



Wycheproof Community Plan 2008-2018



A Victorian Government initiative



© Wycheproof Community Plan (2008-2018). Wycheproof 2010
© Photographs. Deidre Zabel, Barry Crockett, Justine Turner, Michael Finke

Community Plan prepared by:
Julie Slater
JLS Consulting
RMB 1884
Donald VIC 3480

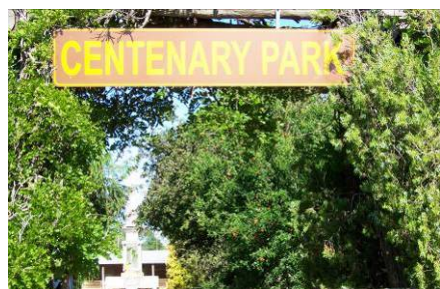
Ph/Fax 03 5498 3270
Mobile 0409 983 270
Email: slateraj@activ8.net.au

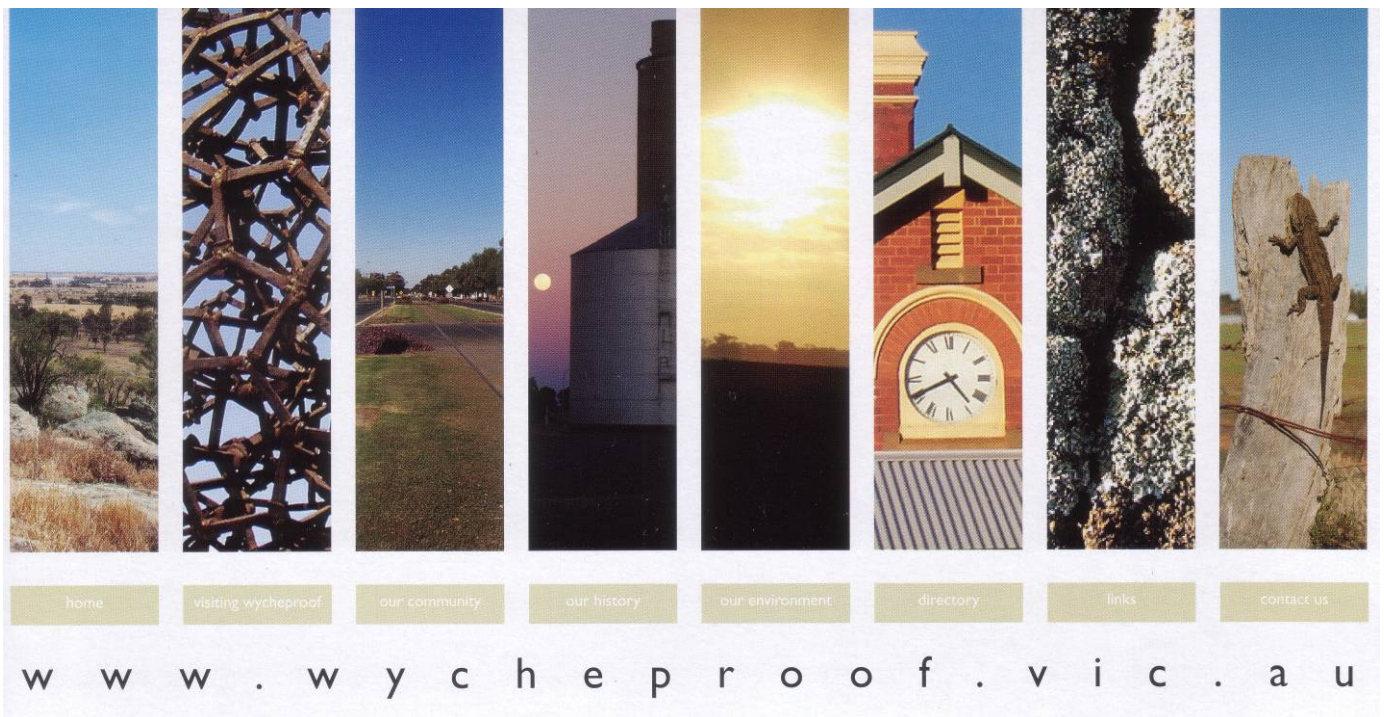
Disclaimer

This Community Plan has been prepared by JLS Consulting on behalf of Wycheproof 2010. Neither party guarantees that this publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purpose and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence, which may arise from your relying on any information in this publication.

...Table of Contents...

Introduction.....	1
Why Community Planning is Important	1
Community Plan Process	2
Community Plan Steering Committee	2
History of Wycheproof	3
Demographic Profile.....	3
Wycheproof – Today and in the Future	4
Community Plan Priorities	6
1. Retain and grow our essential services	7
2. Stimulate our local economy	8
3. Develop our tourism sector	9
4. Strengthen and grow our community	10
5. Taking care of our environment	11
6. Engaging our youth	12
Appendices.....	13
1. Outcomes from June 2007 Public Meeting	14
2. Outcomes from November 2007 Community Opportunity Workshop	15
3. Project Ideas suggested by the Community for future reference	18





Wycheproof postcard designed by Megan Lord using photographs taken by Deirdre Zabel.

Foreword...

