

Bullarto & Musk Community Action Plan

2013



Image: Courtesy of DSCR.

Introduction

Development of the Bullarto and Musk Community Action Plan

The communities of Bullarto and Musk met in June 2013 to develop a Community Action Plan to identify community priorities and explore opportunities for action and positive change to enhance the well-being of the community.

The Bullarto and Musk Community Action Plan is a documentation of all the thoughts and ideas recorded during the public meeting and previously via a community survey.

What is Community Planning?

The Hepburn Shire Council supports communities in the Hepburn Shire who wish to develop their own Community Plans. Community Planning is a process that is 'owned' by the community with Council available to play a facilitation role. Community Plans provide valuable input into Local, State and Federal Government planning.

As part of the process to develop an inaugural Community Action Plan for the towns of Bullarto and Musk in 2012 a community survey was circulated that asked residents what they liked about the area, what they felt it was limited by and how they would like it improve (summary report attached in addendum). After compiling these results a Community planning meeting was then held at the Bullarto Hall, on Tuesday 4 June 2013. Residents, both permanent and part time and non-resident ratepayers from Bullarto and Musk were invited to attend. More than 40 residents attended.

Residents broke into groups to record a list of priorities for the area, document what they like and value and provide a vision for the Bullarto and Musk area. These sessions were informed by the results from the earlier survey.

At the meeting residents voted on the priorities to decide what they would most like to see implemented, and were asked to volunteer to form working groups for projects they were interested in becoming involved with. A number of residents volunteered for working groups. Priorities which received votes and which residents also volunteered to assist, have formed the 12 month Action Plan. Priorities without votes and names are documented along with all ideas arising from the sessions. The next step is to establish a Steering Committee to oversee implementation of the plan.

Report Structure

This report has been broken down into three main parts. The first section highlights the 12 month action plan. This action plan is a listing of all the projects that were voted for at the meeting. It is then prioritised by the number of votes received and registered community interest in assisting with the project. At the end of this section is a list of all project ideas raised prior to prioritising. The second section of the report lists all of the values, visions and concerns for Bullarto and Musk and the third section is an overview of the community. Included is also an addendum with a summary from the community survey completed in 2012.

Prioritised projects - Year One Action Plan

Below is a listing of all the prioritised projects that meeting attendees put their name down next to. Any projects that received votes but did not get a name next to them have not been included. These projects make up the year one action plan for the Bullarto and Musk Community Plan.

- **Walking and Cycling Tracks - 21** - (Cycling/walking track along railway – Lyonville to Daylesford **15** / Walking & bike tracks (& through private property) **5** / A community walk **1**)
 - Gayle
 - Gordon
 - Jim Culbertson

- **Improved mobile phone and internet coverage - 18**
 - Claire
 - Jim Culbertson
 - Lola Orr

- **Community facilities/meeting place - 17** - (Common ground map places the community values **8** and a community BBQ possibly at Bullarto Hall or Train Station – tie in with common ground map **9**)
 - Gary
 - Bullarto Pete
 - Heather
 - Kate
 - Greg
 - Liz
 - Yvonne Fix

- **Weed and Land Management - 8** - (Removal of noxious weeds & dangerous trees **4** / Roadside wood – dead branches – locals to collect **3** / Permissions for nature strip cleanup or provision of private owners to do / Planting/Beautification – cnr. Sth. Bullarto Rd – blackberry/weed control **1**)
 - Claire

- **Investigate the need for stops signs on the railway tracks - 7**
 - Mike Fix
 - Lola Orr

- **Extend Glenlyon or Daylesford Landcare to Bullarto/Musk - 4**
 - Merryn

Projects/Initiatives

Below is a list of all the projects and initiatives that were raised on the night and the number of votes each project received:

- Better mobile phone coverage **15**
- Cycling/walking track along railway – Lyonville to Daylesford **10**
- Common ground map places the community values **8**
- BBQ at Bullarto Hall – tie in with common ground map **8**
- Walking & bike tracks (& through private property) **5**
- Investigate flags when crossing in use by trains – and the possibility of replacing stop signs with Give way signs **4**
- Extend Glenlyon Landcare to Bullarto/Musk **4**
- Removal of noxious weeds & dangerous trees **4**
- Speed limits – reduce Musk to 60kph – better police patrols **4**
- Roadside wood – dead branches – locals to collect **3**
- A meeting place **3**
- Investigate need for Stop signs on the railway **3**
- Mill – Bullarto - clean up – tower lean/fire hazard/roof loose/made safe **2**
- Planting/Beautification – cnr. Sth. Bullarto Rd – blackberry/weed control **1**
- A community walk **1**
- Local blog on HS website (Facebook) **1**
- Community Newsletter
- A notice board
- Stop sign at Quines Rd/Daylesford – Trentham Road
- Reduce unnecessary, wasteful spending
- Railway signs to be manned on Sundays/in use – removed or alternative better solution for railway crossing
- Bullarto to be hub for rail (from Daylesford) & bike (from Woodend)
- Bike & walking trail so far from Trentham to Lyonville to be extended to Bullarto
- Dolfen Road siding (for farm produce access)
- Old general store to be reinstated as a produce store
- Provide refreshments at meetings
- Walking trail Musk to Bullarto
- Roadside tree branch trimming for safer roads
- Permissions for nature strip cleanup or provision of private owners to do
- Connection to mains gas
- More frequent public transport
- Rubbish and recycling removal

Values, Vision and Concerns for Bullarto and Musk

Values

The values that are appreciated about the region are:

- Community Spirit
- Safety/Security
- Maintain status quo / control weeds/protect environment
- Focus on bushfire management
- More community input into planning scheme
- Natural environment
- People – mixture
- Proximity to Trentham and Daylesford
- Agricultural mix & connection – protect farmland



Vision

The vision for Bullarto and Musk is a place where:

- Community cohesion exists
- Retains its values
- There is a community focal point
 - Musk CFA site/old fire station
 - Shop
 - Railway Station
- Improved public transport – Community bus for school outings



Image: Courtesy of DSCR.

Concerns

Things that were highlighted for change were:

- Water extraction – Central Highlands Water?
- Mobile Signals/Internet/communication
- Mine – proceeding?
- Roads – Musk
- Walking & Bike Tracks
- Community Get Together

