

THE BEST IN THE WEST



Balmoral and District Community Plan 2014-2020



Introduction

Southern Grampians Shire Council has been part funded over three years (until September 2015) through the State Government's Putting Locals First Program to implement the Southern Grampians Shire's Community Planning Framework and Small Town Action Plan program. Eight towns will be working in partnership with the Shire to develop their own community action plan.

Community planning assists local people to decide what they would like to see happen in their own community and implement their own future visions and projects. The plan is designed to set out a medium to long-term vision for the future of a town. It connects people with each other, the resources of their local community, the Council and other levels of Government.

This Community Plan has been created by the Balmoral community. It is a summary of their hopes and vision for a place which they are strongly connected to, intensely proud of and work tirelessly to support. The Balmoral community should be commended for their efforts in creating this plan. It has involved strong leadership from a dedicated group that has worked hard to engage their community, seeking input and guidance to identify what is working well, what needs to be improved and what the community in partnership with other organisations can achieve for the future of Balmoral.

The community spirit and the people of Balmoral are its biggest assets. Balmoral is a resilient community where people recognise the need to work together to achieve success. The community planning process uses the strengths of the community and builds on what is already working well in Balmoral. The plan identifies areas that can improve the liveability of Balmoral for today's residents and future community members.

The Community Plan document is broken into four sections:

- Our Place, Our Plan
- Our Future Our Vision
- Our Action
- Appendices consisting of supporting documents including previous planning work and more detailed engagement information.

The action plan priorities have four main themes:

- Development
- Environmental & Historical
- Town Beautification
- Community Life
- Community Leadership & Marketing

The next step in the community planning process is a crucial one: transforming the communities' vision into action. The people of Balmoral will lead the implementation phase of this plan and work in partnership to achieve their aspirations for their community.

Balmoral will:

- be a resilient, diverse and thriving town with a strong sense of community
- be a safe and attractive place to live
- be a desirable tourist destination
- have a strong supporting infrastructure with quality services and facilities
- service a range of existing industries and encourage new commercial activities
- advocate for sustainable water levels in Rocklands Reservoir for recreation, tourism and affordable town water

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Our Place

Balmoral of Yesterday:

Balmoral is an historic pastoral centre nestled amongst rolling hills on the Glenelg River. The Jardwadjali people were the original custodians of the land surrounding Balmoral. Major Thomas Mitchell passed nearby in 1836 and with his enthusiastic descriptions of the countryside, early European settlement followed.

From 1840 the large station properties Fulham, Englefield, Glendinning, Gringegalgon, Kongbool, Rocklands, Yat Nat and Mt Talbot were established. These properties still exist today as working farm properties.

The township of Balmoral was established and became an important service centre for the stations. The ford on the Glenelg River on the edge of Balmoral became a strategic landmark as people moved across the colony. The Old Courthouse, the Gaol, the Post Office and churches still evoke the history of early settlement.



Balmoral of Today

Balmoral is still a vital hub for the surrounding district. It has a population of 326 (ABS 2011) made up of many families (36%) and people over 60 (28%) with over 90% being born in Australia. Almost two thirds of local employment is in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors with the average household income being \$520 a week and seventy-five percent of Balmoral residents own their own home. The people of Balmoral are passionate about their community and spend a large amount of time volunteering for one or more community groups with 153 people (47%) volunteering in the last 12 months.





The agriculture sector still plays a vital role in the economic viability of Balmoral. Farming enterprises including wool and lamb production, cereal and oil seed cropping, hay and beef production as well as plantation timber and a large scale rosemary farm create employment and growth in the area. Mineral sands too have been mined providing welcome diversification.

Tourism also plays a major role for the region with State forests, the Grampians and the Black Range, surrounding Balmoral. The Black Range State Park boasts masses of wildflowers and orchids in season, excellent bush walking, Aboriginal rock art, dramatic bluffs and breathtaking views. Camping spots abound along Rocklands Reservoir's foreshores, and it is a renowned fishing and recreational water sport destination.



Balmoral is proud of its facilities and services. The Bush Nursing Centre has been caring for the community continuously for 90 years. Local residents enjoy the excellent sporting facilities; playing golf, bowls, football, netball, tennis and cricket as well as a swim in the pool which will be renovated later this year. Arguably the Balmoral Community College has some of the best facilities in the state for students to utilise as they progress from kindergarten to year 12.



A vibrant arts culture has developed in Balmoral and is evident in the village centre with a large-scale Martinich-Carran Mural on the side of the Community Store and provides a dramatically contrast to the town's historic charm.



Groups & Organisations

Balmoral & District Angling Club
Balmoral & District Development Association
Balmoral & District Swimming Pool Committee
Balmoral Book Clubs
Balmoral Bowling Club
Balmoral Bulletin
Balmoral Cemetery Trust
Balmoral Craft Group
Balmoral Golf Club Committee
Balmoral Historical Society
Balmoral Lions Club
Balmoral P & A Society
Balmoral Playgroup
Balmoral Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
Balmoral Rodeo Committee
Balmoral RSL
Balmoral Seniors Citizens
Balmoral Tennis Club
Balmoral Traders Association
Balmoral United Cricket Club
Barton Garden Club
BBNC Men's Shed
BBNC Planned Activity Group
Chameleon Arts Collective
Harrow Balmoral Football & Netball Club
Mechanics Hall Committee of Management
Pigeon Ponds Book Clubs
Vasey Red Cross



Balmoral Businesses

Anne Wilson, Myotherapist
Balmoral Community Store
Balmoral Excavation & Construction Pty Ltd
Balmoral Spreading Services
Café
Chainsaw Traders Pty Ltd
Fatone Fertiliser Services
Glenelg River Rosemary
Gringe Ag
Hillview Bore Pumps
Jim & Jo McCure Ewescan & Grain Harvesting
JK & RJ Latty Livestock Contracting
Josh Sutherland Contracting
MacDonald Rural Supplies

McPhee Brothers Waterworks Trucks Pty Ltd
McPhee's Fuel & Buslines Pty Ltd
Post Office
Renown Contracting
Southern Grampians Wilderness Resort
St Mary's Second Hand Shop
Weaver Livestock Pty Ltd
Western Hotel
Williams Transport

Services

Ambulance Victoria
Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre
Balmoral Fire Brigade
Balmoral P-12 Community College
Catholic Church
Church of England
Justice of the Peace
North Balmoral Fire Brigade
Recreation Reserve
SES
Uniting Church (closed)
Victoria Police

BALMORAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

HEALTH

Women's Health Night
Men's Health Night
Cuppa for Cancer



ARTS – CHAMELEON ARTS

Night of Music

Various exhibitions & community arts events

Home is Where the Hall Is

Christmas decorations

Group theatre outings

Community Events

Anzac Day March & Ceremony

Angling Club Fishing Competition

Australia Day Ceremony

Balmoral Pastoral & Agricultural Show

Balmoral Easter Street Market

Show & Shine – November

Football Club Fundraiser

Film Night Fundraiser

Balmoral Rodeo

Balmoral Golf Tournament



Our Plan:

Southern Grampians Shire Council is facilitating the development of community plans through the community planning framework with eight towns across the Shire. The framework is a new way for Council and towns to work together to make decisions about their future. Community plans developed through this planning process are designed, owned and implemented by the local community. The community plan is a living document that can be reviewed every two or three years. It is essential to remember that in order for projects and actions to work the community will need to participate and own the actions.

What is a community plan & why do we need one?

A community plan will provide Balmoral with a focus on key future directions and a common reference when working with all levels of government. A plan provides a community with a strong voice and strengthens connections and communication across the general community. The plan outlines a vision, short to medium and long-term goals, with solutions that will assist the future development of the town. It has a 'whole of community' focus and identifies partnerships which help achieve action.

Development of the Balmoral Community Plan:

The community planning process has four main stages: each with a series of actions that need to occur before commencing the next planning stage.

Introduction, initial discussions, background report of history, town profile and current	A survey to obtain feedback on the values, assets and community needs & School Engagement	Community Forum: to develop key priorities and actions that will aim towards achieving priorities	Completion of plan and presentation to Council and key agencies that work with community and government
Commenced July 2013	Survey: September 2013	Forum: February 16, 2014	June/July 2014

The Balmoral community commenced its community planning journey in July 2013. A leadership group was formed with representation from various groups and organisations.



Several meetings were held to determine the best ways of engaging the broader community. A survey was developed and distributed to all residents and further engagement happen on Election Day; over one hundred surveys were completed by community members. The primary school children were also engaged and were asked to produce art pieces representing what they most valued about living





BALMORAL COMMUNITY PLAN SURVEY

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Your input is valuable to make sure what matters to you is captured for Balmoral's Community Plan. This is your chance to get involved in building your town and community. The following questions seek to discover those things you value most about Balmoral as well as things you would like to see changed or improved. Please think about Balmoral's social, health, natural and built aspects in your responses.

What would improve services and connections for people in this community?

What would make the local economy stronger?

What keeps you living here?

