

millewa
community
plan
2016 - 2020

A photograph of a rustic wooden interior, likely a cabin or a small house. The walls are made of horizontal wooden planks. In the foreground, there is a wooden table with a thick top and a single leg. On the table, there is a white teapot, a white cup, and a white bowl. The lighting is warm and natural, coming from a window on the right side of the frame. The overall atmosphere is cozy and traditional.

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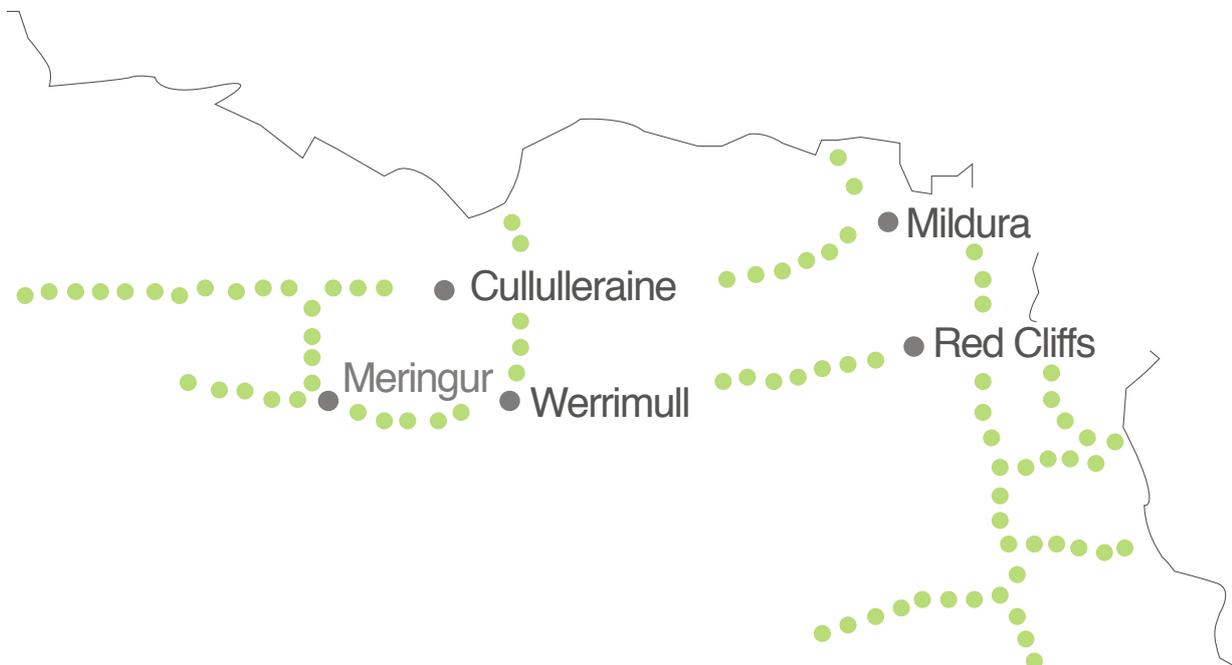
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Where is the Millewa?

The Millewa region is made up of three small towns Cullulleraine, Werrimull and Meringur. The distance from Mildura to each of the small towns are Cullulleraine 60km, Werrimull 85km, Meringur 100km. This information is important to define the purpose of this Community Plan for the Millewa area, and to understand the input from various groups and residents within the area.



The demographics

At the last census conducted in 2011 the population of Meringur and Werrimull was 448. Unfortunately no census data is available for Cullulleraine area.

Under 15	106
15-25	36
25-45	102
45-65	131
Over 65	73

Agriculture employed 134 people, and 15 were unemployed.

Transport is the next biggest employer.

106 people said they volunteer in some capacity.

At the time when the Millewa Community plan was developed there were 35 Children, 14 Farming family's and 6 other families living within the town. With the help of distance technology it caters for a wide range of subjects.

The only church still operating in the Millewa, is the Catholic Church Our Lady of the Lourdes in Werrimull but is attended on a limited basis. It is probably our most significant historic building and is heritage listed.

