

Murmungee & Bowmans Forest Community Plan 2009/2010

What is community planning & what does the Murmungee & Bowmans Forest community hope to achieve?

A Community Plan talks about the key issues facing a community and recommends strategies that Council and/or agencies could implement to address your identified needs.

The community hopes to achieve clear, defining boundaries with appropriate signage. A greater emphasis will be placed on capturing and preserving the history of the district. Community pride will be achieved through enhancing the local community facilities.

Profile

Murmungee is 33.4km east of Wangaratta and 15km west of Myrtleford. The district is geographically known as the Murmungee Basin contains Granodiorite, a rare form of granite.

Bowmans Forest and Murmungee are of equal importance and represent a strong farming culture. The area received a Landcare State Award which demonstrates their commitment to sustainable farming practices.

Recently impacted by the Beechworth fires Feb 2009 and previously in 2003.

Background

The community gathered for a meal and planning session on Friday 28 August 2009. At this meeting, the priority needs and champions to progress the projects were identified.

Mapping the Community...

What Community Groups exist?

Bowmans-Murmungee CFA & Junior Brigade

Red Cross

Burgoogee Creek Landcare Group

Bowmans Murmungee Hall Committee

Old Murmungee Hall Committee

Pony Club Tennis Club

Bowmans Forest Cemetery

How do locals communicate?

CFA phone tree & modules & pagers

Burgoogee Creek Landcare Newsletter

Community facilities...

Old Murmungee Hall

Bowmans-Murmungee Hall

Bowmans-Murmungee CFA Brigade

Rail Trail

Tennis Courts

Murmungee Recreation Reserve

What Community Events are held?

Xmas Tree event

Annual Spring Ball

Red Cross Luncheon

Girls Night Out

Pony Club Training Day

Junior CFA Event

Australia Day Event

Tennis Competition

Port & Pudding Night

Landcare AGM Dinner

What Memorials exist in your community?

Oldest & continuous fire brigade in Victoria

Original fire cart

Old Murmungee Hall (Heritage listed)

Bowmans Forest Cemetery

Stone monument – Buckland Gap Road

Honour Board



Services available to residents...

Mail delivery –
Murmungee (from Beechworth)
Bowmans Forest (from Whorouly)

Local Businesses

Spindrift Weaving Studio
Food & Fibre production
Clem's Shed
AC Dunling – fertiliser
DJ, MT & RJ Ferguson Hay Contractor
Architect – Anderson Wonnachott Pty Ltd

Where do residents access schools, shops & services

Wangaratta, Myrtleford, Beechworth
On the border of Alpine Shire – schooling
Myrtleford, Wangaratta & Whorouly
Phone & mail comes from Beechworth & Whorouly
CFA region 24 – Wodonga

What attracts tourists to your area?

Cycling – rail trail & road bikes
Car rallies
Landcare field days
Hang gliding
Hunt Club

What are the key features of your area?

Topography
Murmungee Basin & Granodiorite
Highest uptake of solar domestic in Australia
Strong community groups



Artist- Alan Phillips.
www.alanphillips.com.au
Murmungee Lookout

Existing Plans & Strategies

Landcare local Area Plan
Fire Prevention Plan

Community Planning Meeting Friday 28 August 2009



What is great about Bowmans Murmungee?

Bowmans-Murmungee Hall & Old,
Murmungee Hall, Annual Ball, Community events, people/community spirit and sense of humour, environment, tennis court, pony club, fire brigade, community groups: Red Cross, Landcare, CFA, Tennis, Recreation Reserve, cemetery, Pony Club
Location & proximity to other towns
Bike trail, inter-generational mix, topography, history & tradition, talented local people, Clem's Shed, the name's good "Bowmans Forest" & "Murmungee"
Inclusiveness – mix of new comers & longer term locals
Connection between Bowmans Forest & Murmungee, Burgojee Creek, Burgojee Band, Volunteerism - high rate
Food, wine & music, agricultural products, helping neighbours, space, lifestyle & weather

Themes from the meeting – table based discussion

Residential addresses are confusing and incorrect

Seal roads – tidy up

Tourist route

Masterplan for hall & surrounds

Bus service & bus stop C524

Hall kitchen

Aged care facility

Energy – alternative & renewable fuels, private & business transport

Internet & technology at the hall

PCs – courses, access and hub at the Hall

Evacuation Plan/Refuge area/access

Tree pruning

Underground power

Bus stop (regular) at Old Murrumungee Hall

Bike track along Buckland Gap Road & Horse Track

Toilet at cemetery

Kitchen at hall improved (Bowman-Murrumungee)