What things about Balmoral make it special and unique?

What is one thing about Balmoral and your community that makes you proud?

NAME								PHONE					
EMAIL													
AGE	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+					
GENDER	M	F	Please fill out your name and email if you want to receive meeting invitations and project updates. If not, please indicate your district or town, and age and gender only.										

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY TO THE BALMORAL POST OFFICE BY FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

Question 1: What would improve services and connections for people in this community?

- Better transport
- Access to fuel
- Increased activities for young people
- Public toilets in town centre
- More community events

Question 2: What would make the local economy stronger?

- Access to more public transport options
- Fuel in township
- More social events
- Increased tourism
- Increased level of water in Rocklands
- More employment opportunities
- Increased population
- More local businesses

Question 3: What keeps you living here?

- Family & work
- Lifestyle and people
- A good place for children to grow up
- Clean, fresh country living
- Good services
- Community spirit
- Natural assets
- Rocklands

Question 4: What things about Balmoral make it special and unique?

- The people
- Community spirit
- Bush Nursing Centre
- Location
- Rocklands & the bush
- Red Gums
- Chameleon Arts group and many others

Question 5: What is one thing about Balmoral and your community that makes you proud?

- Community Spirit
- The people
- Volunteers
- Bush Nursing Centre
- The groups and organisations

The leadership group planned a facilitated community forum which was held at the Rocklands Lodge to further explore the priorities for the Balmoral community. Attendees were asked to think of a vision for Balmoral and identify priorities that they were willing to assist with regarding the implementation of the community plan. Through small groups a range of actions were development which have been included into the action plan and will advanced the collective vision for Balmoral.



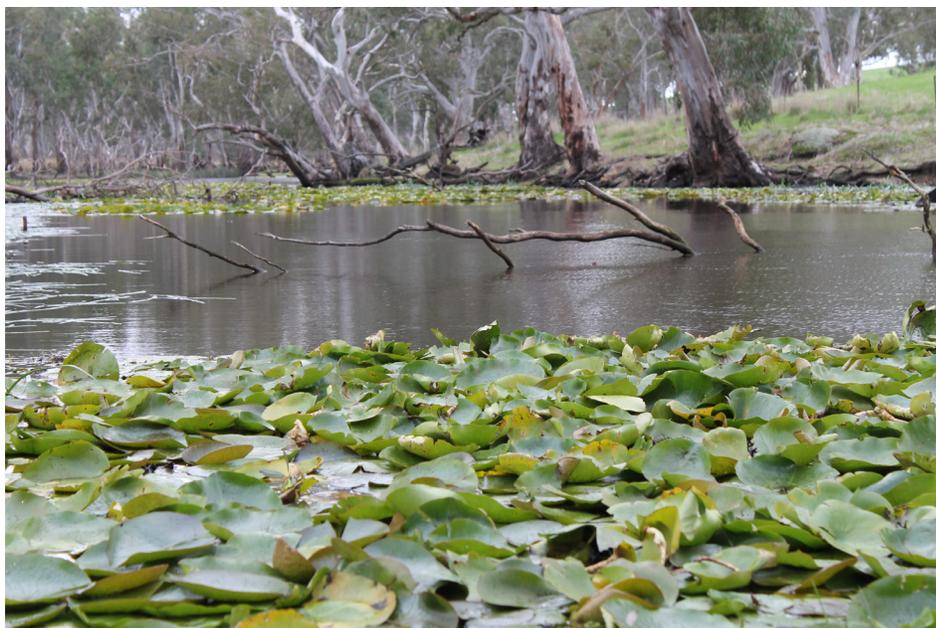
Over several meetings, the leadership group reviewed the survey results and the work achieved at the community forum. This information was all utilised by the leadership group to create a draft action plan. The draft action plan was then put out to the community for further feedback and to ensure all potential partnering community clubs and organisations were able to contribute in the plan's development. The community feedback form also provided information to determine the prioritisation of the draft initiatives.

A representative of the leadership group presented Balmoral's top priorities at a meeting of the Community Planning Focus Group an internal Council group that has representation across council services and also to the Executive Partnership Network, which is made up of government agencies, educational and community service sector and also community members.

The community planning framework comes from an asset and approach, building on the current strengths of the community and considering all physical, social, environmental and economic assets. It also looks at existing work that has taken place in recent years including the Urban Design Framework and Planning Scheme Review. The plan was also informed by existing Council plans and strategies such as the Southern Grampians Council Plan 2013-2017 and the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Balmoral Community Leadership Group:

David Appleton
Bernie Duggan
Wendy Hobbs
Jim & Lana Howman
Lisa Hutchins
Mick Leeming
Diane McLean
James Parker
Clare Ryan
Naomi Vitkovsky
Gerard & Sabrina Watt
Neil Vaughan



Balmoral will:

- be a resilient, diverse and thriving town with a strong sense of community
- be a safe and attractive place to live
- be a desirable tourist destination
- have a strong supporting infrastructure with quality services and facilities
- service a range of existing industries and encourage new commercial activities
- advocate for sustainable water levels in Rocklands Reservoir for recreation, tourism and affordable town water



What do we hope to achieve through this plan?

This community plan is owned and driven by the residents of Balmoral and District and is an expression of both their current and future vision for their community. With a strategic and collaborative approach, this plan will provide a clear direction for the community to work together in partnership with all levels of government and other organisations. It provides a vehicle to confidently communicate, validate and progress ideas into action for the improved liveability of the Balmoral community.

Key Priorities for the Balmoral Community: A plan for moving ideas into action.

The identified priorities outlined in the action plan below have been grouped together under the themes of Development, Environmental & Historical, Town Beautification, Community Life and Community Leadership and Marketing. The initiatives were then placed in order of priority determined by wider community feedback.

The following priorities are seen as their key areas of importance and will be the first initiatives that the community will work together on to achieve.

DEVELOPMENT:

Goal: Encourage economic and social development to ensure a sustainable, prosperous and liveable community that fosters increased residential growth, business expansion, improved accessibility and greater tourism.

- Build amenities block in town centre
- Improve Recreation Reserve facilities
- Increase transport for both delivery services and community need
- Explore opportunities to support, promote and strengthen local businesses

ENVIRONMENTAL & HISTORICAL:

Goal: Encourage and support the Balmoral community to maintain, enhance and promote our environmental and historical assets for current and future generations, and visitors.

- Advocate for water security at Rocklands

TOWN BEAUTIFICATION:

Goal : Be a safe and attractive place to live and a desirable visitor destination

- Develop a master plan for the “Balmoral Square” mural/car park area

COMMUNITY LIFE:

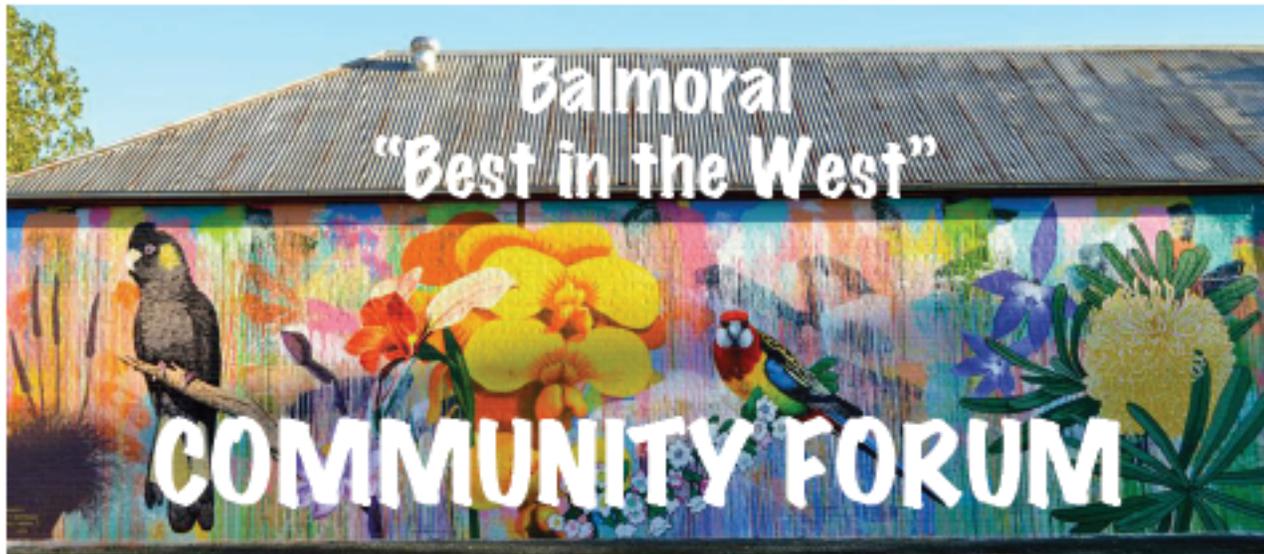
Goal: Be a resilient, diverse and thriving town with a strong sense of community

- Have access to quality “whole of life education” and sustainable educational services
- Increased activities for young people to strengthen their connection with the community

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & MARKETING:

Goal: Market the region to residents and visitors by strengthening community leadership, open communication between groups and a united voice to advocate the needs of the region to all levels of government

- Update & improve brochures and signage to increase visitation to local and regional attractions



Balmoral
"Best in the West"

COMMUNITY FORUM

**FAMILY DAY
AT ROCKLANDS**

**Come & help plan your Vision
for Balmoral & District**

**Sunday 16 February
11:00 am - 3:30 pm**

**Rocklands Lodge
Free BBQ Lunch
ALL AGES INVITED**

JUNIOR CARP FISHING COMP!

