

Families

NURTURING IMAGINATION AND FAMILIES



TOY LIBRARY

Weekly toy library through the Ballarat Toy Library and Playgroup Victoria satellite toy library scheme

ENGAGEMENT

Conversations and collaborations to attract families, stimulate membership and strengthen support networks

PARENTING

Events and guest speakers designed to connect parents to broader support networks

PROVISION OF QUALITY FAMILY FACILITIES AND SERVICES.

PLANNING FOR THE PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF CLUNES FAMILIES.

This action is one of four prioritised projects in the Clunes Community Plan - and there is a reason for that.

Early years services play a vital role in helping parents and children navigate the bumps that come with living life. When that life is lived in a small rural town that is the third lowest socio-economic postcode in Victoria, some of those bumps are bigger than you might encounter in the city.

Ultimately, if parents and children don't have access to the support they need to navigate bumps, it can have a domino effect on aspirations, health and wellbeing, education participation and employability.

Now as COVID-19 has dramatically altered the supports typically relied on in communities, the lasting impacts of these issues could be devastating.

Research* shows that multi-faceted approaches to stimulate aspiration and support learning are the most likely to have an impact on all of these issues. They recommended that the initiatives most likely to have a real and lasting impact were those that:

- Opened people's minds to new ideas and possibilities at a young age and;
- Nurtured support and peer networks through community involvement and collaboration

Establishing a toy library in the heart of the grounds at Clunes Neighbourhood House will do just that.

Through use of existing toy sharing schemes, refurbishing existing facilities, relationship building and social research evaluation this project will provide families with a new service in Clunes, and insight in the future needs of families in our community.

*RESEARCH INTO EDUCATION ASPIRATION FOR REGIONAL VICTORIA REGIONAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AUGUST 2013
[HTTPS://WWW.RDV.VIC.GOV.AU/_DATA/ASSETS/PDF_FILE/0007/1158631/EDUCATIONASPIRATION_FULLREPORT.PDF](https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1158631/EDUCATIONASPIRATION_FULLREPORT.PDF)

IMAGINATION HEALTH IDEAS AND SUPPORT

Delivery of a weekly toy library and guest speaker event program in the heart of Clunes will:

- engage families with young children
- strengthen ties between families
- lay foundations for long term health and wellbeing
- provide a safe, integrated community space for families and young children to regularly play and meet

This proposal will establish this program and Clunes Neighbourhood House will then continue to deliver it on a permanent basis.



ACCESSIBLE TOY LIBRARY

WEEKLY SATELLITE TOY LIBRARY.

Toy libraries are many things to many people, but in Clunes in 2017 when parents were asked what might make the biggest difference in their lives in Clunes - it was a toy library.

Why? It would help them save money. It would expose their children to new ideas and ways to spark imagination. It would avoid waste. It would be accessible - particularly for those without transport. It would provide parents with a reason (and place) to meet. Ultimately, it would make them feel less alone, and more of a part of the wider community. All great benefits in a town where the needs of families has been clearly prioritised in our community plan.

**"FROM BEING A
GOOD WAY TO
SAVE MONEY AND
HAVE FUN TO A
POLITICAL ACT OF
CONSCIENCE AND
A WAY TO BUILD
COMMUNITY."**

HOW?

- Clunes Neighbourhood House will access toys through a scheme with the Ballarat Toy Library and Playgroup Victoria.
- Toys would be provided on a weekly rotation at Clunes Neighbourhood House utilising the Ballarat Toy Library's borrowing system.
- Events to stimulate engagement and address desired parenting topics
- Co-design of space and event program

IMPLEMENTATION?

- Upgrade of onsite storage facilities
- Upgrade of parent facilities
- Marketing, Signage, Media
- Co-ordinator/co-design

FUNDING SOUGHT?

\$12,300 (see detailed budget)

Funding of ongoing costs, after this project has been implemented, will be the responsibility of Clunes Neighbourhood House.

**"CO-DESIGN AND
REFURBISHMENT COMMENCES
SEPTEMBER 2020, LAUNCH TOY
LIBRARY JANUARY 2021"**



A WAY TO BUILD A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY.

By co-locating the toy library at Clunes Neighbourhood House where other community activities and services are delivered, this project will nurture not only peer networks - but also, strengthen links to wider community support. Support such as volunteering and employment pathways, access to #FoodisFree and awareness of other nutrition programs such as Open House Meals, as well as a range of social and fitness activities.

The support benefits of this will increase in coming months thanks to a new collaborative project involving our Neighbourhood House. Recently Neighbourhood Houses in Central Highlands and Health Futures Australia secured funding to explore pathways to health and wellbeing through Neighbourhood Houses - including in Clunes. Out of this project it is likely that Neighbourhood Houses will become sites for prevention and allied health services, as well as other wellbeing and mental health initiatives.

But it is not just the potential of other activities associated with Neighbourhood Houses that makes this approach to implementing a toy library beneficial.

investing in the existing community space available at Clunes Neighbourhood House - primarily through refurbishing and signage - is cost effective and smart use of existing community resources to meet an unmet need.

At a time when finances are tighter than ever before, implementing this project quickly, effectively and safely will provide many families with choices and support that currently they are doing without.



TOY LIBRARY PROJECT BUDGET INCOME

FUNDING\$ SOUGHT	\$12300
CNH CONTRIBUTION	
ADMINISTRATION: 40 HOURS @ \$57.20	\$2288
ENGAGEMENT: 4 HOURS @ \$30.80 X 25 WEEKS	\$3080
TOTAL INCOME	\$17668

EXPENDITURE INCLUDES REFURBISHMENT, STORAGE AND MATERIALS/TOYS.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$17668
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OUR CHILD SAFE CODE OF CONDUCT

At the Clunes Neighborhood House, Child Safety Policy is a critical part of our operations. Our conduct contributes to the safety and support that exists in our community.

Our aim is to nurture safe and supportive networks for children, their families within our organisation, and across community.

All management, staff, volunteers and contractors at Clunes Neighbourhood House are required to abide by a Child Safety Code of Conduct. This means that no person shall:

- Shame, humiliate, oppress, belittle or degrade children or young people
- Unlawfully discriminate against any child
- Engage in any activity with a child or young person, or do things of a personal nature for them that they can do for themselves
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact with a child or young person, or do things of a personal nature for them that they can do for themselves
- Be alone with a child or young person unnecessarily and for more than a very short time
- Develop a 'special' relationship with a specific child or young person for their own needs
- Show favouritism through the provision of gifts or inappropriate attention
- Arrange contact, including online contact, with children or young people outside of our organisation's programs and activities without consent of the child and their parents/guardians
- Photograph or video a child or young person without the consent of the child and their parents/guardians
- Work with children or young people while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs

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