



Picture taken by Julie Castieau

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

**for
MOONAMBEL**

Amended October 2017

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1. Description of "Our community"

a. Geographic location

Moonambel is located on the northerly boundary of the Pyrenees Shire. It is nestled in a magnificent valley of pasture and the tranquil Mountain Creek approximately 20 km north-west of Avoca and I hour drive from Ballarat.

The township is nestled in the foothills of the Pyrenees Ranges with the town comprising of a Primary School, Recreation Reserve, General Store, Hardware Store, Hotel, Hall, Common Area, Churches, Tennis Courts and CFA facilities.

Numerous Agricultural/Vineyards businesses are located around Moonambel and support substantial employment opportunities and not to mention superb award winning wines. Some of the Wineries/Vineyards also provide accommodation and restaurants which complements the wine industry and the town. Moonambel is in the federal electorate of Wannon.

b. History

Moonambel was founded by early settlers looking for farming land in the 1840s. In 1852 a gold route to was developed to Adelaide with Moonambel being a stop over point on the way through the Pyrenees ranges. Gold was discovered here in the early 1860s and for a brief time the diggings were the richest goldfield in the world with the population peaking at around 30,000 people. Following the ebb and flow of the gold rush era, the area gradually reverted to a small farming community.

The wine industry began to develop in the area in the 1970s and while the town retains its original rural authenticity, the town has a local hotel, general store, hardware store, various wineries, accommodation and restaurants catering for tourism.

c. Description of the local people and population

Age

The median/average age of the Moonambel population is between 40-59 years of age at 27.85%, 20-30 years 12.59%, 13-19 years 7.99% and 1-12 years 13.56%. The average being 53 years of age, 16 years above the Australian average.

The country of birth of people living in Moonambel is 90.66% Australian and the top 5 other nationalities being: English 3.89%, New Zealand 1.46%, USA 0.73%, Malta 0.73% and Netherlands 0.73%.

94.6% of people speak English as their first language 0.7% Japanese, 0.7% Swedish, 0.7% Italian, 0% Irish, 0% Gaelic (Scotland).

Moonambel (3478) is a small town in the Pyrenees region of the Australian state of Victoria. This town is located in the Pyrenees Shire, north eastern part of the Shire, within the wine region in the Pyrenees Ranges. Moonambel is located approximately 172 kms from Victoria's capital city of Melbourne. The population is 410 and is comprised of 48.8% females and 51.2% males..

Household characteristics

59.4% of the people living in Moonambel are employed full time, 27.8% are working on a part time basis. Moonambel has an unemployment rate of 3.3%.

The main occupations of people from Moonambel are Managers 42.4%, Labourers 20%, Technicians and Trades Workers 12.9%, Professionals 6.5%, Sales Workers 5.3%, Community and Personal Service Workers 4.7%, Machinery Operators And Drivers 2.9%, Clerical and Administrative Workers 1.8%.

The median individual income is \$355.00 per week and the median household income is \$675.00 per week.

58.7% of homes are fully owned, and 28.3% are in the process of being purchased by home loan mortgage. 8.7% of homes are rented.

The median rent in Moonambel is \$100 per week and the median mortgage repayment is \$1300 per month.

Health and Wellbeing

52.5% of people are married, 25.3% have never married and 10.7% are divorced and 4.5% are separated. There are 25 widowed people living in Moonambel.

Economic and Education

Moonambel comprises of one primary school and educates 10 children between the grades of 1 and 6 for 2013. This number has increased in 2016 to 14 children.

As a tourism location, Moonambel offers an excellent range of accommodation including cottages, self contained holiday houses, bed and breakfast, farming enterprises and speciality winery accommodation.

Culture and faith

The religious make up of Moonambel is 26% No Religion, 22.3% Anglican, 17% Catholic, 13.3% Uniting Church, 2.9% Presbyterian and Reformed. The Catholic Church was sold in 2010 and being renovated for residential use.

Environmental facts and impacts

Low rainfall conditions across the Pyrenees Shire have been resulted in severe drought conditions for the past 10 years. The periodical rainfall during winter and spring provides enough moisture to paint the landscape vibrant and contrasting degrees of green, making it the most picturesque time to visit the region.

In summer the landscape is more rugged and raw due to dry, hot weather conditions, but equally beautiful.

Warm days and cool nights provides the perfect conditions for grape growing and ensures the region remains well known for their exceptional wine production.

2011 - Over the past 12 months, the drought has broken and in September and January we exceeded our average rainfall. With the amount of rain received for our farming enterprises it caused damage to property and stock, which financially had affect to the region.