RSVP's ESSENTIAL!
CHILD MINDING OPTIONS AVAILABLE
PH: 5573 0243 *no later than 10 Feb*

**BALMORAL AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT**



Balmoral Community Forum Report 16th February 2014 Balmoral Community Forum Report 16th February 2014

Participation:

Include names from attendance sheet.

Total of 28 community members participated although some were not present for the whole session. Participants represented broad cross section of community in terms of

- age from 15 to late 50's years of age,
- gender - even mix of genders
- length of time living in Balmoral from 21/2 years to 58 years

What people value about living in Balmoral

When asked to describe Balmoral in one word common responses were:

- People - friendly, supportive, encouraging, hard working
- Small community in which know everyone
- Sense of community/ community spirit
- peace
- Beauty of environment
- lifestyle

What people are passionate about?

When asked to make public statement about what you are passionate about and prepared to do something about the following topics were nominated:

Topics discussed – See attached action sheets

1. Town beautification including public toilets was nominated by Gerald, Georgie, Clare, Anita, Lorraine & Naomi (23 votes)
2. Water security – recreational and commercial Russell Jagger (10 votes)
3. Rec Reserve refurbishment – Mick Leeming, also nominated by Lisa (9 votes)
4. Access to quality education (whole of life) and increased school enrolments – Wendy - grouped with school nominated by Liam and also Hamish (6 votes)
5. Create RV Friendly town – Jim (6 votes)
6. Revitalise old barber shop as a staff free museum – Sabrina (5 votes)
7. Securing the future of the swimming pool – Kym and Sarah (5 votes)
8. Erect sculpture to celebrate BNC (90 years in 2015) – Sabrina (4 votes)

Topics not discussed

9. Amenities centre in Apex Park – Stephen (2 votes)

11. Keeping what we've got – Justin (0 votes)
12. Improvement of amenities/facilities – Anita (0 votes)
13. Developing irrigation opportunities – Phil (0 votes)
14. Improving connection between youth and the community – Jo (0 votes)
15. Service clubs – James (0 votes)

Community Vision

The vision was developed from an activity in which participants imagined what Balmoral would be like in a perfect world in 10 – 15 years time. Themes were developed from their descriptions and incorporated into the following vision.

Balmoral will be:

- an attractive, strong, vibrant, diverse and thriving community;
- an attractive place to live with a strong sense of community, quality amenities, facilities and recreational services;
- servicing a range of industries – including new ones such as permaculture;
- a place for tourists to stop;
- Rocklands will have sustainable water levels providing:
 - recreation for locals,
 - a major tourist destination, and
 - affordable water to the town.

Balmoral Community Planning Session Outcome Sheets 2014

Topic: Securing the future of the swimming pool

Convenor: Kym Lyons

Co-workers: Hamish Griffiths, James Parker, Sarah Laidlaw

Issues/ideas

1. Promote membership and facilities
 - a. Advertsing – membership pack
 - b. Blue light disco
 - c. Movie night
2. Allocate some grant money to go to a warming blanket – returns H2O to chlorine, increases the warmth of the pool, attract community, open longer
3. Investigate other groups to use it i.e.e help apply for grants
4. Promote use of BBQ for patrons
5. Provide more shade –grant through Anti-cancer Council – natural trees
6. Encourage/support community members to train as life guards, swimming coaches
7. Investigate whether fund raising events covered by Shire Insurance

What we want to achieve	What we will do	Who will do it	When t	Resources we need
Improve membership	Develop and distribute promotion packs	Pool/Shire Committee	Oct/Nov	Design & Printing Letterbox drop Early bird payment incentive
More grants	Approach Shire, other community groups	Pool Committee to delegate	Now	List of available grants
Better facilities: Shade cloth Warming blanket	Approach Shire Fundraising	Pool Committee	Now	Brainstorming ideas

Topic: Erect sculpture to celebrate BNC (90 years in 2015)

Convenor: Sabrina

Co-workers: L Howman, W. Hobbs, G. Leeming, C Ryan

Issues/ideas

- 90 years of bush nursing in Balmoral
- \$
- Where will we put it? Accessibility
- Use centre of town as nucleus/mural
- Clearly identify with Bush Nursing – how people connect and respond to it
- Consider complementary/non competitive linking of arts works

What we want to achieve	What we will do	Who will do it	When	Resources we need
Master Plan or Precinct Plan needed				
Sculpture links precinct	Investigate funding Connect with public arts Reference Group	Partners – BNC, Shire, Development Association, Philanthropy, Public Arts	Begin by 2015 – 90 years anniversary of Balmoral service	\$ Location
Incorporate permanent stage area	Incorporate old truck doors and woolshed iron to create a stage. Will need power			

Topic: Revitalise old barber shop as a staff free museum

Convenor: Sabrina

Co-workers: Lorraine, Clare, Naomi, Anita, Gerard, Liam

Issues/ideas

- Land ownership
- Historical preservation – add verandah
- Show casing history
- Part of town revitalization
- Historical society has some old tools. Hamilton Tim Cogger has some items in his shop. May be worth discussing where he got them.
- History – Jack O’Toole (1920’s) (Lorraine’s uncle) barber before Charlie. She may have some items

What we want to achieve	What we will do	Who will do it	When	Resources we need
Barber shop re-stored	<p>Possible ownership/ rental / or community purchase Talk to owners</p> <p>Consider cost of project Create partnerships – Development Association, Historical Chameleon, Arts, Tourism If Projection Technology isn’t available at least paint, re-glaze windows and have a display inside.</p>	<p>Gerald to call Russells</p> <p>Sabrina investigate funding from outside sources</p>	Immediately	\$50,000 upwards required to: Fix up external Power
Option B If no action then Shire to clean up area	Ensure it links with local Shire preservation strategies			

Balmoral Community Planning Session Outcome Sheet 2014

Topic: Rec Reserve refurbishment

Convenor: Mick Leeming

Co-workers: Bruce Laidlaw, Bernie Duggan, Russel Jagger

Issues/ideas

- Building not meeting current needs
- Vermin infestation – white ants, rabbits
- Water allocation
- Holistic plan for the reserve

What we want to achieve	What we will do	Who will do it	When	Resources we need
Holistic plan and modernization of facilities	Conduct feasibility study Get letters of support from all user groups and potential user groups Liaise with school - quantify any potential use for home economics or sporting facilities	Rec Reserve	March	

Topic: Create RV friendly town with free camping

Convenor: Jim

Co-workers: Stephen, David, Justin, Lana

Issues/ideas

- Meeting and attracting tourists' needs
- Providing designated free camping area

What we want to achieve	What we will do	Who will do it	When	Resources we need
Amenities block in town centre.	Initiate community fund in addition to local and state government funding/ grants	Jim & Lana to contact RV Association	Requirements within a month	Need further investigation
Linking tourist traffic to a range of local attractions: town walk, historical society, town businesses	Investigate site: Amenities block (Seymour park) Free camping area			
Registration of Balmoral as a RV Friendly town	Planning requirements: Land ownership Council permits Integrate into whole town plan			

Topic: Access to quality education (whole of life) and increased school enrolments

Convenor: Wendy (Topic also nominated by Liam and Hamish)

Co-workers: Helen, Sarah, Hamish, Georgie

Issues/ideas

- Develop Adult Education –
- I.T.
- Hospitality cooking courses
- Art classes
- Food handling
- CFA
- Facilities
- Staff Welcome Pack
- Communication through newsletter, local radio, Spec/Wimmera Mail Times, students, VET
- Parent coaching – sporting
- Sponsorship for scholarships/awards
- School grounds

What we want to achieve	What we will do	Who will do it	When	Resources we need
Promotion to the broader community Whole of community cultural events A link in town to the school – old school signs Hiring of school facilities School chant	Initiate community fund in addition to local and state government funding/grants	Principal to organise School Council SRC Peter Stroude?	Immediately	\$ Manpower Volunteers Promotion officer

Topic: Town beautification including public toilets

Convenor: Gerard Watt

Co-workers: Helen Brown, Bruce Laidlaw, Anita Weaver, Stephen Hobbs, Liam Parker, Jim and Lana Howman, Lorraine