Information signs about community (interpretive boards & information shelter)

Signs (improved & new ones) eg Bowman-Murrumungee

Community billboard

Preservation of agricultural land

B-Double access is limited – Council permission required

Tree height clearance for all trucks

District signs needed on Great Alpine Road

Family/entertainment/community nights (a couple of times per year)

Film nights & bushdance

Rail trail – bike track

Safety – dog leg before crossing the main road

Designated access to quarry in regard to gravel trucks

Improve toilets at cemetery

Minimal increase in housing

Sustainability in housing – energy & fire risk

Choice of schools

TAFE needs to be of university standard

Bus stop on Beechworth & Myrtleford Roads – road upgrade needed

Fire danger signs needed on rail trail

Improve maintenance of old hall

Major upgrade on exterior & interior of

Bowmans Murrumungee Hall

Try to maintain ground cover

Co-operative bulk marketing of agricultural products

Community events help maintain volunteerism by keeping the interest of the younger generation eg sporting events etc

gravel roads need to be graded twice a year

New kitchen at hall – infrastructure

Signage – need signage

Rating to be applied to income not valuation

Determine subdivision opportunities

Maintenance of agribusiness

Maintenance of roadside

Hard rubbish collection/better value for rates – free tickets to tip

Improved transport – train, improved roads

Monitor conditions of roads & trees for safety & prioritise

Stopping lanes & lookouts

Extreme bike tracks

New kitchen at Hall

Strategic plan needed so there can be allocation of funds for maintenance

Buses – charge imposed for certain schools

Tennis court lights

V-line bus – accessing it from Beechworth

Road with pick up opportunities and improvements to designated stops, especially for kids

Roads – standard of maintenance needed & short term fix sometimes adopted over long term

Painting for the hall – eg artwork

Replace asbestos panels in walls of hall

Stable communities preferred over transient people coming and going
Energy sustainability – incentives so that ES is adopted
Demographic difficulties – eg getting enough of a particular age group so a sporting team can be formed.



Fire quilts presentation to those impacted by the February 2009 fires



Neta Witherow's cream puffs!

\$5,000 Community Planning Grant

The attendees suggested projects for consideration for the \$5,000 grant:

- Masterplan for hall
- Bi-fold doors
- Old hall maintenance
- Toilet @ cemetery
- Outdoor community seating
- Solar light at tennis courts
- Newsletter

The community decided to allocate the \$5,000 to the Old Murmungee Hall for maintenance.



Christine Nixon, VEBRA –Bush Fire Recovery visit
Friday 27 November 2009

1. Rural landscape & Environment

Priority Need	Who will champion?	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder
Energy Sustainability Renewal	Narelle Scapin John Rouch Howard Brown Landcare Group	To establish a sustainable community around energy and hot water production	A solar neighbourhood	Farm Ready Steering Group Landcare DSE VFF
Zoning & Water Sub-division Hard rubbish	Denise Noel Gordon	To review existing rural/township zonings	Zoning reflects existing development and allows for future town development	RCOW - Planning Unit Environment Unit RCOW

2. Community – Young, Senior, Families, New residents

Priority Need	Who will champion?	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder
Old Hall improvements	Denise Rae	To maintain the OH&S standards	Hall improvements established.	Heritage Victoria RCOW - Infrastructure Unit
Hall – Toilet Kitchen Masterplan Asbestos Insulation Communication Larger site?	Gordon Anderson Lorna Neary Ron Ferguson Lyn Brown Hall Committee	To provide a community centre with modern capabilities to service the community needs. To develop the hall and its surrounds as a relocation centre at times of crisis.	Hall & surrounds upgraded.	RCOW Hall Committee Champions
Information & Interpretive Boards	John Rouch Noel Bennett Cemetery Committee	Preserve & promote local history	Establish interpretive/information boards at cemetery & toilet	Public Records Office Victoria FRRR RCOW
Older people - Aged Care facility	Howard Brown Dot - Red Cross	To provide independent living options for older people	Establish 8-10 independent living units in the Whorouly township	HACC Villa Maria Anglican Church RCOW

