supplying drinks. Everything was ready and our JCAG volunteers were to meet on site to set up at 7.30am.

The day arrived and to say that the fog dampened the enthusiasm was an understatement, but the team pressed on. Low and behold the fog lifted early and a magic sunny day took its place. This was a signal for lots of volunteer tree planters to arrive and it was very gratifying to see lots of a families and children doing the tree planting and then having a sausage and drink.

It turned out to be a very successful day with all the prepared sites planted and trees guarded and more importantly watered in thanks to two water trailers. The regular working bee that takes place on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month then checked, guarded and planted additional trees as required.

Thank you to all the volunteers for their work and a huge thank you to Planet Ark for the grant that allowed it to take place.



## Splitters Creek

Ian Stephens

Splitters Creek is approximately 6km in length, commencing adjacent to Pratts Park Road in the Bendigo National Park and extending onto Axe Creek, Longlea. It is the major creek in Junortoun, running west to east on the south side of Mclvor Highway.

Junortoun has been given the opportunity to find out more about Splitters Creek. Junortoun Community Action Group has been awarded a Landcare Grant from the North Central Catchment Management Authority to develop:

- A map of the land tenure along the creek;
- Ecological assessment to promote the creek's value;
- Provision of species lists for revegetation and species requirements, such as nest boxes;
- Interaction with and education of the adjoining landholders, including on-site information sessions.

Our ecologist, Karl Just has made a number of visits to Splitters Creek, inspecting publicly accessible and landowner sections of the creek. A highlight was walking the section of creek from Hodges Lane through to where Splitters Creek joins Axe Creek.

In terms of documenting Splitters Creek flora and fauna, Karl has divided the creek into three (3) sections:

### ***Upper Catchment adjacent to the Mclvor Highway, wetlands evident***



The upper western section is dominated by drier Grey Box and Yellow Gum. The mid to lower catchment has deeper alluvial soil and supports River Red Gum woodlands.

Nectar rich eucalypts of the creek attract lorikeets, parrots and honeyeaters. River Red Gums with hollows provide important nesting habitat. The creek's aquatic habitats support waterbirds, frogs, fish and insects.

Splitters Creek is an important habitat corridor as it connects in a linear manner, Bendigo National Park from the west to Axe Creek to the east.

### ***Middle Catchment – Private land***



The hydrology of the creek system is important as Splitters Creek would originally have flowed over winter and spring, reduced to scattered pools over drier months. Discharge of stormwater has increased the quantity of water and extended seasonality. This has influenced the composition of native vegetation.

### ***Lower Catchment – Private land***



As part of the Project, we have been very keen to meet with, discuss and inspect sections of Splitters Creek on private land with respective landowners. On Thursday, 12 October we held a Splitters Creek – Information Session and extended invitations to approx. 70 landowners as well as others interested in the Project. Over 20 attended the evening including Cr Andrea Metcalf (Mayor COGB) and Cr Matthew Evans (Eppalock Ward).



Our Ecologist, Karl Just provided an expansive view of Splitters Creek with his presentation titled: '***Splitters Creek - Ecology, Threats and Stewardship***'. The key points were:

- What does the survey project involve?
- Catchment overview (where the creek is situated and surrounding land use)
- Ecology and hydrology (plants, animals, waterflow)
- What threats does Splitters Creek face?
- What we can do to protect and restore Splitters Creek into the future

The evening generated quite a bit of interest and discussion and since then six landowners have welcomed a visit to their section of Splitters Creek. We would appreciate being able to visit more properties. Flowing from the Information Night, we have now created a Splitters Creek Facebook page.

The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/splitters.2023>

We would welcome photos, comments, stories, any facts and figures, feedback and most importantly a growing list of followers and in particular Splitters Creek landowners to connect in.

It is our intention to try and arrange landowner gatherings and for instance have a morning tea where a landowner and their neighbours can attend and in an informal manner, discuss the Splitters Creek Project and how they might be able to assist in sustaining the Splitters Creek by reducing threats to the creek and in progressing protection and restoration works and practices going forward.

If you would like more information or express an interest in getting involved, please feel free to call our Project Leader – Ian Stephens 0499 883 979 or connect via our Splitters Creek Facebook page.