It is with great pleasure that I write this foreword for the Wycheproof Community Plan – a document that has the potential to enhance the Wycheproof community socially, economically, and environmentally.

Community planning is all about building the capacity of the community to identify local needs and issues, and then developing programs and initiatives to meet and respond to these. This is exactly what the Wycheproof community has achieved with this plan.

The six key focus areas contained within the plan are all important to the towns growth and prosperity in the future – delivery of essential services, stimulation of the local economy, growing tourism opportunities, community development, looking after the environment, and - probably most importantly - engaging young people.

When Council began the CBI process early in 2007, we had high hopes of what could be achieved, and this Plan prepared by the Wycheproof community is testimony to this. It is the community's plan and they should be justifiably proud of it.

I congratulate all involved in its development, and wish you well in its implementation.

Reid Mather
Mayor
Buloke Shire Council

Introduction...

It is both an honour and a privilege to be associated with the development of this Community Plan for Wycheproof and district, and I look forward to being involved in its implementation in years to come.

When Wycheproof 2010 was first approached to be part of the Community Building Initiative by the Buloke Shire Council in late 2007, we were unsure of the process and what it would achieve.

Today, we are delighted with the outcome – a comprehensive plan for the future which will enable us to focus on the social, environmental, and economic needs of our community in a strategic and integrated way.

This Plan will be a guide and a resource for the many diverse community organisations that operate in Wycheproof and the surrounding district. Alone, we each make a small amount of difference – but working together there is much we can achieve.

Already things are happening with a new Committee established to investigate a Men's Shed, and a Youth Community Opportunity Workshop held to prioritise actions in this important Key Focus Area earlier this year.

And this is just the start...

Nuccia McLean, Chairperson – Wycheproof 2010

Why Community Planning is Important...

Community Planning is the cornerstone to the future growth and prosperity of any community and provides a blueprint for community leaders to meet the current and future needs of the diverse range of residents, community groups, business enterprises, and other essential organisations that make up any community.

Therefore it is important that the community planning process is inclusive, and enables all members of the community to have their say in a positive environment.

In Wycheproof this process was a Community Opportunity Workshop to which all members of the community were invited and encouraged to attend. More than 100 people chose to do so, with many volunteering to be involved in the development and implementation of the Plan in the future.

The inclusive nature of this planning process provides a platform for the community to engage their residents in the delivery of the projects identified within the Community Plan and ensures that key community leaders – such as Wycheproof 2010 – have a strong understanding of community needs and requirements and will be in a position to deliver outcomes that meet these into the future.

Community Plan Process...

The Wycheproof Community Plan has been developed as part of the Victorian Government's Community Building Initiative.

To obtain community input into the planning process, a Community Opportunity Workshop (COW) was held on Monday 26 November 2007. The outcomes from this meeting, have formed the basis of this Community Plan, with each of the six community priorities identified in this plan receiving strong support from the 100+ people present.

Prior to this, a public meeting was held in June 2007, which was attended by 57 people, to discuss "what should Wycheproof plan to do to ensure it is sustainable into the future?". A number of "community assets" were identified at the meeting, and several potential community projects put forward, and these were highlighted during the COW and expanded upon by those in attendance.

Individual consultation was also undertaken with members of the community as part of a door knock that took place in the week leading up to the workshop by Buloke Shire Councillors and Council staff, and the feedback from this was also incorporated into the COW.

Following the COW, a Report was prepared and distributed to all who attended, with an opportunity to attend a meeting of Wycheproof 2010 on Tuesday 18 December 2007 to discuss this.

With general consensus that the recommendations contained within the Report were "on the right track", Wycheproof 2010 has worked toward the consolidation of these ideas into a Community Plan to provide a blueprint for the future of Wycheproof and district.

A draft Community Plan was prepared and distributed widely within the community seeking feedback and input, before the document was finalised and formally adopted by Wycheproof 2010 on behalf of the Wycheproof Community at their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 15 July 2008.

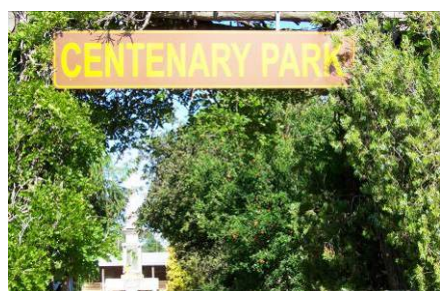
Community Plan Steering Committee...

The implementation of the Wycheproof Community Plan will be overseen by Wycheproof 2010, with Action Groups established for each of the six priority areas.

Each Action Group will be required to report back to Wycheproof 2010 on a regular basis on the progress it is making in meeting its goals and objectives.

This information will then be reported to the Wycheproof Community via the regular monthly newsletter and on the Wycheproof website to ensure the wider community is involved in the implementation of the plan.

The Plan itself will be reviewed on a biennial basis, to ensure that it continues to meet community needs.



History of Wycheproof...

The first inhabitants of this area were the Bulla Bulla Wycher clan who spoke the Wergaia language.

The first recorded European settlement was in 1846 when Mr Robert Macredie established Wycheproof Station. Originally 76,800 acres, it eventually dwindled to 10,800 acres, through subdivisions, the remaining lot purchased by Captain McKeckan for 2 pound, 5 shillings (\$4.50) per acre.

