

Community Action Plan

2024-2029

March 2024

MURTOA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION



Our Community Plan

Murtoa: "A hidden little paradise amongst the wheat belt"

Survey insights from 76 residents in 2024 highlighted Murtoa's strengths, assets, challenges, and vision for the Community Action Plan 2024-2029. This input shapes the trajectory of our town's next five years, guiding our forward momentum and growth together.

Over the past 5 years, the Murtoa community achieved significant milestones through the ambitious Murtoa Community Action Plan 2019-2023, including the silo art and night animation project, the pump track and toddler playground at Rabl Park, a Stick Shed visitor information centre, the Recreation Reserve master plan, and the eagerly awaited Early Learning and Early Education childcare and kindergarten centre to be completed in 2024.

"The community wants the town to grow"

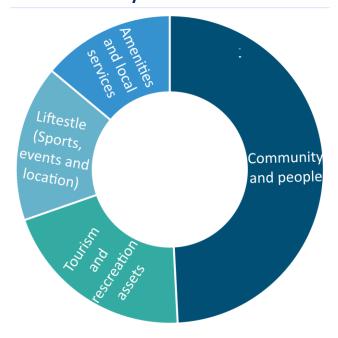
Our friendly community benefits from being located close to the Wimmera's regional centre, Horsham. Our impressive tourist attractions include the Stick Shed (National Heritage listed Murtoa No.1 Grain Shed), the museum precinct (Water Tower Museum, Railway Station & Concordia College [first Lutheran college in Australia]), Dunmunkle Sumpoiler Engines, and the stunning Lake Marma managed by a local volunteer Committee of Management, complete with the Caravan Park and community-owned Cabins on Lake Marma and now with the silo art painted by SMUG and animated at night by Transience.

Murtoa is a hub for the agricultural industry, home to valued employers, two excellent schools and kindergarten, local based health services and pharmacy, a healthy retail sector and quality key trades available locally. The diverse public sporting and recreation facilities and gardens are managed and maintained to a high standard by volunteers.



OUR STRENGTHS

- Our People & Positive Community
- Great local businesses, services & amenities.
- Our tourism & recreation spots
- The lifestyle and Location



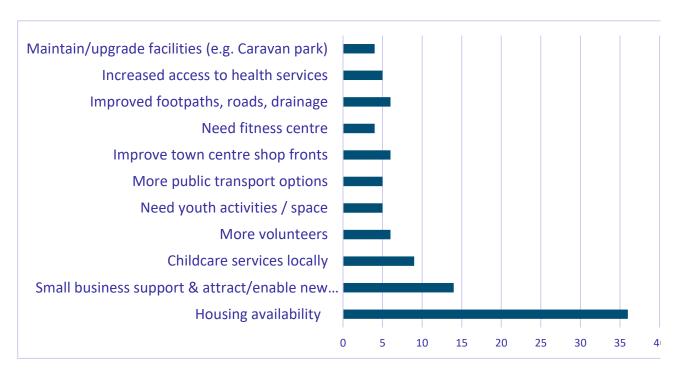
OUR ASSETS

- Lake Marma and surrounds
- Heritage & tourist attractions
- Small businesses, local services& schools.
- Sporting facilities.
- Community driven, friendly people

Special mention to farming sector and location on highway and to proximity to regional centre.

OUR CHALLENGES

- Housing availability
- Support and attract new businesses



OUR FUTURE FOCUS

Frequent future challenges the Murtoa community raised in 2024:

- **Housing**: Continue to grow population with more housing (land development).
- ➤ **Tourism**: Expand tourism opportunities, including events in the Stick Shed and community art.
- Small business: More retail and hospitality businesses able to open longer.
- ➤ **Health**: Gym / stadium built, open and readily accessible to the public.
- Accommodation: Increased worker and event accommodation options (glamping accommodation/ Community use public storage space / long-stay trailer park /caravan park & cabins extended).
- Jobs: Increased employment opportunities (including mining sector locally).
- Childcare/kindergarten open on 1 January 2025.

