

# Wycheproof Community Plan Update meeting — FINAL

Thursday 9 December 2010

Wycheproof Shire Hall Supper Room

*A draft of this document was exhibited within the community from 31 January 2011 to 31 March 2011.*

The purpose of the meeting was to update the Wycheproof Community Plan 2008-2018.

The future of Wycheproof and District and projects to improve the sustainability of the town are paramount for residents. The 40 residents who attended represented various community organisations and sport's groups. Ages ranged from 15 years to 78 years with most attendees in the active age range 45–60 years.

The meeting was taken on as an opportunity to 'tick' completed projects from the 2008 community plan, review the projects and ideas listed on that plan and to add new ideas and priorities to the plan. The format of the meeting included presentations, as outlined below, an opportunity for free discussion over refreshments, voting on projects listed as *Appendix 1 Outcomes from the Community Opportunity Workshop Nov 2007* & *Appendix 3 Project ideas for future reference* from the Wycheproof Community Plan 2008–2018, and an opportunity to list new ideas and priorities as collated in this report. Projects listed in the appendices of the Wycheproof Community Plan 2008–2018 were listed 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 paramount. Each attendee was given one of each a blue sticker (highest priority) a red sticker (second highest priority) and a green sticker (third highest priority) to use to vote for their top three priorities.

Presentations were heard from Cr Stuart McLean, Deputy Chair, Loddon Mallee Advisory Committee of Regional Development Australia, Ms Christine McKersie, Principal, Wycheproof P-12 College, Ms Jodi Munro-Foord, controller Wycheproof SES, Kylie Brown Wycheproof VISION, and Cr Ellen White on the Wycheproof Railway Station Precinct proposals.

- Cr Stuart McLean explained the important link between the town's community plan with the Buloke Shire's Community Plan and how it articulated with Regional Development Australia's funding priorities and funding applications to that organisation, and Victoria's Strategic Plan. He said it was important to develop local priorities and noted that the community plans would drive investment and there were great opportunities for projects with a regional focus.
- Ms Christine McKersie, Wycheproof P-12 Principal, presented information about the future of the historic Wycheproof Primary School building. Now that a new primary school has been built the community has identified the historic school buildings as significant for the community to retain. Ms McKersie told the meeting there were no concrete plans for the building and acknowledged that the heart and soul of the school was the old façade. Buloke Town Planner Jessica Lysaght clarified for the meeting that the school had an individual citation in the planning scheme as an historic building of significance. Ms McKersie said that the Victorian Education Department was unlikely to fund maintenance to the historic building and advocated for the community to find a use for the building and cited community uses i.e. Wedderburn's old primary school now

housing that town's neighborhood house. Taking a question from the floor MsMcKersie said the building was in good condition and that the school community would not like to see the building vandalised or in disrepair. She strongly advocated for the community to consider a community use for the building.

- Ms Jodi Munro-Foord, Wycheproof SES, spoke of the urgent need to upgrade facilities and reinvigorate the SES unit. She said that recent flood events had extended the unit with 11 volunteers completing 340 tasks in 42 hours. The current SES facility did not meet with occupational health and safety requirements and there was no room currently to house the new rescue truck waiting delivery. The Wycheproof SES was on-call 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week and covered the towns and districts of Wycheproof, Donald, Charlton, Birchip, Culgoa, Boort and Quambatook. Ms Munro-Foord stated that funding was available but the group needed a site to build a new facility that would house vehicles, provide office space and an ablutions block. A Broadway frontage was preferred so that the unit could meet benchmarked call-out times.
- Mrs Kylie Brown of Wycheproof VISION is an active committee chair and member of the Great Grain Festival working Group, the Dollar Rent-a-farmhouse Committee, and the Wycheproof Chamber of Commerce. Mrs Brown noted the grants and projects that had been successfully completed since the Wycheproof Community Plan was established in 2008 including the festival and annual Music on the Mount, the Farmhouse project and the Wycheproof Mens Shed, which currently had 65 members. She said that in the past 3 years the various community groups and projects had raised nigh on \$700,000 in grants. It was also noted that the Wycheproof community website averaged 100 hits a day and that the days around the awarding of the Prime Super Community Group of the Year award and the subsequent publicity that there were on average 300 hits a day for the fortnight. This showed the value of the website to the community.
- Cr Ellen White, representing Wycheproof and District Landcare, outlined project proposals for the newly refurbished Wycheproof Railway Station building and surrounds which included historic, cultural and education events, establishment of a eco-sustainable community garden and community kitchen. Cr White noted the 2008 community plan listed the Railway Station precinct as a sustainable development priority. Cr White noted that the local Landcare group was interested in using the building for education and meetings. She noted that a draft proposal of the project was available to the community (see Appendix 1).