Mr Robert Moffatt obtained the lease, after others, in 1867 and E. P. M Margetts managed the station for him, reportedly running 8,000 sheep on the property.

In 1873 the first selectors, the Dempseys and Dobbins, both born in Kilkenny, Ireland, marked out their selections in 320acres lots. Mr Dempsey grew the first wheat crop near the present fire station.

Mr James O'Connor, another early arrival, built the Mount Wycheproof Hotel in 1874, it was one of the earliest buildings on Broadway. He became a large landowner, first President of the A & P Society and a councilor on both St Arnaud Shire and later the Wycheproof Shire.

Wycheproof is best known for its railway line, opened in 1883, that runs through the centre of the main street Broadway. It also proudly boasts the smallest registered mountain in the world 43m above the surrounding plains.

In September 1883, Mr J. O'Connor dispatched the first telegram from Mount Wycheproof to the Victorian Parliament regarding the opening of the railway line.

Along with the railway line from Bendigo, the most significant factor in the development of the township was the construction of the Lonsdale channel in 1918, which supplied water to Wycheproof.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2006 Census, the current population of Wycheproof is 815 people, of which 406 are male and 409 female, and a median age of 47 which is ten years older than the national average of 37. A breakdown of the local population, and how this compares to the national average, is contained in the table on the right.

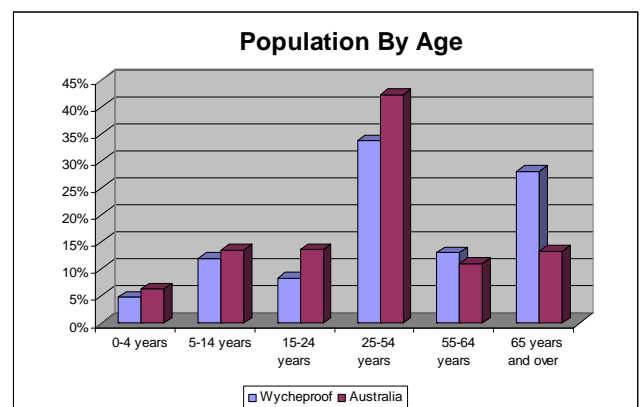
The majority of residents were born in Australia (91%), and the only language spoken at home is English (97.2%). Just over 55% of persons aged 15 years and over are married, 24.4% never married, 8.1% separated or divorced and 12.7% widowed.

There are 219 families in Wycheproof - 36.5% are couple families with children, 51.1% couple families without children, and 12.3% one parent families.

There are 356 occupied private dwellings in Wycheproof - 92.7% separate houses, 2.2% semi-detached, row or terrace houses, townhouses etc, 2.8% flats, units or apartments and 2.2% other dwellings. Of these, 58.4% of occupied private dwellings are fully owned, 16.6% being purchased and 19.1% rented.

During the week prior to the 2006 Census, 340 people aged 15 years and over who were usually resident in Wycheproof were in the labour force. Of these, 61.5% were employed full-time, 30.9% employed part-time, 2.4% employed but away from work, 2.4% employed but did not state their hours worked and 2.9% were unemployed. There were 321 usual residents aged 15 years and over not in the labour force.

The most common industries of employment were Farming 23%, Hospitals 12.7%, Local Government Administration 9.4%, School Education 9.1%, and Supermarket and Grocery Stores 3.6%.



Wycheproof – Today and in the Future...

During the June 2007 and November 2007 meetings in Wycheproof, the community identified a number of important attributes, including:

Our People

- Community Spirit - "What we Do, we Do with Pride"
- Safe Community/Friendly and caring community
- Lots of Volunteers/Community Service Clubs
- Resilient People/Community Not Afraid of Change – prepared to adapt
- Great Place to raise a family
- Good support networks
- Church Communities

Our Location

- Mid-way between Melbourne & Mildura
- Good road system & geographically central in North West Victoria
- Clean air, starry sky – "big sky country" (astronomer's delight)
- Climate

Our Facilities

- Excellent Sporting facilities
- Centenary Park
- Mount Wycheproof
- Local Events. eg. Wycheproof Cup
- Good Amenities/Good Stop-over facilities for travelers

Our Infrastructure

- Open main street – attractive
- Railway Line
- Saleyards
- Buloke Shire Offices and the Shire Hall
- Hospital/Medical Services and their Staff
- Quiet and Peaceful/No traffic jams or supermarket queues/Small size
- Strong Primary Industry Sector
- Affordable Living


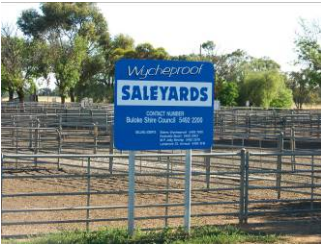




Wycheproof – Today and in the Future...

