

Upwey - Sit, Meet and Eat Spaces Information Sheet



April 2022

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Reactivation of our Neighbourhood Spaces

As the Yarra Ranges emerges from COVID lock down restrictions, the terrible storms impact on many of our communities and we return to normality our townships are working hard to rebuild.

Part of this recovery is for our local traders and business centers to look at alternatives and options to manage safe distancing while they build their business back.

To help encourage more people to come back into towns Yarra Ranges Council with the support of the Victorian Government, have created several shared community spaces, parklets and temporary dining spaces in towns across the municipality.

As restrictions continue to ease, we are looking at the lessons we have learnt during the last two years and how these might inform possibilities and opportunities to further enhance and stimulate trade in our local neighborhood retail spaces.

Parklets

Parklets were designed as relocatable spaces that provide a space to sit for a while and maybe enjoy some of the local food or beverages.

These unique relocatable spaces cleverly use recycled shipping containers and have been designed to be safe, accessible and a great place to sit with a friend to share a coffee and a chat. Some of the parklets also includes a shade sail and solar lighting.

These nine parklets are currently located in Upwey, Seville, Kallista, two in Sassafras, Olinda, Mt Dandenong, Mt Evelyn and Healesville.

Feedback via the QR codes located on each Parklet help us understand the levels of usage and any concerns and will inform future locations.

Community Spaces

There are four community spaces that have been installed in the Yarra Ranges – Monbulk, Healesville, Sassafras and Warburton.

The installation of these community spaces is designed to encourage people to spend more time in the township, encourage and enhance local trade, take the time to sit and enjoy some of our amazing food or beverages or offer a space for community performance or workshop (Healesville).

Typically, these spaces have been designed to be a vibrant space that encourages people to be there with the use of bright colors, modular seating, festoon lighting, amazing artwork, shade, and artistically inspired layouts.

Temporary Outdoor Dining

To help local business reopen effectively while meeting the State Government operating requirements, Council provided extended outdoor dining options, including temporary car park dining.

This has enabled businesses to expand their outdoor dining options into car spaces and laneways adjacent to their business. This temporary permit has been extended until 30th June 2022.

The Footpath Trading Permit are ongoing and renewable annually. Council has waived fees on this permit until 31st December 2022.

Converting Temporary Dining Spaces

The Victorian State Government has provided funding to Councils to provide minor infrastructure and support that will activate outdoor spaces and re-opening.

The Design and Place team have reviewed the success of the existing temporary outdoor dining spaces including feedback received from business and community and considered how converting some of these to permanent shared spaces might improve community and visitor experience in townships generally.

Upwey has been recognised as a center that would benefit from this State Government funded initiative, with two locations selected for works to be completed by June 2022 are:

- **Upwey - Morris Road – near # 2**
- **Upwey - Main St – near # 56,58 & 60**
- Both these locations have been identified as ideal to create additional shared community space that would be available for activation by businesses through the footpath trading permit because existing temporary dining has been successful in this location
- The use of existing car parking space will have a minimal impact on the location
- The topography of the location lends itself to creating an accessible and safe location
- Traders in the area have shown interest in activating the spaces by applying for a Footpath Trading Permit
- The cost of works to create the space is within the available State Government funding.

Works on these sites will include

- Decommissioning of car parks (Morris Road two, Main St three) – note these are currently occupied by temporary sites.
- Re-alignment of curb and channel around these sites.
- Drainage works.
- The installation of hard pavement.
- Connections and integration work with surrounding spaces.
- All ability access for the areas.
- The installing of barriers with included seating with the option of incorporated planter boxes

We have quite short timelines to plan, design and deliver these works by October 2022.

Working with Upwey Community

To help Council make informed decisions in our limited time frames, we have already begun talking with local traders and the Upwey Community Group to develop the design and placement of these community spaces.

The design fits well with the Upwey Community Plan developed in 2015 from their extensive consultation with the community, particularly the plan's mention of;

- Increasing priority of pedestrians over vehicles.
- Providing focal meeting and conversation spaces in the township.
- Comfortable seating, entertainment spaces, pop-up community and activity spaces.

With our limited timelines, we are unable to undertake a broad consultation process regards these works but are keen to ensure the local community has the chance to share ideas and thoughts that could enhance the project outcomes for Upwey.

While significant changes may be limited by budget and time constraints, we would be happy to hear from you via email: g.deacon@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Upwey - Sit, Meet and Eat Spaces – Project Page

Click the QR Code or follow the link to go to the *Upwey Sit, Meet and Eat Spaces – Project Page*

Here you will find the link to the Upwey Web Page which will include.

- Maps showing the scope of works
- The progress of this project
- Links to feedback and contacts for this project



Head to the Yarra Ranges web page
www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Click the **Development** tab and in the search box type

Upwey – Sit, Meet and Eat

Click the link to go to the page