2015 - Severe dry conditions in the region and drought declaration made mid 2016 for the Pyrenees.

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

The stakeholders that make Moonambel a magical place to live and work is contributed to industry in the area and surrounds, being farming enterprises, wineries, small businesses, accommodation facilities, the local shop and hotel, community groups, the school and religious groups that all contribute to this community.

Community groups:

- Moonambel Anglican Church
- Moonambel Arts & History Group Inc
 - Moonambel Community Theatre Company
 - Mosaic Group
- Moonambel Book Club
- Moonambel Cemetery Trust
- Moonambel Events Inc
- Moonambel Mechanics Hall Committee of Management Inc
- Moonambel Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc
- Moonambel-Redbank Football Club
- Moonambel Student Welfare Association Inc
- Moonambel Tennis Club
- Moonambel Uniting Church
- Pyrenees Grape-growers & Winemakers Group
- Warrenmang Brigade, Country Fire Authority

Businesses

- Moonambel Commercial Hotel
- Moonambel General Store
- Moonambel Hardware Store
- Milestones Olives of Moonambel
- Moonambel Gap Olives
- Moonbeam Cottages
- Tandamuki Accommodation
- Vineyard
- Dalwhinnie Vineyard and Accommodation
- Gwynnyth Vineyard
- Melross Estate
- Moonambel Ridge Vineyard
- Moonbark Vineyard
- Bigabila Vineyard
- Peerick Vineyard
- Pyren Vineyard
- Summerfield Vineyard & Accommodation
- Taltarni Vineyard

- Ironbark Winery
- Warrenmang Winery & Resort

Education:

- Moonambel Playgroup
- Moonambel Primary School

The Shire is a major stakeholder to the community providing services to the community consider assistance to people, infrastructure and supporting/ assisting in activities that are conducted in this region.

2. What we love about our Community

Our Strengths, values and attributes:

The community in Moonambel appreciate the strong and varied spirit that exists. Moonambel is unique in its diversity of skills and interests within the area. The different groups of varied talents pull together at different times to provide assistance with art, theatre, festive event experiences annual and for many years.

Our collaborative ranges from respecting and preparing for our future where we work, live and play. We value the history of Moonambel and the events that occurred during the Gold Rush back in the 1860's. A publication called the Moonambel's Historic Walk highlights over 18 sites, its historical significance and locations. Today, we still have some remaining buildings, that have been restored and many have decayed over years. To keep the history alive in the town, plaques have been located at the sites where buildings were established, so it can carry on its historical history into the future.

Our ability to pull together to help people in crisis situations is what our small town is all about. These times are rare but we know the community is there in time of need.

Our Common Values and Attributes:

Our close-knit community working and living together in mutual respect for individuals and varied community groups.

3. Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities:

- Caring for the health and welfare of the community
- Providing the community with access to a variety of services and experiences
- Giving the community informed local and wider information

Challenges:

- Seeking financial support when activities are not fundraisers but organised for the community to participate.
- Stretching volunteers valuable time when being member of more than one group.
- Training and having an understanding of legislation/controls with authorities when larger activities are planned.
- Ongoing costs such as insurance for the public facilities and or Community Groups.
- Getting information to appropriate community members.

- To engage community members to a variety of experiences.

4. Our Vision for the Future

To provide to our diverse community a safe and caring environment. To maintain our history and to enrich our community with the knowledge of our past. To share knowledge and provide experiences and opportunities which keep our community mentally, physically and socially healthy.

5. How we are going to achieve our vision

Social Environment:

- Community exposure to the arts with arts inspired occasions.
- Fireworks event at Moonambel Recreation Reserve every 2 years
- Highlight and support local visual and performing artists and craft makers.
- Moonambel Community Theatre Company - annual theatrical productions involving local performers.
- Moonambel Community Theatre Company – research for theatrical occasions.
- Moonambel Lock Up Project on Moonambel's Heritage Precinct at the Moonambel Common – historical mural.
- Moonambel Recreation Reserve mosaic on toilet block continued.
- Moonambel Tennis Club – erection of rebound wall.
- World's Longest Lunch annually

Built Environment:

- Moonambel Anglican Church – upkeep of building facility
- Moonambel Cemetery – completion of front fence
- Moonambel Cemetery – provision of rotunda
- Moonambel Recreation Reserve Pavilion - additional solar panels
- Continuous maintenance of the roads and walkways
- Moonambel Recreation Reserve - BBQ and Shade-house facility
- Supply of Water to Moonambel

Economic Environment:

- Men's shed

Natural Environment:

- All weather access to town areas north of Mountain Creek
- Increased roadside maintenance
- Streetscape – additional tree planting
- Walking track on Mountain Creek Road

6. Our planning Process

- Moonambel Events Inc. committee undertook the compiling of the document with the assistance of the community and

community groups.