What the Community sees as important for the future:-

Environmental	Social/Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on sustainability: be a “green” town • Water security • Expand stormwater harvesting programs • Renewable Energy Industries • Beautification of the Mount • Clean Air • Solar power for the town • Drought resistant gardens • Bio Fuels • Conservation agriculture/diversity • Adaption to climate change for the agriculture sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping our services that we already have – doctor/medical, aged care, police, water, chemist, supermarket, school, park, retail, etc • Extend educational opportunities • Aged housing appropriate to a retirement lifestyle • Functioning Youth program with a leader, activities, and meeting place • Happy, healthy community/Friendly people • Affordable Housing • Strong Leadership and local government support • Excellent internet facilities (state-of-the-art) • Strong Community Organisations – Service Clubs, Church Groups, Sporting bodies • Retention of young people in the community • Retain and increase population, ie. Young families • Children’s precinct up and running • Men’s Shed • Improve Pool facilities • Speed limit through town to 40
Economic	Cultural
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant and profitable businesses • Improve town CBD/Improved streetscape/Develop Town Brand Package • Grow our existing businesses/Attract new Business • Develop new industry/employment opportunities • Community Trust/cooperative for the retention of essential businesses • Transport Hub on the Calder Highway • Machinery distribution hub for north west Victoria • Work opportunities • Active Grain Centre • Join to natural gas line • Viable Farming Sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Industry • More cultural experiences – bands, orchestras, arts • Entertainment for all ages • Musical events • Markets on Broadway • More festivals and events • Entertainment for teenagers • Race Weekend – grow and expand, incorporate Annual Show • Recommence community dances • Mount/Steam Train/Shearing Shed/Agricultural tourism

Community Plan Priorities...

As a result of the Community Opportunity Workshop, the following six priorities areas have been identified:

	<p>1. Retain and grow our essential services</p> <p>To retain and grow the essential services required to meet the needs of the Wycheproof community in the areas of local government, education, health, sport and recreation, and social infrastructure.</p>
	<p>2. Stimulate our local economy</p> <p>To stimulate our local economy through the consolidation and expansion of existing businesses and industries, establishment of new enterprises, and the revitalisation of the retail precinct.</p>
	<p>3. Develop our tourism sector</p> <p>To develop a vibrant tourism industry and events program designed to increase visitor numbers to Wycheproof and district.</p>
	<p>4. Strengthen and grow our community</p> <p>To strengthen and grow our community infrastructure in order to better meet current and future needs of the community including young children, families, and the elderly.</p>
	<p>5. Taking care of our environment</p> <p>To undertake projects which will make Wycheproof's Resources more sustainable in the areas of water, energy, and primary production, and to reduce our local ecological footprint.</p>
	<p>6. Engaging our youth</p> <p>To develop and implement an exciting, dynamic youth program that holds events, has a great meeting place, and a vision for the future.</p>

Community Plan Priority One

...Retain & Grow our Essential Services

Project Description

To retain and grow the essential services required to meet the needs of the Wycheproof community in the areas of local government, education, health, sport and recreation, and social infrastructure.

Project Objectives

1. To retain and upgrade the Buloke Shire Administration Offices, Reception Area, and Shire Hall within the existing art deco period design
2. To work with East Wimmera Health Service to maintain and grow health services available within Wycheproof
3. To support plans by the Wycheproof Community Resource Centre to grow their organisation to better meet the needs of Wycheproof residents
4. To work with Wycheproof P-12 College to maintain and grow education services available within Wycheproof
5. To work with local sporting bodies to maintain and grow sporting and recreation facilities available to Wycheproof residents
6. To investigate the construction of an affordable, updated, eco-friendly housing estate for tree-changers including young professionals and empty nesters/retirees in Wycheproof
7. To identify opportunities to grow the range of transitional housing options for the living in Wycheproof

Community Benefits

- Maintain Administration Offices of the Buloke Shire and the associated economic and employment benefits associated with this
- Better health and education facilities
- Strong Community Resource Centre
- Excellent sport and recreation facilities
- Availability of more housing options for people considering relocating to Wycheproof
- Better retirement accommodation options

Stakeholders

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Wycheproof Residents | • East Wimmera Health Service |
| • Wycheproof 2010 | • Wycheproof P-12 College |
| • Wycheproof Community Resource Centre | • Sporting Groups/other Community Organisations |
| • Buloke Shire Council | |

Initial action required to commence the project

- Development of an Action Group to implement this Community Priority.

Community Plan Priority Two

...Stimulate our local economy

Project Description

To stimulate our local economy through the consolidation and expansion of existing businesses and industries, establishment of new enterprises, and the revitalisation of the retail precinct.

Project Objectives

1. To develop a register of current businesses operating within the Wycheproof District and identify opportunities for expansion within these
2. To develop an "Open for Business" information package about the support available for businesses wishing to establish an enterprise in Wycheproof
3. Identify and promote value-adding opportunities for our primary industry sector
4. To improve the appearance of Broadway – the streetscape, shopfronts, the railway line, town signage and accessibility
5. To identify service delivery gaps within the retail sector and encourage the establishment of new businesses to meet these needs
6. To increase the education and training opportunities available to small businesses within the Wycheproof district

Community Benefits

- Comprehensive business register available so residents are aware of the range of products and services available to them
- New employment opportunities
- A vibrant retail sector will encourage people to stop and shop in Wycheproof
- A greater range of products and services able to be purchased locally, reducing the need to travel elsewhere
- Well-trained business operators and staff better able to meet community needs and expectations