3. Economy – how can be develop business opportunities?

Priority Need	Who will champion?	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder
Agri-business Profitable Preservation	Judy Griffiths Cecily Fletcher Noel Bennett Landcare	To encourage sustainable agri-business and preserve agricultural lands		Alpine Valley Agri-Business

4. Safety & Accessibility

Priority Need	Who will champion?	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder
Transport	Howard Brown John Rouch Jane Witherow	To enable locals to connect with Vline travel to Melbourne or Sydney without having to leave vehicles in Wangaratta.	Bus stop at Old Murrumgee Hall a few times per week.	Vline Dept of Infrastructure RCOW - Infrastructure Unit
Bike/Horse Track	Alex Ferguson Jane & Kate Witherow	Provide safe, accessible tracks for recreation	Horse track along bushland and bike lane on Gap Road	
Communication Broadband	Jane Witherow Ken Fletcher	Provide improved communication coverage to the area	Mobile & internet coverage established	RCOW Optus (infrastructure) Telstra

5. Infrastructure – roads, signs

Priority Need	Who will champion?	Aim	Goal	Stakeholder
Roads	James Neary Chris Griffiths Noel & Rosey Bennett	Maintain and improve all gravel roads and extend sealing to unsealed roads.	Gravel roads are graded at least twice a year (Neary's Lane has the most houses on an unsealed road)	RCOW
Signs	James Neary Chris Griffiths Noel & Rosey Bennett	To improve directional and location signage Remove road signage anomalies	District signage & locality signs for Murrumgee & Bowmans Forest Road signs reflect correct naming on maps	RCOW Australia Post
B-Double Permits	James Neary Chris Griffiths	To expand the B-Double permitted road zones in	Expanded B-double road zones in the	VicRoads-State Wide Permits

Compliance & safety Inspections	Noel & Rosey Bennett	the district to meet the growing demand on b-double haulage.	Murmungee District. Widespread approval.	RCOW RDV
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COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Murmungee and Bowmans Forrest- COMMUNITY PLANNING

Strategy #1: To establish a sustainable community

Rural landscape & Environment

COMMUNITY ISSUE	2030 COMMUNITY VISION LINK	COUNCIL PLAN LINK	STRATEGIC PLAN LINK	STAKEHOLDERS
To establish a sustainable community around energy and hot water production	<p>Explore creative opportunities and partnerships to implement Ecological Sustainable Development principles within the community in the most cost effective way.</p> <p>Promote a culture of environmental sustainability in all operations areas of Council</p> <p>Assist community to achieve energy saving target.</p>	To reduce impact of Councils activities and provide leadership in sustainability by demonstrating best practice. -promote a culture of environmental sustainability in all operational areas of Council.	Sustainability Management Plan Victorian Local Sustainability Accord	Farm Ready Steering Group Landcare DSE VFF
To review existing rural/township zonings	<p>Deliver the recommendations of the Agricultural Land Strategy, including the outcomes from the Rural Landscape evaluation (distinction between the farming landscape and the natural landscape) and supporting a variety of agricultural industries which can all contribute to the liveability and identity of this Municipality.</p> <p>Deliver zoning changes</p>	To undertake a strategic approach to land use planning to provide balanced outcomes for growth, existing land use. -Develop an overall housing/population growth strategy. -As part of the community planning process, develop structure plans for individual townships.	Rural Towns Development Review Wangaratta Planning Scheme High quality agricultural and rural residential strategy	RCOW

	through the Planning Scheme			
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Strategy #2: To improve our community facilities and preserve and promote our history.

Community – Young, Senior, Families, New residents

COMMUNITY ISSUE	2030 COMMUNITY VISION LINK	COUNCIL PLAN LINK	STRATEGIC PLAN LINK	STAKEHOLDERS
Old Hall improvements – to maintains the O H and S Standards		To support our community to be resilient. -Continue to upgrade facilities to ensure communities have access to a place to meet for social, recreational and learning opportunities.	Rural City of Wangaratta Heritage Study Asset Management Plan	Heritage Victoria RCOW
To provide a community centre with modern capabilities to service the community needs. To develop the hall and its surrounds as a relocation centre at times of crisis.	Resolve future of key community facilities.	To support our community to be resilient. -Continue to upgrade facilities to ensure communities have access to a place to meet for social, recreational and learning opportunities.		RCOW Hall Committee Champions
Preserve and Promote local history. Establish Information & Interpretive Boards	Apply the Heritage Overlay into the non urban areas. Commence a community wide collection of oral and written accounts of historical events and features – Capture the record and publish it using emerging technologies.	To establish a preservation program for cultural and built heritage. -Work with the communities in townships to identify and preserve local character.	Rural City of Wangaratta Heritage Study	Public Records Office Victoria FRRR RCOW
To provide independent living options for older		To support families, older people and people with	Community Wellbeing plan.	HACC - RCOW Villa Maria

