

Macedon/Mt. Macedon

Community Plan

2012

www.ourcommunityplan.com

Presented and prepared by the Macedon/Mt. Macedon Community Planning Group
18 January 2012

Welcome

Welcome to the first draft of the Macedon/Mt. Macedon Community Plan.

It's a plan that aims to deliver initiatives important to our community, together as a community.

It's a plan full of ideas for any community member, established group or committee to shape and own. It's designed in a way we can all work together to achieve its goals.

The Macedon/Mt. Macedon Community Plan (the plan):

- updates you on what has occurred since our community planning meeting in November 2010
- collates recent community opinion on what we value in our community and what we want our future in Macedon and Mt. Macedon to look like
- highlights the five priorities the Macedon/Mt. Macedon community voted for as the most important to achieve or to progress in 2012
- presents draft community project ideas and initiatives for your feedback that respond to the five priorities voted for by our community
- guides you through the background on how the plan and its five priorities were developed, and how the community benefits
- discusses the role of the community planning group and how you and/or your community group can be involved; and
- details the community communications program, annual review process and provides general community planning information.

The plan will be used as a key document to assist the community to achieve their goals through local action, advocacy, securing necessary funding and resources, building effective partnerships and contributing to the planning and activities of a wide range of organisations who play a role in the future of Macedon and Mt. Macedon.

Have a say. It's your plan.

Community feedback deadline: Thursday 2 February 2012

Please offer your feedback and input into the projects and initiatives set out in the plan on or before Thursday 2 February 2012.

Your input will help update the ideas presented in the plan and further direct the efforts of the plan in a way most relevant to you, your family and community.

A final version of the plan will be made available to the community as soon as possible.

The best way to prepare your feedback is to:

- review each project and activity presented in the plan; then
- brainstorm and suggest constructive improvements or substitute ideas that help achieve the five priority issues the community aims to solve.

To submit feedback

Use the online feedback form at www.ourcommunityplan.com/feedback

or

post your submission to:
Community Planning
PO Box 151
Kyneton VIC 3444

The final version will be available online at www.ourcommunityplan.com or in hard copy at authorised local outlets. Implementation will begin immediately.

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Snap shot overview – 2012 priorities and projects

DRAFT

Planning Controls

Vision

To promote sensible and controlled town planning sympathetic to our local character and sensitive to the environment

Goals

Encourage community involvement

Adequate, diverse accommodation

Protect and enhance rural character

Objectives

- ❑ To encourage a proactive community in understanding the impacts of the settlement strategy/planning policy
- ❑ To support the community to submit opinion about proposed changes to planning policy
- ❑ To achieve a working partnership fostering transparency and open communication between government, developers and community
- ❑ To advocate removing redundant overlays from existing planning policy guidelines
- ❑ To advocate appropriate town planning policy guidelines to provide capacity and diversity to house ageing population, close to services and facilities
- ❑ To influence policymakers to allow dual occupancy only, not multiple dwellings on existing infill or new lots
- ❑ To limit allotments greater than 800sq.m. to dual occupancy only to protect character and environment
- ❑ To enable clear parking policies and advocate the implementation of traffic management plans to accommodate local customers and protect the rural village character
- ❑ To promote tourism by showcasing the visual beauty of our area, to support the sustainability of local businesses

Streetscape Plan

DRAFT

Vision

To protect, maintain and enhance the rural character of our unique, iconic landscape

Goals

Safe traffic management

Underground power - fire protection

Protect treescapes and landscaping

Objectives

- ❑ To increase the user friendliness and safe interaction of pedestrian and motorised movement within the district
 - ❑ To improve traffic safety at Macedon shopping village to reduce risk of pedestrian injury/traffic accident
 - ❑ To provide a network of footpaths to encourage safe, active movement and easy access to services and facilities
 - ❑ To address safety issues and lobby relocation of power pole in newsagent precinct car park
- ❑ To lobby power authorities and local government to provide funding and resources to relocate power lines underground to reduce fire risk
 - ❑ To advocate a power line replacement program
- ❑ To ensure adequate maintenance of existing treescapes to protect unique rural village character (replacing like for like, and species, as required)
 - ❑ To initiate a conservation management plan for Honour Ave
 - ❑ To retain and protect the wild life corridor
 - ❑ To implement low level landscaping at Macedon shopping precinct, at toilet block in Smith St and at Centennial Park
 - ❑ To integrate a historic centrepiece into the Macedon shopping precinct

Macedon Bushfire Mitigation Plan

DRAFT

Vision

On days of extreme fire danger the Macedon community no longer lives in fear of a devastating inferno

Goals

Strategic fire breaks

A neighbourhood safer place

A fuel management program

Objectives

- ❑ To advocate the harvest of the primary school pine plantation and to explore options for development of the site as a community park
- ❑ To propose significant reduction in the fuel load of the Macedon Regional Park bordered by Nursery Rd and Black Forest Dr
- ❑ To consult with the management of the Hancock pine plantation, north of the reservoir, regarding creation of a large fire break along the Southern boundary
- ❑ To assist with the establishment of a building protection zone around the Tony Clarke Stadium to reduce potential fire intensity
- ❑ To recommend removal of undergrowth along Middle Gully Creek from the Stadium upstream to the Nursery Rd reservoir
- ❑ To upgrade the access road from Cable St to the Reserve and create additional car parking spaces
- ❑ To advance implementation of the CFA fuel reduction plan along Macedon's railway corridor
- ❑ To request that a program of fuel management in and around the township is endorsed and implemented
- ❑ To promote appropriate fuel reduction on private properties

Transport Improvement Plan

DRAFT

Vision

To improve the appearance and utilisation of our transport assets

Goals

Gateway upgrade

Create economic/recreational links

Safe, sustainable transport options

Objectives

- ❑ To enhance the presentation of Macedon train station precinct with a community design competition
- ❑ To preserve the heritage of Macedon train station assets: restore the station building, reinstate waiting room facilities, erect history gallery and celebrate 150 years of rail with a community festival and ball
- ❑ To ensure adequate commuter peak hour services: conducting a needs analysis (commuter survey) and preparing patronage case for V/Line
- ❑ To provide local community-based bus service between Macedon and Mt. Macedon, Gisborne, Woodend and (if viable) Melton
- ❑ To conduct a needs analysis, develop a business case and propose additional transport options linking the economic and recreational centres of Mt. Macedon and Macedon with the existing transport network
- ❑ To create a cycle path network linking Macedon train station and the economic and recreational centres of Mt. Macedon and Macedon
- ❑ To create a 10 km off road multi-purpose bush trail linking Macedon train station and Woodend

Community Action

- PRIORITY 1: PLANNING CONTROLS

BACKGROUND

Macedon/Mt. Macedon will always be an area to be considered for its rural and environmental sensitivity for any development, whether that development be domestic, a commercial business house or building.

The policy document from the State Government titled 'Statement of Planning Policy No. 8' (SPP8) has served the area of the Macedon Ranges for many years to protect its villages from being over developed. SPP8 has been in place since 1975 and has always had an overarching say in the protection of the Macedon Ranges environment.

The growing trend in both present and future strategies from various State Governments to push the 'urban sprawl' into regional and country areas and the lack of adequate town planning zones and overlays for Macedon and Mt. Macedon in areas that are vulnerable and need protection from development, is sounding 'the danger alarm' for the environment. In the 2010 State Election, community and resident groups used their voting leverage to now have commitment that SPP8 will be reinstated and will again be a main saviour to our local environment and offer it protection.

Over the years many changes have occurred in and around the villages of Macedon and Mt. Macedon that have had a significant impact on the character of the district. Some of the events to have impacted are (and in no particular order):

- (a) Ash Wednesday bushfires, its' short and long term effects
- (b) Various town planning overlays that have been implemented by the MRSC
- (c) A new Calder Freeway re-alignment
- (d) Natural gas for the area (not all)
- (e) Sewerage system for the area (not all).

COMMUNITY FORUM IDEAS

The community forum held on the 6 November 2010 was decisive in the level of importance placed by the community on the 'out of touch' planning issues that are present in the Macedon/Mt. Macedon area. This was shown by the largest number of votes being given to commonsense town planning controls.