Stakeholders

- Wycheproof Chamber of Commerce
- Existing Businesses
- Wycheproof 2010
- Buloke Shire Council
- Regional Development Victoria
- Regional Development Australia (formerly Central Victoria Area Consultative Committee)
- Vic Roads & V-Line (beautification)

Initial action required to commence the project

Beautification Project – meeting of stakeholders to develop a brief for a project plan and apply for funding to engage a consultant to prepare the plan

Economic Growth – Chamber of Commerce to identify service gaps and whether or not existing businesses can fill these, or how new businesses can be established, meet with Buloke Shire Council Economic Development staff to identify opportunities and support programs

Education and Training – meet with Small Business Field Officer (Central Victoria Area Consultative Committee) to identify opportunities

Community Plan Priority Three

... Developing our tourism sector

Project Description

To develop a vibrant tourism industry and events program designed to increase visitor numbers to Wycheproof and district.

Project Objectives

1. To develop a database of local tourist attractions, facilities, and businesses and look for opportunities to improve and expand these
2. To grow and expand the current Wycheproof website
3. To implement a promotional campaign “Wander to Wycheproof” to attract tourists of all ages to Wycheproof and District
4. To develop an annual Calendar of Events for the district and promote this to the wider community
5. To investigate the establishment of a new annual event within the Wycheproof district
6. To improve the appearance of, and facilities available at, the Wycheproof Caravan Park

Community Benefits

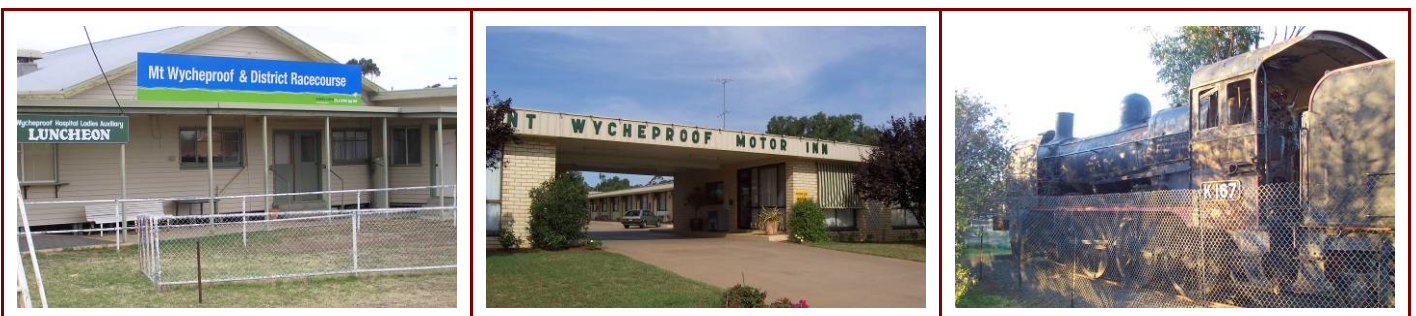
- Increased number of visitors staying in Wycheproof and district and spending money locally
- New employment opportunities
- Higher profile of Wycheproof and what it has to offer

Stakeholders

- Tourism operators/accommodation providers
- Retail businesses
- Wycheproof 2010
- Wycheproof Community Resource Centre
- Buloke Shire Council
- Regional Tourism Associations
- Tourism Alliance Victoria
- Tourism Victoria

Initial action required to commence the project

Establishment of Tourism Action Group to implement this community priority.



Community Plan Priority Four

...Strengthen and grow our community

Project Description

To strengthen and grow our community infrastructure in order to better meet current and future needs of the community including young children, families, and the elderly.

Project Objectives

1. To grow – in size and service delivery - the Wycheproof Community Resource Centre to enable it to continue to meet the needs of the community
2. To establish a Children’s Precinct within Wycheproof with a focus on the continuum of care of children from birth to five years of age
3. To improve the appearance of, and upgrade facilities at, the Wycheproof Swimming Pool
4. To create a “Men’s Shed” in Wycheproof for use by men living in Wycheproof and district

Community Benefits

- Vibrant Community Resource Centre that is the hub of Wycheproof and District
- A range of childcare options available locally to enable people to seek and undertake employment, study, attend appointments and meetings, become more actively involved in the community, and to have personal time
- Improved social and education benefits for young children
- State-of-the-art swimming pool facilities for use by Wycheproof and district residents
- Improvements to the health and wellbeing of male community members and greater contribution from them to the community through the projects they will undertake at the “shed”

Stakeholders

- Wycheproof Community Resource Centre
- Community Organisations
- Wycheproof 2010
- Buloke Shire Council
- Wycheproof Pool Committee
- Male residents of Wycheproof and district
- East Wimmera Health Service
- Department for Planning & Community Development (DPCD)
- Children’s Precinct
 - Wycheproof Community Resource Centre
 - Buloke Shire Council
 - Wycheproof Kindergarten & P-12 College
 - Department of Human Services
 - Parents
 - Child Care Providers
 - Department of Education & Early Childhood
 - FACSIA
 - Wycheproof Community to support the service

Initial action required to commence the project

Resource Centre – development of a plan for the future and submission of funding applications to finance growth and expansion

Children’s Precinct – Secure a Childcare Service Provider

Swimming Pool – Pool Committee to meet and develop a Plan

Men’s Shed – meeting of stakeholders to determine location and nature of the “Shed” and then submit funding application to DPCD

Community Plan Priority Five

...Taking care of our Environment

Project Description

To undertake projects which will make Wycheproof's resources more sustainable in the areas of water, energy, conservation, and primary production, and to reduce our local ecological footprint.

