

Community Plan

Updated 2014

Introduction and Welcome

Raywood is a unique small town in a picturesque rural setting. Developing this revised Community Plan has been an important process for Raywood led by the Raywood Progress Association. It has enabled community members to re-state what is important to the future of Raywood and to become re-energised about working together to achieve these goals.

The work towards revising the Raywood Community Plan commenced in mid-2013. The revision has also provided an opportunity for all members of the Raywood Progress Association to be involved in leading the processes by distributing surveys, conducting community consultation and sharing ideas. It is always a challenge in community planning to get community members involved, but fortunately a core group have seen the process through with commitment and enthusiasm.

This final result sets out a series of goals which represent the priorities of a cross-section of community members. They are achievable, rather than grand, and achieving these goals would make a significant difference to Raywood because they provide opportunities to connect people, make the town more beautiful and build the sustainability of commercial businesses in Raywood.

We look forward to welcoming all contribution to these goals.

*To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but
also dream; not only plan, but also believe.*



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Economic Development

Our Goal

To develop strategies that will assist the economic viability of local businesses and encourage the establishment of new business in Raywood.

To achieve this goal we will ...

Proposed Actions

1. Publicise local businesses.
2. Include local businesses in planning for community events.
3. Communicating with and supporting local businesses where possible.

Timeframes

Ongoing

Each year

Ongoing

Measures of Success

Local businesses are a part of community activities. They are included in event planning and supported by local residents.

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Social and Learning

Our Goal

Encourage and facilitate a range of opportunities for community members to come together for social and learning opportunities and community celebrations.

To achieve this goal we will ...

Proposed Actions

1. Collate, maintain and publicise a calendar of local events.
2. Establish and maintain a community noticeboard.
3. Identify opportunities to “value add” to local events that may attract outside visitors to Raywood.
4. Work together to offer a small number of community-wide social events each year that have wide appeal and minimum cost.
5. Conduct deliberate activities to encourage Raywood community members of all ages to volunteer to assist, organise and participate in local community events and activities.

Timeframes

By mid 2015

By mid 2015

Ongoing

Four events per year

Ongoing

Measures of Success

More people know about and take part in Raywood community activities by volunteering more and attending local events and activities.

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Community

Our Goal

The different Raywood organisations work together to achieve goals for the benefit of the wider community.

To achieve this goal we will ...

Proposed Actions

1. The Progress Association will assist local community organisations and groups wherever possible.
2. Communicate and co-operate with local individuals and organisations to set goals and action projects.
3. Partner with local organisations to attract funding and achieve stated goals.

Timeframes

Ongoing

Yearly planning

Yearly planning

Key Milestone

Celebrate the history of Raywood.

Measures of Success

Communicated with and supporting / assisting local community organisations.

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

Maintain and Improve Facilities

Our Goal

Work together to maintain and / or improve the visual attractiveness of Raywood's streetscapes, recreation facilities and surrounds to increase the appeal to locals and visitors.

To achieve this goal we will ...

Proposed Actions

1. Advocate to relevant organisations regarding regular maintenance of built infrastructure.
2. Conduct a community clean-up event and work to develop local pride in the town's appearance.
3. Identify specific areas for attention and development and form an action plan.
4. Advocate for improved public facilities, including transport options.

Timeframes

Ongoing

Each year

Ongoing

A new initiative each year

Measures of Success

Local people are working together to build a sense of pride in Raywood.

History of Raywood

On October 22, 1863 Joseph Woodward found alluvial gold on the edge of Thunder Plains. He named the area Raywood after his birth place in England. The Borough of Raywood, including Elysian Flat was proclaimed on January 3, 1865.

The first Police Station opened in December 1863. During 1865, the Elysian Flat police station amalgamated with Raywood. A new brick station, situated in the main street, was built in the 1920s. Inglewood Street was given its name in 1864 by a majority of diggers who had assembled.

