

SEA LAKE & DISTRICT

LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN





OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN

The Sea Lake community led by Advance Sea Lake updated their community plan in 2014. 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.

This 2018 renewed plan which has captured recent community consultation will also inform the Buloke 2030 'whole of shire' integrated plan focusing on livability and economic development in the current rural environment.

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

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

The Sea Lake & 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 Sea Lake 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 Sea Lake and District community has already made a number of achievements as a result of their previous community plans, such as:

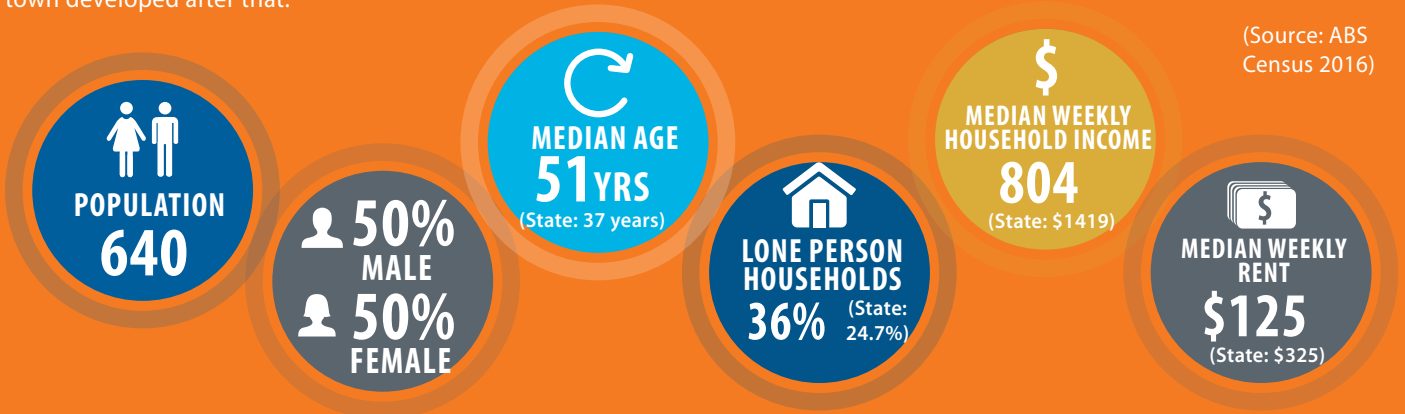
- Sea Lake Travellers Rest
- New Sea Lake Swimming Pool change rooms and pool liner
- A new commercial grade kitchen in the Sea Lake Community Complex
- New carpet and kitchen in the Senior Citizens rooms
- The development of a master plan for the Community Complex and Green Lake
- Secured funding for building at the Sea Lake Hospital
- Establishment of a Men's Shed
- Establishment of a range of children's services including childcare, playgroup and toy library

OUR COMMUNITY

Sea Lake is the most northerly of the five largest communities in the Buloke Shire. It is situated 350Km North West of Melbourne on the Calder Highway.

The Sea Lake area was once populated by the Wergaia speaking Boorong Clan. They used the clear night skies in the area to guide them and many stories have been handed down through their generations. Tyrrell Downs Station was established in 1847, and the town developed after that.

(Source: ABS
Census 2016)



OUR STRENGTHS

- Friendly community
- People take care of each other
- Great schools
- Community car
- Great sports and sporting facilities
- Tourism is emerging
- Neighborhood House has terrific courses and events
- Active youth group

"We are the centre for agriculture in the Mallee".

"People take care of each other in Sea Lake".

OUR ASSETS

- Green Lake
- Lake Tyrrell
- Hospital
- Community owned Hardware Store
- Community owned Grocery Store
- Apex Park
- Travellers Rest
- Sea Lake Community Complex
- Bowls Club
- Pool
- Golf Club
- Squash Club
- Neighbourhood House
- Police Station

"Green Lake is good for community mental health".

"The Neighborhood House has terrific courses and events".

OUR CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Declining volunteerism
- Lack of Employment
- Roads in disrepair
- Town signage is outdated
- Empty shops in main street
- Young people are moving away
- Lack of activities for young people
- Streetscape is tired
- Promotion of tourism
- Limited disabled parking
- Guttering and kerbs
- Communication between community groups
- Tidiness of town properties
- Road safety with overseas visitors
- Declining local services
- Lack of stores/cafes open at night
- Maintaining health services
- Many visiting community services
- Lack of quality housing
- Lack of unit accommodation
- Lack of rental properties
- Fruit fly
- Welcoming/connecting new residents
- Bottom pub site

"Our town needs a lick of paint".

"People move away because there is nothing to do after we leave school, only farmer or tradie and even the tradie jobs are limited."

"There are many visiting services, understanding the service system can be a challenge".

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 Volunteerism
- Increased use of technology
- Access to health and wellbeing services

"Farming forms the backbone of our economy".

"We need the town to look good to get people to live here".