A summary of the community needs that impact town planning and require addressing are (and in no particular order):

1. Housing for older people
2. Clarification of town planning overlays
3. Controlled population growth
4. Better communication/transparency of any requirements that affect the community being considered by MRSC or council officers
5. Planning schemes to accommodate diversity
6. Ensure the rural character and environment of the villages and districts are maintained and protected
7. Maintain and enhance existing infrastructure to accommodate the fire risks and evacuation of the area
8. Ensure a safe network of linkages, both pedestrian and vehicle, are in place to accommodate the diverse population present. From school age to mature persons reliance on daily access to the village is important especially the older generation with reduced mobility.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. To encourage the community to be proactive in understanding the current planning policies and familiarise themselves
2. To encourage the community to take note of proposed changes that may occur and put their views and energies into writing a submission to the MRSC
3. To achieve a working partnership fostering proper consultation and open communication between both local and state authorities, the Macedon Ranges community and other interested stakeholder groups and to nominate appropriate accountability
4. To promote sensible and controlled town planning that is sympathetic to our village character and environmentally sensitive
5. To protect the area and the environmental character from any proposed developments that will have an undesirable impact for the community
6. To promote tourism and showcase the visual beauty of the Memorial Cross and surrounds, historic gardens and the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of the local business establishments so that our village businesses are sustainable and remain viable
7. To further protect historic treescapes such as Honour Ave's trees planted in memory of local persons that served in the 'Great War' and apply for State Heritage listing
8. To understand the impacts of the Draft Settlement Strategy adopted by the MRSC and, if required, make a consolidated submission to the State Government with any community concerns
9. To encourage the community and groups to be involved in making submissions to the State Government, who is currently reviewing state planning laws

10. To understand the effects of the Bushfire Royal Commission guidelines and consider their application for town planning policy guidelines adopted by the MRSC
11. To maintain both a business and private community that is sustainable to attract funding to the area from various sources to maintain the ideals of the community
12. To advocate that the State Government keep their commitment to reinstate SPP8
13. To achieve the removal by the MRSC of the antiquated and inappropriate town planning overlays currently present in Macedon/ Mt. Macedon, especially since the introduction of natural gas and the sewerage system
14. To accommodate the needs of the community, the MRSC and the State Government.

COMMUNITY ACTION REQUIRED

Ways the community can act to achieve common sense town planning controls are to:

- Champion proper town planning zones to accommodate and remove development overlays that are no longer relevant to the area
- Strengthen the urgency to bring forward immediately the 'Macedon Overlay Review' that is identified as a committed project in the current 2011/2012 budget year
- Achieve adequate consultation and multiple community meetings with the MRSC and other stakeholders to discuss and formulate town planning guidelines that would come to fruition by instigating the preparation of a town planning scheme amendment
- Actively seek the inclusion of SPP8 in all and any new town planning scheme amendments.

Areas where the community can assert its influence to activate change within specific Town Planning Zones (*Business, Mixed Use and Residential*) are:

1. Business Zone
 - (a) Identification and implementation of guidelines and policy that ensure the business CBD is maintained in the village character and boundaries are clearly defined
 - (b) Implementation of development parking policies that are clear to any developer and the community
 - (c) Implementation of a Traffic Management Plan to accommodate:
 - (i) Motor vehicle movement
 - (ii) Adequate parking and give due consideration to angle parking at appropriate locations to increase safety
 - (iii) Safe pedestrian access and movement within the CBD

- (iv) Pedestrian network paths to allow residential areas to commute to the CBD without vehicles and promote a green environment
- (v) Transport and bus loading and unloading so as not to interfere with the total movement of vehicles and pedestrians in the CBD
- (vi) Tourist signage to encourage the use of local facilities and raise awareness of the location of various tourist attractions and local services
- (vii) Provide safe entry/exit to local parks including designated vehicle stopping
- (viii) Provide safe pedestrian crossings for schools and movement of minor age population.

2. Mixed Use Zone

- (a) Identification and definition of any area outside the designated business zone that can accommodate passive mixed use zone such as:
 - (i) Home Occupation
 - (ii) Bed and Breakfast
 - (iii) Boutique Accommodation

3. Residential Zone

- (a) Allow infill development to occur and maintain the character of its surrounds to accommodate the now implemented sewer system and natural gas availability
- (b) Allow dual occupancy to accommodate the need for housing for older people and people wishing to downsize their dwelling and place of abode
NOTE: This would provide the opportunity for long time residents to stay in the area instead of looking for unit accommodation in neighbouring towns (such as Sunbury etc.)
- (c) Ensure implementation of planning policy to allow dual occupancy only and not multiple dwellings on existing infill or new lots
- (d) A dual occupancy lot to require a minimum land size of a total of 800sq.m. or more
- (e) Land holdings greater than 800sq.m. can only apply for dual occupancy if appropriate. Implementation of planning policy to protect the substance of SPP8 and not allow multiple dwellings (e.g. no multi unit site development)
- (f) If land holdings greater than 800sq.m. are approved for dual occupancy then the MRSC (together with community consultation and input) should develop and apply a planning policy that not only protects the character and environment of the area, but also prohibits further subdivision of the allotment unless the town planning zone allows it. This policy should be designed together with community consultation and input.

OUTCOMES

Remove town planning anomalies that have become redundant since the implementation of the sewer system.

Achieve a Town Planning Policy and Guidelines to provide capacity and diversity to accommodate and house the ageing population, especially close to services and facilities.

Protect and enhance the rural character and lifestyle of the Macedon/Mt. Macedon villages.

STAKEHOLDERS REQUIRED

Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC)

Councillors

State Government

CFA

Power company (distributor)

Transport – Bus companies

Macedon/Mt. Macedon businesses

Macedon/ Mt Macedon Community and Planning subcommittee

Macedon and Mt. Macedon District Business and Tourist Association (MMMMDBATA)

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN FIRST

Actions the Planning subcommittee seeks to deliver first are, to:

- (a) Ensure that the community has been fully informed and the process is compliant with the wishes and needs identified at the community forum on 6 November 2010
- (b) Present the plan to the MRSC for acceptance prior to budget approvals in June 2012 and as a submission to the planning review
- (c) Ensure that opportunities are provided for the community and the Planning subcommittee to be kept informed at all times on planning controls within the Macedon Ranges, particularly in Macedon and Mt. Macedon
- (d) Achieve MRSC commitment to implementing the 'Macedon Overlay Review' within the 2011/2012 budget year
- (e) Achieve MRSC commitment to commence a Traffic Management review and deliver a Traffic Management Plan with considerable input from the community and interested groups.

- PRIORITY 2: STREETScape

BACKGROUND

At the community forum held on 6 November 2010, the community ranked streetscape second highest behind town planning.

The community has identified the need to:

1. Maintain the rural character and landscapes of flora and fauna of the area
2. Protect and maintain treescapes and vegetation that exist and make the area unique
3. Provide a network of pedestrian access and linkages to:
 - (a) Promote a greener environment
 - (b) Cater for the older generation providing mobility and interaction from the villages of Macedon and Mt. Macedon to the surrounding area
 - (c) Provide safe movement to and from locations for the needs of transport, shopping etc.
 - (d) Enable safe movement for school children accessing their place of education from their homes.

The community desires the MRSC, together with other stakeholders, to implement all areas identified by the Streetscape subcommittee to achieve safe movement within the villages and surrounds that is not currently available and to provide, maintain and enhance the assets that have made the Macedon/Mt. Macedon area such a unique icon of the State of Victoria.

PROJECT OVERVIEW OF OBJECTIVES (numbered in order of priority)

The aim is for stakeholders to work together to bring about the needs identified and work to obtain and make available finances to implement the community needs. Participate and encourage community input to achieve the goals set and hold nominated stakeholders accountable for the delivery of community projects.

1. Traffic Management (See 'NOTE' on page 15)

The issues listed below are the minimum needs and criteria to be addressed in the Traffic Management Plan to remove a dangerous and identified unsafe situation in the Macedon shopping precinct that currently puts many pedestrians at risk of being injured.

The aim is to provide user friendly and safe interaction of the pedestrian and motorised movement within the district. The consultation planning process needs to be transparent and involve input from all stakeholders.

The identified needs are:

- a) Angle parking on the west side of Margaret St. both sides of Victoria St, for the distance that extends to the end of the business zone
- b) Angle parking on the east side of Margaret St. both sides of Victoria St, for the distance that extends to the end of the business zone
- c) Re-aligning the position (increasing the parking length) of angle parking on the south of Victoria St. between Margaret St. and Smith St. incorporating a new footpath at street level and an embankment development with a view to having an art display on the retaining wall depicting the history of Macedon. At present the existing embankment is a dangerous safety hazard for all users and is in need of urgent attention
- d) Address the location of the bus stops in Victoria and Margaret St.

NOTE: For ALL angle parking, the Streetscape subcommittee recommends that reverse angle parking should be put in place which would increase safety and traffic flow.

2. Network of footpaths/walking tracks (See 'NOTE' on Type A, B and C on page 16)

The network of footpaths/walking tracks is a lacking facility in the area and does not cater for the older population nor enables access to young families to teach the younger generation the benefits of exercise for providing healthier lifestyles.

The aim of this project is to encourage the use of movement within and in between the villages of Macedon and Mt. Macedon, enable access to the local facilities available to both residents and tourists and to lobby the MRSC and councillors to allocate funding in budgets adopted for expenditure.

The network of pedestrian access and linkages aim to (see map on page 18):

- (a) Promote a greener environment
- (b) Cater for the older generation providing mobility and interaction from the villages to the surrounding area (*reference: ABS Census 2006*)
- (c) Provide safe movement to and from locations for the needs of transport, shopping etc.
- (d) Safe movement for school children accessing their place of education from their homes
- (e) Promote the need for tourists to experience the beauty of our area and encourage the patronage of the local businesses and facilities.

The Streetscape subcommittee recommend the following foot paths:

Type A

- (a) Along Victoria St on the south side from Smith St to Bruce St
- (b) Along Smith St on the west side from the formal footpath at the toilet block to Ash Wednesday Park
- (c) Along the east side of Smith St From Carrington St (school) to Craven St
- (d) Along the south side of Carrington St to Margaret St
- (e) Along Smith St on the east side from existing path coming from Victoria St to Carrington St
- (f) Along Margaret St from Carrington St, around Craven St, to Smith St
- (g) Along Margaret St on both sides from Victoria St to the end of business zone only.