What is a Community Plan?

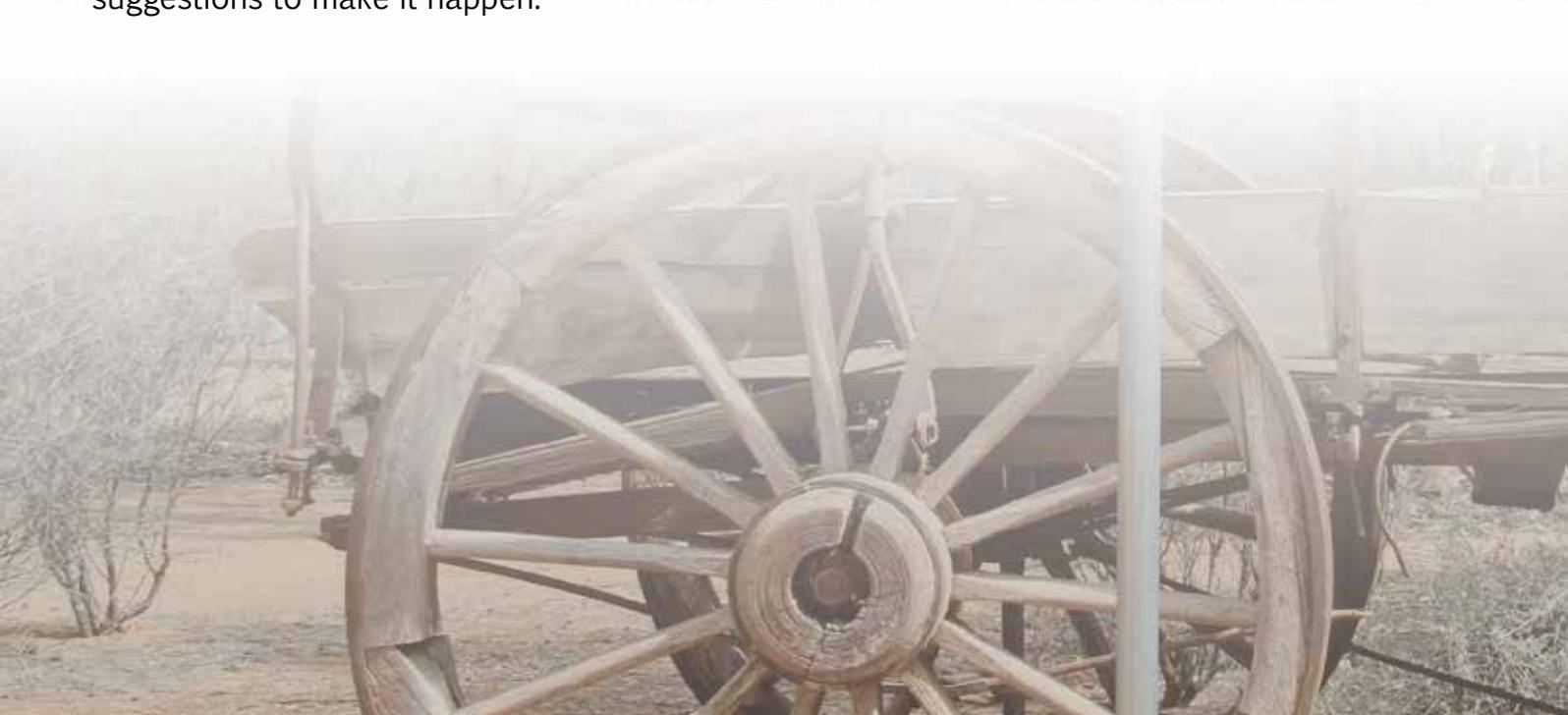
social inclusion
capacity building
participation
engagement of community

Community Planning has become an important process for towns and communities in rural Australia. Whilst Community Planning is still a relatively new concept, there have been over 500 Community Plans developed throughout Australia.

Community planning is the process whereby people are encouraged to become actively and genuinely involved in providing feedback about their thoughts and visions for the future of their community. Community Planning assists in identifying the direction the community wants to take to move forward, as well as documenting some of the ideas and suggestions to make it happen.