people - Aged Care facility		disabilities to actively engage and participate in their community -Encourage independence Develop plans for affordable housing opportunities and seek funding		Anglican Church 1.
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Strategy #3: To ensure economic viability in a sustainable way.

Economy – how can we develop business opportunities?

COMMUNITY ISSUE	2030 COMMUNITY VISION LINK	COUNCIL PLAN LINK	STRATEGIC PLAN LINK	STAKEHOLDERS
To encourage sustainable agri-business and preserve agricultural lands	Deliver the recommendations of the Agricultural Land Strategy, including the outcomes from the Rural Landscape evaluation and supporting a variety of agricultural industries which can all contribute to the liveability and identity of this municipality Work with Landcare, DPI and NECMA to ensure good community understanding of soils and soil behaviour and ability to monitor and improve soil health	To undertake a strategic approach to land use planning to provide balanced outcomes for growth, existing land use, environment, - Implement the agricultural Land Strategy.	Agricultural Land Study and Strategy	Alpine Valley Agri-Business RCOW

Strategy #4: Provide safe and accessible recreation facilities, activities, transport and communication

Safety & Accessibility

COMMUNITY ISSUE	2030 COMMUNITY VISION LINK	COUNCIL PLAN LINK	STRATEGIC PLAN LINK	STAKEHOLDERS
To enable locals to connect with Vline travel to Melbourne or Sydney without having to leave vehicles in Wangaratta	<p>Develop a strategic plan for transport and traffic improvements and planning from recommendations of the transport and traffic study.</p> <p>Work with other levels of government and community agencies to identify and address transport issues</p>	<p>To investigate and implement infrastructure opportunities that support community aspirations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue to work with the Transport Connections Project to develop a Transport Action Plan and address identified public and community transport gaps. To support the development of integrated health provision to maximise the health and wellbeing outcomes for the community -Establish a community well being advisory committee to – transport -Partner with neighbouring municipalities and other agencies to advocate for flexible transport options to support identified need. 		Vline Dept of Infrastructure RCOW
Provide safe, accessible tracks for recreation	Revise, update, implement and regularly evaluate the Rural City of Wangaratta Recreation Plan.	<p>To encourage the greater use of recreation facilities including formal sports facilities, open spaces, shared paths and aquatic centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develop an action plan to promote cycling and walking as an alternative to vehicle use, including bike tracks 	Rural City of Wangaratta Recreation Strategy.	

		Promote opportunities for nature based recreational activities.		
Provide improved communication coverage to the area	<p>Review and utilise developing technology.</p> <p>Continue to seek more creative ways to communicate with groups who do not often engage.</p> <p>Promote personal communication.</p> <p>Support the development of locality based websites/domains</p> <p>Support and promote Government Broad Band provision for rural areas.</p>	<p>To invest in and deploy proven Information Management Systems to ensure effective access to information and services.</p> <p>-Investigate opportunities to provide improved telecommunications into the Rural City of Wangaratta comparable with metropolitan access</p>		<p>RCOW</p> <p>Optus (infrastructure)</p> <p>Telstra</p>

Strategy #7: To ensure that roads and signage meet community need.

Infrastructure – roads, signs

COMMUNITY ISSUE	2030 COMMUNITY	COUNCIL PLAN LINK	STRATEGIC PLAN	STAKEHOLDERS
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	VISION LINK		LINK	
Maintain and improve all gravel roads and extend sealing to unsealed roads.			Road Management Plan	RCOW
To improve directional and location signage Remove road signage anomalies				RCOW Australia Post
To expand the B-Double permitted road zones in the district to meet the growing demand on b-double haulage.		Investigate and implement infrastructure opportunities that support community aspirations. -Undertake a preliminary transport and traffic study to examine the overall needs of the Rural City of Wangaratta.	Road Management Plan Road Side Management strategy	VicRoads-State Wide Permits RCOW RDV