



# *Goornong & District Community Plan*



**Reviewed 2011**

(Final Version August 2012)

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## Welcome

The Goornong & District Community Plan was launched in April 2008 after seven months of hard work spent identifying the needs for a stronger community, focussing on the future and putting dreams to paper.

Geographically, Goornong is situated in a perfect spot – close to everywhere for doing business and blessed with natural surroundings that are easy to access and enjoy. The hard work is only just starting. Rural people are fair, strong in character and committed to achieving their goals for the future.

The Goornong & District Community Plan is a “living” document and as such, has evolved, grown, achieved and developed goals and aspirations along the way. The Community Plan has now been reviewed to reflect this with new goals and strategies developed after extensive community consultation including surveying community members and a series of public meetings.



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## **Foreword**

The Goornong & District Community Plan was launched on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at the Goornong Recreation Reserve with over 100 local residents in attendance. Goornong was the fourth of the Small Townships in the City of Greater Bendigo District to launch such a plan. A total of eleven Small Town Community Plans and four Neighbourhood Plans have been completed in the Greater Bendigo district.

The Goornong & District Plan set out the vision of the local community for the future and detailed projects that the community aspired to undertake. The time has now come to review and reassess the initial Community Plan by using the goals, objectives and actions in the existing plan to ascertain what has already been achieved and to look forward to new priorities.

A vital part of this review has been to get community members involved to discuss whether existing goals are still important, and what new goals are needed that might better reflect the community's current needs. These new goals will be used as the basis for seeking funding from Council and other sources. A series of community meetings was held where residents were able to contribute to our new goals, objectives and actions and ensure their stamp is on our future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank past and present committee members for the wonderful work and progress they have made since the launch of the Community Plan in 2008 with many positive outcomes achieved such as providing funds to the Goornong Primary School to purchase a ride-on-mower; assistance with funding to re-open the Bore at the Goornong Recreation Reserve; making provision for a watering system at the Oval and assistance with the "beautification" of the Oberin Gates entrance by establishing a wonderful garden. Special mention must be made to Ruth Jenkins for all her continuing efforts to have the Railway Station re-opened.

As we look forward to the future, I hope and trust that the enthusiasm of our committee members and local community continue to shine through and that working together we can see Goornong once again become a thriving hub of activity where people from all walks of life want to live, work and enjoy what our community has to offer.

Janet Filbey  
President, Goornong & District Community Group Inc.

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## ***Background of the Community Plan***

The concept of establishing a future vision for the Goornong Community, through a local planning process emerged through the Bendigo +25 community planning initiative, which started in 2005 with the publication of the Greater Bendigo +25 Community Plan.

Our community planning process commenced in 2007 where the importance of a vision/plan for Goornong was supported by the overwhelming response from the community survey undertaken in 2007. The results clearly indicated that the Goornong Community members were ready to support a plan for moving Goornong into the future.

The Goornong & District Community Plan has now been reviewed and after community consultation and further research and development by the Goornong & District Community Group, the following areas have been identified as the main priorities:

- Infrastructure, Industry and Economic Development
- Tourism
- Natural Environment
- Sports, Recreation and Leisure
- Health, wellbeing and community services
- Education support

For further details, or, to become involved please call Janet Filbey on 5432 2202 or, email: [goornonganddistrict@gmail.com](mailto:goornonganddistrict@gmail.com) or [jwfilbey@bigpond.com](mailto:jwfilbey@bigpond.com)



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## **About Goornong - Past & Present**

The Goornong district is characterised by many unique natural features. The Campaspe River, flanked by magnificent River Red Gums is home to native fish species and the surrounding land, including many scar trees tell stories of the Aboriginal people, the Dja Dja Wrung, who once lived in the district. The town is nestled among different types of vegetation including the beautiful open grassy woodlands characterised by large old trees scattered among native grasses and herbs. Parks and reserves also are close to the town including areas with box-ironbark forests and mallee.

Many threatened fauna species are found in the district including Swift Parrots, Brush-tailed Phascogales, Barking Owls and Woodland Blind Snakes.