OUR OPPORTUNITIES

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

Basic Services

- Affordable housing for elderly.
- Private houses for rent.
- Private houses for sale.
- Childcare/kindergarten open 1/2025.
- Health service access increased.
- Public transport options increased, including local train services.
- Police station open 24/7
- Doctor in residence

Health, Connectivity & Livability

- Health and wellbeing
 - Gym facilities built.
 - Stadium built.
 - Bowls club rooms upgraded.
 - Wheelchair access to pool.
 - Lake area lighting.
- o Youth space accessible.
- Cinema opened.
- o Community events:
 - Signage similar that displays upcoming events on entry ways instead of hand painted signs.
 - Permanent stage at Lake Marma.
 - Wedding arbor at Rabl Park.
 - Community storage space.
 - More light up events / animated silo
- o Improved ambulant access.
- Boost our excellent schools.
- More volunteers.
- Combine community groups.
- Control cats and dogs.
- o Boost competitive sport clubs.
- More trees along streets.

Infrastructure Opportunities

- o Build on agriculture centre of economy.
- Truck parking areas in town.
- o Roads repaired.
- Public showers and truck parking with acce to green spaces.
- o Footpaths improved: Wheelchair access.
- Pedestrian crossings: Breen street between lakes. Lake Street from Munro to lake.
- Land availability for development.
- Maintain current infrastructure.
- o Improved planning and building support.
- Easy to access toilet at lake.
- o Improved bins around town.

Economic Development Opportunities

- Housing: Continue to grow population.
 More housing.
- Land development for future housing.
- o Tourism:
 - Expand caravan park.
 - Upgrade caravan park facilities.
 - Hold events in Stick Shed.
 - Build on community art and a community art space.
 - Renovate Sprott Fountain at Lake Marma.
 - Build more cabins on lake Marma.
 - Glamping tents for major events.
 - Free camping.
 - Marma Gully opened.
- Small business: More retail and hospitality businesses able to open longer.
- o Increased worker accommodation options.

Jobs: Increased employment opportunities (including mining sector locally).

OUR MURTOA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The Murtoa Progress Association has represented the Murtoa Community since 1888. The purpose of Progress is to promote and support Murtoa and district in the enhancement of:

- Community connectivity, consultation and local representation
- Local businesses, services, ag-culture and economic development opportunities
- Tourism and livability
- Shared leadership and enable community leaders

Specific tasks include to manage:

- Promotion of local business and community events
- Representation of community issues, concerns and interests
- Cabins on Lake Marma
- The Murtoa website and social media
- The Murtoa Community Action Plan as a consultative process
- The fortnightly newspaper the "Murtoa and District Advertiser"

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Email:murtoaprogress@gmail.com

Website <u>www.murtoa.net</u> Facebook <u>www.facebook.com/murtoa</u>

OUR COMMUNITY PROJECTS (2024-2029) — By Theme

1. Healthy, Connected & Livability Opportunities

	Theme	Project	Summary	Need	Lead & Who Involved	Comments	Contact / Submitted	Email Address
A	Health, Recreation & Sport	Bowls Club – New club house project plan & building design	Design and rebuild of new club house (as an alternative option to previous extension rather than a replacement action).	Council are considering this at the moment and are looking at drafting designs to compare the cost benefit of the options. This ensures a 'shovel ready' project suitable for greater range of grants.	Murtoa Bowls Club, Shire	Limited in opportunities for grants as project is not 'shovel ready'.	Tony Baker (Chair)	tony- tash@bigpond.co m
В		Bowls Club – Outdoor Shaded Area	Need for improved outdoor spectator area	Need suitable area for spectators. Weather impacts on spectators – include heat risk from no shade options.	Murtoa Bowls Club		Tony Baker (Chair)	tony- tash@bigpond.co m
С		Bowls Club - Replacement green	The current surface of the green has 3-4 years of life left.	Require at least \$140,000 (April 2023) to replace	Murtoa Bowls Club		Tony Baker (Chair)	tash@bigpond.co m
D		Bowls Club – Landscaping / paving	Landscaping project	Pavers at the south end of the green requires new retaining wall and pavers relayed	Murtoa Bowls Club		Tony Baker (Chair)	tash@bigpond.co m
E		Public gym	Encourage people outside for fitness. Add strength training to fitness program.	Public access to exercise equipment. Strength training is important. Meet and chat with like-minded community while getting fit.	Community, private businesses		Local Resident	murtoaprogress@ gmail.com
F		Stadium facility for public use	Accessible stadium for sports		Shire		Local Resident	murtoaprogress@ gmail.com
G		Young people activities & spaces	Young people activities	Free opportunities and experiences for young people available in-place locally	Shire, schools		Local resident	murtoaprogress@ gmail.com
Н		Golf Club – Climate control for club house	Air conditioning split system for the clubhouse to provide warmth for golf players and supporters during Winter when the golf course is open.	There is nothing for summer cooling and the wood heater used for winter is very old and inefficient. OHS for wood handling.	Golf Club	Priority	Keith Elliot (Secretary)	murtoagolf@gmail .com
		Golf Club – Water pump replacement for course greens	Pump repair or new pump to replace broken pump for course watering.	Maintain the essential golf course greens	Golf Club	Priority	Keith Elliot (Secretary)	murtoagolf@gmail .com
J		Golf Club – New roof on clubhouse	New roof for the clubhouse	Roof leaks in certain conditions.	Golf Club		Keith Elliot (Secretary)	murtoagolf@gmail .com
K		Golf Club – Wetland area	Water hazard on the 14th hole to be made into a permanent wetland for the attraction of birds and wildlife.	The Golf Course backs onto Barrabool State Park. This would promote a healthy ecosystem with the utilising a hazard to form a healthy wetland.	Golf Club		Keith Elliot (Secretary)	murtoagolf@gmail .com

