

# Wycheproof Community Plan Update meeting 2014

Tuesday 16 September 2014  
Wycheproof Shire Hall Supper Room

The purpose of the meeting was to review and update the Wycheproof Community Plan 2008-2018 and Community Plan Update 2011.

Wycheproof VISION has led the community in planning and identifying projects to enhance the social fabric and sustainability of Wycheproof and District into the future. The 30 residents who attended represented various community organisations and sports groups. Ages ranged from 14 years to 78 years with most attendees in the active age range 40–60 years.

The meeting was an opportunity to review and note completed projects from the 2008 community plan and 2011 update meeting, review the projects and ideas listed on the plan and to add new ideas and priorities to the plan.

The format of the meeting included completing the Transition Towns Toolbox Community Strength Scorecard and to hear presentations from various groups regarding new projects to be listed, an opportunity for free discussion over refreshments and voting on projects listed.

## Community Strength Scorecard

This scorecard is a tool that could help our community gain a better understanding of its strengths and areas that need strengthening. There are four areas: Economy, Services, Liveability and Community.

**The scorecard scores as of 16 September 2014 are:**

<b>Economy</b> – 1213 (48.52)	weighted score <b>15.98</b>
<b>Liveability</b> – 1733 (69.32)	weighted score <b>17.33</b>
<b>Community</b> – 1851 (74.04)	weighted score <b>18.51</b>
<b>Services</b> – 1598 (63.92)	weighted score <b>15.98</b>

This gives Wycheproof a total score of **67.8**.

<b>Excellent is</b>	<b>90 and above</b>
<b>Very Good is</b>	<b>75 to 89</b>
<b>Good is</b>	<b>60 to 74</b>
<b>Average is</b>	<b>50 to 59</b>
<b>Very poor is</b>	<b>30 or below</b>

As you can see, the score achieved rates Wycheproof in the 'Good' category. But what are our strengths and weaknesses and how do we identify them? By going back through the scorecards, we can see where questions scored a 6 or above, indicating they were identified as strengths and any that scored 4 or below are our weaknesses.

**Strengths – (Highest scoring responses marked with an \*)**

<b>Economy</b>	
Our town has at least 1 key event that brings money in from outside the area.	7.29
<b>Liveability</b>	
I'm proud of the appearance and tidiness of our town.	7.76
We have strong, active sporting clubs.	7.8
I feel safe living here.	8
We have reliable mobile phone coverage.	6.68
There is plenty to do here in the way of hobbies, clubs, activities and entertainment.	7.32
There is a good local offering of food and coffee.	6.44
Our town has a great annual calendar of events and celebrations.	7.2
The internet is pretty fast and easy to access.	6.7
There are nice places around to take visitors.	7.36
<b>Community</b>	
Our community is one where we help each other out.	8.6 *
Most of us are very proud of our history and heritage.	8.16
We are welcoming of newcomers.	7.48
Our town is accepting of all nationalities.	7.4
Almost everyone here has been a volunteer at some point in their life.	8.28 *
Our town is good at community planning.	7.56
Most people here feel they could have a say in community planning if they wanted.	7.64
If anyone here got into difficulty, they would certainly have someone they could call.	7.96
Young people have a pretty good life here.	6.91
<b>Services</b>	
We can access most medical and health services fairly easily.	6.68
We have good primary school facilities here.	8.72 *
Our youth have access to quality secondary education.	8.6 *
Our town has comfortable aged care facilities.	8.2 *

### **Weaknesses - (Lowest scoring responses marked with an \*)**

<b>Economy</b>	
It is pretty easy to get a job here or nearby.	4.72 *
There are plenty of job opportunities for young people here.	3.44 *
Our town seems to be growing – there are new people moving in.	3.58 *
Our town attracts a lot of tourists.	4.72 *
Housing prices are rising in our town in line with the wider market.	4.91
The retail businesses are doing well in our town.	4.45 *
<b>Community</b>	
Most young people who leave for study or work come back to raise a family here.	4.75
<b>Services</b>	
Young families in our town can access childcare if they need it.	4.69 *

As you can see, this rates Wycheproof fairly *high in Services* and *low in Economy!*

The aim of this process is to compile a study over the next three (3) years into the projected future of Wycheproof. The information will help highlight focus area to be considered in community planning and to set project priorities.

