



19 JUNE 2019

MURTOA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION



Our Community Plan

Murtoa Lakeside Town Moving Forward

Murtoa residents were surveyed through a letter box drop and online surveys. A summary of the 59 responses received portray Murtoa’s strength, assets, challenges and vision in this Community Action Plan 2019-2023.

The Murtoa community has achieved many great things in the past five years when reflecting on the last community action plan, including successful completion of listed projects such as the Lake Marma redevelopment, the new Neighborhood House building, refurbished Murtoa Railway Station, and multiple upgrades to sporting facilities.

“Murtoa is a safe place to raise children with schools and a supportive community”

Murtoa is a proud lakeside town, located on the main rail line from Melbourne to Adelaide. Our vibrant community benefits from being located close to Wimmera’s regional centre of Horsham. On the Silo Art Trail, our own tourist attractions include the Stick Shed (National Heritage listed Murtoa No.1 Grain Shed), the museum precinct (Water Tower Museum, Railway Station & Concordia College [first Lutheran college in Australia]) and Lake Marma managed by a local Committee of Management, complete with the Caravan Park [operated by the Yarriambiack Shire Council].

The town is central to the farming community and agricultural industry, with some major employers, excellent schools, services, retail sector and key trades available. The diverse community and sporting facilities are managed and maintained to a high standard by volunteers. Connectivity to NBN along with Telstra and Optus towers enhances business and social opportunities.

OUR COMMUNITY

Murtoa is a beautiful lakeside town in the heart of the Wimmera on the Silo Art Trail and home to The Stick Shed.



Population

865



Median Age

48
(State avg 47)



Private Dwellings

364
= 80% occupied



Median Household
Income

\$911
(State avg \$1,419)



Volunteered

in 12 months
38%
(State avg 19%)

Source: ABS Census 2016

OUR STRENGTHS

- **Our People & Community Spirit**
- **Forward thinking, driven, community that gets things done**
- **Rural Lifestyle and Location**
- **Local Businesses & Shopping has all the essentials you need**

OUR ASSETS

- **Local Businesses, Local Services & Local Employers**
- **Lake Marma**
- **The Stick Shed**
- **Tourism & Public facilities**
- **Community Events**
- **Strong farming culture & Agriculture Industry**

OUR CURRENT CHALLENGES

- **Small businesses able to continue & expand**
- **Accommodation for sale, rent, for elderly and for visitors**
- **Local access to healthcare, Doctors and Childcare**
- **Centre of town needs a boost. Revive the main street.**
- **Build population - Attract new people and keep people here**
- **Employment opportunities**
- **Infrastructure upgrades and maintenance**
- **Inclusion, cohesion, engaging youth & supporting new ideas**
- **Access to community funding**
- **Volunteer fatigue**
- **Development opportunities**

OUR FUTURE CHALLENGES

Frequent future challenges the Murtoa community raised in 2019:

- Growing Our Community: Keep people in Murtoa & attract new people to Murtoa
- Support local businesses and attract new businesses
- Retain & build services (health & child care)
- Maintaining & improving current infrastructure
- Space for furthering development, industrial and tourism opportunities

OUR OPPORTUNITIES

Ideas raised in the community survey that we, together with our Murtoa Progress Association, can explore together:

Basic Services

- ❖ **Child Day Care centre developed** for community. There is a huge demand for it and the only family day care in town is going to shut down shortly. There is a huge demand and wait list for take a break so the demand is there for a day care. Sufficient resources locally.
- ❖ **Access to health services** locally, including access to Doctor supported and advocated for
- ❖ **Invest in quality housing development** for all demographics (including rentals). Accommodation desperately needed (housing & rentals)
- ❖ **Minimise the drugs boom** and the effects it has on small communities.
- ❖ **Manage feral pigeon population**

Community & Network Opportunities

- ❖ **More community Events / Sponsor more community events** to promote social inclusion – Like the BW Family Fun Night and Look over the Farm Gate events. Perhaps there could be 3 per year? This fits with the stated Shire plan.
- ❖ **Youth engagement** improved, including develop meaningful youth engagement activities
- ❖ **Sustain community groups** and maintain and support volunteers, including more easily accessible **funding** for community group
- ❖ **Town strategic plan** developed that is holistic
- ❖ Have **coordinated group** with representatives for all groups work together to support each other, share skills, resources and promote develop Murtoa.
- ❖ **Public gym** to encourage fitness
- ❖ **Promote Murtoa** in Horsham as a great place to live
- ❖ **Youth activities:** bumper cars, lazer tag and circus