Issues/ideas

What we want to achieve	What we will do	Who will do it	When	Resources we need
Clear up messy scrub on North entrance	Bruce L to make connections	CFA	12 months	DEPI assistance
Better signage/welcome at town entrances	Contact Development Group /Shire	Gerard W		
Some private properties need attention re tidiness and fire prevention	Contact CFA/Shire			
“Biggest blight in town is property with lots of cars for sale “	He has a licence as second hand dealer			
Power poles need to be revitalised	Contact Chameleon Arts	Helen	12 months	
Toilet/dump point for RV tourists	Continue to lobby council	Gerard	Now	Implementation of Public Toilet Strategy 2013
Landmark shop & Statue	Clean up yard	Bruce I	21 March 2014	Slab & Lawnmower
South end of Glendinning St needs enhancement	Enhance River walk north side of bridge More signage for river walk incorporating historical society and gaol	Helen Brown & Development Group	6 months	
Entrance to tip needs trees lined on particularly north side	Request to Shire	Development Group	6 months	

Convenor: Russell Jagger

Co-workers: Mick Leeming, Bernie Duggan, Naomi Vitskosky, Phil Rees, Justin Weaver

Issues/ideas

Need to establish a combined users group covering:

Recreational

a. Rocklands - Toolondo

i. Boating

ii. Angling

iii. Camping

iv. Tourism

v. SES

b. Balmoral

i. Water rights for Rec Reserve

ii. Local Business

Commercial

a. Opportunities (Rec Reserve?)

b. Community

c. Private enterprise

What we want to achieve	What we will do	Who will do it	When	Resources we need
Combined Users Group Committee Water security – recreational and commercial	Establish a Combined Users Group Conduct	Development Association	March	Manpower

‘BEST IN THE WEST’ Balmoral Community Plan Draft Actions 2014

Over the past 12 months, the Balmoral Community has been developing a Community Plan to provide us with a clear direction for our future. The Community Plan outlines our vision, goals and actions to assist in the development of our town.

The Plan has a ‘Whole of Community’ focus and identifies partnerships that will help us achieve our goals.

OUR PLAN IS OWNED AND DRIVEN BY THE COMMUNITY, SO WE NEED A LITTLE MORE OF YOUR HELP.

Please review the following draft plan items and **TICK YOUR TOP FIVE OVERALL PRIORITIES** for the Balmoral Community.

Please also indicate your willingness to make your priorities happen for Balmoral.

1. COMMUNITY LIFE			
PLEASE TICK YOUR TOP FIVE (5) ONLY	Objective: What we will do	Priority Level How important? High, Med, Low H / M / L	Timeframe When? Short, Med, Long term S / M / L
	Yes! I want to help to make this happen!		Provide your name and contact details
	Have access to quality ‘whole of life education’ and sustainable educational services		
	Increase activities for young people to strengthen their connection with the community		
	Support and promote activities for older community residents		
	Support and maintain emergency services in the region		
	Build amenities block in town centre (public toilets)		
	Introduce a community market and / or a produce swap		
2. TOWN BEAUTIFICATION			
	Develop a master plan for the ‘Balmoral Square’ mural / carpark area		
	Revitalise the old barbershop as a staff free museum and/or tourist information centre		
	Create a permanent stage area in ‘Balmoral Square’ mural area		
	Create a sculpture to commemorate 100 years of BBNC		

3. DEVELOPMENT			
Goal : Encourage economic and social development to ensure a sustainable, prosperous and liveable community that fosters increased residential growth, business expansion, improved accessibility and greater tourism.			
	Improve Recreational Reserve facilities		
	Continue to support and improve outdoor Swimming Pool facility		
	Investigate Balmoral becoming an RV Friendly Town or an RV Friendly Destination		
	Further develop Rocklands to increase visitors and secure water availability and quality		
	Increase transport for both delivery services and community needs		
	Investigate Aged Care housing options		
	Explore opportunities to support, promote and strengthen local businesses		
4. ENVIRONMENT & HISTORICAL			
Goal : Encourage and support the Balmoral community to maintain, enhance & promote our environmental & historical assets for current and future generations, and visitors.			
	Advocate for water security at Rocklands		
	Investigate irrigation and crop opportunities		
	Revitalise APEX (Seymour) Park		
	Preserve and promote the area's local history		
5. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND MARKETING			
Goal : Market the region to residents and visitors by strengthening community leadership, promoting open communication between groups, and present a united voice to advocate our needs to all levels of government.			
	Effectively manage the Balmoral and District Community Plan		
	Explore Balmoral Sports Association model for sporting clubs and organisations		
	Update promotional brochures to increase visitation to local attractions and the region		
	Produce and distribute a range of fact sheets about local bird life, vegetation, animals, walking and bike tracks		
	Improve directional and service signage, and signage for natural assets, art attractions and historical points		



THE BEST IN THE WEST

DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR BALMORAL

Southern Grampians Shire Council has been part funded over the next three years (until September 2015) through the State Government's *Putting Locals First* program to implement the Southern Grampians Shire's Community Planning Framework and Small Town Action Plan program. Eight towns are working in partnership with the Shire to develop their own community action plan.

Community planning aims to support community members and its leaders to become active, confident and resilient members. It supports communities to develop visions for their town and that of the broader region within the Shire.

What is a community plan?

Community planning helps local people decide what they would like to see happen in their own community and implement their own visions and projects. The plan is a medium to long-term vision for a town. It connects people with each other, the resources of their local community, the Council and other levels of Government. Some community planning comes about because of a local issue that drives people to come together to solve it, or they see an opportunity and want to find a way to use it to enhance their town or community.



Why does Balmoral need a plan?

A community plan will provide Balmoral with a focus on key directions, and a strong voice and common frame of reference when talking to all levels of government. It strengthens connections and communication across the Balmoral community.

Communities that have developed their own Community Plans are often in a better position to access funding opportunities through a range of sources. Council is just one place that communities can seek funding. The State Government has a number of initiatives available for projects of community significance, as does the Federal Government. A Community Plan can greatly assist in developing successful funding applications to meet the local communities' aspirations and priorities.

Are you interested in joining a discussion group?

An initial Community Planning Group will meet on

MONDAY AUGUST 12, 2013 5.30pm

HAVE YOUR SAY – GET INVOLVED

Over the next few months, the Community Planning Group will be inviting everyone to have a say about visions for Balmoral. In the meantime, we'd love you to start the conversation with family, friends and neighbours. Our plan will be dependent on the many voices, ideas and actions the community would like to see. This will be our chance to build on our strong foundation and secure a great future for our town and community.

Who is involved?

Community planning is led by people from within the community and assisted by a community planner. The Community Planning Group is the connection between the broader community and other community organisations and Council. The role of this group is to help foster the information flow between the community and Council, to gather the community's views and encourage everyone to have input into the planning process.

Below is a diagram of the various stages involved in the planning process. In the initial stages, the Community Planning Group leading the process will be gathering information and developing a survey to obtain the ideas, visions and values of the community.



Introduction, initial discussions, background report of history, town profile and current challenges

A survey to obtain feedback about the values, assets and needs of the community

Community Forum: to develop key priorities and actions that will aim towards achieving priorities

Completion of plan and presentation to Council and key agencies that work with community and government



Contact Details:

Clare Ryan – Secretary, Balmoral Development Association
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Email: gerardswatt@gmail.com

Jasmina Stanic (Community Planning Coordinator)
Southern Grampians Shire Council
Ph: 3573 0243 Mobile: 0448 114 743
Email: jstanic@stbgramplians.vic.gov.au





DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR BALMORAL

UPDATE ON MEETING 12 AUGUST 2013

Eight local community members met on Monday 12 August to kick-start Balmoral's Community Planning process. Attending were Lisa Hutchins, Gerard Watt, Bernie Duggan, Clare Ryan, Naomi Vitkovsky, Neil Vaughan, Mick Leeming and James Parker. Jazmina Stanic from Council chaired the meeting.

WE DISCUSSED THESE TOPICS:

- Developing a timeline to implement the various phases of the project.
- Information gathering from the community.
- Identifying stakeholder groups and with whom we need to talk.
- Information gathering on the history, demographics, assets and hot topics relevant to Balmoral and our community.
- How best to put a survey out to the community and the questions to ask.
- How to launch the Community Plan and survey and keep the community informed of timelines.

THE SURVEY KICKS OFF ON VOTING DAY!

We'll get our first opportunity to give feedback on what is important to us as a Balmoral community on Federal Election Day, September 7.

Look out for locals with surveys in hand near the Balmoral Mechanics Hall Polling Place. Your input will be enthusiastically sought to make sure what matters to you is captured for the plan. Don't worry if you're not in town on Election Day for the survey – there'll be plenty of opportunities to take part. If you are here, spare a few minutes to give your thoughts on:

- What would improve services and connections for people in this community?
- What would make the local economy stronger?
- What keeps you living here?
- What things about Balmoral make it special and unique?
- What is one thing about Balmoral and your community that makes you proud?