## The Junortoun, O'Keefe Rail Trail Nest Box Project

Between 2016-2022 the Junortoun Community Action Group constructed over 200 nest boxes which have been placed in various locations in Junortoun, including along the O'Keefe Rail Trail, at Manning Reserve, Knul-doorong Reserve and Honeyeater Bushland Reserve.

This project was supported by grants provided by the City of Greater Bendigo and involved many community partners including:

- City of Greater Bendigo
- Students and staff of Catherine McAuley College
- The Men's Shed at Bendigo Domain Village
- JCAG committee volunteers
- Landcare Australia

The nest boxes constructed through this project, targeted native mammal and bird species including:

- Eastern rosellas
- Sugar gliders
- Phascogales (Tuans)
- Owlet nightjar
- Microbats
- Pardalotes



Natural Reserves staff of the City of Greater Bendigo erected all of the nest boxes and JCAG gratefully acknowledges their expert knowledge and their assistance that guided the number and placement of boxes. In particular, JCAG acknowledges the extra time and effort that Ami Greenfield has contributed to the project – thank you Ami.

This project commenced in 2016 and was delivered in three phases as a true community partnership.

- **Phase 1 – 2016 - 2017** build and erect nest boxes along the O'Keefe Rail Trail between Knul-doorong Woodland and the Junortoun Flora and Fauna Reserve on Trotting Terrace.
- **Phase 2 – 2017 - 2018** saw boxes installed between Knul-doorong Woodland and Bennetts Road.
- **Phase 3 – 2019 - 2021** covered the O'Keefe Rail Trail from Cashens Road northwest across McIvor Highway to Markovich Lane.



Although the project has now been completed, the nest boxes will endure for many years as an asset for the community. Volunteers from the Junortoun Community Action Group will monitor the nest boxes for occupancy, and will watch for infestation from feral honeybees.

## Engagement and community connections

In order to achieve our statement of purposes, and improve facilities and services for the community of Junortoun and realise the objectives of the Junortoun Community Plan it is important that the Junortoun Community Action Group forms and maintains strong links with local agencies and service providers.

### Organisations with which JCAG regularly works include:

#### **The City of Greater Bendigo**

This includes the Community Planning team, the staff of the Planning department, staff of the Presentation and Assets directorate, and staff of the parks and open space unit.

#### **Junortoun CFA Fire Brigade**

*JCAG Community partner*

The Junortoun Fire Brigade generously provides use of its venue to JCAG for meetings of the JCAG executive. The Brigade is an enthusiastic supporter to JCAG activities.

#### **Bendigo Baptist Church**

*JCAG Community partner*

The Baptist Church provides use of its facilities to JCAG for community events and meetings. We sincerely appreciate the support provided for our activities.

#### **Strathfieldsaye and Districts Community Enterprise**

SDCE is both a source of funding and also a valuable partner in local community projects. We acknowledge their contribution to the Rim Track works and dam repair at Honeyeater Reserve.

#### **Farmers Arms Hotel Junortoun**

For many years the 'Junortoun Pub' served as a meeting point for JCAG committee meetings. Growth in customers meant that the pub has become too noisy for JCAG to continue to use it as a meeting venue.

In July 2022 the pub was sold to new owners. Junortoun extends its particular gratitude to Jill and Rob Charlton for their generous hospitality over the years. We wish them well in their retirement.

#### **Catherine McAuley College Bendigo and Bendigo Domain Village**

Key partners in our nest box construction projects.

#### **Friends of Bendigo-Kilmore Rail Trail and Bike Bendigo**

Passionate advocates for safer cycling infrastructure.

#### **Regional Roads Victoria**

RRV provides continued engagement with JCAG on Mclvor Highway safety issues. Their safety initiatives on Mclvor Highway and Strathfieldsaye Road will contribute to community road safety in the long term.

#### **Public Transport Victoria**

For helping deliver more bus services for the residents of Junortoun, Longlea, Axedale and Heathcote.

#### **North Central Catchment Management Authority**

#### **Longlea and District Landcare**

#### **Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.**

## Political engagement

JCAG acknowledges and thank our local councillors and political representatives:

- Lisa Chesters MP
- Hon. Jacinta Allan MP
- Cr Matthew Evans
- Cr Margaret O'Rourke.
- Cr Greg Penna

for their interest in the affairs of the Junortoun Community and willingness to discuss and engage on local issues.

## Communication and engagement

Kevin de Vries

### Newsletters

The preparation and distribution of Community Newsletters continues intermittently.

