



## Junortoun Community Action Group

# Report to the community 2024

Includes financial statements for the financial year ending 30 June 2024

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**Junortoun Community Action Group Inc.**

Incorporated association: A0061568U

ABN: 39 913 173 432

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## 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

Postal address: PO Box 5, Junortoun, Victoria 3551  
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](http://www.facebook.com/junortoun)  
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/junortoun/](http://www.instagram.com/junortoun/)  
X (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.*

Cover: New Junortoun identity signage installed on Mclvor Highway by City of Greater Bendigo 2024.

## Report on JCAG activities

Ian Stephens – JCAG Chair

Junortoun Community Action Group (JCAG) was formed 13 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 existing Junortoun Community Plan 2023-2027 provides an ongoing focus for our core activities.

JCAG continues to have a sound reputation within our community, City of Greater Bendigo, our local Ward Councilors, contractors and other stakeholders.

### Membership

Last year we were concerned that our membership and more particularly our committee had declined in numbers. We are now in the fortunate position to have welcomed some new members and committee members in the past twelve months. Even our Honeyeater Bushland Reserve Working Bee volunteer numbers have increased.

### Activities

Our last AGM was held in November 2023, many of the activities that were reported 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) usually (1st and 3rd Monday each month) have been very productive both in terms of work outcomes and in building social interaction. There have been good attendances, even in the colder months. Particular thanks to 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 (Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer) 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 continued to increase the profile and post more material. The likes and followers continue to grow. Thanks very much Lois.
- **Australia Day** – Flag Raising and Breakfast – Friday, 26th January 2024.  
In excess of 70 people attended the event in lovely early morning conditions to enjoy bacon and eggs. Cr Margaret O'Rourke was the guest speaker, Merlyn Quaife ably led the singing of Advance Australia Fair and the Junortoun Fire Brigade took part in the Flag Raising Ceremony. Our thanks to the Junortoun Fire Brigade for their generous support and allowing the use of their facility.
- **Welcome to Summer community picnics** – Unfortunately we had to cancel the 2023 Welcome to Summer event scheduled to be held at Mclvor Forest Estate, due to forecast thunderstorms. We are looking forward to the 2024 Welcome to Summer event, scheduled for Sunday, 24th November 2024, 4.00pm to 7.00pm.  
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

- The **National Tree Planting Day** was held on 28 July 2024 at Honeyeater Bushland Reserve (HBR). It was a hugely successful day and 500+ trees were planted. It was great to see 30+ volunteers such as the kids with Mums and Dads, as well as interested local volunteers out having fun. In addition, post this day, the remaining trees were planted out via the Working Bee, taking the tally to over 650 trees planted.
- **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 McIvor Highway; and commencement of a structure plan for Junortoun.

We are now pleased to advise that the 'Junortoun' highway identity signs (2) were installed in June. We will continue to press on for action on the other two items.

## Grants

(i) The **Splitters Creek Landcare Grant** was completed with the production of the Splitters Creek Ecological Assessment Report. The grant was acquitted in November 2023 and the Report has been invaluable towards providing an understanding of Splitters Creek, following flooding in Junortoun, earlier this year.

(ii) In April, JCAG applied for a Medium Grant (Up to \$10K) with the City of Greater Bendigo. The amount applied for was \$5K towards **repairs and upgrade to the Eastern section of the Rim Walk**, some 150 metres, that had been eroded and required new fill, levelling, drainage pipes (2) and new gravel surface. The City of Greater Bendigo approved the Grant, and the repair works have just been completed as at late September. In addition, several other low points on the southern side of the walk have been repaired.

(iii) In late April we submitted a detailed Grant Application to Landcare towards the development of an extensive **Weed Management Plan and Actionable Strategy**, which was subsequently approved. The purpose of the Plan will be to

catalogue existing weeds within HBR, then prioritise the management of the weeds going forward.

Our Ecologist, Karl Just has had a preliminary walk around HBR and identified 20 weed varieties. This time of year, is the best for identifying what is coming alive as the days warm up. The good news so far is that he did not find a high diversity of cover of 'high threat' weeds.

