Bendigo Foodshare Community Food Hub Masterplan Update

Community Bulletin #5 – October 2026

Dear Neighbours,

We are pleased to share the latest news from Bendigo Foodshare's Community Food Hub at the corner of Breen Street and Belle Vue Road, Golden Square.

Since our last community bulletin in April, there has been exciting progress across the site as our long-term masterplan begins to come to life.

Our site has a new name

Our Community Food Hub is now officially named Dhelkunya Balak, meaning 'nourishing community' in the Dja Dja Wurrung language.

Developed in partnership with DJAARA, the name reflects the purpose of the Food Hub and the deep cultural history of sharing food, caring for Country and nourishing community. It represents our vision for a welcoming place where people can access, learn, celebrate and connect through food.

The new name and DJAARA sign were unveiled in June, together with a timber gateway and fence created by local sculptor Linton Torr and newly landscaped area. The gateway is based on artwork by Djarra and Yorta Yorta woman Melissa Taylor and celebrates traditional foods found on Djaara Country.

What else has happened since April?

Other completed works include:

- Completion of a large food-themed mural on the garden shed that was co-designed and painted by students from Bendigo Senior Secondary College's NETschool, the City of Greater Bendigo's Youth Services team and local artist Angela Dunstone.
- Installation of 11 raised wicking beds made possible through the generosity of local individuals, businesses and community organisations.
- Planting of 525 native trees and shrubs with community members through National Tree Planting Day.

What's happening in 2027?

Construction will commence early in 2027 of a commercial kitchen adjoining our existing warehouse. Supported through the Australian Government's Growing Regions Program, the kitchen will help us turn more rescued and locally grown food into nutritious meals, along with being an education space for schools and community groups to participate in cooking. Construction will also commence on a enterprise shed to the rear of the warehouse.

Construction will also commence on a nature play space, an outdoor classroom and a yarning circle. These new spaces are being funded by a $250,000 grant through the Victorian Government's Pick My Park funding.

Help shape these new community spaces

We are now inviting community members to help shape the new spaces funded by the Pick My Park grant, including the:

- nature play space;
- outdoor classroom; and
- yarning circle.

We are working within a fixed budget and site area, so your feedback will help us understand how people may use these spaces and the features most important to prioritise.

We invite you to complete this 5 minute survey to help inform how you or your family may use the new spaces. Please scan the QR code to complete the survey. All responses are completely confidential. **Survey closes: Sunday 18 October 2026.**

Thank you for helping shape Dhelkunya Balak!

We look forward to keeping you informed as work continues. We ask you to bear with us while these works are underway. Most of the site will remain available for public use, and we will work to minimise disruption wherever possible. However, for everyone's safety, please take extra care when walking through or visiting the site and follow any construction signage or temporary access changes.

Previous community bulletins and information about the Food Hub masterplan are available through the Bendigo Foodshare website - bendigofoodshare.org.au/foodhub

For further information, please contact us at info@bendigofoodshare.org.au.

Warm regards,

Sue Clarke
Chair, Board of Directors
Bendigo Foodshare