Type B

- (a) Along Victoria St on the north side from Bruce St to Bent St
- (b) Along Bent St on the west side from Victoria St to Carrington St to join the path on the south side of Carrington St at the Honour Ave/Bent St intersection
- (c) Along Bent St on the west side from Victoria St to Mc Bean Ave
- (d) From Ash Wednesday Park past Jubilee Hall and the Mountview theatre, on the edge of the car parking area to the school crossing
- (e) Along Nursery Rd incorporating a cantilevered walking bridge on the north side of the railway bridge from Craven St to bus stop at Nursery Rd
- (f) Along Bruce St on the east side from Mc Bean Ave. to Bruce St Kindergarten
- (g) From Bruce St Kindergarten to Carrington St
- (h) From bus stop at Black Forest Dr (outside Caravan Park) along Mc Bean Ave on the north side to Railway Pl
- (i) Along Railway Place on the west side from Mc Bean Ave to Nursery Rd, via Craven St and Greene St
- (j) Along the north side of Mc Bean Ave from Smith St to Bruce St.

Type C

- (a) Along Bent St on the east side from Carrington St to the end, across the existing footbridge to Tony Clarke reserve
- (b) Along Waterfalls Rd on the west side from Honour Ave to Tony Clarke and construct a footbridge at the creek
- (c) Along Carrington St/Honour Ave on the south Side from Margaret Street to Mt Macedon Road and Centennial Park Toilets
- (d) Along Honour Ave on the north side from Bent St to Waterfalls Rd
- (e) Along Mt. Macedon Rd on the west side from Honour Ave to Mc Bean Ave
- (f) Along Mc Bean Ave on the north side from Mt Macedon Rd to Bruce St
- (g) Pedestrian separation at the railway bridge in Mc Bean Ave (the Streetscape subcommittee recommends and suggests a tunnel).

NOTE: Walking path types A, B and C (refer to map on page 18)

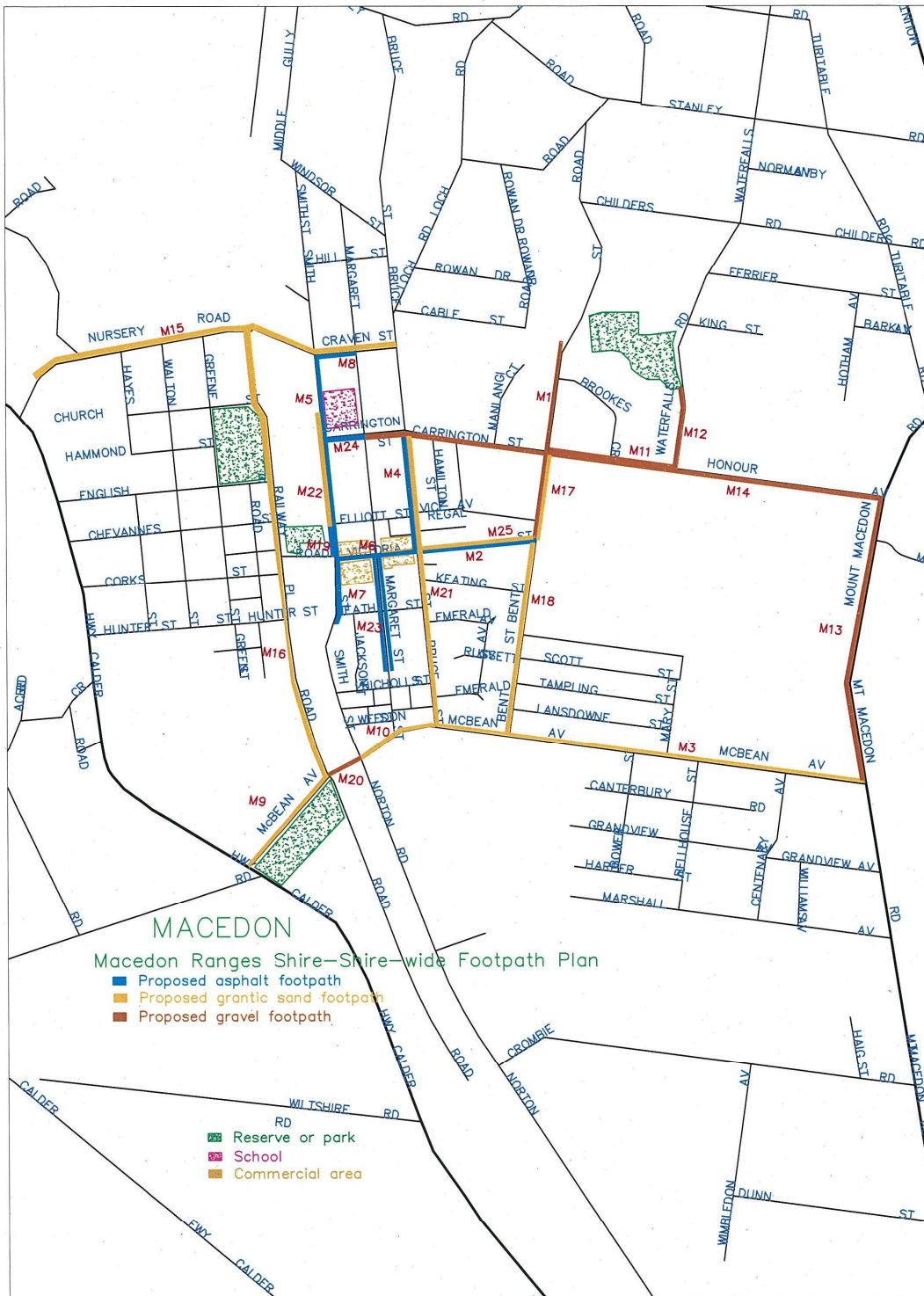
Type 'A' is a sealed path and is constructed of asphalt (coloured GREEN on the map).

Type 'B' is a formed and compacted granitic sand that meanders through the existing trees (similar to the Romsey to Lancefield walking track and is coloured BLUE on the map).

Type 'C' is a slightly compacted crushed rock that has no formal edging and meanders through existing trees (coloured PINK on the map).

Where there are low sections that allow for natural drainage, then 'boardwalks' should be created at these locations so that the path is safe and not a muddy hole.

MAP: Macedon Ranges Shire Shire-wide Footpath Plan



Please note:

While every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Councillors and Employees make no representation nor warranties concerning the accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability of the data for any particular purpose and disclaim all responsibility and all liability including without limitation, liability in negligence for all expenses, losses, damages or injury (including indirect or consequential) and costs which may be incurred as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for whatever reason. No person or organisation should rely solely upon this data for the purpose of making business, investment or real estate decisions.

3. Newsagent shopping car park

Meetings already held with MRSC representatives and the local business organisation has concluded the need to remove the dangerous and unsafe situation that exists.

The authority for compliance rests with the stakeholders, as identified below:

- (a) MRSC to follow up and talk with shops body corporate to address compliance of planning permits issued and safety issues at the car park provided for patrons parking
- (b) MRSC to lobby the power company to replace and relocate power pole at the parking area to address the safety of vehicles and pedestrians. When the pole is removed, the power to affected businesses could be from the pole in Margaret St close to at the rear of the shops or from another new pole at the garden bed outside the shops on the corner of Margaret and Victoria Sts (see also the 'Underground power' in section 4 below).

4. Underground power

The need for these works and program of undergrounding power lines is obvious and evident from the 2009 Bushfire Royal Commission Recommendation, together with the identified needs and promises made after the 'Ash Wednesday' bushfires.

The responsibility remains entirely with the power company and governments to provide funding and action.

The community and local authorities need to lobby these authorities to achieve the outcomes.

The authorities, like any business, should have budgeted for this expenditure after the devastation of the Ash Wednesday fires caused by 'faulty power lines'.

An important outcome is that the risk to treescapes and the vegetation of the area would be reduced.

The replacement programs should at minimum include the following:

- (a) Replace over head power lines with underground services in Victoria St from Smith St to Bent St
- (b) Replace overhead power lines with underground services in Mt. Macedon Rd from Centennial Park to the shops at the Mt. Macedon Shopping Village (this was promised to be done after the Ash Wednesday Bushfires)
- (c) Long term to have the whole area being serviced by underground power through maintenance/replacement program.

5. Trees and landscaping

The protection of the treescapes and landscapes of the area need to be maintained to ensure the continuance of the unique rural village environment character continues.

The outcomes will ensure that the action put in place protect special and significant landscapes that have been recognised by not only state authorities but also conservation consultants.

The enhancement of shopping village intersections and other dangerous situations will provide community, tourists, children and indeed all users with comfort and a safe environment.

Implementing the needs listed below also provide the opportunity to showcase the area and its special, unique, quality assets and history by way of a mural or artworks that would be depicting history for our future generations.

Stakeholders would work together and bring together the many other varied stakeholders that could be sought to assist and provide not only ideas, but also funding needed.

