

# CASTLEMAINE HOT ROD CENTRE

# induction

The Voice of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre

## Property Negotiations Reaching a Climax



For some time the Board of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre have been negotiating with the owner of the property that looks most promising as a site for the Hot Rod Centre. This has been a delicate and time consuming process but we are now very close to signing an agreement.

Basically the wording of the Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed upon and a timeline established for the process. All that is left to do is to finalise valuations on the property and include that in the agreement. Once that is done we can sign a contract and the real work on establishing the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre on its own stand alone site

can begin. Phase one of that process will be to conduct the marketing exercise that is designed to link all potential partnership organisations into the project and to pursue the planning amendments that will be required.

Our appreciation goes to Wayne Street of Street Ryan and Associates and Ron Waters of LMSW Lawyers both of whom have been involved with many aspects of the Hot Rod Centre for some time and who were able to assist both parties greatly with the property agreement.



## Website Redevelopment

Recently the decision was made to give the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre website a complete revamp through the services of Green Graphics, a local web development company. As this issue of Induction goes to print the new, very professional looking website, is very close to completion. All relevant information about the centre is included in the website including every issue of Induction. Check it out at: [www.castlemainehotrodcentre.com.au](http://www.castlemainehotrodcentre.com.au)

## NSW Inspection - AELEC

In the last issue of Induction we made mention of the AELEC at Tamworth in NSW. This facility incorporates several aspects that align with our vision for the CHRC project so a visit was arranged by Chairman, Larry O'Toole on his way home from the Valla Rod Run in early October. The following is Larry's report from the visit.

CHRC Visit to AELEC  
October 12, 2009  
Tour of facility hosted by  
Janine Scott.



The centre has four full-time staff (seconded from council and/or contracted) and one trainee.

The AELEC came about due to pressure on ageing and inadequate local facilities and a need to be more professional in staging events. There is a very large equine industry around Tamworth contributing over \$45 million to the local economy each year. The establishment of the AELEC has taken 15-20 years to become reality. The centre was jointly funded by Federal Government, NSW State Government and Tamworth Regional Council. Total cost to date is \$30 million.

The main stadium has seats for 3300 people in 25 bays of plastic seats that don't have drain holes – a problem when cleaning. Trade areas are located behind the seating areas and on the mezzanine level. Some trade sites have internet connections included.

The VIP area is at the opposite end of the stadium to the entry area on a mezzanine level where catering facilities are also provided for 210 people. Caterers need to bring all equipment in with them. There is a kiosk and bar at one end and a coffee shop alongside the entry area.

At the end of the main arena is a round building that serves as a sales centre that holds 562 people with separate auctioneers booth jutting into the arena. The bar is licensed but operated by an outside contractor. Two event management offices are located alongside the catering area and these can be used as temporary first aid centres as well. A dedicated first aid area is located at one end of the arena with direct access from the arena itself. Lighting and sound systems for the main arena and the sales centre is all

computer controlled from a central point. Some of the under arena area is able to be used for storage of vehicles and equipment and a large area underneath the floor is taken up by yards for the pre-staging of animals while events are in progress.

Outside areas include a Camp Draft area with grassed hill for spectators. Outside animal yards are versatile and can be linked in various ways to allow safe and speedy transfer of animals from one area to another, or into the arena. Six covered stables designated A-F hold 478 horses and these stables are also convertible through the design of removable yard panels for various different uses. Toilets and laundries are located at the ends of the stables.

Farthest from the main entry to the arena is a separate building housing the education centre with tiered seating in a lecture theatre that holds 44 people. Large doors allow vehicle and animal access to this area and the room is equipped with washing facilities and plenty of lockable



storage drawers and cupboards. Toilets and a veterinary room are included in this building as is a kitchenette for smaller events and use by TAFE etc.

A semi-circular bitumen sealed road extends around the outside of the centre with marked parking bays for competitor parking and camping. Some facilities are provided for campers but not extensive at this point.