Community Planning aims to improve the engagement of communities. It also encourages people to be involved, opens up communication channels and helps people connect. Capacity building develops the skills within the community and increases community members' confidence.

Participation in everyday life promotes community connectedness and involvement, encourages the meeting of new people and promotes community members working together.



The Development Community Plan

Community Plans are developed by the community for the community. The first initial step for the Millewa Community Plan was to inform local residents that their Millewa Community Plan was about to go through a review. This gave them an opportunity to have input into their consultation process and how they would like to get the rest of the Millewa Community involved in having input into their community plan?.

Engagement for the Millewa Community Plan commenced on the 15 May 2015, with the process facilitated by Mildura Rural City Council's Community Development Officer, where a community planning group was established.

Feedback from the community was obtained through different methods including one on one chats, existing group meetings, open invitation public meetings, community events as well as email and advertising in the Millewa News.

Many suggestions and ideas emerged from the consultation sessions, but the local community also felt they would like to keep some of the various actions from the old Millewa Community plan, which was developed in 2010.

These were categorised into themes to ensure this information could be logically collated. Proposed actions identified under the themes of the Community Plan reflect the ideas presented by members of the community in previous discussions.

Community Plans are not just infrastructure based and the Millewa Community Plan highlights a desire for a vibrant connected community with a particular focus on projects and promoting the community to move forward.

Once the plan is complete, it is presented to Council for endorsement. This plan is very important to Councillors as it assists them to gain understanding of the needs of communities to plan for services, facilities and activities within the municipality.



Millewa Past

The north-west Victorian Mallee country was settled under the Closer Settlement Scheme. There were 708 grain properties planned, with roads running north/south and east/west, a railway line due west from the soldier settlement of Red Cliffs and a system of open channels (and pumping stations) to deliver Murray River water to townships and annually to farm dams.

The railway line had stations every six miles, which developed into small settlements as the line progressed and settlers took up their allotments. The two biggest towns were Werrimull and Meringur.

There were nearly forty schools in the district because the first settlers were mostly family men with children. Many schools closed after several years although the majority continued to function for longer. In 1946 Werrimull was made a Modified Consolidated School, and after buildings were moved to Werrimull students from those schools were conveyed on buses.

In 1949 the first secondary classes were introduced. Meringur also became a consolidated school with disused schools transported there. In 1967 there were 192 students at Werrimull, sixty-nine of them in secondary classes. All district secondary students came by bus to Werrimull. Meringur was the only other school and in September 1978 a new open-plan building was opened. On 19th December, 1997, the Meringur school closed. All students in the district attend Werrimull P-12 now.

The Werrimull Bush Nursing Hospital was opened in Werrimull in July, 1927. Hundreds of babies were born there. The first doctor was Dr Davis, then Dr. Buxton, Dr. Phillips, Dr. Zeeher, and Dr. Holland. In 1945 it became a bush Nursing Centre with a nurse in charge, but late in 1947 it closed. The Werrimull police station now occupies

the site. The Health Centre started in 1950. By the mid 1930s many of the original settlers had left because they could not manage to make a living. After the severe drought of 1943-45, a fact-finding committee in 1946 decided the farms were too small. The district was divided into 118 lots. As there were two hundred survivors, eighty-two accepted compensation to leave. Since the re-allocation, farmers have been allowed to sell to neighbours, so the number of property owners continues to fall, and, consequently, fewer goods and services are required. Agricultural activities include grain growing, sheep and cattle.

The State Electricity Commission held a switch-on ceremony in the Werrimull Hall in 1959 and over the next ten years or so living standards of Millewa people improved, as more people were connected and the power lines were upgraded. By 1974 the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission had replaced all channels with a pipeline system, the first in Victoria.

As it has always done mail from Red Cliffs comes by road every day. Werrimull had many tradesmen, several shopkeepers, a hotel, an ice works, and a boarding-house, and it was also the centre of government services such as the S.R.&W.S.C, the Grain Elevators Board, the Lands Department, the Forest Commission and Police Station. Werrimull became the largest town on the line. Since the Millewa recreation area, with tennis courts and football/cricket ovals, was established at Cullulleraine, all sport is played there.