The below actions would be a starting point for actions to be initiated and commenced:

- (a) Replanting of trees to be replaced 'like for like' when any tree is removed and/or take advice from experts as to the species to be replanted as to suitability
- (b) Retaining the wild life corridor
- (c) Replant and landscape intersections, including a new retaining embankment on the south side of Victoria St, between Smith St and Margaret St, with suitable low planting to maintain visibility and safety of vehicles, pedestrians and tourists
- (d) Intersection of Margaret and Victoria St with suitable low planting to improve and increase visibility at the intersection
- (e) A Conservation Management Plan for the Honour Ave trees that are a significant historic landscape not only in Macedon, but also Victoria. This plan could be extended for other significant species, such as elm trees etc.
- (f) Provide low height floral landscaping outside toilet blocks in Smith St and Centennial Park and provide adequate signage for emergency contacts and other toilet locations
- (g) Provide a new street level foot path on the south side of Victoria St. from Smith St to Margaret St, and landscape the new embankment after the alignment
- (h) Integrate a mural depicting the town's evolution/history within the new embankment.

STAKEHOLDERS REQUIRED

Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC)

Councillors

State Government

CFA

Power company (distributor)

Transport – Bus companies

Macedon/Mt Macedon businesses

Macedon/ Mt Macedon Community and Streetscape subcommittee

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN FIRST

- (a) Ensure that the community has been fully informed and the process is compliant with the wishes and needs identified at the community forum on 6 November, 2010
- (b) Present the plan to the MRSC for acceptance prior to budget approvals in June 2012
- (c) Achieve a working partnership with the appropriate authorities so that the Streetscape subcommittee is kept informed at all times and allowed to have input in all the developments that occur or are proposed in the Macedon/Mt. Macedon towns. For example: the community hub, neighbourhood centre, railway car park development and the Settlement Strategy
- (d) Advocate that the MRSC redirect the \$40,000 community art project funding for the Mt. Macedon Rd/Black Forest Dr roundabout to projects identified in the plan, as prioritised by the community.

- PRIORITY 3: FIRE SAFETY

BACKGROUND

In the Macedon/Mt. Macedon region there are a number of real or perceived bushfire safety threats. Macedon is a designated 'high risk' bushfire zone.

The CFA declared that "any fire in the area has the potential to spread rapidly with devastating effects", as we saw in 1983.

Much has been done by government to raise community awareness of the danger but not enough has been done to reduce the risk. Various responsible authorities are aware of many of the threats, but the community needs reassurance that action is being taken to address them.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

We must convince key community stakeholders, such as politicians, the shire council and the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), that the community are seriously concerned about bushfire threats in the local area and need to see these issues being addressed with urgency.

STAKEHOLDERS REQUIRED

Community Planning Group (CPG) and Fire Safety Group volunteers

WHAT NEED TO HAPPEN FIRST

Prepare a bushfire mitigation plan describing the local bushfire-related issues of concern to the community and conduct an environmental scan to find out who else is engaged in this kind of activity and understand what they are doing.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES

Establish at least one means by which the community can provide feedback to the group on these issues (e.g. a blog). Lobby key stakeholders such as politicians, the shire council, CFA, Vline, VicTrack and the DSE.

PROGRESS MARCH TO NOVEMBER 2011

Blog established, March 2011: <http://mmmfiresafety.blogspot.com>
Macedon Bushfire Mitigation Plan prepared (see snapshot on page 7).

Various individuals and organisations have been contacted:

Anne-Louise Lindner, Manager Community Safety, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Dept of Sustainability & Environment (DSE)

Dr Kevin Tolhurst, University of Melbourne

Cr Helen Relph

Cr Rob Guthrie

Strategic fire breaks

The effectiveness of firebreaks in slowing the progress and reducing the intensity of severe bushfires has been demonstrated by computer models and analysis of past fires. Public reserves and parklands are in the low fire risk vegetation category. Scattered deciduous trees enhance the landscaping in recreational locations.

Objectives

- To advocate the harvest of the primary school pine plantation & to explore options for development of the site as a community park

The Macedon Primary School Pine Plantation covers about 13 acres, boarded by Cable and Bruce Sts, in the north of the town. There has been little or no thinning or maintenance of the plantation since it was created in 1986. Consequently, pine needles are thick on the ground and there are more than 100,000 dead lower branches circling the 8,000 small to medium tree trunks. The creek surrounding the plantation on three sides is overgrown with trees, shrubs, blackberries and weeds. In the event of a bushfire this site could generate an inferno in the most densely populated part of the town. Dr Roger Good, lecturer in Fire Science, NSW University described such pine plantations as “a huge standing crop of fuel”. A longer term objective, after the pine trees have been harvested, would be to include the primary school plantation site into the Tony Clarke Recreation Reserve with a linked, walking/cycling track.

- To propose significant reduction in the fuel load of the Macedon Regional Park bordered by Nursery Rd & Black Forest Dr

With current fuel loads, this park is regarded as a serious threat, particularly to the western half of the township. Significant reduction in fuel loads by removal of small trees, saplings and undergrowth plus the creation of a fire break along the southern boundary, are proposed strategies for reducing the risk of an intense bushfire.

- To consult with the management of the Hancock pine plantation, north of the reservoir, regarding creation of a large fire break along the southern boundary

The large Hancock pine plantation, located north of the Nursery Road reservoir and west of Middle Gully Rd, has been identified by CFA as posing a significant threat to the township. Justin Leonard, CSIRO Fire Science & Technology Laboratory recommends “the phasing out of pine plantations near towns”. Establishment of a large firebreak, free of combustible material, along the southern boundary of the plantation north of the reservoir would attenuate the intensity of an emerging bushfire.

A neighbourhood safer place

A new concept that evolved out of the tragic Black Saturday bushfires. A NSP is an identified building or space within the community that may afford some protection from bushfire. It is a place of last resort in emergencies, e.g. when escape routes are blocked by smoke induced traffic accidents. State government funding is available to achieve this objective and the project is to be managed by the council.

Objectives

□ To establish a building protection zone around the Tony Clarke Stadium to reduce potential fire intensity

The Stadium's ability to withstand both radiant heat and ember attack would be substantially improved by:-

- Installation of bushfire shutters to all external glass windows and doors, one of which being operable from within the building.
- Installing a bushfire sprinkler system capable of delivering large volumes of water at high pressure to provide complete coverage of the building and surrounds. The large steel water tank, used to irrigate the oval, provides the water via a diesel pump and underground pipes. A return pipe, from the roof to the tank conserves water throughout the year.
- Removal of the trees in the front of the stadium and the saplings and undergrowth in the creek directly opposite the stadium entrance.

□ To recommend removal of undergrowth along Middle Gully Creek from the Stadium upstream to the Nursery Rd reservoir

The creeks surrounding Tony Clarke oval are infested with blackberry bushes, deadwood, saplings and litter. An ongoing cleanup program is recommended as an essential component of the NSP implementation plan.

□ To upgrade the access road from Cable St to the Reserve and create additional car parking spaces

Annual grading of the access roadway from Cable St to the Tony Clarke will provide a reliable second avenue of access to the NSP and additional car parking, well away from the stadium.

A fuel management program

Fuel reduction reduces the rate of development and the spotting potential of bush fires. Such programs involve removal of dead wood, undergrowth and leaf litter because it is the combination of lying and standing fuels that is required for an inferno. The lesson learnt from Black Saturday is that we invite disaster by failing to manage the fuel.

Objectives

- To advance implementation of the CFA fuel reduction plan along Macedon's railway corridor

Victorian railway land on both sides of the railway line, extending from Macedon northwards towards Woodend, has a high fuel load with considerable under-storey and leaf litter, due in part to the abundant rainfall during the past year. Fuel reduction along this corridor is a priority because of the potential for bushfire ignition. The Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC) has arranged for the CFA Vegetation Manager to draw up an ongoing program to achieve this objective.

- To request that a program of fuel management in and around the township is endorsed and implemented

MRSC/Parks/CFA should monitor fuel loads along roadsides, and other areas for which council is responsible, and arrange slashing/burning/mulching/pruning throughout the year to prevent accumulation of fuel. Honour Ave is an example of how well the council can maintain a roadside. However the verges of Carrington St (the extension of Honour Ave), are overgrown with saplings, woody weeds and leaf litter. If there is less to burn there is a correspondingly lower bushfire threat.

- To promote appropriate fuel reduction on private properties

The strategic use of fuel reduction burning should be promoted as one of the few tools that can minimise bushfire damage. The MFMPC should monitor fuel loads and recommend control through mechanical means or prescribed burns and the council should ensure that landowners comply with fire prevention guidelines.

