Heathcote: A healthy, vibrant, resilient and enterprising community and economy
Heathcote is located on Taungurung Country, however today we are gathered on Wurundjeri Country. We acknowledge their continuing connection to land, water and community and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.
“The future of every community lies in capturing the passion and resources of its people.” Ernesto Sirolli
Our journey...

- Statistically rated as one of Victoria’s most disadvantaged communities
  - Dropping Off The Edge: Mapping Disadvantage in Australia
  - SEIFA Index

- Deficit focused community culture

- Paradigm shift needed:
  - from ‘clients / consumers’: done to / for
  - to ‘deciders / producers’: done with / by
Our capacity building focus

- 2014-2017 Community Plan = paradigm shift key opportunity
- Community wellbeing and liveability overarching theme ... because who doesn’t want that?
- People: our greatest asset (passions, knowledge and skills)
  - Governance: Advance Heathcote Inc.
  - Extensive (and assertive) community outreach to establish Community Plan priorities / actions
  - Theme champions
  - Working groups (time limited)
- Outcome reporting = ‘runs on the board’ celebrations and ‘can do’ mojo fertiliser
Our ‘can do’ mojo

- Wait for no cavalry! We are the deciders and producers of our own future

- Our mojo ingredients:
  - vision
  - grit
  - resourcefulness
  - resilience

- Connectors and leaders: support
HEATHCOTE DEMENTIA VILLAGE (HDV)

“A Village within a Township within a Region”
POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

Ongoing, Collaborative & Translational Research
Onsite research capacity

Ongoing Workforce Development
Onsite workforce trials, teaching & training capacity

Scalability & Replicability
Model development & designs for communities of different sizes & locations

Advocacy & Influence
Driver for equity of access to quality care for people with dementia & their carers
Partnerships

• La Trobe & Swinburne Universities on dementia research (e.g. VERILY)

• Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership on dementia care pathways

• DHHS and Applied Aged Care Solutions on dementia readiness in public sector residential aged care facilities

• Dementia Australia on community & business dementia training programs

• Bendigo Kangan Institute on volunteer pathways

• Royal Flying Doctor Services Victoria on community transport

• Bendigo Health Carer Support Services on supports for carers of people with dementia
Ripple effects; health and wellbeing, employment and economic growth

Children’s Services
- Counselling
- Early Intervention
- Maternal Health Nurse
- Speech Pathology
- Visiting Paediatrician

Programs
- Literacy & Language
- Parenting Skills

Long Day Care
- 76 Placement
- 3 & 4 kindergarten
- Creating 35 jobs

Ripple effect for surrounding communities (Axedale Tavern = 150 lunches).