## Community Plan Update: Projects and priorities

Previously six priority areas had been identified by the community. During the meeting these were merged into the four priority areas of the Transition Towns Community Strength Scorecard.

There was an opportunity to list new ideas and priorities as collated in this report. Projects were listed under the four new headings on posters displayed on the wall and during the free discussion attendees took the opportunity to vote on priorities by placing a coloured sticker against the priorities they considered most important. Each attendee was given four of each a blue sticker (highest priority) an orange sticker (second highest priority) to use to vote for their top project in each priority area.

Presentations were heard from Gary Pollard, Wycheproof Lawn Tennis Club, regarding the hard court project, Hannah Mills and Bethany Kidd regarding the Wycheproof Youth Group Skate Park and BMX track project, Mr Alex Morrison on behalf of the Lions Club of Wycheproof regarding the Avenue of Honour project along the Calder Highway north of the town.

- Gary Pollard reported that the hard courts were unsafe. He said the courts would need to be totally reconstructed as there had been serious water damage to the foundations. Quotations for the work had ranged from \$100,000-\$300,000. A grant for \$12,500 had been received from Bendigo Bank Charlton Community Bank which required the club to match dollar-for-dollar. The club was seeking grants and undertaking fundraising. The hard courts were a valuable asset for the town and tourism including the annual tournament and use by visitors to the caravan park. Currently tennis coaching was being offered at the stadium due to the hard courts not being usable. It was noted that the hard courts enhance the recreation options available to visitors particularly people staying at the caravan park. The annual Wycheproof Tennis Club tournament is an important event for the town and maximising court capacity for that event was important.
- Mr Alex Morrison of the Lions Club of Wycheproof noted the Lions Club project to plant an avenue of honour on the Calder Highway adjacent to the Racing Club. The planting of flowering gums and weeping Myall was a memorial for World War I soldiers who enlisted from Wycheproof and District. The Lions Club was seeking community assistance and recognition to maintain and preserve the avenue.
- Hannah Mills and Bethany Kidd (representing the Wycheproof Youth Group) reported on a project to use the disused reservoir adjacent to the recreation reserve to create a skate park and BMX bike track. The Wycheproof Youth Group, as a subcommittee under the auspice of Wycheproof VISION, is seeking support to create this facility which has been on the Wycheproof Community Plan since 2008. It was noted that inquiry had been made to GWM Water and Buloke Shire regarding the site and the next step would be to develop a case for the project including the scope, a plan for the site, formal permissions and funding. The project would be led by the youth group. It was noted that there were active BMX clubs in Bendigo and Mildura and that the sport had a philosophy of safe and healthy recreation for all ages and a family focus.
- Aerodrome maintenance and upgrade: This project was proposed by Mr Trevor White. It was noted that the aerodrome was registered and that there was a need for a fixed wing facility in Wycheproof for emergency medical evacuation, agriculture and business, tourism, as well as for private aviators. The aerodrome is of bitumen construction and there were no amenities. It was noted that Buloke Shire may be rationalising aerodromes under its control and there was a need to ensure the Wycheproof aerodrome was

retained. There was discussion that the aerodrome should be included in local emergency management planning considering the location of the CFA and SES communications centre in Wycheproof and the limitations at Charlton in times of flooding.