- PRIORITY 4: TRANSPORT

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To improve the appearance and utilisation of our existing transport assets to:

- create a sustainable transport option for residents and visitors by interlinking commercial and community assets to the Macedon and Mt. Macedon gateway; the Macedon railway station
- showcase the significance of Macedon and Mt. Macedon in Victoria's transport heritage; and
- expand the local economy by enabling and promoting Macedon and Mt. Macedon as a green/low carbon getaway destination.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The benefits of enhancing the appearance of the Macedon and Mt. Macedon gateway and interlinking our local community and commercial assets are:

Local residents:

- can rely on well presented, reliable and integrated transport options
- reduce or negate their reliance on private motor vehicles
- benefit from additional commercial and tourism opportunities

Visitors:

- can access all that Macedon and Mt. Macedon have to offer, leaving their car at home, including:
 - historic homes and gardens
 - cafes, restaurants and local shops
 - magnificent views from the cross; and
 - the tranquillity of our forests and lakes
- learn about the historic significance of the area, particularly the role played by Middle Gully/Macedon and Mt. Macedon in building Victoria's transport infrastructure
- experience how local residents can be proud custodians of their heritage infrastructure

PROJECT OVERVIEW

1. Gateway upgrade

What	How	Reference
<p>MACEDON STATION PRESENTATION Enhance the presentation of Macedon train station precinct (east/west, entrance and car park); include bike rack</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Community art project 'Macedon train station precinct design' competition (with guidelines: heritage, low maintenance, fire resistant, drought tolerant, recommended species list) > Master planning by local landscape designer outlining go-no-go and safe height areas with VicTrack > Competition submissions judged by panel of local horticulture, heritage, botanical specialists and VicTrack > Shared community/VicTrack garden maintenance roster 	<p>Newmarket train station beatification - Moonee Valley City Council, Parks and Cityscapes advisor</p> <p>Delivered via community group – 'Stationers Club' – via Keep Australia Beautiful - liaison with VicTrack</p>

What	How	References
<p>LOCAL HERITAGE PROTECTION Preserve the heritage of Macedon train station assets, surrounding garden and entrance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Restore Macedon train station building to its original condition (internal and external) > Enable access to a waiting room, with child and disabled-friendly bathroom facilities > Erect a history gallery to share station/township history with locals and visitors > Celebrate 150 years of rail to Macedon district with a community festival and fundraising ball (May 2013) – fill a steam train from Melbourne with paying tourists 	<p>Year 1: Building assessment</p> <p>Year 2: Commencement</p> <p>Year 3: Completion</p> <p>References: Australian Building Conservation Company - and - Maryborough train station restoration</p>

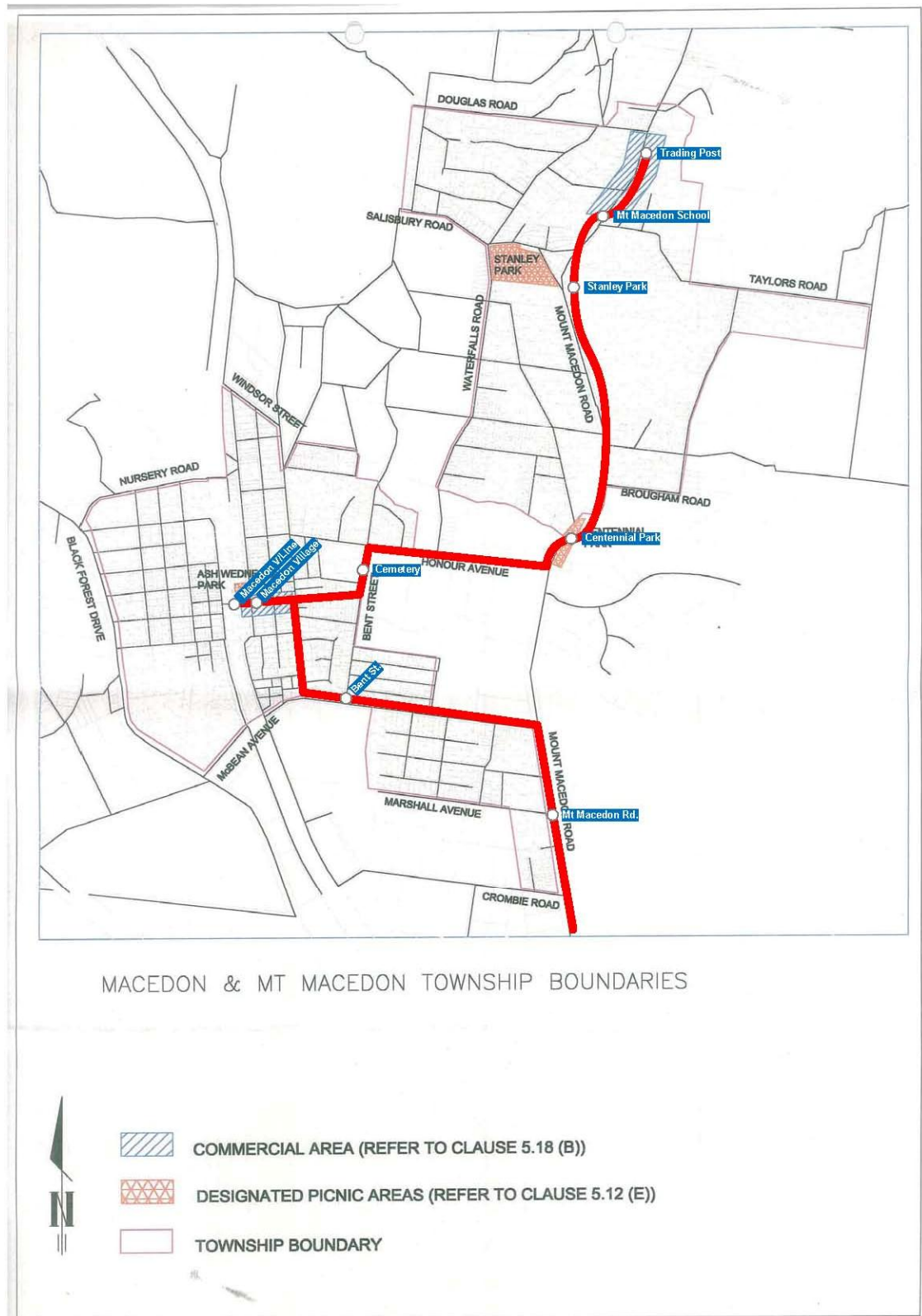
2. Economic and recreation centre link

What	How	Reference
PEAK HOUR SERVICE Ensure adequate commuter peak hour services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Conduct needs analysis (commuter survey) > Prepare patronage case for V/Line 	N/A

What	How	Reference
COMMUNITY BUS Local community-based transport service between Macedon, Mt. Macedon, Gisborne, Woodend and (if viable) Melton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Conduct a needs analysis (combine with a MRSC regional survey: Transport Connections) > Develop business case to use existing bus infrastructure and expand current GisBus service > Propose bus stops that link with existing transport network > Service targeted to transport disadvantaged (time and frequency) 	<p>GisBus</p> <p>If existing GisBus bus/driver assets used, only fuel and labour costs increase</p> <p>This cost anticipated to be covered by ticket price, but requires modelling</p>

Please refer to draft bus route map on page 29.

DRAFT BUS ROUTE MAP (to link Gisborne, Macedon and Mt. Macedon)



Please note:
 Map sourced from www.mrsc.vic.gov.au and adapted by the Transport subcommittee.

3. Safe, sustainable transport options (link existing trails, foot paths and shops)

What	How	Reference
<p>CYCLE PATH NETWORK Link Macedon train station, economic and recreational centres of Mt. Macedon and Macedon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Survey existing cycle and foot paths > Assess feasibility (off-road shared path or separate off road path) > Map proposed cycle path network > Seek stakeholder feedback > Finalise map and budget > Secure approval/funds/land > Develop in sections as budget allows 	<p>Year 1: Assessment</p> <p>Year 2 until completion</p> <p>Reference: Two Towns Trail, 8-10 km trail linking Drouin and Warragul – VicRoads/Baw Baw Shire Council project</p>

What	How	Reference
<p>EXERCISE/TOURIST TRAIL Create a 10 km off road bush trail linking Macedon train station and Woodend</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Review existing unofficial route linking Macedon and Woodend > Investigate links to proposed Blackwood to Mt. Macedon trail, to existing mountain bike trail at the lagoon on Black Forest Drive and to the Great Dividing Trail > Assess feasibility > Propose trail path with links to existing transport infrastructure > Seek stakeholder feedback > Finalise map and budget > Secure approval/funds/land 	<p>Year 1: Assessment</p> <p>Year 2 until completion</p> <p>Community can offer labour and machinery</p> <p>Reference: Woodend Cycles</p>

STAKEHOLDERS REQUIRED

The success of this plan relies on buy-in of the respective stakeholders.

These include: -

- VicTrack – owner of Macedon and Mt Macedon’s gateway station
- V/Line – operator and responsible for maintenance of the station
- GisBus – potential operator of the link bus
- VicRoads – manager of the road network
- Local community – volunteers to coordinate and manage projects (e.g. Landcare, walking, biking and cycling groups, historical and horticultural societies)
- Local government – to help promote, support and facilitate projects (e.g. Planning, Transport Connections Officer, Culture and Arts, Tourism)
- Sponsors – to help fund the project through financial or professional donations (e.g. insurance, legal advice and documentation, marketing and promotion etc.).

Funding will be sought from a variety of sources (e.g. budget and grant submissions, in-kind donations, local business and community support).