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

## Priority 1: **Retain & Grow our Essential Services**

Essential services include civic services and infrastructure, recreation services and infrastructure and emergency services. Such services include, but are not limited to, those services provided by local government such as Buloke Shire infrastructure and services, those provided by State and Federal Governments such as our school and hospital and those services that operate through volunteer involvement including our emergency services.

Community Plan Update meeting priorities are listed as follows:

<b>PRIORITY</b>
SES Depot Development
Health: Retain and Grown Health Services
Children's services/ Children's precinct
Wycheproof Recreation Reserve upgrade of sports grounds and netball courts
Wycheproof Community Resource Centre
Housing /accommodation
Wycheproof Swimming Pool Upgrade
Law and order
Elderly residents/ Aged care in our community
Education
Buloke Shire Administration Office Development

## Priority 2: **Stimulate our Local Economy**

Specific projects to enable the development of new business opportunities and tourism initiatives were identified in the Wycheproof Community Plan 2008–2018. Successful initiatives have included the Dollar Rent a Farmhouse Project, development of the Great Grain Festival and Music on the Mount to enhance tourism, the continued development and promotion of the Mt Wycheproof Cup, and the establishment of the Wycheproof BIG Shop, a business incubator initiative, where home businesses and services from outside of town can use a Broadway shopfront for nominal rent. Positive publicity and community resources such as the Wycheproof community website have endorsed the community to new businesses including a new pharmacy. Our retail sector has been boosted and most Wycheproof businesses now owned by operators aged under-45 years. These young businesspeople have invested in our future and have brought energy and new ideas to our retail sector

Community Plan Update meeting priorities are listed as follows:

<b>PRIORITY</b>
Improved/ new signs at town entrances and in town
Major regional event – developing and hosting
Support niche on farm/home business
Eco-tourism business
Upgrade/improvement Broadway streetscape
Broadway Market Days
Education – develop skills B&B & Farm-stay
Parking truck and caravans
Improved transport road/rail initiatives
Wycheproof Chamber of Commerce
New industry

## Priority 3: **Developing our tourism sector**

Since the development of the Wycheproof Community Plan 2008-2018 the clarity and focus it provided has seen the reinvigoration of some established events including the Mt Wycheproof Races Arts and Crafts Festival, and former event for example the revival of the King of the Mountain Races as a duathlon dash. The establishment of Music on the Mount with its focus on youth, music and the Mt Wycheproof reserve has provided good quality event based tourism opportunities. The positive media coverage of the Steaming Up Broadway Festival in 2008 and the subsequent development of the Great Grain Festival have seen positive partnerships develop between State and Federal Government Grants bodies, philanthropic organisations such as the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust and local stakeholders. The current focus in the sector includes significant buildings in the town including the historic railway station, the Court House museum, Wycheproof primary school historic buildings and the Presbyterian Church.

Community Plan Update meeting priorities are listed as follows:

**PRIORITY**

Use of the Railway Station precinct including buildings
Wycheproof Lake
Broadway Streetscape
Kite flying competition
Development of the caravan park
Relocation of shire depot to develop area as an amphitheatre
Playground Centenary Park
Restoration of Railway Goods Shed
Wycheproof Shire Hall tours/town tours
Sculpture trail
Retention and maintenance of Historic buildings
Active tourism group/ tourism alliance

## Priority 4: **Strengthen & grow our community**

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 which was awarded as the Prime Super Community Group of the Year in the 2010 Regional Development Victoria awards, faith communities and school. Since the development of the 2008 Community Plan projects such as the Dollar Rent a Farmhouse project has attracted new families and active retirees to the town either as participants in the Farmhouse project, private renters, or purchasing local properties. The past two years have seen our community embrace new residents from India and Cambodia.