L	Golf Club – Covered outdoor area for weather protection	Participant weather protection Covered outdoor area attached to the clubhouse	The Murtoa Golf Course is a Winter Course - participants are subject to cold weather outdoors on commencement and completion of the course. A shelter adjoined to the club room enables weather projection for patrons.	Golf Club		Keith Elliot (Secretary)	murtoagolf@gmail .com
M	Tennis - Finalisation of top surface of Court #3.	Further funding for top surface of Court #3 (low slip synpave acrylic court surface and final line marking) to finalise recently completed fill within this area (funds did not allow complete fill required to avoid pooling).	A night competition. The shift of the standard tennis format to attract new players of varying skill levels to enjoy tennis as a fun sport and enjoy the recreation reserve.	Murtoa Tennis Club	Tennis Victoria support importance of Court #3.	Natasha Pietsch (Secretary)	tash@bigpond.co m
N	Tennis - Lighting of courts	Additional lighting update to install additional lighting towers to light up #3 and #4 for a possible (more efficient) night competition.	The need for quality lighting and surface of Court #3 will complete the tennis arena and set up for future generations.	Murtoa Tennis Club	Tennis Club will research required equipment for additional lights and source quotes.	Natasha Pietsch (Secretary)	tony- tash@bigpond.co m
0	Tennis - High pressure court cleaner	High pressure court cleaner will avoid mold buildup and further costs associated with this issue going forward.	Maintenance equipment will prevent future costly issues and assist members in maintaining court preservation.	Murtoa Tennis Club		Natasha Pietsch (Secretary)	tash@bigpond.co m
P	Tennis - Maintenance treatment for mold and moss	In addition to pressure court cleaner (listed), a professional hard court service clean will enable ongoing maintenance to be more manageable for volunteers.	Tennis Club is organising Quote with SportZing Court Care North Victoria for service treatment.	Murtoa Tennis Club		Natasha Pietsch (Secretary)	tash@bigpond.co m
Q	Tennis - Assistance of Tennis Coach	To assist in the accessibility of skills in tennis for the youth in our community, funding to enable a tennis coach to facilitate complimentary (or affordable) coaching clinics to youth-aged community.	Specialised coaching clinics, and possibly run Hot Shots and junior competitions in Murtoa.	Murtoa Tennis Club		Natasha Pietsch (Secretary)	tash@bigpond.co m
R	Tennis - Clubhouse Repairs	Ongoing vandalism to the Tennis Club Extension to Barbecue and blinds requires maintenance to return to original condition.	Funding required to replace side of Barbecue facing tennis courts, and blinds cut/burnt in acts of vandalism	Murtoa Tennis Club		Natasha Pietsch (Secretary)	tash@bigpond.co m
S	Swimming pool- update the pool operating system	Updated system new pumps and piping; computerised water testing system; new taps/fix leakage on backwash pipes. Introduce a chlorine/salt system; new sensor in the well. Reduce four hour daily testing and cost of running the pool by updating the system.	Reduce the running costs of our local swimming pool	Swimming Pool Committee		Kristin Starick (Secretary)	murtoaswimmingp ool@gmail.com
Т	Swimming pool – drainage in toilet floors corrected.	The drainage area, when originally installed, is higher than the surrounding floor so water is unable to drain away. This is an OHS and user safety issue. The Yarriambiack Shire Building Works Inspector has provided two options to obtain positive drainage.	Important to repair so that the safety of users can be maintained while entering and moving in the toilet areas.	Swimming Pool Committee		Kristin Starick (Secretary)	murtoaswimmingp ool@gmail.com

