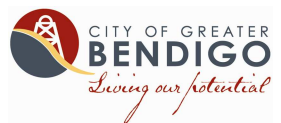


# Strathfieldsaye Community Plan



## *Vision:*

*Sustainable growth and development, while retaining our natural environment, history and rural amenity*



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### *1. Welcome*

Community members are best placed to plan for the future of their own communities. Identifying a vision, then planning for actions to realise the vision is a useful mechanism to develop partnerships and gain support from key stakeholders to bring that vision to life.

Strathfieldsaye has been identified as a key growth corridor on the south eastern outskirts of Bendigo, and over the last 20 years has experienced rapid residential growth. With the anticipated population expected to double by 2021, it is important to keep pace with community facilities and social needs. The community planning process is a critical element in identifying the future needs and gaining support for these developments to occur.

Strathfieldsaye was formerly a rural based hamlet with agricultural products being supplied to the local Bendigo economy. With the discovery of gold in Bendigo in 1851, Strathfieldsaye was identified for its agricultural potential to supply food and produce to the miners. In 1854 early farming began along Sheepwash, Emu and Axe Creeks. There are a number of long standing families who have ties back to the days of district settlement and have seen this transition from a rural based community to a more residentially based satellite community of Bendigo with greater areas of urban settlement in recent times.

One of the key objectives of the Community Plan that has been identified is the desire to retain the “rural feel” and the link back to our past.

### *2. Background to the Strathfieldsaye +25 Community Plan*

Community planning is a concept committed to by local governments across Victoria. Within the City of Greater Bendigo this has arisen due to the Bendigo +25 community planning initiative undertaken in 2005. All towns and localities within the Bendigo municipality have been encouraged to develop a local community plan. Each plan is unique to that location as a result of local input and thinking.

The development of the Strathfieldsaye Community Plan continues the commitment for small townships and local communities to establish a future vision for their local areas. The Community Plan has been prepared by the Strathfieldsaye +25 Community Reference Group at the same time as the Strathfieldsaye Township Plan is being developed to consider the technical planning and zoning issues for the future growth and development areas. The community plan focuses upon the community infrastructure development and social needs to keep pace with the demands of a growing and developing area. To have both the Community Plan and the Township Plan being developed at the same time is a unique process, which will ultimately result in two complementary documents that reflect community needs from both a planning and liveability perspective.

In preparing the Strathfieldsaye Township Plan a number of technical investigations and reports have been conducted by consultants. These have also been a useful reference in developing the Community Plan.

### *3. Vision*

Strathfieldsaye and its surrounding district will continue to grow as it meets the needs of 21st century families and communities. This growth needs to incorporate infrastructure to support residential, commercial, educational, social and recreational facilities. At the same time it is imperative that we remain true to what are the quintessential ingredients of Strathfieldsaye - that is its natural environment, its history and its rural flavour. We are a unique township, surrounded by natural bushland with all of its beauty and serenity. This element must not be lost as we strive to meet the growing needs of residential development.

### *4. History of Strathfieldsaye*

The Djadjarung Aboriginals spanned hunting grounds from Ballan to Boort and the Pyrenees to Macedon while the Bendi-bores tribes were present in the Eppalock – Campaspe District. Just prior to white man arriving in the area, the aboriginal population of the region had been decimated by a bloody feud between the neighbouring tribes and thereafter the aboriginal population continued to dwindle due to disease, being ousted from their tribal lands by the squatters and then the goldseekers.

The area of Strathfieldsaye arose from the “Campaspe Plain Station” and the “Ravenswood Run”, squatters stations established in the 1830’s. Once gold was discovered in the Bendigo area in 1851, there became an urgent need for good agricultural land and so it was that the areas around Bendigo came to be “unlocked” from the pastoral leases. The Parish of Strathfieldsaye was surveyed in 1854, when the early farming began along the Emu, Axe and Sheepwash creeks. The Duke of Wellington died in 1852 and it is believed the local surveyor, Mr. Richard Larritt, named the area after the Duke’s Hampshire estate, Stratfield Saye – note the street names relating to the Duke of Wellington – Apsley, Walmer, Uxbridge, Wellesley, Blucher, Duke etc.

The farms of the area tended to be basic subsistence farms of a few fruit trees, vines, chickens and a cow. Early settlers also helped to support their farming ventures with harvesting the timber – first for the mines and then for Bendigo industry and domestic use. The German settlers of the area quickly began to plant grape vines and even as early as 1852 the planting of wine grapes began. In 1873 wines from the region were awarded the Diploma of Honour at the Vienna Wine Exhibition. By 1864 many farmers took to growing tobacco and one farm along the Axe Creek processed the tobacco and even employed a cigar maker! The Shire Minutes Book records the Code of the Strathfieldsaye Common where a resident was entitled to run one horse and 2 cows for amounts between 3 to 4/- half yearly. Floods in 1859, 1864, 1871, 1889 and 1930 caused great damage along the creeks of Strathfieldsaye taking bridges, fruit trees, vineyards and tons of rich farm topsoil. Fire also threatened farms on a regular basis and it was in 1912 that the Axe Creek Fire Brigade was formed, being one of the first of its kind in the State.

The phylloxera outbreak of 1893 led to the vines in the region being destroyed and high quality fruit was grown in its place. By the late 1890s fruit from Strathfieldsaye was being exported to England, France, Germany and Denmark and after the turn of the century to China! In fact Thomas Somerville’s apples were judged in Germany to be the “best apples in the world”. After prolonged droughts and crop failure in the 1920s and the 1930s most farmers turned to dairy and tomato crops.

The first school in the Parish was opened in 1858 by the Church of England and thereafter a number of schools of various denominations opened. The first state school in the area was Emu Creek State School No. 228 opened in 1860 and others including Axe Creek No. 796, Eppalock No. 1788 and Strathfieldsaye No. 1211 and a number of smaller establishments opened and closed over time.

Although little reminders remain today, the Shire had many hotels along its main roads over the years, servicing goldseekers and drovers. Along McIvor Road were Atlas, the Travellers Rest, the Farmers Arms, the Axedale and Perseverance. Along Strathfieldsaye Road were Pipers, Duke of Wellington, Waterloo, Sheepwash, Tannery, Earlybird and Junction, while further afield were the Mandurang, William Tell, Plough and Harrow, Limerick, Great Eastern, Drover's Arms and the Golden Age.

