

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Evansford

(2011 - 2015)

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1. Description of "Our community"

a) Geographic location

Evansford is a small rural community situated 28km and 45km respectively of the regional centres of Maryborough and Ballarat. Nestled in rolling hills on the banks of the Stony Creek, Evansford is on the eastern edge of the Pyrenees Shire in Western Victoria.

b) History

In the early days, Evansford was a mix of small farms, house lots and mining. Many of the residents were seasonal workers, who did a little gold panning or mining when there was need. Evansford was once home to no less than 7 hotels or sly grog shops, a creamery, a brickworks and a post office: now all gone, along with the Hall and the Presbyterian Church which have both become private residences. The only community building still used and cherished by the community is the old school.

The school was built in 1867 by generous donations from the community at a cost of £180, and the bluestone building that still stands today is testament of the community spirit which still exists today.

The Evansford School was closed twice in its history, once in 1946 reopening in 1955 then closing for a final time in the 1960's. The school provided both for the student and the community, it had an ample library and the end of year picnic was a whole of community affair that no one missed.

In April1984, Councillor Severino from The Shire of Lexton, proposed that the Evansford Public School be purchased from the Education Department. This motion was carried and subsequently the Evansford School was purchased. There was also a motion to investigate and establish a local Committee of Management.

The Public Hall in Evansford had been deregistered. At a public meeting in Evansford in late 1984, it was moved that the hall be sold and the proceeds be forwarded to the future Committee of Management for the Evansford School building. As usual the legal and bureaucratic processes took a while, but finally the Hall was sold in August 1986.

On April 2 1986, the land of the Evansford Community Centre was gazetted as being reserved for use as a public hall. Over the next few months, public meetings occurred, a draft constitution proposed and finally on the 23 October 1986, a Committee of Management was elected. Mr. Alf Severino was elected as the first Chair. A cheque was presented on the day for \$1,400; this being the amount left over from the sale of the Hall – minus the cost of the school, real estate and legal fees.

c) Description of the local people and population

People and growth

The Community of Evansford has been predominantly a farming community although currently there is a growing proportion of 'lifestylers' and many people now work out of the district. 'Weekenders' are also growing in number.

Age

Mostly older people.

Household characteristics

A regular mix from a variety of backgrounds, occupations and qualifications, some melded families and many are older couples with offspring grown and away.

Health and Wellbeing

Again a fairly mixed group with different levels of health and well being.

Economic and Education

There are no shops, pubs, schools or post boxes in Evansford so all education and commerce takes place further afield.

Culture and faith

There are no churches, mosques or temples, no active football ground, theatre or art gallery. Culture and faith seems to be predominantly a private affair.

There have been some concerts and other art workshops and gatherings held at the Evansford Community Centre.

Environmental facts and impacts

Evansford, surrounded by remnant bushland, three state forests, a major conservation area, and significant water features - the Talbot Reservoir, the Evansford Reservoir, as well as creeks and many farm dams, lies in a north-south bio-diversity corridor.

The Talbot Reservoir is popular for fishing and bird watching.

Evansford lies on the northern edge of the Waubra Wind Farm.

d) Our Stakeholders - List of key organizations, groups and service providers

The Evansford Community Centre, on a Crown Land reserve, is the only remaining usable community asset. It is managed by a Committee of Management, with 9 elected members. It is the one and only meeting place for the community and important for retaining community connections.

The committee of management gains its powers under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978, the Act that enables the Minister of Environment and Conservation to appoint committees. The committee's obligations under that Act must be met and it is also bound by the laws that govern the wider community on matters such as employment, taxation, contracts, tenancy and liquor licensing.

The ECC Coffee Morning Group has been meeting at the Centre every second Tuesday morning since 2002. This is an important group in maintaining and building connections in the local district.

The Evansford Disco has been running for over twelve years, four times a year, and provides social connection for young people in the district.

The Burnbank Fire Brigade are one of the key organizations servicing our local community and use the Community Centre regularly. The new Burnbank fire station will be completed during 2011 and will add another asset to the area.

2. What we love about our Community

Description of our strengths, our common values and attributes

- People value the sense of history, and are strongly connected to the Evansford School, now the Evansford Community Centre.
- The sense of tradition as seen in some of the oral history projects.
- The quiet rural surroundings
- Awareness of a sense of the place that was, and the need to take this spirit into the future

People returning

- Over the last ten years there has been a significant influx of members of local families who have had to leave for education and work.
- These members, now with families of their own have made Evansford and district their home again.