Project Objectives

1. To continue to develop capacity to use, reuse, and store water in a sustainable way
2. To develop Wycheproof as a "solar village" using Sustainability Victoria resources
3. To develop an Action Plan to encourage and maintain sustainable primary industries
4. To undertake a project to measure and reduce the local "ecological footprint"
5. To conserve native habitat and flora on Mt Wycheproof as part of the Mt Wycheproof Rehabilitation Plan

Community Benefits

- Reliable water supply
- Once established, energy costs should be lower and less subject to cost increases
- Increase in attractiveness to industry, especially with the introduction of carbon trading
- Agricultural sector better able to withstand unusual seasonal conditions such as drought
- Greater environmental awareness and action by local residents

Stakeholders

- Local Residents
- Friends of Mt Wycheproof
- Primary Producers
- Dept. of Sustainability & Environment (DSE)
- Sustainability Victoria
- Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance

Initial action required to commence the project

Talk to DSE Sustainability Officer and Sustainability Victoria

Meeting of interested stakeholders

Implementation of Mt Wycheproof Rehabilitation Plan



Community Plan Priority Six

...Engaging our Youth

Project Description

To develop and implement an exciting, dynamic youth program that holds events, has a great meeting place, and a vision for the future

Project Objectives

1. To create a “youth space” within the town for young people to meet, network, and socialise
2. To develop a program of events to meet the needs of young people in Wycheproof and the surrounding area
3. To identify other infrastructure and programs required to meet the needs of our young people and work towards the establishment of these locally

Community Benefits

- Young people engaged and entertained
- Young people active in the community
- Young people enjoy living in Wycheproof and are more likely to stay/return as adults
- Young people from surrounding areas travel to Wycheproof to attend events

Stakeholders

- Young residents of Wycheproof
- Buloke Shire Council Youth Officer
- Wycheproof 2010
- Department for Planning and Community Development Office for Youth

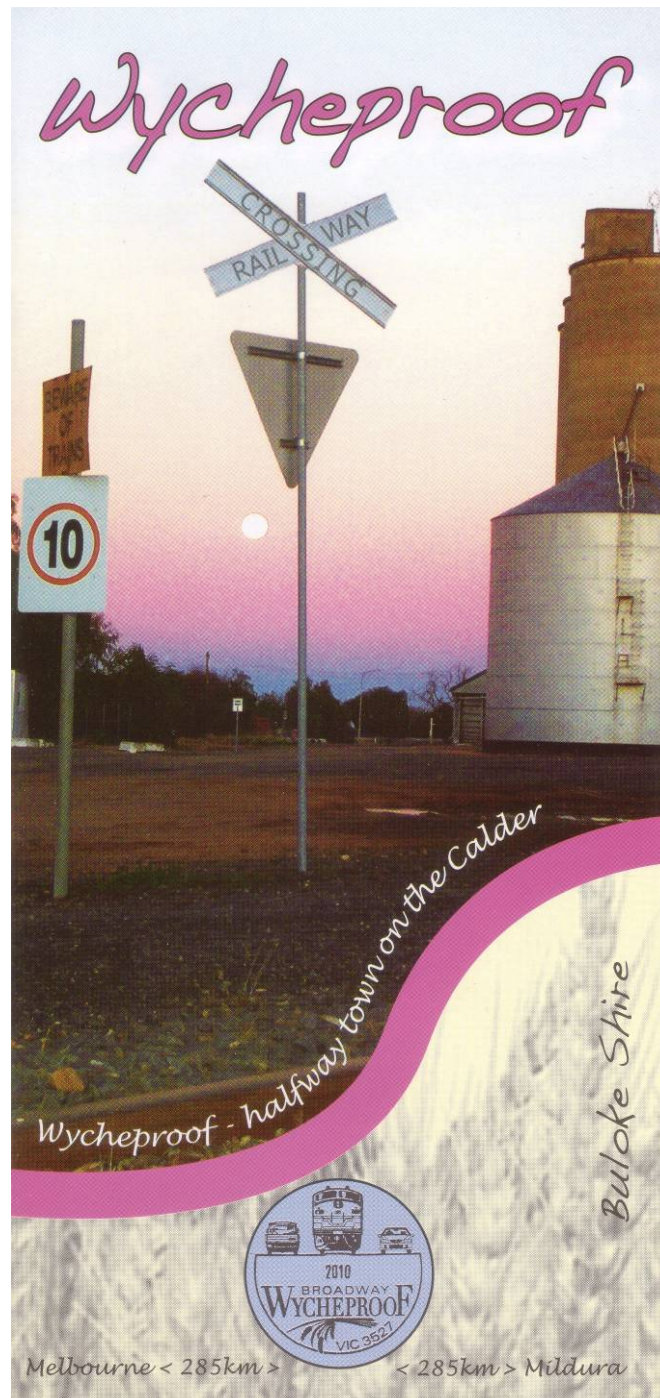
Initial action required to commence the project

Meeting with Buloke Shire Council Youth Officer and young residents of Wycheproof to look at opportunities to develop a local youth engagement program



Appendices

1. Outcomes from June 2007 Public Meeting
2. Outcomes from November 2007 Community Opportunity Workshop
3. Project Ideas suggested by the Community for future reference



Wycheproof Brochure designed and created by Deirdre Zabel & Wycheproof 2010.
Photographic Contributions – Deirdre Zabel & Justine Turner.