The first of many Hotels (24 at its peak!) was built in 1863, about where the Town Hall is currently situated. It moved to its current location in 1874, where it operated as the Raywood Royal Theatre until 1947. On January 4, 1864 a post office opened in a room at Gunn's Hotel. The cast iron pillar box in front of the Town Hall was made by Alliance Iron Works, Melbourne.

In 1878, the Town Hall was built, and was used as the Mechanics Institute and by several religious denominations. A library became operational by 1895. By November 1878, the Borough of Raywood was instructed to have a reservoir surveyed. Water supply began sometime later, about 1884.

The first common school was established by the Catholic Church in 1864. On February 27, 1877, school no. 1844 was ready for classes, and had net enrolments of 159 students. Measles and WWII saw periodic closures of the school. Several religious faiths operated in various establishments in the early years. The current Churches were eventually opened – Uniting Church 1876, Catholic Church 1940 and Anglican Church 1962.

Raywood was very well represented in the sporting stakes. The Union Cricket Club was formed in December 1863, organising the first match against Inglewood for January 30, 1864. The first horse race was conducted in December 1868, and the first competitive game of football was played in 1904. On October 1, 1915 the Borough of Raywood amalgamated with the Shire of Marong and by 1928 only one Hotel was remaining.

The Raywood Fire Brigade was formed in 1939, following the Black Friday fires. All early records of the brigade were lost in a fire. By 1940, Raywood was connected to electricity. In 1941 the first grain silo was opened, and received over 106,000 bushells in the first season.

In August 1885, land was set aside for a recreation reserve. It wasn't until February 1959 excavation took place to create a sand-based swimming pool. Water was connected to the reserve in October 1959, and the pool filled. Five lawn tennis courts were also created in 1959, and the current club rooms built in 1960. A turf cricket pitch was laid in 1961. Morshead Park was officially opened on February 9, 1963.

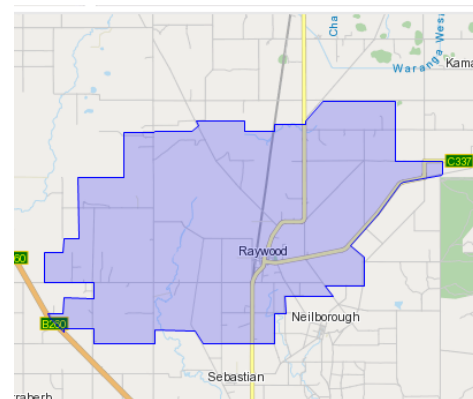
Raywood – now part of the City of Greater Bendigo – is a little town offering a rural lifestyle. We now boast a new multi-purpose stadium in the school grounds, a new shed at the fire station and a new police station.

Looking forward, we need to look after, nurture and develop this unique area.

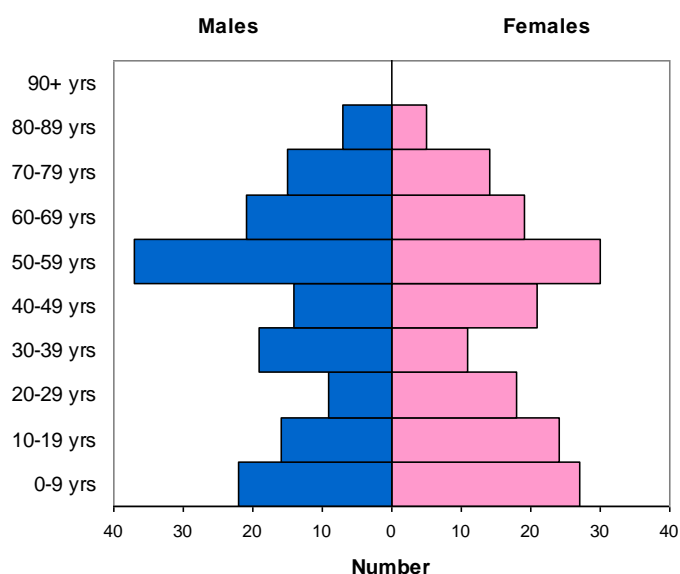
Raywood - Snapshot of results from the 2011 Census

