

MURTOA

Adopted July 2013

2013

Community Action Plan

COMMUNITY VISION

A township and district that is economically and environmentally sustainable, vibrantly exciting and appealing for potential new residents.



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Murtoa

OUR COMMUNITY

The town of Murtoa is situated 30 kms East of Horsham in the Wimmera district and relies on the regional centre for employment and higher order services. The town, with a population of approximately 800 residents provides many jobs for local residents but also acts as a commuter town to Horsham. Like most towns in the Wimmera it is largely dependent on the prominent agricultural grain industry. Murtoa located on the Adelaide / Melbourne rail line and the Wimmera Highway, has the State's largest inland grain receival centre.

The major employers in the town are Murtoa College (many staff commute into town), Graincorp, K& J Baker cartage Pty Ltd, Solomit Industries, Schier Cabinet Makers, and Dunmunkle Health services (Community Health Centre).

Murtoa is well serviced for a small community with a post office/ newsagency, CBA Bank (with ATM), Community Health Centre, a retail sector including IGA Supermarket, Thrifty Link Hardware and Rural Supplies, Chemist Depot, Butcher, Hotel (with TAB facilities), a Milk Bar and takeaway shop as well as a range of other retail services.

Trades businesses include mechanical repairs, electrician, plumbers and builders.

The town has excellent educational facilities – Murtoa College P-12 state school and a Catholic Primary school.

The town also boasts a range of sporting facilities including a 25 metre swimming pool, four new tennis courts, bowling green, 18 hole golf course (sand scrapes) football and netball and race course.

Three significant land marks are – Lake Marma, the Heritage Victoria listed “Stick Shed” (formerly used for grain storage) and the Water Tower Museum.

Lake Marma, centrally located within the town, is an important habitat for wildlife and a beautiful recreational asset for the community. Its future is now assured as it has been granted an annual allocation of recreation water from the Wimmera Mallee pipeline system. The Caravan Park, operated by the Yarriambiack Shire, is situated on the shores of Lake Marma.

The Stick Shed (circa 1941), which is Heritage Victoria listed has recently been restored. This has been the result of the community taking action to have it preserved as a unique example of Australian architecture and its significance to the important grains industry history and development. The community would like to exploit the great potential which the stick shed has to draw visitors to Murtoa.

The Water Tower Museum (circa 1886), originally a water supply for steam engines and the town, is a relic of the town's strong association with the railways. It is currently the Murtoa Historical Society's Museum and houses a unique collection of taxidermy prepared by a former pioneer Mr James Hill and many local artifacts.

Murtoa is host to a highly successful annual festival each October, Murtoa's Big Weekend. It attracts large crowds and includes many events held over three days including the Agricultural & Pastoral Society Show, an art exhibition, Dunmunkle Sumpoilers Rally and the TAB race meeting featuring the Murtoa Cup.

OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

This plan has been prepared by the community and Murtoa Progress Association Inc. with the assistance of the Yarriambiack Shire Council. The SHARE (Sustainable Health Adaptable Resilient Engaged) Program is jointly funded through the Department of Planning and Community Development and Yarriambiack Shire Council.

Community projects are essential to maintain and develop rural townships and enhance lifestyle for residents.

The Community Action Plan was drafted to detail how the vision and ideas articulated by the community could be achieved.

We can use our Action Plan to:

- Enable all community members to have a voice;
- Organise project plans;
- Display community planning;
- Promote individual projects for prospective funding;
- Connect with stakeholders; and
- Inform Local Government of proposed projects.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US

- Providing opportunities for community participation
- Supporting a sense of belonging and connectedness to our friendly and safe community.
- Supporting opportunities for employment, businesses and tourism.
- Working together on community projects and having a place to meet our family and friends.
- Ensuring people have access to appropriate services.
- Identifying and responding to the aspirations of our community.
- Providing a variety of sporting, recreation and leisure activities for all our residents.
- Enhancing our environmental sustainability so we can make a difference and create a sustainable future for generations to come.
- Maintaining our community assets and infrastructure

THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION'S COMMUNITY ROLES

In addition to our community priority projects, we also have a number of other ongoing roles that are important to us.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER

- The committee is responsible for publishing the local newspaper, the 'Murtoa & District Advertiser' which is printed at Donald each fortnight.