There will be future discussions around his findings, including sedimentation happening in the wetlands, erosion, potential for new weeds to be introduced and then the development of the Weed Management Plan, which will assist us in our understanding of good weed management practices and inform works activities going forward as we continue to develop HBR.

(iv) A City of Greater Bendigo Community Group Essentials grant \$1,757 which covers our public liability insurance and other essential operating expenses.

## Junortoun Flood Recovery

Heavy downpours in late December and early January caused localized flooding, and inundation of property and homes. These events have caused difficulties for a number of Junortoun residents. In response JCAG has helped facilitate two flood recovery events, one in March and the second in June. Following these, City of Greater Bendigo has been issuing monthly updates on progress. JCAG will continue to help facilitate timely responses on what actions are being implemented to mitigate localized flooding causing issues in the future.

## In closing

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

I would like to thank all the members of the JCAG Committee; 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.

In particular, I would thank:



- Colin Smith (JCAG Past President 2019 - 2023) for his leadership and commitment to JCAG, his tireless work in the background on JCAG related activities and especially for securing the Management rights to HBR way back in 2019.
- 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 support, help and guidance as well as the fantastic job that he does in this

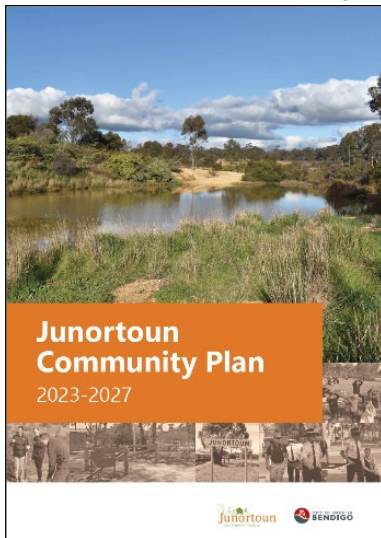
voluntary role in what has been a difficult year, personally – well done and thank you.

JCAG will continue to strive to represent the Junortoun community and we will endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for our community. We would 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..



## 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.

The third Junortoun Community Plan was launched in 2022 to 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 Mclvor Highway. ☒
- Construct a separated walking and cycling path along the south side Mclvor Highway from Harley Street to the O'Keefe Rail Trail
- Advocate for construction of an underpass where the O'Keefe Rail Trail crosses Mclvor 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 Mclvor Forest Estate and La Valla Court
- Continued safety improvements for Mclvor 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

## Communication and engagement

### Newsletters

The preparation and distribution of Community Newsletters continues each quarter.

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 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 for her 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)

Our Facebook followers have grown from 1,486 to 1,607 in the past 12 months (8% growth), with continuing strong engagement from users.

### Social media statistics

	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017	June 2018	June 2019	June 2020	June 2021	June 2022	June 2023	June 2024
<b>Email subscribers</b>	Not recorded	Not recorded	229	262	270	277	276	293	319	310
<b>Facebook followers</b>	325	437	679	824	947	1,077	1,202	1,295	1,486	1,607
<b>Instagram followers</b>	-	-	-	-	44	86	123	135	133	138
<b>Twitter followers</b>	-	-	-	25	38	45	48	46	44	45



## 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 a valuable partner in local community projects. We acknowledge their past contribution to the Rim Track works and dam repair at Honeyeater Reserve and their support of JCAG activities.

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

Key organisations within our community.

#### **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.

### *Thank you*

JCAG notes that Councillors Evans, O'Rourke and Penna are not contesting the 2024 Greater Bendigo Council election. We thank Matthew, Margaret and Greg sincerely for their contribution to our community, for their interest in Junortoun and for their service to residents and ratepayers.



## Governance 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-one (21) paid members during the 2023-24 year.

Members of the Executive Committee during the year were:

- Colin Smith  
President (part year)
- Ian Stephens  
President (part year)
- Kevin de Vries  
Governance secretary, treasurer

- Ian Grundy
- Lindsay Jolley  
Vice president
- Geoff Day (part year)
- Tony McEniry
- Robin Patton
- Glenys Rahill
- Catherine Stephens  
Minutes secretary
- Lois Symes
- Rod Symes
- Mal Ward  
Correspondence secretary
- Andrew Warfe

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 2023-24 financial year with an operating deficit of \$4,575, and with net assets of \$22,985.

