

May 2019

Community Meeting to discuss the new Edenhope and District Community Centre

The Edenhope and District Community Centre Redevelopment Project advisory group will hold a Community Meeting on Friday May 24 to give project updates and to answer questions.

With dinner and drinks available the Community Meeting will start at 6 pm at the Edenhope Football club and aim to respond to questions and concerns the public may have about the project. This will also be an opportunity to view the plans and get excited about this new modern facility that has been over ten years in the making thanks to many community members contributing.

Working with West Wimmera Shire Council, the project advisory group has been established to advise on the project and assist with the community fundraising efforts. The project advisory group comprises a diverse selection of community members who have a range of qualifications and experience, including Ann Twyford, Alex West, Jess Nelson, Adrian Schmidt, Jodie Pretlove, Geoff Langsworth, Helen Mulraney-Roll, Fred Carberry, Trevor McClure, Grant Campbell, Sara McDonnell and Melanie Y'Lang.

The Edenhope & District Community Centre Redevelopment Project will see a modern new building built on the original hall site on Elizabeth Street, Edenhope. The new Centre will be a neutral building that will include a general activity area, a library with free Wi-Fi, kitchen facilities, meeting rooms and a function space looking out onto Lake Wallace.

The new and well-appointed building will be an asset for Edenhope and having a place for locals to gather, celebrate and learn will bring health and wellbeing benefits to the broader Kowree community.

The new Centre is being supported by Federal, State and Local Governments who have contributed a total \$1.8m towards the project. This includes \$600k from the Victorian Government's Living Libraries Program, \$700k from the Australian Government Drought Communities Program and the balance from West Wimmera Shire Council.

However, a further \$300k is required to finish off the fit out of the new building.

Construction of stage 1 of the new building is underway and progressing well, but Council would like to see the community get behind the project to support the \$300k shortfall before they give the go-ahead on stage 2 which includes the function space.

Council is also seeking further grants to help meet this shortfall and ensure the new facility lives up to the high expectations of our community.

Over the last few months, the advisory group has been hard at work planning on how it would reach the goal of \$300k. Initial letters have been sent to community groups over the last week seeking donations. Letters have also been sent to businesses and non-for-profits groups who may be able to help to spread the word about the fundraising campaign.

The project advisory group understands that many community groups will not have funds available to support with financial assistance however any help to spread the word and look at other opportunities to support the project is very beneficial.

West Wimmera Shire Mayor, Jodie Pretlove said "It will be a place where new precious and happy members will be made, so we are asking our community to get on board and work with us to help bring to fruition an asset that meets the needs of everyone who lives, works and loves our region."

To help raise funds sponsor naming rights to the new Centre's various rooms and assets will be available. Everyone has the opportunity to sponsor the Centre with everything from the naming rights of meeting rooms through to the purchase of one or more chairs available. More information about sponsorship opportunities will be available at the information session. However, donation opportunities are flexible, and the project advisory group or Council would be interested to speak to anyone who is looking to support the project.

There are already a few ideas on some great fundraising opportunities and events, but we can always use some more ideas so please attend the information night and let the project advisory group know what you think.

If you are unable to make the information centre and would like to donate you can do so by visiting the Edenhope Community Bank, emailing edccproject@gmail.com or by transferring money to - Account Name: Edenhope & District Community Centre Redevelopment Project. BSB: 633 000 Account: 166 690 552

For further details on this project, please contact

Sarah Ellis, Economic Development Manager
sarahellis@westwimmera.vic.gov.au | 0427007525