Appendix One

Outcomes from June 2007 Public Meeting

A special meeting was convened by the Wycheproof 2010 Committee on 26 June 2007 to discuss what should Wycheproof plan to do to ensure it is sustainable in the future. A total of 57 people attended the meeting representing 22 organisations. Guest Speaker was Buloke Shire Acting CEO Warwick Heine.

Community Assets

As part of this meeting, a number of Wycheproof's assets were identified, including:

- Friendly people
- Safe community
- Great for young families
- Open main street – attractive
- Railway Line
- Mid-way between Melbourne & Mildura
- Education facilities
- Sporting facilities
- Saleyards
- Centenary Park
- Mount Wycheproof
- Medical Services
- Local Events. eg. Wycheproof Cup
- Good support networks
- Plenty of Volunteers to get jobs done!

Future Projects/Ideas

The evening was an opportunity for the community to identify projects for the future, and areas that needed attention. Some of the ideas identified by the participants were:

At the June workshop, a number of community projects were identified, including:

- Retain & expand Shire Administration Offices in Wycheproof
- Events and Festivals – blues/roots, food event, bring back King of the Mountain
- Tourism marketing campaign
- Fresh & Local Produce promotion
- School – attract interstate/international students?
- Campaign to attract active retirees to Wycheproof
- Campaign to attract young people and families
- New Industries for the town – job/wealth creation
- Mt Wycheproof development and promotion
- Children's Precinct to be established
- Railway Station Precinct development
- Youth – skate park, youth room, internet café?
- Better signage for the town and beautification of the main street
- Butt Bins/Bin surrounds for main street
- Renovation of the swimming pool complex/local Committee of Management
- Better utilise Sports Complex

Appendix Two

Outcomes from November 2007 Community Opportunity Workshop

As part of the Buloke Shire Community Building Initiative, a Community Opportunity Workshop was held at the Wycheproof Shire Hall on Monday 26 November 2007. This meeting was attended by 116 members of the Wycheproof Community, as well as Shire staff and a representative from the Department of Planning & Community Development.

Wycheproof Assets

In addition to the assets identified at the June meeting, the following suggestions were made:

- Community Spirit - "What we Do we Do with Pride"
- Safe Community/Friendly and caring community
- Lots of Volunteers/Community Service Clubs
- Resilient People/Community Not Afraid of Change – prepared to adapt
- Great Place to raise a family
- Church Communities
- Affordable Living
- Good Facilities/Infrastructure – School, Saleyards, Excellent sporting facilities, Buloke Shire Offices and the Shire Hall, Hospital/Medical Services and their Staff, Great Pubs
- Quiet and Peaceful/No traffic jams or supermarket queues/Small Size
- Strong Primary Industry Sector
- Clean air, starry skies – "big sky country" (astronomer's delight)
- Mt Wycheproof
- Climate
- Local Taxi Service/Planned Activity Bus
- Good road system & geographically central in North West Victoria
- Low Stress (in rainy seasons)
- Good Amenities/Good Stopover facilities for travelers

Important in the Future

Participants were then asked to consider what will be the most important things to Wycheproof being a good place to live in 10 years time. The following responses were received:

Environmental	Social/Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on sustainability: be a "green" town • Water security • Expand stormwater harvesting programs • Renewable Energy Industries • Beautification of the Mount • Clean Air • Solar power for the town • Drought resistant gardens • Bio Fuels • Conservation agriculture/diversity • Adaption to climate change for the agriculture sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping our services that we already have – doctor/medical, aged care, police, water, chemist, supermarket, school, park, retail, etc • Extend educational opportunities • Aged housing appropriate to a retirement lifestyle • Functioning Youth program with a leader, activities, and meeting place • Happy, healthy community/Friendly people • Affordable Housing • Strong Leadership and local government support • Excellent internet facilities (state-of-the-art) • Strong Community Organisations – Service Clubs, Church Groups, Sporting bodies • Retention of young people in the community • Retain and increase population, ie. Young families • Children's precinct up and running • Men's Shed • Improve Pool facilities • Speed limit through town to 40

Economic	Cultural
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant and profitable businesses • Improve town CBD/Improved streetscape/Develop Town Brand Package • Grow our existing businesses/Attract new Business • Develop new industry/employment opportunities • Community Trust/cooperative for the retention of essential businesses • Transport Hub on the Calder Highway • Machinery distribution hub for north west Victoria • Work opportunities • Active Grain Centre • Join to natural gas line • Viable Farming Sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Industry • More cultural experiences – bands, orchestras, arts • Entertainment for all ages • Musical events • Markets on Broadway • More festivals and events • Entertainment for teenagers • Race Weekend – grow and expand, incorporate Annual Show • Recommence community dances • Mount/Steam Train/Shearing Shed/Agricultural tourism

Project Priorities

Participants were asked to identify additional projects to be included on a “wishlist” for Wycheproof, with more than 50 suggestions put forward within the small group discussions (see Appendix One).