- Wycheproof Historic Railway Station precinct: It was noted that the community will have access to the historic station in early 2015 following negotiations between VicTrack, Wycheproof VISION, Wycheproof Community Resource Centre and Buloke Shire. The station building and surrounds will be leased to Wycheproof VISION. The site will be available for community use including functions, social enterprise ventures and studio space.
- Aged care: Cathy Noone proposed, in a written submission, that a project to investigate and build varying levels of aged care accommodation was needed to provide care, healthcare, therapy rooms, hydrotherapy pool, activities area and social area for elderly residents. She suggested that Wycheproof could become a hub for aged care in the East Wimmera area. In her submission she noted; “ We have a great range of health care professionals visiting on a regular basis, is a fantastic service but how good would it be if they could be fully employed in a centre in Wycheproof catering for older residents from our area in our local healthcare centre of excellence. Aged care and a facility for levels of accommodation as our ‘oldies’ become more dependent upon care could be a terrific boost to the town and surrounds. Accommodation is the most pressing need. Currently we do not have a facility for those who are able most of the time but do require some daily assistance or supervision. While the aim of staying in your own home as long as you can is admirable for some, the chance to decide when they need extra help and care is essential. The hostel and then the hospital along with Home Help, District Nurses and others do a great job but the task is growing as our population ageing and I see an opportunity to make this work for Wyche. Recently I had experience with a person diagnosed with Alzheimers, the sheer task of getting to and from appointments, memory tests, follow up appointments with the many and varied people to finally get Nan the care she needed was a very long journey involving trips all over Bendigo. She was stressed and upset, we were too. It made me think about the level of worry and anxiety for all concerned. If all this could be done in a coordinated manner in a familiar place before the time comes that the decisions are made for the person rather than with the person, how wonderful it would be and without the enormous hassle of traveling long distances. A facility such as above would provide employment initially for builders and associated skilled labour and then, once up and running, the many different levels of healthcare which would attract skilled professionals as well as provide opportunity for younger ones to gain their qualifications and return as young professional people if they so desired. The follow on effect of needing cleaners, gardeners, activities co-ordinators, personal carers, catering staff, laundry staff, maintenance staff, pool operators and the list goes on would mean a significant boost for the local town and area. The on-going benefit from having such a facility would be enormous in our small town – the need for accommodation for staff, supplies for the facilities etc are just the start of a list of employment opportunities that come to mind. Not to mention the benefits of having all manner of healthcare professionals on hand for rehabilitation, physiotherapy, speech pathology etc for the others in our community who require this care from time to time. Not only would we create employment but most importantly our older citizens would be well cared for in their community, able to stay in contact and involved for as long as they are able.”

*The following information should be read in conjunction with the current Wycheproof Community Plan 2008–2018 and Update Plan 2011*

*The previous six priority areas have been consolidated into four priority groups in the 2014 update plan*

## Economy

This priority includes: stability of local businesses, employment opportunities, tourism, infrastructure, housing including rental stock and types of housing available, retail opportunities and major events.

The 2014 Community Plan Update meeting new priorities and suggested projects are listed in bold as follows:

Support for major events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Mt Wycheproof Cup</li><li>– Tennis Tournament</li></ul>
<b>Op shop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Amenities</b></li></ul>
Children's services/ Children's precinct <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Maintain current services</li><li>– <b>Monitor and improve provision of day care services</b></li></ul>
<b>Road and rail infrastructure</b>
Broadway Streetscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Buildings</li><li>– Trees</li><li>– <b>Retail precinct shop fronts and veranda</b></li><li>– Variety of retailers</li><li>– <b>Parking truck and caravans</b></li></ul>
<b>Housing /accommodation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Identified need for quality housing stock particularly for rental housing to attract workforce</b></li></ul>
<b>Niche agriculture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Food trail</b></li></ul>

<b>Law and order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Retain police presence</b></li></ul>
<b>Elderly residents/ Aged care in our community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Explore housing options for elderly residents</b></li><li>– <b>Expanded aged care facilities</b></li></ul>
Education and skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Support Wycheproof Secondary College</li><li>– Wycheproof Community Resource Centre</li></ul>
Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>court upgrade project Tennis Club &amp; Annual Lawn Tennis Tournament</b></li><li>– <b>Aerodrome maintenance and facilities</b></li><li>– Mt Wycheproof Cup</li><li>– Wycheproof A&amp;P Society Show</li></ul>
<b>Support for industry including 'green' industry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Social enterprise initiatives</b></li></ul>
Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Secure water supply</li></ul>
Support Chamber of Commerce

# Liveability

This priority includes: appearance of the town and amenities, strength of sporting clubs and social clubs, recreation and recreation areas, parks and gardens, safety, reliability and adequacy of communications, annual events and celebrations, arts and culture, tourist attractions, retail and hospitality services.

