



CAST: (back) Adie Noona, Jayde Lorient, (front) Gemma Bridges, Isabella Silvey and Anna Reynolds have already won roles in the Wizard of Oz. **Picture:** Kate Healy

Ideas collated for old yards

BY JOLYON ATTWOOLL

A NEW market, open space or recreation area: these are a few of the ideas put forward by neighbouring residents and business owners for the future of the old Latrobe Street saleyards.

The site was decommissioned last year following the opening of the extended new saleyards in Miners Rest in October and has lain unused since.

Now a new background analysis paper by Melbourne-based urban planners Mesh Planning is out.

It outlines the suggestions gathered at the end of last year, as well as the "challenges and opportunities" for the area's development.

According to a snapshot of feedback received from 74 contributors, the saleyards should be earmarked for community purposes, a market place or a recreation area.

Others also urged for the extension of Gillies Street through the saleyards site to Latrobe Street, which would return the street layout to its original format. Currently the north-to-south running Gillies Street is blocked off at the old saleyards.

The historic use of the land - which served as the region's main animal saleyard for more than 150 years - should also be acknowledged, other commenters suggest.

The paper also refers to

"some significant unresolved structural issues", but there is no detail included yet on the measures required to decontaminate the site.

As well as the contamination, other potential complications include the layers of bluestone on the site.

The paper also considers a wider "study area" for the Latrobe Street Saleyards Precinct Urban Renewal Project. This included improving access to Victoria Park to the north, as well as potential developments and changes in other areas of land surrounding the saleyards.

The saleyards site is crown land, which means the state government would need to be consulted over its use.

The next stage of the process will be to present a framework plan, followed by further community consultation and the plan being considered by council.

A previous timeline which suggested a final plan would be released around mid-way through this year has now been replaced. There is no specific schedule currently outlined.

A community information session will be held at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, 11 Tuppen Dr, Sebastopol this Wednesday July 17 (5.30 to 7pm).

See <https://mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/latrobe-saleyards> for more details.

Dreaming of roles on yellow brick road

YOUNG Ballarat performers dreaming of hitting the big stage have the chance to audition for a Melbourne arena spectacular production of the Wizard of Oz.

Auditions will be held in Ballarat next month for any young performers wanting to take a trip down the yellow

brick road. Ballarat Centre for Music and the Arts students Adie, Jayde, Gemma, Isabelle and Anna have beaten their fellow performers to the punch, having already auditioned in Melbourne and won places in the cast.

"Some of our students performed in the arena produc-

tion of Grease last year, and went to Canberra as well, and we tried to get the production company to come to Ballarat for auditions last year ... but this year they approached us to come to Ballarat for auditions," said BCMA owner Paula Heenan. "We will have probably

50 of our students audition, but hopefully there will be around 200 from Ballarat."

Auditions, which will be held at BCMA in Victoria Str on August 4, are open to people who will be aged eight to 21 in July 2020 when the production will take place. Register online for auditions.

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