- Gillian Matthews, Secretary of MEI, coordinated information sent by the relevant groups in the town and advertising and the local shop of the process.
- A meeting was held November 2011 to meet with Council's Representative, Martin Walmsley to explain the role of the Shire to support the community with their action plans.
- Amendment have been made to the document Dec 2011 and will be forwarded to the Shire.
- October 2012 the groups met the Pyrenees Shire Officer, Maria Rice who is our delegate. Brain storming and a review of the Action Plan was conducted.
- Amendment have been made to the CAP and will be submitted to the Shire - December 2012
- Gillian Matthews attended a CAP Forum in December 2012 at Beaufort with the community of other areas to streamline processes and requirements for CAP documents.
- November 2012 - Meeting with the Streetscape Consultant regarding what was required for the streetscape for Moonambel. Due to the lack of community participation in the meeting held, I presented all the items listed in the Community Action Plan and these have been placed in the plan for Moonambel.
- May 2013 - New infrastructure/proposals placed in the document. To be presented to Council.
- October 2014 - Met with other groups and representative of Council highlighting the outcomes for the 12 month period and list additional infrastructure/projects for the future.
- Jan 2015 - Met with ward Councillor and Liaison Officer from the Pyrenees Shire to priorities projects and to present then to Council CAP meeting on Tuesday, 10 February 2015.
- Community Meeting held on Thursday, 15th October 2015 in Moonambel to review the CAP.
- Council meeting on Monday, 19 October 2015 to prioritise a couple of items on the CAP for Council
- February 2016 - Met with Pyrenees Shire Council - prioritise items on the CAP - Water and Telecommunication Facility
- 24th October 2017 - Meeting with the Shire to discuss the plans - including Emergency process

Legend:

MEI	Moonambel Events Incorporated
MRRCoM	Moonambel Recreation Reserve Committee Of Management Inc.
MAHG	Moonambel Arts & History Group Inc
MMHCoM	Moonambel Mechanics Hall Committee of Management Inc.
MCTC	Moonambel Community Theatre Company

Our action plan for the future

Priority Area: **Built Environment** - Includes roads, maintenance & development of open spaces and town infrastructure

E.g. What is in place and what needs improvement?

Vision: To give our diverse community a safe, caring environment which provides opportunities for all to be involved in various activities in town. and around our town.

Description of Action / Objectives What is planned?	Timeframe Short 0-6 Medium 6 –18 Longer 18 +	Who is responsible? Key Group or person('s)	Partners involved To assist achieve objectives	Action and Resources required	Indicators / Measurement: - of Process - of Outcome
<p>Moonambel Recreation Reserve Pavilion -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional solar panels on the building to be more efficient in electricity returning to the grid • Cover concrete floor of building with carpet tiles • Build a Pergola and BBQ to facilitate function and the camping • Internet connection at the pavilion 	Medium	MRRCoM	Solar Panel Specialists Council assistance Fundraising Grants	Research and recommendations to how many panels needed Upon quotation, seek funding to assist development Analyze the current accounts and assess how many panels would be required.	Outcomes: needs and costs established Funding sources established To ensure the building is cost effective and eventually run the buildings at no cost. Providing these facility would make this building a viable hiring facility for events, functions etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaping around building and surrounds 	Medium	Pyrenees Shire	MRRCom MEI	This was stage 2 of the development of the pavilion to be completed by the Shire	Beautification of the grounds of the reserve.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Water tanks • Replacement of all current lights with LED lights - 	Medium Medium	MRRCoM MEI	Grants MRRCom/MEI Fundraising Energy Efficiency Programs	Installation by a qualified plumber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure we have enough water to provide the facilities for overnight campers and/or events. and for fire purposes • Cost effective and less usage of electricity

