

Bendigo Bank to enable continuity of access to council services, and the Romsey Library was housed in a portable building in the existing car park.

The opening of the hub

On July 10, 2008, the Romsey Community Hub was officially opened by the Victorian Minister for Local Government, Richard Wynne.

The library at Romsey continues to be operated by Mitchell Shire Council on behalf of Macedon Ranges Shire Council, however Macedon Ranges has significantly increased funding for the library's hours, from 16 hours per week to 41.5 hours per week, and the vastly increased library shelf space provides for approximately 10,000 books, rather than the 5000 books on display in the previous library.

Cobaw Community Health Service is providing podiatry, physiotherapy and counselling services from the Romsey hub, and Kyneton and District Health Service is providing a weekly ante-natal clinic.

Romsey Community House is currently providing training and certificate courses, health and wellbeing classes, leisure and

hobby group sessions and a life skills program.

The Romsey playgroup meets at the hub four days each week, and the toy library is available throughout the week.

Also available are six computers available for internet access, and meeting rooms that can be booked for community and commercial use.

The hub provides a base for Meals on Wheels delivery and serves as a visitor information centre.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council	\$880,370
Victorian Government's Community Support Fund	\$490,000
Victorian Government's Living Libraries grant	\$250,000
Sustainability Victoria	\$50,000
Federal Government	\$475,673
Total	\$2,116,043

Table 1: Funding for the \$2.1 million Romsey Community Hub

Recognising the benefits of partnerships Macedon Ranges Mayor, Cr Noel Harvey, said: "This community hub is a great credit to a number of people within council and the community who have worked in partnership on this project since the initial concept was discussed in early 2005".

"What we see today also reflects a significant financial investment – by council and the state and federal governments," he said.

Cr Harvey thanked the Bendigo Bank for providing space and facilities to enable the council to retain a customer service officer within Romsey throughout the building's redevelopment.

Ward councillors for the area serviced by the Romsey Hub – councillors Henry Bleeck, Geoff Neil and Sandra McGregor also emphasised the importance of the many partnerships that were integral to the planning, funding and delivery of the facilities and services that are now available.

Article contributed by Macedon Ranges Shire Council. For more information phone the council's Director, Community Wellbeing, Anne McLennan, on (03) 5422 0224.

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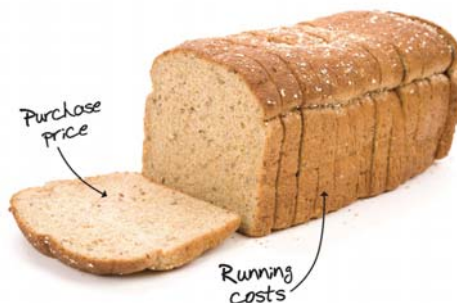
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