3. Opportunities and Challenges

Significant opportunities

- The Disco, the Coffee Morning and existing community events
- Lunch and history tours for groups particularly from Aged Care facilities in the area.
- Barbecues, working bees and intergenerational events and the arts activities
- Craft activities for children during holiday periods.

Significant challenges

- Funding
- No services here, so have no central regular meeting place. There is nowhere people can just 'bump' into each other eg primary school, Post Office
- Preservation, continuity
- Trying to keep a sense of community so many new people in the area, so difficult to meet people, many weekenders, not many come to community events
- Not many school age children in the community some younger older kids do more things lack of activities for young people
- Talbot Reservoir used to be a recreational facility used by the community, and a place people met but since it has been fenced off, it is no longer accessible as a recreational area.

4. Our Vision for the Future

Overarching vision statement

Evansford as a peaceful rural place is home to a community that is connected to each other, its history, other surrounding local communities and the natural environment.

5. How we are going to achieve our vision

Our priority areas and our vision for each area

Describe the Vision for each priority area & the long term objectives which will help your community reach the vision.

Built Environment: Our Vision and Objectives

- To create a beautiful and safe built environment, sympathetic to its cultural and natural heritage
- To maintain and further enhance the built heritage
- To carefully plan all renovations, extensions, additions to the ECC

Natural Environment: Our Vision and Objectives

- Evansford as a significant part of a bio-diversity corridor.
- to act as caretakers for our natural environment by maintaining and revegetating areas around the community,
- to promote and care for the natural environment in our local community

Social Environment: Our Vision and Objectives

- A community that invests in social capital and respects all people
- build social relationships through events and activities, both within Evansford and throughout the broader district

Economic Environment: Our Vision and Objectives

- As there are no existing services within the community we focus on education opportunities and training
- Create a more economically viable use of the hall

6. Our planning Process

Description of the action planning process, who was involved and how the broader community was engaged.

Major community action plan occurred in 2009.

Community meetings to continue to update

A member of the Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management attended a Community Action Plan workshop in Avoca late last year.

In 2011 two meetings were held to discuss the Community Action Plan. These were advertised by flier, email, phone and word of mouth

Coffee ladies had a meeting to discuss input. A representative of that committee passed on recommendations to the Committee of Management

Drafts of the Action Plan have circulated among members and been added to and modified.

Our action plan for the future

Priority Area: *Built Environment* - Includes roads, maintenance & development of open spaces and town infrastructure **Vision:** To create a beautiful and safe built environment, sympathetic to its cultural and natural heritage

Example Objective: Upgrade kitchen at hall		7 7 1			
Action: Identify kitchen needs & get quote for work	(0-6mths) Short term	committee	Local trades people Council	Research conducted-funding sources	Outcome: needs & costs are established Outcome: funding sources established
Identify funding sources to restore kitchen	(0-6mths)		Funding source e.g. Bendigo Bank	\$ funding to restore kitchen	established
Description of Action / Objectives	Timeframe	Who is responsible?	Partners involved	Action and	Indicators /
What is planned?	Short 0-6 mths. Medium 6 –18 mths Longer 18 + mths.	Key Group or person ('s)	To assist achieve objectives	Resources required	Measurement: - of Process - of Outcome
Objective: Install solar panels to offset electricity use and costs. Action: research grants	Medium term – 6-12 months	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council Funding source	Find funding source	Funding sources area established
	Medium term – 6-12 months	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Local Trades people	review requirements, obtain quotes	Assets secured
Objective: Install water tanks for increased water capacity for new shower and for watering orchard. Action: Find grant or funding source.	Medium term – 6-12 months	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council Funding source	obtain prices,	Sufficient water available for shower block and orchard.
Objective: Install semi-automatic watering system for Community orchard Action: Design and seek quote, find funding source.	Medium term – 6-12 months	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council Funding source	obtain prices,	Allow regular watering of fruit trees while not asking too much time of volunteers when watering.