U		Swimming Pool – Solar strips that heat the pool replaced	The solar strips are +15 years, at end of optimal usage. Leaking, need regular flushing and strong winds move them from their placement on the pergola shade cloth.	Keeping pool to optimal temperature encourages range of patrons, especially older patrons, to access pool and regular exercise.	Swimming Pool Committee		Kristin Starick (Secretary)	murtoaswimmingp ool@gmail.com
V		Swimming Pool – Grounds Improvement	Improvements include: paving at the dead grass near the baby pool and at the emergency gate; new grass laid on the west side under the shade trees; replacing a pergola between the two smaller pools; shade cloth placed on the side of the west pergola to block the sun	Works approx \$25,000. Projects designed to improve safety. A safer entrance and infant pool; easier to clean by reducing dirt. Reducing risk of sunburn/heatstroke by providing shade	Swimming Pool Committee		Kristin Starick (Secretary)	murtoaswimmingp ool@gmail.com
W	Access- ability	The Stick Shed – Ambulant vehicle	Purchase ambulant golf cart	Enable access for all visitors	The Stick Shed		David Grigg (Secretary)	stickshedcom@g mail.com
X		Swimming Pool – more accessible to all abilities	The pools sit on top of the old pool structure. Railing/ramps/lifts require major engineering planning to ensure that pool structure integrity not damaged.	It is important to provide access to all abilities, even though when the pool was built, this was not a priority.	Swimming Pool Committee		Kristin Starick (Secretary)	murtoaswimmingp ool@gmail.com
Υ	Community Safety	Museum Precinct – Security Cameras	Install security system for the Museum precinct.	Increase activities that risk vandalism to community property and heritage items	Historical Society		Sue Dollin (Secretary)	murtoamuseum@ outlook.com
Z		Golf Club – Security system	Security alarm system for the club house.	Multiple break ins and vandalism. The security system will support prevention and follow up on incidents.	Golf Club		Keith Elliot (Secretary)	murtoagolf@gmail .com
AA		Security cameras and lighting at Lake Marma Recreation 7 Rabl Park area	Install security cameras and lighting in collaboration with user groups.	Liaise with user groups and authorities to improve safety for users and community assets in the park	Lake Marma Committee, Shire	Shire project drafted pending funding.	Rod Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@ gmail.com
BB		Pedestrian crossing on Lake Street	Install pedestrian crossing between Munro and Lake Marma for safe pedestrian crossings.		Shire		Local Resident	murtoaprogress@ gmail.com
CC		Pedestrian crossing on Breen Street	Install pedestrian crossing to connect walking lakes on walking tracks on west of swimming pool.		Shire		Local Resident	murtoaprogress@ gmail.com
DD		School crossing lights on Marma Street to alert traffic of pedestrians.			Dept Transport		Local Resident	murtoaprogress@ gmail.com

2. Economic Development Opportunities (Including Tourism)

	Project	Summary	Need	Who will be Involved	Comments	Contact	Email Address
A	Housing built	Increase private houses build and houses for sale	Accommodation desperately needed (housing & rentals).	WHIP, Murtoa Housing Initiative Pty., Progress	Murtoa Housing Initiative Pty. established.	Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
В		Land development through additional sub-divisions.	Land for new housing builds restricted for Murtoa. Identify opportunity for land to be sub-divided for new housing.	Shire		Local resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
С		Worker accommodation	Increased worker accommodation, including for seasonal work	Community, Progress		Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
D	Businesses supported	Local businesses supported and strengthened	Local businesses sustained and supported	Businesses, Progress		Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
E		Attract new businesses and employers	Attract new retail and employer businesses to tow	Businesses, Progress		Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
F	Walking Tracks	Walking track from Murtoa Cemetery to McDonald Street	Residents and visitors often walk to Cemetery, which has no safe track.	Cemetery committee		Local Resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
G		Stick Shed to Murtoa Railway Station Museum walking track	Visitors walking on side of road that is discourages the connection between the tourism sights	Shire, Historical Society, Stick Shed Committee		Local Resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
Н		Bike track brochure for Barrabool State Park	Tourism and local fitness to enjoy State Park	Progress		Local Resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
I	Heritage digitalised	Historical Society – Digitalization Project	Digitization of Microfiche & Microfilm Rate Records & Dunmunkle Standard.	Historical Society	Dependent on Local History Grant	Sue Dollin (Secretary)	murtoamuseum@outlook.com
J		Street Plaques of Historic Businesses and Homes	Historical photo and information/ history of the location.	Progress	Unsuccessful grant applications	Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
K	Free-camping options in Murtoa	Investigate incorporating a free camping area.	Tourism to boost local economy. Explore options and zoning. Possible on Rabl Park. Requires community consultation.	Shire		Local Resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
L	Glamping group facilities	Temporary group glamping facilities to accommodate large tour groups, i.e. rail visits. Economic benefit.	Encourage large groups to stay locally. Offer unique experience in small communities.	Shire Progress Other communities	Unsuccessful RTIF application	Local Resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
М	Community Collective Storage and Tool Library	Community storage space	Storage for community assets including the glamping tents, Murtoa Big Weekend Assets, Wine & Dine assets	V/Line, Progress	Location: V/Line sight and former railway worker yard. Located close to town centre, Railway Hotel and	Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
N	,	Community tool library	Community tool library that houses and maintains quality items for public use such as trailers, ride on mowers, push mowers, etc. Sustainable use.	V/Line, Progress	Explore option of connection to Men's Shed for interest in leading and maintaining - based at community site [V/Line area]	Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com

