



Photo: Members of the Waubra community with their free trees for planting

# **Community Action Plan**

## **Waubra & District**

**(2010-2015)**

**Updated Oct 2013**

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## 1. Description of Our Community

### Where we are

Waubra is situated 35 km north west of Ballarat on the Sunraysia Highway. The town is primarily in the Pyrenees Shire, however it shares borders with both the Hepburn Shire and Ballarat City Council.

This plan covers the township of Waubra and links to the neighbouring localities of Addington, Glenbrae, Lexton and Evansford.

### Our Community

We are a diverse rural community of primarily family owned farms which produce a wide range of agricultural product, winter cereals, canola, sunflowers, potatoes, pyrethrum, wool, beef and lamb.

We have a significant population who commute to Ballarat for employment on a daily basis.

Our population is primarily families, with children either engaged in education or who have employment in the area. We have a significant portion of retired people in the area, as well as a number who support the surrounding agricultural enterprises and the Wind Farm operations.

We are well served with local infrastructure, Pre School, School, General Store and Hotel, and a number of active community groups.

## Community Organisations

We have fantastic resources in our community already which we can lever off, like:

Group	Core role	Other roles
CFA	Community Protection	Training, social links, youth activity
Schools	Education of children and mitigation of disadvantage	Broader educational, social and youth activity in the area
Horticulture	Bi annual flower show	Beautification of streetscape, historical areas, social links, youth activity
Landcare	Landscape care	Training, historical recording, streetscape works
Sports groups	Active activity	Training, other activity options, social links
Lions Club	Community wellbeing	Training, social activity, project management
Progress	Local development	Project management, social links
Festival Comm.	Conduct festival	Youth activity, Project management, social links, community event management
Wind Farm Comm Fund	Support project activity and infrastructure	Communications, activities (all types), project management, seeking resources
Pyrenees Shire	Community wellbeing and development	Training, skills, funding resources, links to other townships

## 2. What we love about our community

What we love about our community is as follows:

- The diversity of our landscape,
- Our local services and facilities,
- Being able to meet and do things together, and
- Our proximity to Ballarat and Melbourne.

## 3. Our Vision for the Future

We want Waubra to be a place where we can work and play together.

We would like to be able to do this through our professions (work), through local community activity, through family linkages and through shared interests.

## 4. How are we going to achieve our Vision

To make Waubra the place we want it to be we need to act in five areas:

- Social. Link with each other in the community,
- Built. Provide the infrastructure for us to interact,
- Economic. Build our local employment and economic activity,
- Natural. Improve our local environment, and
- Leading. Have effective local leadership.

For each of these five areas we have a number of priority activities as listed in section seven.

## 5. Our Action Plans for the Future

## Social Goal – linking with one another

Actions	Responsibility	Success in 2013 / plans for 2014
<b>An active community</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain local sports (bowls, cricket, netball, football)</li> <li>Young people's sporting activities</li> <li>Established youth activity</li> </ol>	Respective clubs School , parents ??	Football U18's premiers, Netball ?? FAST program terms 3-4 had 90% student participation Re-activate Auskick / Netta in 2014 Run swimming bus over summer holidays
<b>Regular community events</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grow our community Festival</li> <li>150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of School</li> <li>Friday night community dinners</li> <li>Health / other events at Hub</li> </ol>	Hub committee School Council Hub COM	Festival merged into hub, next Festival planned for Oct 14. Event may need new theme Begin planning for 2015 Two dinners this year, four for 2014 Need to develop program for 2014

## Built Environment Goal – infrastructure for us to interact

Actions	Responsibility	Success in 2013 / plans for 2014
<b>External agency infrastructure</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better phone / IT service</li> <li>Safer school highway crossing</li> <li>Exit lane highway to Mark St</li> <li>Troys Rd / highway safety</li> <li>Street lights Wauobra Heights</li> <li>Lighting of entrance signs</li> </ol>	Telstra / Others Vic Roads / Shire Vic Roads / Shire Vic Roads / Shire Shire Shire	See if Lexton upgrade assists service, lobby for support. Continue to progress options Maintain pressure to achieve Continue to lobby for Maintain pressure to achieve Continue to lobby for
<b>Recreation Reserve / Hub</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete parking around building</li> <li>Complete major event parking</li> <li>Water for oval</li> <li>Sewerage connection</li> <li>Solar PV / Solar hot water</li> <li>Seating at netball courts</li> <li>Paving from shed</li> <li>Donor recognition board</li> <li>Upgrade change rooms</li> <li>Storage shed</li> <li>Basketball ring / tennis courts operational</li> <li>Synthetic cover for pitch</li> </ol>	Shire / COM COM Football / COM Shire COM / WWFCF COM / WWFCF COM / WWFCF Football / COM COM COM Football / Cricket	Works completed this year Earthworks and access in 2014 Grants sought, works in 2014 Completed by end 2013 Start with hot water at Kinder, then look at whole building Complete in 2014 Complete in 2014 Complete in 2014 For 2014 if possible Sort specs and funding for 2015 Source funds to complete Source funds to complete
<b>Other community buildings</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New annex to CFA shed</li> <li>Reseal floor / repaint</li> <li>New skirts for green</li> <li>Gazebo and water tank</li> <li>Maintain walking paths</li> </ol>	CFA / Others Bowls Bowls Cemetery / Other Shire	Source funds for 2014 build Plan for works in 2015 Plan for works in 2016 Look for 2014 build Part of 2014 streetscape works

## Economic Goal – build local employment and economic activity

Actions	Responsibility	Success in 2013 / plans for 2014
<b>Strengthen local activity</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assist farmers with skills and enterprise options</li> <li>2. Support local tradesmen</li> <li>3. Maintain high level of activity at the hub</li> </ol>	Shire EDT / Demo Farm / Others Website COM	One F21C event in 2013, another two in 2014 Business promotion in 2014 Purchase of new chairs, cutlery, crockery to continue catering for events successfully
<b>Build capacity and skills</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Build capacity and improve educational outcomes by enhancing access to technology</li> <li>5. Link adults with technology for better outcomes</li> </ol>	School / CF  School / Others	I pads brought into one class for 2013, extend to whole school in 2014  Use school resources to educate and empower adults in use and opportunity within technology

## Natural Environment Goal – improve our local landscape

Actions	Responsibility	Success in 2013 / plans for 2014
<b>Town amenity</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extend tree avenues at both ends of town</li> <li>2. Improve street trees</li> <li>3. Re-establish soldiers memorial planting at Rec Reserve</li> <li>4. Remove willows in creek</li> <li>5. Remove weeds on Ballarat entrance side</li> </ol>	Community  Community School / COM  Landcare Shire / owner	Planting for 2014  Part of 2014 streetscape Plan for implementation in 2015 as part of 150 <sup>th</sup> Poisoning complete Willows all gone this year, blackberry still to go
<b>Rural amenity</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Increase trees in landscape</li> <li>7. Control woody weeds</li> <li>8. Town forest</li> <li>9. Habitat linkages</li> </ol>	Landcare / CF  Landcare / Shire  Community Landcare	3,000 trees locally, same again in 2014 Highway, Troys Rd, Talbot Rd completed, Beaufort Rd, Kal Kal Rd, private land in town for 2014 Plan for establishment in 2015 Seek links along creeks / hills

## Leadership Goal – effective local co-ordination

Goals	Responsibility	Success in 2013 / plans for 2014
<b>Link groups / activities</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local news and information</li> <li>2. Support each others events</li> <li>3. Have central community decision space</li> <li>4. Work as community together</li> </ol>	CF / all groups  COM Hub  COM  Website / Other	<a href="http://Waubra.org.au">Waubra.org.au</a> up and running Add monthly calendar at Shop Makeover for notice board Follow up the fantastic trivia night with another in 2014 Use hub COM as discussion place for community ideas Mobilise working bee force

## **Appendix A. Historical context / our story**

Waubra, previously known as the Springs, was first explored in 1836 by Major Thomas Mitchell, who passed through the Mount Misery / Lexton area. In 1838, with the arrival of the Learmonth brothers, the area known as Ercildoune was settled, from Lake Burrumbeet to Glenbrae.

Many people travelled through the area in the late 1830's – early 1840's on the settlement route from Geelong, to Mt Buninyong, then through "The Gap" (between East Mount Mitchell and Quoin Hill), to Lexton and then between the Pyrenees and Mount Cole ranges into the upper Wimmera.

Closer settlement began in the late 1850's as unsuccessful miners from the Gold Fields moved in and began looking for agricultural land. In 1859 Trustees were appointed to care for the Cemetery. In the 1860's the Springs supported four hotels. The railway came to The Springs in 1888, changing the name of the town to Waubra as there was already a "Springs" in Victoria.

In the late 1860's the three churches, catholic, Anglican and Presbeterian all opened, some free of debt. The first school was built in the late 1880's at the end of Hall Street and served as the school until 1916, when a new school was established at its current location. The old school then became the police station and courthouse until 1931 when is closed.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century employment was primarily general farm work, shearing, digging potatoes, clearing land and harvesting. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century horse drawn threshing machines and a steam driven chaff cutter operated in the district, along with flour mills, blacksmithing and the towns own bakery

100 odd men from the district enlisted in the first AIF in the 1914-1918 period. Closer settlement and then soldier settlement, at Glenbrae, Mount Mitchell, Ercildoune, Langi Kal Kal and East Mount Mitchell after both wars brought more and more families to the district.

A Chaff Mill operated at Waubra from 1927, adjacent to the railway station. As motor cars increased the rail passenger service was closed in 1931. The line was still used for goods with special "lamb" trains being run regularly, where the farmers walked their stock to the station for sale in the Ballarat markets. The line closed in 1968.

Postal services are believed to have begun in the 1860's. In 1939 electricity came to Waubra and in the 1950's to the surrounding districts. The town moved ahead in the early 1970's with the opening of residential land at Waubra Heights. In 1980 the town got its own domestic water supply from a bore on Stud Farm Rd.

In 1988 the recreation reserve was redeveloped with a new brick complex being built to serve a range of sporting and community activities. The Mechanics Hall was built in 1884, and has served a range of community interests over the years, chiefly being the home of the Waubra Pre School since 1983.

In 2011 the Recreation Reserve Complex was upgraded to increase its function area, provide a new commercial kitchen and a new Pre School. The Mechanics Hall was sold in 2011 to private interests as part of the fundraising for the development.

The area has enjoyed great sporting success over many years in tennis, cricket, lawn bowls, football and netball. In 2011 the Waubra Football Team, the Kangaroo's won a clean sweep of the U18, Reserves and Seniors Finals in the Central Highlands Football League.

Waubra is now a mix of retired families, people who work in the district in agriculture and with the Waubra Wind Farm, as well as a significant number of people who commute the 35 km to Ballarat for employment.

We have in the town area six key community areas,

1. Main streetscape
2. Primary School
3. Recreation Reserve
4. Cemetery
5. Fire Shed, and
6. Other public land in and around Waubra Heights

We have many historical features and natural features we would love to record, enhance and show off. These include:

- Cobb & Co creek crossing and trough
- Old public well and pump,
- Indigenous sites including "King Billies Seat"
- Railway station precinct
- General Store / Hotel precinct
- Original Primary School and Mechanics Hall
- Three churches (two which are now privately owned),
- Mount Bolton lookout
- Local rural cottages, and
- The general rural landscape

## Appendix B. Opportunities and Challenges

We see our opportunities and our challenges in the following way

<p><b>Strengths</b>  Rural and Industrial (Wind Farm) businesses  Link (proximity) to Ballarat  Local education (Pre and Primary)</p>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b>  Local employment opportunities  Linking young mums and families  Public transport linkages  Mobile phone and IT connectedness  Wind Farm division</p>
<p><b>Opportunities</b>  More residents in area  More events with new Community Hub  More business(es) in the area  Extended and improved streetscape  Be more energy efficient</p>	<p><b>Challenges</b>  Water quality and quantity  Loss of our young people  Loss of current businesses  An untidy town and streetscape</p>

## Appendix C. Our Planning Process

In preparing this plan we looked at the actions listed within the original Waubra Community Action Plan, plus those projects listed in the five year action plan of the Waubra Wind Farm Community Fund. The Fund has members from each community organisation in the area.

A draft consultation paper, an A3 sheet with a map of the town, both showing and listing the potential actions and activities that could be undertaken was discussed at a meeting of the community groups in late 2010.

This consultation sheet was distributed to all homes and community groups in the area.

Based on the feedback from these sheets and further discussions amongst the community groups, the plan as written was finalised.

## **Appendix D. Priorities not included to date in the action plan**

Social:	Weekly exercise program Local walking group Auskick and Milo Cricket programs Taekwondo and table tennis activities Scouting group Bus link to Beaufort High School Family / Community archive Coordinated fire risk activities
Built:	Children's underpass to school Skate Park for youth Improve Troys Rd / Highway intersection
Employment:	Giro Post at General Store
Environment:	Plant native woodland for returned soldiers Establish local firewood resource