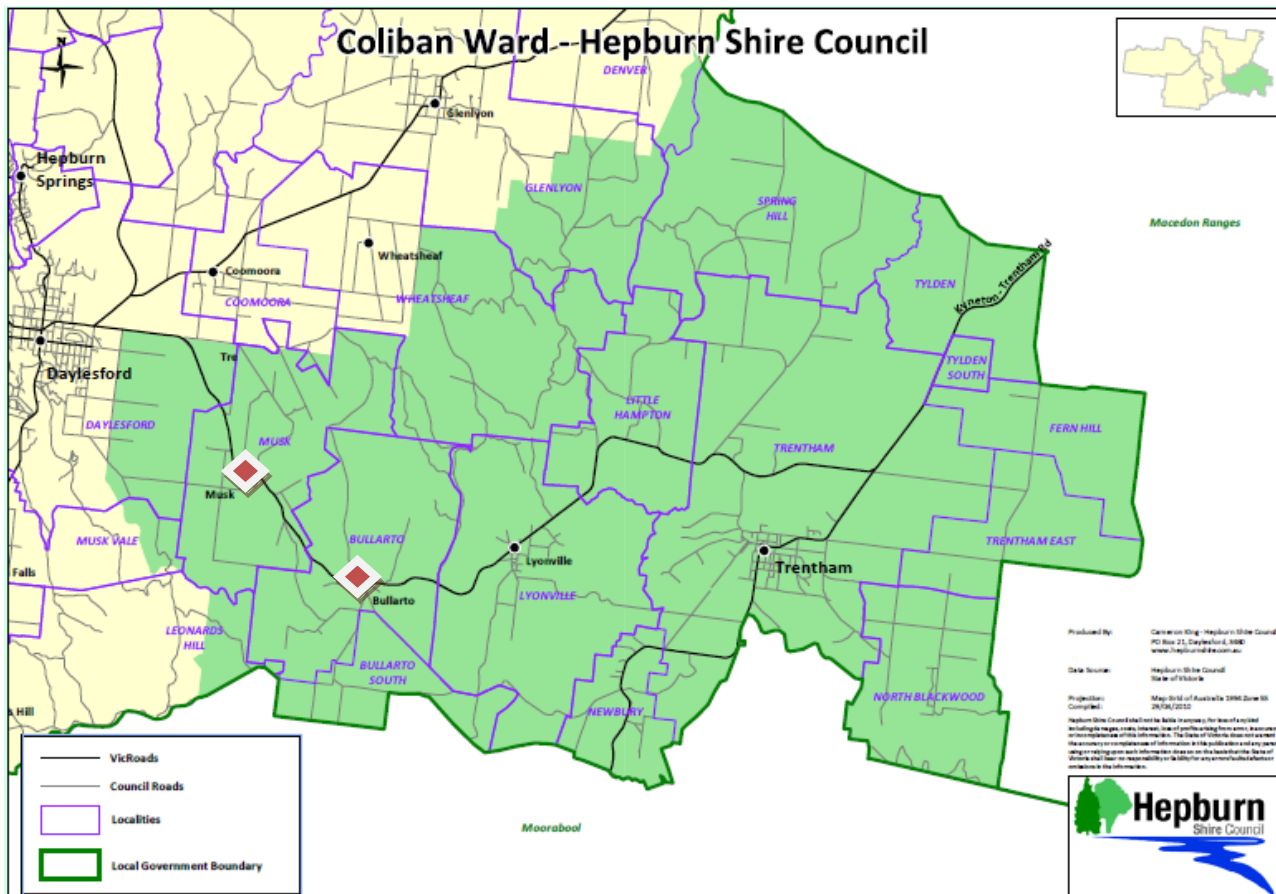
About Musk and Bullarto

The Musk and Bullarto area is located to the east of Hepburn Springs and Daylesford along the Daylesford-Trentham Road.

The area is known as a farming district and is also home to many small-scale and hobby farmers. Bullarto is renowned for potato farming and Musk has vineyards, produce, dairy and mixed-use farming. The Daylesford Spa Country Railway travels from Daylesford through Musk to Bullarto, although the section between Musk and Bullarto is currently being restored following the bushfire damage sustained in early 2009.

At the time of the 2011 Census the area of Musk had 309 residents and Bullarto had 253*. The median age of residents was 51 with children aged 0 - 14 years making up 13.5% of the population and people aged 65 years and over 26.5% of the population. Over 36% participated in voluntary work through an organization or group, significantly higher than the state average, while the unemployment rate was 2.4%, a full 3% lower than Victoria's unemployment rate.

* The 2011 Census area included Bullarto and South Bullarto but also included Lyonville residents. Statistical information has been averaged between the Musk and Bullarto/Lyonville boundary



Map showing the Bullarto and Musk localities within the Coliban Ward, Hepburn Shire Council

Addendum - Bullarto/Musk Community Survey - Summary Report 2012

There were 45 surveys returned from the Bullarto/Musk community. Summarised below are the responses.

1. Do you live or own property in Bullarto or Musk?

- 15 respondents were received from Bullarto
- 28 respondents were received from Musk
- Two surveys were received with no indication

2. What do you enjoy about living in the Hepburn Shire?

Common themes were listed on the majority of the surveys. The residents enjoy:

- Natural setting
- Lifestyle
- Proximity to Ballarat, Melbourne and Bendigo
- Friendships
- Peace and quiet

3. What do you specifically enjoy about where you live or own property?

Responses to this question highlight the passion for their personal space and experience. The environment, country lifestyle, wildlife, peace and tranquillity, privacy, rich soils, beautiful gardens all feature as specifics people enjoy about their property.

A couple of responses mentioned a lack of community spirit and friendliness.

4. What is the most positive aspect to your community? (This could be a place, person or general feeling or character)

Many of these responses centred round the importance of people. People being friendly, knowing your neighbour, knowing your shop keeper, the diversity of the community.

The natural beauty of the environment also featured with a few comments about the value of privacy, the distinct seasons and feeling safe.