To subscribe to the JCAG Community Newsletter visit: [www.junortoun.vic.au/newsletters/](http://www.junortoun.vic.au/newsletters/)

JCAG also keeps the community informed of news and activities via social media.

### Social Media

Junortoun is represented on three social media channels – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



[www.facebook.com/Junortoun](http://www.facebook.com/Junortoun)



[www.instagram.com/junortoun/](http://www.instagram.com/junortoun/)



[www.twitter.com/Junortoun3551](http://www.twitter.com/Junortoun3551)

Our Facebook followers have grown from 1,295 to 1,486 in the past 12 months (15% growth), with continuing strong engagement from users.

Our Facebook page is used to communicate “All things Junortoun” in a real time communication channel for Junortoun locals. The Facebook page also allows for direct messaging option from other users, business directory, option to sign up to our newsletter mailing list, and direct links to the Junortoun website.

The group commenced a presence on Instagram in 2019 which has grown further this year, which shows the popularity of this medium.

Special acknowledgement and thanks to Lois Symes who this year took on the management of the JCAG Facebook presence. Thanks also to Sam Spence for preparation of Junortoun community newsletters.

### Website

The Junortoun Community Action Group maintains an informative community website at:

[www.junortoun.vic.au](http://www.junortoun.vic.au)

In 2023 JCAG the Junortoun community website was given a refresh.

### Social media statistics

	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017	June 2018	June 2019	June 2020	June 2021	June 2022	June 2023
<b>Email subscribers</b>	Not recorded	Not recorded	229	262	270	277	276	293	319
<b>Facebook followers</b>	325	437	679	824	947	1,077	1,202	1,295	1,486
<b>Instagram followers</b>	-	-	-	-	44	86	123	135	133
<b>Twitter followers</b>	-	-	-	25	38	45	48	46	44



## Secretary's report

Kevin de Vries

The Junortoun Community Action Group Inc. (JCAG) is a not-for-profit incorporated association registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV), Incorporated Association A0061568U.

The members of JCAG voted to incorporate on 31 July 2014, adopting the model rules provided by Consumer Affairs Victoria. The Action Group was registered with CAV on 5 August 2014.

The Association had twenty-six (26) paid members during the 2022-23 year.

Members of the Executive Committee during the year were:

- Colin Smith  
Chair
- Geoff Day

- Tom Devlin  
Leader of the Sense of Community Action Group
- Kevin de Vries  
Secretary and treasurer
- Lindsay Jolley
- Tony McEniry
- Glenys Rahill
- Heather Stanmore
- Catherine Stephens  
Minutes secretary
- Ian Stephens  
Deputy Chair
- Rod Symes
- Mal Ward

The association maintains public liability insurance cover of \$10,000,000 and volunteer worker insurance through Berkley Insurance Australia.



## Financial report

Kevin de Vries

The Junortoun Community Action Group completed the 2022-23 financial year with an operating deficit of \$1,165, and with net assets of \$18,410.

Income and expenses during the year was in line with budgeted expectations.

The most significant expenditure for JCAG during the year has been for works totalling \$18,316 at Honeyeater Bushland Reserve.

The general (unrestricted) funds held by JCAG ensures the ongoing operations of the Association. This balance was \$3,632 this year, compared to \$3,515 last year.

The financial statements presented on the following pages have been prepared by Kevin de Vries and reviewed by JCAG committee member Geoff Day.

- The accounts of the Association are constructed to comply with the Standard Chart of Accounts for not-for-profit associations.

- The Junortoun Community Action Group is registered for GST and reports and pays GST on an annual basis.
- As at 30 June 2023 there are no mortgages, charges or securities affecting any of the organisation's property.
- During the financial year to 30 June 2023 the organisation did not act as the trustee of any trust.
- A GST refund of \$68 was calculated for the financial year and our 2023 Business Activity Statement has been submitted to the Australian Taxation Office.
- To assist in efficient record keeping JCAG uses the commercial accounting software package Reckon One®.

JCAG is solvent, and able to pay its anticipated expenses as and when they fall due.

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## Grant income and activity

During the 2022-23 financial year the Junortoun Community Action Group received the following grants:

From the City of Greater Bendigo.

- Grant GO004451 Community Group Essentials: \$1,757.

From Landcare Australia.