Objective: All maintenance and safety issues clarified & fixed. Action: Audit conducted on maintenance and safety issues Assess requirements Source funds	Medium term – 6-12 months	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council Funding source	Quotes for maintenance Funding source	Needs and costs are established Funding sources area established
Objective: Sufficient storage for Community assets. Shed and shelving. Action: Assess storage requirements for Centre	Medium term - 6-12 months High priority	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Local tradespeople Funding source eg. Bendigo Bank	Costing for storage Funding source	Needs and costs are established Funding sources area established
Objective: New Fence for Community Centre Action: - research options eg post and rail. source Funding	Medium term – 6-12 months Approach DSE see motion Nov 2012	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council Funding Source	Identify requirements Establish funding sources	needs & costs are established funding sources established
Objective: Safe intersections within township. Action: review by Pyrenees Shire of Y intersections in township.	Medium term - 6-12 months	Pyrenees Shire Council	Pyrenees Shire Council	y-intersections.	Council informed. Needs established Changes to Intersections rmade.
Objective: Upgrade crockery, utensils cutlery Action: Research what is needed	0-6 months High	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	No funding required	Assess costs and use ECCCoM funds	Items costs established and items purchased
Objective: Encourage active and healthy lifestyle Action: Identify sporting and recreational requirements and provide sporting facilities and equipment for whole of community use including Youth	Longer term – 18 months plus	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council Funding sought	Establish funding	Needs and costs established Funding sources established Submission completed
Objective: Develop Risk Management Plans Action: Develop OH &S Plans including Post Exit signs and evacuation plans Seek expert assistance for audit	High	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council Funding sought Expertise sought	Establish funding sources Expert from Shire involved	Needs and costs established Funding sources established Audit conducted by expert from Shire
Objective: Install Outdoor lighting Objective: Safety at night Action: Identify needs and establish costs Seek funding	High 6-12 months DSE audit on elec ??	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council Funding sought	Assess costs Establish funding sources Submission for funding developed	Needs and costs established Funding sources established Submission completed

Priority Area: *Natural Environment* – Including the natural environment and its impacts on & benefits to community

E.g. How can this be enhanced for the benefit of the community and what resources are available?

How can the community be involved in this process?

Vision: Evansford as a significant part of a bio-diversity corridor.

Example- Objective: The grasslands around Lake attract visitors as a beautifully kept area Actions: Seek donation of indigenous trees & grasses Have a tree & grasses planting day	Short term (0-6mths) Medium term (6- 18mths)	Landcare group	Bunnings Primary school Senior citizen centre Council- sustainability officer	snipper etc) \$ funding to purchase other materials Supplier of indigenous plants- donation of plants/ grasses Advertising to promote planting day	Outcome: 100 trees & grasses donated Process: % people attend (young & older residents) Outcome: 100 of trees planted
Description of Action / Objectives	Timeframe	Who is responsible?	Partners involved	Action and Resources	Indicators /
What is planned?	Short 0-6 mths. Medium 6 –18 mths Longer 18 + mths.	Key Group or person ('s)	To assist achieve objectives	required	Measurement: - of Process - of Outcome
Objective: Upgrade to Entranceway to ECC,. Actions: Identify needs eg. fencing, safe culvert, new sign, history info sign (non fading) Establish costs Seek funding		Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire DSE	Establish funding sources Expert from Shire involved	Needs and costs established Funding sources established Audit conducted by expert from Shire
Objective: ongoing Maintenance of natural environment at ECC - eg gardening, mowing, weeding, Action: Develop a roster for mowing IMPORTANT Establish calendar for working bees Develop a priority list of jobs	Ernie Welsh OHS	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Community members Pyrenees Shire Burnbank CFA	mowing Establish plans for Working Bees – dates, work required	
Objective: Stump removal Action: Contact DSE about stump removal WWFCF	Short term 0-6 months	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Community members DSE	Identify responsible body Work to be completed by DSE or local community members	Completion of job