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

The most significant expenditure for JCAG during the year was 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 \$5,064 this year, compared to \$3,632 last year.

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

- 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 2024 there are no mortgages, charges or securities affecting any of the organisation's property.
- During the financial year to 30 June 2024 the organisation did not act as the trustee of any trust.
- A GST refund of \$179 was received from 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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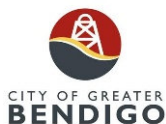
## Grant income and activity

During the 2023-24 financial year the Junortoun Community Action Group received the following grants:

From the City of Greater Bendigo.

- Grant CGE00019 Community Group Essentials: \$1,978.60
- Grant MGMarch018 Honeyeater Reserve track repair: \$5,000.00

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



## 2023-24 financial statements

### Income statement

For the year ending 30 June 2024, accrual basis, excluding GST

INCOME	2023-24	2022-23
Grant – City of Greater Bendigo	6,978.60	1,757.00
Grants – other		
-- Grant – Australian Plants Society Bendigo	256.36	0.00
-- Grant - Landcare Australia	500.00	8,682.00
Donations	116.00	350.00
Membership fees	27.29	47.28
Sales (events)	975.00	644.44
Interest Received	1.40	1.91
Honeyeater Reserve NBNCo rental	12,000	12,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$20,854.65</b>	<b>\$23,482.63</b>

EXPENSES	2023-24	2022-23
Accounting fees	308.22	250.92
Advertising and promotion	509.32	677.00
Bank charges	1.82	2.00
Event expenses	848.01	2,413.29
Honeyeater Bushland Reserve expenses	6,207.35	18,316.09
Splitters Creek project expenses	5791.13	600.00
Community support	122.00	89.25
Computer expenses	209.09	0.00
Fees and permits	47.70	61.20
Insurance	1,167.46	1,167.60
Meeting expenses	340.00	483.81
Postage, freight, courier	158.18	139.09
Printing and stationery	546.14	319.31
Repairs and maintenance	0.00	123.95
Telephone and internet charges	22.73	4.56
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$16,279.15</b>	<b>\$24,648.07</b>

NET POSITION	2023-24	2022-23
Income	20,854.65	23,482.63
Expenses	16,279.15	24,648.07
<b>NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$4,575.50</b>	<b>-\$1,165.44</b>

## Balance sheet as at 30 June 2024

ASSETS		2023-24	2022-23
CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank - JCAG Account (Bendigo Bank)		22,479.50	17,744.04
Prepaid Mastercard		357.62	599.49
Accounts receivable		282.00	0.00
GST Refundable		177.00	66.89
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		23,298.12	18,410.42
TOTAL ASSETS		\$23,298.12	\$18,410.42
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
GST payable		0.00	0.00
Accounts payable		310.20	0.00
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		\$310.20	\$0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$310.20	\$0.00
NET ASSETS		\$22,985.92	\$18,410.42
			\$0.00
EQUITY			
Opening Balance Equity		\$18,410.42	\$19,575.86
Current year earnings		\$4,575.50	-\$1,165.44
TOTAL EQUITY		\$22,985.92	\$18,410.42

## Activity centre balances

Balances of JCAG activity centre accounts as at 30 June 2024

ACTIVITY CENTRE	
Honeyeater Bushland Reserve	17,610.25
Allocated to grant funding	311.13
JCAG general account (unrestricted)	5,064.54
TOTAL	\$22,985.92



## 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 Ian Stephens, 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 2024."

*Kevin de Vries*

10 October 2024

*Ian Stephens*

10 October 2024

## Finance report: Honeyeater Bushland Reserve

The report below on income and expenditure at Honeyeater Bushland Reserve is provided for information and transparency.

### 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

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 2022-23 operations	5,102.50
Grants	0.00
Donations	0.00
NBNCo rental	12,000.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>17,102.50</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Earthworks	8,000.00
Trickle flow pipe	989.44
Revegetation	516.36
Shipping container and related costs	4,620.20
Weed control	1,250.00
Signs	447.85
Seating and amenities	581.82
General expenses	86.58
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$16,492.25</b>
<b>Carried forward to 2023-24 operations year</b>	<b>\$610.25</b>



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