

## **EASTERN COMMUNITY PANEL (ECP)**

As you can see elsewhere on this page the East Community Panel is hosting another of the popular Produce and Gardening Swaps in Clunes Park on Saturday March 16 between 9am and noon. This is the fourth swap that has been held and they are a great way of swapping excess produce and anything else that is garden related. A more comprehensive list is in the advertisement. Even if you have nothing to swap just come along and pick up something you like or just have a chat and get to know your community.

The East Community Panel was set up initially as a conduit through which the local residents could advise Lismore City Council on the opinion of the community on various subjects and also the infrastructure that was desired to keep the rural areas strong and growing. The East Community is one of several panels set up within the shire borders and includes the areas of Repentance Creek, Rosebank, Corndale, Clunes, Eltham, Bexhill, Richmond Hill and Lagoon Grass.



Over time the existing committee could see a need for ways to encourage community members to meet others in their area and thus foster better understanding and friendships. The creation of closer connections leads to a happier and more cohesive living environment. In past times the East Panel has hosted a community day in Clunes Park to assess priorities to take to LCC, two Trivia Nights (Clunes and Eltham), an Art Show (McLeans Ridges), Family Fun Day (Bexhill), a roadside walk as well as the abovementioned produce swaps.

Unfortunately over time the number of people on the panel has dwindled due to ill health and members moving away from the area. More interested people are needed to help keep the organisation going and to assist with the staging of events. The time required is very minimal so if you could help it would be very much appreciated. Talk to someone at the produce swap or phone 0400 118 494 or 0422 007 724.

The panel has plenty more ideas in store to keep the momentum going but just needs a few more bodies to make it happen. Suggestions include repeats of the successful events already held plus a community garage sale, talent quest, music/food night, community picnic, scenic walks - the list goes on.

As the population of our area grows and life in general gets busier the opportunities to interact with our neighbours become far fewer and so people tend to feel more isolated which is the complete opposite to the reason most of us choose to live in a friendly community in the first place.

More info - <https://yoursay.lismore.nsw.gov.au/join-your-local-community-panel>