From these the group was asked to prioritise their suggestions, to come up with the following:

1. Retain Young People/Youth Venue/Youth Worker/Youth Activities
2. The Lake Project
3. Harvest Mount Water
4. Retirement Village/Precinct
5. Event Calendar to build on existing events/ Build on Existing Events, and add one more (maybe steam train visit)/ New Annual Festival – music, train, KOM/Community Events
6. Promote/Attract Industry/Create Employment opportunities for young families/Develop Industry/IT (internet/web based) industry/Use Industrial Estate
7. Shire Offices – retain and expand
8. Retain Hospital/Doctor/Other essential Services
9. Heated Pool/Pool Upgrade
10. Promote as Central Hub – Truck Stop
11. Playground Area near Football Ground
12. Develop Caravan Park
13. Volunteer Coordinator to help make things happen
14. Railway Precinct Feasibility Study
15. School – increase student base
16. Sustainable Energy/Water Recycling
17. Broadway Streetscape – beautify/ Entrance Signs
18. Support Local Businesses – improve accessibility for aged/disabled/Revitalise
19. Child Care Facilities
20. Housing to attract young families/Self Build Housing?
21. Tourism/Mt Wycheproof/Open the Hall to Tourists
22. Town Motto
23. Men’s Shed
24. Shire Activity Guide
25. Welcome and inform newcomers



Public Vote

A vote was taken on the main priority projects put forward to identify a shortlist of projects to form the basis of the community plan. The results of the vote were as follows:

1. Retain and grow Shire Services and Access to Shire Hall (50)
2. Industry (46)
3. Tourism (29)
4. Environmentally Sustainable Wycheproof (28)
5. Beautify Broadway (25)
6. Main Street Retail (22)
7. Engaging our Youth (21)
8. Men's Shed Project (16)
9. Pool Improvement Project (15)
10. Caravan Park Beautification & Upgrade (14)
11. Wycheproof Children's Precinct (12)
12. Housing/Accommodation/Retirement (12)
13. Wycheproof Lake Project/Access to recreational water (11)
14. Grow local school & education facilities & opportunities (8)
15. Calendar of Events for Wycheproof (8)
16. Retirement (8)
17. Establish a Children's Playground at the Recreation Reserve (6)
18. Truck Stop (5)
19. Welcome program for Newcomers (3)



Consolidation

These were subsequently amalgamated into the five key focus areas contained in the Wycheproof Community Plan:

1. **Retain and grow our essential services.** To retain and grow the essential services required to meet the needs of the Wycheproof community in the areas of local government, education, health, sport and recreation, and social infrastructure.
2. **Stimulate our local economy.** To stimulate our local economy through the consolidation and expansion of existing businesses and industries, establishment of new enterprises, and the revitalisation of the retail precinct.
3. **Develop our tourism sector.** To develop a vibrant tourism industry and events program designed to increase visitor numbers to Wycheproof and district.
4. **Strengthen and grow our community.** To strengthen and grow our community infrastructure in order to better meet current and future needs of the community including young children, families, and the elderly.
5. **Taking care of our environment.** To undertake projects which will make Wycheproof's Resources more sustainable in the areas of water, energy, and primary production, and to reduce our local ecological footprint.
6. **Engaging our youth.** To develop and implement an exciting, dynamic youth program that holds events, has a great meeting place, and a vision for the future.

Appendix Three

Project Ideas suggested by the Community for future reference

In addition to the priority projects contained in Appendix Two, other suggestions put forward by participants at the Wycheproof Community Opportunity Workshop in November 2007 included:

- Promote Willandra Museum – assist owners to apply for grants to improve this facility
- Playground in the Park
- Upgrade existing facilities
- Upgrade Hall facilities
- Streetscape Coordinator
- Look at the “use by” date of existing facilities
- Encourage Industry
- Promote Clean Air
- “Lake” Wycheproof
- Solar/renewable energy
- Festival of the sky – projector on silos, situated on mount, fireworks, music, etc
- Retirement Hub (not just aged care)
- Adolescent playground on school grounds
- Solar panels on silo
- City Swap School – rural education for city kids
- Hold a Youth Forum to ask young people what they want
- Transport Hub – taxi, bus, Council Car/Public Transport Services
- Free land to attract industry
- Improve shop accessibility for elderly and prams
- People to show newcomers to town and impart the history of the town
- Train project like Portland’s Tram highlighting town facilities
- Energy Efficient Town
- Second major event weekend – Tennis?
- Establish Bed and Breakfasts/Farm Stays
- Develop Mt Wycheproof
- Skate/Bike Park
- Reintroduce King of the Mountain
- Gymnasium/Indoor Sports
- Adventure Playground at Centenary Park
- Food Festival
- Improve existing infrastructure – toilets, hall, etc
- Regular music events
- Broadway Street Market/Farmers Market
- Birdwatching Mecca
- Kite Flying Competition
- Incentive package for new industry





Wycheproof Community Plan • 2008-1018 © July 2008