Infrastructure Opportunities

- ❖ **Footpaths improved.** Pedestrian, gopher and pram safe footpaths eg Lake, Degenhardt and Comyn Streets. With the recent dry conditions, it appears there has been more movement in surfaces (cracking, lifting and dropping) and further action is required for public safety.
- ❖ **Street Scape improvements.** Paint the shop facades of McDonald St (all private, but for public benefit)
- ❖ **Street trees** in areas where this is practicable and needed. Appropriate selections to avoid causing hazards. The Shire could assist with planning and residents could assist with watering to get them established. E.g. McClintock St. from the highway to Breen St. is one area for consideration.
- ❖ **Review town entrances** from north, south, east and west and consider any ways to enhance further. I acknowledge the new signs are a significant improvement. Perhaps drought tolerant garden with a few striking specimens, may help create a lived-in feel??
- ❖ **Maintaining current infrastructure** - a lot of buildings in town are going to need work in the future, where does this money come from? + roads. Footpath access for disabled.
- ❖ **Flooding at pool entry:** Water, even from moderate downpours, has been unable to drain away from the Swimming Pool entry area.. With the rebuilding of the facilities at the pool it would be great to get the areas outside the pool hot mixed with a drain that can cope flooding.
- ❖ Maintaining clean and regular **lake supply**
- ❖ **Get Wi-Fi**
- ❖ Install a **toddler playground**
- ❖ Improve **public transport** (including rail)
- ❖ **Maximise use of limited resources** by seeking creative ways of sharing resources rather than replicating facilities: costs of maintaining and developing local infrastructure can be a problem.
- ❖ **Bus shelter** in Marma St built as a second shelter

Economic Development Opportunities

- ❖ **Local business supported** through initiatives developed to support and boost local businesses. Promote shopping local ("look local first"). Business thrives, they employ more people, more people come and spend in town, community thrives. It's simple but hardly ever acknowledged
- ❖ **Business investment encouraged**, use recent case studies.
- ❖ Attract new **employment** to Murtoa
- ❖ **Become a tourist destination.** Murtoa as a lifestyle location promoted for commute and quality of lifestyle. Enhance tourism and do more to promote the town and maximise impact of tourism for benefit of local economy. Set up an tourist information centre
- ❖ **External perspectives.** Interesting to get perspectives from non-locals or former locals. They can often see things that we don't. e.g. great features that we take for granted or don't notice. Comments left on social media, visitor books or in passing, may give useful insights.
- ❖ **Marma Gully** - identify use, purchased by community funds & generate income for community

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- ❖ seek more **young families**
 - ❖ **Promote an agribusiness** that value adds to local produce and would provide employment and boost economy via flow on effects. Farms getting bigger - loosing families from district
 - ❖ Make the **caravan park** bigger
 - ❖ **Lake development** potential: café/bar
 - ❖ **Free camping options.** Travelers have several options for ‘free camping’ in this region and elsewhere. This would make Murtoa another option for some travelers who have self-sufficient rigs. Some have already found spots around Murtoa to stop overnight for free.
 - ❖ **Food.** Coordination of business hours to try and ensure access on long weekends and public holidays.

OUR MURTOA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The Murtoa Progress Association has represented the Murtoa Community since 1888. The Association acts as a town committee with the multiple purpose and benefits including

- A consultative platform for the Yarriambiack Shire Council (Raise issues & concerns)
- Publish our local fortnightly newspaper the “Murtoa and District Advertiser”
- Promote and support local businesses
- Facilitate town beautification projects
- Promote tourism, arts and cultural events
- Support and enable Community Leaders
- Co-Host the annual Australia Day awards ceremony in Murtoa with the Yarriambiack Shire
- Manage the Murtoa Website and Facebook page
- Update and review the Murtoa Community Action Plan as a consultative process

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Email: murtoaprogress@gmail.com

Website www.murtoa.net **Facebook** www.facebook.com/murtoa

OUR COMMUNITY PROJECTS (2019-2023)

