

Warracknabeal Community Action Plan



JUNE 2025

Warracknabeal 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.

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WARRACKNABEAL OUR COMMUNITY

Warracknabeal is a thriving rural commercial centre 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 a wealth of medical services in town, Warracknabeal and St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Education Precinct that includes Early Years Childcare, 3 & 4 year old Kinder, Special Development School and Primary School & Secondary 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 and beverage options, fuel outlets and Caravan Park

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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.

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

PRIORITY PROJECTS:

Projects	Key Stakeholders	Status	Action Required
No. 1 Anzac Park Redevelopment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Masterplan 	Anzac Park Committee User Groups YSC WAG Advocate	Local Sports infrastructure money Masterplan is completed	Explore further funding opportunities to fund Implement the Plan Fundraising locally
No. 2 Wheatlands Museum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional sheds & signage 	YSC Museum Committee WAG	Outdoor entertainment area - Completed	Ongoing
No.3 Signage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Entrance signs 	Townscapes Committee YSC WAG	3 signs installed Further funding required	3 more signs to be completed, pending on funding
No. 4 Visitor Accommodation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caravan Park Showgrounds Creek Camping 	YSC Showgrounds Committee Creek Committee WAG	Free camping at the showgrounds (working on this) 3 Cabins are completed, always looking for more	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. Friends of Caravan Park Committee - ongoing

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Projects	Key Stakeholders	Status	Action Required
<p>No. 5 Yarriambiack Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking tracks upgrades Accessibility for all abilities 	<p>Creek Committee</p> <p>YSC</p> <p>BGLC</p> <p>Wimmera CMA</p> <p>GWM Water</p> <p>WAG Events Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with BGLC to look at the track Creek committee ongoing work to upgrade walking track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider pathways Signage with distances - Events Ongoing maintenance Preparing project plans for funding
<p>No. 6 Housing</p> <p>Shortage of building blocks and houses to rent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable Tourism Employees Contract Workers 	<p>YSC</p> <p>Rural North West Health</p> <p>Q & A Hay</p> <p>Woodbine</p> <p>Educations Precinct</p> <p>Employers</p>	<p>YSC has an affordable Housing Project in place and waiting further funding opportunities</p> <p>40 Anderson St is going through enabling of structure</p> <p>Council has taken ownership of 98 Anderson street Warracknabeal. With 2 units to be started soon.</p> <p>Local Businesses are trying to attract staff so more accommodation is needed.</p>	<p>YSC housing project low-cost housing will go ahead but not to the same scale planned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking for grants for rural areas for all towns in area. Affordable Housing Short Term Housing <p>Council is also actively working with Wimmera Development Association and Haven Home Safe to explore opportunities to increase housing supply in Warracknabeal.</p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>

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Projects	Key Stakeholders	Status	Action Required
No. 7 Court House Redevelopment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Hotel 	Working Heritage – Management YSC Monash University		Stage 1 Internal Bathroom DONE Stage 2 External Pod and other bathroom / lounge ampi theatre DONE Stage 3 Wonder cabinet
No. 8 Early Years Hub Childcare Centre Kinder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kindergarten 3 & 4 years staff required Hours for Childcare Playgroup 	YSC Parents advisory group Uniting Neighbourhood House		Expanding Hours for childcare More staff needed Increase the availability of early learning spaces
No. 9 Lions Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilets / Baby Change room Camp Kitchen 	Lions Club YSC WAG	Lions club has a “action to do list” \$25,000 in funding has been secured for toilet upgrade. Works start on the toilet block soon.	Lions club are continually evaluating their needs. Have applied for funding to upgrade BBQ facilities Very active committee There is a need for a new peacock enclosure. Quote provided was \$9,000 Ongoing

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Projects	Key Stakeholders	Status	Action Required
No. 10 Tourist Information Centre Amenities	YSC WAG	Reopened 05/06/2025 with the female and male Unisex to be completed	More Media coverage- Facebook Page to be launched Ongoing funding
No. 11 YSC, leisure centre, senior citz and library precinct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master plan for upgrading this area 	YSC	Pump track Half court basketball court	Next meeting to be advertised
No. 12 Warracknabeal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring sustainability and growth of the events 	WAG Events Committee YSC	Continue working with Aubrey/Areegra to enhance our marketing and branding the events 3 Main Events a year	3 annual events. Adhoc Event, Easter Festival and Run the Beal
No. 13 Old Education Precinct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding out what the space can be used for 	Education department Warracknabeal Community		Canvassing the community to find out what they want Work with the council and education department
No. 14 Community Garden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting Solar Electronic Watering System 	Community Garden Committee WAG	Working on symbolism of thank you to those that donated money for the purchase of the land.	Ongoing

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No. 15 Railway Station	WAG 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	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. – to be updated
No. 16 Nick Cave Statue Funding required Location for Cave foundation			Ongoing
No. 17 Lake Whitten Secure lease / ownership Recreational Lake	GWMWater Community Groups Creek Committee 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 site Crown land west side Ongoing
Completed			
Travellers Rest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotary Park is now a designated park for dogs Signage 	Rotary, Rotaract	Completed	

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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: As needed

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. The committee organizes 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, Events Committee, Tourist Information Centre 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 any of the activities. Here are the key contacts.

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