Goornong was originally gazetted to be developed at the junction of the Gunyah, Five mile and Crabhole Creeks. However, when the railway line was built in 1864, four kilometres from this site, a township was developed at its new location where Goornong is today.

Langdon's shanty was the first building in the new town and this eventually progressed to be the Railway Hotel. There were four hotels in the town in the late 1800's --- Railway, Commercial, Black Swan and the Drovers Arms. The Goornong Hotel was established one kilometre north of the present town on Old Murray Road. The Drovers Arms is the only one standing today although it has seen two other buildings before the present one. In addition to these four, there were six other hotels in the District: Farmers Arms, Seven Doors, Clare Inn, Forest Creek Five Mile and Goornong - all within a radius of eight kilometres.

In 1862 the denominational school (Presbyterian) under the Board of Education became a non-vested common school (no.292). The closure of school 292 brought the staff to the new school building (1598) in 1875. The first year there were 41 pupils from very young to late teenagers. Today however, the school is purely run for primary school children within the Goornong and District area. The school presently has 47 pupils, 3 teachers and 1 part time teacher.

The Goornong district has a few old buildings of historical significance such as the old police station (Goornong has had a police presence since 1875). The War Memorial Hall, firstly a wooden building built in 1889, was rebuilt into a brick structure and now caters for a variety of functions.

The only remaining church in town is the Anglican, built in 1878 and a new brick building established in 1955. St Martin's Catholic Church at Muskerry and the Uniting Church Barnadown are also places of worship in the district.

The local cemetery, the final resting place of over 400 former residents in the early 21st century, is still operating and managed by local trustees.

According to the 2006 ABS census, the population of the District is recorded as 754 persons. Due largely to the mobility of the present population, service businesses have declined dramatically since the middle of the 20th century with the result there is only a hotel, a general store and a post office. There are V/Line and other buses services available for public transport.

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Goornong's main farm industries are grazing and cropping. Lately some olives and grapes are being produced. Industries on the outskirts of town, Fosterville Gold Mine, Gilmac Straw, Bickley's transport and G.E Silos, provide additional employment. Although the bulk grain silos provided substantial employment and services to the local farming community from the early 1940's to the late 1990s, changes in management and ownership resulted in the closing of all activity in 2003.

A strong and dynamic community nearly always results in a volunteer fire brigade that is also strong and dynamic. The Goornong Rural Fire Brigade had its beginning on the 4th November 1903 and has since been growing from strength to strength. Bruce Furnell, retired Area Manager CFA North Central Area/Region 2, once said that "One hundred years of community service and involvement is a very significant accomplishment for a voluntary fire brigade". With over 100 members, the number of active members being trained and retained is growing. The brigade trains and meets regularly and as a result maintains a professional, efficient and friendly team who strive to protect the Goornong district from the threats of fire.

The Goornong Country Women's Association first operated in 1947 until numbers declined in 2004 when it was closed. The Barnadown NightOwls CWA formed in 1998 and closed in 2006 to become the auxiliary for the Goornong Rural Fire Brigade, providing vital support to the members. Their group is now known as Goornong NightOwls CFA.

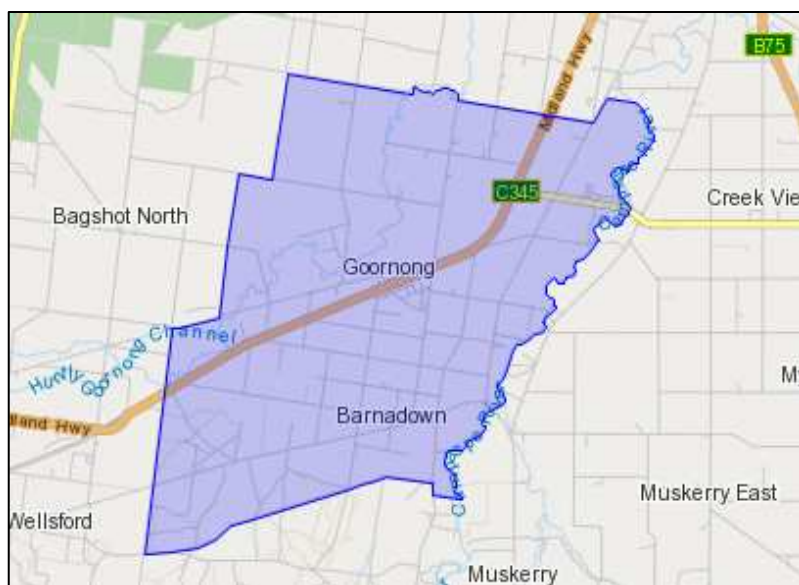
Today, Goornong's location, 30 kilometres from the centre of Bendigo, makes it an ideal place for people to live in a rural residential development whilst working in Bendigo. A fairly large recreation reserve has a football oval, swimming pool, tennis courts, cricket club, playground and recreation hall. This currently provides many recreational and social opportunities for the residents.



