



Hobsons Bay
CITY COUNCIL

Hobsons Bay City Council &
Buloke Shire
Urban Rural Friendship Alliance
“Making it Work”

In the Beginning there was the Word!



- Original Notice of Motion was moved on 27th July 2004
- Informal visits between Councillors and Senior staff occurred during 2004/2005
- 14th February 2006 (Valentines Day) Hobsons Bay Council agrees to form an Urban Rural Friendship Alliance with Buloke Shire
- 5th May 2006 formal signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Councils

Then the Penny Dropped!

- A letter sent to the local press in Hobsons Bay in December 2006 hit the spot
- A call for help from the bush, kick started the relationship
- Hobsons Bay traders and community responded to the request for support to do something!
- Altona, Laverton, Newport and Williamstown traders put in some \$\$\$ to help the Donald traders
- The community put in \$\$\$ and goods to help the Donald community

A hand up, not a hand out!!

- The first non Council contact hit the nail on the head
- The impact of the drought was not only evident and in your face, but was like a cancer that slowly and savagely gnaws away at the very fabric of any body or society
- In the beginning was the word, but now action was needed!

The Christmas Elves of Hobsons Bay



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We Made It!



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Drawing the raffle with the Donald Traders



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What Next?

- Council commissioned local journalists to travel to Buloke Shire and report on what impact the drought was having
- Local accommodation providers host farming families for a well deserved break over January
- Plans are made for Buloke people to come to the Bayside Festival and set up a display to promote the Shire
- The Hobsons Bay community made plans to travel to Buloke

Our New Friends

- The Buloke community invited to the Bayside Festival at Altona
- Buloke & Hobsons Bay Council staff share ideas to refine and streamline Council business
- Connections are made between schools and trader groups in both Council's
- Local press in Hobsons Bay report over 4 weeks on the impact of the drought and the impact on the Buloke community

A Sea of Pink in Altona



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Spreading the Word for the Bush



Carrying the Banner at Bayside Festival



It's a 2 Way Street

- After the visit by Buloke Hobsons Bay set about returning the favour
- The traders and community planned for an outing to show that this was really a 2 way street
- Locals were called to action to sign up for the Push to the Bush to support the Baby Boomers Festival in Donald in April
- The response was great with The Mayor of Hobsons Bay leading the charge

The Push to the Bush

- Hobsons Bay community called to action to attend the Baby Boomers and Country Living Festival in Donald in April
- Support rallied via RSL Clubs, Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre
- Altona, Laverton, Newport and Williamstown traders groups
- Hobsons Bay Mayor leads the group to Donald
- And it Rained and Rained!!!

The Mayors Reid Mather, Buloke & Leigh Hardinge Hobsons Bay



But Wait There's More!!



And More!!



What's Next ?

- Hobsons Bay Youth services to host Buloke Youth end of August
- Altona & Donald Primary School link up for exchanges
- Accommodation packages developed for Buloke people to holiday in Hobsons Bay
- Community Services host Neighbourhood Houses from Buloke Shire

The List Goes On!!

- Laverton community invite Wycheproof to Laverton Festival
- Challenge is issued to Buloke, can you build a better Scarecrow
- Altona Theatre company to do 3 plays each year in Charlton
- Secondary Colleges to link with Buloke Secondary Colleges

How does it Work ?

- Appoint someone in Council to make it happen
- Get the local paper
- Read the Council minutes!!!
- Look at what you do internally and where you can share your ideas
- Cast a Friendship Alliance eye over all that you do in Council
- Importantly “Do something”