



Community Action Plan

2024-2029

2025 Project Update -May 2025

MURTOA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION



Our Community Plan

Murtoa: “A hidden little paradise amongst the wheat belt”

Survey insights from 76 residents in 2024 highlighted Murtoa's strengths, assets, challenges, and vision for the Community Action Plan 2024-2029. This input shapes the trajectory of our town's next five years, guiding our forward momentum and growth together.

Over the past 5 years, the Murtoa community achieved significant milestones through the ambitious Murtoa Community Action Plan 2019-2023, including the silo art and night animation project, the pump track and toddler playground at Rabl Park, a Stick Shed visitor information centre, the Recreation Reserve master plan, and the eagerly awaited Early Learning and Early Education childcare and kindergarten centre officially opened in January 2025 in support of regional children and families.

“The community wants the town to grow”

Our friendly community benefits from being located close to the Wimmera’s regional centre, Horsham. Our impressive tourist attractions include the Stick Shed (National Heritage listed Murtoa No.1 Grain Shed), the museum precinct (Water Tower Museum, Railway Station & Concordia College [*first Lutheran college in Australia*]), Dunmunkle Sumpoiler Engines, and the stunning Lake Marma managed by a local volunteer Committee of Management, complete with the Caravan Park and community-owned Cabins on Lake Marma and now with the silo art painted by SMUG and animated at night by Transience.

Murtoa is a hub for the agricultural industry, home to valued employers, two excellent schools and kindergarten, local based health services and pharmacy, a healthy retail sector and quality key trades available locally. The diverse public sporting and recreation facilities and gardens are managed and maintained to a high standard by volunteers.

OUR COMMUNITY

Murtoa is a beautiful and welcoming lakeside town with friendly people located in the heart of the Wimmera.



Population

897



Median Age

48

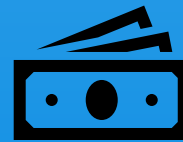
(State avg 38)



Private Dwellings

389

= 84% occupied



Median Household Income

\$1,007

(State avg \$1,759)



Volunteered

in 12 months

28%

(State avg 13%)

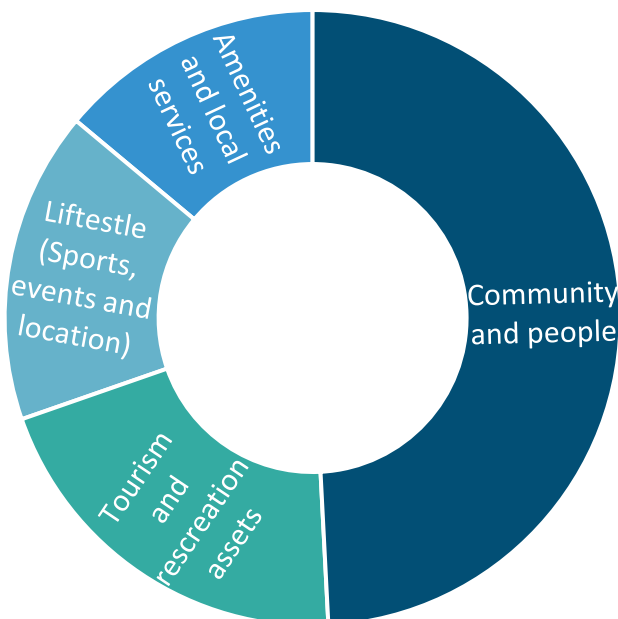
Source: ABS Census 2020

OUR STRENGTHS

- Our People & Positive Community
- Great local businesses, services & amenities.
- Our tourism & recreation spots
- The lifestyle and Location

OUR ASSETS

- Lake Marma and surrounds
- Heritage & tourist attractions
- Small businesses, local services & schools.
- Sporting facilities.
- Community driven, friendly people