Millewa Present

The Millewa today consists of three towns: Werrimull, Cullulleraine & Meringur.

Werrimull today has about fifty people living in the town. It still has the only hotel, the P-12 School plus swimming pool, Police Station, Post Office, Werrimull hall and Viterra grain receival facility. The historic limestone Catholic Church, built in 1933, is the only Millewa church conducting services. Over the hill on the old football oval is a Culture and Nature Trail, called the Mandala trail and was constructed in 2004 by some of the Werrimull teachers and students to record community history. Organisations, such as CWA, Millewa Craft and Millewa Ballet utilise the hall.

Cullulleraine, on the Sturt Highway, consists of a post office/shop/fuel outlet, garage, two caravan parks, (one with permanent residents), two football/cricket ovals and a tourist trail around the lake. The RSL Camp features a large dining room and dormitory –style accommodation is available for groups such as students on school trips. Lakeside clubs include the Ski Club and the Yacht Club while Werrimull and Meringur Football Netball Teams have their home games on the ovals and courts.

Agricultural Industries of almond and wine grape plantations and Grewal Flour stone ground products circle the town.

Meringur, with a population of about ten people, has a limited post office service of two hours three days a week, a Graincorp grain receival facility and the historic Lutheran Church.

The school building that replaced the original school in 1976 is now owned by the CFA and encompasses the Community Centre. The Millewa Pioneer Village containing many local historical documents and buildings is open daily.

Other tourist sites include Lindsay Island and Ned's Corner station, on the banks of the Murray River, originally a sheep station owned by the Kidman empire, now owned and managed by the environmental group, "Trust for Nature".

Community organisations such as Millewa Advisory Group, Working for Werrimull, CWA, Millewa Ballet & Dance Guild, VFF, Vintage Machinery Club, Werrimull & Meringur Cemetery Trusts and Landcare, Pioneer Park Committee and 22 other local groups operate in the district.

As a community our challenge for the future is to maintain and expand these sporting, cultural and business clubs despite a diminishing population.





community leadership

To have a committee that has an open door policy, that is effective and efficient with the representation of the various Millewa Community Groups

action	partners	time frame
Committee Establishment	Committee	6 months
To extend the (Millewa Advisory Group) to encompass all groups working for the Millewa Community	Committee	2 years
Review this Community Plan biennially	Committee and Independent members	12 months
Millewa Advisory Group establish logo and marketing material	Committee	Ongoing
Establish regular meeting structure for Committee and Independent groups.	Committee and Independent members	12 months
Develop guidelines and structure for Committee position including a representative from each Independent group.	Committee and Independent members	Ongoing
Support Independent groups to implement goals and actions within the Community plan.	Committee and Independent members	Ongoing



action

partners

time frame

Develop easy to follow risk management template

Committee and Independent members

18 Months

Training

Develop orientation / Induction package for new members

Committee

12months

Engaging external trainers to strengthen the Committee skills and invite guest speakers to Committee Meetings such as (MRCC, CFA, Police, SES)

Committee and Independent members

Ongoing

Community Support

Establish external partnership to achieve goals within this plan

Committee and Independent members

Ongoing

Communication

Undertake marketing and increase visibility to the Millewa Community through various media outlets (Facebook, website, Millewa News, local media)

Committee and Independent members

Ongoing

Undertake effective communication with MRCC and local Millewa Advisory Group

Committee and Independent members

Ongoing

Promote volunteers involvement

Committee and Independent members

Ongoing

Funding

Explore all grant opportunities (e.g. Landcare, Art Vic, etc.)