- PRIORITY 5: YOUTH

UPDATE

Due to a lack of resources, the youth section of the community plan has not yet been developed. While this priority is important, it is not possible to deliver initiatives without the help of the community. Therefore, the CPG are unable to implement this priority in the 2012 plan.

HAVE AN IDEA, BUT NEED HELP?

Do you have an idea to help develop and support the youth in our community? Perhaps you are an established group with great ideas, but need help to give your ideas momentum.

If improving youth services, facilities and activities is important to you, please submit your thoughts on these areas. The CPG can help communicate your ideas for the youth in our community and advocate the inclusion of such projects in future community plans.

Background to the plan

- How the plan was developed

In 2010, the Macedon/Mt. Macedon community sent a submission to the Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC) requesting to be included in an existing community planning program.

The request was approved and as a result, the council's community development team have worked in partnership with the Macedon/Mt. Macedon community to develop this inaugural plan.

To kick off the process, a public community planning meeting was held on 6 November 2010. 73 community members participated, alongside shire councillors and council staff.

Macedon/Mt. Macedon community members, Joe Leonello and Kate Lawrence, welcomed all in attendance and spoke about the role of community planning, what it could offer the townships of Macedon and Mt. Macedon, and explained how the community can be involved.

Council staff facilitated table discussions around three key questions:

- i. Where is Macedon/Mt. Macedon now?
- ii. What do we like and value about living in Macedon/Mt. Macedon?; and
- iii. Where does Macedon/Mt. Macedon want to be in the future?

Each table discussed a range of issues and presented their top three priorities to the wider group. All participants were then asked to individually vote on the collective ideas listed and to volunteer to work on priorities of interest to them (refer to the list of ideas and voting outcomes in Appendix 2). The top five priorities as voted for by the Macedon/Mt. Macedon community are the core components of the plan.

Following the community planning meeting, volunteers met as sub groups to further develop each priority into project ideas, to nominate a representative to be part of the Macedon/Mt. Macedon Community Planning Group (CPG) and to begin to develop a first draft of the plan.

On the 21 February 2011, the first CPG meeting was held to commence the development of the plan. Each month CPG meetings were held (in addition to many individual sub group meetings) to develop the first draft of the plan.

The plan is designed to include twelve months of community activity. It suggests a number of projects and initiatives to deliver the community's priorities and identifies a range of stakeholders who could work together to achieve results.

After twelve months, or sooner if necessary, the plan will be re-evaluated by the community and a new plan developed.

- The five community priorities

The top five priorities identified by the Macedon/Mt. Macedon community as the most important to achieve or to progress in 2012, each with equal weight, are:

Priority 1: Planning Controls (28 votes)

Priority 2: Streetscape (24 votes)

Priority 3: Fire Safety (21 votes)

Priority 4: Transport (19 votes)

Priority 5: Youth (9 votes)

Other important needs identified by the community that scored highly when the community began to prioritise their needs for the 2012 plan, included a food swap, improved community communications and increased health services.

These needs will not be forgotten. They will be reviewed and support considered in the development of future community plans.

If these issues are important to you, please submit ideas for initiatives in these areas.

- How you and the community benefit

The plan offers residents and business owners an opportunity to establish and communicate a view about how they would like to see their township improve and evolve.

Voice

It gives the community a voice and provides a transparent platform for everyone to share and debate new ideas, views and direction for the plan.

Credibility

It adds credibility to a grant or budget submission, to help community projects start sooner.

Evidence of community support for local initiatives is well-valued by a variety of government, public and private entities (potential sponsors).

Awareness

It helps raise awareness about the needs of the community. This helps community groups to more easily identify how their committees can work with other groups to develop and support complementary projects.

Action

It enables the community to act on the most important issues, in the order we choose, when we are ready and able to do so.

- What is the Community Planning Group (CPG)?

The CPG is a team of local volunteers with wide-ranging interests and experiences.

Its current members are:

<p>Amanda Mees Andrew Miroslaw Colleen Hildebrand Fiona Jemmett (MRSC)</p>	<p>Joe Leonello Keith Savin Peter Shaw (Chairman) Ronald Fitt</p>
--	---

The current aim of the CPG is:

To work with the Macedon/Mt. Macedon community to capture the best, most achievable ideas wanted by the community, that improve and enhance the townships of Macedon and Mt. Macedon, to complete a final version of the plan.

When the final version of the plan is endorsed by the community, the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and ready for implementation, the role of the CPG is to:

- be the caretaker of the plan
- support the priorities listed in the plan
- maintain a broad community focus when implementing the plan
- link people together to create productive project partnerships
- keep the Macedon/Mt. Macedon community informed and involved
- hear and give voice to community needs and aspirations; and
- ensure the delivery of each project in the plan.

The CPG will work in partnership with existing local groups and committees to achieve each project in the plan.

To become a member of the CPG or to attend a CPG meeting, contact:

Community Development
[Macedon Ranges Shire Council](#)
Ph: 5422 0333

Everyone in the community is welcome and encouraged to be involved.

- New members welcome

Would you like to help shape the plan and make it come alive?

The CPG needs help to deliver the projects and initiatives set out in the plan, and welcomes new volunteers. Put your hand up to help deliver a project and share the rewards!

It's a great opportunity to help facilitate what happens to restore our local heritage, improve the foot and cycle path networks, better prepare our neighbourhood in the event of fire, create fun community festivities and enhance the beautiful streetscapes in the local area.

To become a member of the CPG, a subcommittee member, or to volunteer, contact:

Community Development
[Macedon Ranges Shire Council](#)
Ph: 5422 0333

One meeting, every 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm (and a little home work) is all it takes.

Community values and vision

- About Macedon/Mt. Macedon

The township of Macedon is located at the foot of 1,011m high Mt. Macedon, approximately 60 kilometres north-west of Melbourne. It covers an area of 5 square kilometres and is set in gently sloping, heavily treed terrain.

During the gold rush Macedon (formerly known as Middle Gully) provided inns, beer houses, blacksmith services and stores to workers, road and rail travellers heading to and from the gold fields.

Part way up the hill, 65 km north-west of Melbourne, is the small township of Mt. Macedon. It covers an area of 7 square kilometres.

In the 1870s, the beauty and coolness of its slopes attracted members of Melbourne's wealthy social elite. A number of grand Victorian homes with extensive ornamental gardens were established as summer residences. The numerous ornamental gardens are considered to be some of the most important collections of 19th-century gardens in Australia. This quiet rural retreat is treasured by its residents and visitors alike.

In recent times, bushfire has significantly impacted the local community.

In 1983, the Ash Wednesday fires destroyed over 400 homes, burned out 30,000 hectares of forest and farmland and killed 7 people. The fires raced uncontrollably up the slopes of Mt. Macedon and, despite the efforts of 1000 volunteer fire fighters, homes were razed. Many of the homes have since been rebuilt and most of the gardens re-established.

Today, Macedon is made up of a mix of small to medium-sized residential blocks, while the township of Mt Macedon incorporates large rural acreages.

Both townships share modest commercial development, a railway station and are influenced by a high level of commuting to Melbourne. Benefits for both townships can be achieved by working together to deliver one community plan.

- About the people living in Macedon/Mt. Macedon

Today, Macedon and Mt. Macedon is home to 2, 529 residents.

The people living in the Macedon/Mt. Macedon townships are predominantly a population of commuters or local shire employees with a family. Half are female and half are male. Most residents are married couples with families or couples without children.

A good proportion of the community are under 15 (22%) and small proportion represent the mature-aged community (10%).

This means just over a third of our community may be vulnerable to mobility issues, transport disadvantage, safety during bushfire season and social isolation. The plan seeks to review and, if required, address these issues.

Good access to affordable health care, child care services and transport choices are essential to the wellbeing and sustainability of the local community.

Residents are reasonably educated and most people own, or are paying off, their own homes.

The average investment in a home in Macedon is no different to that of the rest of Australia. However, housing investment is slightly higher than the Australian average for residents in Mt. Macedon.

Family income in both Macedon and Mt. Macedon is higher than the Australian average.

A small number of residents speak Polish, German, Italian, Dutch, Greek, Spanish and Latvian at home.

Reference: ABS, Census 2006.

- What do we value about our community?

People who live in Macedon and Mt. Macedon enjoy its natural beauty, quiet rural aspect, native wildlife and abundance of trees.

The top community responses (received at the community forum on 6 November 2010) to the question 'What do we like and value about living in Macedon/Mt. Macedon?' are summarised below:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ✓ Rural amenity | ✓ Art and culture |
| ✓ Natural outlook | ✓ Village feel |
| ✓ Strong sense of 'community' | ✓ Open spaces |
| ✓ Access to city and regional centres | ✓ Facilities, clubs and organisations |

Refer to Appendix 2 for the full list of responses.

- What do we want the future of our community to look like?

The community want little changed and are keen to limit large scale or inappropriate development that fails to preserve the native rural landscape. However, residents are keen to make sure its priceless natural assets are nurtured and access to services is, at a minimum, maintained.