Introduction, initial discussions, background report of history, town profile and current challenges

A survey to obtain feedback about the values, assets and needs of the community

Community Forum: to develop key priorities and actions that will aim towards achieving priorities

Completion of plan and presentation to Council and key agencies that work with community and government

Commenced 12 August 2013

Survey starts 7 September

THIS IS WHERE WE ARE NOW

HAVE YOUR SAY – GET INVOLVED

PLANNING TIMELINE

WE NOW HAVE A TIMELINE TO GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PLAN

- **Step 1: Where are we now?**
Balmoral Town Profile
August – September 23, 2013
 - Overview
 - Town Population Characteristics
 - Population
 - ABS and other analysis
- **Step 2: Where do we want to be?**
Visioning / Asset Mapping Balmoral
August – September 23
 - Geographic
 - Infrastructure
 - Community and Cultural (survey or preferred engagement method)
 - Historic
- **Step 3: Review of stages 1 & 2**
All Government levels of Future Planning
August – September 23, 2013
 - Community, Local, Regional, State and Federal.
 - Meeting to review all the information gathered from Step 1 – 3 with community planning focus group
- **Step 4: How do we get there? Who are the partners?**
November, 2013
 - Community Forum (whole of community and invitation extended to key agencies)
 - Needs and aspirations of Balmoral
 - Independent interviews/information sessions
- **Step 5: Draft/Review/Implement**
Local Community Action Plan with Priorities
November/December 2013
 - Plan developed and circulated, presented to Community Planning Focus Group and Agency Group
 - Community Meeting to endorse
 - Community Presentation to Councillors

NEXT MEETING – ALL WELCOME!
MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER, 5:30 PM
BALMORAL MECHANICS HALL SUPPER ROOM

Contact Details
 Clare Ryan – Secretary, Balmoral Development Association
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Jazmina Stanic - Community Planning Coordinator
 Southern Grampians Shire Council
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 Email: jstanic@stgrampians.vic.gov.au





DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR BALMORAL

NEWSLETTER 3. SEPTEMBER 2013

SURVEY GETS A GREAT RESPONSE!

Our Community Planning survey kicked off on 7 September, Election Day, and ran through to 20 September. We were there at the polling booth talking to locals about what is important to us as a community, and we also made the survey available online.

THANK YOU

A whopping 97 people from the community gave feedback. A very big thank you for taking part. Balmoral again let its community spirit shine through.

INITIAL FINDINGS

While a thorough analysis of the survey data is yet to be done, we can report some initial high-level findings:

What would improve services and connections for people in this community?

- New public toilets
- Better transport and freight
- Fuel supply
- Better mobile phone coverage
- More community functions

What would make the local economy stronger?

- Rocklands water levels maintained
- Promote tourism
- More shops, local businesses and jobs
- Beautify the town

What keeps you living here?

- People and community
- Health facilities and school
- Good lifestyle
- Environment
- Family farms

What things about Balmoral make it special and unique?

- The people
- Community spirit
- Rocklands and the Glenelg River
- Bush Nursing Centre
- Mural

What is one thing about Balmoral and your community that makes you proud?

- Strong community that pulls together
- Volunteer spirit
- Health and education facilities
- Feeling safe

NEW COMMUNITY PLANNING CO-ORDINATOR TO BE APPOINTED

Jasmina Stanic left her position as Council's Community Planning Co-ordinator on 20 September to take up a similar position with the City of Melbourne. We wish Jasmina every success and thank her for her inspiring, tireless work. A new Co-ordinator will be appointed in the next couple of months.

HAVE YOUR SAY – GET INVOLVED

COMMUNITY PLANNING SURVEY WINNER
WINNER OF A \$50 SHOPPING VOUCHER AT THE BALMORAL COMMUNITY STORE
TO BE ANNOUNCED AT NEXT MEETING

Introduction, initial discussions, background report of history, town profile and current challenges
Commenced 12 August 2013

A survey to obtain feedback about the values, assets and needs of the community
Survey 7 – 20 September

Community Forum: to develop key priorities and actions that will aim towards achieving priorities with community and government

Completion of plan and presentation to Council and key agencies that work with community and government

THIS IS WHERE WE ARE NOW

TIMELINE FOR DEVELOPING OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

Step 1: Where are we now?
Balmoral Town Profile
August – September 23, 2013

- Overview
- Town Population Characteristics
- Population
- ABS and other analysis

Step 2: Where do we want to be?
Visioning / Asset Mapping Balmoral
August – September 23

- Geographic
- Infrastructure
- Community and Cultural (survey or preferred engagement method)
- Historic

Step 3: Review of stages 1 & 2
All Government levels of Future Planning
August – September 23, 2013

- Community, Local, Regional, State and Federal.
- Meeting to review all the information gathered from Step 1 – 3 with community planning focus group

Step 4: How do we get there? Who are the partners?
November, 2013

- Community Forum (whole of community and invitation extended to key agencies)
- Needs and aspirations of Balmoral
- Independent interviews/information sessions

Step 5: Draft/Review/Implement Local Community Action Plan with Priorities
November/December 2013

- Plan developed and circulated, presented to Community Planning Focus Group and Agency Group
- Community Meeting to endorse
- Community Presentation to Councilors

Contact Details

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Email: clare.ryan@ozemail.com.au

Gerard Watt – President, Balmoral Development Association
Ph: 5570 6210
Email: gerardwatt@gmail.com



NEXT MEETING – ALL WELCOME!
MONDAY 7 OCTOBER, 5:30 PM
BALMORAL MECHANICS HALL
SUPPER ROOM



DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR BALMORAL

NEWSLETTER 4, OCTOBER 2013

ANDREW POULTON WINS SURVEY PRIZE

There was an overwhelming response to the Community Planning Survey in September. More than 100 surveys were completed providing valuable information and direction to the Community Planning Group.

At the October meeting of the Planning Group a lucky winner was drawn from all those who had submitted a survey. Andrew Poulton was the winner of a \$50 shopping voucher at the Balmoral Community Store. *Congratulations Andrew!*



Balmoral Development Association President Gerard Watt presents Andrew with his voucher.

MEETING UPDATE, OCTOBER 7

Water Working Group Launched

Water levels in Rocklands Reservoir was identified as a 'hot topic' in the community survey results. The meeting invited Balmoral's Ben Clarsen to present background information and a concept on a possible way forward. Discussion occurred around the issue and a Water Working Group was established headed by David Appleton. **Want to get involved? Contact David at davappleton@yahoo.com.au**

PROMOTING OUR BEST

Anyone Open for Farm Visits?

Promoting the best we have to offer is a vital part of our Community Plan. We are a strong farming community with great year-round experiences to offer visitors. **We are calling on interested farms and organisations to host farm visits and/or farm stays. A database will be made available at the Post Office.**

We are upgrading the current Balmoral tourist brochure, and would like very much to include this information and ensure all other brochure particulars are up to date. Pick one up at the Post Office and check your details!

Contact Naomi Vitkovsky at the Southern Grampians Wilderness Resort with your farm's availability, your ideas, and updated details.

P: (03) 5388 2277

E: info@grampiansresort.com.au

NEW COMMUNITY PLANNING CO-ORDINATOR APPOINTED

Julie Drechsler was recently appointed as the Shire's new Community Planning Co-ordinator, taking over from Jasmina Stranic. Julie switches from the role of Positive Ageing Co-ordinator.

She grew up on a beef and cropping farm in Minnesota USA and has lived in regional Victoria for the past 21 years. Julie is very much looking forward to meeting the Balmoral community and

helping us achieve a vision for our town.

HAVE YOUR SAY – GET INVOLVED

GRANT ANNOUNCED!

BALMORAL SWIMMING POOL CHANGE ROOM REDEVELOPMENT AND POOL ACCESS RAMP

On 24 October the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr Hugh Delahunty, announced that the Balmoral Swimming Pool has received a Seasonal Pools Grant of \$66,000 from the Department of Planning and Community Development. The Southern Grampians Shire has committed to fund an additional \$24,000. We were honoured to have Minister Delahunty make the announcement to the Balmoral community onsite at the Swimming Pool. This is great news and will see the old buildings upgraded to provide better amenities and access for pool users of all ages and situations.



OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

We resolved to:

- Publicise our successes via the Hamilton Spectator and Wimmera Mail-Times. Media releases will be submitted as key events and milestones are achieved.
- Fully analyse our Survey data and identify key priorities.
- Review and update Balmoral tourist brochure.
- List and visually document the town's assets.
- Be aware of our historical context and demographics.

WHAT'S YOUR VISION?

A GET-TOGETHER FOR BALMORAL & DISTRICT RESIDENTS IN 2014

In the new year we are planning a community get-together so that residents from Balmoral and district can come together casually to celebrate what we have and talk more about what we'd love to see. It will be an opportunity to explore the values that define what is important to us and describe a shared community vision. We'll let you know the date in early 2014.

NEXT MEETING

NOVEMBER DATE TO BE CONFIRMED.

WATCH YOUR INBOX FOR AN EMAIL AND CHECK COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARDS.

INTERESTED IN WHAT OUR NEARBY TOWNS ARE UP TO?