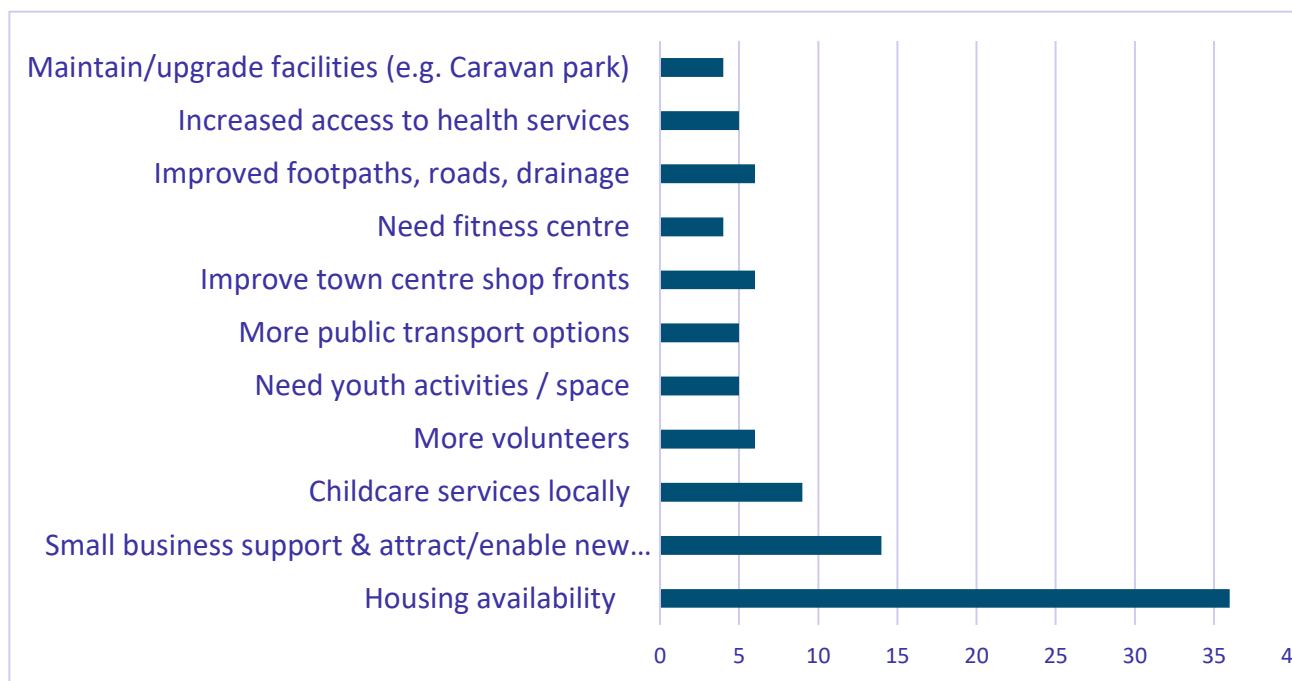


Special mention to farming sector and location on highway and to proximity to regional centre.

OUR CHALLENGES

❖ Housing availability

❖ Support and attract new businesses



OUR FUTURE FOCUS

Frequent future challenges the Murtoa community raised in 2024:

- **Housing:** Continue to grow population with more housing (land development).
- **Tourism:** Expand tourism opportunities, including events in the Stick Shed and community art.
- **Small business:** More retail and hospitality businesses able to open longer.
- **Health:** Gym / stadium built, open and readily accessible to the public.
- **Accommodation:** Increased worker and event accommodation options (glamping accommodation/ Community use public storage space / long-stay trailer park /caravan park & cabins extended).
- **Jobs:** Increased employment opportunities (including mining sector locally).
- **Childcare/kindergarten** open on 1 January 2025.

OUR OPPORTUNITIES

Ideas raised in the community survey that we, with our Murtoa Progress Association, can explore and lead:

Basic Services

- Affordable housing for elderly.
- Private houses for rent.
- Private houses for sale.
- Childcare/kindergarten open 1/2025.
- Health service access increased.
- Public transport options increased, including local train services.
- Police station open 24/7
- Doctor in residence

Health, Connectivity & Livability

- Health and wellbeing
 - Gym facilities built.
 - Stadium built.
 - Bowls club rooms upgraded.
 - Wheelchair access to pool.
 - Lake area lighting.
- Youth space accessible.
- Cinema opened.
- Community events:
 - Signage similar that displays upcoming events on entry ways instead of hand painted signs.
 - Permanent stage at Lake Marma.
 - Wedding arbor at Rabl Park.
 - Community storage space.
 - More light up events / animated silo
- Improved ambulant access.
- Boost our excellent schools.
- More volunteers.
- Combine community groups.
- Control cats and dogs.
- Boost competitive sport clubs.
- More trees along streets.

Infrastructure Opportunities

- Build on agriculture centre of economy.
- Truck parking areas in town.
- Roads repaired.
- Public showers and truck parking with access to green spaces.
- Footpaths improved: Wheelchair access.
- Pedestrian crossings: Breen street between lakes. Lake Street from Munro to lake.
- Land availability for development.
- Maintain current infrastructure.
- Improved planning and building support.
- Easy to access toilet at lake.
- Improved bins around town.