MANAGING TRUST FUND

The committee manages the 'Blight Trust Fund' on behalf of the community, from which the interest from the invested funds can be applied to projects promoting Murtoa.

MURTOA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION GENERAL ROLES

- The committee performs a number of roles to help the community generally such as co-hosting the annual local Australia Day awards ceremony, assisting with the financial management of the local skate park, and by providing administrative support of the Murtoa Amateur Drama Society.

OUR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The following projects have been gathered from community ideas presented in community postcards distributed in September 2012, discussions with members of the Murtoa Progress Association and from previous community consultations.

PRIORITY PROJECTS ACTION PLAN

Project	Key actions	Key stakeholders	Status
Barrabool Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate Reserve's potential for region. Form working group to scope initial ideas and develop plan. Include track from Lake Marma to Barrabool 	Parks Vic Murtoa Progress	To be commenced. Conceptual stage – Steering Committee to be formed
Big Weekend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued support, marketing and funding to develop the event 	Murtoa Neighbourhood House S.L.A.A.M Murtoa Progress	Ongoing project
Caravan Park Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install Dump Point General refurbish & upgrade of amenities and facilities Construction of cabins Promotion and marketing to attract additional visitors to town Grassed areas 	YSC Murtoa Progress	Ongoing project Quotes and funding needed for works
Community Gym	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a community gym at the Recreation Reserve 	Recreational Reserve Users (MMF&NC)	Planning stage Clarify status with reserve committee
Community Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued support, management upgrades and further development 	YSC Murtoa Progress	Ongoing project
Community Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued maintenance and promotion Facebook 	Murtoa Progress Community Members	Completed
Former School Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire to re-zone land for sale & development for residential or commercial premises 	YSC Education Dept	Awaiting Ministerial approval for the rezoning
Lake Marma Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued support for the ongoing development and facilities 	Lake Marma Committee of Management DSE	Funding required
Medical Care Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate whether visiting medical services can be increased / improved 	YSC Dunmunkle Health Service	Ongoing

Neighborhood House	<p>Support initiatives run by the Neighborhood house to assist :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education • Personal development • Social inclusion 	<p>Murtoa Neighborhood House (SLAAM) Murtoa Progress</p>	<p>Ongoing project</p>
Post Office Ramp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of a ramp at the Post Office to provide adequate access for all patrons 	<p>Murtoa Progress YSC Post Master</p>	<p>Plans completed Funding required Submission lodged</p>
Transport services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate increasing/improving current public bus service to Murtoa • Promote volunteer driver opportunities for the Dunmunkle Health Services Transport Program 	<p>YSC Murtoa Progress Dunmunkle Health Services</p>	<p>Current service 3 days/week, at various times</p>
Rabl Park & Wayside Stop Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking tracks • Paving upgrade around amenities • Signage upgrade • Landscaping • Review initial Rabl Park Plan • Tourist information self serve kiosk 	<p>YSC Murtoa Progress</p>	<p>initiation stages Project planning Funding required</p>
Stick Shed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Committee of Management • Finalise official access to the site • Establish opportunities for use • Promotion and marketing 	<p>Heritage Victoria Murtoa Progress Stick Shed Steering Committee</p>	<p>Planning required</p>
Streetscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of Murtoa Streetscape Plan - obtain quotation • Review of street tree policy 	<p>Murtoa Progress YSC VicRoads</p>	<p>Quote from consultant required Funding required</p>
Sporting Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade change rooms and construct first aid room at Swimming Pool • Install new synthetic green at Murtoa Bowling Club 	<p>Swimming Pool CoM/YSC Murtoa Bowling Club/YSC</p>	<p>Planning and funding required Funding submission lodged</p>
Arts/Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish local Arts committee/body to facilitate/promote artistic endeavors within the community 	<p>Murtoa Progress Murtoa Neighbourhood House (SLAAM)</p>	<p>Convene group</p>

MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the community action plan or would like to be involved in community activities here are some useful contacts.

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