

Kamarooka & District



Community Plan 2015

Welcome

Welcome to Kamarooka and District and welcome to the first Kamarooka Community Plan. We hope you find it interesting and relevant and that you are inspired to get involved in implementing the plan, working along with the other people who make this a terrific community to be a part of.

History of Kamarooka

Kamarooka is an Aboriginal word meaning 'Wait until I return' and lies on land where the ancestors and decedents of the Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal peoples have been the custodians for many centuries.

Pastoral settlement commenced with the taking up of large leaseholds in 1846 by John Aitken and in the period of the next 20 years the descendants of a number of families still resident in Kamarooka took up further leases, including the O'Donoghue, Hay, Ludeman, Cail, Demeo Hocking, Schmidt, Quinliven and Williams families. Broad acre grazing of cattle and sheep was most common.

Gold was discovered at the north end of the Whipstick forest in 1863 and to meet the needs of miners and more settlers, including the McKay and Pedersen families, some leaseholds were subdivided and a number of businesses were established, including a butcher, bakery, general store and blacksmith. As the numbers of families increased, schools and churches and a post office were established. Gold extraction was uncertain and the mining population rapidly declined in the late 1860s. The Pembroke village area, named after the Pembroke Castle mine, was sub divided around 1910. It has a very interesting mining history, and decedents of original miners are still represented in the district, including the Filby family.

Over the years farming diversified to include cropping, dairying and orchards, assisted by an early irrigation scheme. In later years the Kamarooka Water Scheme has ensured stock and domestic water supply for the shareholders, but as with many farming areas, Kamarooka remains vulnerable to drought.

Football, tennis and cricket teams were formed in the early 1900s and they had significant success winning premierships and best player awards and providing social connection for community members for more than a century. In 1948 the Kamarooka and Neilborough United Football teams amalgamated to become Northern United. Despite competing with teams from larger areas,



the teams won a number of league premierships. In the early days cricket and football was played in a paddock, but the Kamarooka Recreation Reserve was opened in 1950 and a great deal of volunteer labour has been provided to build and maintain the facilities and playing surfaces.

The Kamarooka and District Ladies Welfare League was established in 1911 to provide welfare to district families. This remarkable record of local assistance and support still continues, especially through the annual Kamarooka Picnic.

The Kamarooka Community Club was established and incorporated in 1983 as a means bringing together the local associations. Especially because of the nature of their links with the other groups, the Community Club will take leadership for implementing this Kamarooka Community Plan.

As with many other rural areas, Kamarooka has continued to evolve; broad land farms have increased in size, reducing the number of famers. Transport is faster and more convenient; children receive their education in other locations. The last remaining primary school, in Drummartin, closed in 2015. These days smaller 'lifestyle' property owners play a significant role in maintaining the viability of Kamarooka organisations and facilities. Working together has always been an important part of Kamarooka's success.

Background of the Community Plan

This is the first Community Plan for Kamarooka. A community plan is an expression of the priorities and preferences of the local people. It serves as a reference point for other organisations and people with an interest in that community.

Preparing a new community plan involves a great deal of effort. But working together as a community can bring a range of benefits and successes.

This community plan process commenced from the interest of some local people who wanted a higher profile for Kamarooka and its priorities. Following a public meeting and discussion, a survey was sent to all residents and they were asked to complete 'postcards' that expressed their vision for the future of Kamarooka. Results from the survey were used as the basis for future discussion and priority-setting conducted at the Annual Kamarooka Picnic.

Community success must build on local initiative. Completion of the first community plan is the start of a process to achieve local aims. A range of other agencies can assist the community in their activities.



Kamarooka & District Community Plan

1. Social and community events in Kamarooka

Our Goal

Kamarooka will continue to be a place where most people feel safe, know their neighbours and feel a sense of connection to the community.

Kamarooka welcomes newcomers, but there are opportunities to increase the social interactions and the pleasures and rewards this brings.

Objectives		Timeframes
1.1	Plan for another large annual event that will attract outsiders and raise funds.	Ongoing
1.2	Publicise information about community groups in Kamarooka and their contact and meeting details.	Each year
1.3	Build stronger links to nearby communities.	Ongoing
1.4	Encourage local people to bring their friends, neighbours and new residents of all ages to local events, activities and groups.	Ongoing

Measures of Success

More people know about and take part in Kamarooka and District community activities.



2. Maintaining infrastructure that is vital for the community

Our Goal

To have one well- appointed community gathering place that is has suitable catering facilities, meeting spaces and recreational facilities.

Challenges facing Kamarooka include the community meeting places (Hall and Rec Reserve) being so far apart and both needing significant upgrades. Community preference is higher for maintaining upgrading Rec Reserve facilities (97%), and there is not strong support for investigating moving the hall to this site (58%).