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Code SSC21130 (SSC) Web page link: http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC21130?opendocument&navpos=220

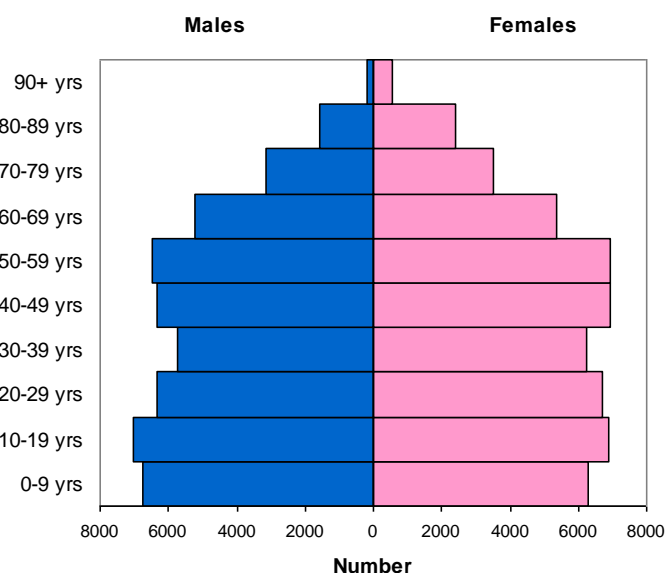
At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 328 people in Raywood. Of these, 49.1% were male and 50.9% were female. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 1.2% of the population.



Age Raywood



Greater Bendigo



The median age of people in Raywood is 47 years which is higher compared to the median age for Greater Bendigo which is 38. The most common ancestries in Raywood are Australian 33.9%, English 31.5%, Irish 14%, Scottish 6.8% and German 4.7%.

Median Weekly Income

People aged 15 years and over

	Raywood	Greater Bendigo	Victoria
Personal	\$390	\$513	\$561
Family	\$945	\$1,245	\$1,460
Household	\$785	\$991	\$1,216

The personal, family and household median weekly income for residents in Raywood is lower compared to Greater Bendigo and Victoria. In Raywood, 39.6% of households had a gross weekly household income of less than \$600 compared to 28.1% for Greater Bendigo and no households registered having a gross weekly household income of more than \$3,000.

The median weekly rent in Raywood is \$160 which is lower compared Greater Bendigo which is \$200. 95.5% of households renting in Raywood 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 Raywood is 4.5% compared to 8.5% in Greater Bendigo.

The median monthly mortgage repayment in Raywood is \$888 which is lower compared to Greater Bendigo. Households with mortgage repayments less than 30% of household income in Raywood are 89.3% which is higher compared to Greater Bendigo with 92.5%. Households with mortgage repayments greater than 30% of household income is 10.7% which is higher compared to Greater Bendigo with 7.5%.

Family Composition

	Raywood (%)	Greater Bendigo (%)	Victoria (%)
Couple family without children	39.8	39.2	36.7
Couple family with children	47.7	41.0	46.0
One parent family	12.5	18.3	15.5
Other family	0.0	1.5	1.8

In Raywood there are more couple family with children compared to couple family without children and one parent families. Compared to Greater Bendigo and Victoria, Raywood had more couple family with children.

In Raywood, 78.1% 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 Raywood is lower compared to Greater Bendigo with 21.9% and 24.5% respectively.

Dwellings

	Raywood (%)	Greater Bendigo (%)	Victoria (%)
Occupied Dwellings	89.8	90.7	88.7
Unoccupied Dwellings	10.2	9.3	11.3

Of the total of private dwellings in Raywood, 89.8% were occupied. This rate of occupancy is just lower compared to Greater Bendigo but higher compared to Victoria. The average number of bedrooms per dwelling in Raywood is 3.1 and the average number of people per household is 2.7.

