

WARRACKNABEAL



March 2023

2023

Community Action Plan

COMMUNITY VISION

The Warracknabeal community will continue to create opportunities for economic growth and development for the ongoing sustainability of the township.



Yarriambiack
SHIRE COUNCIL

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Warracknabeal

Our community

Warracknabeal is an agriculturally based community of around 2,500 people situated in the Wimmera region of central western Victoria. The town has evolved on both sides of the Yarriambiack Creek, a tributary of the Wimmera River, 56 kilometres north of Horsham, the Wimmera's regional centre. Warracknabeal is the major centre for the Yarriambiack Shire which encompasses 13 separate communities within the Wimmera Southern Mallee.

Warracknabeal is situated at the centre of one of the state's significant broad acre grain production areas. Wheat and barley are the most widely grown crops, however the production of oilseeds, legume crops and hay is steadily increasing in the area.

The climate in Warracknabeal is Mediterranean having mild to cool winters, warm to hot summers with an average annual rainfall of around 430mm, mainly falling during the winter months.

Warracknabeal is serviced by Rural North West Health Services, Warracknabeal and St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Warracknabeal Secondary College, as well as the Warracknabeal Special Developmental School and Woodbine Adult Services which provides specialised services for intellectually disabled people.

Warracknabeal has excellent shopping with two supermarkets, a pharmacy and a large range of retail outlets, food shops, hotels, motels and restaurants.

OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

Community projects are essential to maintain and develop rural townships and enhance lifestyle for residents.

The Community Action Plan was drafted to detail how the vision and ideas articulated by the community could be achieved.

We can use our Action Plan to:

- Enable all community members to have a voice.
- Organise project plans.
- Display community planning.
- Promote individual projects for prospective funding.
- Connect with stakeholders; and
- Inform Local Government of proposed projects.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US

- Providing opportunities and supporting a sense of belonging and connectedness in our friendly community.
- Supporting opportunities for employment, businesses, and tourism.
- Ensuring people have access to appropriate services.
- Identifying and responding to the aspirations of our community.
- Providing a variety of sporting, recreation, and leisure activities for all our residents.
- Enhancing our environmental sustainability so we can make a difference and create a sustainable future for generations to come.

The following projects have been gathered from community ideas presented in a community planning forum in May 2019, ideas from the community and members of the Warracknabeal Action Group.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Project	Key actions	Key stakeholders	Status Updated August 2022	Action Required
No 1 Anzac Park	Master Plan Development New shared Amenities Redeveloped Pool Kiosk Pump Track	Anzac Park Committee User Groups YSC	Local Sports infrastructure money Added the Pump Track as this is the perfect place for it to be situated. Master Plan is 90% Completed, In final stages.	Finalise Master Plan Explore further funding opportunities
No 2 Signage	Town entrance signs	Townscape Committee YSC Community Groups	Signage finalised, funding ongoing. 3 Frames to be installed.	Awaiting installation of frames by YSC than Loud signs to place signs up.
No 3 Accommodation	CARAVAN PARK Free camping		Free Camping at the Showgrounds (Working on this). Cabins are completed. Amenities are in the build process	Council is undergoing a Planning scheme review to enable camping at the Showgrounds. Once this is complete, master planning will occur at the site to identify infrastructure required to apply for grant funding. ONGOING
No 4 Scott street Empty Shops New Businesses	Not appealing Incentives to develop and occupy.	Shop Owners WAG YSC	Ongoing program of providing incentive to do up shop fronts. Grant applied for Mercers Garage	Wombat crossings passed by YSC. 90,000in budget, need to apply for further funding yo complete. Abby Egan to look for grant for this.

