

Murrayville & District Community Plan

2013- 2018

Prepared by Murrayville Inc.

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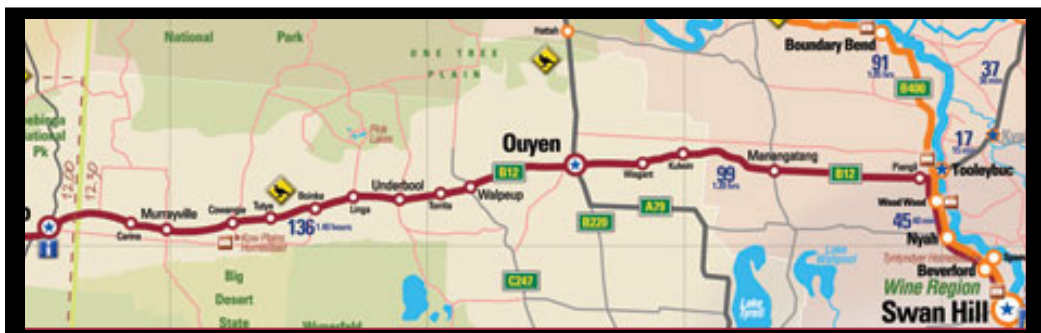
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Introduction

The Murrayville community developed their previous Community Plan in 2007, with the assistance of a consultant. This Community Plan first reviewed in 2012–2013, but was not presented to Council. In 2013, after further community discussion, Murrayville Inc agreed to revisit the plan to include contributions and input from neighbouring small towns.

A new format has been refreshed to develop the Murrayville & District Community Plan 2013–2018 in line with other community plans in the Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC) local government area. Thus there are now 6 key areas or themes, within which individual projects fall.



Vision Statement

“To be a forum to raise ideas, harness all our resources and promote our district, to see our community not only survive, but to grow and prosper.”

Themes

In the initial consultation undertaken by the community with the community, Murrayville Inc mailed surveys to all householders in the Murrayville district, ranging from the South Australian border to Boinka. From the data gathered these key themes are as follows:

- 1. Community Wellbeing and Involvement**
- 2. Public Facilities**
- 3. Water Preservation, Street and Town Pride**
- 4. Rail Freight and Public Transport**
- 5. Education**
- 6. Public Safety and Facilities**

Within each theme there are specific projects. These projects all received a ranking or priority number from community members who completed the survey.

From the data received there was one new project added to the Murrayville Community Plan, indicating the community would like to continue striving to achieve the projects identified in the Murrayville Community Plan 2007. It is worth noting that the rail line has been re-opened yet the community expressed a desire to see the state of the line improved in this review. So, while the initial target for that project, in the 2007 plan, was achieved it continues in the Murrayville 2013 plan as the community advocate for improvements to achieving travel times and speeds that allow the Murrayville receival site to be viable for the foreseeable future.



McKenzie St Murrayville c.1912

History of Murrayville & District

It is believed that the first white settlers in the Mallee area were Edward John Eyre and his party of six men who attempted to bring stock overland from NSW to Adelaide, via the Mallee, in 1838. They discovered and named Lake Hindmarsh after the first Governor of the Colony of South Australia (1836–1838) in March 1838 then tried to find a way north–west to the Murray River. They were forced back because of the density of the scrub and the scarcity of surface water for their horses and themselves.

The Kow Plains area was first seen in 1849 by Surveyor White when he was surveying the South Australian border. Later that year W.J. Beilby and a companion were in the area in search of pastoral land, he published a long account and a sketch map of his journey.

In 1853 James “Picaninny” Smith of Yanac with his brother in laws William and David Little drove 250 head of cattle and some horses from Yanac to Kow Plains. James Smith described Kow Plains as a country of Pine rises. The lease for Kow Plains Station, an area of 5,720 acres, was finally granted to James Smith on the July 3 1859 for a licence fee of £20. This was the last of the open Mallee country to be taken up for pastoral use.