Objectives		Timeframes
2.1	Work to improve catering and kitchen facilities in at least one community venue as a means of being able to host community social activities more readily.	Ongoing
2.2	Improve other facilities at the Recreation Reserve.	Ongoing
2.3	Advocate for upgrades to local VicRoads roads and more regular maintenance of local roads.	Ongoing

Measures of Success

Facilities that are widely used by community members are accessible and well maintained.

Regular maintenance of community facilities and roads.



3. *Supporting the rural business and lifestyle*

Our Goal

Kamarooka has a foundation in agriculture; agribusiness will continue to be the key to economic viability.

Finding ways to secure agricultural financial security and promoting diversity to build commercial viability will require collaborative partnerships and equitable access to communication services.



Objectives		Timeframes
3.1	Advocate for improved mobile phone and high speed internet services.	Ongoing
3.2	Explore options for increased access to farm and domestic water supply.	Ongoing
3.3	Network with other shires to increase advocacy about local priorities.	Yearly planning
3.4	Advocate maintaining the viability of current and future farming and agribusiness activities.	Ongoing

Measures of Success

A yearly priority planning session will facilitate mutual goal-setting.

4. Protecting and preserving the local natural environment and landscape

Our Goal

Kamarooka will maintain its unique natural environment that people value highly. They want to make sure this remains a natural asset and that pest animals and plants don't reduce the beauty and productive future of the entire setting.



Objectives		Timeframes
4.1	Advocate for stronger control of pest plants and animals on public and private land.	Ongoing
4.2	Protect and preserve the local natural environment.	Each year
4.3	Work together to keep the landscape clean, environmentally sound and attractive.	Ongoing

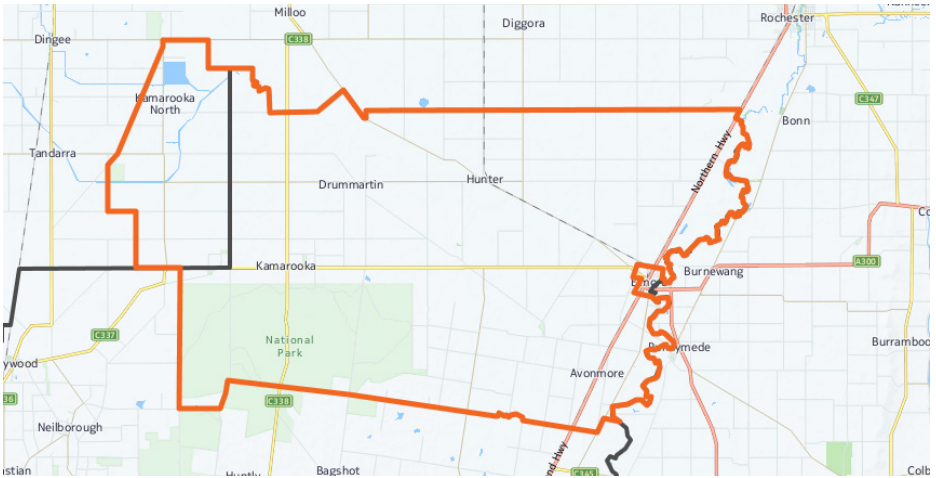
Measures of Success

A yearly priority planning session will facilitate mutual goal-setting.

Advocacy will be undertaken with regards fire risk reduction in the Kamarooka State Park



Kamarooka - Snapshot of results from the 2011 Census



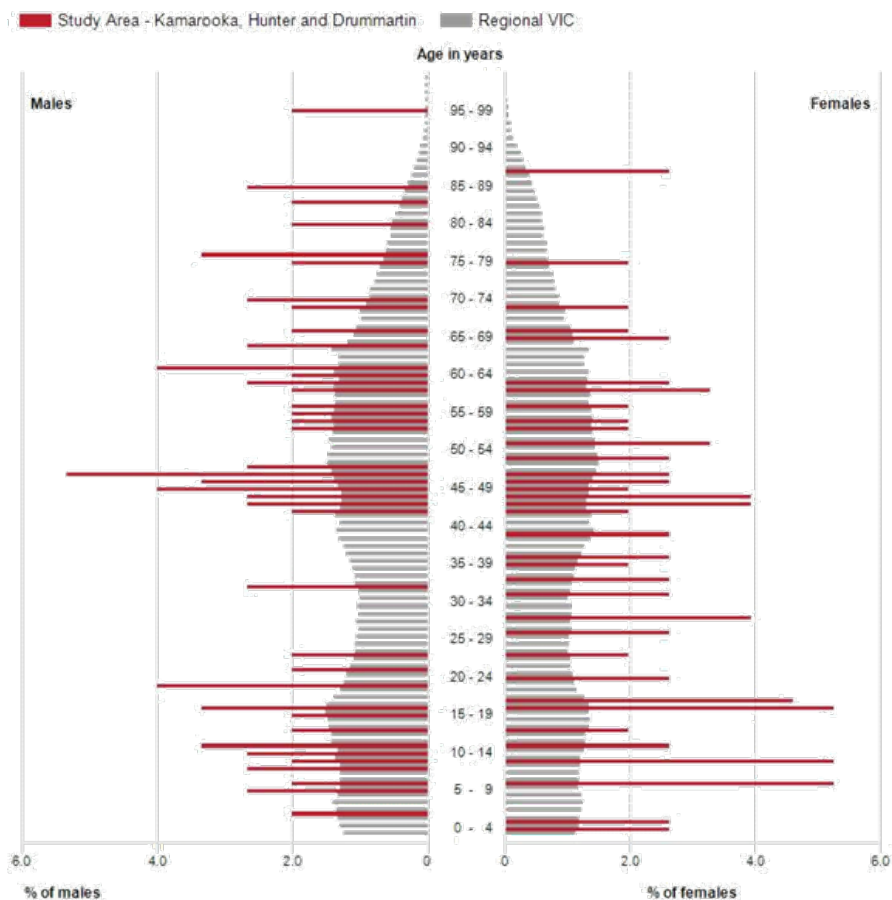
On Census night, there were 302 people in Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin. Of these, 49.7% were male and 50.3% were female. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 2.6% of the population.