Extracts taken from "On the Creeks" by Barbara Mitchell and "Bendigo a History" by Frank Cusack.

### *5. Aim of this Process*

The aim of this document is to provide the whole community the opportunity and scope to share in the development and enactment of a vision for the future of Strathfieldsaye.

The Plan is a Community Plan and represents aspirations and wishes established through workshops and consultation.

A number of public meetings have taken place, project bulletins sent to all members within the designated growth zone and a survey questionnaire sent in the mail to all home owners to provide an opportunity for community feedback and input.

The survey information and community feedback from the workshops were collated and clustered into the following themes:

1. Natural Environment
2. Township Appearance and Structure
3. Transport and Movement
4. Sustainability, Water and Climate Change
5. Sport and Recreation
6. Education and Training
7. Health and Wellbeing
8. Support Services
9. Entertainment, Arts and Culture
10. Shopping and Retail





These ten themes will provide the key considerations of how Strathfieldsaye grows and develops.

Strathfieldsaye has a recent history of being innovative, progressive and visionary by pioneering the Strathfieldsaye and Districts Community Enterprise Pty Ltd (SDCE) which has established partnerships with Bendigo Bank (BB) and the Bendigo Community Telco (BCT) to generate a revenue stream that is committed back into local community projects and infrastructure such as the development of the new recreation reserve.

It is proposed that the SDCE will provide the on-going governance to progress the initiatives of the Strathfieldsaye Community Plan and will call upon community members to take part on sub-committees to progress the initiatives within the ten themes mentioned above.

The Strathfieldsaye Community Plan will be governed by the SDCE through sub-committees and the plan will be continually updated and revised every 2 years by the Strathfieldsaye community to ensure currency and on-going relevance.

We have an outstanding number of volunteers in Strathfieldsaye and together we can make this plan a reality.

Contact [chair@strathce.com.au](mailto:chair@strathce.com.au) for further details.

## *6. Demographic Profile*

The demographic information is summarised from the City of Greater Bendigo Community Profile information prepared by ID Consulting and is based upon Australian Bureau of Statistics data from the 2006 census.

Modelling of the census data projects a doubling of the population by 2021. This emphasises the importance of the Strathfieldsaye Township Structure Plan and the Strathfieldsaye Community Plan so that this projected growth can be planned for in a proper manner.

The information taken from the census data indicates Strathfieldsaye has a high proportion of Australian born residents (92.9%) compared with an Australian average of 70.9%.

The most common responses for occupation for employed persons usually resident in Strathfieldsaye were Professionals 24.3%, Clerical and Administrative workers 15.4%, Sales workers 13.3%, Technicians and Trades workers 13.1%, Managers 12.7%, Community and Personal Service workers 9.3%, Labourers 7.5% and Machinery Operators and Drivers 3.5%.

The most common industries of employment for persons aged 15 years and over usually resident in Strathfieldsaye were School Education 7.9% and Hospitals 6.5%, Financial 5.0%, Supermarket and Grocery stores 3.6% and Public Order and Safety Services 2.6%.

The median weekly income for persons aged 15 years and over who were usual residents was \$554, compared with \$466 in Australia. The median weekly house hold income was \$1,281, compared with \$1,027 in Australia. The median weekly family income was \$1,340, compared with \$1,171 in Australia.

In 2006 there were 877 families in Strathfieldsaye: 60.8% were couple families with children, 30.2% were couple families without children, 8.6% were one parent families. Strathfieldsaye differs from Bendigo in a number of ways as follows:

- i. 35.7% of individuals earn greater than \$38,717 per annum compared to only 24.4% in Bendigo
- ii. 19% of individuals have tertiary qualifications compared to 12.1% for Bendigo
- iii. 27.4% of the community participate in voluntary activities within groups or organisations compared to 22.6% for Bendigo
- iv. the age structure in 2021 is likely to be very similar to the structure in 2008, with highest age groupings in the 5 to 9 year olds followed by 10 to 14 year olds and 40 to 44 year olds. This is different from other rural and regional areas where the numbers of older adults is likely to be significantly higher than younger people. It also indicates that a number of middle aged families move into Bendigo to be closer to services and amenities.
- iv. Driving a car is by far the most common means of travelling to work by people living within Strathfieldsaye (71%), followed by travelling in a car as a passenger.
- v. Strathfieldsaye has a high percentage of households comprising couples with children (61%) than other parts of Bendigo. However Strathfieldsaye has fewer one parent families (8%) compared to Bendigo (18%), fewer single person households (10%) compared to Greater Bendigo (25.7%) and group households (1%) compared to Greater Bendigo (4.2%).
- vi. 57% of residents are in the process of purchasing their own homes compared with 34.3% in Greater Bendigo and have higher mortgages than other parts of Bendigo. This reflects that movement in mortgage interest rates could have a greater impact in Strathfieldsaye than other areas of Bendigo.

## 7. Strathfieldsaye in Facts and Figures

2006 Census	STRATHFIELDSAYE		AUSTRALIA
<b>Total:</b>	3147 residents	50.3% Male	49.4% Male
		49.7% Female	50.6% Female
		0.6% Indigenous	2.3% Indigenous
<b>Age groups:</b>	STRATHFIELDSAYE		AUSTRALIA
0-4 years	298	9.5%	6.3%
5-14 years	651	20.7%	13.5%
15-24 years	350	11.1%	13.6%
25-54 years	1403	44.6%	42.2%
55-64 years	263	8.4%	11.0%
65 years +	183	5.8%	13.3%
Median ages	31	-	-
<b>Country of Birth:</b>	STRATHFIELDSAYE		AUSTRALIA
Australia	2992	95.1%	86.1%
Born overseas	178	5.7%	22.2%
Overseas visitors	14	0.4%	1.0%
<b>Family Characteristics:</b>	STRATHFIELDSAYE		AUSTRALIA
Total families	877		
Couple families with children	533	60.8%	45.3%
Couple families without children	265	30.2%	37.2%
1 parent families	75	8.6%	15.8%
Other families	4	0.5%	1.7%