Settlement of the Murrayville district began from the South Australian border in 1908 when the parishes of Mulcra and Carina were opened for selection, followed in 1909 by part of the Parishes of Gunamalary and Ngallo. The eastern half of Danyo and Gunamalary was surveyed by N. P. Cornell and opened for selection about the middle of 1911. Land was eagerly sought after and settlers moved in but from 1912

Harvesting c1920'



onwards quite a number of blocks were again put up for auction as settlers decided to leave for one reason or another.

“The opening up of the central Mallee by the Ouyen to Murrayville rail line in 1908 enabled some much needed reforms in land settlement to be tried. In the past settlers had arrived in new

areas with no water and un-cleared roads but in the Mallee water supply by tanks or bores was provided and roads were laid out and cleared. The cost of these works, including a low rate of interest, was added to the land purchase price, thereby giving the settler forty years in which to pay this off.

Crown lands held a sale, by auction, of Murrayville township blocks which was conducted at No 1 Bore on the west side of Panitya by J.R. Poole Esq. staff surveyor on Thursday the 16th day of June 1910 at 11am.

In late January 1911 Mr. Poole and his survey camp moved into Murrayville with the intention of staying for 3 months. The immediate work was to lay out allotments for working men's blocks and residential sites.

The first businesses to open in Murrayville in March 1911 were the Murrayville Coffee Palace, Blacksmith & Wheelwright and Pioneer Store. As each Parish was settled a new community was formed, these were tight knit communities whose members supported each other in their new harsh and isolated environment. Schools were built and in most Parishes these were also meeting places, a place for entertainment such as debates, plays, dances & euchre parties. Regular Church services were held in many of the Schools. Post Offices were set up.

General stores & other business were also established. These small towns peaked in the 1930's. The last two General stores to close were Cowangie & Boinka in 1976. The last of the small schools to close was Boinka in December 1979.

Pine logs for Kelly's shop Cowangie mid 1920's



Staff at the Cowangie Railway station 1920's





School children & community members worked with an artist to design and construct the Mosaic for the Centenary in 2010.

Over the years there has been a gradual increase in the size of farms and a dramatic decrease in population. Many farmers have gone out of livestock and changed to continuous cropping therefore seeing a wide variety of crops grown such as lupins, peas, canola, vetch and lentils. The introduction of modern technology and large sophisticated machinery has allowed large areas to be cropped. Farmers have made use of our ground water and potatoes & onions and olives are now grown in the district.

The decline in the farming population has led to the closure of businesses in Murrayville and has changed the way many services are delivered to the town. Murrayville has an excellent P12 College. Many of the students come by bus from Pinnaroo, South Australia. A Health Service is provided on a daily basis by a District Nurse and aged care is provided to people living at home by carer's. A Physiotherapist & Podiatrist visit regularly and there is a Doctor at Pinnaroo three days a week. The decline in population has also led to the closure of service clubs and associations. Cowangie CWA, Murrayville PAG, Murrayville men's group, Meet and Greet, Carer's group and Senior Citizens all meet regularly.

Sport has always been an important part of the social life of Murrayville & surrounding district. Football, Netball, Basketball, Soccer, Tennis, Cricket and Bowls are still played but the decline in population has made it more difficult for these sporting clubs to field teams. The Golf club closed in 2014. The swimming pool is well utilized during the summer months by the School, general public and tourists. With the deserts to the north & south there is ample opportunity for four wheel driving and motor bike riding.



The Graincorp site north of the town is a busy place during harvest and provides casual employment to many during this time.

Murrayville wouldn't be the place it is without our volunteers who are members of the Ambulance Service, Fire Brigade, SES and many other individuals who support Sporting, Historic & other organizations.

Murrayville is an attractive small town with Lion's Park on the highway and Pioneer Park in Reed Street great stopping in points for tourists and locals alike. During spring time the wildflowers along the highway and roadside and throughout the desert provide a colourful array.

Cassias along Mallee Highway Cowangie



Galah's

Noon flower- Sunset Country



The well-appointed Caravan Park, situated next to the swimming pool, provides a quiet place to stop and explore the Deserts to the north & south and visit the restored Heritage listed Kow Plains Homestead.