Currently AELEC is owned and operated by the Tamworth Regional Council but their intention is to change to a board of management as the CHRC is already using.

Suggestions from Donna Ausling who has been involved in the project for some years:

Make sure the architect is a "collaborator", not a "teller". Pay attention to visitor comfort – air conditioning, heating etc. Bend over backwards to treat people right – the equine



industry has a history of bad experiences.

Attract and utilise visionary people – the way things have always been done isn't necessarily the right way!

## Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program

Each year the The Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program (LMCLP) is conducted in the Central Victorian region and Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre representatives are called on to explain our project to the participants.

On September 28 this group visited Hadfield's Hot Rods as part of their Innovative Communities Tour where Rod Hadfield spoke on the local hot rodding industry as just such an innovative community and Larry O'Toole gave a talk on the

development of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre concept. Since its inception in 1998 the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program Inc (LMCLP) has inspired and assisted hundreds of people from all walks of life to make a significant difference in their local communities and the wider region.

The Program helps participants build leadership skills, explores the major issues facing the north central region of Victoria, and facilitates positive change.

## RDV Funding

The Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Limited has an application with Rural Development Victoria for funding to facilitate the next major phase of operations for the Hot Rod Centre. This will involve visits to our various proposed partnership bodies and associations by consultant, Wayne Street, to firm up all of their input and operational arrangements. Recent contact with the department indicated this application should be dealt with between now and the end December, so it looks like being a busy start to the new year.

## Future Meeting Dates

In the last issue of Induction we listed the General Meeting dates for CHRC meetings for the next 12 months but a changes became necessary for the meeting proposed for February 5, 2010 due to a clash with the Queenscliff Rod Run. This meeting will now be held on Friday January 29, 2010 at the Wesley Hill Hall in Castlemaine. All members and their guests are welcome to attend the General Meetings, but only CHRC members can vote on motions put to the meeting.

Future meeting dates of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Limited will now be Friday January 29, 2010, Friday April 23, 2010 and the AGM will be Friday June 25, 2010. All of these meetings will be held at the Wesley Hill Hall Castlemaine commencing at 7.30 pm unless advised otherwise.

For further information call (03) 5472 3653 or (03) 5472 4116.

# Inspection Developments



**Left:** Alterations to the trade wing at the Castlemaine Secondary College are being undertaken to incorporate extra equipment in the automotive section which will be available for use as an inspection and certification facility in conjunction with the Castlemine Hot Rod Centre.

**Below:** Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Board Members met with Castlemaine Secondary College VET Automotive teacher Anthony Van Emmerik, Goldfields LLEN Project Officer, Gary Griffin together with Local VASS approved engineer Peter Turner and ASRF Victorian TAC Chairman Con Mantzaris to discuss equipment purchases for the joint vehicle inspection/certification and education program to be launched at the College.

Funding for the re-equipping of the automotive section of the Castlemaine Secondary College is now in hand and alterations to the area are under way. Since the application for this funding was made there have been some staff changes at the college and some additional requirements had to be incorporated in the automotive section to meet occupational health and safety requirements.

A new principal has been appointed at the college and recently CHRC Chairman Larry O'Toole met with her to provide a briefing on the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre and to outline how our inspection and certification service would work in conjunction with the college. The OHS inspection resulted in some changes being needed to the automotive section of the college and these are currently under way. As a result the commencement of the inspection and certification services has been delayed slightly but we are still hopeful of having it all in place very early in the new year.



## Pledge Form

Let your actions speak louder than words. Let's not wait for others to make our good ideas happen.

I want to be part of Powering Castlemaine an initiative of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Limited in partnership with Bendigo Bank and Bendigo Community Telco.

### Banking

Do you currently bank with Bendigo Bank?  Yes  No

Would you like your account linked to the Powering Castlemaine Project?  Yes  No

I would consider transferring banking business to Bendigo Bank.  Yes  No

### Supporter Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to CHRC. PO Box 1080, Castlemaine Vic. 3450