### *8. Identifying Priority Actions:*

A community workshop was held to gain feedback from local residents about their aspirations and ideas for the future development of Strathfieldsaye and district. From this workshop the ideas have been collated and help to formulate the Themes, Goals and Actions outlined in Section 8. The Strathfieldsaye +25 Community Reference Group then used the community workshop feedback to identify the following top priorities:

- improve cycling and walking paths throughout the Strathfieldsaye Township area
- investigate the expansion of the Strathfieldsaye Sports Complexes to include a multipurpose indoor arena and indoor swimming complex
- investigate the options available for delivery of recycled water including the extension of the recycled water pipeline from Spring Gully Reservoir to Strathfieldsaye
- reduce our community's carbon footprint and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by exploring Renewable Energy options for our community
- create an attractive commercial hub which incorporates community open space and public art and respects the rural village atmosphere of Strathfieldsaye
- establish a process to integrate creek land frontages and other significant sites with valuable native vegetation, so they become future open space and linear creek land reserves for our community
- ensure that a mix of residential lot sizes is available to cater for the future needs and maintain the rural atmosphere and environmental qualities of Strathfieldsaye
- provide a sense of arrival into Strathfieldsaye and create a streetscape theme with locally indigenous vegetation and other landscape features
- develop a traffic plan for north/ south and east/ west traffic through Strathfieldsaye
- protect existing rural uses from intrusion and like restrictions on the rural uses of future residential use by providing appropriate “buffer” distances
- provide an appropriate area for the location of service type industries to promote and foster appropriate enterprise and provide employment opportunities in Strathfieldsaye

## 9. Themes, Goals and Actions:

As mentioned in Section 7, the Themes, Goals and Actions have been collated from a community workshop meeting held earlier in 2008. A follow up Community Plan feedback session was held at the local shopping centre to obtain additional comments. The following Tables outline the Goals and Actions within each of the 10 broad themes:

### 9.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

GOAL 1: Maintain a “rural/bush feel” to Strathfieldsaye		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Create and expand paths and passive recreation areas in Strathfieldsaye wherever possible – creek side, bushland and in new residential areas	Short	SDCE Natural Environment Sub-Committee COGB DSE NCCMA Local Landcare Groups Local Primary Schools
Maintain a balance between natural bushland, rural and residential areas	On-Going	
Maintain and enhance overall rural/bush feel and appearance in Strathfieldsaye particularly by retention of upper storey eucalypts as a priority and encouragement of lower storey indigenous plantings wherever possible by commercial and residential developers, residents and COGB so “the look” is maintained	Short and Medium	
Encourage community in schools and residential areas to plant (or mix) indigenous plantings in their gardens and create or consider wildlife corridors in the region, including public land	Short and Medium	
Identify and promote local landowners who achieve biodiversity benefits through planting of locally indigenous vegetation within their urban / semi urban property	On-Going	
Develop an information brochure and residents pack to entice Strathfieldsaye residents to maintain the bush feel by being environmentally aware	Short	

GOAL 2: Maintain and enhance creeks and natural landscapes		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Identify and maintain remnant vegetation and places of indigenous heritage including areas of significant landscapes eg. Tannery Heights	Medium to Long	SDCE Natural Environment Sub-Committee COGB Local Primary Schools Coliban Water EPA DSE DPI NCCMA Local Landcare groups Scouts Future Developers Local businesses New groups – “Friends of the Creeks” Lions Club
Revegetate the creeks and establish a maintenance plan for revegetation areas	Medium to Long	
Integrate creek landscapes with contiguous residential areas by encouraging residents to create indigenous plantings and wildlife corridors	On-Going	
Identify flood plains and consider public ownership of these for community use and benefit	Short	
Explore carbon trading credits and offset planting requirements for revegetation of creeks	Short to Medium	
Develop a biodiversity link between Strathfieldsaye township centre and One Tree Hill Park along creek lines and natural landscapes	Medium to Long	
Encourage and support local Landcare Groups of Sheepwash Creek, Emu Creek and Axe Creek, and extend their areas of interest and / or Create a "Friends of the Creeks" group to ensure ongoing consideration is given to all aspects of our creeks	On-Going	

## 9.2 TOWNSHIP APPEARANCE & STRUCTURE

<b>GOAL 1: Allocate more land for residential housing sensitive to the rural atmosphere</b>		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Provide transition between residential and rural land by maintaining/creating areas of low density zoning or farmlets.	Short	SDCE Township Appearance Sub-Committee COGB DPCD DSE DPI EPA NCCMA
Incorporate a formal structure plan incorporating layout, specified use, public open space and connection to existing and proposed walkways for future residential subdivision areas	Short	
Ensure that the creek flats which traverse proposed areas for rezoning to residential use are preserved for community areas and incorporate walking & cycling trails, by requiring mandatory reserve areas along the creeks	Short	
Investigate more appropriate areas for residential re- zoning to avoid conflict with existing primary production activities and existing native vegetation	Short	
Strive to appropriately retain native vegetation to ensure the rural atmosphere of Strathfieldsaye is maintained	Short	
Provide a balanced range of lot sizes in any new residential developments.	Short	

<b>GOAL 2: Improve and maintain community infrastructure and provide identity for Strathfieldsaye</b>		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Create an entrance to the Township (North, South, and East & West) by way of landscaping and physical structure consistent with the ambition to retain the rural amenity	Short to Medium	SDCE Township Appearance Sub-Committee COGB VicRoads Local Traders Group
Ensure that the Commercial Centre embraces the village / rural feel of Strathfieldsaye eg. through sympathetic establishment of trees and shrubs throughout the shopping centre car park	Medium to Long	
Develop a streetscape theme through the adoption of appropriate local province trees and shrubs to maintain Strathfieldsaye's rural feel	Short	

GOAL 3: Identify appropriate areas for use other than housing		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Incorporate a site for the Strathfieldsaye Cemetery in the proposed township plan	Long	SDCE Township Appearance Sub-Committee COGB DOI
Identify and allocate a site for future Retirement Village close to town centre and services	Medium to Long	
Enshrine the rights of existing rural uses and the impact of rezoning including buffer zones	Short	
Allow for future sites for essential services eg. ambulance, police etc. which may be required by the Strathfieldsaye community	Medium to Long	
Explore opportunities for light industrial zones	Medium	