Economic Development Opportunities

- Housing: Continue to grow population. More housing.
- Land development for future housing.
- Tourism:
 - Expand caravan park.
 - Upgrade caravan park facilities.
 - Hold events in Stick Shed.
 - Build on community art and a community art space.
 - Renovate Sprott Fountain at Lake Marma.
 - Build more cabins on lake Marma.
 - Glamping tents for major events.
 - Free camping.
 - Marma Gully opened.
- Small business: More retail and hospitality businesses able to open longer.
- Increased worker accommodation options.

Jobs: Increased employment opportunities (including mining sector locally).

OUR MURTOA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The Murtoa Progress Association has represented the Murtoa Community since 1888. The purpose of Progress is to promote and support Murtoa and district in the enhancement of:

- Community connectivity, consultation and local representation
- Local businesses, services, ag-culture and economic development opportunities
- Tourism and livability
- Shared leadership and enable community leaders

Specific tasks include to manage:

- Promotion of local business and community events
- Representation of community issues, concerns and interests
- Murtoa Caravan Park and Cabins on Lake Marma
- The Murtoa website and social media
- The Murtoa Community Action Plan as a consultative process
- The fortnightly newspaper the “Murtoa and District Advertiser”

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Email: murtoaprogress@gmail.com

Website www.murtoa.net Facebook www.facebook.com/murtoa

OUR COMMUNITY PROJECTS (2024-2029) – By Theme

1. Infrastructure Improvement Opportunities (Including Beautification Projects)

	Location	Project	Summary	Need	Who will be Involved	Comments	Contact	Email Address
A	Town Centre	Town Entrances	Improve Highway town entrances with tree planting	Town pride. Attractive entrances.	TBC	Looking for interested groups	Local resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
B		Rezone land to recreation/ tourism	Rezone block 1471 Wimmera Highway from Industrial to Recreation/Tourism	Enable use for tourism, including overflow camping etc. when large events in region.	Shire, Stick Shed	Priority	David Grigg	stickshedcom@gmail.com
C		Upgrade toilets in Marma St, including showers	Toilet facilities reflect town. High use by visitors and locals out walking. Need access to showers.	Aged & not pleasant. No mirror & sanitary arrangements. Dark. Showers needed.	Shire		Local resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
D		Beautify McDonald St Shop Facades	Work with private shopfront owners to paint shop facades for town beautification.	McDonald St shop fronts deteriorated	Shop / building owners, Shire		Progress	
E		Truck parking areas	Truck parking areas required in town to support local businesses (NB. Rabl Park far from shops)	Agriculture huge part of our area & employment. Nowhere for trucks to park & purchase items / rest.	Shire, Department Transport	YSC determined in 2022 legal to park 1 hour in any street.	Local resident	
F	Walking Tracks	Walking track to Murtoa Cemetery	Walking track from Murtoa Cemetery to McDonald Street	Residents and visitors often walk to Cemetery, which has no safe track.	Cemetery committee		Local Resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
G		Walking track to Stick Shed	Walking track from Murtoa Station to Stick Shed.	Visitor safety walking. Connect Murtoa	Shire, StickShed		Local	
H	Bike Trails	Promote Barrabool bike trail	Bike track brochure for Barrabool State Park	Tourism and local fitness to enjoy Park	DEECA	<i>Paused</i>	Local	
I	Lake Marma	Landscaping pool parking area	The planting of trees in the swimming pool / tennis area. (E.g. Weeping Myall)	Having more asphalted road to link into the sealed road to rotunda.	Lake Marma Committee of Management		Rod Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com
J		Permanent stage structure	A stage structure at the grassed area against the swimming pool fence.	For community entertainment at Lake				
K		Tree planting plan	A plan for tree planting around Lake. Regular arborist reports to assess tree health.	Lake Marma COM				
L		Sprott Fountain	Beautify Sprott Fountain	Beautify the area				
M		Recreate ' lovers lane '	Plant shade trees on track at SE corner from channel to near cricket nets	In response to input from community				
N		Restore old well on foreshore	Maintain historic point of interest– part of early water infrastructure in Murtoa					
O		Boardwalk to wetlands	South end of lake from caravan park to wetlands	Access for fishing and bird observation				
P		Lake track edging	Extension of track edging for accessible track					
Q	The Stick Shed	Stick Shed Entrance	Redevelop the entrance to improve attractiveness and welcoming to visitors	Stick Shed Landscape Master Plan to inform the entrance.	The Stick Shed Committee of Management		David Grigg (Secretary)	stickshedcom@gmail.com
R		Stick Shed Events	Change classification to allow for Public Events/Entertainment held in the Shed	Community events to be held in the ideal location. Attract tourism.				
S		Ambulant vehicle	Purchase ambulant golf cart	Enable access for all visitors. Project after entrance redevelopment.		Considered post entrance dev.		