Committee and Independent members

Ongoing

Celebration of Committee achievements (Annual Dinner)



community involvement

To engage people within their local Community and be inclusive in the broader community



action

partners

time frame

Support Millewa news to ensure sustainability	Committee and Independent members	Ongoing
Investigate & support the establishment of a community information centre in the old tennis club rooms at Cullulleraine	Committee and Independent members	Ongoing
Look at the opportunity to promote and support current and new events (e.g. Music Festival, movie nights, bush dances)	Committee and Independent members	Ongoing
Investigate, implement and support environmentally friendly programs (e.g. rabbit eradication, road side and on farm tree planting, local environmental grant application)	Landcare grants, MRCC Grants, State & Federal funding grants	Ongoing



infrastructure

To access and improve the
Millewa Community's safety
and accessibility



action

partners

time frame

Investigate improvement opportunities for both Millewa Cemeteries (e.g. seating, shade structure, water tank)

Cemetery Grants Trust

1-2 Years

Improve facilities at the local public pool in the Millewa

MRCC grants & external Education Department

1-2 Years

Promote and support the development of a permanent art hub at Millewa Pioneer Park Meringur.

Millewa Advisory group / MRCC grants / external grants

2-3 Years

Investigate improvements and upgrade to existing Tourist & Public space areas (e.g. gazebo and seating at Lake Cullulleraine, playgrounds)

MRCC Council Plan 2013-2017 / Open space strategy, Johansen Reserve Master plan

1-2 Years

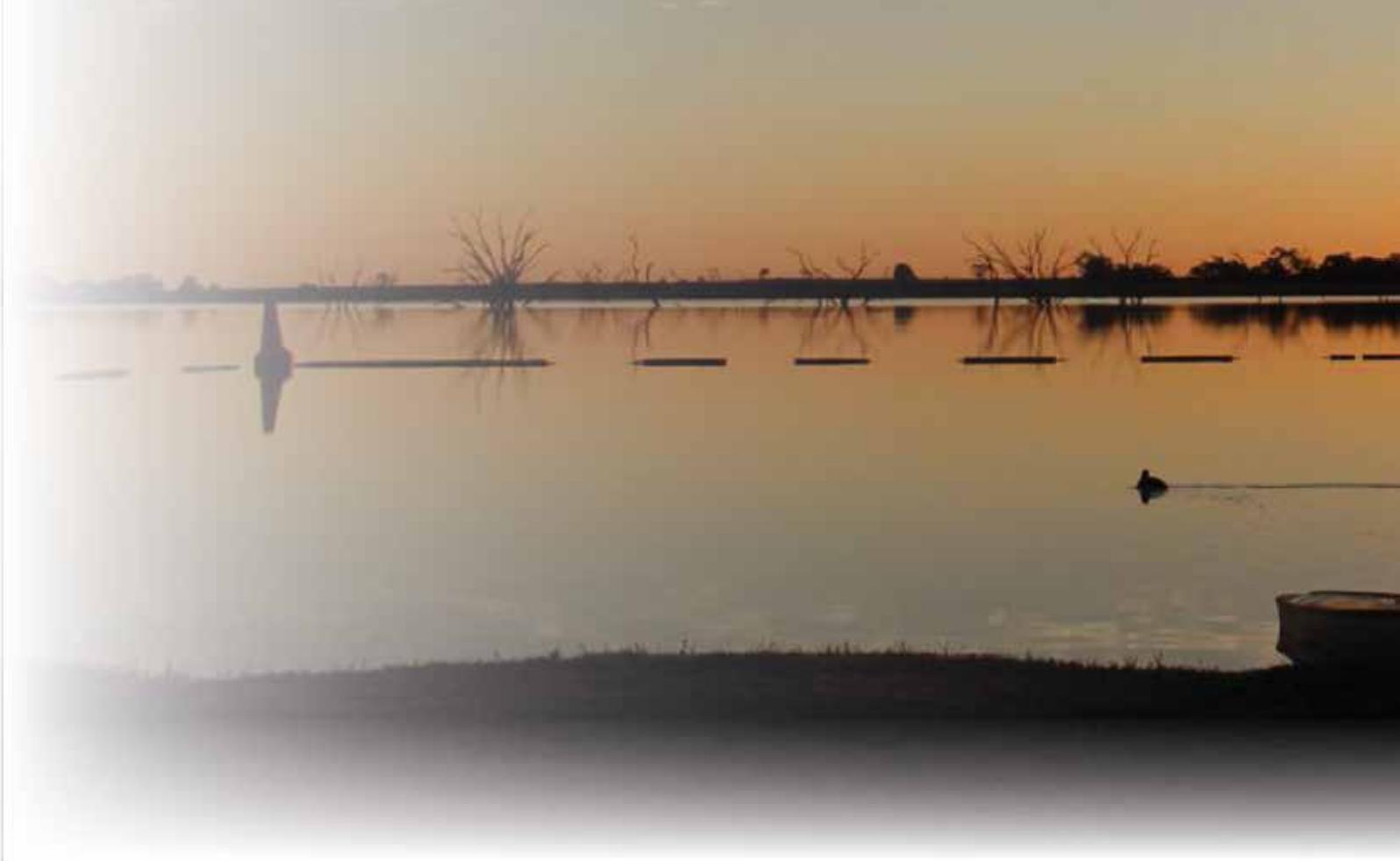
Investigate Transfer station changes in the Millewa such as hours of operation, changes to Transfer Station