On the Southern Grampians Shire webpage you can see the progress our nearby towns are making with their Community Plans. See <http://www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au> and click on the Community Planning link in the left-side menu.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR PROJECT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITY PLAN?

THE SHIRE WILL WORK FROM OUR COMMUNITY PLAN, SO IF IT'S NOT IN THE PLAN, IT'S NOT ON!

CONTACT DETAILS

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Gerard Watt

President, Balmoral Development Association
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E: gerardwatt@gmail.com

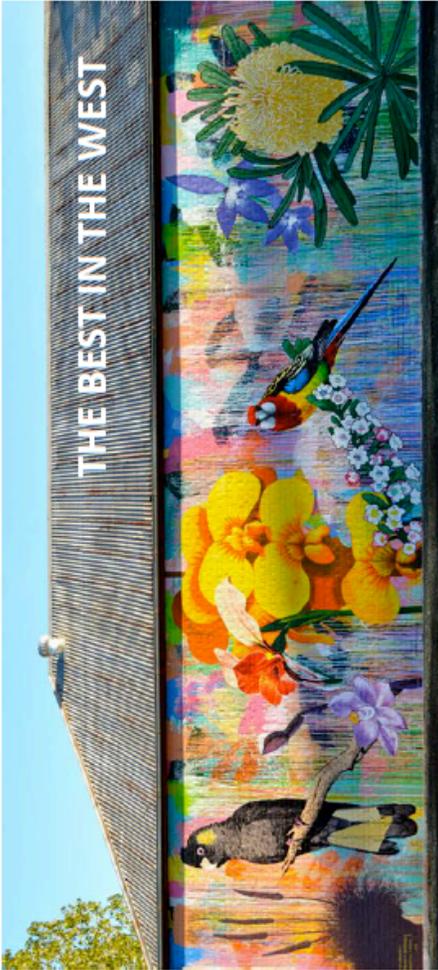
Julie Drechsler

Community Planning Coordinator

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F: (03) 5571 1068

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DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR BALMORAL

NEWSLETTER 4. FEBRUARY 2014

COMMUNITY PLANNING SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN

Our Community Planning survey kicked off on 7 September and we were thrilled with the high response level. In all, one hundred people completed the survey. THANK YOU!

Frequent themes emerged

After full analysis of the data, the following themes emerged. These will be further discussed at a Community Forum and Family Day on February 16 at Rocklands Lodge. For now, it's time to celebrate what makes Balmoral & District THE BEST IN THE WEST!

What would improve services and connections for people in this community?

- Better transport
- Access to fuel
- Increased activities for young people
- Public toilets in town centre
- More community events

What would make the local economy stronger?

- Access to more public transport options
- Fuel in township
- More social events
- Increased tourism
- Increased level of water in Rocklands
- More employment opportunities
- Increased population
- More local businesses

What keeps you living here?

- Family & work
- Lifestyle and people
- A good place for children to grow up
- Clean, fresh country living
- Good services
- Community spirit
- Natural assets
- Rocklands

What things about Balmoral make it special and unique?

- The people
- Community spirit
- Bush Nursing Centre
- Location
- Rocklands & the bush
- Red Gums
- Chameleon Arts group and many others

What is one thing about Balmoral and your community that makes you proud?

- Community Spirit
- The people
- Volunteers
- Bush Nursing Centre
- The groups and organisations

'Community Planning supports communities and their leaders to become active, confident and resilient. It supports towns to develop visions for their future and within the Shire. Members contribute to and are involved in decisions that affect their township.'

HAVE YOUR SAY – GET INVOLVED



MEET OUR NEW COMMUNITY PLANNING CO-ORDINATOR

Julie Drechsler is our new Community Planning Co-ordinator. Julie comes to us from her previous role as the Shire's Positive Ageing Co-ordinator. She has been hard at work since her appointment, offering a high level of support to Balmoral and progressing our community plan. Welcome Julie!

COMMUNITY FORUM AND FAMILY DAY
SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY, 11:00 AM – 3:30 PM AT ROCKLANDS LODGE
ALL AGES – SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS

Introduction, initial discussions, background report of history, town profile and current challenges

A survey to obtain feedback about the values, assets and needs of the community

Community Forum: to develop key priorities and actions that will aim towards achieving priorities

Completion of plan and presentation to Council and key agencies that work with community and government

Commenced 12 August 2013

Results published February 2014

FORUM : Rocklands Lodge, 16 February

THIS IS WHERE WE ARE NOW

TIMELINE FOR DEVELOPING OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

Step 1: Where are we now?
 Balmoral Town Profile
 August – September 23, 2013

Step 2: Where do we want to be?
 Visioning / Asset Mapping Balmoral
 August – September 2013

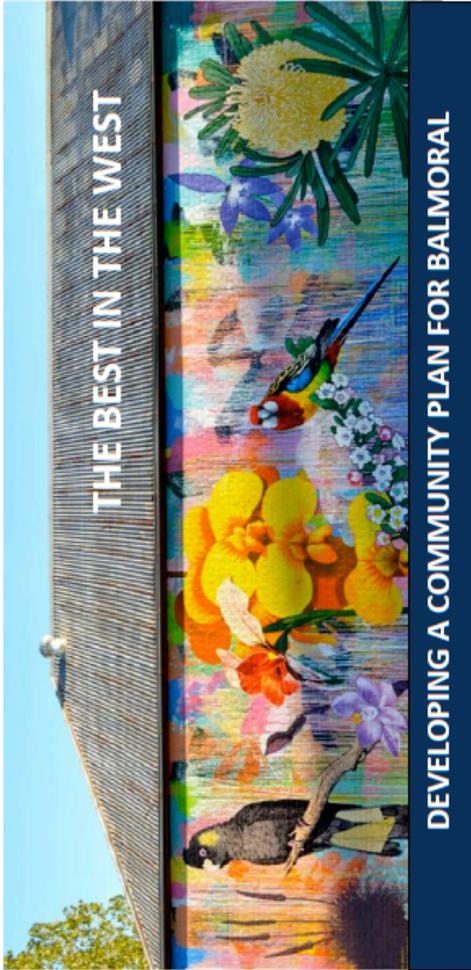
Step 3: Review of stages 1 & 2
 All Government levels of Future Planning
 September – November 2013

Step 4: How do we get there? Who are the partners?
 February 16 - April 2014

Step 5: Draft/Review/Implement
 Local Community Action Plan with Priorities
 May - June 2014

- Overview
- Town Population Characteristics
- Population
- ABS and other analysis
- Geographic
- Infrastructure
- Community and Cultural (survey or preferred engagement method)
- Historic
- Community, Local, Regional, State and Federal.
- Meeting to review all the information gathered from Step 1 – 3 with community planning focus group

- Community Forum (whole of community and invitation extended to key agencies)
- Needs and aspirations of Balmoral
- Independent interviews/information sessions
- Plan developed and circulated, presented to Community Planning Focus Group and Agency Group
- Community Meeting to endorse
- Community Presentation to Councilors



THE BEST IN THE WEST

DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR BALMORAL

NEWSLETTER 5. MARCH 2014

COMMUNITY FORUM AT ROCKLANDS AN ENGAGING AND PRODUCTIVE DAY

On 16 February 2014 the Balmoral Community held our Community Planning Forum and family day at the picturesque Rocklands Lodge.

28 locals and their families devoted a beautiful Sunday afternoon to work on the top priorities and vision for the town over the next few years.

A broad cross section of the community was represented in terms of:

- Age - from 15 to late 50's
- Gender – an even mix
- Length of time living in Balmoral - from 2 1/2 years to 58 years

Balmoral Development Association President Gerard Watt commented that there were many positive outcomes from the forum. He said, "There are now opportunities where the community plan will provide more co-ordinated approaches to projects and issues as they are encountered".

Community Planning is a four-phase project working in partnership with the Southern Gramplains Shire. Balmoral's recent Forum and Family Day marked the completion of the first three phases - a reason to be proud of the progress we've made.

Much hard work by the community preceded the day. The process commenced in August 2013 with the formation of a Leadership Group to develop the project's implementation timeline, gather feedback

via our local survey, identify stakeholder groups, gather information on the history, demographics and assets of our district, and keep you all informed along the way

The key themes arising from the Forum derived from the survey results and centred around town beautification, water security, sporting facilities, quality education, historical preservation, and the arts.

Over the coming months our Community Planning Group will develop these themes and priorities, seek community endorsement, finalise the plan and vision, and present it to Council.

By completing this process, Balmoral will be better placed to meet our communities' aspirations and priorities for the future.

Clare Ryan, the Balmoral and District Development Association's Secretary, said Balmoral residents thanked Julie Drechsler, the Shire's Community Planning Coordinator, and Forum Facilitator Kay Gravell for running a highly engaging and productive session.

WE VALUE LIVING IN BALMORAL

When asked to describe Balmoral in a few words, common responses were:

- People - friendly, supportive, encouraging, hard working
- Small community in which everyone is known
- Sense of community/ community spirit
- Peace & lifestyle
- Beautiful environment
- Lifestyle

"There are now opportunities where the community plan will provide more co-ordinated approaches to projects and issues as they are encountered".