3. Infrastructure Improvement Opportunities (Including Beautification Projects)

	Location	Project	Summary	Need	Who will be Involved	Comments	Contact	Email Address
A	Town Centre	Upgrade toilets in Marma St, including showers	Toilet facilities reflect town. High use of toilets by visitors and locals out walking. Need access to public showers.	Aged & not pleasant. No mirror & sanitary arrangements to be improved. Entrance dark. Showers needed.	Shire		Local resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
В		Beautify McDonald St Shop Facades	Work with private shopfront owners to paint shop facades for town beautification.	McDonald St shop fronts deteriorated	Shop / building owners, Shire		Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
С		Truck parking areas	Truck parking area required in various locations in town to support local businesses (apart from rest stop at Rabl Park which is far from shops)	Ag is huge part of our area & employment. There is nowhere for trucks to park & purchase items / rest.	Shire, Department Transport	YSC determined in 2022 legal to park trucks up to one hour in any street.	Local resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
D	Lake Marma	North-west corner landscaping with water play area	Develop the North West corner area of the Lake reserve.		Lake Marma Committee	Funding proposal submitted (02/24)	R Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com
E		Landscaping pool parking area	The planting of trees in the swimming pool / tennis area. (ie.Weeping Myall)	Having more asphalted road to link into the sealed road to rotunda.	Lake Marma Committee		R Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com
F		Permanent stage structure	A stage structure at the grassed area against the swimming pool fence.	For community entertainment at the Lake	Lake Marma Committee		R Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com
G		Tree replanting plan	A plan for tree replanting around Lake. More regular arborist reports to assess tree health.	Lake Marma COM	Lake Marma Committee		Rod Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com
Н		Sprott Fountain beautified	Beautify Sprott Fountain	Beautify the area	Lake Marma Committee		R Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com
I		Recreate 'lovers lane'	Plant shade trees on track at SE corner from channel to near cricket nets	In response to input from community	Lake Marma Committee		R Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com
J		Restore old well on foreshore	Maintain historic point of interest– part of early water infrastructure in Murtoa		Lake Marma Committee		R Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com
K		Boardwalk	Create a boardwalk at the south end of the lake from caravan park to wetlands	Provides access for fishing and bird observation	Lake Marma Committee	Funding proposal submitted (01/24)	R Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com
L		Lake track edging	Extension of track edging to provide a more accessible track		Lake Marma Committee		R Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com
M	Rabl Park	Basketball ring and half court	Basketball ring installed for youth and health recreation activities	Basketball is popular with youth in Murtoa. No public space to play.	Progress		Local Resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
N		Skateboard park upgrade	Skateboard park safe & user-friendly improvements – Rabl Park	Recreational spaces for young people	Shire, Murtoa College		Murtoa P-12 students	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
0	The Stick	Stick Shed Entrance	Redevelop the entrance to improve attractiveness and welcoming to visitors		The Stick Shed Committee		David Grigg (Secretary)	stickshedcom@gmail.com
Р	Shed	Stick Shed Events	Change classification to allow for Public Events/Entertainment held in the Shed		The Stick Shed Committee		David Grigg (Secretary)	stickshedcom@gmail.com