	Organisation/Club	Project / Issue	Summary	Need	Who will be Involved	Project Timeline	Comments	Contact	Email Address	Phone #
1	Murtoa Bowls Club	Demolish and rebuild men's toilets.	The current men's toilet is in serious disrepair. It is fragile and is not suitable for the elderly or people with disabilities to use safely. We would like to demolish the current toilets which is detached from the main clubhouse. We would then extend the club house to include the toilet in the main building. This would require us to move tanks and some plumbing and walking paths.	There is a risk to our members and visitors health and safety.	Murtoa Bowls Club Yarriamblick Shire Council	Ideally now but if funds are not available before the bowls season (September).	We are a small club but with a growing membership. We need to upgrade our facilities to continue to attract membership.	Tony Baker		0407840514
2	Murtoa Tennis Club	Future funding for final top surface of Court #3 to finalise newly funded asphalt works. Lighting update to existing light towers, and installation of additional lighting towers to light up other two courts.	Future funding for top surface of Court #3 (low slip synpave acrylic court surface and final line marking) will finalise the newly funded asphalt works. This will complete the overall project and assist the Lake Recreational Reserve's beautiful appearance with a complete and attractive tennis arena. Additional lighting update to existing lighting of Courts #1 and #2, and installation of additional lighting towers to light up #3 and #4 for a possible (more efficient) night competition.	A Friday night competition is being considered to replace Saturday afternoon tennis due to increased Saturday commitments of players. The shift of the standard tennis format is hoped to attract new players of varying skill levels to enjoy tennis as a fun sport and further enjoy the recreation reserve at Murtoa. The need for quality lighting and surface of Court #3 will complete the tennis arena in Murtoa and set up this sport for future generations.	Club members will research required equipment for additional lights and source quotes. Tennis Victoria supported the importance of Court #3	The top coat (low slip synpave acrylic court surface and final line marking) ideal to be laid soon after asphalt works (to be completed by end of 2019).	Thank you for the opportunity to express projects that Murtoa Tennis Club members wish to improve for their Club.	Natasha Pietsch	tony-tash@bigpond.com	0418 587 789
3	RSL Murtoa Branch	Seating at Memorial Gates. Upgrade lighting at Memorial Gates.	Place bench seating along the wall at the memorial for public use and reflection. Upgrade the spot lights from Halogen to LED.	To make the precinct more user friendly for the aging population. LED lighting to save on power and extend the life of the globes.	Murtoa RSL	No time line. When funding is available.		Terry Tyler	rsl@murtoa.com	0428852285
4	Individual	upgrade toilets in Marma St	Many people visit Murtoa since Stick Shed & Silo Art Trail have become popular. Also, locals on their walks around lake, etc.	toilets not up to today's standard. No mirror & sanitary arrangements could be much better. Too dark on entering.	Shire. Murtoa Progress Association	As soon as possible		Local resident		
5	Individual	Lack of childcare	Current family day care provider is having to sell. She is the only provider of full Fay care in the town	Women in particular with young families and are looking at their options for child care and some will choose to work in Horsham if child care is not available locally.	Yarriamblick Shire, Uniting Horsham and any one interested.	ASAP	Need to look at infrastructure available and if this could be utilised for child care. I.e. as an extension to kindergarten	Tracey Chenoweth	tracec2460@gmail.com	0428857015

6	Murtoa & District Historical Society Inc.	Railway Station Landscaping	Hot Mix and an extension to our picket fence and matching picket gates	Beautification of the area	Historical Society	2019-20		Peter Adler	murtomuseum@outlook.com	0498391408
7	Murtoa & District Historical Society Inc.	Railway Station security lighting	Security lighting installed to enable quick access in the evening	Safety. Access to building at night time.	Historical Society	2020		Peter Adler	murtomuseum@outlook.com	0498391408
8	Murtoa & District Historical Society Inc.	Historical Precinct signage and information boards	Replica original railway station installed, Cordia College information board and signage.	Information signage	Historical Society	2020		Peter Adler	murtomuseum@outlook.com	0498391408
9	Murtoa & District Historical Society Inc.	Concordia College Repairs	Highest priority for the Historical Society	Preserve Murtoa's cultural history / Australia's oldest higher educational institution	YSC	ASAP	in Community Action Plan for over 5 years. Unsuccessful with grants	Peter Adler	murtomuseum@outlook.com	0498391408
10	Murtoa & District Historical Society Inc.	Water Tower Museum Assessed for structure repair needs	Professional assessment of state of the windows and brick work and associated schedule of works to be undertaken.	Preserve Murtoa's cultural history	Historical Society	2020		Peter Adler	murtomuseum@outlook.com	0498391408
11	Individual	Public places to tether dogs	A suitable place to tether a large dog outside the Commonwealth Bank	the only possibility is around a pole in Cromie Street and then I rapidly run out of dog lead as the pole has a large girth	Murtoa Progress Association . YSC	ASAP	Keep up the wonderful work you are doing and a very big thank you to you all	Dr. Jan Schmidt-Loliger	loeliger@bigpond.com	
12	Individual	Public gym at Lake Marma	Encouraging people outside for fitness. Add strength training to your fitness program.	Strength training is important for all, but particularly as we get older, for strong healthy bones and improved balance. Meet and chat with likeminded community while getting fit	Maree Baker. Lake Marma COM			Maree Baker	mabaker3@tpg.com.au	0474 648 399
13	Dunmunkle Sumpoilers (Vintage Machinery Restoration)	We need a new more attractive entrance that is safer for the public	We need our own gateway so we don't go through Sheirs Cabinet Makers yard	The public have to come through Scheir's property and we feel this could complicate any incident on the property. It would be better for us to have a better system for entry to our Rally at the Big Weekend.	Sumpoilers	Soon	Our future is a concern, because of the age of a lot of the members, so we need young people to get involved	Graham Gellatly	gellbrooklu@bigpond.com	0429944300
14	Dunmunkle Sumpoilers (Vintage Machinery Restoration)	Signage improved for road	Need sign to compliment our existing sign from other direction		Sumpoilers	Soon	Our future is a concern, because of the age of a lot of the members, so we need young people to get involved	Graham Gellatly	gellbrooklu@bigpond.com	0429944300

