

Lockwood & District Community Plan



where little things grow
LOCKWOOD



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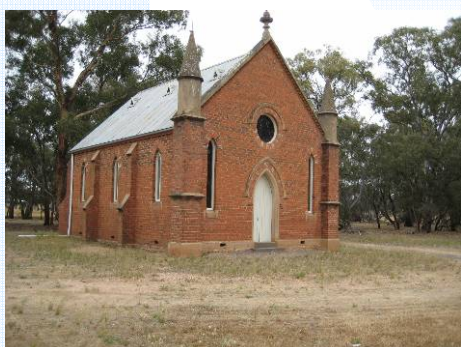


Lockwood and District Community Plan

This plan acknowledges and respects the Jaara Jaara traditional owners, their Dja Dja Wurrung language, knowledge and connection to the local area.

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Shelbourne

Old churches



Lockwood

Welcome

Community members are best placed to plan for the future of their own communities. They have a wealth of local knowledge built up over many conversations, a vast array of skills and expertise sitting at their fingertips and an understanding of how they would like the community to look. No one is better placed than local community members to develop a community vision and turn it into reality.

A good community plan will bring people together and ensure that all community activities assist to build a healthy community, by seeking to involve people as much as possible.

The importance of a community plan was clearly indicated by the community response to distributed resident surveys. Indeed even before the community plan was finalised the +25 Working Group had updated the Lockwood Community Directory in response to the high number of replies seeking community groups which currently operate in the area.

Community building is about more than simply bringing people together. It involves encouraging people to work with each other and seeking ways in which every person can contribute and be genuinely valued by fellow community members.

The community plan provides an opportunity too for the community's infrastructure to be developed to accommodate a growing population while protecting the values which inspired us to live in the area.

We look forward to working with you.

Lockwood +25 Working Group



Background of the Community Plan

The concept of establishing a future vision for the Lockwood and District Community emerged from the development of the Greater Bendigo Plan "Bendigo +25" by the City of Greater Bendigo in 2005. A proposal for the smaller townships within the shire boundary to develop their own community plan was implemented. Each community plan is unique- it is written by, maintained and reviewed by each community, essentially owned by the people of the particular area.

Community planning is a concept committed to by local government across Victoria. The process benefits from considerable state government funding from the Department of Planning and Community Development. The Bendigo +25 program, of which the Lockwood and District Community Plan forms part, is jointly funded by the City of Greater Bendigo and the State Government.

The Community Plan does not replace Council's normal strategic planning or the decision making role of elected Councillors. However, the Community Plan does play a pivotal role in influencing Council's policy making, planning and allocation of resources.

The importance of a community plan for the Lockwood District was supported by the overwhelming response from the community survey undertaken in 2007. The results clearly indicate that the Lockwood Community were ready to support a plan for moving the district into the future.

It is recognised that while the district has a long association with agricultural production in recent years with smaller allotments the population has increased substantially and will continue so for a number of years. The Community Plan identifies areas of Community infrastructure which require updating to accommodate the increase in community numbers



Box ironbark in Shelbourne Nature Conservation Reserve

Lockwood: a brief history

The Lockwood district is part of the lands of the Jaara Jaara people whose history has largely disappeared through the agricultural and mining activities undertaken by Europeans. However there are still a few unexplained significant sites such as the 'birthing' tree in Panorama Reserve and it is known that the flats along the creek at Happy Jack Reserve were used as meeting places.

The district was probably first settled by Europeans around 1840 by Charles Sherratt as Mount Alexander (North) No. 2 run. There were several outstations in the Lockwood area and it was one of the shepherds, Jack Kennedy, who established the first Happy Jacks Hotel in Panorama Drive in Lockwood South after his wife Margaret found gold at Golden Square.

Looking at the old maps it is interesting to note the small subdivisions all along what is now the Calder Alternative Highway, particularly along the creek where the soil was considered to be suited to market gardening and from 1860 till the 1890's there were a number of vineyards established along the Bullock Creek. Gold was discovered along the Bullock Creek in 1863 and there were a couple of mining operations in the area.

The Lockwood North Primary School opened with 23 or 29 children in 1864 and has operated continuously with the name being changed to Lockwood in 1950. The Lockwood South School began as a church school in 1859, came under the Education Department in 1873 and continued until 1950 when it was closed for a period of five years. There was a school at Shelbourne East for almost 100 years from 1872 and another at Shelbourne South from 1880 till 1902 although for some of the time it operated part time.

There was an Anglican church in Lockwood from about 1860 and the Wesleyan church (now Uniting) was built in Lockwood South in 1872. There was a Catholic church operating in what had been council offices on the north-west corner of the Lockwood crossing from 1909. Shelbourne East had a church building from 1870 which was in use until 1953.

