

# Community Heart in Lilydale (CHIL)

## Precinct Design Framework



### Community Engagement Summary Report

September 2023

# Project Background

A consistent message we hear from the Lilydale community is that the town needs a community focal point, or a heart, where people can meet and gather. In its current form Lilydale is very spread out and needs change to bring things together. To help plan for this, Council is developing a Design Framework that will guide the delivery of community spaces, facilities and infrastructure in Lilydale. This new precinct is referred to as the Community Heart in Lilydale (CHIL Precinct).

A Design Framework for the CHIL Precinct will explore how the different activities can be planned to fit together. It will provide a long-term vision and guidance for setting priorities that inform design options for future developments. The project builds on the [Lilydale Place Plan 2018](#), the [Lilydale Structure Plan 2022](#), and is supported by feedback from the community, local businesses, and draws on technical research and advice.

## Approach

To kick off the project we are asked community to share ideas on what makes a great community. This was considered a soft opening to the project, designed to introduce community to the project, develop followers for the shaping page and start understanding community priorities.

Comments and images were collected from community and shared on the public Shaping Page, which enabled other community members to view, like and add to the ideas.

These ideas and comments were shared in a series of community represented workshops which explored community values in more detailed, formalised a list of values statements and explored how these values could be represented in design outcomes.

The workshops were attended by 50 community representatives that are involved in clubs, organisations and groups or provide community services in Lilydale.

The outcomes of these workshops have been prioritised by the broader community, which will guide and support decision making for the CHIL Precinct Design Framework and future projects to be delivered through it.

## Who we spoke to

Round 1 – Community Thoughts	Round 2 – Community Values
53 online contributions	283 online contributions
37 online comments	348 in person votes
105 votes of support	631 contributions

# What we heard

**Community is concerned about traffic congestion in the centre of Lilydale and would like to see solutions that prioritise pedestrians in Main Street.**

*"Lilydale's Main St needs to become more pedestrian friendly by strongly advocating for a bypass so that we can have lighter traffic flow with no heavy vehicles ripping through."*

*"The traffic congestion problem resulting from the level crossing removal at Lilydale station, needs urgent attention."*

*"So many possibilities, but the essential elements are car-free space with nature, and then space for play and creativity with cafes/restaurants on the edges."*

*"Three foot bridges across Maroondah Highway between Anderson St intersection and the railway station to encourage pedestrian traffic to businesses on both sides would make the town feel less divided."*

*"I would love to see the highway diverted around the Main Street and a meeting place with trees, benches, etc. developed to give our wonderful town a 'heart'!"*



**Public safety and inclusion are important to our community.**

*"A safe environment where anyone feels safe to walk around!"*

*"Where people from all walks of life can connect, enjoy and explore the community in a safe and enjoyable way."*



**Community wants to see more opportunities for community connections and involvement.**

*“Community groups and activities that create connections.”*

*“Provision for community food gardens around the town.  
Such places foster social and emotional well-being as well as nurturing us with good food.”*

*“I would love to see more spaces for community groups and not for profit organisations.”*

*“it might be a series of spaces that foster gathering, connection and celebration, linked by language, imagery and a story woven across our great town.”*



**Beautification and preserving the natural environment and heritage aspect of Lilydale is important to community.**

*“There needs to be more trees planted between the Olinda Creek bridge and the railway station, as well as along John St and Hutchinson St to bring more green space and shade.”*

*“To beautify Lilydale start by maintaining the median strips verges and roadsides.”*

*“A space of connection, open and bold, you can feel the heat of the sun plus find shade. The sound of water and a piece of sculpture that lifts the soul. A place where people connect and share.”*

*“Lilydale still has a sense of country town that should be maintained at all costs.”*

*“The renovation and use of the beautiful old building that was once the White Dog as a useable space would be great.”*

## **The service provision of community infrastructure needs to be increased.**

*"Lilydale urgently needs a community centre - a large building where meetings, exhibitions, events can be held."*

