

BARKLY AND FRENCHMANS



2020–
2024

Community Action Plan

“Barkly and Frenchmans – a vibrant, safe and sustainable community”

Barkly and Frenchmans

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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OUR COMMUNITY

Traditional owners

We acknowledge the Traditional Aboriginal Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pay our respect to Elders past and present and to the ongoing living culture of Aboriginal people.

Geographic location

Barkly and Frenchmans are nestled on Wattle Creek between the foothills of the Pyrenees Ranges and the St.Arnaud Range National Park.

Barkly and Frenchmans are located at the northern end of the Pyrenees Shire – primary access to Barkly and Frenchmans is by the Stawell-Avoca Rd (C221).

Barkly and Frenchmans are located approximately:

- 50km from Stawell
- 50km from St.Arnaud
- 35km from Avoca
- 60km from Ararat

Coordinates

LL94	36°56'40.60"S, 143°12'11.94"E
	36.944611S, 143.203317E
MGA	696199, 5909005 (54)
VicRoads	42 E9 (ed. 7)



History

- Formed around the gold diggings 1850's to 1880's;
- Vibrant community over its time;
- Schools at Frenchmans and Barkly – now both gone;
- Pioneer Cemetery in the foothills around the diggings east of the Barkly Township;
- New Cemetery at Barkly;
- Significant history associated with public hall and sporting facilities
- The public hall is still very active.

Our history is recognised in the history trail around Barkly and Frenchmans.

Barkly and Frenchmans has a solid agricultural base including cropping, wool, fat lambs, cattle and hay.

Description of the local people & population

People and growth

Barkly and Frenchmans has experienced population growth over the last 15 years, but more from a part-time occupation (weekenders and hobby farms) rather than full-time; the affordable land prices keep interest in Barkly and Frenchmans.

Permanent population about 50.

Age

The general population of Barkly and Frenchmans is aging; the availability of traditional primary school facilities at both Moonambel and Navarre encourage young families to reside in the valley. There are currently 12 primary school or younger aged children residing at Barkly and Frenchmans.

Household characteristics

Typical farming community with aging couples on the land; new families with school aged children are developing other opportunities given the recent access to internet and mobile telephone facilities; retirees have chosen to reside here because of the tranquility and the affordability.

Health and Wellbeing

Medical and pharmaceutical facilities are remote to the district, the closest being in Stawell, St.Arnaud and Ararat;

There is no general store or fuel station, the closest being 10km away at Navarre.

The social lifestyle is rich.

Economic and Education

Educational facilities for primary age are provided at Navarre (10km) and Moonambel (16km); secondary school is provided at Stawell via a daily school bus service.

The cost of living at Barkly and Frenchmans is automatically higher than neighbouring centres simply because of the travel aspect for school, shopping, fuel and other services.

Culture and faith

The Anglican Church has traditionally held a service once a month; patronage has declined in recent times and is insufficient to ensure the Church is kept open. The Barkly and Frenchmans community are developing a case to acquire the building and grounds for community purposes as opposed to losing the facility to private ownership.

Environmental facts and impacts

The Barkly and Frenchmans valley is steep in native vegetation and wildlife; the level of intense farming has waned over recent generations returning more land to environmental regain.

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

- Fire Brigade
- Cemetery Trust
- Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
- Anglican Church (currently inactive)
- Barkly Ukulele Group
- Barkly Ladies

Barkly and Frenchmans has a population of about 50 permanent residents; the number of residents that are capable of active contribution is about 30 (when you discount the very old and the very young), this leaves a very small base from which to fulfill the stakeholder demands; it is generally the same 15 or so people that are active in the Cemetery Trust, Barkly Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee and the Barkly Frenchmans Fire Brigade.

Overall, the participation in attendance to events and activities is extremely vibrant; Barkly and Frenchmans have fostered long-standing relationships with the communities of Moonambel, Redbank, Navarre and Avoca; such relationships extend to joint musical events, joint fire brigade exercises, sharing of cemetery equipment, communal social gatherings that ensure our public facilities are used as often as possible.

WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

Description of our strengths

- Community Growth
- Volunteer Resource
- Community Interaction

Description of our common values and attributes

- Co-operation
- Enthusiasm
- Talent

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Significant opportunities

- Emerging Technology
- Increase Skills Base
- Involve our emerging youth
- Build on recent achievements

Significant challenges

- Reducing the impact of disaster events (fire and flood)
- Managing the effects of our geographic location
- Supporting our aging community
- Retaining our youth; attracting new youth
- Attracting newcomers with skills upon which to build on
- Increase built infrastructure to support the community
- Retaining and maintaining our assets (Barkly Church for community purposes; Barkly Hall as a sustainable community hub)

OUR VISION

“To provide a vibrant, safe and sustainable community”

HOW WE ARE GOING TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION

Community Development:

- Build upon the recent access to mobile phone and internet facilities to improve business opportunities, community inter-action and youth involvement.
- Build upon the vibrant social network among the community to foster greater interaction and caring.
- Embrace, engage and include newcomers.
- Maintain and improve our community assets.

