



# WOODVALE COMMUNITY PLAN 2016 - 2020



## INTRODUCTION

This update of the Woodvale Community Plan has been developed by the residents of Woodvale.

Achievement of community priorities through implementation of this plan will be achieved by community members working together and in partnership with other organisations that may be able to assist with funding, works and expert advice.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Woodvale, situated 10km north of Bendigo, has been known by many names since European occupation first began in 1845. Woodvale was originally regarded as part of Myers Creek, later Myers Flat. It was changed to Sydney Flat when mining began in 1852 but was changed in the 1920s to Woodvale to avoid confusion with the NSW city. Prior to European settlement it was open forest country occupied by the Dja Dja Wurrung people, who were estimated to have a population of about 1000. The Aboriginal name for the locality was Nerring. In 1845 the area became part of Weddikar station. In 1861 Marong Shire was founded and Woodvale was part of the north-east riding. In 1994 the Marong Shire was amalgamated as part of the City of Greater Bendigo.

Woodvale was settled after the discovery of gold in Bendigo. This brought many people including Chinese miners. Most alluvial miners soon moved on after surface gold ran out, leaving the land ransacked. A couple of puddling machines continued to operate up until World War 1, although the lack of water was a continuous problem. Quartz reef mining commenced in the 1880s.

## *Vision: Ensuring Woodvale maintains its rural appeal*

A number of settler families whose names are still associated with the district took up land after mining activities declined and established farms and enterprises. The district of Woodvale was one of mixed farming, dairying, vineyards and orchards.

Apart from mining, non-agricultural industries were established in Woodvale to service the needs of miners and farmers. This included a blacksmith and farrier, shoemaker and a number of general stores. The first eucalyptus distillery in the district was located at the base of Flagstaff Hill, at the location of the current Shadbolt picnic ground in the Whipstick State Forest. Shadbolt supplied the Red Cross with eucalyptus oil during World War 1.

There were 12 hotels operating at different times at Woodvale. The Old House at Home was the last of the Woodvale pubs to operate and was de-licensed in 1970.

State School 1531 Nerring was opened in 1875. It was built for £632,19s 10d from bricks carted from the Eaglehawk brick kiln and was extensively renovated and remodeled in 1912 and 1914. It was subsequently renovated by local volunteers and reopened in 1993 as the Woodvale Public Hall.

Today, the Woodvale Public Hall forms a community hub alongside the Woodvale Recreation Reserve (with roots dating back to the early 1860s), Bendigo Clay Target Club (established 1971 in Woodvale but with history dating back to 1856) and Woodvale Fire Brigade (established 1932). The Woodvale Progress Association (established 1929) functions today to bring the local community together and advance local interests. Over the years Woodvale has progressed into a small but active community with a strong sense of identity and a welcoming spirit.



## PRIORITISED PROJECTS - ACTION PLAN

Objectives	Strategies / Actions
<b>1. Community connection and welcome</b>	
Share information about community events, activities and items that are relevant to the whole community	Maintain the website and increase awareness of Woodvale via the website and social media.
	Increase participation in The Woodvale Progress Association and publicise meetings and events.
	Update the Woodvale Welcome Pack and ensure distribution to new residents.
	Use the community notice board.
	Continue to broaden collaboration between community associations and sporting groups in the near vicinity and value their support.
	Contribute to and publicise local newsletters, especially Roundabout Raywood.
	Support Woodvale Fire Brigade to increase public awareness of contemporary fire protection measures.
Continue to offer varied social events and activities and opportunities for people to come together	Collaborate with nearby communities to engage local people, organise events and activities.
	Develop and maintain a shared community calendar with Sebastian, Neilborough and Raywood.
Celebrate Woodvale's history	Continue the project to collate and prepare a contemporary history of Woodvale and make it accessible to interested people.
	Complete and publicise the historical markers project.
<b>2. Celebrating the natural environment</b>	
Do what we can to make sure peoples visits to the Greater Bendigo National Park is safe and pleasurable	Advocate for maintenance and protection of infrastructure in the Greater Bendigo National Park, where needed.
	Promote opportunities for people to learn more about the Greater Bendigo National Park
	Report rubbish dumping
Partner with relevant organisations to protect the existing environment and promote environmental sustainability	Support tree planting in identified areas
	Support habitat protection for native birds and other species
<b>3. Ensure timely closure and rehabilitation of the evaporation ponds</b>	
Ensure community members can learn about the issues and understand progress	Support local representation on the ERC committee
	Provide forums for exchange of information and to allow discussion and agreement on common priorities
Achieve the highest possible standard of rehabilitation in the shortest time possible	Encourage community involvement in action to close and rehabilitate the ponds.
	Enable people to understand the risks to health associated with the ponds and ensure these risks are mitigated.
<b>4. Develop and maintain community facilities, infrastructure and services</b>	
Maintain and improve built infrastructure	Progress the Woodvale Recreation Reserve Masterplan
	Maintain the Community Hall, so it remains attractive and suitable for social events.
Increase opportunities for physical activity and recreation	Advocate for improvements and connectivity of existing cycle/walking tracks and improved signage
	Advocate for safer local roads
Improve local access to services	Advocate for public transport links
	Continue advocacy for better mobile phone services
	Advocate for mains water supply





## WHAT IS COMMUNITY PLANNING?

Community planning is a process undertaken by a community where they work together to explore and document what is important to them about their locality and its future. A Community Plan is a document that sets out these priorities. Periodically a Community Plan will need revision as community priorities change or when the community decides.

The City of Greater Bendigo supports communities across the municipality who wish to develop and

revise their own Community Plan. The views and priorities in each plan are those of community members who took part in its development. They do not represent the views of the staff of the City of Greater Bendigo or its Councillors.

Community Plans are a valuable source of advice about local priorities used by Local, State and Federal governments and other organisations.

For more information contact the City of Greater Bendigo.

### CONTACTS:

#### **City of Greater Bendigo**

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