

# HOPETOUN



DRAFT – March 2014

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## COMMUNITY VISION

The Hopetoun community envisage a township that is welcoming, visually vibrant, economically durable, environmentally sustainable and adequately resourced.

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# Hopetoun

## **Our community**

HOPETOUN is situated on the Yarriambiack Creek in the Southern Mallee, 121 kilometres north of Horsham, 90 kilometres south of Ouyen and 61 kilometres north of Warracknabeal.

The town is recognised as 'The Gateway' to Victoria's Mallee region and takes its name from Lord Hopetoun who was Victoria's first Governor and Australia's first Governor General. He was a frequent visitor to the area as the guest of pioneer Edward Harewood Lascelles.

The town's population is approximately 555 and for the past two decades has experienced a population loss of about 1.4 percent annually. The major employers are the community services sector, 29.8%; wholesale and retail sectors, 17.8 percent and agriculture, 16.6 percent. Although the area has an ageing population, volunteerism in the Southern Mallee township is much higher than the state average.

Natural features within easy reach of the township are Wyperfeld, Hattah-Kulkyne and Murray-Sunset National Parks, which protect more than one million hectares of natural habitat and are home to countless species of flora and fauna. Hopetoun has a semi-arid climate with cool winters and at times extremely hot summers. Clear cloudless skies are a climatic characteristic.

The townspeople have access to three churches: Catholic, Lutheran Church and the Southern Mallee Co-Operative Parish which comprises the Baptist and Uniting churches. There are many sporting organisations and more community groups than usual for a town of Hopetoun's size.

The town has an administration centre – Gateway BEET (Business Education Employment and Training) which is also an agency for several government authorities including Centrelink. Many community and education projects are conducted from the Hopetoun Neighbourhood House.

## **Our community ACTION plan**

This plan has been prepared by the Gateway BEET with the assistance of Yarriambiack Shire Council. This plan was funded by the SHARE (Sustainable, Healthy, Adaptable, Resilient and Engaged) Program, which was initially funded by the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development and Yarriambiack Shire Council.

**Community projects are essential to maintain and develop rural townships and enhance lifestyle for residents.**

The Community Action Plan details how the vision and ideas articulated by the community could be achieved. We can use our Action Plan to:

- Enable all community members to have a voice;
- Organise project plans;
- Display community planning;
- Promote individual projects for prospective funding;
- Connect with stakeholders; and
- Inform Local Government of proposed projects.

## **What's important to us**

- Providing opportunities and supporting a sense of belonging and connectedness in our friendly community.
- Supporting opportunities for employment, businesses and tourism.
- Ensuring people have access to appropriate services.
- Identifying and responding to the aspirations of our community.
- Providing a variety of sporting, recreation and leisure activities for all our residents.
- Enhancing our environmental sustainability so we can make a difference and create a sustainable future for generations to come.

## Our priority projects

The following projects have been gathered from community ideas presented in community postcards distributed in September 2012, an online survey completed in 2013, discussions with members of the Gateway BEET and from previous community consultations.

### Priority Projects Action Plan

Project	Key Action	Partners	Status
AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADDITIONAL AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES</li> </ul>		
AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL SOCIETY SHOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE SHOW</li> </ul>		
BENDIGO BANK BRANCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH BENDIGO BANK SHOULD LOCAL BANK BRANCH SERVICES CONTINUE TO DIMINISH</li> </ul>		
BOWLING CLUB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADDITIONAL SHADE AND SEATING</li> </ul>		
BUSINESS STREETScape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ENCOURAGE BUSINESS OWNERS TO CONTINUE SHOPFRONT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS</li> </ul>		
COMMUNITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RENOVATION AND EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING CLUBROOMS AT THE HOPETOUN RECREATION RESERVE TO BECOME THE NEW HOPETOUN COMMUNITY CENTRE</li> </ul>		PLANS COMPLETED DRAFT FUNDING APPLICATION COMPLETED
COMMUNITY GARDEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY GARDEN FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES</li> <li>SUPPORT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT</li> <li>PROMOTE HEALTHY NUTRITION</li> <li>PROVIDE ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENCOURAGE OLDER RESIDENTS TO UTILIZE THE GARDEN</li> <li>PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER RESIDENTS TO SHARE</li> </ul>	Gateway BEET YSC RHWH Hopetoun P-12	Site secured Seeking funding