15	Swimming Pool Committee	Computerised water testing system	Reduce man hours and therefore cost of running pool, by installing a computerised water testing system. Water testing is required four hourly every day	reduce the running costs of our local swimming pool, a necessary but costly facility for our local community, in our hot summer climate	Swimming Pool Committee	5 years		Maree Baker	mabaker3@tpg.com.au	0474 648 399
16	Swimming Pool Committee	Installation of solar panels to reduce power expenses	the committee has applied for government funding for this project, and is waiting to see if we will be successful. If not, we still wish to plan for solar panels	reduce the running costs of our local swimming pool, a necessary but costly facility for our local community, in our hot summer climate	Swimming Pool Committee	5 years		Maree Baker	mabaker3@tpg.com.au	0474 648 399
17	The Stick Shed COM	Redevelopment of info centre office and toilets	Redevelopment of info centre office and toilets		The Stick Shed COM			David Grigg	stickshedcom@gmail.com	
18	The Stick Shed COM	Landscape pond and surrounding area	Landscape pond and surrounding area, including between pond and service rd, aeration of pond		The Stick Shed COM			David Grigg	stickshedcom@gmail.com	
19	The Stick Shed COM	Entrance widened	Widening of entrance drive	Dual carriage way	The Stick Shed COM			David Grigg	stickshedcom@gmail.com	
20	The Stick Shed COM	Ambulant golf cart	Purchase ambulant golf cart	Enable access for all visitors	The Stick Shed COM			David Grigg	stickshedcom@gmail.com	
21	The Stick Shed COM	Event infrastructure	Greater infrastructure for events, including audio visual	Support events in the Stick Shed	The Stick Shed COM			David Grigg	stickshedcom@gmail.com	
22	Murtoa Showyards COM	Second netball court	Second netball court	Standards for netball	YSC, Murtoa Showyards COM			Brian Storey	storeybrian@outlook.com	
23	Murtoa Showyards COM	Women's change facility	Women's change facility		YSC, Murtoa Showyards COM			Brian Storey	storeybrian@outlook.com	
24	Murtoa Showyards COM	Raised seating for court/s and oval	Raised seating for court/s and oval		Murtoa Showyards COM			Brian Storey	storeybrian@outlook.com	
25	Murtoa Showyards COM	Upgrade community centre	Upgrade community centre (full windows carpet chairs etc)		COM			Brian Storey	storeybrian@outlook.com	
26	Murtoa Showyards COM	Kitchen upgrade	Kitchen upgrade (refrigeration auto dishwasher sink etc)		COM			Brian Storey	storeybrian@outlook.com	
27	Lake Marma COM	Basketball ring	Basketball ring installed within the Lake precinct area.	Nowhere for youth to play basketball	Lake Marma COM			Hamish Gawith	hamish.gawith@masexperience.com.au	0409 563 361
28	Lake Marma COM	Lake walking track extended	The edging along the walking track to be extended.	Public use	Lake Marma COM			Hamish Gawith	hamish.gawith@masexperience.com.au	0409 563 361
29	Lake Marma COM	Lake landscaping at north-west	Develop the North West corner area of the Lake reserve. Looking at incorporating a grassed area, tables, BBQ area etc		Lake Marma COM			Hamish Gawith	hamish.gawith@masexperience.com.au	0409 563 361