T	Recreation Reserve / Show yards	Murtoa Show Facilities	Install double doors in change rooms to enable use as pavilion.		Murtoa Recreation Reserve / Show yards Grounds Committee of Management	Priority - 2025	John Hamilton (President)	john@hopefieldfarm.com
U			Install lockable doors under stairs for use as lockable storage.					
V			Install powerpoints around oval	Access for Show events and activities				
W		Community centre rebuild	Architectural drawings of community centre	Developed for costing and grants		Major grant focus		
X			Soil samples for community centres	Shovel ready project				
Y		Boundary fencing	New fencing on eastern side of ground. Around new netball courts.	Propose pool-like fencing				

2. Economic Development Opportunities (Including Tourism)

	Project	Summary	Need	Who will be Involved	Comments	Contact	Email Address
A	Housing built	Increase private house build and houses for sale	Accommodation desperately needed (housing & rentals).	WHIP, Murtoa Housing Initiative Pty., Progress	Murtoa Housing Initiative Pty. established. Plan to build 4 new houses in 25-26.	Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
B		Land development through additional sub-divisions.	Land for new housing builds restricted for Murtoa. Identify opportunity for land to be sub-divided for new housing.	Shire	Ongoing focus – unsuccessful grant applications in 2024, 2025	Local resident	
C		Worker accommodation	Increased worker accommodation, including for seasonal work	Community, Progress		Progress	
D	Heritage recognition	Historical Society – Digitalization Project	Digitization of Microfiche & Microfilm Rate Records & Dunmunkle Standard.	Historical Society	Application to Local History Grant	Sue Dollin (Secretary)	murtoamuseum@outlook.com
E		Street Plaques of Historic Businesses and Homes	Historical photo and information/ history of the location.	Progress	Unsuccessful grant applications (2024)	Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
F		Marma Gully private business building restoration	Building of community significance	Business	Community interest to support building preservation	Local resident	
G	Community Storage and Tool Library	Community storage space	Storage for community assets including the glamping tents, Murtoa Big Weekend Assets, Wine & Dine assets	V/Line, Progress	Location: V/Line sight and former railway worker yard. Located close to town centre, Railway Hotel and	Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
H		Community tool library	Community tool library that houses and maintains quality items for public use such as trailers, ride on mowers, push mowers, etc. Sustainable use.	V/Line, Progress	Explore option of connection to Men's Shed for interest in leading and maintaining - based at community site [V/Line area]		
I	Vehicle Charging Station	Electric Vehicle charging station	Encourage people to stop as they recharge in Murtoa	Shire, Progress		Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
J	Glamping group facilities	Temporary group glamping facilities to accommodate large tour groups, i.e. rail visits. Economic benefit.	Encourage large groups to stay locally. Offer unique experience in small communities.	Shire Progress Other communities	Unsuccessful RTIF application 2023	Local Resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
K	Free-camping options in Murtoa	Investigate incorporating a free camping area.	Tourism to boost local economy. Explore options and zoning.	Shire	Possible on Rabl Park. Requires community consultation [2024].	Local Resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com

L	Businesses supported	Local businesses supported and strengthened	Promote local businesses	Businesses, Progress		Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
M		Attract new businesses and employers	Attract employer businesses	Businesses, Progress			
N		Industrial land identified	Need for usable industrial land availability to attract industrial businesses	Shire			
O	Wall-to-Wall Art Festival	Five artists spend two days painting identified walls in Murtoa	Point of tourism interest. Beautify the town. Walls: Caravan park, others?	Businesses, Progress	Estimate: \$70,000. Aim for 2026-27. Next steps: Fundraise & find walls.	Progress	murtoaprogress@gmail.com

