

MINUTES

Mansfield SIAG Meeting No 6.

Date: 9 June 2026 **Time:** 5.30pm – 6:30pm **Venue:** Library

Present: Brendan Eyssens, Daniel Carter, Miranda Connaughton, Michelle Harmer, Angela Tenbuuren

Apologies: Louise Jenkins, Kate Berg, Paul Allen, Suzanne Green



Item No.	Subject	Actions
1.	Opening of Meeting, Apologies and Acknowledgement of Country	
2.	Review 'Ways of Working'	
3.	General Items ▶ Funding round 26-27 is now open. Applications can be made online, or paper forms can be collected from reception. SIAG members are encouraged to contact any community groups they feel may be eligible. So far, we have received one application, and we will begin reviewing applications from next meeting onwards. Applications close 10th August 2026. ▶ The Volunteer Celebration Event took place on 21/05. We initially offered 60 tickets which sold out within 48 hours, and we then increased capacity to 135. This also sold out and all seats were filled on the night with volunteers from over 60 local groups and organisations. The event was a great opportunity to familiarise the	▶ Members to share funding opportunity and member recruitment with relevant individuals and community groups. ▶ Members invited to attend the Working Dogs Training at Mansfield Showgrounds on 23/06 & 24/06 to spectate and network with community.

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	community with SIAG – it received a write up in the local paper, good engagement on our Facebook page, and positive feedback was received from community members. Lots of community networking took place on the night, a positive step towards SIAG's goal of encouraging community groups to collaborate and work together towards shared goals. • SIAG pens and feedback forms were provided to all attendees, asking three questions about the state of our community and community groups. A report has been made to summarise their responses which was included with this meeting's agenda. There is significant interest in running this event again in 2027, however SIAG will not have the budget for this. We will reach out to other local organisations with large volunteer bases who may be interested in financially contributing to and collaborating on next year's volunteer celebration. ▶ A primary concern that was highlighted via the feedback forms is a lack of younger people getting involved in volunteering, resulting in increased pressure on current volunteers and concern regarding future-proofing our community groups. • It was discussed that this may be because younger people can be time-poor, less financially stable, and may have more commitments. It was suggested that groups could consider offering incentives or removing barriers to volunteering, for example offering fuel compensation, refreshments during meetings, small rewards such as movie tickets, and	

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	coordinating carpooling to make getting to meetings more accessible. There may also be potential in directly approaching high schools, the youth centre, scout groups, and the MACE university group. ▶ SIAG member recruitment is now open on an ongoing basis. Applications can be made online. Flyers are available for members to distribute as desired. To get youth involved in SIAG we may trial different methods of engagement, for example rotating attendance between a group of youth members or directly approaching schools and youth groups to seek new members. ▶ Wawa Biik Cultural Competency Training has been cancelled due to Taungurung Land Council staff shortage. Sally will stay in contact with them in case their capacity increases. ▶ Working Dogs Training is scheduled for the 23/06 and 24/06 and is booked out, including around 25 spectators each day. Sally will seek feedback from attendees using the leftover feedback forms from the Volunteer Celebration. Members are invited to come along to spectate and network. ▶ Transport Initiative workshop took place on 18/05 with representatives from a broad cross-section of the community to discuss how we could coordinate existing resources to improve transport in Mansfield Shire. Discussions are currently underway to determine how we could develop a pilot program to achieve this, with an aim to start with a small and sustainable project that can then be scaled. The workshop also highlighted a need to increase awareness	

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	of existing transport options. An overview report was provided with this meeting's agenda, and we will keep the group updated. ▶ Progress continues on 'Homes for Good', the pilot program partnering those in need of short-term accommodation or who are moving to Mansfield on short-term placements e.g. hospital placements and teachers, with those who have an extra room in their home which they would like to offer at a reduced rate in exchange for companionship and/or assistance. We acknowledge there is lots of potential risk involved in this program, and there will be a long planning stage. Council will contribute to doing the groundwork and risk assessment but are not intending to coordinate the program if/when it launches. We will keep the group updated. ▶ A Local Investment Plan, as required by the Wellbeing Promotion Office (Department of Health), was created and shared with this meeting's agenda. It has been designed to highlight the priorities that guide our SIAG's decision-making process. It was discussed that this document could be given to the groups we fund, provided to new members via the recruitment page, and made available to public (e.g. via library and MACE), to further educate the community about SIAG. ▶ Community Connect Mansfield, the project which MACE received SIAG funding for, is now functional and currently undergoing user testing. A public launch is expected soon, at which point local groups and organisations can enter their details to be included in the register.	

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4.	New Ideas ▶ Query raised about receiving assistance with applying for vehicle registration rebate. It was discussed that Services Victoria/Australia is currently visiting Bonnie Doon (details on Mansfield Shire Council Facebook Post), and there may be someone at MACE who can assist. It was identified that this is a recurrent problem – sharing and accessing information/resources in relation to State and Federal programs, especially for those without the knowledge or access to technology.	
5.	Check in ‘Ways of Working’ – how did we do?	
6.	Next Meeting: 14 July 5.30pm – 6.30pm, Mansfield Library back room	