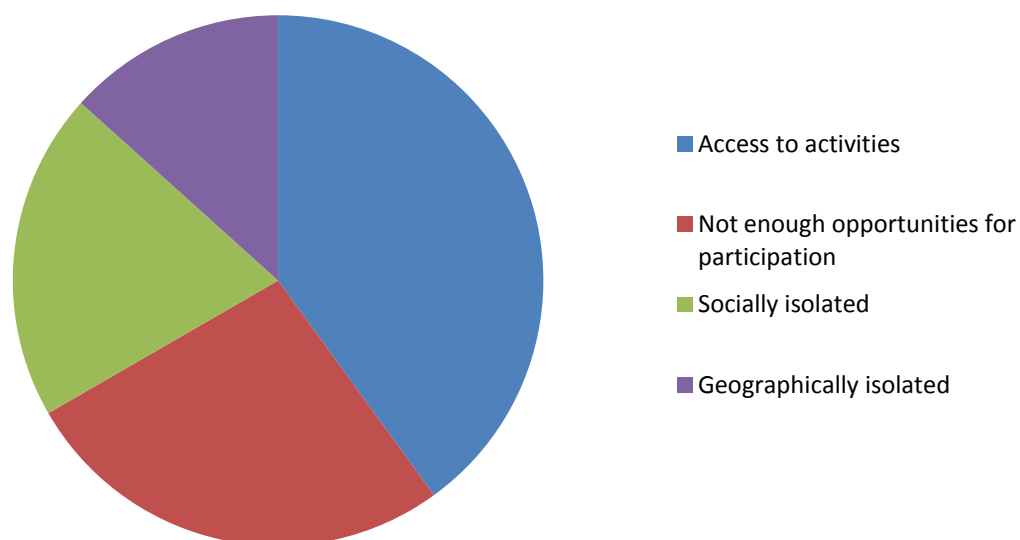
There were a couple of comments about people being unfriendly and the community disjointed. Each for their own was quoted.

5. In general, do you feel welcomed and connected with your community? Please indicate on a scale of 1 to 10, (10 being the highest – please circle)

The average score for respondents feeling welcomed and connected with their community is 7.5 out of 10.

6. What do you see as the most limiting aspect to your community?

Limiting Aspects to the Community



Additional limitations listed include, lack of: mobile phone access, high speed internet access, transport, activities for young community members, gymnasium, physical fitness programs, public space, safe walking and cycling space, mail delivery, garbage collection and access to short term housing for elderly family.

7. What are the three things you think would add value to the area and the community?

The respondents were more than happy to provide suggestions for this question. There are numerous items listed for ways to add value to the area and community. Among them, were a few common items as below (in no particular order):

- Walking and bike tracks (including the railway area)
- Community get togethers at the hall
- Internet and mobile phone access
- Road reserves to be free of grasses and weeds
- Bus and/or public transport options
- Common meeting place/public space
- Heated pool
- BBQ at hall
- Music and/or food festivals
- Rubbish and recycling removal
- Stop water extraction

Additional suggestions include: a general store, picnic place, cafe, Musk CFA events, spring water access, no motor bikes in the forest, no mining, develop a land care group, keep Council costs low, track to Bullarto, social meetings, more young people in the area, fewer cars, repair the tourist railway, maintain heritage buildings, public restroom, Sunday market, lower the speed limit to 80km, bypass to trucks, improved bush fire plans, tennis court, remove the trucks at Wheelers Hill Road, bush fire shelter, infrastructure, calmness, acceptance,

less stringent bylaws, book club, tennis club, BBQ at the hall once a month for the community, playground at the hall, better road maintenance, vermin control on Council land, keep the status quo.

8. Are you involved in any community or social activities, groups or clubs in your community or beyond?

There are 24 respondents currently involved in community or social activities.

9. Would you like to be more involved in your community? (Please state if you have any ideas about what you would like to be involved in or help create).

Of 45 surveys returned, 17 respondents would be happy to be more involved in their community. However, some of these were conditional, such as there should be no personal agendas, try to break down barriers and certain interest areas only. Many are quite happy with their lifestyle and don't wish to have any burdens on time.

10. Would you like to provide your name and contact details? Optional. (You will be contacted by a Hepburn Shire Community Development Officer only in regard to the context of this survey and your details will remain confidential).

Provision of details by 25 respondents has been collected for further contact regarding the topic of community planning for Bullarto/Musk. All others have been returned anonymously.

11. Would you be interested in becoming involved to develop a Community Plan for the area?

Of the respondents 18 community members replied they would be interested being involved to develop a Community Plan. However, there were a few with conditions, such as topics and if Terms of References would be included.

12. Age and occupation (Optional)

The average age of respondents who provided these details was 62 years old.

13. How many children/family members live in your household?

The average number of people, per household, who provided this information, was 2.4.