3. Healthy, Connected & Livability Opportunities

	Theme	Project	Summary	Need	Lead & Who Involved	Comments	Contact / Submitted	Email Address
A	Health, Recreation & Sport	Murtoa Recreation Reserve Master Plan actioned	New community centre with new netball facilities.	Basic women change facilities required. Suitable community sport function space required.	Rec Reserve COM	Funding for netball/tennis courts at rec reserve (2025)	John Hamilton (Chair)	john@hopefieldfarm.com
B		Young people activities & spaces	Young people activities Reference to Rabl Park Master Plan.	Free opportunities and experiences for young people available in-place locally	Shire, schools	Connection to Rabl Park Master Plan	Local resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
C		Public fitness gym	Encourage people into fitness. Add strength training to fitness program.	Public access to exercise equipment. Strength training is important. Meet and chat with like-minded community while getting fit.	Community, private businesses		Local Resident	
D		Stadium facility for public	Accessible stadium for sports		Shire		Local	
E	Rabl Park	Basketball ring / half court	Basketball ring installed for youth and recreation	Basketball popular with youth in Murtoa. No public space to play.	Progress	Priority	Local	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
F		Skateboard park upgrade	Skateboard park safe & user-friendly improvements – Rabl Park	Recreational spaces for young people. Vic Health 2024. Funds need \$150,000	Shire, College	Priority - 2025	Murtoa P-12 students	
G		Master Plan implemented	Concepts in Rabl Park Master Plan implemented.	Recreation spaces. Above projects	Shire		Progress	
H	Bowls Club	New club house project plan & building design	Design and rebuild new club house (as an alternative option to previous extension rather than a replacement action).	Council considering draft designs to compare cost benefit of options. Aim: shovel ready project.	Murtoa Bowls Club, Shire	Limited in opportunities as not shovel ready.	Tony Baker (Chair)	tony-tash@bigpond.com
I		Outdoor Shaded Area	Need for improved outdoor spectator area	Need suitable area for spectators. Weather impacts on spectators – include heat risk from no shade options.	Murtoa Bowls Club			
J		Replacement green	The current surface of the green has 3-4 years of life left.	Require at least \$140,000 (April 2023) to replace				
K		Landscaping / paving	Landscaping project	Pavers at south of green requires new retaining wall and pavers relayed				

L	Swimming Pool	Solar strips that heat the pool replaced	The solar strips are +15 years, at end of optimal usage. Leaking, need regular flushing and strong winds move them from their placement on the pergola shade cloth.	Keeping pool to optimal temperature encourages range of patrons, especially older patrons, to access pool and regular exercise.	Swimming Pool Committee		Kristin Starick (Secretary)	murtoaswimmingpool@gmail.com
M		Backwash tank repair	Backwash tank repaired.	Installation of seals by technical expert		Seals purchased.		
N		Accessibility for all abilities	Railing/ramps/lifts require major engineering planning to ensure that pool structure integrity not damaged.	It is important to provide access to all abilities				
O	Golf Club	Water pump replacement for greens	Pump repair or new pump to replace broken pump for course watering of course greens.	Maintain the essential golf course greens	Golf Club	Priority	Keith Elliot (Secretary)	murtoagolf@gmail.com
P		Wetland area	Water hazard on the 14th hole to be made into a permanent wetland for the attraction of birds and wildlife.	The Golf Course backs onto Barrabool State Park. This would promote a healthy ecosystem with the utilising a hazard to form a healthy wetland.				
Q		Covered outdoor area for weather protection	Participant weather protection with covered outdoor area attached to the clubhouse	The Murtoa Golf Course is a Winter Course. A shelter adjoined to club room enables weather projection for patrons.				
R	Tennis Club	Finalisation of top surface of Court #3.	Low slip synpave acrylic court surface and final line marking to finalise fill within this area		Murtoa Tennis Club	Tennis Victoria support	Natasha Pietsch (Secretary)	tony-tash@bigpond.com
S		Lighting of courts	Additional lighting update to install additional lighting towers to light up #3 and #4 for a possible (more efficient) night competition.	The need for quality lighting and surface of Court #3 will complete the tennis arena and set up for future.		Tennis Club will research lights and quotes.		
T		High pressure court cleaner	High pressure court cleaner will avoid mold buildup and further costs associated with this issue going forward.	Prevent future costly issues and maintaining courts.				
U		Maintenance treatment for mold and moss	Hard court service clean will enable ongoing maintenance to be more manageable for volunteers.	Quote with SportZing Court Care North Victoria for service treatment.				
V		Assistance of Tennis Coach	Assist accessibility of skills, funding for coach of complimentary (or affordable) clinics to youth.	Specialised clinics, and possibly run Hot Shots and junior competition.				
W		Clubhouse Repairs	Ongoing vandalism to assets requires maintenance to return to original condition.	Replace side of Barbecue facing tennis courts, and blinds vandalised				
X	Community Safety	Pedestrian crossing on Lake Street	Install pedestrian crossing between Munro and Lake Marra for safe pedestrian crossings.		Shire		Local Resident	murtoaprogress@gmail.com
Y		Pedestrian crossing on Breen Street	Install pedestrian crossing to connect walking lakes on walking tracks on west of swimming pool.		Shire		Local Resident	
Z		School crossing lights on Marra Street	to alert traffic of pedestrians.		Dept Transport		Local Resident	
aa		Golf Club – Security system	Security alarm system for the club house.	Multiple break ins and vandalism. Support prevention and follow up.	Golf Club		Keith Elliot (Secretary)	murtoagolf@gmail.com