Sporting facilities around the area were not given a high priority though there was a cricket pitch, on the north-east corner of the Lockwood crossing near where the new Telstra mobile phone tower has been erected. There was a recreation reserve set aside for cricket and tennis at Shelbourne but only the tennis courts have survived.

Happy Jack Emporium started life as a general store in 1861 but had become the Crown & Anchor Hotel by 1872 and in 1884 the license for the Happy Jack Hotel was transferred over and it was under this name that it operated until 1916. There have been as many as nine hotels operating in the area, four in Lockwood including the Queens Head at the crossing, and at least three in the Shelbourne area.

There had been a hall attached to the Marong Council offices at the crossing from the 1860's and the hall at Lockwood South is the successor of the one built during the nineteenth century. The Lockwood Hall was initially community owned and built by funds raised within community.

Source: Arnold K., Bendigo It's Environs - The way it was, 2003

Social Considerations for Area

Australian Census 2006

In all, 2,670 people reside in the census collection areas of Lockwood, Lockwood South and Shelbourne. In the 2006 Census the age composition in the Lockwood and surrounding area indicates 35.5% (928) of residents are under the age of 25 and 23.2% (608) are under the age of 14. This means that this group needs to be adequately provided for in terms of leisure, recreational and social support in the community plan.

AGE (GROUPS) 2006 Census Data	LOCKWOOD	LOCKWOOD SOUTH	SHELBOURNE	AUSTRALIAN AVERAGE
0-4 years	5.0% (37)	6.6% (61)	5.9% (56)	6.3%
5-14 years	17.2% (127)	17.2% (159)	17.8% (168)	13.5%
15-24 years	13.0% (96)	11.7% (108)	12.3% (116)	13.6%
25-54 years	38.9% (288)	46.5% (431)	41.3% (389)	42.2%
55-64 years	17.7% (131)	11.6% (107)	13.0% (122)	11.0%
65 years and over	8.2% (61)	6.5% (60)	9.8% (92)	13.3%
Median age of persons	39 (801)	37 (926)	39 (943)	37

In addition the effects of climate change and rising fuel costs should be addressed as an issue for decision makers as well as the whole of community.



Uniting Church - Lockwood South

About the Plan

The aim of the Community Plan is to allow the whole of community to share in their vision for our community.

This Community Plan document belongs to the community and is designed to give everyone the opportunity to participate in achieving the goals and actions set out in the plan. The goals and actions in each of the identified focus areas reflect the ideas presented by members of the community.

The Process

- An Information Session was held in September 2007 with City of Greater Bendigo +25 Coordinator and community residents to explain the process and encourage participation by the community.
- Expressions of interest were sought for residents to be part of a +25 Working Group. The group was formed to provide local knowledge, ensuring all community members were made aware of the process and given the opportunity to participate.
- Survey forms were developed by the +25 Working Group and mailed to all residents and distributed through the Lockwood district.
- Responses from 85 people were received, indicating a strong community participation rate
- The survey data was collated and clustered into focus areas.
- A Community Visioning Workshop was conducted at Lockwood in December 2007 to allow community residents' direct involvement in discussions identifying community plan actions.
- A draft Plan was prepared and distributed to community residents and made available to the community for comment.
- The plan was revised in light of community comment and launched in March 2009.

The development of the community plan has been undertaken by a Working Group that consisted of: Janet Jiricek, Judy Crocker, Bruce Heggie, Wendy Hall, Lois Coghlan, Andrew McSwain, Terry Grossman, Pam Thompson, John Thompson, Graeme Holland.

Focus Areas

Collation of information from the resident surveys has identified 6 Focus Areas:

- Arts and History
- Natural Environment
- Rural Living
- Infrastructure and Community Development
- Health and Community Participation
- Happy Jack Reserve

Each focus area contains:

- **Key Achievement**- these are designed to clearly describe the aim to be achieved
- **Actions**- the steps to achieving the key achievement
- **Timeline**- indicate the period taken to complete the action
- **Key Stakeholders**- Show organisations that could be involved in achieving the outcome of a particular area

Key stakeholders are listed in good faith as groups who possibly have an interest in the area.

What Next?

The complete Lockwood and District Community Plan will form a component of the Greater Bendigo Community Plan +25. Individual elements of the Plan will be incorporated into the corresponding Key Achievement of the Bendigo Plan.

For example, particular Key Achievements and Actions of the Lockwood and District Community Plan relating to Transport will be integrated into the relevant Bendigo Action Plan. This interaction will also occur in most other focus areas where the City of Greater Bendigo has a role.