*"Lilydale pool to be accessible year round."*

*"I would love to see a community hub in Lilydale that is accessible, close to Public transport, with a community garden, enough parking."*

*"I think a town square with a Clock would be great place for people to gather, host events, or even people to sit on benches during the nice weather."*

*"It needs a space free of vehicles, where people can gather to play, to be creative and celebrate together, and to include nature."*



## **Kindness and inclusion are important in the development to community spaces in Lilydale.**

*"A lifeblood that energises and activates spaces that speak to diverse groups within our community, and all that honour that sense of connection and home."*

*"At the heart of community for me is caring for each other and the environment we live in."*



**Community wants to see Council is committed to an environmentally sustainable future.**

*“There needs to be more trees planted between the Olinda Creek bridge and the railway station, as well as along John St and Hutchinson St to bring more green space and shade.”*

*“we need to immediately increase tree canopy in Lilydale Main St and surrounds for comfort and life-saving shade, because deadly heat-waves can be just a few seasons away.”*

*“Nature is also what sets The Yarra Valley apart from other council areas, and as such, it should continue in Lilydale city centre.”*

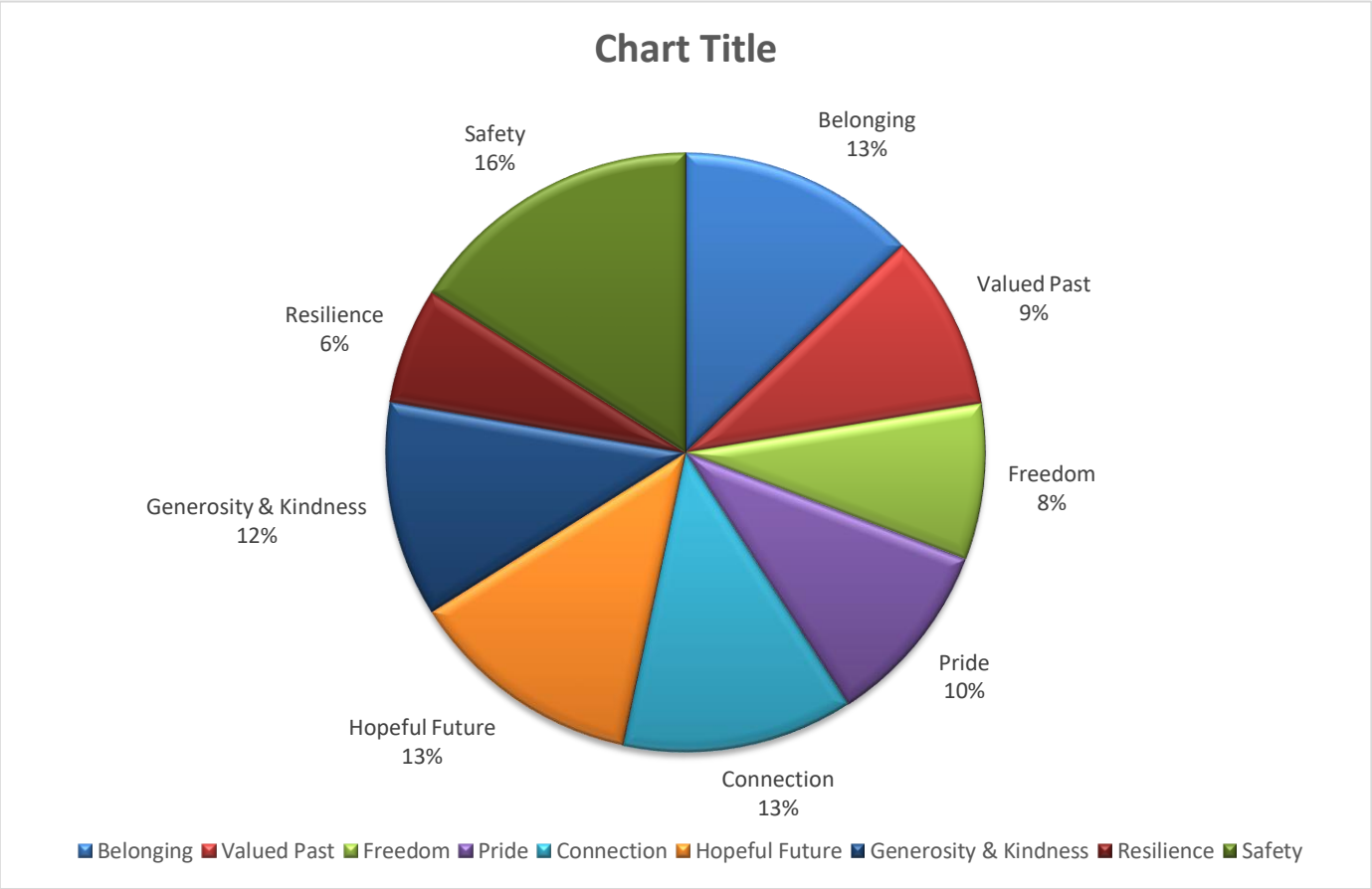
Images provided by community:



# Community Values

Following on from the feedback received in our round one engagement, 50 community representatives from clubs, organisations and groups or who provide community services in Lilydale attended a series of workshops which explored community values in more detail.

In these workshops a list of community values for Lilydale were formalised and explored as to how these values could be represented in design outcomes. These Community Values have been prioritised by the broader community through online and in person voting. The prioritised Community Values will sit within the Precinct Design Framework to help guide decision making and design outcomes for future projects.





## Safety

### Culturally, Socially, and Physically Safe

Lilydale will create safe gathering spaces with enhanced public facilities and improved access to services to promote public safety, while also providing inclusive public areas that celebrate diverse cultures and beliefs to improve emotional safety and greater understanding within the community.



## Belonging

### Inclusion, Diversity, Accessibility and Equity

Lilydale's development should prioritise and promote inclusive and accessible shared spaces that encourage understanding, respect, and celebrate diversity, to ensure equal access to services for all members of the community.



## Connection

### Community Centre

A community centre in Lilydale should unite people, activate intergenerational connection, embrace the local essence and heritage, while offering inclusive facilities and services for all, including shared multipurpose spaces with convenient access to public transport and parking.



## Hopeful Future

### Environment and Sustainability

Lilydale's community facilities and gathering spaces should embrace and preserve the natural environment by incorporating sustainable designs, technologies, and building practices, while also preparing for the impacts of climate change to create future-proofed facilities that respect and nurture local resources such as Olinda Creek and native trees.



## Generosity and Kindness

### Contribution to Community

Lilydale provides and promotes opportunities for volunteering, education, commercial sponsorships, and inclusive community involvement, with a particular emphasis on intergenerational engagement, to highlight the value of community contribution to our young people.



## Pride

### Sense of Community

That the community takes pride in the inclusive gathering spaces and infrastructure that promotes community connection, minimising physical barriers for pedestrian movement, reflects the history and cultural diversity of the town, and ensures activities and events have a visible presence.



## A Valued Past

### Culture and Heritage

The development of community spaces and infrastructure in Lilydale should honour and celebrate its history, building community respect for local culture, pride of place, and preserving the area's heritage to enhance Lilydale's identity as a valued destination.



## Freedom

### Gathering and Movement

The development of Lilydale's town centre focuses on pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, prioritising safe and accessible connections while redirecting heavy traffic.

With adequate facilities and inclusive public spaces for a growing community that increases connection and opportunities for events.



## Resilience

### Enduring Change and Challenges

Lilydale will become an environmentally, socially and economically resilient community with equitable access to quality services and employment opportunities.

The natural environment will be supported, as we develop sustainable infrastructure and services to ensure community resilience to economic and environmental challenges.