- Project grant: Splitters Creek. Value \$8,682.

From Planet Ark.

- Native plants and revegetation expenses. Value \$2,800.

From CEPA Farm Supplies.

- Tools. Value \$1,000

We thank the partner organisations that provide support for our community projects.



## 2022-23 financial statements

### Income statement

For the year ending 30 June 2023, accrual basis, excluding GST

INCOME	2022-23	2021-22
Grant – City of Greater Bendigo	1,757.00	4,587.00
Grants – other		
-- Grant - Landcare Australia	8,682.00	500.00
Donations	350.00	254.00
Membership fees	47.28	30.92
Sales (events)	644.44	491.00
Interest Received	1.91	1.53
Honeyeater Reserve NBNCo rental	12,000	12,000.00
Rounding	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$23,482.63</b>	<b>\$17,864.45</b>

EXPENSES	2022-23	2021-22
Accounting fees	250.92	196.38
Advertising and promotion	677.00	0.00
Bank charges	2.00	0.00
Event expenses	2,413.29	468.58
Nest box project expenses	0.00	98.80
Honeyeater Bushland Reserve expenses	18,316.09	13,666.64
Splitters Creek project expenses	600.00	0.00
Community support	89.25	280.50
Computer expenses	0.00	209.09
Fees and permits	61.20	60.10
Insurance	1,167.60	975.63
Meeting expenses	483.81	217.73
Postage, freight, courier	139.09	130.91
Printing and stationery	319.31	36.36
Repairs and maintenance	123.95	0.00
Telephone and internet charges	4.56	0.00
Rounding		0.99
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$24,648.07</b>	<b>\$16,341.71</b>

NET POSITION	2022-23	2021-22
Income	23,482.63	17,864.45
Expenses	24,648.07	16,341.71
<b>NET POSITION</b>	<b>-\$1,165.44</b>	<b>\$1,522.74</b>



## Balance sheet as at 30 June 2023

ASSETS		2022-23	2021-22
CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank - JCAG Account (Bendigo Bank)		17,744.04	19,375.98
Prepaid Mastercard		599.49	74.90
Accounts receivable		0.00	0.00
GST Refundable		66.89	344.98
	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	18,410.42	19,795.86
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$18,410.42	\$19,795.86
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
GST payable		0.00	0.00
Accounts payable		0.00	220.00
	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$0.00	\$220.00
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0.00	\$220.00
	NET ASSETS	\$18,410.42	\$19,575.86
			\$0.00
EQUITY			
Opening Balance Equity		\$19,575.86	\$18,053.12
Current year earnings		-\$1,165.44	\$1,522.74
	TOTAL EQUITY	\$18,410.42	\$19,575.86

## Activity centre balances

Balances of JCAG activity centre accounts as at 30 June 2023

ACTIVITY CENTRE	
Honeyeater Bushland Reserve	6,561.24
Allocated to grant funding	8,217.00
JCAG general account (unrestricted)	3,632.18
TOTAL	\$18,410.42

## Notes

For financial reporting purposes under Consumer Affairs Victoria requirements, JCAG is a 'Tier one' association, having a total yearly revenue of less than \$250,000. Tier one associations have an obligation to prepare financial statements that "give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance" of the organisation.

There is no requirement under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act for a tier one organisation to have its financial statement independently audited or reviewed. However, members can vote at a general meeting to require the organisation to have its accounts reviewed. In some circumstances, Consumer Affairs Victoria can direct a tier one organisation to have its financial statements reviewed.

JCAG finances are deposited with the Bendigo Bank in a Not-For-Profit Cash Management Account.

The Junortoun Community Action Group is registered for GST (ABN: 39 913 173 432) and reports annually.

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## Review of financial statements

In accordance with Schedule 1, Regulation 15, Form 1, *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*  
Sections 94 (2)(b), 97 (2)(b) and 100 (2)(b)

### **Annual statements give a true and fair view of financial performance and position of incorporated association.**

We, Kevin de Vries and Geoff Day, being members of the committee of the Junortoun Community Action Group Inc. certify that –

"The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the Junortoun Community Action Group during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending 30 June 2023."

*Kevin de Vries*  
16 November 2023

*Geoff Day*  
16 November 2023



A digital version of this report may be downloaded  
at: <http://www.junortoun.vic.au/jcag-inc/#annualreports>