Objective: Maintenance of Memorial Plantation Action: Part of working bees – Calendar eg whipper-snipping, checking on tree growth, Signage for names of soldiers look into grant (2014) for maintenance of WW1 memorial names on plaques (Mary Holand has info)	Ongoing MEDIUM	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Community members long term local community members	Flyer around community to advertise planting day Approach long term members of community for information and names of soldiers for signs	Community Centre – work completed ticked off Signs on trees
Objective: Improvements to town aspect.	Medium term 6-18	Evansford Community	Mt Beckworth and Mt	Access plants through local	
Action: Plant trees	months) ask shire to	Centre Committee of	Bolton Landcare Group	Landcare group Flyer around community to	Community Centre – work
Drought resistant tree for avenue of honour	assist	Management	Pyrenees Shire	advertise planting day	-
Objective: entrance way features/signage for Evansford Action: Research other entrance ways in adjacent areas Seek council support and funds	Longer term – 18 months +	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council	Research entrance ways in other small communities Seek council support and funds	Needs and costs established Funding sources established
Objective: Town Entrance beautification	Medium term 6-18	Evansford Community	Pyrenees Shire Council	Access plants through local	
Action: Plant trees along road at entrances to town	months	Centre Committee of	Community members		Community Centre – work
		Management	Landcare	Flyer around community to advertise planting day	completed ticked off
Objective: Have unsafe trees removed from	Short term 0-6	Evansford Community	Pyrenees Shire Council	Alert shire to potentially	Unsafe trees removed
roadside	months	Centre Committee of	yrences since council	unsafe trees	Chisare trees removed
		Management	Local contractors		

Priority Area: <u>Social Environment</u> – Including health & community wellbeing.

E.g. Are community members well connected? What are the main wellbeing or health concerns for the community? How can this be improved?

Vision: A community that invests in social capital and respects all people

Example- Objective: Enhance young people's involvement in local community Action: Hold a youth forum to establish needs/ aspirations/ ways to support Establish a youth network	Short (0-6mths) Medium term (6-18mths)			Engage schools to promote forum Catering & butchers paper etc	Process: % young people attend event Outcome: issues/ needs/ aspirations identified Outcome: Youth network established
Description of Action / Objectives	Timeframe	Who is responsible?	Partners involved	Action and Resources	Indicators /
What is planned?	Short 0-6 mths. Medium 6 –18 mths Longer 18 + mths.		To assist achieve objectives	required	Measurement: - of Process - of Outcome
Objective: Find lost history and documentation. Action: Complete oral histories of senior local residents. last grant was not given. look into another history grant Apply for funding	Ongoing	1	members	senior local residents –	Oral histories displayed in various ways around the community
Objective: Develop and undertake local history projects Action: Identify other people with local knowledge Source funding for making permanent features of local history around township.	Medium term 6-18 months	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Elderly Community members Funding sources Pyrenees Shire Council	senior local residents –	Oral histories displayed in various ways around the community

Objective: Succession Planning Action: Encourage new members of the community to become involved in the community and the Management of Community centre meet and greet BBQ	Ongoing	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management Evansford Community Centre Coffee Morning Group	Community members Pyrenees Shire Council	Contact new community members at events – eg. Coffee mornings, working bees, through local contact	Larger list of Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management membership
Objective: Social Cohesion Action: Ensure that local community events and activities remain a vital part of the community	ongoing	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management Evansford Community Centre Coffee Morning Group	Community members Pyrenees Shire Council	Promotion of local events via flyers, word of mouth, local newspapers and newsletters, email	Five to ten events at Evansford Community Centre Annually (including four discos)
Objective: Provide opportunities for social connection for young people eg disco Action: Ensure disco is advertised at local schools and in the community	Four times per year – each school term	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Waubra and Talbot Primary schools	Promotion of local events via flyers, word of mouth, local newspapers and newsletters, email	Four discos per year – each school term
Objective: Provide creative and physical programs for school aged children. Action: Establish art and photography cooking workshops, dance workshops, cooking workshops, scrap booking workshops during school holidays Identify interests of children in area Identify skills of willing adults in area	ongoing	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management Evansford Community Centre Coffee Morning Group	Waubra and Talbot Primary schools	Establish a directory of persons with skills to run workshops Promotion of local events via flyers, word of mouth, local newspapers and newsletters, email	Workshops conducted during school holidays at least once per year.
Objective: Communication of events Action: Ensure that all relevant information reaches community by use of community notice board and a range of other communication processes notice board is not effective. Install community map on back	ongoing Urgent	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Community members Pyrenees Shire Council	Promotion of local events via flyers, word of mouth, local newspapers and newsletters, email	Items on Community Noticeboard
Objective: Effective use of Community Fire Guard Action: Ensure that everyone is aware of Community Fire Guard – Engage whole of community Identify a range of Communication Systems Encourage Public awareness Integrate an informal group of volunteers for local communication Redevelop a community phone tree for distribution of urgent or important information Develop a ECC email list	ongoing	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management volunteers	Community members Pyrenees Shire Council	Identify a range of Communication Systems Encourage Public awareness Integrate an informal group of volunteers for local communication	Phone tree established ECC mail list established and published at Evansford Community Centre Range of Communication Systems identified and documented

Priority Area: *Economic Environment* – Including growth and development, education, training & the local economy.