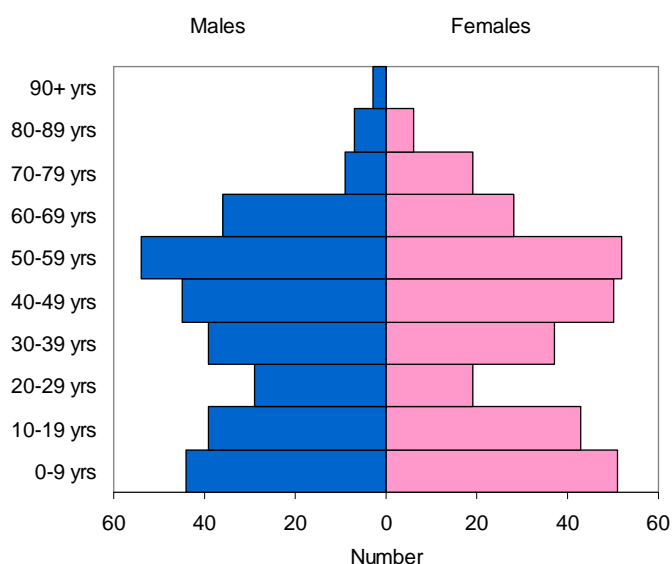
## Goornong – A Snap Shot

### Australian Census 2011

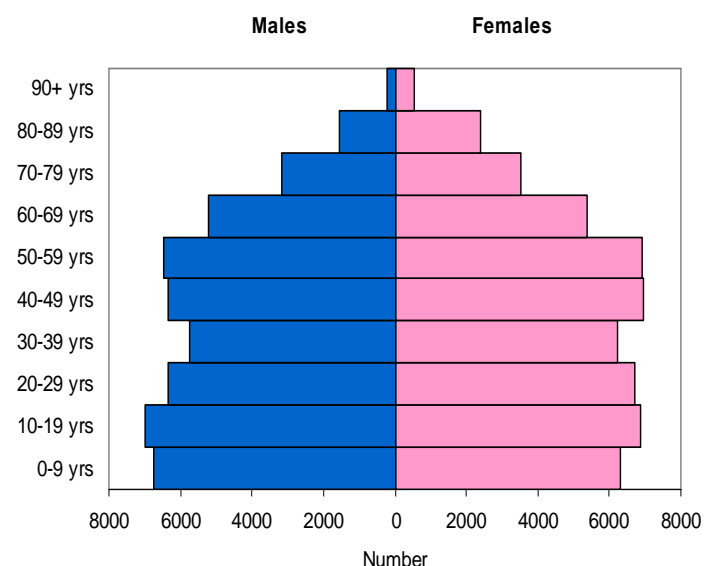
At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 609 people in Goornong. Of these, 50.1% were male and 49.9% were female. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 1.5% of the population.



### Age Goornong



### Greater Bendigo



The median age of people in Goornong is 39 years which is only slightly higher compared to the median age for Greater Bendigo which is 38.

The most common ancestries in Goornong are Australian 34.4%, English 30.5%, Irish 14.7%, Scottish 8.2% and German 3.4%.

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## Median Weekly Income

People aged 15 years and over

	Goornong	Greater Bendigo	Victoria
Personal	\$554	\$513	\$561
Family	\$1,350	\$1,245	\$1,460
Household	\$1,166	\$991	\$1,216

The personal median weekly income for residents in Goornong is higher compared to Greater Bendigo but lower compared to Victoria. In Goornong, 26.0% of households had a gross weekly household income of less than \$600 compared to 28.1% for Greater Bendigo and 4.4% had a gross weekly income of more than \$3,000 compared to 5.1% in Greater Bendigo.

