Community Action Plan

Waubra & District

(2016-2020)
Updated April 2016
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   Where we are
   Our community
   Community organisations

2. **What we love about our community**

3. **Our Vision for the Future**

4. **How are we going to achieve our Vision**

5. **Our Action Plan for the Future**
   Social,
   Built Environment,
   Economic,
   Natural Environment, and
   Leadership

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### 1. Description of Our Community

**Where we are**
Waubra is situated 35 km north west of Ballarat on the Sunraysia Highway. The town is primarily in the Pyrenees Shire, however it shares borders with both the Hepburn Shire and Ballarat City Council.

This plan covers the township of Waubra and links to the neighbouring localities of Addington, Glenbrae, Lexton and Evansford.

**Our Community**
We are a diverse rural community of primarily family owned farms which produce a wide range of agricultural product, winter cereals, canola, sunflowers, potatoes, pyrethrum, wool, beef and lamb.

We have a significant population who commute to Ballarat for employment on a daily basis.

Our population is primarily families, with children either engaged in education or who have employment in the area. We have a significant portion of retired people in the area, as well as a number who support the surrounding agricultural enterprises and the Wind Farm operations.

We are well served with local infrastructure, Pre School, School, General Store and Hotel, and a number of active community groups.
Community Organisations

We have fantastic resources in our community already which we can lever off, like:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Core role</th>
<th>Other roles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CFA</td>
<td>Community Protection</td>
<td>Training, social links, youth activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Education of children and mitigation of</td>
<td>Broader educational, social and youth activity in the area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>disadvantage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>Bi annual flower show</td>
<td>Beautification of streetscape, historical areas, social links, youth activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landcare</td>
<td>Landscape care</td>
<td>Training, historical recording, streetscape works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports groups</td>
<td>Active activity</td>
<td>Training, other activity options, social links</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lions Club</td>
<td>Community wellbeing</td>
<td>Training, social activity, project management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress</td>
<td>Local development</td>
<td>Project management, social links</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival Comm.</td>
<td>Conduct festival</td>
<td>Youth activity, Project management, social links, community event management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind Farm Comm.</td>
<td>Support project activity and infrastructure</td>
<td>Communications, activities (all types), project management, seeking resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrenees Shire</td>
<td>Community wellbeing and development</td>
<td>Training, skills, funding resources, links to other townships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. What we love about our community

What we love about our community is as follows:
- The diversity of our landscape,
- Our local services and facilities,
- Being able to meet and do things together, and
- Our proximity to Ballarat and Melbourne.

3. Our Vision for the Future

We want Waubra to be a place where we can work and play together.

We would like to be able to do this through our professions (work), through local community activity, through family linkages and through shared interests.

4. How are we going to achieve our Vision

To make Waubra the place we want it to be we need to act in five areas:
- Social. Link with each other in the community,
- Built. Provide the infrastructure for us to interact,
- Economic. Build our local employment and economic activity,
- Natural. Improve our local environment, and
- Leading. Have effective local leadership.

For each of these five areas we have a number of priority activities as listed in section seven.

5. Our CAP Community Action Plan for each area
WAUBRA COMMUNITY HUB

1. Oval resurfacing
2. Water for the oval
3. Wheelchair access area
4. Better Phone/internet coverage (Emergence refuge)
5. Gravel strip between Hub & Netball court to make safer
6. Display cabinet in building to display trophies from Football, Netball, Horticulture etc
7. Road around ground
8. Redesign entrance into hub
9. New Public Toilet wheelchair access/unisex toilets
10. BBQ for the hub tailor for the community to use.
11. Promotion of Hub Events
12. Projector screen, head piece microphone
13. Sound- Acoustics improved False Ceiling

Football Club

1. Oval resurfacing
2. Water for the oval
3. Shower refurbishing Home rooms and away rooms
4. Road around ground
5. Better phone/internet coverage
6. Oval lighting
7. Cricket pitch cover
8. BBQ trailer
9. Road signage into ground. Turning lane into ground at shop entrance to avoid accidents during major games or events at Hub.
10. Nets behind goals
11. Projector screen

Netball

1. Gravel strip between netball court and Hub building resurfaced to make safer.
2. Extra shelter at netball court
3. Better phone/internet coverage
4. Display cabinet in hub building to show case trophies

**Cricket Club**

1. Cricket pitch cover
2. New cricket pitch

**Horticulture**

1. Ramp access improved and area asphalt sealed
2. Better lighting in car park area
3. Trophy cabinet

**Bowls**

1. Replace mower $8,500
2. Replace ditches $40,000
3. New club house $200,000-$500,000 Current club house getting beyond repair(to costly to keep repairing)

**Preschool**

1. Keep the Pre school operating

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**Appendix A. Historical context / our story**

Waubra, previously known as the Springs, was first explored in 1836 by Major Thomas Mitchell, who passed through the Mount Misery / Lexton area. In 1838, with the arrival of the Learmonth brothers, the area known as Ercildoune was settled, from Lake Burrumbeet to Glenbrae.

Many people travelled through the area in the late 1830’s – early 1840’s on the settlement route from Geelong, to Mt Buninyong, then through “The Gap” (between East Mount Mitchell and Quoin Hill), to Lexton and then between the Pyrenees and Mount Cole ranges into the upper Wimmera.

Closer settlement began in the late 1850’s as unsuccessful miners from the Gold Fields moved in and began looking for agricultural land. In 1859 Trustees were appointed to care for the Cemetery. In the 1860’s the Springs supported four hotels. The railway came to The Springs in 1888, changing the name of the town to Waubra as there was already a “Springs” in Victoria.