4. Committed / Completed Projects from Murtoa Community Action Plan 2024-2029 (June 2024 - May 2025)

	Location	Project	Summary	Need	Who will be Involved	Comments	Contact	Email Address
A	Lake Marma	Water play area	Develop the North West corner area of the Lake reserve	Develop area for community-use.	Lake Marma Committee	Vic Tiny Towns grant from RDV 05/2025	R Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com
B	Men's Shed	Air conditioning	Split system installed	Spilt system broke down. Year round environment comfort.	Men's Shed	Murtoa Progress Association funded Mar 2025		
C	Lake Marma	Fishing Jetty	Accessible fishing jetty installed in front of caravan park	Encourage fishing and visitors to area	Lake Marma Committee	Funded by Fisheries Vic 2025	R Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com
D	Historical Society	Achieve	Document and photograph storage	Weather proof archive for heritage photographs and documents.	Historical Society	Progress funded Feb 2025.	Sue Dollin (Secretary)	murtoamuseum@outlook.com
E	Swimming Pool	Grounds Improvement	Improvements include: paving at the dead grass; new grass laid on the west side under the shade trees; replacing a pergola between the two smaller pools; shade cloth placed on the side of the west pergola to block the sun	Works approx \$25,000. Projects designed to improve safety. A safer entrance and infant pool; easier to clean by reducing dirt. Reducing risk of sunburn/heatstroke by providing shade	Swimming Pool Committee	Pergola replaced between two small pools Shire grant and Murtoa Swimming Pool ladies committee.	Kristin Starick (Secretary)	murtoaswimmingpool@gmail.com
F	Swimming Pool	Update the pool operating system	Updated system new pumps and piping; electronic water testing system; new taps/fix leakage on backwash pipes. Introduce a chlorine/salt system; new sensor in the well. Reduce four hour daily testing and cost of running the pool by updating the system.	Reduce the running costs of our local swimming pool	Swimming Pool Committee	Funded by Murtoa Progress Association Feb 2025	Kristin Starick (Secretary)	murtoaswimmingpool@gmail.com
G	Swimming Pool	Drainage in toilet floors corrected.	Area doesn't drain away. OHS and user safety issue. The Shire Building Works Inspector as provided two options to obtain positive drainage.	Important to repair so that the safety of users can be maintained while entering and moving in the toilet areas.	Swimming Pool Committee	Pool purchased non-slip mats	Kristin Starick (Secretary)	murtoaswimmingpool@gmail.com
H	Golf Club	Climate control for club house	Air conditioning split system for the clubhouse to provide warmth for golf players and supporters during Winter when the golf course is open.	There is nothing for summer cooling and the wood heater used for winter is very old and inefficient. OHS for wood handling.	Golf Club	Funded by Murtoa Progress Association	Keith Elliot (Secretary)	murtoagolf@gmail.com
I	Golf Club	New roof on clubhouse	New roof for the clubhouse	Roof leaks in certain conditions.	Golf Club	Completed	Keith Elliot (Secretary)	murtoagolf@gmail.com
J	Tennis Club	Two tennis courts at netball courts	New tennis courts that meet specs installed at netball courts.		Murtoa Tennis Club	Funded through Murtoa Rec Reserve project (2025)		tony-tash@bigpond.com
K	Historical Society	Museum Precinct – Security Cameras	Install security system for the Museum precinct.	Increase vandalism to community property and heritage items	Historical Society		Sue Dollin (Secretary)	murtoamuseum@outlook.com
L	Lake Marma & Caravan Park	Security cameras and lighting	Install security cameras and lighting in collaboration with user groups.	Liaised with user groups and authorities to improve safety for users and community assets	Lake Marma Committee, Progress	In progress May 2025	Rod Delahunty (Secretary)	lakemarmacom@gmail.com