The median weekly rent in Goornong is slightly lower compared to Greater Bendigo; \$165 and \$200 respectively. 96.8% of households renting in Goornong paid less than 30% of the household income on rent compared to 91.5% in Greater Bendigo. The percentage of households paying more than 30% of income on rent in Goornong is 6.3% compared to 8.5% in Greater Bendigo.

The median monthly mortgage in Goornong is 1,300 which is the same as Greater Bendigo. Households with mortgage repayments less than 30% of household income in Goornong are 93.7% which is higher compared to Greater Bendigo with 92.5%. Households with mortgage repayments greater than 30% of household income is 6.3% lower compared to Greater Bendigo with 7.5%.

## Family Composition

	Goornong (%)	Greater Bendigo (%)	Victoria (%)
Couple family without children	39.5	39.2	36.7
Couple family with children	49.4	41.0	46.0
One parent family	11.0	18.3	15.5
Other family	0.0	1.5	1.8

In Goornong there were 49.4% couple family with children and 39.5% couple family without children. This is the same for Greater Bendigo and Victoria as well.

In Goornong, 76.3% were family households (family households refer to a household with at least one child under the age of 15 years), compared to 68.8% in Greater Bendigo. The proportion of single or lone person households in Goornong is lower compared to Greater Bendigo with 20.1% and 24.5% respectively.

## Dwellings

	Goornong (%)	Greater Bendigo (%)	Victoria (%)
Occupied Dwellings	85.4	90.7	88.7
Unoccupied Dwellings	14.6	9.3	11.3

Of the total of private dwellings in Goornong, 85.4% were occupied. This rate of occupancy is lower compared to Greater Bendigo and Victoria. The average number of bedrooms per dwelling in Goornong is 3.2 and the average number of people per household is 2.7.

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## ***1. Support the Development of Infrastructure, Industry and Economic Development***

On the Midland Hwy between Bendigo and Echuca, centrally located Goornong is an ideal destination or starting point to visit towns such as Shepparton, Kyabram, Heathcote or Kerang. To entice visitors to spend time in our township, it is important that an attractive environment in a rural setting be developed encouraging employment for local people and an interesting and pleasant place to stay for visitors and locals.

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Time Line</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Community Facilitators</b>
Advocate for improved access to infrastructure, technology and services to Goornong residents.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Form partnerships and undertake lobbying for ongoing maintenance, extension and linking of cycle and walking paths</li><li>2. Upgrade footpaths between commercial and public areas</li><li>3. Liaise with relevant authorities to enhance road safety in the local area, such as signage, turning lanes and speed restrictions.</li><li>4. Continue advocacy for provision of sewerage service to residences in the township</li><li>5. Improve access to public transport.</li><li>6. Improved internet and other communication services.</li></ol>		City of Greater Bendigo,  Vic Rail  Department of Transport	Ruth Jenkins

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## **2. Promote areas in and around Goornong as venues for tourists and local visitors**

Goornong has several activities to offer tourists. These include historical monuments such as the old police station, steam engine, cemetery and historical markers. Goornong is close to the Campaspe River offering a place for people to camp, swim and fish. Industry will be enhanced by better signposting drawing people's attention to items or places of interest.

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Time Line</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Community Facilitators</b>
Publicise and further develop facilities to promote and encourage visitors to stay,	I. Signpost and advertise local attractions, including places of interest, historical sites and camping locations in public places, such as the town entrances and using other media.		CoGB (Tourism) Regional Tourism RACV DSE	Vanessa Hawkins

## **3. Preserve the Natural Environment**

Goornong township is surrounded by farm land, unique and threatened grassy wood land and is near Box Iron Bark (Wellsford State Forest) / Mallee (the Whipstick State Park) and Riverine environments. The residents would like to enhance and protect the natural environment and beautify the central township area.