Project	Key actions	Key stakeholders	Status Updated August 2022	Action Required
No 5 Land for housing	Shortage of building blocks and houses to rent	YSC Housing Committee	YSC is working on this with Rural Councils Victoria. Need \$40K to hire a consulting firm. Local Businesses are trying to attract staff so more accommodation is needed. Meetings have been had re this with some stakeholders that are desperate for new housing.	Group has been formed to come up with a masterplan. Investors will be needed. YSC housing project low-cost housing will go ahead but not to the same scale planned. Looking for grants for rural areas for all towns in area. Land has been purchased in Anderson Street. Council has taken ownership of 98 Anderson Street Warracknabeal. House will be demolished after 04 September 2022. One or two affordable homes will be built on the site. Council is also actively working with Wimmera Development Association and Haven Home Safe to explore opportunities to increase housing supply in Warracknabeal. ONGOING
No 6 Mural Paintings	Paintings plus others on buildings shop windows	YSC GrainCorp Arts Council	Waiting till Arts Warracknabeal are up and running and they can run with this	Pass to WARTS and all
No 7 Railway Station	Railway Station	Community Groups YSC Woodbine	Ongoing Lobby Vic Track to repair Bernie O'Connor is working on this with Wartook Foundation, some funding has been secured for sensory garden.	Bernie O'Connor has been doing a lot of work on this and is putting in a proposal for the actual station now. Jessie Holmes and Bernie have done a lot of work on this. An application is with VicTrack for the redevelopment of the Warracknabeal Railway Station. Vic Track confirms they support the project, however there are no funds available currently. YSC has provided a further letter of support and information to VicTrack regarding the Seymour Heritage Railway visit. ONGOING
No 8 Community Garden	Lighting Solar Lease/Ownership Electronic Watering System	Community Garden Committee WAG	Investigate future community ownership. Watering system needs funding	Looking for grants to upgrade some areas.

Project	Key actions	Key stakeholders	Status Updated August 2022	Action Required
No 9 Court House Redevelopment	Artist in residence program Arts Hotel Nick Cave Statue – funding required. Location for Cave Foundation	Working Heritage (Ross Turnbull) YSC	Business Case currently being prepared for an artist in residence program. The Business Case will assist in future funding applications to redevelop the precinct. Money to put Toilets in Stage 2 \$170K confident to get this. Creative Victoria Grant for \$215k submitted with Council/Monash Uni partnership for next stage. Funding obtained: Warracknabeal Courthouse Artist in residence project (\$500,000). Warracknabeal Courthouse Reactivation Cabinette Project (\$298,750)	Monash Uni, Working Heritage and YSC working together to achieve the redevelopment. Wonder Cabinette Monash University – Project Managers The Wonder Cabinette will be headquartered at the Court House and is currently under construction. The project is anticipated to be finished by late December. Warracknabeal Court House Artist In Residence – Monash University – Project Managers Designs currently being drafted. ONGOING
No 10 Early Years Hub Childcare Centre Kinder	Kindergarten 3 & 4 years Hours for Childcare	YSC Community Uniting Neighbourhood House		Completed
No 11 Education Precinct	Werrigar St School site	YSC Community	Lacking storage and need more classrooms as Secondary schools' numbers have increased	Will be ready for use in Term 2
No 12 Travellers Rest	Plans have been developed for Rotary Park. Designated Park for dogs	Rotary, Rotaract		No Further Action required. Progressing Well
No 13 Lake Whitton	Secure lease/ownership Recreational Lake	GWM Water Community Groups WAG	Ongoing Some meetings have happened, and the biggest barrier is the cost and allocation of water.	Area is divided into two halves. Grampians Water owns east side looking at area for solar panels. No water for this site Crown land west side. ONGOING

Project	Key actions	Key stakeholders	Status Updated August 2022	Action Required
No 14 Lions Park	Environmental Precinct Free Bush Camping Walking Tracks Small Wetlands area			Could be used for camping, walking track maybe a small dam for water. GWM all done by map locations if already have water feature you are not on the list. ONGOING
	Toilets/Baby Change Room Camp Kitchen	Lions club	Lions Club has a "Action to do list". \$25,000 in funding has been secured for toilet upgrade. Council is also exploring funding opportunities to replace the amenities block with DDA compliant facilities.	Lions club are continually updating and controlling their needs. Very active committee WAG members will maintain contact. ONGOING
No 15 Tourist Information Centre Upgrade	Redevelopment of the existing Tourist Information Centre	YSC	Main office is nearly ready to occupy	Amenities to be started as soon as Office completed
No 16 Transport	Ballarat, Horsham & Nhill appointments Uber/Taxi/Community Taxi	Health Services Woodbine	RFDS has started a patient service for people needing transport. Veery successful Taxi service has stopped	ONGOING
No 17 Welcome pack and night for newcomers	Welcome Pack Annual Welcome Night	WAG	Welcome to Warracknabeal to be Held on April 1 st as other date was already busy. Night all organised	Already to go.
No 18 Yarriambiack Creek	Walking Track Upgrades – accessibility for Bikes Exercise Equipment	Creek Committee YSC	The current creek committee is looking for new members and help Andrew Morcom is the President so may need to go to one of their meetings to see if we can help.	New members needed for creek committee Flexible with meeting dates. Having to deal with three companies, Barengi Gadjin Aboriginal Corp, Waterways and YSC has made things difficult. Pathways need to be wider not always able to do around trees, ongoing work required to maintain walking track. Path needs some repair