### 9.3 TRANSPORT & MOVEMENT

GOAL 1: Safe and effective pedestrian and bicycle traffic		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Identify, plan and develop an interconnected network of walking / cycling paths that are responsive to natural features such as creeks and drainage lines	Short and On-Going	SDCE Transport & Movement Sub-Committee COGB Local Landcare Groups DSE NCCMA VicRoads Local Primary Schools Bendigo Bicycle Club - other Community Enterprise Committees
Extend and continue to develop walking and cycling paths along Sheepwash Creek and Emu Creek	Short to Medium	
Establish clearly defined cycling lanes along main roads that have a physical buffer from vehicle traffic lanes	Short to Medium	
Develop safe pedestrian access from Strathfieldsaye Road at the Sheepwash Creek Bridge by linking to the existing cycling / walking path from both directions	Short	
Provide safe pedestrian and cycling access across the Emu Creek Bridge	Medium	
Develop an off road bicycle link from Strathfieldsaye to Bendigo	Medium to Long	
GOAL 2 : To consider and plan for the transport and access requirements of young people pursuing educational endeavours		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Advocate for speed restrictions along Strathfieldsaye Road during school drop off and pick up times	Short to Medium	SDCE Transport & Movement Sub-Committee COGB VicRoads Dept of Transport
Reduce parking congestion at school drop off and pick up times by developing the Walking School Bus program	Short	
Develop a safe cycling route between Strathfieldsaye township and Catholic College, Junortoun	Short to Medium	
Identify and construct key drop off points away from the school sites that will reduce traffic congestion at the schools and provide safe access to and from the schools eg. Holmes Court, Tannery Lane Recreation Reserve etc.	Medium	



## Strathfieldsaye Community Plan

### GOAL 3: Improve public transport options and services to Strathfieldsaye

ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Investigate the extension and promotion of the current Transit bus service into after hours, particularly on Friday/Saturday nights, for young people and other late night patrons	Short to Medium	SDCE Transport & Movement Sub-Committee COGB Dept of Infrastructure Local Bus Company
Trial a direct 'park and ride' shuttle express service from one point in Strathfieldsaye direct to CBD around typical commuter times.	Short	
Investigate the feasibility of car pooling	Medium	
Establish public transport pick up points that cater to the disabled and the elderly with improved access, egress and shelters	Short	

### GOAL 4: Construction of roads responsive to local community needs

ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Advocate VicRoads for lower speed zones in proximity to school zones and the commercial precinct	Short to Medium	SDCE Transport & Movement Sub-Committee COGB VicRoads Dept of Infrastructure
Develop a traffic plan for north/ south and east/ west traffic through Strathfieldsaye and identifying the potential for a township bypass route	Short to Medium	
Ensure traffic calming measures are implemented along the main road by installation of traffic lights and/or roundabouts	Short to Medium	
Ensure that within the Commercial precinct there is a focus upon pedestrian safety by installing regular pedestrian crossings	Medium to Long	
Identify local roads and new subdivisions where the construction of footpaths and bicycle lanes is appropriate	Short to Medium	

## 9.4 SUSTAINABILITY, WATER & CLIMATE CHANGE

<b>GOAL 1:: To ensure a reliable water supply to Strathfieldsaye residents and for community reserves</b>		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
In partnership with Coliban Water, investigate the development of local communal water recycling systems that can be piped back to houses	Short to Medium	SDCE Sustainable Strathfieldsaye Sub-Committee COGB Coliban Water EPA DPCD
Investigate the options available for delivery of recycled water including the extension of the recycled water pipeline from Spring Gully Reservoir to Strathfieldsaye	Short	
Use and develop local water reservoirs for storage and use on recreational reserves	Short to Medium	
Encourage all new households to install tanks	Short	
Continued community education program to increase the awareness of a limited water supply	On-Going	

<b>GOAL 2:: Aim to reduce our community's carbon emissions through the uptake of renewable energy options</b>		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Promote the installation of solar PV systems to domestic homes and local businesses	Short	SDCE Sustainable Strathfieldsaye Sub-Committee COGB DPCD Subdivisional Property Developers Sustainability Victoria DSE PowerCor
Undertake a feasibility study to develop a community owned energy park	Short to Medium	
Encourage installation of solar HWS on all new homes and retrofitting existing homes	Short	
Explore and promote the range of renewable energy options available in domestic design, e.g. solar PV, wind, co-generation, geo-thermal temperature control techniques, solar hot water etc.	Medium	

## Strathfieldsaye Community Plan

<b>GOAL 3: Aim to reduce our community's carbon emissions through improved subdivision and household energy efficiency designs</b>		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Encourage the design of a demonstration eco-style subdivision that provides for optimal house design and energy efficiency, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• solar orientation</li> <li>• optimal insulation</li> <li>• household eaves</li> <li>• energy smart meters</li> <li>• natural ventilation</li> <li>• increased thermal mass of building materials</li> <li>• provision of information about household appliances</li> </ul>	Short to Medium	SDCE Sustainable Strathfieldsaye Sub-Committee COGB Property Developers DPCD Sustainability Victoria Building Industry Bendigo Access Employment Local Primary Schools
Implement a household energy efficiency program in partnership with Bendigo Access Employment (BAE) and the local primary schools	Short	

<b>GOAL 4: Reduction of waste going to landfill</b>		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Promote tri-cycling (recycling and recycling again) of domestic waste products	On-Going	SDCE Sustainable Strathfieldsaye Sub-Committee COGB Local Traders Group
Explore options to reduce plastic bag usage in Strathfieldsaye with the longer term objective to achieve plastic shopping bag free status	Short to Medium	
Adopt a reward system for those who minimize their waste	Short	
Maintain and promote the Strathfieldsaye Recycle Centre	Short to Medium	

<b>GOAL 5: Valuing our local environment and rural heritage</b>		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Encourage community members to support local initiatives such as tree plantings, revegetating bushland, etc.	Short	SDCE Sustainable Strathfieldsaye Sub-Committee COGB DPCD Property Developers DSE Coliban Water Local Landcare Groups Lions Club
Organising guided information tours of key environmental and rural “places of interest”	Short to Medium	
Identify an appropriate site to develop a Community Park	Short to Medium	
Promote Strathfieldsaye as a place to walk, cycle and enjoy recreation	Short	