The community plan is designed as a pathway for the district's future growth, it is not possible for it to be a detailed "How to" manual. The method of how things will be accomplished will develop as projects are selected and planned for achievement.

Prioritisation of actions has not been nominated. Timelines indicate in a general sense when achievement of Actions would be expected, however, priorities would emerge as interested groups and community residents began working on a particular project.

Co-ordination of the Lockwood and District Community Plan

Co-ordination of the Plan will need to be under the auspices of a local organisation on behalf of the community and working with City of Greater Bendigo. To prevent overlap or doubling up of efforts, the co-ordinating organisation will act as a 'keeper of records' so all parties can have access to what is taking place and who is involved at one reference point.

For the initial stages of implementation, the Lockwood Hall Committee has offered to assist with co-ordination of the Community Plan.

The community plan has the ability to act as a lobbying document for the community and in the future the City of Greater Bendigo funding allocation into the community will be guided by the community plan.

Future Review

Goals outlined in the Community Plan will be subject to achievements over time. The community plan will be reviewed every three years by community members to ensure that the plan remains on track and relevant.



Lockwood Hall

Focus Areas

Arts and History

We will foster local artistic pursuits and promote their talents to the wider region and encourage community involvement in activities and displays which acknowledge the past history of the area.

Key Achievement	Actions We will do this by	Timeline	Key Stakeholders
We will encourage and foster activities which develop artistic pursuits showcasing local artistic talents	Holding exhibitions of local arts/crafts/photos/stories. Linking with City of Greater Bendigo 'Summer in the Parks' Establishing a community arts committee Holding an Art Expo showcasing local artists Establishing a community garden at the Lockwood Hall	Oct 2009 + ongoing Summer 2010 March 2009 October 2009 June 2009	Community residents Lockwood Hall Committee Local Primary Schools Landcare Bowling club Tennis Club Community Arts Committee
We will recognize the work of community members whose efforts helped establish our area and acknowledge the history of the original Jaara Jaara inhabitants	Erecting a display board at Happy Jack Reserve Establishing a garden at the Lockwood Hall Compile a history of the original inhabitants.	December 2009 June 2010 2012	Community residents Landcare Lockwood Hall Local Primary Schools CFA Tennis Clubs Bowling Club City of Greater Bendigo Happy Jack Reserve Committee Jaara Jaara people

Natural Environment

The Lockwood and surrounding districts are recognised as a diverse natural environment. Maintaining and restoring our natural environment is essential in providing a healthy community.

The area is bordered by State Forests and reserves and we recognise the natural environment is one of the factors for people making the decision to live in the Lockwood area.

Key Achievement	Actions We will do this by	Timeline	Key Stakeholders
We place significant importance on maintaining and restoring the natural environment	Encouraging landholders to undertake native restoration works Promoting the work and achievements of Landcare	December 2010 + ongoing December 2010 + ongoing	Community residents Landcare City of Greater Bendigo DSE Vic Roads Forestry Parks Vic Land for Wildlife Wildlife Rescue
The protection of local flora and fauna and old growth trees with special focus on locally threatened species	Raising awareness of groups who assist with protection of local flora and fauna	June 2009 + ongoing	Community residents Wildlife Rescue RSPCA Land for Wildlife City of Greater Bendigo DSE Happy Jack Reserve Committee

Local forest



Rural living

Rural Living

Many people are attracted to the Lockwood and surrounding districts by the rural setting.

Key Achievement	Actions We will do this by	Timeline	Key Stakeholders
Retain rural character of the Lockwood and surrounding districts	<p>Encouraging relevant government agencies to take responsibility for roadside litter</p> <p>Entering Lockwood into Tidy Towns (or similar) Competition</p> <p>Promoting the acknowledgement of Lockwood as a township</p>	<p>October 2009</p> <p>March 2009</p> <p>June 2010</p>	<p>Community residents</p> <p>City of Greater Bendigo</p> <p>Landcare</p> <p>Vic Roads</p>
Sustainable living in a rural environment reduces the impact we make on the local environment	<p>Promoting Lockwood District as an area focused on sustainable living</p> <p>Encouraging community members to reduce household waste and source alternative energy sources</p>	<p>March 2009 + ongoing</p> <p>December 2009 + ongoing</p>	<p>Community residents</p> <p>Lockwood Hall Committee</p> <p>Local Primary Schools</p> <p>Landcare</p> <p>Bowling Club</p> <p>City of Greater Bendigo</p> <p>Happy Jack Reserve Committee</p> <p>Tennis Club</p> <p>Post office</p> <p>Lockwood church</p>



Infrastructure and Community Development

Our infrastructure shapes the type of community we are able to develop for future generations and requires upgrading to accommodate the areas growing population. Located in a semi-rural environment, access to transport and alternative water sources are vital. Improving safety for all road users of the Calder Alternative was a common response from community feedback.