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 2014 Sea Lake Community Plan 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. Fill Green Lake and develop amenities for visitor and resident enjoyment.
2. Develop a plan to guide the improvement of footpaths, gutters and kerbs in Sea Lake.
3. Maintain and improve roads (and trees over roads) to ensure a safe road network.
4. Implement the Lake Tyrrell improvement project, promote and share information on progress widely and seek increased community support.
5. Review truck signage throughout town.
6. Create a plan for the public space at the site of the demolished Memorial Hall.
7. Review availability of and access to disability parking in the town centre.

BEAUTIFICATION OF STREETScape AND TOWN ENTRANCES.

1. Beautify the streetscape (using existing streetscape plan) and town entrances.
2. Review and update town entrance signage including town facility signage.
3. Review the safety of and explore use of empty shopfronts in town centre.
4. Explore ways to address the pigeon issue in the main street.
5. Create public green spaces in town and make them attractive places for both visitors and residents.

PROTECT, MANAGE AND IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY.

1. Maintain trees and control weeds on council, crown and private land.
2. Complete an application for a town fruit fly trap and promote community awareness and strategies for the reduction of fruit fly.



OUR ECONOMY

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

INCREASED TOURIST ACTIVITY IN SEA LAKE & DISTRICT.

1. Promote key attractions (e.g. Lake Tyrrell and Green Lake) via an updated visitor guide, social media and Council tourism initiatives.
2. Provide local representation for the Buloke Tourism Board.
3. Seek funding for a dedicated Tourism Officer for Buloke Shire.
4. Seek funding opportunities for community art projects (e.g. town art/silo art).
5. Explore opportunities to build on the tourism experience using Aboriginal artwork, tourist walks and heritage stories.
6. Develop and promote local activities for visitors and their children.

DYNAMIC ECONOMY, INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT.

1. Promote the industrial estate and explore incentives that will attract new business/industry to Sea Lake & District (e.g. rate holiday/reduction, low value land).
2. Seek apprenticeship/employment opportunities for young people.
3. Explore opportunities for extended business hours during peak visitor times.
4. Explore ways to connect Lake Tyrrell/Green Lake and town facilities/businesses.
5. Explore the alliance with Hobson's Bay and its relevance into the future.
6. Create a shop local campaign.
7. Advocate for the increased availability of affordable (subsidised) childcare services.
8. Develop a Bendigo Community Bank in Sea Lake.

PROMOTION OF THE LIVEABILITY OF SEA LAKE & DISTRICT.

1. Develop online and social media platforms to promote the positive attributes of living in Sea Lake.
2. Review local housing stock to determine availability, gaps and future needs.

ACCESS TO RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS.

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

OUR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS

A SAFE, ACTIVE, HEALTHY AND SOCIALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITY

1. Work in partnership with Council and Tyrrell College to provide library services in Sea Lake.
2. Source equipment to hold outdoor/indoor movie nights for both the community and visitors.
3. Develop a town walking track with outdoor gym equipment.
4. Seek funding for a cycling track to Green Lake.
5. Maintain the Sea Lake community car service.
6. Advocate for annual hard rubbish collection service and explore community partnerships to support the service (e.g. Men's Shed).
7. Extend pool season and promote free entry to community members and visitors alike.
8. Explore funding and partnership opportunities for the development of a community garden at Lion's Park.

CHILD AND YOUTH FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES, SPACES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

1. Explore funding opportunities for a local skate park.
2. Explore the feasibility of a local BMX track.
3. Actively engage young people in community activities and civic life.
4. Work closely with local parents and children to improve the play equipment at Apex Park.

ACCESSIBLE AND ADEQUATE (INCLUDING PLACE BASED) HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICES.

1. Advocate for and promote the increased use of tele-health options.
2. Advocate for an appropriate level of essential place based health services (GP's, Mental Health Services, Crisis Care, Family Support).
3. Develop a local electronic directory of place based and visiting health and wellbeing services and seek support to keep information current.
4. Encourage local schools to work closely together to better support health and well-being issues.

OUR COUNCIL & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

A STRONG AND CONNECTED NETWORK OF VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

1. Explore community initiatives to encourage residents to tidy up their properties and the community (e.g. Tidy Towns/Keep Australia Beautiful, Bindii BBQ).
2. Develop a whole of community plan to encourage the involvement of new volunteers.
3. Develop a regular community newsletter to support improved information sharing in Sea Lake and District.
4. Encourage diversity of leadership in Council and aim to nominate a local woman at each election.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS.

1. Partner with key providers and health networks to advocate for adequate place based health services (Continuity of GP services a priority).
2. Review community groups and create processes for improved communication and partnering to better support each other's work.
3. Regularly share information and progress on projects / issues of community importance e.g. Lake Tyrell, Green Lake, Bottom Pub etc.
4. Actively connect with the Council representative for Sea Lake to ensure leadership and support from Council with identified community projects.

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

1. Advocate for the clearing of the bottom pub site.
2. Improved enforcement of local laws in relation to unsafe/run-down buildings and feral and fowl pests.



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 Sea Lake & 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 Sea Lake and District Local Community Plan will be driven by Advance Sea Lake.

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.