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Moonambel Cemetery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a rotunda at the cemetery • Completion of the front fence 	Longer Medium	Moonambel Cemetery Trust	Looking for funding partners Department of Human Services State and Local Government	Action: Seeking quotes for development Seeking relevant permits Seeking Community Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes: needs and costs established • Funding sources established • Advising the community of the development • Completion of the front fence -
Moonambel Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disable access to the front door of the hall • Replacement of timber windows on the Northern side of building • Disabled toilet 	Medium Medium	Moonambel Hall Committee	Grants and fundraising	Quoting for the works, seeking donated services to assist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe access to the hall. • Windows surrounds are rotting and need replacement
Static Water Supply	Longer	CHW Pyrenees Shire State & Federal Government	Pyrenees Shire Community	Community Support for the project	Feasibility Study and consultation with the community. Static water supply to the town and business. Essential Services for the Community and Emergency Services
Moonambel Community Ceramic Centre	Medium	Education Department	MAHG Moonambel Primary School	To manage and operate the ceramic centre for the benefit of the Local and School Communities on a break-even basis. To encourage and/or run ceramic workshops	Increased Community participation in Ceramic activities
Moonambel Historic Police Precinct - Moonambel Common - The Lock Up	Longer		Heritage	Bring to life the role of Police Lock up with its heritage listing	
Moonambel Community Ceramic Centre - kiln	Medium	MAHG	Education Dept. Moonambel P.S. Artists and Tradesman	To develop a Ceramic Centre for both the Moonambel District and the Primary School communities across the Shire.	Operation Ceramic Centre in place in the grounds of the Moonambel Primary School. Shed constructed and need to purchase of kiln to support activity

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Moonambel Lock Up Installation Objective: Installation of a Historical Mural Project at the Moonambel Common which depicts the 53 people listed in the Charge Book as being kept in the Moonambel Lock up between 1883 and 1914. This proposal flows from the successful restoration of the Moonambel lock up and aims to be part of the development of a historical precinct at the Moonambel Common	Longer	MAHG	Pyrenees Shire DSE Heritage Victoria Design Engineers.	Achieving a design suitable for approval To obtain funding to enable the erection of a wall and the 3 dimensional metal figures to be erected on site. To erect a 3 dimensional construction which depicts the 53 people who were 'locked up'. It will be an important depiction of the socio/economic time as it impacted upon those living in the harsh circumstances of those early pioneering days. It will also be a valuable educational installation.	The installation of Historical Mural.
Historical signage for historical landmarks around the town in association with the Heritage Walk of Moonambel Booklet	Ongoing		MAHG, The Community and Community Groups in Moonambel	Historical landmarks around the town to have a marker and a history of the site (24 in total) as described in the Booklet	6 of the landmarks have been placed in various locations
Anglican Church - Drainage works required to take away water from building	Short	Church Guild	Council and other groups in Moonambel Working Bees	Seeking a grant from Council Fundraising from the Church	To assist the church with maintenance, costs that are prohibitive. Cost of drainage works approx. \$700
Roads and Reserves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealing of roads in the residential precinct area of Moonambel • Raising the height of the bridge in Greens Lane • Maintain Walking & Cycling Track along the Stawell-Avoca Road, Moonambel to Taltarni Road 	Longer	Council	Funding agencies		To lower ongoing costs associated with maintaining of roads in the Shire.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking & Cycling Track from Avoca to Moonambel (via unmade government roads/roads) 	Longer 18 +	Pyrenees Shire	Pyrenees Shire Council Landcare groups Tourism Victoria	Research the route via DEPI and Shire. Licensing govt road Ascertain the cost in constructing a gravel base track and on going maintenance, ensuring the areas are fenced out to prevent stock loss from adjoining farms.	Discussion with government authorities relating to the land use and availability. Leisure activities connecting the two towns, tourist attraction.

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: To give our diverse community a safe, caring environment which provides opportunities for all to be involved in various activities in and around our town.

Description of Action / Objectives What is planned?	Timeframe Short 0-6 mths. Medium 6 –18 mths Longer 18 + mths.	Who is responsible? Key Group or person('s)	Partners involved To assist achieve objectives	Action and Resources required	Indicators / Measurement: - of Process - of Outcome
Road and Reserves Construction and maintaining of a walking track Risk Assessment Action: Full length of Mountain Creek Road with a proposed solar light at the T intersection with Borbidge Lane, Moonambel. Placement of plaques along the track for the historical markers (26 in total)	Longer	Solar City Officer Pyrenees Shire Powercor		Seek funding from Local & State Government Local Politicians	Process: Involve local land management groups Outcome: Linkage to Tourist Facilities and or Accommodation Historical measures adopted Dec 2014 - Six 6 Historical markers have been placed in the town, funded via the Streetscape project.
Ongoing maintenance by the Shire All weather road access to town areas north of Mountain Creek	Short	Pyrenees Shire		Creek Crossing at Mountain Creek Road, Greens Lane and Bonsor Lane to be built	Crossing will be built which will allow traffic during peak water flows access to businesses and private homes.
Ongoing maintenance by the Shire Increased roadside maintenance in and around the township area including more frequent grass cutting for safety and aesthetic reasons	Short	Pyrenees Shire			Will have good vision along roads for traffic safety and the town will look attractive.