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Time Line</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Community Facilitators</b>
Beautify and plant trees in selected central localities	I. Form suitable collaborative partnerships, such as with school groups to undertake planting and regular maintenance in selected sites in the town.	ongoing	Goornong Community / Schools Mining Companies as a source of funds DSE VFF / Landcare Goornong Landscape Strategy by Felicity Nicholls. NCCMA	Ed English  Sam Ellis

#### **4. Maintain existing facilities and develop additional opportunities for Sports, Recreation and Leisure**

Recreation facilities such as a football oval, recreation reserve (with hall) cricket club, outdoor swimming pool playground, golf course, BMX, tennis courts and the Memorial Hall, are already established in the town of Goornong. However, there is a need to upgrade and enhance current facilities as well as to establish new recreational and social opportunities. These actions are vital to encourage young people to continue to live in the district and enhance the general health and wellbeing of the people in the community and to strengthen the community spirit.

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Time Line</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Community Facilitators</b>
Maintain and upgrade existing recreation and sporting facilities that are fully utilised	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify repair and maintenance needs and priorities for existing sports and recreation facilities</li><li>2. Develop management plans for the ongoing maintenance and financial viability of existing sporting facilities</li></ol>	Immediate - 1 year	Recreation affiliated groups  COGB DSE A range of sporting Authorities.	Angie Kennedy  Vanessa Hawkins  Sam Ellis
Develop and/or maintain opportunities for local events and celebrations that bring the community together.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Investigate the wider use of existing public and private community facilities for community sports and other recreations activities, such as playgroup, bowls, communal meals and events.</li></ol>			

#### **5. Health, wellbeing and community services**

Goornong would like to offer health and family services to residents, including support for mental health advice.

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Time Line</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Community Facilitators</b>
Support local activities and programs which build communication, wellbeing and health.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Provide Mental Health First Aid Course to the Community.</li><li>2. Provision of health related information to community</li><li>3. Provision of wellbeing events such as morning teas, playgroups, walking groups, riding groups, specially identified groups.</li><li>4. Create social inclusiveness</li><li>5. Use local newsletter to provide information on services available.</li></ol>		Gold Fields Equestrian Club Inc	Georgina Wood  Claire Ellis (Playgroup)

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## 6. Education support

In 2010 Goornong Primary School celebrated 135 years of education. The Goornong community is proud of its school and has always provided support for the school and the education of the children. The school welcomes the ongoing support of community members.

Goal	Actions	Time Line	Partners	Community Facilitators
Support existing education opportunities by enhancing facilities and broadening knowledge about environmental issues.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Provide outdoor seating and tables for students</li><li>2. To construct an environmental centre within the grounds of the local school. Link with the "Sustainable Schools" to reduce current carbon footprint.</li><li>3. Investigate options for future development of an all weather sports facility.</li></ol>	Immediately	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.  Goornong Primary School.  Goornong Community Clubs  Campaspe cluster schools  Vic Health Anti Cancer Council  Go for Your Life. COGB	Jason Cox

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## **Community Survey and Results**

During April, May and June 2011 extensive community consultation was conducted with surveys distributed to 750 residents in the Goornong & District area. Public meetings / forums were conducted during that period.

The following survey was completed and returned by residents. A list of collated responses to the survey is also listed below.

### **Summary of the 2011 Goornong and District +25 plan survey**

This survey was released on the 28th of March online and was printed in 3 Goornong Guides (April, May, June) totalling 810 hard-copies circulated. The Goornong guide also let the community know that the survey was available to be completed online. Members of the +25 committee also encouraged members of the community to fill out the form via word of mouth and also announcing it at the local CFA meeting. The deadline for the survey to be completed was the 30/5/2011, but we still were accepting completed surveys on the 6/6/2011. On the 6/6/2011 we had 14 completed surveys.