Key Achievement	Actions We will do this by	Timeline	Key Stakeholders
We will continue to work towards upgrading the local road network for all users	<p>Advocating for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 80km/hr speed limit on Calder Alternative hwy through Lockwood to Lockwood South Township - Installation of street lighting between Lockwood South Primary School and Lockwood Church. - Installation of street lighting for Lockwood/Maryborough Rd intersection - Provision of turning lanes at Lockwood/Maryborough Rd intersection for vehicles travelling on Calder Alt hwy - Improvement of roads for cyclists through the provision of bicycle lanes 	<p>2009</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2010</p>	<p>Community residents</p> <p>Vic Roads</p> <p>City of Greater Bendigo</p> <p>Hall Committee</p> <p>Landcare</p> <p>Local Primary Schools</p> <p>Tennis Club</p> <p>Bowling Club</p>
Establish a transport network which links people to Bendigo	Initiating community engagement processes and investigation, in cooperation with the B-Line - Getting Bendigo and Loddon transport connections project, with the aim to identify transport opportunities for travel to Bendigo	2009	<p>Community residents</p> <p>City of Greater Bendigo</p> <p>Lockwood Hall Committee</p>

Provide access to alternative water sources	Retaining Coliban water stand pipe for Lockwood Supporting Lockwood Water Board	2009 + ongoing	Community residents City of Greater Bendigo Lockwood Water Board Coliban Water CFA Lockwood Hall
Redevelop Lockwood Hall to accommodate the growing population and for greater use by community groups	Requesting City of Greater Bendigo to engage an architect to work with the community to plan re-development of hall in a sustainable manner including. -Extending building to include meeting rooms for groups and visiting services -Asphalting of car park area surrounding hall and installation of lighting -Erecting a child proof fence around perimeter of hall property -Refurbishing of Hall seating -Repairing floor in Hall kitchen	2008 2009 2010 2009 2010	Community residents Lockwood Hall Committee City of Greater Bendigo Bowling Club CFA Landcare Tennis Club Happy Jack Reserve committee All potential hall users
Support the development of business services in Lockwood	Encouraging visiting health practitioners to be available at Lockwood	2010 + ongoing	
Support the upgrade and greater utilisation of district sporting facilities	Upgrading and improving maintenance of Happy Jack Reserve cricket ground & surrounds with improved facilities Upgrading of Lockwood district Tennis Courts and facilities Extending Shelbourne sporting facilities and upgrading of Hall	2009 + ongoing 2010 + ongoing 2010 + ongoing	Happy Jack Reserve Committee Tennis Clubs Shelbourne Hall committee

Health and Community Participation

We view communication as important in building a strong and active community. Lockwood has a large and diverse range of clubs and service organisations and we seek to ensure these are known to everybody

Key Achievement	Actions We will do this by	Timeline	Key Stakeholders
Communication of local activities and news	Calling a public meeting to gauge community interest Obtaining funding to produce a newsletter Producing a Lockwood Newsletter	March 2009 March 2009 June 2009	All Community residents
We recognize the Lockwood District has a large number of community groups	Updating the Lockwood Community Directory and distributing to all households Provide access to Lockwood Community Directory on City of Greater Bendigo web site	Completed and distributed in September 2008 October 2008	Lockwood +25 Working Group City of Greater Bendigo
Commitment to fostering opportunities for local groups and service organisations to promote their activities	Establishing a Community Expo Working Group Running a Community Expo Providing age appropriate facilities at Lockwood Hall and Happy Jack Reserve	March 2009 August 2009 2009 + ongoing	All groups and organisations in Lockwood City of Greater Bendigo
Provide opportunities for young people to be involved in community life	Providing facilities at Lockwood Hall		Community residents

Happy Jack Reserve

Key Achievement	Actions We will do this by	Timeline	Key Stakeholders
Happy Jack Reserve will continue to be developed for local community and passing travellers	Seeking additional playground equipment for Happy Jack Reserve	2009	Community residents Landcare Happy Jack Res. Committee City of Greater Bendigo Parks Vic North Central Catchment Management Authority
	Extending BBQ shade area, provide wind shelter and install additional picnic tables	June 2009	
	Providing display board at rest stop.	October 2009	
	Providing interpretive signage along walking track	2009	
	Installing planned BMX track	2008/2009	
	Requesting City of Greater Bendigo provide adequate funds to enable the Happy Jack Reserve committee to maintain the Reserve	2009	