## 9.5 SPORT AND RECREATION

<b>GOAL 1: To improve planning processes for Sport and Recreation</b>		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Develop a plan that links population growth to community sport and recreation requirements	Short to On-Going	SDCE Sport & Recreation Sub-Committee Strathfieldsaye Sports Club Committee of Management (SSCCM) COGB Swimming Australia Sport and Recreation Victoria Regional Development Victoria YMCA Private Partners Local Youth
Undertake a feasibility study to plan for the establishment of an indoor heated swimming pool complex	Short	
Prepare a Local Planning Policy that provides for all residential areas to have access to green space, passive recreation areas, picnic areas and/or natural play spaces within 300 metres of their homes	Ongoing	

GOAL 2: To make better use of the existing Sports Complex		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Work with the Strath Sports Club management committee and other interest groups to use the building as a community hub, e.g. providing information, youth space, and adult education	Short	SDCE Sport & Recreation Sub-Committee SSCCM COGB YMCA Interest Groups Sport and Recreation Victoria State and Catholic Education Department
Undertake a feasibility study to investigate adding an indoor multi-purpose stadium catering for a broad range of age groups and activities, e.g. basketball, exercise classes, kinder gym, school holiday programs, including parking allocation.	Short	
To provide adequate facilities for spectators and participants e.g. Shade, shelter seating and toilets at the main sporting venues	Short to Medium	

GOAL 3: To provide safe pedestrian access to the existing Sports Complex and to the new facility		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Continue implementing walking and cycling tracks that link sporting facilities, neighbourhoods, schools and shopping centres	Short to On-Going	SDCE Sport & Recreation Sub-Committee COGB VicRoads NCCMA DSE

## 9.6 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

<b>GOAL 1: To plan for the educational needs of the community</b>		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Assess the future needs of an integrated Early Learning Children's Centre (ELCC) incorporating pre-school, long day care, maternal and child health services, early childhood intervention services and family services	Short	SDCE Education & Training Sub-Committee COGB Kindergarten Committee Dep't of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)
Ensure the government continues to plan for the educational needs of the primary sector within Strathfieldsaye, accounting for the continued population growth of primary age children	Short	
Identify, develop and promote safe access routes to local Primary Schools for children to walk or ride their bicycles	Short	
Investigate the feasibility of a secondary college for Strathfieldsaye district	Medium	
Promote the use of the mobile library to enhance services	Short	

<b>GOAL 2: Provide adult educational training needs</b>		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Investigate schools and other public facilities for multi purpose uses including adult training and education and online tutoring	Short to Medium	SDCE Education & Training Sub-Committee COGB DEECD Local Primary Schools YMCA Training Provider (eg. BRIT)
Provide external training courses for adults and youth	Medium	



## 9.7 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

<b>GOAL 1: To build an active community</b>		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Continue the development of walking/cycling paths connecting residential areas with local services/facilities	Ongoing	SDCE Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee COGB Property Developers DEECD DIIRD Local Businesses Sporting Clubs Service Clubs
Establish public open space as part of residential expansion as per township structure plan objectives along creeks and within subdivisional areas	Ongoing	
Investigate the use of Taylor's Lane reservoir for various recreation activities, e.g. fishing, model boating		

<b>GOAL 2: To ensure mainstream health services are available in Strathfieldsaye</b>		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Encourage locally accessible medical clinic and broader integrated community health care services	Medium	SDCE Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee COGB Bendigo Health Care Group (BHCG) Bendigo Community Health Service (BCHS) YMCA St Lukes St John of God
Support the establishment of a Community Hub providing a range of Health and Wellbeing services and information services, especially for youth and young families	Medium	

## 9.8 SUPPORT SERVICES

GOAL 1: Provide support services to assist sustainability of community		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Facilitate networking opportunities for community members by exploring opportunities to support existing events, or to create new events eg. Cocktail Ball, Day on the Green etc.	Short to Medium	SDCE Services Sub-Committee COGB Lions Club YMCA Senior Citizens
Identify services/facilities currently available and identify potential gaps in needs	Short	
Promote and utilise the SDCE web site as a whole of community information network link	Short	
Provide support for local voluntary organisations (help to establish a local community grants scheme through the SDCE)	Short	
Facilitate support services for seniors and youth – these may be provided from a Community Hub	Short to Medium	
Support CoGB to acquire land for future public use including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ambulance</li> <li>Police Station</li> <li>Heated indoor pool complex</li> <li>Sporting Grounds</li> </ul>	Medium to Long	

## 9.9 ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CULTURE

GOAL 1: Provide for Entertainment, Arts and Culture experiences		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Develop town square/village green in accordance with Strathfieldsaye Township Structure Plan, 1993	Medium to Long	SDCE Arts & Culture Sub-Committee SSCCM COGB Aboriginal Committee VicRoads
Include Indigenous art and information boards along walkways by creeks	Short to Medium	
Encourage increased uses of Strath Sports Club and Shire Hall to accommodate art work, film nights, etc.	Short	
Incorporate public art into town entrances, central locations, town square/village green	Medium	

GOAL 2: Provide for Youth Entertainment		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Contact existing youth groups eg. Youth XPress, Lead On etc. to explore opportunities for youth in the local area	On-Going	SDCE Arts & Culture Sub-Committee COGB Youth XPress Lead On
Investigate the availability of the water supply reservoir at the intersection of Taylors Lane and Tannery Lane for recreational use	Short	

GOAL 3: Provide identity for Strathfieldsaye		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Work in partnership with local community to adopt a brand for Strathfieldsaye to use for promotion eg. youth competition	Short	Local Primary Schools Service Clubs