Community Plan Update meeting priorities are listed as follows:

**PRIORITY**

Community Garden

Children's services

Railway Station Precinct community use/establish committee of management

Wycheproof A&P Society Show

Expansion of services WCRC

Community Kitchen

Youth enterprise/ skills development opportunities

Support niche business opportunities

Annual events GGF/tennis tournament/Mt Wycheproof Cup

## Priority 5: **Taking care of our environment**

Many projects are continuing with most items within the Mt Wycheproof Rehabilitation Plan funded. The Wycheproof and District Landcare Group is active in weed and vermin eradication. There is a renewed focus on enhancing our natural and built environment. The sustainability of our environment was also a focus with recent workshops including the Transition Towns workshop and those workshops on saving water and energy, and reducing recycling waste under the auspice of the Living Green project, which well attended in Wycheproof. Investigation into alternative energy solutions for individual properties continues as a priority from the 2008-2018 Community Plan.

Community Plan Update meeting priorities are listed as follows:

**PRIORITY**

Weed and pest control
Railway precinct community garden
Renewable energy projects
Solar initiatives
Improving current infrastructure using 'green' design and materials
Harvesting water from Mt Wycheproof
Railway precinct reuse recycle depot
Lake project
Stream and river management

## Priority 6: **Engaging our youth**

Since the development of the 2008–2018 Community Plan a youth community opportunity workshop (CALF) was held with around 30 young people attending. The Wycheproof Youth Group is an active school age based group and members are involved in developing and holding an annual social event and in managing the Swimming Pool Kiosk. Members of the youth group have an office bearer position with Wycheproof VISION town forum and contribute to the Wycheproof On Track Newsletter with a regular column. It is acknowledge that while this group is engaged with the community and while there are opportunities for older teenagers and young adults to participate that is a group that is difficult to engage. Endeavours to include that group continue in the planning of projects.

Community Plan Update meeting priorities are listed as follows:

**PRIORITY**

Youth space
Skate/bike track
Railway precinct community garden youth enterprise
Railway precinct community kitchen
Walking track /sculpture track
Young performers open mike event at GGF
CALF update meeting
Education adult learning

## Future priorities & projects

Attendees listed projects and priorities to be considered in the future. **The following list is not in any particular order of priority or rating:**

PRIORITY	RATING	
	High	Medium
Becoming National Broadband Network (NBN) ready	✓	✓
Housing audit to investigate availability, affordability, standards, refit & renovation potential, building blocks	✓✓	
<i>Weed/bindii Sunday</i> a community event with barbecue to involve groups and families to reduce weed around town and on Mt Wycheproof	✓✓	
Interpretive track/walk around town		
Preservation Wycheproof Presbyterian Church	✓	
Upgrading infrastructure pavilion and other buildings Wycheproof Recreation Reserve and showground	✓✓	
Town signage	✓	
Mt Wycheproof rehabilitation	✓✓	
Maintaining and supporting the SES unit	✓	
Development of a youth space	✓	
Local health services	✓	
Sculpture trail with plaques telling about the history i.e. old steam train, turntable, silo, good shed, sheepyards wash, railway houses, station, Nissan Hut.	✓	
Law and order	✓✓	
Billiard room for youth	✓	
Children's services/children's precinct – retain and expand current childcare arrangements. Investigate the possibility of kindergarten, childcare, after-school care, & playgroup using the old school buildings	✓	
Retain old school building and find use	✓✓	

PRIORITY	RATING	
	High	Medium
Maintaining the kindergarten. Current and future issue funding (in 2011 the committee will need to raise \$28,000 to cover the shortfall and pay teacher and assistant wages and enrolment is only 5 students)	✓	
Recreation reserve upgrade with netball court resurfacing and upgrading amenities including toilets at the reserve	✓✓ ✓	
Recreation reserve children's play ground	✓✓	
Lake project	✓✓	
Solar lighting of walking track	✓	
Community radio station	✓	
Small town expo event hosted in Wycheproof	✓	
Establish a visitors' book	✓	
Gaining an accredited <i>i</i> for tourist information centre	✓	
Broadway shop facades need painting	✓	
Link tourism with other towns i.e Murrayville to Mount bike ride, drive-about maps and information.	✓	
Outdoor movie nights	✓	
Develop pad of tear-off maps	✓	
New Bird aviary Centenary Park	✓	
Playground at recreation reserve to also cater for caravan park, tennis courts	✓	
Attract businesses where there are gaps	✓	
Bring steam train to Wycheproof	✓	
Town reunion	✓	
Retain police office position in Wycheproof	✓✓	
Increase police personnel across Buloke Shire so that backfilling can occur	✓	