Project	Key actions	Key stakeholders	Status Updated August 2022	Action Required
No 19 W'Beal Brochure/Town Map	Warracknabeal Brochure Town Map	WAG Tourism Committee	David Ward was looking into this. David may have sourced a high-resolution map and will work with Andrew on this. David will talk to the Tourist information Centre on this.	David Ward and Tourist Centre working on this project. Follow up.
No 20 Arts Warracknabeal W'ARTZ and All	Source designated Arts Warracknabeal space.	WAG YSC Arts Committee Members	Looking at the possibility of a designated space for Arts in Warracknabeal. Discussions around using space in Town Hall to host artists and show art.	Ongoing discussions with stakeholders and Town Hall Committee, project in infancy Next meeting will need to be sent out to community
No 21 Footpaths and access to sites on east side of railway	Trail to Golf course and other sits on highway, Showgrounds racecourse and Agricultural Museum	YSC	HAVE BIKE TRAIL TO AREAS ALONG THE HIGHWAY THAT LINK TO TOWN FOOTPATHS	Golf Club and Council need to look at this
No 22 YSC, leisure centre, senior citizens and Library Precinct	Master plan for upgrading this area	YSC		Next meeting to be advised

Project	Key actions	Key stakeholders	Status Updated August 2022	Action Required
<u>Listing of Completed Projects</u>				
VET Clinic (Completed)	Vet Services and improved facilities	Private Business		Has been in place for 3 months now
	Baby Change Facilities	YSC	YSC to investigate. There is one in the disabled toilets also there is one at the Ladies Rest Rooms.	
	The Civic Sign located outside the Tourist Information Centre	YSC WAG	WAG Local Businesses Board This has been investigated and the contract runs until August 2020 so will do something then. Will be taken down. Can the Council organize this?	Will be done asap The Sign has now been removed.
	Located in a central point	YSC WAG	YSC is currently discussing the opportunity for 24-hour access to the existing gym located in the stadium. Floor being done. \$20K to do a plan Sport and Rec Grant 2 for 1 to be applied for. Plans are in place for the gym February 2020.	Awaiting Plumber to repair roof. Then next stage can start. Awaiting quotes to remove some walls and extend areas. Negotiations with staff for 24-hour Gym
No 15 Hospitality Weekends	Weekends and public holidays there are very few businesses open to service the local community and visitors	Shop Owners WAG	WAG has organised Weekend Coffee Vans with Community Groups and The Van to provide Coffee and snacks for the public and visitors. Regular management meetings ensure the Current Van Plan is working well. Working Timetable has been finalized up to August 2021	Need to be advertised more. (Regular advertising through Facebook and local paper has been operating well). Monitor Public feedback.

WARRACKNABEAL ACTION GROUP – PURPOSE

In addition to our community priority projects, we also assist with other projects that are important to us, as well as performing other supportive roles in the community

Meetings Held: Second Tuesday of the month, 6pm the Shire Council Offices. All welcome.

The main role performed by the Warracknabeal Action Group (WAG) is assisting with the administration of several other community groups. In particular, WAG assists other groups with their annual accounting tasks and obligations. Generally, the various groups manage their own projects, but may also receive assistance from the Group with funding applications. Our financial management role includes allocating to projects, funds received from the local Bendigo Community Bank. The committee organises the annual Christmas Festival for the community that is a major event bringing together many groups and residents.

The Group operates as an 'umbrella' organisation for several unincorporated groups including the Community Garden, Nick Cave Sub Group, Townscape, Christmas Decoration Committee and Christmas Festival committee. Other groups often carry out activities under the name of Warracknabeal Action Group, which also provides them with insurance cover they do not generally have.

MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the community action plan or would like to be involved in community activities

here are some useful contacts.