

DONALD & DISTRICT

LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN





OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN

The Donald community led by Donald 2000 updated their community planning priorities in 2016/2017. Funding in 2018 from the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund supported the re-engagement of community to explore longer term issues and aspirations looking towards 2030.

The 2016/2017 Donald 2000 Inc. priorities have strongly informed this renewed plan which has also captured recent consultation to shape the Buloke 2030 'whole of shire' integrated plan focusing on liveability and economic development in the current rural environment.

Residents in and around Donald were invited to share their thoughts through:

- an online survey
- community postcards
- a drop in session
- a focus group
- a street pop-up
- school visits
- community doorknock
- a community workshop; and
- draft plan feedback processes.

The Donald & District Local Community Plan is a community owned plan that captures community aspirations across a broad range of areas (not just local government). The plan gives voice to local aims and aspirations and provides an opportunity for involvement by people who are interested in shaping the future of Donald and District.

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

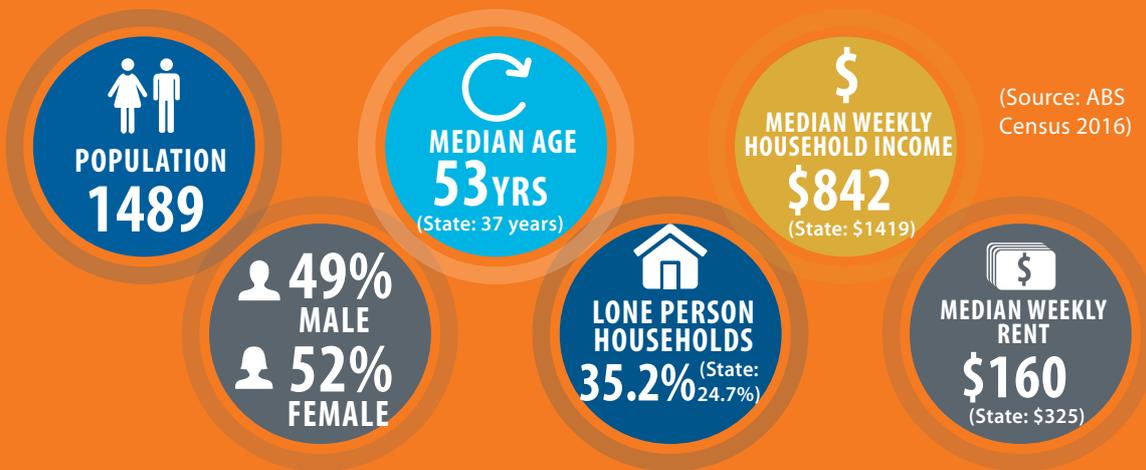
A Community Plan describes the community's long term vision and aspirations and is a way of directly involving residents in future planning.

The Donald and District community has completed many priorities identified in previous community plans, for example:

- Donald Memorial Hall upgrade
- Environmental water into the weir pool
- Pergola in Memorial Park
- Cuisine in the Crop
- Police camp museum roof
- Donald Men's Shed Building renovations
- Donald Children's Centre

OUR COMMUNITY

Donald is situated half way between Melbourne and Mildura on the Sunraysia Highway. Established in 1863, it's home to a welcoming community and offers a relaxed lifestyle in the heart of rural Victoria.



OUR STRENGTHS

- ▣ Friendly people
- ▣ Great kids
- ▣ Good community leadership
- ▣ Neighbours support neighbours
- ▣ Welcoming community for newcomers
- ▣ Strong community spirit

"The community cares and is passionate".

"We are more resilient because we have had to do things on our own".

OUR ASSETS

- ▣ Schools
- ▣ Aged Care
- ▣ Hospital
- ▣ Pool
- ▣ Parks
- ▣ Industrial Estate
- ▣ Memorial Hall
- ▣ Stadium Complex
- ▣ Agriculture Museum
- ▣ Good range of local businesses

"We are very lucky to have the healthcare that we do have locally".

"We don't have to send our elderly out of town".

OUR CURRENT CHALLENGES

- ▣ Population decline
- ▣ Lack of local apprenticeships
- ▣ Disruption of power services
- ▣ Lack of hard rubbish collection
- ▣ Lack of industry
- ▣ Poor internet/mobile service
- ▣ Public transport
- ▣ Attracting tourists
- ▣ Fruit fly
- ▣ Building accessibility
- ▣ Road upkeep
- ▣ Corporation farms
- ▣ Less volunteers
- ▣ Access to health services
- ▣ Lack of youth activities/involvement
- ▣ Lack of housing options
- ▣ Footpaths/kerbs
- ▣ NDIS
- ▣ Service confusion
- ▣ High Council rates

"We need more for our young people to do".

"The roads are shocking-the big trucks are ruining them".

"There are not enough things here to get travellers to stop".