The top community responses (received at the community forum on 6 November 2010) to the question 'Where does Macedon/Mt. Macedon want to be in the future?' are summarised below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ To look much the same, but maintain services | ✓ Controlled development and better definition of shopping precinct |
| ✓ Beautification of railway station and shopping centre | ✓ Expansion of primary health care services |
| ✓ Create links between parks and township – improve access | ✓ Strategies for an ageing community |
| ✓ Maintain rural feel and village atmosphere - retain, preserve and enhance | |

Refer to Appendix 2 for the full list of responses.

Managing the community plan

The CPG will oversee the implementation of the plan.

The plan is a twelve month plan which outlines the projects that the community wishes to have implemented. It will be important for the CPG to ensure that the wider community is kept up to date and for the community to feel that they can get involved in projects of interest.

A key partnership with Macedon Ranges Shire Council will be developed to ensure that the plan is integrated into the council's annual planning through the development of the Council Plan.

- Plan objectives

1. Establish the Macedon/Mt. Macedon Community Planning Group to oversee the implementation of the community plan and to liaise with the council and other stakeholders
2. Present the final community plan to the community and the council for endorsement
3. Develop a communication strategy to ensure the community can input and is aware of the progress on the community plan
4. Develop a positive relationship and partnership with the council and other key stakeholders to ensure funding and support for projects in Macedon/Mt. Macedon
5. Encourage community members to get involved in projects that interest them and to form working groups where necessary to implement priority actions

- Key stakeholders

Community members

Community groups

Local businesses

Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC)

Local councillors

Local media

- What needs to happen first

An action plan for the first twelve months will be drawn up, including objectives and projects, such as the establishment of a number of community information nodes (regular newsletter, website, noticeboards, as well as dispersal through local media).

The plan also identifies groups and persons responsible, key stakeholders to be involved, relationship to key planning documents, resources required, and timelines – many of these factors are already established or underway.

The CPG will be responsible for holding regular meetings to monitor the progress of the plan, determining working groups for individual projects and maintaining regular contact with the MRSC.

- Communications program

The purpose of the communications program is to enable the CPG to interact with local community members, established groups, media and other key stakeholders about its activities associated with the plan.

It describes the objectives of CPG communications, measures of success, examines target audience characteristics and suggests appropriate communication channels. It offers a draft communications program for the next 12 months and sets out key milestones.

To view the detailed communications program with key messages for each target audience, please visit www.ourcommunityplan.com/communications.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the communications program is to empower the community to interact, own, develop and deliver their community plan.

COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES

For Macedon/Mt. Macedon residents, businesses, established groups

- Be transparent
- Deliver information about the plan and its projects
- Provide updates on the progress of plan implementation
- Continually engage the local community to build trust
- Invite feedback and input on any aspect of the plan and its projects
- Encourage participation in developing and delivering the plan
- Demonstrate a genuine commitment to success

For Government agencies/departments, public and private enterprise

- Demonstrate smart and sustainable thinking ('we think long term')
- Become a symbol of practical action ('we get it done')
- Build and reinforce an effective community profile ('we get results')
- Show leadership in the delivery of a community plan ('we share our experiences with others')

KEY COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES

1. Raise community awareness and invite feedback
 - To prepare a draft community plan mail out to the community to invite written feedback by Thursday 2 February 2012
 - To run a follow up community session on 5 February with a third party facilitator and offer an 'It's your plan' information session to community groups
 - To dispatch updates and reminders via media releases, plan website www.ourcommunityplan.com, project blogs, word of mouth, radio sessions
 - To run a feedback reminder campaign
2. Keep the community informed on progress and invite participation
 - To provide updates to local newspapers
 - To provide frequent updates and respond to community feedback, questions and queries via the plan website www.ourcommunityplan.com
 - To deliver a monthly newsletter and distribute to local noticeboards/shops/ MRSC and groups
 - To use radio sessions, personal networks, project blog questions and community polls to welcome comment/participation
3. Celebrate success and tackle challenges
 - To share great news immediately on the plan website www.ourcommunityplan.com under results
 - To prepare and publish a 6 and 12 month review announcement on plan website www.ourcommunityplan.com highlighting completed projects, meeting/exceeding outcomes, blog activity, discussion summary from a wide variety of target audiences
 - To prepare, deliver and communicate outcomes of a community satisfaction survey.

FEEDBACK WELCOME

View the full communications program at www.ourcommunityplan.com/communications.

Feedback to enhance the communications program is welcome and can be offered using our [online feedback form](http://www.ourcommunityplan.com/feedback) at www.ourcommunityplan.com/feedback.

- Annual progress review

At the end of twelve months, or earlier if required, a public meeting will be called to review the community plan. The CPG will outline the status of each project and what has been achieved for the year.

Some projects that are still ongoing will be listed for the next community plan as well as identifying new projects for action. A new CPG will be nominated and the process will begin again.

It is important to recognise and celebrate any steps along the way and the review of the community plan is a great opportunity for acknowledging what can be achieved when individuals and groups work together to achieve agreed projects.

Changes or alterations to the plan are only allowed via a public meeting process. It may be that from time to time circumstances change and the needs of the community change, but the same process of agreeing to projects needs to be pursued in a public meeting.

Critical to this community planning process is the ability for all members of the community to have their say in what they want to see happen in their town.

Appendices

- Appendix 1

ABOUT COMMUNITY PLANNING

Community planning is an approach to planning designed to enable local people to decide and work on what they would like to see happen in their town or community.

It involves bringing community members together to:

- identify what they value about their town or community
- understand what resources and strengths already exist
- explore how the community would like to build on these resources and strengths
- understand how the community would like their town or community to develop
- identify and decide on shared priorities; and
- work together to achieve those shared priorities.

Why introduce a community plan?

The Macedon/Mt. Macedon Community Plan will be used as a key document to assist the community to achieve their goals through local action, advocacy, securing necessary funding and resources, building effective partnerships and contributing to the planning and activities of a wide range of organisations who will play a role in the future of Macedon and Mt Macedon.

The Macedon/Mt. Macedon community plan wishes to:

- achieve objectives that are determined by the community
- bring people together to work together and create a sense of community
- achieve goals – shared by the community and seen as a priority
- get the results the community has identified
- encourage communication within all community groups and amongst the community
- promote the village “sense of being” as a liveable entity
- keep the community alive and provide direction
- encompass the needs of all groups
- draw on skills from the many talented people in Macedon/Mount Macedon.

How does community planning benefit the community?

Community planning has a range of benefits that include:

- improve social connections within the community
- build a stronger sense of community and of what the community values
- create a sense of pride and belonging
- create local ownership of projects
- encourage open and democratic process
- improve communication and cooperation between local groups, between neighbouring communities and between communities and government agencies
- build knowledge and skills in the community
- connect people with resources; and
- ensure, as much as possible, that future developments in a town or community are what the broader community actually wants.

- Appendix 2

PRIORITIES AND VOTES: Results from Macedon/Mount Macedon Community Meeting (November 2010)

Project Idea	votes
Local health care Visiting allied health services, chemist, doctor, casual Maternal and Child health	7
Fire safety Underground power, fuel reduction, removing pine trees, planting deciduous trees (on private and public land) education for community about fire risk, a vegetation management plan	21
Food group Food swap, support for local growers, a community garden?	8
Events (cultural, arts, social) A big event that might put us on the map, live music, local community events that link in with regional events for example BBQs, trivia nights, celebrations	3
Communication A mechanism for skills-sharing, someone in the community sharing their expertise with others, a newsletter, a website, a welcome pack for new residents, a noticeboard, a calendar (of services, groups, events, who to contact), a mechanism for coordinating local events and activities	8
Water Local water for local purposes	
Re-opening Mount Macedon Inn	
Environment Revegetation of Riddells Creek, pine plantation removal (or solution), creation of green corridors	11
Build relationship with police	4
Recreation/Tony Clark reserve Improve the tennis court	

Gathering places Community hub? Library, Smith Street/Victoria Street	3
Beautification and improvements public space/local centre Beautification of central railway-retail-arts precinct, sensor or safety lighting, drainage of nature strips, safe paths and pedestrian access, underpass under rail line @ McBean Street., pedestrian safety, parking, a crossing at the station, improving the road shoulders for walking (particularly Honour Ave), Creating a sense of pride and ownership, Victoria Street landscaping	24
Youth activities and youth space Specific space that belongs to young people School camp @ DSE	9
Farmers' market 100 mile radius for produce	
Commonsense planning controls Housing for older people, clarification of planning overlays, a cap on population, planning scheme to accommodate diversity	28
Transport (19 votes, 4 volunteers) Bus service like Gisbus, shuttle bus to Gisborne-Macedon-Woodend, Also public transport to Melton. A community bus, improve peak hour timetables, connecting paths and bike path connections	19
Extend natural gas	2
Gallery for art/history exhibitions Locals and tourists	1
McBean Avenue underpass Nursery road underpass	6
Attracting businesses Sympathetic to local lifestyle	

COMMUNITY MEETING TRANSCRIPT
 What do we like and value about living
 in Macedon/Mt. Macedon?