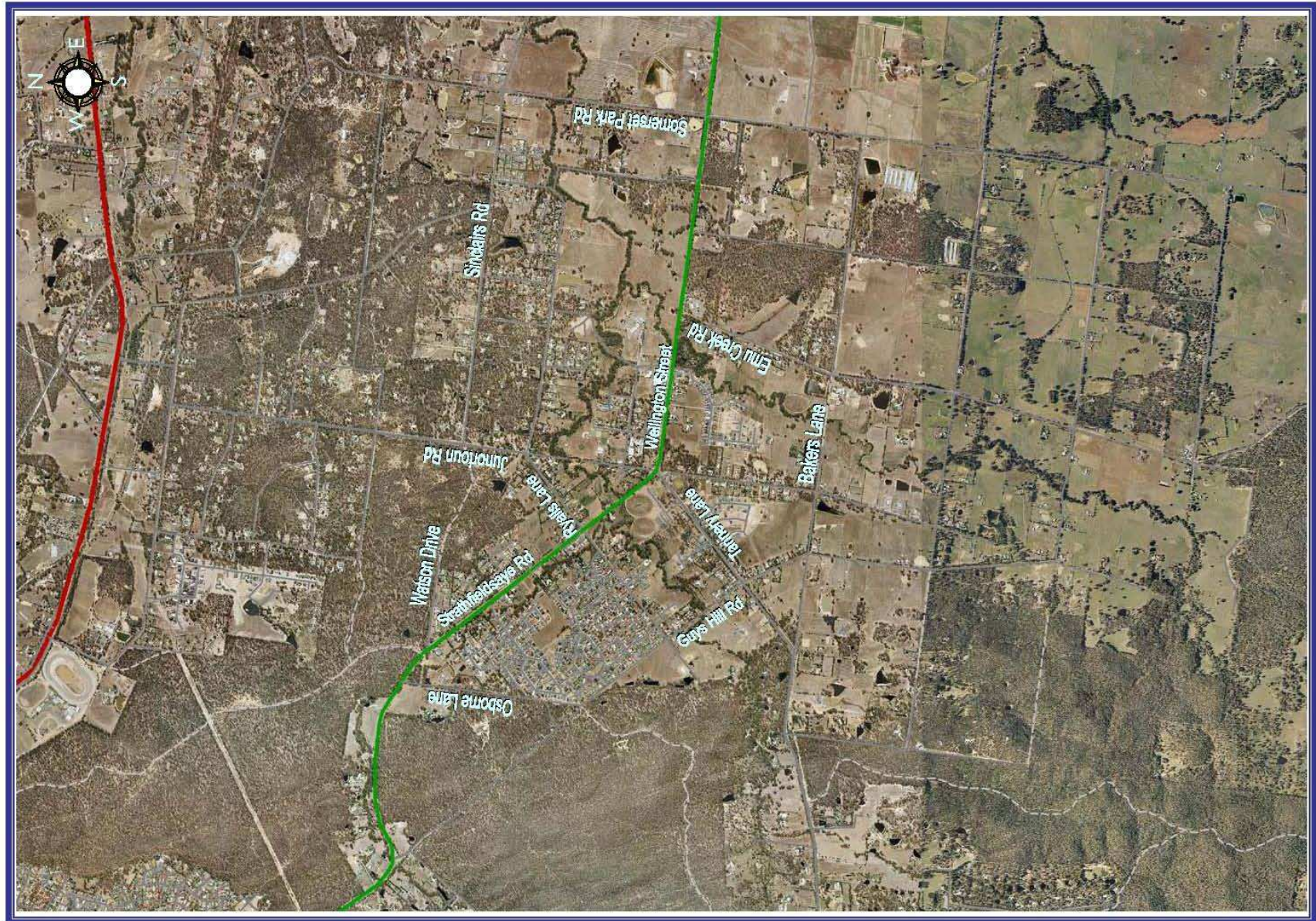
## 9.10 SHOPPING & RETAIL

GOAL 1: Establish a clearly defined commercial precinct		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Ensure that all commercial development is in accordance with Strathfieldsaye Township Structure Plan by ensuring planning applications for development are referred to Community Plan Steering Group as advocates of the Community Plan	Short	SDCE Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee COGB Local Business Operators DIIRD DPCD Real Estate Agents and Developers
Develop a directory to promote local business, including incorporation into the Strathfieldsaye & Districts Community Enterprise (SDCE) website.	Short	
Undertake economic needs analysis in partnership with COGB's Business Development unit to guide future commercial development	Short	
Explore opportunities for light industrial activities within the commercial area including workshops and showrooms	Short to Medium	

GOAL 2: To ensure development protects our local community identity		
ACTION	TIMELINE	PARTNERS
Identify areas of significant value within the Commercial precinct to be protected from development (e.g. Creek, forest)	Short	SDCE Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee COGB Local Business Operators State Government Departments Real Estate Agents and Developers DSE
Ensure Commercial developments are responsive to the semi rural and natural amenity values	Short to Medium	



### **Strathfieldsaye Area:**





### *Where to from here?*

A major aspect of the +25 planning process is the high level of community input into the process resulting in the final plan. From survey information, workshop input and general community feedback at a range of public presentations we have been able to prepare the plan with the Themes, Goals and Actions outlined in Section 8.

Once the Strathfieldsaye +25 Community Plan is adopted, a Community Reference Group will coordinate the progress of the plan overall. The Reference Group will be a part of the Strathfieldsaye and Districts Community Enterprise Ltd. (SDCE) who will provide the overarching governance framework, whilst specialised sub-committees will be formed to progress the actions outlined in each of the themes. These sub-committees will be the most important component of ensuring this Community Plan achieves the objectives and actions outlined. We therefore will be seeking people who have an interest under any theme to help formulate relevant sub-committees.

A public meeting will be called soon after the launch of the plan to formally call for expressions of interest in the Strathfieldsaye +25 Community Plan Reference Group, and also to seek interest in being a part of the sub-committees to progress the objectives.

We need continued effort to achieve this document's numerous objectives for the betterment of Strathfieldsaye. We look forward to encouraging all sectors of the community to take ownership of this Plan and working positively and cooperatively to achieve these objectives.



