



Crowlands

community action plan

OCTOBER 2012

Background: Crowlands..... the place to be

History

Crowlands is one of the oldest settlements in the district surveyed in 1849

Officially named by Governor La Trobe in 1850, believed to be named after Crowland in Lincolnshire (England).

1840 onwards sheep runs were taken up, those affecting this new settlement being "Woodlands" and "de Cameron"

First building in the township was Harland's Inn & Store

1851 Post Office established, Robert Harper 1st Postmaster; had 4 sites in town eventually closed in 1975

Police Depot was established in 1854.

Glen Dhu Gold Rush broke out in 1858 (At the height had 40 police, & over 3000 Chinamen & Europeans)

First School built in 1862 (Served as a Post Office, venue for church services for 3 denominations, & a public hall until condemned in 1954)

1858 Traveller's Rest Hotel established

1883 Crowlands Cemetery Trust formed, earliest headstone in the cemetery is of Louisa Williams who died in 1868

1890 Ararat & Maryborough Railway Line opened for traffic, closed several times and again closed in 2006

1914 Ben Nevis to Navarre Railway Line opened, closed in 1954

1924 Public Telephones first came

1934 Roman Catholic Church built, moved to Redbank in 1967

1936 Methodist Church built, in use today

1954 Crowlands Rural Fire Brigade was established

1958 Crowlands Hall built, first bitumen road passed through township, new bridge over Wimmera River replaced old wooden structure

1962 Electricity was connected

1975 Crowlands town water supply was established & expanded in 1983

Industries in Crowlands include:

Farming

Viticulture

Transport

Shearing Contractors

Tourist Accommodation

Artists

Earthmoving

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Our community assets include:

Hall & Recreation Reserves (Has oval, tennis courts, basketball ring)

CFA Fire shed, tanker

Public Toilets

Uniting Church

Cemetery

Buildings of Interest

Old railway station platform

Traveller's Rest Hotel (now a B&B)

Crowlands Public School (decommissioned in 1993, now a private residence)

Crowlands is situated about 24kms north east of Ararat. Part of the Pyrenees Shire it is located 43km from Avoca and 60km from Beaufort – the two main towns in the Pyrenees shire. A small rural Victorian community Crowlands is located in the valley of the upper Wimmera River on an elevated plain. The native vegetation is red and yellow gum with grey and yellow box. The major land use is grazing and cropping. The Community of Crowlands is a small close-knit rural community with a total of 38 houses in the 6km radius of the town crossroad. The community manages the town facilities; Hall, Recreation Reserves, Tennis Court and CFA Shed. These structures are integral part of what the community relies on for community connections and social inclusion.

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Where we want to be in a year or longer:

High Priority items achieved or reprioritised
Whole of community to embrace plan and to accept ownership of the plan
Review Successes in Goals
Update Plan to reflect additions and community issues

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What our issues are:

1. Bus Stop Review
Ensuring safety for children
2. Hall Precinct Upgrades
Including BBQ Area, Amenities at Recreation Reserve and Tennis Courts, Playground, Lighting and General Hall Upgrades
3. Street Signage and Streetscape
Street name signage to indicate change of road names especially for emergency services
Stone Town Entrances
4. Communication
Improvement within the community and with Council
5. Historical Information
Creation of an historical walking track, interpretive signage at significant sites
6. Cemetery
Construction of Gazebo and amenities block

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Action lists:

Issue responded to	Outcome sought	Priority given to issue	List of likely actions	Timeframes relating to actions	Who will lead the action	Who will assist	Resources needed? Cost?	How do we know it's done? How will we celebrate?	How do we inform the community of progress/results? How do we evaluate?
Hall Precinct Upgrades	BBQ Area Completed and in regular use by community	VERY HIGH	- Stainless steel splashback installed. -Fixed seating installed.	June 2013	Hall Committee & DSE	Hall Committee Bendigo Bank	-Source quotes Identify grants -Prepare and submit funding application. -Fundraise	Regular use by Community and other facility users	
	Upgrade of amenities at Recreation Reserve & Tennis Courts	Medium	Resurface Tennis Courts		Hall Committee	Hall Committee DSE Shire	Cost estimate \$120,000 -Source quotes Identify grants -Prepare and submit funding application. -Fundraise		
	Maintain playground	High	Playground border needs modification.		Hall Committee	Hall Committee DSE Shire	-Source quotes Identify grants -Prepare and submit funding application. -Fundraise		
	Lights at tennis Courts	MEDIUM	Lights for Courts Lights in Club rooms		Hall Committee	Hall Committee DSE Shire	-Source quotes Identify grants -Prepare and submit funding application. -Fundraise -Cost estimate \$80,000		
	General Hall Upgrades: to be prioritised.	MEDIUM	- additional water tank - solar panels (electricity generation)		Hall Committee	Hall Committee DSE Shire	-Source quotes Identify grants -Prepare and submit funding		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wind turbine (electricity generation) -sound/acoustic improvements for hall (ceiling dampening) -heating for main hall -insulation for hall (roof, walls, floor) -downpipes to link up with existing water tanks -front fence repair -toilet upgrade (maybe a new disabled toilet) -stage wall replastering for film nights -additional seating (individual chairs) 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> application. -Fundraise 		
Public Toilet Upgrade:	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pathway concreting at public toilets - solar hot water for showers at public toilets - completion of showers at public toilets - cisterns all need replacing (tried servicing but not very successful) 		Hall Committee	DSE Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Source quotes Identify grants -Prepare and submit funding application. -Fundraise 		

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	Recycling option at refuse station	VERY HIGH	As Above						Notices at refuse station
	Tidy Town and Litter prevention campaign	HIGH	Encourage Community members to be responsible for roadside rubbish, including recyclables	ongoing	Community	Community Liaisons Officer. Keep Australia Beautiful.	Volunteer Commitment		Notice Board Community Newsletter. Newspapers
Streetscape	Stone Entrance Signs Tourist Signs	HIGH	Entrance Signs in keeping with other communities	2012-2015	Council & Community	Ward Councillor	Council Funding	New signs erected	Notice Board Community Newsletter. Newspapers
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Historical Information	Historical Walk mapped out	MEDIUM	People with interest and Knowledge come together Interpretive signage Historic Markers	2010 onwards	Historical interest group to be formed	Community	Funding to produce brochures & install signs	Information available	Community Historical Walk Newsletter Website
Community Engagement	Provide new Residents with Welcome Pack	MEDIUM	Community Driven	Ongoing	Community Representatives / Neighbours	Ray Davies, Manager Economic Development & Tourism PSC	Packs made available from Shire	New residents participating in activities	Notice Board Community Newsletter.

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Cemetery	Construction of Gazebo	MEDIUM TO HIGH	Grant process in place	2008 – 2010	Cemetery Trust	DHS	In place	Completion and use	Community Newsletter.
	Construction of Amenities block	MEDIUM	Investigate options	2010 onwards	Cemetery Trust	DHS & Other funding streams Council	Quotes required	Completion of project	

How this Community Action Plan was compiled:

- Community consultation that began in 2008 initiated by Hall Committee
- Community Action Plan Meeting called in August 2008
- Community Action Plan Meeting called in September 2008
- Consultation with the broader community to include the background and history
- Finalised in October 2008 with extensive community consultation
- Updated in October 2012