OUR FUTURE CHALLENGES

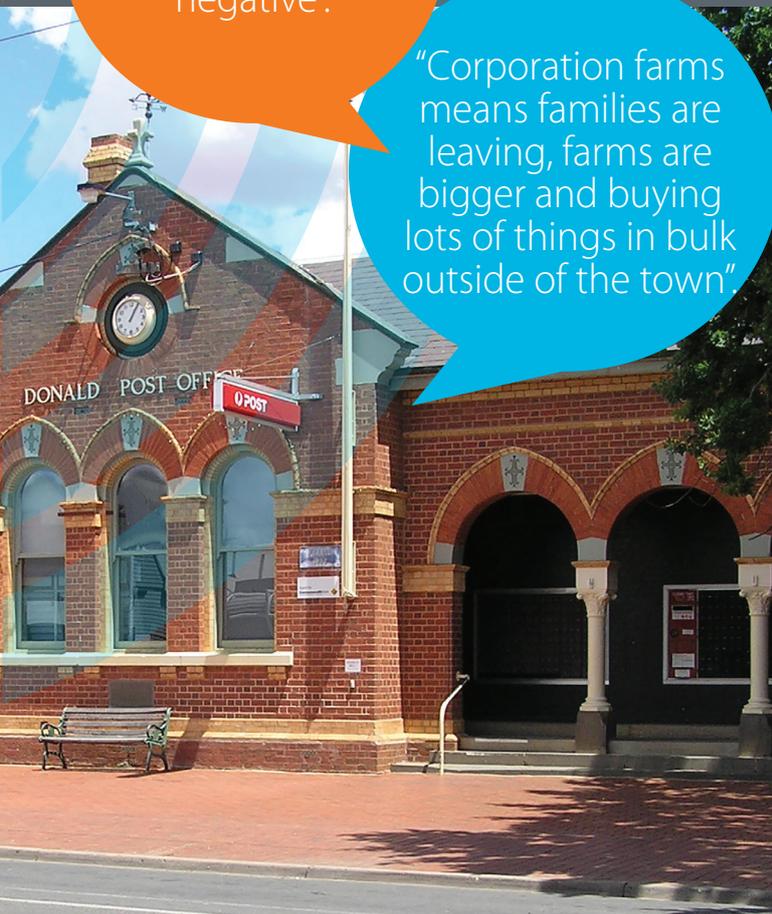
Looking Towards 2030

Community members highlighted a range of challenges/trends that they felt were important to plan for.

- ▣ Ageing Community
- ▣ Declining population
- ▣ Declining services
- ▣ Farms are getting larger
- ▣ Increased reliance on technology

"The internet is frustratingly slow-this is a big negative".

"Corporation farms means families are leaving, farms are bigger and buying lots of things in bulk outside of the town"



OUR OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for the future have been captured under four key themes which are supported by longer term strategic directions and key actions to achieve these.

Importantly, these key directions were formed through reviewing the 2016/2017 Donald 2000 Inc. priorities and combining new ideas from recent community discussions.

OUR BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND WELL-MAINTAINED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE.

1. Work together with local laws officer to identify and address unsafe or run down 'eye-sore' properties.
2. Work with Council on the development of the Donald Community Precinct.
3. Seek funding for the upgrade and extension of local walking trails and signage with distance and information.
4. Explore funding opportunities to install outdoor exercise equipment in the park.
5. Plan for a public gym with 24/7 access; explore existing opportunities e.g. Donald Football Club Gym.
6. Source funding for the installation of a local skate park.
7. Explore community run pool models, extend pool season and opening times, improve disability access and seek funding/plan for upgrades and or replacement.
8. Review sporting facilities and create a plan for maintaining and improving facilities.
9. Landscape the levee banks and turn seating around so it faces out towards the river.
10. Develop a footpath plan for Donald that will address areas of need including kerbing, slippery bricks and installation of clear scooter kerb access signage.
11. Create a pedestrian crossing so that scooters and pedestrians can cross the main street safely.
12. Develop a mountain bike track at Mt Jeffcott.
13. Advocate/work in partnership with VicRoads to ensure a safe road network.
14. Seek Victorian Heritage Funding to improve accessibility to buildings/shops for all community members.
15. Seek funding for the installation of disability access toilets in Memorial Park.
16. Actively seek funding for identified infrastructure upgrades.

BEAUTIFICATION OF STREETScape AND TOWN ENTRANCES.

1. Enhance the Donald Streetscape for both residents and visitors alike.

PROTECT, MANAGE AND IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY.

1. Beautify the river and clean up the silt.
2. Maintain trees and control weeds on council, crown and private land.
3. Apply for a town Fruit Fly Trap and educate community members on the management of fruit fly.



OUR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

ENHANCED COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS WHO ARE VULNERABLE AND OR ISOLATED.

1. Explore opportunities to expand on aged care services, building Donald up to be the aged care 'hub' of the Shire.
2. Secure community car funding and implement the service to support residents in need to attend medical appointments.
3. Advocate for improved promotion and use of tele-health options across the Buloke Shire.
4. Advocate for a review of the Victorian Patient Transport Rebate.
5. Advocate for more frequent public transport between Donald and major towns.

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY WELLBEING, LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS.