Pioneer Park Murrayville

Cowangie Soldier's Memorial Hall



Kow Plains



Boinka School 3800 now the Boinka Community Centre

Partnerships

The Murrayville Liaison Committee and Murrayville Community Inc (known as Murrayville Inc) work in partnership with MRCC for the betterment of the town & district. Cowangie and Boinka communities will contribute to the community plan with Murrayville Inc Community Planning Group and develop projects to support their own communities.

Presentation

Whilst a Community Plan is owned and implemented by the community, the final copy of this Community Plan will be presented to Mildura Rural City Councillor's at a Council meeting. This presentation, of the Community Plan will highlight to Council the key areas that are important to our community.

Risk Management

Prior to undertaking any action outlined within the objectives of this Community Plan, appropriate risk management strategies will be undertaken by the groups or organisations responsible for the project.

Strategy

The Strategy in this Community Plan outlines the community's long term goals, vision, values, aspirations and priorities for the next five years.

The new format of the Community Plan provides more flexibility to make the most of unforeseen opportunities that may arise through Government targets, priorities and funding to allow Murrayville and district to grow and thrive into the future. While these projects will be priorities, the communities of Murrayville and district will take every opportunity that arises, to promote the area and prosper our communities.

Endorsement

The Murrayville and District Community Plan 2013 – 2018 was presented to the Mildura Rural City Council Forum on Wednesday 5 November 2014, by Glenda Wyatt and Jocelyn Lindner.

Mildura Rural City Council endorsed this plan at the Council meeting held Thursday 11 December 2014.

The role of Murrayville Inc., as the facilitating group, on implementation of this Plan is:

“To work with a range of community key groups, Council and other partners, to support, facilitate and encourage the implementation of activities listed within the Community Plan. However, to achieve the maximum benefit of the actions listed the whole community needs to support the objectives of the plan and actively participate.”

For further information on how you can be involved in the Murrayville and District Community Plan 2013–2018 Contact:

Murrayville Inc

Or

Mildura Rural City Council
Community Development Unit
Community Liaison Officer

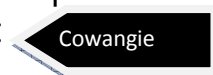
Ph: 5018 8100

www.mildura.vic.gov.au

Reading the Community Plan actions

The community's feedback, ideas and priorities are summarised under the themes listed, many of these actions have been rolled over from the previous community plan and are a continuation of prior hard work from many local volunteers.

As the Cowangie residents became involved after the community priorities were set (2014) actions identified as particularly important to this community are identified with:



1. Community Wellbeing and Involvement

1.1 Aged care and service

Community Priority No.1

OBJECTIVE: Murrayville and district residents have access to aged care facilities and services.

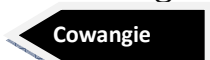
Action: Provide accommodation in Murrayville that is appropriate and pleasant for community members who no longer wish to remain in large homes or need support through home care packages.

1.2 Annual festival/sporting events

Community Priority No.2

OBJECTIVE: Attract new residents and visitors to the district through a sustainable event/s.

Action: Encourage tourism to our region and Youth to become more active.



Action: Support and participate in local events and celebrations

1.3 Determine cross border issues

Community Priority No. 4

OBJECTIVE: Identify cross border service delivery responsibilities reduce duplication.

Action: Determine responsibilities in relation to cross border services delivery, to reduce confusion and duplication and improve services.

1.4 Eco-tourism

Community Priority No. 5

OBJECTIVE: Promote the regions assets.

Action: Promote the regions assets ie. the Big Desert Wilderness Park, Kow Plains Homestead etc. to encourage visitors to Murrayville and the surrounding towns.

1.5 Community connection

Community Priority No. 15

OBJECTIVE: Encourage connectedness and resilience in the community.

Action: Provide opportunities for community members to share knowledge and experiences.

Action: Provide opportunities for families to come together for social occasions, building on social support networks eg. Outdoor or indoor movie night.

Cowangie

Old Cattle Yards, Sunset Country



Track to White Springs



2. Public Facilities

2.1 Upgrade Caravan Park

Community Priority No. 3

OBJECTIVE: Upgrade the caravan park.