Table A

- Appeal of the area
- Peace and quiet
- Rural, not suburban
- Lots of trees
- Fresh air
- People very friendly
- Village feel
- Feel part of the community
- No vandalism
- Fauna and flora
- Within driving distance of city
- Train services has improved and Easy access to freeway

Table B

- Elevation – cooler
- Safety from bushfires
- Experience of being in an active and face to face community
- Amenity – small scale of community
- Open spaces
- Peaceful – unlike Gisborne or Sunbury
- Environment – greenness – flora and fauna
- Fresh air
- Natural gas a real benefit

Table C

- Bush environment
- Mt Macedon
- Not much traffic
- Community feel
- Quiet and uncrowded
- Non suburb
- No McDonalds
- Peaceful
- Serenity
- Nature/flora/fauna
- Close to regional park
- Village atmosphere
- The people
- Friendly
- Relatively safe community
- Weather

- Proximity to Melbourne
- Train line
- Close to Gisborne/ Woodend/ Sunbury
- Schools
- Mt players
- Jubilee hall
- Tony Clarke
- Pub
- Childcare centre
- Tea rooms
- Gardens
- Cafe
- Library

Table: D

- Rural amenity
- Quiet
- Services – Post Office, Supermarket, Fuel, other services
- Friendliness in city, courteous, easy going
- Equality
- Security
- Great school community and community pride in school
- Native wildlife
- Facilities
- Natural amenity – fresh air
- Broad choice in education
- Rural, but close to major centres, public transport, freeway and airport. Best of both worlds!
- Low density, feeling of space
- Village type community – people know each other and keep an eye out for each other.

Table: RT

- Trees
- Walking tracks through bush and beside roads
- Clean green environment
- Feels safe
- Kinder as it is rural and large and playgroup
- Tony Clarke – junior footy and cricket
- Community
- Facilities that are here now

Table: RT - continued

- Station – not enough stops at the station. Station services seems to have been reduced
- Pleased about the schools
- Local police station in main street
- Lovely cemetery
- Self contained – the array of shops (no chemist)
- Wildlife

Table: Peter

- low density – rural feel
- mixed environment – towns, farms and bush
- natural outlook
- easy access to city
- strong sense of 'community'
- good schools and sports facility

Table: Sue

- Everything – even the weather
- Good community
- Focal point – Trading Post (Mt Macedon)
- Low crime rate
- Low youth problems
- Natural beauty
- Strong heritage
- Welcoming community
- Facilities/activities
- Sports grounds
- Halls
- Theatre
- Churches
- Preschool
- Schools
- Arts/crafts
- Country/small communities

- Music
- Diversity of community
- Strong young element provides balance
- Young families
- Wildlife/trees
- It's a 'community'
- Education – variety of schools
- Access to city and regional centres, spa country etc
- Transport
- Diversity of housing – affordability
- Mt Macedon and Macedon complement each other

Table: Stephen

- Bush, animals – physical environment
- Family history
- Good place to bring up kids
- Peace and quiet – not a suburban feel
- Community spirit – caring, prepared to help each other, work together
- More physical space and privacy – encourages you to reach out
- Community minded
- Diverse – all walks of life
- Great clubs and organisations
- Fresh air
- Layering of history – builds character, aesthetics, civic pride
- Gourmet food, local producers
- Mount players
- Art and culture

What do you want Macedon/Mt. Macedon to be like in the future?

Table A

- Same as it is now, with better community connections
- Safer place (including bush fire protection)
- More management of natural bush, esp. Scout Hall and public areas.
- Underground power lines
- To be able to walk on road reserves
- Better road drainage

Table B

- The same
- Restricted future development
- Changes to planning scheme to accommodate form forms of housing – diverse, smaller housing
- Sensible clarification of overlays around town and train station
- Take advantage of existing amenities and infrastructure for any development
- Mixed density housing
- More vegetation management – of creeks and weeds
- Improve public transport = pilot of Gisbus
- Remove pine plantation

Table C

- The same
- Public transport, particularly to Melton, Romsey
- More environmental activities
- Newsletter
- Retain village atmosphere
- Retain uniqueness
- Connectedness in community
- More community activities
- More tourism
- More quality restaurants
- Mt Macedon Hotel
- More sustainability
- Remove pine forest
- No concrete stuff, sheds etc from Public Park.

Table D

- Eco-village
- Stay the same
- Beautification or railway station and shopping centre
- Chemist – sub branch. Doctor/health/medical service/chiro/allied health
- Neighbourhood watch
- visibility of police
- relationship with the police
- expand the Theatre
- Interconnected – BATA – Services register
- Social aspect
- Community garden near train station
- Better/more sporting facilities

Table: RT

- Taxi service/bus service/improved rail station (Prams, mothers, frail, disabilities)
- Medical doctor (access to both chemist and doctor – casual)
- Increase MCH (casual access to new mums in distress)
- To look much the same but maintain services
- Smaller houses close to town to enable older and younger to keep them in town.
- Non chemical pest control and no GM
- Farmers market (station)
- No mothers walking their pram along roads
- Create links (black spots and signage) between parks and township
- Don't have an un-kept plantation. School benefits with long term investment/reduce fuel load. Return to grassland/sustainable
- Training facilities in horticulture
- Pedestrian crossing near railway car park – street
- Community hub complete
- Nature strips/drains regularly maintained.

Table: Peter

- Self supporting
- Maintain rural feel
- Controlled development
better definition of shopping precinct – define and maintain.

Table: Sue

- Retain neighbourhood character
- No sub-division
- Clear strategies for aging community, including housing options that is close to facilities
- Explore subdivision opportunities – variety
- Better management of streetscape – Mt Macedon – diversity of streetscape
- Neighbourhood character managed
- Expansion of primary health care services
- Hotel back in Mt Macedon
- More historical exhibitions at the Mount (it's housed in Gisborne now)
- Need attractive entrance to Macedon. Railway bridge at McBean Avenue is dangerous and Nursery Road bridge.

Table: Stephen

- Retain, preserve, enhance – sensitively, community consultation
- Infrastructure – library, gathering spaces
- Community information area – public
- Defined development to protect the area

What ideas might get you get there?

Table A

- Remove pine trees and planting deciduous trees and a mixture of trees
- Encourage fire-resistant plants
- On private and public land
- Underground powerlines

- Improve road shoulders and verges to be able to walk easily and safely
- Road drainage improved
- Regular maintenance of roads
- Cap on population
- No subdivision of police paddock
- Local water available for local purposes
- Mount Macedon Inn needs to be open (owned by community)

Table B

- Removal of pine plantation
- Education – bush fire risks and vegetation management plan
- Pilot of Gisbus services between suburban areas and train stations – New G and Macedon Stations
- Hard footpath on south side of Honour Avenue
- Enforcement of speed limits on Mt Macedon Road
- Utilise Jubilee Hall for youth activities, such as dancing, snooker, table tennis, jam sessions
- Action plan to rehabilitation Riddells Creek for vegetation and erosion
- Make Jubilee Hall available to community members for talks of general interest – by people with expertise in area.
- Create a community newsletter
- Develop a program for use of the local halls as community neighbourhood centres.
- Promote programs for community get together and information lectures.
- Safer neighbourhood place to be determined for community
- Changes to planning scheme to accommodate more diverse forms of housing and clarify overlays.

Table C

- Activity newsletter/community notice board/welcome pack

- Public transport to Melton. Shuttle bus between Gisborne/Macedon/Woodend
- Community Gardens, food group, support growing at home, food swap
- Big event
- Community/social events

Table D

- Services and Groups Register and calendar/diary.
- To know who and what is available
- Managed community notice board
- Walking groups
- Allied Health – option utilising current and vacant facilities
- Community bus - Shuttle bus to connect to railway, retail or other facilities
- Beautification
- Market
- Garden
- Macedon railway/retail/AAS precinct
- Bring people together
- Give village more life
- Promote pedestrian thoroughfare
- Graffiti removal
- Community policing

Table: RT

- Network – pathways capable of taking
- Bikes
- Prams and mums
- Elderly walker
- Children
- Transport
- Improve transportation
- Connect to walkways
- Improve train timetables – (a stop at Macedon between 7:40 and 9am)
- Benefit aged and children without cars
- Removal of pine plantation and create new park so that it links Tony Clark to the town. The pines could be removed and another financial solution for school income.

- Provision of regular health services
- Chemist
- Doctor
- MCH
- Community not to be devalued
- Nature strips
- Drainage
- Owners to maintain nature strips
- Pusher and trip hazard
- Bike path between towns (Macedon Gisborne)
- Farmers market
- To attract business (don't change town)

Table: Peter

- Streetscape /footpaths
- Drainage system that works
- Pedestrian access under Railway Bridge
- Youth specific social facility
- School camp at DSE/Parks
- Bus Service – “GIS Bus”
- Famers Market (100 Mile)
- Common sense planning control (community)

Table: Sue

- Local primary health care services/facilities. E.g., doctor clinic
- Fire safety including underground power lines and fuel reduction
- Housing/sub division including needs of aged. Good planning and controls.
- Streetscape/signage/pedestrian access/safety/parking
- Permanent facility for historical displays/art displays for local and tourism focus.

Table: Stephen

- Victoria Street Landscaping
- Tony Clarke and Tennis court improvements
- Community Hub, library, Smith Street, Vic Street.
- Newsletter
- Public Transport
- Sensor lighting
- Community bus
- Explore participation in other local events and celebrations
- Gardens, food and wine, live music