OUR VISION AND PRIORITIES

WHAT WE'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT

When we were asked to make a statement about what we are passionate about and prepared to do something about, the following topics were nominated:

1. Town beautification including Public Toilets
2. Water security - recreational and commercial
3. Recreation Reserve refurbishment
4. Access to quality education (whole of life) and increased school enrolments
5. Create an RV Friendly town
6. Revitalise the Old Barber Shop as a museum
7. Securing the future of the swimming pool
8. Erect public art to celebrate Balmoral's history

OUR VISION

A community town vision was developed from an activity in which participants imagined what Balmoral would be like in a perfect world in 10 – 15 years time. Themes were developed from participants' descriptions and incorporated into the following vision.

- An attractive, strong, vibrant, diverse and thriving community
- An attractive place to live with a strong sense of community, quality amenities, facilities and recreational services
- Servicing a range of industries including new ones such as permaculture/horticulture
- A place for tourists to stop
- Rocklands will have sustainable water levels providing:
 - Recreation for locals
 - A major tourist destination, and
 - Affordable water to the town

WHAT NEXT?

The work done prior to and at the Forum together with the survey results will form the basis of the Balmoral Community Plan. The community will work on these at the upcoming Community Planning meetings.

When a draft plan is completed, the community will be asked for feedback, validation and commitment around the identified top priorities.

On completion of the Plan there will be opportunities for us to present to Council groups, Government bodies and agencies.

The purpose of these presentations will be to inform Council of our priorities, to influence the budget process, and seek support from non-government agencies for our vision.



Working together - a key planning feature



**'WHAT BALMORAL MEANS TO ME'
BALMORAL STUDENTS' ART ON DISPLAY AT
COMMUNITY FORUM**

Lily & Maisie - proud young artists



COMMUNITY INPUT TO PRIORITISE ACTIONS

Soon the community will be asked to help prioritise actions identified in the draft Plan via a short checklist. To help achieve our goals, we'll also give you the opportunity to choose actions in which you may like to participate.

YOUR PRIORITY CHECKLIST - COMING SOON

We'll be sending the Priority Checklist to all residents in the Balmoral and district mail delivery area, and email it to those on our email database. It will also be available at the Balmoral Post Office.



**NEXT MEETING DATE
TO BE ANNOUNCED
WATCH YOUR EMAILS AND COMMUNITY
NOTICE BOARD**

COMMUNITY PLANNING CONTACT DETAILS

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F: (03) 5571 1068
E: jdrechsler@sttgramplians.vic.gov.au

RECENT BIG ACHIEVEMENTS IN BALMORAL

There are some exciting things happening around town. If there's a project to be done or a problem to be solved, Balmoral doesn't stand still.

"Even before the community plan has been finalised, things are starting to take place that will benefit and enhance Balmoral", said Development Association President, Gerard Watt.

Here are some big tick achievements:

✔ **FUEL.** Now available again in town. Thanks to Benny & Heather McPhee and Scott Petroleum, we now have fuel - 24/7. On the ex-school block near the Coleraine and Hamilton Road intersection.

✔ **RSL GRANT.** Under the Department of Veteran's Affairs Community Grants Program, the Balmoral RSL received a grant to refurbish the roof, kitchen and toilet facilities to enhance activities provided to the veteran community. This work is about to commence with the view to complete in time for the centenary of ANZAC celebrations in 2015.

✔ **BALMORAL SWIMMING POOL** received a Seasonal Pools Grant from the Department of Sport and Recreation and the SSCC to refit and reconfigure the pool's change rooms to include a first aid room, kiosk and storage area. The main entry will be redesigned and a new accessible pool ramp and new car spaces will be provided. Due to be completed for the 2015-16 swimming season.

PLEASE SHOW SUPPORT FOR ALL FUNDRAISING HELD BY THE POOL COMMITTEE DURING THE YEAR TO ACHIEVE THE REQUIRED COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION OF APPROXIMATELY \$20,000.

✔ **BALMORAL RECREATION RESERVE** signed an agreement with NBN Co to lease space on the communications tower. More news on this as it becomes available.



THE BEST IN THE WEST



DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR BALMORAL

NEWSLETTER 6. MAY 2014

WORK PROGRESSES ON COMMUNITY PLAN

Since the February Community Planning Forum, our Leadership Group has met and collated the outcomes of the day, and consolidated these findings with our earlier Community Survey results.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

During the course of the Leadership Group work, the following vision statements for Balmoral have emerged to reflect the issues, themes and desires expressed by the community:

- Be a resilient, diverse and thriving town with a strong sense of community
- Be a safe and attractive place to live
- Be a desirable visitor destination
- Have a strong supporting infrastructure with quality services and facilities
- Service a range of existing industries and encourage new commercial activities
- Advocate for sustainable water levels in Rocklands Reservoir for recreation, tourism and affordable town water

PLAN REACHES FIRST DRAFT STAGE

A first draft of Balmoral's Community Plan has been achieved, with five major focus areas:

1. Community Life
2. Development
3. Environment and History
4. Community Leadership & Marketing
5. Town Beautification

BALMORAL LEADERS PROMOTE OUR TOWN

Because of our Community Planning activity and the wonderful support from our Community Planning Co-ordinator Julie Drechsler, we were recently invited to 'Present Balmoral' at two Southern Grampians Shire meetings.

- **Gerard Watt**, President of the Balmoral & District Development Association presented our Community Plan to date to Southern Grampians Shire Council Officers in Hamilton on 13 March. This was an important step in the process to align Council work with the main priorities of our plan.
- **Mick Leeming** presented to the SGSC's Executive Partnership Network Meeting in Dunkeld on 14 April. This newly established network of government agencies and not-for profit organisations works around complex issues that impact on small communities, and on advancing community plans. Mick highlighted the main priorities of our plan with a detailed discussion around Rocklands and water. To an engaged forum, he spoke too about the passion, dedication and commitment our community has to ensure Balmoral is a thriving and successful community.

The Balmoral Community Plan is nearing completion after almost 12 months development.

This has involved considerable contribution from many committed community members with expert guidance from the Shire of Southern Grampians.

Planning Scheme Review:

Balmoral

Balmoral is a small rural service centre with a population of 176 in 2006. It is a picturesque and vibrant town between Mathers Creek and the Glenelg River and is located north west of Hamilton on the Hamilton-Natimuk Road. It provides a number of services including a secondary school. Nearby Rocklands Reservoir is a major tourist attraction for the township. The town centre has a mix of convenience retailing, rural supplies and civic infrastructure.

Local area implementation:

Settlement

- Support improved convenience retail facilities in the town centre, including a supermarket, pharmacy and butcher.
- Locate council services in the town centre, where possible.

Built environment and heritage

- Protect and enhance the attractiveness of the town.
- Make better use of the Glenelg River.

Infrastructure

- Provide better and safer pedestrian links between the school precinct, indoor sports facility and the rest of the town.
- The applicant must conclusively demonstrate that all wastewater and effluent can be disposed of entirely within the lot upon which the development takes place where reticulated sewerage is not provided. Particular attention is to be given to this requirement where land adjoins significant features such waterways.

Urban Design Framework (2005):

CONCERNS

- No water - loss of amenity & makes the town vulnerable to fire
- No sewerage - health & amenity issue
- Lack of safe pedestrian crossing over the Henty Hwy
- Considerable fluctuation in population threatens viability of kinder churches etc
- Very little economic base for town with closure of stone yard and shop
- Poor access to public amenities
- No public water supply
- Major storm water and drainage issues;
- Old reservoir non-potable
- Lack of disabled access

ASSETS

- Strong sense of community
- Some rental houses in area
- Town within commuting distance to Iluka mine and is not far from Portland or Hamilton
- Some lovely old heritage buildings
- Great depth of history
- Pretty setting to town
- Scenic recreation facilities, picnic area and reserve

UDF RECOMMENDS MAKING BEST USE OF THE KEY ASSETS:

- Proximity to the Rocklands Reservoir and Glenelg River
- New schools and sports facilities

Vision:

To make the most of the built and natural landscape features to make it;

A place that the locals can be even more proud of

A place that tells people (locals and visitors) of the interesting stories unique to the town

A place that showcases its assets

An (even) more attractive place to visit, both for the town and the attractions of its hinterland

A place that people remember and want to come back to

A place that gives people the best chance of making a living within their community

A place that recognizes and expresses the contribution of the community

A place that has adequate local employment for young people

A place that is not unduly affected by traffic following the opening of the mine

4. BALMORAL

Description of town: 'The smell of bush after rain is delicious with eucalyptus and sound of birdsong is very distinctive & a strong presence.' To help town manage change.
Maintaining the vibrant enthusiasm through the ages!