MRCC Council Plan 2013-2017 / MRCC Litter Strategy

1-2 Years

Investigate availability of potential Residential Development

MRCC Cullulleraine Structure Plan 2006



promotion

To assist the Millewa Community
to further develop and promote
the area and its attractions



action

partners

time frame

Promote, maintain & support local parks, tourist attractions and heritage sites. (e.g. Pioneer Park, churches)

MRCC Parks and Gardens/ MRCC Council Plan 2013-2017 / Internal and external grants

3-4 Years

Investigate the opportunities for creating a tourist strategy for the area (e.g. field days, trail rides, balloon rides, market days)

Millewa Advisory Group / Internal and external grants

2-4 Years



safety and access

To maintain &
improve the Millewa
Safety & accessibility



action

partners

time frame

Work with health services in Mildura to provide greater Health Service in the Millewa (e.g. Mental Health, District Health Nurse)	Sunraysia Community Health /MRCC Age and Disability services	Ongoing
Investigate the opportunity to have an emergency type vehicle for emergency response (Farm accidents, road trauma, Health issues)	Internal and external grants / Community Emergency response team /MRCC Risk Management Department.	Ongoing
To look at introducing an Emergency Management Plan to assist the community to set up a preparedness plan and to build community resilience	Vision Stream Telecommunications	2-4 Years
Investigate opportunities to improve better communications (e.g. mobile phone coverage, internet connections)	Millewa Advisory Group	2-4 Years
Look at opportunities to provide child care services in the Millewa.	MRCC Council Plan 2013-2017 MRCC Early years	1-2 Years
Investigate the establishment of public access ways (e.g. footpaths, pedestrian crossing, improve town lighting,)	MRCC Parks and Gardens/ State and Federal Funding	1-2 Years
Maintain & improve existing community facilities (e.g. public toilets, BBQ, picnic areas)	MRCC Parks & Gardens / Vic Roads /Parks Victoria / State and Federal Funding/ Johansen Reserve Master Plan	
Improve signage in community (e.g. parks, sporting facilities, toilets)		



education

To assist in maintaining
educational opportunities
in the Millewa area



action

partners

time frame

Investigate the opportunities for alternative adult educational programs and facilities in the Millewa (e.g. farming workshops, art classes, exercise programs)

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE/ MADEC / Mallee Sustainable Farming /State and Federal Funding

Ongoing

Improve & up skill community groups in applying for grants or assistance for financial aid. (e.g. grant writing workshop, life skills workshop)

State and Federal Funding / MRCC Grants

1-2 Years

Investigate the opportunity to develop an agricultural farm for students.