Action: Improve facilities offered to increase occupancy of the caravan park and ensure ongoing and long term viability of the caravan park.

2.2 Recreation reserve redevelopment

Community Priority No. 7a

OBJECTIVE: A recreation reserve that fulfils the needs of the whole community.

Action: Improve and develop the recreation reserve to reflect the needs of the wider community.

2.3 Duthies Oval rejuvenation

Community Priority No. 7b

OBJECTIVE: Duthies Oval is rejuvenated.

Action: Develop the wetland area as part of the recreation reserves redevelopment.

2.4 Points of contact

Community Priority No. 8

OBJECTIVE: Have identifiable 'points of contact' within the town/region (communication channels).

Action: Establish roles and responsibilities required to be 'points of contact' in the town/ region.

2.5 Scale Model of Planets

Community Priority No. 10b

OBJECTIVE: Deliver the Scale Model project to encourage visits to and/or interest in the Mallee Track.

Action: Promote our local towns as places to visit while travelling through ie. The Scale Model project.

2.6 Indoor sport facilities

Community Priority No. 11

OBJECTIVE: Access to indoor sports facilities in the district.

Action: Develop and/or refurbish recreation facilities to include indoor sports and recreation activities.

3. Water Preservation, Street and Town Pride

3.1 Underground water

Community Priority No. 7c

OBJECTIVE: Improve water sustainability and quality through and beyond drought conditions.

Action: Develop water efficiency strategies to preserve underground water quality and quantity.

3.2 Buildings on the main street

Community Priority No. 9

OBJECTIVE: Create a positive perception of the town centre for visitors and residents.

Action: Support and develop projects to provide an attractive town centre and create a positive impression for visitors and residents.

Action: Improve the presentation of building on the main street.

3.3 Solar/alternative energy

Community Priority No. 10a

OBJECTIVE: Increase the awareness of the potential of solar/alternative energy in the community.

Action: Develop and support initiatives that increase community awareness of solar/alternative energy and its potential eg. a way to diversify and/or generate income.

3.4 Recycling

Community Priority No. 12

OBJECTIVE: Use recycling initiatives to generate environmental and economic benefits for the community.

Action: Investigate future recycling opportunities for garbage, plastics and paper.

Action: Investigate opportunities for green waste composting and resale back to the community.



4. Rail Freight and Public Transport

4.1 Rail Line

Community Priority No. 6

OBJECTIVE: Upgrade the rail line to allow increased speed and weight of trains operating on the Mallee line.

Action: Lobby to improve the rail line service, including increasing the number of trains operating, adhering to maintenance schedules and to complete upgrades.

4.2 Public transport connections

Community Priority No. 13

OBJECTIVE: Improved connections to regional centres.

Action: Investigate opportunities to lobby for a more coordinated public transport system to provide residents with a better connection to regional centres.



5. Education

5.1 Learning

Community Priority No. 14

OBJECTIVE: Opportunities to access learning/education for older students.

Action: Investigate opportunities to utilise school facilities to teach and build the older/adult communities skills and knowledge.

Action: Support community activities that encourage learning/training experiences and opportunities, particularly those that will benefit the community.

6. Public Safety and Facilities

6.1 First Aid

OBJECTIVE: Better meet the safety needs of residents and visitors in case of emergencies.

Cowangie

Action: Improve access to defibrillators at sporting facilities, halls, silo area and/or at nominated residents.

6.2 Public safety

OBJECTIVE: All public fixtures and facilities are safe and compliant with Australian standards.

Cowangie

Action: Upgrade seating in public facilities, ensuring they comply with Australian Standards.

Action: Improve access to public facilities eg. The upgrade of existing public toilets to include disabled access.

Action: Upgrade of electrical items and appliances at public facilities, ensure users are safe when accessing public facilities.

Strategic influences on the Murrayville & District Community Plan 2013-2018:

MRCC Council Plan 2013–2017

MRCC Recreation Master Plan 2009–2017

MRCC Aquatics Strategy

Walpeup & District Health and Well-being plan

For further information on Murrayville and the surrounding district:

www.murrayville.com.au

www.mildura.vic.gov.au

