



**Panoramic:** The view from the new mountain bike lookout at Kialla.

Pictures: Julie Mercer

# A garden full of possibilities

EXCITEMENT AT LANDFILL SITE'S TRANSFORMATION GROWING

By Darren Linton

The former Kialla landfill site is still a dusty and dry mound of earth but it is fast being transformed into a major attraction.

A challenging double-black mountain-bike course is almost complete but the remainder of the site is still to be transformed into a major dry climate garden linked by walking trails, a wetland and a scenic lookout from a raised stone platform on the eastern end of the hilltop.

Greater Shepparton City Council is holding a Community Open Day at the site on January 31 to encourage residents to visit the site which over time will become a major community asset.

Councillors and staff will conduct guided tours of the site between 11 am and 12.30 pm to help visitors envisage the transformation of the dusty hill into a community space full of native and exotic plant species capable of surviving in the harsh, exposed environment.

Councillor and passionate gardener Jenny Houlihan was itching to get her green thumbs dirty yesterday and expects there will be hundreds of residents equally keen to play a part on the development of the gardens.

"I believe there are people already who want to be friends of the gardens, there is a lot of scope for community involvement," she said.

"This is where they think council should develop the area for," Cr Dobson said.

The draft plan for development of the large public space off Riverview Dve is available from the council website at [www.greatershepparton.com.au](http://www.greatershepparton.com.au) and the date for public feedback has been extended until February 15.

Greater Shepparton Mayor Geoff Dobson said he expected many people to attend the open day because of the significant public interest in the site.

"I strongly encourage anyone with an interest in the area to come along to the open day to have their say on the concept plan and what

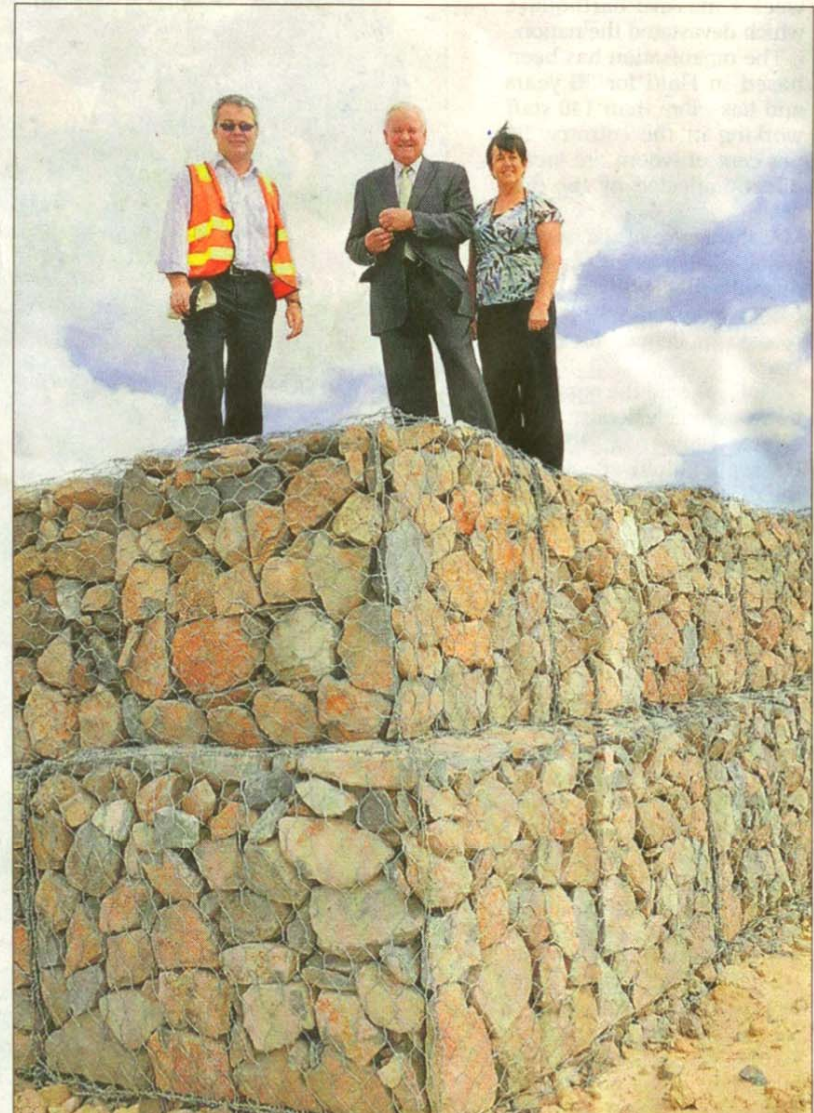
they think council should develop the area for," Cr Dobson said.

The Kialla tip closed more than 20 years ago and the council was required to cap and stabilise the site as part of its final decommissioning.

Cr Dobson said what is emerging from the former tip is a multi-use facility with active recreation, a lookout, wetlands, walking trails and a dry climate garden spread over 23 km and linked into the city's shared path network.

"This will be one of the best rehabilitation sites anyone could see anywhere in Victoria," Cr Dobson said.

Council is also holding a re-naming competition for the former landfill site.



\* Article courtesy of Shepparton News January 20, 2010 Page 4.

**High hopes:** Council's manager waste and open space Graeme Long, Mayor Geoff Dobson and Councillor Jenny Houlihan at the Kialla site.