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Tanwood Anzac Avenue (Stawell-Avooca Road, just before the bridge) Maintenance and Upgrade Tree Surgeon; Name plaques;	Medium	RSL	DHS Pyrenees Shire MAHG VicRoads	Tree Surgeon to assess tree health and supervise lopping of damaged branches of existing trees. Jill Hunter/historical society to access records for plaque and tree replacement. Pyrenees Shire to help move memorial	Replacement trees will be planted and plaques sited at base of tree.
Joining of the Moonambel concrete path west from the Memorial to Grants Road	Medium	Pyrenees Shire	Community MAHG	Path set out, concreted joining walking access.	Connecting the paths for safe access for pedestrian
Judas Tree	Longer	MAHG Community	National Trust Shire MAHG Arborist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of a significant tree. • Secure tenure on land • Restoration of the tree. • Monitor the Health of the tree with expert advice; • provide safe access to the area with an areas for off-street parking; and • provide an interpretive sign explaining the significance of the tree 	Continued existence of historical tree.
Anzac Avenue, Moonambel	Ongoing	VicRoads RSL	Arborist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the health of the trees are monitored • Replace trees which have come to the end of their life with suitable trees 	Respect of the history of the avenue

Priority Area: Social Environment – 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?

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Moonambel Tennis Club Action: Provide a practice rebound wall	Medium	Moonambel Tennis Club	Shire Fundraising events	Seek quote for construction of hebble material.	Outcomes: needs and costs established Funding sources established
Arts Action framework: • Highlight and support local artists, mosaic artisans, musicians, theatrical, craft & print & paper making practitioners and provide Community exposure to the art in a social context.	Longer	MAHG	Local art practitioners themselves, MEI, MRRCoM, local school and volunteer residents	Build on establish profile. Resourced by support of targeted audience base- residential and other town committees and local business, Council and tourism stakeholders.	Successful promotions of and attendance at "occasions". Cover financial outlay. Satisfaction of arts participants.
• Stage up to 3 arts-inspired occasions on annual cycle to promote local artists.	Longer	MAHG		Funding for publicity, postage, venue fees, planning schedule. Seek local business support	Successful promotions of and attendance at "occasions". Cover financial outlay. Satisfaction of arts participants.
• Continue mosaic mural work on old toilets at the Moonambel Rec. Reserve and oversee preservation of this iconic community mosaic project	Longer	Mosaic group in association with MAHG Inc	MAHG Inc, MEI, MRRCoM	Ensure continued community support for the project and preservation	Successful promotions of and attendance at "occasions". Cover financial outlay. Satisfaction of arts participants. Streetscape meeting held in Moonambel in Nov 2012. Listed in the potential infrastructure for Moonambel.
Art Action Framework • Stage at least two theatrical productions annually for local performers, with at least one original work	Longer	Moonambel Community Theatre Company (MCTC)	MAHG, MEI	Capitalize on the enthusiasm of local performers involved in the initial "Fouls Gold" experimental production. Funding for staging and publicity	Increased performance skills of participants. Pride in community. Continued high level of local patronage. Be largely self-funding

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts trail program 	Longer	Art groups in the Shire Pyrenees Shire	Pyrenees Shire Art Council Vic	Combination of all Art Groups in the Shire - creating a committee and creation a forum of events	Creating a calendar of events - utilizing the experience of the Events Officer - Shire. Showcase of the arts in the area and using social media for tourism scope and exposure
Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WLL longest Lunch annually 	Short	MEI	Pyrenees Shire Advertisement companies Sponsorship Wineries	Seeking Grant to assist in the costs associated with this event	Providing an event as a family style amusements. The money raised goes back into the community.
Moonambel Fireworks Event - every 2 years	Medium	MEI	Sponsorship Pyrenees Shire Wineries in district	Seeking sponsorship to run this event. Organising event by volunteers.	Ensuring the event safe and family friendly. Money raised from the events goes back into the community.

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: To give our diverse community a safe, caring environment which provides opportunities for all to be involved in various activities in _____ and around our town.

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Men's Shed	Long	Whole Community	Pyrenees Shire	Site selection, Grant Applications Forming a committee to run the facility	Need to establish a committee to get this development up and running