Economic Environment:

- Utilise access to technology to enhance business, social and employment opportunities.
- Improve built infrastructure to remove constraints and risks to the agricultural and enterprising community.

Built Infrastructure:

- Improve road infrastructure to support all weather access for the community and agricultural base.
- Improve infrastructure to allow access for large stock and fodder trucks (ie...B-Doubles) to enable our agricultural base to access the benefits of efficient movement of freight and livestock

Community Safety and Resilience:

- Maintain unrestricted escape routes for emergency situations.
- Manage roadside vegetation to reduce the impact of emergency situations
- Improve access to portable medical equipment – defibrillator
- Engage with restoration of assets to ensure long term benefits to the community

Natural Environment:

- Manage vegetation to allow unrestricted access to all properties.
- Manage vegetation to provide risk-free motoring.
- Manage the spread of weeds along roadsides.

HOW WE ENGAGED WITH OUR COMMUNITY

- Community meetings
- Circulation of requests for input
- Information gathering by stakeholder groups
- Liaison with CAP coordinator
- Local facebook page
- Group workshop
- Review of previous CAP; elimination of completed tasks; review relevance of others

OUR ACTION PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Priority Area: Community Development

Description of Action What is planned?	Planning	Who	Priority High Medium Low	Status
Location: Barkly Hall and Recreation Reserve				
Double door alterations to meet disabled access standards at hall	Drawings complete	Hall Committee	Medium	Building permit issued
Blinds in hall/alter windows	Measure-up done; quote sourced	Hall Committee	Medium	Grant application lodged for funding
Exhaust fans to the toilets and kitchen	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Medium	Concept
Stage floor sanding and treatment as per hall floor	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Medium	Concept
Painting touch ups – external window frames, doors, fascias, entry coverings	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Medium	Concept
Crack repairs in hall brickwork	Quote accepted; funding achieved	Hall Committee	Medium	Contractor appointed
Path from paving at main entry to rear stairs	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Low	Concept
Stage hydraulic access system	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Low	Concept
Develop storage system solutions ie...Under-stage storage system for tables or side room addition similar to new toilet maybe better from OH&S perspective	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Low	Concept

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Description of Action	Planning	Who	Priority High Medium Low	Status
What is planned?				
Dust strips/insect strips at doorways	Strips donated	Hall Committee	High	Contractor appointed
Prepare a Masterplan for Maintenance, Management and Improvements to the Hall and Recreation Reserve	Planning has been undertaken	Hall Committee	Medium	Draft Form
Shade sails over playground	Drawings complete	Hall Committee	High	Quotes sought; awaiting next round of Shade Program (via State Govt Health Dept)
Seat at playground under shelter	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	High	Concept
Outside power points at hall or off tennis shed	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Low	Concept
New portable BBQ for outside use at hall	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Medium	Concept
New portable shade structures	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	High	Concept
Permanent shade/verandah along east side of hall, extend paving to suit	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Medium	Concept
Continue Barkly Unplugged (Musical Concert of Local Artists)	Annual event for last 10 years	Hall Committee	High	2020 abandoned because of COVID-19, plan for 2021
Supporting equipment for musicians – music stands, electronic equipment	Ongoing project	Hall Committee	Medium	Review short term needs and secure
Wi-Fi facilities at hall (as per CFA shed)	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Medium	Concept

Description of Action	Planning	Who	Priority High Medium Low	Status
What is planned?				
Audio visual display	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Low	Concept
Chair trolley	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Medium	Concept
New chairs (lightweight and comfortable, OH&S issue moving existing)	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Medium	Concept
Tennis pavilion access improvements	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Low	Concept
Tennis pavilion spout and tank upgrade for campers	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Low	Concept
Hall and tennis pavilion gutter guard	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	High	Concept
Landscaping around toilet area	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Low	Concept
Secure storage cabinet for electronic equipment	Project not yet developed	Hall Committee	Medium	Concept
Location: Church				
Secure church for Barkly/Frenchmans community	Planning is well advanced for an incorporated community body to be formed to secure the Church for community purposes	Community	High	Negotiations suspended because of COVID-19
Improve access to suit disable access	Project yet to be developed	Community group	Low	Dependent on the Community Group securing the ownership
Window repairs/replacement	Project yet to be developed	Community group	Low	Dependent on the Community Group securing the ownership