E.g. What are the main sources of employment of people for this community?

What opportunities exist for further growth and development?

- Vision: As there are no existing services within the community we focus on education opportunities and training
- Create a more economically viable use of the hall

workshops	Medium term (6- 12 months)		development Local TAFE		Process: % of business operators attend Outcome: % of businesses feel supported & better informed
Description of Action / Objectives	Timeframe	Who is responsible?	Partners involved	Action and Resources	Indicators /
What is plained:	Short 0-6 mths. Medium 6 –18 mths Longer 18 + mths.	Key Group or person ('s)	To assist achieve objectives	required	Measurement: - of Process - of Outcome
Objectives: Training possibilities for Evansford community members Action: Investigate what training opportunities are available such as: Computer Classes for Adults Food Handling Certificates First Aid First aid for Juniors -Junior Coaching -Volunteer training for children's activities including Working with Children Certificate.	Medium term 6-18 months ongoing	Centre Committee of Management	Other local training groups in Beaufort, Ballarat and Maryborough	Contact Pyrenees Shire Council and other local training groups in Beaufort, Ballarat, Maryborough, Clunes etc. Establish a calendar of events and promote through local communication channels	Calendar of training Possibilities to be displayed at Evansford Community Centre
User pays system structure.	Longer term 18 months + not going to happen but perhaps a transfer skip?	Centre Committee of Management		Contact Council for clarification of current Garbage Collection Cost Structure	Clear communication between Council and community members re Garbage Collection process and costs

OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED

Objective: Assess and repair Storm damage after January Floods Action: Approach Council to investigate possibility of insurance claim after storm damage to Evansford Community Centre.	Very Urgent 0-6months	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council Insurance Company	Letter to council outlining storm damage Quotes for repairs Insurance claim entered	Flood recovery grant Completed Jan 2014
Objective: Heating and cooling of ECC Action: Arrange quotes for split cycle air- conditioning unit. Source Funding.	High Priority Medium term – 6-12 months CURRENT Dependent on Flood Recovery Works (FRW)	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council Funding Source	Identify requirements to heat and cool Evansford Community Centre Source funding	Flood recovery grant Completed Jan 2014
Objective: Upgrade kitchen at community centre Action: Identify kitchen needs & get quote for work Identify funding sources to refurbish kitchen	Longer term 18 months plus CURRENT Dependent on FRW	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Local trades people Pyrenees Shire Council Funding source e.g. Bendigo Bank	Research conducted- funding sources \$ funding to restore kitchen	Flood recovery grant Completed Jan 2014
Objective: Instant hot-water unit Action: Research and find some funding if required	High 0-6 months rebate ? from elec to instant	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Funding source if required	Assess costs and use ECCCoM funds if sufficient	WWFCF grant Completed Jan 2014
Objective: Extension/renovations of existing toilet blocks to include showers, enabling the centre to be hired out for functions and camping groups. Action: Identify costing Source funding Develop Implementation Plan	Medium term 6-18 months CURRENT Dependent on FRW		Funding Source		needs & costs are established funding sources established

NO LONGER RELEVANT

Talbot Reservoir to be re-opened for general access and public recreation	6 -18 months no chance	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council DSE Central Highlands Water	*	Gate opened for public access to reservoir.
Objective: Logs to be milled and slabs stored for future use in the Centre Action: Expert assistance for milling and storage	Medium term 6-12 months	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Pyrenees Shire Council	Assess costs Establish funding sources	Needs and costs established Funding sources established
Objective: Upgrade BBQ area - tables, seating. Action: Identify requirements Source funds if needed	Medium term – 6-12 months	Evansford Community Centre Committee of Management	Local tradespeople Community members	Identify requirements Costing for upgrade determined Working bee	Needs and costs are established Funding sources are established if required