## Appendix 1: Priority Actions

Objective	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility/ Accountability/ Partners
Improve cycling and walking paths through out the Strathfieldsaye Township area.	Prepare a priority list of walking and cycling paths to be upgraded/constructed based on CoGB Walking and Cycling Strategy, Open Space Strategy and Strathfieldsaye Township Plan – Open Space, Walking and Cycling Plan and Community feedback	Identify paths within 1 km of Commercial area for upgrading in the short term, and paths within 3 km for the medium term	Prepare submission for incorporation in Council capital works program. Investigate funding opportunity with Community Enterprise and other funding opportunities
Investigate the expansion of the Strathfieldsaye Sports Complexes to include a multipurpose indoor arena and indoor swimming complex	Form a steering group to conduct a feasibility study with a view to developing a business case to provide theses facilities.		
Investigate the options available for delivery of recycled water including the extension of the recycled water pipeline from Spring Gully Reservoir to Strathfieldsaye	Establish a Community Steering group to work with CGB and Coliban Water to determine the most efficient access to recycled water for Strathfieldsaye Township area by either: i. establish a local recycle treatment system to retain recycled water within Strathfieldsaye township area, or ii. extend the pipeline from Spring Gully	Form Community Group immediately Investigate options 1-2 years Implement desired solution in 2-5 years	Community Sub-Committee COGB Coliban Water RDV
Reduce our Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by exploring Renewable Energy options for our community	Undertake a feasibility assessment of the opportunities for a community owned energy park within Strathfieldsaye	Initiate the feasibility study within the next FY. The implementation timeframe will be driven by the findings of the feasibility assessment	COGB SDCE (Sustainable Strathfieldsaye) Bendigo Sustainability Group (BSG) Sustainability Victoria DPI
Create an attractive Commercial hub which incorporates Community open space and public art and respects the rural village atmosphere of Strathfieldsaye.	Ensure that the Commercial Area Draft Plan (area 2, Plans 1 - 4 of the Strathfieldsaye Township Structure Plan, revised 2006 - STSP) is incorporated into the future planning requirements for Strathfieldsaye Commercial area, and any future developments are in accordance with the plan. Up date plans to incorporate		City of Greater Bendigo Planning Department

	landscape objectives for Strathfieldsaye.		
Establish a process to integrate creek land frontages and other significant sites with valuable native vegetation, so they become future open space and linear creek land reserves for our Community.			COGB DSE NCCMA
Ensure that a mix of residential lot sizes is available to cater for the future needs and maintain the rural atmosphere and environmental qualities of Strathfieldsaye	Revise the Key Plan – Outline Development Plans STSP to include any additional areas of development proposed for residential and other uses to ensure the objectives are met and retain the STSP as a planning control measure for Strathfieldsaye.		
Provide a sense of arrival into Strathfieldsaye and create a streetscape theme with locally indigenous vegetation and other landscape features.	Identify where the entrances to Strathfieldsaye are, to the north, south east and west. Develop an entrance master plan to incorporate physical structures (signage, artwork, landscape works) for each of the entrances. Develop and implement a streetscape theme for implementation throughout Strathfieldsaye.		
Develop a traffic plan for north/ south and east/ west traffic through Strathfieldsaye	Work towards implementation of the Wellington Street traffic measures, between Tannery Lane and Emu Creek. Implement traffic management measures outline in the STSP in particular for Ryalls Lane		
Protect existing rural uses from intrusion and like restrictions on the rural uses of future residential use by providing appropriate “buffer” distances.	Ensure that appropriate land activities are planed to protect rural uses. Investigate light industry activity in any proposed buffer areas. Retail lower density interface between Residential and Farming land		
Provide an appropriate area for the location of service type industries to promote and foster appropriate enterprise and provide employment opportunities in Strathfieldsaye.	Identify appropriate areas for rezoning as part of the Township growth strategy. Incorporate the current recommendations of the STSP April 06.		

### *Appendix 2: Historical Strathfieldsaye Families*

#### **Ryall Family**

Joseph Ryall was born in Morice Town (now part of Plymouth) in the UK in 1831. He left Plymouth at the age of 26, with two of his sisters Louisa and Jane, in April 1857 on the 'King Phillip' arriving at Port Phillip in June 1857. Shortly after his arrival he married Elizabeth Maria Jones in Collingwood on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1857. Joseph was a carpenter and appears to have lived in the Sandhurst area for the remainder of the 1850's and 1860's. One of his children, William Henry, was born in Warrnambool in 1871 and later married Agnes McClean in Strathfieldsaye in August 1909. William was an Orchardist and lived with Agnes in what is now Ryalls Lane.

The family property along the Sheepwash Creek evolved over the years from growing fruit such as apples, pears, apricots and tomatoes in William's day to poultry and dairy farming during his middle son Arthur's occupation of the land through until 1967. The family home was sold for demolition and removal in May 2000. Agnes used to sell eggs and make her own butter and William delivered tomatoes on a wagon to the Cohn Factory in Bendigo for wholesale and factory use. William's youngest son Alf delivered 6lb of butter every Tuesday morning on his way to school. During Arthur's time of managing the property crates of eggs were picked up by the Crystal Egg Company and milk was picked up in cans and later in bulk tankers for delivery to Sandhurst Dairies.

Alf married Joan Somerville and lived on Joan's family property on the other side of the Sheepwash Creek. Joan and her family conducted the Post Office on the corner of Strathfieldsaye Road and Tannery Lane for some 77 years. The Post Office was a great meeting place for locals when they came and collected their mail. Generations of the Ryall family spent many happy times gathering blackberries along the Sheepwash Creek, collecting mushroom along the creek flats and going to the mulberry tree on the bend in the creek to collect fruit to make mulberry jam. Rabbiting was also a popular pastime.

A very strong sense of community existed in Strathfieldsaye. Team meetings held after the church anniversary were very popular family occasions with tables groaning under the weight of marvellous country style cooking. School concerts and the Empire Day bonfires were also enjoyed by all. Over the past 40 years traditional farming properties have been gradually subdivided and the number of residents has grown significantly. The Post Office became much busier and shopping facilities have become more numerous. Roads have improved and cars have become more numerous making it easier to obtain supplies in Bendigo. The provision of water and sewerage to many homes has also made life easier for residents.

#### **Somerville Family**

In 1855 after several years of exploring other areas, William Somerville found the fertile soils of Strathfieldsaye and brought his young family to settle and begin his horticultural pursuits.

He, along with other pioneers faced the daunting task of settlement. Together they formed the following:

- the Strathfieldsaye Roads Board
- Shire Council
- Emu Valley Water Board
- Common School
- Church

The sense of community had begun.

With hard work, William built his home, raised a family and prospered on the land.