The 2014 Community Plan Update meeting new priorities and suggested projects are listed in bold as follows:

<p><b>Law and Order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Retain police presence</b></li> </ul>
<p>Historic Railway Station precinct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Use of railway building</b></li> <li>- <b>Garden link to static train</b></li> <li>- <b>Restoration of Railway Goods Shed</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Wycheproof Lake</b></p>
<p>Broadway Streetscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Retain and maintain peppercorn trees</b></li> <li>- <b>Maintenance Broadway verandas</b></li> <li>- <b>Retain/maintain Streetscape</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mt Wycheproof Cup</li> <li>- Wycheproof Lawn Tennis Annual Tournament</li> <li>- A&amp;P Society Annual Show</li> <li>- Great Grains/Harvest Festival</li> <li>- Music on the Mount</li> <li>- Races Arts &amp; Crafts Exhibition</li> <li>- Scarecrow competition</li> <li>- Kite flying competition</li> <li>- <b>Skate park / bmx competition track</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Tourism infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Development of the caravan park</b></li> <li>- Support and promote hospitality retailers</li> </ul>
<p>Relocation of shire depot to develop area as an amphitheatre</p>
<p><b>Recreation</b></p> <p>Playgrounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Centenary Park small children's playground ( old skate park)</b></li> </ul> <p>Recreation reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Playground Recreation Reserve</b></li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Maintenance and expansion of reserve</b></li><li>– <b>Re-development of old dams</b></li></ul> <p><b>Sports Clubs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Support for Tennis Club including improved court facilities</b></li><li>– <b>New clubs including skate/ bmx club</b></li><li>– <b>Continue to promote/support for current clubs</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Reliable internet</b></li><li>– <b>Optimal options for NBN</b></li><li>– <b>Community website</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Youth group</b></p>
<p>Wycheproof Shire Hall tours/town tours</p>
<p>Sculpture trail with plaques telling about the history i.e. old steam train, turntable, silo, good shed, sale yards, railway houses, station, Nissan Hut.</p>
<p>Retention and maintenance of Historic buildings</p>
<p>Active tourism group/ tourism alliance</p>



# Community

This priority encompasses: Priority 4 Strengthen & grow our community, Priority 5 Taking Care of Our Environment and Priority 6 Engaging our Youth, from the 2008 plan and 2011 Update.


We know the Wycheproof community is strong and there is a sound infrastructure for community development including service clubs such as the Lions Club of Wycheproof, the town forum Wycheproof VISION, sports clubs, the Mens Shed and school. At risk in our community is the longevity of faith communities and the work in supporting community events and pastoral care especially for the elderly in our community.

The mark of a strong community is where people help each other, are proud of their history and heritage, friendly and welcoming to newcomers especially people of other cultures and nationalities, that people are involved in community planning and have a voice, young people who leave for study or work often return to raise families.