#### **Rank of importance**

This question involved Goornong residents to identify their top four priority actions. The most popular actions were

**ACTION 1.1:** Lobby for further increase in bus services as part of the B-line strategy and

**ACTION 5.3.1:** Investigate the wider use of existing facilities for community sports and other recreational activities with 16% of the vote each followed by

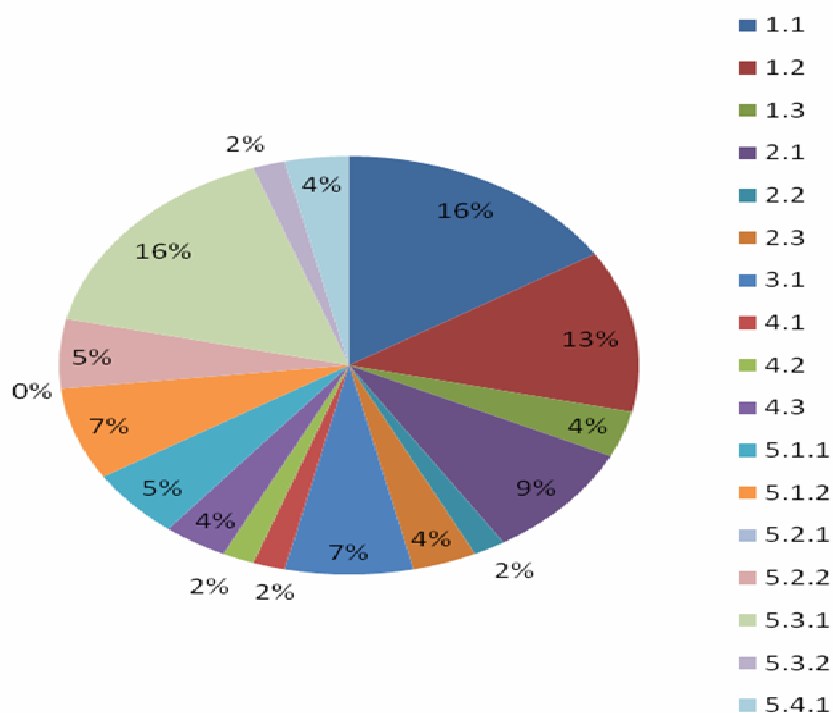
**ACTION 1.2:** Lobby for a re-establishment of rail services to Goornong with 13% and

**ACTION 2.1:** Identify and publicise local areas that area suitable for camping with 9%.



*Getting Goornong Going*

## Results of Community Priorities



	Votes	Percentage
ACTION 1.1: Lobby for further increase in bus services as part of the B-line strategy	9	16%
ACTION 1.2: Lobby for a re-establishment of rail services to Goornong	7	13%
ACTION 1.3: Form partnerships and undertake lobbying for extension and linking of cycle and walking paths	2	4%
ACTION 2.1: Identify and publicise local areas that area suitable for camping	5	9%
ACTION 2.2: Investigate the possibility of signposting the entrance to Goornong Township	1	2%
ACTION 2.3: Further develop facilities in the township to promote & encourage tourists to stay eg. A covered BBQ	2	4%
ACTION 3.1 Investigate options to increase access to health and medical services	4	7%
ACTION 4.1: Develop a possible planting and beautification scheme of all areas	1	2%
ACTION 4.2: Investigate funding to support partnerships with local environmental action groups	1	2%
ACTION 4.3: Form suitable collaborative partnerships with schools / groups to undertake planting & maintenance	2	4%
ACTION 5.1.1: Survey community regarding usage and unmet sport / rec needs or priorities	3	5%
ACTION 5.1.2: Audit existing sport / rec facilities to identify repair and maintenance needs or priorities	4	7%
ACTION 5.2.1: Investigate and apply for grants to purchase water tanks for public space watering	0	0%
ACTION 5.2.2: Investigate the feasibility of sinking a permanent bore at the Recreation Reserve	3	5%
ACTION 5.3.1: Investigate the wider use of existing facilities for community sports and other recreational activities	9	16%
ACTION 5.3.2: Commence planning for the potential development of an undercover all weather sports facility	1	2%
ACTION 5.4.1: Investigate the interest in developing an outdoor BMX track and / skate park	2	4%

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## Achievements:

- *Ride on Mower – Goornong Primary School*
- *Reopening of Bore at the Recreation Reserve – make provision for watering system (ongoing)*
- *Beautification of Oberin Gates*
- *Ruth Jenkins worked tirelessly in an endeavour to further improve public transport options (ongoing)*
- *\$5,000 funding for the new CFA Goornong Fire Station*



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