1. Work in partnership with Council as it provides library services in Donald.
2. Explore the feasibility of a local youth space in Donald.
3. Seek funding for outdoor cinema equipment to provide local affordable social interaction for all age groups.
4. Create a calendar of events for the Buloke Shire.
5. Advocate for the continued funding for the re-appointment of a Buloke Shire youth officer.
6. Seek funding for the further development of the community garden.
7. Create a welcome pack for new residents that includes volunteer opportunities.

A HEALTHY, SAFE AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY.

1. Review local availability of allied health and wellbeing services to ascertain current availability, gaps and future needs.
2. Advocate for a full time GP service in Donald and explore incentives.
3. Advocate for the promotion and use of tele-health options in the Buloke Shire.
4. Advocate for the reliable provision of local electricity supplies to both homes and businesses and explore community solar power sharing opportunities.
5. Advocate for an annual hard rubbish service and the development of a recycling hub/tip shop.

OUR ECONOMY

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

PROMOTE THE LIVEABILITY OF DONALD & DISTRICT

1. Broadly promote the benefits of living in Donald e.g. friendly, safe, great schools, affordable.
2. Continue advocacy, development and support of a local child care model that meets the needs of families.
3. Conduct a review of housing stock and create a plan to address needs/gaps.
4. Encourage the building of new houses and businesses in Donald & district.
5. Update content for the Buloke Shire Council website to include affordable housing, tree change etc.
6. Explore the development of a refugee resettlement plan.
7. Further development of the Lions Train Park, explored funding opportunities.

INCREASED TOURIST ACTIVITY IN DONALD & DISTRICT.

1. Provide local representation for the Buloke Tourism Board and ensure websites and printed materials are current.
2. Explore festivals, music, events, construction of mazes that could draw crowds to Donald and district.
3. Work with local artists to explore community art opportunities that could bring visitors to the area.
4. Promote free camping to encourage travellers to stop in Donald.
5. Investigate the feasibility of the development of an interactive iconic farming museum in Donald.
6. Reinvigorate the Hobson's Bay Friendship alliance.
7. Create an Op-Shop Trail Map for Buloke Shire and promote Donald's op-shops.

DYNAMIC INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT.

1. Explore incentives to attract industry and new business to Donald. Develop a list of business and industry based on agriculture that would succeed in Donald (such as hay processing, stock feed mill, flour mill, aged care) with stake holders and developers of the agreed priority to apply funding for a case study business plan.
2. Advocate for increased economic development/tourism resourcing across the Buloke Shire and introduce incentives to attract industry/business.
3. Create a shop local campaign for Donald.
4. Investigate solar farming and cheaper alternative power opportunities.
5. Attend expositions to promote Donald and District and offer free bus tours of Buloke Shire.
6. Explore options for pop-up or shared shops to encourage local small business/ entrepreneurs.
7. Advocate to State Government for a rural zoning model for communities with 5000 or less population.

ACCESS TO RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS.

1. Advocate for improved internet services
2. Advocate for improved mobile phone coverage.

OUR COUNCIL & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

ENHANCED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, INVOLVEMENT AND SPIRIT.

1. Continue to plan and conduct regular Donald 2000 meetings.
2. Recognise and support existing volunteers and create a campaign to encourage the involvement of new volunteers.
3. Explore with young people the development of a youth group structure to foster youth leadership, voice and civic engagement.

COUNCIL ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT ON COMMUNITY MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE.

1. Form a Donald Economic Development Committee comprising of membership from Donald 2000, Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Officer.
2. Advocate for lower council rates
3. Actively connect with the Council representative for Donald to ensure leadership and support from Council with identified community projects and ensure regular communication with residents.
4. Advocate for decentralisation of government services.
5. Work together with Council and local health services to prepare for the local roll out of the NDIS.
6. Advocate for rural models of subsidised childcare.
7. Advocate for passenger train services to larger centres.

QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE AND IMPROVED RESPONSE TIMES FROM BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL.

1. Improve Buloke Shire customer service quality and response times e.g. works requests.
2. Advocate for a Council service officer to offer local face to face support one day per week in Donald.



HOW DOES THIS PLAN FIT?

The ten Local Community Plans have informed the development of a 'whole of Buloke Shire' integrated Community Plan. The Buloke Shire Integrated Community Plan will inform Council's planning processes over the next three Council Planning phases up to 2030.



This Plan will also strongly inform the direction of a range of key stakeholder organisations that are connected to Buloke Shire communities.

GETTING INVOLVED

If you would like to get involved in implementing the Donald & District Local Community Plan contact:

- P. 1300 520 520
E. buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au
A. PO Box 1, Wycheproof VIC 3527
367 Broadway, Wycheproof VIC 3527

Buloke Shire Council

PUTTING THIS PLAN INTO ACTION

Implementation of the Donald and District Local Community Plan will be driven by Donald 2000 Inc.

A key Council representative will attend meetings to enable leadership and support from Council wherever appropriate. An action plan template has been developed to assist with local project planning and review.