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE/ MADEC /Mallee Sustainable Farming /State and Federal Funding

2-4 Years

Investigate the opportunity to establish a local playgroup

MRCC Grants / MRCC Parks & Gardens

2-4 Years



sports and recreation

To support & assist sporting clubs and organisations in creating a healthy lifestyle throughout the Millewa



action

partners

time frame

Investigate the opportunities for regular exercise programs (e.g. Pilates, dance lessons)	Millewa Advisory Group/ Millewa Ballet Guild/State and Federal Funding	2-3 Years
Seek Council support for maintenance and upgrade of local sporting facilities at Lake Cullulleraine (e.g. build new netball courts, improve playground)	MRCC Johansen Reserve Master Plan /MRCC Council Plan 2013-2017	2-4 Years
Promote & support youth activities (e.g. motorbike safety course, gymkhanas, trail ride events)	State and Federal Funding/ MRCC Council Grants/MRCC Youth Services	Ongoing
Seek Council & State Government support in maintaining the Cullulleraine Walking Trail and Mandala Walking Trail	State & Federal Government MRCC Recreation Master Plan 2009-2019/MRCC Council Plan 2013-2017	Ongoing
Seek Council support in promoting Lakefront, public land for general public usage and future development that benefits the community.	MRCC Parks & Gardens/State and Federal Funding/MRCC Council Grants/MRCC Healthy Together/Sunraysia Community Health/Mallee Sports Assembly	Ongoing
Promote & support triathlon events at Lake Cullulleraine		Ongoing
Investigate relevant improvements & upgrades to the Millewa sporting complex and surrounding areas		
Support the local football and netball clubs to continue to be active and lobby the Millewa Football League to keep football and netball financially viable at Lake Cullulleraine	Millewa Football & Netball League	Ongoing

Where to from here?

It is envisaged that the Millewa Advisory Group will become the lead group to assist other groups in the Millewa area to complete the actions within the Millewa Community Plan. An action group can be involved in a particular theme or across several or all themes, depending on the level of interest from the community.

The role of the action group is to support the themes in the Community Plan. The objectives of the action group will be to concentrate on working through proposed projects set out under each particular theme. Proposed projects from the engagement of the community have been included, however members of the action group will determine what projects they would like to work on. Mildura Rural City Council will offer ongoing support to this group who will meet on an 'as required' basis.

Get involved with the Millewa Community Plan

For further information regarding the Millewa Community Plan, please contact:

Millewa Advisory Group

PO box 10 Werrimull 3496

p (03) 5028 1202

e hyates@activ8.net.au



Partners

Local Government

Mildura Rural City Council

Education

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE
Werrimull P-12 School
Millewa Pre-School

Federal and State Government

Vic Police
Vic Roads
Parks Vic
Department of Environmental
Land Water and Planning
Landcare

Local Business

Werrimull Post Office & Meringur mail service
Trust for Nature / Ned's Corner Station
Lake Cullulleraine Store & post office
RSL Caravan Park
Bushman's Rest Caravan Park
Grain Corp
Cullulleraine Almonds
Impey Grain & Freight Co
Vittera
Werrimull Hotel
Golden Grain Flour Mills

Local Business Cont...

Millewa Pumping
Select Harvest
Bercon Baits
Beechys Electrical Contracting
Lock 9 Lodge

Community Groups

Millewa Community Pioneer Park
& historical society Inc
Millewa Advisory Group Inc
Working for Werrimull Inc
Millewa Vintage Machinery Club
Meringur & Werrimull Country Fire Authority
Werrimull & Meringur Cemetery Trust
Millewa News
Millewa/Carwarp Landcare group

Sporting Clubs

Werrimull Football & Netball Club
Meringur Football & Netball Club
Millewa Ballet
Millewa Powerboats
Lake Cullulleraine Yacht Club

Appendix

Grant/funding opportunities

www.mildura.vic.gov.au Mildura Rural City Council
www.ourcommunity.com.au Our Community
www.dpcd.vic.gov.au Department of Community
Development and Planning
www.lmw.vic.gov.au Lower Murray Water
www.dse.vic.gov.au Department
of Sustainability and Environment
www.australia.com Tourism Australia
www.tourism.vic.gov.au Tourism Victoria
www.landcareonline.com.au Landcare
www.depi.vic.gov.au Department
of Environment and Primary Industries
www.fahcsia.gov.au Department of Families,
Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
www.vicroads.vic.gov.au VicRoads
www2.health.vic.gov.au Cemetery grant
www.creative.vic.gov.au Arts vic grants