In the late 1860’s the three churches, catholic, Anglican and Presbeterian all opened, some free of debt. The first school was built in the late 1880’s at the end of Hall Street and served as the
school until 1916, when a new school was established at its current location. The old school
then became the police station and courthouse until 1931 when is closed.

In the late 19th century employment was primarily general farm work, shearing, digging
potatoes, clearing land and harvesting. In the early 20th century horse drawn threshing
machines and a steam driven chaff cutter operated in the district, along with flour mills,
blacksmithing and the towns own bakery

100 odd men from the district enlisted in the first AIF in the 1914-1918 period. Closer
settlement and then soldier settlement, at Glenbrae, Mount Mitchell, Ercildoune, Langi Kal Kal
and East Mount Mitchell after both wars brought more and more families to the district.

A Chaff Mill operated at Waubra from 1927, adjacent to the railway station. As motor cars
increased the rail passenger service was closed in 1931. The line was still used for goods with
special “lamb” trains being run regularly, where the farmers walked their stock to the station for
sale in the Ballarat markets. The line closed in 1968.

Postal services are believed to have begun in the 1860’s. In 1939 electricity came to Waubra
and in the 1950’s to the surrounding districts. The town moved ahead in the early 1970’s with
the opening of residential land at Waubra Heights. In 1980 the town got its own domestic
water supply from a bore on Stud Farm Rd.

In 1988 the recreation reserve was redeveloped with a new brick complex being built to serve a
range of sporting and community activities. The Mechanics Hall was built in 1884, and has
served a range of community interests over the years, chiefly being the home of the Waubra Pre
School since 1983.

In 2011 the Recreation Reserve Complex was upgraded to increase its function area, provide a
new commercial kitchen and a new Pre School. The Mechanics Hall was sold in 2011 to private
interests as part of the fundraising for the development.

The area has enjoyed great sporting success over many years in tennis, cricket, lawn bowls,
football and netball. In 2011 the Waubra Football Team, the Kangaroo’s won a clean sweep of
the U18, Reserves and Seniors Finals in the Central Highlands Football League.

Waubra is now a mix of retired families, people who work in the district in agriculture and with
the Waubra Wind Farm, as well as a significant number of people who commute the 35 km to
Ballarat for employment.

We have in the town area six key community areas,
1. Main streetscape
2. Primary School
3. Recreation Reserve
4. Cemetery
5. Fire Shed, and
6. Other public land in and around Waubra Heights

We have many historical features and natural features we would love to record, enhance and
show off. These include:
- Cobb & Co creek crossing and trough
- Old public well and pump,
- Indigenous sites including “King Billies Seat”
- Railway station precinct
- General Store / Hotel precinct
- Original Primary School and Mechanics Hall
• Three churches (two which are now privately owned),
• Mount Bolton lookout
• Local rural cottages, and
• The general rural landscape

Appendix B. Opportunities and Challenges

We see our opportunities and our challenges in the following way

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural and Industrial (Wind Farm) businesses</td>
<td>Local employment opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link (proximity) to Ballarat</td>
<td>Linking young mums and families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local education (Pre and Primary)</td>
<td>Public transport linkages</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mobile phone and IT connectedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wind Farm division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More residents in area</td>
<td>Water quality and quantity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More events with new Community Hub</td>
<td>Loss of our young people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More business(es) in the area</td>
<td>Loss of current businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended and improved streetscape</td>
<td>An untidy town and streetscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be more energy efficient</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Appendix D. Priorities not included to date in the action plan

Social: Weekly exercise program
        Local walking group
        Auskick and Milo Cricket programs
        Taekwondo and table tennis activities
        Scouting group
        Family / Community archive
        Coordinated fire risk activities

Built: Children’s underpass to school
        Skate Park for youth
        Improve Troys Rd / Highway intersection

Employment: Giro Post at General Store

Environment: Plant native woodland for returned soldiers
             Establish local firewood resource
1. Public toilets * Planning stage with Pyrenees Shire
2. Security Cameras on exterior of building, to cover Hub building, all entrances, Preschool front entrance and fenced area, netball shed and playground area, Bowling club building and front gate entrance.
3. Turning lane into ground at shop entrance to avoid accidents during major games or events at hub. * Safety Issue
4. Redesign entrance into Hub Road signage into ground.
7. Gravel strip between Hub & Netball court to make safer.
8. Road around oval. Extend to around back of cricket pitch
9. Projector screen, head piece microphone
10. Gymnasium, new lawn bowls facility, basketball, netball, badminton, indoor bowls and other sports, toilets and shower facilities. A place where community groups can participate in team indoor sports. Waubra Primary School, Preschool etc.
11. Sound acoustic improved false ceiling.
12. Dimming lights in main Hub building
13. Replace Carpet
14. New playground equipment
15. Shade Sails for playground area * Planning stage

Football Club
1. Security cameras on front gate entrance and hub building.
2. Road signage into ground. Turning lane into ground at shop entrance to avoid accidents during major games or events at hub. * Safety Issue
3. Shower refurbishing Home and away rooms
4. Road around oval & drainage.
5. Entrance into Hub
6. Better phone/ internet coverage
7. Oval lighting
8. Score board
10. Projector screen

**Netball**

1. Gravel strip between Hub and Netball court, resurface to make safer.
2. New practice court * In planning stage with Pyrenees Shire
3. Better phone/internet coverage

**Horticulture**

1. Tree planting around hub and town.

**Bowls**

1. New club house combine with gymnasium facility
2. Replace ditches

**Cricket Club**

Keep crickets practice nets in good condition.

**Preschool**

1. Internet !!!! * Still no internet connection, safety concern.
2. Keep preschool open.