



# Smythesdale Botanic Gardens Reserve

## Master Plan finds a way to preserve a much-loved community asset

**Client:** Smythesdale Progress Association, Golden Plains Shire  
**Location:** Smythesdale, Victoria  
**Date:** 2015/16  
**Budget:** \$5k  
**Role:** Consultation, Master planning



### Our Approach

The Golden Plains Shire facilitated this project, supporting the Smythesdale Progress Association in resolving how to plot a future for the historic former Botanic Gardens Reserve.

The gardens were established in the 1860's and show several periods of planting, reflecting its changing use from a primary role in acclimatisation, towards recreational use and decline during the early 1900's.

The Progress Association saw an opportunity to increase visitors to town by promoting the reserve as an overnight stopover for caravans and campers.

Our role was to help the community identify issues and opportunities and then agree on priority actions and a plan for improving and managing the Reserve.

A comment from the client illustrates how a masterplanning process can help to identify key ideas and implementation of the plan over time:

"Thankyou for meeting with us today, I was really impressed by how you managed to bring together such a divergent group with differing opinions and beliefs and incorporate our often conflicting contributions. Nothing like working with a community committee to test your facilitation skills!"

The Master Plan that you have developed for the Smythesdale Gardens is bright, clear and inspiring, We really appreciate your skills and flexibility in accommodating our needs into a most useful document that will assist us in the development of the Reserve, and look forward to involving you further in the micro design of specific areas once we determine our priorities."

Bill Mac Neill, Smythesdale Progress Association,



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