The 2014 Community Plan Update meeting new priorities and suggested projects are listed in bold as follows:

<p>Sports facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Tennis courts upgrade</b></li><li>– <b>Encourage participation in sport</b></li><li>– <b>New sports i.e. bmx/ skateboarding</b></li><li>– <b>Maintain and expand recreation reserve</b></li><li>– <b>Exercise equipment on walk track</b></li><li>– Upgrading infrastructure pavilion and other buildings Wycheproof Recreation Reserve and showground</li></ul>
<p><b>Lions Club of Wycheproof projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Avenue of Honour Calder Highway north near Mackies Rd</b></li><li>– Support for annual events including Australia Day, ANZAC Day &amp; Christmas Eve Event</li></ul>
<p>Support community groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Mens Shed</li><li>– Op Shop</li><li>– Wycheproof VISION</li><li>– Community communication i.e. website</li><li>– Events and tourism initiatives</li></ul>
<p>Community Garden</p>
<p>Children's services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Retain and maintain services including kindergarten</li><li>– Before and after school programs</li><li>– Holiday programs</li><li>– Child care</li></ul>
<p><b>Railway Station Precinct</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>community use</b></li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>establish committee of management</b></li> </ul>
Wycheproof A&P Society Show
Expansion of services WCRC
<b>Faith communities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>support and services</b></li> </ul>
Community Kitchen
<b>Youth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- enterprise/ skills development opportunities</li> <li>- <b>youth space (old Scout Hall)</b></li> <li>- <b>bmx track / skate park</b></li> <li>- <b>sculpture trail</b></li> <li>- <b>open mic music event</b></li> <li>- <b>education</b></li> </ul>
<b>Children</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>playground at Rec Reserve</b></li> <li>- <b>toddlers trike track at Centenary Park( old skate track)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Support niche business opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'green' industries</li> </ul>
<b>Annual events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>GGF/ Harvest festival</b></li> <li>- <b>tennis tournament</b></li> <li>- <b>Mt Wycheproof Cup</b></li> </ul>
<b>Weed and pest control</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Weed/bindii Sunday a community event with barbecue to involve groups and families to reduce the weed around town and on Mt Wycheproof</li> <li>- Friends of Mt Wycheproof</li> <li>- Landcare</li> </ul>
<b>Railway precinct beautification project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>New garden area between static train and railway station building featuring collection of Correa</b></li> </ul>
Renewable energy projects

Solar initiatives
Improving current infrastructure using 'green' design and materials
Harvesting water from Mt Wycheproof
<b>Railway precinct reuse recycle depot</b>
Stream and river management
Solar lighting of walking track
Community radio station
Small town expo event hosted in Wycheproof
Gaining an accredited  for tourist information centre

## Services

A variety of permanent services strengthen our community by providing safety and enabling us to attract and retain residents.

The supply of some of these services is not within our control and so the community must vigilant and support services provided in the town to retain the services.

For example: can the community easily access medical and health services and emergency medical services, are there optimal facilities for our elderly to be cared for, can most of the things needed day-to-day be purchased in town, are there adequate banking facilities, is there good access to public transport between towns and regional centres, is there adequate community transport, school facilities for both primary and secondary students and access to childcare. Added to this is how to attract and retain professionally qualified residents who have specialised skills.

The 2014 Community Plan Update meeting new priorities and suggested projects are listed in bold as follows:

<p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Broadband Network (NBN)</li> </ul>
<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- audit to investigate availability, affordability, standards, refit &amp; renovation potential, building blocks</li> </ul>
<p>Maintaining and supporting emergency services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CFA</li> <li>- SES unit</li> <li>- Maintaining police presence</li> </ul>
<p><b>Banking services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Retain current banking services i.e. ANZ branch</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Development of a youth space</b></p>
<p>Local health services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain availability of doctor in town</li> <li>- Hospital</li> <li>- Community health</li> <li>- Increase health services available for elderly</li> </ul>
<p>Law and order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Retain police presence</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Increase public transport to regional centres</b></li> <li>- <b>New transport services for people needing medical treatment/appointments</b></li> <li>- <b>Community transport for elderly residents</b></li> <li>- <b>Aerodrome maintenance and upgrade facilities</b></li> </ul>
<p>Children's services/children's precinct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- retain and expand current childcare arrangements.</li> <li>- Retain kindergarten services</li> <li>- childcare, after-school care &amp; playgroup</li> <li>- support MOPs group</li> </ul>