<p>STRENGTHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor netball /cricket centre \$340K - also used as community centre • Very picturesque oval – \$ been allocated to re-surface the tennis • 200-700 pop in three tiers of education Consolidated school (“Murraville Kinivah”?) • Golf course (1953) is a sand scrapes course with fully licensed club • Combined football in Harrow/Balmoral Club can tackle all → winning! • A lot of \$ to be made in property prices as lots of new people come in. 	<p>WEAKNESSES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different parts of the town are not linked by a footpath • Illuka mine start in 2005 wind will mean heavy trucks – 1 truck every 20 mins – both ways! • Possible parking needed adjacent to local park (opp creek) – trucks pull up and take four parks in front of shops • Smelly drains • Sealing car park behind supermarket on wish list as dusty bowl when cars turn • A perception that Council thinks of Balmoral as 'self help' community so can fend for themselves but older people cant get up early for all the volunteer work anymore • Needs something for late teens – IT, couches, cinema or activity nights • A lot of older people wont be able to handle change of future demographic • House prices go up as more \$\$ come into the town when mining begins.
<p>OPPORTUNITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic activity from mine • Enhance bird life & real Australian landscape (River Red gums) A stunning drive from Coleraine -should be recommended from visitors, particularly in the evening when the low sun shadows are very memorable. • Water's a big issue & use of the Rocklands Reservoir water would help • Must help town handle change • Opportunity for new 50 residents to settle @ old school site on the main road (from Illuka mine-works) • Ensure that town retains its assets to the upcoming boom in Mining in 18months 	<p>THREATS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own septic tank on each property • Balmoral sometimes gets physically left off promo maps because they're so far north (Perceptions that Hamilton Shire Council is an old Boys Club) • Wimmera/Mallee Water take water out of Rocklands Reservoir– leave at least 40% in there to keep rivers flowing and campers • The pipe line (Wimmera/Mallee Water) will all be paid for by taxpayers & its going north to the Mallee, but Balmoral opposed to it as the Mallee means 'dry' and no amount of water could ever green it. And Balmoral ratepayers have to pay (some of it) for water to go north! • Extra traffic associated with the mine

<p>4.BALMORAL CONT</p> <p><i>OBSERVATIONS: social landscape</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three churches – Uniting, Catholic & Anglican • Bush nursing centre best outside of Melbourne • always a nurse on duty great reassurance to elderly • SES bldg has ambulance & fire brigade 	<p><i>OBSERVATIONS: landscape</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of gum trees and native birds • Rocket pines came with Queen Victoria • Water – lilies in fjord • Lots of birds attract South Australian visitors • Red Laurels (parrot), 5 topknot pigeons, Willie wagtails, kookaburras, wattle birds, Cuckoos
<p><i>OBSERVATIONS: built form (use)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT centre in Town Hall (2001) • Parts of Balmoral disconnected -potential to connect thru trees and along the disused railway line up to the pools and new sports/Education precinct up the hill- a bit disjointed. • Sandstone gaol next to Police Stn • Swimming pool opened around 1967 • 500 campers around Rockland reservoir/year = free camping (good attitude as don't leave a mess). But reservoir only 20% full and not as spectacular as before. • One end grew because rail line, other because of new school precinct and a block on entrance from Coleraine 	<p><i>OBSERVATIONS: movement/infrastructure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadband internet connection but cant use mobile phones • Supermarket car park paved so it doesn't mess up gets dusty in summer • People are the place – The publican lent her car to local shearer to get to work after car he borrowed had to be given back
<p><i>COMMUNITY CONSULTATION: local issues</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First house 1860 Georgian • Wool and beef farming & niche rosemary farm on way to Cavendish. Biggest in Australia & Olive plantation • Scottish settlers called Balmoral "Black Swamp" originally • 1920 Railway → 1940-50 Rockland's → Wool shearing mid 1950 → big farms subdivided into soldier Settlements Farms post WWI → Little holdings being consolidated into farms 	<p><i>COMMUNITY CONSULTION: key contacts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Association • Shearing community around Victoria • Barry- Shearer • Alex & Laurie • Betty Blackburn • Cathy Russell

BALMORAL

Indicative cost band:

5 \$0-\$10,000 = least resources required

4 \$10,000 - \$75,000

3 \$75,000 – \$100,000 = moderate resources

2 \$100,000 – \$250,000

1 \$250,000-\$1,000,000 = most resources required

Priority Action	Proposal	Strategy No.	How	Cost band	Priority	When	Rationale
Bal1	Pedestrian walkway onto the bridge	8	1) Investigate the possibility of retro-fitting a pedestrian walkway onto the side of the bridge. 2) Council and the community to continue pressure on VicRoads to prioritise these works on their agenda.	2*	High	2005-2007	Safety will be greatly improved for pedestrians and cyclists. In particular people will be much less concerned about safety issues related to the Iluka trucks.
Bal2	School crossing	5	1) Provide a school crossing along Balmoral-Harrow Road opposite the entry to the sports ground area. 2) Extend the existing 60km speed limit area to include the area of the proposed crossing.	3	High	2005-2007	This provides a safe crossing for school children, which will reduce the psychological barriers to walking and address the community concerns.
Bal3	Walking/cycling track	6	Improve the walking/cycling track from the bridge up to the school precinct incorporating the existing path from the school to the sports facilities.	5	High	2005-2007	Safety will be greatly improved for school children as this proposed route is more direct than the existing alternatives and avoids conflict with other road users.
Bal4	Co-ordinated signage and icons for the towns	1	Council to install signage columns at the entrance to the town, subject to the detailed design guide in AUSTRROADS Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice Part 8.	2	High	2007-2010	Provide a graphic identity for the town to showcase its principle assets. Provide an attractive and memorable entrance and tell people that they have arrived somewhere special.
Bal5	Promotional maps for each town	2	Council to establish a freestanding structure to house the town map, and prepare both an adults and children's version of the 'tear-off' maps to be placed in shops.	3	High	2007-2010	Will raise awareness of the many interesting features in and around the town.
Bal6	Recording and telling the towns stories	3	Council to invite the local community to share their stories and historical insights. Council to then install interpretive features at the points revealed by the research.	4	High	2007-2010	Will give value to peoples recollections and will provide interpretive features that effectively describe the wonderful collection of stories in the town.
Bal7	Proposed walking trails	4	Council to develop a town trail connecting the interesting features and advertised on the town map.	5	High	2007-2010	Will provide a way of enabling interested people to engage in the qualities the town offers.

Bal8	Avenue of Honour	7	Establish an Avenue of Honour by planting a exotic trees in accordance with Councils Street Tree Policy.	4	High-Medium	2007-2010	The Avenue of Honour acknowledges the members of the community that served in the armed forces and provides a striking and attractive entrance to the town.
Bal9	Warning signage	11	Install warning signage to encourage slow and careful manoeuvring of trucks around this key intersection.	5	High-Medium	2007-2010	This will improve the likelihood of safe turning and reduce the conflict between trucks and other road users. Advises other road users of potential conflicts with truck.
Bal10	Public rest stations	10	Investigate the possibility of installing public rest stations in the central part of town, at either Apex Park, adjacent to the proposed Information sign or at the BBQ area by Mathers Creek.	3	Medium	2010-2015	Ensure the rest stations and other proposed streetscape features are designed in a co-ordinated manner to provide a distinctive and attractive minor landmark for the town. Visible and accessible public toilets will attract visitors to stop in Balmoral and co-location with the map will encourage them to also visit the many attractions they see on the artistic Information board.
Bal11	Main Street landscaping	9	Implement Main Street landscaping improvements in conjunction with strategy 14. The tree species should be selected in accordance with Council's Street Policy and after consideration of potential cable bundling (Strat Bal15).	4	Medium	2010-2015	An attractive centre of town encourages people to stop, increases foot traffic past existing shops, and helps secure the future of existing and/or attracts new retail business.
Bal12	Outline Development Plan	12	Commission an outline development plan for the former school land.	5	Medium	2010-2015	This will facilitate the redevelopment of this serviced land for family housing to meet the expected demand with the opening of the Iluka Mine.
Bal13	Upgrade footpath link	14	Upgrade path along line of old railway and investigate establishment of footpath link between the train line and Harrow - Balmoral Road in the vicinity of the old station.	4	Medium	2010-2015	This will facilitate a safe walkway to DDA standards that will allow people with reduced mobility to enjoy the scenic trail.
Bal15	Bundling overhead power lines	13	Investigate bundling of overhead power lines in conjunction with strategy 10.	2	Medium-Low	2015-2020	This will reduce the visual impact of powerlines by hiding them in the trees that can then be grown around the cables.
Bal16	Truck stop facilities	15	Improving the truck stop facilities on the road to Cavendish by installing composting toilets and solar lights.		Medium-Low	2015-2020	Will minimise pressure on existing public toilet facilities and conflicts with truck parking.
Bal17	Car park sealing	16	Raise funds to assist in the sealing the supermarket car park.		Low	2020-2025	Will reduce the amount of dust blown around the retail area. Car park private land which may be a limiting factor

* Vic Roads funding