	KNOWLEDGE WITH YOUNGER PARTICIPANTS		
COMPOST MAKING DEPOT			
EMPTY SHOP WINDOWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DECORATED WINDOWS PROVIDING HISTORICAL, TOURIST AND BUSINESS INFORMATION</li> </ul>		
GWM WATER PROPERTY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PLANTATION TO CONCEAL GWM WATER FENCE NEAR THE HOPETOUN CARAVAN PARK AND LAKE LASCELLES</li> </ul>		
HISTORIC DISPLAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HISTORIC INFORMATION BOARDS LOCATED AROUND TOWN</li> </ul>		
INCREASED BUSINESS PRECINCT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADDITIONAL BUSINESSES IN THE TOWN</li> </ul>	GATEWAY BEET YSC	
INDEPENDENT LIVING UNITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FEASIBILITY STUDY COMPLETED</li> <li>CONTINUE IDENTIFICATION OF SUITABLE INDEPENDENT ACCOMMODATION OPPORTUNITIES</li> </ul>		ONGOING
INTERNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BETTER INTERNET COVERAGE</li> </ul>		
LAKE LASCELLES PONTOON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXTEND LAKE LASCELLES TO INCLUDE THE UNUSED RESERVOIR AS A WETLANDS AND FISHING ARE</li> </ul>		
MARKET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REGULAR COMMUNITY MARKET DAYS</li> </ul>		
MEMORIAL HALL UPGRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEILING IN THE BAR ROOM</li> <li>PAINT</li> <li>CUPBOARDS IN THE BAR ROOM</li> <li>FIREPLACE BLOCKED OFF IN THE UPSTAIRS ROOM</li> <li>KITCHENETTE IN THE UPSTAIRS ROOM</li> <li>RAMP AT SIDE OF KITCHEN</li> <li>LIGHTING UPGRADE</li> </ul>	MEMORIAL HALL CoM YSC	PLANNING STAGE
OLD BON BON BUILDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF THE BUILDING AND POTENTIAL</li> </ul>		

	USES (THIS BUILDING IS PRIVATELY OWNED.)		
PAVEMENT UPGRADES			
POP UP SHOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• POP UP SHOP INCLUDING MAKERS GALLERY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR THE TOWN</li> </ul>		
POULTON PARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEATING</li> <li>• PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT</li> </ul>	YSC	
RSL UPGRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UPGRADE THE RSL BUILDING AS A MULTI USE FACILITY</li> </ul>		
SKATE PARK SHADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INSTALL A PERMANENT STRUCTURE OVER THE SKATE PARK TO PROVIDE ALL YEAR USE</li> </ul>		
SKI CLUB AMENITIES UPGRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMENITIES UPGRADE</li> <li>• LANDSCAPING</li> </ul>		
SWIMMING POOL SOLAR HEATING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOURCE FUNDING FOR SOLAR HEATING AT HOPETOUN SWIMMING POOL</li> </ul>	HOPETOUN SWIMMING POOL CoM YSC	ONGOING
TOURISM PROMOTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CONTINUE TO PROMOTE LOCAL TOURISM ATTRACTIONS</li> </ul>		
TOWN ENTRANCE UPGRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BRICK ENTRANCE</li> </ul>		
TV RECEPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BETTER RECEPTION FOR RESIDENTS</li> </ul>		

## More information

If you would like more information about the community action plan or would like to be involved in community activities here are some useful contacts.

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