My family is the 4<sup>th</sup> generation to have lived, worked and been part of the community. As a child my recollection was of a farming community where everyone worked together and helped each other out when needed. We walked and rode ponies to school and were part of sporting teams at the weekend, with some families nearly filling teams. The local Saturday night dance was a must for both parents and children. Those who didn't dance played cards and joined in a home cooked supper. Concerts and fetes were held to raise funds for improvements to local facilities.

The 7<sup>th</sup> generation of the extended family now lives in Strathfieldsaye so there must be something special here.

*(Anecdote by Marjorie Somerville, 2008)*

### **Mannes Family**

Franz Anton Mannes was born in Scheckhausen, Germany in 1830. He left Germany aged 20 years en route to London. On the ship 'Hanover' he disembarked in Melbourne, Australia in 1853 aged 23 years. He made his way with a horse & dray to Bendigo where he met Dean Backhaus DD, who was the first Catholic Priest at Bendigo. Dr Backhaus recommended Franz Anton Mannes as first tenant on some land he had acquired with a frontage on Axe Creek.

Franz married Johanna Wall from Tipperary, Ireland in 1860 and they had 14 children, six of those dying as babies and one son aged 10 years who drowned in Axe Creek. The surviving seven children all married and produced 42 children.

Originally Franz grew grape vines and produced wine but these had to be grubbed because of phylloxera. One of Franz's grandchildren, William Mannes Snr, bought the land when the lease expired in 1924. Over the last 155 years the Mannes properties have grown grapes, fruit trees, tomatoes, cut wood, milked cattle, grown pigs and reared chickens for Hazeldene's. The Mannes families who, in 2008, operate these properties are the fifth generation to do so.

Franz's son Anthony Mannes married Emma Holmes, the daughter of Thomas Holmes & Mary Lowndes who owned the Strathfieldsaye Hotel. This union was where the Mannes family became connected with many of the original families of the district such as the Holmes, Lowndes, Bowles, Somerville, Gledhill, Hargreaves, Lewis, Pilcher, Steen, Keck etc.

The Mannes families and descendants have attended the Upper Axe Creek, Eppalock, Emu Creek, Strathfieldsaye, St Francis of the Fields schools. They have played sport for Strathfieldsaye Bowls Club, Axe Creek Cricket Club, Emu Creek Cricket Club, Strathfieldsaye Cricket Club, Strathfieldsaye Netball Club, St

Francis of the Fields Netball Club, Axe Creek Tennis Club, Strathfieldsaye Tennis Club, Colts United Soccer Club, Strathfieldsaye Dodgers Baseball Club, Mandurang Football Club, Axedale Golf Club. They have had a long association of worship at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Axe Creek.

Many of the descendants have been, and are still involved, with many organisations in the district such as Bendigo Agricultural Society, National Catholic Rural Movement (Axe Creek Group), Axe Creek Fire Brigade, Strathfieldsaye Fire Brigade, Strathfieldsaye Shire Council, Strathfieldsaye Sports Club, Building of the Eppalock Weir, Coliban Water Investigation Committee, Milk Producers Association, Egg Producers Association, Chicken Producers Association, Rural Advisory Committee to the Greater City of Bendigo, Axe Creek Land Care Group, Neighbourhood Watch.

There are many descendants, too numerous to count, still living in the Axe Creek, Strathfieldsaye and surrounding districts.

*(Written by Robyn Mannes, September 2008)*

### **Bowles Family**

James Alfred Bowles arrived from Sussex England to Geelong in 1853. The Bowles family grew and spread to many parts of Australia. James married Maryanne Lamperd in Sandhurst (Bendigo) in 1857 having come to Bendigo to mine for gold. He later selected land in the Tooleen area to live. James and Maryanne had 12 children, the eldest Alfred William Bowles married Elizabeth Plummer in 1886 in Nagambie and had 7 children, 5 sons and 2 daughters.

Alfred then moved to the Emu Creek area and historic records in 1900 indicate that Alfred was a licensed Victualler. The Bowles family attended the Emu Creek school. Percival Harry Bowles the fourth son of Alfred & Elizabeth married Lilius Lowndes in 1914 at Emu Creek. They had 9 children during 1915-1936. Percival was a very good wood cutter and cut many tons of wood in the area and also went to Western Australia to work cutting wood. He moved his family and possessions by a horse drawn hay wagon to Sweeney's Creek in 1919. The children all attended Eppalock Primary School. The family and families within the area were all very self sufficient in those days with their own milk, cream, eggs, fruit and plenty of wood supplies for heating and cooking.

In 1933 records show that the Bowles and Mannes families went shares in growing 5 acres of tomatoes.

Lilius Bowles passed away in 1936. In 1941 Percival married Louisa Hilda Jasper and had three more children, 2 sons and a daughter. As the family of 12 grew up many a trip was had from Sweeney's Creek to Strathfieldsaye as the Bowles family became very active within the Strathfieldsaye Community. Marriages of most of the children took place during the 1940-60's with most remaining in the Strathfieldsaye area to raise their families, some on mixed farms growing tomatoes, raising pigs, cattle and poultry for eggs. It is noted that three Bowles sons married three Somerville girls. The Bowles families have had a long association with the Strathfieldsaye Methodist (now Uniting Church), they attended and helped raise funds for local clubs at the dances at the Strathfieldsaye Public Hall (now the Strathfieldsaye Kindergarten) on a Saturday night. They attended the Strathfieldsaye Primary School and still currently do today. Over the years they have been very active members of the Strathfieldsaye Shire Council, Axe Creek Fire Brigade, Bendigo Agricultural Show Society, Strathfieldsaye Parents Club, Strathfieldsaye Cricket Club, Strathfieldsaye Tennis Club, Strathfieldsaye CWA, Strathfieldsaye Bowls Club, Strathfieldsaye Netball Club, Strathfieldsaye Senior Citizens Club and Strathfieldsaye Probus Club.

### *Appendix 3: Community Reference Group*

Cr. Keith Reynard (Chair)

Brian Brennan

Don Cherry

Eileen Dal Santo

Pip Johanson

Tony Knox

Matthew McCarthy

Tim Moloney

Shane O'Neill

Bob Pringle

Michael Wassing

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the Victorian  
Government