30	Lake Marma COM	Toddler playground	Develop a new, or add to existing playgrounds with playground equipment more suitable to toddlers	No toddler playgrounds suitable to under 3 years of age	Lake Marma COM		Hamish Gawith	hamish.gawith@masexperience.com.au	0409 563 361
31	Lake Marma COM	Free-camping	Investigate incorporating a free camping area within the Lake reserve. We do not want to detract from the existing caravan park.	Tourism to boost local economy	Lake Marma COM		Hamish Gawith	hamish.gawith@masexperience.com.au	0409 563 361
32	Lake Marma COM	Car parking area improvements	Improvements to the large car parking area near the tennis court / swimming pool. Having more asphalted road to link in to the sealed road to the rotunda. Levelling to help stop the pooling of water near the swimming pool, and to eradicate pot holes.	User friendly	Lake Marma COM		Hamish Gawith	hamish.gawith@masexperience.com.au	0409 563 361
33	Lake Marma COM	Landscaping swimming pool area	The planting of trees in the swimming pool / tennis court area. Something like Weeping Myall	Having more asphalted road to link in to the sealed road to the rotunda.	Lake Marma COM		Hamish Gawith	hamish.gawith@masexperience.com.au	0409 563 361
34	Lake Marma COM	Sound Shell	A sound shell structure at the grassed area near the new BBQ area. Maybe along the swimming pool fence.	To help provide shade for car parking	Lake Marma COM		Hamish Gawith	hamish.gawith@masexperience.com.au	0409 563 361
35	Lake Marma COM	Tree replanting plan	A plan to be developed as to the best way for tree replanting around Lake. Have plan for more regular arborist reports to assess tree health.		Lake Marma COM		Hamish Gawith	hamish.gawith@masexperience.com.au	0409 563 361
36	Lake Marma COM	Public exercise equipment	Exercise stations to be placed around the walking track	Public access to exercise equipment	Lake Marma COM		Hamish Gawith	hamish.gawith@masexperience.com.au	0409 563 361
37	Lake Marma COM	Sprott Fountain refurbished	Refurbish Sprott Fountain	Maintain historical assets and beautify the area	Lake Marma COM		Hamish Gawith	hamish.gawith@masexperience.com.au	0409 563 361
38	Murtoa Progress Association	Advocate for health services	Contact West Wimmera Health Care & Committee to discuss what can be done to support new Doctor placement and support health services		MPA, West Wimmera Health, YSC	Immediate	Priority from community survey & meeting	Melinda Keel	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
39	Murtoa Progress Association	Advocate for Child Care	Discuss with YSC to understand scenario and what can be done to support childcare set up in Murtoa	14 families in need of childcare support. Families seek childcare in Horsham, which takes focus and investment away from Murtoa.	MPA, YSC, D.Edu	Immediate	Priority from community survey & meeting	Melinda Keel	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
40	Murtoa Progress Association	Local businesses supported / Attract new employment	Quarterly contact / survey with local businesses to understand what support can be provided by Progress and community to support businesses. Start "shop local" campaigns	Local businesses sustained and attract new businesses to town.	MPA	2019-2020		Melinda Keel	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
41	Murtoa Progress Association	Streetscape Plan implemented	Ongoing project. Implement streetscape plan		MPA, TSC, local businesses	2019-2020		Melinda Keel	murtoaprogress@gmail.com

42	Murtoa Progress Association	Beautify McDonald St Shop Facades	Work with private shop owners to paint (Progress / public funds) shop facades for benefit of town beautification	McDonald St shop fronts deteriorated	MPA & building owners	2019-2020		Melinda Keel	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
43	Murtoa Progress Association	Marma Gully - community use option	Discuss option with community on method for community purchase and community use of building for benefit of community	Prominent building in disrepair	MPA			Melinda Keel	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
44	Murtoa Progress Association	Manage Murtoa pigeon problem	Work with partner organisations to manage feral pigeons that are a pest for town	Pidgeon feral population soaring	DEDJR, YSC, MPA, land owners	2019-2020		Melinda Keel	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
45	Murtoa Progress Association	Promote Murtoa in Horsham as a great place to live	Enhance poplulation. Promote livability of Murtoa, including campaign in Horsham of living in Murtoa & commuting to Horsham	Sustained / enhanced population	MPA			Melinda Keel	murtoaprogress@gmail.com