

Bendigo Community Food Hub

Community bulletin #1

March 2023



We are writing to you following the City of Greater Bendigo recent decision to lease 1-5 Belle Vue Road, Golden Square to Bendigo Foodshare and relocate the Bendigo Pony Club to upgraded facilities at another location.

While everyone who volunteers and works at Bendigo Foodshare are excited to have moved one step closer on our important journey to build a new home for Bendigo Foodshare, we appreciate this may raise questions for you as a local resident.

After almost 10 years serving the Central Victorian community, at Bendigo Foodshare we have outgrown our current location in Havilah Street, Long Gully and are in desperate need of a new warehouse to meet rapidly increasing demand for food relief. The City of Bendigo have been working to find a new location for Bendigo Foodshare over a long period and have identified the land at the corner of Bellevue Rd and Breen Street as meeting our needs. We have been advised by Council that the Bendigo Pony Club have agreed to relocate to the Goornong Recreation Reserve as part of this process.

While our initial focus is on building a much-needed new warehouse on a small corner of the overall site, we look forward to working with the Golden Square community over the longer term to plan what the remaining space can look like and to ensure it meets the needs of the wider community. Our vision is for a food hub and open, green space where people can come together to access locally grown produce, and learn to grow and share food.

The warehouse will be positioned nearest to the commercial precinct on Breen Street. The rest of the site will remain available for the community to use safely.

About Bendigo Foodshare:

Bendigo Foodshare sources donated and rescued food that would have once ended up in landfill. 240 volunteers help Bendigo Foodshare distribute this food to vulnerable people each week across Central Victoria, through 80+ food relief programs in schools, kindergartens, childcare centres, large charities, and smaller community and church groups.

Last year, Bendigo Foodshare sourced over 740,000kg of food and distributed this to an estimated 30,000 people seeking food relief via community agencies across central Victoria. Bendigo Foodshare is largely volunteer ran and our volunteers are working in cramped, less-than-ideal conditions.

We are community led and committed to ensuring we add value to our community. We have played an important role in providing food to flood impacted communities in Rochester, Echuca, Kerang and others impacted over the past month and will continue to support these communities as the long road to recovery begins.



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While we have a vision to develop a food hub on the site, we are committed to consulting with the Golden Square community at that time to ensure we are responding to the needs of the community.

More information:

Attached to this bulletin is the architect's approved building design and a map of the site location.

We encourage you to visit our website www.bendigofoodshare.org.au/foodhub which has a range of FAQs responses with more information about the project and about Bendigo Foodshare.

If you have questions that are still unanswered after reading this information, we encourage you to email us at info@bendigofoodshare.org.au or call us on 5444 3409. Volunteers help to answer our phones and if they are unable to assist, they will pass your contact details onto our CEO, Michelle Murphy, who will be happy to call you back.

We encourage you to also follow the Bendigo Foodshare Facebook page where we will regular provide updates as construction gets underway.

We look forward to keeping the community informed about this exciting new project.

Board

Bendigo Foodshare