Description of Action	Planning	Who	Priority High Medium Low	Status
What is planned? Foyer lining repairs	Project yet to be developed	Community group	Low	Dependent on the Community Group securing the ownership
Location: Cemeteries				
Improved personal access at Pioneer Cemetery	Project yet to be developed	Cemetery Trust	Low	Concept stage
Grave shoring system for cemetery	Quotes sought	Cemetery Trust	Medium	Grant application yet to be prepared and lodged
Cemetery notice board	Project yet to be developed	Cemetery Trust	Low	Concept stage
Location - General				
Complete the Barkly and Frenchmans History Signage implementation	1 last sign to be erected	History Working Group	High	Hole dug, sign printed
Develop a History Signage Tour Map	Project yet to be developed	History Working Group	Medium	Pending completion of sign erection

Priority Area: Community Safety and Resilience

Description of Action	Planning	Who	Priority High Medium Low	Status
What is planned?				
Install a larger capacity electric pump with CFA standpipe at bore to better serve CFA truck filling	Design prepared and quote sought	Barkly Frenchmans Fire Brigade Equipment Officer	High	Application lodged with CFA for funds
Upgrade Morrows Road north of Johnsons Gully Rd to allow all weather and fire access – needs culverts/wet crossings and vegetation trimming	PSC Fire Prevention Officer to be informed; Barkly Frenchmans Brigade to determine best approach	Barkly Frenchmans Fire Brigade and PSC	Low	Planning Stage
Establish a “Safe Place of Last Resort”	Further discussions required between CFA and DELWP to establish a “Safe Place of Last Resort” at Barkly	Barkly Frenchmans Fire Brigade to reinvigorate the discussion	High	Planning Stage
Obtain a community defibrillator for public access at the Barkly Hall	Make and Model has been determined, quotation sought	Hall Committee	High	Grant sought for purchase and installation

Priority Area: Economic Environment

Description of Action What is planned?	Planning	Who	Priority High Medium Low	Status
Install solar panels on the roof of the Barkly Hall	Research installation opportunities; Obtain quotations; Source funding	Hall Committee of Management	Medium	Applied for Stage Govt Audit for Suitability
Improve deficient infrastructure to cater for B-Double access by default to farm gate.	Efficient movement of freight in the supply chain returns benefits to producers; B-Doubles have proven to offer efficient movement of freight, in particular stock and fodder.	Council	Medium	Bridge assessments and intersection capacity to be undertaken and necessary upgrades programmed
Approve B-Double access to the rural road network to support efficient movement of freight (in particular stock and hay)	Efficient movement of freight in the supply chain returns benefits to producers; B-Doubles have proven to offer efficient movement of freight, in particular stock and fodder.	Council, Agriculture Sector, NHVR	Medium	Pyrenees Shire Council are considering the expansion of the gazetted network to serve our farming community.

Priority Area: Built Infrastructure

Description of Action What is planned?	Planning	Who	Priority High Medium Low	Status
Widen the sealed pavement on critical crests and bends (ie....Barkly Navarre Rd west of T Driscolls Lane, Frenchmans St.Arnaud Rd south of Teds Lane)	Included in previous CAP's; Pyrenees Shire to be informed of the project	CAP Captain to inform the Road Authority (Pyrenees Shire Council). Pyrenees Shire Council to program the works	Medium	Concept
Extend sealed pavement on Barkly-Redbank Rd from Church to Stewarts Rd	Included in previous CAP's; Pyrenees Shire to be informed of the project	CAP Captain to inform the Road Authority (Pyrenees Shire Council). Pyrenees Shire Council to program the works	Medium	Concept
New "Frenchmans" sign (the existing has been damaged)	PSC and VicRoads have been notified of the damage and replacement has been requested	PSC and VicRoads	Medium	Waiting installation

Priority Area: Natural Environment

Description of Action What is planned?	Planning	Who	Priority High Medium Low	Status
Continuing overhanging branch trimming	Research installation opportunities; Obtain quotations; Source funding	Hall Committee of Management	High	Applied for Stage Govt Audit for Suitability
Removal of suckers that obstruct sight lines at intersections and entrances	Annual referral of issues to Pyrenees Shire Council	Community	High	On-going program by Shire
Spraying of roadside noxious weeds (St Johns Wort) on Barkly Navarre Rd	Annual referral of issues to Pyrenees Shire Council	Community	High	On-going program by Shire