Age

Median age of people living in Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin is 44 years. This is higher compared to Greater Bendigo (38 years) and Regional Victoria (41years).

The area only had 1% of population born overseas compared to Greater Bendigo which has 7.1% and Regional Victoria which has 10.7%.



Housing Tenure

	Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin (%)	Greater Bendigo (%)	Regional Victoria (%)
Fully Owned	50.0	33.7	37.3
Mortgage	26.9	34.4	32.1
Renting	20.4	26.1	24.1
Social	0.0	4.7	4.0
Private	17.6	20.9	19.3

Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin have a higher proportion of households which are fully owned (50%) compared to Greater Bendigo (33.7%) and Regional Victoria (37.3%). In relation to households renting and with a mortgage, Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin had no social housing but 17.6% renting privately. Also 26.9% of households had a mortgage compared to 34.4% in Greater Bendigo and 32.1% in Regional Victoria.

Housing Loan Repayments

	Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin (%)	Greater Bendigo (%)	Regional Victoria (%)
Lowest	50.3	35.8	37.5
Medium lowest	26.3	34.9	31.2
Medium highest	23.4	20.6	19.9
Highest	0.0	8.7	11.5

Lowest \$0-\$1,103, medium lowest \$1,104-\$1,695, medium highest \$1,696-\$2,351, highest \$2,352 and over.

The median monthly mortgage repayment for Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin is \$997, which is lower compared to Greater Bendigo and Regional Victoria both with \$1,300. Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin have 17.9% of households in mortgage stress which is higher compared to Greater Bendigo with 10.7% and Regional Victoria with 11.7%.

Housing Rental Payments

	Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin (%)	Greater Bendigo (%)	Regional Victoria (%)
Lowest	84.0	41.8	49.4
Medium lowest	16.0	39.4	33.2
Medium highest	0.0	13.9	11.7
Highest	0.0	4.9	5.7

Lowest \$0-\$190, medium lowest \$191-\$279, medium highest \$280-\$362, highest \$363 and over.

The median weekly rental payments for Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin are \$55. This is considerably lower compared to Greater Bendigo which is \$200 per week and Regional Victoria which is \$190 per week. Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin have no households in rental stress.

Employment

	Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin (%)	Greater Bendigo (%)	Regional Victoria (%)
Employed Full-time	54.1	55.9	56.2
Employed Part-time	45.9	37.0	36.5
Unemployed	0.0	5.2	5.2

The median weekly salary for Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin is \$639. This is considerably lower compared to Greater Bendigo which is \$768 per week and Regional Victoria which is \$758 per week. The median household income for Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin is \$912 per week compared to \$991 per week for Greater Bendigo and \$945 per week for Regional Victoria.

Family Composition

	Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin (%)	Greater Bendigo (%)	Regional Victoria (%)
Couple family without children	33.3	39.2	27.8
Couple family with children	36.1	41.0	26.9
One parent family	11.1	18.3	10.5
Other family	2.8	1.5	0.8

In Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin there are more couple family with/ without children and one parent families compared to Regional Victoria but less compared to Greater Bendigo.

Dwellings

	Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin (%)	Greater Bendigo (%)	Regional Victoria (%)
Occupied Dwellings	79.4	90.7	83.3
Unoccupied Dwellings	20.6	9.3	16.3

Of the total of private dwellings in Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin, 79.4% were occupied. This rate of occupancy is lower compared to Greater Bendigo and Victoria. The average number of people per household in Kamarooka, Hunter and Drummartin is 2.65.

Contact Details

1. Social and community events in Kamarooka

Name:

Mobile:

Email:

2. Maintaining infrastructure that is vital for the community

Name:

Mobile:

Email:

3. Supporting the rural business and lifestyle

Name:

Mobile:

Email:

4. Protecting and preserving the local natural environment and landscape

Name:

Mobile:

Email: