

Community Action Plan 2018-2023

Town/Community: Lexton

1. Background - Who we are as a community

Lexton is a progressive community with many clubs and committees. The Lexton Progress Association (LPA) was the body that acted as the umbrella for other clubs and committees within the community. Now replaced by Lexton Community Action Group. (LCAG)

Lexton was established in 1845 and is the oldest township in the Pyrenees Shire. It was the closest town to the first official gold discoveries on Cameron's Sheep Run at Clunes in 1851. It was the headquarters for the form Shire of Lexton (1860 – 1994) that included the towns of Amphitheatre, Waubra, and other small communities. Lexton amalgamated with the Avoca and Ripon Shires in 1994 to form the Pyrenees Shire. Lexton is a small rural community (approx. 250) on the Sunraysia Highway. It is situated at the crossroads of early Victoria where the road from Sydney to the Western District, "the Major Mitchell Line", was intersected by the road from Geelong into the Wimmera.

The main in industry today is the production of fine wool, cropping and some eucalypt farming. During the first half of last century Lexton had a number of apple orchards, as well as almond and cherries being grown. Apples were exported to Europe, in particular England and Germany. There was also a timber mill in the town. Many of Lexton's residents, both men and women, were employed by squatters from the large sheep stations in the areas from the 1850s through to late last century.

Currently the community is a great mix of farmers, rural workers, professionals who commute to work in larger surrounding towns, owner-business operators and retirees. A strong group of young people and children also make up part of this small rural community.

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2. Our Issues

Mobile Phone Coverage:

The poor coverage also adversely affects this community, forcing residents and others wishing to utilize the mobile network to purchasing more expensive hardware to receive signals and not being able to tap into cheaper sources of internet usage. Completion of the Optus tower will be a major impact on the mobile services and internet usage.

Lexton Town Planning: The Lexton township requires the community to grow if we are to survive and thrive as a town in the future. It is vital that zoning within and around the town is accurate, current, and relevant to the growing needs of the community as a rural township. Clear guidelines for building private residences, developing businesses, and retaining farms are required. We would require input from the shire and the state planning authority to facilitate prospective new members positively and enthusiastically into the town.

Community Socialisation: Lexton is a small community that has a big heart. Members of our community are very diligent in working within community groups to ensure our town has all the facilities and infrastructure required to keep the community operating. It is vital that the community celebrates its worth together. The LCAG will aim to ensure the community “gets together” regularly (at least biannually) to reinforce community values and enjoy social activities in conjunction with the various business activities. We will use Lexton Living on Facebook as a communication vehicle.

Rotunda at Cemetery: As with all other towns, the local cemetery tells the story of the history of the community, the people who lived and died in Lexton and surrounding areas, and also those that came from other communities and countries to end their time at Lexton. More and more people are interested in tracing ancestors or wanting to understand their family ties when someone they know unfortunately passes away.

The rotunda would be the ideal setting to be able to sit and read information boards on the “residents” of our cemetery. It would also be a comfortable place for the elderly or invalided while participating in funeral services at the cemetery. Or just a quiet place to contemplate.

Recreation Reserve: The Lexton Recreation Reserve is an integral part of the community of Lexton. It is home to a number of sporting clubs and provides a community hub to many families in the district. There is a need for overall facility upgrades, new building to be able to cater for many and various groups both small and large. Not continually upgrading our facilities puts the future of sport in our town at major risk: the possibility of not being able to retain players and the continuation of youth participation. One other area that could be an economic driver for the town would be the provision for caravan and camping facilities. Site to be determined. Existing Netball and an additional court to be multi use to cater for Netball, Tennis and basketball

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Road to Cemetery: The road to the cemetery (Cemetery Road) has suffered severely from erosion due to the heavy rains. The work done prior to the previous downpours was not sufficient to prevent it eroding again when it rained. It would be beneficial if the road was upgraded properly and sealed to prevent recurrence. This has become a higher priority with the use of the road being seriously affected each time there is rain.

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3. Action Lists

Issue Responded To	Outcome Sought	Priority given to Issue	List of likely actions	Time-frames 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?
Mobile Phone Coverage	Satisfactory coverage for mobiles throughout Lexton and along the Sunraysia Highway	High	Has Permit been approved. Confirm Telstra (plus others)able to use		Barbara Karlake	Community Committee		Response / action from Optus Infrastructure installed	Progress Minutes Notice Board Evaluation on actual increased coverage
Lexton Town Planning	Definitive guidelines with respect to building, industry, farming, etc. Facilitation of building within the town to grow the community	High	Continue meetings and work Town Planner and David Clark	On Hold		Shire Goulburn Murray Water CFA		Rezoned town plan Set of guidelines.	Progress Minutes Function to celebrate?
Community Socialisation	Increased community interaction not necessarily limited to group meetings	High	Activities to be planned throughout the year	Continual	All community groups		Funding raised through Serpent Festival Other funding to be sourced Costs vary according to activities	Activities well attended by Lexton community	Local Newspaper Lexton Living (Facebook) Flyers in Letter boxes Word of mouth

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Rotunda at Cemetery *****	Rotunda to provide shelter with information boards for visitors to the cemetery	Medium	Project set up by Cemetery Trust Committee to list activities required	Cemetery Trust Committee to advise via Ivan Brown	Cemetery Trust Committee. Ivan Brown	Other groups will assist with actions	Costs to be sourced by Ivan Brown	Rotunda at the Cemetery with Information Boards	Local Newspaper Opening Presentation
NUMBER ONE PRIORITY Lexton Community Hub. Multi-Purpose Centre *****	New building to become a multi-purpose centre that incorporates Public, Football, Netball, Cricket, Golf Clubs	HIGH	Source funding opportunities and obtain quotes	0-3 Years	Community Hub Committee, Football / Netball Club, Cricket Club and other users	Shire, State and Federal Governments	Costing will need to be sourced by Council	Centre that will be able to cater to all user groups with varying needs	Use of the centre by all members of the community
Camping Ground Facilities	Sites suitable for caravan groups and possible overnight stays including Water (fresh and grey) Sewerage	Medium	Source funding opportunities and obtain relevant quotes	1 – 3 years	Community Committee	Shire, State Government	Costing will need to be sourced	Facilities that will encourage caravan and other groups to come to Lexton	Notice Board, location newspaper and word of mouth

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Hall Re-Flooring & Painting	Floor suitable for all types of dancing and other activities	High	Re-Stumping & flooring. Repainted. Follow up insurance claim outcome	18-24 months	Hall Committee via Peter Wheeler	Hall Committee Members	Contractors	Completion of Project	Invitations to functions – feedback from visitors
Toilets Upgrade and Disabled Change room	Toilets that are compliant and suitable for use for larger groups	High	Complete Refurbishment to Disability Standards (currently non compliant)	24-36 months	Hall Committee via Peter Wheeler	Hall Committee Members	Contractors	As Above	Updates from Peter Wheeler (bi annually)
Golf Club Family Days	To increase awareness of golf club locally and encourage participation	On going	Run functions on various weekends playing golf and having meals	0 – 12 months	Golf Club	Members	Teacher for clinics Meals	People attending functions	Newspapers Membership increase More people attend functions
Golf Club Junior Players	To get young people to see golf as an alternative	On going	Running a clinic on the basics of playing golf. Encourage juniors to participate at	0 – 12 months	Golf Club	Members	Grants for training clinics Junior competitions	Regular attendance by juniors	Newspapers Membership increase More juniors attend functions
Female Football Team *****	Include U18 Team in AFL Goldfields 2019. Senior and U15 in 2020/21	High	Submit EOI to AFL Goldfields	0-12 Months	Lexton Football/Netball Club (LFNC)	Members (LFNC)	Grants for Equipment	Team accepted by AFL Goldfields	Social Media, Local Newsletters, Word of Mouth, Jayne Briody to confirm team up by 2019

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Practice Nets and Scrape	Optus to replace existing nets and scrape.	Medium	Replace netting. Upgrade posts, ground surface	6 – 12 Months	Golf Club	Rob Hopcroft	Source grants for materials. Optus to rectify	Job complete	Flyer to community, maybe celebration golf afternoon

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Machinery Shed and Storage	New shed to be erected	Medium	Identify facilities to house equipment	12 – 18 months	Golf Club	Community Hub Committee	Building materials Members supply labour	New shed erected	Functions as per above.
Covered Area outside Exits	Covered area immediately outside exit doors to stop traffic of dirt and mud inside	Medium	Pave or deck areas	24 – 36 months	Golf Club	Members	Building Materials Member supply labour	Clean areas outside doors	Functions as per above

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4. How this Community Action Plan was compiled:

Representatives from community groups and the community in general updated the Community Action Plan.

This committee/group will continue to drive the Community Action Plan and liaise with the Pyrenees Shire and other bodies as required to deliver actions on the plan. Meeting agreed to make the following people the point of contact for the various clubs/organisations/events.

Rec.Reserve - Barb Karslake

Hall - Peter Wheeler

Cemetery - Ivan Brown

Football/Netball - Russell Fisher, Karl Lewis, Leanne Fisher

Cricket - Sam Karslake

Golf - Rob Hopcroft

Community Club - Geraldine Smith

CFA - David Whan

Landcare - Robert Muller/David Clark

Co-op Noreen Morris

Neighbourhood Watch - Peter Wheeler

Rainbow Festival - Jayne Briody

Catholic Church - Geraldine Smith

Presbyterian Church - Fiona Fisher

Social Club - Dale Whan

Pool Club - Rob Hopcroft

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5. Other Issues raised at the meeting on October 14th (in no particular order):

Mapping of the cemetery is in progress. It was considered this should be completed prior to the construction of the rotunda as information from the mapping could be displayed in the rotunda.

Caravans are currently stopping overnight at the wayside stop on Toll Bar Hill just outside town towards Ballarat. It is still anticipated to bring these visitors into the town, staying at the Reserve or elsewhere and enjoying features the community has built up.

Town/Community needs to review how it markets itself and promote events eg Rainbow Serpent Festival, Sporting Events, Social functions.

Town Planning to address, Streetscape i.e. Anzac Avenue, Major Mitchell monument refurbished (historical value), all entrances to town enhanced (more signage eg. Rec Reserve, hall, cemetery) portable signs for activities/events, signage for Rainbow/incorporate artwork) Liase with Rainbow to organise